

# COLLINI

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"The most severe conditions are the cleft lips and palates," said Dr. Collini. Children with cleft lips are usually operated on at three months and those with cleft palates at 12 months. They are extremely young, making things more difficult and dangerous. The children are often malnourished, adding to the surgery risk.

"We are so proud of our volunteers who once again came out in full force," said group co-founder and trip organizer Susan Collini in the release. "We were able to assemble three full teams, each consisting of at least one surgeon, one anesthesiologist, two nurses, and an interpreter. None of the medical staff or the other volunteers are paid anything; they even cover their own meals. CCK and the Correia Foundation in Florida provide the transportation."

Ecuador is selected each year because many children there are born with birth defects. Dr. Collini attributes the high number of defects to poor nutrition, minimal or no prenatal care, lack of mobility, inbreeding, genetic predisposition from an under-developed maxilla in the Mestizo population and no health insurance.

In 2006, Dr. Collini began bringing children to his Shaver town building from all over the world to undergo surgeries. Early this year, a girl from Ecuador who had a large tumor in her eye came to the Renaissance Center for surgery. She stayed with a nurse from the center for six weeks and later returned home. While Collini was in Ecuador in June, he saw the girl thriving back in her own society.

"That was a true home run," said Dr. Collini, who performed a second surgery on the girl during his latest trip to correct post-operative droopiness. A 20-year-old girl from the Philippines will also fly in soon for surgery.

Community Caring for Kids received a \$20,000 grant from the American Society of Plastic Surgery and a \$25,000 grant from The Smile Train, an organization that endows money to volunteers who do work in third world countries. Wyoming Valley Health Care System and Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre each donated \$30,000 in medical equipment for the trip. A company called Synthes contributed facial and skull surgical sets valued at \$150,000 and the Porex company provided implants worth \$15,000.

Dr. Collini plans to return to Ecuador every year and hopes the mission will continue to grow. Three plastic surgeons and an orthopedic surgeon have already agreed to participate next year.

"Once you go you really can't stop going," he said.

## Reading Center opens in Harveys Lake Rec Building

Most people who have the summer off due to their employment, get part time jobs, or catch up on projects around the house. Not so with Charlotte Williams or "Aunt Charlotte or Miss Charlotte" as she is known at the new reading center in the Harveys Lake Recreation Building. Charlotte has gathered up the resources she had at home such as children's books, audio and video books, puzzles and crafts along with a number of items donated by individuals and has created "Miss Charlotte's Reading Center." The center is located in the Harveys Lake Little League Complex (across from the Lake-Noxen Elementary School). This is a free program open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. Parents are welcome to bring their children and read, play board games or do crafts with them.



Charlotte Williams runs the Reading Center at Harveys Lake.



Children and parents assist Charlotte Williams in cutting the ribbon to officially open Miss Charlotte's Reading Center located in the Harveys Lake Little League Complex.

### SCHOOL BRIEFS

#### "Stuff the Bus" at Misericordia

The College Misericordia community will collect school supplies for area school children on Monday, Aug. 27, as part of its daylong Fun & Festivities university celebration on campus.

A Misericordia van will be conveniently parked on the campus service road behind Mercy Hall and adjacent to the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library for the "Stuff the Bus" benefit.

It will be staffed by students, staff and faculty who will collect backpacks and assorted school supplies that will be donated to children who attend the after-school tutoring center, Kids Café in Wilkes-Barre, the outreach program, Mercy Services in Wilkes-Barre, and the Catherine McAuley House, transitional shelters for women and children in Plymouth and Scranton. For more information about the "Stuff the Bus"

benefit, please contact Campus Ministry at 674-6495 or public relations at 674-6372.

#### Open House set at Lake-Lehman

The Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School will host an Open House August 28 - 30.

This yearly event allows seventh, eighth, and ninth grade students to try lockers, locate rooms and become familiar with the layout of the school. Information pertinent to the Open House will be mailed home shortly before. Students must bring this information on the day they choose to visit the school.

Students and parents are welcome to attend according to the following schedule:

Tuesday, August 28 - 9 to 11 a.m.

Wednesday, August 29 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 30 - 1 to 3 p.m.

#### Lehman Class of 1967 plans reunion

The Lake-Lehman Class of 1967 will hold its 40th anniversary class reunion on Sunday, Sept. 2, at the Appletree Terrace, Newberry Estates, Dallas. The committee is asking for help in locating the following classmates: Sharon Pudim Grant, Robert Vandermark, Linda McCarty Jacoby, Arthur Lamoreaux, Irving Lee King, Breck Miller and Susan Jones. Anyone with information on these classmates is asked to contact the committee at LHSCCLASSOF1967@YAHOO.COM.

#### Class plans 50th anniversary reunion

Dallas-Franklin-Monroe High School class of 1957 will hold its 50th anniversary class reunion Saturday, Oct. 13, in the Sun Room at Irem Temple Country Club, Dallas. For further information, contact Lloyd Ryman at rymanlw@hotmail.com or 674-9758.

## JONATHAN HIGUITA IS SPELLING BEE CHAMP



The annual Sixth Grade Spelling Bee was recently held at the Lehman-Jackson Elementary School. At an Awards Day Ceremony held at the school, a plaque was presented to Higueta, 2007 Spelling Bee champ. From left, Kristen Roberts, sixth grade teacher; Higueta and Marilyn Glogowski, principal.

## CM celebrates university status

The Misericordia community will celebrate pending university status on Monday, Aug. 27, with a full slate of events for students, faculty staff and the institution's regional neighbors.

Misericordia is scheduled to officially become Misericordia University on Friday, Aug. 24, pending final approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The institution will herald university status during the formal Convocation ceremony that day, which also celebrates the arrival of the incoming freshman class.

Misericordia has scheduled a slate of events for Monday, Aug. 27 to officially celebrate the designation. The "Fun & Festivities" begin at 1 p.m. when a picnic-style lunch is served to the Misericordia community on the picturesque campus. The event features three bands, a live remote from KRZ-FM radio, food vendors, an inflatable 57-foot obstacle course and dinner. A dramatic 20-minute fireworks display will illuminate the campus to culminate the daylong celebration.

There is a nominal fee for lunch and dinner for Misericordia's guests.

The schedule for "Fun & Festivities" is:

12:30 p.m.: Opening liturgy at the Wachovia Amphitheater with Rev. Daniel Toomey, MU chaplain and associate director of Campus

Ministry.  
1 to 3 p.m.: Picnic style lunch for Misericordia community and our neighbors.

2 to 6 p.m.: Fun and festivities—Funnel cakes, food vendors and Vertical Reality, a 57-foot obstacle course that also features water wars, and other attractions.

2 to 3:30 p.m.: The band "Skinny" will perform at the amphitheater.

4:30 to 6 p.m.: A cookout-style dinner will be served to the Misericordia community and our neighbors.

6 to 7 p.m.: The band "Autumn Lee" will perform at the amphitheater.

7 to 8:30 p.m.: The band "Stasis" will perform at the amphitheater.  
8:45 p.m.: A 20-minute fireworks display will illuminate the campus.

Misericordia will celebrate university status throughout the academic year with special events. Comedian Paula Poundstone is scheduled to appear at 8 p.m. on Sept. 27 at the Anderson Sports and Health Center and renowned author Maya Angelou will appear at 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 2 at the Anderson Sports and Health.

For additional information about Convocation and/or the Misericordia University celebration please log on to [www.misericordia.edu](http://www.misericordia.edu) or call public relations at 674-6372.

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