

Mussari says thanks in a very special way

By REBECCA BRIA
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Just one year ago, Tony Mussari found learned he had four blocked arteries that could have killed him. After the Dallas Township man underwent open-heart surgery at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, he began his passage to recovery.

To mark the first anniversary of his surgery, Mussari and his wife, Kitch, held a "Celebration of Life" on Saturday, June 14, at Windsor Park, which the couple owns, in Dallas Township. Mussari invited his doctors, nurses, friends, neighbors, members of his cardiac rehabilitation group at the Saxton Medical Pavilion and former students from when he taught at King's College. Guests enjoyed an afternoon cookout and garden tour of Windsor Park.

Mussari also extended his invitation to the entire community for a concert at 6 p.m. that evening. Featured musicians were WNEP-TV news anchor Mike Lewis, Erin Canedy and Erica



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

At a Celebration of Life for himself and friends at Misericordia University, Tony Mussari takes the stage to entertain and introduce singers.

Leigh.

"It's an attempt to focus on the concept of life and how important it is, the sense of community, to say thank you in a very special way," Mussari said. "One of the things I noticed, people don't really take the time to thank people and affirm people and validate people. We're hoping this festival of life establishes a tradition where open heart patients can come together every year."

After Mussari's surgery, he produced a documentary series

called "Heart Scene: A Journey of Recovery and Discovery." The 21-episode series was an extensive account of a heart patient who told his story and the things he learned. The series ran on WBRE-TV/Channel 28 as part of Mussari's weekly television show called "Windsor Park Stories," which airs 11:30 a.m. Sundays on the station.

Mussari did not tape his celebration because he wanted to relax, not work.

"One of the things I've learned is you can't do everything you want to do and that's OK," Mussari said. "I'm trying to enjoy the moment with my wife and the people who are going to come and not produce anything."

Approval was granted from Dallas Township for Mussari to close part of Windsor Drive for the celebration.

The Mussaris reclaimed Windsor Park in 1997 from a community garbage dump on the site. Since then, over 400 people have sat in Windsor Park to tell their story.

CIVIC BRIEFS

Beginner reading program at library

Beginner readers are invited to join Mrs. Sorokin on another adventure this summer at the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

This four-week program will feature jokes, crafts, activities and strange-but-true bug facts! The featured read-along story will be "Andrew Lost in the Garden" by J.C. Greenburg.

Participants will meet in the back of the Children's Room from 10 to 11 a.m. on these Mondays: July 14, 21 and 28. Participants are asked to provide their own books for the program.

Children in grades two to four are welcome to register for this program beginning June 10 by calling the library. Please call the library at 675-1182 for more information.

Library summer story hours are scheduled

Registration for summer story hours at the Back Mountain Memorial Library can be done by calling the library at 675-1182. Story hours will run until the week of August 3.

Two toddler sections will be offered on Tuesdays from 10 to 10:30 a.m. and from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Kim Konicki, an upcoming senior at Lake-Lehman High School, will conduct the sessions as her Senior Project. She will introduce the children to the story hour setting with songs, finger plays, crafts and a short book. Parents and caregivers will sit with their children in their laps in a circle on the floor for this interactive story time.

Three to 5-year-old children are invited to join one of these scheduled sessions: Wednesdays, 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. or 11 a.m. to noon; and Thursdays, 10 to 11 a.m. These sessions are an hour in length and include several books, finger plays, songs and crafts.

Space is limited so please call early. There is no charge for any

of these sessions.

Carney's staff will visit Dallas Borough

The Director of Constituent Services for Congressman Christopher Carney will be available on Tuesday, July 8, at the Dallas Borough Building to meet individually with constituents to assist them with any problems they may be having with Federal agencies and departments.

Anyone with further questions or concerns or would like to schedule an appointment in advance should contact Congressman Carney's Clarks Summit office at 585-9988 or toll free at 866-846-8124.

Harmony Concert set

A Harmony Concert will be provided by the Wyoming Valley Barbershop Harmony Chorus and chapter quartets at 8 p.m. on Sunday, July 13, at Irem Temple Country Club pavilion, Dallas. The concert, which will be held rain or shine, is free and open to the public.

'Music Man' comes to Music Box Theater

"The Music Man," musical comedy by Meredith Willson, will be held July 18 to 20, 24 to 27, July 31 and August 1 to 3 at the Music Box Dinner Theater, 196 Hughes St., Swoyersville. Call 283-2195 or 800-698-PLAY for information and reservations.

'Eat a Bug' workshop planned at library

Where can kids (ages 6 to 10) play with their food? At the Veggie Kids "Eat a Bug" workshop from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 19, and from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, July 26, at the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

Kids will have fun creating and tasting edible "bugs" and "insects" made from fresh fruits and vegetables and learn why fruits and vegetables are good

for them. To register, call the library at 675-1182.

The workshop is sponsored by The Vegetarian Way. Visit the group's website at www.thevegetarianway.org.

Music Box plans summer workshop

A Summer Theatre Workshop for children ages 8 to 13 will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from July 21 to August 15 at the Music Box Dinner Playhouse, 196 Hughes St., Swoyersville. A workshop show will be held at 6 p.m. on August 15 and 16.

Enrollment fee is \$150 and reduced rates are offered for two or more children from the same family. Call 283-2195 or 800-698-PLAY for enrollment forms.

Vendors sought

Food and craft vendors are being sought for the Harveys Lake Homecoming set for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 10, at Old Sandy Bottom/Harveys Lake Beach Club.

For information or to have an application mailed, call Shirley Mallory at 639-0160.

Cruisers participate in HL parade

The Wyoming Valley Cruising Cruisers (PT Cruiser Group) will participate again this year in the Harveys Lake Homecoming Parade at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 10.

The Cruising Cruisers are well known for their "Fundrives for a Cause," annual events held in September to raise money and awareness for autism. This year's event has been postponed but anyone wishing to donate may do so by sending a check or money order to FUNDRIVE 2008 c/o Earthly Angels Autism Fund of the Luzerne Foundation 32, Huckleberry Lane, Durysa, PA 18642.

To learn more about the organization, visit www.earthlyangels.org.

PEOPLE BRIEFS

MU prof earns doctoral degree

Corina N. Mihai, Ph.D., of Shavertown, director of the Master of Business Administration and Organizational Management programs at Misericordia University, recently received her doctoral degree in organizational management from Capella University, Minneapolis, Minn.

Dr. Mihai joined Misericordia University as an assistant professor of business in 2007 after teaching graduate courses as an adjunct professor since 2003. At Misericordia, she oversees the graduate business programs in organizational management and the progressive Master of Business Administration, which blends the traditional MBA curriculum with soft skills that address the ethical and human sides of business today.

In the greater community, Dr. Mihai was the first woman elected president of the Wilkes-Barre Rotary Club, which also named her Rotarian of the Year in 2002. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Graduate Schools, Luzerne County Council on Adult Higher Education, and the Academy of Management.

Novack is named to dean's list

Mary Novack, of Tunkhan-

nock, was named to the dean's list at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Ga., for the spring quarter of the 2007-2008 academic year. She is a painting major.

Full-time undergraduate students who earn a grade point average of 3.5 or above for the quarter receive recognition on the dean's list.

Two graduate from University of Arts

Michael Hiscox, of Dallas, and Nora Stepanitis, of Shavertown, were among members of the Class of 2008 from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

Hiscox, a 2004 graduate of Dallas High School, graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in illustration. Stepanitis is a 2003 graduate of Bishop O'Reilly High School and graduated with a Bachelor of Music in composition.

Murray graduates from Penn State University

Martin Murray, of Crown Drive, Wyoming, received a Bachelor's Degree in Surveying Engineering from Penn State University.

Carter receives degree

Sean M. Carter of Dallas earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Pa.

Three named to dean's list at Northeastern

Patrick McMahon, of Dallas, and Garrett Lech and Rebecca A. Harvey, both of Tunkhan-

nock, were named to the dean's list at the University of Scranton for the spring semester of the 2007-2008 academic year.

To achieve the dean's list distinction, students must carry a full program of at least four courses, have a quality point average of 3.25 or greater out of a possible 4.0 and carry no single grade lower than a C during the course of their college career.

McMahon and Harvey are majoring in chemical engineering and Lech is majoring in pharmacy.

BMT students on U of S dean's list

The following Back Mountain residents have been named to the dean's list at The University of Scranton for the spring semester of the 2007-2008 academic year:

Elyse C. Benoit, Shavertown; Brendan M. Bradford, Shavertown; Emily L. Deubler, Dallas; Eric L. Emanski, Harveys Lake; Alison R. Grant, Dallas; Rebecca M. Howell, Shavertown; Susan N. Krogulski, Shavertown; Sara E. Nardone, Shavertown; Mark P. Romanowski, Dallas; Elizabeth M. Ryan, Dallas; and Daniel W. Volpetti, Dallas.

A student must have a grade point average of 3.5 or better with a minimum number of credit hours to make the dean's list.

Zabresky is named to dean's list

Janelle Elizabeth Zabresky, of Birch Hill Lake, Dallas, has been named to the dean's list at Clarion University of Pennsylvania for the second semester of the 2007-2008 academic year. Dean's list students must have earned a 3.5 quality point average or higher (on a 4.0 scale) during the semester.

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