

POTPOURRI

Christmas stocking ideas are sought

The Butler Eagle is seeking stocking stuffer ideas as well as interesting Christmas stockings to photograph for an upcoming Focus story.

If you have ideas or a unique stocking to share with our readers, contact Sandy at 724-282-8000, Ext. 252.

Saxonburg plans musical event

SAXONBURG — Saxonburg will host the Saxonburg Carol Sing from 6 to 8 p.m. tonight on Main Street and the Saxonburg Library parking lot.

The event will feature the Greater Cranberry Bogmeisters Barbershop Chorus and the Butler Tabernacle Singers. After caroling, visitors will be asked to join groups for a sing-along.

Other activities include storytelling by children's book author Betsy Binder, carriage rides and strolling Victorian-dressed characters will perform carols from the 1860s.

Today is also the last day to vote for a favorite Christmas decoration display. Ballots are available in village shops.

The event will be presented by John Roebing's Historic Saxonburg Society. For information, call 724-352-1400, Ext. 232 or visit HistoricSaxonburg.com.

Church to host breakfast with Santa

EAST BRADY — The East Brady Baptist Church, 405 Kellys Way, will hold its annual breakfast with Santa at 9 a.m. Saturday. This free event for children through sixth grade will include breakfast, pictures with Santa and games. Children under 7 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

R.S.V.P. is requested, but not required, by calling the church at 724-526-5475.

Santa to arrive in Bruin Sunday

BRUIN — The Bruin Volunteer Fire Department will parade Santa through Bruin at 6 p.m. Sunday. After the parade, Santa will be at the fire hall at 7 p.m. to meet with children.

For more information, visit www.bruinvfd.com

Chorus to perform Christmas program

GIBSONIA — The Greater Cranberry Barbershop Chorus will hold a free Christmas program at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Richard Elementary School on Bakerstown Road. The Sharp Edge quartet and the Cleffhangers, a Sweet Adelines quartet, will be featured.

A canned food item donation will be collected for the Lighthouse.

St. Barnabas to host Christmas dinner

Free Christmas meals will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 21 at the St. Barnabas Nursing Home, 5827 Meridian Road, Gibsonia; and the Valencia Woods at St. Barnabas, 85 Charity Place, Valencia.

Reservations are appreciated, but not necessary, by calling the St. Barnabas Nursing Home at 724-443-0700 or Valencia Woods at 724-625-4000.

Santa woodcarvings on display at library

The Butler Public Library, N. McKean St., is displaying a collection of more than 130 hand-carved Santas in costumes from around the world through the first week in January. The wooden Santas were carved by Alex Thomson, a library volunteer. Thomson will donate 50 percent of proceeds from Santa sales to the library fund.



Michelle McClory, left, and doula Amy Farr of Worthington discuss McClory's prenatal visit at Magee-Womens Hospital in Pittsburgh. Farr volunteers as a doula, an experienced mother who provides support to an expectant mom. McClory contacted Farr through Operation Special Delivery, a nonprofit that provides doulas to pregnant women whose husbands or partners are in the military.

JUSTIN GUIDO/SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Special Delivery

Volunteers support military moms to be

A doula provides nonmedical help

By KELLIE LANGDON
Eagle Staff Writer

While many military dads fight the war on terror, some of their wives need a little help on the home front.

This need led Michelle McClory of Brentwood to Amy Farr of Worthington, a volunteer with Operation Special Delivery.

Farr is a doula, an experienced mother who is trained to provide emotional, educational and informational support and companionship to expectant mothers before, during and after childbirth.

Operation Special Delivery is a volunteer-based nonprofit organization that provides doulas to pregnant women whose husbands or partners have been injured or killed in action or are deployed in the military.

McClory, whose partner, Mark Anderson, is deployed to the Middle East with the Navy, learned about the organization through a moms group she attends at which many military moms were talking about OSD. She looked it up online and applied.

McClory said that Mark "knows there's gonna be somebody there. I think it makes him feel better."

McClory met with Farr for two doctor's appointments before her delivery, and the women stayed in close contact regarding the pregnancy's progress.

Farr said part of a doula's role in

'I was very scared, knowing the risks of premature delivery and I was very lucky to have someone there to help allay my fears.'

MICHELLE MCCLORY,
mother of four from Brentwood

childbirth is to anticipate the mother's needs — to think of the details for her.

Toward that end, Farr attends every birth with a bag that includes comforting items like massage tools, a heating pillow, an ice pack, mints, flavor spray for ice chips, mouthwash, lip balm and music of the mother's choosing for relaxation.

Those things came in handy Nov. 29 when McClory gave birth, almost five weeks early, to Matilda Jean Anderson at 5 lbs., 8 oz.

Unlike McClory's three children from her previous marriage, Mattie took a little longer coming into the world. Her labor lasted 24 hours and McClory was faced with the option of Caesarean. She said she and Farr discussed the option, but ultimately she went for natural birth.

"Thankfully I decided not to have the C-section," McClory said. "She (Farr) offered many suggestions for how I could be more comfortable and was awesome at helping me to push when the time came."

"I was very scared, knowing the risks of premature delivery and I was very lucky to have someone there to help allay my fears," McClory said.

McClory's 13-year-old daughter, Amanda, was also in the delivery room and "did not want to miss a second of the experience," McClory said.

A few days after Mattie was born she had to be checked into Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh because of a bacterial infection. Farr drove there to be with McClory while she waited for test results. Mattie is doing well now.

Doulas always enlist a backup in case they cannot make it to a birth. In this case, Farr's sister, Brenda Cirrincione of Cabot, was ready to back her up.

Cirrincione acted as Farr's doula when she had her son, Ryan, earlier this year.

In addition to companionship, most doulas offer childbirth education and comfort measures as well as lactation consultation.

Cirrincione said that often a doula's role is mistaken for that of a midwife. When Farr was about to give birth to Ryan, some people wondered why Cirrincione wasn't going to deliver the baby.

"We do nothing that's clinical," Cirrincione said. They refer all medical questions to the mother's health care

provider.

Farr said that she believes women with doulas are less likely to receive epidurals or to need a Caesarean section because a doula helps the mother trust her body and relax.

A study published in the online medical journal, Birth, found that women who had a doula present during labor had a 12 percent lower Caesarean delivery rate than those without a doula. These women also had a 12 percent lower rate of receiving an epidural. Those with induced labor had a 46 percent lower rate of Caesarean delivery.

Operation Special Delivery began in 2001. Doula Patricia Newton organized doulas to offer their services to pregnant women whose husbands or partners would be deployed or who had been killed or injured. When the organization grew, Newton offered it to the Childbirth and Postpartum Professional Association, CAPPA.

Since CAPPA began to oversee OSD, 700 families have been assisted according to Marybeth Nance, CAPPA director of OSD.

"None of the volunteers that serve with OSD receive any compensation whatsoever, for their professional service or for their expenses incurred in volunteering," Nance said.

That doesn't hold Farr or Cirrincione back from giving their time to military moms.

"It's a wonderful cause," Farr said.

To learn more about Operation Special Delivery, visit operationspecialdelivery.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

TONIGHT

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL, 5 to 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 200 E. North St., Butler. Free to all.

MENTAL ILLNESS, ALCOHOLISM, DRUG ADDICTION (MAD) support group, 6 to 7 p.m., Grapevine Center, 140 Elm St. For information, call Kathy McDonnell at 724-282-2360.

SATURDAY

EARLY BIRDS TOASTMASTERS meeting, 7:30 a.m., Lifesteps Building, 383 New Castle Road, Butler Township. For information, go to <http://club2255.freetoasthost.us>.

COOKIE SALE, 9 a.m., St. John's Reformed Church, Route 68, Meridian.

POMONA GRANGE meeting, 10 a.m., Donegal Grange, East Slippery Rock Road, Chicora. Annual pie auction will be held.

RIGATONI DINNER, 4 to 6 p.m., Butler Moose Lodge, 225 W. Jefferson St.

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL, 5 to 6 p.m., North Street Christian church, 220 W. North St.

PROGRESSIVE 500 CARD

PARTY, 7:30 p.m., Jefferson Church, 120 Sunset Drive. Call Grange, 211 Bull Creek Road, Jefferson Township.

SUNDAY

SALISBURY STEAK DINNER, noon to 4 p.m., American Legion Post 488, East Brady.

MONDAY

PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE BREAKFAST, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Unionville Fire Company, Route 8.

FREE HOT MEAL, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Salvation Army Open Door Feeding Program, 313 W. Cunningham St., Butler.

PHASE II Christmas party, noon, St. Peter Roman Catholic Church social hall, 127 Franklin St. Reservations: call 724-287-3916.

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL, 5 to 6 p.m. at First English Lutheran Church, 241 N. Main St., Butler. Held jointly with Grace Lutheran, Jefferson Center Presbyterian and Christ Community Methodist churches.

BUTLER TOPS meeting, 5 p.m. weigh-in followed by 5:30 p.m. meeting, Trinity Lutheran

Church, 120 Sunset Drive. Call Denise 724-445-7422 or Josi 724-282-4059.

Full Color PHOTOS

The Butler Eagle offers full-color

Memoriam & Birthday Tribute

photos available for \$25.00 each.

Many families have requested we provide this service. So — like other newspapers — we have taken steps to accommodate our readers.



For additional details, call 724-282-8000.

Butler Eagle

ALL NATURAL CORN - FED Free Roaming Turkey

Jones Farm Best HOLIDAY TURKEYS

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