



COMMERCIAL-NEWS | ROBERT TOMLINSON

Taylor Snow, who helped light the Lights of Love Christmas tree almost 25 years ago, lights this year's tree during the 29th annual Lights of Love tree lighting ceremony at Three Rivers Health Saturday.

Lights of Love exceeds goal for 2019

HealthTRAC receives rehab pool chair lift, TRH operation room receives vein finder

By Robert Tomlinson
 Staff Writer

THREE RIVERS — The Three Rivers Health Auxiliary's Lights of Love Committee announced they exceeded their goal for their 2019 Lights of Love campaign and donated two pieces of equipment

to the hospital and HealthTRAC during their 29th annual tree lighting ceremony Saturday.

The funds raised came via donations throughout the year from individuals, businesses and service organizations, each one representing a light on a tree that was lit near the end of the ceremony by Taylor Snow. Each light symbolized the memory of a loved one or honored a loved one.

Lights of Love has raised over \$410,000 in the past 29 years, purchasing many pieces of equipment for the hospital. Last year, Lights of Love helped purchase a LUCAS chest

compression system for the emergency room.

This year's goal, Lights of Love co-chair Gary Armstrong said, was \$10,000, and he said the fundraiser "exceeded" it. With the funds raised, the Auxiliary was able to buy two pieces of equipment for Three Rivers Health: A Splash Series 300 ADA-compliant chair lift system for the rehab therapy pool at HealthTrac and a new vein finder for the Three Rivers Health operating room.

See LIGHTS OF LOVE, page 3



SJC United Way holds 'Toy Box' toy drive

By Robert Tomlinson
 Staff Writer

THREE RIVERS — Volunteers and employees from the St. Joseph County United Way and the United Steelworkers dressed up in their wackiest Christmas outfits Saturday at the parking lot of the Century Bank and Trust branch in Three Rivers, all to garner support and donations for their second annual Toy Box toy drive.

The drive is put on in partnership with International Paper and the local United Steelworkers union, and helps to bring toys and other Christmas gifts to foster care children and families in need around St. Joseph County.

"We have 160-ish kids in our foster care in St. Joseph County, and they need help, and we want to help the foster care parents," Kelly Hostetler, executive director for the St. Joseph County United Way, said. "Foster care parents carry a huge burden as it is, and if we can help them by helping with the toys at Christmastime for the foster care kids, that's what we want to do."

Along with toys, the drive also collected cash, gift cards and other miscellaneous personal care items for older children in need.

"I'm seeing a lot of need for teenagers in our county right now, ages 13-17, so we're accepting the toys of course for the younger kids, but we're also accepting hair ties and deodorants and things like that for kids who want to look good, they feel good," Hostetler said. "Hairbrushes, cologne, anything like that for kids to help them be successful in school and what they're doing."

Last year's drive, Hostetler said, collected around \$2,000 in cash and "a lot" of toys. Hostetler said there was a toy store in the county that was going out of business, and the owner donated all of the toys left in the store toward the drive. Hostetler said she hopes to collect "as much as we can" during this year's drive.

See TOY DRIVE, page 3

Women on the Go Profile: Tammy Shuler (Part II)

By William Allen Baltz
 Special to the Commercial-News

Age: 58
Status: Married
Children: two adult daughters
Occupation: Oncology nurse
Avg. hours exercise per week: 20
Motto: The more you do, the more you can do.

Editor's Note: This is Part II of a two-part profile of Tammy Shuler. Part I was published in the Saturday, Dec. 14 edition of the Three Rivers Commercial-News.

Tammy Shuler prefers not to tally up her accomplishments. "I don't know how many races I've run. I have to keep track of numbers at work, so I refuse to keep track of races. This is my hobby.

"I've found over the years, the races where it's the worst weather, or something happens, are the ones you remember. Boston last year was the worst—it poured rain the whole time with 20 mile-per-hour head winds. I'll never forget that."

She will never forget the Ironman World Championship in Hawaii, either.

Considered the most prestigious competition of its kind, she first had to qualify to get into it. To do this, she entered an ironman competition in 2008 at Panama City Beach, Florida. "During the race, I knew I was doing well, but didn't know how well. You have to win your age group to go to Kona. Not that I wanted to go to Kona, because I said it's too hard—we don't have mountains to train on in this area. Panama was a two-loop course and my second loop my girlfriend says you're in first place in your age group. So I had something to motivate me. I was crying when I finished I was so excited. So I said I have to go to Kona because it would be disrespectful not to. My goal at Kona was not to be last in my age group, and I wasn't—I was second to last.

See WOMEN ON THE GO, page 3

MSP investigating break-ins at Klines Resort

MENDON TOWNSHIP — Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers are investigating the break ins of, and thefts from, multiple trailers and motor homes at Klines Resort in Mendon Township.

According to MSP, the break-ins occurred sometime between Wednesday, Dec. 11 and Thursday, Dec. 12. Several televisions, DVD players, and blankets were stolen during the break-ins.

Anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact the Michigan State Police Marshall Post at (269) 558-0500.

MSP investigating break-in at Fantom Motorsports

WHITE PIGEON TOWNSHIP — Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers are investigating a breaking and entering that occurred at the Fantom Motorsports on Dickinson Road in White Pigeon Township.

According to MSP, several remote-controlled cars, remote controllers and other miscellaneous RC parts were taken. Suspects also stole a Canon digital camera and numerous checks from the business. The checks have Fantom Motorsports stamped on the back of them and have already been deposited, but personal banking information is still available on those checks.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Trooper Jacob Owen of the Michigan State Police Marshall Post at (269) 558-0500.

IMAGINE YOUR AD HERE!!!!!!
 or... your competitors. The choice is yours.
 269.279.7488

Apples & Oranges Are Not The Same... Hearing Aid Providers Are Not The Same.

We Provide:

- Dedicated Full Service and will match anyone's price Apples for Apples
- 2 Yr. Standard Warranty on mainline products
- Doctor of Audiology on staff
- 61 Years of continuous service

1114 W. Michigan Avenue Suite 6 Three Rivers, MI 49093

A division of **Acoustic Audio** Hearing Service

AUDIBEL
 American. Hearing. Excellence.™

269.273.7237

8 0 4 8 7 9 1 6 8 2 0 1
 ©2019 Three Rivers Commercial, Inc.

THREE RIVERS MEDIA
 Commercial-News • threeriversnews.com • Penny Sever

To subscribe, place an ad or submit a news tip call: 269.279.7488

HAVE A GREAT DAY, EVERYONE!

TODAY'S WEATHER
 HIGH: 36° LOW: 25°