

HUBBARD TOWNSHIP

By any appraisal, son of immigrants a success

War vet, Realtor cites family ties

Nick Libeg was born in 1915, three years after his parents had immigrated from Romania. They lived for a while in Pulaski, where the elementary school had one room with one teacher who taught everything in all eight grades. Compare that with a child of today who probably has 20 or 25 different teachers during the first eight grades, including language arts, science, math, music, art, and gym teachers.

There was no gym in the Pulaski elementary school, but the kids got plenty of exercise by walking to school. And that sometimes provided more adventure, excitement, and aerobic exercise than many gym classes do today.

“One day my sister and I decided to take a shortcut through another farmer’s pasture,” Nick said. “There was a bull, and all of a sudden he put his head down. That’s a bad sign. So we started running. My sister was taller and much faster than me, and I was hollering, ‘Wait for me.’ She grabbed my hand and dragged me along. I lost my shoe. We made it across the fence and climbed a tree because he could come through that fence easily if he wanted to. He finally went back towards his home, and my sister ran and got my shoe. We didn’t take that route again.”

Nick’s father worked in the steel mills and had to move wherever the work was, so Nick attended a number of schools.

“I went to practically every school in Sharon – South Ward, Russell Street, and I think it was Central – where Penn State is now. And I went to school in Hubbard, Brookfield, and Warren.”

When Nick graduated from Brookfield High School in 1933, local steel mills were not hiring new employees. He moved to Indiana Harbor, Ind., to work at Inland Steel, a plant with about 15,000 employees. He loaded and unloaded steel eight hours a day, five days a week, for 65 cents an hour.

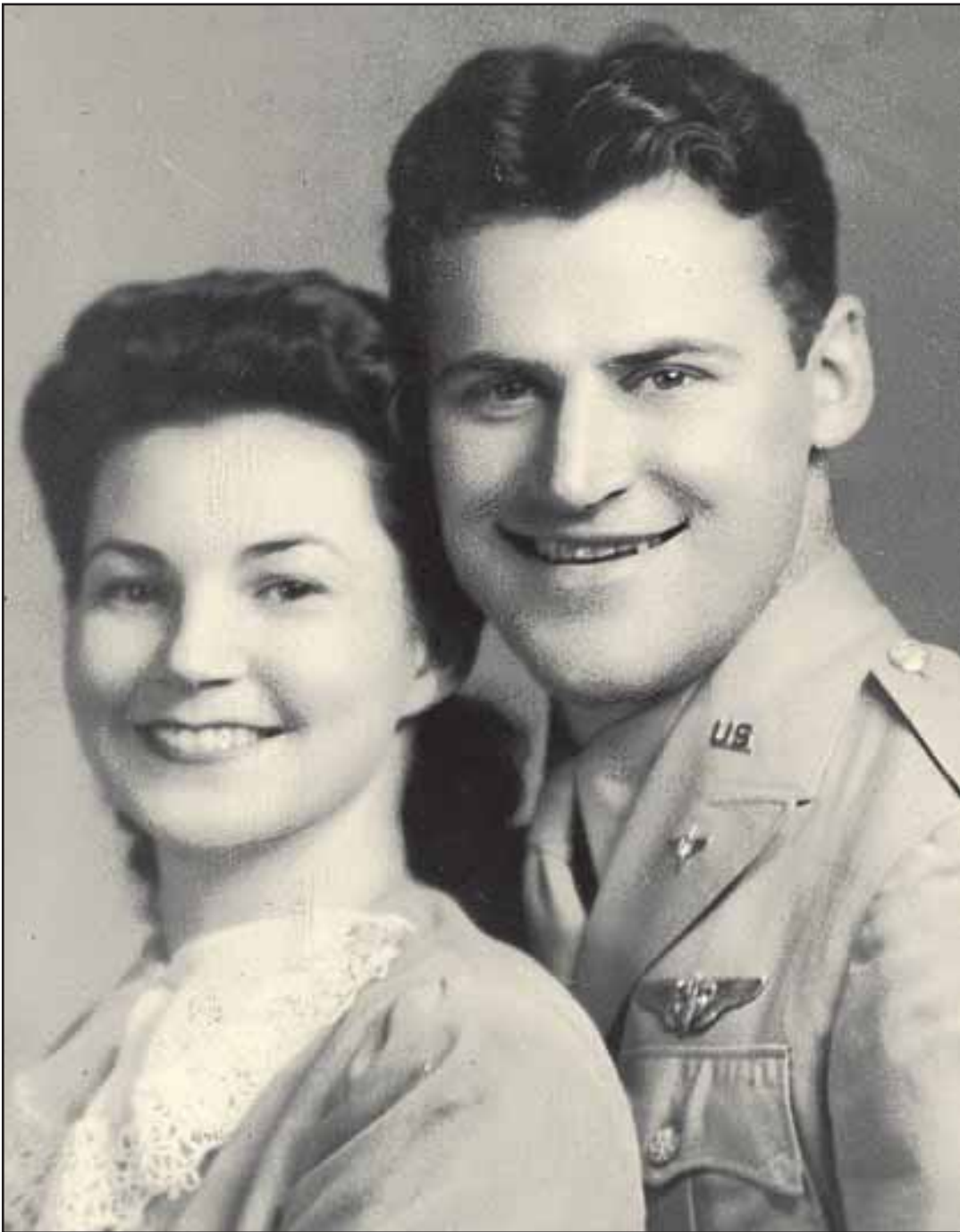
The company had an excellent sports program, with bowling, boxing, wrestling, and other sports. Nick won the inter-mill boxing tournament in the 135-pound class.

“But I decided I liked dancing more than boxing. East Chicago had a fine dance hall called Danceland. Most of the dancers, both men and women, were ‘stags,’ and were very good dancers. I learned much from them – swing, waltz, cha-cha, etc.”

He continued to enjoy dancing for more than 70 years.

Nick came home for Christmas in 1936 for a 10-day vacation. He decided to stay when he learned he could get a job at the former National Castings Division of Midland-Ross Corp. in Sharon that paid \$2 more per day than he was earning in Indiana.

He worked days at National Castings and evenings at his mother’s tavern for a couple of years. In 1938, they built a new tavern in Masury that did very well. He quit his day job



Nick and Madeline Libeg pose for their wedding photo in 1943.



Nick Libeg stands at right with the crew of his World War II B-24 bomber.



The Libeg children enjoy Christmas in the late 1950s. They are Mary Kay and Tom, seated, and standing from left, Valery, Ann and John.

to manage it full time.

Then World War II started, and Nick was drafted into the infantry. He trained at several posts, then went to Headquarters Company of the 179th Infantry, 45th Division in Camp Barkley, Texas. Because he had taken shorthand and typing in high school, he became a clerk typist.

“When the 45th Division went on maneuvers in Louisiana, hundreds of men went AWOL to go to Mardi Gras. I was taking dictation and filing the forms for their courts martial. The captain in charge of the courts martial was happy with my work, so he recommended me for Officers Candidate School.”

After completing OCS at Fort Benning, Ga., Nick was commissioned a second lieutenant and went to Camp Rucker, Ala., as a training officer. But he wanted to be a pilot, so he transferred to the Army Air Corps.

“I loved it, but I crashed



Catherine and Nick stand for a portrait in 1982.

two planes. After the second accident, my trainer wanted to know whose side I was on in the war.”

Nick still wanted to fly even though he couldn’t be a pilot. He became a bombardier, with cross-training as a navigator.

On Oct. 15, 1943, in Panama City, Fla., Nick married Madeline Ann Cain of Youngstown. They were able to be together until Nick was assigned overseas to fly missions on a B-24 bomber out of England.

“We flew mostly lone missions at night over France and Germany. We also dropped supplies to the French and Norwegian resistance forces.”

Enemy fire made the work dangerous, but one of the most frightening incidents occurred because of a problem with their own plane. They were carrying twelve 500-pound bombs designed to explode on impact. Each bomb was held up by solenoid-activated clips at its nose and tail. Nine of the bombs released properly, but three didn’t. The clip on the front of the top bomb released, tipping the bomb nose down onto the one below it. One wrong move and it would have exploded.

“Well, we were pretty close to heaven about that time,” Nick said. “It was 20 degrees below zero. I had to go back along an 18-inch wide walkway over the open bomb bay doors and release the bombs with a screw driver.”

After completing the required 30 missions, the crew headed back to the United States on a ship. They were supposed to begin training for assignment to the South Pacific. Fortunately, the war ended while they were still at sea.

Nick was released from the service in Oct., 1945. He came back home to work at Libby’s Tavern. That’s when Nick and Madeline started their family. Their daughter Valery was born in November 1946, daughter Ann in June 1948, and son John in September 1949.

“The tavern was doing well, but it wasn’t enough to support my mother, my sister, and me. So in June 1950, I got my real estate license.”

That same year Nick and Madeline bought a farm in Petroleum, Ohio, in Hubbard Township. While his family grew with the births of son Tom (April 1952) and daughter Mary Kay (April 1954), Nick started a long and successful career in both real estate sales and appraisals.

In 1955, Nick began real estate development of his property in Hubbard Township.

He put in Connelly Street, named after a friend who was instrumental in his purchase of a piece of property from U.S. Steel which provided access to his property. In 1956 he added Madeline Street and

Does the Other Woman have any compassion, respect or dignity?

Dear Annie: Can someone explain to me how a man can take a 33-year marriage and just walk away? The heck with his children, grandchildren and wife.

We must sell our home of 30 years, as this is a no-fault divorce state. I have not worked in 30 years, and at age 55, I must find a job, probably one that pays minimum wage. I have many health-related problems, but my husband’s response is, “too bad.”

I have loved my husband since the first day we met, and this is tearing me apart. To be forced into leaving my home, putting the grandchildren in day care and knowing that I will now grow old alone is terrifying.

Of course it’s another woman. How can any woman look at herself in the mirror, knowing she has come between a couple married 33 years? How do she and my husband get up every day and continue their lives, as if no one is being hurt? My question to the Other Woman is, don’t you have any compassion, respect or dignity? I hope all you Other Women one day know the pain you have caused a wife somewhere. Thanks for listening. – A Discarded Wife

Dear Wife: Most Other Women convince themselves they are hurting no one. They want to believe a man who says his wife is cold and unresponsive, and they don’t consider what the deception may do to his children. Women of character do not seek out married men, and those who accidentally become involved end the affair as soon as possible. The others, well, they can have the comfort of worrying that a man who cheated on his wife is likely to cheat on them as well.

We hope you are receiving therapy and good legal advice. You also could use some job counseling. Try the YWCA or your state Department of Labor, which may offer assistance for displaced homemakers. Good luck to you.

Dear Annie: I’m a healthy, active woman of 65. My friends think I’m fun and interesting, but my children think I’m ancient, feeble and have one foot in the grave. They leave me out of any activity that’s the least bit exciting and ignore me for family gatherings, saying, “We didn’t know if you’d be up to it.”

I do my own housework and care for an elderly neighbor, walk every day with friends and do volunteer work. I keep myself in shape, and most people tell me I look “cute.” I love music, sports and movies.

My husband recently passed away. My children and I used to be close, but now they go out of their way to plan parties and trips with others, even people my age, but exclude me. Can you remind them that I can still feel hurt? – Wannabe Mom

Dear Wannabe: Your children do not have to include you in activities they plan with friends, regardless of age. They are not responsible for your entertainment. However, they should include you in family gatherings whenever possible, and we’re not sure why they don’t. Do they mistakenly believe that, because you are still mourning your



Kathy Mitchell & Marcy Sugar
Annie's Mailbox

PINE TOWNSHIP

Hospital plans name-change celebration

By Monica Pryts
Herald Staff Writer

United Community Hospital in Pine Township will celebrate its new name with a bang, literally.

Fireworks, food and the unveiling of a new logo will be the highlights of the Jan. 10 open house to introduce the hospital as Grove City Medical Center.

After the past 27 years as United Community Hospital, the facility's name officially changed Sunday, said JoAnne K. McCliment, director of community relations.

"Grove City Medical Center will continue United Community Hospital's tradition of offering the finest patient-centered medical care in the region, while embracing the dynamic environment that is health care today," she said.

The hospital was founded in 1978 after Bashline Memorial Hospital in Grove City and Grove City Hospital merged.

Bashline was an osteopathic hospital and Grove City Hospital practiced general medicine, Ms. McCliment said.

Combining the two separate schools of medicine allowed the hospital to provide the best possible health care to the community, and "United Community Hospital" was the most appropriate name,

she said.

The new name reflects the progress the hospital has achieved and improvements to health care services they offer, Ms. McCliment said.

The hospital serves southwestern Mercer County and parts of Butler and Venango counties.

The hospital's familiar logo of a linked "U" and "C" will change along with the name.

The old logo represented merging hospitals to create a more efficient facility.

"It will be carefully preserved and stored away in our historical archives, one more relic that tells the rich and colorful story of our hospital's evolution," Ms. McCliment said.

Only a few select hospital staffers have seen the new logo, which was designed by artist Donald Bonnani of Image FX Inc., Grove City.

Open house events include staff-guided tours of the hospital and revealing the new logo on the side of the building, accompanied by a fireworks display.

The public is invited to the open house to celebrate the hospital's new name from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Jan. 10. The hospital is at 631 N. Broad St. Extension, Pine Township.



Contributed

At age 90, Nick Libeg maintains about 50 of his 90 acres. Until he bought a new John Deere tractor a couple of years ago, he did it with a 1950 Ford tractor.

Success Son of immigrants a success

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Catherine Street, named after his wife and his mother.

For many years he did appraisal work for banks and loan organizations, as well as appraisal work for state and local governments. He was very active in many community organizations, including the Farrell Lions Club, the Wolves Club, the American Legion, VFW Post 8860, the Optimist Club in Brookfield, and the Shenango Valley Board of Realtors. He served terms as president of a number of

them.

But if you want to hear pride in his voice, ask him about his family, whose ties remain strong to this day.

"We are a close-knit family," he says. He speaks lovingly of his wife, who passed away in 1989 from a cerebral aneurism. It struck her suddenly and unexpectedly a couple of blocks from home, where Catherine Street intersects with the street that bears her name.

Their five children and nine grandchildren are now scattered from Hermitage and Brookfield to Maryland and Nevada. When they get together, their kids reminisce about the great times they had as a family, particularly swim-



Contributed

Nick Libeg stands behind the bar in Libby's Tavern with his sister Olympia and mother Catherine in 1939.

ming at Farmer Jim's in Cortland. They had a good chance to recall old times on Dec. 20, when 20 members of Nick's family and friends gathered to celebrate his 90th birthday at his son Tom's house in Hermitage.

That gathering wasn't just

the celebration of one day in Nick's life. It was the celebration of his successful career, his great family, and his continuing good health.

Not bad for the son of immigrants, a kid who started his education in a one-room school.

MERCER COUNTY

Senior centers announce January activities

Mercer County Senior Centers, divisions of Mercer County Area Agency on Aging Inc., announce activities for January.

All centers will be closed Jan. 16 honoring the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Shenango Valley

At Shenango Valley Center for Aging/Geriatric Health, a division of Mercer County Area Agency on Aging Inc., 220 N. Buhl Farm Drive in Hermitage:

No meeting will be held in January for AARP, the retired person's organization.

■ Wednesday — 11 a.m., "Don't Let Osteoarthritis of the Knee Become a Pain" with video and a talk by Lori Leipheimer, certified registered nurse practitioner of Primary Health Network.

■ Jan. 12 — 11 a.m., PACE and PACE Net information by Attorney Carolyn Hartle of Lewis & Ristvey.

■ Jan. 18 — 10 a.m., eye-glass cleaning and minor repairs by Shirley Shanes of Keystone Blind Association; and 11 a.m., birthday party with Tim McCall.

■ Jan. 19 — 11 a.m., Southern Care information by Pam Knight; and 1 to 3:30 p.m., rock art painting class.

■ Jan. 26 — 9 a.m., euchre tournament.

■ Jan. 22 — 2:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., Mountaineer Park tour, \$18.

■ Jan. 25 — 2 to 4:30 p.m., free hand screening with Dr. Robert Piston of Specialty Orthopedics. Call 724-347-3422 by Jan. 23 for appointment.

Classes include beginner and intermediate computer classes, Monday through Thursday, \$20 for six classes; aquatic classes at Children's Center of Mercer County, North Hermitage Road, Mondays and Wednesdays, \$15 for six classes; and new quilting techniques with Kim Glatfelter, Jan 11 through March 8.

Daily activities are:

■ Mondays — 8 to 9 a.m., aquatic exercise; 9 a.m., Tai Chi Qigong with Nick Gracenin, master (except Jan. 16); 9:30 a.m., music with Jane Bartholomew; bridge and horse races; 9:30 a.m. to noon, Euchre class the last Monday monthly; 11 a.m., Senior

Singers with Ms. Bartholomew; Noon, advanced tap dance classes, and 1 p.m., beginner lessons, both with Bonnie Banick; 1 p.m., Mah Jongg; and 2 p.m., "Writing the Stories of Your Life" with Evelyn Minshull (Wednesday and Jan. 18).

■ Tuesdays — 9 a.m., Energy Choreography with Kathy Gracenin; 9 to 11 a.m., blood sugar and blood pressures by a retired nurses group; 9:30 a.m., bingo; 10 a.m., therapy dogs the last Tuesday monthly; 11 a.m., balance exercises with Phyllis Mammarelli of Sharon Regional Personal Fitness Center; noon, yoga with Joni Laeng of Primary Health; and 1:30 p.m., chess group.

■ Wednesdays — 8 to 9 a.m., aquatic exercise; 9 to 11 a.m., blood sugar screening by Ms. Leipheimer the third Wednesday monthly; 10 a.m. to noon, crochet/craft class; 9:30 to 11 a.m., bingo; 10 a.m., Tai Chi Qigong; and 1 p.m., bereavement support group with Rick Nelson of Family Hospice and Palliative Care.

■ Thursdays — 9 a.m., Energy Choreography; 9:30 a.m., lotto; 10:30 a.m., aerobics; 11 a.m., yoga; 1 p.m., line dancing with Clara McFarland (except Thursday and Jan. 12); and Mah Jongg.

■ Fridays — 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., lotto; and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Shuffleboard court available most days.

Upcoming events include:

■ Feb. 14 — 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Valentine's Day party, \$3.

■ Feb. 23 — 8:30 a.m., Disney on Ice, Disney Princess Classics, \$43.

■ Feb. 28 — 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Mardi Gras party, \$5.

■ March 13, 14 — 1 to 4:30 p.m., Seniors for Safe Driving. Call 800-559-4880 for reservations.

Transit information: 724-981-6222.

The center is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except holidays. Lunch is served weekdays at noon for a donation of \$2 with two business days notice. Please check with receptionist by 11:30 a.m. Call 724-346-4712 or 724-981-7950.

Sandy Lake

McQuiston Center by the Park, 29 Railroad St.:

A jigsaw puzzle tournament begins today. Sign up to be on a team. Each time a member works on the puzzle, record the time in a log by the puzzle with the winner getting done in the least amount of time. The tournament celebration will be held Jan. 30 when winners will be announced. Word puzzles and games will be available.

Ballroom dance classes will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Jan. 10 through Feb. 14 at the center or at Dotty McGill's Studio, with place determined after registration. Donation: \$50/couple.

Scrapbooking class will begin Monday. Bring photos, glue and the album. Creative scissors and advice will be provided at the free class.

On Jan. 23, bring souvenirs, post cards, memories and travel tips from a favorite vacation to share as participants mark destinations on a map.

Participants must call to register for the 500 card parties set for 1 p.m. Jan. 10 and 17.

Other activities include:

■ Friday — 9 a.m., program committee meeting.

■ Jan. 11 — 11:15 a.m., blood pressure screenings with Life Force Ambulance.

■ Jan. 13 — 11:15 a.m., celebrate Friday the 13th with "Superstitions!"

■ Jan. 18 — 11:15 a.m., birthday and anniversary party with Hugh and Peg King providing music.

Daily activities are:

■ Mondays — 10:15 a.m., Seniorcise; and 1 p.m., bridge.

■ Tuesdays — 9 a.m., shuffleboard.

■ Wednesdays — 9 a.m., line dance; 10 a.m., basic computer class (1-18, 1-25); 10:15 a.m., Seniorcise; and 1 p.m., Tai Chi.

■ Thursdays — 10 a.m., basic computer class.

■ Fridays — 10:15 a.m., Seniorcise.

Lunch is served weekdays at noon. Daily donation is \$2/person. Information or reservations: 724-376-3608.

Greenville

Greenville Area Senior Service Center, located in the Keifer Building on the St. Paul Homes complex, 339 E. Jamestown Road, West Salem Township:

Applications are available for low-income energy assistance (by appointment in January, February and March), non-driver state photo I.D. for Pennsylvania drivers, voter registration and absentee ballot applications, PACE and PACE/NET, property tax and rent rebates, vehicle license plates and placards for the handicapped and reduced registration fee.

Other activities include:

■ Thursday — "Tips for Living with Low Vision: 10 Steps to Help Keep your Independence."

■ Friday — Nickel, dime and quarter bingo.■ Monday — 1:30 p.m., meeting of AARP, a retired person's organization.

■ Jan. 12 — "Thyroid Condition: The Invisible Illness"; and exercise videos and at-chair exercises by Janet Gibbons.

■ Jan. 13 — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: copies of the federal holiday proclamation dated Jan 14, 1994, from the Navy Office of Information; and Select-A-Prize.

■ Jan. 17 — At chair exercises.

■ Jan. 18 — Monthly birthday celebration with gifts, music and cake. All are welcome to attend.

■ Jan. 20 — National Pizza Month celebration with samples and history.

■ Jan. 24 — "Glaucoma: 17-Point Checklist"; "Cooking for One or Two" recipes; and computer class registrations begins.

■ Jan. 26 — National Pie Month with samples; and "Wear What You Dare" program at which participants are invited to wear outrageous combinations.

Daily schedule includes:

■ Tuesdays — 11 to 11:45 a.m., blood pressures on the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly by Life Force Ambulance.

■ Fridays — 1 to 4 p.m., 500 card party with required registrations.

AARP tax aide volunteers will provide federal, state and

local income tax filing assistance from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays beginning Feb. 6 through April 10, except Feb. 20, President's Day. Please come prepared.

Reservations for lunch must be made in advance by phoning or stopping by. For information, call 724-588-3155; fax 724-588-3156 or e-mail greenvillectr@mercercountyaging.org

Transportation is available to and from the senior center. Reservations must be made by 2 p.m. the day before the service is needed. Call Mercer County Community Transit at 800-222-8797.

Grove City

Grove City Senior Community Center, 301 S. Broad St.:

■ Wednesday — 11:15 a.m., "What You Can Do to Prevent Falls."

■ Thursday — 8:30 a.m., Coffee Clutch.

■ Friday and Jan. 20 — 2 p.m., Grove City Middle School Grandparents Program.

■ Jan. 10 — 9:30 a.m., blood pressure screening by United Community Hospital Home Health.

■ Jan. 17 — 11 a.m., "Key Facts about the Flu" from the Center for Disease Control.

■ Jan. 19 — 11 a.m., music by Mickey Patrick.

■ Jan. 24 — 11:15 a.m., LI-HEAP information.

■ Jan. 31 — 8:30 a.m., breakfast at Eat 'n Park.

■ Jan. 26 — 12:30 p.m., therapy dogs.

Daily activities are:

■ Mondays — 9:30 a.m., exercise program; and 11 a.m., "Mind Bender" puzzles.

■ Tuesdays — 10 a.m., Bingo; and 1 p.m., massage therapy (Jan. 10 and 24).

■ Wednesdays — 8:30 a.m., Coffee Clutch; 9 a.m., bowling; and 1 p.m., cooking program, Jan. 11, 18, 25.

■ Thursdays — 10 a.m., bingo; and 1 p.m., oil painting.

■ Fridays — 9 a.m., exercise.

The requested donation is \$1.50.

Transportation is available to and from the center. Reservations must be made by 2 p.m. the day before the service is needed. Call Mercer County Community Transit at 724-981-6222.

Information: 724-458-6844

ASK DR. GOTT

Dear Dr. Gott: I'm getting mixed messages. Your latest advice on earwax was to apply a half capful of alcohol for a few seconds, then shake out. Previously, did you not suggest hydrogen peroxide? I've been using this, since it sizzles and dissolves the wax. I use an eyedropper and then wash out my ears.

Dear Reader: I encouraged the use of alcohol in the ears of people who, when swimming in nonsalty water, tend to get an infection called swimmer's ear. The alcohol also kills bacteria and yeasts that might infect the lining of the canal.



Peter M. Gott, M.D.

The use of hydrogen peroxide, on the other hand, is a reasonable treatment for controlling control cerumen (earwax) because the peroxide fizzes and bubbles, thereby loosening the wax and pushing it out of the ear canal. This technique is not effective in all cases, but it is a safe first alternative that might prevent the need to have the cerumen washed out by a physician.

I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Ear Infections and Disorders." Other readers who would like a copy should send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and \$2 to Newsletter, PO Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Woman

Does other woman have respect, dignity?

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late husband, you would reject their invitations or be depressing company?

Instead of stewing over it, have a long talk with your children. Explain that you feel abandoned, and ask them to remember you when the family gets together. If they seem reluctant, ask them why – and pay attention to the answer.

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