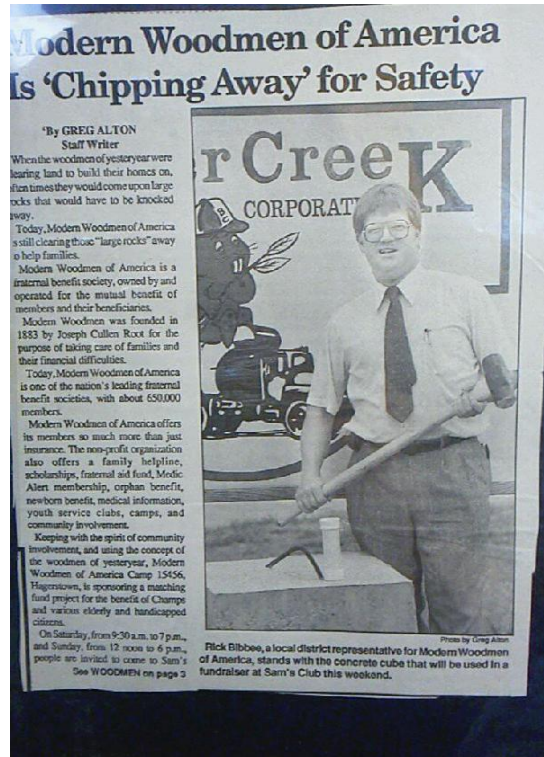


Modern Woodmen



Students well-spoken at oratory contest

May 30, 1997

By BRENDAN KIRBY Staff Writer When asked to speak about an American invention, most of the contestants at the Civic Oration Contest chose the car, the light bulb and other life-improving products. Smithsburg Middle School eighth-grader Joshua Neumann came up with whole different kind of American creation: The Bill of Rights. Neumann's creativity helped carry the day in Thursday's contest, sponsored by the Modern Woodmen of America. "I like to pick something that's not mainline, but still on topic," said Neumann, who claimed the first-place trophy and a \$50 savings bond.

May 30, 1997

To all of the veterans whose sacrifices preserved the way of life Americans now enjoy, and those who work to make certain that, in our comfort, we don't forget their great gift to us. To Joshua Neumann, a Smithsburg Middle School student whose inventive speech on the Bill of Rights won the Modern Woodmen of America oratory contest. He says he's wanted to be president since the second grade.

Schools' fund-raiser exceeds goal

October 13, 1999

A fund-raiser for school security systems Tuesday night exceeded its \$2,500 goal, according to Sam's Club Community Involvement Coordinator Lynn Bibbee. Modern Woodmen of America sponsored the event at Bingo Island, which donated proceeds from the event. Sam's Club has helped raise more than \$18,000 for video cameras and recorders to be placed in all Washington County middle and high schools. On Tuesday, several principals and assistant principals volunteered at Beanie Baby and Buddy Bingo, where some 250 parents and children played games to win Beanie Babies and other prizes.

Fire safety official honored

September 18, 2000

Fire safety official honored Washington County Fire Safety Educator Mike Weller was honored by the Modern Woodmen of America during a ceremony Monday evening at Children's Village on Mount Aetna Road. Weller was recognized for his volunteer service and the impact his fire safety work has had on Washington County residents. "Modern Woodmen deeply believes in volunteer community service and developed a Community Service Recognition program as a way to acknowledge and thank strong volunteers all across the United States," said Lynn Bibbee, Modern Woodmen camp secretary, in a press release.

Bibbee honored for youth leadership

July 17, 2002

Lynn Bibbee of Hagerstown was recently honored for outstanding leadership of young people. A Modern Woodmen of America youth service club leader for the past 11 years, Bibbee led the Hagerstown club to merit status in 2001. Modern Woodmen of America youth service clubs are for Modern Woodmen members ages 16 and younger. The clubs provide children opportunities to volunteer, gain patriotism, learn new skills, make friends and have fun. The leaders are adult Modern Woodmen members.

Teen wants to help pets breathe easier

by BRIAN SHAPPELL | September 27, 2004

shappell@herald-mail.com LEITERSBURG - Thanks to the efforts put into an October fund-raiser by a local high school student and her mother, cats and dogs may soon be able to breathe easier amid catastrophe. Smithsburg High School student Rachel Bibbee, along with her mother, Lynn Bibbee, have organized a family bingo night for Oct. 12 at 6 p.m. at Bingo Island in Hagerstown. Proceeds are to be used by Washington County's 27 fire departments to purchase animal oxygen masks/respirators that will be used on pets during fire rescues.

Backpacks to carry relief to storm victims

by KAREN HANNA | September 5, 2005

karenh@herald-mail.com HAGERSTOWN - In Rachel Bibbee's living room, the news of Hurricane Katrina elicited a response familiar to many who live hundreds of miles from the storm's devastation: "How can I help?" For the 16-year-old Smithsburg High School senior, tears and words weren't enough. Now, she and her mother, Lynn Bibbee, are looking for board games, books and toys to fill about 200 backpacks bound for the Gulf Coast. "Just seeing those people, seeing their emotional responses, just seeing their faces, knowing they've lost everything, it's just so hard," said Rachel, as her eyes filled with tears

May 6, 2006

Modern Woodmen's Camp 15456 and its Junior Club will partner with the Humane Society of Washington County to clean the shelter, plant flowers and exercise the dogs. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today, and is part of Join Hands Day 2006. This is an open house also. Any pet adopted on this day will get a welcome home basket. Studies by the Join Hands Day organization show the annual event is bridging the generation gap. Almost 80 percent of youth survey respondents who participated in 2003 and 2004 reported that Join Hands Day helped them better appreciate adults.

Organizations

July 9, 2006

Lynn Bibbee of Hagerstown recently attended the Modern Woodmen of America Merit Club Leadership Conference in Orlando, Fla. Bibbee was one of 450 youth service club leaders from across the United States who took part in the conference. While in Orlando, she attended educational and motivational workshop sessions and gained new ideas for leading volunteer activities for children. A club leader for 15 years, Bibbee attended the conference because her club completed a variety of projects and met monthly.

April 11, 2008

Tree-planting volunteers sought Antietam Creek Watershed Association and Chesapeake Bay Foundation are seeking volunteers to help plant 700 trees and shrubs along Antietam Creek. Volunteers will work near Brook Lane Health Services, 13218 Brooklane Drive, Hagerstown, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 26. Refreshments and equipment will be provided. Join Hands Day set for May A group of volunteers in Hagers-town is striving to make a difference in the community - and is asking for more volunteers to help.

Bibbee attends leadership conference

July 20, 2009

HERSHEY, Pa. -- Lynn Bibbee of Hagerstown recently attended Modern Woodmen of America's Merit Club Leadership Conference in Hershey. Bibbee was one of 433 youth service club leaders from across the nation who earned the opportunity to take part in the conference. While in Hershey, she attended educational and motivational workshop sessions, had discussions with other club leaders and gained new ideas for leading volunteer activities for children. Bibbee, a club leader for 18 years, qualified for the conference because her club completed a variety of projects in 2008.

Modern Woodmen volunteer at Brook Lane

July 31, 2010

Volunteers with the local Modern Woodmen of America chapter helped build a butterfly garden and planted trees and flowers and painted at Brook Lane of Hagerstown. They worked alongside Leitersburg Ruritan members and the Boy Scouts to spruce up the area. For more information about the group, call Lynn Bibbee at 301-733-7888. Editor's note: This story was edited Aug. 17, 2010, to correct the name of the organization in the headline.

Director of the STAR Equestrian Center named a Hometown Hero

By DON AINES | dona@herald-mail.com | December 14, 2011

Ginny Gaylor went to the STAR Community Inc. office near Hagerstown on Wednesday to discover she had been named a Hometown Hero. The award was presented to the Halfway woman by the fraternal benefits society, Modern Woodmen of America, for her work as director of the STAR Equestrian Center and with Operation Christmas Child. The presentation was made during a surprise luncheon attended by friends, family and some of those Gaylor helps at the equestrian center. "She was chosen to represent Maryland this year," said Lynn Bibbee, chapter director of Modern Woodmen of America.

Join Hands Day seeks additional hands

April 11, 2012

A group of volunteers in Hagerstown is striving to make a difference in the community and is asking for additional help. The volunteer project will take place on Join Hands Day, Saturday, May 5, a national day of service sponsored by Modern Woodmen of America and other fraternal benefit societies. Volunteers in Boonsboro will play bingo with residents. The project will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fahrney-Keedy Home and Village, 8507 Mapleville Road in Boonsboro. Join Hands Day is the only national day of service designed to bring youth and adults together to plan and implement volunteer service projects in their communities.

Modern Woodmen chapter assists Hancock in Motion

June 26, 2012

Members of the Western Maryland Modern Woodmen of America Chapter helped raise money for Hancock In Motion by supporting its 2012 Hancock Community Day activities. The June 9 event raised \$1,598.12 This includes \$799.21 matched by Modern Woodmen's home office through the organization's matching fund program. The money will be used for purchasing equipment for youth activities in Hancock. The matching fund program offers Modern Woodmen members nationwide the chance to show support for a community cause, organization or individual in need by holding fundraisers.

Woman attends Modern Woodmen leadership conference

August 24, 2012

Lynn Bibbee of Hagerstown recently attended Modern Woodmen of America's Merit Club Leadership Conference in Orlando, Fla. Bibbee was one of approximately 430 youth service club leaders from across the U.S. who earned the opportunity to take part in the conference. While in Orlando, she attended educational and motivational workshop sessions, networked with other club leaders and gained new ideas for leading volunteer activities for children. Bibbee, a Modern Woodmen youth service club leader for 21 years, qualified for the conference after her club completed a variety of projects in 2011.

Spaghetti dinner

Darylene Mowen | Around Smithsburg & Robinwood | January 30, 2013

Modern Woodmen of America Chapter 6118 in Martinsburg, W.Va., is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner for the benefit of Boy Scout Troop 108. The event will be Saturday, Feb. 9, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Ringgold Ruritan Building (old schoolhouse). Tickets cost \$7 for those 13 and older, \$4 for those ages 6 to 12 and are free for those younger than 6. Chocolate festival Trinity Lutheran Church will hold its annual chocolate festival Saturday, Feb. 9, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be just in time for Valentine's Day and will be held at the church, which is at 17 N. Main St. in Smithsburg.

Hagerstown couple plans concert to raise funds for Cumberland, Md., zoo

April 21, 2013 | By MARIE GILBERT | marieg@herald-mail.com

CUMBERLAND, Md. — Lynn and Rick Bibbee's story is one of hope and heart.

It's a story about caring and compassion and taking dedication to a whole different level.

It's about putting their efforts into preserving a place where all of God's creatures, big and small, exist in harmony.

It's about saving a zoo.

A few years ago, the Hagerstown couple didn't even know Tri-State Zoological Park existed in Cumberland, Md. — despite the fact that they had lived there for many years.

But during a visit to the area last March, Rick Bibbee picked up a local magazine and spotted a discount coupon for admission to the zoo.

When he returned home, he shared the information with his wife and the two decided to make it a destination.

"I love animals," Lynn Bibbee said. "So my husband knew this was something I would be interested in learning more about. One week later, we were making the trip."

But when they arrived, "one look at the outside of the place and I wasn't feeling so good about this," she said. "It was really sad looking. I wasn't even sure it was open."

Once they stepped inside the park, however, the couple would begin a journey they never would have expected to travel.

They met the owner, Bob Candy, and the more they talked with him, the more they would feel his passion for the animals under his care.

But the place needed a lot of work.

Candy leased the almost 16-acre property in 2003 and thought the contours of the land would lend itself to a zoo.

It had always been his dream since childhood to work with animals and now he was making it come true.

He began taking in animals, including those with special needs and animals people no longer wanted.

He was building up his business, one squeak, one roar at a time, when an electrical fire burned one of the structures on the property, resulting in a major setback.

"Following the fire, many people thought the zoo had closed down," Lynn Bibbee said. "But with little money and few resources, Bob continued to work at keeping it going."

It could be a page out of the nonfiction book that later became a movie, "We Bought a Zoo."

Bibbee said Candy uses his own money for the business and applies for small grants. There are no paid employees and everyone who works at the zoo volunteers their time and efforts.

"His story was so heartwarming, almost instantly, we knew we wanted to help," Bibbee said.

Since last March, the couple has been making trips from Hagerstown to Cumberland, where they lend a hand doing a variety of jobs around the park — from feeding the animals to doing repair work.

In an effort to give the Tri-State Zoological Park a financial boost, the Bibbees are organizing "Cabin Fever," a benefit concert featuring country singer and former American Idol contestant Bucky Covington. Also taking to the stage will be Lindsey Erin, Southern Grind, Johnnie Bubar, Ellie Flier and The Cramer Bros. with Tim Haines.

The concert will be held on Saturday, April 27, at the Allegany County Fairgrounds in Cumberland. The first artist will appear at 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 to \$25.

Bibbee said the concert will be preceded by a family fun day that includes a kids zone with games and entertainment, pony rides, a petting zoo, the Western Maryland Street Rod Association car show with awards and blood pressure screenings from noon to 3 p.m. This event is free.

Bibbee said despite the obvious need for repairs at the zoo, "we fell in love with the place right away and our love has grown stronger. It just needs a little push to turn things around."

She's hoping the concert will not only raise much-needed funds for the park, but also make people aware it exists.

"My husband and I have done some fundraising but we've never organized a concert or anything remotely this big," she said. "But we feel so strongly about helping the zoo, we wanted to do this."

Bibbee said the idea for a concert began several months ago, while flying back from Nashville, Tenn.

"My daughter had graduated from college and had gotten a job in Nashville," Bibbee explained. "I decided to accompany her and on the flight home, I sat next to Bucky Covington, the former 'American Idol' contestant. We struck up a conversation and told each other about our lives. When I got off the plane, I knew what we could do as a fundraiser. We could do a concert."

Bibbee said she got in touch with Covington's people, got confirmation and the ball got rolling.

The couple contacted other performers about joining the show and all agreed to donate their talents for the day.

"It just feels right," Bibbee said. "Meeting Bucky that day on the plane was kismet."

In addition to performing, Bibbee said Covington has agreed to do a private tour of the Tri-State Zoological Park.

"When he sees it first-hand, then he'll understand why we have a passion for this zoo," she said.

Bibbee said the zoo features a menagerie of animals, including Siberian tigers, lions, brown bears, llamas, goats, monkeys, birds and reptiles.

"I've volunteered there long enough that I've begun to know the animals by name," she said.

Bibbee said the Tri-State Zoological Park, partnered with Animal Park Care & Rescue, is now a 501(c)(3) company, which means donations to the zoo are tax deductible.

"Every little bit helps," she said.

Bibbee's efforts to aid the zoo will continue on Saturday, May 4, which is Join Hands Day, a national volunteer day designed to help develop relationships between young people and adults through volunteer work.

"I think this will be a great opportunity for people to come together to lend a hand at the zoo," she said. "It's also a great opportunity for students who need community service hours. We're asking for help doing some remodeling. We'll be building picnic tables, doing some painting, cleaning, gardening and a variety of jobs. We also hope to begin work on building an amphitheater with stadium seating. The owner envisions this as a place where visitors, such as school groups, could come and watch presentations and learn all about animals."

Bibbee said several Scout troops have signed up to help, as well as an adult volunteer who will be bringing his dump truck.

The day will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 2 p.m.

Persons interested in participating in Join Hands Day at the zoo can email richard.l.bibbee@mwarep.org or call 301-790-7799.

Meal for Melanie

Posted on Dec 16, 2013 by Marie Gilbert

Melanie Cole has no time to waste on anger, denial or self-pity.

She's too busy appreciating the world around her — sunrises and sunsets, houses decked out in holiday lights, the sound of her children's laughter.

Not too long ago, Cole was like many people, making her way through the day on autopilot.

But all that changed last March when a bout of abdominal pain led her to the emergency room.

Following a battery of tests, the Hagerstown woman was given a diagnosis she never expected. She had stage IV pancreatic cancer with metastasis to the liver, spleen and peritoneum.

Now, she said, the little things that she once overlooked are viewed differently.

"I try to take nothing and no one for granted," Cole said.

Battling cancer also has helped her discover an inner strength she might not have realized existed.

"I've tried to stay very positive throughout all of this," the 38 year-old said. "I can't let it get me down. I have two little girls — Meghan, 5, and Amy 2 — that I need to be strong and fight for."

Each year, more than 30,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. While the disease represents only 2 percent of all cancer cases, it is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in this country, following lung cancer, colorectal and breast cancer, according to the National Institutes of Health.

There were no hints that such a serious disease was in her future, Cole recalled, noting she had been relatively healthy for most of her life.

"I did not smoke or drink, which can lead to this type of cancer. I had none of the risk factors. And there is no family history of any type of cancer," she explained.

But after experiencing abdominal pain and bloating that wouldn't go away, this past March 22 she headed to the emergency department at Meritus Medical Center.

There, Cole underwent an ultrasound and a computed tomography (CT) scan.

"That's when they found cancer," she said. "Because I had always been healthy, it came as such a surprise."

Following the diagnosis, Cole was admitted to the hospital, where she met with a physician from Antietam Oncology and Hematology, who suggested she begin treatment immediately.

"It all happened very fast. We did seek a second opinion at Johns Hopkins Cancer Center," she said, "but they agreed with the treatment plan so we stayed local."

Treatment has included chemotherapy every two weeks, Cole noted, "but most recently the CT scan found new lesions on my liver so the type of chemo will be changed, hoping that it will do the job."

Cole faces challenges on a daily basis, where something as simple “as a trip to the grocery store has become such a troublesome thing.”

But she is able to tackle the rough spots thanks to a great support system, including her husband, Andy, her two young daughters and two older stepchildren, Jessica and Christopher.

“We have had tremendous support from family, friends and the community,” she said. “It’s overwhelming how supportive people have been. There have been numerous fundraisers done by friends and family to defray medical expenses and it all means so much to myself and my family.”

On Saturday, Dec. 21, Modern Woodmen of America will sponsor a fundraiser for Melanie Cole called “Soup with Santa.” The event will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Maugansville Ruritan Club.

According to Lynn Bibbee, MWA volunteer activities coordinator, the fraternal benefit society will be matching up to \$2,500 of net proceeds.

The menu will include soups prepared from scratch by sous chef Dustin Dumire, as well as sandwiches, chips, dessert and drink.

Children are invited to have their photo taken with Santa Claus and a silent auction also will be held. Donated items are still being accepted for the auction. For more information, contact Bibbee at 301-733-7888.

Bibbee said an ultraviolet light that helps with allergies, valued at more than \$400, will be raffled off during the event.

Volunteers are needed to lend a hand during Soup with Santa and can sign up by contacting Bibbee.

“This is a great opportunity for any teenager who needs community service hours,” she said.

Cole will be attending the event, along with her husband and two daughters who will help out as Santa’s elves.

In addition to the fundraisers, Cole said several of her friends have set up a Facebook page, Miracles for Melanie.

“I thank everyone for their continued support and prayers,” she said.

Benefit concert will help raise funds for a boy who has a rare disorder

Posted on May 12, 2014 by [Marie Gilbert](#)

BOONSBORO — Stacey Compher is reminded repeatedly of the challenges facing her 18-month-old son.

He will be prone to seizures and has been told that his development will be delayed.

He will have to follow a restricted diet — one without sugar and carbohydrates — and might never walk.

Worst of all, doctors have told Compher that her son could pass away at a very young age.

But despite the prognosis, despite the heartache that only a mother knows, Compher is hopeful the power of love will somehow win out.

She prefers to believe in miracles.

Kyler Stotler has been diagnosed with pyruvate dehydrogenase deficiency — a tongue twister of a rare neurometabolic disorder characterized by a wide range of symptoms that usually start in infancy.

There is weak muscle tone, abnormal eye movements and delayed development of mental abilities and motor skills. The most common feature is a potentially life-threatening buildup of lactic acid, which can cause nausea, vomiting, severe breathing problems and an abnormal heartbeat.

In most cases, the outcome is described as poor.

Kyler's diagnosis came as a complete surprise to his mother and father, Mark Stotler, of Boonsboro.

"It was a normal pregnancy," Compher said, "and a normal birth weight."

But when Kyler was a few months old, he began having seizure-like symptoms and was taken to Shady Grove Hospital in Rockville, Md.

"All of his tests came back normal," Compher said.

His situation changed, however, following his one-year checkup on Oct. 18, 2013.

"Kyler was transferred from formula to whole milk and tolerated the milk for about a week," his mother said. "Then, he started throwing up after every bottle. During a doctor's appointment, we were told to give him Pedialyte and to try the milk a couple of days later. So we did and he still wasn't tolerating the milk."

On Nov. 9, 2013, Compher said the couple scheduled another appointment with Kyler's doctor, "but before we could get in, we had to take him to the hospital. When we arrived at Meritus (Medical Center), they said he had intussusception and sent us straight to Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C. He underwent spinal taps, EEGs, MRIs, blood work, ultrasounds, had a G-tube inserted and underwent a skin biopsy."

Compher said Kyler's MRI showed that he had a stroke. Several older strokes showed up, as well. Doctors also confirmed that he had several seizures.

He was being treated as though he did have pyruvate dehydrogenase deficiency, although it was yet to be confirmed, Compher said.

"Kyler was discharged from the hospital, maybe a week and a half before Christmas," Compher recalled. "He was doing great at home, then a couple of days before Christmas, I went to change Kyler's diaper and he was non-responsive and very cold. So we called 911."

When the family arrived at Meritus, they were told his blood sugar level was more than 700 and immediately transferred him back to Washington, D.C.

"He was in the pediatric ICU for three days, sedated with a breathing tube because he wasn't breathing on his own," Compher noted. "He finally started to be able to breathe by himself, so they sent him back up to the neurology floor where he was monitored. He was discharged on Jan. 4 of this year and on Feb. 14, a skin biopsy proved that he did have PDH."

Compher said the diagnosis was difficult to absorb but there were signs when he marked his first birthday that something might be wrong.

"He wasn't reaching for things or using his legs," she recalled. "He was basically a newborn."

She would learn that delayed development is one of the symptoms of the disorder.

Today, Compher said Kyler has physical, occupational and speech therapy three times a week.

“He is always going to be delayed,” she explained, “and doctors aren’t sure if he is going to be able to walk.”

He takes vitamins, which Compher said play an important role with this disorder, and also is on a ketogenic diet, with no sugar or carbs.

“We travel to D.C. for genetics, neurology, a nutritionist and GI,” she noted, “and we have a local pediatrician for regular checkups.”

The outlook, she said, is not good.

“Our neurologist said most children pass away at a very young age but, in very rare cases, they can make it to their teenage years,” she said. “There is no cure for this disorder.”

Compher will soon be giving birth to the couple’s second child and has been told she could be a carrier for PDH or it could be a mutation of Kyler’s gene.

“So we aren’t 100 percent sure if this baby is going to have the disorder or not until after he is born,” she added.

Since the day Kyler was diagnosed with PDH, Compher said “we’ve received so much support and I couldn’t be happier that friends, family and even strangers have helped so much.”

That includes a fundraiser that is being organized to help defray Kyler’s ongoing medical expenses.

A gospel music benefit concert will be on Saturday, May 17, beginning at 6 p.m. at Broadfording Church of the Brethren, 14010 Greencastle Pike, Hagerstown. Featured performers will be The Heavners, Diane Litten-Artz and Touchdown Sunset.

Modern Woodmen of America, a fraternal benefit society, will match the net funds up to \$2,500.

Compher said it took awhile to summon the courage to Google her son’s disease.

In fact, “my fiancée wouldn’t let me read about his diagnosis for the longest time,” she said. “It’s definitely hard knowing that your son has a disorder that can’t be cured. I still, to this day, say there’s no way this has happened to my son. I still don’t believe it.”

But she does believe in miracles.

And there have been rays of hope.

“The stroke affected the left side of his body,” Compher noted, “and he wasn’t using it at all. He is now able to hold and support his neck. And he’s trying to sit up. I think he’s doing a lot better.”