



**Andrea Chye** is presented with a "Coin of Excellence" award from Army Sgt. William Weir.

## Local salon manager honored by U.S. Army

*(Submitted by Sport Clips Haircuts, 5791 Harvey)*

When Andrea Chye, store manager for Sport Clips Haircuts in Muskegon set out to help soldiers call home, she didn't expect to receive a "token of gratitude" from the U.S. Army. "It has always been in my heart to do what I can for the military. They serve our country to protect our freedom, and to me that means more than anything," she said.

Recently, Chye was awarded the "Great Lakes Battalion Coin of Excellence" for spearheading local fundraising efforts to support Sport Clips' national "Help a Hero" fundraiser, benefiting the Veterans of Foreign Wars' "Operation Uplink" free call days program. "I was very shocked to receive all they gave me. I didn't expect anything from this. We are able to do what we do because of [our military]. They sacrifice time away from their families, so the least we can do is allow them minutes to call [home] and let them know everything is all right," said Chye. "I am very honored to receive these items."

Army Sgt. William Weir, who nominated Chye for the award, shared, "Throughout the summer of 2010, the soldiers assigned to the United States Army Recruiting Station in Muskegon witnessed Sport Clips' personnel raising money for Operation Uplink. They were seen at hockey games, softball events, local restaurants... they were everywhere, all the time." Weir knows first-hand how important calls home are for service members and is thankful for the Operation Uplink program. "I know from my own personal life, being deployed overseas, that calling home is the most precious of gifts," he said. "Operation Uplink makes that communication easier for soldiers and is truly appreciated."

Sport Clips, Inc. donated more than \$400,000 to the Operation Uplink program last December. The local store donated \$2,700 to help make it possible for soldiers to connect with their loved ones once a month in 2011.

*(Editor's note: The Fruitport community played a big role in helping raise these funds. The support received while coloring hair with hair spray at Fruitport football games, as well as local customer support were significant contributing factors to the success of this project.)*



## Tanner needs a family

Tanner is a small, young and energetic boy who has been waiting for a long time for a "forever" home. He would cherish a home with someone who would take him running or on long fast walks. He knows how to sit and is crate trained. Although he is not thrilled with a leash, he will tolerate one.

Tanner barks instead of howling like most beagles. He does not seem to be as scent-oriented as most beagles. But due to his "beagleness," Tanner will still need a fenced-in yard to run, play and burn off energy. Otherwise, his nose could still make him a wanderer. Tanner is sweet and loves to snuggle. He would enjoy having kids or other dogs to play with, and he is okay with cats.

His adoption fee includes microchipping, with his incredibly long, soft ears thrown in for free!

In May, all beagles or hound mixes get a \$20 discount — making companionship a bargain for \$140! Pound Buddies Animal Shelter and Adoption Center, 1300 E. Keating, in Muskegon. Open Tuesday and Thursday, 12 to 2 p.m.; Wednesday, 5:30 to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Check out all the pet possibilities at [www.poundbuddies.petfinder.com](http://www.poundbuddies.petfinder.com).

"Putting People and Pets - TOGETHER!"

## Muskegon Rescue Mission growing

*(Submitted by the Muskegon Rescue Mission)*

With Michigan's economy slow to recover and continued high unemployment, the Muskegon Rescue Mission is seeing increased demand for shelter, food, and clothing.

"The number of individuals and families seeking assistance is at record highs for this time of year. We normally see the demand for assistance decrease as the weather warms, but not this year," said Executive Director Kevin Newton.

To meet the increased demand for emergency housing, the Muskegon Rescue Mission is building a new men's campus. There, men in need will receive emergency shelter, or can enter our Discipleship and Aftercare programs.

The mission has entered the final phase of its capital campaign to collect the funds needed for the equipment and furnishings in the new facility. Newton stressed the importance and need for a new building to serve the growing number of men seeking shelter and families being served through Community Ministries.

The new facility offers more than just a new space. It provides a more efficient way for rescue volunteers and staff members to serve those in need.

"This is the first building specifically designed for the Muskegon Rescue Mission. The building, while the same size, dramatically increases capacity for service," Newton said. "By designing the building for our ministry we are able to keep the operating costs down while increasing the number of people we can serve."

The mission has worked closely with architect C. Richard Borgeson of Muskegon and Construction Manager Gary Post to keep the project on time and budget.

Meanwhile, as families continue to struggle putting food on the table and clothes on their backs, the mission is here to help. "We remain committed to helping every person who comes to our doors," Newton said. "Now more than ever we need to step up to meet the needs."

The mission is responding with its Community Ministry Program by offering assistance via its food pantry, held twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays. The mission also offers household items, emergency food, diapers and personal care items. Free gift certificates to its thrift stores are also available for clothing.

The Muskegon Rescue Mission is in its 104<sup>th</sup> year of continuous 24 hours a day, 365 days a year of service. They offer food, shelter, clothing and other services at two separate locations for men (400 W. Laketon) and women (1691 Peck). "We are in a unique position to help those in need, not just with the physical needs that make day-to-day life hard, but with their spiritual needs as well," Newton said. "We can point them to Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. This is the way to true peace in your life." •

## Change A Life Tour plus a free lunch!

*(Submitted by the American Red Cross)*

We invite you to join us for a dynamic, informative one-hour Change A Life Tour showing how all our lives are connected through the American Red Cross.

You will be inspired and will walk away saying, "I didn't realize the Red Cross did all that!"

This free tour takes place twice a month and a complimentary meal is included. Take an hour and stop by to see what the Red Cross serving Muskegon, Oceana and Newaygo counties does and how you can be a part of it. Invite your friends, family and co-workers!

Upcoming tour dates and times:

May 17, 2011 at 8 a.m.

June 1, 2011 at noon

June 14, 2011 at 8 a.m. •

## Muskegon to hold walk for diabetes

*(Submitted by Muskegon Community Health Project)*

The Muskegon Community Health Project, Mercy Health Partners and Novo Nordisk will be hosting its 7<sup>th</sup> annual Muskegon Walk for Diabetes on Saturday, June 4, 2011 at Heritage Landing. Registration begins at 8 a.m. The walk begins promptly at 9 a.m. The day is filled with live entertainment, food, giveaways and activities for kids.

Baseball Hall of Famer Lou Brock will be joining us this year to meet and greet walkers. Mr. Lou is a type two diabetic. Muskegon's Walk for Diabetes raises monies to provide diabetic medications and supplies, podiatry visits and eye exams to Muskegon County diabetics. All monies raised will stay in Muskegon County.

If you would like a pledge packet, register to walk, or need more information, call Mimi Rankin at the Muskegon Community Health Project (231) 672-3201.

Together we are saving lives. •

## 3d annual Ed Johnson, Sr. Memorial Run

By Mary Weimer

Saturday, June 4 is the date for the Third Annual Ed Johnson, Sr. Memorial Benefit and Run, rain or shine.

Any type of vehicle can be included in the run: Motorcycles, cars, trucks, vans, jeeps, buses, trolleys, even your wagon or horse and buggy!

The event begins at the Fruitport Auditorium/Pin Crest, 6571 Airline Highway, with registration at 11:30 a.m. The run will depart at exactly 1 p.m. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. with prizes and music beginning at 7 p.m. featuring Northbound.

Cost is \$20 per person including the run, dinner and entertainment; or \$10 per person if you do not want to participate in the run.

Proceeds and all donations will be directed to the North West Ottawa County Fire Dive Rescue Team and the Ottawa County Sheriff Dive Rescue Team.

For more information, contact Amber at (231) 750-7538 or Nick at (231) 578-7825. •



## Chloe Gagnon makes her debut

Chloe Elizabeth Gagnon was born April 12, 2011 at 10:25 a.m. at Hackley Hospital. She weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 21 inches long. She has a full head of black hair. Chloe was born to Fruitport native Abigail L. (Lanore) Gagnon and Grand Haven native Jeremy J. Gagnon.

Chloe is Abby and Jeremy's first born. She is also the first grandchild on both sides of the family. Grandma Harriet Gagnon and Grandma Elaine and Grandpa Randy Lanore are all very excited to welcome this beautiful bundle into their lives. Aunt Megan has already begun to spoil little Chloe, but who wouldn't?

Chloe has two dogs (Buddy and Brutus) in her Roosevelt Park home, and a cat (Kalie). Both dogs lick her head to make sure she is okay and that she is still their baby. They can't wait until she is able to throw a tennis ball for them to fetch. •

## CROSSWORD!

### STATES OF THE UNION 04

FILL IN THE SPACES ACROSS AND DOWN WITH THE ANSWERS TO THE CLUES LISTED HERE... HAVE FUN!

ACROSS	DOWN
2. The Volunteer State	1. The Green Mountain State
5. The Liberty Bell resides in a famous city here	3. The Constitution State
7. Home of very old petroglyphs at Writing Rock State Historical Site	4. Paul Revere rode in this state
9. The Wright Brothers successful airplane flight in Kitty Hawk, _____	6. Capital: Annapolis
10. Providence is the capital	7. The state flower is the Yucca Flower
	8. "The First State" to ratify the Constitution

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