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Update on God’s Perfect Plan — Living With a Bionic Man

by Sunflower Swan

Your husband, Tim Swan, has been waiting for the third kidney transplant for 15 years!? Is he okay to drive? Why does it take so long to get a kidney? How did he lose his kidney? Did you try different transplant centers? Most of the people who hear about my husband’s health condition have many questions.

Yes, he has been waiting for the third kidney transplant for fifteen years. He is on a hemo-dialysis machine five days a week to sustain his life. Over the years, several dozen people tried to donate a kidney for my husband, but no one was a good match.

Since I wrote an article about my husband in *The Fruitport News'* Valentine’s Day issue, we received many wonderful comments about the article. It helped some people to gain a fresh perspective about life. We also received several phone calls from wonderful people in Fruitport offering one of their kidneys.

Even though they are people who never met us before, they gladly offered one of their kidneys. We are deeply touched by their acts of kindness. The people who responded to us to offer a kidney had wrong blood types. Although they cannot donate one of their kidneys, we were still encouraged and touched by their tender generous hearts.

My husband’s blood type is O. Blood type O can donate to all other blood types, but blood type O can only receive from people with blood type O.

After I wrote the article, I found out another way people can donate a kidney for my husband, even if a person has a different blood type. It is called paired donation. The Paired Donation Network website gives the following description of paired donation: “[It] is a procedure that allows individuals who wish to give a kidney to their loved one, but cannot because they are incompatible (they have the wrong blood type or their loved one has immunity to their kidney). In paired donation, the donor and recipient are matched with another incompatible donor/recipient pair and the kidneys are exchanged between the pairs.”

Be sure to check out the Paired Donation Network website link, <http://www.paireddonationnetwork.org/TransplantPrograms.aspx>. St. Mary’s Hospital Kidney Transplant Center in Grand Rapids, where Tim received his first two transplants, and where he is listed for his third, is part of the Paired Donation Network. If you are interested, or want more information, please give us call at (231) 865-7984 or e-mail us at tsswan@juno.com or contact the transplant center at St. Mary’s at (616) 752-6222. •

Celebrate Michigan Week!

by Mary Weimer

For one week each May, Michiganders celebrate all that is Michigan. Since 1954, Michigan Week encourages residents to promote state pride, to celebrate our heritage and the unique things that make Michigan Michigan.

Despite recent economic difficulties, Michigan remains one of the best places to live in the United States. We have so many natural resources, free for everyone to enjoy. The views of Lake Michigan as you approach Pere Marquette Park, Kruse Park or any of the state parks rival some of the best post card photos. Wildlife in our area, though troublesome within the city limits perhaps, abound. The history of our state, from Father Marquette’s Indian mission on St. Ignace in 1673 to the opening of the “Mighty Mac,” to today, tells the story of our successes and our defeats.

Michigan has been home to artists, astronauts, leaders in business and industry, music, sports and political personalities. We have been the adopted home of many well-known celebrities.

So this Michigan Week, May 16 to 22, learn more about our state and see why this year’s theme, “Great Lakes, Great Traditions” is so true. ••

Maritime training available at Muskegon Community College

(Submitted by Muskegon Community College)

The Muskegon Community College Lakeshore Business and Industrial Service Center is now offering programs by land and by sea — first, the highly successful truck driving courses, and now an entire series of OSHA-related training programs for the maritime industry.

The 10-hour and 30-hour courses introduce new safety programs specifically for employees engaged in ship building, ship breaking, ship repairing, marine terminal operations and long shoring. The focus of the training is to provide maritime industry employees a better understanding of OSHA standards and the work place hazards and to help maritime employers implement programs protecting their most valuable asset: employees.

Employees, when aware of safety requirements, are more likely to spot work place hazards, use proper safety equipment, damage less equipment, and work better as teams. This training can provide a significant benefit to production schedules and morale of employees, while reducing lost time and helping improve the business bottom line.

The first course offered, starting May 11 is the 10-hour Maritime Outreach Course for Marine Terminal Employees. The course is intended to provide entry-level safety and health training tailored specifically to marine terminal employees. The course focuses on hazard identification, avoidance, control, and prevention methods. The two-day course (#7617) is \$235.

The second course, beginning May 18, is the 30-hour Occupational Safety and Health Maritime Standards for Marine Terminals. It covers topics specific to marine terminal operations and builds upon the 10-hour Outreach Training Program by adding additional topics relevant to marine terminal operations (and all related equipment). This course includes topics like specialized marine terminal operations roll on/roll off, railroad facilities/operations at the marine terminal, safe slinging (using land- based cargo handling gear), proper stacking, and includes advanced PIT/forklift training (including various forklift attachments unique to marine terminals). Also covered in this course is a variety of required and elective outreach topics that include OSHA’s Maritime Standards specific to marine terminals (29 CFR 1917). The four-day course (#7637) is \$725.

The courses will be taught by OSHA-authorized instructor Jim Nisbet. For more information, or to register for the courses, go to www.muskegoncc.edu/maritime, or call Tom O’Brien, director of the MCC Lakeshore Business and Industrial Service Center at (231) 777-0217. •



Muskegon County Museum undergoes name change

(Submitted by Joni Dorsett)

Muskegon County Museum officials have announced that the institution has changed its name to the Lakeshore Museum Center to better reflect the scope of what it offers to the residents and visitors of the community.

In over 70 years, the museum has evolved from a single museum site to a campus environment offering tours of a natural and cultural history museum, a fire barn museum, a house museum of the depression era, and the homes of Muskegon’s most famous lumber barons. The four sites are located within walking distance from one another offering visitors a day or more full of history.

The mission of the Lakeshore Museum Center is to preserve and interpret through exhibits, education and programs, the natural and cultural history of Muskegon County.

The Lakeshore Museum Center is open every day with free admission at 430 W. Clay Avenue. The Fire Barn Museum and the Scolnik House are open Wednesday through Sunday, May through October, with free admission. Admission to the Hackley and Hume Historic Site is \$3 for guests 13 and older. Free tours of the site are offered to everyone during the month of September. •

Lakeshore Museum Center displays fruit jars, lights, photos

(Submitted by the Lakeshore Museum Center)

Over 40 of the canning jars from Douglas Leybourne’s collection are currently on display at the Muskegon County Museum, now called the Lakeshore Museum Center, 430 W. Clay.

Leybourne began collecting antique glass 25 years ago, and soon began collecting fruit jars. His collection includes jars dating back to the 1850s. The jars include a wide variety of colors, manufacturers, and sealing methods.

Another temporary display is called “Let there be Light,” which includes items that shed light. Included is a brass lantern used by police in the mid 1800s to early 1900s, along with early oil and electric lamps, candle holders and a candle mold which could make a dozen candles.

Another display features photos taken in the late 1880s to the 1950s of a variety of parties and celebrations. The display includes photos of a Halloween party in 1917 at the home of Charles Moore Hackley. •