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Spur of the Moment 4-H Club at the 2012 Muskegon County Youth Fair and looking forward to the 2013 Fair

Muskegon-based osteopathic medical students' awards

(Submitted by Andrew Trzaska)

A group of osteopathic medical students studying in Muskegon collected a notable number of honors from Michigan State University.

The Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM) held its annual graduation awards ceremony on May 1, 2013 to honor outstanding medical student achievement. The event featured 13 student awards with varying criteria.

Out of a class of 300 students, seven came to Mercy Health Muskegon to complete their clinical clerkships. That small Muskegon group, representing less than 1% of their class, took home 23% of the awards given at the ceremony.

Dr. David L. Dora, director of medical education at Mercy Health Partners and board member of the Osteopathic Foundation of West Michigan, finds the collection of awards remarkable.

"The number of awards bestowed on students studying locally is quite impressive," said Dora. "It demonstrates the quality of medical education available at Mercy Health Muskegon. The Osteopathic Foundation understands that if osteopathic medicine is going to continue in the area, we must attract more physicians. Medical students become physicians, and educating and retaining these students is positive for Muskegon."

- Dr. Kelly A. Flynn received the Judith K. Wieswasser Memorial Award, which recognizes a woman graduate deemed to be outstanding academically, professionally, and personally. She will remain in Muskegon for her family medicine residency.

- Dr. Kyle Denison Martin accepted the Paul S. McCord, D.O. Memorial Award, given on the basis of commitment to community service and primary care discipline and service to medically underserved areas.

- Dr. Barrett Alexander Kielhorn took home the Walter C. Mill, D.O., F.A.C.O.S. Award for Excellence in Surgery, given to the graduating student who best exemplifies education excellence in surgery, the surgical specialties, and anesthesiology.

Also noteworthy is Dr. Caitlin Marie Brazda, recipient of the Carnegie Medal for Academic Excellence. She is a graduate of Mona Shores High School and will return to Muskegon in July for her obstetrics and gynecology residency.

By granting scholarships to high school students, medical students and physicians who train and practice in Muskegon, the Osteopathic Foundation has made a strong commitment to ensuring an adequate supply of physicians in Muskegon, Oceana and northern Ottawa counties.

"Education is one of the key tenets of the Foundation," said Dora. "I think medical education programs are vital in continuing to attract physicians to the community." •

Used book sales at MADL branch libraries

By Mary Weimer

Although the Fruitport Branch library has already held its annual book sale, other book sales are scheduled throughout the Muskegon area at several MADL branches during the summer. Remaining sale dates and times include:

Holton Branch, 8776 Holton-Duck Lake Road: July 26, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and July 27, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Egelston Branch, 5428 E. Apple: August 2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

North Muskegon Branch, 1522 Ruddiman: August 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. •

Playing on the Lakeshore visitors' guide

(Submitted by the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce)

Playing on the Lakeshore, the 2013 pocket visitors' guide, is now available both in print and as a digital magazine. The digital magazine contains interactive content, page-turning and a full search function.

To view the digital version, go to: www.harborhouse.com/digital/muskegonvisitorsguide.htm. •

An unanswered question

By Richard Blackmer

(Regardless of which side of the issue of gun control a person chooses to take a stand, germane to the entire issue is a single, unanswered question. This question is asked by Emily in the piece below and deserves an answer. The characters depicted in this piece are fictitious, however, the gist of the conversation is based on an actual dialogue.)

Twenty-three-year-old Molly sat in a restaurant booth. Seated with her was her fiancé, Tim, and Emily, her five-year-old niece.

As each new customer entered the restaurant, Molly carefully scrutinized the new arrival. Tim, noting Molly's apprehensiveness, made an inquiry: "Are you OK? You seem nervous."

Molly, appearing embarrassed, apologized, "I am sorry, however, all the violence in our country has caused me to be extremely cautious when I am in a public place. Shootings have occurred in business offices, schools, restaurants, factories and movie theaters, and it has me on edge.

Emily looked up from her French fries and smiled at Molly. "We will be all right, Aunt Molly. Uncle Tim is here with us."

Molly quietly chastised herself for discussing the matter in the presence of the five-year-old. She attempted to mitigate any concern she may have instilled in Emily. "I know we will, Emily. Soon, Congress is to pass a law making it wrong for bad people to own guns."

Emily had returned to her French fries and appeared to have dismissed the subject from her young mind.

Tim offered his opinion that gun control legislation cannot be enacted too quickly. "I hope Congress moves on this matter immediately. It is a much-needed deterrent to any future violence being planned by those who would harm others."

Molly underscored Tim's comment with an opinion of her own. "Bad people must be stopped from committing acts of violence against others. We must have a law stopping them from getting guns and shooting innocent people."

Emily turned her attention from the unfinished French fries, and asked a question of her aunt. "Aunt Molly, why don't we just pass a law that says it is wrong to kill people?"

Molly smiled at the innocence of her niece, and in a kind and loving way responded, "We have a law like that. It says that killing others is murder, and it is against the law to murder anyone."

Emily was silent and thoughtful for a moment. Then she phrased a second question. "If bad people won't obey the law to not murder others, why will they obey the law to not have these bad guns?"

(As of this writing, Emily's question remains unanswered. The gravity of the question is self-evident. This writer has no answer. Perhaps those who are seated in the "Councils of the Wise" (Congress) have the answer to the question. If so, they should share the answer with the rest of us. They owe it to us. Our safety depends on it.) •