

My Life

Wednesday, October 17, 2012

MD/EM/WS ★★

■ Achievements

Bill Pickens (right) helped start the Gift of Life Mid-South chapter 35 years ago. This year, the group has helped its 35th patient. **3E**



SCHOOLS

U of M will celebrate Centennial Homecoming

The University of Memphis' Mighty Sound of the South marching band is tuning up for the school's Centennial Homecoming football game against the University of Central Florida. On Friday at 5:30 p.m. there will be a homecoming parade that will wind across campus and feature at least 100 entries, making it the largest parade in the university's history.



By Gabrielle Maxey
Special to My Life

The University of Memphis will celebrate its Centennial Homecoming with a full slate of events for Tiger fans. Along with the football game against the University of Central Florida, many student events and activities for alumni and the public also are planned. They include: Friday, 5:30 p.m. — The Alumni Association's

Family and Friends Homecoming Parade, hosted by the Alumni Association and Student Activities Council, with U of M President Shirley Raines as the special guest. To mark the U of M's Centennial, the parade will feature at least 100 entries, making it the largest in University history. The parade route begins on Walker (between the campus and

See U OF M, 3E

In Brief

Harp concert

A harp concert, "Across Sea and Sand," will be performed by Sunita Stanelow from Tel Aviv, Israel, with guest flutist Jeanne Simmons on Friday at 7:15 p.m. at Trezevant Performing Arts Center, 3437 Waynoka. Suggested admission is \$10. Call Barbara Christensen at 901-287-1831

VisionWalk

The Memphis VisionWalk, benefiting the Foundation Fighting Blindness, is set for Overton Park on Saturday. Registration is at 9 a.m. and the 5K walk starts at 10. There is no fee, but registration is required. Online registration available at sightblindness.org/gotomemphisvisionwalk. Contact Maria Donile at 847-680-0100 or MDonile@FightBlindness.org.

Pet bash

The Howl-o-ween Bash is Saturday, from noon to 2 p.m. at Shelby Farms' Outback Off Leash Dog Park, with fun for dogs and owners. The event will feature microchipping services. Call 901-452-2506.

Republican Club

The next meeting of the East Shelby Republican Club will be Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Pickering Center, 7771 Poplar Pike. Shelby County Commissioner Heidi Shafer will speak. Also elections for officers will be held for 2013. Call president Arnold Weiner at 901-331-7868.

Octubafest

Octubafest at the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music, at the University of Memphis, will showcase tuba performances by students, faculty, guest artists and ensembles at free concerts:

Oct. 23, at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. — Soloists and Chamber Groups

Oct. 24, at 7:30 p.m. — The Eufonix Quartet

Oct. 25 at 5:30 p.m. — Soloists and Chamber Groups

Oct. 26 at 5:30 p.m. — Faculty performances and the U of M Bottom Line Ensemble

The U of M Harris Concert Hall is at 3775 Central. Call 901-678-2541 or visit memphis.edu/music.

Twilight Tour

On Oct. 27, the Elmwood Players will present the seventh annual Costume Twilight Tour, 3-6 p.m.

Costumed actors will portray notable Elmwood residents including:

■ James Stewart, Elmwood's first superintendent;

■ Isabella "Belle" Edmondson, infamous Confederate spy;

■ Sister Constance, martyr of the 1878 yellow fever epidemic;

■ Susan and Esther Spikes, passengers on the ill-fated Sultana;

■ Lloyd Binford, president of the Memphis Censor Board;

■ Hon. John Park, mayor of Memphis during the Civil War;

■ America Caroline Dill, editorial writer for the Memphis Appeal;

■ Lt. John A. McKinney, killed during the Indian Wars of 1876;

■ Charles Dinstuhl, Memphis entrepreneur and chocolatier;

■ A.W. Willis, lawyer and civil rights activist.

Admission is \$15, children under 12 are admitted free. Advance tickets available online at elmwoodcemetery.org/ events or tickets may be purchased at the gate.

Elmwood Cemetery is off I-240 and Crump Blvd. Call 901-774-3212.

HOBBIES

Family buzz



ANITA HOUK/SPECIAL TO THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Gathered in Livija Duks Rutkowski's dining room for their second annual tasting of the family honey crop are (from left) her son, Mark Rutkowski; son-in-law Ray Allen; grandson Sam Allen; Livija; and daughter Louise Rutkowski Allen. The landscape painting behind them, "Ulubele" (a place one longs for), is by Livija's stepbrother, Uldis, Krumins and it depicts her father's retirement acreage in Wisconsin, where Dad kept bees.

■ Rutkowski clan hooked on honey

By Anita Houk
Special to My Life

Beware the buzz on a family vacation — You might get stuck with some bees.

Next thing you know, you'll be scouting hive sites and judging honey harvests.

It's happened to more than one in the Rutkowski clan.

"The news recently," says Livija Duks Rutkowski of Midtown, "was that bees were dying in some areas and crops were not being properly pollinated."

"(Bee) colony collapse disorder," specifies son Mark Rutkowski of Cooper-Young.

Daughter Louise Rutkowski Allen of Midtown continues, "We were in Arkansas, on a family vacation together a few years ago, and I expressed an interest in maybe having some hives. Mark jumped all over it."

He had experience: "At Central High School, I was in the Beekeeper Club. Two hives were kept on campus. Only (club member) Betsy Ross and I got in the Beekeeper Club picture in the annual, though, because we were the only ones who would touch the hives."

"I had worked hives with my grandfather (Edward Duks) in Wisconsin. I used to spend sum-

See HONEY, 3E



Local honey gathered during early spring and late summer 2012, plus one honey from Germany, make up the 10-cup comparison at the Midtown tasting. The Rutkowski-Allen hives, which don't produce for profit, are in gardens in Midtown, Cooper-Young, in Olive Branch and Strayhorn, Miss., and Hardy, Ark.

SNAPSHOT

Helping celebrate the 100th birthday of Midtowner Herman Inderbitzen (center), were his children Larry Inderbitzen (left), Cathy Huettel, Margie Baggett, Jean Lofton and Joe Inderbitzen. The celebration took place at the home of Herman's granddaughter, Missy Carter.



SHARE YOUR SNAPSHOTS

Got a proud moment? Show it off in a snapshot on the My Life pages.

Be sure to list the full names of everyone in the picture for the caption information.

Digital images can be e-mailed as JPEGs that are between 1-2 MB in size. Please include contact information, in case we have questions.

For Greater Memphis, e-mail photos and caption information to Emily Adams Keplinger at keplinger@commercialappeal.com. Call 901-529-2551.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Bill Pickens honored for work at Gift of Life Mid-South

By Anne Glankler
Special to My Life

Bill Pickens, senior vice president and investment officer with Wells Fargo Advisors, was recently recognized by Wells Fargo for his contributions to the local community through his work with Gift of Life Mid-South.

Pickens presented a \$10,000 check to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital to help fund a critical heart surgery for a young patient from Kosovo. Gift of Life Mid-South works to locate children all over the world who need heart surgeries. Rinor Saraci, the 14-year-old recipient of the surgery, was the 35th patient the group has been able to help.

"I was so excited when I found out I won this honor," said Pickens. "I love what I get to do through Gift of Life Mid-South, and that's giving children the gift of life. Without our help, they might not live to see their next birthdays. I'm very grateful to Wells Fargo for recognizing me in this way. Ten thousand dollars can go a long way in helping a child."

Pickens helped start the

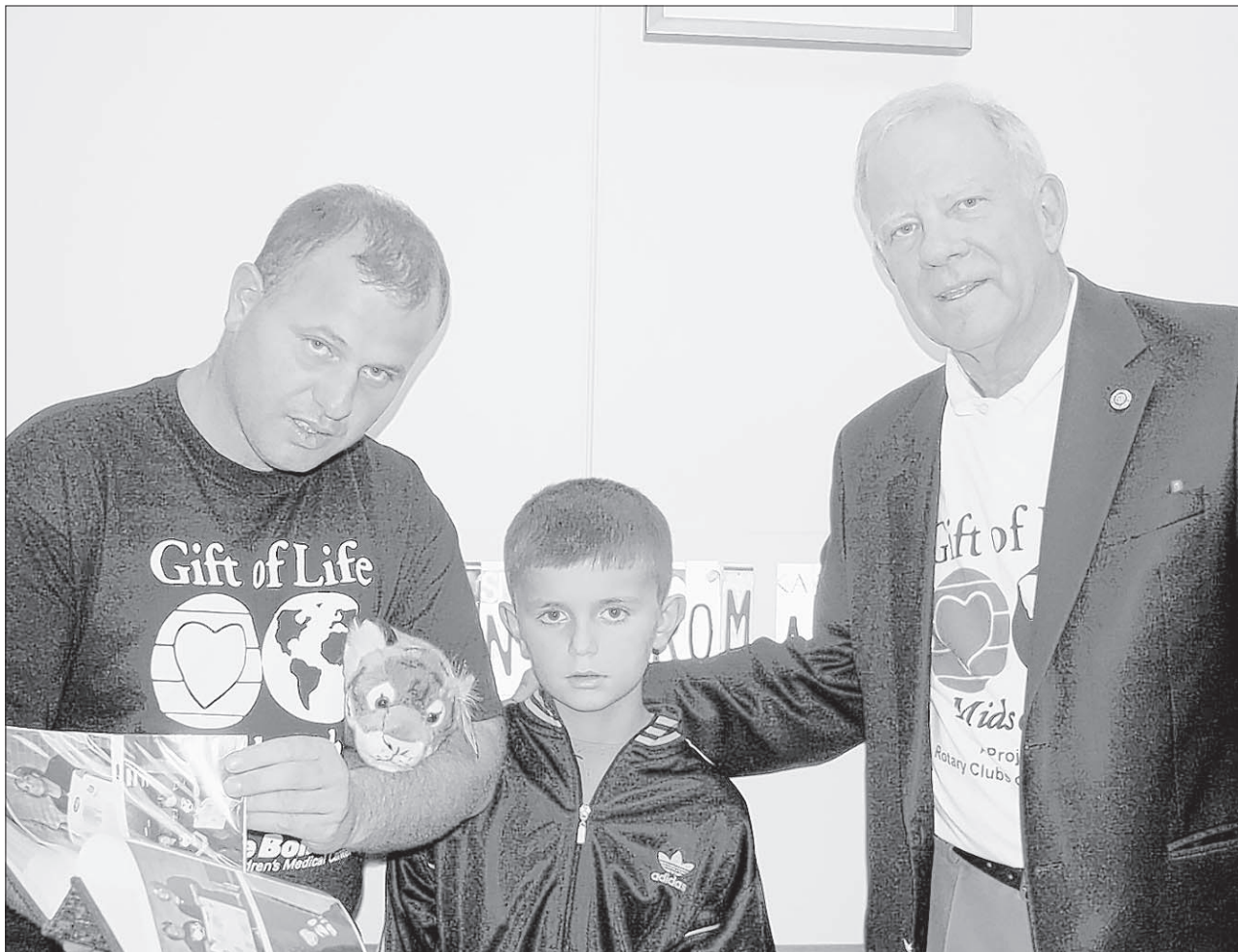
Memphis chapter of the nonprofit organization. The group works with Le Bonheur and the District 6800 Rotary to provide the children with critical surgeries.

"We love being a part of the work that Bill and the Gift of Life Mid-South founded," said Meri Armour, Le Bonheur CEO. "It's incredible to be able to provide our expertise to a critically ill child."

In its 34th year, the Wells Fargo Volunteer Service Award program recognizes team members' volunteer efforts through contributions. This year, 235 team members in all were awarded a total of nearly \$400,000 for their organizations.

"Bill is an advocate for children from all over the world," said Jerome Franklin, Wells Fargo Advisors branch manager. "It's great that children from everywhere are being helped here in Memphis. Without Bill's hard work, these children might not have any other hope. We at Wells Fargo are very proud of him."

Anne Glankler is with media relations at Le Bonheur.



Bill Pickens (right) recently presented a \$10,000 check to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital to help fund a critical heart surgery for patient Rinor Saraci, 14, from Kosovo through the Gift of Life Mid-South. The program works to locate children all over the world who need heart surgeries. Rinor, shown here with his father, Xhavitt Saraci, was the 35th patient the group has been able to help. "I love what I get to do through Gift of Life Mid-South, and that's giving children the gift of life," Pickens said.

HONEY from 1E

mers with him. We have a photo of him with his bees in maybe 1970. I was 12 or 13."

Keeping bees, explains Livija, is a tradition on European farms. Her family hails from Latvia, where her father — who emigrated in 1950 — taught in an agricultural high school.

"My grandfather on the farm had bees," says Livija, 83, "and my father in Wisconsin had bees. It's a self-sufficient way of farming." "Your own pollinators," adds Mark.

To get started right, Mark and Louise joined the Memphis Area Beekeepers Association, where they found helpful info and a generous mentor, Robert Hodum.

"People have become interested in keeping bees," Mark says. "When we joined the Memphis Beekeepers Association, membership was maybe 30. ... Now, it's more than 100."

Mark, 55, and Louise, 57, share some hives in Hardy, Ark. Both also have hives in their backyards and their mom's; and Mark has hives on properties of friends in Olive Branch and Strayhorn, Miss., near Arkabutla. All family members are welcome — even enlisted — to help.

"I have two hives, but Mark checks to see how busy the bees have been,"

Livija says. "I'm not afraid of bees, but I don't suit up."

One active hive has 20,000 to 30,000 bees, gathering pollen from a 3-mile radius and producing about 50 pounds of honey per brood box, per harvest. It takes a year for a fresh hive to produce.

"The good thing with bees," says Louise's helper-husband, Ray Allen, 56, "is there is no waste to clean up."

Louise: "They work so hard: put up honey, keep it clean."

Ray: "Make the wax cells."

Louise: "Run off beetles, clean out the dead."

Ray: "And honey doesn't go bad. It has a natural ability to stay preserved. No algae. No bacteria. It will crystallize if it dries out, but it doesn't go bad."

And danger from bee stings?

"Bees are protective of their hives," Ray points out, "so even if you're just a few feet from the hives, there is generally no problem. They stay close to the hive. That's why you can have hives in a backyard."

Some people believe that eating a little local honey every day helps fight seasonal allergies. The idea is that local honey contains spores from local plants, gradually "vaccinating" the body against the substances that trouble allergy sufferers. The anecdotal evidence has no basis in peer-reviewed



"My dad," says Livija Dukes Rutkowski, "didn't have all that get-up ... He had a hat with a little screen around ... and that was it. I took a photograph of my dad (Edward Dukes, circa 1970) working with the bees in Tomah, Wis."

PHOTO BY LIVIJA DUKES RUTKOWSKI

scientific studies, but it does have followers. Mark is among them; Louise and Ray are not.

Yet all agree: Honey is a good thing.

"When you have just one honey," Livija says, "it tastes like honey and that's it. Frankly, I was surprised the honeys are, one from another ... one season from another, and even within a season from the same hives."

Early spring honey is lighter in color and taste than later harvests. In grocery stores, clover honey is the rule, but it isn't

tops in the Rutkowski and company taste test.

"We set it up like a blind tasting," says Louise. "We rate them 1 to 5."

Ten samples from different hive sites, harvest times and, this fall, a wild-card entry from Germany. And the winner of the second annual, 2012 Rutkowski-Allen taste test is ...

"Mark's honey," reports Livija. "That's the truth."

"Mom's always wins!" counters Mark, who designed labels for the honey bears for his and his mother's product. "Mom's backyard bees are the best."



Get ready to show your Tiger Pride as the University of Memphis celebrates its Centennial Homecoming with a full slate of events for Tiger fans on Friday and Saturday.

U OF M from 1E

the railroad tracks) and winds through the U of M campus, ending at the Student Plaza near the Administration Building. Highlights will include float and banner competitions, the Mighty Sound of the South marching band, Tiger spirit squads, ROTC cadets, and U of M mascot Pouncer. Free parking will be available in the Central Avenue and Southern parking lots.

(Note: Zach Curlin Street will close at 4 p.m. to allow the parade to form. Patterson will be closed between Walker and Watauga at 5:30 p.m. Zach Curlin and Walker will reopen as soon as the end of the parade turns north on Patterson. Central Avenue will remain open the entire time.)

■ Friday, 6:30 p.m. — Pep Rally at the end of the parade route near the Student Plaza fountain. Athletic director Tom Bowen and Tiger coach Justin Fuente will be special guests, along with the recipients of the Alumni Association's True Blue Tradition and Parent of the Year awards. Complimentary food will be provided by the Thomas Boggs (BA '72) family of Huey's Restaurants.

■ Following the Pep Rally — Luther C. McClellan Black Alumni Chapter Homecoming Step Show at the Elma Roane Fieldhouse. The show will feature the stepping skills of current students and alumni. Proceeds will benefit the LCM Scholarship and the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

■ Other homecoming activities on Friday include a reunion honoring the Class of 1962 at 9:30 a.m. in the Alumni Center and a reception for graduates of 50 years or more at 5 p.m., also at the Alumni Center. To make reservations for these events, call 901-678-2586 or send an e-mail to alumniassociation@memphis.edu.

■ Saturday, 7 p.m. — Football game, Memphis vs. UCF Golden Knights, Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium. Alumni Association president Allie Prescott (BBA '69, JD '72) will present the Eye of the Tiger, True Blue Tradition, and Parent of the Year awards at halftime. For ticket information, call 901-678-2331 or go online to gotigersgo.com.

A full listing of Homecoming activities is online at memphis.edu/alumni.

Gabrielle Maxey is communications coordinator for the University of Memphis.



On Friday, as part of the U of M's Centennial Homecoming celebration, there will be a reunion honoring the Class of 1962 at 9:30 a.m. in the Alumni Center and a reception for graduates of 50 years or more at 5 p.m., also at the Alumni Center. To make reservations for these events, call 901-678-2586 or send an e-mail to alumniassociation@memphis.edu.

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