



Out of the Darkness steps off this morning

Hizzoner was on the telephone Friday morning excitedly reporting that Freeport may be in the running for a new employer in town.

It's the second effort in just over a month involving the mayor and a prospective company moving to the city.

This one, based in Tennessee, wants to locate near an international airport and will be offering 120 jobs. "I talked to Fritz Henderson, the CEO and president, just this morning," Mayor Gaulrapp said Friday. "I told him what Freeport has to offer and that we're a good location for what they are considering."

The company, SunCoke Energy, is looking for a new corporate headquarters and has centered its search on the Chicagoland area.

"I read an article about them, and decided to give them a call. It was somewhat surprising to get a call back from the company president," Gaulrapp said.

Freeport was also in the running last month for Dokka, a machining company from the Netherlands, but finished second in that decision to a community in Michigan.

Today is the second annual "Out of the Darkness" walk.

The Stephenson County and Freeport community walk will begin with check in at 9 a.m., and step off at 10 a.m. from the band shell at Krape Park. "Out of the Darkness," raises awareness of suicide, depression, and mood disorders. The funds the event raises will go to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP).

By raising money and increasing awareness around mental illness, we can help treat and prevent these tragedies.

This event has currently raised \$680! The goal for the walk is a \$5,000. Please donate or register to walk this morning at the park.

There is no registration fee or minimum fundraising requirement to participate.

The Freeport Area Church Cooperative will be gathering food donations at the Aquin Homecoming Parade on Sunday, when the event steps off at 5 p.m. Help us keep the food pantry filled by bringing canned goods and/or monetary donations to the parade.

The Republican Party of Stephenson County has opened its headquarters in anticipation of the Nov. 2 general election.

The elephant has landed! The new Republican headquarters is located at 15 South Chicago Ave. in Freeport, across from Mary's Mantle. The new facility will be open from noon to 1:30 p.m. and again 4:30 to 6 p.m. on weekdays. Additional hours are available by appointment. Please call (815) 291-7985 for more information.

Inside the office you will find candidate yard signs and brochures, good conversation and coffee. Republicans, Democrats and Independents are all invited.

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YOUR NEWS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

It all starts with charity



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TONY CARTON PHOTO FOR THE JOURNAL-STANDARD

Tim (left), Garrett (center) and Nolan Buske worked to decorate the recumbent bike given to Garrett by the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation through the Freeport Elks Club. Garrett rode the bike in the 2010 Stockton Homecoming parade on Thursday.

Freeport Elks change a child's life

BY TONY CARTON

For The Journal-Standard

STOCKTON — Since the Illinois Elks Children's Care program began recognizing the needs of physically challenged children more than 75 years ago, their guiding question always remained the same, "What can we do to help this child?"

In the early years, the program focused on accident and polio victims, but over time and with changes in medical technologies, Children's Care evolved to include help with co-pays and deductibles, physical therapy, wheelchairs, custom designed braces, free diagnostic clinics and even scholarships for folks interested in studying physical/occupational therapy.

There are restrictions, but the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation is often the one place to turn when no one else seems to care.

Freeport Elks member Paul Domino recently recognized an opportunity for Children's Care to help.

Stockton resident, eight-year-old Garrett Buske has Legg-Calve' Perthes Disease, a degenerative disease of the hip joint found only in children. Buske's mother Tina and Domino's wife Jill work for the Freeport School District and were talking. One thing led to another until it came out that the boy needed a bicycle.

GRANT

continued from A1

Internet; run information through the Secretary of State's Office, such as driver's license or license plate (numbers); and communicate with other squad cars."

When the upgrade is complete, Forreston officers will be able to spend more time on the road patrolling, rather than filling out reports at the police station, Boomgarden said. The Forreston Police Department has not yet received the new computer, but it is expected to arrive soon, he said.

"It basically keeps us out of the physical police office," Boomgarden said of the upgrade. "It makes our squad car more efficient as a mobile office, because we can do reports there also in the car. ... The (computer) we have now doesn't have these capabilities.

Charitable Roots

"We picked up the necessary paperwork," Domino recalled. "We got it to Tina. She filled it out over a weekend and within eight days they had a recumbent bicycle."

Recumbent bicycles pedal while the cyclist's feet out in front, while the rider is seemingly relaxing in a mesh seat looking for all the world like it is no work at all.

They decided on the recumbent model because doctors informed them that Garrett would be more comfortable and get the exercise he needs on a bike that allowed him to lie back while he pedaled.

"It's been a number of years since the Freeport Elks sponsored a child and the way this was expedited, we were all just ecstatic for Garrett and his family," Domino said, adding that the organization is working to return to its charitable roots.

He said that the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation is a statewide project and when things work the way they did with the Buske's, he is all the more proud to be an Elk.

"Our motto is, 'Charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity' and it all starts with charity," Domino said. "We are very happy that things worked out for the Buske family. That's what the Elks are all about."

Garrett's mother Tina said that the bike will help with the

This is an upgrade."

As part of the grant program in question, ILEAS has provided more than \$3 million in grant funding to 205 law enforcement agencies throughout Illinois. A total of 450 ruggedized squad car computers have been purchased with this funding, which comes from Federal Homeland Security Grants through the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, states an ILEAS news release.

In today's economic climate, purchasing a \$6,834 computer is often not a viable option for many police agencies, the release states. ILEAS is an inter-governmental coalition representing more than 900 local law enforcement agencies and over 95 percent of all sworn officers in Illinois, the release states.

For more information on ILEAS and the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, visit www.ileas.org or <http://www.ready.illinois.gov/ittf/>.

physical problems facing their son because it allows him to exercise, which in turn helps stretch his tendons that the doctors say may atrophy unless he is put in a cast.

His father, Tim, said Garrett will be going back to the hospital in February and may need re-casting then.

"He's been casted four times because of poor range of motion," she said. "When he is in a cast he is in a wheelchair, but he can get out of the chair for a couple hours a day and he will play ball, or now, he can use the bike. The bike will really help because he doesn't have to sit up on the bike seat."

Taking It To the Street

She said Garrett is just a

great kid who never complains.

"He is wonderful," she said. "He just takes it all in stride. He is amazing."

So on Thursday, when dozens of Stockton kids came down Main Street on their bikes in the homecoming parade, Garrett was there holding his own in the crowd, pedaling his new bike.

"This is a cool bike," Garrett said Wednesday afternoon while festooning it with maroon and gold crepe paper. "This won't be the first time I've been in the parade, but it will probably be the most fun."

To contact the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation call (800) 272-0074 or e-mail to helpkids@motion.net.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Icon Rock Hudson dies of AIDS

On Oct. 2 1985, actor Rock Hudson, 59, becomes the first major U.S. celebrity to die of complications from AIDS. Hudson's death raised public awareness of the epidemic, which until that time had been ignored by many in the mainstream as a "gay plague."

Hudson, born Leroy Harold Scherer Jr., on November 17, 1925, in Winnetka, Illinois, was a Hollywood heartthrob whose career in movies and TV spanned nearly three decades. With leading-man good looks, Hudson starred in numerous dramas and romantic comedies in the 1950s and 60s, including "Magnificent Obsession," "Giant" and "Pillow Talk." In the 1970s, he found success on the small screen with such series as McMillan and Wife. To protect his macho image, Hudson's off-screen life as a gay man was kept secret from the public.

In 1984, while working on the TV show "Dynasty," Hudson was diagnosed with AIDS. On July 25, 1985, he publicly acknowledged he had the disease at a hospital in Paris, where he had gone to seek treatment. The news that Hudson, an international icon, had AIDS focused worldwide attention on the disease and helped change public perceptions of it.

The first cases of AIDS were reported in 1981 and the earliest victims were gay men who often faced public hostility and discrimination.

As scientists and health care officials called for funding to combat the disease, they were largely ignored by President Ronald Reagan and his administration.

Rock Hudson was a friend of Reagan's and his death was said to have changed the president's view of the disease. However, Reagan was criticized for not addressing the issue of AIDS in a major public speech until 1987; by that time, more than 20,000 Americans had already died of the disease and it had spread to over 100 countries. By 2006, the AIDS virus had killed 25 million people worldwide and infected 40 million others.

Source: History.com


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