

LODGE

Benton Elks maintain high community profile with Easter Bunny visit, award of Gratitude Grant



Benton Elks and the Easter Bunny made their annual visits on April 10 to area nursing homes and assisted living centers. From left are Lodge Activities Director Charlotte Polinski, member Liz Files and Exalted Ruler Joey Smith visiting a Helia Healthcare resident. Not pictured but making the visits is Secretary Coy Cockrum.



Members of Benton Elks Lodge 1234 presented a \$500 check, proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant, to the Franklin County Court Appointed Special Advocate program on June 18. From left are members Sue Doty and Charlotte Polinski, Lodge Secretary and ENF Chairman Coy Cockrum, CASA Director Mariah Hayes and Office Assistant Andrew Neal, and member Vickee Cockrum, who is also a CASA advocate.

East District tab top collections near 1 million

The IEA East District, led by Chicago South Elks, is closer to reaching the 1 million tab top threshold in its support of Ronald McDonald House.

Organizer Dan Jurka of Chicago South said in early June that he had dropped off 130 pounds of tab tops for the charity.

That makes a total of 560 pounds collected since January 2008. It takes 790 pounds to make the 1 million tab club, he said.

Ronald McDonald House cashes in the

tops for funds to provide a home away from home for families of seriously ill children.

East District Lodges participate in the collection, but Jurka has urged statewide participation. Illinois lodges are asked to bring their collections with them to state meetings in Springfield.

"I hope all the Illinois lodges get on board, as well as still supporting our collection program at the hospitality rooms at the State Meetings," Jurka said.



Dan Jurka and Rich Kahn of Chicago South Lodge show off their bald heads in their effort to raise funds for the St. Baldrick's Foundation to combat childhood cancer. Preliminary figures show the two Elks had raised \$487 as of early May. They raised the money on behalf of Chicago South Elks Lodge.

Joliet Elk Yates, Champaign-Urbana take top prizes in IEA bowling tourney

Steve Yates of Joliet Lodge 296 won the singles event at the IEA Bowling Tournament held in Fairview Heights earlier this year.

Winning the five-person team event was Champaign-Urbana 2497 with 3,589 pins, made up of Kevin Burkert, Jason Scott, Gary Crowley, Dave Bauer and Eric Crowley.

The other winners were: John Hietikko and Rob Paulson of DeKalb

765 in doubles with 799 pins.

Rob Paulson from DeKalb 765 in the all-events handicap with 2,344 pins.

Jim Dakin of Macomb 1009 in the all-events scratch with 2,297 pins.

Charlie Summers of Fairview Heights 664 in the all-events seniors.

Illinois Bowling Association Secretary Michael Bergman reported the deaths of



Elgin Lodge 737 awarded \$1,000 to the U-46 music program to be used mostly for scholarships for students who would not ordinarily get to study privately. The students who received part of this donation will be able to take lessons from professionals in the field, including lessons from members of the Elgin Symphony. Students taking lessons may take them because they need extra help, are new to an instrument, or to further their playing abilities. Accepting the check, from left, are ER Don Westphal, students Allison Chanthavong and Christian Sosa, and Band Director Jonathan Bogue.

Elgin Elks honor flag-collecting garbage man

Elgin Elks members, at their Flag Day ceremony on June 15, honored a local garbage-truck driver credited with saving 250 American flags from being improperly thrown out in the last 18 months.

The Elks, along with Elgin American Legion Post 57, recognized Waste Management driver Jeff Olsen, a 34-year-old Canadian, who says he plucks flags from

the garbage in his truck whenever he sees them. Waste Management representatives, in a story published in the June 15 Chicago Sun-Times, said that salvaging flags is a regular practice for their Elgin drivers, but Olsen is the most successful.

Federal code says American flags should be discarded in a dignified way.

Michael Scott, bowling director of Champaign-Urbana Lodge; Joyce Bruner, friend of the Bowling Association; Past IEBA President Dick Barger of Decatur Lodge; and Joyce Odenthal, wife of Past IEBA President Ron Odenthal of Dixon Lodge.

More tournament information is available at www.elksbowl.com.