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Branson Chamber Chatter

Walk/Run To Clothe-A-Child

Three area organizations will host the Clothe-A-Child 5K/1mile walk/run on Saturday, July 25, on the Lakeshore Trail. Meet at the Dewey Short Visitors Center just south of Table Rock Dam on Missouri 165. Registration at 7 a.m.; race at 8 a.m. Adults, \$18 in advance; \$25, day-of-race. Ages 14 and under, \$10. Register at www.christianactionministries.org.

Funds will provide new outfits for kids attending the upcoming Taney County School Readiness Fair. Hosting this event is Christian Action Ministries, OACAC and the Salvation Army.

There will be T-shirts, finisher ribbons and awards for participants. There also will be a bin for clothing donations. For more information, call Becky Lowrance at 417-294-4775 or email becky@sweetmagnoliatours.com...

...OR Eat Pancakes to Clothe-A-Child

Another option for Saturday, July 25, is the Clothe-A-Child Pancake Breakfast from 7 to 10 a.m. at Applebee's, also sponsored by Christian Action Ministries. Cost is \$5 per person.

Two More Weeks to Vote

The restrooms at the Shoji Tabuchi Theatre are among 10 national finalists for the 8th Annual America's Best Restroom award. Online voting ends July 31. Vote at www.shoji.com or www.bestrestrooms.com.

Shoji's competitors including Radio City Music Hall and Macy's Department Store. The theater's restrooms were recently featured on the Travel Channel's "Extreme" public restrooms in the world.

The Ladies Powder Room features 1890's Empire Period wainscoting, onyx sinks, stained glass and crystal chandeliers. The Gentlemen's Lounge includes a hand-carved mahogany billiard table and black lion-head sinks from Italy.

Shoji, Dorothy and their daughter, Christina, perform select morning, matinee and evening shows through Dec. 13. For tickets, visit www.shoji.com or call 417-334-7469.

Hospice Patient Goes Fishing

A 62-year-old hospice patient with Oxford HealthCare wished to spend the day fishing with his grandson. Oxford arranged with Eric's Elite Guide Service of Branson to make Gary Martin's wish come true. Eric Olliverson says he would volunteer his services again for other Oxford hospice patients, said Kathryn Taylor, community relations representative for Oxford HealthCare.

Olliverson said he saw the happiness that fishing brought Martin, and it made him appreciate his work more. Hospice usually begins when patients are diagnosed with a life expectancy of six months or less. People do not need to be elderly, bedridden or homebound to be eligible. Services are covered by Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance. Oxford Hospice serves 17 counties including Taney and Stone. For more information, call Oxford in Branson at 417-336-6696 or 800-749-6555 or visit www.oxfordhealthcare.net.

School Supplies Needed

Metropolitan National Bank in Hollister's South Towne Center is accepting donations of school supplies through August for the Hollister Elementary School. The donations will help students as well as their teachers. There is a donation box in the lobby. Items suggested by the school include yellow pencils, large pink erasers, pencil-top erasers, 8-10 count large washable Crayola Markers, Crayons, white glue, 8-pack of markers, pocket folders, wide-lined spiral notebooks and notebook paper and antibacterial hand sanitizer. There is a donation box in the lobby. For more information, call Shawn Keys at 339-3663.

Springfield Business Journal Recognized

SBJ Publisher Dianne Elizabeth Osis recently accepted two awards from fellow publisher Grady Johnson during the Alliance of Area Business Publications 2009 Summer Conference in Minneapolis. Johnson is AABP's current president.

SBJ won two awards in the Small Tabloid category: the gold "Best Scoop Award" for reporter Matt Wagner's coverage of the founding of Springfield First Community Bank and the bronze "Best Overall Publication Award."

Customer Service Training Available

Ozarks Technical Community College is offering training courses for employees to help improve customer service, said business development manager Lynda Doepker. The program is offered at the business or at OTC in Branson Meadows Shopping Center.

Craig Wescott, owner of The Track Family Fun Parks, put his supervisors and frontline staff through the training. "We wanted everyone on the same page when it came to dealing with guests. They are the ones writing our paychecks," Wescott said.

The goal is to have this program accessible for companies of all sizes, Doepker said. For more information about the courses, contact Doepker at 417-447-8904 or at doepkerl@otc.edu.

For additional information about the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau, visit www.bransonchamber.com or call 800-296-0463.