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YORK DAILY RECORD

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

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YTI CAREER INSTITUTE YORK

FOR STUDENTS, IT'S ABOUT SAVING LIVES

School set to finish an expansion of veterinary technician program



KATE PENN — DAILY RECORD/SUNDAY NEWS

Jack rests his head in the lap of vet tech instructor Meg Gerth after being neutered recently at YTI Career Institute York in Springettsbury Township. The school is expanding its veterinary technician program, and it soon will be able to house 12 cats and 12 dogs. The school partners with the York County SPCA, offering spaying and neutering for cats and dogs. Jack, USDA #686, will be available for adoption from the York County SPCA.

By Dylan Segelbaum dsegelbaum@ydr.com @dylan_segelbaum on Twitter

About 15 years ago, Brianna Kuhn found a small, brown bird — possibly a sparrow — that was hurt. She took it in and helped nurse the animal back to health.

Kuhn knew, ever since she was 5 years old, that she wanted to do something with animals.

At first, she studied at Penn State University to be a veterinarian but found that was not for her. Then, Kuhn enrolled in YTI Career Institute York's Veterinary Technician program, a 21-month set of courses that she's set to finish soon.

"It's not about the money,"



KATE PENN — DAILY RECORD/SUNDAY NEWS

Cats rest while being boarded for the week at YTI in Springettsbury Township.

said Kuhn, 25, of Hanover. "It's more saving a life, and being there for those that can't speak up for themselves."

By the end of October, YTI Career Institute York is expected to finish a more than \$100,000-expansion of its Veterinary Technician pro-

gram. The project started in June and increases the number of animals that are kept there at one time, along with adding exam tables to help accommodate more students.

The program launched in February 2013 and now has about 170 students. Since starting up, the program has been so successful that it became "impossible to adequately give the students the experience that they need," said Myra Jones, the director of the program.

"This will provide more opportunity for the students to actually have hands-on [experience] with the animals," Jones said of the expansion. "They get the practical experience that they

PROGRAM » PAGE 8

SOCIAL SECURITY

No COLA hike; gas prices to blame

Only twice before, in 2010 and 2011, have there been no increases in benefits

By Stephen Ohlemacher The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » For just the third time in 40 years, millions of Social Security recipients, disabled veterans and federal retirees can expect no increase in benefits next year, which is unwelcome news for more than one-fifth of the nation's population.

They can blame low gas prices. By law, the annual cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, is based on a government measure of inflation, which is being dragged down by lower prices at the pump.

The government is scheduled to announce the COLA — or lack of one — on Thursday, when it releases the Consumer Price Index for September. Inflation has been so low this year that economists say there is little chance the September numbers will produce a benefit increase for next year.

Prices actually have dropped from a year ago, according to the inflation measure used for the COLA.

"It's a very high probability that it will be zero," said economist Polina Vlasenko, a research fellow at the American Institute for Economic Research. "Other prices — other than energy — would have to jump. It would have to be a very sizable increase that would be visible, and I don't think that's happened."

Congress enacted automatic increases for Social Security beneficiaries in 1975, when inflation was high and there was a lot of pressure to regularly raise benefits. Since then, increases have averaged 4 percent a year.

Only twice before, in 2010 and 2011, have there been no increases.

In all, the COLA affects payments to more BENEFITS » PAGE 6

Inside: York Daily Record Facebook readers share reaction, PAGE A6.

YORK SUBURBAN

Suburban mom on a musical instrument mission

Mindy Jo Hamme helps raise funds to get instruments for students who need them

By Rebecca Hanlon For the Daily Record/Sunday News

It takes just the first few notes trickling off the strings of her daughter's violin to make Mindy Jo Hamme smile.

The power of music has always inspired Hamme, but she had no idea how much it

could impact her life until earlier this year.

As the school year is well underway for York Suburban students, Hamme looks back on the long summer that stretched her energy and her resources but enriched her heart.

In just a few months, and with the help of a few teachers

and the generous donations of friends, Hamme helped raise \$6,625 to go toward the purchase of 17 violins, seven violas, five cellos, two basses and 11 bows for students who otherwise might not have the chance to learn the power of music.

"This summer changed me," she said. "I discovered that this need for instruments was important enough for me that it would be the hill I stand on."

The quest begins

It was a long field trip to Cleveland that started her quest for instruments. She was a chaperone on the three-day trip that the high school's music department took at the end of April. On the long bus ride, Hamme was talking to Ashley Thrush, a teacher and director of York Suburban's middle and high school orchestras.

MISSION » PAGE 6



Mindy Jo Hamme stands with some of the instruments she helped raise money to purchase for students in the York Suburban School District.

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LATIMORE TOWNSHIP

Man, 74, satisfactory after car crash

By Davin Jurgensen
djurgensen@eveningsun.com
@davinjurgensen on Twitter

A 74-year-old Levittown man was in satisfactory condition at York Hospital on Monday, one day after he crashed into an Adams County stone mill, hospital spokesman Barry Sparks said.

Gary Frice was flown to the hospital Sunday after he crashed into the structure at Mountain and Mill roads in Latimore Township, said

Sgt. Ralph Griffiths of Latimore Township Police Department.

Frice was traveling south on Mountain Road when he failed to negotiate a left turn, and his car crashed into the wall of the mill, Griffiths said. The front of his car continued through the floor of the mill, leaving the car at a 45-degree angle.

Emergency crews freed Frice from "significant entrapment," and he was responsive at the time, York Springs Fire Department

officials said.

Frice had just left a Packard Truck meet Sunday before the crash, said David Lockard who lives on Mountain Road. Lockard has been friends with Frice for about 25 years, he said.

The truck meet is an event that occurs once a year, Lockard said, where men get together to eat and talk about old vehicles.

"Gary's great," he said. "He's very friendly and an outgoing guy; he's a caring person."



KATE PENN — DAILY RECORD/SUNDAY NEWS

Vet tech instructor Meg Gerth, left, and student Shelby Sipe carry Jack, a pit bull, out from the operating room where he was neutered.

Program

FROM PAGE 1

need to be successful out in the workplace."

'It's not just about loving them'

On a recent Thursday, students filled a classroom at YTI Career Institute York, while several others operated on animals in a nearby space.

The York County SPCA has had a partnership with the program since the beginning, Jones said. Right now, there are eight cats and four dogs that are kept at the school throughout the week. That will go up to 12 each once the expansion is done.

Typically, for its purposes, the school gets animals that are not spayed or neutered as well as ones that tend to be younger and healthier, she said.

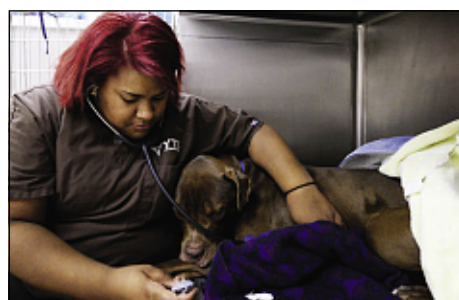
Though not everyone was settled on a career from an early age, others students in the program said they've had a passion for helping animals.

Keisha Banks, 21, of Harrisburg, said she had "a million" pets she probably



KATE PENN — DAILY RECORD/SUNDAY NEWS

Lab assistant Katie Bauer, right, soothes Jack as he begins to wake up after surgery.



Kiarra Candelaria listens to the heart of Jack, a newly neutered pit bull.

KATE PENN — DAILY RECORD/SUNDAY NEWS

shouldn't have growing up. That included, for example, six bunnies that she took in.

Meanwhile, Abriel Ancarrow, 21, of Elkton, Md., started off as a veterinary assistant, deciding she wanted to further her career. With being a veteri-

nary technician, Ancarrow said, you're not just playing with puppies.

"It's not just about loving them," she said. "You actually have to do a lot."

Contact Dylan Segelbaum at 771-2102.

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