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ECHO

HOW HEALTHY ARE WE?

Waging war against obesity

Study: 37 percent of Laurel County children at risk

BY TARA KAPROWY
STAFF WRITER

A few weeks ago, dozens of WeightWatchers hopefuls sat in St. William Catholic Church's fellowship hall holding brochures promising pot-luck survival tips. Nearly every one of the burgundy chairs was occupied, with members quietly chatting about everything from calories to grilled chicken salad. When meeting leader Michelle

COMING FRIDAY

In part three of How Healthy Are We?, the exploration of obesity continues with information about what is being done to educate people about the epidemic, including government intervention and farm-to-school programs.

Campbell walked to the front of the room, it didn't take her long to address the nearby flip chart covered with the words "Are the scales stuck?" "How many of us in here have heard the word 'pla-

teau?" she began.

The St. William's WeightWatchers meeting is one of countless taking place each night across the coun-

SEE OBESITY, PAGE 3A



All in the family

Statistics show obesity tends to be passed on. Cardiologist Dr. James Shoptaw says a child with **one overweight parent** has a **65 percent chance** of being overweight. A child with **two overweight parents** has a **90 percent chance**.

Love on a leash

Local couple training their golden retrievers to be therapy dogs

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TARA KAPROWY • STAFF WRITER



Owner Dianna Milam gets a longing look from Tyson while beloved Buddy sits beside her. The golden retrievers are in training to become pet therapy dogs. Above, the hard-earned Love on a Leash bandana.

It wouldn't be much of a stretch to say Tyson and Buddy Milam live in the lap of luxury. Their dog bowls are always full with food and water. They get baths on a regular basis. And, by nuzzling their snouts under any available hand, they are constantly being petted.

After years of the good life, owners Jeff and Dianna Milam have decided it's time for Tyson and Buddy to get to work. And on Wednesday, they sported their new uniform: bright red Love on a Leash bandanas.

Yes, Tyson and Buddy Milam are being trained to be pet ther-

apy dogs.

"We just love the idea," Dianna said. "Dogs naturally want to be affectionate. They want to love and be loved, especially golden retrievers ... It's their nature to run up to people and be, like, hug me, love me, kiss me."

SEE LEASH, PAGE 2A

Hospital transfers Thursday

Move will begin at 5 a.m.

BY TARA KAPROWY
STAFF WRITER

With the process planned down to the minute, Saint Joseph-London staff and patients will move to the new \$152 million hospital off Ky. 192 Thursday.

Patient transfer will start at 5 a.m.

"The process is timed so that patients will leave the emergency department at the existing facility every three minutes and the entire patient transfer should be completed within just a few hours," President Virginia Dempsey said.

With support from Ambulance Inc. of Laurel County, Jackson County EMS, Whitley County EMS and Knox County EMS, patients will travel down East Ninth Street, left onto Main Street and right onto West 16th Street, also known as Parker Road. While the roads will not be closed, local and state police will be on hand to help navigate traffic. Congestion is expected to be especially heavy around 8 a.m. when school starts at London Elementary.

Nevertheless, Superintendent David Young does not anticipate any problems.

"The London Elementary parents have been notified that this move will happen," he said. "We have arranged for a little different parking if we need to ... It's a big

SEE HOSPITAL, PAGE 2A

The low-down

Move starts at 5 a.m.

Move ends around 9 a.m.

Streets affected: East Ninth Street, Main Street, West 16th Street (Parker Road)

Before 10 a.m., people in need of emergency care can go to either hospital.

After 10 a.m., patients should go to the new hospital off Ky. 192 for treatment.

SEE MAP ON PAGE 2 FOR MOVING ROUTE

No. of plaintiffs in potential class-action suit against doctor grows

Maxey representative releases statement

BY NITA JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Fifteen women have been added to a potential class-action lawsuit against a local physician.

Liddell Vaughn, a Louisville attorney who filed the suit against Dr. Jackie Maxey in

March, appeared before Laurel Circuit Judge Greg Lay Friday to request he approve a motion to add more women to the claim.

Vaughn said since the lawsuit was filed, he has been contacted by several others wishing to join.

"That brings us to a total of 21 plaintiffs," he said.

The plaintiffs allege Maxey performed unnecessary pelvic and vaginal exams during their time as his patient. The lawsuit also claims Maxey made inappropriate sexual remarks to these women.

For the first time since complaints began to surface

against Maxey, a representative from his office released a statement Tuesday. Jill Booth, clinical coordinator for Parkway Medical Associates, maintains Maxey's medical professionalism.

"The allegations against Dr. Maxey are completely false,"

SEE DOCTOR, PAGE 5A

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