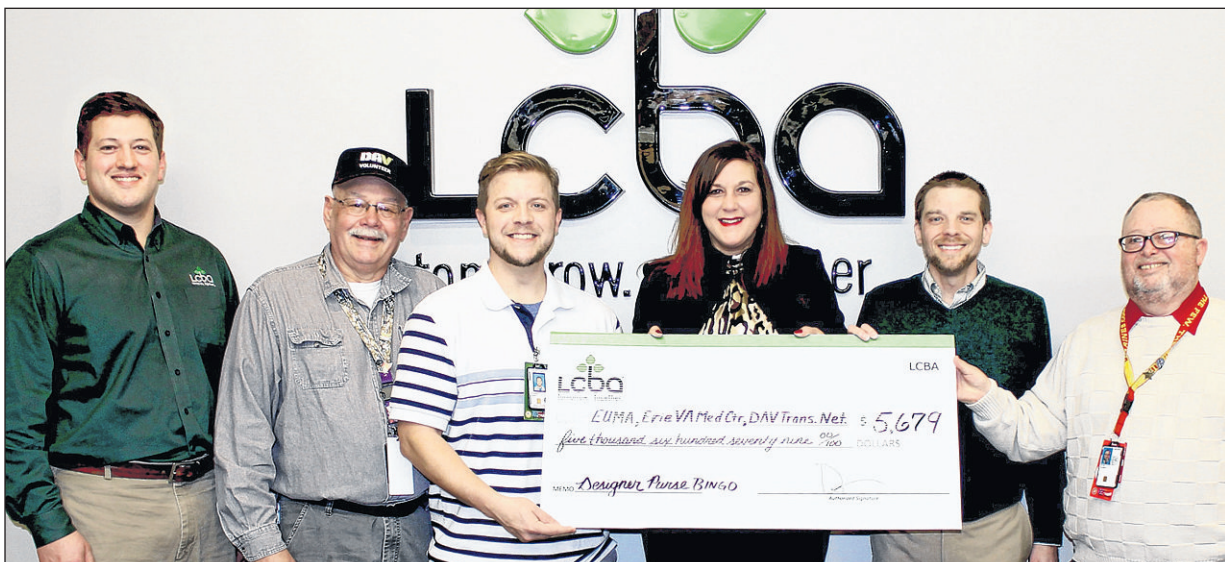


•Your place to share your proud moments

COMMUNITY ALBUM



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LCBA raises funds for local charities

LCBA's National Branch 1556 presented the proceeds of their Designer Purse Bingo, which raised a total of \$5,679, to three organizations: Erie United Methodist Alliance's Liberty House, DAV Transportation Network, which provides free rides for veterans, and Erie VA Medical Center Voluntary Services. On hand for the check presentation were, from left, Ross Aresco, Branch 1556 treasurer and VP of finance at LCBA; Tim Ryan, volunteer driver for DAV; Josh Nickerson, hospital service coordinator, DAV; Michele King, Branch 1556 president and vice president of membership and marketing at LCBA; Kurt Crays, executive director, EUMA; and Richard Moore, Erie VA Medical Center.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mercyhurst student donates pillows to Erie Shriners

Khila Freeman, a senior at Mercyhurst Preparatory School, donated 60 comfort pillows and handmade pillow cases for the children at Erie Shriners Ambulatory Surgery Center and Outpatient Specialty Care Center. Greg Hall, public relations manager at Erie Shriners, accepted the pillows and cases from Khila.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Holiday fundraiser helps animal rescue group

Because You Care Executive Director Kris Steiner, left, accepted a donation from Delores Hook and Mark DiCorpo, owners of Hook's Gallery & Her Gun Shop. Hook's Gallery & Her Gun Shop's third annual Christmas Party Benefit raised \$700 for Because You Care animal rescue, primarily through a gift auction made possible by donations from local businesses and individuals, including Valerio's Restaurant, Patti's Pizza, Dr. Anthony Snow and Cathy Jorio.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Funeral Directors Association donates to burial fund

The members of the Erie/Crawford County Funeral Directors Association met for their annual Christmas party in December at La Rue Dix. This year's recipient of their annual giving was Interchurch Ministries, Laura Wilkinson Fund for the Burial of Children of Needy Families. On hand to present the check were, from left, John Hersch, Funeral Directors Association president 2015; Gordon Schmidt, president-elect 2016; Gina McCauley, president 2016; Diane Edwards and Rev. Richard Moyer, of Interchurch Ministries; and Peter Burton, Funeral Directors Association vice president 2016.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fundraiser a success for StringsforaCure

The StringsforaCure Pickin' On Cancer fourth annual fundraiser, which was held at Bel-Aire Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in October, included music by Silverlight and Friends, a gift basket auction, 50/50 and a silent SFAC jewelry auction and raised \$31,305 for the StringsforaCure Foundation. Planning Committee members included, from left, Nicole Brugger, POC Committee chairwoman and SFAC Board chairwoman; Jan Minzenberger, SFAC Board secretary; Carol Hirsch, Beth Dubik and Donna Rose Sherrange; Elisa Guida, SFAC founder and executive director; and Patti Larson, development director/treasurer.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Family collects toys for Erie Shriners

Jim, Maria, Dominic, Mia and Harry Wells, along with Patty Figurski, hosted a toy drive to collect gifts for the children served at Erie Shriners Ambulatory Surgery Center and Outpatient Specialty Care Center. With Dominic Wells leading the drive, they were able to collect more than \$300 in gift cards and countless gifts, including toys, games and clothing. From left, Dominic, Mia and Harry Wells presented the gifts to Greg Hall, public relations manager at Erie Shriners Hospital.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Skating show raises money for Soup Kitchen

The Westminster Figure Skating Club of Erie hosted "An Evergreen Holiday" skating exhibition in December at the Mercyhurst University Ice Center. Approximately 50 skaters ranging from beginner to advanced levels participated in the show, which featured music of the holiday season. A portion of the proceeds raised was donated by the club to the Emmaus Soup Kitchen. Gathered for the check presentation were, in the back row, from left, club members Joseph Fornier, Brooke Schneider, Madelyn Bohrer, Molly Bohrer and Meghan Gaertner; Margaret Kloecker from Emmaus Ministries; and club members Taylor Sedney, Vanessa Nolan, McKenna Markley and Caroleena Rosenberg. In the front row were, from left, club members Haleigh Kitcey, Emma Zgrebnak, Doreen Mook and Aubrey Bidwell-Ray.