



HAPPY EASTER

Aktion Club makes baskets for day care

By EMILY HARRISON

The Aktion Club filled Easter baskets for the children at the Avon Park Community Child Development Center in Avon Park.

We filled them with grass, candy, toys and plastic eggs with candy inside. We did this on March 18.

“I liked working hard to put the baskets together,” said Aktion Club member Sarah Moore. “I put grass and eggs in the baskets for the little kids.”

We made 113 baskets for the children and staff at the day care.

Some members got to go deliver the baskets on March 22. Aktion Club president Ralph Meyers dressed as the Easter bunny to visit with the kids.

“They (the children) are so cute. We went in to three different classrooms to give the baskets to them. I love children,” said Aktion Club member Lorraine Steeves.



Tyler Cerami, 2, grandson of Arc ADT staff member Debbie Stratman, could not wait to grab his Easter basket from the Easter Bunny (Ralph Meyers) on March 22 when he visited the Avon Park Community Child Development Center. His teacher Gloria Wells, an aunt to Arc consumer Andre Rushing, holds Camron Dennis, 2, as he waits his turn for his basket. Aktion Club members Angie Luft (in back at left) and Sandra Harper help hand out the goodies.



Maricel Moreno and Jack Howard assemble Easter goodie bags.

Arc assembles Easter goodie bags

By DAVID HARRELL

Ridge Area Arc put together goodie bags this past week for the Carnival of Inspiration & Easter Egg Hunt being done by Heartland Horses & Handicapped on April 3.

The egg hunt will be for little children. It is from 10 a.m. to 2

p.m.

Special STARS will sell concessions and baked goods and sell pictures with the Easter Bunny.

We put candy and toys in each bag. Each child gets one. Cost is \$5 for egg hunt, games and pony ride. Adults get in free.



Ridge Area Arc consumer Patrick Patterson loves horticulture and found this planter to be very unique at the Avon Park Mall Festival. He attended the festival on March 26 with other consumers and staff.

Arc consumers check out Avon Park Mall Festival

By ANGIE LUFT

There were 20 consumers from Ridge Area Arc who participated in the Avon Park Mall Festival on March 26.

This was the first time for some to attend this festival.

There were lots of crafts and artwork. We got to make some bracelets at this one booth.

We ate strawberries. There were other good things to eat.

“It was good at the Mall Festival. It was nice to get out and see everything there,” Arc consumer Ricky Vasquez said.

Easter Sale brings in cash

By EMILY HARRISON

The Ridge Area Arc work floor hosted an Easter Sale on March 23 and 24 to raise money.

You could buy anything from 50 cents to \$3. The two-day sale brought in \$159.

All items were donated. There were plastic Easter eggs, candy, grass, egg coloring kits, cookie houses, candy making kits and other baking items.

Anything leftover went to the Ridge Area Arc Re-sale Store in Avon Park to be sold.

Phipps host Spring Celebration

Jim and Carol Phipps, parents of Ridge Area Arc consumer Jimmy Phipps, hosted a Spring Celebration at their Avon Park home on March 14.

Jimmy, the residents at his group home on Sunset Avenue in Sebring and staff got to enjoy the picnic. There was lots of food and games to play. Other friends and family members were there too.

Joining Jimmy, were Lee Hughes, Laverta Kasper, Richy Rossner, Barbara Kircher and Bobby Byrd.

What's Happening in April

- 3 *Heartland Horses & Handicapped Easter Egg Hunt*
- 7 *Senior Center Activities*
- 8 *SFCC Volleyball at Arc*
- 10 *Special STARS Tennis*
- 10 *SKY Respite Program for Kids*
- 14 *Avon Park Dining Car Luncheon*
- 14 *Senior Center Activities*
- 15 *Aktion Club*
- 15 *SFCC Volleyball at Arc*
- 16 *SFCC Nurses Party*
- 16 *Consumer Awards*
- 17 *Special STARS Tennis*
- 21 *Senior Center Activities*
- 22 *SFCC Volleyball at Arc*
- 24 *Special STARS Tennis*
- 27 *Self-Advocacy Committee Meeting*
- 28 *Birthday Lunch Out*
- 28 *Senior Center Activities*
- 29 *SFCC Volleyball at Arc*

Arc throws goodbye party for Julie Reddix

By **ANGIE LUFT**

Ridge Area Arc planned a goodbye party for staff member Julie Reddix on March 19 even though she was not there to enjoy it.

Julie worked in the screenprinting department with several consumers. She took a job in Kentucky and moved away before anyone could say goodbye.

To help everyone get over their loss, a party was planned. A piñata with Julie's picture was filled with candy and hung in a tree. Mary Manning, director of screenprinting, got the honor of whacking it with a stick first. She broke the rope and we hung it back up.

Consumers who worked with Julie were next. Angie Luft and Arne Jensen tried to break the pinata. It was Steve Sealy who finally broke it open and candy flew everywhere



Ridge Area Arc Screenprinting Director Mary Manning prepares to take the first whack at the piñata featuring her former employee Julie Reddix's picture as Arc consumers cheer her on. Reddix moved away before everyone could say goodbye but a party was done anyway.

for people to pick up.

Everyone went inside to enjoy a cake, chips and punch.

We got to call Julie on the telephone to wish her good luck and say goodbye. She cried but was

happy to hear from us. We miss her.

She promised to come back and visit.



Water promotion raises money

Ridge Area Arc consumer Kenny Gonzalez (right) accepts a check for \$151 from Bob Andrews, manager of Sebring Discount Beverages. The business conducted a month-long promotion in its store to give away bottled water for a donation to one of three charities. Ridge Area Arc was one of the choices. Andrews also made a personal donation of \$25 to Arc.



Nurses get good egg awards

Ridge Area Arc consumer Frances Goff dons a set of bunny ears to present a golden Easter egg to the Tonya Serey who is the director of the South Florida Community College Nursing Program. There were 11 more SFCC nurses who participated in a sensitivity training and educational program at Arc on March 18. All the nurses got an egg as a token of appreciation. One more group of nurses will visit on April 16.



Special STARS athletes suit up for softball tourney on March 13.

Special athletes play softball

By ANGIE LUFT

Special athletes practiced for three Sundays until the Special STARS Softball Classic on March 13 in Sebring.

McPhail's Auto Sales won the tourney. There were nine teams. Avon Park Youth Academy was the newest team. Two teams came from Fort Lauderdale.

Heartland Riders Association carried the American flag in on a motorcycle and the national anthem was sung. We had lunch and awards were given out.

Arc mourns over deaths

It was a sad time at Ridge Area Arc as we mourned over the deaths of Walter Jr. Tommie and Celeste Roberts in March.

Walter Tommie

Walter, 48, died on March 11, 2010, in Sebring.

Walter was a resident at Queen Palm Group Home in Sebring and participated in the Arc Adult Day Training Program. He was a member of Special STARS and did a variety of sports such as shuffleboard, bowling, tennis, track and field, swimming and basketball. He also was a member of the Special STARS Recreation Club.



Walter Tommie

He was a Seminole. His family was with the Brighton Indian Reservation. He was born July 16, 1961.

Celeste Roberts

Celeste, 59, died on March 12, 2010, in Lakeland.

Celeste moved to Lakeland in April 2009. She was in the Ridge Area Arc Intensive Program and had been involved with Arc for 22 years.

She participated in Special Olympics and Special STARS. She loved to bowl and dance at parties.



Celeste Roberts

She was born in Sebring on Dec. 26, 1951.

Spring Fling offers fun

The Ridge Area Arc Parents Group did Spring Fling on March 21.

They provided a lunch with chicken fingers and other side items for approximately 150 individuals. Arc consumers and Special STARS Recreation Club members were invited. The event took place at Ridge Area Arc.

Art Bostick provided music for dancing. Cam Barnard and her volunteers called out bingo for everyone who wanted to win prizes.

Everyone had a good time.