INSIDE: Paying for a final farewell  •  Nurses had a home of their own
INSIDE THIS MONTH

HEALTH & WELLNESS 4
- A Hermitage business specializes in special shoes for feet with special needs.

SENIOR RESOURCES 6
- Tips on planning and paying for your final farewell.

TECHNOLOGY 8
- The next worldwide battle-field may be online.

A SALUTE TO VETERANS 10
- Snapshots capture memories of Joe Sember’s years of war service — and his safe return home.

YOUR MONEY 19
- Nasty taxes and penalties are among the potential drawbacks of tapping a retirement account early.

COVER STORY

12
- At an age when some people count themselves fortunate to take an afternoon stroll without a few aches and pains, 78-year-old Steve Moser of Hermitage can still wow a crowd by kicking 10 football field goals in 10 seconds. As he racks up new honors, the Hermitage man helps train a new generation of athletes.

SENIOR MUSINGS 20
- There’s no greater blessing in a time of need than to have a helping hand.

NOW & THEN

20
- A posthumous gift from industrialist/capitalist Peter L. Kimberly gave Sharon nursing-school students a comfortable place to call home during their years of study.

FROM THE EDITOR

Medical-equipment recycling program lends a hand

Daylight Saving Time is already in effect. Spring officially arrives next week. For many of us, that means we’re starting to think about clearing the clutter out of our homes and garages.

At about this time last year I took a long hard look at what I fondly dubbed my “assistive devices” closet. It was an unused, stand-alone shower stall in my basement where I stored a folding walker, several canes, bathtub rails, a shower chair, even a bedside commode — sans the plastic bucket.

I’d had a number of the items for more than a decade. They’d been god-sends for elderly relatives over the years and buying them had strained more than one budget. So when they were no longer needed, my husband and I carefully cleaned them for storage “just in case” we or another family member might need them one day.

But last spring, I packed up all those items and donated them to the Medical Equipment Recycling Program. MERP lends durable medical equipment to those who need it, much like a library lends books to readers. I figured someone might be able to use my “assistive devices” now and if my husband or I ever need a wheelchair, we can borrow one when the time comes.

The local nonprofit agency serves people — young and old — with both short-term and long-term needs from its offices in Farrell and Greenville. And although it is supported by the UPMC Horizon Community Health Foundation, clients don’t have to be UPMC patients, said Cindy Hanna, the program’s coordinator. Clients come from all over Mercer County, she said.

With the help of the local chapter of Quota International, MERP has even begun refurbishing hearing aids. About 15 people have received them so far, Ms. Hanna said.

The program is a unique way people in our area are “going green.” I wish it had been around when my mother-in-law first needed a cane to keep her steady on her feet or when my father needed a shower chair as he recuperated from open heart surgery. Perhaps I wouldn’t have found myself storing a lot of stuff “just in case.”

“Just in case” you could use a helping hand from MERP, its numbers are: 724-347-6377 in Farrell and 724-589-6377 in Greenville.

Sarah Adams, editor
By Lynn Saternow

WHEN PEOPLE ASK A 78-year-old person how they are doing, some will respond: “For my age, I can’t kick.”

Not Steve Moser. He actually can kick. The Hermitage man is the oldest field-goal kicker in the world and has received national and international attention for his abilities. And he isn’t ready to hang up his cleats just yet.

“I love the game. I have confidence in what I do,” said Moser. “I’m healthy. My health is because of what I’m doing. If it wasn’t for kicking and helping young people learn to kick, I’d probably be in a rocking chair or pushing up grass.”

Moser prefers to kick off grass, rather than push it up. And he does so every year at the annual Casino Bowl in Las Vegas, where he is a legend. Besides usually playing in the game, he also puts on a halftime exhibition where he kicks 10 field goals in 10 seconds.

Last year he was presented with the Gold Ball Award at the Casino Bowl for his accomplishments in semipro football.

His rise in the world of football didn’t come naturally. He was born in Yugoslavia in 1933 and didn’t come to the United States until 1956. He was sponsored by the Mislek family from Farrell.

As an immigrant, he had trouble at first finding work. “I worked for the gas company, washing dishes, any kind of jobs,” Moser said. “Then finally I landed a job with Sharon Steel, where I worked for 33 years.”

“I was playing soccer in Cleveland for a German team, but I didn’t know much about American football. I didn’t have any clue about what kicking was all about then. As a former soccer player, it was a completely different sport.

“Still, in 1965-66 I had tryouts with the Browns and Steelers and the Cowboys.”

“I started getting into semipro football in 1971 with the Shenango Valley Blasters. Many of the guys I played with are coaching in the area.

“I played for Utica, and kicked a 45yard field goal on my first kick. I tried 65 yards, but it was just short.

“Those were interesting days. We only had 23 players one game and we needed 24. So one guy came along in patent leather shoes, so we got a jersey for him.

“The first time I played, I had my jersey on backwards. It was tight and I wanted to cut a hole in it.”

Locally, Moser played semipro ball for the Blasters, Erie Panthers and had a stint with Youngstown Hardhats. “In all, I played for 17 different teams in 40 years,” Moser said. “At the Casino Bowl, I’m going to play again and do exhibitions. I do it for colleges and I do it in Germany. When I go back over there, it’s a really big deal.”

Moser even developed a special kicking shoe for working in the indoor dome at Thiel College and has lent it to some of the players he has helped. Among them are former area high school kickers and punters, some of whom have gone on to earn college scholarships.

Continued on page 14
Continued from page 13

some of his proteges include:

˛ Ben Woods of Hermitage, a punter at the University of Buffalo in New York, who signed a free agent contract with the Cleveland Browns in 2008.

˛ Mike Connell of Sharon, who lettered in football all four years he played for the University of Cincinnati in the 1970s, and went on to play for the Washington Redskins and the San Francisco 49ers.

˛ Nick Riggall of New Wilmington, who went on to kick at Division I Rice University.

˛ Jordan Wombacker, a freshman at Hickory High School, who already has attracted the attention of notable colleges.

“I’ve helped kids of all ages, starting with sixth-graders,” Moser said. “But they have to have good grades and be good character kids. The first thing I ask them is what their grades are.”

One of the keys for Moser has been his ability to stay healthy. The worst came when he cut an Achilles tendon prior to a game. He said he had groin pulls at times, but it was usually if he was kicking too much, while kicking and punting.

One of his fondest memories in the sport came in 1974, when he had his last tryout with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

“I was the first to kick a ball in the uprights of the Steelers’ (Three Rivers) stadium. Art Rooney told Coach Bill Austin, ‘I can’t take him.’ He had Mike Clark and didn’t need another kicker.”

“I went to try out with the New York Giants, but I only had 20 bucks in my pocket. It was just enough to get gas to get home.

“I had a Redskins tryout, when Son- ny Jurguson was there. But I had the flu – it was the last time I had the flu, 1974. They had two guys around 280
Steve Moser likes up footballs for a rapid kicking exercise during one of his frequent practices, this time on the turf beneath the temporary Rissell-Schreyer Dome at Thiel College in Greenville. He often uses the facilities of area high schools and colleges to train and to train others.

Moser has been inducted into various Halls of Fame, including the American Football Hall of Fame and Minor League Football News Hall of Fame. He still holds six or eight world records.

Moser married his wife Kathleen in 1974, and his long football career can be attributed to her understanding nature.

"I was on a talk show on WPIC," said Moser, "when she called in. She said, 'This is his wife and he can play football as long as his heart desires.' Little did she know I would go this long."

Moser has appeared on local TV shows and was on ESPN on NFL countdown. There is a shrine to Moser in the corner of Billy's Black and Gold Tavern in downtown Sharon.

For Moser, age has never held him back. He's a role model for young and old alike.

And to put it simply, he's happy to be alive and kickin'.