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Brandon robotics team sells survival bracelets for Desert Angels

By SHARON LONGMAN

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Truck Town Thunder Robotics FIRST Team 68, comprised of Brandon and Holly High School students and teachers, is selling "survival bracelets" to raise money for Desert Angels Inc.

The Truck Town Thunder Robotics team was founded in 1998 and is an internationally competing robotics team. Many volunteers work closely with students to compete in the FIRST Robotics Competition. "Our mission is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) skills that inspire innovation and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication and leadership," Brandon High School Design and Technological Studies Teacher Andrew Spiece said.

The Desert Angels Inc. organization collects, packs and mails needed items to troops overseas. Packages always include words of encouragement and hope, adding extra items to pass out to the native people of the countries where troops are stationed. The team would like to help Desert Angel Louise Downs by volunteering to help pack boxes on the 11th of every month at the Oxford Meijer. They would like to help her mission by raising money for organizational and shipping costs by selling survival bracelets for \$5 in a variety of colors. For more information and to order bracelets, email info@trucktownthunder.com.

For more information about the team, visit trucktownthunder.com or call 248-627-1820 ext. 1141.

Wayne State University hosts scholarship presentation

The Wayne State University College of Engineering and Urban Science hosts the first presentation of the Col. Gregory Gadson Scholarship at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, at the Marvin I. Danto Engineering Development Center, 5050 Anthony Wayne Drive in Detroit.

This free event will be a celebration of business and education coming together to support engineering careers for wounded veterans.

Distinguished guests will include Col. Gregory Gadson, the recipient of three Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart who was severely wounded by an improvised explosive device in Iraq; Urban Science President and CEO U.S. Veteran Leaders Jim Anderson; and Wayne State alumnus and Wayne State College of Engineering Dean Farshad Fotouhi.

Light refreshments will be served. RSVP to events.wayne.edu/rsvp/gadson-event.

Desert Angels packing party

There will be a Desert Angels Inc. All-American Packing Party from 4-6 p.m. Sunday March 11 at the Oxford Meijer, 900 N. Lapeer Road.

Items being collected include pocket foods, breakfast items, snacks, coffee, socks, toys for the children, cards

and letters of hope and encouragement.

The Truck Town Thunder Robotics Team will help pack Miracle Boxes that will be sent to troops to honor and remember them.

For more information, call Louise Downs 248-736-6403 or email desertangel4u@gmail.com.

For a complete list of requested items, visit thedesertangel.org.

Michigan K-9 Veterans Day Ceremony

Area veterans service organizations host a Michigan K-9 Veterans Day Ceremony at 11 a.m. Saturday at The War Dog Memorial and Pet Cemetery at Eleven Mile and Milford Roads in Lyon Township.

Service organizations, dog clubs, The Vietnam Dog Handler Association, U.S. War Dogs Association, Golden Retriever Rescue Organization and Hanabrit German Shepherds invite the public to attend.

There will be a reading of the proclamation signed by Gov. Rick Snyder last November proclaiming March 13 as K-9 Veterans Day and a reading to dedicate the heroism, courage and loyalty war dogs have displayed fighting along side the men and women in uniform.

There will be a flag line, "Taps" will be played and wreaths will be placed at the monument.

"Every year on March 13, K-9 Veterans Day should honor not only those in the K-9 Corps, but also the Police K-9s, Customs K-9s, Border Patrol K-9s, Secret Service K-9s, Airport Police K-9s, FBI K-9s and other working dogs that protect us every day against the War on Terrorism," American Legion Post 346 Public Affairs Officer Ken Reynolds said. "They deserve to be remembered and have a day especially in their honor so we can honor and respect them for their service."

Reynolds led the effort to have K-9 Veterans Day established in Michigan.

U.S. Army veteran and Milford AMVETS Post 2006 2nd Vice-Cmdr. Phil Weitlauf supported the establishment of K-9 Veteran's Day and led the effort for the past two years to reclaim the War Dog Memorial and Pet Cemetery site that had become overgrown with heavy brush and dead trees.

For more information, call Reynolds 248-881-2259 or email janetandkenneth@yahoo.com or call Weitlauf 248-685-8307 or email pweitlauf@gmx.com.

Post 63 Auxiliary hosts fundraiser

Campbell-Richmond Auxiliary Unit 63 will host a Brunch, Bake Sale and Brown Bag Auction fundraiser at 11 a.m. Saturday at 8047 Ortonville Road, a half-mile north of I-75 (exit 91) in Clarkston.

Cost is a \$5 donation for brunch. There will be a bake sale and an auction of bags filled with mystery gifts donated by local merchants.

Proceeds benefit the Auxiliary's projects for veterans and active-duty military.

For more information, call 248-935-1529 or 248-625-9912 after 3 p.m.

Miracle Quilts hosts sewing event

The Desert Angels Miracle Quilts group meets from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, at Independence Village, 701 Market St. in Oxford and from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, March 16, at the Oxford Public Library, 530 Pontiac St. in Oxford.

Their mission is to create patriotic quilts to present to wounded troops at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington D.C., at Michigan VA hospitals, those currently serving and homeless veterans.

Volunteers are needed and may attend for an hour or the day or sew at home.

For more information, call Carole Carroll 248-321-8669 or email miraclerquilts@att.net.

Legacy Society Tribute Dinner features guest speaker Mark Kelly

The 14th Annual Legacy Society Spring Tribute Dinner presented by the Eisenhower Center will be held 5 p.m. Saturday, March 31 at The Diamond Center at The Suburban Collection Showplace, at 46100 Grand River in Novi.

Annually, the Brain Injury Association of Michigan's Legacy Society recognizes its newest contributing members

at the Spring Tribute Dinner. In addition, selected individuals who have contributed to the brain injury field or have shown a demonstrated leadership in working to improve lives of persons with brain injuries or their families are selected as an honorary member.

The evening will be filled with networking, fine dining, a special guest presentation by Captain Mark Kelly and recognition of the 2012 Legacy Award Honorees. Mistress of Ceremonies will be Lila Lazarus.

Captain Kelly is an Astronaut and husband of former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. A complimentary copy of their book "Gabby" will be given to guests at the dinner.

The Society will honor Phillip Weaver and Dr. Joel Saper for their extraordinary service to the brain injury community they serve.

For more information call 810-229-5880 or email veterans@biami.org.

The Oakland Press is interested in all veterans events in Oakland County. Please send info in the body of an email with subject line "Veterans Affairs" to Sharon Longman at sslstart@aol.com. Allow two weeks' notice for scheduled events and include a phone number for readers to call for more information.

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