

Benefit to help raise funds for cause close to family's heart

By Pamela Morello
The Southington Citizen

In May 2002 Lisa Cote and her husband Jeffrey Willson received great news — they were pregnant. Though happy, the couple was wary of getting excited after suffering through two previous miscarriages.

A bit of relief came after an ultrasound detected not just one, but two healthy heartbeats as Cote learned she was carrying twins. But a level two ultrasound a couple of months later would bring devastating news that the identical twin boys developed a condition called Twin to Twin Transfu-

sion Syndrome.

TTTS is a disease of the placenta that affects identical twin pregnancies. The shared placenta contains abnormal blood vessels which connect the umbilical cord and the circulations of the twins. With TTTS one twin typically receives most of the blood and nutrients while the other is essentially being malnourished.

"My ob-gyn had never even heard about it," said Cote, a Southington resident.

Cote had a level two ultrasound because she was 35 at the time of the pregnancy and could be considered high risk.

After the diagnosis Cote was

immediately put in contact with Dr. Julian E. DeLia, medical director of the International Institute for the Treatment of TTTS at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Milwaukee, Wis. DeLia began investigating TTTS in 1983 and pioneered the laser surgery used to disconnect the offending placental blood vessels that cause TTTS.

After trying several ways to treat the TTTS including bed rest, a nutritional plan, and amniotic fluid reductions, it was determined that surgery was the best option in trying to save the twins' lives.

The surgery was scheduled for August 2002, and unfortunately did not have the results that everyone was hoping for. Cote's babies, which she and her husband named Benjamin and Joshua, were born on Sept. 10, not only with complications from TTTS, but from being born three months premature.

Joshua, the twin that was deprived of much of the blood in nutrients in the womb, lived only nine hours. Benjamin,

though in slightly better health, still had to contend with underdeveloped organs and an undetermined amount of brain damage. He lived for five short weeks.

Four years later, the loss, though still sad for Cote and her family, is a bit easier to deal with, she said, and she has put her energy into the Twin Angel Foundation, an organization she created that is dedicated to supporting families affected by TTTS and to the education of the medical community regarding the abnormality.

"It's not as rare as it seems," Cote said.

Part of the Twin Angel Foundation's mission is to raise awareness about TTTS because, Cote said, there is little education regarding the condition, and much of the information out there is wrong.

"It's frustrating that misin-

formation is getting out there on a national level," she said.

The media coverage of TTTS has often portrayed it as a no-hope situation, where both babies are likely to die because of it, Cote said. In reality, many people have one or both of their babies born normally because of immediate treatment.

"We really want people to get sent in the right direction."

Lisa Cote
Organizer of Family Folk Festival to benefit Twin Angel Foundation

She said the only reason her boys didn't make it was because of complications during the operation which nearly took her own life.

"If I hadn't been put in touch with Dr. DeLia when I was I may not be here," Cote said. "We really want people to get sent in the right direction."

That direction is the TTTS Foundation, dedicated to providing education, emotional and financial support to families during and after a diagno-

See Angels, page 23

NEED A PLUMBER That Does Quality Work at the RIGHT PRICE?

INSTALL, REMODEL & REPAIR
Call the Day, Night & Weekend Plumber
(860) 922-9976

Lic. & Insured
Lic. #282931

OPEN AUDITIONS

Youth Theatre, Meriden
Fall Musical

Audition Kit \$25.00

To schedule an audition,
Call 203-634-0474 Donna

STOP IN FOR GREAT BACK TO SCHOOL SAVINGS!

FREE PHONES! GREAT SERVICE!
Only from Verizon Wireless!

With any America's ChoiceSM Family SharePlan[®] 2 lines share

UNLIMITED CALLING to any Verizon Wireless customer.

UNLIMITED NIGHTS & WEEKENDS

700 ANYTIME MINUTES all when calling from within the America's ChoiceSM Coverage Area on America's Choice Family SharePlans[®] with \$69.99 monthly access.

With new 2 year agreement per line. (Activation fees, taxes, and other charges apply.)

PLUS, NO ROAMING Coverage not available everywhere.

ADD LINES FOR \$9.99 Monthly access per line on an America's ChoiceSM Family SharePlan[®] with two lines starting at \$69.99 monthly access.

"Get Up to Five Free"

Samsung A630

FREE!

after instant rebate

New 2-year activation on all phones required. Terms apply. While supplies last.

- COUPON -

\$10 OFF ANY ACCESSORY

Coupon expires 9/15/06

Simply WIRELESS

SOUTHINGTON
RIVERBEND PLAZA
1049 QUEEN STREET
(860) 793-1700

E. WINDSOR
SOFIA'S PLAZA
122 PROSPECT HILL RD.
(860) 292-1817

CROMWELL
CROSSROADS PLAZA
34 SHUNPIKE RD.
(860) 635-8887

CLINTON
228 E. MAIN ST.
(860) 669-1113
Across Stop & Shop

verizon wireless

*Our Surcharges (incl. 2.31% Federal Universal Service (varies quarterly), 5¢ Regulatory & 40¢ Administrative line/mo., & others by area) are not taxes (details: 1-888-684-1888); gov't taxes and our surcharges could add 4% to 33% to your bill. Activation fee/line: \$35. (\$25 for secondary Family SharePlan lines with 2-yr. Agreements).
IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Customer Agreement, Calling Plan, Get It Now Agreements, rebate form and credit approval. \$175 termination fee, 45¢/min after allowance, other charges & restrictions. Usage rounded to the next full minute. Offers and coverage not available everywhere. Network details, coverage limitations & maps at verizonwireless.com. Nights 9:01 pm - 5:59 am M-F. Max 5 lines on same account. © 2006 Verizon Wireless

COMPLETE LANDSCAPING

WALKS • WALLS • PATIOS

- Interlocking Pavers • Unilock • Keystone
- Techo-Bloc • Retaining Walls • Steps
- Stairs • Poured Concrete • Walks • Patios
- Shrubs • Trees • Designed & Planting
- New Lawns Installed • Hydroseeding
- Hedge & Shrub Pruning & Cleanups • Beds Mulched

TOTAL MAINTENANCE

Lic. #554051 **860-628-5191**

Serving Southington 25+ Years

Thompson Legal Services

Gregory A. Thompson
Attorney At Law
Since 1975

PERSONAL INJURY

Criminal • Motor Vehicle
DWI DEFENSE
(The suspension of your license is NOT automatic)

1783 Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike
Rochambeau Mall, Unit 7
Southington - Milldale
860-621-6262

Thank You

FOR 5 GREAT YEARS!

NEED IT FIXED?

SNOW BLOWERS, MOWERS, TRIMMERS, SAWS & EDGERS REPAIRED.

ALL CREST POWER EQUIPMENT

Pick-up & delivery \$10 roundtrip

Call Lance Wheeler
(860) 426-1036

The Southington Citizen

ISSN 1559-0526
USPS 023-115

Published weekly by Record-Journal Publishing Co., d/b/a The Southington Citizen, 40 N. Main St., Southington, CT 06489.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Southington, CT and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Southington Citizen, P.O. Box 246, Southington, CT 06489.

Angels

Continued from page 4

sis of TTTS. The foundation works out of Ohio.

"Any mother pregnant with identical twins should come home with a TTTS packet of information so they will know immediately what the signs and symptoms are," Cote said.

The foundation provided information to Cote and her family, as well as assistance with medical insurance issues, and even financed their trip to Wisconsin for the surgery.

"We never would have gotten through it without them," she said.

Cote's Twin Angel Foundation will also support the mission of education and fundraising for the TTTS Foundation.

FUNDS FOR THE FUTURE

The first fundraising effort for the Twin Angel Foundation will come on Saturday, Sept. 16

Sponsor a duck

The first-ever Southington Duck Race Raffle to benefit local causes will be held Sunday, Oct. 22 at Hawks Landing Country Club from 3 to 7 p.m. and the competitors — rubber ducks — may now be sponsored for \$5 each.

Sponsored ducks will float "downriver" and the first to emerge at the end of the route will win their sponsors a variety of prizes, including the grand prize of a trip to Singer Island, Fla. The race will benefit the United Way of Southington, Southington Community Services, the Southington National Trails Day festival and other causes.

The duck race itself will begin at 5 p.m. and the event will also feature fun, games, food, entertainment and more.

Duck sponsorships are now available at Banknorth locations at 121 Main St. and 900 Queen St.; the Southington Chamber of Commerce, 1 Factory Square; the Connecticut Center for Healthy Aging, inside Bradley Memorial Hospital at 81 Meriden Ave.; Move Over Martha, 35 Center St.; People's Bank, 812 Queen St.; Southington Care Center, 45 Meriden Ave.; The Southington Citizen, 40 N. Main St.; the Southington Community Services office, inside Town Hall at 75 Main St.; the Southington YMCA, 29 High St.; United Way of Southington, 1 Factory Square Suite 201; Webster Bank locations at 132 Main St. and 359 Queen St.

at Camp Sloper with a Family Folk Festival, coordinated by Cote, her husband, and longtime friend Shelley Nyren.

Nyren, who has been good friends with Cote for about 15 years, was with the family from the beginning, supporting them through the pregnancy, births and deaths of Benjamin and Joshua.

"To be involved with anything that could help other families to not have to go through that is a really great thing," Nyren said. "It's going to be a fun day for a great cause."

The event, held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. will feature seven singing performances at the pavilion overlooking Sloper Pond, and several activities for children including arts and crafts, face painting, and a clown.

Cote, herself a singer and a member of the contemporary worship band at the First Congregational Church, will perform

at the festival. The local Beatles tribute band Number 9 will also make an appearance.

Other features of the festival include a massage booth, a therapeutic touch booth, a TTTS information booth, and even an appearance by Dr. DeLia.

A raffle and an afternoon barbeque will round out the day's events. The festival will happen rain or shine.

Tickets for the Family Folk Festival are \$10 if purchased ahead of time and \$15 at the door.

The experience of losing her twin boys to TTTS, though tragic and sad, did reveal some other positives.

"I learned to believe in the goodness of people," Cote said.

She recalled how family, friends, and the community, even those she did not know, rallied behind her family with support and prayers. People came by with meals for her family, and others whom she

had never met would e-mail her with encouraging words.

Cote and her husband grew stronger and closer during the ordeal and she found an overwhelming appreciation for her two other children, Adam, now 14, and Tori, now 12.

"It made me look at my other two children with new

eyes," Cote said. "I am so grateful to have two very healthy, normal children."

Cote is encouraging people to register early for the Sept. 16 event by visiting www.twinangelfoundation.org. The Web site features a downloadable form to fill out and send in with payment for tickets.

Looking For Vertical Blinds?

Honeycomb Shades
1" Mini Blinds • Custom Draperies
Wood Blinds

~Call Us for a Free Quote~

Hamrah's (860) 628-6500



George Hamrah

When it comes to Training, One size DOESN'T fit all...



At Connecticut Computer Service, Inc., we believe that a company is like a person - no two are alike. Everyone has different goals, expectations, and challenges. We specialize in training, it's what we do:

- Accelerated Training
- Proprietary Application Training
- Custom Training
- Company-wide Migrations

and much more....our goal is to make your employees more productive.

At Connecticut Computer Service we will always go above and beyond to meet the training needs of you- our customer.

1-800-628-8979



Connecticut Computer Service, Inc.

Learning Network Web

101 E. Summer St., Plantsville, CT
Also in East Hartford and Milford!

www.ctcomp.com • 1-800-628-8979



Advanced Infrastructure Solutions
Learning Solutions
Networking Infrastructure Solutions



Labor Day Sale

August 31st - September 4th

25% off All Paints & Stains*



15% off

Duration Home™ Interior & Duration® Exterior Coatings

Save An Additional

25% off

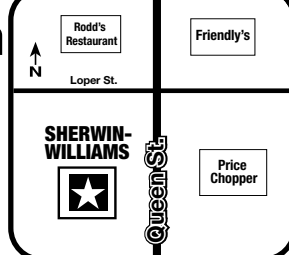
Waverly Wallpaper Books including EasyChange™ patterns



NOW OPEN

Southington

405 Queen St.
860-621-5396
Mon-Fri 7:00am-7:00pm
Sat 8:00am-5:00pm
Sun 10:00am-4:00pm



Ask How. Ask Now. Ask Sherwin-Williams.®
Visit us at sherwin-williams.com.

*Retail sales only. All savings are off the regular price. Excludes Color To Go™ Paint Samples. See store for details. Not responsible for typographical or artwork errors. Sherwin-Williams reserves the right to correct errors at the point of purchase. ©2006 The Sherwin-Williams Company.