

## Young Stroke Patient Spreads Understanding

By Freda R. Savana

THE (DOYLESTOWN) INTELLIGENCER SOLEBURY, Pa. (AP) - It's impossible to look at Emily Hyland and not smile.

With her crimson-colored hair and soft blue eyes, she is a child who radiates kindness and warmth.

To know the 12-year-old suffered a stroke when she was just 10, enduring countless brain scans, hours of physical, speech and occupational therapy and near blindness in one eye, comes as a shock.

Sitting at her family's kitchen table in Solebury, dressed in lilac-colored pants and a matching jacket, Emily is charming in her innocence and just a little shy.

She remembers some of the events that March day in 2007 when

she suddenly got tired while vacationing at an indoor water park in the Poconos and lay down for a nap.

"We were on the waterslide and I got tired," said the New Hope-Solebury sixth-grader. "When I woke up I had a bad headache." After that, her memory fades.

But Emily's mother, M.J. Bailey, and her stepfather, Lee Bailey, remember every detail of the nightmarish days that followed.

Her inability to walk or see from her left eye, the drive through a snowstorm to Doylestown Hospital, the emergency room at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the doctor who came out only long enough to tell them Emily had had a stroke.

"We didn't know kids could have

strokes," said M.J. "It was very scary."

Hoping to help raise awareness and money for much-needed research into the causes and prevention of strokes, Emily and her family, including her sisters, Megan, 14, and Kelly, 9, headed to Citizen Bank Park earlier this month, joined by 85 friends and neighbors.

The American Heart Association's Start! Heart Walk drew more than 3,000 people and raised \$1.1 million, according to Christina Crews, communications director for the organization.

Emily's team all wore shirts made by Megan. They were bright purple, Emily's favorite color.

"She loves it ... it's so uplifting," said M.J. Bailey.

Despite the widely held perception that strokes primarily threaten the elderly, they can occur in children, including infants.

According to Dr. Sabrina Smith, assistant professor of neurology and pediatrics at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, one in 4,000 newborns experience strokes. They are rarer in children age 3 to 12, where they occur in about one out of 100,000.

Children's symptoms are much like adults, including sudden weakness on one side of the body, slurring of speech and blurred vision. The warning signs are often missed, however, because parents don't expect a childhood stroke. The signs can also be caused by a wide range of other illnesses.

In Emily's case, her mother thought she had had a seizure, since she was diagnosed with epilepsy when she was 9. Doctors still remain uncertain as to what caused her to have a blood clot in her brain.

Half the children who suffer a stroke are perfectly healthy, said Smith, the other half have serious illnesses. One-half to one-third have some permanent movement problem and a lasting impairment of thinking, learning and concentrating.

In the 18 months since her stroke, Emily has made an amazing recovery.

She's worked hard to learn to read again, since the stroke impaired her vision. Physical therapy has helped restore her sense of balance, although she still has some difficulty.

Deeply proud of her daughter, Bailey said Emily has taught them all about strength and courage.

"She has never once, not once, said, 'Why did this happen to me.'"

### Christmas Play

Laurel Ridge Christian Church will hold a Christmas play, "The Not Too Perfect Nativity Play," December 13 and 14 at 4:00 p.m.

All are welcome.

### Engagement



Denny and Elaina Swope and Rodney and Jackie Mellott wish to announce the engagement of their children, Heidi Lee and Christopher Allen.

Heidi is a 2004 graduate of McConnellsburg High School and is currently employed as a nuclear medicine technologist at Robinwood Heart Center in Hagerstown.

Chris is a 2003 graduate of McConnellsburg High School and a graduate of Penn Tech with a degree in architectural design. He is employed at Morton's Feed Mill.

A June 2009 wedding is being planned.

## Gordon - Hurney United



Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Gordon

Golden Acres Farm, Taylor Township, was the setting for the outdoor wedding of Angela Joy Hurney and Ryan Eugene Gordon. Pastor Doug Poffenberger officiated at the exchanging of vows on August 9, 2008, at 3:00 p.m.

The bride was attended by her sisters, Aimee and Carissa Hurney. Michael V. Mellott, cousin of the groom, served as best man and Daniel Hurney, brother of the bride, served as groomsman.

The bride wore a chiffon gown featuring a ruched empire bodice, beaded lace midriff and a sweep train. She carried a bouquet of white roses and Gerber daisies accented with tiny aqua beads and seashells. Flowers for the occasion were arranged by Summer Thyme Floral.

A romantic beach-themed reception was held for family, friends and co-workers at 5:00

p.m., at Hustontown Firehall. Thomas DeShong, High Voltage DJ, provided music and served as master of ceremonies. Dreamers Catering of Everett prepared and served the meal, and Dawn Black designed the three-tiered wedding cake. Guests attended from nearby towns of Chambersburg and Shippensburg, as well as from Butler, Pittsburgh, Jersey Shore, and Freeburg, Pa.

Photography was by White's Photography.

Angela is the daughter of William and Gloria Hurney of McConnellsburg, and Ryan is the son of Harold and Patty Gordon of Harrisonville. Angela is employed by McLaughlin's Drug Store and Ryan works for Kimbob Inc., Bowmansdale, Pa.

The couple honeymooned at Disney World in Orlando, Fla., and reside in Hustontown.

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'99 Ford Escort	\$3,250	\$1,100	'97 Chevy Blazer	\$3,450	\$1,150
'98 Mercury Tracer, 24k on motor	\$3,250	\$1,075	'97 Chrysler Town & Country	\$3,950	\$1,150
'98 Saturn	\$2,350	\$775	'97 Jeep Cherokee 4X4	\$4,750	\$1,600
'98 Ford Contour	\$1,950	\$650	'96 Isuzi Trooper	\$2,750	\$925
'97 Mitsubishi Galant	\$2,750	\$950	'95 Ford Aerostar	\$975	\$325
'97 Chevy Lumina	\$2,250	\$750	'95 Ford Explorer	\$3,750	\$1,250
'96 Ford Taurus	\$2,450	\$825	'94 Ford F150 Ext. Cab 4 x 4	\$2,950	\$1,000
'95 Mercury Sable S/W	\$1,575	\$525	'93 Mercury Villager	\$2,250	\$750
'95 Mercury Tracer	\$2,250	\$825	'84 Ford F600 Box Farm Truck	\$1,575	\$525

## Christmas Parade & Street Fair

Downtown Everett | November 29th, 2008



### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:30 Street Fair Begins
- 10:00 Christmas Parade  
Santa Comes to Town - Visit Santa at the Everett Free Library
- 10:30 Shery Foor Dance Studio
- 11:00 Matthew Volbrecht
- 11:30 Nancy Cogan Dance Studio
- 12:00 Everett HS Cheerleaders
- 12:30 Jackson Monsour
- 1:30 Everett HS Jazz Band
- 2:00 Ariel Watters



ALL DAY EVENTS All events are weather permitting - Schedule subject to change

Craft & Food Vendors | Indoor Children's Activities  
Balloons by Denny Huber | Visit with Santa

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Drawings - Saturdays, November 15 & 22

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