

India quake team arrives

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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A St. Mary Mercy Hospital medical team has arrived in western India to help earthquake victims.

After a 30-hour flight, the five-member crew landed in Amandar Tuesday. On Wednesday, they left in a sport utility vehicle for a six-hour drive to Bhuj, which is the epicenter of the 7.9-magnitude quake and most devastated area.

The team will spend three to five days there, joining a camp, said a hospital spokeswoman who received a voice mail message from the group Tuesday.

"They have seen a lot of collapsed houses and destruction, and are all anxious to begin their work," said Julie Sproul, St. Mary Mercy community relations director in a written statement. "They want everyone to know they are all well and that things are going as planned."

On the home front, St. Mary Mercy Hospital has collected more than \$25,000 in monetary donations, which is being used to buy needed medical supplies for the mission.

entrance where people can still contribute. Donations may also be sent to the St. Mary Mercy Foundation, in care of Sherri Fletcher, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia 48164. (734) 656-5151.

Though the \$25,000 is a good start, more money is needed for crucial supplies, hospital officials said.

Drs. B. Babu Paidipaty, Ash Gokli and A. Raheem Nakadar are joined by two St. Mary Mercy registered nurses Barbara Dowel and Mary Greer. Greer is a Livonia resident.

Initially, there were 12 members slated to go, which included respiratory specialists and an orthopedic specialist. At the urging of the India government, Paidipaty and Gokli scaled back the mission.

On Sunday, family and friends joined them at Metropolitan Airport for their departure. Northwest Airlines donated free air-trip tickets from Detroit to Bombay.

A formal reception is planned after their return Sunday, Feb. 18.

A box sits on a reception desk in the hospital

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Kindermusik



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HIRSCHMANN

Teapot for two: Anna Montgomery, 8 months, her sister Julia, 2, and mom Amy of Farmington Hills listen to the story "I'm a Little Teapot," as part of the Kindermusik class and open house at Euola Music in Canton Thursday. The early music and movement program for children newborn to age 7 offers classes at the Canton music store, as well as story times at various locations in the area. Call (734) 455-4677 or visit www.ismi.net/kindermusikateuola for more information.

Woman shot during argument

A 29-year-old woman was released from Botsford Hospital Monday after being treated for a gunshot wound suffered during a shooting at a Livonia apartment Saturday afternoon.

Police arrested a suspect, 70, who shares his apartment at the Deerfield Woods complex with the victim and her 30-year-old husband. The suspect was released Monday, and the Wayne County prosecutor's office wants to interview the victim before deciding whether to file charges, said Lt. Ben McDermott, Livonia Police Department spokesman.

The woman was hit in the right breast by a low-velocity pistol round that carried tiny pellets, McDermott said. Police found the weapon, a .357-caliber revolver, and confiscated it, along with other guns.

The shooting, at about 5 p.m., erupted from an argument at the apartment on Farmington Road

north of Seven Mile, McDermott said. The younger couple were smoking crack cocaine and the suspect was drinking at the time the argument started, he said.

Statements by the participants differ, but at some point, the woman got ahold of the pistol, which belongs to the 70-year-old, McDermott said. Then he got control of it; whether there was a struggle over the pistol was not clear, he said.

The woman was shot at close, but not point-blank, range, police said.

The three drove the 70-year-old's car to the emergency room at Botsford, where the suspect was arrested. Farmington Hills police arrested the victim's husband near the hospital for possession of crack cocaine.

The woman and her husband both told police that the 70-year-old had threatened her with the pistol the day before, McDermott said.

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