

The Phoenix News

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Issue 2



Garden Stone rooster by
Kevin M.

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A Story About The Art Hop By: Cer B.

On Friday, November 5, 2010, I was at the Park Trades Center for the Art Hop. There were over 50 different artists in different art studios selling all types of artwork. I looked around and saw mosaics, garden stones, stained glass and mirrors in the Cutting Edge Studio. I also saw water-

colors, pastels, and sun catchers hanging on the wall. There were book-marks, gift bags, cards, masks, and scarves. I saw people decorating a mirror with little pieces of glass.

The YAP students sold \$640 worth of artwork. They also sold 3 garden stones, 3 mosaics and sun catchers. Cookies and Hawaiian punch were provided. Tonya Schuitmaker, who was one of the politicians running for the

state representatives, showed up at the Art Hop. There was also a band playing some interesting music like jazz, blues, and rock n' roll.



I made it to some of the other art studios, too. I saw good pictures on the walls, jewelry, and blankets.

One of the pictures I can describe was a photograph of London. In that

picture, I saw a big building which made me feel like it could be my future home. One piece of jewelry was a design made with beads, they look like they're sold at Zales. There was also a hand-made blanket with different pictures. I experienced all types of artwork that inspired me. I would like to come to the Art Hop again.

Sam's Club Job Shadow By: Missy H.

I visited Sam's Club today along with Tyler, Cassie, Reggie, Steven, Ciera, and James. We all had the opportunity to work with different employees. Tony was the team leader back in the bakery. He has worked in the bakery for two years, but at Sam's Club for eight years. Tony said out of all the other departments he has worked in there, he likes the bakery best.

Sam's Club has been around since

the early 80s. The store that we were at serves between 2,100-2,200 members every day. Sam's Club does not turn anyone away as a member, but they prefer you to be 18 and part of a qualified group such as a school or disability network.

Nora was our job shadowing coach. I liked her and she was very nice and informative. If I get the opportunity to do that again I would like to work in the bakery. *Continued on page 3*

What is J-Pop?

By Kylee S.

J-Pop is Japanese pop music. The term J-Pop was started in the 1920s when it described a specific type of singing. In the 1990s J-Pop came to mean any type of popular music. There is another type of music in Japan called Enka. Enka is a type of genre of music that is a mix of two or more different types of music. For example, if you combined two different types of music like the Blues and Techno you will get Enka. What happened to Enka was that in 1990 one of the best Enka artists died, so after that, J-Pop became the number one music in Japan, beating Enka forever. The



beginning of modern J-Pop is said to be Japanese-language rock music inspired by the Beatles. Before they called it J-Pop they called it Kayokyoku, which means "lyric singing music." How I found out about J-Pop is from the Kalamazoo Public Library. You can come to other J-Pop events if you want. The upcoming times to go are January 24, 2011 from 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM and February 28, 2011 from 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM. If you want any more information on J-Pop go to the Kalamazoo Public Library. The location is 315 S. Rose St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007.

Special Olympics Gymnastics

By Kristy A.

In Special Olympics gymnastics, I do the balancing beam and it is fun. I also do a floor exercise which is cool and very entertaining. I know the routine. In addition I do the vault, and I go very high. We do the splits and tucks on it. At the very end of the routine we get medals. I got three gold medals for first place on everything! This was a lot of fun and I might do it again. Also, next time on the floor exercise, I will be doing level 3. I'll get to do flips.

Here is more info on Special Olympics gymnastics: it is at Western Michigan University and here is the local Area 16 phone number (269)387-2718. You can be a participant starting at 8 years old and there are 222 athletes in this area.

On June 2-4, 2011, are the state summer games and they are at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, MI. At the state summer games we do opening ceremonies, then we do the torch run, and at the end of this we see the closing ceremonies. There is also a dance on the 4th of June. In the parking lot there are games like a dunk tank and a dancing game. Also there is a hayride and animals, a boat game and a water slide too.

Congratulations to the following YAP students that have participated in Special Olympics in Kalamazoo

Names

Kristy A
Chris B
Erica B
Sean C
Justin C
Katy H
Katie L
Stefanie P
Katherine S
Mark S
Nicole S
Bradley S

Sports

Gymnastics (Artistic)
Athletics / track and field
Gymnastics (Rhythmic)
Power lifting
Power lifting
Gymnastics (Artistic)
Gymnastics (Artistic)
Gymnastics (Artistic)
Aquatics (swimming)
Aquatics (swimming)
Gymnastics (Artistic)
Aquatics (swimming)



Special Olympics
Michigan

Erika and Travis the Recyclers

By: Katy H. and Cer B.

We interviewed Erika, Travis and Cindy about the Recycling Program while we went around the building and watched them pick up paper. We learned about the Recycling Program from the things they told us. Notice the picture of Erika and Travis by the recycling bin.

The program started in the middle of October. The students wanted to do something to take better care of our earth. They shred every day and collect recycling every other day. The recycling job is used as work experience for students in Room D. They try to reduce our paper use. In addition, they collect plastic, cans, metals and old batteries. They also collect old ink cartridges and send them to the recycling center. This is a fundraiser for the class, so if you have used cartridges, please give them to the recyclers at the Young Adult Program. Finally, plastic bags are collected and sent to the SPCA, where they are used to pick up dog poop.

In our community, we have to recycle materials to protect our earth and keep it green. We have to treat it like our home, because if we don't recycle, the trees will be cut down. We think it's a good way to save the community and people. Right now 30% of used materials are being recycled. In the United States, 60% could save 315 million barrels of oil per year.

The four principles of recycling are recycle, replace, reduce, and reuse. We have to keep the earth green by collecting and replanting seeds, donating items, and choosing recyclable packaging. Recycling can be done at

home as well as in a fundraising program. Many scrap yards pay for scrap metal, including the soda cans and soup cans we use every day.

We would like to encourage people in Kalamazoo to go out and find trash because recycling saves our earth. We need to look for paper, scrap metal, newspapers and cardboard boxes that are on the ground. We need to keep the trees healthy.



Erika and Travis on the job collecting paper for recycling

Continued from page 1

In my short time at Sam's Club I learned how to bag bread, straighten clothes tables and collect carts. I hope the rest of the gang liked their job assignments as much as I did. In addition, I learned how to make a pizza from smoothing out the dough and air bubbles, all the way to baking it. I was able to enjoy that pizza.



This is the gang in the café. From left to right: Tyler, Cassie, Reggie, Ceria, Connie, and James.

Community Advocates By Jonnie A.

Community Advocates is an organization to help people with developmental disabilities connect with others in their community. They have helped people since 1953. Their purpose is to seek the best possible services and support for children and adults with disabilities so that they can participate fully in the area where they live. Community Advocates usually assists people from Kalamazoo County, but sometimes will help those from surrounding counties on a case-by-case basis. They have a men's and a women's group. This provides opportunities for friendship and community service.

I'm on the Community Advocates board and also I'm the spokesperson for the board and for Community Advocates. I go to every Community Advocates event and meeting. I speak for the people who can't speak for themselves. I am a representative for people who, like myself have developmental disabilities.

For more information please go to www.communityadvocates.com, or call (269) 342-9801, ext. 203 and ask for Lori West or Deb Russell. Community Advocates is at 814 S. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo.

HA! HA! HA! By Stacey K.

Knock Knock
Who's there?
Bacon!
Bacon who?
Bacon a cake for your birthday!

Q: Why do birds fly south for the winter?
A: Because it's too far to walk!

Q: Why did the chicken cross the playground?
A: To get to the other slide!

Q: Why did the elephant jump in the lake when it began to rain?
A: To stop getting wet!

Q: How did the telephones get married?
A: In a double ring ceremony!

Q: Why do you need a license for a dog and not a cat?
A: Cats can't drive!



Young Adult Program *Focusing on the Future*

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Educational Service Agency



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Things to do in Kalamazoo

By Monica J.



Here are some things that the YAP students can do over winter break. One thing is to check out the Special Olympics. They have all kinds of events going on. If you are interested in playing unified bowling or unified basketball, practices start the second week in January. Basketball practices are on Mondays from 5:00 to 6:45 p.m. They start January 10th and end March 7th. Bowling practices start January 14 and go through March 11, 2011. They are on Fridays from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m. at Continental Lanes in Kalamazoo. The contact person is Chris Maynard, you can call him at (269) 387-2718 if you are interested in bowling, basketball, or any of the other sports. If you are interested in watching these tournaments, they will be Saturday, March 12, 2010.

The second thing the YAP students can check out is the West Michigan Glass Art Center. There are things you can make at the glass art center. You can do bead making, copper art, clay 101, glass blowing, stained glass, fused glass, sandblasting and mosaics. The West Michigan Glass Center is located at 326 West Kalamazoo Avenue, Suite 100. Phone (269) 552 -9802. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The website is www.wmglass.org.

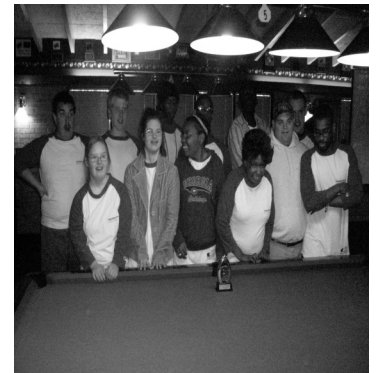
These are the topics I think the students would enjoy doing over winter break.

YAP at the Billiards Tournament

By Tyler T.

The Young Adult Program had an opportunity to join other transition programs in an area-wide billiards tournament on Friday, December 3rd. The event was held at Playtime on South Westnedge. There were five teams that played against each other. The YAP faced competition from Allegan, Barry, Ottawa and Van Buren counties. Each student played three games. By the end of the tournament Nicole earned the nickname of "The Shark" after winning 2 out of her 3 games. Our team came in 4th and we came back with a very nice trophy. Everyone had a good time and it was nice to see some people that we knew from other programs.

The YAP students that participated were: Daniel, Rayvn, Leonce, Reggie, Nicole, Ciera, Zach, Matt, Justin, Coty, Ellen and Dennis. Staff timekeepers and judges were: Christyn, Cindy, Kathy, Hillary, and Ken.



YAP team members enjoying the moment

Cam Newton the Quarterback

By Tyler T.

Cam Newton is the quarterback for the Auburn Tigers. He is a team leader. I read something about him on the ESPN website that made me feel he shouldn't be allowed to play on the team. I also read an article by sports writer Mike Rosenberg, which gave me more information on Cam Newton.

According to Rosenberg, Cam left Florida after getting caught with a stolen laptop, then lying about it. Foxsports.com reported he got caught cheating on his class work three times at Florida.

From ESPN I learned that New-



ton is thinking about playing football at Mississippi State. The amount of \$180,000 was mentioned. Does that mean they might pay Cam Newton that kind of money to go there? Did he ask them for that much? I thought in college you play for free; you don't get paid. A player might get a scholarship, but I don't think it would be for \$180,000.

So, I believe that Cam Newton should not be allowed to play football at Auburn until they find out the truth. I also believe that he should not be up for the Heisman Trophy. Maybe the Heisman Trophy should be awarded for how honest a person is as well as how good a player he is.

OPINION

Help Stop Bullying in Our School

By: Missy H.

There is too much bullying going on in schools. We need some ways to stop the bullying before it gets out of hand. I have some suggestions that might help us.

Tips for teachers, counselors and the principal:

Take action when a student comes to you about a bully!

Teach the student self-confidence.

Explain to them that reacting and fighting back will only make the bully more aggressive.

Find out who the student's friends are. The bully is more likely to target students who are loners.

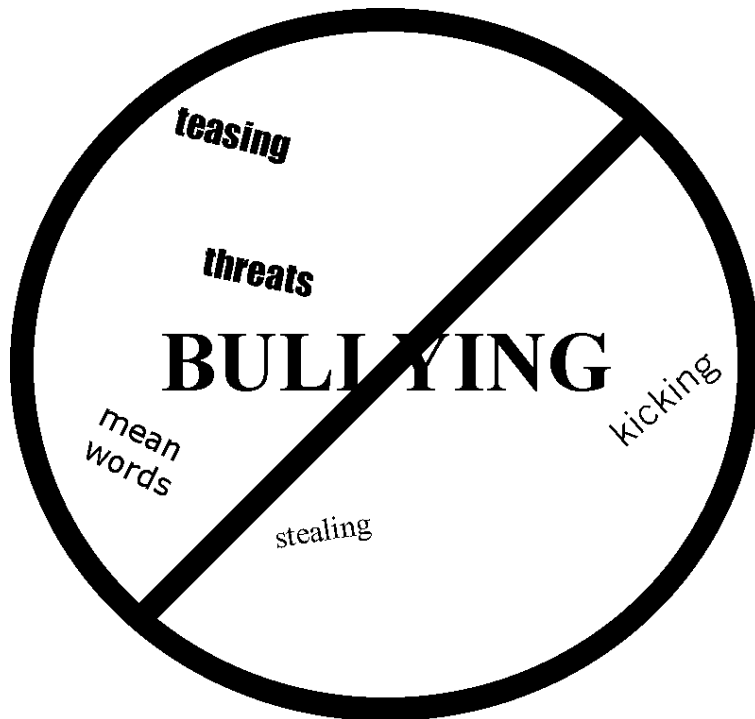
Inform the other teachers, counselors, and the principal about the bully. Keeping our students safe while they are in our care is a team effort and the responsibility of all staff.

Tips for the students dealing with a bully:

If you handle the bully yourself in a defensive way it only stirs up more conflict between you and the bully.

Do not approach the bully's parents! That will only make the parent defensive about their child.

Always let the teachers and principal approach the bully's parents about their behavior toward the students at school.



Being Bullied or Be The Bully

By: Jonathan A.

There are bullies everywhere. In a typical situation there are 20% bullies, 70% bystanders and 10% victims of bullying. I know what everyone is going through because I have been a bully sometimes and I don't like it. Schools should have more supervision during recess and lunch. I think that schools should have severe consequences for a student who has aggressive behavior. They should have rules against bullying. The school needs a class meeting about bullying.