

# The Phoenix News

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Volume 2

Issue 1

## Christine Finger Encourages Journalism Class

By Alex M.



### Top Headlines:

- ◆ Speaker Christine Finger
- ◆ Interview with Deb Wild, YAP Principal

On Wednesday, September 22, 2010, we had Christine Finger, the Public Information Specialist for KRESA, come in and do an interview for the Young Adult Program's journalism class. I learned so much from Christine Finger. I learned that if you want to be a journalist you can't be shy. You need to be a people person. She also gave great advice on writer's block. She said, "Just keep writing, never give up. Writing is like a muscle, you have to use it a lot for it to be strong."

The KRESA website was in place when she came to KRESA. Christine's job is to keep updating the website. Christine updates the website on a monthly basis. Other jobs Christine does are editing publications for other departments, taking photographs, designing and

sending them to the media. She also organizes special events.

Christine's office hours are 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., but she was caught posting to the website on Sunday. Sometimes she needs time to catch up at home. Christine doesn't formally set goals on a yearly basis; however, she is constantly looking for ways to update the website.



Journalism class listening to Christine Finger telling them about her job at Kalamazoo RESA

### Inside this issue:

- ◆ Transition Round Table 2
  - ◆ November Days 2
  - ◆ Student Council 3
  - ◆ Park Trades Center 3
  - ◆ Crossword 4
  - ◆ Lunch Menu Insert
  - ◆ New Lunch Program Insert
  - ◆ Things To Do Insert
- In Kalamazoo

## Rising to Lead: YAP Welcomes New Principal

By Alex M.

Today I sat down with our new principal, Deb Wild. I started off by asking her what school she worked at before the Young Adult Program. She answered, "The Sanilac Career Center, which is on the thumb of Michigan." Then I wanted to know if being a principal is her dream job? She responded, "Yes! Being the principal at the Young Adult Program is my dream job."

Deb wants to accomplish preparing YAP students and staff for a transition to the West Campus. Deb enjoys the students at the Young Adult Program. "They are very friendly and eager to learn," she said. She also loves working with all the great staff at the Young Adult Program.

Deb likes to spend time with her husband Rick. She loves to swim and go to MSU football games. Deb has four cats: Suzy, Cully, Shadow, and Sassie. She loves playing with her labs Rocky, Violet, and J-D. I asked her what her favorite season is and she told me it's summer

because she lives on a lake. Deb's favorite movie is *The Blind Side*.

Her favorite memory of being a classroom teacher was when one of her students got a job 25 years ago and still has the same job today!

This experience of interviewing was great because I got to know Deb personally and I got to know that she is a great person. I would encourage each student to stop by and say hello to our new principal.



## Christine Finger (Continued from Page 1)

Christine is originally from Wisconsin, but she chose to work in Michigan because it was not too far away. Previously she worked in Menominee, MI at the EagleHerald and in Traverse City at the Record-Eagle.

We asked Christine if she had ever traveled to another country to cover a story. Her answer was no, but she did tell us that she covered a trip that involved helping victims of Hurricane Katrina, which hit New Orleans a few years ago.

Christine went to college for four years and earned a bachelor's in Journalism. When asked if she has ever been a live TV reporter, Christine responded, "I have never been a live reporter on TV, but I have covered a court trial." Christine also stated that she would be really nervous if she had to do a live report. My favorite thing Christine discussed was when she went to the Traverse City Film Festival and met Michael Moore.

Finally, we asked Christine if she

plays sports. We learned that she does not participate in competitive sports. What she really enjoys is going hiking and camping.



Missy arranged guest speaker Christine Finger to come and speak to the journalism class.

## Transition Round Table By Katie H.

The Transition Round Table Series has existed for many years. The Series is designed as an opportunity for students, parents, teachers, and community members to learn about current topics affecting students with disabilities in the transition from school to adult life. It is a really great opportunity for YAP students and families to explore the adult services and agencies our community offers. This year the Round Table meetings are about the following: Community Mental Health, KVCC, transition planning, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, guardianship, living options, and Social Security. The Transition Round Table sessions occur on Thursday evenings on a monthly basis at the Kalamazoo RESA Service Center in Wile Auditorium from 7-8:30 p.m. The Service Center is at 1819 East Milham (between Lover's Lane and Portage Road). The next meeting, "Making the Move from High School to Post-Secondary Education," will be held on November 18th. The presenters will be Lois Baldwin from KVCC and Dorothy Fancher from WMU. For information, please go to [www.kresa.org/transition](http://www.kresa.org/transition) and click on the Round Table Series link.

## November Days By Missy H.

What do we do now that these October days are winding down?

These November Days are getting colder.

Colors are changing.

All of the trees and animals are getting ready for winter.

We do not have long before Christmas so make ready your wish list.

Let's eat turkey, spend time with family and friends.

Let the times be well spent together.

So we can say good bye to those old October days and be grateful for the coming November Days.

## SNIPPETS FROM FORMER STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Young Adult Program has a student council because people can discuss their problems, thoughts and ideas on school issues that they either like or dislike. I have been on the student council for two years. Both years I have been the class secretary. The job of a class secretary is that they take notes on what is happening at the Young Adult Program. The second part of the job is that they present all the notes to their homeroom class.

By Nick B.

I was the class secretary for my homeroom, which is Kathy Koerber's. I wrote down all the information that we talked about. I then reported the information to my homeroom. The representatives voted on which topic to bring back to the homerooms for further discussion. I enjoyed being on Student Council.

By Katherine S.

## The Park Trades Center

By Cer B.

Recently, this month, I took a trip to the Park Trades Center to interview Mark Hubbard, the art teacher at the Young Adult Program. He has taught art for more than thirty years. It is the beginning of his 3<sup>rd</sup> year at YAP and the Park Trades Center. Mark gets busy helping people with their art work, and I had to wait around for 15 minutes to ask him questions. The Cutting Edge Studio is an art program designed for students with disabilities from ages 18-26. It helps the students explore a variety of art mediums.

The Cutting Edge Studio is located at the Park Trades Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, suite 209L. It is a huge building like a hotel with different rooms. The studio has a wooden floor, a lot of windows, and

YAP students doing creative art. There are 18 students who signed up for art classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, there are 10 students. They learned how to do graphite drawings, pastels, water colors, and stained glass. They are also exposed to other mediums, such as: mosaics, panels, sun catchers, and garden stones. Several students work on art at the studio and at home. One student makes special order mosaics, another does stained glass and garden stones, and the third creates beaded jewelry.

Art Hop is an event in downtown Kalamazoo where over 50 businesses show artwork by various local and regional artists. Art Hops take place the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month from 5 -9 p.m. YAP students at the Cutting

Edge Studio participate in the November, December, and May Art Hops.

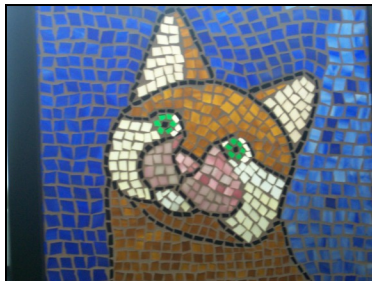
I would like to go to the Park Trades Center and tell Mark that I liked the work that the students were doing and that it inspired me. I would like to see the art work they're selling at the Art Hop. I would encourage students and their families to check out the November 5th Art Hop.



Josh and one of his garden stones



Cer B. interviews art guru Mark Hubbard



A mosaic by Kevin M.



A watercolor by Ciera E.



## Crossword

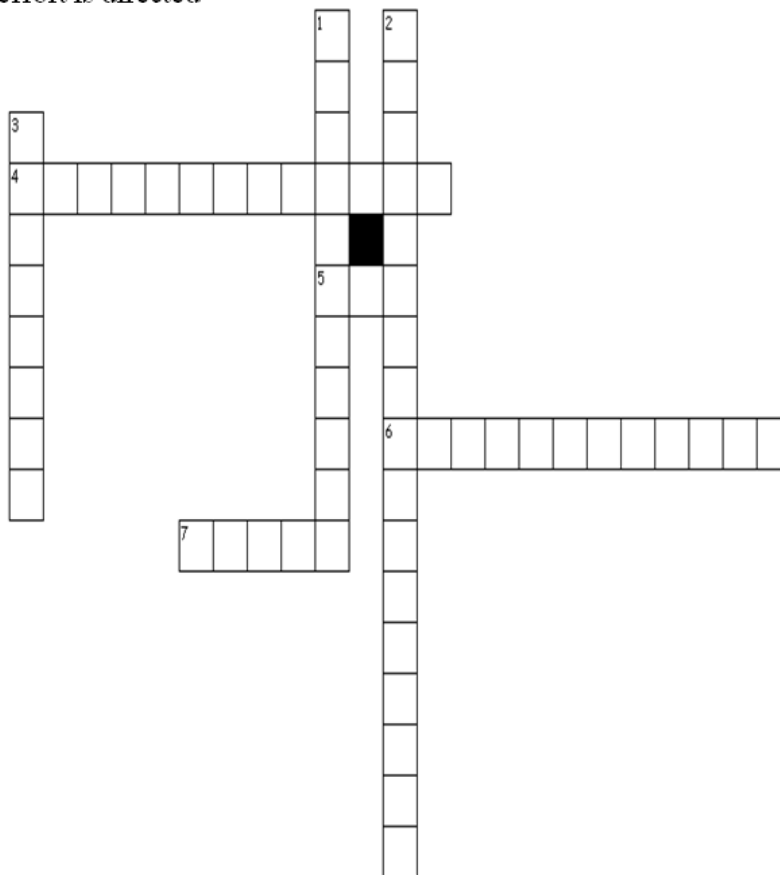
by: Bryan S.

### Across

4. Going from one goal to the next
5. A type of ACT for people with disabilities
6. Cooking, mobility, and budgeting are examples of
7. The result or achievement toward which effort is directed

### Down

1. A person in the early years of adulthood
2. A place to learn
3. People who study



Answers to puzzle are on page 2

# Young Adult Program

*Focusing on the Future*

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