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9/11 EVENTS

The nation remembers the day that changed America.

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The Vindicator

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 11, 2010
50¢

State OKs less-costly V&M project change

By DAVID SKOLNICK
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YOUNGSTOWN The Ohio Department of Transportation has approved cost reductions by the city for a major improvement project needed for V&M Star's \$650 million expansion, a city official says.

And approval for the railroad-relocation project, using more than \$13 million



in federal-stimulus funds, by the Federal Highway Administration is expected sometime next week, said Charles Shasho, the city's deputy director of public

works.

The contract is expected to be awarded the end of next month with construction starting at the end of November, Shasho said. The project will take up to 300 days to complete.

The V&M Star \$650 million expansion project is to be done in late 2011.

The city originally opened proposals for this project,

primarily the relocation of railroad lines, on May 28. The project's cost had been estimated at \$13.56 million.

The proposals ranged from \$18.18 million to \$20.21 million.

At the city's urging, V&M agreed to scale back the project by eliminating several rail switches and other items that the company decided are not essential to

the needs of the new facility.

Because stimulus money is being used to pay for the project, ODOT and FHA need to approve the changes, Shasho said.

On Friday, the Youngstown Board of Control voted to hire Parella Punnunzio for \$3,549,126.13 to install water and sewer lines and to reconstruct and expand Roger Lindgren Way,

the main road to the V&M expansion facility.

Parella's proposal was the lowest among the four companies seeking the work.

The project on the 1.8-mile road should begin by the end of the month or early October and take up to 120 days to be completed, Shasho said.

V&M will reimburse the city's costs for this project.

Salon employees carry the day in 2010 United Way campaign

Caring *and* sharing



Casal's de Spa & Salon's Rachel Chabue 22, of Negley carries Daniel Harris, 8, a Potential Development student, on a hike through Boardman Park. The exercise was part of the United Way's Day of Caring on Friday. About 400 volunteers from the Valley helped the 30 nonprofit organizations supported by United Way.

By KRISTINE GILL
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YOUNGSTOWN ABOUT 35 CASAL'S DE SPA & Salon employees waited in the chilly morning air; Boardman Park was quiet until a school bus pulled alongside the Chester Long pavilion and 42 smiling faces peered out.

"Our kiddies are here," said Rachel Chabue, an employee of the salon in Canfield.

Casal's volunteered along with 36 other companies Friday during the 13th annual Day of Caring, an event to kick off the 2010 United Way Campaign. About 400 volunteers from the Valley took a day away from their desks to help paint, landscape and otherwise help the 30 nonprofit organizations United Way supports.

The Casal's employees spent the day with students from Potential Development Program, a school for autistic children in kindergarten through the eighth grade.

This year's goal is to raise \$2.5 million through the campaign. As of Friday, United

IN SUNDAY'S VINDICATOR

♦ The United Way will have a special envelope inserted in your Sunday Vindicator. Please make a donation to the 2010 campaign by writing a check and mailing it back in the special envelope. Watch for it in Sunday's Vindicator.

Way was about a quarter of the way there.

"All money raised stays here," said United Way President Bob Hannon. "Nothing leaves the Mahoning Valley."

Volunteers sported white T-shirts with the words "Live United" written in black. They had breakfast at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Hall before starting their day.

Casal's volunteers partnered with Potential Development students for a day at the park. Chabue was paired with Daniel Harris, 8, of Boardman, who wore a special outfit for their hike through the park.

"He's got the whole safari ensemble," Chabue said. Daniel wore khakis, a green shirt with a tiger on it and an Indiana Jones-

See CARING, A4



Casal's Miranda Shaughnessy hikes with Potential Development student Chris Cottrell, 8, of Boardman.

Brunner declines Betras' request

State suggests internal probe of elections board

By DAVID SKOLNICK
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YOUNGSTOWN Responding to complaints from the Mahoning County Democratic Party chairman about the board of elections, Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner "strongly" suggests the board "undertake an examination and/or investigation of the issues raised" about the agency's operations.

In a letter sent late Friday afternoon to Mahoning Democratic Chairman David Betras, the board's four members, the director and deputy director, Brunner wrote: "I am urging them to expeditiously undertake the investigation you have requested so as to ensure and maintain public confidence in the election process in Mahoning County."

Betras wrote Brunner, a Democrat, two times last week asking that she investigate the operations of the board of elections. But in her letter, Brunner wrote that "it is not appropriate for the secretary of state to intervene at this time."

On Aug. 30, Betras wrote Brunner asking her office investigate the board for disqualifying some signatures that it later validated on nominating petitions for ex-U.S. Rep. James A. Traficant Jr., running as an independent candidate for the 17th Congressional District seat.

On Sept. 3, Betras again wrote Brunner asking her to investigate why nearly a year after the elections board voted to temporarily suspend its director, Thomas McCabe, and a clerk, Danielle O'Neill, for failing to follow an internal office policy that neither has served the suspensions.

Though Brunner declined to conduct the investigations, Betras said he was satisfied with her decision to



Brunner



Betras

See BRUNNER, A4

The Vindicator

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inside today

ARTISTIC ANNIVERSARY

The artwork showcased at tonight's Voice of Hope dinner celebrating the 100th anniversary of Catholic Charities features themes such as poverty, hunger and homelessness.

LOCAL & STATE, A3

CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP

After more than a century at the helm of Home Savings & Loan, the bank's founding family will end its historic reign over the corner office of one of Youngstown's most iconic buildings.

BUSINESS, A14

Childhood friend, others honor the life of boy murdered in '85

By SEAN BARRON
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WARREN One of Curtis Shavers' most heartfelt memories of Raymond Fife is of when they were fishing together in 1985.

The recollection, however, comes not from what 12-year-old Raymond caught, but what he uttered out of the blue.

"Me and Raymond fished together once, and he turned to me and said, 'I love you,'" Shavers recalled, fighting back tears. "It's something you don't think about until after the fact.

He was ahead of his time."

Shavers was 11 then, and both were members of Warren-based Boy Scout Troop 5.

Shavers, of Warren, was among those who spoke on how Raymond impacted their lives during an event Friday marking the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 10, 1985, abduction and murder of 12-year-old Raymond in a wooded area off Palmyra Road.

The 90-minute gathering at First United Methodist Church, 309 N. Park Ave., was to celebrate his life

See RAYMOND, A4



William D. Lewis | THE VINDICATOR
Miriam Fife, victim-witness advocate for Trumbull County, looks at the portrait of her son, Raymond, who was killed 25 years ago at age 12. More than 100 people gathered Friday at First United Methodist Church in Warren for a memorial service.

CARING

Continued from A1

inspired hat.

Marilyn Fielding, special-education coordinator at Potential Development, said her students go on six field trips a year to get them out into the community.

“That’s very important,” Fielding said. “A lot of these kids have extreme sensory problems, and lots of parents say they can’t do it themselves.”

The Day of Caring offers a chance for each student to be paired with an adult for an outing.

“We can’t ask for anything better,” Fielding said. “We rarely get that.”

Daniel and his peers trekked through the woods with a partner from Casal’s, then met at the pavilion for pizza before tackling the swings and balance beams at the nearby playground.

“The children are so wonderful,” said Lisa Argiro, the event coordinator for Casal’s. “Everything is so new to them. And it’s an eye-opener for the staff who don’t deal with children every day.”

Daniel said his favorite part of the hike was looking at trees and spotting snake holes.

While Daniel had fun in the woods, 15 volunteers from Altronic and Ohio Edi-



Potential Development student J.J. Repasky, 11, left, of Austintown leads Casal’s de Spa & Salon’s Rachel Ruiter, 20, of Cortland across a row of tires Friday in Boardman Park as part of the United Way’s Day of Caring. Behind Ruiter is Michael Alexander, 9, of Struthers.

son were putting the finishing touches on a paint job. The employees at Interfaith Home Maintenance Service Inc. were more than qualified to retouch the siding and window trim on their building at 1005 W. Rayen Ave., but they didn’t have the time.

“We supply the paint and supplies,” said Ron Garvey,

chief supervisor for Interfaith. “We just needed the bodies.”

Interfaith Home Maintenance fixes furnaces and replaces hot-water tanks among other home repairs for low-income families who qualify.

“We keep a large percent of the people in Youngstown in their houses who wouldn’t be here if we didn’t do repairs,” Garveysaid.

Otto Rosendary was volunteering with Ohio Edison. “If you look at the economy, even without it, there will always be those low-income people who need help,” he said. “We’re helping those people who help low-income people.”

To volunteer or donate to the 2010 United Way Campaign, visit www.ymvunitedway.org.

RAYMOND

Continued from A1

and accomplishments.

Other speakers were family members, elected officials and members of the prosecution team during the 1986 criminal trials and convictions of Timothy Combs, who received a life sentence, and Danny Lee Hill, who is on Ohio’s Death Row.

Regardless of other people’s moods, Raymond always had a knack for making them smile and laugh, Shavers told the audience of about 120, adding that the crime brought members of his Boy Scout troop closer together.

Conducting the observance and remembrance was Raymond’s mother, Miriam Fife, who began by playing a 10-minute video collage to music that captured snapshots of Raymond throughout his young life. One of the musical selections was Michael Jackson’s hit “Beat It,” one of Raymond’s favorites.

One photograph that elicited laughter was Raymond’s placing his head in his first birthday cake and getting a face full of frosting.

“I think that was a preview of what he was going

to turn out like,” said Fife, victim-witness advocate for the Trumbull County Prosecutor’s office.

Also shown were Raymond in his Boy Scout uniform standing next to a tower he helped build, as well as him playing baseball, clowning with various siblings and standing next to family.

In addition to baseball, Raymond loved bowling, and it wasn’t long before he began taking lessons and excelling, his mother recalled.

“He was a natural at it,” she continued. “When he was 10, maybe 11, he won a trophy for having a high game of 178.”

Raymond had a mischievous side, but often something positive resulted, Fife said. For example, he wasn’t afraid to blurt out something witty in class, which sometimes caused his teacher to temporarily lose control of the other kids but ultimately ended with laughter from the teacher, she said.

The boy also was an animal lover who once brought home a stray puppy and, with a friend, built a makeshift shed for it because the family already had two dogs, Fife recalled, adding that the friend later took the

animal.

Other memories included Raymond’s taking a bucket to catch hailstones during the May 31, 1985, tornadoes that devastated parts of Trumbull County, then freezing and planning to sell them as souvenirs “if the tornado became famous,” she said.

Shortly before his murder, Raymond and his father spent most of a day fishing at Mosquito Lake. There, they ran into Raymond’s sister Yvonne and her husband, she recalled.

“On the way home, [Raymond] said to my husband, ‘This is the best day of my life.’ The fun times will stay with me forever,” Miriam Fife added.

Crime victims’ having a greater voice, a child-assault unit in the Trumbull County prosecutor’s office and greater sensitivity toward youngsters who experience loss and trauma are among the positive changes that have resulted in part because of Raymond’s death, noted Trumbull County Prosecutor Dennis Watkins and common-pleas Judges Peter Kontos and W. Wyatt McKay.

The judges were prosecutors at the time of Raymond’s murder, and tried

his killers.

A key ingredient in healing from such a tragedy is forgiveness, which is a choice, said Paula Lazzeri of Cortland, one of Raymond’s sisters.

Failing to do so prevents victims of crime and others from fulfilling their passions and talents, while keeping them “locked in a prison of unforgiveness,” she explained.

The Rev. Joseph Cameneti Sr., pastor of Believers Christian Fellowship Church in Warren, read two passages from I Corinthians that focus on hope and comfort for those who suffer a loss.

Remarks also came from Mayor Michael J. O’Brien, Warren schools Superintendent Dr. Kathryn Hellweg, Trumbull County Commissioner Paul Heltzel and Atty. Ned Gold of Warren.

BRUNNER

Continued from A1

recommend the board look into the issues.

Board President Robert Wasko, a Democrat, couldn’t be reached late Friday by *The Vindicator* to comment.

Board Vice President Mark Munroe, also the county Republican Party chairman, said nothing improper was done by the board or its employees, and there is next to nothing to investigate.

Trafficant supporters persuaded the Mahoning board to validate 31 signatures it had disqualified, which allowed him to qualify as a candidate.

“Any time something is that close, there’s room for controversy,” Munroe said. “The board was willing to go the extra mile to resolve the issue to everyone’s satisfaction. We’re willing to review office procedures.”

The board gave O’Neill a five-day suspension without pay for failing to follow an internal office policy in

October 2009 to send ballot language to those with tax issues on the November 2009 ballot. McCabe was given a three-day suspension for failing to catch the mistake.

The board delayed the suspensions because of a criminal investigation into the matter by the sheriff’s office, Munroe said. The investigation found no wrongdoing and was wrapped up in October 2009, but the sheriff’s office never notified the board.

It wasn’t until last week that Sheriff Randall Wellington said the investigation ended last October.

Munroe said “unfounded charges” such as criticizing the board for the Trafficant signatures and an investigation by the sheriff that turned up nothing “erodes public confidence in the election system.”

Munroe said the board will revisit the suspensions but wants to know why the sheriff’s office has provided no documentation regarding the criminal investigation.

Justice Sotomayor recounts first meeting with Obama

Associated Press

CLEVELAND

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor on Friday recalled her first meeting with President Barack Obama to a group of Cleveland lawyers.

During a speech to the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Sotomayor said she was with another administration official with her back to the door when Obama walked into the room.

Sotomayor told the crowd that all of a sudden, the officials squared her

shoulders back and said, “Mr. President.” Sotomayor said: “I turn around, and I’m right at his chest.” Sotomayor said her jaw dropped when she saw the president.

She has been in Northeast Ohio for the past two days meeting privately with law students and community leaders.

Later in the speech, Sotomayor said a court employee recently told her that she had never seen so many Hispanic or immigrant groups coming to visit the Supreme Court Building.

Vehicle accident in New Castle kills 1

Staff report

NEW CASTLE, PA.

New Castle police are investigating a fatal accident that occurred on South

Cascade Street about 8:12 p.m. Friday.

Authorities said they were trying to notify the next of kin of the male driver of the SUV.

Elevator fall at YSU sends 10 to hospital

Staff report

YOUNGSTOWN

Students apparently overloaded an elevator in YSU’s Kilcawley House resident hall that fell several floors about 6:30 p.m. Friday.

Capt. Ron Russo of the Youngstown Fire Department said that the building has seven floors and the overloaded elevator fell

four to five floors.

Elevators have signs with weight limits, and people can start a free fall by overloading it, he said.

“There may be people with back or neck problems,” he added, but there were no serious injuries.

Ron Cole, director of university communications, said that about 10 students

were transported to St. Elizabeth Health Center. Russo said more students were involved.

None of their injuries appeared to be serious, Cole said.

Campus police, the fire department and a representative from the elevator company are investigating.

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