

LIFE NOTES

Bazaar for First Church of Christ

Get ready for spring by attending the Barberton First Church of Christ Bazaar, 552 Harvard Avenue, March 20, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Creative items for spring include Easter cookies and breads, suckers, molded candy, crochet/knitted items, uniquely filled Easter baskets, spring arrangements, and more. For more information call 330-745-5477.

Barberton trucker honored

A Barberton trucker has been honored for outstanding safe driving performance. Robert Velo is recognized for 14 years of safe driving with FedEx Ground in the company's Cleveland facility. Bob's manager states, "Safe drivers like Bob embody our unwavering focus on safety in everything we do."

Run to the beach

The Run to the Beach 5k will be Saturday, April 10, at the Portage Lakes State Park. The race helps the Portage Lakes Fireworks Association pay for the annual Portage Lakes Fourth of July Fireworks. The 5k run/walk is part of the 2010 Subway Challenge.

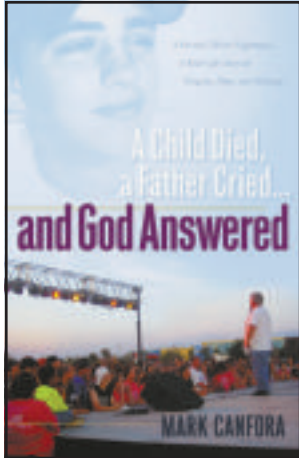
Preregistration by 5 p.m., April 8 is \$20. Race day registration is \$25. For more information about registration or to become a sponsor, contact Sean Fremon at portagelakes@yahoo.com, Dan Mundy at dano@portagelakes.com or Diane Johnson at diane@portagelakes.com. You can also phone 330-351-2525 or 330-645-0880.

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One man's message of hope and healing



Rich Muller
Herald Staff Writer

In July it will have been five years since the death of 18-year-old Mark Canfora Jr. in Barberton's Edgewood Park.

"Since then the message of hope and healing has grown," father Mark Canfora Sr. said.

Canfora senior said he started writing a book about 14 months ago as a way of sharing his experience of losing a child.

"I wanted to share from my experience because on any given day, someone gets that phone call I received, that their child has passed

away, and your life is forever changed," Canfora said. "My healing journey has been to help others and in return, it has helped me."

Canfora's book "A Child Died, a Father Cried ... and God Answered" is his hope and healing message to parents and families who have had children die. Cover price of the soft cover book is \$14.95. The books are available through the Internet at www.TrueTreasuresinLife.com, which allows one to read or listen to the first three chapters of the book.

The book launch started

about six weeks ago, Canfora said, with orders received from all 50 states and many foreign countries.

Canfora is also looking for individuals, businesses, churches, book stores and organizations in the Barberton and Norton area to display the books or to buy them for parents who have had a child pass before them.

"My heart is to offer the e-book for free, to anyone that's had a child who has passed, to anyone who wants to read it online," Canfora said.

Canfora now lives in Florida. Through his Mark Canfora Ministries, www.markcanforaministries.com, he organizes festivals to celebrate life and to remember loved ones. This year's festival at Edgewood Park in Barberton is scheduled for Saturday, July 10.

Mark Canfora Sr. can be reached by phone at 330-865-1000, e-mail markcanfora@aol.com, or by mail at Mark Canfora Ministries, 2433 Thomas Drive #125, Panama City Beach, FL 32408.

Developmental centers open



COURTESY PHOTO

On March 1, the doors opened in Barberton and Cuyahoga Falls on two new community services centers operated by the County of Summit Developmental Disabilities Board. The agency is to enable eligible

individuals to work, live, learn, play and participate as equal citizens in their communities.

Each center is designed to serve no more than 75 people with a staff of approximately 15. Hours of operations for programs

at the centers are from 10:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

A grand opening celebration for the Barberton center, at the corner of West Hopocan and Wunderlich avenues, is planned for each center on April 28.

St. Matthew's 100th anniversary



COURTESY PHOTO

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 5451 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road, will celebrate its 100 anniversary March 14 with a special anniversary service at 2:30 in the afternoon followed by an anniversary banquet at 4:30 at the Slovene Center.

The congregation of St. Matthew was organized on March 16, 1910. In early 1911, the congregation

purchased a school building from the city of Barberton on Wooster Road North which was remodeled into a church and dedicated in Dec. 1911. In 1958, the congregation purchased over five acres on Cleve.-Mass. Road in Norton. Ground breaking for the present church occurred in Nov. 1961.

The early congregation was served by

circuit ministers for the first several years. The first resident minister was the Rev. Andrew Rolik (1921-1926). The congregation has been served by four other ministers through the years: the Rev. Andrew Bomba (1927-1957), the Rev. Paul Visoky (1957-1959), the Rev. Paul Grexa (1960-1994) and the Rev. John Mashek (1995-present).



Police officers and nurses seem to have a special affinity. Not a romantic one, just a sort of camaraderie not necessarily shared by other professions.

Maybe it's because they both deal with life and death situations. Maybe it's because both deal with people who are not fully in control of their lives or emotions. Whatever the reason is, a bond exists.

It was brought to mind the other day when I saw on the news that an officer was hit by a car that skidded into him. The driver did not intentionally hit him, but he was hurt nonetheless. He was taken to the hospital where I used to work. He's going to be okay.

Once when I was working there a state patrolman was hit in the line of duty. He was knocked off a bridge onto the pavement below. He shouldn't have lived, but he did. His injuries were severe.

Surgeons and nurses worked all day and half the night to put him back together. He was in the intensive care unit for months and then worked hard at physical therapy. Finally he walked out of the hospital, accompanied by his wife and children. We cried and we applauded.

Outcomes like that one are not always a given. Sometimes they do not walk out with their families. Sometimes they leave in a wheelchair. Sometimes they leave in a mortuary van.

Police officers often put their lives on the line. We don't always appreciate this. Nurses have been known to cry when their efforts to save one of these brave men is not rewarded by success.

The bond that exists can have amusing side-lights. I remember one time heading into work at the hospital. Let me just say that many of the nurses working there then were real characters. One in particular, an RN named "Nikki," was full of the dickens and almost invariably either late for work, or arrived just in the nick of time.

Nikki was late as usual and speeding along the interstate to get to work. A patrolman pulled her over, fully intent on writing her a ticket. She explained her dilemma, pointing out that she worked in the Operating Room and had already been assigned to a case.

Not only did she not receive a ticket, the officer flagged down another patrol car and together they gave her an escort to work. Sirens screaming, lights flashing, and Nikki's car in the middle.

As I'm driving in, I see this entourage in my rear view mirror. Puzzled, I pull over to the side of the road to let the caravan by. Of course, I have no choice. The law says I must get out of the way of officers pursuing their duties.

I'm thinking this must be some dignitary getting an escort

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