



## In BRIEF...

### Damascus UMC to host vacation Bible school

All kids ages 3 through sixth grade are invited to the Damascus United Methodist Church for vacation Bible school from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Check-in is at 5:45 p.m.

The fun-filled evenings will feature games, crafts, snacks, Bible voyage and more. All of the craft projects are geared towards missions and will all be donated to Samaritan's Purse and Operation Kid to Kid.

The week also features an adult Bible study with nursery care available. The week will conclude on Sunday morning with a special time of sharing during the worship service and an all-church picnic lunch.

The church is located at 300 Valley Road in Damascus.

### Theater Buzz members to showcase talents

Mahoning Valley Theater Buzz member theaters will showcase their talents at the 2010 YSU Summer Festival of the Arts. The review, which includes performances of scenes, monologues and songs, will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday at Kilcawley Center on the YSU Campus. Admission is free.

The Mahoning Valley Theater Buzz theaters include Kent Trumbull Theatre, Oakland Center for the Arts, Salem Community Theatre, Stage Left Players, Victorian Players, Youngstown Playhouse and Youngstown State University Theatre.

Excerpts from the following shows will be performed: "Guys and Dolls," "Pancakes and a Lobster Tank," "Sweeney Todd," "The Rocky Horror Show," "Nunsense," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Always...Patsy Cline" and "Curtains."

For more information on the Summer Festival of the Arts, visit [www.ysu.edu/sfa](http://www.ysu.edu/sfa).

### Grant to pay for study of public health system

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton has awarded a grant in the amount of \$15,000 for the Stark County Public Health System Assessment Project, administered through Canton City Health Department.

The project will conduct a complete review of the public health system in Stark County, through which the performance of the public health system will be compared to National Public Health System Performance Standards.

"This project is key to the improvement of public health systems in Stark County," said Jim Adams, health commissioner of the Canton City Health Department.

According to Adams, this assessment project is the first step in a process that may lead to voluntary accreditation of public health departments. Accreditation will lead to improvements in health in the community by advancing the quality and performance of public health departments.

The project is expected to be completed by June 20, 2011, and will involve input from many community partners ranging from medical providers to social service agencies, government and citizen groups. Contact the Canton City Health Department at 330-489-3231 for more information about this project.

# Sailing the stormy seas

## Rain brings young Berlin Yacht Club sailors in early Friday

A sudden storm darkening the water and ripping the surface of the lake provided plenty of practice in utilizing skills and common sense as the youth at Berlin Yacht Club's summer sailing camp made their way back to the docks amid high winds and pelting rain on Friday afternoon.

The camp participants are divided into groups by skill level, and this year, a large number of young children are learning the sport together as beginners, including two 7-year-olds and quite a few who recently turned 8.

Lucas Douglas and Richard Bousfield were among the 8-year-old newcomers, yet the two of them hauled a Sunfish down to the edge of the water on their own, which is no easy feat, according to Hunter Gervelis, one of the adults there to assist with boat launches. Lucas managed to steer the wheeled trailer the boat was perched upon as he was almost dragged down the earthen ramp by the heavy weight, while Richard ran alongside the boat, holding the sail to keep it from slamming into the trees.

Other youngsters in the beginner group included brothers Simon and Matt Bolanz, also 8, whose father, Dave, said had been sailing with him a number of times but never attended sail camp before. "We're learning a lot here," he added.

Tim Harrod, who was in charge of the camp this year for the first time, said a lot of good people were helping him with the task. The 11 members of the junior race team arrived on Wednesday afternoon and sailed on their own until the other 40 or so kids came out at noon on Thursday. The camp will continue through Sunday.

"I've tried to create a special environment for our junior race team by having them come out a day early to spend some time on their own," said Harrod. "The race team travels all over northern Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania racing in regattas every weekend, all summer long. So, for them, we've created a racing clinic at sail camp instructed by Nicole Finnefrock. They are all entirely competent sailors."

All the kids at camp gain a lot of experience out on



**ABOVE:** Casey Ruppen, 10, capsizes his boat on Friday at the Berlin Yacht Club's sailing camp. **AT RIGHT:** The sailing campers get some time on the water on Friday afternoon before bad wather sent them to shore early.

the water, learning and practicing every day from 9:30 a.m. to noon and again from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Not all the kids at camp are the children of members, Harrod said. About one-half to two-thirds are either children of nonmembers or grandchildren of members.

Out on the water on Friday afternoon, the beginner, intermediate and advanced sailors practiced maneuvers while the racing team worked on drills, during which they were asked to sail around their instructor's pontoon boat in circles without bumping it. Another maneuver had the group tacking and jibing from left to right, or to use the appropriate language, from port to starboard and starboard to port again. Michael Gold, a club member with a granddaughter, Skyler Gold, in the beginner's group this year, explained tacking is turning the sail while heading into the wind and jibing is adjusting it while the wind is coming from behind.

"The first drill given to the kids out here is for them to learn how to right a boat again when it's turned turtle, which is what they say when its capsized," Gold said. "Once they learn they can do it, they aren't afraid of it anymore."

Another instructor, John Bauer, said capsizing is actually not discouraged at the camp, because the kids are expected to push their limits in order to learn more about sailing and capsizing is something that will happen a certain amount of the time.

Berlin Yacht Club has members from all over northeast Ohio. About 40 of the members volunteered to help out at sail camp this year, including 10 to 12 adults who are working in the kitchen.

"It's a huge benefit having a club filled with so many people willing to give their

time to help the kids do what they do. It's awesome, because the volunteers are giving up vacation time in many cases," Harrod said. "There are only about 70 families in the membership, so a lot of those people are volunteering."

Sarah Vandevender, in charge of the beginner group with her brother, Mark Vandevender, said she and Mark grew up at sail camp and enjoy giving back by teaching the kids there now. "It depends on the kids' skill level whether we let them sail alone or send them out in pairs," she said.

As sheets of rain gushed across the lake on Friday, even some of the kids who were versed enough to sail alone still had to be towed back to shore by boats driven by members who were monitoring the activity. Several seasoned adults also drove up alongside struggling young sailors and hopped on their boats with them so they could help them battle the winds and get back to shore. The club members seized control of the situation quickly once the storm hit, and had also started bringing the kids in as soon as the sky darkened at around 2:45 p.m.

The kids weren't too concerned about the rain pelting down, as sailing is a wet sport, especially on the small boats the kids use at camp, such as the Sunfish and Laser.

Gold said the club also holds a few big sailing regattas during the summer, including one in June and two others on Memorial Day and the Fourth of July.

Berlin Yacht Club also conducts Learn to Sail weekends for adults throughout the summer, with the next session set for July 17. Sign-up continues until the morning the session begins. For more information, call Tom Dawson at 330-758-5689.



Story by  
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**ABOVE:** Megan Kiss, 15, gets her sail ready before putting her boat in the water during sailing camp at Berlin Yacht Club. **AT LEFT:** The advanced students work on a drill around the committee boat.