



The Post-Standard LOCAL

Number of local homeless people using emergency shelters rises

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Madison County looks for ways to bolster fair in Brookfield

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Dick Blume / The Post-Standard

STERLING PHILIPPON, who will be an eighth-grader at Ed Smith Elementary School, in Syracuse, checks out aquatic bugs at Elmwood Park during a camp put on by the State University College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse.

'We all feel it was a miracle'

How a local man came to meet family of donor whose lungs saved his life.

By **Catie O'Toole**
Staff writer

Robert Juneau was walking into his hotel July 15 after the U.S. Transplant Games in Pittsburgh.

The games are a series of friendly athletic events for people who are alive because they received the gift of an organ donation.



Juneau

Just as Juneau was about to

Backyard Science

Local teachers learn to use schoolyards, parks to teach sciences

By Sapna Kollali
Staff writer

How far does a teacher have to go to find a good science experiment?

Most of the time, just into their schoolyard.

Anna Endreny, a teacher at Syracuse's Ed Smith School, is leading a group of about 15 local elementary school teachers in a weeklong summer workshop on using local parks and other green spaces to help teach students about science.

"We want to get kids interested in different things and to really be engaged. We've done experiments in our schoolyard, we've gone to the Onondaga Creek tributary . . . and they get a real hands-on experience," said Cheryl Pudney, a fifth-grade English language arts teacher at Meachem Elementary School. "I don't teach science at all, but by doing different things like this, we get to use different types of writing that they don't normally get to use."

The summer institute, which ends Friday, is a five-day professional development program funded through a two-year, \$150,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. The teachers, mostly from the Syracuse district, spent a week learning about local science resources last summer, as well, Endreny said.

"The whole nation is in this movement to get kids to reconnect with nature," Endreny said. "But also, in the city, we have so many resources that are walking distance of our schools. You don't need to pay for a school bus to have

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SYRACUSE TEACHERS (from left) Jackie Pitt, a K-5 teacher at McKinley Brighton, Mary Beth Domachowski, a second-grade teacher at H.W. Smith, and Pat Kalet, a fourth-grade teacher at Levy School, participate in a water demonstration with Ted Endreny, an associate professor at SUNY ESF, at a workshop for teachers put on at Elmwood Elementary School, Syracuse.

» VIDEO ON syracuse.com



Video by Steven J. Pallone

urge to turn around and talk to the man sitting on the steps to the hotel.

They started chatting and eventually, Juneau realized the man was the father of a 16-year-old boy whose lungs were now in him.

Juneau's wife, Mary, had written the donor family a couple months earlier.



"At one **Packhem** point, Mary started saying one of the sentences in the letter and they (the man and his wife) actually finished the sentence. At that point, we realized this is my donor family," said Robert Juneau, 38, of Marcellus. "We started hugging right there and crying, and celebrating."

The Organ Procurement Organization has verified the man Juneau met, Timothy D. Packhem, of Warwick, R.I., is the father of Timothy J. Packhem, the teen whose organs were donated after a fatal accident last year, including the lungs that went to Juneau.

Tim Packhem was about a
COINCIDENCES, PAGE B-2

BY THE
NUMBERS

99,358

Number of people nationwide awaiting organ transplants.

10

Transplant recipients from Central New York who competed this year in U.S. Transplant Games.

1,400

Number of all transplant recipients who competed this year.



State University
College of
Environmental

Science and Forestry's S.C.I.E.N.C.E. program helps to bring urban ecology awareness and education to middle school-aged students throughout the city of Syracuse with hands-on activities. Watch the video at blog.syracuse.com/video.

Parks more than just 'a place to hang out'

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a great field trip or an authentic learning experience."

Endreny said several Syracuse University professors and graduate students speak with the workshop participants during the week. The grant was awarded to SU and is led by earth sciences professor Donald Siegel, said Jill Karsten, a program director at the National Science Foundation.

Karsten said this is a pilot program she hopes will lead to bet-

ter teacher training in the geosciences and improve earth science curriculum, something that might spark more students to enter the field.

A report released last week by Tapping America's Potential, a multibusiness coalition, stated that the number of bachelor's degrees in science, math, engineering and technology fields has plateaued in recent years. The coalition is looking for ways to spark more interest in those career areas.

On Tuesday, the group spent

the morning at Elmwood Park learning experiments they can run with students about rainwater. They also worked with the ESF Science Camp, run through the city's Parks and Recreation Department and State University College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

During the week, the group also is visiting Oakwood Cemetery, the community gardens at Ed Smith, and SU. During the 2007-08 school year, Syracuse students completed a project focusing on the Meadowbrook re-

tention basin.

Jackie Henkel, a seventh-grade science teacher at Eagle Hill Middle School in the Fayetteville-Manlius school district, said she signed up for the summer institute to find more ways to get kids active, both in and out of school.

"The parks are a resource. They are more than just swings and a place to hang out," she said. "I want to tell them ways to use the parks, but first I want to know what I'm teaching before I actually teach it to them."