

Gavin Heath wins local competition in Lions International Peace Poster Contest

Gavin Heath, a student at Lewiston-Porter, has taken the first step toward becoming an internationally recognized artist by winning a local competition sponsored by the Youngstown Lions Club.

Heath's poster was among more than 600,000 entries submitted worldwide in the annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest. Lions Clubs International sponsors the poster program to emphasize the importance of world peace to young people everywhere.

"Kindness is the gateway to peace," stated the 13-year-old from Youngstown, regarding his poster, which was selected for its originality, artistic merit, and portrayal of the contest theme: "Lead with Compassion."

The Youngstown Lions Club poster selection committee members included Kelly Zimmerman, art teacher at Lewiston-Porter; and Susan Geissler, award-winning artist and sculptor.

Youngstown Lions Club Presi-

dent Lois Kaminski said, "We were so impressed by the expression and creativity demonstrated by the various members of Boy Scout Troop No. 829 who entered the peace poster contest. It is obvious that these young men have strong ideas about what peace means to them. I'm so proud that we were able to provide them with the opportunity to share their visions."

Kaminski added, "Heath's poster will now be entered to advance through various levels of competition on the district, multiple district, and international levels, if he is to be declared the international grand-prizewinner."

Overall, one international grand-prizewinner and 23 merit award winners will be selected. The grand prize will include a cash award of \$5,000 and will be recognized at a special awards ceremony at Lions Day with the United Nations. The 23 merit award winners will each receive a certificate and a cash award of \$500.



Locally, Heath and four other scouts were individually honored by the Youngstown Lions Club on Nov. 8 at the Boy Scout Troop No. 829 Court of Honor for their participation in the international poster contest.

"Our Lions Club is obviously cheering for Gavin as his poster advances in the competition, and we hope that his vision will ultimately be shared with others around the world," Kaminski said.

For information on joining the Youngstown Lions Club, contact First Vice President and Membership Chair Lion Stu Comerford at 716-534-7198. For additional information about Lions Clubs International Peace Poster Contest, visit www.lionsclubs.org/peaceposter.

Gavin Heath of Lewiston-Porter School displays his award-winning poster selected in the competition sponsored by Youngstown Lions Club. He is shown at a recent Boy Scout Halloween costumed event. (Submitted)

IN THE NEWS

Senior citizens breakfast at Wilson

The Wilson Central School District announced the annual senior citizens breakfast is back. This event is hosted by the Wilson Teachers' Association. 2022 marks the 38th year for the event, after a two-year hiatus due to the coronavirus.

The event is open to senior residents of the Wilson School

District, and is free of charge. It will be held beginning at 8 am. Wednesday, Dec. 7.

Along with breakfast, there are multiple performances by the kindergarten classes and the middle and high school choirs and bands. Students throughout the district make small gifts and door prizes that guests may take home.

Organizers said, "The breakfast is a districtwide, collaborative effort between students, teachers, support staff and administration,

and is a show of appreciation for our senior residents for their continued support of the school district."

Guests are encouraged to call the school at 716-751-9341 to make a reservation. Parking is available in the front of the high school or the side parking lot, entering on Robert Dinse Drive just south of the high school's main entrance. The event is held in the auditorium and the cafeteria.

the football season, we want your input in naming the area's best chicken wings, pizza, and place to watch a game. It could be a bar, a restaurant or a social club – the only requirement is that the nominee(s) be Western New York-based.

Vote at www.wnypapers.com.

Niagara Pride forum on LGBTQ+ violence, active shooter training

In response to the recent shooting at Club Q in Colorado Springs, Niagara Pride is partnering with

other local community providers to provide a community forum to give local LGBTQ+ individuals and allies an opportunity to share their thoughts, emotions and reflections on violence aimed at the LGBTQ+ community.

The LGBTQ+ community safety forum and active shooter information and awareness training will take place from noon until 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, at Niagara County Community College Lecture Hall E-140, 3111 Saunders Settlement Road, Sanborn.

This community forum will be moderated by representatives of Niagara Pride, with members of others community service providers present to share information about local services offered. The discussion piece of the event will take place during the first half of the event. During the second half, there will be a free, one-hour active shooter information and awareness training offered by the Niagara County Sheriff's Office.

Following the shooting, Niagara Pride compiled a LGBTQ+ local crisis resource list for Niagara County and WNY. That resource can be obtained by emailing Niagara Pride at info@niagarapride.org.

Niagara Pride President Ronald Piaseczny said, "Last week was a brutal week in America in terms of gun violence, with the shooting at an LGBTQ+ club, killing five people, followed with a shooting at a Walmart, killing six people. There are too many people in the LGBTQ+ community living in fear of being assaulted, beaten or killed because of homophobia or transphobia. We know that people need time and a safe place to process their thoughts and emotions around these acts. We are hopeful that this community forum will give local LGBTQ+ folks that safe environment to share their concerns while also walking aware empowered with resources and practical training."

For more information about Niagara Pride, visit www.niagarapride.org, email info@niagarapride.org, or find the organization on Facebook.

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Vote for your favorite

Niagara Frontier Publications is expanding its fall food contest this year. Now through the end of the football season, we want your input in naming the area's best chicken wings, pizza, and place to watch a game. It could be a bar, a restaurant or a social club – the only requirement is that the nominee(s) be Western New York-based. Find complete rules online at www.wnypapers.com.

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