



LIKE LIGHTNING

KYLE LARSON WINS

NASCAR RACE AT MIS

SPORTS, 1B

A FRESH START?

TIGERS CALL UP ANIBAL SANCHEZ, WHO

WILL START TONIGHT AGAINST MARINERS

SPORTS, 5B



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Detroit Free Press

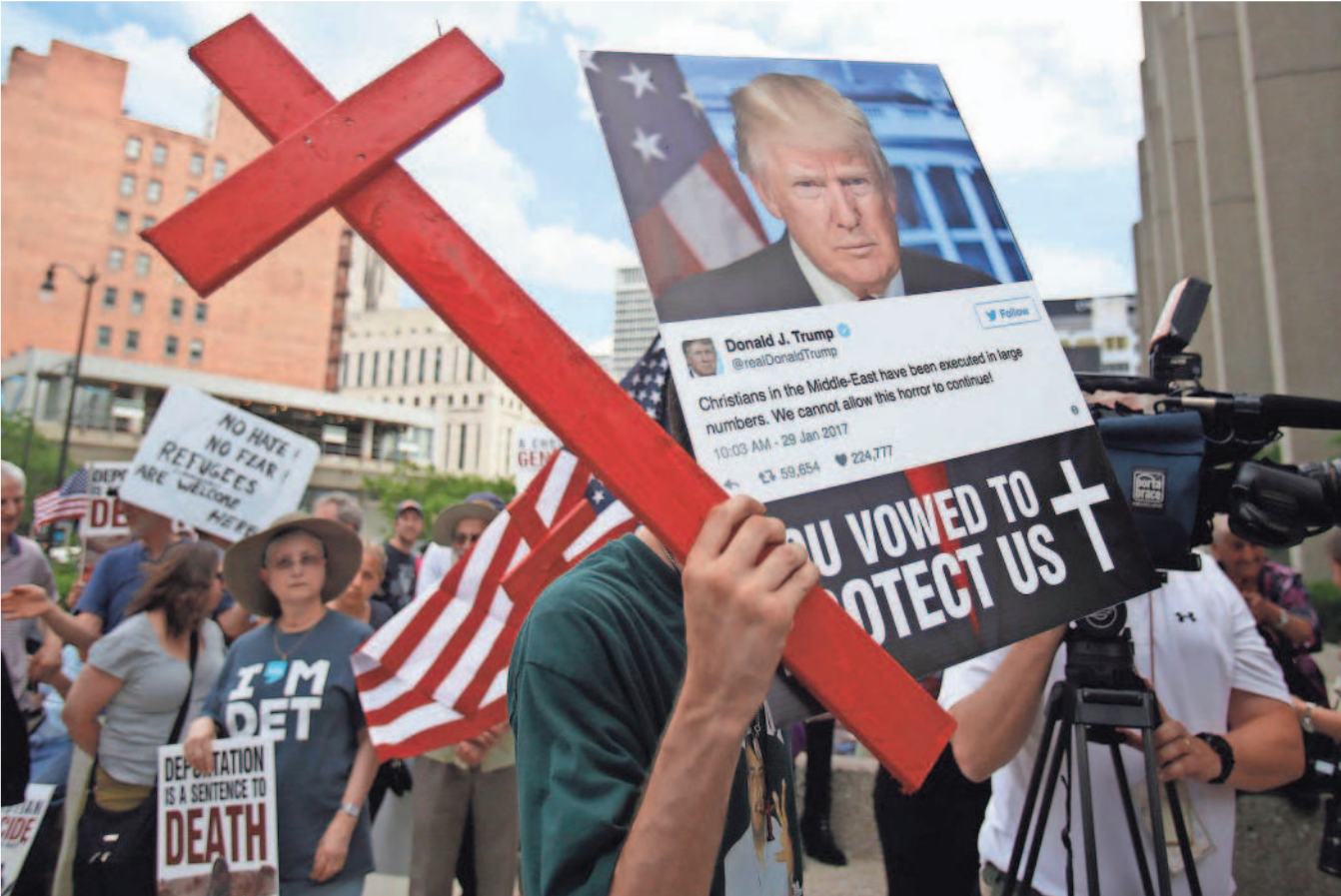
Monday 6.19.2017

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CHALDEANS WHO ENDORSED TRUMP ARE ...

FEELING BETRAYED



Protesters outside the McNamara federal building in Detroit on Friday rally to stop the deportation of Iraqi-American immigrants.

Iraqi Americans had hoped president would support their community

By Niraj Warikoo
Detroit Free Press

Standing in the living room of her brother's home in Sterling Heights, Lina Denha wipes away tears with a tissue as she recalls how federal agents arrested him early one Sunday morning.

“To just come and grab him in front of his kids and family — that’s not right,” she said of the detention of Haydar Butris, 38, one of 114 Iraqi immigrants with criminal records arrested.

“He’s been here most of his life. He did a mistake. He paid for it. Now, he is a good father, has kids, a family. He

works, pays taxes and everything. And you just come knock on the door, come out of nowhere and grab him? That’s not right.”

Denha’s sadness turns to frustration as she expresses disappointment with President Donald Trump, whom she and

See **ARRESTS**, Page 6A

Mauled by raccoon, she’s inspiring others

With latest surgery, her wish is to wear earrings

By Ann Zaniewski
Detroit Free Press

Charlotte Ponce is hoping this surgery will mean she can finally wear earrings.

The 14-year-old from Spring Lake was back at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak on Thursday, years after a raccoon mauled her face when she was a baby.

She has had more than a dozen reconstructive surgeries since then.

This one, her first as a teenager and the eighth at the hands of pediatric plastic sur-

geon Dr. Kongkrit Chaiyasate, involved adding additional tissue to her ear, cheek, nose and upper lip.

“Now, it’s just working on tweaking everything, making everything better,” said Sharon Ponce, Charlotte’s mom.

Charlotte was 3 months old when a pet raccoon crawled into her crib and ate away her face from her nose back to her right ear. Ponce thinks the raccoon was attracted by milk that had spilled on her face from the bottle that was left propped in her mouth.

See **SURGERY**, Page 7A



Timothy Ponce of Spring Lake kisses daughter Charlotte Ponce, 14, before surgery Thursday at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

Plan to fight algae blooms questioned

Voluntary effort by farmers near Lake Erie not enough, critics say

By Keith Matheny
Detroit Free Press

Dennis Meyer and his fellow Monroe County farmers have been feeling the heat — and not just beating down on their necks as they work in their fields.

Ever since an algae bloom containing the dangerous toxin microcystin led to the precautionary shutdown of the drinking water supply for nearly 500,000 people in Toledo and southeast Michigan over a weekend in August 2013, the nutrient runoff from farm fields have been a major focus of efforts to combat oxygen-starved “dead zones” and the potentially harmful algae

blooms on western Lake Erie.

The phosphorus from farms’ commercial fertilizer and manure is a key driver of the recurring green gunk in Lake Erie, so farmers around the lake have received particular scrutiny.

Meyer, the president of the Monroe County Farm Bureau, grows corn, soybeans and wheat on 300 acres in Ash Township. He is among dozens of area farmers participating in a state Department of Agriculture and Rural Development program in which consultants examine farms and provide technical advice on improving their environmental soundness.

See **PLAN**, Page 7A

Detroit: Home’s gone in eviction done ambush-style

By Jennifer Dixon
Detroit Free Press

Daniel Murray says his life-long home on Detroit’s west side was seized by the city’s Land Bank Authority in an ambush-style eviction — his photos, mother’s antiques and the family china cabinet among belongings tossed into a Dumpster and hauled away.

Two months later, the property was demolished with federal money at a cost of \$22,030.

The Detroit Land Bank says the building was blighted, utilities were shut off, Murray wasn’t living in the house and he never owned the property.

And he just wants to embarrass and harass the land bank with a lawsuit filed in Wayne County Circuit Court naming the authority and Rickman Enterprise Group, the demolition contractor, seeking more than \$25,000 in damages.

But earlier this month, the judge in the case, David Groner, denied the land bank’s request to dismiss Murray’s suit. Among his findings, Groner said Murray had “stated a claim for wrongful eviction” under state law and the lawsuit could proceed.

Murray declined to be interviewed. But through his attorney

See **DEMOLITION**, Page 4A

Metro

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

Some suburbs scrap fireworks shows amid budget woes


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High

Low



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Expect thunderstorms

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Dr. Kongkrit Chaiyasate greets Charlotte Ponce, 14, of Spring Lake, before explaining the surgery to her and her family on Thursday.

SURGERY: Teen an inspiration to others

FROM PAGE 1A

"It's a miracle that she survived," Ponce said.

Ponce, 57, and her husband, Timothy, 66, a retired factory worker, gained custody of Charlotte and her older brother shortly after the incident. Their biological parents' rights were terminated.

Since then, a whirl of surgeries and doctors' appointments has been a part of life for the soft-spoken girl who loves animals and swimming.

In one of Charlotte's most intricate surgeries in 2014, Chaiyasate took cartilage from around her ribs and molded it into a "C" shape. He then placed it under the skin of her right forearm, where it "grew" for about three months — with additional tissue forming around it — before it was removed and attached to her head, replacing the ear destroyed by the raccoon.

Growing an ear on a forearm is a rare procedure — Chaiyasate said it has been done fewer than five times.

Prior to that, the surgeon already had built Charlotte a new nose using skin from elsewhere on her body and rib cartilage. Her upper lip was reconstructed.

"She's a fighter," Chaiyasate said. "She's never cried. With every surgery, she's never complained."

On Thursday morning, Charlotte sat calmly in a hospital waiting room holding two stuffed animals and a colorful quilt she takes to every operation.

"I'm used to it by now," she said the previous night. "I've been having surgeries since I was about 3 months old."

Chaiyasate took tissue from Charlotte's stomach and put it behind her right ear to make the ear more projected. Stomach tissue was added to her upper lip to give it more fullness.

He also took a small piece of tissue from her left ear to enlarge one nostril, used fat from her stomach to make her right cheek fuller and performed scar revision on her lips.

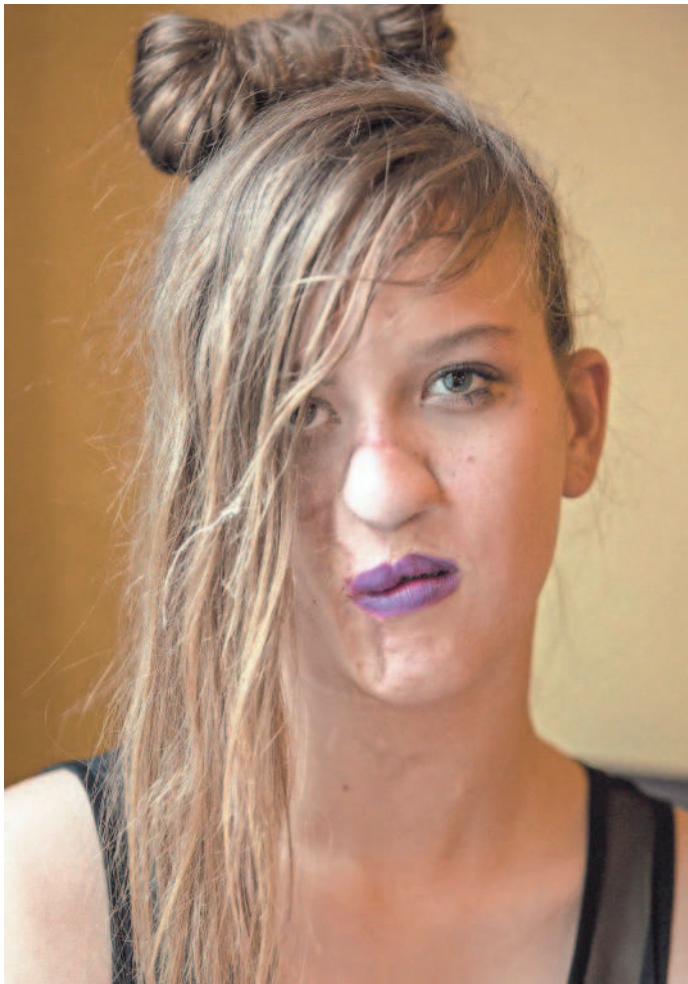
The procedure lasted about 90 minutes.

Insurance covers the cost of the surgeries.

Charlotte has made considerable progress since becoming Chaiyasate's patient in 2012. The doctor even won the 2014 Best Microsurgical Case of the Year presented by the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery for his work on her.

"He's like an artist," Ponce said.

But the transformation has



JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Charlotte is "a fighter," Dr. Chaiyasate said. "She's never cried. With every surgery, she's never complained."



JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Charlotte shows her arms with scars from surgeries where she had to grow new tissue that doctors used to build her a nose and right ear.

been more than just physical.

Chaiyasate said Charlotte has become more outgoing with him; at first, she avoided making eye contact.

She's lost the fear of doctors she had when she was younger. And she no longer worries about participating in physical activities, like gymnastics, because of a fear that she could hurt her face.

"She was a little girl when she had her last surgery," Ponce said, "and now she's a young lady."

Charlotte and her parents drove Wednesday to a motel in Madison Heights, about three hours from their home in Spring Lake, to stay the night before the surgery.

Charlotte wore pretty purplish lipstick and some of her long hair draped over the right side of her face.

Socializing is often difficult for her Charlotte, who just finished seventh grade. She struggles with depression and has a small group of friends who view themselves as the outcasts at school.

Charlotte eventually wants to become a biomedical engineer, building prosthetic devices for people.

In the years after the attack, hundreds of cards and many gifts came flooding in from well-wishers. Reporters followed her to nearly every surgery.

Today, much of the attention has quieted down.

Chaiyasate said Charlotte's long-term prognosis is excellent. She could chose to have future procedures, but it would likely just be for fine-tuning.

Ponce keeps people who are interested in her daughter's story updated through the Facebook page "Friends of Charlotte Rose."

She said Charlotte has inspired people she's never met.

"She's gotten all kinds of letters," she said. "People said they look at the courage she has, and it gives them courage."

Charlotte has been eager to wear earrings. During surgery in 2014, Chaiyasate used a tiny piece of tubing to fashion an earring in her right earlobe. However, the tissue around the hole eventually tore.

Chaiyasate said after Charlotte heals from this latest surgery, she should be able to get the ear pierced.

She has about 50 pairs of earrings waiting at home.

Contact Ann Zaniewski: 313-222-6594 or azaniewski@freepress.com. Follow her on Twitter @AnnZaniewski.

LAKE ERIE: Plan to fight algae blooms under fire

FROM PAGE 1A

"That's all voluntary, and that's all farmers that are changing their conservation practices to bring about less phosphorus runoff," Meyer said.

"It shows we are conscientious about what we're doing to alleviate this problem, without it being mandated."

A new draft Community Action Plan issued by the state of Michigan last week continues to encourage farmers to take voluntary measures to reduce their phosphorus runoff.

Critics are questioning whether that will be sufficient to reach the goal set by Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Ontario and the Canadian and U.S. governments of a 40% reduction in the amount of phosphorus reaching the lake by 2025.

"We think it certainly doesn't go far enough," said Jill Ryan, executive director for the Petoskey-based nonprofit Freshwater Future.

"It lacks specifics, and that is a problem."

Ryan said she thinks the state's plan downplays "more-industrial agriculture; the large, confined animal feeding operations that are still applying manure to frozen ground and saturated ground."

The state plan contains "some really good elements," said Gail Hesse, Great Lakes water program director for the nonprofit National Wildlife Federation.

"I think the state of Michigan took a thoughtful approach," she said. "They are looking at addressing multiple sources of phosphorus, which I think is great."

"But it is a reliance on voluntary measures. And there are no projections or estimates for how doing the things outlined in the plan will add up to meeting that 40% reduction goal for phosphorus in Lake Erie."

The state plan, compiled by the agriculture department and the Departments of Environmental Quality and Natural Resources, seeks to reduce summertime algae blooms in Lake Erie's western basin to the much smaller ones that occurred prior to the 2013 Toledo water crisis. The plan uses 2008 phosphorus levels in three major tributaries to the lake — the Detroit River, River Raisin and creeks and streams feeding the Maumee River in Ohio — as a baseline for measuring improvements.

Michigan's plan addresses point sources of phosphorus in Lake Erie, the vast Detroit Wastewater Treatment Plant and other sewage plants in Wyandotte, Ypsilanti and Monroe. It calls for "maintaining the reductions achieved" in tightened phosphorus load requirements in new permits for the Detroit Wastewater Treatment Plant that took effect in 2015, and achieving further phosphorus reductions at the other three sewer plants.

It also addresses the non-point phosphorus sources, a death-by-1,000-paper-cuts from the thousands of farms whose runoff eventually reaches the lake. About 85% of the phosphorus entering Lake Erie from the Maumee River comes from farm fertilizers and manure, research has shown. The Maumee runs through northwestern Ohio but it is fed by a watershed that reaches into Michigan and Indiana.

Michigan officials — for the

ABOUT THE PLAN

To read the State of Michigan's Domestic Action Plan for Lake Erie, go to www.michigan.gov/deqgreatlakes. Public comments will be accepted on the plan through July 14. They can be e-mailed to DEQ-LakeErieDAP@michigan.gov, or mailed to Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Water Resources Division, Attn: Lake Erie DAP, P.O. Box 30458, Lansing, MI 48909. A public information meeting will be held 6:30-9 p.m. June 28 in the Baer Auditorium (Room 110) in Jones Hall on the campus of Adrian College, 112 S. Charles St., Adrian.

time being, at least — think they can reach their phosphorus reduction targets continuing the "we suggest" approach with farmers, rather than "you shall."

State officials, as of Friday afternoon, had not provided the Free Press with a requested number of farms in Monroe County participating in the phosphorus runoff reduction program. Meyer estimated the number at "40 to 50," still only a fraction of the total number of area farms.

"It's on-field, one farmer at a time. It's very labor-intensive," said Jim Johnson, the director of environmental stewardship for the state agriculture department.

"It's really about changing the hearts and minds of farmers to recognize their role in that basin, and to recognize the need to make changes in those operations."

Getting farmers to adopt nutrient management plans "is an easy sell," Johnson said, because "fertilizer is expensive."

But Hesse said there is plenty of opportunity "to be much more proscriptive, in part through legislation."

"I would still say, 'Prove it to us that you can get there through voluntary means.' And how long are we willing to wait to get there? The proof is in the (phosphorus) loadings in the lake, and the algal blooms."

The state's plan sets other goals as well, including encouraging the Legislature to adopt a uniform, statewide sanitary code to replace the piecemeal, health department district-by-district approach. It also calls for an "adaptive management approach," said Phil Argiroff, assistant director of the DEQ's Water Resources Division.

"Our real goal is to solve the problem; not just necessarily to meet numeric targets," he said. "If we're not seeing results over time — and it could be quite awhile until we see results — then we will adjust what we are doing."

Michigan's Domestic Action Plan is one of several plans from surrounding states, the province of Ontario, and the U.S. and Canadian federal governments. The final version, along with plans from other Lake Erie Basin states (Indiana, Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania), will be integrated into the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's comprehensive plan, scheduled for release in February.

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ERIC ALBRECHT/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Algae washes ashore off South Bass Island State Park, Ohio, in Lake Erie on July 29, 2015. An algae bloom turned the water green at the park.