

THE YEAR IN PHOTOS

Some of The Blade's photographers' memorable images of 2007 are paired with excerpts from the stories that originally accompanied them

Wind-driven blaze levels Tabernacle of Faith Church



PHOTOGRAPHER: JETTA FRASER
DATE: 01/8/2007
LOCATION: Tabernacle of Faith Church in Toledo

Rosalyn Williams peered out the enclosed front porch of a house across from the central Toledo church her husband, the Rev. James C. Williams, Jr., founded more than four decades ago.

Against the smoky backdrop from a two-alarm blaze that leveled the building, a rainbow appeared through the mist of water from the fire hoses dousing the flames.

"That was the most beautiful sign amidst all of this," Mrs. Williams said. "God is still at work."

Fire destroyed the Tabernacle of Faith Church at the corner of North Detroit and Belmont avenues during a noontime blaze that sent city firefighter James White, 33, to Toledo Hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation.

The cause of the blaze is undetermined. But it does not appear to be suspicious, Michael Smith, a city fire investigator, said.

The church's active membership is 175 to 200 parishioners; it also houses the James C. Williams Center for Advancement, said the pastor, the Rev. James C. Williams III. —THE BLADE



Blue Morpho kiss

PHOTOGRAPHER: HERRAL LONG
DATE: 04/1/2007
LOCATION: Butterfly House, Whitehouse

The Butterfly House celebrated its seventh year during its opening on April 1. This year there were hundreds of Blue Morpho butterflies in the exhibit like this one kissing Mary Chris Skeldon. —THE BLADE

A mother's loss

PHOTOGRAPHER: JEREMY WADSWORTH
DATE: 03/31/2007
LOCATION: East Toledo

A somber scene in East Toledo turned violent briefly when a dead man's grieving relatives scuffled with police investigating his apparent shooting death.

At least four people were arrested at the Mott Avenue house where the body of Ricardo Horton, 28, was found about 9 a.m. by a meter reader.

A police officer and a relative assist Michelle Horton after she found out her son Ricardo, was dead. Michelle Horton was not arrested. —THE BLADE



The fog and a fallen detective



PHOTOGRAPHER: LISA DUTTON
DATE: 2/21/2007
LOCATION: Bush and North Ontario streets in North Toledo

The fog. All that fog. Thick enough, dense enough to be impenetrable to the eye. But not a bullet.

A trained police officer, a guy who carries a gun as a condition of employment, gets off at least six shots and hits nothing.

A kid, barely 15 years old, fires — allegedly, tragically — who knows how many shots and

one bullet finds the chest of one officer.

In the middle of the night, telephones ring. Bedroom lamps switch on. The people in those rooms, squinting against the lamplight, go from sleeping to sorrowful faster than the speed of light.

He was just two hours away from getting off work for the night. Two hours away from going home to his wife and kids.

Keith Dressel, undercover vice detective, working the over-

night 8-to-4 shift.

"On routine patrol," is how the police chief described it.

Can working vice ever be routine?

"They work a lotta street narcotics," Police Chief Mike Navarre said. "They don't get involved in the long-term investigations that the metro [drug] task force does. ... The majority of their time is spent on drugs and prostitution."

—BLADE COLUMNIST ROBERTA DE BOER

Water babies



PHOTOGRAPHER: ANDY MORRISON
DATE: 07/03/2007
LOCATION: Swimming classes, Francis Family YMCA, Temperance

Many parents say they come to the class because they care about water safety. They believe the sooner their kids learn to swim, the safer they'll be. The sight of their kids' mouths gaping

wide with joy as they jump into the pool is just a bonus.

"We feel it's so important for kids to have water safety. ... The earlier you start them, the less afraid they are of the water," says one mom, Jennifer Hemry of Temperance.

"If you wait longer, I've seen children, they're 2 or 3 years old and they scream because they just don't understand what the water's all about."

Her son, Zachary, was only 17 months old, but he was first exposed to the water more than a year ago. He takes part in one of the YMCA classes.

Statistics show that there is much to worry about when it comes to kids and water. In 2004, drowning was the cause of death for 26 percent of the children ages 1 to 4 who died, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. —THE BLADE

Funeral of a fallen hero

PHOTOGRAPHER: DAVE ZAPOTOSKY
DATE: 2/26/2007
LOCATION: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, Temperance

"Dispatcher to Unit 812 ... Unit 812. Dispatcher to Unit 812 ... 812.

"Dispatcher to Detective Keith Dressel on all channels ... Dispatcher to Keith Dressel on all channels.

"Attention all units. Detective Keith Dressel has answered his final call."

The final radio call to the slain Toledo police vice detective, a taped broadcast played at the conclusion of his funeral Mass yesterday, broke somber faces into tears.

More than 2,000 people filled Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Temperance for a funeral Mass for the 35-year-old husband and father of two.

Afterward, more than 1,500 vehicles traveled the nearly 5 miles to St. Anthony's Cemetery on Erie Road, where the completion of a graveside ceremony ended a funeral that began more than five hours earlier. —THE BLADE



The flood of 2007

PHOTOGRAPHER: LORI KING
DATE: 8/23/2007
LOCATION: Findlay

While there was little loss of human life, Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland recognized the trying times that are ahead for those whose homes and businesses were damaged.

Like the auto shop on North Main Street where Matt Snyder surveyed the damage to the store his father John Snyder owns.

"These are trying times, and times when we need to circle the wagons," said Mr. Strickland, who spoke after U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D., Ohio), Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, and Federal Emergency Management Agency



Director R. David Paulison. "But what I've seen is inspiring," the governor said. "I've talked to a lot of folks who've

faced the loss of home and property, furnishing, clothing, and still they were unwilling to give up." —THE BLADE

Span's silver strands lure thousands



PHOTOGRAPHER: AMY E. VOIGT
DATE: 6/23/2007
LOCATION: Veterans' Glass City Skyway in Toledo

During the dedication ceremony for the Veterans' Glass City Skyway, the Toledo Firefighters Pipes & Drums

played "Amazing Grace," while five snow-white doves were released to honor the five workers who died during construction of the bridge.

As the doves winged their way high above the Maumee River, tears trickled down the cheeks of several people in the audience. —THE BLADE