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Little Stars brighten up the day for nursing home residents

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

At one moment, 6-year-old Elbert Yi and his 5-year-old buddy, Anna Sun, are jumping up and down, smiling and laughing uncontrollably. Two seconds later, the both of them are nearly stone-faced with their small violins tucked underneath their tiny chins.

As they finish playing a classical tune, the two kids look at each other, grin and start hopping around again.

"I like playing the violin," Elbert says in between laughter while



Members of the Little Stars Foundation are (from left) Elbert Yi, 6, Paul Shen, 13, Ann Zhang, 9, co-founder Amy Sun, 13, Alan Sun, 8, (Amy's brother and co-founder), Bob Zhu, 12, Anna Sun, 5, (Amy's sister and co-founder). The Four Seasons Nursing Center in Westland is just one of the nursing homes where the group has played.

Anna chimes in, "I do, too."

The children are members of the Little Stars Foundation, which was created by Anna's older sister, Amy Sun, 13. The Canton-based group began performing at area nursing homes and senior centers last year around Thanksgiving.

"Playing (for the seniors) makes me feel good," said Amy, an eighth-grader at East Middle School.

The group, whose other members include Alan Sun, 8, Ann Zhang, 9, Bob Zhu, 12 and Paul Shen, 13,

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Trial set to begin for man who killed popular biker

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

William Floyd Craner will be in court Friday for a final conference before he stands trial for the death of Tony Quasarano.

Craner, 45, of Van Buren Township has been accused of ramming his car into Quasarano's motorcycle while attempting to outrun police July 15.

He has been charged with second-degree murder, first-degree fleeing and eluding police, manslaughter with a motor vehicle and operating a vehicle while intoxicated and causing a death. His trial is scheduled to begin Oct. 11 before Judge Diane Hathaway in Detroit.

Craner struck Quasarano, a popular biker and married father, on Michigan Avenue near Haggerty Road. Moments before, he had hit another vehicle and was trying to evade police.



Craner

His two-mile run ended when he struck the 46-year-old Romulus man who was riding alongside three other bikers, including his wife, Cindy. Quasarano, known to friends as "Tony Q.," was thrown from his Harley and died.

According to police, Craner, who was not seriously injured, had a blood-alcohol level of 0.19 — more than double the legal state limit of 0.08.

If convicted of the second-degree murder charge, Craner could get life in prison.

Craner has two previous misdemeanors for drunken driving that happened more than 10 years ago.

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