



The Rock Dogs will be headlining at the festival. s

## Streetwise in Waseley Hills

YOUNG people can take part in a host of activities at the Street Wise Youth Arts Festival in Waseley Hills next Saturday (July 15). The event, which involves youth centres from across Worcestershire, gives young people the opportunity to perform live on stage throughout the day and get involved in free activities such as trash drumming, street dance, trial bikes and much more. There will also be ten-minute

films by young people and workshops in urban arts and circus skills. The grand finale is between 9.30pm and 10.30pm which involves bands and is headlined by the Rockdogs. The event starts at 1pm and although food is available, visitors are invited to take a picnic along with a deckchair and a torch. For more information, contact Gary Clarke on 07749 506809

# South Korean boy hanged himself

A BROMSGROVE School pupil committed suicide because he felt under pressure to be successful, an inquest heard this week. Seok Yoon Park from South Korea was found in October, suspended by his dressing gown belt from a pipe in his bedroom, by one of his room-mates. The 16-year-old had only been at the school four weeks, but felt under pressure due to school work and perceived lack of ability. In January 2005 he attended a Bedford private school, but when he

returned to Korea six months later, his parents were disappointed in his examination results. His brother Seok Kyu was a successful Oxford University student and he believed Yoon felt under pressure to do well from his parents and the Korean community, who classed it as a failure if a student returned home without their expected qualifications. The court heard how Yoon had rang his mother and told her 'You might see me dead'. She was worried, but did not think there was a serious problem. He rang her again just two days before hanging himself to tell her

everything was okay. Yoon also told his friends at the school he did not want to live beyond 20 and occasionally spoke about death. A urine sample showed traces of an un-prescribed anti-depressant, but it is not known where he obtained them from. Worcestershire coroner Victor Round said: "Yoon had written a note the previous evening. "He obviously planned this course of action, and waited until his room mates were asleep." Mr Round recorded the cause of death as hanging.

## Rare photos at Avoncroft

THE HUGHES Collection, featuring more than 2,000 black and white photographs, will be on display at Avoncroft Museum until August 20. The pictures were taken by photographer Joseph Hughes who, after opening studios in Bromsgrove in 1897, captured all sorts of people, events, societies, clubs and activities over the following ten years. A Local Heritage Grant saved the collection from extinction and, as well as a fascinating insight into life in Victorian and Ed-

wardian times, it is hoped some visitors may even recognise their ancestors on the slides. The director of Avoncroft Museum Angela Gill said: "Many are of ordinary folk who wanted to dress up and visit his premises, but in contrast there are incredibly detailed street scenes and also local weddings - it is without doubt an amazing illustration of the town." Anyone wanting more information can log onto: www.hughescollection.co.uk or call the museum on 01527 831363.



Two pupils from Berkswich C of E Primary School in Stafford admire the photographs. Picture by Ben Dalby 25.06.020.BDR

## Charford roads no more than 'tracks'

A BROMSGROVE resident who believes a Charford road and pavement can only be described as "tracks" is urging the Highways Partnership to rectify the problem before it gets worse. The unnamed woman, who lives on Charford Road, is appalled by the condition of some of the roads in the surrounding areas of the town, in particular Housman Close and Lyttleton Avenue. She contacted The Standard after suffering a lot of problems with the roads and talking to people who have fallen whilst

walking along, what she calls, dangerous pavements. "The footpaths are more like tracks of crumbling tarmac and there are pot holes in the road, making it look like patchwork. "I had to help a lady up who fell on the path, and there must be many others who have been affected by this. "It is disgusting," she added. Spokesperson for the Highways Partnership Terry Godwin said a lot of money has been allocated for repairs in Charford area in the last few years, and in particular around Lyttleton

Avenue. "As long as we are made aware of any dangers then we will send an inspector round to address the issues," he added. And he said problems in other nearby roads, including Housman Close, will be sorted soon.

## Knives still flooding in

TWO HUNDRED and fifty knives have been handed into police stations across North Worcestershire during the five-week knife amnesty. The overall total of weapons handed in between May 24 and June 30 in Worcestershire reached 1,500 - a figure welcomed by West Mercia Police. The weapons, which included three Samurai swords, an ornamental sword and dozens of domestic knives, were surrendered by residents without fear of prosecution. They will now be destroyed at a secure location. PC Taryn Green said the force was glad so many people took the opportunity to hand in unwanted knives. She said her colleagues were concerned about the number of

young men carrying knives for self-defence or as a fashion accessory. "We are keeping a close eye on the Government and the future of the law when it comes to knife crime and the possession of a knife," she added. PC Green said campaigns like this did do not reach the hardened criminal, but did remove knives from circulation and avoid a serious weapon falling into the wrong hands. "Knives are not glamorous, they can kill and by having around 1,500 knives handed in it can only help towards making West Mercia an even safer place to live and work in," she added. National figures for the knife amnesty will be made available by the Home Office later this month.

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