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State shelves medical license after charges of sex crimes

Naperville doctor to appear Dec. 30 at Chicago hearing

BY CLIFFORD WARD AND ERIKA WURST
 Tribune Newspapers

A doctor from Naperville has been charged with sex crimes against three of his patients, and the state medical board Wednesday suspended his license to practice medicine.

Police said Dr. Haobus Yang, 50, surrendered Wednesday after Kendall County authorities charged him with sexually abusing and assaulting three patients from 2012 to 2014.

According to Kendall court records, Yang has been charged with three felony counts of sexual assault and five counts of

sexual abuse. Meanwhile, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation imposed an emergency suspension of Yang's medical license, based on the criminal charges, Susan Hofer, a department spokeswoman, said Wednesday.

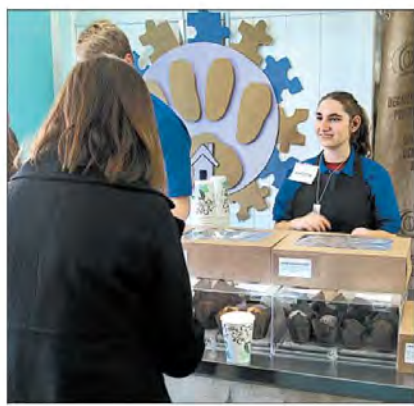
In its petition, the department said "the public interest, safety and welfare imperatively require emergency action in that (Yang's) continued practice of medicine constitutes an immediate danger to the public." The department ordered Yang to surrender his license and to appear Dec. 30 at a Chicago hearing to further investigate the allegations.

Charging documents attached to the complaint alleged that Yang inappropriately touched or fondled the victims in his office at the Yorkville Medical Clinic during medical exams.

Bail was set at \$150,000, according to the charging documents. The Kendall County Jail was unable to confirm Wednesday night whether Yang was still in custody or had posted the \$150,000 cash bond.

According to the WebMD website, Yang earned his medical degree in China in 1987 and has been in practice since then. His clinic's website said Yang is on staff at Rush-Copley Medical Center in Aurora and Valley West Hospital in Sandwich and is board-certified in internal medicine.

Ward is a freelance reporter. Wurst is a reporter for the Beacon-News.



Aubrey Fasano assists a customer at Transition Perks in Western Springs.

Coffee shop teaches skills to special needs students

Lyons Township vocational program serves as a bridge to jobs

BY JOSEPH RUZICKI
 Special to the Tribune

Aubrey Fasano's dream jobs include working at a bridal shop or becoming a server at a high-end restaurant after she completes high school next year.

Fasano, 21, is now working as a barista at the Transition Perks coffee shop, a new business next to the train station in Western Springs that helps special needs students like Fasano learn job skills.

The coffee shop, part of the Lyons Township High School Transition Program, opened to the public Nov. 14 at 1062 Hillgrove Ave. The program assists students ages 18-22 with special needs in learning everyday vocational skills for independent adult living.

"I am learning a lot of people skills," said Fasano, of Countryside, who was handing out coffee cups and muffins to customers on a recent Monday morning. "So far (the customers) have been very nice."

The storefront's owner, Nicholas Cozzi, is allowing the district to run the coffee shop rent-free during school months. Cozzi, who has a brother in the transition program, runs a snow cone business at the site during the summer.

Western Springs resident Mary Jo Cox, 51, visited the coffee shop for the first time recently.

"I love the idea," Cox said. "It gives them a great opportunity to prepare for the work world. I think there is also a need for a coffee shop like this in the community."

While a Starbucks coffee shop is just across the railroad tracks, several customers said the new coffee shop offers them a cost-saving alternative for those who prefer just a regular "cup of joe," especially since a nearby 7-Eleven that sold coffee recently

closed. Dave Pasko, the transition program vocational coordinator, said the new coffee shop will help students gain valuable experience in customer communication, organization, inventory and cleaning.

Pasko said the district will rotate the coffee shop's student staff to have a different set of students working at the site each day. Two students and a job coach will be there in the mornings, but several other students might come in the afternoons to clean up and do inventory work.

"We want them to develop."

Students "can take these types of experiences to any restaurant and customer service business."

— Dave Pasko, coordinator of Lyons Township High School Transition Program

op skills that are transferable to qualify them for other types of employment," Pasko said. "They can take these types of experiences to any restaurant and customer service business."

Brian Mahoney, special education division chairman, said students interested in working at the coffee shop will be required to fill out job applications and attend one-on-one interviews for the positions. Students will also be evaluated and receive feedback about their work progress.

"We want their experience to be as authentic as possible," Mahoney said. "When they do age out (of school), we want to make sure they are prepared to take on what is coming next (in their lives) for them."

District officials said the coffee shop probably will serve commuters at the nearby Western Springs train station. Students in the program will be passing out fliers and coupons to get out the word about the new shop.

Transition Perks will be open on days when school is in session from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Professional-grade coffee machines were donated by Bunn and Stewart's coffee.

The coffee shop also sells gluten-free pastries from Flour Bakery in Riverdale.

District officials said that while students will not be paid, profits from the coffee shop will help fund the transition program and a new scholarship program that will help students adjust to the working world.

"The scholarship might pay for a college course or a vocational program for them to take," Pasko said. "It can also be possibly used for a technology device to assist them."

The district has about 450 students in the special education program and about 45 students in the transition program. There are about 40 businesses in the area that have partnered and hired students from the program, including car dealerships and restaurants.

Pasko said students with special needs are often excellent workers. "They bring a lot of energy to their workplace because they really appreciate the opportunity."

Special needs student Sam Smetko, 21, said he hopes to learn job skills at the coffee shop that might help him get a job at a restaurant.

"I want to cook food someday (for a restaurant)," Smetko said. "That's what I really want to do."

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