New woes envelop Japan

Falling stock market stirs economic concern; rolling blackouts possible

Jay Alabaster and Todd Pitman, The Associated Press

Sendai, Japan — Japan considered beginning rolling blackouts to conserve power today as it tried desperately to stabilize nuclear reactors at risk of meltdown in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami. The disaster sent Tokyo’s stock market plunging as it opened, raising fears of a steep economic toll on top of the already overwhelming human suffering.

Japan’s top government spokesman says Tokyo Electric Power will hold off for now on imposing the blackouts, but is calling for all to try to limit electricity use.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano says that if necessary, the utility is prepared to suspend power for 30 minutes at a time.

JAPAN, PAGE 3A

Photography provides voice for Webster man

Steven Tryon, right, and son Robert Tryon pose for a photo during the opening-night reception for their joint photography exhibit at the Pielers Family Life Center earlier this month.

Exhibit pairs his art with a familiar pro

Sean Dobbin, Staff Writer

A button is pressed, a shutter snaps, and a moment is captured.

A man faces a flowing creek.

Tree limbs sway in the wind.

A friend makes a funny face.

Once the shutter closes, the person behind the lens doesn’t matter. The shooter could be a seasoned veteran or a young child, but the image that is captured remains the same.

Robert Tryon is a photographer. He’s incapable of speech, and when shooting, he usually needs a tripod to help steady his hands.

But once his photos are on paper, they look like anyone else’s — except that some of them are very good.

Tryon, 32, started taking photographs two years ago. They line the walls of the Webster home he shares with four other developmentally delayed adults, and his photo gallery is the first thing that pops up when he opens his computer.

And for the rest of March, a

handful of Tryon’s shots are on display for sale in the Pielers Family Life Center’s art gallery in Henrietta.

“He’s got a really interesting eye,” said Joseph Sorrentino, the gallery’s coordinator. “I’m a photographer myself, so what I’m looking for is someone who’s not just taking snapshots — someone who’s taking different angles and seeing things in ways that I haven’t thought about.”

TRYON, PAGE 4A

Gadhafi’s troops advance on key oil town

Senator gets top marks for her clarity

Gillibrand recognized as most transparent

BRIAN FUMILLO
WASHINGTON, Democratic U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand has blazed a path as the most publicly transparent member of the New York congressional delegation since she first took office as a House member in January 2007.

A little-known lawyer from Hudson at the time, Gillibrand distinguished herself from her cohort by posting on her congressional website the names of everyone she met with as House member, her requests for money for special home projects.

More on 1B

How to track state legislation online
Tryon

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The gallery routinely shows the work of an area professional alongside the creations of an artist with a disability. The hope is that, in doing so, enthusiasts can move through the gallery, critiquing and enjoying the artwork, while losing sight of the person who created it.

They're not photos-by-someone-disabled. They're just photos. But Tryon's display is a little unusual. His shorts have been paired with those of his dad, Steven Tryon, a photographer who has seen his work displayed in a handful of Rochester galleries.

And through the show's first week, the younger Tryon is outshining his father.

From puzzles to photos

There isn't a specific condition that describes Tryon's disabilities, Steven Tryon said. He was slow to develop mentally, and his share of physical challenges included seizures when he was young and a leg that was longer than the other.

Sight isn't a problem for Tryon, as anyone who's seen his photographs can attest to. He hears and understands everything fine, as well.

But when it comes to forming any kind of response, "life has been 32 years of pantomimics," said Steven Tryon.

His interest started about two years ago, and has, in part, replaced a long-held enthusiasm for puzzles. His slower mental development meant that day-to-day life for him was defined by a strict adherence to routine. Missing a day of school because of an illness or a snow day would cause him tremendous stress.

The puzzles were a way for him to focus on a task and stay calm, and from the beginning, he had a way of clustering a group of pieces and bring the colors, shapes, and patterns together in his mind.

For his peak, he was capable of finishing a 500-piece puzzle every day.

His neurologist at the time said, "That's approaching a savant," said Steven Tryon, father of Jordan Tryon.

The talent is useful when taking photographs.

He developed the new interest after seeing Steven Tryon shooting photos from time to time. Asked if he shot the photographs, Tryon's father said, "I think he's better at it," and Tryon, while giving a nod, smiled, and satisfied sigh.

When he first started it was just randomly pushing the button, but then we put his camera on the tripod," said Steven Tryon. "Once it was stationary, he would take photographs rather than just punching the buttons and that made a huge difference.

Early on, Tryon would stay close to his father on their trips to Webster Park; only taking photos if things the things his father would photograph as well.

But Tryon soon gained confidence in his abilities, and began photographing anything that captured his interest. Steven Tryon made a web page and started helping him post his photos. Quickly, he realized this was a talent he should nurture.

"I've got some shots he can't do, but that's fine, because he also gets a lot of shots that are very good," said Steven Tryon. "He's interested in things, so why make him sit and get a good eye for picking things out?"

On the home, Tryon began sitting down each afternoon, taking his father's staff and taking their photos, which hang on a first-story wall, it's perhaps his easiest pantomime to understand.

When he turns 18, he's going to sit down so he can take your picture, there is no doubt about that. He wants you to do, said Steven Tryon.

"Impossible shots"

While seasoned photographers generally know what types of landscapes will not work, good photographs, Tryon "has no preconceived notions about what shot wouldn't work," said Steven Tryon.

"He has a lot of throwaways, but sometimes he takes a just impossible shots - shots where I would just walk by and they would work."

"This shot," he said, beaming, "I took a photograph on his son's living room wall, "shouldn't work." It's a photograph of a driveway."

But Tryon caught the angle of the shadow on a wood plank, from a recent rainstorm, when the sun was hitting it at just the right angle.

The wet blacktop, shining while from the sliver of light, it made for a bright separation between the glass and the multi-colored shabby that surrounded the concrete. The name of the photo: "Red, Green, Yellow".

Shots such as that one caught the attention of the gallery, and the interest of a few photographers.

His relative success has caused his father to joke that perhaps the thing Tryon should work on is his modesty. Asked who the best photographer in the family is, Tryon will wave his index finger in a big arc before landing it squarely on his own chest.

Then, a smile, and his trademark sigh.

"Who's that? Right. It's me."

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