

THE WAYNE Dispatch

MAY 2015

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Colette McClinton from Garden Fantasy Greenhouse and Florist helps a customer choose the perfect spring plant. Photo by John P. Rhaesa

Wayne Farmers Market opens for season

Shop local at the Wayne Farmers Market. Get ready for fresh and local grown plants, flowers and produce. The 2015 Farmers Market is back for another season. From May 6 until October 28 the Farmers Market will be open every Wednesday from 3-7 p.m. at Goudy Park, behind Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road.

This year the market will have over 25 vendors providing Michigan-made and Michigan-grown products. The Farmers Market is a great opportunity to shop local and support the community. Returning vendors include Farmington Soap Works, Steve's Gourmet, L.P. Stotz Farms and Detroit Mini Donut.

The Wayne Farmers Market is provided by Growing Hope in partnership with the Wayne Chamber of Commerce.

Bring the kids and the family and enjoy the market, the playground and the walking path along the Rouge River.

In addition to all of the fruits and vegetables, visitors to the market can also get homemade soap, candles, garden art and other crafts.

Over the past few years the Wayne Farmers Market has become a popu-

lar downtown destination. There are different activities for kids each week and a variety of live musical performances.

The goals of the market are to make fresh, nutritious local food available to local residents, enhance the sense of community in the city and offer local businesses the opportunity to sell their goods and services.

With music, shopping, food and kids activities the market is a great way to spend an evening in Downtown Wayne.

Parking will be available in the parking lot behind City Hall after the construction project is complete in July. Additional parking is available in the lot behind the Courthouse off Second Street, in the Wayne Activity & Banquet Center (WABC) at 35000 Sims Avenue, and across Sims behind the Michigan Avenue Shops. The new Goudy Park location also makes it easier to walk or bike to the market.

For more information about the Wayne Farmers Market or the schedule of events, visit www.waynefarmersmarket.com or <http://www.facebook.com/waynefarmersmarket> or email market@growinghope.net.

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Wayne Memorial graduate builds his own Empire

By Kimberly Mortson

If you talk to Antoine McKay for even five minutes there's no question he's a great actor. Why? Because his genuine "nice guy" personality overpowers the fictionalized "thug" persona he's portrayed in two of his most recent acting roles including the hit FOX series, *Empire*, and an upcoming short dramatic film, made in Detroit, called *24/7*.

McKay, 44, is a shining star amongst his family and friends that are proud to see a local kid make it in show business. Although he didn't move far (he now resides in Illinois) he credits the hardworking nature of the place he still refers to as "home" – Michigan – with the success he's achieved, and the accolades he's received.

"It's just the way people are when they're from Michigan. Hard working. All of my friends from Wayne and the people there – they were just so cool and nice and creative – that all became a part of me, of who I am. I loved Wayne. I've been blessed to travel all over the world but the city and the people there are just great," said McKay.

A 1988 graduate of Wayne Memorial High School, McKay was raised in Inkster and attended Franklin Junior High School. He remembers his very first acting role fondly. "I played the innkeeper [The Nativity Story] at my church when I was in kindergarten. I continued to do little skits in my church after that."

Once in high school, McKay was involved in both the choir and a variety of school plays and musicals. "I performed in *Pippin* my senior year," he recalls. After graduation he attended Eastern Michigan University (EMU) in Ypsilanti and immersed himself in the forensics program and the theater. He excelled in the activity and even won the national championship title for the National Speech & Debate Association of the National Forensics League. Participating in speech and debate competitions undoubtedly helped him to hone his public speaking skills. "It was a really great learning experience," added McKay.

It was in the theater arts program at EMU that McKay studied under famed acting coach Uta Hagen, a two-time Tony-award winning actor and



Antoine McKay with the cast and crew of an upcoming short dramatic film, made in Detroit, called *24/7*. Wayne Dispatch photo by John P. Rhaesa



Antoine McKay appears as "Bunkie" in the hit TV primetime drama *Empire*.

renowned acting teacher. The takeaway for all of Hagen's students was her belief in "realism and truth" in acting – encouraging her students to interject their own personal experiences and emotions into their characters. "It was such a privilege to learn from, and work with her," said McKay.

Although McKay was classically trained in the theater at Eastern, it

was his comedic side that he explored in his next big acting opportunity in the early 1990's – being on the Main Stages of Second City in Detroit and then Chicago. "That was life changing," said McKay. "I remember after I left Michigan and I was sent to Chicago I was freaking out. It was my first night on stage and I was in the dressing room by myself. The door opens and Mike Myers walks in. It

was insane. He was so nice and told me I was going to be great. I realized then I made it. I belonged there."

When asked how long McKay worked at Second City he recalls the dates as fast as he would important life milestones, "July 30, 1997 to April 24, 2006." It's not hard for McKay to remember the timeframe and savor the memories when he had the privilege to work in the company of such alumni as Myers, Keegan-Michael Key, Marc Evan Jackson, Steve Carrell, Stephen Colbert, Tina Fey and Bill Hader.

In addition to Second City his credits include starring roles in commercials and television appearances on programs including *Detroit 187* (ABC), *ER* (NBC), *Prison Break* (FOX), *Sports Action Team* (NBC).

McKay has appeared in such feature films as *The Weatherman*, with Nicholas Cage, *Someone to Eat Cheese With*, alongside Jeff Garland, *Standing in the Shadows of Motown*, and *Osso Bucco*, with Mike Starr.

See **Empire**, page 8

A history of "Jake's Again"



Jake Davidson

In remembrance of the passing of her dear friend, Jake Davidson, Dee asked to have this article from Jan. 2013 reprinted.

By now you all know the legendary bar on the corner of Sims and Wayne Road. The one with U of M football helmets adorning the outside of the building is for sale.

Built about 1920, it started as "Webberlines", then "The Dog House". It became "Jake's Lounge" in 1975, when Jake's parents, Jenny and Harry Davidson bought it. In 1985 it was sold to Marlene and Carl Corbin and renamed "Misty's" after Marlene's poodle. When Carl died, it became "Corbin's Corner."

It became "Jake's Again" in 1989.

Some of Jake's fondest memories are his Goodfellows parties, when Bill Brooks and Larry Bates worked hard to make "No Child without Christmas" a success.

Coming in a close second were the St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Of course, St Pat's Day started long before the 17th of March. It began with the bus trip to the Eastern Market with a group of friends to pick up 300 lbs. of corned beef. Several stops had to be made during the



Footprints of Wayne

Dee Ryan

trip—places to see and refreshments to enjoy. The corned beef was then slow cooked and served with the traditional cabbage and potatoes. No one can ever say they left hungry from a "Jake's Again" St. Pat's day feast.

In December Jake and his happy group of Santa's helpers took the bus trip to Dearborn Ham Company, and picked up 10 or 12 hams, which he distributed to friends.

The history of Jake's has to include the formation of the WUJA's—the Washed Up Jock's of America. Prominent members are Chappie Reynolds, Tom Wilmot (TC) and Bill Sexton. John Roland and George Wootton were also important members of that group. It was John Roland who introduced the St. Mary Men's Club to the camaraderie of "Jake's Again."

Bill Sexton is the WUJA responsible for the Sports Hall of Fame covering one wall of the bar, it honors men and women who have contributed their talents to so many different sports in Wayne and Westland. The new owner may keep the wall intact—otherwise we'll have to find a

new home for them—say at the Community Center.

Many out of town sporting trips have been enjoyed by Jake and the WUJA's such as the NCAA basketball tournament and the golf outings planned by different members each year.

Through the years, Jake Davidson has sponsored many teams—bowling, volleyball and numerous softball championship teams.

Whether you wanted a hamburger, or the all you could eat, best fish dinner in town—or just a place where you could be with friends, "Jake's Again" was the place to be. It was Wayne's answer to "Cheers."

"Helium." That will be the name of the new store. It will occupy the site of Wayne (or Barb's) Used Books. Dave and Kim Jenkins are the new owners and "Helium" will offer their jewelry for sale. Dave makes the jewelry from copper, sterling, and brass. Together they design the pieces.

They plan to bring in other Michigan Artists to showcase their wares.

The Jenkins have a son, Brian and a daughter, Elisabeth, so Helium will be a family affair. Look for a Grand Opening this fall.

The Ladies' Literary Club held their annual Scholarship Fundraiser last month. The donations for the evening will be used to defray college expenses for two young women; one from Wayne Memorial and one from John Glenn.

In addition to the splendid refreshments, it's always a treat to see so many friends.

Thanks to the Program Committee---Sue Damitio, Darlene Hawley, Karen Healey, Carolyn Marnon, Carolyn Reynolds, Elaine Pittman and Bev Woodard.

We want to say a very special "Thank You" to Al Haidous our former Mayor. He donated two Detroit Tiger tickets. They were raffled off and his gift was greatly appreciated.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Memorial Day Parade

The annual Wayne Westland Veterans Day Parade will be at 1 p.m. on May 24. This year the parade will march through Westland. Staging will begin at 10 a.m. at Wayne Ford Civic League on Wayne Road in Westland. The parade will travel north on Wayne Road, west on Ford Road and north on Central City Parkway to the Veterans Memorial Garden, which is behind the William P. Faust Public Library.

Spaghetti dinner

The Wayne Baseball Association and Parks and Recreation Department will host a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser at 6 p.m. on May 8, at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Rd., Wayne.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children and are on sale at the Wayne Community Center. Hot fudge sundaes will be on sale by the Senior Services Department.

Proceeds will benefit the Wayne Baseball Association and Wayne Community Center Youth Programs.

FREE 5K Walking Training Program

Dave Laycock from "Building a Better Community Through Fitness and Veterans Health and Fitness", is offering a FREE 5k prep program. He will be at Central City Park, 1901 N. Carlson (behind former City Hall on Ford Road) in Westland at 2 p.m. on Saturday and 6 p.m. on Wednesday. Bring your water and walking shoes. Look for Dave in the bright yellow shirt.

Join American Legion

The American Legion Post 251 meets the first Wednesday of each month at the VFW Post located on Wayne Road and Avondale across from the Town & Country Bowling Lanes in Westland. The call to order begins at 7:00 pm. All veterans, male and female are welcome to attend and join the largest military organization in the world. For more information, contact the Post Commander (734) 776-5491 or the Adjutant (734) 455-3415.



The City of Westland will host the Wayne-Westland Memorial Day Parade at 1 p.m. on May 24 honoring all current and former military heroes.

All Class Reunion

The Wayne High Alumni Association will hold its 30th annual All Class Reunion Banquet from 5-10 p.m. on May 15, at Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born, Wayne.

Alumni from Wayne High or Wayne Memorial High School and guests are welcome. The Class of 1965 will be honored.

Tickets are \$35. For more information, contact waynehigh-alumni@aol.com or Sharon Scott at 734-722-4651.

Good Kids, Good Citizens

Wayne has a lot of Good Kids. On May 20th at 6:00 p.m. the Wayne Public Library and Wayne Civitans will host their annual Good Kids, Good Citizens, Good Community award reception.

This program recognizes and promotes good citizenship in Wayne residents in grades 4 and up who serve

as positive role models or have made a significant contribution to their community.

Michigan Author visits Wayne

The Wayne Public Library was awarded a Michigan Notable Author grant. At 6:30 p.m. on May 26 Michigan Notable Author Jim Ray Daniels will be discussing his book, "Eight Mile High." This collection of linked stories are places from Eight Mile High, the local high school, to Eight Miles High the local bar; from The Clock, a restaurant that never closes, to Stan's, a store that sells misfit clothes. With a survival instinct that includes a healthy dose of humor, Daniels' characters navigate work and love, change and loss. Plan to join us for an evening of inspirational fiction. This event is free and open to the public.

Summer Reading

Summer Reading registration begins on Tuesday, June 9, at the Wayne Public Library. This year's theme is, "Escape the Ordinary." The theme lends itself to the conviction that everyone can be a hero. As always, youngsters earn tickets to purchase prizes for the summer reading store for every hour they read.

All programs for summer reading will be at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoons. The first program will be on Thursday, June 25th.

Summer Day Camp

Summer Day Camp will be held at the Wayne Community Center June 16 - August 21st for ages 7-12. There will be field trips, camp shirts, arts and crafts, and much more! Registration will begin May 1, 2015. Information packets are available at the Front Desk at the Wayne Community Center.

Register for Red October Run

Oakwood Hospital-Wayne will host the 25th annual Red October Run on Oct. 3. Registration is now open for the 10K run, 5K run, 5K Walk and 1 Mile Junior. Register online at <http://www.oakwood.org/re-doctoberrun>.

Late registration and early packet pick-up available Friday, October 2, from 3:30-6:30 p.m. in hospital main lobby.

- Race day registration and packet pick-up 8:00 - 9:40 a.m.
- Kids' Jr. October Mile starts at 9:00 a.m.
- 10K run starts at 9:50 a.m.
- 5K run starts at 10:00 a.m.
- 5K walk starts at 10:01 a.m.
- Overall event winners introduced at 11:00 a.m.
- Remaining 10K/5K awards available for pick-up on walk-up basis immediately thereafter.

345 Proposals fail

Both proposals to pass a 345 millage to fund police and fire personnel's pensions failed on election day. Unofficial results Proposal 1: 805 Yes to 1,743 No. Proposal 2: 706 Yes to 1,852 No.

Main Street update

Adopt-A-Planter

In the past, volunteers like you have helped make Downtown Wayne beautiful by participating in the Adopt-A-Planter Program. We are very excited to invite your business, organization or family to be involved in enhancing the beauty and vibrancy of Downtown by sponsoring a flower planter this year.

Adopt-A-Planter Program details:

Wayne Main Street will prepare and place planters in strategic locations in downtown Wayne.

- Sponsor (you) will select and purchase plants for each planter you adopt.

- Sponsor will plant the flowers on or near the designated planting day (week of May 18-24).

- Sponsor will water, weed and deadhead the flowers for the full season (May-October).

Wayne Main Street will create a placard containing your business, organization or family name to be proudly displayed in the planter that you have sponsored. For more information, please call (734) 629-6822 or visit: <http://wp.me/PPhGb-51>.



Wayne Main Street to receive communications planning services

The Michigan Main Street Center @ MSHDA recently announced that downtown Wayne will receive communications planning service. Wayne Main Street was awarded this service after a competitive application process late last year. The communications planning, scheduled to begin on May 18th, will focus on audience, capacity, and current and potential resources to strengthen the awareness of Downtown Wayne and the Wayne Main Street program.

The service is provided by the Michigan Main Street Center @ MSHDA (MMS) through their partnership with the National Main Street Center. Jay Schlinsog from Downtown Professionals Network



will be working with MMS staff and the local community to provide custom community development strategies for Wayne Main Street. The service is part of a menu of services provided to downtown Wayne since becoming a Main Street community in 2014. Other services provided by Michigan Main Street include the baseline assessment in 2014.

Design Service Application Deadline – May 22

In the first five years of the Main Street program, Wayne Main Street will receive design training and consultation services by the State Historic Preservation Office to help maintain and enhance downtown Wayne's historic integrity. Individualized design assistance for façade improvements of downtown buildings is part of the Main Street Design Services. Wayne Main Street will award up to three services per year,

with a maximum of 15 services. Services include a site visit by the Michigan Main Street Design Specialist, meeting with the property owner, schematic drawings detailing the proposed façade improvements, paint samples, example photographs, and additional information needed to complete the work. Each service is valued at \$2000-3000 each but is awarded at no cost to the property owner.

The application deadline for Design Services is May 22, 2015. To be eligible for this service, the property owner/business owner must have attended the Building Basics Workshop held on April 13th. US 12 Bar and Grill, Dairy Queen and a vacant property on Wayne Rd were awarded design services last year.

If you would like further information, contact Wayne Main Street Executive Director, Lindsey Wooten at 734-629-6822.

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Rouge Revival

Annual river clean-up planned for May 30

By Kurt Kuban

On a recent Sunday, I spent the afternoon kayaking with some good friends. While it was a fairly crisp spring day, the sun was out and it warmed our faces as we cruised past giant trees towering overhead, their buds just starting to show themselves. The birds were out – singing to us as we paddled by. On a couple occasions kingfishers darted by, squawking at us as if they were startled by our presence in their domain. We also saw several muskrats swim by, a groundhog dive into his hole along the river bank, hawks soaring above and plenty of beautiful, but shy wood ducks.

It was a fantastic day on the water. And, believe it or not, it was right here in Wayne on the Rouge River.

Although I would classify our little jaunt as a joy ride, we were also doing a little scouting for the upcoming Rouge Rescue, the annual river clean up that takes place this year on May 30.

I've been coordinating the annual event in Wayne for more than a dozen years. During that time, the goal of the event has shifted from almost exclusively removing manmade trash from the river like shopping carts, tires and even bathtubs and stoves, to focusing our efforts on opening up the river for recreational pursuits like fishing and, yes, canoeing and kayaking. Indeed, we've come a long way.

My two companions on the recent trip -- Matt Mulholland and Jim Zech – are just two of the many volunteers who have contributed their time and efforts to cleaning up our little river. So many others have chipped in over the years. The community has really embraced the cause, from the business community and local organizations like Wayne Rotary and Civitans, to all the individual volunteers who come out and get dirty year after year on Rouge Rescue. Even the city government has helped out, particularly the DPW crew which has provided vital support over the years.

I'm happy to report, after our little reconnaissance run, there isn't too much manmade trash in the



Volunteers remove debris from the Rouge River. This year's annual river clean up takes place on May 30.

river anymore with the exception of a few tires between Hix and Wayne roads, a section of the river that is about 3-miles long. It's the same stretch where we've held the Logjam Classic Canoe Race the last two years as part of Rouge-A-Palooza, our day-long festival dedicated to the Rouge River that we will be hosting again on October 10 in Goudy Park.

If you haven't been to Rouge-A-Palooza yet, you really should mark it on your calendars. In addition to educational displays focusing on nature (including plenty of live animals), the event also features live music, the canoe race, great food and lots of family activities. We're already in the planning stages for the 2015 event, which we believe will be bigger and better than ever.

Of course, our improving river all starts with Rouge Rescue. We're always looking for new people who care about our natural world and

want to help save "our" river. It wasn't too long ago that the Rouge River caught fire near its mouth in Detroit. To think that we are now holding a festival to celebrate it is truly remarkable to me. That tells me how far we've come.

For Rouge Rescue, we will be working along the section of the river from Goudy Park downstream to Dynamite Park. There will be several activities going on -- something for all ages, from opening up logjams for canoeing to pulling invasive plants and improving the riverfront in Goudy Park.

There's also plenty of water and pop bottles to be picked up. It always amazes me how that stuff ends up in the river. Some people just don't care, I guess. Every time I get disappointed about it though, I remember all of the people who go out of their way to make a difference and who genuinely want to see the Rouge re-

stored. They far outnumber the knuckleheads who get their kicks tossing their trash into the river.

If you want to help out, sign up begins at 9 a.m., May 20, at Goudy Park. From there, we will break up into groups and hopefully get everything done. I always get a kick seeing people come out for the first time. They are often amazed by how much natural world we have left here in Wayne.

The Rouge River provides the lifeblood. It's an amazing resource, and it is improving daily. Who knows where we'll be in another dozen years. Hopefully seeing kayakers on the river on a regular basis.

To learn more about Rouge Rescue and what you can do to help the river, visit www.therouge.org. If you have questions about our event in Wayne, shoot me an email at kkuban3240@aol.com or call (734) 716-0783.

Empire, Continued from page 3

His most recent appearances in FOX's breakout show Empire and Comedy Central's Review, starring Andy Daly, speak to not only his adaptability as an actor, but his love of the game.

"I love working," said McKay.

Admittedly it's the "thug" role he auditioned for in Empire, a dramatic series that centers on a family and their hip hop and music entertainment company that has put him on the map.

McKay said his agent called him about auditioning for a Lee Daniels project that was going to be filmed in Chicago. "Of course I said yes." The Inkster native learned his ultimate character fate after reading the script for the first time – the character Marcus "Bunkie" Williams was killed in the pilot episode by leading actor Terrance Howard who portrays hip-hop mogul "Lucious."

"I read it and I liked it. By the God's grace I had a great rapport with all the actors and crew on set." Director Daniels told McKay, "I hate that we're doing this to you (killing his character in the pilot episode)." But McKay said he was willing to "take one for the team" considering his death became a recurring memory throughout the season. His character also made an appearance as the first season drew to a close and he returned as a ghost of himself. When asked if fans can expect to see him in the second season of Empire that begins filming in June, McKay admits he can't say much. "Unfortunately I can't disclose that at this time."

Understandable, but Empire fans know after watching the season finale – there's a good chance he'll reprise his ghost role again.



Antoine with his wife Rebecca and their 6 children.

McKay has an empire of his own that keeps him just as busy as his acting career – being a husband and father to six children. "It's crazy time in my house and on top of that my wife and I own a small business," said McKay.

Rebecca, his wife of 10 years, has been his manager since day one. "I was living in Chicago and was looking for someone to help me. I opened my door and there she was. That

was it for me. We were married three months later. She makes me better and makes me want to be better. She's so sweet and such an amazing mom and wife."

McKay said together they run McKay Arts Management, a privately owned theater company and they're in the works to establish a second company that provides corporate education using improvisational techniques. The father of six said three

of his children are involved in acting, one is a writer and two are athletes (including a basketball player and a gymnast). "They're all so talented and a real blessing." McKay said he's really looking forward to the chance he'll get this summer to act with one of his sons. "We're doing a movie together, He Sends Rain, and my son has a leading role in the movie. I play a counselor/pastor." "He's really talented. He's making me step-up my game."

McKay is currently in Atlanta shooting a role for an upcoming movie "Keeping Up with the Joneses" starring Zach Galifianakis, but said he'll be returning to the Detroit area in a week to visit family and attend the wedding of his cousin. "It's always great to come back, especially to Detroit. Michigan in general has a whole different mentality. People work hard and then they go up north and chill. They work hard to earn it."

Detroit is also glad to have McKay back anytime he comes home. In April, the Detroit City Council gave him a 2015 Spirit of Detroit Award. "That was really a great honor."

Whether he's in a serious role about the drug trade in Detroit (24/7), an unscrupulous troublemaker in the TV show Empire, or he's hamming it up on the big screen in the company of comedic greats Galifianakis and Jon Hamm – Antoine McKay is genuinely talented. He's undeniably found success by balancing the hardworking virtues instilled in him by his parents, together with his theatrical training over a career that spans more than 20 years. "I'm definitely a product of my environment and I'm proud of it," said McKay. A sense of gratification that he shows both in his love of his hometown, and the craft he calls a career.

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Wayne administrator one of eight nurses honored

When Rhonda Berndt, RN, MSN, NEA-BC, took on the challenge of improving patient satisfaction scores at Oakwood Hospital – Wayne, she concentrated on the one area that would provide the biggest impact: communication.

“Research shows if you want to really impact the patient experience and improve it, you should focus on one thing and that one thing is communication,” said Berndt, who is the assistant director of nursing at Oakwood – Wayne. “Patients come to the hospital for nursing care, so nurses really drive the patient experience if you can improve nursing communication you can really impact a lot of different things.”

That led to the development of the IDEAL concept, a communication model defined as Introduce, Define, Explain, Ask and Listen. Adopted in the fourth quarter of 2013 as the model for patient and family-centered communication, it was applied to everything from discussions about pain management to

discharge instructions and resulted in a 29 percent increase in satisfaction scores the following year.

It was also one of the achievements that earned her a runner-up distinction in the Nursing Administration category in the 2015 Nightingale Awards for Nursing Excellence. Another was implementing Wildly Important Goals (WIGS), a strategy that had proven effective in the hotel and manufacturing industries. In the hospital environment, it involved concentrating on areas that would improve the patient experience—pain management and perception of noise—to improve the overall healing environment.

Berndt has been a nurse for 24 years and returned to Oakwood five years ago after a stint with another health care organization. Diane Hartley, director of patient care services at Oakwood – Wayne, said her leadership has helped Oakwood – Wayne become a more cohesive work environment, as well.

“She has the ability to find each

employees’ strength, and the skill to bring it out,” said Hartley. “that’s contributed to a more positive and healthy work environment.”

Berndt is quick to point out that the improvement in patient satisfaction scores is a complete team effort—from the implementation of the IDEAL and WIGS concepts to focusing on the patient every day—that was fully supported by hospital administration.

“We have a great team here,” she said. “I don’t know if people realize what a great environment a smaller hospital can be. It’s a family environment here. Everybody is very friendly, we work well together and we really care about one another. It’s really a great team.”

Berndt is one of eight Beaumont Health nurses to be honored with 2015 Nightingale Awards for Nursing Excellence. Winners are: Anne Ronk, Beaumont, Royal Oak, Administration; Theresa Duller, Long-term Care/Rehabilitation, Beaumont, Royal Oak; Michelle Wood, Staff



Rhonda Berndt, RN, MSN, NEA-BC

Nurse, Practice, Oakwood Hospital – Taylor; Other runners up included: Doris Neumeyer, Nursing in the Community, Beaumont, Troy; Marie Doherty, Oakland University Distinguished Alumni, Beaumont, Royal Oak; Kelly Hendrix and Nancy Whitt, Staff Nurse Practice, both of Beaumont, Royal Oak. Janet Bell of Beaumont, Royal Oak, was also nominated for a People’s Choice Award.

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Kevin Allen, WMHS Distinguished Alum

By Meagan Dowell

Some people may know him as the NHL writer for USA Today, or the author of books about sports icons like Darren McCarty and Chris Chelios. He's also known as a 2014 inductee into the NHL Hall of Fame. He is Kevin Allen, Wayne Memorial's 2015 Distinguished Alumnus.

Allen is the author of more than seventeen books, including Chris Chelios: Made in America and My Last Fight: The True Story of a Hockey Rock Star. He has covered more than 570 NHL playoff games, 26 Stanley Cup finals, and nine Olympic tournaments.

Allen, who graduated from Wayne Memorial in 1974, said he is very grateful for the opportunity to be this year's Distinguished Alumnus and the keynote speaker at commencement. "(At Wayne High), I had teachers who were very helpful in steering me in the right direction," Allen said. "I'm fortunate to know what I wanted to do at an early age. And so by the time I got to high school, I told teach-

ers I intended to be a journalist." Since Allen loved his career choice so much, and he had run out of classes to take, a journalism seminar was put in place for him.

After high school, Allen attended Eastern Michigan University and got a spot on their newspaper, The Eastern Echo, for which he was the managing editor his senior year. Following college, Allen went to Arizona where he worked for a local paper as a sports and political writer.

"It was a great job," Allen said. "I would cover high school Native American reservation football on Friday nights, and Ted Kennedy's speech on water rights to the Native American Association on Saturday morning, and Arizona State football Saturday afternoon."

"I think it's a very important aspect of life to find something that you are passionate about that can pay you a decent wage," Allen said. Journalism is not just a job for Allen, it is his passion. "You have to love what you do," as Allen puts it.



2015 Wayne Memorial High School Distinguished Alumnus and keynote speaker at commencement Kevin Allen accepts the 2014 Elmer Ferguson Memorial Award for excellence in hockey journalism at the Hockey Hall of Fame. Photo by Dave Sandford/Hockey Hall of Fame

where he has traveled include Japan, Norway, Russia, Sweden, France, Austria, Germany, and many more. "I've always enjoyed the travel I've gotten to do," Allen said.

In 2013, Allen was the recipient of the prestigious Lester Patrick Trophy, which is an annual award presented for outstanding services to hockey in the United States. NHL players, officials, coaches, executives, and referees are all eligible. In December 2014, Allen was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame as a recipient of the Elmer Ferguson Memorial Award. Both are amazing accomplishments.

"The last two years, it's been a lot of fun being Kevin Allen," Allen said.

Allen said that the real accomplishment is being recognized for what he loves to do. "I just like writing stories every day. Not everyone enjoys the process of writing; it can be painful, but I enjoy it."

"Everybody can write, but I can do it no matter what's going on in my life. If I'm sick, or having a bad day, if everybody in the world is mad at me, I can still sit and write a story." At the heart of reporting, Allen said, is storytelling. "There will always be a need for storytellers."

As the keynote speaker at WMHS's commencement on Saturday, May 30, at Eastern Michigan's Convocation Center, Allen plans to talk about how the enjoyment of life comes from the exploring of life. "What I want students to take from my speech is that a life fully explored is a life well-lived," Allen said. "Don't listen to people who tell you to march through life by putting one foot in front of the other. It's when you veer off course that you begin to fully appreciate what it is all about."

Over the years, Allen said, the job of journalism has changed. "(As a journalist), you used to have to entertain and provide information," Allen said. "The problem now is the information aspect. There is so much available, the need for people like me isn't that great."

Allen's career as a sports journalist has provided him the opportunity to do a lot of travel. He's covered several Olympic games and other international events. Some of the places



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You've got job security, Mom

By Courtney Conover

To moms everywhere, Your day might be over and the house may finally be calm and quiet as you read this, but we all know your job is far from done.

You're probably the first one up in the morning, yet you're the last one in bed at night.

You can't buy a sick day for all the tea in China.

And you already know that there never seems to be enough time in the day to fold the laundry, write out bills, shuttle the kids to and from dance class and soccer practice, get dinner on the table, tackle the household shopping, and still manage to assist little Joey with his science project (Where's a pipe cleaner when you need one?)

You love this job, and you wouldn't trade it for the world – that much is true.

But then there are also those times.

Times when you moan and groan

because it's a grind, and often, a never-ending and thankless one.

But guess what?

You've got staying power.

Your children are not going to wake up one morning and say, "You know what? I'm putting you on the bench this week, Mom," or, worse, "Thanks, but your services are no longer needed so you've just been released."

Nope.

Your kids know that mom isn't going anywhere.

From the fruit snacks in the cupboard right down to that fresh roll of toilet paper in the bathroom, your kids know that mom put it there.

Despite the eruption of little earthquakes like the discovery of crayons in the dryer, overflowing toilets, and toddler meltdowns, virtually nothing rattles you.

Your kids are also secure in the knowledge that you have the uncanny ability – some might call it clairvoyance – to locate that favorite

sweatshirt that has gone missing; the strength to withstand sitting on steel bleachers during a football game that is being played in an arctic blast; and the compassion to soothe even the worst pain – both physical or emotional – with a hug and a kiss.

And, frankly, you've been working hard and stepping up to the plate since day one, from the moment your child was placed into your arms: They don't call it labor for nothing.

And since that time, life has presented its fair share of roadblocks. Regardless, you still find a way to look fear and adversity in the face.

And laugh at it.

You are the single mother who wants to chaperone your child's field trip – you really, truly do – but you also want to keep the lights on and if you don't work, you don't receive pay.

You are the mother who willingly – and mightily – serves this country to protect our nation's freedoms.

You are the mother – the warrior

– who somehow, somehow finds a way to smile and maintain even a modicum of positivity when cancer won't let up.

And although you may be tired and overwhelmed at times, you manage to keep all the balls in the air anyway.

With regard to virtually all positions in the private sector, job security is shaky, at best.

But not here at home.

No, Mom, there will never, ever be a pink slip with your name on it.

Because you are needed, you are appreciated, and you are loved.

To moms everywhere, thank you for all that you do.

Wayne resident Courtney Conover is a mom of two and the wife of former Detroit Lions offensive lineman Scott Conover. She is a contributing writer to the Chicken Soup for the Soul book series and USA Football and is also a certified yoga instructor. Visit her online at The Brown Girl with Long Hair blog (<http://www.thebrowngirlwithlonghair.com>) and on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/thebrowngirlwithlonghair>).

Sign-up for Summer Day Camp

Looking for fun activities for your children this summer? The Wayne Community Center has limited space available for kids ages 7-12 for their summer camp program. Our activities will include swimming at local lakes and waterparks, outdoor adventures, arts and crafts, as well as educational hands on projects.

Weekly field trip will include: Howell Nature Center, Proud Lake, Imagination Station, Rolling Hills (water park), Sterling State Park, Pump It Up, Toledo Zoo, Mid-Way Sports, Turtle Cove (water park), and Kensington Metro Park.

Camp registration began May 1, 2015. Parent Camp Information and Camp Registration packets are at the Wayne Community Center located at

4635 Howe Rd in Wayne. Camp dates are June 15, 2015- August 21, 2015 and Camp hours are 8:30am-5:30pm, Monday-Friday. For camp information, please call the front desk (734) 721-7400.

Residents of Wayne and Westland are \$27 per day or \$135 per week. Non-resident rates are \$34 per week and \$170 per week. After registering your first camper, all other campers in the same household will be 10% off the cost. Cost includes arts and crafts, field trips/weekly activities, and a camp shirt!

There are limited spaces available for families that are in need of financial assistance. To find out about availability call Wayne Youth Services (734) 721-7004.



Arbor Day

On April 24th, Andrea D'amico and Amy Morse's fourth grade class students from Hoover Elementary plant two trees in Attwood Park with the help of The City of Wayne DPW. Students shared what they can do to make the world a greener place. Photo by John P. Rhaesa



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The Wayne Dispatch is a monthly publication direct mailed to the entire City of Wayne.

NEWS BRIEFS



Taft-Galloway teacher wins Teacher of the Year

Kelly Weber, a kindergarten teacher at Taft-Galloway Elementary School, has been recognized as the American Legion Department of Michigan's Education and Scholarship Committee's 2015 Teacher of the Year.

Five teachers from the state of Michigan were selected for this prestigious award. The criterion for winning the award was based on a teacher's competence, community involvement and patriotism.

She will receive a \$500 grant to be used for an educational project for her school. She will also be recognized at the 97th Annual American Legion State Convention in June.

St. Mary School open enrollment

St. Mary Catholic School in Wayne is accepting applications for preschool through eighth grade stu-

dents. Call 734-721-1240 to make an appointment to visit the school, meet teachers and the principal, view classrooms and see work done by students. Registration and tuition information for the 2015-2016 school year will be available. Families may also inquire about Tuition Assistance Programs. St. Mary is a diverse school, which offers a multitude of enrichment programs that students can explore beyond the core curriculum including student council, National Junior Honor Society, choir, bells, band, scouting programs, sports, Academic Olympics and before and after school care. For more information, email schooloffice@stmarywayne.org.

Preschool preview

St. Mary School, 34516 Michigan Avenue, Wayne, is hosting a Preschool Preview from 9-11 a.m. on May 28 for 3 and 4-year-old children. Get a chance to see the school and talk to staff. RSVP at 734-721-1240. New families will receive a \$250 credit for the 2015-16 school year.

Senior Services programs

The following programs are offered by the Senior Services office at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne. For more information on any of the programs, please call 734-721-7460.

Sometimes Travelers Group

Come, leave the planning and transportation to us. Anyone 30 years & older is welcome to join.

We offer day, overnight and extended trips. Transportation is via a deluxe motorcoach.

Dues are \$5 per fiscal year (July - June).

Senior Services

The Wayne Senior Services Department has several trips planned. For more information on the following, please call 734-721-7460.

Sometimes Travelers trips:

Holland, Michigan: Tuesday, May 12. Enjoy lunch, tour Holland with a Step-on-Guide, Veldheer Tulip Gardens and more.

New York City: Thursday, June 18-Monday, June 22. Pick up flyer for this fun-filled 5 day/4 night trip at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne.

Monroe County Country Adventure: Narrated tour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary community, lunch, Calder Farms & Four Star Gardens.

Special Events:

Senior Brigade Series: FREE. All three presentations will be held on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. Attend one or all. Offered in conjunction with the Attorney General's Office.

May 13 at 2:30 p.m. - Identity Theft - Learn how to recognize and avoid identity theft, how thieves steal and what they do with your identity. Learn how to protect yourself and what to do if you become a victim.

May 20 at 2:30 p.m. - Online Safety - Recognize and avoid online scams, email safety tips, basic computer security measures, helpful online resources and general online safety tips.

May 27 at 2:30 p.m. - Residen-

tial Care Choices - How to choose a nursing home, how to choose home healthcare, how to recognize and report abuse or neglect and ways to keep your loved ones safe. Pre-registration is not necessary, but appreciated.

Wayne Westland Federal Credit Union Private Used Auto Sale

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"By having the used auto sale at the credit union it makes it convenient for members having a one stop shop and drive experience in the comfort of their credit union."

"Our private auto sale event helps our members not feel the pressure or not feel overwhelmed into purchasing perhaps the wrong vehicle," said Thelma Dasho, CEO.

The Wayne Westland Federal Credit Union will hold its second annual private used auto sale on June 6 from 1 - 5 p.m. at the credit union located at 500 S. Wayne Rd. in Westland. This year they will partner with Jack Demmer Ford from Wayne. Jack Demmer Ford will have 35 used autos in the credit union's parking lot. Their sales staff will be on hand to answer any questions about the vehicles. Finance a vehicle at this private auto sale and receive a \$100 Visa gift card.

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Citizens speak loud and clear on road proposal

The citizens of Michigan have spoken loud and clear that Proposal 1 was not the right remedy to fix our roads. With nearly 1.4 million Michiganders voting no and 351,000 voting yes, it was the largest margin of defeat for a proposed constitutional amendment in state history. I am a firm believer in democracy and this was the most opportune way to let each citizen's voice be heard.

We have to go back to the drawing board and look at areas we've addressed before. It would be easy to simply raise the tax at the fuel pump, but I also think we need to look outside the box at unconventional methods that are now in play. For instance, methods such as fees per thousand miles driven on Michigan roads or even looking at the possibility of toll roads. While toll roads might not be the answer today, we should be considering them for our future. We need to work on a long-term strategy and not a short-term fix.

One potential solution to the road funding crisis is to charge drivers a fee based on how many miles they



drive. With fuel consumption declining due to vehicles becoming more efficient and electric vehicles more common, road funding mechanisms based on fuel taxes are outdated. I am not stating this is a solution but every idea needs to be on the table in future road funding discussions.

As discussions progress, we need to figure out how and why our roads get in such bad shape in the first place. In order to find the right solution, we need to figure out what is causing the problems with our roads in the first place. When building Michigan roads there needs to be accountability. Stringent penalties should be strictly enforced. I believe there needs to be warranties attached to all future work done in order to ensure accountability

statewide.

There are plenty of other states that do not face the same road funding issues that Michigan has been faced with and we need to look at the models these states use. Raising registration fees for Michiganders is a method that I will not entertain unless it is a modest increase. It is now

on the legislature to enact a plan that will give Michigan the funding necessary to ensure better travel for all. I am looking forward to being involved in creating a plan that will do just that. My goal is to make roads as safe as possible without burdening citizens. I welcome any suggestions from any of my constituents.

WMHS celebrates first "Powder Tuff" game

By Stephanie Erickson

For the first time in Wayne Memorial history, on March 26th there was a Powder Tuff game, a game of volleyball against male students and teachers. This game was organized by Wayne Memorial student, Amy Hoch '15.

"I went to a camp where other schools presented about Powder Tuff and I decided I wanted to do it," Hoch said.

After getting it approved by administration, Hoch made announcements through the school for male students to pick up permission slips for the game in the main office.

"I really wanted to put on the event, so after I got the administrations approval I was put in charge of the game," Hoch said.

"This was really fun, I like volley ball and guys don't really get a chance to play." Kyle Swindlehurst '17 said.

The Powder Tuff game consisted of three teams, two student teams and a staff team.

The first game was Teachers vs. Seniors, with the teachers winning.

The second game was Seniors vs. Underclassmen, with the seniors winning.

The third game was Underclassmen vs. Teachers, with the teachers winning again.

The fourth game was Teachers vs. Seniors again, with the teachers winning yet again.

This making the Teachers the champs of Wayne Memorial's first Powder Tuff game.

"This should be an every year thing, with more participation. It's really fun, and it supports Relay for Life, which is a great cause." Tyler Harnos '15 said.

There are hopes to make this an annual event, like Powder Puff, where the girls play football.

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OBITUARY

Earlene Wasik of National City, Michigan, passed away Friday, May 1, 2015.

She is survived by her seven children, Margaret (Louis) Balazsi, Brenda (Ryan) Clifton, Gery (Mike) Shelafoe, Debora Forshee, Caryl (Dave) Krellwitz, Henry (Roxanne) Wasik and Dawn (Mike) Wasik; and grandchildren, Sherri, Robbie, Andy, Dara, Dennis, Brandon, Billy, Kane, Mike, Cera, Michael, Taylor, Danielle, Kyle, Michael, Elle, Ashley, Colleen, Maddison, Henry "Bubba", Lori and Erica. She is also survived by seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 49 years Henry "Hank" Wasik, sister Barbara, son Ken, granddaughter Samantha, grandson Joshua Clinton, and son-in-law Dale Forshee.



Earlene was very active in the community. She was a member, and one time the President, of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hale American Legion and VFW post. She was also member of the St. Pius X Catholic Church and Tawas Bay Eagles Post No. 2588.

Funeral Mass along with organizational honors will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the St. Pius X Catholic Church, 3901 M-65 in Hale. Visitation will start at 10:00 a.m. prior to the Mass starting. Interment will take place at St. Hedwig Cemetery in Dearborn Heights on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. Memorial contributions are suggested to the American Legion Building Fund. Arrangements were made by the Hale Chapel of the Buresh Funeral Homes. Those wishing to offer condolences may do so at www.bureshfuneralhomes.com.

Wayne Memorial hires new football coach

The Zebras will have a new varsity football coach when they take the field this fall. Donald (D-Why) Anderson will be the new head coach. Anderson is a graduate of Cody High School and attended Purdue University from 1981- 1984. He played football and ran track at Purdue and was captain of the football team and track team in 1983 and 1984. He earned All Big Ten honors in football and played in the Peach Bowl and the East/West Shrine Game. After Purdue, Anderson spent time in the NFL playing with the Indianapolis Colts, San Francisco 49ers and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He is still in the MHSAA record book with one of the fastest times on record in the 100 yard dash.



Donald Anderson

After his playing days, Coach Anderson worked at Cody High School as a defensive coordinator and head football coach, Henry Ford High School as defensive coordinator and assistant head coach, and at North-

western High School as defensive coordinator, assistant head coach and head coach. During his coaching days in Detroit, Coach Anderson was part of three city championship teams and seven playoff-qualifying teams with two District Championships. Anderson also worked as a youth case worker at the Children's Home of Detroit.

Mr. Anderson resides in Westland with his wife Sheila. He has two adult children, two step children and two granddaughters.

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