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Friday, July 13, 2018
Vol. 2, No. 30

Recall Petition Update Regarding Trustee Bucci

There is a recall petition effort underway in Macomb Township to recall Trustee Dino Bucci. While Bucci has resigned from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), he is still an active member of the Macomb Township Board of Trustees, although he has not attended a board meeting since November of 2017. He continues to collect a salary from the township, and appeals to the Governor to remove Bucci have gone unanswered.

A recall is the only process where the residents can decide Bucci's successor for the Trustee seat on the November 2018 ballot. If the governor removes Bucci, if he is sentenced, or if he resigns before the recall, then the current board will appoint his successor.

Residents seeking petition forms to obtain signatures from fellow residents can obtain additional forms at the office behind Aspen restaurant at 20371 Hall Rd. Residents can also sign the petition there Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additionally, recall volunteers will have a table set up at Macomb Corners Park for the Music in the Park events at 7 p.m. on July 19, July 26, and August 2.

The deadline to obtain 6900 signatures is August 3. Follow the Facebook group "Macomb Township Voices!" for continued updates. Residents with questions can call Tom Sokol at 586-884-3554.

Utica's Appetite for Art Festival July 21

Celebrate summer at the Appetite for Art Festival on Saturday, July 21 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, July 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Downtown Utica.

The event will host over 100 arts and crafts vendors, a craft beer tent, bounce house, face painting, food trucks, live music, and more. There is no registration required to attend the event, and admission is free.

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JOHN POWLEDGE, seven-year-old baseball standout, has been offered a lifetime contract for the Birmingham Bloomfield Beavers, the reigning champions of the United Shore Professional Baseball League in Utica. John will soon be a first grader at Parkway Christian School in Sterling Heights. He has endured seven surgeries so far, but it hasn't seemed to slow down his swing. Read the full story to the right. Photo courtesy of USPBL.

USPBL Offers Powledge Lifetime Contract

Playing professional baseball is a dream a lot of boys have while playing in their backyard with their family and friends. Most studies will tell you that less than one percent of high school athletes make it professionally. Well for John Powledge, a seven-year-old boy diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS), cleidocranial dysplasia and infantile scoliosis, that dream has come true.

Last Saturday, during the United Shore Professional Baseball League All-Star Game, John was offered a lifetime contract for the Birmingham Bloomfield Beavers from USPBL Owner and CEO Andy Appleby, Beavers' Manager Chris Newell and right-handed pitcher Brian Heldman. Newell and Heldman met John as part of the Beaumont Pediatric Children's Rehab Day at Jimmy John's Field in late June.

"John epitomizes what our team and league stands for," said Newell. "His toughness, perseverance and his ability to impact lives is what we should all strive to be like! He is a true inspiration to not only me personally, but everyone on my ball club. Having him become a Beaver for life is the single most important and best thing this organization can hang it's hat on."

The Beavers are the defending champions after capturing the championship last year in the second season of the USPBL. Newell has watched a league-best eight of his

Summertime And The Reading's Easy At Utica Public Library

by HELEN KORNEFFEL

Tucked away in a cozy corner of Downtown Utica, not far from the bustling activity of Hall Road, the Utica Public Library's inviting, quaint charm stands with its doors open, welcoming residents young and old.

"The library is really a lifeline for some people," said Marsha Doege, Director of the Utica Public Library. "People come to this library when they need to find something out about our community; we really hold the knowledge and history of the city."

The Utica Public Library was saved two years ago from having to shorten its hours and cut staffing because of a lack of funding. A millage was passed in 2016 that stopped this from occurring. Instead of shortening its hours to 25 hours a week, the library can thank the millage and those who voted for it for an increase in staff and activities.

"Two years ago we asked for a millage, and they approved it," said Doege. "That was just enough money to hire someone part-time to take care of our children's services and to start some

more programs because we couldn't afford any children's programs before."

Katherine Francis, Children's Services Coordinator at the library, was hired after the millage was passed. Francis runs the Summer Reading Program and other children's activities at the library. Francis is an avid supporter of reading and promotes the importance of having children read over the summer to keep the skills they learned over the school year sharp.

"If you're not reading, you're not

See LIBRARY, page 2

See USPBL, page 2

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Open Position At Commission of Veteran Affairs

The Macomb County Board of Commissioners is looking to fill an open position. There's an availability for a four-year term on the Macomb County Veterans Affairs Commission.

Responsibilities of the job include appointing a director for the department, reviewing new benefits offered by the federal government, and more. Macomb County residents who have served on active duty or in a U.S. are able to apply for appointments.

Experience in the fields of public service, business, and finance is desired. Applications for appointment must have a letter of support and endorsement from a chartered veterans group in Macomb County.

Applications should be submitted to the Macomb County Board of Commissioners by Friday, July 6. For more information, call 586-469-6507 or visit boardsandcommissions.macombgov.org.

Summer Reading Program At The Utica Library

LIBRARY, From page 1

able to function at your best," said Francis. "Reading is very important, and it starts at a very young age. Even reading street signs and instructions for things are very important developmentally."

On Tuesday, July 10, Francis hosted one of the numerous kids craft events the library is hosting this summer. The event theme was "DIY Mini Fairy Garden." Participants were given a kit of materials including river rocks, mini faux succulents, and flowers to use to make their very own fairy gardens.

"These free activities at the library really allow the people of Utica to come together as a community," said Francis. "I like to put a little bit of teaching behind some of the programs as well, so it's not only reading every time the kids come in."

The Summer Reading Program at the library experienced a revamping over the past few years and members of the community are taking advantage of every event and fun activity the

library has to offer. Utica resident Lori Kleckner was excited to be with her child at their first event at the library.

"My daughter is starting preschool

next year, and I feel like this (summer reading program) will be a good tool for her," said Kleckner.

Weekly summer events at the



KATHERINE FRANCIS, Children's Services Coordinator (left), and **Marsha Doege**, Director of the Utica Public Library, got in on the fun at the Mini Fairy Garden event this week. The Summer Reading Program is designed to keep kids learning while they're out of school. Learn more at uticalibrary.com.



UTICA'S YOUNGEST POSTED up at the library for the "DIY Mini Fairy Garden" event Tuesday. They used popsicle sticks, dirt, kleenex boxes, and glitter to make their gardens magical.

library include Storytime on Wednesday mornings and Paws for Reading on Thursday mornings. Upcoming events on July 16 include a Selfie Scavenger Hunt, Poetry Slam, and Poetry Creation Station. Visit the library on July 17 for CD Scratch Art, and Puzzle Day on July 23. Finishing out the program, there will be an End of Summer Reading Party on July 30 that will include pizza and a petting zoo.

Participants can register for Summer Reading any time during the six-week program. Registration prior to the events is recommended due to limited space. For more information about the Summer Reading Program and upcoming events at the Utica Public Library, call 586-731-4141 or visit uticalibrary.com.

USPBL Beavers Sign Seven-Year-Old

USPBL, From page 1

players sign with Major League Baseball organizations.

John is heading into the first grade and attends Parkway Christian School in Sterling Heights. He has endured seven surgeries so far to treat his scoliosis and will continue to have back surgeries until he is done growing, ranging between the ages of 12-14 years old. He is treated at the University of Michigan's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. John continues to get physical therapy and occupational therapy at Troy Beaumont Hospital.

"**John loves sports**, especially baseball," said Joy Powledge, John's mother. "This is a blessing for our family. I still can't stop smiling and telling everyone how great your organization is. I cannot thank the USPBL enough, especially Chris and Brian, for making my son's dreams come true!"





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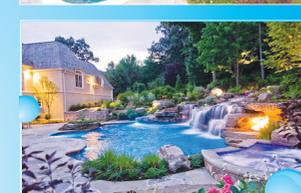
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Michigan's Social Studies Curriculum Could Be Getting A Rewrite

by EMMITT LEWIS

The Michigan Department of Education is in the midst of revising the state's social studies curriculum and standards.



STATE SENATOR PATRICK COLBECK, R-Canton, has put forward a bill suggesting changes to the Michigan's social studies curriculum standards in grades K-12, which he says will make state curriculum more politically neutral. His opponents disagree.

The changes have been years in the making and will affect all students attending K-12 public schools. However, the proposed revisions have left some people scratching their heads, feeling that there's an *elephant* in the room that's not being addressed.

A few of the possible revisions include taking the word "democratic" out of the phrase "core democratic values," erasing any reference to *Roe v. Wade*, and eliminating the mention of immigrants, Native Americans, and lesbian and gay people when addressing civil rights. The potential changes to the current standards have left some wondering if these alterations are necessary, and whether or not there are political motives at play.

Anthony Tuf Francis, Assistant Professor of Teacher Development and Educational Studies at Oakland University, does not think these changes are necessary. Francis says that the current standards were created by the smartest historians and teachers he knows, and that the blotting out of minority groups would give an inaccurate representation of America's history.

"The beauty of the American story to me is the fight for everyone to have a place at the table," Francis said, adding that these revisions are trying to change that narrative.

President of the Troy Board of Education Karl Schmidt echoed the same sentiments. He says that he's not worried about the education of students in Troy, but nonetheless, he is concerned about school districts across the state that have less resources.

Opponents to the changes say they are a poorly-veiled attempt at pushing a conservative agenda. Both Francis and Schmidt agreed that an agenda is being pushed, but disagreed about how discreet the intent behind the changes are.

"It's obvious what (this) is. That's

exactly what it is. It's not even veiled," Schmidt said. He added proposals come from a troubling school of thought that he has begun noticing.

"If I look at history and recognize that maybe we didn't do everything right for everybody, somehow I'm suggesting I don't value the country, that I don't love the country," Schmidt said. He says that making revisions based on that type of thinking is concerning.

"When I look at all the changes, it's essentially saying, 'don't bring up the bad things that we did' and 'don't recognize that there are citizens of the country who have had diminished rights for many years. And that there are things we have done as a country, systematically, that have left them in that situation,'" Schmidt stated.

The Board of Education President believes that in order to progress as a country, we must examine and learn from our past. He thinks that the people behind these changes would rather lead a life void of historical contemplation.

Senator Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, is one of the people who is pushing for the adjustments. He made arguments for some of the changes including removing "democratic" from "core democratic values," arguing that the U.S. is more of a republic than a democracy.

In addition, Colbeck advocated for eliminating the mentioning of some minority groups when discussing civil rights, saying that including some of those groups could be viewed as encroaching on people's religious rights.

Associate Professor of 20th-Century

U.S. Social History at Oakland University Daniel Clark says that the Senator's arguments are more for contemporary reasons and not historical. He states that everyone seems like they want to be open-minded and include multiple viewpoints, but they want their side to be the one students walk away with.

"In this case, I do sense that the promoters of the changes would like students to come away with a dim view of LGBT rights and a favorable view of the religious rights to discriminate against LGBT people, and I think that's dangerous," Clark said.

With these potential edits on the horizon, the possible impact it could have on the students starts to take center stage.

Professor Francis says that the revamping of the curriculum can have a negative impact on the students. "These people's stories matter," he said. "Students will be robbed of seeing the beauty that is the American story from multiple perspectives."

He also notes that some of the material that will potentially be eliminated could make it more difficult for teachers to teach a well-rounded historical concept or idea.

Elton Weintz, a History Professor at Macomb Community College, also spoke to the lack of perspectives and diversity in the revisions. "In the long term, this is a missed opportunity to introduce to individuals the diversity of the people who made up our nation," Weintz said.

Weintz highlighted that kids who live in less diverse areas are going to

have their history "white-washed." He also states that this decision could cause less empathy for the struggles people had to go through in the nation's past.

The new curriculum will need to be approved by Michigan's State Board of Education and The board is split between four Democrats and Republicans. Some are viewing the changes as heavily conservative, so a compromise representing both sides might have to be considered.

"I don't think there should be politicians involved at all," Schmidt said.

Weintz, Francis, Schmidt, and Clark all mention that the standards should be overseen by academics.

"Politicians making changes to our academic standards makes absolutely no sense, as an educator," Weintz states.

Shelby Township resident Patricia Guillen has a daughter who will be a third-grade student this fall. She thinks that politics will be involved in these changes one way or the other.

"Politics are always involved. I don't think that's ever going to change. Everyone has their own point of view on the subject," Guillen said. Nevertheless, she believes that a compromise can be reached.

According to Bridge Magazine, the public comment period was originally supposed to end on June 30. However, due to the strong public response, the deadline has been extended to September 30. Public hearings will be held, and input can also be provided online. For more information, or to provide feedback, visit michigan.gov/mde.

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THE SHELBY TOWNSHIP Police Department is wishing three sergeants a happy retirement this week. Chief Shelide awarded Sgt. Titchenell, Sgt. Taylor and Sgt. Stachowicz their retirement shadow boxes Wednesday. STPD added the above photo to their Facebook page, noting that these boxes are funded by contributions from the Command Officers and are a new tradition at STPD. "Congratulations and enjoy your new lives, gentlemen!"

Join The Macomb County Sheriff's Office For Recruitment Information

Have you considered a career in law enforcement? If so, visit the Macomb County Sheriff's Office on Tuesday, July 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. MCSO will be hosting a presentation on the Comtec 911 Dispatch Center, Corrections, and Road Patrol, with several recruiters ready to meet interested patrons.

Learn more about the many MCSO's specialized units including Traffic Bureau, Detective Bureau, Computer Crimes, Fugitive Team, Narcotics Team, Marine Division, and

more.

The Macomb County Sheriff's Office offers numerous benefits including health insurance, dental, vision, vacation, sick days, holiday bonuses, 401K, deferred compensation, and overtime opportunities.

The only requirement to attend the event is having earned a high school diploma. Spots are limited, so reserve your seat today by contacting the training division at 586-307-9311. The MCSO is located at 43565 Elizabeth Rd in Mount Clemens.

4th Of July Shooting Suspect Arrested Across State Lines

POLICE PATROL



■ HOMICIDE SUSPECT ARRESTED.

On July 5 at approximately 12:20 a.m., Macomb County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the area of Court and Clemens Streets in Mt. Clemens for shots fired. A large crowd of people were gathered in the area and deputies learned that two persons with gunshot wounds had been transported to the hospital. The first victim is identified as Charlie McGowan, a 24-year-old male out of Clinton Township, who died as a result of his injuries. The second victim is a 26-year-old female out of Clinton Township who is being treated for her injuries.

Sheriff Anthony Wickersham said Deputies were on scene within two minutes and located no victims. The Macomb County Sheriff's Office received a call from McLaren Macomb Hospital that two gunshot victims had



been brought in. Charlie McGowan was pronounced deceased from a gunshot wound to the stomach area. The female victim was treated for a gunshot wound to the leg. Both victims were transported to the hospital in two different vehicles. The female was transported by her boyfriend.

The victims are acquaintances to one another and were both attending a block-style party at the Court and Clemens Street location. The male is believed to have been shot while standing in the street and the female was shot while she was in a vehicle.

Seventeen spent casings were located at the scene from three different caliber weapons.

The Macomb County Sheriff's Office identified Perry Bernard Rouse Jr as the suspect in this homicide investigation. The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office issued a five-count warrant for Rouse including Homicide - Murder First Degree - Premeditated (life felony), 3 Weapons Felony Firearm charges, and Assault With Intent to Murder (life felony).

On July 7, Perry Bernard Rouse Jr. was taken into custody by the United States Marshal Service Great Lakes Task Force just outside of Chicago, IL. Rouse was located at a Motel 6 in Harvey, IL. and taken into custody without incident. Rouse was housed at the Chicago Police Department until his extradition to Macomb County. On July 12, Rouse was arraigned in the 41-B Clinton Township District Court on five counts including one count of homicide.

Note: If you have any information on the aforementioned crimes or any other offenses, please call the Macomb County Sheriff at 586-469-5151.

The American Dream: Is It Really Yours?

PERSPECTIVES

by SAM SMALL

Horatio Alger declared that through hard work and unwavering determination, success could be obtained by any single person. A young boy could transform himself from rags to riches and thus grasp the once highly-revered "American Dream."

However, this aged concept of the "American Dream" appears to be almost completely a myth for some.

George Braxton, age 72 born May 20, 1946, and his daughter Maddy Braxton, age 20 born July 3, 1998, both shared the same childhood dream of wanting to be an airline pilot. However, the biggest problem for George not obtaining that dream is that he is "almost as blind as a bat."

George works as a carpenter. He started working with his dad at age eleven, while his friends were "out playing baseball and doing who knows what" and has had the same job ever since. He grew up in a small house in Madison Heights and has never owned a cell phone, as he thinks the device is a "curse to the human race." He is also quite proud of the fact that his great-great-grandfather signed the Declaration of Independence because as he says, America is the greatest country on Earth.

Separated by 53 years, Maddy describes her and her father as constantly "butting heads." Sometimes it

seems they agree on almost nothing.

"It is because we are two different people," suggests George.

"No, I think it's because we are the same person," Maddy offers. "I am exactly like you."

"I hope not," he jokes. "We are both definitely strong-willed."

"I think we just were raised differently," says Maddy. "The societies that we grew up in were very different, and I think that gave us different worldviews. But fundamentally, we are the same person."

George adds: "A lot of things have changed since I was a teenager. I remember back when I was 20 years old, we had the Vietnam war. Things were different, but they were also very the same. I grew up in a great time - it was fantastic. In the 60s and 70s we were cruising Woodward, we were experimenting with stuff and not getting in trouble like kids do now. Families were a lot closer knit, we had dinner together every night at the dinner table."

Maddy disagrees. She thinks these days people are "feeling as if they don't need kids to feel successful. They don't need a family, they are worrying about their careers. Especially women; women used to not have the opportunity to even pursue a career, so now they're seizing every opportunity."

To an extent, they both are right. According to an article by NBC, about 56% of Millennials are delaying, and in some cases forgoing, landmark events such as marriage, long-term employment, and home ownership. In addition, the average grad owes about \$28,400 in student loans, thus forcing students to

live with their parents longer than expected. It's these statistics that often earn Millennials a reputation of being narcissistic and lazy from the older Baby Boomer generation; a generation where the "American Dream" was arguably both highly normalized and perhaps easier to achieve.

In an article published in 1970 by Time Magazine titled "When the young teach and the old learn," these very same Baby Boomers complaining about "kids these days" were the same source of worry for their elders. They were the long-haired, iconic rebels that protested for equal rights and the end of the Vietnam war. Unsurprisingly, their parents didn't seem to understand them.

"Parents are discovering that they cannot re-establish their own moral authority merely through laying down the law by fiat," the Time article states. "The troubled parents of troubled children have only one real choice: listen."

Perhaps the American Dream does not have just one model anymore. Millennials have been witness to a drastic culture shift in the US, as did Boomers in the 60s and 70s. With the legalization of gay marriage, the introduction of smartphones and social media, and the rise of college enrollment, the younger generation is seeing change happen at a rapid rate. Instead of comparing each other's success, it may be valuable to attempt to understand one another, and maybe, just maybe, possibly even work together.

"My parents always encouraged me to do whatever I want; I believed I could achieve anything," Maddy says as she sticks her thumb out at George. "I mean, I am his daughter."

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Gazette

Senior Digest

Join The Journey To Find A Cure For Alzheimer's

Thousands across Metro Detroit will be participating in the fight against Alzheimer's disease this year at the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, August 25 at the Detroit Zoo.



Held in over 600 communities nationwide and raising more than \$87 million nationwide for Alzheimer's care, support and research in 2017, the Walk is the world's largest event to raise funds and awareness in Metro Detroit and beyond. Despite its national impact, for local residents, the mission is deeply personal.

Cathy Grube, the chair for the

2018 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Detroit, has been participating for many years. "I joined the Walk to End Alzheimer's because of my mother who passed away from the disease on March 13, 2013," says Grube. "We saw

her go from a vibrant loving woman to a shell of herself. Alzheimer's takes not only your memory of yourself and all of those you love, it takes your dignity as well."

Alzheimer's disease, the nation's sixth-leading cause of death, affects more than 5 million Americans, including 180,000 people living with the disease and more than 511,000 caregivers

in the state of Michigan alone. Alzheimer's is the only disease in the top ten causes of death without a way to prevent it, cure it, or slow it down.

"I walk and fundraise in memory of my mother and for myself, my children and my grandchildren," said Grube. "All in the hopes of finding a cure, a prevention or a way to slow this horrid disease."

All ages and ability levels are welcome to participate in the Walk to End Alzheimer's - Metro Detroit taking place Saturday, August 25 at the Detroit Zoo. There is no fee to register and attend, however, participants raising \$100 or more will receive a 2018 Walk t-shirt. Join the fight by starting your own team at act.alz.org/detroit. Registration opens at 7 a.m. and the walk starts at 8:50 a.m.

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. To learn more about Alzheimer's disease or about other ways to get involved, visit alz.org or call the Association's toll-free 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900.

Questions And Answers About Assisted Living

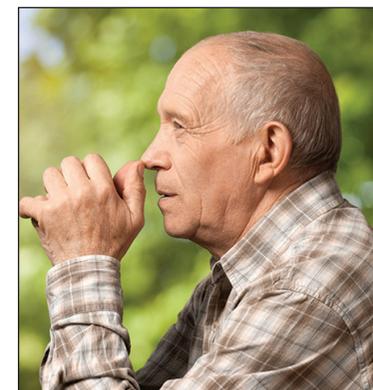
SENIOR LIVING ADVISOR



by
LAURA SMIGIELSKI, LPC,
LNHA, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR FOR BICKFORD
ASSISTED LIVING AND
MEMORY CARE

Question: We are trying to manage dad at home but he is wandering away from home-its very concerning-is it time for a move into a senior living place?

A: Safety should always be the main concern so it sounds like it may be time for a move. Make sure you find out if the front doors at the senior living communities remain locked 24/7. If they only stay locked a portion of the day this would continue to be a concern. Also, some places may insist on moving your dad into their "lock down" unit/neighborhood which can drive up the costs considerably. A few assisted living communities offer 24/7 locked front doors and can manage wandering behaviors in their regular assisted living areas-which becomes



a great cost savings as well as allowing for more independence under supervision.

Laura Smigielski is a licensed professional counselor (LPC) and a licensed nursing home administrator (LNHA). She is currently the Executive Director for Bickford Assisted Living and Memory Care in Shelby Township.

Please feel free to send Laura any questions you may have to laura.smigielski@enrichinghappiness.com or call her at 586-685-5800.

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Tips To Help Seniors Stay Cool In The Hot Summer Weather

Older adults need to be more careful of overheating and heat stroke because their bodies can't adjust to high temperatures as well as younger bodies can. Also, seniors are more likely to start out dehydrated.

In fact, 40% of heat-related deaths in the U.S. were among people over 65, according to a University of Chicago Medical Center study.

Seniors are more vulnerable to heat because:

- Their bodies don't adjust as well to sudden changes in temperature.
- Chronic medical conditions can change their body responses to heat.
- Prescription medicines can impair their body's ability to regulate temperature or could actually prevent sweating.

That's why it's best for older adults to stay indoors and avoid strenuous activities in hot weather.

To keep seniors safe and comfortable, here are 10 practical, senior-friendly ways to help them stay cool indoors.

10 ways for seniors to stay cool in hot weather:

- Drink plenty of cool water throughout the day (don't rely on feeling thirsty!) and avoid alcohol and caffeine.
- Eat cooling snacks like homemade popsicles (with cupcake liner as drip catcher), frozen peas, or slightly

frozen grapes.

- Eat light, cold meals like chicken or pasta salad instead of heavy, hot dishes like pot roast.

- Place a cool washcloth on the back of the neck and a pan of cool water close by to periodically re-cool the towel.

- Sit with feet in a pan of cool (but not too cold) water.

- Keep the house as cool as possible by keeping shades closed during the hottest part of the day and using inexpensive solar curtains.

- Wear layers of lightweight clothing in light colored cotton so it's easy to adjust to the temperature throughout the day by removing or adding layers.

- Visit a public cooling center like a recreation center, senior center, library, coffee shop, or shopping mall.

- Take a cool shower, bath, or washcloth wipe-down. For maximum cooling, keep the water just below body temperature.

- Cover up with a flexible ice blanket – use a thin towel to keep the ice away from direct skin contact.

Bonus tip: If the heat is unbearable and lasts for weeks on end, consider buying an inexpensive indoor air conditioning unit. Or contact a local air conditioning store or chain store like Rent-A-Center to see if you can rent one.

— dailycaring.com

Is Sunlight Actually Good For Psoriasis?

By SUZANNE FRIEDLER, MD

HealthiNation - Pretty much everyone (especially if you're from somewhere that gets inches and inches of snow in winter) looks forward to those magical weeks in June or July when it *finally* feels like summer's here. But if you have psoriasis, an inflammatory skin condition in which your skin cells turn over too rapidly, often creating thick, scaly plaques, you might come to appreciate summer more than most.



That's because the ultraviolet light from the sun's rays appears to be naturally soothing for psoriasis symptoms. So dermatologists actually encourage patients with psoriasis to seek out sun exposure, even though that sounds counterintuitive to every single bit of skin advice you've ever read anywhere.

"Psoriasis patients are the dermatologist's one exception to the rule of staying out of the sun," says Suzanne Friedler, MD, a dermatologist in New York City.

The Benefits of Sunlight for Psoriasis

It's well-known that UV light, and UVB rays in particular, can help treat psoriasis. UVB rays penetrates the skin and slow the growth of affected skin cells, according to the National Psoriasis Foundation. Sunlight may reduce inflammation, cause skin cells to turn over less rapidly, and improve the appearance of psoriasis plaques.

Sunlight also helps promote the production of vitamin D, which also can help treat psoriasis by causing skin cells to slow down in how quickly they turn over, according to Dr. Friedler. In fact, a commonly prescribed class of topical therapies for psoriasis is called calcipotriene, which contains a vitamin D derivative.

What's the Difference Between Sunlight and Phototherapy?

You can expose yourself to UVB rays by spending a few minutes in the sun a few times a week; this is sometimes called solar therapy.

Phototherapy for psoriasis, on the other hand, involves in-office (or sometimes at-home) treatment that exposes you to specific wavelengths of UVB light from a machine. Your dermatologist may recommend phototherapy, which usually involves office visits a couple times a week, if your psoriasis hasn't improved after you've made lifestyle changes for psoriasis and tried various topical therapies.

Phototherapy is not at all the same thing as using a tanning bed, which is considered a cancer risk and not recommended for psoriasis (or anyone). The UV light delivered via phototherapy has been filtered to get rid of wavelengths that damage skin.

Laser treatment, such as an excimer laser, is basically a much more intense form of phototherapy. It's good for psoriasis lesions that are contained to a smaller area of the body rather than all over. The laser is a very concentrated beam of UV light that's also been filtered to remove

skin-damaging wavelengths.

What Are the Risks of Sun Exposure for Psoriasis?

Even though some sunlight is healthy for psoriasis-prone skin, too much is not good for you.

- UV exposure can raise your risk of skin cancer, so it may not be recommended if you have a strong personal or family history of skin cancer or melanoma.

- Certain medications for psoriasis can make you more photosensitive. This means you might be more likely to burn. These medications can include vitamin A derivative creams like tazarotene and coal tar. Before you self-medicate with sun exposure, you should always ask your doctor if you may be taking any medication that can make your skin more sensitive to the sun.

- Sunburn can make your psoriasis symptoms worse. In a classic example of the dose makes the poison, too much sun exposure can actually backfire and worsen psoriasis symptoms. This is due to something called the Koebner phenomenon, in which any injury to the skin (be it sunburn or a cut or scratch) can trigger more psoriasis to develop, says Dr. Friedler.

How Can You Get Safe Sun Exposure with Psoriasis?

"Allow the sun to hit your psoriatic plaques, but do take care to protect other parts of your body," cautions Dr. Friedler. Here's how:

- Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen of at least SPF 30 on all areas not covered by psoriasis plaques.

- Aim for multiple short exposures of sunlight, not one eight-hour day at the beach.

- Start with five to 10 minutes of noon-time sun exposure daily, advises the Psoriasis Foundation; you can gradually build up from there once you see your skin is tolerating it.

Work with your doctor; he or she may want to check you more frequently to make sure your skin isn't experiencing sun damage and that your psoriasis symptoms are improving.

Reviewed by: **Preeti Parikh, MD**

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Holistic Health & Wellness Fair July 29

MI Green Team is hosting the 4th annual Holistic Health & Wellness Fair on Sunday, July 29 from noon to 5 p.m. at the historic Packard Proving Grounds, located at 49965 Van Dyke Ave. in Shelby Township.

Exhibits, programs, and dining will be offered indoors in the beautifully restored banquet hall. Food trucks and activities, including an aerial yoga demonstration, will be available outside. The event is moving to Sunday afternoon and will offer more exhibits, concessions, and activities than in past years.

The fair showcases dozens of products and services for a healthy body, mind, home, family and more. Many

exhibitors will offer show specials, free samples, and door prizes. Experts and educators will offer wellness checks, presentations, and demonstrations.

Last year, MI Green Team took the reins from event founder and Shelby business owner Teri Ercolani, who says, "Each of us holds the power to enhance our quality of life and community through holistic wellness."

Tickets are \$10 at the gate and include parking, admission to all exhibits and programs, a goody bag, door prizes entry and \$3 in concessions vouchers. Advance tickets are \$2 off and available at hhwfair.com, along with event details and directions.

Registration Now Open for Senior Olympic Summer Games

By DREW HOWARD

Individuals of all skill levels are invited to sign up for the 2018 Michigan Senior Olympics (MSO) 39th Annual Summer Games, a 10-day event across Oakland and Macomb counties expected to draw 1,500 ath-

This year's Olympics offers up 27 events, including archery, bowling, cycling, golf, pickleball, softball, table tennis, and volleyball, among others.

All scheduled events will take place in Oakland and Macomb counties at various locations from August

Bloomer Park," Becky Ridky, executive director of the MSO told the Gazette. "The event will include free food from local food trucks, a torch-lighting ceremony, and music on stage from Captain Fantastic, an Elton John Tribute Band."

Registration for the games is now open to participants ages 50 and up through Friday, July 20. Qualifying athletes will move on to compete in the 2019 National Senior Games in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

New to this year's lineup is the Power Walk event, which will see athletes go head to head in a speed walking competition at Oakland University on Sunday, August 19. Organizers hope the event will attract a new group of athletes.

Senior athletes are also invited to register for the annual Dancesport Competition taking place at the Royal Park Hotel on Sunday, August 5. The competition is open to both professional and amateur dancers in a wide variety of dance styles. Competitors are required to sign up with a partner.

Past MSO games have seen athletes of all different skill levels, according to Ridky, with this year being no different.

"Some athletes train year-round preparing for the games while others might just be trying a sport for the first time," Ridky said. "Everyone is so welcoming to each other and cheers each other on. It's a great

atmosphere to be a part of."

Ridky added that while many athletes will not earn a medal, the Summer Games is still a great excuse for competitors to strive toward beating their personal records.

One such casual senior athlete is Beth Ambrose, who's participated in the summer golf competition for the past four years. Ambrose said the event is a great way to connect with new friends.

"I think it's casual - I take it that way," Ambrose said of the golf competition. "Now I'm trying to get other people to do it because it's quite an

experience. You meet people who you look forward to seeing again each year, and it's very cool in your older age to meet people this way."

Other scheduled events include badminton, billiards, bocce ball, disc golf, horseshoes, powerlifting, a 5K & 10K, racewalk, racquetball, shuffleboard, skills challenge, swimming, open water swim, tennis, track & field, and a triathlon.

To register for the MSO Summer Games, visit michigan-seniorolympics.org or call 248-608-0252.



letes from around the state.

The MSO is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting healthy lifestyles through state games, sports competitions and wellness programs for active individuals ages 50 and up.

10-19. The 2018 Summer Games will celebrate its opening ceremony in Rochester Hills.

"We would like to invite the entire community to join us for a free event on Friday, August 10 from 6-8 p.m. at

All Seasons To Host "The Joy of Movement"

Seniors, you're invited to a special presentation, "The Joy of Movement: Body and Mind Connection" at All Seasons of Rochester Hills Independent Senior Living. This event is complimentary and will take place on Thursday, July 19 at 1:30 p.m.

Heather Overbeck has designed a 45-minute class based on Anne Green Gilbert's "BrainDance." You will enjoy listening to music while learning movements that will reorganize the brain for maximum concentration,

stress relief and mind and body coordination. Light refreshments will be served. Seating is limited.

Please RSVP to 248-260-2869 or ASRHDirectorOfSales@Beztak.com by July 16 to reserve your spot. You may want to stay after the presentation and take a tour of this beautiful community and see why it is the superior choice in Senior Living!

All Seasons of Rochester Hills is located at 175 E. Nawakwa Rd. just north of M-59 at Rochester Rd.



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Sound The Alarm To Help Save Lives

(NAPSI) The American Red Cross is calling for thousands of volunteers to join Sound the Alarm events across the country as part of its Home Fire Campaign. More than 1.1 million smoke alarms have been installed during fire safety events.

In lieu of your volunteer time, consider donating to the American Red Cross. The money will help educate families, install free alarms, and provide aid to those who have been affected by a home fire. To volunteer or to donate, go to SoundTheAlarm.org.

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JULY 24	Arts, Amish & Adventure - \$85/person
AUG 13	Gilmore Car Museum & Kellogg Manor - \$85/person
AUG 16	Old New Detroit Tour - See how Detroit is changing - \$65/person
AUG 22	Wine Trail Tour - Visit 3 wineries - Lunch is included along with a unique presentation from each winery - \$85/person
AUG 24-28	Washington DC - Includes White House - \$625/person
AUG 28	Shipshewana - Meal at Das Essen Haus, Flea Market - \$85/person
SEPT 18	Art Prize - See Art Prize the day before it officially opens in Grand Rapids - Lunch included - No casino stop - \$75/person
SEPT 23-27	Chicago - On & off the beaten path - \$614/person

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Hoarding Is Especially Dangerous for Seniors

by **DEBORAH LAMVERTON**
General Manager
New Life Restoration

Hoarding is dangerous for almost everyone, but it's especially harmful for seniors. They're more likely to fall in a crowded home and their health will be harmed by unsanitary or hazardous living conditions.

Senior hoarding issues could also indicate the presence of Alzheimer's, dementia, or mental illness. In other cases, it could also be caused by Diogenes Syndrome, a condition that affects some seniors near the end of life. Diogenes Syndrome is characterized by hoarding, self-neglect, social withdrawal, and a refusal to accept help.

Hoarding is often accompanied by some degree of anxiety, which makes it difficult to treat - and tough for families to watch. And because hoarders tend to self-isolate, it makes their emotional well-being even more fragile.

When you're caring for someone who hoards, it's helpful to learn more about senior hoarding issues. Understanding the emotional side of this behavior helps you work toward effective solutions in a kind and gentle way.

The difference between a pack rat and a hoarder

Many people like to hang onto

mementos and multiples of useful items for both nostalgic and practical reasons. But there are key differences between someone who collects and someone who hoards.

A hoarder suffers from an inability to discard items and often acquires useless items, like junk mail and old newspapers. They might move things from pile to pile, but they will never throw anything away.



Many people have a few items they feel emotionally attached to, but a hoarder has an excessive attachment to many possessions and will be uncomfortable if somebody touches them or asks to borrow their items.

They'll also feel unable to get rid of any possessions and will end up living in cluttered spaces that are often unsafe, unsanitary, and/or hazardous.

The difference between a collector and a hoarder is that when someone is hoarding, their daily life is negatively impacted.

Trauma can trigger hoarding

Recently, it has been found that people who have hoarding symptoms are also more likely to have experienced a traumatic event in life. It could be that hoarding is a coping mechanism to deal with grief or loss.

This is important to consider if an older adult has only recently started hoarding behaviors. They could be trying to fill an emotional hole left by the trauma of losing a spouse or another major life change.

The emotional effect of senior hoarding issues

Even though hoarding can be a coping mechanism for dealing with anxiety, trauma, or other mental struggles, it doesn't provide real relief.

In addition, hoarding behavior often comes with poor decision making, procrastination, and a lack of organization. These impact all aspects of life and make it more difficult to have a good quality of life.

And because hoarding is isolating, seniors who hoard typically have limited social interactions.

People's perceptions of hoarders can negatively impact a hoarder as well. It's easy for others to see hoarders as dirty or lazy, and those judgments can be difficult for them to hear and handle.

Why do they struggle to let go of possessions?

Hoarding is a complex and layered behavior. A hoarder could be dealing with any number of symptoms and conditions, from indecisiveness to anxiety and from trauma to social isolation.

Using hoarding as a coping mechanism could mean that there's something in the person's life that is just too painful to face. Clutter builds up and provides comfort to the hoarder. Letting go of that comfort can feel excruciating.

In fact, hoarders can develop such strong attachments to their possessions that these items become more valuable to them than the people in their lives. Getting rid of something so valuable would feel similar to the extreme grief of losing a loved one.

That's why if someone forces a hoarder to get rid of these items, their anxiety can intensify to unimaginable levels.

So even though it may seem like the most straightforward solution, do your best to not throw away items without permission or jump into a big cleanup without help from mental health professionals - it would be too emotionally distressing.

And if you do get rid of things without their approval, it will likely make them see you as an untrustworthy person. That makes it harder for you to continue helping them.

Do your best not to judge and remember that they greatly value the items you see as junk. A hoarder needs professional help to deal with their serious emotional issues before they can cope with cleaning up.

What emotional help do hoarders need?

Not only would a forced cleanup cause extreme emotional distress, the person you care for will immediately return to their hoarding ways and fill up the space again.

What works better is to help your older adult see that hoarding is a problem. That doesn't mean shaming the person. Instead, an empathetic and rational discussion (or several discussions) will help them gain the courage to do what's best for themselves. Start by helping them see that a change needs to be made for their own safety.

If the hoarding is linked to a traumatic event, cognitive behavior therapy (CBT) is often an effective treatment. CBT helps the person cope with the emotions from the trauma and learn to manage their grief in a healthier way.

And even if the hoarding isn't linked to a traumatic event, therapy is still helpful. Hoarding can't truly be fixed until the root of the problem is found and addressed. For some people, medications that treat anxiety and depression may also be able to help with hoarding disorder.

Above all, be empathetic. Try to understand where your older adult is coming from and listen to what they have to say as you gently guide them towards recovery.

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Hope Not Handcuffs is an initiative started by Families Against Narcotics (FAN), aimed at bringing law enforcement and community organizations together in an effort to find viable treatment options for individuals seeking help to reduce dependency with heroin, prescription drugs, and alcohol.

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To sign up and learn more, visit familiesagainstnarcotics.org/volunteer

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	3		6			
		2	9		1	5
5			4	7		3
9			2	7		1
1	8				7	2
	2			8	6	9
3			6		5	1
	5	8			1	3
				4		9

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Jimmy John's Field, Utica

JOE NICHOLS
THU, JULY 19 - 7 p.m.
Emerald Theatre, Mt. Clemens

KGB MOTOWN
FRI, JULY 20 - 7:30 p.m.
Stony Creek Metropark

COHEED AND CAMBRIA
& TAKING BACK SUNDAY
FRI, JULY 27 - 6:30 p.m.
Freedom Hill, Sterling Heights

ON STAGE

DAVID CROSS
SUN, JULY 15 - 7 p.m.
Royal Oak Music Theatre

MACBETH
THU, JULY 19 - 8 p.m.
Rochester College Theatre

TONIGHT VS EVERYBODY
FRI, JULY 20 - 11 p.m.
Planet Ant, Hamtramck

LANDLY & HORSTE
SAT, JULY 21 - 7:30 p.m.
Emerald Theatre, Mt. Clemens

LIBRARY

MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION
TUE, JULY 17 - 10 a.m.
Clinton-Macomb, North Branch

AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB
THU, JULY 19 - 1 p.m.
Shelby Township Library

KIDS & TEENS

POETRY DAY
MON, JULY 16 - 7 p.m.
Utica Library

ARTFUL TUESDAYS
TUE, JULY 17 - 1:30 p.m.
Clinton-Macomb, North Branch

TEEN IMPROV WORKSHOP
WED, JULY 18 - 1:30 p.m.
Shelby Township Library

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
WED, JULY 18 - 6:30 p.m.
Graubner Library, Washington



ANT-MAN AND THE WASP
Action, PG-13



THE PRINCESS DIARIES
Comedy, G



THE BOONDOCK SAINTS
Action/Crime, R



BLOCKERS
Comedy, R



SORRY TO BOTHER YOU
Comedy, R

ANT-MAN AND THE WASP

Scott Lang is grappling with the consequences of his choices as both a superhero and a father. Approached by Hope Van Dyne and Dr. Hank Pym, Lang must once again don the Ant-Man suit and fight alongside the Wasp. The urgent mission soon leads to secret revelations.

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU

In an alternate reality of present-day Oakland, California, telemarketer Cassius Green finds himself in a horrifying universe after he discovers a magical key that leads to material glory. As Green's career begins to take off, his friends and co-workers organize a protest against corporate oppression.

Shepard Fairey And Punk Graphics Exhibitions On View At Cranbrook

Shepard Fairey: Salad Days, 1989-1999 is now on view at Cranbrook Art Museum's Wainger Gallery through October 7. The exhibition showcases the artist's formative years through a variety of posters, stickers, and archival documents showing his engagement with punk. It also features a new installation in Cranbrook Art Museum's galleries created by the artist.

Influential street artist Shepard Fairey has been a consistent presence in national and international art scenes since the 1990s. The LA-based artist is perhaps best known locally through his downtown Detroit mural at One Campus Martius, his ubiquitous Hope image created originally as a grassroots activism tool to support Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign, and the pervasive We the People poster series for the 2017 Women's March and beyond.

Shepard Fairey: Salad Days, 1989-1999, considers the first 10 years of Fairey's artistic practice, and its roots in the graphic language and philosophies of the punk scene. Punk's ethos played a decisive role in the artist's early work. "When I discovered punk rock, and realized that music could have an attitude in its style but a specific point of view in its lyrics," states Fairey, "I became even more interested in how it works as a way of shaping attitudes and culture."

From 1989 to 1999, the artist adopted many of punk's biting and playful graphic strategies, as well as its low-tech methods of production and distribution. Fairey created his first Andre the Giant has a Posse sticker in a spontaneous DIY

manner, appropriating an image of professional wrestler André René Roussimoff (aka André the Giant) from a newspaper. The image would gain iconic status when it spread via friends and fans to city streets across the United States and eventually around the world. The Andre the Giant campaign and



Obey Face 3 Series 2, 1996 Screen print on paper, Courtesy of the artist

image would transform in the mid-1990s into the Obey Giant series, which was inspired by John Carpenter's sci-fi horror film, They Live (1988) and its plot about subliminal messages implanted in a society in order to control its inhabitants.



Photo: PD Rearick

"In Fairey's earliest works we can see the inheritance of the punk ethos: the satirical impulse, the guerilla-style poster sniping, the oblique references to pop culture, and the very public stage of the street as a place for unapologetic individual expression," states Blauvelt, Director of the Cranbrook Art Museum. He continues, "Shepard Fairey is a perfect bridge to connect the history of punk graphics that we are also exhibiting at the same time to his seminal work from the 1990s."

The exhibition is organized by Cranbrook Art Museum and curated by Andrew Blauvelt, Director, and Steffi Duarte, Jeanne and Ralph Graham Collections Fellow, with assistance from Library Street Collective.

Too Fast to Live, Too Young to Die: Punk Graphics, 1976-1986 is now on view at Cranbrook's Main, North, and Larson Galleries through October 7.

Too Fast to Live, Too Young to Die: Punk Graphics, 1976-1986, explores the unique visual language of the punk movement from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s through hundreds of its most memorable graphics—flyers, posters, albums, promotions, and zines.

Arranged thematically, the exhibition explores various visual design strategies and techniques, such as appropriation, collage, parody, and pastiche, as well as the influences of genres such as science fiction, horror, and comics. It moves from the sobriety of a stripped down minimalism to the expansive color palettes and expressive forms of new wave.

Examining punk through the lens of graphic design created by both professional and amateur designers, the exhibition will also be punctuated with moments of fashion, contemporary visual art, archival images, videos, and a participatory "concert hall" where visitors can DJ their own vinyl playlist.

Too Fast to Live, Too Young to Die, 1976-1986, is organized by Cranbrook Art Museum and curated by Andrew Blauvelt, Director, and Steffi Duarte, Jeanne and Ralph Graham Collections Fellow, with the generous assistance of Andrew Krivine.

Cranbrook Art Museum is located at 39221 Woodward Ave. in Bloomfield Hills. Hours are Tuesday – Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission is \$10, \$8 for seniors, \$6 for students with ID, children 12 and under are free.

Kids Ballroom Classes Every Thursday At Argentine Tango Detroit

Argentine Tango Detroit hosts Ballroom Classes for juniors on Thursdays at 6 p.m.

Kids ages 9-13 can come have fun learning dances from salsa to waltz with instructor Ivana Capelj, who has com-

peted and taught Latin and Ballroom dance since 1994. She has certifications in International and American style dances, and looks to help people enjoy social, interpersonal, and enriching aspects of dance.

Classes are \$12 each, or \$50 for five weeks. Argentine Tango is located at 7758 Auburn Rd in Utica.

To learn more about Argentine Tango Detroit call 586-254-0560 or visit argentinatangodetroit.com.

Detroit's Concert of Colors Celebrates Diversity

The Concert of Colors has the whole world in its bands. It's a free celebration of the many ethnicities and cultures represented by the people of southeast Michigan and the indigenous music of Detroit. This year, the festival takes place now through July 15.

The Concert of Colors is produced by the Arab American National Museum with partners Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Institute of Arts, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, ACCESS and University of Michigan - Detroit Center. The festival unites metro Detroit's diverse communities and ethnic groups by presenting musical acts from around the world. Over its 25-year history, the festival has become a highlight of metro Detroit's summer festival season, and one of the few free-admission music festivals remaining locally.

Participating venues are located on or near Woodward Ave. in Midtown Detroit, and include the Arab American National Museum, Max M. & Marjorie S.

Fisher Music Center, Charles H. Wright Museum, Detroit Institute of Arts, Third Man Records, Detroit Historical Museum, Michigan Science Center, and Scarab Club.

On Friday, July 13, you can enjoy free admission to the Michigan Science Center from 3-5 p.m. At 3 p.m., the DIA will host Puppet Performance: 5P1N0K10, a puppet theatre Hip Hopera. The show includes hand-crafted puppets, live music, and is fun for all ages. Beginning at 5:30 p.m., the stage at Farnsworth & Brush Street will kick off a series of performances to include spoken word, local musicians, and a quintet tribute to Geri Allen.

On Saturday, July 14, the Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center is the place to be, with performances from M.A.K.U. Soundsystem, drum and roots-driven Hatian powerhouse RAM, Iranian singer/songwriter Mohsen Namjoo, and the irreverent rock-Latin cumbia group ECNO. The music center will also host an all-ages, all-levels community hatha

yoga class at 4:30 p.m.

Or, head a block down Woodward to the Wolverine Outdoor Stage behind the UofM Detroit Center for musical acts ranging from indian fusion to R&B. A songwriter showcase will also take place in the DIA's Kresge Court from 3-6:45 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Sunday, July 15 don't miss Transglobal Underground, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Sin Paredes, Jessica Care Moore, and Tunde Olaniran at the Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center. A dance class with Iyawa Fokloric Dance Theatre will be held at the Scarab Club at 1 p.m. The Wolverine Outdoor Stage will light up once again on Sunday, featuring math-rock, funk, jazz, blues, and hip-hop musicians throughout the day.

The Detroit Film Theatre inside the DIA will screen Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World, a documentary highlighting the overlooked influence of indigenous people on pop music in North America, at 4:30 p.m.

Visit concertofcolors.com to view the full schedule of events or to learn more about the festival.

Michigan Lavender Festival July 13-15



Celebrate the "Grandmother of Herbs" in all her splendor with a series of events centered around the fragrant purple plant - Lavender! The Michigan Lavender Festival will take place July 13-15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Blake's Orchard in Armada.

With just a short drive from the hustle and bustle of city life, the Lavender Festival is a perfect mid-summer getaway. Enjoy a variety of activities including workshops, demonstrations, U-pick lavender, wagon rides touring the farm, live music, essential oil education classes, kids programs, and more.

The Michigan Lavender Festival will feature over 150 Michigan artists, artisans, and local area farms. Gourmet food and refreshments will be available, and



live music performances will take place at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. each day. Classes throughout the weekend range from herbal tea gardens, to beekeeping, to kombucha and more. Kids events will run all three days, and include a DIY lavender play dough demonstration, science alive educational program, and a book reading.

Admission is \$7 for adults, children under 12 enter free. Admission includes unlimited seating to all classes and demonstrations as well as free parking within walking distance.

Blake's Orchard & Cider Mill is located at 17985 Armada Center Rd. in Armada. For a complete festival itinerary, directions, and more information, visit michiganlavenderfestival.net.

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JULY 5TH THRU
AUGUST 30TH**

**FREE ADMISSION
FOOD + DRINK
SPECIALS**

**SHOW UP
GO UP**



EATS & CRAFTS summer comedy open mics continue every Thursday through August 30. Admission is free, so why not? Join them at 1950 E Square Lake Rd. in Troy for drink specials and a good laugh.



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MacombCenter
for the Performing Arts

The Same Old Gang – And Story

PERSPECTIVES



Op-Ed by
PETE MAURER

Age gives you wisdom, particularly if you pay reasonable attention to current events, which naturally and eventually become history. Age also lends experience, which when combined with your lifetime of observations can reveal some patterns that others ignore.

Some recent articles and books I've read suggest that the financial and economic angst that some of us feel isn't a figment of our imagination, and that the vast and ever-growing accumulation of wealth by the top one-percent is, in fact, real.

Tax cuts and economic growth aside for the moment, many of us still feel as though the economic 'boom' we're told about hasn't really made our lives significantly better.

A few dollars more in our paychecks, and a few more minimum-wage, part-time jobs are not enough for the majority of middle-class Americans to break out the champagne and celebrate. There are still many tens of millions of Americans – and over 50% of children – who live in poverty, struggling every day to make ends meet.

This working class and poor is a segment of our society and economy that is undergoing a boom, unfortunately, while at the same time, the middle class is growing ever-smaller, with some studies suggesting that it has gone from nearly 70% in the 1970s to less than 50% today.

The percentage of the nation's wealth that these two groups own is continuing to shrink to less than 40% today. Who owns the other 60%? The top few percent. And the disparity continues to widen, too.

From the late 1800s to 1980, the amount of national wealth owned by the top one-percent of America was surprisingly stable at 25%. Through the robber-baron era and Depression alike, that percentage held steadfast and true.

But then two things happened,

things that at the time would not suggest that they would be looked back upon as the beginning of the Great Divide. Ronald Reagan cut taxes aggressively, promising that the 'trickle-down' effect would enrich everybody. It did not.

And then 18 months into his presidency, Ronald Reagan fired over 15,000 air-traffic controllers, sending a warning shot across the bow of organized labor.

Taken in tandem, the massive tax cuts and continuing attacks on unions has throttled both income and wealth to a large swath of America, instead funneling it upwards to that top one-percent.

Since the 1960s, families at the bottom have gone from no wealth to being in debt \$1,000. The middle class, or at least what is left of it, has seen its overall wealth double. The top ten percent of earners have seen their wealth increase fivefold, and the one-percenters have seen an average increase in wealth of sevenfold.

Why all the wealth inequality? Because of income inequality. When you have a union worker's monthly wages equaling the hourly rate of the average CEO, it doesn't take a genius to see who is going to struggle and who is going to benefit obscenely.

And with the landmark SCOTUS Citizens United decision, that corporations are 'people' too, it opened the door for unlimited political donations to SuperPacs, which has decidedly placed the power in the hands of corporations and the very wealthy, at the expense of Joe Sixpack.

With no political voice, and conservative governance Hell-bent on destroying what little remains of collective bargaining, it's little wonder that you can see how the income and wealth disparity will only continue and worsen.

The facts are true, and the figures don't lie. More and more of America is being vacuumed up by the one-percenters, and when the Forbes 400 richest Americans own 40% of the Country, and the world's 500 richest billionaires own more than the poorest 50% of the world's people, what is left for you and me?

Not much.

Send your letters to
andrew@gazettegroup.com

Macomb Township Parks And Recreation Hosts Picnic Palooza

On Tuesday, July 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a picnic palooza party with Rosco the Clown and Richard Paul the Ventriloquist.

Richard the Ventriloquist mixes kid-friendly comedy with life-sized puppets, music, magic, and lots of audience participation. The picnic palooza will also have inflatables, a

'toddler only' area, tons of other games and activities, and Jets Pizza for purchase.

If you're looking for a fun afternoon activity for the kids, come on out to Macomb Township Parks and Recreation's picnic palooza party! MTPR is located at 20699 Macomb Dr.

Learn more about Macomb Township Parks and Recreation at gomtp.org.

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