

NIGHT OF SONG & DANCE

'TWO ON TAP' BRINGS BROADWAY-STYLE MUSIC, COMEDY SHOW TO RRCA **A&E 1C**



THE MONROE NEWS

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Author: Retelling story a healing experience

■ Reyna Grande also spoke in favor of immigration reform, saying that current laws divide families.

BY DANIELLE PORTTEUS
dportteus@monroenews.com

Writing her memoir healed some of the wounds for Reyna Grande.

"It was a very healing book," she explained. "When I finished writing, I felt so free in a way I had never felt before."

Ms. Grande, the author of "The Distance Between Us," spoke Wednesday night to more than 100 people at Monroe County Community College's La-Z-Boy Center.

Her memoir was selected as this year's read for One Book, One Community.

The memoir was published in August, 2012, and depicts her life before and after illegally immigrating from Mexico to the United States.

When she was just 2, her father left Mexico to find work in the United States. Her mother followed two years later, leaving Ms. Grande and her siblings behind.

During her young life, Ms. Grande was separated from her parents. At 10, she entered the country and later became the first person in her family to graduate from college.



► Immigration reform topic of discussion, schedule of events — **Page 4C**

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— Monroe News photo by KIM BRENT

Reyna Grande, author of the memoir "The Distance Between Us," this year's pick for the annual One Book, One Community read, addresses the crowd during her appearance Wednesday night at the La-Z-Boy Center, Meyer Theater.



— Monroe News photos by KIM BRENT

Monroe Mayor Robert Clark talks with (left to right) Sang Mook Lee, president of Hanwha Holdings USA, Inc., Chang Bum Kim, president of Hanwha L&C Global, and Hanwha L&C Corporate Planning Manager Minah Lee, during the grand opening ceremony for the Hanwha L&C plant in Monroe Wednesday. The expanded polypropylene manufacturing facility started production in January and plans to increase its staffing to 70 employees in the near future.

GLOBAL INVESTMENT

South Korean automotive firm opens new plant in Monroe

■ Hanwha L&C, which makes automotive components, has taken over a vacant factory on E. Front St.

BY RAY KISONAS
rayk@monroenews.com

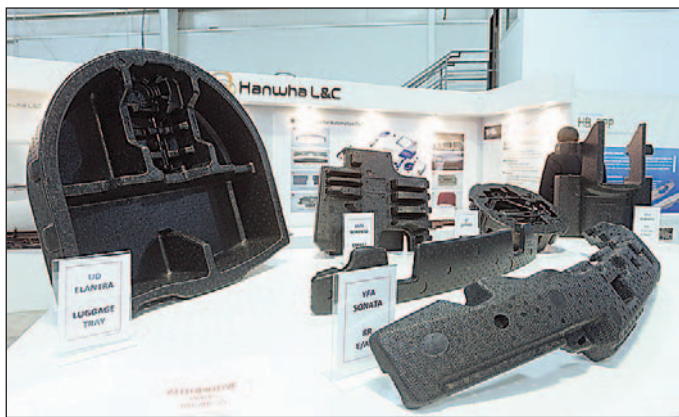
A multibillion-dollar South Korean auto supply company with a global outreach formally opened a Monroe factory to expand its North American presence.

Hanwha L&C, an international high-tech materials producer, invested more than \$12 million in Monroe by converting an empty E. Front St. building into a gleaming 106,000-square-foot production facility that eventually will employ 70 workers.

While initial operations have begun, the company held its official grand opening Wednesday amid promises of long-term partnerships and a successful manufacturing future.

"Hanwha is moving this region in the right direction," Aaron Young of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation told a gathering during the ceremonies. "The City of Monroe now can compete on a global scale."

Production began in January and two more shifts are



Molds used in various automobiles are on display at the grand opening ceremony for the Hanwha L&C plant in Monroe Wednesday.

"We are glad to be part of the community. Monroe, Michigan, has much to offer and that's why we chose this place."

— **Martin Kim**
chief executive officer of Monroe Hanwha plant

expected to be added by May. Currently 30 workers are employed at the plant, which is expected to increase that number to 70. The facility produces expanded polypropylene (EPP) beads and molded products for the automotive and packaging markets.

The beads are used to create packaging and automotive interior and exterior components, such as portions of bumpers and floorboards.

Martin Kim, chief executive officer of the Monroe plant, said the city was selected over several others in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan due to its skilled labor force and proximity to the I-75 corridor, railway and shipping. The plant occupies the former PreBesto Homes, which at one time manufactured modular homes.

The building at 1530 E. Front near the Port of Monroe and Detroit Stoker sat vacant

for years until Hanwha decided to invest here and refurbish the facilities.

"We are glad to be part of the community," Mr. Kim said prior to the ceremonies. "Monroe, Michigan, has much to offer and that's why we chose this place."

As an incentive to locate here, Monroe offered Hanwha 50-percent tax abatements for 12 years on new equipment only. The company will pay full taxes on the property and structure, said Dan Swallow, Monroe's director of community and economic development.

"Clearly they want to be closer to their customer base," Mr. Swallow said. "They view Monroe as a strategic location."

Hanwha operates three other manufacturing facilities in the United States in Alabama, North Carolina and Virginia. It also has a sales and development office in Fenton.

The company also has access to about 14 acres of adjacent land available to expand and add more jobs as it hopes. Global CEO and President Chang-Bum Kim told the gathering that he believes his firm will start a new vision in Michigan.

"I'd like to express my sincere appreciation," he said.

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TODAY'S OBITUARIES Details, 9A

SUZANNE (BEAUVAIS) BEECHLER, 75, of Indianapolis, Ind., formerly of Monroe
EARL E. FARR, 76, of Newport
BEATRICE GUTIERREZ, 92, of Monroe
JOSEPHINE B. MARTIN, 80, of Monroe

ENDELIA M. MORAN, 83, of Ypsilanti
DOROTHY L. NOGAR, 89, of Monroe
WAYNE J. NUNN, 50, of Monroe
JOAN K. VAN SLAMBROUCK, 83, of Monroe

WEATHER Details, 8A

TONIGHT
Rain



39°

FRIDAY
Chance of rain



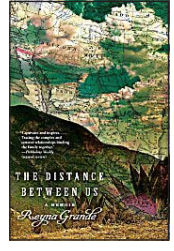
48°

ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY

Panel discussion focuses on immigration reform

Immigration issues affect families and businesses and has become a hot topic facing Congress.

Speakers will address these and other issues at a free panel discussion, "Immigration Reform, A Family Issue," at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the La-Z-Boy



Center atrium at Monroe County Community College, 1555 S. Raisinville Rd.

The panel is part of the One Book, One Community project, which features "The Distance Between Us," a memoir by Reyna Grande about the trauma that families suffer when they are split up by immigration to the United States.

"A community is composed of families the way a house is built from bricks," said Diego Bonesatti of Michigan United, one of the panel members. "You can't keep a house standing if its bricks are broken, and our communities suffer the same way when families are separated."

"The immigration system is separating families or keeping families separated and that, foremost among many reasons, is why we need immigration reform."

The discussion is sponsored by The Agora, the student newspaper at MCCC. Editor Julia Wells, a sophomore at MCCC, will be moderator.

Panel members include:



■ Mr. Bonesatti, director of legal services for Michigan United, where his work includes running the legal services program and recruiting and training volunteers to provide immigration services, such as assistance with the naturalization process.

He also advocates for community leaders in removal or detention situations and works to support immigration reform.

A graduate of Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mr. Bonesatti's parents emigrated from Argentina.

Before returning to Michigan, he worked for many of Illinois' top immigration nonprofit agencies, including the National Immigrant Justice Center, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights and the West Suburban Action Project, or "PASO" by its acronym in Spanish.

■ David Koelsch, director of the Immigration Law Clinic and the Asylum Law

Clinic at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.

The Immigration Law Clinic represents immigrants on a variety of legal issues, including abandoned immigrant children and abused immigrant women.

He also teaches U.S. immigration law and a comparative U.S.-Canada immigration law course, as well as a seminar on spirituality and the law.

He recently was named Outstanding Immigration Law Professor by the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

■ Maj. Troy Goodnough, head of jail operations for the Monroe County Sheriff's Office.

He directs the county jail, as well as the Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility, which houses roughly 1,200 detainees a year, many on their way to deportation.

A former MCCC student and Monroe High School graduate, Maj. Goodnough has a bachelor's degree from Spring Arbor University and a variety of certifications in law enforcement and corrections.

He's also been chairman of the Monroe County Safety & Traffic Committee, the Raisinville Township Planning Commission and the Monroe County Ambulance Authority.

■ Members of the Monroe County Hispanic community also have been asked to participate on the panel.



— Photos by Tonya Wise/Invision/AP

The cast of "The Young and the Restless" poses for a photo at the show's 41st anniversary celebration Tuesday in Los Angeles.

'Young and Restless' turns 41

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "The Young and the Restless" took a break from love, deception and backstabbing to celebrate the soap's 41st anniversary Tuesday.

Led by longtime stars Eric Braeden, Melody Thomas Scott and Peter Bergman, the cast and crew gathered to celebrate a day early.

The CBS show has been daytime's top-rated soap since December, 1988, and recently was renewed through 2017.

"We've been very fortunate that we're still No. 1 and our ratings are even higher than they have been," Scott said.

A chocolate cake in the shape of the number 1 and covered in white icing with a red "YR" logo was cut on the set at Television City in Hollywood.

"It's a giant chunk of television history," said Bergman, who plays scheming Jack Abbott. "There aren't many



Hunter King and McKenna Grace play at the party.

41-year-old shows out there."

No one from the show's debut March 26, 1973 — when it was just 30 minutes long — remains with the show. Jeanne Cooper, who arrived six months later to play grand dame Katherine Chancellor, died in May at 84. But she is remembered fondly by her former co-stars.

"She's up there orchestrating things for sure," Scott said.

Braeden is in his 34th year playing ruthless

tycoon Victor Newman, who is re-married yet again to Scott's character, Nikki Newman.

"Crazy as it is, we love each other," Scott said of their on-screen coupling. "We're not anywhere near the end of the road on that."

Joining the celebration was Lee Phillip Bell, who co-created the show with her late husband, Bill. Their daughter, Lauralee Bell, plays Christine, a role she has returned to at various times over the years.

"Y & R" aired its 10,376th episode Wednesday. Lauralee Bell attributes the show's enduring success to its familiar characters who viewers have embraced over the years.

"There's still so many people they can count on every day when their lives are crazy," she said of the audience. "It's like their other family. They don't abandon you."

More programs this week ...

Monroe County is participating in the literacy program One Book, One Community, focusing on Reyna Grande's "The Distance Between Us."

The month-long event, with a host of activities, wraps up April 28.

Besides Tuesday's panel discussion on immigration, these are the events coming up this week:

Sunday — Film series: "Spanglish," 1:30 p.m., Bedford Branch Library, 8575 Jackman Rd., Temperance.

The comedy stars Adam Sandler, Tea Leoni, Cloris Leachman and Shelbie Bruce and focuses on a Mexican immigrant and her attempt to integrate into the American way of life.

Paul Hedeem, MCCC dean of humanities and social sciences, will moderate a

viewing of this film, which is rated PG-13.

Free movie candy and soft drinks will be available.

April 3 — Book discussion: "The Distance Between Us," 10:30 a.m., Bedford Branch Library, 8575 Jackman Rd., Temperance.

April 3 — "Passport to Mexico," 4:30 p.m., Navarre Branch Library, 1135 E. Second St.

Children will learn about life in Mexico through authentic games and art projects.

April 3 — Genealogy 101, 7 p.m., Ellis Library & Reference Center, 3700 S. Custer Rd.

The class will introduce the tools and resources that will help families recreate their stories.

For more information, visit www.monroecountylibrary.org/onebook/.



For more information
(734)265-3080
www.monroe.k12.mi.us

Kindergarten Registration

Monroe Public Schools

Please Join Us!

Monday, April 14: 11 am - 7 pm
Tuesday, April 15: 11 am - 7 pm
Wednesday, April 16: 8 am - 3 pm

Riverside Early Learning Center
77 North Roessler Street, Monroe

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