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THE MONROE.
Evening News
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— AP photo ODED BALILTY

Pope Francis watches the crowd from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, Wednesday. Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, who chose the name of Pope Francis, is the 266th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.

POPE FRANCIS BEGINS NEW ROLE AS LEADER OF ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis opened his first morning as pontiff by praying at Rome's main basilica dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

This was his first public outing a day after cardinals elected him the first pope from the Americas in a bid to revive a Catholic Church in crisis and give it a preacher with a humble touch.

The former archbishop of Buenos Aires, Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, entered the St. Mary Major basilica through a side entrance just after 8 a.m. and left about 30 minutes later.

He had told a crowd of some 100,000 people packed in rain-soaked St. Peter's Square just after his election that he intended to pray Friday to the Madonna "that she may watch over all of Rome."

His plans to call on retired Pope Benedict XVI today were postponed. Also today he was to celebrate an inaugural Mass in the Sistine Chapel, where cardinals on Wednesday elected him leader of the 1.2 million-strong church.

Francis, the first Jesuit pope and first non-European since the Middle Ages, decided to call himself Francis after St. Francis of Assisi, the humble friar who dedicated his life to helping the

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Local faithful laud pope's humility

BY RAY KISONAS
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Many local Catholics are pleased with the selection of their new pope because he symbolizes deep spirituality, poverty and simplicity, such as his decision to use public transportation in his native Argentina.

The faithful are embracing Pope Francis I because he represents Hispanic-speaking Catholics, who comprise about 40 percent of the religion, and that he is the first pope in thousands of years from outside of Europe.

They also appreciate that the pontiff, the first Jesuit pope, has taken a name in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, who symbolizes the poor and humility.

"There are a number of firsts," said the Rev. Marc A. Gawronski, Monroe County vicar, and pastor of St. Mary

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ONE BOOK MANY READERS

■ One Book, One Community will kick off Monday. This year's selection is "One Amazing Thing."

BY DANIELLE PORTEUS
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One Book, One Community is trying to create a community of readers, organizers say.

More than a month long, the reading event focuses on "One Amazing Thing" by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni.

The official kickoff will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday in the La-Z-Boy Center atrium

► List of community kickoff activities — **Page 3A**

at Monroe County Community College 1555 S. Raisinville Rd.

Activities began March 5 with discussions on this year's selection.

"This is a huge community undertaking," said Cheryl Johnston, assistant professor of English and reading at MCCC. Ms. Johnston is one of the coordinators of this year's events.

During the kickoff, several activities are planned, including a station for temporary henna

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— Evening News photo by TOM HAWLEY

Meredith Soule, 9, of Monroe tests her survivor skills through archery at a special program Saturday at the Monroe County Library Ellis branch. It was part of the One Book, One Community program which officials kicks off Monday. Also participating in the survivor skills event are Chloe Bourbina, 8, and Navaia Kegley, 5.

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TODAY'S OBITUARIES Details, 7A

THOMAS HENRY ALLORE SR., 80, of Temperance

JEFFREY (JEFF) C. CIOROCH, 46 of Temperance

MARK SOKOLOWSKI, 63, of Monroe

WILLIAM A. DROUILLARD, 77, of Murphy, N.C., formerly of Erie

GREGORY S. MARTIN, 58, of Flat Rock

WEATHER Details, 6A

TONIGHT
 Partly cloudy



29°

FRIDAY
 Mostly cloudy



44°

Parker's too late on high heel revelation

Every once in a while I feel it's my duty to call bull pucky (but not pucky) on Sarah Jessica Parker. This is one of those once in a while.

Sarah Jessica Parker has informed the media that high heels have ruined her feet. What in the Square Pegs?

In case you're not up on your history of high heels vis-a-vis Sarah Jessica Parker, from 1998 to 2004 she was the star of the mega-hit television show "Sex in the City." In the program, she looked fabulous and walked all over New York in stilettos. Effortlessly, she'd run for a cab, a boyfriend, whatever, in her towering spikes and in the process doomed the feet of American women.

Pre-SJP, in the 1980s and '90s, a three-inch heel was a high heel. There was nothing higher unless you ordered from the Fredericks of Hollywood catalog. (I've heard.) Well, SJP made the four- to six-inch heel fashionable, what's more, because of SJP a four- PLUS-inch heel became the normal, expected, even integral part of a chic wardrobe.

As a professional woman in the work force, I have occasion to wear shoes. If you happened to cross my path while I'm shopping for shoes, you'll find me crying, swearing, muttering and shaking my fists to the heavens through gritted teeth while growling, "Sarah Jessica Parker, this is on YOU!"

That's because women's shoes are untenable. Two-inch platforms that arch up to a five inch heel are normal. These heels are no longer a novelty item for Halloween. These are the shoes women are offered as choices for every day. And no fashion icon is more to blame than Sarah Jessica Parker.

The impracticality of the average fashionable shoe has even spawned a cottage industry of little flat shoes that you put in your purse because you can't walk in your actual shoes. Further, the impossibility of these shoes signal would-be muggers, that you're easy prey, no way you can out run anyone in those babies.

Then this week, Sarah Jessica Parker reveals that her feet have become deformed and she has sprouted a mutant foot bone as a result of running around in stilettos. She declared that from now on she will wear flats. She's bravely decided that unless she has a pair of Manolo Blahniks or Christian Louboutins, she'll shun the heels.

This is after she's influenced a generation of young women to follow her unhealthy lead, inspired designers to produce pretty much ONLY these monstrous shoes and encouraged a culture to believe that if a woman doesn't wear spikes she's pretty much a prison matron dinosaur.

And now, SJP's all, "Oops, turns out super high heels are bad for your feet, giggle giggle."

Well at least she didn't make smoking seem glamorous. Oh, wait.

Before I close this column, I need to praise Cybill Shepherd; she had it right. In the 1980s she made it sexy to pair tennis shoes with an evening gown. That's the direction I'll be stepping the next time I shoe shop.

Rebecca Regnier is an award-winning television journalist and writes the humor blog *doesthis-blogmakeusfat.com*.



Rebecca Regnier

Host of activities accompany One Book, One Community

Saturday

■ Story recording
10 a.m.-2 p.m., MPACT studio, 20 W.; Fifth St.

Writers of their own "One Amazing Thing" stories can record those stories for showing at Monday's kickoff.

Tuesday

■ Storytime: "Grandpa Green"
11 a.m. and 1 p.m., Dorsch Memorial Branch Library, 18 E. First St.

■ Lecture and discussion: The Power of the Narrative Story
7-9 p.m., La-Z-Boy Center Room 259, Monroe County Community College, 1555 S. Raisinville Rd.

Wednesday

■ Women Storytellers History Fair
11:30-1:30 p.m., Campbell Learning Resources Center Lobby, MCCC. Information on female authors, playwrights, screenwriters, artists, poets and directors.

■ Film screening and discussion: "Crash"

6 p.m. Ellis Library & Reference Center, 3700 S. Custer Rd.

Tim Dillon, associate professor at MCCC, will moderate a discussion on race and gender after the screening.

March 21

■ Brown bag discussion: "One Amazing Thing"
12:30 p.m., La-Z-Boy Center Atrium, MCCC.

March 25

■ Film screening and discussion: "Monsoon Wedding"
6 p.m., Bedford Branch Library, 8575 Jackman Rd., Temperance
Dr. Paul Hedeon, dean of humanities and social sciences at MCCC, will moderate the screening. Film directed by Mira Nair about a chaotic Indian wedding.

March 26

■ Cultural night and book discussion: "One Amazing Thing"
6:30-8 p.m., Meadow Montessori School, 1670 S. Raisinville Rd.

March 27

■ Meet the Author: Chitra Baner-



jee Divakaruni
7 p.m., Meyer Theater, La-Z-Boy Center, MCCC.

March 28

■ Brown bag discussion: "One Amazing Thing"
Noon to 1 p.m., MCCC Whitman Center Atrium, 7777 Lewis Ave., Temperance

April 2

■ Storytelling performance: Yvonne Healy
11 a.m., La-Z-Boy Center, Rooms 271-272, MCCC.
Yvonne Healy's program is geared for teens and adults. She will share folktales and true stories. More information is available on www.yhealy.com

■ Storytelling workshop: Yvonne Healy
3 p.m. La-Z-Boy Center Rooms 271-272, MCCC

Ms. Healy will teach storytelling and performing skills to teens and adults through a combination of theater games and interactive

exercises.

■ Storytelling: A panel discussion with media experts
7 p.m., La-Z-Boy Center Atrium, MCCC.

Storytellers from television, novels, newspapers, blogs and other media will discuss how to tell a story that makes a difference. Event is moderated by MCCC's Dan Shaw and hosted by the college's student newspaper, The Agora.

April 3

■ Survivor Stories
4 p.m. Navarre Branch Library, 1135 E. Second St.

Community is invited to test survival skills and share stories. Children 8 and older are welcomed to attend. Participants must register by calling 241-5577 or online.

■ Film screening and discussion: "Magnolia"

6 p.m. Ellis Library.

Branch manager Bill Reiser, will moderate the viewing of the film based on a single day in Los Angeles where a number of interconnected lives are changed forever as past deeds are lamented and strange focuses loom in the air.

■ Film screening and discussion: "Islamic Art: Mirror of the Invisible World"

7-9 p.m., Meyer Theater, La-Z-Boy Center, MCCC.

Documentary film shows nine countries and details 1,400 years of history. Narrated by Susan Sarandon, film reveals the variety and diversity of Islamic art.

April 4

■ Book discussion: "One Amazing Thing"
10:30 a.m., Bedford Branch Library, 8575 Jackman Rd., Temperance

■ Survivor Stories

1 p.m., Dundee Branch Library, 144 E. Main St., Dundee.

Community is invited to test survival skills and share stories. Children 8 and older are welcomed to attend the event. Participants must register by calling 529-3310 or online.

April 5

■ Share Your Story: Bring Your One Amazing Artifact

1-4 p.m., Monroe County Historical Museum, 126 S. Monroe St.

The museum and Edmund La Clair, history professor at MCCC, invite community members to bring objects of importance. Museum staff will help participants write a description of each "One Amazing Thing" and display the writings at the museum.

April 9

■ Poetry and storytelling night
7 p.m., Campbell Learning Resource Center Room 8, MCCC.

MCCC Writing Fellows invite the community to share their favorite poems or stories. Prizes will be awarded to the best readers and storytellers.

April 10

■ Film screening and discussion: "A Passage to India"

6 p.m., Ellis Library

Directed by David Lean and set in colonial India in 1924, the film won Academy Awards for Best Supporting Actress and Best Original Score. Dr. William McCloskey, English professor at MCCC, will moderate the screening.

April 11

■ Book discussion: "One Amazing Thing"

6:30 p.m. Ida Branch Library, 3016 Lewis Ave., Ida

April 12

■ Closing event: Indian/Asian Buffet

5 p.m., Dining room, Warrick Student Services/Administration Building, MCCC.

Culinary arts students will prepare a buffet of authentic Indian and Asian dishes. Tickets are \$20 and are available at the MCCC cashier's office or by calling 384-4231.

April 16

■ Book discussion: "One Amazing Thing"

6:30 p.m., Rasey Memorial Library, 4349 Oak St., Luna Pier.

SHARE YOUR STORY

As part of One Book, One Community, Monroe County readers are invited to share their own stories. The program will distribute those stories, along with The Monroe Evening News and Monroe Public Access Cable Television.

Anyone may write a 200- to 500-word essay or record a story in a one- to three-minute video. Written works may be published in The Evening News — such as the ones on this page — and on www.monroenews.com; the videos may be shown at program events and on Channel 21 (Comcast) and 95 (Charter).

Send written pieces to Share Your Story, Monroe Evening News, P.O. Box 1176, Monroe, MI 48161 or e-mail them to saul@monroenews.com.

You also may go to www.monroenews.com and submit stories online by clicking on the blue button titled One Amazing Thing on the right side of the screen.

If you prefer to record your story verbally, call 243-5707 to make an appointment



at the MPACT studios, 20 W. Fifth St. (at S. Monroe and W. Fifth Sts. in downtown Monroe).

It's also possible to choose to tell your story through a physical object. Visit the Monroe County Historical Museum from 1 to 4 p.m. April 5 to drop it off and see all of the items on display the following week.

Below is one of those submitted stories. The Evening News will publish others during the One Book, One Community celebration.

EMILY'S CAT FUNERAL

BY JACK JOHNSTON

I'm sure that anyone who is a parent has had many amazing moments that have given them insight into their child's thoughts and feelings in a way that surpasses what might be learned by just sitting and talking with their child. This is a short story of one such moment and I call this story "Emily's Cat Funeral."



Mr. Johnston is retired and lives in Monroe

One summer day many years ago I was doing some painting in an upstairs bedroom at the back

of our old house in a rural area of Jackson County. I happened to glance out the window into the back yard and saw my daughter, Emily, who was then about 7 years old, scampering across the lawn with something in her hands.

Emily sat down on the ground in the shade of the catalpa tree and started digging a little hole in the soft dirt at the back of the yard. As I watched her, unseen, she opened up a shoebox she had been carrying and carefully removed the two kittens that had not survived more than an hour after their birth that morning. Emily gently wrapped the tiny kittens in a small towel and laid them side by side in the little grave she had dug. I watched her cover them with the dirt and place a cross she had made out



of popsicle sticks at the head of the grave. Emily got to her knees, bowed her head and folded her little hands in a short prayer at the graveside. Then she got up, gathered her digging scoop and

shoebox and ran back across the sunny yard into the house. If I hadn't known it before that moment, I knew right then what a great little heart she had. She's still that way today.