

Nichols comes in second on 'Biggest Loser'

BY DANIELLE PORTEUS
 dportteus@monroenews.com

It all came down to one pound. Monroe's Jeff Nichols narrowly placed second on NBC's reality show "The Biggest Loser" Monday night.

The winner, Danni Allen from Wheeling, Ill., needed to lose 120 pounds in all to beat Mr. Nichols for the top spot. She dropped 121 pounds and won \$250,000.

The Monroe High School graduate lost 181 pounds during the course of the season. He looked like a completely different person when he stepped out on the Hollywood stage and at one point even tried to push away the fatter, almost unrecognizable image of himself from the first weigh-in of the show.

Just before the weigh-in, the show's host, Alison Sweeney, asked Mr. Nichols about his journey. He expressed a deep sense of pride.

"I am proud for the first time in a long time," he said during the live finale Monday.

Jackson Carter, the contestant who was voted by the public to continue on after last week's show, finished in third.

The show, which filmed in the fall, began airing 12 weeks ago. At the first weigh-in, Mr. Nichols tipped the scales at 388 pounds. During Monday night's finale, Mr. Nichols had dropped a total of 181 pounds or more than 43 percent of his total body weight.

Bob Harper, Mr. Nichols' trainer, expressed his pride.

"I'm so proud of you," he said. "You touched me

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— photo courtesy of NBC-TV

Monroe's Jeff Nichols weighs in on the final episode of NBC's "The Biggest Loser" show last night to finish in second place.



— Evening News photos by KIM BRENT

Dancer Noopur Parekh performs during the One Book, One Community of Monroe County 2013 kick-off event in the atrium of the La-Z-Boy Center Monday night. This year's book choice is "One Amazing Thing," by Indian novelist Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. Indian food, entertainment and other cultural activities were among the highlights of this year's event.

ONE BOOK

Kickoff celebrates commonality of strangers

■ A variety of activities marked the month of activities centered on "One Amazing Thing."

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Patty Thompson and her daughter, Mikayla, were inspired to read this year's choice for One Book, One Community after attending the kickoff celebration Monday.

"I wanted to come because of Kim Searl from Mind, Body, Balance, but now I want to read the book," Mrs. Thompson said of "One Amazing Thing" by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni.

A student at Meadow Montessori, 15-year-old Mikayla said she will be reading the book as part of her literature class.

The mother-daughter duo stopped by the henna tattoo station where Mikayla received a hand tattoo from designer Jen Schafer.

Ms. Schafer of Fort Wayne, Ind., learned how to do the designs during her time as a children's librarian.

"I do this for a lot of house parties or for Indian or Muslim brides," she explained while making one of her creations.

Though the designs she created do not necessarily have specific

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Eleven-year-old Ruchita Coomar (above) of Monroe performs a modern Indian dance. Henna painting artist Jen Schafer (left) of Ft. Wayne, Ind., added to the cultural activities.



► To view a video of last night's performance go to monroenews.com

► Find out more about "One Amazing Thing" and author Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni in **Thursday's Arts & Entertainment section**

► A reader shares an "amazing" story — **Page 3A**

Pope Francis urges protection of weak

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis urged princes, presidents, sheiks and thousands of ordinary people gathered for his installation Mass today to protect the environment, the weakest and the poorest, mapping out a clear focus of his priorities as leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics.

The Argentina native is the first pope from Latin America and the first named for the 13th-century friar St. Francis of Assisi, whose life's work was to care for nature,

the poor and most disadvantaged.

In a fitting note, he promised that a little bit of tenderness can "open up a horizon of hope."

Francis was interrupted by applause several times during his homily, including when he spoke of the need to protect the environment, serve one another with love and tenderness and not allow "omens of destruction," hatred, envy and pride to "defile our lives."

Francis said the role of the

pope is to open his arms and protect all of humanity, but "especially the poorest, the weakest, the least important, those whom Matthew lists in the final judgment on love: the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and those in prison."

"Today amid so much darkness we need to see the light of hope and to be men and women who bring hope to others," he said. "To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to

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— AP photo by GREGORIO BORGIA

Pope Francis waves to crowds as he arrives to his inauguration Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican today.

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RICHARD M. ROOSE, 93
 formerly of Toledo
VERA N. ZAHM, 89, of Lambertville
TED A. SZAJNA, 81, of Temperance

DAVID (HARRY) SMITH, 60,
 of Ottawa Lake
DOLORES BARRONTON, 76,
 of Kalkaska, formerly of Monroe
JAMES D. TOLBERT, 78, of Monroe

WEATHER Details, 8A

TONIGHT
 Partly cloudy



22°

WEDNESDAY
 Mostly cloudy



30°

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Nichols (cont.)

this season and shared your story.”

One of the factors that contributed to Mr. Nichols weight gain was the loss of his father, Jethro Nichols, when he was 17. His story connected with the trainer.

“I know your father is so proud of you,” Mr. Harper said. “I know he is looking down with a big smile on his face.”

The 24-year-old former pharmaceutical representative spent the season participating in a variety of challenges, including running a 5K, swimming and even dangling over a parking garage while holding up a percentage of their total body weight.

The son of Elizabeth Nichols-Bitleris, Mr. Nichols competed against 14 adults to try to take the title.

Gina McDonald, the contestant who lost the

most weight after being voted off the show received \$100,000 for her efforts.

In all, the contestants lost a combined 1,600 pounds during the season.

In an interview with The Evening News earlier this month, Mr. Nichols said the weight-loss show changed his life.

“I am an advocate of health and fitness now, and any opportunity I have to help someone else take that first step into a new, healthy lifestyle, I’m more than excited to do it,” he said in an e-mail.

During the season, he hoped to inspire others to lose weight by encouraging people to change their eating habits and start moving.

“Eating clean and healthy can be done on a budget and can also taste very good,” he said. “Get up and start moving today. Do something, even if it is something small.”

Kickoff (cont.)

meanings, the art of henna does, Ms. Schafer said.

“Henna is very symbolic,” she said. “It means a lot of joy and celebration.”

Monday’s events took place in the atrium of La-Z-Boy Center at Monroe County Community College and were designed around “One Amazing Thing.”

A native of India, Dr. Divakaruni is a creative writing professor at the University of Houston.

Dozens of participants enjoyed ethnic cuisine, watched Indian dance and musical performances and had the opportunity to share their own story on videotape.

Monroe resident Tonya Kulczynski read the book and wanted to check out the events.

“I really connected with the characters in the book,” she said as she was getting a henna design on her hand. “I thought, ‘I can’t miss this’ and I’m so happy I’m experiencing it.”

The book tells the story of how a group of people come together during a disaster despite their different backgrounds.

Pope (cont.)

to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope, it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds,” he said.

Francis thrilled the crowd at the start of the Mass by taking a long round-about through the sun-drenched piazza and getting out of his jeep to bless a disabled man.

It was a gesture from a man whose short papacy so far is becoming defined by such spontaneous forays into the crowd and concern for the disadvantaged.

The blue and white flags from Argentina fluttered above the crowd, which Italian media initially estimated could reach 1 million. The Vatican said the actual size was between 150,000 and 200,000. Civil protection crews closed the main streets leading to the square to traffic and set up barricades for nearly a mile along the route to try to control the masses and allow official delegations through.

Before the Mass began, Francis received the fish-

Eric Slough operated one station called “Six Degrees of Separation” where he tried to connect strangers with a commonality in their lives.

“We were trying to think of a way to make that idea of ‘What is that connection’ interactive,” he said.

Mr. Slough would ask participants questions to discover their connection similar to the game “Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon.”

For another activity, Chris Floraday of Mind, Body and Balance led participants through a chant to help them learn to focus on tasks.

“It’s a way to focus your mind,” Mrs. Floraday explained to the group. “Sometimes we have monkey mind and we think about other things we have to do.”

She talked about how just three minutes of chanting can help relax the mind.

“The purpose of chanting is to center yourself and stimulate energy,” Mrs. Floraday said. “It improves your memory.”

Writers of “Share Your Story” participated in a meet-and-greet with visitors while a video of those who recorded their stories played on a screen.

erman’s ring symbolizing the papacy and a wool stole symbolizing his role as shepherd of his 1.2-billion-strong flock.

He also received vows of obedience from six cardinals — a potent symbol given his predecessor Benedict XVI is still alive.

A cardinal intoned the rite of inauguration, saying: “The Good Shepherd charged Peter to feed his lambs and his sheep; today you succeed him as the bishop of this church.”

Some 132 official delegations attended, including more than a half-dozen heads of state from Latin America, a sign of the significance of the election for the region.

Francis has made clear he wants his pontificate to be focused on the poor, a message that has resonance in a poverty-stricken region that counts 40 percent of the world’s Catholics.

For nearly a half-hour before the Mass began, Francis toured the square in an open-air jeep, waving, shouting “Ciao!” to well-wishers and occasionally kissing babies handed up to him.

► DEATHS

Clayton A. Bailey

Feb. 14, 1932 – March 18, 2013

Clayton A. Bailey, 81 of Monroe died at 5:08 a.m. Monday at Mercy Memorial Hospital. He had been in poor health since September.



Friends may call from 12 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Rupp Funeral Home. He will lie in state 10 a.m. Thursday at Grace Lutheran Church with funeral services at 11 a.m. Rev. Ronald Schultz, pastor will officiate. Burial will follow at Roselawn Memorial Park, LaSalle with military honors by V.F.W. Post 1138 Monroe.

Born February 14, 1932 in Monroe he was the son of Bert and Ethel (Pilette) Bailey. He married Joann P. Hayter on October 31, 1952 in Toledo.

Clayton was employed as a machinist by Premier Industries Corp. Monroe. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War from May 19, 1952 to April 29, 1954.

He was a member of the Grace Lutheran Church; V.F.W. Post 1138 Monroe, and the Fraternal Order of the Eagles Monroe Aerie 2254.

In addition to Joann, his wife of sixty years, he is survived by a daughter Diana L. Moran of Monroe; a niece Darcy L. Merritt of Monroe, who was like a daughter to him, and a sister Sharon (Larry) Mazur of Monroe.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother Gerald Bailey.

Memorials may be made to Grace Lutheran Church.

Online condolences may be sent through www.rupfuneralhomeinc.com.

Vera N. Zahm

Nov. 23, 1923-March 15, 2013

Vera N. Zahm, age 89, of Lambertville, passed away peacefully, March 15, 2013, in the Ebeid Hospice Residence, Sylvania, Ohio, surrounded by her loving family.



She was born in Bedford, England on Nov. 23, 1923, the daughter of Cecil and Daisy Walford.

Vera grew up in England and worked in the local Bedford post office through the outbreak of World War II.

As a young woman in wartime, Vera met and married the love of her life, George, her husband of 62 years. After the war, Vera and George settled in Toledo, Ohio where they raised a family and created many lasting friendships.

Vera very much enjoyed playing bridge and spending time with close friends and family. A devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, she centered her life on her family. As Vera navigated

through all of life’s challenges, she always demonstrated that family devotion. Vera’s grateful and loving family will be her happy legacy.

Vera was preceded in death by her husband, parents, and sister Gwen.

She is survived by her loving sister, Eileen Center of Homosassa, FL; daughter Lari “Hilary” Shea (Harvey Hoehstetter) of Mendocino, CA; son David (Carol) Zahm of Dayton, MD; daughter Vicki (Steve) Steger of Madison, OH; son Roger (Michelle) Zahm of Lambertville, MI, 12 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

A graveside memorial service and private burial for family only will be held at Roselawn Memorial Park, LaSalle, MI.

Those wishing to make contributions are asked to consider Ronald McDonald House and/or Ebeid Hospice.

Arrangements by the Michael W. Pawlak Funeral Home, Temperance, MI. www.pawlakfuneralhome.com.

Richard M. Roose

Sept. 11, 1919- March 16, 2013

Richard M. Roose age 93 formerly of Toledo passed away Saturday, March 16, 2013 in his home in Ida, Michigan. He was born September 11, 1919 in Toledo to Wallace and Zella Roose and was a graduate of DeVilbiss High School.



Richard and his late wife Margaret began Beverly Floor Covering and later, Roose Brothers Floor Covering which they ran for over 40 years. He retired in 1985. During the same time Richard also was a production worker for the former Kaiser Chemical and Aluminum Company for 10 years retiring in 1982. He enjoyed mushroom hunting, fishing, cards, especially cribbage and making stained glass.

An avid University of Michigan fan he also travelled extensively with his wife, and especially enjoyed visiting his special nephew and niece Robert and Margaret Pease and their family in North Caro-

David “Harry” Smith

March 17, 2013

A “Free Spirit” was lost Sunday morning. David “Harry” Smith, 60, of Ottawa Lake, MI, died at the Hospice of Northwest Ohio, Perrysburg.



Harry was an operating engineer all his adult life. He worked with Dan’s Construction and Holloway Construction, Midwest Bridge, and McComb Concrete for many years. He was proud to be a member of Operating Engineers Local 324.

Harry loved the out of doors. He enjoyed his vegetable gardens and raising goats, chickens, sheep and pigeons. Harry was an avid hunter & member of the Ottawa Lake Sportsmen’s Club

He is survived by his daughter Tiffany (Bradley

lina.

Richard was preceded in death by his wife Margaret who died November 2, 2007; grandson Matt Roose; brother Melvin D. Roose; and sister Martha Jean Pease. Surviving are his children Timothy (Diane) Roose, Jeffrey (Jean) Roose, Susan (Robert) Middleton, Sandra (Larry) Walton and Scott Roose; grandchildren Greg (Linda), Michael (Katie), Elizabeth, Thomas, Nicole, Brandy and Brandon Roose, Robert (Kathy) Middleton and David and Michael Walton; great-grandchildren Ryan, Kyle, and Olivia Roose and Jonathan and Brooke Middleton.

Friends will be received Wednesday from 2-8 PM in the Walker Funeral Home 5155 Sylvania Ave. (west of Corey) where funeral services will be conducted Thursday at 11 AM with interment following at Toledo Memorial Park. The family suggests memorials to Hospice of Northwest Ohio 30000 River Rd. Perrysburg, Ohio 43551.

Condolences may be shared with the family at walkerfuneralhomes.com.

Emerson) Smith; grandchildren Samantha and Lane Smith Emerson; parents Raymond and Willow May (Lloyd) Smith; sisters Sandy (Charlie) Nadeau, Debra (Lonnie) Creque, and Ruth Ann Smith; brothers Fred (Lee) and Raymond (Jeanette) Smith.

Harry enjoyed being with family and friends, but especially enjoyed his two grandchildren. He will be missed tremendously!

Friends may call at the Reeb Funeral Home, 5712 N. Main St. Sylvania, OH, today from 3 – 9 PM, where Harry’s life will be celebrated Wednesday March 20th at 1 PM, he will be laid to rest at Lakeview Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, tributes to Harry’s family would be appreciated.

Online condolences may be offered at www.reebfuneralhome.com.

DEATH NOTICES

Dolores Barronton

March 18, 2013

Dolores Barronton, 76, of Kalkaska, formerly of Monroe, died Monday morning in her home. Arrangements by Rupp Funeral Home.

James D. Tolbert

March 18, 2013

James D. Tolbert, age 78 of Monroe, passed away on Monday at the Sylvania Care and Rehab Center in Sylvania, Ohio. Arrangements pending with the Allore Chapel-Martenson Family of Funeral Homes.

Alternative singer Molina found dead at age 39

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Alternative singer-songwriter Jason Molina has died at his home in Indianapolis. He was 39.

The Marion County coroner confirms Molina died Saturday. The cause of death hasn’t been determined.

His record label, Indiana-based Secretly Canadian, says he stopped touring in 2009 “to deal with severe alcoholism.”

On its Web site Monday, the label says the Lorain,

Ohio, native released more than 12 albums under the name “Songs: Ohia” and the band Magnolia Electric Co., which he started in 2003. The label says Molina was its “cornerstone.”

A message attributed to his family and posted on the label’s website in September 2011 says he’d been in and out of rehabilitation facilities and hospitals in England and the U.S. over the previous two years and was raising goats and chickens in West Virginia.

Ted A. Szajna

Nov. 3, 1931- March 17, 2013

Ted A. Szajna, 81 years, of Temperance, MI passed away Sunday, March 17, 2013 in his home.



He retired from Ford Motor Company after 28 years. The son of Andrew and Mary (Wajton) Szajna he was born November 3, 1931 in Arnold, PA. Ted served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

He married Ann Kubaska January 2, 1954 in St. Alphonsus Church, Springdale, PA and she preceded him in death in 2006. Ted loved to travel; visiting Poland, and he enjoyed playing Bingo. Ted was a member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church in Temperance and the Ches-

ter Zablocki Senior Center in Toledo.

He is survived by his loving children, Ted Szajna of Columbus, OH, Dave (Debbie) Szajna of Temperance, Curt Szajna of Toledo, Kathleen Cousino of Temperance; sisters, Bertha and Joanne; 11 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren.

The Funeral Mass will be celebrated Thursday, March 21, 2013 at 12 noon in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church where there will be visiting in the Narthex after 10 AM. Burial will follow in the Church Cemetery with Military Honors conducted by Lambertville VFW Post #9656.

Memorial donations may be made to Mt. Carmel Church. Arrangements entrusted to Urbanski’s Bedford Funeral Chapel 8300 Lewis Avenue Temperance, MI.

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