

COMMUNITY

List your event: Paula Wethington, (734) 240-5745, paula@monroenews.com

LOCAL CALENDAR

TODAY

Community meal: part of the Monroe Community Dinner series sponsored by God Works, local churches and civic groups, 6 p.m., Salvation Army of Monroe County, 815 E. First St.

Euchre: 12:30 p.m., Monroe Center for Healthy Aging, 15275 S. Dixie Hwy.

Monroe Farmers Market: 7 a.m.-noon, 20 E. Willow St.

Spirit of Giving: donation hours, 10 a.m.-noon, former Powerhouse on the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, campus, 610 W. Elm Ave.

Rummage sale: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Lulu United Methodist Church, 12810 Lulu Rd., Ida.

Craft and Vendor Show: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Trinity Lutheran School, gymnasium, 323 Scott St.

Returnable can/bottle drive: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Mary Catholic Central, 108 W. Elm Ave.

Guitar Show: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monroe Council 1266, Knights of Columbus, hall, 202 W. Front St.

Turkey dinner: 4:30-7 p.m.,

Ida United Methodist Church, 8124 Ida East Rd., Ida.

St. Patrick's Day reuben sale: 1 p.m. until sold out, Temperance Post 192, American Legion, hall, 620 W. Temperance Rd., Temperance.

American Legion Family Celebration: cocktails begin at 5:30 p.m., dinner, 7 p.m., Lynn C. Weeman Post 514, American Legion, hall, 11601 Lewis Ave., Temperance.

Pet Adoption Day: 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Monroe County Animal Shelter, 911 S. Raisinville Rd.

SUNDAY

Community meal: 6 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 323 Scott St.

Praise service with free hot meal: doors open, 4:30 p.m.; service and dinner, 5, House of Restoration, 832 S. Roessler St.

Breakfast: 8:30 a.m.-noon, St. Charles Catholic Church, 8109 Swan Creek Rd., Newport.

Jiggs Dinner: 3-5 p.m., Frenchtown Center for Active Adults, 2786 Vivian Rd.

Exhibit open: 1-4 p.m., Flat Rock Model Train Depot and Museum, 28700 Arsenal Rd., Flat Rock.



Cedric Taylor speaks about his documentary, "Nor Any Drop To Drink," which tells the story of the Flint water crisis during the kick-off event for "One Book, One Community" of Monroe County Wednesday at Monroe County Community College's La-Z-Boy Center. (PHOTO BY CARLA COHEN)

Documentary illustrates impact of Flint water crisis

Film shown during Monroe County One Book, One Community kick-off

By Carla Cohen

For The Monroe News

"Nor Any Drop To Drink," a documentary by Cedric Taylor, depicts the community of Flint coming together to share its story and personal accounts of the Flint water crisis.

Since 2014, the Flint water crisis has continued to make an impact on Flint and surrounding communities.

Taylor, director of "Nor Any Drop To Drink," said he knew there needed to be action taken.

"I felt that the different news releases in terms of different news stations dealing with the issue, they pointed to certain facts along the way, but they didn't go into a lot of depth I thought," Taylor said Wednesday night. "The documentary film has a way of connecting the dots, connecting issues, to explain the water crisis."

Taylor spoke during the kick-off event for "One Book, One Community" of Monroe County held at Monroe County Community College's La-Z-Boy Center. His film accompanies this year's community read selection, "What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City," the story of the Flint water crisis by Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha.

Before the feature, community members, MCCC faculty and students had the opportunity to drink and attempt to discern from four types of water – artisan, distilled, tap and Fiji brand – as part of an interactive event related to the importance of access to clean water.

Among the water-tasting tables was MCCC's Respiratory Therapy Student Club and Writing Fellows book sale.

Afterward, attendees were asked to head into the Meyer Theater to view Taylor's documentary.

The film begins with Lendra Brown preparing for her day using bottled water to bathe herself, as she can't use the water from the tap.

"Some of the stories



MCCC student Jenna Magrum drinks four water samples – tap, artisan, distilled and Fiji brand – to attempt to taste the difference during the "One Book, One Community" kick-off event.

overlapped a lot, so I wanted to tease out some of the stories, and I zeroed-in on Nakiyah as well as Lendra, as main folks," Taylor said.

Nakiyah Wakes, a Flint citizen, has had similar issues with her water having high levels of lead. Her son has been affected by the lead, causing him to have bursts of anger and get 56 suspensions from school.

"It not only informs and gives some context behind what happened, it really forces people to get emotionally invested in the issue, it builds a bridge between folks who might on the onset may not see that they have something in common," Taylor said.

Along with Flint residents' stories, testimonials were given from city officials, environmentalists, educators and others involved in putting the city's pieces together.

During the documentary, Flint Public Schools deemed the water unsafe for their students, switching the district to bottled water.

Symptoms from drinking Flint's tap water included skin rashes, hair loss and stunted growth in children, one Flint mother said.

Taylor said he has had a wide range of reactions from people who have viewed his documentary.

"People have come out and have been very supportive, very touched by the film. They have become enraged; they have become really motivated to do something," he said.

After the film, Taylor answered questions from the audience. Some asked about

the status of the water crisis, which Taylor said has improved as lead levels are becoming safer now.

"So, there are people from all over the country, different parts of the world who they feel a connection to the people in Flint. Because when it comes down to it, we are all human beings, and seeing suffering, for many people, it does something to many people. I think that's the power of documentary," Taylor said.

Taylor said an estimated \$20,000 went into making the documentary, from traveling around Michigan for interviews to putting the film together.

The feedback from the audience was positive and supportive, but many were shocked by the personal testimonials.

Taylor mentioned he wanted Hanna-Attisha to be in the documentary, but she had prior engagements.

"It's informative, it's touching, and I think that it should inspire people to do something," he said of Hanna-Attisha's book.

The kickoff generally draws a sizable crowd, but only about 12 people came to Wednesday's event. Carrie Nartker, MCCC professor, noted the coronavirus concerns kept people at home.

Since the kick-off, all One Book events have been canceled because of the coronavirus outbreak.

"Nor Any Drop to Drink" may be found on Vimeo or at a screening Michigan locations, which may be found on the website noranydropfilm.com

SUPPORT GROUPS

TODAY

Alcoholics Anonymous: 8 a.m., London United Methodist Church, 11318 Plank Road, Milan; 9:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 28400 Evergreen St., Flat Rock; 10 a.m., ProMedica Monroe Regional Hospital, Hiltz Room, first floor, 718 N. Macomb St.; 11 a.m.

Bedford Twp. Veterans Center, 760 Temperance Rd., Temperance; 11:30 a.m., Phillip Murray Building, 41 W. Front St.; 7 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2275 S.

Custer Rd.; 10 p.m., the Prayer House, 5080 N. Stony Creek Rd., Newport.

Narcotics Anonymous: 8 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 304 S. Monroe St.; midnight, Touchstone Recovery, 423 W. Fifth St.

Hope for Families Fighting Addiction: 5 p.m., Salvation Army Harbor Light, 3250 N. Monroe St.

SUNDAY

Alcoholics Anonymous: 9 a.m., Salvation Army Harbor Light, 3250 N. Monroe St.; 10 a.m., ProMedica Monroe Regional Hospital, fourth floor, 718 N. Macomb St.; 10 a.m., Gibraltar Community Center, 29340 S. Gibraltar Road, Gibraltar; 3 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 312 Harrison St.; 7 p.m., St. John Catholic Church, 521 S. Monroe St.; 7:02 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church, 9207 Joseph St., Maybee; 8 p.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, hall, 460 Riley St., Dundee.

Heroin Anonymous: 7 p.m., Salvation Army Harbor Light, 3250 N. Monroe St.

Narcotics Anonymous: p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 304 S. Monroe St.; 7 p.m., ProMedica Monroe Regional Hospital, Hiltz Room, first floor, 718 N. Macomb St.

Celebrate Recovery: 6:30 p.m., Bethany Eagles Nest Community Church, 2740 Nadeau Road.

NEIGHBORS

Retiree meals

North Star Steel/Gerdau MACSTEEL: A retiree breakfast will be held at 9 a.m. Tuesday at Monroe Grill, 1060 S. Telegraph Rd.

Both salaried and hourly retirees are welcome. All former employees are also

welcome to stop by and visit. Any questions, call Debbie Burt at 735-8286.

Monroe High School 1958: The women of Monroe High School Class of 1958 will meet for lunch at noon Tuesday at Red Lobster, 1533 N. Dixie Hwy. For information, call Carol at 241-1035.

UPCOMING Public events hosted by nonprofit groups

TUESDAY

Milan Polka Jam session:

MILAN – The Milan Polka Jam Session takes place from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the Earl Gladfelder Post 268, American Legion hall, 44 Wabash St. Those wishing to participate should bring their instruments.

For information, call Bob Vajcner at 242-4278.

MARCH 20-22

Young Marines recruitment camp:

The Monroe County Young Marines is holding a recruit encampment March 20-22; the registration deadline is Monday.

The Young Marines is a national non-profit youth education and service program for boys and girls ages eight through the completion of high school.

The Monroe County Young Marines Unit was formed in 1989 and is a community-based program lead by dedicated adult volunteers. Since then, they have been strengthening the lives of the youth of Monroe, Toledo and surrounding areas.

During summer months, Young Marines have the opportunity to attend Young Marines National Summer programs, including: Adventures, Challenges, Encampments, Historical Tours and Leadership Schools. For information, call 415-3008 or email monroecountyyoungmarines@gmail.com.

APRIL 3

Annual Bluegrass festival: IDA – The Sons of the Post 514, American Legion, hall, 11601 Lewis Ave., is holding its sixth annual Bluegrass Festival on April 3.

Doors will open at 2 p.m. Music will begin at 3. Tickets are \$10 in advance, sold at the legion's club room; \$12 at the doors.

The bands scheduled to perform include Harbour Town; Red, White and Bluegrass; Hand Hewn Bluegrass; Breakline; Crabgrass; and Lonesome Dove. There will also be food concessions, a cash bar and raffles. Proceeds will benefit veteran affairs.

For more information, contact Sam at 915-8835, or Fred at 625-5838.

FAITH NEWS

Spiritual grief support group

The group "Spiritual Journey Through Grief" will meet from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. March 26 at St. Anne Parish.

"Anyone who has lost a loved one is invited to come share in prayer, sharing, support for each other and refreshments," said the church.

The group meets monthly.

Tickets on sale for 'Jesus' film

Tickets on are on sale for Sight & Sound Theatres' film "Jesus," to be shown at 6:30 p.m. April 7 and 9 and at 12:55 p.m. April 11 at Phoenix Theatres at the Mall of Monroe, 2121 N. Monroe St.

The film shows "the greatest rescue story of all times as the Bible comes to life," organizers said. The film shows a play that was shot in front of a live audience.

"While Jesus' story may be familiar, His actions are unexpected. He befriends outcasts and heals the hurting. He challenges social norms and confronts hypocrisy and the lives He touches will never be the same," organizers said.

Theme announced for 'Lutheran Hour'

"Gracious Confiscation" is this Sunday's theme for Lutheran Hour Ministries'

radio program "The Lutheran Hour."

"'Confiscation' is a bad word. No one likes having their 'stuff' confiscated. But what if it's God who does the confiscating? God may take away some blessings He once gave in order to give back even more. (Exodus 7-8)," the ministry said.

The host is Dr. Michael Zeigler.

"The Lutheran Hour" airs at 6:30 a.m. Sundays on WDFN (1130); at noon Sundays on WRDT (560)-AM; at 7 a.m. on WPOS (102.3), and at 6:30 p.m. on WRDT (560).

It is broadcasted on more than 800 North American stations.