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Quick Hits

Fundraiser for new Campau flags

By Alan Madlane

Is there spaghetti in your future?

Well, there certainly could be, if you choose to attend a special fundraiser dinner, in late March, that's being put on by the Joseph Campau International Flagpole Project.

They're hoping to ultimately raise about \$3,500, to replace 18 weather-worn American flags that are flown, at appropriate times, along the city's main north-south street. The old flags are too weather – and sun-beaten to be salvaged.

The date, times and location are as follows: Saturday, March 26, any time from 3-7 p.m., at the Post 10 PLAV Hall, 11824 Joseph Campau (between Casmere and Commor, on the east side of the street).

There will be spaghetti with meat sauce, as well as a vegetarian option and a halal option. They're also planning to get some garlic cheese toast on the bill, and the Moose Lodge will be providing salad as well.

Continued on page 5

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

For Hamtramck teachers, a new contract is about seeking respect

By Charles Sercombe

"Dignity" was the word of the day for Hamtramck Public School District teachers on Monday afternoon.

About 40 teachers held a short rally outside the district's administration building to kick off new contract negotiations that took place after the rally.

While no one said that this year's negotiations are going to be hostile, there were plenty of complaints heard about the administration over the past two years.

Although no names were mentioned, teachers have been complaining about the management style of Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed and Michelle Imbrunone, the district's head of Human Resources.

Teachers and administrators complained about position reassignments



Hamtramck Public School District teachers held a rally Monday to kickoff the beginning of contract talks with the HPS administration. Teachers are seeking a pay raise as well as a say in management.

that made no sense, or seemed punitive against those who spoke up.

Both took a medical leave last October, and Ahmed is still on leave. It's not known what the status is of Imbrunone, and school officials won't say.

On hand was David Hecker, the Michigan President of the American Federation of Teachers, who said Hamtramck teachers have suffered through the "last few ridiculous years."

Interim Superintendent Nabil Nagi is now leading the district. Teachers have praised Nagi for im-

proving their work environment, and opening up lines of communication.

Nagi told The Review that he looks forward to working with the teachers, and settling on a contract that is fair.

"We will be working with our partners to find com-

Continued on page 2



Wayne State University professor Krysta Ryzewski (second from left) recently held a launch of her new book "Detroit Remains" at the Hamtramck Historical Museum.

'Detroit Remains' takes a dive into area's archeological sites

By Greg Kowalski

Think of archeology, and you probably won't think of hot jazz and ballroom dancing.

But in Detroit, a city just over 300 years old, such modern concepts – and more – do serve as fascinating archeological subjects. Wayne State University professor Krysta Ryzewski shows that, in her new book "Detroit

Remains," which explores six such modern archeological sites she and her students have studied.

The sites covered include the Blue Bird Inn, Grande Ballroom, Little Harry's Speakeasy, Gordon Park, the Ransom Gillis House and the log cabin found – then lost – just north of Hamtramck.

Many folks remember

Continued on page 2

A look back at her service

By Alan Madlane

Karen Majewski served the city of Hamtramck for 18 years, first as a city council president, and then 16 years as mayor.

As such, she accrued an insider's knowledge of the workings of this city that can scarcely be matched.

She lost her re-election



Karen Majewski

bid last November, and we recently caught up with her to talk about her experiences.

The Review: Many in Hamtramck are probably somewhat familiar with at least some of the elements of your backstory – but then, there are probably also many who are not.

Could you fill our readers in, just briefly, on the formative years that led up to your first taking office in the city, as a councilperson? Had you been in any type of governance situation prior to that?

Karen Majewski: I started public service in Hamtramck as an appointee to the Historical Commission,

Continued on page 6



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For Hamtramck teachers, a new contract is about seeking respect

Continued from front page

mon ground that gets all stakeholders to a better place,” Nagi said. “Our table is not going to leave anyone behind. We have amazing partners, and look forward to cooperation, collaboration, and commitment throughout our conversations.”

The president of the Hamtramck teachers’ union, Toni Coral, said that,

so far, going into negotiations “feels really good. I’m excited. ... The last few years have been tough. We can’t go on like this.”

Over 20 teachers and staff members voted with their feet over the past year, and left for other jobs.

That mass exodus, coupled with teacher shortages nationwide, caused

a sudden teacher shortage here.

One teacher at Hamtramck High School said that conditions at that school are strained, and that “the bleeding (of employees) is beginning.”

It was also said that a recent poll of HPS teachers revealed that 50 percent of them are considering to leave the district

for other jobs.

Coral echoed that when she read what her opening statement will be for the first negotiation session. She said that the district is “on the verge of collapse.”

So what are teachers looking for in their new contract?

The simple answer: More money.

“That’s the kind of respect you deserve,” Hecker said.

But it is more than just a financial issue. Coral said

teachers want, among several other things, more say in professional development, as well as in the hiring process of administrators.

Coral predicted that the teachers will have a new contract by spring break.

‘Detroit Remains’ takes a dive into area’s archeological sites

Continued from front page

the Grande Ballroom, and probably have seen the Ransom Gillis House in Brush Park, which was remarkably restored. But almost forgotten is Gordon Park, the exact site where the 1967 Detroit Riot began.

All these sites share a connection in that they are in Detroit and have relatively recent histories, at least on an archeological scale. But they are fascinating sites worthy of study.

Ryzewski explained their importance, and the value of contemporary historical sites at a special launching of “Detroit Remains” held recently at the Hamtramck Historical Museum.

About 70 persons (all properly masked) attended the event, which included a panel discussion involving Ryzewski; students Athena Zissis and Lorin Brace, who worked on archeological digs with Ryzewski; and panel moderator Greg Kowalski, executive director of the museum.

“I was on a mission when I wrote ‘Detroit Remains,’” Ryzewski later said, “not only to introduce readers to local archeology sites, and to reveal hidden histories, but to emphasize that the city does not lie in ruins.

“Tangible traces of the lives of everyday Detroiters and Hamtramckians survive – below and above ground, and the stories these objects reveal about places and people connect with the many communities in the past who contributed to the cities we know and love today.

“An archeological approach to the six sites in ‘Detroit Remains’ allowed my students, community partners and I to unearth these stories, and to mobilize them in wider conversations about social justice, education, historic preservation and city planning.”

Ryzewski is quite familiar with Hamtramck. She led two archeological digs in the city in recent years at the site of the former Village Hall at Grayling and Jos. Campau streets. She also led the effort to preserve the log cabin that had been discovered on Halleck Street just north of Hamtramck.

She worked with the Hamtramck Historical Museum to move the cabin to Hamtramck, but it was demolished suddenly by the City of Detroit Land Bank. She lays out the whole story in a chapter in “Detroit Remains.”

“Detroit Remains” is published by the University of Alabama Press. A limited number of copies are on sale at the museum at \$39.95. Copies also can be ordered by calling (800) 621-2736, or through the University of Alabama website, ua-press.ua.edu, or at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau.

The museum is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Sundays, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, and by appointment. Call (313) 690-9390.

(Greg Kowalski is the executive director of the Hamtramck Historical Museum.)



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February 4, 2022

This week at the Library . . .

Heroes in Black History: February is full of heroes at the library. Kids can earn a ticket for an end of the month prize raffle in two ways: 1. LEARN about the many African American heroes who helped to shape our nation by checking out at least one book about their lives or work. 2. CREATE your own customizable mini figure to show off you inner hero. Ask for more info at the main desk.

Valentine’s Day: Why not have your little one make a personalized card for their secret crush (or for their Mom and Dad)? Pick up your own Card Crafting Kit from the main desk.

Game Night: If you are tired of screens and virtual meetings, we would like to welcome you to a different kind of social scene. Drop in on a Friday Game Night, starting at 4 pm (open to all ages).

Monthly Meeting of Library Board: The next meeting of the Library Board will be held on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 6:00 pm. in the library’s main hall. More info on library’s website.

Checkers TV: The new Snoozer’s Storytime Adventure features the children’s

book “The Girl and the Cathedral”. The story of Notre Dame de Paris. Pick up the flower craft that goes along with this episode. Watch them anytime by visiting our website (www.hamtramck.lib.mi.us) and click on Checkers Library TV under the Programs.

Educational Seminar: Aetna and Hap are sponsoring an educational seminar on Medicare and Medicaid health insurance options for individuals over 65 and families whose income is below poverty level. The meeting will be held on February 8, 2022 at 3:30 pm in the library’s auditorium. Arabic and Bengali translator will be present.

ESL Classes: The classes are held four days a week, from Monday to Thursday, from 9 am to 2:30 pm. The program is free to all Hamtramck residents.

Current Library Operating Services: - Present level of services provides for book pick-ups, copying, printing, faxing, scanning, limited use of computers (with proper distancing) and limited stay in the library. To print files ahead of time please send attachments for printing to hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com.

Library is located at 2360 Caniff Avenue, Phone (313) 733-6822

Or visit its website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> for on line catalog

Attachments for printing, faxing or scanning send to hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com

Second Front Page

Mayor: Take all the ‘precautions’ to avoid COVID-19

By Charles Sercombe

This week’s Covid update by Mayor Amer Ghalib was short, but the news was anything but sweet. The number of weekly new COVID-19 cases in the city is still running high, despite a statewide decrease. According to Wayne County health officials, there were 135 cases reported within the last week, bringing the total number of cases for the past two years in Hamtramck to 4,420. But, there were some adjustments by county health

officials during the past week in the number of cases and number of deaths. Both went up and down during the week. The new calculation says there have been 63 deaths in Hamtramck for the past two years. In Wayne County, not including the City of Detroit, there have been 234,577 cases during the pandemic, and 3,488 deaths. Ghalib, who is a nurse, stressed that you have the best chance of being “optimally protected” by being vaccinated, especially if you are up to date with a

booster. “Keep taking all precautions,” Ghalib said. He said the symptoms are still wide-ranging from person to person, and some do report mild symptoms, such as just a fever. This is also flu season, he reminded those watching his update on Facebook. Switching gears, the mayor said that, for those who have fallen behind on water or utility bills, there is a county program to help. To find out more information, call (313) 388-9799. Ghalib added that Ham-

tramck has racked up over \$600,000 in unpaid water and utility bills, although the source of that information was not provided. Wrapping up his six-minute talk, the mayor warned residents to prepare for a predicted snowstorm this week, starting Wednesday morning and ending Thursday evening. Weather experts were predicting a dumping of 12 to 18 inches of snow. Ghalib ended with a caution that those who must drive on the roads to be safe and “take all the tools you need.”



HPS and Black History Month

February is National Black History Month. Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African-Americans. This holiday provides our schools and families additional opportunities to continue celebrating the impact of African-American heritage

and culture in our communities today. We encourage our families to learn more about Black History Month not only during February, but year-round. Learn more about Black History Month here: <https://bit.ly/3H8pXXI>. Covid testing In an effort to make COVID-19 testing as easy

and accessible as possible for our schools, Hamtramck Public Schools is providing weekly, optional testing throughout campus for our staff and students. If you are interested in getting a test, please visit one of our school buildings on these days: Tuesdays – Hamtramck High and Horizon High (9-11 a.m.); Dickinson West



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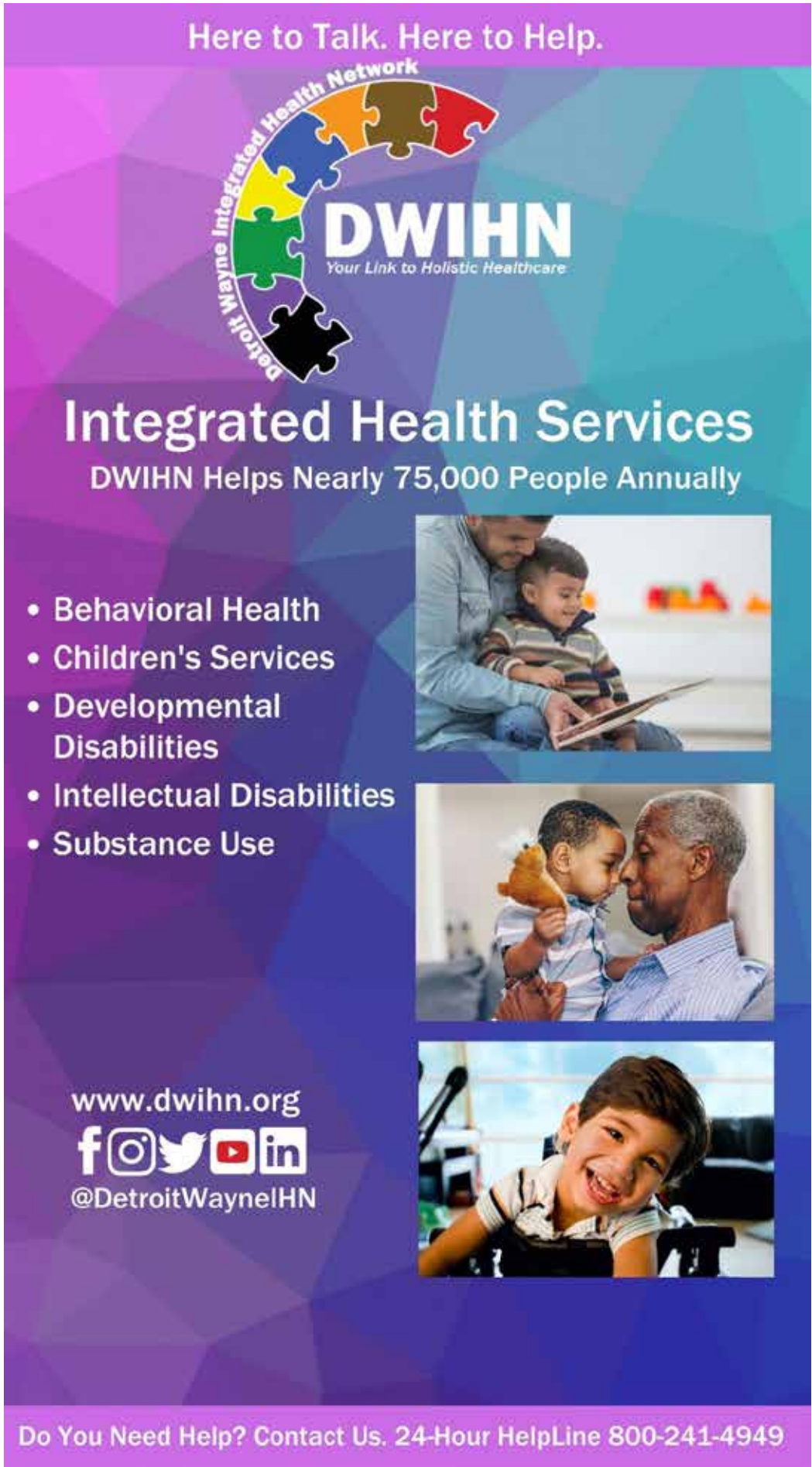
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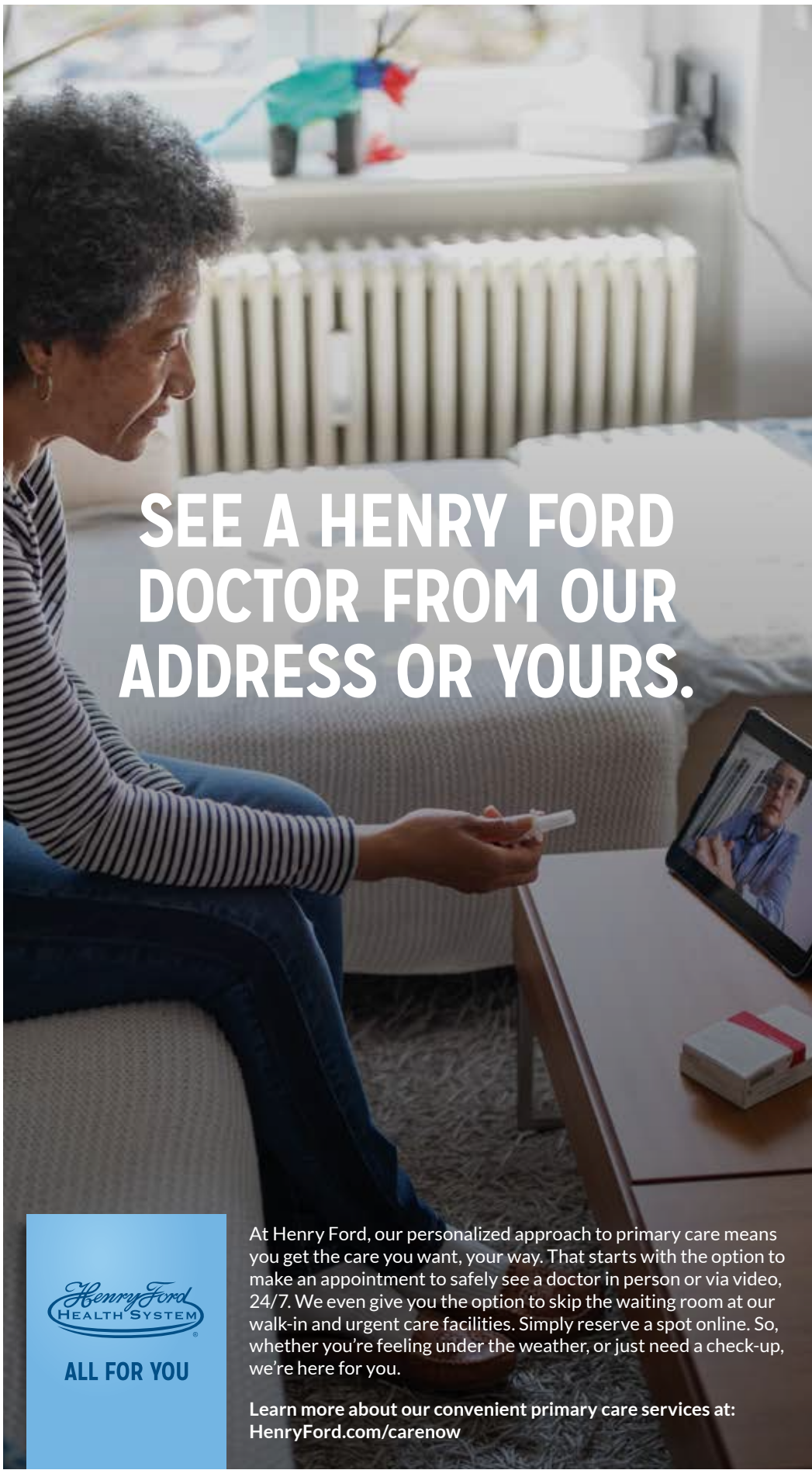
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9th - 12th Grades

HPS sports round-up

By Brian Anderson
HPS Athletic Director

The Cosmos’ winter sports programs continued their winning ways over the past week.

The wrestling program finished 5th overall in the Detroit City Invitational. Sadia Chowdhury and Bashar Hasan each finished in 4th place individually, while Helal Fahdel took 2nd place.

The Lady Cosmos defeated River Rouge on Friday night, 40-33.

Kyndal Farver led the way with 14 points while Aniyasia Lewis had 9 points and 5 rebounds, and Aaniyah Sims chipped in 7 points.

On Monday, Jan. 31, they lost to South Lake, 55-51, in spite of a 25-point performance by Rakiyah Beal.

However, they would bounce back Tuesday night to defeat Dearborn ATA, 57-24. Lewis, Farver and Beal all led the way, with 18, 12 and 11 points respectively. The Lady Cosmos are currently 10-2, and 1st place in the MMAC.

The Cosmos boys team also won, defeating River Rouge, 70-59. Robert Davis Jr. had 22 points, and Hershel Marion had 17 to lead the Cosmos.

On Saturday, they travelled to Belleville for the Fastbreak Invitational.

The Cosmos were able to come back from a 16-point deficit to win 52-50, in double overtime.


Amari Allen hit two game-winning free throws with 5 seconds left. Hershel Marion led the team in scoring with 19 points.

On Tuesday, the Cosmos defeated Dearborn ATA, 68-47. Davis Jr. had 26 points, while Amari Allen had a great overall game with 16 points, 10 rebounds and 6 assists.

Aaron Allen had 10 points to go along with some excellent defense. The Cosmos are currently 10-3, and are undefeated in MMAC play.

Obituaries

SYLVESTER



Eugene Sylvester (age 86) died January 30, 2022.


Son of the late James and Evelyn (nee Sobocinski) and father of Linda, James Robin, David, Kenneth, and Kathy. Step Father to Kim, Krissy, and the late Kaylee. Brother of David, Irene Koss, Dolores Skrzypinski, Kathy (Ken) Zielinski, Elaine (Daryll) Rau, Mary Weaver, Leonard, Gordon (Angie), Gail (Robert) Nasierowski, Robert, and the late Thomas, Kenneth, and Edward.

Brother-in-law of Pat and Lavanna.

He is also survived by many grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Visitation Saturday, February 5, 2022 from 2-7 p.m. Services TBD at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home 2396 Caniff Hamtramck MI 48212. Interment Mount Olivet Cemetery, Detroit MI.

ZYTKOWSKI



Jennifer Alexandra Zytkowski died January 25, 2022.

Rev. 21 Verses 1 to 4: He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.

Memorial Visitation, Sunday February 13, 2022 From 2-6 p.m., Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck.

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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Speed humps are a first step in street safety

It took forever, but the city is finally making strides in making our streets safer.

The city is doing this by installing more speed humps throughout the city, but mainly in the areas around the public schools. It's a joint financial project with the Hamtramck Public Schools District.

The Review's Walter Wasacz cited street safety as a top priority in his City Life column. His determination has

paid off.

Credit is also due to City Manager Kathy Angerer and Interim HPS Superintendent Nagil Nagi for expanding the speed hump project.

While we welcome more speed humps, and they have proven effective in slowing down drivers, our intersections are still of concern.

Wasacz had called for city and school officials to address the issue of making sure motorists don't blow throw stop

signs.

Pedestrian safety has always been a concern in the city, but there has been a lethargic response to addressing the issue over the years.

Let's keep the momentum moving forward, and focus on tackling some of our dangerous intersections – especially those near schools.

Hamtramck has proven that changes and advances can be made.

Quick Hits

Cont. from front page

Tickets are \$15 per plate, or \$12 for seniors.

Additionally, there will be a raffle, with some pretty sweet prizes to be had by the winners. How about four box seats for the Detroit Tigers 2022 home opener?

There's also a couple of

goodie baskets, and there will be a 50/50 as well. Tickets are \$1 each, or 15 for \$10.

Tickets for the dinner itself are being pre-sold through seven city locations:

- Café 1923 – 22887 Holbrook Ave.
- Tekla Vintage – 9600 Jos. Campau Ave.
- Euro Mini Mart – 11415 Jos. Campau Ave.
- Otoman Café – 10215

Jos. Campau Ave.

- Balkan House Restaurant – 3028 Caniff Ave.
- Post 6 PLAV – 8545 McDougall St.
- Post 10 PLAV – 11824 Jos. Campau Ave.

It helps them out, in several ways, to buy tickets in advance, so if you think it sounds like a good cause (or, just a good meal), don't delay. They'll be grateful for your patronage.

Odds & Ends

Breaking news... Hamtramck has lost one of its favorite sons.

George Cvetanovski, former owner of the 7 Brothers Bar, passed away this week at the age of 90, according to a post on his Facebook site by his niece, Jane Cvetanovski Costa.

Cvetanovski's bar was particularly popular with local actors, whose headshots lined the walls high above the action, looking down like a sort of Greek chorus.

Cvetanovski, himself Macedonian, named the bar for the fact that he was, in fact, one of seven brothers. He was a huge soccer fan and a former player, and not too shabby at billiards either, a table for which sat prominently in the rear of the small, shotgun-style bar.

Look for a bigger story in a coming issue.



George Cvetanovski

Hatch was founded 16 years ago by a diverse group of locals. They started off exhibiting in just-opened Café 1923, held regular meetings, represented Dr. Sketchy's Anti-Art School with life drawing classes, bought and transformed the old police station, and took oversight on backyard outsider art space "Hamtramck Disneyland" after property owner Dmytro Szyrak's death in 2016.

They've had an annual juried show every year, so this is "Hatchback 16," as befits their 16th year in existence.

Interested in showing and then selling some of your art? Give it a shot – they don't charge entry fees, although they will accept donations. Three pieces maximum, any medium, and you must be willing to sell the pieces.

If they do sell, Hatch takes 30 percent.

They'll judge your entries for inclusion into the exhibition from submitted digital files, in JPEG

or PNG formats no larger than 2MB. There's a short form to fill out. Go to hatchart.org.

You'll be notified of the juror's decisions by March 20. This year's jurist is local artist Taurus Burns. He is a 2002 BFA grad of CCS, and three years ago his own Hatch show turned into a solo show at the Elijah Wheat Showroom in NYC.

Good luck. Now, get art-ing!

Academic achiever...

Congratulations to a local student who has received a nice scholarship to a Pennsylvania college.

Hamtramck resident Tajrene Begum has been awarded a \$19,000 Presidential merit scholarship to Albright College in Reading, PA.

Ms. Begum is a student at Cass Tech High, and is weighing college majors in either Computer Science or Business Administration.

Albright College has been named a Best College for academics by the Princeton Review, and a top national college by Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education. Their merit scholarships are based on grade point average (GPA), while also "demonstrating strong leadership skills and a commitment to service."

The Hamtramck Review takes their hat off to our well-performing students! Great job!

In response... State Rep. Abraham Aiyash, whose district includes Hamtramck, issued the following statement in following Gov. Whitmer's State of the State address:

"The last two years have been tough for Michiganders. When speaking with seniors and families across the district, it's clear that Michiganders have been overcharged for medication, overtaxed, and given the short end of the stick for too long.

"We need to ensure that we lift our seniors and families out of poverty, not deprive them of the resources they deserve. Restoring the Earned Income Credit, repealing Michigan's pension tax and holding pharmaceutical companies accountable will go a long way in providing those opportunities for our community.

"I still am committed to working towards environmental justice, fighting for clean air, and replacing all our lead pipes. I'm glad that our priorities align with the Governor's, and will take this opportunity to work with her and my colleagues to provide solutions for people in Detroit, Hamtramck, and across the state"

Calling all artists...

Hamtramck's own Hatch Art Collective is seeking submissions for their annual show of juried art.

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A look back at her service

Continued from front page

around 2001 or 2002, I think. I had already finished my Ph.D. at U-M and was doing historical research and publishing, so that was a good fit.

Then, I was asked to run for city council in 2003, as a member of the Solidarity slate. I often tell the story of how Scott Klein caught up with me (by chance) at Urban Break, one of Hamtramck's early coffee houses.

He told me that the Solidarity slate needed one more candidate by the filing deadline the next day, and that they were looking for a well-educated woman with a Polish last name.

I don't know how many saner women had already turned them down by that late date, but I met with the other candidates that afternoon and agreed to run, with deep misgivings. My husband was out of town, or he would have told me what I already knew – that only a crazy person would jump into that mess.

Hamtramck politics were especially toxic at that time – what we see nowadays is so tame, in comparison. But I felt like I couldn't let these folks down. Then I went home and threw myself on the bed and cried my eyes out. I liked my life as it was, and I knew it would never be the same.

The Review: What was it first like in office?

Majewski: I lived half a block over on the Detroit side until 1998, when we bought our home in Hamtramck. I ran for office for the first time in 2003.

In that election of 2003, I received the most votes out of all the council candidates. Under the old charter then, in effect, that automatically made me city council president, to take office in January 2004.

Under the old charter, council consisted of five members, rather than today's six. The mayor, at the time, had no role in council, and didn't even attend council meetings. It was the council president who ran the meetings (and also voted, as any other council person).

But, earlier in 2003, one of the five other council members had resigned, and the politically divided council couldn't agree on a replacement, which they were required to do under the old charter. As a result, votes often resulted in a 2-2 stalemate.

Since I had won the November 2003 election so resoundingly, both council factions actually agreed to appoint me to fill the remainder of that vacant term.

So, technically, I took office as an appointee, not as council president, for the rest of 2003. I was grateful for that experience, short as it was, under council president Kathy Kristy, before actually having to run meetings as city council president starting in January 2004.

The Review: Once a member of council, you quickly turned your attention to the mayor position. What's the story behind that decision – to kind of "shift gears" a little bit?

Majewski: Although the entire Solidarity slate of council candidates won election in 2003 – I look back in wonder at that brief time of working with an aligned council – Mayor (Gary) Zych, who was part of our slate, lost his re-election bid.

Tom Jankowski became mayor. Mayor Jankowski and council were at odds over most issues, and events happened in and out of city hall that convinced me that the city needed a different representative.

I had shepherded the city through the "Call to Prayer" issue at the very beginning of my term in 2004, learned a lot, became more publicly known, and developed good working relationships with people across ethnic, racial, and political lines.

So, when I looked around, I didn't see anyone else on the horizon who I thought could beat Mayor Jankowski. It looked like I was the one with the best chance, so I agreed to run.



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Karen Majewski was the mayor of Hamtramck for 16 years. She lost her bid for re-election in November. Photo supplied by Karen Majewski

The Review: How did your transition into the mayor's office from Tom Jankowski's prior stint go? Would you describe it as smooth and easy, or less so?

Majewski: I don't really recall any "transition," smooth or rocky. Tom may remember things differently, but we didn't work together at all to navigate the change in leadership.

Years later, when he served on council, we worked well together, and we have a good relationship to this day. But things were quite different in 2005.

The Review: Was there anything about the job that caught you by surprise, or was it pretty much exactly as you had envisioned it, or what you expected it to be?

Majewski: Since I'd been city council president under the old charter, when the role was different than that of mayor pro tem under the current charter, I was prepared for some parts of the job – for being the spokesperson regarding council decisions, for instance, and for running council meetings.

What gives me a lot of thought – and cause for self-examination – about being a mayor isn't so much the mechanics of the job, but rather the way you're perceived in that role; what expectations people have of you, what needs they want you to fulfill, what power you have to help them – not just with concrete problems, but in terms of the subtler need to feel validated and valued and recognized.

And then, of course, there's the way people use you to further their own ends, which isn't necessarily bad but is kind of tacitly understood (but unspoken).

It's really been an inner, or spiritual, journey in ways that I continue to work out. I expected that once I left office, it might be hard for me to disengage from a role that had defined my identity in so many ways for so long. But, so far, it's been surprisingly easy – and liberating.

The Review: Was there anyone special whose advice you really valued or took to heart, or who made your job substantially easier than it might have been?

Majewski: Our current city manager, Kathy Angerer, used her experience in state government to help me navigate some of the more difficult issues, when it came to dealing with the press and with council. She made sure I got a heads-up so I wasn't blindsided when a situation was about to go south. I didn't always take her advice, but I always took her opinion to heart.

The Review: What do you consider some of your accomplishments or achievements from your time in office? What are you most proud of?

Majewski: I believe I helped lay the groundwork for Hamtramck as it's now perceived worldwide – as a place where immigrants from around the world, as well as people whose families have been here for generations, come together to create community. With all the opportunity for conflict and resolution that comes with real human life.

That's been my message from the beginning, and it's the way Hamtramck's story is now generally told.

I'm also very proud of having helped create the Hamtramck Historical Museum. Under Gov. Granholm's "Cities of Promise" program, which, for several years, funneled state resources and expertise to the handful of poorest cities in Michigan, we had the opportunity to get a lot of work done.

Every participant city also had to designate a "signature project," and I proposed a historical museum as Hamtramck's. Out of all the cities in the program, as far as I know, Hamtramck is the only one in which the signature project was actually fulfilled, thanks to the many people and organizations who agreed it was worthwhile, and who put their backs and their bucks into making it happen.

On a related note, I'm so happy we were able to save Hamtramck Disneyland after the death of artist Dmytro Szyrak. I worked on that for some time – in a race against time – trying to find people or organizations who both had the resources, and agreed on the need to make sure the installations weren't demolished.

In the end, the right people made the right connections, for which I'm so grateful, but it was touch and go for a while.

I also feel good about being a positive role model for young women. If we value the idea of having people in positions of power who "look like us," we'd better remember that more than half of "us" are women. Then look around.

The Review: What were some of the challenges that couldn't be mastered, if any, or that vexed you the most throughout your terms?

Majewski: It's incredibly frustrating that, as close as we've come over the years, we've still not managed to fulfill the terms of the R-31 lawsuit. Doctoral dissertations should be written about this, once the last houses are finally done. We've built, or renovated, something like 198 houses, and the reasons why those last two still elude us have nothing to do with the city's efforts. Enough said.

In general, throughout my tenure, it seemed as though as soon as Hamtramck would start to get a little ahead, the universe would set us back – strikes, floods, closures. The recession was especially brutal.

The bitterest experience was the defeat of the Human Rights Ordinance in 2009. Community and religious leaders, including the pastor of my own church, who should have championed equal treatment for all residents – especially our most vulnerable – instead took the cowards' way out. Either that, or the bigots' way. Or the opportunists'.

I don't know which, in the end, is worse. It was disgraceful.

And don't get me started on emergency management. The way Hamtramck was handled by both of its state-appointed managers was a disgrace, and another of those stories that requires a long telling.

Our assets were ignored, or sold out from under us; our residents and elected officials and our very identity were disrespected, and, in the end, any short-term financial "stability" was achieved by disingenuous and cynical sleight of hand that had no possibility of sustainability, but that left city officials looking like the ones who had failed, rather than the state lackeys who set us up for that failure.

And that's holding my punches.

The Review: What do see for the future, both short- and long-term, for Hamtramck? Do you think that those of the Muslim faith will continue to be the dominant force here politically for a long time, now that they've fully assumed power, or do you see that as more of just another part of the ebb and flow of a city's growth or change?

Do you foresee any major changes coming to the city on the new regime's early watch?

Majewski: I think Hamtramck will continue to attract new immigrants, as well as folks of all backgrounds who value densely-populated and diverse urban communities like ours.

And, as a student of immigration, I see the same basic patterns of settlement, the same internal issues within groups, and comparable cross-cultural challenges at work – whether we're talking about the 1910s, or the 2020s.

But, how long any group is dominant here, and who the next wave of immigrants will be, will depend (at least in part) on political and economic circumstances, locally and worldwide.

I'd also caution, as I have over and over, against thinking about Muslims in monolithic terms. If anything, living in Hamtramck should make us all sensitive to cultural, ethnic, and generational differences within, and between those groups that might happen to share any religious faith.

The Review: Do you anticipate yourself being politically, culturally or

Continued on page 8

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By Charles Sercombe
This week's Crime Log covers Jan. 25-31.

Tuesday, Jan. 25

- A reckless driver was reported in the parking lot of the Hamtramck Town Center. When officers arrived, the car was gone.
- A woman was reported to be screaming in the 3900 block of Comstock St.
- An agent for a Caniff Ave. business reported having trouble with a customer.
- A disorderly group of people was reported on Yemans St.
- A complaint was made about an animal on Bernard St.
- A Mitchell St. resident reported receiving harassing phone calls.

Wednesday, Jan. 26

- A report was made about a woman armed with a hammer who was chasing a man in the 2600 block of Edwin St. Officers determined that it was actually a verbal argument, and drove the man to another residence.
- An attempted theft of an item from a car was reported in the 5000 block of Belmont St.
- A Lumpkin St. resident reported that someone attempted to steal their vehicle.
- A suspicious situation was reported in the 11000 block of Dyar St.
- A domestic assault was reported on Florian St.

Thursday, Jan. 27

- A complaint was made about a group of males screaming in the street in the 3400 block of Doremus St. When officers arrived, they were gone.

Friday, Jan. 28

- A fight was reported at Jos. Campau and Roosevelt. When officers arrived there was no fight, but a man flagged down the officers and admitted he called about the fight in order to get a ride.
- A break-in was reported at the Conant/Caniff Market. Officers noticed damage to a wall where an entry had been made. No suspects were at the scene.

- A McDougall St. resident reported a theft.
- A man was arrested in the 5000 block of Evaline St. for domestic assault.
- A domestic assault happened in the 12000 block of Dyar St.
- Family trouble was reported in the 12000 block of Moran St.

Saturday, Jan. 29

- Officers attempted to pull over a black Ford Focus, but the driver sped off.
- A car was reported stolen in the 3100 block of Belmont St.
- A complaint was made about an animal in the 2300 block of Danforth St.
- A suspicious situation was reported in the 3500 block of Caniff Ave.
- A complaint about an animal was made in the area of Caniff and Fleming.
- A Detroit resident was arrested for fleeing and eluding, as well as for drunk driving and for driving without a license.

Sunday, Jan. 30

- After receiving a complaint from a business in the 8900 block of Jos. Campau Ave., officers arrived at the business and arrested a Detroit resident for being disorderly, and for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.
- An agent for a business in the 9400 block of Jos. Campau Ave. reported that a woman was causing a disturbance. The suspect was no longer at the business when officers arrived.
- A person who did not live at a residence in the 2400 block of Andrus St. told officers that someone there was taking drugs. Officers could not make contact with the person who lives there.
- A complaint was made about an animal in the area of Casmere and Lumpkin.
- A person in the 12000 block of Gallagher reported being harassed.
- A theft was reported on McDougall St.

Monday, Jan. 31

- A domestic assault was reported in the 2000 block of Zinow St.

Continued on page 8

Coming Events

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 9, 6-7 p.m. – The Hamtramck Mutual Aid will meet at Bank Suey, 10345 Joseph Campau Ave. New members are invited to learn about neighbors helping neighbors. Hamtramck Mutual Aid is encouraging the voluntary, reciprocal, sharing of resources, skills, ideas among residents of Hamtramck – outside of established systems. We seek to establish and build upon existing neighbor-to-neighbor relationships that aid in the liberation of everyone without furthering relationships based on uneven power.

SATURDAY, Feb. 12, 2-4 p.m. – Take-out only Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. Everyone is welcome.

SATURDAY, Feb. 26, 3:30-5:30 p.m. – Drive-thru/Take-out Polish Dinner at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. \$12 Adult/\$6 Child 12 & under. Menu: Pork chop, Kielbasa, Pierogi/sour cream, Stewed Cabbage (Bigos), Mashed Potatoes/gravy, Dessert. Cars will be staged in parking lot for delivery in front of church. Masks to be worn for pick-up.



Continued from page 7

Officers determined it was just a verbal argument, and that no crime had occurred.

- An arson fire was reported in the 2300 block of Edwin St.
- A person in the 3000

block of Hanley St. was reported missing.

- An incident of malicious destruction of property was reported in the 3300 block of Comstock St.
- A break-in was report-

ed in the 11700 block of McDougall St.

- A car license plate was stolen on Whalen St.
- A fight was reported on Botsford St.
- Two suspects were arrested in the area of Buffalo and Edwin for being disorderly and damaging property.

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A look back at her service

Continued from page 6

societally active in any way in the near future? Or will you take some time to rest, or gather your thoughts, or “plot” your next move?

Majewski: There is no such thing as rest.

I am busier than ever, but grateful that I now get to choose where to focus my time and energy. I am back on the board of the Polish American Historical Association, and doing research and writing.

In fact, I've completed two articles for publication, both of them focused on Hamtramck. One has already come out, and the other should be published later this year. I've also been taking part in academic conference sessions. There will be much more of this.

I'm also re-focusing on my business, Tekla Vintage, which had to take a back seat for much of 2021 during the campaign.

I'm planning on remodeling the store, and making other changes to the business. Dealing in cool old stuff has always been part of my life, and I am getting back to that in both the world of academics and of business. So, I wake up happy.

And, finally, I don't want to get in the way of the new administration. Mayor Ghalib and I established a good working relationship during the transition period, and I will help in any way if asked, but I respect council and the mayor's

role, which is no longer my own.

The Review: Feel free to weigh in with your thoughts on any of these local hot-button issues: the potential annexation of Hamtramck into Detroit; the elimination of Hamtramck's police and/or fire departments, in favor of another system of maintaining safety and order in the city; the future of the city's marijuana dispensaries and LGBTQ+ rights; the new parking meter system (one in Royal Oak by the same company is exceedingly unpopular, apparently); speed humps versus other ways to get people to slow down and drive better; the budget.

Majewski: This will be a lightning round: it may shock your readers to hear me say this, but if there were a way for Hamtramck to maintain some element of autonomy and identity within Detroit, or some other supra-regional jurisdiction, I might be able to support annexation that also guaranteed financial stability and a solution to our infrastructure issues.

Hamtramck needs localized police and fire departments, but as I've said before, I am open as to how they might be organized to provide the service we need in a way that's affordable and sustainable.

Marijuana dispensaries aren't going away – any council that tried to

get rid of them would be committing legal and economic suicide. I hope that LGBTQ+ rights will be codified at the state and federal level, but just as with marijuana dispensaries, attacking human rights would go against the tide of history, and doom Hamtramck as a backwater.

I actually like the new parking meters, but have said all along that the details need tweaking in terms of hours, cost of tickets, and accommodations for businesses and residents. I use the app, and it's super easy.

The speed humps seem to work well, and I'd like to see them expanded, but they aren't the only solution to our reckless driving and speeding problems.

And, as for the budget, the problems are systemic, and without overall changes in how cities are funded, and a coordinated focus at the state and national level on urban infrastructure, there is no way out for traditional urban core cities like Hamtramck.

(Majewski's store, Tekla Vintage, is located at 9600 Jos. Campau Ave.)

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