



Western News

For and about WMU faculty and staff

FEBRUARY 7, 2013
Volume 39, Number 10

Faculty, staff appreciation nights set

Two Faculty and Staff Appreciation Nights have been scheduled for this month, allowing WMU employees to receive four complimentary tickets to upcoming athletic games. While supplies last, tickets may be picked up at the Bronco Ticket Office before the games or in University Area on game nights.

The first appreciation night is the men's basketball game at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, against Northern Illinois University. Fans are encouraged to wear a #ThePowerofGold shirt, and those who do can enter to win prizes given away during the game. Next up will be the women's basketball game at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, against Central Michigan University.

Cultural events funding available

Grants of up to \$2,000 are available from the University Cultural Events Committee for employees and students who are involved in planning cultural events that will appeal to a general audience.

Campus community members are invited to submit applications for funding. To be considered for funding this semester, applications must be submitted by Friday, Feb. 15, to Julie Nemire in the School of Music. Visit wmich.edu/cec for an application and guidelines.

Awards deadline fast approaching

The application due date is fast approaching for two awards presented by the University Assessment Steering Committee. Friday, Feb. 15, is the deadline to submit an application for the UASC Individual Assessment Excellence Award or to nominate a unit for the University Assessment Excellence Award.

This awards program was established to recognize and showcase outstanding efforts in the area of assessment at WMU. Winners will be feted at the WMU Assessment in Action Day conference Friday, March 22. For eligibility requirements and other information, visit wmich.edu/assessment/grants.html and scroll to the bottom of the page, then click on the links for the two awards. Direct questions to Dave Reinhold at david.reinhold@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2851.

LMC, WMU to host open house

Lake Michigan College and WMU-Southwest will host a free open house from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, to highlight four, locally available associate-to-bachelor degree programs.

The open house will be at the WMU-Southwest building located on LMC's Napier Avenue campus at 2785 E. Napier Ave. in Benton Harbor, Mich. Attendees will learn how they can start at LMC to earn an associate degree, transfer to WMU-Southwest to finish their bachelor's degree, and go on to a career in nursing, elementary education, business administration or engineering.

Polar Plunge to be showcased at carnival

To showcase the University's sixth annual Kalamazoo Polar Plunge, WMU is staging a MyWMU Winter Carnival from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, on campus at Goldsworth Valley.

Members of the WMU and Kalamazoo communities are invited to spend a fun-filled snow day on campus, enjoying a variety of competitions along with sledding, ice skating and live entertainment. Hot food and beverages will be available for purchase.

The day's big event, the Kalamazoo Polar Plunge, will begin at the pond in the early afternoon and is a fundraiser for Special Olympics Michigan, which provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for more than 19,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Admission to the carnival is free, as is parking in lots 60 and 89. Preregistration is requested at mywmu.com for the plunge and other activities.

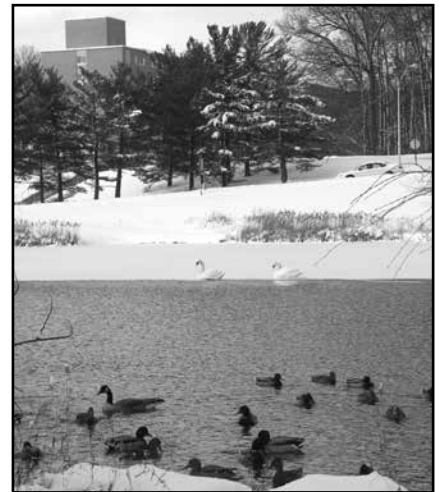
Kalamazoo Polar Plunge

The 2013 Kalamazoo Polar Plunge will feature hardy souls jumping into Goldsworth Valley Pond as motivation for their family members, friends, co-workers and neighbors to donate to Special Olympics Michigan.

The event is open to anyone willing to bear the elements for a good cause. It is known for its courageous participants, who dress up in zany costumes before they plunge, and for its Golden Plunger Award, which honors the participant with the most creative costume



Above right: Goldsworth Valley will be the site of the first MyWMU Winter Carnival. (Photo by Jeanne Baron)



or best jump.

- Check-in and registration—12:30 p.m.
- Parade of costumes—1:45 p.m.
- Plunging starts—2 p.m.
- Awards and post-plunge party—2:45 p.m.;

open to everyone

Participants need to raise at least \$75 in pledges to plunge. Visit the Special Olympics Michigan website at somi.org to make a donation or pre-register for the Kalamazoo plunge. Click Fundraisers, then select Polar Plunge from the drop-down menu and click 2013 Kalamazoo Polar Plunge.

MyWMU Winter Carnival

Along with hosting the Polar Plunge, WMU will open Goldsworth Valley and nearby intramural fields for a community-wide carnival.

The University is building a temporary

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Talk to focus on creating a sustainable campus culture

Sustainability expert Mitchell Thomashow will share his framework for creating a culture of sustainability during a trio of events being held on campus Thursday and Friday, Feb. 7-8.



Thomashow

Thomashow will meet and greet WMU students in the Office for Sustainability this afternoon, then deliver a public keynote address titled "The Nine Elements of a Sustainable Culture and Campus" at 7:30 p.m. today in 1910 Sangren Hall.

During the free talk, he will describe how he led Unity College in Maine through a transformation to become nationally recognized for its focus on sustainability. Guests should park in lots 40 or 4.

Friday, Feb. 8, Thomashow will present a workshop for up to 40 WMU faculty members and administrators. The topic-focused workshop is designed for those interested in integrating sustainability across disciplines. It will help launch a new Sustainability Across Research and Teaching Faculty Learning Community. Registration is required, and seats will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Thomashow is the director of the Presidential Fellows Program at Second Nature, an organization that seeks to create a sustainable society by transforming higher education. He is the author of two influential books, "Ecological Identity: Becoming a Reflective Environmentalist" and "Bringing the Biosphere Home." His forthcoming book, "The Nine Elements of a Sustainable Campus," will be published in 2013.

While president of Unity College from 2006 to 2011, Thomashow helped integrate elements of ecology, sustainability, natural history, wellness, participatory governance and community service into college and community life.

Visit wmich.edu/sustainability to register for Thomashow's workshop.

Around campus and beyond

Common read event is next week

Participants in the University's common read of Rebecca Skloot's book "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" will have a chance to meet Henrietta's son, David Lacks, and his wife, Shirley, starting at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, in the Fetzer Center's Kirsch Auditorium.

After a question-and-answer session, audience members will be able to talk with the Lacks. A book signing will follow until 8 p.m. Reservations are requested by visiting wmich.edu/diversityandinclusion and clicking Events.

Emeritus to discuss Teddy Roosevelt

The Emeriti Council's next Wednesday II meeting will feature Tom Bailey sharing observations on President Theodore Roosevelt at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, in Walwood Hall's Emeriti Lounge.

Bailey will touch on the Roosevelt myth, the Roosevelt character and the Roosevelt we think we know. Emeriti Council meetings are open to all emeriti and surviving spouses. Visit wmich.edu/emmeriti for more about Bailey's talk or the council.

Fulbright information sessions set

Faculty members and administrators are invited to learn about overseas study, seminars and funding opportunities to conduct research through the Fulbright Program in two February workshops.

Both workshops will cover the same material and will be held in the Bernhard Center. The first is planned for 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 13, in Room 211. The second workshop will be held at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, in Room 204. No registration is required.

Visiting artist to give performance

Laurencio Carlos Ruiz will give two public performances beginning at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23, in the Gilmore Theatre Complex's York Arena Theatre as part of a College of Fine Arts spring visiting artists series celebrating international diversity.

Ruiz will present "Shifting Strengths," which employs puppets, as well as the sketch, "Give Me a Hand," an interactive presentation that will involve audience members. He is an instructor of theatre arts and resident scenic designer at Penn State University Altoona as well as a freelance artist and designer, puppeteer, photographer, and visual and performance artist.

Robotics expert to be guest speaker

The head of research for an international firm pioneering the latest robotics technology worldwide will be the featured speaker during WMU's 2013 Engineers Week. Rodolphe Gelin, director of research for Aldebaran Robotics, will speak on "Developing Useful Robot Human Interactions."

The talk will take place at a dinner set for Tuesday, Feb. 19, in the Fetzer Center. Dinner reservations are due by Friday, Feb. 15. Visit wmich.edu/engineer/eweek or contact Jorge Rodriguez at (269) 276-3374 to make a reservation.

Top mechanic wins regional award

Scott E. Austin, College of Aviation, has been named a 2013 Regional Aviation Maintenance Technician of the Year, putting him



Austin

in the running with six others for judging in the national General Aviation Awards program.

The program recognizes individual aviation professionals on the local, regional and national levels for their contributions to aviation, education and flight safety. It is sponsored by general aviation industry firms and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Austin, maintenance director for the aviation college since 2009, represents the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Flight Standards District Office and the Great Lakes Region.

He is a 1994 WMU graduate who served as a part-time aircraft technician at WMU for several years before becoming a full-time technician at the University in 1997. Before being promoted to his current post, he also served as lead mechanic and chief inspector and manager of logistics and compliance.

Emerita's book earns national prize

Marlene R. Breu, emerita in family and consumer sciences, received the 2012 Shep Ethnic Textiles Book Award from the Textile



Breu

Society of America for her book "Splendor and Pageantry: Textile Treasures from the Armenian Orthodox Churches of Istanbul."

Breu, who retired in 2008 after more than 12 years on the faculty, won the award along with colleague and co-author Ron Marchese from the University of Minnesota at Duluth. The award recognizes exceptional scholarship and is funded by the R.L. Shep Endowment to encourage the study and understanding of textile traditions.

"Splendor and Pageantry," published in 2010, is the result of a ground-breaking study of textile and non-textile artifacts in Istanbul churches that the authors conducted over the span of eight years.

Instructor's third book published

Hedy Habra, Spanish, has had her third book published in a year. The hat trick began in January 2012 with "Flying Carpets," a



Habra

short story collection. It was followed in November 2012 by a work of literary criticism, "Mundos alternos y artísticos en Vargas Llosa," and just this month by a poetry book, "Tea in Heliopolis."

Habra specializes in Spanish American Literature, with an emphasis on Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa. She writes in French, English and Spanish, although Arabic and French are her first languages, and her creative writing and critical studies have appeared in numerous literary magazines.

Habra was born in Egypt and lived in several countries before moving to Kalamazoo in 1981. She earned a bachelor's degree from the Faculté Française de Médecine et de Pharmacie of Beirut, and three master's degrees and one doctoral degree from WMU.

Three easy ways to find out if weather closes WMU

WMU rarely closes due to severe weather. Assume the University is open and will continue normal operation unless notified in one of three ways:

- Call (269) 387-1001, the emergency information line.
- Visit wmich.edu.
- Tune in to a local TV or radio station.

If not notified via one of those methods,



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WESTERN NEWS (USPS 362-210) is published by the Office of University Relations, Walwood Hall, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433, every other week during the fall and spring semesters and Summer I session. Periodicals postage paid at Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5165.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Western News*, Office of University Relations, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433.

DEADLINE: Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of University Relations by 5 p.m. Friday the week preceding publication. Fall publication dates are **Jan. 10 and 24, Feb. 7 and 21, March 14 and 28, and April 11.** Items may be submitted to Jeanne Baron at jeanne.baron@wmich.edu, (269) 387-8422 or Campus Mail Stop 5433.

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

all normal operations will continue as scheduled. The WMU Alert system is not used to announce weather closings.

If the Kalamazoo campus is closed, the Battle Creek regional location and College of Aviation are also closed. Decisions to close regional locations in other cities are made independently, and the affected locations will make separate announcements. Separate regional-location closings are posted only on the Extended University Programs website.

Since 1999, WMU has closed just nine times due to bad weather.

Who's Who nomination deadline extended

The deadline for faculty to nominate students for Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges has been extended to 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8.

Nominations should be submitted to the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Programs. Visit <http://wmich.collegiatelink.net/organization/salp/documentlibrary> for nomination forms.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.html. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

Office expects record job fair turnout; earns LGBT certification

WMU has been getting good news on the student employment front lately.

On one front, another record year may be in the offing for the annual Career Fair, which is set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom.



The 2012 Career Fair (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Surangi Pradhan, Career Fair co-chair, reports that a record 175 organizations took part in the event last year but that 170 already were registered for this year's fair with

another week to go before registration closes. That compares to 120 registrants in 2010.

"This is the second consecutive year that 170 or more organizations have signed up to participate. That's a significant increase from a few years ago," Pradhan says. "It signals growth in the state's economy because most of these participating employers are based in Michigan or have branches here."

The Career Fair is open to the public but tailored for WMU students and alumni. Now in its 35th year, it routinely draws some 3,000 job seekers in addition to employers from such diverse areas as engineering, technology, health care, the environmental sciences, insurance, retail and consumer products, transportation, government, the nonprofit sector, and construction.

The event is organized by Career and Student Employment Services, which recently received good news on another front.

The office learned it had earned gold-level certification for 2013 from OUT for Work,

a national non-profit organization that helps lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender college students as they transition from academia to the workplace.



Lynn Kelly-Albertson, Career and Student Employment Services, says after completing the certification program, her office received the second highest rating possible.

"With this certification, WMU will have access to additional resources to help students search for jobs, network and navigate coming out in the workplace," Kelly-Albertson says. "In addition to our staff participating in professional development activities, they'll be able to consult with OUT for Work staff who can help identify inclusive companies that offer same-sex domestic partner benefits and have nondiscrimination policies that include sexual identity."

Weeklong celebration honors student employees

Western Michigan University will recognize its student employees during the 27th annual Student Employee Appreciation Week, Monday through Friday, Feb. 18-22.

Career and Student Employment Services, which sponsors the week, is accepting award nominations through Friday, Feb. 8, for the awards it bestows in conjunction with the observance.

The week is a time to honor all student employees, who help to make WMU a great place to work and learn. It also provides an opportunity to showcase the University's outstanding student employees and the outstanding staff members who supervise them.

Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during February.

35 Years—Leon J. Coleman, building custodial and support services and Gary L. Snell, building custodial and support services.

30 Years—Vivian L. Locke, biological sciences.

25 Years—Thomas Cook, maintenance services; Judith A. Priest, information technology; and William E. St. Clair, information technology.

20 Years—Ishmael T. Acker, building custodial and support services.

15 Years—Mark B. Heineman, maintenance services; Edison G. Macadangang, building custodial and support services; Margaret T. Magallon, building custodial and support services; Robert E. Monck, maintenance services; Jan Pekarovic, chemical and paper engineering; and Alexandra Pekarovicova, chemical and paper engineering.

10 Years—Laura L. Darrah, residence life; Bryon J. Glock, online education; James B. Hollenbeck, building custodial and support services; Martin E. Klemm, WMUK Radio; Donald J. Layne, Paper and Printing Pilot Plant; and Shawn D. Mortimore, Paper and Printing Pilot Plant.

Five Years—Catherine Burhans, Miller Auditorium; Amanda E. Lozier, admissions; and Lillian D. Manning, diversity and inclusion.

Students may make nominations for the Supervisor of the Year award while faculty and staff members may make nominations for the Belleville Student Employee of the Year award.

The 2013 award winners and nominees will be announced as well as celebrated during a reception from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, in the Bernhard Center.

WMU faculty and staff members are encouraged to submit award nominations and to thank their student workers in some way during appreciation week. While supplies last, the career services office will provide small gifts that may be used as thank-yous for student workers. Gift requests must be received by Feb. 8.

The office also has developed a list of suggestions for other ways to thank student employees and makes available a template that can be used to create certificates of appreciation.

Visit wmich.edu/career/students/nominate.html for more information and to obtain or request appreciation week materials. Direct questions to Brenda Case-Parris at brenda.case-parris@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2745.

Special faculty, staff mixer set

A Mardi Gras-themed get-together for faculty and staff members will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, in Miller Auditorium.



The free U Make Western mixer is a celebration of the contributions employees make to the University. It also kicks off a fundraising campaign for WMU faculty and staff members that is being launched in coordination with the Annual Fund.

P.J. Fleck, WMU's new head football coach, will be the guest speaker during a brief program that starts at 5:30 p.m.

The event also will include free chair massages, creole-inspired hors d'oeuvres and plenty of opportunities to win prizes. Attendees will each receive two drink tickets that may be redeemed for pop, beer or wine (ticketed drinks only).

Visit mywmu.com to register for the mixer, which is being sponsored by development and alumni relations, or to donate to the University.

Questions may be directed to Jason Long at jason.long@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8789.

Obituaries

Editor's Note: Visit wmich.edu/news/obituaries for full obituaries.

Karen S. Lawrence, an office associate in the Department of Chemical and Paper Engineering, died Jan. 29. She was 48. Lawrence joined the staff full time in 2008. Memorial gifts may be made to the Mattawan Athletic Booster Club or Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Southwest Michigan.

Rosemary Lyon, a former executive secretary in the College of Arts and Sciences, died Jan. 24. She was 89. Lyon joined the staff in 1972 and retired in 1986 after nearly 14 years of service. Memorial gifts may be made to St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Sam Robinson, a former manager of the custodial services division, died Jan. 17. He was 83. Robinson joined the staff in 1961 and retired in 1991 after more than 29 years of service.

R. Luanne Stroup, a former buyer in the purchasing department, died Jan. 19. She was 86. Stroup joined the staff in 1968 and retired in 1986 after more than 18 years of service.

Gladys Stuijbergen, a former senior clerk in the Office of Admissions, died Jan. 24. She was 98. Stuijbergen joined the staff in 1960 and retired in 1980 after nearly 20 years of service. Memorial gifts may be made to the ALS Association of Michigan in memory of her son, James.



Lawrence



Robinson

On Campus with Christin Fawley-Zehner



COOKING IS RIGHT UP HER ALLEY
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

Christin Fawley-Zehner has worked in every cafeteria on campus during her 37 years at WMU, as well as landscape services, maintenance services, and building custodial and support services. She says she's never had a day when she has not wanted to go to work.

"If you love the job that you do, you never really work a day in your entire life," she says.

Her job as head cook in Valley 1 Dining Services starts at 6 a.m. preparing the breakfast menu for the 7 a.m. breakfast crowd. Working alongside three other cooks during first shift, she and her crew also prepare the lunch menu for the day with the assistance of a number of student workers, of which Valley 1 employs 87. With the combined efforts of the employees and the student workers, Valley 1 feeds around 700 students daily during the first shift alone.

Fawley-Zehner says students still have their food favorites every year—pizza, hamburgers, chicken fingers, french fries and soft serve ice cream, to name a few. She also says that the dining halls have expanded their vegetarian items and salad bars, as well as adopted a policy where students serve themselves.

"It gives them a chance to try new things and to take their own portions," she says. "I think students appreciate being able to take what they want."

Fawley-Zehner grew up and still lives in Portage, Mich., on Gourdneck Lake. She enjoys shopping, traveling, picnics and pontoon rides on the lake with her family. Her uncle has managed the Continental Lanes bowling alley for years; and she and her extended family have all grown up bowling.

A 2012 recipient of WMU's Make a Difference award, she says her co-workers are like family. But she also has a lot of real family here. Sister Dana Ball has been with dining and landscape services for 27 years, and brothers Marc and Scott Fawley are building custodial and support services staffers, 26 years and three years, respectively.

She also has a son, Kyle Zehner, who is a 2003 WMU graduate, and a daughter, Katlyn Zehner, who is a junior and working in the Valley 1 Dining Hall. Another son, Cody, attended WMU but sadly passed away in 2003. In his memory, Fawley-Zehner hosted the "Cody Zehner Scholarship Bowling Tournament" for youth bowlers for eight consecutive years at Continental Lanes, as Cody was an excellent youth bowler, having achieved perfect scores of 300.

Health Center events highlight eating disorders

February is Eating Disorders Awareness Month, and the Sindecuse Health Center invites WMU students, employees and guests to learn more about these disorders by attending an upcoming workshop as well as picking up helpful informational materials.

The 50-minute workshop, "Body Image: Changes Over Time in Interpretation of the Ideal Body," will be held in Sindecuse at 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21; 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 2; and 11 a.m. Thursday, April 4. Seating is limited.

In addition, free "Love Your Shape" buttons and informational materials will be available at tables set up from 7 to 10 p.m. Monday, Feb. 18, in the Student Recreation Center Fitness Studio; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, in the Student Recreation Center lobby; and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, in the Bernhard Center lobby.

Visit wmich.edu/healthcenter/loveyourshape to reserve a workshop seat or obtain more information about eating disorders.

Classes, trips all part of spring lifelong learning activities

There's still time to register for many of the Lifelong Learning Academy's spring offerings, including classes on such diverse subjects as seafaring, early Jesus movements,



Lifelong learning class (Photo by Mike Lanka)

sustainability, outdoor sculpture and the medieval legend of Tristan and Isolde.

Registrations are due by Friday, Feb. 15, for March classes and Friday, March 15, for April classes.

The academy also has planned several one-day trips to other areas of Michigan.

They include treks to the Grand Rapids Opera as well as to historic and artistic sites in Muskegon. In addition, John Geisler, emeritus in counselor education and counseling psychology, will lead a trip from White Pigeon to New Buffalo along Route 12, the old Sauk Trail. Plus, Lawrence Schlack, emeritus in educational leadership, will take a group to Detroit to learn about efforts to rebuild the city.

The academy, developed under the auspices of Extended University Programs, provides low-cost, short-term learning experiences for adults in an informal and stimulating environment. There are no exams or grades.

A complete brochure for spring is available at wmich.edu/offcampus/lifelong or by calling the Extended University Programs office at (269) 387-4200.

Polar Plunge to be showcased

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outdoor ice rink for open skating and will have a limited number of skates available to rent. There will be a heated hospitality tent where carnivalgoers can warm up between activities and a stage for live music and comedy performances.

The event begins at 10 a.m. with an open skate, music, and the first rounds of the snow softball and flag football tournaments. Chili, hot chocolate and other menu items will be available. In the afternoon, those participating in the duct-tape derby will transform cardboard boxes into sleds, then race their creations. Throughout the day, young and old alike are invited to bring their sleds to the intramural field next to the Sorenson Tennis Courts for some old-fashioned family fun.

Weather permitting, the full schedule of activities is as follows:

- Open skating—10 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., 3 to 6:45 p.m. and 7:05 to 10 p.m.
- Sledding—throughout the day
- Flag football and snow softball tournaments—10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; semifinal and final rounds in the afternoon following the Polar Plunge
- Snowman-making contest—11 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; awards presented at 5 p.m.
- Polar Plunge events—starting at 1:45 p.m.
- Battle of the bands—3 to 5:45 p.m.; awards presented at 5:45 p.m.
- Duct-tape derby—3 to 6 p.m. installations; racing follows