

PETOSKEY

Helping hands: McLaren staff to take part in Rwandan medical trip

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Having been in the United States after leaving his native Rwanda more than 35 years ago, Vianney Ruhumuliza has made countless friends in America. He also, however, hasn't forgotten his roots or his homeland. Ruhumuliza, a 59-year-old registered nurse at McLaren Northern Michigan who works in cardiology, has made many trips back to Rwanda over the years.

He, along with McLaren Northern Michigan's Dr. Dalton Miranda, a cardiologist, Mary Warren, a sonography technician and registered nurse Judy Presnail, will travel to Rwanda from March 15-25 as part of Ruhumuliza's "Helping Hands for Rwanda," which aims to add value on the education, health care and the well-being on Rwandese people.

The goal for HHFR is to provide cardiac care for Rwanda, Ruhumuliza said, which is severely lacking in the country.

"I started (HHFR) in 2006," Ruhumuliza said. "I'm a registered nurse by profession, I graduated in 1977 and came to the U.S. in 1982 and have been in Michigan most of my stay."

"About 10 years ago



Ruhumuliza



Miranda

(catheterization) lab and mentioned to my coworkers in Rwanda we don't have this kind of service.

"In Rwanda, you die." With the support of McLaren Northern Michigan, the foursome, including Ruhumuliza, will spend over a week doing cardiac screenings for what could reach some 300-plus people.

"We are targeting people who may have the same lifestyle as Americans," Ruhumuliza said. "Those who drive cars, may eat like a wealthy person would and may not exercise. Those people tend to get in trouble."

Ruhumuliza, who has organized medical missions twice yearly in southern Rwanda for 11 years serving medical needs for the whole country, works with the Rwandan Minister of Health who has agreed

I started doing medical missions in Rwanda using my friends I've met over the years," Ruhumuliza added. "I've been in Petoskey for maybe seven years and I work in the Cath

"For this mission I wanted to use people from this area. I feel they deserve some credit."

Vianney Ruhumuliza

to let Ruhumuliza and his team of volunteers to set up in a large office space in Kigali.

"There'll also be Rwandese medical school residents who'll be able to translate," Ruhumuliza said. "Most of the people don't speak English who we'll be seeing. We'll be targeting people who are in medical school who are learning who can help administer care."

Helping Hands for Rwanda, a nonprofit organization, originally was intended to enable donors to sponsor students who needed assistance to finish the college degrees. Usually the students had had experienced familial circumstances which no longer allowed them to pay for their final year or two of college.

In the beginning, the nonprofit assisted in sponsoring eight students, including nursing, business school, chef, management education and accounting. Over time, the organization grew to support additional programs of

assistance to Rwanda, including clean water programs and support for the medical school.

"When we started doing mission trips in 2005, we started working with children with cleft palates," Ruhumuliza said. "We eliminated cleft palates for nearly everyone except newborns from 2006-2011. I had a surgeon from Boston and involved other people and friends over the years. We'd take over all the supplies and equipment we needed for the trip, did the surgeries and came back."

Ruhumuliza said there are only three cardiologists for some 12 million people in Rwanda, and there are no heart catheterization or other invasive procedures.

"For this mission I wanted to use people from this area," Ruhumuliza said. "I feel they deserve some credit."

The projected cost for the trip is \$55,000.

"Ideally, I'd like to go every four months if there's financial support," Ruhumuliza said. To learn more about Helping Hands for Rwanda or to make a tax-deductible donation/contribution to the March trip, email vianneyruhu@outlook.com, call (269) 362-1006 or send a check to P.O. Box 854, Petoskey MI 49770.

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BUDGET FROM A1

Cartwright said. "The first piece, and the largest dollars, are coming out of the general fund. On the positive side, because of how the state aid formula works, the state will make up the difference for that \$1.2 million. They have sent us the money, it will show up here on Monday. Then we'll be billed back by Emmet County, who will then turn around and send that \$1.2 million to Bay View."

Cartwright said the general fund repayment will not impact teaching, learning or operations because of the state's assistance.

"In the sinking fund, however, it does have a negative impact," Cartwright said. "We're going to send \$108,000 of the sinking fund money back to Emmet County to be sent back to Bay View Association as part of the settlement. That required me to eliminate some projects that we had planned on doing."

Those eliminated projects included items such as carpet and locker replacements.

Repayment from the debt service fund is also estimated to impact property taxes, Cartwright said.

"The debt service fund is refunding \$175,000 to Bay View Association and that is going to require the district to increase our debt service millage here in July in order to bring our fund balances up to acceptable levels," Cartwright said. "So the impact is going to be that, unfortunately, folks in our school district are going to have a slight increase in their property taxes to offset this Bay View Association settlement."

Cartwright said he thinks the increase will be for .1 mills for one year, but he will not be

sure until he begins putting the budget together for next year.

"I'll certainly limit that to as small of an increase as I need to," he said. "It should be just the one year increase and it will drop back down again."

One major project that will be tackled this summer is a new roof for Lincoln Elementary School. The replacement was originally planned for 2016, but had to be postponed after it was discovered there were actually two roofs on the building already.

"In 2016, as we began to prepare for putting our drawings and specifications together, when the engineer began to look at the details of the roof we found out several things that we didn't know before," Cartwright said. "We essentially have two roofs on that building already. We have the original roof and apparently one was applied over the top of it."

The duplicate roofs, combined with changes in area building codes involving weight limits, led to the decision to table the project.

"The project began to get larger than I was sure that the sinking fund could handle and so we tabled it," Cartwright said. "We were already at the start of the stadium project and I just didn't know if we had enough to make it all work."

The project is estimated to cost \$1.5 million, which Cartwright said he is confident the district can fund this year.

"I'm confident we've got the money to do that," Cartwright said. "If the project comes in at \$1.5 million, we'll have a new roof. If it comes in higher than that, which I don't think it will, we may have to re-evaluate."

BOYNE CITY

Three teens charged with multiple crimes

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BOYNE CITY — Three Northern Michigan teens are facing various criminal charges stemming from an auto theft investigation in Boyne City that led to the discovery of several other crimes.

Boyne City Police Department officials said the investigation began on the morning of Dec. 28 when a resident called the police department asking if any vehicles were towed from the downtown area of Boyne City the night before. The resident said a friend's 2006 Yukon Denali was missing from where it had been parked on the street.

Police said as part of the investigation they reviewed security camera video from a nearby business that showed

ment officers received a phone call from the Gaylord Police Department indicating that a suspect they had arrested in connection with a separate stolen vehicle and police pursuit case had provided them with information about the vehicle that had been in the Denali taken from Boyne City.

Gaylord Police Department Police Chief Brett McVannel said on Dec. 29 officers were called to a report of a person who failed to pay for gas at a Gaylord gas station. He said when officers attempted to stop the suspect vehicle, the driver failed to stop, and officers pursued. He said it wasn't until later that further investigation revealed that the vehicle had been stolen.

Otsego County Prosecuting Attorney Brendan Curran said, according to the police complaint in the case,

into custody.

According to court documents in both counties, at the time of his arrest the suspect in the Otsego County case, identified as Marcus Lee Krussell, 18, of Boyne City was in possession of boots and a coat that had been in the Denali taken from Boyne City on Dec. 28. Curran said Krussell has been charged with unlawfully driving away a motor vehicle, third degree fleeing without a license. He said Krussell had been facing a preliminary examination in the case on Jan. 11, but that hearing was postponed. He is now facing a show-cause hearing on Feb. 1 for failing to appear at an earlier hearing, Curran said.

In Charlevoix County

lice said the vehicle had little if any damage and has since been returned to its owner.

The investigation also led authorities to learn about an instance in which one of the teens is accused of stealing a set of Beats headphones worth about \$160 from the boys locker room at Boyne City High School and then selling the headphones to another student, setting up the transaction via posts on social media.

According to court documents, Krussell also provided information to police about the headphone theft, for which Jaylen Francis Fiel, 18, of Boyne City is facing one count each of larceny in a building and receiving and concealing stolen property. Fiel is set to be arraigned on the charges on Jan. 30.

In the Boyne City auto theft case, Dylan

PETOSKEY

Petoskey High School to welcome new assistant principal

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PETOSKEY — The Public Schools of Petoskey announced a highly qualified candidate to fill the role of interim assistant principal at Petoskey High School during the school board's meeting on Wednesday.

Michael Hill previously served as superintendent of the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District. He retired from that position in December.



Hill

willing to do that," Scholten said.

The interim assistant principal position became available after Sean Byram was offered an administrative position in Gaylord. Hill will start in the position on Feb. 1. Scholten said Hill was required to wait 30 days, by Michigan law, after retiring before he could start working in a public school system again.

went appeared to be three males walking in the area, and ultimately at least one of them driving away in the missing vehicle around 1 a.m. Dec. 28.
On Dec. 29, Boyne City Police Depart-

ment officers had actually backed off on the chase for safety reasons, when the driver lost control of the vehicle, a Chrysler Town and Country, and crashed into a field outside of the city. Police then took the driver

to court documents, police said following his arrest, Krussell provided information to officers that led them to ultimately recover the Yukon that had been stolen from Boyne City at a location in Kalkaska. Po-

ly Raymond Harvey Cullver, 18, of Boyne City, has been charged with one count of unlawfully driving away a motor vehicle, a five-year felony. He faces a preliminary examination in the case on Jan. 23.

Prior to that, Hill has worked as the principal/director at Traverse Bay Area's Career-Tech Center and as principal at Glen Lake Secondary School, among other positions in education.
John Scholten, superintendent of Petoskey schools, previously worked with Hill in the Glen Lake district and said he was excited to have Hill join the Petoskey High School staff.

"His passion, and he was very good in his other roles, is his interactions with students and working with students," Scholten said. "I think he's really looking forward to helping us out and it helps having a relationship and knowing him."
Hill will remain as the interim assistant principal for the remainder of the school year. Scholten said school officials plan to post the position in late spring, when more candidates are expected to be available.

"I'm excited to bring him on board just to help us out and just real pleased that he was

TERMS FROM A1

While daily, monthly, seasonal and yearly weather patterns can change, causing concerns, it's a natural process.

"Climate is the average of that weather. For example, you can expect snow in the Northeast in January or for it to be hot and humid in the Southeast in July. This is climate. The climate record also includes extreme values such as record high temperatures or record amounts of rainfall," according to the National Oceanic

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

and Atmospheric Administration.

Climate is looking at the bigger picture.

"We're not just looking at normal ups and downs from a week to a month. We look at longer time frames. We look at season or annual

temperatures," Keysor said. "We'll say how did the annual temperatures change over the last decade?... Climate is the broader, long-range prediction."

"Weather reflects short-term conditions of the atmosphere while

climate is the average daily weather for an extended period of time at a certain location," according to NOAA.

Climate change is what is happening with changes in daily weather over a longer period of time.

Many factors can contribute to changes in the Earth's climate, such as the tilt of the Earth and greenhouse gases.

Changing weather patterns like temperatures, humidity and precipitation can be unpredictable, but are expected.

Pocket change

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