

This year's Father's Day Photo Contest, "Have A Ball With Dad," will give area sons and daughters a chance to have a real ball with their fathers.



FATHER'S DAY CONTEST

Don't forget to include your telephone number so we can contact you if you're the lucky winner. Also, give us both of your names and cities of residence. The winning entry will be featured on our BEST page on Father's Day, June 18. All of the pictures we receive will appear on our website at www.vindy.com. Email a large jpeg photo to society@vindy.com or mail your picture to: The Vindicator, "Have A Ball With Dad," Attn.: Barb Shaffer, Society/Features Editor, P.O. Box 780, Youngstown, OH 44501. **THE DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, JUNE 9**

To enter the drawing, send your favorite picture of you and your dad for a chance to win a **\$100 gift certificate** from the **Mahoning Valley Scrappers** to be used to purchase game tickets, merchandise and food. Remember, we accept snapshots only; no professional portraits.

CONTEST RULES

Entering the contest constitutes permission by the contestants for their names and photographs to be used without compensation. Employees of this newspaper and their immediate families are not eligible to win the prize, but their pictures will be included with the others in our photo gallery online. The winner will be contacted by a Vindicator staff member.

Hubbard native's supernatural TV career

By GUY D'ASTOLFO
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Michael Narducci's career as a writer and developer of fantastical television shows can be traced to a bean ball when he was a child.

The Hubbard native and Ursuline High School graduate recently signed a two-year contract with ABC Studios, where he will create and develop TV shows. Before that, he was the showrunner for The CW's vampire series "The Originals," and a screenwriter for its predecessor, "The Vampire Diaries" and also "Medium" (NBC, CBS).

A graduate of Harvard University, Narducci has an obvious ability to turn his vision into an on-screen product. He also has a big imagination that was first fueled by his childhood love of comic books.

If Peter Parker became Spider-Man after being bitten by a radioactive spider, then Narducci's super power stems from getting plunked by an errant pitch.

That may be a sensational – and far-fetched – comparison, and Narducci's love for supernatural stories started before he ever picked up a baseball bat.

But that bean ball played a role. He explained during a phone interview from his Studio City, Calif., home, where he lives with his wife, Mimi, and their two daughters.

"I got hit by a pitch during a Little League baseball game when I was 9, and after that, I was afraid of getting hit again," said Narducci. "So my dad would bribe me by taking me to the comic-book store. He would buy me one comic book for every swing I took."

That kept Narducci well-stocked with

comics for the summer, but also helped him absorb the tenets of the format: serialized stories, mythical characters and plenty of action, horror and adventure. It's a style that translates into television.

Narducci would go on to become captain of the football team at Ursuline, where he played offensive tackle and defensive end. But his love for comics did not fade in high school.

"Every Friday I went to a comic-book store in Liberty Plaza," he said. "That's a crazy ritual but I was into it."

After Harvard, Narducci – the son of Carmen and Mary Narducci of Hubbard – attended the University of Virginia on a fellowship and earned a master's degree.

He then moved to Southern California



Michael Narducci

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THE VINDICATOR | C1



Industry innovator

HARD-WORKING SPIRIT LEADS TO SUCCESS FOR SIMON ROOFING

By KALEA HALL
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BOARDMAN

Alex Simon came to Youngstown from Lebanon and started Simon Roofing in the 1900s as a way to provide for his family.

Alex's successors, his grandsons, say he would be amazed at the state of the company today.

No longer is the focus on residential roofing, but on commercial and manufacturing the products for repair and restoration.

What Alex and his sons, Joseph, Paul, James, John and Samuel taught their successors led them to create a code to crack problems with roofs and help the Simon customers know when the roof needs replaced.

The name of this technology is PreVision.

"It gives exact results," said James Simon Jr., one of three owners of Simon Roofing. "We actually bring it to the exact year the roof will need replaced."

Doing this lets customers prepare financially for

See SIMON, C2



ROBERT K. YOSAY | THE VINDICATOR

Anthony Vross, one of the owners of Simon Roofing, shows off a new product offered by the company. Simon Roofing on Karago Avenue in Boardman was started more than 100 years ago by Vross' grandfather, Alex Simon.

"IT WAS ABOUT QUALITY AND DOING A GOOD JOB."

ANTHONY VROSS, *Simon Roofing* third-generation owner



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ringling Bros. boss clown Sandor Eke hugs his 2-year-old son Michael after the red unit's final show, May 7 in Providence, R.I. "The Greatest Show on Earth" is about to put on its last show on earth.

Ringling Bros. circus marks its final days

PROVIDENCE, R.I.

An elephant stretches its trunk through a window to soothe a sick child. A woman gives birth and three months later is back performing on the high wire. A handler of big cats weeps as the beasts lope out of the ring for the last time.

These stories could come only from circus performers, and in particular one famous circus, the one immortalized as "The Greatest Show on Earth": the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, which is hanging its hat for the last time this weekend.

Though the show goes on in other circuses around the world, Ringling is special. The size, the spectacle and the history – stretching back to P.T. Barnum and his traveling museum in the 1800s – set it apart.

One of Ringling's two traveling circuses is scheduled to perform its final show today in New York. The other closed this month in Provi-

See RINGLING, C3

Business

◆ **Limelights:** Several people received 2017 Phoenix Awards from the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce. **C2**

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Entertainment

◆ **'Earth Mama'** will perform in Girard. **C3**

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◆ **What constitutes** a good mother? Parenting columnist John Rosemond chimes in. **C5**

Society

◆ **Altrusa International** celebrates its 100th anniversary. **C6**

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◆ **Senior citizens** news. **C7**

Travel

◆ **The Metropolitan Museum of Art** is trying to bounce back from money woes. **C8**



Celebrating 55 years

WARREN

Everett Industries Inc., 3601 Larchmont Ave., is celebrating 55 years in business manufacturing abrasive cut-off saws. The company was founded in 1962 by Chuck Everett.

Everett Industries employs 28 people, and daily operations are run by President Bill Everett.

Everett Industries abrasive cutoff machines are sold worldwide to any industry that needs to cut metal. Its 37,000-square-foot manufacturing facility houses a modern machine shop.

'Morning Buzz' set

AKRON

The Greater Akron Chamber will present "Morning Buzz" on June 9.

"Morning Buzz" is a monthly speaker breakfast series, which aims to connect small- and medium-sized businesses by facilitating the exchange of ideas and strategies for business growth and success.

On June 9, Evan Delahanty, founder and CEO of Peaceful Fruits, a snack company that makes fair trade, natural fruit snacks that are healthful and helping to save the Amazon Rainforest, will speak to guests.

The "Morning Buzz" will take place at the Hilton Garden Inn Akron, 1307 E. Market St. Business connections, registration and breakfast begin at 7:30 a.m., and the program will take place from 8 to 9 a.m.

The cost is \$25 for members, and \$50 for nonmembers and includes a breakfast buffet. To make a reservation, call the Greater Akron Chamber at 330-376-5550 or register online at www.great-erakronchamber.org.

Gaming revenue up

HARRISBURG, PA.

Pennsylvania's April 2017 table games revenue of \$79,546,606 was an increase of 10.2 percent over April of last year when revenue was \$72,206,809, according to figures released on the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board's website, www.gamingcontrolboard.pa.gov.

Total tax revenue from table games play during April was \$12,859,930 with an average of 1,235 tables in operation statewide on a daily basis.

ATHENA Wise Girls

HERMITAGE, PA.

In service of the Lawrence Mercer ATHENA's mission to develop emerging women leaders, ATHENA Wise Girls focuses on the day-to-day issues that girls age 12 to 18 face in the region.

Lawrence Mercer ATHENA Wise Girls 2017 will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 15 at Penn State Shenango, 147 Shenango Ave.

The free event will have 11 speakers. The goal of the event is to address any questions the girls might have on an array of topics they may find difficult.

The 11 speakers represent leaders of all ages, races, ethnicities, income levels and life experiences. The speakers have one thing in common: They are passionate about lifting up young women in the area.

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/athena-wise-girls-2017-registration-33524034289>.

For questions, email: Law-MerATHENA@gmail.com

Vindicator staff reports



Jeff Meyers, left, and George Luan show a piece of roof that will be tested to decipher its useful life inside the company's lab.

SIMON

Continued from C1

the cost of the roof replacement.

"I'm sure [our predecessors] would be really excited to see it," James said.

The predecessors include Alex's seven children – five sons and two daughters, Minnie and Anne.

James, his brother, Alex Simon, and his cousin Anthony Vross are the third-generation owners. The fourth generation also can be found inside the offices at Simon's headquarters on Karage Avenue in Boardman.

Simon Roofing employs more than 500 people nationwide, has 66 service centers and 15 branches.

The company is considered an innovator in the industry, and it got that title through a hard-working spirit that has flowed from the start.

"They would work all day," Vross said of his family.

Tuban Simon, Alex's wife, would make a full-fledged dinner with meat and potatoes to prepare her husband and sons for a full-day's work.

"They taught us you are to give a fair day's work for your wage," James said. "I think that ingredient was what led the company to grow to this size. I don't think that could have been done without that work ethic being instilled in [the company]."

The company was conservative in its choosing to expand because of the rough times it had been through. The goal, however, always remained the

same: to provide for the customers.

"It was about quality and doing a good job," Vross said.

James, Alex and Anthony all have roof experience and know the ins and outs of the industry.

In the 1980s, the three took over the company and moved away from residential roofing to focus on commercial roofing.

They realized adding another location outside of the area would be beneficial to continuing the business during off months in Ohio, so they opened a branch in North Carolina.

"North Carolina was big for us," Vross said.

Then they added a Simon Roofing branch in Florida.

In the 1990s, knowing all they knew about the industry, Vross, James and Alex decided they could create their own supply chain for Simon Roofing.

"We not only provide roofing services for our customers, we also manufacture specific materials for our customers," James said. "We control the entire supply chain. If there is ever a mistake. It's on us. We take care of it. We don't finger point at someone else."

In 2010, Simon Roofing opened a new 42,000-square-foot manufacturing facility at 276 State St. in Struthers, moving all the manufacturing to a local spot from the previous Cleveland location.

"I think that was one of the goals, to keep the family here," Vross said.

In the early 2000s, Simon Roofing opened a lab inside its headquarters to test roof



At Simon Roofing, a dedication to quality has led to company innovations in producing its own products for roof repair, replacement and restoration.

samples and decipher the remaining useful life of a roof, and conduct quality control, research and development for its products. The products are partially field- and lab-fabricated.

"We were trying to look at what could we do to extend the roof's life," Vross said.

Recently, Simon Roofing introduced CLP membrane, a roof-replacement option designed "to reduce or eliminate the most common failure points found in competing single-ply systems," according to the company's website.

The new product will be featured in an episode of "Office Spaces" to air at 5 p.m. June 25 on the Fox Business channel.

The company also recently developed a service tablet to monitor jobs.

"We have hundreds of

technicians in the field," James said. "This software allows us to see their work and the quality of their work all in real time. The software allows us to auto generate reports for our customers."

Times have changed since founder Alex Simon first decided to get on a roof, but the continued hard work and dedication to quality has led to Simon Roofing's success.

The dedication to quality is what encouraged Alex's grandchildren to expand and innovate.

"I think what has really helped us is our ability to constantly educate ourselves," James said. "You have to keep renewing yourself. It's the ability to grow the management team's skill set that has allowed us to prosper."

Maker of Bionic Wrench wins \$6M in patent suit

By LAUREN ZUMBACH
Chicago Tribune (TNS)

The father and son behind a Palos Park, Ill., tool company thought Sears Holdings' Craftsman brand locking wrench looked a lot like their patented Bionic Wrench – in fact, a little too much.

A federal jury in Chicago agreed. Nearly five years after Dan Brown Sr.'s company, LoggerHead Tools, accused Sears and supplier Apex Tool Group of copying his creation, a jury has awarded LoggerHead nearly \$6 million in damages after finding the companies willfully infringed on two patents.

"You don't often see David in the David vs. Goliath battles win," said Dan Brown Jr., who runs the company with his father. "It's a huge win for small businesses, small inventors and people who think if they have a great idea they should be able to bring it to the market and not be crushed by a corporate giant."

Brown Sr. founded LoggerHead tools in Palos Park and launched his U.S.-made Bionic Wrench invention – an adjustable-size wrench with a plierslike grip – in 2005. The product racked up \$20 million in retail sales in the next three years, according to the lawsuit.

Sears placed its first order with LoggerHead in 2009, and ordered more Bionic Wrenches each year until 2012, when it introduced the Craftsman-brand Max Access Locking Wrench, which sold for nearly half the price.

LoggerHead sued Sears and Apex in 2012, claiming Max Access was a "virtual copy" of its product. Recently, a jury awarded damages – based on the number of Craftsman Max Access wrenches Sears sold – totaling nearly \$6 million.

Sears and Apex both said they were "disappointed" in the verdict. Sears also said Apex would pay all damages in the case. Apex spokeswoman Kelly

Rhoads said the company likely would file an appeal.

Sears sold Craftsman to Stanley Black & Decker earlier this year but still sells Craftsman products.

Usually, inventors at small companies don't have the resources to go head-to-head with a major corporation they think copied their design and either don't sue at all or settle for "pennies on the dollar," said Paul Skiermont, the Browns' attorney.

Dan Brown Jr. said he and his father felt they had to go to court to defend their intellectual property or run the risk even more retailers would choose to create a knockoff. The Bionic Wrench remains LoggerHead's flagship product.

Skiermont said the company LoggerHead plans to request the judge consider awarding additional damages because the jury found both companies willfully infringed on LoggerHead's patents.

LIMELIGHTS & CAREER PATHS

CERTIFIED

Home Savings Bank recently announced that **Robert J. Steele Jr.**, senior vice president, director of retail operations, was awarded the Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Certification by the Villanova University.

Obtaining a Certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, CLSSBB, requires extensive classroom education, experience performing a Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve and Control, DMAIC, project and a four-hour exam to demonstrate competence.

AWARDED

The Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce recently awarded the following 2017 Phoenix Award Winners:

Trailblazer Award: **J. Greer Hayden**, HHSDR Architects/Engineers; New Business Startup Award: **Hope Center for Arts and Technology**; Entrepreneur Award: **Breanna Griffin**, Anytime Fitness of Hermitage; Innovation Award: **Food to Waste Energy Facility/ Hermitage Municipal Authority**; Growth Small Manufacturing: **Solar Atmospheres**; Growth Large Manufacturing: **Miller Industries**; Growth Small Service: **Buhl Park**; Growth Large Service: **Lakes at Jefferson/ The Nugent Group**; Non-Profit/ Service Organization Award (Large): **Community Foundation of Western Pa.**; Non-Profit/Service Organization Award (Small): **Mercer County Mentoring**; and Beautification Award: **Jim Landino**.

The awards showcase innovative business growth and development in the community.

LAW

Atty. Jack N. Alpern of Warren recently took part in one of the nation's leading legal-education conferences, the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys, AAPEA.

AAPEA is devoted to helping its members transform the way they practice law.

HIRED

Upstate Shredding – Weitsman Recycling of New Castle recently announced that **Tony Van Slyke** has been hired as the company's chief financial officer and will be accountable for the administrative, financial and risk-management operations of the company.

Herbert, Rowland & Grubic Inc. recently announced that **Michael Babusci** joined its design team as transportation practice area leader.

In this role, he will oversee the delivery of all roadway, bridge and traffic-engineering services to clients in Youngstown and throughout Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

HRG has grown to be a nationally ranked Top 500 Design Firm, providing civil engineering, surveying and environmental services to public and private sector clients.

Slowing down the rush to heart surgery

Sometimes, heart disease erupts as a full-blown emergency with sudden, crushing chest pain. That's when immediate intervention to restore blood flow to the heart can be lifesaving.

But in many situations, the path to aggressive care moves faster than called for, which can lead to overtreatment as well as worse outcomes and complications, says William Boden, M.D., a professor of medicine at the Boston University School of Medicine.

Boden and other experts suggest that when it's not an emergency, slow down and do more research so that you can make smart decisions. That involves talking with your doctors about everything from whether you really need an

Consumer Reports

expensive imaging test or invasive procedure, to which hospital to choose if you do need surgery. And if you feel rushed into making a decision, "ask for a second opinion," Boden says.

Consumer Reports provides two key questions to ask along the way:

DO I NEED THAT TEST?

The heart disease treatment Odyssey often starts on a treadmill in a doctor's office, as part of an exercise stress test. That test can

be essential if you have symptoms that indicate heart disease, such as chest pain while exercising, or if you're at high risk of a heart attack.

But some doctors include exercise stress tests as part of routine checkups, or as a safety check in people heading to certain surgeries.

Experts *Consumer Reports* spoke with said that's generally not a good idea, in part because in people without symptoms of heart disease, the test is often more likely to reveal a harmless abnormality than identify a real problem.

ARE DRUGS OR STENTS BETTER?

If you do undergo a stress test and it has abnormal or uncertain results, your doctor will probably

refer you to a "cath lab," or catheterization laboratory, for more tests. And that's where the cascade of procedures often speeds up.

In that lab, a physician first performs coronary angiography, which involves threading a thin tube into an artery and injecting a dye so that narrowing shows up on an X-ray.

But patients are sometimes asked to sign a consent form that allows doctors, if they see restricted blood flow, to immediately perform a procedure called angioplasty to remove the blockage.

That's not usually necessary, Boden says. "What should happen is hitting the pause button and having a thoughtful, transparent discussion of all the treatment

options."

Performing an angioplasty involves a doctor inflating a thin balloon in the artery to widen it at the blockage, leaving a stent in place to prop the blood vessel open. It can be lifesaving when performed within hours of a heart attack.

But in other circumstances, lifestyle changes plus drugs to control blood pressure and cholesterol levels and prevent clots is at least as effective and usually safer, *Consumer Reports* notes. A 2016 review in *JAMA Internal Medicine* found that approach could cut the number of angioplasties by 80 percent.

To learn more, visit ConsumerReports.org.

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