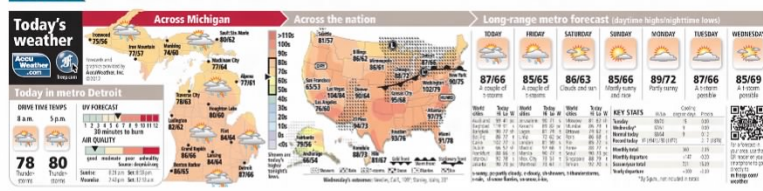


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## Local news to lose class act

**ROCHELLE RILEY SAYS FATE OF DIANA LEWIS ON TV SPUNK KEPT HER THERE**

Diana Lewis was supposed to be a social worker. She has a degree in social work and was a psychiatric social worker at Eisenhower State Hospital in Chester County, Pa., when a series of events changed her life and led her to television.

"My stepfather saw an article in the Philadelphia Inquirer about a station looking for an assistant producer, preferably an African-American woman, for a show about black issues in Philadelphia," Lewis said. "I thought that might be a wonderful opportunity to bring black issues to the forefront. She joined the show 'Black Book,' behind the scenes, her fate intervened again.

"One night, the host, Jim Blecker, was getting ready to interview Maya Angelou about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. But Ms. Angelou called to say she was sick. Jim looked at me and said, 'You're on!'

Station management saw Lewis on camera and had her audition for news.

Her first try? Weather girl. "I had Philadelphia in Alaska. It was raining and snowing everywhere. I had them cracking up."

Plan B? An anchor for the midday news.

"It was just becoming fashionable for a black woman and a white man to be paired in news," Lewis recalled. "I did it, and that was that."

She has been on ever since. Until this fall.

For the first time since 1988, WXYZ-TV viewers will tune in Oct. 3 and not see Diana Lewis behind the anchor desk during the evening news. Lewis announced her retirement Wednesday after 44 years in television and 25 years (except for a four-year break from 1984 to 1988 at Channel 7. She will co-anchor the 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. "Active News" broadcasts that Wednesday, then head off into the sunset with her husband, Glenn.

"OMG. How does Diana Lewis retire? What is television



Glenda Lewis flies Diana's hair in 2003. The mother and daughter made broadcasting history when they co-anchored a news show in 2004. After 44 years of working in television news, Diana Lewis will retire.



News anchors Stephen Clark and Diana Lewis and chief investigative reporter Steve Wilson share a light moment in May 2005.

going to be like in Detroit?" said Detroit City Council President and former WJBK-TV reporter Charles Pugh. "I remember when she left for several years and ... Channel 7 was not the same. It was like a television event when she came back to be with Bill Bonds. That was my childhood must-see TV."

Gov. Rick Snyder called Lewis "a pioneer in her industry, respected by her peers and adored by her loyal viewers."

"She has reported on some of the most important stories in the state of Michigan, and not just for the city of Detroit, our state and our nation have faced, bringing the news into our homes for nearly four decades. I wish her a very happy, healthy retirement as she begins this new journey in her life."

Diana Lewis always has been more than a news anchor in Detroit. She has worked with young girls and been a friend to the elderly. She mentored fellow journalists and was a role model for young broadcasters.

"God answered me to try and make a difference in people's lives," she said in an interview.

"As many lives as I've touched, and knows they've touched my life as well."

Those she has helped feel the same way. James Williams, 91, who lives on the west side, doesn't really know Lewis, but he knows her kindness. He is among the nearly 100 elderly people Lewis calls regularly just to say hello. Williams met the anchor through his daughter and was always surprised when the phone rang.

"She just calls to check on us. She always remembers us on our birthdays," he said. "She is a wonderful lady."

Lewis has been the example of working with grace under pressure — something she felt taking the chair next to news legend Bonds.

Like Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers in the movies, she and Bonds became an iconic team. Like Rogers — who danced backward and in high heels — Lewis balanced her team.

"It wasn't always easy. 'It was a heck of an experience,' she said. "It was an education. I learned a lot from

### DIANA LEWIS

- 1943:** Born in Coatesville, Pa., 30 miles west of Philadelphia
- 1965:** Graduates Scott High School
- 1966:** Graduates Central State University in Wellefence, Ohio, with bachelor of arts in social work
- 1968:** Becomes an assistant producer on "Black Book," a news hour show on WXYZ-TV in Philadelphia
- 1972:** Named noon news anchor and consumer reporter on WXYZ-TV
- 1974:** Moves to Los Angeles to be weekend anchor and consumer reporter on KABC-TV
- 1975:** In first of many acting roles, plays TV reporter in "Friday," Oscar winner for Best Picture in '76
- 1977:** Becomes co-anchor of WXYZ-TV's nightly news with local legend Bill Bonds
- 2002:** Receives the Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences
- 2008:** Inducted into the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame
- 2012:** Inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame

won four Emmy awards and dozens of community awards. WXYZ-TV News Director Tim Dye called Lewis "the picture of grace and professionalism in everything she does."

Asked who should fill her spot, Lewis said her daughter Glenda, who's been on the news team at WXYZ-TV since 2003.

"Wonder if that be a normal thing for a mother to feel? It's just self-serving. She's a talented journalist. And she grew up here. She was the authentic little Brownie selling cookies to Bill Bonds. That's home to her."

Although Lewis said she plans to focus on relaxing and her husband, she gave a glimpse into her future in community service at the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at Michigan State last April. She told the audience to expect an announcement this fall.

"I work whether the cameras are on or not," she said. "If you think you've seen me at my best, you wait until I sign off. 'I may not be in your living room at 5 and 6 o'clock, but I will, lifelong, be in the community. I will continue to do what I've done. At 69 years of age, it's a new day. I might even learn how to tweet at home.'"

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### CORRECTIONS

The Free Press corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please call the newsroom at 313-222-6600.

### LOTTERY RESULTS

**MICHIGAN**  
Wednesday  
Daily 3 and 4  
Midday: 325 and 2891  
Evening: 830 and 381  
Keno: 1, 5, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 40, 43, 45, 46, 48, 49, 67, 71, 76, 77  
Fantasy 5: 7, 12, 24, 28, 35  
Jackpot: \$100,000  
Classic Lotto 47, 4, 12, 18, 26, 39, 43  
Jackpot: \$1,300,000  
Powerball: 3, 14, 28, 38, 46  
Powerball Jackpot: \$121 MILLION  
Friday's Mega Millions Jackpot: \$52 MILLION

**OHIO**  
Wednesday  
Pick 3 and 4  
Midday: 178 and 4679  
Evening: 453 and 1981  
Rolling Cash 5: 4, 5, 15, 37  
Classic Lotto: 5, 26, 28, 37, 45  
Jackpot: \$980,001  
Ten-Oh: 3, 5, 8, 14, 17, 18, 24, 26, 32, 35, 48, 53, 58, 61, 65, 68, 72, 76, 80  
Evening: 3, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 18, 28, 33, 34, 41, 65, 66, 70, 72, 76, 80

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