

October 27 - November 9, 2009

# The Pontiac News

A POSITIVE NEWS SOURCE WITH A LOCAL FLAVOR

VOL. 1 ISSUE 19



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## Hey Pontiac...Who Do you want as the Next Mayor of The City of Pontiac?

Don't Forget the City Council, School Board and Library Board Candidates - See page 4  
**You can Decide by voting on Tuesday November 3, 2009!**

To help you make up your mind Elaine Smith Wright of The Pontiac News asked both candidates several critical questions –  
Read both candidates responses below and make up your own mind about who you want as your next Mayor.

### Sandy-Michael McDonald



**TPN** - What qualifications do you possess which you feel would qualify you to be the next Mayor of the City of Pontiac?

**SMM** - I am running for the Mayor of the City of Pontiac because I was born and raised in this community, and I have a vested interest where I live and work. I earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, and I have worked in the municipal government of Pontiac for the past 10 years. I have served as the Purchasing Agent and the Assistant to the Finance Director for the City of Pontiac; and, for the past eight years, as the Director of the Downtown Development Authority. This has afforded me the opportunity to work closely with Oakland County and the State of Michigan. As a result, I have gained a great deal of knowledge about the economic opportunities available to the City of Pontiac. I have developed a very good working relationship with the County and the State, and under my leadership we will maintain focus and direction and work even closer with all elected officials, especially our city council. I believe that there are numerous untapped opportunities for us to come together and be more proactive about finding ways to bring more business and development into Pontiac. As DDA Director, I am working with many of the larger corporations in our community, and there are plans being developed that are inclusive of Pontiac to bring more training and jobs into our community. I care about this community, and I want to see it become a place where our residents and business community will be proud to say that they live and work in Pontiac.

**TPN** - What are your plans and the process you will use to improve the City in the areas of safety and protection (police), increasing City services, competent city support staff and personnel, the deficit, financial stability and others?

**SMM** - Police, Fire (Public Safety) along with the Department of Public Works and Utilities are the three essential services for the City of Pontiac. As Mayor, I will make these priorities and do so within budget. My plan includes placing more officers on the street daily as well as finding within the budget the means to bring more officers back to active duty. I believe that we can maintain one of the best Fire Departments in the State and still have more cooperation, savings and revenue gener-

ated by this Department to offset the contributions from the General Fund necessary for its operation.

In regard to our City support staff and personnel, Pride, Prosperity and Promise is possible for Pontiac, only if we are willing to accept that change must occur in how we govern. I believe that there has to be a major change in our philosophy of how we deal with new business opportunities and enforcing the laws that are currently on the books. I intend to lead by example, working with all elected officials, recognizing the necessity of having a vision and working from a plan so that all stakeholders know our direction and all who are responsible can and will be held accountable. As a service provider, our staff must accept responsibility for providing quality service to our residents and businesses at all times. By working smarter and using technology as a means to operate more efficiently, we will bring costs down and create more revenue opportunities.

Financially, I believe that a safe, clean and vibrant community will attract new business development and employment opportunities that will lead to long-term fiscal solvency for Pontiac. We cannot keep attempting to cut our way out of the deficit. We must use the institutional knowledge of line staff and the best practices from across the state and the country to find new ways of doing business and raising revenue. We have the opportunity to become a vibrant community. With three hospitals located within our city, Pontiac can become an instrumental force in healthcare training. Being named one of the Governor's Cities of Promise, we can strengthen our city by leveraging resources that will provide employment, better education, housing choices, recreation and quality of life activities. By pursuing small business and entrepreneurs, we can also create more jobs that will pave the way for more training and economic growth.

**TPN** - How do you plan to eliminate the need for the current Emergency Financial Manager or is there a plan to have this position eliminated?

**SMM** - The Emergency Financial Manager was sent to the City of Pontiac because of Pontiac's inability to follow the guidelines of the Consent Agreement and to demonstrate any substantial changes in operations that would reduce the deficit and increase revenue. The

**See McDonald on page 2**

### Leon Jukowski



**TPN** - What qualifications do you possess which you feel would qualify you to be the next Mayor for the City of Pontiac?

**LJ** - I am a graduate of Georgetown University, where I received a degree in Developmental Economics. I am an attorney with over 22 years experience and a former Deputy Mayor who helped bring "Main Street" status to our City, making us eligible for millions of dollars in federal programs and grants to help jump start economic growth. As Deputy Mayor I was also responsible for coordinating the effort to privatize our garbage pick up, saving the City almost 1.5 million dollars per year.

**TPN** - What are your plans and the process you will use to improve the City in the areas of Safety and Protection (Police), increasing City services, competent city support staff and personnel, the deficit, financial stability and others?

**LJ** - I will immediately stop wasting city funds on the Silverdome and divert that money to our police department. I will begin the process of shutting down our DDA and TIFA districts and direct the resulting savings into the General Fund to be applied to public safety. I will only hire qualified persons to be in my administration, not friends and family as has been done in the past.

**TPN** - How do you plan to eliminate the need for the current Emergency Financial Manager or is there a plan to have this position eliminated?

**LJ** - I will insist on having competent professionals in our finance department and implement a two to three year budgeting cycle. Dealing with the accumulated deficit will be one of my top priorities. Once we get our finances in order, there will be no further need for a financial manager.

**TPN** - What are your plans for re-establishing services for our youth and community centers or activities?

**LJ** - In the short term, I will coordinate recreational activities with our schools and

seek volunteers from our churches to help staff our community centers. Once we return to financial solvency, youth programs will be an important consideration in the city budgeting process.

**TPN** - While there is a rumor that gangs are setting up to run the illegal drug trade in Pontiac, homicides are increasing at an alarming rate and police response time to 9-1-1 calls are being reported to be ridiculous. What will be your platform to rid the City citizens of the fear of these situations in an order to re-establish us once again as the All American City?

**LJ** - I have said from the beginning that the future of public safety in Pontiac needs to be decided on the basis of response times, in other words, how long does it take to get an officer to the scene of a crime. We will fast track this decision and make go forward based on the best interest of the citizens of Pontiac, not some preconceived notion of what our police force should be.

**TPN** - General Motors has left the City with many vacant and abandoned buildings, vacant and unused land after the demolition of several buildings and closed off streets that were shut off to accommodate them. Are there any plans to offer GM any type of an incentive to make improvements to the City where they have conducted business for over half a century and then vacated to acquire better incentives elsewhere while leaving our City with eyesores and depressed areas?

**LJ** - The days of hoping that General Motors would be our savior are over. We need to look to the future and decide what jobs we want in Pontiac in the future, and then move forward to bring that situation about. If there is an opportunity to work with General Motors, we should do that too, but our main focus needs to be on our future, not the future of General Motors.

**Vote November 3rd**

**Elect Attorney Angelena Thomas  
School Board Trustee**

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District of The City of Pontiac"*

**Paid by Committee to Elect Angelena Thomas**

# Education's Disregard for At-Risk Students

## Chapter One, Data Be Damned

### In summary, the problem is this:

The educational system fails because it has a disregard for data. This disregard is nearly universal, even among those who cite data. The field's nonscientific stance pre-empts it from shaping educational practices by using the techniques that characterize scientific or systematic endeavors.

### The solution is implied by the problem:

Install people who respect and understand data.

In other words, put the kids first and use data on their performance as the ultimate yardstick of what actually works.

### By Siegfried Engelmann

Beginning in the 1960s policy makers identified the failure of schools to teach at-risk students and have introduced various reforms, each designed to solve the problem, but each a fairly thorough failure. The failure of the educational system was not that research did not identify what works in teaching at-risk students, but that the facts of what works were not disseminated because they were not compatible with the educational policy makers' beliefs and prejudices. Because of policy-makers' refusal to face facts, but instead to use their power to distort the facts, millions of children who became school failures and failures as citizens could have succeeded in school. The tactics that policy makers used are illustrated most emphatically by the history of compensatory education for disadvantaged children.

### The Problem

Before any problem can be solved, there must be a clear identification of the problem. The problem with at-risk African Americans was outlined in great detail by the Coleman Report of 1966. Based on achievement data on 600,000 students, the report concludes that a great performance disparity existed between the at-risk black students and whites.

Part of the report compared schools of equal physical characteristics serving only African Americans with those serving whites.

The finding was that money spent on smaller classes, laboratories, counseling, higher teacher salaries, and higher teacher qualifications had no effect on academic achievement. The irony of the finding is that proposals for higher teacher salary, higher qualifications and the like persist today.

Also, if the physical characteristics of the schools and all the other factors made no difference in performance, only two possibilities remain. One is that black students are natively inferior to whites. The other is that the instruction blacks received was completely inadequate. Because there is no evidence of native inferiority, the second possibility should stand as a clear indictment of the educational system and a clear premise for resolutions that instruction had to improve. The most obvious and direct course of action would therefore be to search for instructional approaches and teaching techniques that had substantial evidence of increasing the achievement of blacks. If none are identified, a secondary tactic would be to commission various instructional designers and exponents of different educational strategies to create approaches and document their effectiveness. The test of effectiveness would be straight forward, an increase in achievement rates of blacks. If there is a lack of agreement about which specific instructional approaches produce the best results, the most direct response would be to set up a controlled experiment that fairly compared the approaches. No circuitry is implied by this description of the problem.

The facts of school failure imply that if there were effective practices, those responsible for the design of the instructional practices, the training of the teachers, and the management of the school lacked knowledge of them. Furthermore, all instructional programs, teacher trainers, and school management practices used in failed schools would be suspect until being vindicated by actual data. The ultimate implication is that those responsible for the design or implementation of these unsuccessful practices would not be considered experts. The outcomes they achieved—the performance level of the students—were inferior and unacceptable.

### Devious Solutions to the Problem

Educational policy makers did not pursue the direct implications of the problem. Instead they searched for circuitous ways to solve the problem, approaches that would not address the technical details of instruction and management. Instead, they searched for what amounts to non-educational magical solutions to address their educational problems.

The trick that they used was to redefine the problem. Instead of facing it as an instructional problem, they framed it as a social problem, rooted in history and caused by discrimination against African Americans. This solution did not require technical knowledge about teaching students or managing schools, and it completely avoided the problem of designing instruction that would accelerate the rate at which students master academic content.

By posturing the students' performance as a social issue rooted in historical inequities and segregation, the solution would now involve some form of non-segregation. Actually it would involve changing history, which is impossible. The next best thing would be to make amends.

The problem with this logic is that the issues of history beg the question about what should be done now. At the time the redefinition of the problem occurred, there were millions of black children in kindergarten, first,

and second grade. How could any social agency change them without addressing their deficit in skill and knowledge and accelerating their performance of learning academic content? Changing society would certainly be effective over a long period of time. Income patterns would change, followed by changes in child-rearing practices. Within a few generations, the effects of the inequities would be erased. However, a third-grade student who reads on the level of a beginning reader needs a remedy that recognizes his problem and addresses it systematically while he is still in the third grade, not years after he is a grandfather.

Once the problem of poor performance was categorized as a social inequity, policy makers faced the practical task of how to achieve "equity." The vehicle for reform came from Thomas Pettigrew, who re-analyzed the

Coleman data and discovered that black students attending mostly white schools had achievement levels much higher than those in segregated schools. Also, in these schools, the white students' performance was no worse than that of whites in segregated schools.

Policy makers used these correlations to solve the problem of poor performance without ever facing it. They confused correlation with causation and reasoned that if the black children in integrated schools performed higher, putting black children into white schools would cause them to perform as well as the blacks in integrated schools. The romantic transformation would occur because black children would bond with their white classmates, which would result in a kind of cultural exchange.

(Continued on Page 10) – Educational Matters

### McDonald from page 1

EFM is now carrying out this same task. As Mayor, my objective in collaboration with the City Council is to make sure that the plan introduced by the EFM has the best opportunity to succeed. My staff will assist with carrying out the daily duties within budget as well as increase city revenue by aggressively applying the laws that are currently on the books. I will also include some of my ideas that will aid in new revenue streams as well as economic development that bring forth new employment. By satisfying the requirements of the State statute and removing the accumulative deficit, removing and submitting a balanced budget and paying city bills on time for a six-month consecutive period, we will make the EFM successful sooner rather than later. At that point, we will place Pontiac in a position to have addressed the concerns of the State and the statue and will be allowed to return to our governance. My plan is to work daily to assure that those things governed by the State are being aggressively completed.

**TPN** - What are your plans for re-establishing services for our youth and community centers or activities?

**SMM** - Partnerships are key to bringing substantive quality of life activities to our community. My plans for re-establishing services for our youth and community are to work with our schools, faith-based organizations, not-for-profits, for profits and corporate sponsors to make sure we have structured recreational and educational programs for our youth and recreational and leisure activities for our adults and seniors.

**TPN** - While there is a rumor that gangs are setting up to run the illegal drug trade in Pontiac, homicides are increasing at an alarming rate and police response time to 9-1-1 calls are being reported to be ridiculous. What will be your platform to rid the City citizens of the fear of these situations in order to re-establish us once again as the All-American City?

**SMM** - The issue of the illegal drug trade has a real cause and effect. Many of our youth today are faced with situations they did not create. High unemployment, lack of a quality education and no outlet for recreational activities are major contributors to crime on the street today. We owe it to our youth to bring back strong, structured and positive recreational programming to our city. We owe them a quality education and job training opportunities so that they may become productive citizens in our community. That's what we owe them. However, our youth must also stand up and take responsibility for their actions and decisions as

citizens of this community. It is time for our youth with support from our adults to get back in the school books and value education, become reacquainted with the understanding of respect for themselves and one another, and begin to overcome adversities.

Community Policing is often talked about but has not truly been completely implemented. Even with Community Policing, there is a need to have more officers on the street and more officers back on duty to present a deterrent to become proactive rather than reactive. I have a plan that will address the need for increased protection. Pontiac residents with the support of a strong Police Department and Court system will have to come together behind a plan to take back their neighborhoods while at the same time giving real options for our youth not to become partner or victim to illegal activity. Only through community support and a strong Police Department will this be possible. Pride in our community must begin with pride in us as individuals, as neighbors and as citizens.

**TPN** - General Motors has left the City with many vacant and abandoned buildings, vacant and unused land after the demolition of several buildings and closed off streets that were shut off to accommodate them. Are there any plans to offer GM any type of an incentive to make improvements to the City where they have conducted business for over half a century and then vacated to acquire better incentives elsewhere while leaving our City with eyesores and depressed areas?

**SMM** - Addressing GM flight from the City of Pontiac is not a 2-3 year issue. In the mid-70's, there were over 50,000 people, some residents, who were in our city daily working for GM or one of its partnering companies. Today, there is less than 7,000 people daily working in properties owned by GM or one of their partnering companies in our city. Over the years, GM has supported our city in many ways, and for that, we are forever grateful and appreciative of being part of a strong manufacturing base. With the "New GM," consolidations, closing of plants and office buildings, are adding to the abandoned property and blighted conditions. My plan would be to still work with the "New GM" as well as the County, State and Federal governments to take advantage of the opportunities to clean up the blight left behind and prepare land for new development, change of use or future interest based on a better economy. GM's partial abandonment of Pontiac is not only a concern to us but is as concern to the County and State levels as well. Partnering with the government entities will be one of the ways to truly create future opportunity for economic development for Pontiac.

## The Pontiac News

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— Guest Opinions —

# Who Gives the Nobel Peace Prize and Why Obama?

By Quincy Stewart

Recently, five Norwegian men awarded President Barack Obama the Nobel Peace Prize. Was it justified? Do these five Norwegian men have a good handle on the world situation enough to accurately award people for the cause of peace and the overall well being of humankind in general?



Quincy Stewart III

Many people have dared ask that question much to the ire of loyal Obama supporters.

With less than a year in office, frankly, I don't see where he has done much for the cause for peace if anything at all. (unless you want to count having a few beers with Dr. Gates and the police officer)

With the United States moving farther and farther into the Afghanistan conflict, still occupying Iraq, yet granting Israel a blank moral and military check in Gaza and her ever-escalating rhetoric with N. Korea, somebody show me where peace looms and Obama is responsible for it?

The problem with the average Obama loyalist is that "Obama is the first black president" factor. This too is inaccurate; Barack Obama is half-African and half European.

The second fact is that Obama never said he'd be a loyalist to the causes of those of us here in the United States who are of African descent. We can't hold him responsible for our plight here in the United States because he never once pledged any allegiance to the cause of black liberation. He has already thrown his

long time pastor, Rev. Wright, who did speak some truths about America's racist history and present state, under the bus and distanced himself completely from any thing, any organization, or any person who even resembles a tie to black issues, other than Henry Louis Gates and you saw what a fiasco that was.

The other problem with loyalists to Obama is not being abreast of world issues, national issues and how the United States which Obama represents, plays into that world picture.

It is imperative that we understand that not as much history was made with Obama's election as one might think. Outside of the superfluous issue of flesh tone, Obama is another politician. He is a promise-maker and is beholden to investors, corporate dealers, brokers, businesses and everything the United States under-handed or not, has been involved in long before he arrived in the White House. The machinery for the institution of white male /corporate supremacy was and is firmly in place, ingrained in the soil of this country and it didn't stop because Obama took the Oval Office! So what is his place if all these things are true, dear reader? He is at best, middle managing the machine, not running it!

So, if we are going to dole out peace prizes to people for the causes of peace and the goodwill of humankind, perhaps we should consider beginning another organization to compete with the Nobel Prize. One that is comprised of many nations, many cultures and many political viewpoints, and not leave it up to five Norwegians, because in the case of President Obama, as well as others, like corrupt Henry Kissinger or war-mongering Teddy Roosevelt, the Peace Prize was not deserving, at least not yet.

# Centro Multicultural La Familia receives grant from the Office on Violence Against Women.

The Office on Violence Against Women from the Department of Justice recently granted Centro Multicultural La Familia (CMLF) located in Pontiac, the sum of \$300,000 to enhance culturally and linguistically specific services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. CMLF will work in partnership with HAVEN to develop and strengthen effective responses to violence against women.

"This funding will give us the opportunity to provide much needed services to the limited English proficiency population" stated Dr. Acosta, executive director of Centro Multicultural. CMLF has been providing domestic violence services for

over a year with limited funding. This will allow them to expand and enhance services.


CMLF is proposing to provide counseling support and advocacy to victims of domestic violence on an individual basis and in a group format. Counselor will assist them in developing a safety plan and link them with community resources in order to access other services.

For more information on how to refer clients for this new program or to get involved with Centro Multicultural activities, please contact Debra Ehrmann, VP of Community Development at 248-858-7800 or visit us at 35 W. Huron, Suite 500 in Pontiac, MI 48342.

**Have a story idea?  
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— What's Happening In Pontiac —

# VOTER INFORMATION

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2009. The election will be for the offices of Mayor, City Council, School Board and Library Board Director.

The list of Mayor/City Council Candidates for 2009 General Election scheduled for Tuesday November 3rd are listed below. Vote For the candidates of your choice!

**Mayoral Candidates**

Leon B. Jukowski  
Sandy-Michael E. McDonald

**City Council District (1)**

Patrice Waterman  
Wilvern Charli Yarbrow  
City Council District (2)  
George Williams

**City Council District (3)**

Mary Pietila  
Sherman Williams II  
City Council District (4)  
Randolph Carter

**City Council District (5)**

Ron Harmon  
Donald Watkins  
City Council District (6)  
Lee A. Jones  
City Council District (7)  
Kermit Williams

**LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR LIBRARY BOARD DIRECTORS (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 6)**

Joyce Allen  
Doris Burks Taylor  
Terry Toney  
Deirdra Holloway Waterman  
Michael D. Williams

**THE LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE PONTIAC SCHOOL BOARD ARE LISTED BELOW**

*Full 4 Year Term*  
*Vote For Not More Than (2)*  
Ben Shattuck  
Angelina M. Thomas  
Carroll Y. Turpin  
Damen Dorkins  
Tommaleta Huhges

*Partial Term Ending December 31, 2010*  
*Vote For Not More Than (1)*  
Kaino Phillips  
Mary Barr  
Hazel L. Cadd

Please study each of these candidates and vote based on Knowledge, Skills and Abilities!

IF YOU VOTE IN PRECINCT:	YOU NOW VOTE HERE:
3- Bowens Center	Jefferson Jr. High School 600 Motor
4- Bowens Center	Jefferson Jr. High School 600 Motor
5- Pontiac Central	Bowens Center 52 Bagley
6- Pontiac Central	Bowens Center 52 Bagley
7- Crofoot Elementary	Bowens Center 52 Bagley
8- Pontiac Central	Bowens Center 52 Bagley
9- Pontiac Central	Bowens Center 52 Bagley
10- Lincoln Jr. High	Baldwin Center 212 Baldwin Ave.
12- Lincoln Jr. High	Baldwin Center 212 Baldwin Ave.
16- Lebaron Elementary	Ruth Peterson Community Center 990 Joslyn
23- Pontiac Central	Howard Dell Community Center 345 Edison
25- Longfellow Elementary	Woodland Heights Apartment 120 N. Edith
26- Longfellow Elementary	Woodland Heights Apartment 120 N. Edith

## City Of Pontiac Emergency Financial Manager, Fred Leeb Announces "Furlough Day" For City Employees

In an effort to reduce the budget deficit, The Emergency Financial Manager has announced that the City of Pontiac will begin instituting "Furlough Days" every other Friday starting October 16, 2009.

Many city services will be unavailable as City Hall will be closed including: Executive Office, City Council, Finance, Treasury, Human Resources, Retirement, Information Technology, Block Grant, Assessors, Law, Growth Group, and Downtown Development Authority.

Services at the Wesson St. facilities will be closed including: DPW Engineering, Sign Shop, Electrical Shop, Equipment Maintenance, Building & Safety, and Planning.

Other closed services include: Parks &

Recreation, Water Department, Parking Administration

**Open, but with limited staffing will be:** Cemeteries, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Fire Inspectors & Administration, Police Administration

**Operations that will continue on Furlough Days will be:** Police, Fire & EMS Services, Library, Senior Centers, Golf Course, Parking Enforcement, Certain Code Enforcement and Televan

Services provided to the public by non\_city personnel such as garbage collection and demolitions will continue as previously scheduled. There should be no interruptions of street lighting, water or wastewater flow or issuance of payroll or retirement checks.

The City is asking for the community's understanding in this difficult financial time. The public is asked to check to ensure that the offices they need to contact are open beforehand. Updates will be provided on the cable access channel and the City's website. Wherever possible, consideration will be given to reduce inconvenience while

attempting to continue operations with reduced staff. The City of Pontiac sincerely appreciates the understanding of the community during this difficult time and all efforts will be taken to return operations to normal business hours if and when the financial outlook for the City permits.

## DHM Employee wins award for Innovation in Patients' Rights



PONTIAC, Oct. 13, 2009 - James Tenuta, Director of Patient Relations & Recipient Rights at Doctors' Hospital of Michigan in Pontiac, was recently honored at a Recipients Rights conference by the Michigan Department of Community Health in Kalamazoo. The three-day conference was a state-wide training for Recipient Rights providers, who ensure that patients and people with disabilities are aware of their rights when receiving mental health services.

The Director's Award for Innovation in Recipient Rights Protection is given to a

rights office that has "created a new and different way of enacting the vision of recipient rights or of a rights office." This is the 16th year the award has been given. It was awarded to Tenuta in acknowledgement of the individual attention he gives each inpatient at Doctors' Hospital and for assisting in the implementation of a Therapy Dog program at the hospital.

"He has an excellent rapport with staff as well as patients," wrote Cristina Bowker, Secretary of Volunteer & Pastoral Services, in her nomination letter. "He is constantly thinking of new ways to do things," she added.

Tenuta has worked at the hospital for 4 years, including 3 years when it was North Oakland Medical Centers. He has overseen Recipient Rights for the past two years.



## Patrice Waterman

*"Not everything that is faced can be changed but nothing can be changed until it's faced."*

- 22 years experience with City Council
- Retired as Legislative Administrator for City Council
- Platform to rid slum/blight
- Restore Parks for Youth Service Pontiac
- Community School Improvement
- Member of WMBC; Golden Opportunity Club; NAACP; and Mich. Dem. Club
- Endorsed By: UAW Region #1

**Vote November 3rd**

PWaterman4Council@yahoo.com

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Patrice Waterman

— What's Happening In Oakland County —

## Oakland County's Fiscal Services Division Wins Top Financial Reporting Award



**L. Brooks Patterson**

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson recently announced that the Fiscal Services Division of the Department of Management and Budget has won the top achievement award in government financial reporting for the 18th year in a row.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has awarded Fiscal Services the Certificate of Achievement for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). "The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment," a GFOA

spokesperson says.

People who want to invest money in Oakland County study this report. It discloses the county's finances in full detail to anyone who wants to review them. "Ensuring someone will invest their money in Oakland County is a team effort across the board," says Patterson. "The months of hard work by the Fiscal Services team not only pays off with this award, but with investors who keep bringing their money to Oakland County."

Tim Soave, manager of the Fiscal Services Division recognizes team members for a job well-done: Penny Cremer, Nancy Fournier, Lynn Sonkiss, Janet Ogden, Diane Creguer and all team members. "It really does speak well of the effort my staff puts into this," says Soave. "They do care about the product. It may be 18 in a row for us, but it is a very tough award to get.



**Pictured left to right: Oakland County Board Chairman Bill Bullard, Jr., Commissioner Tim Greimel, Honoree Kenneth Corr, Oakland County Community and Home Division Manager Karry Rieth and Oakland County Commissioner Mattie McKinney Hatchett holding a framed copy of the Homeless poem that Mr. Corr presented to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners at the October 14th, Board Meeting. Mr Corr received proclamation from the Board of Commissioners for his community activism and advocacy on behalf of youth and the homeless.**

## Kenneth Corr Honored For Community Service and Advocacy On Behalf of the Homeless.

Kenneth Corr, Community Activist and advocate for the homeless, was honored by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners for his activism and advocacy. He received a proclamation from Oakland County Commissioner Mattie McKinney Hatchett, Tim Greimel and Board Chair Bill Bullard, Jr.

Mr. Corr also presented a copy of his

poem, entitled the "Homeless" for display to Oakland County at the Commission meeting on October 14, 2009. He wrote this poem in the 1990's regarding the plight of the Homeless which was used in an United Way Media Campaign. His poem was also part of the Isaiah Thomas's Comic Relief All Star Game as a part of the Comic Relief efforts of Billy Crystal.

## Oakland County Officials Honor Former Communication Officer Bob Dustman for Years Of Service Wednesday, October 14, 2009

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners honored Robert "Bob" Dustman for his years of service in communications for Oakland County and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. He has served as the County's Chief

Communications and Media Officer for 17 years. He recently retired. Oakland County Board Chairman Bill Bullard, Jr., honored Mr. Dustman with a proclamation recognizing his contributions.

— What's Happening In Washington —

## CONGRESS COMES TO THE DISTRICT



**Gary Peters**

Paul Turner, Congressional Liaison to Congressman Gary Peters has set up shop in various cities throughout the district. The purpose of setting up a temporary office is to allow constituents the opportunity to come and share their ideas, concerns or

complaints and basically communicate any problems they have regarding issues on the Federal Government level. It is an opportunity for people to come and actually have their concerns reach the Congressman and allow him and his liaisons the chance to work on the issue, assign it to someone else in the proper department or branch of the Government more able to handle your particular situation in order to see the problem resolved. Such matters could include but are not limited to Social Security case issues, Internal Revenue Services (IRS) concerns, Medicare problems, Housing Urban Development (HUD), Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (ATF), Immigration and any of the host of other departments listed under Federal Government Departments.

Community office hours will be made available from 10a.m. to 4 p.m. with a liaison

dispersed to each city located within the Congressman's district. Office hour availability will be established on a monthly to bi-monthly basis. Pontiac will be set up on a bi-monthly basis at this time with the Congressional Liaison. Other cities may possibly receive bi-monthly services as well.

All constituents will receive the same services no matter which city they reside in within the district. Constituents in Pontiac will receive the same services offered in Troy, Auburn Hills or Rochester. Constituents should look at this as an opportunity to come and voice their concerns that they feel they may need assistance with when dealing with Federal Government issues as well as information that needs to reach the Congressman. Some issues that may appear to be a local or State problem may be looked at by the Congressman if it has a Federal Government connection. The Congressman's office liaison will take a look at each issue on a case-by case basis to determine which department or individual would be best suited to assist each constituent in receiving an answer or a solution that will help them.

The following dates have been established for the city of Pontiac:

**December 1, 2009    December 9, 2009**

*Submitted by Elaine Smith-Wright*

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## — Africa - &amp; World News —

# Foreign Minister on socio-economic development



**Kofi Annorh**  
*African Correspondent*

**Kofi provides TPN with news about events that are happening on the African Continent.**

Alhaji Muhamad Mumuni, Foreign Affairs Minister, has called on the UN, to translate its commitments on socio-economic development issues into specific actions to facilitate the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Alhaji Mumuni made the call at a flag raising ceremony in Accra on Saturday, to mark the 64th UN Day, on the theme: "Ghana and the United Nations: Addressing Challenges of MDGs, Climate Change and Global Financial Crisis."

He observed that though Africa has contributed the least to the accumulation of the Green House gasses, which has resulted to climate change, the continent bore a disproportionately larger brunt of the effects, adding that the sad trend needed to be reversed.

"Climate change can and should provide a real opportunity for international co-operation to achieve a balance between the requirement of the development and environmental protection," he said. Alhaji Mumuni said the goal of achieving a sustainable

framework on Climate Change, could only be attained through the establishment of clear commitments by developed countries to reduce emissions. He added that there was the need for the developed countries to build the capacity of developing countries, by providing the necessary international funding and technology transfer.

"This would meet the interest of all parties. It can also contribute to redirecting the global economy towards sustainable growth through the use of sustainable patterns and modes of development that are in line with environmental preservation."

Alhaji Mumuni called on the UN to exert pressure on developed countries to offer more assistance to the developing countries stressing: "In times of crisis, it is the poor who suffer the most, because they have no alternative opportunities or safety measures to fall back upon."

He called on the world body to play its fundamental role of promoting international co-operation for development and to strengthen co-ordination within the UN

system in close collaboration with other multilateral, financial, trade and development institutions.

Mr Daouda Toure, UN Resident Co-ordinator, said the UN was proud to be associated with Ghana's progress in mainstreaming the MDGs in order to accelerate the country's development.

"Ghana has made progress on six out of the eight goals but challenges remain in the areas of Child Mortality and Maternal Health," he said. Mr Toure expressed confidence in the assurance given by President John Evans Atta Mills of government's commitment in addressing the issue, at the 64th UN General Assembly.

He said the UN system was currently helping Ghana to develop a national strategy, mobilise resources and to facilitate regional exchanges to strengthen the regional position on a new global agreement on climate change and successful conclusion of the agreement at the Summit, which would be held in December in Copenhagen.

Source: GNA

## Ghana Bond to Give Africa's Best Gain

Ghana's three-year government bonds offer prospects of the best returns in sub-Saharan Africa as yields on the debt outweigh possible currency declines over the next year, according to Standard Chartered Plc.

After-tax yields of 19.6 percent will counter a likely 7.8 percent depreciation in Ghana's cedi over the next 12 months, giving investors a total net return of 11.8 percent,

Robert Minikin, senior currency strategist at Standard Chartered Bank in London, wrote in a research note today. Ghana's cedi is likely to weaken to 1.56 per dollar by end-September next year, from about 1.44 today, Minikin predicts.

"Yields on local government bonds will significantly outweigh any prospective foreign-exchange losses over a one-year time horizon," Minikin said separately in a tele-

phone interview. "There's a substantial yield pickup available."

African currencies from Nigeria's naira to Angola's kwanza have slumped over the past year as the global recession eroded demand for commodities and curbed foreign earnings for so-called frontier-market countries on the continent. Ghana's cedi has lost 11.8 percent this year against the dollar.

Some African countries, including Uganda and Nigeria, compare favorably with Ghana in terms of political and economic conditions that might cause the national currency to decline.

"It is striking that the broader Ghana picture dilutes the superficial attractiveness" of holding long positions in the cedi, the note said. "Notably, reserve levels are rather low" while "the state of public finances has been highly erratic," it said. A long position is one in which an investor buys a security before

selling because of an expected price increase.

### Nigeria, Uganda

In July, the International Monetary Fund agreed to lend the West African nation \$1.02 billion to support the country's balance of payments and help shore up its depreciating currency. Ghana currently has about two months of import cover following the loan from the IMF. It is aiming to cut its budget deficit to 9.4 percent of gross domestic product this year from 24.2 percent last year.

Nigerian two-year government debt is the next-best investment in the region with total returns of 7.8 percent projected over 12 months, according to Minikin. Ugandan three-year bonds will return 7.3 percent followed by 5.2 percent for those of Zambia, Minikin predicts.

Source: Bloomberg

## Ghana to deal with population issues

From Mrs Lydia Asamoah, GNA Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Ghana is determined to promote partnership through South-South collaboration to deal holistically with population issues, Mr Kwajo T. Likpalimor, Minister of State, made this known in Addis Ababa on Friday October 23, 2009.

Speaking at the closing of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD@ 15), Mr Likpalimor said government was committed at implementing population programmes especially at the district level to help tackle the issue of high maternal mortality rate, which still remained a major challenge.

The Minister led the Ghanaian delegation, including Madam Esther Apewokin Executive Director, National Population Council (NPC), Ms Marian Kpakpa Director, NPC and Mr Steve Gray, Deputy Director of the council. The review conference attracted more than 250 delegates from Africa and 30 ministers in-charge of population and development issues as well as civil society groups.

Also at the conference was Ms Marilyn Aniwa, Executive Director of the Union of African Population Studies, an international non-governmental organisation, based in Ghana.

Mrs Eunice Brookman Amisshah, a former Minister of Health was also at the conference on the ticket of the UN.

Mr Likpalimor said population issues could

not continue to be implemented vertically as there was the need to effectively integrate population dynamics into development planning processes at all levels in order to reduce poverty.

He therefore, stressed the need for Ghana to mobilise additional resources to implement population programmes.

Mr Likpalimor urged other governments to make reduction of maternal mortality a high priority on their development agenda. Madam Apewokin told the Ghana News Agency in an interview that, the technical output of the adopted conference document was very good as it highlighted the programme of action of the ICPD.

She said Ghana had done well in the area of girl-child education, adding that; "Ghana is on course in handling the issues because we have played a lead role in all issues raised, except maternal mortality". On the role Ghana played at the conference, Ms Apewokin explained that the country was on the committee that drafted the commitment report and made a lot of useful inputs on all the three committees set up at the conference to discuss the issues.

She said the country would use the outcome of the conference to support the preparation of the Beijing plus 15 Ghana-country report and also the preparation of a document for the climate change conference to be held in Copenhagen.

## Mosaic Ghana Africa

In April 2010, **Mosaic Ghana Africa** will lead a business development, investment and cultural tour to Accra, Ghana in West Africa.

The delegation will include various Oakland County, State of Michigan and other U.S. based executives of small, medium, and large U.S. firms representing a variety of business sectors.

The overall focus of the trip will be commercial, cultural and investment opportunities for Oakland County, State of Michigan and other U.S. companies, including joint ventures, presented by the continuing market liberalization and privatization underway in this country.

In Ghana briefings and one-on-one business appointments will be arranged for members of the government, business and cultural delegation". For information regarding this trip contact **248-758-1411** or

email [thepontiacnews@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thepontiacnews@sbcglobal.net)

# Vote November 3

## The Residents of District 4 Confront Blight



Blight is the most important issue with voters in District 4. When polling voters (see interactive poll located at [www.electrandy-carter.com/volunteer.html](http://www.electrandy-carter.com/volunteer.html)), as of 9/30/09, 34% of voters cited blight as most important, 13% cited trash collection, 11% cited parks and lakes and 8% cited empty houses and uncut grass. Clearly the residents in District 4 want change in this area.

One of the changes we are implementing is a Citizens On Patrol group. These groups of residents call property and business owners to inform them that their property is unsightly. Some of the residents in District 4 are now reporting houses and businesses that they identified as blight.

Joe Gomez and Conrado Gomez of Ace Painting donated resources and materials to remove graffiti from McNabb Saw Service earlier this summer. There is other evidence



Conrado Gomez and Joe Gomez remove graffiti from building.



of community pride as Yolanda Gomez of Diversity Partners planted a community garden next to Rocket Restaurant on the corner of Baldwin Avenue and Princeton Street. Restaurant owner Pjeter Kalaj, his son Martin and his grandson Kameron said they are all proud owners for over 40 years and he wants to be a part of Pontiac's come back.

Third generation business owner Pjeter Kalaj donated garden space to the residents in District 4.

We also began initial contact with local, state and federal agencies to remove trash and restore the dock located in Hawthorne Park. It is our goal to have the boat launch and the lake restored to a safe area for both fishing and other forms of water recreation sports.



Entrance to the dock located in Hawthorne Park

Third generation business owner Martin Kalaj donated garden space to the residents in District 4.



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- ❖ Create long-term strategies that increase representation of women in leadership roles

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**A Change is Gonna come...Are you?**

## — Educational Matters —

# Education's Disregard for At-Risk Students

Continued from Page 2

By Siegfried Engelmann

Ironically, the solution was based on blatant prejudice. Policy makers apparently thought all blacks were the same, those who lived in neighborhoods that were integrated and those from the inner city. The analysis did not take into account the difference in the homes, the language models, and the other differences in child-rearing practices between integrated blacks and urban blacks. The relevant difference was that when integrated blacks entered school they were far advanced over the inner-city black in skill, knowledge, and language proficiency.

To integrate blacks and whites, decision makers turned to a completely non-educational vehicle—the bus. Inner-city children would be bussed to predominantly white schools. The plan was costly, both in dollars and time. Some students would spend more than two hours a day on a bus. Even if a possibility existed that the integrated school would cause higher performance in blacks, rational decision makers would have tested the school-integration formula before committing thousands of black children to what proved to be certain failure. After all, delaying wholesale Bussing three years is less damaging than gambling everything on a plan that has never been demonstrated to work.

A small-scale experiment with careful observations of the students would have revealed the inhumanity of this plan. The greatest irony of Bussing is that it was conducted in the name of "equal opportunity". The contorted logic used to arrive at the conclusion that opportunities for all students were equal, assumed that most of the grades—like second and third—were really not necessary and that white children who were beginning second grade could skip both second and third grade and function in a fourth grade classroom with no problem. It apparently didn't occur to the decision makers that many of the black fourth graders performed at the beginning-second-grade level in reading, math, and language. To place them in the fourth grade of a well-performing white school would be to assume that they were able to skip second and third grades, and that the power of the integrated school would somehow provide the skills these students missed.

The fact that the policy makers and bureaucrats recognize that these grades are necessary for white children shows just how unequal the learning opportunities were for black students. Children who are placed far beyond their skill level will fail because the work is too difficult for them. Furthermore, they will be turned-off to instruction. The placement based on age, not ability, was both thoughtless and highly discriminatory. The blacks did not receive instruction that was proven to work well with lower performers.

The most tragic aspect of the decision to bus was that it would have taken decision makers only a couple of hours to secure dramatic data on just how outrageous the plan was. All they had to do was to go into a classroom of an at-risk black school, hand some of the fourth-graders fourth-grade reading material and tell them, "Read this out loud." I've seen such demonstrations provided for community workers. And I've seen tough male adults get tears in their

eyes after observing the painful performance of the students and repeat, "I had no idea."

I had no idea." In 1970, a principal of a white school to which blacks were bussed succinctly told me the reason for "white flight" from integrated schools. "We're supposed to have standards here. We don't do social promotions. So if I place black kids where they belong, more than 75% of them would be in special ed. If I put them in special ed, I'm a racist. If I leave them in the regular classrooms and flunk them, I'm either a racist or an ogre who doesn't understand affirmative action. So what do I do, close my eyes, sell out our standards and socially promote them, or go to another school?"

### Direct Instruction

The equal-opportunity plan had addressed instructional issues principally through Head Start. Title 1 provided additional funds for schools to accommodate failed students, but there was no systematic compensatory education. Head Start was violently opposed to systematic instruction. It was designed to provide nutrition, a happy atmosphere, and "stimulation" for low-income preschoolers. Head Start was modeled after the traditional nursery school. There was no hard data that this format resulted in gains for inner-city blacks or even of affluent whites. Again, the policy makers did not search for programs that had data of effectiveness and fashion Head Start after these. Instead the Office of Economic Opportunity installed a playschool, even though there were other programs that had data of effectiveness.

The most effective preschool was at the University of Illinois which taught children through a method called Direct Instruction. The approach had significantly raised the IQ of black preschoolers and showed that disadvantaged four- and five-year-olds could learn beginning reading, mathematics, and a host of language skills.

This approach was not welcomed by early childhood educators or sociolinguists, who labeled it everything from an inhumane pressure cooker to a thoughtless approach that did not recognize "Black English" and tried to change healthy language patterns. Years later, in Meaningful Differences in the Everyday Experience of Young American Children, Hart and Risley vindicated the Direct Instruction practice of teaching language concepts directly. The investigators documented the differences in the exposure to concepts and language between affluent homes and those of at-risk children. The differences are enormous, amounting to hundreds of thousands of exposures per year for various language concepts. Even in 1966, however, anybody who seriously worked with at-risk children knew that they had serious language concept deficits and that any instructional effort would have to start here. If the policy makers had done something as simple as present three tasks to inner-city preschoolers, they would have quickly discovered how far behind some four-year-olds were.

### The three tasks:

"Take this ball and put in on that table."  
"Now take this ball and put it under the table."  
"Now take this ball and hold it over the

table."

For a lot of lower performing children, the ball would end up in the same place-on the table. Investigations of other language concepts would have disclosed the same order of deficiency.

Investigations later confirmed that both Bussing and Head Start were disasters. A 1972 study, "The Evidence on Busing," showed that black students in Boston who were bussed to white schools did not improve in performance over black students who were not bussed. Head Start earned the same score as Bussing. In 1968, an extensive evaluation of Head Start, the Ohio-Westinghouse Study, concluded that children going to Head Start showed no long-term cognitive gains over children who did not go to Head Start.

### Project Follow Through

Not all the policy making in the 60s was naïve. The Office of Education and the Office of Equal Opportunity performed a landmark study that showed that one approach significantly outperformed others in grades K through 3. The study began in 1968 as the largest educational experiment ever conducted, although it is all but unknown among educators—Project Follow Through—which involved over 500,000 students in more than 180 communities. Originally conceived as part of President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty, Follow Through was intended to maintain the gains that were achieved in Head Start (although there were no real gains). It was designed as

a "horserace" among various models of instruction and was billed as the definitive experiment of what works best in teaching disadvantaged children in the primary grades. Eighteen different sponsors of educational approaches were selected by the Office of Education. Local community parent groups each selected one of these models to be implemented in their neighborhood schools.

The evaluation of Follow Through occurred in 1976, after the various sponsors had enough time to implement their models in participating sites. The project was evaluated by two independent agencies, Stanford Research Institute and Abt Associates.

One model, Direct Instruction, was the overwhelming winner. It not only taught a larger number of students than any other model (over 100,000), it also served the largest number of communities (20). Of the 18 models, DI achieved the highest scores in all academic areas and resulted in children that had the most positive self-images. The DI model's third graders achieved first place in reading, math, spelling, and language. DI placed first in urban communities and first in rural areas, first with blacks, non-English speaking children, and Native Americans. DI was also first with non-poverty students that were included in Follow Through.

To be continued in the next edition of The Pontiac News



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
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## —Senior Citizens Matters—

# A Rehabilitation Wonder at Golden Oaks Nursing & Rehab Center

By: *Debi L. Weber, Market Liaison and Kith Haven of Golden Oaks*

Thomas Allen is your typical 58 year old man who "lives for hunting". His sister Nancy London describes him as "The Rock of the Family" as he took care of everything and everyone. Nancy London is the Central Supply, Staffing and Laundry Supervisor at Golden Oaks Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Pontiac, Michigan.

On July 29, 2009, Tom was at his cabin in West Branch, Michigan. He was cutting trees to expand his pond. When the investigation was completed, the police determined that a tree Tom was cutting down bounced off a downed tree and struck Tom in the head. Tom has no memory of what happened, but believes he walked back to the cabin and laid down on the bed.

During this time, Tom's wife, Cathy, had been in the hospital. After not seeing or hearing from Tom for two days she called Tom's brother, Rod. Rod immediately called the police.

The police found Tom at his cabin in bed. Tom was taken by ambulance to West Branch Hospital. West Branch Hospital flew Tom by helicopter to St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw, Michigan. Tom was comatose for three weeks. He suffered an intracranial bleed, was on ventilator and required a tracheostomy. He suffered right side paralysis. He was tube fed for his nutritional needs. Tom was a total dependent for Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) including

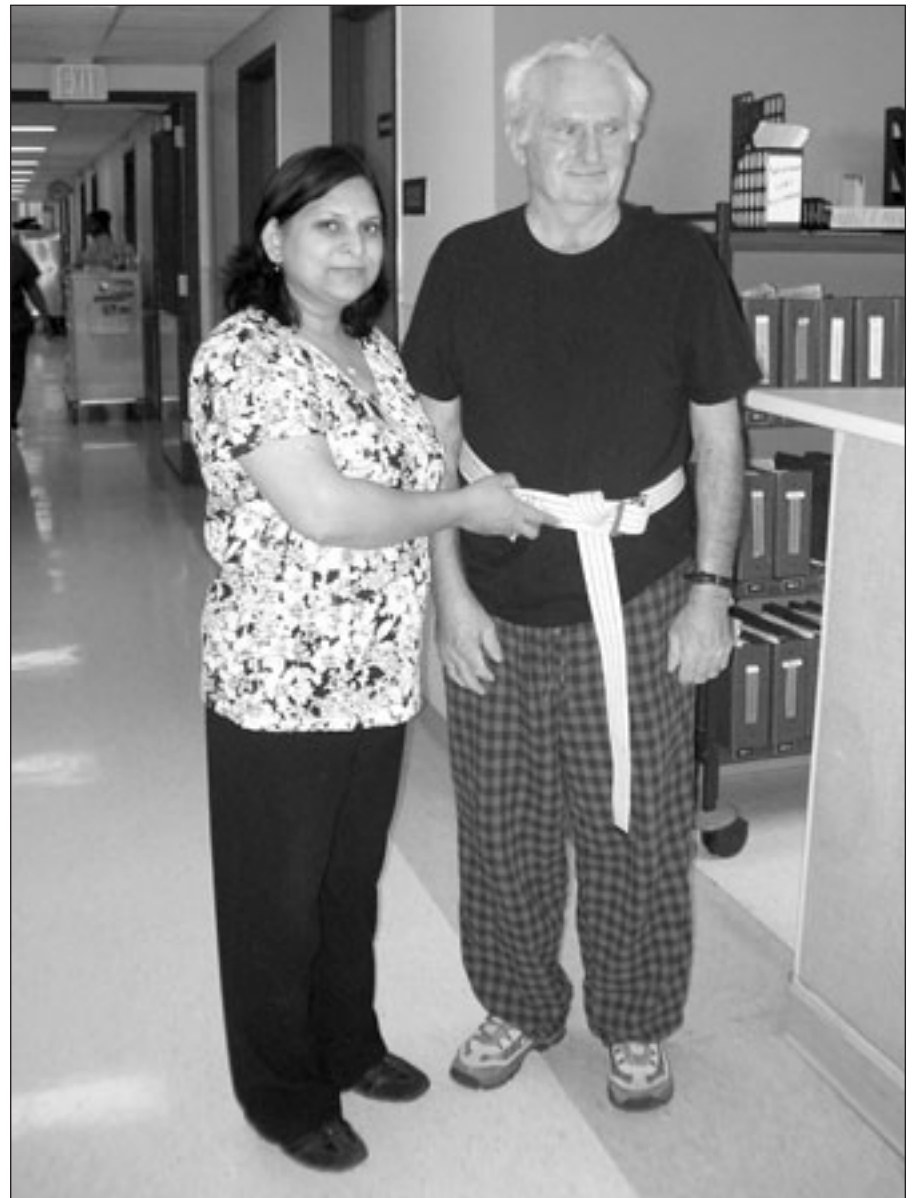
transfers from bed and ambulation.

At this point he was unable to clearly verbalize his needs. His family knew he would have to go to a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) for rehabilitation as well as nursing care for his tracheostomy and tube feeding. Tom's family including his sister Nancy wanted him placed at Golden Oaks, so she could provide daily emotional support to him.

Tom was admitted to Golden Oaks on August 26th, 2009. Tom started therapy immediately. Tom is a remarkable rehabilitation wonder. The neurosurgeon treating Tom originally told his brother Rod it would be six months to one year before Tom would be able to walk on his own again.

Tom walked out of Golden Oaks on September 30th, 2009. Independent for all ADLs including walking and even stair climbing Tom bid farewell to all the staff with big hugs and expressions of gratitude. He no longer needed tube feeding or a tracheostomy.

Everyone from the nursing staff and rehabilitation department were great. "Matt the maintenance man and I shared great hunting stories and how much we are looking forward to hunting season," said Tom. When Tom went to his follow up appointment with his neurosurgeon, he was amazed at Tom's progress. Tom attributes his great recovery to the many physicians involved in his care along with the staff at Golden Oaks. In his own words "If you ever need therapy for any



Tom Allen stands with Archana Tiwara, Director of Rehabilitation at Golden Oaks Rehab and Nursing Center.

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## -Voices in the Community-

### Food Critic From a Kid's Perspective: A Day for Fried Chicken

By: Jonathan Givens



**The Pontiac News Food Critic Jonathan Givens**

My grandmother cooks chicken, but she says it has to be baked, broiled or boiled. I know that she wants me to stay healthy, but sometimes a kid just wants some fried chicken. And when that urge hits me, I know just the place to get it. I told my grandmother, "can't we just once in a while get some fried chicken." After begging her for a while, she finally said "okay, where do you want to go." I told her to turn on Woodward and I'll show you where to go. I directed her straight to L & J's Restaurant, a Soul Food Restaurant on Woodward Avenue in Pontiac, Michigan. I ordered homemade Mac and Cheese, Greens, a nice warm piece of cornbread, and of course Fried Chicken. While they have a nice area to eat in, we ordered a

carry out. The people were nice and it's a comfortable place to go. I couldn't wait to sink my teeth into that fried chicken. My grandma had to tell me to leave the bag on the way home, because I kept putting my face in the bag.

As soon as I got home I opened up the bag and got my box out. Let me tell you, that I was pleasantly surprised because a lot of times when you order a carry out, you don't get as much as you do when you sit in a restaurant, but at L & J's, they give you just as much. The chicken, oh yes, the chicken was hot, juicy, crispy and just plain good. Every boy likes Mac and Cheese, and this was a dream come true. It had lots of creamy cheese and the steam was still coming off of it. I love greens and there was just enough spice (but not too much for a kid) to make it just right. The cornbread is like a round pancake and with a big glass of homemade lemonade, I would say that's all a kids needs. Thank you L & J for letting my day away from baked, broiled and boiled a special one. I would also like to thank the Resturant for there wonderful service.

## IS FEAR KEEPING YOU FROM YOUR DREAMS?

By Brenda Washington



**Brenda Washington**

Brenda Washington, A.A., B.A., M.S.W., L.M.S.W., A.C.S.W is a state of Michigan licensed clinical social worker, psychotherapist, and consultant. She provides counseling, support and coaching services to individuals and couples; critical incident debriefing, stress management and training to businesses, organizations and groups. She is President and owner of Brookside Services, PLLC. You may contact her at: brooksidesevices@sbcglobal.net

Have you ever heard of the quote "How high would you dream if you know you wouldn't fail"? Well, that quote is speaking of fear. Fear often guides our decisions, affects our relationships and in many ways takes our lives in directions that we don't desire.

The American Heritage Dictionary describes fear as "a feeling of alarm or disquiet caused by awareness or expectations of danger." Fear doesn't have to show

typical symptoms like sweating, trembling, and fast heart rate. Some people walk around in a constant low-level state of fear. That kind of fear may feel "normal" but can be very damaging. Sometimes we carry it around with us so long that we become comfortable and think "that's just the way that I am". In other instances fear can be paralyzing, rendering a person unable to set goals or even get out of bed.

Additionally lack of knowledge and misinformation can be the basis of fear. Whenever we find ourselves in a slump or with general feelings of despair it may be because our lives seem as if it has no real purpose. Fear can keep us from pushing forward. So, if there are areas of your life that feel like you're stuck in the same place like a tire spinning in the snow, consider that fear may be involved in some way.

Don't let fear keep you from living your life fully. Sometimes we fear things we don't know enough about. People find information in books, articles, or on the Internet. Speaking with a professional may also help. Feel the fear, push through and see how high your dreams can take you. Know that mistakes (not failures) happen when you're working toward goals. Just learn from them and keep moving forward. Dreams do come true!\

## Kenneth R. Burch, Sr. P.C. Attorney At Law

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149 Franklin Boulevard,  
Pontiac, MI 48341



## Ask Elaine.com

By Elaine Smith-Wright



Mrs. Smith-Wright started out as a Mass Communications major at Oakland University and now holds a B.A. degree in Nursing Home Administration and the Certificate of Gerontology and Sociology of the Aging from Wiley College along with a MBA Degree from East Texas Baptist University in Management. She also holds a Certificate in Filmmaking, Screenwriting and Directing from the Motion Picture Institute of Michigan.

Dear Elaine:

I'm really concerned about all of these so-called "Reality" shows and the affect they are having on a lot of people including my husband. He watches that "Husbands of Hollywood" show and goes along with a lot of what is going on in TV land! I happen to be an attorney and have the only income right now. He was a very successful engineer but was laid off about six months ago. We have two little children and he has become the stay-at-home mom. The problem is that I get a little jealous every now and then that he gets to stay home and I have to go out and work every day. Sometimes I have to stay at work longer than I want to, grab some fast food to eat and fall into bed when I get home.

Yes he keeps the house clean and cooks and takes care of the kids and I'm grateful for that, but I would like it a whole lot better if we BOTH had to get up and go to work. Yes the bills are paid and we still enjoy a lot of luxuries, but I believe that if a man does not work then he does not eat. He says he does work because he takes care of the children, everything in the house including the laundry, the cooking and the yard and all I do is write briefs and go into court and maybe do some research. Maybe he's right but a lot of time that's not the way I feel. Can you suggest something other than therapy?

Signed,  
Jealous And In Love

Dear J-LO,

I understand how you feel. It's always hard to get up every morning to go to work and especially for a mother who has to leave her children behind. But having to leave while seeing your man still lying in bed makes for a second problem for you. While it may be easy to meet all of your financial obligations on just your income alone, it's not as easy to feel that this way of life is okay when most females have been raised to feel that the man of the house is supposed to be the bread winner in the house too. My suggestion is to work real hard on the jealous thing, praise your man for all that he does (because if he cooks and cleans; he's a keeper!), help him out when ever you can, make sure that just the two of you get to spend some private time together (date nights) and remember to keep him focused on trying to find a job. At least a second job will help the two of you work on having a substantial savings account or cushion to fall back on as well as be able to plan trips for the entire family and not have to be worried about living from paycheck to paycheck; YOURS!

Good Luck!

You can write to Ask Elaine.Com at: ThePontiacNews@sbcglobal.net

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How to get Better Grades

in  
School



Written and Edited by: E. Frank Russell

REVIEWER COMMENTS:

• This handbook is a must for the serious student who wants to get better grades in school.

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## — Sports —

# Pontiac High Phoenix Suffer defeat versus Detroit Country Day Friday

October 23, 2009

## Football fans are STILL the Greatest

By Ray Wright

In a variety of drenching rain falls throughout Oakland County, football fans braved the elements, to cheer teams on and into the play-offs! Professional football fans, have been relieved of this annual pilgrimage, Surviving the rain, sleet, snow and brutal cold, to cheer for their favorite teams, by the invention of 'domed stadiums'. The 'real' game is STILL played on the high school gridiron! The now 7-2 Pontiac Phoenix are still in play-off contention, that was the only silver lining, in an otherwise



Ray Wright

dark brooding cloud that hung over Wisner Stadium Friday night October 23!

Must've been frustrating for Phoenix fans, to see the right side of their football team's line, repeatedly crumble, like Russ Limbaugh's bid for an NFL franchise. Had to be tough to sit in a deluge, and witness your team not complete a pass most of the game. In three hard hitting quarters, Country Day's Yellow Jackets controlled the trenches, grinding out back breaking yardage by #2 RB/CB Lee Bailey (who help shut down Phoenix receivers on D), and #20 John Hall. Big #70 Carter Elliott caused disruption from the start, clogging running lanes, and pestering #13 QB Jonathon McKnight all evening! I don't remember Pontiac catching three passes all night!

Country Day scored, when another high

snap, sailed way over punter/kick-off returner Reggie Washington's head, and instead of taking a knee for the safety, tried to make something from nothing, getting tackled at about the one foot line! Score 6-0 Country Day at half! Yellow Jacket #8 QB Josh Harris executed Coach MacClean's game plan to near perfection, have only one turnover (a fumble recovered by Pontiac's on their own four yard line.

"Mighty Ant" Anthony Adams, electrified the start of the second half, with a 80 yrd kick-off return, down to the Yellow Jacket two yard line (and it wasn't called back), and Phoenix cashed in, with an off tackle plunge by #52 FB/MLB Keonte Hollis. 'Mr. Butkis' had another monster game on 'D', sacking the QB twice. Score 7-6 Phoenix!

Pontiac skies cleared, the quarter moon

shined brightly, and then the bottom fell out! Long YellowJacket, will sapping' drives started to wear down the Phoenix 'D', eventually breaking, allowing two more running touchdowns by Country Day's #2 Bailey. The Yellow Jacket 'D' clamped down too, sacking McKnight twice in the fourth!. Final score 21-7.

Yet through all of the stalemate, through all of the rain fall, the fans, on both sides of the field, were still there cheering! For the last game of the season and ending on a sour note, the Pontiac Phoenix still have hope. Coach Ganfield must solidify both offense and defensive lines, or else it could be curtains on a most promising season. One question? Why didn't we see Jonathon Steed come in when McKnight started to struggle?

# Pontiac High Earns Homecoming Victory Versus Avondale

Saturday October 17, 2009

## Feeling good in 'The Yack' is going into 'Overtime'!

By Ray Wright

Some thought the 'positive thinking' of residents, parents, and advocates of Pontiac, for all 'practical purposes' would be over, and resignation of failed opportunities, by inner city 'leadership', would lead to a more dark, self-disfiguring, suicidal atmosphere. Some people revel in the pain of others. In the mist of dire shifting cultural paradigms, Pontiac has chosen to make 'lemonade' out of the lemons' they have been dealt! As stated before some see what is and say why, while I see things that never were a say "why not"? This point has been certified, again, by the inspired play of a high school football team!

At 7-1, I conclude that the community is rallying around the Pontiac Phoenix, and one can feel the anticipation of fans on almost every play! The atmosphere during the fourth qrt, come back from a two touch-

down first half deficit, bordered on magical, except for one fact... the 2009 Phoenix Homecoming crowd... EXPECTED THE PHOENIX TO COMEBACK TO WIN THIS GAME!!!!

The visiting Avondale Yellow Jackets pounded Phoenix's tough defense with brutal runs, led by that 'persuasive' offensive line, signed and delivered by running back supreme #5 François Matthews along with rugged FB #7 DJ Lynch !! Talented QB# 9 Mitch Robinson, kept an 'unusually' jumpy, penalty prown Phoenix defense guessing, resulting in a 14-0 Avondale first half lead. A fourth and four gamble paid off, leading to Avondale's first score and #11 WR Ray Tillman going up high for the second!

Whatever happened in the Phoenix locker room at half-time became apparent, when the Pontiac defense started biting!

Pressure by #54 hard rock Mike Elzy, LB's #24 Romanta Kimble, 'Jolting' Jabari Martin, DB #31 'Merciless' Mario Burkett, and with 2 sacks, 2 disruptions, and wielding a second half, momentum shifting was Mr. 'Butkus' MLB #52 Keontae Hollis! The Phoenix 'D' that held Avondale scoreless for the entire second half and OT!

'Experimenting' in the first half by Head Coach Greg Ganfield... didn't work too well! The plays featuring #34 'The Mighty Ant' Anthony Adams at QB, or with #52 Hollis at fullback (which resulted in the first Phoenix score) needed more work, bogging down the usually high stepping Phoenix 'O'. Pontiac High went back to what achieved their now 7-1 record, with smart play calling, and good execution by intelligent QB # 13 Jon McKnight! Martez Shelton was shut down for only the second

time this season, but #49 Jamel Hill, shocked Avondale's 'D', ripping off punishing first down runs, while McKnight connected with 'Mr Forgotten' #10 Jon Steed for a TD!

Although another game breaking run by 'The Ant' was called back with about 2 mins left in the game, in overtime, on third down, Andre Foster caught a TD strike, helping Phoenix to a 21-14 OT victory!!

Some, like me, see a silver lining on a dark landscape! Some are beginning to see people forming a new bonds! When I see Pontiac Police Chief Gross, old friend Maria Delgado, Chief and Huskies alumni, believing, cheering, anticipating a 'needed' victory, and getting it! When I witness the kids all wearing purple and silver, and in their young faces a hope renewed, well, that's the stuff fairy tales hope to emulate, and legends are made of!!!

# Autumn crunch course heating up Friday October 9

By Ray Wright

Fall 2009 has faded fast in our rearview mirrors and the prospect of outrageous utility bills loom over the landscape like a dark cloud! With only two games left for Pontiac High School Phoenix football, this season passed by faster than the 'cash for clunkers' campaign.

Can't remember when both Pontiac varsity and junior varsity teams were totting 6-1 records this late in the season. Last year 'Papa Bear' Jimmy King's 'farewell tour' team went an awesome 9-0, while the varsity went... well... let's move on!

Phoenix varsity traveled to Berkley

Bear country, and in a hard hitting game won 27-20, on a #31 DB/WR Mario Burkett interception for a touchdown! I hear #34 'The Mighty Ant' Anthony Adams had a TD run called back in this game and one in the last game. Coach Greg Ganfield and Phoenix coaching staff have to be delighted with the progress of this eager team. One suggestion! More protection for quarterback sensation John McKnight, who has done a wonderful job for injured gunslinger Jonathon Steed, and more defensive line heat on opposing QB's, should not only get them pass the 'Yellow-jackets' of Avondale on 'Homecoming Day', but deep into the

OAA Div I play-offs! By the way Avondale just got upset by Hazel Park 42-28.

The Phoenix JV team had my attention on Thursday, Oct 8th, when they squared off against the JV Bears. This game's fourth quarter was played illuminated by car lighting, and reminded me of an ol' Vince Lombardi adage. "Football is still a running, hitting and tackling game"!

Nifty passing by Bear QB #3 Damon Eldridge to #81 WR Davion Rice, but it was the 'Larry Csonka' type battering ram running of #44 FB Ronald Hunt and #35 RB Lionel walker that tested the resolve of the Phoenix defense!

Coach Derek Wynns inspired 'rifle

arm' QB #11 Jody Harrison, who repeatedly threw strikes to #80 WR/DE Roosevelt Wheeler and #81 Darius Carter, paved the way to another victory. The Phoenix had a brutalizing running game of it's own in 'juiced' # 32 RB/CB Jeffery Johnson, and "oh jez" Kezlow Smith! The defense led by 'Quicksilver' Ronnie Bush (who had an INT) started dishing out punishment, which resulted in a goal line interception as well. Final 42-28 Phoenix!

The combination of former Central and Huskie athletes look like an explosive combination in football, and this writer can't wait until basketball season! TTFN!

# The POH Riley Foundation

*cordially invites you to attend our*

## Seventh Annual Black Tie Gala

Friday, November 6, 2009

The Townsend Hotel  
100 Townsend Street • Birmingham, MI 48009

5:30 p.m. VIP, Celebrity & Sponsor Reception  
6:30 p.m. General Reception Including a Fabulous Silent Auction  
7:00 p.m. Welcoming Remarks  
Paula L. Tutman, WDIV Local 4 ~ Mistress of Ceremonies  
Introduction of VIP/Celebrity Guests  
Pontiac High School Students  
Dinner & Program

8:00 p.m. Dance the Night Away  
with The Jerry Ross Band

11:00 p.m. Farewells



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State of Michigan

Sandy Kovach  
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#### ABOUT POH REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER & THE POH RILEY FOUNDATION

For over 50 years, POH Regional Medical Center (POHRMC) has been dedicated to ensuring families in northern Oakland County have access to state-of-the-art health care services regardless of diagnosis or ability to pay. Last year, more than \$13 million dollars in uncompensated medical care was provided to those in need. Proceeds from the 7th Annual Black Tie Gala will help POHRMC continue that tradition through the POH Riley Foundation, the fundraising arm of the hospital. Because of our generous supporters, the POH Riley Foundation was able to fund the following programs and services that make an impact on the health, education and wellbeing of the communities we serve:

- Nearly 1,000 free mammogram screenings to low-income, uninsured and underserved women
- Breast cancer awareness and education throughout the Oakland County community
- Free prostate cancer screenings and early detection program for men in Oakland County
- Support to the POH Children's Clinic, which offers free health care services to uninsured children
- A total of \$50,000 to support the Pontiac Promise Zone Scholarship Fund
- Nearly \$20,000 in OsteoCHAMPS scholarships to disadvantaged high school students
- Funding for the POH Medical Mission to Guatemala

As a partner in our endeavors, you are helping to make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

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# Community Calendar

## 5th & 6th Grade Basketball League

Players and Sponsors are needed for the 1st Annual Oakland County 5th & 6th Grade Basketball League. The games are being played at the Oakland Community College Building H Gymnasium at 2990 Featherstone Rd., Auburn Hills MI. Cost is \$30 per player or \$300 for a team of 10. For Registration and Sponsorship Information Contact: Kashif Russell @ 248-978-7336 or Jamie @ 248-232-4270 or email YDIyouthDevelop@aol.com Proceeds To Benefit YDI Programs and Community Youth • Non-Profit Youth Service Concept Since 1983



## Silverdome Auction in November

The Pontiac Silverdome is being sold by Williams & Williams in partnership with CB Richard Ellis on behalf of the City of Pontiac. Sealed bids are now being accepted by Williams & Williams through Thursday, November 12th. Williams & Williams is a full service auction operation with commercial real estate auctions nationwide



## November Events @ The Palace of Auburn Hills

- October 30: Pistons vs. Oklahoma City Thunder 8 pm
- November 3: Pistons vs. Orlando Magic 7:30 pm
- November 6: Montgomery Gentry
- November 7: Extreme Monster Truck Nationals
- November 8: Pistons vs. Philadelphia 76ers 1 pm
- November 11: Pistons vs. Charlotte Bobcats 7:30 pm
- November 14: Extreme Cage Fight War
- November 15: Pistons vs. Dallas Mavericks 6 pm
- November 27: Pistons vs. Los Angeles Clippers 8 pm
- November 29: Pistons vs. Atlanta Hawks 1 pm

## EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE



The 2nd Annual Empowerment Conference will be Saturday, November 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m at the Doctors Hospital, 461 West Huron. Sponsored by the Oakland-Livingston Human Service Agency and Lighthouse of Oakland County, the conference provides resources for families and homeowners who want to take advantage of programs, grants and other assistance.

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