

The Pontiac News

A POSITIVE NEWS SOURCE WITH A LOCAL FLAVOR

VOL. 2 ISSUE 3



Mr & Mrs Snoddy 60th Wedding Anniversary Celebration
See article on Page 2

Comprehensive Incentives Offered By Landlords And City To Draw Business To Downtown Pontiac

A new comprehensive package of incentives called "THE RISE OF THE PHOENIX" will be offered for a limited time to new tenants in downtown Pontiac. Downtown building owners, businesses, and the City of Pontiac have come together to develop a plan that is a comprehensive economic stimulus "dream come true" for those looking to expand and or relocate to a convenient corridor. The plan will allow for new tenants to commit to a lease, subject to a quota of additional other new businesses signing leases, to support the necessary "foot traffic".

The Rise of the Phoenix Plan is Eye Opening, and full of qualified financial incentives. In an unprecedented cooperative offering, according to the plan, owners are offering one-year free rent, in exchange for multi-year leases (2 years or more) to approved office and retail tenants. The City of Pontiac, in partnership with the plan, will be offering one-year free parking to the new business owners and employees, in city lots.

The scale of this new program will cause a significant simultaneous jump in occupancy while giving new tenants a tremendous discount in their rent as compared to other downtowns in Oakland County. Downtown building owners have been pooling available space for tenant use. Pledges of over 500,000 square feet of building space for retail and office tenants



Pictured above from left to right; front row- Mayor Leon Jukowski, and Emergency Financial Manager Fred Leeb, back row- past DBA President Bo Young, City Council President Lee Jones, and DDA Director Sandy McDonald

already are committed to the plan by dozens of property owners.

With I-75 bordering downtown and M-59 which goes from Lake St Clair to I-96 in Howell there is ease of access to virtually anywhere in Southeast and mid-Michigan. There are a large number of architecturally stunning historic buildings with vacancy in either move-in condition or certainly ripe for

re-development for retail, office, food or entertainment services. Above all, in this economy they are affordable. Lease rates and purchase prices of these downtown buildings are typically 1/3 the cost of surrounding communities.

The plan targets active businesses not currently operating in Pontiac to consider a new or additional location in downtown

Pontiac. The plan will be offered only to those businesses that sign a lease between now and the end of the year, with occupancy no later than the first quarter of 2011. The synergies of a timed influx of businesses, their employees and customers will be the beginning of the revitalization in this historic downtown area.

A future key component of the plan, will be the renovation of existing residential housing, both inside and outside the Woodward Loop of downtown and expansion of the current and future loft-style apartment stock is also a part of this overall Phoenix Plan

Downtown Pontiac building owners, with collaboration and support of Mayor Leon Jukowski, the Pontiac City Council, Emergency Financial Manager Fred Leeb, the Pontiac Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Downtown Business Association (DBA) have all come together with one goal in mind: the Revitalization of Historic Downtown Pontiac!

Businesses and potential tenants interested in finding out more about THE RISE OF THE PHOENIX PLAN and/or seeing available building space and other downtown Pontiac property owners that want to be a part of the re-birth of the city's fortunes should call the Downtown Pontiac Building Promotion Program at 248-758-3036.

THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP **One of America's Biggest Problems**

The "achievement gap" in education refers to the disparity in academic performance between groups of students. It is most often used to describe the troubling performance gaps between many African-American and Hispanic students, at the lower end of the performance scale, and their non-Hispanic white peers, and the similar academic disparity between students from low-income and well-off families. The achievement gap shows up in grades, standardized-test scores, course selection, dropout rates, and college-

completion rates. It has become a focal point of education reform efforts.

While National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results have shown that, over time, black and Hispanic students have made great strides in narrowing the breach that separates them from their white peers, that progress seems to have come to a halt since the mid-1980s. For example, in 2003, while 39 percent of white students scored at the proficient level or higher on the 4th grade reading exam

portion NAEP, only 12 percent of black students and 14 percent of Hispanic students did so. Forty-two percent of white fourth graders scored at the proficient level or above on the mathematics exam compared with just 10 percent of black students and 15 percent of Hispanic students (U.S. Department of Education, 2003).

The achievement gap shows up in grades, standardized-test scores, course selection, dropout rates, and college-completion rates. **(Article continues on page 10)**

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The Solution Continues on Page 10.



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**Publisher
R. Frank
Russell**

Practicing Group Economics

Several years ago, two of this nation's most respected sources of economic information laid out the case for Black America to build its own alternative economy and begin practicing group economics. On

March 14, 2000, the Wall Street Journal ran a two-page story on wealth building in America, from the Civil War to present time. The article detailed the history of boom and bust cycles in the U.S. economy and

concluded that the nation was in the midst of the longest period of economic prosperity and expansion in its history. The economic boom period
See Economics on page 13

“Snoddy’s Celebrate Sixtieth (60th) Wedding Anniversary”

On June 5, 2010 Leo and Wilma Snoddy celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. Their “Celebration of Unconditional Love” was a surprise luncheon hosted by their immediate family at Maggiano’s Restaurant in Troy, Michigan.

Leo and Wilma both born and raised in East Texas have been residents of Oakland County in the cities of Pontiac and Troy since 1953. Both have been exemplar role models for their entire family foundation.

Leo worked numerous odd jobs and also worked at Pontiac Motor Division. He retired as a Foreman after 34 years of service. During the many years of working at the plant, he invested time and energy into rental properties throughout Pontiac. As an honorable and responsible father he wanted to ensure that families had “good homes” to raise their children. To reflect the type of individual and family values he has, the Oakland Press in June, 1991 praised his commitment to the community. In the article

he states, “that when he first came to Pontiac he couldn’t find decent housing and wanted to make sure his properties were decent places for people to live.” He continually invested his properties and also hired local businesses and people to recirculate money within the community.

While Leo was working 2 jobs, he didn’t have a “stay at home” wife.

After Wilma graduated from Flemings Beauty School in Detroit, Michigan she opened “Wilma’s Beauty Salon” on Saginaw Street here in Pontiac in 1963. With her ability to attract a consistent customer base and continually train Operators, the business grew to be the largest hair salon in Pontiac.

Both have been servants to God and Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church since 1959. They have been led to serve in various capacities from- mission, Sunday and vacation bible school as teachers, choir, building fund, deacon and deaconess board, women and men’s day. They still attend on a regular

basis.

Their 60th Wedding Celebration was attended by their five children, 5 granddaughters, 5 grandsons, 2 son-in-laws, 1 daughter-in-law and 1 great grandson.

The same sense of perseverance is reflective in the lives of their children, Anthony Snoddy, Karen Walker, Norma Nixon, Neva Martin and Marshilia Snoddy. They always “passed on” to “get a good education and do the best you can.” All of their children are products of the Pontiac School District and graduates of Michigan universities.

Leo and Wilma have weathered life storms and sunshine for sixty years and feel they are “blessed”. Their lives are and have been a positive life-long impression for their entire family foundation and the many lives they have touched.

Congratulation to Leo and Wilma Snoddy as they continue their life journey with each other and their family foundation.

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church Celebrates 85 years of Community Involvement

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate its rich history of serving the community during its 85th Church Anniversary this year. Since its inception in 1925, New Bethel has been a beacon in the community and has inspired countless lives with its vision “to build up and empower the total person through the study of God’s Word.” In 1985, New Bethel developed a Food Pantry ministry, which has received numerous local and state recognitions over the years for providing groceries and meals for hundreds of low-income families each month.

In 1992, their vision expanded to provide outreach to the community by organizing an emergency homeless shelter for women and children which, incorporated as the New Bethel Outreach Ministry, has been a place of refuge and resources for more than 2,000 women and children.

Recently, as New Bethel continues to live up to its vision and mission in serving the community, the church has expanded its services by purchasing and renovating foreclosed homes with hopes to provide additional services that will empower individuals and prepare them for homeownership with the ultimate goal of bringing an end to the vicious cycle of poverty and homelessness in its community.

In addition to providing emergency shelter and food services for the homeless and low-income families, in 2008 New Bethel developed a comprehensive Summer Day Camp program for underprivileged

youth and children. Camp Hosanna, a shared vision of New Bethel, Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church of Bloomfield Hills, and First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, focuses on “Equipping Children for Servant Leadership” by providing academic enrichment and biblical principles for character development for students in grades 2 to 6. The camp is held at New Bethel during the month of July and benefits up to 60 students each year.

As their vision “to build up and empower the total person...” continues to unfold, New Bethel has many other ambitions for the future, which they believe will have a great impact upon the City of Pontiac and its residents, as the church is currently being led by its 30-year-old, Princeton-educated pastor, Rev. Keyon S. Payton. Some of their future initiatives include developing a charter school for students grades K-5, mentorship programs for young at-risk males, a “blended community” of residential townhomes adjacent in its surrounding area, and a community credit union serving primarily low-income residents.

While celebrating their 85th Anniversary during the month of June, they will be inviting the community to share with them in their Black Tie Gala, Friday, June 11, Sunday morning worship service, July 13, and their Community Feast, Friday, June 26, which is a banquet to benefit the homeless community. For more information regarding the church and its activities for the month, please contact the church office at (248) 334-3253.

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2 Perspectives

Hank Jones, from Bagley Street to the World

By Quincy Stewart



Quincy Stewart III

Hank Jones, pianist and jazz legend, beloved husband of Theodosia, dear uncle to his nieces and nephews in Pontiac and across the country, friend to music, inspiration to countless musicians, died May 16, 2010 in New York City, after a brief illness. He was 91 years old, and would have been 92 on

July 31st.

Hank was raised and educated here, in Pontiac, Michigan. As a matter of fact, Hank Jones was raised on Bagley Street, a few houses from "The Corner", also known as Bagley and Wesson streets. He was three houses south of Cooley's General Store.

Today, we celebrate his spirit, his gift, his joy, his wisdom and his friendship. Hank lived and breathed music, and was never far from a keyboard, even at the end. His incredible burst of productivity - concerts, recordings, fundraisers, clinics - these last few years was unprecedented and truly remarkable. He had gigs planned through next year and in fact was due to play Birdland in NYC this week.

To hear Hank Jones is to understand why he is one of the rare individuals that the National Endowment for the Arts inducted as a 'Jazz Master'. In over seventy years as a Jazz pianist and composer, his playing style has embodied the essence of mainstream Jazz making him one of the most sought after and recorded Jazz pianist throughout Jazz history.

The eldest member of a prolific Jazz musician family which included the late drummer Elvin Jones and trumpeter/composer Thad Jones, Hank Jones continued the legacy by recording and playing at concerts and festivals around the world. As one of the few surviving Jazz greats photographed in 'A Great Day in Harlem', he also participated in other historical events such as accompanying Marilyn Monroe when she sang 'Happy Birthday Mr. President' to the late President John F. Kennedy.

Few people know that the Jones family and their relatives, such as Hank and Joe Gamble, two local Pontiac musicians and the late, great drummer Peter Jones, who many say played as well as Elvin did have legacies

of their own. Not as well known as the Jones brothers, Joe and Hank Gamble and Peter Jones contributed greatly to the music scene here in Pontiac.

Although his father thought playing Jazz at the time was 'evil' Hank start playing in local bands in Pontiac and Detroit Michigan, Ohio and Buffalo before moving to New York City in 1943. His first job was with Hot Lips Page at the Onyx Club on 52nd Street where in 1945 he joined Billy Eckstein's big band. The following year he joined Colman Hawkins and from 1947 to 1951 he toured the world with the Jazz at the Philharmonic (JATP) accompanying Ella Fitzgerald. In 1952 he joined Artie Shaw and then worked with Johnny Hodges followed by Tyree Glenn. In 1956 he joined Benny Goodman and joined the CBS studios as staff pianist in 1959, a position which would last for seven years.

Throughout his career, Hank has played and recorded with the virtual who's who of Jazz history. With over five hundred albums and CDs recorded and countless concerts, there aren't too many significant names in Jazz that Hank has not played or recorded with. Most recently, he has been involved in recordings and performances with contemporaries such as Joe Lovano. As Hank reflects on his past, one regret is that he did not record more with his late brothers Thad and Elvin, however, he was able to make his last recording 'The Great Trio Collaboration' on Village Records with Elvin before he passed away.

Hank Jones stayed busy playing concerts worldwide, recording and performing at Jazz Master classes in Universities such as Harvard and NYU. To my knowledge, neither Hank, Elvin nor Thad returned to Pontiac as performers other than Thad once to play at the Phoenix Center back in the late 1980's before he died as the leader of the Count Basie Orchestra which I had the honor of being the opening act for, and Hank returned three years ago during Arts, Beat and Eats. Other than that, no real meaningful contributions were made by the Jones Brothers to younger Pontiac musicians like myself as we were coming up to lend their expertise and guidance to. What they did leave us, was a plethora of great music, countless recordings frozen in time so that we all can listen, learn and grow from the great legacies left by the Jones Brothers from over on Bagley Street

Remembering Hank Jones and His Musical Brothers



Esmo T. Woods shown with wife Sandra

By Esmo Woods

In the post-World War Two era, one could pass by the Joneses house located on the east side of Bagley Street just south of Wesson in Pontiac and hear the live beautiful music wafting through the summer breeze. Musicians destined to become Jazz greats, would drive all the way from Detroit to practice and jam with Jones brothers Hank, Thad and Elvin. The large Jones family welcomed them, Mrs. Jones cooked meals for them, and on one occasion, three wide-eyed boys were let in to hear them play. They were Laverne Geans, called Duck, Melvin Hatchett, called Bubbie, and myself, called T. Woods. We were all youngsters, all fascinated by the music, but none of us could have predicted that we were listening to musicians in the making whose gifts would catapult them into a realm of the greatest Jazz musicians in the world.

Hank Jones was the first Jones brother to hit the road and to play professionally. Some written reports say that Hank started as early as age 13 playing professionally in Michigan and Ohio, though that sounds a little early to me.

The next time I saw Hank Jones I bumped into him by chance at New York's Birdland, 52nd Street and Broadway. He was not performing there at the time. We both had come there to hear a gifted pianist from Memphis perform named Phineas Newborn. During Newborn's performance, he played a song with one hand, which amazed Hank, myself and all the crowded Birdland patrons. I am very glad we got to hear him play because Newborn passed away at a relatively early age.

In my two years in New York as a graduate student at Columbia University, during the mid-fifties, I also saw Elvin Jones in the Big Apple. In later years, when he and I tried to identify the place of our chance meeting, we thought it was at the Embers. At any rate, standing outside, Elvin introduced me as his homeboy to young, Detroit bassist, named Doug Watkins, a talented player who also passed away young but not before making his mark on music.

Thad Jones was the great trumpeter. I had seen him in the middle fifties when he played with Count Basie's Band. The band had played at Tennessee State in Nashville. Band members, including Thad, came rushing through the lobby of a well known hotel called Brown's Hotel on Jefferson Street, apparently already packed up for their next destination. I always wished that I could have talked with him. But my brother Booker, talked with Thad at length when Count Basie's Band made an appearance in Las Vegas, Nevada. So we stayed in touch with the performing Jones brothers through different states and sections of the United States.

About two years ago, Hank Jones brought in a trio that performed in downtown Pontiac. Then Mayor Clarence Phillips asked me to introduce the group, which I was very pleased to do. Hank Jones asked Armani Phillips, the Mayor's son, a knowledgeable and talented saxophonist, to join the trio. I only wish this stunning performance could have been recorded. Hank Jones played like he was truly happy to be home as he and his trio and his guest performer gave scintillating and soulful performances.

I think it is significant to point out that Hank Jones became Dr. Hank Jones by virtue of the fact that schools like Hartford College out East and Oakland University in Rochester conferred doctoral degrees upon him, joining a long list of awards and honors which Hank Jones received in recognition of his unassailable record of musical performances around the world for more than seven decades.

Hank Jones, the pianist, was the first born of the Jones offspring and he was the only one born out of state in Vicksburg, Mississippi before the family migrated to Pontiac, Michigan.

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From heroin addiction to PhD, the story of a Recovering Addict

Former Pontiac resident earns his PhD in social work, 25 years after recovering from a heroin addiction

By Frank Russell

For approximately 13 years of David Whiter's life in Pontiac, he was consumed by drug use. By the time he was 16, heroin would become his drug of choice and he would inject this drug almost daily. His addiction to heroin was the major reason he failed to graduate from Pontiac Central High; straining his family relations, particularly the one with his mother, the late Ollie Dell Whiter's. Though his family relations were strained, the unconditional love he received from his mother, father, and 10 siblings, particularly his oldest sibling the late Sadie Marie Davis, served as the underpinning to his decision to seek help for his drug addiction.

On mother's day, 1984, Whiter's entered drug rehab at Holly Gardens in Holly, MI. Ms. Whiter's, David's mother, would often tell him that this was the greatest mother's day present she ever received. Though he had no money or health insurance to pay for his treatment, the staff at Holly Gardens admitted him anyway. "They only took me in because they knew my sister Sadie;" who at that time was a good member of Alcoholics Anonymous and had helped many Pontiac residents find recovery from their alcoholism and drug addiction.

Now 52, Whiter's life is about much more than heroin addiction. For close to 26 years, he has been actively involved in a 12-step recovery program for addicts. Throughout this time, he earned his GED and 4 college degrees. "Of all the degrees I've earned, my GED is the one that I am most proud of," Whiter's would exclaim. This expression of joy is alarming particularly when you learn of his subsequent academic achievements.

In June 1997, Whiter's earned an Associates Degree in Mental Health/Social Work from Oakland Community College (OCC), in Auburn Hills, MI. In August 1997, he earned a second Associates Degree, this one in General Studies, from Siena Heights University in Adrian, MI. His next degree he would exclaim "came only by the grace of a Power great than himself."

The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor offers a unique program that allows up to 10 students each year enrollment in their Non-Baccalaureate master's degree in social work (MSW) program. Essentially, this master's degree program accepts students who do not have bachelor degrees. Whiter's life and human



Randolph Whiter's, David Whiter's and Rodney Whiter's

service experiences made it possible for him to advance from the associate's degree program directly into the master's degree program. On December 21, 1998, he earned his MSW from the University of Michigan. Whiter's stated "that he knows of at least seven Pontiac residents who have graduated from this program, and a former Pontiac resident who now resides in Detroit who will begin this program in the fall."

On April 22, 2010, another major academic accomplishment occurred within Whiter's life. On this day, he received his PhD in social work from the University of Georgia in Athens. No one who knows the David Whiter's of today is surprised by this accomplishment. Both older brothers Randolph Whiter's, a lifetime Pontiac resident, and Rodney Whiter's, now living in Detroit, were joined by a lifelong family friend and lifetime Pontiac resident William "Big Dink" Dinkins on a sojourn to Georgia to watch their younger brother and friend march across the stage and receive his degree. They were joined by Ms. Margetta Fair, a former Pontiac resident who moved to Atlanta in 2009 to receive treatment for her drug addiction at Recovery Consultants of Atlanta, Inc., a world renowned drug treatment and HIV prevention program founded by David. "Everyone in our entire family is proud of David," his big brother Randolph said. "We've watched him go from

being a high school dropout and drug addict to becoming a doctor of philosophy. Who wouldn't be proud of a brother like that?" "David is my hero," Ms. Fair would report. "If it were not for him and Walt June I would be dead. There are no if, ands, or buts about this." Walter Robinson, Jr., aka "Walt June," is a lifetime Pontiac resident and recovering heroin addict who earned both his Mental Health/Social Work Degree from OCC and his subsequent MSW degree from Michigan's Non-Baccalaureate program. Robinson died from lung cancer in August 2009. He was David's best friend.

Dinkins said, "Wherever I travel in the 12-step recovery circles whether it's in Pontiac, Detroit, or Atlanta, I always meet people who claim that they are alive and drug and alcohol free because of David. I do not know of any other person who has helped as many people overcome their drug addiction as he has. Being able to attend his graduation at the University of Georgia and watching him walk across that

stage is a gift that I will cherish for the rest of my life."

Rodney, another one of David's big brothers would say, "I know our mother was shouting halleluiah in heaven and bragging to her friends when David walked across that stage. I felt it in my spirit. Our mother was there with us on this special day. She is as proud of David's accomplishments in heaven as she would have been right here on earth."

Dr. Cheryl Davenport Dozier, Associate Provost of Diversity at the University of Georgia and David's major professor that led him through the completion of his dissertation entitled, *A Historical Analysis of the Initial Five Years of Recovery Consultants of Atlanta, Inc.: A Faith-based, Peer-led Addiction Recovery and HIV Prevention Program*, said, "David is an extremely intelligent student who balances academia with his commitment to helping inner-city drug users find recovery from their addiction. Drawing on his personal experiences as both an active and recovering substance user, he is able to identify with a wide variety of people who have fallen on hard times as a result of being drug addicts. Dozier continued by stating, "David has been outstanding and exceptional . . . we would do ourselves a much needed service by identifying a method for cloning him and his skills. He is that rare of an individual."

Whiter's is more than pleased with the way his life has turned out. He gives credit to his family for never giving up on him, his professors for encouraging and motivating him, and his strong belief in God. Based on his personal experiences, he knows there is not a single barrier in life that he can not overcome. "I'm like David, my namesake from the Bible, Whiter's said. He had one experience in life and that was that God had never failed or let him down. When this is your only experience in life, how can you expect anything other than to succeed?"

You may contact David by emailing him at dwhiter@umich.edu.

Pontiac native, Cherry Scott-Jones, recently retired from General Motors after 31 years and immediately started her own business. A former Pontiac Northern cheerleader and a cheerleader at heart, Cherry Scott-Jones has founded Motivational Consulting Services. Hanging up her hat as an engineering designer, Cherry is now a success/life coach.

From a diversified life career as a corporate professional, motivational speaker, community college instructor, three-time published author, recording artist, wife and mom, Cherry is now using all of her life experiences to help others feel better in order to do better in personal living, relationships, career building, educational growth and business.

Through motivational speaking, one-on-one consultations, and workshop facilitation, Cherry Scott-Jones wants to help individuals find greater happiness, security, and prosperity in their personal lives, careers and relationships. Using motivation, inspiration, encouragement, and validation, Cherry coaches to help others break bad habits, stop procrastination, reduce stress, increase confidence, manage weight, improve relationships, and move toward living life successfully with consistency.

As a motivational speaker, workshop facilitator and one-on-one consultant, Cherry Jones offers real life strategies and solutions to feel better and do better. In the areas of conflict resolution, discipline, focus, mutual respect, building and maintaining healthy relationships, education, and purposeful living for success, Cherry is available to help individuals and all size groups reach maximized success by design.

Book Titles by Cherry Scott-Jones are:

A Black Woman Speaks (\$12.00), *Coping With Inner-Turmoil* (\$12.00),
365 Days of Prayer—The Book (\$15.00).

Cherry Released her first CD this year entitled:

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To order books or CD by Cherry send check or money order to: P. O. Box 183146, Utica, MI 48318

To get on a pathway of feeling better and doing better contact Cherry Jones at: (586) 739-6440.

Office Address: 48562 Van Dyke, Suite M, Shelby Township, MI 48317 Email: Acherryjones@aol.com.

To Learn More about Cherry Jones go to: <http://www.cherryscottjones.com>



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5. Workmen's Compensation and Social Security Claims.
6. All Criminal matters Felony/Misdemeanors and Traffic.

—What's Happening In Oakland County

Oakland County Economic Development Corp. Approves \$28 Million Tax Exempt Bonds to Finance Pontiac Film Studio



L. Brooks Patterson

The Oakland County Economic Development Corporation (OCEDC) recently (on May 27, 2010) authorized the issuance of \$28 million worth of tax exempt bonds to finance the Michigan Motion Pictures Studios L.L.C. film studio proposal on the former General Motors Co. Centerpoint East Campus in Pontiac.

The OCEDC board approved the project, which is more commonly known as Raleigh Michigan Studios. It clears the way for the construction of an 185,000 square foot studio and renovation of another 425,000 square feet of the former GM property. The \$60 million project is expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

"We're pleased the board approved the

financing, which will help solidify the long-term growth of the film industry in Oakland County and in Michigan," Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said. "Such growth depends on the ability of the industry to build studios such as this. This is an exciting day for Pontiac, Oakland County and the state."

The OCEDC board is appointed by the county executive and approved by the Board of Commissioners. It is comprised of bankers, real estate developers, lawyers and members of the community. State law gives the board the authority to issue tax exempt bonds to stimulate the economy, create jobs and increase the tax base.

Since its inception 30 years ago, the OCEDC has funded 104 projects, totaling \$675 million in investment while creating or retaining more than 12,000 jobs.

Your Oakland County Treasurer, Andy Meisner



Andy Meisner

Oakland County Treasurer Andy Meisner was elected in November of 2008 after serving three terms in the Michigan House of Representatives, where he chaired the Commerce Committee and served on the House Tax Policy, Education, Judiciary, and New

Economy and Quality of Life Committees. Andy is best known for his work on legislation bringing the motion picture industry to Michigan, stem cell research and reform of the public mental health system.

As Oakland County Treasurer Andy's focus is on preserving the county's prosperity during times of unprecedented financial crisis, preventing mortgage and tax foreclosures that destabilize our communities and threaten property values, and on prudent stewardship and investment of Oakland County taxpayer dollars.

"In electing me Treasurer, the People of Oakland County have given me a sacred responsibility as the guardian of

their taxpayer dollars," said Meisner. "I thank the People for this opportunity, and assure them that my team and I are committed to serving their interests with respect, humility and professionalism. Working together, we will confront and overcome the challenges of our day."

Andy's public-service career began in 1994 as a Lyndon B. Johnson Fellow in the Washington, D.C. Office of Congressman Sander Levin, where he continued as a congressional aide and gained experience in helping to manage the federal budget and bringing grants home to Oakland County. Andy worked as vice president of marketing and communications for a national non-profit organization dedicated to community-based prevention of substance abuse and violence, and as corporate communications director for Farbman Group commercial real estate firm.

Andy earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan and a law degree from the University of Detroit-Mercy, and is a member of the State Bar of Michigan.

U.S. Congressman Mike Rogers Endorses Ruth Johnson for Secretary of State



Ruth Johnson

Key Conservative Voice for Michigan in Congress Says Oakland Clerk Is Best Choice for Republicans

Ruth Johnson, the former state representative who exposed public corruption and now serves as Clerk/Register for Michigan's second largest county, has been endorsed by

U.S. Congressman Mike Rogers.

"We can count on Ruth Johnson to do the right thing, even when it isn't easy. Ruth has led the way on important issues from chasing down waste in government to fighting to ensure our troops can have their votes counted. Her record is one of achieving results for our conservative beliefs. That's why I support Ruth Johnson for Secretary of State."

- U.S. Congressman Mike Rogers (R-Brighton)

House Speaker Andy Dillon Visits Pontiac Middle School Teen Health Center



The Leading Democratic Candidate For Governor Michigan House Speaker Andy Dillon (Center), D-Redford Visits Pontiac Middle School Teen Health Center, along with State Representative Tim Melton (far Right) and other local and state officials on Monday June 7

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— Africa (Alkebulan) & World News —

Editors Note: The ancient name for the continent of Africa is Alkebulan. It means "mother of humankind." Africa the current name, was given to this continent by the ancient Greeks and Romans. Source: Alkebulan Reference Center – www.ancient-knowledge-breakthrough.net

African Liberation Day – Origin and History in the United States



Kofi Annorh
African Correspondent

Kofi provides TPN with news about events that are happening on the African Continent and throughout the diaspora.

By: Elder Balogun (Bro. Mike Anderson)

The month of May is very important in the worldwide African Liberation movement. During this month we celebrate African Liberation. In Detroit this historic event was held on May 28th-29th. This year's African Liberation was sponsored by the Detroit

ALD Committee and Dr. Imari Abubakari Obadele Tribute/ Memorial Committee. Activities took place at New Bethel Baptist Church 8430 Linwood on the 28th at 6pm and the Eastside with a parade and march on the 29th. We assembled at 9:00 AM in Uhuru Park, Inner City Sub Center. Following the parade and march, we reconvened in Uhuru Park for an afternoon of festivities, including speakers, entertainment and an African Marketplace. This phase of the day's events begin at 1:00 PM.

Whether you were born in Ghana,

Nigeria, Liberia, Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Angola, Haiti, Jamaica, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, or Detroit, as long as you are Black, you are an African with a common heritage and a common set of conditions. The All African People's Revolution Party explains that African Liberation Day was founded by Kwame Nkrumah on the occasion of the First Conference of Independent States held in Accra, Ghana and attended by eighty independent African states. The 15th of April 1958 was declared African Freedom Day to mark each year the onward progress of the liberation movement and to symbolize the determination of the people of Africa to free themselves from foreign domination and exploitation.

The idea of African Liberation Day has its origins in the long history of African people to free ourselves from the yoke of European domination and white supremacy. This is a day we emphasize our oneness with a common past, common set of problems, and a common future.

Early History

The capturing of millions of African people placed into slavery and introduced to the Western Hemisphere as property and commodities, is the backdrop upon which we celebrate African Liberation. It was the slave trade of the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries involving France, Portugal, Spain, England, and Germany that served as the foundation upon which these western powers were built, including the United States. This investment in the slave trade by the western powers provided them with the margin of profit in getting the greatest return of their investment. The western world still seeks to keep Africa and African people, worldwide, in bondage, so they can continue to maximize the greatest return off their initial investment.

After chattel slavery was abolished in England and the United States, the slave trade began to wind down. The former slave

trading nations found themselves no longer needing slaves, but yet stumbled upon the natural resources of Africa. They began to fight each other over the gold, diamonds and other mineral resources they were finding. This resulted in the calling of the Berlin conference in 1884, where the European powers united to divide up Africa among themselves. It has been discussed, historically by the former slave trading nations that those who controlled Africa will control the world. Therefore, the Berlin Conference was a crowning blow in African history. The results of this conference led to the carving up of Africa so that France, Britain, Portugal, Spain, and Germany could control separate territories throughout the continent. This became known as the colonial period in African history.

The Colonial Period

The colonial period in Africa, just as the enslavement of African people captured and brought to North America, had a devastating impact on African and African people. African people did not sit idly by.

Just as we resisted our slave circumstances in America, African people resisted their colonial conditions. Pan-African meetings were called to plot strategy to end colonial rule. The Garvey Movement and the Universal Negro Improvement Association galvanized African people worldwide to embrace the idea of African independence under one god, one aim, and one destiny. The Garvey period in our history, more than any other era laid the foundation for what we now call African Liberation Day.

Modern Period

The Pan African meetings (1900-1945) provided a mechanism for a small group of African leaders to plan and plot strategy for African freedom. The Garvey movement of the 1920's brought the idea of African freedom and independence to the masses of our people around the world. "Africa for the Africans, At Home and Abroad" was the slogan that gave us a clear understanding of who we are as a people and what we should be struggling for.

It was not until the early 1950's that the first African country gained political independence in the movement to reclaim Africa. That country was Ghana under the leadership of Kwame Nkrumah who led the Ghanaian people in their fight against British colonialism. Shortly after this successful defeat

of the British, Sekou Toure led the people of Guinea towards their independence from French Colonialism. Right on the heels of this victory was the victory of Patrice Lumumba and the people of the Congo who, for a brief moment, won their battle against Belgium. This independence movement sparked an onslaught of African people reclaiming their territories and led to the formation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in May of 1963. This is why we celebrate ALD in May.

It is interesting to note that the Civil Rights Movement in this country was sparked in Montgomery at approximately the same time the independence movement in Africa was gaining momentum. As our movement turned from Civil Rights in the mid 1960's to Black Power, the re-identification with Africa and African people worldwide became a predominant discussion in the Black liberation movement.

The call for support of our brothers and sisters fighting against the Portuguese in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau led to the development of the African Liberation Day Coordinating Committee that was formed for the purpose of organizing the first African Liberation Day mass demonstration in this country on May 27, 1972 in Washington, DC and San Francisco, CA. Over 60,000 people participated in the Washington, DC ALD. And thousands more participated in the San Francisco ALD. Related demonstrations were held in Canada and throughout the Caribbean.

African Liberation Day has become an institution in America since that time. African Liberation Day is a day when all Black people should come together. Whether you were born in Ghana, West Africa, or the west side of Detroit, as long as you are Black you are an African with a common heritage and a common set of conditions. We must continue to fight against racism and white supremacy wherever African people live in the world. African people in America must continue to support the struggles of our brothers and sisters throughout the world in their quest for political, economic, and social justice.

This year's ALD activities, were held Fri. May 28, 2010 at New Bethel Baptist Church 8430 Linwood and Sat. May 29, 2010 at Uhuru Park (Inner City Sub-Center), with 1000+ participants over the two days of African Liberation Day activities.

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Mosaic Ghana Africa

In October 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

Our Citizens Want Involvement In Our City's Future



Councilman Randy Carter

Our city needs to look into entrepreneurial opportunities for our community without relocating low income families and redeveloping their housing. We will knock down houses in need of minimal repair (to the tune of \$5,000-\$40,000 dollars). This money could have been used to fix the homes. We need to be concerned with the displacement of individuals. Our community has a disproportionate number of Brown fields (these are polluted lots) which make this city an entitlement zone eligible for federal assistance. Projects that bring a big national retail chain into a community are redevelopment projects. This is encouraged, however, I am interested in creating places for stores that meet the needs of community like a one-stop shop or family dining restaurants.

There has always been a need for community stores, especially for senior citizens who have to travel by car to get to a supermarket. By encouraging local businesses to our core communities, we offer

opportunities for businesses and employment for our citizens. When we produce an emerging business climate, we attract families looking for work. When we have families moving into our neighborhoods, we reduce vacant homes.

Another concern to think about is the displacement of our current residents. What seniors fear most is displacement. They want to be involved with conversations regarding the revitalization of the city. Their major question is where they can go to talk about highway construction, transportation center and the possibility of a casino. Most likely residents will be displaced in order to



construct all three. Revitalization should be a bottom-up process that starts with a community based vision.

Land should be a top priority for the City of Pontiac. The majority of Brownfield projects have been in downtown and not the neighborhoods. I like to see community centers reopened and converted to training center for youth in sports, construction, arts, and technology and home ownership opportunity programs. I would also like to see them available for our CDCs and our seniors. This would give them a place to openly

discuss community development.

The citizens of Pontiac care about what is going on in their communities. Employment, education, good schools and transportation affects every aspect of our life. We (as a body) need to proactively discuss all aspects involving the revitalization of our city from City Hall to our city parks. We must all join in to make this a safe and prosperous place to live. It is up to all of us to encourage a positive business climate for entrepreneurs while discourage displacement of our residents.

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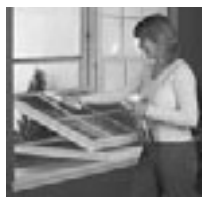


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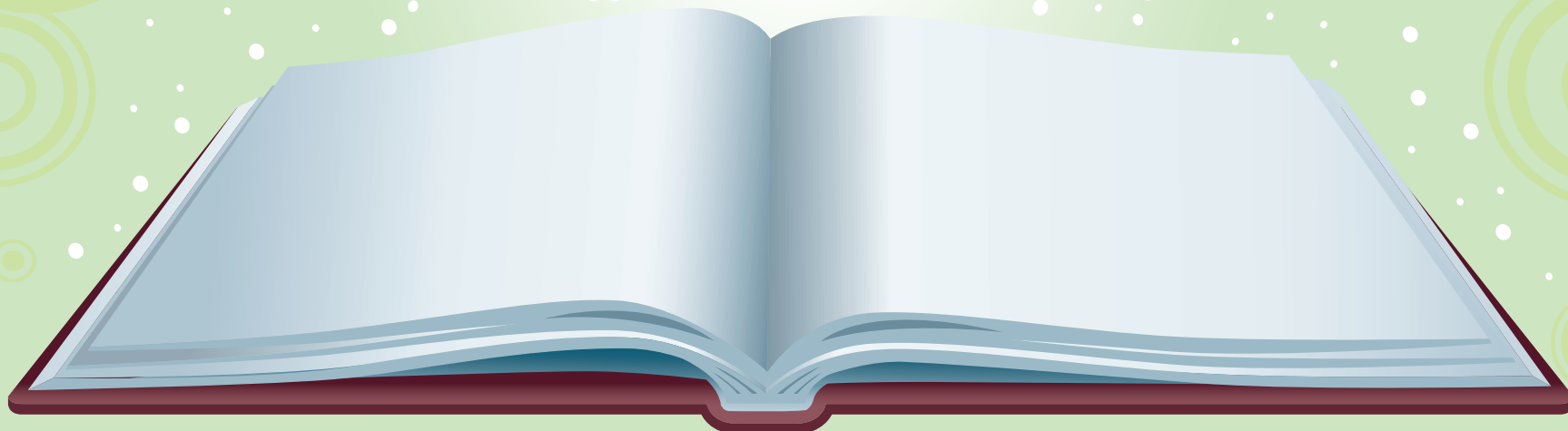
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— Educational Matters —

Achievement Gap Problem

Article Continued from Page 1 Cover

Disparities exist in students' course-taking patterns as well. Data from the U.S. Department of Education indicate that approximately 62 percent of white, black, and Hispanic high school graduates each were enrolled in an Algebra 1 course in high school in 1998. But that pattern did not hold for higher-level math courses. While 64 percent of white students took Algebra 2, only 55 percent of black and 48 percent of Hispanic students were also enrolled. Even larger gaps appear in honors-course enrollments: 7.5 percent of white students, 3.4 percent of black students, and 3.7 percent of Hispanic students took Advanced Placement calculus (U.S. Department of Education, 2000a).

Such disparities are also evident in graduation rate and college success statistics. While 72 percent of white students enrolled in 9th grade graduated from high school on schedule

in 2001, this was true for only just over half of the same group of black and Hispanic students (Greene, 2003). According to the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (2001), while 30 of every 100 white kindergartners go on to graduate from college, only 16 of every 100 black kindergartners later earn bachelor's degrees. In 2000, the U.S. Department of Education released data showing that black and Hispanic kindergartners already trailed their white and Asian-American counterparts on tests of general knowledge and early-reading and math skills (U.S. Department of Education, 2000b).

The disparities in achievement are often attributed to socioeconomic factors. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, of all children younger than 18 living in families, 27 percent of Hispanic children and 30 percent of black children live in poverty, compared with about 13 percent of white children (Proctor &

Dalaker, 2002). According to data from the U.S. Department of Education's Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, the average cognitive score of pre-kindergarten children in the highest socioeconomic bracket was significantly higher than the average score of students in the lowest socioeconomic bracket. The composition of these socioeconomic brackets was closely tied to race; 34 percent of black children and 29 percent of Hispanic children were in the lowest socioeconomic bracket, compared with just nine percent of white students (Lee and Burkam, 2002). Research has also shown that dropout rates tend to be higher for children who live in poverty. In 2000, young adults living in families with incomes in the lowest 20 percent of all family incomes were six times more likely than their peers from families in the top 20 percent of income distribution to drop out of high school (U.S. Department of Education, 2000c).

Researchers have tried to pinpoint why race and class are such strong predictors of students' educational attainment. In the 1990s, the controversial The Bell Curve claimed that gaps in student achievement were the natural result of variation in students' genetic makeup and natural ability. The book drew severe criticism from various research fields. Many experts highly contested the findings and asserted that achievement gaps were the result of more subtle environmental factors. Being raised in a low-income family, for example, often means having fewer educational resources at home, in addition to poor health care and nutrition-factors that can contribute to lower academic performance (U.S. Department of Education, 2000a; Viadero, 2000). Others point directly to factors within school such as peer pressure, student tracking, negative stereotyping, and test bias (U.S. Department of Education, 2000a; Viadero, 2000).

More recently, scholars have analyzed the effect that certain in-school factors have on student achievement. While it is difficult to isolate the variables that directly impact student achievement, research has shown that good teaching matters (The Teaching Commission, 2004; Hanushek, Kain & Rivkin, 1998). The Education Trust, a Washington-based research and advocacy organization, found that many minority students attend inner-city schools, which are often underfunded. As a result, those students tend to receive poorer-quality instruction, have fewer

high-caliber teachers, and have access to fewer resources (The Education Trust, 2002).

An analysis of the 1999-2000 Schools and Staffing Survey by University of Pennsylvania's Richard Ingersoll for Quality Counts 2003, for example, revealed that students in high-poverty, high-minority schools have less access to highly qualified teachers than do students in low-poverty, low-minority schools. Secondary students in high-poverty schools are twice as likely as those in low-poverty schools to have a teacher who is not certified in the subject he or she teaches. Students in high-poverty, high-minority schools are also more likely to be taught by an inexperienced teacher. Furthermore, teachers in high-poverty schools reported less favorable working conditions than teachers in wealthier schools. Teachers from high-poverty schools were more likely to report that student disrespect and lack of parent involvement were problems (Quality Counts, 2003).

In principle, the public is behind closing the achievement gap. In a 2003 national opinion poll on Americans' attitudes toward public education conducted by Phi Delta Kappan and Gallup, ninety percent of those polled believed closing the achievement gap between white and black and Hispanic students was somewhat or very important. Although most think the gap is a result of factors unrelated to the quality of schooling, a 2001 poll revealed that more than half thought it was the responsibility of public schools and educators to close the gap (Rose & Gallup, 2001, 2003).

Schools are employing a variety of tactics to address the gap. Common reform recommendations include reducing class sizes, creating smaller schools, expanding early-childhood programs, raising academic standards, improving the quality of teachers provided poor and minority students, and encouraging more minority students to take high-level courses (Viadero & Johnston, 2000).

The federal No Child Left Behind Act also takes aim at the achievement gap. It requires states to disaggregate student achievement data by racial subgroups of students, including black and Hispanic students, so that performance gains for all children can be tracked. The law also contains a host of accountability measures that penalize schools that are unable to show achievement gains by all subgroups of students. The hope is that these strict accountability measures will spur across-the-board gains in achievement.

How To Narrow The Achievement Gap Now! Student Intervention Management Cycle

Article Continued from Page 1 Cover

A comprehensive diagnostic assessment process that identifies educational gaps in Math, Language and Reading (Phonics) with pinpoint accuracy, builds Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), and quickly and efficiently brings students back to grade level and beyond.

1. Automated Differentiated Diagnostic Assessment
2. Differentiated Assessment Report Individual/Class
3. Differentiated Individualized Learning Plan
4. Detailed Assessment Progress Breakdown
5. Interactive Adaptive Tutorials
6. Real time Progress Monitoring
7. Automated Post Assessment Results Validation

STEP 1: Student Does Differentiated Diagnostic Assessment

Accurate diagnosis is the first step to any intervention program. It searches to measure student understanding as well as topic knowledge. The program rarely uses multiple choice or true false question formats because of their inherent limitations. Exercises require a degree of process reasoning to solve, and thereby provide more accurate information about the Student's understanding of key concepts. Our diagnostic process uses different question formats to meet the needs of different learning styles, in establishing a student's proficiency. Most often, learning gaps only become evident some time after they occur. Our diagnostic is designed to search for and identify these learning gaps, even if they occurred several grade levels earlier than the current grade of the student.

STEP 2: Student Learning Plan Designed

An intervention programs needs to be targeted and effective. On the basis of information identified in the comprehensive diagnostic assessment, the Solution generates an intervention plan that is specifically designed to meet the individual needs of the student. It is not a one size fits all. Each student begins his/her intervention program at the level of

proficiency identified in the assessment in each and every strand assessed. With the aid of worked examples, narrated instructional aids, and instant feedback, students cannot help but steadily move towards the goal of grade level proficiency. Real time generated reports allow teachers to monitor and time manage student progress from the beginning until completion of their intervention program.

STEP 3: Differentiated Instruction and Grade Recovery

The teaching Module of the Solution provides fully narrated step-by-step instruction in any topic of need to the student. Because different students learn differently, our program has been careful to design this instructional material to meet the needs of different learning styles. Most often, learning takes on a spiral concept with topics taught at higher grade levels relying on student's understanding and recall of foundational material taught in earlier grades. Teachers lack confidence that all their students are competent in foundational concepts before they add another layer of knowledge on top of these concepts. Students that are not competent in the foundational concepts become frustrated when new knowledge is added to what they assumed to know, but don't know.

Our Solution is designed to solve this dilemma. Inbuilt hyperlinks to foundational concepts are provided in the teaching slides. These allow teacher & student to quickly review prerequisite material before continuing with new work. Interactive exercises, and instant feedback actively engage the student in a successful and engaging learning process.

STEP 4: Student Progress Monitoring and Management

Our Solution will drive a step-by-step diagnostic process beginning at the student's current grade level and then move down through earlier grade concepts until it determines the student's grade level proficiency in each curriculum strand. The Solution will then automatically design an individualized lesson plan for each student that tutors them back until they reach grade-level proficiency.

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Pontiac Children are Being Left Behind



By Kevin L. McCormick

For the past few years, my son has played baseball in Pontiac, and each year the experience was increasingly disappointing. There didn't appear to be a central group or person coordinating the registration, team formation, scheduling or anything else. Everything was done by caring parents who were taking on tasks they were not trained to do, nor expected to have to do.

Which then begs the question, "Where is the Pontiac Parks & Recreation department?" What do they do? Is anyone assigned to look out for the interests of the children?

Why has the burden of organizing a youth baseball league fallen on a few motivated parents? Why has the Parks & Recreation

department been invisible in developing and managing programs for the city's children?

How can this not be a priority in a city that has an unemployment rate above 30 percent and struggles with crime?

We need baseball leagues, summer camps, nature activities, educational opportunities and many other programs for the children, especially this summer.

Surrounding communities (Waterford, Auburn Hills, Lake Orion, Clarkston) all have organized baseball leagues for kids of all ages. In addition, they have other outdoor activities for a wide variety of interests. The administrative process is straightforward and organized.

Kids in those communities play in city-owned facilities that are well maintained. Pontiac kids play in facilities where homeless people leave "surprises" in the dugout that are so disgusting that entire fields are abandoned.

Some communities partner with parent organizations to include "extras" like nicer uniforms and additional equipment. Many Pontiac parents dip into already lean household budgets to provide better uniforms (or any uniforms at all) so the kids have a pleasant playing experience.

A review of the parks & recreation section on the City of Pontiac website didn't provide any information on recreation programs. Why is the city not doing more to help the children?

Everyone understands the financial constraints that plague Pontiac. We all know that Fred Leeb, as the city's Emergency Financial Manager controls all financial matters. Other communities have similar financial constraints (minus the EFM), yet they are still able to offer recreational programs.

Parents in Pontiac have the same aspirations as parents in other communities. We want organized activities, acceptable facilities and a choice of programs that offer parents something to choose from.

There are so many philanthropic organizations that offer grants and other assistance to communities seeking it. Major League Baseball for instance, has at least three different avenues for communities to seek assistance in establishing, building or coordinating youth baseball leagues.

Major League Baseball, through its Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) program, its Youth Baseball Academy, MLB Charities or its Urban Youth Academy provide a number of outlets and options for the City of Pontiac to apply for grants and assistance intended to improve the baseball experience for Pontiac children.

Where is the leadership on this? Why has no city official stepped forward to propose an initiative like this? There was some talk by City Council candidates running for office about how important recreation was for the city's youth. Some even referenced statistics that show a positive link between organized

activities and a reduction in youth violence. Has anything been proposed by those candidates who won?

No.

Detroit and Flint both have established partnerships with MLB to gain access to funding, equipment and resources to improve the youth baseball experience.

It doesn't take a lot of money for a city official to organize a group of motivated and concerned people and devise a process for seeking out and applying for assistance from Major League Baseball or any other organization.

Elected city officials should be taking the lead on an initiative like this. Mayor Jukowski should be out in front, talking to civic and community groups and soliciting support, ideas and leaders.

City Council members ought to be talking to community groups in their district and laying out details of how they intend to pursue funds and assistance to improve the parks and recreational facilities in their districts.

It doesn't appear that anything like that is happening. So once again, the parents of Pontiac children are resigned to another summer of kids playing in a haphazard baseball league, in park facilities that are below substandard. Resigned again to accepting standards that would be unacceptable to parents in other communities. Resigned again to watching too many other kids being left out of any beneficial summer activities at all.

Enough is enough. It's time for Pontiac city leadership to stand up and think about the children of Pontiac. Make the commitment. The city's future depends on it.

Kevin McCormick is the founder of Alchemedia Creative, a communications firm that focuses on content development for its clients in every medium of communication they engage in: print, broadcast, internet and social media. He can be reached at Kevin@alchemediacreative.com

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:

My sixteenth birthday is coming up soon! I have been waiting for this day to come for the last fifteen years. Now I think I'll be old enough to be allowed to do some of the things I have wanted to do for at least the last year like wearing makeup, going on dates, learning how to drive and getting a driver's license and planning to get a car for my senior year graduation. My mother and father said that just because I will be turning sixteen does not mean that I am going to have carte blanche around the house. They also said that as far as they were concerned NOTHING will be different, NOTHING will change around here. I don't understand this. I thought turning sixteen was the time when every thing IS supposed to change because I am no longer a child any more, I am a young lady. I have a 4.00 grade point average, I am in band, string quartet, choir and chorale and I participate in theatre and I am enrolled in a program for gifted students where we work on different projects for school and the community and various science fairs. Even though I have a very active extracurricular life, I am still looking forward to being asked to Homecoming, proms, dances and going to the show with my friends and boys. My parents said I should continue to concentrate on my studies and not worry about boys because they will always be there but I would like to go out on a date and wear makeup now. My mother told me not to be in such a hurry to grow up because fast girls only end up getting pregnant and dropping out of school. I don't want to be fast but I am ready to grow up. What do you think?

Signed,
Sweet Sixteen And Ready To Be Seen!

Dear Sweet Sixteen:

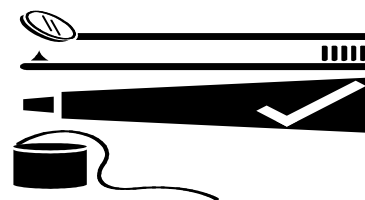
It's easy for you to say that turning sixteen should mean that you will be grown or old enough to do a lot of the things that most teenagers do. That is a problem for your parents because as far as they are concerned, they would prefer that you NEVER grow up. Your dad wants his little girl to remain his little girl forever. Actually and you may not believe this but your parents were sixteen year olds at one time as well. They probably thought it was time for them to do a lot of the things they had been dying to do too. But with aging comes responsibilities. Soon they will want you to start taking over the responsibility for a lot of these things you mentioned that you wanted or wanted to do. Since I am assuming that you are unemployed right now, who do you think will be expected to pay for the makeup and provide you with a vehicle. I'm sure you are not paying the house note, car note, buying groceries or paying the utility bills or buying any of the clothes that you now wear. How would you feel if your parents told you to get a job and save up for your clothes, make up and your car? If you get an allowance they can stop that and put the money in a savings account for you. What do you think about that? Yes it may take ten years for you to save up to get a car, but YOU will have paid for it with the money THEY gave you in the first place. Be glad that you can go to bed at night without having to worry about a roof over your head, having the lights and heat on or food around to eat. That is what it means when they say don't be in such a hurry to grow up. One day and believe me about this; you will wake up and HAVE to contribute to the household bills. That will be a day you will dread. So start slow. A little make up and going out with your girlfriends first before securing that special date should suffice for now. And I would NOT press your parents about the car thing until you start nearing the ripe old age of eighteen. Good Luck!

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*** Registration**

Training Camp (May 3 - May 24)

Organized Teams (May 3 - June 5)

Free Agents (May 3 - July 23)

*** Training Camp**

May 3 - June 11 (Mon - Wed - Fri / 6 Weeks / 18 Days)

*** Draft**

June 19, 2010 (Saturday)

*** Pre-Season**

June 21 - June 25 (Mon - Wed - Fri / 1 Week / 3 Games)

*** Season**

June 28 - August 13 (Mon - Wed - Fri / 5 Weeks / 15 Games)

*** Playoffs**

August 16 - August 27 (Mon - Wed - Fri / 2 Weeks / 6 Games)

*** Who's The Kings & Queens Tournaments**

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*** Champions Night & Awards Banquet @ TBD**

September 11, 2010 (Saturday)

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Economics from page 2

began in the early 1990s and ran through 2007, but the Journal article revealed that whether this nation was in a boom or bust period, Black Americans, unlike any other population group, remained in an economic depression.

A week after the Wall Street Journal story, another unexpected source pointed out the economic inequality in our society. In a speech to the Annual Conference of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, in Washington D.C., Alan Greenspan, former chairman of the Board of Federal Reserve, discussed the economic challenge of eradicating the income and wealth disparities in the society. Greenspan went beyond reporting on the national economy and sounded an alarm to the nation that holds particular concern for Black Americans. He said that despite White American's economic good times, wealth disparities between groups are widening. He said, "I have no illusions that the task of breaking down barriers that produced disparities in income and wealth will be simple." But he warned that this task remains "an important goal because societies cannot thrive, if significant segments perceive their functioning as unjust."

Our national leadership, both Black and White, remains silent to Greenspan's remarks and the Wall Street Journal article. For whatever reasons they continue to avoid the reality that after 400 years Black Americans are still outside of the nation's mainstream economy. Time is running out for Black America to resolve the wealth inequality. If we cannot enter the channels of wealth in the mainstream, we must do the next best thing: take advantage of the fact that we are outside the mainstream economy, and construct a parallel alternative economy within our own Black communities.

Throughout history, nearly everyone, except Black people, has not strived for wealth for themselves. Most of their efforts have gone towards enriching every other group but themselves. It is now time for Black people to create wealth for themselves. The secret to creating wealth is to own and control resources, whether they are natural (land, water, precious minerals and metals) processed (machinery, factories, consumer items, public improvements) or human capital (skilled, literate, labor force). There is no wealth potential in public housing, food stamps, petty crime, drug use, or teen pregnancy. There is no wealth potential in a job. It is the owner and producer of the job who have the wealth potential. We need activities and mechanisms that produce wealth for Black people and their communities. When a group or community begins to acquire resources and manage them for economic benefit of the group, they have created an economy, a mechanism to produce income, wealth, jobs, and business opportunities. It is important that we understand this concept of an economy.

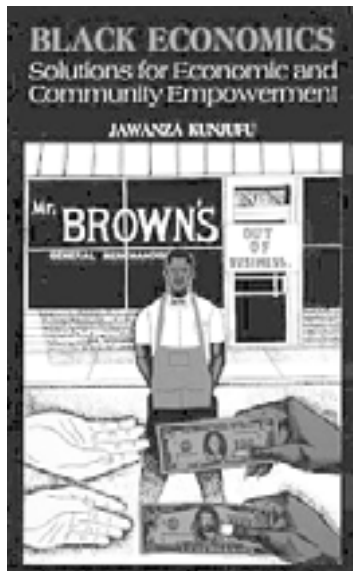
The Pontiac News will tackle this challenge head on over the next 10 months, as always we welcome your comments!

The book listed below talks about what can be done now to improve the economic conditions of the so-called black community.

Black Economics: Solutions for Economic and Community Empowerment

Brand Name: Jawanza Kunjufu To Order call (800) 290-0943
Item#/SKU: 520

Black Economics: Solutions For Economic And Community Empowerment answers the critical questions of why foreign businesses have been so successful in the African American community. But Black Economics does much more than merely identify and describe the dimensions of this chronic financial drain on the black community, it recommends clear, concise, practical and urgently needed empowerment solutions to assist the black community to secure economic gains. Jawanza Kunjufu is candid, knowledgeable and persuasive. Black Economics should be required reading in every economics class and on the lending shelves of ever black community's public library.



The audio below shows what we have done in the past. If we did it once ..we can do it again!

In 1921, the Greenwood Avenue district of Tulsa, Oklahoma was an exemplar of what a motivated African American middle class could accomplish. Dubbed, "The Negro Wall Street,"

Greenwood Avenue was populated by successful African American families, businesses, hospitals and churches. All this would change on May 31. A young black man was accused of attempting to rape a white woman in a Tulsa elevator. Later, a rumor flew through the community that a lynch party was forming. Several young black men formed a defense party. At the courthouse they encountered a group of white men. Strong words (and some say bullets) were let loose. A pitched gun battle began right there on the spot. Soon, the white rioters forgot about their immediate targets and concentrated on looting and burning Greenwood Avenue. The mayor had to call in the National Guard from Oklahoma City to end the violence. In the aftermath, dozens of people, black and white, were dead. The exact body count is still unknown. Greenwood Avenue was completely gone; burned to the ground. Fortunately, many residents refused to be scared away by the riots, and rebuilt the neighborhood. The scars from the ordeal, however, haunt many African American residents of Tulsa to this day.



To Order call (800) 290-0943

Have a story idea?

Call 248-758-1411

or email

ThePontiacNews@sbcglobal.net

Deon'dre Polk Continues Great Wrestling Tradition In Pontiac

By Adam & Monica Polk

How Wrestling Started In Pontiac

Wrestling in Pontiac was introduced by Bill Wilson in the early 1950's at Pontiac Central High School. Bill Wilson moved to Pontiac from Illinois and started coaching wrestling at Pontiac Central High.

Wilson was a standout wrestler in high school and college. As the head coach at Pontiac Central, he mentored Steve Szabo. Later over the years Coach Steve Szabo became the head coach for Pontiac Central High where he coached for forty years.

As Pontiac Northern High School completed its building stages in 1958 as the new high school in Pontiac Bill Wilson started and headed the wrestling program at Pontiac Northern High School. Pontiac Northern has had a respectable wrestling tradition since the 1960's.

Under the late Bill Wilson, Northern won a state championship in 1967 and runner-up in 1968. During the 1970's Bill Wilson mentored Jon Brown for the head coach position.

Jon Brown continued the tradition for twenty-five years after Bill Wilson's departure from wrestling. In the mid 1990's, Brown retired from wrestling, but still remained as the coach to qualify the most state placers in Pontiac wrestling history.

Deon'dre Polk Wrestling History

On December 19, 2009, Deon'dre Polk became the first Oakland County Champion from the new Pontiac High School (Phoenix). In the summer of 2009, the name Pontiac Northern High no longer existed. In September 2009, it became official. The new high school name would be Pontiac High. Polk was on the selected student committee to vote on the new high school name change.

During the summer of 2009, Deon'dre Polk started preparing himself to win the Oakland County Championship. He started training for wrestling in June after qualifying for the state championship in track. For the last time he would wear another Pontiac Northern uniform.

His summer training site was at Pontiac Central four days a week running the four levels of stairwells and utilizing the indoor track in the field house. His strength training consists of weight lifting and a thousand push-ups a day. His wrestling sessions sometime resulted in wrestling his uncle Adam Polk, who wrestled for Pontiac Northern in the early 1990's because no one could give him the push he needed during the wrestling sessions in the summer.

His summer consisted of working a summer job and studying old wrestling tapes of himself, Dan Gable, and many other great All-American wrestlers. Polk competed in twelve Border Wars tournament this summer from June to August, where some were as far away as Ohio to Springport, Michigan, placing first in all but two tournaments.

After summer wrestling, he had to lace up his running shoes to prepare for cross country. Polk holds the cross country record for Pontiac High with a time of nineteen minutes and seventeen seconds. He finished 17th out of 75 runners in the league cross country championships, two runners shy of qualifying for the regional cross country championships.

In November it was time to lace up his wrestling shoes to prepare for his quest to win the Oakland County Championship, which was the goal he set in the summer. His first tourna-

ment at the Grand Blanc Invitational he placed first in the 171 lbs weight class defeating a 5th state ranked wrestler in the semi-finals.

Next, his biggest task a couple of weeks after Grand Blanc Invitational was the Oakland County Championships. Oakland County is a two day tournament and probably the second toughest wrestling tournament next to the state wrestling championships. History has shown over the years that the wrestler who wins the Oakland County Championship will usually win the State Championships.

As a kid he started wrestling at the age of seven years old for the Pontiac Northern Junior Huskies and was a youth feeder wrestling club member that developed kids for wrestling starting from ages 5 to 14 years of age.

He was approached to wrestle by his uncle Tyrone Logan, who wrestled for Pontiac Northern in the late 1980's.

Logan introduced wrestling to many of Deon'dre's peers who would later become teammates. Deon'dre and his teammates have been very successful high school wrestlers. Youth teammate and high school teammate Kiry Williams last season (2009) for Pontiac Northern placed 5th in the Oakland County Championships and he placed 6th in the state championships. Williams was the last state placer between Pontiac Northern and Pontiac Central. Many of Deon'dre's other teammates decided to transfer to other school districts where they are state champions, placers, and qualifiers at their respectful schools.

Tyrone Logan's goals were to keep all these wrestlers together from the age of six up until high school and provide both high schools top ranking wrestlers and contend for another state wrestling championship as Bill Wilson did in 1967.

Polk credited his success to Pontiac Northern Junior Huskies wrestling club formed in 1981 by his granddad Earl Polk and his uncle Larry Logan. The program is currently being managed by his uncle Adam Polk.

Deon'dre Polk's Youth Wrestling Resume

- Overall youth wrestling record 150-30
- AAU Folkstyle State Champion
- AAU Freestyle State Champion
- Qualified for MMWA State Championships
- Qualified for AAU Nationals
- 2x City Champion at Madison Junior High

Polk-Logan-Corr

(Deon'dre Family Wrestling History)

Earl Polk, Deondre's granddad, started wrestling in 1961 at Eastern Junior High School. From Eastern Junior High School, he enrolled at Pontiac Central High School in 1963 where he wrestled for Steve Szabo for four years. Polk was a regional qualifier in wrestling and a 1967 all-state pole vaulter in track and field for Pontiac Central. Polk held the fourteen foot pole vault indoor record for over twenty years.

In 1968, Earl Polk married Gwen Logan, not knowing he would marry into the city's best wrestling family in history.

The late Gwen Logan-Polk was the first child of twelve children of the Logan's family. There were eight boys and four girls of the brother and sister in the Logan's family. At 402 Linda Vista Street in Pontiac is where wrestling started for the Logan's in the backyard and the basement.

(Deondre Polk's Uncles and Cousins)

Larry Logan, the third oldest child started wrestling in the early 1970's for Pontiac

Northern. Larry was the first all-state wrestler in the family. Larry also pursued cross country and track and field.

Danny Logan was the first black state champion wrestler at Pontiac Northern in 1978. He was the second all-state wrestler in the family. Danny pursued football as his other sport.

Aaron Logan graduated from Pontiac Northern in 1982, the third all-state wrestler of the Logan family. He was runner-up in the Oakland County Tournament two years in a row. Aaron's senior year sports were canceled.

Keith Smith (Logan's Nephew) wrestled for Pontiac Northern in 1983.

Darren Johnson (Logan's Nephew) was an all-state wrestler in 1984 for Pontiac Northern.

Tyrone Logan is the youngest of the Logan's. He became the second state champion in 1988 continuing in his brother Danny Logan's footsteps. Tyrone was the first four time Oakland County Champion in their 50 year history. Tyrone was an all-state wrestler. He holds a twenty year record for the most pins in the Oakland County Tournament history. Tyrone was the fourth all-state wrestler in the family. Tyrone also pursued cross country and track and field. (He received a Wrestling Scholarship to Morgan State University)

Earl Dwayne Polk (Logan's Nephew) wrestled for Pontiac Northern in 1988.

Adam Polk (Logan's Nephew) was an all-state wrestler for Pontiac Northern in 1990. Adam was a two time Oakland County Champion. He still holds the record for the fastest pin of 26 seconds in the Oakland County Championship finals. Adam was all-state honorable mention and all-county running back. His record of five touchdowns against Saginaw Heritage in 1989 still remains at Pontiac Northern. Also, Adam ran on the first state championship track and field team for Pontiac Northern in 1990. He was an all-county sprinter. (Received a Football Scholarship to Ferris State University)

Jerome Logan (Logan's Nephew) wrestled for Pontiac Northern in 1998.

Damario Logan (Logan's Nephew) wrestled for Pontiac Northern in 2002.

Deon'dre Polk (Logan's Nephew) currently wrestles for Pontiac High with his cousin Quashawn Logan. Deon'dre is a two time league champion, Oakland County Champion, District Champion, Regional Champion, and made all-state in wrestling; a first in history for the new high school. Deon'dre pursued cross country and track and field as his other sports.

Quashawn Logan (Logan's Nephew) currently wrestles for Pontiac High with his cousin Deon'dre Polk.

Davion Logan (12 years old) (Logan's Nephew) currently wrestles for the Pontiac Jr. Huskies wrestling club.

Tyrone Logan Jr. (10 years old) (Logan's Nephew) currently wrestles for the Pontiac Jr. Huskies wrestling club.

Julius Adam Polk (6 years old) (Logan's Nephew) currently wrestles for the Pontiac Jr. Huskies wrestling club. Julius placed 3rd in the 2009 AAU State Championships.

Kenny Corr (Deon'dre's Cousin) was an all-state wrestler in 1967 for Pontiac Northern. Kenny wrestled on Pontiac Northern's first and only state championship wrestling team. Corr was an Oakland County Champion in 1967.

For Deon'dre Polk, the fruit does not fall too far from the tree when it comes to wrestling. His mission is to be the first all-state wrestler for the new high school. His record

this season is 42-1 after winning the District Championships on Saturday February 13, 2010 at Rochester Adams High School. Polk won his second straight OAA league title on February 5, 2010. On February 20, 2010, Polk won the Regional Championships, which qualify him for the State Championship at the Palace of Auburn Hills on March 4-6, 2010. On March 6, 2010, Polk completed his high wrestling career with a 6th place ranking in the state finals. His overall record is 47-4 and he ends his season as an all-state wrestler.

Nonetheless, he still feels he is not where he wants to be. His goal is to be the 2010 160 pound state champion in division one. Overall, he is ranked third in the state of Michigan at 160 pounds in division one.

"I will not let the ranking go to my head. I am as hungry as a fifth or sixth ranked guy. I have never been so hungry before in my life". (Deon'dre Polk)

Besides wrestling, Deon'dre has excelled in the classroom by scoring a 22 on his ACT test as a sophomore.

He maintains a 2.8 GPA in his honors classes. His goal academically is to have an above 3.0 GPA when he graduates from high school. He has already been accepted to Michigan State, Central Michigan, Western Michigan, and Eastern Michigan

Pontiac's History of Oakland County Wrestling Champions

Pontiac Northern High

Winfred Miracle 1960

Davide Fox 1960

Ken Kimmer 1961

*Skip McIlroy 1962

Don Meyer 1962

Dave Beebe 1963

Dave Oswalt 1964

*Skip McIlroy 1964

Bruce Tipplin 1964

Mike Hester 1965

Tom Kell 1966

*Ben Moon 1966

Frank Lafferty 1966

*Ben Moon 1967

John Wilson 1967

Kenneth Corr 1967

Tom Mash 1969

John Dunn 1969

*Bob Siggall 1970

*Bob Siggall 1971

Ken Harrold 1971

James Moore 1978

*Tyrone Logan 1985

*Tyrone Logan 1986

*Tyrone Logan 1987

*Tyrone Logan 1988

*Adam Polk 1988

*Adam Polk 1989

Pat Duncan 1991

Pontiac Central

*Pete Beevers 1961

*Pete Beevers 1962

Harold Whiting 1962

Charles Mason 1968

Tom Singleton 1970

Marvin McClellan 1976

John Tipton 1980

*John Cody 1986

*John Cody 1987

Pontiac High

Deon'dre Polk (2009)

*Multiple Championships

-Community Calendar-

Oakland County Employment Diversity Council (OCEDC) Monthly Diversity Educational Forum & Annual Membership Meeting

Calling All OCEDC Members!

The General/Annual Meeting of OCEDC will be held on Thursday, June 17, 2010 and promises to be an exciting event. We will be discussing the future of OCEDC and soliciting your input. If you have ideas to improve OCEDC, we definitely encourage you to come and contribute to the meeting. To find out more about the event, visit http://www.ocedc.net/June10_Event_Flyer1.pdf - Meeting time is 1pm - 3pm - see event flyer for location

During the meeting we will also be conducting OCEDC Board Elections and By-Law Amendment voting. Your vote counts and will help facilitate the success of OCEDC going forward. Details about the election and the proposed By-law changes can be found at <http://www.ocedc.net/Elections.asp>.

Please note that there is only one vote per company, per location. The eligible designated voter must submit the Voter Eligibility Form (located inside the "Elections Packet") the day of elections, in order to receive a ballot. Voting is done on-site during the meeting.

As a reminder, in order to have an accurate food count, registration is necessary. To register for the June event please visit http://www.ocedc.net/June10_Event_Reg1.doc. For information contact Frank Russell @ 248-858-5204 or email russellf@ocedc.net

Robert "Sy" Green Memorial Golf Outing

Date: Friday June 11, 2010
 Time: 8:00 a.m. registration, 9:00 a.m. shotgun start
 Location: Pontiac Municipal Golf Course
 800 Golf Drive
 Pontiac, MI
 Registration: Register on line at www.villagebasketballcamp.com. Cost for golf, lunch and dinner is \$100. Payment can be made on line through PayPal or a check can be mailed to The Village Basketball Camp, PO Box 80422, Rochester, MI 48308.

Proceeds from the golf outing support The Village Basketball Camp.

Juneteenth Celebrations NCBW & NAACP Partner

The NCBW Oakland County Chapter will be partnering with the Southern Oakland County Chapter of the NAACP to host Juneteenth Celebrations.

What: Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the US. It is an opportunity to build community awareness about the African-American Holiday. The color red is the heart of the celebration and signifies the blood shed during the Civil War.

When: June 19, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (doors open at 3:00 p.m.)

Where: Southfield Parks and Rec., Room #115, 26000 Evergreen, Southfield, MI

Cost: Free

Activities include: Music, Strolling Historic Characters, Storytelling, Dancers, and more! Details will be discussed at the next chapter meeting (May 21, 2010).

The celebration is sponsored by Beans & Cornbread, FedEx Office, and Meijer. It is FREE and open to the public. For more information call (248) 352-9188.

This activity will be in place of the June meeting and will be the last NCBW activity before our Summer Break.

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