

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY NOMINATE OAKLAND COUNTY CIRCUIT JUDGE DENISE LANGFORD MORRIS,
AS THEIR CANDIDATE TO BE PLACED ON BALLOT FOR SUPREME COURT IN THE NOV. 3RD ELECTIONS**

August 30 - September 14, 2010

The Pontiac News

A POSITIVE NEWS SOURCE WITH A LOCAL FLAVOR

VOL. 2 ISSUE 4



Former Mayor Clarence Phillips Dies at his Home!



Mayor Clarence Phillips who also served the City of Pontiac as State Representative and City Councilman, died at his home on Wednesday evening September 1, 2010. He is survived by his mother, wife Lorene and three sons. Funeral arrangements will be made by Cobb's Funeral Home.

The Pontiac News offers its condolences to the family and friends of Mayor Phillips!

Casting Motor City Film & TV Training Studio Plan to open Film & TV Training School in Pontiac on October 1, 2010

You're invited to join us for an informational seminar on September 13, 2010 from 1 PM to 3:30 PM

RSVP: cmcfilmstv@gmail.com or 248.595.8660

Driving Map & directions at www.castingmotorcity.com

(see story inside on Page 4)

COLOR BLIND

7PM Wednesday, October 6, 2010

Schoolcraft Community College – Vista Tech Center Room 550
18600 Haggerty Rd. – Livonia, MI 48152

A discussion with essayist, author and educator Tim Wise, author of *Color-blind: The Rise of Post-Racial Politics and the Retreat from Racial Equity*

Admission is free to the public, but pre-registration is necessary.

Registration is available online at www.miroundtable.org or by contacting Tanaya Parker by phone at 313-870-1500. Presented by the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion

Current and Former Pontiac School Board Trustees Join and Support Dr. Thomas Maridada in Aggressive Plan to Establish The New & Improved Pontiac School District!

On August 10, 2010, a historic Education Summit took place at the Centerpoint Marriott Hotel in Pontiac. This event was hosted by Dr. Thomas Maridada, invited guest included current Board President Carol Turpin and VP Karen Cain. Former Pontiac School District Board of Trustees members in attendance included Brenda Causey Mitchell, Alma Bradley Pettress, Gregory Raspbery, Elick Shorter, Judge Preston Thomas, Eirther Seay Bey, Grant Mason, Hazel Cade, Gloria Carlisle, Willie Redmond, Tommaletta Hughes and Mary Bouie. Others in attendance included State Rep Tim Melton, Dr. Robert Martin and Pontiac High students Mr. Oscar Christy and Ms. Tiffany Cannon.

During meeting Dr. Maridada presented a chart showing the decline in student enrollment from 12,000+ in 2000 to 6,000 in 2010. The question was asked by Dr. Maridada "Why did the community lose confidence in the school district" Eirther Seay Bey, stated that "Poor Customer Service" was the cause of this loss of confidence. Tommaletta Hughes, commented that "Internal criticism by staff" was one cause. Mary Bouie indicated that "Lack of parental support and respect" were the culprits. Mrs. Willie Redmond offered "General city deterioration and lack of ability to control students" as contributing causes of this loss of confidence.

Dr. Maridada also asked the question "What can be done to inform citizens about the new initiatives that have been put in place to improve the district" Grant Mason stated that we must get the message out using any and all methods including door to door contact with area residents. Gloria Carlisle, also stated that informing the community of the positive changes



School Board members current & past

was critical, including soliciting grandparent support. Gregory Raspbery offered door to door canvassing and community dialogue as the key to community buy-in and support.

Many other issue were discussed during the Summit. Dr. Maridada concluded the meeting by asking the former board members to become part of a "think tank" to help move the new initiatives forward. This group would meet with him on a quarterly basis to discuss and come up with solutions to the many challenges faced by the district. All in attendance pledged their support!

(see details of Phase I of new initiatives on pages 8 & 9)



Carol Turpin, School Board President



Dr. Maridada with students Oscar Trusty and Tiffany Cannon

SAVE THE DATE

Friday October 29, 2010 – Women In Leadership Summit At The Met Hotel in Troy

For information about this event contact Event Chairperson Kiesha Speech 248-586-8925 or speechk@ocedc.net - To Register complete the registration form on our website www.ocedc.net and fax to 248-975-9742, or email to russellf@ocedc.net

Sponsorship opportunities are available for this event! Call or Email Frank Russell at OCEDC at (248) 858-5204 russellf@ocedc.net today for details! - Cost to Attend this event is \$50 Single Ticket, \$45 each for 5 or more Tickets, or \$400 Table of 10 Tickets.

Presented by:





**Publisher
R. Frank
Russell**

The Pontiac News commends the School Board of Trustees under the leadership of President Carol Turpin and VP Karen Cain for providing the support to Dr. Thomas Maradada and his team as they lay the groundwork for the Transformation and Reformation

of the School District of the City of Pontiac. We also ask that the citizens of this community support this bold and aggressive plan to make the Pontiac School District a World Class District Again! (Please see inside pages 8 and 9 for plan details)



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The Academy of Forensics and Dramatic Arts



**A new acting school is opening
in downtown Rochester!**

The school offers a wide variety
of classes for children ages 5-18.

Classes start the week of September 13
and run until the week of December 13.

Scholarships are available.

Contact Liz at (248)520-2054
or liz@theafda.com

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Pontiac

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**Remax in the Hills
Shelba Frazier
248-646-8642**

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OAKLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC BLACK CAUCUS

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2010
7pm to 8pm



44004 Woodward Ave
Suite 100 Bloomfield MI

GM Minority Suppliers and Dealers Conduct Job Fair In City of Pontiac

by Kevin L. McCormick



Kevin L. McCormick The General Motors Minority Supplier Council and GM Minority Dealers Association, along with Pontiac-area churches and the City of Pontiac, hosted a unique ride and drive event featuring the latest Chevrolet, Buick, Cadillac and GMC products. This first-of-its-kind ride and drive event in downtown Pontiac also included a job fair. Over 25 leading minority-owned companies were on hand accepting resumes at the event.

"The unemployment rate in Pontiac exceeds 30 percent according to data from the state of Michigan," said Leon Richardson, Chairman and CEO of ChemicoMays LLC and Chairman of the GM Minority Supplier Council. "Many of

the participating 25 minority-owned companies collectively have hundreds of job openings, and we felt that Pontiac was the best place to have a unique event like this."

The event was open to the public. Attendees were able to see and test drive the latest, top-of-the-line GM vehicles. The new, highly anticipated Chevy Volt was also on display and was available for attendees to ride in.

The purpose of the event was to give attendees an opportunity to experience GM vehicles and ask questions without pressure. Questions about purchasing or leasing a vehicle were addressed by loan officers from local financial institutions, and GMAC was available to provide information on financial literacy.

The job fair portion of the event recruited potential new employees, built new relationships in the Pontiac community, communicated a sense of pride about the city of Pontiac and highlighted the contribution of



Photos by DERRICK WHITE/Whitehouse Photography

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rev. Douglas Jones of Welcome Baptist Church in Pontiac and U.S. Congressman Gary Peters enjoy the festivities of the 2010 Ride and Drive event in Pontiac sponsored by the GM Minority Supplier Council and the GM Minority Dealers Association.



Bishop William Murphy of New Mount Moriah Church in Pontiac test drives a new Cadillac Escalade Hybrid vehicle at the 2010 Ride and Drive event in Pontiac sponsored by the GM Minority Supplier Council and the GM Minority Dealers Association.

minority suppliers and dealers to the community and local economy. Pontiac has a high proportion of GM employees and retirees.

"As minority suppliers, we play an intricate role in the community by providing employment opportunities, academic scholarships, and leadership development," continued Richardson. "General Motors also believes in community outreach, and their support of the Pontiac 2010 GM Ride & Drive allows consumers, GM employees and retirees and Pontiac city officials to directly experience how corporations, minority suppliers, dealers and the community are all tied together."

"This was a wonderful opportunity to do something really special for Pontiac citizens, local church members and the general public," comments Reverend Douglas P. Jones, Chairman of the Greater Pontiac Community Coalition. "This event directly relates to the viability of the Pontiac commu-

nity. Minority suppliers help to provide jobs and financial security for thousands of people in metropolitan Detroit. This Ride and Drive event is a tremendous opportunity to work in partnership with GM, its minority suppliers and minority dealers."

"There are early signs of an economic recovery in the automotive sector, and with GM in particular," continued Richardson. "As minority suppliers, we consider the employment of citizens in the communities where we do business vital to long-term growth. Taking and reviewing resumes at this event is another way to help this community."

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

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

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WE HAVE MOVED
See New Address Below



— What's Happening In Pontiac —

Casting Motor City Film & TV Training Studio Jobs-Jobs-Jobs...

"Job's in show business is what it's all about" said Kathy McKee recently discussing her new satellite school opening in Pontiac on Oct 1, 2010.

Casting Motor City Film & TV Training Studio is a popular & successful Film & TV training state licensed proprietary school, with the 41 year show business veteran performer Kathy McKee as the director. The facility is within the one time YMCA located at 131 University, Pontiac MI. This new location will be the satellite studio for all training classes for CMC, the complex owned by the well known Oakland property owner Jim Albright.

Casting Motor City offers unique courses in the entertainment industry and is the only state licensed school offering what the industry call's "above the line" classes, those are acting, Improv, Screenwriting, Production & the entry level Production Assistant. We have the most experienced show business industry teachers in the area, all our teachers are professionals in the entertainment industry.

In just a short amount of time graduates of CMC will have the opportunity to get jobs throughout the industry including employment on Major Feature Films & Independent films, commercials, music videos, theatre and interactive projects, along with film and television shows.

CMC programs are targeting the needs of the film industry, to Hollywood standards, 8-12-24 week intensive hands-on training is offered. After completing this thorough preparation, CMC graduates are then fully prepared to land jobs in the entertainment industry, some of the most recent productions that CMC have placed students were: The live action TV series Kap Katz, FTM a reality show documentary, and the feature film The Narrow Place. With Michigan now being a major production location for Hollywood film & TV makers with hundreds of projects coming here to Michigan there

will be no shortage of work on sets for the properly trained industry professional.

While Casting Director Kathy McKee has promised to help develop local talented people & prepare them for jobs in the new emerging film industry. McKee is excited to teach & share her experiences in Hollywood with the people of Detroit her home town. Kathy McKee, herself, has enjoyed a 41-year career in show business that has taken her around the globe. She has worked with such legends as Richard Pryor, Sammy Davis Jr. and Bill Cosby & Johnny Carson, SNL, Billy Crystal, and of course her sister well known actress Lonette McKee.

"It's really important to me to help the people of Michigan and my community take advantage of the jobs that the film industry is creating by being here.

In addition to training & the school, Kathy McKee is a Casting Director registered with the states film office. Kathy McKee Organic Casting is a Michigan-based company with contacts in Los Angeles and New York and around the world she is dedicated to casting real people of all shapes, sizes, ages, and ethnicities in feature films, television shows and commercials.

She has the state's largest extra database with training offered for all those who wish to work as extras in film or TV.

Funding for programs in film industry training are offered through Michigan Works NWLB & other grant & funding programs.

Contact: Kathy McKee
Casting Motor City Film & TV Training Studio
Phone: 248-595-8660 | 248-376-9550
Email: cmcfilmstv@gmail.com
www.castingmotorcity.com
or
Kashif Russell - Pontiac Recruitment Specialist
586 441 6544
kas_russ@yahoo.com

Another Pontiac Positive

Deborah L. Dean was born and raised in Pontiac and attended the Pontiac Public Schools. She is a 1973 graduate of Pontiac Central High.

Throughout her youth and adulthood, she was always encouraged by her mother to take advantage of education opportunities which included courses at Oakland Community College, Marygrove College, Bakers College, Oakland University and most recently the University of Phoenix.

On June 19, 2010, she accomplished a life long goal, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice.

Mrs. Dean's desire is to work with youth and women with the hope that her struggles and determination to persevere will encourage them to do so.

She is very active at church and attends Greater Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist, where Rev. Roger Jackson is pastor. Her husband, Rev. Tommy G. Dean, is an associate minister. He has been very supportive and inspirational throughout her educational journey.

Deborah is the eldest of six siblings and



Deborah L. Dean

out of the four generations is the first to receive a Bachelors Degree.

Another dream was to have her mother who passed away unexpectedly on August 26, 2009, witness her accomplishments.

Mrs. Dean has been employed for 12 years with Oakland County and is a secretary in the Purchasing Division.

Her focus is to "Keep God First" and everything else will fall in place.

Bill Maxey Travels to Nations Capital to discuss Veterans Homeless Crisis

H. Bill Maxey Adjutant- American Legion Cook-Nelson Post #20 travels to Washington DC September 15, 2010 to discuss Secretary Shinseki 5-year plan for US-Veterans "to end homelessness".

Discussion Priorities include

- Preventive measures-discharge planning-incarcerated Veterans re-entering society
- Supportive services-low income Veterans/families
- Expanded efforts-education, jobs,

health care, and housing

- Collaborate with SBA and GSA for contact opportunities to create jobs

Partial Budget Breakdown:

- \$500 million specific programs
- \$26 millions President initiative
- \$144 million Grants/per Diem
- \$75 million Section (8) rental assistance vouchers/case management

**Cook-Nelson will be one of two lead facilitators

Law Offices of **CYRIL C. HALL, P.C.** Attorney And Counselor At Law



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Pontiac, Michigan 48341
(Phone) 248-333-7880
(Fax) 248-333-7924
Email: CYRILHALLLAW@SBCGLOBAL.NET

In the event that you or your loved ones, friends and/or acquaintances find themselves in need of legal service, do not hesitate to contact me. For informational purposes, you should be aware that we provide the following, but not limited to legal services.

- 1. All Personal Injury matters:**
 - a. Automobile/Motorcycle accidents:**
 - b. Slip and Fall accidents on private property/businesses and other locations**
 - c. Dog Bite: and**
 - d. Police Brutality and Abuse/Excessive Force**
- 2. Medical Malpractice/Nursing Home Negligence**
- 3. Contract Matters/Real Estate/Business Transactions:**
 - a. Automobile and Home Insurance**
- 4. Probate Matters: Wills - Trust - Estate Planning: and Guardianship and Conservatorship.**
- 5. Workmen's Compensation and Social Security Claims.**
- 6. All Criminal matters Felony/Misdemeanors and Traffic.**

— What's Happening In Oakland County —

September Business Workshops Offered By Oakland County



L. Brooks Patterson

Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend seminars in September, 2010 offered by the Oakland County Business Center. Business Basics workshops are now offered in the evenings on alternating months.

Contact: Steve Huber, Marketing and Communications, Economic Development and Community Affairs Phone Number: 248-858-1848 The Web site address for Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services Workshops is oakgov.com/peds/calendar.

FastTrac® NewVenture is an intensive, 10-week program that helps you evaluate business opportunities and develop an action plan for owning your own business. Written by entrepreneurs for aspiring entrepreneurs, FastTrac® NewVenture offers essential business information to help you develop your entrepreneurial skills and build your business on a strong foundation. FastTrac® NewVenture provides the opportunity to objectively evaluate your concept and plans for moving forward, begin building an infrastructure for your business operations and processes, understand how to access the human, financial and business resources, and build an actionable business plan.

- **When:** The class is from Tuesday, September 7 through November 16 (ten consecutive sessions) from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford.
- **Registration:** For pre-registration and location specifics, visit our website at oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.
- **Cost:** The fee is \$700. Full or partial scholarships are available.

CEED Microloan Orientation - Many small businesses face obstacles when trying to obtain a business loan. The recognition of the serious need for working capital for existing businesses, start-up or expansion, equipment purchases, and job creation is not the priority it once was. If you have a need for alternative financing consider the MicroLoan Program. Discover the requirements and process necessary to apply and obtain a microloan.

- **When:** Wednesday, September 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- **Where:** Southfield Public Library, 26300 Evergreen Road, Southfield.
- **Registration:** For pre-registration and location specifics, visit our website at oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.
- **Cost:** This workshop is free, but pre-registration is required.

Ruth Johnson Wins Republican Nomination For Secretary Of State



Ruth Johnson

State Republicans recently nominated Oakland County Clerk Ruth Johnson as their Secretary of State candidate in the November election.

"I am very honored by the nomination and will work hard for

5 Keys to Successful Financial Management for Small Business - Fiscal Management Tools for the Non-financial Manager. This workshop provides the business owner an in-depth look at the essentials of using financial information to make effective decisions about improving their business performance. Topics include Ways to improve your company's cash flow, How to use the balance sheet and income statement to diagnose business problems and opportunities, How breakeven analysis helps you make better pricing and business decisions and How to insure you have enough working capital to support growth.

- **When:** Wednesday, September 8, from 8:00 a.m. to Noon
- **Where:** Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford.
- **Registration:** For pre-registration and location specifics, visit our website at oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.
- **Cost:** The fee is \$25. No refunds.

Pre-Business Research - Are you thinking of starting your own business and want to research your business idea? Are you a business owner who wants to understand which research sources to use for your business plan and where to find the information you need? Presented by The Oakland County Business Center, The Entrepreneur's Source, Oakland County Market Research Department, and a Business Reference Librarian.

- **When:** Thursday, September 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **Where:** Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford.
- **Registration:** For pre-registration and location specifics, visit our website at oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.
- **Cost:** This workshop is free, but pre-registration is required.

FastTrac® Growth Venture (Venture Forward) is an intensive, 10-week program designed for owners, CEOs and top management team members of businesses with at least two years of operating experience. Focused on issues most important to business health and growth, attendees gain knowledge to make critical decisions about their business and strategy, investigate next-stage growth and opportunity, plan for strategic growth, build and maintain a competitive advantage and maximize cash flow for profitability.

- **When:** The class is from Friday, September 10 through November 19 (ten consecutive sessions), from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- **Where:** Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford.
- **Registration:** For pre-registration and location specifics, visit our website at oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call

(248) 858-0783.

Cost: The fee is \$299 thanks to partial scholarships.

Sales I: Effective Networking - You're up and running, right? And still busting your butt, but not getting the results you want? You're asking yourself, "Is this it? What am I missing? Learn the secrets and skills that will give you a tremendous competitive edge and dramatically improve your income! Learn how to give an effective 60 second elevator pitch, learn valuable networking tips and how to network effectively and get Invited In! Presented by Denise Roberts, Sales Partners-Troy.

- **When:** Wednesday, September 15, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon
- **Where:** Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford.
- **Registration:** For pre-registration and location specifics, visit our website at oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.
- **Cost:** The fee is \$40, which includes all materials. No refunds.

Fundamentals of Starting a Business is a seminar for anyone thinking about going into business. Participants examine their entrepreneurial skills, learn how to implement their ideas and receive a list of pitfalls to avoid when starting a business.

- **When:** Thursday, September 16, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon
- **Where:** Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford.
- **Registration:** For pre-registration and location specifics, visit our website at oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.
- **Cost:** The fee is \$30. No refunds.

Fundamentals of Writing a Business Plan is a workshop for small business owners who are developing a plan to serve as their road map to success. Workshop participants will learn what elements are commonly found in effective

plans and will work on developing each of these for their own business. Assistance in the process as well as information on resources will be provided.

- **When:** Thursday, September 23, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon
- **Where:** Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford.
- **Registration:** For pre-registration and location specifics, visit our website at oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.
- **Cost:** The fee is \$40, which includes all materials. No refunds.

QuickBooks® Essentials - This introduction to small business financial management provides an overview of accurate record-keeping, report interpretation and utilization, and management of the variety of tools provided in this system. Presented by Kildal Services, LLC.

Session I

- Basic accounting terminology
- New company file setup
- Customizing forms and letters
- Working with bank accounts

Session II

- Invoicing customers
- Receiving payments & making deposits
- Entering vendor bills/paying vendor bills
- Using credit card accounts

- **When:** Thursday, September 30
Session One from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Session Two from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Where:** Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford.
- **Registration:** For pre-registration and location specifics, visit our website at oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.

• **Cost:** Session I: \$40/person, Session II: \$40/person. Both Sessions: \$75/person. No refunds.
Includes: 60 day QuickBooks® software demo. Laptop highly recommended.

County Announces Family Market Day Encourages Healthy Eating

Saturday, September 11, 2010 • 10am- 2pm
-Free Games, Free Activities, and Free Admission-

County Commissioner Marcia Gershenson, the Oakland County Health Division, Oakland Schools, Oakland County Parks and Recreation, Oakland County Youth Assistance, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, Health Plus, Beaumont Hospital, Medical Network One, YMCA, the Baldwin Center, Michigan State University Extension, Botsford Hospital, Dr. Paul Erhmann, Dr. Dan Tomanello and Dietician Tonia Reinhardt of Wayne State University are part of the nutritionally focused Healthy Oakland Partnership.

The Healthy Oakland Partnership (HOP) announces Family Market Day at Oakland County's Farmers' Market in Waterford to promote eating fresh fruits, vegetables and physical activities for all. The event is scheduled for Saturday, September 11, 2010, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., and is located at 2350 Pontiac Lake Road in Waterford, Michigan.

At this event, there will be many activities for the public to enjoy such as:

- Free fun activities for kids
- Yoga to stretch your body and mind
- Blood pressure and cholesterol health screenings
- A chance to win great prizes and giveaways
- A limited amount of coupons to receive fresh fruits and vegetables will be available on a first-come basis to individuals in need.
- A \$10 gift certificate will be available for seniors over 65 and anyone with EBT, bridge cards or food assistance cards contact Suzanne Weinert at 248-452-9174.

Free coupons are available for local produce. For more information, call this number 248-452-9174. For more event information, visit the website at www.oakgov.com/health/initiatives/HOP <<http://www.oakgov.com/health/initiatives/HOP>> .

— 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

International Conference On Nkrumah Attracts World Class Scholars



Kofi Annorh
African Correspondent

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

Source: Gibril Koroma with additional reporting from James Chang

For the first time in Canada, an international conference on the legendary Ghanaian leader Osagyefo (the Redeemer) Dr. Kwame Nkrumah was held at the Richmond campus of British Columbia's Kwantlen University August 19-21.

The conference attracted 150 participants and over 30 scholars from Africa, Australia, the U.S.A., the U.K. the Caribbean, and Canada. Presenters and attendees were deeply engaged as they exchanged stimulating ideas and shared lively discussions about the philosophies and ideals of Kwame Nkrumah and the state of Africa.

The conference celebrated the centennial

of Nkrumah's birthday as international panelists gathered to discuss his impact on African and world politics, pan-Africanism, colonialism and post-colonialism, globalization, and the African Diaspora. Keynote addresses were given by Dr. Molefi K. Asante, one of the world's most published contemporary experts on African-American history and culture, Dr. Gillian Creese, professor of sociology at University of British Columbia and researcher of immigration and settlement in Canada, and a number of other respected scholars who revisited and discussed Nkrumah's outstanding accomplishments.

Reflecting on the success of the conference, event organizer and Kwantlen sociology faculty member Dr. Charles Quist-Adade remarked, "For three days, Kwantlen was treated to an intellectually stimulating exchange of ideas by scholars from diverse disciplines and from different parts of the world. Many of the delegates paid glowing tribute to Kwantlen for hosting the conference and are eagerly awaiting the second Kwame Nkrumah International Conference."

Kwantlen students Nasim Mosallaei and Sheila Wong who helped with the coordination of the conference felt inspired and enlightened after participating in the event.

Mosallaei commented, "I felt privileged to be able to listen to some of the many discussions regarding the legacy of [Dr.]. Nkrumah and the current state of the continent of Africa. In the end I met a lot of influential people with a lot of ideas on Africa and I walked away from the conference having learned a great deal more about Kwame Nkrumah."

Wong added, "I was touched by everyone's genuine concern for Africa's

conditions and their interest in the continuation of Nkrumah's philosophies and ideals. No doubt, the Kwame Nkrumah International Conference has inspired many new ideas, thoughts, and renewed hope for everyone involved."

Nkrumah led Ghana to independence on March 6, 1957 after more than a century of British colonial rule, the first in independence in sub-Saharan Africa. He is regarded as one of Africa's greatest statesmen. BBC listeners in Africa voted him Africa's Man of the Millennium in 1999, and in 1978 the United Nations awarded Nkrumah a posthumous gold medal during a session of the UN committee against the racist regime in South Africa.

As should be expected, the conference attracted world class Pan-Africanist scholars like Professor Molefi Kete Asante of Temple University in the United States, Dr. Hakim Adi of Middlesex University, Dr. Atukwei Okai, Dr. Kofi Anyidoho, both of the University of Ghana, Dr. Afua Cooper of the University of Toronto and many others.

In his keynote address Asante announced that at least 17 African countries have agreed to constitute themselves into the United States of Africa with more expected to join soon. A United States of Africa was one of President Nkrumah's pet projects in Ghana before he was overthrown in a Central Intelligence of America (CIA) sponsored coup led by a combination of Ghanaian military and police officers while he was on a visit to Vietnam in 1966.

Molefi Asante, the foremost living proponent of the academic discipline of Africology revealed that various committees in several African countries are currently working on mechanisms to create a continental government within the shortest possible time. Speaking on the topic Prospects for World in Nkrumah's Unity Projects, Asante noted that the Ghanaian leader's vision was all-encompassing with the central tenet being the establishment and promotion of the "African Personality," free from neo-colonial and other entanglements.

In his welcome address, one of the organizers of the conference, Dr. Charles Quist-Adade noted the just ended conference "will probably" be the last event in the year-long series of activities around the world to commemorate the centenary anniversary of the birth of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, "Africa's Man of the Millennium and perhaps the most famous pan-Africanist after Marcus Garvey and W. E. B. Du Bois."

Quist-Adade said it was noteworthy that the conference was being held at the confluence of the anniversaries of several monumental events in Africa, the most important of which is the fiftieth anniversary of what is popularly referred to as "The Year of Africa."

"The year 1960 witnessed a host of

events, including the end of the Mau Mau resistance in Kenya, mass riots during Charles de Gaulle's trip to Algeria, the murder of sixty-nine non-violent protestors in South Africa's Sharpeville Massacre, and independence for seventeen African nations," he said.

He added that while the year was marked by both the entrenched brutality of European colonial rule and the birth of new African nations, there was an overwhelming sense of optimism for a vibrant, independent, and self-sufficient Africa.

The Kwantlen University professor revealed that conference also coincided with the twentieth anniversary of the release of Nelson Mandela from jail, which signaled the demise of the apartheid system in South Africa.

As well, he pointed out, "this conference coincides with the 125th anniversary of the Berlin Conference, which partitioned Africa among the European imperial powers. Finally, this conference coincides with yet another important milestone in the annals of Africa's liberation movement, the sixty-fifth anniversary of the fifth Pan-African Congress held in Manchester, of which Nkrumah was organizing secretary."

He further noted that the Kwame Nkrumah International Conference (KNIC) was also being held at a time when Africa's continental body, the African Union (AU), had accepted and is working on Nkrumah's blueprint for a continental union government. "As one of the founders of the predecessor continental body, the Organization of African Unity, Nkrumah had single-mindedly and stoutly campaigned for a continental union government of Africa to pool its vast natural and human resources for the benefit of the continent's peoples," he said.

Quist-Adade said in July 2009, the AU issued a "Declaration on the Celebration of the 100th Birthday Anniversary of Kwame Nkrumah," praising him as "an advocate of pan-Africanism who played a vital role in the establishment of our Continental Organization and the liberation of the Continent."

"But as the AU progresses towards Nkrumah's vision of a United States of Africa, an intense debate rages in both academia and the political sphere as to whether Africa is ready for a continental union government. The debate also revolves around which is the best route to a continental government: a gradual, piecemeal route through regional economic unions, or a radical and immediate political and economic union, as proposed by Nkrumah," he pointed out.

Asante however was very optimistic. He proudly announced that there will be a United States of Africa by the year 2017 if everything goes as planned.

The Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS)

The Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) is a regional group of fifteen countries, founded in 1975. Its mission is to promote economic integration in "all fields of economic activity, particularly industry, transport, telecommunications, energy, agriculture, natural resources, commerce, monetary and financial questions, social and cultural matters"

THE FIFTEEN (15) WEST AFRICAN STATES THAT CONSTITUTE ECOWAS

The Republic of BENIN
BURKINA FASO
The Republic of CABO VERDE
The Republic of COTE D'IVOIRE
The Republic of GAMBIA
The Republic of GHANA
The Republic of GUINEE
The Republic of GUINEE BISSAU
The Republic of LIBERIA
The Republic of MALI
The Republic of NIGER

The Federal Republic of NIGERIA
The Republic of SENEGAL
The Republic of SIERRA LEONE
TOGOLESE Republic

The Institutions of the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) are as follows:

The Commission
The Community Parliament
The Community Court OF Justice
ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID)

The ECOWAS Commission and the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development, more often called The Fund are its two main institutions designed to implement policies, pursue a number of programmes and carry out development projects in Member States. Such projects include intra-community road construction and telecommunications; and agricultural, energy and water resources development.



Mosaic Ghana Africa

In April 2011, **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

Change is happening to our city and this is a good time to be excited!



Councilman Randy Carter

We have seen a lot of changes in our city over the past few months. These changes involve our citizens getting directly involved with the city's future. Many plans are being put in place by our executive and

areas such as Telegraph road.

When we involve our children in the growth and restoration of our city, we teach them responsibility at an early age. It is very important that we lead by example. We are seeing the results of this all over the city. Youth groups are forming. Our Citizens District Councils and our churches are implementing programs that invite our young people to proactively get involved with the direction of our city. Groups such as Elam Health Fair, YAPO/ Rising Star Academy and Cobb's Funeral Home will be providing school supplies and services to children in our city. A City Wide Picnic for

legislative branches to ensure the best possible outcome under our current circumstances. What is equally exciting is the surge of community support which we are teaching our children. This is indeed the spirit of our city and our great nation.

On August 12th the members of the Mayor's office, the City Council and the Friends of the Clinton River Trail broke ground with the new bridge that will cross Telegraph Road. This will provide our city with additional jobs as well as an additional source of revenue. It has been cited that cities that provide walking and riding trails often bring additional funds to the city because these trails become an additional source of tourism. Also, the construction of this bridge will provide our young people with a safe trail system avoiding high traffic



our residents was held downtown in Lot 9 on August 29th. Please see your City Council representative for more information.

Jeffrey Hawkins of the Pontiac Fire Department leads by example at the recent ground breaking held for Raleigh Michigan Studios on July 30th. It is projected that this project will bring as many as 3,500 new jobs to our city. This also is an opportunity for many of our young people to become involved with the film industry. Projects such as the Pontiac Classic Car and Bike Cruise and the Art Revival provide growth opportunities for downtown Pontiac. We are also in the formation stages of the 2010 Holiday Extravaganza Parade which will be held Saturday December 5, 2010! This is a

collaboration of four cities!

There are many exciting changes going on in our city. The Phoenix is rising and we should be very excited! We should be excited because this is a grass roots movement of ordinary people who love our city. We are grateful for all the businesses and residents from municipalities who are working with us to keep Pontiac safe, clean and growing!

To the residents of District 4, our next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Columbia Street Boys and Girls Club located at 124 W. Columbia Street here in Pontiac. Looking forward to seeing you there!

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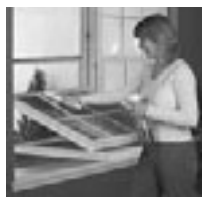


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— Educational Matters —

Why Should I Volunteer In The Pontiac School District?

By A Friend of Michael Nappere

Volunteer: To Choose To Act in recognition of a need, with an attitude of social responsibility and without concern for monetary profit, going beyond one's basic obligations. Michael Nappere is such a person.

Michael Nappere and his wife came to Pontiac in June 2004; both were employees of General Motors Corporation. They built a home in a new sub-division called Stonegate Pointe and became active in their home owners association.

In June 2006 the couple took custody of the daughter of Michael's from a previous relationship. The daughter was fifteen years old and living in Ohio with her mother. Once the daughter arrived in Pontiac it was necessary to get her enrolled in school for the fall semester. His plans were to enroll the daughter in the West Bloomfield School District because a neighbor had children there and had recommended it. Enrollment for the West Bloomfield District had closed for their "School of Choice" program for the upcoming fall year. The daughter was also an athlete who loved to play basketball. He took his daughter to Pontiac Central High School which was the local school for his neighborhood. While registering his daughter for enrollment in the fall semester they met coaches from the girl's basketball team who happened to be at the school that same day for practice. The next week the daughter was going full steam ahead with the basketball team and was starting to make friends and becoming comfortable with her new home.

Mr. Nappere, realizing the importance of education and parental involvement in student achievement began to research the Pontiac School District. He became very concerned when his research revealed the gap between the achievement levels of the students of the Pontiac School District and other Oakland County Districts. His research revealed test scores were well below state and national standards. He began to have conversations with Pontiac Central school administrators who informed him that they were having difficulties with getting parental involvement and people to help work on their school improvement teams. The school had a parent meeting scheduled for early in the school year and invited him to attend. Parent organizations

had come and gone on many occasions at the high school, but lacked stability. Mr. Nappere volunteered to serve as chairman of the academic achievement committee. He created a plan and mission for his committee. The mission was to work toward the enrichment and continuous improvement of the students, staff and parents of Pontiac Central High School in successfully fulfilling a rebirth in education. Over the next two years he expanded his involvement with the group. He created a space within Pontiac Central High School known as the "Parent/Student Success Center", an area located within PCHS for parents to learn more about curriculum information, and programs utilized at Pontiac Central High School and the community that would help the family and students achieve success at home, school and the real world environment. Parents were encouraged to spend time reviewing the centers contents and participant in the specialized action committees functioning inside of PCHS. A Parent's hotline was set up for the center to support issues of concern and help seek appropriate courses of resolution. The center also contained a food repository and clothing closet, both of which were available to anyone in the community who needed assistance.

Mr. Nappere was becoming more knowledgeable of state and government programs that could help improve the Pontiac Family and became involved with Title I activities within the school district. Title I laws contain governmental dollars that are given to failing school districts to help disadvantage, low income students improve their educational skills. The laws also allow for programs to increase parental involvement. He began to seek programs that were within the Title I legislation that could assist and support the students, staff and family. He worked as chairman of the district's annual Title I Parent's conference in 2007. The theme of the conference was "Accountability". We are all responsible and have accountability for the success of our children. It starts at home and continues into the school and out to the community.

Mr. Nappere also worked to help Pontiac Central establish its freshman academy in the fall of 2007. He held meetings with the staff of Pontiac Central at his residency to work during the summer to develop strategies for its operation and implementation.

Pontiac Central was the recipient of most of his efforts because his daughter was a student and he felt a bound with the institution. Pontiac Central was eventually closed, details and reasons why continue to be a topic of discussion within the Pontiac Community. Mr. Nappere's daughter graduated in the last class at Pontiac Central 2009. Many of the parents and staff asked him what his plans would be once she graduated and the school closed. His response, "I will continue to support student achievement and parental involvement but I don't know in what capacity".

The Pontiac School Board elected to close many school to start the 2009-2010 school year. The district began creating restructuring plans to create a new blueprint for education in Pontiac. Mr. Nappere volunteered to join several committees to support the effort. He reached out to the incoming administration offering his support in whatever capacity it felt best served. One of the elements in the restructuring plan was to combine students from the closed Pontiac Central High School and Pontiac Northern high school into one campus, located at the building on Arlene Street. He was asked if he would consider going over to the new high school to assist as a transition coordinator for the office of strategic reform. He would help the school administration and parents establish a new parent initiative for parental involvement at the new high school. He proceeded to recruit parents and community to come and work to help the combined school establish its identity; show the students their desire to support their educational success. Many individuals stepped up to the plate and agreed to come and help out in many arenas. A database of "Core Volunteers" was created based on their interested area of service (i.e. Title I support, cafeteria support, hall monitoring, homecoming activities, student government, class room, prom activities, honor society). This listing of volunteers would then be used whenever events or programs needed support from the parent community. When the new administration announced its Early College Program at Pontiac High School Mr. Nappere provided support to the students by securing desktop computers to the participants. Since these workstations were not supplied by PSD, he has served as the technical support for these students.

He realized the gap that existed in student achievement levels early in his involvement with the Pontiac School District. He also saw the community need for advancements in literacy levels of the adult population. In summer of 2009 Dr. Robert Martin, Chief Deputy Office of Strategic Reform formed a relations and bound to work on some of those issues. Mr. Nappere's mission would be to work to help lay a foundation to increase the number of residents that have professional training and college degrees in Pontiac, provide professional development to parents and community, pertaining to the latest research of best practices in teaching and learning, parent a community responsibility, curriculum, community development, and workplace development. He would assist schools and community with the formation of partnerships for the sole purpose of enhancing literacy and educational success. He would help parents and community link quality education to job opportunities. Help parents, students and community demonstrate an awareness of living within the family budget to achieve economic stability; his efforts were focused on "How these issues related to student achievement and success for our children.

Are these the types of issues that are paramount to the Pontiac community returning to the days when we were the premier district in Oakland County? Is this the type of man we would like to help champion the cause?

This man is no longer allowed to participate as a volunteer within the Pontiac School District, not allowed to be working in a PSD facility, not allowed on the premises working on any of the aforementioned issues in support of the PSD. Is he guilty of some felonious crime against children, humanity? NO!! Why then is he now an outcast?

If you know this man and would like answers or get to know the REAL TRUTH. Talk to us, "Concerned Citizens In Support of Mr. Michael Nappere @ (Phone Number TBD).

What type of leadership would be against such a man? Has the leadership's of some of our elected lost its focus? Is the spirit of volunteerism gone? Is there a different type of individual needed to be in the company of our children and parents?

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What is So Old Fashioned About Self Respect?

By Quincy Stewart



Quincy Stewart III

As a teacher for some years and the father of four boys, I have heard many conversations among younger people and they often use the term, "old school" to refer to a good many things. As we age, we forget that when we were in our teens and early twenties, we too, looked at the age groups before us as old fashioned, out of touch and out of date. I don't have any faith whatsoever that this column I'm writing today will somehow magically change that seeming rite of passage. In some ways, the concept that progression takes place when the ideas of one generation are surpassed by the next is correct and just. This is how we evolve as human beings and that is just a fact of life.

The old bull sometimes has to be defeated by the younger one in battle to begin his reign as

king of the stable. The old champion must be defeated by the young one to be the new champion. *Everything must change*, sang Donny Hathaway back in 1972. *The young become the old*, and the song goes on to point out that seasons change and so do we. 100% true. Often, we refuse to give up what we knew to be in style, so we wear clothes that seem odd in the present. We refuse to admit that our waistlines can't handle those old pants anymore, so we try and squeeze in them anyway and end up looking, well...ridiculous. We won't give up on the hair that's lost so we "swoop" it over the bald spot to try and fool everybody but its obvious to everyone but you that this is futile.

We go as far as trying to "act young" by hanging out in younger places, dressing certain younger ways and trying to turn back the hands of time by trying to absorb some of that young energy into our pores through exposure, but alas poor fellow or gal, you just end up frustrated.

There is, at the risk of sounding cliché, a definite beauty and specific grace that comes

with age, if we'd only look at it through the eyes of reality. All of us, if we're lucky, must age. It's unavoidable, inevitable and irrefutable. But to age is not something to dread or look forward to with anxiety and fear. At each stage of our lives we must recognize the inherent qualities of that stage and strain it for everything its worth. In the music industry it amazes me that the majority of people we hear from in popular music is kids. The stars are sometimes as young as eleven to nineteen years old.

Though its fine to hear from them, there are countless perspectives of life, love and thought that can and should be heard. We are limited in the repertoire of music and thought we hear when the only perspective we listen to on the radio or on CD's is from a fourteen year-old!

As we age we should gracefully surrender the toys and frivolity of youth and assume the mantle of true manhood and womanhood. Instead many of us cling to foolish beliefs, unrealistic expectations of others and ourselves, and live and act beneath our time-given privilege. That said, there are certain things that we should never relinquish and that time should have no effect on other than to tweak them to make them even better and that is our cultural mores, our self respect and the respect of others.

Is it so old fashioned and too "old school" to be courteous to others? Is it too old school and out of date to educate oneself so that one can participate fully in the world by knowing how to read, write and spell? Tell me, are you an "Uncle Tom" because you desire to speak so that people can understand you clearly and present yourself to the world at large in such a way that you can chart your course? Are you out of date by clinging tenaciously to your cultural values which tell you to say, "no sir", or "yes mam" to your elders?

At the risk of being archaic and sounding like I ought to be put in a wax museum, should we have abandoned our own cultural norms of not talking back to parents, not cursing around elders (any elders), not calling older people by their first names, and yes, not showing our behinds and drawers because we've taken style too far? Sure, I say it all the time; my generation (1970's) wore our pants way too tight, and zoot-suiters(1940's) wore theirs too big and the (sixties) stove-pipe Temptations-walking flooding pants were too short and too tight. Yet, with all due respect to style, had we not allowed our culture to be decimated as it is today, we would have the baggy pants, but not the butt crack or the drawers.

Amilcar Cabral said it best; "Culture is the first line of defense against colonialism." Because we've allowed our culture to be in the hands of another, we now see children talk back to their parents and parents also allow it. We now are smoking weed with our kids and worse; we are abandoning our children and leaving them in the hands of either one parent, or placing the awesome burden on more and more grandparents who at that time in their lives should be enjoying the golden years and preparing for late

life; or the kids end up in foster care system. More and more Caucasian couples are adopting our children because we won't.

I remember being a young child and being in the grocery store with my mother and seeing some little white kid throw a temper tantrum right there in line because he couldn't have a candy bar or something like that. My mother looked down at me with a look that could freeze over Crystal Lake in the summertime. The look was unaccompanied by words. The look said to me, "Boy, if you even think about doing something like that I will knock you into next week!" Our cultural mores are not old fashioned. Respect and adhering to decent behavior isn't "old school"...it's *JUST GOOD SCHOOL*. Getting good grades isn't just for white kids at Lasher or Birmingham Seaholm or Groves or even Cass Tech or Renaissance High Schools. Its for you, young brother or sister, at Pontiac High, at Pontiac Middle School, at Detroit Central or Northwestern...at Oakland Community College.

Our children did not come out of the womb wanting to be killers or sell drugs or be disrespectful. Not that all of them are doing that in the first place, but *their behavior was learned*. The question becomes, *where* did they learn it, *how* did they learn it, and why was it taught? We often blame teachers, principles and the school system for our children's behavior and that's just patently unfair. Though you have a spattering of teachers who aren't caring, I know many of them to be doing so in the harshest of learning environments. Teachers can teach, *but parents must reinforce it*. But, to be totally candid about it, how many of us are really doing that? How many PTA parents do we have? How many auxiliary parent groups meet on a regular basis to augment the teachers and schools and even provide suggestions to make it better? But the first thing we do is when we think a teacher has said something we don't like to our kids we are there to curse the teacher out, call for their firing and want to even hit the teachers. And in many instances that is darn near the first time they have even been past the front door of the school. All in the name of covering up for our own irresponsibility.

Is that too old fashioned of an opinion? Is that too old school? Is the new school thought that we should throw tantrums now? Is new school that we should allow children to roam about at night without supervision or knowing where they are? You all know that back a few years, the street light was the indicator that you had better be breaking the door down to get in the house. Now, they stay out all night and we sleep like babies, until they get hurt or worse. Once that happens here we are on the six o'clock news in curlers or a doo rag with "oh my baby"... I guess that's the new school.

As for me and mine, we'll stick to being just a bunch of frumpy old fashioned folk. We have got to revisit our culture and what it means. Its critical to *look back* to move forward.

The Struggle Continues.

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.

Papa Was A Rolling Stone But Grandpa Is NOT!

Dear Elaine

When my husband and I got married twenty years ago, I had children and so did he. We tried to blend the two families together but baby mama drama always seemed to get in the way of us securing a stable relationship. Yes my husband has tried to stay in touch with his kids but he was only allowed to take them out or have them over like once every three or four months. It's understandable that they started feeling like he cared more about my children than he did for his own but that was not true at all. He always talked about his kids and how he wanted them to actually live with us but of course their mother would never allow that. So he has done what ever he could do when ever he could do it even though it never really was much or enough. Even his family jumped in to try and do something to cover the slack and of course this was appreciated but it still made my husband look like an unfit father. Now after twenty years he is trying to have a relationship with his grandchildren but my husband's children really are not trying to accommodate him. They only live a few blocks from here and if he just drops by, he is told to call first and make an appointment. AN APPOINTMENT! Can you believe that? Why does a grandfather have to make an appointment to see his grandchildren? I told him to just follow the rules his kids have set down to punish him. If they tell you to call first, call first. If you have to make an appointment, do it and hopefully his kids will come around. He is really upset about this. What do you think?

Signed,

Papa Was A Rolling Stone But Grandpa Is NOT!

Dear Papa Was but Grandpa's Not:

I agree with you. If no solid relationship has been established after all of this time, he will have to build one. He has to start with the foundation which it appears he already has. He is at least in contact with his children so that is where he should begin. Like you said, if asked to call first, call first and if asked to make an appointment, do it. At least if you demonstrate that you can follow the rules maybe he will be able to gain the trust of his children. If they trust you, then they will start to add positive things to the list of what they will allow. Remember to tell your husband not to complain or get upset about anything his kids say because he had his chance while they were growing up. They're grown now and I'm sure they do not want to be told what to do and they probably feel they sure don't need any advice about raising their children from a man who did not raise his own. Don't be offended by that. Live with it, deal with it and do whatever you have to do to correct it. Most of all, show your kids that you DO know how to show love to your grandchildren. Never forget their birthdays or holidays because they will looking to see if you will. Love them and let them know they are loved.

Good Luck!

Elaine

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

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ST. JOSEPH MERCY OAKLAND TO HONOR EX-LIONS COACH FORZANO AT ANNUAL FUND RAISER

Event to Raise Funds for Hospital's Surgical Pavilion Technology

St. Joseph Mercy Oakland (SJMO) will honor former Detroit Lions head coach Rick Forzano, Sr., at its annual Fall Spectacular fund raiser 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 7, 2010, at The Townsend Hotel, 100 Townsend St., Birmingham. Proceeds from this year's event will benefit the hospital's cutting edge technology in its new Surgical Pavilion.

Founder of Rick Forzano Associates, Rick Forzano, Sr., will receive the hospital's Mercy Legacy Award at the Fall Spectacular. The award is presented to individuals who support the SJMO mission and charitable causes and

volunteer their time in the community.

For many years, Forzano has been an advocate of SJMO and its mission. He also is the past president of SJMO's McAuley Club and has recruited many other individuals to provide support to the hospital.

Forzano coached for more than 25 years, prior to starting his agency in 1978. His coaching career began at the elementary and high school levels and continued at the College of Wooster and Kent State University, both in Ohio; at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., and at the University of

Connecticut. He also coached the St. Louis Cardinals and the Cincinnati Bengals. During his career, Forzano was a football color analyst with ABC-TV and NBC radio.

Celebrity Chair is Mike Tirico, Monday Night Football play-by-play commentator and ESPN radio and TV announcer. Guy Gordon, WDIV-Local 4 news anchor is the celebrity emcee.

Honorary Co-Chairs are Richard and Connie Dauch and Dr. Kirit and Malti Patel. Benefit Chairs are Pam Boutrous, Lynne Portnoy and Nancy Smith.

The 50,000-square-foot Surgical Pavilion opened in fall 2009 with eight state-of-the-art surgical suites and a cystoscopy room. Hallmarks of the new pavilion are patient care and safety, advanced technology and the incorporation of green processes to reduce waste and water and energy usage. The Pavilion, which has space to accommodate 12 surgical suites, also will have an enhanced family waiting area scheduled to open this fall.



Rick Forzano, Sr.

Pontiac High Phoenix Wins 1st Game of Football Season

Pontiac High School (1-0) defeated Southfield Lathrup High School (0-1) 27-16, in the opening game for both teams. Running Back Mark Cargill lead Pontiac in rushing with 100 yards on 12 carries to go along with 1 touchdown. Quarterback Anthony Adams connected with Anthony Adams on a 24 yd

Touchdown pass. Pontiac also scored on a trick play when Reggie Washington, after a double pass, threw a TD to Patrick Johnson.

Pontiac High next game is Friday September 3 @ Wisner Stadium at 7PM against Troy Athens



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➤ As a bonus, receive an upper level ticket to the Detroit Pistons Home Opener vs. Oklahoma City on Friday, October 29, 2010

For additional information, pricing, and purchasing tickets for the Sky's The Limit Awards Banquet, Please contact Chris Riley at 248-605-5577.

*Tickets to the Sky's The Limit All-Star Game, Pistons Games, and Awards Banquet are subject to availability & handled on a first come first serve basis.

Refunds or exchanges will not be issued.

For more info, contact Chris Riley at # 248.605.5577

— Community Finance & Economic Matters —

Economic Recovery is Crushing Black America Ten Key Solutions for Black Economic Well-Being

Written by Phillip Jackson
The Black Star Project

As bad as the last recession has been for Blacks in America, recovery might be worse. In the absence of federal policy interventions and without an effective "trickle-up" stimulus plan, Blacks will not only have lost ground during this recession, they will also continue to lose ground during and after the recovery.

An April 2009 analysis of the Illinois Department of Transportation's stimulus dollar spending shows a paltry 1.67 percent, or \$4,346,507 out of \$260,472,254, went to Black contractors. Instead of narrowing the racial wealth gap, federal stimulus dollars are actually expanding that gap!

Whether Black America is being systematically excluded from the recovery or whether Black Americans are just so far behind economically that the recovery funds will collectively slip through their fingers, the effect is the same. If everyone else benefits from the recovery more than those who need it most, then the current recovery is actually making things worse, far worse, for Black Americans.

In every economic downturn, recession or depression, Black Americans are more negatively impacted than Whites. A 2008 report by United for a Fair Economy, a research and advocacy group, shows that from 1998 to 2006, before the subprime crisis, Black Americans lost between \$71 billion and \$93 billion in home-value wealth from subprime loans. For people of color, this has been the greatest loss of wealth in history.

The official Black unemployment rate is 15.1 percent, compared with 8.9 percent for Whites. The official unemployment rate among Black Americans is projected to reach 20 percent by next year. In New York City, the official Black unemployment rate has been rising four

times as fast as that of Whites. And a 2006 Joint Economic Committee Study chaired by Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., reported that 37.7 percent of Black men in the United States had no jobs.

Even before Black America sank into the current recession, Blacks were hovering at double-digit unemployment rates, abysmally low savings rates, devastatingly low asset and business ownership rates, and had the lowest personal wealth net worth in the country. Now with the recession, a massive, perfect storm of unemployment, mortgage foreclosure and wealth loss has hit Black America with the negative economic force of 100 Hurricane Katrinas. Black America might never return to its previous precarious perch in the old economic pecking order as a middle-class entity.

There are several ironies here. One is that America has 36 million Black American descendants of African slaves who were shipped to American shores 400 years ago for their economic value. Today, however, their heirs have lost that value and have not yet found a way to contribute substantially to the American economy. The second irony is that Black Americans can no longer cry racism or blame the "system," since the "system" is headed by its first African American president. Even with a Black president, the United States is still a dangerous and unkind place for most Black Americans.

In 2009, and going forward, there are only two kinds of people: not Black and White, not Asian and Hispanic, not even rich and poor. In 2009 there are 1) those who understand and respond to forces of globalization and 2) those who will be crushed and destroyed by these forces! The current economic recovery is crushing Black America.

The current recovery is not designed to stop the economic free-fall of Black America. In fact,

without proper controls and interventions, it will accelerate that free-fall and annihilate Black Americans economically. Because many Black Americans do not have in-demand technical skills, sufficiently high education levels, and cannot compete in the global market place, Black Americans have collectively lost value in the American economy and are being systematically ejected from it.

In addition to what government should and must do to help ensure that Black America survives the recovery, Black Americans must take control of their own economic destiny. As a way to improve their personal finances, family wealth, community economies, and to help lift Black America out of this downward economic spiral, please consider the Ten Key Solutions for Black Economic Well-Being:

Ten Key Solutions for Black Economic Well-Being

1. Start your own business. Few people acquire wealth working for someone else. By starting your own business, you will be able to hire family, friends and community members. Additionally, you will build the economy of your community. You will also be able to pass on your successful business as a family inheritance to your children and grandchildren.

2. Get as much education as you can. Higher levels of academic and technical education readily translate into more and better employment opportunities, higher income and more wealth. Education begins when you teach your children to value learning and to read well. The new hierarchy of human needs is air, water, food, shelter and education. Without education, existing viably today becomes virtually impossible. Educate or die!

3. Stop renting apartments. Save enough money to make a down payment on a house. Then BUY A HOUSE! The largest portion of the net worth of most families is in home equity, not cash assets.

4. Open savings accounts for your children. Teach your children the value of money and how to earn, save and invest it at an early age. Take personal finance classes so that you will become the best teacher for your children on the issues of money - saving it, investing it and not buying anything on credit.

5. Invest. First, invest your money and your time to enhance your skills and knowledge base and to improve your overall well-being - not in cars, clothes, furniture, frivolous electronics, sports, games and the lottery. Second, learn how to make big companies work for you

through stock ownership, rather than you only working for them. And third, invest your money in the U.S. and global stock markets. The world is much bigger than the United States.

6. Manage your credit carefully and avoid unnecessary debt. Beware of spending excessive amounts on holidays, birthdays, vacations, weddings and funerals. Learn to pay cash for what you need OR DON'T BUY IT! And forget about what you want. Create a household budget that includes food, living space and utilities - and live by it. Save for a rainy day. It's coming!

7. Get married. Two-person headed households are more viable economically than one-person headed households. Marriage can be an economic advantage when both parties are aligned on financial priorities and fiscal realities. Sixty-five to 70 percent of Black children are born into single-parent households and begin life in poverty. Most of them never make it out.

8. Create a life-enhancing strategy. Include good nutrition, plenty of exercise, and proper rest so that you can share your good fortune and a long, healthy life with your family and friends.

9. Tithe. Give to your church or to a social cause that improves your community.

10. Create a will. Ensure that your accumulated wealth is passed on to the next generation. Studies suggest as much as 70 percent of most households' current wealth was inherited from a previous generation.

Phillip Jackson is executive director of the Black Star Project, 3509 South King Drive, Suite 2B, Chicago, IL 60616, (773) 285-9600.

— Community Health & Diet Issues —

Avoid These 9 Cancer-Causing Foods

By Sylvia Booth Hubbard

Hundreds of studies have made it obvious that what we eat affects our risk of developing cancer. In fact, the World Health Organization (WHO) says that dietary factors are responsible for at least 30 percent of all cancers in Western countries. Here are nine of the worst offenders.

1. Fried foods - Certain foods that are heated to 248 F, such as french fries and potato chips, form a suspected human carcinogen called acrylamide, according to the National Cancer Institute. Researchers found that a bag of potato chips may contain as much as 500 times the amount that WHO allows when acrylamide is used to treat drinking water. Both WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations stated that acrylamide levels in foods are a "major concern." Ovarian and endometrial cancers have been associated with high levels of acrylamide.

2. Heavily salted foods - A Japanese study linked salted foods with a 15 percent increase in cancer. In addition, salt allows cancer-causing *Helicobacter pyloric* bacteria to thrive in the stomach. Researchers at Korea's National Cancer Center followed 2.2 million people and found that, like the

Japanese, those who ate a lot of salty foods increased their risk of developing stomach cancer over those who had a lower sodium intake. Gastric cancer, the No. 1 diagnosed cancer in Japan and Korea, is likely due to the love of salty foods.

3. Pickled foods - In 2005, a South Korean study found that people who ate high amounts of kimchi (pickled cabbage) had a 50 percent higher risk of stomach cancer than those who ate less. However, refrigeration has contributed to the drop in stomach cancer during the past 100 years because it reduces the need for pickling foods to preserve them.

4. Sugar - A recent Italian study found that people who ranked in the top third of sugar eaters increased their odds of pancreatic cancer by 78 percent compared to those who consumed the least sugar. Scientists believe that sugar influences the body's production of insulin — encouraging the growth and division of cells in the pancreas, and thus encouraging the development of cancerous cells.

The type of sugar may increase the risk even more. A study at the Jonsson Cancer Center found that pancreatic cancer cells exposed to fructose — a type of sugar found in many processed foods, including soda —

grew and reproduced at a much faster rate than those exposed to glucose.

5. Charred meats - Cooking meats at high temperatures creates carcinogens called heterocyclic aromatic amines. The longer the meat is cooked at high temperatures, the higher the amounts of these compounds. A recent study at the University of Utah found that men and women who ate the highest amounts of well-done meat increased their risk of rectal cancer.

6. Alcohol - Excess alcohol consumption has been linked to higher levels of many types of cancer in both men and women. They include cancer of the mouth, liver, colon, and esophagus — which is the fastest growing type of cancer in the United States. One study found that two or more drinks per day increased the risk of dying from breast cancer by 30 percent in postmenopausal women. Researchers speculate that in the case of breast cancer, alcohol affects estrogen levels.

7. Meat and saturated fat - Harvard studies found that those who ate meat every day had three times the colon cancer risk of those who seldom ate meat. And researchers from the University of Texas found that men who had undergone surgery for prostate cancer and had diets high in saturated fats

(including steaks, burgers, and cheese) were almost twice as likely to see their cancer progress.

8. Farmed fish - Farmed fish often contain high levels of carcinogens such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a class of man-made chemicals once used as an insulating material in electric equipment. The Environmental Working Group found that farmed salmon had 16 times the amount of PCBs found in wild salmon. The journal Science found farmed salmon contained 10 times more PCBs and dioxin than wild salmon. Although banned in the United States in 1977, PCBs still contaminate the environment.

9. Cured meats - Carcinogens called nitrosamines are found in cured meats, such as lunch meats, bacon, and sausage. A study by the University of Southern California School of Medicine found that the mothers of children stricken with brain tumors were much more likely to have eaten large amounts of meats containing nitrates during pregnancy than moms who have healthy children. Also, a Hawaiian study found that people who ate the most cured meats increased their risk of developing pancreatic cancer by 67 percent.

Cruising for Health & Education Draws Over 150 Guests

POH Riley FOUNDATION PRESENTS

CRUISING FOR HEALTH & EDUCATION

Saturday, July 24, 2010
Jefferson Beach Marina on the Nautical Mile
24400 E. Jefferson Ave.
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080

Above: Sponsors & Supporters of the 2010 Cruising for Health & Education

ST. CLAIR SHORES—More than 150 supporters of the POH Riley Foundation enjoyed a beautiful afternoon aboard the spectacular Ovation Yacht in St. Clair Shores July 24, 2010 for the annual Cruising for Health & Education charity event.

As the 138-foot yacht sailed from the Jefferson Beach Marina along the Nautical Mile, attendees danced the night away with live entertainment from the Inside Out Band as the Detroit and Windsor skylines faded into the sunset.

Our charity events have raised much-needed funding for the following programs:

- Sister & Sister Free Mammogram Program raises awareness of breast cancer, the importance of breast exams and provides free mammogram screenings for underserved women in Oakland County.
- Osteo-CHAMPS program provides scholarships for deserving high school students pursuing careers in health care. Promising young minds are nurtured and stimulated through this educational experience.
- POH Children's Clinic/Children's Health Services provides acute and preventative health care for youth in Oakland County. This includes wellness exams, school physicals, immunizations and medications for uninsured children ages 18 and under.
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-Community Calendar-

LOW-COST VACCINE CLINIC FOR DOGS AND CATS

The Animal Care Network, Centerstage & QTMC, Inc. and the City of Pontiac are hosting a \$10.00 vaccine clinic for dogs and cats.

October 9, 2010, Saturday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Centerstage Rental Hall & QTMC, Inc.
536 N. Perry (by Glenwood between Wide Track and Martin Luther King)
Pontiac, Michigan 48342

\$10.00 per animal

- Distemper/Parvo for puppies/dogs 6 weeks or older
- Distemper CVR for kittens and cats 6 weeks or older
- Rabies (one year) for dogs and cats 3 months or older
- Deworming available for puppies and kittens

*Residents from any city or county are welcome to bring pets for vaccines!
Please contact Pam at 248-678-2756 for more information.*

"In these difficult economic times, people are reaching out for help more than ever!"

*"Please spay and neuter your pet"
Together Everyone Accomplishes More*

The Animal Care Network is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that has been providing a community service in low-income areas of Wayne and Oakland County since 1994. Animal Care Network is a group of volunteers who dedicate their time providing rescue, welfare checks, assistance, education, low cost vaccines, spay-neuter, and food to pet owners

Animal Care Network

P. O. Box 566, Roseville, MI 48066-5566 • Phone: 248-678-2756
Website: www.mi-aan.org E-mail: mi-aan@att.net

The 3rd Annual Stomp Out Stigma 5K is One Month Away!!

Don't Miss out on Early Bird Registration Rates!

Registration before September 1st is \$20/person.
September 1st and after the fee will be \$25/person.
Registration is easy - simply go to www.getmeregistered.com and type "Stomp Out Stigma" in the search field.

Race Day is Saturday, September 25, 2010 at Independence Oaks County Park in Clarkston, MI.

Registration at the event begins at 8:00 and the run starts at 9:00. The walk will begin shortly after the runners have left.

There are also sponsorship opportunities available! Please contact Amy Yashinsky at 248-871-1403 for more information.

We can't wait to experience this amazing event with you again this year!

Oakland County Employment Diversity Council (OCEDC) Monthly Diversity Educational Forum

Thursday, September 16, 2010 – 1PM until 3PM

Topic: "It's not how you do the work, it's how you do the work together."

Facilitated by: Kathy O'Quinn, President, Quintessential Presentations, Inc. & Sid Henkin, Vice President, Prism Learning Solutions

For information contact Frank Russell at 248-858-5204 or email russellf@ocedc.net

As a reminder, in order to have an accurate food count, registration is necessary. To register for the September event please visit <http://www.ocedc.net>

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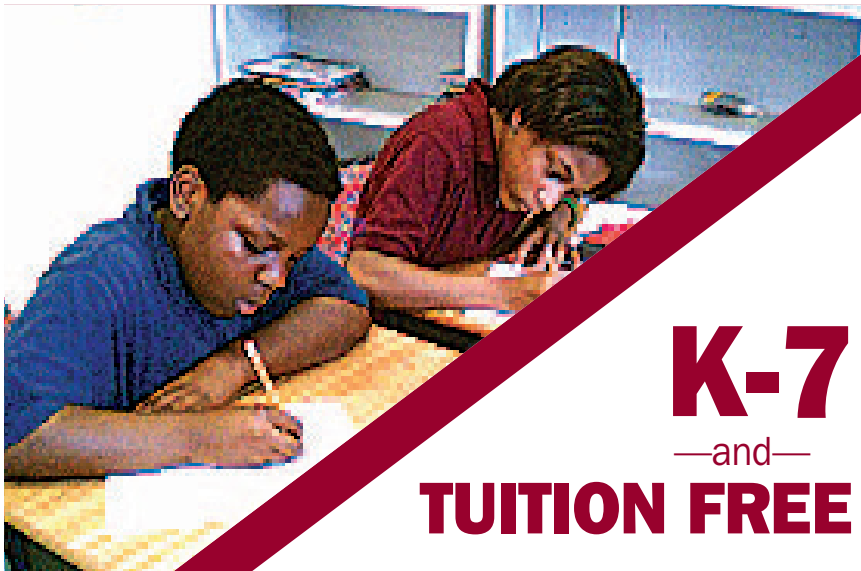
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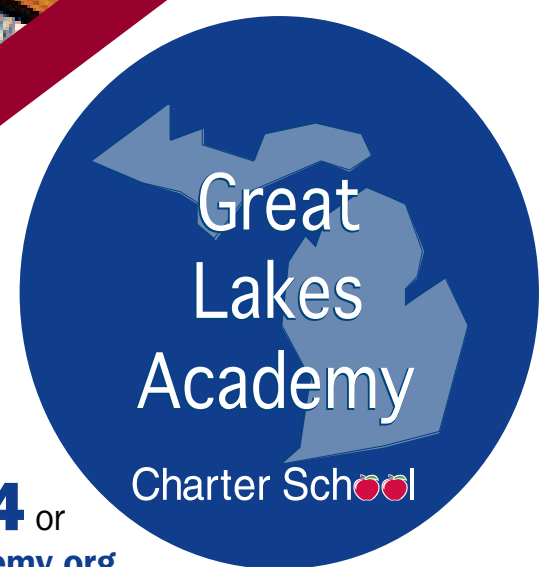
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