

Pontiac High School Student LaTrevia Myles wins Statewide Writing Competition! See photo on page 2.

December 8– December 20, 2010

The Pontiac News

A POSITIVE NEWS SOURCE WITH A LOCAL FLAVOR

VOL. 2 ISSUE 6



Pontiac Police Chief Val Gross urged OC Board to vote no!

President Obama Compromises with Republicans on Tax Cut Plan!

Many Democrats strenuously object to President Obama's compromise with Republicans to temporarily extend the Bush tax cuts for all Americans. But Mr. Obama correctly judged that the nation needs a bipartisan deal in Washington more than it needs a political showdown.

"We cannot play politics at a time when the American people are looking for us to solve problems,"

Just like the declining economy needs a confidence boost, so does America's politics. Leaders in Congress and the White House must show the public that Republicans and Democrats can work together on urgent and controversial issues such as the previous president's tax cuts, set to expire at the end of the month.

By creating a degree of certainty on taxes where there previously was none, progress on the political front can help build momentum on the economic one. In a Washington frozen by icy political condi-

tions, compromise must triumph over particulars.

Not that the particulars don't matter. Many Democrats are howling over the two-year extension of tax cuts for households that earn more than \$250,000. Obama also clearly doesn't like this; it violates his campaign promise.

Democrats maintain the public is with them. Indeed, polling shows that more Americans favor continuing tax breaks for earners under the \$250,000 cutoff than continuing them for everyone. If only Democrats held their ground, liberals reason, the GOP would have to retreat.

But Republicans have shown themselves



quite capable of standing their own ground, as they did last weekend when they led the Senate defeat of two Democratic proposals on the tax issue. Substantial GOP gains in the midterm elections have meanwhile strengthened the party, though not enough to win tax-breaks-for-all that are permanent, as Republicans originally wanted.

The president wisely considered last weekend and what might happen if Democrats also dug in.

"There's no reason to believe that this stalemate won't continue well into next year," he said in announcing the compromise, which also grants the favorable treatment for estate

taxes – a favorite GOP issue.

Without a deal, taxes would go up on all Americans Jan. 1, and millions of jobless would no longer receive unemployment benefits, which were running out.

In this case, Obama put country ahead of party and allowed the two-year tax-cut extension to evolve as an election issue for 2012. He is bitterly disappointing the left, but he's also making the kind of tough choice that can move things forward in Washington.

It also shows he learned something from the crushing midterm elections, in which independents – his previous supporters – deserted him. After the elections, a Pew Research Center poll showed that about 60 percent of independents wanted the president to work with Republican leaders, while only 30 percent wanted him to stand up to them.

Is the president caving? Some will interpret it that way. But you could also say he's belatedly leading.

Oakland County Board of Commissioners Vote No On Sheriff Department Take Over of City of Pontiac Police and Dispatch Services!



Tim Greimel

A plan to have Oakland County Sheriff's deputies take over all police patrol and dispatch services in Pontiac was defeated by a 19-2 vote. The proposal, had it passed would have effectively disbanded the 150 year old Pontiac Police Department! Thirteen votes were needed to pass the proposal.

During the meeting Commissioners Mattie Hatchett and Tim Greimel (D-Pontiac/Auburn Hills) offered and was successful in adding

several amendments to the original proposal. The added amendments caused Pontiac's Emergency Financial Manager Michael Stampfler (through his legal counsel) — who proposed the initial agreement — and the Oakland County Sheriff's Office to declare their opposition to the amended proposal.

The proposed \$10.2 million contract would have installed 74 deputies in the city and created 10 new fire dispatch positions. Sixty-three of

Pontiac's current police officers would have been eligible to be included in the change, a sheriff's spokesman said.

Pontiac Mayor Leon Jukowski who favored the proposal told the commission that defeating the proposed contract would likely mean more layoffs and jeopardize the city's safety.

The Pontiac City Council members all voiced their opposition to this proposed contract.



Mayor Leon Jukowski

Sandy-Michael McDonald & JUST FRIENDS Entertainment Presents The First Annual **RED & BLACK NEW YEARS EVE GALA** Friday, December 31, 2010 – 8:00 PM – 3:00 AM

Marriott – Auburn Hills Pontiac at Centerpoint - 3600 Centerpoint Parkway – Pontiac, MI 48341

Advance Tickets: \$45 Single & \$75 Couple • Hurry Get Your Tickets or Table Today

Live Band – DJ – Party Favors – Evening Hors d'oeuvres – Breakfast Hors d'oeuvres

Midnight Champagne Toast – CASH BAR – Midnight \$500 Cash Prize Give Away

(See Full Details and Contact Information on Page 16)

Taking Responsibility to Help Build Your Community – A Call to Action!

By Frank Russell



Publisher R. Frank Russell

As publisher of the Pontiac News and a community activist for over 40 years here in Pontiac, I am concerned about the direction in which our community is headed. Therefore, I hereby issue a general call to action to concerned citizens of the

City of Pontiac who want to see and experience a positive change in our city. We are developing a comprehensive plan that is designed to create a "New Pontiac" that has the capacity to address the many problems/challenges currently facing our city. If you are seriously interested in working to make our community better please contact me through the Pontiac News at 248-758-1411! You can also contact Ken Corr regarding this matter. We need 50 dedicated individuals who are willing to roll up their sleeves and create a "New Pontiac"

City of Pontiac who want to see and experi-

Pontiac Native TaQuiyyah Boyles Signs National Letter of Intent to Attend University of Texas – Pan American



Pictured above is Head Coach Denny Downing , TaQuiyyah Boyles & Assistant Coaches Jordan and Maeweather

Pontiac, Michigan native TaQuiyyah Boyles joins UTPA from Desert Pines High School in Las Vegas, Nev. The 5'10" guard/forward was named 1st Team-All Sunrise Conference as a junior, averaged 19 points per game and 11 rebounds per game and she was third in the state in high jump as a sophomore.

Bulls. Boyle's great uncle, Campy Russell, played nine years in the NBA for the Cleveland Cavaliers and the New York Knicks, and her other great uncle, Walker D. Russell played six years in the NBA, with the Detroit Pistons, Atlanta Hawks, and Indiana Pacers.

TaQuiyyah is the daughter of Medina Russell & Terrill Boyles, her grandparents are Pontiac residents Frank (Mary) Russell and Rodessa and John Boyles.

"TaQuiyyah's athleticism is off the charts. Being a dual sport athlete in both basketball and track, makes her a perfect fit for our style of play. TaQuiyyah finished third in the high jump in the state of Nevada as a sophomore," Coach Downing said. In addition to the above, TaQuiyyah is also an excellent student with a GPA of 3.0+!

Boyles comes from a basketball family. Her grandfather, Frank Russell, played professional basketball for the Chicago



Pontiac High honor Student LaTrevia Myles Story (called Fatal Obsession) wins The Elmore Leonard Literary, Arts and Film Festival Award for Best short story. Ms Myles is shown with her instructor Mr. Kellam, her mother Tramia Myles and Ast School Supt Mischa Bashir.

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— Guest Opinions —

Hip Hop Did Not Usher In New Era



Quincy
Stewart III

Anytime someone is critical of the so-called hip hop community or the lifestyle, ambiguous as it may be, they are considered either out of date, too old to understand or antiquated in their thinking. I am here to emphatically state that this is not always the case, and that there are some irrefutable facts that must be addressed in order to accurately assess hip hop's contributions to the overall struggle of so-called black people.

In order to take on this unenviable task, it is important that we look at our history with a keen eye, with little wiggle room or latitude for periphery; we must look at the struggle front and center, into the vortex as it were, to see whether or not rap and/or hip hop have advanced the struggle for liberation in any significant way towards the unchanging goals set forth when our ancestors were first captured, their humanity dismantled and the eventual seasoning of our people into slavery, colonialism and social poverty.

It is a fact that art evolves, and that the purpose of art follows a pattern, reflecting the social and political thrusts of the era that arts are in at the present. Regardless of the idiom, be it music, visual, dance, or literature, art relies on drama to convey the human condition and within it, the subjectivity of the particular artist's view.

Yet, the age-old question arises, as to what criteria and who sets it does art rely on for inclusion into the working definition of what "legitimate" art really is? For some time the idiom of rap and the hip hop world fought for its rightful place in the world of "legitimate" art and its respect seems to have come in the larger world of how well it could be exploited by corporate America.

Prior to that, rap and hip hop gained its respect and recognition from the places where it was first conceived and practiced, in the inner cities of New York, Los Angeles, Detroit, in many cities in the south and as far east as Boston. It was in those places where young blacks, frustrated with the frivolity of disco and its inertia-saturated party fantasy silliness, began to react to it with the spoken word; direct, to the point, interjecting various rhythms with simpler music, straightforward beats and frank social commentary. Nothing could have been more straight forward than, "The Message" by Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five.

The song is crystal clear; reflecting the poverty, anger and inner turmoil that being black, male and poor in this country was about. "Don't push me, 'cause I'm close to the edge...I'm try-ing not to lose my head...ahaha...it's like a jungle sometimes, it makes me wonder how I keep from going under"...

There were many songs, both above-ground and underground that reflected a new extension of the politics emerging from the white-washing of the Black Power Movement which met its demise through COINTELPRO, the counter intelligence program of the federal government and the proliferation of drugs in the black ghettos. It was disco music, though harmless and fun at the beginning that contributed to the overall political malaise that ensued from the get-rich, live hard and fast, die young party atmosphere of the music, generally speaking. Rap was the very antithesis of this direction, bringing us back to realities that yet existed, unchanged in the black community as a whole. Something happened early on, however, that began the slide from the direction rap and hip hop was headed to the misogynistic exploitation of women, the glorification of lumpen behavior and crime, the mimicking of "gangsters" and their glorification into near deity status, such as Al Capone, Frank Nitti and others becoming urban icons. The movie, "Scarface" starring Al Pacino became the ultimate iconic movie for drug dealers and gang bangers. The direction of the music became self destructive, imploding with each image of young black men with gold chains, gold teeth, pit bulls, long trucks and automatic weapons... and let's not forget the drugs.

The white and Jewish owned record companies and movie studios began to exploit these images into larger than life impossible-to-ignore idols and the gurgling sound of drowning examples like Malcolm X, Fred Hampton, and Patrice Lumumba, the accomplishments of the Nation, The BPP, Marcus Garvey and others became a distant cry that became eventually inaudible. Those rap groups that did try and maintain a sense of commitment to the struggle had to walk a fine line between maintaining artistic, rhythmic and harmonic interest, with some curb appeal to sell records along with the message. NWA, Public Enemy and Dead Prez, held the line and cornered a certain area of the ideological marketplace but soon, the government labeled these groups as possible disruptions to the decorum of institutionalized white supremacy and so, they

eventually were drowned out by the likes of more congenial offerings by gangster rappers and to any rapper with a destructive message and was hungry for a fast buck.

Yes, it is nearly blasphemy to mention that people of the Jewish faith have exploited the black community for many, many years in this country but it is nonetheless true. It is like walking on eggshells to criticize these acts of exploitation by Jews ranging from the cinema, the running of the NAACP, the manipulation of the Civil Rights Movement, the exploitation of artists by record companies, and the localized economic exploitation in black communities for years as merchants, long before the Chaldeans and Koreans ever thought about it. It is anathema to talk about the unbridled abuse of Palestinians by Jews in Israel, who literally took land and today call it their own with the enthusiastic approval and financial/military backing of the United States. Yet, this is true, accurate and irrefutable.

Other eras where the music had to be in service of the politics of the day brought us, "Say it Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud", "We're A Winner", "Keep on Pushin'", Gil Scott Herron's "Have You Heard the Word from Johannesburg", a song that brought awareness to us in America, the plight of our brethren in S. Africa and so many other anthems young and older people could chant while being about the business of liberation struggle. What songs can we chant from today's hip hop repertoire while engaged in struggle and liberation work?

I submit that when compared to art in other eras of our history, Hip hop, despite all its pronouncements of being vanguard, has virtually done nothing but occasionally mimic and act out images of the past in caricature but has no serious or lasting impact on youth to be conscious participants in life and death struggle for human decency, equality and let alone, the struggle for liberation from institutionalized white male supremacy. Yes there are a few artists who have towed the line and tried their best to incorporate conscious observation, inspiration and motivation in their music, lyrics and images. People like Dead Prez and Public Enemy back in the day, Common, and many others. We cannot throw the baby out with the bathwater as it were. Yet, it is the exception far away from the norm, with get rich, have lots of bitc***, hot tub, Escalade, pants dragging, yayo selling, red carpet, celebrity driven, pimp my ride, rich and famous fantasy-driven "music" louder than ever in the ears of our young people. These kinds of

criticisms leveled at the hip hop genre, and I reiterate, generally speaking-get lots of hate but no defense other than, "a ni*** got to get paid" retort. The philosophy that this is not the sixties anymore and that liberation talk, liberation music, liberation theology and liberation thinking and action are now passé scares the hell out of me. With all that we are going through as a people, some 450 years of being in America and still virtually at the bottom of every strata of life, with Hispanics now edging us out in both numbers and quality of life, we can ill afford the "luxury" of buffoonery and destructive images or art. To abide these butt kissers, house toms and minstrels for one more day is more than any conscious person can stand.

At the beginning of the exploitation of the sincere and earnest rap genre, I wonder if the whites, Jews and selfish blacks who saw fast bucks and power in overtaking it, also foresaw that if enough of this trash inundated the black community for long enough, often enough, that perhaps we'd be anesthetized to the stench, the foul taste and deadly poison of what much of rap and hip hop have become, all in the name of artistic freedom and accusing the critics of it as being caught up in the throes of musty posterity. If they did, then they were crafty and smart.

If they didn't and it just fell that way, then we can merely blame ourselves for taking our eyes so far off the ball, that we call ourselves niggers as terms of endearment, our women as bitches and hoes, and they (women) dance to it on the dance floor singing the lyrics as though they were being called queens; our kids being exposed to such vile and destructive images, that they are cursing and glorifying lumpen behavior at earlier and earlier ages and committing heinous crimes, and prison becomes a rite of passage into what they perceive as manhood. Sad... Damn sad.

No, the verdict is in; we must control the art that we deem well and healthy in our community. We don't have the luxury of white folk to throw some paint on the wall by way of a bucket, let it drip and dry and call it art and pay thousands for it at fancy art sales. Similarly, we can ill afford to accept any old thing as art in our communities simply for the sake of "supporting" another young and upcoming artist. If the art ain't no good, and it doesn't at the very least promote good taste, then we have the obligation to our ancestors who have been hung, castrated, maligned, raped, burned at the stake and drowned at sea, to do better.

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

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— What's Happening In Pontiac —

History has no meaning: Broken Promises by the District Administration

By: Leonard Briscoe

For decades the Pontiac community has been recipients of a long history of academic success, achievements in the arts, robotics and sports. The citizens of Pontiac have rallied around the achievements of its youth in every aspect. We are proud of those members of our community who have achieved success on both the local and national level. Students in Pontiac have put the city on the map both nationally and locally. While we will not forget people like Hayes Jones, Olympic Track star and the Russell brothers, NBA basketball players, Pontiac has given birth and nurtured a hosts of celebrities and people who have contributed both locally, nationally, and globally. Our bands and choirs were highly rated both locally and nationally. As far back as 1881, Pontiac celebrates people such as Albert James Campbell who was born and educated in Pontiac, Michigan and then attended the Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State) and studied law. He was admitted to the bar in 1881 and commenced practice in Oxford, Michigan until later becoming a U. S. Representative in the state of Montana. Kirk Gibson, a former Major League Baseball player and currently the manager of the Arizona Diamondbacks. He spent most of his career with the Detroit Tigers but also played for the Los Angeles Dodgers, Kansas City Royals, and Pittsburg Pirates. He helped to win the World Series with the Dodgers, hitting a home run. A role model of athletes who can prevail in both sports and the business world is Walter Beach. Walter is a former American football player who played safety at Central Michigan University where he was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1986. He also played professionally in the American Football League for the Boston Patriots in 1960 and 1961 and in the National Football League for the Cleveland Browns, a member of the team which won the NFL Championship in 1964. Currently Walter is the CEO of Amer-I Can of New York, Inc. a life skills management program founded by his friend and teammate Jim Brown.

On the women's side we have Maxine Joyce ("Micki") King), a former competitive diver and diving coach. She was a gold medal winner at the 1972 Summer Olympics in the three meter springboard event. Micki was the dominant figure in women's diving in the United States from 1965 to 1972, winning 10 national championships, including both springboard and platform events. At the 1968 Summer Olympics, she was in first place in the three meter springboard event when she broke her left arm on the ninth dive; she completed the tenth dive, but finished in fourth place. In 1972, she made a comeback at the Munich Olympics, winning the gold medal in the three meter springboard event. King was a career officer in the United States Air Force from 1966 to 1992, retiring in the rank of colonel. She taught physical education and coached diving at the United States Air Force Academy, becoming the first woman to serve on the faculty of a U.S military academy and the first woman to coach a male athlete to an NCAA championship. She was named NCAA Division II Coach of the Year three times. From 1992-2006, King was assistant athletic director at the University of Kentucky.

Sicily Sewell, the actress from "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" is also a native of Pontiac. She is also a fashion designer. Then there's musician Thaddeus Jones who traveled all over the world with the Mel Lewis-Thad Jones Orchestra.

On the literary side we have Christopher Wright, the author of dozens of horror fiction books for children and young adults. He writes under the pseudonyms Johnathan Rand and Christopher Knight. Almost all of Rand's books, (save American chillers) take place in his home state of Michigan.

And finally Chief Pontiac, for which our city was named: An Ottawa leader who became famous for his role in the Pontiac Rebellion against the British military. Because the school mascot was named in honor of Chief Pontiac, Central was one of the few schools that the Tribal Native Americans allowed in its nationwide lawsuit

to keep the name "Chief Pontiac" and hold on to its rich and significant history. By the way, where is the Mascot now?.

So why are we mentioning these people and events of the past? Our children and their children must understand and appreciate their legacies. If they cannot appreciate their past, then they certainly will not appreciate their present or future. It is our legacies of what someone or something is remembered for or what they have left behind that is remembered, revered and influences our current events and the future. Too many times do I hear young people state is dissatisfaction that they hate this city and that's there's "nothing here". Many times they do not know the rich heritage and culture that Pontiac has had and continues to offer.

One way to maintain our history is through our treasures, such as paintings, literary symbols and yes trophies, plaques, and awards. Yet here we are in the Pontiac School District with a closed high school that houses many of the artifacts and historical keepsakes of our educational past. We were told by this Administration that a building would be identified to store these artifacts and that they would be put on display for the public to view. Since the closing of Pontiac Central it has come to our attention that the artifacts were not moved nor secured and that the school has been broken into. I, along

with others, had an opportunity to view the damage with trophies broken, thrown about and in disarray. So not only do we have broken promises but a broken history.

Citizens have offered to secure these artifacts from OUR past and place them in safe-keeping. If the School District Administration is not going to safely secure these items, then let the citizens take care of it. Or in the alternative, give them to the families and participants of those trophies and awards. Don't let them sit in a vacant building. While it may not be the members of the Administrative team's history, it is certainly ours and we deserve better. Let's us stop allowing others to tell us that our history does not matter and that we shouldn't be concerned about these artifacts. To treasure them is not to diminish the welfare of our children in any way, but to preserve our moments in time just like any other culture does so proudly. Why should we be ridiculed because we want to preserve what we have accomplished, whether it be the academic successes, the arts and YES THE SPORTS! Many of our heroes have used sports, art, and clubs to get to college and have become quite successful. So I say to the Administration and the School Board. As a famous philosopher once said, "May the dreams of your past, be the reality of your future". Make this right!

LifeSkills Center of Pontiac Host its Annual Community Expo

On Tuesday, November 30, 2010 from 10:00am-2:00pm Life Skills Center Pontiac held its Annual Community Expo. This valuable event paired beneficial community service organizations and supplemental educational service providers with LifeSkills Center of Pontiac students, parents

Photos by Sean Kennedy

and the Greater Pontiac community. Under one roof participants received beneficial information and community based services. LifeSkills Center Pontiac offers individualized, computer assisted, self-paced coursework with teacher supported instruction designed to meet students needs. Whether your student has already dropped out of High School, or is worried that he or she may not graduate on time, LifeSkills is ready to give that needed individual attention your student deserves to help them earn a State Recognized High School Diploma and achieve success.

LifeSkills offers tuition free enrollment for students ages 16-19. Contact Damian H. Perry M.Ed. administrator of the school at 248.322.1163 and start on the path to a brighter future and education!



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— What's Happening In Oakland County —

Patterson Salutes Oakland County's Championship High School Football Teams



L. Brooks Patterson — Pontiac, Michigan — Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson recently issued proclamations declaring Thursday, December 9, 2010 Lake Orion High School Day in Oakland County and Friday, December 10th, Farmington Harrison High School Day in Oakland County in recognition of their state football titles.

Both teams made history at Ford Field in Detroit over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend when the Lake Orion Dragons varsity football team won its first state championship in Division 1 and the Farmington Harrison Hawks varsity football team captured a record 13th state title in Division 2.

"Each team had a superlative football

season. I'm saluting both not only because they are from Oakland County, but because they represent hard work and excellence in their communities," said Patterson.

Lake Orion Dragons Coach Chris Bell agrees. "The championship was a result of a great group of players working hard playing for a community that supported them every step of the way. It was a great win and season for Lake Orion," he says.

The Dragons triumphed over the Plymouth Wildcats 21-13 Saturday, November 27th, wrapping up an incredible 13-1 season in its second trip to the Division 1 championship game. The Hawks, led by coach John Herrington, triumphed over the Lowell Red Arrows 38-28 Friday, November 26th, capping an undefeated 14-0 season in the team's first state finals appearance since 2006.

— What's Happening In Washington —

Peters Backs Middle Class Tax Cut, But Urge One Year Extension For All

Move necessary to protect economy, ensure certainty in troubled times



Gary Peters

Washington, D.C. — Congressman Gary Peters voted recently in support of making tax cuts for middle class families permanent while also sending a letter to Speaker Pelosi calling for a one-year extension of tax breaks for upper income earners, saying the move is necessary in order to ensure certainty in difficult economic times.

"Nothing can be allowed to stand in the way of an economic recovery," said Congressman Gary Peters. "I strongly support making tax cuts permanent for Middle Class families as they are the backbone of the economy and have felt the brunt of the downturn. Given the continued fragility of our economy, I also believe we should provide a temporary, one-year extension of tax cuts to upper income earners."

A diverse spectrum of economists such as Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's

Analytics and Peter Orszag, former White House Budget Director have said that allowing tax rates to increase now on any income group would negatively impact economic growth at exactly the time families and businesses are making budget decisions and stability is needed most.

Under the plan backed by Peters, a one year extension of tax breaks for upper income earners and a permanent extension for individuals making under \$200,000 and families making under \$250,000 is possible without accruing new debt by using existing surplus funds identified on the PAYGO scorecard. The PAYGO law already allows for the middle class tax cuts to be extended.

"Americans want their elected leaders to put partisanship aside and focus on what will create jobs in this country," said Peters. "The time for brinkmanship is long over. The sooner Congress acts on tax cuts for the middle class and a one year extension for all earners, the sooner we can get back to the business of getting this economy back on track."

Small Business Happenings & Resources



Tyshara Lawson
Oakland County
Business Intake
Consultant

Small businesses have accounted for 65% of new jobs over the past 17 years (U.S Small Business Administration) & they continue to be a driving force for our local economy. Current business owners & those looking to start a business have more resources available to them than they realize. This section will provide information on resources, events, funding sources, & other information regarding small business matters.

Oakland County Business Center (MI-SBTDC)

Located at the County Complex across the street from the court house, the Oakland County Business Center offers workshops, no-charge counseling, research assistance, & serves as an information resource. Trainings are provided on a monthly basis & cover several different topics. Items are available to download from their website & links are provided to other local, state, & federal resources. You can get more information by linking to their homepage from their calendar at www.oakgov.com/peds/calendar or by calling the office at 248-858-0783

Upcoming Workshops

December Business Workshops Offered By Oakland County
Contact: Steve Huber, Marketing and Communications, Economic Development and Community Affairs

Phone Number: 248-858-1848
Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend seminars in December, 2010 offered by the Oakland County Business Center. Business Basics workshops are now offered in the evenings on alternating months.

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.

- Thursday, December 2, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center,
- 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford.
- For pre-registration and location specifics, visit our website at oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.
- The fee is \$30. No refunds.

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.

- Wednesday, December 8, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon
- Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center,

• 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford.

• For pre-registration and location specifics, visit our website at oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.

• The fee is \$40, which includes all materials. 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.

- Thursday, December 9, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center,
- 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford.
- For pre-registration and location specifics, visit our website at oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.
- The fee is \$40, which includes all materials. No refunds

Registration: www.oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.

• This workshop is free, but pre-registration is required.

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.

- Thursday, December 16, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center,
- 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford.
- For pre-registration and location specifics, visit our website at oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.
- The fee is \$40, which includes all materials. No refunds

Registration: www.oakgov.com/peds/calendar

LARRY JONES CPA
(248) 333-7414

— 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



Kofi Annorh
African Correspondent

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

Dear Pastor,

This letter is to introduce myself and my company to you. I moved here from Ghana to pursue the American dream. The Lord has blessed me and shown me He wants me to help the people of this country to reconnect to the beautiful African culture.

Kofano is a new company that offers a wide line of Black Soap, African Teas, African clothing, Shea Butter, hand-crafted jewelry, and more imported from Ghana. We are pleased that we are creating income and jobs in Ghana and the surrounding countries as we see introduce African-Americans to the healthy products of Africa.

As a Ghanaian, it is particularly exciting as we see men and women embrace our products and the heritage and legend behind them.

It has been a pleasure having African Tea Parties where church members can sample the healthy teas and understand how they are made and the benefits they possess.

A Tea Party is a church event where tea tasting is featured. I usually speak to the church before the Tea Party to present a talk about:

1. How God brought me from Africa to America and blessed me along the way,
2. How Tea and Shea Butter has a Biblical impact and place in the lives of Africans, or
3. My life in Africa – a story of the Lord's protection and blessing.

You can see more information at my website kofispeaks.org and you can see the products at kofano.com.

It would be an honor to discuss having a tea party at your church.

Kofi Annorh,
President

Organic Tea Leaves from Ghana, West Africa

In Africa what one eats and drinks is very important. It is strongly believed that prosperity and wealth are byproducts of one's health and wellness.

Because they believe the human body needs constant preservation, Africans look to tea, which grows abundantly in central Africa. With a wide variety of teas and centuries of heritage, Africans have been able, according to historic legend and results,

to determine the benefits of each type of tea.

Kofano takes these centuries of African experience and brings them into the 21st century by offering the six major types of African Tea to the American consumer.

Our tea leaves are handpicked from the organic fields of Ghana. Experienced workers then select only the best leaves to be packaged and sent to us in North America.

Although the legends have not been verified by the United States government, at the very least these teas will provide healthy hydration very economically.

Types of tea

Drink our Kofano African Teas and, according to legend, your health will greatly improve.

- Kenkeliba: Leaves Healthy Tea (All natural Herb Supplement)
- Bitter Leaves: Colon Cleansing and Weight Loss Aid (All natural Herb Supplement).
- Bissap Leaves: Tiredness and Fatigue Aid (All natural Herb Supplement)
- R'ate Leaves: Cough Aid (All natural Herb Supplement)
- N'geer Leaves: High Blood Pressure Aid (All natural Herb Supplement)
- Kell Ring: Stomach aches, discomfort, and constipation.

Bissap: Bissap tea is also very popular among the people of Africa. Known as hibiscus tea in the western world, Bissap Tea is an ideal drink to give you energy and strength. Africans believe it nourishes the organ's functions for vitality and quality of life.* Its red leaves makes it unique among African teas, which tend to be green, brown or black. The coloration makes it popular for an aromatic potpourri, but most Africans prefer to take advantage of its healthy properties, perceived or real, as a beverage. SUGGESTIONS: Bring a one (1) gallon pot of water to a boil with the contents of one bag of leaves. Remove pot from heat and strain the tea from the pot into a gallon container. Drink tea hot three (3) times a day. Add honey to taste. WARNING: Do not use while pregnant or nursing a child.

Bitter: The name of this tea says it all - it is bitter - therefore it is generally consumed with a little honey. That may seem strange to some as the tea's most commonly believed, but not scientifically proven advantage, is to remedy obesity and hyperlipemia. This tea is considered to reduce major risk factors for various diseases in the body associated with obesity. Therefore, it is not just about losing weight, in Africa it is thought to increase self-confidence and one's spirit - possibly because of the weight loss. Bitter leaves with a little added honey is a kind of purely natural healthful drink that has been used in Africa for centuries to cleanse the body and improve health. As Bitter leaves decompose they convert excess fat into energy to be better used by the body, bringing about the effect of weight-reducing and improving vital organ functions.* SUGGESTIONS: Bring a one (1) gallon pot of water to a boil with the contents of one bag of leaves. Remove pot from heat and strain the tea from the pot into a gallon container. Drink tea hot three (3) times a day. Add honey to taste. WARNING: Do not use while pregnant or nursing a child.

Kenkeliba: Kenkeliba Tea is one of the most widely used health products for nourishing the body. It is considered to be some-

thing along the lines of a colon cleanser as Africans feel it improves stomach and gastrointestinal functions while regulating circulation and restoring nourish the liver function.* It has been called the "Lipton Tea" of Africa due to its wide usage. It is served daily as a cold or hot beverage and is often used along with other teas. For example, those with a tendency for high blood pressure may add Kenkeliba to the N'geer leaf to lower their blood pressure.*ADDED SUGGESTION: For blood pressure aid you may add one half (1/2) bag of Kenkeliba and one half (1/2) bag of the N'geer Leaves. SUGGESTIONS: Bring a one (1) gallon pot of water to a boil with the contents of one bag of leaves. Remove pot from heat and strain the tea from the pot into a gallon container. Drink tea hot three (3) times a day. Add honey to taste. WARNING: Do not use while pregnant or nursing a child.

N'geer: N'geer Tea is handpicked from the African N'geer Tree and is considered to be a blood pressure normalizer. True or not, it is a very healthy and tasty drink. In Africa it is still used today to treat people with impaired liver and kidney functions and apopleptic hypertension. It is also believed to relieve dizziness and headaches, tinnitus, and fullness in chest. Because it is a mild tea, N'geer leaves are mixed with Kenkeliba leaves for aid in lowering blood pressure.*Its main function is reducing body temperature and calming the liver and nourishing the kidney. It is also believed to improve acuity of vision. In the heat and humidity of the Equator, N'Geer is also believed to promote the production of body fluids to quench thirst.*SUGGESTIONS: Bring a one (1) gallon pot of water to a boil with the contents of one bag of N'geer Leaves. Remove pot from heat and strain the tea from the pot into a gallon container. Drink tea hot three (3) times a day. Add honey to taste. A course of administration is seven days. TIP: The N'geer leaf is larger than the R'ate leaf.

Rat'e: Rat'e Leaves are generally used throughout central Africa for treating the common cold, coughs, and asthma. With tropical temperatures it may seem odd that coughs and colds occur, but they are occasional occurrences. Africans believe R'ate tea is an economical way to gain prompt relief of cough and cold symptoms. It is thought to facilitate the flow of the lungs to relieve asthma, eliminating dampness to reduce phlegm or eliminating heat to reduce phlegm. ADDED SUGGESTION: grind two finger size of raw Ginger root into leaves.



Main Features:

- Handpicked in Ghana.
- Organic.
- Most popular with Africans as they are familiar with its benefits. Also popular with African-American and health-minded cultures.

Details:

- Hand-packed. Each package is approximately 1.3 ounces and makes up to 5 gallons, but 3 is recommended for quality.
- Organic

Storage:

After first use, store in a refrigerator. Tea may be used up to five times, but three is recommended.

Find additional organic African products at www.kofano.com

Remove pot from heat and strain the tea from the pot into a gallon container. Add honey to taste. SUGGESTIONS: Bring a one (1) gallon pot of water to a boil with the contents of one bag of leaves. Remove pot from heat and strain the tea from the pot into a gallon container. Drink tea hot three (3) times a day. Add honey to taste. WARNING: Do not use while pregnant or nursing a child.

Kell: Kell Tea comes in a ring and is dipped in cold water over night. The next morning it will be ready for drinking. African legend is that this herbal tea relieves stomach aches, discomfort, and constipation.*SUGGESTIONS: Place the ring in one half (1/2) gallons of cold water overnight. The tea is ready the next morning and is good for two to three days. WARNING: Do not use while pregnant or nursing a child.

*These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease, but rather is a dietary supplement intended solely for nutritional support.

Imported from Ghana by Cofano Networking Services LLC of Warren, MI
Phone: 248-636-8448
Email kofiannorh@gmail.com
Available for retail or wholesale purchase at www.kofano.com

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**

News From District 4 Citizens District Council

Hello Everyone,

We are happy to announce that the Adopt a Family Program is off to a great start as 5 families were presented Thanksgiving Baskets! We are now looking forward to assisting YAPO Computer Learning Center and Rising Star Academy with the final phase of this project, adopting the same 5 families for Christmas.

Rising Star Academy and YAPO Computer Learning Center will be donating toys, coats, a Christmas tree to these families on December 18th. If you would like to make a donation to these tax deductible organizations, go to www.risingstaracademyinc.com go to the donate page. Donations are tax deductible.

For more information, please feel free to

contact Stephon Galloway at 313-506-3505

We had 3 floats in this year's Holiday Extravaganza Parade! Our first float was the floats for the winners of the essay contest. Our second float was a collaboration of Districts 3 & 5. Councilwoman Mary Pietila and District 5 CDC President Margaret Kilburn will be coordinating this float.

Lastly, District 4's float. Our theme is "It's a jungle out here" We had a lion!!! Thank you so much Joseph Harding for all you did to make children happy! District 4 would like to congratulate the Engnell Children (Anders, Arianna, Angela and David) for being selected as our Grand Marshalls for our float!!!

We would like to thank Sabrina Garten for her vision for this Holiday Season. Our

goal was to build one float and feed up to 150 families. When it was all over, we were able to provide turkey dinners for over 40 families and feed countless residents, thanks to Week's Coney Island on Joslyn. Weeks provided hot turkey dinners to the entire district on Thanksgiving Day!

It was also our goal to have one float in the Holiday Extravaganza Parade. Thanks to Pete Thomas, watch captain of the Cherrylawn-West Columbia NWG, we had three!!! The city leadership and the Oakland Press praised our conviction, dedication and ingenuity!

Good job Districts 3, 4 & 5, YAPO Computer Learning Center and Rising Star Academy!

them. They will lead without thought of personal gain.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and please keep us in your prayers!

Brenda Carter

Thanksgiving was very special for us because we were able to share with many and be a witness to others doing the same. We enjoyed a sumptuous meal at the Grace Center of Hope. All were treated to more goodies than we could consume. Thank you Pastor Clark for all you do in the Pontiac community and beyond!

Grace Centers of Hope will be presenting the Men of Grace Christmas Show on December 18th. As we embark on one of the most spiritual times of year, let us join in the fun and support this worthy event. For more information email dwoodward@gracecenterofhope.org

The year in review

- We held our first meeting in January 2010 where we elected our officers
- We appointed the four horsemen, safety, apathy, taxes and blight
- We formed our coordinating council
- We formed 14 neighborhood watch groups
- We adopted Highwood-LeBaron's graffiti strategies
- We began utilizing See Click Fix
- We mowed over 63 lawns
- We were in three clean up our district
- We removed tons of blight from behind

Blockbusters

- We tore down all of our blighted housing
 - We started an avid prostitution watch
 - We cleaned Jaycee and Hawthorne Park
 - We raised \$600.00 to donate to the Boys & Girls Club
 - We held our District Picnic
 - We helped YAPO and Rising Star give out back packs
 - We assisted in donating 40 turkey baskets
 - We entered three floats in the Holiday Extravaganza Parade
 - We will assist YAPO and Rising Star with their Adopt A Family program
- Good job District 4 Citizens District Council!!!

About District 4 CDC

Randolph R. Carter - City Councilman
 Brenda Carter - President
 Juan Herrera - Vice President
 Jim Stanley - 2nd Vice President
 Jennifer Jerome - Secretary
 P.O. Box 210802 - Auburn Hills, Michigan 48321
 District 4 Citizens District Council - 248-334-8652

ELECTIONS!!!

Our CDC elections will be held Wednesday December 15, 2010 for the following positions:

- President
- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- Secretary

If you have a love for your district and your city, Please make your intentions known! Everyone Should have the chance to serve!



Brenda Carter

A Fond Farewell

Well everyone, it has been quite a year! We have done a lot of good for a lot of people. As your outgoing president, I would like to share with you some of my personal feelings. My feelings do not reflect those of our City Councilman.

First of all, like you, we (Randy and I) came into this with nothing but our hearts to give! We were blessed to have encountered a group of people who wanted what we wanted, safe streets, no blight or graffiti, our taxes lowered and for everyone to have hope for a better future.

During this year I met so many wonderful people with whom I shared my life. So many of you planted hope inside of both me and Randy and gave us the will and desire to keep on doing what we are doing. We were not perfect. I honestly say I have one of the most unorthodox leading styles ever but all in all, we got things done.

There was no personal gain in this for us. The city cannot afford to pay Randy for all he is doing and contrary to popular belief; all I got was a broken foot! But if you ask me was it all worth it? I would have to say YES!

Pete Thomas of Cherrylawn NWG told me that a child told him that the holiday parade was "The best day of his life". Was it worth our councilman being up night after night in the cold building those floats? You tell me!

Now I am moving on to the school board, Is this glamorous or egotistical? I hope you see that both me and my husband came to do a job and with the prayers and good will of people like you, we will help our city when it needs our help the most.

So, I know I am leaving our CDC in good hands. Our elections are coming up soon and I encourage all of you to elect a leader without an agenda. You will be able to identify these people because they will do what is best for the district instead of what is best of

Stacey's Luxury Cleaning Service



Sweeping

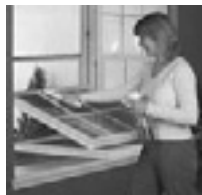


Organizing



Dusting

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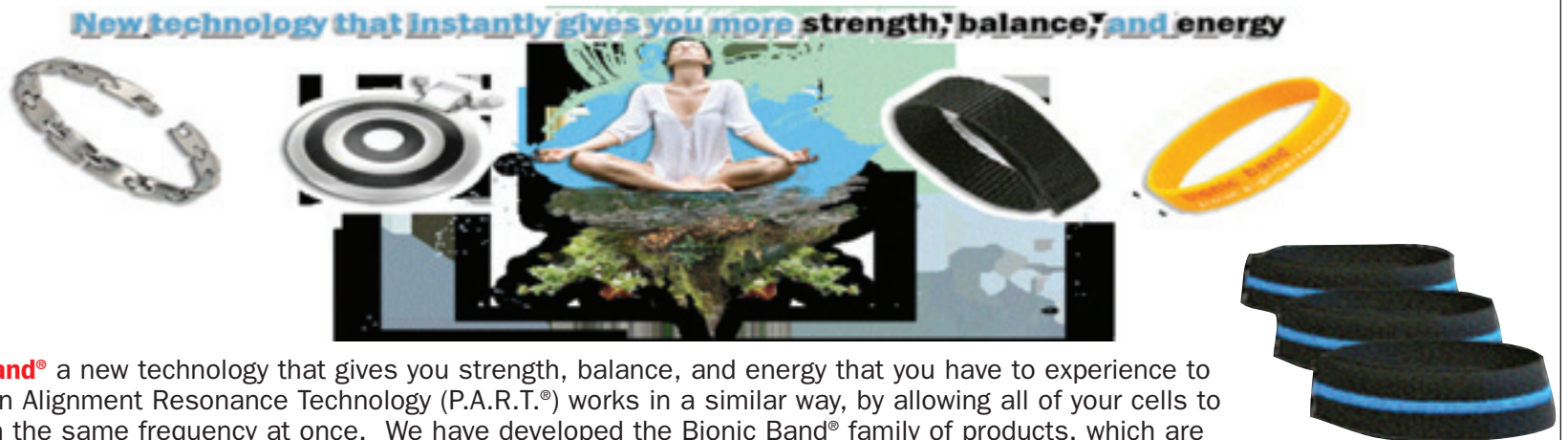
NEW TECHNOLOGY THAT INSTANTLY GIVES YOU MORE STRENGTH, ENERGY & BALANCE!

POWER OF FREQUENCY

Imagine you have trillions of protons in your body, and you are consistently being bombarded with thousands of different frequencies. These frequencies come from such things as cell phone towers, power lines, radio and TV stations (each station is a different frequency), computers and their monitors, and just about anything that you plug into the wall. These frequencies cause the protons in your body to resonate (vibrate) and mimic all of those external frequencies. When the cells and protons in your body resonate at all of those thousands (and possibly even millions) of different frequencies, it causes you to become weaker and unbalanced.

Think of each one of those protons as a tiny little gyroscope. When they resonate at different frequencies this causes them to spin in all different directions. This means that they are unbalanced and also fighting each other, which wastes a lot of energy. Balance is the first thing affected while wearing one of the many Bionic Band® family of products. When you wear our products a single frequency that over-rides all the other frequencies is introduced which makes your protons line up and work together as a team.

Bionic Band



The Bionic Band® a new technology that gives you strength, balance, and energy that you have to experience to believe. Proton Alignment Resonance Technology (P.A.R.T.®) works in a similar way, by allowing all of your cells to "resonate" on the same frequency at once. We have developed the Bionic Band® family of products, which are taking over the world. If you have not seen the demonstration- ask someone to show it to you. It will "Blow Your Mind" and you will want one! Bionic

Bionic Sil



BionicSil™ is quickly becoming a popular alternative to synthetic antibiotics. BionicSil™ (sometimes referred to as "the frequency of silver" or "new silver") is very different from older colloidal silver, standing apart from all other silver preparations in several fundamental ways. See the seven reasons (listed below) to use BionicSil™ today!

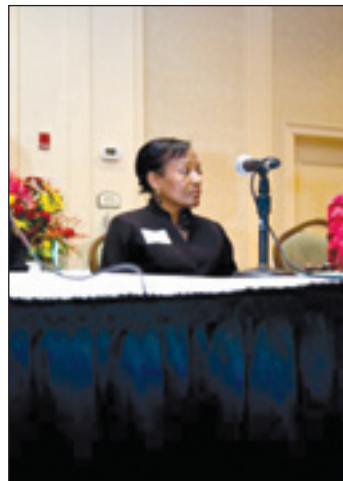
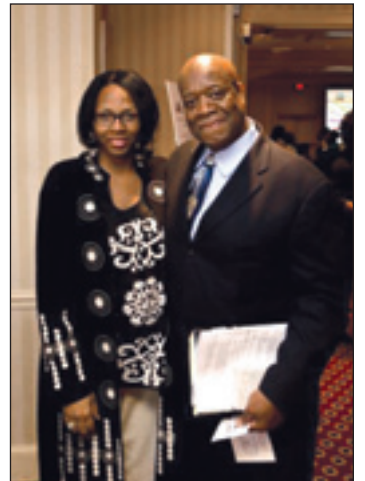
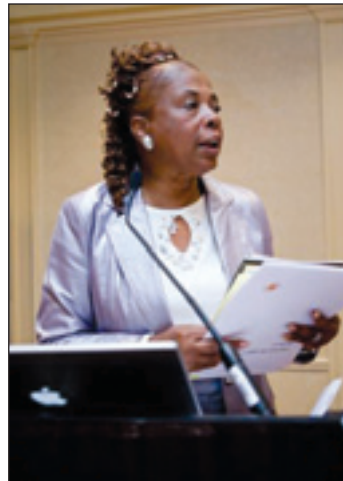
Top 7 Reasons to Use The New BionicSil™

- **Patented New Technology:** New technology has made BionicSil™ extremely more effective than the old colloidal or ionic silvers. The new silver requires very small amounts, it's non-toxic, and is extremely safe.
- **Scientifically Supported:** Numerous lab reports and research studies have documented the benefits of using silver. In fact, scientists have found that the new silver can destroy 99.9% of all bacteria, viruses, mold, fungus and other pathogens. It begins to destroy pathogens within the first 15 seconds.
- **Super Flexible:** BionicSil™ can be used inside the body (internal), as well as on the skin and in the orifices (external). The new silver can also be used as an effective household disinfectant, much like bleach or other cleaners –only it's much safer!
- **Quick Kill Time:** BionicSil™ can be effective in just a few minutes. Research shows that exposing silver to most pathogens (including fungus and mold) for only 3-6 minutes will kill them.
- **Inexpensive:** When you add up the cost of doctor visits (and the time to see the doctor), prescription medications, and other factors involving "conventional" health care, BionicSil™ is a tremendous value.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Because BionicSil™ is inorganic with no chemicals or other additives, it can be stored for years at a time. Several agencies and organizations have recommended the use of silver as a potential agent in the fight against bioterrorism.
- **Extremely Safe:** Research, testing and long term use prove that the new silver is completely safe for everyone, including children and the elderly.

For information contact Phone - 248-758-1411 • Email - YDlyouthDevelop@aol.com

Website - <http://bonesrfr.mybionicband.com>

OCEDC 9th Annual Workplace Diversity Forum Women In Leadership Summit "Advancement For Women in Challenging Times"



– Educational Matters –

The importance of a sound economic education

By Brennan Brown,



Brennan Brown

Why is the U.S. unemployment rate nearly 10 percent? Why does the average American worker have to work until July 16th just to pay his or her share of the cost of government? Why has the government borrowed more money in the past eight years than in all of the previous years of our nation's history combined?

The answers all stem from a lurking issue in our nation's educational system: a lack of teaching students about sound economic principles.

Our current economic crisis is at best the result of a lack of a sound economic education and at worst the unwilling nature of politicians to enact what is in the best long-term interest of the American people.

A well-rounded training in economics begins with a deep understanding and appreciation of the free enterprise system. Specifically, economics students of all ages must possess a healthy respect for private property, comprehension of free markets, understanding of the profit and loss system, and the ability to define the proper role of government - to protect our unalienable rights to life, liberty and property.

There is little doubt that economic education improves economic literacy, which, in turn, leads people to support sound economic policy. The National Assessment of Educational Progress, known as "The Nation's Report Card," administered its first-ever economics test to high school seniors in 2006. Results showed that while only 42

percent scored at the "proficient" level, those who had taken an advanced economics class did significantly better.

Similarly, the Arizona Council on Economic Education administered its own test to high school seniors and found that those who had studied economics did better than those who had not, and those who took a course with rigorous standards did better still. The latter group also had more favorable attitudes to market solutions to economic problems.

While our current policymakers may not be armed with a solid education in economics, Northwood University is working to shape the future leaders of a global, free enterprise society. That means making sure every student has a rich understanding of free-market economics.

Northwood University has recently taken this mission one step further. A partnership between Northwood and Cornerstone Schools, a K-8 private school in Detroit, focuses on teaching these essential economic principles to eighth-grade students. As our nation struggles through the worst economic turmoil in recent history, it is clear that lessons in sound economics cannot come early or often enough.

Brennan Brown currently serves a dual appointment with Northwood University as both Faculty Manager for Northwood's Adult Degree Program and a Professor of Economics. Previously, Mr. Brown was an Adjunct Professor of Economics with Northwood University and an economic and education policy advisor to state Sen. Nancy Cassis, R-Novi.

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No Free Lunch for Failing Schools

By Tom Watkins,



Tom Watkins speaks at a Mackinac Center Issues & Ideas forum on merit pay in 2008.

Thanks are due to Robert Bobb, the Emergency Financial Manager of Detroit Public Schools, and to others within and without the system for the good they have done in the past for the children of Detroit.

However, the latest request for additional state resources for DPS and other financially distressed school districts predicated on future "reforms" should be a non-starter.

The request reminds me of the old Popeye cartoon character, Wimpy, who famously promised: "I will gladly pay (reform) you Tuesday for a hamburger (money) today."

Putting more resources into DPS, or any other failing district on the "promise" of reform, is pure fiscal folly and a waste of educational resources. DPS has been promising reform, to no avail, for at least two decades.

Instead, we need to promote the new 3 R's of education: Restructure, Reform and Reinvent. Then, and only then, might we consider adding a 4th R: New Resource Investment.

Any new money invested in our schools without restructuring, reform and reinvention is nothing short of providing a lubricant to protect the status quo. This will not get our children and our state to where we need to be and is the equivalent of pouring water into a glass with a hole in the bottom, then wondering why the glass never fills up.

The request reminds me of the old Popeye cartoon character, Wimpy, who famously promised: "I will gladly pay (reform) you Tuesday for a hamburger (money) today."

Clearly there are islands of excellence,

and many great teachers and support personnel work at DPS, but they continue to swim against the current in a sea of despair. They and our children deserve better.

In spite of recent good intentions, the system is bankrupt - fiscally, morally and academically. What has been happening borders on educational genocide.

It is time to stop pouring money into a dysfunctional system and instead tear down and start over.

No rational person would replicate the existing Detroit Public Schools system, given the opportunity to begin anew. That opportunity exists today.

Let's re-imagine and rebuild DPS and other school districts across Michigan with the students and our collective futures in mind.

We have known for some time that the funding and spending practices for our schools in general, and DPS specifically, are unsustainable. Yet we continue to pretend and spend as if nothing has changed, when EVERYTHING has changed.

If building anew requires taking DPS and other school districts through legal bankruptcy, then let the process begin.

We are past the point where incremental changes to our schools are sufficient. Major fundamental change is required to get many schools out of not only financial distress, but out of educational bankruptcy as well. Real change requires real change!

Our leaders can continue to spend and pretend or take bold action that places teaching, learning and students ahead of adult power, control and politics.

Are we willing to take a bold leap for the kids and our state's future? Only time will tell.

Tom Watkins is an educational and business consultant in the United States and China. He served as Michigan's state superintendent of schools from 2001 to 2005. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.

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No Vote, No Voice

By Kevin L. McCormick



Kevin L. McCormick

The 2008 election of Barack Obama as President was a watershed event. The popular wave that elected him as President of the United States also swept through both houses of Congress, solidifying an already Democratic majority in both the House and Senate chambers.

How quickly things change. With this most recent mid-term election, Democrats were swept from power in the House of Representatives and are hanging on to a very slim majority in the Senate.

Rep. Gary Peters represents Oakland County and Pontiac, having beat then-incumbent Republican Joe Knollenberg in the 2008 election. Peters has been good to Pontiac and

has listened to the concerns of the city since being elected.

But, this most recent election was close for Peters. Much closer than perhaps it should have been. Some people argue that Rep. Peters would not have been re-elected without Pontiac (Peters won by about 6,000 votes); others argue that his margin of victory was so slim because Pontiac voters didn't turn out very well on election day. Which is more accurate?

Well, both are.

Prior to this year's election, Pontiac has a historical average of about 15 percent of its registered voters actually turning out to cast votes. During Obama's presidential run, the city averaged in the mid-to-high 30 percent range. During the most-recent election, Pontiac voter turnout averaged less than 30 percent, the lowest in Oakland County. Why?

Why is the voter turnout in Pontiac – at around 30 percent - the lowest in Oakland

County, while other communities approach 70 percent? The Oakland County average is around 52 percent. Why such a difference?

Is it race? The demographics of the communities with higher voter turnout are different than Pontiac's. Is it income? According to U.S. Census data, Pontiac's average household income is around \$31,000. The average for all of Oakland County is about \$61,000.

Regardless of what the socio-economic reasons may be, the bottom line is this: if you don't vote you don't have a voice. Complaining about how bad government is being run, but not voting in all elections, solves nothing. That is similar to complaining about a free meal you've been given.

Historically, African Americans have been marginalized within American's political system, but we can't let those things that happened in the past affect what we are able to accomplish today.

If you are a Pontiac resident and are an active voter, and know of someone who doesn't vote, call them out about it and then educate them on why their individual vote does make a difference.

As long as Pontiac continues to produce only a 30 percent voter turnout rate, the true voice of the city will not be heard within Oakland County and in Lansing.

Pontiac needs to vote in larger numbers and display the influence that the city (as the seat of Oakland County) can wield in politics and make its voice truly heard and respected by politicians at all levels.

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

My daughter will be turning 17 soon. We've already gone through the "you can start dating when you're 16 and wearing make-up". The problem is that she wants to take it to a much higher level than anything I could have imagined. I was thinking going to the football games, basketball games and etc. with a group of girls and she was thinking going out with some boy and staying out past midnight. I was thinking wearing a little lip gloss and when I stopped her the other morning before she left for school she was looking like Bozo the clown! She had shaved off her eyebrows and drawn on lines that made her look ridiculous. She had on so much eye liner, false eye lashes, color on her cheeks, foundation and face powder until I couldn't help but burst out laughing. I hurt her feelings and she started crying, but she needed to know that if she went to school looking like that all of the people on the school grounds was going to be wondering where the zombie came from! She didn't even look like a human being! Plus, she runs track and every time she stops running, she goes back and reapplies the makeup! How ridiculous is that? If she has mascara running down her face from the sweat there's a catastrophe! I tried to tell her that I could help her put on the make up but she thinks I'm too old fashion and has no style or fashion sense. I have an urge to let her just go out of the house looking like she's crazy so someone else can tell her how awful she looks but I don't want my child to be hurt by her classmates. I don't know what to do since she doesn't want to listen to anything I have to say. Can you suggest something? Anything?

Signed,
Mother Lost in Time

Dear Mother Lost in Time:

It was bound to happen. Remember when you first wanted to wear a mini skirt and get pierced ears? Things haven't changed that much. I can still remember when I thought a see through Peek-A-Boo shirt that I had purchased with my own money was worth the expense so I could wear it with my bell bottom pants! Even though styles change, the art of putting on the proper amount of make up never has. I suggest you take your daughter's picture with the way she "thinks" she is supposed to look when she does her own make up and then take her to the mall as if you're going shopping and stop in at a make up counter so she can get a free make over. Once she sees how beautiful a little bit of make up properly applied can be she will be amazed. Agree to purchase the same items that were used to give her that look and offer your assistance in making sure that it is applied properly. She'll be glad that you were along and you'll be glad to be able to see the sweet and beautiful face you knew she always had hidden up under all of that caked on mess. Even offer to have her picture taken with the new look so she can be reminded of what it took to look that way. Also remind her that she doesn't have to completely remove her eyebrows. Offer to take her to a beauty salon or nail salon once the eyebrows have grown back in and are thick enough to have them properly shaped by a professional so she can see what they are supposed to look like. All girls want to feel girly and beautiful and it doesn't take a whole lot to do that. That still hasn't changed.

Good Luck!

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

A Tribute to Oscar Johnson (OJ)

by Ken Corr



Ken E. Corr

REFLECTIONS

I was never much of a dancer ...
But I had this cool stance.
Had a red gabardine shirt
And 'nem tight, double knit, white pants.

Ya'll couldn't tell me nothin',
When I pimped through the doors
of both OJ's lounges up on Auburn ...
378 and 484 ...
Where's the numbers man?

OJ's was jumpin'
The club was hot!
Wasn't nothin' like Eddie Carthone's barbeque ...
The "Candy Man" in the parking lot!

The entertainment was second to none ...
Pontiac had never seen this before ...
From Eddie Kendricks, Spunky Wilson, The Floaters,
Grant Green, Sweet Toni and the Dynamic Superiors.
To Anita Baker and Chapter 8!
A good seat was out of the question
If ya' got there a little late.

OJ's was like home ...
It was Pontiac's "Cheers".
Oscar often offered us comfort ...
When we cried in our beers.

Sunship ... Charles Anthony ... Ronnie McNeir ...
Oscar supported the locals.
He was a businessman who cared!

The Happy Hours ...
The fashion shows,
the sponsorships to the benefits.

From the DJ's to the barmaids ...
From a GM Exec ...
To the sister gettin' a welfare check.

To his lovely wife, Ora,
We collectively say ...
Thank you for sharing him with us.
Oscar, we enjoyed the ride!

Dedicated to the memory of
Mr. Oscar Johnson,
By Ken E. Corr

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— Health Matters —

Body Scanners More Dangerous Than Feds Admit

By Dr. Russell Blaylock

Dr. Russell Blaylock is a nationally recognized board-certified neurosurgeon, health practitioner, author, lecturer, and editor of *The Blaylock Wellness Report*.

The growing outrage over the Transportation Security Administration's new policy of backscatter scanning of airline passengers and "enhanced pat-downs" brings to mind these wise words from President Ronald Reagan: "The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: 'I'm from the government and I'm here to help you.'"

So, what is all the concern really about — will these radiation scanners increase your risk of cancer or other diseases? A group of scientists and professors from the University of California at San Francisco voiced their concern to Obama's science and technology adviser John Holdren in a well-stated letter back in April.

The group included experts in radiation biology, biophysics, and imaging, who expressed "serious concerns" about the "dangerously high" dose of radiation to the skin.

Radiation increases cancer risk by damaging the DNA and various components

within the cells. Much of the damage is caused by high concentrations of free radicals generated by the radiation. Most scientists think that the most damaging radiation types are those that have high penetration, such as gamma-rays, but in fact, some of the most damaging radiation barely penetrates the skin.

One of the main concerns is that most of the energy from the airport scanners is concentrated on the surface of the skin and a few millimeters into the skin. Some very radiation-sensitive tissues are close to the skin — such as the testes, eyes, and circulating blood cells in the skin.

This is why defenders using such analogies as the dose being "1,000-times less than a chest X-ray" and "far less than what passengers are exposed to in-flight" are deceptive. Radiation damage depends on the volume of tissue exposed. Chest X-rays and gamma-radiation from outer space is diffused over the entire body so that the dose to the skin is extremely small. Of note, outer space radiation does increase cancer rates in passengers, pilots, and flight attendants.

We also know that certain groups of people are at a much higher risk than others. These include babies, small children, pregnant

women, the elderly, people with impaired immunity (those with HIV infection, cancer patients, people with immune deficiency diseases, and people with abnormal DNA repair mechanism, just to name a few).

As we grow older, our DNA accumulates a considerable amount of unrepaired damage, and under such circumstances even low doses of radiation can trigger the development of skin cancers, including the deadly melanoma. I would also be concerned about exposing the eyes, since this could increase one's risk of developing cataracts.

About 5 percent of the population have undiagnosed abnormal DNA repair mechanism. When exposed to radiation, this can put them at a cancer risk hundreds of times greater than normal people.

It also has been determined that when skin is next to certain metals, such as gold, the radiation dose is magnified 100-fold higher. What if you have a mole next to your gold jewelry? Will the radiation convert it to a melanoma? Deficiencies in certain vitamins can dramatically increase your sensitivity to radiation carcinogenesis, as can certain prescription medications.

As for the assurances we have been given

by such organization as the American College of Radiology, we must keep in mind that they assured us that the CT scans were safe and that the radiation was equal to one chest X-ray. Forty years later we learn that the dose is extremely high, it is thought to have caused cancer in a significant number of people, and the dose is actually equal to 1,000 chest X-rays.

Based on these assurances, tens of thousands of children have been exposed to radiation doses from CT scanners, which will ruin the children's lives. I have two friends who were high-ranking Environmental Protection Agency scientists, and they assure me that in government safety agencies, politics most often override the scientists' real concerns about such issues.

This government shares House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's view when she urged passage of the Obamacare bill sight unseen — "Let's just pass the bill, and we will find out what is in it later."

When the real effects of these scanners on health become known, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and the rest of the gang who insist the scanners are safe will be long gone.

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St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Named One Of The Nation's Top 50 Cardiovascular Hospitals By Thomson Reuters

Pontiac Hospital Selected from More Than 1,000 Studied Nationwide

Pontiac, Mich.—St. Joseph Mercy Oakland (SJMO) has been named one of the nation's 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals by Thomson Reuters. SJMO was selected as a result of Thomson Reuters' annual study of U.S. hospitals for inpatient cardiovascular services.

The study, now in its 12th year, for the first time singled out 50 hospitals rather than the traditional practice of naming 100 winners. The study examined the performance of 1,022 hospitals by analyzing outcomes for patients with heart failure and heart attacks and for those who received coronary bypass surgery and percutaneous coronary interventions such as angioplasties.

This is the seventh time SJMO has been recognized by Thomson Reuters for cardiovascular care.

"Our approach to treating cardiovascular disease is a focused, patient-centered approach that includes combining expert physicians, nurses and clinicians with advanced technology and nationally proven quality guidelines that will ensure excellent outcomes for our patients," says Kirit Patel, MD, Medical Director and Chair of the SJMO Division of Cardiology. "Receiving the prestigious designation as a Top 50 Cardiovascular Hospital in the country is a testament to all of those involved with the cardiovascular program at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland's Heart Institute."

The Heart Institute at SJMO offers comprehensive cardiovascular services from preventive medicine and diagnostic procedures to cardiac surgery. It offers the latest in cardiovascular services and innovative treatments through the use of advanced technology and clinical research.

The Elliott M. Estes Heart Center is the home of many cardiovascular services provided at The Heart Institute.

Among the services provided at The Heart Institute are:

- Noninvasive cardiology
- Invasive cardiology

- Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery
- Intensive and Critical Care
- Coronary Care
- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Cardiology Fellowship and Residency Program

"This honor demonstrates that St. Joseph Mercy Oakland continues to meet and exceed national quality benchmarks in the clinical management of patients with cardiovascular disease," said Jack Weiner, SJMO President and CEO. "We are committed to ongoing improvement in the quality of care we provide to our patients."

SJMO also was recognized by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and the Blue Care Network as a Blue Distinction® Center for Cardiac Care.

"We've chosen a more elite group of winners this year. These hospitals have raised the bar significantly," said Jean Chenoweth, Senior Vice President of Performance Improvement and 100 Top Hospitals® Program at Thomson Reuters. "They deliver higher survival rates, shorter hospital stays, fewer readmissions and lower costs—which adds up to enormous value for the communities they serve. As a result, everyone benefits: patients, families, employers, insurers and the hospital itself."

The study shows that 96 percent of cardiovascular inpatients survive and about 93 percent remain complication-free, indicative of improved cardiovascular care across-the-board over the past decade. The 50 top hospitals' performance surpasses these high-water marks as indicated by:

- Better risk-adjusted survival rates (33 percent fewer deaths than non-winning hospitals for bypass surgery).
- Lower complications indices (21 percent lower for heart failure complications).
- Fewer patients readmitted to the hospital in the 30 days following discharge.
- Shorter hospital visits and lower costs. Top

hospitals discharge heart patients a half-day sooner and spend \$1,300 less per case than non-winners.

The Thomson Reuters study evaluated general and applicable specialty, short-term, acute care, and non-federal U.S. hospitals treating a broad spectrum of cardiology patients. Its researchers analyzed 2008 and 2009 Medicare Provider Analysis and Review (MedPAR) data, Medicare cost reports and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Compare data. They scored hospitals in key performance areas: risk-adjusted mortality, risk-adjusted complications, core measures (a group of measures that assess process of care), percentage of coronary bypass patients with internal mammary artery use, 30-day mortality rates, 30-day readmission rates, severity adjusted average length of stay and wage- and severity-adjusted average cost.

About St. Joseph Mercy Oakland

St. Joseph Mercy Oakland is a 443-bed comprehensive, community, teaching hospital and a long-time leader in health care in Oakland County. Founded in 1927 by the Sisters of Mercy, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland has won numerous local and national awards for patient safety, quality and performance, and consistently ranks in the top 10 percent of hospitals nationwide. A member of the Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland is a technologically leading hospital that combines advanced medicine and personal care to assist patients on their path to wellness. With dedicated physicians, nurses and hospital staff committed to providing quality care throughout the patient stay, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland has truly personalized the patient care experience.

For more information about health services offered at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, please visit www.stjoesoakland.org.

About Saint Joseph Mercy Health System

Saint Joseph Mercy Health System (SJMHS)

is a newly expanded health care organization serving southeast Michigan. Health coverage spans six counties, including Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne. It includes 537-bed St. Joseph Mercy in Ann Arbor, 443-bed St. Joseph Mercy Oakland in Pontiac, 304-bed St. Mary Mercy in Livonia, 136-bed St. Joseph Mercy Livingston in Howell, 119-bed St. Joseph Mercy Port Huron, 113-bed Chelsea Community Hospital and 74-bed St. Joseph Mercy Saline. Combined, the seven hospitals are licensed for 1,726 beds, have five outpatient health centers, five urgent care facilities, more than 25 specialty centers; employ more than 14,000 individuals and have a medical staff of nearly 2,700 physicians.

A member of Trinity Health, the nation's fourth largest Catholic health care organization, SJMHS is committed to providing a remarkable patient experience by using leading edge technology in a comforting and healing environment. As a mission based organization, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System provides approximately \$100 million in community benefit to the communities it serves each year.

For more information on health services offered at Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, please visit www.sjmercyhealth.org.

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– Senior Citizens Matters –

4 Best Exercises for Older Adults

Improve strength, balance, flexibility and endurance

By Sharon O'Brien, About.com Guide

For older adults and seniors who want to stay healthy and independent, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) recommend four types of exercises:

Σ Strength exercises build older adult muscles and increase your metabolism, which helps to keep your weight and blood sugar in check.

Σ Balance exercises build leg muscles, and this helps to prevent falls. According to the NIH, U.S. hospitals have 300,000 admissions for broken hips each year, many of them seniors, and falling is often the cause of those fractures. If you are an older adult, balance exercises will help you avoid prob-

lems as you get older. And if you are a senior, balance exercises can help you stay independent by helping you avoid the disabilities that could result from falling.

Σ Stretching exercises can give you more freedom of movement, which will allow you to be more active during your senior years. Stretching exercises alone will not improve your endurance or strength.

Σ Endurance exercises are any activity—walking, jogging, swimming, biking, even raking leaves—that increases your heart rate and breathing for an extended period of time. Build up your endurance gradually, starting with as little as 5 minutes of endurance activities at a time.

Wrap Up Your Retirement Application Before Wrapping Holiday Gifts

By Rufus Gaston

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Metropolitan Detroit

The holiday season is, for many people the busiest time of year with gift lists and to-do lists, feast planning and party preparation. The busy schedule, like the gift lists, often can get out of hand.

If you're planning on retiring sometime early in the new year, we suggest you wrap up your retirement application now before wrapping any holiday gifts. It's so easy and can take as little as 15 minutes. Just go to www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline.

Our website makes the retirement application process quick, easy, and secure. In most cases, once your application is submitted electronically, you're done. There are no forms to sign and usually no documentation is required. Social Security will process your application and contact you if any further information is needed.

Before you start your application, you may want to spend a few minutes to get an estimate of your retirement benefit at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator. The Retirement Estimator uses your personal employment history to estimate your retirement benefit.

Then, jump right into the retirement application. You can use the online application to apply for Social Security retirement or spouses benefits if you:

- Are at least 61 years and 9 months old;
- Want to start your benefits in the next four months; and
- Live in the United States.

Before filing online for retirement, we suggest you have the following information on hand:

- Your date and place of birth and Social Security number;
- Your bank or financial institution's routing transit number and the account

number, for direct deposit of your benefits;

- The amount of money earned last year and this year. If you are filing for benefits in the months of September through December, you also will need to estimate next year's earnings;

- The name and address of your employer(s) for this year and last year;

- The beginning and ending dates of any active U.S. military service you had before 1968;

- The name, Social Security number, and date of birth or age of your current spouse and any former spouse. You also should know the dates and places of marriage and dates of divorce or death (if appropriate); and
- A copy of your Social Security Statement.

Even if you don't have all the information we need at your fingertips, you should go ahead and apply now.

Applying online means there is no need for you to go to a Social Security office or wait for a scheduled appointment with a Social Security representative. Besides, retiring online is so easy. You can apply in as little as 15 minutes. That translates to more time for holiday shopping and activities.

So beat the holiday rush and wrap up your retirement application today at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline.

Rufus Gaston
Public Affairs Specialist - Metropolitan Detroit - Social Security Administration
477 Michigan Avenue, Suite 1550 - Detroit, MI 48226
888-748-7691 ext.20934 fax (313) 226-4663 - rufus.gaston@ssa.gov

View the electronic fact sheet "what You Can Do at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10121.html

BABY BOOMERS: APPLY ONLINE FOR MEDICARE

By Rufus Gaston

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Metropolitan Detroit

This January marks a historic moment: our Nation's first baby boomers are turning 65.

For many baby boomers, it's time to hit the computer. Even if you have decided to wait until after you are age 65 to apply for retirement benefits, most people should start getting Medicare coverage at age 65.

If you would like to begin your Medicare coverage when you first become eligible, it's important that you apply within three months of reaching age 65. But don't worry about the time and effort it will take to apply for Medicare — it's fast and easy! You can do it online at www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare-online in as little as 10 minutes.

Why apply online for Medicare?

Because it's fast, easy, and secure. You don't need an appointment and you can avoid waiting in traffic or in line. As long as you have ten minutes to spare, you have time to complete and submit your online Medicare application.

People who started receiving Social Security retirement or disability benefits before age 65 do not need to apply; they will be automatically enrolled in Medicare.

To learn more about Medicare benefits, visit www.Medicare.gov.

To learn more about Medicare and the online application, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly. While you're there, take a look at the Patty Duke Show reunion video as they talk about turkey, pie, and Medicare online.

And happy birthday to all the baby boomers turning 65 in 2011.

Thank You Voters of the City of Pontiac

On Behalf of myself and the Friends of Judge Denise Langford Morris, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Voters of the City of Pontiac for your support of my candidacy for the Michigan Supreme Court!

Judge Denise Langford Morris



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Black & Pink Tie Affair Raises More Than \$75,000 for New Digital Mammography Machine

BIRMINGHAM, MI — The POH Riley Foundation is one step closer to purchasing a new Digital Mammography Machine after raising more than \$75,000 at the 8th Annual Black & Pink Tie Affair.

The event was held on November 6, 2010 at The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. More than 200 guests gathered for the extravagant affair donning elegant gowns and pink bow ties all in support of the Sister & Sister Free Mammogram Program.

For aiding the POH Riley Foundation in its fight against breast cancer, Yvette Bing, First Lady of the City of Detroit, was honored with the Breast Cancer Community Beacon Award. Lauren Campbell-Sanders, WDIV Local 4 News Anchor, was honored with the Breast Cancer Anchor of the Year Award. Dr. David A. Kellam of Kellam & Associates was honored with the Breast Cancer Ambassador Award.

Students from Lahser High School and Andover High School presented a check to the foundation in the amount of \$10,500 raised during Volley for a Cure, a fundraising initiative planned by the schools' Volleyball Teams in October to benefit the Sister & Sister Free Mammogram Program.

"This is a cause that is so important to so many people," said Bing, who is also Chair of the Sister & Sister Planning Committee. "If you just look around the room, I'm sure there is someone who has been affected by breast cancer — either you or a family member. To stop this deadly disease, we need to continue supporting organizations like the POH Riley Foundation to make sure all women can have a mammogram screening."

The POH Riley Foundation has initiated a capital campaign to raise \$250,000 for the purchase of a new state-of-the-art digital mammography machine.

Digital mammography is one of the most important diagnostic breakthroughs in women's healthcare. This new technology represents a revolution in mammography with clear, detailed images offering the highest degree of diagnostic confidence to support radiologists in the early detection of breast cancer.

The digital mammography machine offers superb image quality, reduced patient dose, high productivity and a flexible platform designed for advanced applications.

Sharon Hall, a two-time breast cancer survivor, spoke to the crowd about the significance of digital mammography.

"I feel confident that with digital mammography, I can remain cancer free," Hall said. "Cancer is a tough battle. It tricks you into thinking your life is over. But it doesn't have to be. We are all here to change

that mindset and let women know you can beat cancer."

Since the inception of the Free Mammogram Program in 2007, nearly 2,000 free mammogram screenings have been provided to underserved women in Oakland County. As a result of the screenings, 10 women were diagnosed with breast cancer and received follow-up treatment.

"It is well documented that approximately 7,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, and uninsured women face greater mortality rates from breast cancer," said Teresa A. Rodges, Executive Director of the POH Riley Foundation and Founder of the Sister & Sister Free Mammogram Program. "The presence of our guests and sponsors directly impacts the bottom line for these people and their families. I am especially honored to be involved in a program that provides free mammogram screenings year-round to uninsured and less fortunate women in our community."

Guests of the Black & Pink Tie Affair enjoyed a VIP Celebrity and Sponsor Reception; Live and Silent Auction; a live performance by comedian Lowell Sanders and entertainment by The Jerry Ross Band.

About our Honorees:

Yvette Bing, First Lady of the City of Detroit
Breast Cancer Community Beacon Award

Since the inception of the Free Mammogram Program in 2007, Yvette Bing has been an avid supporter of the POH Riley Foundation. She currently serves as chair of the Sister & Sister Planning Committee.



Students from Andover & Lahser High Schools presented a check to the POH Riley Foundation in the amount of \$10,500 raised during Volley for a Cure, a fundraising initiative planned by the schools' Volleyball Teams in October to benefit the Sister & Sister Free Mammogram Program

Bing said the Sister & Sister Free Mammogram Program is especially dear to her heart, having lost her sister to breast cancer. "I'm hoping that with organizations like the POH Riley Foundation, we can provide more free mammograms to women in need."

Lauren Campbell-Sanders, News Anchor
Breast Cancer Anchor of the Year Award

A weekend morning news anchor on WDIV Local 4, Lauren Campbell-Sanders began her television news career at Channel 20 WXON. Sanders has provided extensive news coverage to raise breast cancer awareness throughout Metro Detroit. In April of 2010, she partnered with the POH Riley Foundation to urge local women to have annual mammogram screenings as the Mistress of Ceremonies at the Sister & Sister Luncheon and Fashion Show.

Dr. David A. Kellam, Kellam & Associates
Breast Cancer Ambassador Award

David A. Kellam, D.O., has been a member of the POH Regional Medical Center family for 50 years. He and his wife Dolores A. Kellam have been passionate supporters of the hospital's community outreach programs for underprivileged residents in Oakland County. Dr. Kellam and the radiologists of Kellam & Associates have played a vital role in ensuring all women who come through the POH Riley Foundation's Free Mammogram Program have quality imaging results from their mammogram screenings.

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Event Honorees: Yvette Bing, Breast Cancer Community Beacon Award; Lauren Campbell-Sanders, Breast Cancer Anchor of the Year Award; and Dr. David A. Kellam, Breast Cancer Ambassador Award



DeGarA, P.L.L.C., Exclusive Signature Sponsor of the 8th Annual Black & Pink Tie Affair.



Sponsors and Supporters of the 8th Annual Black & Pink Tie Affair.

Community Calendar

The Palace of Auburn Hills COMING EVENTS CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS: December 2010

11 Saturday SPORTING EVENT - Men's College Basketball: Michigan State University vs. Oakland University, 12:30 p.m., \$35.00 VIP, \$25.00 reserved and \$15.00 general admission. Special Courtside and Front Row seating also available. MSU and OU Student tickets are \$10.00 for reserved and general admission seating with valid student ID. Money-saving Family Four-Packs at \$79.00 reserved and \$49.00 general admission and special group rates also available. ON SALE NOW.

11 Saturday PISTONS - v. Toronto Raptors, 7:30 p.m., \$90.00, \$60.00, \$45.00, \$40.00, \$30.00, \$22.00 and \$10.00 reserved. Special group rates available. ON SALE NOW.

14 Tuesday PISTONS - v. Atlanta Hawks, 7:30 p.m., \$90.00, \$60.00, \$45.00, \$40.00, \$30.00, \$22.00 and \$10.00 reserved. Special group rates available. ON SALE NOW.

17 Friday PISTONS - v. Los Angeles Clippers, 7:30 p.m., \$90.00, \$60.00, \$45.00, \$40.00, \$30.00, \$22.00 and \$10.00 reserved. Special group rates available. ON SALE NOW.

19 Sunday PISTONS - v. New Orleans Hornets, 6:00 p.m., \$90.00, \$60.00, \$45.00, \$40.00, \$30.00, \$22.00 and \$10.00 reserved. Special group rates available. ON SALE NOW.

26 Sunday PISTONS - v. Chicago Bulls, 6:00 p.m., \$90.00, \$60.00, \$45.00, \$40.00, \$30.00, \$22.00 and \$10.00 reserved. Special group rates available. ON SALE NOW.

29 Wednesday PISTONS - v. Boston Celtics, 7:30 p.m., \$110.00, \$80.00, \$65.00, \$40.00, \$30.00, \$22.00 and \$10.00 reserved. Special group rates available. ON SALE NOW.

30 Thursday CONCERT - Trans-Siberian Orchestra, rock/holiday, 3:00 p.m., \$61.00, \$51.00, \$41.00 and \$28.00 reserved. There is an eight-ticket limit for first 24 hours of on-sale. ON SALE NOW.

30 Thursday CONCERT -Trans-Siberian Orchestra, rock/holiday, 7:30 p.m., \$61.00, \$51.00, \$41.00 and \$28.00 reserved. There is an eight-ticket limit for first 24 hours of on-sale. ON SALE NOW.

For a complete calendar of events for The Palace of Auburn Hills:

<http://www.palacenet.com/files/media/PLComingEvents102010.doc>

Marketing Department, Palace of Auburn Hills

Phone: 248.377.8221 • Fax: 248.377.0543

Pontiac Meals on Wheels Holiday Celebration Aims To "Make A Child Smile & Warm A Senior's Heart"

Pontiac, MI -- The Pontiac Meals on Wheels Holiday Celebration "Make A Child Smile & Warm A Senior's Heart" will be held on Friday, December 10th, at Randy's on the Lake in Pontiac beginning at 5 p.m. The fundraising event will benefit the children of Lighthouse PATH, a program for homeless women and children in transition, as well as, the many homebound seniors living in the Pontiac, Keego Harbor and Sylvan Lake areas through the Pontiac Meals On Wheels program. "In these economically challenged times, we want to make sure our seniors and children in the community have a special Holiday," says Rosa Randolph, program director, Pontiac Meals On Wheels.

OCEDC Monthly Diversity Educational Forum Series

Thursday, December 16, 2010 - 1PM - 3PM

Topic: Diversity Topics for 2011

End of Year Networking & Membership Appreciation Event

Oakland County Executive Office - Building 41 West
Conference Center - 2100 Pontiac Lake Road - Waterford, MI 48328

Kwanzaa Celebration to take place at Pontiac Creative Art Center.

Saturday December 18, 2010 6PM - 8PM

This FREE community event is sponsored by the Pontiac chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in collaboration with the Pontiac Creative Art Center on Saturday, December 18, 2010 from 6:00-8:00 pm at 47 Williams Street, Pontiac, MI 48341.

Bishop Abi from the Shrine of the Black Madonna will perform the rituals celebrating all seven Kwanzaa principals complete with libations.

There will be live African drumming and dancing and a soul food dinner.

For more info, please contact Lohren Nzoma at 248-778- 6446

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Sandy-Michael McDonald &

JUST FRIENDS

PRESENTS ...

"Champagne Life.... Let's Toast It Up!"

Red & Black New Years Eve Gala

Friday, December 31, 2010 | 8:00p.m. – 3:00am

Marriott – Auburn Hills Pontiac at Centerpoint

3600 Centerpoint Parkway | Pontiac, MI 48341

Advance Tickets: \$45 Single ~ \$75 Couple

(Advance Ticket Price Good Thru 12/20/2010)

Live Band | DJ | Party Favors

Evening Hors d'oeuvres | Breakfast Hors d'oeuvres

Midnight Champagne Toast | CASH BAR

Midnight \$500 Cash Prize Give Away

Sounds By DJ – Christopher Kelley

**Live Performance By – New Strategy
(8:30 show time)**

For Tickets Call: Sonya 248 636-3287

Alicia: 313 819-0303 / Leonard: 248 895-2775

Semi-Formal to Formal Attire **REQUIRED**

Tickets higher at the door

For additional info go to www.justfriendsent.com

Other Amenities

Late Morning Brunch Buffet - \$40/couple
Hotel Accommodations
Starting at \$79
Additional Night Stay - \$39

EVENT OVERNIGHT PACKAGES

COUPLES

Option 1 - \$75
Couples Gala Ticket
Add One Night Hotel Stay for Just \$79
Total Package Cost: \$154

Option 2 - \$115

Gala & Late Morning Brunch
Add One Night Hotel Stay for Just \$79
or 2 night stay for \$118
Total Package Cost: (1 night stay - \$194)
(2 night stay - \$233)

SINGLES

Option 1 - \$45
Singles Gala Ticket
Add One Night Hotel Stay for Just \$79
Total Package Cost: \$124

Option 2 - \$65

Gala & Late Morning Brunch
Add One Night Hotel Stay for Just \$79
or 2 night stay for \$118
Total Package Cost: (1 night stay - \$144)
(2 night stay - \$183)

**To reserve your tickets
and hotel rooms go to
www.justfriendsent.com**