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The Pontiac News

A NEWS SOURCE WITH A LOCAL FLAVOR

VOL.1 ISSUE 13

Calling All Chiefs, Calling all Huskies and other concerned Pontiac School District citizens!

Contribute to the remaking of the Pontiac School District... Attend the Final Community Forum on **Tuesday, January 13** at WHRC from 6 PM - 8 PM

Who will be the next Mayor of the City of Pontiac?



Mayor Phillips

According to various sources several individuals have or will be making the decision to run for Mayor of the City of Pontiac. These individuals include current mayor Clarence Phillips, former mayor Walter Moore, Downtown Development Director Micheal Sandy McDonald, local businessman Leon Jukowski, Mark Holland nephew of former Mayor Wallace Holland. (Email TPN thepontiacnews@sbcglobal.net an let us know what you think)

Pontiac School District Board of Trustees are in Process of Making Decisions to Remake the District.

(see publisher editorial inside on page 2)



Above: Trustees Northcross, Cadd and Bass. Left: Trustee Irma Bradley-Pettress, Dr. Linda Paramore, President Damon Dorkins, Vice President Gill Garrett. Right: Trustee Karen Cain



House Passes Plan to Increase Pontiac Residents' Access to Higher Education

Plan allows students to use Promise Scholarship to repay locally funded tuition

LANSING - The Michigan House recently passed a plan sponsored by State Representative Tim Melton (D-Pontiac) that will allow students who receive the Michigan Promise Scholarship to use the funds to reimburse local programs that help fund their tuition.

"No student who wants to earn a higher education should be deprived of that opportunity simply because it's too expensive," said Melton, Chair of the House Education Committee. "Thanks to the Michigan Promise Scholarship, many students who used to dream of attending college are now making it a reality. However, not everyone can afford to pay the tuition it takes to get

started; this plan will make it easier to help those students achieve their higher education goals."

Currently, a Michigan Promise Scholarship totaling \$4000 is disbursed to an approved higher education institution on a student's behalf after he or she completes two years of community college, university or vocational training with a grade point average of 2.5 or higher.

"This bill gives communities a powerful



Melton

new tool they can use to help send their young people to college and to strengthen their local economies by focusing on the skills employers need." said Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. "This legislation helps us achieve one of our most critical goals - to give Michigan the best educated workforce in the nation."

Melton's plan aims to help students who do not have the money needed to initially finance their education and allows them to enroll in higher education with the intent to earn the Promise Scholarship in two years. Under the plan, students who qualify for the Michigan Promise Scholarship may instead assign their scholarship money to a local

Promise Zone Authority or a community foundation in order to reimburse the program for helping the student pay for the first two years of tuition.

"Passing this plan today demonstrates our commitment to higher education for all Michigan residents," Melton said. "By creating more opportunities for our students, Michigan will have the highly educated workforce it needs to make our state a powerhouse in the 21st century economy. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to take action on this plan and help turn our state around by giving our residents more access to the higher education they deserve."

Brenda Causey-Mitchell Selected as Parent/School Liaison for Pontiac School District



Brenda Causey-Mitchell

Former County Commissioner and Founder of The Summer Reading Theatre Brenda Causey-Mitchell has been selected by the Pontiac School District to serve as the parent/school coordinator. The main functions of this job is to facilitate access of families to Title I district programs and services in compliance with state and/or federal requirement. Mrs. Causey Mitchell will be required to do the following; support student and parent participation in Title I programs, assist in collection of parent evaluations and recommendations for Title I programming, assist families in locating community resources for the purposes of promoting parent effectiveness and student achievement, assist with the organization and implementation of events and activities for the purpose of promoting parent involvement, coordinate parent training events at individual schools and in community settings and various other related duties.

Brooks Patterson thinks about running for governor



L. Brooks Patterson

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson is considering whether to run for Michigan governor.

According to Columnist Nolan Finley with The Detroit News the 70-year-old Republican plans to announce Saturday that he's exploring a run for the governor seat in 2010. Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm can't run for a third term because of term limits.

Other possible GOP candidates include Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, Attorney General Mike Cox, businessman David Brandon, U.S. Reps. Pete Hoekstra, Mike Rogers and Candice Miller and Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard.

Possible Democratic candidates include Lt. Gov. John Cherry, Flint Mayor Don Williamson, Macomb County Sheriff Mark Hackel, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and former Michigan State football coach and current university trustee George Perles.

Oakland County Employment Diversity Council Presents "A Cultural Excursion and Networking Extravaganza " @ The Charles Wright Museum of African American History Thursday, January 15, 2009 for ticket and other information (See Page 16)

Remaking Of The Pontiac School District - Let's Get it right this time!

By R. Frank Russell



Publisher R. Frank Russell

Let me first take this opportunity to thank all of you who have taken the time to read our humble publication over the past two years. We want to especially thank our advertisers, production and printing company, editors, sales people, contributing writers, paper folders (Erykah Chambliss, De'Angela Gibson, Macoya Midgett,

Tatyana Watkins) and distributors for your assistance in making sure that The Pontiac News continues to exist. Thanks to the people who took time out of their busy schedules to send words of encouragement to The Pontiac News. The overwhelming response to this publication since inception has been positive and encouraging and we do appreciate this great show of goodwill!

LET'S GET IT RIGHT THIS TIME!

The Pontiac Redesign Committee consisting of private citizens (myself included), State Rep Tim Melton, school board members, administrative, union and other district staff met over the last 3 months to study and discuss Pontiac School district issues, relevant research, and district data pertinent to developing a recommendation to the Board of Trustees around facilities, finance and instructional programming. During this process many meetings and many hours were dedicated to developing recommendations.

The instructional subcommittee brought three recommendations:

- 1) Grade configuration of K-6, 7-9 and 10-12
- The configuration/design of the district up until the early/mid 70's

- 2) Grade configuration of k-8 and 9-12
- 3) Giving over high school operation in either configuration to a third party, using a request for proposal process.

At a Study Session on December 16, 2009, the Board of Trustees discussed and came to a consensus to adopt the K-6, 7-9 and 10-12.

Amazingly, during their next Board meeting on Monday January 5, 2009, the Trustees (Robert Bass not included) ignored and rejected the subcommittees recommendations, and their own study session decision, and voted to adopt a configuration that was not considered during the 3 months of meetings and the many hours of dedicated deliberation on this matter.

The configuration adopted by the Trustees by a 6-1 vote was K-6, 7-8 and 9-12. This configuration would include a separate isolated 9th Grade Academy within the High School where 9th graders would be isolated and segregated from the rest of the student body.

It is clear, to this writer, that the decision to keep the 9th Grade Academy in the High School was made by a few individuals operating behind the scenes. It is also clear to me that the individuals making this decision did so prior to and without honest regards for the recommendation made as a result of this rigorous public participation process. The main promoter of this experimental concept came to the January 5th Board meeting with an agenda to dogmatically push this idea until it was adopted by the Board.

Quite frankly, I am outraged and offended when our public servants (school board trustees and other elected officials) ask for public participation from the citizens, and after receiving recommendations these public servants either ignore or water down our thoughtful ideas.

To Trustee Gill Garrett and the other trustees (Dorkins, Northcross, Bradley-Petters, Cain and Cadd) who voted for the K-6, 7-8, 9-12 configuration/design I implore you to reconsider your decision of January 5, and adopt the K-6, 7-9 and 10-12 configuration.

"The configuration or school design K-6, 7-9 and 10-12 should be adopted because it has worked in this community."

Without fear of thoughtful contradiction, I submit to you (Board of Trustees) and the community that the changing of the school configuration/design in the early/mid 70's, along with forced busing, the resulting elimination of neighborhood schools and other related factors (white and professional flight, economic factors including job loss) are directly responsible for our current educational mess. Before these outrageous and disastrous changes were made, the School District of The City of Pontiac was considered one of the best in America.

K-6 Design

Recently, the district made a wise decision to remove six-graders from the middle schools and place them back in the elementary school where they belong. This was a great first step to correct the problem of six graders going to middle schools and getting lost in educational confusion. Research has demonstrated that the placement of six graders in the middle school setting was a complete disaster and caused permanent harm to many in this age group and stunted their future educational and psychological growth. By leaving the six-grader in the elementary school we allow this group to grow and mature to the point where they are physically, psychologically and emotionally mature enough to make the move to the 7-9 middle or Jr. High School configuration.

7-9 Design

Research has also illustrated that 9th grader in the high school setting have a greater drop-out rate, and are also stunted in their educational and

psychological growth. As in the situation with the six grader, 9th graders need to remain in the cocoon of the middle or Jr. high school setting until they have matured physically, psychologically and emotionally. The past 30+ years has demonstrated that this maturation cannot happen in the high school setting, and we have grave doubts that it will happen in the isolated and segregated setting of a separate 9th grade academy.

Solution: Let's Go Back to the Model that worked in The School District of The City of Pontiac! K-6, 7-9 and 10-12!

Finally, let me reflect a few minutes on the past glory days of the Pontiac School District to further illustrate my point.

Did you know that back in the day, the Pontiac school district produced Al Taubman - Developer of many malls across the United States including the first mall in the world Northland Shopping Mall in Oak Park, MI; the world's largest mall in Minneapolis, MN; and Great Lakes Crossing? Did you also know that Dan Murphy (Oakland County's first County Executive), Lynn Allen (long-time Oakland County Clerk) are graduates from the Pontiac School district? How many of you know that the renowned attorney Albert Hatchett and former 50th District Court Judge Christopher Brown are products of the Pontiac School District? Were you aware that Ronnie McNair, now a member of the famed Four Tops and international jazz musicians Hank, Thad and Elvin Jones once walked the halls of Pontiac Central and Pontiac High respectively? Surely you have heard about the achievements of Olympic gold medal winners Miki King and Hayes Jones, both graduates from the school district of the City of Pontiac. Bet you did not know that the 1964 state semi-finalist Pontiac Central basketball team consisted of a future doctor in Gerald Henry, a future mayor in Walter Moore, a future attorney Alvin Keel and a future

school principal in William Morgan. Other high achievers from our school district from back in the day include former TPN Teacher of the year Ruthie Winfield, Rev. Bill Tipton, comedian Terry Hodges, Donnie Soden, Dana Coin, Judge Phyllis McMillen, Judge Preston Thomas, Judge Leo Bowman and attorneys Darryl Mitchell, Joe McMillen, Harrison Munson, Russell Anderson and Kenny Burch. Dr. Gary Weeks, Dr. Bruce Turpin, Dr. Larry Russell, Dr. Jeff Martin, Dr. Beverly Goodman, Dr. Terrance Haynes, Dr. Drew Marshall, Dr. Amos Johnson, Jr. and Dr. Henry Smith are all graduates of the Pontiac School district, under the K-6, 7-9 and 10-12 school configuration/design!

Finally it is important to note that in the late 1950's, early 1960's and 70's the Pontiac School district was considered by many to be one of the top school districts in America! In addition, Pontiac Central High School has been an accredited high school since 1849. It is the oldest high school in Oakland County, Southeastern Michigan, and has the largest alumni of any school in Oakland County.

So, there you have it, the Pontiac school district was once a great place to send your child if you wanted him or her to excel academically, socially and athletically. I conclude my travels down memory lane with this statement "if we did it once; we can do it again".

Let's Get It Right This Time....stop experimenting with our children.

So there you have it; my 2 cents worth. Hopefully these suggestions will be received in the spirit in which they are presented - as a primer or catalyst for correct action!

Again please keep in mind that the suggestions made in this editorial is the opinion of this writer and is shared by many unheard voices in this community. We welcome your comments!

TPN

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Proposed Solution to Youth Crisis

The Youth Development Institute (YDI) In Conjunction with The Pontiac News, Inc. & Other Participating Organizations
Presents The Educational & Business Conference & Workshop Series

How To Stimulate, Motivate, Educate & Cultivate A Valuable Untapped Resource The Young Black Male and Female & Other At-Risk Youth[©]

This Event Has Been Postponed Until Further Notice

* A Black History Month Event

©YDI Non-Profit Youth Service Concept Since 1983

“CONCERNED PROFESSIONALS COMING TOGETHER TO SOLVE THE CRISIS OF THE YOUNG BLACK MALE & FEMALE AND OTHER AT-RISK YOUTH”

A LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear clergy, parents, educators and other concerned citizens:

Did you know that recent studies have shown that a significant number of young black males, females and Other At-Risk Youth that enter our public schools and other institutions drop-out or fail because of an inability of professionals within these institutions to understand and connect with the issues that impact upon the growth and development of these children?

Did you also know that there are individuals who have dedicated their lives to finding ways and means of addressing the profound problems that cause a significant segment of our young people to fail or simply drop out of school?

With keynote addresses and expert presentations in the various areas related to 'Solving The Crisis of The Young Black Male & Female and Other At-Risk Youth, you will emerge from this conference armed with practical tips that will make you a more effective Stimulator, Motivator, Educator and Cultivator of this most Valuable Untapped American Resource.

This conference will feature innovative, practical and common-sense ideas, advice and solutions from a dynamic panel of seasoned experts who have been successfully dealing with this crisis for years. Topics will include:

- The Proper Education for The Young Black Male, Female and Other At-Risk Youth for the 21st Century!
- How To Properly Stimulate, Motivate, Educate and Cultivate, The Young Black Male, Female and Other At-Risk Youth!
- Adverse Environmental factors that negatively impact upon the Educational Development of Young Black Males, Females and Other At-Risk Youth.
- The impact of Nutrition and Ritalin on the Education of Young Black males, Females and Other At-Risk Youth!
- How To circumvent the disproportionate percentage of Black Males who are suspended, Expelled and/or placed in Special Education classes!
- How To Deprogram Young Black Males & Females and Other At-Risk Youth from the Myth of Intellectual Inferiority!
- High Teacher Expectation as a Motivator!
- The Impact of Teacher Frustration and Administrative Inflexibility on Student Achievement!
- How School Fail Young Black Males and Females and Other At-Risk Youth!
- Black Children Their Roots, Culture and Learning Style!
- Bringing the Black Boy & Girl to Man & Womanhood!
- The Effects of Cultural Forces on the Self Concept of Young Black Males, Females and Other At-Risk Youth!
- Towards a Relevant Curriculum Taught with the Appropriate Methodology!
- How To Stimulate and Motivate Parental Involvement!
- How To Motivate and Cultivate Student Achievement!
- The Impact of Technology on the Education of The Young Black Male, Female and Other At-Risk Youth!
- How To Awaken the Genius of the Black Child!
- A Model Parental training program that works!
- Why School Reform Efforts Have Failed and What Parents Need To Do!

Please Join The Youth Development Institute (YDI), The Pontiac News and other area organizations, businesses and agencies along with our Panel of Experts from across this Nation at this unique, timely and critical event to share ideas and perspectives on How To Stimulate, Motivate, Educate and Cultivate - A Valuable Untapped Resource - The Young Black Male, Female and Other At-Risk Youth!

Do not hesitate - send your request for event brochure and registration information to YDI - P.O. Box 431016 - Pontiac, MI 48343, or email your contact information to YDIyouthDevelop@aol.com, or call Mike Reed at 248-758-1411 for more information. We look forward to seeing you at this educational events!

Sincerely,
Mike Reed, Event Coordinator

CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION

This Educational/Business Conference and Workshop Series is designed to help professionals and other individuals to understand and more effectively Stimulate, Motivate, Educate and Cultivate this most Valuable Untapped Resource - The Young Black Male and Female and Other At-Risk Youth. This conference series will also serve as a forum whereby educators, social workers, policy makers and others can devise additional methods to solve the problems encountered by this population in the various institutions in this society.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- School Principals, Teachers and other Educators
- Professors
- Administrators
- Counselors
- Youth Advisors
- Social Workers
- Police Officers
- Psychologist
- Sociologist
- Ministers
- Parents
- Protective Service Workers
- Coaches
- Boys & Girls Scout Leaders
- Child Welfare Workers
- Parole Officers
- Probation Officers
- School Board Members
- Students and the General Public

Over 15,000 professionals, the general public and other concerned parties from throughout Oakland County will gather at the conference site during Black History Month February 2009 for this most important conference and workshop series.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

In order to mitigate the crisis encountered by The Young Black Male and Female and Other At-Risk Youth in the various institutions of America, The Youth Development Institute via this Conference Series proposes to:

1. Assist Teachers and other Educators, Professors, Administrators, Counselors, Youth Advisors, Social Workers, Psychologist, Sociologist, Ministers, Parents, Protective Service Workers, Coaches, Boys & Girls Scout Leaders, Child Welfare Workers, Police Officers and other professionals who work with the target group to understand and more effectively Stimulate, Motivate, Educate and Cultivate Young Black Males and Females and Other At-Risk Youth.
2. Identify the specific problems encountered by The Young Black Male and Female and Other At-Risk Youth in the various educational and other institutions in this society.
3. Recommend specific solutions to the problems encountered by The Young Black Male and Female and Other At-Risk Youth.
4. Share and Exchange information with educators and other professionals who work with The Young Black Male and Female and Other At-Risk Youth.
5. Bring media and public attention and awareness to this most serious problem.
6. Focus media and public attention on those experts who have developed ways and means of addressing this critical problem.
7. Stimulate and Motivate Educators and other professionals who work with The Young Black Male and Female and Other At-Risk Youth to devise additional methods to solve this crisis.
8. Examine the role that various American Institutions (religious institutions, schools, media) can play in resolving this most critical problem.
9. Articulate to the appropriate local, state and federal officials suggestions resulting from this conference series that will facilitate the resolution of this grave crisis.

A LETTER TO POTENTIAL SPONSORS

Dear Sponsor:

It is with great pleasure that we announce and present the Educational/Business Conference & Workshop Series “ How To Stimulate, Motivate, Educate & Cultivate - A Valuable Untapped Resource - The Young Black Male & Female & Other At-Risk Youth”. This exciting event will be held in Oakland County/Pontiac, Michigan during Black History Month February 2009. It is anticipated that we will reach (as attendees) over 15,000 parents, youth, educators, childcare workers and other professional who work with our youth. In addition, we expect many more thousands of parents and caregivers will realize the benefits of this conference through video, television and other mediums.

As you know a segment of our population are not realizing the full benefits of our educational system and are being left behind as non-productive and unemployable members of the community. We here at YDI believe that this problem can be solved. Hence we have contacted and are presently in negotiation with educational experts from across this great country who have developed the ways and means of addressing the critical issues encountered by young black males, females and other At-Risks students within the public school system and other institutions of America.

In order to make this vision (conference series) happen we are in need of corporate, governmental and individual sponsors who will step up to the plate and provide YDI with the financial support needed to make this most worthwhile project a reality! Quite frankly, if you really want to show that you support education and our youth, there is no better way than serving as a sponsor of The National Conference & Workshop Series “ How To Stimulate, Motivate, Educate & Cultivate - A Valuable Untapped Resource - The Young Black Male & Female & Other At-Risk Youth”.

Please call 248-758-1411 to receive Sponsors Information. We will provide complete Sponsor kit per your request, which details the various levels of Sponsorship Opportunities that are available to individuals, corporations, foundations and governmental agencies.

The Youth Development Institute (YDI) is a Michigan based non-profit, Corporation; therefore your contributions may be tax deductible. Our tax ID # is 38-2532902. If you have questions on how to proceed as a sponsor please call Mike Reed at 248-758-1411, you can also request information electronically, our email address is YDIyouthDevelop@aol.com

Sincerely,
Mike Reed - Event Coordinator

— What's Happening In Oakland County —

January Business Workshops Offered By Oakland County



L. Brooks Patterson

Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend seminars in January, 2009 offered by the Oakland County Business Center. Business Basics workshops are now offered in the evenings on alternating months.

Start a Business

This seminar is 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. The class runs from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Thursday, January 15, at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford. For location and pre-registration, call (248) 858-0783. The fee is \$30. No refunds.

Listening to Your Business

The day-to-day responsibilities of running your own business leave little time to focus on long-term vision, goals, and strategies. Find time in your schedule to spend it with Listening to Your Business, a half-day workshop from FastTrac. No one knows your business better than you. Listening to Your Business gives you the tools you need to take a closer look at where your business is today, what you want it to look like in three years, and the steps to get there. The class is held on Friday, January 16, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford. For location specifics and pre-registration, call (248) 858-0783. The fee is \$95.

Write a Business Plan

This workshop is for small business owners who are developing a plan to serve as their road map to success. The class is held on Thursday, January 22, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford. For location specifics and pre-registration, call (248) 858-0783. The fee is \$40, which includes all materials. No refunds.

Legal & Financial Basics for Small Business

This workshop covers many of the key legal and financial issues faced by both new and existing small businesses in Michigan. The program initially focuses on the many management and liability concerns faced by

entrepreneur, as well as today's tax consequences. The program also provides solutions and techniques for business concession and individual investment and retirement planning. The class is held on Tuesday, January 27, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford. For location specifics and pre-registration, call (248) 858-0783. Presented by Carter & Affiliates, P.C. CPA & Retirement Specialist. This workshop is free of charge, but pre-registration is required.

Marketing Your Business

Marketing is an essential of business success. All products/services must be sold to well-targeted audiences with a wide-ranging marketing mix. Our staff counselors can guide you through successful techniques and marketing principles helping you to promote your products and services to the most promising customers-your target audience. The class is held on Thursday, January 29, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford. For location specifics and pre-registration, call (248) 858-0783. Presented by the Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center. Cost is \$40.00 (Checks Payable to E.M.U.).

Future Workshops

(AM) Morning Class 9 a.m. to 12/12:30 p.m.
(PM) Evening Class 6 p.m. to 9/9:30 p.m.

February 2009

11: Pre-Business Research Workshop (PM)
18: How to Start a Business Workshop (PM)
19: TEAM SBA Financing Roundtables
25: How to Write a Business Plan Workshop (PM)
26: WBE Certification Orientation

March 2009

05: Pre-Business Research Workshop (AM)
06: Venture Forward Spring Session Begins (thru May 8)
12: How to Start a Business Workshop (AM)
18: How to Increase Your Sales & Grow Your Business (Business Owners Only)
19: How to Write a Business Plan Workshop (AM)
26: QuickBooks Essentials

The Web site address for Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services Workshops is www.oakgov.com/peds/calendar.

For more information, please contact Steve Huber, Marketing & Communications Supervisor for Oakland County Economic Development & Community Affairs at 248-858-1848.

Oakland County Commissioner Mattie McKinney Hatchett Makes History



Mattie McKinney Hatchett, Oakland County Commissioner

Oakland County Commissioner

Mattie McKinney Hatchett was unanimously elected to the prestigious position of Second Vice President for the Michigan

Association of Counties (MAC), at

the December meeting in Lansing, Michigan at a recent meeting.

She will serve as one of four members of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, which includes the president, first vice president, second vice president and immediate past president for the 16 member Executive Board of Directors. Commissioner Mattie McKinney Hatchett, as Second Vice President, is positioned to become the President of Michigan Association of Counties (MAC).

MAC represents 83 county governments and 699 county commissioners across Michigan. The association's role includes acting as an advocate for the interests of Michigan's county governments. As second vice president of the Michigan Association of Counties, Commissioner Mattie McKinney Hatchett duties will entail working with the Legislative Board of Directors and the Governor's Office on various issues that impact counties across the state. She will work to determine if MAC is successful in fulfilling its mission.

The Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) works with various levels of government. This association works to improve public understanding of counties, serving as a statewide advocate for counties while providing resources to help counties find

innovative methods to meet the challenges they face.

MAC is a full-service state organization that provides legislative, research, technical and public affairs assistance to county governments. Created in 1898, MAC continues to ensure that

the state's 83 counties concerns are heard and that their recommendations for policy matters are acted upon and understood in the Michigan State Legislature and the Governor's Office.

Some of the issues that MAC have been instrumental are the 9-1-1 Surcharge Legislation which resulted in a compromise with the telecommunication industry agreeing to cell phone surcharge tax revenue going directly to 9-1-1 systems and the current effort to reinstate revenue sharing for counties.

Commissioner Hatchett stated, "I am humbled to have the opportunity to focus on issues and problems facing Oakland County and counties across Michigan. I welcome my new role as part of the leadership team and the responsibilities of looking at issues that affect us. I welcome the opportunity to help address the needs of counties throughout Michigan."

Commissioner Hatchett was first appointed to the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Board of Directors in March 2007. She was name board member for Region 5, which includes the counties of Oakland, Wayne, Macomb, Monroe, and Washtenaw. She made history as the first African American woman to hold this position from Oakland County and has once again made history as the first African American woman to be elected to the second vice president position in the 110 year history of the association.

— What's Happening In Lansing —

Michigan Legislature Reaches Deal on Expansion of Detroit's Cobo Hall

LANSING - In a move that will jumpstart Michigan's economy and protect thousands of jobs, the Michigan House of Representatives today passed a bipartisan, bicameral plan to expand and modernize Detroit's Cobo Hall. The move will ensure that Michigan remains the home of the North American International Auto Show and cements Cobo Hall as a prime international destination for events from around the world.

"With Michigan's working families struggling to make ends meet, we must make every effort to protect Michigan jobs," said State Representative Virgil Smith (D-Detroit). "This is not a perfect deal, but over 16,000 of our residents rely on Cobo for their livelihoods. We must act now to ensure that this Michigan landmark continues play a vital role in growing our economy and attracting new businesses to the area."

Tens of thousands visit Cobo Hall each year, many to visit the North American International Auto Show, one of Michigan's signature events. In addition to being responsible for over 16,000 jobs, it is estimated that Cobo brings \$600 million in revenue annually to Michigan's economy.

Recently, Nissan and Mitsubishi made waves when they pulled out of the auto show.

They join Suzuki and Porsche, who cited Cobo's limited space and obsolete facilities in making their decision. In fact, preparations for the auto show have to begin six months in advance, in order to adequately deal with the inefficiencies of Cobo's loading docks.

The House-passed plan will transfer ownership of Cobo Hall from the City of Detroit to a new regional authority, made up of a five member board with representatives from the tri-county area. This board will have the initial task of overseeing the renovation and expansion, and later will manage the property under strict rules designed for efficiency and transparency.

Funding for the expansion will come from a redistribution of current revenues. No new taxes will be created and no taxes will be raised to pay for the project.

"Without this expansion, we are in danger of losing thousands of jobs and losing the auto show," Smith said. "The authority that will oversee the renewal of Cobo Hall will come from all over the metro Detroit area with one goal in mind - putting the interests of Michigan families first. Expanding Cobo Hall is a key part of our plan to move Michigan forward by creating good-paying jobs now."

— What's Happening In Pontiac —

The School District of The City of Pontiac Wants Your Ideas

Your input is needed, please attend the last Community Forum to be held on Tuesday January 13 from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM, at WHRC.

Currently the district has approximately 7,000 students, while paying to operate and maintain 19 buildings designed for 20,000

students. The projected deficit is expected to be more than \$5 million if steps are not taken before June 30, 2009. Suggested solutions include closing at least 11 of the buildings that are currently operating and adjusting the academic programs that are offered.

—Money Matters—

The Need for Monetary Reform

By Stephen Zarlenga

Monetary reform is the critical missing element needed to move humanity back from the brink of nuclear disaster, away from a future dominated by fraud and warfare, toward a world of justice and beauty.

The power to create money is an awesome power - at times stronger than the Executive, Legislative or Judicial powers combined. It's like having a "magic checkbook," where checks can't bounce. When controlled privately it can be used to gain riches, but more importantly it determines the direction of our society by deciding where the money goes - what gets funded and what does not. Will it be used to build and repair vital infrastructure such as Levees to protect major cities? Or will it go into warfare or real estate loans, creating asset price inflation - the real estate bubble.

Thus the money issuing power should never be alienated from democratically elected government and placed ambiguously into private hands as it is in America in the Federal Reserve System today.

Indeed most people would be surprised to learn that the bulk of our money supply is not created by our government, but by private banks when they make loans. Through the Fed's fractional reserve process the system creates purchasing media when banks make loans into checking accounts. So most of our money is issued as interest-bearing debt.

We are borrowing this money system from private banks when instead we should own

the system, not rent it. Our government has the sovereign power to issue money (Art.1, Sect.8) and spend it into circulation to promote the general welfare through the creation and repair of infrastructure, including human infrastructure - health and education - rather than misusing the money system for speculation as banking has historically done. Our lawmakers must now reclaim that power!

Money has value because of skilled people and resources and infrastructure, working together in a supportive social and legal framework. Money is the indispensable lubricant that lets them "run." It is not tangible wealth in itself, but a power to obtain wealth. Money is an abstract social power based in law and whatever government accepts in payment of taxes will be money. Money's value is not created by the private corporations that now control it.

Unhappily, mankind's experience with private money creation has undeniably been a long history of fraud, mismanagement and even villainy.* Banking abuses are pervasive and self-evident. Major companies focus on misusing the money system instead of production. For example, in June 2005, Citibank and Merrill Lynch paid over \$1.2 Billion to Enron pensioners to settle fraud charges.

Private money creation through fractional reserve banking fosters an unprecedented concentration of wealth which destroys the democratic process and ultimately promotes imperialism. Less than 1% of the population

claims ownership of almost 50% of the wealth, but vital infrastructure is ignored. The American Society of Civil Engineers gives a D grade to our infrastructure and estimates that \$1.6 trillion is needed to bring it to acceptable levels.

That fact alone shows the world's dominant money system to be a major failure crying for reform.

Infrastructure repair would provide quality employment throughout the nation. There is a pretense that government must either borrow or tax to get the money for such projects. But it is a well enough known, that the government can directly create the money needed and spend it into circulation for such projects, without inflationary results.

Monetary reform is achieved in 3 parts which must be enacted together for it to work. Any one or any two of them alone won't do it, but could actually further harm the monetary situation.

First, incorporate the Federal Reserve System into the U.S. Treasury where all new money is created by government as money, not interest-bearing debt, and spent into circulation to promote the general welfare; monitored to be neither inflationary nor deflationary.

Second, halt the banks privilege to create money by ending the fractional reserve system in a gentle and elegant way. All the past monetized private credit is converted into U.S. government money. Banks then act as intermediaries accepting savings deposits and loaning them out to borrowers; what

people think they do now.

Third, spend new money into circulation on infrastructure, including education and healthcare needed for a growing society, starting with the \$1.6 trillion that the American Society of Civil Engineers estimate is needed for infrastructure repair; creating good jobs across our nation, re-invigorating local economies and re-funding government at all levels.

The false specter of inflation is usually raised against such suggestions that our government fulfill its responsibility to furnish the nation's money supply. But that is a knee jerk reaction - the result of decades, even centuries of propaganda against government. When one actually examines the monetary record, it becomes clear that government has a superior record issuing and controlling money than the private issuers have.* Inflation is avoided because real material wealth has been created in the process.

This press release from the recent monetary reform conference in Chicago, which I addressed highlights the beneficial effects of the plan both in terms of saving on interest, and in avoiding such disasters in the first place:

Money Reform Plan Would Save Taxpayers \$ Billions Per Year in Katrina Cleanup

"An alteration in the way money is introduced into our economy would save at least \$10 billion dollars per year in the cleanup and

See Money on Page 11



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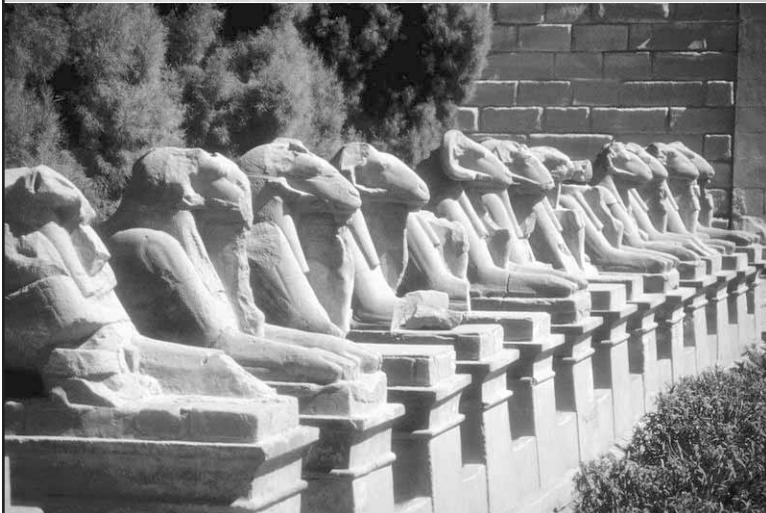
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Africa - & World News

Mills elected President of Ghana, promises to heal wounds

**Kofi Annorh***African Correspondent*

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

Accra, Jan 8, GNA - Law Professor John Evans Atta Mills was on Wednesday sworn in as the sixth president of Ghana and the third under the Fourth Republic, promising to heal to nation's wounds and ensure national unity. Swearing on the Bible, he took and subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance and the Presidential Oath, administered by the Chief Justice, Mrs Justice Georgina Theodora Wood.

The inauguration took place before a milling crowd of Ghanaians, including outgoing President John Agyekum Kufour,

and former President Jerry Rawlings, under whom he served as Vice President between 1996 and 2000, as well as some leaders who contested the last presidential elections. Also among those who were present were Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo of the New Patriotic Party, Dr Papa Kwesi Nduom of the Convention People's Party and Dr Edward Nasigre Mahama of the People's National Convention (PNC), members of the Diplomatic Corps and Members of Parliament.

"I will be president for all Ghanaians, whether they voted for me or not. I'll heal wounds and strive to ensure unity. No Ghanaian should live in fear of armed robbery," he said. "Improvement in internal security would be top on my priorities," President Mills said in his inaugural speech at the Independence Square in Accra.

President Mills, who arrived at the grounds with his wife Naadu at 1418 hours, sporting rich kente cloth in red, yellow and green colours, on white jumper, with brownish yellow ahenema sandals to match, exchanged greetings with dignitaries on the presidential dais where presidents and representatives from West Africa sat.

After the big fontomfrom drums had heralded the taking of the oath, he was

**John Evans Atta Mills**

offered the state sword, which endorsed his mantle to lead the over 22 million Ghanaians for the next four years. This was followed by a 21-gun salute in honour of the President who also promised to build a better Ghana on the four pillars of job creation, investing in people,

expansion in infrastructure and open and honest government.

President Mills praised out-going President Kufuor for his rich and valuable experience. He observed that the just-ended elections, which he won, were close to a tie, but the sovereign will of the people finally prevailed.

President Mills congratulated Nana Akufo-Addo on his fighting spirit, and, with a blink into memory lane, said the NPP candidate had been a tougher midfielder when they both played football in their days in the University of Ghana, Legon. The President also congratulated the other contestants in the presidential race and harped on his message of change, but said the change was not just for the sake of change, but change in a new

direction "so that we can move forward." He reiterated his message on consensus building and pledged further to ensure audience to the citizenry without room for political vendetta, but respect for the principles of accountability.

President Mills assured Ghanaians of fairness and equity for all, and urged the judiciary, security agencies, and public servants to be loyal and committed to the larger interest of the nation. He assured the business community that "our goal is to create a business atmosphere where local business would go hand in hand with the foreign," and avoid suffering of local business at the expense of cheap imports.

On his foreign policy, Prof Mills said the Government would collaborate with the African Union to help find solutions to the conflicts on the continent, and collaborate with the United Nations to ensure that there was a better and safer place. Echoing the "Gambaga to Accra" slogan of his alma mater, Achimota School, Prof Mills said: "From Gambaga to Accra, let's respond to the call to get mother Ghana on her feet. With strength of character, determination and with the blessing of God, we shall succeed... God uphold Ghana and make our country even greater and stronger."

President Mills confers with foreign delegations

Accra - Jan. 8, GNA - President John Evans Atta Mills on Thursday conferred with a number of foreign delegations at the Accra International Conference Centre (AICC). They included those from Japan, Libya, Kingdom of Morocco and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The delegations conveyed separate messages of congratulations to President Mills from their governments and re-affirmed their countries' commitment towards closer cooperation with Ghana. Former Japanese Prime Minister Juichiro

Koizumi led the delegation from Japan and that of Libya was headed by Dr Said Hafiyana, Special

Envoy of Libyan Leader Muammar Gaddafi, while Mr Mohammed Elyazjhi, a Minister of State in Morocco and Dr Bola Almed Tinubu, Former Governor of Lagos State, led the Moroccan and Nigerian delegations, respectively. Speaking to journalists, Dr Tinubu acknowledged the maturity of Ghana's democracy, saying the country had shown leadership and added, "Ghana has made Africa proud".

Architectural students from the School of Architecture of Clemson University to help implement Project Okurase

Accra, Jan. 8, GNA - A two-member student delegation from the School of Architecture of the Clemson University, Charleston in the USA, have arrived in the country to help in designing and constructing the Project Okurase in the West Akyem District of the Eastern Region.

The project involves the building of Nkabom Centre with 16 structures on the site at Okurase for training for job creation, formal education for children and foster families for orphaned children as well as a base for single mothers to acquire basic skills in various vocational training. The project is a joint venture of Nkabom Artists and Craftspeople, a local non-governmental Organisation (NGO) in Ghana, Gethsemani Circle of Friends, a non-profit organisation from South Carolina and the Family Services Research Centre of the Medical University of South Carolina, USA. A number of the local people have been engaged to undertake brick laying training and manufacturing of the needed building materials for the project.

The students, Lindsey Waters and Kyle Keaffable told the Ghana News Agency on their arrival in Accra that they were on a 10-day trip to the country to complement the local initiative of the people of Okurase to develop suitable architectural design for the Okurase Centre in which natural materials and sustainable local architecture would be used. Miss Lindsey said they hoped to look at various different types of building materials at the site of the project so as to design appropriate materials for suitable housing for the target groupings. She said they also intended to adopt a design that would be suitable for the chiefs and people of Okurase.

Miss Lindsey said on their return to the USA, they would hold sessions with other students of the Clemson Architecture Centre-Charleston to come out with an elaborate design for the Centre.

Mr Keaffable said they had so far held discussions with a number of local architects on Ghanaian building technologies and intended to combine such experiences with theirs to come out with a suitable workmanship.

Dr. Cynthia Cupit Swenson of the Medical University of South Carolina, a co-Director of the Project Okurase, commended organisations that assisted in the successful take-off of the project, particularly the "Link with USA for Africa", for donating 1,000 dollars for the project.

Mr. Samuel Nkrumah Yeboah of the Nkabom Artists and a co-Director of the project, in collaboration with the Nkabom Dance Ensemble in the UK, organised music, dance and drum language workshops and held a forum for school children in Los Angeles to create awareness about the project. He also teamed up with Kobina Boni to launch a film entitled 'Madagascar Escape to Africa II', and performed music and dance shows with the employees of the Dream Works Studio in Los Angeles and at the California State University, Los Angeles to share experience as a way of bridging the gap between the cultures of Ghana and America.

Mr Yeboah thanked the North Devon Respect Festival for donating towards the project as well as other organisations and individuals who in diverse ways supported it.

New Oil found in Ghana

UK-based oil explorer Tullow Oil and U.S. producer Anadarko Petroleum made new discoveries around their Jubilee field in Ghana, Tullow said on Thursday.

Tullow Oil said its Mahogany-3 well had made a new discovery beneath its Jubilee field and that the drilling also showed the field extended far further to the southeast than it thought.

The company said in a statement on Thursday that the results raised its expectations for the field, although it did not specify new reserves estimates.



Mosaic Ghana Africa

In June 2009, **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

—Health Matters

8 New Ways to Keep Your Brain Fit

An intriguing report on trends in brain fitness, by SharpBrains, a market research company focused on applications of brain research, predicted more brain-health offerings in senior living communities and health clubs, development of programs that combine physical and mental fitness into one workout and broad-based government initiatives along the lines of JFK's emphasis on physical fitness in the early 1960s. Just as exercise was the rage in previous decades, today's boomers are embracing strategies to boost memory, sharpen concentration and fine-tune the brain's ability to process information.

Cynthia R. Green, PhD, an assistant clinical professor at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and president of Memory Arts, LLC, a provider of science-based brain fitness training to individuals, corporations and organizations, suggests for those of us who want to incorporate mental training into our wellness routines, that it's an excellent idea to make a daily effort to remain intellectually engaged, which will help enhance your cognitive abilities as you age. Dr Green specifically suggests...

BUILD UP A COGNITIVE RESERVE

Research demonstrates that an active brain is associated with better cognitive health and a reduced risk of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. Researchers found that participants who spent time on activities such as reading newspapers, playing puzzle games, or listening to the radio frequently were 47% less likely to develop AD than those who did them less

often. It's possible that these activities protect the brain by establishing a "cognitive reserve," helping it become more adaptable and flexible in some areas to compensate for declines in others.

DO DIFFICULT THINGS

Evidence shows that mental stimulation also enhances the brain's networks of connections and encourages "brain plasticity" (the brain's ability to physically and functionally change). Cross-train your brain by doing things you haven't done before, perhaps learning a new language or to play a new musical instrument. To stay sharp, Dr. Green advises that you continually find new projects and hobbies to challenge your intellectual skills. Take a class at the local community college or take a free course online -- universities that offer online courses at no charge include Berkeley University of California (<http://webcast.berkeley.edu/courses.php>)... Carnegie Mellon University (<http://www.cmu.edu/oli/>)... Massachusetts Institute of Technology (<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/web/home/home/index.htm>)... and Tufts University (<http://ocw.tufts.edu/>).

PLAY BRAIN-TRAINING GAMES

There are many ways, both offline and online, to engage in fun, daily mental workouts that are efficient and effective:

- Do crossword puzzles, Sudoku and jigsaws. For online puzzles go to www.cbsnews.com and click on "Puzzles & Toons." Go to www.jigzone.com for jigsaw

and other puzzles.

- Memorize a new word and definition each day at www.wordsmith.org.

- Do math calculations. Visit www.sharpbrains.com for free math brain teasers. Or go to www.gamequarium.com/math.htm.

- Play strategic games such as Battleship and Scrabble (<http://www.puzzlexpress.com/Java/Battle/Battle.htm> and www.download-free-games.com).

- Try new recipes at recipesource.com or epicurious.com.

- Watch game shows... and participate. Programs like Wheel of Fortune and The Price is Right can not only entertain, but also exercise your brain as well. Check your local television listings for scheduling information. Or go online at wheeloffortune.com or pricesright.com to play.

CHANGE IT UP

If you're right-handed, try doing things left-handed, and vice versa. For example, make phone calls using your less dominant hand. Break up your usual routine -- for instance, changing the order of your morning activities or figuring out as many different driving routes to work as you can.

PLAN ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Listen to music -- especially classical music. The so-called "Mozart Effect" enhances learning. In one small study, college students showed improvements in spatial-temporal intelligence (the ability to mentally manipulate objects in three-dimensional space) after listening to about 10 minutes of a Mozart sonata. You can also

engage your brain by visiting museums and looking at different kinds of art. Attend speeches and lectures on topics of interest -- or on subjects you know nothing whatsoever about. It's never too late to enrich your life culturally and academically, and learning is exercise for the brain.

BEAT THE CLOCK

Not your biological clock -- an actual clock. Dr. Green recommends timed activities, which force you to pay attention, work quickly and flexibly, and look at information in different ways. Time yourself and try to speed up activities to meet challenges you set... putting away groceries or folding laundry, for instance. You can also play timed games such as chess or Boggle with family or friends -- or on your own online (www.fun-with-words.com/boggle.html). At <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/crosswords/>, for \$6.95/month or \$39.95/year, you can purchase access to "Premium Crosswords," which allows you to time yourself, collaborate with other players in real time and have access to exclusive puzzles (free to New York Times subscribers).

LOG ON

There are also software products and computer games that may improve attention, information processing and memory, with evidence suggesting that they are quite useful. In the Advanced Cognitive Training for Independent and Vital Elderly (ACTIVE) trial, healthy adults 65 and over received 10

See Brain on Page 11

Credit crunch isn't (seriously) affecting car loans at Auburn Pontiac - GMC

By Regina Woodard



Regina Woodard

It's a new year and I'm trying my hand at something brand new (to me.)

My name is Regina Woodard and I'm a local Pontiac gal, attended Pontiac Northern High School and was graduated from Oakland University. I have 13 years of automotive sales under my belt, and have experienced many changes in my chosen career. I'm here to tell you if you don't let the economic doom and gloom get you down, there's always a way around it. With each column I write, I hope to show you another positive way to survive this economic crunch.

Today you can find me at Auburn Pontiac-GMC, 500 S. Opdyke, just a mile south of the Silverdome. This is the dealership where I began my career thirteen years ago. Auburn Pontiac-GMC is a family-owned dealership, one that knows the customer is the only reason they exist.

Everything from higher fuel prices to the mortgage crisis has been blamed for the decline in automobile sales. But Auburn Pontiac-GMC has a different take on things. According to Bill Hahn, Jr., Operations

Manager at Auburn Pontiac-GMC, now is the time to purchase and finance that new or used vehicle you've been considering.

"Financing is stricter these days, and putting a deal together has become an interesting challenge," Hahn said. "But whether our customer has good credit or bruised credit, we do what we can to get the job done." Hahn points out that GMAC has come back into the picture offering financing to those with lower credit scores than previously considered. "We also work hand-in-hand with special finance companies who will finance a vehicle for someone with a FICA score below 500."

Hahn is convinced that at Auburn Pontiac - GMC customers have more leverage than they think. "With a little cash down, your job is your credit," he said. "There hasn't been a better time than now to make that trade."

Now I've told you a little bit about myself and Auburn Pontiac-GMC. Please contact me if you have any questions about cars and credit. It's my field and there are answers I'd like to share. It could even be my next column. You can write me in care of this newspaper, call me direct at (248) 431-2955, or contact me through my website, www.reginaw.com. I'll get right back to you - I promise.

Happy New Year, everybody!

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We are offering a way to own a piece of history in a unique well crafted bronze medallion. The medallion titled "Pre-Election" was made to commensurate the election process of Barack Obama after winning the Democratic nomination which was a historical moment and his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention. This bronze medallion not only commensurate Barack Obama's election but also his many achievements in life which is remarkable as well as hard fought, from ascending out of a lower income household to becoming the first black American President of the Harvard Law Review to becoming President of the United States of America. Each medallion comes with a certificate of authenticity signed by the designer and enclosed in a velvet pouch. This is not a 24 gold plated over nickel coin but a pure bronze medallion coated in zinc to insure a tarnish free treasure that will last a lifetime. Purchase now for a special prices of \$29.99. There is also special pricing for vendors too. This is truly a treasure and collector's item since there will only be 5,000 pieces made. In the United States alone that is one medallion per 6,000,000 persons. We were offering pre-orders for two future medallions which would truly make this a unique collection but because of the confusion we eliminated them from being ordered but will offer them in the future.



The first being a medallion called "After the Election" to commensurate Barack Obama's election to President of the United States and the second medallion called "The Inauguration" to commensurate Barack Obama's swearing in to become the official 44th President of the United States of America. As we stated, we will offer those two medallions in the future but at this moment order the "Pre-Election" pure bronze medallion. Order a piece of commemorative history today and be part of this historic election. A portion of the proceeds will go to an inner city charity so we also can do what Barack Obama told "Joe the Plumber", spread the wealth around.

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— Educational Matters —

Non-Profit Launches Conflict Resolution Arts Programming for Youth

(Pontiac, Michigan)- On December 18, 2008, dot the i productions, a 501c(3) charitable arts organization, launched Handling Conflicts, a pilot behavior intervention through the arts at the Pontiac Arts & Technology Academy. The 50 minute program began with youth sitting in a circular seating arrangement within arms reach of their classmate because we wanted to make the program comfortable and intimate. As a portion of selected songs from an array of music genres were played, students were asked to discuss the way each song made them feel. Music varied from R&B, Hip-Hop, Dance, Pop, Oldies but Goodies, Disney, Rap, Jazz, Easy Listening, Inspirational, and more. Students were given the freedom to dance as a means for creative expression and many simply rocked in their seats as they felt moved. An open Q & A discussion about aggressive behavior remained continuous throughout the program so that students would get a feel for the importance of controlling angry emotions

and violent acts towards others, especially teachers and peers both on and off of school grounds.

The program was developed for youth, grades 6-12, because of the high requests from students and teachers to reduce the number of violent incidents caused by angry youth during class hours. Today, many Pontiac schools have gone to the extremes of being under Police Surveillance the entire school day and are seeking other alternatives to help keep schools safe. Handling Conflicts is just another way of relieving this need. And now that the program is in demand by students and teachers, dot the i productions is soliciting funding from larger organizations to allow youth from urban schools in Oakland and Wayne counties the opportunity to experience the program. For more information about Handling Conflicts, to donate funds, or to reserve a date for your school during the remaining 2008-2009 and/or 2009-2010 school year, contact tachundasb@hotmail.com.



TaChunda Burks-Founder, dot the i productions Patty Wood- Principle Pontiac Arts & Technology Academy Mrs. Haatajah- Teacher, Pontiac Arts & Technology Academy



6th grade Students at Pontiac Arts & Technology Academy

Student's Hard Work is Paying Off

Jefferson Middle School-Many of Jefferson's students have been working hard since mid-September on increasing their reading and math levels with the help of Pearson Success Maker. Pearson Success Maker is an educational software program (supplementary standards-based curriculum) that is designed to enhance learning by identifying the needs of each individual learner. Once students complete the assessment portion in reading and math, then the students make progress through the program at their pace.

On November 5, 2008, Jefferson had an awards ceremony for approximately 50 students that made achievement gains in reading. Of these students, Nicole Scales has increased her reading levels by two grades. Ketravion Edwards and Devonte Givens have increased their reading levels by one grade. Additionally, approximately 15 students made the equivalence of a half of

year progress in reading. Many of the other students are experiencing achievement gains in reading and math, as well.

Currently, Jefferson has about 100 students using Pearson on a regular basis, and staff and faculty are confident that that number is going to increase when the school receives additional computers and another computer lab.

In addition to the awards ceremony, students have received lots of accolades. Nicole Scales received gifts, money, and cards when she achieved one-grade gain in reading. Other students already have expressed what they want when they achieve their goals. The students are elated about the success they are experiencing in reading and math because their hard work is paying off in many ways. As long as the students' wishes are reasonable, we make every effort in fulfilling their wishes because of their accomplishments.



Jefferson Middle School Principal Billie Fair, staff, parents and reading award recipients.

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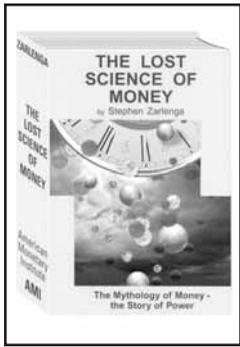
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— Book Review —

The Lost Science of Money

By Stephen A. Zarlenga



- Traces the money power through three and a half millennia from barter to the Euro.

- Draws fascinating, previously lost monetary principles from ancient Greece and Rome, from the experience of the Moslems,

Venice, the Templars, the Jews, the Bank of Amsterdam and Bank of England, and the Federal Reserve System.

- Shows that the question of usury is far from settled, and that monetary reform is more a matter of morality and law than of economics.

- Demonstrates that a good money system must be based in law, not in commodities.

- Defines the essential elements needed to remove structural injustice from our money system.

About the Author: Stephen Zarlenga draws on 35 years of experience in the world of finance, securities, insurance, mutual funds, real estate, and futures trading. He has published 20 books on money, banking, politics and philosophy (including *The Anglo American Establishment*, by Prof. Carrol Quigley). While in his mid 20s he incorporated the Athenian branch of an English life insurance company, earlier opening several European markets for the parent firm, IOS.

A few years later he built the U.S. distribution network of the then leading American mutual fund concentrating in gold shares. As a member of the New York Futures Exchange (a subsidiary of the New York Stock Exchange) he specialized in trading the complex CRB futures index for several years. Thus the author is more than familiar with both the practical and theoretical sides of our market economy.

Yet he calls into question and challenges the basis, and Achilles' heel, of American Capitalism: the private control and resulting misdirection of the nation's monetary system.

Stephen Zarlenga holds a degree in Psychology from the University of Chicago (and has done postgraduate work at NYU), where he was in the final graduating class under the revered Hutchins' curriculum which focused on critical reading and thought. This training, combined with his work experience, and years of research, enabled him to re-formulate the Lost Science of Money.

The author began focused research on the money problem in 1991, eventually drawing on over 800 monetary source books and materials to formulate this thesis. In 1996, he helped establish the American Monetary Institute to further the research. In 1999, Conzett Verlag of Zurich, Switzerland translated and published the work in German. This expanded English version released in 2002, establishes the author as a leading voice in the field of monetary history, theory and reform.

Brain From Page 7

sessions of memory training, reasoning training or speed of processing training. The sessions not only improved their mental skills in the area in which they were trained, the improvements lasted for at least five years.

Dr. Green recommends that you choose a game that increases the level of difficulty as your skills improve, much as a personal trainer does with athletic training. Programs include games, such as Brain Age from Nintendo (www.brainage.com), and computer software such as Fit Brains (www.fitbrains.com) and Lumosity (www.lumosity.com). At <http://games.lumosity.com/chimp.html>, for example, you can play a free sample game -- "Are you smarter than a chimp?" This pits your memory against that of Ayumu, a seven-year-old chimp who has already

beaten college students at Kyoto University.

USE IT OR LOSE IT

The bottom line is that there are many strategies that you can undertake to keep your brain active and enhance cognitive fitness. The key is to stay stimulated: Use it or lose it. Read more about Dr. Green's brain fitness tips on her blog, www.prevention.com/staysharp.

Source(s): Cynthia R. Green, PhD, the president of Memory Arts, LLC in New Jersey, a provider of science-based brain fitness training to individuals, corporations and organizations (www.memoryarts.com). Dr. Green is author of Total Memory Workout (Bantam), an assistant clinical professor in the department of psychiatry and the founding director of The Memory Enhancement Program at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City.

Money From Page 5

rebuilding aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. If the clean-up loans last the normal 30 years, the savings will be over \$250 billion," says Stephen Zarlenga, Director of the Institute. The plan, known as The American Monetary Act was discussed at the American Monetary Institute 2005 Monetary Reform Conference....

The proposed three part reform of our currency system would have the U.S. Government directly spend the money into circulation rather than the present method of allowing the banking system to create the money and then the government borrowing the money. Funding such infrastructure expenses through bonds generally doubles to triples their final cost.

The reform avoids this expense by removing the fractional reserve provision of the present system, which in effect allows the banking system to create the much needed new money that must be continually introduced into the economy, as population and economic activity expands; or when emergencies such as Katrina, or warfare require great expenditures. Under the reform only the U.S. government, not the private banking system would be allowed to create money.

"What we're proposing is very similar to the 'Chicago Plan' which came out of University of Chicago economists in the 1930's and was widely supported nationwide by the economics profession back then," said Zarlenga.

Under the plan the government spends the new money into circulation on necessary infrastructure, including education. A presentation at the conference by the American Society of Civil Engineers pointed out the deteriorating condition of American infrastructure, which currently receives an overall grade of D, and is predicted to reach D- soon.

Most of Katrina's Damage on New Orleans Was Avoidable

"This method of introducing new money through infrastructure creation and repair would actually have stopped most of the

damage and loss of life in New Orleans because the money would have been available to repair the levees, and they would have probably held" said Zarlenga.

"Under the present private control, money goes largely into speculative bubbles, including Wall Street games and real estate" he said, "Under societal control it would go much more to promoting the general welfare. Inflation is avoided because real material wealth has been created in the process, and catastrophic loss including loss of life is prevented." - End of press release.

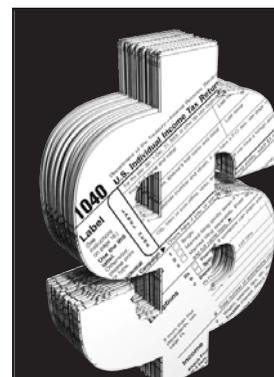
Lawmakers have often believed they could ignore the big questions on how our money system is structured. Right from the Constitutional Convention delegates ignored societies monetary power and the excellent record of government issued money in building colonial infrastructure and giving us a nation.* They left the money power up for grabs when properly estimating it would have meant placing it in a fourth, monetary branch of government. History shows that the money power will be a fourth branch whether we recognize it as such or not. It's not safe to leave so much power and privilege in private hands! It's counter to our system of checks and balances. The developing crisis requires us to re-evaluate and focus on it now. That's my suggestion. Lets fulfill our responsibility to get a real understanding of this problem and the solution.

As the late Congressman Wright Patman, Chairman of the House Committee on Banking and Currency for over 16 years, said, "I have never yet had anyone who could, through the use of logic and reason, justify the Federal Government borrowing the use of its own money....I believe the time will come when people will demand that this be changed. I believe the time will come in this country when they will actually blame you and me and everyone else connected with the Congress for sitting idly by and permitting such an idiotic system to continue."

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—Money Matters—

NEW NO FAULT PROBLEMS

**Michael
Hohauser**

Most consumers in the State of Michigan are aware that we are a No Fault State. "No Fault" refers to certain aspects of our automobile insurance. The original statute was introduced in 1973. At that time, the basics of the statute were: a person could not recover for pain,

suffering and emotional distress if injuries did not reach a certain threshold. The threshold at the beginning of the application of the statute was: serious, permanent disfigurement and/or serious impairment of necessary body functions. The statute did not define either of those standards with any specificity. Nor were there definitions elsewhere in the statute.

From the beginning, this became problematic. The legislature attempted to solve this problem by adding requirements as opposed to adding definitions. Sometime later, 10 or 15 years after the original statute started, the first two requirements continued plus the injury had to be "objectively manifested". Again, this is not a well defined set of terms. It was easy when one could see a broken bone on an x-ray. It was less easy when a physician could see spasms upon palpating a muscle group. After all, a physician's observations were also objective. The insurance carriers weren't happy about this and put pressure on the legislature and the

courts.

Over the years, the situation evolved. In the early 1990s the standard was yet again circumscribed, this time to include the first two items, e.g. serious, permanent disfigurement and/or serious impairment of necessary body function; the second item: objectively manifested, and a new item: significantly impacting the activities of daily life.

Each of those items became the subject of interpretation in the higher courts of this State.

In 2004, certain members of the Supreme Court of the State of Michigan decided to take it into their own hands to expand the requirement (that is to say, to make it more difficult to recover damages for pain, suffering and emotional distress) by adding yet another level of difficulty. The legislature didn't add this level of difficulty. The Supreme Court added this level of difficulty. The Supreme Court decided that all of the preceding items mentioned in this article had to apply plus the injuries had to "significantly impact the trajectory of a person's life". This is often referred to as "the Kreiner standard".

Many people (including the writer of this article) feel that this standard is wrong. It leads to foolish results. In one of the original cases, a carpenter injured the tendons in one hand. He was hospitalized for days. He had surgery. He was off work for three months. The Supreme Court opined that this was insufficient interference with the trajectory of this person's life. Heaven only knows what that meant to this person's life in the

long run. Then, in another case, one of the appellate authorities ruled that an elderly person who was blind and who had had a minor injury but could no longer knit due to her injuries could collect because the trajectory of her life was, indeed, affected. A young carpenter supporting a family could face financial ruin as a result of months off work and he would be barred from recovery. An elderly person who could not knit for entertainment could recover.

Now the Supreme Court is about to change. There are three justices who have supported Kreiner: Justices Markman, Young and Corrigan. There are three justices

who have questioned Kreiner: Justices Cavanaugh, Kelly and Weaver. Justice Taylor, who authored the Kreiner decision is no longer on the Supreme Court, having been rejected by the voters of the State of Michigan. Shortly we will have a new justice: Diane Hathaway. Many believe that the new makeup of the Court will warrant a re-visit to the Kreiner decision. Many hope that this judge-made law will be revoked.

As always, if you should have any questions or concerns on this or other subjects involving personal injury, please do not hesitate to communicate with me via e-mail at m_hohauser@yahoo.com.

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—Voices in the Community—

Matters of the Heart

By TaChunda Burks



TaChunda Burks

How often do you smile? Three times a day? Once a week? Twice a month? How often do you laugh at yourself and life's countless challenges? Regularly maybe? Well, sometimes, we get so caught up in the issues of life that we lose hold of the blessing of life itself. When we allow the cares and disappointments of life to weigh us down, it takes a toll on our well-being, especially on our hearts. Take a moment to consider carefully the wisdom of the Holy Scriptures which informs us that a cheerful heart is good medicine. Now, let us look at the heart from an emotional standpoint. Many studies conducted by researchers at the Institute of HeartMath, have shown that the risks of developing various heart diseases are significantly increased for individuals who frequently experience stressful emotions such as frustration, anger, or disappointment. With this said, consider the following heart conditions and the ultimate remedy. Perhaps the information could help to heal a loved one's heart; even, possibly, your own.

A Heavy Heart

A heavy heart is a heart that daily totes around hurt, sorrow, regret, and dissatisfaction due to life's overwhelming demands and hardships. Let's say, for instance, everyday an individual does his best to get ahead in life by working hard and treating people right; but somehow, for reasons unbeknown, he always seems to get the short end of the stick. As a result of his continuous cycle of setbacks, feel-

ings of discouragement, hopelessness, worthlessness, and fear of not getting ahead, began to torment his heart daily. Now, this is only one example among many that can cause heaviness on the heart. And, although the development of a heavy heart may differ according to each circumstance, the results are quite the same: constant sadness, self-pity, discouragement, frustration, fatigue, and similar emotions. You can usually look into the eyes of an individual or observe their body language and see the symptoms of heaviness. Eventually, if the individual is not relieved of this persistent anguish, the condition further develops into a bitter heart in addition to the heavy heart.

A Bitter Heart

My, my, my, you can certainly tell a bitter heart within a few words of conversation. A bitter heart, although the individual may not realize it, usually feeds upon a negative or a pessimistic viewpoint of EVERYTHING! Phrases such as, "they should've done this" and "I would've done that" are commonly found at the core of each discussion. The drive of the bitter heart causes the individual to unconsciously magnify the faults of others and dwell upon circumstantial mishaps, when, in reality, the individual is disgusted with his own short comings and hardships. A bitter heart stems from situations that result in misunderstanding, confusion, disappointment, failure, regret, and rejection; thus, social interaction with a bitter heart is seldom uplifting or edifying. For instance, no matter how impressive something may appear to be, the bitter heart is only stimulated by pointing out the flaws of others because he sees the world through spotted lenses. It is almost inevitable that behind every bitter heart, there hides a broken heart.

Broken Heart

With the dramatic changes occurring in our society, such as the increase of teen violence, frequent casual sex devoid of relational commitment, divorce from long-term marriages, and related concerns, it is no wonder many are walking around with the agonizing pain of a broken heart. The more I interact with others, the more I see how parents are hurting, women are hurting, children are hurting, men are hurting, people everywhere, regardless of race or social status, are expressing emotional heartache like never before. A broken heart is usually recognized by the constant retelling of stories and the frequent reminiscing upon painful situations. When you find yourself, or hear others, talking about people, places, or things that cause a sense of discomfort, hurt, agitation, or disappointment, understand that the heart is still very offended and fragile. But, nonetheless, as mentioned earlier, there is a single remedy for each of these severe heart conditions.

The Ultimate Remedy: A Cheerful Heart

You are probably thinking that a cheerful heart is not enough to heal the named heart conditions above, however, my friend, don't

underestimate the power of a happy heart. Just as the doctor says, "an apple a day, keeps the doctor away", know that, "a smile a day, keeps the downbeat emotions away!" Listed are a few cheerful heart starters that can be put into action immediately.

- Think on things that make you smile
- Smile while you are driving
- Look at yourself in the mirror and smile
- Smile at others
- Smile when you wake up in the morning
- Smile before you close your eyes to rest
- Smile at your dog
- ¶ Smile at your cat
- Think about something your kid(s) did and smile
- Smile when someone hurts your feelings
- Smile when trouble rises
- Smile when you make others smile
- Smile and give thanks for every person and everything in your life

Get the picture? Simply smile more! Truly, happiness is your choice. The more you condition yourself to be happy, the more cheerful you will become. It really works! Don't just take my word for it, try it and email me with your testimonies at tachundasb@hotmail.com. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

ENCOURAGER CORNERS

Disappointing Hero's[©]



Dianthia Spann

He stood tall and led the pack, distinct from all others. I believe he was considered invincible in many circles, a mighty giant by the rest. This hero I am speaking about allowed countless numbers to shine while he was willing to walk a step behind. We felt he would always be there and often more than not we have taken him for granted. With all ones confidence in him what would happen if he was no longer the huge hero that we have made. After all you do know he has given us our first great experiences, brought us from the south to seek the good life; and we've received it too, fine cars, large homes, college educations, stuff, stuff and more stuff. Yes we made him our hero without thought that he could ever disappoint us or that his heroic status would or could ever change, could I be talking about General Motors, Ford Motors and Daimler Chrysler? Can it be that we have laid a foundation on a counterfeit superman hero instead of a rock solid genuine base, which is not subject to change or alter? Ralph Waldo Emerson says, "Every hero becomes a bore at last. In this time of uncertainty, as we all watch with anticipation for the next move from the House and the Senate we must realize that our fate is not in their hands. Just maybe we have made the wrong things or persons our hero's and it is time for a shifting, a season of definite change, time to solidify our foundation and make sure it is on rock-hard ground.

There are so many things that have come to shake our foundations. Don't allow your structure to be shaken by anything. I must first ask how firm was and is your foundation laid and what exactly it was lain upon. You

know I can tell you not to be moved but if your building is on the sand then these winds of the Big Three and any other storm will blow you nearly down. Building the foundation of your house is one of the most important details, it's the support. If the foundation is not properly laid then the entire edifice (you) will be unstable.

Me, personally I'm building on a rock and ultimately my hero, the one that I am sure and very sure will never let me down nor disappoint me is God. It is a building process and did not just come quickly but over time. I am pleased to say that this foundation that's been laid for me is concrete, real and solid. But, Oh I have to tell you that there were some old weak, leaky places in my structure that have unquestionably been tighten up. Each experience, test, and trial has reinforced my concrete faith, my house is standing strong. Not to say that the storms haven't truly rocked me, yet as the blowing winds came and will come to rock my world my house remains and will maintain it's position.

Let's all learn to put our trust, reliance and dependence in the only source that can help in times of trouble. Things may look bad but it's not over until God says it's over. What we must do is stand and having done all we continue to stand and see the salvation, the saving hand of the Lord to bring about an expected end.

Yes, we have hero's that never should have been and they have disappointed us as so often man does, but really it should have never been that we hero worshiped anything but God. This is a time to readjust our prospective and for us to get our buildings in right position with a rock solid, concrete foundation that will never suffer you to be moved, build upon God a hero that you can always be sure of.

Happy New Year with love Dianthia
Encouragercorner@yahoo.com

Ask Elaine.com

By Elaine Smith-Wright



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

Dear Elaine:

I wonder: where are all of the good women these days? It seems as though every woman I happen to meet has a whole list of qualities that they're looking for in a man. They basically want it all. First they want to know what kind of a job you have and if you have a nice car and a great place to live in. Then they want to know if you're in debt or have something saved up for a rainy day and most of this is what they want to know before you even have a real date. Are women looking at men for a free ride or just so they can have someone who will help them pay their bills? I'm financially well off, but I want someone who wants me for me and not use me as an ATM.

Signed:

Not A Bank

Dear NAB:

Yes most women want a man who can take care of them instead of the other way around, but believe me, they look at physical traits first. No one wants an ugly rich man or someone nobody else wants. Women want the complete package just like you said. They want someone who is handsome, intelligent, educated, working and strong. No one goes to the back alley to find a bum to fall in love with. I suggest you go to the high end grocery stores, home repair stores, inside the bank lobby and a large church. Participate in activities like golf or join a country club. Forget about opposites attracting. Go where you know certain types of people go. I don't suggest you being shallow, but always put your best foot forward. Seek out being introduced by friends of a friend because they will probably know a lot about the person. Never be quick to judge and reserve your worst faults for after you've known a person for a while.

Good Luck!

Grand Reopening Stonegate Pointe

Windmill Homes of Farmington Hills is proud to announce the grand reopening of Stonegate Pointe, one of Pontiac's most successful residential communities.

Windmill features three and four bedroom colonials. For a limited time the prices have been reduced \$10,000, prices will start at \$129,990 up to \$179,990.

The \$129,990 Savannah, a three bedroom, 1650 square foot home, has two and a half baths, a jack and jill bathroom, den, optional second floor laundry, full basement and attached two-car garage.

The Wellington model is a 1,894 square feet, plus a fully finished basement for a total of over 2700 square feet, four bedroom home with a loft, 9-foot ceilings, three and a half baths, two car attached garage for \$179,990 - a remarkable \$66 per square foot sales price.

Interior amenities include Shaw hardwood flooring in foyers, Armstrong vinyl floors in kitchens, first or second floor laundries, and soaring cathedral ceilings in master suites (depending on the floor plan chosen). Each kitchen is equipped with a Frigidaire dishwasher, hood vent, garbage disposal, stove and feature Aristocraft kitchen cabinets.

Summit Place Mall and Great Lakes Crossing Place provide a variety of shopping options minutes away, while easy access to M-59 and I-75 make major employment and entertainment destinations just a short drive for homeowners.

Stonegate Pointe's builder, Windmill Homes, has founded its reputation as a leader in new home construction by consistently delivering on a few simple principles: providing a high quality product, meeting the

needs of buyers and creating value.

Windmill Homes has received Developer of the Year in 2002 by the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan and in 2007; their Riverwalk Development was awarded the development of the year award by the same Builder organization.

Relying on four decades of industry experience, company founders Stuart Michaelson & partner sami harb have assembled a top-notch team of professionals who are skillful at transforming clients' expectations into exceptional condominiums, single-family homes and custom estates that reflect a wide variety of lifestyles.

"Today, we are able to purchase materials and labor at great pricing, which allows us to offer our homes at much lower prices than ever in our history," says Michaelson. "This is the best time to purchase a new home," he adds. "Mortgage rates are low and getting lower. We can offer special financing through Flagstar Bank that is only available in this community. It provides 100% financing with no lender fees, and below market interest rates. The Federal government has also offered a \$7,500 tax credit to first time homebuyers." FHA and VA loans are also available to those with lower credit scores.

"Our company takes pride in being able to satisfy the first time homebuyer, as well as the dream home and retirement home buyer," says Michaelson. "I think this is why we are so successful."

For more information about Stonegate Pointe and windmill Homes call 248-758-9725 or visit stonegatepointe.com. Better yet, stop by and visit the furnished model and have a friendly cup of coffee with us.

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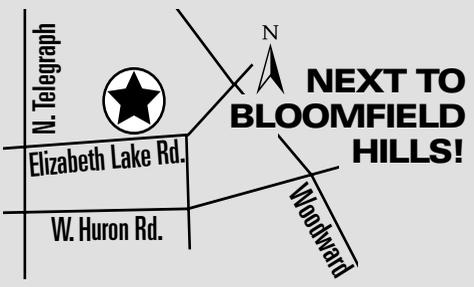
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Community Calendar

OCC Womencenter Presents Free Self Defense Workshop

A workshop entitled Sexual Assault Prevention and Self Defense for Women will be presented at Oakland Community College's Auburn Hills Campus, Saturday, January 24, 2009. The event meets from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Auburn Hills Campus' Student Center, Room G240.

Designed to increase knowledge and self-confidence, the workshop provides common sense protection strategies for preventing attack, as well as effective fight and escape techniques for use in case of assault. Self-defense expert Jaye Spiro conducts the session. Ms. Spiro holds a sixth-degree black belt in Karate and is nationally known for her self defense programs.

Women of all ages, sizes, and fitness abilities are encouraged to attend. Mothers and daughters (13 years of age and over) are welcome, as are young women preparing to leave for college or study abroad.

The workshop is free and open to the public (the fee for the workshop normally is \$35) but pre-registration is required. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and bring water and a lunch.

"Sexual Assault and Self Defense for Women" is sponsored by the Womencenter, a facility that provides educational and supportive resources for area women.

For further information on the "Sexual Assault Prevention and Self Defense for Women" workshop and other program offerings call Arlene Frank at the Womencenter at (248) 522-3642.

The Auburn Hills Campus is located at 2900 Featherstone Road, north of M-59. Ample free parking is available in nearby campus lots.

Renowned Bluegrass Group Russell Moore & Ild Tyme Out Returns to OCC January 23

Russell Moore & Ild Tyme Out will be the next group featured in Oakland Community College's popular Bluegrass Series, Friday, January 23.

The two-hour performance begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Royal Oak Campus' Lila Jones Johnson Theater. Admission is \$20.

Formed in 1991, the six-member group has become one of the premier bands in the bluegrass genre, winning the 1993 Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music in America (SPBGMA) "Bluegrass Band of the Year" award, the International Bluegrass Music Association's "Vocal Group of the Year" awards in 1994, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99 and 2000, and numerous other honors.

Ild Tyme Out is composed of founding member Russell Moore (guitar and vocals), winner of several SPBGMA "Male vocalist of the Year" awards; Steve Dilling (banjo), Donnie Carver (mandolin), Justen Haynes (fiddle), Wayne Benson (mandolin) and Edgar Loudermilk (bass).

For more information call Stacey Jackson at (248) 246-2586 or email her at snjackso@oaklandcc.edu.

The Royal Oak Campus is located at 739 South Washington in downtown Royal Oak. Ample free parking is available in college parking structures across from the campus.

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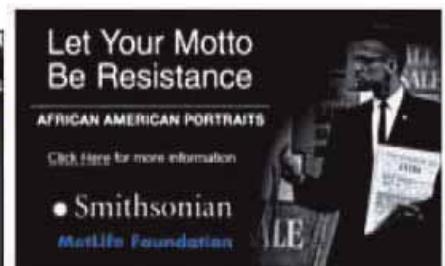
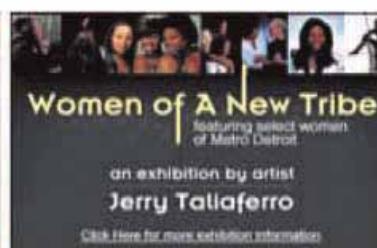
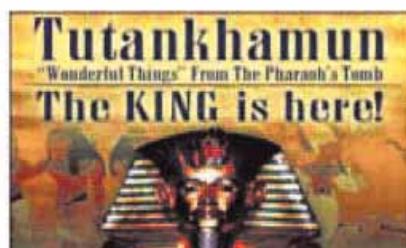
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