

REGISTER TO VOTE

Volume 72 Number 28

www.telegramnews.net

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 4 - FEBRUARY 10, 2016



TELEGRAM

CELEBRATING 71 YEARS OF SERVING DETROIT AND THE DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY*

Former Inkster officer sentenced in Floyd Dent beating

By Shelby Jefferson – Telegram Staff Writer



Former Inkster police officer William Melendez

Former Inkster Police Officer William Melendez has been sentenced for the 2015 beating of motorist Floyd Dent. Following an eight day trial, Melendez was found guilty of misconduct in office and assault with intent to do great bodily harm. Wayne County Circuit Judge Vonda Evans delivered a ruling on Tuesday, sentencing the ex-officer to 13

months to 10 years behind bars. The punishment falls below typical guidelines for a minimum of 29 months to 57 months in prison. Before handing out her judgment, Evan's spoke out against Melendez's overt misconduct, describing his actions as "excessive, cowardly

Melendez - Page 13A

Accident survivor is urging motorists to avoid texting while driving

By Shelby Jefferson – Telegram Staff Writer



La Forest's vehicle was completely totaled following the crash, which occurred in October 2010

Five years ago, Brandon La Forest was a vibrant student on the verge of completing a master's degree at Central Michigan University. Also a district manager with Colonial

Life Insurance Company, the Bruce Township resident was headed toward a bright future. But a tragic accident would soon change his life forever –

No Text - Page 8A

The Underground Railroad, the path to Freedom

By Gina Steward - Telegram Staff



One of the Underground Railroad stops in Amherst Canada

The Underground Railroad is an important part of our nation's history; however, many of the fascinating and lesser known details regarding it are not included within many textbooks. Throughout the month

of February we will take a deep dive into the history of the Underground Railroad. The mission is to share the information that will paint a clear picture of the determination that many slaves had as they

dreamed of a better life for themselves and their families.

The Underground Railroad was a secret system devel-

Underground Railroad- Page 2A

Judge Greg Mathis says Governor Rick Snyder should resign



Judge Mathis along with several attorneys held a town hall meeting in Flint to discuss options that the residents have

Mathis, a former Michigan court judge, told the crowd at Quinn Chapel AME Church that Gov. Snyder should resign over this "man-made disaster."

"There's this personal responsibility remark that's thrown

around," Mathis said, according to ABC12. "I think he should exercise personal responsibility and resign, because he's failed the citizens by his own admission."

Mathis was in Flint to an-

swer legal questions the community had about water bills and housing.

"This is about getting questions answered from the best attorneys I know and I

Mathis- Page 16A

Informing * Educating * Empowering * Uplifting

Underground Railroad

From Page 1A

oped to aid fugitive slaves on their escape to freedom. Involvement with the Underground Railroad was not only dangerous, but it was also illegal. So, to help protect themselves and their mission secret codes were created. The term Underground Railroad referred to the entire system, which consisted of many routes called lines. The free individuals who helped runaway slaves travel toward freedom were called conductors, and the fugitive slaves were referred to as cargo. The safe houses used as hiding places along the lines of the Underground Railroad were called stations. A lit lantern hung outside would identify these stations.

A Dangerous Path to Freedom Traveling along the Underground Railroad was a long a perilous journey for fugitive slaves to reach their freedom. Runaway slaves had to travel great distances, many times on foot, in a short amount of time. They did this with little or no food and no protection from the slave catchers chasing them. Slave owners were not the only pursuers of fugitive slaves. In order to entice others to assist in the capture of these slaves, their owners would post reward posters offering payment for the capture of their property. If they were

caught, any number of terrible things could happen to them. Many captured fugitive slaves were flogged, branded, jailed, sold back into slavery, or even killed.

Not only did fugitive slaves have the fear of starvation and capture, but there were also threats presented by their surroundings. While traveling for long periods of time in the wilderness, they would have to fend off animals wanting to kill and eat them, cross treacherous terrain, and survive severe temperatures. For the slaves traveling north on the Underground Railroad, they were still in danger once they entered northern states. The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 allowed and encouraged the capture of fugitive slaves due to the fact that they were seen as stolen property, rather than abused human beings.

The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 also outlawed the abetting of fugitive slaves. Their safety and freedom would not be reached until they entered into Canada. Not all slaves traveled north. There were also Underground Railroad lines that lead south en route for Mexico and the Caribbean. One of the many fugitive slaves impacted by the Fugitive Slave Law was Anthony

Burns. He was taken from his northern residence, arrested, and tried under this law in Boston, Massachusetts. His arrest spurred black and white abolitionists and citizens of Boston to riot and protest. After the trial, Burns was taken back to cruelty of the south which he thought he had escaped from. While he was enduring his return to slavery, abolitionists were working to raise funds and within a year of his trial they had enough money to buy his freedom. Library of Congress American Memory and America's Library. Accessed 10.20.08

Frederick Douglass was another fugitive slave who escaped slavery. He escaped not on the Underground Railroad, but on a real train. He disguised himself as a sailor, but this was not enough. He needed to show proof that he was free, and since he was a runaway slave who did not have any "free papers" he borrowed a seaman's protection certificate that stated a sailor was a citizen of the U.S. Luckily, the train conductor did not look closely at the papers, and Douglass gained his passage to freedom.

Unfortunately, not all runaway slaves made it to freedom. But, many of those who did manage to escape went on to tell their stories of flight from slavery and to help other slaves not yet free. Harriet Tubman, Henry Bibb, Anthony Burns, Addison White, Josiah Henson and John Parker all escaped slavery via the Underground Railroad.

Henry "Box" Brown, another fugitive slave, escaped in a rather different way. He shipped himself in a three foot long by two and a half foot deep by two foot wide box, from Richmond, Virginia to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. When he was removed from the box, he came out singing.

Over the next few weeks, we will share share locations and the history behind them and the people who stopped by the sites.

ELECTED OFFICIALS SPEAKS

Wayne County Commission creates Task Force on Environmental Quality



Gary Woronchak
Wayne County Commission Chairman



Ilona Varga
Wayne County Commissioner

In response to growing environmental concerns both locally and across the state, a Task Force on Environmental Quality has been created by Wayne County Commission Chairman Gary Woronchak. Commissioner Ilona Varga, D-Lincoln Park, was appointed by Woronchak to chair the task force. Also serving will be Commissioners Raymond Basham, D-Taylor; Tim Killeen, D-Detroit; Joe Barone, R-Plymouth Twp.; and Al Haidous, D-Wayne.

"The Task Force on Environmental Quality will be active in gathering information on issues related to the environment, both to keep the entire Commission informed and to make sure our residents are well-represented in standing up for them on these important matters," said Woronchak, D-Dearborn.

"The water crisis in Flint and continued concerns about air quality in Wayne County's industrial areas are causing more and more residents to become aware and engaged, and the Wayne County Commission needs to both stand with them and advocate for them," Woronchak added.

Varga said the task force will give the Commission more of a voice in environmental issues and will examine how the county can be involved in protecting residents through resolutions and more.

"I am honored to be named

chair of this task force and can assure residents of Wayne County that we will work with other organizations on plans to bring the county into compliance with other parts of the state regarding pollutants," Varga said. "The issue is the health of all residents, and this committee will seek to eliminate the hazardous effects of pollutants."

Varga's district includes the Marathon Petroleum refinery in southwest Detroit, where the company is seeking permission from the state to increase sulfur dioxide emissions. She presented remarks opposing the change at a standing-room-only public hearing Jan. 28.

The Wayne County Commission on Jan. 21 unanimously approved a resolution, introduced by Basham, in opposition to Marathon's permit request.

"The members of this task force were selected based on their interest in or activism on environmental matters," Woronchak said.

He pointed out that Killeen has long been active in the Sierra Club, a national grassroots organization dedicated to protecting the environment. Also, Barone is a native of Flint, where the crisis of lead-tainted water has drawn international attention.

For more information on the Wayne County Commission visit www.waynecounty.com

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General Office • 10748 W. Jefferson Ave.
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Email: telegram@telegramnews.net
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REGISTER TO VOTE

Behind Flint water horror, a corrosive cynicism

By: Jesse Jackson, Sr.



The basic story of the poisoning of the children of Flint, Mich., through the water they drink is now pretty well known, but as more details come out, it keeps getting worse. Republican Gov. Rick Snyder, after passing a big tax cut for the rich and corporations on coming into office, had to find cuts to make up for the lost revenue. In Flint and other cities, he essentially nullified democratic elections, deposed elected mayors and city councils and installed his own agents with virtually dictatorial powers. The "emergency manager" of Flint decided that the city could save money by discontinuing its water supply from Lake Huron and instead drawing it from the toxic Flint River. He then failed to treat the new water with additives needed to keep the city's old pipes from leaching lead. When people objected to the brown, smelly water filled with particles that was coming out of the taps, the governor's men reassured them the water was safe. All of Flint's children were exposed to water with elevated levels of lead. Now we learn that General Motors complained to state officials that the water was corroding their auto parts. So the governor's team gave GM its own hook up back to the water from Lake Huron —

while still insisting to the residents of Flint that the water was safe for their children to drink. State officials also acted promptly to respond to the bad water for one other constituency: state employees in Flint's state office building. Even as it was reassuring residents that the water was safe to drink, Flint officials arranged for coolers of purified water to be set up on all the floors of the office building. Flint's residents — disproportionately black and low income — were seen as disposable. And they are not alone. The national statistics on lead poisoning, as Kevin Drum of Mother Jones details, show that African-Americans were poisoned at three times the rate of whites until recent times. And, of course, low-income people are poisoned at higher rates than the more affluent; poor, urban African-Americans and Latinos suffer the highest rates of all. Drum notes that while white children were severely afflicted in the postwar lead epidemic, it produced "nothing less than a carnage among black kids." He argues that before lead was brought under control in the late 1980s, virtually an entire generation of urban black teenagers was at risk of lower IQs, more behavior problems in school, higher rates of violent behavior. This, of course, reinforced already vicious racial stereotypes of African-Americans, and of the poor. The only hope in Flint is that the children's exposure was limited in time and intensity, but even that is grasping at straws. And as Flint resident and documentary filmmaker Michael Moore points out, this isn't just a crisis of water. Flint's resi-

dents now see the value of their homes wiped out and their hopes for jobs dashed. Few would consider buying a home in Flint now. Few employers will want to set up shop there or expand there. The governor's men have wreaked untold economic damage on the residents of Flint on top of the threat to their health. The lessons of Flint are plain. Those who scorn government are the wrong people to elect to head it. Government capacity to enforce health and safety, to police environmental poisons and water safety, is essential to the security of our children. As America gets more and more unequal, the cynical, unstated assumption that there are some who are simply disposable, who don't deserve decent services, is likely to spread. But Flint may end up showing something else as well. That cynicism is more corrosive than the toxic water coming from the Flint River. People aren't going to put up with it. They aren't going to adjust quietly to the decline of basic services. The Flint calamity was exposed because the poorest residents objected time and again, despite the reassurances issued by authorities. The failure of the governor's local dictator and of the state officials themselves is now apparent. Yet the reaction to the calamity still seems in slow motion. It is time for the federal government to step in. Investigations should lead to indictments. Federal resources should be mobilized to rectify the water in Flint immediately, and to provide the city with a real plan for renovation and revival.

Is Flint water crisis racism?

By Jim Abeare - Telegram Columnist



controlled Flint finances, disagreed with the idea of again sourcing Flint water from Detroit. Ambrose issued a statement "Flint water today is safe by all Environmental Protection Agency and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality standards, and the city is working daily to improve its quality."

Can we back off the racism angle of the Flint water crisis and put the blame where it belongs, on corrupt government officials.

I never trusted the E.P.A. and now have no trust in the Michigan D.E.Q.

I would like to hear more from Flint's former mayor and former emergency manager, the same former emergency manager that refuses to testify in front of Congress.

Two officials with the Michigan D.E.Q. had since been suspended.

Film maker Micheal Moore wants to have Governor Snyder arrested, but I think the former emergency manager might have something to say about this. He knows a lot more than he is willing to talk about.

I know that Flint is an old city and mostly black, but I can't see someone actually willing to poison a city because of it's racial makeup.

In March 2015, the Flint city council voted to "do all things necessary" to return to purchasing water from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. This vote followed complaints and a report by Veolia North America that Flint water was in violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Jerry Ambrose, the current Flint emergency manager who

The only color city officials were seeing was the green in the money that they saved.

They sure saved a lot. Now they have to spend three times more trying to fix what they caused.

City pipes all need to be replaced.

The city is still charging residents water bills for water they can't use.

For the governor's part he took the blame and hired a P.R. firm to salvage his governorship.

It's time to start fixing the problem and stop coming up with the race card.

ARE YOU YOUR BROTHER'S KEEPER?

LETTER POLICY

The Telegram welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. Typed letters of 200 words or less are preferred and submitted letters may be edited. Each letter should include a name, address and a daytime phone number.

Letters to the editor, opinion and editorial columns do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the Telegram Newspaper.

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Judging

by Janine Folks By Janine Folks - Religion Columnist



Don't require of someone else what you cannot or will not do not do yourself, as far as behavior. Sometimes we expect people to behave on a high level that we don't even behave on. We have a separate set of rules for them and a more lenient set for us. It's when you tell them not to do it, but you're doing it. Some people call it hypocrisy, and I guess it is, or a double standard. This is where people enforce strict rules on others, but give themselves a pass now and then. Some people think their circumstances warrant them a pass. But what they have to remember is, other people can have extenuating circumstances just like them. The Bible says in Mark 4:25b, "The same rules you use to judge others will be

used by God to judge you-- but with even greater severity" (GNT). Whoa...with greater severity! So be very careful what you require of others. When you're being judgmental and thinking other people are weak and you are stronger, God has a way of showing you first hand just how fragile you are. He will put you in a situation where you can really see who you are. So humble yourself, rather than having God humble you. You could find yourself in a situation that you dogged someone else about being in. It's happened to me. It taught me to be compassionate. Not to be permissive, but to care more about the person than the act that we abhor. The scripture is really self explanatory. There is no clearer way to break it down. We just have to remember it when we want to read people the rules. We better make sure our i's are dotted and our t's crossed. When we enforce rules, we need to abide by the same.

Janine Folks
Minister. Writer. Author. Chaplain
www.janinefolks.com
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The Postal Service Celebrates Black History Month

Issuing a Forever Stamp Honoring Richard Allen
 Founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church



PHILADELPHIA — The U.S. Postal Service today kicked off the national observance of Black History Month with the dedication of a Forever stamp honoring preacher, activist and civic leader Richard Allen for his inspirational life and profound contribution to American history. The ceremony was held at Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, founded by Allen.

The stamp is the 39th in the Postal Service's Black Heritage stamp series, which began in 1978 with a stamp honoring abolitionist Harriet Tubman. It coincides with the 200th anniversary of Allen's founding of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, considered one of the most important institutions in African American life, and Allen's election and consecration as A.M.E.'s first bishop.

Other African Americans honored in the Black Heritage stamp series include Martin Luther King, Jr., Benjamin Banneker, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Mary McLeod Bethune, Langston Hughes, Thurgood Marshall, Paul Robeson, Marian Anderson, Hattie McDaniel, Ella Fitzgerald, John H. Johnson, Barbara Jordan and Shirley Chisholm.

"Richard Allen was a man of boundless stature, courage and determination. The Postal Service is pleased to dedicate this special commemorative Forever stamp in his honor," said Postal Service Vice President, Area Operations — Eastern Area, Joshua D. Colin, who dedicated the stamp.

"Frederick Douglass and later Martin Luther King Jr., both said that they were influenced by how Bishop Allen seemed to channel a higher power to work through him to shepherd blacks through some of this country's darkest days. I hope this stamp will inspire every American to learn more about this uplifting man," Colin said.

Customers may purchase the Richard Allen Forever stamp at usps.com/stamps, at the Postal Store usps.com/shop, by calling

800-STAMP24 (800-782-6724) and at Post Offices nationwide. A variety of stamps and collectibles also is available at ebay.com/stamps.

The stamp art is a portrait of Allen, a detail from an 1876 print titled "Bishops of the A.M.E. Church" from the collection of the Library Company of Philadelphia.

Allen's Life and Legacy
 When Richard Allen (1760–1831) lamented the bitterness of slavery, he spoke from experience — but this remarkably resolute and industrious man purchased his own freedom in his twenties and became one of the most important African American leaders of his era.

After making a name for himself as a traveling minister throughout the Mid-Atlantic, Allen was asked to preach to his fellow African Americans at a Methodist church in Philadelphia. He quickly rose to prominence as a civic leader, co-founding an organization to help African American neighbors in need, rallying black Philadelphians to serve as aid workers during a yellow fever epidemic in 1793 and preparing the black community to defend the city during the War of 1812.

Eager to establish an independent African American church, Allen purchased an old blacksmith's shop and moved it to land he owned at Sixth and Lombard Streets. Bethel Church was dedicated in 1794 and soon attracted hundreds of members, but Allen spent years in conflict with white church leaders who sought to assert their control. At one point, they tried to sell the building out from under him, but as a successful businessman, Allen was able to buy it back at auction. After a campaign that included sit-ins by African Americans and a judgment by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the congregation secured its independence. In 1816, Allen summoned other black Methodist leaders to Philadelphia, where together they founded the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, electing and consecrating Allen as its first bishop.

Today, Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church stands on the site where Allen converted that old blacksmith's shop more than two centuries ago. The denomination he founded now boasts more than 2.5 million members. His life — a legacy of determination, uplift, charity and faith — remains an inspiration to all Americans.

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"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot hide"
 (Matthew 5:14)

Meritain Health and YouGiveGoods.com collaborate for Flint water drive

By Shelby Jefferson – Telegram Staff Writer



In the coming weeks, Meritain Health Okemos employees and YouGiveGoods.com will collect donations to purchase more than 10,000 bottles of water for residents affected by the Flint crisis. The website specializes in charitable drives, seeking to "provide premium online giving services, promote community involvement and inspire social responsibility."
"We have the ability to start these drives to raise money for actual products, not cash," says Lisa Tomasi, President and CEO of YouGiveGoods. "We can start them very quickly, and get help to people super fast. We're really excited to partner with Meritain

to help those in Flint who need access to clean water." YouGiveGoods is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with participants receiving a multitude of options to fit their budget. In fact, individuals can donate as little as \$11.99 for a full case of water, all the way up to \$100 for a pallet containing 439 bottles. Once purchased, water donations are immediately shipped to Flint's Catholic Charity Centers to be distributed to local residents. Also of note, gifts immediately receive a receipt upon contributing, with gifts remaining tax deductible. To date, the drive has well exceeded the original goal of 10,000 bottles, though the ini-

tiative will continue for the next couple of weeks. For Debbie Budzynski, Operations Administrative Assistant at Meritain Health, the campaign has inspired future collaborations between the two entities that will result in forthcoming aid to others in need around the country. "We labeled this drive as a local initiative, but it's been so successful that offices outside the state are inquiring about how they can get involved," she says. "I see other opportunities down the road for us to partner with YouGiveGoods to make an impact in Flint, as well as other locations. All of this has been great, and we're really excited about everything."
To participate in the Flint water drive, please visit www.yougivegoods.com/flint-waterdrive.

SENIOR NEWS

News From The Ethel Stevenson Senior Center

It's a good time to visit the Center. Plans are being made to add new programming. More information will be coming.

The calendar for February includes:
Bingo February the 9th
Birthday club meets February 16th. There will be a garage sale. Open to the public.
Ensure will be distributed February 18th
Forgotten Harvest February 22nd
Commodities February 25th
Bridge is played on Thursday afternoon
Exercise and fitness meets every Monday and Thursday at 1:00 pm
Arts and crafts are done daily

meet up with friends bring your coffee and talk or play Bid Whist.

The Center is sponsoring a trip to the First Congressional Baptist Church on February the 23 for the Flight to Freedom Tour. The bus will leave at 11:00am. The cost is \$8:00 per person. There are plans to have a trip once a month

A New York shopping spree is coming up. The dates will be June 24 - 26. More information will be provided soon.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

The Center is located at 4072 W. Jefferson in Ecorse. You can reach to Center at 313-382-3305

The Center is a good place to

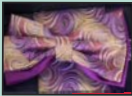
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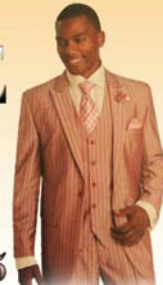
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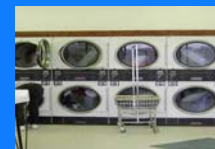
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Grandport student advances to Wayne County Spelling Bee

By Shelby Jefferson – Telegram Staff Writer



Carrington Frierson with his victory trophy at the Grandport Schoolwide Spelling Bee

For the third year in a row, a Grandport Academy student will compete at the WXYZ Scripps Spelling Bee for Wayne County at the Charles H. Wright Museum in Detroit. Last week, sixth-grader Carrington Frierson beat out 20 Grandport students to snag first place honors during the schoolwide competition. Fourth-grader Kameron Stamps placed second, with fifth-grade competitor Moses Rincones coming in third place. Each top participant received a trophy commemorating their achievements, with Frierson

advancing to the countywide competition on March 12th. "Carrington made it to the Grandport bee last year, but failed to advance to the final round," said Toyre Burks, Spelling Bee Coordinator. "He came back again, and we could tell he really prepared because he was ready every time he stepped up to spell a word. We can all say that he did a great job." According to Burks, Frierson's progression is attributed to persistent studying with his grandmother – an aspect that could bring him a major victory

next month. As the Wayne County bee approaches, Burks – alongside coordinator Shannon Hill – will throw a champions luncheon, rooting him on as he prepares for a matchup against other top Wayne County students.

In the end, the winner of the WXYZ competition will advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. this spring – a feat Burks believes is very attainable for Frierson.

"No one from Grandport has ever gone to the Scripps national competition, but we're thinking this could really be our year," she said. "Carrington worked really hard, and we're certainly getting better each and every year. We will definitely see what happens." The WXYZ Scripps Spelling Bee for Wayne County is free to the public, and will take place on March 12th at 11 AM. The event is held at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E Warren Avenue in Detroit.





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Romulus Celebrates Black History Month

Events scheduled throughout the month to appeal to all ages

ROMULUS – For the second consecutive year, Mayor LeRoy D. Burcroff, along with the support of Romulus City Council, have an official Resolution and Proclamation declaring February as Black History Month in the City of Romulus.

"While it might be implied, I wanted to make an outward showing of support to our community that Black History month is important to me and to our City," said Mayor Burcroff.

Several events are planned throughout February to commemorate Black History Month in Romulus.

Come Unity Soul Food Dinner
Held this year on Tuesday, February 9th, this free soul food dinner for the community has been the unofficial kickoff to Black History Month in Romulus for more than 20 years. The event is co-organized by Reverend Rita Talley and her daughter Minister Tina Talley in partnership with Romulus Community Schools, Romulus Ministerial Alliance and the City of Romulus.

Held at Romulus High School, the dinner will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria with a special Black History program following at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium. Southern style soul food, is the theme of cuisine being served with all dishes being cooked and prepared by local churches and volunteers.

All are welcome to wear their favorite African attire. African and African-American themed arts and crafts will also be available for purchase. Donations are accepted on behalf of the Romulus Middle

School Student Activities Fund.

To volunteer or to help with cooking, please contact Rev. Talley at (734) 595-6330.

Screening of "The Great Detroit" and Q&A with the filmmaker, Anthony Brogdon

On Thursday, February 18th at 6:00 p.m., Mr. Anthony Brogdon, a resident of Detroit, will share a positive story about the city, its people, and industries. He set his mind to creating a film and has been recognized by several organizations for his efforts.

The event at Romulus Public Library will be an opportunity for the community of Romulus to be a part of sharing this positive outlook.

In addition Mr. Brogdon is currently working on and promoting his new film, "Business in the Black". This film will examine Detroit's black business community starting with the height of the Black Bottom years through to 1960's. The film will also contain footage of recent interviews with people who are knowledgeable about the subject plus photos and narrative. What will make this film unique is depth with which we go to give a complete picture of the businesses and people who made Detroit so great.

Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase the DVD "The Great Detroit" and contribute toward sponsoring the new film "Business in the Black".

For more information, visit or call the Library at (734) 942-7589.



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Don't text and drive

From Page 1A



La Forest was in a coma for one month following the accident. Today, he is using his story to save lives

an incident caused by a distracted driver in October 2010. One morning, while driving to a work function in Lansing, La Forest was struck from behind as he stopped for another crash on I-96. The 80 mph impact flung him into oncoming traffic, causing two additional cars to collide with his vehicle. According to police, the driver had been texting on her cell phone – actions sure to impact La Forest for the rest of his life. "I don't physically remember the accident due to my brain injury, but I've been told that the woman wasn't paying attention because she was texting and driving," he says. "I passed away at the scene, and had to be revived three different times. In the end, I sustained the worst brain injury someone could have and wasn't expected to last through the night. Obviously I made it a lot further than anyone expected." In the hours following the crash, La Forest underwent emergency brain surgery and was placed on a ventilator, battling critical injuries that included a broken back and

neck, damaged spleen, collapsed lung and shattered ribs (he was also left paralyzed on one side, additionally suffering multiple strokes and seizures). Remaining in a coma for over a month, doctor's predicted that a miraculous survival would indefinitely reduce the 27-year-old to a vegetative state. In the end, La Forest beat the odds, regaining consciousness and later upgrading to a brain injury recovery center where he relearned the basics of life – from dressing and bathing to walking and talking. "When a person has this kind of traumatic brain injury, they sort of revert to an infant-like state," says La Forest's mom, Linda Powell-Champagne. "From the beginning of the recuperation process, [Brandon] basically went back to the point of being a baby all over again." Today, La Forest walks on his own but uses a cane to help with balance issues, additionally suffering from short-term memory loss, chronic pain and hearing/vision problems. Nevertheless, the 32-year-old re-

mains intent on using his story to save lives – even creating his own website, Heads Up Phones Down, to educate the public on the growing dangers posed by distracted driving. Several times a year, he also serves as a motivational speaker to deter teens from texting behind the wheel. "I often pay high schoolers a visit to speak about my accident and the struggles I deal with because of it," he says. "Afterwards, kids will send emails to let me know that I've inspired them and that my story stopped them from texting in their cars. I read these letters and cry because I'm so glad that I get to touch these teens. Hopefully they will spread the word to others."

For La Forest, this type of work grants proof of his purpose for being alive – though at times, listening to his own speeches is necessary to deal with the accident's long-term impact. For example, the driver who hit him received minimal fines and sanctions following the crash – an aspect that only adds insult to the entire situation.

"I deal with more anger and frustration than anything, especially since the driver has never contacted my family to see what happened to me," says La Forest. "Just to think, she only received a ticket and \$583.00 in fines, but I'll be dealing with this for the rest of my life. Was that all my life is worth?"

La Forest's sister, Jennifer, echoes this frustration, speaking on her family's constant struggle to endure over the past five years. Once a law student at Wayne State University, Jennifer changed career paths following the crash, instead pursuing a master's degree in social work to become her brother's full-time caregiver. Alongside their mother, the siblings' now remain in a perpetual battle with La Forest's insurance company to maintain

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Texting can wait - Page 16A

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Stand with Flint Families

Rashida Tlaib: Personal account of what is happening on the ground

I personally visited several homes in Flint, Michigan this past weekend to help provide the updated information residents need to protect their health. Every person I met was confused and angry. So many felt misled as the word came from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the filters the State of Michigan provided are not equipped to clean such high levels of lead in the water. Some had not heard about the announcement to stop using the filters.

One of the stories shared by another volunteer broke our hearts. A mother of an infant who was breastfeeding her child for six months was boiling the water to clean her feeding supplies. She didn't know that boiling lead-contaminated water makes it worse. She was devastated and felt an overwhelming amount of guilt that she drank toxic water and may have passed the toxin to her baby through her breast milk. Worse yet, the State of Michigan denied anyone who could not provide an identification card access to bottled water. She was one of the people turned away. Although the State has stopped asking for ID cards, the injustice continues as this mother and other human beings to live under these horrendous conditions. They deserve better.



The Telegram News will host a blood drive in March from 1-7PM in the Telegram News Building.

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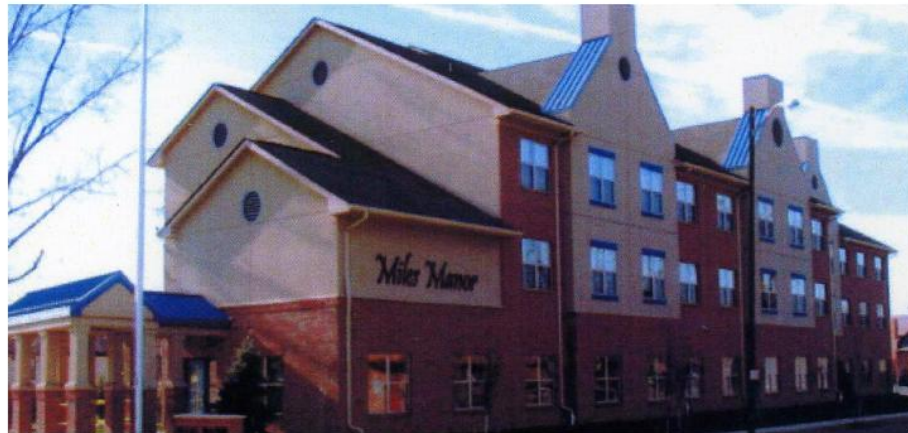


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Spencer Haywood, "A Trailblazer in Black and America History."

By Butch Davis - Sports Reporter



Spencer Haywood received a tribute from the University of Detroit Mercy as his jersey number "45" is retire in the building of Calihan Hall.

It has been one week since basketball great Spencer Haywood received a tribute from the University of Detroit Mercy in seeing his jersey number "45" retire appearing in the building of Calihan Hall last Friday past. Many who watch him play felt he had what is considered the greatest single-season ever in Titan basketball history in 1969. He set school records for single season total points (771) and scoring average (32.1), most rebounds in a season (530), while leading the nation with an average of 21.2 rebounds per game. He also had the second most field goals (288), second most free throws (195), third most free throw attempts (254), and ninth best field goal percentage (.567). He also received All-America honors in 1969.

Before going to college he in 1967, while attending Pershing High School led the school's basketball team to the Class A state championship and also won a gold medal as a member of the 1968 U.S. Olympic basketball team. At 19, Haywood was the youngest American ever selected to the Olympic basketball team in the 1968 Mexico City Games. He was too was signed by the Denver Rockets pro basketball team in 1969 and then was named the Rookie of the Year and MVP of the ABA in 1970 averaging 30.0 points per game and 19.5 rebounds per game. He as well played professionally with Seattle, New York Knicks, New Orleans, Los Angeles Lakers, and Washington and won an NBA Championship with Los Angeles in 1980.

Although the accomplishments in basketball for Haywood were countless, many still

do not know the history that gave opportunities to basketball players like LeBron James, Michael Jordan, Kevin Garnett, Charles Barkley, and Kobe Bryant. Spencer Haywood enter a U.S. District court hearing in 1970 in Los Angeles that changed the landscape of the hardship players that were denied to make a living coming out of high school with the ability to play pro basketball with his Supreme Court victory over the NBA. Haywood was basketball's Curt Flood. The case Haywood vs. National Basketball Association reached the Supreme Court nearly two years before Flood vs. Kuhn challenged the constitutionality of Major

League Baseball's reserve clause, charting the course toward what became free agency. "You notice that they could never stop a baseball player or a tennis player from going straight to the pros from high school if they chose, "but they wanted four-year restrictions on basketball and football players because they were the revenue sports and the colleges wanted to make money," Haywood said last Thursday at a ceremony given by the Detroit Chapter of the NBA Legends at the Charles Wright African Museum. However, Haywood said at the ceremony it was NBA and Ecorse high school basketball great Archie Clark that encourage him to fight for his freedom to go to the NBA. After he played in the American Basketball Association for one season. The NBA's Seattle SuperSonics signed him to a six-year, \$1.6-million contract, although it violated league rules. Only those who went to college four years were eligible for the NBA. He told Archie about the contract he sign with Seattle and Archie took a look at the paper work and told Haywood the following, "You idiot, you don't have a contract, most of the money you sign for will not be paid to you until you are 60 or 70 year old. You need to come to the NBA and fight for your right to play in the league." Yes, "Shake and Bake." Archie Clark one of the first effective experts of the crossover dribble, persuaded Haywood the reason to fight for his rights to play in NBA.

The words of caution came from Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall soon after the

Spencer - Page 11A

This Week in Varsity High School Basketball

By Butch Davis

It will be 25 more days before the Girls of the State of Michigan start battling for the right to play at the Breslin Center, in the District Tournament up-coming February 29, March 2 & 4. Boys you will also battle in some best basketball games play this month in the state for the next 32 days before yours District Tournament -- March 7, 9 & 11. Please Ladies and Gentlemen, Boy and Girls get out and go see a basketball game in your next of the woods. Here is this weeks schedule for the Boys and the Girls.

Varsity Basketball (Boys)

- 02/04 7:30 PM Dearborn Riverside Academy-West at Canton Preparatory
- 02/04 7:00 PM Allen Park Inter-City Baptist at Dearborn Heights Annapolis
- 02/04 6:00 PM Romulus Summit Academy at Detroit Cesar Chavez Academy
- 02/04 6:45 PM Dearborn Fordson at Romulus
- 02/04 7:00 PM Taylor Baptist Park at Sterling Heights Parkway Christian
- 02/05 7:00 PM Dearborn Divine Child at Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard
- 02/05 7:00 PM Lutheran Westland at Bloomfield Hills Roeper
- 02/05 7:00 PM Livonia Clarenceville at Dearborn
- 02/05 7:00 PM Dearborn Edsel Ford at Dearborn Heights Crestwood
- 02/05 7:30 PM Detroit Allen Academy at Ecorse
- 02/05 7:00 PM Garden City at Dearborn Heights Robichaud
- 02/05 7:00 PM Melvindale at Lincoln Park
- 02/05 7:00 PM Westland John Glenn at Livonia Franklin
- 02/05 7:00 PM Hamtramck at Melvindale Academy for Business & Tech
- 02/05 7:00 PM Allen Park at Taylor Kennedy
- 02/05 7:00 PM Wyandotte Roosevelt at Taylor Truman
- 02/06 6:00 PM River Rouge at Romulus
- 02/09 7:00 PM Dearborn Heights Annapolis at Dearborn
- 02/09 7:30 PM Detroit Loyola at Dearborn Divine Child
- 02/09 7:00 PM Redford Union at Dearborn Heights Robichaud
- 02/09 7:00 PM Detroit Westside Christian at Dearborn Riverside Academy-West
- 02/09 7:00 PM Taylor Trillium at Detroit Henry Ford Academy
- 02/09 7:00 PM Melvindale Academy for Business & Tech at Ecorse
- 02/09 7:00 PM Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest at Lutheran Westland
- 02/09 7:30 PM Allen Park Cabrini at Macomb Lutheran North
- 02/09 7:00 PM Taylor Truman at Melvindale
- 02/09 7:30 PM Detroit Delta Prep Academy for Social Justice at Taylor Preparatory
- 02/09 7:00 PM Taylor Kennedy at Trenton
- 02/09 7:00 PM Taylor Baptist Park at Westland Huron Valley Lutheran
- 02/09 7:00 PM Plymouth at Westland John Glenn
- 02/09 7:00 PM Southgate Anderson at Wyandotte Roosevelt

Varsity Basketball (Girls)

- 02/04 5:30 PM Allen Park Inter-City Baptist at Dearborn Heights Annapolis
- 02/04 6:00 PM Bloomfield Hills Academy of the Sacred Heart at Detroit Cristo Rey
- 02/05 5:00 PM Dearborn Advanced Tech at Canton Preparatory
- 02/05 3:45 PM Dearborn Heights Crestwood at Dearborn Edsel Ford
- 02/05 7:00 PM Garden City at Dearborn Heights Robichaud
- 02/05 6:00 PM Ecorse at Detroit Allen Academy
- 02/05 5:30 PM Melvindale Academy for Business & Tech at Hamtramck
- 02/05 7:00 PM Dearborn Fordson at Livonia Clarenceville
- 02/05 7:00 PM Lincoln Park at Melvindale
- 02/05 6:00 PM Taylor Baptist Park at Plymouth Christian
- 02/05 7:00 PM Dearborn at Romulus
- 02/05 7:00 PM River Rouge at Taylor Preparatory
- 02/05 7:00 PM Livonia Franklin at Westland John Glenn
- 02/05 7:00 PM Taylor Truman at Wyandotte Roosevelt
- 02/06 4:15 PM River Rouge at Romulus
- 02/09 7:00 PM Westland Huron Valley Lutheran at Ann Arbor Greenhills
- 02/09 6:00 PM Lutheran Westland at Auburn Hills Oakland Christian
- 02/09 7:00 PM Allen Park at Brownstown Woodhaven
- 02/09 4:30 PM Ann Arbor Rudolf Steiner at Dearborn Advanced Tech
- 02/09 7:00 PM Dearborn Fordson at Dearborn Heights Annapolis
- 02/09 7:00 PM Dearborn Heights Robichaud at Dearborn Heights Crestwood
- 02/09 6:00 PM Melvindale Academy for Business & Tech at Ecorse
- 02/09 7:00 PM Romulus at Garden City
- 02/09 7:00 PM River Rouge at Harper Woods Chandler Park Academy
- 02/09 7:00 PM Gibraltar Carlson at Lincoln Park
- 02/09 7:00 PM Wyandotte Roosevelt at Southgate Anderson
- 02/09 6:00 PM Detroit Delta Prep Academy for Social Justice at Taylor Preparatory
- 02/09 7:00 PM Melvindale at Taylor Truman

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CITY OF INKSTER

In accordance with the City of Inkster City Charter Chapter 7, Sec. 7.9; an abstract of the proceedings of the February 1, 2016 Regular Council Meeting is hereby published.

APPROVED:

- Approval of the agenda.
- Approval of the Consent Agenda.
- Approval of a Public Hearing on a Zoning Amendment.
- Approval of three appointments to the Local Business Enterprise Commission.
- Approval of three appointments to the Commission on Aging.
- Approval to dissolve the TIFA Working Committee for the Justice Center.
- Approval to dissolve the Carver Homes Citizens Council.
- Approval of FY2016 Budget Amendments.
- Approval of Amendments to the Rubbish Deficit Elimination plan.
- Approval of Poverty Exemption Guidelines.

Felicia Rutledge
City Clerk

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City of Inkster is seeking a qualified candidate to fill position in the Community Development department. Interested Candidates, please visit our website at www.cityofinkster.com/services/humanresources to apply.

HAVING AN EVENT?

THE TELEGRAM CAN HELP YOU INFORM THE COMMUNITY. SEND US AN EMAIL OR DROP THE

ROMULUS HOUSING - HELP WANTED PUBLIC NOTICE

Maintenance Service Technician Assistant, p.t. - The ROMULUS HOUSING COMMISSION, located at 34200 Beverly in Romulus, is seeking a part time Maintenance Service Technician Asst. This position will have you prepping apartments for move-in, completing work orders and maintaining the outside of the buildings and grounds. Applicants must be mechanically inclined, able to climb a ladder, self motivated, dependable, and able to lift 50 lbs. Additional hours may be required, including on call and in the winter for snow removal. Must have a valid driver's license and be insurable to drive Community Vehicle. EPA Refrigerant Certification preferred. Please e-mail/fax resume with salary requirements to: E-mail sgaddy@fourmidable.com, or Fax 734-729-0005. EOE

CITY OF ECORSE PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given, that a Public Hearing will be held by the City of Ecorse City Council, at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 in the Albert Buday Civic Center, 3869 W. Jefferson Ave., Ecorse, MI 48229. The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comment on the final use of the 2016-2017 Community Development Block Grant Funding.

The final 2016-17 CDBG Fund Allocations are:

Sidewalk Replacement :	\$100,000.00
Fire Truck:	\$50,000.00
Ordinance Officer:	\$40,000.00
Housing Rehab:	\$15,000.00
Administration:	\$20,000.00

Individuals or groups wishing to make oral presentations or submit prepared statements pertaining to the CDBG Program may do so at the Public hearing. Interested parties who are unable to attend the Public hearing may submit their comments in writing to the City of Ecorse Clerk's Office located at 3869 W. Jefferson Ave., Ecorse, MI 48229.

People with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation at this meeting should contact the office of community development at (313) 386-2400 or the office of the City Clerk at (913) 386-2520. At least three (3) business days in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Posting Date: 2/04/2016
Publication Date: 2/04/2016

Theresa Capra
Community Development Manager

CITY OF RIVER ROUGE PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF RIVER ROUGE, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, February 22nd, 2016 at 4:00PM.**, in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at the Civic Center, 10600 W. Jefferson Avenue, River Rouge, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on the following: **Rezoning Request for 199 Summit Street.** The applicant is requesting a rezoning from R-1, One Family Residential District to B-2, General Business District.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Planning Commission, City of River Rouge, 10600 W. Jefferson Avenue, River Rouge, Michigan 48101.

Published: February 4, 2016

Spencer

From Page 10A

high court ruled in Haywood's favor in the landmark 1971 decision abolishing the NBA's mandatory draft eligibility requirement of four years of college. The ruling paved the path for subsequent early entrance into the NBA draft. "I remember him telling me, 'Son, I want you to remember that you're going to be forever ostracized for what you're doing here,'" Haywood said. "I didn't think too much of it then. I was 21, and thought I was ready to conquer the world, and nobody was going to stop me." The victory made Haywood a hero, however also an anti-hero to the establishment who were against Black individuals fighting for their rights. "Justice Marshall was right," Haywood said. "It didn't take long for me to realize that I was being punished." "Fans would throw things at me on the floor," said Haywood, who is now 66 years old. "They (public address announcers) would broadcast that an illegal player was on the floor. It got pretty ugly at times. But I knew it was a battle worth fighting. Looking back now, when you talk about the historical reference for the game it-

self, I might have made the most significant change in the history of the game." Haywood also said that Marshall told him, "He would have to find appreciation for his efforts from within, not from others."

It has been 45 years since that 7-2 Supreme Court ruling, and only now are Haywood's contributions are getting the appreciation worthy of their transcendence. He's finally earned his place among the game's greats with his induction into basketball's Hall of Fame last year. "I'm just enjoying everything about this entire experience," Haywood said. "It might not have come on my time. But I'm fine with it because it came on God's time. I'm at peace with everything, I'm not bitter that everything's coming later than it should have. I'm just happy and honored that it's happening now and I'm still around that I can be a part of it."

Haywood is finally getting that appreciation from others. Spencer Haywood, "A Trailblazer in Black and America History."



Look Up!

Find and circle all of the items that you might see when you look upward.

The remaining 24 letters spell an additional item you might see.

U P L A N E T S K R O W E R I F N
 G N I D J E T E X H A U S T E N N
 P O M T Y R U C R E M K I T E O I
 C O M E T C H I M N E Y S M O K E
 R M T S T G R B T S H F P L G I S
 E S E E A E L E A H D A L M N S D
 V F E L E U O T T R E A Z S I O R
 I L A N E R E R E I B S T E T L I
 D X I S I L T P S R P R U E I A B
 Y R K G L L A E I H E U N N R R I
 K Y A I H R R A S E O A J N W E G
 S S T I C T T E T R L W R L Y C D
 R E D S N O N L W P E U E D K L I
 A Y Y U H B I I R O T V I R S I P
 T K N G O G I N A P O I O B P P
 S R A M H L A W S G J V E N U S E
 E R E T P O C I L E H C T E U E R

- AIRPLANE
- BIG DIPPER
- BIRDS
- BLIMP
- BLUE SKY
- CHIMNEY SMOKE
- CLOUDS
- COMET
- DRONE
- FIREWORKS
- GALAXY
- HAZE
- HELICOPTER
- HOT AIR BALLOON
- JET EXHAUST
- JUPITER
- KITE
- LIGHTNING
- MARS

- MERCURY
- METEOR SHOWER
- MOON
- PLANETS
- POWER LINES
- RAINBOW
- SATELLITE
- SATURN
- SKYDIVER
- SKYSCRAPER
- SKYWRITING
- SMOG
- SOLAR ECLIPSE
- STARS
- STREET LIGHT
- THE SUN
- TREETOP
- UNIVERSE
- VENUS

Telegram Newspaper Classifieds

CITY OF RIVER ROUGE PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF RIVER ROUGE PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Federal Guidelines the City of River Rouge is announcing its Public Hearing and objectives for developing projects using Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

OBJECTIVES

- A) To provide the benefits of using CDBG funding directly to persons of low and moderate income and/or to areas which meet the minimum requirements for CDBG eligibility of at least 42.39% low/moderate income persons.
- B) To eliminate specific conditions of blight or physical decay on a spot basis.
- C) To maintain, improve and develop affordable housing and infrastructure for all persons throughout the entire community.
- D) To reduce negative environmental impacts.
- E) Improve the residential environment by promoting the stabilization and/or long-term revitalization of neighborhoods with balanced housing opportunities, neighborhood improvements and economic development.
- F) To maintain a high level of performance in the management of all CDBG and non-federally funded programs, while offsetting administrative costs to the General Fund.

The City can expect to receive an annual allocation of approximately \$137,713.00 for FY 2016-2017.

POTENTIAL PROJECTS:

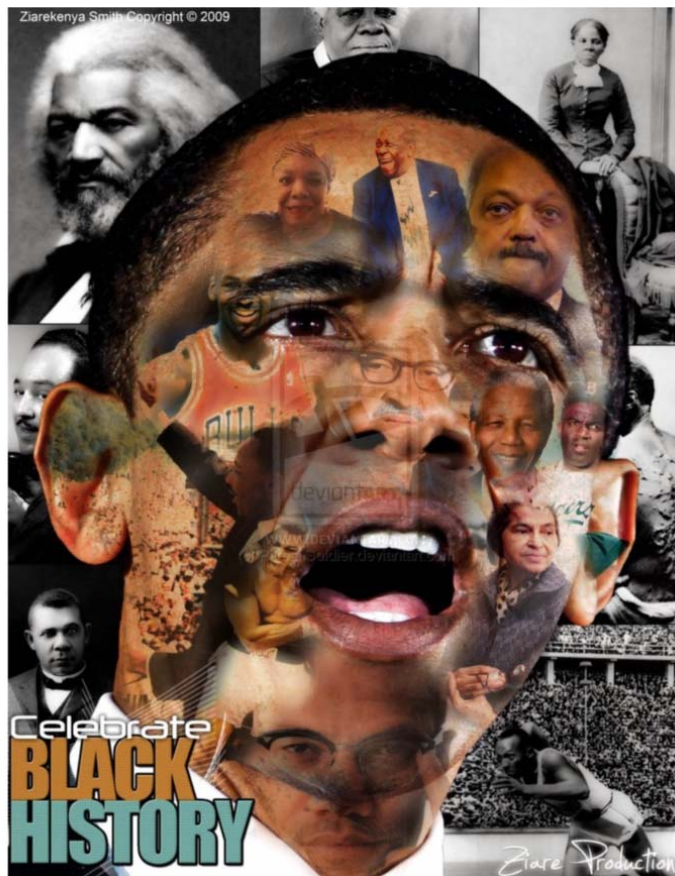
- Infrastructure Improvements
Location: City-Wide
Amount: \$60,000.00
- Public Services
Location: City-Wide
Amount: \$20,000.00
- Housing Rehabilitation
Location: City-Wide
Amount: \$44,413.00
- Administration: \$13,300.00

A public hearing is scheduled before Mayor and Council to approve CDBG projects on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 7:30 PM in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 10600 West Jefferson Ave.

Interested persons are invited to comment on projects you would like to have funded by this program. We encourage your participation. If you have suggestions, but are unable to attend the meeting please write or call the City Clerk's Office (313) 842-5604, 10600 West Jefferson Ave., River Rouge, MI 48218.

Michael D. Bowdler
Mayor

Patricia Johnson, City Clerk
City Clerk



CRIME ALERTS

RIVER ROUGE

January 27, 2016

At 1205hrs, an officer responded to McDonald's at 10995 West Jefferson on a Threat complaint. The officer was met by the 43 year old female manager. She states she had received several phone calls from a 21 year old female who states she was going to line up all the managers and take care of them. The suspected female was a manager with McDonald's until recently she quit. An officer was on scene at the time the female decided to quit working for the company. The suspected female approached the officer and wanted to talk to him about work place conditions. She stated that the managers were out to get her and wanted her fired. She was advised to quit working for her complaints. The officers observed the female wearing pajamas, with thin slippers and no socks. The weather conditions were close to freezing at the time. The manager states shortly after she left that's when the phone calls started coming in. As the manager spoke about the female being was a good employee, suddenly the female came back wearing a very little clothing. The officer attempted to speak to her and she told him not to touch her. The officer directed her two more times but she would not comply. The officer felt base on her actions and statements she had potential to harm herself or others. At that time she was advised that she would be transported to Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital for Psychiatric Evaluation.

January 26th, 2016

At 1119hrs, an officer was dispatched to Sabbath School for a complaint of Threats. The officer made contact with one of the

teachers who stated a 13 year old male student made multiple threats to staff members. The teacher stated at 1100hrs one of the staff members took a cell phone away from the student and he began cussing and swearing at her and attempted to leave the school when she advised him to come into her office. It was during this time the student threatened to go to one staffer's other place of employment and beat him with a lead pipe and told the other staff he would slash him tires. The teacher asked the student if he had weapons in his home and told her that if he didn't get the two staffer one of his boys would. The other of the student arrived shortly and asked had the teacher call police. The student and his mother had already left the school when the officer arrived.

January 24th, 2016

At 1939hrs, officers were dispatched to the 300 Block of Campbell Street on a report of a suspicious subject lurking in the area. The 72 year old homeowner states she and her daughter was returning home and pull into the driveway and seen an unknown male kneeling neighbors vehicle. The two went in their home and peered through the window and could see the male still loitering so she knocked on the window a few times and the male began walking away. The daughter went to alert the neighbor and she heard a crashing sound of a window breaking and when they went into a spare room she observed the window had been broken out. Officer observed a softball size rock lying next to the air conditioning unit. The area was checked the suspect got away.

January 24th, 2016

At 1338hrs, officer were dispatched to the 400 Block of Lenoir for a Domestic Violence complaint. A 19 year old female states she was attacked by her 19 year old boyfriend. She states they had been dating for the last five years and he accused her of cheating on him and pushes her against the wall and started choking her. She further states he hit her with a closed hand fist twice, causing her to bleed from her mouth. She states he even broke her cell phone. She declined medical treatment and officers searched the area but were unable to locate the boyfriend.

January 23rd, 2016

At 0300hrs, officers were dispatched to the police station lobby for a suspect Child Abuse complaint. A 27 year old female and her 36 year old boyfriend told officers that her one year old son was dropped off at his father's home on Catherine Street the day before and when returned home in Lincoln Park. She observed 4-5 red marks on the baby's back and one on his forehead. She states she called the father and questioned him about the marks and he denied any knowledge of the injuries. Then the father retracted his statement and stated he might have burned him by accident and I never want to see him again. The mother states she took her baby to Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital to be examined by doctor. The doctors advised her the marks on the baby's legs were burn marks and Child Abuse is possible and contact police immediately. Child Protective Services was notified.

New Hope for Michigan Youth Sentenced to Life in Prison

Michigan News Connection LANSING - There's new hope for some Michigan offenders who were sentenced as juveniles to die in prison. On Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court held that the 2012 Miller vs. Alabama decision barring mandatory life without parole for child offenders applies retroactively.

Michigan is one of the few states that uses life without parole as a punishment for offenders younger than age 18. Kristen Staley, deputy director of the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, said the high court recognizes that kids lack the impulse control and judgment of adults and have greater capacity for reform.

"The court even goes to say that it's always unconstitutional for a juvenile to be serving life without a chance of parole unless he or she is found to be so irreparably corrupt or some sort of permanently incorrigible status," she said. "Frankly, it's a rare circumstance and we should not be using it."

About 360 people are serving life sentences in Michigan for crimes committed prior to age 18. Michigan also is one of a few states where 17-year-olds are automatically tried as adults. Staley said she hopes the ruling helps build momentum to raise the age to 18.

Nate Balis, director of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Justice Strategy Group, said the promise of the

juvenile-justice system to help youth cannot be realized when they are treated like adults and exposed to harsh sentencing.

"The dual commitment to public safety and rehabilitation means that young people ought to be treated as young people," he said. "They ought to be treated as youth who are changing and who are capable of changing, which means it should be about their development and not about punishment."

The court held that those affected by the decision should be released or have their sentences reduced. Staley said re-sentencing by a trial court isn't necessary.

"The court made it very clear that, frankly, a parole hearing could be an option," she said. "This won't necessarily clog all the cases with reopening and rehashing old wounds. Maybe we can just take a look at good behavior and parole options going forward."

Monday's ruling impacts about 2,000 people incarcerated around the country.

Meanwhile on Monday, President Obama announced a series of criminal-justice reforms he plans to take through executive action, including a ban on the use of solitary confinement for juveniles in federal facilities.

The high court's ruling is online at supremecourt.gov.

Melendez

From Page 2A

and barbaric".

"On January 28th, 2015, you did not fulfill your job," she told Melendez. "You were so into your bravado that you forgot the eye of justice was recording you. You knew better. You were better trained than any of those officers out there. You were more experienced." Melendez, a veteran policeman, faced several lawsuits throughout his career, ultimately earning the nickname "Robocop" due to his aggressive policing tactics. Last year, dashcam footage captured him punching an unarmed Dent 16 times during a routine traffic stop, resulting in his release from the Inkster Police Department in April, and subsequent charges filed by the Wayne County Prosecutor's office.

Dent suffered broken ribs, blood on his brain and other injuries following the encounter, and was eventually awarded a \$1.4 million settlement from the City of Inkster.

At trial, Melendez declined to testify, but personally apologized to Dent during the hearing. He later concluded his remarks by reciting a poem called "The Final Inspection". "To Mr. Dent and his family, I am truly sorry," he said. "...I am sorry that this has caused undue hardships in your personal work, and if you have any animosity toward law enforcement, that was not my intention."

Melendez's attorney James Thomas says that the sentence will be appealed, while upholding that his client remains upbeat in spite of the ruling. Following the hearing, Dent expressed that he harbors no hard feelings toward Melendez.

"I've already forgiven him," he told reporters after the judgment. "No man should be away from his family at all, especially in prison."

Melendez will go before a parole board in March 2017.

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TELEGRAM COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DEARBORN HEIGHTS

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at City Hall located at 6045 Fen-ton, there will be a city council meeting beginning at 8:00PM.

Detroit

Registration for Elections
Monday, February 8, 2016 will be the last day to register for the presidential primary elections of March 8, 2016. Register at the Department of Election 1978 W. Grand Blvd. 48202. If you have any questions, call 313-876-0190.

Property Tax Appeals

Residents who disagree about the amount of their property tax assessment have an opportunity to appeal before the City of Detroit Assessments Division Assessors Review that will be held Feb. 1-15, in Suite 824 in the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, located at 2 Woodward Ave.
The Feb. 1-15 Assessors Review hours are as follows:
Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Saturday, February 6, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Saturday, February, 13, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
For more information, please call (313) 224-3035.

INKSTER

"African American Storyteller"
The Leanna Hicks Inkster Public Library (2005 Inskter Rd, 48141) presents "African American Storyteller" Gwen Lewis on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 6:00PM. All ages welcome! For more information, call 313-563-2822.

LINCOLN PARK

The Senior Citizens Commission

Senior Citizens will gather at the Senior Center (3250 Ferris Lincoln Park, MI 48106) to discuss ways to improve the center. They will meet Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 2:00PM.

RIVER ROUGE

Big Read Story Time

The National Endowment of the Arts presents "Stand Tall" by Molly Lou Melon." Wednesday, February 10, 2016 from 5:00-6:00PM at the River Rouge Public Library (221 Burke St., 48218). For ages 4 to 10. Children will receive a free copy of the book while supplies last!

ROMULUS

Teen Winter Reading

Tuesday, February 9, 2016. Read and collect prizes! Ages 12-17 This event will extend from January 19 to March 1 and take place at the Romulus Public Library, located at 11121 Wayne Rd., 48174. For more information, please call 734-942-7589.

City Council Meeting

Monday, February 8, 2016 at 7:30PM there will be a city council meeting held in the

Council Chambers of the Romulus City Hall, located at 11111 Wayne Rd., 48174.

Quilting

Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 6:00PM there will be a quilting event at the Romulus Senior Center (36525 Bibbins St., 48174).

TAYLOR

Knitters and crocheters

Knitters and crocheters unite every Tuesday in the Community Room at the Taylor Community Library.
They meet on the following dates, between 6-7 p.m.:

•February 2, February 9, February 16 and February 23
For information, contact Name Jacqueline Whinihan at (734) 287-4840.

"Brown bag Talking Book Discussion"

The "Brown Bag Talking Book Discussion" meets on the second Wednesday of each month at noon to discuss two talking book titles at the Taylor Community Library.
Bring your lunch. Everyone is welcome.

It will be held from noon-1:30 p.m. on February 10 and again from noon-1:30 p.m. on March 9 in the Program Room or the library at 12303 Pardee Road.
For more information contact Vanessa Morris at 734-287-4840

February's books are The Night trilogy (Night, Dawn, and The Accident) by Elie Wiesel and Men We Reaped by Jesmyn Ward.

The Storyteller

Miz Rosie, The Storyteller, will discuss "The Life and Times of Rosa Parks and the Civil Rights Movement" from 6:00-8:00PM on February 11 at the Taylor Community Library.
This activity is funded in part by the Michigan Council for

Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Michigan Humanities Council and by the Friends of the Taylor Community Library.

WAYNE

Sew Friendly

Wednesday, February 10, 2016 from 1:00-3:00PM at the Recreation & Exercise Club, located at 4635 Howe Rd., Wayne, MI 48184. This group (all ages) gets together to work on their hand-sewn (quilting, needle-point, etc) projects. Share your ideas and get some help. Come give it a try!

Needles and Hooks for a Cause

Thursday, February 11, 2016 from 09:00am - 11:00am at Helium Studio, located at 3127 S Wayne Rd, 48184. Bring your own supplies and create for a cause. This month the cause is St. Mary's Open Closet. Make hats in different sizes! Can't make it in person? Create your hat(s) on your own and drop off at Helium Studio during business hours.

Golden Hour Club

Thursday, February 11, 2016 11:00am - 12:00pm

Meet every 2nd & 4th Thursday for a Pottluck Luncheon/Business meeting. Membership is open to anyone 50 years and up. If you are not a member and would like to see what Golden Hour is all about, call 721-7460 or stop by on Thursday at 11:00 AM and be our guest. Members birthdays are celebrated on the 2nd Thursday. Event will take place at the Recreation & Exercise Club, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne, 48184.

Big Read Program

National Endowment of the Art's "Big Read Program" is coming to the Taylor Commu-

nity Library. The program -- "The Watsons Go to Birmingham -- 1963," by Christopher Paul Curtis -- is scheduled for 6-7 p.m. February 8 in the library's program room. It is recommended for children ages 11 to 13 and will include 20 minutes reading book individually, discussion, pictures, poems, pizza and pop. Bring copy of book the day of the program.

This is sponsored by Taylor Community Library and Wayne Metro Community Action Agency.

WESTLAND

Friday, February 05, 2016 01:00pm - 02:00pm. **Cooking Matters** is a FREE 6 week course that teaches participants to shop smarter, use nutrition information to make healthier choices and cook delicious, affordable meals. Register at oakwood.org/classes. Will take place at the Jefferson Bams Community Vitality Center 32150 Dorsey Westland, MI 48186

Friends of the Library Book Sale Preview

Thursday, February 11, 2016 from 3:00-6:00PM at the Westland Public Library (6123 Central City Pkwy, 48185). The Preview Book Sale is a chance for members of the Friends of the Library (or those interested in joining) to get first pick at this month's sale. The Book Sale will be open to the general public beginning February 11 and run through February 14.

Mornings with the Mayor

Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 9:00AM at the Ralph Sayini Fire Station #1 (35701 Central City Parkway, 48185). Westland residents have a great interactive way to connect with the Mayor. Mayor William R. Wild and his staff are available to answer your questions, or you can simply voice your concerns or share ideas on improving our All American City.

WYANDOTTE

City Council Meeting
Monday, February 8, 2016 at 7:00PM there will be a city council meeting in the Council Chambers of the Wyandotte City Hall located at 3200 Middle Ave, Suite 300, 48192.

ECORSE

Breakfast with Mayor Tidwell at Emagene's Family Restaurant (4436 W. Jefferson, 48229).

Saturday, February 06, 2016 can join Mayor Tidwell in supporting Ecorse Restaurant business owners. Meal costs are your own. Some businesses will offer specials for the occasion. Share ideas and concerns, and pick-up the 2016 Ecorse Calendar of Events, all while enjoying a hometown meal!

To have your event listed in the calendar contact Estefania Arellano at the Telegram Newspaper 313-928-2955 or send an email to info@telegramnews.net

Look for your copy of the TELEGRAM NEWSPAPER
in: Dearborn Hts, Delray, Detroit, Ecorse, Inkster, Lincoln Park, Melvindale, River Rouge, Romulus, Taylor, Wayne, Westland and Wyandotte

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The best National Anthem performances in Super Bowl history

By Shelby Jefferson – Telegram Staff Writer

On Sunday, the Carolina Panthers will face off against the Denver Broncos for Super Bowl 50. The game obviously stands as the night's main attraction, but it can be said that a great delivery of the national anthem can set things off well before the festivities begin. We've all witnessed some masterful performances over the years, but here's a countdown of the 7 best "The Star-Spangled Banner" renditions ever sung at the Super Bowl.



7. Wynton Marsalis, Super Bowl XX (1986)

This presentation of the U.S. national anthem overflows with the New Orleans spirit, with city native Wynton Marsalis delivering a poignant interpretation via trumpet, accompanied by lovely piano chords.

The performance took place at the coveted Louisiana Superdome, with the jazz great delivering one of the last instrumental interpretations ever performed at a Super Bowl game.



6. The Dixie Chicks, Super Bowl XXXVII (2003)

The Dixie Chicks were at the top of their game in 2003, and just before finding themselves surrounded by controversy following lead singer, Natalie Maines', criticism of George W. Bush and the Iraq War, they performed this outstanding rendition of our nation's national anthem.

The country trio's flawless three-part harmonies, embellished by a thrilling fireworks display, came to embody the beauty of American patriotism – ultimately becoming one of the most memorable performances to date.



5. Luther Vandross, Super

Bowl XXI (1997)

There has never been a voice like Luther Vandross'. This version of the "The Star-Spangled Banner", performed before a matchup between the New England Patriots and the Green Bay Packers, received rave reviews – bringing a silky, soulful, sexiness not seen since Marvin Gaye's classic national anthem performance at the 1983 NBA All-Star Game.

Today, Vandross's effortless delivery is guaranteed to give you chills – 20 years after it was originally performed.



4. Faith Hill, Super Bowl XXXIV (2000)

Before the first Super Bowl game of the new millennium, Faith Hill performed this simple, yet equally powerful version of the national anthem.

Sung before the St. Louis Rams took on the Tennessee Titans, Hill's triumphant vocals soared over snare drums with a passion and emotion that could move mountains, stirring hearts across the nation. Remarkably, the rendition climbed to the top of the US country charts following the September 11th attacks, though it was never officially released as a single.



3. Beyoncé, Super Bowl XXXVIII (2004)

Whenever Beyoncé grabs the mic, you can always expect an incredible performance. Such was the case when she slayed the "The Star-Spangled Banner" in 2004, setting the stage for one of the most epic matchups in Super Bowl history.

With controlled runs and flying crescendo, Queen Bey brought down the house with this brilliant interpretation aptly performed in her hometown of Houston, Texas. It can be argued that Bey's performance stands historically overshadowed by Janet Jackson's infamous wardrobe malfunction at halftime. Nevertheless, this rendition of the national anthem forever ranks among the most supreme versions of our time.



2. Jennifer Hudson, Super Bowl XLIII (2009)

At the 2009 Super Bowl, Jennifer Hudson made her first public appearance following the tragic murders of her mother, brother, and 7 year-old nephew. Joined by the "Miracle on the Hudson" flight crew, J Hud's commanding arrangement overflowed with soul, funk and gospel influences; her signature vocals instantly taking the world to church with a stirring performance for the ages.

Ranking as an instant classic, Hudson raised the bar for future performers looking to make their mark on that Super Bowl stage.



1. Whitney Houston, Super Bowl XXV (1991)

Penning by Francis Scott Key in 1814, "The Star-Spangled Banner" has been sung countless times throughout history. No rendition however can match the one delivered by Whitney Houston at Super Bowl XXV, an epic performance that reigns as the definitive of all national anthems. Sung in the midst of the Persian Gulf War, Houston's vocal prowess was on full display that night in Tampa; her rousing passion resonating with spectators around the nation. Donning a modish headband and matching U.S.A track suit, the pop superstar captured the full essence of America – prompting her label, Arista Records, to release the recording as a charity single to aid the war effort.

Ten years later, the song would be re-released following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, with Houston once more donating all royalties to victims and rescue workers. This time, the single peaked at No.6 on the US Hot 100 charts and was soon certified platinum – with the songstress becoming the only artist in history to take the national anthem to such popular heights.

ASK ALMA

Do sacrifices have to be made for the family



Dear Alma,

I was married for 12 years. I raised our son and his twin daughters from his first marriage. When we separated and divorced I was heartbroken. But all the children remained with me. They are adults now, all finished college, married with children and living wonderful lives of their own. I've never remarried. Recently after all these years my ex-husband married a very young woman. It works well for the local political life that he lives. He has a high-ranking position with the city and is constantly busy and on the go. Because of his career, I've always remained close to his mother, who is in her late 80's, a widow, who raised her only son and everyone else on the block. She's the nicest woman you could ever meet and has helped single mothers in our area with childcare for years. I lost my mother when I was young, so I've really enjoyed the bond that we share. She recently told me that, "I'll always be her daughter-in-law (DIL) no matter what." I've always shopped, cooked her meals and taken her to her doctor appointments, but I understand this has to stop. My ex and his new wife should take care of her now, although I don't see that happening. My problem is, now that my ex is remarried, I want to step out of the way when it comes to my mother-in-

law (MIL). How do I get them to recognize their responsibility to step up and start taking care of his mother?

— Robin

Dear Robin,
I hear you Robin, but I don't believe you. You don't wanna let go, nor should you. You love your MIL like you would your birth mother, and that's fantastic. What a blessing you two are for one another. Sadly, your marriage didn't last but your obligation to family remains unmovable. Maintaining your role as a stepmother and DIL was not an easy task, I'm sure. There's a reason you did and it's bigger than you and your ex-husband.

Listen, the truth of the matter is the new DIL is not interested in caring for her MIL or she would have stepped up or paid someone to do it by now. In the same breathe, your ex couldn't find his mother in the forest for the trees and that ain't gonna change any time soon. When and if your ex and his new misses want to make a change, they'll let you know. I'm sure both don't find it broken, so there's no need to fix it, at least not for now. Not to mention, your MIL probably wouldn't welcome the change anyways. That's why she told you your role, in her heart, will remain the same.

I say, continue to be her caregiver. I know this isn't ideal, but it's doable. Do it out of love for family, not as a favor to your ex. Your MIL is in her 80's, commit to loving her delightfully for the rest of her days. I promise you, your heart will be glad you did.

— Alma

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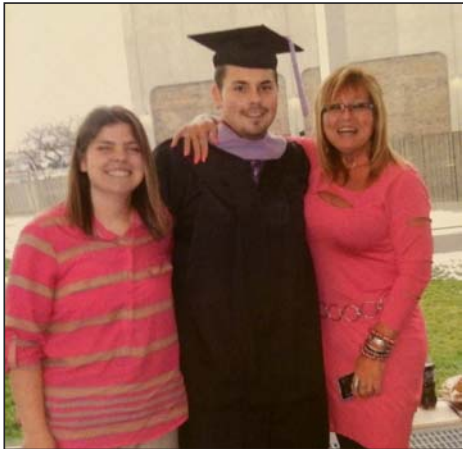
131	232	610
766	595	753
4321	7318	8950
1159	2560	2980

BIG MOMMA'S HITS	BIG RAY'S PICK 4
520	555
093	216
411	986
6800	3209
3456	8111
1122	5454

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

Texting can wait

From Page 8A



La Forest poses with his sister Jennifer (left), and his mother Linda (right)

key benefits needed for his recovery. "It's really hard because we're always fighting with someone," says Jennifer. "If it's not the insurance company that does not want to pay for medication, physical therapy or another aspect of Brandon's care, it's a doctor that refuses to write something down correctly. This is a never-ending battle, and that's what makes it so difficult."

Even in the midst of hardship, La Forest remains grateful for his progress, crediting God and the endless support from his mom and sister for his ability to come this far. He also cites two other influences: pop star Kelly Clarkson and talk show host Ellen DeGeneres, who both inspired him to persevere during the darkest point of his life. "I met Kelly Clarkson at her concert last summer; she pulled me on stage and gave

me a big hug," he says. "Now I need to get to 'The Ellen Show' because I watched her every day when I was at the recovery center, and she always put a smile on my face. I just want to hug her and say thank you."

In the coming months, La Forest additionally hopes to resume work at Colonial Life, while also gaining approval to drive again on his own. In 2012, he achieved the ultimate feat by earning a Master of Science Administration degree with a focus in human resources – concluding the journey he set out upon prior to the accident.

In the end, La Forest continues to beat the odds, all while maintaining an optimistic outlook for what lies ahead in the future.

"I truly believe that God kept me here for a reason," he says. "If one person's life is changed by my accident, more good has come out of it than bad. In the meantime, I'm just taking it one day at a time, that's all I can do." For more on Brandon's story, please visit www.headsup-phonesdown.com

Judge Mathis

From Page 1A



Donations of water continue to come in to help the Flint residents

trust," Mathis explained. Mathis then called out General Motors for ending its use of Flint's water in 2014 over concerns that the lead-filled water could cause corrosion.

"You knew so much that you removed your parts because you knew it would kill," Mathis said. "That's the essence of it. It would kill your parts. Poison your parts. Poison

Gov. Snyder may actually be even more complicit than Mathis indicates. Ac-

ording to a report in CommonDreams, Snyder's people provided water coolers to state workers while Flint residents were being poisoned:

The emails—obtained by Progress Michigan and posted online here (pdf)—reveal an exchange between employees of the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB) and other state officials regarding in-house "concern about Flint's WQ [water quality]" that occurred at a time in

2015 when many residents still had no idea there was a problem with the city's public water and more than ten months before Gov. Rick Snyder ultimately declared a state of emergency over the crisis. The document at issue—dated January 7, 2015—is an administrative order showing the state had decided to provide bottled-water coolers "positioned near water fountains" in state offices so that workers could "choose which water to drink."

Mathis likened Flint's water crisis to Hurricane Katrina. He said the government should help people who want to temporarily move in order to have access to safe water.

"Whatever room you have in Detroit for the immigrants and the refugees from the Middle East- make room first for those here in Flint," Mathis said from the pulpit.

The FBI has joined the investigation into Flint's water contamination.



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