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**Volume 70 Number 27**

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**WEEK OF JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 5, 2014**



# TELEGRAM

**\*OLDEST PRIVATELY OWNED AFRICAN AMERICAN NEWSPAPER IN MICHIGAN\***

## Former Romulus Police Chief Wife found guilty

By Gina Wilson Steward - Telegram Newspaper Publisher



**Sandra Vlaz-St. Andre**

The wife of a former Romulus Police Chief was found guilty today of several counts filed in connection with a probe that prosecutors said unveiled corruption and the misuse of drug forfeiture funds.

A Wayne County jury found

Sandra Vlaz-St. Andre, the wife of former Romulus Police Chief Michael St. Andre, guilty of four crimes. The crimes were maintaining a criminal enterprise, conspiring to operate a criminal enterprise, filing a false tax return and receiving or concealing stolen goods in excess of \$20,000. She will be sentenced on February 20th by Wayne County Circuit Judge Michael Hathaway.

One charge was that Sandra Blaz St. Andre's husband, former Romulus police chief Michael St. Andre was accused of using \$75,000 from drug forfeiture funds to buy a tanning salon in Westland for her. He along with five other police officers from the Vice Squad ( Richard Balzer, Richard Landry, Donald Hopkins, Jeremy

**Romulus page 3A**

## Judge orders reduction of Inkster water rates



The cost of water isn't free, but the residents in Inkster will see a reduction in the amount they are currently charged for water.

On January 23, 2014, The Honorable Judge Robert Ziolkowski sided against the City of Inkster on all three counts in a lawsuit brought by Attorney Byron H. Nolen

against the City of Inkster.

The judge ruled that the water/sewage rate of \$14.64/unit was unreasonable and determined that the rate of \$11.96/unit is a more reasonable and just amount. This rate will be used for the period of July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013. The residents are to be refunded by receipt

of a water/sewage credit in the amount of \$2.68 per unit. Any credited amount must be removed from any property tax bill that has been sent on to the Wayne County Treasurer for collection. For the time period from July 1, 2013 to present time, the water/sewage rate will be

**Inkster page 3A**

## Michigan Ranks #3 for Black Homicide Victimization Rate

*State's black homicide victimization rate is 31.54 per 100,000, 85 percent of victims killed with guns*



Washington, DC — Michigan ranks third in the nation in the rate of black homicide victimization with a rate of 31.54 per 100,000, nearly two times the national black homicide victimization rate and more than seven times the overall homicide victimization rate nationwide, according to a new

analysis by the Violence Policy Center (VPC).

The annual VPC study, Black Homicide Victimization in the United States: An Analysis of 2011 Homicide Data<<http://www.vpc.org/stud>

**Homicide page 12A**

## Most Detroit homeowners to see 5-20% Property Tax cut this summer

*Mayor Duggan says reassessment will help bring fairness to taxpayers*



Mayor Mike Duggan announced today that the average Detroit homeowner will see a tax cut ranging from 5 to 20 percent when 2014 Notices of Property Assessment are mailed out in the next two weeks. The tax

cut is a result of a major reform in property assessments that will reduce the residential property assessment for the great majority of Detroiters.

The Mayor, who was joined by City Council President Brenda Jones and Chief Assessor Gary Evanko at today's press conference, said this realignment of property tax assessments is long overdue and necessary to make Detroit more appealing to current and prospective residents.

The reassessment follows an exhaustive review conducted by Evanko and his staff of current assessments and actual

home sales between October 1, 2011 and September 30, 2013. For example, the data revealed that with the exception of some neighborhoods that have maintained their sales value, nearly the entire northwest side of the city was over-assessed by a minimum of 20 percent.

"The process we used was very well thought out and I was extremely impressed with the thoroughness of the work of our assessors," Mayor Duggan said. "It left no doubt in my mind that these reductions are not only warranted, but the right thing to do by our residents."

**Detroit page 12A**

**INFORMING \* EDUCATING \* EMPOWERING \* UPLIFTING**



CALL TO ACTION

Did you hear what I said?

By Gina Steward - Telegram Newspaper Publisher



Do you think kids’ attention span is shortening? I find myself repeating myself over and over again when I talk to some of my grandkids and other youth. I know they hear me. My mouth is moving and I hear words coming out of my mouth. I give them the instruction and then go about my business, only to find out about thirty minutes later that the task has not been done.

When I ask, “Why didn’t you do what I asked?” The respond I normally get is, “I forgot what you said. Or I don’t know.” What!!!!??? Didn’t I just tell you to clean that room or whatever. I wouldn’t be so upset if they forgot other stuff too.

Have you noticed that they don’t forget to get on Youtube to check out the lat-



est video or change their status on Facebook or even send a text to someone? Right. Something has to change. Maybe it’s me.

During the holiday break, my husband, my daughter and two of my grandkids were in the same room. My husband was on his computer, my daughter was on her phone, my granddaughter was on her tablet and my grandson was on my son’s nook. Nobody was talking to each other. It reminds me of the KFC commercial. I asked questions and nobody answered me until they finished what they were doing on their electronic device. I just said in my loud voice....”Where is the Sorry game?” That is what we used to do. We played Sorry or Uno and had to talk and interact with each other. I miss that.

The other day, my husband and I put down the devices and played a game of Scrabble. Three hours later, even though he was the victor, it was fun. Now I have my grandkids give me their phones when they come to the office. There is no need to have their phones if they are in the same building with me. I can just reach out and touch them if I need something.

It will be a slow process. But I am making a conscious effort to open the lines of communication between my family and help them to hear me and others the first time.

NEWS FROM LANSING

Governor Snyder, Senate Majority Leader Richardville, House Speaker Bolger announce proposal to protect Detroit retiree pensions  
Settlement option to reduce pension cuts, resolve bankruptcy process faster, save millions in tax dollars



Gov. Snyder

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder and majority leaders of both the Michigan Senate and House today announced their support to move toward an unprecedented bankruptcy mediation solution that would mitigate cuts to city of Detroit retiree pensions and keep the city on its path to revitalization.

Snyder, Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville and House Speaker Jase Bolger announced they are working with the Michigan state legislature to allocate up to \$350 million over the next 20 years to be combined with funds raised by private Michigan foundations to assist in saving retiree pensions. The governor recommends these state funds would come from tobacco settlement revenues. A coalition of foundations recently pledged over \$330 million over the next 20 years, which jumpstarted a mediation solution to resolve key elements of the Detroit bankruptcy process.

“We are working on a fiscally sound mediation solution with clear conditions. We will not participate in a bailout, nor allow these funds to go anywhere other than directly to

retiree pensions,” said Snyder. “This is an opportunity to work together to find solutions that will allow Detroit to get on a firm foundation faster, help pensioners, and ultimately save the Michigan taxpayers millions in the long run. I want to applaud the foundations for taking this unprecedented and generous step and the mediators for facilitating these discussions.”

The governor called for strict conditions on any funds allocated towards the settlement. Among these conditions are that all state participation would go solely toward pensions, independent fiduciaries manage the pension funds going forward, and appropriate releases from litigation claims are obtained from the unions, employees and retirees.

“Our citizens, their retirement and our art and cultural heritage warrant consideration of a reasonable, long-term solution,” Richardville said. “Detroit pensioners live all across Michigan and the future of Detroit impacts our entire state. I am open to working with the Governor, the House and Detroit on a solution that emphasizes oversight and accountability to ensure history does not

repeat itself.” A settlement based on participation from the state legislature, the foundations, and others would have positive implications for city, unions, retirees and the state, including the opportunity to save millions that would otherwise be spent in legal costs and on social services.

Bolger said the city of Detroit cannot stand alone and that the entire state must work together to resolve the bankruptcy.

“I won’t cut off taxpayers’ noses to spite Detroit’s face, but I also will not ask the state’s taxpayers to make a bad investment. That’s why we must look at how we can work together to move Detroit out of bankruptcy as quickly as possible. This is the right thing to do in order to serve the Michigan citizens who live in Detroit, the pensioners who devoted their hard work to the people, and the taxpayers throughout the rest of the state who deserve to be protected.”

Snyder, Richardville and Bolger all pledged to continue to work closely with state lawmakers in both chambers and parties, the mediators, and all parties involved toward a goal of reaching a settlement in the near future.



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DEADLINE

All news item and advertising copy submitted for publication on Thursday must be at the office of The Telegram no later than 4:00 on Friday.

MEMBERSHIPS

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Every 9½ minutes, someone in the U.S. is infected with HIV

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National Black HIV  
AIDS Awareness Day

Friday, February 7th  
11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Telegram News  
Building  
10748 W. Jefferson,  
River Rouge, MI



Blackonomics

Mo’ Money, Mo’ Money

By James Clingman - NNPA Columnist



Remember that movie with the Wayans Brothers? After stealing some credit cards, Damon’s character, Johnny Stewart, had everything he ever thought he wanted. He spent a lot of money on “things” and still found himself with more than enough cash to do whatever he wanted.

I am also reminded of another movie in the 1980s, “Wall Street” that featured the infamous Gordon Gekko whose mantra was “Greed is good.” When King Solomon wrote, “Money answereth all things,” I don’t think he had Stewart and Gekko in mind.

To expand on that point, the Pope and President Obama will be kickin’ it in March to discuss the issue of economic inequality, which is graphically described by the following three points cited in an Oxfam Briefing Paper:

“The wealth of the richest one percent in the world amounts to \$110 trillion. That’s 65 times the total wealth of the bottom half of the world’s population;”

“The bottom half of the world’s population [3.5 billion people] owns the same as the richest 85 people in the world;”

“In the US, the wealthiest one percent captured 95 percent of post-financial crisis growth since 2009, while the bottom 90 percent became poorer.”

Do I have your attention?

It is definitely too large a number for me to wrap my brain around, but I do know that \$110 trillion dispersed among just 85 families is a whole lot of jack. That makes Gordon Gekko and all of his friends look like paupers, and Johnny Stewart isn’t even in the game. What does this mean to Black folks in the United States? And let’s not even talk about the other countries.

Last week’s column was titled, “The revolution must be financed,” which pointed out that everything we say we want and need to do begins and/or ends with someone writing a check. Juxtapose that fact against the Oxfam report and marinate for a while on our relative economic position in this country.

During the housing collapse, Black people lost an estimated \$1 trillion in wealth, more than any other group. We were already way behind before the

recession; where do you think we are now? What is our children’s economic position? What does the future hold for Black Americans, collectively, especially since we are a microcosm of the world’s wealth concentration model?

That’s right; we have the same relative situation going on with Black money. A small percentage of Blacks holds a large percentage of all Black wealth. You know the most popular ones, from Oprah and Bob Johnson on down to the entertainers and athletes, but there are other business owners whom many of us have never heard of who hold billions as well. This not an effort to make them out to be culprits; this is merely about facts, and then what if anything you are willing to do to help change your and our situation.

Now let’s get one thing straight, those 85 families are not going to come to our neighborhoods and drop bags of money from helicopters, and the richest Black folks are not going to do that either. As a matter of fact, some of them are too busy being Johnny Stewart (Gotta have that bling). So once again the call goes out to our people to look at the facts and get with the program. Economic inequality will always be with us; therefore, we must not waste our time and resources trying to reach “equality;” we simply need to spend as much time raising our individual and collective wealth as we spend trying to have an impact on politics.

It is now estimated that Black people in the U.S. have exceeded \$1 trillion in annual income, which only means something positive to those on the receiving end of that money. Income vs. wealth? No brainer, right? Yes, it takes some sort of income to create wealth, but it will also take good stewardship and “common cents” among our people to reach the lofty heights of economic stability.

Look at economic indicators across the board and you will find Black folks at the bottom of every category. Unemployment, business growth (not start-ups), Black owned firms with employees, average annual sales revenue, poverty, health, education, and a lack of structured economic empowerment initiatives are challenges to our wellbeing and future prosperity and, if not changed, will prove to be our demise. And they say our economy is doing much better, that it’s growing. For whom?

Our president subscribes to the Reagan model of economics that says, “A rising tide lifts all boats.” I say, if you have no boat a rising tide can also drown you. Blacks need to get mo’ money, buy some boats, and get in on this rising tide of economic prosperity.

Inkster

from page 1A

adjusted to \$12.89/unit. Any credited amount during this time period will also be removed from any property tax bill that has been sent to Wayne County Treasurer.

This case Terrance Trahey vs. City of Inkster is a win for the citizens in Inkster who have been plagued with enormous water bills since 2012. Mr. Terrance Trahey’s water bill had reached \$6,000 as had many residents in Inkster.

Romulus

from page 1A

Channells and Larry Droege) will stand trial on felony charges stemming from a three-year State Police investigation. The Squad was investigating the Landing Strip Bar in Romulus and Subi’s Place in Southgate,. Their trial is currently set to begin July 7.



OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT/LEASE

The Telegram Business Center has three (4) offices available for lease. The building is located at 10748 W. Jefferson Ave in River Rouge. (Across from Bank of America)

The building is close to freeways and only 15 minutes from Downtown Detroit & 20 minutes from Metro Airport.

The offices are reasonably priced and available for immediate occupancy.

For more info  
Call  
313-469-5317

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A proud Detroiter and Cornerstone Village resident

In response to the recent raids on both the east and west side (including the one at the gas station)... Hooray for Chief Craig, the Detroit police and the citizens Of that area! I pray that they keep up the good work in cleaning up our city of crime. I also pray that the criminal justice system follow through with appropriate sentences and not have the criminals going through a revolving door, causing these men and women in Blue to risk their lives in vain. Along

with that, I pray the officials do their part in realizing that jobs and job trades (education) are needed as well. If it would help some of the criminals change their ways for good that would be a blessing. Chief Craig and the men and women Of the Detroit police department, 'Thank you for a great job'. You are truly making a positive difference in our city.

Cookie  
A proud Detroiter and  
Cornerstone Village resident

Letter Policy

The Telegram encourages letters from all readers. Submissions must include the writer’s name, address and signature and phone number. Only the name will be published. Send your letters to:



Letters to the Editor  
Telegram News  
10748 W. Jefferson Ave.,  
River Rouge, MI 48218 or  
telegram@telegramnews.net

Letters published in the Telegram does not neccessary reflect the views and opinions of the Telegram.

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CITY OF ECORSE PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ECORSE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
ON THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR  
2014-2019 BUDGETS  
AND 2014 PROPERTY TAX RATES

The City Council of the City of Ecorse will hold a public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2014-2019 budgets beginning July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2019. This hearing is being held pursuant to Section 16 of the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act (Truth in Budgeting MCL 141.436).

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budgets will be a subject of this hearing. The total city operating millage rate was 22.6063 mills for FY 2013-2014. The proposed operating millage rate is 22.6063 mills for each FY 2014-2015.

The hearing will be held on February 18, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers, Albert B. Buday Civic Center 3869 W. Jefferson Avenue. A copy of the proposed budget will be available in the City Clerk’s office.

City Council will take action on the proposed millage the same evening after the public hearing. The City of Ecorse has complete authority to establish the number of mills to be levied within its authorized millage rate.

This notice is published by:

City of Ecorse  
3869 W. Jefferson Avenue  
Ecorse, MI 48229

Publish: January 30, 2014



One Baptism

By: Janine Folks Edwards- Telegram Religion Columnist



One Lord, one faith and one baptism (Eph. 4:5). Those lyrics taken from scripture, I will never forget.

Reflecting on baptism, it is a sacrament that is an outward expression of an internal transformation. It represents purification or regeneration and admission to the body of Christ.

John the Baptist was the first recorded to baptize people and he, the forerunner, baptized Jesus (Mark 1.9). He preached the baptism of repentance for remission of sins (Mark 1.4). God the Father was well pleased with Jesus' baptism (Mark 1.11). Jesus set the example for us to be baptized and we should

encourage others to do the same. We've been told to go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19).

Whether it's a young child or mature adult, it is heart-warming to see a person baptized. It is a joy to witness the transformation. Every baptism service ought to re-energize us and renew our excitement in being a part of God's body. It is a reminder that the Kingdom of God is yet growing. Like we celebrate the birth a child, when someone is baptized, it's like having a new life in the family.

I don't know if we can out rejoice the angels, but our hearts should be glad and rejoice at every baptism. This is not something we should take lightly. Baptism is a big deal. It is sacred. It meant so much to God that He spoke of His pleasure from heaven and the Holy Spirit appeared as a dove.

Heaven rejoices over every soul that is repentant (Luke 15.10). We should rejoice too. I hope these thoughts will

give you an even deeper respect and appreciation for baptism. Have you been baptized? If not, maybe this is your year! If you have, then I know you understand how glorious of an occasion it is. God bless you.

Pentecostal Way of Faith

Sundays 3:00 pm - 5:00pm  
Telegram Business Center  
10748 W. Jefferson Ave  
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313-629-2216

Mt. Nebo Baptist Church

4411 5th Street Ecorse, MI  
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Rev. Marcus Johnson, Pastor  
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Everyone is welcome

List your church in the Church Directory  
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Church Announcements and pastor columns are included.

Love Joy Missionary Baptist Church

332 Polk street  
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SERVICES:  
Sunday School - 9:30 AM  
Sunday Worship -11:00 AM  
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Class - 6:30 PM

Rev Darryl Bynum, Pastor  
Phone: 313 516-2482 -  
Email:  
Pastordbynum@yahoo.com  
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Pastor Rodney Brown



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Samuel A. Wyatt,  
Senior Pastor

Missionary  
Esther Lee Wyatt,  
First Lady

Sunday School 9:30am  
New Member Class 10:00 am  
Morning Worship/Youth Church 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00pm  
Wednesday Family Night 6:00 pm

"The only hope we have is in Jesus"

St. Marks

Missionary Baptist Church

3860 Inkster Rd, Inkster \* 313-792-9789



Rev. Dr. Alford  
D. Sample

II Timothy 2:25  
Study to show thyself  
approved unto God;

SERVICES:  
Sunday School 9:30am  
Morning Worship/Youth Church 11:00 am  
Bible Class/Youth Church 6:30 pm  
Bus Pickup Available

Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church

"Where The Will of God Will Be Done" {Mark 14:36}  
Rev. Dr. John E. Duckworth, Pastor

29066 Eton Street Westland 48186  
Office: 734.721.2557 Fax: 734.721.1383

Sunday Morning Worship Services 8am & 10am  
Wednesday Night Bible Study 6:30pm

Email: gethsemane02.org



Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church

3936 12th Street Ecorse, MI 48229  
CHURCH PHONE # (313) 383-1069 FAX: (313) 383-2842  
Reverend Damon L. Pierson, Pastor

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays:  
Early Morning Worship .....7:30 a.m.  
Church School at Study .....9:30 a.m.  
Mid-Morning Worship .....10:50 a.m.  
First Sunday: Baptism & Communion Service.....10:30 a.m.  
Mid-Week:  
Tuesdays- Bible Class .....9:00a.m. & 6:00p.m.  
Wednesday - Worship Service ..... 7:00 p.m.

CORPORATE PRAYER

Sun 6am Mon-Tues 5pm Wed 6pm

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light  
into my path." - Psalms 119:105

ALL ARE WELCOME



Union Second Baptist Church

459 Beechwood River Rouge, MI 48218  
Church office - (313) - 383-1558 Church fax 313-383-1611  
Email: union2bapchurch@att.net  
Dr. Kenneth L. Brown - Pastor

Services Times

Sunday

Sunday School and New Members Class 9:15 am  
Intercessory Prayer 10:30 am  
Morning Service 11:00 am

Tuesday

Prayer Service 6:00 pm  
Family Night Bible Study 7:00 pm



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Dr. Errol Liverpool, Pastor

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Sabbath Worship Service (Saturday) 11:00 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting (Wednesday) 6:00 p.m.

Community Services Food Distribution

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9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.  
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Phone: (734) 728-1390 Email:thepen@sbcglobal.net  
website: www.pentecostmbc.org

Rev. Arthur C. Willis, Sr. Pastor



SERVICES  
Sunday School - 9:30am  
Sunday Morning Service - 11:00am  
Wednesday Prayer 6:00pm Bible Study - 6:30pm

"Let's worship together down here so  
we can live together up there"

4th Sunday is Blue Jean Sundays at The Pen



# Dream On

by Rev. L.T. Willis - Contributing Writer



How would you define danger? What would you consider dangerous? Perhaps the answer to these questions would vary depending on the individual answering the question. Ultimately, it's the variable that causes our fear and anxiety levels to rise, which we would identify as being dangerous. To some it can be a person, place, or thing. As we all can identify some people or some places that we deem dangerous, I'd like to take a few minutes of your time and provoke a little thought. I'd like to focus on "things" and really that's one "thing". In a time such as this, I believe that one of the most dangerous things that can

happen in this world is when our YOUNG PEOPLE stop DREAMING.

As kids, my friends and I used to share our dreams all the time. Even today a group of young people (HYPE) that I serve at our church share their dreams with one another, and some have even shared them with me. I think one of the most frightening things that I've experienced in the past few months was asking a young person what their dreams were, and the response I got was simply "I don't know, I don't dream!" That's a frightening moment because on some levels, it'll make a person wonder, what's in store for our future? Where are the next Frederick Douglass, Granville T. Woods, W.E.B. DuBois, George Washington Carvers, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's., Harriet Tubmans, Rosa Parks, or any of our heroes of the Civil Rights Movement. Many of our young men dream to be the next LeBron, and in some ways many of

our young ladies dream to be the next Beyonce. But don't limit yourself to entertainment, and don't shoot to be the NEXT strive to be the BEST.

I feel for our young people today because they have so many barriers to overcome. In some ways the environments that they have found themselves in have them feeling some kind of way. In many cases, some of our young people's dreams seem as if they are really nightmares. If this is the case, then maybe you should reevaluate your circle of friends and family. The reality is this, you can't share your dreams with everyone. Yes, there are DREAM POLICE and if they get wind that you're dreaming, they'll try and throw you into bondage. Freedom all of a sudden is like finding a needle in a haystack. Remove yourself from these people, because they'll turn your dreams into doubts. And if it's an unavoidable person that's persecuting your dreams, don't share it with them. but Dream On! Do you know how many businesses and inventions have started with just a dream. You not dreaming, is your own worst enemy. You never give yourself a chance to be great! I believe that when our young people dream, and position themselves to live the dream, that God will make the dream come to fruition. Whether you're dreaming to be an athlete or activist, Jackie Robinson or Barack Obama, have faith that it shall be. People may steal your car, steal your clothes, steal your money, but one thing you can't let them steal is your motivation to dream. DREAM ON!

Rev L.T. Willis serves as the Youth Minister at Pentecostal MBC in Romulus, MI.

## SUPER SUNDAY

2/2/14

## AT THE PEN

11am Worship

35625 Vinewood Romulus MI 48174

We're Victorious

### All types of services, for all types of people, with all types of budgets.

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• Tribute Burial Package (A)	\$3,790
• Tribute Cremation Package (A)	\$3,495
• Bronze Burial Package (A)	\$2,895
• Basic Service Package (Burial or Cremation) (A)	\$2,075

Note (A): Package includes a casket.

## Stinson FUNERAL HOMES

1939 South Fort Street • Detroit, Michigan 48217 • 313.386.8200  
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[www.stinsonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.stinsonfuneralhomes.com)

## Prayer Works

Continue to pray for the people in our communities and the kids in our schools

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# Wedding Announcement for Jazmine Bennett and John Danci



Dan and Starr (Dailey-Romulus High School Class of 1983) Bennett are happy to announce the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Jazmine, to John Danci of Ann Arbor, son of Aurel Danci and Sheryl Danci.

Jazmine graduated from Romulus High School in 2005, then went on to Bowling Green State University and finally University of Michigan

to earn a Master's in Natural Resources in 2011. She is employed with the City of Romulus as the newly appointed Director of Community Outreach.

John graduated from Pioneer High School in 2005, and University of Michigan in 2009 with a Bachelor's in Body Movement Science & Kinesiology. He is employed at Arbor Valley Tree Service.

The wedding will be held at the Ann Arbor Sheraton Hotel, on February 15, 2014. The couple recently bought a home in Romulus and plans to reside there after the wedding.

Looking to place a wedding or baby announcement call 313-928-2955 or send it to lcjohnson@telegram-news.net

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# Rule Changes Tighten Reverse Mortgage Eligibility

By Jason Alderman - Contributing Writer



Reverse mortgages have become increasingly popular in recent years, as cash-strapped seniors seek ways to keep pace with rising expenses – not to mention cope with the pummeling their retirement savings took during the Great Recession.

But the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) noticed that borrowers increasingly have been opting to withdraw most or all of their home equity at closing, leaving little or nothing for future needs. Consequently, by mid-2012 nearly 10 percent of reverse mortgage holders were in default and at risk of foreclosure because they couldn't pay their taxes and insurance.

That's why Congress authorized HUD to tighten FHA reverse mortgage requirements in order to: encourage homeowners to tap their equity more slowly; better ensure that borrowers can afford their loan's fees and other financial obligations; and strengthen the mortgage insurance fund from which loans are drawn.

Here are the key changes:

Most reverse mortgage borrowers can now withdraw no more than 60 percent of their total loan during the first year. Previously, borrowers could tap the entire amount on day one – a recipe for future financial disaster for those with limited means.

The first-year limit may be waived for certain homeowners whose "mandatory obligations" (e.g., upfront insurance premiums, loan origination fees, delinquent federal debt, etc.) exceed the 60 percent amount; but they'll have to pay a higher upfront mortgage insurance premium – 2.5 percent of the home's appraised value instead of the normal 0.5 percent. (Note: Credit card debt isn't considered a mandatory obligation, so those with significant credit

card debt may not be able to withdraw enough to pay off their debt.)

Generally, borrowers can take the money either as a lump sum at closing (with a fixed-rate loan), or as an ongoing line of credit or monthly payments (adjustable rate loan). However, lump-sum payments are now subject to the 60 percent mandatory obligations test, so to withdraw more than that you'll have to go the line-of-credit route, at least for the first year; after that, you can tap the remaining balance if you wish.

Under previous rules, almost anyone with sizeable home equity could take out a reverse mortgage. Now, potential borrowers must undergo a detailed financial assessment to ensure they'll be able to meet future tax and insurance obligations.

Lenders are required to review the borrower's credit history. They also must analyze all income from earnings, pensions, IRAs, 401(k) plans or Social Security, and weigh it against the borrower's likely living expenses, including other outstanding debts. Those who come up short (i.e., are more likely to default) may be required to set aside money from their reverse mortgage to cover future obligations – thereby lowering the amount of equity they'd be able to tap.

The new regulations also reduce the maximum amount of home equity that can be borrowed against – 10 to 15 percent less than before, on average. Generally, the older you are, the more equity you have and the lower the interest rate, the more you'll be able to borrow. Note: The age component of this calculation is based on the youngest party listed on the loan.

Because reverse mortgages are so complicated, potential borrowers are required to consult an HUD-approved counselor before being allowed to apply. Do preliminary research at helpful sites sponsored by HUD ([www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)), the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau ([www.cfpb.gov](http://www.cfpb.gov)) and AARP ([www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)). Also check with an accountant, financial planner or lawyer specializing in elder law to make sure a reverse mortgage is right for you.

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# Local Students Win McDonald's Black History Month Art Contest

Cash Prizes and Gallery Exhibit Awarded to 12 Metro Detroit Winners, Jan. 31



**WHAT:** Twelve local high school students have been selected as finalists for the 2014 "McDonald's Celebrates Black History Moments on Canvas," an art contest that honors Black History Month. The first-, second- and third-place winners of the annual art competition will win \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500, respectively, and the nine remaining finalists each will receive a \$125

bankcard. The first-place winner's teacher also will win a cash prize. The exhibit will be unveiled during a private reception on Friday, Jan. 31 at the N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art in Midtown Detroit before students, parents, teachers, local community and business leaders. A panel of judges selected the 12 finalists, whose original

works of art capture an event or figure in black history, from a pool of semifinalists who hail from public, private and charter schools in Wayne, Oakland, Monroe and Washtenaw counties. The month-long public art exhibit will be on display Feb. 1 – 28.

**WHERE:** N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art  
52 E. Forest Ave., Detroit, 48201

**WHEN:**  
5 – 8 p.m.  
Friday, Jan. 31, 2014

**WHO:**  
•Twelve winning student artists  
• Students' families and teachers  
•McDonald's owner/operators  
•Gallery owner George N'Namdi

**MEDIA CONTACT:**  
Michael Odom or Lynn Haliburton of Marx Layne & Company at 248-855-6777 or 773-343-9924 (Michael's cell), 313-598-5000 (Lynn's cell).

## Romulus Community Schools chooses consultant in search for new superintendent



The Romulus Community Schools' Board of Education recently selected the Michigan Association of School Boards to conduct their search for the district's new superintendent.

Residents of the district are encouraged to participate in

the process by attending an open forum conducted by MASB consultant, Marie Miller, on Thursday, February 13, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. or 6:00 p.m. at the Romulus High School auditorium.

Marie Miller will provide an overview of the search process and receive input from community members regarding the criteria to be used in evaluating candidates.

If you are unable to attend, a letter or card listing ideas and viewpoints about characteristics and competencies of a

superintendent may be sent to Superintendent Search Services, Michigan Association of School Boards, 1001 Centennial Way, Suite 400, Lansing, MI 48917 by Friday, February 28, 2014 or you may go to the district website ([www.romulus.net](http://www.romulus.net)) and fill out a short online survey.

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# Michelle Obama, Subway Team Up for Healthy Eating Campaign

by Alexis Taylor - Special to the NNPA from the Afro-American Newspaper



First lady Michelle Obama was in good company when she visited a Subway restaurant in the nation's capital on Jan. 24 to announce a joint venture with the nationwide chain.

Accompanied by Olympic gold medalists Michael Phelps and Nastia Liukin and New York Giants defensive end Justin Tuck, the first lady announced a three-year deal with Subway and the Partnership for a Healthier America to promote healthy eating among kids.

As part of the initiative, which is tied into Obama's "Let's Move!" campaign against childhood obesity, the restaurant has agreed to align its kids' menus with the federal standards of the national school lunch program.

A \$41 million media campaign will also push healthier options

to children with a strong focus on fruits and vegetables.

"I'm excited about these initiatives not just as a First Lady, but also as a mom," Obama said in a statement. "Subway's kids' menu makes life easier for parents, because they know that no matter what their kids order, it's going to be a healthy choice."

As part of the new partnership, advertising in Subway locations targeting children will be solely focused on the healthier options available.

"Subway restaurant's commitment today builds on the brand's already strong track record of offering healthier choices to kids, for which it has been lauded by families and health advocates alike," Dr. James R. Gavin III, chairman of the Partnership for a Healthier America, said in a statement.

"The new and significant investment it is making today will not only help make fruits and vegetables fun for kids, it will also offer busy moms and dads easy, healthy choices for their families when they're on the go."

According to the National Institutes of Health, being obese is not the same thing as being overweight according to height. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention claim that the consequences of childhood obesity can be severe and far-reaching. According to the CDC, approximately 35 percent of adults and 17 percent, or 12.5 million, children are obese.

Of the children who present signs of obesity, 70 percent also exhibit signs of cardiovascular disease such as high cholesterol and high blood pressure.

"With this partnership with the Partnership for a Healthier America, we will now reach millions of kids as part of a healthier eating education campaign, making it our largest outreach campaign to date," Suzanne Greco, vice president of R&D and Operations for Subway, said in a statement. "From a sign on each restaurant's door that says 'Playtime Powered by Veggies' to a video collaboration with Disney's The Muppets, we will build upon our ongoing efforts to create even better choices for families. We hold ourselves to the highest standards in the industry when it comes to speaking to children and their families. Now we are letting everyone else know what that standard is."

## National Kidney Foundation of Michigan Recognizes African American History Month with Diabetes & Health Education



ANN ARBOR—The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan (NKFM) is recognizing African American History Month in February by spreading awareness about the increased risk of diabetes and kidney disease in African Americans, and the importance of health management to prevent these chronic health conditions. Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure, causing over 40% of all cases. For African American adults with diabetes, it's important to control

your disease and take care of your health to prevent future health complications, such as kidney failure.

An estimated 4.9 million—18.7 percent—of all non-Hispanic blacks age 20 and older have diagnosed and undiagnosed diabetes. Additionally, African Americans are twice as likely to be diagnosed with diabetes as non-Hispanic whites and are more likely to suffer diabetes-related complications, such as kidney failure and

lower extremity amputations. In fact, unmanaged diabetes is four times more likely to cause kidney failure in African Americans than in non-Hispanic whites and can also lead to serious complications such as blindness, limb amputation, heart attack, and stroke. The good news is that people with diabetes can reduce the risk for these complications by controlling blood glucose, blood pressure, and blood lipids. The following steps can help individuals with diabetes control their disease and prevent or delay complications:

- Learn About Diabetes. Diabetes means that your blood glucose (sugar) is too high. Diabetes is serious because it can damage your heart, blood vessels, eyes, kidneys, and nerves.

Kidney Foundation on page 14

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# Ecorse School Board recognized for hard work

By Gina Wilson Steward - Telegram Publisher



Ecorse School Board Members Lynda Jackson, Darren Johnson, Superintendent Thomas Parker, April Ackerman-Miller and Shaunda Miller Giles display their gifts

Ecorse Superintendent Thomas Parker surprised the members of the Ecorse School Board during their meeting on Monday, January 27 with an appreciation ceremony in honor of School Board Appreciation Month. A special guest performance by the Ecorse Jazz Band started the ceremony and set the tone for the evening. The band took request from the board members and the board members were dancing in their seats and singing along with them.

During the ceremony, Ms. Emmons showed a Bucket Filler video made with kids from Grandport and Ralph J. Bunche Academy telling the board members how much they appreciate the work that they do and the love they show them. They kids also explained what was in the

buckets that the board members would receive. Some of the words that the kids said as they described what was in the bucket were; AA batteries to keep you going and going.

Tissues for parents with issues, Rubber bands to help stretch the budget, Erasers to get rid of the mistakes, Tums for the stomach aches of the job, Self-stick flags to remember the little details, First aid kit to heal the boo, boo's, Giraffe fan so when you stick your neck out things won't get hot, ALEVE for the headaches, and a bucket to help keep the district afloat.

After the video, the members received their buckets and Superintendent Parker explained the reason for the buckets. He told them that, "There are two types of people in life; those who take

from buckets and those who fill buckets. Your responsibilities, calling and passion to fill the buckets for the children in Ecorse is commendable and we thank you for that." He also thanked them for their hard work and the tough decisions they had to make to keep the district going. New board President, Shauda Miller Giles, said, "I am excited about the district. We have faced so many obstacles. We keep getting knocked down, but we keep getting up. We are thinking out of the box and we are up for the challenge. We are working with Mr. Parker to develop a plan and vision for the district.

They were presented with certificates and shared in refreshments provided by the administration



Members of the Ecorse Jazz Band Quenton Conner, Kennyetta Cooper, Daliae Lee, Deonte Reese and Keenan Williams along with Director Melven Conway performed at the School Board Meeting

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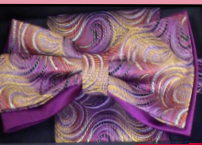
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\* COMMUNITY NEWS\*

WESTLAND

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**Mother-Son Sports Night**  
Thursday, 2/27 from 6 - 8:30 PM

**ParkWatch Meeting**  
scheduled for 2/5 at 7:15 PM. This is open to all Wayne residents wishing to be a part of "eyes, ears, hands" of our community parks.

WYANDOTTE

**Wyandotte Senior Friendship Club Valentine Dinner Dance**  
  
Saturday, February 15, 2014 4:30 pm  
  
Copeland Center

2306 4th St, Wyandotte  
  
Dancing 5:30 -8:00pm  
Dance to the Music of Art Wyse  
  
Tickets \$12  
(Must be purchases by February 14, 2014)

For more information & Tickets Call 734-324-7275 or 284-1223

**Alcoholic Beverages are prohibited.**

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Saturday, February 8 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
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help you make something special for your little valentine! Famous Photo will be on hand to help you remember this special day with pictures. Prices range from \$5 for a key chain to \$8 for a 5 x 7 picture. Start making memories that will last a lifetime!  
  
Tickets are available until February 7 if not sold out sooner. Purchase tickets at the Bandshell, Sorry, tickets are not available at the door.

LINCOLN PARK TRAIN CLUB

Kennedy Memorial Building (Bandshell)  
Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 1p.m.  
  
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by Jane Martin

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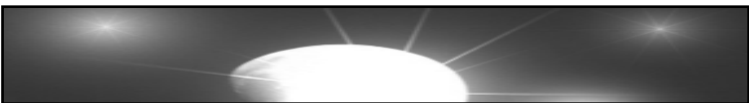
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JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 5, 2014

**ARIES**  
You'll face a formidable task but if you defeat it you'll take big steps toward a goal. Weigh in and give it your best. Your energy is high. The task looks larger before you start than it will once you've put your shoulder into it. Compromise with a partner. This week will bring more love than usual. Look for it  
*Soul Affirmation: I give thanks for the blessing of life*  
**Lucky Numbers: 33, 45, 50**

**TAURUS**  
Speak out. Take center stage. Any subject you choose is ripe for the "rap." People listen. Friends and associates will be impressed. Forgive a jealous soul who lingers nearby. Don't neglect the home front.  
*Soul Affirmation: My love of myself makes me lovable to others.*  
**Lucky Numbers: 2, 15, 16**

**GEMINI**  
Enjoy yourself. The need to do that will be very apparent this week. What will not be as apparent is the key to your enjoyment which will depend on the attitude you take to someone who has been getting on your nerves. Don't think about them. Whenever the picture of their face appears in your mind use your imagination to turn that picture into a cartoon. Laugh.  
*Soul Affirmation: I am in tune with the best that is in me this week.*  
**Lucky Numbers: 36, 39, 40**

**CANCER**  
If you didn't get invited to the party, that's okay. If your air conditioner doesn't work, if one of your favorite pieces of clothing has a spot on it, if your dinner guest didn't show up, smile. Your ability to accept misfortune with a smile is going to be important to you this week.  
*Soul Affirmation: I pay special attention to family members this week.*  
**Lucky Numbers: 4, 34, 51**

**LEO**  
This week will teach you a valuable lesson about money. Make a mental note of how you got into the shape you're in so that you can avoid future mistakes of the financial kind. Request advice from a friend in money matters. Love and money mix well.  
*Soul Affirmation: I let peace reign in my life.*  
**Lucky Numbers: 8, 32, 35**

**VIRGO**  
Emphasize generosity. Give and the gift itself will turn into a reward. This week is excellent for making important decisions and for reaching agreements with others. Agreement with your lover might be the most important one to try to reach.  
*Soul Affirmation: I stand firm in what I believe and am reward-*

*ed.*  
**Lucky Numbers: 9, 10, 23**  
  
**LIBRA**  
You have opportunities to win big this week. Make the most of them. Stay alert to possibilities concerning a career move. You might see something that you believed was lost. It comes back to you this week. Give it your full attention.  
*Soul Affirmation: I let my feelings bring me information that I allow myself to trust.*  
**Lucky Numbers: 23, 26, 31**

**SCORPIO**  
Feel deeply for the sorrow of a loved one. They can sense your commitment and that will be a comfort. Change is coming into your life. Handle it in the manner that you usually handle change. Anchor yourself in the past and move forward.  
*Soul Affirmation: I open up to the wisdom of children.*  
**Lucky Numbers: 1, 26, 39**

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Charm is an extremely effective tool for you this week. Charisma works better than at any recent time, especially at home. Shine brightly and let your glow work for you. Your self-image is you most effective tool.  
*Soul Affirmation: Romantic and financial rewards are calling me and I listen*  
**Lucky Numbers: 17, 29, 54**

**CAPRICORN**  
The spiritual package you've been waiting for is likely to arrive this week. It should assure you that you've been on the right track. Your insights can be an inspiration to those who work with you. Love is the reward for generosity.  
*Soul Affirmation: I seek good news by reaching out to those who love me.*  
**Lucky Numbers: 23, 26, 29**

**AQUARIUS**  
This week let your gentle spirit shines through. Your rough and tumble side is not appropriate for the relationships that you'll encounter. Someone will need your understanding and sympathy. Give it with sensitivity.  
*Soul Affirmation: My feelings are a reflection of the company I keep.*  
**Lucky Numbers: 17, 29, 31**

**PISCES**  
Look for financial good news this week. Wow! It's about time. This week might be a good week to window shop for a big vacation or extravagance purchase. Be sensitive to your lover's needs this week. You may have been thinking too much of your own needs recently.  
*Soul Affirmation: Being easy to get along with is the best thing I can do this week.*  
**Lucky Numbers: 2, 16, 40**



# U of M feeling Mighty in the Big Ten

By Butch Davis - Telegram Newspaper Sports Writer



Nik Stauskas named Player of the Week

The University of Michigan is on a serious roll on the basketball court and in the polls. After beating three top-10 teams Wisconsin, Iowa and Michigan State, Michigan jumped from 21st all the way to 10th in the latest Associated Press college basketball poll, released Monday. Michigan is 14th up from 25th in the coach's poll. On the other hand, Michigan State, following its loss Saturday to Michigan, fell to seventh from third. In the coach's poll, Michigan State is sixth down from third.

In addition, Big Ten Weekly

Men's Basketball Honors when to Michigan's Nik Stauskas named Player of the Week; Wolverines' Derrick Walton Jr. was named freshman of the Week. Stauskas, Averaged 22.5 points, 4.5 assists, 3.5 rebounds and 1.0 steals per game in leading Michigan to wins over #10/10 Iowa and Michigan State. For the week, shot 57.7 percent (15-of-26) from the field, 60.0 percent (9-of-15) from three-point range and 85.7 percent (6-of-7) from the free throw line in addition against Iowa, scored a career-high tying 26 points on eight field goals, handed out five assists, pulled

down five rebounds, tallied one steal and recorded one block. And yes scored 19 points in the road win at Michigan State, including a 5-of-6 effort on three-pointers, dished out four assists, collected two rebounds and tallied one steal.

Stauskas, currently ranks second in the Big Ten in scoring at 18.5 points per game, and leads the conference in three-point field goal percentage at 44.8 percent. Freshman of the Week Derrick Walton Jr. a 6-1 guard from Detroit's Chandler Park Academy Scored a career-high 19 points, handed out five assists and corralled six rebounds in Michigan's road victory at Michigan State. Walton Jr. shot 4-of-7 from the field, including a 2-of-2 effort from three-point range, and was 9-of-10 from the free throw line in 33 minutes he played in the victory against Michigan State.

The Spartans are in the meat part of their schedule as they play Iowa and Georgetown this week, nevertheless, with senior power forward Adreian Payne missing his fifth straight game while on Saturday I saw him still with a immobilizing boot protected his sprained right foot and Branden Dawson with a broken thumb MSU will need more from sophomore shooting guard Gary Harris and senior point guard Keith Appling as it coming down to the wire before the seeding began for the Big Ten Basketball Championship in mid February. As for Michigan, the streak continues.

# Monster Schedules Coming for High School Basketball

By Butch Davis - Telegram Newspaper Sports Writer

Many of the High Schools in Southeastern Michigan will have a monster schedule in the up coming days or in some of the high schools in the forthcoming weeks as weather day cancellations the last current one this Tuesday past.

For example, teams in the Detroit Public School League have games scheduled for Wednesday, Friday and Saturday this week with the conclusion to the regular season slated for Feb. 4. The playoffs begin Feb. 6, and with the cancellations of Tuesday's games this past week and games being postponed until yesterday (Wednesday) teams could be faced with playing four games in seven days.

However, there was some game this past week as Allen Park Inter-City Baptist

for the second week had a major game played in their gym. Aaron Foster-Smith became the first 1,000-point scorer in Taylor Truman boy's basketball history in a 67-58 victory over Allen Park Inter-City Baptist on Saturday in Allen Park. Foster-Smith, who will play for Detroit Mercy next season, had 26 points for Truman, which improved to 10-0. Here are the rest of the high schools basketballs results play last weekend.

Detroit East Village 72, Detroit Western 67: Detroit Pershing 73, Detroit Cass Tech 67 and in boys high school basketball play this past Monday, Inkster Peterson-Warren Academy 42, Detroit Jalen Rose Academy 41; and Melvindale beating Wyandotte Roosevelt 68-60.

# Bell on Broadway

By Butch Davis - Telegram Newspaper Sports Writer



Lionel's running back Joique Bell and two other NFL current star Randall Cobb and Ahman Green is playing on Broadway this Super Bowl week in New York.

February 1, matinee. "Rock of Ages," which was made into a film starring Tom Cruise and Alec Baldwin, tells the story of small town girl and an aspiring rocker who share the dream of fame and whose paths cross at a legendary rock club The football stars won't be required to do too much heavy lifting: Producers have created a bartender character for them that includes four appearances throughout the show with some fun lines.

Many Broadway shows will alter their show schedule to

take advantage of the crowds. But one normally busy day will be quiet February 2, the day of the game.

Some shows will offer matinees, but none will open their doors that evening. Joe Namath, the quarterback nicknamed "Broadway Joe," made an appearance on Broadway in 1983 as a replacement in a revival of "The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial." And Michael Strahan, who holds the single season sack record, made three short appearances in "Elf" last year.

The producers of "Rock of Ages" said last Friday that the trio will make their Broadway stage debuts in small parts next week in the splashy homage to 1980s rock 'n' roll at The Helen Hayes Theatre. Cobb, a Green Bay Packer wide receiver, will appear in Tuesday's show. Bell, a former standout at Wayne State, will be in the evening show the next night, followed by retired four-time Pro Bowl running back Green in the

## HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

### River Rouge vs Ecorse

Game is rescheduled for  
Saturday, February 22, 2014 at 3:00 pm

Game will be held at River Rouge High School  
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Detroit

from page 1A

The Mayor said this citywide reassessment is just the first step in reforming the city's property assessment and taxation process. Over the next three to five years, the city will conduct individual assessments of single family homes across the city for an even more accurate evaluation.

Impact on Tax Revenue

Mayor Duggan said that the City already had anticipated a reduction in property tax revenue of about 13 percent for 2014-2015, and the assessment reductions are in line with those estimates. The City is hoping that fairer assessments will lead to an increase in the number of people paying their property taxes.

"With many people seeing large reductions, we expect to see an increase in the number of homeowners who pay their full taxes," Evanko said. "In the near term, we expect this move to keep fewer tax-paying residents from leaving the city. In the long term, we believe it will help to bring in more new homeowners and

help to start growing our residential tax base."

What's Next

By the end of January, the City will mail out notices to every city homeowner informing them of their new assessment. Residents should note that this is a notice of proposed assessment changes and not a tax bill. If they still choose to appeal their assessment, the City of Detroit Finance Department, Assessments Division will begin the annual Assessors Review appeal process, which allows property owners to challenge their 2014 property values.

The appeal process will begin Saturday, February 1, 2014, and continue through Saturday, February 15, 2014, in room 804 of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, 2 Woodward Ave. Detroit, MI 48226.

Tax bills will be mailed in June and payments are due by August 31st.

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Homicide

from page 1A



ies/blackhomicide14.pdf>, ranks the states according to their black homicide victimization rates. It is based on unpublished data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR). The study refers to homicide rates in 2011, the most recent year for which comprehensive national data is available. This is the eighth year the VPC has released the study.

In Michigan, there were 447 black homicide victims in 2011, resulting in a homicide rate of 31.54 per 100,000. That year, the national black homicide rate was 17.51 per 100,000, and the overall national homicide rate was 4.44 per 100,000.

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 85 percent of the black homicide victims in Michigan (362 out of 428) were shot and killed with guns. Nationwide, for homicides in which the weapons used could be identified, 82 percent of black homicide victims were killed with guns.

"Gun violence is a public health crisis that touches all Americans, but the impact on African Americans is especially devastating," states VPC Executive Director Josh Sugarmann. "This report should be a wake-up call for our elected officials to address the disproportionately high homicide victimization rate among black men and

women. The longer we wait to act, the more lives will be lost."

The 10 states with the highest black homicide victimization rates in 2011 were:

Rank	State	Black Homicide Rate Per 100,000
1	Nebraska	34.43
2	Missouri	33.38
3	Michigan	31.54
4	Pennsylvania	29.02
5	Oklahoma	25.51
6	Louisiana	25.30
7	Kansas	24.97
8	Wisconsin	23.22
9	West Virginia	22.79
10	North Dakota	21.99

For MICHIGAN, the study finds that in 2011:

•Of the 447 black homicide victims, 392 were male and 55 were female.

•Of the 362 black homicide victims killed with guns, 63 percent (227 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 105 victims killed with firearms where the type of gun was not stated. There were 30 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 17 victims killed by bodily force, and 12 victims killed by a blunt object.

•Thirty-three black homicide victims (8 percent) were less than 18 years old and 5 victims (1 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 31 years old.

•For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 70 percent of black homicide victims (111 out of 158) were murdered by someone they knew. Forty-seven victims were killed by strangers.

•For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 68 percent (146 out of 214) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 59 percent (86 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and

the offender.

For the entire UNITED STATES, the study finds that in 2011:

•There were 6,309 black homicide victims in the United States. Of these, 5,452 were male, 854 were female, and 3 were of unknown gender.

•The black homicide victimization rate in the United States was 17.51 per 100,000. In comparison, the overall national homicide victimization rate was 4.44 per 100,000. For whites, the national homicide victimization rate was 2.64 per 100,000.

•The homicide rate for black male victims was 31.67 per 100,000. In comparison, the overall homicide rate for male victims was 7.13 per 100,000. For white male victims, the homicide rate was 3.85 per 100,000.

• The homicide rate for black female victims was 4.54 per 100,000. In comparison, the overall homicide rate for female victims was 1.81 per 100,000. For white female victims, the homicide rate was 1.45 per 100,000.

•For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 82 percent of black victims (4,949 out of 6,022) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 77 percent (3,824 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 868 victims killed with firearms where the type of gun was not stated. There were 644 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 221 killed by bodily force, and 130 victims killed by a blunt object.

•Four hundred eighty-seven black homicide victims (8 percent) were less than 18 years old and 100 victims (2 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 30 years old.

•For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 73 percent of black victims (2,138 out of 2,928) were murdered by someone they knew. Seven hundred ninety victims were killed by strangers.

•For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 70 percent (2,540 out of 3,652) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 58 percent (1,475 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

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**ECORSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ECORSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**ECORSE, MI 48229**  
**PH: 313-294-4750**

**REQUEST FOR LAWN MOWING & SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES**

The **Ecorse Public Schools** is requesting proposals for lawn mowing and snow removal services.

Proposals may be picked up at the following address:

**Ecorse Board of Education**  
**27225 W. Outer Drive**  
**Ecorse, MI 48229**

All proposals must be submitted on or before **Monday, February 10, 2014, at 4:00 p.m.** All proposals should be delivered in a sealed envelope and addressed to **April Ackerman-Miller, Secretary, Ecorse Board of Education, 27225 W. Outer Drive, Ecorse, MI 48229 , and be clearly marked: Lawn Mowing & Snow Removal Bid.**

**CITY OF RIVER ROUGE PUBLIC NOTICE**

**CITY OF RIVER ROUGE, MICHIGAN**

At a re-scheduled meeting of the City Council of the City of River Rouge held in the City Council chambers of City Hall on January 10, 2014 Meeting called to order at 9:50am

The following Commissioners were present: Mayor Bowdler in the Chair  
Present: Campbell, Cooney, Ward  
Absent: None  
Excused: Perry, Pierce, Pruneau

14-01 Approval of minutes from 12/17/2013  
14-02 Approval of minutes from 12/20/2013  
14-03 Voucher approval  
14-04 Building permits approval  
14-05 Approval to accept letter from River Rouge Schools  
14-06 Approval to call back three laid-off workers on a temporary basis  
14-07 Approval of the Title VI non-discrimination policy  
14-08 Approval to have changes to agendas , council info texted and/or e-mail to elected officials  
14-09 Motion to adjourn at 10:30am

A complete copy of the minutes can be obtained at the City Clerk's office. (313) 842-5604.

Patricia Johnson, City Clerk Susan P. Joseph, Deputy Clerk

**CITY OF INKSTER PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**CITY OF INKSTER, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**RE: Flood Insurance Rate Maps**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Inkster City Council will conduct a public hearing on Monday, February 3, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Inkster City Hall Council Chamber, which is located at 26215 Trowbridge Inkster, Michigan. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider an ordinance to affirm responsibility by the City to enforce regulated flood hazard areas under the provisions of the State Construction Code, Act 230 of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended. The ordinance will adopt by reference Flood Insurance rate Maps (FIRMS) panel number(s) 26163C; 0241 E dated 2/2/2012 and panel number(s) 0240F and 0243F dated 12/3/2013 for purposes of administration of the Michigan Construction Code and declared to be part of Section 1612.3 of the Michigan Building Code, and to provide the content of the Flood Hazards section of Table R301.2(1) of the Michigan Residential Code. Copies on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Public comments are invited. Persons unable to attend the public hearing may send their comments in writing to the attention of the Community Development Department, 26215 Trowbridge, Inkster, Michigan, 48141. Comments will be received through 12:00 noon, Monday, February 3, 2014. Please reference Flood insurance Rate Maps Ordinance.

The City of Inkster will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the public hearing, to individuals with disabilities upon written notice. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City of Inkster at 313.563.3211.

Felicia Rutledge  
Inkster City Clerk

PUBLISH: January 30, 2014

**Community Development Department - 313.563.9760**

**CITY OF INKSTER PUBLIC NOTICE**

**CITY OF INKSTER**

In accordance with the City of Inkster City Charter Chapter 7, Sec. 7.9; an abstract of the proceedings of the January 21, 2014 Regular Council Meeting is hereby published.

APPROVED:

- Approval of Agenda.
- Approval of Consent agenda.
- Approval of introduction of Floodplain Management Provisions and Public Hearing date.
- Approval appointment to the Downtown Development Authority.
- Approval of Amendments to the Inkster Retirement Income Plan.
- To table rescinding the Water Shut off Policies.
- Approval of a Service Agreement with UHY to review legal services.
- Approval of proposals and acquisitions for the Civic Center Area.
- Approval 2014 Boards and Commission meeting calendars.
- Approval of an offer to purchase 29043 Avondale.
- Approval to retain Risk Management Associates.

Felicia Rutledge  
City Clerk



News of those in the Armed Forces



Air Force Airman David K. Barksdale

Graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Barksdale is the son of James Barksdale of Detroit. He is a 2011 graduate of the University Preparatory Academy-High School, Detroit.



Air Force Airman Dearnbri T. Haynes

Graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in

applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Haynes is the son of Tesell Haynes of Kansas City, Mo. He is a 2004 graduate of Renaissance High School, Detroit, Mich. He earned a bachelor's degree in 2009 from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Mich.



Air Force Airman Arr'tez T. Cook

Graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Cook is the son of Kimberly Brownlee of Inkster, and cousin of Monique Cleveland-Young of Detroit. He is a 2011 graduate of Inkster High School.



Air Force Airman 1st Class Jennifer T. Ligali

Graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. The airman

completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Ligali is the daughter of Brenda and Carlo Miller of Detroit. She is a 2006 graduate of Mumford High School, Detroit.

Westland, Mich., native U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Ronald J. Ramsey, a team leader with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response, cleans an M-4 carbine in Entebbe, Uganda, Dec. 27, 2013. His unit was postured in the area to respond to any threats against U.S. personnel and interests in South Sudan. The U.S. State Department requested the assistance of U.S. military forces in evacuating personnel from the embassy in Juba, South Sudan, to Nairobi, Kenya, amid political and ethnic violence in South Sudan. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. Robert L. Fisher III) For more information, contact Sgt. Tatum Vayavananda at chokechai.vayavananda@mf.e.usmc.mil.

Kidney Foundation

from page 8A

•Know Your Numbers. Ask your doctor what diabetes target numbers are best for you. Learn about your A1C, blood pressure, and cholesterol numbers (known as the ABCs of diabetes).

•Manage Your Diabetes. Keep track of your diabetes numbers, be active on most days of the week, eat healthy, and don't smoke.

•Get Regular Care. Contact your health care team if you have any questions or problems as you manage your diabetes, medicines, or supplies. Despite the increased risk of kidney disease and diabetes in African Americans, type 2 diabetes can be managed as well as prevented or delayed, which can reduce the chance

of having other health issues down the road.

For over a decade, reducing health disparities has been a focus of the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan (NKFM), bringing together key strengths and expertise to address the formidable challenges implementing innovative community-based interventions. The NKFM has received a grant from the Centers for Disease Control to help tackle diabetes disparities. The mission of the NKFM is to prevent kidney disease and improve the quality of life for those living with it. The NKFM is widely known for providing more programs and services to more people than any other region or state.

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CITY OF INKSTER PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Inkster Public Accuracy Testing

The City of Inkster will be conducting equipment Accuracy Testing on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. for the February 25, 2014 Westwood School District election. The location for testing will be 26215 Trowbridge, Inkster, MI. 48141, City Council Chambers. The Public Accuracy testing is conducted to make sure that the computer programming used to tabulate the votes cast at the election meets the requirements of the law.

Felicia Rutledge  
Inkster City Clerk

Published: 1-30-14





# ‘Preachers of L.A.’ Renewed for Season 2; Casting Underway for Detroit, Atlanta, Dallas, NY Spinoffs



Not only will Oxygen return to the pulpit for a second season of its breakout reality series “Preachers of L.A.,” but the network is currently casting new editions of the show set in New York, Atlanta, Dallas and Detroit.

The original LA series will premiere this fall with Bishop Noel Jones, Minister Deitrick Haddon, Bishop Clarence McClendon, Pastor Jay Haizlip, Pastor Wayne Chaney and Bishop Ron Gibson.

“Preachers of L.A.” gives viewers a candid look at the lives of mega-pastors in Southern California.

“Preachers of L.A.’ touched the heart strings of our Oxygen viewers. They were captivated by the triumphs and tribulations of these men of God and the amazing women and families that stood alongside them.” said Rod Aissa, Senior Vice President, Original Programming and Development for Oxygen Media. “We look forward to bringing more of these compelling stories to life both in LA and around the country.”

“Preachers of L.A.” hit rating milestones by becoming the most watched freshman series in network history among ages 25-54 and averaging over one million total

viewers. Delivering digital success as well, the series averaged more full episode streams per week in season than any other Oxygen original series and was the #10 most social cable reality program in October and November. On VOD, “Preachers of L.A.” earned over two million transactions.

Ayana wants to hear from you.

Send in your story or questions to Ask Ayana at: [telegram@telegram-news.net](mailto:telegram@telegram-news.net)

## ASK AYANA

### “Split Decision”



Dear Ayana, My ex-wife and I share custody of our 9-year old son. We get along pretty well and usually make major decisions together. Recently though, she called me and told me that she had registered our son for a mentoring program and that our son would be spending the weekend 2 hours away with his group. I was already heated about these arrangements when she then informed me that my portion of this trip would be \$150. I'm in agreement with my ex that our son needs to be involved with activities outside of school and church, but I don't agree with the way she planned this trip without my knowledge. I'm ready to tell my ex that she can save her money; my son won't be going anywhere for any length of time with people that I'm unfamiliar with. My current wife however, says I should just let this one go since we've been able to see eye to eye on all other arrangements. Her reasoning is that if my ex-wife feels like our son is in good hands, most likely, he is. But I feel like if I let this go, my ex will get the impression that she can start making all of the arrangements and forward the bills to me later. Am I wrong?

Fuming Father

Dear Fuming Father, I'm curious. Are you more

upset about the trip or the cost of the trip? Once you know which is the bigger issue, then you can begin to figure out how to handle it. If your main objection is that your ex-wife is allowing your son to go on an overnight stay with people you don't know and you therefore feel a bit uncomfortable with, there might be an easy solution. Why not volunteer to chaperone for the weekend trip? This will give you time with your son and also allow you to see first-hand what this program that your ex has signed him up for is about. If the cost of the trip is the bigger issue, I'm siding with your current wife. Since this isn't something that typically happens, I wouldn't make much noise over it. However, I would have a conversation with the ex and ask that in the future, she give you details about programs and activities that may require your son to be away from home overnight and let you know of any unexpected costs that you may be responsible for. I don't think that this has to be a huge deal. It sounds like because you and your ex tend to meet in the middle on most issues, she made a decision with the assumption that you would go with the flow. This could have been nothing more than an oversight on her part. Be sure to keep the lines of communication open and I think all well continue to go well. It's always good to hear of parents who split custody of their children and are able to remain drama-free. It helps that your current wife appears to be level-headed and in favor of an amicable relationship between you and your ex. I commend you all for a job well done! Keep up the good work. Ayana

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# Hopgood Releases Statement on Reports of Abuse, Inadequacies at EAA, Calls for Shut Down



Senator  
Hoon-Yung Hopgood

LANSGING — Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D – Taylor) today issued the following statement in response to the recent release of interviews with teachers at the Education Achievement Authority, documenting extensive accounts of physical abuse of students, along with inadequacies in programming.

“Eclectablog’s interviews with teachers at the Education Achievement Authority, that cited outright violence against children along with unacceptable inadequacies in programming and classroom resources prove our worst fears to be true – that the EAA is not only a detriment to students, but an actual encroachment on their safety and well-being,” said Senator Hopgood. “Reports from one educator after another serve as evidence of the countless failings of the Authority, from a lack of special education programming to classrooms of 50 students, and putting students directly in harm’s way at the hands of disciplinarians.

ans.

“Not only is the EAA incapable of expanding statewide as the Governor has called for, it must be shut down immediately in order to ensure the safety of our students,” Hopgood continued. “Every stakeholder in

the conversation surrounding the expansion of this Authority should read the extensive interviews released by Eclectablog – those who do will quickly be convinced that it is absolutely essential that the EAA close its doors for good.”

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