

DETROIT NATIVE SUN

UNITING & ENLIGHTENING THE COMMUNITY

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Telford Telescope: Support DPSCD, Vitti and Moore

By Dr. John Telford
SUN COLUMNIST



Sadly, there exist among us misguided souls who have been expressing sentiments via e-mail concerning their wish to "blow up" the Detroit Public Schools Community District. Others have accused Superintendent Nikolai Vitti of seeking to force teachers to work or attend professional development without pay. Let

cratically reinstated as PA 436 and the Emergency Financial Manager gained dictatorial power as a full-fledged Emergency Manager. Let us never forget that at the time of the entirely unwarranted state takeover of DPS in 1999, our school district enjoyed a \$125 million SURPLUS and its student test scores were at the state midpoint and RISING despite our impoverished and racially-discriminated-against citizens' many social problems. Now after nearly 20 years of the takeover, our student scores are the nation's lowest, and \$3.5 billion of our district's money--including \$1.5 billion in bond money--has been misspent, squandered, and stolen by the state and its appointed overseers.

Led brilliantly by Helen Moore, we have fought long and hard to get ex-Governor Snyder's so-called Education

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over to the side of the law to help protect area residents.

"A lot of colored girls and women have come up missing, but no one is speaking about it," Tomia Mitchell, a 16-year-old senior at Martin Luther King Senior High School said. "Kids don't know what sex trafficking is, because they don't talk about it. I take two buses to school, - Lafayette/Van Dyke and Gratiot - and I'm afraid. There's a lot of crime in those areas. There's not enough police presence to better protect us."

According to statistics released by the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, over 600,000 people are reported missing each year in the United States. In Michigan, there were 74 people missing over the last year.

Photographs of 96 children and women missing in Michigan are posted on The Center for Missing & Exploited Children's website.

Differences in the handling of missing persons cases involving African Americans compared to cases involving Caucasians have been noticed by some, including area teens.

"It doesn't make any sense that no one is doing anything about the missing girls. The police get right on it, when it comes to a missing white girl. With black girls, they beat around the bush. It's as if they don't care about us," Patrice Darnell, 15, of Martin Luther King Senior High School said. "We need more help. We can't do this by ourselves as a community. We need more power and authority in the neighborhood. Police shouldn't assume that the missing person is a runaway. Start looking for them right away. The more time you waste is more opportunity that they're moments away from their death. I also want the men in our community to step up and help. If it was your daughter, you would do something then."

Families of 13 missing teens and women, who are primarily African American, turned to Facebook's Metro Detroit Crime and Homicide page for help in finding their loved ones in just the last 30 days.

The Black and Missing Foundation revealed that out of the 612,846 people reported missing in 2018, the number of missing African Americans were 230,302.

"Thousands and thousands of young black girls and women are missing all over the country, and I can't name a single one of them. Most of you probably can't either," Shaun King, a Tom Joyner Morning Show contributor said. "The stories of young black girls and women who are missing don't get the Elizabeth Smart or Natalee Holloway treatment. We don't see prime time television specials on them."

Consumer advisory: Pet treats contaminated with Salmonella

LANSING - The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) issued a consumer advisory for pig ears sold in bulk at retailers statewide because the pet treats have the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella. Consumers who have purchased bulk pig ear products may wish to avoid giving them to their pets and consider discarding them.

MDARD is working cooperatively with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on an investigation of Salmonella possibly linked to pig ears.

Samples of bulk pig ears were collected by MDARD feed inspectors from two retailers and tested positive for Salmonella at MDARD's Geagley Laboratory. Both retailers have voluntarily removed these bulk pig ear products from sale.

MDARD inspectors also collected samples of other brands of individually wrapped or bagged pig ears being sold at multiple retail locations. These samples tested negative for Salmonella.

"It's not clear why some brands of pig ears have tested positive for Salmonella and others have not. Pet owners should consider the possibility of Salmonella contaminating pig ear products before feed-

Their images don't become permanent fixtures on twitter. Their names don't get hash tag or trending topics. Nationwide manhunts or search parties don't ensue. Crying black parents pleading for their children to be found don't interrupt our sitcoms as breaking news. It appears that having blonde hair and blue eyes and having white parents in suburban America makes it far more likely that a story of a missing young girl will be told."

Sharon Dumas, founder of Full & Fabulous, started Girls Exposed to make sure the stories of missing African American women and girls are told.

"Last November, there were so many missing women and girls that I started doing workshops in the school," she said. "I went to King, Denby High School, South-eastern High School and Timbuktu Academy of Science and Technology and exposed girls to the facts about human trafficking, sexually transmitted diseases, Opioids and marijuana. I encourage the girls that if there are no leaders in the room, you must become one. All it takes is one spark and one time that you're successful at it, and you'll do it again. I also provide them with safety and self-defense tips to better protect themselves."

Sometimes the best defense is achieved through greater involvement. African American youth are demanding equal attention to finding missing people and lessening crimes be given in predominately black neighborhoods.

"The police need to get out here more, but don't just target black males," Tanyia Hayes, 15, who attends Detroit Edison Public School Academy, said. "They should go down the side streets to keep us safe and step up to do something about it. I'm fearful that someone will pull up from behind and snatch me. I heard that it's common in my neighborhood. That's why I don't walk. I drive."

To better protect women and young girls, DuMas offers some safety tips.

"I caution my girls to never wear headphones or use their mobile devices when walking. They are distractions and will cause them to lose focus on what's going on around them," she advises. "They should never walk alone, if possible. Pay attention to panel trucks driving nearby. Let someone know where you're going and what time you anticipate you'll arrive. This is not the time to run away. It's a shame that we have to be on alert. We're all going to have PTSD, because we're all under stress over what's going on. But, if we all do our part, there'll be less stress."

So, are you willing to cross the line to protect our women and children? Your answer could save a life.



me remind everyone that Dr. Vitti actually put more on the table as part of the third year negotiations than was there in years 1 and 2. The additional five days were added to the calendar with the intent to provide more teacher-training while paying teachers more than their usual professional development stipend. On my 9:30 a.m. live Saturday and 6:30 p.m. taped Monday show on WCHB AM1340 and streamed on DETipTV.com, Dr. Vitti also spoke out emphatically against the corporate-collusive Trump/DeVos plot to close and charterize Benton Harbor's schools and all the other predominately minority-populated schools throughout Michigan.

I've spent close to 30 intermittent years as a DPS educator in jobs ranging from teacher and coach to building-administrator and executive director--including a contentious year in 2012-2013 as the pro bono Superintendent appointed by a good elected DPS board under emergency financial Mismanagement to try to keep DPS afloat and in one piece. The state disempowered and ultimately removed that good board, and I was fired on March 29, 2013 from the Superintendency when Public Act 4--the roundly hated emergency manager law that Michiganians had voted overwhelmingly to rescind--was undemo-

"Achievement" Authority (EAA)--dissolved and a partially-powered DPSCD school board elected, meanwhile successfully encouraging thousands of charter-school students to re-enroll in DPSCD, which--along with 82-year-old Helen and a small band of school activists, including my 83-year-old self--are now among Detroit schoolchildren's last and only hope. Those benighted but possibly well-intended (?) e-mailers need to stop attacking DPSCD and support it instead. Also, the state is morally obliged to pay for a forensic audit to determine where and to whom that \$3.5 billion went, so those who are guilty of this heinous two-decades-long theft can be sent to jail, and the money can be rightfully restored to our plundered district and children.

Dr. John Telford--a one-time NCAA and NAAU All-American sprinter at WSU--has written six Detroit-oriented books available in stores and on amazon.com type in Dr. John Telford). He currently serves as DPSCD Poet-in-Residence. His website is www.AlifeontheRun.com. Call in to his show on WCHB at (313) 837-1340. Contact him at DrJohnTelfordEdd@aol.com or (313) 460-8272. Friend him on Facebook.

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