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November 2021 Newsletter

The Arts:

Beautiful Music and Beautiful Photography Always Bring Hope



“Autumn Leaves” by Nat King Cole Click on this link:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=autumn+leaves+song&ru=%2fsearch%3fform%3dMOZLBR%26ptag%3dMOZZ000000011%26pc%3dMOZD%26q%3dautumn%2bleaves%2bsong&mmscn=vwrc&view=detail&mid=110DC68FBDD081913B19110DC68FBDD081913B19&rvsmid=19F92CCE384A4E65776619F92CCE384A4E657766&FORM=VDQVAP>

Stories of Hope:

The life of Vevlon Days-Kimmons: Racine's first-ever black alderwoman

Dee Hölzel, Racine Journal Times, September 30, 2021



Vevlon Days-Kimmons died on Sept. 23 after a lifetime of serving the community of Racine. The first black woman to serve on the City Council, she also served on the Police and Fire Commission and was the director of George Bray Community Center.

RACINE — Her life was rich with important firsts: the first person in her family to earn a college degree and the first African American woman to sit on the Racine City Council.

She was kind but tough when she had to be, as when she fought back against critics of the Alternatives to Prison program, which she coordinated.

Vevlon Days-Kimmons, 69, died on Sept. 23 after a lifetime of kicking down barriers, lifting up those who needed a hand, and giving unconditional love to friends and family...Al Days, a younger brother of Days-Kimmons, spoke of her as a civic-minded woman who sought to speak for those who could not speak for themselves.

She was a petite woman, perhaps 5-foot-1 and 100 pounds...Despite her small stature, her brother said she leaves a giant legacy.

Days-Kimmons was one of six siblings whose parents left Mississippi in the 1950s looking for a better life in the North. She and her siblings were born and raised in Racine, on Memorial Drive. To read the entire article click on this link: [The life of Vevlon Days-Kimmons: Racine's first-ever black alderwoman | Local News | journaltimes.com](https://www.journaltimes.com/story/news/local/2021/08/13/vevlon-days-kimmons-racine-black-alderwoman/7800000001)

Not Going Quietly

Nell Minow August 13, 2021



A man in a wheelchair rolls toward the Capitol Building. It is social justice and health care activist Ady Barkan, one of *TIME* magazine's 2020 most influential people, and he is on his way to testify before Congress. "Ady's been fighting like hell for his life and for all of ours," says Committee Chair Jim McGovern as he introduces him.

Barkan has been speaking in public since he was in high school. But as he tells the committee, this time is different. It is the first time he is not using his natural voice. He has ALS, a "deadly debilitating disease with no cure and very little treatment," and he can now only "speak" through a Stephen Hawking-style mechanical device directed by his eye movements. He is using it to speak on behalf of everyone who needs health care, meaning everyone, and he is urging Congress to adopt Medicare for All.

"Not Going Quietly" is about Barkan's activism, a combination of old school grassroots organizing and new-school social media. When someone raises a question about whether he is exploiting his disease for political gain, he has no hesitation in answering, "Absolutely!" He is a savvy enough strategist to know that an attractive but sick young guy with a wife and toddler is a more powerful argument than a bunch of statistics in a binder. But when his voice finally fails and he has to use the mechanical voice synthesizer, he wonders if he should make that appearance before the committee. Maybe, he says, it would be better to have his remarks read by someone else. To view a 2 ½ minute video about the movie, click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJKUBTL34bY>

CITY OF GRANDVIEW, MO RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL CITY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION AWARD

2021 Community Partnership Award: 10,000-49,999 Population

Move Toward the Badge, Grandview, Missouri

Protestors and police faced each other in the streets of many U.S. cities in the summer of 2020, including in the Kansas City, Missouri, metro area. While activists called for defunding police in nearby cities, in the minority-majority community of Grandview the Pastors Alliance was praying with and for Grandview Police Officers, and residents were thanking officers for their service and inviting them to engage in real community conversations. These are the positive results of a long-term commitment to community through partnerships from a police department project implemented years earlier.



To read more, click on this link: <https://icma.org/2021-community-partnership-award-10000-49999-population>

Editorial Comment: My career background is working as a City Manager in 3 cities and working with over 300 cities around the country as a municipal, management consultant. I understand that positive police and community relationships are not always what they could and should be. But I also know that many Police Departments work diligently and creatively to address these issues. This story is one of the positive efforts made by cities to foster better relationships between the Police Department and the communities they serve. Robert Beezat

How a public-private partnership is bringing dividends in Racine

[Adam Rogan](#) Racine Journal Times, Sep 26, 2021



Dave Giordano, right, spends time with his daughter on Sept. 14 at Pritchard Park in Racine, WI

RACINE — Five years ago, Pritchard Park was a prime example of what happens when you ignore the land. Overrun with an invasive species, prone to flooding, ugly, damaging to Racine’s water supplies. Negatives all around.

During a volunteer day about five years ago, attempting to make a dent in removing the invasive and damaging buckthorn, a woman said aloud: “This is never going to happen.” That pessimism steeled Dave Giordano’s resolve.

Looking back, that volunteer couldn’t have been more wrong. The rooting-out process is simple but challenging. Giordano described it as “hack and squirt” — cut down the invader, spray a bit of herbicide at the base. Then you repeat that, on plant after plant, year after year.

There’s still buckthorn in the park, but it’s now a tiny minority of the plant population as opposed to the predominant resident. Five years ago, as much as 90% of plant life in Pritchard Park’s 15 acres was buckthorn and dead ash trees. You’d be hard pressed to find a bee in here,” Giordano said. Much less an endangered bee, such as the rusty patched bumblebee discovered for the first time in years at the park along Highway 11 (Durand Avenue) last month. “When you eradicate buckthorn and bring back the natives, all the natives come back, and they find their food sources.”

To read full article, see additional pictures, and view a 1 minute video, click on this link:

https://journaltimes.com/news/local/how-pritchard-park-has-come-back-to-life-in-just-five-years/article_73e4b180-2cd5-5dca-a48b-7ac94ae6126d.html



To learn more about one of the local environmental organizations who partnered to bring about the improvements in the article above click on this link: [Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network \(rootpikewin.org\)](http://rootpikewin.org)

Hope-Filled Organizations:

Pass It On.



The quotes above and many more can be found at: <https://www.passiton.com>

The Foundation for a Better Life. The values we live by are worth more when we pass them on.

We choose values we hope most individuals would find encouraging and relevant. Then we provide an uplifting message based on each value, in an effort to encourage people to bring out the best in themselves.

As a nonpartisan, nonsectarian organization, we carefully design our public service messages to have general universal appeal.

The Foundation's small staff works with a network of writers, art directors and production professionals. These individuals represent a wide range of ideals, viewpoints and cultural backgrounds. Their diversity reinforces the idea that values can serve as common ground for all. To watch a 1 ½ minute music video produced by PassIt On, click on this link: <https://www.passiton.com/inspirational-stories-tv-spots/122-annie-s-song>



[Home - CUSH \(cushkenosha.com\)](http://cushkenosha.com)

We are an interfaith coalition living our faith and values in pursuit of justice through advocacy, education and empowerment.

CUSH currently has 17 member congregations.

- Participation in CUSH will help your congregation foster leadership skills in its members.
- It will enhance your congregation's engagement in local, state and national issues.
- It will provide opportunities to educate, engage and empower your members in advocacy work that reflects the values of your faith tradition.
- Clergy and members of your congregation receive training that will enhance leadership skills and deepen commitment to living the values of your faith tradition.
- By combining your resources with those of other congregations, your congregation's justice efforts will be multiplied.

Our Work is Carried Out by These Task Forces

Racial Equity
 Immigration
 Solar Panels
 Transit
 Night Shelter

GOLDEN RULE PROJECT



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Golden Rule Project is to increase awareness and the practice of compassion, kindness, and peace by sharing the universal principle of the Golden Rule through education, programming, and partnerships. The Golden Rule Project is not religious, not political, and not associated with any agenda. We promote the Golden Rule as a basic human value.

***THE GOLDEN RULE is the* THREAD THAT WEAVES US ALL TOGETHER**

The logo of the Golden Rule Project (GRP) was chosen for its universality and timelessness. Like the Golden Rule, the Golden Ratio (also known as the Fibonacci Sequence) is found throughout the universe: from the swirls of massive solar systems to the spirals of tiny seashells.

Bonnie Phillips, the founder of the GRP, often says that the "Golden Rule is always and everywhere." And she is correct. It has existed throughout all time. The Golden Rule has been found on every continent and in every culture. Also, it is the foundation of all the major religious, spiritual and secular traditions.

Once we start to train our eyes to see the Golden Ratio and the Golden Rule, we will start to see both of them in action - always and everywhere. To read more, click on this link: [Golden Rule Project](#)

The Future:

SURVEY PRIORITY #7: BIG DATA Part Two: Possible Counter Measures

I have divided the Big Data topic into two parts.

Last month, in Part One, I presented some ideas regarding two significant problems with Big Data and how it is negatively affecting the lives of most people. Those ideas were centered around two areas of concern:

- Corporate Knowledge About All Of Us
- Untruthful Information

The growth in the internet and social media over the last twenty years has created a whole new environment which touches almost all parts of our lives. Some of it has been very positive, but some of it is causing harm to individuals, to families, to communities, to businesses, and to our country.

You can read Part One of my ideas outlining some of the problems caused by Big Data by going to the Hope From the Bottom Up website at this link, <https://hopefromthebottomup.com/future> , and then scroll down to the second article in the Future section.

In Part Two regarding Big Data, I want to focus on two aspects of Big Data which need to be addressed. I group these ideas in two words:

- **Anonymous**
- **Accountability**

Anonymous

One very large concern I have about Big Data is that people and organizations which spread untruthful information, and in some cases hateful attitudes towards others, are basically unknown from a personal standpoint.

Free speech is a particularly important part of the freedoms we enjoy in our country. The First Amendment to our Constitution reads as follows:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

But nowhere in that amendment or any other part of the U.S. Constitution does the word “anonymous” appear. To read more, click on this link: <https://hopefromthebottomup.com/future>



Welcome to the Activating Hope Summit:

A once-in-a-generation online gathering aimed at sparking hope around the globe.

Featuring keynotes by Jane Goodall, author of *The Book of Hope*

November 4–7, 2021

To read more about the Activating Hope Summit, click on this link: <https://summit.soundstrue.com/activating-hope/broadcast-welcome/>

Each program will be uploaded by 10 AM Mountain Time each day. These will remain up for free for the length of the summit which starts on November 4 and runs through November 7. The purchase price is \$149.00. If you purchase the package, you will have lifetime, unlimited access to the files. I am not endorsing this Summit because I have not seen it yet. But I think it is worth investigating.

Share this Newsletter!

If you find this Newsletter to be a positive contribution to promote Hope and positive changes for now and in the future, please consider forwarding this Newsletter to people you think would enjoy it and who may want to share their hopeful stories and programs for future Newsletters.

Thank You