

Celebrating MLK Jr. Day

Breakfast planned for Monday, race relations forum Tuesday

By **LOUISE WREGE**
HP Staff Writer

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Lake Michigan College's 22nd annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast Celebration and Awards Ceremony on Monday will give guests an opportunity to give back to the community.

Participants are asked to bring new, packaged hygiene and toiletry items for the Emergency Shelter, Child and Family Services – Safe Shelter for Domestic Violence and the Benton Harbor Salvation Army's Men's Shelter. Items requested include toothpaste, shampoo, dental floss and disposable razors. For a complete list, go to www.volunteerswmi.org.

To RSVP for the free event, call Kathy Tebell at 927-6197 or email her at tebell@lakemichigancollege.edu by Friday. Breakfast begins at 7:45 a.m. at the Mendel Center, with the ceremony at 8-9:30 a.m.

The recipient of the 16th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity

Award will be announced.

Speakers include U.S. Rep. Fred Upton, R-St. Joseph, and Danny Sledge, a diversity consultant. Award-winning student essays will be presented by Rolando Hernandez of Eau Claire and Lionel Kanyowa of the United Kingdom.

Musical selections will be performed by All God's Children Community Choir and the LMC Concert Choir.

Race relations panel

On Tuesday, people will have a chance to discuss race relations during a panel discussion on "Promoting Racial Equality in Education" at noon in the Brown Lecture Hall at Lake Michigan College in Benton Township.

After four panelists give a short presentation, audience members will be able to ask questions and make comments, said Larry Feldman, one of the panelists and chairman of the Race Relations Council of Southwest Michigan.

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“There’s no charge,” Feldman said. “We’d like everybody who’s interested in education to come join us, learn and teach.”

The other three panelists include two long-time teachers and administrators from Benton Harbor Area Schools, Rebecca Fudge and Gladys Peoples-Burks, and Jeffrey Booker from the Benton Harbor Boys and Girls Club.

Feldman said the panel wants to talk about racial equality nationally and locally.

He said the event is sponsored by the Race Re-

lations Council and Lake Michigan College.

Feldman said the public is also welcome to attend the Race Relations Council meetings, which are at 5:45 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at the St. Joseph Library, 500 Market St., St. Joseph. The next meeting is Jan. 25.

“Our mission is to ... bring people together from both sides of the river to break down the barriers of stereotypes and prejudice and to promote racial equality in every aspect of society, including education, housing, jobs, etc.,” he said.

For more information, call Feldman at 921-0531.

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