

THE MICHIGAN BANNER

Celebrating 14 years of Positive News!



MDHHS reminds Michigan residents to take action to prevent falls



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CMU launches online information center for diversity and inclusion assessment



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Horn Hometown Tours: Star of the West



Politics, Page 35

Leading in Diversity, Empowering Communities and Changing Lives themichiganbanner.com



"We Say Thank You" for 27 Years of Ministry, Page 28



AT&T Contributes \$1 Million to the National Museum for African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

AT&T is giving \$1 million to the National Museum for African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) in Washington, D.C. The contribution qualifies AT&T as a Founding Donor.

The museum opened to the public on Sept. 24 on the National Mall. It will tell the full story of African Americans through 11 galleries. Visitors will learn about the rich history, community and culture.

"It's important to understand the challenges and accomplishments of a culture because it helps us to understand who we are as a country," said David Huntley, senior executive vice president

and chief compliance officer. "Supporting the preservation and recognition of this rich culture is also important to AT&T."

AT&T history is also African American history. Alexander Graham Bell hired African American inventor Lewis Latimer in the 1800s. He developed the drawings necessary for the first telephone's patent.

AT&T has set out to become the world's premiere integrated communications company. And diversity continues to be a vital part of our success:

STORY CONTINUES ON PG 3



Advocates Introduce Bill to Restore Drivers' Licenses for All, Page LB 1



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THE MICHIGAN BANNER
1555 S. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-992-2600

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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MISSION

The Michigan Banner operates and serves as a print and online media venue committed to educating, informing and enlightening our readership regarding events and news that directly and indirectly affect the communities regionally and globally. Furthermore, to serve as a catalyst and a link for cultivating young adults as entrepreneurial and business leaders for the future.

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DEADLINES

2 weeks before each publication date of the
1st and 16th of each month

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Mailed or e-mailed
Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF
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COVER STORY , CONT'D

- We share a commitment to student success in school and beyond. Our education initiative, AT&T Aspire and our involvement with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) across the country help to see this commitment through.
- In 2016, AT&T will contribute \$250,000 to All Star Code (ASC). We'll also sponsor 60 young African American men for this STEM development program via AT&T Aspire.
- Our diverse programming lineup competes well with that of major pay-TV providers in the U.S. It includes more than a dozen African American owned-and-targeted networks.
- AT&T spends billions with African American suppliers and also ranked No. 1 in DiversityInc's 2015 "Top Companies for Supplier Diversity."
- African Americans make up nearly 20% of the AT&T workforce, 13% of management and 15% of the board of directors.

"The opening of this incredible museum marks a key moment in time for our country," said Huntley. "It's something to be proud of."

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About Philanthropy & Social Innovation at AT&T

AT&T is committed to advancing education, strengthening communities and improving lives. Through its community

initiatives, AT&T has a long history of investing in projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; or address community needs. AT&T Aspire is AT&T's signature philanthropic initiative that drives innovation in education by bringing diverse resources to bear on the issue including funding, technology, employee volunteerism, and mentoring. Through Aspire, we've passed the \$250 million mark on our plan to invest \$350 million in education from 2008-2017.

Additional information about AT&T products and services is available at <http://about.att.com>. Follow our news on Twitter at @ATT, on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/att> and YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/att>.

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For more information, contact:

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Photo credit: www.archdaily.com

NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet



CONGRATULATIONS
TO
JEROME BUCKLEY
&
THE MICHIGAN BANNER

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THE LATINO BANNER

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MICHIGAN

SAVE THE DATE!
Friday, October 7, 2016
[6:30PM - 8:30PM]
Kellogg Center, East Lansing



For More Information
email
hlcom@michigan.gov



Advocates Hail Introduction of Bill to Restore Drivers Licenses to All, Including Undocumented Immigrants

Bipartisan bill will make for safer driving and better insurance coverage

Lansing – On September 20th, Democratic Representatives Chang and Santana joined with Republican David Pagel to announce the introduction of a bill to restore drivers licenses for all in Michigan, including undocumented immigrants.

“Everyone deserves the right to drive and have ID. When you can’t get a license, your whole life is smaller. Taking the kids to school is a terrifying risk. Getting medical care or even a library card is difficult or impossible. Michigan should welcome immigrants by bringing back drivers licenses for all,” said Michigan United member Celia Martinez of Detroit.

Licenses were stripped from undocumented drivers in Michigan in 2008.

12 states and Washington DC currently offer licenses to all, including the most recent additions of Illinois and California.

Providing drivers licenses to all would increase safety on our state’s roadways. Properly licensed immigrant drivers will need to pass a drivers test, get insurance, and pay registration fees. Overall, this would reduce accidents and increase tax revenue.

Susan Reed of the Michigan Immigrants Rights Center and Edith Martinez at the announcement of bills to restore drivers licenses to all. Ms Martinez must drive her 6 year-old US Citizen daughter (child held on left) from Kalamazoo to Ann Arbor for cancer treatments multiple times every week.

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Save The Date

LLEAD

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Mr. Arturo Vargas,
Executive Director,
National Association of
Latino Elected and
Appointed Officials
(NALEO)

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We encourage readers to send letters, story ideas, comments and questions.

DEADLINES

2 weeks before each publication date of the 1st and 16th of each month. Submission Procedure: Mailed or e-mailed to the latinobanner@gmail.com. Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

We celebrate.

Hispanic Heritage Month

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 15

12 PM
Kick off Hispanic Heritage Month!
Ring the bell tower – open to all SVSU students & Public
Location: Bell Tower

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 21

6-8 PM
Loteria (Mexican Bingo)! Open to all SVSU students.
Location: Program

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 5

5-8 PM
Dining Services Event:
Latino Food Fest
Open to the Public
Location: Doan Center Market Place

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 5

5-8 PM
SVSU to host the Hispanic Business Asso.
Meal Fee
Location: Doan Center Market Place

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 8

3-6:30 PM
Latino Alumni Chapter/Latino Awareness Homecoming Tailgate. Open to all SVSU students.

MONDAY
OCTOBER 10

8-10 PM
Coffee House – Hosted by the Latino Awareness Association. Open to all SVSU students.
Location: TSAR

Thursday
OCTOBER 20

5-7 PM
Hispanic Heritage FIESTA! Open to all SVSU students and Public.
Light Refreshments
Location: TSAR

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 21

8 -5 PM
ALSAME Conference.
Registration Required

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations are organized & hosted by the Hispanic Heritage Month SVSU Employee Committee.

Co-sponsors include:

- SVSU MultiCultural Services
- SVSU Student Life
- SVSU Diversity Programs
- SVSU College of Science, Engineering & Technology
- SVSU Latino Alumni Chapter
- SVSU Latino Awareness Association Student Group



Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority Awarded Three-Year CARF Accreditation

SAGINAW, MI – Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) received notice that they were awarded another Three-Year Accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) after their site visit on August 17-19. This is the fifth accreditation that the international accrediting body has awarded to SCCMHA.

This accreditation outcome represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the standards established by CARF. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process. It has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit its commitment to offering programs and services that are measurable, accountable, and of the highest quality.

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known as CARF International, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the

quality of their programs and services.

"We are very pleased with the results of the accreditation process," says SCCMHA CEO Sandra Lindsey. "The real winners here are consumers we serve. This accreditation means that consumers can be confident that SCCMHA has made, and will continue to make, a commitment to enhancing the quality of our services and programs."

As quoted on the CARF Survey Report "Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority has accomplished a great deal in its pursuit and maintenance of international accreditation. It has demonstrated substantial conformance to the CARF standards. The organization provides unique and quality care in a safe and supportive environment, and persons served and other stakeholders are pleased with services." Also noted in the report was SCCMHA staff's commitment to treating each consumer and family with respect and care. "Staff exhibits compassion,

understanding, and enthusiasm for the mission and philosophy of the organization and for the provision of its services."

Programs and services surveyed included Assessment and Referral: Mental Health (Adults, Children and Adolescents), Case Management/Services Coordination: Mental Health (Adults, Children and Adolescents), Crisis Intervention: Mental Health (Adults, Children and Adolescents), Intensive FamilyBased Services: Mental Health (Adults, Children and Adolescents), and Outpatient Treatment: Mental Health (Adults, Children and Adolescents).

For a complete copy of the survey report, contact SCCMHA at (989) 797-3400.



Congratulations
**Saginaw County Community
Mental Health Authority**

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MDHHS reminds Michigan residents to take action to prevent falls

LANSING, Mich. – To raise awareness about the dangers of injuries related to falls ahead of the colder months, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recognizing today as Falls Prevention Awareness Day.

“Falls are the leading cause of fatal injury for older adults in the state, but by taking a few simple measures, they are preventable,” said MDHHS Director Nick Lyon. “Contrary to common belief, falls are not an inevitable part of growing older. That’s why taking time to learn how to protect ourselves, our friends, and our family members from falls is critically important.”

Fall-related deaths are on the rise in Michigan. Falls are also the leading cause of traumatic brain injuries and injury-related hospitalizations for the senior population. In 2014, falls resulted in 907 deaths for people aged 65 and older in Michigan, and 14,179 people of this same age group were hospitalized from fall-related injuries. These injuries among older adults cost the U.S. health care system more than \$30 billion dollars annually.

A combination of interventions can

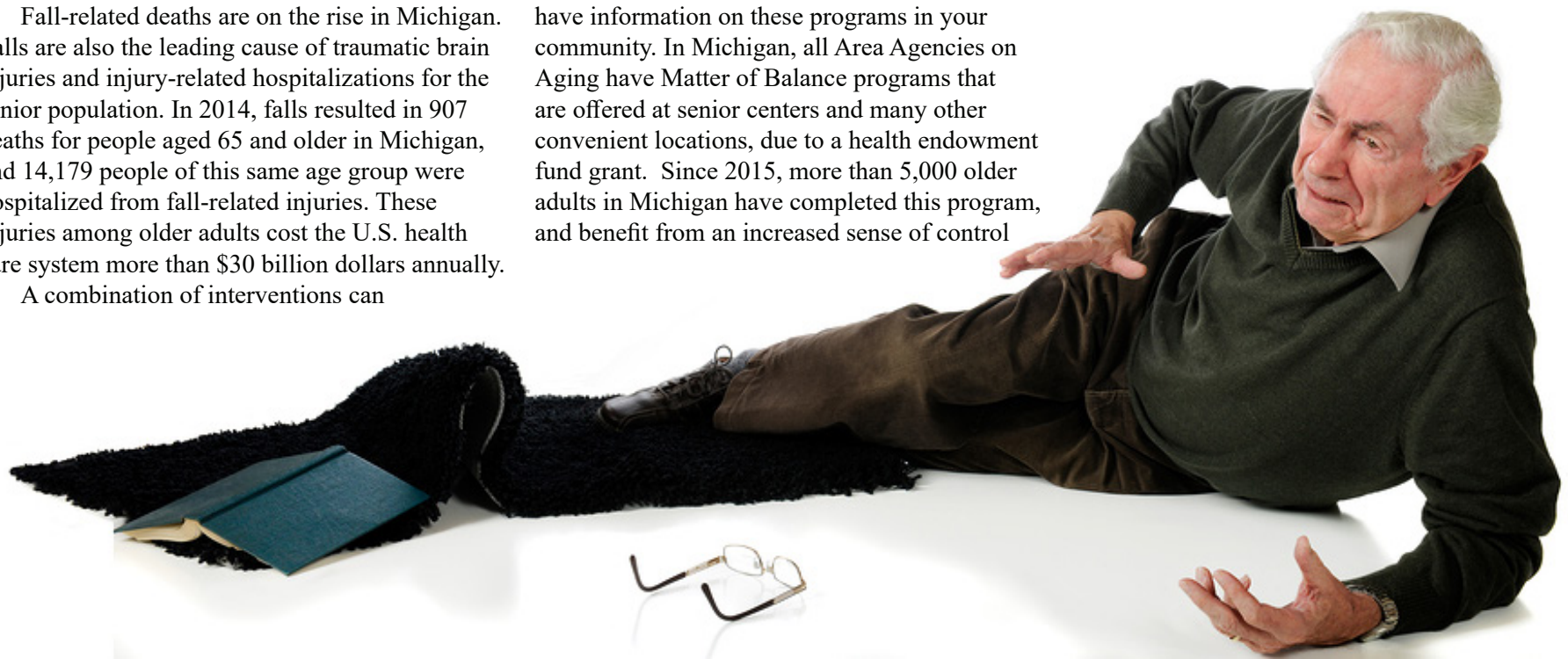
significantly reduce falls. Experts recommend a physical activity regimen with balance, strength training, and flexibility components; consulting with a health professional about getting a fall risk assessment; having medications reviewed periodically; getting eyes and hearing checked annually; and making sure the home environment is safe and supportive.

Senior centers across the United States have evidence-based programs like Matter of Balance and Tai Chi which help older adults gain strength, improve balance, and increase confidence. Your local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) will have information on these programs in your community. In Michigan, all Area Agencies on Aging have Matter of Balance programs that are offered at senior centers and many other convenient locations, due to a health endowment fund grant. Since 2015, more than 5,000 older adults in Michigan have completed this program, and benefit from an increased sense of control

and fewer restrictions in their lives. Visit www.michigan.gov/aging to find your local AAA.

For resources and tips on how to work with your clinician to prevent falls, visit www.michigan.gov/injuryprevention. To locate a falls-prevention classes through the Great at Any Age program, visit www.greatatanyage.com to see what is being offered near you.

Additional information is available through the National Council on Aging website www.ncoa.org, and from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Falls/adultfalls.html>.



Falls are Preventable! These are some things you can do to reduce the risk of falling:



**BUILD BALANCE,
STRENGTH & FLEXIBILITY**



**ASK DR FOR FALL RISK
ASSESSMENT**



REVIEW MEDS WITH DR



**GET VISION & HEARING
CHECKED**



**REMOVE TRIPPING
HAZARDS**

FULL ARTICLE AT: [HTTP://WWW.H2H4SENIORS.COM/BLOG/PREVENT-FALLS-FALL-PREVENTION-AWARENESS-WEEK-2014/](http://www.h2h4seniors.com/blog/prevent-falls-fall-prevention-awareness-week-2014/)

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NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet





6115 SHATTUCK RD. | SAGINAW, MI 48603

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 4, 2016 | 6:30-8:30PM

Please join us this October for an exploration of *The Open Table* with Founder Jon Katov.

This Exploration will give you the unique opportunity to learn about the *Open Table* model and the poverty transformation movement in our county.

Open Table has been underway in Saginaw County with active tables and 9 licensed ministries involving a diversity of denominations and ethnicities.

Learn more about *The Open Table* at www.theopentable.org

Contact Ken Cline for more information
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HEALTHY Environment

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FREE COMMUNITY COACHING TO CREATE A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT

The **Healthier Child Care Environment** initiative will help you identify areas for improvement related to nutrition and physical activity policies and environmental practices. A trained nutrition education coach from MSU Extension helps SNAP-Ed eligible child care providers (Unlicensed, licensed, group or family home, center or preschool) through the process and connects them with resources to work towards best practices.

Steps:

- Assessment
- Action planning
- Coaching/Education with MSU Extension
- Implementation of goals
- Reassessment

Benefits to participating:

- Assessment of your environment
- Free coaching throughout the process
- Assistance creating an action plan
- Up to 10 educational hours
- Healthier environment for you and the children you care for!



Contact Information:

Priscilla Cantu
(989) 758-2500 ext 249
cantupri@anr.msu.edu

Topic areas include:

- Active play time and inactive play time
- Fruits and vegetables
- Screen time use
- Menus and variety
- Physical activity policy
- Breastfeeding Support
- Nutrition policy

"They [children] are more open to trying new foods than they were in the beginning of the year. We have tasted foods such as black beans, cucumbers, sugar snap peas, red/yellow bell peppers, pineapple, brown rice, berries, and tuna." - Participant



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Great Lakes Bay
Health Centers

Touching Lives Healing People
Building Community Together

Tours at Great Lakes Bay Health Center - Janes Street, 1522 Janes St., Saginaw

Thursday, Sept. 8, Meet and Greet at 5 p.m. (Tour from 5:30-6:30 p.m.)

Thursday, Sept. 29, Meet and Greet at 6:30 a.m. (Tour from 7-8 a.m.)

Thursday, Oct. 27, Meet and Greet at 5 p.m. (Tour from 5:30-6:30 p.m.)

Thursday, Nov. 10, Meet and Greet at 5 p.m. (Tour from 5:30-6:30 p.m.)

Thursday, Dec. 8, Meet and Greet at 5 p.m. (Tour from 5:30-6:30 p.m.)

*Events are one-hour tours that include personal stories from staff, patients and community members who illustrate the mission of Great Lakes Bay Health Centers. Doors open one-half hour before the tour for light refreshments and sign-in. We will ask for your contact information so that we may call you after the event to get your feedback.

*Please register to attend an event with Jill Armentrout, GLBHC Fund Development Coordinator, at 989-751-8866 or jarmentrout@healthdelivery.org

INTERSECTION OF BUSINESS & WEALTH

Diesel Technician Shortage Results in New Programs

Facing a significant shortage of diesel technicians, businesses in the Great Lakes Bay Region turned to Delta College for help. Delta College created two solutions to help meet their needs, a short-term job training program and an academic degree program in Heavy Duty Diesel Technology.

Delta College Diesel Fast Start™ training program is now accepting applications. This accelerated training program is approximately 10 weeks, with classes held Tuesday and Thursdays from 6pm-10pm, and Saturdays from 7am-11am. The training is designed to prepare individuals for careers as diesel technicians with a focus on preventative maintenance and inspection skills.

Diesel Fast Start™ applications are due by October 21, 2016 to Delta College. This training is limited to 12 students and will begin November 1. Interested individuals can access a Diesel Fast Start™ application at <http://www.delta.edu/corporateservices/faststart> or visit a Great Lakes

Bay Michigan Works! office. Individuals are encouraged to visit a career manager at the Bay City, Midland or Saginaw offices of Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! as financial support may be available for those who qualify.

“Our region’s employers will certainly benefit and be able to grow their businesses as well as train existing and new employees. This creates more opportunities for our students wanting to pursue a career as a diesel technician and being able to live and work locally. Delta responded quickly to our employer needs.” Steve Jonas, Executive Vice President, Saginaw Future, Inc.

Participants who successfully complete Diesel Fast Start™ will have the skill set necessary to be employed as an entry level diesel technician and also receive academic credit at Delta College toward their Associate in Applied Science in Heavy Duty Diesel Technology. The training will be 50% in the classroom and

50% hands-on using diesel equipment recently purchased through a generous grant from the Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation.

“Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! sees the value of creating training programs using an apprenticeship-like model. Delta College’s flexible training schedule for the Diesel accelerated program makes it possible for individuals to maintain full time employment while increasing their skills,” said Kristen Wenzel, Chief Operations Officer.

Jennifer Carroll, Director of Delta College Corporate Services states, “Delta College training and education programs are important to maintaining an employable workforce in the region and contribute to economic development. Our ability to attract and retain talent is critical for growth and training programs like Fast Start™ meet immediate employer demand, while academic programs provide a viable long-term workforce pipeline.”



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1ST STATE BANK In town. In touch. 

Perc Breakfast Thursday, October 6, 2016

Horizons Conference Center, 6200 State St.
7:30am Program

Topic: An overview on the political landscape and upcoming elections from Michigan Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President Jim Holcomb




FASTER TO ANY DISASTER
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October 13, 2016
5 pm - 7 pm

470 N. ADAMS ST. | SAGINAW, MI 48604




OUT OF THE FRYING PAN

SAGINAW COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Featuring Congressman John Moolenaar

Friday, October 14th
11:30am - 1:00 pm

Horizons Conference Center
Saginaw

\$35 members/\$45 non-members

2016 Community Leadership Awards

Friday
October 21, 2016
Horizons Conference Center
6200 State Street, Saginaw



TERRY KLEIN
T. M. Klein & Sons Inc.
Outstanding Small Business Award



KENNETH STREETER
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BRANDON BORDEAUX
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212 Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-397-4144

PUBLICATIONS**David Hall**

Crimiel Publications LLC
POB 20061
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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES**Four Secrets to Nonprofit Growth: An Interview with Kim Moss****Part one of a two part series***Kim Moss | Courtesy Photo*

We recently had the opportunity to work with nonprofit consultant Kim Moss. He is a wealth of knowledge with 34 years experience in nonprofit administration. He knows about taking care of business. Yes, nonprofits are all about vision and mission. But, if business practices are not in place, it can be challenging to make an impact. We asked Moss to share his observations related to the challenges that nonprofits face when they go through a period of growth.

Moss began with the positives associated with growth. He shared, "A growing nonprofit organization can be exciting for the staff, Board of Directors and the people it serves. New and/or expanded programming can also convey a message to the agency's supporters that 'everything is on track'. However, healthy growth must be strategic and planned for it to be a longstanding asset to the organization. In contrast, growth that is poorly planned can be detrimental to the overall health of the agency."

Here are four questions that Moss suggests

nonprofits ask themselves when growth is in their future.

- 1. Is the growth mission-based or are we chasing dollars?** When funds are available, an agency can find itself easily lured by the thought of expanding current services or adding new services. But it must determine if the funds will help meet its mission or will they draw the organization into areas of service for which the agency has less expertise and is outside its mission.
- 2. Is the growth based on a plan?** Every agency should have an overall comprehensive plan which it follows closely. This plan will help the agency remain focused and help ensure that the growth is based on much prior consideration from the Board and staff.
- 3. Is the growth financially sustainable?**

An agency must consider what the actual cost of the growth will be by developing a budget that outlines all revenue and costs associated with the expected growth. If the growth is grant-funded, it is important to remember that grants only pay a portion of the actual cost of a project. Usually, a maximum of 10% (often less) of the project cost is allowed by a grant funding entity to be allocated to administrative costs. The agency must consider its administrative cost (usually between 18% – 25%) and take into account that the difference in what is being funded and the

actual cost of the project will be the responsibility of the organization.

- 4. Can the agency's infrastructure manage the growth?** It is important to keep in mind how the growth will affect the staff. Does the Executive Director have the skills necessary to manage this growth? Will current staff be required to supervise the new staff? How will the growth affect the work load of the business office staff? How will the growth affect the amount of space available in the building where services are provided?

Part two shares Moss' perspective on how to prepare for a successful board meeting.

You can reach Moss at (901) 482-9504 or MossConsulting1@gmail.com

Copyright 2016 – Mel and Pearl Shaw --- Mel and Pearl Shaw are authors of the new book FUNdraising Good Times Classics Vol. 1 now available on Amazon.com. For help growing your fundraising visit www.saadandshaw.com or call (901) 522-8727.

*Mel and Pearl Shaw | Courtesy Photo*



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*"Therefore welcome
one another as
Christ has
welcomed you, for
the glory of God."
— Romans 15:7*



EDUCATION

CMU launches online information center for diversity and inclusion assessment

Campuswide survey anticipated this fall with final recommendations later this semester



Central Michigan University today launched an online information center for its diversity and inclusion assessment, conducted by The Barthwell Group.

The online center will be a hub for information, updates on assessment progress, frequently asked questions and the link to an anonymous campuswide survey anticipated this fall. It also will feature The Barthwell Group's

final report, which will be presented to CMU in late November.

Phase one of the assessment this past spring included a series of discussions and one-on-one interviews with students, faculty and staff. Phase two began this month with additional focus groups hosted by The Barthwell Group. These discussions will help form the contents of the campuswide survey and final report.

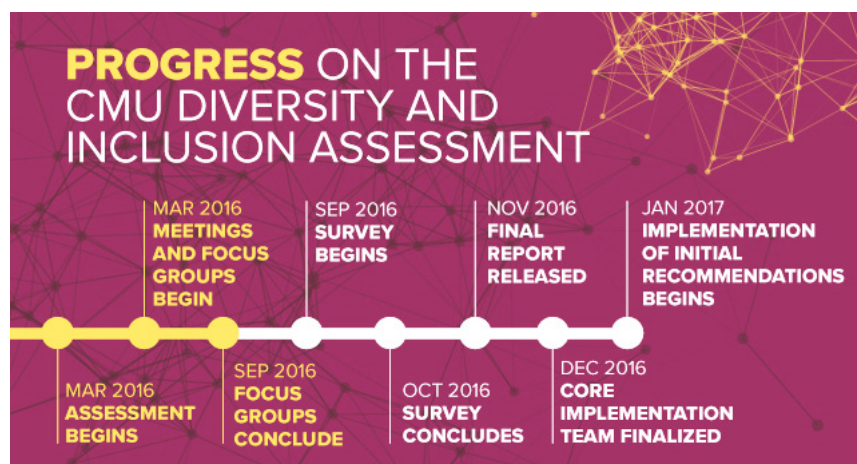
A team of stakeholders from throughout the university will be assembled and charged with implementing the recommendations. The assessment, which began in March 2016, is part of CMU's continued commitment to diversity and inclusion. The project was extended into the fall semester to coordinate the upcoming survey with other campus surveys and allow for greater input from the entire university community.

The process was the next step following a December 2015 diversity and inclusion town hall, convened by President George E. Ross, with hundreds of students, faculty, staff and local residents. A team of faculty and staff representatives from CMU was appointed by Provost Michael Gealt to serve as liaisons to The Barthwell Group.

In addition to interviews, focus groups and the online survey, interested parties may share thoughts, ideas and concerns with The Barthwell Group or the liaisons at diversityassessment@cmich.edu.

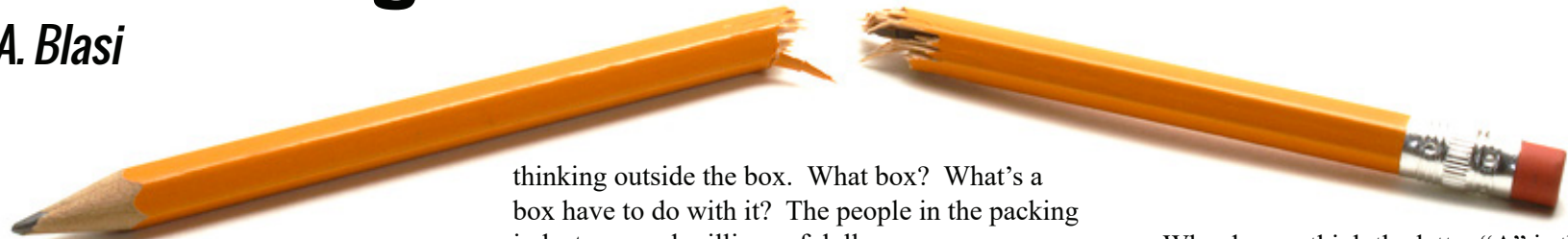
All students, faculty and staff will be encouraged to complete the online survey, which will explore diversity and inclusion at CMU and opportunities to further strengthen the university as it relates to these topics.

Feedback from focus groups, individual interviews and the survey will remain anonymous and will be included in the final report with recommendations.



What's Wrong with Education?

by T. A. Blasi



The teachers' unions think we are not spending enough money on education. About 83¢ of every education dollar we spend goes to wages and fringe benefits. The defense industry thinks we are spending too much money on education and not enough on defense. The welfare industry thinks we are spending too much money on education and defense. Students think we are giving them too much homework. The television networks agree with the students.

Education in the United States has really been taking it on the chin for the past few years. Everyone is demanding to know what is wrong with our system. There are enough theories about the problem to keep doctoral candidates busy until nobody cares what the cause is. The other day someone said it's because we eat too much processed food. I thought it was just another Communist plot until the Berlin Wall came down. Of course, I thought bad weather was a Communist plot also.

There are an equal number of theorists who say there are too many women in education as there are that say there are not enough women in education. There are people on both sides of the issue concerning the number of men in education all these contradictory ideas cause great uncertainty.

What we can be sure of is the government will provide a grant to researchers who will prove we are the problem. A government grant will also fund research that proves we are not the problem. No, that cannot be right. It could not be that we are and we are not. That's like "to be" or "not to be."

Why is it that our great educational institutions such as Harvard, Wheeling Jesuit University, Arkansas City Junior College, California College of Arts and Crafts and Yale have been unable to give us a definitive answer? Half of you are thinking it's because they are not

thinking outside the box. What box? What's a box have to do with it? The people in the packing industry spend millions of dollars every year trying to get new things into a box. All they hear is "think outside the box". The packing industry is going to sue everyone who suggests we "think outside the box". There are juries, for example, along the I-75 corridor in Michigan, who would probably award millions in damages to the "box" industry. Where was I? Education, yes, yes, what's wrong with education?

Maybe there is nothing wrong with education in the United States. Maybe we are, as a people, not smarter than all the other nations. Maybe we are just an average country that has been very lucky. Maybe our success in the arts and the sciences were really a simple function of our definition of success. No, no that offends our national psyche and the egos of most of my friends and neighbors.

Maybe our expectations are too high. No, that does not account for those people who have no expectations for their children but their children learn to read and write anyway. Nor, does it account for those who have high expectations for their children but their children do not learn to read and write.

There would be no need for this entire article if I did not have the answer to the question, "What's wrong with education?"

Somewhere in my past, I can't remember where or when, I was taught that a good way to prove your point is to prove that no other solution was possible. For those readers, who by now are convinced I have not proven anything, you may stop reading because now I am going to provide the answer to the question, since I have eliminated all other possible solutions. The answer to the question is, no, I'm not going to give you the answer here because then you won't read the remainder of the article. Read on, you will soon find out what's wrong with education and the simple way to cure the problem. We may be talking Noble here. Or is it Nobel?

Why do you think the letter "A" is the first letter in the English alphabet? Is it because Caesar once said his accommodations in Gaul were Class A? No. "A" was already first letter at that time. Is it because of that song we sang when learning the alphabet? No. The song came after the alphabet order was established. Is it because the first sound newborns make is "aah"? No. Some newborns say "da" first. I know what babies say because we have four children and ten grandchildren. Maybe it's because the first letter of the first man's name began with "A"? Maybe. But there are Biblical scholars who believe there was no alphabet, just fruit, in the Garden of Eden.

Actually, the reason the letter A is first really does not matter. What matters is that it should not be first. What matters is the order of the letters of the alphabet must be changed. Under the current system, it takes too much time to learn the alphabet, time which could be spent learning chemistry or math. Why do you think other countries are so far ahead of us educationally? They do not take as much time as we do on the alphabet. The Greeks only have 24 letters to learn in their alphabet. Hebrew only has 23! The Arabic alphabet has groups of symbols which represent 2 or 3 letter combinations, which makes much more sense than the English method. The German alphabet has 32 letters, but in some cases there are two symbols for the same letter, the only difference in the symbols is the umlaut, you know, those two dots above a letter! The Russian language has 35 letters. Isn't that just like Russia, they always want to have more than the rest of us. They probably waited to see how many letters everyone else had and then added an extra two or three letters to their alphabet. Of course, the Japanese and Chinese languages and symbols are not so much a language, as they are a way of life, so they are not comparable. The order of our alphabet does not make any sense.

EDUCATION, JUMP TO PG 24

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EDUCATION, FROM PG 22

It appears as though the alphabet order developed on an as needed basis. Whenever someone thought we needed another letter it was just added at the end of the then current list. Some cave man was trying to chisel into the cave wall a description of a beautiful sunset. He probably had to add a letter or two and create a word or two. Two valleys over another cave dweller was trying to order his dinosaur steak cooked more and he probably had to add a letter or two and create a word or two. That type of development has made learning the alphabet more difficult.

We should learn the alphabet the way we learn so many other things in life. Start with something easy and work our way up to something harder. Let's stop here and ask ourselves a question. What difference does the order of the alphabet make? It's not like numbers where you must learn the number one before you can learn numbers two and three. It's not like most sciences in which learning takes place on a continuum of simple to the more complex, such as chemistry and biology. Remember you had to learn to crawl before you could walk, and walk again before you could run, and walk again because you were out of shape or too fat or too lazy to keep running. The letters in Campbell's Alphabet Soup do not have to be eaten in any particular order, but it still tastes mmm good.

It only follows then that using the "easy to hard method" to learn the alphabet is the correct premise. Therefore, the first letter of the alphabet should be "I", because it only takes one straight line. Now that's easy! The next four letters would be L, T, X, and V, because they only require two lines. Two lines are easy but not as easy as one straight line. The remainder of the order would be based upon how difficult it is to make the symbol. Straight line symbols are easier than curved line symbols and two lines are easier to do than three or four lines. Unfortunately, in this country, we have not always done what is "easier" for the users of products and/or services. For example, the "easier" concerning the nine-digit zip code was for the convenience of the Postal Service. How about those items that come in the hard plastic wrap, the "easier" is for shipping, storing and displaying the product. Users, like me, have a drawer full of packages at home I cannot open! Of course, this has little to do with the alphabet problem.

Some might say it is a bad idea to start with

the letter "I", because too much "I" translates into selfishness, not a desirable trait. How do you distinguish the letter "I" from I the person? I thought of that. Instead of pronouncing the letter "I" as "eye", we pronounce the letter "I" as "iota". Yes, I know the Greeks had that idea first, but it's still a good idea. Of course, we can no longer use that jazzy song to learn the alphabet because under the "easy to hard" system the new order would be "iota, ell, tee, ex, why and vee."

There are nine letters or symbols that sound like the last two letters are "ee". They are bee, cee, dee, eee, gee, pee, tee, vee, and zee. So instead of the old song, we will have a nine line poem to help us learn the letters.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| 1. I (Iota), L, T | 5. K, R, C |
| 2. X, Y, V | 6. J, Q, D |
| 3. F, N, Z | 7. O, U, P |
| 4. A, H, E | 8. M, W, G |
| | 9. S and B |

Iambic pentameter notwithstanding, this could be it. It's just as easy to learn a nine line poem as it is to learn that song, maybe easier! You don't have to worry about hitting the correct note. The poets will undoubtedly protest because the meter in line nine is not the same as in the previous eight lines. Who cares, poets are not a big voting bloc!

The only difference changing the order of the letters of the English alphabet makes is when someone says something is "A-one" it will not mean the first letter and number. "A-one" can have the same meaning, a hundred years from now people will just not remember why. How many of us really know how the phrase "lock, stock and barrel" got started and why? And do we care? What matters, is we know what it means.

Did I say there was only one difference changing the alphabet order would make? Sometimes accommodations are referred to as Class A or Class B, we can still use the expression or we could say Class 1 or Class 2, unless, of course, we follow one of my future suggestions of changing the order of the numbers. Some educational institutions use letters in their grading systems. They can easily change to a numerical system. But if they chose not to, we would have to get used to the new letter order. So instead of a "C" in logic, it would be a "T". Instead a "B" in history it would be an "L". Instead of getting an "A" in English, it would be an "I" (Iota). So

when your mother asks "What grade did you get in English? Your response would be "I". And she would say, "Yes you, what grade did you get? Again you would say "I". She says, "Yes, you, I'm talking to you..." I guess everyone will have to make the transition to the new order at the same time. It's not something we can start with this year's first graders.

The government does not need a good reason to do anything. It likes to create problems so it can create jobs and spend money, which are sometimes called solutions, which allegedly solve the problems it created. You know where this is going! Think of some of the problems government has already solved. It solved the nation's drinking problem by the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution. However, it unsolved it by the Twenty-first Amendment, which repealed the Eighteenth Amendment.

Who had a problem with the old silver dollars, not the people who visited Las Vegas. Whoever it was, the government came to the rescue and minted the Susan B. Anthony silver dollars. Okay, okay, it didn't work, but surely the Sacagawea worked. No, no, they stopped minting that one also. In any event, I know the government can help us with the order of the alphabet problem.

Contact your Congressman and Senators and tell them to change the order of the letters of the English alphabet. It will make it much easier to learn, especially with the government involved! Remember how the government had us switch to the metric system.

Just think of how many jobs this idea could create. It could even be a cabinet level position. The new department would be called, let's see, hmm, how about Easy to Hard? No, that could apply to too many things. How about the Department of the New Alphabet Order? No, the letters don't lend themselves to a fancy sounding acronym. The Changing the Alphabet Department! The letters CAD make it a nice sounding government department. But what about Computer Aided Design (CAD)? This could cause some confusion. Don't most government programs cause some confusion? Perfect!

In any event, when you contact your government official to encourage the change in the alphabet order, please do NOT give me credit for the idea, in fact, don't even mention my name.



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson
Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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For additional information concerning Saginaw ISD Head Start visit: www.saginawheadstart.org

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*Joe Baca,
Congressman*

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COMMUNITY



Local Veterans Honored For Their Service

(Saginaw, MI) – Men and women who served their country in the military during war time and at peace are to be honored Sunday, November 6th starting at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary at First Congregational Church, 403 S. Jefferson Ave. in Saginaw. The 15 being saluted are all members of the congregation.

Among those is a World War 2 veteran who competed to win a spot with the famed Tuskegee Airmen and was chosen to serve on a ground crew. Other veterans participating in this special tribute include those who served in Korea and Vietnam.

U.S. Congressman Dan Kildee (D-MI) is among the guests invited to salute these heroes. The keynote speaker is retired Major General Adolph McQueen of the U.S. Army now living in the area.

Other highlights of this moving service will include a local bagpiper, and participation from the Saginaw Fire Department Honor Guard as well as a military rifle salute and taps from a Carrollton-based VFW.

Media is strongly encouraged to attend. For those unable to be present First Congregational Church streams every Sunday service at www.fccsaginaw.org.

[fccsaginaw.org](http://www.fccsaginaw.org).

About First Congregational Church of Saginaw

Founded in 1857, First Congregational Church of Saginaw is affiliated with the United Church of Christ. Located on the corner of Jefferson and Hayden in downtown Saginaw, the historic red brick Italianate building is home to worship services every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. FCC maintains active involvement and financial and volunteer support in numerous educational and community outreach programs, including the East Side Soup Kitchen, Second Saturday Breakfast, Project READ, and The New Ezekiel Project to name a few.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Scholarship



Inspired by the belief that love and peaceful protest can eliminate social, political and economic injustice, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,

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The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Scholarships will be awarded each year to area high school seniors (regardless of ethnicity) who actively embrace Dr. King's dream of improving

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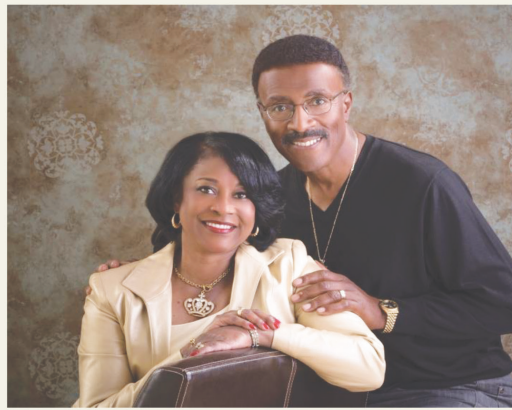
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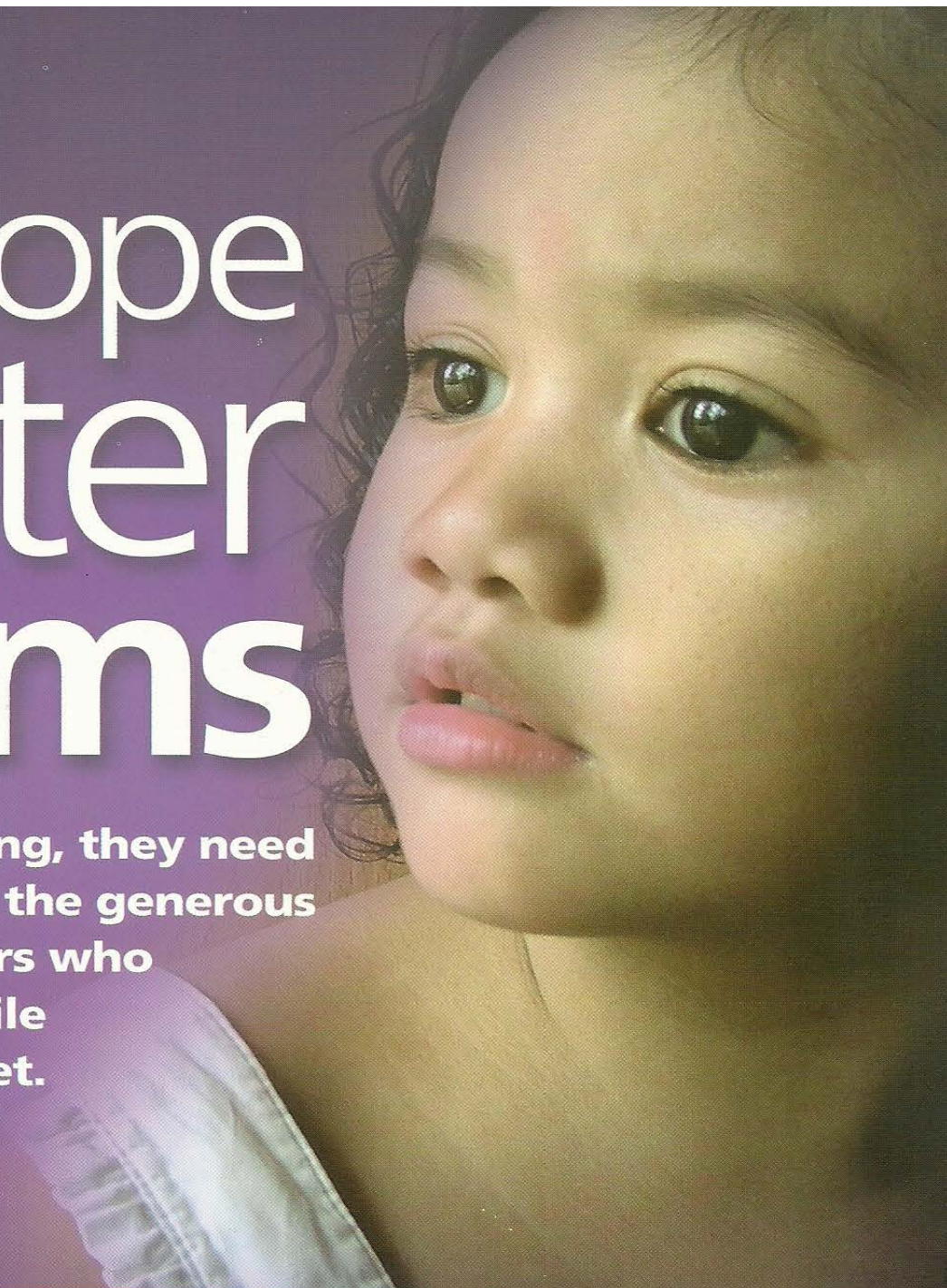


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POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY**Horn named Legislator of the Year by Michigan Manufacturers Association**

LANSING, Mich. — Sen. Ken Horn was recognized on Tuesday as a recipient of the 2016 Legislator of the Year Award by the Michigan Manufacturers Association (MMA) due to his leadership on issues critical to the manufacturing industry in Michigan.

“Manufacturing is what put our state on the map,” said Horn, R-Frankenmuth. “Creating jobs has always been a top legislative priority of mine and as we examine the way Michigan’s economy has continued to recover, it is important that we recognize the incredible role the manufacturing industry played in that comeback.”

Horn was recognized for his lead on reforming regulatory issues within the industry

and championing legislation to fight increased health care costs for employers.

MMA President and CEO Chuck Hadden presented the award to Horn Tuesday evening during the MMA’s 2016 Legislative Reception in Lansing.

“It is a true honor that these hardworking folks have noticed what we’ve done in Lansing and I accept this award with sincere gratitude,” Horn said. “Manufacturing is truly the backbone of our state’s economy and I look forward to working with the association, as well as manufacturers in my district as we continue Michigan’s great comeback.”

**Midland Area Chamber of Commerce to Host Candidate Forum for County Commission Races**

Midland – The Midland Area Chamber of Commerce (MACC) will host its first candidates’ forum on Thursday, October 13, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. The event will take place at the MCTV studio (1710 W. St. Andrews), which will air the program live.

The forum will feature candidates from the two contested Midland County races, Districts 1 and 4. All four candidates in these two races have been invited to participate. At the time of this notice, the Chamber has received confirmation from the following candidates: Connie Methner

and Jeanette Snyder from Midland County District 1; and Gaye Terwillegar from Midland County District 4.

The forum will be designed to highlight the candidates’ views on issues that have the potential to impact the local business community.

Members of the local business community will be invited to serve as the audience for the event, and the public is welcome.

Questions are welcome at (989) 839-9901 or dmiddleton@macc.org.

Horn Hometown Tours: Star of the West

LANSING, Mich. — As summer comes to a close, state Sen. Ken Horn made one last stop in Frankenmuth for the final part of the special three-part series in the senator’s own hometown.

In part one, Horn visited the Bavarian Inn to prepare chicken dinners, and during part two the senator received a tour of the world-famous Bronner’s CHRISTmas Wonderland. Part three took Horn through one of Frankenmuth’s oldest industries: milling.

Star of the West has had its hold in Frankenmuth since the Hubinger brothers arrived from Germany in 1846. Before traveling

to Frankenmuth, the Hubinger family had two hundred years’ experience in milling back home.

“Frankenmuth’s beginning was largely influenced by milling in the mid-1800s, and with the Cass River flowing right through downtown, it was an ideal location,” said Horn, R-Frankenmuth. “It’s great that 150 years later, the industry still has a foothold in downtown Frankenmuth — and while certain techniques have changed, there is much that has remained the same.”

As the tour started, the semi-trucks were already lining up with the day’s delivery of freshly

harvested wheat. Since the wheat comes straight from the field, it comes in contact with various insects and other naturally occurring objects, which is why the wheat is immediately sampled and put through various tests after it is delivered to determine the cleanliness and overall quality.

Next, the tour went inside to mill, where a brief run of clean wheat was in progress. This particular batch was being produced specifically for delivery to Battle Creek to be used in cereal and other breakfast products.

HOMETOWN, JUMP TO PG 36

HOMETOWN , CONT'D FROM PG 35

The wheat is processed through various sets of rollers, where it is crushed until it reaches a powdery consistency, otherwise known as flour.

“The work they do with Michigan’s cereal industry creates a stream of business from the wheat field to your bowl of cereal,” Horn said. “The wheat is grown in Michigan by Michigan farmers, it then comes to Star of the West to be processed and produced, then off to Battle Creek to be made into cereal.”

Just because the wheat has been ground into flour does not mean the job is done. In fact, while all you may see from the street are massive silos, wheat being processed and flour being loaded onto trucks, there is just as much work being done behind the scenes in the labs.

First, the moisture of the wheat must be tested. Testing the moisture is an essential first step in determining wheat quality because this data is used for other tests. This is also important when considering the ability of the grain to be stored before milling. Wheat with a high moisture content attracts mold, bacteria, and insects, none of which are good for producing a quality product. As seen in the tour video, the moisture content of the wheat at Star of the West was between 12.9 and 14.1 percent, which is well within the standard acceptable limit.

Horn then performed what is referred to as a



State Sen. Ken Horn, R-Frankenmuth, stands in the back of a semi loaded with freshly harvested wheat as it is delivered to Star of the West Milling in Frankenmuth.

vomit-toxin test, which checks for any impurities or toxins in the flour once it has been processed.

“The science behind the process was a bit of a surprise,” Horn said. “I was aware we were dealing with a food-grade product and that it was subject to certain quality standards; I was just taken aback by the amount of incredibly sophisticated technology they use. It was fun to dress up in the stereotypical white lab coat and pour solutions through beakers as we ran through various tests. It was quite interesting.”

Once the flour is tested and sifted it is then transported through tubes that pass through a powerful electro-magnet, which is a final safety precaution to filter out any microscopic metal particles from any of the processing machines. From there, it is fully prepared and ready to go on the truck.

Finally, the load was ready for its journey to Battle Creek. As the semi pulled up, Horn went through the necessary steps to prepare the truck for loading. The flour is blown into the back of the enclosed trailer through a large tube, so a vent must be opened to allow air to pass through to prevent air lock. In order to not lose any of the flour in this process, large filters are placed over the vent so air and only air can pass through, allowing the flour to continuously be blown in until the trailer is full.

“I was astounded how much they actually produce exclusively for the state’s cereal



State Sen. Ken Horn, R-Frankenmuth, stands with mill worker Tom Reinbold, and compares different types of flour as they are sifted and continue through the milling process.

industry,” Horn said. “They send six trucks a day, each filled with roughly 47,000 pounds of flour, down to Battle Creek.”

As the tour concluded, Horn again pointed to the deep roots this company has in his hometown.

“It is humbling to see how this company has grown since its beginnings in the early settlement of Frankenmuth,” Horn said. “What began as a joint venture between two brothers is now a bustling multi-state organization that owns five flour mills which produce 14 different types of flour, 12 grain elevators, four dry bean processing plants and two fertilizer operations.

“I would like to extend my gratitude to the hosts for allowing me to tour the facility, load the trucks and even perform some tests. Each member of the staff has a great knowledge of the mill’s operations from start to finish because they work so closely and each of their jobs depends on one another. I’m incredibly appreciative of the whole experience and am proud to have this business not only in my district, but in my hometown as well.”

For video of this and previous tours, click [here](#).

Horn’s Hometown Tours feature various communities in the 32nd District. If you are interested in having Horn visit, please contact his office at (517) 373-1760, toll-free at (855) 347-8032 or by email at SenKHorn@senate.michigan.gov.



A load of freshly harvested wheat is dumped into the floor grate where it begins its journey through the mill, where it will eventually end up as consumer-grade flour.

We Must Think Local, Even if Trump Wins

by Mike Thompson



Photo credit: usmagazine.com

The Michigan Banner requests from me a Trump writeup. Not the usual Facebook fun and escapism on whether Donnie should be the "Orange Cheeto" (from joking Facebooker Dante Toussaint), or, in Trevor Noah's Daily Show humor, "the Circus Peanut." I'm here honoring Jerome Buckley's proposal to write something serious, for actual publication..

Facebook-type jokes, or in the barbershop or in the bar, often are born out of what-can-we-do frustration. Especially, here-and-now, regarding Trump. But sometimes we don't know what to do or say, and the current national politics are an example. Thinking of a potential Trump presidency, I'm at wit's end and sanity's end. Sometimes when we joke and laugh, we actually are crying.

Okay, serious. Trump has been on my you-know-what list ever since he launched himself in 2009 as an Obama "birther," claiming our new president somehow was not born in the United States. A birther, to me, bottom line, is like a Klanner. No matter how you may feel about President Obama -- (a) Big supporter, (b) Sort of disappointed in him, (c) Various other views -- there absolutely is no excuse for Trump being the leading birther, and no excuse for anyone who understands this to say they still will vote for him.

Black people were denied official citizenship for all those years, and countless lives were martyred for true citizenship, for the right to vote. For Trump to then challenge the citizenship of

the first black president with such open bigotry, insensitive to all the historic bias and repression of U.S. citizenship, that should have disqualified the Orange Cheeto right away for his hint-hint style of modern racism. And then his other atrocities, such as mocking the physically handicapped news reporter.

Nobody, black nor especially reactionary white, wants to hear about white guilt, but will admit I'm feeling the white guilt. Consider the rounded-off polling numbers:

- White men, more than 60-to-40 percent for Trump. (Such a shame.)
- White women, 50-50.
- Latinos, 20-80.
- African Americans, 5-95.

What this means to me is that if Trump loses, people of color in their votes will have saved me and my white peers from ourselves.

And if Trump somehow wins? Well, at The Saginaw News, Bob Johnson is doing such great work regarding our local concerns, so please support him. Bob sometimes (like me) escapes onto the above-mentioned Facebook. Recall Oneword (his FB nickname) asking/musing a few months ago, to paraphrase, "Tell us, what would be the result of a Trump presidency? Would it be such a disaster? Why?" Bob was not stating a viewpoint, he simply was posing the question as a journalist.

My first answer to Oneword would be that we don't want a racist as president. I hesitate to call other people bigots, even when the Circus Peanut seems so obvious. I'm humbly sure I have my own shortcomings also in this regard, even with best intentions. But Trump is bad news.

Second answer is that in an ideal world there are many concerns that should merge blacks with low-income whites, but race bias makes too many whites self-defeatingly pro-Trump. More jobs could be created, for infrastructure and other purposes. More youth jobs, like when we oldsters were kids. The minimum wage should be higher. Women should receive equal pay for equal work. Taxation should be more fair. Our brothers and sisters should not be mass-incarcerated for drug-use offenses and other nonviolent crimes. And so on.

Third answer is that we need to get out and vote for Hillary this fall, even though Hillary may not be our ideal choice. (And Hillary should continue what she began in the September 26 debate, to tell us more why we should vote for her on her own merits, instead of simply because she is not Trump.)

Fourth answer to Bob Johnson is that national elections seem to distract us from what we can achieve local. For just a few examples:

-- We need to figure out multi-uses for the Saginaw High building, including more grade levels, so that we do not lose it.

-- We need to continue efforts to address tragic violent crimes and deaths, while giving credit for work that is being done. (Progress is being achieved, even though we may not recognize this progress.)

-- We need to continue to address poverty and social issues, everything from Bishop Larry Camel's food distributions to Brian Pruitt's "Power of Dad."

-- We could reinstate the Saginaw Human Relations Commission, formed in 1958 mainly though the work of Henry Marsh. The HRC sadly died out back around the turn of the millennium.

-- Definitely we should pressure the former 3-Soul, KISS 107, to restore Joyce Harvin's "Community Connections" to Sunday afternoon prime time instead of insulting/degrading us with 6 a.m.

-- Many other local concerns that will remain, regardless of whether Trump or Clinton becomes the next president..

The local list could go on and on, the same as Trump's racist statements and postures go on and on. My only answer, based on my own experience, is to think local, regardless of results of a prez election. By the pure numbers, we can't make much difference in a national election, but we can make a dif on local Saginaw issues. Maybe I'm naive, but I view Trump -- hopefully gone in defeat by mid-November, but even if Trump wins -- as a distraction. We shall overcome locally.

(FOOTNOTE: Readers, go ahead and write something and submit it to The Banner. Writing is only talking on paper, or onto a computer. So submit your views to The Banner, and help to make The Banner more of a community paper.)

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