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Leading in Diversity, Empowering Communities and Changing Lives

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Comcast Spotlights Trends for Hispanic Subscribers at the 15th Annual Hispanic Television Summit
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Have you drove down Cherry Street lately?

Pastor and President of Kingdom Builders Ministries, Jim Shafley is working to beautify neighborhoods and provide employment opportunities while supplying homegrown fruits and honey on the eastside of Saginaw. Kingdom Builders Ministries serves young men who are unemployed or underemployed. Through their Construction Trades Program, participants will learn many trades, including

vinyl siding and windows, hardwood and tile installation, plumbing, HVAC, drywall and painting, internal framing, installing cabinetry and electrical work. This program not only skills their participants, but revamps their neighborhoods turning abandoned houses into desirable homes. Kingdom Builders Ministries also has an agricultural program. To date, Kingdom Builder's Ministries has 31 lots, and plans to plant orchards on 17 of them.

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THE MICHIGAN BANNER
301 E Genesee Ave, Suite 201B
Saginaw, MI 48607
989.992.2600
publisherthemichiganbanner@gmail.com

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

PUBLISHER
Jerome Buckley
publisher022@gmail.com

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Jiquanda Johnson

EDITOR EMERITUS
Rae Lynn Buckley

THE LATINO BANNER
PUBLISHER
Jerome Buckley
thelatinobanner@gmail.com

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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THE LATINO BANNER

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OPINION: "MILLIONS OF LATINOS ON THE VERGE OF LOSING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S." NATIONAL HISPANIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION URGES "NO" VOTE ON REPEALING ACA

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Michigan Hispanic Latino Commission Launches Back-to-School Backpack Program

The Michigan Hispanic Latino Commission (HLCOM), led by new Executive Director Felipe Lopez-Sustaita, is launching a Back-to-School Backpack initiative to help children in the Hispanic/Latino community be prepared for the coming school year. The program aims to gather 500 backpacks with supplies for children in the areas of Lansing, Flint and Saginaw. The Hispanic Latino Commission is part of the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). Each city will have a designated drop-off area

where those looking to donate can drop off backpacks filled with essential school supplies children need during the school year.

“Drop-off Center” for Saginaw
Monica Reyes, director of SVSU Disability Services and commissioner from Saginaw Valley State University
Multicultural/Disability Services
Wickes Hall Suite 260

“Drop-off Center” for Lansing
Jeremiah Hernandez, general manager at Best Buy of Okemos and commissioner from Dewitt

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Comcast Spotlights Trends for Hispanic Subscribers at the 15th Annual Hispanic Television Summit



NEW YORK — How the cable TV industry now offers more value and services for Hispanic subscribers than ever before will be the key topic of a special one-on-one discussion and presentation at the 15th Annual Hispanic Television Summit featuring Javier Garcia, Comcast Cable's Senior Vice President and General Manager for Multicultural Services. Attendees of the Summit, presented by NewBay Media's Broadcasting & Cable and Multichannel News, will be treated

to the unique perspective from the industry's leader of what's trending now, and what is on the horizon for Hispanic consumers of pay TV, video, phone and internet services.

Comcast Cable serves some of the largest Hispanic markets in the U.S. and therefore reaches a significant percentage of Latino television and internet households in America. The company has long been successful in its approach to attracting and retaining Latino consumers as their customers.

This one-on-one conversation and presentation will offer fresh perspectives on the company's latest strategies and upcoming initiatives to serve its growing number of Hispanics in their customer base.

Garcia is responsible for multicultural programming, as well as directing, designing and implementing Comcast's multicultural services strategy across

Xfinity's Video, Internet, Voice and Home products. He drives the long-term product vision and strategy and collaborates with various Comcast divisions to develop competitive pricing, positioning and marketing strategies.

"Javier is a great addition to our lineup of featured speakers at this year's Hispanic Television Summit," said Louis Hillelson, Group Publisher and Vice President of NewBay Media's Broadcasting & Cable and Multichannel News. He continued, "Javier and his team at Comcast set the industry standard in so many ways. Our attendees will be able to get the latest trend information, fresh ideas, pricing strategies, and hopefully some inspiration for serving Hispanics."

The 15th Annual Hispanic Television Summit, will be presented by NewBay Media's Broadcasting & Cable and

Multichannel News on Thursday, October 19, 2017 at the Sheraton New York Hotel.

The Summit is the most popular, and longest running annual event for executives in the business of television and video for Hispanic audiences, worldwide. It attracts nearly 500 executives from the U.S., Latin America and Europe.

The Summit was created fifteen years ago, by Joe Schramm and has been produced for Broadcasting & Cable and Multichannel News every year since by the Schramm Marketing Group. This year, the Summit will be one of a series of conferences and events to be presented by NewBay Media during NYC Television Week, October 16-19, 2017.

To enjoy the early bird rate for this Summit, register by Monday, September 11, 2017 at <https://nbmedia.swoogo.com/TVWEEK2017>.

Michigan Hispanic Latino Commission Launches Back-to-School Backpack Program

Continued from LB 5

Best Buy
2020 W. Grand River Okemos, MI 48864
"Drop-off Center" for Flint
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
2316 Coldwater Rd, Flint, MI 48505
"Many parents are struggling to put food on the table these days, therefore, supplies for school are not always a priority," said Lopez-Sustaita. "Growing up, I was one of those children who went to school with not enough supplies, so I know the struggle firsthand. I invite everyone to participate in this effort to give young children in their communities an opportunity to feel excited about the return of the school year."

The Commission is committed to educational outreach and improvement for Hispanic/Latino students in every community, at all levels of schooling. With support from community leaders, the commission can help all students reach their educational goals. "A backpack is more than just an item," said Noel Garcia Jr., chair of the Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan. "It provides our students with confidence as they begin their school year and helps them excel in their educational goals." The backpack program will run from August 15 to September 5. Additional locations may be established. For more information, visit the HLCOM website at www.michigan.gov/hlcom and "Like" us on Facebook.

NHMA urges "No" vote on repealing ACA

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Senate has voted against Repeal and Replace of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for the second time. The House of Representatives already approved their bill. In both houses of Congress, the Republican leaders are focused with these efforts on how to decrease federal government funding of health care for the poor and middle class, so they can save taxes for the wealthy. What is being discussed? The greatest changes would be to decrease access to health care in this country by eliminating the Medicaid entitlement to a smaller block grant to States, Planned Parenthood & primary care to many women, mandate for health care insurance that will lead to youth opting out of insurance and higher

premiums, essential benefits that will decrease use of mental health, vision and oral health care, and by eliminating the Public Health and Prevention Fund for the CDC programs that fight HIV, Zika, TB and other epidemics in culturally competent ways. According to the National Hispanic Medical Association president & ceo, Dr. Elena Rios, "Latino families will have little recourse except to go to expensive care at emergency room services and hospitals--- as more put off going to see a doctor until they are really sick. We would see diabetes and heart disease with more severe complications - kidney failure and blindness, heart failure and strokes happening much earlier in our families, leading to premature death."



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(Tour from 5:30-6:30 p.m.)
Wednesdays
July 19/ Aug. 16/ Sept. 20

Tours at Janes Street center,
1522 Janes St., Saginaw
Meet and Greet at 5:15 p.m.
(Tour from 5:30-6:30 p.m.)
Thursdays
July 27/ Aug. 24/ Sept. 28

*Events are one-hour tours that include personal stories from staff, patients and volunteers who illustrate the mission of nonprofit community-based Great Lakes Bay Health Centers. Doors open 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@glbhealth.org

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was signed into law by President Obama in 2010 and has resulted in 30 million newly insured Americans. Latinos and other vulnerable populations who are working poor have been the most to gain, because they had the highest rates of being uninsured, with new access to health care services and improved

quality lives. Today, it is projected that a very small bill, called a Skinny Bill could be up for a Senate vote soon for elimination of the individual and employer mandate that would disrupt our families ability to find individual insurance and many Latinos don't have access to employer-based insurance.

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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Money Is Not Enough

Nonprofits play a critical role across the country. They represent, serve and advocate for a great diversity of individuals, families and causes. They are joined in this work by foundations and corporations who provide money, resources, connections and technical assistance. In many cases it is through the work of nonprofits that foundations and corporations live into their missions: nonprofits are one way that the actual work gets done.

Nonprofits and funders are natural partners. Yet there is always the reality that nonprofits solicit and funders give. This is one of many dynamics involved in the solicitation and granting of funds. Other dynamics include who gets to define the impact a nonprofit makes; how many nonprofits a community needs; and the reasons behind why some organizations are funded and others aren't.

Foundations and corporations will comment about nonprofits that lack visionary leadership, sustainability and business plans, and boards that fundraise. Nonprofits will comment on inequities in giving, changing guidelines, and limited timeframes to demonstrate "impact."

Our comments can keep us from looking at the bigger picture. What does our community need to thrive? What investments and innovations are required to move the needle on poverty, homelessness and hunger? Are we giving enough to create change, or just enough to say we gave?

Are we as funders giving to organizations based on a checklist of causes we need to support for purposes of brand and image? Do we understand the many community needs and the multiplicity of organizations addressing them? How do we

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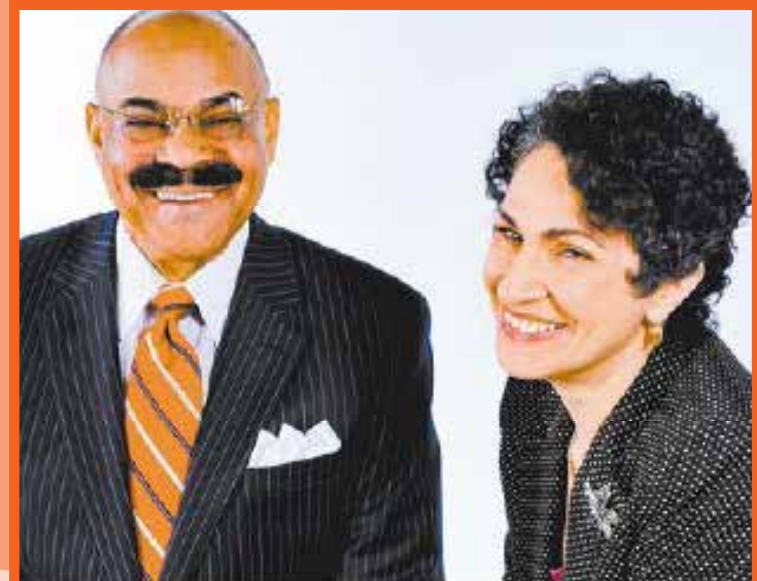
Mel and Pearl Shaw are authors of four books on fundraising available on Amazon.com. For help growing your fundraising visit www.saadandshaw.com or call (901) 522-8727.

help address issues of capacity, technology and general infrastructure? These impact service delivery, research and advocacy but often go unfunded. Finally, how do we define equity in giving and what do we require in return?

Are we as nonprofits asking for enough investment? Are we asking enough funders? And, are we asking ourselves the right questions? Do we need to innovate? Do we need to merge? Do we need to change leadership or revise what collaboration and partnership looks like? Are we seeking to keep our doors open when the funds we receive could yield a greater impact if invested elsewhere? Is our focus our own organization or the people we serve?

These are hard questions we all need to ask. Nonprofits and funders are focused on philanthropy: the love of mankind. We need each other. And our communities need us: let's put them first.

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Mel and Pearl Shaw are authors of four books on fundraising available on Amazon.com. For help growing your fundraising visit www.saadandshaw.com or call (901) 522-8727.



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Saginaw County Business & Education Partnership Director Celebrating 25 years



Kathy Conklin is celebrating her 25 years of service as the executive director of the Saginaw County Business & Education Partnership (SCBEP).

During Kathy's tenure, the SCBEP has established breakthrough approaches to workforce development. Kathy is a founding member and administrator of the Great Lakes Bay Employer Resource Network with more than 12,000 employees in Saginaw participating with their employers to reduce turnover and increase productivity.

Kathy's commitment to transforming our community through her service on several boards and committees in the Great Lakes Bay Region and at the state level. Kathy has set an example for others as an exemplary citizen whose good work creates sustainable and measurable impact in our community. Congratulations, Kathy!

A note from Kathy: "I really appreciate the Saginaw County Business & Education Partnership Board of Directors, our staff, our partners and my family for celebrating my 25 years as executive director. Working for and with so many amazing people has been my honor and privilege.

The celebration was a surprise! It was humbling, heartfelt, and fun. I want to thank everyone who arranged it, were in attendance, and made the evening so special. It is a celebration filled with memories that I will always treasure."



Dr. Amaning Sarkodie M.D.

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INTERSECTION OF BUSINESS & WEALTH

Covenant HealthCare Named 2017 Most Wired

Most Wired Hospitals Use Technology to Partner with Patients on Health



Frank Fear, MA CHCIO, Chief Information Officer at Covenant HealthCare

Technology is making it easier for patients and providers to interact, thus improving communication, safety and patient-provider relationships. New tools are helping patients become more actively involved in their care and maintaining their health, according to results of the 19th Annual Health Care's Most Wired® survey, released today by the American Hospital Association's (AHA) Health Forum.

According to the survey, Most Wired hospitals are using smart phones, telehealth and remote monitoring to create more ways for patients to access health care services and capture health information. This year's results show: 76 percent offer secure messaging with clinicians on mobile devices.

When patients need ongoing monitoring at home, 74 percent use secure e-mails for patients and families to keep in touch with the care team.

68 percent simplify prescription renewals by letting patients make

requests on mobile devices.

62 percent add data reported by patients to the electronic health record to get a better picture of what is going on with the patient.

Nearly half of the hospitals are using "telehealth" to provide behavioral health services to more patients.

40 percent offer virtual physician visits. More than 40 percent provide real-time care management services to patients at home for diabetes and congestive heart failure.

"Covenant HealthCare's focus is to be patient-centric, meeting our customers where they are to meet their healthcare needs," Frank Fear, MA CHCIO, Chief Information Officer at Covenant HealthCare said. "I am very proud to work for such a great organization. The 'Most Wired' award is a great organization-wide achievement demonstrating further affirmation of the great work our staff does every day

providing extraordinary patient care."

Innovation in patient care embraces emerging technologies and underscores the need for secure patient information exchange. Hospitals have increased their use of sophisticated IT monitoring systems to detect patient privacy breaches, monitor for malicious activities or policy violations and produce real-time analysis of security alerts.

"The Most Wired hospitals are using every available technology option to create more ways to reach their patients in order to provide access to care," said AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack. "They are transforming care delivery, investing in new delivery models in order to improve quality, provide access and control costs."

- 97 percent use intrusion detection systems.
- 96 percent perform data access audits.
- Nearly 90 percent run targeted phishing exercises to teach employees to question suspicious emails.

Most Wired hospitals are transforming care delivery with knowledge gained from data and analytics. They are investing in analytics to support new delivery models and effective decision-making and training clinicians on how to use analytics to improve quality, provide access and control costs.

- 82 percent analyze retrospective clinical and administrative data to identify areas for improving quality and reducing the cost of care.
- Three-quarters use sophisticated analytics such as predictive modeling and data to improve decision-making.

- Nearly 70 percent interface electronic health record data with population health tools for care management.
- More than 70 percent are providing data analytic tools training to physicians and nurses.
- 45 percent initiate a patient pathway using health IT to follow a care plan.
- Nearly 40 percent deliver quality metrics to physicians at the point-of-care.
- 32 percent have tools for real-time patient identification and tracking for value-based care conditions, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

HealthCare's Most Wired® survey, conducted between Jan. 15 and March 15, 2017, is published annually by Hospitals & Health Networks (H&HN). The 2017 Most Wired® survey and benchmarking study is a leading industry barometer measuring information technology (IT) use and adoption among hospitals nationwide.

The survey of 698 participants, representing an estimated 2,158 hospitals — more than 39 percent of all hospitals in the U.S. — examines how organizations are leveraging IT to improve performance for value-based health care in the areas of infrastructure, business and administrative management; quality and safety; and clinical integration.

Detailed results of the survey and study can be found in the July issue of H&HN. For a full list of winners, visit www.hhnmag.com.

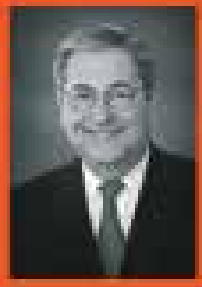
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COMMUNITY

Continued from Page 1

Have You Drove Down Cherry Street lately?



Along with orchards, Kingdom Builders Ministries is working directly with the Michigan Beekeepers Association and has received 10 beehives to start producing honey.

This program will teach participants growing techniques, honey harvesting and ways to create a sustainable food source. The public will have the opportunity to purchase fresh fruits, baked goods and honey.

Pastor Jim states, "It's all about developing relationships with people, once you develop relationships you can redevelop their neighborhoods." Shafley adds, "When the orchards and remodeled homes are

developed by residents, the neighborhoods will also begin to embrace and take care of their community."

Kingdom Builders Ministries programs will teach participants how to respond to life with emotions such as humility, compassion and trust. They will not only learn technical skills, they will learn how to best handle tough situations in life.

Kingdom Builders Ministries is building up lives in Saginaw. These neighborhoods with remodeled homes and orchards will see the transformation of their community and want to be a part of the change.

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Wishing the Michigan Banner congratulations and continued success on your 15th anniversary!

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HEALTH



Stressful Life Experiences Age the Brain by Four Years, African Americans Most at Risk

Four studies highlight racial disparities in dementia risk and incidence

LONDON — A series of studies reported at the 2017 Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC 2017) in London confirm racial inequities in numbers of people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias - even after age 90 - and also point to growing evidence that early life stress and neighborhood conditions contribute to dementia risk in late life.

One new study in Wisconsin found that a single major stressful event in early life is equal to four years of cognitive aging, and African Americans are most at risk - on average, they experience over 60 percent more of such events than non-Hispanic Whites over their lifetimes. A second study conducted by a health plan in Northern California found that African Americans born in

states with the highest levels of infant mortality had 40 percent increased risk of dementia compared to African Americans not from those states, and 80 percent increased risk compared to Whites not from those states. Other studies reported at AAIC 2017 found:

Racial disparities in the risk for new cases of dementia previously observed in the younger elderly continue into the oldest-old (age 90+), which is the fastest-growing segment of the population. Researchers found oldest-old African Americans and Latinos had the highest incidence rates compared to Asian Americans and Whites - matching the overall patterns of racial/ethnic disparities in dementia seen in younger elderly. This is the first time different ethnicities in this older population group

have been studied for risk of incident dementia.

Neighborhood disadvantage may contribute to observed disparities in prevalence of dementia.

"These studies were done with U.S. data, but they add weight to the global body of evidence around disadvantage and dementia risk, which is an issue governments around the world grapple with, and one that requires coordinated action," said Maria C. Carrillo, Ph.D., Alzheimer's Association chief science officer. "For a racially diverse nation like the United States, and to address Alzheimer's and dementia on a global scale, these findings support the need for targeted interventions, whether preventive or service-driven, to help

address the gaps we know exist - and for more research."

"In addition to research on Alzheimer's risk factors and biology, the Alzheimer's Association is particularly interested in increasing understanding of stigma and concern related to Alzheimer's and other dementias in diverse communities," Carrillo said.

Racial disparities in dementia continue into the oldest-old

In younger elderly (65 and older), there are marked differences in rates of dementia by racial/ethnic groups, showing increased rates for African Americans and decreased rates for Asian Americans. The Alzheimer's Association 2017 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures reported that, for all adults 65

Continued from Page 20

and older, African-Americans are about twice as likely to have Alzheimer's or other dementias as older Whites and Hispanics are about one and one-half times as likely to have Alzheimer's or other dementias as older Whites. However, it is not known if these discrepancies apply to the oldest-old (90 and older).

Rachel Whitmer, PhD, from Kaiser Permanente of Northern California (KPNC), and Maria M. Corrada, Sc.M., Sc.D., of the University of California, Irvine, and colleagues focused on 2,351 members of the KPNC health plan who, in 2010, were older than age 90 (avg. 93.1) with no diagnoses of dementia. Most of the study participants were women; the cohort was 72% White, 16% African American, 4% Latino, and 7% Asian American. The study looked at dementia diagnoses in the group made between 2010 and 2015, abstracted from electronic medical records.

The researchers found oldest-old Asian Americans have the lowest cumulative incidence (21%), followed by Whites (31%), Latinos (35%) and African Americans (39%) - matching the overall patterns of racial/ethnic disparities in dementia seen in younger elderly. In models adjusted for age as the time scale, education, sex, mid-life and late-life vascular comorbidities, oldest-old African Americans had a 28 percent higher risk than oldest-old Whites. Compared to Asian Americans, African Americans had a 30% increased risk of dementia.

"Our results show that racial inequities in rates of dementia at younger ages continue after age 90," said Whitmer, Senior Scientist at Kaiser Permanente Division of Research and senior author on the scientific abstract. "These are the first estimates of dementia incidence in a diverse cohort of individuals age 90 and older. Given the increasing ethnic diversity in the coming decades, it is imperative to identify what factors contribute to the differences in rates,

whether genetic, social, or lifestyle, as some of these factors may be modifiable." Lifetime stressful experiences worsen memory and thinking - more strongly in African Americans.

Prevalence of Alzheimer's disease and cognitive impairment is rising, and the greatest burden seems to be falling disproportionately on historically disadvantaged communities. Despite substantial evidence for racial disparities in later life cognitive health, specific causes remain unclear and the cognitive impact of lifelong adversity is underexplored.

Megan Zuelsdorff, Ph.D., at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, and colleagues examined the impact of lifetime stressful experiences on cognition as part of the Wisconsin Registry for Alzheimer's Prevention (WRAP) Study. The study population included a total of 1,320 adults - African American (n=82) and non-Hispanic white (n=1,232); the goal was to understand how stressful experiences - such as being fired from a job, the death of a child, growing up with a parent who abused alcohol or drugs, or experiencing combat - impacted cognition differently in these two groups.

Average age, years of education, and APOEε4 status did not differ by race. Stressful experiences included educational difficulties, interpersonal conflicts, financial insecurity, legal/justice system issues, serious health events and psychosocial/physical trauma. Participants answered a questionnaire about stressful experiences and completed cognitive tests that measured memory and problem-solving abilities.

Researchers stratified the sample by race and looked at stress-cognition relationships within African American and white subgroups.

A greater number of stressful events was associated with poorer late-life cognitive function for all study participants.

Even within a relatively small, highly educated sample, African Americans experienced over 60 percent more stressful events than non-Hispanic Whites during their lifetimes, and these experiences were linked to poorer memory and thinking skills in older age. The researchers determined that, in African Americans, each stressful experience was equivalent to approximately four years of cognitive aging.

"Among African Americans in our study, adverse events across the lifespan predict cognitive function more strongly than established risk factors including age, education, and the APOE-e4 Alzheimer's risk gene," Zuelsdorff said. "Adversity is a clear contributor to racial disparities in cognitive aging, and further study is imperative." Early life conditions - such as high infant mortality rates - may contribute to dementia risk in late life.

High infant mortality rates are a marker of adverse social and physical conditions, and birth in areas with high infant mortality rates are associated with a variety of poor health outcomes. Yet, is unknown if birth in states with high infant mortality impacts dementia risk.

Paola Gilsanz, ScD, of the University of California, San Francisco, and Kaiser Permanente Division of Research, and colleagues looked at race specific infant mortality rates in 1928 of the birth states of more than 6,200 members of the Kaiser Permanente Northern California health system. Members born in the 10 states with highest rates of infant mortality for their race were categorized as being born in high infant mortality states. They linked this information with medical records to see if people born in high infant mortality states were at greater risk of dementia.

They found that: 1928 rates of infant mortality were much higher among African Americans (up to 277 deaths/1,000 live births) compared to Whites (up to 129 deaths/1,000 live births).

African Americans born in a state with a high infant mortality rate had a 40% higher risk than African Americans born in states without high infant mortality rates, even after taking into account education, high blood pressure in midlife, body mass index, stroke, and diabetes.

African Americans born in high infant mortality states had almost 80% greater risk of dementia even after accounting for education and health risk factors, compared to Whites born outside high infant mortality states.

Being born in a high infant mortality state was not associated with dementia risk among Whites.

"This is the first study of place of birth and long-term dementia risk," Gilsanz said. "African Americans born around 1928 were likely exposed to harsher early life conditions that may have increased their risk of dementia later in life. Our findings suggest that differences in early life conditions may contribute to racial inequalities in dementia rate, and they point to growing evidence that early life conditions contribute to dementia risk in late life."

Living in a Disadvantaged Neighborhood may increase Alzheimer's disease risk

Disadvantaged neighborhoods often pose barriers for accessing healthy foods, safe exercise options, toxin-free environments, and other factors that impact health. It is known that living in a disadvantaged neighborhood increases risk of diabetes, cancer, and early death, and that moving to less disadvantaged settings improves health.

Amy Kind, MD, PhD, of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and colleagues used

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STARS to Announce New “STARS Express” 24/7 Dial-A-Ride Service



Stars announced a new 24/7 Dial-A-Ride Service during a July 2017 press conference.

The new service, “STARS Express” began on Sunday, July 23 and allows riders be able to schedule trips in advance by calling (989) 907-4040. The fare for the service is \$5.25 for

all riders and STARS asks that riders schedule rides one business day ahead.

“STARS Express is the next logical step in providing complete transportation coverage to Saginaw residents,” said Glenn Steffens, STARS Executive Director. “You can schedule rides around the clock. This new service is in response to public demand and aimed at employment, shopping, church services, and medical needs. In one word, STARS Express is about access.”

The STARS Express service is available to anyone within the current STARS Service Area, which covers the City of Saginaw and key parts of surrounding townships, including the Fashion Square Mall and Saginaw Valley State University. This service is

the result of various partnerships and community outreach efforts at STARS.

Kathy Conklin, Executive Director of the Saginaw County Business and Education Partnership, weighed in on the benefits of STARS Express and the upcoming new route system.

“STARS Express is having a huge impact on getting employees to work, especially those on second and third shifts. The curb-to-curb service and expanded routes gives workers options to help them be on time and retain their jobs. We are so excited and grateful that STARS is helping solve the transportation challenges that many employees in our community face,” said Conklin.

Sunday church services also will be more accessible to City residents,

since STARS hasn’t been running on Sundays.

“STARS Express is going to provide access outside of business hours for work, groceries, medical, recreation, and even church and bible studies – this is wonderful,” said Ms. Joyce Seals, Co-Pastor at the New Christ Community Church and former Mayor.

Flint’s Mass Transportation Authority (MTA) CEO Ed Benning noted the value of such a program in Saginaw and how similar services have benefitted the Flint area.

“Public transportation provides channels of opportunity for those who are unemployed or underemployed. These work-related services make life-changing results for many in our community today,” Benning said.

Salutations for The Michigan Banner



Dear Jerome Buckley and The Michigan Banner:

The Michigan Banner is celebrating 15 years of informative leadership, and I personally want to congratulate you on your sustained success.

In today’s world, 15 years is a long time for many reasons. For purposes of this missive, I will highlight the following three are at the top of my list.

First, in the past 15 years we have seen terrific changes in media. When did we first say, we were going to “google” something? Offer a tweet? Use something digital? You can bet it has been in recent years, all are relatively new terms. Through it all, The Michigan Banner has survived and thrived!

Second, The Michigan Banner has stayed positive. This

runs absolutely against the grain of current “name calling,” bashing, or outright rude behavior. The Banner remains calm and civil. Respectful. It is a voice of reason.

Finally, The Michigan Banner has remained nimble and responsive. It reflects the wishes of its readers by being available 24/7 on the web, accessible anytime from anywhere.

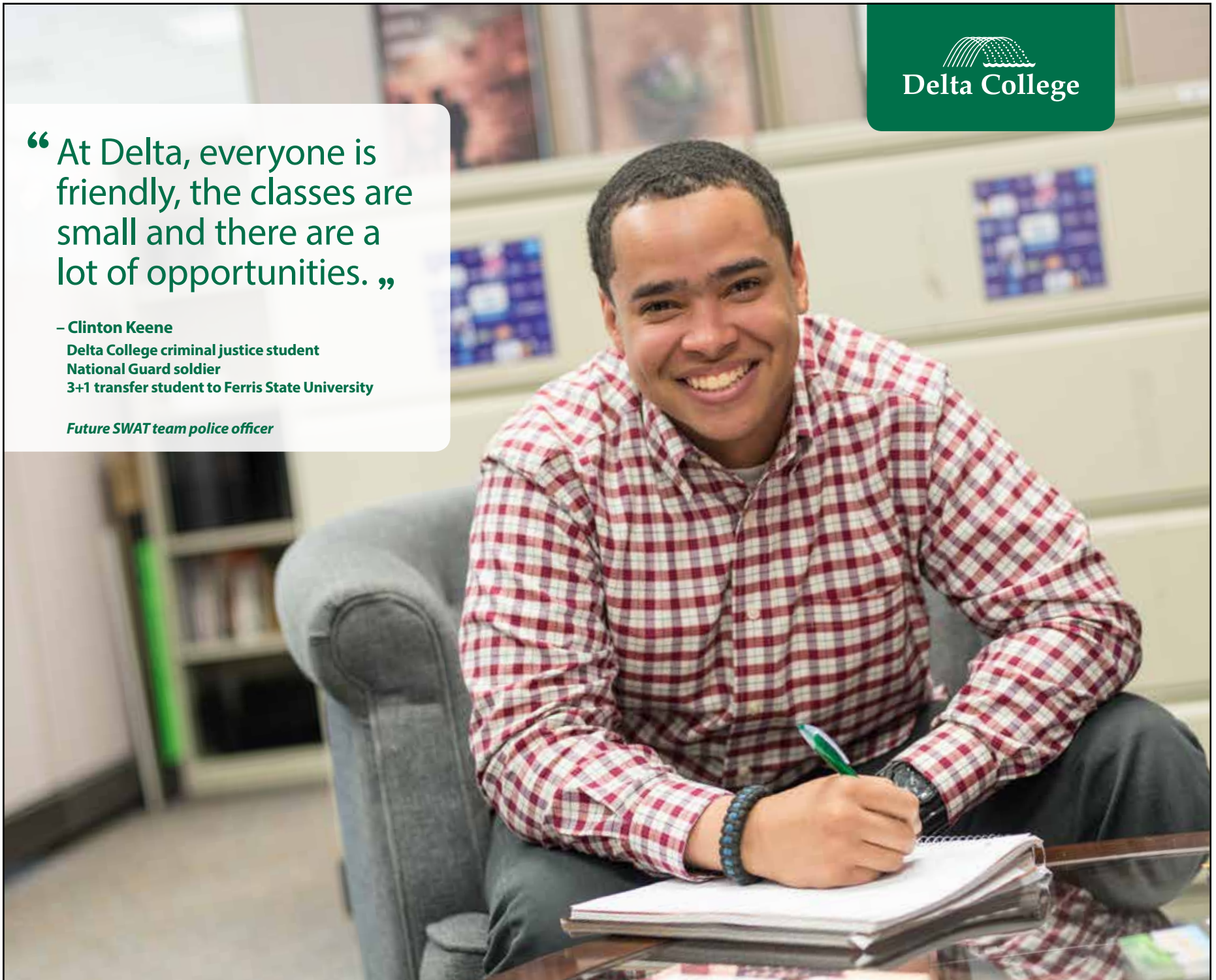
Will Rogers once said, “It’s great to be great, but it’s greater to be human.” On that note, thank you to Jerome Buckley and all who are associated with The Michigan Banner. It is great that you are human, and we appreciate it! Here’s to another 15 years, at least that many!!

Sincerely,
Craig Douglas, Dean
College of Education
Saginaw Valley State University



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- Clinton Keene
Delta College criminal justice student
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Clinton Keene, Delta College criminal justice student, Public Safety officer and soldier in the National Guard, is excited about his future in law enforcement.

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He’s got big dreams. And, he’s on his way to reaching them.

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House Action Creates Vital Job Attraction Tool for Large-Scale Projects in communities across the state

Helps grow good-paying jobs now; ensures Michigan isn't left on the sidelines



LANSGING, Mich. — The Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce, Saginaw Future Inc, and the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance were part of the Good Jobs for Michigan Coalition working to pass legislation critical for attracting new businesses or for existing companies with large-scale expansions and job creation in Michigan.

The bipartisan bills, called Good Jobs for Michigan legislative package

passed the Michigan House and now awaits a signature by Governor Rick Snyder, who supported this common sense, transparent bill package.

Bob VanDeventer, President and CEO of the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce expressed his thanks to the Michigan Legislature, especially several members of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Legislative Delegation which include Senators Jim Stamas, who was a bill sponsor and Senator

Ken Horn as well as Representatives Vanessa Guerra, Ben Frederick and Brian Elder, who were strong drivers of the bill package.

“The Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce was hard at work advocating for this bill package in order to put Michigan on a more even playing field with surrounding states in terms of business attraction. We have a competitive tax policy, fresh water and great work force. This legislation just

provides a stronger business case for choosing Michigan.”

JoAnn Crary, President and CEO of Saginaw Future Inc. issued the following statement:

“On behalf of the economic development leaders and the diverse 65+ local, regional and statewide community, business and labor organizations comprising the Good Jobs for Michigan Coalition, we thank the Michigan House of Representatives today for passing this crucial economic development tool to attract thousands of good-paying jobs to our regions and state,” Crary said.

Both Crary and VanDeventer also thanked the Senate for their leadership in sponsoring the package, Senate concurrence, and the Governor signing the bills into law and implementing this tool that ensures Michigan can compete and build a strong economy that works for current and future generations.

Matt Felan, President and CEO of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance added that “The Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance is committed to bringing jobs to our region. This legislation gives us a much needed tool to compete for and ultimately win projects for the Great Lakes Bay Region.”



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

About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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Early Head Start, launched in 1995, provides support to low-income infants, toddlers, pregnant women and their families.

EHS programs enhance children’s physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development; assist pregnant women to access comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care; support parents’ efforts to fulfill their parental roles; and help parents move toward self-sufficiency.

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org

“Head Start graduates are more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to need special education, repeat a grade, or commit crimes in adolescence.”
Joe Baca, former Dem. Calif. Congrsmn., Dist. 43.

“Our mission is to provide high quality services, developing school readiness and family empowerment for prenatal to age five children and families by working in partnership with parents and the community.”
-Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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EDUCATION

SVSU graduate secures future with The Dow Chemical Company



As a future accounting asset to The Dow Chemical Company, Kevin Finley crossed the graduation stage in May 2017 with excitement and a firm sense of purpose after five years at Saginaw Valley State University. The Flint native has replaced childhood scars with an ever-present smile, having learned many valuable lessons inside and outside the classroom.

“In leadership and in life, it's not just about the grades,” Finley said.

Finley has the grades – he made the Deans' list all 10 semesters, studying professional accountancy – but it was getting in touch with his values and those of his university, and putting those values

into action that taught him as much or more.

“SVSU has taught me that there's more to life than just being smart. Do you care about the community? Are you humble? Do you want to see others around you succeed with you? In life, you can't do anything by yourself and SVSU has that community focus that I really appreciate.”

With aspirations to start his own mentorship program one day, Finley started planning out his future while in high school at Flint Southwestern Academy where he took his first accounting class. There, he discovered not only his proficiency in

the field, but his love for it as well.

“It just made sense to me,” he said.

After discovering this passion, Finley took a tour of SVSU during his senior year of high school. Though he had been considering some other universities at the time, the welcoming campus of SVSU and the friendly people who inhabited it convinced him to enroll.

“I felt like I could really make an impact at SVSU and it was big enough to meet a lot of people but it was small enough to still make an impact,” he said.

Finley certainly stood out. As a member of the Roberts Fellowship Program – a student

leadership development initiative at SVSU – he built upon his leadership and academic achievement through service projects and study. Finley and nine of his classmates traveled to Asia in May as the culmination of the program.

“One of the goals of the program is to become well-rounded in global citizenship while making us aware of different social issues in different areas of the world,” he said.

Recognized by his fellow students, Finley beamed with pride after being elected to Homecoming Court in the fall of 2015.

“It was just an honor to make court – just to have that experience was kind of cool,” he said. “I just think, ‘Wow. I affected people enough on this campus to even make court.’”

Students knew Finley because he signed up for nearly every high-profile position a student can have. He worked as a resident assistant, a campus tour guide, and an orientation leader, helping new students acclimate to SVSU.

Through his involvement with Delta Sigma Pi, a business fraternity, Finley built his résumé further. He worked his way up, eventually serving as the vice president of finance for a year and a half before serving as the fraternity's president for a year. Finley was awarded the Huron Regional Collegian of the Year in 2016 for Delta Sigma Pi; the award is presented to a member of the fraternity who represents the distinguished values and ideals of the organization

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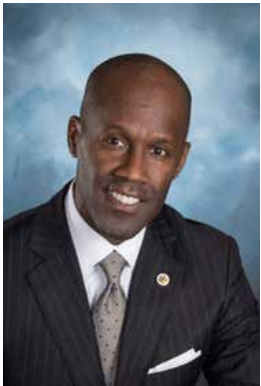
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Salutations for The Michigan Banner



Congratulations to The Michigan Banner on Fifteen years of providing newsworthy content to our local community, the Great Lakes Bay Region and across the state. As our world becomes smaller and more globally connected, The Michigan Banner becomes more vital in providing articles that inform, enlighten and inspire local readers.

I'm excited to see The Michigan Banner continue evolve and expands its reach, remaining relevant today and tomorrow. In the past fifteen years I've witnessed The Michigan Banner live up to its name. The word banner can be defined as exceptional; very good.

I applaud the vision and leadership of The Michigan Banner's publisher, Jerome Buckley and the diligent efforts of its staff and contributors. I'm honored to join the celebration of your longevity and contributions to better our community; wishing you many more years of growth and prosperity.

Sincerely,

Michael Webster
Saginaw County Board of Commissioners, District 11

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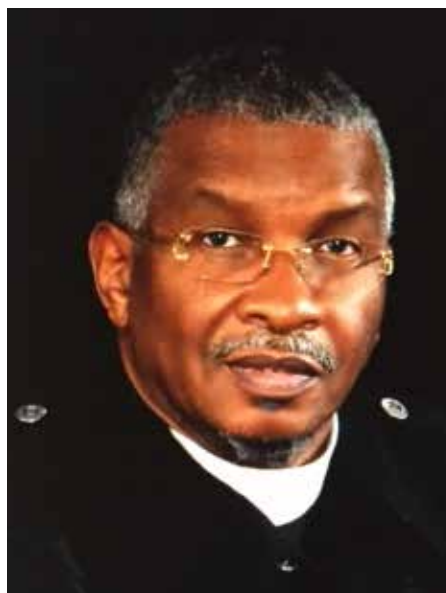
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Salutations for The Michigan Banner



To the Michigan Banner and Mr. Jerome Buckley, my salute to the greatest newspaper in the state of Michigan that is in touch with the heart beat of the Community. I have seen the Michigan Banner report on some very heart warming stories of the life of our youth as they make great successes in their walk of life. We the members of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church and Parishioners on Patrol thank the Michigan Banner for another Great Year and hope they have many more years.

— Bishop Larry D. Camel

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Salutations for The Michigan Banner



I take this opportunity to congratulate Jerome Buckley and the staff of the Michigan Banner for reaching the 15-year mark. It is commendable in today's political and economic environment that you have been able to sustain this important voice in the community. It is no small accomplishment, considering the constant challenges of operating a small business in an economy where a national

recession is a local depression.

It takes vision and fortitude to continue in this season. There are many relationships and interactions that create the power of institution. I am convinced that it will be the strength and integrity of institutions that will hold our communities together in this difficult and challenging time.

Again, my thoughts and prayers go out to you and all who work with you, who support you, who invest in you, and who depend upon you.

Congratulations again
Pastor Hurley J. Coleman, Jr.
World Outreach Campus Church



Congratulations to Jerome Buckley and his team for 15 years of service in providing a venue for us to read about the good things that are happening in our area. Topics covered help us better understand challenges that we face, and introduce us to people who are creating solutions and making a difference. The Michigan Banner's unique and valuable perspective consistently

shines a light on people, organizations, and businesses who are working hard to create and/or improve opportunities in our community so that more of us can be empowered to be our best.

It is exciting to see the growth at The Michigan Banner. Our community will benefit by the rebirth of the website, the expanded coverage and content of news, the updated digital format, and the new staff members. Best of wishes to each of you for many more years to come.

Thanks!
Kathy



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COMMUNITY

Hoffman will work her last day on December 31, 2017



SAGINAW, Mich. – After 23 years of leadership to Underground Railroad, Inc., President and CEO Valerie Hoffman has announced plans to retire at the end of the year.

Task Force, among many other accomplishments.”

Underground Railroad, Inc. was established in 1977, and is the only provider of emergency shelter and services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking in Saginaw County. The Underground Railroad Board of Directors, in contract with HR Collaborative, is conducting a search for Hoffman’s successor.

Individuals may apply for the position online at <http://ejob.bz/ATS/jb.do?reqGK=27035874&portalGK=8371&refresh=true>.

“We are losing a fantastic leader, and she’ll be greatly missed,” says Sulfridge. “We are excited for our next chapter as we continue the important work of assisting survivors of abuse and leading the community in ending violence against women.

“We cannot thank Valerie enough for the dedication, passion, enthusiasm and motivation she has given Underground Railroad Inc. over the past two decades,” says Sue Sulfridge, Board Chair. “In her time here she’s added vital services for survivors of abuse, increased agency revenue from \$300,000 to \$3 million, led two successful capital campaigns to help agency growth, and founded the Mid-Michigan Human Trafficking

Four studies highlight racial disparities in dementia risk and incidence

HEMLOCK, Mich. – As plans progress to build a new building for the Rauchholz Memorial Library, the Friends of the Rauchholz Memorial Library received a \$1,850 grant from the Nexteer Steering the Future Fund administered by the Saginaw Community Foundation.

“Every donation is a stepping stone on the path to success,” says Judith Zastrow, library board president. “We are excited to partner with Nexteer

Automotive on this project and look forward to their volunteers helping with the labor to set-up the children’s area.”

This project will allow the library to expand the children’s area with new shelving and height-appropriate furnishings geared for use by children. Having this area will make computers and books easily accessible by children visiting the library and encourage them to continue to use their library.

Stressful Life Experiences Age the Brain by Four Years, African Americans Most at Risk

Continued from Page 21

data from 1,479 people enrolled in WRAP. The scientists found the level of socioeconomic neighborhood disadvantage for each study participant using the Area Deprivation Index (ADI) score, which incorporates indicators of poverty, education, housing and employment.

The researchers examined whether patterns of cognitive function and protein biomarkers (n=153 with spinal fluid samples) of Alzheimer’s were found more often in certain neighborhoods than would be expected to occur by chance alone. They found that people in the most disadvantaged neighborhoods had markedly worse cognitive performance in all aspects measured (working memory, immediate memory, speed and flexibility of cognition, and verbal learning), even after adjusting for age and education. They also had disproportionately higher levels of one Alzheimer’s disease biomarker in their spinal fluid (phosphorylated tau).

“This study provides evidence to suggest that living in a

neighborhood challenged by poverty, low education, unemployment, and/or substandard housing may increase risk of Alzheimer’s disease, and may account for some of the observed differences in Alzheimer’s disease risk among people of different racial backgrounds and income levels,” said Kind.

Kind’s group has quantified ADI scores for more than 50 million neighborhoods across the United States and Puerto Rico; those results could be used to target dementia-focused intervention and research programs to areas of highest need.

While the U.S. Congress has recently provided additional funding for Alzheimer’s research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the commitment falls far short of the need. Congress must continue its commitment to the fight against Alzheimer’s and other dementias by increasing funding for Alzheimer’s research by at least an additional \$414 million in fiscal year 2018.

SOURCE: Alzheimer’s Association



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Continued from Page 28

SVSU graduate secures future with The Dow Chemical Company



Finley's drive and determination saw him serve as an accounting tutor in SVSU's tutoring center as well as a research assistant in the Office of Institutional Research.

He also worked as an intern with The Dow Chemical Company, where he made connections and secured a full-time job after graduation.

A first-generation college student, Finley remembers a time when the future didn't always look bright.

"Where I came from, no one really expected me to be a leader," he said. "No one expected me to make Homecoming Court. No one expected me to do all the stuff I'm doing. SVSU allows you to grow your confidence here."

Personal perseverance shaped Finley's confidence.

"I was beaten up really badly in high

school," he said. "I was really, really frustrated but then I realized, it's not about who does what to you. It's about your response. I can say, 'I don't want to see that happen to someone else so let me show people that there's more to life than negativity.' I don't want to let stuff like that hinder me. I just want to stay positive."

Finley spreads that positivity through his connections at SVSU, in the community and in his hometown.

"My ultimate goal is to become a CFO – a chief financial officer – of a company, and, although I have a passion for accounting, I also have a passion for mentorship," he said.

"Coming from Flint, Michigan, I've always told myself that I wanted to give back by starting a mentorship program or possibly doing a scholarship for people growing up in the Flint area."

Finley learned from multiple mentors

to him during his time at SVSU.

"I was really lucky to have great mentors in my life," he said. Among those mentors were Ian Philbrick, a former resident director with SVSU Residential Life.

"He taught me about leadership and he held me accountable. Stuff like that is intangible. You can't put a value on it," Finley said.

Another mentor was Nick Wagner, SVSU's director of institutional research. "He wants to see you succeed. He gives his all to the community and he would always make time for students," Finley said.

Wagner has worked closely with Finley over the course of his time at SVSU and spoke highly of him as both a student and a young professional.

"Kevin has been one of the most unique and profound students I have ever had the chance to interact with at SVSU," Wagner said. "He displays a

constant desire to learn and become better all while being selfless and humble. He is a student the university should be extremely proud of and has set the standard for what it means to be a student leader."

With his post-graduation plans locked down, Finley is excited to see where his future will lead.

Hard work and dedication certainly play a large role in Finley's story but he also finds motivation in an optimistic attitude and these words of wisdom:

"Be honest with who you are as a student leader," Finley said. "The biggest thing I could recommend to anyone would be to pursue your passion. Even if it takes a little longer, do what makes you happy."



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