

THE MICHIGAN BANNER

Celebrating 15 years of Positive News!



I-69 Thumb Region
2nd Annual Catapult Business Plan Competition

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Minority-Owned Employer Firms Increased in 2015

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All-SVSU study shows blight removal a factor in Saginaw's drop in crime

Education, Page 22

Leading in Diversity, Empowering Communities and Changing Lives

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Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Museum to host SVSU alum lecture on Theodore Roethke
Community, Page 39



Flint Non Profit Leader Becomes Youngest Board Chair of Statewide Organization
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From left to right - Marcus Beemon-Youth Coordinator Youth MOVE Saginaw, Lucy Powell-Project Manger TEGA, Twannie L Gray CEO-Solutions Behavioral Health, Laura Scanlon-Project Director TEGA, Willie Hillman-Youth MOVE Saginaw Director, Claire Tavernier-Chief Operations Officer Girl Effect

Youth M.O.V.E partners with Girl Effect to give Saginaw girls a voice

International not-for-profit Girl Effect is piloting a transformative new mobile-based research tool in Saginaw, Mich., and working with local organization Youth M.O.V.E to make it happen.

Over the next few months, Girl Effect and Youth M.O.V.E will be trialling TEGA - Technology Enabled Girl Ambassadors - for the very first time in the US, to uncover the reality of young girls in Saginaw.

TEGA is an award-winning revolutionary way of doing research, originally developed in Northern Nigeria. It's born out of the understanding that an adolescent girl is more likely to respond openly and honestly to a girl just like her - who understands her background and the culture in which she lives - as opposed to an adult researcher.

Girl Effect and Youth M.O.V.E have employed and trained a group of young women from Saginaw

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THE MICHIGAN BANNER/THE LATINO BANNER

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

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PUBLISHER

Jerome Buckley
publisher022@gmail.com

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Jiquanda Johnson

EDITOR EMERITUS

Rae Lynn Buckley

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.

DISCLAIMER

The Michigan Banner/The Latino Banner and its staff are not responsible and will not be held liable for any mistakes, error, misspellings and false advertisements in part or whole that may be placed within its publication. Articles, information or comments printed in the newspaper are not necessarily the views or beliefs of The Michigan Banner newspaper. The Michigan Banner reserves the right to edit, change, or delete any information, or refuse to print any information, article or advertisement which is believed to be inconsistent with or conflicts with the mission of the newspaper.

DEADLINE

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

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Mailed or e-mailed
Preferred formats:
Press releases and news articles should be sent as Microsoft Word documents.
Pictures, images and graphics should be sent in Jpeg or PDF formats

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JULY 14	Rockin' on the Riverfront FEATURING: CHASE ENGEL BAND, DA BLOOZE BROTHERS, A TRIBUTE TO JAKE & ELWOOD	SPONSORED BY: GARBER, WHEELER
JULY 21	Country FEATURING: TWEED AND DIXIE, SIMBA JORDAN BAND Sponsored by Veterans Night	SPONSORED BY: STATE BANK, Medical Center, Saginaw
JULY 28	Latin Fiesta FEATURING: DESASTRE, VILLEGAS BROTHERS, TEJANO SOUND BAND	SPONSORED BY: Delta College
AUG 04	Disco & More FEATURING: BOOGIE DYNAMITE, MICK FURLO BAND	SPONSORED BY: JOE FM, Ascension
AUG 11	Classic Rock FEATURING: RANDY BROCK, HIPAKRITZ	SPONSORED BY: SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY, WSOV
AUG 18	Motown FEATURING: PHASE 5, MONIQUE ELIA ROSE	SPONSORED BY: wildfire

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Fifteen Years Brings Change, Expansion for The Michigan Banner

The phrase ‘it takes a village’ may be cliché but it is true. It takes a village to building a community.

It takes a village to help that community continue the path of economic development and success, productivity and sustaining an overall healthy quality of life for those in that village.

With that being said, it takes a

village to create, develop and to push continued growth of a product that has given Michigan diverse, impactful, educational and inspirational news for 15 years.

As editor-in-chief of The Michigan Banner I am proud to be part of that village. It is a privilege to be able to contribute, help grow, expand and develop a product that has such strong ties throughout not just the Great Lakes Bay Region but throughout the Michigan community.

Myself, along with Jerome Buckley, publisher of The Michigan Banner, bring 31 years of combined industry experience.

As editor-in-chief, I will oversee the content and daily operations of both The Michigan Banner and TheMichiganBanner.com.

The Michigan Banner celebrated its 15-year anniversary on July 5, 2017. With the start of the 15th year, we rebirthed our website, added new members to the family including a

marketing and sales team and our editorial staff.

We are evolving as the news industry changes and with that we will give readers more by expanding our reach throughout the state of Michigan and providing more original content, looking at issues that impact people throughout

I am proud to be part of that village.

the state and occasionally touching on national and world issues as we continue to grow.

This year marks the beginning for new strides and accomplishments for The Michigan Banner.

I look forward to working with the Michigan community to continue bringing impactful, inspiring and empowering news as the team at The Michigan Banner embarks on a new journey.

Thank you for all of your support the last 15 years.

Yours truly,

Jiquanda Johnson
Editor-in-Chief



Our Sites:

26 Locations throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond including Mobile Medical and Dental Services.

- Arthur Hill
- Bayside
- Belding
- Bridgeport
- David R. Gamaz
- Health Home
- Inlay City
- Integrated Care - Saginaw
- Integrated Care - Shiawassee
- Integrated Care - Thumb Area
- James Street
- Mobile Dental 1, 2 & 3
- Mobile Medical
- Old Town
- Roosevelt S. Ruffin
- Saginaw High
- Shiawassee
- St. Vincent
- Thumb Area
- Wedsworth Dental Center
- Wolverine Saginaw
- Wolverine - Vassar
- Women's Care - Bay City
- Women's Care - West Branch

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THE LATINO BANNER

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

Vamos Adelante



Latino Conservation Week
Showcases Community's
Commitment to Protecting
Public Lands, Kicks Off This
Weekend

PAGE LB 6



Bayer Donates Medicine in Mexico

MEXICO CITY and SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — Direct Relief today announced it has established a conduit for pharmaceutical companies in Mexico to donate medicine within the country.

In the first major distribution through the pipeline, Direct Relief received 26.5 metric tons of medicine donated by Bayer de México S.A. de C.V. and has distributed it onward to a network of local healthcare providers.

Bayer's donation – a total of five truckloads of prescription and over-the-counter medication – was the first shipment received in secure warehouse space donated by Kuehne + Nagel International AG in Mexico City, which will serve as the central logistics hub for Direct Relief Mexico.

With support from companies such as FedEx, Baxter and AbbVie, Direct Relief Mexico was established in 2014. The next year, Direct Relief

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Latino Conservation Week Showcases Community's Commitment to Protecting Public Lands, Kicks Off This Weekend

Continued from LB 5

WASHINGTON, D.C. — This weekend, the fourth annual Latino Conservation Week (#LatinoConservationWeek, #LCW2017) kicks off, continues through July 23 and will be celebrated with more than 100 events nationwide. The week is an opportunity for Latinos to demonstrate their passion for enjoying and protecting public lands through various outings, volunteer cleanups, educational events, roundtable discussions, film screenings and numerous other community activities in more than 15 states stretching from Massachusetts to California.

"Latinos are passionate about enjoying the outdoors and hold a strong belief

that we have a moral obligation to protect it for future generations," said Maite Arce, president of Hispanic Access Foundation, which launched Latino Conservation Week in 2014 in its effort to showcase this community's commitment to the outdoors and provide opportunities for engagement. "The week's events introduce Latinos to new opportunities, new locations and new ways to translate their passion for the outdoors into making a difference for our nation's treasured natural resources."

Historically, Latinos have not been actively engaged to participate in our nation's public lands. Even with widely documented support, only eight percent of Latinos engaged in outdoor recreation in 2015, according to the Outdoor Foundation.

Latino Conservation Week helps to break down barriers to the Latino population's enjoyment of public lands, encourages new opportunities to experience these sites, creates a unique platform for groups to reach out to this community and inspires the next generation of environmental stewards. "As the largest minority group in America – one that is expected to grow to nearly one-third the population by 2050 – the Latino community's engagement is critical to ensuring the future success and preservation of our nation's public lands," said Arce. "We appreciate the vast number of event partners and sponsors who recognize the importance of encouraging more Latinos to go outdoors and experiencing all that our nation's public lands have to offer."

Nearly 80 parks, organizations and community groups have joined Latino Conservation Week as sponsors and event partners. These include National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, U.S. Forest Service, National Wildlife Refuge System, Save the Redwoods League, George H.W. Bush Vamos A Pescar™ Education Fund, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, Por la Creacion: Faith-based Alliance, Latino Outdoors, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club, Atlanta Audubon Society, Los Angeles Audubon Society, Conservation Lands

Foundation, Houston Zoo, REI and Whole Foods Market. A full list of participating groups is available here. "The growth in participation and interest of Latino Conservation Week has been tremendous. What started as 17 events in six states has grown – in just three years – to more than 100 events in as many as 15 states," said Arce. "This is a national collaborative effort with the potential to positively impact the Latino community and our nation's treasured spaces."

The full list of confirmed events is available at <http://bit.ly/2uSVhEV>. For media that would like to participate in any of these events, request interviews or need additional information, please contact Robert Fanger at Robert@hispanicaccess.org. About Hispanic Access Foundation
Hispanic Access Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that improves the lives of Hispanics in the United States and promotes civic engagement by educating, motivating and helping them access trustworthy support systems. Our vision is that all Hispanics throughout the U.S. enjoy good physical health, a healthy natural environment, a quality education, economic success and civic engagement in their communities with the sum improving the future of America. For more information visit www.hispanicaccess.org.

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers *Touching Lives Healing People Building Community Together*

<p>Tours at Bayside center, 3884 Monitor Road, Bay City Meet and Greet at 5:15 p.m. (Tour from 5:30-6:30 p.m.) Wednesdays July 19/ Aug. 16/ Sept. 20</p>	<p>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</p>
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*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

Bayer Donates Medicine in Mexico

Continued from LB 5

Mexico received Donataria Autorizada status from the Mexican government, allowing companies in Mexico to receive tax benefits for donations to the organization.

"In the traditional aid model, countries receive assistance from abroad," said Eduardo Mendoza, manager of Direct Relief México. "This approach leverages the extensive resources within Mexico and creates a mechanism to provide authentic, approved medications to Mexican low-income patients who have no other way to get the medicine they need."

While Direct Relief has provided more than \$35 million USD in donated medicine in Mexico since 2014, it previously was able to distribute only pharmaceuticals manufactured in the United States and delivered them through costly international direct shipments. Pharmaceuticals are manufactured in Mexico both by local and global pharma companies, but no mechanism existed until now to enable large-scale ongoing donations within the country.

"For Bayer, it is essential to work together with professional and well-recognized non-profit charitable organizations in its Corporate Societal Engagement. We are very happy to cooperate closely with Direct Relief in Mexico to bring urgently required medicines to Mexicans affected by poverty and emergencies, and by this, improve their health and lives," said Stephan Gerlich, Senior Bayer Representative for Mexico. Direct Relief conducts a similar program in the United States, where it is the

sole charitable organization licensed to distribute Rx medications in all 50 states. The nonprofit intends to replicate the domestically-sourced model in other countries with pharmaceutical manufacturing and large populations that lack access to medicine.

"Committed to adding value in supply chain and distribution processes, Kuehne + Nagel decided to join Direct Relief and Bayer by providing warehouse space for a unique humanitarian opportunity, donating medicine for low-income patients," said Rodrigo Ahedo, Operations Director Pharma Contract Logistics for Kuehne + Nagel. "This action certainly empowers our biggest driving force, delivering millions of stories around the globe through our business partner's goods distribution. We will be glad to keep joining efforts with organizations and companies with such great projects and amazing social responsibility; this was an incredible experience which we were fortunate to help."

Major recipients of this donation include Fundación IMSS A.C., Marie Stopes México A.C., and Mexfam, which together received 50,000 units of oral contraceptives and 23,000 units of Plan B emergency contraceptives. Each item was specifically requested by these organizations for patient care. About Direct Relief

Established in 1948 with a mission to improve the health and lives of people affected by poverty or emergencies, Direct Relief delivers lifesaving medical resources throughout the world – without regard to politics, religion, ethnic identities, or ability to pay. With operations spanning more than 70 countries and all 50 states in

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the U.S., Direct Relief is the only charitable nonprofit to obtain Verified Accredited Wholesale Distributor (VAWD) accreditation by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. Among other distinctions, Direct Relief earns a perfect score of 100 from independent evaluator Charity Navigator, was listed among the world's most innovative nonprofits by Fast Company, and has received the

CECP Directors' Award, the Drucker Prize for Nonprofit Innovation, and the President's Award from Esri for excellence in GIS mapping. For more information, please visit <https://www.DirectRelief.org>.

SOURCE: Direct Relief

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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Interim Leadership: Blessing or Curse?

One of the biggest changes within the life of a nonprofit is the change in leadership. In most cases this will be accompanied by a period of transition with an interim leader. The position is short-term and in most cases temporary. We have seen interims who serve as placeholders or caretakers. Others are innovators. Some are turn-around leaders. Others are brought in explicitly to “clean house.” The experience can be tumultuous, or a “breath of fresh air.” What actually happens within an organization during this time is highly contingent upon the actions of the board, the culture of the organization, and the person who serves as the interim leader. Finally, the terms under which the prior leader left will also impact how the organization transitions into the future. In all cases it will be a change.

Questions for board members.

What are you looking for the interim leader to accomplish? Will you ask her to retain talented employees and stop the trend of employee resignations that can accompany the departure of a president or CEO? Do you need her to reduce the number of employees or change the employee composition to better respond to market needs? Do you expect the interim to sustain the current level of fundraising? Increase fundraising? Do you need to decrease costs; increase services; implement new technology; sustain current operations; build new partnerships? The expectations need to be clearly established and communicated.

As a board you may need to be more actively involved in matters related to strategic directions, fundraising, policy and finances. Here is the question: are you prepared – individually and collectively – to support the interim leader you hire?

Questions for interim leaders.

If you are asked to serve as an interim you may

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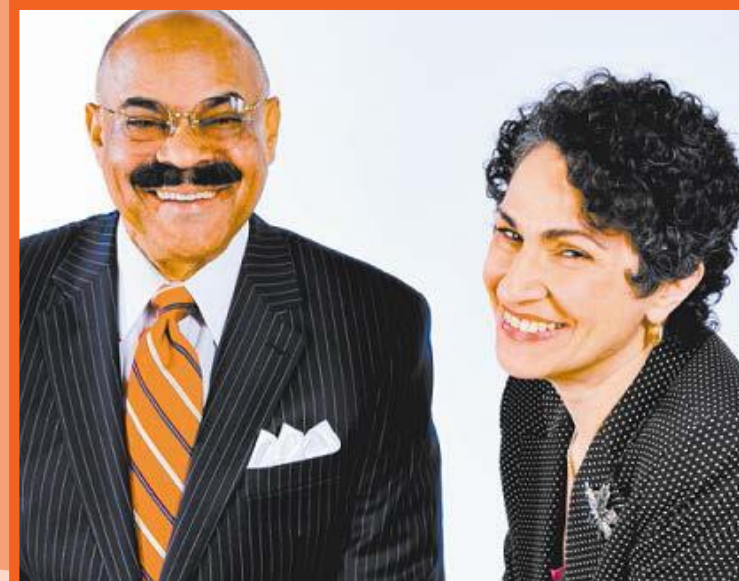
Mel and Pearl Shaw are authors of four books on fundraising available on Amazon.com. For help growing your fundraising visit www.saadandshaw.com or call (901) 522-8727.

already be affiliated with the organization or institution as a board member or employee. You may have prior experience as an executive, or you may possess a specific skill set that the nonprofit needs at this point in time. It’s also possible that you are an experienced interim leader. In all cases you need to ask questions and gather information before you accept or decline. You will want to learn the challenges facing the organization, its history and vision for the future. Key things to ask about are the strategic plan and the extent to which it is being implementing; what is the community’s perception of and relationship to the organization; is the nonprofit looking to grow, consolidate, transform or innovate; and what is the projected duration of the position? You’ll need to ask about the organization’s current and projected finances and who will lead fundraising; you’ll want to know who you can depend upon to introduce you throughout the community; and you need to know who will be your friends and advocates and who may be working against you.

Whether you are hiring an interim leader or serving as one, having clear expectations can help reduce the stress that accompanies change. Keep the lines of communication open and know that this is a transition, not necessarily a new normal.

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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.



Mel and Pearl Shaw | Courtesy Photo

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HEALTH

Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority to Host Foster Parenting & Zoo Event

Raise Hope & Foster Dreams Event

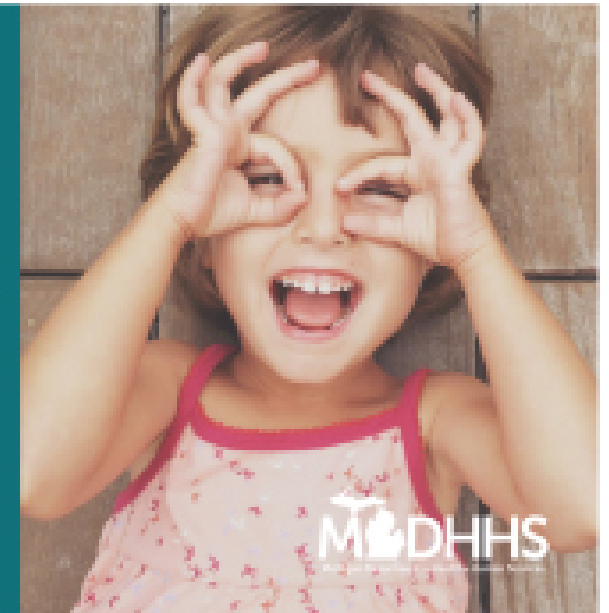
Join SCCMHA for the free RAISE HOPE EVENT to learn more about foster parenting and how you can help kids of all ages in Saginaw County. The event takes place on Tuesday, June 27 from 9:30 am – 3:00 pm, at Life Church Michigan located at 5200 Tittabawassee Road, Saginaw, MI. Dr. Thomas Haller, WNEM TV-5 Parenting Expert will present on The 6 Best Parenting Strategies. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Amanda Morn, MDHHS Licensing Worker, at 989-293-6561 by June 20.

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Zippity Zoo Da Day

SCCMHA is excited to announce the date of the fifth annual Zippity Zoo Da Day event is Thursday, July 27th from 10-4pm at the Saginaw Children's Zoo. Come join us for a free fun and food!

Some of the highlights of the day are magicians, jugglers, musical performances, puppet shows, caricature artists and Paleo Joe! We will have tents for crafts and face painting, even perhaps a few surprises! Free treats include hot dogs, hamburgers, pulled pork, popcorn, snow cones, cotton candy, and ice cream.

Last year we had over 3000 visitors from all over the state. Consumers and their families look forward to and plan for Zippity Zoo Da Day all year long and so do we! We appreciate your support in spreading the word, so even more consumers can take advantage of a free day of entertainment.

For more information on these upcoming events visit
www.sccmha.org



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INTERSECTION OF BUSINESS & WEALTH

Events DC Discontinues Annual Nation's Football Classic® Game at RFK Stadium



WASHINGTON, DC – Events DC, the official convention and sports authority for the District of Columbia, announced today the discontinuation of its annual Nation's Football Classic® at the historic RFK Memorial Stadium due to a shift in corporate priorities. Ancillary events for the Nation's Football Classic® such as Technoir's Innovators Classic (a live pitch competition of minority-owned startups) and the Diversity in Sports forum (a panel discussion and career-fair to provide insights for the next generation of sports industry leaders) will continue in Fall 2017.

"Events DC enjoyed the exciting matchups and great relationships with our local partner, Howard University, and visiting schools Hampton University and Morehouse College for the Nation's Football Classic over the past six years," said Gregory A. O'Dell, Events DC president and CEO. "The annual Classic in Washington, DC was more than just a game – with ancillary

activities celebrating the passion and tradition of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. As our organization continues to evolve, we feel it is the right time to shift our efforts onto other exciting programming as well as the implementation of our short-term redevelopment project for the historic RFK Stadium-Armory Campus."

Initiated in 2011 in partnership with AT&T, the game's title sponsor, and Pepsi, the game's official beverage partner, the Nation's Football Classic specifically featured teams of historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to celebrate the passion and tradition of HBCUs, recognize the history of service to others by their students, faculty, and alumni, highlight the unity of African-American culture, and honor the heritage of its participating institutions.

"Though we are sad to discontinue one of our primary produced events, we are now able to pivot our investments from one larger event to several smaller

ones as we continue to activate the RFK Stadium-Armory campus and beyond," said Erik A. Moses, Events DC senior vice president and managing director of sports, entertainment, and special events. "We would like to thank all the students, alumni, faculty and sponsors whose tremendous support since the Classic's unveiling made this event a staple for the regional HBCU community over the past six years—especially Howard University, a true partner each year since the Classic's unveiling."

About Events DC
Events DC, the official convention and sports authority for the District of Columbia, delivers premier event services and flexible venues across the nation's capital. Leveraging the power of a world-class destination and creating amazing attendee experiences, Events DC generates economic and community benefits through the attraction and promotion of business, athletic, entertainment and cultural activities. Events DC oversees the Walter E. Washington Convention

Center, an anchor of the District's hospitality and tourism economy that generates over \$400 million annually in total economic impact, and the historic Carnegie Library at Mt. Vernon Square. Events DC manages the Stadium-Armory campus, which includes Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium and surrounding Festival Grounds, the non-military functions of the DC Armory and Maloof Skate Park at RFK Stadium. Events DC also built and now serves as landlord for Nationals Park, the first LEED-certified major professional sports stadium in the United States. The most recent addition is Gateway DC, an innovative and versatile space featuring a covered and open-air pavilion in the center of a 1-acre park, conveniently located in the Congress Heights neighborhood of Washington, DC. For more information, please visit www.eventsdc.com or find us on social media – Facebook (Events DC), Twitter (@TheEventsDC or @TheEventsDC_SED for sports and entertainment) and Instagram (@EventsDC).

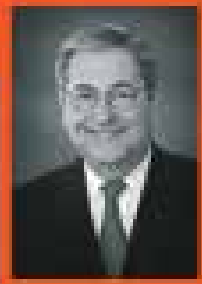
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INTERSECTION OF BUSINESS & WEALTH



2nd Annual Catapult Business Plan Competition

Entries are being accepted for the second-annual Catapult Business Plan Competition, with cash prizes for local and regional winners totaling \$30,000. Sponsored by the I-69 Thumb Region, a seven-county economic development partnership, the competition was created last year to “catapult” entrepreneurs and small-business owners to the next stage in growing their businesses.

The prize money is designed to help winning contestants retain and grow Michigan businesses by providing capital to launch, expand production or hire staff.

The competition targets existing small businesses or startup businesses in Advanced manufacturing, Craft agriculture and beverage, Logistics, Professional services and Technology. The I-69 Thumb Region includes Genesee, Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, Shiawassee, St. Clair and Tuscola counties. Each of the seven participating economic development organizations will hold a county-level competition, with a \$2,000 prize for first place and \$1,000 for second place.

The first-place winners for each county will move on to a regional contest of September 21, with a chance to win the top prize of \$5,000. Cash prizes of \$3,000 and \$1,000, respectively, will be awarded for second and third place in the regional finals.

The competition uses an online

process for applications and submittal of company information. Interested companies or individuals are required to create a profile and answer a few questions about their business or business idea on the Startup Compete website using the following link: <https://i69catapultbusinesscomp2017.startupcompete.co>.

Once this process is completed, competitors have until July 20 to upload their maximum three-page executive summary and upload pitch presentations of not more than 10 slides. Competition judges will be using Startup Compete to review submissions and narrow the submissions down to no more than eight for the pitch event(s) to be held in August and September.

In Genesee County, the Small Business Development Center and Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce will be providing support to applicants that need technical assistance with registration, help writing the required executive summary or presentation coaching.

For more information about how to apply, please visit: <http://i-69thumbregion.org/>. You may also contact Tracy Joseph at the Flint & Genesee Chamber at (810) 600-1406 or tjoseph@flintandgenesee.org.

Youth M.O.V.E partners with Girl Effect to give Saginaw girls a voice

Continued from Page 1

as Technology Enabled Girl Ambassadors to conduct research through bespoke mobile phones.

This technology allows young women in harder-to-reach communities to conduct, store and share insights about their lives in a way that is safer, faster and more authentic than ever before.

The aim is for this research to inform and influence programmes in the Saginaw to be as effective as possible and ensure girls’ challenges are properly addressed.

Willie Hillman MS, Director of Youth M.O.V.E. in Saginaw, has been running the training of all the girl researchers.

“A lot of inspirational work is being done to support adolescents growing up in Saginaw, to help them navigate growing up in our city,” Hillman said. “But all too often, not enough time is spent actually listening to young people, how they feel about their community, and what they think needs to change – that’s particularly true of young women and girls.

This research has the potential to give young women in Saginaw a platform to make their voices heard, and we hope it will be embraced by those who have the power to make change happen.”

The project is already gathering local momentum.

“This is a genuinely unique program” said Twannie Gray MSW, CEO from Solutions Behavioral Health in Saginaw. “Instead of seeing young people as part of the problem, TEGA puts them at the heart of the work and makes them part of the solution.

The girls conducting this research are providing invaluable insights into life in Saginaw, but also developing invaluable skills, confidence, and values that will help their own futures too.”

Laura Scanlon is the Director of TEGA at Girl Effect. Her team has already helped thousands of girls’ voices be heard in some of the world’s hardest to reach communities in the developing world – from conflict zones in north east Nigeria to rural communities of Rwanda and Malawi.

The data collected has informed programmes run by organizations such as Oxfam and Mercy Corps, but this will be the first time TEGA is being used to carry out research in a developed nation.

“At Girl Effect, we know that when it comes to understanding girls in hard-to-reach communities, conventional research methods have serious limitations,” said Scanlon. “To unleash change, there needs to be a much better understanding of girls’ realities.

Our hope is that TEGA’s success in Saginaw will not only help pave the way for changing the situation for girls living there, but will pioneer a new wave of mobile innovation in the development sector, shifting from treating the symptoms of poverty to addressing its root causes.”

The research findings by the TEGAs will be presented before the end of the year, to local organizations working in health, education and the community, to help paint a picture of what life is really like to be a girl growing up in Saginaw.

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New law targets penalties for female genital mutilation

LANSING, Mich. — Individuals convicted of performing female genital mutilation now face stronger criminal penalties under legislation signed today by Gov. Rick Snyder. “Those who commit these horrendous crimes should be held accountable for their actions, and these bills stiffen the penalties for offenders while providing additional support to victims,” Snyder said. “This legislation is an important step toward eliminating this despicable practice in Michigan while empowering victims to find healing and justice.”

The bill package amends various public acts to prohibit and prosecute those who perform female genital mutilation. Specifically, the bills prohibit performing genital mutilation, create criminal penalties for offenders, provide sanctions against healthcare licensees, require increased public education surrounding the topic and extend criminal and civil statutes of limitations.

House Bills 4636-4637, sponsored by state Reps. Michele Hoitenga and Diana Farrington, respectively, Senate Bill 337, sponsored by state Sen. Margaret O’Brien, SB 368, sponsored by state Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, SB 338, sponsored

by state Sen. Rick Jones, SB 369, sponsored by state Sen. Judy Emmons, HB 4638, sponsored by state Rep. Daire Rendon, HB 4639, sponsored by state Rep. Klint Kesto, HBs 4641-4642, sponsored by state Reps. Stephanie Chang and Pam Faris, respectively, HB 4661, sponsored by state Rep. Beth Griffin, and HB 4690, sponsored by state Rep. Bronna Kahle are now Public Acts 68-79 of 2017.

Snyder also signed two additional bills:

Senate Bill 159, sponsored by state Sen. Tom Casperson, allows a weight exemption of up to 2,000 pounds to be made for vehicles that are powered by compressed natural gas. This allows a vehicle powered by compressed natural gas to carry the same load as a traditional fuel vehicle. It is now Public Act 80 of 2017.

Senate Bill 410, sponsored by state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, allows for a health professional’s license or registration to be permanently revoked if the individual is convicted of female genital mutilation. It is now Public Act 81 of 2017.

For more information on this and other legislation, visit www.legislature.mi.gov.

Why it pays to keep a careful eye on your earnings record



By Vonda VanTil, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Whether you’re ready to retire, just joining the workforce, or somewhere in between, regularly reviewing your Social Security earnings record could make a big difference when it’s time to collect your retirement benefits.

Just think, in some situations, if an employer did not properly report just one year of your work earnings to us, your future benefit payments from Social Security could be close to \$100 per month less than they should be. Over the course of a lifetime, that could cost you tens of thousands of dollars in retirement or other benefits to which you are entitled.

Social Security prevents many mistakes from ever appearing on your earnings record. On average, we process about 236 million W-2 wage reports from employers, representing more than \$5 trillion in earnings. More than 98 percent of these wages are successfully posted with little problem.

But it’s ultimately the responsibility of your employers — past and present — to provide accurate earnings information to Social Security so you get credit for the contributions you’ve made through payroll taxes. We rely on you to inform us of any errors or omissions. You’re the only person who can look at your lifetime earnings record and verify that it’s complete and correct.

So, what’s the easiest and most efficient way to validate your earnings record?

- Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount to set up or sign in to your own my Social Security account;
- Under the “My Home” tab, click on “Earnings Record” to view your online Social Security Statement and taxed Social Security earnings;
- Carefully review each year of listed earnings and use your own records, such as W-2s and tax returns, to confirm them; and
- Keep in mind that earnings from this year and last year may not be listed yet.

If you notice that you need to correct your earnings record, check out our one-page fact sheet at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf.

Sooner is definitely better when it comes to identifying and reporting problems with your earnings record. As time passes, you may no longer have past tax documents and some employers may no longer be in business or able to provide past payroll information.

Vonda VanTil is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at vondavantil@ssa.gov

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PHOTOGRAPHY**E. B. Studio**

212 Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-397-4144

PUBLICATIONS**David Hall**

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POB 20061
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RESTAURANTS**Rite Spot**

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Minority-Owned Employer Firms Increased in 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Minority-owned employer firms in the United States increased by approximately 4.9 percent in 2015 to 996,248 from 949,318 in 2014, according to findings from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs.

Payroll and employment for minority-owned employer firms in the nation also increased from 2014 to 2015 by approximately 7.0 percent (\$237.5 billion to \$254.0 billion) and 6.2 percent (7.6 million to 8.0 million people employed), respectively. Receipts for minority-owned firms in 2015 were estimated at \$1,168.5 billion — not statistically different from the 2014 total of \$1,089.7 billion.

"California led all states in the number of minority-owned firms with approximately 228,148 (22.9 percent of the U.S. total of minority-owned firms) and the New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA metropolitan area led the 50 most populous metropolitan statistical areas in the number of minority-owned

firms (approximately 127,736 or 12.8 percent)", said Kimberly Moore, chief of the Economy-Wide Statistics Division. More than one-quarter (14) of the 50 most populous metropolitan statistical areas had approximately 15,000 or more minority-owned employer businesses. About one-third of employer firms (34.6 percent) in the accommodation and food services sector were minority-owned. The Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs provides a timely, demographic portrait of the nation's employer businesses by gender, ethnicity, race and veteran status. The survey represents a public-private partnership between the Census Bureau, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and the Minority Business Development Agency.

Tables released today provide estimates on the number of firms, receipts, payroll and employment for the nation, states and the District of Columbia, and the 50 most populous metropolitan statistical areas. Firm size data are available by sales (e.g., the number of firms with sales/receipts of \$1.0 million or more)

and employment (e.g., the number of firms with 500 employees or more). Ownership of firms by women increased by 3.0 percent from 2014 (to approximately 1.1 million in 2015). Payroll for women-owned firms also increased from \$277.9 billion in 2014 to \$293.1 billion in 2015 — a change of 5.5 percent. California led all states in the number of women-owned firms with approximately 140,817 (12.9 percent of all women-owned firms in the United States) and the New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA metropolitan area led the 50 most populous metropolitan statistical areas in the number of women-owned firms (approximately 94,577, or 8.7 percent of all women-owned firms in the United States).

Additionally, about one-quarter (268,629, or 24.7 percent) of all women-owned employer firms were minority-owned. More than half (approximately 146,101 or 54.4 percent) of these minority women-owned firms were Asian-owned. Among all employer

firms in the educational services, health care and social assistance, and other services sectors, women-owned firms represented a proportion of approximately 25.0 percent or more. Women-owned firms also accounted for receipts totaling \$1,353.3 billion in 2015 — not statistically different from the 2014 receipts (\$1,321.2 billion) for women-owned firms.

Meanwhile, veteran-owned employer firms decreased by 1.7 percent in 2015 (398,453) down from 405,235 in 2014. The New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA metropolitan area led the 50 most populous metropolitan statistical areas in the number of veteran-owned firms (approximately 20,199 or 5.1 percent of all veteran-owned firms in the United States) — not statistically different than 2014.

Other highlights include: Hawaii and California led all states in the percentage of all employer businesses that were minority-owned, at 55.9 percent and 32.6 percent,

Continued from Page 20

respectively. The remaining states (or equivalents) in which approximately 20.0 percent or more of employer businesses were minority-owned were Texas (27.0 percent), the District of Columbia (26.3 percent), Florida (24.3 percent), New Mexico (23.4 percent), New Jersey (23.1 percent), Maryland (22.8 percent), New York (22.5 percent), Virginia (21.4 percent), Georgia (20.4 percent) and Nevada (18.7 percent). Of the 996,248 minority-owned firms with paid employees, more than half (530,406, or 53.2 percent) were Asian-owned.

About 14.3 percent of black- or African-American-owned employer businesses had been in business for less than two years, compared with 8.9 percent of all employer firms.

The nation's firms employed an estimated 118.4 million people and generated \$33.6 trillion in receipts. Annual payroll totaled \$5.9 trillion. Among all employer firms, approximately 33.0 percent (1,824,735) were in business 16 or more years with approximately 8.9 percent (492,912) in business less than two years. About 1.5 million employer firms, or 26.5 percent, had receipts of \$1.0 million or more. In contrast, 98,484 or 1.8 percent, had receipts of less than \$10,000.

Sectors with the highest number of employer firms were professional, scientific and technical services (787,376); construction (652,561); retail trade (649,870); and health care and social assistance (640,655).

Among all minority-owned employer firms, the accommodation and food services sector was the largest at 175,682 (17.6 percent) firms.

Most firms had fewer than 10 employees (4.3 million, or 78.2 percent).

Each year's release of the Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs contain a module focusing on a different topic. This year's

survey highlights management practices. Respondents were asked a series of questions about worker types and types of tasks performed by each worker type included in the 2015 Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs' worksheet.

Module data also provide estimates on the following tasks by type of worker: Procurement, logistics, and distribution. Operations.

Marketing, sales and customer accounts. Customer and after sales service. Product or service development. Technology and process development. General management and firm infrastructure.

Human resources management.

Strategic management.

The statistics released through the Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs are not directly comparable to the Survey of Business Owners, which collects more detailed data on business characteristics and has significant differences in methodologies.

Note: Firms in this news release refer only to employer firms. The Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs does not distinguish between U.S. residents and nonresidents. Companies owned by other companies, foreign or domestic that have U.S. operations, are included in the category "Publicly held and other firms not classifiable by gender, ethnicity, race and veteran status."

The Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs collected data from a sample of approximately 290,000 employer businesses that were in operation anytime during the survey year. The collected data in a sample survey are subject to sampling variability, as well as nonsampling errors. Sources of nonsampling errors include errors in response, nonreporting and coverage. For more information about the survey, including survey design, methodology and data limitations, visit www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ase.html.

SOURCE U.S.: Census Bureau



Free Summer-long movie event comes to Saginaw

SAGINAW, Mich. — Flint based non-profit, Communities First, Inc. is bringing the popular Movies Under the Stars summer film series to Saginaw!!!

The kickoff is scheduled for Friday, July 21, 2017 and the film is Finding Dory. All films will be screened at Huntington Event Park located at 300 Johnson Street across from the Dow Event Center.

The free, family events begin at 7:30pm with pre-party activities and the movies start at dusk. Pre-party themes vary, however guests can look forward to costume contests, petting zoo, karaoke contest, lawn games, giant inflatables and lawn

games. Movie snacks such as popcorn, candy and water will be provided.

There will also be drawings for T-Shirts, gift cards and movie themed prizes.

The full movie lineup for the 2017 Movies Under the Stars season is: July 21, Finding Dory; August 4, The Lego Batman Movie; August 18, Sing.

Please check the Communities First, Inc. website at www.communitiesfirstinc.org or their Facebook page for details about weather related cancellations and for the complete movie lineup.

EDUCATION

All-SVSU study shows blight removal a factor in Saginaw's drop in crime



Andrew Miller, SVSU associate professor of geography, presents research showing blight removal in Saginaw has contributed to crime reduction in the city.

Armed with federal funds, crews demolished 884 vacant homes in the city of Saginaw from 2013 to 2015.

Two Saginaw Valley State University professors say those demolitions are directly linked to a significant reduction of serious crime in the city.

Andrew Miller, associate professor of geography at SVSU, Evelyn Ravuri, professor of geography, and multiple SVSU students studied the factors involved in the dramatic drop in crime in the Saginaw area. From 2010 to 2015, major crimes in the City of Saginaw dropped by 80 percent, and neighboring communities also saw crime go down. (See: SVSU analysis shows Saginaw has seen major gains in safety.)

The demolitions were among the variables that had a “massive” effect, Miller said. “Our research shows that the demolitions are responsible for 20 percent of the decrease in crime,” he said. “That’s a highly significant finding.”

While Miller’s previous work had shown a correlation

between blight removal and crime reduction in Saginaw, quantifying how much of the reduction can be explained by the blight removal is a new finding. Crime rates dropped in the city, and in neighboring Bridgeport, Buena Vista, and Saginaw townships.

“I was not expecting the demolitions to have such a significant impact on crime rates,” Ravuri said.

Miller and Ravuri worked with the City of Saginaw, the Saginaw County Crime Prevention Initiative and other partners to collect data and conduct the research.

Tim Morales, Saginaw city manager, is grateful to have evidence that the demolitions were effective.

“Through our work with SVSU, the City has statistical evidence of the impact of blight removal and proactive policing in Saginaw,” he said. “Blight removal has improved our neighborhoods through reduction of abandoned and decaying structures, which has also produced a safer city. Without the reduction of the blighted and abandoned buildings, I don’t think Saginaw would have experienced such a sharp decline in violent crime.”

Morales also credited effective working relationships with the Saginaw County Land Bank, and state and federal agencies.

As part of their community-based research, Miller and Ravuri also worked with local law enforcement to identify crime “hot spots” and “cold spots,” so that police can target their resources more effectively.

The SVSU research team used Data-Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) standards for analysis in accordance with Michigan State Police policies, to map the “hot spots” for crime for the 3 years prior to the demolitions (2010-2012), the demolition period (2013-early 2015) and the post-demolition period (early 2015-2016) to determine the effects the demolitions had upon the diffusion of crime in the greater Saginaw region from 2010-2016.

In 2010, the most serious crimes were highly concentrated within Saginaw city limits. Following demolitions funded through \$11.2 million to Saginaw from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, primarily via the federal Troubled Asset Relief Plan, criminal activity is more widely distributed.

“The demolitions drove crime out of Saginaw, and it dispersed evenly, for the most part,” Miller said, “That’s kind of what we’re looking for. If you’re in policing, you want a more even playing field that everyone can then play on and that every police agency, if working together, can all work together to deal with. Because then, it becomes a much more manageable problem.”

Miller and Ravuri plan to continue their research; they are currently examining whether the housing demolitions affected home prices in the Saginaw area. For them, a critical element of their work is sharing the findings with community leaders with the goal that recent safety gains persist.

“To redevelop urban areas,” Miller said, “you don’t want to just displace the crime and move it somewhere else and deal with the same problems in a different place. The idea is to create a better community, a better region, that works cohesively together. Based on what we’re seeing, Saginaw is making meaningful progress in this direction.”

Flint Nonprofit Leader Becomes Youngest Board Chair of Statewide Organization



Glenn Wilson, President/CEO of Communities First, Inc. was recently elected to the role of board chair for the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM). Prior to becoming board chair, he served as a board member and secretary for the statewide organization. Glenn's

experience in real estate development, entrepreneurship, leadership, nonprofit management and marketing will be of benefit in his new position.

"The world of community economic development is changing rapidly. It is now a field that includes placemaking, agriculture, financial empowerment, real estate and so much more. There are great opportunities to improve Michigan communities through the diversity of available tools. I am honored to serve as CEDAM's board chair and I am excited to assist this amazing organization in this new capacity", said Wilson of his election.

"Glenn is a rising star in the community economic development world," said Jamie Schriener, Executive Director of CEDAM. "Every time I turn around, he's working on a new project

or program to help make Flint a more wonderful place for all of its residents. I don't know when he sleeps! I couldn't be more pleased to have him as CEDAM's board chair."

CEDAM is a nonprofit membership organization based in Lansing that represents hundreds of individuals and organizations committed to revitalizing and rebuilding Michigan through community economic development. Since 1996, CEDAM has provided policy and advocacy, technical assistance and training on issues that help create strong, vibrant communities including those related to affordable housing, financial empowerment, foreclosure mitigation, downtown and neighborhood revitalization and more. For more information about CEDAM,

visit cedam.info.

Communities First, Inc. Communities First, Inc. is a Flint based nonprofit Community Development Corporation which was founded in 2010. The priorities of CFI are affordable housing, economic development, green programs, and quality of life programs. CFI is committed to building sustainable, equitable communities in distressed areas. The organization is the developer of Oak Street Senior Apartments and Swayze Court Apartments located in downtown Flint and has amongst its programs Culture Shock and Green Life. More information about Communities First, Inc. can be found at communitiesfirstinc.org.

MDHHS announces \$15 million in federal grants to help crime victims

LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is encouraging local organizations across the state to apply for \$15 million in Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) grants to provide services to crime victims.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, these awards will help expand and enhance services by supporting the response to immediate needs of crime victims, reducing psychological consequences of victimization and helping restore victims' sense of dignity and self-esteem.

MDHHS will award three- to five-year

grants with amounts ranging from \$50,000 to \$1 million.

The deadline for the proposal is 3 p.m. on Thursday, July 27. Eligible applicants must be public or non-profit organizations – including faith-based organizations and American Indian tribes – that provide direct services to crime victims.

The Crime Victim Services Commission is accepting proposals from new applicants and all American Indian tribes that focus on three purpose areas including Native American Tribal Victim Assistance services; transitional supportive

housing services for victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, or other victims of crime and services to priority and underserved victims of crime as authorized by VOCA and addresses an unmet community need.

These projects can serve one victimization type or any combination of the crime victimization types.

This is the second Request for Proposals for the VOCA Program this year. The first one in May focused on six purpose areas including trauma recovery centers, human trafficking intervention services, sexual assault intervention services, victims of child

physical and/or sexual abuse, American Indian tribal victim assistance and elder abuse services.

For more information or to apply, visit the MI E-Grants Website at <https://egram-mi.com/dch> and click the "About EGrAM" link on the left panel to access the Crime Victims Agreement training manual. For questions, email MDHHS-CVSC-VOCA-GRANTS@michigan.gov by 3 p.m. on Friday, July 14, 2017.

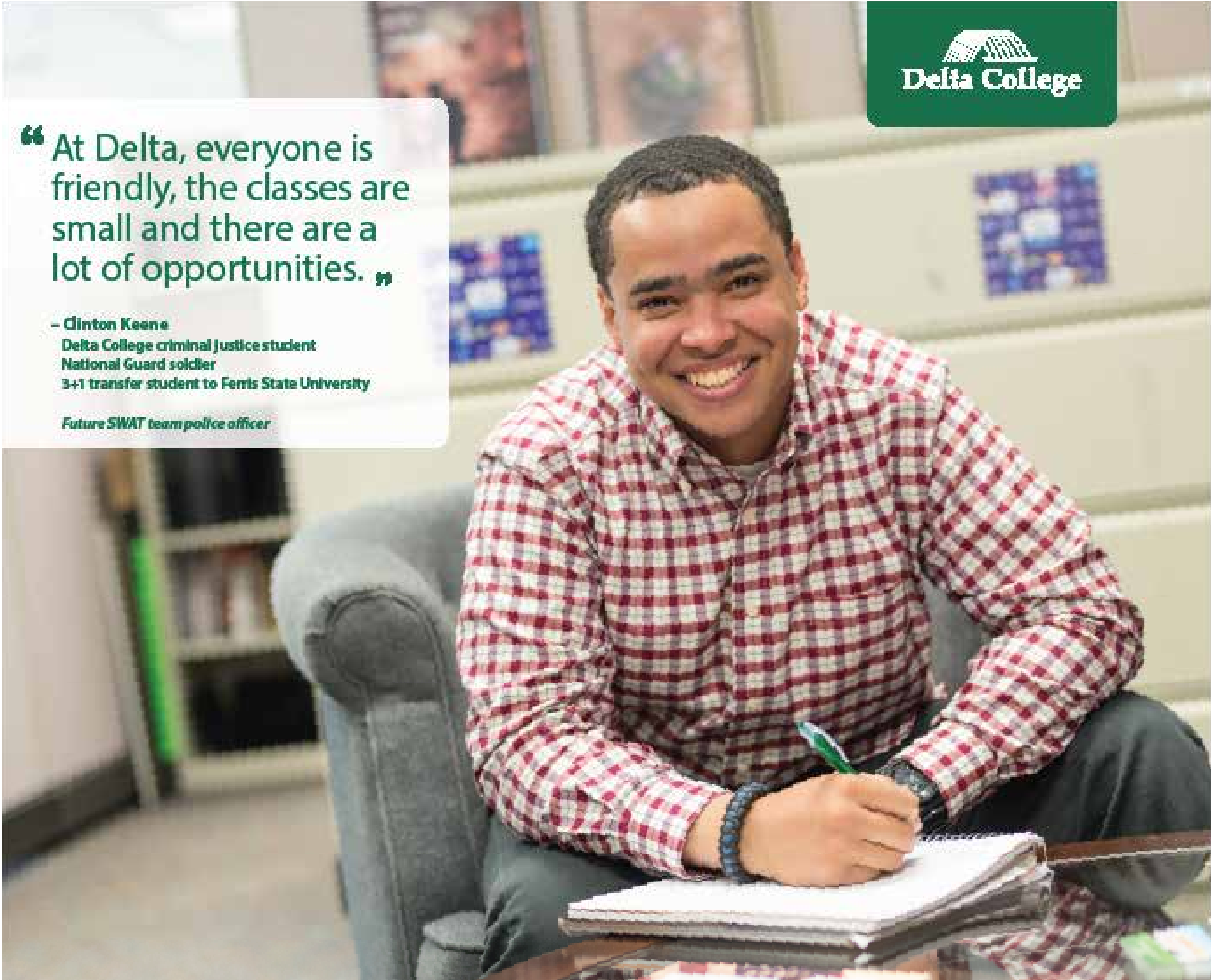
For more information about Michigan's crime victim services, visit www.michigan.gov/crimevictims.



“At Delta, everyone is friendly, the classes are small and there are a lot of opportunities.”

- Clinton Keene
Delta College criminal justice student
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Future SWAT team police officer



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

His ultimate goal is to join a SWAT team – an elite group of police officers called in for special situations. It's not easy to get into, but he's up for the challenge.

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

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Homeowners get cash gifts to pay taxes



DETROIT, Mich. — Wayne County Treasurer Eric R. Sabree is pleased to announce that his office has accepted payments and donations from private donors to help taxpayers save their homes from property tax foreclosure by paying off their 2014 taxes. It was announced today.

“Our office has worked diligently to educate the public about ways to avoid property tax foreclosure. Recently, we had over 2,700 people in owner occupied properties that owed less than a \$1,000 on 2014 delinquent property taxes. Our staff contacted each taxpayer and as a result, many paid taxes and the numbers decreased drastically,” said Treasurer Sabree.

U-SNAP-BAC Non-Profit Housing Corporation contributors donated \$48,867.46 to help taxpayers save their homes. Executive Director of U-SNAP-BAC Non-Profit

Housing Corporation Linda Smith says this donation was essential.

“I’m excited because this will allow families to remain in their homes with the support of this donation. For us, we would like to also offer the families financial coaching and education so that next year when the taxes come due they’re not in jeopardy of losing their home again,” said Smith. “We hope to assist them with setting up some type of banking account where they can deposit money on a monthly basis so, next year they will have the funds.”

Founder and CEO of Captain Jay’s Fish & Chicken and Captain Jays Care & Share Foundation Abdallah Sheik, heard about the opportunity to help and immediately offered his assistance and asked others to do the same.

“I do not want to see anyone lose their home and be out on

the streets of Detroit. Some of them are my clients and I like to give back to the community,” said Sheik. “I will never have enough, but I would like to be an example. The goal is to be able to set an example for other business owners in the City to do the same. If other people get together and do this, we will be able to help people save their homes and build up Detroit and help the community.”

Captain Jays Care & Share Foundation donation is \$15,359.41 to support this cause. Sheik’s foundation partnered with Life for Relief and Development in this effort and they will contribute \$5,000 for a combined total contribution of \$20,359.41. Taxpayers were chosen through a random selection process.

SOURCE: Wayne County Treasurer Eric Sabree

Stars opens new route help desk and releases new route timetables for August 21 Change



As part of the Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services (STARS) new route initiative, STARS is opening a “New Route Help Desk” at the STARS Transit Plaza. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, the Help Desk will operate from 8:30AM to 11:30AM and from 3:00PM to 6:00PM. The Desk will also operate on Saturdays from 11AM to 2PM.

“The STARS New Route Help Desk is a place for riders to ask basic questions about the new route system – How do I get to work? What transfers do I need to make to get to college classes? What’s the best way to get to a grocery store? How can I connect with Bay Metro or Midland Dial-a-Ride? The new STARS route system starts August 21, but we want STARS riders to be plenty prepared when that day comes,” said Glenn Steffens, STARS

Executive Director. STARS currently operates 7 routes from 6AM to 7:20PM on weekdays, and 8AM to 2PM on Saturdays. On August 21, STARS instead will run 9 new routes from 5:55AM to 8:55PM on weekdays, and from 7:55AM to 1:55PM on Saturdays.

If riders are unable to reach the New Routes Help Desk, they can stop by the Customer Service Window at the transit plaza during normal business hours, or call the STARS planning department at 989-907-4013 with questions about getting around under the new system.

STARS has posted the new route timetables on its website, www.saginaw-stars.com. STARS also has copies of the new route maps and timetables at the STARS Transit Plaza Help Desk and Customer Service kiosk.



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

About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

Established in 1965, Head Start promotes school readiness for children, ages three to five, in low-income families by offering educational, nutritional, health, social and other services.

Head Start programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families.

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.

Together Head Start and Early Head Start have served tens of millions of children and their families.

At Saginaw ISD Head Start our attentive staff is available Monday through Friday to answer all your questions and make every effort to ensure you are 100 percent satisfied.

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Saginaw, MI 48601
Phone 989.752.2193
Fax 989.921.7146

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Tuesday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM
Wednesday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM
Thursday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM
Sunday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM

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. Congrmn., 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

Older Americans lack help from doctors, pharmacists on drug costs poll finds

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — The majority of Americans over age 50 take two or more prescription medicines to prevent or treat health problems, and many of them say the cost weighs on their budget, a new poll finds.

But many older adults aren't getting — or asking for — as much help as they could from their doctors and pharmacists to find lower-cost options, the new data reveal.

This suggests an opportunity for health professionals and patients to talk more about drug costs, both in everyday interactions and in formal medication reviews that insurance may cover.

The data come from the University of Michigan National Poll on Healthy Aging, a new initiative based at the U-M Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation and sponsored by AARP and Michigan Medicine, U-M's academic medical center.

"We already know that cost can keep patients from taking the drugs they need to maintain health or prevent complications, but these new data suggest that many older adults aren't talking to their doctors or pharmacists about cost and less-expensive alternatives as often as they could," says Preeti Malani, M.D., director of the poll and a professor of internal medicine at the U-M Medical School. "This represents an opportunity for patients, clinicians — as well as health systems, insurers and policymakers."

Alison Bryant, AARP senior vice president of research, adds that out-of-pocket costs can vary greatly for midlife and older adults depending on

their insurance coverage for prescription drugs, and based on the price of the drug set by the manufacturer. High and rising drug costs can result in higher out of pocket costs and more cost burden. Cost burdens and communication — or lack of it

The poll asked a range of prescription drug-related questions of adults between the ages of 50 and 80 to try to understand how prescription-related issues affect those in the pre-Medicare and Medicare age range.

In all, 27 percent of them said their prescription drug costs posed a financial burden.

One in six respondents reported what the researchers call a "high complexity" of prescription management --- taking six or more prescriptions and seeing more than one doctor. They were more likely to say their drug costs were a problem. Among those who said their drug costs posed a burden, 49 percent hadn't talked to their doctors about the cost of their drugs. But taking time to talk did pay off for many: 67 percent of those who reported talking to their doctor about cost received a recommendation for a less expensive drug, and 37 percent got similar recommendations from pharmacists.

"Based on these findings, and other evidence, we encourage patients to speak up during their clinic visits, and when they're at the pharmacy, and ask about ways to reduce the cost of their prescriptions," says Malani. "But equally, we see a need for health professionals to find ways to more routinely engage with patients about cost — especially through formal

medication reviews such as the one that Medicare will cover."

More about drug costs and health Doctors, clinic staff and pharmacists, Malani says, can help patients identify options from drug companies that might reduce costs by reducing copayments or overall price, and recommend generic equivalents when available.

She notes that during patient visits, physicians usually don't have access to information about what an individual patient's drugs will cost them, based on what insurance they have. So it can be up to the patient to bring this information to their appointments, or to contact their clinic about alternatives if the cost at the pharmacy is higher than they expected. Patients can also talk with pharmacists who may better understand insurance plans and cost.

Patients with high and moderate complexity of drug management take multiple medications and have more than one doctor involved in their care. This can create additional challenges including one doctor not wanting to address a medication prescribed by another doctor.

Health conditions that start in middle age can make a major difference in the health of older adults, and the long-term cost of care. Multiple studies have found that long-term adherence, or faithful taking of medications as prescribed, affect a person's health outcomes in positive ways.

But other research shows that cost often gets in the way of adherence, leading a person to cut back on doses without a doctor's guidance, to not refill a prescription or to skip doses altogether.

Although addressing the broader concern of drug costs will require shifts in policy, patients can take some immediate steps, by asking their doctors and pharmacists for help, Malani says. Future programs should encourage health professionals and patients to routinely have these discussions.

The need to talk cost may start earlier than one might think, Malani notes. The poll finds that more than half of adults in the 50-64 age range were taking two or more medications — and that 14 percent of them were taking six medications or more.

In the older age group, from 65 to 80 years, 20 percent of those polled said they took six or more medications. Nearly 90 percent of those in the older group were taking at least one prescription drug -- consistent with previous studies. One in four of the older adults reported seeing four or more doctors in the past year.

The nationally representative sample included 2,131 people, split almost equally between those aged 50 to 64, and those aged 65 to 80. Respondents answered a wide range of questions online; laptops and Internet access were provided to those who did not already have it.

A full report of the findings and methodology is available at www.healthyagingpoll.org.

The poll will issue its next findings in late summer; sign up for email notifications on the website.

Detroit RiverFront Conservancy Receives Grant That Will Fund Design Competition To Reimagine West Riverfront Park

DETROIT, Mich. — A \$345,000 grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation will be used by the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy to fund a design competition that will help transform West Riverfront Park into a world-class gathering place for Detroiters and visitors alike.

“We're thrilled to receive this grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation,” said Matt Cullen, chair of the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy Board of Directors. “It will allow us to reach out to some of the world's most talented designers and work with them to create an iconic new destination in Detroit.”

“An internationally-acclaimed design for West Riverfront Park will allow our region to dream big,” said David Egner, president & CEO, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation.

“As a possible regional anchor, this project has the potential to improve the quality of life for residents, inspire further investment and help tie communities together, providing access for Southeast Michigan to more green space and recreation.”

West Riverfront Park is a 22-acre site located between Rosa Parks Boulevard and Eighth Street along the Detroit Riverfront. For nearly 100 years, the site was privately owned and closed to the public until the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy purchased the property and opened the park in 2014.

Since then, the park has become a popular destination for people to enjoy the outdoors and striking views of the

Detroit and the Windsor skylines. The park has also been the site of several large-scale concerts.

Requests for qualifications have been sent to more than 80 design firms throughout the world, including several from Metro Detroit, and are due back to the Conservancy July 19.

A national jury comprising representatives from the Conservancy, the City of Detroit and local and national architectural design and planning experts will review the submissions.

Eight teams will advance for interviews that will be open to the general public on August 8 & 9. Following the interviews, five semifinalist teams will receive a \$30,000 stipend to develop and complete design concepts.

The plans will be completed over a 10-week period, with a public exhibition on November 14 & 15. The Conservancy will then engage the two top finalists before announcing the winning concept in late November.

The Conservancy looks forward to receiving input from the general public in the firm submission and design process, much like it did in 2016 when it hosted a series of meetings designed to give people the opportunity to learn about and comment on the plans for the East Riverfront District.

“West Riverfront Park will have a profound impact on local residents and visitors for generations,” said Mark Wallace, president and CEO of the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy.

“We have a legacy of asking people what they want to see along their riverfront. By engaging our community in the process, we can transform the regional narrative about the City of Detroit and provide people with a destination that they will embrace.”

The grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation is the latest in its "Healthy Communities" focus area that seeks to improve community access to public spaces, and connect those spaces geographically with other areas of funding.

In addition to the support received from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation for the design competition, riverfront planning is made possible by the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, FORD/UAW, the City of Detroit, Hudson Webber Foundation, the Knight Foundation, the Kresge Foundation and the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau.

About the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy

The Detroit RiverFront Conservancy is a non-profit organization founded in 2003 with the mission to develop public access to Detroit's riverfront and serve as an anchor for economic development. As the permanent stewards of the RiverWalk and the Dequindre Cut, the Conservancy is responsible for raising the funds needed for construction, operation, maintenance, security and programming of the public spaces

located along the riverfront.

The Conservancy's ultimate vision is to develop five-and-a-half miles of riverfront from the Ambassador Bridge on the west to Gabriel Richard Park, just east of the MacArthur Bridge to Belle Isle. Visit www.detroitriverfront.org for more information.

About the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation

The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation is a grantmaking organization dedicated primarily to sustained investment in the quality of life of the people of Southeast Michigan and Western New York. The two areas reflect Ralph C. Wilson, Jr.'s devotion to his hometown of Detroit and greater Buffalo, home of his Buffalo Bills franchise.

Prior to his passing in 2014, Mr. Wilson requested that a significant share of his estate be used to continue a life-long generosity of spirit by funding the foundation that bears his name.

The foundation has a grantmaking capacity of \$1.2 billion over a 20-year period, which expires January 8, 2035.

This structure is consistent with Mr. Wilson's desire for the foundation's impact to be immediate, substantial, measurable, and overseen by those who knew him best. For more information, visit www.rcwjrf.org.

SOURCE: Detroit RiverFront Conservancy



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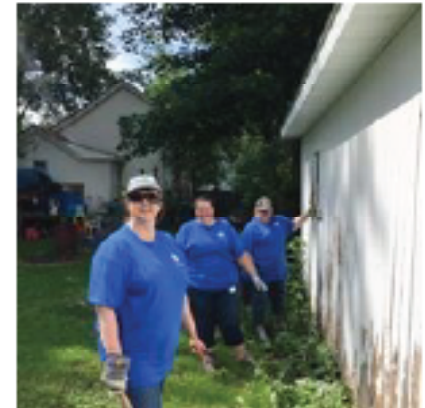
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Gov. Snyder Appoints Judge to Wayne County 3rd District Court



Gov. Rick Snyder today announced the appointment of Prentis Edwards Jr. to the Wayne County 3rd Circuit Court.

Edwards has been on the 36th District Court in Detroit since his appointment in November 2011. Prior to serving as a judge, Edwards was an assistant prosecuting attorney for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office where he served on the Special Operations Community Prosecution Unit Trials Division prosecuting complex serious violent crimes.

Edwards is a member of the Detroit Bar Association, the Wolverine Bar Association, the Association of Black Judges of Michigan, as well as a member of the

Charles H. Wright Museum and a mock trial coordinator. He also has additional professional and community service with the State Bar of Michigan Diversity Inclusion Advisory Committee, the Governmental Bar Association, the NAACP Detroit Chapter, the Michigan Indigent Defendant's Advisory Committee, and the Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Office, Time Guidelines Committee. Edwards earned a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in 2002 and his law degree from Thomas Cooley Law School in 2005. He will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Thomas Cameron. Edwards must seek election in November 2018 for a full six-year term.

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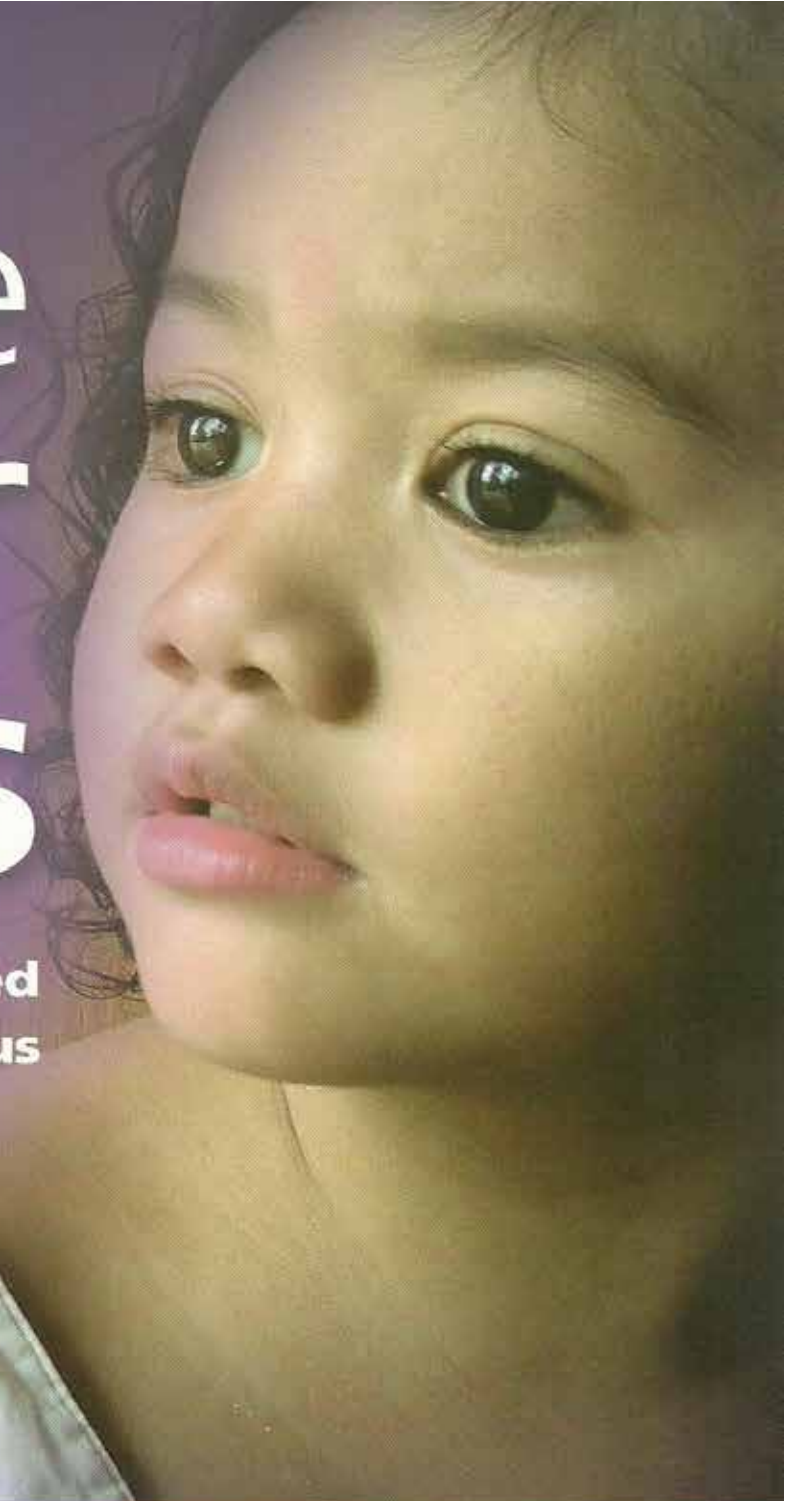
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“Congratulations to the Michigan Banner for 15 years of promoting positive news for our the benefit of our community! May our shared mission of improving lives and bringing hope

to residents and businesses continue to flourish for many, many more years. God bless all who work at The Banner to make our community better!” Again, happy birthday! Blessings,

— Cameron M. Brady, CGP
Executive Director



Congratulations on 15 years of success as one of the Great Lakes Bay Region’s trusted news sources. I wish you many more years of success as The Michigan Banner continues to grow, development and expand its reach throughout the state of Michigan.

— Jiquanda Johnson, FlintBeat.com
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Sept. 13, 2017
6:00pm**

5K RUN WALK

Proceeds Benefit:



TEAM ONE
CORPORATION

For more information and to register visit:
TeamOneCU.org/WineRun

The poster features a central illustration of a runner crossing a finish line, with other runners in the background. The design uses a color palette of purple, green, and blue. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, with the event name and date being the most prominent elements.



Unity for the Community Golf Outing



4 Person- 18 Hole Scramble

Saturday, July 29, 2017

Registration Time 7:30 A.M.– 8:30 A.M. TEE Time 9:00 A.M.

Price \$85 Each

Final Registration is Friday, July 21st after this day onsite registration only If available.

Swan Valley Golf Course

9521 Highland Green Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609

Golfers will enjoy

breakfast, 18 holes of golf w/
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prizes, contests, dinner and lots
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“RESTORING OUR COMMUNITY, ONE PERSON, ONE BLOCK AT A TIME.”

COMMUNITY

Museum host SVSU alum lecture on Theodore Roethke



A Saginaw Valley State University alumnus and literary scholar has returned to his alma mater to study one of the later writings of Saginaw native Theodore Roethke, one of the most influential American poets of the 20th century.

Brandon Rushton, a 2012 SVSU graduate, recently was named the second recipient of the university's Fredericks-Follett-Roethke Graduate Fellowship in the Arts & Humanities. The fellowship supports an individual's visit each year to SVSU to study one of three collections housed on campus: Roethke, sculpture artist Marshall M. Fredericks, or British author Ken Follett. Rushton will give a lecture on

"Cognitive Cartography: Mapping Mist and Endurance in Roethke's Masterwork 'North American Sequence,'" at the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum Monday, July 24 at 4 p.m.

"I'm hoping to discover the head space Roethke was in when he was writing 'North American Sequence,'" Rushton said. "It was very different from the work he was doing up until that point in his life. I want to trace where that came from."

"North American Sequence" is a series of six poems published posthumously in the 1964 Roethke collection titled "The

Far Field."

Rushton, a Flint native who currently serves as a lecturer of English at the College of Charleston in South Carolina, said he first read Roethke in anthologies while studying at SVSU as a double major in creative writing and history.

Years later, Rushton gained a new appreciation for Roethke while reading his long-form work in "North American Sequence," which explores the author's spirituality as he travels to locations spanning Michigan to the Pacific Northwest.

"I want to know why he turned to this long, expansive poem," Rushton said. "It will be great to sift through the materials at SVSU in search of answers. It's a wonderful opportunity."

Rushton explained his upcoming lecture like this: "What stands out about Roethke are his investigations of the ephemeral and the elusive. His inward examinations dig and dare to disturb the spiritual equilibrium of both himself and his surroundings. By looking inward, Roethke believed he could establish a cognitive cartography of the self and the spirit. If he could map the mechanizations of his internal makeup, he'd be closer to mapping and understanding the world around him." Following the lecture, a reception will be held in the Jo Anne and Donald Petersen sculpture garden.

Rushton's project follows last year's study of Marshall Fredericks' sculptures by the first recipient of the Fredericks-Follett-Roethke Graduate Fellowship in the Arts & Humanities, Nick Hartigan, who at the time was a fifth-year University of Michigan doctoral student specializing in 20th-century sculptures.



SVSU to host computer and Internet technologies camp for girls in grades 5-8

Saginaw Valley State University will host Camp Infinity this July to introduce girls in middle school to computer and Internet technologies through hands-on activities.

SVSU is partnering with The Dow Chemical Company, the Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation, IBM and Microsoft to bring the camp to the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Campers will be split into two groups based on grade level. Participants in 5th and 6th grades will explore video game design concepts and build their own web page, while participants in 7th and 8th grades will delve into robotics and HTML web design.

In addition, all campers will attend mini-sessions highlighting programming skills and real-world uses of technology. Campers will also have the opportunity to meet professional women from the Great Lakes Bay Region, who currently work in technological fields, and

explore IT career pathways.

Deborah Huntley, SVSU's provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, said the initiative aligns with the university's goal of boosting STEM education in the region.

"We are very pleased to add Camp Infinity to our suite of programs that engage young people with STEM experiences and introduce them to STEM careers," Huntley said.

"Camp Infinity, focused on middle school girls, addresses an important need for our region. We are grateful to the program sponsors for making this possible at SVSU."

The camp will be held at SVSU Monday, July 24 through Friday, July 28. The sessions will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday. The cost to attend the camp is \$75; there are a limited number of scholarships available which will reduce the cost to \$25.



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Buena Vista Charter Township



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In lieu of a bachelor's degree, twelve years' experience in police work as a certified officer will be considered. Further consideration will be given to candidates demonstrating ongoing law enforcement or related training either within an established college degree program or through a law enforcement training school.

The ideal candidate shall have a background in police service management and budgeting; must be certified as a police officer by the Michigan Law Enforcement Training Council; and must possess the ability, temperament and commitment to be fair, reasonable and equitable in matters such as establishing positive relationships between management and labor representation. Experience and certifications in firefighting are desired.

The ideal candidate shall also have experience and/or training in supervision, administration; intergovernmental relations; grant writing and administration; and excellent verbal and written communication skills.

The ideal candidate shall be a true leader with integrity and who is a calming, steadying and inspirational influence. The candidate shall also be able to foster a team environment within the department.

For additional information visit <http://www.mml.org/classifieds/index.php>.



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▶ APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLY BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS AUGUST 4, 2017

Please submit resume, cover letter, salary requirements, consent form, and five professional references to:

execsearch@mml.org, Subject Line: Buena Vista Charter Township Police Chief search

OR

mail to: Michigan Municipal League
ATTN: Buena Vista Charter Township Search
1675 Green Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

For additional information, contact Joyce A. Parker, MML Executive Recruiter, at joyce_parker@msn.com or 734-730-9526.

MICHIGAN LAW REQUIRES CANDIDATES REQUEST CONFIDENTIALITY, IF DESIRED. The request must be stated at the top of the cover letter.

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Swanson Funeral Home in Flint Shut Down Over Health and Occupational Code Violations

Investigations found deplorable conditions, including maggots and unrefrigerated bodies



FLINT, Mich. — Due to multiple violations of Michigan’s Health and Occupational Codes, the Prepaid Funeral and Cemetery Sales Act and other state statutes, the Dept. of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) has summarily suspended the mortuary science establishment license of Swanson Funeral Home, Inc. in Flint, MI, and the individual mortuary science license of its manager O’Neil D. Swanson, II. A formal complaint an order of summary suspension and an order to cease and desist were issued

by LARA’s Corporations, Securities & Commercial Licensing Bureau (CSCL) in conjunction with the Michigan Attorney General’s office.

Several investigations by state inspectors found deplorable, unsanitary conditions and violations that included: Maggots on the floor of the facility’s garage and garage door.

Unrefrigerated human bodies were stored in the un-air-conditioned garage, some for more than 90 days and up to five months.

The building smelled of decomposing

bodies.

Unsanitary preparation room without equipment or supplies necessary for embalming.

Blood and fluid stained casket pillows were laying in the hallway.

A failure to register as a “producing facility” and submit a Medical Waste Management Plan, under the Medical Waste Regulatory Act.

Repeated violations of standards and laws enforced by the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration affecting the handling,

custody, care, or transportation of a dead human body.

A failure to register to sell prepaid contracts or maintain a contract with a registrant under the Prepaid Act.

“Michigan residents trust funeral home directors, owners, and their establishments to follow the law especially when dealing with the death of a loved one,” said CSCL Director Julia Dale. “We will continue to aggressively hold every funeral home in Michigan to the highest standards of public health and safety when providing final arrangements.”

Swanson could be subject to fines of up to \$10,000 for each violation of the occupational code in addition to continued suspension or revocation of the licenses, as determined by the Michigan Board of Mortuary Science Examiners. A person who converts funds paid under a prepaid contract to his or her own use or benefit or who fails to escrow or trust funds according to the Prepaid Act is guilty of a felony punishable by a fine of \$5,000 or imprisonment of not more than five years, or both, for each violation. A person who violates any other provision of the Prepaid Act is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both, for each violation.

Members of the public who are in the process of or have used the services of Swanson Funeral Home and have questions or concerns regarding the operation of the home should contact CSCL at 517-241-7000.



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- ✔ Pay No City Income Tax through 2026
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- ✔ City of Saginaw income tax savings
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