

THE MICHIGAN BANNER

Celebrating 16 years of Positive News



Local Efforts to Push Suicide Training Directly Results in New Nationwide Policy

Health, Page 16

Three for three: SVSU again named a 'Great College to Work For'

Education, Page 28

10,000+ Backpacks Filled With School Supplies to Be Distributed in Flint

Community, Page 34

Leading in Diversity, Empowering Communities and Changing Lives

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Hello Fellow Citizens of Saginaw

Pg 4



Rev. Erinna McKissick, releases book, short film about Overcoming Trauma

Pg 13



WE SUPPORT THE GREAT LAKES BAY REGION

Saginaw African Cultural Festival Marks 50th Anniversary



courtesy photos

By Mike Thompson

In 1999, Osagyefuo Nana Amoatia Ofori Panin became king of the Ghana province of Akyem Abuakwa. During that same year, Angie Stone of Atlanta released her first album of soul music.

They are featured attractions for the 50th annual Saginaw African Cultural Festival, scheduled for Friday through Sunday, Aug. 10-12, at Morley School Park on Lapeer Street. Admission is free,

running from noon until dusk each day. Vendors will offer food, arts and crafts, and clothing. Various children's activities will support a family atmosphere.

The king is slated to speak at 2 p.m. on Saturday, with Stone performing later in the day at 6 o'clock.

Continues on pg 2, African Festival

Cover Story, African Festival



wikipedia

PROGRESSIVE REFORMER

King Osagyefuo functions in much of a similar manner as a state governor in the U.S.A. After he took office, he embarked on a 12-week tour and encountered the challenges he has faced during the past two decades, including severe poverty, lack of basic health care, and a need for clean drinking water. He has emphasized education, the environment and economic development.

"The success of my reign," he says, "is dependent totally on my ability as your leader to ensure that our future -- our children -- is really secure."

To serve as a king does not mean he sits on a throne all day long, issuing commands to subjects who bow and kneel before him. This may be the stereotype, but it is not reality. For example, His Majesty has served as chairman of the board for Ghana's Environmental Protection Agency and Forest Plantation Development Fund Board. Under his own initiative, he also is founding chairman of the Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin Fund for the Blind.

He is a strong advocate for child welfare and development. His Okyenhene's Annual Children's Christmas Party honors top students at each grade level in every school, and his Mama Akoto Memorial Trust is named for his deceased mother to assist needy women and children.

His Majesty publicly has taken an HIV test in order to encourage citizens to do the same, especially during the annual Okyeman HIV/AIDS Education Week each November, and he

has reached overseas as a patron of the California-based Free Wheelchair Mission.

His topic at the festival will be the role of elders in community leadership.

WE'VE HEARD HER SING

Have you seen the comedy show, "Girlfriends," on cable TV? Then you have heard Angie Stone. She sings the theme song.

Or maybe you have seen the 2003 movie, "The Fighting Temptations". Angie's in the choir, starring along with Cuba Gooding Jr., Mike Epps, and at the time an up-and-coming Beyoncé Knowles.

She describes her style as "soul, with a gospel fervor behind it." Her connection to Saginaw is through James Owens Jr., the son of a Saginaw guitarist of the same name, who is part of her band. She also starred in a 2013 stage production by Saginaw's Tiffany Goodman, who authored a book and a pair of plays following the still-unsolved 2009 murder of her 18-year-old son, Ste'von Martel Goodman.

She has written songs for Mary J. Blige and other stars. She joins comic actor Anthony Anderson as a spokesperson for F.A.C.E. Diabetes (Families African American Connected and Empowered).

Angie plays piano and has performed on saxophone. She patiently and diligently paid her dues and was in her middle 30s before she launched her solo career with her first of seven albums. She has achieved a pair of Soul Train Music Awards and three Grammy nominations. Born in Columbia, South Carolina, Angie grew up in a church choir and now resides in Atlanta with her two adult children. Her web site is theangiestone.com, she has a Facebook page, and yes, her clips are all over YouTube.

The Saginaw African Cultural Festival is supported by the Saginaw Arts and Enrichment Commission, based at the Andersen Center, and also by various donors.

Saginaw AFRICAN CULTURAL Festival **Celebrating 50 Years**

SAGINAW AFRICAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL AUGUST 10-12, 2018

<p>FRI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delta College STEM Bus - Children's Tent African Artifact Display - Children's Tent Open Mic Night - Umoja Tent Panel Discussion on African Culture - Umoja Tent Old School Step Show - Main Stage Comedian Ryan Cone - Main Stage 	<p>SAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SVSU STEM Bus - Children's Tent Horseback Riding - Children's Tent Face Painting - Children's Tent Traditional African Healing - Umoja Tent African Spiritual Science - Umoja Tent African Mastrea Youth Talent - Main Stage Headliner: Angie Stone - Main Stage 	<p>SUN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball - Children's Tent African Drumming - Children's Tent Panel Discussion on African Culture - Umoja Tent Community AfricanDrum Circle - Umoja Tent Gospel Hour with Victorious Believers Ministries - Main Stage Gospel Rap with Jay Wayne - Main Stage Gospel Artist Brandon Jones - Main Stage
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Special Drama Presentation Tuesday, August 14: Lion of Judah King

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MISSION

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

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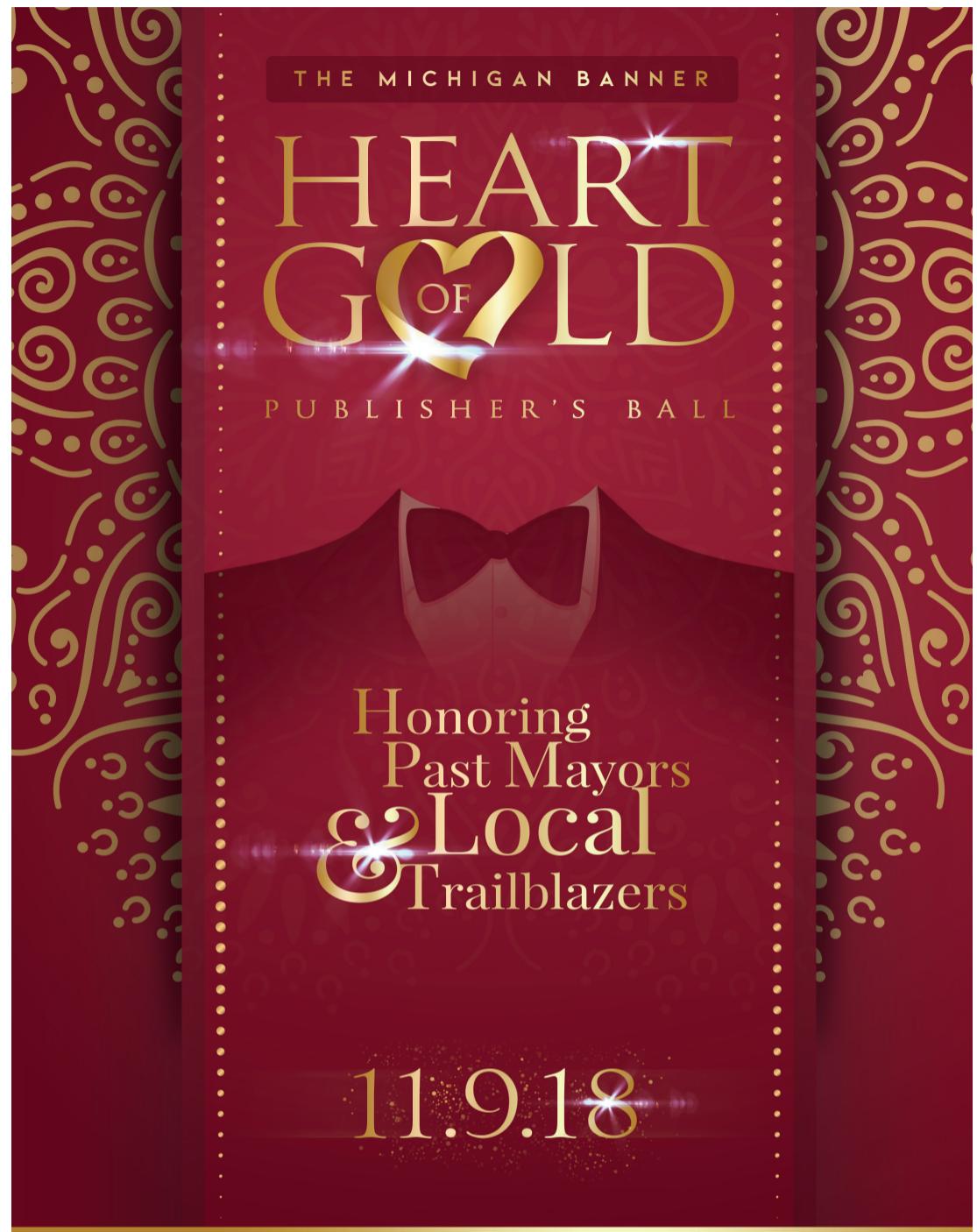
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DEADLINES

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

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 Mailed or e-mailed
 Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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IN THIS ISSUE...

Latino Banner	LB 1 - LB 7
Health	16
Business and Wealth	21
Education	28
Community	34
Politics and Public Policy	42
Sports	44



Hello Fellow Citizens of Saginaw,

Greetings from your friend, Frederick Douglass. I am writing to you from my humble home Cedar Hill in SE Washington DC. It has been a very rainy spring and summer with frequent. The Anacostia River has finally crested after recently flooding in the streets of nearby Baltimore. I hope your farms and businesses survived the north winter and are ready for a prosperous summer.

It was last November when Mr. Jerome Buckley, publisher of the Michigan Banner News invited me to your great city. The occasion, a luncheon celebrating 15 years publishing his newspaper in your community. I arrived that chilly morning to a warm welcome from a Saginaw delegation comprised of business leaders and educators. Over breakfast they shared some wonderful ideas on the education and growth of business in your community. Later that day I addressed the audience at the luncheon and had a very public and transparent

conversation with Mr. Buckley about the newspaper's role in building a great city. The citizens of Saginaw and beyond were beaming with pride and eager to celebrate the milestone and to honor those who had made special contributions.

The Detroit I visited in 1860 is virtually unrecognizable now and Flint has serious challenges. But the Saginaw I saw in 2017 introduced me to one of Michigan's best kept secrets. Saginaw made me feel the same promise of social and economic justice I felt when I visited the area in the late 1800's. During the luncheon that day I shook hands with men and women, both black and white. I met the average citizen, the business class and government officials, all who seemed to share a sincere pride in the city and a common bond for its future direction.

Each month from now until the celebration you are planning in November 2018, I will be making editorial contributions to the Michigan Banner News. Each commentary will offer a new challenge to the citizens of Saginaw and beyond to re-imagine the possibilities of your great community. Each month I will layout a new idea to help transform your community into a place future generations will call their home. Re-imagine a community where your children and grandchildren will continue to build on the foundation you have set.

Saginaw's challenge for the month of August begins with self. Individually and collectively you can pat yourselves on the back and proclaim some noteworthy accomplishments, but you should not be satisfied with enough. Consider the proposition that the Past, is what we have failed to become and the Future – all we hope to be. Let us look beyond our heads to our hearts. Let us go beyond what we can imagine to do what we know in our hearts is right. While a change of mind is a change for good, it is the change of heart that is the change for greater!

Forever Your Friend,
 Frederick Douglass - Abolitionist
 Nathan M. Richardson -Understudy

THE LATINO BANNER

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

Vamos Adelante



Latino Film and Arts Festival Teams Up With the City of Coachella



- LB Pg 2 -

Submit your news at themichiganbanner.com

Midwest Tejano Cultural Entertainment presents Labor Day Baile

MIDWEST Tejano CULTURAL ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

GRAN LABOR DAY Baile

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 2ND 2018

FROM SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
SANTIAGO GARZA Y LA NATURALEZA
FLAVIO LONGORIA & THE CONJUNTO KINGZ
FROM ADRIAN, MICHIGAN
LOS HERMANOS VILLEGAS

THE FLORENCE EVENT HALL
110 FLORENCE ST. SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

8PM TILL 12:30AM | DOORS OPEN @ 7PM
ADVANCE TICKETS \$25- \$30 AT THE DOOR.

Advance tickets sold at:
Vargas Bakery / Maria's Restaurant / El Rancho Grande / Ascencio's Barbershop
Listen to Midwest Tejano Radio For more information.
BRISKET TACOS WILL BE SOLD

Midwest Tejano Cultural Entertainment presents your Labor Day baile Sunday September 2nd at The Florence Event Hall in Saginaw, Michigan. Advance tickets will be available on Wednesday, August 1, at Vargas Bakery, Maria's Restaurant and El Rancho Grande in Saginaw. Ascencio's Barbershop will also have tickets available in Flint. All proceeds go towards a scholarship fund that gives back to local youth in the community.

The Fourth Annual Official Latino Film and Arts Festival Teams Up With the City of Coachella to Bring the Best American Latino and Diverse Produced Films in the U.S.A.



courtesy photo

COACHELLA, Calif., July 30, 2018 / PRNewswire/ -- The Official Latino Short Film Festival is back to showcase over 100 short films written, directed and/or produced by U.S. Latino filmmakers from diverse communities across the nation. The festival's mission is to showcase, nurture and support emerging creative American Latinx filmmakers in the United States, as well as support culturally inclusive films and filmmakers that present true American diversity. In order to help achieve this mission, Official Latino, for the first time ever, is hosting a bi-coastal film festival by screening films in New York City and Coachella, California.

The official sponsor and presenter is The City of Coachella with additional support from global beverage alcohol producer DIAGEO, The Riverside County Film Commission and Culturas Music - Arts, among others.

The festival will hold preliminary "semi-finalist" film screenings in New York City. The qualifying films from the NYC screenings will travel to Coachella to screen with West Coast films. The films presented in Coachella will compete for awards valued at a combined total of \$5,000. According to Latinx filmmaker, president and

founder of Official Latino Film and Arts Festival Danny Hastings, "The City of Coachella expressed interest in sponsoring the festival, so we decided to hold the festival in their brand-new library and conference building across the street from City Hall. It is an exciting up-and-coming place with a predominantly Latino population offering rich culture, American heritage, history and art. In fact, with this support, I predict the Official Latino Film and Arts Festival will become the Sundance or Tribeca for the emerging Latinx filmmaker in the U.S.A."

In an article published in the Desert Sun, Mayor of Coachella Steve Hernandez stated, "The festival represents another step towards establishing Coachella as a destination for visitors interested in culture and the arts as well as an opportunity to capitalize on its now world-famous name. It's a bold move, it's going to put Coachella on the map and I think we're definitely in a position to support it."

Jesus Olivares, a resident of Coachella, stated, "The news of a film and arts festival in the City of Coachella is great for our diverse community. For far too long, the City of Coachella has been on the sidelines as other Coachella Valley cities host their own festivals. It's great to hear that Mr. Hastings is willing to expand his festival to the City of Coachella. I can't wait to attend with my family."

Centered on the theme of "The Awakening of the Sleeping Giant," the festival will also feature panel discussions hosted by top industry executives and Latinx filmmakers and actors. Culturas Music - Arts, a City of Coachella non-profit cultural organization, has partnered with Official Latino to oversee the art exhibition and a special musical guest performance.

"Lastly, this is an American domestic film festival with the main focus on American content while celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Ninety percent of the content screened is in English and produced here in the United States. Our audience is as diverse as the films we screen. We curate our screenings by themes, for example, we have a block of films all directed by women, another called American Diversity and another block of films showcasing LGBTQ narratives among others."

For more information, please visit www.officiallatino.com.

Believe. Do.

When a community works together, anything is possible. That's why we strive to create opportunities through jobs, education, and promoting the responsible use of our technology.

That's why we proudly support the Michigan Banner and congratulate its team on the occasion of the Banner's 15th anniversary!



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Community Board

Submit your announcements and events at themichiganbanner.com/submit



iFIESTA TIGRES!
SATURDAY, AUGUST 11TH | 6:10PM

MHCC 

27TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Cherry Creek Golf Club | Greystone Golf Club | The Orchards Golf Club

EVENT SPONSOR  **MONDAY AUGUST 13, 2018**

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

DEADLINES

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



Proudly Supporting and Bringing Medical and Dental Care to our Migrant Farmworkers



Many Locations Throughout the
Great Lakes Bay Region and Beyond
Offering Quality Medical
and Dental Care for Everyone



FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Stop or go? What move to make during leadership transition (Part one of a two-part series)

Summer can be the time of planned – or unexpected – changes in leadership. These can impact fundraising, contribute to confusion and/or, serve as a catalyst for positive change. Every situation is different. The change could be at the executive level: your president, CEO or executive director resigns, retires, or is asked to leave. It could be at the board level: you have high turnover in board positions, and the leadership, commitment and relationships need to be rebuilt. Or it could be a change within your staff: your key development person moves to another organization.

These changes will impact your fundraising.

The green light. Consider moving forward with your fundraising if the following are in place.

You have fundraising leadership and a plan. Your fundraising plan can be implemented even with the loss of executive leadership, board leadership, or a key staff person.

You have cross trained staff who can continue the work of the person who is leaving. Well documented processes, shared information, and cross training all help to reduce challenges that accompany change.

Your supporters and donors are confident you can continue during the transition. Talk with your supporters and donors, about the changes your organization is going through share information about how the organization is handling it. Listen to their guidance regarding how and when to proceed with fundraising.

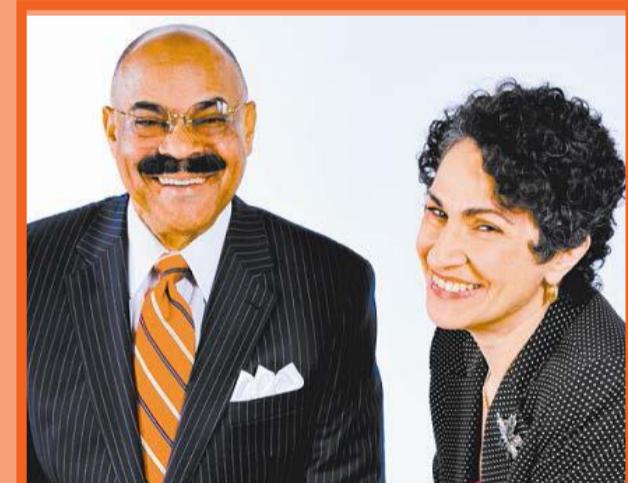
The mission and goals of the project are urgent and understood by both the organization and the community. Sometimes you have to keep moving forward regardless of changes. Your community depends on your organization, they are committed, and they know you cannot stop fundraising because of the urgency of your work. This can be the case in disaster relief efforts, completion of a multi-year project, meeting a matching grant deadline, or general operating fundraising that is required to ensure revenue generating activities can continue.

Top leadership change is seen as a positive by your community and donors. Sometimes top leaders leave quietly and for personal reasons. Other times controversy has been swirling, and the departure will calm the storm. In some cases, the

top leader was never respected, and people are ready for a change.

Care and consideration need to be given to fundraising during leadership transitions. In most cases you will have to modify prior plans. Inventory your organization's fundraising strengths and challenges so you can make the best decision.

Next week: Yellow and red light indicators



Mel and Pearl Shaw | Courtesy Photo

Restore a National Service Program

Opinion By Mike Thompson

(STARTUP NOTE: I wish there existed a national leader, or leaders, who would attempt to bring back AmeriCorps, or what was known during my day as VISTA -- Volunteers In Service To America. We would have a better nation, with better people, and a brighter outlook for young adults. This August 1st, 2018, marks an important 41st anniversary from my young adult experience. Here's the story.)

August 1st, 1977, was a sunny Monday, near 80 degrees. Forty-four First Ward residents gathered in the parking lot between Mama Lillie's restaurant and the Potter Street railroad tracks.

But this wasn't a picnic. This was a picket.

Third Street was scheduled to close when the 5th/6th Underpass opened in the fall. The members of Northeast Saginaw Neighbors had pleaded to the City Council for nearly two years to keep the street open. This was near the end of Saginaw's era of "Saginaw Club" City Councils, and the big shots had repeatedly failed to show even basic respect for these citizens.

And so the people engaged in a radical last-resort protest. They walked out onto those railroad tracks and stood there. Some of the elders carried lawn chairs and sat in them.

VOLUNTEERING TO SERVE

I was with them, part of them. Since 1975, I had been their neighborhood organizer and resource person, home to home to home. Breezy porches in summer, cozy living rooms and kitchens in winter. Our boundaries were basically from the First Ward Center to the Civitan Center, from Potter School to Longstreet School. What did neighbors believe must happen in order to build a better community? Well, then, let's form a group and try to make things happen.

What happened that afternoon was that a C&O supervisor approached our group and informed us that a train was coming through, and that we could stay on the tracks at our own risk. And sure enough, a whistle sounded back around 14th Street, and the locomotive

came charging. The neighbors scattered back toward Mama Lillie's, but a younger fellow, Eugene Henderson, stayed planted until the final seconds. Some of the older men and women had to pull him back, or else I swear, Eugene would have met his maker right there on the Third Street tracks, he felt so strongly.

No police were called to the scene. The C&O supervisors simply did this on their own. And the majority of the City Council supported C&O.

We lost on the Third Street issue and a barricade soon was erected, and in the bigger picture, we lost in our overall effort to save the neighborhood. The First Ward now is virtually abandoned, of course, except for a few remaining hardy souls.

But we also were winners, in a special way. Many of the men and women had grown up under Jim Crow in the South. Then they moved north, only to discover that Saginaw itself, for that matter, was hardly a beacon of civil rights. Through their neighborhood association, they learned that they finally owned the basic rights of all citizens to represent themselves, to take action and to speak out. This was the true victory.

And I don't mean to suggest that we lacked real-world accomplishments. To start, the homeowners in the underpass area received fair relocation deals, unlike many of the victims when I-675 crashed through the heart of the northeast side during the prior decade. We wouldn't have mid-block street lamps across the city if not for our group. We wouldn't have increased next-door vacant lot ownership or the county land bank. We wouldn't have had the anti-redlining Neighborhood Renewal Services and its HOP (Home Ownership Program). And imagine if the trash was only picked up every two weeks, instead of weekly, like happened for a spell in 1980 until we protested. Those are some highlights, even while we saw the various closings -- Third Street, Potter School, the Norman Fire Station, various small neighborhood stores, even Mama Lillie's.

GIVING AND GAINING

What about me (and my reason for writing this)? I was assigned to the First Ward, not by choice, but was raised in childhood open-minded

enough to accept the assignment, and not as some sort of do-gooder. I asked the residents what they wanted to do instead of trying to tell them, in fact I didn't understand why they were so worked up regarding Third Street, for example, that they were willing to do that radical picket on the tracks. I stuck with this for seven years, until a full-time job opened at Saginaw News. You can imagine all that I gained and learned. The neighbors eventually accepted me as though I were a son, or at least a nephew or cousin. These experiences definitely led me to become a better local journalist, and hopefully a better person as well, gaining far more back than I ever gave.

This brings me back to the beginning of this article. Re-energize AmeriCorps, bring back VISTA, the Peace Corps, whatever. All of this Trump-Trump-Trump nowadays is so sad-sad-sad. So many people tell me racism has become worse than they ever recall. People of color may respond that the white folks put Trump in there and that it's up to we white folks to resolve that problem. Fair enough.

Still, I think volunteer national service, by gaining more attention, could be positive for all people -- especially for young adults, who must be wondering what in the world is going on out there, here in the year 2018.

(END NOTE: Neighborhood community service wasn't entirely tough and tragic, like that day on the railroad tracks. Another day comes to mind. Dreary, drizzly, chilly in late April, but in the end joyful. We were cleaning an abandoned vacant lot on Sixth near Farwell, sort of feeling glum at the weather, and then 75-year-old Winnie Clark suddenly burst out laughing and started singing "I found money." Sure enough, someone in the recent or distant past had dropped a handful of coins near the old Shacks Store. Everyone's spirits were raised, and before long we had a huge pile of brush and about 50 trash bags piled at the curb. That was fun! And ol' Frankie Castillo, who wielded a chain saw that day, would jokingly razz me that I was "only trying to get his taxes raised" by organizing the group. That was fun also!)

Saginaw native, Rev. Erinna McKissick, releases book, short film about Overcoming Trauma



facebook

On July 26, 2018, Rev. Erinna McKissick held a book release for 'Leaving Egypt: From Trauma to Triumph' and premiered her short film 'When Daughters Cry'. The event took place at Saginaw's Pit and Balcony Theatre.

ABOUT REV. ERINNA MCKISSICK

According to her website, Rev. Erinna McKissick is a Saginaw native and a product of Saginaw public schools. She graduated magna cum laude from Howard University in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism among the top students of her class. In May of 2014, she graduated magna cum laude from Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, MI with a Masters of Arts in Ministry Leadership. Currently, Rev. McKissick serves as the Senior Director of Ministries at Victorious Believers Ministries in Saginaw, MI; where Elder Chris Pryor is the pastor.

Prior to joining the administrative staff at Victorious Believers Ministries, Rev. McKissick served for several years as a former youth pastor and college campus Chaplain. During her ten years in full-

time ministry, alongside serving as the former CEO/Founder of LadyChrist Ministries, God has blessed her to preach and minister in various capacities at churches and events both locally in the Saginaw, Detroit, Bay City, and Flint areas and nationally in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia, Wisconsin, Texas, and New Jersey. Rev. McKissick is an accomplished poet, playwright, freelance writer, and is in the process of writing her first book. Over the years, Rev. McKissick's passion for community service has been made evident through her community activities which include serving as the co-founder of the Agape Love Explosion Youth Leadership Conference, volunteering as a counselor for at-risk youth through the Center for Community Solutions in downtown Saginaw, acting as the youth coordinator and an executive board member of United Sisters in Christ, being the troop leader for an inner city girl scout troop, and serving as a committee member for Grants for Excellence through the Saginaw Community Foundation.

Continues on pg 13, Rev. Erinna McKissick

Continued from pg 12, Rev. Erinna McKissick



facebook | Rev. Erinna McKissick pictured with Courtney Griffin



Her ultimate and most sincere desire is to remain a humble and devoted disciple of Jesus Christ, living a holy life poured out for God, while sharing the life-changing, redeeming love of Jesus Christ with the world. Her favorite scripture and life's inspiration is Jeremiah 29:11. Though God has favored her to accomplish many things over her short life time, Rev. McKissick says that her greatest achievement and ministry has been her unwavering commitment to her family life and being the mother of two amazing children, her precious daughter, Mayah and her delightful son, Joshua.

LEAVING EGYPT SYNOPSIS

Everybody loves a good road trip, but packing your bags is not always a pleasant experience; especially when the place you're leaving is full of pain and your next destination is still unknown. The Christian life is a wonderful journey, but as you travel along the way you will encounter roadblocks of despair, dead-end disappointments, courage under construction, and pit stops of trauma. Where do you go to recover when your dreams die and your whole world falls apart? Does God actually have a recovery plan in the Bible? The answer is "Yes, He does!" When you've been severely injured on the battlefield

of faith, you can't just shout over it or pretend it didn't happen. You have to stop the life-threatening bleeding; and the only way to do that is to first acknowledge that you are actually wounded.

Lies, deceit, betrayal, abandonment, emotional abuse, divorce, and even sex...Rev. Erinna provides a refreshing and raw straight-shooter approach to life's trauma and drama that will make you laugh, cry, and sip your tea! Now is the time for you to allow God to teach you how to rebuild after experiencing a faith crisis and move forward. Learn how to face the reality of your Egypt experience and to embrace the joy of traveling from your season of trauma to your seasoned place of triumph. All aboard! Next stop....VICTORY!

For more information or to purchase Leaving Egypt visit www.emministries.info. You may also contact Rev. Erinna McKissick by email at contact@emministries.info or by phone at 989-493-9171.



facebook | Pictured from L to R: Dwan Bryant, ShondreSha Wrighten, Shontaye Bibbs

The Michigan Banner News & The Michigan Banner Outreach Ministries

presents

Heart of the City Community Awards

Impact Turnaround Award

Laura Biggins, Garber Automotive Group
Cameron Brady, Habitat for Humanity
Gavin Goetz, AT&T
Sonya Surles, Wilson Ford Lincoln

Outstanding Business Award

Team One Credit Union
Catholic Federal Credit Union
Evans & Browne Funeral Home

Leadership Award

Dr. Mamie Thorns
Pastor Chris Pryor
Joyce Seals
Adam Gonzalez
Rita Truss

Rising Business Award

Markeen Baker, The What Don't Kill You Show

Visionary Award

Richard & Wanda Stringfield, Students & Future Technology Program (SaFT)
Sheilda Braddock, Isabella Bank

Motivation Award

Michael Marsh
Rev. Dr. Willie Casey

Ministry of the Year Award

Francis Irvin, Jail Ministry

Outstanding Journalism/Media/PR Award

JJ Boehm, SVSU
Bob Johnson, MLive

Diversity Award

Willie Haynes, Ezekial Project

Outstanding Non-Profit Award

Samaritas (prev. Neighborhood House)
Saginaw Restoration
Positive Results Downtown Saginaw
Sabrina Jackson, ISD Head Start

Celebrate With Us

On Friday, November 2nd, The Michigan Banner Newspaper will celebrate 16 years of positive, informative and inspiring news in the Great Lakes Bay and Flint region.

The Michigan Banner *Heart of the City* Awards luncheon will take place from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm at Horizons Conference Center and will pay tribute to past, present and future community members and organizations who are committed to service and volunteerism in the Great Lakes Bay area.

We understand the vitality and growth of a community depends greatly on its individuals and organizations. It gives us great pleasure to celebrate 16 years of service by recognizing the people who have demonstrated excellence in leadership through deep local understanding and outstanding initiative.

Several community awards will be presented including Community Impact Award, Outstanding Business Award, Leadership Award and more.

There are many sponsorship and advertising opportunities available. As a sponsor not only will you help support The Michigan Banner Newspaper's 16 year Anniversary event but you will also help support our non-profit organization, The Michigan Banner Outreach.

The Michigan Banner Outreach, established by Rae Lynn Tinsley-Buckley in 2010, was developed to meet the needs and challenges of the youth in our communities while creating opportunities for students to gain work-based experience in all phases of media.



Rae Lynn Tinsley-Buckley
Scholarship

The Rae Lynn Tinsley-Buckley Scholarship will be awarded to two High School Seniors. Preference will be given to those students pursuing a degree in journalism.





REIMAGINE SAGINAW BEYOND Its BORDERS
By: Elaine Gregory-McKenzie, Ombudsman

Congratulations and Salutations to The Michigan Banner and its readership for 16 years of staying in the struggle with us, assisting through your patronage and feedback cultivating a newsworthy publication that the Mid Michigan can be proud of. In its die-hard pursuit to bring good news and empower the communities in Mid-Michigan, The Michigan Banner through its interaction with you discovered a need in media to excite and assist in uniting the city of Saginaw, Saginaw Township and Region generally, realizing we are stronger together through the celebration of our differences, values and accomplishments. This assessment of the region produced an immeasurable value in how we look at, assess and publish inclusive diverse news in the community. Thanks to you, our readers we have tapped into an authenticity and greater good in our communities that is sustainable and inspired beyond our borders, that will stem marginalization and transform the economy for all in the city of Saginaw and Saginaw county. Through your partnership we have embraced participatory learning as we brand and rebrand our business model to embrace the entire community leaving no one behind. For the next 16 years, we look forward to pledging to you our readers for all inclined to participate, solution-oriented collaboration as we together move the region forward.

Sincerely,
Elaine Gregory-McKenzie
Ombudsman for The Michigan Banner

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August 9th
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HEALTH

Local Efforts to Push Suicide Training Directly Results in New Nationwide Policy



courtesy photo

To combat the growing suicide epidemic in this country, and as a direct result of the Saginaw County Medical Society's (SCMS) leadership efforts, the American Medical Association (AMA) adopted a new policy to increase awareness and physician training on suicide.

The resolution was proposed by Joan M. Cramer, SCMS Executive Director and approved at the 2018 AMA annual meeting in Chicago, IL in June. The suicide of a local 26-year-old lifelong friend of Cramer's son in 2017 catapulted her actions, alongside other major contributions conjointly made by SCMS physician and medical student members.

Central Michigan University College of Medicine (CMU) student members Joshua David Donkin, Taylor Boehler-Gaudard, Kathleen Duemling, Elizabeth Godfrey and physician member Anthony M. Zacharek MD worked together in response to

the alarming and significant increase of suicides in Saginaw County, Michigan.

Alarmingly, 95 percent of all people who attempt suicide have visited a physician within a year according to research conducted by Brian K. Ahmedani PhD, LMSW of Henry Ford Health Systems, Detroit, MI.

"We must do everything we can to help increase awareness about the risk factors for suicide," -Barbara L. McAneny MD, AMA President.

In response to better identify potential risk of suicide, The Henry Ford Health System started a ZEROSuicide initiative in 2001 to cut the suicide rate among its patients. The initiative has been highly successful and has maintained since the inception a remarkable 80 percent reduction in suicide among the Henry Ford Medical Group HMO membership.

This landmark decision by the AMA to support further physician training on suicidal ideation is just the start. The commitment to increased physician and patient interaction to further assess these risks and addressing the lack of access to inpatient and outpatient psychiatric care will be vital to reversing the momentum of suicide among patients long-term.

If you or any of your loved ones are struggling with suicidal thoughts, and for more information on how you or your organization can be trained in Suicide Awareness, please contact Barb Smith SUICIDE RESOURCE & Response Network at (989) 781-5260 barb.smith@suicideresourceandresponse.net. <http://www.suicideresourceandresponse.net/>.

The SCMS is the professional association of 500+ physicians in Saginaw County, and a component of the Michigan State Medical Society.



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MDHHS recommends reducing UV exposure to help prevent skin cancer

LANSING, Mich. – July is Ultraviolet (UV) Safety Month and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is sharing some tips on ways to protect yourself all year round.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States and the number of cases has increased over the past few decades. The two most common types of skin cancer – basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas – are highly curable. However, melanoma, the third most common skin cancer, is more dangerous. A primary risk factor for melanoma is UV exposure. In 2018, ACS estimates there will be 2,890 new cases of melanoma in Michigan.

People are encouraged to prepare before going out in the sun by checking the UV index and lowering their exposure to UV rays whenever possible. Seeking shade, applying sunscreen and wearing hats and

sunglasses are also ways you can limit your UV exposure and decrease your chances of developing skin cancer.

Tanning beds and sun lamps give out UVA and UVB rays that cause long-term skin damage and should be avoided. People who use indoor tanning booths are two times more likely to develop melanoma than those who have never used indoor tanning devices.

Skin self-exams should be done once a month to check for possible cancerous skin spots. Following the ABCDE rule is an easy method to help you recognize if you could potentially have melanoma or another form of skin cancer.

- A is for Asymmetry: One half of a mole or birthmark does not match the other.
- B is for Border: The edges are irregular, ragged, notched or blurred.

- C is for Color: The color is not the same all over and may include shades of brown or black, or sometimes with patches of pink, red, white or blue.
- D is for Diameter: The spot is larger than 6 millimeters across (about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch – the size of a pencil eraser), although melanomas can sometimes be smaller than this.
- E is for Evolving: The mole is changing in size, shape or color.

If you notice any changes or new spots on the skin, or growths that look different from the rest of your moles, contact your healthcare provider immediately. Detecting skin cancer early is the best way to have it successfully treated.

For more information about UV rays and preventing skin cancer, visit the American Cancer Society's website.



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Great Lakes Pace: More Exciting News— Expanded Service Areas!



istockphoto

Great Lakes PACE opened May 1, 2015 in Saginaw MI. Our service area has increased! This is exciting news for seniors living in Tuscola and Shiawassee Counties. March 13, 2018 was the official date that we began to serve the zip codes below: Shiawassee County: 48449, 48867, 48817, 48460, 48841 Tuscola County: 48701, 48733, 48744, 48767, 48723, 48435, 48746, 48768

PACE assists those with medical issues wishing to remain in their homes. A nursing home is not the only choice when aging with health problems. PACE is a great option. PACE stands for Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly. A team approach helps with meeting the health needs of our enrollees. Our team includes doctors, nurses, physical-occupational- recreational therapists, social workers, a dietician, a transportation coordinator and a center manager. We provide medical and nursing care in our on-site clinic.

Other services include pharmacy, lab, therapy, day care, meals and more. There is transportation to and from our PACE center for Adult Day Health or medical appointments. Aides are scheduled to help in the home if needed. PACE participants are responsible for the cost of medical services received from out-of-network providers without

prior approval- except for emergencies.

Great Lakes PACE serves those 55 years or older who meet medical and financial guidelines. We cover most of the Great Lakes Bay Region and a few nearby zip codes. (See below). People often choose a nursing home because they are uninformed of other choices. Our two Intake Coordinators will answer questions and give tours.

Dee Dee Iles our Outreach Specialist will share an overview of PACE services with individual or groups. Tours are available on a walk-in basis, or you may call to schedule a lunch tour for yourself or a group of any size. Help us to empower seniors to make informed choices about their long-term care needs. We are expanding! That is great news! Contact us at 989 272-7610. We look forward to sharing more about our services.

Great Lakes PACE services available in these Zip Codes:

Saginaw County

48415, 48417, 48601, 48602, 48603, 48604, 48605, 48606, 48607, 48608, 48609, 48614, 48616, 48623, 48626, 48637, 48638, 48649, 48655, 48663, 48722, 48724, 48734, 48787

Overlap with Saginaw and Another County

48457, 48460, 48747, 48757, 48768, 48807, 48831, 48841

Bay County

48604, 48611, 48623, 48631, 48634, 48642, 48650, 48706, 48708, 48732, 48747, 48757

Shiawassee

48449, 48460, 48616, 48649, 48817, 48831, 48841, 48867

Gratiot

48615, 48637, 48662, 48807, 48831

Tuscola

48415, 48435, 48701, 48723, 48733 48734, 48744, 48746, 48757, 48767, 48768

Midland County

48640, 48642, 48620

Arenac

48650

BUSINESS & WEALTH

Chemical Bank plans to move headquarters from Midland to Detroit



courtesy photo

The largest bank headquartered in Michigan to become Detroit's Hometown Bank. Chemical Bank looks to add 500 employees at Detroit HQ, and maintain employees in Midland and other legacy markets

DETROIT, July 25, 2018 /PRNewswire/ — Detroit will be home to Michigan's largest headquartered bank, as Chemical Financial Corporation (NASDAQ: CHFC), the holding company for Chemical Bank, will immediately relocate its headquarters to its current location in downtown Detroit, and plans in the longer term to move into the heart of the Motor City in a new 20-story building that will be built at the corner of

Woodward Avenue and Elizabeth Street.

News of the headquarters move coincides with the announcement by the City of Detroit that after an exhaustive RFP and review process, it has named Chemical Bank its new primary banking partner for managing the City's operating deposit accounts, with expected balances of up to \$500 million in deposits. Chemical Bank will provide banking services including a comprehensive suite of payment and deposit solutions, including lockbox services.

"Chemical Bank, Michigan's largest headquartered bank, is excited and pleased to be a part of the dynamic growth and success of Detroit," said Gary Torgow, chairman of Chemical Financial Corporation, a long time native Detroiter. "We are honored to be in a position to bring a bank headquarters back to the city of Detroit and become Detroit's hometown bank."

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, along with many local and state officials, will celebrate the headquarters announcement with an event on the future site of the new building that will serve as the Chemical Bank headquarters. Speakers addressing the crowd of industry leaders, business executives, Chemical employees and Detroit residents include Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, Detroit Council President Brenda Jones, Wayne County Executive Warren Evans, and the Rev. Wendell Anthony, president of the Detroit Branch of the NAACP.

"Chemical Bank is a great banking partner for the city's finances and a great community partner, now headquartered in the City of Detroit," said Mayor Mike Duggan. "I am very excited to welcome Detroit's new hometown bank."

Chemical Bank, which has been headquartered in Midland, Michigan since its founding in 1917, grew significantly when it joined forces with Talmer Bank and Trust, a bank founded by two Midwesterners determined to continue their grandfather's legacies of enriching the lives of their communities by building a different kind of bank. That merger made Chemical Bank the state's largest headquartered bank with more than \$20 billion in assets, approximately 3,300 employees,

and 212 banking centers across Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio.

"Detroit is the financial hub for advanced manufacturing and mobility as well as a growing nexus for young entrepreneurs looking to leverage the city's rich history of innovation and hard work, and Chemical Bank is excited to help them build our economy and invest in Michigan's future," said Thomas Shafer, president and CEO of Chemical Bank. "With our legacy markets as our foundation, Chemical Bank's continued expansion into the Detroit market establishes us as a leading financial institution in the Midwest."

Chemical Bank also plans to add over 500 employees to the city's workforce by moving its headquarters to downtown Detroit once construction on its new building is complete. In the interim, Chemical Bank will expand its Detroit offices at 333 Fort Street.

Chemical Bank also plans to retain its current Midland, Michigan workforce of over 500 and its presence in that community as it expands into Detroit. Midland will continue to be the home of its corporate operations center. Shafer added, "We are excited about our continued strong ties to Midland and believe our operational infrastructure which is based there will continue to benefit from our increased transaction volumes from our growth markets."

The commitment to developing a major landmark tower in Detroit's downtown landscape and bolstering its workforce is the bank's second major investment in Detroit in the past four years. Prior to Chemical merging with Talmer Bancorp, Inc., holding company for Talmer Bank and Trust, Talmer Bank and Mayor Duggan partnered in 2014 to adopt the Marygrove neighborhood to help stabilize and revitalize the historic region of Detroit. Talmer Bank committed \$1 million to provide \$25,000 in forgivable grants, over five years, and to partner with Southwest Housing Solutions to boost home ownership and help new buyers refurbish homes in the Marygrove community.



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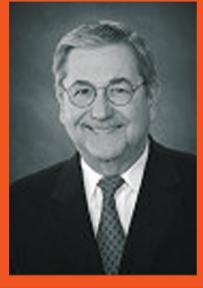
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Local Credit Unions partner with other Michigan Credit Unions To Provide Trust Services



courtesy photo

DETROIT, July 30, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- A group of seven prominent Michigan credit unions have announced today they have formally applied with the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services to establish a new limited purpose financial institution that will provide trust services primarily to credit union members. Formal acceptance of the application kicks off a review process by state regulators that can last 100 days, at which time the organizers anticipate approval.

"We have a long way to go and there's much work to be done, but we're very pleased and excited to be moving along in the application process," said Scott McFarland, CEO, Honor Credit Union, and spokesman for the organizers of the proposed entity, Credit Union Trust. "We'll be working closely with state regulators to meet all requirements and we look forward to being approved."

The formal opening of Credit Union Trust is targeted for Q1-2019, subject to regulatory approval. Seasoned industry executive Robert Sajdak has been named CEO in the application. He brings more than 40 years of senior-level trust experience to Credit Union Trust, including 35 years at Comerica Bank where he served as Senior Vice President, Group Business Manager,

Private Fiduciary Services.

The organizers are executives of the seven credit unions. The credit unions making the application are: Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union, headquartered in Alpena with seven locations; Community Choice Credit Union, headquartered in Farmington Hills with 20 locations; ELGA Credit Union, headquartered in Burton with 11 locations; Frankenmuth Credit Union, headquartered in Frankenmuth with 23 locations; Honor Credit Union, headquartered in Berrien Springs with 24 locations; Members First Credit Union, headquartered in Midland with 11 locations; and Team One Credit Union, headquartered in Saginaw with 12 locations.

Upon approval, Credit Union Trust will become the first such entity in Michigan organized by credit unions established to primarily serve the needs of credit union members. It will be headquartered in leased facilities at 31155 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills, Michigan.

"This is an important step for Michigan's approximately 5.23 million credit union members and the industry as a whole. Over the years, many members have asked for trust services under the umbrella of our local, community-based credit union co-op model, and

now we hope to be able to serve them. Presently those members are forced to go elsewhere," McFarland added.

While credit unions routinely provide a range of wealth management services for their members, they were unable to directly provide fiduciary services such as trusts. Credit Union Trust will allow them to do so. It will offer investment, trust and related services primarily to members of the shareholder credit unions, as well as members of other Michigan credit unions. Though technically a bank (it will not make loans or accept deposits), it is also a credit union service organization that will be equally owned by the founding shareholders.

"The Michigan Legislature explicitly authorized the formation of such entities with amendments to the Banking Code and Credit Union Act in 2016. To our knowledge, ours is the first such application for a limited purpose financial institution -- owned by credit unions to serve members -- that has been made in Michigan," McFarland explained. He added that Credit Union Trust will be regulated by the State of Michigan's Department of Insurance and Financial Services, Office of Banking. Advice on the application process was provided by Patrick M. McQueen, McQueen Financial Advisors, Clawson, MI.



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Retirement Reception

8.2.18 | 4-7 pm | Apple Mountain | 4519 N. River Rd., Freeland



After 15 years with the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce, Bob Van Deventer will retire from his role as Chamber President/CEO.

Please join us at Apple Mountain on Thursday, August 2 between 4-7pm (with a short program at 5:00) to wish him well in his retirement.

Complimentary beer, wine, and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

All are welcome | No RSVP required

Great Lakes Tech Park Recertified by the Michigan Economic Developers Association

The Great Lakes Tech Park has been recertified by the Michigan Economic Developers Association (MEDA) through the 2019 calendar year. The state of Michigan Certified Business Parks offer quality, up-to-date facilities with a high standard of service. By maintaining this level of excellence, MEDA and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) can promote excellent sites like the Tech Park to businesses, developers and site consultants.

"On behalf of the board of directors, membership, and staff of MEDA, I would like to thank the Great Lakes Tech Park for another great year of participation in the Certified Business Park program," said MEDA Executive Director John Avery.

The 231-acre Great Lakes Tech Park offers free pad-ready land for approved development projects. In addition to being a Certified Business Park, it is an AT&T Fiber Ready Site, a designated Energy Ready Site by Consumers Energy and a MEDC Premier Site!

Saginaw County combines a dynamic infrastructure and affordability with communities and a workforce ready for advanced manufacturing. Saginaw County is home to the global headquarters of Hemlock Semiconductor and Duro-Last Roofing, and Nexteer Automotive's global technology center. Join Fullerton Tool West, which opened its second location in the Park!

For more information, please go to www.GreatLakesTechnologyPark.com

The Great Lakes Tech Park is owned by the Economic Development Corporation of the County of Saginaw and managed by Saginaw Future Inc. Established in 1992, Saginaw Future Inc. (SFI) is a public-private alliance of local businesses, the County of Saginaw, City of Saginaw, 15 local municipalities and the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce. SFI's strategic partners also include education, labor and government. Since its beginning, SFI has remained dedicated to fostering quality job creation through expansion of local industry and attraction of new business projects to the community. www.SaginawFuture.com



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Event Time
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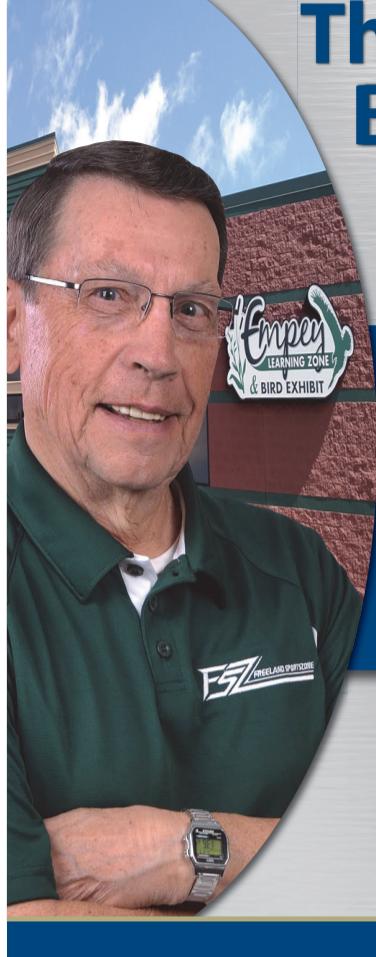
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*Tom Metiva, Trustee for Tittabawasee Township
A Founder and Board Member - Freeland Sports Zone*

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EDUCATION

Three for three: SVSU again named a ‘Great College to Work For’



courtesy photo

Saginaw Valley State University’s supportive environment for faculty and staff has resulted in the school being selected as a “Great College to Work For” for the third consecutive year by The Chronicle of Higher Education, a top trade publication for colleges and universities.

SVSU was the only public university in Michigan to receive the coveted designation in 2018.

The distinction was announced earlier this week when The Chronicle published its 11th annual report on The Academic Workplace. SVSU was among 84 higher education institutions — out of 253 institutions that applied — to achieve the honor this year. SVSU has earned the distinction each of the three times the university has applied.

SVSU President Donald Bachand said to be selected for the honor three years in a row

speaks to how the university community is deeply dedicated to serving students.

“We have longstanding commitment to empowering faculty and staff to pursue initiatives that improve teaching, learning and service opportunities for students,” Bachand said.

“We have worked to build and sustain a strong culture of growth and opportunity, even in the face of challenges. I am proud of our collective efforts to not settle for mediocrity, but to instead push to be better and to do better for our students and for the communities we serve.”

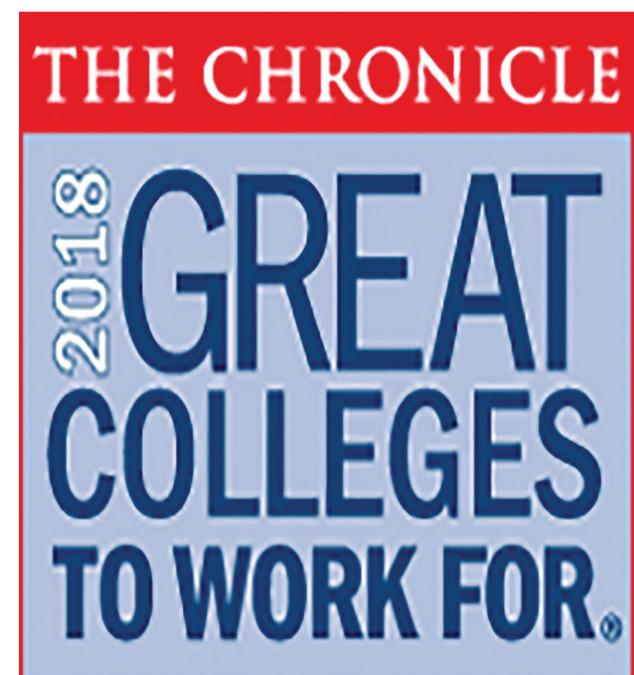
SVSU was honored in the same four categories for the second consecutive year: compensation and benefits; facilities, workspace and security; teaching environment; and tenure clarity and process.

The survey featured components including a questionnaire about institutional characteristics and a faculty/staff questionnaire about individuals’ evaluations of their institutions. The selection process also included an analysis of demographic data and workplace policies at each institution.

The questionnaires were administered online in March and April across SVSU, which employs more than 750 full-time faculty and staff members.

To administer the survey and analyze the results, The Chronicle worked with ModernThink LLC, a strategic human capital consulting firm that has conducted numerous “Best Places to Work” programs, surveying hundreds of thousands of employees nationwide.

Great Colleges to Work For is one of the largest and most respected workplace-recognition programs in the nation. For more information and to view all the results of the survey, visit The Chronicle’s website at www.chronicle.com/interactives/greatcolleges18.



CMU's 14th leader reflects on life changed by education, university he helped strengthen



courtesy photo

The man who grew up to become president of Central Michigan University was born 1,000 miles away inside a Mississippi sharecropper's cabin.

For eight years, George E. Ross has led CMU with a humility and resilience forged from the hardships of poverty and an empathy that stems from the realization that all of us have stories that shape who we are.

Now, as he prepares to step down as CMU's 14th president, Ross shares the story of a life that took him from meager beginnings in the Deep South to Mount Pleasant, overseeing one of the nation's major public universities, its 2,600 employees, 23,000 students and 225,000 alumni around the globe.

'We just had to survive'

Ross' father, Eugene, married his mother, Lois, when she was 17 and eager to leave an abusive household. By the time Ross was born on April 21, 1951, there were six brothers and sisters in their small shack in Hinds County, Mississippi, where his father was a sharecropper.

When Ross was 4 or 5, the family moved to Washington, D.C., where his father found work in construction. His parents separated not long after, leaving his mother with the children.

"We just had to survive," said Ross, who helped by delivering newspapers. As Ross turned 13, his parents reconciled and moved to Flint, where his father drove a city bus. Ross had 11 brothers and sisters by then, and the family was on public assistance.

"We didn't have much, but we thought that's how

everyone lived," Ross told Flint's MyCity Magazine in 2015. "We had parents who loved us and taught us through example to work hard."

They expected the children to go to school, and the first thing Ross noticed as he walked into Beecher Junior High was the students.

"In D.C., I could count the number of white students in my class on two hands, the number of white teachers on one hand," he said. "So, when I got to Beecher and saw all those white folks, I wasn't used to it."

Saved by a teacher

He went on to Flint Northern High School, where he took college prep courses and excelled in his work.

His parents separated again his senior year, and his grades suffered as he considered dropping out — just as his six older siblings had done.

But a math teacher saved him.

"I don't know why Miriam Schaefer noticed me, how she figured it out," Ross said. "But she started paying attention, encouraging me and wouldn't let me drop out."

"Without her, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Because of her, Ross was the first of his siblings to earn a high school diploma, and he credits her with changing the course of his life.

He and his wife, Elizabeth, visited 95-year-old Miriam Schaefer in Flint a few years ago and gave her an enormous bouquet of maroon and gold flowers

— a small token of appreciation for her influence.

College decisions

With Schaefer's encouragement, Ross considered college and chose Michigan State University because he had visited the campus during a ninth-grade field trip.

"I didn't know any chemical engineers, but I'd seen some on a TV show and they looked pretty cool," he said. "I looked it up and saw they made a good salary, so that became my major."

Ross earned a scholarship but lost it after his first year because his grades were too low. He was working multiple jobs on campus to pay for his education, and by his junior year he was having trouble keeping up with chemical engineering while juggling work.

A friend's advice spurred a switch to accounting.

At the start of his senior year in 1973, Ross applied to be an apprentice millwright at Oldsmobile in Lansing, making about \$17,000 a year. He worked second shift after class and bought a new car.

"I was very popular," he said.

Two choices, one path

As graduation approached in 1974, Ross began looking for accounting jobs.

The Arthur Young public accounting firm in Detroit offered him a job paying about \$11,000 a year. At the same time, he was four months from getting his journeyman's card at Oldsmobile — an achievement that would bump his pay there to more than \$20,000.

Ross debated his choices, which stumped family and friends, who thought a skilled trades job at GM with better pay and retirement at 30 years was clearly the way to go.

"I chose accounting because I had worked so hard at it. It took me six years to get my degree," he said. "In hindsight, I think I made the right choice."

Ross worked in accounting until 1986 before taking his finance skills to higher education.

He continued his own education through the years, earning a master's in business administration at MSU and a Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of Alabama. He participated in postdoctoral studies at Harvard.

Continues on pg 29, CMU's 14th Leader

Continued from pg 28, CMU's 14th leader

Before becoming CMU's president in March 2010, Ross served as president of Alcorn State University, vice president for finance and administrative services at CMU, executive vice president at Clark Atlanta University, executive vice chancellor at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and vice president for business affairs at Tuskegee University.

Homespun leadership

Ross said much of his leadership acumen comes from his father, whom he describes as "the smartest man I've ever known."

"He gave me a lot of sage advice," Ross said. "A lot of life lessons I used to guide my own daughter were learned from my father."

Such as: "If someone is doing well, you pat 'em on the back, let them know they are doing well. When they know they're doing well, they'll do better. If somebody messes up, tell them what they did wrong, show 'em how to do it right, pat 'em on the back and say, 'Go get it done.' When they get it done better, you let 'em know."

"My father didn't write any management books, but that's my style," said Ross.

Faith, illness and a new job

He's always believed in God, and a battle with cancer made his faith even stronger.

Ross had just accepted the presidency at Alcorn State University in 2008 and resigned from CMU, when he discovered bleeding in his gums. The day movers arrived to take their belongings to Alcorn State, Ross was diagnosed with leukemia.

Alcorn offered to hold the presidency for him, and CMU's board rehired him as vice president.

During 18 months of chemotherapy, hundreds of cards poured in from people across the country, letting him know they were praying and pulling for him. Elizabeth taped them on the walls in his hospital room, covering every inch. When he got depressed, she would remind him that too many people were praying for him: He couldn't give up.

"Up to that point, I had debates with people on whether intercessory prayer was real, but there was no medical reason for me to walk out of that hospital," Ross said.

It's been 10 years, and there's been no recurrence.

Leading CMU to meet the state's needs

Central Michigan University under Ross' leadership has cemented its unmistakable focus on students first. He has fueled Central's strong sense of community, and when he's nostalgic about what differentiates CMU, Ross highlights the university's culture, its

support of every student and its hands-on learning experiences.

"I've been on campuses around the country, and there really is something special about CMU," he said. "We care. We give students opportunities and learning experiences that help them realize who they are and how much they can impact the world."

Ross said alumni tell him all the time that CMU and its faculty and staff changed their lives. "You don't hear that at many universities."

Ross' accomplishments have helped transform CMU. The university is a leader in health care, business and STEM — science, technology, engineering and math. The way students — from traditional undergraduates to working adults — take classes and earn their degrees have expanded. So, too, have efforts to ensure students and families can afford degrees, as Michigan has fallen from 20th in the nation in funding of higher education to 43rd.

During his tenure, CMU:

- Broke ground in April for a \$26 million Center for Integrated Health Studies that will allow expansion of such programs as physical therapy and physician assistant. Its facilities will advance an industry-leading team approach to health care.
- Opened a \$95 million Biosciences Building in 2017 — the largest construction project in university history.
- Graduated its first College of Medicine class in 2017, with a 100 percent residency placement rate.
- Opened its Education and Human Services Building in 2009.
- Renovated Grawn Hall in 2017 and Anspach Hall in 2014.
- Expanded its Great Lakes research, including \$20 million through two grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Increased multicultural enrollment to 22 percent among the last two freshman classes.
- Increased investment in scholarships by nearly 90 percent.
- Raised more money than all previous presidents combined by changing the culture of philanthropy at CMU.

Leaving a legacy

Last September, George and Elizabeth Ross donated \$1 million to CMU to endow three scholarships benefiting vocal music, accounting and medical school students. It's a level of generosity many said is surprisingly uncommon among university leaders.

"CMU will always have a special place in our hearts," Ross said. "We believe in the students here, and we believe in giving back."

Looking ahead, Ross plans to take enough lessons to

beat Elizabeth at golf. Or at least be competitive.

He also wants to spend time with their first grandchild, Jorge Ross Orta, who was born in December and is named after his father and grandfather.

"At the end of my days, I'd like my tombstone to say 'Good husband. Good father. Good Big George,'" he said, referencing the name he thinks he'll have Jorge use for him.

Message to students

Sixteen-hour work days are common for Ross, yet he routinely makes time for students — just as math teacher Miriam Schaefer made time for him.

When he talks with them, Ross tells students he's not special.

"I've messed up like everybody else," he said. "Most of my siblings were smarter than me, but they made some dumb decisions, like quitting school, using drugs and alcohol."

He worked hard and tried to do the right thing "even when other people weren't looking," he said.

"You don't think sometimes that it'll work out, but you have to keep working at it."

Ross said CMU alumni around the world have accomplished great things: They sit as heads of major corporations and organizations and are teachers, engineers and businesspeople.

"They have made a difference," he said. "I tell students all the time that with a CMU education, you can do anything you want and compete with anybody on the planet."

He also coaches students not to be too enamored with titles.

"I've met Fortune 500 CEOs, I've met presidents from universities around the country. I've met elected officials. At the end of the day, they're just regular people who work hard," he said.

"You treat everybody with respect and honor who they are as individuals, whether they are 6 years old or president of a university," Ross continued. "Being CMU's president is my job, it's not who I am. I like what I've been able to do. I like the people I've met. I like the changes I've been able to make for students."

But at the end of the day, for all these jobs and titles, we still are somebody's children, he said.

"I'm just a kid from Mississippi, Eugene and Lois' baby boy."

Kelley Peatross appointed to Delta College board



courtesy photo

The Delta College Board of Trustees has announced the appointment of its newest Saginaw County Trustee. Kelley A. Peatross, Ph.D., has been appointed by the Board to fill the vacant term of R. Earl Selby, who resigned in June after serving as a Trustee for 26 years.

The Board's Vacancy Committee interviewed eight candidates and recommended Peatross at a Special Board Meeting on July 17, where she was confirmed.

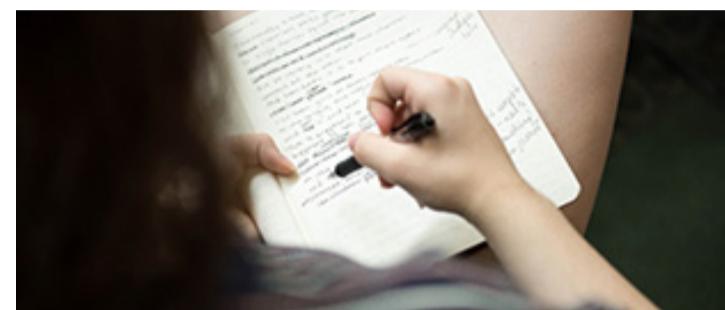
"I join the Board of Trustees already believing that the future of Michigan is inextricably linked to education," Peatross said. "Today, it is even clearer to me that the key to growing Michigan's population, creating good-paying jobs, increasing family incomes and improving the quality of life in our state, is through a sound educational system that extends from the earliest days of a child's life and continuing throughout our lives."

Peatross is the Regional Manager for the Governmental Regulatory & Public Affairs Division at Consumers Energy. She formerly worked in education in several administrative roles for public school systems, and is a member of numerous local and regional boards.

"Having served others and worked in the private sector, state government and the K-12 public school setting in various administrative positions collectively, for more than 30 years, I am ready to expand my servant leadership in the area of higher education," said Peatross.

The appointment term expires in December. Peatross will run for election to the Delta College Board of Trustees on the November ballot.

SVSU's community writing centers to host family history research workshops in Bay City, Saginaw



courtesy photo

Community members eager to dive deep into records revealing their family history — and anxious to record those findings for future generations — are in luck.

Saginaw Valley State University's community writing centers in Bay City and Saginaw next month will host free workshops to guide participants through extensive genealogical research of their family lineages. The sessions also will involve advising attendees on how best to document those discoveries.

The Bay Community Writing Center will kick off the "Writing Your Family History" workshop series Tuesday, Aug. 7, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Alice and Jack Wirt Public Library, 500 Center Ave. in Bay City.

The Saginaw Community Writing Center will host the second workshop the following week. That session is scheduled Tuesday, Aug. 14, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Butman-Fish Branch Library, 1716 Hancock in Saginaw.

Both sessions are open to the public.

The workshops will be led by tutors from SVSU's Writing Center — a writing assistance service housed at the university — as well as staff from the participating libraries.

The Bay and Saginaw community writing centers are operated in part by SVSU's Writing Center staff members, who help residents during scheduled sessions at local libraries. The community writing centers were established through partnerships with the Bay Area Community Foundation as well as the Saginaw Community Foundation.

For more information about the "Writing Your Family History" workshops or the community writing centers' regularly scheduled sessions, visit www.svsu.edu/communitywriting/.

**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.

"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



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start
Program Director

"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.***

Saginaw ISD Head Start

Claytor Administrative Building

3200 Perkins Street

Saginaw, MI 48601

Phone 989.752.2193

Fax 989.921.7146

Office Hours

Monday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM

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



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5

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At Delta: Get hands-on experience with Delta's state-of-the-art equipment and technology. Students often work in the community on projects like Habitat for Humanity.

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Job growth: Up 8% over the next 10 years.

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Average annual pay: \$46,200

At Delta: State-of-the-art equipment in hands-on labs. Go on tours of local operations. Courses are taught by career field professionals.

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Average annual pay: \$53,300

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 **Delta College**

COMMUNITY

10,000+ Backpacks Filled With School Supplies to Be Distributed in Flint



courtesy photo

FLINT, Mich., PRNewswire/ -- Pack Your Back, STATE Bags and 11-year-old local activist, 'Little Miss Flint' Mari Copeny have joined forces to distribute more than 10,000 backpacks filled with school supplies timed to the start of the 2018/2019 school year.

Select schools throughout Flint, Michigan will distribute a STATE backpack, filled with supplies for success, to each student on the first day of school. "The only way a student can succeed in the classroom is by having the proper tools and resources needed to do so," said Galen Miller, Executive Director of Pack Your Back. "We are excited to assist more than 10,000 students in getting those tools."

Students who do not attend these select schools

can still receive a backpack and supplies from a School Supply Distribution on Aug. 31 at the Mott Community College Event Center starting at 4 p.m. Backpacks will be handed out on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Pack Your Back and Little Miss Flint have facilitated programming that has already impacted over 3,500 people throughout Flint in 2018 including distribution of water, bicycles and school supplies, among other items.

STATE Bags donates tens of thousands of backpacks to children with immediate needs each year.

"We're thrilled to dedicate our entire back to school giving efforts to the kids of Flint this year,"

says STATE Co-Founder, Scot Tatelman. "This community has been overlooked far too long, and we are looking forward to gearing up its students while shedding light on the continual struggles and resiliency of its residents. We couldn't be more honored to team up with Little Miss Flint and Pack Your Back as they both perfectly embody what Flint represents."

To donate to efforts in Flint, Michigan, please visit <http://bit.ly/2mFga3z>.

For a list of schools directly receiving support, please visit www.packyourback.org.

Love motorcycles? Share your passion with others!

Instructors needed for Michigan's motorcycle safety classes



courtesy photo

Michigan is looking for men and women, who love motorcycles and working with people, to teach others how to ride.

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, who oversees the state's Michigan Rider Education Program, says that becoming a motorcycle safety class instructor, or "RiderCoach," provides benefits beyond the pay.

"Safe motorcycling requires that you learn how to use good judgment and the information on the road to assess risks and react appropriately," Johnson said. "It's a complex skill set that's important to practice every time you ride. As instructors, there is nothing more satisfying than working with a class of students to develop that habit, knowing that you are helping them take an important step to becoming safe, life-long riders."

The pay rate for RiderCoaches varies from \$24 - \$35 per hour, depending on location. RiderCoach applicants must be experienced motorcyclists who enjoy working with people and possess good riding and communications skills.

To become a certified Motorcycle Safety Foundation RiderCoach, you must meet the following criteria:

- Be at least 18 years old

- Have passed a Basic Rider Course (beginning motorcycle class) within the last year
- Have held a motorcycle endorsement for at least one year
- Possess a good driving record
- Pass a criminal background check
- Obtain a sponsorship with an approved public or private motorcycle safety course provider (providers are located throughout the state)
- Successfully complete the RiderCoach Prep Course

The fee for a RiderCoach Prep Course is \$75 and includes the materials required for the course.

RiderCoach candidates will spend approximately 80 hours in the classroom and on the motorcycle riding range. Participants must attend every session, pass a riding-skills test and a knowledge test. They will learn how to effectively instruct and evaluate students in the classroom and on the range and will be required to teach a basic motorcycle safety class under the tutelage of an experienced instructor.

Two RiderCoach Prep Courses are being offered in August.

- August 13-16 at Macomb Community College – South Campus
- August 17-19 at Schoolcraft College – Radcliff Campus

- August 20 at Schoolcraft College – Livonia Campus

This eight-day course will be led by RiderCoach Trainer Vince Consiglio. For more information, contact Renee Waraksa at waraksar@macomb.edu.

August 9-12 and August 16-19 at the west campus of Lansing Community College in Lansing. For more information about this eight-day course, contact RiderCoach Trainer Steve Lick at Steve.Lick@gmail.com.

In 2017, nearly 11,500 people enrolled in a Michigan motorcycle safety class. In addition to the Basic Rider Course, the state offers a Returning Rider Basic Rider Course, an Advance Rider Course and a 3-Wheel Basic Rider Course.

"We have a great need for motorcycle RiderCoaches," Johnson said. "The pay is good, the work is rewarding, and you get to mingle with like-minded motorcycle enthusiasts. What more could you ask for?"

For more information about the Michigan Rider Education Program, visit www.michigan.gov/mi-rep. For a list of public and private motorcycle safety sponsors, go to www.michigan.gov/motorcycling.

PAINTED PIANOS ADD ART & SOUND IN SAGINAW

2018 PAiNTED PiANOS PROJECT

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Borchard Park Gazebo
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The Listening Room
404 Court St.

The Temple Theatre
203 N. Washington Ave.

**Castle Museum of
Saginaw County History**
500 Federal Ave. (near rear entrance)

Downtown Saginaw Farmers' Market
203 S. Washington Ave.

YMCA of Saginaw
1915 Fordney St.

You may have noticed brightly colored pianos throughout downtown Saginaw. The pianos are a part of Art & About's 2018 Painted Pianos Project.

Art & About, formed through a sub-committee of the Saginaw Riverfront Commission, is a summer art initiative to bring art and inspiration to the downtown and Old Town areas of Saginaw, Michigan.

Earlier this year, the committee sought submissions from local artists and schools for piano design proposals. Eight designs were accepted, executed and are now on display throughout Saginaw.



Painted piano located at Andersen Enrichment Center

Morley awarded \$2 million Michigan Business Development Program performance-based grant



courtesy photo

Morley Companies, Inc., founded in 1863 and headquartered in Saginaw, is a customer service leader that provides business process outsourcing, meetings and incentives, and exhibit and display services to Fortune 500/Global 500 clients across a broad spectrum of industries. The company currently employs approximately 2,300 employees in locations around the country. Morley is experiencing significant growth and plans to expand into new space in Saginaw County, investing \$5.175 million and creating 525 jobs. As a result, the company has been awarded a \$2 million Michigan Business Development Program performance-based grant. Michigan was chosen over a competing site in South Carolina. Saginaw Future has offered staff time and talent resources in support of the project. For information on careers with Morley, visit <https://www.morleynet.com/careers/>.

"Morley Companies is one of the largest employers in the Great Lakes Bay Region and our community is extremely supportive and excited about this expansion," said JoAnn Crary, president of Saginaw Future. "We're pleased to have worked with the MEDC and the Michigan Strategic Fund to support this significant job creation project."

DCECU and Garber 'Stuff the Bus' to help local kids



courtesy photo

For the third year in a row, Garber Chevrolet in Midland will be hosting a Stuff the Bus donation drive to collect supplies for early childhood programs throughout Midland County.

Stuff the Bus supports Midland County's Great Start Readiness Program, Head Start and Early Childhood Special Education – programs offered by the Midland County Educational Service Agency in collaboration with many early childhood partners. In all, 30 classrooms in seven locations, as well as three different food pantries, will benefit from the donation drive.

Dow Chemical Employee's Credit Union and their employees will be making a contribution to Stuff the Bus and this year, they are inviting their members and the community to be a part of the giving!

Now through Wednesday, August 22, you can drop off items for Stuff the Bus in the DCECU lobby, and the donated items will be delivered from the credit union to the bus at Garber on Friday, August 24.

Here are the primary items being collected:

School Supplies

- Backpacks
- Wide-rule spiral notebooks
- White printer paper
- Kids' scissors
- Crayons
- Markers (regular/dry-erase)
- Glue sticks
- Pencils
- Pencil boxes
- Rulers
- Stickers

Nonperishable Food Items

- Cereal/oatmeal/granola bars
- Peanut butter
- Fruit snacks
- Crackers (e.g., Goldfish)
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Soups/sauces
- Noodles/pasta
- Instant potatoes/rice
- Stuffing
- Juice
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Headliner: Natalie Stovall – from The Voice – Season 12

LATIN FIESTA – JULY 27TH

Opening Act: Estrella D'oro

Headliner: The Tejano Sound Band

ESCAPE TO MARGARITAVILLE – AUGUST 3RD

Opening Act: Mama Mokey & The Smoky Linx

Headliner: Air Margaritaville

A LEGENDARY NIGHT – AUGUST 10TH

Opening Acts: Elvis (Bob Greif), Stevie Wonder (LaVel Jackson)

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989-272-7610
Fax: 989-272-7669
www.greatlakespace.org
jdarby@greatlakespace.org

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

501 Lapeer Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-759-6400

Houghton-Jones Task Force

1708 Johnson Street
Saginaw, MI
989-752-1660

Samaritas Community Center

3145 Russell Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-752-5805

Public Libraries of Saginaw Butman-Fish, Hoyt, Wickes & Zuel Libraries

505 Janes Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-755-0904
www.saginawlibrary.org

Restoration Community Outreach

1205 Norman
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-1886 / fax 989-753-2880
rcosag@yahoo.com

Saginaw County Business & Education Partnership

1213 South Washington Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-399-0016

Saginaw County Community Action Agency, Inc. (CAC)

2824 Perkins Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-7741

The Michigan Banner Outreach Ministries

301 E Genesee Ave, Suite 201
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-992-2600

The Saginaw Community Foundation

1 Tuscola, Suite 100
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Midland County Habitat for Humanity



September 20, 2018, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Program begins at 6:00 p.m.

Great Hall Banquet & Convention Center

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Wally and Lindsay Mayton

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 989-755-7011

Bread of Life Harvest Center
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 Saginaw, MI 48603
 989-790-7933

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 Pastor Genevieve Benson
 3317 Lapeer Street
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True Vine Baptist Church
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 Rev. Christopher V. Pryor
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POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Congressman Dan Kildee leads congressional delegation in Flint



courtesy photo

On July 20, 2018, Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-05) led a congressional delegation to Flint, Mich., so that Members of Congress could see first-hand the ongoing water crisis and receive an update about the city's recovery efforts.

While in Flint, the Members of Congress sat down with Flint residents to hear what more needs to be done to help families and the community recover. The Members also met with business leaders, non-profit organizations and the philanthropic community to discuss ways to grow Flint's economy and provide more opportunity for Flint residents. Finally, along with Mayor Karen Weaver, the Members observed lead pipes being replaced thanks to a federal Flint aid package passed by Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2016.

Members of Congress from across the country joined the trip to Flint, including Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (CA-12) and Assistant Democratic Leader James E. Clyburn (SC-06).

"After working hard to pass a federal aid package in Congress, I was proud to bring Members of Congress back to Flint," said Congressman Kildee. "While progress is being made to replace lead pipes and expand health care services for Flint families, it is important for my congressional colleagues to remember that the water crisis is not over. More needs to be done to move Flint forward so we can attract new economic investments to the city. I am glad Members had the opportunity to hear directly from families about the work that remains to help Flint and ensure a similar water crisis does not happen elsewhere."

"Four years since this man-made crisis, Flint Families still do not have confidence in their drinking water," said Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi. "Congressman Dan Kildee has been an unwavering voice in Congress for the residents of Flint and it is an honor to join him to witness the progress and meet with Flint families and community leaders to hear what more needs to be done. House Democrats stand united against Republican cuts to critical safe drinking water grants, remain steadfast in our commitment to the children and families of Flint and will continue fighting to ensure that no family ever has to live in fear of turning on the tap again."

"Access to clean, safe drinking water has been the single greatest factor in improving life expectancy in the modern era. And yet, four years after 100,000 people in Flint, Michigan were exposed to high levels of lead in their drinking water, the people of Flint still are using filters or bottled water. House Democrats are offering a Better Deal to Rebuild America to restore our national commitment to our water and wastewater infrastructure so that all communities have access to clean, safe water," said Assistant Democratic Leader James E. Clyburn.

Since the water crisis began, Congressman Kildee has brought over 30 Members of Congress—both Republicans and Democrats—to Flint. During the congressional delegation visits, Congressman Kildee has led Leader Pelosi, House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (MD-05), Assistant Democratic Leader Clyburn, leaders of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Progressive Caucus and other Members of Congress to meet with families, business owners and community leaders.

Congressman Kildee worked tirelessly to pass \$170 million in federal aid directed at helping Flint recover. The federal aid package included \$100 million to help Flint replace lead pipes and make much-needed improvements to its infrastructure; \$50 million for expanded health care for Flint families; and \$20 million to establish the Center for Lead Excellence and create the Flint Lead Registry.

Additionally, Congressman Kildee worked with Republican Congressman Fred Upton (MI-06) to pass a new law strengthening requirements for the EPA to more quickly notify the public when high concentrations of lead are found in drinking water. This bill passed the House on February 10, 2016, with a 416-2 bipartisan vote and was signed into law by President Obama on December 16, 2016.

Congressman Kildee continues to push for additional legislative action in Congress. He has introduced comprehensive legislation to strengthen the outdated Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) to better protect public health and lower the drinking water standard for lead in water. The National Opportunity for Lead Exposure Accountability and Deterrence Act, or NO LEAD Act, would require the EPA to update the LCR within nine months. It also improves lead testing procedures by banning techniques that disguise lead levels in water and prioritize testing for facilities with pregnant mothers and children. Additionally, it would provide more information to the public on the safety of their drinking water and lower the level of lead contamination in drinking water that would trigger when a public water system must act to remove lead from drinking water.

In addition to House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (CA-12) and Assistant Democratic Leader James E. Clyburn (SC-06), Congressman Sandy Levin (MI-09), Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (MI-12), Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence (MI-14), Congresswoman Barbara Lee (CA-13), Congressman Jim McGovern (MA-02), Congressman Denny Heck (WA-10), Congressman Dwight Evans (PA-02) and Congressman Jared Huffman (CA-02) were in the delegation that visited.

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SPORTS

Ex-Lions coach Jim Caldwell advising with XFL relaunch



courtesy photo

Former Detroit Lions coach Jim Caldwell has landed another job in football but it's not in the NFL.

According to the XFL's Twitter account, Caldwell is consulting with WWE chairman Vince McMahon's relaunched professional football league that is set to return in 2020.

Per the league's Twitter account, Caldwell is part of the assembled committee by XFL Commissioner Oliver Luck, father of Colts quarterback Andrew Luck, that will help shape the style of play and rules for the league, which wants to have fast-paced games with fewer antics than its inaugural season in 2001.

In addition to Caldwell, the committee also includes former NFL quarterback Doug Flutie, former NFL coach John Fox, sports tech innovator Bill Squadron and concussions expert Kevin Guskiewicz.

Caldwell, 63, has maintained a relatively low profile since he was fired on New Year's Day after leading the Lions to two playoff appearances and a 36-28 record in four seasons. This will also be the first year he hasn't had a coaching job in more than four decades.

The XFL was a professional American football league that played its only season in 2001. As originally conceived, the XFL was operated as a joint venture between the World Wrestling Federation (now known as WWE) and NBC. The XFL was conceived as an outdoor football league that would take place during the NFL off-season, and was promoted as having fewer rules and encouraging rougher play than other major leagues. The league had eight teams in two divisions, including major markets and those not directly served by the NFL, such as Birmingham, Las Vegas, Memphis, and Orlando. The XFL operated as a single entity (unlike most other professional sports leagues, which operate under

the franchise model), with all teams centrally owned by the league.

On December 15, 2017, it was reported that McMahon was seriously considering a revival of the XFL. WWE didn't confirm or deny the rumors, but released a statement that McMahon is launching a new company known as Alpha Entertainment, that is looking to expand into sports and entertainment properties "including professional football", and that WWE itself wasn't returning to professional football.

On January 25, 2018, Alpha Entertainment disclosed that it would be making a major announcement later that day, which ultimately announced an XFL revival planned for 2020.

To keep up with the reboot of XFL, visit www.xfl.com



CHANGES TO OUR NEW ROUTES

START DECEMBER 31, 2017

Route 1:

Was: (INBOUND) Congress > Mason > State
Change to: (INBOUND) Congress > Bay > State

Route 211 becomes Route 112:

Was: Perkins > Outer > Woodbridge
Change to: Woodbridge > Outer > Perkins
Adding: Ricker Center

Route 3:

Stays on Michigan to Superior - No bridge crossing
Drops: YMCA (YMCA on Route 7)

Route 54:

Drops Ricker Center (Ricker Center added to Route 112)

Route 6 changes to Fashion Sq and SVSU Express:

Was: Weiss > Bay > SVSU > Tittabawassee > I-675
Change to: I-675 > Fashion Sq > SVSU > Fashion Sq > I-675
Adds: Fresnius Dialysis Center

Route 7:

Adds: Ruffin Clinic, YMCA, MI Works, DaVita Dialysis
Drops: Michigan Ave (added to Route 3)

Route 82:

Was: Vets > Jefferson > Warren
Change to: Jefferson > Warren > Vets
Will take Jefferson to Williamson (Drop Holland, Weber, Hess)

Route 9:

Drops inbound WalMart stop (Route 6 adds a WalMart stop)

Route 106 - Big Changes!

Will now Depart at top of hour (:55) instead of bottom (:25)
Was: I-675 > Tittabawassee > Fashion Sq > Bay > Weiss
Change to: Weiss > Covenant Mackinaw > Fashion Sq > Tittabawassee > I-675
Adds: Covenant Mackinaw
Drops: Bay Pointe Apts, Southbound Bay (Route 9 Adds Southbound Bay)



PIC OF THE WEEK

Frank Medel of Midwest Tejano Radio and State Senator Ken Horn is pictured in Downtown Saginaw at Friday Night Live Latin Fiesta on July 27, 2018



Friday Night Live is a 6 week FREE concert series held at Morley Plaza in Downtown Saginaw. Each Friday there is a different theme. The next concert will take place on August 3, 2018. The theme is Escape to Margaritaville.

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State of Michigan, Department of Human Services
DHS-Pub-205 (3-13)

The Ranch

Inspired by a True Story (From January Summer Journal, South Africa)

Continued from June 1 Issue!

By Joann L. Washington

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INDIGO SOUL STORY COLLECTION



He said still smiling, "come and sit with me, please!" He then actually never let go of my hand, and nearly pulled me over to his table. Turns out Mr. Ponytail, was one of the leading CSI Forensic Scientist in South Africa (SA). He chatted with me for about 5 hours, providing me with such a rich and thorough history of SA politics, religion, history and race relations...you name it, he spoke with much authority, and ease on the subject.

Turns out that Mr. Ponytail was a millionaire and owned swaths of land by the embassy. Mr. Ponytail was one of the most intriguing human beings, that I have ever met, not to mention, being extremely fine as hell! We became very good friends. Often times he would be called to New York to solve some of the most heinous crimes. He invited me to be a guest at his lectures and on swarays and beautiful trips to The Dragons Back or KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) for a getaway.

Mr. Ponytail had swagger and a lot of soul. He was funny, and kind of a "bad boy" that could easily walk into President Thabo Mbeki's office, at a moment's notice. He wasn't coming from a place of arrogance, but from a place of sharing intellect.

One day some friends from the U.S. Embassy, that Johnny introduced me to, asked if I wanted to go with them to a place called "The Ranch" for a Greek Evening of dinner and dancing, I was delighted, and I couldn't wait to invited Mr. Ponytail. He agreed but would arrange to come later and join us.

Our four-wheel drive vehicle hauled the five of us ladies engaged in happy chatter. We wangled and rumbled through the rugged terrain for about 30 kilometers south, kicking up whirlwinds of red dust devils behind us until we finally stopped in front of a peculiar ornamented fountain, crowned with a heavy black bell, shrouded in a veil of prickly thorns.

The ground was covered in sparsely-patched sundried grass. The house was completely covered with ivy, so you couldn't see it directly until you rounded a corner, walked up the nine steps and onto a wide, open-faced patio. I felt that old mysterious alchemy...I knew there was something that stirred in the air, just didn't know what. We all looked very chic. I wore a feathered brown and yellow, fitted dress, with the backout, trimmed in green, with wedge tan sandals and accented with long flowing feathered earrings. I wore this outfit especially for Mr. Ponytail, we had never danced together and I just couldn't wait to see him.

I notice a gaggle of workers both men and women carrying baskets on their heads and kids running and playing kicking up a fury of red dust. The sun was setting as we made our way onto the veranda. The smell of the food waffled all around.

Suddenly, the hairs on my arms stood on end, when I came face-to-face with a tall slender woman in her mid-60s in a fitted black dress. She had long reddish-greying hair, a soft smile, darling grey eyes

and definitely played at being the girly-girl.

She immediately gave all of us a tour around the house. Nothing about it resembled a house. It was more like something you would find in a living storybook. It was built in sections, decades apart. It was a complicated mosaic maze, of stones connecting rooms and narrow corridors that didn't fit together.

Yet, there was something adorable about this woman. She made her own bread, jams, and jellies, painted and was dubbed the "Martha Stewart" of South Africa.

It was obvious her husband, worshipped the ground she walked on, even though they'd been married for 20 years. Despite her warmth and kindness, I still couldn't shake that dreaded feeling that something wasn't quite right with this place. It was like being in a dream and having to pee.

The evening was truly entertaining, there was Greek music. I had my first, second, third, fourth and fifth glass of Sambuca, with the gold leaves in the bottle. Hey, I was lit! Greek food and of course Greek dancing, and Greeks in the house! Then it happened, before dinner, I put my hands together to bless the food, and things suddenly became awkward!

continues on pg 49

The woman and husband crisscrossed glances. To most of the guest this went unnoticed, but not by me. At that moment two more people came to the table. The woman introduced them as her daughters. One was about 20, with the same features as her mother, and one other was about 10-years old with black hair, both outfitted in tight black attire.

They both smiled and immediately joined the Greek festivities, along with the rest of the 25 guests. The evening went nicely. We all clapped and danced and just had a lovely time. Mr. Ponytail, still hadn't arrived, but the night was still young and I was having FUN!

Sometime during all the festivities, I was invited by the little girl to see her room. She led me by the hand, out the door, and down the nine stairs, towards that eerie fountain, into another maze of dark rooms all with the open doors.

I made a comment about the unusual fountain and she mentioned. "Oh, this is where our pet cobra lives." I nearly freaked out and remember saying. "You let a cobra live in your fountain?" and she calmly shook her head yes, and said it even comes into the house. "We always leave the doors open."

I was in her room by now. It was very organized with a hodgepodge of toys, dolls, and book after book on witchcraft, and black magic spells. The little girl watched my face with a curious grin. I made sure I didn't change my facial expression, but my gut instinct told me to "run!"

Instead of obeying my gut, my pride took over and I wasn't about to be spooked by a kid. So, I women-up, hid my discomfort and dealt with it. She took two dolls from the handsome shelf and began to play with each. Shortly, she put the doll dressed in pink in my hands, while she kept the doll in black. Just when I was beginning to relax and felt ridiculous about my misgivings, something cold and slippery brushed up against my legs. My spirit froze. I didn't breathe. I didn't blink. I didn't move.

The girl continued playing as if nothing was happening. I felt its stone-cold bulk coiling over my feet, and head bobbing, flirting with my bare legs. Instead of going ballistic, I managed to relax my muscles, just like when I was in labor; I had to breathe with the pain, instead of fight against it.

I knew if I was going to survive, I had to be in complete control of my body and emotions, or risk getting bit by one-inch fangs, or get hit in the face with that poisonous venom.

That thing was about six feet long; I imagined now bit by bit, it zigzagging up my legs. The little girl was no longer smirking; the amusement had left

her brown eyes, as she traced the serpent gradually ringing my legs.

Her face went from a snigger to a blank expression. She didn't say a word or move suddenly. She gingerly eased her tiny frame off the bed, down to the floor and slipped out the door without making a sound, leaving me alone to my fate.

It seemed like an eternity past since the girl left me shackled by the snake. I was envious of the low tide of laughter that ebbed and faded in air. I caught every smooth sultry stroke from a Spanish guitar that strummed passionately up over the ting-ting of glasses and cutlery tumbling over china. A small hollow of sunlight filtered through shimmering dark curtains into the room directly in front of me. I was temporally blinded by its shower of graceful light. I wondered if Mr. Ponytail had arrived, Johnny was supposed to come too, but later. Maybe he this was it for me and later would never come!?

I was still clinging to the doll with golden hair, wearing a sparkling pink dress, holding a silver magic wand.

"Why had anyone come by now? What's taking them so long?" I screamed in desperation in my head. I opened my mouth and took in a long gulp of air, which was a big mistake; because I shifted my balance and moved backwards slightly, which only manage to deepen my terror.

I was literally nine freaking steps and a few yards to safety and freedom. I felt the snake's stronghold tighten around my lower legs and it began to twine upwards.

I kept thinking..." Lord Jesus! I am not going to die today! Lord Jesus! I am not going to die today! Me and Mr. Ponytail have to dance and I am not going to be no snake snack! Father PLEASE send your power and protection to save your humble servant Joann, right NOW!"

And I squeezed that doll, while that snake squeezed me. I didn't even realize I had my eyes closed, because when I opened them and there was Johnny and Mr. Ponytail, and two of the men that were carrying baskets on their heads, when we drove up.

God answered my prayers!

Each miniature in stature and charcoal black; with sticks pitched up in hands, and they both wore red shirts and crawled like skilled ninja warriors on the floor on both sides of me pounding their sticks defiantly on the floor. Mr. Ponytail had a thick blanket in his hands. Nobody said a word. The Ninja dual with the sticks never spoke a word; just drummed their magic sticks in perfect time.

Everything happened so quickly, it startled both me and the snake as it uncoiled lightening quick. It buckled and corkscrewed towards Mr. Ponytail, he threw the blanket over the things head; the biggest fear was it spitting that venom, it whipped underneath the blanket, and slide out the other side, into the thorny protection of the fountain.

As quickly as my two saviors entered the room, they disappeared and without a word. And just like that...it was over! It was like I came out of my body and watched this all playout above myself. Mr. Ponytail and Johnny flanked to the right and to the left of me. Through it all, I still gripped that doll.

We walked out from hell and into the fresh air of freedom, passed that fountain, rounding a corner, and up the nine stairs, and looked into the glowing faces of my five friends, just laughing and enjoying the music, food and fun.

Mr. Ponytail, held my hand tightly, and moved his hands around my waist. Johnny slipped back in party mode. The others were all clueless of my bout with the serpent and my audacious rescue only a few yards away. Two of the three witches were dancing together with their hair floating behind them, when I returned unscathed to the party.

I found myself dancing in the strong arms of Mr. Ponytail, like I had hoped for. Still very much weak in my knees, but feeling exceedingly blessed and thankful in mind, spirit and body, Johnny sat on the veranda sipping a drink and spied me and Mr. Ponytail from his seat. It turned out that He and Johnny work together and knew each other quiet well.

They didn't share the extent of their relationship and I didn't ask.

Mr. Ponytail held my hand, and without warning kissed me so tenderly on the lips. We faced the demon fountain together; I shook my head and breathed long and deep. Perched directly in front of us, standing in a swing, was that dark-head little girl, still playing with the doll dressed in black.

Mr. Ponytail pressed my hand gently. Johnny stood up with his drink still in hand and shot me a glance. I let go of Mr. Ponytail's hand, still holding on to the doll in the other hand, I walked up to her and said,

"Here, you forget your dolly, we had such an exciting time together, you missed all the fun!"



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