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MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Michigan Sees Dramatic Growth In Early College Participation, Success

Education, Page 27

SVRC to begin Culinary Training Program in Downtown Saginaw

Community, Page 33

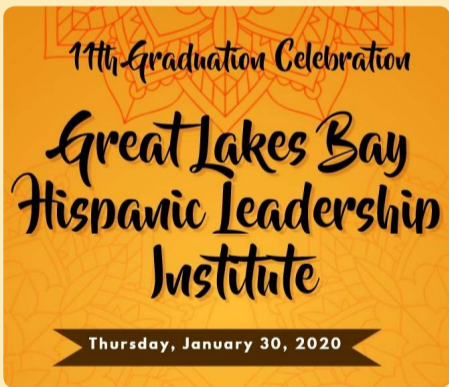
Pistons Owner Helps Toys for Tots Deliver More Than 10,000 Toys, to Michigan Families

Sports, Page 48

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



Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute to host 11th Annual Graduation Celebration



LB Banner, Cover Story

Gov. Whitmer, Michigan Opioids task forces announces plans to cut opioid deaths in half



Health, Pg 16



SVSU to Host 11th Annual MLK Celebration



courtesy photo

Courage, perseverance, unity and sacrifice. These are the values Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. espoused in pursuit of democracy for all. Values that remain critically important in today's world.

On Wednesday, January 22, 2020, students, business and civic leaders, and community supporters will gather to remember Dr. Martin Luther King through the 11th Annual Great Lakes Bay Regional Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration at Saginaw Valley State University. Furthermore, 15 high school seniors from the Great Lakes Bay Region whose actions actively embrace Dr. King's dream of improving racial harmony and social justice will be recognized as this year's Martin Luther King Scholarship recipients.

Joining us and presenting a keynote address is Dr. Ruth Jones. Dr. Ruth D. Jones is the Branch Chief for Industrial Safety Branch at NASA/ Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Dr. Jones directs and manages Safety and Mission Assurance functions and activities in support of Marshall Space Flight Center's institutional operations.

Jones is a trailblazer. She became the first woman to receive a bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in 1994. Six years later, she was the second African-American woman to earn a Ph.D. in physics in the state of Alabama when she graduated from Alabama A&M University.

Lauded as one of NASA's Modern Figures, Jones travels the nation as a motivational speaker in hopes of inspiring youths to seek careers in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. She also wants to serve as a role model for other women and minorities.

At the heart of Dr. King's philosophy was the concept of service. Accordingly, three individuals – one from Bay, Midland and Saginaw – will be honored with the 2020 MLK Drum Major for Service Award. This award recognizes unsung heroes who perform extraordinary and ordinary, every-day acts of service with reliability and commitment, but who seldom receive recognition.

The event will take place at 7:00 p.m. at Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts Curtiss Hall at SVSU.

Seen on the Scene: Saginaw Police Reserve Annual Awards Luncheon

On Sunday, December 16, the Saginaw Police Department Reserve officers held their annual Awards Luncheon at the Temple Theatre. During the luncheon, Officer of the Year, Lieutenant Harry Davis announced his retirement. Saginaw Mayor Floyd Kloc and Saginaw Police Chief, Bob Ruth praised Harry for his dedications and contributions to the Reserve Unit and Police Department. Harry, 80, has been serving the community as a Police Reserve for 20 years.



Lieutenant Harry Davis and Saginaw Mayor Floyd Kloc share a laugh at the podium



Lieutenant Harry Davis is pictured with Saginaw Police Chief Bob Ruth and Mark Norton, who will take over the position of Reserve Lieutenant



Lieutenant Harry Davis pictured under the Temple Theatre sign



Lieutenant Harry Davis is pictured with Kaitlyn Driver and Michelle McCoy of KMS



Lieutenant Harry Davis acknowledges Saginaw Police Chief Bob Ruth at the podium

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

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

PUBLISHER AND SENIOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Jerome Buckley
publisher022@gmail.com

EDITOR EMERITUS
Rae Lynn Buckley

THE LATINO BANNER
PUBLISHER
Jerome Buckley
thelatinobanner@gmail.com

OMBUDSMAN
Elaine Gregory McKenzie

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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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IN THIS ISSUE...

Youth Banner	4 - 6
Latino Banner	LB 1 - LB 6
Health	14
Business and Wealth	21
Education	27
Community	33
Politics and Public Policy	44
Sports	47

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 1 • NUMBER 7

Navigating the Narrative, w/ Mr. Clark: “The Hope Dealer”

Corey Pritchett MA, CPS (c) AKA Mr. Clark



Welcome to “Navigating the Narrative” w/Mr. Clark, I am your friendly “Neighborhood Hope Dealer” and we will examine variations of life and it’s “Story” of our “Journey” as it pertains to youth development and the many factors thereof.

During this article we will continue with an ongoing work on protective factors based on using WISDOM in protecting your values. As we reflect on the last article, encompassed with information on fundamental choices, motivations and aspirations, we recall that those three “forces” (for lack of better terms), are interchangeable and go hand in hand with “protecting your personal values” towards becoming who you want to be or what you want to achieve. We explained how fundamental choice has to do with our state of being or our basic life orientation and how it is a choice to live in a certain way. In addition, we discussed how motivation is what causes you to act and its involvement in the biological, emotional, social, and cognitive forces that activate behavior. Concluding that in everyday usage, the term motivation is frequently used to describe why a person does something. In final review, we discussed that aspirations are our dreams and the things that we long

to achieve; also how aspirations tend to create powerful emotions and are deeply embedded within us, being aligned with our values, and the very core of who we are.

In connection to our fundamental choices, motivations, aspirations and their ability to protect our personal values, we will transition into the powerful relationship between hope and resilience. The increased stress, pressure, and demands on children today have caused an alarming increase in childhood depression, health disorders, and antisocial behavior. However, numerous scientific studies of children facing great adversity have shown just how important resilience is for successful growth. Hope is having a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen and it is the result of a “fundamental choice” which is infused by “motivation” established by a specific “aspiration” to achieve a particular vision, task, goal and/or pursuit of life. Hope is a direct byproduct of resilience. In other words, if you make a fundamental choice to hope, resilience will occur in whatever situation you may find yourself in. One thing is for sure in life, and a few things we don’t have to assume or imagine. And that is the reality of circumstances,

situations and the conditions thereof, are sometimes out of our control yet they can cause much pain, stress, strain, strife and many other mental health detrimental factors. However, when we have hope, we can foster enough resilience to face anything life throws our way, empowering us to continue pressing towards our aspirations.

Although we have explored and defined resilience in previous articles, we will review it for the sake of comprehension and understanding this connection between itself(resilience) and hope. Resilience is an individual’s ability to adaptively respond to hardship, stress, and adversity and has been defined as the ability to “bounce back” from negative events without succumbing to despair. Individuals who report high levels of resilience typically portray an optimistic outlook, positive emotionality, curiosity, and openness to new experiences. These positive emotions, in turn, typically lead to constructive attitudes and behaviors. It is clear that resilience is influenced by experience, but as Regehr et al. (2004) and Hand (2004) have shown, risk factors and negative life experiences are sometimes associated with increased resilience. Because there is not always a direct relationship between life

MYB Cover Story, Hope Dealer

experiences and resilience, other variables must be involved in this relationship. Hope and mindfulness are likely culprits, implicated by both research and theory.

Hope and resilience are closely aligned constructs, as they both include a tendency towards maintaining an optimistic outlook in the face of adversity. Like resilience, hope has been defined in many ways. In combining the definition previously mentioned, hope is to be viewed as having an expectation that something desired will occur, as the wishing and expecting that occurs regarding a specific situation, and as an emotion or feeling of confidence in an outcome (Collins & Kuehn, 2004). According to Snyder (1994), a leading hope researcher, hope involves conceptualizing goals and moving toward them. Farran, Herth, and Popovich (1995) also discuss hope in terms of the ability to actively and constructively confront problems, and

to creatively imagine alternative ways of dealing with them. Within the context of positive psychology, Seligman and Csikszentmihalyi (2000) refer to hope as one of the “human strengths that act as buffers against mental illness” (p. 7). Snyder (1994) envisions hope as involving goals, or outcomes one desires; willpower, or motivating determination that is gained only after overcoming barriers; and waypower, or the ability to find and act on effective methods of attaining goals or in much simpler terms “finding a way.”

Possessing hope and resilience positively affect mood and functioning. Hope and resilience have been associated with better physical and mental health outcomes in undergraduates as well as better health and well-being and lower psychological distress in adults. In addition, Ryden, et al. found that resilience is a protective factor against depression and the impact of stress. Additionally, both traits have been

found to positively influence the quality of life as well as act as a buffer against the negative impact of stressors.

In conclusion, hopeful and resilient individuals are often characterized by positive attitudes and optimistic outlooks. Positivity and optimism, in turn, are associated with better mood states as well as decreased occurrences of stress, pressure, childhood depression, health disorders, and antisocial behavior. As well as ultimately preparing individuals to face anything life throws at them, knowing that life will assuredly present its fair share of challenges. Until next time, keep "Navigating (planning, directing) the Narrative(story)" during your personal Journey(life).

Grace and peace be multiplied to you all, Beloved.

In Service, Mr. Corey Pritchett, MA

Saginaw Public Schools & SodexoMAGIC PRESENTS
FAMILY Holiday Jubilee
Saginaw High School
3100 Webber St. + Saginaw, MI 48601
Saturday, December 21, 2019
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

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THE LATINO BANNER

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

Vamos Adelante



Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute to host 11th Annual Graduation Celebration



R2L® NextGen looking for Detroit Latino high school students for all-expenses paid leadership experience

LB Pg. 4



On Thursday, January 30, 2020, the Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute will hold their 11th Annual Graduation Celebration. The event will take place at Saginaw Valley State University's Curtiss Hall Banquet Room. Networking starts at 5:00 pm and the program will begin at 6:00 pm.

The keynote speaker for the evening is Loida L. Tapia, Director of Public Engagement Michigan Department of Secretary of State.

The Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute was designed as a leadership

identification program, with the specific goal of developing and fostering future community leaders. The Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute promotes the individual development of Great Lakes Bay Region Hispanics for increased participation in leadership roles.

Tickets are \$30 per person and reserved guest tables are \$240. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

For additional information visit www.glbhispanicleadership.org/graduation

Submit your news at
themichiganbanner.com

Faithful Gather to Honor Our Lady of Guadalupe



courtesy photo

BAY CITY- On the eve of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (which takes place on Dec. 12), faithful filled All Saints Parish, St. Boniface Church in Bay City to honor our Blessed Mother with songs, roses, prayers and Mass. The celebration included a Danza Azteca prayer dance by parish youth, and a mariachi band led a serenade to Our Lady as attendees offered roses to her.

For the past nine days, faithful across the Diocese of Saginaw and all of the Americas have been praying a novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas.

“The traditional Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe is a time for us to venerate our Mother Mary and to thank her for the example she has given us for she was Jesus’ first missionary disciple,” said Bishop

Robert Gruss in his annual letter for the occasion.

“We are invited to allow Mary, our Mother, to lead us through our own conversion as she did with the people of Mexico. We ask Mary to take us by the hands and lead us through her heart of mercy so that we too, might take the hands of others and show them what true mercy is,” Bishop Gruss said.

Today, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, honors the Virgin Mary under this title and concludes the novena prayed throughout the diocese for her intercession.

In 1531, Mary appeared to an Indian, Juan Diego, dressed as an Aztec princess and addressing him in his native language. She sent him to the bishop, Juan de Zumarraga,

with a request to build a chapel on the hill where she appeared. Bishop Zumarraga asked for a sign. On Dec. 12, Our Lady appeared once again to Juan Diego and gave him roses to carry in his tilma (cloak) for the bishop. When Juan Diego opened his tilma, the roses spilled out to reveal a miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The image, rich in symbolism, led to the conversion of millions of natives and continues to be a life-changing devotion today.

“We are invited to allow Mary, our Mother, to lead us through our own conversion as she did with the people of Mexico. We ask Mary to take us by the hands and lead us through her heart of mercy so that we too, might take the hands of others and show them what true mercy is,” Bishop Gruss said.

THE LATINAS FIRST FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP IS **NOW OPEN** FOR APPLICATIONS!

Are you a High School Senior, undergraduate or graduate Latina student seeking a scholarship to continue your higher education next year? Then we encourage you to apply for our scholarship! *Applicants should be leaders inside and outside of the classroom.*

Scholarship Timeline:

Application Deadline:
January 17, 2020

Annual Luncheon
and Scholarship
Presentations:
May 15, 2020
Scholarship amounts vary



More information available at
www.latinasfirstfoundation.org

Complete the application at:

www.latinasfirstfoundation.org/applications/

Questions? Email us at:

info@latinasfirstfoundation.org

R2L® NextGen looking for Detroit Latino high school students for all-expenses paid leadership experience

YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE? R2L® NEXTGEN

Have you ever dreamed of visiting our nation's capital and learning about how our government works? CHCI has an all-expenses paid leadership experience designed just for Latino high school students. Spend a week exploring Washington, D.C., while creating lasting friendships and wonderful memories. Participate in R2L® NextGen and make this a summer to remember!

REALIZE YOUR VOICE MATTERS

As young Latinos, you may think your voice isn't important or can't be heard, especially if you live far away from Washington, D.C. We challenge this belief during CHCI's R2L® NextGen program. You will talk to Latino leaders who value your ideas and opinions and will motivate you to get involved in your community to make sure your voice is heard.

SPARK YOUR PASSION FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Through the various interactive learning opportunities, you will better understand some of the top issues that face the Latino community. You will learn how you can be leaders of change in your community. You will also be inspired by the success stories of the speakers you will meet—including many CHCI Alumni—who have dedicated their lives to creating a better world for us all.

EXPLORE OUR NATION'S CAPITAL

Like our culture, our country has a rich history. During your stay, you will participate in study visits at historic sites, embassies, and museums, including the Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Smithsonian Air & Space Museum, and Capitol Hill, to expand your knowledge in these areas.

MEET OTHER EMERGING LATINO LEADERS

During R2L® NextGen, you will be joined



courtesy photo

by Latino high school students from across the country. By spending a week together, you'll make a lot of great new friends. Plus, you'll meet successful Latino leaders, CHCI Alumni and staff, some of whom may be references for college applications and future jobs!

Currently, we are accepting applications from students in the Detroit area.

Participants from Detroit will participate in the program during week of July 19-24, 2020.

In order to be eligible to apply, students must:

- Reside in Wayne County
- Be a current 10th or 11th grade student
- Demonstrate interest in learning more about civic engagement.

While we do require applicants share their grades and a copy of their transcript, there is no minimum GPA requirement to apply.

All individuals are welcome to apply. However, preference is given to individuals with financial need.

Interested in applying? Visit apply.chci.org and complete the application named R2L NextGen – Detroit

Community Board

Submit your announcements and events at themichiganbanner.com/submit

**Congratulations
to the 2019-2020
Unión Cívica
Mexicana Queen
and her Court!**

**Marisa Cardinalli
Alejandra
Fulgencio Gabriel
Duron!**



SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ SCHOLARSHIP

Application deadline: February 7, 2020

This scholarship was established to honor a great mentor and Hispanic labor leader and organizer. Its intent is to provide financial assistance to Hispanic students of Southwest Michigan who have demonstrated a record of academic success and civic responsibility. César E. Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, in Yuma, Arizona. César left school after the eighth grade to work in the fields full-time to support his family. He joined the US Navy in 1946 and served in the Western Pacific in the aftermath of World War II. He began as a community organizer in 1952 when he joined the Community Service Organization (CSO), a prominent Latino civil rights group. In 1962, César founded the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers of America. For more than three decades César led the first successful farm workers union in American history, achieving dignity, respect, fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, and humane living conditions for hundreds of thousands of farm workers. A strong believer in the principles of nonviolence, César effectively employed peaceful tactics such as fasts, boycotts, strikes, and pilgrimages to achieve social justice. In 1994 he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in America.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Must be a Southwest Michigan high school senior of Hispanic or Latino origin
- Must be enrolled or must plan to enroll full-time at an accredited college or university in the State of Michigan as an undergraduate student for the upcoming academic year
- **Must be able to use the scholarship on the upcoming academic year**
 - \$2,000 scholarship for students attending 4-year college
 - \$1,000 scholarship for students attending 2-year college
- Must have earned and maintained a high school cumulative Grade Point Average of no less than 3.00 on a 4.0 scale

FUTUROS LÍDERES SCHOLARSHIP

Application deadline: February 7, 2020

The Southwest Michigan César E. Chávez Committee has established the Futuros Líderes Endowed Scholarship in order to support the University's diversity goals of recruitment and retention of students that meet the following criteria:

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Incoming freshmen or current full-time student at Western Michigan University
- First generation college student
- Work experience in agricultural labor or the service sector is preferred
- Demonstrate financial need
- Priority will be given to students from the following Michigan counties: Allegan, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren
- Annual awards will be granted based on availability of funds to: a) at least one incoming first-year student, b) at least one current WMU student, c) if funds are available to others in the application pool
- Scholarship selection committee is comprised of three members of the Southwest Michigan Cesar Chavez Committee, and two members of the WMU Latino Employees Association. At least one committee member will be a WMU faculty member. Special consideration based on committee's decision

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



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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Is organizational development a luxury or a waste of time?

Nonprofit people are some of the busiest people around. We are busy meeting needs, advocating, raising money, collaborating, and bringing people together to advance positive visions for who we can be individually and collectively. Our endeavors are meaningful, impactful, and often life-saving. Collectively we are transforming the world we know into the world we want our children to live in. And we seek to respect each other and feel good about doing good.

But how does this all happen? Is there a magic team builder who transforms everyday humans into nonprofit superstars? Our experience has shown that while the hearts of those in the nonprofit sector are full of love and hope, we aren't collectively blessed with any greater ability to work together than others.

We need to invest in our people, systems, culture, and understanding of each other. Unfortunately many nonprofits try to allocate "just about everything" to programs, services, and advocacy and overlook investing in our teams. Organizational development can be seen as a luxury we can't afford, something we don't need because we've got it all together, or something we can do on our own. Sometimes we don't even know what our organizations need, or that there is help, processes, and new approaches to working

that we can benefit from.

Take a moment to read and answer the following questions. Ask your team members, board members, and volunteers to do the same. Is there consensus? Your answers are at the heart of your organizational culture and effectiveness.

1. Who do we serve, support, or advocate for? Is this clearly defined?
2. Do we meet a "need" on an individual or community-wide basis?
3. Who are our partners and who are our competitors?
4. What are our organization's values? Does everyone know these? Do we all buy into these?
5. How are management decisions made?
6. Where does the buck stop?
7. Who provides oversight?
8. Who sets goals, defines/refines the mission and values?
9. Where does our funding come from?
10. Who is responsible for the financial health of the organization?
11. Are we operating from a strategic plan, business plan, or other plan?
12. Is the budget a "make-do" budget, or does it provide the finances we need to fulfill our mission?
13. Are we in a position to go after funding to support your organization?

14. What checks and balances have we put in place to hold ourselves accountable? Who is part of these systems and what processes are in place to surface issues, concerns, harassment, embezzlement, fraud, misrepresentation?

15. Do we invest in the development of our employees, volunteers, and board members?

16. Do we have the capacity and infrastructure to sustain and grow our operations?

17. Do our employees, volunteers, and board members understand their roles and responsibilities?

18. Do we have the tools we need to monitor trends within our "sector?"

All of these impact and help create organizational culture. Take time to invest in your organization's health and development: you and your team are worth it.



Mel and Pearl Shaw | Courtesy Photo

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

HEALTH

Michigan awarded \$1.65 million hereditary cancer grant by CDC



courtesy photo

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Lifecourse Epidemiology and Genomics Division has received a \$1.65 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The funds will be used to increase screening for family cancer history, and the use of genetic counseling and testing for hereditary cancer syndromes over the next three years.

MDHHS is one of four recipients to be awarded the CDC Cancer Genomics Program: Translating Research into Public Health funding opportunity, which supports the implementation and evaluation of activities and strategies related to screening cancer family history and the use of genetic

counseling and testing. Oregon, Washington and Utah were also awarded funds. Michigan will receive \$550,000 annually for the next three years under the grant terms.

“Being aware of your family history and receiving a referral for cancer genetic counseling can help clarify risk,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health for MDHHS. “This grant will help Michigan continue efforts toward increased screening and testing.”

With this grant, MDHHS will continue the promotion and support of hereditary cancer genomic services. This will include community and provider education,

patient and provider resources, surveillance, community events related to hereditary cancer and policy/systems review and change.

The grant focuses primarily on Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer (HBOC) and Lynch syndrome. HBOC is a condition which can cause an increased risk of breast, ovarian, pancreatic and prostate cancer in an affected person. Lynch syndrome is a condition which can cause an increased risk of colorectal, endometrial, ovarian, gastric, small bowel and other cancers.

Michigan has been a recipient of the CDC Cancer Genomic Program Cooperative Agreement since 2008.

MDHHS presents new approach to strengthen behavioral health at joint legislative hearing

LANSING, Mich. – Today Robert Gordon, director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), presented to a bipartisan panel of legislators the department’s vision for a strengthened behavioral health system, serving individuals with severe mental illness, substance use disorders, and developmental disabilities. The new system will integrate physical and behavioral health services to improve outcomes and meet the growing demand for mental health care in Michigan.

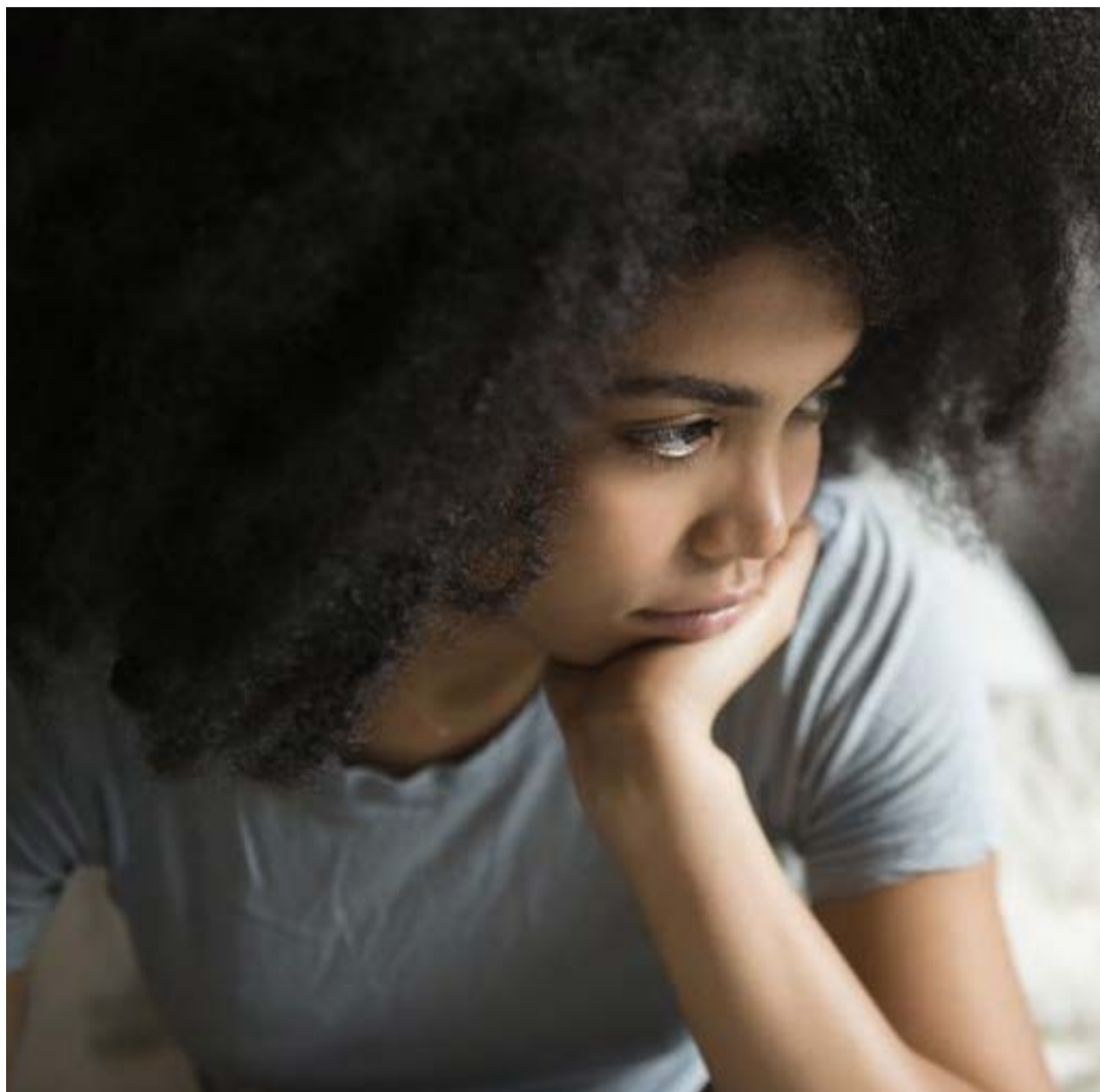
“Michigan has a golden opportunity to improve services for our loved ones – to expand access, to reduce red tape and to strengthen our behavioral health system for the long haul,” Gordon said. “We have so many strengths to build on, beginning with the heroic work of providers and caregivers statewide. We’re going to build on those strengths and establish an integrated approach to care that finally treats the whole person.”

Despite the strengths of the current public behavioral health system, Medicaid participants continue to face challenges, such as a lack of coordination between physical health and mental health professionals. Participants find the system confusing to navigate and it can be difficult for families to find the right services.

MDHHS proposes a new approach to behavioral health that will lead to greater choice of providers, better coordination of services, and increased investment in behavioral health. To advance these goals, Gordon outlined three key principles for system design:

- Preserving a strong safety net.
- Integrating physical and behavioral health in both care and financing.
- Establishing Specialty Integrated Plans (SIPs).

SIPs bring together the management skills of traditional insurance companies with the expertise and depth of behavioral health organizations. Already in use in other states, including North Carolina, Arizona



courtesy photo

and Arkansas, SIPs allow for stronger and simpler oversight with lower administrative costs.

The department’s approach will also preserve the extra protections available today, including person-centered planning (ensuring people actively participate in the design of their care), recipient rights and comprehensive services and supports. It also creates opportunities for further innovation in how care can be delivered.

“To achieve better care for Michiganders, the department will work together with families, advocates, providers and legislators,” Gordon said. “We look forward to sharing this approach with our stakeholders and

especially with those we serve. Working with them, and building on the best of our current system, we will design a model that improves outcomes and treats individuals with the dignity they deserve.”

It is expected the new Medicaid-funded integrated health plan will launch in 2022. Four public forums will be scheduled in January 2020 to hear feedback and questions as policy design and planning move forward.

More information can be found at Michigan.gov/FutureOfBehavioralHealth, where there is also an opportunity to provide comment on this vision to improve the public behavioral health system.

Gov. Whitmer, Michigan Opioids task forces announces plans to cut opioid deaths in half



courtesy photo

LANSING, MI (WILX) -- Gov. Whitmer along with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and other members of the Michigan Opioids Task Forces announced plans to cut opioids deaths in half in the state of Michigan.

The state's strategy will focus on three key areas: preventing opioid misuse, ensuring individuals using opioids can access high-quality recovery treatment and reducing the harm caused by opioids to individuals and their communities, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

"We are losing more than five people every single day to opioid overdoses," said Whitmer. "This epidemic touches all areas of our state and is one of the greatest health crises of our lifetimes. My number one priority is protecting our families and

our overall public health, and these efforts will help bring us closer to ending this epidemic."

The state will be kick-starting a \$1 million media campaign aimed at reducing stigma launched by the MDHHS. The campaign will be funded through the State Opioid Response federal grant funds.

"We're asking for family members and peers of people with opioid use disorder to help us change the script about treatment and dispel the stigma around receiving recovery services for opioid misuse," said Robert Gordon, MDHHS director. "We want to change criticism to compassion; helplessness to hopefulness. We need to show every Michigander struggling with this medical condition that they are deserving."

The second point of action will be to enact

treatment. MDHHS said it will remove prior authorization requirements for specific medications used to treat these disorders, including buprenorphine as of Monday, Dec. 2, in order to increase access to treatment for Medicaid recipients with opioid use disorders.

"Removing prior authorization for these medications in the Medicaid program eliminates an unnecessary barrier to treatment access for people who are struggling with an opioid use disorder," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health for MDHHS. "By eliminating this requirement, we will increase availability of treatment and increase their chances of a successful recovery."

The MDHHS said the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) will also be implementing Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs with the goal of expanding treatment to all of its facilities by 2023.

MDHHS said more than 20 percent of incarcerated individuals in Michigan has been identified as having an opioid use disorder, and those leaving prison are 40 to 120 times more likely to die of an overdose within two weeks of release.

"Medication-assisted treatment, along with additional substance abuse treatment services, increases the likelihood of long-term recovery, reducing the chance of recidivism," said Marti Kay Sherry, MDOC acting administrator, Bureau of Health Care Services.

Next, the state will focus on harm reduction.

MDHHS has expanded support for syringe programs (SSP), which is now being offered by 25 agencies, up from 13 from the previous year.

MDHHS said new diagnoses of hepatitis C (HCV) among adults less than 40 years old increased from 292 in 2000 to 3,774 in 2018. MDHHS said where data was collected on HCV diagnoses among adults less than 40 years old in 2018, more than 80% self-reported a history of injecting drugs.

More than safe harbor in crisis, we come through, when others don't, with a path home. We connect all people based on their individual circumstances with the families and communities that will empower them to live their fullest life possible.

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- ☞ **In 2018, Samaritas received the Outstanding Non-Profit Award at the 16th Heart of the City Community Awards Luncheon, presented by The Michigan Banner.**
- ☞ **This award kicked off a year-long Samaritas initiative called Lift Up Saginaw ... One child, one family, one neighborhood at a time.**
- ☞ **At the center of this initiative is the Samaritas Community Center, located in a resilient neighborhood from where a lot of Saginaw leadership are from.**
- ☞ **Samaritas will also provide a holistic approach to education by combining wraparound human services with an innovative academic approach.**
- ☞ **Also part of Lift Up Saginaw, a full-scale renovation to Samaritas Senior Living Saginaw completes the community, consisting of 40 private rooms in a new state-of-the art rehabilitation center, private long term care bedrooms, and a secure memory care.**

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Think you missed the Great American Smokeout? Think again



courtesy photo

You've probably heard the term "nobody likes a quitter." On Nov. 21 of every year, however, being a quitter makes you a winner.

The Great American Smokeout, a program hosted by the American Cancer Society, or ACS, has been encouraging smokers for more than 40 years to drop the habit for just one day. After one tobacco-free day, smokers can take the next step and kick the habit for good. Thousands of people participated in this year's Great American Smokeout.

Think you missed your chance? Never fear; it's the most wonderful time of the year ... to make a resolution to take a step toward better health, for you and the loved ones you'll be gathering with over the coming weeks.

Did you know?

According to the ACS, about 37.8 million Americans smoke cigarettes. About half of all Americans who keep smoking will die because of their smoking, the society reports. Each year more than 480,000 people in the United States die from illnesses caused by smoking. This means smoking causes about 1 out of 5 deaths in the United States each year.

Don't feel bad if you're having a tough time giving up the habit. Giving up cigarettes, cigars or hookahs is not easy. According to Medical News Today, nicotine is as difficult as giving up heroin. The Mayo Clinic explains nicotine dependence this

way: "Nicotine produces physical and mood-altering effects in your brain that are temporarily pleasing. These effects make you want to use tobacco and lead to dependence."

It can be a tough habit to break, but the ACS gives smokers tips on how to quit for just one day, which could lead to a smoke-free lifetime.

If you've decided to quit using tobacco – and that is a very personal decision – experts say you should set a date for quitting, make a plan and stick to that plan. Here are some tips:

- Pick the date and mark it on your calendar.
- Tell friends and family about your quit day.
- Get rid of all the cigarettes and ashtrays in your home, car and at work.
- Stock up on oral substitutes – sugarless gum, carrot sticks, hard candy, cinnamon sticks, coffee stirrers, straws and/or toothpicks.
- Decide on a plan. Will you use nicotine replacement therapy (gum and patches) or other medicines? Will you attend a stop-smoking class? If so, sign up now.
- Practice saying, "No, thank you. I don't smoke."
- Set up a support system. This could be a group program or a friend or family member who has successfully quit and is willing to help you.
- Ask family and friends who still smoke not to smoke around you, and not to

leave cigarettes out where you can see them.

- If you are using bupropion or varenicline, take your dose each day leading up to your quit day.
- Think about your past attempts to quit. Try to figure out what worked and what didn't.

You're not alone

Although kicking the smoking habit is hard, it's not impossible. According to a recent Healthline article, 40% of former smokers who succeeded in quitting attributed their success to having a support system in place. On top of friends or family, here are some additional resources you could consider:

- The Michigan Tobacco Quitline at (800) QUIT-NOW (800-784-8669). During the first call, a trained coach will talk to you about what you feel you need to help you quit. You can get self-help materials, a list of quit smoking programs in your area, or you may be able to register for a free telephone-coaching program.
- The Great American Smokeout at cancer.org/healthy/stay-away-from-tobacco/great-american-smokeout.html
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/quit-smoking/index.html
- Partnership for Prescription Assistance program has a directory of drug company programs that will help with the cost of prescriptions. Call (800) 477-2669 or visit Partnership for Prescription Assistance at aafp.org/about/initiatives/prescription-assistance.html.
- Connection to Care can help you get low-cost or free Chantix, Nicotrol Inhaler, and/or Nicotrol Nasal Spray. To apply, fill out a short form and have your doctor sign it. Call (866) 776-3700 or visit Pfizer RxPathways at pfizerrxpathways.com.
- Bridges to Access can help you get Zyban or Bupropion SR. To apply, fill out a short form and then ask your doctor to sign and submit it for you. Call (866) 728-4368 or visit Bridges to Access at rxresource.org/prescription-assistance/bridges-to-access.html.

Article courtesy of Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

It's not too late: Michiganders urged to get flu vaccine before the holidays

the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is reminding Michigan residents that it's not too late to get vaccinated.

"The flu vaccine is the best way to protect yourself and your families against flu," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health for MDHHS. "It is important to get vaccinated today to prevent yourself from getting sick this holiday season. National Influenza Vaccination Week serves as a great reminder to get a flu vaccine for those who have not done so yet this season."

Influenza is not the stomach flu but is a contagious respiratory disease caused by different strains of the virus and can result in mild to severe illness. Although thousands of flu-related hospitalizations and deaths are reported every year, only 46.1 percent

of Michigan residents reported receiving a flu vaccine last season. Michigan ranks 38th in the nation for flu vaccination coverage and falls below the national average of 49.2 percent.

Last season, CDC estimated that up to 42.9 million people became sick with influenza and up to 61,200 deaths occurred, 143 of which were children. In Michigan, four children died last season due to flu-related complications.

Flu activity is steadily increasing in Michigan and positive flu cases have been reported in the central, southwest and southeast regions. However, other states in the south have reported high flu activity and four flu-associated pediatric deaths have been confirmed nationally for the 2019-2020 flu season so far. It takes about two weeks after the vaccine is administered before the

body builds up enough immunity to prevent the flu. Michiganders should get their flu vaccine now to protect themselves before activity peaks in Michigan.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends annual influenza vaccination for all persons ages 6 months and older. There are many flu vaccine options available this season, and residents should speak with a healthcare provider about which is best for them.

There is ample supply of flu vaccines available at many locations throughout Michigan, including doctor's offices, pharmacies, and local health departments. To find a location near you, visit Vaccinefinder.org. For more information about flu activity in Michigan check out the Michigan Flu Focus weekly newsletter or visit Michigan.gov/flu.



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Great Lakes Pace: Is PACE Therapy Services for You?

Great Lakes PACE is a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly. We opened May 1, 2015. PACE offers most services received in nursing homes for those living in the community. Physical, Occupational and Speech therapy are included in the scope of PACE services.

These are some of the benefits of choosing therapy services through PACE. PACE has no homebound rules. There are no early discharges for cancelling for illness or other reasons. There is flexible scheduling during day center hours. Our therapy team assesses for medical equipment needed for safety. This includes repair of current equipment. PACE may provide medical items not covered by insurances when there is a medical need. Therapy goals are person-centered. Therapy can continue to maintain strength and movement. Our staff works with you to create personalized plans to reach your goals.

Everyone in PACE has a medical team. This team has doctors, nurses, certified nursing assistants, a dietician, activity director, a center manager and a transportation coordinator. An Occupational and Physical Therapist are included. Assessments are done in a timely fashion for those noted to have physical decline.

Great Lakes PACE enrolls those 55 or older and who live in our service area (see zip codes below). You must be able to live safe in the community with PACE services. There are also medical guidelines. Our intake staff will meet with you to assess eligibility. PACE is covered by Medicaid and/or Medicare for many. If not eligible for Medicaid, there is a private pay option. Those enrolled in PACE are charged the cost of medical services received from out-of-network providers without prior approval- except for emergencies.

Would you like to learn more about Great Lakes PACE? Call today! We are open Monday-Friday from 8AM-5PM. Walk-in tours are welcome or plan a group tour of any size for your family, church or community organization.



courtesy photo

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

Nonprofits receive \$870,000 in MIOSHA training grants for worker safety and health



LANSING, Mich.— To support worker safety and health across the state, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) announced the award of \$870,000 in training grants to 20 nonprofit organizations.

The Consultation Education and Training grants are awarded annually for the development and implementation of safety and health training and services, specifically to help support small and medium-sized business.

“Bold solutions are needed to ensure Michigan’s working men and women are safe on the job as they build and strengthen our communities,” Gov. Whitmer said. “I am committed to protecting Michigan workers, improving workplace safety and health is a wise investment that benefits business and ensures workers return home.”

The training grants have a strong track record of increasing safety awareness in the workplace and continues to further MIOSHA’s commitment to enhancing safety and health training and work practices that result in fewer injuries, illnesses and fatalities on worksites.

During the FY 2019 grant period, more than 20,000 employees attended training sessions

funded by these MIOSHA training grants.

“MIOSHA is pleased to award these grants to employer groups, labor organizations and other nonprofits that have demonstrated innovation in their safety and health training programs,” said MIOSHA Director Bart Pickelman. “These grants are instrumental in broadening MIOSHA safety and health activities to keep Michigan workers unharmed.”

The MIOSHA Consultation Education and Training Grant Program provides additional options for safety and health education and training to employers and employees. Majority of the grants are geared towards the performance goals and initiatives identified in the MIOSHA Strategic Plan, with a particular emphasis on prevention for high hazard industries.

“Our partnership with Consultation Education and Training has increased MIOSHA’s safety training reach to teens before they enter the workforce,” said Parents for Student Safety Employment Standards (PASSES) President Donna Weaver. “Young workers statistically are the most vulnerable to workplace accidents and MIOSHA’s commitment to their safety is making a difference.”

The Consultation Education and Training Grant Program is designed to:

- Increase the number of employers and employees receiving occupational safety and health education, training and prevention services, especially employers with less than 100 employees.
- Encourage the development of new strategies for providing occupational safety and health education, training and prevention services.
- Encourage new providers of occupational safety and health education, training

and prevention services for Michigan businesses.

- Evaluate the effectiveness of those alternative strategies and providers.

PASSES, will receive \$75,000, the second largest grant award, to provide focused student training in construction trades, industrial arts classes and their co-op program which will include topics such as heat exhaustion, hazard recognition and fall protection. Trainings are held at high schools throughout Michigan.

Other awarded projects include a wide range of training activities and proficiency levels, including safety and health training in healthcare, manufacturing and construction, workplace violence prevention, safe chemical handling and personal protective equipment. There’s also a new Find and Fix program to help workers in the heavy construction industry learn to find and fix jobsite hazards before they cause injury, illness or fatality.

Grant recipients are required to demonstrate how their efforts will meet specific objectives and must file quarterly activity and financial reports with MIOSHA who will monitor the grant programs and observe on-site operations.

The Great Lakes Safety Training Center is among the 20 organizations chosen to receive the grant.

Great Lakes Safety Training Center will provide lockout/tagout safety training to employees in the manufacturing industry. The classroom training will include the purpose of lockout/tagout, MIOSHA requirements for lockout/tagout, recognition of types of energy and procedures for lockout/tagout. Hands-on training will also be conducted with the use of a simulator. For more information contact Jill Dougherty at 989-492-7036 or jdougherty@glstc.org.

Yeo & Yeo Computer Consulting Achieves Fortinet Gold Partner Status



courtesy photo

Saginaw, MI: Yeo & Yeo Computer Consulting is proud to announce its achievement of Gold Partner status with Fortinet, a leading network and cybersecurity provider.

“Our partnership with Fortinet reflects our shared values, providing high-quality security solutions,” says Jeff McCulloch, President. “Achieving Gold Partner status allows us to continue to grow our partnership and offer a broad range of services for new and current clients.”

YYCC partnered with Fortinet in 2010, offering next-generation firewalls, endpoint protection, network security, and secure access switching and wireless networks. To become a Gold Partner, YYCC had to achieve proven success with Fortinet solutions and demonstrate commitment to the continued adoption of future Fortinet technologies. There were additional training and certifications YYCC technical and sales staff had to complete as part of the Gold Partner requirement.

Fortinet Gold Partners deliver the full spectrum of Fortinet’s solution set and retain certified staff to assist with any variety of implementation needs. They are recognized for their superior customer service and support capabilities.

“We are proud to have Fortinet as a strategic partner, offering some of the best-performing security devices on the market for our clients,” said McCulloch. “Fortinet’s solutions are a complement to our other strategic partners in offering complete security solutions.”

New Wausau Homes Builder Opens Design Studio to Serve Midland Area Homebuyers



courtesy photo

The hammering has stopped and the dust has settled. It’s time for new Wausau Homes builders Dennis and Tabitha Pake to celebrate their Grand Opening!

Dennis has been in the building industry for more than a decade. Tabitha has design, sales, marketing and a management background. The Pake family is very happy to be a part of the Midland community and love to make their customers dreams come true.

“By partnering with Wausau Homes and opening this Design Studio, we’re able to give customers a stress-free building experience different than anything out there today,” said Pake.”

Wausau Homes has redefined the homebuilding experience, making it stress-free for homebuyers by providing a Your Way, Firm Price, and On Time promise. Based in Wausau, WI, Wausau Homes has been building quality, custom homes in partnership with local builders throughout the Midwest for over 50 years.

Wausau Homes held their Grand Opening on December 14th where guests had the opportunity to tour their new, state-of-the art Design Studio, located at 222 N. Saginaw Road, Suite B in Midland, MI.

In their studio visitors are able to see and touch a wide variety of sample products available to customize their dream home. They can also learn about the stress-free homebuilding experience that begins with bringing in your own design, or choosing from over 150 customizable floor plans on the Wausau Homes website. Their 3D design software lets them “walk” through every room giving homebuyers the peace of mind before making their final decisions.

To learn more about Wausau Homes visit www.wausauhomes.com.



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The Class, as it exists today, takes us through the skills and practices to bring something into the future that hasn't been done before. As Terry would say, never be the one who limits you.

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EDUCATION

Michigan Sees Dramatic Growth In Early College Participation, Success



courtesy photo

LANSING – The number of Michigan students enrolling in Early/Middle College programs has increased 101 percent in the past four years, the Michigan Department of Education announced today.

The number of Early/Middle College programs available for students has increased 112 percent over that same time period, and the number of high school students participating in dual enrollment programs has increased over 22 percent.

“Every student in Michigan deserves a path to a great education that gets them on a path to a good job, and I’m happy that more students can access resources like early and middle college programs,” said Governor Gretchen Whitmer. “This is good

news for our students, our families, and our economy as a whole. There’s more work to do, and I will partner with everyone who wants to ensure paths to success for every Michigander.”

State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice said more Michigan students are benefitting from growing opportunities to increase their learning and earning.

“They are immersing themselves in college-level courses and earning college credits while still in high school,” Dr. Rice said. “These growing programs help our students prepare for postsecondary and career success and help their families save on college tuition as students earn college credits funded through their school district.”

The number of Early/Middle College programs has increased from 67 across the state in the 2014-2015 school year to 142 programs in the 2018-2019 school years.

Early/Middle College programs provide combined high school and college courses over a five-year period, where students can graduate with a high school diploma and a post-secondary certificate, professional certificate, associate degree, or up to 60 transferrable college credits.

Early/Middle College student enrollment in Michigan has risen from 6,485 students in the 2014-2015 school year to 13,065 students in the 2018-2019 school year. Students have earned an average of 40 college credits through their programs.

Participation of Michigan high school students taking dual enrollment classes, where they take individual college courses while still attending high school, has risen from 23,422 students in the 2014-2015 school year to 28,711 in the 2017-2018 school year. Through those years, students have earned an average of 14-15 college credits from dual enrollment classes that can be transferred to a college or university.

Dr. Rice added that the expansion of Early/Middle College and dual enrollment participation is consistent with both Governor Whitmer’s “60 by 30” effort (60 percent of all Michigan adults with a postsecondary credential by the year 2030), and former Governor Rick Snyder’s effort to expand postsecondary course work for high school students.

“It is in the best spirit of doing right by Michigan school children, irrespective of partisan politics,” Dr. Rice said.

Study says Kettering degrees offer best bang for your buck in Michigan

Graduates with Kettering University degrees can count on the highest lifetime return on investment (ROI) in the state of Michigan and among the highest in the nation, according to a Georgetown University analysis of federal data ranking 4,500 schools nationwide.

As presented in an article – “Choice of Michigan college can make a (million-dollar) difference” – by Bridge, a Michigan nonprofit news source, the study results

showed Kettering was No. 1 in Michigan among private and public colleges, and placed 32nd in the nation, above Princeton and Notre Dame.

“Kettering University is a jewel in American higher education,” said Kettering University President Robert K. McMahan. “We have been referred to as the West Point of industry, and our alumni are some of the most successful corporate leaders in the country.”

The analysis, based on the Department of Education's College Scorecard, examined ROI among private and public institutions and included community college as well as four-year university information. It focused on the financial payoff of college degree and earnings differentials among schools over 10-, 20-, 30- and 40-year periods.

SVSU students display exceptional representation at Model United Nations Conference



courtesy photo

Two Saginaw Valley State University students' enthusiasm for international diplomacy earned them an award at a recent conference and an opportunity to advance to international competition.

The Saginaw Valley Model United Nations club represented Sri Lanka during the 12th American Model United Nations Conference in Chicago Nov. 23-26.

Model United Nations is an organization for students with an active interest in international affairs, policy and diplomacy. Through participation in simulations and regional/national conferences members gain valuable skills in research, communication, and conflict resolution.

Kone' Bowman, a political science major from Pontiac, and Joseph Shepherd, a political science major from Harper Woods,

won the award for Exceptional Representation for the General Assembly Third Committee as Sri Lanka. As part of the Third Committee, Bowman and Shepherd represented Sri Lanka on topics such as the promotion and protection of the rights of children and rights of indigenous peoples.

Stewart French, SVSU associate professor of political science and team adviser, said that winning the Exceptional Representation award was remarkable and speaks to the students' preparation.

“This is one of the larger committees, and accomplishing this with such a small country is quite impressive,” French said.

French said the university's Model U.N. club has cumulatively won over 40 awards in 12 years at national and international conferences.

At the most recent conference, SVSU students competed against their peers representing 110 countries from 77 schools from around the world, including the University of Chicago, University of Arizona, Purdue University, University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin among others.

The SVSU team will travel to Toronto in February to compete at the North American Model United Nations Conference.

SVSU to collaborate on restoration effort to preserve historic Saginaw mansion



courtesy photo

A collaboration between historical preservationists and the Saginaw Valley State University-operated Saginaw Community Writing Center aims to raise awareness and money for transforming one of Saginaw's most iconic homes into a multi-use community space.

SVSU's Saginaw Community Writing Center, the Saginaw Art Museum and the group preserving the historic Charles Lee Mansion structure in Saginaw will host a poetry slam contest — with cash prizes to the top three winners — Thursday, Dec. 12, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Charles Lee Mansion site at 633 S. Washington in Saginaw. The poetry contest coincides with an open house at the mansion from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. the same day.

While there is no cost to attend either event, a free-will donation will be held to support the renovation of Charles Lee Mansion.

Built by lumber baron Charles Lee in the

late 1800s, the historic site was saved from demolition in 2018 when Ann Arbor Builders, Inc. agreed to a development deal with the City of Saginaw, which owned the property. The preservation effort involves restoring the mansion and creating within it a community meeting space and a shop selling Saginaw-centric items.

Helen Raica-Klotz, co-director of SVSU's Saginaw Community Writing Center, took a tour of Charles Lee Mansion and immediately wanted to collaborate.

“Saginaw is a city that's rich with history, and I think that any community writing center needs to work to recognize and honor the history of that particular community, as well as the efforts of individuals who are trying to improve the region as a whole,” she said.

Alex Mixter, the project manager for the Lee Mansion Restoration Project, has indicated he wants the site to serve as a "front door to

Saginaw" for visitors.

“Alex and all the volunteers that have worked at the Lee Mansion have done a marvelous job over the years of fundraising, of putting in time and labor to preserve this space,” Raica-Klotz said. “For us to come and celebrate through a poetry reading — particularly in Saginaw itself — is a really nice way of supporting their work.”

To learn more about the restoration project or to donate to the Lee Mansion Restoration Project, go to www.patronicity.com/lee.

The Saginaw Community Writing Center is operated by SVSU staff and student tutors, who help residents with writing-based activities during scheduled sessions throughout the Saginaw community. The community writing center was established in part through a partnership with the Saginaw Community Foundation.



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.

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



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.

“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

Apply for a 2020-2021 Delta College Scholarship



courtesy photo

Delta College is currently accepting scholarship applications for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Current and future students can plan ahead by applying for a variety of scholarships through February 6. Last year, 574 students received privately funded scholarships totaling \$640,000, and more than 50 percent of applicants received an award.

Joseph Thornton, a second-year Delta student, was awarded a Jenkins Usoni Grant Scholarship. He said his scholarship will allow him to graduate from Delta with little to no debt.

“I am forever grateful for that opportunity,” he said. “I saw the low cost of attendance compared to universities and I knew I didn’t want to incur all of that debt. I am an econ major, I’m a money man and I knew that coming to Delta just made sense.”

Sheryl Kiscadden, scholarship and data coordinator, said the first round of applicants will be notified of their awards April 7; the second round is April 27.

“Any student can apply for a scholarship,” she said. “It’s worth applying because a scholarship reduces the cost of education, and it’s a gift so students don’t have to pay it back.”

Each year, the Delta College Foundation supports hundreds of students through the generosity of donors who provide funding for the scholarships.

The application period is December 16 – February 6.

To apply or learn more, visit delta.edu/scholarships.

Gaming levels up at CMU

University moves forward with plans to establish official esports program



courtesy photo

Gamers, get ready. A new esports gaming center is coming to Central Michigan University. Stan Shingles, assistant vice president for university recreation, said the university is moving forward with plans to join the National Association of Collegiate Esports and will begin construction on a temporary location dedicated to esports and gaming this spring.

The temporary facility will be located in the Student Activity Center in the space previously occupied by the Trackside snack bar. Shingles said the space is scheduled to open in the latter half of the spring semester.

The University Space Committee will begin looking for options for a permanent location soon, Shingles said.

Hang on to your headsets

Damon Brown, director of student activities and involvement and managing director for competitive gaming, said more than 100 CMU students have been gathering on campus to play games such as League of Legends, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Overwatch and Rocket League for many years. They have organized competitive tournaments that include players from other colleges around the region and have sent several teams to national competitions.

They also give back to the community. Working with faculty and staff in the Center for Excellence in STEM Education, the College of Science and Engineering, and the College of Education and Human Services, CMU gamers have hosted esports events for area middle and high school students and have raised thousands of dollars for nonprofit organizations.

Games for the greater good

Organizing and leading large events, fundraising for nonprofit organizations and working with schoolchildren helps CMU esports players develop important professional skills, such as leadership, communication and problem-solving, Brown said.

And Brown noted gaming can be highly inclusive: There are games for almost every skill level and interest, engaging students representing many social identities.

A pipeline of future players

Popularity of esports is on a meteoric rise: More than 250 million people watch esports each year. It’s the fastest-growing fandom in professional sports and generates billions of dollars in revenue each year.

More than 1,200 high schools around the country participate in the High School Esports League, and more than 150 colleges and universities are members of the National Association of Collegiate Esports, the organization CMU seeks to join. Even middle schools are beginning to develop esports programs, Shingles said.

And just as some students consider athletics when choosing where to attend school, some students may look for esports programs.

“It could be a powerful recruitment tool for CMU. The growing popularity of gaming means future students are considering the availability of esports when they choose a college or university,” Shingles said.



Delta College is committed to providing students a place where their dreams can become a reality.

Congratulations to Dr. Jean Goodnow and all the other honorees!



Dr. Jean Goodnow
Delta College president, 2005 – present

*Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Higher Education Administration - University of Iowa | Master of Arts Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling - University of Iowa
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology - University of Iowa | Post-Graduate Studies - Harvard University*

COMMUNITY

SVRC to begin Culinary Training Program in Downtown Saginaw



courtesy photo

SVRC Industries, Inc. is pleased to announce it is beginning a Culinary Training program located in the SVRC Marketplace in partnership with MCTI in Kalamazoo, MI. SVRC Industries, Inc. will be providing this training through a new restaurant that will be opening early next year in the SVRC Marketplace. The training will focus on basic kitchen skills at first but as the program grows more advanced culinary skills along with customer service and wait staff training will be provided. The initial training will be 300 hours over the course of 10 weeks with a final exam. MCTI has been providing this training in Kalamazoo for many years, but they are very excited to partner and have extension classes with SVRC Industries, Inc., in Saginaw. The

culinary instructors will be trained in using MCTI methods, curriculum and processes for teaching.

The new restaurant will focus on basic skills training and as a way for current employees to advance in the culinary industry. "There is a very high demand for these kitchen skill sets and employers are looking for trained, competent staff. Our training program will focus on building these sets of skills in a practical setting. We are proud to be able to offer this opportunity to the people in the region", said Dean Emerson, CEO of SVRC. "One of our main objectives in building the SVRC Marketplace was to create opportunities for economic growth

and provide new training programs that allow people to learn new skills and be self-sufficient while filling a vital need for our area employers".

As a result of this new development, SVRC Industries, Inc. will be holding a hiring fair on December 11th at the SVRC Marketplace, 203 S. Washington Ave, Saginaw, MI from 10 am to 3pm. Positions being interviewed for are Culinary Instructor, General Manager, and Chef. All those applying are encouraged to be interested in providing a higher level of service and be prepared to train others.

For further information, Dean Emerson, CEO can be contacted at 989-737-0744.

Bishop Gruss Meets with Pope Francis during Visit to Vatican

ROME— Bishop Robert Gruss met with Pope Francis while at the Vatican this week along with fellow bishops from Michigan and Ohio. The following is an excerpt of Bishop Gruss' inspiring account of his meeting with Pope Francis:

As I sat there listening to our Holy Father, I was moved by being in his presence. But more importantly, I was inspired by his honesty and candor to many questions raised from the bishops - questions about the sex abuse scandal, the recent Amazon Synod, the sexual morality issues we face in society, the media presentation of his public comments, women in the Church, the great importance of the New Evangelization for the Church today, among many other things. There was no topic that could not have been discussed if it had been raised.

Pope Francis spoke with honesty and great clarity about these things. For me, I sensed that with the Holy Father, there was a sense of deep unity and care for us, and that he was very appreciative of our ministry.

He acknowledged the suffering which priests experience today in the midst of their ministry and he encouraged us bishops not to be afraid to suffer for the Church – that we are not alone.

At the closing of our meeting, Pope Francis asked us to pray for him and for the Church. I felt privileged and blessed to have had the opportunity for this experience to be with our Holy Father in such an intimate setting. This is something that I will remember for some time. Please pray for Pope Francis, and your own bishop!

Bishop Gruss traveled to Rome for an “ad limina” visit. He is there to report on the status of our diocese, meet with Pope Francis, as well as leaders of various Vatican departments, and make a pilgrimage to the tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul.

An important part of the ad limina visit is the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at all four major basilicas in Rome: St. Peter's, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul's Basilica Outside the Walls.

Read Bishop Gruss' entire reflection from Tuesday, Dec. 10, below:

What a blessing today as the Bishops of

Michigan and Ohio (Region 6) began the second day of our Ad limina with a Mass at the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran, also known as the Cathedral of Rome. An important part of the Ad limina visit is the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at all four major basilicas in Rome. They include St. Peter's, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul's Basilica Outside the Walls.

For the bishops the Ad limina visit serves as a pilgrimage to “the threshold of the apostles,” giving the bishops, who are the successors of the apostles, the opportunity to pray at the tomb of St. Peter and St. Paul. The Ad limina is meant to strengthen the bishops' faith and their bond with the pope and to report on the status of their dioceses.

Monday we began the day with a beautiful Mass at the tomb of St. Peter. After seeking St. Peter's intercession for our ministry, the rest of the day was spent in meetings at various Vatican dicasteries – Offices of the Holy See. In the morning I met with officials from the Congregation for Bishops and the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith in the morning and the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity and the Secretariat for Communications in the afternoon. Bishops choose which dicasteries they would like to visit. The time with these officials gives the bishops an opportunity to share what is taking place in their dioceses regarding the work pertaining to each dicastery as well as asking questions about specific issues that are a part of the work of the dicastery.

The most important aspect of the Ad Limina is the meeting with the Holy Father in which the purpose has been to allow every diocesan bishop to provide an update on the state of one's diocese. The format of this meeting changes according to the pope who is in office at the time of the visit.

Following the Mass at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, later in the morning, we, the Bishops of Region 6, had our visit with the Holy Father, Pope Francis. I must thank the Pope Francis for his generosity in giving two hours and fifteen minutes of his time to be with us and share in a relaxed and intimate conversation with him. It was a moment of shared Episcopal fraternity as we spoke about many topics raised from questions or comments by the bishops.



courtesy photo

Pope Francis greeted us individually as we entered into the hall, bishops, priests and seminarians. During the individual greeting, the Vatican photographer was nearby snapping photos in rapid succession. At the conclusion, the priests and seminarians were asked to leave. The meeting with the Holy Father was reserved for the bishops only. We sat in a semi-circle, Pope Francis sitting in the middle with an interpreter. He spoke in Italian, the bishops in English.

As I sat there listening to our Holy Father, I was moved by being in his presence. But more importantly, I was inspired by his honesty and candor to many questions raised from the bishops – questions about the sex abuse scandal, the recent Amazon Synod, the sexual morality issues we face in society, the media presentation of his public comments, women in the Church, the great importance of the New Evangelization for the Church today, among many other things. There was no topic that could not have been discussed if it had been raised.

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GMCA Students to Compete at National Competition

Greater Michigan Construction Academy (GMCA) is pleased to announce the winners of their Local Craft Championship. Competitors in the championship were required to complete a written exam and a three-hour project performance test.

The competitors were judged in areas critical to the success of any construction trade project: safety, quality of workmanship; layout of project, use of materials, assembly of components, sequence of project, ability to follow instructions, ability to complete in a timely manner, and accuracy. The 2019 Craft Championship Competition took place the week of December 2nd at the GMCA Midland Training Facility. Nine students competed in four craft areas. The competing students are close to completing their four-year apprenticeship through the Greater Michigan Construction Academy and are working skilled tradesman locally.

“We are very proud to announce that not only do we showcase the best and brightest skilled professionals during our local craft competition, but they are now among the many who will showcase their talent at the National Level.” Said Stephanie Davis, Vice President and Chief Learning Officer at the Greater Michigan Construction Academy.

The winners were:

Chase Gohsman – Pipefitting – Three Rivers Corporation

Jason Honeman – Electrical – A & B Electrical

Logan Schweinsberg – Plumbing – Custom Plumbing & Heating

Daniel Beebe – Carpentry – Three Rivers Corporation

We congratulate all of our winners for qualifying to participate in the National Competition being held in Nashville, Tennessee in March 2020!

The Craft Championship Competition is sponsored by ABC Greater Michigan Chapter and its membership. Students that qualify for the ABC National Competition will join over 1,500 men and women who have competed in one of the construction industries most recognized and respected craft skills events. ABC Greater Michigan is proud to have produced more than 20 national medal winners within the last 15 years.

For more information on the National Craft Championships visit www.nationalcraftchampionships.com

The Season of Giving



courtesy photo

Writtren by LaShawn Johnson

The holiday season tend to be some people’s favorite because of the thought of being around loved ones and the exchanging of gifts. Although these are joyous moments, this may also bring about many stressors. It can be the thought of preparing things for the holiday, the expenses for food and gift exchanges, a shortage of funds, or even the hassle of shopping in stores that are overcrowded. Do any of these things cause you to be stressed? The good news is there are many ways to give. Whether it be your time, money, things you own, lending a helping hand, or participating in something that benefits others. Help is always requested and needed around this time of year. You can donate gifts to the less fortunate, get involved with helping the homeless, or create a fundraiser to raise money for beneficial reasons. It can be as simple as being kind to everyone you encounter. One good tool to use to avoid stress is shopping online. Not only will you save time but you can also save money. Another suggestion is to shop ahead of time. Purchase the gifts when they're cheaper. If you have an online account for your favorite shopping stores, there are notifications sent out often about sales and clearance items. If you have low funds, you can think about putting in a layaway to help cut back on paying all at once. Homemade gifts are just as special because it’s really the thought that counts right?

Regardless of your beliefs, every year there is something fun and exciting to participate in. The lighting of the city, open admission for families to visit the Children's Zoo, the Ice Sculpture visuals and many more. To find out more information, go on www.google.com and search for nearby events taking place in your city, state, and community. If you have a Facebook page, search for the community pages in your area and see if that's a helpful resource to also use.

Even though we all have been excited about everything taking place, especially because this is the last month of 2019, please be mindful of those who are feeling alone, sad, and depressed. Not many people are able to spend quality time with loved ones and may not have a home to be thankful for. Many have lost family and friends around the holiday season. These are people who need just as much love, respect, and appreciation as anyone else. If you know someone struggling to get through this stage in their life or have lost all hope for the future, give them a hug or provide them a gift to make their day. Let them know that they are cared for also. You never know how much someone may need it. Make it your job to encourage, inspire, and uplift someone in this season. If we had more people taking leadership, the world could turn so many negatives into positives.

Happy Holidays :)



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Sonya P. Surles
Alternative Finance Manager

Main: 989.399.8550
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Nature's Inspirations: New Exhibit at the Andersen Enrichment Center



courtesy photo

Nature's Inspirations: New Works by Susie McColgan will be on display through January 30, 2020. This exhibition features a series of nature inspired acrylics and watercolors, on display at the Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust, across from Ojibway Island in Saginaw. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

McColgan captures the beauty of nature with both bold and soothing colors, dramatic lighting and unique compositions creating a world of peacefulness and joy. Her acrylics and watercolors incorporate large painterly brushwork, lush washes combined with expressive and sometimes whimsical details which bring delight to Mother Nature's creations.

Susie was born and raised in Saginaw, Michigan and began her art exploration at a young age. Graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts & Graphic Design from the University of Michigan she began a career in advertising holding positions at agencies in Saginaw, Flint, and Detroit, Michigan, but portraiture, large scale works, and murals have remained her first love. Her portrait work depicts the photographic realism of her subject while also capturing the subject's spirit. Susie's diverse styles and mediums allow her residential and commercial clients to custom choose their masterpiece look by using a single or multiple image or by

enhancing backgrounds, lighting and more.

Susie's long list of clients include Ben & Jerry's, Consumers Energy, Covenant Hospital, Domino's Pizza, General Motors International, Hurley Medical Center, Michigan State Medical School, Midland Dow Gardens, Wendy's, C.S. Mott Children's Hospital and many more. She has original works in many area collections and has exhibited for numerous shows and competitions throughout the midMichigan area receiving Best of Show and Purchase Awards. Visit Esty.com to see McColgan's artwork for purchase on her fine art storefront.

Art @ the Andersen is a great opportunity for art lovers to connect with the creativity of the Great Lakes Bay Region. The project was established by the Saginaw Arts & Enrichment Commission to give area artists the opportunity to showcase their work and introduce the community to the abundant creativity in the Great Lakes Bay Region. Paintings, prints and note cards on display are available for purchase. Art @ the Andersen is made possible with a grant from the C.K. Eddy Family Memorial Fund and supported by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information call the Saginaw Arts & Enrichment Commission at 989.759.1363.

Saginaw Exchange Club awards Shop with a Hero \$500



courtesy photo

President Jeff Wood recently presented Sheriff Federspiel with a \$500 check for the Shop with a Hero Program.

About 100 children ages 5-15yrs. from all over the county who have been referred from their home school are given an opportunity to shop with a local First Responder. Families will enjoy an evening of pizza and entertainment. In addition to the \$100 shopping spree each child receives, families also go home with a cart full of groceries.

Exchange, American's Service Club, is a group of men and women working together to make our communities better places to live through programs of service in Americanism, Community Service, Youth Activities, and its national project of the Prevention of Child Abuse.

DJ's: "Get Your Money"

Written by Hump The Grinder

Hey dj's, when people come out to hear you play and dance the night away, make sure you get your fair share. In most cases, you're the main reason these people are at the club. YOU are the entertainment.

When a person goes to a club, they have money. Say for example, Rockin' Ricky Richardson: He left home with \$50 in his pocket (some of his friends go out with more than \$200, but we're talking about Rockin' Ricky in this case). Rockin' Ricky will probably buy himself a couple of drinks, possibly a drink or two for a friend, and maybe knock down an order of chicken wings. After leaving a tip for the waitress, that \$50 is history.

The reason Rockin' Ricky was able to pull this off is because there was NO COVER CHARGE – and to me, that's a real problem. I wish dj's would stop playing at clubs with no cover charge (unless it's free during Happy Hour and admission kicks in around 7 p.m.). It's hard to depend on the club owner paying you what you feel you're worth – because they are usually too cheap. Remember, YOU are the main reason all these party people are in the club, and they're sticking around a while because they love your music. Rockin' Ricky spent his \$50 – and how much of it did you get?

I believe when there is no cover charge, a dj's value goes down (even though that dj may have a hot name). It's all about public perception. Are you worth paying for? Concert tickets are not free, and paying to hear a good dj shouldn't be free either. If you are as hot as you think you are, you should set your rate and get it. If the club owner refuses, then demand a piece or possibly all of the door proceeds. Maybe 100% of the door on a weekday and at least half of the door on the weekends (and that's only if the club already has a small clientele and/or is spending money on promotions).

Don't complain when some hot shot dj comes in from out-of-town and gets a hefty payday. If publicity is the only thing you're seeking (and those days should be long gone), then keep doing what you're doing.



courtesy photo

But, if you believe in yourself, then get your money.

Every good dj has a following. And you have to think like a promoter. You may not be the actual one to promote yourself, but find someone in your circle who can help get the word out as to where you're playing. If your music is truly good, people will pay – even if it's just \$5 or \$10. With social media in full effect, you can easily pull this off.

Take a look at this realistic plan that can take in between \$25,000-\$50,000 a year by giving your own party one night a week and charging only \$5 a head. Sure, you will have a little overhead, but it's mostly profit in your pockets. Here's the formula:

Get with a nightclub or bar that needs business and pick a night of the week. It could be a small spot that holds about 200 people. Through the course of the night, a club that holds 200 can usually generate about 300 people, considering the flow of the early party people who leave to make room for the late arrivals.

Set aside at least 100 Free V.I.P. Party Passes for your regulars: the people who love to dance and some 'big ballers' who spend money at the bar; along with a few local celebrities (including fellow dj's). These people should NEVER have to pay. Of course they all won't show up every week, but if a small percentage comes through on

a weekly basis, you're doing good. With this, you satisfy the bar and kitchen and you've got people dancing. If you decide to feature other dj's on your night, you can afford to pay them for at least one hour. If you are the dj/host of the night, you need at least an hour to mingle with your fans. You MUST spend a little 'Prime Time' with your fans.

Work out an agreement with the venue for at least 3 months, with a clause that after 2 months, you have an option to extend your contract for an additional 3 months (you both should know by now if the situation is working). If the club decides they don't want to extend your deal, you have 30 days to make your move to another location.

Stay in touch with your people. Get their Facebook and Instagram info and their mailing addresses. These are YOUR people – not the club's. Sometimes the club may think they can snatch your clientele – but if these people are truly your followers, they will make a move with you.

You've put your time in and you've paid your dues – and people will gladly pay you for a good time. If people won't pay to hear you play, you need to re-evaluate your skill level.

So, if YOU are the shit – then act like it. GET YOUR MONEY.

Get at least \$5 of Rockin' Ricky Richardson's \$50.

Flint area to host 41st Annual MLK Tribute Dinner



courtesy photo

The 41st Annual Citywide Tribute Dinner honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020 at the Genesys Banquet Center in Grand Blanc. Centered on the theme “Rise to the Challenge . . . if not now, when?” this year’s keynote address will be given by Janice Ferebee, MSW, a Docent with the National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, D.C.

The dinner celebration, scheduled to start at 6 p.m., is open to the public. Tickets are \$50 per person. Table sponsorships are available at \$500 for a table seating ten. Tickets and sponsorships may be purchased online at mceventsonline.com or by calling The Foundation for Mott Community College at (810) 762-0425. To order tickets via mail, please make checks payable to the MLK Tribute Dinner and mail to: The Foundation for Mott Community College, 1401 E. Court St., Flint, MI 48503.

The 2020 Tribute Dinner, presented each year by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Planning Committee, is co-sponsored by Baker College, Davenport University, Hamilton Community Health Network, Kettering University, Mott Community College and the University of Michigan-Flint. For more information, please call (810) 762-0425.

The Keynote Speaker

Janice Ferebee, MSW, a native New Yorker now living in Washington, D.C., is an author, consultant, docent, international speaker, and founder/Chief Woman Warrior of Ferebee Enterprises International, (FEI)

a global female empowerment enterprise. In addition to serving as docent for the National Museum of African American History & Culture, she is Director of the Bethune Program Development Center at the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., where she is responsible for community-based as well as national programs for women and girls of African descent, their families and communities, focusing on health, education, economic empowerment and leadership.

As the first African American Models Editor of Seventeen Magazine, the self-published author and creator of Got it Goin’ On® Worldwide has been recognized for her innovative Got it Goin’ On® Empowerment Brand for Girls of Color, which includes the handbook, award-winning program, and curriculum. FEI’s mission is to improve the quality of life for girls around the world through culturally customized non-formal education products and services – with a social purpose that focuses on girls’ education, equity and empowerment. The recipient of the 2003 ESSENCE Award, Janice Ferebee has been featured on OPRAH and has provided media commentary on radio and television.

Dow and WE call upon youth to innovate and solve community challenges

MIDLAND, Mich. - Dow (NYSE: DOW) and WE are proud to team up and take the third annual WE Are Innovators Campaign across the U.S. and expand across the globe.

Whether it is helping people gain access to healthy fresh food, learning how to include different perspectives for more innovative ideas, or driving efforts to protect the environment from plastic waste, WE Are Innovators inspires elementary through secondary school age students to use their STEM skills, paired with an inclusive and sustainable mindset, to develop innovative ideas addressing challenges in their local and global communities.

“To tackle our planet’s most pressing challenges, we’re dedicated to developing future leaders who demonstrate innovative thinking, creativity, diverse perspectives and a solutions-oriented mindset,” said Dow CEO Jim Fitterling. “Through this

partnership with WE – and the power of STEM, a spirit of inclusion and a commitment to sustainability – we want to empower youth to know that they can create real and impactful change in our world.”

“Thanks to Dow and WE Are Innovators, schools across the United States and beyond will have the opportunity to put forward their ideas to help solve some of today’s most pressing challenges,” said Craig Kielburger, co-founder, WE. “Empowering these bright young leaders will create a ripple effect of good and help inspire more socially conscious local and global communities.”

WE Are Innovators Campaign materials are delivered through WE Schools, WE’s free year-long service learning program designed to enhance a school or community’s existing social initiatives or spark new ones. WE Are Innovators provides teachers with

free access to curriculum modules focused on relevant themes including Sustainable Innovation, Inclusive Leadership, Circular Economy and Nature, Food Waste, Energy and Housing, and Transportation Solutions. Following these modules, students have an opportunity to connect with a specific theme, identify an aligned issue in their community and work with their teachers to innovate a solution through the WE Are Innovators Challenge. Challenge participants will have an opportunity to submit their solutions for a chance to win a financial grant awarded to their school to help implement their project.

Dow’s STEM Ambassadors will be deployed to act as sponsors of the program in Dow communities – offering hands on training and mentorship throughout the Campaign.

WE Are Innovators is open to all youth globally from grades 4 through 12.

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The Michigan Banner Outreach Ministries

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www.messiahmsag.org



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POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announces new initiative aimed at job training for Michigan vets during two-day Silicon Valley mission



courtesy photo

LANSING, Mich. –Gov. Gretchen Whitmer wrapped up a two-day investment mission to Silicon Valley earlier this month, where she met with tech and mobility companies to build relationships, promote business investment and grow talent opportunities in Michigan.

As part of the trip, Governor Whitmer met with global IT leader Cisco, and today announced plans for the expansion of the Cisco CyberVets Scholarship program into Michigan. The pilot will dedicate up to 20 scholarships to transitioning service members, veterans, National Guard, Reservists and military spouses in Michigan as part of the March 2020 cohort. Michigan is the first Midwestern state to participate in the program.

“The state of Michigan is committed to providing training and employment opportunities for a diverse workforce to ensure all Michiganders have clear pathways to economic success,” Whitmer said. “The CyberVets Scholarship program will help give Michigan veterans opportunities to receive the skills and training they need to join the high-demand field of cybersecurity. We look forward to partnering with Cisco on this program that will provide meaningful career

training to Michigan vets, servicemembers and their spouses.”

The Cisco Veterans Cyber Scholarship Program, part of the Cisco-led, skills-to-job consortium CyberVetsUSA, provides free online cybersecurity training and certification to veterans, transitioning service members, National Guard members, Reservists, and military spouses.

The program offers free online access to highly sought-after courses in secure infrastructure and cybersecurity operations. To be accepted into the program, qualified candidates take a brief skills assessment and are enrolled in the CCNA CyberOps course. The self-paced training typically takes between 12-14 weeks to complete.

“Cisco is committed to ensuring our military community has access to industry-relevant training and certification to take part in the rapidly expanding field of cybersecurity,” said Gena Pirtle, Military & Workforce Programs Manager for Cisco. “Michigan ranks high in tech job growth, so employers will be able to benefit from access to skilled talent through the expansion of the CyberVetsUSA program to the region.”

While in Silicon Valley, Whitmer also announced the formation of MI Next, a new collaborative effort between the state and California-based technology leaders with significant ties back to Michigan. This effort will drive actionable dialogue and connectivity between Michigan and Silicon Valley, and be a frontline resource as Michigan develops new mobility and advanced manufacturing initiatives in the coming years. The collaboration capitalizes on the unique strengths of both Silicon Valley and Michigan to partner on projects and

programs, particularly in the mobility and tech space.

“MI Next will help to identify new and innovative ways that Michigan and Silicon Valley can collaborate and leverage our respective unique strengths to partner on technology and mobility focused projects and programs,” Whitmer said. “MI Next will serve as a valuable resource to drive dialogue and help identify Silicon Valley-based companies that have the best opportunity for growth and investment here in Michigan.”

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation and PlanetM, the state’s mobility initiative, will convene future meetings of MI Next, which will meet quarterly in San Francisco and includes representatives from companies including Lyft, Intel, Plenty, Box, Airbnb, Salesforce Ventures, IDEO.org, Eclipse Ventures, Sight Machine, and others, as well as key leaders from Michigan’s mobility and startup ecosystem.

Other meetings in Silicon Valley and San Francisco included KLA, Uber, Zipline, Airbus Ventures, and an industry roundtable conversation led by the World Economic Forum. Governor Whitmer was joined by Jeff Mason, CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and Jeff Donofrio, Director of the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity on the trip.

The Silicon Valley trip follows Governor Whitmer’s recent mission to Israel to meet with government, business, and nonprofit leaders to strengthen relationships and build business ties with startups and mobility companies to help Michigan compete for good-paying, high tech jobs.

Congressman Dan Kildee, Senator Durbin fight for Navy veteran to receive benefits denied by bureaucratic failures



courtesy photo

Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-05), Chief Deputy Whip of the House Democratic Caucus, along with U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) today sent a letter to the Acting Secretary of the U.S. Navy regarding bureaucratic failures at the department that have resulted in a Flint-native and decorated Navy veteran being denied military benefits rightfully owed to the family.

Retired Senior Chief Russell Dotson, of Flint, Mich., served 22 years in the U.S. Navy, in both active duty and the reserves. After being counseled by the Navy that he could transfer his G.I. Bill benefits to his daughter, Paige Dotson, Retired Senior Chief Dotson retired from the Navy. When his daughter, Paige, began her university studies at DePaul University in Chicago, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) initially began paying her tuition and housing benefits as a part of the G.I. Bill, only later to rescind the G.I. Bill benefits because the Navy

miscalculated Dotson's transfer eligibility date by mere days. Now, the VA is also demanding that the Dotson family repay more than \$20,000 in loans, including interest, resulting in further hardship for the family.

Other members of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives joined in signing the letter, including U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Senator Gary Peters (D-MI) and Representatives Debbie Dingell (MI-12), Andy Levin (MI-09), Elissa Slotkin (MI-08), Haley Stevens (MI-11), Brenda Lawrence (MI-14), Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14), and Rashida Tlaib (MI-13).

"Retired Senior Chief Dotson did everything right. Yet now, because of the Navy's own bureaucratic failures, Retired Senior Chief Dotson's family is facing a precarious financial situation because they are unable to utilize the benefits he rightfully earned. As such, we ask that you immediately direct the

Navy to allow Retired Senior Chief Dotson to transfer his G.I. Bill benefits to his daughter, as well as ensure his family is no longer responsible for the debt previously incurred," the letter reads in part.

The full letter to the Acting Secretary of the Navy is below:

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write regarding Retired Senior Chief Russell A. Dotson. In early November 2019, the Chicago Sun Times and Detroit Free Press published stories about the difficulty Retired Senior Chief Dotson and his family have experienced in trying to transfer G.I. Bill benefits he rightfully earned because of a bureaucratic paperwork failure.

Retired Senior Chief Dotson is from Flint,

Continues on pg 46, Navy Veteran

Continued fom pg 45, Navy Veteran

Michigan, and served honorably in the U.S. Navy for 22 years. In 2017, when choosing whether to retire or continue serving, Retired Senior Chief Dotson spoke to his Navy career counselor who informed him that he met all transferability requirements to maintain transfer eligibility of the G.I. Bill benefits that he earned to his daughter. Thus, reasonably relying on the advice the Navy provided him, Retired Senior Chief Dotson chose in good faith to retire.

In 2013, Retired Senior Chief Dotson was able to transfer his G.I. Bill benefits to his daughter, who later began her university studies at DePaul University in Chicago. However, at the end of his daughter's second quarter of her freshman year, the government stopped making payments for her tuition and housing. Further troubling, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs told Retired Senior Chief Dotson's daughter that she had to repay what already was paid under the transfer of G.I. benefits from her father—more than \$20,000, including interest. As a result, she is currently working three part-time jobs, in addition to getting loans, after being forced to transfer to an in-state school in Michigan to save money.

This entire chain of unfortunate events was caused because, despite the Navy's advice to Retired Senior Chief Dotson on his decision to retire, the Navy miscalculated his eligibility to maintain the transfer of his education benefits. The miscalculation—which was the Navy's mistake—was just six days of reserve duty (or 89 calendar days of the requirement to maintain transfer eligibility), after Retired Senior Chief Dotson served the United States for 22 years. Furthermore, Retired Senior Chief Dotson had ample amount of leave days (authorized absences) saved up to easily cover this time, but because of the Navy's miscalculation, he was unable to appropriately utilize them.

Retired Senior Chief Dotson did everything right. Yet now, because of the Navy's own bureaucratic failures, Retired Senior Chief Dotson's family is facing a precarious financial situation because they are unable to utilize the benefits he rightfully earned. As such, we ask that you immediately direct the Navy to allow Retired Senior Chief Dotson to transfer his G.I. Bill benefits to his daughter, as well as ensure his family is no longer responsible for the debt previously incurred. Both Retired Senior Chief Dotson

and his daughter acted honorably and in good faith and they should not have to shoulder the burden for the Navy's bureaucratic failures. We will also note that Retired Senior Chief Dotson has done everything he can to address this error utilizing both his prior chain of command and the Bureau of Naval Records Corrections, to no avail.

It would appear to us that there is no doubt that Retired Senior Chief Dotson, given his decades of service to the United States, has earned the right to transfer his G.I. Bill benefits to his daughter. We urge you to immediately help rectify this bureaucratic failure.

Congressman Kildee's office is open for assisting constituents with help related to federal agencies. Since being elected to Congress, he has helped hundreds of constituents who believed they were being treated unfairly. If you need help resolving a problem with a federal agency, please contact Congressman Dan Kildee's office through his website, www.dankildee.house.gov, or by calling 810-238-8627.

Fall Yard Waste Collection season ending soon for Midland residents



Courtesy Photo

With winter weather just around the corner, it's time to trade in leaf rakes for snow shovels – and that means the end of yard waste collection for the year!

Bulk curbside leaf collection within the City of Midland is now complete. Yard waste

collection in bins and Kraft paper compost bags will continue until Friday, December 20.

Residents who wish to dispose of any remaining leaves or yard waste should place items into Kraft paper compost bags or blue City yard waste bins and set them

at the curb on their refuse collection day. Any leaves remaining in the street after final leaf collection need to be placed in compost bags or bins and set out on residents' refuse collection day. Yard waste collection stickers are not required on bins or bags for the remainder of the 2019 collection season.

Please note that yard waste can become frozen in yard waste bins if kept outside during freezing temperatures and cannot be emptied by City equipment. Residents may want to consider keeping yard waste bins in their garages if possible to help prevent freezing.

The City will resume yard waste collection on the first Monday in April 2020.

For questions or additional information, contact the Department of Public Services at 989-837-6900 or visit www.cityofmidlandmi.gov/publicservices.

SPORTS

'Shoe' to Return in 2020: Veteran Dodgers coach enters fifth season as manager; became franchise's winningest skipper last year



Courtesy Photo

MIDLAND, Mich. -- In conjunction with the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Great Lakes Loons are pleased to announce that John Shoemaker will return to Midland in 2020 for a fifth season as the team's manager.

'Shoe' is entering his 44th season in the Los Angeles Dodgers organization and 27th season as a minor league manager. Next summer will be his third consecutive year in the Loons dugout after leading Great Lakes to back-to-back playoff appearances in 2018 and 2019. He previously spent the 2011-12 seasons as Loons manager.

"The Dodgers are fortunate to have a working agreement with the Loons who have a wonderful facility like Dow Diamond," Shoemaker said. "The Loons have a supportive front office staff, play in a competitive league and an enthusiastic fan base that makes Midland a great place to be. Returning to manage in the Midwest League is exciting news for me and I'm looking forward to the 2020 season."

Most recently, Shoemaker guided the Loons to one of their best seasons in franchise history in 2019 compiling an 81-55 record in the regular season, as well as winning the first half Eastern Division Championship to clinch their seventh postseason appearance.

He has compiled a 282-277 record in 559 games over four seasons as Loons manager and is the winningest manager in team history, with Juan Bustabad second at 225 victories. Shoemaker also became the second manager in franchise history to win Midwest League Manager of the Year in 2019.

It was a banner year for Shoemaker's career as a whole, as well, when on April 20, 2019, he earned his 1,500th career managerial win. Sitting with an impressive 1,576 career victories, Shoemaker ranks fifth amongst active managers in Minor League Baseball wins.

The one-time draft pick of the San Francisco Giants (26th Rd, 1974), Dodgers (35th Rd, 1977)

and Chicago Bulls (6th Rd, 1978 NBA Draft), played second base in the Dodgers minor league system from 1977-80 and made it to Triple-A Albuquerque before retiring to become a minor-league hitting coach.

"We could not be happier that Shoemaker is coming back to Midland for another season as our manager," Loons General Manager Brad Tammen said. "I've been in baseball over 25 years and Shoemaker is the epitome of a professional. His love for the Dodgers runs deep and it shows when you see how much he cares about our players when they're here for the summer."

"He also cares deeply about the surrounding communities we have in the Great Lakes Bay Region and goes above and beyond to get his players involved during the limited amount of time they're here with us in Michigan."

The remaining members of the 2020 coaching staff will be announced at a later date.

Hemlock's Devereaux Wins Saginaw Club Hawkins Award



courtesy photo

Brady Devereaux of Hemlock High School is the inaugural winner of the Harry Hawkins Award, presented to the most outstanding senior football player in Saginaw County.

The Heisman Trophy-like award made its debut December 5th at the historic Saginaw Club, the presenting sponsor of the award in conjunction with the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame and the MLive Media Group.

Devereaux played multiple positions for Hemlock, including quarterback, halfback, wide receiver, linebacker and punter. The 6-foot-4, 215-pound Devereaux, who missed time during the regular season because of injuries, still finished with 974 yards and 13 touchdowns rushing and two receiving TD's. On defense, he had 72 tackles, including nine tackles for loss, and averaged close to 40 yards a punt.

"He's done so much for the program, said Hemlock football coach Adam Clark. He's an A+ person; it's just great to see him win this award. This is important not just to Brady, but to the Hemlock program and the community. Devereaux, the son of Gary and Lynette Devereaux of Richland Township, hasn't committed to a college program yet.

The other finalists included Ethan Champney of Swan Valley High School (wide receiver/defensive back) and Jack Dreyer of Freeland High School (halfback/linebacker/kicker). Devereaux was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship while Champney and Dreyer each received \$500 scholarships.

The Hawkins award is named in honor of former Arthur Hill High School and University of Michigan gridiron standout Harry Hawkins, the first All-American football player from Saginaw County. Hawkins, also a track standout at Michigan, where he captured both the Big Ten and National Championships in the hammer throw, was an engineer and executive in the automotive industry.

Pistons Owner Tom Gores Helps Toys for Tots Deliver More Than 10,000 Toys, Bicycles and Helmets to Michigan Families in Need

Kids in Bay City, Saginaw, Flint and Other Michigan Communities Enjoy Unexpected Holiday Surprise Thanks to the Gores Family



courtesy photo

PRNewswire - Thanks to a generous contribution from Detroit Pistons owner Tom Gores, approximately 10,000 toys, bicycles and helmets will be distributed to families in Detroit, Flint, Saginaw, Bay City and surrounding neighborhoods served by Marines and volunteers of the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program this holiday season.

"Giving families hope and a reason to smile during the holidays is so important," said Mr. Gores. "This should be a special time of year, filled with happiness and laughter. That's why we launched this effort 13 years ago and have been working with Toys for Tots for a decade. It's an amazing organization and we are proud to support the important work they do."

Mr. Gores and his wife Holly support a number of Detroit-area causes focused on improving the quality of life for families in need and contributing to the revitalization of the region and the state. They both grew up in the area and have quietly supported holiday toy distributions across Michigan since 2006 and delivered over 110,000 gifts to families, according to a

spokesperson for Mr. Gores.

The Gores family's partnership with Toys for Tots began in 2009 and has delivered over 100,000 toys to more than 37,000 children. (Prior to aligning with Toys for Tots, Mr. Gores supported similar gift-giving programs through other organizations.) After supporting the programs as a "Secret Santa" for seven years, Mr. Gores agreed in 2013 to be identified in order to encourage others to join in with contributions of their own.

"Finding a present under the tree on Christmas morning is an experience every child deserves," said Lieutenant General Pete Osman, USMC (Ret), President and CEO, Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. "The holidays are an especially trying time for so many families struggling financially and the toys received through Toys for Tots for most of these children will be the only ones they receive this holiday. We are fortunate to have the generous support from the Gores family who will allow thousands of less fortunate children experience the joy of Christmas who otherwise might have been forgotten."

Gores, a Flint native, is Owner of the Detroit Pistons and Chairman and CEO of global private equity firm Platinum Equity. He and his wife, Holly, a Detroit area native, have for many years supported a broad range of initiatives in Michigan focused on education, mentorship, health care, economic empowerment, public safety and improving the lives of people throughout the state. In 2016, Mr. Gores launched FlintNOW, a \$10 million private sector campaign to support short- and long-term relief and revitalization initiatives in response to the Flint water crisis.

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PICS OF THE WEEK

On Thursday, December 12, 2019, SVSU hosted their Diversity Council Luncheon with guest speaker Dr. Sidney Childs, Associate Provost for Student Affairs and Dean of Students



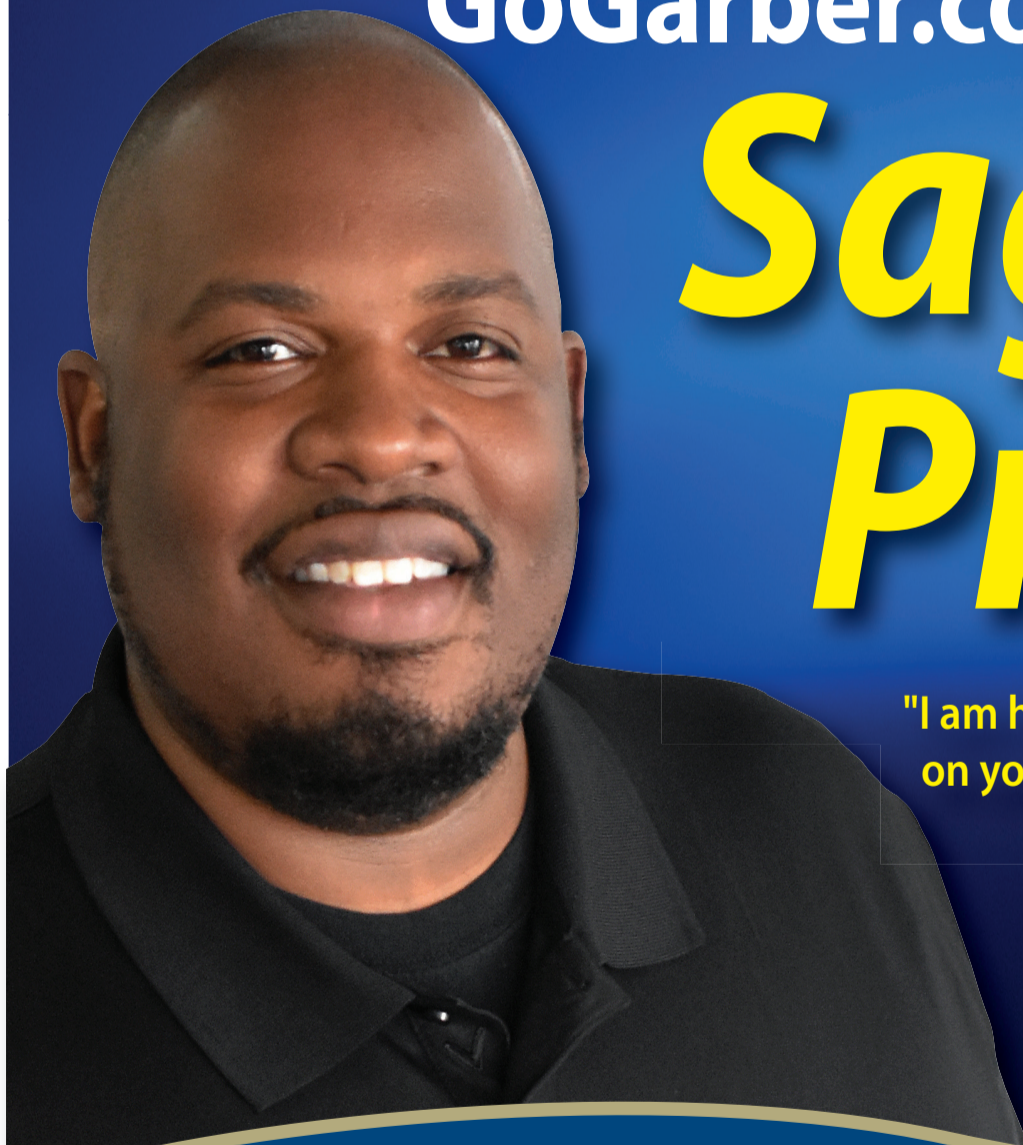
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Since age 11, India Pernell has had a passion for expressing herself through writing. Yet, when she first enrolled in college, choosing a major proved to be elusive for the Oak Park native. "I was 'major hopping' until it finally occurred to me that I always enjoyed writing and that I was good at it." Now a published author, Pernell has her sights on a career in grant writing, publishing or the film industry. In fact, she has nearly completed writing a movie script. **Her confidence is nurtured by her positive attitude and accomplishments at SVSU.**



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