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**SVSU reimagines campus spaces to address safety during pandemic**



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**Racial justice in Saginaw**



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**\$1,000 essay contest for undocumented & DACA essential workers**



LB, Cover Story

**TCF Bank unveils \$1 billion loan commitment for minority communities**



Business, pg 18



## Farewell "Saint" Sir John Robert Lewis!



Courtesy Photo

John Robert Lewis, civil-rights leader and American politician passed away from pancreatic cancer on July 17, 2020 at 80 years old.

### Who Was John Lewis?

John Lewis grew up in an era of racial segregation. Inspired by Martin Luther King Jr., he joined the burgeoning civil rights movement. Lewis was a Freedom Rider, spoke at 1963's March on Washington and led the demonstration that became known as "Bloody Sunday." He was elected to Congress in 1986 and received the Presidential Medal of

Freedom in 2011.

### Early Life

John Robert Lewis was born outside of Troy, Alabama, on February 21, 1940. Lewis had a happy childhood — though he needed to work hard to assist his sharecropper parents — but he chafed against the unfairness of segregation. He was particularly disappointed when the Supreme Court ruling in 1954's Brown v. The Board of Education didn't

Continues on pg 2, John Lewis

## Cover Story, John Lewis



*Courtesy Photo*

affect his school life. However, hearing King's sermons and news of the 1955-56 Montgomery bus boycott inspired Lewis to act for the changes he wanted to see.

### Civil Rights Struggle

In 1957, Lewis left Alabama to attend the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee. There, he learned about nonviolent protest and helped to organize sit-ins at segregated lunch counters. He was arrested during these demonstrations, which upset his mother, but Lewis was committed to the civil rights movement and went on to participate in the Freedom Rides of 1961.

Freedom Riders challenged the segregated facilities they encountered at interstate bus terminals in the South, which had been deemed illegal by the Supreme Court. It was dangerous work that resulted in arrests and beatings for many involved, including Lewis.

In 1963, Lewis became chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. That same year, as one of the "Big Six" leaders of the civil rights movement, he helped plan the March on Washington. Lewis — the youngest speaker at the event — had to alter his speech in order to please other organizers, but still delivered a powerful oration that declared, "We all recognize the fact that if any radical social, political and economic changes are to take place in our society, the people, the masses, must bring

them about."

After the March on Washington, in 1964, the Civil Rights Act became law. However, this did not make it easier for African Americans to vote in the South. To bring attention to this struggle, Lewis and Hosea Williams led a march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, on March 7, 1965. After crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the marchers were attacked by state troopers. Lewis was severely beaten once more, this time suffering a fractured skull.

The violent attacks were recorded and disseminated throughout the country, and the images proved too powerful to ignore. "Bloody Sunday," as the day was labeled, sped up the passage of 1965's Voting Rights Act.

### U.S. Congressman

Lewis left the SNCC in 1966. Though devastated by the assassinations of King and Robert Kennedy in 1968, Lewis continued his work to enfranchise minorities. In 1970, he became director of the Voter Education Project. During his tenure, the VEP helped to register millions of minority voters.

Lewis ran for office himself in 1981, winning a seat on the Atlanta City Council. In 1986, he was elected to the House of Representatives. Today, representing Georgia's 5th District, he is one of the most respected members of

Congress. Since entering office, he has called for healthcare reform, measures to fight poverty and improvements in education. Most importantly, he oversaw multiple renewals of the Voting Rights Act. When the Supreme Court struck down part of the law in 2013's *Shelby County v. Holder*, Lewis decried the decision as a "dagger into the heart" of voting rights.

In the wake of the mass shooting that took place on June 12, 2016, in Orlando, Florida, Lewis led a sit-in comprised of approximately 40 House Democrats on the floor of the House of Representatives on June 22nd in an attempt to bring attention and force Congress to address gun violence by taking definitive legislative action. "We have been too quiet for too long," Lewis said. "There comes a time when you have to say something. You have to make a little noise. You have to move your feet. This is the time."

The protest came just days after several measures including a bill regarding background checks and adding restrictions on the purchase of guns by people on the federal no-fly list, failed in the Senate. Senator Chris Murphy applauded the protest. Murphy had previously led a filibuster in the Senate which led to the subsequent vote.

### Awards & Legacy

John Lewis is the recipient of numerous awards from eminent national and international institutions, including the highest civilian honor granted by President Barack Obama, the Medal of Freedom, the Lincoln Medal from the historic Ford's Theatre, the Golden Plate Award given by the Academy of Excellence, the Preservation Hero award given by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Capital Award of the National Council of La Raza, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Non-Violent Peace Prize, the President's Medal of Georgetown University, the NAACP Spingarn Medal, the National Education Association Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Award, and the only John F. Kennedy "Profile in Courage Award" for Lifetime Achievement ever granted by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation.

John Lewis will forever be remembered as a true American hero who leaves behind a legacy of inspiration, hope and determination.

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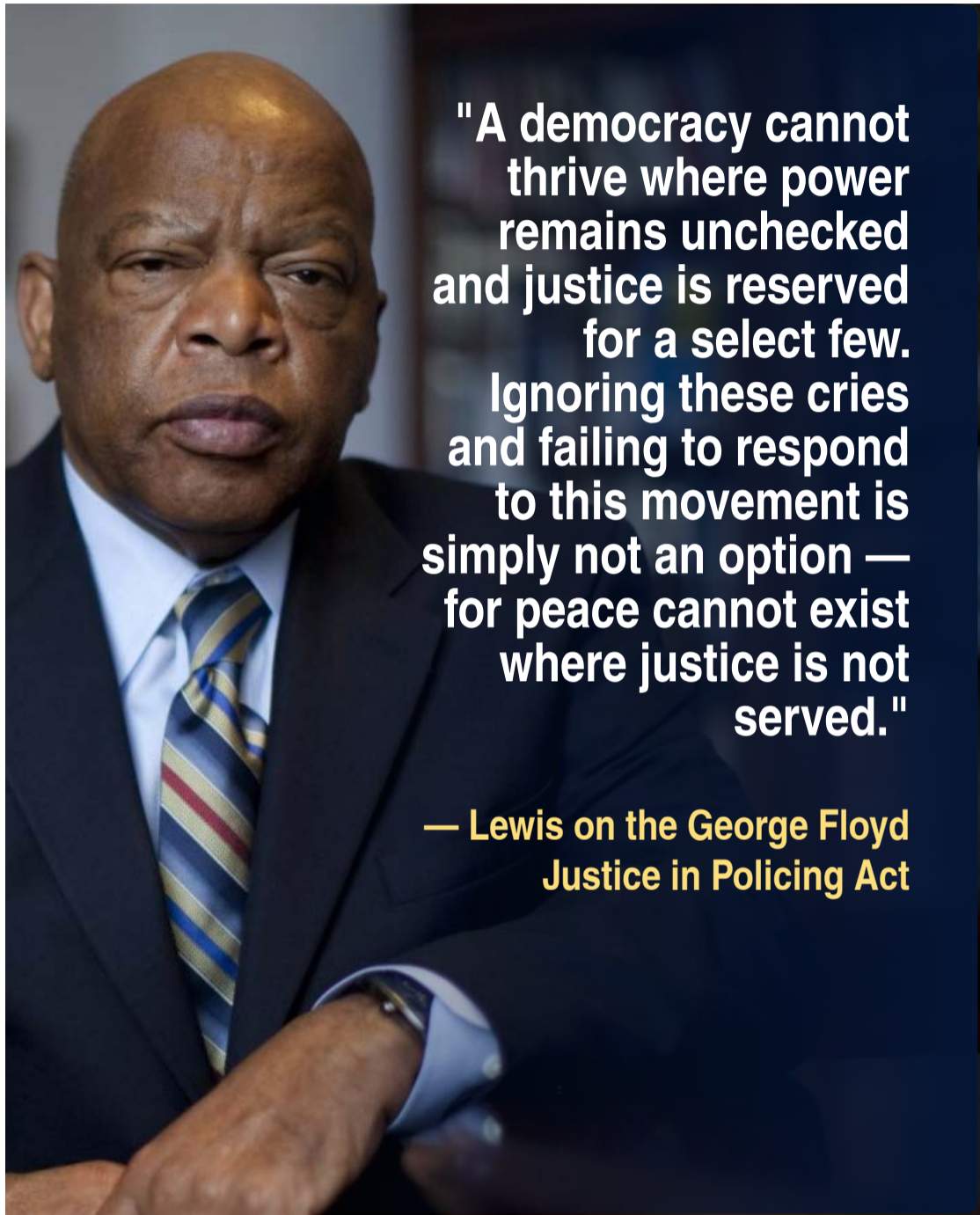
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The Michigan Banner operates and serves as a print and online media venue committed to educating, informing and enlightening our readership regarding events and news that directly and indirectly affect the communities regionally and globally. Furthermore,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

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

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Mailed or e-mailed  
Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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**"A democracy cannot thrive where power remains unchecked and justice is reserved for a select few. Ignoring these cries and failing to respond to this movement is simply not an option — for peace cannot exist where justice is not served."**

**— Lewis on the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act**

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# MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 14



## KidsMovieFest.com gives young filmmakers a chance to make a splash on the world stage

*Courtesy Photo*

LOS ANGELES, PRNewswire/ -- Kids Movie Fest - a brand new online short film fest and community for young filmmakers - has just launched their first short film competition for filmmakers 13-18 at [www.KidsMovieFest.com](http://www.KidsMovieFest.com). The competition presents a unique opportunity for participants to practice their filmmaking skills and express their unique stories, while engaging in a bit of friendly competition.

Entry is free, and each competition involves both audience awards and jury awards with prizes. The jurors are entertainment industry professionals. Each competition has an entry period followed by a one-month voting and judging period. Creators submit a narrative or non-fiction short film, up to two minutes long, that ties in with a bi-monthly theme. The theme of the initial contest is "Joy" and entry is available now via the website and their Facebook page.

The submission period for the first

competition ends August 31, 2020 and the voting period ends September 30, 2020.

Founder Phyllis Toben Bancroft, who has previously worked with student filmmakers via a program in partnership with L.A. area schools, created Kids Movie Fest as an outlet for creative expression, and a chance for young filmmakers to learn the trade, access resources, and connect. The site has a blog with staff and guest bloggers providing filmmaking tips, and on their social channels they encourage filmmakers young and old to share their knowledge with the community via the hashtag #KidFilmmakerTips.

"Teens have voices that are not represented in the media and it would be a mistake for their voices to not be heard," says Bancroft. "We encourage young filmmakers of all levels of experience to flex their creativity, follow their vision, and join a like-minded, supportive, diverse community."

### About Kids Movie Fest

Kids Movie Fest is a program of the Phyllite Foundation - a Black, female-owned 501c3 non-profit based in Los Angeles. Founder Phyllis Toben Bancroft is a Master Teaching Artist and award-winning, credited filmmaker, director of the Emmy-nominated web series Send Me, and a winner of the BET Lenses on Talent award. The Kids Movie Fest team includes college-age filmmakers who want to mentor and help their community.

**KIDS  
MOVIE  
FEST**

# Back-to-school survey: two-thirds of teens concerned about attending school in-person this Fall



*Courtesy Photo*

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., July 29, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- A new survey from Junior Achievement (JA) by research firm ENGINE Insights shows that two-thirds of teens (66%) are concerned about attending school in-person this fall, with a significant percentage (39%) responding that they are "extremely" or "very" concerned. Nearly three-in-four teens (71%) say that their parents or caregivers are concerned about them attending school in-person this fall. The survey of 1,000 teens between the ages of 13 and 17 was conducted July 14-19, 2020.

Despite these concerns, most teens (53%) say that the quality of their online classes from the spring was "fair" or "poor." A quarter of teens (26%) reported that they would prefer to attend school in-person five days a week, while more than a third (36%) prefer a blended schedule, where they would attend school in-person a couple of days a week and take the rest of their lessons online. Just under a third (30%) say that they would prefer classes exclusively online this fall.

The survey also asked teens about their concerns about the future:

- The top concern shared by nearly half of respondents (49%) is that the quality of their education will suffer due to the pandemic.
- Nearly as many (47%) are concerned that they or a member of their family will get sick from COVID-19.
- More than a quarter of respondents (28%) said that they are concerned that their dreams won't come true due to current circumstances.

Other concerns include:

- Not being able to have a job or career that pays a living wage (27%)
- Their family's financial situation getting worse due to the economy (26%)
- Not being able to provide for themselves or their families as an adult (21%)
- Having to borrow too much for college (20%)

- They or someone they know not being treated equally as adults (15%)

"These results show that our young people are just as overwhelmed and conflicted by current events as many adults are," said Jack E. Kosakowski, President and CEO of Junior Achievement USA. "They also show that teens are struggling to remain hopeful in the face of the pandemic, economic upheaval, and inequity. That's why at Junior Achievement, we are committed to providing young people with the tools, resources, and support they need to navigate these uncertain times and strive toward a better future."

Junior Achievement is making its programs available to students in-person, online, and in blended form, including virtual volunteers. To learn more, visit [www.JA.org](http://www.JA.org).





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# THE LATINO BANNER

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**National Latino Behavioral Health Association and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention partner to advance Latino suicide prevention efforts**

**LB Pg. 4**

**Submit your news at**

**[themichiganbanner.com](http://themichiganbanner.com)**

## \$1,000 essay contest for undocumented & DACA essential workers



We are facing the most challenging healthcare and economic crises in 100 years. The pandemic impacts everyone.

As immigration attorneys, we at the Herman Legal Group understand the moral and economic imperative to support undocumented immigrants, including those with DACA<sup>1</sup> work authorization, many of whom are valiantly working on the healthcare front lines<sup>2</sup> to keep us safe and healthy during the Corona Virus Pandemic. Millions of undocumented workers also play a vital role in critical industries that impact the nation's food supply chain<sup>3</sup> and essential industries.

Undocumented workers are often toiling in

high-risk conditions of virus transmission, unprotected by any Personal Protection Equipment, and are getting sick.

Yet, despite their important contributions to the United States, most undocumented workers (and even some U.S. citizen spouses) are not eligible to receive stimulus checks from the Federal Government, and their families are vulnerable and disproportionately feeling the devastating impact of the shutdown of the economy. Even during this pandemic, the undocumented population continues to

**Continues on LB pg 2, DACA Essay Contest**

## LB Cover Story, DACA Essay Contest



*Courtesy Photo*

be vilified and face the prospect of arrest, detention, deportation, and permanent separation from their U.S. citizen children.

We understand the unique financial and emotional struggles that undocumented and mixed-status families face in the United States. We also understand the important economic and social contributions that immigrants make to the United States.

For this reason, we are honored to sponsor the \$1,000 Essay Contest: “What do YOU think of when you hear the word ‘IMMIGRANT’?”.

To participate in the contest, applicants should write an essay of at least 300 words, in any language, answering the following question:

**“U.S. policy on immigration has increasingly become more aggressive and unwelcoming to immigrants. Despite the data to the contrary, many people now believe that immigrants undermine the U.S. economy and do not make the nation stronger. What do you think of when you hear the word “Immigrant”?”**

We are hoping that this contest inspires members of the undocumented community to share their personal feelings about being an immigrant who contributes to the well-

being of the United States, who has deep ties to the United States, who may have U.S. citizen children or other family members, and yet has no legal pathway to normalize their immigration status.

We will share the winning essay and will keep the winner’s identity confidential unless otherwise authorized by the winner. We will also be publishing some of the non-winning essays in order to help give voice to the undocumented, to help stimulate a healthier conversation in the U.S. about immigration, and to encourage our elected officials to move on legislation that would provide a pathway to permanent residency and ultimately citizenship to the undocumented.

### Eligibility Requirements

- Applicant must be undocumented
- Must be working, or have recently worked, as an essential work in the healthcare industry, food supply chain, or other essential industries

### How to Apply

Share your voice! People who wish to participate should send their essay as an attachment in an email to [ImmigrantStrongUSA@gmail.com](mailto:ImmigrantStrongUSA@gmail.com) by August

1, 2020.

### In the body of the email, applicants should include the following information:

- Your name, address, and phone number
- If you are under 18, contact information for your parents
- The nature of your job and length of employment
- The best way to contact you

Once the application period has ended, our essay committee will review the essays and choose a winner by September 1, 2020. The winner will receive \$1,000.

### The winner will be chosen considering the following factors:

- Originality
- Responsiveness to the question asked
- The quality of the writing
- The substantive content of the response

By applying, all applicants consent to the reproduction and publishing of their essays. Name and other contact information shall always remain confidential.

**Visit [lawfirm4immigrants.com](http://lawfirm4immigrants.com) for more information.**





# Heroes count in the 2020 Census

## 2020 CENSUS

Regardless of when you served, your secure and confidential responses to the 2020 Census can shape the future for you and your community

- Education programs and grants
- Medicare & Medicaid
- Libraries
- School Meal Programs
- Public transportation
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs
- Community Centers
- Park, Playground, and Recreational Facilities
- Census results help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into state and communities each year.
- The results determine how many seats in Congress each state gets.
- When you respond to the census, your answers are kept anonymous. They are used only to produce statistics.
- The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential. The law ensures that your private information is never published and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.



Census 2020 - Hispanic/Latino Count

# National Latino Behavioral Health Association and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention partner to advance Latino suicide prevention efforts



*Courtesy Photo*

NEW YORK /PRNewswire/ -- Historically, compared to other ethnic or racial groups, Hispanics have been at decreased risk for suicide ideation, attempts, and death in the U.S. However, suicide rates among U.S. Hispanics have steadily risen since 2000. Despite the population size, suicide among Hispanics remains relatively understudied and little is known about how to prevent suicide in this population. This is one of the many reasons the National Latino Behavioral Health Association and the American Foundation For Suicide Prevention have formally partnered to advance Latino mental health and suicide prevention efforts to help inform, educate, and bring awareness to this public health crisis.

"NLBHA is proud to partner with the American Federal on Suicide Prevention to bring the expertise and experience of our national organizations to work collaboratively on the prevention of suicide in our nation and in the Latino community. Together we can leverage our mutual efforts to save lives and prevent the loss of human life," said Fredrick Sandoval, MPA, NLBHA Executive Director. NLBHA's vision is to

reduce the great disparities that exist in the areas of funding, access, and quality of care for Latino consumers and families needing mental health and substance abuse services and supports and NLBHA's mission is to influence national behavioral health policy, eliminate disparities in funding and access to services, and improve the quality of services and treatment outcomes for Latino populations. Suicide prevention is one of NLBHA's 2019-2024 Policy Priorities.

"This partnership will help address the need for resources and research to dramatically improve access to mental health care and to prevent suicide in diverse communities. As part of our organization's three-year strategy, AFSP wants to ensure that our mental health and suicide prevention programs, locally and nationally, serve and support the unique needs of underrepresented groups, like those in the Latino community," said Robert Gebbia, CEO of AFSP. "We believe the only way to accomplish this is to work together with those from the community, that's why we are excited about our new partnership with NLBHA."

As of 2010, the Hispanic population in the United States (U.S.) reached 50.5 million, making Hispanics the largest ethnic or racial minority group in the country. The U.S. Hispanic population is expected to double by 2060, constituting over 25 percent of the nation's population. Historically, compared to other ethnic or racial groups, Hispanics have been at decreased risk for suicide ideation, attempts, and death in the U.S. However, suicide rates among U.S. Hispanics have steadily risen since 2000.

In 2015, suicide was the 11th leading cause of death among Hispanics of all ages (a rate of 5.84 per 100,000) in the U.S., but the 3rd leading cause of death among Hispanics aged 10-34. Compared to Non-Hispanic Whites, Puerto Ricans and Mexican Americans have fewer suicides annually per case of major depression. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2017 youth risk behavior surveillance survey, 10.5% of Latina adolescents aged 10-24 years in the U.S. attempted suicide in the past year, compared to 7.3% of white female, 5.8% of Latino, and 4.6% white male teens.

# Community Board

Submit your announcements and events at [themichiganbanner.com/submit](http://themichiganbanner.com/submit)

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Drive-thru hotline (989) 293-3492



### Bay County

Behind Bayside health center

3884 Monitor Rd., Bay City, MI 48706

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 12:00 noon

Drive-thru hotline (989) 280-0725

(Bay County & Imlay City)



### Huron County

Thumb Area parking lot

876 N. Van Dyke Rd., Bad Axe, MI 48413

Mon., Wed., Fri. 10:00am -12:00 noon

Drive-thru hotline (989) 284-0076

Please call (989) 921-5353 for assistance with health insurance enrollment

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



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# FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

## Influence, wealth, and power

**Why is it “easy” for some organizations to raise funds and a “challenge” for others? Three words contribute to this reality: influence, wealth, and power.**

Those who truly understand fundraising, know that fundraising depends upon the answer to this question: “who is on your board?” Board members are expected to give and raise 20% or more of an organization’s budget. They are expected to sit at tables with those who give or influence gifts and grants. That means they personally know people with family wealth or successful careers; people who are elected officials, business leaders, philanthropists... While this may be changing, and doors are opening, it is still often board members who open those doors.

For example, it is hard to get the attention of a grants committee when there are hundreds or thousands of organizations competing for funding. The organizations that stand out are those that are already known to committee members. This doesn’t mean that strong programming, impactful work, and/or a well written proposal aren’t important. They are. But if you “know someone” the process is easier. Committee members will see your organization’s name and remember hearing about it from people they trust.

People with money give to organizations they know about. And who do they

primarily know? People of like means. This is especially true when it comes to major gifts from individuals: most have a personal connection to the nonprofits they support. Often that connection is through a current or former board member. That’s because people want to know who believes in you, who is guiding your organization, and who is putting their money behind you. Those questions are answered with the unrelenting question: who is on your board?

Before we get to board building, take a moment to look at your current board: who is serving, and what is the culture like? Look inside yourself as well. Are you and your board comfortable around people who are wealthier or more successful? Will your organization welcome and support new board members? Is there enough diversity within your nonprofit for new members to feel they are working with their peers? Does your organization have a case that attracts and energizes board members?

You can build a board that includes people of influence, power, and wealth by being deliberate. First and foremost, identify individuals who truly believe in the mission and vision of your organization. Then look for a cross section of people that includes those who can make and influence major gifts. Think about who in your community – or from across the region or country – meets these criteria.

Increasing the number of people of influence, power, and wealth on your board takes time and the involvement of your executive director, board chair, and community leaders. You need to personally invite people – one at a time – to join with you. You need a board that represents those you serve as well as those who can provide money, resources, and expertise. Open your doors and diversify your board.



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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](http://www.saadandshaw.com) or call (901) 522-8727.

## HEALTH

## Gratiot Family Medicine residents publish paper in medical journal, program graduates remain in state

ALMA, Mich. – The family medicine physicians of the residency training program at MidMichigan Medical Center – Gratiot celebrated two milestones this July. The first is the completion of a research paper that has been published in the July 2020 “Journal of The American Board of Family Medicine.” The second, the program’s 2020 graduating residents will remain in Michigan to continue caring for patients.

“Our family medicine residency at Gratiot crossed a significant threshold this month,” said Michael Stack, M.D., vice president of medical affairs, MidMichigan Medical Center – Gratiot. “Not only did we celebrate the graduation of our second class of residents this month, but to publish a research paper in one of the most prestigious medical journals in their field is truly a milestone to be recognized and applauded.”

The article, “Effects of Implementing a Comprehensive Opioid Reduction Protocol on Overall Opioid Prescribing Among Patients with Chronic, Non-Cancer Pain in a Rural Family Medicine Clinic: A Controlled Cross-over Trial,” zeroes in on the continued opioid crisis. Authors included Matthew Stack, DHA, Vanessa LaRouche, M.D., Yezi Zhang, M.D., Daniel Warden, M.D., Charles Stack, B.S., and Egle A. Klugiene, M.D.

“The opioid crisis presents many challenges for family practice providers in rural communities who treat patients with chronic non-cancer pain (CNCP),” explained Matthew Stack, DHA, physician assistant, Family Practice Center in Alma. “Unfortunately, evidence for effective opioid reduction strategies is sparse. We evaluated the effects of implementing a comprehensive opioid reduction protocol on overall opioid prescribing among patients with chronic

non-cancer pain in our rural family medicine clinics.”

Stack continued, “Like others, we speculate that adverse childhood events and trauma may correlate with adult chronic pain and the use of opioids to anesthetize this physical and psychic pain. If we hope to continue our progress against the opioid crisis, we believe we need to join with community partners in treating psychological trauma in adults and preventing the abuse and neglect of our children.”

The residency program, a joint effort between Michigan State University and MidMichigan Medical Center – Gratiot, was created in 2016 in response to a growing need for primary care physicians in rural Michigan. Its stated mission is “to train high quality compassionate family medicine physicians devoted to serving rural communities, while addressing the health care needs of our diverse population.” The program is filling that role by bringing a dozen additional physicians into the community to care for patients at the Family Practice Center in Alma during their training, while also creating a pipeline of doctors for the long term benefit of the community. The program graduated its first inaugural class in July 2019. Of the two years of graduates thus far, 100 percent have remained in state.

This year the program recognizes three graduates. Graduate Michelle Nelson, M.D., is joining Gratiot’s residency program’s faculty and will remain in the practice to care for patients while helping to train the next generation of providers. Al-Sadek Makki, M.D., and Yezi Zhang, M.D., are joining the hospitalist program at MidMichigan Medical Center – Midland to care for inpatients when they are hospitalized.



*Courtesy Photo*

“This past year our residents experienced new challenges in taking care of patients in an unprecedented pandemic and they successfully navigated the many changes they faced each day,” said Marita Hattem-Schiffman, president, MidMichigan Medical Centers in Clare, Gratiot and Mt. Pleasant. “We’re fortunate to have Drs. Nelson, Makki and Zhang as part of our medical community and know they will provide excellent and compassionate care to the Gratiot and Midland communities.”

Those who would like more information about the Family Medicine Residency – Gratiot program may visit [www.midmichigan.org/residency/gratiot](http://www.midmichigan.org/residency/gratiot).

# Opioid overdoses surge during COVID-19 pandemic; MDHHS promotes treatment and resources

LANSING, Mich. – Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and emergency departments (EDs) in Michigan have both seen substantial increases in opioid overdoses since the beginning of the COVID-19 epidemic. These increases are a tragic reminder of the continued toll of the opioid epidemic, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) urges anyone with opioid use disorder to carry naloxone and practice other safety measures to prevent overdose deaths.

According to statistics gathered by MDHHS, EMS responses for opioid overdose increased by 33 percent from April to May of this year. Additionally, EMS responses for opioid overdoses from April through June 2020 were 26 percent higher than the same period in 2019. EMS responses for opioid overdoses increased for all regions and nearly all demographic groups, with the exception of residents aged 65 years and older.

“Opioid overdoses kill far too many Michiganders, and it’s a double tragedy that the pandemic has exacerbated this crisis,” said Dr. Joneigh S. Khaldun, chief deputy for health and chief medical executive. “If you or someone you love has an opioid use disorder, please take steps to prevent overdose deaths – like carrying naloxone and never using alone.”

The data provides other insights on how the pandemic has impacted the opioid crisis. Patients were more likely to refuse transport to EDs in April to June compared to the same period in 2019. The percentage of opioid overdose EMS responses that resulted in the patient declining transport to EDs nearly doubled from 7.7 percent April to June 2019 to 14.3 percent April to June 2020.

While all racial groups demonstrated increases in opioid overdoses and transport refusals during the pandemic, preliminary data suggests white residents experienced the greatest increases during this period. Despite this finding, longstanding racial disparities continue to impact how black residents experience opioid overdoses, resulting in a far higher opioid overdose rate. The average

monthly rate of EMS responses for opioid overdoses among black residents was 219.8 per 100,000 residents, as compared to 123.4 among white residents between April and June.

After an initial drop in April, ED visits for opioid overdoses increased in May and June to pre-pandemic levels despite EDs seeing fewer visits overall in Michigan during the pandemic.

The total number of ED visits April to June 2020 declined 38 percent compared with April to June 2019, while the number of opioid overdose ED visits increased by 2 percent. It is too early to determine if opioid overdose deaths have increased following the onset of the pandemic due to the length of time required to finalize death certificates.

MDHHS continues to use every available tool to combat the opioid epidemic during this challenging time, including ensuring continued access to Syringe Service Programs (SSPs) and increasing access to naloxone, the medication used to treat overdoses, for individuals and organizations. Treatment for opioid use disorder, which may include medications used to combat the effect of opioids on a person’s brain, remains available. For individuals who are not ready to access treatment, MDHHS also recommends safer drug use to prevent further injury and death due to overdose during this time. MDHHS urges Michiganders to use the following treatment and safer drug use resources:

*If you or someone you know has an opioid use disorder:*

- Access resources to support the mental and physical health of those with substance use disorder during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Contact your primary care provider before you run low on necessary medications. If you need access to a medical provider, contact your nearest Federally Qualified Health Center for support.
- Ensure naloxone is readily available. Naloxone for All and NEXT Distro will mail naloxone at no cost to anyone

in Michigan. Individuals can request naloxone online. MDHHS has also created an online naloxone portal where community organizations can request free naloxone.

- Practice safer drug use (safety practices that prevent overdose deaths) and encourage others to do the same. More information is available in Safer Drug Use during the COVID-19 Outbreak. Never Use Alone is a service anyone can call while using drugs. The caller will be connected to a person who will seek emergency services for them if they drop off the line or don’t respond to a return call. Call 800-484-3731 or visit [NeverUseAlone.com](http://NeverUseAlone.com) to learn more.
- Find an SSP near you that can provide sterile needles, naloxone and other life-saving resources.

*If you or someone you know would like to seek treatment for opioid use disorder:*

- Treatment centers are still open during COVID-19 and listed online so you can find a center near you.

*If you or someone you know is in recovery:*

- Reach out with a phone call, text or email to let him or her know you are there. Model good coping behaviors yourself.
- Share the COVID-19 hotline number (888-535-6136) and tell them to press “8” for free emotional support counseling.
- Direct them to [Michigan.gov/StayWell](http://Michigan.gov/StayWell) for a list of other help lines, including a peer “warm line” for individuals in distress who want to talk to someone who understands substance use disorders, the National Disaster Distress Helpline at 800-985-5990 and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255.
- Call 211. Anyone struggling or seeking resources for substance use treatment services can call this free service that connects Michigan residents with health resources in their communities.

For more information about overdoses and resources for prevention and treatment, visit [Michigan.gov/Opioids](http://Michigan.gov/Opioids).

# 2020 CENSUS

## It's not too late to be counted in the 2020 census!

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**So, don't wait any longer! Fill out the census today!**

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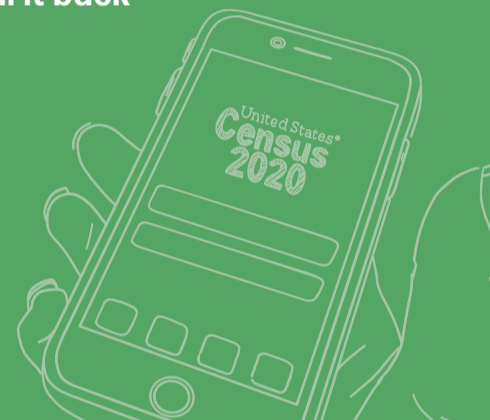
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Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has supported us. You are all extraordinary.



# BUSINESS & WEALTH

## Delivering on equity pledge, TCF Bank unveils \$1 billion loan commitment for minority communities and minority- and women-owned small businesses

Leading the call for companies to lean in to social justice, Detroit-based bank also commits \$10 million for grants to help low-to-moderate income home buyers

Less than two months after pledging to take action for racial equality and social justice in the communities TCF Bank serves, the company today announced a \$1 billion loan commitment to minority communities and minority- and women-owned small businesses, and a \$10 million grant program to assist low-to-moderate income home buyers. The 5-year programs are among the first tangible products of a public commitment Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan secured from major corporations in the immediate aftermath of George Floyd's murder and will impact businesses across TCF's footprint and the country.

"While small businesses drive the economy and are the backbone of our neighborhoods, minority-owned and women-owned small businesses have historically had a more difficult time obtaining loans than their white and male counterparts. We recognize the crucial need for change, and as a bank committed to strengthening individuals, businesses, and communities, we are inspired to help these business owners create wealth and pursue their dreams," said TCF Executive Chairman Gary Torgow. "Last month, we joined Mayor Duggan and other business leaders in Detroit and pledged to do our part to fight racism, bigotry and inequality in this country. Today, we take another step in our journey to help create a more equitable future for all."

Profits that TCF expects to generate from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) will help support this commitment.

The small business loans of up to \$1 million each will be available across TCF's footprint and nationally to ensure access to credit to minority and women-owned small businesses and small businesses in largely minority communities. The bank will focus its efforts in Detroit, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Chicago, Cleveland, Grand Rapids and other key cities in its markets.

The Heart and Home program for qualified home buyers provides grants up to \$3,000 to help cover closing costs. The grant<sup>1</sup> does not need to be paid back and is available to customers who earn less than 80% of the area median income, or who purchase homes in a low-to-moderate income census tract. TCF's goal is to fund about 750 grants in 2020 – about 2½ times more than the nearly 300 grants funded in 2019.

"When people own their homes, it builds the neighborhood, provides stabilization and strengthens the community. We recognize that access to funds for a down payment is the single largest hurdle to home ownership, and our hope is this grant will provide a pathway to home ownership for more people," said CEO Craig Dahl. "As people and communities look to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognize that now, more than ever, we can make a difference and help our customers through these challenging times."

In 2019, TCF and Chemical Bank merged, forming the largest Michigan-based bank. Construction on its new headquarters in the City of Detroit is underway. The bank has a long history of supporting its communities through corporate and philanthropic giving, volunteerism and strategic partnerships, including a \$5 million commitment to Detroit's Strategic Neighborhood Fund for

the Grandmont Rosedale neighborhood. TCF Bank worked with Duggan to leverage its commitment for another \$30 million in fund donations from six other Michigan corporations.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, civil unrest, and 500-year flood in the Midland area, the bank has increased dramatically its community investment, including:

- match donations for Henry Ford Health System (MI) and M-Health Fairview (MN) COVID-19 Emergency Needs Fund;
- a \$10 million loan program with Wayne County to provide fast relief through low-interest loans to help local small businesses; this program, recommended by Wayne County Executive Warren Evans, served as inspiration for the \$1 billion small business commitment announced today
- \$250,000 in donations to Great Lakes Bay Region community organizations and a \$10 million Hardship Lending Program to support residents and businesses impacted by the dam failures and flooding in Midland and Gladwin counties;

<sup>1</sup>Only available with a TCF Home Loans first mortgage or Detroit Home Mortgage loan; not available with all loan products. Program is limited to certain geographic areas. Owner-occupied principal residences only. Eligible Third Party costs: title insurance, settlement agent closing fee, appraisal, credit report, flood determination fee, recording fee. Eligible Lender Cost: processing fee. Not an offer, borrower must meet qualifications. Subject to loan program underwriting guidelines.

\$700,000 in donations to organizations that offered programs and resources to underserved communities impacted by COVID-19.



## Amigo Mobility names first female president

Amigo Mobility International, Inc., a leading global manufacturer of motorized shopping carts, material handling carts, and personal mobility vehicles announces that Beth Thieme, the company's current CEO, has been appointed as the company's first female President as well.

Beth joined Amigo Mobility in 1975 and has had a role in nearly every department, from purchasing to human resources to sales, working with her husband Al Thieme, founder and inventor of the Amigo cart. She has had a pivotal role in Amigo's history by growing the retail sales division to be market share leader with the top five largest retailers purchasing Amigo carts for their stores. In 2009, Beth received the Top Women in Grocery Award.

Founder and Chairman Al Thieme says, "Beth has been leading this company for decades, we are proud to make it official with the title of President and know that Amigo is in good hands with her leading our team."

The company's success shows as they were named Michigan Manufacturer of the Year by the Michigan Manufacturers Association in May of 2012 and placed on Michigan's 2014 list of 50 Companies to Watch.

"It is an honor to become the President of the company," said Thieme. "I am excited to develop and work with the team who will lead Amigo into the future. There is nothing more rewarding than watching the success of someone you helped along the way."

Endlessly passionate about Amigo Mobility and the local Great Lakes Bay community where she resides, Beth serves on the Advisory Board for the Saginaw Valley State University College of Business & Management and is the Board Vice Chair of the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce.

"Throughout my career I have found how important it is to always work on being a better communicator in both writing and speech. It is something you can make your specialty as a professional no matter what career or market you are in" said Thieme.

## Pizza Sam's in Midland and Downtown Restaurant Investments (DRI) announce strategic partnership



*Courtesy Photo*

Midland, MI — DRI and the Stamas family are pleased to announce an exciting new partnership to provide enhanced customer experience for all who visit Pizza Sam's, the family owned business located at 102 W Main St in Midland. The Stamas family will continue to own and operate Pizza Sam's, but the partnership will allow innovation and efficiencies that will provide value to our customers. "For over 60 years we are proud of serving our award-winning pizza to this community and being a part of Downtown Midland. We are very excited to be partnering with such a great team and are confident DRI will enable us to continue to uphold our standards and values as we work to adapt our offering and to navigate these extraordinary times", said Gus Wojda (pronounced Voy-da), member of the Stamas

family and in charge of day to day operations.

Dave Dittenber, CEO of DRI is pleased to increase the footprint of DRI in downtown Midland after opening Molasses Smokehouse at 201 E Main St Midland last year. "Midland's response to Molasses Smokehouse is amazing and the opportunity to work with the Stamas family and Pizza Sam's is an amazing opportunity – the DRI team is excited to get started."

Pizza Sam's - A Family Tradition Since 1960. Downtown Midland's family-friendly destination for pizza, salads, sandwiches, frosty cold beer, and hand scooped ice cream. Our success in navigating six decades in business has required us to embrace change and find ways to transform the business

to meet ever changing environments. The loyalty of our customers is outstanding, and we wouldn't be here without them. The Stamas family remains committed to continued daily involvement and ensuring our core products like our award-winning pizza remain unchanged while embracing the changes that will help us grow. By leveraging our core strengths and longevity with the talent and resources DRI can provide, we are optimistic and excited about the potential for continued success.

Downtown Restaurant Investments is focused on helping downtowns make a comeback after decades of decline when businesses relocated to malls and strip malls. This left many cities with almost nothing in terms of unique and interesting dining experiences. Now there is an increasing demand for downtown living in cities nationwide and an overall need for uniquely driven restaurants. Downtown Restaurant Investments functions to bring energy, diversity, and personality back to the heart of downtown. Pizza Sam's is an iconic downtown business and an institution in the area. By combining the core products and concepts that have allowed them to succeed over so many years with our passion and determination for creating the perfect experiences of comfort and satisfaction, we believe we've found a great fit.

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# Michigan farmers enhance sustainability of 67,000 acres of land, actions improve Saginaw Bay watershed quality



L to R: Mike Milligan, Michigan Wheat Farmer; Mary Fales, Program Director, The Nature Conservancy; Mary Gallagher, Responsible Sourcing Manager, Kellogg Company

BATTLE CREEK, Mich., July 22, 2020 / PRNewswire/ -- As stewards of the land, farmers are continuously seeking ways to help improve the health and sustainability of their farms. They also recognize the role they can play to positively impact the land and water sources adjacent to where their crops grow. Doing so takes funding and resources - and farmers find themselves in need of support from organizations to help them get there, especially during these challenging times. That's where public-private partnership plays a key role.

Kellogg Company and The Nature Conservancy have collaborated to help farmers implement conservation agriculture practices on 67,000 acres of Michigan farmland since 2015 in the Saginaw Bay Watershed – the main drinking water source to nearly 1 million residents and the habitat for large populations of waterfowl, birds and more than 90 fish species.

Through their support of both a six-year USDA led program and a pay for

performance incentive, farmers adopted practices to help regenerate soil health, support biodiversity and address water quality concerns in the Saginaw Bay Watershed. Participating farmers like Mike Milligan, a fourth-generation Michigan wheat farmer, implemented practices such as cover cropping, no-till farming, soil nutrient management and water drainage management to prevent nearly 3,900 tons (the equivalent of 275 dump truck loads) of soil from running off the land and into waterways.

Soil runoff occurs when heavy rains become too much for the soil to absorb, causing land to erode and drain into nearby streams, rivers and lakes. These stressors can cause nitrogen contamination and algal growth in waterways, which negatively impacts the habitats of native fish and wildlife populations.

"Promoting soil health on my farm is vital not only for boosting production, but also for helping to protect the broader ecosystem of the species and people living in the Saginaw Bay area," said Milligan. "Working with

Kellogg, The Nature Conservancy and the USDA has helped farmers like me accelerate conservation and regenerative agriculture practices that are making a significant impact."

The Saginaw Bay is an important sourcing area for Kellogg ingredients, as soft white winter wheat grown there is used to make Kellogg's Frosted Mini-Wheats®, Kellogg's Raisin Bran®.

In 2019, Kellogg and The Nature Conservancy enhanced its Pay for Performance incentive to enable more Michigan farmers to adopt regenerative agriculture practices and receive payments based on the predicted environmental benefits. In just one year, the program expanded to nearly 4,000 acres, which is estimated to prevent another 328 tons of runoff from entering the Bay. Additionally, Kellogg has worked since 2015 with its grain supplier Star of the West to measure and track continuous improvement of conservation practices on 70,000 acres of Michigan farmland and 45,000 acres of wheat. The teams meet with farmers each year to share best practices and provide additional resources and technical assistance.

"Promoting soil health and protecting biodiversity has always been a priority at Kellogg," said Mary Gallagher, Responsible Sourcing Senior Manager at Kellogg Company. "This program contributes towards our global Kellogg's Better Days goal to support 1 million farmers, workers and women by the end of 2030. Already, we have positively impacted more than 433,000 farmers through 40+ Kellogg's Origins™ sustainable agriculture projects worldwide."

"Keeping a healthy, sustainable system is critical," Milligan added. "We're all working towards a common goal here, to have a healthy long-term water supply and healthy soil."

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# EDUCATION

## As fall semester approaches, SVSU reimagines campus spaces to address safety during pandemic



*Courtesy Photo*

Since in-person classes were suspended in March, Ron Portwine has remained one of the few members of Saginaw Valley State University's staff working at the campus. There – like so many higher education institutions in the nation that shifted the college experience to online and virtual environments in response to the pandemic – the vibrancy of student life at SVSU's admired facilities was replaced by empty hallways and vacant classrooms.

This week, that vibrancy seemed to stir back to life in the eyes of Portwine, who has spent months working with colleagues preparing the campus for students' return in August. On Tuesday, freshmen participated in orientation sessions that placed them in classrooms and campus spaces re-configured with features designed specifically to keep students safe from the COVID-19 virus.

"We have been working on this plan for a long time, and now we're seeing how it looks

with students here on campus," Portwine said. "It's exciting and provides an opportunity to receive student feedback on the changes we've made."

As SVSU's associate vice president for Administration and Business Affairs and its chief business officer, Portwine has taken a leading role in adapting SVSU to the pandemic. While the university announced masks were required to enter campus, ensuring a safe fall semester also meant reimagining the physical makeup of classrooms, cafeterias and other spaces while also providing resources and signage that encourages other safety-based practices. It has been a massive undertaking involving consultation with local health experts, modified ventilation practices, an emphasis on frequent sanitation, lots of stored furniture, and plexiglass.

Plenty of plexiglass.

"Students will notice the changes when they

come back in the fall," he said. "Safety is our priority. We also want them to enjoy the college student experience."

Compared to many university settings, SVSU was uniquely suited to maintain a safe environment that defends against the spread of COVID-19. Historically, SVSU has maintained a reputation as an institution where students enjoy cozy classrooms. While other universities sometimes sit hundreds of students in a single room, many of SVSU's classrooms traditionally hosted less than 30 people. That population-per-room this fall will be reduced further – by about 50 percent in most cases – to allow for even more room to safely practice social distancing, Portwine said.

"Preparing for this involved a lot of spreading-out of tables and removing chairs so that no

**Continues on pg 25, SVSU fall semester**



## Continued from pg 24, SVSU fall semester



*Courtesy Photo*

one is sitting closer than 6 feet apart,” he said.

There will be exceptions to that 50 percent reduction rule. SVSU will utilize some of its larger spaces – typically reserved for events and conference gatherings – to host courses with larger numbers of students. The size of the venue, however, will allow for social distancing.

Next week, the university plans to begin installation of plexiglass shields positioned at classroom podiums and transaction counters, adding another layer of security that reduces the likelihood of disease transmission when adequate social distance can’t be maintained. Portwine said the setup will resemble the use of plexiglass material utilized by grocery and retail stores during the pandemic.

Hand sanitizer and environmentally-friendly cleaning agents also will be available in classrooms. Students will be expected to clean their classroom work surface as part of a shared responsibility to maintain a safe campus.

Other campus spaces that will be noticeably changed are SVSU’s dining locations. Using largely the same approach as the classroom changes, the removal of chairs and the spreading of tables will encourage social distancing, Portwine said. Students can eat in privacy or at a table for up to four people.

“We’ll have plenty of residential students who live together in groups of four and we want them to be able to dine together as part of their college experience,” Portwine said.

The cafeterias also will follow the practices of many restaurants. While the menu will remain largely the same, the way students gather food will change. Staff will serve food and beverages to students, with some plexiglass separating customers from cooks. The elimination of self-serve salad bars and beverage dispensaries reduces the number of touchable surfaces on which people can transmit diseases.

Plexiglass will be installed in other transactional spaces including where students pick up and drop off documents from the Registrar’s and Campus Financial Services offices. Plexiglass also will protect people visiting offices for counseling or tutoring services, although staff will encourage most of those appointments take place online or at locations on campus where 1-on-1 interactions can be most safely practiced. The same approach will be encouraged when students visit their professors. In the past, those visits happened within the professor’s office, where social distancing practices will be challenging.

Not all changes to the campus will involve rearranged furniture or installed plexiglass.

Portwine said few physical changes were planned for the residential halls. Instead, the room capacity will be reduced in common spaces to encourage social distancing. Shared bedrooms that traditionally utilized a bunk bed to house two students have been converted to single occupancy. The amount of space available to residential students already was a treasured feature that led to SVSU’s No. 1 ranking among public universities in the student survey-driven “Best Dorms” list

from the website Niche. Now that space-per-residential student will widen for the 2020-21 academic year.

Signage across campus will limit the number of people that can enter smaller spaces such as laundry rooms and elevators.

Custodial staff will be deployed regularly to clean surfaces people often touch, including door handles and hand railings.

Portwine said the university also will employ a 2-pronged ventilation strategy designed to address the circulation of shared air that could potentially transmit diseases.

“We will increase the amount of outside air brought into the buildings and exhaust conditioned air outdoors to the extent possible, based on weather conditions and occupant comfort,” he said.

“When we are unable to bring outdoor air into a building, we have to rely on filtration. We will run air handlers for longer periods of time when buildings are occupied for increased air circulation and filtration.”

Portwine said he expects the changes to the physical setup of the campus as well as the implementation of smart practices will encourage a culture of safety that students will accept and champion.

“We’re creatures of habit, but we’re constantly learning how to adapt to the pandemic,” he said. “We’re going to continue to adapt, but this is still going to feel like SVSU.”

## Greater Michigan Construction Academy graduates announced



The Greater Michigan Construction Academy would like to recognize the students who completed their training from six different construction trades including Electrical, Carpentry, HVAC, Pipefitting, Plumbing, and Sheet Metal. Due to COVID-19, GMCA was not able to hold a banquet, however our graduates will not go unnoticed. Graduates will be receiving their certificates via mail, along with their gifts in order to help support the communities in which they live throughout these times many businesses are struggling.

2020 GMCA Graduates: Electrical – Samuel Bosworth, Zeth Caudill, Jonathan Clark, Logan Dean, Jay Ellithorpe, Cody Evans,

Terrance Evans, Taylor Eyre, Noah Fuller, Johnathon Gross, Luke Hagy, Clayton Harger, Jason Honeman, Colt Johnson, Matthew Johnston, Alec Kababik, Scott Kenyon, Jonathon Krause, Lake Kuba, Brek LaFave, Sean Macklin, Drake Miller, Shadrach Miller, Kyle Moore, Nathan Mudd, Kevin Nico, Steel O’Boyle, James Oldham, Sean Phillips, Tanner Piechowiak, Riley, Render, Aaron Rice, Cruz Rodriguez, Matt Russell, Connor Shankel, Austin Shattuck, Corey Siler, Miles Sipe, Dylan Smith, Chase Spedoske, Zachary Squires, James Steingreaber, Pete Stockton, David Summers, Alexander Tomiko, Henry Underwood, Lore Zuniga-Villegas, Dylan Wentz Carpentry – Daniel Beebe, Patrick

Budzinski, Brett Crawley, Daniel Harmon, Jesse Mack HVAC – Justin Anlas Pipefitting – Chase Gohsman, James Hernick, Duane Jean, Joel Kennedy, Justin Laflure, Louise Rousse, Timothy Wale Plumbing – Cody Cole, Zachary Donoghue, AnnaLisa Johnson, Nathaniel Niinisto, Logan Schweinsberg Sheet Metal – Stanley Fowle

“These students are the future of our industry,” says Stephanie Davis, President of the Greater Michigan Construction Academy. “They are a vital part of our community and our economy and need to be commended for their accomplishments.”

GMCA currently trains in eleven different construction trades specialties. The Academy is a nationally registered program with NCCER and the Federal Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training (BAT).

If you are interested in learning more, contact us at (855) 832-8879 or visit our web site at [www.gmcami.org](http://www.gmcami.org).

## Saginaw Intermediate School District meets state requirements for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

SAGINAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN – Michigan Department of Education determined under section 16 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that Saginaw Intermediate School District meets the requirements. The requirements and purposes are met under Part B of IDEA, which means based on the totality of the data, information, results, annual performance, and scoring matrix that Saginaw ISD continues to improve the results for students with exceptionalities.

IDEA covers children from birth through high school graduation or age 21 with the purpose of providing a free and appropriate public education for students with exceptionalities. It requires schools to find and evaluate students with exceptionalities, at no cost to families, with the purpose of helping students make progress in school.

Teri Chapman, ED.S, Director of the Office of Special Education for the Michigan Department of Education states, “Thank you for your continuous work to improve results for children and youth with IEPs and their families. MDE will continue to provide technical assistance and resources to improve educational results and functional outcomes for children with IEPs, as well as all Michigan children, in the coming school year.”

Under Math and Reading Assessment Elements, 80.7% of 4th-grade students and 81.5% of 8th-grade students with IEPs participating in regular statewide assessments in English Language Arts and Math met requirements. Just over 59% of students with IEPs graduated with a regular high school diploma.

Erin Senkowski, Executive Director of Special Education for Saginaw Intermediate School

District comments, “Saginaw ISD received our Special Education Determinations for 2020 and we met requirements for the implementation of Part B of IDEA for the second year in a row. Saginaw ISD is one of 18 ISDs to have Met Requirements. While there is still a lot of work to be done in Saginaw County, in both results and compliance, this data is a direct result of our proactive approach to Technical Assistance through the TA cycle implemented in the 2017-2018 school year. Thank you for your continued and future support in our services to our LEAs and SISD programs as we move outcomes forward for our students with exceptionalities.”

To learn more about this determination, visit “How the Michigan Department of Education Made 2020 ISD Determinations under Section 616(d) of the Individuals with Disabilities Act.”



**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](http://www.saginawheadstart.org)

Source: [www.saginawheadstart.org](http://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**

# Kettering University's MSE-Advanced mobility rated #1 best value Online engineering master's for 2020



*courtesy photo*

Kettering University, a renowned institute of higher education offering a wide array of both on-campus and online degrees and programs, is proud to announce that it was ranked the No. 1 Best Value Online Engineering Master's for 2020 by Value Colleges.

Known for its STEM programs that empower students to propel their careers to senior-level administration, Kettering was acknowledged by the news source as providing "students the necessary skills to perform specific

tasks, such as updating software, integrating networks and systems, and managing IT teams in a fast-paced, competitive work environment." It also noted that, "Kettering University offers one of the best online engineering Masters programs in the country for students who aren't able to attend school on campus."

"At Kettering, we pride ourselves on delivering a high-quality education that meets employer needs today but with a constant eye

on what the future may require," Dr. Christine M. Wallace, Vice President of Kettering Global, said. "We prepare students to excel in the STEM field by providing practical applications of material and tools that go directly to workplace. This is how you create tomorrow's innovators, by providing a solid foundation paired with practiced critical analysis. The result is the next generation of individuals poised to change industry, business and society."

Value Colleges is a news and information source that informs students on cost, return on investment and school rankings, among many other sources of information.

The MSE Electrical and Computer – Advanced Mobility Focus is a one-of-a-kind, highly innovative program that allows engineers to advance their skills and knowledge to be the key innovators in the automotive industry that is moving solidly toward electric and autonomous vehicles. This program includes a focus on artificial intelligence, robotics and digital systems.

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# COMMUNITY

## While I was thinking.....

By Rev. Hurley J. Coleman Jr.



courtesy photo

*"My heart was hot within me, while I was musing, the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue:"*  
Psalms 39:3

The word "muse" has several definitions. The ones that I believe are fitting for this conversation are: "to be absorbed

in thought, to speak to oneself in a thoughtful manner, an instance or period of reflections." These all describe the way that I have seen myself as of late.

It is July 2020. It feels like July 1968, or 1948, or 1928, or 1898. This feels like a surreal moment when we are seeing things happen that have happened before. We are asking questions that have been asked before. We are dealing with situations that have been repeated over and over.

What is difficult is that we have never felt like we had received a suitable answer before, we never felt as if things were reconciled, and we never quit asking the questions.

I was feeling "some kind of way" about the conversations that I have been in with people about the myriad of issues that we are facing.

The conversations about the political environment that is so toxic that people are angry with their party of choice, the opposition, and the general political environment.

There is a toxic reluctance to take responsibility for the obvious faults of either extreme. The victims are increasingly becoming responsibility for their own cure.

The social environment is a frothing boil about the inequities that have been systemically a part of the American landscape since it became a country.

In 1619 the first African immigrants to this

country were not on a social excursion, but they were brought in the hold of a ship as chattel slaves.

The Africans who were already here were quickly homogenized into a class of people who would from then on be considered "less than" for the purpose of democracy, land ownership, the rights of the constitution, and anything else that was considered part of the "American Dream."

Any and all persons of color would be marginalized and minimized to support this dream. Now, in this season, this inequity is being recognized by the entire world. Other countries are experiencing protests because of what is being finally uncovered in the dark spots of America's history. And it has me thinking, musing.....

The economic environment has been shattered by a pandemic, which was forecast many years ago, but was left to its own devices once it came to this county. I watched as the COVID-19 attack affected the most vulnerable in a much higher per capita percentage than the general population.

People of all races and ethnicities were getting sick and dying, but the narrative began to focus on that group that seemed most vulnerable and, wouldn't you know, it is the same group that was in the challenge of the inequities previously mentioned.

I was just pondering this, and feeling the burn of the fire of the truth.

I watched as millions of people took to the streets in a time of great restrictions. Many states had closed venues for entertainment, restaurants, businesses. People were being encouraged to practice social distancing, and wear masks because the contagion was pervasive.

Yet, people moved in a strange new unity against oppressive police tactics at the visual exposure of the killing of a black man by police. It was not the first black man killed by the police, nor was it the first time that it was seen on video.

There was something about this, the timing of it, and the frustration of it being another things which it seemed that there was nothing that could be done. It made me think. I "mused" while the fire burned hot within me.

There were so many people who were dying of the virus. People that I knew personally. I could not understand why those who were in the positions of leadership and responsible messaging were sending mixed messages about the seriousness of the virus.

I was in deep chagrin about the politicization of health care and the obvious effort to minimize the faulty handling of the pandemic. I couldn't stop the thinking.....

The writer of this psalm was not one who did not have a great command of verse, or insight. He was a great warrior and king. He was prolific in his creation of verse that is timeless in text and emotion. However, this particular psalm is one that shows him in a moment of stoic silence.

It is where I believe we are now. We cannot unsee what we have seen, nor can we erase what we are feeling.

The anger and frustration of the changeless social environment is in competition with the palpable fear that the pandemic has created. We are all out of our normal patterns, and we are facing a future where the past will not ever return.

The fire is burning.... It is the fire of necessary change.

It is the fire of necessary engagement.

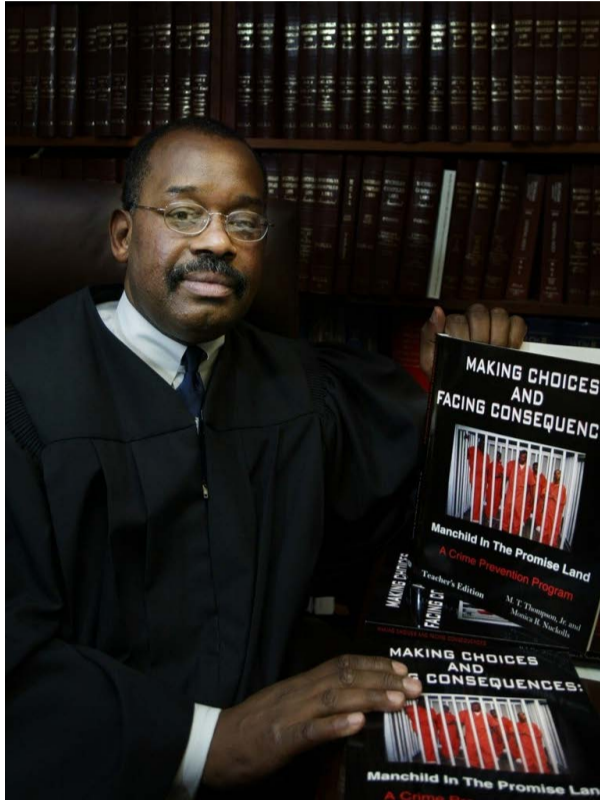
It is the fire of a search for new leadership at so many levels.

It is the fire of needed engagement on every level.

I mused while the fire burned within me. I was just thinking.....

# Racial justice in Saginaw

By Hon. M.T. Thompson, Jr.



*courtesy photo*

The Black Lives Matter movement is a fight for the dignity of man and the destiny of democracy. It is a fight for the very soul of America. Every now and then, a people's fighting spirit, their hopes, their dreams and their quest for justice all meet and occupy the same space at the same moment in history. When that occurs, man's unending search for liberty and justice takes a giant step forward. So it was at Lexington and Concord. So it was at Montgomery and Selma. So it was at Johannesburg and so it was at Minneapolis.

The issue of the color-line continues to be one of the most serious, divisive, and persistent problems in the United States. Discriminatory habits, attitudes and practices are ingrained in the very fabric of America's social, economic, educational, and criminal justice systems. It's time to make a hard, critical and focused analysis of Saginaw's banks, hospitals, construction companies, automobile dealerships, hospitality and convention centers, colleges and universities, etc. and pull out racism by the roots. It's kind of like weeding a garden. This, along with a broader good faith discussion about diversity, will require the genuine commitment of our local captains of industry. They can play a critical role in making the structural changes needed to address systemic racism.

Unfortunately, the concept of institutional or systemic racism has been so distorted, confused

and lied-about that many well-intentioned people don't understand what it is or how it works. Nor do they understand how it affects the day-to-day life of every African American in this country.

The overriding need of the moment is the need for clarity. Overt discrimination or racism is a deliberate, conscious, and isolated decision which is made by the wrongdoer each time an act of discrimination takes place. Systemic or structural racism is built into the system's customs, habits, practices, rules and regulations. It is produced by the routine day-to-day operation of America's social, economic, educational, housing and criminal justice systems. These systems were originally created to support and perpetuate slavery and racial segregation. They were designed to work for the advantage of white folks and the disadvantage of black folks.

The specific mechanisms and levels of sophistication used to maintain and perpetuate this unfair competitive advantage have changed over the years. But, the accompanying discriminatory habits, attitudes and practices have been passed on from one generation to the next. The unearned benefits white folks receive from these discriminatory systems are sometimes called "White Privilege". White Privilege overtime can create a certain sense of entitlement and produce unconscious bias. The challenge is to purge our social, economic, educational and criminal justice systems from both overt and systemic racism.

Let's take a brief look at American history. Since its inception America has operated its own unique form of apartheid and institutionalized racial segregation. Each racial group was given a well defined set of rights, privileges and opportunities. Nothing emphasizes this better than the U.S. Supreme Court's 1856 decision in Dred Scott v Sanford. The Court ruled that African Americans were not citizens under the Constitution and had no rights which a white man was bound to respect. African Americans were considered little more than superior pets.

Nine years later, in 1865 the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery was passed. In 1866 the 14th Amendment was passed conferring citizenship on former slaves. In 1870 the 15th Amendment was ratified giving African Americans the right to vote.

The 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments had absolutely no impact on the organizational structure of America's social, economic,

educational or criminal justice systems or their day-to-day operation. They continued to operate for the advantage of white folks and disadvantage of blacks. A racism set of customs, practices, rules, regulations and laws were either established or strengthened to perpetuate white supremacy. Many of the southern states had "Jim Crow" laws which made the separation of races legal.

In 1896 the U.S. Supreme Court in Plessy v Ferguson ruled that the separation of blacks and whites in public places was legal. This became known as the "separate but equal doctrine". The separate but equal doctrine stood for fifty years. It divided the United States into two classes of people, black and white. This was the era of white only and colored only bathrooms, water fountains, etc. Segregated neighborhoods and schools were the norm. The black community was treated like a third world country in the middle of the most affluent country in the world.

In 1954 the U.S. Supreme Court in Brown v Board of Education acknowledged the gross inequities under the separate but equal doctrine and held that the equal protection clause prohibits government from discriminating based on race.

Black folks jumped with joy. We thought that access to quality education was the secret to success under the American Dream. The American Dream was that if you got a good education and worked hard things would work out. A good education would lead to a good job. A good job would produce a good income. A good income would lead to good housing in a good neighborhood. A good neighborhood would have good schools and the cycle would continue. Unfortunately, the American Dream and this almost automatic progression from good education and hard work to success only works for white Americans. Black Americans face both overt and systemic racism in every aspect of their life, including education, employment, and housing.

Since Brown v Board of Education and the civil rights movement systemic racism has gotten more sophisticated. Various laws have been passed outlawing racial discrimination in employment, housing and education based on primary characteristics such as race, color and sex. In many cases racist have gotten around these prohibitions by focusing on secondary

**Continues on pg 31, Racial Justice**

## Continued from pg 30, Racial Justice

characteristics which are directly related, yet imperfectly linked to a primary characteristic. For example, a much higher proportion of blacks than whites are arrested and convicted. Therefore a policy of automatically refusing consideration for employment to any individual ever arrested and/or convicted will exclude a higher proportion of blacks. Thus, the administration of the criminal justice system may restrict the employment opportunities of blacks. Similarly, if an employer requires a college degree or the completion of an apprenticeship program and blacks have a very limited access to these they spread the effects of discrimination in education into the employment field. Word-of-mouth hiring practices which carry forward racial imbalances in the work force by favoring relatives and friends of current employees also have a discriminatory effect. If an employer locates in a white suburban area and selects its employees from residents' of the area, the pattern of housing opportunities will have a similar limiting effect on black employment opportunities. The common thread running through these examples is simply that the use of what appears to be facially neutral criterion can be used to discriminate. Similar barriers exist in voting, college admissions, housing, etc.

One way to determine whether or not there is discrimination is to look at the numbers. Over time and absent discrimination, the racial composition of an employer's work force, a college or universities student population, or a housing complex's residents will resemble the composition of the community they serve. The one inevitable and natural consequence of systemic racism is the consistent underrepresentation of blacks in those jobs, schools, etc. from which they have been excluded. The one necessary consequence of racial discrimination is racial imbalance. Regardless of how simpleminded or sophisticated the discriminatory mechanism might be the result is the same. You have few, if any, Blacks.

Finally, I turn to the criminal justice system. No one can dispute the fact that the criminal justice system has black blood on its hands. The black rage produced by the brutal and routine police killing of unarmed black folks is more than justified. The racist brutality and culture of some of our police departments may be beyond redemption. Reconstruction and moderate police reform may not be enough. We may have to defund, disband and rebuild some police departments from the ground up. The racial composition of the police department and the selection criteria used to hire police is the starting point. Black folks want police

who understand and care about them. Police who have a reasonable amount of cultural competency. Police who understand what Saginaw looks like not just from the top down, but from the bottom up. We want police we can trust. If you want the Black Community to trust the Saginaw Police Department, then include black people in it. If Saginaw's population is 45% black, absent discrimination, its police department should be close to that percentage. For years Saginaw's leadership has asserted that certain selection criteria in the city charter and/or its union contracts prevent it from hiring more black officers. That's how systemic racism works. It is designed to carry racial imbalances forward. It's time for the black community to rise up and force the City Manager and Council to do the right thing. They cannot continue to argue that the city charter forces them to discriminate against black folks. This racist interpretation and/or application of the city charter is unacceptable. You cannot eliminate racism until you face it. Saginaw's leadership has failed to demonstrate the necessary leadership or courage to face it.

In the interest of transparency, the City of Saginaw should lay its police selection criteria and hiring procedures on the table for public discussion and modifications, if necessary. We also want to examine and discuss those police department rules and regulations which govern the use of force in our community. The Saginaw Police Chief has recently rushed forward asserting that he has modified the City's use of force regulations. This is the same assertion the Police Department made eight years ago following the Milton Hall incident. History has decreased our fool ability. This time the community demands an opportunity to be heard and have meaningful input into these rules and regulations.

We acknowledge that the majority of our police are good, decent and professional men and women who do a good job. Our problems with the criminal justice system are much bigger than a few out of control racist police. The criminal justice system adversely affects the lives of more black men than any other institution in America. The over incarceration of black men has destroyed the structural integrity of the black family. Consider these statistics. One out of three black men in this country will spend time in jail or prison during their life time. The incarceration rate for African Americans is six times the national average. From 1985 to 2002, Michigan's prison population tripled. In 2002, 54.5 percent of Michigan's prison population was Black although African Americans only

comprised 14.2 percent of Michigan's total population. Black men in Michigan have gone to prison at 13 times the rate they have gone to college.

As a result, Michigan has more Black men in prison than college. It is more realistic for a male African American child growing up in Saginaw, Michigan to look forward to going to prison than going to college. The leading cause of the incarceration of Black men is non-violent drug offenses. According to the NAACP's Criminal Justice Fact Sheet, "African Americans serve virtually as much time in prison for a drug offense as whites do for a violent offense."

In May, 2014, the Michigan Council On Crime And Delinquency issued a written report which emphasizes how youth of color continue to be disproportionately prosecuted and convicted as adults. In 2012, 59 percent of the youth, under 16-years-old, who were prosecuted as adults were black. Black youth only make up 18 percent of this statewide youth population. Fifty three percent of the 17-year-olds who were prosecuted and convicted as adults were youth of color, even though youth of color only make up 23 percent of this population statewide. Most youth in the adult system are there for non-violent offenses.

Police are not the only reason for the over incarceration of black men. More than anything else, it is the discretionary decisions of prosecutors and judges driven by a lack of cultural competency, fear and both overt and unconscious bias. Prosecutors decide what charges to bring against an individual, what, if any plea bargain to offer and what sentence to recommend. Judges, decide whether or not a defendant goes home on probation, to a rehabilitation or treatment facility or to prison. They also decide the length of any jail or prison term.

Racism has its knee on the Statue of Liberty's neck and America can't breathe. It's time for a reckoning in Saginaw. It's time to make a hard, critical and focused analysis of Saginaw's criminal justice, economic, educational and housing systems for the purpose of identifying and eradicating those insidious customs, habits and procedures which discriminate against African Americans. This will take the collaborative efforts of the entire Saginaw Community. We can make America better. We can keep America strong.

Any comments can be sent to [malikthompson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:malikthompson@sbcglobal.net)

# Because of the Census, education is possible.



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The Great Lakes Bay Regional 2020 Census initiative is supported by your local community foundation in Bay, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw counties.



# Courage to lead in transition



*courtesy photo*

Today I was thinking about transition especially during this time when so many things are changing. Since so many organizations, churches, corporations, and even families are transitioning I thought I would share some thoughts on how to do it well. Transition done well should be the result of a strategic thought process occurring among people who are leading the transition and those who may be affected by the transition. As a practicing attorney for over 25 years and a thought leader, I've counseled clients who have done it well and those after the fact (many times in litigation) who have done it poorly.

There are a few things to keep in mind about transition:

## **Transition is Part of a Growth Process**

Whether you are the one responsible for transitioning others or you are the one being transitioned, it is part of a growth process. You must always see the opportunity in transition even when it's a downsizing. It may not feel good to everyone at the time depending upon how each person is affected but our attitude is everything. You make sure you drive your attitude without allowing the situation to drive your attitude. Remain positive.

This is where you must cast vision well for the transition. Cast the vision early; cast it frequently; be as transparent as you possibility can. Make sure you are sincere or people will

see through it and will not embrace your future path.

## **Communication is King in Transition**

The idea of transitioning people without directly advising them is cowardly. I've seen this countless times in organizations and it never ends well. Instead of advising an individual that you will be transitioning them or changing their responsibility, the organization begins to use them less or slowly begins to give parts of their responsibility to others. In these situations, the disrespect is more hurtful than the actual transition and ultimately leads to mistrust among the entire organization. Even among those not directly affected, the organization has breached its' trust to people who have served them to the best of their ability at the time. Every organization grows and moves and transition is absolutely necessary but how you do it is everything.

Be bold. Don't send someone else to do "the dirty work." Remember, it's only dirty work if you haven't done the others things well listed in this article.

**"PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS BE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT ASSET"**

## **Remembering the Feeling of Transition**

People may not remember your words during transition but they will always remember how you made them feel. Done well, transition lifts, elevates, and encourages those in transition. This is not only in words but in deed. Transition considers the fear, the loss, and feelings of displacement during transition. Those who do it poorly think only about the end results; forgetting that people are their greatest asset.

## **When Possible Strategically Use People**

Whenever possible (and it's not always possible) strategically use people who are being transitioned to help those who are transitioning in. This is only possible if you have provided a "new place of opportunity" for those transitioning out. Make sure this is not just lip service. Don't make up insignificant places for people to "park" in your organization to avoid hurt feelings but think of where the wisdom/ experience of those you are transitioning might be helpful.

## **A Whole New World**

In transition many organizations don't want the "old guard" influencing the "new kids on the block" and so they separate them as quickly as possible. The really smart new kids understand that based on how you transitioned the "old guard" that they are the candy flavor of the day and that they may be transitioned the same way when the new flavor comes along. Again trust is broken, not based on how you currently treat them but how they're watching you treat others. The new kids who recognize this will always have one foot in and one foot out because they don't trust you. The "new kids" who don't recognize this because they are so flattered in being "chosen" are devastated when their turn comes; and it will come.

Remind your "old guard" of the opportunities they've been given and cast vision for their role in your future (if there is a role). Only make assurances you intend and can keep.

In conclusion, transition is necessary in any growing organization but how you transition is everything. Transition is not for the faint hearted leader; not the leader that is puffed up, not for the leader who doesn't understand, respect, or care about people, not for the leader who is a poor communicator, but great transition belongs to those who will think strategically, cast vision well, invite cross sections of people to the table; regards others thoughts, show humility, kindness and walk with courage. Although it may not sound good in the moment, transition done well elevates an organization and the morale of an organization. Remember, no matter how well you transition there will usually be some people who will not go well. Acknowledge their feelings, assure them of your respect for them and move on. You won't please everyone but don't let that be an excuse for transitioning poorly.

Whether transitioning in work, business or your personal life do it with grace, courage, and dignity. So go and transition well my friends, transition well. If you decide you need help, contact me.

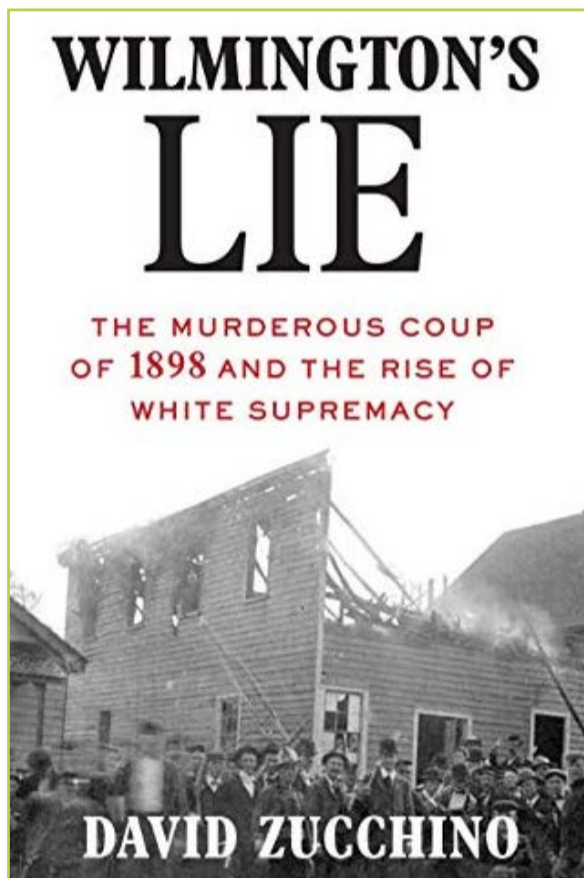
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## BOOK REVIEW

**Worse than Tulsa 1921? In some ways**

By Mike Thompson



Early this year, the 1921 Tulsa race massacre emerged as one of the undertold stories of pre-civil rights racial oppression. And then Trump brought the old tale even more into focus when he scheduled a big campaign rally in Oklahoma.

For those in search of history, another somewhat buried horror episode is told in "Wilmington's Lie," by Pulitzer Prize winner David Zucchino.

The tragic tales both reek of white supremacy, but they couldn't be more different.

Tulsa was like a firecracker. A black teenager is wrongly accused of sexual assaulting a young white woman, and there's hell to pay. Within 18 hours, white mobs have killed up to 100 blacks, many prosperous and middle-class, considering the era. More than 35 blocks are arsoned,

destroying "Black Wall Street and the surrounding neighborhood.

Wilmington, North Carolina, also is ahead of it's time, although not so much in economics so much as in local and regional politics. The town council and the municipal employment ranks, even the police force, are integrated, The KKK types have become highly displeased.

Whereas the Tulsa story is a simmering pot that one day boiled over, the destruction of Wilimington is several years in the making. The white racists carefully craft their political and social coup de etat. The slow, creeping pace of the entire sad scenario becomes even more cruel. This causes me to hesitate in recommending that you pick up this tome from the library, but if it's true that we need to know our history, well, we will find more than our fill of history on these pages.

**WE'RE  
HIRING!****Job Description:****Part-Time Community Organizer Position Description**

The Ezekiel Project is seeking an Organizer experienced in congregation-centered community organizing to recruit new membership and identify, train, and organize community leaders to address local and regional issues and actions.

The Organizer will work with the Director, Staff, and volunteer task force leaders to execute the mission of Ezekiel and must be: a strategic thinker, able to inspire others to act, willing to take risks, self-motivated, and have a deep desire to work for racial and education justice in our society. Must have administrative experience and an intersectional approach to social justice. Bilingual, Spanish speaking preferred.

Successful candidates will be required to attend the 7-day Gamaliel National Leadership Training within 90 days of the start date. Expenses paid by The Ezekiel Project. See [www.gamaliel.org](http://www.gamaliel.org) for training dates and locations.

This position is contracted for 30 hours per week at \$15.00/hour. We are unable to offer benefits or health insurance at this time. Please submit a one-page cover letter and a resume by 11:59 pm on August 2, 2020.

Send your resume and cover letter to [director@theezekielproject.com](mailto:director@theezekielproject.com)



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|--|---|

**For Questions: Contact Deborah Sanchez by email [dsanchez@saginawpromise.org](mailto:dsanchez@saginawpromise.org) or by phone (989)755-0545**  
*\*If required by statewide Executive Orders--a backup date for this event has been reserved for Thursday, September 17, 2020 at the SCC.*



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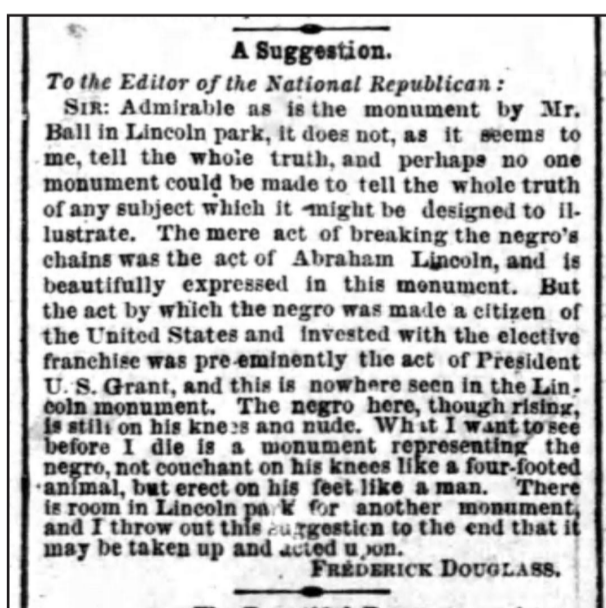
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# Frederick Douglass sets the record straight



Donna & Candice Buchanan - Frederick Douglass (Nathan Richardson) seated at a desk at the historic McClintock House in Waterloo, NY

A few days after Frederick Douglass delivered an iconic speech at the unveiling of the Emancipation Monument in Washington DC on April 14, 1876, he penning a letter to the editor of the National Republican Newspaper. This is a transcript of that letter.



*courtesy photo*

Fast forward to the current protests about civil

war era monuments, those debating the issue are looking for evidence to support their arguments for or against this monument. Clearly the Emancipation Monument does not fall in the category of post civil war monuments erected by confederates to intimidate reconstruction and perpetuate the romantic notion that the South would rise again. Nevertheless, many are troubled by even the slightest resemblance of white superiority.

I was prompted to write the following rebuttal after an admirer of Douglass, in favor of letting the monument stand, sent me a copy of the letter with the caption; "See! Frederick Douglass thought the design of the monument was admirable."

Dear Citizen,

Thank you for taking the time to remind me of the letter I drafted days after I delivered the unveiling speech for the Emancipation Monument. The title of my speech was Oration in Memory of Abraham Lincoln. In that speech I did my due-diligence to give the audience a clear picture of both sides of the complicated man we knew as Abraham

Lincoln.

Respectfully, I am sometimes amused and sometimes annoyed at how the full context of a particular paragraph or scripture can be edited to serve a range of peculiar notions. It was true throughout my life and times as a writer and speaker and is certainly true today in the modern era that headlines following my speeches and writings are designed to lead the reader in one direction or another.

The opening sentence of this letter makes a humble attempt at cordiality and diplomacy by acknowledging that the historical interpretation of Thomas Ball was admirable. But for those who are wholly in favor, or for those enamored by its design, you will likely stop reading at the word - Admirable. And even those who read the letter in its entirety, are likely to offer a one word interpretation - Admirable!

The intent of the letter was to offer a suggestion about how the negro could be represented in a more noble posture. The suggestion was made to add another monument. My conclusion, which was in line with many other negro and especially those who donated their pennies, nickles and dollars, that this new monument would represent our point of view. I have not heard any historical scholars mention the design offered by Harriett Hosmer depicting Lincoln standing proudly beside proud black civil war soldiers.

If I thought the black man didn't have his own unique and intelligent perspective, I would have been satisfied to remain as an occasional contributor of The Liberator Newspaper under the wing of William Lloyd Garrison. I created The North Star Newspaper with that expressed intent; to establish my own platform to publish the unique and intelligent ideas of the Black Man.

The truth is a two sided coin, and sometimes it's a Hexagon. In the telling of a story about a lost coin, if you are asking for help in finding that coin, it would not be to your advantage to offer a description of the head without describing the tail. Likewise for those interested in the finding the truth about the meaning of this monument and what the negro thought of it, it would be wise to listen to exactly what the negro is saying. His considerations often came at the tail end of any conversation of the day. Let us all be about the business of seeking the whole truth.

Your Friend and forever your fellow citizen,  
Frederick Douglass

an interpretation by the understudy  
Nathan M. Richardson

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# AS I LOOK ALL AROUND ME

As I look all around me  
 I see faces of all colors  
 Standing and uniting  
 Walking As sisters and brothers  
 As I look all around me  
 I see the young, i see the old  
 Fighting to stop this racism  
 All the stories that have been told  
 As I look all around me  
 I can't help but to cry  
 So many mothers suffering  
 Because their child had to die  
 As I look all around me  
 I'm scared of the unknown  
 How will I react  
 To the ignorance of your tone  
 As I look all around me  
 Black lives really matter  
 Protesters protesting  
 All races have gathered  
 As I look all around me  
 Our blood runs the same  
 I'm praying for a world of peace  
 I'm praying ... Lord, No More pain  
 All races have struggles  
 All Races have Choices  
 That's why it's important  
 We exercise our voices  
 So much hatred in this world  
 We all have to face  
 But as a Color United  
 We are protected under  
 GODS HOLY GRACE



Brigitte Denise Johnson



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Fax: 989-752-2777  
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jamie@theezekielproject.com

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www.greatlakespace.org  
jdarby@greatlakespace.org

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989-753-1886 / fax 989-753-2880  
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## **Saginaw County Business & Education Partnership**

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## **Saginaw County Community Action Agency, Inc. (CAC)**

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## **Saginaw Promise**

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(989) 755-0545  
www.saginawpromise.org

## **The Michigan Banner Outreach Ministries**

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989-992-2600

## **The Saginaw Community Foundation**

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Saginaw, MI 48603  
989-790-7933

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Pastor Genevieve Benson  
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Saginaw, MI 48601  
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## Christ Fellowship Baptist Church

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Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-4435  
PastorD818@gmail.com

## Faith Harvest Church

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989-799-4200  
www.faithharvestministry.org  
office@faithharvestministry.org

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989-755-3212

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989-752-1455  
260-515-6456

## Greater Williams Temple

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Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-5291



## Jacob's Ladder

Bishop Elect Dempsey Allen  
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## Life in Christ Ministries

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2915 S. Washington Road  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-401-4465  
LifeInChristMinistries07@gmail.com

## Messiah Missionary Baptist Church

2615 Williamson Road  
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Pastor Otis Washington  
Phone: 989-777-2636  
Fax: 989-777-2640  
messiahmbc@att.net  
www.messiahmsag.org



## Mt. Olive Baptist Church

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989-752-8064



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Baldwin  
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Saginaw, MI 48601

989-777-8272

Pastorbaldwin@charter.net



## New Beginnings Life Changing Ministries

Pastor Otis Dickens  
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Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-3650



## New Birth Missionary Baptist

Pastor Larry D. Camel  
3121 Sheridan  
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989-327-1755



## New Covenant Christian Center

Pastor Ron Frierson  
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## New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

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## New Life Baptist Church

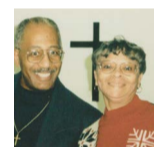
Pastor Rufus Bradley  
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www.thenewwayministry.org



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Assistant Pastor Rex Jones  
1118 N. 9th Street  
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989-752-7366

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Saginaw, MI 48601  
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Pastor Robert C. Corley Jr.

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# POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

## MDHHS issues Emergency Order reinforcing Executive Orders 2020-160 and 2020-161

LANSING, MICH. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director Robert Gordon issued an Emergency Order July 29 reinforcing Executive Orders 2020-160 and 2020-161 and allowing for civil fines of up to \$1,000 and referral to licensing agencies for violations.

This new order rescinds a June 5 order referencing earlier versions of the governor's orders.

"Michigan's efforts to suppress the virus have reduced Michigan's infection rate from among the highest in the country to a rate similar to the national average, Gordon said. "However, case counts have recently trended upward, from fewer than 100 cases per day in mid-June, to between 500 and 1,000 per day in recent days. We must remain vigilant in our response to this ongoing threat and take all appropriate measures to reduce its impact."

The Emergency Order requires that everyone must comply with the procedures and restrictions outlined in the following Executive Orders:

Executive Order 2020-160, which limits statewide indoor gatherings to 10 people or less and, across most of the state, limits outdoor gatherings to 100. (The outdoor gathering limits will remain at 250 in Regions 6 and 8.) It also orders that bars in every region, including those in Regions 6 and 8, must close for indoor service if they earn more than 70 percent of their gross receipts from sales of alcoholic beverages

Executive Order 2020-161, which orders businesses to develop COVID-19 preparedness and response plans, designate supervisors to implement and monitor those plans, and train employees on workplace infection control and use of personal protective equipment.



*courtesy photo*

Under the governor's orders, Detroit casinos will also be allowed to open on Aug. 5, but their occupancy will be limited to 15 percent capacity. Casinos must also conduct a daily entry screening protocol for customers and employees and temperature screenings. Casinos must require patrons to wear a face covering, except while eating or drinking or for identification purposes.

Any violations of this Emergency Order by a person regulated by a licensing agency must be referred to the relevant licensing agency for a determination on whether to pursue additional enforcement action on a case-by-case basis.

Pursuant to MCL 333.2235(1), local health departments are authorized to carry out and enforce the terms of this order. Law enforcement officers may enforce this order and are authorized to investigate potential violations. They may coordinate as necessary

with the local health department and enforce this order within their jurisdiction.

Law enforcement officers, as defined in the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards Act, 1965 Public Act 203, MCL 28.602(f), are deemed to be "department representatives" for purposes of enforcing this order and are specifically authorized to investigate potential violations of this order. They may coordinate as necessary with the appropriate regulatory entity and enforce this order within their jurisdiction.

Criminal penalties for violation of the Governor's Executive Orders will remain an option for prosecutors. The Emergency Order is issued under MCL 333.2253(1).

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](http://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](http://CDC.gov/Coronavirus).

## Congressman Kildee support increased funding to protect Great Lakes

Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-05), Chief Deputy Whip of the House Democratic Caucus, today applauded the passage of legislation that would increase funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to help protect the Great Lakes.

H.R. 7608, the State, Foreign Operations, Agriculture, Rural Development, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, includes \$335 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), representing a year-over-year increase. The GLRI, supported by Republicans and Democrats in Congress, builds on continued efforts by Congressman Kildee to protect the Great Lakes from harmful algal blooms, combat invasive species like Asian carp and restore wetlands. Earlier this year, Congressman Kildee led a letter to the Appropriations Committee asking for increased funding

for the GLRI.

“In Michigan, the Great Lakes are a critical part of our economy, environment and way of life. We must protect the Great Lakes from harm,” said Congressman Kildee. “I am proud to see the U.S. House of Representatives come together to invest in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. I will continue working with my colleagues in Congress, Republicans and Democrats, to support this vital program.”

Congressman Kildee represents 118 miles of Lake Huron shoreline. Since his first term, Congressman Kildee has fought to fully fund protections for the Great Lakes. He has previously spoken out attempts by both Republican and Democratic administrations to cut the GLRI program. President Donald J. Trump has repeatedly tried to cut the GLRI program, but Congress has rejected his requests.

## Find tax plans and more on the Aug. 4 election ballot

By Mike Thompson



*courtesy photo*

On the August 4th ballot, the property tax proposal for the Saginaw County Sheriff's Department is 1.75 mills, or about eight times higher than 0.1997 mill for the Historical Society of Saginaw County.

Then why do we see plenty of yard signs seeking support for the Castle Museum, but none for the sheriff's road patrols?

That's because there are two basic strategies for seeking a millage vote. One approach is to lay all the cards on the table and pursue a maximum turnout at the polls. That's what the Castle Museum is doing. The other approach is to maintain things low-key and under the radar, in order to keep all the usual "no" votes to a minimum. This seems to be the blueprint for the sheriff's deputies.

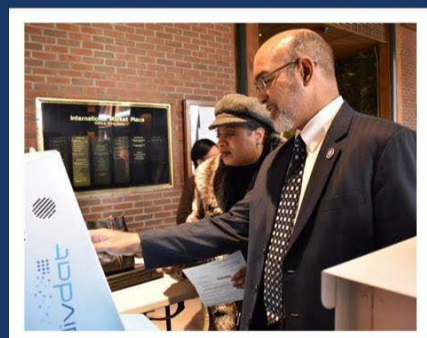
The history levy is a renewal that would support not only the downtown former "castle" post office, but also hometown museums in Bridgeport, Chesaning, Frankenmuth and St. Charles, along with traveling exhibits throughout the county.

The Sheriff's Department tax would combine a 1.3394-mill renewal with an increase of 0.4106 mill, supporting traffic policing in the county's most distant rural outposts.

Voters will see three columns on their ballots. The first two are to nominate Democrats and Republican nominees to run in November. Citizens must choose one political party or the other, because "cross voting" in both primaries is disallowed. The third column is for nonpartisan tax proposals.

The vast majority of the August 4th action will be on the Democratic side, with contested races for county clerk, sheriff, and state representatives in the 94th and 95th Districts. These are the sources for most of the yard signs. To view The Michigan Banner's thorough election preview guide, you may find the file for the recent July 16 edition at <https://themichiganbanner.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/july-16-2020.pdf>

Under Wayne County Treasurer Eric Sabree's leadership, the Wayne County Treasurer's Office has provided 70 kiosk locations for convenient tax payments. throughout metro Detroit. The kiosks now account for more than 15% of total delinquent tax payments.



To support Eric Sabree and his re-election, visit [www.VoteEricSabree.com](http://www.VoteEricSabree.com)

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**ERIC SABREE**  
Wayne County Treasurer

I believe public service is a responsibility that we all share, and we should all be willing to contribute our time and best effort toward the well-being of the community in which we live, work and play.






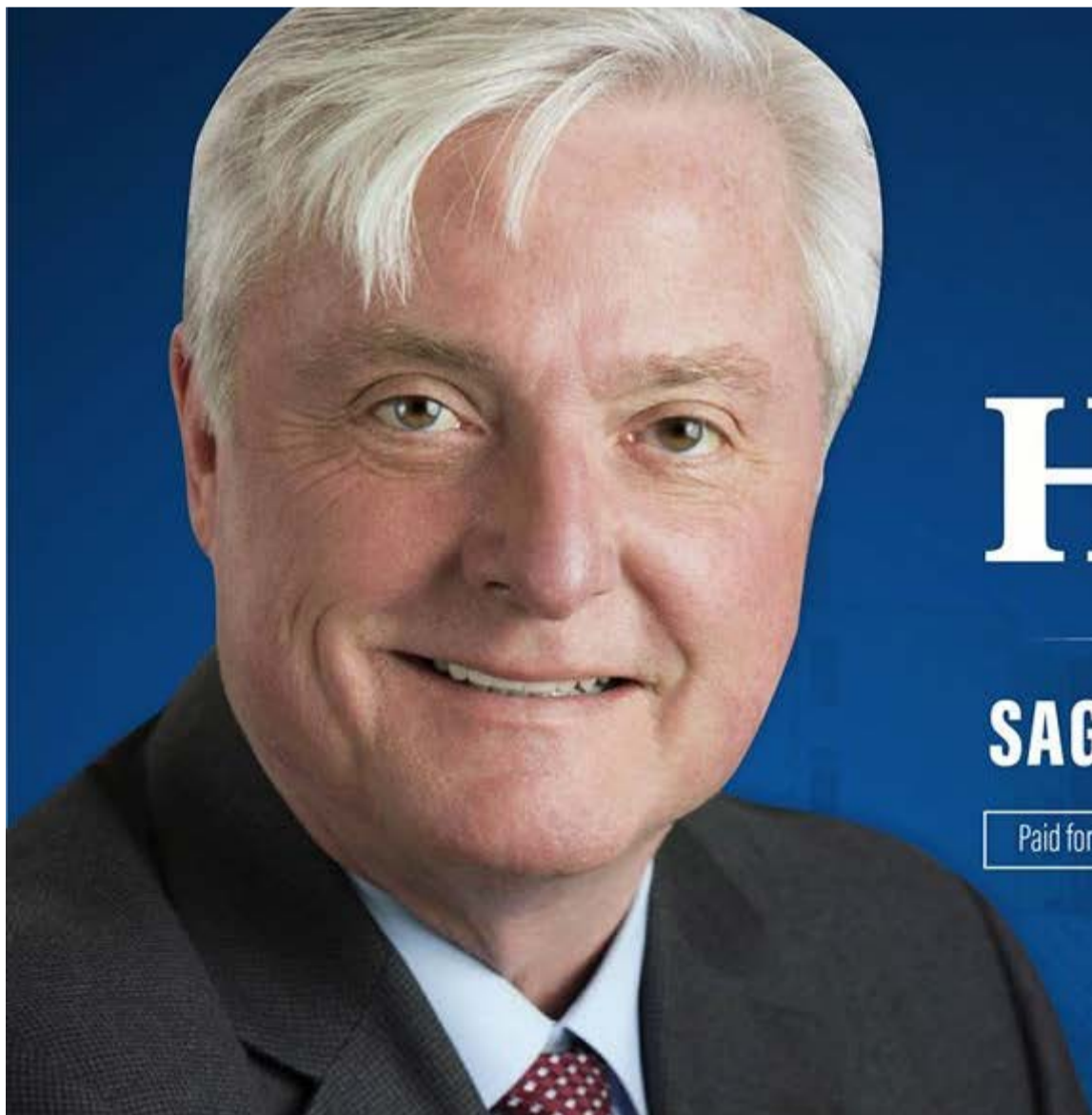
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# SPORTS

## Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame adds eight new members in 2020 induction class



*courtesy photo*

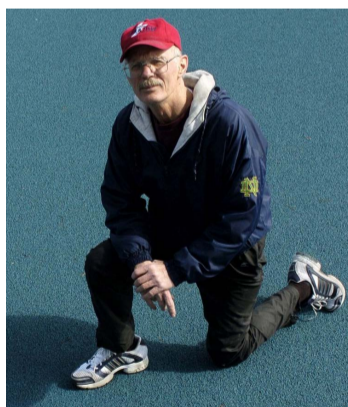
The Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame will add eight new members, including a legendary coach and a legendary team.

The Hall of Fame announced its Class of 2020 Wednesday at The Castle Museum in Saginaw, with the official induction banquet scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 1, at Horizons Conference Center.

The eight inductees:

### Bill Agresta

Bill Agresta enters the hall in the coaching category after a 47-year career, starting as a football and basketball coach at Saginaw St. Mary's before moving on to Hemlock, where he coached the boys basketball team. He gained a greater deal of fame as Hemlock's cross country coach, leading the Huskies boys team to 11 conference titles, eight Saginaw County championships, eight regional



championships and back-to-back state championships in 2001 and 2002. He also coached the Hemlock girls cross country team to five league titles, 11 Saginaw County championships and a runner-up finish in the state meet. His Hemlock girls track team won a state title in 1995 and was a runner-up in 1996. Agresta died May 31, 2020.

### Larry Brethauer

Larry Brethauer grew up at Hoyt Park and remains one of the Saginaw landmark's biggest advocates, serving as president of the Friends of Hoyt Park organization. Brethauer,



who retired from playing modified softball in 2018 at the age of 65, helped organize a group in 2008 to revitalize Hoyt Park. After fixing the warming house, Hoyt Park re-opened during the winter months. Brethauer has helped cut the grass, groom the fields, oversee a youth baseball league, maintain the ice rink and organize a park-wide cleanup each spring. He has been named the Michigan Parks and Recreation's Volunteer of the Year and the Saginaw County Volunteer of the Year. Brethauer was honored by the Detroit Tigers Foundation for renovating the youth baseball diamonds at Hoyt Park.

**Continues on pg 47, Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame**

## Continued from pg 46, Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame

### Beth Bull (Spencer)



Beth Bull, who graduated in 1985, became one of the most dominant softball players in Bridgeport High School history. She still owns the school record with 74 RBIs after hitting .393 and earning a scholarship to play at Central Michigan

University. Bull earned Mid-American Conference all-league honors all four seasons. She finished with 240 hits, 134 runs scored, 98 stolen bases and 23 triples, which remains a CMU record. Bull was a second-team NCAA all-American in 1989 and was inducted into the CMU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2003. She was part of CMU's 1987 softball team that finished fifth in the College World Series with a 37-14 record.

### Robb Cook

Robb Cook dominated three different sports at Birch Run, earning 11 varsity letters by the time he graduated in 1987. In wrestling, he finished with 144 wins, going 45-1 as a senior with 31 pins. Cook was a state runner-up twice. In track, Cook qualified for the state meet as an individual in the 200 (:22.9) and 400 (:50.4). The 6-foot, 180-pound Cook chose to play football at Saginaw Valley State University. Cook earned Associated Press all-state honors as a senior after running for 1,473 yards and 18 touchdowns, adding 50 solo tackles on defense. In his career, he ran for 2,493 yards and 26 touchdowns, adding 210 tackles and leading the Panthers to a 24-3 record in his three seasons. He became the only two-way starter under George Ihler at SVSU, playing safety, linebacker and fullback. As a freshman, he had 71 tackles as a safety, then ran for 1,051 yards as a sophomore. In his senior season, he set an SVSU record with 149 tackles.

### George Kubiak



George Kubiak competed in basketball, football and track for Carrollton, graduating in 1970 and earning all-state honors as a sprinter as a senior. In football, he started at receiver and earned all-state honors his

senior season. In basketball, Kubiak scored more than 1,000 points in three seasons for Carrollton, with the 6-foot-3 forward earning all-state honors as a junior and senior. In his senior season, Kubiak averaged 25.5 points and 10 rebounds, leading Carrollton to a 25-1 record. The Cavaliers took an undefeated record into the state final before falling to River Rouge and legendary coach Lofton Greene. Kubiak earned a scholarship to play basketball at Central Michigan University, earning three varsity letters. He became the boys basketball head coach at Arthur Hill, going 261-141 from 1978 through 1996.

### Roy Manning Jr.



Roy Manning starred in football, basketball, baseball and track at Saginaw

High, helping lead the Trojans to the 1999 football state championship. The 6-foot-2, 245-pound linebacker earned a scholarship to play football at Michigan, lettering all four seasons. He played in 37 games at Michigan, including 10 starts as a senior when he earned the Roger Zatkoff Award as the team's top linebacker. He had 72 tackles, including nine tackles for loss and three sacks. He wasn't drafted, but Manning signed with the Green Bay Packers, adding stops in Houston, Buffalo, Jacksonville and Cincinnati before retiring in 2007. He went into coaching and has served as an assistant coach at Michigan, Cincinnati, Northern Illinois, Washington State and UCLA before his current job as the Oklahoma cornerbacks coach.

### Eugene Seals Jr.



Eugene Seals finished second in the 2000 Mr. Basketball voting to Lansing Waverly's Marcus Taylor after leading Saginaw High to the 2000 Class A semifinals. The 6-foot-6 forward averaged 16.5 points and 12.2 rebounds his senior season, earning all-

state honors. He received a scholarship to play for former Saginaw High coach Charlie Coles at Miami (Ohio), where he earned four letters, playing all five positions for the Red Hawks. Seals, a co-captain his junior and senior seasons, is sixth on Miami's list for career blocked shots. He played in the NBA Summer League and then internationally in Spain, Macedonia, Columbia and Mexico. Seals was the head boys basketball coach at Bridgeport High School and enters his first season as the Heritage girls basketball coach.

### St. Stephen boys basketball, 1968-69

St. Stephen opened in 1963 and hired Sam Franz as its boys basketball coach, becoming a parochial power in the Saginaw area and the state. The Titans reached the Class C state title game in 1968, losing a 56-55 decision to Detroit All Saints. The returned for the 1968-69 season, averaging 88.1 points a game and allowing 55.8 to finish the regular season with a 16-0 record. On their way to the state title game, the Titans beat Bay City West Catholic, Midland Dow, Carrollton, Frankenmuth, Merrill, Manistee Catholic Central and Houghton. The Titans finished the season with an undefeated record after beating Grosse Pointe St. Paul, 48-43, in the title game. The team was led by Ric Lawler and John Couture, who were both first-team all-staters, along with starters Pete Miller, Robbie Armstrong and Dave Franz. Other players included Bruce Cady, Mike Emmenecker, Rick Franz, Brock Howard, Jim Maine, Ed Scales, Bob Sonntag, Tracy Webber, Tim Wideman and Mike Zuckschwerdt. Sam Franz, who died in 1990, was 526-196 during his coaching career.

## Search begins for new CMU athletics director



Provost Mary C. Schutten has been named chair of a search committee selected to find Central Michigan University's next Zyzelewski Family Associate Vice President/Director of Athletics.

President Bob Davies appointed the committee as Michael Alford completes his tenure at CMU before beginning his new role as CEO of Seminole Boosters Inc. at Florida State University on Sept. 1.

Glenn Sugiyama, from search firm DHR International, will assist in the nationwide search. Other committee members are:

- Rachel Blunt, senior associate athletics director.
- Herb Deromedi, former CMU coach and athletics director.
- Marissa Dunn, senior, women's track and field student-athlete.
- Ronald Ekdahl, alumnus and former chief, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.
- Mike Franckowiak, alumnus, former CMU student-athlete.
- Reyna Frost, alumna, former CMU women's basketball student-athlete.
- Alyssa Lucas, faculty, communications, and faculty athletics representative.
- Kalil Pimpleton, senior, football student-athlete.

- Nathan Tallman, CMU Alumni Association president.
- Kyle Pybus-Jerome, ceremonies and events coordinator, President's Office; administrative support (non-voting member).

Alford also has committed to assisting with the search to find his successor.

"We will seek candidates committed to furthering our championship culture and to our foundation that athletes are students first," Davies said. "The successful candidate will be a leader engaged in our campus and surrounding community, and fully committed to our vision for rigor, relevance and excellence."

The associate vice president/director of athletics reports directly to the university president and is responsible for providing strong leadership, administration, and overall coordination of a comprehensive Division I intercollegiate program.

The position will be posted this week and the search will begin immediately.

## Pistons purchase G-League team in Arizona, will play games at Wayne State in 2021-22

DETROIT (WXYZ) — The Detroit Pistons announced Wednesday they have purchased the G-League Northern Arizona Suns from the Phoenix Suns, and the team will begin playing at Wayne State University in 2021-22.

"I'm excited to welcome Tom Gores and the Detroit Pistons as NBA G League owners," said NBA G League President Shareef Abdur-Rahim. "It's always bittersweet for a team to relocate, and I thank Robert Sarver and the Phoenix Suns for their time in this league and the fans in Northern Arizona for their ongoing commitment to the team. I'm sure the fans in Detroit will welcome the team with open arms and I look forward to watching NBA G League basketball at Wayne State for seasons to come."

"This is another important investment in our franchise and in the city of Detroit," Owner Tom Gores said. "Having an NBA G League team near our new performance center will be an advantage for our front office, our coaching staff and our young players. It will also generate more economic activity in the area and serve as a catalyst for additional development."

The team currently has a "hybrid" affiliation with the Grand Rapids Drive, and that will continue through the 2020-2021 season.

In May of 2019, the Pistons announced a partnership with Wayne State, including the G-League team to play in a new arena being constructed for the university's basketball teams. It's less than two miles from Little Caesars Arena and the Henry Ford Detroit Pistons Performance Center.

The team will also work with the university on programs and internship opportunities.





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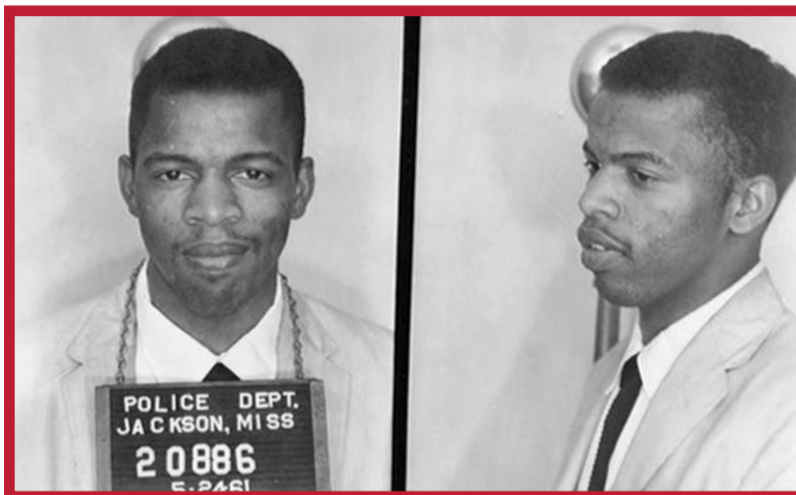


# PICS OF THE WEEK

## John Lewis' life as an activist in pictures....



Lewis, right, and fellow student demonstrator James Bevel stand inside the door of a Nashville, Tennessee, restaurant during a sit-in protest in 1960. The manager turned on a fumigating machine to disrupt the sit-in. Jack Corn/The Tennessean/USA Today Network



This police mug shot of Lewis was taken in Jackson, Mississippi, after he used a restroom reserved for White people during the Freedom Ride movement. Kypros/Hulton Archive/Getty Images



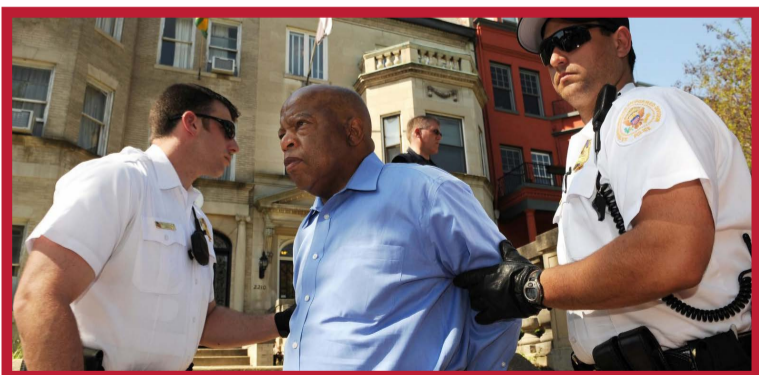
Lewis walks with Martin Luther King Jr. and others during another Selma to Montgomery march later in the month. From left are Ralph David Abernathy, James Forman, King, the Rev. Jesse Douglas and Lewis. Steve Schapiro/Corbis via Getty Images



Lewis, Williams and other marchers face a line of state troopers blocking the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Spider Martin/The Spider Martin Civil Rights Collection/National Archives



Lewis and his wife, Lillian, attend a campaign rally in Atlanta in April 1977. He was running for Congress but lost the Democratic primary that year to Wyche Fowler Jr. Dwight Ross Jr./AP



Lewis is led away in handcuffs by a Secret Service officer in Washington, DC, as he protested Sudan's Darfur conflict in April 2009. Tim Sloan/AFP/Getty Images



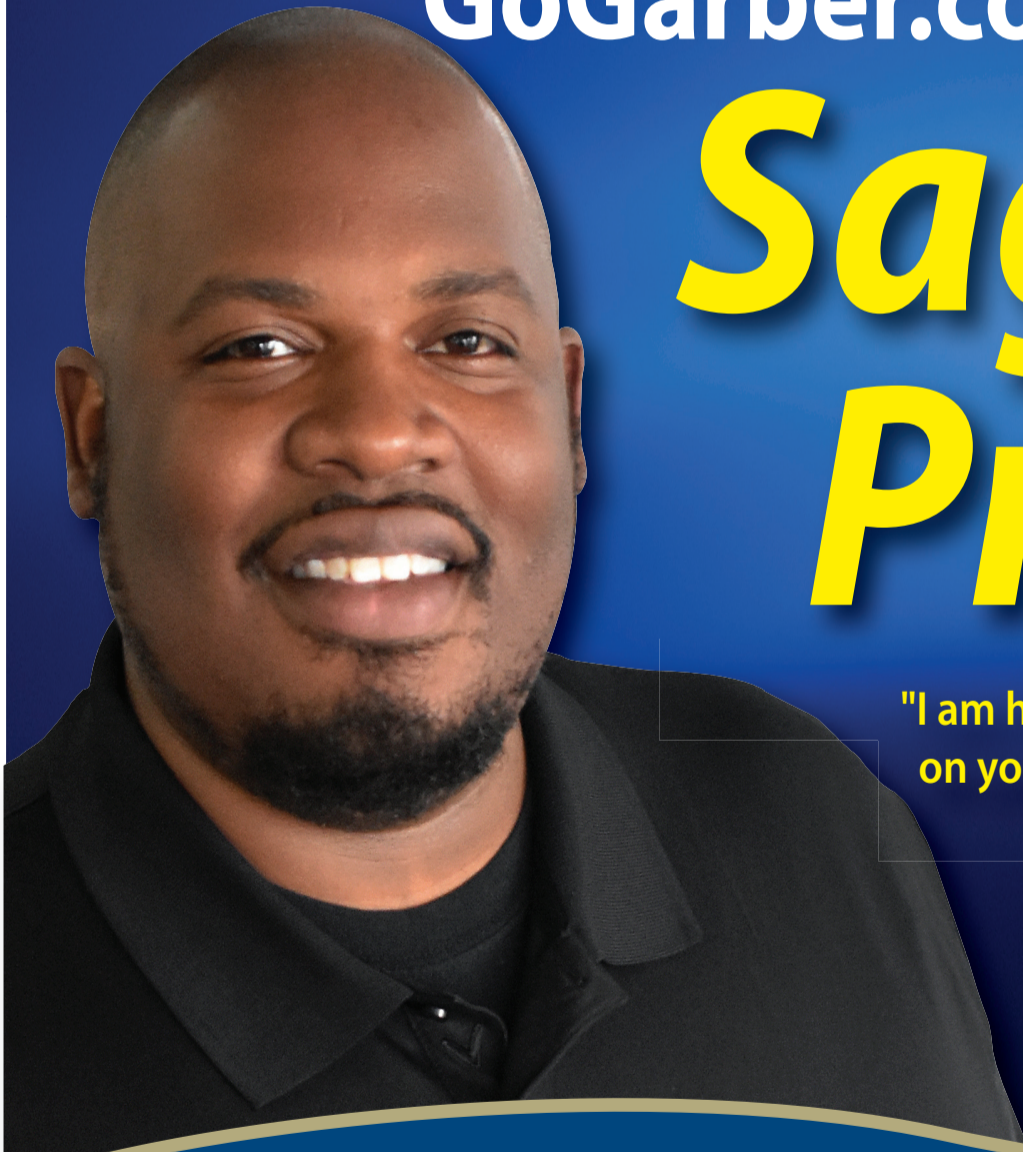
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Brittany Saunders is ready to pay it forward. The Chicago native enrolled at SVSU with ambitions to pursue a teaching career. Brittany was encouraged and invigorated by other passionate educators who worked closely with her to ensure she would accomplish her goals. And she is. Even before she was set to graduate, Brittany could boast a résumé with a paid internship in a school district along with K-12 classroom experience. **Now she can't wait to begin a professional career, inspiring students with the same kind of one-on-one attention she received from her professors at SVSU.**



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