

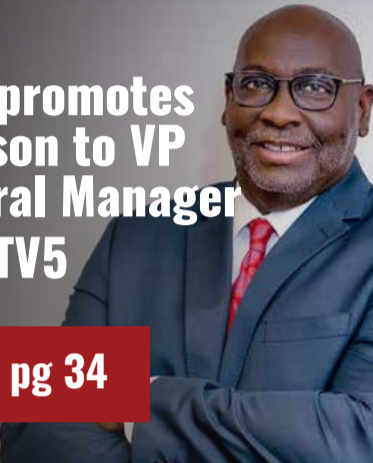
THE MICHIGAN BANNER

Celebrating 18 years of Positive News

Stronger Together, in these Challenging Times



Meredith promotes Ken Frierson to VP and General Manager of WNEM-TV5



Community, pg 34



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4th Annual Christmas with Angels 2020



Latino Banner, pg 3

Like the big cities, covid-era food lines lengthen in Saginaw



Community, pg 10

Seen on the Scene: Parishioners on Patrol and New Birth Church host Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway

with partners McDonald Auto Group, Molina Healthcare, DCI Institute and KISS 107.1



courtesy photos



Acknowledgement

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The Austin Family

**Dr. Nurame M.
Austin**

October 17, 1931 -
November 9, 2020



**Rev. Dr. Roosevelt
Austin, Sr.**

August 17, 1926 -
June 11, 2020

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They're present with The Lord.
Their heavenly reunion
God's blessed, sweet reward.

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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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A message from the Publisher: Traditions

The holiday season is officially underway. This year has been different from any year in recent history. Transmitting customs, beliefs and values from generation to generation – traditions – has already taken on new meaning in light of the current global pandemic we are battling. For Thanksgiving, many families who have always traveled any distance necessary to be together kept one another safe by sharing the day virtually. In my own family, far greater in number than the recommended number suggested for gatherings, we accepted the facts that we aren't quite as young as we used to be, that some of us have preexisting conditions and that to be together this year would be taking unnecessary risks, so we didn't observe our usual tradition of gathering together. I come from a long line of excellent cooks. My sisters prepared a feast for me fit only for a king and I completely enjoyed the day quietly but with a chef quality meal and plenty of leftovers. Isolating for the holiday was different for many of us this year. I happen to be one of the really lucky ones and for that I am thankful.

I am also thankful that we modeled for the next generations, our children and grandchildren that family can and must sacrifice when necessary to keep everyone safe. Modeling behavior is one way of establishing and passing down family traditions. Modeling appropriate, safe and in this instance legal conduct for future generations will help us to maintain the close family unit that we enjoy but also shape and groom new generations of productive law-abiding citizens. Some of the modeling we have witnessed in recent months has set examples for young people which promotes division and distress. Hopefully, they will experience more positive and healthy examples of public and familial discourse in time to embrace it as a value of their own.

We have already begun planning for virtual connections for the remainder of the holiday season. Establishing new traditions requires thoughtfulness and creativity. Everyone can and should have a voice – even the youngest in the household whenever possible. We will

miss our traditional gatherings this year and that has and will continue to be difficult for an as yet undetermined amount of time. Traditions including religious observations at a time when many churches are still closed (for the safety of the congregations), traveling, gifts exchanged, time together and meals will require a bit of modification.

In a recent commercial – I can't remember what is being sold, the family communicates using technology to share and open Christmas gifts. The child sends his grandmother a handmade pillow with a picture he had drawn of himself on it. The eyes were crooked and the arms were just strangely placed but it brought tears to the Grandma's eyes. We too, will have to find ways to share time and attention with family and friends while observing to the best of our ability the guidelines and protocol recommended and/or mandated by authorities. Let's all think about ways to 'make the season bright' for individuals and families experiencing challenges during this difficult time. Traditions vary from family to family, culture to culture, even region to region. New and safe traditions don't have to be costly – they just need to be thoughtful and well planned. As we wind down the year 2020, recognizing that there have been many losses and still much to be concerned about, let's be intentional about bringing in another year alive and well. Stay safe and thank you for your continued support of The Michigan Banner



Jerome Buckley
Jerome Buckley
Publisher, The Michigan Banner

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THE MICHIGAN BANNER NEWS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AT&T



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THE LATINO BANNER

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

Vamos Adelante



4th Annual Christmas with Angels 2020



LB pg 3

Submit your news at
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2020 Bishop Untener Cup presented to the Mexican American Council

One of Saginaw’s most vibrant Hispanic non-profit organizations, The Mexican American Council (MAC), is the 2020 recipient of the Ezekiel Project’s highest community honor, the Bishop Untener Cup, for advocating social justice and racial harmony in a multicultural society.

“It gives us great pleasure to celebrate 23 years of service by recognizing an organization that has promoted social justice with our community and exemplifies the spirit of Bishop Kenneth E. Untener. We are honored to present the Mexican American Council with the Untener Cup Award,” said President Willie Haynes. He also serves as pastor of New Mount Calvary Baptist Church, 3610 Russell St.

MAC learned of their award in a zoom meeting with The Ezekiel Project in early November. Deacon Librado Gayton, director of the Office of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Saginaw, made a formal presentation. (See related story by Librado Gayton on LB pg 2) Later Pastor Haynes visited Bobby DeLeon at MAC’s front yard to make it official, wearing masks outdoors. Reaction to the award from MAC has been joyful and well, heavenly, since two major players are looking down on this earthly honor with grace.

Three MAC board members told The Latino Banner by phone they were honored and grateful for the Untener Cup. Secretary Sara Torres has served for seven years, starting as a volunteer organizer for the digital Tejano radio station that her boyfriend had set up on the second floor studio. Though she admits she had not heard of the Untener Cup, she does

remember the bishop.

“MAC doesn’t get recognized too often, so I think it’s great,” Torres said. After researching The Ezekiel Project’s Facebook page and website, Torres is also impressed with that organization. “It looked kinda big; they’re very involved in community.”

She wants MAC continue to focus on children’s education, diversity, seniors. There’s a big need for a recreation center for kids after school activities.

“My thing is I see a lot of Latinos out there, but a lot of them aren’t working together to help the community. Now is one of the most crucial times when all of us should be working together. I’m hoping that the award opens doors so we can have better relations.”

Newest board member Beatriz Lopez is learning the ropes as fundraiser and organizer. She’s developed several projects, but COVID restrictions have prevented sales of tacos and fruit baskets and collection of winter gloves and hats. The MAC for now is closed for community gatherings. Lopez can’t wait for 2020 to be gone.

“In 2021 I want us to go forward,” she said. “MAC gives so much; people don’t realize how much MAC gives.” The most common request is for rent assistance and grocery money. During the pandemic donations are appreciated.

One of the longest serving volunteers is Trinidad Cirilo who joined the MAC in 2004.

Continues on LB pg 2, Bishop Untener Cup

LB Cover Story, Bishop Untener Cup

Cirilo rarely speaks publicly, preferring to take care of the MAC community. Describing the significance of the Bishop Untener Cup honor, Cirilo said he wished Fr. Joseph Schabel was here to see this day. Cirilo said Fr. Schabel would never say “no” to anyone who asked MAC for help. The priest’s unconditional love and humanitarian approach to social justice continue to be a huge influence on MAC board members of the grass roots non-profit he co-founded in 1990 to serve the Hispanic community.

Throughout his 60 years as priest, his ministry touched thousands of lives from all faiths. The

respected 89-year old senior Catholic priest died last year on Christmas Day.

“It’s an honor to receive it (the recognition),” Cirilo said. He sees the Cup as a strong inspiration to work even more to help others. “It’s more of an honor for us to be here now, work with others and help the community. I love taking care of people’s needs.” MAC President Bobby DeLeon said the award has made him more humble and more committed to serve the community. He’s grateful to his board and many volunteers who are on hand to do all the small and huge tasks. The Untener Cup came at a time when

good news is welcomed and shared throughout Michigan to life sagging spirits, DeLeon said. He gives credit to MAC board, supporters and sponsors.

The late Bishop Untener was among five clergy and other founders of The Ezekiel Project in 1997. His leadership in the Saginaw Catholic Diocese was welcomed by many at a time when the country was also undergoing demographic and societal changes. After Untener’s death, the Untener Cup Award was established.

The Bishop Untener Cup History

This award was established to recognize organizations that demonstrate a commitment to creating a community that upholds social justice and civic change. Also, who actively and positively promote equality and equity within the community of Saginaw.

By Librado Gayton



Bishop Kenneth Edward Untener

This award is presented in memory of Bishop Kenneth Edward Untener, a person who was also close to my own heart. Under Bishop Ken’s leadership, St. Joseph was granted permission to build the new worship space that we enjoy today in the heart of the City of Saginaw on the corner on Sixth and Sears. The Bishop Untener Cup is Ezekiel’s way of

recognizing organizations that promote and exemplify the dedicated work of striving for social justice within our own community. Bishop Ken, as you may know, was one of the founding members and as we know, Bishop Untener died in 2004 at the young age of 66, after battling leukemia.

He served as Bishop of the Saginaw Catholic Diocese for 24 years. Immediately after becoming our Bishop, he sold the nice, big Bishop’s mansion and, instead, began to live with other, from rectory to rectory, in private homes and even at St. Mary’s Hospital. During this time, he stayed in over 60 different places. His belief in social justice and concern for the poor was exemplified in his lifestyle. All his possessions had to fit inside his car. If it didn’t fit, he really didn’t need it. Even though he had to use a prosthetic leg due to a birth defect, he still had room in his car for his hockey gear and hockey stick and known for his love of playing hockey. Bishop Ken was a great ecumenical leader, promoting Christian unity and cooperation. He brought community leaders from all walks of life together across political and denominational lines to work for the betterment of Saginaw. He instituted The Bishop’s Breakfast, now spanning four different bishops, bringing those community leaders together. These breakfast meetings

continue to this day.

We are honored to present the Bishop Untener Cup to an organization that has been working in our community tirelessly for social justice since the sixties, most of that time in partnership with Fr. Joseph Allen Schabel. Who died at age 89, a senior priest of the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw, on Christmas Day last year. For more than 60 years, Fr. Schabel worked tirelessly as an advocate for peace and justice. He will be remembered for his passion to serve the poor, his kind and compassionate heart and his love for all. Fr. Schabel was also one of the founding members of the honoree, the Mexican American Council. I’m sure the Mexican American Council will continue their dedication and work to honor Fr. Joe and his memory. And so, it is with heartfelt gratitude that the 2020 Bishop Untener Cup to the Mexican American Council.”

Librado Gayton is a Deacon in the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw. In July 2020, Gayton became the newest Director of the Office of Hispanic Ministry. He is an active member of St. Joseph Parish since 1983. Deacon Gayton has been working with The Ezekiel Project, including the Religious Leaders Table for the past year.

4th Annual Christmas with Angels 2020

No-contact Celebration for 25 Families

By Rosa Morales



courtesy photo

The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 is not stopping the anticipated joy of the 4th Annual Christmas with Angels (CWA) for many Saginaw children. This year, however, safety requirements and no-contact guidelines are being followed to the letter by organizers. This means no social gathering.

Instead five pastors are selecting five families from applications from each church based on need. Volunteer Angels are raising \$10,000 in donations until December 20 to buy gifts for the 25 families. A few Christmas Angels have the fun job of shopping for toys, games, books, dolls, and other gifts for each child. Sponsors also have donated bikes in past years.

The Christmas gathering for the past three years at La Unión Cívica Mexicana, 2715 Wadsworth in Saginaw, had been the happiest place to be for kids who might not otherwise have any kind of Christmas. Multiracial families, sponsors and volunteers enjoyed plenty of fellowship, homemade food, Christmas carols, Mexican music, family photos and selfies with Santa Claus. Volunteers dressed as Christmas angels decked

out in red with angelic wings that seemed to lift them lightly as they glided to the children, handing out colorful gift-wrapped surprises. That was then.

In this time of COVID, CWA Founder/Coord. Elvis Machul says no community gathering is allowed due to state restrictions.

“Christmas with Angels will follow a safe process to identify new families who may need help. Over 100 children are in need,” he says based on volunteers’ input. “The challenge is how to do this with a minimum risk” to the fewest people.

Started in 2017 the Christmas with Angels effort helped 91 children from at least 20 multicultural families. Christmas with Angels grew and caught the attention and generosity of local businesses, philanthropists, non-profit organizations, and community advocates who raised about \$7,300. Last year, 92 sponsors raised almost \$15,000 for 42 multicultural families with 167 children.

Machul is Garber Buick Finance Director for the Saginaw dealership located at 5925 State St. His time beyond work is dedicated

to making Christmas a memorable time for children whose families are having a hard time economically.

“There may be Hispanic families who are afraid to get help for whatever reason. There may be parents or legal guardians who would like to give their children a gift, but have limited means.”

With the leadership skills and community charisma that engenders confidence among co-workers in challenging projects at Garber Buick, Machul enlisted 50 volunteers in Saginaw and surrounding areas in 2017, 2018, 2019. This year Machul is limiting the number of volunteers to be safe. Machul credits his legion of angels---real and imagined---with spreading the true spirit of Christmas that almost anyone wouldn’t mind getting infected with.

For an application and more info, email: christmaswithangels@yahoo.com
To donate, contact: emachul@garberbuick.com, work: 989-497-6435.

Community Board

Submit your announcements and events at themichiganbanner.com/submit



2021 Award Recipients

- Jack Luna
- Domingo Vasquez
- Celestina Robles
- Kapulli Tekpatl
- Juve Aldaco Jr.
- Elida Andaverde
- Nina Hageneass
- Bobby Barrera
- Pride Inc.

*Homage award in
memory of Miguel Luna
and Jesse Salcedo*

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



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COMMUNITY

Like the big cities, covid-era food lines lengthen in Saginaw

By Mike Thompson



courtesy photo

Newswatchers among us have seen the national film footage. First there were vehicles backed up on a Dallas highway for a massive food bank food giveaway. Then, in Atlanta, a similar logjam overflowed for a Tyler Perry event.

Saginaw is far from a metropolis, but in our town per capita we are suffering the same degree of covid-related hardship, reaching its highest peak just as cold weather and the holiday season arrive.

At the East Side Soup Kitchen on Genesee Street a half-mile from downtown, typical attendance is about 700. At Old Town Christian Outreach Center on Gratiot Avenue south of the courthouse, about 300 visitors are stopping for no-cost lunches. Those counts are at least double the pre-pandemic turnouts. Indoor seating would be unsafe, and so families pick up their meals in drive-thru fashion.

Long car lines? Maybe not for mile upon

mile like in Dallas or Atlanta. But long enough.

"We use the rear entrance on Fourth Street," notes Diane Keenan, East Side Soup Kitchen board chairwoman. "Cars begin lining up in the middle of the morning, along Fourth Street, then along Janes, and nowadays back into East Genesee.

Old Town Christian's triangle area, sandwiched by Mackinaw and Gratiot streets, also becomes jam-packed. Crowds continue from 10 a.m. until noon on Saturdays, when more than 300 families congregate to self-select the grocery packages they need, says the Rev. Bonnie Dinninger, co-pastor with her husband, Don. The center also makes donated clothing available.

East Side Soup Kitchen started in 1980 and operated in three churches for its first quarter century before moving to the new Hunger Solutions Center in 2005, joining the Hidden Harvest surplus food recovery operation.

Don Dinninger is a former city police officer who felt a spiritual calling and joined Bonnie to establish Old Town Christian Outreach in 2001.

Therefore, both locations experienced the near-Depression of 2008, but nothing as severe as the covid outbreak ever had some along.

"We are seeing more senior citizens than ever, which is sad," Keenan says. "They tell us they are trying to take care of their grandkids, and they need help."

For safety's sake, both kitchens have reduced their schedules to Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays, opening at 11 a.m. Cash and/or food donations are accepted. With takeout meals, there is especially a need for individual serving size soups, juice boxes, fruit cups, desserts, etc.

Both accept donations through their websites or on location, the Soup Kitchen at 940 East Genesee (755-3663) and Old Town at 600 Gratiot (249-8596).

Read more about our local food banks and the organizations responsible for feeding our community:

- Fill your own container, pg 11
- Food providers stretch a buck, pg 16
- Hidden Harvest, pg 21

(NOTE; The Saginaw area offers an array of sources where people in need can obtain a hot meal, a healthy sandwich or a supply of groceries. In addition to our pair of main soup kitchens, The Michigan Banner on these pages profiles two main suppliers, which are Hidden Harvest and the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.)

At one food bank, fill your own container

By Mike Thompson



courtesy photo

The limit on boxes of breakfast cereal is two, in order to make sure there's enough to go around for everyone.

But you may pick from 10 different choices.

That's an example of a main original highlight of food distribution at Old Town Christian Outreach Center at 600 Gratiot,

near the county courthouse and new jail, from 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays.

"We do things differently," says Jerry Thomas, who has volunteered as manager ever since the opening 20 years ago. "Everyone receives a container and they can fill it with whatever they may choose, within limits. Why should we give you stuff that you don't need? Why give someone a bag of onions, or whatever, if they don't eat or use onions?"

About 250 patrons are in line for "shopping" on the sunny-but-chilly Saturday morning after Thanksgiving. Many are long-time regulars, Thomas says, and some are newcomers who face newfound poverty because of covid-related job losses. But on the other hand, some folks have stopped taking part because of covid contamination fears.

"We don't ask for names, for proof of income, anything like that," he explains. "Any we don't ask about your circumstances. We don't judge you, because only God can judge you."

Food America CEO Claire Babineaux-Fontenot airs a similar outlook when she says, amid the covid era, "Some of our clients nowadays are the same people who formerly volunteered to help us distribute, and now they find themselves in need."

Most of the canned goods and other nonperishable items from the Flint-based Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, while Saginaw's Hidden Harvest is a top supplier of baked goods. Meijer stores match purchases dollar-for-dollar. Donors often stop by to contribute items to the center, which also operates a soup kitchen on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Thomas is proud of Old Town's track record.

"We haven't missed a Saturday in 20 years," he says, "not even the day when it was 20-below zero. Hunger does not take a vacation."

Pit & Balcony Community Theatre Presents Sounding Joy: A Virtual Cabaret

Gathering performers from near and far who have graced its stage at one time or another, Pit & Balcony Community Theatre is striving to fuel a sense of togetherness this holiday season. Sounding Joy: A Virtual Cabaret will stream into your homes this December. The virtual cabaret fundraiser will feature Pit & Balcony alums from all over the country performing holiday tunes – each with their own personal flair. Reminiscent of holiday television specials, the event will also feature short sketches from hosts, Managing Director, Amy Spadafore, and Board Member, Chad William Baker.

"Each vocalist is recording themselves in their own homes and the videos will be edited together to create one, cohesive event," says Baker. "It's kind of unique in

that each performer gets the freedom to get really creative with what they do and make it very personal."

"We've never done anything like this before," says Spadafore. "It's exciting to think creatively about what we do and be forced out of our comfort zones. Luckily we have a strong support system of eager performers and board members who are willing to share their time and talents and get creative with us."

The cast includes Spencer Beyerlein, Andrew Ferguson, Danessa Hellus, Danielle Katsoulos, Aidan Montgomery, Ann Russell-Lutenske, Lexie Schultz, Ryan Sequin, and Erin Whitfield with some accompaniment provided by Sara Taylor. Videography and editing will be done by Jeff Carpenter of Jeff Carpenter Studios.

"Pit & Balcony was the first place I found community after moving here from across the country a couple years ago," says Erin Whitfield. "I'm so grateful to be able to connect with my friends on this project, supporting such a special place!"

Sounding Joy: A Virtual Cabaret is a "Pay What You Wish" style of event. In order to reserve their access codes, patrons will choose a donation tier which is meaningful to them ranging from \$2 to \$100. Additional donations may be made at checkout. Performances will be streamed on ShowTix4U.com December 11-13 at 7:30pm on Friday and Saturday, and 3:00pm on Sunday. Access codes may be reserved by calling the box office at (989) 754-6587, or online at www.PitAndBalconyTheatre.com.

Leslie Bacon and the meaning of Gleaning

By Mike Thompson

This holiday season marks the 30th anniversary for one of the Saginaw area's most original and ingenious charity outreach projects.

Through Gleaning for Jesus, social worker Leslie Bacon obtains old furniture and appliances that people ordinarily might put on the street curb, and proceeds to repair and restore them for families and individuals in need.

Who would ever have thought of such an idea?

Social work was a tradition among Leslie's family ancestors, and she launched her own career mid-life in her 30s, after her four children were born. She studied at Saginaw Valley State University, and then began her internship with the Saginaw Red Cross in 1990.

That's when the concept of Gleaning for Jesus clicked in her mind. Red Cross is the local first responder when house fires displace families. Leslie had learned repair and 'handylady' skills that too often are associated with men only, and so she scoured city neighborhoods on the evenings prior to scheduled trash pickup, searching for no-longer-wanted stoves and washers, and sofas and chairs, anything that would catch her eye.

She nicknamed her original blue pickup van as "Ruth," in honor of the Biblical saint known for gleaning missed crops in farm fields. She performed the fix-up work in her own basement, in a highly creative manner. Imagine a sofa frame is collapsed beyond repair, for example, but the cushions still are good. Wah-lah! The kitchen chairs now are padded.

And so when the fire victims were relocated, the household items already were available for them. Not just the main things, but also carpet remnants and pictures for the walls and maybe books and toys for the children.

"I grew up in the Daniels Heights projects with just a cold concrete floor," Leslie once said. "That's not what I want for my clients. We try to go beyond."

Leslie does not present herself as a social worker, and indeed many clients do not fully recognize her as an LPSW. She simply is a friend in a sweat suit and sneakers, unloading boxes of pots and pans for the kitchen, serving as a prayer partner and co-decorator, there for support in the long haul.

In turn, when she started, sources within local outreach gradually felt inspired to support Ms. Bacon. Youth Protective Services in 1992 placed her on paid staff for a "House to Home" program for young mothers,

although she still continued to contribute countless volunteer Gleaning hours for others in need. She found office space and a small storage garage at 517 North Hamilton. She was granted use of the former Great Lakes Terminal space across Davenport Street from Riverview Plaza, and when those buildings met fire and then the wrecking ball, one of her non-profit board members arranged for use of a former warehouse at 2305 East Genesee.

The Saginaw Community Foundation found funds for a pair of vans and Youth Protective Services furnishes members for a pickup crew, although Leslie, now entering her senior citizen years, still insists on helping to load and unload. She also has reduced her hours to part-time in her semi-retirement.

Here motto, first installed in 1990, remains the same: "People may say I'm a 'junk lady,' but I'm not your typical social worker. Gleaning for Jesus is more than just picking up stuff off the curb. There is motive behind it, and production, and results."

To offer a 30th birthday donation, consider tax-deductible cash, but also think of emptying your garage, shed or attic. The estimated value of a donated item can be given by receipt and also used as a tax credit. Leave a message at 754-6706, at the Gleaning for Jesus page on Facebook or by email, lsibacon@yahoo.com.

Ascension St. Mary's Foundation hosts Light Up a Life

The Ascension St. Mary's Foundation invites families and friends to honor the memory of loved ones and to celebrate those closest to us during the holiday season.

The Light Up a Life campaign is an annual opportunity to celebrate and remember all the special people in your life. There are three ways to participate. For a gift of \$20, a white light will be illuminated in honor or memory of your loved one. For a gift of \$35, a commemorative ornament will be mailed to an address of the purchaser's choice. Donations of \$125 will sponsor a

tree and sign in front of the hospital which will be illuminated in honor or memory of a loved one.

Proceeds from the Light Up a Life campaign will support the purchase of new digital mammography equipment and help meet the needs of our patients through the Mission Fund.

Out of an abundance of caution and respect for the safety of the families who have attended our annual remembrance reception in the past, Ascension St. Mary's Foundation will host an online video tribute to those

being remembered and honored this year. Although we cannot gather in person, we can still honor those we hold close to our hearts and feel gratitude for the beautiful ways they enriched our lives. The video tribute will be available for viewing on our website stmarysofmichiganfoundation.org beginning December 1, 2020.

To make a gift, click here - <https://stmarysofmichiganfoundation.org/donate/2020-light-up-a-life-saginaw> or contact the Ascension St. Mary's Foundation at 989-907-8300 for additional information.

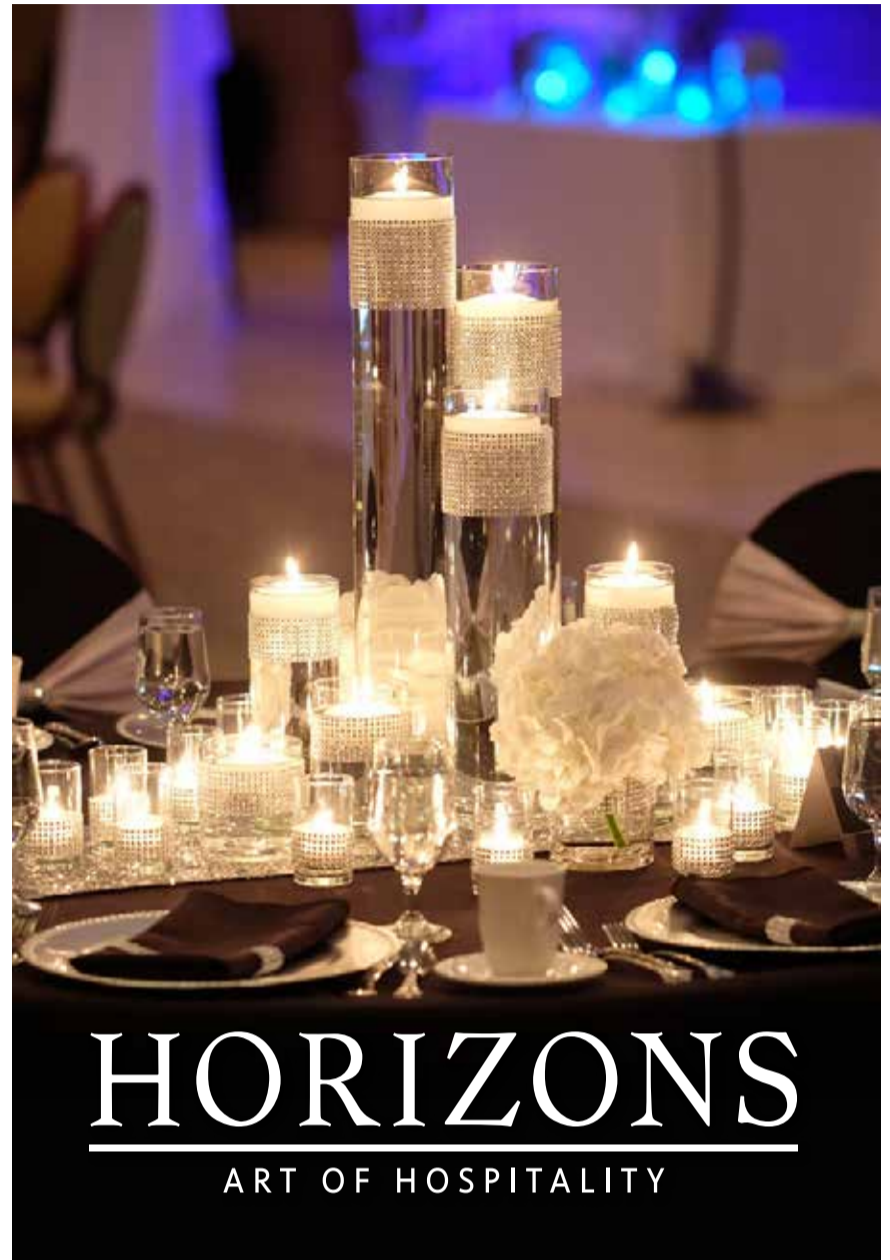
Beautiful Fall Day in Saginaw MI

Michigan's Iron Belle Trail is a showcase trail with routes for bicycling and hiking. It crosses through 48 different counties and is said to extend more than 2,000 miles; from the far western tip of the Upper Peninsula to Belle Isle in Detroit. These photographs were taken in October 2020 during a bicycle ride along the trail in Saginaw.

~ sofus~



https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/publications/pdfs/RecreationCamping/Iron_Belle_Trail.pdf



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Garber Donates Christmas Party Funds To Local Nonprofit Agencies



2020 has presented some critical challenges to many organizations in our community. With that in mind, the Garber Automotive Group of the Great Lakes Bay Region and its staff is pleased to announce the donation of \$50,000 to help local nonprofit organizations this Holiday Season.

Since 1907, when Garber Buick in Saginaw began serving the community, it has been a part of the company's culture to give back to the community it serves.

"This year, our community needs our support more than ever," said Richard (Dick) Garber, President of Garber Management Group.

the holiday celebration to make an impact and help organizations in the GLB Region that are struggling this year. With so many deserving organizations, the decision was difficult. Our desire was to make a significant impact on sustaining the operations of key organizations in our community, therefore electing to donate \$10,000 to five essential nonprofits."

The organizations selected represent the arts, education, health, and human services. They include the Rescue Ministries of MidMichigan, the Temple Theatre, MidMichigan Children's Museum, YMCA, and the United Way, which in turn supports many other organizations in our communities.

"Due to the pandemic, we canceled our Christmas party plans and the management and staff felt strongly about using the funds set aside for

"Being a good corporate citizen is a responsibility we take seriously and we are truly thankful that we are in a position to give back to our community that has supported our organization for over 100 years. We thank all of our loyal customers for their support. You helped make this possible," said Dick Garber.

Garber Automotive Group has been family owned and operated since 1907 and is based out of Saginaw, Michigan. Garber Management Group is the umbrella organization for 21 new-car dealerships that represent 16 franchises across six states and is currently one of the top 20 largest privately held companies in Michigan outside of Detroit.

The Garber organization also includes Gateway Financial Solutions, one of the nation's largest used-vehicle lenders, and RightWay Automotive, an independent used-vehicle retailer with 40 locations in the Midwest. In Michigan, the organization employs over 1,000 people and over 2,200 people nation-wide.



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Food providers know how to stretch a buck

By Mike Thompson



courtesy photo

Canned food drives and donations always will remain, but they are playing a lesser role during the COVID-19 crisis, even while needs continue to skyrocket.

Events at which contribution boxes are placed have virtually ceased to exist, notes Kara Ross, director of the Flint-based Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, a primary source of supplies for more than 400 smaller pantries and feeding sites in Michigan's northeast lower peninsula.

And besides that, the Food Bank seeks cash contributions. A donor could spend \$1 to provide two cans of green beans or corn, but at the same time Ross and her staff are able to leverage that same dollar into six full meals (value: about \$14) by gathering surplus goods from packaged food companies and produce from farmers.

"During covid times, a financial gift also is the safest way to donate," Ross says.

Another aspect is that dollars nowadays may be deployed to gather meat and dairy.

"Perishable" versus "non-perishable" no longer is a big issue. Freezers and coolers have capacities to hold 30 semi-truck loads.

The Food Bank serves 22 counties, stretching from Genesee to the south to Cheboygan to the north near the foot of the Mackinaw Bridge. Ever since the pandemic reached a peak in mid-March, \$38 million worth of food has been generated, compared to \$21 million during a similar period last year. Meals served at Saginaw's East Side Soup Kitchen often are gathered, at least in part, from the Flint operation. The same goes for well-publicized drive-thrus for boxes of goods at sites ranging from Old Town Christian Outreach on the West Side, to Sheridan Plaza on the East Side, to an array of rural outposts.

In turn, Food Bank of Eastern Michigan is one of seven in the state and more than 200 in the nation under the umbrella of Feeding America, originally Second Harvest, established in 1979 within a sweeping consolidation of what formerly had been thousands of independent local efforts, each

functioning (and often struggling) on their own.

Big Government to feed the needy? No. In fact, the opposite is true. The food bank network has become so entrenched that it essentially is nonpolitical, and it matters little who happens to be U.S. president or which party carries a controlling majority in Congress. The \$12 million budget annual budget in Flint, for instance, is comprised mainly of donations and fund-raising events. The lone government aspects are reimbursement for children's Head Start and after-school meals and snacks, along with USDA and emergency relief product during the pandemic.

"All of this activity is driven by volunteers," Ross says. "We're really simply here to support their work."

And so this means that while canned food drives and events are fading from the picture, volunteer effort is more important than ever.

For example, notes Ross, a church's outreach may be led by veteran elders who increasingly will need younger folks who physically are able to handle heavier boxes to distribute or to stock kitchen shelves.

The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan also oversees an array of target programs. One is the Backpack Program, which provides school children backpacks stuffed with food items that they can carry home on Friday afternoons for weekend nutrition. On the other end of the spectrum, Senior Grocery Boxes are delivered so that elders need not wait in lines at distribution sites. Another initiative, in tandem with Feeding America, is to combat myths that exist in some circles. One is that hunger exists mainly in the Third World, but not in the U.S.A. Another is that hardship is mainly urban, not rural. Another is that most without adequate food lack employment. All are statistically proven to be not true.

To donate, visit fbem.org or call (810) 239-4441.





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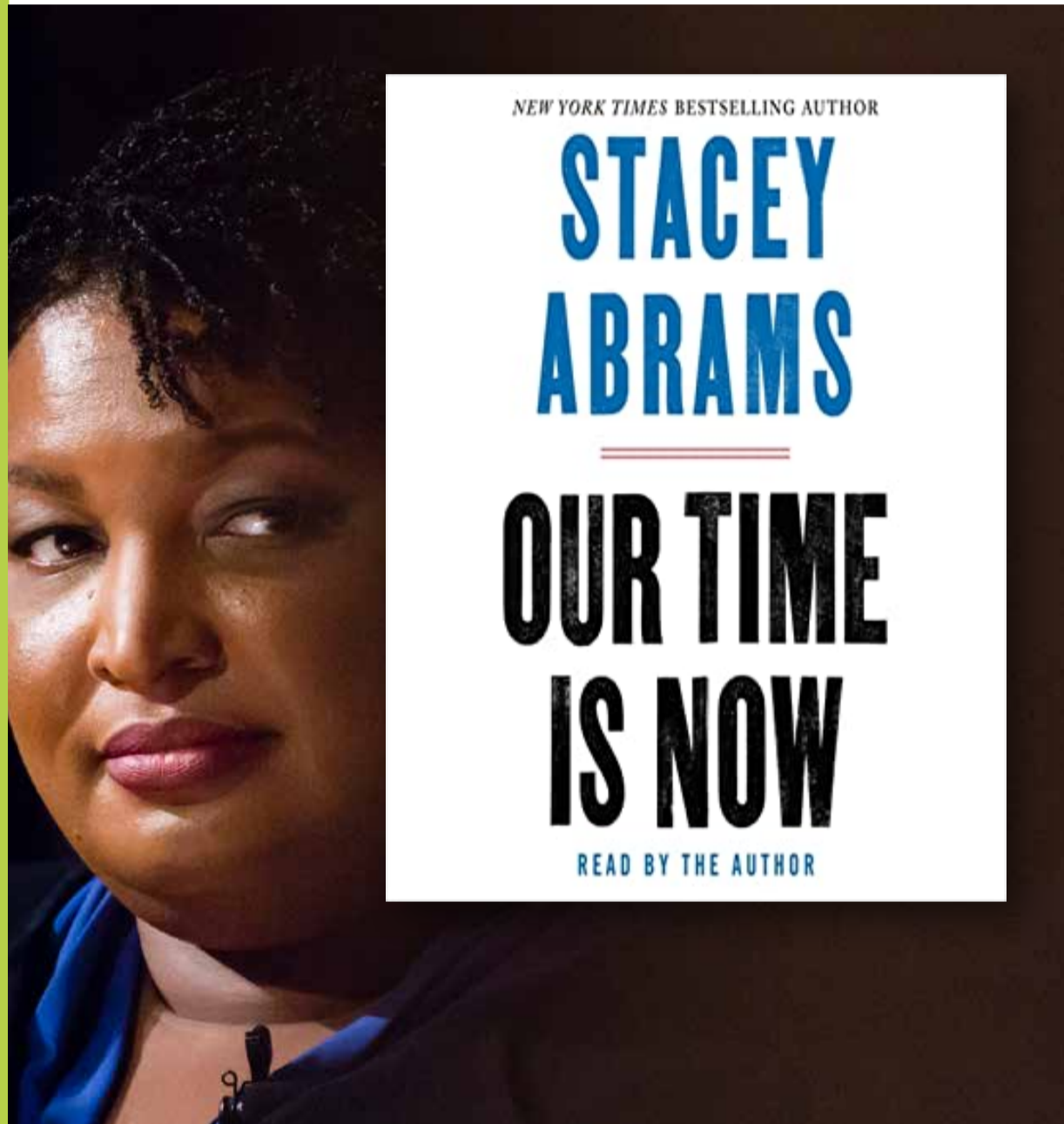
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BOOK REVIEW

Here's the real voter fraud, outlined by Stacey Abrams

By Mike Thompson



The timing was perfect.

Trump, declared the U.S. presidential loser to Joe Biden, was just now launching his anticipated rampage of lies and denial and conspiracy theories regarding supposed voter fraud.

At the very same time, I discovered on our library shelves "Our Time is Now" by Stacey Abrams, which delves into the real, actual injustice in America's voting system, which is voter suppression, almost always rooted in racial bias.

If only the departing Donald knew.

Abrams is an expert, based on personal experience. In the 2018 Georgia governor election, she officially suffered a narrow defeat at the hands of Republican Brian Kemp, after a campaign in which she had the entire wheelbarrow full of suppression tactics thrown at her. It was bad enough that Kemp was secretary of state at the time, refereeing an election in which he was playing. Then he proceeded to strip tens of thousands of minority voters from the rolls, based mostly on them not

voting frequently in the prior years. He shut down precincts in neighborhoods of color, requiring residents to wait five hours or more in line while most whites were in and out of their suburban sites within 15 minutes. Machines in those overcrowded precincts suffered mysterious "coincidental" breakdowns, and in one instance the delivery crew in the morning claimed to have forgotten the power cords.

Abrams never has conceded the defeat. Unlike Trump, she carries entirely valid reasons. If there could be a video review of that election, similar to what we see in major sports, Stacey Abrams would be Georgia's governor today.

But she did not sit back and sob about matters, at least not publicly. As an issues organizer beginning in her younger years (Atlanta's Spelman College), similar in skills and spirit to Barack Obama, she formed three new groups. One was to combat the racism of voter suppression. Another was to promote registration and turnout. The third was to promote maximum census participation.

All three were winners, the foremost marked by Biden's stunning victory in Georgia

"Our Time is Now" is far more than a lament of how Abrams was railroaded two years ago. She separately examines problems in registering (which most modern nations make much easier, or do not require), voter ID, and the counting of absentee ballots. The second half of her extended essay, again like Obama written without a ghostwriter's help, explores strategies to combat the challenges.

If you find yourself inspired by Stacey Abrams as she gradually grows more prominent in the national news, your admiration will be enhanced by a reading of her excellent book.



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GUILDING THEM GENTLY THROUGH
I'M MOMMA AND DADDY
SOMETIMES TEACHER TOO**

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AND STRUT WITH THE REST
KNOWING MY HUSBAND
IS DOING HIS BEST**

**MY FACE SHOWS EXCITEMENT
AND A WHOLE LOT OF PRIDE
AS MY HUSBAND AND I
WALK SIDE BY SIDE**

**YOU SEE I WILL ALWAYS BE
HIS NUMBER ONE FAN
I'LL RENDER MY EAR
I'LL GIVE HIM MY HAND**

**AND WHEN HE HAS TO GO
AND LEAVE ME BEHIND
HE'LL HAVE MY LOVE
MY SPIRIT, AND MY MIND.....**



Brigitte Johnson

I'm Just Thinking..... with Pastor Hurley J. Coleman, Jr., World Outreach Campus Church

Day of Reckoning

DICTIONARY.COM has a definition for this phrase that is truly interesting for the time that we are living in. It says, "the time when one is called into account for one's actions, to pay one's debts, or to fulfill one's promises or obligations." Wow!

We have just concluded a political process that is unprecedented in so many ways. This election occurred during a social, emotional, and environmental season that most of us could not have anticipated, none have experienced, and many will not survive. It is, as one of my late father's preacher friends used to say, "a mighty day."

I always wondered what he meant by that phrase because he would use it all of the time, about anything. "It is a mighty day!" I couldn't tell if he meant mighty good, mighty bad, mighty hard, mighty cold, mighty hot. He would just say, "It is a mighty day."

This is a mighty day. I say it because of the phrase, "day of reckoning." Bible scholars will recognize it from the prophetic writings in the book of Revelations. Islamic readers of this article will recognize it from their readings as well, as it concerns the last judgment of God, when everyone will be called to account for the actions of their lives.

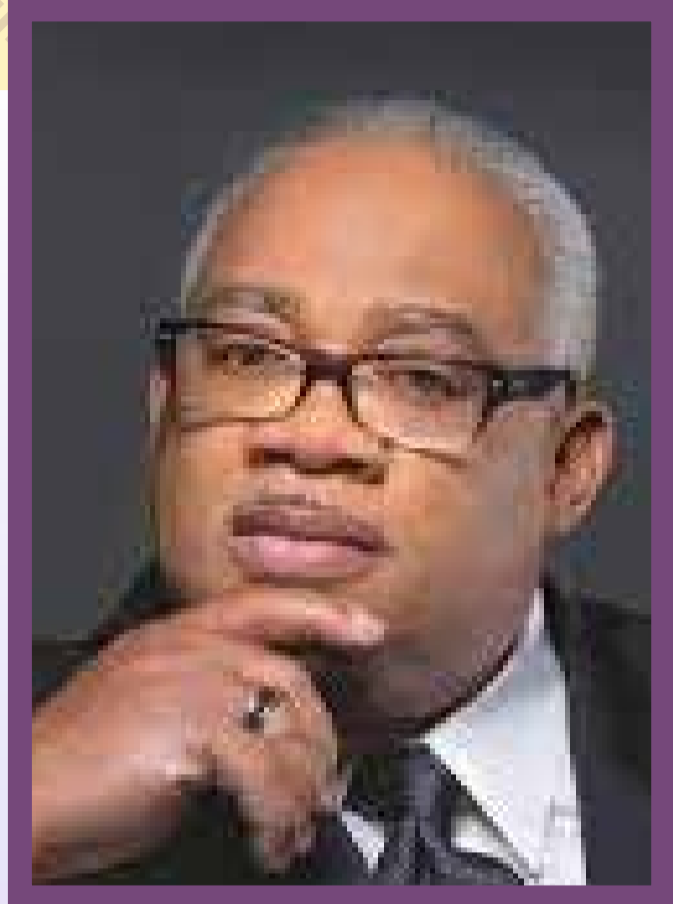
It is also apparent in literature, as titles of writings by conservative republican Pat Buchanan, and mystery novelist Jack Higgins. I am writing about neither of those, but about our present circumstances. I have watched and listened to political pundits, from all perspectives, as they

discussed the just completed presidential campaign. I have seen the pandemic politicized by people from both ends of the spectrum, and even in the middle. I have seen and heard theories on this season from people in high religious positions, spiritual leaders, and even some who claim the title of "prophet."

While I have not made definitive theological statements about the election or the pandemic, I have been thinking about it. I wonder how people can use the same words of God with such diverging points. I have learned that you will have to live up to, answer for, and be responsible for what you say. There was a time when it was understood that words had meaning, and that what those words meant mattered.

That is why this idea of a day of reckoning is so powerful. The time will come when everyone will have to account for the things that they have said. It will occur before that final judgement day of Christian faith. It can occur within moments of your last post on Facebook, or Twitter, or Instagram, or TikTok! It can happen in person or digitally.

There is another old saying, "the time will come when every tub will sit on it's own bottom." That may be too old for some to understand, having never seen those old washtubs. Just know that the saying implies that you will not be able to place blame on anyone else for the things that you say or do. You will have your own day of reckoning.



I have been thinking.....

So much of what we have seen and heard this year was a result of impressions in the moment. The moment has passed, but our words are still out there. One way of reckoning is to acknowledge the truth of falsity of our statements, positions, or actions. We can reconcile with the truth, and change our positions. Or we can hold on to what we have said, wrong or right, and reckon with it. Reckoning is defined as "settling the account."

If we come to a place of reckoning, a day of reckoning, we can begin to heal. We can agree to disagree, but make changes that will improve situations. We can accept that our perceptions are not always the reality. We can find places of peace, days of agreement, and a needed revival of community. The day of reckoning has come.

I'm just thinking.....

Hidden Harvest saves food from the dumpsters

By Mike Thompson



courtesy photo

Workers from the Saginaw-based Hidden Harvest food recovery project never know exactly what sorts of donations will arrive on any given day at the Hunger Solutions Center on 940 East Genesee, especially during the unpredictable covid era.

And so neither does Kim Gibbs, head cook at the East Side Soup Kitchen, which shares the still-like-new 15-year-old building with Hidden Harvest.

Ah, but Kimberly knows her stuff. She has the magic touch. She should be on the Food Network. Hundreds of soup kitchen patrons swear by her cooking, even if she secretly deceives them now and then. It's all for the cause.

Imagine Hidden Harvest reaps a big produce load of squash, not exactly the planet's most popular veggie.

"Some butter, some brown sugar, and it's like a sweet potato," Kim says. "People don't even think of it as squash."

Or imagine a friendly hunter returns from up north and kindly contributes a nice gift of ground venison to Hidden Harvest. Not the most appealing meat for some folks, even when stomachs are growling. Kim's answer is to mix the deer meat in small portions with ground beef to create meatloaf.

"The people don't even notice," she says, with a chuckle.

Loads of tomatoes? All sorts of different cheeses?

"Casseroles are big in any soup kitchen," Kim notes. "Goulash. Sauces."

She says her first cooking job was feeding her six children, requiring her to become creative in the kitchen.

Then she found paid employment at the former Ponderosa restaurant, and then at Hoyt Nursing Home, before coming on board at the soup kitchen in 2012.

During her early years, she served no more than 300 lunches per day. Now, during covid-era hardship, the count sometimes exceeds 700. Plus in addition to receiving hot lunches on takeout days, patrons are given cold sack lunches for the next day.

"I can handle it," Kim says. "I have my system."

Samantha McKenzie has her system, also. As Hidden Harvest president and CEO, she oversees a \$500,000 operation that rescues more than \$8 million worth of food items from bakers, grocery stores, restaurants and warehouses that otherwise may have gone to waste. Regional farmers also contribute produce to the cause.

"Our program is a very good return on investment," she says. "We receive support from United Ways, grants from area foundations, but primarily our support comes from community members making contributions."

Hidden Harvest started in 1994, organized through the Saginaw Community Foundation, in the former Sacred Heart Elementary School. A first move was made in 1998 to the old downtown Galen Wilson Sunoco gas station, and then to the Hunger Solutions Center. Expansion to Bay and Midland counties had led to support for 170 emergency

food providers, large and small,

"Our route trucks start their days visiting restaurants, grocery stores, bakeries, corporate kitchens, farmers and any other stops who have food to share," Samantha explains. "Then, in the latter part of their day, they are dropping off the rescued food items to shelters, food pantries, youth programs and soup kitchens."

"Meanwhile, the office is busy taking phone calls and dispatching drivers to food rescue operations. The warehouse has appointments every half hour with agency workers who come in to look at what excess-wise have available. And the driver of our big truck is going out of the area to pick up large loads of fresh produce or bread product."

While the covid pandemic is painful for patrons, the harm also is hurtful to the agencies. Samantha notes that the virus forced cancellation of the popular spring postal carriers porch pickups, and currently an array of holiday food drives are wiped out. At the same time, funding expired for the USDA's Farmers to Families program.

As an example of the impact, she points out that Saginaw's Ecumenical Food Pantry recently prepared 120 boxes, more than the usual pre-covid total, but the boxes were distributed and gone within 15 minutes. and 100 more families had to be turned away

In a sadly reversed irony, a different source of donations actually has increased.

"We've had calls from restaurants and corporate kitchens, cleaning out their entire stocks of food," Samantha says. "We know that the restaurant staff members helping us may be facing financial difficulties and layoffs and business closures. It is amazing that they still are so pleased to see that the food will go to help those in need instead of being wasted."

"During this crisis, we all are needed to step forward."

Volunteers may seek more information and contributions can be made at hiddenharvest.com. Food donors may reach out to (989) 753-4749 to schedule a pick up.

Sermonette by Pastor Rodrick Smith of Zion Missionary Baptist Church



courtesy photo

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:6-7).

Christian believers should cease from being anxious, fretful, and overly concerned about the circumstances of life. The answer to anxiety is prayer. Prayer is talking to God honestly and reverently, as a true worshiper should. We all have needs that only God can meet; these should be expressed in our petitions to Him. Thanksgiving should accompany all Christian praying. Without thanksgiving, what we call prayer is really presumption. Even during times of dire difficulties, we thank God for who He is and

what He's done. In the midst of trials and tribulations we acknowledge that whatever He sends is good and is working together for our good. In our tradition we sing, "Jesus is on the mainline, tell Him what you want. His line is never busy, tell Him what you want." He welcomes our petitions. When we turn from anxiety to prayer and thanksgiving, God will give us His own peace. But we must remember that the peace of God is for those who already have peace with God. The peace of God is not only sufficient, but it surpasses human comprehension. The peace of God acts as a sentry to guard the believer's heart and thoughts from all anxiety and despair. Marvin Vincent says, "Peace is the fruit of believing prayer." And Jesus is the cause of it all.

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Police Commissioners say chokehold ban, other reforms will improve Detroit Cops
Detroit Free Press - July 2020

Chokeholds banned by Detroit police board, among use-of-force policy changes
MLive - September 2020

The reforms approved were part of proposals made by the Board back in June and submitted to the Department and community amid global protests sparked by the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police.
WXYZ-TV 7 Breaking News

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Consumers Energy Completes 90-Mile Saginaw Trail Pipeline



courtesy photo

JACKSON, Mich. - Consumers Energy recently completed construction of the Saginaw Trail Pipeline, a four-year, \$610 million construction project to upgrade natural gas pipelines and infrastructure in Saginaw, Genesee and Oakland counties.

"We are pleased to share that the Saginaw Trail Pipeline has been successfully completed," said Dennis Dobbs, vice president of enterprise project management for Consumers Energy. "The project was a huge undertaking and we are grateful for the cooperation and patience shown by affected landowners, community leaders, residents and other entities throughout construction. We also recognize the outstanding efforts of the hundreds of company and contractor skilled trades employees who worked through the challenge of COVID-19 to bring this project to successful fruition."

The massive construction project modernizes Consumers Energy's natural gas infrastructure while providing environmental enhancements along the route. The work is part of the company's Natural Gas Delivery Plan, a 10-year road map to a system that is even more safe, reliable, affordable and clean.

The Saginaw Trail Pipeline project replaced 78 miles of a 1940s vintage natural gas pipeline with about 90 miles of new, larger pipeline. While most of the project followed the existing route through rural agricultural areas, a pipeline reroute was designed to avoid densely populated areas in Saginaw and Flint. In addition to replacing pipeline, crews also rebuilt city gate facilities where gas pressure is regulated for safe delivery to homes and businesses.

Each phase of construction was completed

without service interruptions for customers. While the pipeline is now operational, some additional final restoration work will occur in 2021.

Consumers Energy worked closely with officials from the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in Saginaw County and Kensington Metropark in Oakland County to ensure the project was constructed in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Noteworthy environmental achievements included:

- Relocating more than 100,000 turtles, frogs and snakes from the project area during construction.
- A herpetologist on the project rescued two adult Blanding's turtles and a nest of eggs from the pipeline route in 2018. The juvenile turtles were incubated over the winter released back into the wild as juveniles in the spring of 2019.
- Planting a special pollinator mix of seeds to restore more than 550 acres of wild and wetlands areas where pipeline was buried to create new habitat for butterflies, bees and other pollinators.
- Using a vehicle wash procedure in the Shiawassee Refuge to help prevent invasive species from being brought into the area on construction equipment.
- Placing non-plastic, wildlife-friendly erosion control blankets when needed throughout the project.
- Partnering with local landscape companies to recycle wood waste as mulch for lawns and gardens.

"The Saginaw Trail Pipeline helped model the way for environmental sustainability efforts for these types of large pipeline projects," Dobbs said. "I am so proud of the care and concern shown by our employees and contractors who worked to ensure that we protected the landscape of our great state as this project was constructed."

More information can be found at ConsumersEnergy.com/SaginawPipeline.

Practicing real self-care over the holidays and every day

By MB Staff Writer

As we enter into the month of December, many of us are thinking about ways to express our love to family and friends through gift giving. December comes with all kinds of changes to our schedules and budgets as we make space for celebrations and find other ways to give back to our community. Once all the cooking, shopping and acts of service are complete, we might even have some time to turn that same generosity inward to treat ourselves! With all of the increased responsibilities and concerns that have come with our community response to COVID-19 and other challenges, taking time for self-care should be more important for all of us.

Self-care has become a popular hashtag and t-shirt slogan. It's everywhere! Self-care is on t-shirts, coffee mugs and in commercials. We often see the word in the captions under social media posts about manicures, massages or shopping sprees. Today, more and more people are using self-care to describe the ways they take care of themselves. However, self-care is not a new thing or passing trend. The idea of self-care has been around for decades, and it may be a much more powerful idea than many people imagine. For example, activist, librarian and poet Audre Lorde wrote about the need to protect her time and energy while dealing with cancer in 1980. Her thoughts included:

"I had to examine, in my dreams as well as in my immune-function tests, the devastating effects of overextension. Overextending myself is not stretching myself. I had to accept how difficult it is to monitor the difference. Necessary for me as cutting down on sugar. Crucial. Physically. Psychically. Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare."

You might have seen those last few words before. But without the longer quote, it can be difficult to understand what Audre Lorde wanted to communicate about self-care as she confronted the cancer that would ultimately take her life. When describing self-care, Lorde meant something different than most of what we see online. She talked about protecting ourselves from overextension, the very real threat of high stress, fatigue and even depression that comes when our to-do



courtesy photo

list requires more energy than we seem to have. If overextension was not a concern of yours before the pandemic, you are probably more familiar with it now. According to the National Institute for Mental Health, the long-term health effects of stress and overextension include high blood pressure, heart disease and emotional issues that affect our focus and ability to cope.

As a Black woman, Lorde was also very interested in how racism and sexism affected her life and health as well. For her, self-care was another way of insisting on physical and mental well-being as a way to remain prepared for times of political instability. As we move toward healing after a bitter election and deal with the persistent challenges of oppression, self-care becomes essential. For some people, this might mean reinvesting in a hobby or activity that takes them away from the immediate stress of their situation. For others, it might mean taking an intentional break from social media or political conversations and getting in touch with their own thoughts. While there are many ways to practice self-care in relationship to politics, the goal of these practices is to encourage stress reduction and creative problem solving so that when we return to these difficult moments, we are better equipped to represent ourselves and our communities well.

While celebration, gifts and special experiences can be important, self-care isn't always about spending money. Self-care is the habits that nourish us, empower us and encourage our self-awareness. Many people don't think enough about taking time to get to know ourselves and understanding our limits. You might even feel guilty for saying no or stepping away from certain things because you know your family and community need you. Part of self-care is remembering that you need you, too. If we continue to focus on creating moments of happiness, we might miss out on finding ways to connect a deeper, lasting joy that comes from being in touch with our own possibility and potential.

This is an important reflection for all of us as we enter into the holiday season. Prioritizing self-preservation in a society that seems to want us to spend more and do more can be difficult. A self-care checklist might involve a commitment to eating better, developing a better sleep routine, or keeping a journal to process your emotions. Self-care is not superficial and does not just focus on appearances or belongings. It is a promise to do the things that keep your mind and body healthy – not just for the holiday season – but for throughout the course of your life.

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Governor Whitmer announces new COVID limitations

COVID-19 PAUSE TO SAVE LIVES

Open	Not open
Two-household gathering (high precautions)*	High schools (in-person learning)
Small outdoor gatherings (25 people)	Theaters, movie theaters, stadiums, arenas
Retail	Colleges and universities (in-person learning)
Preschool through 8th grade (local district choice)	Workplaces, when work can be done from home
Childcare	Restaurants and bars (indoor dining)
Manufacturing, construction, other work that is impossible to do remotely	Organized sports, except professional sports
Public transit	
Hair salons, barber shops, other personal services	
Gyms and pools (for individual exercise)	
Restaurants and bars (outdoor dining, takeout, and delivery)	
Professional sports** (without spectators)	
Parks and outdoor recreation	
Funerals (25 people)	
Health care	
	Bowling centers, ice skating rinks, indoor water parks
	Bingo halls, casinos, arcades
	Group fitness classes

*See Social Gathering Guidance.
**Includes a limited number of NCAA sports.

For more information about the order, visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus.
Questions or concerns can be emailed to COVID19@michigan.gov.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Under the new policies, child care centers, hair salons, retail shops and preschool through eighth-grade schools will still be allowed to be open. Playing in parks and outdoor recreation will continue to be allowed, and gatherings of up to 25 people can take place at funerals. Restaurants can offer take-out and outdoor dining, while gyms and pools can be open for individual exercise.

Michigan shattered its weekly coronavirus case record last week with a total of 44,019 new cases reported, the fifth consecutive record week for confirmed infections. About 3,220 adults were hospitalized statewide with COVID-19 on Friday, compared with 999 COVID inpatients a month earlier on Oct. 13, according to state data.

"The dramatic rise in admissions at hospitals across Michigan is not sustainable," said Wright Lassiter III, president and CEO of the Detroit-based Henry Ford Health System. "We strongly urge everyone to honor these restrictions and continue safety measures like wearing masks, avoiding gatherings, and practicing social distancing and hand hygiene."

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced wide-ranging new restrictions limiting gatherings at high schools, colleges and restaurants Sunday night to combat what she described as the "worst moment" yet in the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new policies will temporarily halt in-person instruction at high schools and colleges, indoor dine-in service at restaurants and bars, and high school athletics as well as close some businesses, including movie theaters, bowling alleys and casinos.

The restrictions, imposed through a Michigan Department of Health and Human Services order, will take effect Wednesday and be in place until they end on Dec. 8. Under the order, indoor residential gatherings will be

limited to two households at any one time.

"The situation has never been more dire," Whitmer said Sunday. "We are at the precipice, and we need to take some action."

The state's public health code allows the Michigan health department to "prohibit the gathering of people for any purpose" and to "establish procedures" to ensure the "continuation of essential public health services and enforcement of health laws."

The governor announced the new order at a Sunday night press conference — a rare weekend briefing that came five days after Whitmer told reporters she was exploring the "next steps" her administration would take against COVID-19 as the virus surges here.

The state reported 416 new deaths linked to the virus last week, which was the largest weekly total since early May.

Whitmer's press conference came 11 days before Thanksgiving. She asked people to "make the difficult but right choice" and avoid large gatherings during the holiday.

"If you are considering spending Thanksgiving with people outside of your household, I urge you to reconsider," Whitmer said.

About family members, she added, "As hard as it is not seeing them this Thanksgiving, imagine how much harder it would be if you weren't able to see them for a future holiday ever again."

BUENA VISTA TWP. ELECTION RESULTS



BUENA VISTA TWP. CLERK

Barbara Campbell 3,160

BUENA VISTA TWP. SUPERVISOR

Chris Dillard 3,156

BUENA VISTA TWP. TRUSTEE

Vannessa C. Curry 2,962

Eddie Billings 2,869

Alvin Jernigan Jr. 2,882

Bruce McKinney 2,889

Laurie L. Barr 770

BUENA VISTA TWP. TREASURER

Amy Epperson 3,137

Congressman Dan Kildee issues statement on Michigan State Board of Canvassers' certification of election results



courtesy photo

FLINT, Mich. - Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-05), Chief Deputy Whip of the House Democratic Caucus, issued the following statement after the Michigan State Board of Canvassers certified the 2020 election results:

“Thankfully the State Board of Canvassers did their job to

certify our state’s election results and honor the will of the people. Despite President Trump’s efforts to undermine our election, the vote totals are clear: Michigan voters resoundingly chose Joe Biden, who won our state by over 150,000 votes—14 times Donald Trump’s 2016 margin. The tabulation of votes has been transparent and public, and there is no evidence of fraud or foul play. It is time to move forward and support President-elect Biden and his incoming administration.”

HEALTH

12 ways to have a healthy holiday season



courtesy photo

Brighten the holidays by making your health and safety a priority. Take steps to keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy—and ready to enjoy the holidays.

1. **Wash hands often to help prevent the spread of germs.** It's flu season. Wash your hands with soap and clean running water for at least 20 seconds.
2. **Bundle up to stay dry and warm.** Wear appropriate outdoor clothing: light, warm layers, gloves, hats, scarves, and waterproof boots.
3. **Manage stress.** Give yourself a break if you feel stressed out, overwhelmed, and out of control. Some of the best ways to manage stress are to find support, connect socially, and get plenty of sleep.
4. **Don't drink and drive or let others drink and drive.** Whenever anyone drives drunk, they put everyone on the road in danger. Choose not to drink and drive and help others do the same.
5. **Be smoke-free.** Avoid smoking and

secondhand smoke. Smokers have greater health risks because of their tobacco use, but nonsmokers also are at risk when exposed to tobacco smoke.

6. **Fasten seat belts while driving or riding in a motor vehicle.** Always buckle your children in the car using a child safety seat, booster seat, or seat belt according to their height, weight, and age. Buckle up every time, no matter how short the trip and encourage passengers to do the same.
8. **Get exams and screenings.** Ask your health care provider what exams you need and when to get them. Update your personal and family history.
9. **Get your vaccinations.** Vaccinations help prevent diseases and save lives. Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine each year.
10. **Monitor children.** Keep potentially dangerous toys, food, drinks, household items, and other objects out of children's reach. Protect them from drowning, burns, falls, and other potential accidents.

11. **Practice fire safety.** Most residential fires occur during the winter months, so don't leave fireplaces, space heaters, food cooking on stoves, or candles unattended. Have an emergency plan and practice it regularly.

12. **Prepare food safely.** Remember these simple steps: Wash hands and surfaces often, avoid cross-contamination, cook foods to proper temperatures and refrigerate foods promptly.

13. **Eat healthy, stay active.** Eat fruits and vegetables which pack nutrients and help lower the risk for certain diseases. Limit your portion sizes and foods high in fat, salt, and sugar. Also, be active for at least 2½ hours a week and help kids and teens be active for at least 1 hour a day.

**Be inspired to
stay in the spirit
of good health!**

Great Lakes Bay Health Center host World AIDS Day events



World AIDS Day is held on December 1st each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against ending the HIV/AIDS pandemic. World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day and the first one was held in 1988. We invite all community members and persons from surrounding areas to our upcoming FREE

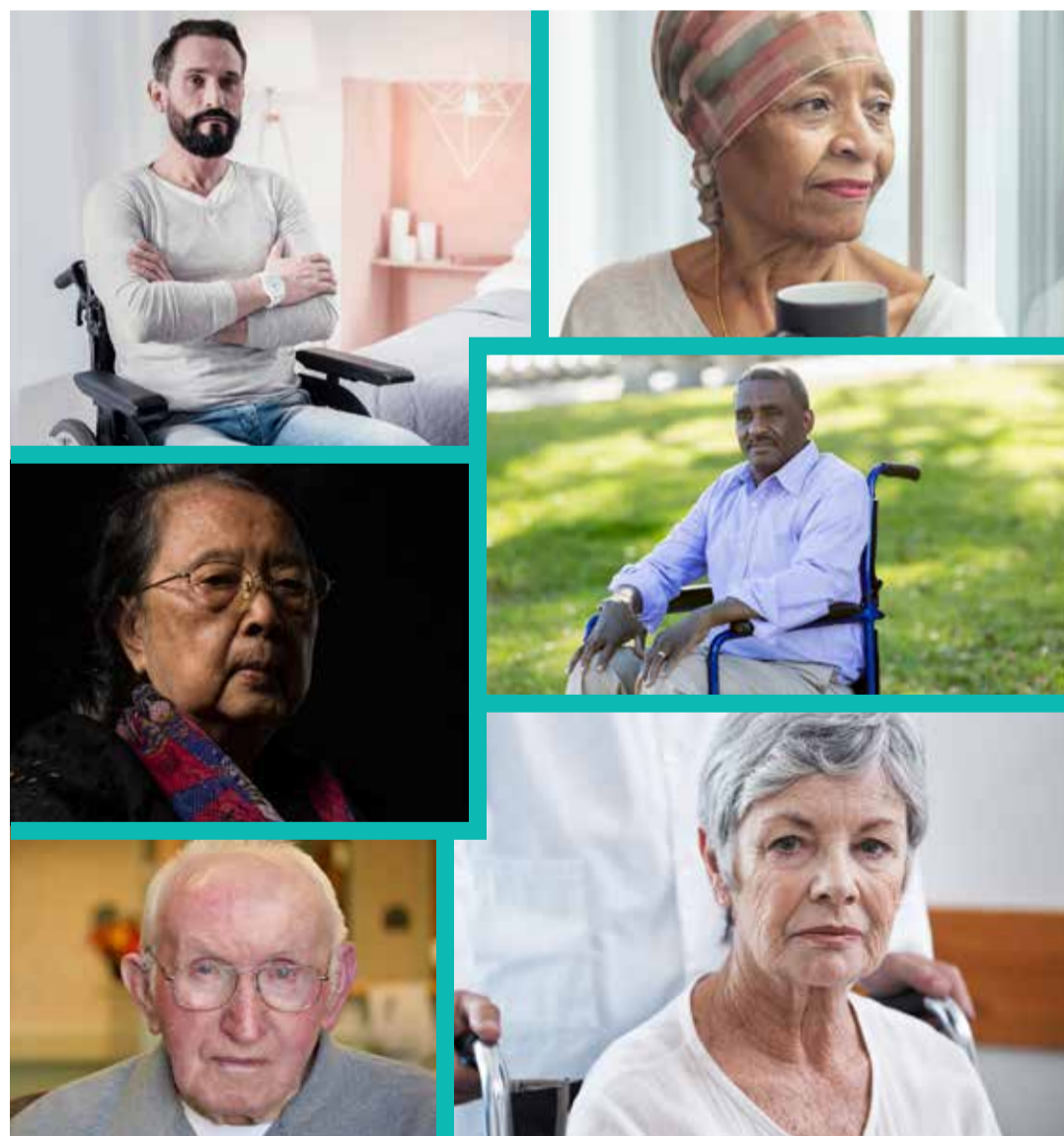
programs. Information shared will better equip residents with an understanding of HIV/AIDS and how they can best combat this virus at a local level. Please join us in our efforts to support and promote HIV education, prevention, testing, and outreach. Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, the Saginaw National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Great Lakes Bay HIV/AIDS Task Force, and Saginaw’s Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority will commemorate World AIDS Day 2020 with various free community events:

- **A community “Town Hall” meeting, Tuesday, December 1, 2020** from 12:00pm-1:00pm. This will be a virtual town hall that will feature information on updates to HIV prevention and care activities. Please see the following link to access: <https://glbhc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYqc->

2hrTstGNLUUpjnG1A0SvooId5Y5n7R5 or by phone 877-853-5247/Meeting ID: 927 4493 0726 /Passcode: 346603

- **Free HIV Testing:** Hearth Home (732 Hoyt Ave Saginaw MI 48607) is conducting FREE HIV testing from 9am-4:30pm. We accept walk-ins. Normal business hours are from Monday – Friday 9:00am-5:00pm. Appointments are available if outside of normal business hours.
- **A displaying of a 14-foot AIDS Red Ribbon from November 30 – December 6, 2020** at the Great Lakes Bay Health Centers David R. Gamez Center, 501 Lapeer Ave Saginaw, MI 48607.

For more information contact Audra Wilson at the Hearth Home by phone at 989-753-9011 or by email at awilson@glbhealth.org.



No one should have to face this pandemic alone.

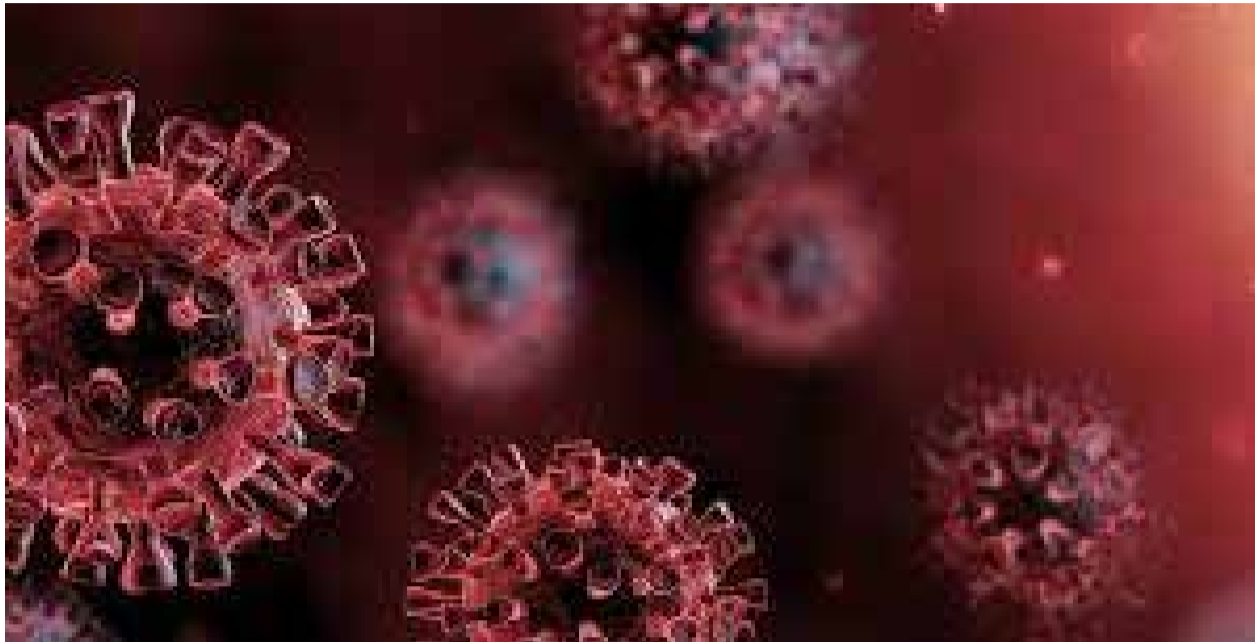
34,000 job opportunities are available for caregivers.

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Register at ConnectToCareJobs.com.



Bay County Health Dept. issues COVID-19 emergency order



courtesy photo

BAY COUNTY, Mich. – The Bay County Health Department has released Emergency Order 2020-5 continuing the requiring monitoring of symptoms for certain essential infrastructure workers in Bay County and providing an easy mechanism for workers to report their status and to help determine effective isolation and quarantine timelines to curb the recent surge of cases in Bay County.

The order rescinds the requirement for quarantine after interstate travel to high risk areas within the United States due to significant outbreaks. The order also provides for an effective and efficient online reporting tool to assist workers and businesses in determining isolation and quarantine dates so that these same businesses can stay open and plan for contingencies. That online self-reporting tool can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COVID19CaseInvestigation>

Over the past month, an extreme volume of new positive cases of COVID-19 have been diagnosed in Bay County. The increased numbers of new positive cases have caused delays to case investigations and subsequent contact tracing. BCHD is working diligently to reach out to individuals as quickly as possible, but it has made the decision to prioritize case investigation of confirmed cases for people 18 years old or younger, and those over the age of 60. Telephone calls will continue to be made to these persons to ensure that a thorough case investigation is made and that needs for these special populations are

met. It is important to note that all cases in Bay County will be investigated.

If you were notified that you tested positive for COVID-19:

- Self-isolate for 10 days. After 10 days, if your symptoms have improved and you have not had a fever for 24 hours (without the use of medications), you may return to normal activities.
- Report your positive status and help notify all your close contacts immediately. A close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24- hour period* starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

If you were notified that you were a close contact to a positive case:

- Self-quarantine for 14 days beginning the first full day after the last date of exposure to the positive case.

FOR EXAMPLE: Last exposure date is 10/20. Begin counting quarantine from 10/21 through 11/3. Resume normal activities on 11/4.

- Consider getting tested, especially if you develop symptoms of COVID-19.

- If you get tested and results are negative, you still must complete your 14-day quarantine before resuming normal activities.

The current surge has the potential to overwhelm the healthcare system, and so it is vital that everyone throughout our community take all the actions necessary to stop the spread of COVID-19.

1. Wear a mask: anytime you might end up being in close proximity to persons from outside your household.
2. Watch your distance: maintain at least 6 feet of separation from other persons whenever possible.
3. Wash your hands: using soap and water for at least 20 seconds or else using alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
4. Avoid poorly ventilated spaces: meet outdoors whenever possible if you will be gathering with other persons from outside your household.
5. Avoid crowds: limit the duration of time you spend in public venues and limit your number of close contacts among persons from outside your household.
6. Quarantine when exposed: if you were identified as a close contact to a person deemed infectious, remain at home until 14 days have elapsed since your most recent exposure to any infectious person
7. Get tested: if you develop COVID-like symptoms, seek testing promptly and self-isolate while awaiting results.
8. Self-isolate when infected: if you test positive for COVID-19, remain at home until 10 days have elapsed since the onset of your symptoms (or since testing was performed if you remain symptom free).

Please do your part and help minimize the spread of COVID-19. For the latest and most accurate information regarding the COVID-19 go to the Bay County Health Department website: <https://www.baycounty-mi.gov/Health/COVID19>.

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- Thousands of donated meals
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- Countless prayers and messages of encouragement

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



BUSINESS & WEALTH

MEDC encourages Michiganders to “Support Local” this holiday season, and beyond



courtesy photo

LANSING, Mich. – The holiday season are fast approaching, and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation is urging Michiganders to shop, eat, and travel safely in their own neighborhoods and downtowns through a new “Support Local ” campaign. As efforts continue to combat the ongoing spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the campaign reminds Michiganders of the importance of supporting local businesses during the upcoming holidays and throughout the winter season.

“As we continue to listen to health experts and encourage safety precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19, we want to remind Michiganders that this winter, retail and hospitality businesses are open and ready to help you shop, eat, and stay safely in Michigan,” said Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

“Now more than ever, small businesses in Pure Michigan need your support. By staying local, you can help Michigan workers, businesses, and communities thrive this season while enjoying the holidays and finding the perfect gift for everyone on your list.”

As part of the Support Local campaign, the michigan.org website now offers resources that help residents shop and eat local, including links to vibrant downtowns that are filled with local shops specializing in décor, fashion, pet toys, hardware and more. For the craft beverage lover, Michigan’s beer , wine and spirits can be found throughout the state at brick-and-mortar shops and local grocery stores. Around Michigan, independent bookstores overflow with page-turning stories and gifts. To refuel, shoppers can visit one

of Michigan’s coffee shops and get a bag of beans to brew at home.

MEDC is collaborating with a number of small business associations and organizations around the state to launch this program, including the Small Business Association of Michigan, Small Business Development Center, Michigan Retailers Association, Michigan Downtown Association, and the Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association. These partners are helping to amplify the campaign message through their channels and serve as subject matter experts for media and content opportunities.

According to the Michigan Retailers Association , one in five Michigan jobs are

Continues on pg 32, Support Local

Continued from pg 31, Support Local

in the retail industry. Michigan residents sent \$18.5 billion to out-of-state retailers in 2017. If only one in 10 out-of-state purchases were switched to local stores, Michigan would gain \$1.2 billion in increased economic activity, creating 10,600 new jobs.

For Michigan-inspired gifts, Pure Michigan merchandise is available at <https://themittenstate.com/collections/pure-michigan>. From the gift of travel to unique Michigan-inspired merchandise, the perfect gift is a simple click away.

The in-state campaign, which begins Nov. 30 and runs through March 31, will include integrated media including digital, social, billboards, as well as traditional media relations initiatives. Featured destinations in the custom content will include Sault Ste. Marie, Houghton/Hancock, Charlevoix, Petoskey, Cheboygan/Alpena, Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Mt. Pleasant, Flint, Lansing, St. Joseph, Benton Harbor, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and Detroit. The budget for the Support Local campaign is \$865,000.

“We remain committed to supporting our small businesses, their workers and the local communities who have been adversely impacted by COVID-19,” said MEDC CEO Mark Burton. “This campaign builds on the nearly 20 COVID-19 economic relief programs we’ve already deployed and showcases the resiliency and ingenuity of Michigan people and businesses, even during a global pandemic.”

The Michigan Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry also encourages Michiganders to support outdoor retailers and restaurants by taking advantage of outdoor leisure opportunities. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the economic impact of outdoor recreation-related activity in Michigan is \$10.1 billion, and Michigan outdoor recreation-related total jobs in Michigan are 123,569, with a total compensation to employees of \$4.7 billion.

“People want to be playing outdoors this winter and Michigan is a great place for winter recreation,” said Michigan Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Director Brad Garmon. “There are plenty of options for getting out there and enjoying winter, and



courtesy photo

Michigan’s retailers and service providers are ready and eager to help.”


MEDC also recently released a new COVID-19 Winter Strategies resource guide designed to help Michigan’s downtowns and business districts develop innovative solutions that address the challenges of snow and cold while enhancing opportunities for safe outdoor winter activity. The Winter Strategies resource guide focuses on a number of principles of winter planning, including improving winter transportation for pedestrians, cyclists and public transit users; designing for winter safety and comfort; making winter a positive asset to attract business, tourism and new residents; snow management and more.

The Support Local campaign builds on the Pure Michigan Pledge, a promise to uphold local safety protocols and CDC travel guidelines to travel safely this summer season and beyond.

The Pure Michigan Pledge outlines seven steps businesses in the travel industry will take to ensure a safe environment for travelers. These steps include: following all CDC guidelines, wearing face coverings in all required and otherwise appropriate areas, keeping high-touch surfaces clean, practicing social distancing, use of credit and debit cards as much as possible, providing adequate supplies of soap and sanitizer to employees and visitors alike, and finally staying home if there are any signs of illness.

“If we all take the Pure Michigan Pledge, we can support local businesses safely – by wearing masks in stores, ordering takeout, or purchasing gift certificates to local restaurants as holiday gifts – and continue to experience the best Michigan has to offer this holiday season,” said Dave Lorenz, Vice President of Travel Michigan.



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Meredith promotes Ken Frierson to Vice President and General Manager of WNEM-TV5 in Mid-Michigan



courtesy photo

SAGINAW, Mich. - Meredith Corporation (NYSE:MDP; www.meredith.com) announced today that it has promoted Ken Frierson to Vice President and General Manager of WNEM-TV 5, Meredith's CBS affiliate in the Saginaw-Flint, Michigan market, effective immediately. Frierson is currently WNEM's General Sales Manager.

"Ken has been an extraordinary member of WNEM-TV 5 for over a decade and has worked in the local television industry for nearly a quarter-century," said Meredith Local Media Group President Patrick McCreery. "He has successfully led the WNEM sales team and helped the station consistently grow its market share, a pattern I'm confident will continue in his role as General Manager."

Frierson started his career as an Account Executive at WSMH FOX66 in Flint, and then joined WNEM-TV 5 and Meredith in 1991 also as an Account Executive. He worked at WEYI in Flint as Regional Sales Manager before being promoted to National Sales Manager. Frierson has also held various Sales

and Business Operations positions at local television stations in Peoria, IL, Syracuse, NY, Detroit, MI, and Troy, MI.

Frierson returned to Meredith in 2010 as WNEM-TV 5's Local Sales Manager and was promoted to General Sales Manager in 2018. During his tenure, the sales team has grown the station's revenues year after year

"It's exciting to become General Manager of such an incredible television station in the same market where I started my career," said Frierson. "I am honored to have the opportunity to lead the spectacular team at WNEM and serve the people of Mid-Michigan."

Frierson has received many awards and honors in his career including the Human Relations Award from the Dale Carnegie Leadership Course, the Award of Excellence in the Best New Business Idea category from Noll & Associates, and has twice received the Distinguished Sales Achiever award from Sales and Marketing Executives, among

others.

Frierson earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Speech Communications from the University of Wisconsin, Superior. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Association of Broadcasters.

Meredith Corporation has been committed to service journalism for more than 118 years. Today, Meredith uses multiple distribution platforms – including broadcast television, print, and digital – to provide consumers with content they desire and to deliver the messages of its advertising partners.

Meredith's Local Media Group includes 17 television stations reaching 11 percent of U.S. households. Meredith's portfolio is concentrated in large, fast-growing markets, with seven stations in the nation's Top 25 and 13 in Top 50 markets. Meredith's stations produce approximately 700 hours of local news and entertainment content each week and operate leading local digital destinations.

MIT releases report featuring Flint on ‘Rebuilding Main Street After COVID-19’



courtesy photo

There is a lot of thinking about how to help small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now there is research about what might help small city downtowns thrive in the long-term, based on the changes to commuting and lifestyles expected to endure after the immediate threat has passed.

A new study by researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) includes the results of a small business survey as well as reflections from economic development leaders in six U.S. cities,

including Flint.

The report provides five recommendations for supporting downtown small business recovery including specific ways to:

- Reimagine downtown uses
- Invest in housing downtown
- Prioritize grant programs over technical assistance
- Evaluate the need for commercial rent relief and stabilization
- Determine a long-term plan for repurposed

parking and access downtown

In Flint, the researchers interviewed Tyler Rossmassler, director of economic development at the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce, and Kady Yellow, director of placemaking at the Flint Downtown Development Authority. The small business survey received a total of 131 responses.

“Flint has been in crisis management mode for 20 years or longer. We rest on the laurels of being resilient,” Rossmassler said.

Long-term impacts of COVID-19 on downtowns include a decreased daytime population, the need for more outdoor space, and the risk of small business closures. The impacts have exacerbated existing issues including the racial wealth gap, homelessness, and downtown vacancy rates. Despite these challenges, small businesses are resilient and adaptable. The pandemic provides an opportunity for cities to implement innovative ideas to address these complex, long-term impacts.

For more information, please contact graduate student Emma González Roberts at emmagr@mit.edu.

Opinion: Jimmy E Greene, CEO/President of ABC MI gives a message for the moment

On behalf of nearly 1,000 Associated Builders and Contractors members across Michigan, we wish to express concern and support for Michigan's small businesses. Restaurants, bars, theaters, and many more small businesses are our customers, and they matter. They create jobs, they create community, and they create stability. Their wellbeing matters to their customers, to their associates, and to their associates families. Their wellbeing matters to builders and contractors, too.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services latest shut down orders will lead to a continued downslide in the economy, they will kill businesses, and they will kill jobs. Making matters worse, the orders come without any additional resources to sustain these businesses financially as the state locks their doors.

Additionally, giving less than a three-day notice for these businesses to prepare was

avoidable. More warning could have given them valuable time to make a plan to sustain their already struggling business. After already experiencing a prolonged shutdown in the spring and now heading into the winter with endless uncertainty, these cornerstones of our communities are undergoing another terrible setback.

That setback is the result of politics, not a virus. The lack of cooperation between the governor's office and the legislature is a sad and unfortunate contributor to the economic disaster sweeping away small businesses and the families that rely on them for jobs.

We know we can mitigate the spread of coronavirus in Michigan without causing our clients and customers', who are also family and neighbors, financial collapse. We encourage our elected officials on a bipartisan basis to work collectively to bring a swift end to this shutdown and save thousands of

businesses and jobs.

It's time to set partisan fighting aside. Michigan's businesses, employees, and citizens across our state deserve better.

In the meantime, we join other associations and organizations encouraging citizens to support small businesses, to shop locally, eat locally, and to give to local charities.



Jimmy E Greene, CEO/President
ABC Michigan

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EDUCATION

Saginaw Promise reaches new milestone...\$1,025,049 in scholarships!



courtesy photo

Saginaw Promise made a commitment to Saginaw and its students—eight years later it's keeping its promise! With a bit of Magic, support from community donors, partners and volunteers, the Saginaw Promise has achieved a major milestone. Since 2012, the organization has awarded \$1,025,049 in scholarships to 590 scholars! 2020 marks the organization's ninth group of scholars to receive scholarships. The graduation rates for Saginaw's high schools have risen, dropout rates have decreased, FAFSA completion has grown and students are earning program certificates and degrees! Brianna Robinson, a 2012 SASA graduate, was in the first class of students to receive the Saginaw Promise scholarship. Brianna also became her family's first college graduate, earning a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology and now planning to earn her master's degree in Health Care Management. Brianna shared, "I remain extremely thankful for receiving the Saginaw Promise scholarship and support and I would encourage today's high school students to pursue their assistance."

The Saginaw Promise formed in 2009 with an eleven member volunteer board and soon after hired a program Director. The organization's focus is "working to affect Saginaw's economy and quality of life by promoting and supporting a culture of postsecondary education for all of its graduating students through information, programming and the awarding of "last dollar" scholarships". The organization's goal is for all of Saginaw's graduating students to receive a program certificate or degree with the promise and assistance of a "last dollar" scholarship for students who live in and graduate from a high school in the Promise Zone (which includes, the cities of Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Kochville and that area of Buena Vista that is designated to the Saginaw Public School District). The Saginaw Promise believes that postsecondary education is a "change agent" for impacting Saginaw's future and that of its students; a beacon of hope. When the group first formed, the organization faced skepticism and some push back from people who believed that the group wouldn't be able to accomplish what

it proposed. Joyce Seals, Saginaw Promise Chairperson and former Mayor of Saginaw, recalls being told during a meeting that the organization would not be around long enough to see the type of change the group spoke of. "Those comments hurt"; Seals recalled. She returned to her car and wept, but through the tears she became even more determined along with her fellow board members to prove the detractors wrong. John Humphreys, Saginaw attorney and the first Chairman of the Saginaw Promise Board of Directors, shared... "When founded in 2009 a million dollars in scholarships was a dream—and a distant promise. The news of over a million dollars in scholarships to nearly 600 student's shows that dreams do come true and promises can be fulfilled. Congratulations to the students, the staff and the volunteers that make the Saginaw Promise possible. Most of all, thank you and congratulations to the donors that make it all a reality."

Saginaw Promise has had many angels to support the organization, for example, Magic Johnson, entrepreneur and NBA Legend, agreed to donate his time to serve as keynote speaker for its first fundraiser and has returned several times to lend his celebrity to help raise scholarship and program funding for the organization. "The Saginaw Promise has been able to do what it does, because of the wonderful support we have received from individuals, corporations, organizations, Foundations, area partners and volunteers; people who share the belief that postsecondary education is the impetus for change. Their support has been an investment to change the future of Saginaw and the lives of its students", stated Deborah Sanchez, Saginaw Promise Director. To raise programming and scholarship funding, the Saginaw Promise is conducting its "Community Campaign." To donate or to learn more about the organization, visit www.saginawpromise.org or telephone (989)755-0545.

Delta College celebrates its 200 apprentices during National Apprenticeship Week



courtesy photo

Brad Kenel was taking general classes at Delta College when he was offered an apprenticeship position at Dow.

Now, he's working as an apprentice and has returned to Delta to train in the electrical and instrumentation maintenance technologist

program, a first of its kind to be offered in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

"I found out that Dow works directly with Delta on job training, so I came back to Delta in June," said Kenel.

Kenel, from Saginaw, is one of about 200 apprentices attending Delta College to study their trade while working full-time by a sponsoring employer. These individuals are being celebrated during National Apprenticeship Week, November 8-14.

In 2019, the U.S. Department of Labor reported more than 252,000 individuals nationwide entered the apprenticeship program. In 2020, there have been more than 633,000.

"Our students are part of those numbers," said Harvey Schneider, coordinator of Delta's

skilled trades programs. "When I talk to high school students about apprenticeships, I always ask if they know of Benjamin Franklin and Paul Revere. Ben was a printer and Paul was a silver smith, and they were both apprentices. That's how they learned their trade."

Delta works with about 80 area employers from 14 counties. In total, the college offers 23 skilled trade associate degree or certificate programs, and many include the option of an apprenticeship.

Schneider said now more than ever, the job outlook for skill trades professionals is high.

"Our graduates are not having any trouble finding jobs," he said. "There's a big need for electricians, machinists and welders right now. And many of our students choose an apprenticeship route because they can get paid with on-the-job training and oftentimes, their employer will pay for their schooling."

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Graduation rates have increased (2011-2019)

Source: MI School Data

- ▶ Arthur Hill High School from 82.5% to 90.17%
- ▶ Saginaw High School from 67.0% to 86.92%
- ▶ Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy (SASA) from 85.3% to 95.65%

Dropout rates have decreased (2011-2019)

Source: MI School Data

- ▶ Arthur Hill High School from 7.5% to 5.2%
- ▶ Saginaw High School from 19.55% to 8.46%
- ▶ Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy (SASA) from 14.75% to 2.17%

Students can apply Online today. Deadline to apply is **February 15, 2021.**

To learn more visit www.saginawpromise.org.

Like us on

Studying where climate change strikes hardest

CMU student focuses on effects of extreme weather on minority communities



CMU student Anthony Wilson



courtesy photo

MOUNT PLEASANT, Mich. - When Anthony Wilson graduates from Central Michigan University this year, he'll be one giant step closer to goals that began to take shape in his earliest memories.

In 2005, living in Georgia and seeing the devastation of Hurricane Katrina play out on TV, Wilson noticed that the New Orleanians who seemed to be suffering the most looked like him and his family.

"I was 5 or 6 when I saw a lot of brown and Black people on the screen so helpless; that really disturbed me," he said. The feeling persisted as he came to know Black grade school classmates displaced by Katrina. Understanding that weather and climate don't affect everyone equally, Wilson has planned his future career on studying how climate change, severe weather and heat waves affect poor minority communities.

"In New Orleans, there are still people from 2005 recovering and vulnerable," Wilson said. "You can see that the water level almost touches the top of the levee where most minorities live in the Lower Ninth Ward."

He said areas like these need more resources to deal with the effects of climate change, such as more severe storms.

"We've come to a point where we need to create a bigger disaster budget."

Government can plan and support elements such as green spaces and parks that reduce carbon dioxide concentration and cool the "urban heat island," and urban gardens that address "food deserts" where fresh goods are in short supply.

Turning passion into policies

Wilson, of Jonesboro, Georgia, expects his degree in geography with a concentration in geographic information sciences and a minor in mathematics to take him first to graduate school to pursue a doctorate in climate science or climate dynamics.

His next stop would be Washington, D.C., where he has his sights on the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency — and on public policy.

"I really want to do the science, but I wouldn't mind talking to lawmakers about policies we could enact," he said.

'I have a lot more confidence'

Wilson found CMU online and enrolled as a MAC Scholar. He found support in his scholar cohort, fraternity and faith community — and in small classes where he could engage in research and come to know his professors.

Earth and Atmospheric Sciences faculty member John Allen worked with Wilson on a McNair Scholar project. Geography and Environmental Studies Department Chair Matthew Liesch introduced him to every professional in the field who visited campus.

"I was able to be developed as a scientist more personally than a lot of my peers at other institutions," he said.

That led to summer internships in 2019 and 2020 with Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Research and Science, or SOARS, where Wilson delved deeply into the science of heat waves.

Along the way he honed leadership skills, chatting almost daily with Jonathan Glenn, assistant director of CMU's Sarah R. Opperman Leadership Institute.

Nature magazine recently featured Wilson in an article about universities rethinking the graduate record examinations, or GRE, as a requirement for grad school admission. Many academic researchers and others say the test is unfair and keeps capable female and minority students from pursuing degrees in the sciences.

Wilson started a petition to make the test optional instead of required for 2020-21 — an effort he once would never have imagined leading.

"I feel like now I have a lot more confidence in my skills and in my work," he said.



About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

Early Head Start, launched in 1995, provides support to low-income infants, toddlers, pregnant

women and their families.

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

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

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

Saginaw ISD Head Start
Claytor Administrative Building
3200 Perkins Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
Phone 989.752.2193
Fax 989.921.7146

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

“Head Start graduates are more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to need special education, repeat a grade, or commit crimes in adolescence.”

Joe Baca, former Dem. Calif. Congrmn., Dist. 43.

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

FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Can we reduce grant application frustration?

If you're involved with a nonprofit, you've experienced the highs and lows of applying for grant funding. If you work for a foundation or granting agency, you've seen the good and the bad when it comes to reviewing proposals. With all of you in mind, we share our thoughts on the challenges and benefits related to proposal writing and reviewing.

If you are a nonprofit you are always looking for grant opportunities. You may be invited to apply for a grant, or maybe you read about an opportunity. In all cases you must eventually write the proposal, and this can be where frustration sets in. Crafting a proposal is a lot of work. You need to answer questions you may feel are irrelevant. You have to assemble and compile board lists, budgets, audited financials, diversity information, articles of incorporation and more. Some funders will have you apply through an online portal with questions that have a limitation on how many words or characters you can use to respond. Questions can range from anticipated impact based on the size of the grant you are requesting, to descriptions of partnerships, to a request for your "uniqueness" in the community. Almost all want to know about your "sustainability."

Creating a grant proposal can be a very painful process, especially if your nonprofit is new to the process. It can also be a mirror for your organization,

revealing your strengths and weaknesses in ways you may not have seen before. Questions asked in a proposal application can cause a nonprofit to step back and look at things in a way they hadn't considered before.

If you work for a foundation or granting agency you may find yourself overwhelmed with applications for funding. As you read through them you may begin criticizing people's grammar; wondering if the document was written by a committee; and questioning the competency of the organization based on their writing. Don't do that. Take a deep breath and remember you are making recommendations for funding – you are not giving an award for sentence structure, narrative flow, or ease of reading. Delivering services or advocating for a cause is not the same as writing a proposal: take time to discern the work

that the nonprofit is engaged in and evaluate the proposal based on community needs. Nonprofits with small budgets cannot afford to hire proposal writers.

If you can, ask yourself and your team to consider what it will cost a nonprofit in terms of time and money to put together a proposal. How do these costs and the information requested compare with the amount of funding you will provide? Should there be an "EZ" grant application? Do you really need all the information you request? Is it serving as a repository for research that influences the field, or, perhaps, is your application an old document that program officers from years gone by created?

Let's all work together to make proposal writing easier and focus on the important work of nonprofits.



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

NON-PROFIT DIRECTORY

CAN Council Saginaw County

1311 N. Michigan Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48602
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Fax: 989-752-2777
www.cancouncil.org

The New Ezekiel Project

P.O. Box 3470
Saginaw, MI 48605-3470
989-755-1620
Fax: 989-755-4038
www.theezekielproject.com
jamie@theezekielproject.com

Great Lakes PACE

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

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

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

Houghton-Jones Task Force

1708 Johnson Street
Saginaw, MI
989-752-1660

Samaritas Community Center

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

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

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

Restoration Community Outreach

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

Saginaw County Business & Education Partnership

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

Saginaw County Community Action Agency, Inc. (CAC)

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

Saginaw Promise

1 Tuscola St., Suite 100B
Saginaw, Michigan 48607
(989) 755-0545
www.saginawpromise.org

The Michigan Banner Outreach Ministries

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

The Saginaw Community Foundation

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PastorD818@gmail.com

Faith Harvest Church

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Jacob's Ladder

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989-799-6601

Life in Christ Ministries

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

Messiah Missionary Baptist Church

2615 Williamson Road
Saginaw, MI 48601
Pastor Otis Washington
Phone: 989-777-2636
Fax: 989-777-2640
messiahmbc@att.net
www.messiahmsag.org



Mt. Olive Baptist Church

Pastor Marvin T. Smith
1114 N. 6th Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-752-8064



New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry

Pastor Roy & Evelyn
Baldwin
2609 E. Genesee
Saginaw, MI 48601

989-777-8272

Pastorbaldwin@charter.net



New Beginnings Life Changing Ministries

Pastor Otis Dickens
2312 S. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-755-3650



New Birth Missionary Baptist

Pastor Larry D. Camel
3121 Sheridan
Saginaw, Michigan
989-327-1755



New Covenant Christian Center

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989-752-8485

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Willie F. Casey
1721 Tuscola Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-7600



New Life Baptist Church

Pastor Rufus Bradley
1401 Janes St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-1151

New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

Pastor Alfred "AJ" Harris Jr.
3610 Russel St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-0801

New Way Ministries

Pastor Dwight & Princess Dobbins
29200 Shiawassee St.
Farmington Hills, MI 48336
(248) 987-2434
www.thenewwayministry.org



Ninth Street Community Church

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Assistant Pastor Rex Jones
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Saginaw, MI 48601
989-752-7366

Prince of Peace Baptist Church

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Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-2841
Pastor Robert C. Corley Jr.

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Pastor Carl Ballard
915 Federal Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607
Phone: 989-754-0489
Worship: 9:30 AM
stjohnlutheranelcasaginaw.weebly.com



Saginaw Valley Community

Pastor Richard Sayad
3660 Hermansau
Saginaw, MI 48603
989-752-4769



Transforming Life Ministries

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523 Hayden
Saginaw, MI 48601-4353
989-754-9573



True Vine Baptist Church

Pastor Paul E. Broaddus
2930 Janes Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-752-0751

Victorious Belivers Ministries Church

Pastor Chris V. Pryor
624 S. Outer Dr.
Saginaw, MI
989-755-7692

World Outreach Campus of Greater Coleman Temple Ministries

Supt. H.J. Coleman Jr.
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Saginaw, MI 48602
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Zion Missionary Baptist Church

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SPORTS

Second annual Harry Hawkins Award winner to be announced Thursday



Brady Devereaux of Hemlock High School, winner of the first ever Hawkins Award

The second annual Harry Hawkins Award presentation will be announced Thursday, December 3rd at 6 p.m. at the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History, 500 Federal Ave. in Saginaw.

The Heisman Trophy-like award made its debut in 2019 and recognizes the top senior football player in Saginaw County. The Saginaw Club is the presenting sponsor of the award in conjunction with the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame and the MLive Media Group.

Finalists include Nouvel Catholic Central's

Jack Kujawa, Heritage's Chris Parker and Merrill's Logan Heath.

The ceremony will be virtual and is not open to the public; excluding the media. Members of the Hawkins' Committee, the three players, their parents and their coaches will be in attendance. Attendees are asked to abide by the Covid-19 protocols for social distancing and are required to wear masks when not speaking.

The Hawkins award is named in honor of former Arthur Hill High School and University of Michigan gridiron standout

Harry Hawkins, the first All-American football player from Saginaw County. Hawkins, also a track standout at Michigan, where he captured both the Big Ten and National Championships in the hammer throw, was an engineer and executive in the automotive industry.

For more information, please contact Jack Tany at (989) 737-4725.

Lions announce changes at head coach & GM



courtesy photo

DETROIT, Mich. - Detroit Lions principal owner and chairman Sheila Ford Hamp said last December that she wanted to see major improvement from her football team in 2020, and for them to play meaningful games in the month of December.

Following another double-digit loss on Thanksgiving, a defeat that dropped Detroit's record to 4-7 on the season, Hamp did not like where the organization was heading, so she relieved general manager Bob Quinn and head coach Matt Patricia of their duties on Saturday.

"Obviously, this season has not gone the way we expected," Hamp said in a Zoom call Saturday afternoon. "We want to take the rest of this year to assess every aspect of our football operation and find the best individuals to lead and coach our team."

The team has named offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell as interim head coach for the final five games of the season. Current football executives Kyle O'Brien, Lance Newmark, Rob Lohman and Mike Disner will run the front office the rest of the year, and will report directly to team

president Rod Wood as the team analyzes the organizational structure and evaluates candidates for the permanent general manager position.

"I will do everything I can to put a winning team on the field for our fans and the City of Detroit," Hamp said. "Unfortunately, we haven't won enough over the last three seasons and our efforts to find the right leadership for the Lions begins today."

Hamp said the 20-0 loss to Carolina last Sunday and the 41-25 loss to the Texans on Thanksgiving prompted her to make this move.

"Both of those games were extremely disappointing and it just seemed like the path going forward wasn't what we wanted it to be, so we thought this was a good time to make the change," she said.

Quinn arrived in Detroit in 2016 and retained then head coach Jim Caldwell for back-to-back 9-7 seasons in 2016 and 2017, but had loftier goals of competing for division titles and playoff wins. Quinn hired Patricia, reconnecting the pair from their time together

in New England.

Patricia won six games in his first season and just three last year playing without starting quarterback Matthew Stafford for half of the year. After just four wins in their first 11 games this season, Hamp made the decision to move on from Quinn and Patricia. The Lions were 31-43-1 in Quinn's tenure and 13-29-1 with Patricia as head coach.

"I think we've got a talented team and we should have come together better than we have," Hamp said. "We just felt like the leadership wasn't getting that job done."

"I promise you we are going to do an extremely thorough and comprehensive search for both positions. We're going to lean on all sorts of resources and the league will probably be one of them."

Hamp and Wood informed the team of the organization's decision to move on from Quinn and Patricia Saturday afternoon via Zoom. Wood said several players spoke up, and it was a very positive meeting.

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 22



Brian Hamilton Foundation and Junior Achievement Host Teen Entrepreneurs in "The Arena" Web Series on December 2

courtesy photo

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - The Brian Hamilton Foundation and Junior Achievement USA call on teen entrepreneurs across the country to enter "The Arena," a new periodic web series that features teen entrepreneurs and celebrity guest coaches. A new webisode will air on December 2 at 1:30 p.m.

Moderated by Kate Rogers, CNBC Correspondent covering small business and entrepreneurship, "The Arena" gives rising teen entrepreneurs the chance to showcase their businesses to coaches who are also successful entrepreneurs. The coaches commend the innovative entrepreneurs on their business ideas and offer useful feedback on how these teens can sharpen and expand their businesses to get them to the next level. The event is sponsored by the Taco Bell Foundation.

Coaches for this episode of "The Arena" include:

- **Brian Hamilton**, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist, Founder of Sageworks, the Brian Hamilton Foundation and Inmates to Entrepreneurs
- **Dave Sparks** aka "Heavy D", Star of Discovery Channel's "Diesel Brothers", Social Media Personality, Custom Vehicle Builder and American Entrepreneur

"The nation depends on entrepreneurs and startups to drive innovation and job growth," said Jack E. Kosakowski, President and CEO of Junior Achievement USA. "Given the challenges businesses are currently facing, the next generation may have questions about the future of entrepreneurship. This program

provides an opportunity for teens to learn more about what it takes to start a business, even at a young age."

"Kids in our nation today believe two things about starting a business," Charlie Bradley, CEO of the Brian Hamilton Foundation, says. "They think you either have to have years of experience, or you have to have tons of money; neither is true. Our goal is to show the future entrepreneurs of America that they can not only build their own businesses starting today, but that they have the support of successful entrepreneurs behind them."



COVID-19 Can Be Beat - Please Don't Shut Down All Youth Activities Indiscriminately



Grandville Robotics

GRANDVILLE, Mich - If you're looking for some good news - visit the Grandville Robotics Center where we've been beating coronavirus since June 6.

Grandville students and parents are urging State of Michigan officials not to close their Grandville Robotics program – it's one of the safest places a student can be. This program serves hundreds of students every day, and the program has operated since its reopening on June 6 with ZERO coronavirus transmissions.

The Grandville Robotics program provides hands-on science and technology programs for K-12 students. We are one of the largest and most successful competitive robotics programs in the country, and our teams routinely beat top teams from all over America. We have proven thus far that we can also beat COVID-19. Our programs have operated for 24 consecutive weeks without even a single case where one program participant passed COVID-19 to another.

This is not a small accomplishment. We have operated day camps and overnight camps

with students from Michigan and surrounding states. We currently run more than 70 elementary, middle school, and high school teams. We have run multiple high school competitions at our facility since August 26, bringing together top teams from six states. We have run elementary and middle school Lego League, VEX IQ, and VEX EDR competitions for hundreds of students. And yet, through the determined efforts of our families and tight health protocols, we have had ZERO COVID-19 transmissions in any of our programs.

Our program is a model for coronavirus precautions that has been adopted at facilities and competitions around the country. We pioneered health screening and contact tracing programs for youth teams. We use masks, social-distancing, small group cohorts, and enhanced cleaning practices to reduce the risk of passing coronavirus. Our facility is a closed environment, and only screened and approved team members and coaches may enter. We do not allow parents in the building, nor spectators at any of our events. We broadcast our elementary, middle school,

and high school Leagues and Tournaments to the internet so families and fans can watch.

We have beaten coronavirus for 24 weeks, and we can continue to beat it. As community COVID-19 cases have climbed, the Grandville Robotics Center has continued to be one of the safest places a student can be. State, county, and local officials are invited to visit the Grandville Robotics Center, virtually or in-person, and to understand our success before issuing blanket coronavirus rules that will force this model of coronavirus success to close.

Learn more about our programs and retrace our path to success beating COVID-19 on our Facebook pages: <https://www.facebook.com/GrandvilleRobotics> and <https://www.facebook.com/TheRoboDawgs>

Grandville Public Schools has been a leader in educational robotics for more than 23 years. On November 5, 2019, local voters approved fund construction of the country's first built-for-purpose robotics competition arena. Construction is underway and we look forward to fielding teams in this new facility in late 2022 or early 2023.

Beginning with one high school robotics team in 1998, the program has now grown to include more than 110 teams based at the District's Robotics & Engineering Center. More than 700 students participate on Grandville robotics teams, designing, building, and programming robotics for competitions around the world. Grandville elementary teams compete in Lego League and VEX IQ events. Our middle school fields teams competing in VEX EDR and RECF RAD Drones. Grandville High School fields teams that compete in VEX AI and VEX EDR, as well as FIRST Robotics Competition. The Grandville High School RoboDawgs have built and flown autonomous aerial drones for seven years. Our high school teams build autonomous vehicles to compete on land, water, and in the air.

For more information, contact RoboDawg Head Coaches: Mike Evele – 260061@email4pr.com or Doug Hepfer – 260061@email4pr.com, 616-540-3239



PICS OF THE WEEK

On Saturday, November 28, The Saginaw Police presented Frankenmuth Credit Union with a plaque thanking them for a generous donation that allowed them to purchase a trailer for the Saginaw Reserve Unit.



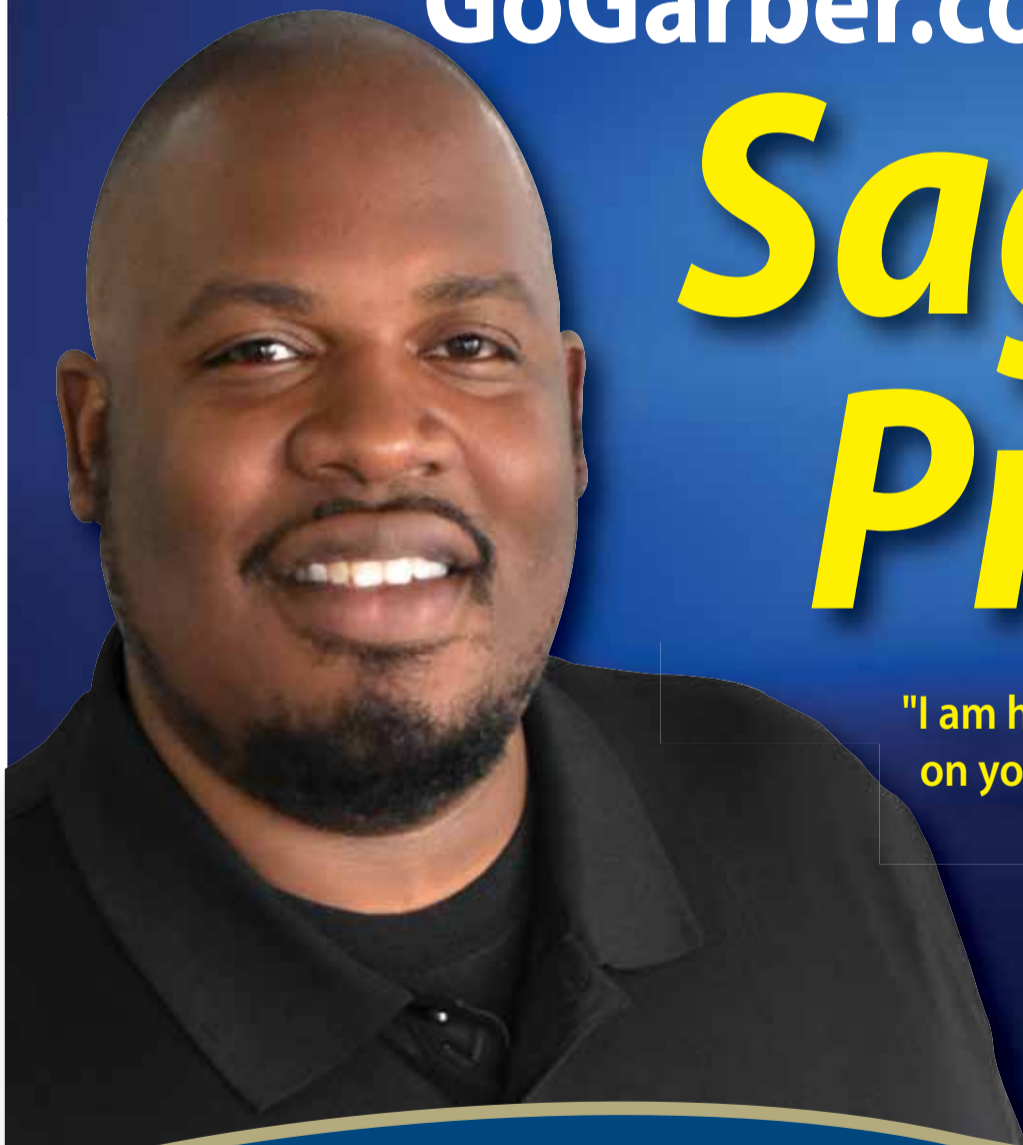
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"I am here for you. Looking forward to serving you on your next new or pre-owned vehicle purchase."

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We

empower.

*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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