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March 10: More Than a Presidential Primary

Politics, Page 43

2020

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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The Importance of African American History among Youth



Michigan Youth Banner
Cover Story

Saginaw's 41st Annual Cinco de Mayo



Latino Banner
Cover Story



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Letter from the Editor

Rev. I. LaTrell Bailey



Each of us readily acknowledges, and loves, the side of Jesus Christ that healed the sick and performed other MIGHTY miracles. And if one is a Christian, such as myself, that's exactly what we are supposed to do. However, Jesus wasn't just a harmonious spiritual-leader, teacher and diplomat. We've, conveniently, forgotten the flip-side of Jesus, The Mighty Prophet; who was the MOST prominent, and radical, social-activist ever known. Jesus of Nazareth was a "revolutionary" who confronted the Judean religious establishment, endured horrible persecution, suffered a horrific crucifixion, and ultimately died; fighting for "justice" AND the "common-good".

Please allow me to share with you a small part of the theology of Jesus Christ. If one studies the history of Jesus' ministry and His lineage, facts tells us that there are ONLY two hard "historical facts" about Jesus: Fact #1) He was a Jew, from Nazareth, who led the

most popular Jewish movement, in Palestine, at the beginning of the first century And Fact #2), Rome crucified Jesus for being the leader of that movement. He shook mainstream religious leaders to their very core. And He gave explicit indication of the "radical" acts He was called to perform during His time on earth, while preaching His first sermon, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

It's imperative to understand that Roman leaders didn't want to kill Jesus because of the "miracles" He was performing. They wanted to kill Jesus because He was changing the economic conditions of those who were "financially" AND "socially" marginalized. And as Christians, our lives are to be a blueprint of Christ. Thus, we too have been charged with changing the economic conditions of the "financially" AND "socially" marginalized among us today. Injustice sabotages GOD's plan for communities. In the Old Testament, He called on His people to care for widows, orphans, people who were oppressed, and foreigners in their land. (Deut. 14:28-29) He wanted His people to provide aid, in the form of material resources and hospitality, to those on the fringes of society. Yet, that's NOT happening often enough because there's an immeasurable pressure by the church, and people in general, to be quiet. No one has the courage to disagree with the status quo or speak-up for that, which is, morally right. Many people have chosen to focus on "winning" when that's NOT the objective of us being here. GOD put us here to grow...in life and in Jesus Christ! And we're to take that growth and sow into our fellow brothers-and-sisters who are less fortunate. For, if we truly are living a Christ-centered life, aren't we already "winning"?

Truth is that many self-professed Christians of today aren't actually so much "pro-life" as they are "pro-birth". Because if that weren't the case, we would see universal "healthcare" for those babies AFTER they are born; we would see state and federal government paying

MORE for those babies to be "educated", per-capita, than they pay the privatized prison system to "incarcerate" them; we would see "tuition-free" college education in America for those babies POST their secondary education; and we would see more globally located corporations, with an American base, socio-economically "investing" in our inner cities, in which, most of those babies WILL end-up living.

As a community, as a whole, we can choose to respond to injustice in one of three ways:

- 1) Ignore it... "Not me, that's not my problem, I'm not political";
- 2) Deny it... rollover and say nothing; OR
- 3) Deal with it... address it, study it and develop it.

And as we carefully and lovingly consider our choice, let us keep in mind that throughout Jesus' life, He cared for those who didn't receive justice from mainstream society...the ignored and the alienated. He healed lepers, befriended sinners, and conversed with people not of the family of Israel. Even His, own, disciples were themselves on the fringes of society. Simply put, Jesus cared about ALL people. From His words, it's clear that He was inspired to His ministry because of the great socio-economic injustices going on around Him. And His solution was to create a "new paradigm" of a compassionate society. And whenever I find myself dealing with the frustration and agitation that grows within me when I see another obvious economic, social or environmental difference in my community, I draw from the parallels between the injustices of Jesus' age and today. As I look around and see rising poverty, racial inequality, gender bias, racism, religious persecution, environmental destruction, and other injustices, I pray for the courage to be a radical, social activist; working to create a "new paradigm" of a compassionate society, just as Jesus Christ did. And my prayer is that you, too, will be inspired to do the same. For, with this like-minded mindset as our collective focus, our community is guaranteed to both "equally" AND "exceptionally" progress and prosper!!!

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MISSION

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

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DEADLINES

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

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Mailed or e-mailed
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The celebration of Black History Month has been important to appreciating and recognizing the crucial roles African Americans have played in our history.

This year's theme, "African Americans and the Vote," has been selected to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the 15th amendment which granted black men the right to vote, and emphasizes that the voting rights of our citizens should not be denied in any state.

During this month, we should take time to recognize and celebrate African Americans' many contributions and their sacrifice and bravery on their journey to justice in our nation.

We must work together to identify, develop, and promote solutions to further achieve equity in our great state of Michigan.



Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 4



“The Importance of African American History among Youth”

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

Greetings beloved community, I want to stay along the arena of youth development during this edition. However, before I get into the contents of this article, I want to provide a disclaimer for the term “Black” used throughout this article. Note, that I am only using that word to be on one accord with identifying who I am referring to in regards to the specific ethnic/people group in whom I am focused on within this article. I am one who does not prefer to be called “Black” (because my keyboard is black, the Halloween cat is black, the tires on my vehicle are black, my skin is brown not black).... Nor do I no longer prefer to be called “African-American” for I am not from Africa nor are my parents, grandparents, great grandparents, nor my great-great grandparents. I am from this land we call “America” so I don’t prefer to be called a “continent-continent.” And because I don’t have room to discuss the entirety of my perspective and preference, I digress. Throughout my 39 (40 years as of Feb. 20) years of life, I have learned a lot about myself. One thing I have noticed about the outcomes in my life was how much role models were very influential factors in my development as a youth. My role models growing up were drug dealers, gangsters, pimps, rappers and a couple of men who had families which included the husband, wife, and children, such as my uncle Vincent Bond, Sr., my dad

Willie Pritchett and my grandfather, L.C. Pete Peoples. Due to the reality that I didn’t know many men like my dad, uncle and grandfather L.C. Pete Peoples (whom raised or was a part of raising 20 plus children), my role models that were negative outweighed the positive. See, I didn’t reside in a home with either of these men and only saw them maybe once or twice in an entire month’s time, if I had to place a consistent timeframe around my interactions and observations of them. Another truth was there were role models available, whether alive or gone, but I didn’t have a clue who they were or what type of achievements and contributions they had made to our community and society as a whole. For instance, I want to share some of the life of my great uncle Samuel “Bo” Hall. I’m going to use my uncle Bo for an example, not because he’s my uncle, but because many of you reading this may not be aware of the contributions he made in this society and most importantly that he was a product of the city of Saginaw. The other reason I want to use him is because I didn’t learn of his contributions until his death.

Uncle Bo graduated from Saginaw High School, Class of 1955 and attended Bay City College, Ferris State and Western Michigan University. He graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in biology, social studies, and

psychology in 1963. He obtained his Master’s degree in counseling from Michigan State University in 1965. While in graduate school, he became director of a school dropout program in the Lansing Public School District. He was later appointed the Director of Career Planning while also holding the position of Assistant Professor of Education and Director of Testing at Langston University. In the summer of 1966, he worked at the U. S. Department of Education in Washington, DC as a program advisor and later as a counselor in the DC public school system. In the fall of 1967, He was successful in becoming the first full-time Career Planning and Placement Director at Delaware State College in Dover, Delaware. After leaving Delaware State University, he then went on to assume the position of Career Development and Planning at Howard University in 1970.

Another example would be my Uncle Bo’s cousin and my great cousin, Barnes Lee Hall. After graduating from Saginaw High School he enlisted in the U.S. Nave and served as a Seaman 2nd Class during World War II. He retired from the Saginaw Police Department after 26 years of service. Mr. Hall also retired from General Motors. Barnes Lee was a Board Member of Westchester Village East, a past Chairman of the First Ward Community Center, a member of the First

MYB Cover Story, African American History among Youth



Courtesy Photo

Ward Senior Citizens Center and he served as the President of the Old Timers's Club at the First Ward Community Center for 29 years. Barnes Lee Hall's wife of 65 years, Mary L. Hall, said when her husband worked as a law enforcer, he attempted to do more mentoring than policing. "He never wanted to put anybody in jail," she said. "If they were getting into trouble, he wanted to send them into (military) service instead. "Volunteering was his hobby," his wife said. "I had to share my dad with a lot of other kids growing up," said Gary Hall, one of his father's five children. In fact, his son, Gary Hall, has made an awesome contribution in this community volunteering as a coach in Saginaw Public schools for over 20 years, among other things. He even coached me when I was in elementary school back in the 80's and was always trying to be a positive role model for the youth in the Daniel Heights and Town and Gardens project areas. We can even take into account the very man who started this newspaper that you are reading, Jerome

Buckley, and his contribution to this region with the Michigan Banner.

The purpose of these few examples is to illustrate the need for a "Black" historical exhibit. Youth in our community need to be aware of the many "Black" men and women who went before them and were trailblazers who made uncommon contributions to their community. The youth need to know that being famous, a star, professional athlete, or a rapper or singer is not his or her only options to "be somebody." The youth need to see examples of people of color who excelled in academics; those who was born and raised here and left Saginaw and was successful while impacting others; they need to see those who stayed here after succeeding academically and not only had careers but gave back to their community. It would literally take a book to name and explain all of the "Black" men and women who have done great things in this community and did more than assist in it becoming what it once was and what it is going back to being, a community.

Let me ask you the same question I posed in 2013, if we were to strive to assemble a group of people who would be supported by the community, to obtain a "Black" Historical exhibit in the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History that would be displayed throughout the year, not just in February, would you participate/support such an endeavor?

I hope so, Grace and Peace to you beloved....



Mr. Corey M. Pritchett, MA



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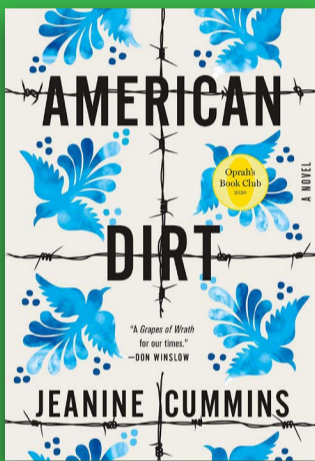
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THE LATINO BANNER

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

Vamos Adelante



Focus turns to Latino authors amid 'American Dirt' debate

LB Pg. 2

Submit your news at

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Courtesy Photo

La Unión Cívica Mexicana of Saginaw presents the 41st annual Cinco de Mayo Parade and Festival Saturday, May 2, 2020, at Huntington Event Park. This year's theme is "Celebrating the 75th Year of La Unión Cívica Mexicana" recognizing the Anniversary year of this long standing non-profit in our community. Organizers expect over 100 entrants, making the Saginaw Cinco de Mayo Parade the largest Hispanic parade in the state of Michigan. The event commemorates the famous May 5, 1852 Battle at Puebla in Mexico in which a small army of Mexicans led by Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza defeated much larger French invading forces sent by Napoleon III, but also the positive contributions of local Hispanics in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

PARADE

The parade begins at 10:30 a.m. Its staging area is at Saginaw's Ojibway Island. The parade then heads over the Court Street Bridge and turns north on North Michigan Ave., then east onto Genesee ending at

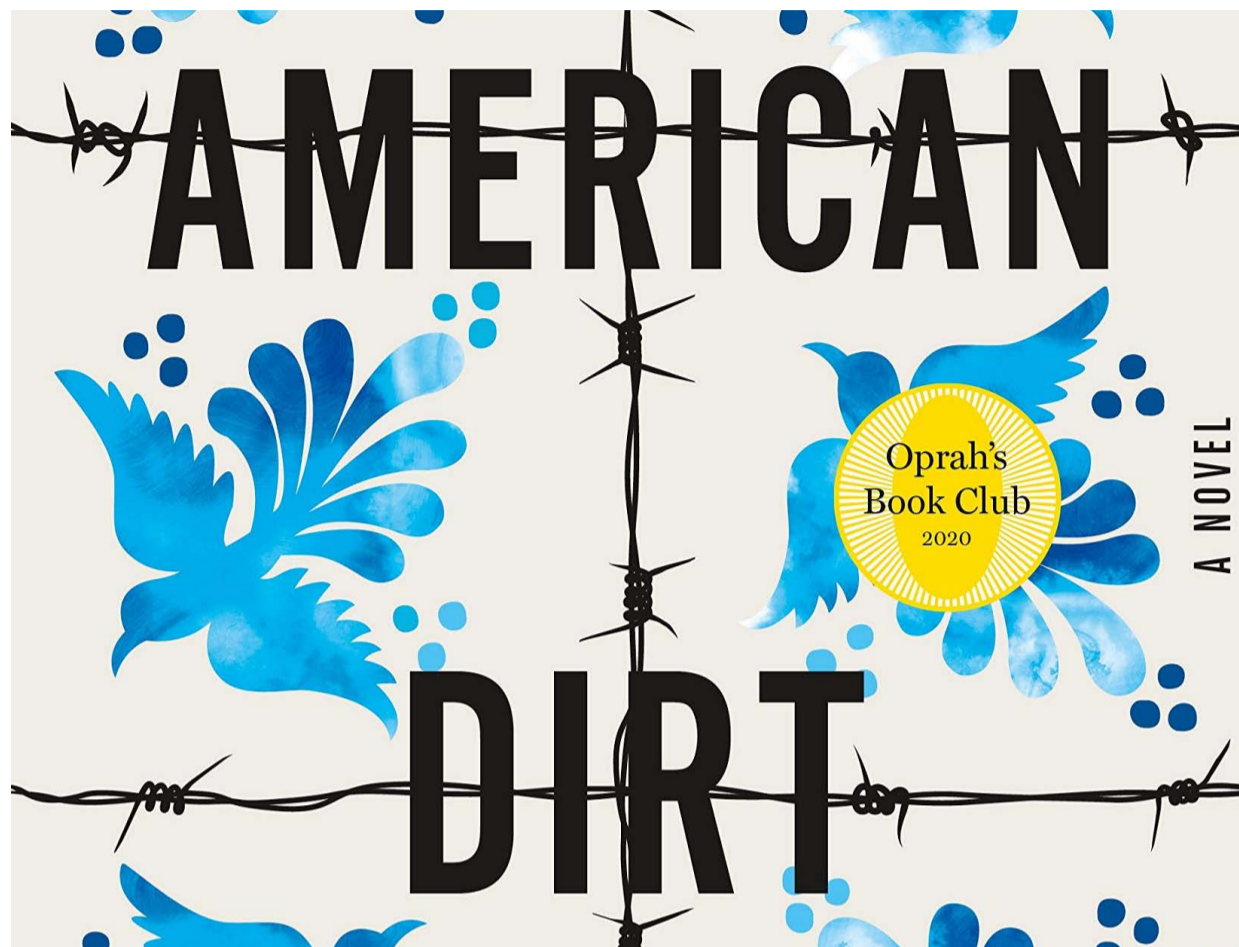
Saginaw Arts and Science Academy (SASA) back parking area. Restaurants, civic associations, youth groups, marching bands and low rider vehicles will participate. This year La Unión Cívica Mexicana celebrates its 73rd anniversary since its incorporation as a non-profit civic organization in 1945, and is represented by their queen Miss Alejandra Fulgencio and her court, Marissa Cardinali and Gabby Duron.

FESTIVAL AT HUNTINGTON EVENT PARK

The festival at Ojibway runs from 12:00 p.m. to 5 p.m. The public is invited to sample tasty Mexican food from vendors and enjoy the live music and folkloric dancers. Also performing with elaborate costumes is the Ballet Folklórico Moyocoyani Izel from Detroit, Michigan. Activities for the children include an Inflatable Play Land area with six inflatables rides.

For any additional information please call 989-239-8961

Focus turns to Latino authors amid 'American Dirt' debate



Courtesy Photo

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — When Oprah Winfrey endorsed the novel “American Dirt” for her book club last month, many Latinos took to social media to decry the selection for its stereotypes and caricatures.

The novel about a Mexican mother and her young son fleeing to the U.S. border had been praised widely before its Jan. 21 release. But anger built over “American Dirt” by Jeanine Cummins — a writer who primarily identifies as white — and Latinos shared reading lists and pointed to recent work that went overlooked, offering “alternative” options for those who wanted to read about the Latino experience in the United States.

Across the U.S., Latino writers say they are seeing a jump in sales of those works following social media campaigns to draw more attention to Latino literature as big New York publishers face criticism for ignoring the work or not promoting it enough.

Nicolas Kanellos, founder and publisher of Houston-based Arte Publico Press, the largest publisher of Hispanic literature in the U.S., said he noticed last month some of his books by immigrant writers selling out.

“I’m not on Twitter but my staff told me some of our books were appearing on these lists as suggestions,” Kanellos said. “They are gone now.”

Journalist and novelist Luis Alberto Urrea, who Cummings cited as an influence, reported seeing sales of his early 2019 novel “The House of Broken Angels” jump to his surprise. It was one of the books mentioned on social media.

“Thank you. #14 on the LA Times bestseller list. Again,” Urrea wrote on Facebook. “Big Angel keeps coming back.”

Wendy C. Ortiz’s memoir “Excavation” in California’s San Fernando Valley also sold out on Amazon.

Others suggested readers buy the novel “Dominicana” by New York-born Angie Cruz and El Paso-born Sergio Troncoso’s short story collection, “A Peculiar Kind of Immigrant Son” — works released last year.

PEN-award winner and Fresno, California-born writer Daniel Chacón’s “Kafka in a Skirt: Stories from the Wall” also was recommended as a work to understand life on the borderlands.

The collection was sought out as comfort following the August 2019 killing of 22 people in a shooting that targeted Mexicans in El Paso, Texas.

In addition, Latino advocates told followers to look out for new work from memoirist and essayist Luis J. Rodriguez, who released on last month, “From Our Land to Our Land: Essays, Journeys and Imaginings From a Native Xicanx Writer.”

“I’ve seen interest in my new book. Yeah, people are asking about it,” said Matt Sedillo, a Los Angeles-based poet and author of “Mowing Leaves of Grass.” He’s also getting more offers to visit colleges to read his work.

Myriam Gurba, a Long Beach, California-based writer who has been a vocal critic of Cummings, said she saw “no silver lining” in the controversy of “American Dirt.” She said readers should have been picking up books by Latinos writers anyway.

Gurba and a group of other Latino writers called #DignidadLiteraria met with publisher Macmillan (Flatiron Books, which published “American Dirt,” is a division of Macmillan) this week to demand the publisher hire more Latino staff.

Domingo Garcia, national president of the Latino civil rights group the League of United Latin American Citizens, said he didn’t have a problem with non-Latinos writing about immigration. “But it’s important to have a conversation with publishers about who is getting published and the lack of Latinos in the industry,” he said.

In New Mexico, the state with the largest percentage of Hispanic residents, the conversation shifted this week from “American Dirt” to Levi Romero. The bilingual Spanish-English poet was named as the state’s inaugural poet laureate. He will document his travels around the state to promote poetry through a web journal and podcast.

Santiago Vaquera-Vásquez, an Albuquerque-based writer and author of “One Day I’ll Tell You the Things I’ve Seen,” said he’s happy Latino works are getting recognized but he hopes the interests doesn’t die down. “Let’s not be angry for two weeks and forget about it,” Vaquera-Vásquez said. “Let’s be angry for months.”



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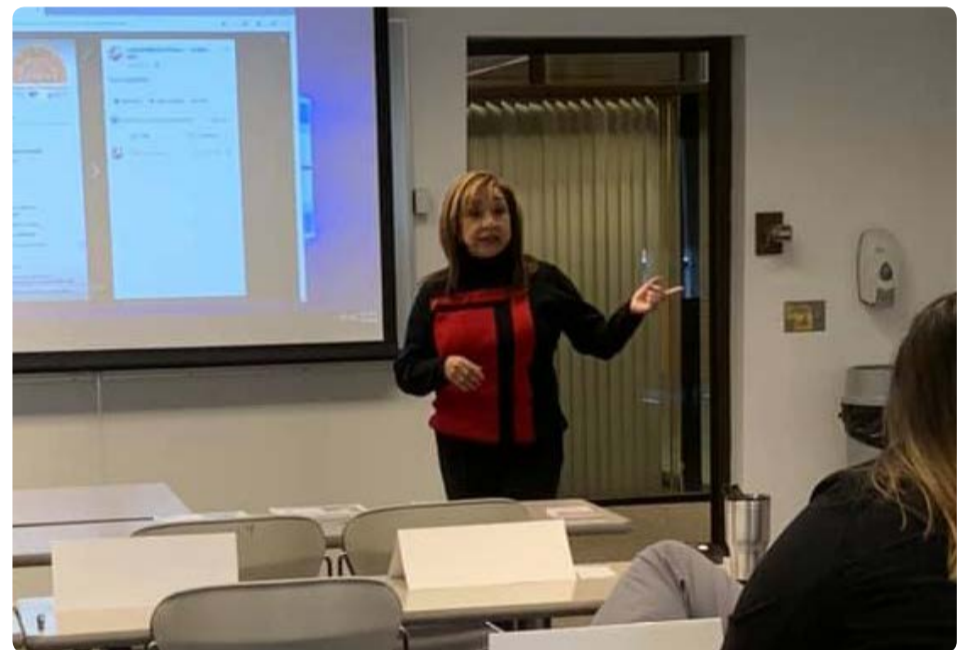
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Seen on the Scene: 12th Cohort of the Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute Ambassadors



Community Board

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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Is Being the Best Kept Secret a Badge of Honor?

“We’re a best kept secret,” is one of the messages we hear from nonprofit leaders, staff, and volunteers. They can tell us their history, impact, and unique programs. Some know they are an economic driver; others pride themselves on how they have provided opportunities and scholarships that transformed a generation. Still others know they offer a needed service, even if others aren’t aware. They’re not in it for the “fame and glory:” rather they serve and advocate for their communities because they know it is the right thing to do.

With this column we seek to separate bragging, beating your chest, being obnoxiously boastful, and hogging the spotlight from promoting your organization.

Promoting your nonprofit is an important part of the fundraising process. It is hard to ask people to give to your organization if they don’t know your work. While board members and volunteers can carry your story into their networks it is much easier if there is already name recognition or a general understanding of the work you do and its value.

It is critically important that donors (and potential donors), community leaders, and others know who you are and what you do. Promoting your organization lets people know why your work matters. It is a prerequisite to many funding opportunities. Knowing – or not knowing – about an organization is one factor in who gets invited to events, and

who is asked to participate in emerging collaborations.

Being a best kept secret is nothing to brag about. It is a true indicator that you have not done the necessary work to expose your nonprofit to the general public, those you could impact, and those whose giving can impact your work.

We recommend putting together an awareness and communications plan to help ensure your organization is positioned before potential board members, volunteers, and donors for both the short and long term. This should be a component of your overall fundraising plan.

It has been proven that increased exposure correlates directly to increased donors and volunteers. One way to test how well your organization is perceived by the public is the number of unsolicited gifts you receive in person, by mail, and online. When

your organization is known, the work of fundraising becomes easier – though not necessarily easy.

Regardless of budget size every nonprofit is full of promoters: these are the people you serve, teach, and advocate for. They are your staff, board members, and volunteers. They carry your message the tried and true way: through word of mouth. Encourage them to share their stories within their families, faith communities, at the grocery store, within their social group, online, and in person. Keep it clear and concise: what does your organization do and why is it important?

Being a best kept secret should send up a red flag – people don’t know you. If they don’t know you, they can’t support you. If you are in that kind of position you have a problem. Take time to address it: let your light shine.



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

HEALTH

MDHHS issues RFP for expanding child and adolescent health centers



Courtesy Photo

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for public and private non-profit organizations to expand the child and adolescent health center (CAHC) program.

The CAHC program provides school-based or school-linked health care sites or school wellness programs that serve children and youth between ages 5 and 21, with an exception made for students receiving special education services up to 26 years of age. The program is jointly funded by MDHHS and the Michigan Department of Education.

“Healthy kids learn better,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and deputy director for health at MDHHS. “Child and adolescent health centers promote the health of children, adolescents and their families by providing important primary, preventative and early intervention health care services.”

Centers provide primary care, preventative care, comprehensive health assessment, vision and hearing screening, medication, immunization, treatment of acute illness, co-management of chronic illness, health education and mental health care.

The RFP seeks competitive plans for local projects that will establish new school-based or school-linked CAHC sites or school wellness programs (SWPs). Priority points will be given to new CAHC sites or SWPs in counties not currently served by one of these facilities. Eligible applicants include public and non-profit entities qualified to provide school-based or school-linked health care services.

Funded applicants will receive ongoing technical assistance from the MDHHS project coordinator, which include help with program start-up, reporting requirements and barriers to program implementation.

The first-year program period begins June 1, 2020 and ends Sept. 30, 2020. During the initial four-months, MDHHS expects to award approximately \$1.9 million, with varied award sizes based on the model selected by the applicant. Awards may be renewed annually, with \$1.9 million in funding available each year.

Grant applications must be submitted electronically through the MI E-Grants program by 3 p.m., March 17.

For more information or to apply, visit the MI E-Grants website and select "About EGrAMS" link in the left panel to access the "Competitive Application Instructions" training manual. The complete RFP can be accessed under the 'Current Grants' section under the "Public Health Administration" link and selecting the "CHCE-2020" grant program.

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

Potential fulfilled, those we serve then promote the dignity of others, launching into the community an unending ripple effect of transformation.

be the rock **THAT STARTS A RIPPLE**



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

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Free Community Seminars to Discuss Adolescent Maturing Processes



Courtesy Photo

The Maturing Process for Boys will be held from 9 to 11 a.m., on Saturday, Feb. 29, and is designed for boys ages 10 – 13 along with their fathers or adult male support person. Dave Mulder, P.A.-C., will be the featured event speaker.

The Maturing Process for Girls will be held on Saturday, March 7, from 9 to 11 a.m. The program is designed for girls ages 9 – 13 and their mothers or other adult female support person. The speakers for this year’s event will include Pediatrician Jennifer Grossman, D.O., and Kathryn Gallihugh, P.A.-C.

MIDLAND, Mich. – MidMichigan Health is offering community programs that will provide information on the maturing processes of adolescent males and females. Both seminars will be held in the Towsley Auditorium, located in the lower level of Towsley Building, on the campus of MidMichigan Medical Center – Midland.

During the event, participants will learn key facts about the maturing process by MidMichigan health care providers who will discuss the physical, emotional and social maturation of the adolescent male and female. The seminars will also include medically accurate, developmentally appropriate information sharing, questions and answers.

Registration is required for both programs. Those who would like to register for The Maturing Process for Girls may visit www.midmichigan.org/maturingprocessgirls and those who would like to register for The Maturing Process for Boys may visit www.midmichigan.org/maturingprocessboys. Those needing registrati



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Specialized Clinic Has Helped Him Manage Heart Failure

MIDLAND, Mich. – Heart health is a serious thing in Ed Hutchison’s family. Out of the eight Hutchison siblings, the oldest five have or had cardiac health challenges, and unfortunately, three of his siblings have passed away from heart disease. With a predisposition to congestive heart failure (CHF), it was no surprise when Hutchison wound up in the hospital for a heart attack in 2003.

“After my heart attack, I had coronary artery bypass surgery and then had a defibrillator put in, so cardiac challenges have always been significant for me,” Hutchison explained. “I seem to have an affinity for congestive heart failure. I was in the hospital three times over the last two years and that’s how I got introduced to the Heart Failure Clinic.”

MidMichigan Health’s Heart Failure Clinic was developed in collaboration with Michigan Medicine, the health care division of the University of Michigan. Clinic patients benefit from the expertise of an experienced team of heart failure specialists. The program is designed to assist patients in monitoring responses to treatment, modifying behaviors, adjusting medications, coordinating care with their cardiologist and primary care provider, and facilitating referrals for advanced heart failure treatments if needed.

When nurses told Hutchison about the clinic, he initially wasn’t convinced. “I really thought the Heart Failure Clinic was just a bunch of marketing,” Hutchison admits. “But since I’ve been going there, I’ve found they really do a wonderful job in helping you stay out of the hospital, which is their goal.”

Hutchison has primarily worked with Family Nurse Practitioners Susan Merrell, M.S.N., F.N.P.-B.C., and Sara A. Sisco, M.S.N., F.N.P.-B.C., who recommended two different medical devices that are reducing his number of hospital visits. The first is a new device called the WATCHMAN™ Implant, the only FDA-approved implant proven to reduce the risk of atrial fibrillation-related stroke. The implant closes off an area of the heart called the Left Atrial Appendage (LAA) to keep harmful blood clots from the LAA from



Courtesy Photo | Ed Hutchison enjoys staying active and swims frequently at the Greater Midland Community Center

entering the blood stream and potentially causing a stroke.

The second device, the CardioMEMS™ HF System, is a sensor implanted in the pulmonary artery (the blood vessel that moves blood from the heart to the lungs) that measures blood flow pressure and heart rate. It takes daily pressure readings and wirelessly transmits the data to the doctor.

“The Heart Failure Clinic can catch congestive heart failure symptoms before they become a problem. So if I had a pizza tonight and a pizza tomorrow, they would probably notice it because of the pressure in my heart, so they’d call me and tell me to quit eating pizza,” Hutchison said.

Each day, specialists at the Heart Failure Clinic review Hutchison’s data and if they see concerning numbers, they call him with recommendations about what to do.

The Heart Failure Clinic also taught him more about his condition so he can be proactive in improving his heart health. Hutchison is careful about how much salt he consumes, and he knows that decreased urination and swelling of limbs are red flags.

For anyone else struggling with congestive heart failure, Hutchison highly recommends partnering with the Heart Failure Clinic. “I would much rather visit the Heart Failure Clinic every six months than be in the hospital that often,” Hutchison said. “The friendly and supportive staff are excellent at partnering with patients and helping them maintain good heart health.”

Those who would like additional information about heart failure or MidMichigan’s Heart Failure Clinic may visit www.midmichigan.org/heartfailure.

BUSINESS & WEALTH

Downtown Restaurant Investments is pleased to announce Bay City's New BBQ Quick Service Restaurant

American Kitchen will transition to M2 over the next few months



Courtesy Photo

Bay City MI -- Downtown Restaurant Investments is pleased to announce M2, Bay City's New BBQ Quick Service Restaurant. This move builds on the great success of Molasses Smokehouse in Midland that opened in the Summer of 2019. M2 will offer many of the same menu items as Molasses Smokehouse for Bay City locals and visitors to enjoy. The restaurant will feature a quick service model using counter service so the food can be enjoyed on premise, taken-out or delivered.

DRI plans to make M2's operation it's regional training center and will serve as the headquarters for all training and culinary development in the Great Lakes Bay Region. DRI is seeking to partner with other local entities in addition to State and National organizations to provide opportunities for individuals looking to work in the restaurant industry. More information on these programs will be announced in the next few weeks.

All employees affected by the re-brand will be given first consideration for jobs at the new restaurant.

Dave Dittenber, CEO of DRI commented that "the M2 rebrand will allow us to venture in a new culinary direction while continuing to evolve for our customers and our team. Our people will benefit from having the local hospitality programs involved in our facility, as will the students."

"The response to the Molasses Smokehouse has been amazing in Midland, we want to offer the same great taste and quality product to the people in Bay City." declares Steve Seige, Pit Master at DRI.

The planned re-opening date is May 4th, 2020.

About DRI

In the face of an ever-increasing suburban sprawl, DRI is working to help U.S. downtowns make a comeback. While many cities once had vibrant, walkable neighborhoods, too many of these communities have degraded overtime and now offer their residents almost nothing in terms of unique dining experiences. This points to an increasing demand for downtown

living in cities nationwide and an overall need for uniquely driven restaurants. Downtown Restaurant Investments functions to bring energy, diversity, and personality back to the heart of downtown in the form of fine dining. We are passionate about blending unique ingredients and unrivaled flavors to create perfect experiences of comfort and satisfaction. Our restaurants are character driven, and they are empowering metropolitan areas to become the escapes that are sought by locals and visitors alike.





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Greater Michigan Construction Academy Announces Opening of New Lansing Building

Greater Michigan Construction Academy (GMCA) is pleased to announce that the Lansing campus will be moving locations in Fall of 2020. The new location will be able to hold the growing student population. Carpentry will be added to the new location making it four trades taught in Lansing. The Lansing Kick-Off event was held on Wednesday, January 29th at the Lansing Brewing Company. At the event, supporters, board members, apprentices and training partners gathered in attendance.

The event presentation started out with past President of GMCA, Jimmy Greene, discussing the history of GMCA. A presentation was shown of the current and future Lansing facility while Greene discussed the importance of investing in GMCA's future.

Greene went on to introduce Stephanie Davis as the new President of GMCA. Davis touched how we will need the community to get behind the expansion of the Lansing facility. Davis introduced Dave Mollitor of Consolidated Electric as well as Steve Russell of A/C Electric to discuss why they chose to support GMCA. There were also apprentices at the Kick-Off that provided their testimonies on why GMCA was/is beneficial to them, what it meant to them and how it led to where they are now. The apprentices that shared their stories included Andy Lowney of A/C Electric (third level apprentice at GMCA), Ray Bruton of Consolidated Electric (attended and graduated from GMCA, taught at GMCA and his son is now a student at GMCA) and Sean Phillips of Consolidated Electric (4th year apprentice at GMCA).

Stephanie introduced Cathy Geiger, Director of Fund Development and Community Affairs. Geiger will play a vital role as she reaches out to partners and potential donors to help fund this project.

“We have been working to find the right location in Lansing and are so happy to have finally done that. This new facility will provide the space we need for our increasing numbers,” said Stephanie Davis, President at the Greater Michigan Construction Academy.

My Member Insurance Agency Expands Into Midland



Courtesy Photo

Steve Witt will lead team of professionals in regional expansion

My Member Insurance Agency (MMIA) today announced the opening of a second location at 216 W. Buttles in downtown Midland. This location, situated in the middle of the busy US-10 corridor, is the most recent expansion for the growing MMIA enterprise in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Midland native Steve Witt will be leading a team of three insurance professionals for MMIA in Midland, representing many leading insurance carriers. Offerings will include personal insurance, commercial insurance, and life insurance products.

“Opening a second location for MMIA has long been a strategic goal of ours, and we could not have found a better partner or ambassador for his community than Steve Witt. For nearly two decades in the insurance and financial services industry, Steve has led by example – for his customers, for his employees, for his students and for his community.

We are thrilled to be expanding into Midland and helping Midland residents “protect what matters most” in 2020

and beyond.”– Eric Neumeyer, CEO, MMIA

For the past 18 years, Steve has been a fixture in the Midland insurance and financial community --- helping hundreds of families protect their assets and insure their future. Steve also has served as an adjunct faculty professor at Northwood University within their Business and Risk Management program.


In his free time, Steve gives back to the Midland community – as the coach of the Midland High Varsity Hockey team, and through various Boards throughout the community. His current focus is as an Executive Board Member of Project 111, a non-profit that encourages teens to make good choices in life, school, and on the road. Steve, his wife Betsy, and their three children reside in Midland.

MMIA provides a full range of insurance and financial solutions to individuals and businesses in the Great Lakes Bay Region and throughout Michigan. As an independent insurance agency, MMIA represents many great regional and national insurance companies. My Member Insurance Agency is a wholly owned affiliate of the Frankenmuth Credit Union.

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Dort Financial Credit Union Surpasses \$1 Billion in Assets



Courtesy Photo

Dort Financial Credit Union announced that it has surpassed \$1 billion in assets, making it the first credit union headquartered in Genesee County to reach this mark. The announcement comes in the credit union's 69th year in business.

Flint A.C. Employees Federal Credit Union opened in 1951 with a charter mission to serve AC Spark Plug employees. The credit

union later became Dort Industrial Employees Federal Credit Union and in 1984 the name was changed to Dort Federal Credit Union. By 2012, the credit union surpassed \$500 million in assets and had seven branch locations. After experiencing continuous membership growth, the credit union currently has ten locations throughout Genesee, Shiawassee, and Lapeer counties. On Jan. 1, Dort Financial converted from a federally chartered credit union to

a state chartered credit union and opened its membership to anyone who lives, works, worships, or attends school in Michigan.

"Dort Financial Credit Union is committed to remaining focused on building relationships and providing quality financial services to our members, while supporting our employees, and the communities we serve. Reaching this milestone helps validate our mission to remain financially strong and stable by providing competitive products, rates, and excellent service," said Harry Awdish, board chairman.

"We are grateful for our 95,000-plus members, the direction of our volunteers, and the dedication of our staff allowing us to continue our success in the future. Most of all, we thank the community for continuing to put their trust in us; we couldn't have achieved this milestone without them," President and CEO Vicki Hawkins.

Yeo & Yeo Wins LEA Global's Innovation Award for YeoConsults Outsourced Business Solutions

Saginaw, MI: Yeo & Yeo CPAs & Business Consultants was honored with the Leading Edge Alliance's (LEA) prestigious Innovative Firm Initiative of the Year award for its bundled service packages called YeoConsults Business Solutions. The award was announced at the 2020 LEA Global World Conference in Las Vegas. Each year the LEA recognizes accounting firms for their cutting-edge innovations that differentiate LEA members from their competitors.

"It is an honor to be recognized by our peers for creating a unique way to offer outsourced solutions," said Suzanne Lozano, Principal and Consulting Service Line Leader. "We are pleased with the results – particularly with how streamlining and centralizing our processes for outsourced services has optimized our business clients' experience."

The creation of YeoConsults began in 2017 when Yeo & Yeo's back-office accounting and advisory solutions were re-strategized with three goals in mind. The first goal was to standardize outsourced services across nine office locations in Michigan

to maximize efficiency and consistency in service delivery. Another goal was to identify additional consulting or other opportunities for the firm's other companies (technology, wealth management, and medical billing and consulting). Finally, the new offerings were to be differentiated with branding that would cut through the competitive market for such services.

The firm identified an opportunity to create value-based pricing bundles for services it had already been providing as stand-alone engagements. Moving from hourly billing services to developing value-based pricing bundles required careful development and execution. The following year, the outcome was the introduction of a branded differentiator for bundled service packages called YeoConsults Business Solutions.

YeoConsults Business Solutions include YeoConsults Outsourced Accounting, YeoConsults Payroll Solutions, YeoConsults Internal Controls, and the YeoConsults Legacy Program, which includes measures to help business owners build long-term value in their

companies and prepare for a transition.

Through these scalable, bundled product offerings, clients benefit from fixed fees for reliable and economical options tailored to their business needs, goals and budget. Clients also develop stronger personal relationships and engagement with their trusted advisor, who becomes an extended part of their team.

Yeo & Yeo has enjoyed success with these packaged services that draw on the strengths of all four of its companies. With outsourced solutions, business owners can spend less time on day-to-day functions, allowing them to spend more time growing their business.





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EDUCATION

City Schools Plan Would Combine Saginaw High and Arthur Hill at SASA Site

By Mike Thompson



Courtesy Photo

If early signs hold true, parents and alumni finally have accepted that Saginaw High School and Arthur Hill High School will cease to exist. Plans, with voter approval, would combine them in 2022 at the site of SASA, the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy.

The Board of Education will vote during a meeting set for 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, at district headquarters. A referendum on a property tax amount, not yet made final but potentially in the 8-to-10-mill range, could take place on the same ballot with the November presidential election.

It is unclear how many Saginawians have become aware of the plan, which was unveiled Feb. 8, and which began to gain serious media

attention after a Feb. 12 board meet.

But so far, unlike in the past, no protests have emerged regarding Saginaw High, where under the plan a portion of the building would remain open in as a tutoring center for struggling students. The remainder would be demolished, along with the entire Arthur Hill building

Among major points in the plan, drafted during the past year with occasions of public input and now with unanimous board support, a school bond property tax would pay for:

-- Construction of a new high school at the riverside location of SASA, the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy, with preservation of the

School Board Members Respond

Here are samples of viewpoints from Saginaw Board of Education members for a plan that would include creating a new merged Saginaw High/Arthur Hill at the SASA site, while moving SASA to a new building at a vacated Arthur Hill location.

- **President Jason Thompson** opposed some of the past school closings, especially on the East Side, prior to his election in 2015, but he says it's time to move on. "It's hard to go out and recapture students" when the district consists of so many aging buildings, Thompson notes. "Do we know how much this plan will mean to future generations?"
- **Vice President Charles Coleman**, a Saginaw clergyman, notes that parents and residents still may contribute their views, either in person or via the internet. He adds, "These are not just ideas we pulled out of the air (during a yearlong planning process)," and that the plan may be "ambitious, scary, but necessary," and "we have to believe in it."
- **Trustee Mattie Thompson**, Jason's mother and the spouse of longtime school leader Willie Thompson, says parent and community involvement in supporting the millage and future endeavors is "essential," and that maintaining a portion of Saginaw High for individual tutoring also will remain very important.
- **Trustee Vera Harrison**, the newest board member, says her faith in Saginaw schools shows with her continued enrollment of her children, and that, "This is not just buildings, but bringing great curricula into these buildings."
- **Trustee Ruth Ann Knapp**, a retired longtime Saginaw teacher, says efforts to emerge from budget deficits and to avoid state interference now are bearing fruit, and that a restored budget fund balance gives the board freedom to take positive steps. She explains, "We are in a better position because of our reforms."
- **Trustee Kim Hamilton** says community response has been "mostly positive" to plans for the new and re-opened schools, and that the only negative reaction has come from a Realtors representative who expressed concern regarding a higher property tax burden.
- **Trustee Joyce Seals**, the former mayor who grew up in a home adjacent to Saginaw High, says the plan will thwart the exodus of students to suburban districts and charter academies. "Academic excellence will get us to a point where people want to come back to the Saginaw School District," she asserts.

Continued on pg 24, Saginaw High and Arthur Hill

Continued from pg 24, Saginaw High and Arthur Hill

up-to-date gymnasium, auditorium and other amenities. The venue at the west foot of the Genesee Bridge is the closest possible to address any East Side vs. West Side concerns.

-- Demolition of the Arthur Hill building, slightly older than Saginaw High, to clear space for two more new buildings to combine SASA middle and high schoolers with the district's elementary gifted and talented program, Handley School, now based in Saginaw's oldest remaining school, the century-old former South Intermediate.

-- Reopening of Central Middle on Hoyt Avenue with rehab work, restoring an East Side partner with Thompson Middle on the West Side. Constructed during the early 1980s, Central is the district's third-newest school building.

-- In addition to Arthur Hill and South, and a portion of Saginaw High, demolition of an octet of vacated elementary buildings: Edith Baillie, Nelle Haley, John Moore, Emerson, Jones, Longfellow, Coulter and Houghton. Also included would be Buena Vista High and Ricker Middle. Ricker Annex would remain in use.

In response to skeptical citizens who may question whether all the target structures are hopelessly rundown, Superintendent Ramont Roberts and board members answered with a "use-it-or-lose it" explanation. Older vacated buildings, they noted, deteriorate far more rapidly than those that remain in use. For that reason, said Roberts, the goal is to activate now-empty buildings in better shape, such as Heavenrich for staff development, and to get rid of the others, so that the district no longer is saddled with multiple vacant facilities.

The most recent school bond issue in 2004, mainly for construction of Thompson Middle and a new Loomis Elementary, passed narrowly after losing in a landslide the previous year. The tax remains on the books for 9.42 mills. If a new tax is for a similar



Courtesy Photo

amount, property owners would pay about \$9 for each \$1,000 in taxable value, which is half of the estimated sales value. For example, the owner of a home with a \$20,000 sales value would pay about \$90 added per year. For a \$40,000 sales value, about \$180 additional per year and for a higher-end \$100,000 home, about \$450 added per annum.

School leaders say the combined high school, combining the depleted enrollments at both Saginaw High and Arthur Hill, would lead to improved curricula beyond what either now can offer on their smaller scales. The overall plan focuses not only on buildings, but improved academic performance.

Furthermore, they assert that a yet-to-be-named new high school, teamed with a new SASA/Handley, would boost efforts to retain existing students and recruit new pupils, boosting state aid of \$8,200 per pupil.

In response to an inquiry from the Rev. Charles Coleman, board vice-president, Roberts reported that more than 3,200 city-based youngsters are from families that have opted to enroll them in the three main suburbs -- Saginaw Township, Carrollton and Bridgeport -- or in parochial or charter academies. That's more than half of Saginaw's remaining 5,500 headcount, which would stand at 8,700 without the departures.

The city district could make strong financial gains "if we could reclaim just half of them," said Coleman, who emphasized that the plan focuses on improved academics, not simply on new buildings

Saginaw schools have suffered major enrollment declines since reaching a peak of 22,000 a half-century ago. Roberts and Financial Services Director Tamara Johnson told the board that a new trend is showing signs of finally ending reduced student counts, which potentially could lead to a long-sought turnaround for the district.

Johnson also reports sunshine in the district's finances. Major debt during the past decade led to prospects of state takeover, similar to the Buena Vista shutdown, but the district with reforms and cutbacks now has built a rainy day protection account of \$18 million, which is an unusually high 36 percent of the general budget. Johnson conservatively projects a gradual fund balance rollback to 10 percent by 2023, largely to support the new schools and the re-opened Central Middle, but revived enrollment could brighten the long-term picture.

At the close of the Feb. 12 meeting, longtime parent volunteer Darlean Carpenter outlined the outlook.

"Parents in Saginaw don't believe in their school system," Carpenter said, pointing to a need for change. "There used to be 50 children on my block (near the former Morley School), and only two attended outside of Saginaw Public Schools.

"We have to break that down to the parents," she added, "I know of many who have passed their children (out of the district), but those kids aren't doing any better elsewhere."

If residents are asking why the school board is only asking for a tax for buildings, instead of for classroom programs, the reason is that a 1994 change in state law allows millages only for infrastructure, not for general education. The change also shifted much of the operating costs from property levies to a higher state sales tax (6 percent instead of 4 percent), and therefore, even with another building millage, homeowners still would be paying less in property taxes for schools than prior to 1994. Another change, which has harmed Saginaw city schools and has aided the suburbs, permits families to enroll their children across district borders, which was not permitted in past generations.

Twilight Zone-type foresight. In 1970, when Saginaw school enrollment was at its historic peak, then-Superintendent Jack Taylor envisioned a time when enrollments at Saginaw High and Arthur Hill would become far lower, closing them both. Taylor at the time said, no doubt in jest, that a solution might involve "a floating combined high school on the Saginaw River." The SASA site seems as close as current school leaders could come.

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UM-Flint selected for Carnegie Community Engagement Classification



Courtesy Photo

The University of Michigan-Flint has been selected by the Carnegie Foundation as one of the 119 U.S. colleges and universities to receive the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification in 2020, an elective designation that indicates an institutional commitment to community engagement.

The Carnegie Community Engagement Classification has been the leading framework for institutional assessment and recognition of community engagement in U.S. higher education for the past 14 years.

“We are extremely honored – and proud – to be recognized once again with the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification,” said Deba Dutta, UM-Flint’s chancellor. “This classification signals our commitment to our community engagement efforts, both on campus and through our work with our community partners.”

“I want to thank our faculty, staff, students, and community partners for their hard work and dedication to our Flint and Genesee County family.”

UM-Flint is one of 75 institutions that were reclassified in the 2020 cycle, after receiving its original classification in 2010, while 44 other institutions received the classification for the first time. These 119 institutions join the 240 institutions that earned the classification during the 2015 selection process, for a total of 359 campuses who are currently active holders of this prestigious designation.

This important classification is awarded following a process of self-study by each

institution, which is then assessed by a national review committee led by the Swearer Center for Public Engagement at Brown University, the administrative and research home for the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification.

“Engagement in our community is one of the pillars upon which our campus is built,” said Paula Nas, director of the campus’ primary coordinating unit for curricular, co-curricular, and community-based civic engagement programs, University Outreach. “Engaged citizenship is part of our mission statement, acting as a vital partner in our community is part of our strategic plan.”

“Here at UM-Flint, it’s not just lip service. Community engagement is purposeful and impactful,” she said.

And Nas should know. Since 2009, the last time the university initiated the Carnegie accreditation, Outreach has added at least three entirely new community-based programs:

- the Geographic Information Systems Center (GISC), established in 2011, is a research center with a mission to leverage interdisciplinary collaborations in the use of geospatial technology (GIS, Remote Sensing, GPS) for research, education, and community service. The GISC coordinates MapFlint, a community-wide online project that provides technical support to community members seeking data collection, analysis, and visualization to help solve existing and future challenges in the community. The GISC has played

an important role in supporting public interventions, such as crime reduction and the identification of lead service lines during the Flint Water crisis;

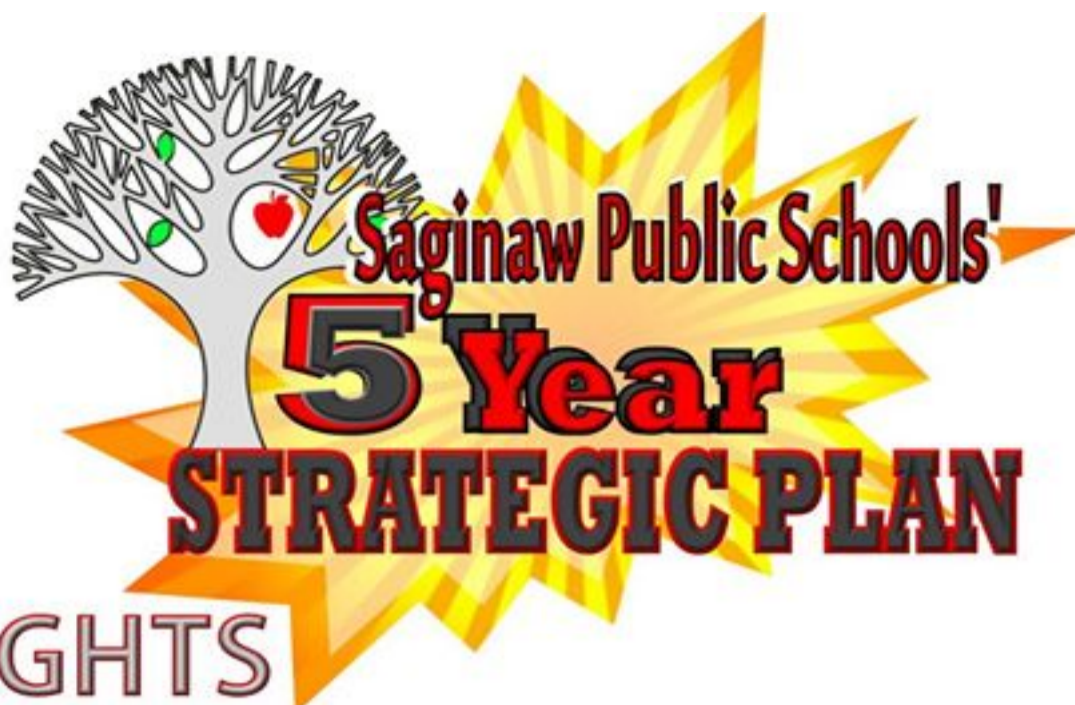
- the University Center for Community & Economic Development (EDA) was established in 2017 with a mission to “coordinate, inform, and contribute to economic development efforts that cultivate innovation and advance high-growth entrepreneurship throughout the 7-county I-69 Thumb Region through applied faculty and student research, paid internships, and re-granting of funds;”
- and, in 2017, the Flint Truth and Action Partnership Project (FTAAPP) was established to expand the university’s civic engagement efforts and support community-driven projects that align with the curriculum. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation funded the project in response to the Flint Water Crisis.

In addition to the many activities coordinated and tracked by Outreach, there are dozens of other civic engagement activities that are initiated and stewarded by individual schools, colleges, offices, and faculty members.

“Engaging with organizations and members of the Flint and Genesee County community is beneficial in so many ways – student opportunities, research, health care, economic growth. The list of benefits for the campus and the community goes on and on,” concluded Nas. “We’re proud to receive the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, and we’ll continue to create opportunities for student learning and academic research that has value for our local communities. It’s in our campus’ DNA.”

It’s a sentiment with which Chancellor Dutta agrees.

“Flint is our hometown, and the future of our university is intertwined with that of the city,” Dutta concluded. “Our joint future can only be fully realized with bold partnerships and close collaboration with those who share our dream of a renewed and thriving Genesee County region. We look forward to continued partnership and engagement with the community for many years to come.”



HIGHLIGHTS

- 🌳 Saginaw Public Schools is exploring the possibility of a bond campaign for the November 2020 ballot which will fund a *new state of the art comprehensive high school* in the center of the city located at the current Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy (SASA) site
- 🌳 The current SASA building will be demolished, maintaining the gym and auditorium
- 🌳 SASA will get a new facility funded through a bond, located on the current Arthur Hill site
- 🌳 SASA & Handley will have two separate new facilities located on the Arthur Hill High School site a *Gifted & Talented Campus*
- 🌳 Handley Elementary will get a new facility funded through a bond, located on the Arthur Hill site
- 🌳 The current Handley Elementary site will be demolished
- 🌳 Saginaw High School & Arthur Hill High School will close in June 2023
- 🌳 A section of Saginaw High School will be repurposed for an array of *effective & relevant after-school programs* (i.e. office, media center, classrooms, athletic facilities, gym) with the remainder being demolished
- 🌳 Arthur Hill High School will be demolished with only the gym remaining
- 🌳 Heavenrich Elementary will be re-opened as a new *Professional Development Center* fall 2021
- 🌳 Ruben Daniels Middle School will be re-opened Fall 2021 (6th through 8th grade)
- 🌳 Thompson Middle will remain open as a 6th through 8th grade middle school
- 🌳 Sixth Grade will be *moved back* to the middle schools fall 2021
- 🌳 *Foreign language* will be integrated at the elementary level and offered at the middle school level
- 🌳 Fall 2021, the Ricker Center will operate as a *full alternative school* for grades 5-12
- 🌳 District-Wide updates to the HVAC, clocks, PA system and lighting, date TBD
- 🌳 The following buildings would be demolished between 2021-2030: Edith Bailie, Nelle Haley, Emerson, Jones, Longfellow, John Moore, Coulter, Houghton, Phoenix/Ricker Middle, BV High and Middle Schools



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

COMMUNITY

'Taste of Soul' festival brings SVSU, community together through food, music



Courtesy Photo

With a mouth-watering menu of “soul food,” Saginaw Valley State University will host its 12th annual “Taste of Soul” food festival Wednesday, Feb. 19, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Marketplace at Doan cafeteria on campus.

“Soul food” staples such as ribs, fried okra, candied yams, and potato salad will be available, along with fan favorites such as Southern pound cake and pecan tarts offered by Mamie Thorns, SVSU's special assistant to the president for Diversity Programs.

As a special annual event, the SVSU Office of Diversity Programs — in collaboration with SVSU's Marketplace at Doan and University Communications — bring together various traditional “soul food” recipes prepared by SVSU faculty and staff, SVSU Dining Services, and local chefs from the Great Lakes Bay Region.

An all-you-can-eat ticket for admission to

“A Taste of Soul” costs \$9.75. The public is welcomed to attend.

“Come and enjoy a soulful, relaxing, fun-filled event,” Thorns said.

This year, the Black History Month event's theme is “Celebrating Another Decade in a Soul Food Way.”

The festival will feature culinary guests, the Men and Women of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, who will be preparing entrees and desserts. Founded in 1867, it is the oldest African-American church in Saginaw.

Rev. Dennis Laffoon, pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church, and Jordan Edwards, will provide jazz music during the event.

For more information about “A Taste of Soul,” call SVSU's Office of Diversity Programs office at (989) 964-4068.

The following foods will be available at the event:

- Baked chicken
- Banana pudding
- Black-eyed peas
- Candied yams
- Catfish
- Coca-Cola Cake
- Collard greens
- Corn bread
- Fried cabbage and bacon
- Fried chicken wings
- Fried corn
- Fried okra
- Gumbo and white rice
- Jay's baked beans
- Lemon meringue cake
- Mac and cheese
- Marbled fudge cake
- Peach cobbler
- Pecan tarts
- Potato salad
- Red beans and rice
- Red velvet cake
- Ribs
- Rolls
- Salad bar
- Smothered pork chops
- Southern pound cake
- Southern green beans
- Sweet potato pie
- Sweet tea
- Yellow pound cake

Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational seeks artists for Official Trophy Design Contest



Courtesy Photo

Artists of all ages and levels from around the Great Lakes Bay Region are encouraged to submit designs for the 2020 Dow GLBI Official Trophy Contest.

The Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational will again host a contest to #TeamUp with a local artist from the Great Lakes Bay Region to help design and produce the Official Trophy for the Dow GLBI Tournament Champions (one team, 2 LPGA Tour professionals). The top golfers in the world will compete this July 13 - 18 for a \$2.3 million purse, and organizers are seeking local artists to create a trophy for the winning team. The winning artist will receive \$5,000 in cash, exposure in the Great Lakes Bay Region, and national exposure through the Golf Channel and CBS. Artist submissions will be accepted until March 13, 2020. Final judging will take place on April 1st. The winning artist(s) will have until May 29, 2020 to complete three (3) versions of the trophy.

For official contest rules and entry form for the Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational Official Trophy Contest, please visit <https://www.dowglbi.com/trophy-contest/>

2020 Great Lakes Bay Region Go Red Luncheon

GREAT LAKES BAY REGION GO RED FOR WOMEN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2020

Great Hall Banquet & Convention Center
Chaired by, Diane Postler-Slattery, Ph.D., FACHE
President and CEO, MidMichigan Health

Presented By:

The Great Lakes Bay Region Go Red for Women Luncheon will take place on February 21, 2020 at the Great Hall Banquet & Convention Center in Midland, MI.

Sixteen years ago, Go Red For Women was born as a campaign to raise awareness among women about their great health threat – heart disease. Slowly, the campaign grew into a movement – one that not only brought together thousands of women annually but became the trusted, passionate, relevant force for change to eradicate heart disease and stroke all over the world. Go Red For Women provides a platform for women and their families to lead healthier lives, and drive collective action for community transformation. It's not just about wearing red; it's not just about sharing heart health facts. It's about:

- Providing women with opportunities to prioritize and take charge of their own health;
- Building communities that support and provide access to healthy choices;
- Demanding equal access to healthcare for all women and their families;
- Increasing women in STEM in upcoming generations.

The Go Red for Women luncheon continues to serve as the cornerstone event of the Go Red For Women movement in local communities. This empowering event focuses on preventing heart disease and stroke by promoting healthy lifestyles, building awareness and raising critically-needed funds to support research and education initiatives. Cardiovascular diseases, which include stroke, claim the life of a woman about every 80 seconds. We hope you will join us on our mission because about 80 percent of cardiovascular diseases may be prevented.

The time is now. Women are leaning into the idea that when we take a stand, commit, and work together, real change is possible.”

Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased at heart.org/GLBRGoRed or by calling Allison Bis at 517.319.1062

BLACK HISTORY: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

By Wardene Talley



Black History Month, an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans is a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history. The

brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans, it was initially designated “Negro History Week.” Decades of growth in recognition and respect resulted in the establishment of the month-long celebration observed today. Since the year 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

As we celebrate many of the countless achievements of African Americans, it is of equal importance that we remain mindful of the legacy and lingering effects of racism and discrimination on systems, institutions and communities throughout our nation. One very critical and enduring consequence of this history of racism and discrimination is poverty. The population most vulnerable to the lasting effects of poverty is our children. Every aspect of a child’s life is impacted by the availability or lack of basic necessities. Children who are hungry will experience difficulty with concentrating during the school day. Children experiencing homelessness may find it difficult to stay awake or to focus without knowing where the family will find shelter at the end of the day. Children living in poverty often have medical, dental and mental health needs which go untreated. Defined as not having enough material possessions or income to meet a person’s basic needs, poverty takes a toll on individuals and families relegated to living in conditions proven detrimental to their safety and well-being.

Data from the Michigan Association of United Ways, “ALICE IN MICHIGAN: A Financial Hardship Study, 2019” (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) tells us that 536,594 households in the state earn below the Federal Poverty level. In urban communities, typically comprised of families facing challenges associated with unemployment, underemployment and lower

wage jobs, financial hardships directly affect children’s ability to flourish. Data from the ALICE in Michigan study also identified the percentage of households that cannot afford basic necessities (2017). An alarming forty-four percent of Saginaw County households experience difficulty providing for their families. These struggles include providing food, shelter, safe and affordable child care, transportation and other necessities.

In 2019, The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) addressed racism and its health impact on children and teens. In an official policy statement, the AAP made assertions that will support efforts of service providers to establish practices that will address and correct generations of health challenges directly related to the harmful and lasting effects of poverty and disparity. The statement asserts that, ‘Racism has a profound impact on children’s health. With the goal of helping all children reach their full potential, the AAP is publishing new recommendations on ways to lessen the impact of racism on children and teens.’ The statement also emphasized that, “While progress has been made toward racial equality, the impact of racism on communities of color is wide-reaching, systemic and complex,” said Maria Trent, MD, MPH, FAAP, FSAHM, lead author of the policy statement. “A combination of strategies will be needed to begin untangling the thread of racism throughout the fabric of our society, and to improve the health of all children.”

In the policy statement, “Racism and Its Impact on Child and Adolescent Health,” the AAP also calls on pediatricians to create welcoming, culturally competent medical practices, to advocate for policies that advance social justice, and to engage leaders in their communities to reduce health disparities. The policy was published in the August 2019 issue of Pediatrics and will be available online July 29.

“As a pediatrician, I know that when children are stressed, it impacts their health and development,” said Jacqueline Dougé MD, MPH, FAAP, co- author of the statement. “When children experience chronic stress, they are flooded with stress hormones such as cortisol that, after prolonged exposure, leads to inflammatory reactions. This can harm children’s health in the short term, but also creates long-term health problems like heart disease, diabetes, and depression.”

“As a nation, we have made great strides in tackling other major challenges, and this one should be no different. This is an area where we can – and must – make a difference,” said Dr. Trent. The statement provides medical professionals with recommendations (listed below), which can be easily implemented in any community providing service to families struggling to provide for their children’s basic needs.

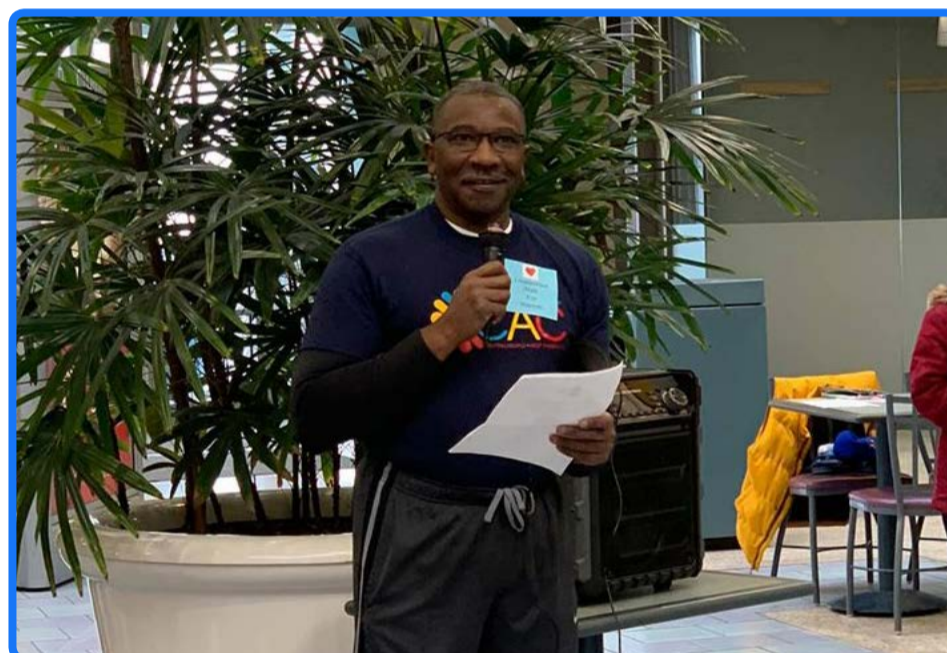
In the policy statement, AAP recommends that pediatricians:

- Create a culturally safe medical home, using evidence-based tools to improve their communications with families and training clinical and office staff in culturally competent care.
- Engage community leaders to create safe playgrounds and healthy food markets to reduce disparities in obesity and undernutrition in neighborhoods affected by poverty.
- Advocate for federal and local policies that support implicit bias training in schools and robust training of educators to improve disparities in academic outcomes and disproportionate rates of suspension and expulsion.
- Encourage community-level advocacy to develop policies that advance social justice.
- Collaborate with first responders and community police and share expertise on child and teen development and mental health, considering potential differences in culture, gender and background.

The recommendations of the nation’s pediatricians are a bold call for action. Reducing the impacts of racism as a means of improving the health and well-being of all children is bold, offers hope and if fully embraced has potential to change the future of children nationwide. As we celebrate Black History Month, let us be mindful of the legacy and lingering effects of racism and discrimination on systems, institutions and communities throughout our nation. As with the AAP, each system can examine their practices and identify ways to alleviate its harmful impact on the children and families we serve.

Seen on the Scene: Walk for Warmth

On Saturday, February 15, Saginaw County Community Action Center hosted the 11th Annual Walk for Warmth at the Fashion Square Mall. The event raises awareness and funds for the hundreds of Michigan families going through winter with little or no heat.





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The Saginaw Art Museum and CAN Council of Great Lakes Bay Region Partner for the Mardi Gras Mask Pro



About the Saginaw Art Museum

The Saginaw Art Museum is a vibrant arts and cultural resource for Saginaw and the Great Lakes Bay Region. Since 1947, the Museum has brought more than 4,500 years of creativity to the area through visual, auditory and performance arts from Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. Housed in an historical 1904 Georgian-Revival mansion with Italianate gardens and two award-winning modern wings, the Museum has a permanent collection of art in excess of 2,000 objects, a dynamic exhibition program, a major art reference library, collaborative education programs, and special events. Various levels of membership offer access to the Saginaw Art Museum and its historic gardens as well as reciprocal benefits to more than 800 museums and 450 gardens throughout North America.

About the CAN Council

The CAN Council is a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the Great Lakes Bay Region dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect through its nationally accredited and evidence-based education, intervention and advocacy programs. It is the only nonprofit organization in the Great Lakes Bay Region devoted to this cause. Founded in 1979, the CAN Council has consistently grown over the past 40 years to meet the needs of the community's children and families.

Saginaw, MI - February 11, 2020 - The Saginaw Art Museum will host the CAN Council Mardi Gras Mask Project from February 17 through February 26, 2020 in advance of CAN Council's Mardi Gras Auction on February 27, 2020 at Horizons Conference Center. Mardi Gras themed masks designed by art students from ten Saginaw County schools will be on display at the museum for public viewing. The masks will be auctioned off online via Bidding Owl at www.biddingowl.com/mardigrasmasks February 17 through February 27 at 7pm, the night of Mardi Gras Auction.

"The CAN Council is excited to partner with the Saginaw Art Museum for this unique project that brings together local students and the power of creativity in the fight against child abuse." says Emily Yeager, President & CEO CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region. "It is a wonderful example of neighbors coming together to protect our children."

"As an arts leader in the community, we welcome opportunities to show how art can impact the lives of everyone. Hosting this project in cooperation with CAN Council is one small way we can accomplish our mission of bringing art to all." stated Mike Kollath, Executive director.

The Saginaw Art Museum is located at 1126 N. Michigan Avenue and has regular hours of Wednesday-Sunday Noon-5pm. More information about current exhibitions, programs, and events can be found at www.saginawartmuseum.org. Find more information about the CAN Council by visiting CANcouncil.org or call (989) 752-7226.



Courtesy Photo

Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy to Host 8th Annual Ospreys Awards



The Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy is pleased to announce the 8th Annual Osprey Awards, presented by the Morley Foundation!

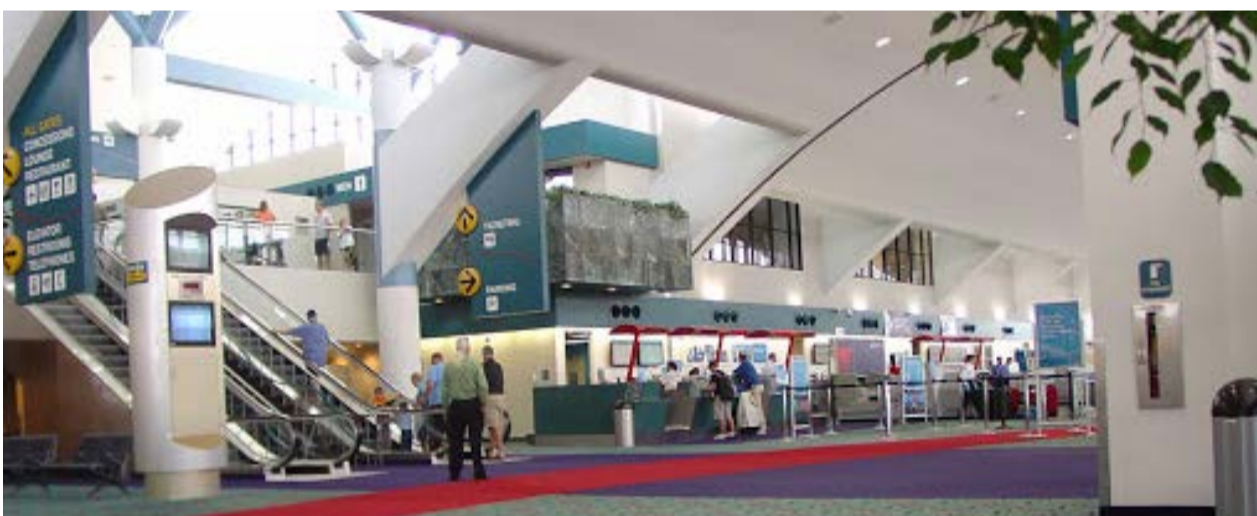
The Ospreys are designed to recognize key people, and organizations or businesses in our community who have taken exemplary steps in keeping with the Conservancy's mission: "To conserve land and water resources to promote sustainable communities and a higher quality of life in the Saginaw Bay Watershed."

As in previous years, the Conservancy has partnered with Saginaw Valley State University to hold the event in Curtiss Hall.

Tickets include dinner and a drink, an entertaining program, and a fun evening celebrating conservation excellence in the region.

Please join us and be part of this special event! We look forward to a positive night of honoring conservation leaders and spreading a positive story about nature in the Saginaw Bay Watershed

Bishop International Airport Announces Unique Visitor Program



Courtesy Photo

Bishop International Airport announced a unique visitor program authorizing non-traveling individuals to visit airside (beyond security screening). Bishop is one of only five U.S. airports to offer something like this in over a decade.

"The FNT Visitor Pass allows non-ticketed people the opportunity to go airside and spend some extra time with friends and family, say goodbye to their loved ones or to meet them at the gate to surprise them,

and enjoy our restaurants and gift shops. Bishop International Airport is committed to providing a safe, convenient, customer experience," said Airport Director Nino Sapone.

FNT Visitor Pass applicants may register up to, but not more than 24 hours in advance of their visit at <https://www.bishopairport.org/your-flight/general-information/fnt-visitor-pass>. The free program is available Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

FNT Visitor Pass users are subject to the same security procedures as ticketed passengers. All participants must go through the general boarding lanes at the security checkpoint to be screened by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The TSA and/or the Bishop International Airport Authority reserve the right to revoke the FNT Visitor Pass from any individual who may pose a security risk, a risk to any passengers or customers, and/or violates any of the rules and regulations of the airport or TSA.

Overview

- The FNT Visitor Pass is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.
- Participants shall be limited to ONE visit per month.
- Parking fee is at the participant's expense.
- This program can be ended at any time as required by the TSA.
- Registration is required by all participants, including visitors 17 years and younger who must also be accompanied by an adult.

Trinity-St. James Lutheran Church - Munger FISH FRY



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Friday – March 27, 2020

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For Flint Funeral Director Lawrence Moon, Home is where the Heart is



Courtesy Photo

Flint, MI -- Lawrence E. Moon isn't shy about expressing his deep affection for his adopted home of Flint and Genesee County.

"It's my town and my community," said Moon, during a moment of soft-spoken reflection, a Detroit native who came to Flint in 1976 and never left. "People make the place, and I think the world of the people of this community."

For more than three decades, both the man and the funeral home that bears his name have anchored Flint & Genesee in more ways than one – from the northwest Flint neighborhood in which the business is located to the county's large African American community for whom he has provided end-of-life services across generations of families to the expertise and time he has personally invested in serving on various boards and committees.

And in a nod to Black History Month, he speaks with abiding pride about the rich history of black funeral home directors as community leaders, investors and for the indispensable role they played during the civil-rights movement.

As detailed in a 2016 article in *The Atlantic*, black morticians cared for those who died in protests and other conflicts, and staged large-scale funerals that galvanized Americans to the civil-rights cause. They also provided bail money when activists were jailed, and made their businesses available for meetings. Hearses and funeral-home cars became a way to ferry civil-rights leaders, including

Martin Luther King Jr., around the South inconspicuously.

"If you've ever seen the picture of Dr. Martin Luther King walking down Woodward Avenue in Detroit, right around '66 or '67, there are three men upfront and one of the men upfront was Ben McFall, owner of the McFall Funeral Home. So everywhere you look, you will find that our profession either helped with transportation and in supplying capital to help us to get things done."

After graduating from Wayne State University's Mortuary Science Program, Moon came to Flint to work for Charles Greene of Greene Home for Funerals. (He previously worked in the industry in Detroit before beginning his studies at Wayne State.) After compiling more than a decade of experience, he opened Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home in 1987.

Funeral direction requires a high level of attentiveness to customer service that, perhaps, few occupations can match. The emotional toll from the passing of a loved one can sometimes even be debilitating for the family members and friends.

"Our industry is a service industry. That's what this is really about," he said. "I read a statement that says, 'we take the dead where they should go and help the living get to where they should be'. Final disposition of human remains certainly is one of the primary components of our business."

"The other part is psychological, especially when you start talking about grieving and loss. I constantly tell my people we only get one chance to do this. You have a short window oftentimes and you have a lot of different moving parts. That being said, we have to make sure it all works out perfectly. There's little room for error, and there is very, very little understanding of error and mistakes."

Moon continued:

"We must be able to do our job glitch-free. That's our challenge. You have to say to yourself, I got it. I understand it. I understand the responsibilities that come with it."

His advice for aspiring and fledgling entrepreneurs is simple: know your craft.

"As a new businessperson, you're going to make mistakes because you haven't seen anything yet. Or you may have done it as a secondary person and not the lead person. But you need to know your craft and the end-result of what you're trying to do with your customer; of what your customer has hired you to do. Anytime there is a business interaction, it's a relationship where both participants are expecting something. You have got to know your craft."

For Moon, community involvement goes hand-in-hand with running a successful business, whether it's done at the countywide level or in the surrounding neighborhood. He's chairman of the McLaren Flint Board of Trustees, vice chair of the Ruth Mott Foundation Board and past chair of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. He also chaired the Complete Count Committee for the 2010 Census a decade ago.

"I've lived in Flint longer than I lived in Detroit. So, Flint truly is my home. It's about making Flint the best it can be. A step further, I serve a constituency. So, wherever I go, it's my intent to make it better for the total community but specifically for my constituents."

He closes by sharing his optimism for Flint & Genesee's future.

"There will be a resurgence of Flint; of the Midwest. So, we've got to make sure we take care of it until we get there."

Team One Checking Accounts

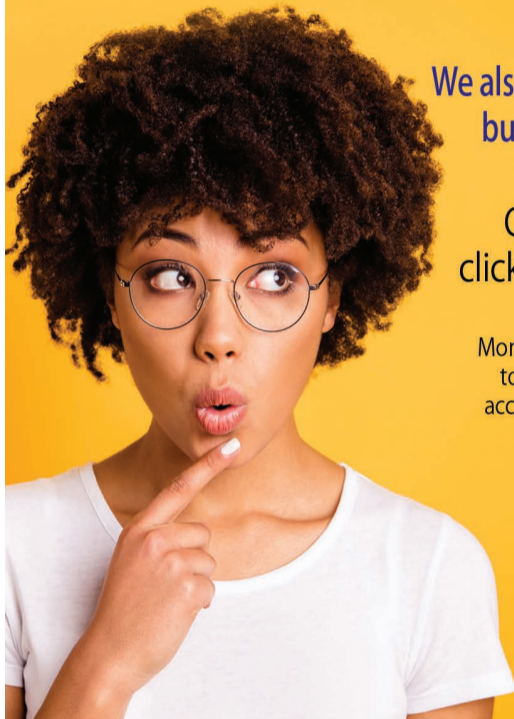
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ONLINE APPLICATION - detroitk12.org/dsapathways
For assistance, please call 313.240.4377



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BE COUNTED MICHIGAN 2020

April 1, 2020 is Census Day. It is important that everyone is counted – and here's why.

Millions of dollars in federal funding is at stake for Saginaw County. Federal agencies use census data to provide funding at state and local levels for vital community services such as hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, job training centers, senior centers and police departments. The census also determines how many Representatives each state has in Congress. If we get undercounted, we get underfunded and underrepresented.

We're counting on community leaders like you to promote the importance of participation in Census 2020.

Learn more at becountedmi2020.com



NON-PROFIT DIRECTORY

CAN Council Saginaw County

1311 N. Michigan Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-752-7226
Fax: 989-752-2777
www.cancouncil.org

The New Ezekiel Project

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Fax: 989-755-4038
www.theezekielproject.com
jamie@theezekielproject.com

Great Lakes PACE

3378 Fashion Square Blvd.
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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

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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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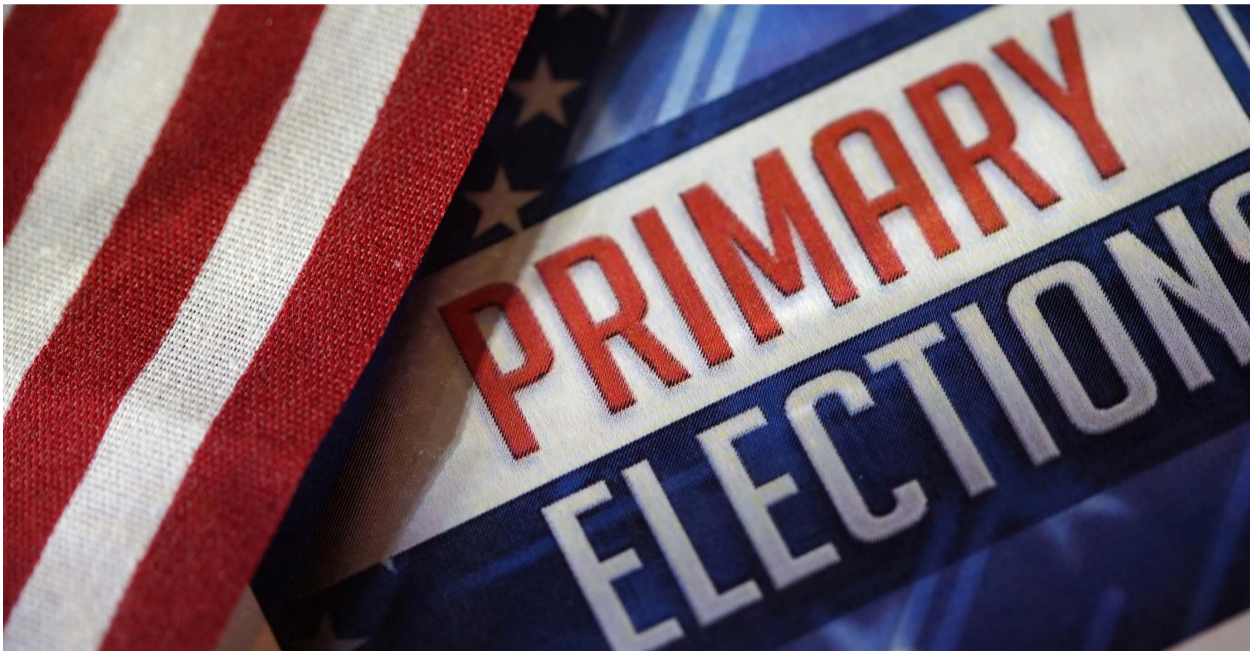
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POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

March 10: More Than a Presidential Primary

By Mike Thompson



Courtesy Photo

Our March 10 ballot is billed mainly as the Michigan nominating primary for candidates for U.S. president, but we also will address important local property tax questions not only for Saginaw County as a whole, but for the City of Saginaw and also for Buena Vista and Carrollton townships.

The top county item is the future of The Dow Event Center, but there also are votes for county parks and for Michigan State University Extension Services (formerly known as Cooperative Extension or 4-H).

Saginaw city residents will make decisions regarding STARS (Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services) and for a police/fire public safety millage.

Buena Vista's vote is to renew a public safety tax, and Carrollton leaders are seeking a new levy for streets and roads.

A voter's first decision will be whether to vote as a Democrat or a Republican. The Democratic primary, of course, will gain virtually all the attention, but the choices by March 10 will be more clearcut following the

combo of "Super Tuesday" elections a week earlier, on March 3.

On this and the pages that follow, The Michigan Banner offers a summary of the tax proposals. No matter whether you vote Dem or GOP in the primaries, you will receive the same local ballots for various millages.

COUNTY PARKS AND REC

Proposal 1 is to renew 0.2942 mill for six years, basically 0.3 mill, to maintain county parks operations. These facilities include Halthco Lake and Recreation Area bordering I-675, Imerman Park off State Street past Hospital Road, Price Nature Center in rural Bridgeport Township. Vet's Park along M-13 on the old river route to Bay City, Ringwood Forest south of St. Charles, and the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail paved hiking and biking path from St. Charles to metro Saginaw.

For years, Saginaw city representatives have noted that none of the county parks is located within the city limits. This will change when the county takes oversight of a planned nature area at the former Malleable Iron site along

the southwest river bank.

To gain more information on the county parks system, Google search for "Saginaw County Recreation Plan 2019-2023."

THE DOW EVENT CENTER

Proposal 2 for our 48-year-old former Civic Center is branded a "tax increase" by critics, but supporters describe it as a "tax renewal" or "restoration." Both are correct.

Here's the explanation: In 2001, Saginaw city government no longer could afford to subsidize operations, and county leaders offered to propose 0.45 mill for a rescue takeover, mostly for upgrades of Wendler Arena, Unity Hall and Heritage Theater. Voters approved, with limited opposition in rural areas and surprisingly strong support in Saginaw Township and other inner suburbs. When time came for a countywide renewal in 2010, managers said they could afford to cut the levy in half, to 0.225 mill. At this point in 2020, however, they say ongoing wear and tear creates a need to return to 0.45 mill for a second major round of repairs.

The needs list includes the roof, the arena's ice-making and skate-surface maintenance machinery, elevators, and the adjacent parking ramp.

The Saginaw Spirit's recent youth hockey success, in the franchise's 18th season, has helped grow annual Event Center attendance to 265,000. Shares are 30 percent of patrons for hockey, 47 percent for entertainment and concerts, and 13 percent for banquet and event rentals. In turn, attendees contribute to the downtown and overall local economy, although not at such high levels as anticipated.

Philadelphia-based SMG Management took

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Courtesy Photo

the reins 19 years ago after the initial millage approval, with a goal that privatization would help reduce City Hall's pre-millennium deficits. However, the subsidy has remained in the \$800,000 annual range under SMG, even with Dow Chemical's name-branding sponsorship that now surpasses \$400,000 per year. SMG recently merged into ASM Global of Los Angeles, leading to hopes that finances may improve.

As we see in major cities, entertainment arenas often possess short shelf lives. For example, Detroit's Joe Louis Arena was built in 1979, seven years after the Civic Center, but "The Joe" already has met the wrecking ball. Ditto for the Pontiac Silverdome.

In 2000, prior to the first Event Center millage, Saginaw's Spicer Engineering estimated the cost of a total new replacement at \$69 million. The price tag of the first major upgrade was approximately \$14 million, and the second round is projected at about another \$14 million.

COUNTY MSU EXTENSION

For Proposal 3, consider that Michigan State's origins are as an agricultural college, hence the moniker "Moo U." The original Cooperative Extension 4-H has provided a main vehicle for outreach beyond the school's East Lansing base. Support for farm communities gradually has grown to include

urban centers. Families may contact MSU Extension for anything from youth activities to home and garden advice.

The County Board of Commissioners has provided an annual allotment of \$200,000 from the general fund, but during a time of tight budgets, board members have encouraged MSU to seek a millage. The lowest allowable sum is the proposed 0.1 mill for six years, which would produce more than \$450,000 per year. MSU Extension would use the added funds to restore major recent cutbacks in faculty and staff. In addition, program leaders report that for each local \$1, they gain \$5 in matching state, federal and private grants.

For more background info, a Google source is via "Saginaw County MSU Extension."

SAGINAW STARS BUS SERVICE

Federal aid supported the former Saginaw Transit Service, STS, during the 1970s and into the 1980s. Then the grants started to dry up during Reagan-era cutbacks, and at the same time city leaders began to face the onset of a 1979 voter approved property tax revenue freeze. That's when the City Council, at the time, formed the independent Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services, which has received steady local public support through the years for a 3-mill tax. This time around, on

March 10, STARS seeks a hike to 3.2 mills.

The word "regional" was inserted into the title with a goal of eventual countywide support, but unlike with the Civic Center, this type of cooperation never has transpired. City taxpayers and riders still continue to bear the operational costs, even with services extended to shopping centers, colleges and workplaces in non-axed outlying areas.

The tax renewal and slight increase is for six years.

SAGINAW PUBLIC SAFETY

Saginaw's 7.5-mill tax for police and fire, first adopted in 2006 at a lower rate of 6 mills, has served as one of four main methods for city leaders to avoid the most dire hardships from the previously-mentioned 1979 tax freeze. The other thaw-the-freeze steps have been the STARS levy, an income tax hike, and trash pickup fees.

Even with the special public safety levy, the city budget has lost well more than half of its police and firefighting job positions since the 1990s. Result include service cutbacks, increased reliance on state police officers and the closing of the Hess Street Fire Station in the city's southeast quadrant.

Support for the most recent renewal, in 2014, was lower than for initial prior votes but still

Continued from pg 44, More Than a Presidential Primary

in excess of 60 percent. Even with the positive past track record, however, the City Council and management team are taking nothing for granted in their pursuit of another six-year renewal.

CARROLLTON STREETS AND ROADS

The township's school sports teams are the Cavaliers, and so the support group for a 5-mill streets and roads tax is calling itself CAVS, for Carrollton Area Vehicular Surfaces improvement committee.

Residents may ask why a millage is needed when Gov. Gretchen Whitmer continues pledging "to fix the danged roads." (Actually she uses a slightly sharper oath.) Township officials note that the debate involves state highways, not local streets that have gradually eroded into disrepair.

Carrollton leaders note that the cost of a half-mile resurfacing exceeds \$230,000, while annual allocations from the Saginaw County Road Commission are merely in the \$40,000 range. The 20-year levy, in contrast, would produce nearly \$400,000 annually and allow the township to assume bonded debt for the sake of faster action on improvements and repairs.

Also, CAVS supporters note that a 5.32-mill levy for water mains has expired, and so the switch to a streets-and-roads tax is similar to an infrastructure renewal.

Residents may gain more information at meetings set for Feb. 24 and March 9, 5:30 p.m., township offices on Mapleridge Road.

BUENA VISTA PUBLIC SAFETY.

An odd quirk in state law, which old-timers will recall at the Headlee Amendment, requires local units to reduce millages by tiny fractions. This is why BV's 10-year public safety renewal is for 3.9692 mills, rather than a specific 4 mills.

Annual revenue of slightly more than \$700,000 would continue to support operations without such major reliance on the Sheriff's Department, which we see in some other communities.

How Much Would You Pay?

When we consider millage proposals, we must first check our annual property tax billing statements. The taxable value, or SEV, is roughly half of the estimated sale value for our home or small business. Each one mill of tax is \$1 for each \$1,000 of taxable value, or for each \$2,000 of sale value. To calculate your personal cost for any proposal, simply multiply your taxable value by the millage rate. (You may qualify for a state Homestead break or some other form of discount, which would lower your cost.)

On the March 10 ballot, for example:

-- Proposal 1 for Saginaw County parks and rec, 0.2942 mill, round off to 0.3 mill. That's 30 cents for each \$1,000 of taxable value, or for each \$2,000 of sale value. The owner of a home with a \$30,000 sale value would continue paying \$4.50 per year. For \$60,000 sale value, \$9. For \$100,000 sale value, \$15.

-- Proposal 2 for The Dow Event Center, 0.45 mill. That's 45 cents for each \$1,000 of taxable value, or for each \$2,000 of sale value. The owner of a home with a \$30,000 sale value would pay \$6.75 per year. For \$60,000 sale value, \$13.50. For \$100,000 sale value, \$22.50.

-- Proposal 3 for MSU Extension, 0.1 mill. That's 10 cents for each \$1,000 of taxable value, or for each \$2,000 of sale value. The owner of a home with a \$30,000 sale value would pay \$1.50 per year. For \$60,000 sale value, \$3. For \$100,000 sale value, \$5.

-- For STARS, the city's bus service, 3.2 mills would be \$3.20 for each \$1,000 of taxable value, or for each \$2,000 of sale value. The owner of a home with a \$30,000 sale value would pay \$48 per year. For \$60,000 sale value, \$96. For \$100,000 sale value, \$160.

-- For Saginaw public safety, 7.5 mills would be \$7.50 for each \$1,000 of taxable value, or for each \$2,000 of sale value. The owner of a home with a \$30,000 sale value would pay \$112.50 per year. For \$60,000 sale value, \$225. For \$100,000 sale value, \$375.

-- For Carrollton streets and roads, 5 mills. That's \$5 for each \$1,000 of taxable value, or for each \$2,000 of sale value. The owner of a home with a \$30,000 sale value would pay \$75 per year. For \$60,000 sale value, \$150. For \$100,000 sale value, \$250.

-- For Buena Vista public safety, 3.9692 mill, round off to 4 mill. That's \$4 for each \$1,000 of taxable value, or for each \$2,000 of sale value. The owner of a home with a \$30,000 sale value would pay \$60 per year. For \$60,000 sale value, \$120. For \$100,000 sale value, \$200.

*** If you believe your property's value is listed as too high, you may file an appeal. Contact your local clerk or assessor. Hearings are in early March, so you should inquire ASAP on what steps you need to take.

SPORTS

Michigan State Hires Mel Tucker as New Football Coach



Courtesy Photos

EAST LANSING, MI. -- On Wednesday, February 12, Michigan State University announced Mel Tucker as the new coach of their football team.

"Mel Tucker has a strong reputation as an intense and dynamic coach and we're excited to have him bring that energy to MSU," said Michigan State President Samuel L. Stanley, Jr, M.D. "Leading our football program on the field and in their development as student-athletes is no small task and we are confident he is the right person for the job. We look forward to having Coach Tucker join our Spartan family."

The Board of Trustees met Tuesday, voting to unanimously hire Mel Tucker as the new coach. At this time, the details of his contract are not being released.

"It brings me great pleasure to welcome Mel Tucker to the Spartan family as the 25th head coach in Michigan State football history," Michigan State athletic director Bill Beekman said. "Mel brings a championship pedigree, NFL experience, connections to our region, success on the recruiting trail and head coaching experience to our program. Beyond his impressive list of credentials is an even more impactful leader of men with an energetic personality that will pay dividends on the recruiting trail. Perhaps more importantly, he'll connect with our student-athletes to help them develop beyond just their skills on the football

field. His attention to detail will leave no stone unturned in his drive for championships."

Tucker spoke at a press conference held by MSU following that meeting at 6:30 p.m.

"It is a blessing and honor to return to Michigan State University where I began my coaching career with Nick Saban," said Tucker. "Thank you to President Stanley, Athletic Director Beekman and the Board of Trustees for the trust that you have placed in me to lead one of the finest football programs in the nation."

MSU says that Tucker's resume, which began as a graduate assistant at Michigan State under Saban, has an impressive track record of success.

He has spent his time away from East Lansing in a head coaching position at the University of Colorado (2019), five seasons as a defensive coach in the Southeastern Conference (2000; 2015-18), 10 seasons in the NFL (2005-14), and four seasons at Ohio State (2001-04). Also, he spent some time in the NFL as a defensive coordinator for seven seasons and 11 seasons overall in his coaching career.

"Returning home to Michigan State is a once in a lifetime opportunity for me and my family but it created the toughest decision of my life – to leave Colorado. There is no way to fully express my gratitude to the Buffalo student-athletes,

Rick George, and our staff. I am incredibly thankful for our time together and I will always believe in Colorado football."

As Tucker gears up to lead Michigan State's football program, students told News 10 they are embracing the change.

"We needed a change. I mean I love Dantonio. I've been a Spartan fan my whole life. I've had a lot of great memories, but the last two seasons have been kind of shaky so you kind of got the feeling there needs to do some changes," said Cameron Barghahn, an MSU senior.

MSU football has taken a major hit and the past few years. In 2016, the team's overall record was 3 and 9. The following year, the team brought home a great season with 10 wins, but in 2019 and 2019, the team's record was 7 and 6, scores a Big Ten school definitely doesn't want to see.

"Just to get our football program up and running again and really start winning games. It was really depressing to go last year and just lose," said Shayna Pearlman, MSU sophomore. "I hope we beat Michigan and that we have a good record. I don't know, get some new creative ideas on offense, get that turned around. You know, as long as I see the potential on the field I don't necessarily need like a Rose Bowl or a Big Ten championship. I'm not going to get my expectations that high."

Students say they are open-minded to change.

"I think it's really exciting because I don't know what to expect and so it'll just be interesting to see how that coach navigates how to deal with our players and like how they cultivate a team together."

Tucker is from Cleveland, Ohio and went to the University of Wisconsin.

"Today, I am excited to get to work for the Spartans. Together, we will be relentless to create an integrity-filled and winning culture for our staff, coaches and student-athletes in everything we do – on and off the field."

Dow and Greater Midland announce three-year extension of Dow Tennis Classic



Courtesy Photos

MIDLAND, Mich. -- World-class tennis will continue to be staged in the Great Lakes Bay Region thanks to a three-year extension of title sponsorship by Dow for the Dow Tennis Classic. The agreement between Dow (NYSE: DOW) and Greater Midland calls for the international tournament to remain at the Greater Midland Tennis Center through 2023. The tournament has been a part of the Midland community for 32 years and is the longest running stop on the USTA Pro-Circuit.

“We are proud to announce this three-year extension of the Dow Tennis Classic,” said Greg Bunker, Dow executive representative and vice chair of the Greater Midland Tennis Center operating board. “We continue to see tremendous community engagement and support for this event, significant value for Dow and our employees, and a great opportunity to showcase Dow technologies and innovation through sports.”

“The USTA is grateful to Dow for their incredible support of the Dow Tennis Classic over the past 32 years,” said Megan Rose, United States Tennis Association (USTA) Senior Director. “The Dow Tennis Classic has consistently been the crown jewel of the USTA Pro Circuit calendar, and so much of that can be attributed to the partnership

with Dow and their impact on the Midland community. The best players in women's tennis have played at the Dow Tennis Classic, and we are thrilled that this extension will guarantee more world-class tennis and vital playing opportunities for American women.”

The Dow Tennis Classic supports significant community impact for fans, residents and local businesses. Annually, the event generates \$1.5 million in economic impact with 15,000 fans traveling from across the region, state and Midwest to witness world-class athleticism. The tournament also supports a wide variety of educational outreach opportunities. Each year touring professional players visit area schools, reaching more than 4,000 young students with a message of empowerment and encouragement. In addition, internship opportunities give local college students real-world experience in marketing, promotions and event management.

For Dow, the tournament also provides significant value for customers and employees. Exceptional tennis, locally catered dining and special events provide opportunities for the organization to enhance business growth and strengthen relationships by bringing customers to the event. The organization is also proud to give back to its employees and

the communities where they live and work.

Dow technologies play a key role in creating innovative products that enhance the world of sport. In tennis, next-generation LED lighting are enabled by DOWSIL™ Moldable Optical Silicone, deliver optimum light output and energy savings for stadiums and other sports venues. Dow's smart solutions are also helping shape the future of athletic equipment and apparel. The recently released Wilson TRINITY tennis ball, designed with Dow technology in the core, has a more durable life span than traditional counterparts and features sustainable packaging.

For Greater Midland's part, the Classic allows the organization to support youth and adult programming year-round. “The Dow Tennis Classic provides financial support for a host of programming essential to our core,” said Kristen McDonald, president and CEO of Greater Midland. “The tournament, and the community's support, helps ensure our kids and adults are moving each day, all kids are connected to a caring adult, and our youngest learners are ready for school.”

To learn more about the Classic and its regional impact, visit www.dowtennisclassic.com.



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PICS OF THE WEEK

On February 11, SVSU welcomed Lt. Gov. Gilchrist for a tour of the building addition for the Carmona College of Business. We showed him classrooms, the data analytics labs, the Bloomberg Trading Room and the resources for the regional business community. Construction was supported by \$9.8 million in capital outlay funding from the State of Michigan. We appreciate the visit by Lt. Gov. Gilchrist. The new facility creates a modern learning environment for our hard-working students to launch their business careers in Michigan.



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



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