

THE MICHIGAN BANNER

Celebrating 17 years of Positive News *Stronger Together, in these Challenging Times*



The Impact of COVID-19 on High School Students

Youth Banner, Cover Story

'A Black Woman's Guide to Black Men's Health'

Health, pg 16

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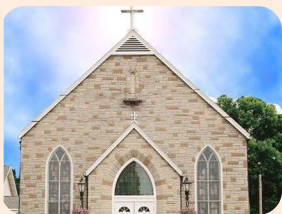


SVSU student earns prestigious internship with Congressional Black Caucus Foundation



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Saginaw clergy respond to Trump's call for churches to totally reopen their doors



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COVID HAS COMPETITION



Jerome Buckley, Publisher & Founder, The Michigan Banner

Disease Control (CDC) reports an alarming 103,308 Americans have died of the virus. While making up roughly 13% of the population, 23% of the deaths reported are African American. The CDC also reports a loss of 5,463 lives to COVID 19 in the state of Michigan with 31% of those being African American. The disparity here is similar to that of the nation as a whole. Approximately one third of the people most affected by a virus for which there is no cure are African American. This disturbing information is cause for alarm and action. But COVID has competition! There is another virus (disease) wreaking havoc in the black community. This week we are once again facing a level of sorrow that is all too familiar. The horrific and senseless killing of George Floyd is almost unbearable to watch but at the same time must be watched again and again to grasp the fact that it really did happen – yet again. Like so many other times, in broad daylight, with the incident

Lord have mercy. With a very heavy heart I repeat, Lord have mercy. This phrase has resonated with me more over the past several days than I can recall in recent history. I have wept bitterly in unexpected moments in a way that I cannot explain. COVID 19 continues to take a disproportionate toll on the African American community. As of May 29, 2020, the Center for

being livestreamed by multiple witnesses, with Floyd and traumatized bystanders pleading for his life, a man was murdered.

A part of the sadness here is that for people of color, while it is a disturbing and frightening image, it is also a reminder that it could just as easily have been you or someone you love

Cover Story, Covid has Competition

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- it is not at all shocking. For generations, the cries coming from Minneapolis right now have been heard in cities across the nation including Saginaw. The violent death of Milton Hall, a Black man with mental health challenges at the hands of law enforcement is still a source of pain for people who knew and loved him and I can't remember a time when this wasn't a reality in the Black community. Social media has made it extremely difficult to turn a blind

eye to these events. It also makes it impossible to deny or defend the behavior of the offenders. These abuses of authority and trust have caused an immeasurable amount of damage to the communities they are paid to protect and serve. Children learn at a very early age to be cautious when interacting with police officers. Black parents have the how to stay safe (alive) when forced to interact with law enforcement 'conversation' with their children, especially their

sons as soon as they are thought old enough to comprehend the message. Where then do the children turn in times of trouble and in need of protection? Living in a constant state of helplessness and vulnerability can literally cause many of the physical and mental health challenges (preexisting conditions) which make African Americans more susceptible to virus #1! COVID 19 has competition and it is much too heavy a burden to carry on with business as usual. As a nation, it is long overdue that we address this deep-rooted history of violence, sickness and disparity. We must all take action, each in our own scope of influence to support the process of change. The painful cycle of 1) death/injustice, 2) unmet outcry for justice 3) outrage/self-destruction, and 4) repeat in cities across the nation must end.

Three years ago, The Michigan Banner News launched its first annual Heart of The City Awards Banquet to recognize individuals and organizations dedicated to the growth and development of this place we call home – Saginawesome!! This is my scope of influence – using media to shed a positive light on the contributions of others. The focus of the 2020 awards is First Responders, Emergency Preparedness and Mental Health – a decision made pre COVID 19. How fitting. Each recipient of the award has contributed greatly to the safety and well-being of the people we are so honored to serve. While this may seem a small thing - a trophy and accomplishments highlighted in a magazine, it is a way of acknowledging that what each of us does is noticed and very significant. It matters – small things matter. They tend to add up to really big things which have the power to change the world. We haven't sponsored these events alone. We received tremendous support from community organizations equally committed to providing quality service to all. For recognizing the vision and intent of the Heart of the City Awards when it was a very new concept and for their continued support, we offer thanks to the Saginaw Community Foundation, Saginaw Valley State University, Horizon Conference Center, Duperon Corporation, Isabella Bank, Covenant Hospital, Garber Buick, Delta College, KMS Enterprise and Team One Credit Union. The journey is on-going but with each of us striving to do all that we can to achieve justice and equality there is hope for a better future for all. Discover your sphere of influence and take action.

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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

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Mailed or e-mailed
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We've collectively been devastated by a global pandemic, we're grappling with the aftermath of destructive flooding, and now we're seeing historic inequities of racial injustices coming to a tipping point in communities across America.

The predominant feeling I hear from Black Michiganders is exhaustion.

I cannot imagine the chronic fear African American parents have every time their children, spouse, or loved ones leave the house.

Knowing that a simple traffic stop or a phony allegation of a mal-intended person could get my loved one killed.

When a black man simply kneels in peaceful protest and becomes vilified, but a white man with a badge and gun kneels the breath out of George Floyd and does so without compunction -- we must demand better.

It is wrong, infuriating, devastating, gut-wrenching.

As United States citizens, we have to demand change for a better future: A future free of a system that treats Black Americans and other people of color as less than full human beings.

We must pull together and treat people with dignity, compassion, and humanity.

We will get through this, together.

**Fighting for change,
Gretchen Whitmer**

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 10



The Impact of COVID-19 on High School Students

Reactions to the novel coronavirus/COVID-19 have caused a great many changes to daily life in recent days. One group particularly affected by these changes is high school students. They are facing challenges this year that have never happened before on this scale.

School provides structure and routine to the lives of students. Following the routine of getting up at a certain time, going to classes at specific times and coming home at a certain time provides a sense of normalcy in their lives. The predictability of knowing that third period math class follows second period history class allows students' brains to focus on academic content. Expectations for behavior and academic performance are known and familiar. When schools closed earlier this month students lost this structure and routine. Many were sent home with packets of assignments to complete but it is up to them to decide when and in what order they will do the assignments. At first, this greater amount of freedom and choice feels good – “Finally I get to decide what I want to do!” In short time though, it is easy to fall behind, to be distracted by other more desirable options (Netflix, video games, social media), or to become bored.

For most students school isn't just about academics, it is also about social interactions. Many friendships started by sitting next to each other in class. The highlight of a student's day might be walking down a certain hallway between fifth and sixth period because that's when she can reliably expect to see the person she has a crush on. Groups of friends eat lunch together every day. Through their interactions with teachers and other school personnel young people learn to interact with non-family authority figures. In the hallways and classrooms of their school, young people are exposed to a variety of different cultures, perspectives and ways of living that may be different than their own.

Extracurricular activities were also affected by school closures. Many students enjoy participating in sports, music, school plays, robotics and a variety of other activities. Participation in these activities helps students to be more attractive applicants to colleges, universities and future employers. More importantly though, participation in these activities is an important part of students' identities. They provide a “tribe” of others with whom a common interest and skill set is shared.

PARTICULAR STRESSORS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Senior year is typically the high point of a student's high school career. Seniors this year are worried about being able to graduate. They're worried about being able to qualify and be fully prepared for college admission. They're aware that many colleges and universities that have shut down and wonder how this will affect their own future plans. If schools remain closed for the rest of the spring, students in their senior year will likely forfeit their last shot at a championship sports season, miss their last chance to perform with the choir or never get to perform in the play they've been rehearsing for so long.

Seniors also face the possibility of missing out on milestone experiences including attending the senior prom and walking across the stage at commencement ceremonies.

Continues on pg 6, COVID-19 on High School Students

Adaptability is the name of the game

Youth promote social distancing



Courtesy Photo

While everyone reacts to stress differently, an extreme crisis such as this COVID 19 pandemic has amped up stress levels in most of us. These increases have impacted our lives in many, many ways. One of the most difficult has been our limited ability to connect with the people we care about. This challenge seems to be even greater for young people whose daily routines have drastically changed. STAY HOME STAY SAFE and social distancing are still two of the main directives coming from leaders nationwide, including Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer. There are lots of opinions about whether these strategies are actually necessary or if they really help at all. But the prevailing thought from doctors and scientists is that these are two of the best strategies to slow the spread and keep us safe. And they are absolutely free! So, in line with that thinking the word of the day is – ADAPT!

'It is not the strongest of the species that survive Nor the most intelligent. It is the one who is the most adaptable to change.'
The Game

Finding new ways to stay connected while following very clear guidelines to temporarily adapt to a new way of living has been hard. From rural communities to urban and everything in between, young people have had to adjust to a great deal of loss. For some, there has been loss of loved ones – we're grieving those losses and are really concerned about family and friends who are hurting. With all of

our complaining about school – most of us miss it. There will be no proms. Commencements have been cancelled and finding a summer job doesn't look too promising at this point either. Many of us have had to alter our plans enter or return to college. Universities that we attended or had planned to attend may not reopen this fall – lots of uncertainty there. If, however, that is the case, we'll have to continue with this virtual learning experience – not at all what we had planned for our future. We've had very few opportunities to spend time with friends and it looks like that this may not change soon.

'Regardless of how it goes down, life goes on – stay connected.'
Rick Ross

Life does go on. Adjusting to this new way of living is tough but not impossible – nevertheless, I miss my friends. Connecting with one another is important and I'll never take a hug or touch for granted again but for now, I adapt. I keep the distance, I wear the mask, I wash, wash, wash my hands and not once have I been in a large group for any reason. Still, I miss my friends. We used to spend time mingling at school (after completing all of our schoolwork, of course). Now we use every form of social media available to us but some of us aren't as fortunate as others – they don't get to virtual visit very much at all. So, we keep up with the latest the best we can.

'True friends won't grow apart even if they don't talk every day.'
Drake

Adapt. We can stay safe and find creative ways to keep in touch with the people we care about. We can also look for opportunities to carefully give back by checking up on people around us who may be elderly, isolated, have no family here to care for them, sick, or experiencing severe anxiety or fear. As of May 26th,

there were 97,892 COVID 19 deaths in the United States with 5,240 of them in Michigan (Center for Disease Control). People really are hurting and everyone reacts to stressful situations (such as a crisis like this pandemic) differently. We all have different levels of support and resources. A resource available to the entire community – young or older, is the American Red Cross. If someone you know is having a hard time with this, help is a phone call away. Their website offers the following guidance:

- American Red Cross Safety Tips
- People who may respond more strongly to the stress of a crisis include:
- Older people and people with chronic diseases at higher risk for severe illness
- Children and teens
- People who are helping with the response to COVID-19, like doctors, other health care providers and first responders
- People who have mental health conditions, including problems with substance use

WHEN TO SEEK HELP

Call your health care provider if stress gets in the way of your daily activities for several days in a row. Below are some signs that you or a loved one experience may need to reach out for help:

- Crying spells or bursts of anger
- Difficulty eating
- Difficulty sleeping
- Losing interest in things
- Increased physical symptoms such as headaches or stomachaches
- Fatigue
- Feeling guilty, helpless or hopeless
- Avoiding family and friends

If you are feeling overwhelmed with emotions such as sadness, depression, anxiety or feel like you want to harm yourself or someone else, call 911 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255).

YB Cover Story, COVID-19 on High School Students



HOW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE AFFECTED BY OTHER CLOSURES

Many adolescents have jobs at local restaurants, stores, movie theaters, gyms or other businesses that have closed, reduced the services being offered or reduced their hours of operation. The young people working at these establishments count on their pay checks to help with household expenses, to pay for things that are important to themselves (e.g. clothes, music, activities), to provide for transportation (e.g. gas, car insurance, car payments), or to save for college or other future endeavors. If their parent(s) or other members of their family have lost jobs or income due to closures, the student may feel even more stress over losing their ability to contribute to the family's financial situation/.

FEAR AND ANXIETY REACTIONS

One the most stressful aspects of the current situation is not knowing. We don't know who has been or will be infected. We don't know who might be a carrier, spreading the virus to others without even knowing it. We don't know when schools and businesses will re-open. We don't know what the long-term effects of this pandemic will be. Facing so many unknowns heightens anxiety. Some amount of fear and worry is a normal reaction to this abnormal situation. If a person's anxiety is so intense that it is disrupting the person's ability to concentrate on other things, interferes with the person's ability to sleep at night or causes the person to avoid engaging in the things that he or she needs to do, it may be necessary to seek help.

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WAYS TO RELIEVE STRESS IN THIS UNUSUAL SITUATION

The first thing everyone should do, regardless of age, is to maintain good self-care.

- Eat good food. Sure it's nice to indulge in a treat once in a while, but keep in mind that human bodies and minds work better and feel better when they're being fueled by healthy, nutritious meals.
- Get enough sleep. When we're tired we are more vulnerable to irritants, anxiety and depression. It is hard to learn, listen, concentrate and solve problems when we're sleep deprived. Without enough sleep, we are likely to have problems with memory, coordination and patience. It becomes harder to regulate our bodies, our attention and our emotions. Human bodies naturally prefer to operate on a regular, stable cycle of sleeping and being awake. That's why it is important to set and stick to regular bed and wake up times. According to The National Sleep Foundation, research has shown that teenagers need 8-10 hours of sleep a night.
- Exercise. There are lots of options for staying active while following guidelines for social distancing. It isn't hard to find online videos for traditional workout routines as well as yoga, dancing and martial arts. Going for a short walk or run outside provides a change of scenery and fresh air as well as exercise. A way to make exercising fun is to turn on whatever music you enjoy and dance around for a few minutes.

Be a smart consumer of information. There is no shortage of information available online, on TV, on social media and on the radio. Make sure you are getting your information from credible sources. Take everything else with a good dose of caution and skepticism. The need for social connection is fundamental for humans. In times of stress we need support and interaction with friends and family.

- Technology like texting, messaging apps, email and phones allow us to keep in touch with others without having to be face-to-face. Teens are already familiar with these forms of communication and have been using them for some time.
- Make a point to reach out to others who may be isolated or unsupported in their current environment.
- Parents, this is not a good time to ground teens from their phones and/or computers for more than one day at a time. It is completely appropriate to set limits on how much time your teen spends on their devices. It is also appropriate to restrict use of technology for social purposes to certain times of the day or to require that a certain amount of academic

work be completed before technology may be used for social purposes. It is also good to model the types of self-control you wish to see from your teen.

- Pay attention to the effect social interactions have on you. If you notice that your interactions with someone leave you feeling more anxious, angry, worried, frightened or bad about yourself, consider limiting or suspending your interactions with that person.

Actively look for positives in every day

- Pay attention to stories about people being kind, helpful or supportive to each other. These things are happening and news about them is out there.
- Identify something that you enjoyed or found to be beautiful.
- Practice gratitude. In times like these, it is easy to get worn down by all the things that we are missing out on or can't do. A powerful way to counter this is by intentionally taking time to appreciate the things, people, abilities and opportunities that we do have.

Avoid jumping to conclusions. There is so much that isn't known and we all have to wait to see what happens.

- Teens who are feeling healthy and energetic may assume that they have not been exposed to the virus. They also may have heard that the virus is unlikely to be deadly to people their age. This doesn't mean it is Okay to ignore safety precautions. It is possible to be infected and not show any symptoms. If you are one of these people, you won't know it but you could spread it to others. That's why it is important to take precautions like washing hands, disinfecting surfaces, and social distancing even if you don't think you are infected.
- This situation is affecting the whole country. Colleges, universities and employers are going to be aware and understand.
- You don't have to figure out how to solve this situation. School administrators are working on plans to help students complete their education and be able to graduate. We don't know yet what form it will take, but rest assured that they will figure something out.

Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health, Canton, OH; Trauma Therapy Program Manager Mary Kreitz is the author of this post.

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THE LATINO BANNER



LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

Vamos Adelante



National Hispanic Medical Association Launches Virtual Briefing Series on COVID-19

LB Pg. 2

Submit your news at
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The Hispanic Center of Western Michigan stands with our Black & Afro-Latino community.

During these extremely difficult times it is okay to have many conflicting feelings or feelings of distress.

If you would like to help but don't know how, come volunteer! It does the soul good!

You can volunteer here at the Hispanic Center or at many other non-profits who serve communities of color in West Michigan.

To find a list of places you can reach out, visit hellowestmichigan.com or the Volunteer Center at Heart of West Michigan United Way.

www.hispanic-center.org/volunteer

Omar Jimenez, CNN journalist arrested on live TV during in Minneapolis Protests

WASHINGTON, May 29, 2020 / PRNewswire/ -- The National Press Club and the National Press Club Journalism Institute condemn the early morning arrests of CNN correspondent Omar Jimenez and his production team, who were taken into custody just after 5 a.m. local time, while live on the air. They were released more than an hour later, after Gov. Tim Walz apologized to CNN President Jeff Zucker for the actions of law enforcement.

Jimenez could be heard on camera calmly telling the Minnesota state police, "We can move wherever you'd like, we are live on the air," and showing them his press credentials. This contradicts the statement by police to the crew that the journalists were arrested for refusing to move.

"Every American should watch this video

and put herself/himself in the position of the correspondent," said National Press Club President Michael Freedman. "It speaks volumes about our rights, our responsibilities, the challenges reporters face in seeking the truth, and why journalism matters."

"This is the United States, where a free press is enshrined in our Constitution. Journalism is not a crime," said Angela Greiling Keane, president of the National Press Club Journalism Institute. "The CNN team was doing its job, protected by the First Amendment, when it was wrongfully taken into custody."

In a statement, the cable network said, "A CNN reporter & his production team were arrested this morning in Minneapolis for doing their jobs, despite identifying

themselves - a clear violation of their First Amendment rights. The authorities in Minnesota, incl. the Governor, must release the 3 CNN employees immediately."

The network reported that CNN correspondent Josh Campell was reporting nearby and was also approached by police, but was allowed to remain.

"I identified myself ... they said, 'OK, you're permitted to be in the area ... I was treated much differently than (Jimenez) was," said Campbell, who is white. Jimenez is black and Latino.

The CNN team was in the area covering unrest precipitated by the death of George Floyd.

National Hispanic Medical Association Launches Virtual Briefing Series on COVID-19



WASHINGTON /PRNewswire/ -- The National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) is partnering with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), AllofUs Research - National Institutes of Health, Amgen, Aetna Foundation – CVS Health, Compassion and Choices, and Pfizer Inc to support our Monthly Virtual Briefing Series on COVID-19 to share strategies on reducing health disparities in our Latino and other vulnerable communities across the U.S. The focus will be on improving quality of life during COVID-19 for the most impacted – patients with hypertension and heart disease, diabetes, HIV, cancer, asthma, youth who vape, and health care and food industry

and other front line workers.

"NHMA represents Latino physicians and works with our network of Latino, African American, Native American and Asian American health professionals who are all an inspiration as they work tirelessly," said Dr. Elena Rios, President & CEO, NHMA, "and we are going to showcase their efforts to decrease health disparities at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic."

NHMA's Virtual Briefing Series will be at 7:00 – 8:00 pm EDT on the following dates, and more information is at www.NHMAMd.org:

- June 24th: Mental Health and Latinos – US Mexico Border issues, physician and nurse burnout, and depression in our families
- July 22nd: Health Care Delivery Impact – immigrant health care innovation, telemedicine, and public health efforts
- August 27th: Dealing with End of Life – planning issues, caregiver and home health care assistance

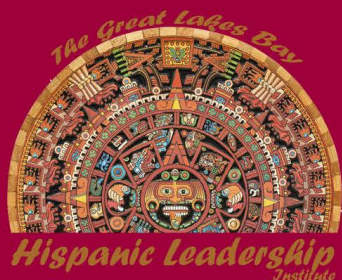
The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives and everyone needs to understand how to stay safe with social distancing and handwashing and wearing masks and following public health guidelines in your region. As the country starts to reopen, we must stay vigilant and be aware of how to work with the most hard-hit communities. NHMA and its partners, through the Virtual Briefing Series on COVID-19, will share innovative ideas to help your communities.



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Julián Castro, Former HUD Secretary and Presidential Candidate, Joins Forces with Voto Latino; Voto Latino Commits to Registering over 1 Million Voters



Courtesy Photo

WASHINGTON /PRNewswire/ -- Today, Voto Latino announced that former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and recent Presidential Candidate Julián Castro, will join forces with the organization as an advisor, supporting their efforts to engage the Latinx vote ahead of the November election. Castro's experience and dedication to the social welfare and political organization of the Latinx community will be critical to accelerating Voto Latino's work to uplift Latinx political power heading into the general election. Castro will add to the organization's capacity to reach and influence the nation's second-largest voting bloc.

"As I said during my campaign for president, the Latinx community will determine the outcome of November's election,"

said Secretary Castro. "At a time when Latinos are routinely targeted by the Trump administration and disproportionately hurt by the impact of COVID-19, Voto Latino is doing critical work to register and empower the 32 million eligible Latinx voters across the country. Their fifteen-year proven track record of registering Latinx voters using the most sophisticated, digital native campaigns has cultivated the trust of our community and has resulted in 79% of Voto Latino-registered voter turnout at the polls. I'm proud to partner with Maria Teresa and her team at Voto Latino in this effort, and look forward to Latinx voters saying 'adios' to Donald Trump in November."

"Secretary Castro has been a champion of our community for years and Voto Latino is

excited to welcome him," said María Teresa Kumar, Founding President and CEO of Voto Latino. "This particular moment in history is one in which his unique perspective and counsel will be crucial to registering Latinx voters, protecting the health and safety of all voters across the country, and defeating Donald Trump. As we accelerate our proven systems and technology to register 1 million voters, Julián will hit the ground running to amplify Voto Latino's mission in the halls of power."

Secretary Castro joins the organization as Voto Latino launched the Immigrant Neighbor Fund, led a lawsuit in Texas against unconstitutional voting restrictions, and made its first-ever political endorsement.

Voto Latino is the nation's largest political organization focused on registering and activating Latinx voters. Its grassroots efforts are focused on educating and empowering a new generation of Latinx voters, in addition to creating a more robust and inclusive democracy. Through innovative digital campaigns, culturally relevant programs, and authentic voices, we shepherd the Latinx community towards the full realization of its political power. Voto Latino is committed to registering 1 million voters for the 2020 political cycle.

Julián Castro served as U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President Barack Obama. Before that, he was Mayor of his native city San Antonio, Texas — the youngest mayor of a Top 50 American city at the time. In 2012 he gave a rousing keynote speech at the Democratic National Convention, during which he described the American Dream as a relay to be passed from generation to generation. Secretary Castro launched a campaign for president in 2020 grounded in the belief that every American should count, and that Washington should put people—not big, special interests—first.

For more information, please contact Danny Turkel, danny@votolatino.org.

Community Board

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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Reflections from a reader

This week we were honored to receive the following from one of our avid readers – Robert Krouskoff – our 94-year-old father and father-in-law. We were so impressed and share his unedited words with you.

What a story I have to tell!

My mother was left a widow with two children in 1932 at the start of the Great Depression, with no job experience. Yet several years later, after a few low paying jobs she managed to reach the position of manager of the Catalog Department of the local Sears & Roebuck store. The salary was just enough to keep the family afloat during the war years. Looking back now, her family takes pride that she had the guts and determination to “pull herself up by the bootstraps” as the saying goes.

That expression, “pull yourself up by the bootstraps” is a familiar one often used as a recommended prescription for success, especially for a person in desperate circumstances. It is a glib formula which does not consider for a moment the particular circumstances of the troubled person— usually black, dark skinned or native Indian.

“But,” it could be said, “look Bob at your mother. She pulled herself out of a dire situation. So should Mr. So & So. He should do likewise.” So it would

seem. But first let’s consider the differing circumstances of the two cases.

Although my mother’s situation presented her with tough decisions, she was fortunate enough to have had four years of a college education. That also provided her with social skills, access to middle class networking and subsequent success.

That’s a striking contrast to the bleak prospect facing the young black attempting to overcome the disadvantages of a poor education, deplorable living conditions, the burden of an unjust prison record, and a host of other discriminatory obstacles. Then there is the ex-GI trying his best to deal with any one of an array of disabling after-shocks of active duty, or of a young single mother having to choose which bill to pay — the rent or the medical bills for a sick child. And let’s not forget the American Indian forever isolated, facing

another cold winter unprepared and denied some of the full range of benefits available to the rest of us. And the list goes on.

I hope these observations give us pause to reflect on the reality behind the fact of a poverty rate of close to 25% in our country. The “bootstraps” way of looking at the reality of poverty gets us nowhere. Where did such a myth — or attitude come from? Presumably, it came from the casual conversation around the dinner table of our youth reflecting middle class attitudes of the day. No doubt you’ve heard the old expression, “What’s bread in the bone comes out in the flesh.” But it doesn’t have to be that way. In the service of truth and simple justice as well as compassion and respect we can be open to solutions rather than be caught in a phony concept.”

Robert Krouskoff is an artist and life-long social activist. View his artwork at www.rkrouskoff.com.



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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

‘A Black Woman’s Guide to Black Men’s Health’ National Men’s Health Month



Courtesy Photo

The above title is also the title of a book by Andrea King Collier and Willarda V. Edwards, M.D. (2007). “A Black Woman’s Guide to Black Men’s Health”, is an attempt to raise awareness about the general poor health conditions of Black men in America compared to other groups. It contains medical information, prescriptive advice, and personal stories from celebrity and non-celebrity women about their *men’s health issues*. And it emphasizes the importance of women intervening to promote the health and wellbeing of their Black male spouses, sons, loved ones, and friends.

National Men’s Health Month was declared by President Bill Clinton in 1994 to raise awareness about; 1) the health status and healthcare needs of men, 2) encouraging men to practice and implement healthy living decisions, and 3) encouraging families to teach young boys healthy habits throughout

childhood. The seven days before Father’s Day (June 14-20) is International Men’s Health Week. And Friday, June 14, has been declared ‘*Wear Blue Day*’ by Men’s Health Network to encourage men to live longer and healthier lives.

Research has shown that women strongly affect the health decision within families, and they influence the health seeking behaviors of their spouses and younger males who are forming attitudes about healthy lifestyles. Women, spouses, and others with a male in their lives can be instrumental to helping them understand the importance of getting regular check-ups and seeing a health provider when something that doesn’t appear normal is prolonged. The approach and manner in which to discuss health issues with each man may differ. But by expressing compassionate concern, women can give men “permission” to honestly express their

vulnerabilities without appearing “weak”. When this is effective, men often feel more compelled to seek healthcare and are more comfortable in healthcare settings (MHN HealthZone, 2020).

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Life Expectancy Differences since 1900

Year	Females	Males	Gender gap
1900	48.3	46.3	2 years
1950	71.1	65.6	5.5 years
2000	79.7	74.3	5.4 years
2017	81.1	76.1	5 years

Source: National Center for Health Statistics

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Continues on pg 17, Black Men’s Health

Continued from page 16, Black Men's Health

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Men die younger than women, and they are more burdened by illness during life (*Harvard Men's Health Watch-HMHW, 2020*). Men die of heart disease at higher rates, usually they develop heart disease 10-15 years earlier than women, and they are more likely to die of it in the prime of life. They tend to fall ill at a younger age and have more chronic illnesses than women. For example; men are nearly 10 times more likely to get inguinal hernias than women, and five times more likely to have aortic aneurysms. American men are about four times more likely to be hit by gout; they are more than three times more likely than women to develop kidney stones, to become alcoholics, or to have bladder cancer. And they are about twice as likely to suffer from emphysema or a duodenal ulcer. Although women see doctors more often than men, men cost our society much more for medical care beyond age 65.

Clearly males are the weaker sex throughout life when it comes to health. There is no single answer. The gap depends on a complex mix of biological, social, and behavioral factors. (*HMHW, 2020*)

Biological:

Genes and chromosomes. Males and females are different from the very moment of conception. Each has 23 pairs of chromosomes, which carry the body's 20,000 to 25,000 genes. Twenty-two of these pairs are present in both males and females, but the 23rd separates the sexes. This final pair contains the sex chromosomes. In

women, both members of the pair are X chromosomes, but in men one is an X and the other a Y.

The Y chromosome is only about a third as large as the X and contains far fewer genes than the female sex chromosome. Some of these genes may be linked to diseases that contribute to the excess male mortality throughout life. In addition, if a woman has a disease-producing gene on one of her X chromosomes, it may be counterbalanced by a normal gene on the other X, but if a man has the same bad gene on his X chromosome, he lacks the potential protection of a matching gene.

Metabolism. Another biological factor may account for the health gap is Cholesterol. Males and females have similar LDL ("bad") cholesterol levels, but women have substantially higher levels of HDL ("good") cholesterol (60.3 milligrams per deciliter, or mg/dL, versus 48.5 mg/dL on average). Higher HDL cholesterol is associated with a lower risk of heart disease.

Social:

Social networks and supports. Women have much larger and more reliable social networks than men. It's true: people are good medicine. Strong interpersonal relationships and support networks reduce the risk of many problems, ranging from the common cold and depression to heart attacks and strokes. In contrast, social isolation has been identified as a heart disease risk factor.

Behavioral:

From adolescence onward, male behavior is the main reason that men fall ill sooner and die off faster than women.

Risky behavior. Is it nature or nurture, the Y chromosome and testosterone, or daredevil role models and cultural norms? Nobody knows, but the answer is not likely to be either/or but all of the above. Whatever the cause, from boyhood on, males take more risks than females, and they often pay the price in terms of trauma, injury, and death.

Violence and Aggressive Behavior is different

from risk taking. A man who takes risks places himself in harm's way, but his unwise choices may not endanger others. Violent behavior, though, directly threatens the health and well-being of others, both male and female. A man is nearly four times more likely to die from homicide or suicide than a woman, but women are much more likely to be victims of domestic violence

Health Habits and Lifestyle. Poor Diets, not enough exercise, and traditional macho attitudes about seeking medical care continue to widen the gap between women's and men's health. Increases in technology, sedentary desk jobs, needing to work longer hours, reliance on fast food versus healthier meals, smoking, exposure to second-hand smoke, recreational drugs, and alcohol consumption are also more prevalent among men. Often, these behaviors are linked to the differences in morbidity and mortality rates between the sexes.

As the human body ages, a wide variety of molecular and cellular damage accumulates over time. This leads to a gradual decrease in physical and mental capacity and a growing risk for diseases. There is little doubt that the health of men would improve if they'd do some of the things that research has shown and that common sense often dictates: 1) knowing your genetic risks factors, 2) appropriate checkups and timely screenings, 3) eating healthier and exercising, 4) not smoking- avoiding second-hand smoke 5) managing the stressors in your life, and 6) doing what tends to keep you emotionally grounded and spiritually connected. These things could strongly influence our equality of life as we transition towards those 'golden years'. It could make a difference between being in your 70s and enjoying good health and functioning, or being in your 70s, frailer in comparison, and requiring significant help from others.

Check out the one-page Men's Health Checkup List below:

<https://www.menshealthmonth.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/getitcheckedpostermen.pdf>

-Sofus-

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- ☞ **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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Versiti Blood Center of Michigan in dire need of blood donations



Courtesy Photo

Grand Rapids, Mich., – The need for blood donations continues to escalate, and Versiti Blood Center of Michigan now says the need is dire across the state. The recent flooding in parts of the state made the need even more critical, with the loss of many appointments.

“Our environment continues to change amid COVID-19, and that has resulted in a changing environment regarding blood donations. The need becomes critical when our blood donation supply is not meeting

hospital demand. That is the situation we face today,” said Versiti Area Vice President Dawn Kaiser. “Hospitals are resuming surgeries, and trauma cases are increasing as stay-at-home orders are relaxed, and we must be able to provide – lives are depending on it. We’re depending on our community.”

Versiti Blood Center of Michigan urgently seeks the generosity of donors to ensure hospitals have the necessary blood available as they resume elective surgeries and other

essential patient care.

Versiti indicates a particular need for O negative blood – the universal blood type used in trauma situations, as well as O positive blood.

To ensure ongoing donor safety, Versiti requires all employees and donors to wear cloth face coverings during the donation process. Donors are asked to bring their own face covering.

Social distancing is also being practiced at all donation centers and community blood drives, and the temperature of all potential blood donors is being taken, as well as that of staff members. In addition, Versiti has implemented increased cleaning and disinfecting procedures in all donor centers and mobile donation sites.

Appointments can be scheduled at 1-866-642-5663 or by visiting Versiti.org/Michigan. With coronavirus safety precautions in place, appointments are strongly encouraged, and walk-in donors could experience wait times.

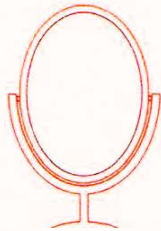
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A Scientist's Perspective on the Coronavirus



Courtesy Photo

I am Dr. Cedric Buckley. I hold a doctorate in microbiology and molecular genetics from Michigan State University and have taught in the department of biology, Jackson State University for almost 15 years at the levels of both assistant and associate professor (tenured). I am trained in the molecular biology of viruses. Viral replication formed the basis of my doctoral research and subsequent PhD dissertation. Consider me a “science nerd”. Lately, I have been fielding lots of questions, as you can imagine, from different communities about SARS-nCov-2, the coronavirus responsible for COVID-19 (**Coronavirus Disease-2019**). Through these conversations, I connected with CEO/COO of The Michigan Banner, Mr. Jerome Buckley. I can see the questions formulating in your mind. Yes, we are cousins! We were excited to speak by phone and trace through our shared family tree together. It became obvious that I should offer a contributing article to this wonderful Great Lakes regional newspaper. I am honored to be able to do so.

I was born and raised in Jackson, MS where I currently reside. My time and connection with Michigan began back in 1991 when one of my undergraduate professors suggested I consider Michigan State University for my graduate training. One year and several visits later, I was enrolled as a Spartan (Go Green!!). I lived, studied and worked in East Lansing, MI for almost 10 years. Then Jackson State University invited me to return home offering a faculty position in the department of biology. I became a tenured associate professor of biology at Jackson State University over a career spanning almost 15 years. Following an exciting, two year

entrepreneurial experience where I founded and operated a successful early childhood learning academy, I made the choice to give back to my community in a different way. I began serving as an adjunct professor of biology within Hinds Community College. There, I delivered dual credit college biology instruction to high school students in partnership with our local Jackson Public School district.

It was during my instructional time there with 11th and 12th graders that coronavirus infections began to be reported back in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. When our students returned to school from Christmas break, it was clear to me and other national and international scientists that this was no ordinary virus. Mid-January 2020, China took the drastic step of placing the city of Wuhan, China (approximately 11 million citizens) under strict quarantine. The quarantine would eventually extend to other surrounding areas and last for close to three months! The world then witnessed the start of what has become the worst viral pandemic since the influenza pandemic of 1918-1919. Many classrooms in Mississippi observed Spring Break 2020 during the second week in March. We have not returned to in-person classroom instruction since that time. K-12 and higher education, our work places, our social events, even our religious worship have all adapted to some version of a virtual communication experience. Daily video conferences and online content delivery have become as routine for many of us as brushing our teeth!

COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations and deaths have completely altered life for most of humanity. No continent on Earth has been spared, save Antarctica. Populations have been decimated, economies destroyed, families uprooted. Healthcare workers and first-responders have been asked to perform under harrowing conditions more readily associated with triage during large-scale military conflicts. As we continue to watch (with both horror and amazement) the scope and depth of this pandemic, we must also recognize and affirm that our collective destiny remains ours to chart.

It is up to each of us, therefore, to practice both individual responsibility and a return to civic engagement. Yes, there is a definite role for government response at federal, state and local levels. Yes, we must hold our elected officials and government employees accountable to provide the leadership, resources and services necessary in order for the citizenry to remain

safe and productive. Yes, we must be more aware of our surroundings, check up on our neighbors where we can, and model the new social behaviors we now expect of our family members and members of our communities. But each of us will have to take time to evaluate how we go through our typical day, paying close attention to what we do with our hands when we put our hands and fingers near our eyes, noses, and mouths, and when we put our fingers in our mouths. Why? Because we as scientists understand the routes of infection--the delicate mucosal film bathing our eyes that keeps them from drying out (conjunctiva), our nasal passages, our oral cavities, and any open cuts, sores or wounds on our bodies. Those are the only avenues of infection we scientists know exist. SARS-nCov-2 cannot infect individuals directly through skin contact. With this basic yet powerful knowledge, we can each go about the business of reconstructing how we approach our daily lives.

As we resume daily activities in increasingly larger social gatherings, I encourage each of us to please remain aware of when, where, and how to reduce exposure for ourselves and our loved ones. Coronavirus certainly has more surprises for us as scientists in terms of health outcomes. My commitment is to continue to provide accurate, timely, relevant information that will help each of us better navigate our lives and the lives of our families toward our “new normal”. In that regard, I look forward to contributing future articles for your readership. Humanity has been forever altered...make no mistake. But, that does not have to be a bad thing. We all know life requires change, and change (on many levels) is good. I pray that each of us seeks God's voice and direction so that we may find the good. Let us all continue to pray, continue to read, continue to engage, continue to love our neighbors as God continues to love each of us... and continue to wash those hands!

Dr. Cedric O. Buckley is molecular virologist with a doctoral degree in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics from Michigan State University. He currently serves on Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba's COVID-19 Pandemic Taskforce for the city of Jackson, Mississippi. He has extensively studied viral replication and computational microbial genomics. As a tenured Associate Professor of Biology at Jackson State University, Dr. Buckley furthered his training through collaborations with Dr. Jeffrey Conner, Evolutionary Genomics, Kellogg Biological Station- Michigan State University and Dr. Bruce Birren, Director of the Genomic Center for Infectious Diseases-The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. He is the founder of “A Scientist's Approach”, www.ascientistsapproach.org and can be contacted at: dr.buckley@ascientistsapproach.org

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Sampling Collection Sites Open for COVID-19 Testing



Courtesy Photo

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers is offering drive-thru sampling collection site for COVID-19 testing at the following locations:

- David R. Gamez parking lot, 501 Lapeer Ave., Saginaw, MI 48607/ Hotline (989) 293-3492/ Hours: Monday-Friday 9 am-3 pm
- Bayside parking lot, 3884 Monitor Rd., Bay City, MI 48706 / Hotline (989) 280-0725/ Hours: Monday-Friday 12pm - 4pm
- Thumb Area parking lot, 876 N. Van Dyke Rd. Bad Axe, MI 48413 / Hotline (989) 623-0137 / Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am - 12pm

How does COVID-19 testing work?

- You no longer need to bring a doctors lab order to get tested.
- People who are currently working in public settings or soon going back

to work with or without COVID-19 symptoms can be tested.

- People who have these symptoms or combinations of symptoms can be tested: Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing Or at least two of these symptoms: fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell.
- Walk-up testing is available. Testing is done outside the center or in your vehicle.
- All staff at the site are using full safety and cleaning protections.
- Testing is free!
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BUSINESS & WEALTH

COVID-19's impact on workplace design



Courtesy Photo

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended everything, including perhaps people's trust in the places and spaces where they work. As businesses prepare to reopen, while the public health crisis persists, discussions have understandably focused on how to bring people back into the workplace with the proper safeguards.

Inside Business spoke with several local architects about what the return to a traditional work environment means from a design standpoint to protect employees from the transmission of infectious diseases.

According to the Re-occupancy Assessment Tool published by the American Institute of Architects (AIA), "Architects and allied professionals are in a unique position to coordinate a range of mitigation strategies that, in aggregate, reduce the risk of exposure to and transmission of COVID-19 within non-health care settings. Our goal is to promote best practices that protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public while creating opportunities for businesses, schools, restaurants, and other nonessential facilities to provide services."

Jeffrey Ferweda of Sedgewick + Ferweda Architects is president of the AIA Flint chapter and a member of the AIA Michigan COVID-19 Task Force.

"Some (architects) are responding to standard social distancing rules with typical plans. Masks required in open office situations, relocating desks for 6-foot spatial separation, temperature reading on entry. There is the technology for

mass temperature readings," Ferweda said. "Some architects are putting HEPA filters in. Staggered hours for staff, one-way clockwise circulation, specific doors for different suites and staff to use, are all issues discussed."

He added that operational changes are part of the mix, such as: "Deep cleaning, keeping staff onsite, and not letting them go to Starbucks is a plan. Keeping kitchenettes cleaner for use by staff, encouraging staff to bring snacks and lunches in versus take out. Larger workforces are putting together smaller 'families' of six or less when groups must have continued contact. If anyone shows symptoms (of illness) the whole group is tested and isolated."

Jackie Hoist of H2A Architects, Inc. said architects have always responded with adapting designs to meet disaster responses, whether they be natural or manmade. This includes changes brought about by the bombings of the World Trade Center and the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Kansas City; the Columbine massacre; and the World Trade Center attack, where the design of airports was changed dramatically in terms of the space for security processing of passengers, she said.

"COVID-19 will also have an impact on design," Hoist said. "We are currently inundated with 'guides for going back to work, and 'the workplace after COVID'. Again, the new precautions may seem unsightly at first. But I believe architects will once again find a way to make them aesthetically pleasing.

"People need to feel safe, but not scared. Developing new designs and re-designs moving

forward, there will be more deliberate isolators between workstations, but they will be natural looking. Open office layouts may use more 'S' shapes rather than 'U' shaped layouts. Glass barriers will still be present but will not feel like bullet-proof glass. Lines and 'x's' on the floor will become accent tiles, and the building components we normally touch, will become more touchless."

Shannon Easter White of FUNchitecture, LLC said she has "definitely been talking to current clients, especially those building new ground-up offices and workplaces about what things we need to consider."

White has shared several ideas with current clients on the way forward.

Responding for right now, which include practicing physical distancing like moving desks apart and removing chairs, adding barriers like partition walls, plexiglass dividers, enhancing cleaning and safety measures, as well as supporting those who are working from home longer through technology infrastructure and file sharing capabilities. The installation of "touch free" devices, such as flush valves on toilets, sensor operators on sink faucets and paper disposable tissues instead of hand-dryers that aerosolize germs and blow them everywhere into the space.

Planning for the near-term may include changing of high-efficiency furnace and mechanical unit filters more frequently than a standard maintenance schedule, installing portable air filters throughout workplaces, installation of lockers or worker cubbies in a "mud room" type of space that would allow for transitioning to "work only" apparel.

Looking ahead, businesses may need to think more in terms of "adaptability instead of permanence, fluid instead of fixed," she said. "Create moveable partitions that can be shifted when needed if a space needs reconfiguring.

"People now have a whole new appreciation for being together and will want to feel a renewed sense of community."

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EDUCATION

SVSU student earns prestigious internship with Congressional Black Caucus Foundation



Courtesy Photo

A Saginaw Valley State University student's passion for law and helping others will intersect this summer when she serves as an intern for a Washington D.C.-based nonprofit that influences policy to advance African-American communities.

Arianna Jones was selected as one of 57 interns – out of 700 applicants nationally – to serve the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation for eight weeks beginning June 1.

She is one of two college students in the state to earn the internship this summer.

“With this amazing opportunity, I will have a chance to learn more about the inner workings of our government, and how laws are made and change is brought about,” said the Midland resident.

The nonprofit's leadership includes members of the U.S. House of Representatives such

as Cedric Richmond, Sheila Jackson Lee and Joyce Beatty as well as other prominent national figures including Henry Louis Gates Jr. of Harvard University. The foundation's board includes industry leaders with companies such as Coca-Cola, Ford Motor Company, Microsoft and NBC Universal.

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation promotes public policies focused on health and financial empowerment while developing strategic policy-supporting research and resources for the public. The internship program was established in 1986.

A prospective Civil Rights attorney, Jones said the internship will provide her with a platform to learn about how public policies are created and implemented.

“This opportunity will give me the resources to network and meet my role models,” said Jones, a professional and technical writing major at SVSU.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jones will be performing her internship duties remotely from home rather than from the foundation's Washington, D.C. headquarters.

Jones is an accomplished student at SVSU.

She was selected as one of 10 students to participate in the 2019-20 class of the Roberts Fellowship Program, a year-long leadership development initiative. She also participates in SVSU's moot court program, which is ranked No. 17 in the nation; as well as the campus chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success.

Jones serves as SVSU's chapter president of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the first historically African-American Greek-lettered sorority for college-educated women. She also worked as a photographer for The Valley Vanguard, SVSU's student newspaper.



Saginaw Promise

Saginaw Promise *Salutes* and *Thanks* Community Heroes!

First Responders *Healthcare Providers*

And all who are working to keep our community functioning!



Saginaw Promise extends its profound appreciation to its donors (foundations, individuals, organizations and businesses) who believe in Saginaw, its future, the future of its students and the power of education!

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Learn more at www.saginawpromise.org

Like us on

Saginaw Learn to Earn Academy closing its doors

After opening in September 2005, Saginaw Learn to Earn Academy has spent the past 15 years serving a population of students who had dropped out of school or were identified as being at risk of dropping out of school. The Learn to Earn Academy opened as a result of the request of then Governor Jennifer Granholm. The Governor asked Intermediate school districts to address the challenge of the growing number of students who were dropping out of school. This notice is to announce that the end of the 2019-20 school year, the Saginaw Learn to Earn Academy will close.

The financial challenges of operating a Junior and Senior High School program for students with very unique learning challenges, while meeting the requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum, resulted in the inability of the school to continue to operate. The curriculum mandates specific curricular requirements and the unavailability to employ specific certified teachers to meet the requirements of those mandates resulted in the inability to deliver quality instruction. This further exacerbated the ability of the Academy to meet the needs of students who had experienced years of struggles in their school programs. Sadly the school could

no longer financially operate and deliver a quality education to students who had not had positive experiences within their prior school environments.

The current experience of the premature closures of all Michigan Schools do to the Corona Virus pandemic, the Saginaw Learn to Earn academy will continue to educate its current student population, as required by the Governor's Executive Order 2020-35. To compensate for the time lost due to the school closure, education will be delivered to students through Aug. 31, 2020. A number of students have completed requirements for Graduation and others are nearing completion. Efforts will be devoted to enable as many students as possible to achieve the required class credits. Students who are unable to complete will be assisted in enrollments into their resident school districts or other School of Choice options.

The current experience of the premature closures of all Michigan Schools do to the Corona Virus pandemic, the Saginaw Learn to Earn academy will continue to educate its current student population, as required by the Governor's Executive Order 2020-35. To compensate for the time lost due to the

school closure, education will be delivered to students through Aug. 31, 2020. A number of students have completed requirements for Graduation and others are nearing completion. Efforts will be devoted to enable as many students as possible to achieve the required class credits. Students who are unable to complete will be assisted in enrollments into their resident school districts or other School of Choice options.

The legacy of the Saginaw Learn to Earn Academy has been its ability to work with students who had dropped out of school. Over the years of operation, the Academy has enabled 383 students in achieving completion of requirements to earn and receive their High School Diploma. An additional 8 students are anticipated to graduate before the Learn to Earn Academy closes this year. These students achieved greatness not only with the diploma but with their ability to turn their lives in a positive direction and achieve productive lives.

Persons desiring further information can feel to contact William J. Hartl, President, Learn to Earn Board of Directors 989-792-7739
Whartl@att.net

Game On: Delta College adds growing field to Computer Science Major offerings

Delta College's newly revamped computer science major now includes an introduction to an up-and-coming industry: game development.

The new program, which will be offered beginning fall 2020, will introduce students to video game programming and development. Students will explore the latest gaming programming environments and languages, and learn how to build their own game by using techniques in the areas of graphics, animation and interactivity.

Dennis Roebuck, e-Learning coordinator and associate professor of computer science and information technology, said the program was designed to provide a well-rounded introduction to this expanding career field.

"Many programming jobs require a bachelor's degree, so it was important that we give a comprehensive overview of the program and train students with skills needed to continue their education," Roebuck said. "Many of our students in this program will graduate with an associate's degree from Delta and continue on for a four-year degree."

The computer science major includes three focus areas: computer programming, web development and game development. Students will start by taking basic introductory classes before moving on to more specialized classes in their focus area.

"This is a benefit to our students because if they are undecided on a focus area, they can start off by taking core classes and then

decide on a specialty area without having to backtrack," said Kevin Wyzkiewicz, associate professor of computer science.

Wyzkiewicz, who worked with Roebuck to design the program, said anyone can enroll, regardless of their level of computer science knowledge.

Common job titles in the game development industry include video game programmers, commonly known as "coders," and video game developers, individuals who specialize in the processes of creating video games.

For more information, visit the computer science degree webpage or contact Dennis Roebuck at djroebuc@delta.edu.



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

Delta Fall registration open, semester starts August 29

With the fall semester at Delta College set to begin August 29, new and current students are encouraged to plan ahead now by enrolling or registering for classes.

Delta administrators and faculty members are also preparing for the semester ahead. Members of the college's leadership team are closely working together to develop a safe distance learning plan that will include new practices and procedures.

"The question I get more than any other is, 'Is Delta going to hold face-to-face classes this fall?' and we just don't know yet," said Dr. Jean Goodnow, president of Delta College. "What I do know is that our faculty members will continue to deliver inspiring, engaging and thought-provoking courses whether they are delivered in person or online."

Along with Delta's established small class sizes, the college is planning additional methods to

accommodate social distancing on campus. Delta's safe distance learning plan will include ways to stagger lab participation and ramp up cleaning and disinfecting practices.

Fees for online classes will also be waived for the fall semester, which is a \$33-per-contact-hour savings (tuition rates and other fees are unchanged). Payment deadlines will be extended and students are encouraged to apply for financial aid.

In addition to more than 150 programs and 100 transfer options, Delta recently launched three new programs in response to employer needs. Learn more about Food Processing, Technology and Safety, Instrumentation and Deaf Studies programs.

More reasons to enroll:

- Lowest tuition within 75 miles.

- At \$117 per contact hour (in-district), you can take classes without breaking the bank.
- Learn from knowledgeable and experienced faculty.
- Transferring credits from Delta is simple and easy.

Getting started is easy:

There is a place for you at Delta this fall at our main campus or one of our local centers. Now is the perfect time to apply and get started on an exciting new path.

If you are already enrolled at Delta, but need help getting scheduled for fall, contact Registration, Counseling, Academic Advising or Financial Aid. They are ready to answer your questions and help you get started.

For more information, contact the Admissions office at admit@delta.edu or 989-686-9093.

State Board of Education Urges State and Federal Legislators to Preserve Educational Services for Children

LANSING – The State Board of Education adopted a resolution urging Michigan's state legislature and the Michigan Congressional delegation to support – actively, individually, and collectively – any bill to preserve educational services to Michigan school children that have been threatened as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The resolution noted that this public health emergency has had adverse economic and educational impacts on states across the country and on countries across the world, especially on those states and countries with significant numbers of individuals who have gotten sick from and/or died from the virus.

"The state board has a constitutional responsibility to advise the legislature about the financial requirements for public education, so that is why we have adopted this resolution: to encourage folks to work with both state and federal legislators to ensure a reasonable budget for our children and our schools," said State Board of Education President Dr. Casandra Ulbrich.

Ulbrich explained that the administration's preliminary revenue estimates indicate that there will be shortfalls of \$1 billion to \$3 billion this year and \$1 billion to \$4 billion next year in the state's general fund and school aid fund combined.

These numbers will be updated at the May 15 revenue estimating conference. A revenue shortfall of \$1.5 billion would require a cut in excess of \$1,000 per pupil, all else being equal.

No state with significant numbers of individuals who have gotten sick from and/or died from the virus can address the attendant effects without federal support, the resolution said. Congress has acknowledged this fact with the enactment of COVID-19 relief bills in the last two months, and while helpful and appreciated, these measures are insufficient to shield our children and families from profound harm.

As of Sunday, May 10, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in 4,081,970 confirmed positive cases and 281,399 deaths worldwide; 1,323,028 confirmed cases and 79,124 deaths in the United States; and 47,138 confirmed cases and 4,551 deaths in Michigan.

When the first confirmed positive cases of the coronavirus were identified in Michigan, Governor Gretchen Whitmer acted promptly to protect the health and welfare of Michigan's students and educators by closing schools for in-person instruction for the remainder of the current school year, and issued a Stay Home, Stay Safe order for the entire state to help stem the spread of the coronavirus throughout the state.

"No child asked to grow up in a pandemic and, to the absolute extent possible, no child should be harmed in his or her education by the fact that he or she did grow up in part during a pandemic," said State Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice. "Our job is to protect and to educate children, and we need to preserve substantially education funding to do so."

Rice noted that six studies in the last six years have all indicated the same thing: Michigan underfunds its public schools. Though the state board and state superintendent have advocated for greater adequacy and equity in Michigan school funding, the resolution approved by the state board today does not seek to address this historic inadequate and inequitable funding system. Rather, the resolution attempts to protect children from profound cuts to Michigan's public schools during a pandemic.

The state board resolution also urges members of the state education community to share their related thoughts with members of the state legislature and with members of the Michigan Congressional delegation.

COMMUNITY

Get involved for proper policing

By Mike Thompson



Courtesy Photo

Regarding George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and thousands more whose names we never will know.

A few paragraphs below, I will share a note from Julian Castro on how to get involved nationally. But first, am taking it upon my shoulders to get started locally toward re-establishing a local police conduct review board, which was a role for the Saginaw Human Relations Commission from 1958 until 2000, when it gradually dissolved from lack of participation.

In Saginaw's most high-profile events, the HRC was involved in the wake of Bruce Moorer's killing in 1981 but had folded, sad to say, long prior to the murder of Milton Hall in 2012.

Keep in mind this would not be an anti-police

group. We would honor the good deeds as well as monitoring the misdeeds.

How do we do this? I do not exactly know all answers, but obviously we would have to begin with a planning startup meeting, for which I will take the duty to convene, hopefully this summer, hopefully with corona in recession. So far, at the very start, about a half-dozen of you have indicated serious interest. And this is only the start.

If you are interested at least in exploring this with me, please send a FB note or email me at mwtsaginaw@yahoo.com.

Now, following is Julian Castro's note:

*People First Future
Team, his name was George Floyd.*

He was a 46-year-old black man from Minneapolis, Minnesota. On Monday, he was murdered when a police officer kneeled on his neck for nearly 9 minutes.

After video of George's murder went viral, the community took to the streets to demand justice.

We should be outraged by George Floyd's murder, as well as the systemic injustices that allowed it to happen. We should also be outraged at the death of Breonna Taylor, a Louisville EMT who was killed by police after they forcibly entered her home without warning.

Team, I'm turning my outrage into action. That's why I'm supporting those who are putting their bodies on the line to demand justice. Please join me in supporting Minnesota Freedom Fund, Black Visions Collective, and Reclaim the Block, three frontline groups who are providing vital support on the ground in Minneapolis.

For too long, people of color have been disproportionately treated with excessive force and violence at the hands of police. That's why, during my campaign, I spoke out about the need for police reform and put forward the first platform to reform the broken system. I spoke the names of people like Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Pamela Turner, and Antonio Arce whose lives were cut short by police violence.

Police violence isn't a case of a few bad apples — the entire system is broken.

That's why I'm asking you to be a part of changing it. The first step we can take is to provide support to those who are on the frontlines demanding change.

If you're able, please chip in — your gift will be split between Minnesota Freedom Fund, Black Visions Collective, and Reclaim the Block.

In solidarity,

Julián

TCF Commits \$250,000 for Great Lakes Bay Region Relief Efforts and Announces \$10 Million Hardship Lending Program for Impacted Residents



TCF Bank today announced donations totaling \$250,000 in support of Great Lakes Bay Region community organizations, as well as a \$10 million Hardship Lending Program to support residents and businesses impacted by recent dam failures and historic flooding in the region. Organizations receiving financial support from TCF Bank include United Way of Midland County, the Midland Area Community Foundation and the Gladwin County Community Foundation.

TCF designated \$150,000 to the United Way of Midland County's Rise Together Fund which will make a critical difference on the area's asset limited, income constrained, employed (ALICE) population. Those dollars will be generously matched by The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation.

An additional \$100,000 in relief donations will be made to funds at the Midland Area Community Foundation, with \$50,000 towards a new TCF Employee Assistance Fund and \$50,000 for the Gladwin County Relief Fund at the Gladwin County Community Foundation. These donations will provide flood relief throughout Gladwin and Midland counties and can be used for food, shelter and other recovery and repair efforts.

"Our Purpose is to strengthen individuals, businesses, and our community – not just in good times but in times of hardship," said Executive Chairman Gary Torgow. "We have a long, proud history serving the Midland community, with over 600 team members in essential operations and banking centers.

The unusual events of 2020 have created challenging economic crises for our customers and team members, and we want to do as much as we can to lessen their financial burdens and help them maintain hope."

By establishing the \$10 million TCF Hardship Loan Fund, qualifying residents impacted by flooding can get fast financial support to purchase vitally important supplies and labor as they recover and rebuild. These unsecured loans will be offered for up to \$10,000 at zero percent for 36 months with no fees and require auto pay from a customer's Chemical Bank account. Details about this program and how to apply will be available on Wednesday May 27, 2020 at www.chemicalbank.com/midland.

Jordan Summers, Chemical Bank Market President, Midland said, "This community is important to us, and we are here for our neighbors in a time of need. Our banking professionals are ready to make a difference, helping customers put the pieces of their lives back together – we do this because we care."

In addition to its donations and new loan fund, TCF is offering the following relief measures for consumers and businesses affected by the flooding:

- **Consumer Payment Assistance:** For those facing hardship due to the flood, TCF Bank and Chemical Bank are offering payment assistance on Chemical mortgage, home, auto and personal loans with no late fees. Certain government-sponsored mortgage loan customers may

also be eligible for payment assistance.

- **Payment Forbearance or Other Assistance:** Borrowers with a Federally backed mortgage loan who are experiencing a financial hardship due to the flood may be eligible for a payment forbearance of up to 180 days, which may be extended for an additional period of up to 180 days, for a maximum forbearance of up to 360 days, or other assistance. Borrowers also have the option at any time to shorten the forbearance period and resume payments. (A "forbearance" is a temporary workout option for borrowers with a financial hardship that provides for a period of reduced or suspended payments; this may be followed by either a full reinstatement, loan payoff, or workout option to enable the borrower to resolve the delinquency.)
- To request assistance, please contact Chemical Bank Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT at 1-888-347-2008. Due to high demand, call wait times may be longer than normal. You can also email us at collections.mailbox@chemicalbank.com and we will contact you about your situation.
- **Repossession Halt Program:** Chemical Bank has suspended initiating new repossession actions for vehicles, RVs, or marine craft through June 30, 2020.
- **Suspension of Foreclosure Program:** Chemical Bank has also suspended initiating any new residential property foreclosures actions on an occupied property through June 30, 2020.

For more information on specific programs for consumers and businesses affected by the flooding, please visit www.chemicalbank.com/midland.

In 2019, TCF and Chemical Bank merged, forming the largest Michigan-based bank with over \$49 billion in combined assets, and construction on its new headquarters in the City of Detroit is underway.

BLESSINGS

This past month
Was a wakeup call
Not just for me
But for us all
It taught me to pray
As if it was my last prayer
Stop wondering if he heard me
Start realizing he's always been there
It taught me to walk by faith
And not by sight
Stop focusing on the wrong
Start doing what is right
It taught me to rid myself of hatred
Replacing it with Love
Giving all thanks and praises
To my father up above
It taught me a Holiday
Can simply come and go
But Life is a treasure
That's something I needed to know
God is showing his love for us
In a very special way
By blessing all our families
And allowing us to live another day



Brigitte Johnson

Are Houses of Worship Ready for the New Normal?

By Rev. Dr. Steve Bland Jr.
President, Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit & Vicinity
Senior Pastor, Liberty Temple Baptist Church



Courtesy Photo

As President of the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit & Vicinity (COBAP), I have urged our 150-plus pastors – through our weekly conference-call meetings averaging 70-plus, to strongly advise their respective congregations to follow Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s directives to “stay home, stay safe, save lives” until the COVID-19 virus has been contained.

As senior pastor of Liberty Temple Baptist Church in Detroit, I have urged my congregation to do the same. Except for my production team, no other congregates have attended worship services in the sanctuary for the last two months. We have exclusively presented services via audio and visual platforms, inclusive of Facebook live streaming and social media.

Michigan is now reopening businesses and other entities that are a part of our lives. People will soon begin returning to the church sanctuaries, temples, mosques, etc. across the city and beyond. When the time comes, churchgoers should expect many modifications to the scope of how worship services are delivered. In other words, there will and should be measurable changes to prepare and execute our worship experiences.

We will and should give strict adherence to safety, spacing, sanity, and sanitizing! Our traditional practices must now be under prayerful review before we migrate back into our places of worship.

For the foreseeable future, churches will need to find innovative ways to reduce the gathering of large numbers of people for worship services in the sanctuary. The solution may be to hold more and smaller services than normal, i.e., morning, noon, afternoon and early evening, to adhere to social distancing and restraints that will need to continue in the coming weeks and months.

There will be a need for fewer people to sit on each pew, and chairs will have to be spaced. Remote sites inside of churches may be needed for groups of churchgoers to watch televised services and sermons, to reduce large numbers of people from gathering in the sanctuary.

For the in-house-worship experiences, ushers and greeters’ roles may shift from shaking hands, giving hugs or handing out bulletins to monitoring church entrances, allowing people in at intervals, but not to exceed a set number. Verbal expressions of love and courtesy must replace those that engage human touch which is so foreign to our cultural practices and spiritual belief systems. Passing trays for offering or Communion must now be re-examined for more practical means without violating the sacred sanctity of its Divine purpose.

We must also seek to provide PPE equipment (e.g. masks, gloves, etc.) to meet whatever the indoor requirements are for gathering. For individuals who come to church without a mask, one should be given at the door. This will help them have protection in the various places they must go even after leaving the worship experience. Too often we require what we don’t help provide!

Weekly meetings and other gatherings traditionally held at churches, such as Bible studies, ministry/auxiliary meetings, and choir rehearsals, etc. all must be carefully

strategized with these practices in mind.

Church weddings and funerals will be different going forward as is the case now. The number of family, etc. in attendance may be greatly restricted while all practicing these safety measures. Many people have contracted this deadly virus at such gatherings.

However long it may take, it’s crucial that we continue to be safe, by taking care of ourselves, our families, our friends and neighbors, and others we encounter while continuing to live out our Holy faith.

Through it all, we take comfort in knowing “this too shall pass!” Our faith teaches us that even when we walk through the valleys of the shadow of death, God is right there with us – and He will carry and see us through.

In the weeks and months ahead, it’s important that we use our sound mind (common sense, good decision-making) that God has given us. Dr. Calvin Butts, esteemed New York Pastor and friend, says: “Religion tastes better with some common sense!”

Let us not be fearful to examine our practices, programming and faith traditions, but continue to serve God even in new ways. We must be cautious about our joyful return to our spiritual homes from this unexpected pandemic exodus. Otherwise, there may be another one to follow soon after!

Let’s explore new normals and forsake “old normals!” God wants to do a new thing! I trust that you, like I, still believe we’re “stronger together.”

In the words of our COBAP 2020 Vision Statement, We’re Looking Forward, Going Further, Climbing Higher!

Keep looking up!

Rev. Dr. Steve Bland, Jr. has pledged to create initiatives that engage the next generation pastors, foster clergy fitness (physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually), youth advocacy, leadership development, community engagement, and political empowerment. For more information about the Council and/or its initiatives, contact Rev. Dr. Steve Bland, Jr., 313-837-6331, cobapdetroit@gmail.com. <https://www.detroitbaptistcouncil.com/>

Saginaw clergy respond to Trump's call for churches to totally reopen their doors

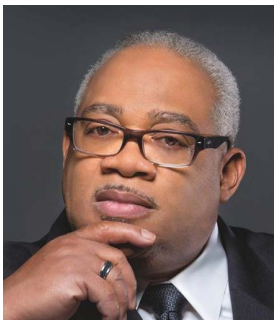
Compiled by Mike Thompson

In a May 22 statement amid the ongoing corona virus pandemic, President Trump issued a call for churches to fully reopen, describing their services as "essential."

The Michigan Banner responded by attempting to survey a wide cross-section of our pastors, including white clergy. We aimed to do this in fairness, because the white population in general is far more supportive of Trump. Sadly, the lone white minister to respond was Pastor Judith Boli of St. Paul Episcopal, who definitely is not a Trump backer.

We simply were seeking balance in our survey. The lack of participation in certain quarters may speak for itself. With that, The Banner compiled the following word-for-word responses:

HURLEY J. COLEMAN JR.
Pastor of World Outreach Campus Church, 2405 Bay



We have been providing digital ministry for the past few years, and were able to immediately put all of our emphasis on ministering to a digital audience. It has been challenging,

but the bulk of our regular attendees fit into the early demographic of the most likely to be exposed. We made the decision in March, at the beginning of the shut down. We have worked to get as many of the members digital as possible, as well as reaching out to the general public on Facebook, You Tube, Instagram, and Zoom.

I was immediately struck with the hypocrisy of Trump's statement, because it took him this long to figure out that the faith institution is "essential" services. We have taken the steps that we have taken because we always felt that we were "essential," not only to our congregation, but to the community at large. I was not impressed with his bravado of "immediacy", primarily because he has

no power to influence the actions of the governors of states.

In the big picture, it is important to know that the faith community is agile and flexible, when it comes to responding to emergencies. I am comfortable that when the timing is right, we will re-enter our sanctuary of worship. We will always consider the safety of our congregants first, as we pursue the spiritual responsibility of soul ministry.

RODRICK SMITH
Pastor of Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 721 Johnson



Our church hasn't held a worship service since Sunday, March 15th. We believe that one of the ways we demonstrate love for one another and our neighbor is by not putting anyone at risk.

We don't take instructions from President Trump concerning when we will reopen our place of worship. Our priority is the safety of our members and visitors. We will reopen when we believe it is safe, and our church family feels comfortable coming together again.

The people are the church; the building is where we meet.

ADOLFO MARTINEZ
Co-pastor of Radiant Church of God, 708 West Genesee, with his wife, Erlinda



President Trump is perfectly right. The Bible calls for us to get together and to break bread. This is a time when we need to come together instead of staying apart.

We serve under both President Trump and the state, Governor Whitmer. So which should we

follow? As the City of Saginaw, we feel we must go by what the state says, and we do not want to be breaking any laws, and so we have been conducting online services, curbside food give-a-ways, to stay in compliance with the laws of the land. When President Trump spoke (on May 22), we opened our doors for anyone that wanted to come the following Sunday, and only three or four showed up, along with the leadership. Others in the congregation are waiting for the governor's approval before they come.

We are going on our third year and we had been having 50 to 60 people. In time, we will return back to normal.

We are truly excited for what's up ahead. To God be the Glory.

VINCENT D. McMILLON
Pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church, 120 North 15th



The first Sunday in March was the last time our congregation assembled together for worship. Since that time our building has been thoroughly cleaned by volunteers. There are only

essential workers (volunteers) at the church including myself during scheduled hours. Of course we practice all of the standard guidelines set by the CDC: social distancing, hand sanitizing, disinfecting areas we occupy when we leave. We also sanitize all mail and UPS deliveries.

The politics of D. Trump's suggestion is, he's catering to his supporters. He doesn't want to upset that portion of his base, the religious right. So by suggesting it's okay to go back, those who feel the government is "infringing on their religious right to worship" are encouraged to vote for him.

Continues on pg 35, Saginaw clergy

Continued from pg 34, Saginaw clergy

Most political leaders are dancing around the issue of freedom of religion. Our governor recently issued an executive order that states churches have the right to worship “without penalty.” I found that very strange because this pandemic disproportionately affects African Americans, which also means Black folks must take special care even when we consider the governor's six points outlined in the Governor's MI Safe Start Plan as a measure of when to reopen.

Of course the government, federal and state, does not want to be accused of interfering with religious freedoms.

Again, because COVID-19 affects African Americans disproportionately for a number of systemic and preexisting health reasons, the St. Paul Church building will remain closed to public worship until the science catches up with this peculiar strain.

The Bible teaches that believers “are the church,” not the building. The building being closed to worshipers does not stop Christian evangelism, family fellowship/worship, prayer, or gift-giving. With the advent of social media we can reach more people on any given Sunday with the Good News, as opposed to being in a building.

JUDITH BOLI
Pastor of St. Paul Episcopal Church, 720 Tuscola



Our church has not been closed; rather our building has been closed. If our members were in the building at this time, they would be too close. COVID is a powerful virus that has no means of

transportation other than us, and so we are denying the virus that means of transportation.

Under the guidance of our Episcopal bishops, we still are in Stage One. We are not physically meeting, but we are conducting modified services on Facebook. A great deal of pastoral work can take place on Facebook, or by email. And for members who do not use Facebook or email, I call them on the telephone.

When we reopen, we will practice social distancing by remaining six feet apart, and wearing masks. Jesus showed us the way he loved us by dying for us, and these are sacrifices that we can make.

ROY M. BALDWIN
Pastor of New Beginnings Deliverance Ministries, 2602 East Genesee, and owner with wife Evelyn of Baldwin's Smokehouse BBQ restaurant,



I will not have service until I'm comfortable opening my church for services, the same as I will not open my business for dine-in until I feel the environment is safe from COVID-19.

DEMPSEY ALLEN
Bishop Elect of Jacob's Ladder Ministries, 1926 Fairfield



Our church has not met in our building since the governor initiated the ban in March. We have cleaned and sanitized the building and we will do it again after each meeting.

People's temperatures will be taken, masks and gloves made available, social distancing fully enforced and the worship experience will be shortened. Outside services are an option.

I have no intention of following the president's advice or edict. He will be on the golf course, not in a church. He is not qualified to address most issues; health and religion notwithstanding.

AUGUSTINE DELGADO
Senior pastor of New Beginnings Ministries Outreach, 701 Hess



No matter what the situation may be, even if we are given permission (by the president) to open up, we need to use God's wisdom and take into

consideration the health and safety of our members. We should not try to jump in. We must be patient.

We have been conducting our food giveaways outdoors, and also all of our services. Everyone stays in their cars and wears masks. People don't need to be hugging at this time or even being close. The only really cold day we have had so far was on Mother's Day.

The members respect me and what we are doing. They know in their hearts of hearts that I would never do anything to place them in harm's way.

WILLIE CASEY
Pastor at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 1721 Tuscola



I cancelled our entire calendar for 2020, including pastor's anniversary, church anniversary, church picnic and other events that would raise caution. I'm using conference calling as

my means of teaching every Wednesday and Sunday. We're using the Givelify app and direct mailing to the church for our cheerful giving.

I will not place the members of the church where I am the pastor in harm's way. Pastors cannot afford to become spiritually retarded and ignore the science and listen to someone (Trump) who places very little value on the lives of people. This COVID-19 virus hasn't been contained and I assure you that I will be cautious and careful and talk with other spiritual leaders before I reopen the doors at New Hope for fellowship.

ROBERT D. GRUSS
Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw

(Footnote: Bishop Gruss is among non-responders to our survey, even though the Facebook records indicate he received two of The Banner's three inquiries. He was not available on calls to the diocesan office, which like many these days is operating on phone recordings. However, in a May 27 letter on the diocesan website, Bishop Gruss does not mention Trump's May 22 statement but he does point to a need for ongoing precautions. See Saginaw.org/news)



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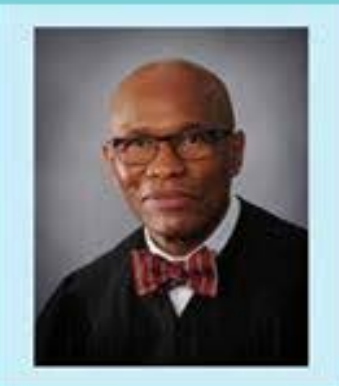


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Today's society is full of crime, all our people doing time
What is the lesson, we're teaching our children today
To Fight First, ask questions later, Demand to have it their way
I don't think this is how God intended it to be,
For our babies to be watching all this violence on National TV
We all need to stop, look, and listen, and hear all the cries
Stop killing, Stop Raping, Put a stop to all the drive-bys
There are innocent people dying, on a day to day basis
They are White, They are Black, and they are all different races
Why can't we solve our problems, by sitting down and talk
Learn to start stepping, add a little speed to our walk
Let's stop all the nonsense, let's put down the guns
Let's learn to relax, let's have some safe fun

Let's stop abusing our Women, Give them back their sense of pride
Whether the answer be yes, whether it be no, Respect and Abide
Let's teach our children values, and to look pass skin
Let's give them a sense of direction, Let them choose their own Friends
And when we lay down at night, let's be quiet and still
And know that peace, Can someday be real!



Brigitte Johnson

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Huntington Bank Commits \$150,000 to Help Residents in Aftermath of Great Lakes Bay Region Flooding



cityofmidlandmi.gov

Bank also offers immediate financial relief to customers suffering hardship caused by flooding

Huntington (Nasdaq: HBAN; www.huntington.com) today announced it is contributing \$150,000 through The Huntington Foundation to community organizations in the Great Lakes Bay Region to help provide residents with critical basic needs for food and shelter during this emergency.

“Our Purpose has always been to look out for people – our neighbors, friends, businesses and local communities. We empathize with the Great Lakes Bay Region, which has experienced tremendous devastation due to the historic flooding this week,” said Greg Viener, president of Huntington’s Mid-Michigan region. “Huntington supports the communities that are suffering additional financial distress in a time when many are also dealing with the effects of the COVID19 pandemic.”

Huntington also announced several immediate financial-relief measures to alleviate economic hardship experienced by its customers in the Great Lakes Bay Region affected by flooding in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

“Our Purpose guides us to serve those affected by this terrible, unexpected tragedy and to help provide some relief to our customers who are suffering in our local communities,” said Seth Perigo, Huntington’s community president for the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Customers in need of financial assistance may visit Huntington branches with drive-thrus across the Great Lakes Bay Region, and

they also may contact Huntington at 1-800-480-BANK (2265) to speak with a customer service representative about products or programs that are available. Our Customer Solutions Center is open this weekend and ready to assist customers.

Huntington is offering the following relief measures specifically for Great Lakes Bay Region consumers and businesses affected by the flooding, effective immediately:

- **Disaster Relief Loan Program:** Huntington has created a temporary Disaster Relief Loan Program to assist borrowers seeking funds for home repairs. The disaster relief loan program offers a discounted rate to help customers who may need money for immediate expenses. The program will be in place starting Tuesday, May 26, for the next 30 days but may be extended as the situation evolves. Please contact your local branch for availability in your area.
- **Consumer and Small Business Payment Deferral Programs:** Huntington is offering 90 days of payment deferrals.
- **Business Loans and Lines of Credit through the Small Business Administration (SBA):** Huntington can help secure lines of credit up to \$25,000, guaranteed by the SBA, with no bank or SBA fees and with low fixed rates, as well as SBA Special Product for Disaster Support term loans with no bank fee and ability to finance the SBA fee.
- **Suspension of Late Fees on Consumer and Business Loans:** Our Customer Assistance teams are prepared to help any borrower

impacted by the flooding in Michigan by waiving any incurred late fees and providing payment relief.

- **Payment Assistance for Personal Credit Lines and Credit Cards:**
 - o Personal Credit Line Payment Assistance – Contact (800) 250-6660 Monday/Friday 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET
 - o Consumer Credit Card Payment Assistance – Contact us Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET. This line will be open on the Memorial Day holiday. For payments that are current, contact (614) 480-6522. For payments that are past due, contact (800) 372-7725

- **Suspension of Foreclosure Program:** Huntington is suspending foreclosure actions for resident properties through June.

- **Repossession Halt Program:** Huntington is suspending repossession actions for resident vehicles, RVs or marine crafts through June.

Additionally, Huntington has established programs in place to help consumers navigate financial uncertainty:

- **Homeowner Payment Help:** Huntington can help customers needing assistance in making mortgage loan payments. Those needing assistance can visit a branch by appointment only or go to: <https://www.huntington.com/Personal/mortgage-educationtools/payment-help>
- **Auto Loan Payment Assistance:** Huntington can help customers having difficulty making auto loan payments. Customers may contact the Installment Loan Customer Service Department at (800) 445-8460, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday.

Huntington accounts are always accessible 24/7 using ATMs, huntington.com, online chat feature, by phone or the Huntington Mobile app.

THE MICHIGAN BANNER NEWS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AT&T

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Volunteers needed for flood relief distribution centers



courtesy photo

The Dow GLBR Relief team is hosting eight Flood Relief Distribution Centers in the region to assist with recovery efforts. Centers will be accepting donations, as well distributing supply kits. We need Dow volunteers to help staff these distribution centers as well as to staff the warehouse at the Dow Hangar.

We would greatly appreciate your consideration to take a shift at the distribution centers. The Gladwin and Meridian centers have been short staffed, and we could really use your help. We are also in need of people who would be willing to serve as a site leader for a full day. More information below.

Volunteer Needs at each site:

- 8 volunteers per shift -- 2 shifts/day
- Shifts are 8:30 am - 12:30 pm & 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm. Donation drop-off is 9 am - 4 pm.
- Volunteers need to adhere to COVID guidelines.
 - Temperatures taken on-site.
 - Bring a face mask, gloves and social distance as needed.
- Check ROAD conditions/closures as some areas are affected. Know route prior to leaving and plan drive time accordingly.

Sign-ups are available through June 3rd.

Register via the CyberGrants Volunteer Portal.

Site Leaders

We are in need of individuals willing to volunteer for a full day as a site leader. The responsibilities include volunteer coordination, communication with the warehouse team and to provide overall guidance and direction for the day. If you can volunteer as a site leader, please sign up by visiting baycityarea.com/news/details/volunteer-needed-for-flood-relief-distribution-centers.

We're Counting on You

If you sign up as a team leader or volunteer – we are counting on you to attend at your designated time. If your plans change and you cannot attend at the time you signed up for, please try to find a substitute. If you cannot find a substitute, please contact Tina Queary at tqueary1@dow.com so we can find someone to take your place.

Distribution Centers located in the following areas:

- Midland High School
- Sanford Senior Center
- Bullock Creek High School

- West Midland Family Center
- Meridian Elementary
- North Midland Family Center
- Coleman High School
- Gladwin Downtown (Behind Forge Fitness)
- Dow Hangar

For those that have not used the #TeamDow: Engaging for Impact Volunteer Portal before, please review the following instructions:

1. Click on the link provided. You will be directed to the Volunteer Portal login page.
2. If this is your first time, you will select your preferences to build your profile.
3. Click the Upcoming #TeamDow Opportunities link in the header to access opportunities near you.

Signing up via the Volunteer Portal helps keep track of volunteer hours, organizations/causes, T-shirt sizes, and emergency contact information.

If you have any questions regarding this opportunity, please contact Dow Corporate Volunteer Manager, Tina Queary at tqueary1@dow.com.

Planetarium offering online programming this summer



delta.edu

The Delta College Planetarium will temporarily halt public shows, exhibits and events this summer as staff members determine best safety and precautionary practices for visitors.

Mike Murray, Planetarium manager, said the building will reopen and public shows and activities will start up again in the fall.

“Our intention here is to make sure the public is well informed of our safety measures so they feel comfortable coming back to the Planetarium,” said Murray. “Since closing, we’ve expanded our online services, which has allowed us to stay connected and meet new people.”

Murray is planning several special shows and online activities this summer for families, adults and K-12 teachers. Some will be recorded productions while others will invite the public to participate in livestream events. The team is also working with local schools to organize virtual field trips for elementary students, expanding to middle and high school levels in the fall.

Murray encourages people to stay connected online and on social media through weekly programs:

- **The Backyard Astronomer Podcast** - A short weekly podcast from the Delta College Planetarium about what can be seen in the night sky.
- **Delta College Planetarium YouTube Series** - Original productions by Planetarium staff, including an in-depth look at the constellations.
- **Daily posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter using the hashtag #LookUpHere** - At home activities and interactive content from NASA, NSF, STEM and the best museums in the country.

For more information, visit
delta.edu/planetarium



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ONLINE APPLICATION - detroitk12.org/dsapathways
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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



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Pastorbaldwin@charter.net



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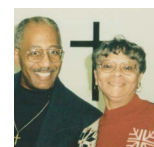
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POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Michigan Issues Payments to Utilities for Low-income Customers to Help Them Keep Their Energy Services Connected During COVID-19



courtesy photo

LANSING, Mich. – Eligible state residents having trouble paying their energy bills during the COVID-19 pandemic are having payments made to their utility accounts by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to keep services connected.

The payments to utility companies, which equal more than \$7 million for 17,937 households that have past-due accounts, will help energy customers keep services that may otherwise be disconnected once suspension of shutoffs during the pandemic ends in June.

“No Michigander should worry about how to pay their energy bills during a global pandemic,” Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said. “Our partners across state government are working around the clock to ensure support for those who are struggling to make ends meet. And we will continue to work

with everyone who wants to ensure every Michigan family can keep the lights on and put food on the table as we combat this virus. On behalf of the heroes on the front lines of this pandemic working to keep us safe, we must all step up and continue to do our part. We will get through this together.”

MDHHS is issuing COVID-19-related Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) direct support payments to utility accounts of eligible customers of Michigan’s three largest utility providers – Consumers Energy, DTE and SEMCO Energy. Those customers will see the direct support payments reflected on utility bills.

The average household will receive \$395, with the funds coming from federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act dollars awarded to Michigan.

These providers have in turn agreed to waive 25 percent – or a total of approximately \$2.3 million – of the outstanding bill for households receiving the direct payment, allowing for available LIHEAP resources to assist more families.

Energy customers at risk of shut-off who receive public assistance benefits through one of the following programs are automatically eligible – Food Assistance Program, Family Independence Program or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

“Automatic payments on behalf of families at risk of shutoffs provide energy security to vulnerable households and frees up MDHHS staff to focus on other ways of helping families who are going through

tough times,” said MDHHS Director Robert Gordon. “We appreciate Consumers, DTE and SEMCO for stepping up to forgive a portion of money owed by people who are benefitting from the direct payment program.”

No application is required to receive this benefit because it was processed automatically for households whose energy accounts were at least 90 days past due and met other eligibility requirements. Customers who are eligible for this benefit are also protected from disconnection for at least 30 days.

“Energy providers across the state have stepped up to assist customers hurting financially because of the pandemic,” said Sally Talberg, chairman of the Michigan Public Service Commission, the state’s utility regulator. “This additional funding will help more households with their energy bills as Michigan begins to recover and reopen safely.”

Utilities – including Consumers Energy, DTE and SEMCO – previously enacted moratoriums on service disconnections in response to the pandemic and its impact on utility customers. The suspensions are scheduled to end June 12.

This direct payment pilot program builds on work MDHHS has already done to streamline its primary program for energy assistance available to eligible families across the state – State Emergency Relief (SER). A primary goal of the direct payment pilot is to ease access to energy assistance statewide through SER. Automatic approval of the direct payments reduces SER

Continued from pg 47, Michigan Issues Payments to Utilities

applications, allowing caseworkers to process the applications that are submitted more quickly.

Policy changes to SER include removing interview requirements, simplifying and raising asset limits, eliminating one-time limits on aid, and eliminating co-payment requirements. In addition, the maximum amount that families can receive in energy assistance was increased by \$300, from \$850 to \$1,150 for electric and gas, and from \$1,200 to \$1,500 for deliverable fuels.

Households facing shutoff who are not eligible for the direct payment program or are served by other providers may apply for State Emergency Relief for help with their utility bills by visiting Michigan.gov/MIBridges or can contact their utility provider to discuss payment options.

Information around the COVID-19 outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

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



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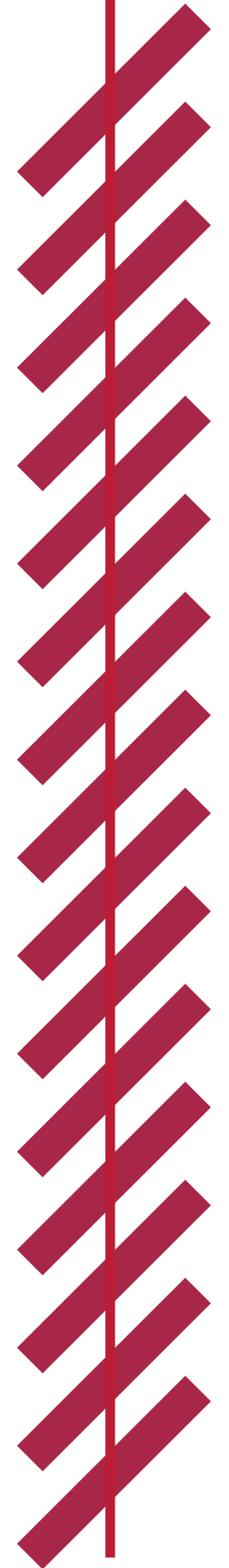


PICS OF THE WEEK

A Saginaw group called "The Ghost of George Floyd," was seen protesting in front of the Saginaw Police Department over the weekend. The group has been protesting day and night since Sunday, May 31, and will continue until Tuesday, June 2. To learn more about the group, visit facebook.com/ghost.georgefloyd.



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We

empower.

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



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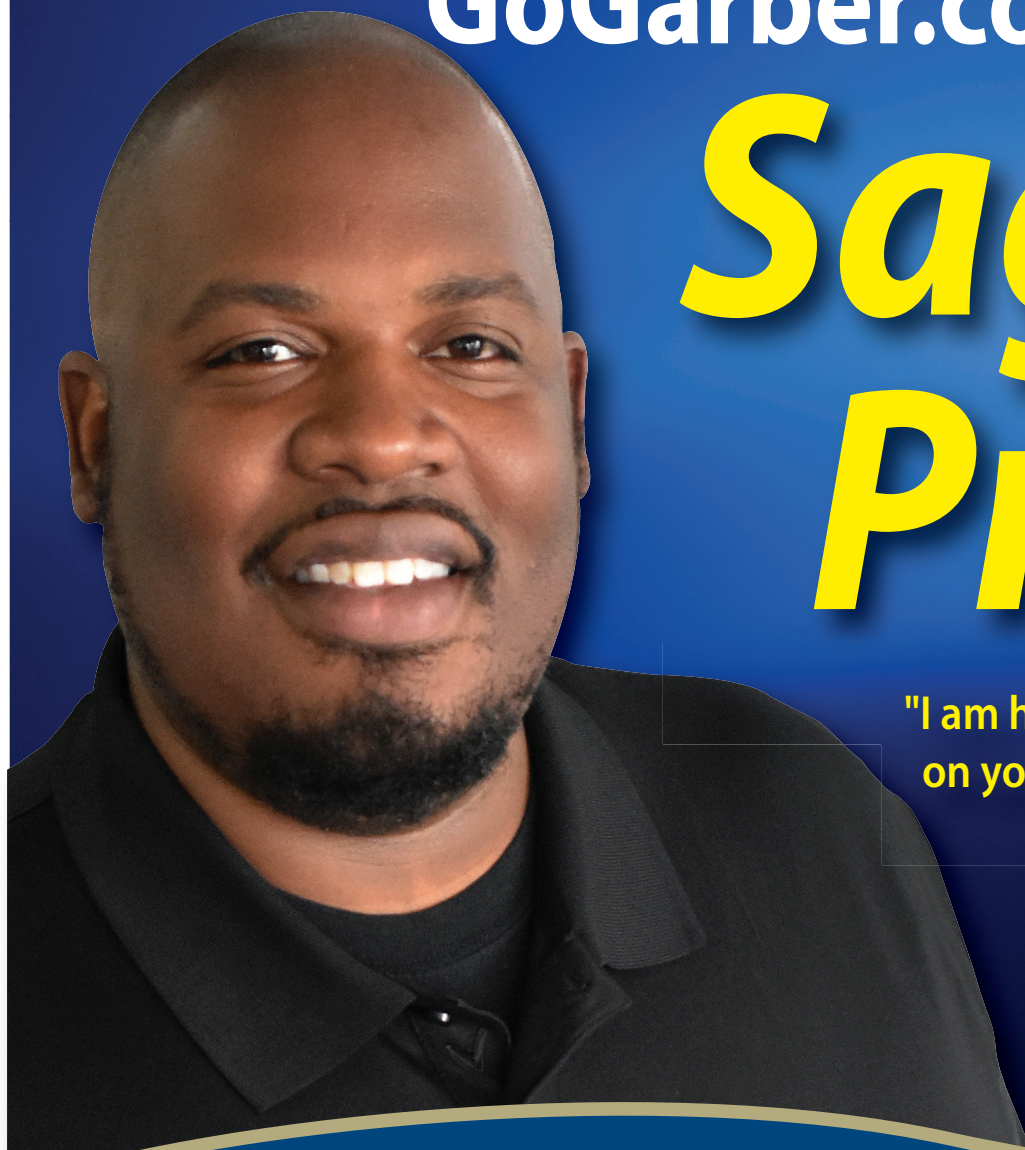
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