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Update on Saginaw Schools Blueprint



Community, Page 39

Celebrate
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



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Homicide Hurts



Michigan Youth Banner
Cover Story

GLBHLI Announces
Participation in Regional
2020 Census Efforts



Latino Banner
Cover Story



An evening with
TASHA COBBS LEONARD



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7:30PM

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March 10 Voting Reminder



Saginaw County Proposal 1

Renew 0.2942 mill for six years for County Parks.

Saginaw County Proposal 2

Renew and restore 0.45 mill for 10 years for The Dow Event Center.

Saginaw County Proposal 3

Adopt a new 0.1-mill levy for six years for MSU Extension.

Saginaw City STARS Bus Service

Renew and add a total of 3.2 mills for six years.

Saginaw City Public Safety

Renew 7.5 mills for six years.

Carrollton Streets and Roads

Adopt a new 5 mills for 20 years. (A 5.32-mill water main tax has expired.)

Buena Vista Public Safety

Renew 3.9692 mills for 10 years.

The **March 10 presidential primary ballot** also includes important local tax proposals, and so even if you do not desire to help nominate candidates for president, please consider going to the polls or voting absentee. A complete summary of the local items can be found in The Banner's previous Feb. 16 edition here online, beginning on Page 43.

To determine your personal cost, multiply the proposed millage rate by your property's taxable assessed value, which is half of the estimated sales value.

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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
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Introducing Co-Publisher of The Michigan Banner, Ronisha Sheppard



Ronisha will join Jerome Buckley, Jr. as Co-Publisher of The Michigan Banner.

Ronisha Sheppard was born and raised in Saginaw, Michigan. She is a recent graduate from the University of Central Florida where she obtained her master's in Communication. Previously, she attended Oakland University where she received her bachelor's degree and in the fall she will continue her education at Wayne State University to pursue her PhD. Ronisha

has spent over six years studying and working in various facets as pertains to website design, media, communication and journalism. She is currently a Research Assistant for Risk and Crisis Communication formulating prevention and corrective strategies. Ronisha is driven, passionate and dedicated to serve her community in this capacity.

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 5



“Homicide Hurts”

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

Welcome back to “Navigating the Narrative w/ Mr. Clark” presented to you by your friendly “Neighborhood Hope Dealer” C. Pritchett. As discussed in the last article, our ultimate goal (as we present information and insight into youth development) will be renewing the minds of adults towards “youth” and raising the expectations of “youth” among themselves to be more responsible for themselves and towards their fellow man, referring to those who are in their community i.e. neighbors, peers, etc. The final aspect of our ultimate goal is to raise the expectations of youth being accountable for being the “progenitors” (a person or thing from which a person is descended or originates; an ancestor or parent) for the future of this nation.

To achieve this goal we have to begin to explore the minds and hearts of the youth as well as observe the various behaviors demonstrated by them on a daily basis in connection with various relevant factors such, as family dynamics, their environment within the home as well as their neighborhoods/ surrounding areas, childhood experiences, etc. In reflection, during the last article

“Gangs and Thangs” we discussed aspects of youth development in relation to gang membership/activity, etc. We even involved two young men whom both grew up in Saginaw. A small city in Michigan that once boomed with industrial prowess and attracted workers from across the nation but experiences its population being no stranger to extremely wicked and cruel acts, typically ones involving physical violence and/or injury. It’s a city where there is a continuation and preservation of poverty, disparities (a great difference) amongst minorities in the criminal justice system as well as generational oppression (prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or control). Ironically the generational oppression comes in many forms and may sometimes be caused by one’s self, a loved one or a structured system (a set of laws/principles/prejudices working together with the intentions to oppress a people group) i.e. cocaine/heroin distribution, imbalanced family structure as where there is no mother and/or father present in the life of the child (note: not necessarily in the home but present in their lives), mass incarceration (locking up a very great quantity of a population in federal

and state prisons, as well as local jails), etc. I have been on both ends of that spectrum, hence, I know first hand of that reality. But, I digress, leaving that subject matter alone for the moment and focusing in on the reality of although the two young men (involved in the last article) had different perspectives and experiences in regards to gangs, family, etc there is one thing for sure that has had an affect on both of their lives. In fact, this very “thing” has had an impact on the lives of many citizens in the very same small town of Saginaw. This “thing” is homicide. Homicide is the deliberate and unlawful killing of one person by another; also known as murder. It’s “generally” promoted by variations of media revealed in the forms of video games, music videos/albums and movies/tv shows. When it is shared by many using these different forms of media, most of the time (not always) it does not reveal the true essence of its impact. In other words, you rarely get the full view of what it looks like when “homicide” occurs in the life of someone. Let us briefly explore such a thing. Because as we transition from looking into gang activity, we have to look into the reality of homicide/murder. Let’s take

"Homicide Hurts" Continued...

a look at home first, shall we. The 2008 numbers released in September of '08 showed that, as it had each year since 2003, Saginaw ranked as the No. 1 most violent city in America. The ranking was based on violent crimes per person in the nearly 850 cities with populations greater than 40,000. Saginaw had the highest homicide rate among Michigan cities in 2013 and was second in the state for its violent crime rate, behind the city of Detroit. This reality of homicide has an impact on far more than just its victims.

Those who are indirectly affected by a homicide are often called secondary victims; this term includes family and friends of homicide victims, even those who were not there when it happened. The effects of homicide are far reaching and it is generally accepted that extended family members will suffer greatly as a result of the crime. People in the community can also be affected by the death as well, for example teachers, community center workers, clergy, etc. Although not all violent deaths are recorded as 'murder', all violent deaths caused by another human being can be extremely damaging and distressing to those who remain. While individuals are trying to deal with the emotional impact of homicide on them and their family, other issues are likely to emerge. Things that are being dealt with at a time of great vulnerability, such as dealing with the police, the coroner's office, funeral, media and the courts.

Dealing with the police can be difficult for families of homicide victims, particularly in the early stages where people are in shock, confused and trying to cope with their loss. The police may have arrested someone for the murder or may still be investigating. Either way, they will need to have contact with the people closest to the victim to provide or gain information to assist with their investigations. This may mean that family and friends may be treated as suspects until ruled out and understandably, this can be enraging and distressing. The police may need someone to identify the body of the victim; this is usually a family member or close friend.

This identification usually happens at the Morgue or Forensic Science Centre. This can be a difficult experience as nothing can prepare you for it. The victim may have physical injuries and the body cannot be touched or only limited time can be spent with the deceased.

Funerals are an important part of the grief process. They provide an opportunity to say goodbye to the deceased. In the case of homicide, people may be discouraged from viewing the body because of injuries. However, doing this may be important for some people as it is the last opportunity to see the deceased and to say a personal goodbye. Careful consideration should be given to this decision and funeral directors can often arrange ways for this to happen even when there are severe injuries. Although you may be experiencing shock and numbness it is important to carefully consider what you want to happen at the funeral, so it has meaning and says something about the person who died.

The media will want to report the details of the homicide to the public. This can mean the family is approached for comment, for photographs of the deceased and for further information about the crime. The media can be persistent, including phoning and visiting you at home, following you and so on. The media often sensationalize a story and can print inaccurate information about the case and may present information in a way that blames the victim. This can cause further trauma to the victim's family and friends. Sometimes the media need to report on a case to help the police with their investigations or to appeal for public help. The media may print further stories about the case after court hearings and even many years after the event, which may bring back feelings of grief.

If someone has been charged with murder, there will be court hearings and possibly a trial. Most people have never had to deal with courts and may find it confusing and frustrating. You may feel distanced from the process as it may seem as the Prosecutor will represent the Crown, not the victim or their family. The language

and processes of court may add to your sense of exclusion. Be prepared for a series of delays and adjournments. The accused can apply for bail and sometimes can be successful in getting it. The accused will be in court and this may raise many emotions. Expressions of natural emotions are restricted in the courtroom. After court, your grief reactions can sometimes be revived. If you wish to attend the court or even the whole trial it may be helpful to meet with the Prosecutor beforehand. Victim Support Service can arrange for a Court Companion to attend this meeting and the court hearing with you if you wish.

Homicide is a crime that can have a deep and lasting impact on the victim's family, friends and all other people that it touches. The traumatic grief that people experience in response to death through homicide can be intense because of the sudden and violent nature of this crime. People can feel further distressed by having to deal with the police, the media, the Coroner and the courts. While some people's experience of trauma and loss through homicide may be similar, it is important to remember that each person's grief and reaction to trauma is unique. It may be experienced and expressed differently by various family members and friends. It is important to respect and recognize these differences. This may impact on the level and intensity of your own distress and your ability to support one another.

Grace and peace be multiplied you you all,
Beloved,

In Service, Mr. Corey Pritchett, MA





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THE LATINO BANNER

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

Vamos Adelante



Mott Community College Ballenger Lecture 2020 season features John Quiñones and Stephanie Land

Pg. 2

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Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute Announces Their Participation in Regional 2020 Census Efforts to Encourage Participation in the U.S. Census Bureau's Count!



Courtesy Photo

Saginaw, MI – The Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute (GLBHLI) has partnered with the Great Lakes Bay Regional Hub, to encourage the participation of all Great Lakes Bay Region residents in the U.S. Census 2020 Count. GLBHLI is proud to be dedicating targeted projects towards outreach to hard-to-count Latino populations in Saginaw County.

The 2020 Census will determine congressional representation, inform hundreds of billions in federal funding, and provide data that will impact communities for the next decade. The 2020 Census will provide a snapshot of our nation—who we are, where we live, and so much more. The results of this once-a-decade count determine the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives. They are also used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. Over the next decade, lawmakers, business owners, and many others will use 2020 Census data to make critical decisions. The results will show where communities need new schools, new clinics, new roads, and more services for families, older adults, and children. Our efforts for assuring all are counted is critical to our region.

The Great Lakes Bay Regional Census Hub is a collaborative effort amongst the following

Communities' Foundations: Saginaw, Bay City, Midland, and Mt. Pleasant. The Great Lakes Bay Regional Census Hub is working to encourage participation in the 2020 Census within communities that are at significant risk of being undercounted.

Established in 2009, the GLBHLI is a non-profit organization that provides a forum for Hispanics to develop leadership skills, network, and collaborate with individuals from all walks of life. This program is designed as a leadership identification program, with the specific goal of developing and fostering our future community leaders. In the past eleven years, the program has graduated over 140 leaders who have given over 24,000 volunteer hours in their communities. The program was built upon Cesar Chavez's observation: "We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."

For more information about the leadership program and 2020 Census efforts visit our website at glbhispanicleadership.org or our Facebook page at "Census 2020 – Hispanic/Latino Count".

Mott Community College Ballenger Lecture 2020 season features John Quiñones and Stephanie Land



Courtesy Photo

A journalist and an author are featured speakers for the 2020 season of the Ballenger Eminent Persons Lecture Series at Mott Community College (MCC). ABC News veteran and creator and host of television's *What Would You Do?*, John Quiñones will speak on Tuesday, March 24 at 7 p.m. in the MCC Ballenger Field House on the main campus. Stephanie Land, author of *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive*, will wrap up the 2020 season on Thursday, April 2, at 1 p.m. in the Mott Memorial Building Auditorium.

Both events are free and open to the public and will be followed by a brief question and answer session with the audience.

"We are thrilled to be able to bring both John Quiñones and Stephanie Land to campus as part of the Ballenger Eminent Persons Lecture Series this season," said this year's Lecture Series Chair, Dr. Dalton Connally, Program Coordinator for the Social Work

Technician program in the Fine Arts & Social Sciences Division. "They both bring to life the transformative power of education on socio-economic success in America through compelling personal stories."

Quiñones will share his odds-defying journey, celebrating the life-changing power of education, championing the Latino American Dream, and providing thought provoking insights into human nature and ethical behavior. A lifetime of "never taking no for an answer" took Quiñones from migrant farm work and poverty to more than 30 years at ABC News and the anchor desk at 20/20 and Primetime. Along the way, he broke through barriers, won the highest accolades, and became a role model for many.

Land's bestselling debut memoir *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive* recounts her harrowing saga as a single mom navigating the poverty trap. Her unflinching and inspiring testimony

exposes the physical, economic, and social brutality that domestic workers face, all while radiating a parent's hope and resilience. A freelance writer, Land writes about economic and social justice, domestic abuse, chronic illness, and motherhood. She has worked with Barbara Ehrenreich at the Economic Hardship Reporting Project, and is a writing fellow at the Center for Community Change.

The Ballenger Eminent Persons Lecture Series:

The Ballenger Eminent Persons Lecture Series, named for benefactor William S. Ballenger, Sr., brings prominent individuals to the college to lecture on topics of social, cultural, economic, scientific and historical significance. It was created to enhance educational opportunities for MCC students as well as create a public discussion of issues facing the greater Flint community.

Since its inception in 1955, speakers have included national and international thought leaders and influencers such as rocket scientist Werner Von Braun, journalists Alistair Cooke and Peter Jennings, art critic Stanley Kaufman, talk show host Geraldo Rivera, writers Alex Haley and William Buckley, humorist Art Buchwald, Black activist Julian Bond, businessman Daymond John, musician and author Patti Smith, mental health advocate and actor Sean Astin, former Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher, actress and activist Jenifer Lewis, and journalist and author Sonia Nazario.



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Seen on the Scene: 8th Annual Premios K?Onda Awards Ceremony held on February 29, 2020



Community Board

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HBCU Alumni by Birth

Claim your birthright as an honorary HBCU alumnus, and make an investment in the sustainability and growth of our colleges and universities

As African Americans we are all responsible for the health and sustainability of our historically Black colleges and universities. We are standing on the shoulders of the students that these institutions supported, and this touches every Black person in America. Our civil rights leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., preachers, teachers, artists, scientists, doctors, nurses, social workers, engineers, and politicians from prior generations were educated, mentored, encouraged, prepared, and intellectually challenged by our HBCUs.

Show your pride

We are now at a point in our history where we can no longer enjoy the luxury of showing pride as alumni of specific institutions. We have to reflect back on our history as African Americans and understand that both the Black church and our historically Black colleges and universities have been the cornerstone of who we are today, whether or not we personally participate in either.

We have to appreciate the history of these institutions and the impact they have made over the last 150 years plus. They are the historical backbone of the Black middle class. They created a way when there was no way, and they still do. If we let these institutions slip away, we lose parts of our history and culture forever.

The special brand of education that these

schools have provided – and continue to provide – is rooted in our culture and history. Our practices may now be replicated in other institutions – with and without attribution – but make no mistake, these are our practices.

Yes, we can now say that we now enjoy the opportunity to enroll at major institutions across the country and around the world. That's in part because generations of African Americans have "proved" our humanity and intelligence – generations who were educated at HBCUs. Every person in the Black community today owes an indebtedness to these institutions, the impact they have made on our lives, and their role in creating our future.

Each of us is morally obligated to continue to support our HBCUs whether we attended them or not: you are an honorary alumnus by birth.

Making it real

As we close out Black History Month for 2020, we can make a serious effort to support our HBCUs by adopting what we call The 12 x 84 HBCU Alumni Challenge. It's not complicated: give \$84 every month, 12 months a year, and you will have given \$1,000 dollars. Give more if you can. Here are three ways: give to an HBCU in your community or one that you or your family attended; or give to the United Negro College Fund which funds private HBCUs; or give to The Thurgood Marshall College Fund which supports publicly-supported HBCUs. It's that easy. Set it up online and get busy giving. As African Americans, through our collective giving we can determine the destiny of our HBCUs.



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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

Stay Healthy During National Nutrition Month



Courtesy Photo

March is National Nutrition Month—a time to focus on the importance of making informed food choices, developing sound eating and physical activity habits.

“One of our key components in YouthQuest is nutrition and nutrition education,” says Nefertari Jones, program director for YouthQuest. “It is important to teach students to eat healthy at a young age in order for them to keep those habits into adulthood.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, half of children worldwide between the ages of 6 months and 5 years old suffer from at least one micronutrient deficiency. Micronutrients are vital to development, disease prevention and wellbeing, and most micronutrients—including iron, iodine and zinc—are not produced in the body and must be derived

from your diet.

Each day, YouthQuest helps promote nutrition by providing students with a healthy snack and dinner during program. And according to Erin Wenk, a FoodCorps AmeriCorps service member working in Flint, there are several ways for families to help introduce healthy food into their children’s diets at home. This includes:

Taking a hands-on approach and allowing students to help grow or prepare the healthy foods they are going to eat. Students are more likely to try something new if they play a role in preparing it.

Trying new foods in small samples. Introducing food to adolescents can be overwhelming. By telling your students they can take a “no thank you” bite, you give them

the opportunity to make a decision about the food before getting a whole serving.

Introduce new foods with a bridging flavor – something your child already likes such as citrus on a new salad or a spicy flavor with new vegetables. Giving the students a flavor they already like can make new foods more palatable.

Making healthy food available. If you already know your student likes a healthy food, make sure it’s easily available for a snack. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle can be difficult but starting students early can help them form habits that last a lifetime, says Wenk.

YouthQuest is made possible through the generous support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

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

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

be the rock **THAT STARTS A RIPPLE**



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

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38 Companies Honored for Growth at Saginaw Future 28th Annual Awards Luncheon

Saginaw Future Inc. (SFI) celebrated its 28TH ANNUAL AWARDS Luncheon and another year of economic development in Saginaw County at Curtiss Hall on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University. The event was attended by 475 business and community leaders.

Saginaw Future honored 38 developments announced in 2019 valued at more than \$261 million that will create and retain 740 jobs. These projects represent significant growth in manufacturing and service industries in communities throughout Saginaw County. In addition to the Economic Excellence Awards, Cignys was selected as the Saginaw Future Procurement Technical Assistance Center Contractor of the Year and Saginaw Future helped secure three significant grants.

“We are in the business of energizing development and job growth in Saginaw

County and 2019 was an exceptional year for new investment,” said Saginaw Future Inc. 2019 Chairman Dan Dralle of Nexteer Automotive. “More than \$261 million was invested in new construction, equipment and technology, which is the highest level of investment since 2011.”

The ANNUAL AWARDS Luncheon featured projects that will help support a diverse economy and build momentum for future growth.

"Saginaw Future works collaboratively with the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce, our many state and local government partners, and Michigan Works! among others, to strengthen our quality of life and place, grow our local skilled workforce and attract talent," said Saginaw Future Inc. President JoAnn Crary. "Saginaw Future seeks to build on the recent momentum and energy in order to

advance Saginaw County's economy."

Established in 1992, Saginaw Future Inc. (SFI) is a public-private alliance of local businesses, the County of Saginaw, City of Saginaw, 16 local municipalities and the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce. SFI's strategic partners also include education, labor and government. Since its beginning, SFI has remained dedicated to fostering quality job creation through expansion of local industry and attraction of new business projects to the community. www.SaginawFuture.com

For photos, videos and more, go to www.SaginawFuture.com/news-center and click 2020-28th Annual Awards Luncheon.

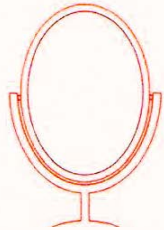
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How MidMichigan Health is Preparing for Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Courtesy Photo

MIDLAND, Mich. – In response to the heightened alert to the growing Coronavirus (referred to as COVID-19) outbreak, MidMichigan Health, in collaboration with national, state and local agencies, is continuing to review and reinforce processes for identifying and caring for patients with the virus in the event that it is required.

“Currently, the risk of a COVID-19 outbreak in the United States is low. Appropriate infection prevention precautions and emergency response plans are in place at MidMichigan Health,” said Sherry Anderson, manager for regulatory compliance, MidMichigan Health. “Members of our infection prevention and employee health teams from across the health system are meeting regularly to discuss all possible scenarios and we are carefully monitoring the news as it evolves. We are following recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and working with state and local health care partners to make sure we are prepared for any possible threat to our community and our state.”

In January 2020, MidMichigan Health announced that, due to continued cases of the flu being reported and the heightened alert to COVID-19, travel screenings would continue to occur at patient registration areas and the previously implemented visitor restrictions would remain in place for the remainder of the flu season. The restrictions allow only those visitors who are healthy, without symptoms of illnesses, to visit patients at MidMichigan’s Medical Centers in Alpena,

Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Midland, Mt. Pleasant and West Branch.

COVID-19 is a viral infection of the lower respiratory tract causing a cough, sore throat, fever, stuffy/runny nose and possible pneumonia. According to the CDC, while the immediate risk of this new virus to the American public continues to be low at this time, MidMichigan Health is responding to this public health concern.

“We are highly focused on this issue. We huddle daily and monitor all safety issues, including COVID-19, that may be of concern to our patients, visitors and staff,” said Anderson. “We are committed to ensuring a coordinated, safe response in the event that a patient presents to any of our subsidiaries with COVID-19. We have been working diligently to ensure adequate staffing and equipment resources are available in the event that we receive a COVID-19 patient or if a larger outbreak were to happen.”

General preparedness measures that have been completed, are in development and are ongoing at MidMichigan Health include:

- Reinforcing patient travel screening and triage questions based on CDC recommendations for Emergency Departments, Ambulatory Care, physician offices and clinics, and inpatient settings.
- Updating our electronic medical record (EMR) system with references/advisories for staff to identify patients who may be at risk for COVID-19 based on their travel history.

- Ensuring a process is in place to allow for safe and effective testing for patients meeting criteria.
- Following CDC guidelines for handling tested specimens.
- Outlining/mapping isolation procedures and areas.
- Sharing information on COVID-19 patient management with appropriate clinical staff.
- Equipping clinical areas with protective clothing and protective equipment to be used in the event of a suspected COVID-19 case.
- Following comprehensive procedures for disinfecting patient rooms and removing/disposing of linens and cubicle curtains.
- Preparing to safely disinfect patient treatment areas and necessary supplies used to treat COVID-19 patients
- Preparing to communicate with state departments, employees and media in case of highly-suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Providing via the MidMichigan Health website CDC information on COVID-19, visitor policy information, and signs and symptoms of the flu.

MidMichigan offers several free electronic communication services that can help family and friends keep in touch while these visiting restrictions are in effect:

E-Cards (www.midmichigan.org/e-card) – Send electronic greetings to inpatients.
Guest Wireless Internet Access (www.midmichigan.org/wireless) – Free wireless Internet access is available at all MidMichigan facilities. Healthy adult visitors at these sites may wish to bring a laptop or wireless device to communicate with family and friends via e-mail.
Telephone – All inpatient and nursing home rooms have phones with free local calls. Visitors may also use their cell phones in designated areas.

Those interested in learning more about how to prevent influenza, as well as signs and symptoms of the flu, may visit www.midmichigan.org/flu. Those interested in learning more about the COVID-19 may visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

MDHHS continues Flint food giveaway in March; Department distributes vitamin-rich food



Courtesy Photo

LANSING, Mich. – Families can get nutritious food to help limit the effects of lead exposure during mobile food pantry hours set for March at locations throughout Flint.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has provided the Flint mobile food pantries since February 2016 in partnership with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan in Flint.

All mobile food pantry sites distribute foods rich in calcium, vitamin C and iron. Potatoes, onions and apples are among the produce available in February.

March dates by location are:

Bethel United Methodist Church, 1309 Ballenger Hwy.

Monday, March 2, at 10 a.m.
Monday, March 9, at 10 a.m.
Monday, March 16, at 10 a.m.
Monday, March 23, at 10 a.m.
Monday, March 30, at 10 a.m.

Asbury United Methodist Church, 1653 Davison Road.

Tuesday, March 3, at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, March 10, at 10 a.m.
Tuesday, March 17, at 10 a.m.
Tuesday, March 24, at 10 a.m.
Tuesday, March 31, at 10 a.m.

Greater Holy Temple, 6702 N. Dort Hwy.

Thursday, March 5, at 10 a.m.
Thursday, March 12, at 10 a.m.
Thursday, March 19, at 10 a.m.
Thursday, March 26, at 10 a.m.

Salem Lutheran Church, 2610 Martin Luther King Ave.

Wednesday, March 11, at 10 a.m.

Flint First Wesleyan Church, 3825 Davison Road.

Saturday, March 14, at 9 a.m.

Flint Muslim Food Pantry, 4400 S. Saginaw St.

Saturday, March 14, at 10 a.m.

Hispanic Tech Center, 2101 Lewis St.

Wednesday, March 18, at 10 a.m.

St. Luke's NEW Life Center, 3115 Lawndale Ave.

Friday, March 20, at 10 a.m.

St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, 3020 Dupont St.

Wednesday, March 25, at noon.

Flint residents can also pick up free nutritional food at the three Flint Help Center locations:

Bethel United Methodist Church, 1309 N.

Ballenger Highway, open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays; **Asbury United Methodist Church, 1653 Davison Road**, open Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; and **Greater Holy Temple, 6702 N. Dort Highway**, open Thursdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The three help center locations now have more proteins to distribute to Flint residents in addition to the produce that's available at all locations. In March they will have ground turkey, ground beef and cheese.

This schedule is subject to change, and information about additional food distribution dates will be announced as they are scheduled. For more information or to find out about any changes in the schedule, visit the Food Bank website at www.FBEM.org and find the updated schedule on the Mobile Pantry Distribution page, or call 810-239-4441.

BUSINESS & WEALTH

Michigan Business and Industry Leaders Launch Michigan Compact on Immigration and Call for Reform

Lansing, Michigan - On February 27, 2020, a coalition of business and industry leaders came together at the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce to launch the Michigan Compact on Immigration, a set of key principles outlining the need for smart immigration policies at the federal and state levels that recognize the critical role immigrants play in helping drive Michigan's economy forward. The Compact, whose signatories represent more than 20,000 companies and more than one million employees calls for a federal immigration system that responds to the needs of Michigan employers and workers in a time when talent attraction and retention is critical to the state's economic growth.

Read the Compact and its full list of signatories [here](#).

The Michigan Compact on Immigration comes as new data from New American Economy's (NAE) Map the Impact shows just how much value immigrants add to Michigan's economy. In 2018, immigrants held \$18.4 billion in spending power and paid \$2.1 billion in state and local taxes. They are essential players in some of the state's most important industries, from STEM to healthcare. While just seven percent of the state's population, immigrants make up more than 17 percent of STEM workers, a critical role considering Michigan faces significant workforce shortages in STEM jobs. As of 2015, there were 19 open STEM jobs for every one unemployed STEM worker. Immigrants also make up 28 percent of physicians in the state. As job creators, immigrant-founded businesses generated over \$27.3 billion in sales and employed over 167,000 Michiganders in 2016.

"We are a proud co-signer of the Michigan Compact on Immigration," said Wendy Block Vice President of Business Advocacy and Member Engagement for the Michigan

Chamber of Commerce. "The Michigan Chamber supports reforming our nation's immigration policy because it is critical to attracting the talent and business our state and nation needs to continue to grow."

"Michigan's population growth over the past two decades has been completely attributed to immigration," said Doug Rothwell, President and CEO of Business Leaders for Michigan. "Our newest residents have helped strengthen our talent base, but we need to accelerate our growth. The states that embrace and welcome new citizens will grow the fastest and have the economic strength to provide critical shared services for all: a well-funded education system and modernized infrastructure. Our state's largest employers are stepping forward to say: 'You're welcome here. Help us grow.'"

"SBAM supports the Michigan Compact on Immigration because immigration policy plays a critical role in talent attraction and retention in Michigan," said Brian Calley, president of the Small Business Association of Michigan. "To keep our economy growing, we must have the brightest and best talent and that includes immigrants, who already play a significant role in our local and state economies. Bipartisan immigration policy reforms will help us maintain and build an environment of success for small businesses."

"The Midland Business Alliance is pleased to sign onto the Michigan Compact on Immigration. We understand how essential this discussion is, whether it's a Fortune 500 company or a small business. We support a thoughtful dialogue that will help us to achieve needed policy on legal immigration," said Tony Stamas, President & CEO of the Midland Business Alliance.

"As the automotive industry flourished in Flint more than a century ago, immigrants were crucial to building and maintaining that success," said Tim Herman, CEO of the Flint

& Genesee Chamber of Commerce. "Today, international talent remains a vital part of our engine for economic growth. That's why we strongly endorse the Michigan Compact on Immigration."

"The Grand Rapids Chamber is proud to support the launch of the Compact. In order to grow and compete, we need a strong workforce, and for that we need people. The time for immigration reform is now, and Michigan's future economy depends on its very outcome," said Rick Baker, President & CEO of the Grand Rapids Chamber.

"The Grand Traverse Region has its focus on attracting high-growth businesses, growing family-sustaining jobs and careers, and becoming a talent destination. It is critical for this growth and prosperity that we create a more welcoming community for diverse populations. Our region competes with cities across the country for talent, and the data is clear that attracting new citizens is an important competitive advantage for Michigan," said Warren Call, President & CEO, Traverse Connect.

"Our organization is proud to sign on to the Michigan Compact on Immigration with so many business organizations throughout our state," said Tim Daman president & CEO of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce. "Immigration plays a critical role in driving continued economic growth and job creation for our state and region."

"The Michigan Compact shows the diverse business community across the state agrees that common-sense immigration reform is necessary for Michigan's future success," said Kate Brick, Director of State and Local Initiatives at New American Economy. "From agriculture to tech to healthcare, immigrants play an integral role in revitalizing and growing Michigan's economy."



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Owe Taxes? Make Payments Direct to Treasury

Taxpayers who owe state income taxes to the state of Michigan should make payments online directly to the Michigan Department of Treasury.

Recently, the state Treasury Department has noticed an increase in the use of third-party bill payment services to pay outstanding state tax bills. These providers typically accept credit card payments online and then send a check to the state through the U.S. Postal Service.

The state Treasury Department is concerned because a taxpayer's personal information could be compromised. Using these providers can also delay the processing of a state income tax return due to the extra time needed to identify the taxpayer and apply the amount paid to a related outstanding tax bill.

"Taxpayers need to be vigilant when using the services of third-party payment providers," said Deputy State Treasurer Glenn White, who oversees Treasury's Tax Administration programs. "If you owe, please go to our website to pay your outstanding tax bill. We don't want taxpayers to become a victim of identity theft or face penalties and interest due to an unauthorized service routing a payment incorrectly."

The state Treasury Department recommends that taxpayers pay their outstanding tax bills on www.michigan.gov/incometax. Payments made through the state of Michigan's website are authenticated to ensure payments are made to a taxpayer's account.

The fees charged on the state of Michigan's payment website are comparable to third-party bill-paying providers.

In addition, payments made through www.michigan.gov/incometax are Payment Card Industry (PCI) and National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA) compliant to help guard taxpayer security. Third-party bill payment providers do not have a contractual relationship with the state Treasury Department, so personal information, payment amount and credit card numbers aren't verified to be secure.

To learn more about Michigan's income tax, go to www.michigan.gov/incometax or follow the state Treasury Department on Twitter at @MITreasury.

Chemical Bank Announces Newly Renovated Old Town Office



Courtesy Photo

Chemical Bank is pleased to announce the expansion of their Saginaw Old Town office. They moved into a new, expanded suite at 100 S. Michigan Avenue to be able to better serve customers in the City of Saginaw. The new location now includes an ATM, Night drop, Business Banking and Middle Market Lending, Municipal Banking, and Mortgage Lending all under one roof.

"We are very excited about our

expanded offerings at our Saginaw Old Town office," stated Laura Yockey, Saginaw Community President for Chemical Bank. "We are a champion for our customers and are passionate about building stronger individuals, businesses and communities. Our team of experienced professionals spend time working directly with our customers to learn and understand their goals, which allows us to develop personalized financial solutions they can use to succeed."

Isabella Bank Corporation Announces First Quarter 2020 Dividend

Isabella Bank Corporation Announces First Quarter 2020 Dividend

Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, February 28, 2020 - Isabella Bank Corporation (OTCQX:ISBA), announced today that the Board of Directors of the Corporation declared a first quarter cash dividend of \$0.27 per common share at its regular meeting held on February 26, 2020. The dividend will be payable on March 31, 2020 to shareholders of record as of March 26, 2020. Based on ISBA's closing stock price of \$23.96 per share as of

February 27, 2020, the annualized cash dividend yield was 4.51%.

"I am pleased to announce our Board approved a dividend of \$0.27 per share for the first quarter," commented Jae A. Evans, President and Chief Executive Officer of Isabella Bank Corporation. "The first quarter dividend is a 3.85% increase from the first quarter 2019 dividend. Our commitment is to provide an attractive shareholder return through sustained dividends, an exceptional dividend yield and strong financial results."

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The Class was developed by Terry Duperon; an entrepreneur, inventor, author and speaker who has taught over 1000 students through Duperon Education.

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

The Class is for anyone looking for the next step. People walk out with more of themselves than when they entered and leave with the tools to create, lead and fulfill their dreams.



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EDUCATION

Scholarship Roundup for Genesee County Students



Courtesy Photo

With so many application deadlines fast approaching, March is a great time to start searching and applying for scholarships for college.

Not sure where to start? The Community Foundation of Greater Flint administers several scholarship funds established by donors primarily benefiting students across Genesee County.

These scholarships range from small one-time awards to larger multi-year awards and are often designated for graduates from a particular high school.

For example, here are just some of the scholarships available to Genesee County students through the Community Foundation of Greater Flint:

Clinton B. Jones Fund for the Flint Area Education Foundation – Awarded to an African American senior in Genesee County attending the University of Michigan-Flint.
Flint Area Education Foundation General

Scholarship Endowment Fund – Awarded to an African American graduating senior of Genesee County with a GPA of 2.5 or higher.
Howard S. Staisil Scholarship Fund – Awarded in 2020 to a boys' soccer participant in the CANUSA Games.
B. Cook and George Carpenter Scholarship Fund – Awarded to graduating seniors of Genesee County with a GPA of 2.0 or higher.
Katharine Roat Stevens Scholarship Fund – Awarded to a young woman who is graduating from a Genesee County high school with an interest in becoming an entrepreneur.
Leslie G Ames Fund – Awarded to graduating seniors of any high school in Genesee County with a GPA of at least 3.0.
LeVert and Nina Jones Fund of the Flint Area Education Initiative – Awarded to African American seniors of Genesee County who have been adversely affected by substance abuse.
Marie Manley Scholarship – Awarded to a female high school student graduating from any Flint or Genesee County high school who participated in the Flint Olympian and CANUSA Games.

To find out more details and apply for any of these scholarships—which have an application deadline of March 15—click [here](#).

Additionally, scholarships are available through several other community organizations and include:

- **Back to the Bricks Scholarship** – Awarded to seniors in Genesee County who plan on enrolling in an accredited post-secondary college, university or trade school for training as it relates to the automobile industry. For more information and to apply, visit the [Back to the Bricks website](#).
- **Flint Kiwanis Scholarship** – Awarded to a senior who demonstrates financial need and plans on attending a 4-year college or university in the state of Michigan. Genesee County students can ask their high school counselors for more details.
- **Lockheed Martin STEM Scholarship** – Awarded to individuals studying eligible engineering or computer science majors who demonstrate financial need and come from underrepresented and underserved communities. Visit [com/scholarship](#) for more details.
- **Mott Community College Trustee's Leadership Scholarship** – A full-tuition scholarship to Mott Community College available to a student who demonstrates leadership in academics, community engagement and a commitment to attend Mott Community College. For more information, visit [Mott Community College's website](#).
- **Wilsterman Foundation Scholarship** – Open to Genesee County seniors with great potential who may have struggled in high school due to extenuating circumstances. To learn more, visit [wilsterman.org/apply](#).

Community Backs SVSU Business College Expansion, Providing \$15.6M for Fundraising Campaign



Courtesy Photo

The business community demonstrated its strong commitment to investing in the Great Lakes Bay Region's future during a \$15.6 million fundraising campaign supporting a building expansion expected to benefit generations of Saginaw Valley State University business students and grow regional businesses.

SVSU will host a dedication ceremony Monday, Feb. 24 for the \$25.4 million, 38,500-square-foot addition to SVSU's Scott L. Carmona College of Business.

The facility soon will be utilized by students and local business partners alike, providing them access to state-of-the-art facilities and technology fit for Fortune 500 companies. The investment in the future offered by those resources inspired donations — from alumni, friends of the university, local foundations and the business community — for SVSU's "First for Business" campaign, helping the SVSU Foundation exceed its \$15 million fundraising goal by \$600,000. In total, 27 gifts topped \$100,000.

"SVSU prides itself on serving as a resource for the region, and businesses are counting on us to develop both a deep talent pool of professionals as well as programs that can power those companies to success," said Don Bachand, SVSU president.

"The overwhelmingly positive response from our business community and donors shows their faith in SVSU's ability to deliver these resources. Our SVSU family is grateful for

that faith, and we are excited to strengthen our partnerships with this new resource."

The campaign's largest gift was offered by the Scott Carmona family. Carmona, an SVSU alumnus and owner of Bay City-based Sunrise National Distributors, Inc., said the donation was a decision made by his family, including his wife, Nancy, and their two sons, Eric and Ryan.

"We are helping students achieve what they can achieve," Scott Carmona said. "If they can achieve that with scholarships or a better facility or with more professors — and we are in a position to help them do that — then we are going to do that. If I can do my part to help, that's what I'm going to do."

Among the other business leaders who contributed to the campaign was Dick Garber, president of Garber Automotive Group. Garber said his contribution was inspired in part by the community-minded values that define SVSU business students.

"They come out with the understanding of the importance of people in industry today, and how important character is, which is a fundamental value of the university that coincides and complements what Garber is all about," he said.

"They are a big part of the future of our business. To have our local university expand their business school: that is going to be attractive to local businesses and attractive to businesses outside the area. We help the

university, we help our community, we help ourselves."

Kimberly Norris, vice president of administration at Saginaw-based Glastender, Inc., served as co-chair of SVSU's "First for Business" campaign as well as chair of the SVSU Foundation Board of Directors.

"We have strong leadership in the Great Lakes Bay Region who pull together to support what is best for our community," said Norris, a two-time graduate of the university.

"SVSU has established a strong relationship with businesses in our community by demonstrating the desire to partner with us — whether it be to provide qualified graduates for our job openings or serving as a resource to us through programs like the Stevens Center for Family Business. It is clear that SVSU has made a commitment to us, and in return, business leaders gladly supported the Scott L. Carmona College of Business expansion project."

Along with the fundraising campaign, the building addition was supported by \$9.8 million in funding from the State of Michigan.

The expansion will create additional space to house the academic college's classrooms, offices and business programs. The new space will include state-of-the-art technology such as analytics labs and Bloomberg Trading terminals, which tracks stock data in real time.

Planners say the upgrades will provide students with technology used by Fortune 500 companies, deepen connections between the business community and the talent pool developed at the university, along with establishing a business degree from SVSU as an industry gold standard.

"The success of this campaign was an incredible team effort by our Foundation board and volunteers," said Andy Bethune, executive director of the SVSU Foundation.

"Our special thanks to campaign co-chairs Morrie Stevens Sr., Bill Zehnder and Kim Norris for their leadership. We could not have done this without them."

Saginaw Promise

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Flint Promise hosts informational meeting as program embarks on third year



Courtesy Photo

Now in his second year at Mott Community College, Grant Morrison is in the process of determining his next steps.

“Like a lot of college students, I floated around my first year and didn’t really know what I wanted to do,” Morrison says. “Then I took some electrical classes and really enjoyed it. I’m now trying to decide whether I should go into robotics, which would lead me into a bachelor’s degree, or if I’m going to become an electrician.”

Thanks to the Flint Promise program, Morrison has been able to focus his time and efforts on his academic performance and decisions. The scholarship—which is designed for Flint residents who graduate or earn a GED from a high school located in Flint—covers up to 100 percent of a student’s tuition and book fees after federal grants and other scholarships are applied.

“I don’t have to worry about paying off any

student loan debt down the line,” Morrison says. “It’s great—my brother actually just applied for the scholarship, too.”

Flint Promise first launched in 2018 and currently has more than 160 students enrolled in its scholarship program at Kettering University, Mott Community College and the University of Michigan-Flint. The program is now accepting applications for the 2020-21 academic year and will host an informational meeting for parents, students, school counselors and interested community members on Saturday, March 21.

“This is a great opportunity to learn and ask questions about how the scholarship can be used and what kind of wraparound supports are available,” says James Avery, director of Education & Training at the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce, which administers the scholarship program.

According to Avery, the scholarship is open to

students who meet the following criteria:

- Graduate from a high school located within the City of Flint, or receive a GED in the City of Flint, in or after 2018
- Reside within the City of Flint at the time of graduation
- Graduate with a 1.8 GPA or higher
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Apply to a participating college or university
- Be age 24 or younger

Flint Promise was established through \$2 million in combined gifts from the Consumers Energy Foundation and Tom Gores, Founder of FlintNOW, and is housed at the Community Foundation of Greater Flint and administered by the Flint & Genesee Chamber.

To learn more, visit theflintpromise.org.



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.

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Saginaw, MI 48601
Phone 989.752.2193
Fax 989.921.7146

Office Hours

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Wednesday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM
Thursday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM
Sunday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

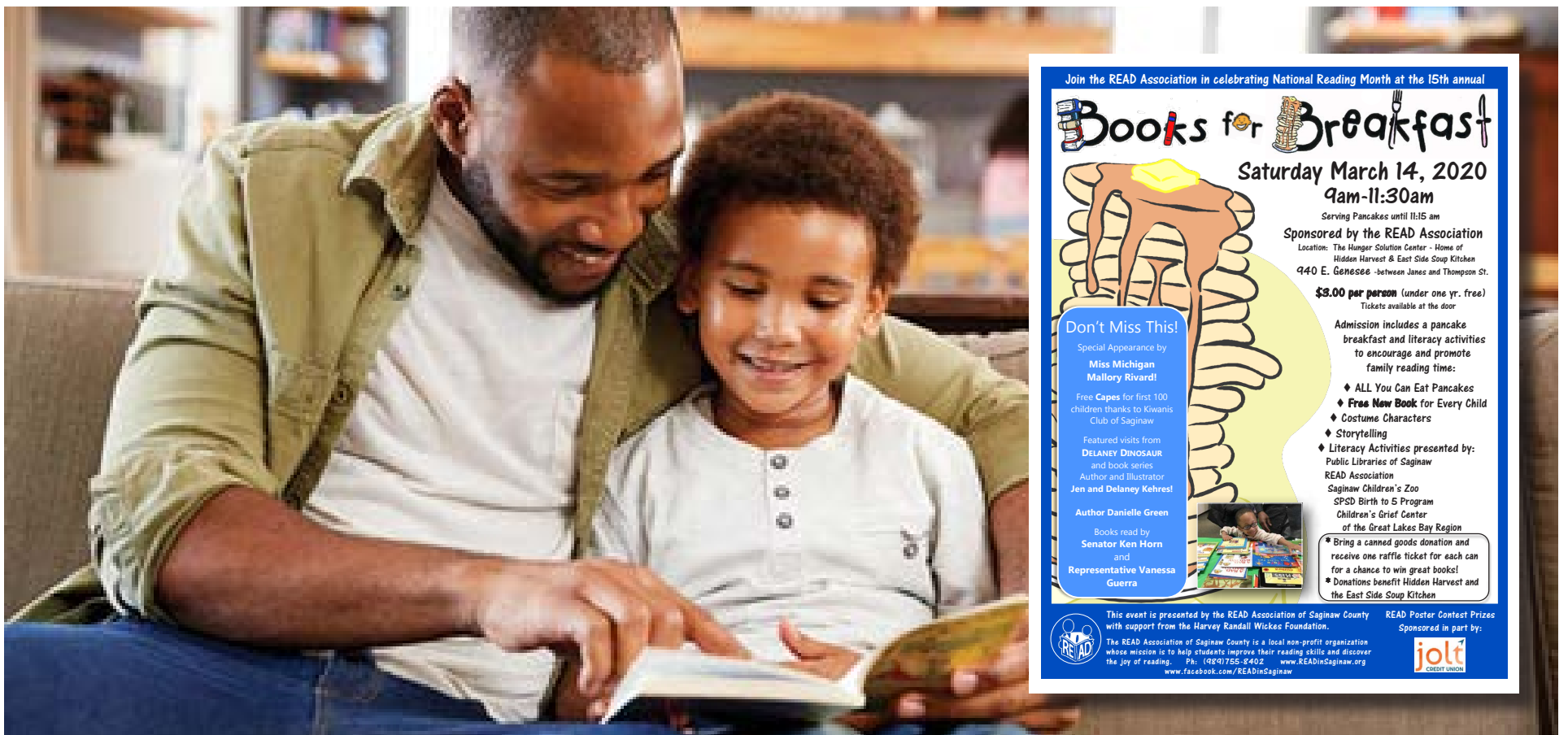
“Head Start graduates are more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to need special education, repeat a grade, or commit crimes in adolescence.”

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

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

COMMUNITY

READ Association of Saginaw to host 15th Annual Books for Breakfast



Join the READ Association in celebrating National Reading Month at the 15th annual

Books for Breakfast

Saturday March 14, 2020
9am-11:30am
Serving Pancakes until 11:15 am

Sponsored by the READ Association
Location: The Hunger Solution Center - Home of Hidden Harvest & East Side Soup Kitchen
940 E. Genesee - between Jones and Thompson St.

\$3.00 per person (under one yr. free)
Tickets available at the door

Admission includes a pancake breakfast and literacy activities to encourage and promote family reading time:

- ◆ ALL You Can Eat Pancakes
- ◆ Free New Book for Every Child
- ◆ Costume Characters
- ◆ Storytelling
- ◆ Literacy Activities presented by: Public Libraries of Saginaw, READ Association, Saginaw Children's Zoo, SP5D Birth to 5 Program, Children's Grief Center of the Great Lakes Bay Region

◆ Bring a canned goods donation and receive one raffle ticket for each can for a chance to win great books!
◆ Donations benefit Hidden Harvest and the East Side Soup Kitchen

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Special Appearance by
Miss Michigan Mallory Rivard!

Free Capes for first 100 children thanks to Kwanis Club of Saginaw

Featured visits from
DELANEY DINOSAUR and book series
Author and Illustrator
Jen and Delaney Kehrest

Author **Danielle Green**
Books read by
Senator Ken Horn and
Representative Vanessa Guerra

This event is presented by the READ Association of Saginaw County with support from the Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation.

READ Poster Contest Prizes
Sponsored in part by:

The READ Association of Saginaw County is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to help students improve their reading skills and discover the joy of reading. Ph: (984) 755-2402 www.READinSaginaw.org www.facebook.com/READinSaginaw

jolt
CREDIT UNION

Courtesy Photo

Enjoy free books and all-you-can-eat pancakes to celebrate National Reading Month by attending the READ Association of Saginaw County's "15th Annual Books for Breakfast". This event takes place on Saturday, March 14, from 9:00am – 11:30am at the Hunger Solution Center located at 940 E. Genesee. The cost for each ticket at the door is \$3.00 with children under one attending for free.

Families will enjoy a morning filled with a scrumptious pancake breakfast, costume characters and puppets, storytelling, and free books for all children attending. Literacy activities will be presented by the Public Libraries of Saginaw, Saginaw County's Birth through Five Program, the Children's Grief Center of the Great Lakes Bay Region, Saginaw Children's Zoo, and the READ Association. The event is funded, in part, by

the Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation.

Special features include free capes for the first 100 children attending; guest readers, including Senator Ken Horn, Representative Vanessa Guerra, and Miss Michigan Mallory Rivard; local authors, Jen and Delaney Kehrest of the "Delaney's Dinosaur" book series, and author Danielle Green.

Attendees are encouraged to bring canned goods to the event to help support Hidden Harvest and the East Side Soup Kitchen. For each can donated, participants will receive one raffle ticket for a chance to win additional books in a raffle.

Winners of the 2020 READ Drawing/Writing Contest will be announced at 10:15am. Prizes include two new bicycles and books for the

most creative entries. Bicycles are generously donated by Jolt Credit Union.

The READ Association's mission is to help students improve their reading skills and discover the joy of reading. We accomplish this through community events, such as Books for Breakfast and DEAR at the Zoo (June 17, 10:00am-3:00pm at the Saginaw Children's Zoo). We also service 30+ mentor sites across Saginaw County. If you are interested in finding out more about READ and mentoring opportunities, like us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter; visit our website at www.readinsaginaw.org; or call our office at 989-755-8402.

A Mother's Eye

In the World
We Live in Today

We need to focus
We need to Pray

Pray that our Children
Will get back on track

Say no to gangs
Turn down the crack

Pray that our Children
Will wake up today

Start being serious
Stop all the play

Pray that our Children
Can pass life's test

Start being role models
Start striving for the best

Pray that our Children
Can turn society around

Start holding their heads up
Pick themselves off the ground

Pray that our Children
will understand us one day

Understand that we've been there
And it wasn't always....OUR WAY

Pray that one day
They will hear our cry

And know this picture came
FROM A MOTHER'S EYE



Brigitte Johnson

Saginaw Chamber Seeks Nominations for Community Leadership Awards



Courtesy Photo

Each year the Chamber honors community leaders who have been instrumental in shaping Saginaw and the region. We are accepting nominations for the following awards:

- **Robert H. Albert Community Service Award** honors an individual for a lifetime of service to both the community and their profession. View the past recipients and nomination form.
- **Community Impact Award** honors a CEO/Executive Director of a not-for-profit organization in Saginaw County for accomplishments in their field of endeavor but also outside activities in the civic or commercial fields.
- **Corporate Community Service Award** recognizes a Chamber member business/corporation in Saginaw County that has made a notable contribution to the quality of life in Saginaw County. This can take the form of employee volunteers and/or corporate financial support for those activities that enrich, protect or entertain the citizenry of the County of Saginaw.
- **Outstanding Small Business Award** recognizes a Saginaw County for-profit small business (employing between 3-50 full-time employees) that displays a visible commitment to good business practices and demonstrates good vision and management in growth and marketability, innovative systems or products and leadership with employee relations.
- **Dr. Samuel H. Shaheen Vision of Free Enterprise Award** recognizes an inventive individual who raised capital and personal reputation to achieve the American dream and who embodies the principles of the American Free Enterprise System.
- **Spirit of Saginaw Award** celebrates the achievements of an individual for extraordinary volunteer efforts to improve the quality of life and/or economic climate of the Saginaw Valley.

Nominations are due April 30. Any nominations received after April 30 will be considered as a nomination for the following year. For more information visit www.saginawchamber.org/awards.html.

Nanny of the Maroons-Jamaican National Hero

Written by Sofus



Courtesy Photo

One of the most notable leaders in Jamaican history is a woman of royal African blood known as Queen Nanny of the Maroons. It is presumed that she was born on the African Gold Coast in the 1680's, was a descendant of the Ashanti trade of present-day Ghana and died in battle in 1733.

'Maroon' was the Spanish name given to black rebels who escaped the sugar plantations during slave revolts in the Caribbean as early as the 1530s. It derived from 'Cimarron', and means 'fierce' or 'unruly'.

Spanish domination of the slave trade in Jamaica ended in 1655 when British troops invaded. Spaniards who were not captured and also enslaved either fled to the southern region, to Cuba, or sought refuge among the forest colonies of Maroons.

The two largest communities were the Leeward Maroons in the north and the Windward Maroons who lived in the eastern, mountainous region. The Leewards are described as being more willing to integrate European customs, their women are characterized as having lower social status

compared to men, they were trusting and more willing to sign treaties with the British. The Windward, however, were nearly the opposite. This community (to which Queen Nanny belonged) engaged in fierce battles with British who attack regularly with intentions of recapturing their slaves. They were committed to passing down their legacy of African customs, music, and songs. Women were leaders and warriors. And they shared social status with men.

The Maroons were hunters and fishermen. They raised their own fowl; bred cattle and hogs; cultivated the land and grew their own corn, root vegetables and fruits. As more slaves escaped and these settlements grew, they developed a common language that was a mix of African dialects, Spanish, and broken English.

Queen Nanny is described as a small, thin woman with piercing eyes. Her exceptional qualities as a military strategist (camouflage and guerrilla warfare), in governance, and preserver of African culture has been well documented in Jamaican and British history. Also noted are her supernatural powers and

practice of *Odeah*; a unified set of spiritual and supernatural healing practices that empowered Maroons in daily life and in times of war.

Like sleeping spells and speaking with God shaped Harriet Tubman's vision that led many slaves north to freedom, Queen Nanny's practice of Odeah is credited with her exceptional military expertise and freedom strategies the led hundreds of slaves to freedom in Jamaica. During the Maroon War (1720-1739), even British colonizers paid homage to Queen Nanny's legendary powers. In particular was her ability to catch bullets with her hands- a documented highly developed art form in some parts of Africa.

Nanny of the Maroons has been immortalized in songs and legend as a symbol of unity and strength. A modern portrait of Nanny, based on her description, appears on the Jamaican \$500 note, the largest banknote in circulation in Jamaica. This freedom fighter is the only woman among the seven who have been granted the distinguished honor; Order of National Hero (Jamaica).

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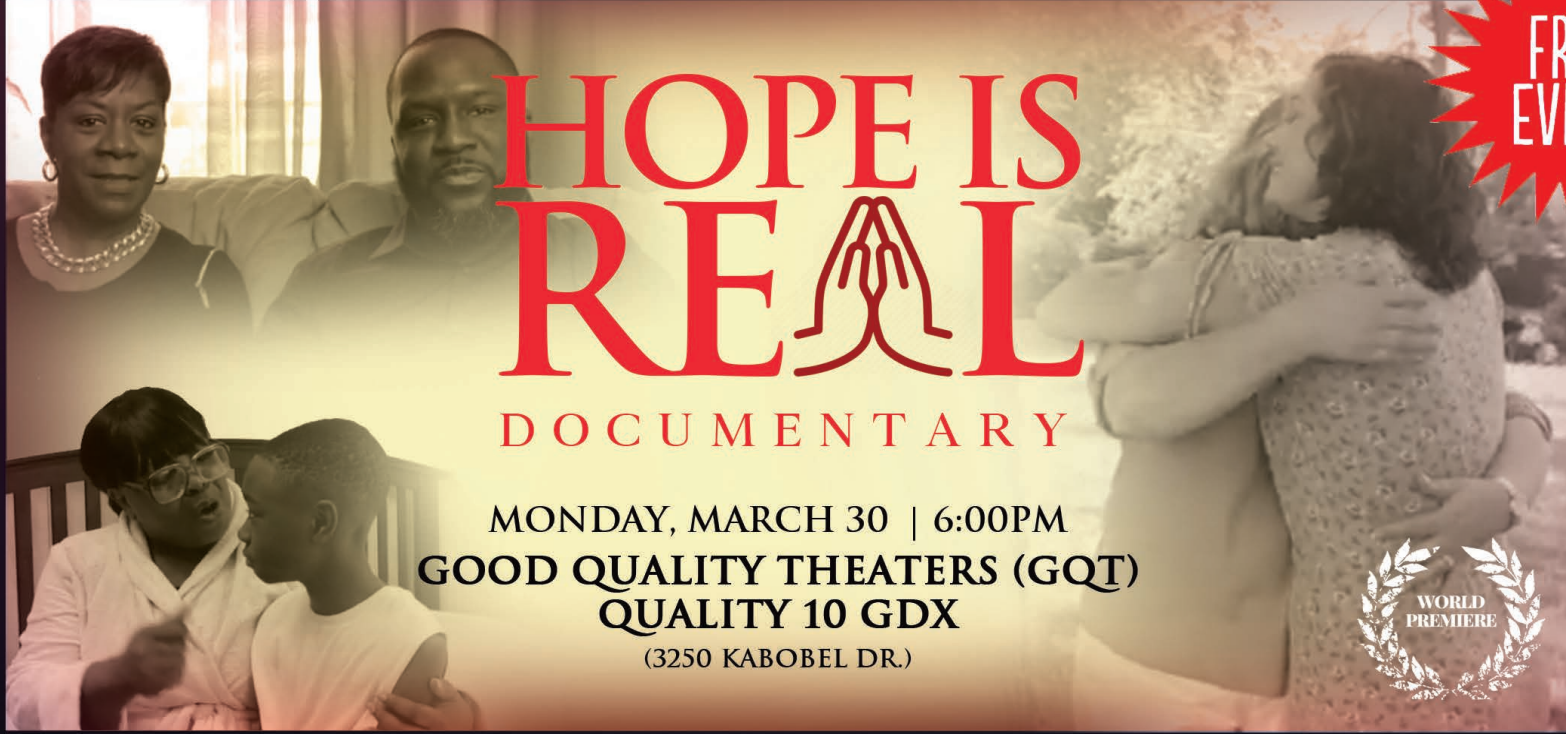

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Leading by Example in a Positive Way

Written by LaShawn Johnson



Courtesy Photo



Every human being in this world is qualified to be a leader. However, although many are called, only a few are chosen. Being a leader requires taking the lead, commitment, hard work, dedication, determination, time, effort, and sacrifice. What's most significant is always making sure you're leading others in the right direction. Coach Bry Greene is a man who models leadership everyday, inside and out of uniform. His coaching skills reflect within every member of his team. It's obvious these youth enjoy the challenges, but also love the fun of the sport. Behind every successful team is a highly driven coach.

Greene Steel Track Club is a Christian based organization. It is also gender friendly. There are currently twenty-two youth apart of this team, male and female. Requirements needed to join this group is being between the age 6-18 and paying the fee for your uniform and coaching. Fortunately, because coach Bry has a pure heart and look beyond financial gain, he still takes children under his wing and work with them on being a part of the team despite their monetary struggles. With him being a

man after God's own heart, he knows that if he is faithful with little, he will be ruler over much within time. When he takes care of God's requests, God will take care of the rest.

Coach Greene is a resident of Saginaw, Michigan but is originally from Macon, Georgia. In 1996, he graduated from Northeast High School. Shortly after, he attended Riverside City College to further his education in Physical Education. Bry was on a roll to do everything he could to be successful in every area he applied himself, but God's plans were different. Before he discovered he was going to be a father, he and his wife conclusively tied the knot in 2000. He was known for being an Olympic Qualifier in 1996. "Run Fast, Run Hard," is a personal quote that he uses because it's a representation of the progression in his life. Even though plenty of his plans were on standby because of helping his wife take care of home, the greatest blessing he has the pleasure of being a part of is coaching, as well as watching his leadership values being modeled by his children. Two of his daughters are members of his track club. The apple truly

doesn't fall far from the tree. "Like branches of a tree, our lives may grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one."

Mr. Greene and his team pray before every track meet, in between traveling, and generally in everything. Coach also commits faithfully to exercising. He's been offered positions at multiple places to coach, speak, and bring forth powerful teachings that can benefit our community, city, and one another. As a role model in these youth, parents, guardians, and lives of those closely connected, Bry wants to see them reach higher levels. His goal is to show them that their capabilities and achievements never go unnoticed. Although he's aware that he can't please everybody, his aim is to never give up doing what he do best. Bry goes the extra mile to take the students on tours to colleges for inspiration, in hopes of them expanding their minds and opening their hearts a bit wider. If you would like to connect with Coach Bry personally, he can be reached at (989) 971-0878. Or you can either email him Greenebry@yahoo.com or visit his Facebook page (Bry Greene). However, if you're interested in being a blessing to Greene Steel Track Club, there are two options to donate. There is a GoFundMe page (Greene Steel Track) or CashApp (9897144878). For more information, contact Bry.

Outside of being a father, coach, and committed exerciser, Coach Bry fulfills other roles and goals that has an impact on many. He is involved in ministry, connects with other leaders to combine ideas on how to be a part of making a difference in this world, and serving his purpose in every direction God leads him to. He has been coaching since 2013. One of the biggest hardships Coach Greene and his team had to experience recently was missing the chance to go to Nationals last year due to funding expenses. God works in mysterious ways though! Greene Steel Track Club is in the top five ranking list, placing #2 on the chart in the State. Better news, they will be going to Nationals in July of 2020. So, although there was a minor setback in their journey to success, it resulted in a major comeback that's prepping everyone for the big trophy we're expecting the team to bring back this year!!



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Bishop Gruss: "A heart that gazes on Pure Love, will overcome all temptations"- A Reflection for the First Sunday of Lent

Written by Bishop Robert Gruss



Courtesy Photo

On Ash Wednesday, a few days ago, as ashes were put on the foreheads of Catholics, we heard the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel." This is the hallmark of the season of Lent, not just for the catechumens in the Church, but for all of us.

In the Scripture readings for this First Sunday of Lent, we find ourselves with Jesus in the desert facing the temptations of the Evil One. For much of my life, it seems that I have thought of Lent as a season of looking only inward, a time of taking personal inventory, a period of self-examination, taking an honest assessment of myself, looking at my failures and sinfulness.

There is nothing wrong with looking at Lent in this way approach. These types of self-assessments are important for any of us to grow in holiness. But there is more, so much more.

Like for Adam and Eve in the Creation story, we too are tempted by the Evil One. These temptations are often very subtle, convincing us that God is our rival and that He does not want what is best for us...that we can do better by ourselves. Satan plays on our passions and desires to want us to be like God. When we give in to this unwanted advice from Satan and it leads us to sin.

So, yes, it is important for us to look interiorly at ourselves. But at the same time, it is more important to keep our gaze fixed upon Jesus.

We see in the Gospel Jesus being tempted by Satan in three different ways. Satan was preying upon three human passions - power, authority, and the worldly. These too, are our strongest passions. They are the strongest passions of the human person. They were the passions of Adam and Eve which led to their fall in the Garden and the beginning of Original Sin.

But notice that each time Jesus was tempted, in the midst of the temptation, Jesus interiorly (meaning, in his heart) turned to gaze upon the Father's love. That is how he could avoid giving in to the temptation. Adam and Eve gave in to the temptation because they turned away from God's love and God's desire for intimacy with them.

Yes, we know that Jesus was fully human and fully divine. But Jesus overcame the temptations, not because he was God, but because he turned to the love of the Father. A heart that gazes on Pure Love, will overcome all temptations.

That is why it is important for us keep our gaze fixed upon Jesus as we reflect upon our own sinfulness and this call to ongoing conversion. But looking at our own sinfulness isn't the most fun. Nor is it easy. In fact it can be very difficult.

But yet it is what you and I are called to do during this season, regardless whether we are already Catholic or desiring to come into

the Church. We are all converts this season, asking the Lord to lead us into a new life of grace with him.

If we are in touch with our passions, our desires, and our feelings, both the ordered ones and the disordered ones, we will most likely be familiar with the temptations that surround them. (Sin comes out of disordered passions and desires. Think about the sins we frequently confess.) When we find ourselves in our most vulnerable moments, those are the times of greatest temptation.

If this self-examination is done in the light of grace, we will see and experience the power of Jesus' redemptive love. As St. Paul shares with us today, "For if by the transgression of the one [Adam], many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many." This is what we hold onto when we look at our sins and sinfulness through the light of grace.

When we do this, it gives us resolve to change – to grow in faith – to cultivate new hope, and to be more fervent in our love. This is the "REPENT" part to which Jesus invites us.

But there is the other part of the summons. "Believe in the Gospel." The Gospel is the greatest love story ever told. It is about the Father sending his son to tell us how much we are loved and forgiven. In the words of Pope Francis, "Tenderness and mercy are the heart of the Gospel. Otherwise, one doesn't understand Jesus Christ, or the tenderness of the Father who sends Him to listen to us, to cure us, to save us."

To "believe in the Gospel" means that we trust in the tenderness of the Father who sends Jesus to listen to us, to cure us, to save us."

Trust that in your own desert experience this Lent Jesus is with you, helping you to "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel."

And through it all, it is there that we will rediscover our true self in Christ Jesus. What an opportunity for grace! My friends, have a blessed Lenten season.

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Update on Saginaw Schools Blueprint

Written by Mike Thompson

Plans to close and merge Saginaw High School with Arthur Hill High in a new building at SASA's West Side location became official with the Board of Education's 7-0 vote on Feb. 19. Other plans are for a new Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy and a new Handley School at the Arthur Hill site, and for a reopened Central Middle School, along with widespread building demolitions. Improved learning, curricula and college prep also are included in the Strategic Plan, the result of a year-long process. Readers may find an overview by checking The Banner's previous Feb. 16 edition here online (Page 43), or by visiting the board's website, spsd.net/strategic-plan/.

Following are some further details:

- The new high school is slated to open in 2023. Our previous report incorrectly stated 2022.
- Neither Arthur Hill nor Saginaw High would be totally demolished. Arthur Hill's renovated gymnasium would remain. Saginaw High would keep its gym and its media center library, both updated during the past decade, along with a classroom section for an after-school grades 6-12 tutoring center, four days per week, four hours per day. Outdoor facilities would remain available for community use, except for tennis courts and the football bleachers.
- The combined high school would retain SASA's up-to-date auditorium and gymnasium. The existing gym would serve basically for in-school use. Construction of the new school would include another gymnasium with spectator seating for varsity/JV games and other special events. Football facilities have yet to be determined.
- At the Arthur Hill site, construction of a new SASA for secondary gifted/talented, along with a new Handley School for elementary gifted/talented, would require much of the available land. Even the landmark 6,000-seat football stadium would be removed, formerly the home of United Way fund-raising "Red Feather" small-college fund-raising contests.
- Creation of a re-opened Central Middle



Courtesy Photo

- would restore an East Side alternative to the West Side's Thompson Middle. School leaders would consider limiting the 1970s-based policy of cross-district open enrollment choice, in order to ensure adequate headcounts remain at both buildings.
- Efforts will be made to avoid relocating any classroom activities during the two years of construction and demolition.
- Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, formerly Health Delivery Inc., would maintain a health center in the new high school, similar to those currently at Saginaw High and Arthur Hill, and would explore locating a second center elsewhere in the district.
- Superintendent Ramont Roberts and his team are aiming to unveil the amount of a proposed property tax bond issue this spring, with a referendum possible as soon as during the presidential election in November. An existing levy, 9.42 mills, was approved by voters in 2004, mainly for construction of Thompson Middle and Loomis Elementary. If the new tax is for a similar amount, between 8 mills and 10 mills, property owners will annually pay an added \$4 to \$5 per each \$1,000 of estimated sales value, which is double the assessed value found on tax statements.
- Roberts said in case of a millage failure, no fallback plan will be formed. School districts in Saginaw and elsewhere, when necessary, have a history of repeatedly calling for tax elections until voter approval is achieved.
- School leaders do not claim that the dozen buildings slated for demolition
- Arthur Hill, Saginaw High, SASA, the former South Intermediate and the vacated elementaries that once housed Edith Baillie, Nelle Haley, John Moore, Houghton, Jones, Emerson, Longfellow and Coulter -- all are beyond repair. However, they assert that newer facilities, combined with expanded and improved curricula, are vital to retaining and recruiting students, especially at the college-prep high school level. The Saginaw district current loses nearly 40 percent of city-based children to suburban schools, charter academies and parochials. Plus, Roberts and board members say new construction is more cost-effective and longer-lasting than ongoing repairs and maintenance.
- Finally, the Strategic Plan remains a work in progress, allowing parents and residents to contribute their viewpoints at any time.



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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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Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-7600



New Life Baptist Church

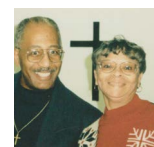
Pastor Rufus Bradley
1401 Janes St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-1151

New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

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

New Way Ministries

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



Ninth Street Community Church

Pastor William L. Scott Jr.
Assistant Pastor Rex Jones
1118 N. 9th Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-752-7366

Prince of Peace Baptist Church

825 North 24th Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-2841
Pastor Robert C. Corley Jr.

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

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



Saginaw Valley Community

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



Transforming Life Ministries

Pastor William Brown
523 Hayden
Saginaw, MI 48601-4353
989-754-9573



True Vine Baptist Church

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

Victorious Belivers Ministries Church

Rev. Christopher V. Pryor
624 S. Outer Dr.
Saginaw, MI
989-755-7692

World Outreach Campus of Greater Coleman Temple Ministries

Supt. H.J. Coleman Jr.
2405 Bay Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-752-7957



Zion Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Rodrick Smith
721 Johnson
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-754-9621

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POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Governor Whitmer Proclaims March as Michigan Food and Ag Month

LANSING – Governor Gretchen Whitmer has proclaimed March as Michigan Food and Agriculture Month, to honor and celebrate Michigan’s farmers, the diversity of products grown and processed in our state, and the partnerships that keep our food and agriculture industry thriving. Michigan’s wide array of crops, fresh water supply, unique geographic location, rich and varied soil types, various microclimates created by the state’s proximity to the Great Lakes, and our dedicated producers and processors make Michigan the ideal location for food and agriculture businesses.

“When we talk about food and agriculture, most people still tend to envision rustic red barns, mom-and-pop pie-stands along the roadside, or maybe our favorite hometown diners and grocery stores,” said Gov. Whitmer. “The reality is that Michigan’s food and agriculture industry is a national powerhouse. It is responsible for 805,000 jobs, and it generates more than \$104 billion to our state’s economy. Countries around the world buy our products for their quality and safety. Innovators and entrepreneurs continue to choose Michigan for their operations. In March, we recognize every person and every business that help make Michigan’s food and ag industry what it is today.”

Throughout Michigan Food and Agriculture Month, MDARD will partner with Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan State University Extension, United Dairy Industry of Michigan, McDonald’s of Michigan, Grand Traverse Pie Company, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, local schools, and others to highlight the various facets of the state’s food, forestry and agriculture sectors.

“I invite you to join the celebration by following MDARD on Instagram, Twitter or Facebook,” said Gary McDowell,

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development director. “Throughout the entire month of March, you’ll see posts featuring Michigan crops, Michigan food and agriculture businesses, and MDARD employees who help support and grow our industry. We will also highlight nutrition tips during National Nutrition Month, and safety information for our farmers and businesses during Severe Weather Preparedness Week.”

Some of the highlights during the month:

February 29 - March 7: Agriculture and Natural Resources Week at Michigan State University, featuring learning opportunities for farmers and other people interested in agricultural and natural resources activities in Michigan. Events and activities available here: www.canr.msu.edu/anrweek/sessions/.

March 1 –7: Weights and Measures Week, commemorating President John Adams’ signing of the first U.S. weights and measures law on March 2, 1799; and celebrating the work MDARD Weights and Measures staff does year-round to protect consumers and ensure they get what they pay for when items are sold by weight or volume.

March 3: Official unveiling of the 2020 Michigan Agriculture magazine. The magazine highlights partnerships, innovations, and technologies used in the food and agriculture sector. This year’s edition will be available at Michigan Welcome Centers and ag-related events across the state, as well as Michigan State University Extension and Conservation District offices across the state, and online at www.MIagriculture.com. The unveiling will take place at Round Barn Winery, Distillery and Brewery in Baroda.

March 14: Pi Day (3.14) is a day noted by math enthusiasts around the world, and Grand

Traverse Pie Company will help us celebrate all day by offering slices of its famous “ABC Crumb Pie,” which features fruits of Michigan—apples, blueberries and cherries—FREE with any purchase. The day will also celebrate math, education, and agriculture.

March 16: Food and Ag Month celebration at Appleview Elementary School in Sparta, featuring in-class agriculture-related lessons.

March 17: MDARD will partner with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation’s Pure Michigan Business Connect to offer the Michigan Food & Ag Summit at the Lansing Center in downtown Lansing. This premier event connects food producers and buyers through one-on-one meetings, a trade show, and educational programs. For more information or to register for the summit, visit <http://miagsummit.com>.

March 24: MDARD will celebrate National Agriculture Day commemorating the industry’s contributions to our nation with an event at Bath Elementary School in Bath, featuring hands-on learning activities that highlight Michigan’s food and agriculture sector.

March 25: MDARD will participate in the WeatherFest Young Meteorologist Program at the Bengel Wildlife Center in Bath to highlight food and agriculture careers and emergency preparedness efforts of the industry.

March 27: MDARD staff will celebrate March is Reading Month, food and ag-style, by reading food and agriculture-related books to students at schools in the Greater Lansing area.

Michigan Civil Rights Commission Selects Two Finalists for the Position of Executive Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights

Detroit—At a special meeting in Detroit today (Feb. 29, 2020), the Michigan Civil Rights Commission interviewed the following four candidates for the position of Executive Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

- Shayna Strom, Chief Deputy National Political Director, ACLU
- John E. Johnson, Jr., Esq., Executive Director, Michigan Legislative Black Caucus
- Harvey Hollins III, Principal and Founder, Hollins Consulting, LLC
- Conrad Mallett, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer, Detroit Medical Center

Commissioners deliberated to identify the top two candidates and selected Conrad Mallett, Jr., and Harvey Hollins III. They will sit for a final interview during a special meeting at 6 pm on either Monday, March 9, or Wednesday, March 11, at Cadillac Place in Detroit. The date and room location will be determined based on space availability and will be announced to the media and posted on the Department's website, Michigan.gov/MDCR.

Commissioners will choose an Executive Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at the conclusion of the special meeting.

The Michigan Civil Rights Commission was created by the Michigan Constitution to safeguard constitutional and legal guarantees against discrimination. The Commission is charged with investigating alleged discrimination against any person because of religion, race, color or national origin, sex, age, marital status, height, weight, arrest record, and physical and mental disability. The Michigan Department of Civil Rights serves as the operational arm of the Commission.

Congressman Dan Kildee Advocates for Protecting Michigan's Medicaid Expansion, Supporting Flint Water Crisis Recovery

Kildee Questions HHS Secretary Azar on Trump Administration's Commitment to Flint Recovery, Access to Affordable Health Care



Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-05), Chief Deputy Whip of the House Democratic Caucus, today questioned the Trump Administration on its commitment to providing quality, affordable health care to Michiganders.

At a Ways and Means hearing with U.S. Health

and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, Kildee highlighted the importance of preserving Michigan's Medicaid expansion program, which has expanded affordable health care to 533,000 Michiganders. Recently, the Trump Administration's budget cut Medicaid by \$900 billion. Additionally, the President has sought to impose work requirements on Medicaid recipients. Just this week, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer challenged Medicaid work requirements in federal court.

During the hearing, Congressman Kildee also advocated for continued bipartisan support for Flint's Lead Registry and the city's Medicaid expansion waiver. During the water crisis, Flint was granted a waiver by the Obama Administration to expand Medicaid coverage to thousands of people affected by the water crisis. The Flint Lead Registry, administered through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), was funded as a result of Congressman Kildee's successful efforts to pass \$170 million in federal aid for Flint in the wake of the water crisis, including \$17.5 million to establish the lead registry. The Trump Administration's most recent budget cut funding for the CDC by 16 percent.

A full video of Congressman Kildee's remarks during today's hearing can be viewed [here](#).

"We all know there is no safe level of lead—it can affect growth and development, hearing, speech, IQ, academic achievement and behavior. So even though my hometown of Flint has made progress since the water crisis, lead poisoning is still a problem for Flint's children and families, and we will be grappling with this for a long time. This is the most important priority for me in terms of the work of your department at this moment. And I want to make sure that we can continue to do this work. And I am concerned that in an era where it appears that there is a desire in the part of the administration to reduce expenditures in Medicaid, that these very important programs will be difficult to continue," Congressman Kildee said.

Last month, Congressman Kildee joined 35 of his colleagues in sending a letter to Secretary Alexander Azar and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Seema Verma outlining concerns with cuts to Medicaid, including turning the program into a block grant.

On ~~Off~~ the RECORD

Navigating Auto Insurance Reform

On July 2, 2020 Michigan's Auto Insurance Reform will go into effect. How much do you know about the upcoming changes to Michigan auto insurance? What impact will this have on your business? How will this impact you personally?

To answer these questions and more, join us on Friday, March 20th for Navigating Auto Insurance Reform. Our panel of experts from Saginaw Bay Underwriters will answer these questions and more.

- Do I have more liability under the new law?
- Should I keep my unlimited medical (PIP) coverage or switch to one of the lower limits?
- Does my auto insurance and health insurance cover the same things?
- Are there people in my household that are no longer covered?
- What other facts should I consider to make an informed decision?

Featured Panelists:

- Peter Ewend, President
- Megan Klein, Commercial Lines Manager
- Rachel Schmidt, Personal Lines Manager

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8:00-9:30 Panel
Discussion

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SPORTS

SVSU introducing eSports program as club sport for fall 2020



Courtesy Photos

Inspired by passionate players and fans in a rapidly-growing field of competition, Saginaw Valley State University will hit the “start” button on its own club sports team in fall 2020 for competitive video game players.

Competitive video game leagues – commonly known as “eSports” – are quickly gaining popularity. The largest league governing college competition grew from seven to 170 teams between 2016 and 2019.

“The level of student interest in eSports is extremely high and we look forward to providing this new opportunity for student engagement,” said Brian Thomas, SVSU’s associate vice president for Academic Affairs.

eSports are played with individual competitors or teams of up to eight people. Competitions can be played with teams in a central location or via online-based tournaments. Those competitions feature players battling for top scores in popular games such as “Fortnite,” “Overwatch,” “League of Legends,” “Super Smash Bros.” and “Hearthstone” on consoles such as Nintendo Switch, Playstation 4 and Xbox One. Worldwide market revenue from eSports competition surpassed \$1 billion last year, compared to \$130 million in 2012.

SVSU’s campus is ripe territory for such a competition and its students are hungry to participate, Thomas said. The opportunity will

offer more than simply a fun outlet for fans of video games.

“By creating a dedicated space with high-end gaming computers, students will be able to practice and compete while at the same time socializing around a sport that they love,” Thomas said. “With the rapid growth of eSports as an industry, this will create new opportunities for academic collaborations ranging from computer science and electrical engineering to business and graphic design.”

SVSU’s eSports club will launch with a dedicated space on campus – at a location still yet to be determined – likely featuring 13 gaming computers along with video streaming and monitoring equipment, Thomas said.

At the same time, eSports will be organized competitively as a club sport. The gaming space will be available to members of the club team and other SVSU students as well.

James Stahl, an SVSU criminal justice major, said he expects an eSports club will be a smash hit with his peers. He would know. As a leader of an SVSU student organization that has hosted video game tournaments, Stahl has witnessed a growing appetite for a club sport dedicated to gaming on campus.

“It’s going to be big,” Stahl said, predicting the response of students to an eSports club.

“Depending on how it’s handled, it could be really big.”

Stahl served three years as president of Press Start, the SVSU student organization that hosts a variety of video game-centric events across campus. He said a tournament hosted recently by the group attracted more than 100 gamers from across the state to SVSU.

“To see more than 100 people in a bracket tournament, playing ‘Super Smash Bros.’ is chaos but so fun,” said Stahl, who remains a member of Press Start this year.

Stahl has attended gaming tournaments outside of SVSU, including a Detroit-based competition known as The Big House 8 that featured more than 1,000 players during an October 2019 event.

“Unless you’ve been to a gaming competition, it’s hard to describe the excitement in the room,” he said. “It’s a spectator sport, so it’s a lot like a crowd watching football.”

Before the eSports club is launched in the fall, SVSU plans to host video game tournaments on Saturday, May 2, Thomas said.

The main event will involve a tournament playing “Overwatch,” a popular first-person shooter available on all major gaming consoles. That particular game will be limited to high school students while others will invite all members of the public. “Overwatch” participants will compete for \$1,000 scholarships on the stage of the Rhea Miller Recital Hall. Tournaments for “Fortnite,” “League of Legends,” and “Super Smash Bros. Ultimate” will take place at the same time. All tournaments will be free of charge and include prizes.

Those interested in participating in the May 2 tournament can contact Thomas at bjthoma1@svsu.edu.

SVSU currently offers 20 club sports, ranging from ice hockey and volleyball to cricket and equestrian.

Loons Release Promo Schedule for 14th Season

MIDLAND, Mich. -- It's that time of year! We've reached the point in the calendar when everyone wants to know what fun things the Great Lakes Loons have planned for the upcoming summer of baseball at Dow Diamond! We're excited to share the bulk of that news with our fans this week!

With the Loons away from town for the first week this year, our Opening Day Celebration will be Thursday, April 16 at 6:05 p.m. when we host the West Michigan Whitecaps. The first 1,000 fans will receive a magnet schedule presented by Farm Bureau Insurance with a postgame Fireworks Loontacular to cap of the celebration!

Dominating the headlines for a second straight year is our Celebrity Series presented by MidMichigan Health. Six different nights this season the Loons will also break out brand new one-of-a-kind specialty jerseys. Plus, weekly specials for each day of the week are back, with a couple twists!

New for the 2020 campaign, every Friday and Saturday home game beginning with Memorial Day Weekend will feature a Fireworks Loontacular. In total, 19 shows will light up the skies directly above center field, the most we've ever put on the schedule in our 14 years. We'll also be hosting 12 different Community Nights that will highlight some of the best cities our region has to offer! Fans living in those areas are encouraged to come to their town's designated game to support and celebrate their community.

But that's not all! Faith & Family Nights presented by Life Church will be held on June 27, July 16 and August 23. Youth Clinics presented by Farm Bureau Insurance are back and will take place prior to Sunday afternoon games on May 3 and June 7. The best field trip ever is our School Kids Days presented by CMU on April 30, May 13 and May 28. Games will start at 10:35 a.m. on those days.

The next generation of Los Angeles Dodgers players will also be hosting the annual Loons Summer Baseball Camp with manager and camp director John Shoemaker July 29-30. The camp is for kids ages 7-12 and teaches various aspects of hitting, throwing, fielding, and pitching from professional baseball players.

Below, you'll find a comprehensive list of MOST of the fun things we have planned for the summer! Single game tickets go on sale on Monday, March 2, with season ticket packages



Courtesy Photos

on sale now!

Celebrity Series (4) presented by MidMichigan Health

June 5: Parks & Recreation Night, appearance by Jay Jackson (Perd Hapely)

June 26: Loons Bachelor Night, appearance by Joe Amabile (Grocery Store Joe)

August 1: Shooter McGavin Night, appearance by Christopher McDonald (Shooter McGavin)

August 22: Major League Night, appearance by Corbin Bernsen (Roger Dorn)

Specialty Jerseys (6)

May 25: Military Appreciation on Memorial Day

June 25: Dodgers-inspired Loons on Terry Collins Day

July 3: Stars & Stripes on Independence Day Celebration

July 18: Star Wars

August 2: Dodgers-inspired Loons for Lou E's Gold Medal Games

September 6: Powder Blue Fauxbacks for Prostate Cancer Awareness Day

Weekly Promotions

Mondays: Military Mondays presented by

Betten Baker where all current & former military members eat for free.

Tuesdays: Two-fer Tuesdays presented by Meijer featuring two box or lawn tickets for the price of one.

Wednesdays: Hump Day Happy Hour with 20oz select domestic drafts for \$4 and the Great Lakes Camels.

Wednesdays: Dog Days of Summer where dogs are welcome from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Thursdays: \$1 Feast Night presented by Isabella Bank

Fridays: Feel Good Fridays presented by Midland Center for the Arts

Saturdays: Celebration Saturdays

Sundays: Kids Eat Free presented by Soaring Eagle Waterpark & Hotel

Sundays: Kids Run the Bases presented by Farm Bureau Insurance

Feel Good Fridays (8) presented by Midland Center for the Arts

June 5: Brother Elsey

Continues on pg 48, Loons Promo Schedule

Continued from pg 47, Loons Promo Schedule

June 12: TBD	Applebee's	July 19: Miller Lite Derby of Dreams
June 26: TBD	July 3: Independence Day Celebration	July 20: Skip Work Day
July 3: Jedi Mind Trip	July 17: Latino Loons Night presented by Coco Loco Mexican Grill & Bar	July 31: Pregame Barre & Bar presented by Greater Midland Community Center
July 17: Live DJ with a postgame salsa dance party	July 18: Star Wars Night featuring Star Wars Characters	August 2: Kids Club Takeover: Lou E's Gold Medal Games presented by MidMichigan Health
July 31: Jack Droppers & the Best Intentions	July 31: Wizards & Wands Night	August 21: Loons Pennant Race presented by Greater Midland Community Center
August 21: Steve Armstrong & the 25 cent Beer Band	August 1: Shooter McGavin Night	August 22: Walk to End Alzheimer's presented by Alzheimer's Association
September 4: TBD	August 21: Country Night	September 6: Postgame Catch on the Field presented by the P.C.U.P.S. Foundation
Giveaways (6)	August 22: Major League Night featuring a "Major League" Giveaway	Community Nights (12)
April 16: Magnet Schedule presented by Farm Bureau Insurance	September 2: SVSU vs. Northwood Night presented by SVSU	Alma
May 23: Team Photo presented by Nightlife Entertainment	September 3: House Divided Night aka UM vs. MSU	Auburn
July 31: Scarves on Wizards & Wands Night	September 4: CMU vs. WMU Night presented by CMU	Bay City feat. The Steve Drzewicki Band playing pregame
September 2: Pillowcases presented by SVSU	September 6: Prostate Cancer Awareness Day presented by the P.C.U.P.S. Foundation	Clare
September 4: CMU Item presented by CMU	Important Dates (17)	Frankenmuth
September 5: Loons Hat presented by Fidelity Investments	April 16: Opening Day Celebration	Freeland
Theme Nights (23)	April 18: Helicopter Easter Egg Drop presented by Life Church	Gladwin
May 25: Military Appreciation	May 23: Selfies with the Team Day presented by Nightlife Entertainment	Mount Pleasant
May 27 & September 2: Bark in the Park	May 24: Kids Club Takeover: Inflatables Day presented by MidMichigan Health	Pinconning
June 5: Parks & Rec Night	June 5: Pregame Yoga presented by Greater Midland Community Center	Saginaw
June 6: Princess & Pirate Night	June 11: Women in Sports Night	Sanford Area
June 7: Inclusion Day presented by Corteva Agriscience	June 14: Pregame Softball Clinic with Northwood Softball	Thumb
June 12: Pride Night presented by Dow GLAD	June 25: Terry Collins Night	*Dates for Community Nights are TBD.
June 13: A League of Their Own Night w/ appearance by All American Girls Prof. Baseball League players	July 2: Human Cannonball Night	The Great Lakes Loons have been the Single-A partner of the Los Angeles Dodgers since the team's inception in 2007. Dow Diamond serves as the team's home and also houses the Michigan Baseball Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity, and ESPN 100.9-FM. For tickets or information about the Loons, call 989-837-BALL or visit Loons.com.
June 14: Pink Out the Park	July 16: Lucky Hotdog Night presented by Herman Hiss & Company	
June 26: Loons Bachelor Night		
June 27: Comic Book Hero Night		
June 28: Local Heroes Day presented by		

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PICS OF THE WEEK

Saginaw Valley State University host a ribbon cutting for the Scott L. Carmona College of Business expansion





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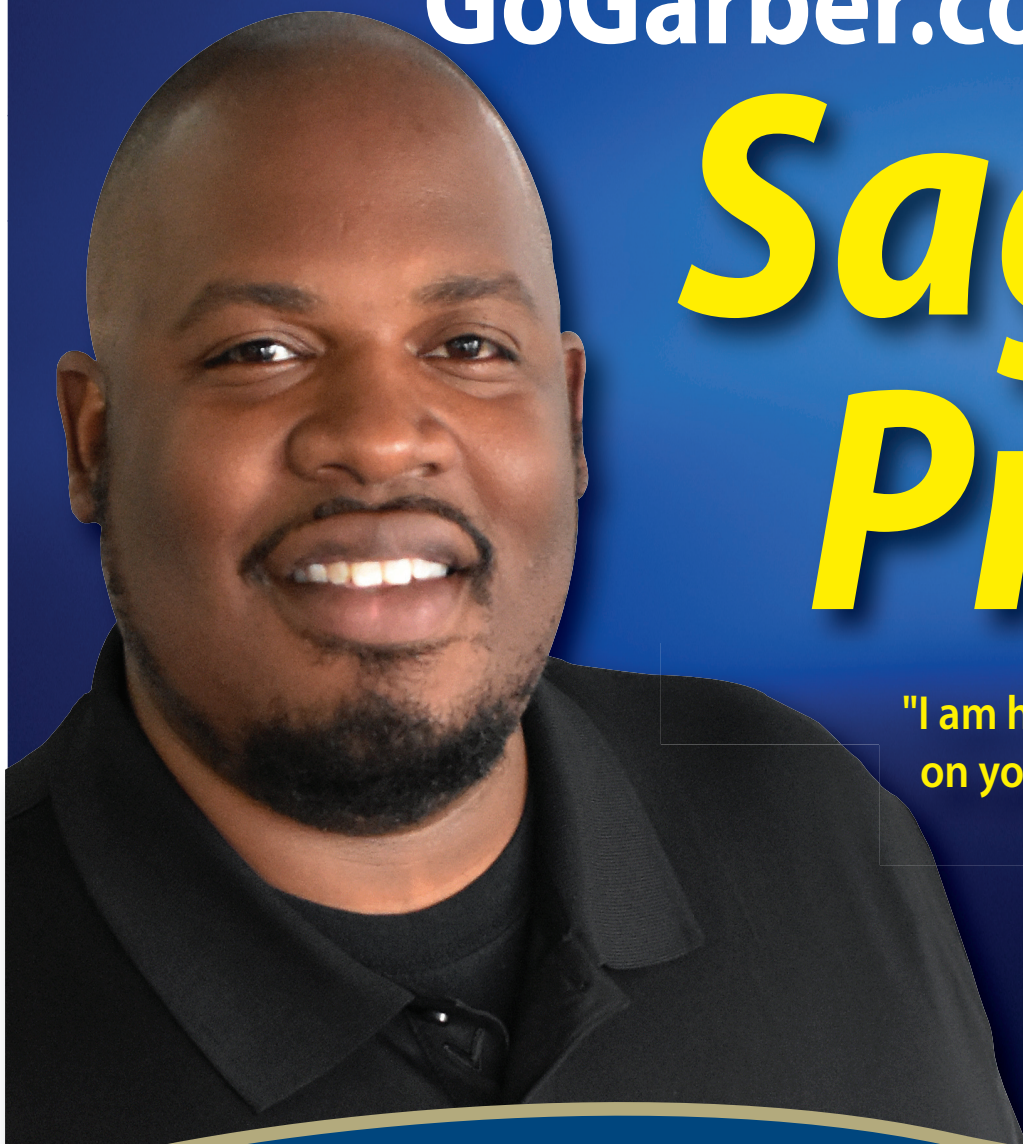
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