

THE MICHIGAN BANNER

Celebrating 17 years of Positive News *Happy Mother's Day!*



COVID-19 impacts local elections

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Leading in Diversity, Empowering Communities and Changing Lives www.themichiganbanner.com



Saginaw Promise reaches \$1 million scholarship milestone



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CMU launching Online Diversity Symposium



Community, pg 36



Courtesy Photo

As schools are redirecting energies to provide remote learning opportunities for students, it is critical to think about and send good wishes to all those essential workers that place their lives on the line each day to provide services to each and everyone of us. I wish I could think of them all, but here is my attempt to help you remember who to thank each day:

All health care providers including first responders, medical professionals, health support team members, etc.

- Grocery store workers
- Gas stations and small store attendants
- Postal and package delivery service providers
- Truck drivers and transporters
- Public service providers
- Food service workers
- Agricultural specialists that continue providing food
- Custodial team members continuing to provide clean work places
- Child care providers

For those I missed, please know that I hold deep appreciation for your continued service to the human race. At the next monthly Saginaw ISD Board of Education meeting, SISD board members are proposing to approve a formal resolution honoring essential workers. If your organization wishes to take similar action here is a draft to copy for your use.

Together we are stronger; together we can get through this.

Sincerely,
Superintendent Dr. Kathy Stewart

Intergenerational Collaborations Are Golden

As I was listening to a call of panelists last evening I had an Aha moment. I had been hosting calls over the past several weeks of expert panelists in their respective fields. The purpose of the series is to add value to people while going through this crisis. When one of the participants (a baby boomer) asked one of the panelists (a millennial) to share with the other generations the differences and what we need to learn from the millennials, her answer was unexpected although brilliant; not because the millennial answering was my daughter (lol) but it was the answer to the question that had been bothering me for a long time. She indicated that our differences were less important than the fact that our differences can make for great collaborations. That was it! I had been mulling over and over in my head for several months about all the reasons why we've segregated generations to the point where we are missing the value of intergenerational work. It occurred to me that we concentrate so much on the differences we don't see the opportunities.

I suggest today that we consider finding common ground as a place to begin purposely and intentionally interacting. I'm reminded of a quote by George Norlin that says "who knows only his own generation remains always a child." I believe this thought to be true no matter your age. When I think back over my career and my husband's career we were successful in navigating our careers due to intergenerational engagement that allowed us to access resources beyond our years including people and finances. Change is inevitable and how we do things and gather information is different from 20 years ago. We now have google, facebook, u-tube, instagram, podcasts, etc. However, the people resource is critical. After all the apps, online training, and podcasts we still have to build a resource of face to face relationships. Here is a self-check to determine whether you are leaving resources on the table:

"who knows only his own generation remains always a child."

1. Who do I have in my inner circle among the generations as family/friends, mentors, collaborators, investors and partners?

2. How am I intentionally and purposely forging relationships in my life and career?
3. Do I seek out advice, wisdom, and resources from people beyond my knowledge base and experience? Do I build relationships with these people?
4. How resourceful am I? Do I rely on people to come to me or do I seek out information? If so, how?

With so many resources being available to us today, I believe the greatest resource remains that of people. If we continue to purposefully and intentionally engage people as part of our life, in addition to hard work we will have everything we need to succeed in our businesses and career.



Leading Through Crisis,
Barbara

barbaramlittles.com

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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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A Message from the Publisher: Routine 'check-ups' during COVID-19



We, Michiganders, are now several weeks into the 'Stay Home Stay Safe' directive issued by Governor Gretchen Whitmer. We recently learned that the mandate has been extended until May 15, 2020. This has caused a great deal of anxiety and an uproar throughout the state. Businesses are struggling, the unemployment rate is at an all-time high, and there is anxiety and confusion regarding the recovery of those who have fallen ill. There is, however, an even more concerning issue to consider. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as of April 28th, there were 3,567 confirmed deaths resulting from coronavirus in the state of Michigan and 52,157 nationwide. These alarming numbers are increasing daily which means that people are dying each day from a disease for which there is no cure. Scientists and medical professionals world-wide are working around the clock to discover a vaccine and a cure. This will take time. During this time, as we honor the mandate, It is advised that we all be intentional about performing 'routine check ups'.

It brings great relief that the life-saving safety measures of social distancing, prohibiting mass gatherings, and closings

of nonessential services have now been extended. These measures are necessary to slow the spread of the disease and ultimately save lives. However, aside from very real economic concerns, for many people the isolation can be overwhelming. The overall uncertainty and sense of loss, or absence of community interaction, has affected the elderly, individuals with mental health challenges, and other more vulnerable groups such as churchgoers and other religious gatherers. The anxiety of the essential workers, such as mental health professionals, first responders, medical staff/personnel at every level, and all of the others serving the community, continue to rise daily. An ER physician, who has fully recovered from COVID-19, has committed suicide in a New York City hospital. Reportedly, this occurred as a result of the lack of resources needed to provide quality care to the hundreds of patients in need of treatment. It is critical that we find creative ways to maintain contact with individuals and families who may need an added layer of support during times of crisis. Routine (regular, habitual, usual) check-ups (or checking in) is one means of staying connected and providing much needed support.

Technology like FaceTime, which is available for Apple phone users, as well as ZOOM and Skype, which are available for all, can make it possible to have 'face to face visits' as frequently as wanted. The face of a smiling grandchild or other loved one gives hope that things will get better. Reading bedtime stories on a video call at a scheduled time could provide children with a sense of security and normalcy. Games can be played over a video call as well. Grandchildren have proven to be formidable foes in some of the games – you may want to practice before you challenge them! If your budget allows, the smiles go both ways when you send small packages. When you must go out, check in with elderly friends or neighbors. Perhaps you can drop off a meal or pick up a few items for them. Exercise is also very important. If you are walking,

(maintaining the required distance from others), perhaps you can walk a dog for someone who is not able to. *Routine check ups* will enable you to recognize those in need and assist whenever possible as well as being cautious to maintain your own safety and well-being.

Regular contact allows opportunities to 'check-up' on one another. During these check-ups, be observant. Does anyone appear to be increasingly sad or depressed? Has anyone expressed thoughts or feelings of helplessness or worthlessness? Studies have shown that suicide rates increase during times of economic decline and uncertainty, especially during crises such as pandemics and epidemics. This novel virus, COVID-19, has thrust us into a major crisis. We can and will weather this storm together. Eventually, we will realize that we have settled into our 'new normal'. In the mean-time, it is very important that we protect ourselves and one another. A phrase coined after the tragic 9/11 (September 11, 2001) attacks could be considered in the situation we are in. It spoke of the 'pulling together effect', where individuals undergoing shared traumatic experiences may make special efforts to support one another - thus strengthening social connectedness. Social connectedness during a mandated period of social isolation will certainly present challenges, but it possible nonetheless. Let us make intentional, special efforts to provide potentially life-saving 'routine check ups' by maintaining regular and frequent contact with family, friends, neighbors and anyone who may be in need of support.

If you or anyone you know is in need of free, confidential support please call: 800-273-TALK (8255). Help is available 24/7.

Jerome L. Buckley, Co- Publisher
The Michigan Banner News



The **history** of Cinco De Mayo



Courtesy Photo

Cinco de Mayo, or the fifth of May, is a holiday that celebrates the date of the Mexican army's May 5, 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War. The day, which falls on Tuesday, May 5 in 2020, is also known as Battle of Puebla Day. While it is a relatively minor holiday in Mexico, in the United States, Cinco de Mayo has evolved into a commemoration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in areas with large Mexican-American populations.

Cinco de Mayo is not Mexican Independence Day, a popular misconception. Instead, it commemorates a single battle. In 1861, Benito Juárez—a lawyer and member of the indigenous Zapotec tribe—was elected president of Mexico. At the time, the country was in financial ruin after years of internal strife, and the new president was forced to default on debt payments to European governments.

In response, France, Britain and Spain sent naval forces to Veracruz, Mexico, demanding repayment. Britain and Spain negotiated with Mexico and withdrew their forces.

France, however, ruled by Napoleon III, decided to use the opportunity to carve an empire out of Mexican territory. Late in 1861,

a well-armed French fleet stormed Veracruz, landing a large force of troops and driving President Juárez and his government into retreat.

The Battle of Puebla

Certain that success would come swiftly, 6,000 French troops under General Charles Latrille de Lorencez set out to attack Puebla de Los Angeles, a small town in east-central Mexico. From his new headquarters in the north, Juárez rounded up a ragtag force of 2,000 loyal men—many of them either indigenous Mexicans or of mixed ancestry—and sent them to Puebla.

The vastly outnumbered and poorly supplied Mexicans, led by Texas-born General Ignacio Zaragoza, fortified the town and prepared for the French assault. On May 5, 1862, Lorencez gathered his army—supported by heavy artillery—before the city of Puebla and led an assault.

Cinco de Mayo in Mexico

Within Mexico, Cinco de Mayo is primarily observed in the state of Puebla, where Zaragoza's unlikely victory occurred, although other parts of the country also take part in the celebration.

Traditions include military parades, recreations of the Battle of Puebla and other festive events. For many Mexicans, however, May 5 is a day like any other: It is not a federal holiday, so offices, banks and stores remain open.

Why Do We celebrate Cinco de Mayo in the United States?

In the United States, Cinco de Mayo is widely interpreted as a celebration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in areas with substantial Mexican-American populations.

Chicano activists raised awareness of the holiday in the 1960s, in part because they identified with the victory of indigenous Mexicans (such as Juárez) over European invaders during the Battle of Puebla.

Today, revelers mark the occasion with parades, parties, mariachi music, Mexican folk dancing and traditional foods such as tacos and mole poblano. Some of the largest festivals are held in Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston.

Information provided by history.com



MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 9



Young entrepreneurs launch CopperSAFE Masks as a smarter, more comfortable solution for personal protection during the COVID-19 pandemic

RALEIGH, N.C. /PRNewswire/ -- CopperSAFE, a startup founded by two young entrepreneurs in response to the coronavirus pandemic, today announces the launch of its product lines, e-commerce platform and availability to the general public.

CopperSAFE neckwear/face masks offer a smarter, more comfortable alternative compared to traditional surgical-style masks. Using a copper-infused specialty fabric, the company manufactures products to meet the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and World Health Organization through a cloth barrier for everyday use that is designed to be lightweight, breathable and reusable. These products are expected to help the general public comply with these guidelines, especially as the economy opens up and individuals and families spend more time in public settings, where social

distancing becomes more challenging.

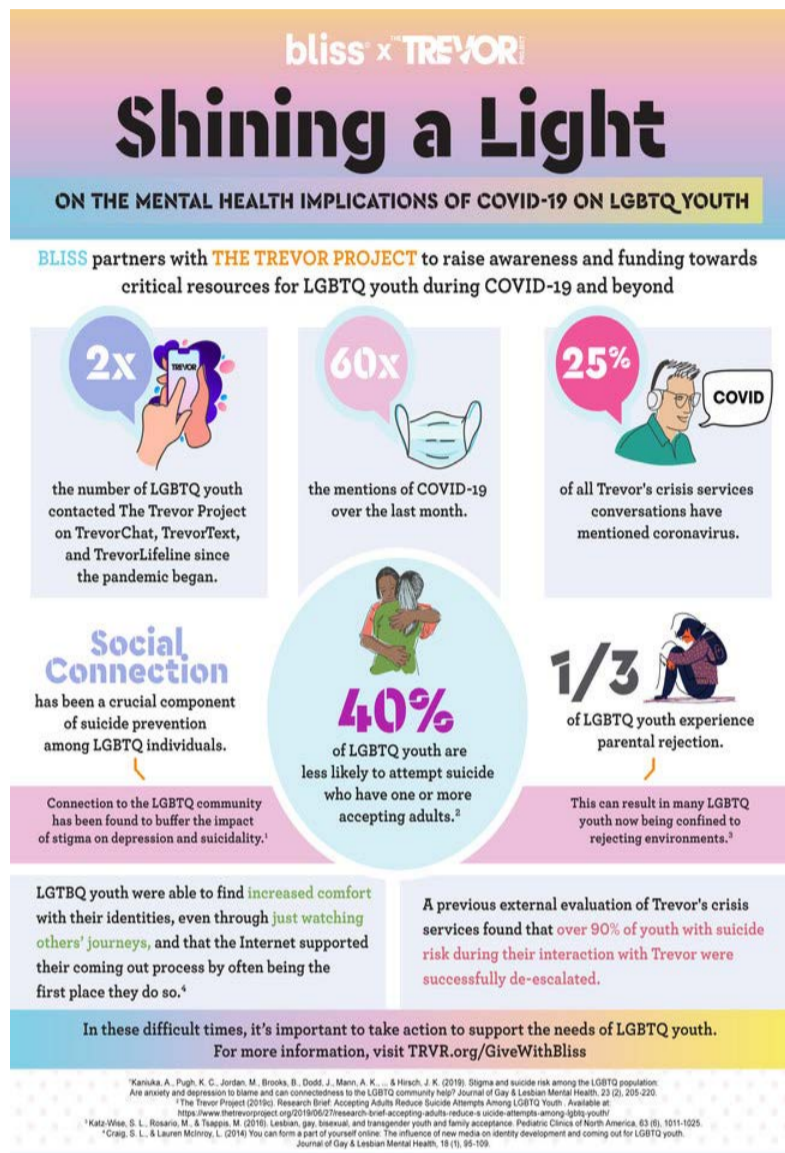
Copper is a naturally occurring antimicrobial, self-sanitizing element. A recent clinical study by the National Institutes of Health suggests that copper may be far better than other common materials at preventing the spread of infectious diseases.

Chief Executive Officer Dylan Clark is a veteran entrepreneur, having established his first e-commerce platform at the young age of 11. "With schools closed for several weeks, my brother and I saw an opportunity to better invest our time at home. When out in public, we recognize the lack of proper facial coverings available to most people. While basic surgical masks are common, they are uncomfortable, inconvenient and not reusable. Even homemade masks can be an imperfect solution in terms of comfort

and often require constant adjustment. With CopperSAFE neckwear/face masks, we offer a comfortable, convenient solution that delivers superior protection while remaining lightweight and breathable as we head into the summer months," said Dylan Clark, CopperSAFE CEO. He added, "Our masks are completely washable, and our youth sizing fills a void in the market, as most homemade or surgical masks fit too loosely and are impractical for kids."

CopperSAFE has committed to donating a percentage of their profits to non-profit charities supporting front-line healthcare workers across the United States. Donations will be directed to those regions where product sales originate on a percentage basis.

Bliss and The Trevor Project join forces to help at-risk LGBTQ youth during COVID-19 and beyond



anxiety, substance use, and suicidality; these risks are even further pronounced amongst youth who are transgender and nonbinary. Thus, LGBTQ youth are particularly vulnerable to the negative mental health impacts associated with COVID-19. Between school closures and physical distancing, there's an acute loss of social connections that protect LGBTQ youth from suicidality. According to research, some LGBTQ youth are being confined to environments that may be unsupportive or abusive, and one third remain quarantined in homes where they're specifically experiencing parental rejection. It's resources like those from The Trevor Project that support this community now more than ever and allow them to feel they are not alone – and the support is being heeded.

"When we heard that The Trevor Project had received more outreach, texts, and calls from LGBTQ youth in crisis than ever before in its 22-year history, we realized that now was the time to kick off our planned partnership," said Tina Pozzi, Chief Brand Officer at Bliss. "Bliss stands for unapologetic positivity and happiness, and in the face of global adversity, The Trevor Project aims to encourage and provide just that within its community. We're thrilled to stand by them during this time of need."

Beginning today, Bliss' long-term partnership with The Trevor Project will help to fund their life-saving phone Lifeline, instant message, and text crisis

services, its safe space social networking site TrevorSpace, as well as education, research, and advocacy programs. To kickstart these efforts, Bliss and The Trevor Project are launching a donation match campaign on Thursday, April 30th, in which Bliss will match dollar-to-dollar donations*, to help ensure that The Trevor Project's resources remain available in this extreme time of need, and beyond.

As part of its multifaceted approach, Bliss will be engaging several LGBTQ advocates: editor Phillip Picardi and influencers, Manny MUA, Nikita Dragun, and Angel Merino (aka @Mac_Daddy) to help spread awareness and fundraise for The Trevor Project during this pandemic. Phillip, Manny, Bliss, and The Trevor Project will be co-hosting a "Live for Lives" Instagram Live "Telethon" along with featured guests like Nikita and Angel to drive awareness and donations, while sharing uplifting stories to spread some much-needed bliss and happiness to the community, as well as the general public. You can tune-in on Friday, May 1st at 12 PM PST/3 PM EST on the @bliss Instagram channel.

"As LGBTQ youth continue to find ways to cope with stress and anxiety during the pandemic, The Trevor Project has experienced more than double the volume of young people reaching out to our crisis services," said Muneer Panjwani, Head of Corporate Development for The Trevor Project. "Bliss' match will help us continue providing crisis services to the growing number of LGBTQ young people in need of mental health support. We're excited for the telethon to reach LGBTQ youth with clear messages of love and hope, so that even if viewers feel isolated or are living in unsupportive environments, they know The Trevor Project is here for them 24/7, and that they are loved and never alone."

*For more details on the donation match and to get involved, please visit TRVR.org/GiveWithBliss, as well as Bliss or The Trevor Project on Instagram.

LOS ANGELES /PRNewswire/ -- In today's new reality, mental health has never been more universally top of mind. For the LGBTQ community, this isolation we're all experiencing imposes an exponentially more severe mental burden. In advance of Mental Health Awareness Month, leading spa and beauty brand, Bliss, announces its philanthropic partnership with The Trevor Project, the world's largest suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQ) youth, to support the community as COVID-19 continues to take an extreme toll on mental health.

Historically, LGBTQ youth have experienced higher rates of discrimination and rejection than their peers, which increases their risk for depression,



REGISTRATION:

Open January 27th - June 12th, 2020
www.hoytparkyouthbaseball.com

Register and pay online

OR

Visit the Saginaw County Parks office
located in the courthouse at
111 S. Michigan Ave. LL 012

Registration Deadline June 12, 2020

*League registration reserves a free spot in the
Sugar Beets Baseball/Softball Camp at Hoyt Park
June 16-17th

NEED A TEAM?

T-Ball & Coach Pitch teams will be formed by the
league. Division players needing a team may sign-
up and will be placed on a waitlist. For more info.
call SCPRC at 989-790-5599



Hey Batter Batter!

WHO:

All Saginaw County
BOYS & GIRLS
Age 5-6 (T-ball)
Age 7-8 (Coach Pitch)
Division Teams: 10U, 12U & 15U

WHEN:

10 Game Season
JULY 7 - AUG 6 2020
Tuesday & Thursday
Evenings



COST:

Player Fee \$20 each

* Division Teams require a team sponsor
to pay the \$200 sponsorship fee. Division
players are still required to register and
pay the player fee.

THE LATINO BANNER



LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

Vamos Adelante



Local Latinx leadership organizations launch La Lucha Fund for undocumented families impacted by COVID-19

LA LUCHA FUND



NAMI Releases Spanish-language COVID-19 Mental Health Resource Guide

LB Pg. 2

Submit your news at
themichiganbanner.com



There are more than 13,000 undocumented immigrants living in Kent County and none of them are eligible to receive unemployment, emergency food assistance or a stimulus check from the government, according to data from the Gateways for Growth Initiative.

The Grand Rapids Community Foundation (GRCF) announced the launch of a new COVID-19 emergency relief fund – La Lucha Fund – which will support undocumented and mixed status families in Kent County who are not eligible for unemployment, CARES Act relief, or other government support.

La Lucha Fund is a collaboration between the GRCF, Movimiento Cosecha, the Grand Rapids Area Mutual Aid Network (GRAMAN), and LatinxGR. LatinxGR is a partnership of five Latinx leadership organizations in Grand Rapids, which includes the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan (HCWM), the Latino Community

Coalition (LLC), the Latina Network of West Michigan (LNWM), the West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (WMHCC), and the West Michigan Latino Network (WMLN).

With the loss of jobs brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and ineligibility for formal government relief, many of Kent County’s undocumented and mixed status families are finding it particularly difficult to buy food, medicine, and other household necessities, or pay rent, utilities, and other monthly bills.

La Lucha Fund will support local families ineligible for government assistance during this time by providing a maximum of \$500 in assistance per family, on a one-time basis. Families must apply online for La Lucha Fund assistance and meet its qualifications.

For more information visit www.givegr.org/FAQLaLuchaFund

National Alliance for Hispanic Health issues COVID-19 fraud warning

WASHINGTON / PRNewswire/ -- "It is heartbreaking, when we all need to support one another, that there are those who are taking advantage of people during this time of vulnerability," said Jane L. Delgado, PhD, MS, President and CEO of the National Alliance for Hispanic Health (the Alliance), the nation's leading Hispanic health advocacy group. The Alliance emphasized:

DO NOT give out your personal information to callers posing that they are from Medicare, IRS, or Social Security. Medicare, IRS, or Social Security will never call asking for your personal information. Scammers are calling posing to be from the IRS or Social Security Administration and asking for banking and other personal information to process stimulus checks. If you have not received a stimulus check that you are expecting, go to the Get My Payment Tool at the IRS website. The IRS Get My Payment tool is available at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>.

However, the tool will be unavailable this Friday and Saturday. It is being taken offline for updating following many reports of consumers not being able to get needed information. The Alliance also warned of a rise in COVID-19 scams in social media and by phone offering Medicare patients a "COVID-19 Kit" and asking for banking information or other personal information. "If you get a call like this, hang up and report it to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)," warned Dr. Delgado. Fraud can be reported to the FTC at www.ftc.gov/complaint.

DO NOT drink or inject bleach or other disinfectants to try to kill COVID-19. Ingestion of bleach or disinfectants like Clorox or Lysol can cause serious injury or death. If you or someone you know drinks bleach or disinfectant, please call your local poison control center at 1-800-222-1222. This warning comes after a rash of fraudulent

social media promoting use of bleach and disinfectants.

Be aware of FDA warnings. The Alliance also informed its service provider network of today's drug safety communication by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warning that the anti-malarial drugs hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine can cause dangerous abnormalities in heart rhythm in coronavirus patients, and in some cases death. The FDA warned these drugs should be used only in clinical trials or hospitals where COVID-19 patients can be closely monitored for heart problems.

For the latest on COVID-19 visit our website www.healthyamericas.org or in Spanish at www.nuestrasalud.org. "You can also call our bilingual and toll-free Su Familia helpline at 1-866-783-2645 for information that you can trust," concluded Dr. Delgado.

NAMI release Spanish-language COVID-19 mental health resource guide

ARLINGTON, Va. /PRNewswire/ -- The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization, released the Spanish-language edition of the NAMI COVID-19 Information and Resources Guide, NAMI COVID-19 Información y Recursos. This guide addresses frequently asked questions and lists resources available in Spanish.

NAMI understands the need for culturally relevant COVID-19-related information and resources for Hispanic and Latinx communities to help support themselves and their loved ones. We recognize that vulnerable communities and those experiencing mental health conditions face additional challenges associated with COVID-19, such as social isolation and difficulty accessing treatment. The guide features a variety of topics related to mental health and COVID-19, including managing anxiety, finding online communities, getting

affordable services, and more.

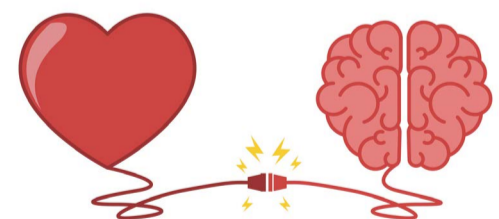
"It is more important than ever that everyone can access vital information to help keep themselves and their loved ones safe and healthy. This is why we created the NAMI COVID-19 Información y Recursos guide," said NAMI CEO Daniel H. Gillison, Jr. "We hope by providing this resource in Spanish, we will help reduce barriers and increase access to needed services in order to advance NAMI's mission of helping all people affected by mental illness build better lives."

NAMI is proud to partner with Hispanics in Philanthropy to help members of the diverse Latinx communities in the U.S.

"The compilation of Spanish-language resources in the guide will help staff in the extensive network of organizations we fund have an easy to use resource to better inform members of the community," said Ana Marie

Argilagos, CEO and President of Hispanics in Philanthropy.

To access the guide, please visit nami.org/covid-19-guia. For English-language updates on mental illness and COVID-19, visit NAMI's regularly updated COVID-19 webpage.





From babies to grandparents, everyone is meant to be counted in the U.S. census.

Census Data will impact your community for the next decade!

*The census touches every life, every day.
Respond to the 2020 Census to shape the future.
When everyone is counted, communities across the country get the funding they need for things like health care, education, emergency services, and more.
For every person that doesn't respond, our community will lose \$1,800 for each of the next 10 years!*

**Your voice matters.
Make it count!**

- Mobile-friendly census form available mid-March 2020
- Please submit forms by April 1, 2020
- By law (Title 13) information is kept confidential



Wells Fargo and the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce announce expansion of innovative small business accelerator program to 5 New Markets



Courtesy Photo

WASHINGTON /PRNewswire-HISPANIC PR WIRE/ -- Wells Fargo & Company and the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) are proud to announce the expansion into five new markets represented by dynamic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce members of the USHCC for the Avanzar Small Business Accelerator Program, making it a total of seven American cities in 2020 receiving small business assistance.

Avanzar ('advance' in Spanish) is an eight-month business accelerator designed for Hispanic small businesses that are ready to take their businesses to the next level. Each Latina and Latino entrepreneur participates in courses that are aimed to help develop business plans, strategy, and the leadership skills needed to scale their small businesses. Course topics include building financial plans, streamlining operations, lowering expenses, marketing, leveraging social media, and obtaining access to capital for each business. Subject matter experts, from Wells Fargo, will provide the access to capital training. Throughout the Avanzar Program the USHCC Chambers will track and monitor certain performance metrics with the Hispanic Business Enterprises (HBEs) in the Avanzar Program, including jobs created, access to capital and access to

contract opportunities.

In 2019, Wells Fargo and the USHCC piloted the Avanzar program in partnership with the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce in Albuquerque, New Mexico and the Latin American Chamber of Commerce of Charlotte in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"Wells Fargo is proud to be the founding sponsor of the Avanzar program. We fundamentally believe that capacity building, access to capital, and effective mentoring are critical ways to ensure that Hispanic-owned businesses grow and scale. The Avanzar program is about empowering Hispanic business owners to grow sustainable firms that create jobs in communities all across the United States," said Regina Heyward, Senior Vice President and Head of Supplier Diversity at Wells Fargo.

During COVID-19, the USHCC and Wells Fargo have been working diligently and collaboratively to ensure that Hispanic businesses have access to the information and resources they need to get past these difficult times. By leveraging technology to deploy capacity-building programs, USHCC and Wells Fargo will make assistance available to help small diverse businesses grow, scale and rebuild.

In 2020, five new market regions have been selected to invest and expand the Avanzar program by partnering with five local Hispanic Chambers of Commerce. The five local chambers selected by the USHCC as partners are:

- Los Angeles Latino Chamber of Commerce
- Latin Chamber of Commerce of Las Vegas Nevada
- Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando & Prospera

"We are very excited to expand Avanzar to five new cities thanks to the support from Regina Heyward, on behalf of Wells Fargo, and the great results from our first pilot thanks to Rocio Gonzalez, President and CEO of the Latin American Chamber of Commerce of Charlotte and Ernie C'De Baca, President and CEO of the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce," said Ramiro A. Cavazos, USHCC President and CEO. "Wells Fargo's investment in Avanzar proves their commitment to helping support Latina and Latino entrepreneurs, America's fastest growing business group, and our Hispanic Chambers across the country."

Community Board

Submit your announcements and events at themichiganbanner.com/submit

We know you need your Mexican Comida. We are a coalition of Concerned Organizations and Churches who want to help our elderly during this pandemic. We will provide FREE Mexican meals to help those in need. Pick Up & Go!

FOR OUR SENIORS 65 AND OVER

T&T
Authentic MEXICAN CUISINE
989-401-4161

PICK UP AT T&T OR THROUGH YOUR CHURCHES

SCHOLARSHIP

We're now accepting applicants for the 2020-2021 Alsame Scholarship!

For an electronic application go to alsame.org/scholarships

Submit a complete application by email to gustavo.echavarria@wmich.edu by June 1, 2020



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



Proudly Supporting and Bringing Medical and Dental Care to our Migrant Farmworkers

Many Locations Throughout the
Great Lakes Bay Region and Beyond
Offering Quality Medical
and Dental Care for Everyone



www.GreatLakesBayHealth.org

FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

COVID-19 impact disparities? Increase equitable, targeted response: give Black

“When white folks catch a cold, black folks get pneumonia. Many of us are familiar with this phrase, which sums up the level of inequity black communities face in comparison with others in times of crises. Whether we are speaking of an economic downturn, environmental disaster, or a health pandemic, the disparities we face — on every indicator of well-being — means that the impact on black communities will be far worse.” Susan Batten, CEO, ABFE: A Philanthropic Partnership for Black Communities

These words opened Batten’s letter to The Chronicle of Philanthropy reminding all of us that philanthropy’s response to COVID-19 cannot be complicit in reinforcing historic underfunding and inequitable support of Black communities. The facts are in: when and where racial data is reported, African Americans and Latinos are disproportionately hospitalized and dying from the virus. And the economic impact is staggering.

The question is this: are we applying an equity lens as emergency relief is organized and distributed? Knowing the impact is inequitable, how do we ensure equitable relief and rebuilding? How do we as individuals, community leaders, government officials, and philanthropists ensure that Black communities, businesses, families, and nonprofits can secure the financial support needed to meet immediate and long-term needs. Think about it: infrastructure within Black communities has been consistently underfunded. We need now to support and strengthen Black community organizations that reach into Black mainstream and marginalized communities.

This support is happening through funds that explicitly target Black-led and Black-serving organizations, and those that include the specific needs of the Black community within their larger strategy.

BET’s COVID-19 Relief Fund provides emergency support to African American communities that have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Donations will be used to support relief and recovery programs administered by local community-based organizations in Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and New York City.

The East Bay Community Foundation in Oakland, CA just made their second round of grants from their COVID-19: A Just East Bay Response Fund. To date they have made \$1 million in response grants, working to help ensure community-based organizations can respond to needs related to loss of employment, hunger, school closures, healthcare costs, and more. They are reaching marginalized and highly impacted including undocumented

immigrants, unsheltered, those that work in the cash economy (day laborers, domestic workers), uninsured, youth, victims of domestic violence, low-income seniors, and formerly incarcerated individuals.

Likewise, the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis has established the Mid-South COVID-19 Regional Response Fund. They are allocating 60% of available funds to immediate needs and are saving 40% for recovery and resilience funding in the future. To date, the Fund has deployed \$1,340,000 to 63 organizations to help people impacted by novel coronavirus and the economic consequences of the pandemic in West Tennessee, eastern Arkansas, and northern Mississippi.

We all can do something. Give to Black-led and Black-serving nonprofits. Ask your community foundation how it is responding to the needs of the Black community. Join a Black giving circle. Read ABFE’s Call to Action Regarding COVID-19.



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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

Ascension emergency rooms prepared to safely treat patients

For people experiencing symptoms of a heart attack, stroke, mental health or other acute illness or injury, a hospital emergency room is still the safest, most appropriate place to get care.

Even though hospitals are caring for patients with COVID-19, clinicians want to reassure the public that individuals who need emergency care should not delay treatment. An emergency is still an emergency. Ascension St. Mary's hospital and their emergency rooms in Saginaw are well prepared to safely care for people with symptoms of heart attack, stroke and other serious conditions.

"We are seeing a concerning drop in the number of people coming in for serious non-COVID-related issues," said Steve McLean, MD, Ascension St. Mary's Emergency Medicine Physician. "Staying home, ignoring the symptoms and suffering out of fear of COVID-19 is a risk people shouldn't take with their health. Timely treatment is critically important for achieving the best outcomes and lessening the risk of complications. We are prepared and set up to safely treat patients who require emergency care. No patient should delay their care in an emergency."

Ascension St. Mary's hospital is equipped to safely protect patients from potential exposure to COVID-19 while taking care of their chest pain, stroke symptoms, traumatic injuries, emotional and mental health and any other acute medical or surgical needs. Separate intake and care areas, waiting room distancing, staff screening, ongoing use of personal protective equipment, as well as extensive safety and sanitization protocols, are in place to ensure all patients are cared for in a protected environment. Ascension St. Mary's continuously monitors guidance



Courtesy Photo

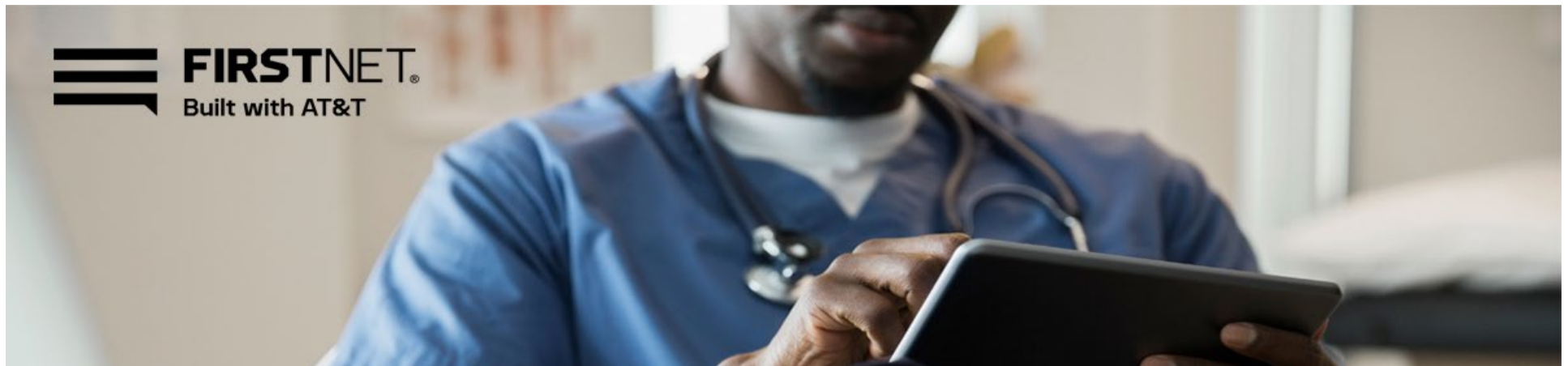
from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and adjusts safety practices and safeguards accordingly.

"It's critical to go to the ER if you are experiencing symptoms like pressure, tightness, pain, or a squeezing or aching sensation in your chest or arms that may spread to your neck, jaw or back; shortness of breath; or nausea or lightheadedness, as these all may be signs of a heart attack," said Vipin Khetarpal, MD, Ascension St. Mary's cardiologist. "The types of symptoms that required emergency care in the past still require emergency care now. Our hospitals and catheterization labs are still treating patients suffering heart attack and stroke, and we are taking the utmost precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19."

Ascension providers also encourage individuals who have pre-existing conditions to continue their routine care to stay healthy.

Call your primary care provider or specialist first to discuss whether an online visit is an option for your care. If you can't talk to your regular doctor, or if you need care more quickly, you can talk to a doctor 24/7 through Ascension Online Care. Available for the entire family, Ascension Online Care offers video visits for urgent care using your smartphone, tablet or laptop. No insurance is required. To get started, download Ascension Online Care from the App Store or Google Play or visit ascension.org/onlinecare to learn more.

If clinicians identify changes in a person's health, they can help them better manage it or decide where and how a person might need to be seen and treated. However, if someone is experiencing a life-threatening emergency, difficulty breathing, or warning signs of a heart attack or stroke, they should not delay, but go directly to the emergency room or dial 911.



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- ☞ **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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Tuscola added as COVID19 Test Sample Site

Tuscola County and surrounding areas now offer sample collection for COVID-19 testing.

State updates testing criteria to include people with mild symptoms and essential workers as long as testing materials are available – no doctor’s order is needed

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers (GLBHC) is working in conjunction with the Tuscola County Health Department to open a drive-through sample collection site for COVID-19 testing on April 28, 2020, at 1309 Cleaver Rd. Caro, MI 48723. GLBHC currently operates testing sites in Saginaw, Bay City and Bad Axe.

People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19: Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing/ or at least two of these symptoms: fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell. You do not need to have a doctor’s order. Tests also are available to all essential workers reporting to work in person whether they have symptoms or not.

Please call the hotlines for more information. GLBHC sites include:

Saginaw - David R. Gamez community health center, 501 Lapeer Ave. Saginaw, MI 48607
Monday – Friday 9am–3pm or until supplies run out each day. Drive-thru hotline: (989) 293-3492

Huron County – Thumb Area community health center, 876 N Van Dyke Rd. Bad Axe, MI 48413
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am–12pm or until supplies run out each day. Drive-thru hotline: (989) 623-0137

Bay County – Bayside community health center, 3884 Monitor Rd. Bay City, MI 48706
Monday – Friday Noon-4pm or until testing supplies run out each day. Drive-thru hotline: (989) 280-0725

Tuscola County – Tuscola County Health Department. 1309 Cleaver Rd. Caro, MI 48723
Tuesday & Thursday 9am – 11am or until supplies run out each day. Drive-thru hotline: 989-284-4216

Top priority for community testing includes essential workers, adults 65 and older and people of all ages with chronic health conditions such as diabetes and heart disease, who also have

symptoms. The state health department also notes that Michigan is seeing alarming racial disparities in COVID-19 cases and deaths, with African Americans consisting of 14 percent of the state’s population, but 33 percent of cases and 40 percent of deaths. Clinicians should be mindful of this disparity and have heightened awareness when considering testing and treatment strategies in this patient population.

Emergency Dental Services notice - Though we have suspended all of our regularly scheduled non-emergent treatment and preventive care, Great Lakes Bay Health Centers dental sites are open to treat patients experiencing pain, swelling, bleeding, or other emergent dental problems. In order to maintain a safe environment for all staff and patients, please call to schedule an appointment so we can make the safest arrangements to see you. Great Lakes Bay Health Centers will operate emergent services following the CDC’s Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Dental Settings during the COVID-19 Response. If you are having a dental emergency, you may call for appointment scheduling. Our dental center locations and phone numbers can be found here: <https://greatlakesbayhealthcenters.org/dental-care/>.


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Dr. Delicia Pruitt appointed Medical Director of the Saginaw County Health Department

Dr. Delicia Pruitt has recently been appointed Medical Director of the Saginaw County Health Department.

As the top physician for Saginaw County, Dr. Pruitt serves as a liaison among the county, community organizations, healthcare providers and allied health organizations. Her public health skillset has been put to great use in the local community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Pruitt has been practicing medicine in the

region for more than 15 years and has overseen resident education and care as program director for the CMU Medical Education Partners Family Medicine Residency Program since 2016.

"We are delighted to have Dr. Pruitt represent CMU to the region," says Dr. Samuel Shaheen, Executive Director of CMU Medical Education Partners. "Her medical director role will help us achieve our mission of reaching more medically underserved patients and families in the Great Lakes Bay Region."



Courtesy Photo

2020  CENSUS

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The 2020 census determines community funding for the next 10 years for things like education, school lunches, Medicaid, road repairs, emergency services and more. Plus, the census has only 9 basic questions that you can fill out online, by phone or by mail in about 10 minutes. If you're concerned about personal information, you can be sure that your answers will not be shared.

* Michigan average for per-person funding from the top 50 federally funded programs in 2016

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BUSINESS & WEALTH

Retiring leader leaves SVSU program in strong position to support regional businesses challenged by pandemic



SVSU

As its leadership changes hands, a Saginaw Valley State University entrepreneurship-supporting program will continue its momentum at a time when the business community needs it most, officials say.

David Bell later this month will retire as SVSU's associate director of entrepreneurship and experiential learning, a role that put him in charge of the university's Dow Entrepreneurship Institute since February 2018. Izabela Szymanska, an SVSU associate professor of management, will serve as Bell's interim replacement.

Funded by the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, SVSU's Dow Entrepreneurship Institute stimulates the creation of new business ventures, serves as a resource for research activities aimed at business innovation, and provides internship opportunities with area businesses for students.

Students and faculty will work with the Dow Entrepreneurship Institute to provide operational, marketing, financial and strategic

analyses for regional businesses facing challenges after the COVID-19 virus led many companies to temporarily close, said Anthony Bowrin, dean of SVSU's Scott L. Carmona College of Business. The institute also will work with businesses to better understand how the virus impacted technology and consumer-buying behaviors such as an increased demand in product delivery services via online apps.

Bowrin said much of the work will be accomplished by pairing the Dow Entrepreneurship Institute with the offices of other business-focused programs housed in SVSU's business college. Those programs include the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center-Northeast office; the Small Business Development Center regional office; and the Stevens Center for Family Business.

Because of the momentum Bell helped build at SVSU's Dow Entrepreneurship Institute, the program is in a strong position to provide that support, Bowrin said.

"I appreciate David Bell's contribution to

the advancement of the mission of the Dow Entrepreneurship Institute over the past two years as he supported the entrepreneurial endeavors of students, faculty and the wider community," Bowrin said.

Bell previously served as Dow Chemical Co.'s associate commercial director from 2003-15.

Bowrin expressed excitement in the talent presented by Szymanska, who worked with Bell in strengthening the Dow Entrepreneurship Institute in recent years.

"Dr. Szymanska is the lead faculty member for entrepreneurship programs in the Scott L. Carmona College of Business," Bowrin said.

"She has worked closely with David Bell to provide innovative entrepreneurship experiences for students including mentoring several students. I am confident that Dr. Szymanska will consolidate the great gains made by the Dow Entrepreneurship Institute under David's leadership."

Those gains included the promotion of entrepreneurial initiatives among students and faculty, mentoring students developing projects related to entrepreneurship, and developing outreach programs that advance initiatives that benefit local high school students as well as members of the regional community.

The institute offers workshops, contests and external speaker events that give students an inside view of business ownership and management. Through the institute's community connections, students earn the opportunity to work directly with local business leaders while learning from established entrepreneurs.

The institute works closely with educators who teach entrepreneurship classes at SVSU, providing support while supplementing students' coursework by bringing real-world business experience into the classroom.

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A dramatic night scene featuring emergency vehicles with flashing blue, red, and yellow lights. The scene is dark, with the lights creating a sense of urgency and action. The text is overlaid on this background.

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Three Rivers receives two ABC National Awards

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) announced national award winners on Monday, April 6th. Three Rivers Corporation has earned a National Excellence in Construction Pyramid Award for the Whiting Forest Project General Contractor, Special Projects \$10 to \$100 million. TRC is also receiving the National Pinnacle Safety Award in recognition of safety performance judged to be exemplary by the ABC National Safety and Health Committee; both awards will be presented during ABC Convention 2020 in Nashville, Tennessee, on August 18th.

ABC's Excellence in Construction program was designed to offer recognition for excellent performance in the merit shop construction field. These awards honor all members of the construction team: contractor, owner and design team. The competition is open to all construction projects completed by ABC members. Winning projects were selected based on complexity, attractiveness, unique challenges overcome, completion time, workmanship, safety, innovation, and cost.

The Whiting Forest Canopy Walk was a one of kind project TRC had the privilege to bring to life. Whiting Forest of Dow Gardens had a unique commitment to quality and

safety throughout the planning, execution and delivery of this project that was truly remarkable. We had a fantastic team of highly skilled partners who were challenged and delivered a fantastic outcome," said Jon Lynch President of Three Rivers Corporation.

Whiting Forest of Dow Gardens features 54 acres of woodlands, ponds, an apple orchard, meadows and streams. Guests of all ages and abilities are immersed in the forest on the nation's longest canopy walk (1,400 feet long) soaring up to 40 feet above the ground. The Alden B. Dow-designed Whiting home now welcomes guests as a visitors center. Other features include a playground, apple orchard, Whiting Forest Cafe, restoration of Snake Creek, and two pedestrian bridges.

"The craftsmanship of Three Rivers Corporation and their hardworking employees and partners continues to raise the bar when it comes to how we define excellence in construction," said 2020 ABC National Chair Tim Keating, owner and president of R.C. Stevens Construction Co. of Winter Garden, Florida. "It's an honor to recognize these award winners for their respective commitments to building safely, on time and on budget, as well as contribute to the

communities in which they work."

The ABC National Safety Excellence Award recognizes companies who exhibit a continued commitment to jobsite safety and whose safety performance and programs are consistently judged to be outstanding. TRC is one of only fourteen companies in the United States receiving the highest recognition, the National Safety Excellence Pinnacle Award.

"We are honored to achieve the National Excellence Pinnacle Safety award. Safety is part of who we are and receiving an award like this demonstrates that when our company works together, we can achieve great things. I am very proud of the women and men who earned this award and their commitment to safety at Three Rivers," said Paul Crivac Safety Director of Three Rivers Corporation.

"Associated Builders and Contractors is proud to recognize Three Rivers Corporation for consistently raising the standards of safety in the construction industry," said Tim Keating. "Their dedication to world-class safety performance and commitment to total human health is the gold standard of the merit shop construction industry."

Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce and Saginaw Future Inc. provide resources for business reopening

(Saginaw, Mich.) - Governor Gretchen Whitmer has begun lifting COVID-19 restrictions on some businesses, which can begin reopening. Landscapers, lawn-service companies, plant nurseries and bike repair shops can resume operating, subject to social-distancing rules. Stores selling nonessential supplies can reopen for curbside pickup and delivery. Big-box retailers no longer have to close off garden centers and areas dedicated to selling paint, flooring and carpet.

The most important goal for Saginaw County and Michigan is to stop the spread of Covid-19. As Michigan develops and implements appropriate policies, in

accordance with federal, state and local regulations, the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce and Saginaw Future Inc. have researched re-opening plans and playbooks for our businesses to begin to prepare for re-opening.

Businesses can visit www.saginawfuture.com/covid to find re-opening playbooks for various industries and other related materials to help prepare them to reopen.

Please keep in mind that considerations for gradually reopening the economy must take into account hospital capacity, availability of personal protection equipment and testing kits.

A sustained reduction in Covid-19 cases is the most important measure. Important resources and guidance will come from MIOSHA, U.S. OSHA, Center for Disease Control, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cyber Infrastructure.

Governor Whitmer's order continues to prohibit in-person work that is not necessary to sustain or protect life, with exemptions for various critical jobs. Restaurants remain closed to dine-in customers under a separate measure, and bars, movie theaters, gyms and other sports facilities are still shuttered.



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Isabella Bank Corporation announces first quarter 2020 results

Isabella Bank Corporation (the "Corporation") (OTCQX: ISBA) released its earnings results for the first quarter of 2020. The Corporation reported net income of \$3.1 million and earnings per common share of \$0.39 for the first quarter of 2020.

"First and foremost, our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone as we navigate the challenges created by COVID-19," stated Jae A. Evans, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation. "At Isabella Bank Corporation, we have a history of assisting our customers and communities in a time of need and today is no different. We are doing everything we can to help those we serve get through this crisis."

"As we share our results of the first quarter of 2020," he added, "you can rest assured that Isabella Bank Corporation has strong capital and liquidity positions to weather this crisis."

First quarter 2020 highlights include:

- Annualized cash dividend yield of 6.0%
- Deposit growth of \$8.2 million
- Grew noninterest income \$508,000, or 20.4% compared to the first quarter of 2019
- Limited noninterest expense increase to 1.3% compared to the first quarter of 2019
- Net Income

Net income for the first quarter of 2020 was \$3.1 million compared to \$3.5 million in the first quarter of 2019. A combination of reduced interest rates and loan volume drove a \$280,000 decrease in interest income for the first three months of 2020 compared to the first quarter of 2019. Interest expense on deposits and borrowings decreased \$93,000 for the three-month period ended March 31, 2020 compared to the same period in 2019 primarily due to reduced interest rates. Net interest income decreased by \$187,000 for the first quarter compared to the same period in 2019. The provision for loan losses increased by \$754,000 for the three-month period ended March 31, 2020 from the same period in 2019, as the result of increased economic and environmental risk factors, primarily driven by COVID-19, and an increase in impaired loan reserves. Noninterest income increased \$508,000 during the first quarter compared to the same period in 2019, largely due to a gain from the redemption of a corporate insurance

policy. Noninterest expenses for the first three months of 2020 modestly exceeded the same period in 2019 by \$145,000, primarily due to compensation, community relations and donation-related expenses.

The Corporation's fully taxable equivalent net yield on interest earning assets was 2.98% for the first quarter of 2020. This compares to 3.02% for the same period last year. The Corporation's banking subsidiary, Isabella Bank (the "Bank"), has implemented various initiatives to improve the net yield on interest earning assets, which include enhanced pricing strategies related to loan and deposit products and a reduced reliance on borrowings and brokered deposits as funding sources. However, the current interest rate environment has had a negative impact on the net yield on interest earning assets and future improvement may be gradual.

Assets

As of March 31, 2020, total assets were \$1.8 billion and assets under management were \$2.4 billion. Assets under management include loans sold and serviced of \$257.3 million, investment and trust assets managed by Isabella Wealth of \$360.0 million, in addition to assets on the consolidated balance sheet. In 2020, the Bank's investment and trust services business was re-engineered and rebranded as Isabella Wealth to enhance the client experience, build scalability and expand market awareness.

The Bank's securities portfolio has declined by \$22.7 million since December 31, 2019, primarily as a result of the sale of available-for-sale securities. The opportunity to identify new investment securities for purchase at an acceptable yield has been minimal as a result of the flat yield curve that has existed for over a year. Based on strategic objectives, the Corporation utilized this available cash flow to reduce higher-cost funding sources and other borrowings as they matured which strengthened the Bank's liquidity position. Borrowed funds have declined \$48.5 million since March 31, 2019.

Loans

Loans outstanding as of March 31, 2020, totaled \$1.2 billion. During the first three months of 2020, gross loans decreased by

\$10.6 million, largely driven by an \$8.06 million decline in the agricultural loan portfolio. During the first quarter of 2020, the commercial loan portfolio declined \$5.66 million while residential real estate and consumer loans experienced growth totaling \$3.09 million. Loans grew \$31.1 million since March 31, 2019

Deposits

Total deposits increased \$8.2 million during the first quarter of 2020 to \$1.3 billion and grew \$44.1 million over the last twelve months. This increase was largely attributed to growth in interest bearing demand and savings deposits as a result of an attractive product offering, strategic product pricing and focused customer-service. Over the last year, excess funds were used to reduce higher-cost deposits such as brokered certificates of deposit balances. Since March 31, 2019, the Bank reduced brokered certificates of deposits \$22.8 million, or 45.4%, which was favorable to the Bank's net interest margin and liquidity position.

Capital

The Bank continues to be designated as a "well capitalized" institution as its capital ratios exceeded the minimum requirements for this designation. As of March 31, 2020, the Bank's Tier 1 Leverage Ratio was 8.7%, Tier 1 Capital Ratio was 12.1% and Total Capital Ratio was 12.8%. From a consolidated perspective, the Corporation's Tier 1 Leverage Ratio was 9.1%, Tier 1 Capital Ratio was 12.7% and Total Capital Ratio was 13.4% as of March 31, 2020.

Dividend

During the first quarter of 2020, the Corporation paid a \$0.27 per common share cash dividend, an increase of 3.85% compared to the first quarter of 2019. Based on the Corporation's closing stock price of \$18.00 as of March 31, 2020, the annualized cash dividend yield was 6.0%.



Dow develops simplified, lightweight design for face shields to help protect healthcare professionals, shares open-source design to encourage additional production

MIDLAND, Mich. – April 17, 2020 – To help address the urgent need for personal protective equipment (PPE) among healthcare professionals battling the COVID-19 pandemic, Dow (NYSE: DOW) has developed a simplified face shield design and is sharing its design through an open-source file to help accelerate production rates of this critically-needed PPE. In addition, the Company is collaborating to produce 100,000 face shields for donation to the state of Michigan for distribution to hospitals.

Dow, a leading manufacturer of polyethylene resins, does not typically fabricate plastic products for consumer end-use. However, the Company quickly developed the resin film technology for these face shields through its prototyping and fabricating capabilities at its Pack Studios application development facility in Freeport, Texas. Dow also worked with other value chain partners to identify a fabricator for the foam comfort strip that enables the shield to be worn comfortably.

“Our goal in offering an open-source, simplified design is to provide a way for others to increase additional production of much needed face shields,” said Diego Donoso, president of Dow Packaging & Specialty Plastics. “This is another example of how our materials, technical service personnel, and our Pack Studios collaborative development capabilities are enabling solutions that can be used to help protect those on the frontlines of the pandemic.”

The face-shield design is very flexible, allowing for the shields to be produced from a variety of readily available polymers, and can be cut using several high throughput technologies, such as water, laser and die cutting techniques. It is also simple and lightweight, comprised of just two pieces – a shield and forehead cushion – which eliminates multi-component assembly that can slow production, allowing for faster distribution.

In addition to sharing the open-source design,

Dow is producing 100,000 face shields to be donated to the state of Michigan for distribution to hospitals. Michigan-based tinkrLAB is serving as a key development partner providing laser-cutting and assembly and has already completed an initial allotment of production.

“COVID-19 has shaken our communities. Being a small business, we see firsthand the need from those on the frontline and even though we are small, we still wanted to have an impact and offer a solution,” said Melissa Rabideau, founder and president of tinkrLAB. “As a small business, we are able to mobilize volunteers quickly to do our part, but the tangible impact of a small/large business collaboration allows us to combine resources and the impact can be much more substantial. Being hands-on is in our DNA, so it’s only appropriate that we have a hands-on approach to helping.”

Several prototypes were field tested, and feedback from healthcare professionals including doctors and nurses was used to develop the final design. Face shields are often a one-time use item, however when utilizing certain film formulations, shields can be disinfected and reused. The face shield was developed and is being distributed consistent with the limitations described in U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s guidance and Emergency Use Authorization issued for face shields for the duration of the public health emergency.

Companies and individuals interested in producing face shields can access the design file online. Dow is also seeking to partner with other companies with film manufacturing and cutting capabilities to continue to develop this critical PPE. Please contact us at facshld@dow.com if you are interested.

The Michigan State Police State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is managing distribution of supplies. Organizations that want to request face shields need to contact their county emergency management office.

Multi-county or state wide organizations can submit a consolidated request to MSP-SEOCPSL@michigan.gov.

Dow’s face shield project is the latest action the Company has undertaken to address the COVID-19 global pandemic crisis.

On March 23, Dow committed \$3 million to aid COVID-19 relief efforts, with donations going towards global relief organizations, as well as non-profits in communities where Dow operates.

On March 30, Dow announced that sites across North America, Europe and Latin America were set to produce more than 200 metric tons of hand sanitizer, equivalent to more than 880,000 eight-ounce bottles, to be donated to local health systems and government agencies. Manufacturing sites in Auburn, Michigan; South Charleston, West Virginia; Seneffe, Belgium and Horolandia, Brazil and Stade, Germany have all produced hand sanitizer for donation.

And on April 9, Dow announced an additional \$500,000 donation to the Great Lakes Bay Region in Michigan, to aid COVID-19 relief efforts in Dow’s global headquarters community.

Dow’s material science expertise and production capabilities are used to develop some of the most vital hygiene medical products and technologies to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, such as disinfectants, sanitizers, cleansers, plastics used in the production of disposable PPE for medical professionals, and memory foams for hospital beds.



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EDUCATION

Saginaw Promise reaches \$1 million scholarship milestone

By Mike Thompson



Courtesy Photo

For Saginaw School District resident families, Saginaw Promise outreach promises more than scholarship money for college.

In addition to the much-needed cash, students on target for high school graduation also receive information and resources that cover the entire gamut beyond finances, extending to everything from career choices to young-adult social adjustment to meeting postsecondary academic challenges.

"We work with numerous partners among the colleges and the employers," says Director Deborah Sanchez. "We add incentive for students with a carrot that says, if you need funding for tuition and mandatory fees, Saginaw Promise guarantees you will receive a scholarship. This promises hope and provides an investment to produce community change, along with change in the lives of our students."

This year's ninth annual round of scholarships will push the Saginaw Promise cumulative total beyond \$1 million, assisting more than 600 pupils. Scholarships are for up to \$1,000

per semester for two years to begin at a four-year institution, or more if needed at a community college or technical/trade school.

Finances come mostly from local businesses, philanthropists and donations to fund-raising events. Many Saginawians are most familiar with Saginaw Promise through the support of Lansing-born basketball legend Earvin Johnson, and Magic is slated to make his sixth fund-raising visit this fall.

Saginaw Promise indeed is a promise for all high schoolers who achieve prep graduation within the Saginaw Promise Zone, which includes Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Kochville, and a main portion of Buena Vista that was absorbed into the city school district.

For maximum impact, all other scholarship options are pursued and Saginaw Promise fills gaps as a "last dollar" provider for tuition and mandatory fees. The awards do not cover dorms, books or meals.

The model project is Kalamazoo Promise, which was the inspiration for Saginaw

Promise and other communities throughout Michigan that could also benefit from Promise programs. The Kalamazoo effort took root in 2005 as part of a quest to combat urban decline that has spread across cities and smaller towns, even those that are home to major colleges such as Western Michigan University.

Kalamazoo's funding originated from a large anonymous source. Former Gov. Jennifer Granholm and a majority of legislators realized that other communities could not rely on such a gift, and so in 2009 they passed the Michigan Promise Zone Authority Act to extend "promise" backing to 10 communities, including Saginaw. However, fund-raising in other locales almost is entirely local, unlike Kalamazoo, with shares also coming from a small portion of state K-12 property taxes.

Saginaw leaders gathered in 2010 and 2011, and sorted through an array of startup concerns that included local governance,

Continues on pg 29, Saginaw Promise Milestone

Saginaw Promise Milestone Continued...

finance sources, and standards for students to qualify. Sanchez at the time was the community relations coordinator for the Public Libraries of Saginaw who volunteered to take part. She later accepted the director's post when it became open and available in 2014, as the sole office staffer under the guidance of an 11-member volunteer board.

The seed-planting was not without discussion and debate. For example, the group determined that they would not consider GPA or parent income as criteria, and instead would honor the standards set by the institution. Some pupils are late bloomers who may not attain strong study habits until they become older and "find their areas of interest, find their niche," Sanchez explains, while colleges offer remedial tutoring and instruction.

"It was quite an undertaking," Sanchez recalls. She notes that an original board member, Kimberly Houston, commented at the time, "We created something out of nothing with Saginaw Promise, an idea for change."

In total, beyond scholarship awards, Saginaw Promise provides support services that include resources for career counseling, job interview advice, campus visits, SAT and PSAT test

preparation, and writing workshops.

Earvin Johnson and Sanchez share Michigan State as an alma mater, and she uses a basketball term when she says Magic's first fund-raising visit was "pivotal" to sparking the initial round of scholarships in 2012. The path to success has held steady ever since.

The Saginaw Community Foundation provides office space in the downtown's historic Morley Building behind the Temple Theater and operations costs are limited, with more than half of the current \$240,000 annual budget locked in for direct scholarships. SCF also furnishes the Saginaw Promise application forms, in addition to serving itself as a source of local scholarship opportunities. Students also are guided to state and national scholarship sources.

Scholars are required to enroll with a Michigan-based accredited community college, technical/trade school or university to earn a program certificate or degree. Saginaw Promise students have chosen an array of 38 institutions to date.

In Saginaw and statewide, Promise scholarship programs were formed to make

an economic impact in urban centers that have experienced economic downturns and declining populations

The most basic measure of academics is ninth-to-12th grade graduation rates, which have risen sharply during the past decade at the district's three high schools, according to the MI School Data 2010-2019 report:

- Arthur Hill is at 90 percent, up from 82 percent.
- Saginaw High, 87 percent, up from 67 percent.
- SASA (Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy), 96 percent, up from 85 percent.

In addition, the count of citywide prep grads who move ahead to college is 48 percent, up from 42 percent when Saginaw Promise began.

Economic development is more difficult to analyze. The state's measuring stick for Promise support is the property tax base, which has risen in Saginaw, although gradually, the same as in other hard-pressed towns.



Courtesy Photo



PROMISE VOICES

A panel of Saginaw Promise leaders, along with scholarship recipients, offer their outlooks

JOYCE SEALS



She was mayor in 2009 when she received a call from then-Gov. Jennifer Granholm's office, inquiring whether Saginaw would participate in an effort to expand the Kalamazoo Promise model. She responded with an enthusiastic "yes," in spite of the inner hesitation that most anyone would feel. She joined the first steps and steered the groundwork to leaders of Saginaw Public Schools, where she now serves on the school board.

"We worked through a list of about 70 people to identify and recruit the 11 individuals who would form our first board," Seals says.

She based much of her sales pitch on a visit at the time from David Rusk, a noted national analyst on municipal issues and author of "Cities Without Suburbs." Rusk's research indicates that communities with the strongest urban cores flourish the most overall, and vice-versa

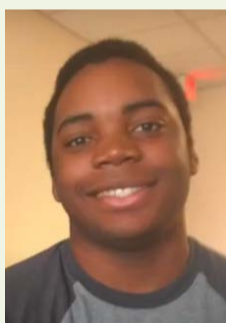
"It is in the self-interests of the suburbs for the City of Saginaw to remain strong and viable," she explains.

Even so, Seals met some skepticism in her start-up organizing efforts.

"One corporate person told me, 'You will be like all the others. You won't be around a year from now,'" she recalls. "I'll admit, I cried a lot of times about it. But here we are, 10 years later."

And Joyce Seals still is here, currently serving as Saginaw Promise board chairwoman, among her countless ongoing civic leadership roles.

CHUKWUEBUKA (EBUKA) UNOBAGHA



At the time he received his Saginaw Promise scholarship, Ebuka Unobagha from the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy Class of '15 was thankful that he had found a piece of financial aid to attend college.

Then he discovered that Promise was more than just another scholarship, but a pathway into the bigger picture, because most college students rely on multiple loans and grants instead of one big gift.

"It is nice to be recognized from my hometown for the work I had done through my educational career with a scholarship provided for students native to Saginaw," he says.

Unobagha, who favored science and math at SASA, picked Oakland University in for its strong medical program. His goal is for a career as a pediatrician.

He achieved his 2019 bachelor's degree in biomedical diagnostic and therapeutic sciences, and his scholarships did not add up to a total free ride. He paid for his student housing by working as an academic peer mentor, assisting OU dorm students in a variety of subjects.

Prior to med school, his career prep work has included service at Team Rehabilitation in Troy. He currently is employed as patient therapy technician here at home, for Covenant HealthCare.

"I feel very good that I am not burdened with student loan payments as I prepare for medical school," Unbagha notes. "Beforehand, I had not fully realized how much Saginaw Promise has meant. I am very grateful."

MASON GATES



A love of math and science during her years at Arthur Hill High School inspired Mason Gates to choose electrical engineering as her field of study at Michigan State University.

But what type of engineering? She was not exactly sure after she graduated as part of the Hillites' Class of 2018. But by now, she has narrowed it down to either the medical field or automotive engineering.

"Both will continue to be highly needed," she explains. "especially with the designing of circuits for all sorts of purposes."

Even the financial scholarships and support, Gates is contributing a large share of her own effort to cover costs at MSU. She worked last summer on the staff at Kokomo's Family Fun Center, and this year she will serve as a vector technician for the Saginaw County Mosquito Abatement Commission, examining and preparing sites in advance of spray crews.

"To make it to college without Saginaw Promise would have been a whole lot harder, a whole lot more difficult," she says. "They not only contributed to my scholarship fund, but they directed me to other financial sources."



PROMISE VOICES

A panel of Saginaw Promise leaders, along with scholarship recipients, offer their outlooks

NORMAN BRADDOCK



As president of the Saginaw Board of Education at the time when Gov. Granholm and her staff contacted Saginaw in 2009, Norm Braddock immediately saw the potential. He also had contacts with the business community in his role as director of SVRC (now known for business development downtown in the former Saginaw News building, as well as rescuing the former OIC building and program when OIC shut down). He took the lead in writing the Saginaw Promise grant app to the Granholm Administration.

"We got in early with the state," Braddock notes. "We were one of the first cities to be approved."

Some local enterprises in fund-raising "were a tough nut to crack" with "a lot of negativity," he recalls, because the executives questioned a Promise scholarship effort that was restricted to the city school district. He responded with testimonials of how the Kalamazoo model was working to improve their core city, which led to a better outlook for the K-Zoo suburbs as well.

In fact, he says, an unforeseen result was that residents in Saginaw's suburbs became more willing to support millage property tax increases to keep their home school districts competitive.

Braddock will not remain satisfied with achieving \$1 million in scholarships during the past decade, asserting that, "It's still not where it should be."

He also acknowledges that some of the young Saginaw Promise achievers are departing Saginaw for destinations such as Atlanta and Houston to make their marks elsewhere.

"It's really all about the kids," he says. "This has caused many of our students to wake up and see the need to graduate, and then to pursue college. If you think about anyone who's famous from Saginaw, they're still from Saginaw."

BRIANNA ROBINSON



While she headed for 2012 graduation from Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy, Brianna Robinson was unsure about her hopes for a college education. Her SASA academics were top-grade, but finances were a challenge.

Her teachers informed her of a new source of support, Saginaw Promise, that was emerging on the horizon. She received her guaranteed scholarship, and a Promise adviser helped her identify some of the 10 other sources of financial aid that she blended to get started at Michigan State University.

"I knew that I would be dependent on scholarships and grants," Robinson recalls. "Saginaw Promise not only provided a scholarship, but they pointed me in the right directions."

She persevered to become her family's first college graduate, but it wasn't easy.

"At SASA, there were 56 of us in my graduating class," she notes, "and then I found myself going to a Big Ten school with 50,000 students. As a sophomore I called home and told my mom, 'I'm afraid I'm going to disappoint you.'"

That didn't happen, and Robinson achieved her bachelor's degree in kinesiology. She found employment at an East Lansing fitness center, but she gradually discovered that she preferred the aspects of management, financial analysis and customer service. She now aims to pursue a master's in health care management through MSU's College of Business, while working in administration at the university's College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"I remain extremely thankful for receiving the Saginaw Promise scholarship and support," she concludes, "and I would encourage today's high school students to pursue their assistance."





PROMISE VOICES

A panel of Saginaw Promise leaders, along with scholarship recipients, offer their outlooks

JOHNNIE JOHNSON III



The reason for Johnnie Johnson III to study criminal justice and law enforcement at Central Michigan University is to prepare for a career as a criminal defense attorney.

The 2016 Saginaw High School graduate believes too many people nowadays are locked in American prisons and jails, some overly sentenced and some actually innocent, with a headcount that is seven times higher than 50 years ago. This issue commonly is known as "mass incarceration."

Johnson says, "Especially for African-Americans, this is disproportionate."

His decision to pursue service as a lawyer came from a sudden inspiration, not from any sort of long-term plan. At the same time, he has followed a carefully organized agenda of studies, with good grades to ensure he is headed in the proper direction.

At CMU, he serves in the Office of Multicultural Academic Student Services and he is a leader in Men About Change, a mentoring group.

Johnson has worked since high school to save money for college, but he says Saginaw Promise served as a turning point.

"Not at all, I don't know if I could have made it without Saginaw Promise," he says. "Major props to them."

DAVID GAMEZ



As the founding director of Health Delivery Inc., now Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, Dave Gamez brought community involvement and experience to the Saginaw Promise effort. He had previously raised funding support for conversion of downtown's former Michigan National Bank building for a Health Delivery headquarters, and then for construction of the Janes Street Academic Health Center. He also had served as a trustee for Delta College and Saginaw Valley State University.

"We were very excited to learn of this opportunity from Governor Granholm, and we were known in the community -- myself, Joyce Seals, Norm Braddock," Gamez says. "We had Karen Lawrence-Webster to help us with a financial plan. We knew what needed to be done."

A first step was to promote a "college-going culture," he says, especially among families in which teen-agers traditionally had looked toward the auto plants and the military.

"We started somewhat slowly," Gamez says, "but once we were able to prove ourselves with our initial scholarships, the outlook improved, and now we are Saginaw County's largest source of scholarship dollars. People want to give, if you let them know what it is for."

The 2013 demise of the Buena Vista School District remains painful, he notes, but one silver lining came with the BV incorporation into the Saginaw School District, which opened the door for inclusion of those families into Saginaw Promise.

Kalamazoo's original project is supported by a large endowment from an individual wealthy donor whose identity has been kept anonymous, at least in the college town's local media. An ultimate long-term goal for Saginaw also would be to build an endowment, Gamez said, but of course that would require a larger array of supporters.



Saginaw Intermediate School District awarded for outstanding financial reporting

Ashburn, VA – 2020 – The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) is pleased to award Saginaw Intermediate School District the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting (COE). ASBO International's COE recognizes districts that have met the program's high standards for financial reporting and transparency. The school district earned the Certificate of Excellence for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended 2019.

“The COE's mission is to promote and recognize excellence in financial reporting,

specifically through a district's CAFR,” ASBO International Executive Director David Lewis says. “The CAFR informs stakeholders about the financial and economic state of the district, making it an important communications tool for building trust and engaging with the school community.”

By participating in the COE program, school districts demonstrate their commitment to financial transparency. Applicants submit their CAFR for review by a team of financial professionals, who provide feedback to improve future documents. If the CAFR meets the requirements of the program, the document

may receive the Certificate of Excellence. A district's participation in the COE program can facilitate bond rating and continuing bond disclosure processes.

The COE is proudly sponsored by ASBO International Strategic Partner American Fidelity.



Delta College launches instrumentation program, a first for Great Lakes Bay Region



Courtesy Photo

A new skilled trades degree at Delta College will prepare students to become instrumentation technicians, which is the first program of its kind to be offered in the Great Lakes Bay Region and one that is in high demand by area companies.

The electrical and instrumentation maintenance technologist program, which will be offered beginning fall 2020, was approved by Delta College's Board of Trustees at its April 14 meeting. Students will be trained to test, calibrate, install, repair and inspect manufacturing equipment and monitoring devices.

Harvey Schneider, skilled trades manager for Delta, said the degree was developed with the help and input of local companies, including Dow Chemical Company, Dow Silicones Company, Hemlock Semiconductor Operations and Michigan Sugar Company.

“These companies need instrumentation technicians to control reactions and monitor equipment at its plants and other facilities,” said Schneider. “Many of the people working in these positions are retiring or leaving, so they approached us with a need for trained professionals in this specialty trade.”

Schneider is seeing alumni who completed their electrical apprenticeships two to five years ago sign up to return to Delta to earn this new degree.

“The two professions complement each other because there is a lot of electrical work involved in instrumentation,” he said, adding that being an electrician is not a pre-requisite – the program is open to anyone.

The program is offered as a two-year certificate or associate's degree. Students will also learn how to perform general maintenance on equipment and design new measuring and recording equipment. Like most skilled trades, students are required to complete an apprenticeship, which is a period of training at a company that is considered full-time employment.

Registration is open for the summer and fall 2020 semesters. Online fees are waived for all new and current students, which is a \$33-per-contact-hour savings.

For more information, visit delta.edu/instrumentation or contact Harvey Schneider at harveyschneider@delta.edu or 989-686-9476.



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.

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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

State Treasury providing student loan assistance during COVID-19 pandemic

The Michigan Department of Treasury today announced Michiganders who have student loans guaranteed by the state will be provided assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Collection activities on delinquent Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) student loans made by a financial institution and serviced by the Michigan Guaranty Agency will be halted until Sept. 30, 2020.

“College students should not have to worry about defaulting on their monthly loan payments during the continuing, unprecedented public health crisis,” Governor Gretchen Whitmer said. “This program will help alleviate a tremendous amount of stress from students with financial hardships as they determine the next steps in completing their education and competing for jobs in the 21st century workforce.”

The state Treasury Department has stopped all wage garnishments and offsets to pay outstanding FFELP student loans serviced by the Michigan Guaranty Agency. Borrowers who are currently in repayment agreements will not be penalized if a payment is missed through Sept. 30, 2020.

“The COVID-19 pandemic is both a public health emergency and an economic emergency,” State Treasurer Rachael Eubanks said. “If you are encountering financial hardship and cannot pay your state-backed student loans, please contact us so we can walk through your options for assistance.”

Individuals who have FFELP loans serviced by the Michigan Guaranty Agency and are encountering repayment issues are encouraged to call 1-800-642-5626. Service representatives can discuss payment options

with borrowers.

Some FFELP loans were made by private lenders, and guaranty agencies insured these funds. Since 2010, no new FFELP loans have been issued by the federal government.

To learn more about state student finance programs, go to www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid. More information about the Michigan Guaranty Agency is available at www.michigan.gov/mgaloan.



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COMMUNITY

CMU launching Online Diversity Symposium

Annual event features breakout sessions, town hall Q&As, keynote speaker



**Central
Michigan
University**



Central Michigan University's fifth annual Diversity and Inclusion Symposium begins Friday in an interactive online format. It will be accessible to the entire CMU community for more than a month.

Participants can learn about university efforts at their own pace in eight breakout sessions and register for town hall-style Q&A sessions that will begin May 8.

The theme — "2020: The Future of Engagement and Equity in Action on Our Campus" — reflects the university's commitment and action taken on 73 initiatives from across campus units.

The symposium is an opportunity for colleges and units to demonstrate their work toward making CMU a safer and more inclusive environment. Representatives from all colleges and units, Student Government Association, the Professional and Administrative Council, and graduate and undergraduate students arrived at the initiatives as appointed members of the university Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council.

Broad input was important, said Nikita Murry,

director of the Office of Diversity Education and producer of the symposium.

"As a helping professional, I know that sometimes feeling unheard leads to frustration or apathy, because it can seem as though nothing will change," Murry said. "So the work is in helping people to push for healthy and positive ways to be heard and to be empowered toward designing the change they hope for."

Two of the initiatives have resulted in new employee learning goals reflected in annual performance reviews and a new required online diversity awareness program for all incoming students.

"Many of the multiple responses to the student calls for action that came from racial incidents in fall 2018 are in initiatives developed here," said CMU Chief Diversity Officer A.T. Miller, chair of the DEI Council.

Amy Andrews, an executive coach on diversity, equity and inclusion, is the symposium's keynote speaker. She is a first-generation computer science and math CMU alum with a 33-year career in the U.S. Department of Defense. Andrews is a

senior executive and expert in data science techniques and human capital technology. She specializes in solving diversity and inclusion issues, especially for women and others underrepresented in STEM roles.

In addition to Andrews' keynote, the eight breakout sessions that will be accessible online are:

- Geography Matters: Rural Student Experiences at CMU.
- Equity in a Diverse and Inclusive STEM Faculty.
- Making Room for Unique Needs – Quality of Life Rooms.
- Navigating CMU's Online Diversity Resources.
- Finding Unity in Affinity Groups.
- Student Responses to COVID-19.
- CMU Diversity Initiatives.
- Collaborations in Promoting Wellness: Joint Project with Delta College.

Scholarship students who need to engage in multicultural activities and employees who need to meet learning goals can count participation in the symposium toward their requirements.

In uncertain times, the Saginaw Y is still here

For more than 152 years, the YMCA of Saginaw has continuously evolved to meet the changing needs of the Saginaw community. And today, our community is going through unprecedented challenges. Though our doors may be closed, we are still working to meet the needs of our friends and neighbors in these uncertain times. That's why we're asking our members and the community at large to stay with us.

Each year, the YMCA of Saginaw reaches more than 7,000 people across the Saginaw community through programs that help everyone reach their full potential, including Afterschool programs, Safety Around Water program, Senior programs, Youth feeding programs, and Cancer Survivor Programs. Since the COVID-19 situation arose, the Y

shifted its focus and responded quickly as the needs of Saginaw changed.

We are partnering with local churches and community partners to provide up to 900 healthy meals and snacks a day for youth in our community. We are also creating pathways to continue to engage our senior population. Our seniors, many of whom live alone, are feeling isolated and vulnerable right now, and we are committed to helping them feel connected during this scary time. We are calling our senior members daily to check in. Our Friends at the Commission on Aging are also providing meals and other household necessities to those who cannot leave their homes.

This work is essential to our community,

and the Y is in a unique position to provide these services. But we cannot continue this critical mission without support. If you are a Y member and are able, please consider continuing your membership with us. With our doors closed, your membership dollars will now help us continue this important work. For anyone who is not a Y member, please considering joining or donating today to help support our efforts. You can do so at SaginawYMCA.org.

We are just as eager as everyone to reopen our doors, and when that time comes, we know it will be an exciting day, filled with celebration. Until then, we will continue to do the work that is needed to keep our children safe, our seniors connected and our community healthy. But we can't do it alone. Please. Stay with us.

Saginaw Community Foundation receives Consumers Energy Foundation Grant



Saginaw

community foundation

Impacting Saginaw County.

Saginaw Community Foundation has received a \$10,000 grant from the Consumers Energy Foundation to support Saginaw Community Foundation's Emergency Relief Fund addressing local response efforts surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak.

The grant was approved by the Board of Directors of the Consumers Energy Foundation as part of its COVID-19 relief efforts in recognition of the critically important role Saginaw Community Foundation is playing to support nonprofits in

Saginaw County struggling with the impacts of the novel coronavirus.

"The Consumers Energy Foundation is focusing on assisting nonprofits across Michigan that are providing critical programs and services for Michigan's children, vulnerable seniors and neighbors in need during the COVID-19 crisis," said Carolyn Bloodworth, secretary/treasurer, Consumers Energy Foundation. "We felt strongly that supporting the Saginaw Community Foundation's Emergency Relief Fund to address the needs of the community during the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak was an important part of our response."

Currently, the Saginaw Community Foundation's Emergency Relief Fund is being utilized to support a broad variety of programs already underway across Saginaw County including to provide food for school students and children in our community, as well as to provide supplies for childcare/daycare facilities.

"We are grateful for the grant support provided by the Consumers Energy Foundation and its continued commitment to

our community and other communities across Michigan," said Reneé Johnston, president and CEO, Saginaw Community Foundation. "The Saginaw Community Foundation anticipates additional needs in our community will require assistance and the Emergency Relief Fund will be able to help provide flexible resources to organizations working with communities who are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and the economic consequences of the outbreak."

The Saginaw Community Foundation's Emergency Relief Fund is designed to complement the community's current efforts and expand local capacity to address all aspects of the outbreak as efficiently as possible. The Saginaw Community Foundation is in communication with our community partners across Saginaw County to define these needs and provide a rapid response as needed to area nonprofit agencies and local government entities.





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HAPPY Mother's DAY

Momma,

There have been times in my life that I made you cry
By talking back, by telling lies
I thought I knew it all way back then
I turned you away when you wanted to be my friend
Mom, I'd like to express my feelings to you today
To tell you, you're loved in a very special way
I thank you for all the times you stood by
For holding your head up when you wanted to cry
I Thank you for the knowledge you in stored in me thru the years
For whipping me when I needed it, for drying my little tears
I thank you for the no's you felt you had to say
I thank you for not letting me always have my own selfish way
I thank you for not giving up on me when I made you sad
I dedicated my life to you, for you have made me glad



Brigitte Johnson

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Safe Behavior for Safe Workplaces work group receives over 3,000 public submissions

Sen. Ken Horn and Sen. Jeremy Moss said the bipartisan “Safe Behavior for Safe Workplaces” work group is continuing progress on recommendations on how best to reopen Michigan for work and has received over 3,000 submissions from residents on its website.

“Michiganders have made tough sacrifices during this public health emergency to protect our communities, and they deserve a plan to help them begin to get back to work and support their families,” said Horn, R-Frankenmuth. “I want to thank the work group members for their hard work and dedication. We’ve made great strides on developing a blueprint to help Michigan residents return to work as quickly and as safely as possible and get our economy back on track.

“We reached out to the public for their input and have seen an overwhelming response. We owe it to the people of Michigan to review and consider all of these responses before finalizing our recommendations to the governor.”

Horn said that after speaking to leading medical experts from Ascension Michigan working in affected areas, the Oakland County medical director and Wayne County public health officer, as well as high level officials with LEO and MiOSHA, industry representatives from SBAM and MMA,

leading voices in economic development, workers’ rights, and public health, the workgroup has agreed on the following principles that should guide reopening of the state:

- Considerations for gradually reopening the economy must take into account hospital capacity, availability of PPE and testing, and the importance of a sustained reduction in cases;
- Reopening must include actions to pull back again if there’s a new outbreak or resurgence;
- A set of minimum workplace measures, guided by input from MiOSHA and other stakeholders, must be established which industries can then build upon to tailor to their environment including, but not limited to considerations of workers’ situations such as chronic health conditions and childcare needs;
- Reopening the economy will be phase-based with input from business and public health experts.

“As we work to mitigate the spread of this unprecedented crisis, we also have to ensure that we’re preparing for our better days ahead,” said Moss, D-Southfield. “Our bipartisan work group is learning from expertise of public health officials while

listening to the input from affected Michigan workers. My colleagues and I will continue our mission on how we’ll recommend re-engaging Michigan’s workforce, safely and responsibly, when the public health conditions permit it.”

In addition to Horn and Moss, the work group includes Sen. Wayne Schmidt, R- Traverse City; Sen. Curt VanderWall, R-Ludington; Sen. Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit; and Sen. Sylvia Santana, D-Detroit.

“In addition to the commitment to excellence this work group continues to make, my colleagues were chosen for their calm leadership skills,” Horn said. “In this stressful time, the people of Michigan can feel confident that Michigan will recover and thrive when we all work together.”

The work group was tasked by Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey to gather information remotely from businesses, medical professionals, and citizens across Michigan to create recommendations for best practices in the workplace in preparation for the transition back to work. The recommendations will then be presented to the governor.

Residents can share their thoughts and suggestions at www.MISafeWorkplaces.com.

An Update from Saginaw Art Museum

The Saginaw Art Museum is hosting a podcast series called Art at Home. We are gathering the responses of artists and art minded individuals to the covid-19. Our goal is to give voice to artists during this challenging time and learn about their unique stories. www.saginawartmuseum.org/podcast

The Quarantine Chronicles have been launched in cooperation with the svsu center for Community Writing. We are encouraging members of the Great Lakes Bay Region to submit creative pieces such as , journal entries, poems, audio recordings and other

expressive media through our website so we able to connect the community through this shared experience. www.saginawartmuseum.org/quarantinechronicles

Each morning, Monday through Friday at 8:30 a.m. the museum is presenting a live feed of a piece from our collection. We call this program Start with Art. Included in this presentation is a listing of other art activities and resources that can be found locally and around-the-world. www.saginawartmuseum.org/startwithart

In addition to these activities we are working to develop programming through online meeting spaces. We have hosted a virtual photo meetup, virtual book club, and will also be hosting a film discussion online in May.

We appreciate the community's support and recognition of art during this challenging time as we continue to learn how we can carryout our mission of providing ART FOR ALL. for the latest updates about museum programming we encourage guests to visit our website and social media as well as sign up for our newsletter. www.saginawartmuseum.org

HOW TO GET TESTED FOR COVID-19.



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I think I may need to be tested, or have a question about COVID-19.



Contact your health care provider to discuss your symptoms.



Call the COVID-19 Hotline for questions:
1-888-535-6136
Daily 8 am - 5 pm.

Michigan.gov/Coronavirus

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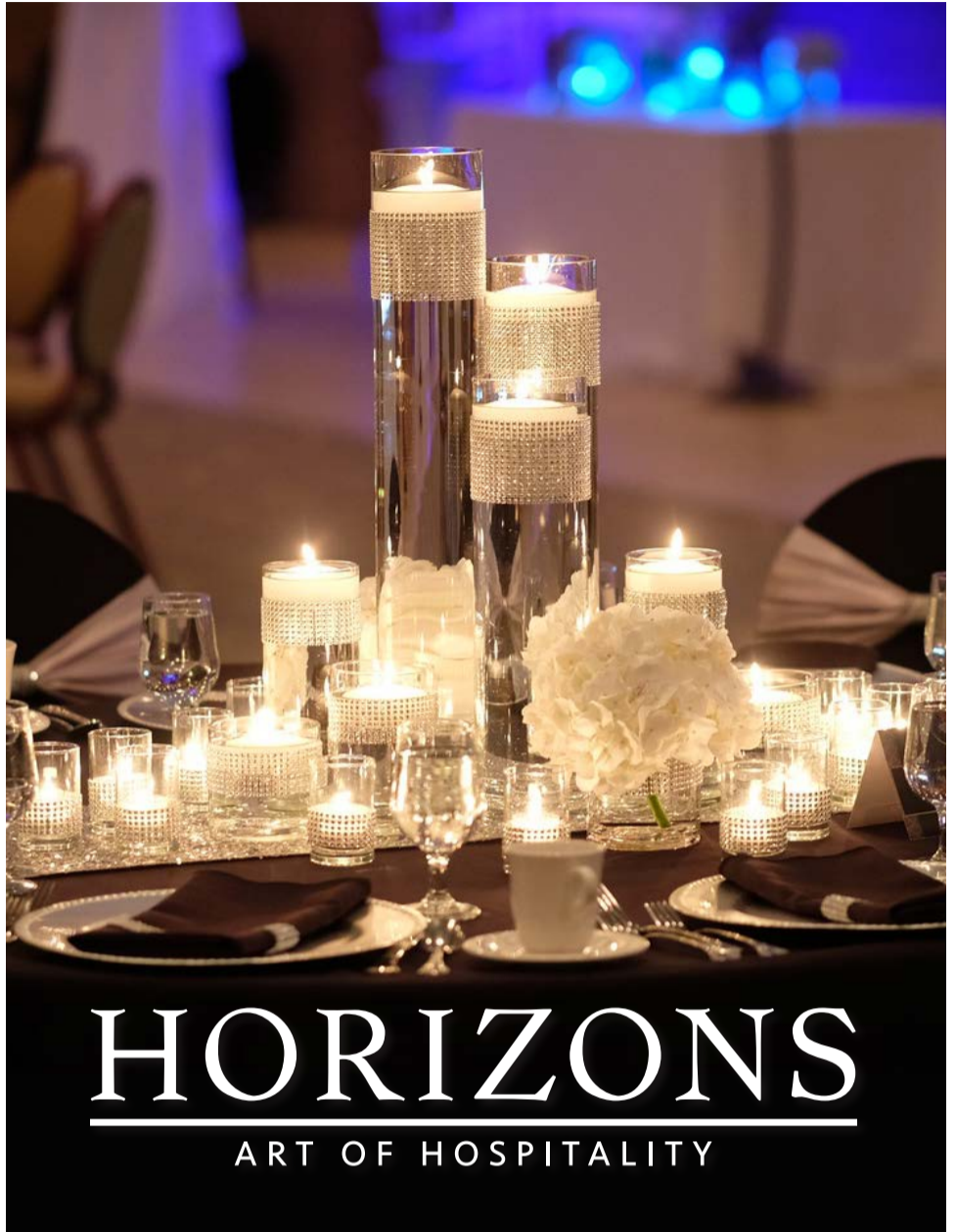
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Contact the local health department in the patient's county of residence before testing.



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BE COUNTED MICHIGAN 2020

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

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

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

Learn more at becountedmi2020.com



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www.cancouncil.org

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jdarby@greatlakespace.org

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

501 Lapeer Ave.
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989-759-6400

Houghton-Jones Task Force

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Restoration Community Outreach

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989-753-1886 / fax 989-753-2880
rcosag@yahoo.com

Saginaw County Business & Education Partnership

1213 South Washington Avenue
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989-399-0016

Saginaw County Community Action Agency, Inc. (CAC)

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

Saginaw Promise

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www.saginawpromise.org

The Michigan Banner Outreach Ministries

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The Saginaw Community Foundation

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Christ Fellowship Baptist Church

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PastorD818@gmail.com

Faith Harvest Church

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260-515-6456

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Jacob's Ladder

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Life in Christ Ministries

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989-401-4465
LifeInChristMinistries07@gmail.com

Messiah Missionary Baptist Church

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



Mt. Olive Baptist Church

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



New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry

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

989-777-8272

Pastorbaldwin@charter.net



New Beginnings Life Changing Ministries

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



New Birth Missionary Baptist

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



New Covenant Christian Center

Pastor Ron Frierson
2395 S. Outer Drive
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-752-8485

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

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



New Life Baptist Church

Pastor Rufus Bradley
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989-753-1151

New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

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New Way Ministries

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Farmington Hills, MI 48336
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www.thenewwayministry.org



Ninth Street Community Church

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Assistant Pastor Rex Jones
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989-752-7366

Prince of Peace Baptist Church

825 North 24th Street
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Pastor Robert C. Corley Jr.

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

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POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

COVID-19 impacts local elections

By Mike Thompson

Most of the public is focused on the Nov. 3 general election for U.S. president, and on down the line. Hopefully, the corona epidemic will have become mostly behind us by fall, ensuring a fair and free campaign process.

But the picture is more bleak for candidates in the party primary elections set for Aug. 4, which is three months sooner. These women and men, by and large, had hoped to get rolling in late winter and early spring. Then they were blocked by corona restrictions.

The Michigan Banner has surveyed candidates in two of the main Aug. 4 elections. One is the Democratic primary for state House 95th District representative, with six hopefuls on the ballot. Another is the Dem primary for county clerk, pitting two term-limited state reps -- incumbent clerk Mike Hanley (1994 to 2000) and current rep Vanessa Guerra (2014 to 2020).

In July, The Banner will provide more in-depth reporting and surveys on the issues.

Following are samples of how candidates are adjusting to corona limitations. Readers may note some variance of views in regards to wearing masks while interacting with the public.

STATE HOUSE 95TH DEM PRIMARY

Brandell Adams



"The Stay-At-Home order has changed my plans for engaging with voters. I planned on spending all of March through July knocking doors and attending/putting on events. I think it would be off-putting for residents if any candidate visited their homes during this time, even with a mask and gloves, especially since politicians



Courtesy Photo

interact with so many people. It's incumbent for any campaign to reach voters online. It's a unique space but offers countless opportunities!"

Clint Bryant



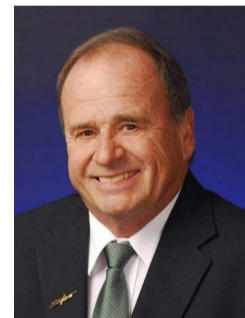
"Each year since being elected (to the City Council) in 2016, I have knocked on average 1,500 doors. To date in 2020, we have knocked over 500 doors. Until a vaccine is developed, the key to combating the COVID-19 virus is social distancing. Being a leader and being a responsible candidate means that we follow the direction of our health and medical professionals. During recent months, our team has worn masks to serve the community in a variety of ways, from delivering prescriptions for seniors, to volunteering for several area food giveaways.. We will continue to do so until directed otherwise. Although we cannot meet in union halls, churches, and restaurants; we

are connecting using the latest technology for outreach through a series of online conversations."

Charlotte DeMaet

(The Michigan Banner was not able to contact this candidate despite repeated attempts.)

James M. Graham

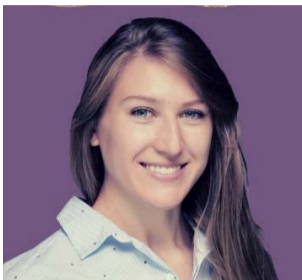


"I'll be going door-to-door with a mask on as soon as I can, according to regulations. I'm hoping the appropriate time will arrive by May 15, when the governor may be able to lift restrictions. We also have a pair of campaign trucks that will be circulating in the district as soon as it's allowed. Other than those two approaches, campaign flyers and newspaper advertising always are important."

Continues on pg 48, COVID-19 Local Elections

COVID-19 Local Elections Continued...

Carly Hammond



"Since March 12th, we've stopped door-to-door contact altogether. Before the pandemic, we collected 318 petition signatures from knocking on

over 6,000 doors. I'm heartbroken that we can't continue that face-to-face contact in the community, but I'm not willing to conduct any campaigning that would put lives at risk. Isaac Robinson, a phenomenal State Rep from Detroit, invited me to lead a community discussion and press conference to advocate for working people during Covid-19 and he invited me to help with legislative issues. However, that never came to be because Rep. Isaac, my friend and mentor, passed away from Covid two weeks later. My team and I are focused on helping people with their Covid-related struggles -- lots of unemployment questions, childcare struggles, and concerns over rent."

Amos O'Neal



"Definitely, all campaigns are impeded as a result of Covid-19, the most important issue now is for all our Michigan citizens to follow

the governor's stay home stay safe orders. I would not campaign with a mask because we are still in uncharted waters (and) we all must maintain our social distancing and follow the necessary steps to prevent the spread of the virus. We are compensating by using the media. Yes, most definitely I still would run (even knowing ahead of time about the corona epidemic), my whole career have been centered around serving the people."

COUNTY CLERK DEM PRIMARY

Vanessa Guerra



"COVID-19 has had a major impact on all candidates running for office in 2020, but to be honest, campaigning is the last thing on my mind right now. I still

currently serve as state representative and my staff and I are working everyday, including weekends, to get responses to the plethora of constituent concerns we are receiving. When the time is right, I will campaign according to recommended CDC (Centers for Disease Control) guidelines so that I can share my vision for the County Clerk's office with voters, as well as hear from them the role they desire the County Clerk to play in our community."

Mike Hanley



"I expect social distancing requirements will not be lifted all summer, and that many opportunities to meet the public will be postponed or canceled.

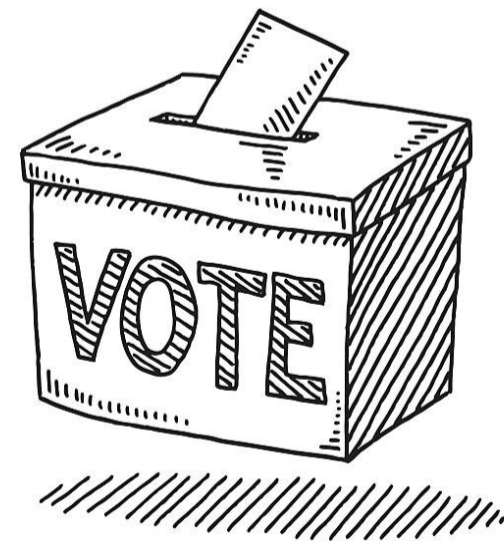
I'm doing everything I can to prevent acquiring or transmitting corona virus. This is a very serious situation and I encourage all citizens to stay home, stay safe, wash your hands, social distance and wear a mask. We had a couple of campaign committee meetings before the Stay Home, Stay Safe order. Now I call members of the committee to check in. My office continues to provide service while the courthouse is closed to the public. We tentatively hope to reopen May 18. Please check out saginawcounty.com or call us at 790-5251."

SAGINAW SCHOOLS BUILDINGS TAX



The Saginaw School District's strategic plan for new buildings, including a combined Saginaw High and Arthur Hill at the west riverfront location of the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy and a new SASA at the Arthur Hill site, is not projected for a tax referendum until the general election on November 3rd. Still, the corona shutdown beginning to get in the way.

"We are proceeding with the Bond as planned," Superintendent Ramont Roberts says "If the crisis continues throughout the summer we may make a revision to putting the bond on the ballot in November, however, we will not make a decision on that until approximately August."



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PICS OF THE WEEK

This week signs were put up along the Dixie hwy to honor the Bridgeport High School's 2020 graduates courtesy of Birch Run/Bridgeport Chamber & Bridgeport Spaulding Schools! **The Michigan Banner would like to congratulate the entire class of 2020 from all of our local high schools!**





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T'Kal Clay
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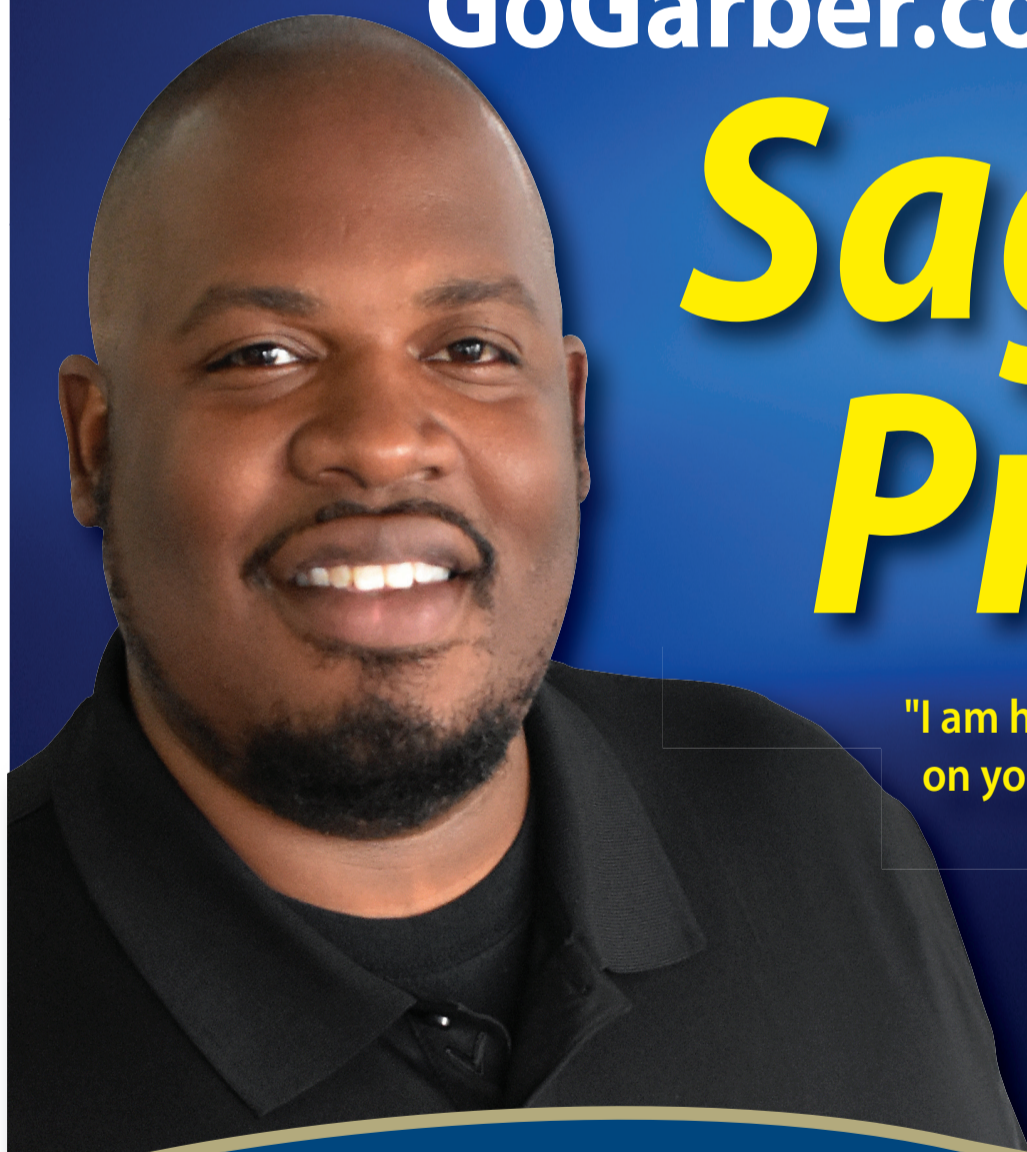
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Hurley Coleman III
hcoleman@garberbuick.com