

THE MICHIGAN BANNER

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



Coronaa Graduates

Education, pg 28

Mott Foundation grants \$262,500 to Genesee Chamber Foundation to help African American-owned businesses

Business, pg 20

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



Fundraising in the time of COVID: Stay focused on your donors



Fundraising Good Times, pg 13

Dr. Delicia Pruitt followed her father's path



Community, pg 34



Covenant HealthCare nursing excellence award winners announced



The family of Stephanie Wakefield, RN hold signs congratulating her on receiving a Nursing Excellence Award

Every year, Covenant HealthCare in Saginaw celebrates nurses during National Nurses Week. To acknowledge the efforts and contributions of Covenant nurses, nurses are nominated by their peers and six are chosen to receive Nursing Excellence Awards. Each category recognizes the unique aspect in which nurses contribute their time and talents to their patients and colleagues.

Part of the tradition at Covenant HealthCare is to surprise each award recipient. Recipients have no idea they are receiving the award until they are surprised by their peers, leadership and family. Given the current environment, in-person family surprises were not possible within the facilities, but with the use of technology and their families' creativity, these moments were still shared and special with virtual surprises and outdoor parades.

Congratulations to the following 2020 Covenant

HealthCare Nursing Excellence Award recipients:

Jessica Behmlander, RN – Nursing Leadership & Mentoring

Ashley Bauer, RN – Nursing Caring Practice

Stacy Ferns, RN – Nursing Leadership & Mentoring

Tessa Gosslin, NCA – Nursing Caring Practice

Vivian McKinney, RN – Nursing Caring Practice

Stephanie Wakefield, RN – Nursing Caring Practice

View Pictures of Covenant HealthCare Nursing Excellence Award Winners on pg 2

SEEN ON THE SCENE: Covenant HealthCare Nursing Excellence Award Winners

Annually, National Nurses Week takes place every May, ending on the birthday of Florence Nightingale, founder of nursing as a modern profession. During this week, Covenant thanks nursing staff for all they do, including via Nursing Excellence Awards. Pictured are the recipients of the 2020 Covenant HealthCare Nursing Excellence Award Winners and their surprised reactions.



Ashley Bauer, RN – Nursing Caring Practice



Jessica Behmlander, RN – Nursing Leadership & Mentoring



Stacy Ferns, RN – Nursing Leadership & Mentoring



Vivian McKinney, RN – Nursing Caring Practice



Tessa Gosslin, NCA – Nursing Caring Practice



Stephanie Wakefield, RN – Nursing Caring Practice

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MISSION

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

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DEADLINES

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

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Mailed or e-mailed
Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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THE MICHIGAN BANNER

18th Year Anniversary

4th Annual

HEART OF THE CITY
COMMUNITY AWARDS LUNCHEON

SAVE THE DATE!

NOVEMBER 6, 2020 ♦ HORIZONS CONFERENCE CENTER

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 10



MARTIN LUTHER KING III



KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR

Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Martin Luther King III and more unite to honor tens of thousands of inspiring young change-makers from across America with WE CELEBRATE: CLASS OF 2020

CHICAGO /PRNewswire/ - On May 14, the WE organization announced WE Celebrate: Class of 2020, a series of virtual celebrations that give students the unique opportunity to close out the school year and commemorate the positive local and global actions they've taken with their classmates. The week-long virtual road trip kicks off in Washington state on May 19, followed by Minnesota on May 20, California on May 21 and Illinois on May 22. WE Celebrate: Class of 2020 virtual events are made possible by the generous support of partners led by National Title Sponsor, The Allstate Foundation, Presenting Sponsor, Walgreens and powered by Microsoft.

WE Celebrate: Class of 2020 will honor inspiring students and teachers who have made lasting impacts this school year. The series of virtual events, customized to each location, will include a star-studded lineup of visionary figures, musicians, sports heroes and celebrities delivering keynote addresses, one-of-a-kind performances, and heartfelt messages. Led by hosts Monique Coleman, Lily Collins, Olivia Holt, and Bailee Madison, the WE Celebrate:

Class of 2020 virtual road trips stops will feature special appearances by Sofia Carson, Connor Franta, Craig Kielburger, Martin Luther King III, Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Skai Jackson, Jenna Ortega, Navia Robinson, Jay Shetty, Alexandra Shipp and Ariel Winter and performances by Bishop Briggs, Ally Brooke, Daya, Jordan Fisher and more to be announced.

"It is a true honor to celebrate and recognize the class of 2020, who despite the challenges of today, are determined to make a difference in their communities. They are not letting anything stand in their way," said long-time WE supporter Martin Luther King III. "Young people across America are using their voice, drive and resilience to give back and encourage others to do the same."

"Now, more than ever, we need to draw strength from the care and compassion that young Americans continue to show with their actions," said WE co-founder Craig Kielburger. "During these uncertain times, it's important that we remain dedicated to celebrating students and teachers who have made lasting impacts in both

their local and global communities. We are grateful to our partners for joining us along this journey, and deeply honored to recognize the service achievements of young change-makers, while bringing closure to the academic year in a powerful way."

WE Celebrate: Class of 2020 highlights students and educators who have taken part in the free, yearlong service learning program WE Schools. WE Schools operates in over 20,000 schools and is proven to increase academic engagement, civic engagement and college and workplace readiness. Designed to enhance a school or community's existing social initiatives or spark new ones, WE Schools provides teachers with educational resources and action campaigns to encourage students to further their curricular learning and develop social and emotional skills to succeed beyond the classroom.

WE Celebrate: Class of 2020 virtual celebrations can be viewed at 1 p.m. EDT/12 p.m. CDT on WE's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

GENYOUth National Survey Finds American Teens Care About Food and the Environment but Don't Understand How They are Connected

On May 14, GENYOUth, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to creating healthier school communities, released the results of Youth & the Future of Food, a nationally representative survey of American teens' views on food and its relationship with the planet.

The GENYOUth Insights survey revealed that while today's youth care strongly about both food and the environment, they don't understand how these two global issues are connected, where their food comes from, or even why it matters. At the same time, the study suggests that the future of food systems and sustainability may be strengthened by increased leadership and engagement from America's teens.

A recently released World Health Organization/UNICEF/Lancet report noted that "sustainability is for and about the next generation – we must find better ways to amplify children's voices and skills for the planet's healthy future."

"Our GENYOUth Insights Survey reveals America's teens don't yet think about or understand the relationship between food and the health of our planet. Yet the good news is that they have a strong desire to connect the food they eat with the world they live in," said Alexis Glick, CEO of GENYOUth. "It's crucial that they have the knowledge to serve as smart stewards in support of a healthy planet and people. GENYOUth is committed to partnering with America's farmers and food manufacturers to help youth understand and appreciate the vital connection between farming, food production and a sustainable and healthy planet."

GENYOUth surveyed over 1,700 teens ages 13 to 18 on a wide range of sustainable-related topics, including the role food plays in their lives, where the food they eat comes from, if and how they connect food to the planet, and who they depend on for clear and trusted information. The results provide an interesting snapshot of the food priorities and paradoxes of this generation, as well as opportunities to help ensure youth can lead, act and choose wisely in today's food

environment.

For Teens, Food Sustainability Is Not an Important Everyday Issue

In young peoples' daily lives, sustainability is not nearly as important as more immediate and tangible priorities.

- They are twice as likely (65 percent to 33 percent) to think about food's healthfulness versus its environmental impact.
- When deciding what to eat or drink, taste dominates, with 91 percent citing it as a key factor, followed by cost and health (both 76 percent), and then whether food is produced in an environmentally friendly manner (60 percent).
- The fact that sustainability in the context of food production is not top-of-mind for teens is further illustrated by the proportion of teens who say they think about where food comes from (40 percent), whether the food they eat impacts the environment negatively (33 percent), and the small number who read or talk with others about how food is grown, raised or produced (25 percent).

Youth Don't Understand Sustainable Food but Are Hungry for Information

American teens' don't understand the connection between food, nutrition and the environment.

- Just 21 percent say they are very knowledgeable about where food comes from while 40 percent say they know little to nothing about the topic.
- But they want to know more, with clear majorities interested in learning more about producing food in earth-friendly ways (66 percent), feeding the world's growing populations (62 percent), knowing where their food comes from (60 percent), and "food that's good for me and good for the planet" (56%).

Allies in Education: Who Teens Want to Hear From

To help them understand where their food comes from and the importance of making sustainable food choices, teens are craving

guidance from trusted sources.

- It is those closest to the land -- farmers -- who are really seen as trusted allies, with 64 percent of young people saying they would like to visit a farm and talk with a farmer and 83 percent interested in hearing even more from those who work directly in agriculture.
- Conversely, while a clear majority (84 percent) want to hear about sustainable food issues from food companies and brands, restaurants and grocery stores, they don't rise up as go-to resources for teens. In fact, youth feel that companies that produce and package food actually make it more difficult for them to make sustainable and healthy eating choices.

Hunger is Closely Linked with Sustainable Food

Among sustainable nutrition issues of significance, hunger stands out, both as a condition facing too many teens and as a big concern for most. One in five (21 percent) worry about whether they will have enough to eat on a daily or weekly basis, while four out of five (80 percent) are very concerned about helping feed people who don't have enough to eat. In the COVID-19 era, with tens of millions of food insecure kids at risk due to school disruptions and climbing unemployment figures, hunger will inevitably become an even bigger source of concern.

For today's teens, knowledge is the clearest path to engagement and leadership. As Jimena T., an 11th grader from Texas, said: "If youth have access to information about where their food comes from, they can make educated decisions about the food they eat. One of the most worthwhile things I've done recently was to visit and see how a dairy farm operates. It allowed me to start connecting the dots between what's grown on the land and what's sold in the store. And that's given me a new-found appreciation for food and our planet."

To review "Youth & the Future of Food," including opportunities for taking action, visit <https://www.genyouthnow.org/reports>.



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



Due to increased use of English e-learning platforms by US Hispanics during the COVID-19 pandemic, Open English experiences a doubling
LB Pg. 4

Submit your news at

themichiganbanner.com

I count, you count, we all count in the 2020 CENSUS



Monica Reyes, Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan, Lupe Reyes, and Dr. Pamela Pugh-Michigan Board of Education

Respond your way to the 2020 Census.

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You will have three options for responding. All of them are easy!



The 2020 Census marks the first time you will be invited to respond online—even on your mobile device. The online form is available in many different languages. Visit 2020CENSUS.GOV for more information about responding online.

Everyone living in your home counts.

The census counts every person living in the United States regardless of their country of origin or immigration status. This includes children and newborn babies, grandparents, friends, nonrelatives, and everyone who is living or staying with you as of April 1, 2020.

The 2020 Census is safe and confidential.

Responses to the census are safe and confidential. Your information is protected by law and cannot be shared with other law enforcement agencies—not the FBI, ICE, or even local police.

The 2020 Census is easy and convenient.

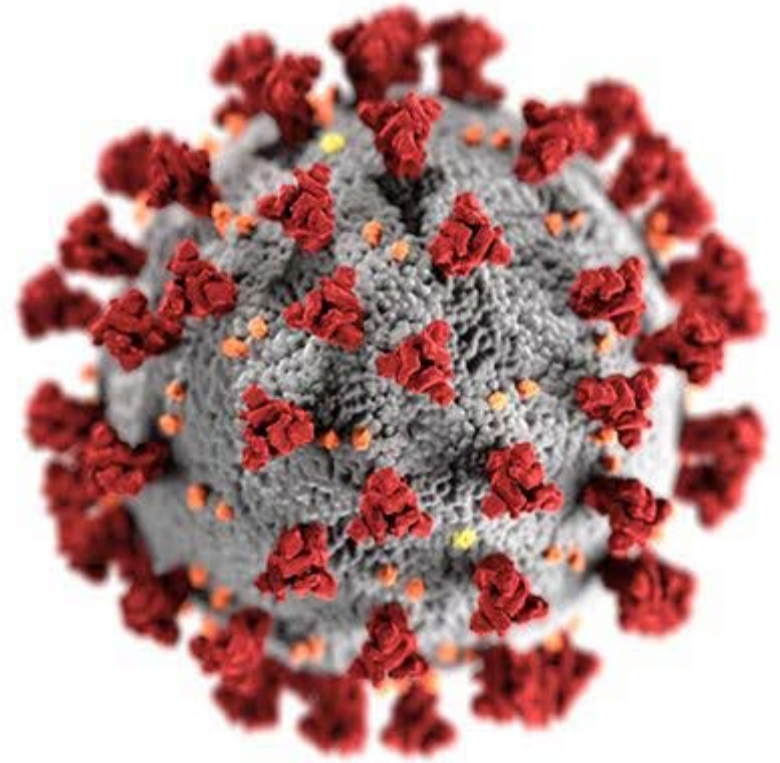
The census is available in many languages, including Spanish. You can respond online, by phone, or by mail.





COVID-19 RESILIENCE LOAN

COVID-19 PRÉSTAMO DE RESILIENCIA



Visit ledcmetro.org/covid_19_resilience_loan to learn more.

LEDC recognizes that COVID-19 has put a difficult burden on our community. As a response to this challenge, LEDC, together with the Credit Builders Alliance (CBA) Fund, is offering small-dollar consumer loans to help borrowers cover gaps in income during the pandemic.

- \$500 - \$3000
- 0% interest
- No fees
- Flexible repayment terms with repayment starting three to six months

Loans can be used by homeowners or small businesses to help maintain

housing stability or other emergency needs.

Applicants will need to provide the following documents:

- ID
- 2 months of income
- 2 months of bank statements

To start the process complete the application:

English

<https://forms.gle/yAkmu2Jj4gFLeYXCA>

Spanish

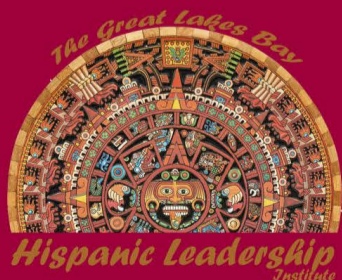
<https://forms.gle/u69dk2jQAEJDuj2v6>



**BY MAKING THE RIGHT DECISIONS
NOW WE'LL SAVE LIVES.
STAY HOME-STAY SAFE**

COMPLETE THE 2020 CENSUS!

Now is our chance to help public health officials and emergency responders identify the resources they need to protect our communities. 2020 Census data will inform funding for hospitals, clinics, and emergency services across the country. Complete the census and learn more at 2020CENSUS.GOV



Due to increased use of English e-learning platforms by US Hispanics during the COVID-19 pandemic, Open English experiences a doubling in demand over the same period in 2019



Courtesy Photo

MIAMI, FL /PRNewswire/ -- During the Covid pandemic, we have seen the Internet become our connection to the outside world. A variety of e-learning platforms have seen an increase in demand, while adding value to the lockdown experience and helping people become more productive during this time. Open English, the leader in live instruction-based English learning for Hispanics, has been one of these programs, seeing a doubling of enrollments in the US, as well as in live class usage.

In the US there are close to 60 million Hispanics, almost 20% of the total population, and it is estimated that one third is not proficient in English. Thanks to over a decade of experience teaching English online in Latin America, Open English has been able to carry over its expertise to teach the US-Hispanic population becoming one of the top e-learning platforms for this market group. Open English connects students with native English-speaking teachers through on-demand live classes taught in virtual classrooms.

In response to this spike in interest and to stand in solidarity for those who choose to learn English during the pandemic lockdown, the company has decided to offer free live

classes through Facebook Live and provide an additional license to new students who enroll from now until May 15. These free live classes offer a sense of community to those willing to learn English during their time at home, providing an alternative to traditional in-person learning.

"Our North American teachers teach more than 500,000 live classes a year resulting in a product that adds value even during these moments in which our daily routine has been put on hold and the adoption of online learning has increased among Hispanics in the United States interested in learning English," explains Andrés Moreno, CEO and founder of Open Education. "We want to share Open English with as many people as possible in the United States while they are staying at home."

There is a demand in the United States for online English courses that adapt to the student's needs and what better way to start than with free online Open English classes. Among Hispanics, the reasons for learning or practicing English are varied; they might want to do better in school, get a better job, improve their daily interactions or even, be able to help their children with school work; especially now that parents are playing such

an important role in their kids' education while they stay at home and schools are closed.

How to take advantage of the opportunity provided by Open English

Free live classes can be viewed by visiting the Open English website openenglish.com/quedateencasa and clicking on the class of interest. Classes will be live Monday through Friday at 1 p.m. and at 5 p.m. EST time and will last 10 minutes. The class recordings will also be made available through the same link. Open English will be offering the free live classes for as long as we continue to stay home to help people practice and be productive.

About Open English

Open English is the leading online English school in Latin America and the Hispanic market in the United States. The company was founded in 2008 with the objective of reinventing the way people learn English, focused on meeting the needs of today's professionals. The online learning platform offers personalized live classes with North American native English-speaking teachers. For more information visit openenglish.com.

Community Board

Submit your announcements and events at themichiganbanner.com/submit

Statewide Latino Census Town Hall

*Understanding the Importance
to our Community*

*Hosted by LLEAD Saginaw Branch,
Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan and
Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute*



Dan Soza III
Moderator



Rep. Poppy Hernandez
Regional Director,
Community Affairs
at the State of Michigan



Ana Ascencio Zuccaro
Hint Michigan



Monica B. Reyes,
Saginaw County
and Great Lakes Region



Marisol Garcia,
Lansing Michigan



Roberto Torres,
Detroit Michigan



Ana Jose
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Tuesday, May 19, 2020
Online at LLEAD Saginaw Page
2:00 p.m.

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



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and Dental Care for Everyone



www.GreatLakesBayHealth.org

FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Fundraising in the time of COVID: Stay focused on your donors (Part two)

“As a medical college, Meharry is on the front line of COVID-19. We have been doing the work for years but haven’t been given the recognition until now. Our president and CEO, Dr. James E.K. Hildreth, Ph.D., M.D., has a long history with infectious diseases and is being called on by our mayor as well as national television networks and other media. His leadership and visibility help demonstrate the value of our institution and this is a fundraising opportunity for us. When something comes out in the news where Meharry is highlighted, I have a list of people who I immediately sent it to in order to engage them.” – Linda R. Witt, Meharry Medical College., Senior Associate Vice President for Development.

While the needs of nonprofits and higher education are great, especially now, it can be challenging to remember that fundraising is donor focused. Its about connecting with current and potential donors and building and sustaining relationships.

As we continue with part two of our conversation with Witt and Robert “Bob” Poole we start first with four key points from Witt who has more than 23 years at Meharry. She has been instrumental in building warm, meaningful and lasting donor relationships. Her practices have helped Meharry generate millions of dollars from loyal donors.

Witt: You have to show genuine concern for your donors. Remember it is all about relationships. It is important to work and communicate as a team. Be aware of changing donor priorities.

Poole: Think about what’s going on with your donors. For example, small business owners,

including professionals such as dentists and physicians, may be experiencing significant declines in revenue. Be mindful therefore that their focus now is on the well-being of their family and business.

Following initial conversation concerning donors’ well-being, feel free to provide information on how the organization is faring including achievements and difficulties such as logistical and financial challenges, students not able to complete courses of study, etc. If appropriate, any requests should be well defined to meet a specific need aligned with the donor’s interest.

Witt: We are trying to provide support by sharing information that may help our donors, especially alumni. Last month the state director for U.S. Small Business Administration gave a special presentation for Meharry alumni via ZOOM regarding financial support from the federal government. She was joined by financial

executives, sharing specific information on the process of receiving funding. We will keep it donor focused during Giving Tuesday as well. We know some of our donors may have giving fatigue, so we are sending messages thanking them for all they have done now and over the years. The focus is on thanking, followed by a soft ask through a link to the donate page at the end.

Poole: It’s also important to remember that donor priorities may be shifting. For example, the Chronicle of Philanthropy shows increases in giving to healthcare, hospitals, and social services, and less to education and the environment. But others are doubling down on organizations they have supported over the years.

These are unprecedented times – we are all learning about COVID-19 every day and we are learning more effective ways of fundraising.

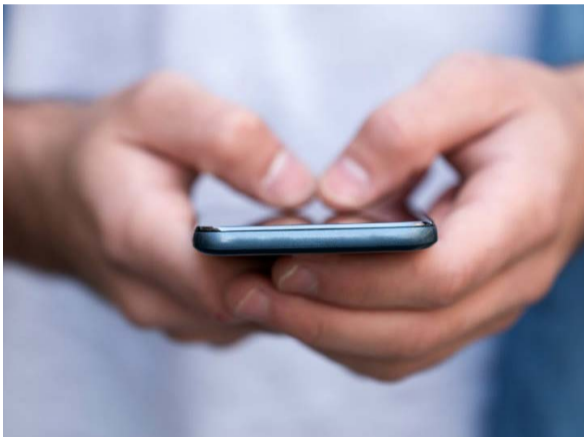


Copyright 2020 – Mel and Pearl Shaw

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

Michiganders can now text "RESTORE" to Crisis Text Line to get mental health support; MDHHS wants residents to Stay Home, Stay Well



Courtesy Photo

LANSING, MICH. Getting crisis mental health support is now as simple as sending a text to a new service being launched today by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) as part of its Stay Home, Stay Well initiative during the COVID-19 pandemic.

By texting the keyword RESTORE to 741741, Michigan residents can have a confidential text conversation with a crisis counselor.

“With the COVID-19 pandemic and related financial hardships, we know that, now more than ever, Michigan residents are coping with stress and anxiety that can result in a mental health crisis,” said Allen Jansen, MDHHS senior deputy director of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration. “By texting RESTORE to 741741, Crisis Text Line will help people Stay Home and Stay Well – along with other expanded mental health crisis services the state is providing.”

Trained counselors are available 24 hours a

day, seven days a week to respond to texts from Michigan residents who are facing a mental health crisis — everything from anxiety and financial issues to suicide and domestic violence. While the text line is starting during the pandemic, MDHHS intends to continue offering the service in the future.

The text line is provided by Crisis Text Line, an organization established in 2013 that has provided this type of support on an international level with the recognition that with new technologies, texting is a fast and easy way to connect and may be the preferred way for some people who need immediate support.

As part of Michigan’s partnership with Crisis Text Line, people who text RESTORE to 741741 will receive referrals to local mental health resources and connections. Crisis texts are confidential, but this partnership also will provide the state with broad trends to understand the need for any additional services.

If anyone in emotional distress feels a chat via text would be useful to resolve the emotions of the moment, the text line’s crisis counselors can help people shift from a heated moment to a calmer state.

MDHHS has expanded mental health resources for people in Michigan as its residents face greater stress and anxiety due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Other parts of the Stay Home, Stay Well efforts include:

- The Headspace website, which provides free, evidence-based guided meditations.

It includes at-home workouts that guide people through mindful exercise (a type of meditation in which participants focus on being intensely aware of what they are sensing and feeling in the moment), sleep assistance, and children’s content to help address rising stress and anxiety. The resource is free and available to the public. Go to www.HeadSpace.com/MI.

- The National Suicide Prevention hotline. People considering suicide are urged by MDHHS to contact the or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 24/7 at 800-273-8255.
- The Disaster Distress Helpline for anyone in distress pertaining to the COVID-19 crisis. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 800-985-5990.
- The statewide “Warmline” for Michiganders living with persistent mental health conditions connects people with certified peer support specialists who have lived experiences of behavioral health issues, trauma or personal crises, and are trained to support and empower the callers. The warmline operates seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. at 888-PEER-753 (888-733-7753).

Additional information about all of these resources can be found on the MDHHS Stay Home, Stay Well webpage, www.michigan.gov/StayWell.

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



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Monday - Friday
8AM TO 5PM

Primary Care

Mental Health

Confidential Services

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

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

be the rock THAT STARTS A RIPPLE



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

the ripple effect

Transforming the lives of over 13,000 people in Michigan each year.
Visit us at www.samaritas.org to learn how you can Be The Rock.

Samaritas[™]
8131 E. Jefferson Ave, Detroit, MI
www.samaritas.org

Our promise to you - A message from MidMichigan Health



MidMichigan Health

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH SYSTEM

MIDLAND, Mich. – MidMichigan Health shares the following public service announcement:

“Hello – Diane Postler-Slattery, president and CEO of MidMichigan Health.

With a very low inpatient volume and continued decrease of COVID-19 cases in our health system and service area, MidMichigan Health has slowly begun to reopen its services and provider offices; we are also resuming time-sensitive surgeries. As your trusted health care provider, now more than ever, it is important to us that you feel safe to visit

us for your care, and most importantly, to seek emergency care when every second counts. We are confident we will safely care for you. It is our promise to you.

Here is what we want you know:

First and foremost, we are experts in preventing the spread of infection. We maintain a safe environment in our Medical Centers and urgent care centers, our physician practices and surgical suites. In addition to our rigorous cleaning practices, we are instituting additional sanitizing

protocols throughout our buildings. We have incorporated some temporary changes that you will see when you visit us. These changes include limiting the number of visitors in our buildings, symptom screening for those entering our facilities, and changes in entry ways and waiting rooms to ensure social distancing. And, in accordance with the Governor’s and CDC recommendations, our staff, patients and visitors are wearing masks. All of these measures are carefully put into place to provide safe, excellent care for you, our patients; it is our top priority. In addition, we have virtual care options and a MyMidMichigan portal that enables you to communicate with us virtually.

Lastly, we wish to thank our communities once again who have been incredibly supportive to our health care workers throughout this challenging time. It is this support that has helped us through the storm.

Now, it is our turn. It is our turn to support you and to continue to serve and treat you, your family, loved ones and neighbors. You have our promise to keep you safe and free from harm.


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Covenant HealthCare nationally recognized with fourth consecutive 'A' for the spring 2020 Leapfrog hospital safety grade

Covenant HealthCare was again awarded an 'A' in the spring 2020 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, a national distinction recognizing Covenant HealthCare's achievements providing safer health care. This is the fourth consecutive "A" Covenant has received recognizing efforts in protecting patients from harm and meeting the highest safety standards in the United States.

The Leapfrog Group is an independent national watchdog organization committed to health care quality and safety. The Safety Grade is a letter grade assigned to all general hospitals across the country and updated every six months, assessing how well the hospital prevents medical errors and other harms to patients.

"The region counts on Covenant to be a resource for the community providing high-

quality care," said Dr. Michael Sullivan, Vice President of Performance Improvement and Chief Medical Officer. "Now, more than ever, we appreciate the validation we are doing the right things to live up to patients' expectations. We want people to know that during these trying times, the hospital continues to provide safe care for medical needs. Every single person on the Covenant HealthCare team makes a difference, and we thank them for their commitment to delivering safe care."

"As the Nation copes with a challenging pandemic, our gratitude extends to hospital leadership and health care workers everywhere for their tremendous dedication," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "We hope this 'A' helps to thank the people who work and volunteer for Covenant HealthCare. They are role models in putting patients first, and their service has been

extraordinary in our country's time of need."

Developed under the guidance of a national Expert Panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses up to 28 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign grades to more than 2,600 U.S. acute-care hospitals twice per year. The Hospital Safety Grade's methodology is peer-reviewed and fully transparent, and the results are free to the public.

To see Covenant's full grade details and access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit hospitalsafetygrade.org.



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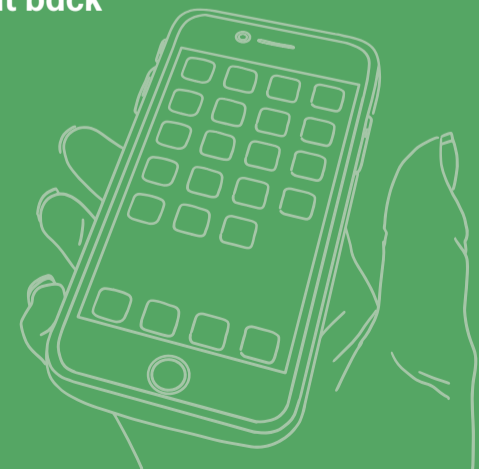
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BUSINESS & WEALTH

Michigan financial institutions step up to support small businesses amid COVID-19 crisis through the paycheck protection program



Courtesy Photo

LANSING, MICH. More than 120 of Michigan's state-chartered banks and credit unions have stepped up to provide Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans to support small businesses facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ninety percent of Michigan's 68 state-chartered banks and nearly half of Michigan's 137 state-chartered credit unions have participated in the PPP to support Michigan small businesses.

"Michigan's small businesses and their employees should know that our administration will do everything within our power to support them during these challenging times," Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II said. "We are grateful for all of Michigan's banks and credit unions who worked quickly to ensure that small businesses in our state have unprecedented access to the funding necessary to come back stronger than ever when it is safe to do so."

The PPP, established by the U.S. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), provides forgivable loans to small businesses so they can maintain their payroll, hire back employees who may have been laid off, and cover applicable overhead. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for in accordance with the program requirements payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities.

To date, more than \$16 billion in forgivable loans were provided to more than 110,000 of Michigan's small businesses, with an average loan amount of \$146,999, according to SBA data. Nationally, Round One of funding of the PPP provided nearly \$350 billion in loans, and Round Two was allocated an additional \$310 billion.

"The Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) is focused on assisting Michiganders as they manage the financial challenges caused by the pandemic" said DIFS Director, Anita Fox. "The Department is proud to have supported Michigan's financial institutions as they secured a record number of forgivable loans for the state's small businesses, an important first step toward our economic recovery."

Michigan small businesses experiencing a financial hardship due to COVID-19 are encouraged to reach out directly to their financial institution to learn more about the PPP and other relief options that may be available. DIFS can assist consumers and businesses with questions or disputes that cannot be directly resolved with their financial institutions. Contact DIFS at 877-999-6442, or file a complaint at difscomplaints@michigan.gov.

Mott Foundation grants \$262,500 to Genesee Chamber Foundation to help African American-owned businesses in Flint reopen as restrictions ease



Courtesy Photo

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation granted \$262,500 to support African American businesses in Flint that were closed under Governor Gretchen Whitmer's executive order due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The grant was made to the Genesee Chamber Foundation, a supporting organization of the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce, and will provide grants of up to \$5,000 each to help African American owners safely reopen their businesses.

On May 6, the Chamber announced its Restart Flint & Genesee Grant Program, launched with \$200,000 from the Consumers Energy Foundation to help business owners across Genesee County. The Mott Foundation grant will add support to that program specifically for African American-owned businesses in the city of Flint.

"As the Mott Foundation responds to the pandemic, our top priority is helping our hometown—especially the African American community, which has been hardest hit by

the virus," said Ridgway White, president and CEO of the Mott Foundation. "We know businesses want to protect their staff and customers as they reopen, and the changes they'll need to make will require money at a time when their revenues are way down. We hope this grant will help them get up and running the way they want to."

The Chamber has established the following eligibility criteria for the grants funded through support from Mott:

- The business was operating prior to the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order.
- The business is majority owned by one or more African Americans.
- The business is locally owned. No national franchises or chains.
- The business is an LLC or S-Corp located within the city of Flint.
- The business has no more than 50 employees.
- Operation of the business was significantly impacted by the executive order.

Priority will be given to businesses in industries hardest hit by closure due to COVID-19, such as salons, child care facilities, retail businesses and others. The business owner must demonstrate economic hardship, providing a narrative that describes challenges faced, proposed use of funds and how the business is critical to developing a sense of place for residents.

"The Mott Foundation has demonstrated for nearly a century that Flint's well-being is at the heart of its philanthropic mission. Once again it has stepped forward with timely and much-needed support – in this case through the Restart Flint & Genesee Grant Program," said Chamber CEO Tim Herman. "These additional funds will enable us to extend financial support to many more businesses in Flint that need it as they prepare to reopen and operate their small businesses under the strict guidelines meant to protect public health."

Continues on pg 21, African American-owned business grants

Continued from pg 20, African American-owned business grants

There will be a single application process for the Restart Flint & Genesee Grant Program. Business owners can apply and get more information at flintandgenesee.org/restart. If a business does not meet eligibility criteria for the funding made possible through the Mott grant, it will be considered under the broader criteria for grants made possible through funding from the Consumers Energy Foundation.

An informational webinar held on Friday, May 15, at 10 a.m. covered program details, application criteria and deadlines, and how the funds may be used. The webinar can be seen shared on the Chamber's Facebook Live and YouTube Live channels.

Funding under the Restart Flint & Genesee Grant Program will support expenses directly associated with activities and purchases to reopen a business under guidelines and requirements for physical distancing and

safety of clients/customers.

The items needed to safely reopen a business include but are not limited to personal protective equipment for staff, cleaning services and supplies to deep clean facilities, contactless payment systems and physical improvements to a business to create space for physical distancing.

Grant dollars focusing on the African American business community show care and support for those that have been impacted significantly, said George Wilkinson, president of NorthGate, located in Flint.

"Everyone has been affected. But just as this virus has wreaked havoc on the African American community, it has wreaked havoc on the African American business community," said Wilkinson, who serves on the Greater Flint Coronavirus Taskforce on Racial Inequities. "This support will help them

significantly to move forward. It's the salons, barber shops, the child care facilities, all of those very small businesses with less than 50 employees that are impacted the most and don't always have access to the other support. This grant says 'We see you. We recognize that you don't have the resources others have to embolden you and provide help during this time.'"

Using the funds for items to help the businesses open safely is extremely important, Wilkinson said.

"As president of NorthGate, I'm buying PPE, and it is no small endeavor. Those dollars are going to really be appreciated and, most of all, be impactful so people can live to serve their community like they have for many years," he said. "No one saw this coming. Now they can see themselves getting back to serving their customers."

New COVID-19 health care jobs portal launched as increased need for COVID-19 care continues

LANSING, MICH. The Michigan Departments of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) teamed up to launch a new portal on Pure Michigan Talent Connect, the state's labor exchange system, that makes it easier for health care professionals to apply for jobs that provide lifesaving care to COVID-19 patients.

The COVID-19 health care jobs portal features more than 7,000 openings for a variety of positions, including registered nurses and licensed professional nurses, certified nurse aides, licensed professional nurses, respiratory therapists at long-term care facilities, hospitals and in other settings. There are full-time, part-time, and temporary positions available.

"Social distancing is working. We seem to be heading in the right direction, but our fight against COVID-19 isn't over. Doctors, nurses and other health care workers are putting their lives on the line to treat our

communities," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health at MDHHS. "We must ensure COVID-19 units and long-term care facilities not only have enough PPE, but also the trained professionals they need to provide critical care to COVID-19 patients, take care of their teams and continue to save lives."

While executive orders temporarily prohibiting elective procedures led to a decrease in some types of care, the increased need for health care workers able to handle emergency and long-term care for individuals with COVID-19 continues. As the State of Michigan ramps up testing capacity, some labs and testing sites will also be a need for trained health care professionals to oversee sample collection and processing of tests.

The health care jobs portal follows the launch of a broader COVID-19 jobs portal announced last month.

"Pure Michigan Talent connect makes

finding and applying for health care jobs as easy as possible. We appreciate the work of these frontline professionals to protect all Michiganders," said LEO Director Jeff Donofrio.

Health care professionals who are experiencing layoffs or are otherwise looking for work, can visit the portal to find job listings with links to apply online at MiTalent.org/covid-19-healthcare-jobs. New users can create a free account on Pure Michigan Talent Connect.

Employers with an existing Pure Michigan Talent Connect profile should log into their account and use the check box in Step 3 to indicate an immediate COVID-19 health care job opening. New employers should fill out the COVID-19 hiring intake form to post a job.

As this outbreak is evolving rapidly, the latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

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Consumers Energy Foundation donates \$200,000 to help 'restart Flint & Genesee' small businesses



Courtesy Photo

Today, the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce is announcing the receipt of a \$200,000 grant from the Consumers Energy Foundation, which will be used to assist small businesses in Genesee County that have suffered economic distress because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The contribution will help establish 'Restart Flint & Genesee,' a special recovery program from which the Flint & Genesee Chamber will award grants up to \$5,000 to business applicants that meet the established criteria.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and have been significantly impacted during this unprecedented time," said Brandon Hofmeister, president of the Consumers Energy Foundation. "Consumers Energy is committed to helping Michigan's small business community succeed now, more than ever."

Kristina Johnston, Flint & Genesee Chamber's chief operating officer, said the donation is great news for the community and a welcomed addition to the financial resources available to small business owners to restart operations.

"We know from the business impact survey the Chamber conducted in the early days of the outbreak that there would be tremendous

need going forward," Johnston said. "Unfortunately, many of those dire economic predictions are playing out."

Johnston added the Chamber would work expeditiously to get the grant funds into circulation.

To jumpstart the process, an informational webinar for the Restart Flint & Genesee program was held on Friday, May 8, at 10 a.m. The session covered program details, application criteria and deadlines, and how the funds may be used, which will be for costs associated with restarting the business.

Eligibility Criteria:

- In addition to being owned and operated in Genesee County, businesses may have up to 50 employees and must have been impacted significantly by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order.
- Industry sectors that are eligible: Barbershops/Hair Salons/Fitness Gyms; Tattoo Parlors; Bars/Restaurants; Retail; Construction/Landscaping; Daycare; Senior living/care facilities; and Non-critical manufacturing

- Business may not be a franchise and must provide evidence of economic distress or barriers to success.

Application Deadline:

- Applications must be received by Sunday, May 24, to be considered for a grant in this first wave of funding. (*As the Chamber continues to pursue other funding sources to support the Restart Flint & Genesee program, additional grant opportunities will become available.)

Funding under the Restart Flint & Genesee program will support expenses directly associated with activities and purchases to reopen a business under guidelines and requirements for social distancing and safety of clients/customers.

"Through these grants, we are making an investment in our communities, business owners, workers and their families, and a commitment to help power through together," said Hofmeister.

The Consumers Energy Foundation's contribution is part of an effort to help small business customers in this time of need. The Flint & Genesee Chamber is one of nine organizations across Michigan to receive a portion of the \$1.8 million the Foundation has allocated to help communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In all, the Foundation has given more than \$3 million to meet the needs of Michigan residents during the ongoing crisis. (Consumers Energy is promoting a hotline, 800-805-0490, and ConsumersEnergy.com/smallbusinessrelief to provide meaningful and immediate help.)

The Foundation's support also reflects Consumers Energy's commitment to the communities where it does business and the continuation of its partnership with the Flint & Genesee Chamber. In 2017, the Consumers Energy Foundation joined with FlintNOW philanthropist and Detroit Pistons' owner Tom Gores on a \$2 million commitment to help fund the creation of the Flint Promise scholarship, a program administered by the Flint & Genesee Chamber.

Dow moves up to #22 on 2020 Top 50 Companies for Diversity list



Courtesy Photo

MIDLAND, Mich. – Dow (NYSE: DOW) earned the 22nd place on the 2020 DiversityInc Top 50 Companies for Diversity list, which was announced yesterday at a virtual event hosted by DiversityInc. The Company's placement on the list for the third consecutive year showcases its commitment to inclusion and diversity (I&D) as a business imperative.

Dow was also included on four of DiversityInc's Specialty Lists: 2nd on Top Companies for Employee Resource Groups; 3rd on Top Companies for Supplier Diversity; one of 16 companies on Top Companies for People with Disabilities; and one of 29 companies on Top Companies for LGBT Employees.

"On behalf of Dow employees who are championing diversity and inclusion around the world, we are extremely honored to have been ranked in the DiversityInc Top 50 Companies for Diversity list," said Jim Fitterling, chairman and chief executive officer

of Dow. "This external benchmark is critical to measuring our progress among the best and defining our focus for the future."

Dow's intentional and deliberate areas of focus included activating the 10 global employee resource groups, which have been a catalyst for driving engagement and accelerating progress across a number of business priorities.

"Earning a spot on DiversityInc's Top 50 Companies for Diversity list affirms that we are making real progress in inclusion and diversity, and also highlights where there is more work to do," said Karen S. Carter, chief inclusion officer and chief human resources officer of Dow. "This is not only important for Team Dow, but for our customers, suppliers, communities and other stakeholders who are critical to the journey."

Issued annually since 2001, the DiversityInc Top 50 Companies for Diversity list recognizes companies with at least 1,000 employees in the United States for their

management of diversity and inclusion. The list is based on data from a survey with more than 200 questions, which tracks and connects human capital outcomes with best practices used to promote the advancement of underrepresented groups in the workplace such as women, minorities, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ and veterans. The rankings take into account several factors, including but not limited to talent development, recruitment, supplier diversity and senior leadership commitment to inclusion and diversity. Visit DiversityInc's website to view the entire Top 50 Companies for Diversity list, and follow the conversation on social media using the hashtag, #DITop50.



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EDUCATION

Home schooling during COVID-19

By Wardene Talley



Courtesy Photo

I have seen hilarious posts on various social media platforms expressing the sentiments of our new and hopefully very temporary educators – parents serving as teachers during the current COVID 19 pandemic. One parent wrote, ‘I had to suspend two of my students for fighting today.’ Or how about this one, ‘This one kid is being suspended for excessive tardies.’ One more - one of my personal favorites, ‘I’m trying to get this one kid transferred out of my class!’ There is an endless supply of material for comedians and for a humorous release of angst surrounding this very necessary closure of schools and other child care facilities. Maintaining a sense of humor is an essential element in surviving a crisis, however one must not lose sight of the fact that there is indeed a crisis. In light of the fact that we may have to delay the opening of schools in the fall, our children will lose almost an entire year of structured education.

This will be a devastating set-back for an entire generation of children, many of whom can ill afford to lose the time.

A phenomenon referred to as, ‘Summer Melt’ describes the learning loss suffered by students over summer breaks. Any extended break from learning can be damaging to students but particularly detrimental to those from low income and minority communities, typically in lower performing school districts. Summer Melt results in students’ returning to the actual building having lost (melt) a significant portion of the information learned the previous year. This makes it difficult for teachers to build upon the foundation of learning which promotes students to the next level or grade in a particular subject. Teachers with at minimum a Bachelor’s Degree in Education (which requires at least four years of college) and State Certification

(costly and demanding a very rigorous study regimen), experience difficulty maintaining the pace necessary for students to experience success at the appropriate age, grade or stage of development. As a result, students fall further and further behind their peers from surrounding communities where students face fewer environmental and systemic challenges. These same students are now being taught in a virtual setting (their homes), by parents and guardians with little or no teaching experience or certification. While it may be a bit rewarding for some teachers to hear of the parent’s struggles (also a great source of social media humor), we must not lose sight of the fact that our children’s futures are at risk.

School districts nationwide, including

Continues on pg 27, Home schooling during COVID-19

Home schooling during COVID-19, continued...

Saginaw County Schools have provided students with iPads, Chrome Books, Tablets – some form of technology to issued and graded, trouble shooting is available and these virtual classrooms are now being referred to as 'Home Schooling'. This is perhaps all that can be done at this time and it is no one's fault that we are facing the worst pandemic in recent history – certainly not the fault of the schools. However the title, 'Home Schooling' lends a bit of credibility to what is proving to be, for many students an extended version of the 'melt'. The vast majority of households are not equipped to provide the level of guidance, instruction and support needed to educate their children. Households or families in the most vulnerable populations listed above will struggle more in their efforts to educate children who may have special needs, behavioral challenges and/or learning disabilities. Both students and parents may become discouraged which will, of course, have a negative impact on the learning process. Some report having given up and declared this an early summer vacation – teaching and learning ceased soon after the school closures as early as March of this school year.

Schools specifically designed to teach coursework online, frequently perform poorly highlighting that they are generally ineffective with poor outcomes. The expectation that parents will fill the gap for an extended period of time is unrealistic at best. Stanford economist Eric Hanushek says, that if the schools can't make it work "it seems unlikely that parents and teachers Googling resources will" do any better". Posing an even greater challenge, is the Stay At Home order implemented in states across the nation. As a result, children have lost the opportunity to socialize with peers, many have little to no opportunity for recreation and more importantly, schools in many communities provided breakfast and lunch because lack of resources made it difficult to do so in their homes. Fear, uncertainty and isolation are especially challenging for young children with mental health and behavioral challenges.

District leaders in Saginaw County are doing their level best to meet the needs of our children. They acted quickly and decisively to provide each student with the technology to work at home. Equipment was actually

delivered to families without transportation to pick theirs up. They partnered with local churches and community centers to provide meals for students in their districts. Their efforts are to be commended. Unfortunately, however, students facing the most critical challenges will not fare well academically as a result of this pandemic. Parents of children from lower income households are more likely to work in the service industry and will have to report to work. Parents with jobs that allow them to work from home will be available and better able to provide much needed support during their children's remote learning experience. The existing learning gap will widen for the children already facing the greatest challenges.

It is important to recognize that according to the Center For Disease Control, in the United States alone, COVID 19 has claimed at least 85,535 lives and approximately 1,500,000 people have tested positive as having contracted the virus. These numbers will continue to increase for the foreseeable future. As a result, families are experiencing a very heightened level of stress. Many are dealing with the loss of family, friends and colleagues. Some are facing loss of jobs, their homes and sense of security. Overwhelming trauma, loss and uncertainty often results in increased reports of abuse or neglect, domestic violence, suicide and depression. Efforts to provide a healthy and safe 'home schooling' experience become more challenging under these circumstances. Parents and caregivers can help children to understand what is happening in the world around them which helps to relieve or lessen their concerns. They can also take steps to provide a sense of safety and well-being:

- Limit the amount and source of information or news children are exposed to on a daily basis. Remember, they are listening when we talk on the telephone or with other adults in the home.
- Maintain a regular schedule including meals, age appropriate bedtime, time for recreation or play, etc.
- Use available technology to maintain contact with family members, friends, classmates and others who may help children to see that loved ones are safe.

- Find reliable, accurate sources to prepare yourself for the inevitable questions that will come.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recently released the 'Family Well-Being Guide' which provides a wealth of information including tips, websites and links to activities which help children feel safe and to better understand and navigate this challenging crisis. It also gives parents age appropriate answers to frequently asked questions and a resource guide to seek additional support if needed.

The extent to which the adverse effect of COVID 19 will impact children's learning can't yet be determined. Unfortunately though, we do know that children from families in rural communities, lower income communities and minorities will experience the most severe losses with the least opportunity to recover or catch up to peers in more affluent districts. Administrators are actively seeking resources and models to keep kids learning and minimize the 'melt'. Families and child-serving organizations must support learning opportunities as well. The 'parent teachers' who share their daily challenges on social media will help us to maintain a sense of humor – much-needed during times of crisis. They can also explore and embrace user friendly, innovative ideas to supplement classroom assignments. When schools reopen, this community will come together, families, administrators, teachers and staff partnering to quickly establish a healthy learning environment, regain lost skills and provide children with the quality education necessary for a productive future.



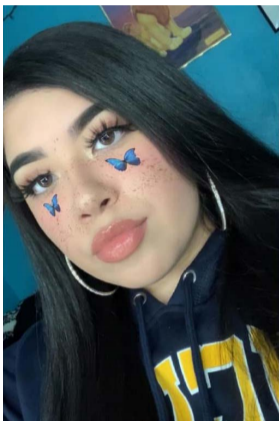
Wardene Talley
Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority

CORONA GRADUATES

By Mike Thompson

ANGELICA APARICIO

'Everything happened in the blink of an eye,' says corona grad



Angelica Aparicio, Arthur Hill High School Class of 2020, felt the impact of the corona epidemic even sooner than most of her peers.

Yes, she also is missing out on her senior prom and her traditional graduation ceremony.

But prior to these, she also coped with cancelation of the Cinco de Mayo Parade

on the first weekend in early May.

As a loyal member of the school's Latino Action Club, she always had enjoyed joining her friends to prepare what she describes as "a huge float" for the route through town to Ojibway Island, and then walking alongside and tossing candy to the children. And now her final chapter

in that annual activity had vanished, also.

"I feel really sad, because I worked so hard for 12 years, looking forward to the parade, dressing up for the prom, college decision day, and then everything was gone in the blink of an eye, says Anjelica, which is pronounced "An-heh-lee-ka" in it's Latino form.

She's among six children in the family of parents Elizabeth and Juan Aparicio, and when she says "worked so hard" and speaks of "college decision day," these words should not be taken lightly. She is the first in her family to graduate high school.

Angelica is working on alternative ideas to celebrate. One plan is to decorate the family home, featuring blue-and-gold school colors.

"Everybody can drive by, and I'll be standing outside waving in my cap and gown," she explains.

Another idea is to conduct a made-up graduation ceremony in the back yard, with family members and

friends playing various roles.

She is headed to Michigan State University with film study as her academic major.

"My goal is to become a producer for celebrity music videos," she says. "The reaction has been really encouraging. There are not a lot of women in that industry, especially not very many Hispanic women."

Angelica has compiled a collection of local videos and plans soon to begin posting some of them on YouTube.

She concludes, "If it doesn't work out, I have a backup plan, which is to start some sort of online business."

As for her senior-year memories, she does not try to butter them up.

"All of a sudden, we couldn't go anywhere," she notes, "not to the weekly (Latino Action) club meetings, not to the basketball games, nothing."

ANNA DORNSEIFER

Corona-era grad sees the bright side



At first, Anna Dornseifer of Swan Valley High School was disappointed that the coronavirus would prevent her from enjoying the same types of senior graduation events that her three older siblings had experienced.

Then she looked at the brighter side.

Maybe she won't get to march in her gown in early June and flip the tassel on her purple

school-color cap.

Instead, her memories will include a "senior stroll" in which she rode with her parents along a route that included more than 60 homes decorated in tribute to the Vikings' Class of 2020. The cars gathered in the school parking lot, and all participants stayed in their vehicles to ensure safety prior to departing at a designated time. There were also billboards that scrolled through pictures of area seniors.

"That's something different that other senior classes did not have," Anna notes, flipping to a positive script.

Her parents are the former Wendy Tunney (MacArthur High, 1984) and Tom Dornseifer (Eisenhower High, 1985). The two former Saginaw Township schools soon after combined to form Heritage High School.

Wendy says, "Anna has been fantastic (in coping with any disappointment). She's had her moments with struggles, especially after seeing the three older kids have their traditional graduations and looking forward to the same moments. But Swan Valley is a tight-knit community, and they have been coming up with other ways to honor the seniors."

Anna says her main regret, so far, is missing out on activities with her friends, because of social distance restrictions.

However, Anna says she has gotten more opportunities to spend quality time with her parents and siblings, as well as to invest more time outdoors and complete projects that she otherwise might not have done.

Still, she hopes a graduation ceremony possibly will occur at late as July if COVID-19 begins to recede by then.

Meanwhile, Swan Valley School District leaders are planning an online "virtual graduation" with students taking part and receiving honors at home.

Anna achieved a 4.0 grade point through her high school years and is ranked first in her class based on grade point, and 11th according to both grade point and standardized test scores. She was a member of the Homecoming Court, a standout on the volleyball team and a leader in student government, reflected in her participation in Saginaw Valley State University's Great Lakes Bay Youth Leadership Institute.

She will attend Delta College, where she received the President's Honors Scholarship which pays for the entire two years. She has not yet chosen a four-year school.

"I am interested in chemical engineering," she says, "or if not that, anything in the STEM field," short for science, technology, engineering and math.

She also aims to go ahead with a graduation open house this summer, although possibly it may not be so open.

"We may have to stagger the times for visits by my friends and family, but being able to have something is better than nothing," Anna says, looking ahead.

CORONA GRADUATES

TREVOR CULPEPPER JR. Corona graduations take creative approaches



Trevor "Tee" Culpepper Jr. was at home outdoors on a recent spring Sunday afternoon when some sudden bedlam began on the quiet residential street.

Surprise! A parade of a dozen honking cars emerged, with signs to honor and celebrate his achieving a diploma with honors from Heritage High School.

No cap-and-gown ceremony. No prom. No state finals track meet.

Simply the moment when his parents, along with his cousin Stephanie Timmons and her Word of Faith church friends, teamed together to provide an alternative to traditional graduation memories.

The Culpeppers, similar to countless families in Saginaw and across the U.S.A. and the planet, are digging deep to find ways to creatively commemorate such a significant step in life's journey.

"It does seem to be kind of unfair," Trevor says. "I had a lot of expectations, being able to step across the stage. But this also will motivate me to keep working hard, to prepare for college."

He will attend Saginaw Valley State University, with the support of scholarships in both academics and in track and field athletics.

His mother, the former Beverly Brodnex, graduated from Buena Vista High in 1990. His father, Trevor Culpepper Sr., is a 1991 Saginaw High product.

Both parents say graduation has special significance because their son overcame challenges from his earlier high school years.

"Trevor's main concern was excelling academically and in sports for his senior year," his mother says. "What has kept him going during this pandemic is his desire to go to college, and to play sports as the collegiate level."

His father adds, "Trev is handling it, but deep down he's disappointed, because he had worked very hard at making his senior year his top year. He had improved in all areas. He had grown to know what it takes, and he finally was getting it."

Mom proudly pipes in, "All A's and one B."

A graduation open house is planned for mid-July, but it seems corona never will go away. If risks continue, the event will have to be reduced to a drive-through dropoff of gifts and greetings.

The teen-ager has missed not one, but two prom dates -- with O'Nae Carter at Heritage and with Sydney Leek at Carrollton High -- along with the opportunity to march with classmates in June at the Heritage football stadium, where he had taken part in so many big games.

"That's one thing that I will always appreciate, the ability to finish the football season," Trevor says.

Still, his No. 1 void is missing the spring track season and especially the state meet. As a standout two-way back in football, mainly with an all-conference effort at

defensive cornerback, he has parlayed his speed into the the track sprints.

During the winter indoor season, he had displayed enough flash to achieve national recognition through Greene St. 33| Track Club under Coach Bry Greene, but the corona onset canceled participation with teammate Jamal Brackett (Arthur Hill High) at the AAU New Balance Indoor Nationals in New York City. Also, because of the corona outbreak, he never will know how he may have fared in spring outdoor competition for Heritage High, whether he might have contended for a state title.

On the academic side, he missed out on representing the Saginaw Career Complex in Grand Rapids at the SkillsUSA Michigan Leadership Conference, in the mathematics category.

"I had a shaky start in high school (in the classroom)," he says, noting that math was his main challenge. "But as the years progressed, things have gotten better."

The corona outbreak has not turned Trevor into a couch potato. He works out every day, alone at the Heritage track or on new equipment his parents purchased for the basement at home.

At SVSU, he will major in finance and minor in business, aiming to serve as a budgetary advisor not so much to make big bucks in the stock market, "but to help people know how to budget their money."

This is a very worthy goal, especially when we consider the ongoing family-budget hardships that will be connected with COVID-19 -- the same corona that denied Trevor Culpepper Jr. many of the high school highlights that we elders always have taken for granted.





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Delta College signs new transfer agreements with 25 Michigan colleges and universities

Delta College has signed new transfer agreements with 25 Michigan colleges and universities, making it easier for students to complete essential courses before transferring to a four-year institution.

Through the agreements, Delta students can transfer more credits in the areas of biology, business, criminal justice and psychology. The agreements outline major-specific courses that students should complete while enrolled at Delta.

"Helping our students succeed by giving them the opportunity to continue their education is a top priority at Delta College," said Dr. Jean Goodnow, president of Delta College. "I am

pleased that my colleagues across the state are working together on this very important initiative to provide new pathways for our students."

The agreements are part of a statewide initiative. The Michigan Community College Association announced in February that all community colleges in the state have signed transfer agreements with public and independent colleges in Michigan, allowing students to transfer more credits.

Additional programs will be added to the transfer initiative in August 2020. They include communication, mechanical

engineering, social work, art, exercise science and public health.

Delta advisors are available to assist students in planning a course schedule and how those courses apply to degree programs at participating universities.

For more information, visit Delta's MiTransfer webpage or contact Emily Clement, manager of strategic partnerships for Delta, at emilyclement@delta.edu or 989-686-9392.

Learn more about the Michigan Transfer Network at www.mitransfer.org.

CMU prepares to reopen campus



Courtesy Photo

On May 11, Central Michigan University President Bob Davies confirmed plans to welcome students back to the Mount Pleasant campus for the fall semester.

"The health and safety of our students, faculty and staff remains our top priority, and we will continue to closely follow guidance from local, state and national health leaders as we move forward with plans to resume in-person instruction."

Davies said the university also will offer remote and online options for students and faculty who are unable to return to campus.

"COVID-19 has changed the way higher education will be delivered in the future and requires us to think creatively and innovatively about our operations at CMU," Davies said. He said the changes will impact everything from teaching and student support services to events.

CMU's Emergency Management group is developing plans to ensure social distancing in shared spaces, such as classrooms, offices and event venues; CMU also has established new protocols for cleaning and disinfecting these common and shared areas. CMU's College of Medicine and local health officials are guiding the Emergency Management group's decision-making process, Davies said.

Last week, CMU notified students of changes in its on-campus housing: The university will reduce the number of students living in each residential suite, and an on-campus isolation and quarantine space has been established in the event of new cases of COVID-19 in the community. Faculty and staff also received information about CMU's strategic, phased return-to-campus plan, which takes effect later this month.

Davies acknowledged the uncertainties surrounding the future impact of COVID-19, but said he believes the university faculty and staff will be prepared for a safe and healthy fall semester. CMU is sharing information and updates through its Coronavirus Information Center website.

"Our university is committed to the ideals of innovation and excellence. We have the right people and the right resources for a successful academic year."



About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

women and their families.

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

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

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

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3200 Perkins Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
Phone 989.752.2193
Fax 989.921.7146

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

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

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

SVSU announces Cardinal 'NEST' plan with new expectations for a safer tomorrow

Saginaw Valley State University President Donald Bachand announced Wednesday, May 13 that the university is putting plans in place to safely welcome our Cardinal community back to campus for the fall 2020 semester.

Changes to campus operations are grouped under a new "Cardinal NEST Plan." The NEST acronym stands for "New Expectations for a Safer Tomorrow." The Cardinal NEST Plan offers an organized response to potential further disruptions caused by COVID-19. It defines how the university community will manage new expectations that prioritize the health, safety and education of students, faculty and staff.

"We are absolutely committed to providing quality instruction to our students and doing all that we can to ensure the safety of our entire campus community," Bachand said. "We believe our small class sizes, our caring faculty and staff, and our modern housing and academic facilities provide us with opportunities to make the adjustments necessary for our 'new normal,' which includes bringing students back to campus safely this fall."

The Cardinal NEST Plan includes:

- A flexible instructional model. SVSU plans to offer classes that are taught face-to-face on campus with appropriate safeguards. To facilitate safety and in accordance with health guidance, SVSU also is prepared to teach courses virtually by remote instruction, or through some combination of online and in-person.
- Investments in realigned technology to maximize instruction and learning in all courses and to facilitate safe interactions on campus.
- Students living on campus. SVSU's residence halls have been ranked No. 1 among all public universities in the nation in the annual "best dorms" rankings by Niche. We will take measures to provide a safe living environment in our modern housing facilities.
- Enhanced health and safety protocols to

include guidelines such as wearing masks, practicing social distancing, increased sanitization procedures, and more. SVSU has enjoyed an outstanding campus safety record for many years.

- Education and training of the campus community to understand what safety measures are put in place, why they are needed, and how to comply.
- Safe campus dining options. SVSU is working with its dining partner, Aramark, to follow national best practices.
- An enriching student experience that includes access to academic support services such as tutoring centers, and student support services such as student counseling, as well as student programming, and social and extracurricular activities that are important to the total college experience.
- Access to medical services. SVSU has a longstanding partnership with Covenant HealthCare, including a MedExpress facility located on campus. SVSU also has relationships with other health care providers in the Great Lakes Bay Region, including several comprehensive health systems located within minutes of SVSU.
- Testing capacity. SVSU plans to partner with health care providers to provide the ability to quickly test students, faculty and staff, as needed. SVSU also has plans in place to be able to quarantine residential students who test positive.
- Contact tracing capabilities. SVSU is planning to train a team of contact tracers to be able to quickly identify individuals who may have had contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

SVSU's plans are being developed in accordance with local, state and federal guidance.

"The primary emphasis of the SVSU experience has always been, and will always be, on student success," Bachand said. "What our students find appealing about SVSU – our

small class sizes, our open spacious campus, and our dedicated faculty and staff – place us in a unique position to accommodate social distancing and to have flexibility to adapt to changing demands for health and safety."

SVSU has a unique ability to accommodate social distancing. The average class size is 23 students and only 5% of class sections have more than 50 students. Many classes are broken into smaller labs and sections of fewer than 25 students.

"Our students want to be back on campus this fall. They are not only telling us that; they are showing us," Bachand said. "Despite all the challenges students and families are facing, we continue to receive housing deposits at the same pace as last year. We have an obligation to do all that we can to serve them and to establish the proper procedures to allow them to safely return to campus.

"We are doing all of this to ensure students receive a quality education while also maintaining affordability. We already have the lowest tuition among Michigan's public universities, and I have recommended to our governing board that we freeze tuition for the year ahead. We continue working to expand our commitment to supporting students through scholarships and financial aid, as well."

Fall classes at SVSU begin Monday, Aug. 31. Students, parents, faculty and staff are encouraged to stay informed of the university's plans by visiting www.svsu.edu.



COMMUNITY

Dr. Delicia Pruitt followed her father's path

By Mike Thompson



Courtesy Photo

Delicia Pruitt was a first-grader at the former Salina School when she first dreamed of becoming a doctor, but the clinching experience took place during the summer of 1990, between her junior and senior years at Saginaw High School.

Her family asked her to move to Chicago and to assume caregiving for an elder aunt in ill health. Many teens may have felt this was an unfair burden, but Delicia approached her role with her lifelong positive enthusiasm.

"This involved everything from washing her up to packing her wounds," she recalls. "When my aunt was at Cook County Hospital for chemotherapy, I was able to observe all the doctors and nurses who were working so hard to serve the patients, and this reinforced what I wanted to do with my life."

Today, in the 17th year of her career, Dr. Delicia Pruitt is the recently appointed medical director for the Saginaw County Department of Public Health. Her task is to

serve as an advocate and an educator for the well-being of the county's 200,000 residents.

Her early foundation took place during the childhood years between her first-grade dreams and her high school summer in Chicago.

"Instead of going out and playing outdoors," Delicia says, "I was into books. For example, books about how the body works, and what it looks like inside."

She adds, "I have always enjoyed school and all of the challenges," noting that she still remains a student at middle age, pursuing an online Central Michigan University masters degree in her new career, public health administration. Her grade-point stands at 3.89.

Meeting the Challenge

Dr. Pruitt's undergraduate education was at the University of Michigan, followed by medical school at Wayne State University. Following achievement of her medical degree in the Class of 2000, she began her residency at Detroit's Henry Ford Hospital, and then moved home to conclude at Saginaw Cooperative Hospitals.

She is one of eight children reared by civic leader Joyce Seals, former mayor and current school board member, and the retired Dr. Eugene Seals, who she joined in a mutual family practice for nearly a decade. Dr. Seals famously overcame obstacles for a midlife career change into the medical field, and therefore as a mentor he was far closer in age to Delicia than a typical father would have been.

"I was only 11 years behind him," she explains. "When I was younger, I saw the entire process that he went through and the time that he took. This helped me to recognize

the cost (in time and effort) of what it would take, and so it all was not intimidating or new to me."

Her main philosophy, whether as a practicing physician or as a public health administrator, is to show empathy toward patients. This is rooted not only from her Chicago summer with her aunt, but with personal experience. During her U-M years, she faced an operation to remove a large tumor that, fortunately, turned out to not contain cancer.

"For the first time, I felt what it was like to be a patient myself," she recalls. "When I have to deliver bad news to people, I try to make it as compassionate and as clear as I possibly can."

Same Time As Corona

Her Health Department appointment began on April 1, at the same time as the corona virus outbreak was well into crisis stage. In addition to educating the public about COVID-19, Dr. Pruitt is emphasizing a need to address the disparate effect among African-Americans and Latinos. She also is taking an opportunity to inform all residents of the need for improved diet and exercise.

After her father's 2016 retirement, Dr. Pruitt shifted gears and became program manager for the Central Michigan University Medical Education Partners, training new doctors serving their residencies in family medicine. She credits as mentors Dr. Sam Shaheen, program executive director, and Dr. George Kikano, dean of the CMU College of Medicine.

She has four children with husband Brian Pruitt, well-known in Saginaw as a "Power of Dad" motivational speaker and youth mentor.

"We met as 17-year-olds," Delicia says, "and he has been with me through this whole process. I am who I am because of him."

Mothers: Outstanding achievers, contributors in real time

The two Mothers celebrated in this article are public figures that some people may not know of. Women who hail from different sociopolitical perspectives and whose shared values and leadership qualities have advanced the communities to which both have shown a commitment to serv for most of their lives.

Both of these women are of African American descent. They are notably recognized as national leaders by their colleagues and peers. One of them graduated from a Historical Black College. The other's academic development was Ivy League. The sociopolitical ideology of the first one mentioned closely aligns with conservative politics; while the other one appears to be more moderate-liberal. As you read on, you will see that their respective careers demonstrate a commitment to excellence and to developing the skills and talents of the underrepresented.

Kay Coles James



Kay Coles James is a leader in government, academia and the conservative movement. Mrs. James has worked at the local, state and federal levels of government and has served dozens of organizations in the corporate, non-profit and academic arenas. She currently serves as President of one of America's most influential think tanks, *The Heritage Foundation*. And she is a Graduate of Hampton University, a private Historically Black University in Hampton, VA.

Mrs. James served as Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management under President George W. Bush. In this role, she served as Chair of the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program Principals, Chair of the Chief Human Capital Officers Council and a member of the President's Management Council. She also was appointed to serve on the White House Fellows Commission.

Most importantly, Mrs. James is the wife of Charles E. James, Sr., the proud mother of three children and grandmother to five grandchildren. Charles E. James, Sr. is Director- Civil Rights Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation. She is the author of three books—her award-winning 1993 autobiography *Never Forget; Transforming America: From the Inside Out* (1995); and *What I Wish I Had Known Before I Got Married* (2001). Mrs. James joined the African American Network Against Alzheimer's as an Honorary Co-Chair.

Kay Cole James is also founder and President of The Gloucester Institute, an organization which trains and nurtures leaders in the African American community. The Gloucester Institute is committed to providing an intellectually safe environment where ideas can be discussed and transformed into practical solutions that produce results.

Gloucester Institute Program Overview: This program provides the structure to strengthen students' core writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills. These Emerging Leaders are engaged in unique learning and mentoring opportunities that correspond to their interests and foster personal development. Students gain valuable insight into corporate, public, political, and nonprofit worlds through exposure to new ideas, fascinating places, and dynamic established leaders. The participants in this program are highly motivated African American and Latino undergraduates. Unlike many leadership programs, Emerging Leader Program services are free to participants and there is no cost to apply.

Alexis McGill Johnson



Alexis McGill Johnson is an American academic, social justice advocate, and political organizer. She is the Executive Director and co-founder of the Perception Institute, a research group studying to reduce bias and discrimination. And she is the Acting

President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Federation of America that provides health services to 2.4 million men and women each year through its more than 600 health centers across the country. Many people do not know that Planned Parenthood provides more than reproductive health services and services for the treatment of STIs. Their vital health services also include; 1) general health care, 2) health checkups for men, 3) cancer screenings, 4) HIV services, and 5) health care for LGBT patients.

Mrs. McGill Johnson graduated from Princeton University with a bachelor's degree and earned her master's degree at Yale University, where her majors were Political Science. She lives in New York City, is married to Robert Johnson, and they have two daughters. Mr. Johnson is the President of George Soros' Institute for New Economic Thinking.

She's taught political science and African American studies at both Yale and Wesleyan University. Her political organizing includes serving as the Political Director for Russell Simmons' "Hip-Hop Summit Action Network". When she was the Executive Director of Citizen Change, she launched their "Vote or Die!" campaign during the 2004 election cycle.

Alexis McGill Johnson is also the Executive Director of 'Perception Institute'. Perception Institute is a consortium of researchers, advocates, and strategists who translate cutting edge 'mind' science research on race, gender, ethnic, and other identities into solutions that reduce bias and discrimination. She was a co-creator of the racial bias training curriculum for Starbucks in May 2018.

In closing, one can clearly see that these distinguished women are exemplars of how different sides of the political spectrum are building capacity to empower underrepresented individuals and communities, concurrently.

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HOUSEWIFE

I'm the first one up in the morning
The last one to lay down at night
I sometimes get discouraged
I sometimes seem to be uptight
But you have to understand my position
And all that I have to do
Before you pass judgement on me
Comprehend what I'm telling you
You see my job is very important
With little to no sick leave at all
It makes me kind of crazy
Makes me want to throw things at the wall
I deal with my children all through the day
When I think I've got a break coming
Another obstacle is thrown my way
And when the little darlings
Are sitting down for quiet time
My mind begins to wonder
What's for dinner, got to cook
When do I get to unwind?
But then I look to the LORD
Thanking him for all that he's done for me
How's he's blessed me with these children
How he's united this FAMILY
All of a Sudden
My heart filled with Joy, My Eye with a Tear
I Thank God for my profession
HOUSEWIFE, IS MY CAREER



Brigitte Johnson

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Celebrating cultures



Courtesy Photo

The United Nations has designated May 21, 2020 - World Day to: *Celebrate Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development to help people learn about the importance of cultural diversity and harmony.*

This international organization is currently made up of 193 Member States and was founded in 1945. It is the world's only truly universal global organization. And the UN (as it is commonly referred to) has become the foremost forum to address issues that transcend national boundaries and cannot be resolved by any one country acting alone.

Its' initial goals included safeguarding peace, protecting human rights, establishing the framework for international justice, and promoting economic and social progress. In the seven decades since its creation the United Nations has added on new challenges

such as climate change, refugees, and AIDS.

Three of their "Year 2030 Goals" that are common to most people focus on: **WATER:** Access to clean water and sanitation. Water scarcity, poor water quality and inadequate sanitation negatively impact food security, livelihood choices and educational opportunities for poor families across the world. Due to bad economics and poor infrastructures, millions of people die each year from diseases associated with inadequate water supply, sanitation and hygiene.

EDUCATION: Education enables upward socioeconomic mobility and is a key to escaping poverty. More than half of all children and adolescents worldwide are not meeting minimum proficiency standards in reading and mathematics. 617 million youth

worldwide lack basic mathematics and literacy skills.

JUSTICE: Justice equity and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels are needed. There is a direct link between peace, justice and strong institutions. Domestic and international threats of aggression, violence, homicides, human trafficking will get better when there is less institutional corruption in business, government, the judiciary, and in law enforcement.

The United Nations believes that "Bridging the gap between cultures is urgent and necessary for world peace, stability and development". Therefore, Designated International Days are occasions to; 1) educate the public on world issues of concern, 2) mobilize political will and resources, 3) address global problems, and 4) celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity. It is evident that this global body has embraced International Days as a powerful advocacy tool.

The World Headquarters of United Nations has been located at 760 United Nations Plaza in New York City since 1952.

-Sofus-

Impact Saginaw provides meals to Saginaw children

With schools closed for the remainder of the school year due to the COVID-19 health crisis, the need to provide healthy nutritious food to Saginaw children is greater than ever. Impact Saginaw Area Credit Unions are proud to partner with Sodexo Magic and First Student to provide food to in-need Saginaw students.

Since school was closed in March, Sodexo and First Student have been providing meal deliveries Mondays through Saturdays to approximately 2,000 children by bus to their neighborhoods. This is a huge investment in resources and manpower and Impact Saginaw has committed \$11,500 to help

these wonderful organizations in their fight against hunger in the community.

"These are unprecedented times for our community and we all need to work together to ensure that the children in our neighborhoods are fed," states Gerald Hutto, President/CEO of Team One Credit Union and spokesperson for Impact Saginaw. "I am so proud of all the Credit Unions who make up Impact Saginaw, we all saw the need and immediately stepped up to help."

To support local businesses as well, Impact Saginaw is coordinating meals to be provided by local restaurants including

Maria's Mexican Restaurant, Valerie's Downtown and Richie Rich's Deli that will supplement the food provided by Sodexo and delivered by First Student.



THE MICHIGAN BANNER NEWS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AT&T

A dramatic, low-angle photograph of an emergency scene at night. The scene is filled with the intense, multi-colored lights of emergency vehicles, including bright yellow and white headlights, red and blue flashing lights, and the glow of a fire. The background is dark, making the lights stand out sharply. The overall mood is urgent and powerful.

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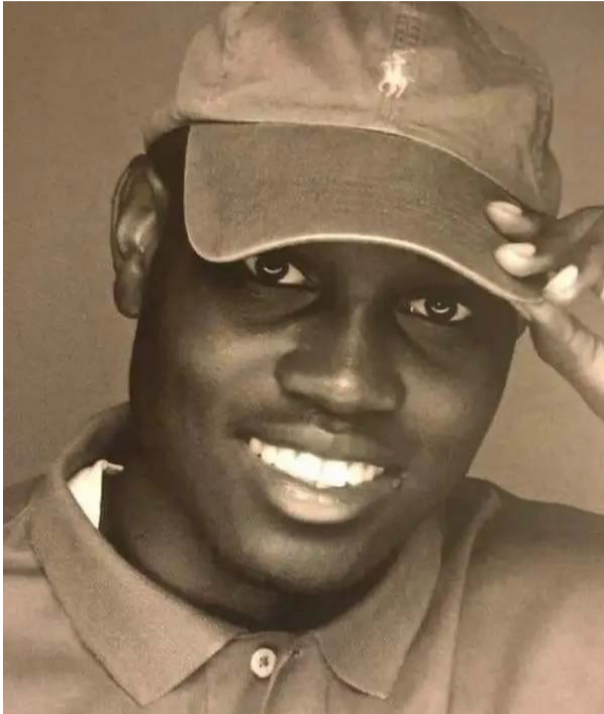
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Form local review boards to monitor police

By Mike Thompson



Courtesy Photo

Most everyone by now knows of the Ahmaud Arbery murder in Georgia and has seen the video of the 25-year-old killed at gunpoint while jogging. Slightly under the radar we also have Indianapolis police killing 21-year-old motorist Sean Reed early

in May. In that one there is not video, but audio, including a "peace officer" joking about a closed-casket funeral.

There are calls for federal investigations and commissions. Joe Biden and other Dems have spoken out in the Arbery homicide, which was instigated by a retired cop.

If I am advising the Biden campaign (yeah, right!) here is what I would recommend:

- (1) Combine the issues of police conduct and mass incarceration under a unified flag of criminal justice.
- (2) Push these concerns near the TOP, rather than as just another side issue.
- (3) Call for establishment of local federal-funded review boards, similar to the 1960s community action agency committees (including our own Saginaw County CAC) and community development block grants. (Recall Model Cities.)

Saginaw had no local review board when

city police killed Milton Hall 12 years ago, when at the time there truly was a dire need. The Human Relations Commission, created under Henry Marsh in 1958, had folded its tent back near the turn of the millennium. The lack of a local review board should be a matter of concern to both our City Council and our County Board members.

Such a group also could probe whether we have aspects of mass incarceration in our (new) county jail, and what to do to address this injustice. Organizers in other communities are working, for example, to do away with cash bail and to sharply reduce plea bargaining, both of which involve ethnic discrimination.

Law enforcement and criminal justice should rank as the No. 1 civil rights issues. For sure, inequalities in employment and education, housing and health care are very important. But more and more, law enforcement and criminal justice are involving loss of life and loss of freedom. What could be more crucial?

Community Action Agencies expand emergency programs across Michigan

LANSING, Mich. – Michigan families hit hard by the financial and health-related impacts of COVID-19 will benefit from a \$450,000 Consumers Energy Foundation grant to eight community action agencies working to meet the emergency needs of low- and moderate-income residents in 43 counties.

“We are honored to help those on the frontlines delivering food to Michiganders struggling due to COVID-19,” said Brandon Hofmeister, president of the Consumers Energy Foundation. “More residents need help feeding their families, and it’s important we support the local agencies that are both meeting their immediate hunger needs and developing new ways to deliver vital services safely. Consumers Energy is committed to investing in our communities

to help power through these challenging times together.”

The grant will support agencies trying to keep up with a huge increase in requests for assistance during the pandemic.

“The beauty of community action is that we’re nimble,” said Lisa Bolen, executive director of Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency, which provides core services such as food and emergency and short-term housing to individuals and families in 11 counties. Her agency will receive \$200,000 and will likely spend part of it on a vehicle, as COVID-19 issues have significantly increased requests for food delivered to residents’ homes. In April, food programs in Bolen’s region reported a 46 percent increase in food distribution and a

76 percent increase in requests for home-delivered meals.

“We thank our partners at Consumers Energy Foundation for helping us work with community action agencies to provide access to food and meet the other needs of Michiganders who are being affected by COVID-19. With this substantial grant, community action agencies will quickly scale up emergency food distribution, home-delivered meal programs, and other emergency services,” said Lewis Roubal, senior deputy director of opportunity for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, which houses the Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity that oversees community action agencies.

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

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

Learn more at becountedmi2020.com



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POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Governor Whitmer announces process to chart path for the safe and equitable reopening of schools

Signs executive order to create a return to learn advisory council

LANSING, Mich. — Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced the creation of the Return to Learning Advisory Council via Executive Order 2020-88, formalizing a process for determining how schools may be able to reopen in the fall. The panel – which will be comprised of students, parents, frontline educators, administrators and public health officials – will be tasked with providing the COVID-19 Task Force on Education within the State Emergency Operations Center with recommendations on how to safely, equitably, and efficiently return to school in the Fall. The State of Michigan will also partner with a national nonprofit organization called Opportunity Labs to bring national expertise to this project.

“It’s critical we bring together experts in health care and education, as well as students, educators, and families to think about how and if it’s possible to safely return to in-person learning in the fall and how to ensure the more than 1.5 million K-12 students across Michigan get the education they need and deserve,” Governor Whitmer said. “This panel will use a data-informed and science-based approach with input from epidemiologists to determine if, when, and how students can return to school this fall and what that will look like.”

On March 3, Governor Whitmer established the COVID-19 Task Force on Education which includes key state government agencies, including representatives from MDHHS, MDE, and others. Since then, she has worked around the clock with experts in health care and education to protect our students, educators, and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. The governor

closed school buildings to students on March 16, and on April 30, she announced that buildings would remain closed for the duration of the school year. The original Task Force is tasked with recommending a roadmap and framework for school to utilize to plan for various public health scenarios.

Going forward, the Task Force will be informed by the Return to School Advisory Council, including voices from educators, health experts, and other community stakeholders. The Advisory Council will gather critical stakeholder feedback on the content of the Roadmap.

The Advisory Council will provide the COVID-19 Task Force on education with recommendations on how to safely, equitably and efficiently return to school in the fall and assemble critical voices from education, public health and communities across the state to identify the key issues schools must consider before opening, including:

- Performing outreach to ensure the voices of stakeholders are included in the discussion of implementing the 2020-2021 school year in these challenging and uncharted circumstances.
- Ensuring experts in public health and epidemiology are informing the discussion of safety returning to school.
- Recommending actions to remove statutory/administrative barriers to delivering education before we are at Phase 6 of the MI Safe Start Plan.
- Recommending actions to develop and improve systems for remedial support for students who experienced learning loss during the spring and summer.

Dr. Mario Ramirez, Managing Director of Opportunity Labs, a practicing emergency physician and former Acting Director of Pandemic and Emerging Threats the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services during the Ebola epidemic said, “we look forward to supporting the Advisory Council in its work to ensure the safest possible return to school in the fall.”

Support for this project is generously being provided but the Council of Michigan Foundations, the C.S. Mott Foundation, and other philanthropic organizations.

“I want to thank all of the parents who have been burning the candle at both ends these last few months trying to help their kids stay on track with their schoolwork while juggling their other responsibilities during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. I know it hasn’t been easy,” Governor Whitmer said. “My hope is that by organizing a formal process informed by public health experts, we can give school districts much-needed direction heading into the 2020-2021 school year.”

The panel will be made up of more than 20 members representing K-12 administrators and educators, health experts and community stakeholders

Anyone interested can apply for the Return to Learn Advisory Council by going to Michigan.gov/appointments and click ‘apply now’ under boards and commissions. You will be able to choose Return to School Advisory Council under the appointment information tab within the application. Applications are due by Wednesday, May 20.

Governor Whitmer signs executive order providing relief from tax appeals deadlines

LANSING, Mich. — On May 14, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-87, which provides an extended opportunity for individuals to dispute the assessed value of their property, extends certain equalization filing and meeting deadlines for local and county officials, and extends the deadline for filing petitions to appeal assessment determinations as to commercial and industrial property.

“With county offices closed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic it’s important to ensure business owners have

an opportunity to appeal their property tax assessment and get questions answered, and for local and county officials to have more time to file reports,” Governor Whitmer said. “This Executive Order extends several important deadlines ensuring we can continue to flatten the curve.”

Under Executive Order 2020-87, boards of review meeting in July will also meet to hear assessment protests for individuals who were not able to file protests in March. Additionally, the May 31 jurisdictional deadline to file a petition with the Michigan

Tax Tribunal to challenge assessment determination to properties classified as commercial real property, industrial real property, developmental real property, commercial personal property, industrial personal property or utility personal property is extended to July 31. This Order, however, does not change or otherwise affect the July 31 jurisdictional deadline for assessment disputes of property classified as agricultural real property, residential real property, timber-cutover real property or agricultural personal property.

Michigan Gaming Control Board begins to accept online gaming supplier licensing forms



Courtesy Photo

On May 15, the Michigan Gaming Control Board began to accept online gaming supplier licensing forms.

“We’ve taken another step toward the launch of online gaming by beginning the licensing process,” said Richard S. Kalm, MGCB

executive director. “The MGCB encourages suppliers to file applications soon so we can conduct investigations and issue provisional licenses, which are allowed under state law.”

The forms and related information can be found in a new website section, Internet

Gaming and Fantasy Contests. Website visitors can find a link to the section in the ribbon at the top of the agency’s homepage.

The MGCB can issue provisional licenses for all suppliers other than platform providers. However, platform providers still can complete their applications and be ready for licensure when the rules are promulgated.

Other forms will be added to the website soon after the agency receives additional feedback on proposed rules shared recently with stakeholders, including the Detroit commercial casinos and the 12 federally recognized tribes that operate Class III casinos in Michigan.

“We continue to make progress on rule promulgation for internet gaming and online sports betting,” Kalm said. “While we expect to launch these forms of betting by early 2021, we hope it can happen sooner.”

The MGCB provides information about the rulemaking process and expected timeline on its website.

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PICS OF THE WEEK

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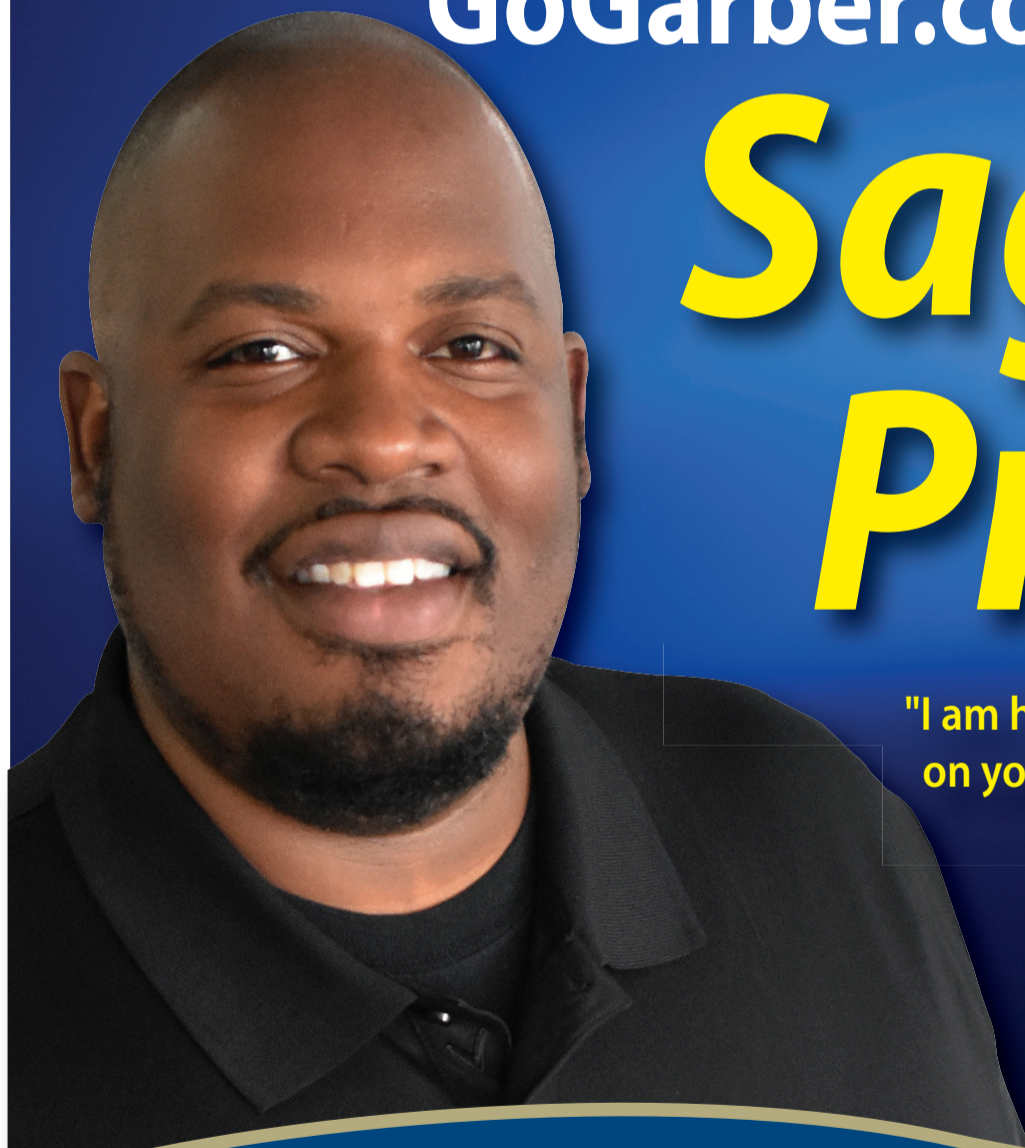
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