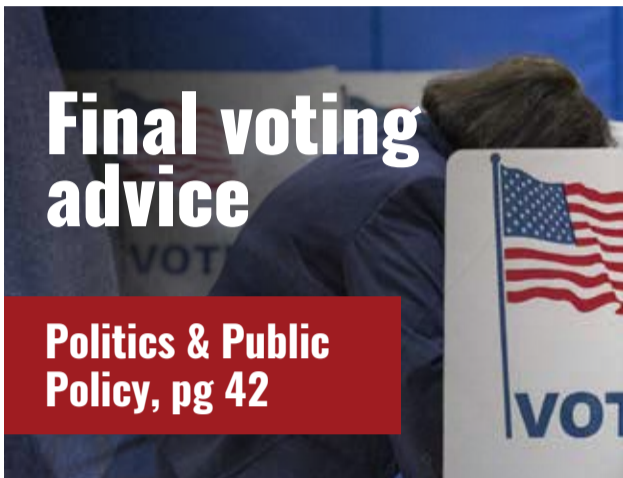


THE MICHIGAN BANNER

Celebrating 18 years of Positive News

Stronger Together, in these Challenging Times



Final voting advice

Politics & Public Policy, pg 42



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With Saginaw native's help, group aims to continue SVSU student voter registration trend



LB, Cover Story

Entering the fall, Michigan's COVID cases trending upward



Health, pg 14



I'm Just Thinking..... with Pastor Hurley J. Coleman, Jr., World Outreach Campus Church: **THE POWER OF ONE PERSON!**



Pastor Hurley J. Coleman Jr.

If there ever was a time when every individual matters, it is now. I have often heard people say, "I'm only one person, I won't be missed." That may have even been true in some cases, but not now. If there ever was a time when every individual person counted, it is now.

Have you ever thought that there has never been a story with only one character in it? There has never been a sport with only one participant. Even in a tennis match, you need two people. Some victories are not because the winner is better, more talented, or with higher athletic functions than the loser. Often, it is the push of the loser that makes the winner a winner.

There is a wonderful story in the Bible about a young woman who no one would have thought could be queen, actually being the reason that a whole nation of people were saved. It is the story of Esther. Even Esther didn't see herself in this role of the hero. She said, "Who am I, to stand before the king." She was the star of the story, but she never would have fulfilled her true destiny if it had not been for another person who would encourage her to step out.

These words that her uncle Mordecai told her are so powerful, and timely. "Who knows but that you have been brought into the kingdom for such a time as this?" I can ask that same question to anyone who is breathing and active in this season of our history. Your efforts may be the very thing that makes a difference in your community, in your church, in your

Continues on pg 3, Power of one person

A message from the Publisher: None left behind

It's probably safe to say that there has been an upheaval of the 'traditional' process of expressing one's opinions, communicating with individuals or groups with opposing views and basic political discourse. I emphasize traditional because even the notion of there having been a time when there was an appropriate way to engage is now cause for serious debate. It seems that agreement, compromise or conciliation are perceived to be signs of weakness. We must maintain our position and alliances even when logic, data, research and our common-sense point to the need to change. We are divided and the need to win at all costs has proven to be very high. Hundreds of thousands of lives have been lost, millions of dollars in property damaged, families are in turmoil and children are living in trauma all in the name of maintaining my own status quo ie my family, my group, my wealth, my position/title, the list goes on and on. We're holding on to and placing great value on replaceable things and losing sight of the most valuable of all things – people. Irreplaceable people. Though the current level of discord in the nation may seem insurmountable, this widespread course of ruin can be corrected. In small portions, just one bite at a time we can find ways to invest in one another and the children and families who are at risk of being left behind.

I am reminded of a book I read decades ago, 'Who Moved My Cheese' by Spencer Johnson. It is a small book written in very large print which took the business world by storm. The basic premise of the book is that life changes – constantly. Just as things changed for the four mice in the story, things change around us all the time. The important thing for us to do is to adapt to the changes in ways that enrich our lives and the lives of the people we care about. A point that isn't mentioned in the book is that we can do this without causing harm - intentional or unintentional to the world around us. It is so much bigger than the need to protect our families, communities or even this country. When we consider climate change, for example, we realize the stakes are high – much higher than the need to enrich a business or industry. Without clean water to drink and air to breathe for future generations, declaring victory in a battle today is meaningless. We must be thoughtful about changing the world for the betterment or good of the whole instead of the immediate gratification of securing more 'stuff' by any means necessary for myself or for my cause.

In the story, cheese represents comfort, the

good life for the mice. When it dries up, two of the mice rather quickly decide to put on their sneakers and explore the maze in search of sustenance. The other two refuse to do so. They basically demand that the world change course – replenish the supply in the same place and in the same way as before. Here is where the story gets interesting. One of the mice who chooses to move in another direction, did not declare himself better than or more worthy of comfort than the friend he had to leave behind. Recognize that there are many, many reasons that one might choose not to go beyond the borders of his or her life circumstance. Perhaps they tried before and failed, fear, sickness (mental, physical and/or emotional health challenges), loss of a loved one, lack of education, a sense of powerlessness to change one's condition, another list which could go on and on. For those of us fortunate enough to have remained solvent during a time of unprecedented unemployment, to remain healthy during the midst of an as yet incurable disease, to have loved ones to embrace us during this time of extreme isolation, there is an obligation to give back to those in need. It may not be financial but there are many ways to safely (proper distance and PPE) provide support: meal preparation, telephone calls to single or elderly friends and neighbors who are alone, provide transportation if it can be done safely, send cards or letters to name just a few. The mice who traveled through the maze in search for life do find stability for themselves but they left behind nuggets of truth and guidance on the walls of the maze for the others just in case they decided to follow. Those little nuggets are as meaningful today as they were in 1998 when the book was first published:

1. Change Happens
2. Anticipate Change
3. Monitor Change
4. Adapt to Change
5. Change
6. Enjoy Change

The world has changed and will not be the same for a very long time, if ever again. The six nuggets listed above are for those of us who may feel or be stuck. Change is inevitable – it is going to happen with or without us. Understanding and accepting this as fact will definitely be of great benefit when faced with the demands of having to adapt to unplanned or unwanted changes in life. Be alert - keep an eye on what is happening around you and the people you care for – leave no one behind. If you must move ahead without someone you care for, worked or lived with, remember that

you were fortunate – circumstances lined up for you somewhere along the line and there was probably a mentor or someone who cared enough to support you in your endeavors. If nothing else, leave notes on the wall of their maze to guide them along the way should they choose to follow later on. Life is good - very challenging right now but good. Take care of you but it can be so much better for us when we support others to the best of our ability as well. As much as possible, leave the venom behind even when the hostility seems overwhelming. Venom has a terrible habit of harming us more than the intended victim.

For those of us who are struggling to take on the challenges we are now facing, acknowledging that feeling of hopelessness and taking steps to overcome it may seem overwhelming and perhaps even impossible. One of my favorite quotes is in the book, 'The Law of Success' by Napoleon Hill. He says, "The power to think as you wish to think is the only power over which you have complete control". p408 The world has changed. Normal will never be as it was even a few short months ago and we can't control all of our surroundings right now. We can, however read for enrichment and growth - not just to maintain our position or prove our point. We can seek help – professional help if necessary as needed. The world has changed. Think on things to enhance your future and the futures of those you care about. We have complete control over our thoughts and how we choose to adapt in this rapidly changing environment. It is important that we adapt to the changes and find new sources of sustenance. It will be time well spent to read or reread 'Who Moved My Cheese'. Learning to adapt to changes around us begins with taking control over and adjusting our minds. Imagine yourself enjoying new cheese and supporting the efforts of others to find their way as well. Let's rebuild this world better for future generations.



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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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Cover Story, Power of one person

school, in your state, in your office, in your country.

What if your vote was the deciding vote that determines who will be the next president of this country, and you felt as if your efforts didn't matter? When I was younger and played basketball, I didn't always get picked to play being shorter and not as skilled as some others.

It never happened the way I imagined, but when I practiced by myself, I always imagined that there were only seconds left, the game was tied, and I had the last shot. I imagined that I make unbelievable moves, and take that shot that won the game. It was amazing. I even mentally took on the role of the sportscaster, talking my way to the hoop. "He shoots! He scores! The fans are screaming. Hurley has won the championship for the team!"

It didn't happen on the basketball court, but there were other times in my life that it did happen. In those moments, it was my efforts that made the difference. I believe that we are in that kind of moment now.

You make the difference.
You must get involved
this time. You must vote.
You must make sure that
everyone that you know
will vote. You must make
sure that this time, you
are in the game.

What if each of us felt
this, in this moment? Just
think of the difference
that we could make. I
was just thinking.....



courtesy photo

IN THIS ISSUE...

////////////////////	
Youth Banner	4 - 6
Latino Banner	LB 1 - LB 6
Health	14
Business & Wealth	19
Education	23
Community	29
Politics & Public Policy	42
Sports	47

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 19



Junior Achievement Introduces Redesigned JA Be Entrepreneurial® Program to Help Teens Become Entrepreneurs and Innovators

courtesy photo

Colorado Springs, CO. — Junior Achievement USA is launching a redesigned JA Be Entrepreneurial® program to help high school students understand the concepts of innovation and entrepreneurship. The enhanced program, which has been part of JA's high school programming for nearly 20 years, has been updated to include a completely re-imagined modular format introducing students to concepts such as creative problem-solving, how to think like an entrepreneur, and innovating for the social good. These changes were made possible thanks to a contribution from Chick-fil-A's

corporate foundation. The funding is part of Chick-fil-A Foundation's 2020 commitment to expand its partnership with Junior Achievement USA to support education initiatives.

"You don't have to be a business owner to have an entrepreneurial mindset, and that's one of the lessons of this important program," said Jack E. Kosakowski, President and CEO of Junior Achievement USA. "With the support of the Chick-fil-A Foundation, this program will introduce teens to the concepts that entrepreneurs are solution-finders, failure

is okay if something is learned from it, and innovation doesn't just help business but can benefit society as a whole."

"At Chick-fil-A, we want to equip young people in our restaurants and our communities with educational opportunities that can be building blocks for a successful future," said Rodney Bullard, vice president of corporate social responsibility for Chick-fil-A, Inc. "JA Be Entrepreneurial offers students practical business and leadership skills that they

Continues on pg 5, JA Be Entrepreneurial

YB Cover Story, JA Be Entrepreneurial

can apply throughout their academic and professional careers. Junior Achievement has been a great partner for many years, and we are proud to help them launch this new program and provide these important tools to even more students."

JA Be Entrepreneurial is a reimagined, modular program that teaches students about the mindset and the skills needed for success for aspiring entrepreneurs and innovators, giving them the opportunity add value to any organization. Students completing all three modules use Design Thinking, a problem-

solving approach, to create business ideas. Students also learn to transform their ideas into concise, effective, and actionable one-page business plans. JA Be Entrepreneurial is part of the JA Entrepreneurship Pathway. Participating students will have the opportunity to compete in a new national virtual competition, JA Social Innovation Challenge, which provides a platform for them to share their innovative ideas for improving their communities and to compete for national honors.

The program comes in both teacher-led

and volunteer-led models and uses blended learning technology. These models allow JA Be Entrepreneurial to be delivered in various learning environments, including virtually, which are being used this school year in response to social distancing guidelines.

High schools interested in learning more about getting JA Be Entrepreneurial in their classrooms should contact their local Junior Achievement office. For more information about Junior Achievement and programs like JA Be Entrepreneurial, visit www.JA.org.

TeenQuest's Virtual Sessions Offer Flexibility for Students in Genesee County



courtesy photo

In March, TeenQuest – a pre-employment training program facilitated by the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce – pivoted in-person sessions to online in order to comply with Gov. Whitmer's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order and to keep students and facilitators safe. The switch, which came out of necessity, has grown into a streamlined virtual experience for students.

"Our students have adjusted well to the virtual format," says James Avery, director of Education & Training for the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce. "We've been able to build smaller groups and provide more

flexibility in the time of the day each session runs."

Currently, in its fourth iteration of virtual TeenQuest, the program has seen success in reaching students where they are and providing more one-on-one interaction with smaller groups. Each TeenQuest session is broken up into smaller groups that attend two 45-minute, facilitator-led online sessions and approximately 90-minutes of self-guided learning per week.

The flexibility of virtual session has been beneficial to TeenQuest students. According to

TeenQuest facilitator Mark Munger, students have been able to attend sessions from all sorts of locations.

"Students have more flexibility," says Munger. "Last week, a student logged on from the waiting room of her dentist, and another student is able to attend session during his job on his lunch break."

The unique opportunities that have been presented since switching TeenQuest to a virtual setting have created a new option to deliver programming that can work in conjunction with in-person sessions in the future.

"We hope to keep virtual options open even after we are able to return to in-person sessions," says Avery. "This opportunity has shown us that we can deliver programming to students we weren't able to reach in the past due to scheduling."

Students ages 14-19 in 9th-12th grades can experience TeenQuest for themselves. Registration for the next session of TeenQuest, which runs Oct. 26 through Dec. 3, 2020, is currently open. For more information on the program and to register, visit www.flintandgenesee.org/teenquest.

TeenQuest and Summer Youth Initiative are made possible through the generous support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

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 red, blue, and yellow. The lights create a sense of urgency and activity. The background is dark, making the bright lights stand out prominently. The overall mood is one of a critical, high-stakes situation.

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THE LATINO BANNER



LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

Vamos Adelante



Latino microbusinesses show promising signs of recovery



LB Pg. 4

Submit your news at
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With Saginaw native's help, group aims to continue SVSU student voter registration trend in time for November election



courtesy photo

Saginaw, MI — With a passion for empowering often-underrepresented communities, Saginaw Valley State University student Angelo Martinez has focused his efforts on providing his peers the power to vote.

The Saginaw native this year joined SVSU's Cardinals Vote, a non-partisan campus organization that relays resources and

information regarding elections to students at the university.

"We need more people to vote," said Martinez, a professional accountancy major. "Voter turnout is so important. Making sure

Continues on LB pg 2, SVSU student voter registration

Continued from LB Cover Story, SVSU student voter registration



courtesy photo

others take advantage of their right to vote is something I have always been interested in.”

Boosting college student participation in elections can prove a challenging task in a typical year. Voter engagement increases with age, with U.S. Census figures consistently showing citizens between the ages of 18 to 29 represent the smallest turnout percentage among eligible voters. One of the contributors to that low turnout: higher education students living on campuses – and away from the hometowns where many are registered to vote – often are unsure where and how they can vote in their college communities.

SVSU’s Cardinals Vote was created to tackle such challenges at SVSU. The organization demonstrated its effectiveness during the last major national election, the 2018 mid-terms. A report by The Institute for Democracy & Higher Education showed the percentage of SVSU students voting doubled during the 2018 election compared to the 2014 mid-terms, from 18.4% to 36.8%.

Martinez joined Cardinals Vote this fall in part to help the organization continue that positive trend. He understood, though, that the 2020

elections would present additional obstacles that his predecessors did not face when they advocated voting among their peers.

“The virus makes all of this more difficult,” Martinez said of COVID-19. “Because of social distancing, you can’t get people into a group to tell them how they can vote this year. You have to find other ways.”

With dedication and hard work, Martinez committed himself to finding those “other ways.”

Before the pandemic, one of Cardinals Vote’s most effective programs involved inviting Secretary of State voter registration mobile units on campus. And, on election days, the organization coordinated mass transportation for students to voting precincts. Because of social distancing guidelines, neither tactic was an option the group pursued this year.

Instead, Martinez and his Cardinals Vote peers in the fall began engaging in a much more tedious approach, spending hours walking the hallways, seeking students in need of help to participate in the election.

Practicing social distancing and wearing a protective face mask while conversing 1-on-1 with students about the sometimes-complicated matter of voter registration made the task exceptionally challenging, Martinez said. But his determination to help others kept him focused on the task.

“It’s not easy, but it’s important work,” he said.

Martinez’s passion for American democracy stretches back to his childhood. His grandfather, Daniel Soza, once served as an elected member of the Saginaw City Council. As a child, Martinez often talked with his grandfather about his work leading the community.

“I was always asking him about what he was doing on the council, and about different processes,” Martinez said.

Along with Martinez’s work on Cardinals Vote, he also signed up this year to help Power the Polls, a nonprofit organization that recruits election poll volunteers.

With a determined spirit and passion for helping others, he found time for those efforts despite a busy schedule that includes a full lineup of college courses and responsibilities elsewhere.

Martinez was elected president of the SVSU chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma, a business honors society. He also volunteers at Emmaus House of Saginaw, Inc., a home for women released from prisons and rehabilitation programs. There, he provides women with information technology support as well as help creating résumés. On top of all those duties, he serves as a delivery driver for Jimmy John’s to help pay the bills.

“There are a lot of things going on right now,” Martinez said of his schedule. “I just want to help.”





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WHERE: Great Lakes Bay Health Centers - Davenport
3023 Davenport Ave, Saginaw, MI 48602

WHEN: Saturday, October 24, 2020
10am to 12pm
or as long as supplies last



Saginaw County

Beginning October 22, 2020
the Saginaw drive-thru COVID-19
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1417 Cumberland (across from the post office)
Saginaw, MI 48601

Monday - Friday 9:00a.m. – 2:00pm

Resiliency in the face of adversity: Latino microbusinesses show promising signs of recovery, although more capital is needed to bolster growth

Camino financial releases 2020 third quarterly survey of U.S. latino small business market trends



courtesy photo

The third quarterly Camino Financial U.S. Latino Small Business Survey offers insight on the resurgence of COVID-19 and the reclosures of the economy between June 2020 to August 2020. Our Q3'2020 survey shows that Latino Owned Businesses (LOBs) with pre-existing lender relationships had a higher chance of receiving a PPP loan, with 16.5% of borrowers obtaining PPP funding vs. 2.5% of non-borrowers surveyed receiving PPP funding. Evidently, this shows that LOBs with a pre-existing lender relationship had a 6.6x higher chance of obtaining PPP funding, demonstrating the importance of technical assistance, education, and constant communication from a lender.

Camino Financial is sharing its proprietary

data on the LOB segment to provide a baseline and track the economic development of this key demographic. The report is based on 32,940 small business loan applications received directly by Camino Financial and a separate survey of 368 LOBs relating to the impact of COVID-19 on Latino small business owners. The pandemic forced the majority of LOBs to close temporarily in 2020, and 46% saw a revenue decline of more than 30%. The findings indicate that LOBs need further capital injections to bolster the rebirth of their businesses during unprecedented economic uncertainty.

Other key insights from the survey include:

- LOBs are resilient. -- 78% of LOBs have

reopened and 44% have returned to pre-COVID revenue.

- LOBs are optimistic. -- 70% of LOBs believe their business will be as good as or better than pre-pandemic levels.
- Further capital injections needed for rebirth -- 60% of LOBs have less than four months of operating capital, including 21% with less than three weeks.

This survey will be followed by quarterly-issued U.S. Latino Small Business Surveys informed by Camino Financial's loan application data. The report can be indicative of systemic macroeconomic trends within the larger U.S. Economy.

Community Board

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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Ida B. Wells' fight for the dignity of Black lives continues across the country



courtesy photo

History calls Ida B. Wells a suffragist, anti-lynching activist, journalist, fighter for democracy. She was all these things are more. Born into slavery in 1862 in Holly Springs, Mississippi

she defied the laws of white supremacy, challenging the railroads in the courts in 1884 because she wanted her seat in the “ladies” car of the train, not the “Jim Crow” car. The co-owner and editor of the Free Speech and Headlight (later the Memphis Free Press), one of the country’s early Black newspapers, Wells was a fiery journalist.

When her friends – Thomas Moss, Calvin McDowell, and Henry Stewart – the owners of the People’s Grocery in Memphis were lynched she decried the lynchings calling them “cold blooded murders.” Her offices were destroyed but her life’s work was still in its early years.

Wells traveled the south investigating and reporting on lynchings. In 1909, in an address to the National Negro Conference, the forerunner to the NAACP (an organization she helped to found), Wells made clear her position:

“Agitation, though helpful, will not alone stop the crime. Year after year statistics are published, meetings are held, resolutions are adopted and yet lynchings go on... The only certain remedy is an appeal to law.

Lawbreakers must be made to know that human life is sacred and that every citizen of this country is first a citizen of the United States and secondly a citizen of the state in which he belongs.”

The activism, research, and dedication of Ida B. Wells is continued by yet another generation. Today our cell phones record police violence and brutality. Like Ida B. Wells activists, journalists, lawmakers, and attorneys are dedicated to telling the truth of violence that terrorizes Black people and communities. Her words echo into history with the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020 bill seeking a national remedy to locally occurring discriminatory policing and violence.

And monuments and memorials rise in her honor. In Chicago, \$300,000 was raised for a monumental sculpture in Bronzeville, the Chicago neighborhood where she lived, worked and raised her family. She is honored

with the Ida B. Wells Memorial Grove at The National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery Alabama. And Memphis, Tennessee is raising funds for a life-size statue to be placed on Beale Street and 4th Street near the location of her former offices. The goal is to repay a debt, to say thank you to Ida B. Wells for all she did to advocate for change in Memphis and across the country.

Learn more about the life of Ida B. Wells from her descendants <https://ibwfoundation.org/> and plan how you want to honor her life and inspire your community. There’s taking down statues and monuments and there’s creating new ones.

We at Saad&Shaw are proud to be fundraising counsel to the Memphis Memorial Committee: Honoring Ida B. Wells. For more information contact: honoringidabwells@gmail.com or call Dr. LaSimba Gray @ (901) 832-1629.



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

HEALTH

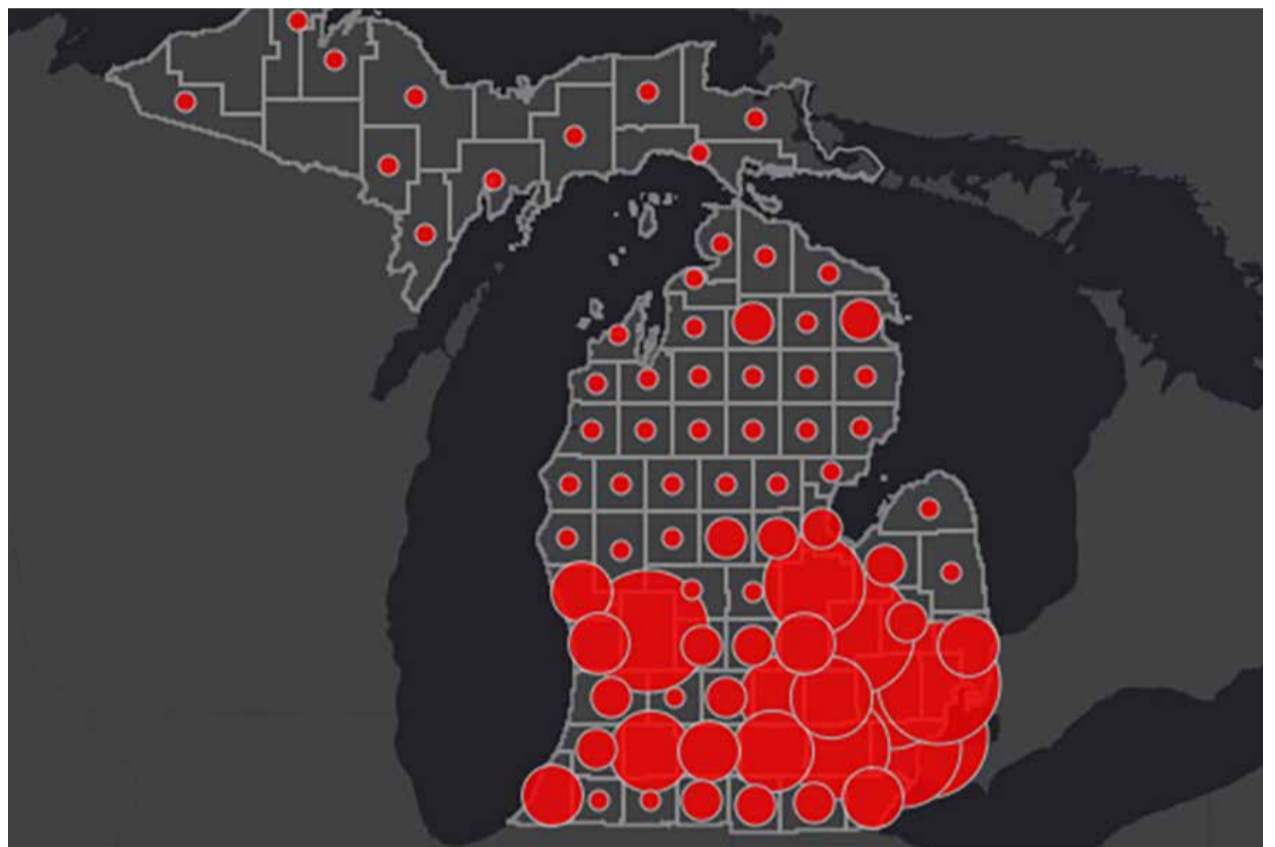
Entering the fall, Michigan's COVID cases trending upward

As the fall and flu seasons begin, the number of positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in Michigan have recently trended upward, prompting a call from public health officials to increase vigilance and preventative measures. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), hospitals and local health officials are calling on all residents to take simple steps to prevent a surge in COVID-19 cases that could overwhelm the hospital systems.

“Michiganders did a great job of bringing our cases down after a surge in the spring,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief deputy for health. “Basic things like wearing masks, maintaining a physical distance from others and washing hands worked. Yet as the colder months and flu season have arrived, we now see a concerning jump in our cases – a trend we can reverse if we all take this seriously and follow best practices to slow the spread of COVID-19.”

The recent increase in cases, along with people gathering indoors more frequently due to cooler weather, creates a risk of greater community spread. To protect against the risk of a devastating surge in cases and its impact on Michiganders, MDHHS has issued additional Emergency Orders to clarify gathering definitions, capacity restrictions, mask requirements and worker protections.

“State and local public health officials have been concerned about the risk of a surge in cases in the fall, and this recent increase should remind us all to refocus on preventing the spread of COVID-19,” said Nick Derusha, president of the Michigan Association for Local Public Health. “Wearing masks, practicing social distancing, washing our hands, and participating in contact tracing with public health officials are proven, effective ways to slow the spread of this virus.”



courtesy photo

In addition to rising cases across the state, more tests are coming back positive and more residents are being hospitalized compared to previous weeks. Currently, Michigan has 89 daily cases per million people, 3.6 percent of tests are positive and there are 698 COVID-19 hospitalizations. This is compared to the same point last week when we reported 81.6 daily cases per million people, 3.4 percent positivity and 586 hospitalizations for COVID-19.

“At the height of the COVID-19 response in Michigan, our frontline hospital workers were working around the clock to treat COVID-19 patients. As we see cases on the rise again and more hospital beds with patients than we have in weeks, we must remember what mask wearing and social distancing does: it prevents cases, it prevents hospitalizations, and it prevents deaths,” said Brian Peters, chief executive officer of the Michigan Health & Hospital Association.

As Michigan works to safely reopen, it is important to remember that does not mean that the virus is gone, or the risk of infection is less. Scientists and doctors agree that masks and face coverings can help to reduce the spread by about 70 percent. And further, not feeling ill is not a sign that you are not infected – the reality is that about 40 percent of people who have COVID-19 may be asymptomatic and capable of spreading the virus to others. Although many people getting infected with COVID-19 this fall are not needing to be hospitalized, it still important that we wear masks and socially distance to prevent people who will have severe disease from getting infected

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

New program helps low-income households that lack water access; funding is important for protection from COVID-19



courtesy photo

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is urging low-income households to take advantage of a new program for people who do not have access to water in their homes to ensure safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Low-income Michiganders who lack access to water in their homes for washing and disinfecting surfaces, or need a plumbing repair to ensure safe and efficient water services can contact their local Community Action Agency.

As part of Michigan's Coronavirus Relief Funding, the MDHHS Water Repair Assistance Program will provide access to hot and cold water and at least one functioning toilet, shower, kitchen faucet and laundry tub.

Funding is available now until Wednesday, Dec. 30.

“At MDHHS we are doing what we can to keep people safe during the pandemic and make sure income limitations – some of which are the result of COVID-19 – don't prevent them from protecting their families,”

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. “Benefits of this program will remain long after COVID-19 by providing eligible households sustained access to water that everyone deserves.”

The Water Repair Assistance Program provides a variety of water repairs from interior and exterior plumbing work, including well and septic repairs for rural households.

To ensure that the program reaches as many households as possible with certified plumbers, MDHHS is asking Michigan plumbers that can take on additional work to contact the Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity at MDHHS-BCAEO@michigan.gov.

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

Covenant HealthCare earns 2020 CHIME Digital Health Most Wired recognition

The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) is pleased to announce that Covenant HealthCare has earned 2020 CHIME Digital Health Most Wired recognition as a certified Acute Level 8, receiving the Quality Award. The CHIME Digital Health Most Wired program conducts an annual survey to assess how effectively healthcare organizations apply core and advanced technologies into their clinical and business programs to improve health and care in their communities.

“Digital technology has been a driver of innovation in healthcare for many years now, but never to the degree that we saw in 2020 with the pandemic,” said CHIME President and CEO Russell P. Branzell. “The Digital Health Most Wired program underscores why healthcare organizations keep pushing

themselves to be digital leaders and shows what amazing feats they can achieve. This certification recognizes their exemplary performance in 2020.”

A total of 30,091 organizations were represented in the 2020 Digital Health Most Wired program, which this year included four separate surveys: domestic, ambulatory, long-term care and international. The surveys assessed the adoption, integration and impact of technologies in healthcare organizations at all stages of development, from early development to industry leading.

Each participating organization received a customized benchmarking report, an overall score and scores for individual levels in eight segments: infrastructure; security; business/disaster recovery; administrative/supply chain;

analytics/data management; interoperability/population health; patient engagement; and clinical quality/safety. Participants can use the report and scores to identify strengths and opportunities for improvement. Participants also received certification based on their overall performance, with level 10 being the highest.

This is the third year that CHIME has conducted the survey and overseen the program. In each successive year, CHIME has expanded the survey to capture more types of organizations that serve patients across the continuum of care. CHIME also continues to promote the program internationally to provide a global overview of digital health advancements.

Meijer teams up with SVSU to offer flu vaccinations for campus community



courtesy photo

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced several new strategies to increase access to the influenza vaccine during flu season. The changes make it easier for Medicaid beneficiaries to get flu vaccines.

To increase access to vaccines and promote an increase in overall immunization rates among Medicaid beneficiaries, effective immediately, MDHHS is expanding access to influenza vaccines at pharmacies statewide for adults and children ages 3 and older. Medicaid coverage of influenza vaccines also is expanding to additional locations – such as COVID-19 testing sites, including drive-thru testing locations and mobile vans.

Additionally, Medicaid-enrolled health care providers will receive increased reimbursement to cover costs associated with administering vaccines from October through December.

“Now more than ever it’s critically important to make it as easy as possible for residents to get their flu shots,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief

deputy director for health. “With flu season coinciding with the possibility of a surge of COVID-19 cases, I encourage everyone to get the influenza vaccine as soon as they can.”

These initiatives add to existing measures taken by MDHHS to prevent and control vaccine-preventable diseases and to improve the overall health of Michigan residents.

MDHHS identified a significant decrease in routine preventive well child visits and immunizations since the onset of COVID-19 as residents stay home to slow the spread of the virus. Disparities in vaccination coverage by Medicaid status continues for Medicaid-covered children. The decline in immunization rates will likely have a substantial impact on long-term health outcomes for children and adults across the state.

The MDHHS partnership with Medicaid health plans is also focused on comprehensive outreach initiatives to educate Medicaid enrollees on the importance of getting influenza vaccines, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some examples of innovative outreach being done by Medicaid Health Plans include:

Texting campaigns.

- Use of social media to share influenza resources.
- Interactive voice response telephonic campaigns.
- Newsletters for members and clinical providers.
- Targeted outreach to high-risk beneficiaries.
- Educating caregivers and direct service workers about the importance of vaccines.

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting immunization services differently across providers and the state. The MDHHS Division of Immunization created a new website, www.Michigan.gov/VaccinesDuringCOVID, to support immunization providers in the context of COVID-19. Additional influenza vaccine resources for immunization providers and for patient education is available at: www.michigan.gov/flu.

2020 CENSUS

It's not too late to be counted in the 2020 census!

If you haven't filled out the census yet, please do so today! Your response matters. Census data determines federal funding that affects everyone in Michigan - from infants to college students to seniors. Every person counted on the census means more funding for things like free and reduced-price school lunches, Medicaid, food assistance, emergency services and more. Which essentially means just one thing: Everyone in Michigan benefits ... if everyone in Michigan is counted.

So, don't wait any longer! Fill out the census today!

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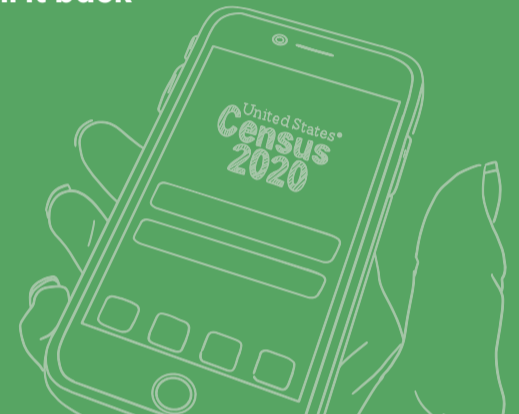
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- 5,000 caps and hair nets
- 4,100 shoe/boot covers
- Thousands of donated meals
- Thousands of dollars in gift cards and monetary donations
- Countless prayers and messages of encouragement

Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has supported us. You are all extraordinary.



BUSINESS & WEALTH

Dow named one of America's most JUST companies by Forbes and JUST Capital

Flint, MI — Dow announced that it has been named to the Forbes JUST 100 list and is the top scoring chemical company in the workers category. Forbes and JUST Capital publish this list annually to showcase companies doing right by all their stakeholders. Dow is recognized for its commitment to serving its employees, customers, communities, the environment, and shareholders.

Through vigorous, objective analysis, the Forbes JUST 100 evaluates and celebrates U.S. corporations that outperform on the issues that matter most to the American public – like paying a fair wage, upholding human rights across the supply chain, investing in worker training, acting ethically and with integrity, cultivating a diverse and inclusive workplace, protecting worker health and safety, providing good benefits and work-life balance, and more. By striving to meet the needs of all stakeholders, JUST 100 leaders demonstrate that profits and purpose go hand in hand.

“Profit and purpose should never be an either/or conversation; as a global business community we must endeavor every day to provide long-term value to all our stakeholders,” said Jim Fitterling, Dow chairman and CEO. “From advancing sustainability efforts at a faster and larger scale than ever before, to actively addressing systemic racial inequalities in the workplace and our communities, to providing new technologies and solutions to support COVID-19 relief efforts, we are proud to join so many other like-minded organizations recognized today as well as all those who are working tirelessly to create meaningful and lasting change for our people and our planet.”

The annual Rankings evaluate the 1,000 largest public U.S. companies across 19 issues, identified through the most comprehensive surveys ever conducted on



courtesy photo

public attitudes toward responsible corporate behavior, engaging approximately 4,500 American respondents in 2020 and more than 110,000 total participants over the past seven years.

JUST Capital further expanded its methodology to capture 38 COVID-19 specific data points from their COVID-19 Corporate Response Tracker. The new analysis includes hourly wages increases, paid sick leave, and healthcare benefits for furloughed employees (Workers); payment deferrals, price cuts, and services for vulnerable groups (Customers); cash or in-kind donations to support community relief (Communities); and CEO, or executive, pay cuts (Shareholders).

“Now more than ever, business leaders have the chance to spark lasting systemic change within their companies and across society,” said Forbes Senior Editor Steven Bertoni. “The companies in this year’s JUST 100 show

that we can face the twin tragedies of the COVID-19 pandemic and racial inequality and continue to improve our actions and refocus our missions to do better, and be better, for all stakeholders.”

Both the Forbes JUST 100 and the Industry Leader list will be featured in the November issue of Forbes, with additional stories at www.forbes.com/just100 and a comprehensive interactive ranking and benchmarking platform at www.justcapital.com.

For 20 years, Dow has been named to the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, which benchmarks the world’s largest companies in terms of their economic, environmental, and social (ESG) performance. Dow is also a constituent of the FTSE4Good Index series. Created by the global index provider, FTSE Russell, FTSE4Good is designed to measure the performance of companies demonstrating strong ESG practices.

State treasurer: strong investor demand as Michigan sells environmental program, state building authority bonds

State Treasurer Rachael Eubanks announced that the state of Michigan successfully sold more than \$950 million in both Environmental Program and State Building Authority bonds.

The sales came with strong investor interest as more than \$2.17 billion in orders occurred for both bond sales. The state of Michigan's strong general obligation credit ratings -- "Aa1" by Moody's and "AA" by Fitch -- contributed to the demand.

The strong credit ratings enable the state to borrow money at a lower interest rate, which translates to taxpayer savings and reflects the general creditworthiness of the state.

"Institutional and individual investors continue to have confidence in the state of Michigan during the COVID-19 pandemic," Eubanks said. "These recent bond sales show that investors are willing to put their dollars behind our state. The credit rating agencies also displayed confidence in Michigan's economic and financial health by affirming their credit ratings."

Environmental Program Bonds

More than 50 institutional and individual

investors submitted approximately \$1.02 billion in bond orders to purchase \$152.8 million in tax-exempt and federally taxable bonds with maturities ranging from 2030 to 2040. The overall true interest cost for the Environmental Program Bonds was 2.29%.

The bonds are being issued under the Great Lakes Water Quality and Clean Michigan Initiative Program and will primarily support environmental contamination remediation, water infrastructure, asset management plans, and water quality monitoring in communities across the state.

The Environmental Program Bonds were sold through an underwriting syndicate led by BofA Securities and Siebert Williams Shank & Co. LLC. Working with the Office of the Attorney General, Dykema Gossett PLLC served as bond counsel and BAIRD was municipal advisor for the sale.

State Building Authority Bonds

Institutional and individual investors submitted approximately \$2.18 billion in bond orders to purchase \$801.86 million in tax-exempt and federally taxable bonds with maturities ranging from 2020 to 2055. The overall true interest cost for the State Building

Authority's bonds was 2.56%.

The authority's bonds were issued to provide long-term financing for eleven capital outlay projects across the state and to refinance all or a portion of four outstanding authority bond issues. The transaction generated \$318 million in interest savings which facilitated the cancellation of 14 leases with a maximum annual net lease savings \$24.5 million through 2032.

Because the authority's bonds are an appropriation credit of the state, the rating agencies rated these bonds one notch below the general obligation credit ratings of the state of Michigan. The authority's bonds are rated "Aa2" by Moody's and "AA-" by Fitch.

The authority's bonds were sold through an underwriting syndicate co-led by Jefferies, Wells Fargo Securities and Barclays. Working with Office of the Attorney General and Dickinson Wright PLLC as bond counsel, Miller Canfield Paddock and Stone P.L.C. served as special tax counsel and BAIRD was the municipal advisor for the sale.

Attend a free 'diversity and the bottom line' webinar

A seminar about diversity and inclusion is being offered in partnership with the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Midland Business Alliance and Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce.

The free seminar will take place on Thursday, November 5, 2020 from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EST.

Event Description

Diversity and inclusion is not a nice-to-have HR initiative. A study by Harvard Business Review found diverse teams are able to problem-solve faster. They make more informed and better decisions, which results in greater profits. Diversity is a serious competitive advantage and has a direct impact on your bottom line.

Join us for a discussion about the importance of diversity in your workforce. You will learn how small changes can take your company culture and your business results to a whole new level. In a deeply connected and global world, it should come as no surprise that more diverse companies are achieving better performance.

Why attend?

- Recognize the benefits of a diverse workforce for your business and community
- Define steps you can take to improve your hiring practices to encourage diversity
- Discuss the role business plays in creating a high performance talent pipeline in your community

The seminar will be hosted by Kee Meng



courtesy photo

Yeo.Kee Meng is an internationally regarded senior Human Resources executive with a particular passion for enabling a globally inclusive organizational culture. Former VP of Global

Talent Management at Amway, Meng has more than 30 years of human resource and talent development experience with both US-based and non-US global corporations.

To register for the seminar visit: www.docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe45iSsoq03_chpbap16sQd03yhIH748j02ld-ANydqYhSDJA/viewform.

For questions call 616-233-2589 or email ipex@davenport.edu.



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EDUCATION

Wellspring to Open Michigan's First Recovery High School in Farmington Hills for Teens Struggling With Addiction

Flint, MI — Wellspring Lutheran Services will launch Michigan's first public recovery high school in January 2021. Wellspring Academy will support teens who have struggled with drugs and alcohol maintain sobriety as they complete high school and earn their diploma.

"Students who have made a commitment to sobriety, and have begun the tough journey of recovery, don't stand a chance if they're forced back to their school of origin simply because they don't have a choice. In fact, we know that 70% of those students will relapse within six months," says Wellspring president and CEO David Gehm in making the announcement. "Our commitment to launch Wellspring Academy comes from knowing that we must do better for them and is consistent with Wellspring's longstanding focus on serving those in our communities whose needs are not being met. At Wellspring Academy, students will find a place where they can find and fulfill their purpose, with a community who will love and support them every step of the way," says Gehm.

Despite Michigan's disproportionately high rates of teen drug and alcohol use, the nearest recovery high school is currently located in Columbus, Ohio. The Michigan Dept. of Education estimates each year nearly 2,000 students in southeast Michigan alone leave or are kicked out of school for drug and or alcohol use. Wellspring Academy will have the capacity to serve up to 120 high school students (grade 9-12), from southeast Michigan and surrounding areas at its 80-acre campus in Farmington Hills.

"The need is great and the time is now," says Sean de Four, chief operating officer for Wellspring. "We don't have the luxury of hoping that this drug epidemic will sort itself out. Kids are dying; overdose rates are at an

all-time high, and we have a team of experts with lived experience who want to step in and help change the trajectory for students and families in Michigan."

The Recovery High School model made its first appearance in the late 1970s. Since that time, there are still fewer than 40 recovery high schools in the U.S., according to the National Association of Recovery Schools. Recovery schools are not a substitute for substance use treatment. These schools help students find their way to recovery by:

- Providing smaller classrooms with instructors who build and reinforce a recovery-oriented culture;
- Customizing workloads to respond to the academic challenges that are common among recovering students;
- Providing a range of recovery-enabling enrichment activities, such as daily meetings with recovery counselors, on-site 12-step meetings and available peer supports; and
- Creating a welcoming environment where students are encouraged to be open about relapse (when it occurs) rather than hiding it.

De Four says Wellspring's recovery high school will be a powerful collaboration of committed partners who want more for Michigan's youth in recovery. "We are grateful for the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and donors who have already come forward to help us launch Wellspring Academy," says de Four, "We couldn't do this important work without strong community partners who believe in this mission as much as we do."

The recovery high school at Wellspring

Academy will be established as a free-standing charter school supported by Michigan International Prep School (MIPS). At the core of any recovery school is a rigorous curriculum that results in students meeting state requirements to receive a traditional high school diploma. These schools traditionally include the standard collection of administrative and teaching staff and are supplemented with on-staff substance abuse counselors and mental health professionals who play a critical role in supporting students and their families — who are also learning to live with, and provide support for, their teens, who are radically transforming their lifestyle.

The existing school building at 28000 W. 9 Mile Road on the Wellspring campus in Farmington Hills will serve as the recovery high school and will incorporate the campus' other existing amenities. Those include: library, computer lab, gymnasium, weight room, dining hall, auditorium, art studio, ball fields and a running track.

As part of Wellspring's COVID-19 response plan, we have made the decision to launch Wellspring Academy virtually in January 2021 with wrap around recovery support services and a drop-in center at the Farmington Hills campus. In-person classes will officially begin in September 2021. For more information about Wellspring Academy and information on how to enroll your student, please visit wellspringacademy.com.



Online education should involve offline study

By Mike Thompson



courtesy photo

Jeffrey Bulls is an involved parent who takes full heed to educators' pleas that they need advice, all the advice they can get, while they adjust to online schooling during the covid-era.

Demarius, 15, lives with relatives in Detroit and is engaged in online instruction. Jordan, 12, is a sixth-grader at Saginaw Preparatory Academy, a charter school.

The academy does a good job in limiting computer overload, Bulls says, but friends have informed him that their children in other more traditional local schools are not so fortunate.

"They say their kids sometimes get off track," he notes. "They blurt things out, or they turn their cameras off, or they fall asleep."

Bulls says his son is making positive adjustments.

"Virtual education is more regimented, and leads him to be more independent-minded," Bulls says. "He is allowed to go at his own pace."

"The challenges are not any fault of the teachers. I'm just saying that they shouldn't be expected online to try to mimic a classroom experience."

His first insight: Less can be more.

"The teachers would make it better if that didn't require students to be on there (on computers) all day long," he says. "That becomes monotonous. Maybe they can play video games all day long, but that's different and more active than being in a school classroom setting. Just give the students a quick update once or twice a day, and then they're done with it. Let them get off of their computers and get their work done."

Bulls has three children with his wife, Kimberly. The eldest, Jasmine, is 18 and graduated from Saginaw High School last spring. She now is enrolled at Delta College.



courtesy photo

**Digital Educators
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LAUNCHING SOON!

Seen on the Scene: Area middle schoolers inducted into Delta's Possible Dream program

Attending college is becoming more of a reality for 58 area middle school students who recently joined Delta College's Possible Dream program.

The outdoor induction event took place October 2 on Delta's main campus where the new members celebrated with family members. The annual event usually takes place in the spring, but it was rescheduled due to the ongoing pandemic.

"It's all about cheering them on and welcoming them to the program," said Lynn Hoerauf, coordinator of Possible Dream. "Their excitement is contagious and I can't wait to see what these special individuals accomplish."

In total, 420 students are participating in Possible Dream. The program keeps college in the forefront of students' minds through cultural and educational activities that are offered through their senior year. The ultimate goal is for all participants to graduate from high school and go on to college, and participants are given priority consideration for a Delta College scholarship.

Possible Dream is largely funded by hundreds of community members who donate to the program and its scholarships during Delta's annual A Chocolate Affair event. This year's virtual event will take place November 5-11.





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Brianna Robinson / Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy / Class of 2012 / Earned Bachelor Degree in Kinesiology in 2016 from Michigan State University

What has the Saginaw Promise meant to her education: *"I remain extremely thankful for receiving the Saginaw Promise Scholarship and support... and I would encourage today's high school students to pursue their assistance"*



Johnnie Johnson III / Saginaw High School / Class of 2016 / Studying Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement with plans to become a Criminal Defense Attorney

What has the Saginaw Promise meant to his education: *"...I don't know if I could have made it without the Saginaw Promise... major props to them"*

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Michigan's early childhood program among tops in the nation



courtesy photo

For the third straight year, Michigan has met all 10 quality standards for pre-kindergarten set forth by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER).

“This is great news, and I am committed to continuing this hard work to ensure access to quality, affordable pre-K for all Michigan families,” said Governor Gretchen Whitmer. “I have been focused on expanding pre-K for families that need it most since the beginning of my administration. I made it a priority in my last State of the State address because I know how crucial it is for Michiganders and for our economy. I am ready to work with leaders across state government and in the Michigan legislature to get it done.”

Michigan’s Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) serves over 37,000 children across 82 of the state’s 83 counties. GSRP is Michigan’s state-funded preschool program for four-year-old children with challenges that may place them at risk of educational failure.

“Michigan’s Great Start Readiness Program is a successful early childhood education

model that has tremendous value in preparing our children for academic success in school,” said State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice. “Expansion of our nationally recognized early childhood program is one of the goals of the state’s new strategic education plan, a goal that recognizes the importance of getting children off to a strong start in school.”

Michigan is one of only four states nationally to meet all 10 NIEER standards for high-quality early childhood education. Those standards include:

- Comprehensive, aligned, supported, and culturally sensitive early learning and development standards
- Curriculum supports
- Requirement of a bachelor’s degree for staff
- Teacher specialized training
- Assistant teacher degree
- 16 hours of staff professional development per year
- A maximum class size of 18
- A staff-to-child ratio of 1:8 for four-year-old in the program

- Vision, hearing, and health screenings
- A consistent quality improvement system of structured classroom observations and use of data for program improvement.

Alabama, Mississippi, and Rhode Island joined Michigan as the four states nationally with the highest quality rating by NIEER. Last year, Alabama and Mississippi joined Michigan for this honor.

Research on preschool programs and specific research on GSRP indicate that children provided with a high-quality preschool experience show significant positive developmental differences when compared to children from the same backgrounds who do not attend a high-quality preschool program.

The National Institute for Early Education Research at the Rutgers Graduate School of Education in New Brunswick, N.J. supports early childhood education policy and practice through independent, objective research.



About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

women and their families.

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

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

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Saginaw, MI 48601
Phone 989.752.2193
Fax 989.921.7146

Office Hours

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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

COMMUNITY

Covid and incarceration

By MB Staff Writer



courtesy photo

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted many aspects of our relationships with family and friends. Distance, illness, increased stress and other forms of instability have posed new challenges that require careful, creative solutions in order for relationships to thrive. In our September 1 edition, we featured the story of Cangela and Derrick Johnson, a Michigan couple navigating a particularly unique challenge during this time: Derrick's incarceration.

The Johnsons are not alone in facing this challenge. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, about 64,000 people are incarcerated in Michigan's prisons, jails, immigration detention centers, and juvenile justice facilities. While people outside of prison have struggled with varying phases of quarantine and new social distancing norms, incarcerated loved ones face increased and difficult restrictions on their contact with others. Some of these restrictions are contextualized by the need to protect the health of prisoners and criminal justice professionals from COVID-19 exposure. However, we know little about the emotional toll and other lasting consequences of

these restrictions, and what these effects might mean when our friends and family members return home after completion of their sentences. Cancelled visitation and education or vocational opportunities, the exploitative and high costs of prisoner email platforms such as JPay and Corrlinks, and inadequate sanitation and personal protective equipment are likely to exacerbate the forms of isolation and vulnerability that incarcerated individuals are already facing.

This has a direct impact on the health and stability of Michigan communities. Research on citizen reentry and former prisoners' return to their communities indicates that ongoing communication with family and friends supports societal reintegration and reduces the likelihood of future crimes. Keeping in touch with incarcerated loved ones reminds them of everyday experiences outside of prison, includes them in new memories and helps them feel connected to developments in their family relationships and friendships. But these interactions also promote well-being by emphasizing the fundamental need to nurture bonds with others. Loneliness is associated with depression, anxiety, stress, low self-esteem and

sleep problems. Similarly, boredom is linked to self-control problems such as impulsiveness and addiction. All of these mental health obstacles make it more difficult for incarcerated loved ones to focus on rehabilitation, restitution and healing. It makes it nearly impossible to envision and work toward a successful reintegration plan.

Family and friends outside of prison are often lifelines to positivity and wellness. Maintaining contact with loved ones who are incarcerated is already difficult and often expensive. The pandemic can further strain the support networks of inmate. Individuals have to make decisions that fit their relationship's needs and budget. Multiple forms of contact can help to balance the burden: phone calls, traditional letters and postcards, photos, emails and magazine subscriptions are some of the ways to encourage communication. If you are the primary outside contact for a prisoner, ask other family members and friends to send cards, letters and photos as well. Many churches and non-profits have mentoring and pen-pal networks that could serve as additional sources of encouragement.

As families and friends invest in relationships, we must hold the Michigan Department of Corrections accountable for ensuring the physical and psychological well-being of incarcerated loved ones. Our efforts to sustain positive communication will only be enhanced by policies that facilitate accessible contact. Diverse forms of visitation, extended communication hours and contracts with service providers that offer reasonable and sensitive pricing are only some of the options that authorities must consider to support families during this time. Cangela Johnson paired her communication with her loved one with activism by addressing letters about prison conditions during the pandemic to local politicians and news media. Advocating for your incarcerated family member or friend shows your love for them and your hopes for a community with reduced crime and greater resiliency.

COLORS

Please don't judge me by the color of my skin
Dig a little deeper, search my soul within

None of us were born with a multiple choice
Black, White, Red, or Yellow, We all have a voice

Today's society is full of crime, all our people doing
time

What is the lesson, we're teaching our children today
To Fight First, ask questions later, Demand to have it
their way

I don't think this is how God intended it to be,
For our babies to be watching all this violence on
National TV

We all need to stop, look, and listen, and hear all the
cries
Stop killing, Stop Raping, Put a stop to all the drive-
bys

There are innocent people dying, on a day to day
basis
They are White, They are Black, and they are all
different races

Why can't we solve our problems, by sitting down and
talk
Learn to start stepping, add a little speed to our walk

Let's stop all the nonsense, let's put down the guns
Let's learn to relax, let's have some safe fun

Let's stop abusing our Women, Give them back their
sense of pride
Whether the answer be yes, whether it be no, Respect
and Abide

Let's teach our children values, and to look pass skin
Let's give them a sense of direction, Let them choose
their own Friends

And when we lay down at night, let's be quiet and still
And know that peace, Can someday be real!



Brigitte Johnson

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Make Art. MAIL ART. Support Art. A fundraiser for the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum

OPEN CALL

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A FUNDRAISER
FOR THE



MARSHALL M. FREDERICKS
SCULPTURE MUSEUM

The Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Museum at Saginaw Valley State University is calling for artists, creatives, and everyone and anyone from around the world to get creative, express themselves, and help raise much-needed dollars for the preservation, education and exhibitions work at the Museum!

Participants can mail their unframed 5 x 7 inches creations, signed on the back, with contact information to the Museum postmarked by Saturday, November 14, 2020. This will ensure it will be included in the sale of artworks to support the Museum. Participants can find more details on how to enter at www.marshallfredericks.org/mailart.

The concept of Mail Art has been documented back to the 1950s," says Megan McAdow, Director of the Museum, "and has been used throughout the decades for artists and creatives to share their work without having to travel or meet in person. Although the Museum has been temporarily closed since mid-March due to the pandemic, we have continued our mission through online public programming and exhibitions in addition to creating and delivering over 4,500 Art @ Home activity kits to community youth."

The Museum's online public programming

includes a virtual tour, exhibitions, and art activities for all ages. Visitors can find the Museum's virtual offerings via the Museum Musings portal on the Museum's website at www.marshallfredericks.org.

The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum is a free museum and features a unique collection of more than two thousand objects that span the 70-year career of Detroit-based public sculptor Marshall M. Fredericks (1908-1998). He is known nationally and internationally for his impressive monumental figurative sculpture, public memorials, fountains, portraits, and medals. While the Museum is located in Saginaw, Michigan, Marshall Fredericks' work can be found throughout the state, country, and around the world!

The Museum also invites the public to help spread the word by sharing the Museum's social media posts and telling family and friends about this wonderful opportunity! The donated artwork will be available to purchase, December 1 – 15, 2020! It's a great opportunity to find a new art piece to frame and brighten up one's home or a special holiday gift for a friend or loved one.

The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum is located on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University, 7400 Bay Road, University Center, MI. The Museum is temporarily closed to the public due to the

coronavirus pandemic. Regular museum hours are Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (989) 964-7125 or visit the Museum's website at www.marshallfredericks.org.






WINTER COAT GIVEAWAY & MORE


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Drive-thru Coat Giveaway

Saturday, November 14, 2020
9:00am - 12:00pm
1000 Tuscola St.
Saginaw, MI

This is a drive-thru pick up (only) event. The registration form must be provided the day of the event and the child must be present (in vehicle) to receive a coat.

For more information contact Women of Colors at 989.737.9286 or ewmtoday@aol.com.



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7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Ladies Night Pajama Party
Enjoy a night of virtual fun and fellowship. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the evening.

Saturday, October 24, 2020
9:30 am - 12 noon
Self-Care & Spiritual Empowerment
The retreat experience continues with breakout sessions on self-care and spiritual empowerment followed by a motivational moment designed to keep women moving forward while staying focused and keeping the faith.

Saturday Special Guest
Rev. Dr. Twana A. Harris
Senior Pastor
Carter Metropolitan C.M.E Church
Detroit, Michigan



Cost: \$40
Register for Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church Virtual Women's Retreat on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).
Registration deadline is October 10, 2020. All registrants will receive a special gift bag. In observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to The Underground Railroad.




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Family's prison covid ordeal continues

By Mike Thompson



courtesy photo

On Sept. 1 and Sept. 16, The Michigan Banner reported that the husband of

Saginaw's Cangela Johnson, Derrick Johnson, was transferred at Muskegon Correctional Facility from a low-covid unit to one that was high in covid. Shortly after Cangela expressed her concerns to public officials, her husband was diagnosed with the virus.

Now in the second month of their ordeal, Cangela reports in frustration: "Everything is the same. He is still in the infected unit. He still has major headaches. But he is doing ok otherwise. He does not know if he still has covid 19, because he has all the symptoms but will not get tested until next month."

Michigan's general statewide covid infection rate is 1 percent, but it has reached 15 percent in the prisons, and Muskegon's count has soared near 75 percent.

Vanessa Guerra, entering her final months at a term-limited state representative prior

to taking the January reins as newly elected Saginaw County clerk, has called for reforms, including more timely testing with rapid results. She says overcrowding, also known as mass incarceration, is a root cause.

Cangela works two jobs, calls Derrick daily and drives across the state for visits about twice per month. He was a teenager in 1997 when he was convicted in a Saginaw murder and appealed without success in state and then federal courts.

Anyone who may wish to express support for Cangela and Derrick Johnson in their dilemma may contact her by Facebook or my email, cangelajohnson0905@yahoo.com.

Readers may also wish to view: www.theintercept.com/2020/09/28/covid-prison-outbreak-michigan-coronavirus/



SAGINAW COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Additional food assistance for 350,000 Michigan families in response to COVID-19 Emergency extended through October



courtesy photo

Approximately 350,000 Michigan families will continue to have access to additional food assistance benefits during the month of October as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced today.

Michigan previously approved the additional food assistance for March through September – and now that is being extended for the month of October with approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service.

“No Michiganders should worry about how to put food on the table for themselves and their family, especially during a pandemic,” said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. “COVID-19 is still a very real threat to our public health and Michiganders’ economic well-being. That’s why it’s so important that we continue providing this vital assistance to low-income families who need help putting food on the table”

Eligible clients will see additional food assistance benefits on their Bridge Card by Oct. 30, with payments beginning for some households on Oct. 18. Additional benefits will be loaded onto Bridge Cards as a separate

payment from the assistance provided earlier in the month.

Nearly 1.5 million people in Michigan receive federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits through the state’s Food Assistance Program

Households eligible for Food Assistance Program benefits will receive additional benefits in October to bring all current SNAP cases to the maximum monthly allowance for that group size. This change only applies to customers not currently receiving the maximum benefit amount. The 350,000 households that receive increased benefits represent more than 50 percent of the more than 676,000 Michigan households that received food assistance in August. The remaining households already receive the maximum benefit.

Below is the maximum allowable benefit for SNAP customers based on their respective household size:

One Person: \$194
Two Persons: \$355
Three Persons: \$509
Four Persons: \$646
Five Persons: \$768

Six Persons: \$921
Seven Persons: \$1,018
Eight Persons: \$1,164

The federal government is providing additional funding to states for food assistance under House Resolution 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

Eligible families do not need to re-apply to receive the additional benefits. People who receive food assistance can check their benefits balance on their Michigan Bridge Card by going online to www.michigan.gov/MIBridges a consumer service representative toll-free at 888-678-8914. They can ask questions about the additional benefits by calling or emailing their caseworker.

Customer service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Spanish and Arabic service is available. If you are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing or speech-impaired, call the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1.

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

Saginaw's ACE Collaborative gives back



courtesy photo

Member organizations of Saginaw's ACE Collaborative have partnered with Together We Rise and the Saginaw CAN Council to provide back to school backpacks for foster children this fall.

Board members and staff at Pit & Balcony Community Theatre, the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra, and the Saginaw Choral Society have pledged contributions to sponsor backpacks for the Back 2 School Pack Program administered by Together We Rise which is a non-profit organization dedicated to transforming the way youth navigate through the foster care system in America. The backpacks will be donated to the Saginaw CAN Council for distribution.

"Even though we are all non-profit arts organizations struggling through this crisis in our own ways, we know that it's important that we give back to our community as well," says Bonnie VanVoorhees, CEO of the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra. "We

know that getting back to school has been hard for all students this year and students in foster care have even more obstacles to face. We are happy to help remove some of those obstacles and ensure a full and enriching school year for as many students as we can."

Each Back 2 School pack sponsored by ACE is provided by Together We Rise and includes necessary school items such as a notebook, binder, pens, and pencils, as well as art supplies such as colored pencils and coloring sheets. The backpacks will be packed by members of ACE and then delivered to the CAN Council offices in Saginaw.

CAN Council President/CEO, Emily Yeager, says, "The children we advocate for often enter care with little to call their own. Providing these seemingly basic necessities to our little learners gives them a sense of normalcy – like they have what all their peers have. We want our children to succeed, and these tools will help them feel both equipped

as well as cared for!"

For more information about the Back 2 School Pack program and many others assisting youth in foster care, please visit togetherwerise.org. For ways you can help the CAN Council fulfill their mission of building communities where children are free from abuse and neglect, please visit cancouncil.org. To support the ACE Collaborative, please give at <https://saginawfoundation.thankyou4caring.org/ace>





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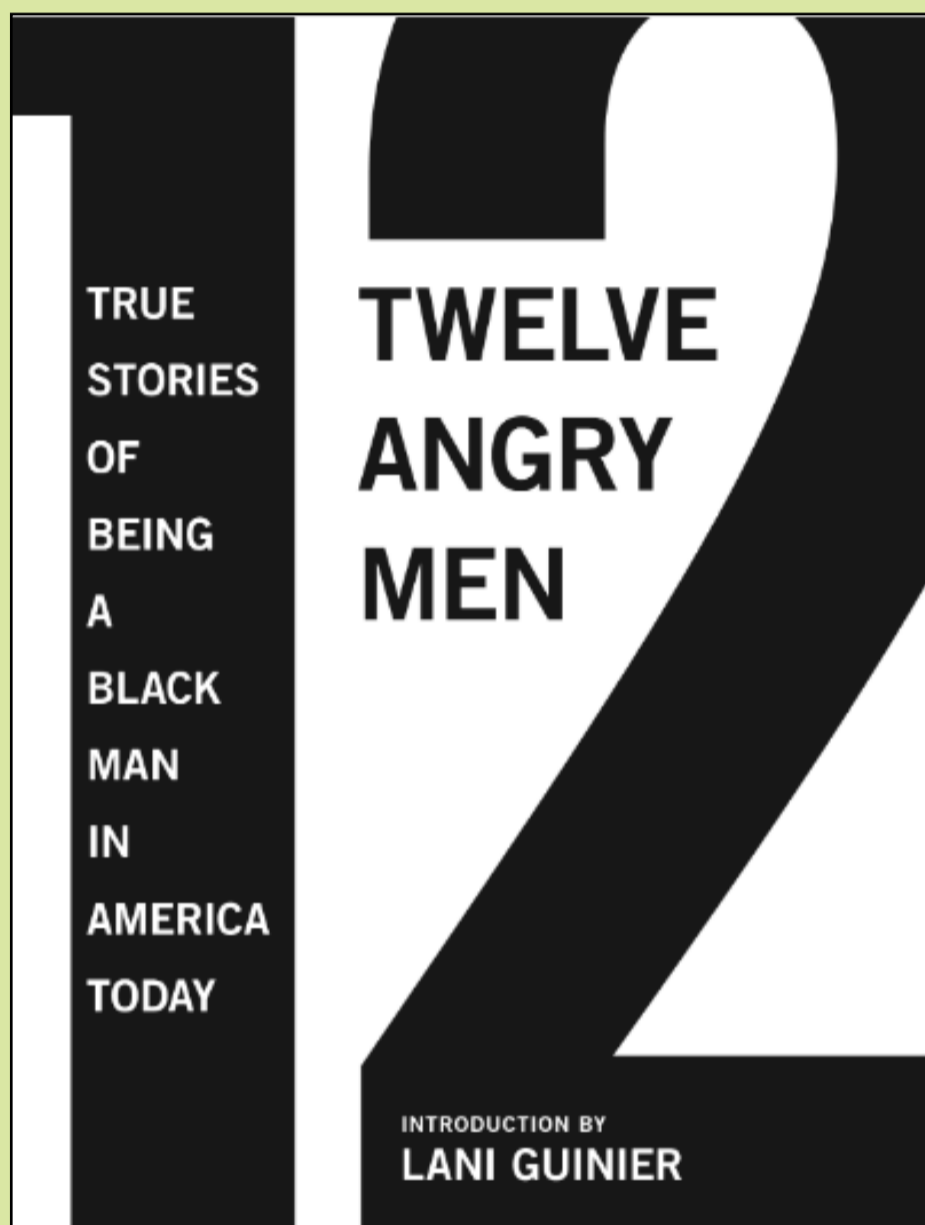
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The Great Lakes Bay Regional 2020 Census initiative is supported by your local community foundation in Bay, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw counties.

BOOK REVIEW

Racial profiling book shows need for new Saginaw groups

By Mike Thompson



Baseball Hall-of-Famer Joe Morgan, who died recently at age 77, became famous for his exploits on the field of play and later in the TV broadcast booth.

But he also gained notoriety as one of the early publicized victims of what first was known as police brutality, gradually redefined as racial profiling.

His story is among a dozen in "12 Angry Men: True Stories of Being a Black Man in America Today," which was published in 2010 but shows the need for reforms belatedly pushed in 2020, including formation of the Saginaw Citizens-Police Advisory Commission and a new coalition

of volunteers, Saginaw Citizens United for Equity and Justice (see their Facebook site).

Morgan was 44 years old when a pair of white narcotic detectives at Los Angeles International Airport profiled him as the partner of a black drug courier, for the simple reason that Joe was one of a handful of African Americans among of a sea of white passengers awaiting a delayed takeoff. One of the officers wrestled him to the ground, handcuffed him and put him under arrest after winking to his fellow officer, "Did you see him throw a punch at me?" Morgan eventually won a \$796,000 lawsuit settlement, among more than \$20 million handed out in L.A. that year,

1988, three years prior to the Rodney King beating.

Morgan is by far the most famous of the dozen authors of magazine-length essays regarding their experiences, but some of the others also are prominent. Kent Downing, ironically, was the national coordinator of the ACLU's Campaign Against Racial Profiling when he himself was profiled and abused. Paul Butler was a D.C. college law professor when he was profiled while walking in his own affluent otherwise all-white neighborhood -- again, with irony, because in this case the trio of offending officers also were persons of color who had never seen Butler in the area prior to this.

Also featured, of course, are the younger fellows we would expect to face higher harassment levels, such as a 19-year-old (at the time) from East Harlem, simply going by the fearful, anonymous byline of "Richard F." He concludes that in both cases, the police and the public, "some are doing bad and some are doing good." Then he adds, "But it's like they (police) point to the fact that some of us are doing bad, and then everybody is getting arrested for no reason."

Hopefully, in Saginaw, creation of the Advisory Commission will lead to a better atmosphere in the community. Meanwhile, in addition to helping gather individual complaints, Citizens United may delve into justice issues that involve mass-overincarceration, criminal record impugement, prison conditions, plea bargaining and cash bail.

Regardless, a reading of the 177-page "Twelve Angry Men" would make a good start for all involved. You may request the book at any library, and if they don't have it, they will obtain it for you through interlibrary loan. Make sure you ask for the compiled version with Gregory S. Parks. Otherwise you may end up with a copy of the fictional drama that led to the 1957 movie classic of the same name, with Henry Fonda.

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

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Life in Christ Ministries

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LifeInChristMinistries07@gmail.com

Messiah Missionary Baptist Church

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



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Pastor Robert C. Corley Jr.

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POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Here's some final voting advice

By Mike Thompson

What more evidence do we need that it's a different world? For decade upon decade, the Saginaw NAACP conducted its local candidate forums on the Sundays immediately prior to Tuesday elections, so that voters could gain the very latest information and have the statements fresh on their minds when they went to the polls two days later.

This year, mainly because of the Trump-fraud claims, a flood of early voting-by-mail is taking place, and so the NAACP forum will not wait until Nov. 1. It already has occurred, back on Oct. 8.

Oh, yes, and Covid-19. Rather than transpiring in the Zion Missionary Baptist gymnasium, the 2020 version was conducted with virtual zoom protections. And it remains online at Branch President Terry Pruitt's Facebook page, and you need not be a Facebook blabber to view it. Simply visit Facebook, search for Terry Pruitt and find his Oct. 8 posting, or if you also are not a computer geek, ask a child or a relative for some assistance.

To gain a faith perspective, view a session hosted by Pastor Hurley J. Coleman that also features Terry Pruitt, Pamela Pugh and Jimmy Green. Go to the FB page for World Outreach Campus Church and find the Oct. 14 posting.

For print info on local and statewide ballot sections, first, of course, visit The Michigan Banner's archives and check our Oct. 1 edition.

Meanwhile, the best top-to-bottom national, state and local resource has long been through the League of Women Voters, this time with MLive Media Group assistance, vote411.org. Take note that the Joe Biden campaign answered the League's simple questions, while the Donald Trump team refused.

Also, note the Saginaw branch of the League of Women Voters encountered nearly as much



courtesy photo

difficulty as The Banner in gaining responses from larger shares of our local candidates. It always has been beyond me why someone would file to run for a local office and then decline to even lift a finger to take advantage of the free-of-charge publicity offered by media and by community organizations. If a law were proposed to require more advance effort for someone to place their name on the ballot, definitely I would be in support. These fakers wind up clogging an already complex ballot and creating confusion.

When it comes to dropping off absentee ballots, if you fail to trust Trump's depleted postal service, most drive-up locations are in parking lots at local government headquarters. In Saginaw, in addition to the middle of City Hall's rear parking lot, four neighborhood sites also are in place. They are Wanigas Credit Union on Bagley near Saginaw High; Union Civica hall on Wadsworth near Vet's Parkway, Davenport Manor on Davenport near Bay; and Fordney Park near the fire station on Gratiot.

Finally, may we go beyond voting ourselves and persuade others to follow our leads? But how do we respond when a skeptic says their vote doesn't matter?

First, try what henceforth will be known as the John Lewis Plea: "Others risked their lives, and gave their lives, for our right to vote."

If that doesn't work, try the Stacey Abrams Plea: "At least we don't live in Georgia, where they still have to wait 8 hours." (Why is this not receiving more national media coverage?)

If that STILL doesn't work, maybe try this: "It also really doesn't matter for us to root for our favorite sports team, or enjoy our favorite musician's concert, or attend our favorite actor's movie. It doesn't change any results and so in that way it doesn't matter, except that it causes us to feel personally fulfilled. Try voting. It might make you feel good in the same way."

Election guide: Saginaw board of education

Following is *The Michigan Banner's* survey response from Janet Nash, a Saginaw Board of Education candidate, which was omitted from our Oct. 1 election guide:



courtesy photo

"I worked for the Saginaw Public School district for 32 years before retiring in 2010 to care for my parents. I have remained a volunteer and a community participant to the district in the years since 2010, and

I am now available to offer more help to my community in our shared educational future and concern for equality in education. I began in the district as an aide, and ended my career as a school principal. I have worked in nearly every district school educational environment there is, from K-12 through Adult Education and community partnerships. I believe I can bring a strong skill set and perspective of what will be the best investments of time and resources to our district. My goals are:

"-- Stabilizing and growing enrollment and strengthening district achievement by providing excellence in teacher preparation, student learning, career preparation & parental/community interaction. I would look toward improving our curriculum, highlighting our successes, increasing teacher training & mentorships, broaden students' career knowledge, aid parent service in their children's schools and in home study support.

"-- Setting high expectations and accountability for student learning in every classroom for every student. Create excitement for progress, and celebrate measured improvements; target needs with precision based on data.

"-- Creating learning environments where all students feel safe, welcome, relevant, valued, seen and heard, and ready to learn. Incorporate students' & parents' input to implement peer mediation teams in each school, grades 4 and above. Actively seek community leaders to mentor student teams in conflict resolution. Provide whole child focus in schools."

Returning citizens provided resources, information on voting access ahead of Nov. election



courtesy photo

After announcing the Returning Citizens Initiative (RCI) partnership with the Michigan Department of Corrections earlier this year, the Michigan Department of State (MDOS) has launched additional tools and resources to ensure formerly incarcerated individuals understand their voting rights and how to exercise them ahead of the November election.

"One of my top priorities this year has been to ensure that every Michigan voter knows their rights and how to ensure their vote counts and their voice is heard," said Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. "Every formerly incarcerated individual who is of age has a right to vote in Michigan, and we're proud to be working with many of our Partners in Democracy to ensure this community has the resources they need to vote safely and securely."

This week, the department shared its Returning Citizens PSA, and made available on its website a voter toolkit to be utilized by organizations that work with returning citizens. The toolkit, developed in partnership with the University of Michigan School of Information, helps dispel myths about post-incarceration voting, and empowers

returning citizens with accurate information about their right to vote. Assistant Secretary of State Heaster Wheeler also held an Oct. 8 townhall focusing on returning citizens and accessing the vote.

While the RCI focuses on ensuring eligible parolees can receive their Michigan driver's license or state ID upon release, which enables them to be automatically registered to vote, voters are reminded that photo identification is not necessary to register or to vote. Those without a Michigan driver's license or ID are encouraged to register to vote in person at their local clerk's office, and can do so up to and on Election Day. Voters who are not able to present a photo ID at the time of voting at their polling location on Election Day can also sign an affidavit to receive their ballot.

Individuals needing to apply for a first-time, corrected or replacement driver's license or state ID card are also eligible to schedule a priority license/ID appointment at any Secretary of State branch office through Nov. 2, between 3-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appointments can be made online at Michigan.gov/SOS or by calling 888-SOS-MICH.

Parents volunteer for city school millage

By Mike Thompson



Donisha Maxey

Three of Donisha Maxey's children have graduated from Arthur Hill High School.

She has four more coming along, but she doesn't want them to be future Lumberjacks.

Don't take her wrong. She remains a big supporter of Saginaw Public Schools. She simply would prefer that they attend a new, unified high school at the riverfront site of SASA, the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy.

A merger of Arthur Hill and Saginaw High is the highlight of a 7-mill, \$99.95 million bond proposal for the district's 15 buildings on the rear of the Nov. 3 ballot, and Donisha is pushing for YES votes.

Whether by birth, foster or adopted, she says "they all are my kids" and they deserve the best educations.

"I am encountering people who are positive for the millage and people who are negative," Donisha explains. "Everyone is entitled to their opinions, of course, but at least I'm making them think again."

Under Michigan's 1994 Proposal A school finance reform, districts no longer may seek millages for operations or for classroom education improvements, such as more teachers. They only can seek local funds for buildings and for technology.

She notes that at both "The Hill" and "The High" enrollments through the years have fallen far below their Baby Boom capacities,

back when the suburbs sent their children to city high schools, and that age has started to show at the two World War II-era buildings.

Arthur Hill would serve as home to a relocated SASA, and Saginaw High would switch to a middle school. Portions of both would be demolished to reduce utility and maintenance costs, but their renovated gymnasiums and auditoriums would remain in place. The target for opening is fall of 2023, with COVID-19 hopefully a plague of the past by then.

The SASA site "would give us a better location, with updated technology and improved academics, and hopefully this will lead to enrollments coming back up again," says Donisha, who volunteers at Chester Miller Elementary.

"I'm passing our flyers, and not just at the school. I keep them with me at all times. It could be at the doctor's office, or anywhere I happen to be out."

Besides the normal naysayers, she says she faces another obstacle.

"Some people somehow still don't know that the schools are on the ballot," she laments.

But if they encounter Donisha Maxey, they will be sure to know.

TOUGH TIMES ON THE PHONES



Jennea Plowden

Similar to Donisha, Jennea Plowden has learned that campaigning for the millage is not

like a bowl of cherries.

She has three children with her husband, Markus Plowden, who are enrolled at Kempton Elementary, and she recently joined other volunteers on a two-hour weekend phone-canvas session.

Jennea says she encountered "a large amount of disconnected numbers, and a lot of hang-ups in my face."

Others answered that they already had voted in favor, but they quickly hung up, so she wondered if they simply were getting rid of her.

Only one respondent voiced Jennea's viewpoint that, "I'm definitely voting for the schools, because we really need it."

She adds that she does not take negative responses personally, because folks are inundated more than ever these days with trash calls and with robo rings. Still, she is joining the campaign's effort to blend the usual pitches for "academic excellence" and "operational efficiency" with divisive-times emphasis on "equality in opportunity" and "community spirit & unity."

Jennea is volunteering her time despite a grueling schedule of 12-hour overnight nursing shifts combined with guiding her first-, fourth- and fifth-graders in their online school lessons.

"It's very tiring," she says. "I'll be so glad when the school can open back up."

The tax plan annually would cost \$3.50 for every \$1,000 of a property's sales value, which is double the taxable value we see on our property tax statements from the courthouse. For example, the owner of a \$20,000 sales value home would pay \$70, the owner of a \$60,000 home would have \$210 added, and the owner of a \$100,000 sales value would pay \$350.

Absentee ballots are best mailed by Oct. 23 to more fully assure delivery by election day, or a drive-up dropbox is located in the middle of City Hall's rear parking lot.

County Health Department seeks a tiny tax

By Mike Thompson



courtesy photo

On the Nov. 3 ballot, near the bottom of the back side, a new 0.48-mill property tax is proposed by the Saginaw County Department of Public Health. Part of the reason is to help better cope with the Covid-19 pandemic, but part of the reason also is to shore up basic services for dealing with long-time health concerns, everything from cancer to heart disease to infant mortality.

Health leaders, unlike local municipal and school officials, lack experience at promoting revenue requests. As an experienced news reporter, I've witnessed this in preview reports (page 14 of the previous Banner edition, see the archives online), and now this one. They've done a decent job, but we have not seen the same sort of "zing" that we might encounter otherwise.

Beyond that, here are a pair of points that may cause the Health Department folks to shy away, out of concern that they could be seen as competing with other local entities. It's like they cannot really say these things, but I can:

(1) The 0.48 mill would be a tiny fraction,

compared to the Saginaw Board of Education's 7-mill pitch for revamping buildings and infrastructure, including a new combined high school. To be fair, health funding is mainly federal and state, so it could be said we're talking apples and oranges here. Or more accurately, raisins and grapes. Still, the fact is that the Health Department proposal would cost about \$14 per year for the owner of a home with a \$60,000 sales value, while the school millage would amount to \$210 per annum.

(2) Closer to home, when the Sheriff's Department in August won widespread approval for 1.75 mills for road patrols, many voters falsely perceived this as a straight renewal. Actually this contained an 0.41-mill increase, which is almost identical to the 0.48 mill the Health Department is seeking. Surprise, surprise? Are all of us personally going to offer up another \$1 a month for the police but reject the same for public health? Something to think about when filling out our absentees or maybe waiting for Nov. 3.

On the other hand, a naysayer might say

the Health Department's \$10 million budget would gain \$2.43 million, or 24 percent, all at once. But for how long have the federal and state funds been frozen? We know Trump didn't offer any sort of increase. And who would ever have expected Covid to come along?

A more valid complaint is that these innocent little "tiny" taxes are piling up, and 0.48 mill for public health would only add to the sandhill. In addition to the sheriff's road patrols, there are nine smaller existing levies between 0.67 and 0.2. They are mosquito control, the county hospital (HealthSource), Dow Event Center, Commission on Aging, animal shelter and control, county parks, 911, Castle Museum and Children's Zoo.

Aside from all those tax numbers, we will close with some other vital stats. Among Michigan's 83 counties, Saginaw ranks 77th in overall general public health. And our Covid death toll, as of Oct. 14, was 147 individuals out of 3,253 cases. Enough said?

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See reverse side for more reasons to support Janet H. Nash with your vote!

Vote November 3rd for Janet H. Nash in section for "Local School District, School District of City of Saginaw" – Found on the back side of your ballot!

Paid for by CTE Janet H. Nash, 1836 Handley St., Saginaw, MI 48602
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SPORTS

MHSAA provides updated guidance



Flint, MI — Given the recent ruling by the Michigan Supreme Court on October 2, along with the Emergency Order issued by MDHHS on October 5, the MHSAA is providing this updated guidance. Be advised that the only change below from past guidance is the effective date (immediate) for crowds and gathering sizes. In general, the MHSAA is advising member schools to maintain the status quo for the time being, because of all of the uncertainty surrounding the enforceability of the EO's, MDHHS orders and county health department restrictions.

Face Coverings: Based on the MDHHS Emergency Order of October 5, there will be no change to the face covering requirements as outlined in MHSAA guidance to schools from both September 10 and 30. Face coverings continue to be required of fall athletes in football, soccer and volleyball. Face coverings continue to be required of indoor officials at all times and outdoor officials when not involved in active officiating which includes arrival at the site, pregame duties, timeouts, intermissions, extended stoppages in play and any postgame responsibilities while still onsite. The face covering requirement for

everyone else present including coaches, trainers, managers, media members, game administration and spectators also remains unchanged. Remember that social distancing **MUST** be followed at all times for everyone except athletes and officials involved in active participation during the contest.

Crowds/Gathering Sizes: As of October 6, if an indoor event is in a fixed indoor seating venue (gymnasium or pool), 20% of seating capacity is allowed for up to 500 spectators (25% in Region 6). If your gymnasium seats 2,500 or more, you would be able to sell 500 spectator tickets. If your gymnasium seats less than 2,500, take 20% (or 25% in Region 6) of your maximum capacity to determine the number of allowed spectators. If an outdoor event is in a fixed outdoor seating venue (football or soccer stadium), 30% of seating capacity is allowed for up to 1,000 spectators. If your stadium seats 3,333 or more, you would be able to sell 1,000 spectator tickets. If your stadium seats less than 3,333, take 30% of your maximum seating capacity to determine the number of allowed spectators. Note that if an outdoor event is **NOT** in a fixed outdoor seating venue (cross country, golf, soccer field with no permanent/fixed

seating), a site must maintain no more than 30 spectators per 1,000 square feet of the facility, up to a maximum of 1,000 spectators. We realize this will be challenging to enforce in cross country and golf in particular given the massive expanse of many cross country and golf courses. In these cases, use every opportunity possible to announce and remind all involved to keep social distancing at all times. Effective immediately, local schools may use these new indoor and outdoor limitations or may continue to use the two spectators per participant guidance. If local health department orders exist that are stricter than these updated MHSAA requirements, member schools and host venues are expected to follow those local orders.

The MHSAA will continue to communicate with various stakeholders who may be able to provide clarification on the status of COVID-19 restrictions for school districts and school sports. We will share further information with member schools as circumstances continue to change.

For more information and for up-to-date news regarding Michigan's high school athletics, visit www.mhsaa.com.

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For more league information please contact Commissioner Vince Agnew via email: VinceAgnew@MichiganMade.net or Call: 616-723-4147

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PICS OF THE WEEK

On October 6, the Annual Awards & Memorial Ceremony at the City of Saginaw Fire Department



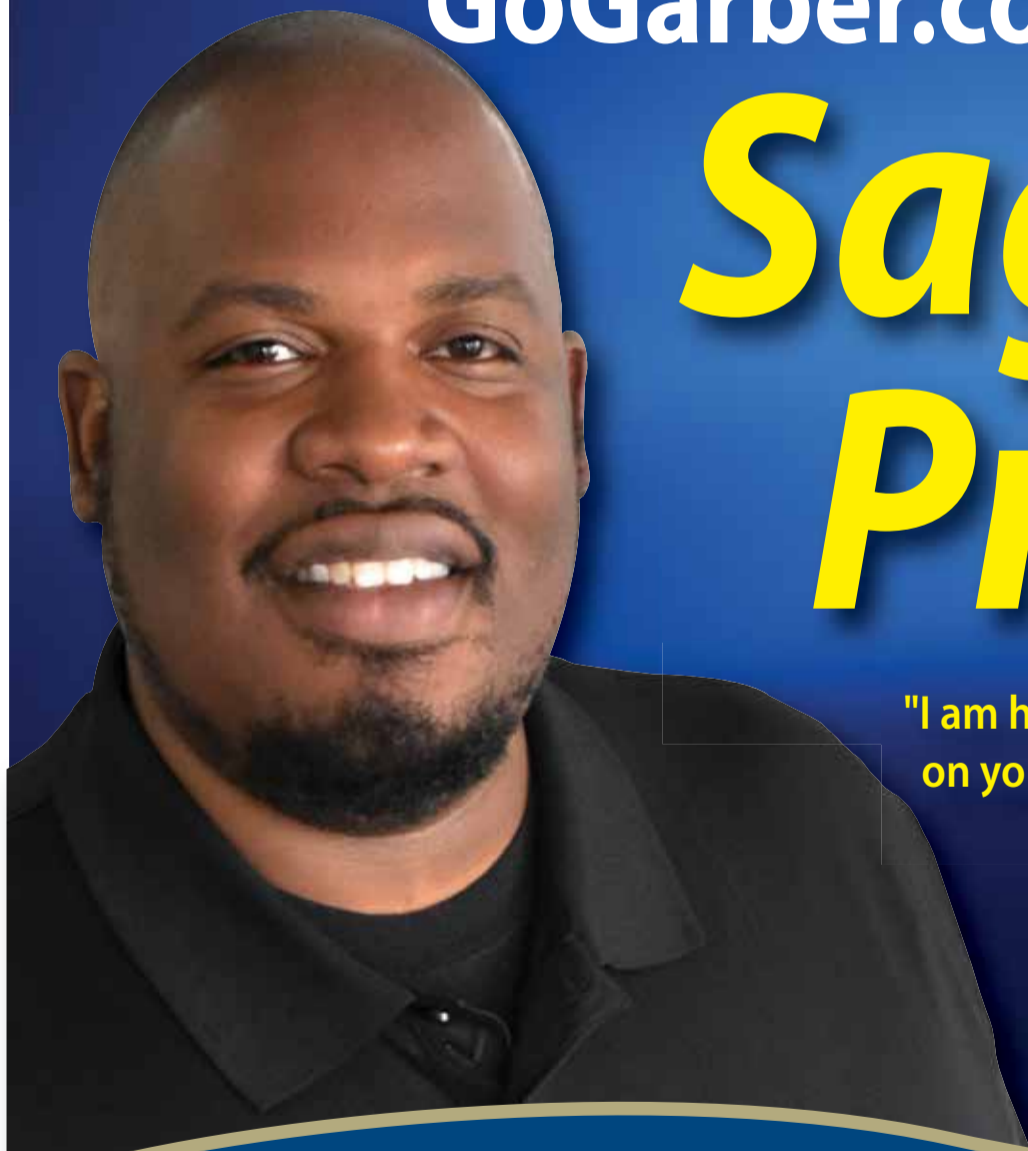
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