

THE MICHIGAN BANNER

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**Saginaw City Council
mulls police conduct
oversight**

Community, pg 32



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HERITAGE MONTH**

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Latinos ready to be counted in 2020 Census



LB, pg 2

Students, teachers make covid adjustments



Education, pg 24



Accurate 2020 Census will ensure critical services continue in Michigan

As the number of people in Michigan infected with the coronavirus continues to escalate, we can take some measure of comfort in knowing that help is available during this time for the most needy and vulnerable among us.

Through federal funds allocated to the state of Michigan:

- School breakfast and lunch programs can still provide meals and snacks to children throughout the state even though they are not currently attending school.
- MICHild continues to administer health care programs to the low-income, uninsured children of Michigan’s working families.
- Health care centers in underserved rural and urban communities continue to provide primary health care services, regardless of the ability to pay.
- The Child Care and Development Fund continues to provide financial assistance for childcare, so parents may continue to work.
- Special programs for the aging continue to provide nutritious meals to our older adults who cannot leave their homes.

While programs such as these are particularly important during the coronavirus pandemic, we must make sure we have them in the future. You can do your part in this effort by completing the 2020 Census.

Federal funds are allocated to every state, based on data from the census, which occurs every 10 years. In addition to the five programs listed above, other federally funded programs include Medicaid,

highway construction and planning, Title I and Special Education Grants, Foster Care and Child Care Grants, K-12 education, Section 8 Vouchers and Head Start/Early Start. Our state has received billions in federal funding for these programs since the 2010 Census.

At this point, it’s impossible to say how long the coronavirus will be with us. Once it’s gone however, Michiganders will still need access to critical and preventative medical care and financial assistance.

When she announced her “stay home, stay safe” executive order in March, Governor Whitmer said:

“We’re working to prepare for the long-term economic challenges of this crisis. They will be immense. From unemployment to helping our businesses get back up on their feet. Coming back will take time, and it won’t be easy. We’re working with the business community to help Michigan businesses and employers weather this unprecedented crisis, and we will keep working around the clock to keep Michiganders safe.”

This is the time to come together as Michiganders and do your part for your family, friends and neighbors. You can fill out the 2020 Census today. Visit 2020census.gov to fill it out online. You also have the option of completing the questionnaire by phone. To begin, call 844-330-2020, or find the number associated with your preferred language here. Phone lines are open every day from 7 AM to 2 AM.

When everyone counts, everyone wins!

Leadership during a global pandemic



Jerome Buckley, The Michigan Banner Publisher

In my day-to-day, I work with a very diverse array of individuals, organizations and systems in the tri-cities region and throughout the state of Michigan. The majority of my contact is with community leaders, however in recent months we have all had a balcony view of both local and national leadership at work. I've observed COVID-19 reveal how a crisis such as a pandemic can expose lack of leadership skills and abilities in an unforgiving light. This virus is causing an on-going humanitarian crisis of global proportions, with hundreds of thousands of lives lost and disrupted and sadly, it seems, this crisis is far from over.

The primary charge of a leader is to keep the team safe and maintain as much as possible a sense of normalcy. But what should a leader be focused on in the midst of a global disruption? How does a leader guide a community to develop and sustain the resilience necessary to not only survive

the crisis but to flourish on the other side? Resilience is accepting your new reality, even if it's less good than the one you had before. You can fight it, you can do nothing but scream about what you've lost, or you can accept that it happened and try to put together something that is good. (Elizabeth Edwards) We have witnessed first-hand that this is much easier said than done and that strategies for safety developed in board rooms (often times with brilliant minds at the table) may look and sound completely operative on paper but prove to be totally ineffective when put to the test.

To a great extent, we are navigating uncharted territory – there is no script to fall back on. New information is made available on an almost daily basis. For example, a recent news report shared that we may need to reconsider and extend the 6-foot social distance safety strategy. We may need to stand even farther apart! Reopening

schools, returning to full production in industry, going back to business as usual in other sectors while keeping the mandatory six-foot distance is a costly and in many cases impossible venture. Unfortunately, many businesses nationwide have been forced to fold under the current circumstance. Consequences for the economy overall and for our local businesses and organizations will play out over time. Great leadership is necessary to maintain safety (our first priority), manage to provide quality service and succeed in these times of uncertainty. We need people of integrity, sensible and caring thinkers, people willing to listen and plan for a future which will provide opportunities to sustain existing businesses and to begin again for those which had to close shop during the pandemic. There is an old adage which says, "Crisis does not build character, it reveals it." Right now, we need people of solid character at the helm. As I said earlier, the handling of this crisis has shown an unforgiving light on the character and leadership skills of some of the world's most powerful leaders. We can do better.

'I have always believed that hope is that stubborn thing inside us that insists, despite all the evidence to the contrary that something better awaits us so long as we have the courage to keep reaching, to keep working, to keep fighting.' (Barack Obama) Let's not give up hope. Let's use that stubborn persistence mentioned in the quote to rebuild what has been damaged and to support efforts to start anew. Leaders think and talk about solutions which will enable a community to come out whole on the other side. We are very naturally questioning, wondering and even complaining about the place we're in. People are hurting. The indecision - not knowing my next steps is extremely stressful. Let's be careful to vent our angst in as healthy a method as possible and move on – to not get stuck in a place of immobility. People are watching - children are watching how we govern ourselves. Let's be certain to set examples which will help them to make healthy decisions.

Leaders aren't only at the helm of countries, Fortune 500 companies, school districts and

Continues on pg 2, Leadership

THE MICHIGAN BANNER
301 E Genesee Ave, Suite 201B
Saginaw, MI 48607
989.992.2600
publisher022@gmail.com

CEO/COO
Jerome Buckley
publisher022@gmail.com

PUBLISHER
Jerome Buckley, Jr.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Michelle McCoy

EDITOR EMERITUS
Rae Lynn Buckley

THE LATINO BANNER
PUBLISHER
Jerome Buckley
thelatinobanner@gmail.com

OMBUDSMAN
Elaine Gregory McKenzie

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

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Continued from pg 2, Leadership

major businesses. We are leaders of households or small groups which may never know world acclaim. If you are a leader in any capacity you can act to maintain safety and productivity in your world and on behalf of those you are responsible for. Keep abreast of the most current and trustworthy news and information available to you, your family, your employees - anyone within your sphere of influence. View, listen to and/or read as many perspectives as possible. Then make decisions based upon the safety and well-being of those for whom you are planning. Things are changing rapidly and we must be diligent in our efforts to make decisions based on facts. Nelson Mandela once said, 'Education (knowledge/facts) is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.' To the very best of our ability, leaders must educate themselves on all aspects of this crisis and be prepared to provide a sense of optimism and realistic hope.

Being well informed is a first step in leadership. Communicating information – whether it be positive or negative, must be done truthfully and with credibility and confidence. Even with small children (yes, this pandemic is taking a toll on the children), truthful information must be shared in an age appropriate manner to maintain trust and in the willingness to believe in or follow the leader.

Finally, leaders, take care of you. Leaders experience fear and uncertainty just like everyone else. Listen to your body - be mindful of your need for rest, relaxation and recreation. Make time for the people you care about but be sure to put your oxygen mask on first! Promote self-care for others in your home, workplace and in any venue in which you have an opportunity to share. People are depending on you to be present in the moment and prepared to do the heavy lift. It's the price of leadership.

Jerome Buckley
Publisher, The Michigan Banner

IN THIS ISSUE...

////////////////////	
Youth Banner	4 - 6
Latino Banner	LB 1 - LB 6
Health	14
Business & Wealth	18
Education	23
Community	29
Politics & Public Policy	44
Sports	47

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 17



TeenQuest program in Flint opens enrollment for Fall Sessions, begins partnership with Genesee Career Institute

courtesy photo

Flint, MI / TeenQuest — a pre-employment and leadership training program that prepares young people for success in the 21st-century workplace — has released its fall 2020 schedule. The program will host two virtual sessions open to all high school students ages 14-19 in Genesee County. The first session will run Sept. 21-Oct. 22, and the second will run Oct. 26-Dec. 3.

TeenQuest is a five-week program that focuses on developing skills to secure and keep a job. Activities promote key soft skills including setting

goals, taking initiative and managing change. Students also learn how to write resumes, prepare for interviews and open personal checking/savings accounts.

“The skills students learn through TeenQuest will benefit them everywhere—at school, at home and in the workplace,” said James Avery, director of Education & Training at the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce, which administers the program. “By the time they complete this program, they will feel

better prepared to take on whatever challenges and opportunities come their way.”

As part of the virtual format, students must attend a 90-minute orientation on the first day of program. Additionally, they must participate in two 45-minute online sessions and complete 90 minutes of self-guided learning each week. To graduate from TeenQuest, students must also successfully complete mock interviews and

Continues on pg 6, TeenQuest

YB Cover Story, TeenQuest



courtesy photo

participate in a volunteer engagement activity organized by TeenQuest.

In addition to the virtual sessions, TeenQuest is partnering for the first time with the Genesee Career Institute (GCI), which provides instruction and experiential learning that helps prepare students to enter the workforce after completing high school and the GCI program.

Through the new partnership, students in the Career and Technical Education Experience at GCI spend the first part of each week exploring a variety of careers and programs, ranging from veterinary medicine to cyber security. The class then turns its focus to pre-employment training as students participate in TeenQuest each Friday.

“This is a natural collaboration,” Avery said. “It allows students to learn about different career pathways available to them, while simultaneously preparing them to succeed in the workplace once they’re hired.”

Like all TeenQuest graduates, students who complete this year’s program will be invited to the Summer Youth Initiative (SYI) Job Fair, where they will interview with local businesses and

organizations for summer employment opportunities. In 2020, nearly 260 students secured summer jobs with SYI employers including Boys & Girls Clubs of Great Flint, Communities First and Michigan Community Services, Inc.

For more information, or to enroll in an upcoming session, visit www.flintandgenesee.org/teenquest or call (810) 600-1413.

What is TeenQuest?

TeenQuest is a pre-employment and leadership training program designed to prepare teens for success in the 21st-century workplace. Enrollment is open to all students, ages 14-19 in grades 9-12, in Flint and Genesee County.

Students who graduate from TeenQuest are invited to attend the Summer Youth Initiative (SYI) Job Fair, which connects hundreds of local teens to summer employment each year. Additionally, other job and internship opportunities may become available to TeenQuest alumni throughout the school year.

This hands-on workshop series – offered after school and during the

summer – aims to give students a basic understanding of skills that are required in today’s workforce. Leadership, as it relates to TeenQuest, is defined as a set of skills and the application and use of these skills at school, home and work.

Training covers core employment competencies that every employer looks for in an employee. Students must demonstrate the following skills:

- Interviewing
- Business etiquette
- Application/resumé preparation
- Communication
- Workplace ethics
- Character development
- Positive mental attitude
- Managing change
- Taking initiative
- Conflict resolution
- Teamwork
- Setting goals
- Financial literacy

Sign up for TeenQuest today and discover how change starts with you.

If you are 14-19 years old, in 9th-12th grade and want to learn important skills to help you get and keep a job, then TeenQuest is for you!

For more information or questions, please contact James Avery at (810) 600-1458 or Dawn Bye at (810) 600-1413 or dbye@flintandgenesee.org.

TeenQuest training is offered several times throughout the school year virtually. TeenQuest will continue to offer future sessions online until it is deemed safe/appropriate to conduct sessions in person. This allows you to participate in other activities, such as sports and other clubs that you would also like to do after school.

THE MICHIGAN BANNER NEWS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AT&T

A dramatic, low-angle photograph of an emergency scene at night. The scene is illuminated by the intense, multi-colored flashing lights of emergency vehicles, including red, blue, and yellow. The lights create a sense of urgency and chaos. The background is dark, with some structural elements of a building or bridge visible in the shadows.

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THE LATINO BANNER



LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

Vamos Adelante



September 15 begins National Hispanic Heritage Month



Latinos Count in the 2020 Census

LB Pg. 2



courtesy photo

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Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on

August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period.

Latinos count in the 2020 Census



courtesy photo

Why the Decennial Census is Important

The U.S. Constitution requires an accurate count of the nation's population every 10 years, and the decennial census seeks to count every person in every household. An integral part of our nation's democracy, census data affects the ability of our government to ensure equal representation and equal access to important federal and private sector resources for all Americans. Census data is used to allocate seats and draw district lines for the U.S. House of Representatives, state legislatures, and local governing boards; to target at least \$800 billion annually in federal assistance to states, localities, and families; and to guide community decision-making affecting schools, housing, health care services, business investments, and much more.

"Hard-to-count" population groups are at

higher risk of not being fully counted in the decennial census. While some groups have been underrepresented for decades; some may experience new or increased vulnerability due to major changes in census methodology: Using the Internet as the primary point of contact for the 2020 Census, or a reluctance to respond given concerns about data confidentiality. An undercount of the hard-to-count populations can lead to unequal political representation as well as unequal access to vital public and private resources for the people in greatest need.

Latino households are at risk of being undercounted

Latinos have been undercounted for decades, disadvantaging their families, communities, and neighborhoods. In particular, Latino children are among the most undercounted populations in the U.S. Roughly one in three

Hispanics live in hard-to-count census tracts.

Hard-to-count characteristics of the Latino community

- **Language Barriers:** About a third of Hispanics speak English less than "very well." Typically, populations with low English proficiency are hard to count.
- **Poverty:** Hispanics have an official poverty rate of 21 percent; higher than the official U.S. poverty rate of 13 percent. Households in poverty are typically difficult to enumerate.
- **Education:** More than 60 percent of Hispanic adults have only a high school diploma or did not complete high school, compared to 40 percent of the total U.S.

Continues on LB pg 3, Latinos count

Continued from LB pg 2, Latinos count

population. Populations with lower levels of educational attainment are hard to count.

- **Immigrant Status:** More than a third of Latinos are foreign-born, and people immigrating from Latin America to the U.S. comprised more than half of the U.S. undocumented population in 2016. The increase in negative political rhetoric, federal detention and deportation operations may make immigrant households, including Latinos, reluctant to respond to the census given concerns about data confidentiality, which risks a severe undercount.
- **Latino Children:** Latino children comprise more than 24 percent of U.S. children under age five, with 55 percent living in households with complex living arrangements, sometimes moving between various relatives' or caregivers' residences. In addition, 25 percent of Latino children live in households where adults have difficulty speaking English. Both conditions correlate with being hard-to-count.

2020 Census fairly and accurately counts the growing Latino community. Latinos are already the nation's largest ethnic minority group, at 18 percent of the U.S population, and this population continues to grow.

Consequences of undercounting the Latino community

An undercount of the Latino community will result in their being denied a full voice in policy decision-making because political boundaries and congressional reapportionments most likely will not be based on real numbers. As a result, this hard-to-count community stands to lose important representation guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Undercounting the Latino community in the 2020 Census could also impact how federal funding is allocated to states and localities. Many programs that provide financial security for low-income families and economic development for their communities are funded based, primarily, on census-driven data, including:

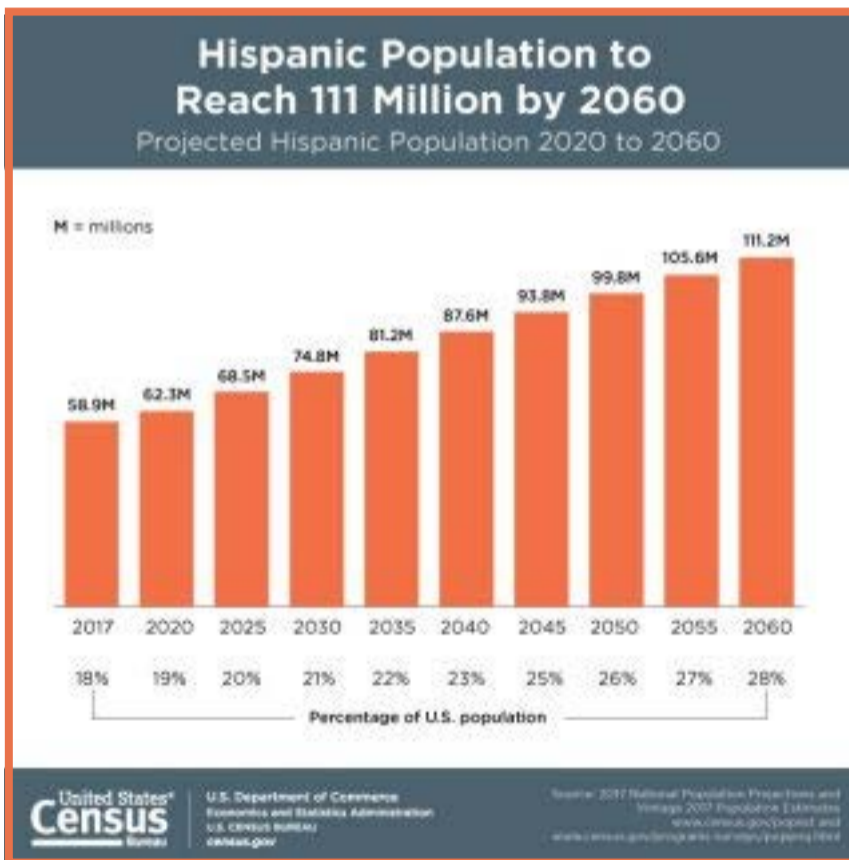
- Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies – \$13.9 billion
- Special Education Grants – \$11.2 billion
- Head Start Program – \$8.3 billion
- Child Care and Development Fund – \$2.9 billion
- Federal Foster Care Program – \$4.6 billion
- SNAP – \$69.5 billion
- National School Lunch Program (NSLP) – \$11.6 billion
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) – \$6.3 billion
- Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers Program – \$19.1 billion
- Medicaid – \$312 billion
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) – \$11.1 billion

You can help – right now

Stakeholders (advocates, funders, and civic leaders} can improve the count of the Latino community in the 2020 Census by joining or supporting work on policy development, community organizing, and the "Get Out the Count" campaign for the 2020 Census:

- Show members of Congress why they need to support adequate resources for the Census Bureau to conduct the 2020 Census and accurately count all in the Latino community. Several years prior to a decennial census, the Census Bureau needs a major annual funding ramp up to perform critical tests and build out a massive program infrastructure. Due to financial constraints, important activities crucial to ensure a fair and accurate census have been postponed or canceled, putting the Latino community at risk of a severe undercount.
- Stay informed about key census policy and operational developments. The Census Project provides regular updates on census-related activities in Congress and the administration. The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights also publishes many helpful resources.
- Educate state and local leaders about the challenges the Latino community faces in the census. Advocates can join Complete Count Committees to help ensure a complete census and include voices from the Latino community.
- Become a Census Bureau partner to help ensure the Census Bureau's partnership program gets the resources it needs. This important program is at risk due to budget shortfalls. Partners (organizations, associations, institution, etc.) get timely updates and promotional material from the Census Bureau.

If you would like to learn more about these or other ways you and your organization can be involved, contact Andrew Aurand, Vice President for Research of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, at AAurand@nlihc.org or Chris Harley, Census Counts Campaign Director, at harley@censucounts.org.



Latinos are one of the fastest growing groups in the United States

It is especially important to make sure the

Complete the 2020 Census at Mexican American Council on Friday, September 18 and get a free taco dinner!



courtesy photo

Saginaw, MI — Join the GLB Hispanic Leadership Institute at the Mexican American Council to complete the 2020 census, and enjoy lunch featuring tacos, rice, beans, pop, and a cookie! MAC is holding their fundraiser and all individuals completing the Census with us will receive a “ticket for a FREE lunch”! An iPad will be available on-site to complete the census online and Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership members will be there to answer questions and provide assistance. Additionally, there will be giveaways for those who complete the census!

To ensure the safety of staff and members, hand sanitizers and disinfectants will be available for computer use. Guests and participants are asked to wear an appropriate face covering and adhere to social distancing

guidelines.

Why does the 2020 census matter to our Latino Community? Latinos have been undercounted for decades, disadvantaging their families, communities, and neighborhoods. Latino children, in particular, are among the most undercounted populations in the United States. Today, 56.5 million Hispanics are living in the United States, and roughly one in three live in hard-to-count census tracts.

The census is the most inclusive civic activity in our country, covering every person in every household. The U.S. Constitution requires an accurate count of the nation's population every 10 years. The census is integral to our democracy. The data collected

affect our nation's ability to ensure equal representation and equal access to important governmental and private sector resources for all Americans, including across racial and ethnic lines. Census results are used to allocate seats and draw district lines for the U.S. House of Representatives, state legislatures, and local boards; to target more than \$800 billion annually in federal assistance to states, localities, and families; and to guide community decision-making affecting schools, housing, health care services, business investment, and much more. These functions depend on a fair and accurate census. Also for our Latino Community, it is time to have our voices heard and to make sure we are counted accurately!

Community Board

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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Are you politically astute?

While nonprofits cannot be partisan, they should be politically astute. But what exactly does that mean? To gain insights we talked with Bobby McDonald, president and CEO of the Black Chamber of Orange County. While most communities have a Black Chamber, what's different about the Black County of Orange County is the size of the Black population: African Americans comprised 1.7% of the population when the Chamber was founded in 1984, and while the population has grown, the percentage of the population has not. When you are in the minority to such an extent you have to be politically astute.

“Our survival, growth, and impact depended on the chamber’s ability to adapt to the environment, connect to partners and organizations, both public and private, that had similar objectives and missions,” McDonald shared.

That’s part of political astuteness. But, according to McDonald, you’re always growing your astuteness. “Networking, relationship building, listening, and reading are the most important ingredients to increase your ability to become politically astute. Speaking and engaging with individuals that are not like minded also helps improve your astuteness. In order for one to be a presentable debater, one must know both sides of the issue and that requires a combination of coaching,

learning and teaching!”

We also asked about the difference between “politically astute” and “partisan.” McDonald discussed the Chamber’s work with Southern California Edison who wanted support from the Chamber for an upcoming regulation change. “In this instance, we helped create awareness of the issue and got the word out about the pending issue. We were informing the community and keeping them apprised of the issue. That is different from being partisan. By definition, a partisan is someone or group attached to a political party.”

We’ve all heard about “pressure” from politicians. We asked McDonald what happens when an elected official delivers on a request? What is your obligation to that person? “By law, a 501c3 or 501c6 non-profit organization cannot endorse a political candidate. They can however, advocate and endorse legislation. That being said, there is no obligation to that elected official. As President and CEO of the Black Chamber, I

remain neutral. Under no circumstances can I grant an elected official the opportunity to use my name and the organization as an endorsement.”

Finally, we wanted to know how the Chamber navigates challenges related to elected officials associated with nonprofits in leadership positions. “For us, elected officials cannot serve as chairs of a campaign, heads of a committee or as a board member. We have eliminated all conflicts of interest and ethical concerns. At the same time, we have no problem honoring our elected officials for their efforts to support our diverse communities. They have earned our support and the community’s support and deserve high praise and recognition.”

Here's what we know: now is the time to be politically astute – those you serve are depending on you.



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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

Consumer Advisory: MDARD issues consumer advisory for Vlanc+Piür brand hand sanitizers



courtesy photo

Lansing, MI — On September 11, 2020, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) issued a Stop-Use and Stop-Removal Order for Vlanc+Piür brand hand sanitizer after finding the products do not protect the public and do not comply with the standards in the Michigan Weights and Measures Act, 1964 Public Act 283.

The Stop-Use and Stop-Removal Orders prohibit the sale, offering for sale, or use of hand sanitizers sold as Vlanc+Piür hand sanitizer stating, ‘Formulated with 70 percent of alcohol with aloe and glycerin’. These products should no longer be used, immediately be removed from store shelves or other product displays, and no longer be offered for sale.

“Hand sanitizers have become one of the critical tools for preventing COVID-19. They must have a minimum of 70 percent

isopropyl alcohol or 60 percent ethyl alcohol to be considered effective,” said Craig VanBuren, MDARD’s Laboratory Division Director. “Working to ensure that Michiganders are getting what they pay for is a hallmark of consumer protection. It’s especially vital right now for MDARD to be conducting marketplace sampling of hand sanitizers.”

As part of a marketplace investigation, MDARD discovered the hand sanitizers do not meet the labeled alcohol content, a key ingredient in effective hand sanitizer. The Vlanc+Piür brand stated it contained the 70 percent ethyl alcohol; however, MDARD testing confirmed it contained less than 60 percent. The department’s Weights and Measures section is also currently conducting additional sampling of various hand sanitizers to ensure they meet the minimum criteria to protect public health.

“Michiganders who have been using Vlanc+Piür brand hand sanitizer to help protect themselves from COVID-19 should monitor their health closely and seek testing if they develop symptoms of the virus,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health. “These include signs of respiratory illness such as cough, fever and shortness of breath or other symptoms such as fatigue, headache, new loss of smell or taste, nausea or vomiting.”

The Stop-Use and Stop-Removal Orders means no Vlanc+Piür brand hand sanitizers can be sold or used in the State of Michigan effective September 11, 2020. The products may be returned to the place of purchase or properly disposed of in accordance with local ordinances.

Consumers can view photos of the product labels below.

'Chances Are Campaign' to end substance use disorder stigma launches in Mid-Michigan



facebook.com/PEER360Recovery

Bay City, MI — Recognizing the growing substance use disorder throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region, eight prevention coalitions in eight mid-Michigan counties collaborated to create the Chances Are campaign. This substance use stigma awareness campaign seeks to end misconceptions and judgment about substance use disorders by changing the conversation around addictive behaviors.

Stigma remains one of the biggest barriers for seeking substance use disorder treatment. Using stigma-reducing language to talk about addiction helps people with substance use disorders regain their self-esteem. It also helps the medical community treat people with substance use disorder without disapproval.

“Changing the conversation surrounding

addiction will encourage more people to seek treatment,” said Barry Schmidt, coordinator of the Bay County Prevention Network. “We need people living with substance use disorders to feel safe asking for help.”

In Michigan, more people die annually from fatal overdoses than firearms and traffic accidents combined, according to the Centers for Disease Control. In addition, the rate of drug-related deaths in Michigan exceeds the national average.

“Substance use disorders affect people from all ages and backgrounds, including teenagers and young adults,” said Ruth Schwendinger, prevention specialist at Huron Behavioral Health. “You probably know someone with a substance use disorder and don’t realize it.”

To participate in the campaign and learn more about stigma reduction, you can visit the PEER360 Recovery Alliance and download the Chances Are toolkit. PEER360 also will be sharing resources and information about stigma on their Facebook page throughout the campaign.

About Chances Are:

The Chances Are campaign is a multi-county collaboration brought to you by the Arenac Drug and Alcohol Containment Taskforce, the Bay County Prevention Network, the Huron County Recovery and Prevention Roundtable, the Isabella Substance Awareness Coalition, the Mecosta Osceola Substance Awareness Coalition, the Midland County Treatment and Recovery Coalition, the Saginaw County Prevention Coalition and the Tuscola Prevention and Recovery Coalition.

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.

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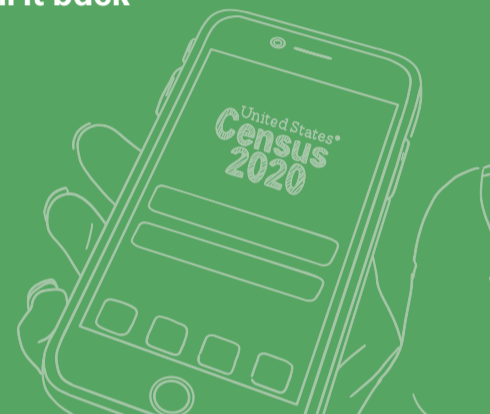
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Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has supported us. You are all extraordinary.



BUSINESS & WEALTH

Census toolkit for employers: 2020 Census submissions are due Sept. 30



courtesy photo

Michigan — The official deadline to complete the 2020 Census is fast approaching on Sept. 30. And—as leaders in the business community—it’s important that we spend these final weeks amplifying our efforts to encourage employees and customers to complete the census.

Whether you spread the word in upcoming meetings, internal emails or social media posts, here are some key facts to help drive your messaging:

- The 2020 Census affects the lives of every person in the United States. It counts every resident and provides the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities based on population totals.
- More than 40 percent of Michigan’s budget comes from federal funds allocated by census data. For every person not

counted, the state misses out on \$1,800 per person per year for 10 years.

- Businesses benefit from census data, including demographic information about their customers, the workforce and economic landscape. They also use the data to inform decisions, such as where to invest and build new facilities, hiring strategies, as well as business expansion and closures.
- Census data is used to distribute grants for economic development, create projections of growth and provide valuation information on customer bases, including income levels, household size and home ownership, which can further inform business strategies such as pricing and locations.
- Developers use census data to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods, and local governments use the data for

public safety, emergency preparedness and more.

- Census data also determines the strength of our voice in Washington, D. C. as it concludes how many seats Michigan will have in the House of Representatives. The higher a state’s population count, the stronger its representation will be.

Truly, the importance of the 2020 Census cannot be understated. An accurate 2020 Census will help fuel a thriving economy, and this becomes even more important as we work toward recovery from the effects of COVID-19. We all must work together to ensure that Flint, Genesee County and Michigan residents are included and participate in the 2020 Census.

For more resources and support materials, check your local Chamber’s website for a Census Toolkit or the 2020 Census website.

Dow wins four 2020 Sustainability Awards from Business Intelligence Group



courtesy photo

Dow (NYSE: DOW) today announced it has received four sustainability awards from the Business Intelligence Group (BIG) for breakthrough sustainable innovations, sustainable initiatives, and outstanding leadership. BIG's sustainability awards honor those who have made sustainability an integral part of their business practice.

“It is great that the Business Intelligence Group is again recognizing Dow people and our innovative products. Dow’s innovation engine continues to deliver breakthrough technologies that meet our customers’ performance needs, while simultaneously being sustainable and delivering solutions for the world’s toughest challenges,” said A.N. Sreeram, senior vice president of Research and Development and chief technology officer for Dow. “Our scientists and engineers use unique-to-the-world capabilities, such as High Throughput Research (HTR), digitalization, analytical method, to deliver market-driven, more sustainable solutions.”

Mary Draves, vice president of Environment, Health and Safety, and chief sustainability officer for Dow, added, “Sustainability is a driving force in today’s global economy. As part of our 2025 Sustainability Goals, our teams are working hard to advance our focus areas of Circular Economy, Climate Protection and Safer Materials. We’re grateful for the recognition of our efforts from Business Intelligence Group.”

Dow programs, partnerships and products receiving awards this year include:

Sustainability Initiative of the Year:

Dow's Carbon Partnership with the International Olympic Committee – This unique partnership between Dow and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is driven by a shared vision of advancing sustainability through the power of sport as a movement and a platform. It was purposefully designed to accelerate the adoption of lower-carbon technologies across various industries and offset the IOC’s operational footprint, enabling the IOC to become a carbon neutral organization. Within this global program, Dow manages the program, provides materials science innovation and carbon expertise through regionally tailored ‘carbon projects’ with value chain partners across several sectors including built environment, food & packaging and manufacturing & energy. The projects under this program are designed to reduce emissions and deliver third-party verified climate benefits. In 2019, the global portfolio of projects delivered 655,000 tonnes of CO₂e reductions increasing the total for the three programs with Sochi 2014, Rio 2016 and the IOC to 5 million tonnes CO₂e since 2013.

Sustainability Champion of the Year (Non-executive):

Dr. Nicoletta Piccolrovazzi, global technology and sustainability director, Dow Olympic & Sports Solutions – Dr. Piccolrovazzi was instrumental in establishing the carbon mitigation platform implemented by Dow on behalf of Sochi 2014 and Rio

2016 Organizing Committees which then expanded globally when Dow became the Official Carbon Partner of the IOC. This unique collaboration program leverages the platform of sport and the power of science to play a catalytic role in the adoption of more sustainable technologies for a positive climate legacy. The portfolio of carbon mitigation projects implemented under Nicoletta’s leadership delivered new efficiencies and value for Dow businesses as well as reduced carbon footprints along industry value chains. Recognized for her leadership in climate action, Nicoletta was named a member of the IOC’s Sustainability & Legacy Commission.


Dr. Piccolrovazzi also co-leads Dow’s 2025 Sustainability Goal to Advance a Circular Economy, working with businesses across Dow to develop successful approaches that embed circular economy principles into business strategies, collaborates on new business models for value chain transformation and builds knowledge on the topic across the organization. Nicoletta also oversees a global volunteering initiative that raises awareness of the issue of waste in the environment at Dow. The “Pulling Our Weight” program mobilized 18,000 volunteers and collected 175,000 lbs. of waste during 174 clean-up events across the globe in 2019.

Sustainability Products of the Year:

Dow for ECOFAST Pure – ECOFAST™ Pure Sustainable Textile Treatment addresses key sustainability challenges in the industry—including water quality and water consumption—by reducing process chemicals by up to 90% and water use by up to 50% in the cotton dyeing process.

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SBA Extends Physical Disaster Loan deadline for Michigan severe storms and flooding to September 30

Lansing, MI — The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has extended the deadline for businesses of all sizes, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters to apply for a physical disaster loan to Sept. 30, 2020. Anyone in the declared Michigan counties with physical damages due to the severe storms and flooding on May 16-22, 2020 should apply for an SBA low-interest disaster loan.

The disaster declaration covers Arenac, Gladwin, Iosco, Midland, Saginaw counties in Michigan which are eligible for both Physical and Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the SBA. Small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations in the following adjacent counties are eligible to apply only for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans: Alcona, Bay, Clare, Genesee, Gratiot, Isabella, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Roscommon, Shiawassee, Tuscola in Michigan.

In accordance with health precautions for the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the SBA will not establish a field presence to assist survivors. However, SBA will continue to provide first-class customer service and conduct outreach virtually with webinars, skype calls, phone assistance and step-by-step application assistance.

As a result, SBA has opened a Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center/Business Recovery Center (VDLOC/VBRC) to help survivors apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the SBA's secure website at <https://DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov/> and there are virtual customer support representatives available to assist applicants with completing the online application. The VDLOC/VBRC information:

Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center (VDLOC)

Open: Monday - Sunday (7 days/week)

Hours: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Eastern Time

FOCE- Help@sba.gov

Phone: (800) 659-2955

These services are only available for the Michigan disaster declaration as a result of the Severe Storms and Flooding on May 16-22, 2020, and not for COVID-19 related assistance.

Survivors should contact a Disaster Assistance Professional at (800) 659-2955 to schedule an appointment for immediate one-on-one assistance in completing their applications. Requests for SBA disaster loan program information may be obtained by emailing FOCE-Help@sba.gov. The SBA will conduct extensive outreach to ensure that all impacted by the disaster are afforded the opportunity to seek assistance.

Businesses and private nonprofit organizations of any size may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. Applicants may be eligible for a loan amount increase up to 20 percent of their physical damages, as verified by the SBA for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements may include a safe room or storm shelter, sump pump, French drain or retaining wall to help protect property and occupants from future damage caused by a similar disaster.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate. This includes detached structures and other improvements to property such as wells and septic systems. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed personal property.

Interest rates are as low as 3 percent for businesses, 2.75 percent for nonprofit organizations and 1.25 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the SBA's secure website at <https://DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov/>.

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, applicants should register online at DisasterAssistance.gov or download the FEMA mobile app. If online or mobile access is unavailable, applicants should call the FEMA toll-free helpline at 800-621-3362. Those who use 711-Relay or Video Relay Services should call 800-621-3362.

Businesses and individuals may also obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing), or by emailing DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov. Loan applications can also be downloaded at www.sba.gov. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Sept. 30, 2020.

The deadline to return economic injury applications is April 9, 2021.



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EDUCATION

SVSU partners with OpenStax to develop affordable college textbook program



SVSU | Deborah Huntley

Saginaw, MI — Dedicated to providing an affordable education and accessible resources, Saginaw Valley State University recently joined the OpenStax Institutional Partner Network, a group of more than 60 U.S. colleges and universities dedicated to expanding the use of open educational resources (OER) on campuses.

“Access to affordable textbooks is a major obstacle to academic success for many SVSU students and we are committed to decreasing barriers to student success,” said Deborah Huntley, SVSU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

“We are excited about partnership with OpenStax, which will help us expand OER usage through increased awareness and support for faculty adoption. The partnership’s goals address the issues of cost and equity by shifting to course materials that are free and

accessible.”

Twelve colleges from across the country in the first-year program – including SVSU – will develop and execute high-impact OER advocacy and adoption programs on their campuses. Dedicated to expanding access to free and flexible materials for students and instructors, these schools were selected from a competitive group of applicants, say OpenStax organizers. In selecting new partner schools for the 2020-21 academic year, OpenStax gave special consideration to those institutions with high numbers of Pell grant-eligible students as well as minority-serving institutions.

“By reconsidering not only who gets admitted but also how to maintain program efficacy while increasing flexibility, we hope to ensure that the OpenStax Institutional Partner Network accelerates more paths to truly equitable educational materials,” said Daniel

Williamson, managing director of OpenStax.

“Our goal is to put these resources in the hands of more people, not to narrow the scope of who gets access and exposure to them.”

OpenStax is part of Rice University and supported by philanthropic foundations, provides free college and Advanced Placement textbooks that are developed and peer-reviewed by educators. The initiative also provides low-cost, personalized courseware that helps students learn.

For more information regarding SVSU's partnership with OpenStax, please contact Tina Mullins, the university's research and open education resources librarian, at cemullin@svsu.edu. Those interested may also visit <http://OpenStax.org>.

Students, teachers make covid adjustments

By Mike Thompson

At the beginning of the school year, Saginaw School District Superintendent Ramont Roberts explained that Covid-19 still was existing too strong for city schools to open with in-building classes, without endangering the health of students and teachers. Dr. Roberts and the Board of Education encouraged families, at least for the short term, to adapt to online computer education.

Each family has been provided with a keyboard and a computer screen or tablet for each child. But these new circumstances present major challenges and hardships. The Michigan Banner spoke with three teachers at various grade levels.

John Olvera, Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy



To monitor an online classroom with 18 students is similar to the opening segment of the old "Brady Bunch" sitcom, except

there are twice as many boxes.

So says John Olvera, who teaches history and social studies at SASA.

"In a regular classroom, I can see all the faces at the same time," he explains. "But now I have to move my eyes really quickly, to make eye contact one-by-one."

He adds a positive note: "The 18-plus students I see were looking at a 14-inch monitor. I brought in my own 32-inch flat screen so I could project a better view of my students. Other teachers at SASA have brought in flat screens. Parents heard about our situation and together have purchased more 32-inch TV's to help."

And what does he see? Some pupils are in darker home surroundings than others. Some have siblings in the background, creating excess noise. And a few apparently are breaking rules, such as having cell phones below their keypads.

"In those cases," Olvera notes, "they will be looking down, instead of looking directly at their screens."

He will respond with low-key admonishments, but nothing overly harsh, because the new Covid-19 circumstances are so different and so challenging.

"Especially by the time afternoon arrives, the kids look exhausted from staying in the same place all day long," he says.

Olvera aims to create as much of a "classroom atmosphere" as possible. He still strides across the front of the room, chalkboard in the background, and gestures to make his points, even though the seats are empty. He offers his pupils some limited "chat time" to help break the monotony.

School staffers are working out some bugs, such as sporadic shutdowns due to internet overload, but he says quality is improved compared to last spring, when the virus made its sudden arrival. At the time, he had no choice but to use a pre-packaged curricula and then simply grade the assignments and multiple-choice exam, but the summer break provided an opportunity to resume his own traditional lesson plans.

Olvera is a 30-year teaching veteran, including 22 with Saginaw city schools.

"We have to look for creative alternatives," he says. "Students are learning how to think outside of the box. I've been having fun with them."

Charles Green, Merrill Park Elementary School



they all are students."

In only his third year teaching fourth-graders, Charles Green says he had "no clue that I would be teaching online."

He tells his pupils, "I am a student just like

Online instruction requires extra effort for even younger students to show individual responsibility, or in Green's words, to gain "tools to own their own learning."

At the same time, patience is a key, especially during the first few weeks. He says district leaders made a wise decision when they delayed opening day by a week so that teachers could meet one on one with families, at a social distance with masks, of course.

"The first couple of days were a real struggle, with families getting acclimated to their schedules and getting hooked up to Wifi," Green notes. "But by Friday (of the first week) everything was rounding into shape. We're doing everything we can to adjust. The students and myself are getting the hang of things."

He says he is aiming to "navigate more efficiently" in circumstances where computer log-ins and log-outs erode valuable time.

"I am texting the individual students, calling them by name and giving them an opportunity to speak into the box," Green says. "It's not always going to be perfect, but we will make the best of it."

Andrea Rethman, Henry Doerr Early Childhood Development



For Andrea Rethman, the assignment of teaching and overseeing 3-and 4-year-old preschoolers over computer screens is merely the second

challenge.

The initial task is persuading families to sign up in the first place for today's covid-era education.

Henry Doerr on Perkins Street has a teaching capacity for up to 84 children, but only 55 are enrolled with 29 vacancies remaining.

Continues on pg 26, Covid adjustments

Continued from pg 25, Covid adjustments

"Many parents may say, 'Well, it's only pre-kindergarten.' But it's better for kids to get to know us this way, so that when covid is finished and they can come to the building, we will be better prepared to take off running," says Rethman, a veteran entering her 31st year in the profession.

She also is president of the Saginaw Education Association teachers union.

"We realize some families may have a hard time because they've never been in a zoom meeting before," she adds, noting that school staffers are available to provide extra help and support.

Rethman says the summer break allowed time for educators to improve their virtual lesson plans, compared to last spring's sudden outbreak of the virus.

Parents of older elementary students may trust their children to take part in online classes on their own, but she encourages parents of preschool youngsters to sit with their kids for as much time as possible.

"It can be as simple as showing the child how to hold a pencil properly," she explains.

Precautions are important, she said, because the sooner that Covid-19 is controlled, the sooner students will be able to return to regular classes.

"It breaks my heart not to be able to reach out to them in person," Rethman says, "Kids need that type of interaction."

Saginaw Intermediate School District welcomes new board member Irma Scott

Saginaw, MI — At the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting held on Wednesday, September 9, 2020, Saginaw Intermediate School Board swore in Irma Scott as a new school board member. Ms. Scott, a Saginaw resident, is a proud mother and grandmother. She retired from Saginaw Public School District after serving as a guidance counselor for 35 years and a Math and Science teacher for 7 years at Central Middle School.

Ms. Scott has been a volunteer at the East Side Soup Kitchen since 2010 and she also tutors at Arthur Eddy Academy. She enjoys reading, exercising, taking walks, and bowling. Ms. Scott graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree from Alcorn State University and a Master of Arts Degree from Central Michigan University. Ms. Scott stated, "My goal is to learn as much as I can about the current formalities of the Board and discover ways in which I can serve the students and community of Saginaw County."

Please join the Saginaw Intermediate School District's Board of Education and staff in welcoming Ms. Irma Scott to the team.



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Briana 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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MDHHS to begin posting school outbreak information; includes school names and case numbers

Lansing, MI — in an effort to provide accurate and timely information about COVID-19 in Michigan schools, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) will begin reporting outbreak information by school building.

Data on COVID-19 outbreaks is being collected from the 45 local health departments across the state weekly. A COVID-19 outbreak is defined as two or more cases with a link by place and time indicating a shared exposure outside of a household.

“Parents and students should know that if their school is listed, their local health department and school are already investigating. Based on that investigation, people are contacted individually if they were possibly exposed to COVID-19 at school,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief

medical executive and chief deputy for health. “Michigan schools are working hard to maintain a safe environment while also providing quality education.”

The information being posted on the website today and each Monday at 3 p.m., will include K-12, college and university school name, address, number of cases and if the cases involved staff, students or both. Students or staff exposed to COVID-19 outside the school building and are not thought to have spread the virus in the school due to quarantine or self-isolation are not included in the data.

Many factors, including the lack of ability to conduct effective contact tracing in certain settings, may result in underreporting of outbreaks. This information does not provide a complete picture of school outbreaks in Michigan and the absence of identified

outbreaks in a school does not mean it is not experiencing an outbreak.

Wearing a mask that covers the mouth and nose, social distancing (maintaining a distance of 6 feet apart), frequent handwashing (using soap for 20 seconds or hand sanitizer) and following capacity restrictions of social gatherings are some of the most effective ways to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Michiganders who are sick or have symptoms can get tested at numerous testing sites across the state.

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

SVSU faculty trains Midland educators on use of online teaching tool



SVSU | Matthew Vannette

Saginaw, MI — A connection between personal friends kick-started a professional network between Saginaw Valley State University and Midland Public Schools that organizers say will benefit education at all levels in the region.

SVSU faculty in early August began training Midland educators on how to use Canvas, a learning management software program. Utilized by SVSU for years, 14 members of the university faculty hosted group training sessions for nearly 80 middle school and high school educators.

“Our teachers were able to ask professionals who use it in their teaching daily what the best practical uses of Canvas would be to them,” said Steven Poole, curriculum specialist for auxiliary education at Midland Public Schools.

“The value to Midland Public Schools teachers

is their knowledge growth in Canvas and gaining a network for future questions that they could ask the professors. Our teachers will be using this knowledge with their Canvas development this school year.”

Both Midland Public Schools and SVSU returned to in-classroom teaching this week for the first time since March, when the COVID-19 pandemic reached Michigan. The experience in the months since then underlined a need to strengthen educators’ knowledge of online teaching tools such as Canvas, say organizers of the collaboration.

The origins of that collaboration began with a friendship between Matthew Vannette, an SVSU professor of physics, and Ana Geib, a Spanish teacher at Midland High School. Geib asked Vannette to help her better understand Canvas. The request began a series of events that led to a collaborative learning experience involving nearly 100 educators from both institutions.

“That is how society functions, or at least it is how I would like society to function: do what you can, when you can,” Vannette said. “Education across all levels is a social good, and it only works if we support it.”

The participating faculty from SVSU hosted a series of seven training sessions for Midland educators teaching in subjects related to business, engineering, English, kinesiology, math and science, music, and social studies. Up to 24 Midland teachers attended each session.

While those sessions took place in early August, organizers say educators formed a network they will maintain moving forward, including when questions arise throughout the school year.

Participating SVSU faculty members enjoyed empowering fellow educators in navigating a new learning system, which strengthened their own curriculum-building skills.

“Throughout the pandemic, scholars and musicians have come together like never before, sharing ideas and trying to solve problems so that we could all move forward in our teaching and music making,” said Norman Wika, an SVSU associate professor of music who provided Canvas training.

“I personally benefited from knowledge and ideas that I collected throughout the summer. Without that open interaction, I’m not sure I would have as good a plan as I do for this fall.”



About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

women and their families.

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

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

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

Saginaw ISD Head Start
Claytor Administrative Building
3200 Perkins Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
Phone 989.752.2193
Fax 989.921.7146

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

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

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

COMMUNITY

Covid-19 remains rampant in state prisons

By Mike Thompson



courtesy photo

In The Michigan Banner Sept. 1 Issue, we reported that Saginaw's Cangela Johnson is concerned about her husband, Derrick Johnson, living on lockup in the Muskegon Correctional Facility during an outbreak of Covid-19. Michigan's statewide infection rate is 1 percent, but in the state prisons the rate has reached 13 percent, and in Muskegon the count is near 50 percent.

Cangela in August protested that her husband was transferred from a mostly low-covid unit in Muskegon to one that was high in covid. A few days after she wrote a letter to top public officials, it turned out that Derrick Johnson was diagnosed with the virus.

This should be considered a major injustice within supposed criminal justice. Cangela's latest update to us that Derrick was diagnosed with the virus on Aug. 26th, after being shifted to a higher-risk prison unit, and that so far he is surviving, but that now, "He won't get retested for at least 90 days. But they have not moved any more positive inmates into that unit." We are not able to confirm the accuracy of what Cangela says, but this is her view of the situation.

Among the public officials to whom Cangela sent her letter is state Rep. Vanessa Guerra, who has earned her reputation as being prompt and responsive. Rep. Guerra first shares the response she received from the Michigan

Department of Corrections (MDOC), a few days prior to Derrick Johnson being diagnosed with corona on Aug. 26:

"Prisoner Johnson was in the Muskegon Correctional Facility's 6-Unit and was moved to 3-Unit with other residents on 8/9/2020. Based on the number of positive results from the testing that week at the facility, a unit was needed to house the confirmed positive cases. Following the approved protocol plan, the 6-unit was emptied of residents and the positive prisoners were placed there. This unit was chosen to house positive inmates because of the layout which provided the best setting to isolate

Continues on pg 30, Covid prisons

Continued from pg 29, Covid prisons

positive prisoners. The negative residents of 6-Unit were all moved to the designated negative units (3, 4, and 5) within the facility. Prisoner Johnson has tested negative for COVID once right after his move (8/12/2020) and we are still waiting for his test results from 8/20/2020. If any prisoner has a confirmed positive test result from his unit, they would be moved out immediately."

Rep. Guerra adds her own statement:



"We also received an update from the corrections ombudsman but because of the personal nature of the information they receive I cannot share directly their

email. What I can share is that because of limited bed space, it makes it very difficult to move prisoners around as safely and seamlessly as MDOC would like to. I do believe that the difficulties MDOC has experienced in trying to isolate people within a prison will be a topic of discussion as we begin to work on the budget for next year. As is the case for many issues, COVID has highlighted the weaknesses of our prison system, and legislators to come will have to address how we better protect prisoners from future viruses. Additionally, there is increasing pressure from the corrections union to increase funding in the budget for MDOC. Finally, another difficulty that must be addressed by the state but ultimately the federal government as well is a desperate need for additional testing resources. We need additional funds to support rapid testing because while more people may be getting tested, if we are unable to receive their results in a timely manner, they spend days to weeks infecting others while they await their test results. This is an issue within our prisons but one I have also heard from constituents who contact our office as well."

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

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I'm Just Thinking..... with Pastor Hurley J. Coleman, Jr., World Outreach Campus Church

In times like these

This year started with so much enthusiasm about the significance of 2020. The theories about the numerical impact of 2020 were full of "clear vision", once in a lifetime moments, and suggestions of great insight that would arise because of the year.

In truth, it has been a year of revelation, and clarity about things that we have felt for a long time, some things that we thought maybe we were past, and some things that we thought we would never see.

I am struck by the power of this moment in history. We have a view of the power of national leadership and the impact of words, spoken and unspoken. We have the reality of the necessity for local leadership to deal with local issues, and the truth that the cavalry that we have been waiting to come and save us is not coming.

It is clear to me, that we cannot continue to wait for someone to do what we could and should do for ourselves. We are living in our communities. We are sending our children to schools in our communities. We are shopping at retail facilities in our communities. We are interacting with one another in our communities. We are our communities. We should be, and can be involved in who sits in authority on our school boards

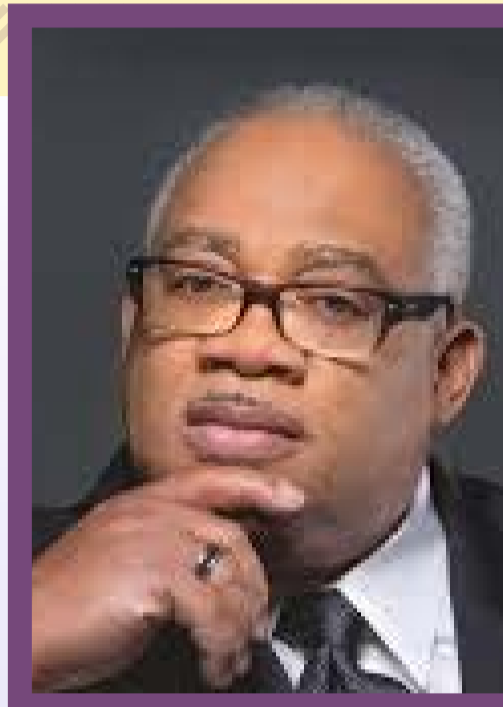
and city councils, and county commissions. We should and can hold those who we elect accountable for the things that we think are important.

We should, and can impact the local economy of our communities by controlling where and how we spend our money, who we spend it with, and even if we should spend our money. An attitude of collective economic influence will hold the local economy accountable.

Our neighborhoods are "our neighborhoods." We should, and can be caretakers of the places that we live, work, and play. We can hold each other accountable for our community safety, development, and improvement. We can hold each other accountable for the safety and development of "our" children.

I am encouraged by the fresh voices of the young leaders who are speaking out in this season. If you really pay attention, every revolution or great movement has had the benefit of youthful energy and effort.

It is the unwillingness to see things remain the same, the relentless disagreement with the status quo that gives a movement life and energy. Especially, when that energy is tempered with the insight



of history and involvement of respected voices that know the history and win in their own season were the fighters of their days.

I am convinced that we are in an epochal time. It is a time that faces things that we have never seen in our lifetime. We are not following paths, but carving our paths. We are establishing approaches to new norms. It is like the first words of the Charles Dickens novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*. "It was the best of times, and the worst of times."

I truly believe that this is an encouraging moment, in spite of all that we see. It is encouraging precisely because we can only see what we see. Faith is the confidence in the things that we cannot see, and what God will do according to his word and plans for us.

It keeps me thinking.....

Saginaw City Council mulls police conduct oversight



courtesy photo

During this summer of rallies and demonstrations, The Michigan Banner has pushed for creation of a local police conduct review board. The City Council has received a proposal from City Manager Tim Morales, with action scheduled as soon as the next meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 28. The session may be viewed on city government's website, saginaw-mi.com, or on Charter Communications Channel 191. Following is the proposal:

Public safety and crime reduction have been a focus of the City for several years. To have a truly effective police department, the department and city must be engaged with residents. Lack of outreach and availability creates distrust and tension, particularly between marginalized populations and law enforcement. The City is committed to building trust and positive relationships with all segments of the community. The formation of a Citizen-Police Advisory Commission is a necessary step in reframing the relationship that

the residents of Saginaw have with the police and in developing the community-oriented policing that the City strives for and that our community deserves.

Earlier this year I advised City Council that I was forming a group to draft documents to establish a Citizen's Police Advisory Commission ("commission"). In the course of research and discussion, it was determined that the best method for establishing the commission would be through the passage of an ordinance by the City Council. The study group included the City Manager, City Attorney, the Police Chief, the Assistant City Manager/Human Resources Director, Assistant to the City Manager; Council Member Reggie Williams served as an advisor to the group.

There have been discussions by several organizations regarding different ideas for a commission, as well as duties and powers the commission should be provided. It should be noted that our group had to work within the

framework of the City Charter, state and federal labor laws, collective bargaining agreements, the Civil Service Commission, and other legal considerations when drafting this ordinance.

We reviewed similar commissions in several cities to determine how they were formulated, staffed, how they operated, and what types of duties/activities they performed. We discussed these issues through calls and meetings, and put together an ordinance that we think will work for Saginaw.

Our goal was not to just put something in place – but to establish a commission that would be representative and would be able to work together to produce recommendations. It should be noted that the commission will not have the authority to hire, fire, discipline, or set policy. They will have the ability to review policies and make recommendations to the Chief of Police, City Manager, and City Council.

Following are some of the aspects of the ordinance that may be of most interest:

One of the purposes of the commission will be to provide a process for outside review of particular complaints, and the Department's (or external agency's) investigation and conclusion related to such complaints, in order to recommend potential changes in police policies or practices.

· Membership will consist of the following (nine members; members must be city residents): (a) One youth representative from a local high school; (b) One representative nominated by the local chapter of the NAACP or similar organization active in the City; (c) One representative nominated by the local chapter of the Mexican American Council or similar organization active in the City; (d) One representative nominated by a LGBTQ+ organization active in the City; (e) One representative from the local neighborhood associations; (f) One representative who had previously been convicted of a crime and incarcerated for same; (g) One mental health professional; (h) One at-large member; (i) The Department Chaplain. At least 4 members of the commission shall be female.

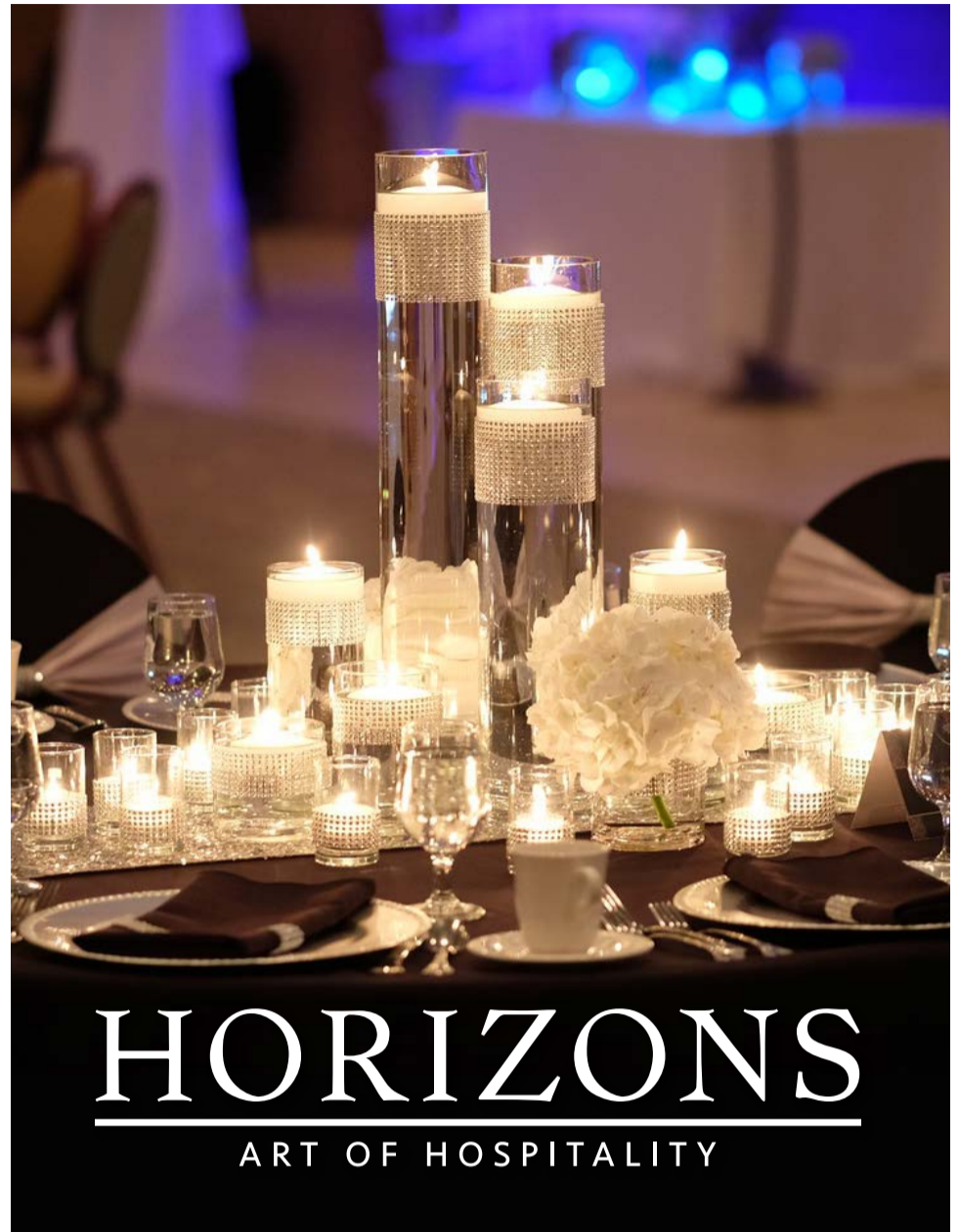
- Members are expected to attend meetings on a regular basis. Three consecutive

Continues on pg 33, police conduct

Continued from pg 32, police conduct

absences, or five absences within one calendar year, will constitute cause for the automatic removal of the member.

- Incident Review: The Police Chief will make available to the Commission all documents, videos, and descriptions of tangible evidence related to the incident. Documents, videos, and other materials shall be redacted or withheld from the Commission to the extent necessary to maintain privacy, confidentiality, and other concerns, or as required by federal or state law, City Charter, collective bargaining agreement, or legally recognized privilege.
- Incident Review: The Commission shall review findings of fact made by the Department, or other outside investigating authorities, with respect to any use of force complaint reported on by the Police Chief, for the purpose of making recommendations for improvement to Department policy and procedure. The Commission's review shall not precede or be concurrent with Department actions, but shall occur after the Department, or other applicable authorities, have completed all proceedings related to the complaint under review, including investigative, criminal, disciplinary, and other proceedings.
- Recommendations concerning policies, practices, and compliance. The Commission will examine and assess, according to such priorities as it may determine, all non-tactical Department-related policies and the Department's degree of compliance with same. The Commission will make recommendations for improvements, including the development of new policies, as well as revisions to existing ones.
- Community Outreach will also be a role of the commission – the Community Relations section will outline an important role for the group. The group shall do the following:
 - Shall seek input from a broad representation of community groups, including but not limited to youth of color; adults of color; women; persons living with mental illness; formerly incarcerated persons; persons who have had adverse interactions with the Department; persons living with persistent economic hardship; LGBTQ+ persons; and persons with immigrant status.
 - Shall consider whether information that it learns from these actions suggests that it should make any recommendations as to changes in practices and policies bearing on the City's exercise of the policing function
 - Shall, through the youth liaison, work with an existing youth council to incorporate a youth perspective into the Commission's decisions and recommendations.



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Great Lakes Bay Regional Chamber Summit "Partners in Growth"

The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce, Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce and the Midland Business Alliance is collaborating for the 9th Annual Great Lakes Bay Regional Chamber Summit.

This year's event is virtual and will take place on Monday, October 5 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm.

The event will feature pre-election political commentary with Frank Luntz.

Frank Ian Luntz is an American political and communications consultant, pollster and pundit, best known for developing talking points and other messaging for Republican causes. His work has included assistance with messaging for Newt Gingrich's Contract with America, and public relations support for pro-Israel policies in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He advocated use of vocabulary crafted to produce a desired effect; including use of the term death tax instead of estate tax,

and climate change instead of global warming.

Luntz has frequently contributed to Fox News as a commentator and analyst, as well as running focus groups during and after presidential debates on CBSN. Luntz describes his specialty as "testing language and finding words that will help his clients sell their product or turn public opinion on an issue or a candidate." He is also an author of business books dealing with communication strategies and public opinion.

Frank Lutz is one of the most honored communication professionals in America today. Time magazine named him one of "50 America's most promising leaders aged 40 and under," and Newsweek identified him as No. 24 on their Power Elite survey.

Tickets are \$20. For more information or to register visit www.baycityarea.com/events/details/great-lakes-bay-regional-chamber-summit-partners-in-growth-4458.

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Location: Zoom, from anywhere!
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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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a discussion
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Sparkle Boose
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Don't allow words and phrases to get in the way

By Mike Thompson



Michigan Banner | Protester holding sign at George Floyd Solidarity Rally in Saginaw, MI

Raise your hand if the first time you spoke or wrote the phrase "systemic racism" was within the past 12 months, and it was because you heard it first from someone else.

Same with "white privilege," but will give that one 24 months. Again, a new phrase, at least to me.

Recently, I took part in a community meeting with 16 people. I was one of the two white people. There also were two Latinos, along with a dozen of African American heritage. The topic was our local response to the activism that has taken root with the what was then the most recent infamous police killing, that of George Floyd.

A participant said "Black Lives Matter" needs to be a theme. An elder Latino leader responded, with emotion, that this should be "all", not reserved to "black." And you, my dear reader, may imagine the debate that

ensued. Many of the black people taking part rushed to assure my Mexican American friend that everyone is included, and that Black Lives Matter is a simply a specific point of personal experience, not meant to exclude other ethnicities.

Me? When Black Lives Matter first emerged, I also was in the "all" crowd. Recalled Saginaw High students such as Lem Tucker and Louis Oates, dating back to the late 1950s, who when the Pledge of Allegiance was recited would shout at the conclusion "liberty and justice FOR ALL". Lem went on to become a prominent national TV journalist, and Louie started out as student body president during his college time at Central Michigan.

And then, here in the 21st century when volunteering for the Summer Food Program (children's meals), one of the federal government requirements was to post a sign

that said, "And Justice for All."

But then I quickly noticed that the bigots, such as Hannity and Ingraham on Fox News, were co-opting "Black Lives Matter" to imply some sort of a reverse-racist, separatist agenda. And that's when I no longer questioned the title.

Still, through the years, I have always found too much wordplay within civil rights.

When I was a kid, an outright bigot would use the n-word, the same as nowadays, while a civilized person would refer to coloreds. Then coloreds evolved to Negroes, then to Blacks and then to African Americans, but African American didn't really catch on. So now we don't hear it so much.

Also, while a bigot would use the s-word or the w-word, first it was proper to say Mexicans. Next Mexican American, then Chicano, then Hispanic, then Latino, and then Latino was only males so we added Latina, and now for a odd blend we have Latinx.

And among my white peers, the phrase "race card" sprung forth, and Fox News/Trumpie types all began copying it to describe anyone of color who stands for civil rights. To a lesser extent, "identify politics" became another pejorative. Also, just another "special interest", etc.

Systemic racism? Yes, racism is part of the system, beyond the actions of certain individuals, and yes, whites receive privileges from racism. But as for all the lingo, it's been difficult to get some white folks to even admit racism exists. They will tell pollsters they believe that nowadays, whites actually are the victims. So we finally get more to acknowledge the basic wrong. Now are we going to say it's not enough to acknowledge racism, that we must admit systemic racism? Words, words, words.

Anyway, is it systemic racism or systematic racism? Everyday awful racism has always been totally horrible enough for myself, for one, to stand up and fight against injustice.

In closing, with the Trumpies it seems more like symptomatic racism, like a virus.

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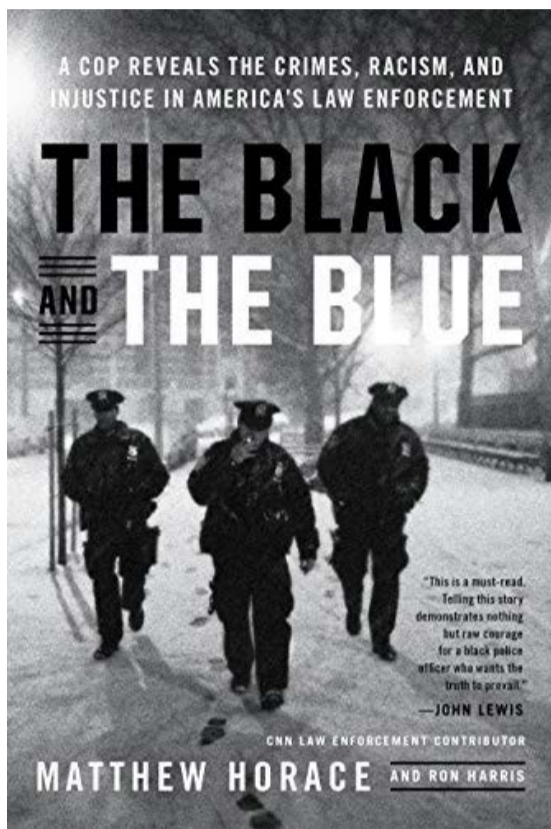
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The Great Lakes Bay Regional 2020 Census initiative is supported by your local community foundation in Bay, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw counties.

BOOK REVIEW

Crimes, racism and injustice in America's law enforcement

By Mike Thompson



courtesy photo

Advocates to establish independent citizen review boards that would monitor police conduct, in Saginaw and other communities, will find more than 10 fingers worth of reasons in "The Black and the Blue," a 2018 tome authored by a black man who compiled a 28-year policing career.

Matthew Horace now is an expert commentator who you may have seen on the TV news shows. His book contains personal experiences, along with in-depth viewpoints on some of the tragic national stories of rogue cops killing unarmed black victims. To provide balance, he also features some accounts of police officers as heroes.

For an example on the injustice side, consider 18-year-old Michael Brown. (Has his death already been six long years ago?) Horace begins with an outline on how the mostly-white police force in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson was pressured to fund the municipal budget by

issuing frequent traffic tickets with hefty fines to the two-thirds black populace. I recall this as being background info, a small part of the circumstances of Michael Brown being shot to death by the officer, Darren Wilson, but the systemic ticketing was not presented by media as a central factor. However, when the author goes into detail on the extent of the corruption, we observe how citizen complaint action during prior years might have weeded out the environment in which Wilson felt emboldened to act as though he had free reign.

And so, may I repeat, in Saginaw we need a clear cut way for people to know how and where to register a grievance. Yes, the City Charter and the state's Act 78 and the police unions and systemic racism may present obstacles, but we need to put such incidents on record. Regardless.

In another chapter, Matthew Horace writes of Fred Watson, a St. Louis resident (look up his name on Google), a 30-year-old single father whose entire life and career were upended by police. Watson visited a nearby Ferguson park for some pickup basketball with friends, and was sitting in his car taking a rest when one of "Ferguson's finest" parked in front of his hood and wrote him up for a series of nine bogus traffic tickets, alleged violations that led his employer to fire him. His problems were reaching a peak at the same time as the bloodied corpse of Michael Brown rotted for hours on a Ferguson street, which led to the protests and, yes, the riots that ensued. And Watson was well into his five-year ordeal before he discovered a proper place to complain.

Some among our local officers may not be so blatant, but still.

Horace's point is that misguided police may ruin people's lives without necessarily firing bullets. His Page 126 prescription for reform, in addition to "sustaining citizen involvement and

community interaction (aka local civilian review boards)", includes:

- Establishing core principles.
- Implementing broader and more extensive and effective training.
- Putting in place better use-of-force standards and de-escalation procedures.
- Looking for better candidates in recruitment and hiring.
- Requiring officer accountability.

The book's chapters are separated by interludes with essays from some of Horace's law enforcement peers from all ethnic groups. One that was compelling to me begins on Page 107, by Crystal King-Smith, who has advanced to district commander in the Chicago Police Department. She writes:

"Police officers are individuals, like everybody else. We just took the same oath. We are different people with different baggage, different hopes and aspirations, different ethnicities. We had different motivations for becoming police officers. Some people get the job so that they can beat black people. Yeah, really. They weren't weeded out by the psychological test. (But) some officers join because they want to solve crime. Some people want to make a difference."

Crystal King-Smith also is on Google search. Also, of course, is Matthew Horace. And his book is available, upon request, from our local public libraries.

(If you or someone you know has a police encounter grievance, or maybe even a complimentary tribute, please send me a note to mwtsaginaw@yahoo.com. A team of advocates are available to support you and to help to monitor this process.)



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

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P 989-752-7161 | info@saginawchamber.org

www.saginawchamber.org

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989-752-7226
Fax: 989-752-2777
www.cancouncil.org

The New Ezekiel Project

P.O. Box 3470
Saginaw, MI 48605-3470
989-755-1620
Fax: 989-755-4038
www.theezekielproject.com
jamie@theezekielproject.com

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Fax: 989-272-7669
www.greatlakespace.org
jdarby@greatlakespace.org

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989-759-6400

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989-755-0904
www.saginawlibrary.org

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

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1213 South Washington Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-399-0016

Saginaw County Community Action Agency, Inc. (CAC)

2824 Perkins Street
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989-753-7741

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1 Tuscola St., Suite 100B
Saginaw, Michigan 48607
(989) 755-0545
www.saginawpromise.org

The Michigan Banner Outreach Ministries

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Saginaw, MI 48607
989-992-2600

The Saginaw Community Foundation

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Saginaw, MI 48607
989-755-0545

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989-790-7933

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989-754-2444

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989-754-4435
PastorD818@gmail.com

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989-799-4200
www.faithharvestministry.org
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260-515-6456

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989-755-5291



Jacob's Ladder

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Saginaw, MI 48602
989-799-6601

Life in Christ Ministries

Pastor Dennis Cotton, Sr.
2915 S. Washington Road
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-401-4465
LifeInChristMinistries07@gmail.com

Messiah Missionary Baptist Church

2615 Williamson Road
Saginaw, MI 48601
Pastor Otis Washington
Phone: 989-777-2636
Fax: 989-777-2640
messiahmbc@att.net
www.messiahmsag.org



Mt. Olive Baptist Church

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



New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry

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

989-777-8272

Pastorbaldwin@charter.net



New Beginnings Life Changing Ministries

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



New Birth Missionary Baptist

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



New Covenant Christian Center

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

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Willie F. Casey
1721 Tuscola Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-7600



New Life Baptist Church

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

New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

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

New Way Ministries

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



Ninth Street Community Church

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

Prince of Peace Baptist Church

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

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

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



Saginaw Valley Community

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



Transforming Life Ministries

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



True Vine Baptist Church

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

Victorious Belivers Ministries Church

Pastor Chris V. Pryor
624 S. Outer Dr.
Saginaw, MI
989-755-7692

World Outreach Campus of Greater Coleman Temple Ministries

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



Zion Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Rodrick Smith
721 Johnson
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POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

The fraud behind bogus claims of voter fraud

By Mike Thompson

We are hearing stories about "massive voter fraud" nowadays. These stories are not true.

How do I know?

Because I told Saginaw City Clerk Janet Santos that I was going to try to vote twice. Not really, but only as a theory and as a test.

First we have our own absentee, mail-in ballot. Then we get our hands on another, maybe taken from a mailbox next door. So we fill them both out and send them in.

Sound simple? It's NOT!

First, we would have to know the name of the person from whom we swiped or otherwise obtained the second ballot. Then we would have to expertly match their signature handwriting, and have it slip past the watchful eyes of election workers. This would be just as difficult to do with an application to vote as these are verified under the same manner.

When signatures do not match, the Clerk's Office will make every attempt to notify the voter. The voter will need to go to the Clerk's Office, provide proper identification and sign the ballot envelope in the presence of a Clerk's staff member.

Beyond that, each voter is assigned their own ballot number, the same as when we go directly to a polling place. That's why we can't vote twice at our designated voting site. Same as with voting by an absentee ballot also referred to as mail-in.

"You can try if you want to, to double vote," Santos says, "but no." (We are speaking on the telephone, so I cannot tell whether she is shaking her finger at me in a wag of denial.)

Janet adds, "One voter equals one ballot, and the casting of votes is not done online. It's a paper ballot system that provides a paper-trail."



courtesy photo

Santos says, in her 34 years of municipal clerking experience, she has not personally seen attempted fraud.

Saginaw County Clerk Mike Hanley adds: "The application is the beginning of the process. No absentee ballots are provided to people who have not completed and submitted the application. That's where signature checks start. If a voter did not provide a close enough match for their signature on the application, they have to go to their city or township hall to provide their signature in person. If their signature has changed for any reason and doesn't match that in the Qualified Voter File, they may be required to provide their state identification card."

THE REAL STORY

We are doing this article because the national news, in response to Trump, are always saying voter fraud does not take place. But the media

do not really explain why. We wish to offer concrete proof that large-scale voter fraud is impossible.

Here's what actually happens to absentee ballots:

- Clerk's staff date stamps their receipt, either from the postal service or from in-person delivery.
- Signature is verified to the signature on file for the voter's record.
- They are stored securely until election-day counting.
- They are transported by Clerk's staff, in carts if needed, to a room with adequate space for workers and a tabulator, similar to what we see at an in-person polling site. In Saginaw's case,

Continues on pg 45, Voter fraud

Continued from pg 44, Voter fraud

this room is the City Council Chambers.

-- The envelopes are verified and opened, one by one, and after the ballot # is verified, the ballot # stub is removed and ballot remains in the secrecy sleeves and given to another team member in stacks. At this time no one can track the ballot back to a voter. Another worker separates the ballot form the sleeve. Ballots are flattened into stacks of 25 and then taken to the tabulator.

-- The privacy of an absentee voter is protected, again the same as for an in-person voter. Workers preserve and seal the ballots in case a recall is ordered.

Or maybe someone misplaces their ballot at home, or claims they never received it, or that their dog ate it. They can visit their clerk's office, complete the proper form and obtain a replacement. Would this be another method to attempt cheating? No, because an entirely new ballot number is issued.

How about claims that voting rolls contain hundreds of deceased citizens, or people who have moved? Santos says this is a long-time issue, but that advanced technology, such as real-time updates of address changes, has helped local clerks to maintain "cleaner" lists which helps to eliminate this issue.

And the article you just now have seen deals only with trying to vote twice. So how about larger claims of massive, widespread voter fraud, with national cheating counts in the millions?

Janet Santos aims to maintain her professionalism, but she says she "can't help but to take some offense" at the allegations.

"Many citizens are not aware of all the checks and balances involved in the process," she explains. "We take our responsibilities very seriously to ensure the integrity of all elections. We want everyone to vote and know that it is a safe and secure process."



FORUM IV



Rebuilding American Cities through a Lens of Equity and Inclusion

Thursday, September 24, 2020
Opening remarks and sponsor introduction 7:50 am
Program will start promptly at 8:00 am

LIVE @MichiganChronicle and on www.michiganchronicle.com
Virtual Event

Panelists
Ellis Carr - CEO, Capital Impact Partners
Sonya Mays - CEO, Develop Detroit
Daryl Carter - Founder, CEO and Chairman – Avanath Capital
Sandy Pierce - Chairman - Huntington Bank Michigan, Private Client Group and Regional Banking Director

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Join the conversation    #PancakesPolitics2020

Delta College to host NPR political correspondent for virtual event



Delta College | Mara Liasson

University Center, MI — Award-winning journalist and NPR national political correspondent Mara Liasson will host a live

discussion on October 1 as part of the Delta College President's Speaker Series.

The virtual event will take place from 7-8:30pm on Zoom, a video-conferencing platform. Liasson will give a presentation about her coverage of this year's presidential election before answering questions. She will also spend time talking to a group of Delta students about voter-related topics.

Liasson's reports can be regularly heard on NPR's Morning Edition and All Things Considered. She is covering her eighth presidential election this year, providing extensive coverage of the candidates and issues in both the presidential and congressional races. Her reporting can be heard on Delta College Public Radio – 90.1 FM.

Prior to her current assignment, Liasson was NPR's White House correspondent for all eight years of the Clinton administration. She is a three-time recipient of the White House Correspondents' Association's Merriman Smith Award and a graduate of Brown University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in American history.

The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required at www.delta.edu/Liasson.

For more information or for disability-related accommodations, contact Kim Klein at 989-686-9192.



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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
CommitteeToElectJanetHNash@gmail.com (989) 272-2767



SPORTS

MHSAA Council reinstates 2020 football season; full Fall competition schedule authorized

Lansing, MI — The Fall 2020 football season has been reinstated today by the Representative Council of the Michigan High School Athletic Association after Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Executive Order 176 lifted restrictions that previously did not allow the sport to be played.

Whitmer's executive order also allows for an immediate start of competition boys soccer; Lower Peninsula girls swimming & diving and girls volleyball on Wednesday (Sept. 9) for schools located in Regions 1-5 and 7 based on the MI Safe Start Plan. It also sets spectator limits of two per participant for outdoor and indoor events in Phase 4 of the MI Safe Start Plan.

Statewide football, and competition in those regions for volleyball, soccer and swimming & diving, had been restricted as part of EO 160, which ordered gyms and pools to remain closed and required social distancing in competition to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in areas under Phase 4 of the Safe Start plan. Schools in Regions 6 and 8 have been able to play volleyball, soccer and swim because those regions have been under fewer restrictions while in Phase 5 of the reopening process.

The MHSAA's Council had authorized on Aug. 20 the start of competition in volleyball, soccer and swim statewide, pending the authorization of that activity in the specific regions by Whitmer's office. The Council also on Aug 14. postponed the Fall 2020 football season to Spring 2021, but voted today to allow for a shortened season this fall.

Schools are not required to play any of those sports this fall, and may postpone until the spring. However, the MHSAA will conduct its postseason events in those four sports only for the Fall 2020 season.

"We are thankful for the opportunity for kids to get back on the field in all fall sports, and we appreciate Governor Whitmer providing that opportunity with Executive Order 176," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. "We share the Governor's priorities of putting health and safety first, and the COVID-19 guidance and protocols designed by the MHSAA at her request have led to the safe starts in all sports across the state.

"Thirty three other states are currently participating in all fall sports, and the MHSAA and its member schools are committed to doing this as safely as possible. We are ready to again provide those experiences to students and communities that have hoped for a return of some normalcy. Given the challenges of online education in many school districts across the state, providing sports and a daily routine may be more important than ever in motivating students and providing a safe outlet for physical activity, competition and socialization."

Football teams previously had been allowed to practice in helmets only during the traditional first week of practice, which began Aug. 10, and then during Council-approved offseason "contact" days beginning Aug. 24. With the reinstatement of this fall's season, football teams must cease all activity until Tuesday,

Sept. 8, then practice two days in helmets and shoulder pads before adding full pads Sept. 10.

They may begin regular-season games Sept. 18, and will play six games beginning with their originally-scheduled Week 4 contests. All football teams in 11 and 8-player football will qualify for the playoffs during this fall's shortened season, and then advance through their usual postseason progression with 8-Player Finals the weekend of Nov. 27-28 and 11-Player Finals the weekend of Dec. 4-5.

All other Fall 2020 tournaments will be conducted as previously scheduled.

The MHSAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation of voluntary membership by more than 1,500 public and private senior high schools and junior high/middle schools which exists to develop common rules for athletic eligibility and competition. No government funds or tax dollars support the MHSAA, which was the first such association nationally to not accept membership dues or tournament entry fees from schools. Member schools which enforce these rules are permitted to participate in MHSAA tournaments, which attract more than 1.4 million spectators each year.



UNDER THE LIGHTS
***** FLAG FOOTBALL

CO-ED K-1st, 2-3rd, 4-5th, 6-8th, 9-10th, 11-12th Divisions
*Divisions may adjust based on final registration numbers

September 13th – October 25th
Every Sunday | Games Beginning at 4PM
Practices are held 30 minutes prior to games

This youth flag football league is brought to you by trainer, high school coach, former NFL Pro & league commissioner, **Vince Agnew**, powered by **Under Armour Under the Lights!**

With 6 weeks of regular season play plus an additional week of playoffs, youth are guaranteed to learn, compete and improve their games. Every athlete receives an Under Armour team shirt, Under Armour shorts, flags & more!

• Register now ONLINE: www.MichiganMade.net/YOUTHFLAG
• Registration Deadline: AUGUST 31

\$150 / Athlete

You may organize your own team, request same team placement as friends, request a coach or be placed at random within your age division.

If this league is cancelled prior due to changes in covid guidelines, you will receive a refund.

Financial assistance available via SWAGNEW FOUNDATION. Contact Commissioner for more information on assistance.



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 Wednesday, September 9, the A. Philip Randolph Institute Saginaw Chapter hosted a Voter Registration & Census Drive.

The A. Philip Randolph Institute is an organization for African-American trade unionists. APRI advocates social, labor, and economic change at the state and federal level, using legal and legislative means.




APRI

A. Philip Randolph Institute
Saginaw Chapter

GOTV: VOTER REGISTRATION & CENSUS

When: Wednesday, September 9, 2020
 Time: 11:00am– 3:00pm
 Place: Great Giant Supermarket
 3216 Sheridan Avenue
 Saginaw, MI 48601

Free Hot Dogs, Chips & Bottled Water

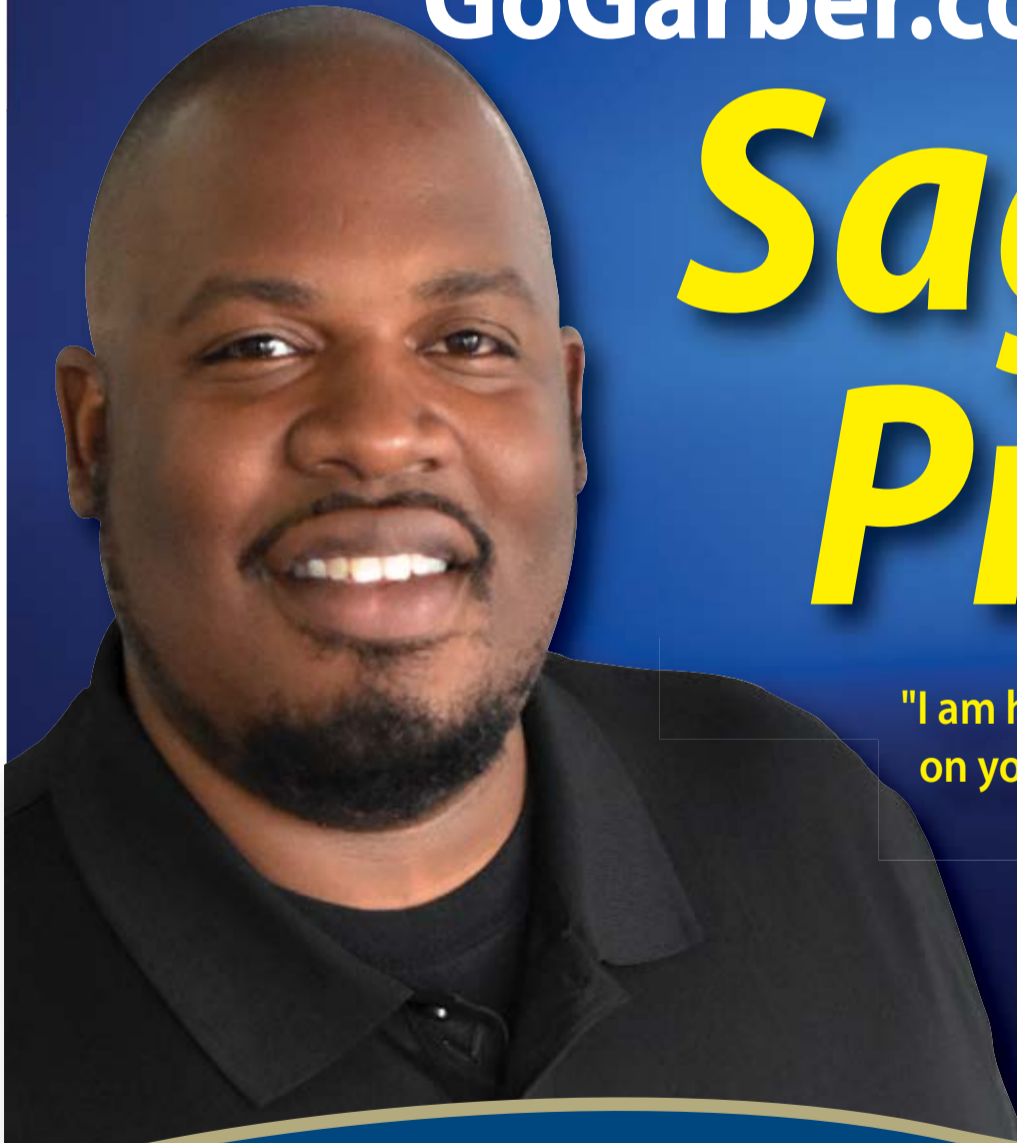
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empower.

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



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svsu.edu/opportunity



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