

Michigan Banner

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WHAT'S INSIDE ▶▶▶

Michigan Banner highlights achievements of local women

EXTENDED

HAPPY RESURRECTION SUNDAY (APRIL 4)

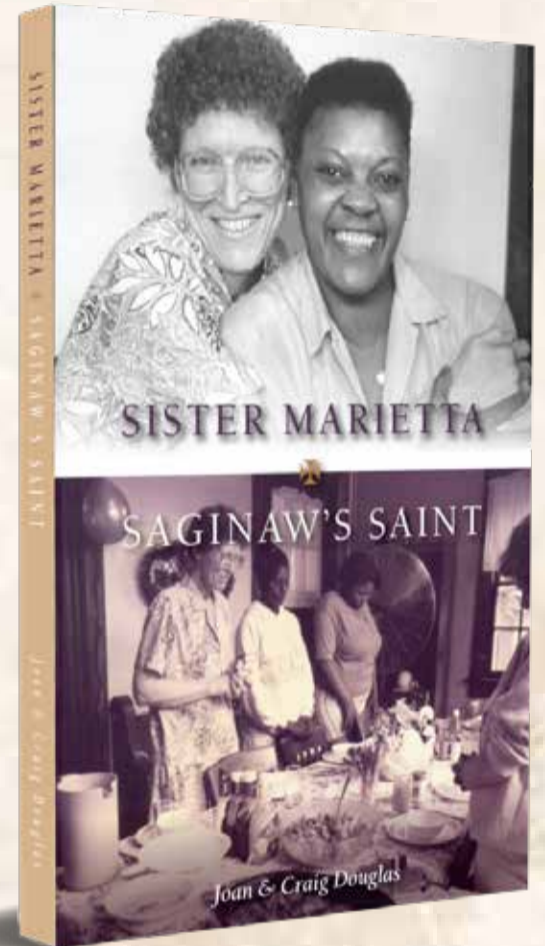
SPORTS

MARCH 27, 2021

BRIDGEPORT BEARCATS

DEFEAT FRANKENMUTH TO CLAIM A DIVISION 2 BOYS BASKETBALL DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP

Reflections about Sister Marietta Fritz and Emmaus House of Saginaw



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS, RETIRED EDUCATOR AND EMMAUS HOUSE VOLUNTEER/BOARD MEMBER**

Muhammad Ali once said that service is the rent we pay for our room here on earth. In my lifetime, a person who has best exemplified Ali's sentiment has been Sister Marietta Fritz.

When I first heard her speak at the "Bishop's Breakfast" in 1998, I was stunned by her humble honesty about Emmaus House of Saginaw. At that time, Emmaus House was only a decade old. It was formed out of necessity when Sister discovered that inmates leaving the Saginaw County Jail often had nowhere to go but back out onto

CONTINUES ON PG 2, MARIETTA FRITZ



The need to protect our right to vote

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Passionate CNN correspondent with local ties

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East Side Soup Kitchen has new leadership

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Cover, Marietta Fritz

the streets. She knew all too well from her jail ministry about recidivism. Sister termed it as “the revolving door.” Inmate would serve their time, be released to the streets, and then run afoul of the law again.

Sister joined forces with Sister Shirley to form Emmaus House to help females being released, to provide safe transitional living for them. The need was tremendous, and soon word spread about the safe haven Emmaus House offered. The program grew; it became a 501(c)3 nonprofit with by-laws and a volunteer board. Sister Shirley lost a battle with cancer, and Sister Marietta became **the** driving force of the organization.

Sister Marietta lived at Emmaus House as she led the work. Round the clock, 24/7. In service.

My wife Joan and I began to volunteer there in August 2013 when Emmaus was a well-oiled machine. Sister Marietta “ran” things by example; she modeled civility and decency for women who frankly had not had much of either in their lives. When we began there, Sister sat us down and explained her personal beliefs about the residents at Emmaus House. She politely stated we likely had loving parents and a good home to grow up in, and she pivoted quickly to say, “None of us get to choose our parents.”

Sister’s compassion is unforgettable. She had the uncanny ability to discipline and enforce rules and expectations while maintaining respect. Sister could deal with the disappointment of relapse or unexpected death due to her strong resolve and faith in God.

We wrote **Sister Marietta, Saginaw’s Saint**, to honor her legacy and the work she put in motion at Emmaus House that continues to go strong. She lives in retirement with her order in Cincinnati, Ohio some six hours from here, yet her influence carries on, now and well into the future. She loves the book and is humbled by it. Sister did share that her own sister Kathy had read it, liked it, and so forth...but would not start calling her a Saint just yet.

Apparently being humble is a family trait!

Resources:

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/50646-the-service-you-do-for-others-is-the-rent-you>



For previous Michigan Banner reporting on Emmaus House, see our February 1 edition in our online archives, pages 28 and 29.

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MISSION

The Michigan Banner, Latino Banner and Youth 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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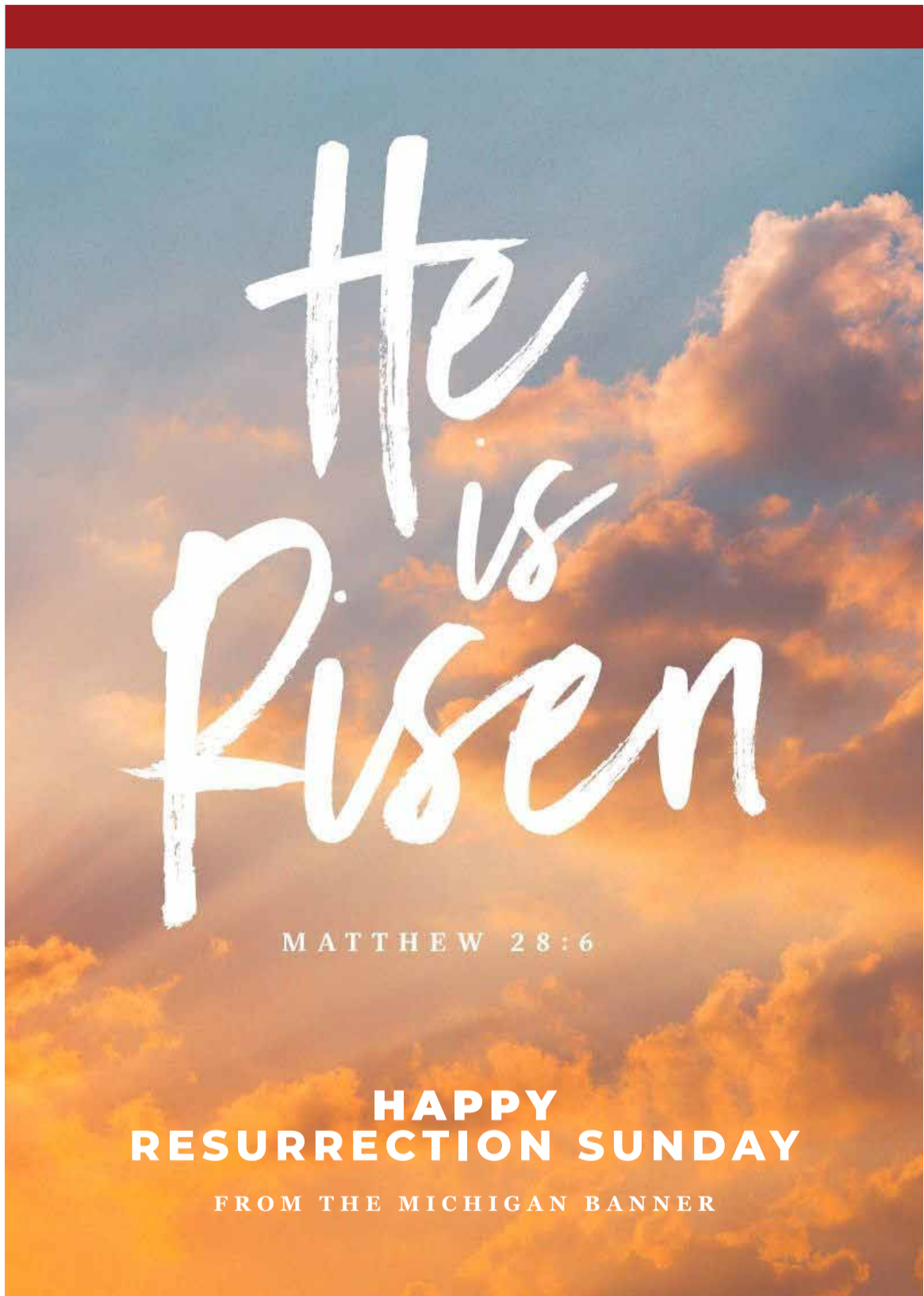
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MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Spinning our wheels

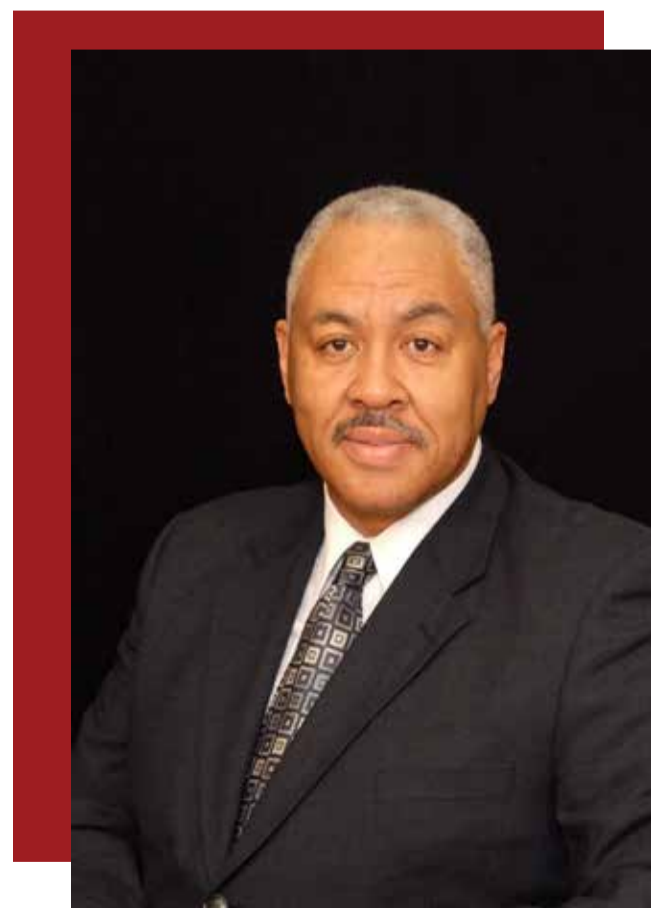
In light of the many controversies we face today, I wonder if we will ever reach a place where we will genuinely and collectively dedicate our energies to the betterment of the human condition. I recently (and unintentionally) overheard a conversation where one person said to the other, 'I don't think he really meant that'. The other responded, 'He said exactly what he meant – stop making excuses for him'. The conversation between these two strangers ended there leaving the first speaker a bit uncomfortable but with something to think about. In their moments of silent contemplation, I too, thought about the 'excusers'. When we defend their behavior, we continue to spin our wheels, never moving forward toward developing healthy communities which provide opportunities for next generations to thrive. When we remain silent, the excusers cause us to spin our wheels in frustration and sometimes defeat.

You know excusers too. The ones who justify bad behavior because of a bad day. Those who stand firm on the old, 'that's how it's always been' justification. There are also those who veil distasteful word and deed with religion – how can one then argue with actual words from the Creator? The list could go on and on however, the outcome remains the same. No matter what the rational, excusers consistently and often intentionally cause harm. Someone or some group of people are treated unjustly and are placed at risk of never reaching their full potential. The Pulitzer Prize winning poet, Maya Angelou often said, 'When people show you who they are, believe them.' There is too much at stake for those of us who know better to allow those who don't or don't care (both equally dangerous) to hinder the potential and progress of those who strive to make the world a safe and healthy place for humankind.

The sage advice of Ms. Angelou and others with dreams of a better place is not always easy to follow. In the conversation that I overheard, someone appeared to finally take a stand. It was not about politics or religion. It was simply one person choosing to stop the spinning. He decided to call bad behavior exactly as he saw it. It was both refreshing and brave. Brave not because he was at risk of physical harm – that did not appear to be the case. It was brave because sometimes excusers wield power to alienate or ostracize those who speak up. One might lose collateral such as relationships with family, friends, or colleagues. When the excuser is someone we care about, we must demonstrate that care with accountability and truth. Choosing to speak truth despite possible risks involved will reap benefits far beyond the one voice we hear in the moment. It speaks volumes for all to hear and gain strength and courage to collectively stand firm for what we know is right. Stop the spinning – stand steadfast – face excusers with what we know to be worth the battle.



Jerome Buckley
Publisher, Michigan Banner



Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE



DEBBIE VASQUEZ-HINDERLITER

Highlighting Debbie Vasquez- Hinderliter *Resource Health Unit Coordinator, Covenant Healthcare*

LB, pg 4



RAQUEL LEDESMA

Hemlock Semiconductor hires Raquel Ledesma as Diversity & Community Liaison

By MB STAFF

A former member of the Saginaw Valley State University Alumni Board of Directors, Ledesma chairs the university's Latino Alumni Chapter and works with the alumni office as an advocate for diversity opportunities. In her new role, Ledesma will lead development of HSC's strategy and goals to further a diverse, equitable and inclusive culture at HSC.

Ledesma holds an associate degree in advanced youth services from Delta College and two degrees from Saginaw Valley State University: A bachelor's degree in Spanish language and literature, sociology and political science, and a master's degree in administrative science. She's working toward a doctor of education degree at CMU, exploring the sense of belonging in micro-environments.

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COURTESY PHOTO

PepsiCo Launches \$40 Million Community College Program to Support 4,000 Black and Hispanic Students

Purchase, NY. – Recognizing the need for systemic change to address barriers that make it difficult for low-income students of color to pursue higher education, PepsiCo and its philanthropic arm, The PepsiCo Foundation, today announced a new \$40 million scholarship and professional mentoring program to support Black and Hispanic aspiring and graduating community college students. Launching in Dallas, Westchester, Houston, and Chicago, PepsiCo plans to expand the program to 16 additional cities in the fall and aims to support 4,000 students over five years.

Higher education is a key pathway to better pay, greater job opportunities and long-term economic security. This \$40 million initiative is designed to help Black and Hispanic students pursue and succeed in higher education and gain the training and skills they need for current and future job markets. The comprehensive program provides students with financial support as well as mentoring and leadership training from PepsiCo employees. Students will also have the opportunity to apply for internships and jobs at PepsiCo.

"Education is a great equalizer that enables economic growth, upward mobility and helps build generational wealth that lifts up communities over the long-term," said PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Ramon Laguarta. "With this program, we are creating a differentiated experience for students that goes beyond scholarships by providing critical training, support and other services that will put them on the path to success. Last year, PepsiCo committed to using our resources to combat deep-rooted economic disparities that have long impacted Black and Hispanic communities. We're proud to announce this community college program today as a key part of that effort."

The program is comprised of two types of scholarships – Uplift Scholarships for students seeking two-year associate degrees or trade certificates and S.M.I.L.E (Success Matters in Life & Education) scholarships for community college graduates transitioning to four-year colleges. Because students of color are more likely than white students to face challenges like access to affordable housing, childcare support, transportation and food, scholarship recipients

will receive funding for education expenses like tuition and books as well as financial support for eligible living expenses.

In lives lost, rates of infection and joblessness, COVID-19 has inflicted a staggering toll on Black and Hispanic communities, exposing deep-rooted health and economic disparities. It has also increased challenges for students of color seeking higher education, threatening their access to jobs for years to come.

PepsiCo is currently working with Dallas College, Houston Community College, Westchester Community College and City Colleges of Chicago in this program and will add additional community college partners as the program expands to more cities. This initiative is based on a successful three-year pilot between PepsiCo and City Colleges of Chicago.

"City Colleges of Chicago is honored to be a part of The PepsiCo Foundation scholarship initiative. These transformative resources will help our talented students enroll, persist and complete. I have no doubt that this program will reshape lives," said Juan Salgado, Chancellor of City Colleges of Chicago. "We are thankful that PepsiCo put words into action by supporting the academic excellence of community colleges. I applaud their efforts in removing barriers to higher education, and to helping end racial inequity in education and beyond."

This program is a cornerstone initiative of PepsiCo's more than \$570 million commitment over the next five years to lift up Black and Hispanic businesses and communities in the U.S. to address issues of inequality and create opportunity. As part of this effort, PepsiCo is increasing its spending with Hispanic- and Black-owned suppliers, increasing diverse leadership within the company and funding community engagement initiatives. These initiatives so far include the Black Restaurant Accelerator program, a partnership between The PepsiCo Foundation and the National Urban League to support 500 Black-owned restaurants; Pepsi Dig In, a digital platform that encourages consumers to support Black-owned restaurants; the Black Restaurants Deliver program, a no-cost service that helps Black-owned restaurants boost online ordering and delivering capabilities; LIFEWTR's Black Art Rising Series and Doritos #AmplifyBlackVoices campaign, which are focused on elevating Black artists and voices; and a program to support Hispanic-owned small food and beverage businesses that will be announced soon.

More information about PepsiCo's Racial Equality Journey can be found online at pepsico.com/about/diversity-and-engagement.

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CELEBRATING
WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

EXTENDED

DEBBIE VASQUEZ-HINDERLITERRESOURCE HEALTH UNIT COORDINATOR,
COVENANT HEALTHCARE

Debbie is a native of Saginaw, specifically from the East Side of Saginaw (Buena Vista). She is currently employed at Covenant Healthcare as a Resource Health Unit Coordinator. This position allows her to work with great nurses, doctors and patients, helping to navigate the hub of the unit so that it can run smoothly. It provides an excellent way for her to extend compassion to the community, serving those that are sick or bedridden by assisting nurses and nurse aides. Debbie has over 25 years of experience working in Mental Health. Her most rewarding experience was serving at risk youth as a MAYSI Specialist, providing support for juveniles and their families as they navigate the judicial system. She retired from Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) in 2016, however she discovered her passion was not ready to retire, working again for Healthsource and Memorial Healthcare before finding her dream job at Covenant Healthcare.

Debbie is married to Keith Hinderliter, Maintenance Supervisor at Glastender and retired from the U.S Army. She has four children: Adam Banda Gonzalez II, AJ Delgado, Gabriella Deleon, and Christian Deleon. "I am a proud grandmother of 8 beautiful grandchildren! Isavella Gonzalez-Millan, Marceliano Gonzalez, Alexander & Aurora Delgado, Armani & Khloee Simmons, Londyn & Christian Jr. Deleon. This by far is my greatest accomplishment!"

Debbie credits two major influences in her life; her mother who always had an open door and an offer of help to relatives, foster children or anyone who needed a place to stay, something to eat or just a laugh, there was somehow always enough love to go around. Another influence growing up as a child was her "Big Sister" from the Big Brother/Sister program. "Crista was a true inspiration to me and I learned how to be an influence in the community and in other people's lives because of her".

Debbie is a 2013 graduate from Delta College, graduating with honors, a member of the Phi Theta Kappa and achieved the President's list several times. In 2013, She also graduated from the Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute. The GLBHLI is a regional program that provides the forum for Hispanics to learn, network and collaborate with community, professionals, and corporations to develop leadership, promote social responsibility and involvement. Debbie is actively involved in the Hispanic Leadership program; she has been the Volunteer and New Ambassador Coordinator for the GLBHLI for several years, providing guidance and support for the new cohorts, organizing events, facilitating class sessions and partnering with corporate sponsors.

Debbie received the 2015 NAACP Achievement Recognition award for her career achievements and contributions to others in support of social justice. She was honored by the Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan as the 2015 Outstanding Hispanic Leader Award for Advocate of the Year for her commitment and dedication to the Saginaw community. She has worked hand and hand with Latino Leaders for Enhancement of Advocacy and Development (LLEAD) and the Mexican American Council (MAC) for the betterment of the community. Debbie developed a grassroots campaign for voter awareness into chairing the 2016 LLEAD Voter Registration Drive. She was elected as Secretary in 2016 for the Great Lakes Bay Regional Hispanic Business Association (HBA) and elected as President of the HBA in 2017. She has been a long time CAN Council volunteer as well as for Habitat for Humanity with the At Risk Youth groups. Debbie held multiple on-site promotional and educational events for the Census 2020 within the Hispanic community and is currently supporting the COVID vaccination events with the GLBHLI Ambassador Alumni.

"I truly believe if you are kind, have integrity and do the best that you are SUPPOSED to do, it will have an everlasting effect on you, your family and the community"



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¡PLEIBOL! IN THE BARRIOS AND THE BIG LEAGUES

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COURTESY PHOTO

The need to protect our right to vote



By **TERRY PRUITT, PRESIDENT
SAGINAW NAACP BRANCH**

Our election laws go back to our origins as a nation. Article 1 of the Constitution gives states the responsibility for overseeing federal, state and local elections. Several constitutional amendments

and other federal and state laws creating and protecting voting rights have been passed since then including the 15th, 19th, and 24th amendments to the constitution as well as the historic 1965 Voting Rights Act, with major support from the NAACP. Indeed, major election reform legislation, HR-1, has been introduced in the United States Congress this year in tribute to the Honorable John Lewis, infamous civil rights leader and long-time congressman.

Recently we've seen an onslaught of new election and voting laws introduced in many states around the nation. Last week Michigan Senate Republicans joined the parade and introduced 39 election bills that propose to reform how elections and voting take place in the state.

This comes as no surprise to many of us. In fact, it has been expected. Indeed, many voters and leaders I've spoken to feel it is just another example of legislators working to change election laws in many of the so-called "battleground states" in response to the results of the 2020 election. We continue to see far too many people including some of our legislative leaders holding on to conspiracy theories and falsehoods alleging there was something wrong with the 2020 election.

Further, some of the proposed changes fly directly in the face of the work and efforts of civil rights organizations and other individuals and groups engaged in the work of protecting our fundamental right to vote.

One final point here, I must remind everyone that the 2020 Election cycle produced one of the largest voter turnouts in the history of this nation and this state with relatively few real problems. So, the question must be posed, what's the motivation for these proposed changes at this time? I leave it to you to speculate as to whose interest they might serve.

As leader of the NAACP Saginaw Branch, I feel strongly we must spare no effort to protect our right to vote. It is imperative that we have an election system that is convenient, fair, accountable and in no way discourages citizens from participating in the process. At the end of the day, it is my belief that no person who is qualified to vote should ever be denied the right or opportunity to do so. The truth is our nation's history reflects that some people have been intentionally or unintentionally denied the right to vote.

Now is not the time to turn back the clock by limiting or restricting voting rights anywhere in the nation. We have a responsibility to do everything we can to protect the precious fundamental constitutional right to vote. It is how we make our democracy truly work.

I invite you to join our work and to become a member of the NAACP. Help us to fight the fight.

+ COMMUNITY

Saginaw County Community Action Committee's Lillie Williams-Grays Retires

By MB STAFF

Michigan Community Action extends heartfelt congratulations to Lillie Williams-Grays on her retirement. Lillie served for 16 years as the Executive Director of the Saginaw County Community Action Committee, Inc and retired on January 6, 2021. SCCAC Deputy Director Tracy Thompkins is serving as interim Executive Director for the agency.

Williams-Grays helped to start the Unity in the Community Neighborhood Association spearheading a much-needed minor home repair program for the association's residents. She was previously employed by Saginaw Bay Big Brothers/Big Sisters as the Executive Director and

founded the Amachi Program. This mentoring initiative connected young men with an incarcerated parent to positive male role models from local faith-based organizations.

She is a native of Saginaw and product of the Saginaw Public Schools System. She holds a Master's Degree from Central Michigan University in Administration and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work from Saginaw Valley State University.

Mrs. Grays is a dedicated woman of God who believes in giving back to the community. She is married to Tim Grays and in their blended families, there are adult children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



LILLIE WILLIAMS-GRAYS

District Elder Curtis Johnson's journey to ministry

By MB STAFF

District Elder Curtis Johnson was born the youngest of 10 children in Indianapolis, Indiana. Pastor Johnson's childhood was exceptionally challenged; by age thirteen both parents had passed away. A testament of Johnson's family strength and resilience was realized when he was first taken in by a brother and his wife, not quite twice his age. He moved several times with other siblings all fostering his growth and development and settled with his third oldest sister who guided him through high school and college.

This studious young man graduated from Indiana State University in 1985 with a BS degree in environmental health safety. He has worked as an Industrial hygienist for Delphi Automotive and OSHA in Indiana and Michigan.

Elder Johnson was gifted with the Holy Ghost in 1978 at Grace Apostolic Church in



DISTRICT ELDER CURTIS JOHNSON

Indianapolis under the pastorate of the late Bishop Morris E. Golder. It was at Grace where his gifts and talents began to flourish. Pastor Johnson was a dedicated worker within the bus ministry, communications department and the choir. He held official positions as choir vice president and treasurer of the youth department.

Elder Johnson accepted God's call into the

ministry in 1988 under the leadership of the late Elder James Jacks in Saginaw, MI. Here he further honed his skills in ministry. His continued exemplary growth prompted the late Bishop William H. Warren of Lansing to request him to plant a church in Bay City, Michigan, thus Grace Pentecostal Church was born in January 1996.

Ascension for Pastor Johnson continued, and he assumed the pastorate of Bethlehem Temple Church of Saginaw in 2008. He was elevated to the position of District Elder of the Northern District Council of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World in 2016.

Elder Johnson is married to the former Robin Bragg; they are the proud parents of two sons and two grandchildren. They have labored together in ministry for 35 years.

A favorite scripture of Elder Johnson's "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer." Psalm 19:14, has become his mantra.

+ COMMUNITY



JEFF DUKES

Jeff Dukes Named Career and Technical Education (CTE) Alumni of the Year for the Saginaw Career Complex

By MB STAFF

Mr. Jeff Dukes, a pipefitter apprentice at UA Local 85 and 2013 graduate of Arthur Hill High School, has been named the Saginaw Career Complex's (SCC) 2021 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Alumni of the Year. Mr. Dukes earned this award for being a top-performing welder who demonstrates excellent servant leadership, advocates for SCC through community presentations, and empowers students by helping them navigate through mentorship programming.

Mr. Dukes attended the Saginaw Career Complex's welding program as a high schooler. While in the welding program, he was taught a full curriculum that began with the basics of cutting metals to learning the complexities of welding. "The Saginaw Career Complex gave me a feel for what it's like to be in actual working conditions. Two days out of each week, UA Local 85 allowed us to practice our skills onsite to gain experience in a real work environment. Not only did the Saginaw Ca-

reer Complex teach me how to weld, but they also taught me the business side of the workforce. They (SCC) put us through mock interviews, taught us how to perfect our resumes, and how to socially and mentally prepare ourselves for the real world," recalls Dukes.

Since Mr. Dukes graduated, he has been invited to speak to subsequent cohorts of students in SCC's welding program, providing insight into the industry. Mr. Dukes stated, "It is always an exciting experience to come back and give students advice on what it is like in the real work environment. I love watching students' faces light up when they hear true stories from a guy who went through their same program and can show that it is possible to make something out of yourself."

Currently, Mr. Dukes is a 3rd-year apprentice at UA Local 85 in Saginaw County. Apprentices onsite at UA Local 85 invite high school welding students to work side-by-side with them. These opportunities provide robust mentoring experiences designed to prepare students for success. Dukes' former instructor, Douglas Bowen

(now retired) says, "Jeff Dukes is one of the best young men that I have had the pleasure of teaching. He has the one thing that cannot be taught - the heart and love for the trade!" Mr. Bowen continued, "Jeff is the total package. He is a rare find as a welder and one of the nicest people you will ever meet. I am so very happy for all that he has accomplished, and I know that he will be a leader in the trade."

Justin Pomerville, Business Manager and Financial Secretary for UA Local 85, shared, "Brother Jeffrey Dukes embodies everything great that is associated with Organized Labor. He is an exceptionally hard worker, highly intelligent, and self-motivated." Pomerville further expressed, "Jeff has been an asset to UA Local 85 since his time in the SCC Welding Program and throughout his entire apprenticeship. Because of SCC's fantastic programs and skilled trades apprenticeships, many people in our community will obtain distinguished careers with fantastic benefits and someday be able to retire with dignity. Jeff has excelled on the job, in the classroom, and at every other aspect of the plumbing and steamfitting industry. Local 85 is humbled and honored to welcome Jeff into our extended family as a member and friend. I am proud to represent young men and women like Brother Dukes because of their determination. The working-class labor movement in Northern Michigan is alive and strong."

Jenny Geno, Executive Director of CTE at Saginaw Intermediate School District, commented, "Congratulations are extended to Mr. Jeff Dukes for earning this honor. Saginaw County is fortunate to have such an outstanding individual assisting students in pursuing their dreams. We look forward to recognizing this amazing young professional." Recipients are nominated by industry partners and/or former instructors. Ms. Geno added, "This is the fourth year of honoring former SCC graduates that were successful in their high school programs."

Recognition for Mr. Dukes is scheduled to take place this fall at the 4th Annual CTE Alumni Luncheon with fellow alumni guests. During the luncheon, a panel of distinguished guests and speakers will share their thoughts regarding the positive impact Mr. Dukes has had on youth and the pipe trades.

+ COMMUNITY

RIGHT OR WRONG? THREE TRIALS ON THE SAME HOMICIDE CHARGE?



DARNELL JACKSON
SAGINAW COUNTY CIRCUIT
JUDGE AND CHIEF JUDGE



JOHN MCCOLGAN
SAGINAW COUNTY
PROSECUTOR



TERRY PRUITT
SAGINAW NAACP BRANCH
PRESIDENT



ERIC BRADDOCK
SAGINAW CITIZENS FOR
EQUITY AND JUSTICE



DAVEON THOMPSON

By **MIKE THOMPSON**

Saginaw's Daveon Thompson, age 23, insists he is not guilty of murder charges in the January 2018 shooting death of Antonio Parham, who was 26 at the time. This is not uncommon. Criminal defendants often plead their innocence. Thompson and his advocates state their case on social media. (Simply visit YouTube and enter "Daveon Thompson Saginaw" for the five-minute video.)

One factor is far less common. Thompson has faced not one, but two trials, in 2019 and more recently in March 2021, that both resulted in hung-jury mistrials. But does this mean he has been released from the Saginaw County Jail? No. He has entered his fourth year of imprisonment, facing a potential third trial, which would go beyond double jeopardy into triple jeopardy.

The following Michigan Banner questionnaire received responses from Darnell Jackson, Saginaw County Circuit Judge and Chief Judge; from John McColgan, Saginaw County prosecutor; from Terry Pruitt, Saginaw NAACP branch president; and from Eric Braddock, chairman of Saginaw Citizens for Equity and Justice.

The Banner encountered a lack of survey responses from Rodney O'Farrell, defense attorney for Daveon Thompson, despite multiple telephone and email inquiries during the final week of March.

A hung jury on March 10 resulted in a

mistrial for Thompson, a repeat of a 2019 scenario. He has been incarcerated at the Saginaw County Jail since January 2018, with no finding of guilt for any crime and no cash bond. He faces the possibility of a third trial on the same homicide charge.

Following are the survey results:

INCARCERATION VIEWPOINTS

(We suggested answers in the range of 150 words, but we informed our respondents that they could go longer if they felt a need. This explains the differences in word counts that you will see.)

Bryan Stevenson ("Just Mercy" book and movie) leads the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) which is among an array of groups in pursuit of prison reform. EJI declares criminal injustice "the civil rights issue of our time," Stevenson and his 83-member team (eji.org) make points that include the United States serving as home to 5 percent of the planet's people but 25 percent of those incarcerated; spending on prisons/jails skyrocketing to \$87 billion, 12 times multiplied from \$7.4 billion in 1972; and prison population (ethnic disproportions) up more than tenfold during the past half-century.

1. Do you see a need for prison reform, yes or no? Please explain.

▶ **JACKSON:** The words "prison re-

form" mean different things to different people. For some it may mean providing educational opportunities and practical life experience programs for incarcerated individuals in hopes of (a) altering their mindset or pre-disposition to committing crime, and/or (b) teaching them life skills so that once they are free they will be prepared to obtain and perform on a job outside of prison. These goals would replace the notion of simply warehousing individuals until they have served their designated sentence and are simply released back into society. And therefore such programs are essential to reducing recidivism rates. However, for me as judge, prison reform goes even beyond that concept. Prison reform in my opinion begins first and foremost with sentencing reform. In other words, I explore all other avenues at my disposal to help rehabilitate an individual even prior to them being sent to prison. I am of the belief that if I can provide most people with the opportunity to avoid prison, better themselves and become a contributing member of society, that they will rise to the occasion and take advantage of the break that I have given them.

▶ **MCCOLGAN:** Yes. We can't keep locking people up for all transgressions. Some people need to be incarcerated as they are not able to be rehabilitated, and/or commit a crime so egregious/heinous that there is no alternative. Some people just make a

CONTINUES ON PG 15, THREE TRIALS

Continued from pg 14, three trials

mistake. Some people are addicted to drugs which cloud their judgment and make them unable to conform their behavior. We have begun prison reform with our utilization of specialty courts. We have a Mental Health Court, a Drug Court, a Sobriety Court and a Veterans Court, all of which address the individual's underlying condition rather than just addressing their behavior.

▶ **PRUITT:** Yes. There is definitive need for more rehabilitation and educational programming available to inmates, even those who are sentenced to very long sentences. If the efforts are aimed at improving the skill level of individuals, there is a real opportunity for prisoners to spend time constructively employed to contribute products/services to society and enhance their self-worth.

▶ **BRADDOCK:** Yes. Prison Reform starts with our justice system and should ensure public safety. Those who are convicted should have access to programs that help with behavioral issues and job training and correct the policies that make it difficult for convicts to fit back into the community.

2. Should there be cash bail reform, yes or no? Please explain.

▶ **JACKSON:** There should be cash bail reform to a certain extent. For non-assaultive or minor misdemeanor and/or traffic offenses people should be afforded the opportunity to be released on their own personal recognizance with an understanding that when directed they will appear in court as required. At the same time, they should clearly expect that their failure to appear after being released will most likely result in them being incarcerated. The facts and circumstances surrounding each case will be different with the outcome determinative of what bond is set by a judge. People should not expect a "one size fits all" approach to cash bails nor any other part of the criminal justice system.

▶ **MCCOLGAN:** While this may be needed in some areas (of the nation), I don't believe it is needed here in Saginaw County. Our judges are and have always been very discerning in their setting of bond.

▶ **PRUITT:** Yes. Bail continues to have significant disparate impact on African-Americans and people from poor socio-economic status. The inability to secure reasonable bail adds an extra negative dimension to the penalties already confronting individuals. Further, it is extremely stressful for

other family members and adds to the economic fallout for many.

▶ **BRADDOCK:** Yes. The cash bonds system criminalizes the lower-class community. There are people who await trial who are unable to afford bail who have not been convicted and are legally innocent, who are detained for weeks, months and even years. Spending days in jail can result in someone losing their job, housing and even custody of their kids. Our goal in Saginaw County should be to reduce the overuse and the misuse of our jails, and begin with a presumption of release to prove the need for detention and limit qualifying offenses for detention to only serious offenses.

3. Should there be double jeopardy reform, yes or no? (Double jeopardy involves prosecuting a suspect two or more times after an initial attempt fails.) Please explain.

▶ **JACKSON:** I do not see a need for double jeopardy reform. The Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution contains what is known as the Double Jeopardy clause. This concept prevents a second prosecution for the same offense (same underlying facts) after acquittal or conviction. The procedure for invoking the concept becomes quite clear should someone be acquitted or convicted and then charged again with the same offense. Defense counsel for that individual would need to file a motion for dismissal in front of the presiding judge and if indeed the person is being charged with the same underlying offense the charge may be dismissed. However, double jeopardy is not to be confused with the notion of a hung jury. In a criminal case a verdict must be unanimous, meaning that all jurors either agree that the accused is guilty or that they are not guilty. When all jurors cannot agree on the defendant's guilt or innocence they are considered "hung", and the judge has no choice but to declare a mistrial and the case starts over. The significant difference between double jeopardy and a hung jury is that for one there is a final verdict and for the other one there is none.

▶ **MCCOLGAN:** No, I do not believe that there is anything that requires change in regard to the implementation of the Fifth Amendment. The amendment speaks for itself and case law has accurately borne out how it is supposed to be interpreted.

▶ **PRUITT:** No. Issues associated with

double jeopardy are rare. There needs to be strict adherence to this legal principle by forcing the hand of the prosecution so that they are not allowed to skirt the law by essentially retrying someone for the same crime by altering the charges the second or third time.

▶ **BRADDOCK:** Yes. No one should be tried twice for a crime for which he has been acquitted the first time.

4. After two murder hung-jury mistrials in Saginaw, should Daveon Thompson continue to be imprisoned into a fourth year without bail until a third trial, yes or no? Please explain.

▶ **JACKSON:** As the judge presiding over that case that is still pending it would not be proper for me to comment on the particulars of that case. However, what I will say is that a hung jury is not a verdict of acquittal or conviction. And so any person whose case ends in a mistrial due to a hung jury still faces the same charges that they faced when bond was originally set or denied. When a bond is set or denied in a particular case, the judge follows certain criteria to determine what is suitable given the applicable facts and circumstances. In most murder cases, due to the nature of the crime itself, a person is likely to be denied bond. The factors that existed when a person was denied bond still exist after a hung jury and mistrial are declared. So following the same applicable criteria, in most instances it would still be inappropriate to release a person charged with murder on bond, even after a hung jury.

▶ **MCCOLGAN:** I do not believe it would be appropriate for me to comment on this or any other pending case.

▶ **PRUITT:** No. He should be acquitted by the court after two mistrials or released on bond pending a third trial only if significant uncompromised evidence surfaces that would lead to an unquestionable conviction.

▶ **BRADDOCK:** I do believe a cash bond should be posted after two mistrials giving him the opportunity to be released. However, being a main suspect in a murder trial the judge may consider him a high-risk detainee and the judge may not want to take that risk releasing him on the streets. We need to understand the judge's decision and what it is based on.

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CREATIVE PERSPECTIVES

COLORS



By Brigitte Johnson

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!

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COURTESY PHOTO

FEMA to help pay funeral costs for COVID-19 related deaths

By MB STAFF

In early April, FEMA will begin providing financial assistance for funeral expenses incurred after Jan. 20, 2020 for deaths related to coronavirus (COVID-19) to help ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the pandemic. The policy was finalized today, and FEMA is now moving rapidly to implement this funeral assistance program nationwide.

To be eligible for COVID-19 funeral assistance, the policy states:

- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after Jan. 20, 2020 for a death attributed to COVID-19.
- If multiple individuals contributed toward funeral expenses, they should apply under a single application as applicant and co-applicant. FEMA will also consider documentation from other individuals not listed as the applicant and

co-applicant who may have incurred funeral expenses as part of the registration for the deceased individual.

- An applicant may apply for multiple deceased individuals.
- The COVID-19-related death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.
- This assistance is limited to a maximum financial amount of \$9,000 per funeral and a maximum of \$35,500 per application.
- Funeral assistance is intended to assist with expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation.

In the coming weeks, a dedicated 800 number will be established to help individuals who apply. In the meantime, potential applicants are encouraged to start gathering the following documentation:

- **An official death certificate** that attributes the death to COVID-19 and shows that the death occurred in the U.

S. The death certificate must indicate the death “may have been caused by” or “was likely the result of” COVID-19 or COVID-19 like symptoms. Similar phrases that indicate a high likelihood of COVID-19 are considered sufficient attribution.

- **Funeral expense documents** (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that include the applicant’s name, the deceased individual’s name, the amount of funeral expenses, and the dates the funeral expenses were incurred.
- **Proof of funds received from other sources** specifically for use toward funeral costs. Funeral assistance may not duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, federal/state/local/tribal/territorial government programs or agencies, or other sources.

More information regarding this assistance can be found at [fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov).

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CELEBRATING
WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

EXTENDED

ADRIENNE BROADDUS
CNN NEWS CORRESPONDENT**Passionate CNN correspondent with local ties**
BY CRAIG DOUGLAS, RETIRED EDUCATOR

“Anytime I am able to tell a story and help others, that’s impactful,” declares Adrienne Broaddus.

A relentless hard worker and achiever, Broaddus has covered local, state, and national stories that have been ground-breaking. These have included but not limited to the tragic deaths of George Floyd (2020), Philando Castile (2016), Michael Brown (2014), and pop star, Prince (2016).

Many of us saw her passionate report about a Michigan policeman filed with CNN on March 12th that aired locally on several outlets. Officer Amil Alwan, using his own money, helped the homeless in his home city of Kalamazoo. He did this on his own for nearly a year out of compassion and concern for several dozen people living on the streets. In the report Broaddus calls the twenty-one-year veteran officer as “going beyond the call of duty.”

Much like the police officer, Broaddus goes beyond the call of duty. Her career began out of Michigan State University when she transitioned to local stations WNEM TV 5 and FOX 66. I recall her interviewing me when I was Carrollton Public School Superintendent, and I found her to be accurate, fair, and compassionate. While her career has accelerated, these attributes remain.

The 37-year-old’s roots are from Bridgeport High School where she graduated in 2002 sending her off to East Lansing. She returned at WNEM TV 5 working first as an intern and then as a weekend anchor and reporter with the likes of anchors Sam Merrill & Katie O’Mara and reporters Brian Wood & Jay Brandow. Since those early days, Broaddus’ career has soared with strong stays in Indianapolis, Minneapolis/St. Paul, and now with CNN as a national correspondent based in Chicago.

Adrienne’s list of honors is long and illustrious:

- Upper Midwest Regional Emmy Award winner
- National Association of Black Journalists Salute for Excellence winner for long-form feature reporting
- TEGNA Individual Diversity Award winner
- National Association of Black Journalists Salute for Excellence winner for general assignment report
- Upper Midwest Regional Emmy Nominee for Best News Anchor
- Upper Midwest Regional Emmy Nominee for Best Health Report and Solo Video Journalism
- National Association of Black Journalists Salute for Excellence winner for general assignment and short-form feature reporting
- Media Makes a difference recipient (MADD)
- RTDNA Kaleidoscope Award winner
- Society of Professional Journalists Page One Award recipient for Hard News
- NABJ Salute to Excellence finalist for short-form feature reporting
- Upper Midwest Regional Emmy Winner for Weekend Newscast: Missing Boy Found
- Upper Midwest Regional Emmy Nominee for Best Health Report
- NABJ/Gannett Foundation Al Neuharth award recipient
- NPPA Solo Video journalist of the year finalist
- Midwest Broadcast Journalists Association Eric Sevareid Award recipient
- Society of Professional Journalists Page One Award recipient for Health Reporting
- Life Source Media Partner of the year for organ transplant coverage

When I asked Ms. Broaddus what advice she would offer to young people today, her response was crisp: “Find your passion!” Furthermore, Adrienne urges young people to “invest in yourself,” just as her father has frequently told her to do. Citing journalism as an evolving profession, connecting with mentors and taking advantage of online virtual conferences are great options for today’s students.

Adrienne is nearly finished with her Master’s Degree (Ball State), a credential she plans to use to teach one day. Broaddus knows the power of telling a story in depth and she strives “to help people see the invisible.”

When asked what she misses from our region she revealed “homemade tacos” and Big Johns Steak & Onion sandwiches. Thankfully, she remembers us; we certainly remember her, as well. Adrienne Broaddus makes us proud!

Resources:

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/us/2021/03/12/amil-alwan-michigan-officer-help-homeless-broaddus-newday-vpx.cnn>
<https://oneworldinformation.com/adrienne-broaddus/>



MICHIGAN BANNER
SERMONETTE SERIES

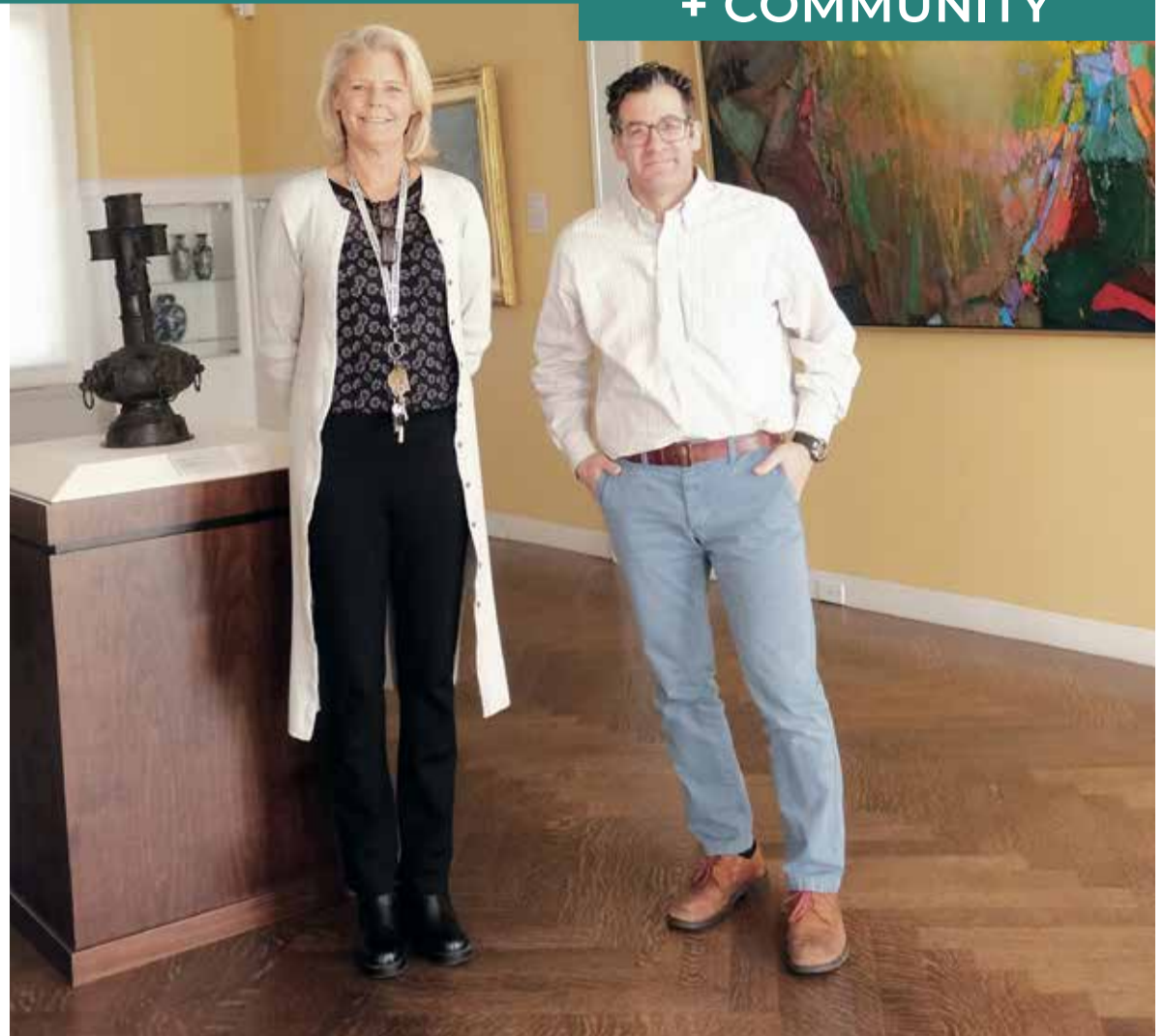
Spiritual alertness



By **PASTOR RODRICK A. SMITH**
ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH

For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27).

Spiritual alertness within a congregation is of the utmost importance, especially among the ranks of those in leadership. Many churches have become open and accepting to various kinds of false teaching, and fail to see the damage that is being done to the household of faith. Spiritual discernment seems to have been buried with the sages and elders of yesteryear. There have always been external and internal forces at work for the purpose of misleading the disciples of Christ. Therefore, the apostle Paul admonishes us to be spiritually alert and discerning when it comes to external and internal threats against the Lord's church. The churches would benefit greatly if pastors wouldn't avoid declaring to them the whole counsel of God. There are numerous words that have been removed from the vocabularies of Christian preachers, teachers, and leaders. Many have become too concerned about seeker-sensitivity and not offending anyone. As a result, the whole counsel of God is exchanged for something more positive and entertaining. Church attendees have become accustomed to a weekly dose of a cross-less and Christ-less gospel. Whatever needs to be done in and through the church is done by God's people, through God's Word and God's Spirit. If these can't do it, it can't be done.



COURTESY PHOTO

Growing together

By **JOAN DOUGLAS**

*"The best place to find God is in a garden. You can dig for him there."
- George Bernard Shaw*

The Saginaw Art Museum, under the direction of Thor Rasmussen, Marketing & Creativity Manager, has opened its doors to welcome Emmaus guests. Recently, they were given a guided tour and especially enjoyed the Wonderfully Made, Anthony and Davida Artis Collection. Emmaus guest, Takila, was struck by a portrait of a black woman whose caption reads: "Women are not seeking your validation." Takila shared that, "Throughout my life, I feel that I have always been seeking approval. Looking at this piece gave me a feeling of freedom."

In turn, our guests will begin volunteer work to spruce and garden the museum grounds beginning April 24.

Emmaus House is a transitional

home for women who have left jail, prison, or rehabilitation. Their stay at Emmaus varies; they are welcome to remain with us as long as they need our support, until they believe they are ready to live and work independently.

A recently published work, *Sister Marietta, Saginaw's Saint*, details the creation and history of the program to its current status. To order a copy, call 989 755-7238 or order online at emmaushousesaginaw.com/donations.

"We appreciate cultivating positive relationships in our community, and the Museum is providing our guests a special benefit to view the works of art and know they will be contributing to their beauty." - Donna Clarke, Executive Director, Emmaus House

The Museum is open Wednesday through Friday from 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. New exhibitions will continue throughout the spring and summer seasons; for more information, call 989 754-2491.

JULIAN MORRIS

SWAG MAGAZINE

S.W.A.G. Magazine (Students With a Gift) is a digital magazine for teens written by teens. It not only focuses on teens and young adults in the entertainment world and the hottest trends, but it also focuses on the health and wellness of teens, financial literacy, money management tips and college tips.

-  THESWAGMAGAZINE
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I'M JUST THINKING.....

By PASTOR HURLEY J. COLEMAN, JR., WORLD OUTREACH CAMPUS CHURCH

The *truth* of AMERICAN *Violence*

A recent national news article spoke to the “uniquely American issue of mass killings”, and it hit me hard. In other countries, mass violence is a product of wars, revolutions, and actions primarily by military actions, supported by some governmental entity. Only in America is the horror inflicted by individuals, often on helpless, unsuspecting, defenseless individuals. I realized that this is uniquely American, because America has a violent history and culture.

This truth is difficult for many people to accept, but it is a necessary step if we as a country are ever to deal with it. I am challenged because of the most recent episodes of mass murder. During a month when we were supposed to be recognizing the wonder of womanhood, there was a mass murder of women. In a time when we are supposed to be moving toward opening up society and returning to public interactions, there was a mass murder of random people in a grocery store.

We cannot ignore the fact that when there is so much conversation about immigration and “America First”, focusing on the realities of racial and social separation and hatred, we see pronounced racial animosity against our Asian American Indian Pacific population, as well as the continued institutional efforts against

African American, Indigenous, and Latina populations.

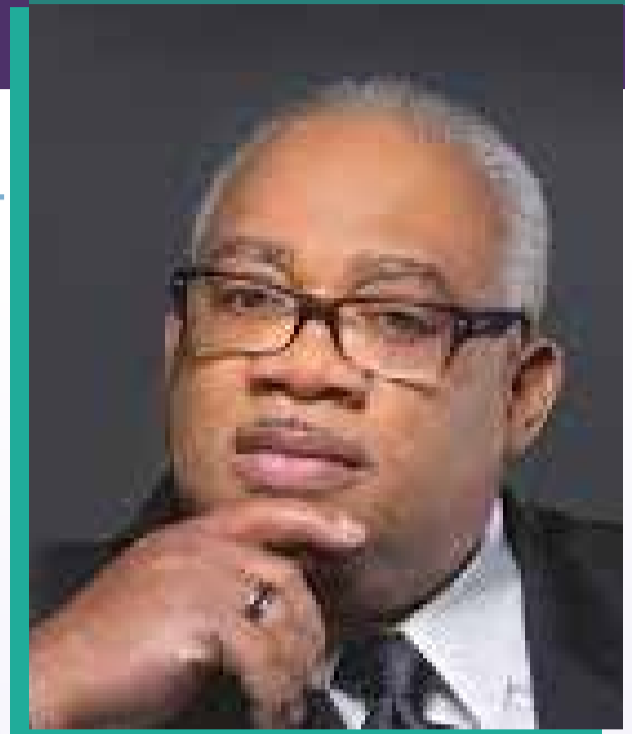
We also have to recognize the violence that is not physical in nature, but political as well. This is reflected in the brazen attack against the constitutional process of the elections, and also newly signed legislation to limit voter freedoms. This is taking place in plain sight, while we are reeling from the inequities that allowed a pandemic to wreak havoc on populations that were weakened, and exposed by deficient services and support.

There is a verse in the bible that speaks to a moment like this. It is recorded in the New International Version of the Holy Bible, which says, *“From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it.”* (St. Matthew 11:12)

I ask for some liberty to attach this scripture verse to this conversation. I paraphrase, *“From the beginning of this country, people have been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it.”* I don’t believe that this license is inappropriate as we look at the history of this country and its vigilant protection of the right to bear arms, to procure personal safety at all costs, and the aggressive violence against others.

As an African American, I am challenged by those who want me to forget and forgive the history of slavery and all of its abuses, and the institutional efforts to maintain that racial pressure that is evident even today. I am sensitive to the awakening that many are having to this reality as a result of the very visible attacks, including the attacks against those of the AAIP community.

It is not just racial violence. It is political violence. It is emotional violence.



It is social violence. What is most disturbing about this is the tacit approval and endorsement by silence of so many who see it, but will not respond or publicly react to it. My heart is overwhelmed because of the mounting list of casualties that are occurring as a result of this violence. Individuals in nursing homes who are under served by the health environment, children who grow up in communities that are deserts for fresh nutritional food and adequate health care, communities that are bereft of services that would be considered critical in other communities are casualties of this violence.

I am not talking about third world countries, or foreign lands. I am talking about America. I am talking about Michigan. I am talking about Saginaw. I am talking about us, and I am talking about now. *“From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it.”* (St. Matthew 11:12)

I am just thinking.....



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CELEBRATING
WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

EXTENDED

RENEÉ JOHNSTON
CEO, SAGINAW COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**SCF leader comes from an unlikely background**

BY MIKE THOMPSON

Plenty of people asked Renee Johnston what was happening 17 years ago, when she departed a promising career at Delphi, now Nexteer, to take the helm at the non-profit Saginaw Community Foundation.

Including her mother, on the same day as her job interview.

Including herself.

All she knew was that she was beginning to feel motivated for a career change, and the unexpected opportunity for change caused a light to shine.

"I had never studied anything about philanthropy, but I always had an interest in giving back," Johnston recalls. "I was also active in the Junior League, and it was the Junior League that started the Saginaw Community Foundation. And so I applied, but little did I know it would come to fruition.

"I was surprised (by the turn of events), but I don't have any regrets."

Another proving point was her religious faith.

Parents John and Lynne George sent her to St. Paul Lutheran School and then to Michigan Lutheran Seminary, walking distance from the family home near Court Street. Her education continued at Alma College, Class of 1992, and then with her degree from Valparaiso School of Law.

Her attorney credentials occasionally come in handy at SCF, but they in no way are essential.

"I didn't know about what the plan was," Renee reflects, "but I've always believed that the plan was given to me."

The Saginaw Community Foundation was formed in 1984, during a time when such groups were sweeping the nation. In addition to advising smaller non-profits and promoting teamwork among them, community foundations serve as a trusted source for individuals and families to receive how-to guidance and advice for charitable giving.

"Anyone can be a philanthropist," Johnston asserts.

SCF has assembled more than \$86 million in assets, with interest income to help support more than 300 charitable funds and 150 academic scholarships.

Johnston oversees eight paid staff; Volunteers comprise a governing board and serve in dozens of other functions.

But it's not all about money. Renee speaks of general response to the covid epidemic.

"I remember awakening on March 13, the Friday when the governor first announced schools would be closing," she says. "By the following Monday, teams were addressing the needs of feeding school children, education, day care, covid testing, senior citizens, transportation, a whole list of concerns. We showed that we can come together, that the village can come together."

Renee's two children with her husband, Mark Johnston, are Bella, 14, and Nicholas, 12.



+ COMMUNITY



DIANE KEENAN

East Side Soup Kitchen has new leadership

By MB STAFF

Diane Keenan is now the new Executive Director of the East Side Soup Kitchen. Diane has years of experience in the non-profit field and previously served as a volunteer and member of the Board of Directors at the East Side Soup Kitchen. Most recently, Diane served as the board president for 2020 and played a pivotal role in ensuring that the

Soup Kitchen would continue to serve its guests in a safe manner through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to her retirement, Diane was the Director of Operations for the Boys & Girls Club of Saginaw County. Diane holds a

Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Development and a Master's Degree in Organizational Management from Spring Arbor University. Keenan had a long-time involvement with Family Youth Initiative, was a Certified Prevention Specialist through the State of Michigan and is a graduate of Leadership Saginaw County.

The ESSK provides a valuable resource to the Saginaw Community because of the dedication, compassion and commitment that its staff and volunteers have in serving its guests. Diane states that her favorite part of the job is the interaction with guests, and on any given day you will find her outdoors doing just that.

The East Side Soup Kitchen has re-

cently partnered with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan and Hidden Harvest to provide monthly food distributions. Keenan strives to work with other agencies in this war against food insecurity and notes that the need for food assistance is great throughout Saginaw County. She states that guests are coming from Chesaning, Burt, Hemlock, Freeland, St. Charles, Saginaw Township, as well as the City of Saginaw.

Diane looks forward to working with the staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors to grow the East Side Soup Kitchen in a positive and impactful manner for the hundreds of guests that regularly visit the Soup Kitchen.

+ COMMUNITY

CELEBRATING
WOMEN'S
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MARY WYNN
SINGER/SONGWRITER

Mary Ann Wynn is a native of Saginaw, Michigan and currently lives in the Detroit Metro Area. Music has been a major part of her life since the age of nine. While growing up, she began to play, direct, and sing in various choirs. Following high school, she enrolled in Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, after receiving a full tuition talent scholarship. Mary earned a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Music Education and later received a Master's degree in Education Administration. Mary taught in DPS Schools for 5 years and has continued to teach Vocal Music for Southfield Public Schools for the last 20 years. She had the pleasure of serving as minister of music for Scott Memorial UMC from 1997-2018. She also served as a member of the Dorinda Clark-Cole Singers & Musicians Choir.

In May 2004, her debut project, "Take One Look," was released. With this project, she introduced herself to the world as she was inspired by God to write six of the songs. Mary completed her sophomore project entitled "Reflections", in a live recording, May 2008. This project shared her personal experiences and was a great encouragement to others. It was certainly a genuine and clear reflection of Mary.

We had the pleasure of witnessing the live recording of Mary's third CD project entitled "I'm Ready"-(prepared for a purpose, available for service, action, or progress) in 2012. Mary completed her 4th CD Project and she did it on her own terms with her 1st studio project since 2004. Her new hit single "Great Things" was released Feb. 9, 2016, on every digital music outlet including iTunes, Spotify, and Google Play. Her heartfelt vocals, thought provoking lyrics, developed songwriting skills, and overall delivery are clearly displayed in her new CD project entitled "More" which was released May 2016. Her CD release party was quite a success, held @the Jazz Café of the Music Hall in Detroit, MI.

The growth in Mary's music ministry is apparent. Mary has been fortunate to travel and minister in song in many Gospel events such as, "The Bobby Jones Gospel Retreat" in Las Vegas, Nevada and the "Gospel Super Fest" in Atlanta and Cincinnati. She also had the privilege of opening for Ce Ce Winans in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and Shirley Caesar in Saginaw, Michigan. Mary also ministered in song at the Gospel Music Workshop of America (GMWA) National Convention in Florida and Ohio. She has also appeared on many television programs such as, "Dorinda", "I'm Just Saying", and numerous revivals on TCT, The Gospel Superfest Show on the Gospel Music Channel, "Rejoice in the Word" w/ Greg Davis on The Word Network as well as others. She also had the honor of winning the New Artist Showcase Best Soloist Award from the Dorinda Clark-Cole Singers & Musicians Conference 2005 and she was the 1st recipient of the Gospel Superfest Horizon Award in 2010. She also received a Gospel Independent Artist Award from S.W.A.G. Spot Radio Awards on Oct. 18, 2014. She was the spotlight artist for Detroit Gospel & Rhythm & Praise w/ Dr. Deborah Smith Pollard and she sang for the 3rd time at the Gospel Superfest in Baltimore, MD on May 14, 2016.

September 2019, Mary ministered in song on the Atlanta Live Television Show In Atlanta, Ga. In November, she is traveling to Tennessee to minister in song for Bishop Alfred's 13th Pastoral Anniversary. God has set aside this time for Mary to reset, focus on her music ministry, and go where he leads her. In the near future, Mary will have a concert including the students she has taught over the last 22yrs. Mary is driven by her love for the Lord and she is thankful for his grace and mercy. Her testimony will always be "To God be the glory for the things he has done!"



+ COMMUNITY



REV. DR. JAMES PERKINS

Baptist Council of Detroit & Vicinity Stands With Asian-Americans and All Minorities to Stop Racism and Violence

By MB STAFF

The Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit & Vicinity, Inc. (Council) joins all persons of empathy and goodwill in extending our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the families of the Asian Americans who were senselessly murdered in Atlanta, GA on Tues., March 23, 2021. These vile and vicious acts of violence are yet another example of how domestic terrorism is spreading across our land.

Since the inception of the pandemic and prominent voices began to refer to it as the “China virus” and “Kung flu,” violence against the Asian-American Community has escalated. Recent statements made from Majority State Senator Mike Shirkey and others without apology have not helped but have actually inflamed this matter. From March 2020 to March 2021, hate crimes against the Asian-American

Community have increased 150%. Over 3,000 incidents of violence against Asian-Americans have been recorded. There is a concern that law enforcement has been slow to investigate these crimes.

All of this fits into the larger picture of terrorist attacks against minority communities; attacks fueled by racism, nationalism and white supremacy. The Council believes that left unchecked, these acts of violence will only further divide us as a nation and destroy our attempt to build a democracy where there is “liberty and justice for all.”

We call on our national and state leaders to refrain from fanning the flames of these terrorist acts, to condemn these actions of hate in the harshest terms, and push to prosecute those who commit such violent crimes to the fullest extent of the law.

We urge all persons of goodwill to

join us in praying for the soul of our nation. Hearts need to be changed. Laws can’t change a heart, but God can. May God bless, protect and prosper our Asian-American sisters and brothers. May God bless, protect and prosper us all, and grant us peace.

“We must stand up and vehemently denounce the hateful, visceral, and deadly actions that senseless took the lives of our Asian-American sisters,” said Rev. Dr. James Perkins, Council Chairman, Social Justice Commission. “We call for justice in this case and any other racially motivated crime against Asian Americans and other people of color.”

For more information about the Council, visit the website, call or email Rev. Dr. Perkins at jperk48214@sbcglobal.net or Rev. Dr. Bland at pastorsexecassistant@libertytbc.org.

CELEBRATING
WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

EXTENDED

VALERIE KING
COSMETOLOGIST**Cosmetologist owns
her own employment**

BY MIKE THOMPSON

As a young mother, Valerie King was taking care of her family by working in the pharmacy at the old Davis Drugs store, at the corner of Genesee and Cherry.

Then she visited a friend who appeared to be taking in some decent money from "doing hair," and she thought to herself, "I can do that too."

She was successful with her own first customers and expanded her horizons. She enrolled in beauty school classes.

Finally, in 1995, Valerie was ready to start on her own. She opened Illusions Beauty Salon, first in Bay Road's Garden Mall near the city limit, and finally in her main spot in a former union hall at 1400 West Genesee, where she flourished through 2019 as a teammate with Wonderland Beauty Supply.

"I'm the type of person who can look at something, sort things out, and then duplicate it myself," she explains, looking back at how she became an expert professional in hair care.

"To be honest, I started out for my family. But it became my passion."

Indeed, the feelings were so strong that her two younger daughters, Derricka and Tineesha, didn't wait until midlife to follow her footsteps. They moved to Dallas almost immediately after they finished high school and opened their own salon, D'Hawkins, in honor of their deceased father, Derrick Hawkins. The eldest daughter, Latrice, also is in Dallas, but she's into real estate.

The former Valerie McDuffie graduated from Saginaw High School, Class of 1974, and started classes at Delta College to become a nurse. She dropped out because she learned she didn't like that type of work. Therefore, she encouraged today's young people to learn more info in advance before choosing a field of study.

In Val's case, it was styling hair.

"I still dabble in it, even after retiring," she says. "I'm still working a couple of days per week."



+ COMMUNITY

Girl Scouts and St. Julian Wine partner for virtual fundraising event

By MB STAFF

SAGINAW, MI — Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan (GSHOM) is excited to announce the virtual Wine & Girl Scout Cookie Pairing event fundraiser, with St. Julian Winery on April 22.

Wine and Girl Scout Cookie lovers rejoice! Your favorite St. Julian Wine and Girl Scout Cookies are now available together! Participants can join the virtual event as St. Julian Winery Wine Consultants present curated wine and Girl Scout

Cookie pairings. Take part in the tasting experience with pairing kits delivered right to your doorstep. Kit options include sweet or dry wine, expertly paired to complement the included Girl Scout Cookie favorites, like Thin Mints and Samoas. Kits can be purchased from St. Julian Tasting Room locations or online: <https://www.stjulian.com/girl-scout-cookie-pairing>.

Along with the event, Girl Scouts of Heart of Michigan will be hosting an online auction April 19 through 25, with exciting items, including an East African Safari donated by Kalamazoo Safari Com-

pany, overnight getaways, local restaurant certificates, and much more. Proceeds will support moving the Girl Scout mission forward, girl by girl.

Girls need Girl Scouts now more than ever. Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan is making sure all girls have access to programming that allows them to make new friends, gain confidence, and become leaders. Every dollar raised stays right here in our communities, bringing Girl Scouting to 34 counties in Michigan.

For more information, visit gshom.org/special-events.

Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra hosting virtual culinary concert



By MB STAFF

SAGINAW, MI — The Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra today announced Culinary Concert - Music You Can Taste.

Chef Scott Kelly will join you virtually in your kitchen and assist you in cooking a three-course dinner for two, while you are entertained by the sounds of the Voortex Jazz/Blues Band, featuring “Papa Kiszka”

Dad to rock band Greta Van Fleet and Saginaw Blues Legend Larry McCray, hosted by TV5’s Collette Stinger.

The dinner package will be hand-delivered to your door. Then cook, sip, and listen live at 6:30 PM on Friday, April 23rd, 2021. The \$125 Dinner for Two Package includes the recipe and ingredients for an appetizer, main course, dessert, and a bottle of wine, the recipe for a signature cocktail, a signature wine bag with corkscrew, virtual step-by-step instructions with Chef Scott Kelly, and the virtual concert with the Voortex Jazz/Blues Band featuring “Papa Kiszka” and Saginaw Blues Legend Larry McCray.

If you are outside of the delivery area or can’t make the event date, a secondary package for \$50 is available that includes the recipe for all menu items, a shopping list, a signature wine bag and corkscrew, virtual step-by-step cooking instructions with Chef Scott Kelly, and the virtual concert.

All proceeds directly support the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra’s operation costs. Ten percent of the proceeds will be directed to the East Side Soup Kitchen of Saginaw, MI.

+ COMMUNITY

CELEBRATING
WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

EXTENDED



KISHA SMITH

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR, SEDC

Kisha Smith is the Economic Development Coordinator for the City of Saginaw's Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) housed in City Hall.

Kisha Smith is a Saginaw native graduate of Saginaw High School. She has a B.A. in Business Administration from Northwood University and a Masters in Public Administration from Strayer University.

She counts it an honor and a privilege to work for the City of Saginaw, and wants to give back to the City through her experiences and community involvements to help enhance the economic growth within the area.

Kisha works with businesses within the city limits to provide commercial lending through the Saginaw Economic Development Corporation for low-to-moderate income individuals. Her goal is to establish and attract new business services; retain and expand businesses currently located in the city; and to create permanent jobs and retain existing jobs in our city.



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DR. DEBORAH HUNTLEY
SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY**Educational Leader at Saginaw Valley State University**

BY CRAIG DOUGLAS, RETIRED EDUCATOR



It was my privilege to work under the leadership of Dr. Deborah (Deb) Huntley for three years when I served as Dean of the College of Education at Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU), during 2015-2018. Deb worked to form collaborations with all employees and students regardless of status or longevity. Two examples of this come to mind.

First, for me in my role as Dean, I was quite inexperienced in higher education. Having served in education nearly four decades, almost all of my experience was in K – 12 Michigan schools. As a Dean I was faced with a daunting challenge: Accreditation in the College of Education was up for renewal in 2016, my first year. All of this was very new to me, and the stakes were high; accreditation is an essential credential for the College of Education.

Dr. Huntley had faith in my and in the College of Education. We met frequently, and she offered insight into considerations we should be making in meeting accreditation requirements. Items included roles that needed to be fulfilled and contents to be included in the volumes of documentation to be submitted.

We exceeded expectations and came through with good reports. This would not have happened without Dr. Huntley's patience, support, and wisdom.

Soon I understood more about the context of how this happened. Dr. Huntley is a proven leader with an unparalleled track record in academics. After earning her doctorate at Cornell University, Deb worked as a research Chemist for 14 years at Oak Ridge National Research Laboratory in Tennessee. She arrived at SVSU in 1998 and quickly assumed leadership roles while authoring or co-authoring 35 research articles in her field. In 2014 Dr. Huntley was appointed Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. Among her accomplishments (including guiding the College of Education through accreditation with me as a 'rookie' Dean) are noted strides in STEM (science technology engineering & math) at SVSU under her guidance. They include but are not limited to securing grants from both Dow Corning and Dow Chemical Company and bringing Robotics to campus.

A second example of Dr. Huntley's collaborative approach lies in her relationships with students. Multiple times I witnessed this first hand. We might be in line for food at an event or in the marketplace, and Deb would reach out to a student she knows. Her inquiries are genuine and specific, such as "how did your exam go." Once our niece was in a serious traffic accident that totaled her car; Deb called me for her number to call her to make sure she was okay.

The close relationships with students are not often seen with such frequency and depth. Collaborations are not always the norm in the "real worlds" of education, business, or government. The work of Dr. Huntley is a treasure to SVSU and to the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Consider this: Deb's specialty is in what is called, "surface chemistry, especially mechanisms of catalytic reactions." Based upon my experience working for her, I would add to her specialty, "working in close collaboration with others."

Resources:<https://appsc.svsu.edu/lookup/bio/huntley>https://summitsearchsolutions.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SVSU_Dean_College_of_Health_and_Human_Svcs_Profile.pdf

Beauty of Life

BY DONIQUA SOVIA

When I look at life, I see; joy in a child and peace in the breeze. The chirping of the birds, the height of the mountains, the bustling of people, and the slow flow of the rivers. That's Life. That's Beauty.

When I smell the scent of fresh baked bread, and when a movie makes a million ideas come to my head. When the stars sparkle, lighting the sky that was once dim, and when my dog greets me home like a good loyal friend. That's Life. That's Beauty.

When in wonder I gaze at the snow, and when in fascination I intriguingly watch the flash of lightening out my window. How in splendor the leaves show their bright colors fiercely, or in pure innocence a baby smiles at me. That's Life. That's Beauty.

Dipped in white, and striped in red, with a splash of blue, and stars thrown in, when I look at the flag and all it represents; When I visit the cemetery where they've been laid to rest. As I stand in the water and feel the gentle nudge of the waves, and heat of the sun's eye blinding rays. That's Beauty. That's Life.

When I see all the colors of the rainbow, I'm reminded of the promise, when I hear the heartbeat of the unborn, I get tremendously ecstatic, because; That's Beauty. That's Life.

Life is important, no matter the form, from the lightest, darkest, brownest, and even the unborn. So take a moment to indulge and you'll see life, you'll see beauty.

+ COMMUNITY



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Dr. Mike Rhodabarger



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+ COMMUNITY

CELEBRATING
WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

EXTENDED



CHERI HARDMON

ANCHORWOMAN, ABC 12

Cheri Hardmon is the weekend evening anchor for ABC 12 in Flint. She began her broadcasting career in Youngstown, Ohio where she worked at a sports reporter. After stops in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Connecticut, Cheri returned home to Michigan and ABC12, where she has worked for nearly 4 years. She is a graduate of Wayne State University with a BACHELOR of Arts in Media. She grew up in Belleville, about a half hour from Detroit.



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DANYELLE HILLMAN
EDUCATOR, MENTOR AND MUSICIAN

Danyelle Hillman, an educator, mentor and musician knew at a young age that she wanted to pursue her life as a music educator. Surrounded by great musicians, educators and community leaders throughout her childhood she made the decision to stay grounded in her hometown to pursue her passion. Born and raised in Saginaw, Michigan she has participated in many areas in the Fine Arts since the age of 5 yrs old such as ballet and modern dance, choir, band, theater and various competitions for piano. She received her Bachelor of Arts degrees in Music Education from Saginaw Valley State University and plans to graduate with her Master in Educational Leadership from Eastern Michigan University Summer of 2021.

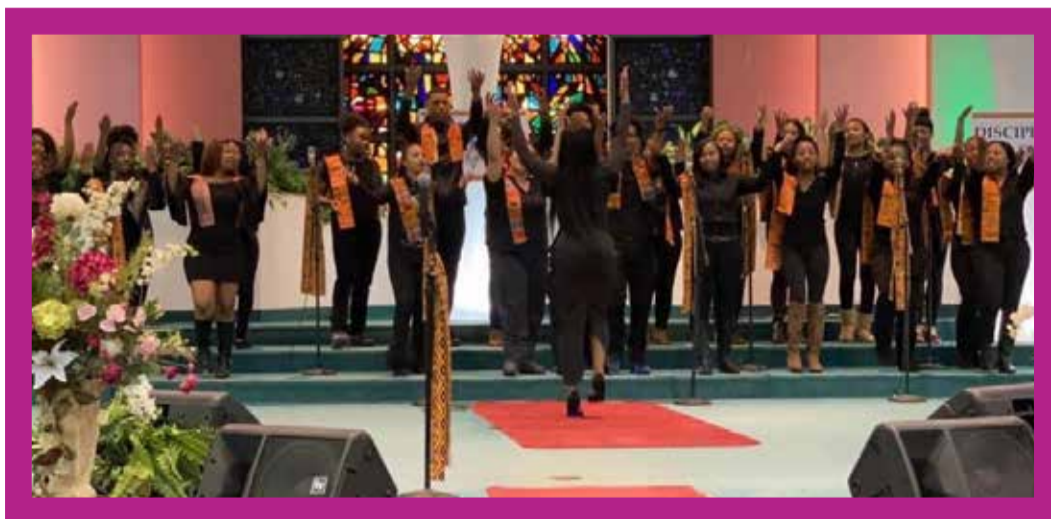
Mrs. Hillman is currently the Music Educator for Saginaw Public Schools where she is the choir director for Saginaw High and Willie Thompson Middle School. She works alongside her husband Dr. Willie Hillman in the music ministry for 15 years as the choir director at Word of Faith International Ministries (Saginaw, Mi). Mrs. Hillman believes those who lead in education have the opportunity to impact the youth in their community for a lifetime. She stands by her belief as she diligently works with youth outside the classroom through her affiliation in the community. She is a proud member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated (Gamma Psi Sigma Chapter), National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Incorporated (Gamma Kappa Chapter) and National Association for Music Educators. As well as a mentor for Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) Saginaw Chapter and Gamma Kappa Xinos Advisor.

Mrs. Hillman often says that music education is essential and beneficial to the school curriculum. Her

pedagogical approach to show students how to appreciate the diverse world in which they live and to understand how music easily influences and shapes our emotion, society and culture.

“A world of work, culture, intellectual activity, and human involvement. The future of our nation depends on providing our children with a complete education that includes music.”

- Unknown



CELEBRATING
WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

EXTENDED

WINNIE H. CRAWFORD

FORMER LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST

Winnie H. Crawford, former library media specialist continues a journey of service and learning. After retiring from Webber Middle School in 2008 Winnie relocated to Tupelo, MS for twelve years where she tutored students to strengthen their reading and writing skills.

Quilting and crafting consumed many of her free hours and Red Oak Missionary Baptist Church was my guiding connection for new friends and greater spiritual service.

Throughout her life, teamwork, service to others and respect for others have been factors she shared with my family, students and friends. It has been Winnie's goal to make contributions which enhanced others which in turn enrich their families and any organization they were a part of during their lives.

Her family now includes three grandsons. Lawrence Jr. and Krysta are proud and busy parents and Alan works hard as an attorney. Winnie and Lawrence Sr. spend their time traveling and finding new places to explore.



"It is my sincere hope that each student finds their true motivation in life. May it propel them to smile when they think of their families, their choice of careers and what they add to every life they touch. You may change course, but do not give up. YOUR LIFE MATTERS."



OUR BEST HOPE IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE.

See how to get yours.

The COVID-19 vaccine is proven to be safe and effective. It will save lives and help Michigan move forward. Protect us all, by getting your dose of hope.

Learn more at Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine or call the COVID-19 Hotline at (888) 535-6136 and press 1.



+ POLITICS



COURTESY PHOTO

Benson, nonpartisan groups denounce bills to roll back voting rights

By MB STAFF

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and the nonpartisan Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks, Michigan League of Women Voters and the Promote the Vote Coalition issued the following statements in response to the announcement of bills to roll back the voting rights of Michigan citizens:

Statement of Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson:

"Many of the bills in this package will make it harder for citizens to vote. Rather than introducing bills based on disproven lies and copied from other states, lawmakers should be codifying what worked in

2020. Michigan voters demonstrated they want our elections to be accessible in 2018 when they enshrined new voting rights in our state constitution, and again in 2020 when millions exercised those new rights. Everything we do should be based on protecting the right to vote, and too many of these bills would do the opposite."

Statement of Chris Swope, President of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks:

"This package of bills contains some of the most egregious voter suppression ideas Michigan has seen. With nearly 30 percent of Michiganders not participating, we need to focus on expanding ballot access, not attempts to disenfranchise certain voters."

Statement of Christina Schlitt, President of the League of Women Voters of Michigan:

"The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy and something that state lawmakers should be working to protect instead of attack. The bills that have been announced today are antithetical to fair elections and violate the clear will of Michigan voters who participated in record numbers in 2020."

Statement of Sharon Dolente, Promote the Vote Coalition:

"Record turnout isn't a reason to make it harder for some or impossible for others to vote. Michigan needs to look forward and continue creating a voting system that works for all of us."

+ POLITICS

COURTESY PHOTO

Henry Marsh Institute for Public Policy seeking 2021 cohorts

The Henry Marsh Institute for Public Policy is looking for those interested in discussions, activities and networking events themed around public policy, politics, and leadership at the local level for their 2021 cohort.

Applications are typically accepted from August 1 until September 31. This year, due to COVID restrictions, our cohort schedule is shifted to start in June, 2021.

The Henry Marsh Institute for Public Policy (HMIPP) was established in 2011 with the mission of educating citizens to be effective advocates and change agents in the Great Lakes Bay Region. Designed as a multi-partisan program, the HMIPP program recruits a diverse group of individuals from across the region.

The 10-month program incorporates the understandings of local political institutions, public policy analysis, campaigning, and effective governance. The cohort will be engaged in discussions about public policy, politics, and leadership at the local level.

Program Cost

\$350 per participant. The cost is inclusive to all materials needed for the program.

Time Commitment

The HMIPP cohort will meet once a month on Friday evenings. Our typical program starts in January, and will go through November, with June and July off. Due to the COVID pandemic we are operating on a shifted schedule for 2021-22. See 2021 HMIPP Cohort Schedule (263KB) for more detail. Classes are held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Saginaw Valley State University, as well as locations throughout the Great Lakes Bay region.

Included in the nine scheduled sessions is a session which will be in Lansing. Cohort members will be required to spend a day in Lansing, with expenses paid by the HMIPP. The day in Lansing will involve a combination of policy workshops and meetings with legislative leaders and staff.

Who Should Apply?

All citizens who have an interest with becoming involved as an elected or appointed official or policy advocate. It is not required for an applicant to be currently engaged in any political or public policy functions. HMIPP will help you explore the range of opportunities at the local government.

Program Curriculum

Each session will be administered by a member of the advisory board. Participants have the opportunity to listen and engage with community leaders, and participate in political or public policy discussions with fellow cohort members. A cohort member should expect to dedicate 10-hours per month to the program.

The program will:

- Provide insight about pursuing elected office, as well as appointment and employment in politics and public policy; and
- Engage in thoughtful discussion about political advocacy, and public policy; and
- Educate individuals about public policy issues specific to the Great Lakes Bay Region.
- Members will have the opportunity to attend social hours with the advisory board, guest speakers, and HMIPP alumni.

Included in the nine scheduled sessions is a session which will be in Lansing. Cohort members will be required to spend a day in Lansing, with expenses paid by the HMIPP. The day in Lansing will involve a combination of policy workshops and meetings with legislative leaders and staff.

The Henry Marsh Institute for Public Policy is administered by the Center for Community Engagement at Saginaw Valley State University with guidance from an advisory board.

To learn more and apply, visit www.svsu.edu/henrymarsh

+ HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

MDHHS ramps up testing at nursing homes, schools, airports, communities to slow spread of COVID-19

Lansing, Mi. – To help slow the spread of COVID-19 throughout Michigan, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is ramping up testing and urging Michiganders to continue mitigation practices that help slow the spread of the virus.

"Now is the time for us all to come together and do what's necessary to end this pandemic," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health. "We are making progress in the fight against the virus with more than 4 million doses administered and 2.6 million Michiganders having at least their first dose of the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine. It is important, now more than ever, that we double down on the things that work: wearing masks, social distancing, getting tested and making plans to get vaccinated as soon as possible."

The presence of more infectious variants, such as the B.1.1.7 variant, threatens the state's progress in controlling the pandemic and MDHHS continues to monitor the data closely.

"Our goal is to loosen restrictions while reducing public health risk which is why we move slowly to maintain progress and momentum with thoughtful public health measures," said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS

director. "We are also increasing testing in key populations to help identify cases more quickly, and help prevent additional spread of the virus."

As part of the state's efforts to help fight the virus and keep Michiganders healthy:

- More than 1.4 million antigen tests have been sent to long-term care facilities.
- More than 72,000 free tests have been conducted at neighborhood testing sites in socially vulnerable communities and continue to provide testing. To locate a testing site near you, visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirustest.
- Over 76,000 students, student-athletes and educators in K-12 schools have been tested in more than 500 school districts.
- Testing for student-athletes begins Friday, April 2. This testing program is vital to ensure school can remain open and students are able to be in the classroom.
- Free post-spring break testing pop up sites are planned for school districts in 34 communities.

Testing sites at Welcome Centers and Michigan airports are in the works for returning travelers.

As of Monday, April 5, all Michiganders age 16 and up who were not previously eligible will be eligible to receive a vaccine. This is based on the anticipated amount of vaccines becoming available to the state and President Biden's directive that all adults should be eligible by May 1. As providers are scheduling appointments, they should consider an individual's risk of exposure due to their employment and their vulnerability to severe disease in determining how to prioritize scheduling appointments. Vaccine providers with the capacity to vaccinate all individuals ages 16 years and older may do so at this time.

It is anticipated that it may still take several weeks beyond April 5 for everyone who wishes to receive a vaccine to have an appointment. Michiganders are encouraged to be patient as supplies and appointments continue to expand. Those who want the vaccine will be able to get the vaccine.

Those eligible to receive a vaccine should:

- Check the website of the local health department or hospital to find out their process or for registration forms; or
- Check additional vaccination sites, such as local pharmacies like Meijer, Rite Aid, Kroger, Walmart (Mid/Central and Northern MI) or Snyder Drugs (U.P. residents); or
- Residents who don't have access to the internet or who need assistance navigating the vaccine scheduling process can call the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136 (press 1), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. or can call 2-1-1.

Michigan residents seeking more information about the COVID-19 vaccine can visit Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine. Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

+ HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

Gov. Whitmer announces expansion of food assistance to many low-income students who are attending college

Lansing, Mi. – Michigan will expand eligibility for food assistance benefits on Thursday, April 1 so that college students struggling financially during the pandemic can get help buying food and stay in school, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced.

"College students should not have to choose between furthering their education and putting food on the table - especially during a pandemic," Gov. Whitmer said. "I am pleased that we are able to work with the Biden administration to help college students in Michigan who are working hard to pursue their dreams."

Under a temporary change approved by the federal government, college students may be eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits

if their families are estimated to be unable to contribute to their college costs or if their college or university considers them eligible for a federal or state work study program - regardless of whether they are enrolled in such a program. This could make approximately 200,000 more Michigan college students eligible.

Students are considered to have no family contribution to their college expenses if they have an estimated family contribution of \$0 on their federal student aid determination through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students also must attend college at least half-time and meet income and other requirements for food assistance. Prior to the change, college students would not be eligible for food assistance unless they were working 20 hours a week or meet cer-

tain exemptions.

"Many Michigan college students lost their jobs due to no fault of their own as a result of the pandemic," said MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel. "Expanding access to food and making it easier for our residents who are in need to apply for help are priorities of the department. Even before the pandemic, many students struggled to afford enough food while paying for college. These new changes will help students complete their education and reduce their food insecurity."

Expanded eligibility will last until 30 days after the expiration of the federal public health emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Benefits could be as much as \$234 per month for college students who buy and prepare their food alone.

Under the federal rules that are temporarily being set aside, college students ages 18-49 who are enrolled in college at least half time are not eligible for SNAP unless they meet certain exemptions, including working an average of 20 hours or more per week, participating in a state or federal work study program, having a disability, or being a parent of a child under age 6. Even if students live at home with parents who qualify for and receive food assistance, they are not counted in the household unless they meet one of the exemptions.

Eligible students will receive Bridge Cards, which are Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards that are similar to debit cards and can be used to buy food at stores, farmers markets and online from Amazon, Walmart and Aldi. A list of participating retailers is available on the retailer locator website.

To be eligible, students must have filed a FAFSA and have documentation of an estimated family contribution of \$0 on their federal student aid determination or eligibility for work study.

College students and others can determine if they are eligible and apply for food assistance at www.michigan.gov/MiBridges.

This is the second action taken by MDHHS during the pandemic to help college students buy food. Working with the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, MDHHS last year expanded food assistance eligibility to many college students enrolled in career and technical education programs.

THERE'S NOTHING MORE EXTRAORDINARY THAN A CARING COMMUNITY.

Thank you from everyone at Covenant HealthCare.

Covenant HealthCare prides itself on delivering extraordinary care. But lately, we've been on the receiving end. Our community has given us:

- 20,000 N95 masks
- 11,000+ handmade masks
- 10,750 face shields
- 10,000 ear loop/tie masks
- 50,000 gloves
- 2,000 pairs of goggles
- 312 gallons of sanitizer
- 5,000 caps and hair nets
- 4,100 shoe/boot covers
- Thousands of donated meals
- Thousands of dollars in gift cards and monetary donations
- Countless prayers and messages of encouragement

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



+ HEALTH

COVID-19 vaccine clinic starting at UAW Local 699 Hall in Saginaw

Saginaw, MI – Great Lakes Bay Health Centers is now scheduling COVID-19 vaccine appointments and providing them at the UAW Local 699 Hall at 1911 Bagley in Saginaw, by Wanigas Credit Union.

Anyone who wants to be vaccinated can register online with GLBHC, as we will soon be able to schedule appointments to expanded age groups. Visit www.GreatLakesBayHealthCenters.org to register. Staff will contact those registered to schedule appointments.

GLBHC is following vaccine distribution guidelines as set by the State of Michigan. Those registering do not have to be patients with the health centers. We are committed to delivering the COVID-19 vaccine to our communities as quickly and safely as possible. Please do not call about scheduling a vaccine appointment as these invitations are managed exclusively through the online registration process.

Getting the vaccine is only one of the tools to end this pandemic. Please continue to follow safety guidelines and wear your mask, avoid gatherings and stay 6 feet apart. Get tested if you have been exposed to someone with the virus.



COURTESY PHOTO



Once you get your dose of hope, mask up while others get theirs.

One day in the future, we won't need to wear masks. But for right now, we all need to keep wearing masks. Even after you get vaccinated. The virus is still out there. Help protect your friends, family and neighbors.

Learn more at Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine

Spread Hope
NOT COVID



+ EDUCATION

SVSU, MiSTEM Recognize, Reward 'STEM Stars'

By MB STAFF

Students in eight Michigan counties will see a boost to their STEM education thanks to the STEM Center at Saginaw Valley State University and the MiSTEM Network – East Central Michigan Region.

The two organizations recognized 26 K-12 educators as “STEM Stars,” honoring their hard work, dedication and contributions to education on science, technology, engineering and math. Each recipient received a \$250 award to benefit STEM education in his or her classroom or program, as well as a 3D-printed keepsake designed by Cardinal Solutions at SVSU and produced by the SVSU Independent Testing Laboratory. Award winners were selected from a pool of 49 nominees.

The 2021 STEM Stars represent schools in Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw counties. This is the second year SVSU and MiSTEM have recognized educators for their efforts. Nominations were reviewed by a selection committee.

“The variety of nominees stood out this year,” said Adrienne Cole, director of STEM@SVSU. “At all levels, educators are going above and beyond to deliver exceptional STEM experiences to their students, and they’ve been doing it throughout a pandemic.”

This year’s award recipients included teachers, administrators, instructional and IT specialists, and FIRST® Robotics and FIRST® LEGO® League coaches. They represented schools from each of the eight counties within the MiSTEM Network – East Central Michigan Region. The



STEM STAR AWARD

list of award recipients with portions of nominator comments is attached.

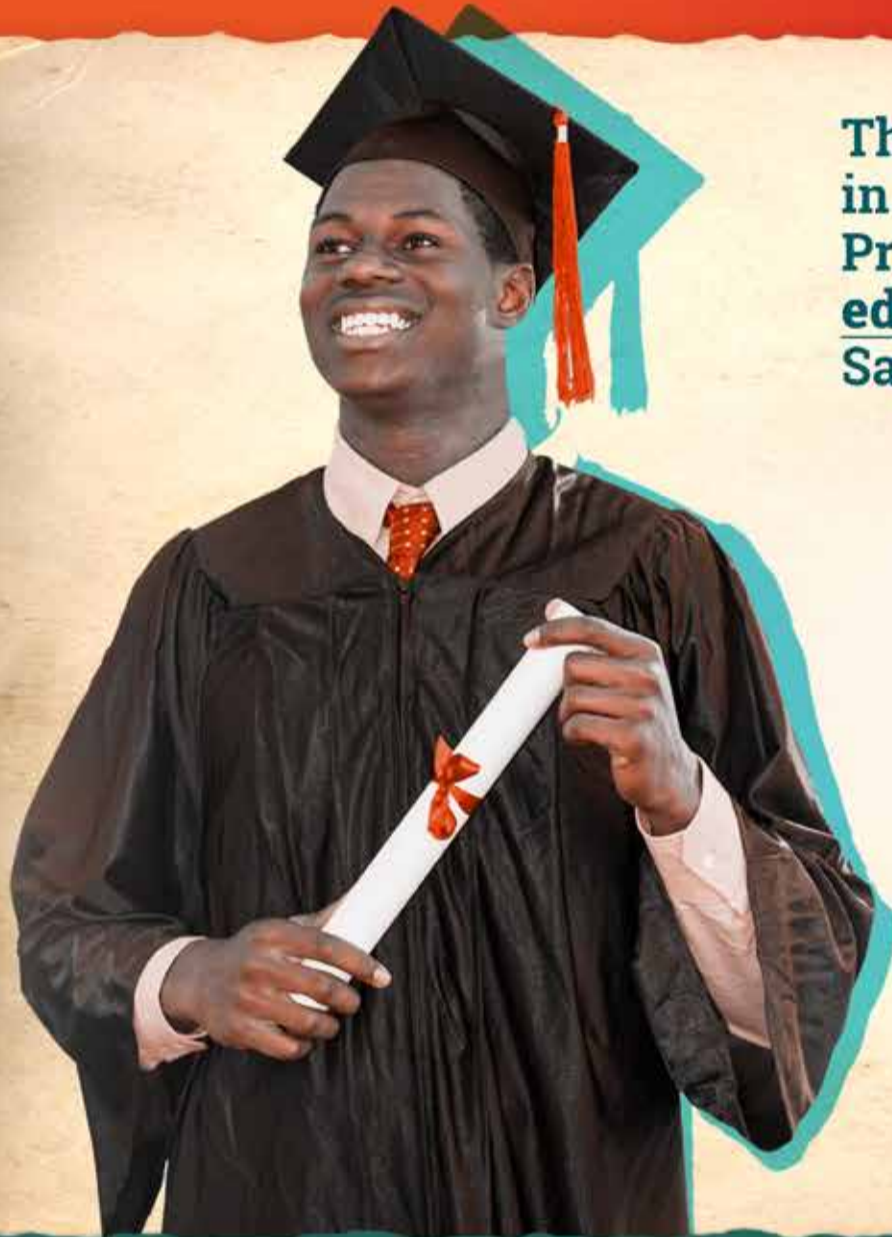
The MiSTEM Network is funded through a statewide grant and promotes the impact of STEM on economic development and education in the state. The purpose of STEM@SVSU is to develop a STEM talent pipeline to meet the current and future needs of the Great Lakes Bay Region by providing professional development for STEM teachers, engaging STEM professionals to enhance STEM learning and increasing experiential learning for students at all grade levels. For more information about SVSU’s STEM program, visit svsu.edu/stem or follow the program on Facebook and Instagram.

2021 STEM Stars Award Recipients:

- Rob Baker, physics and engineering teacher, Frankenmuth High School
- Carrie Carncross, STEM teacher, Farwell Elementary and Middle Schools
- Amalia Cirilo, STEM teacher, Saginaw Public Schools
- Ben Cooper, science teacher, Valley Lutheran High School
- Andrew Doerr, high school math teacher, Sacred Heart Academy
- Chad Donahue, science teacher, Gladwin High School
- Rebecca Field, teacher, Kolb Elementary School
- Darryl Greathouse, Garber Robotics team mentor, Garber High School, Cramer Junior High School
- Bruce Hadd, teacher and LEGO® League coach, Coleman Elementary School
- Mark Hellebuyck, chemistry teacher and Robotics coach, Bay City Central High School
- Amy Huff, teacher and Robotics coach, Meridian Early College High School
- Connie Kennedy, instructional support specialist, math and science focus, Bay City Public Schools
- Don Killingbeck, superintendent, Hemlock Public Schools
- Eric Marshall, teacher, Nouvel Catholic Central High School
- Misti Particka, STEM teacher, Handy Middle School
- Thomas Pashak, principal/teacher, alternative education, adult education, Clare Pioneer High School
- Richard Reece, IT specialist, Calvary Baptist Academy
- Emily Schmidt, STEAM teacher, K.C. Ling Elementary and Hemlock Elementary schools
- Molly Schoener, middle school science/tech teacher, St. Brigid Catholic School
- Joseph Trommater, science, data and special project consultant, Clare-Gladwin Regional Education Service Division
- Richard VanTol, Out of School Time Network leader and EC administrator, Bay Arenac Intermediate School District
- Gerald Wauldron, teacher, Bullock Creek Middle School
- Amy Weber, teacher, Fancher Elementary School
- Bethany Wolfgang, STEM/science teacher, Breckenridge Middle School
- Cory Woodard, teacher, Luce Road Early Childhood Learning Center



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- ▶ The Saginaw Promise scholarship is a "residence based" scholarship; a benefit for families who live in the Saginaw Promise Zone (which includes the cities of Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Kochville and that area of Buena Vista that is designated to the Saginaw Public School District).
- ▶ The Saginaw Promise scholarship is a scholarship for students who live in and graduate from a high school in the Saginaw Promise Zone.
- ▶ The class of 2021 will be the tenth class of scholars to receive the Saginaw Promise scholarship!

A promise made and a promise kept. Since 2012, the Saginaw Promise has awarded \$1,025,049 in scholarships to 590 scholars!

Join us...Make your investment in Saginaw and the Saginaw Promise today!
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+ EDUCATION

SISD awarded \$300,000 MI Tri-Share Child Care Program grant



By MB STAFF

The Michigan Women's Commission (MWC) awarded a \$300,000 grant to the Saginaw Intermediate School District on behalf of the Great Lakes Bay Region to act as one of three regions across the State of Michigan to pilot the MI Tri-Share Child Care Program. This program will assist qualifying employees, who work with participating regional employers, with child care expenses.

According to the MWC, which is located within the State of Michigan's Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, "The program is an innovative approach to increasing high-quality, affordable child care for working families." It removes one barrier for employment while reducing out-of-pocket expenses for employees, and helps employers with employee recruitment and retention. As advocates for expanded child care options, the MWC conducted a statewide survey on child care use which "Shows a majority of parents prefer to care for their children themselves or use family and friends for child care during the pandemic. When asked about post-pandemic care plans, nearly half of the respondents report a desire to send their kids outside the home to licensed

child care centers." Survey results indicating family needs, along with the desire to strengthen the talent pipeline for employers, were key factors for launching MI Tri-Share Child Care Program.

Mark Sanchez, Senior Writer for MiBiz, published an article Pilot Program to Address Growing Biz Challenge: Child Care that explains, "State support for people who meet income criteria, as well as the financial backing of their employers, can ease the cost issue for some parents who face a tough question of whether the cost — especially for families with multiple children — outweighs having a second income. That consideration is even harder for families who need two incomes to get by."

Through the program, child care expenses are shared by an employer, the employee, and the State of Michigan with each contributing up to one-third of the costs. For example, under this program, an employee paying \$9,000 in annual child care services will now pay \$3,000, the employer will cover \$3,000, and the State of Michigan will cover \$3,000. Participating employers within Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland, and Saginaw Counties will also receive a tax credit at the end of the year to mitigate

the employer's contributions.

Currently, four employers in the region have expressed interest in program participation - Vantage Plastics, Fullerton Tool, Forward Corporation, and The Design Company. The program is open to additional applicants from qualifying counties and it is anticipated that 70 to 80 employees from participating companies will be able to engage in the program. Participating employers must agree to identify and recruit eligible employees, provide the employer portion of each participating employee's child care costs, and maintain communication with the facilitator hub regarding each employee's continued employment and eligibility. Eligible employees must be employed by a participating employer and have an income above 150% and below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and not otherwise be eligible for the Child Development and Care Program (commonly called the child care subsidy). Designed for working families, eligibility is targeted at Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) families across the region.

Paul Aultman, an owner of multiple companies including Vantage Plastics, says, "Child care has always been an important issue within our workforce. Availability is tight and our 24-hour operation can cause scheduling issues for parents. The Tri-Share program brings a great opportunity to help employees and parents with many of these issues at an affordable cost. Vantage Plastics is happy to participate in this program."

Ericka Taylor, Ph.D., Executive Director of Early Childhood at Saginaw Intermediate School District stated, "This opportunity comes at a time where working parents may have had to give up their job to stay at home with their children due to the pandemic, which in turn has affected the number of qualified candidates employers are seeking to hire and retain. Hopefully, this program will help parents alleviate the burden of finding quality child care and provide financial relief to those who are still working." Dr. Taylor continued, "Our communities and employers will greatly benefit from this program, and this is attributed to all of the collaborative efforts

CONTINUES ON PG 47, SISD

Continued from pg 46, SISD

of the Great Lakes Bay Business Advisory Council for Early Childhood that pooled resources and worked together to make this possible.”

The Great Lakes Business Advisory Council for Early Childhood recruits and partners with employers, partners with child care providers, assists eligible employees with finding available child care openings, and remains responsible for program administration. The advisory council, sponsored by Consumers Energy and the Saginaw Community Foundation, is a consortium of regional Great Start Collaboratives, businesses, community leaders, and philanthropic members which includes representation from education, nonprofit, business, government, and health industries. Educational agencies are the foundation of the council and include Bay-Arenac ISD, Clare-Gladwin RESA, Gratiot-Isabella RESD, Midland County ESA, Saginaw ISD, and each of their Great Start Collaborative programs, including support from the Great Start to Quality Eastern Resource Center team. The Saginaw ISD will serve as the fiduciary and regional facilitator hub for the awarded Tri-Share Child Care Program Grant.

Rich VanTol, Director of Great Start Collaborative at Bay-Arenac ISD, commented, “The Great Lakes Bay Early Childhood Business Advisory prioritizes regional community and economic development, focusing on cradle-to-career talent development while supporting businesses and their employees. We work in cooperation with local businesses and human resources departments to identify employee challenges and offer solutions for building better work-life-family balances.” Mr. VanTol added, “By increasing engagement with the business community, we can effectively demonstrate the value of assisting employees with finding access to high-quality child care providers, other early childhood programs, and assisting with child care costs.”

The Tri-Share Child Care Program began grant facilitated operations on March 15, 2021, and is operational through March 15, 2022; however, the State of Michigan anticipates that the success of the pilot programs will drive future program extension and expansion into other communities in Michigan. The three regional facilitator hubs chosen for the Tri-Share pilot are: Goodwill Industries of West Michigan, serving Muskegon County; Saginaw Intermediate School District, serving the Great Lakes Bay Region; and the United Way of Northwest Michigan, serving a five-county rural region in Northwest Lower Michigan.

Employers within the Great Lakes Bay Region interested in learning more, or participating in the MI Tri-Share Child Care Program, should contact Rich VanTol, 989-233-8729, vantolr@baisd.net or Dr. Ericka Taylor, 989-399-7423, etaylor@sisd.cc.

BorgWarner Donates \$1,025,000 to Kettering University to Establish Scholars Program and Other Initiatives to Support Opportunities for Minorities

Flint, MI. – BorgWarner is taking further action in its commitment to diversity through a donation of \$925,000 for scholarships for Kettering University students. The BorgWarner Scholars Program will aim to distribute annual scholarships to students in financial need, with a primary focus on African American and Hispanic students who have an interest in participating in an engineering co-op at BorgWarner.

Kettering University and BorgWarner will work together to identify students in underserved communities through various recruitment efforts. Through the endowment, Kettering University will be able to award scholarships – with nearly \$40,000 earmarked annually. Students will be on-site, full time at BorgWarner during their paid co-op rotations which start freshmen year. During these rotations, students will gain over two years of real-world experience working alongside BorgWarner engineers and mentors, gaining skills to support and supplement their schoolwork and eventual transition into salaried, full-time employment.

Separately, BorgWarner donated \$100,000 to support a new Kettering University initiative and help expand it to more corporate sponsors.

“At BorgWarner, we’re dedicated to cultivating a diverse workforce and in order to do so, we need to take action at the student level and help talented, bright, diverse minds overcome the barriers they are facing,” said Felecia Pryor, Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, BorgWarner Inc. “We relate well with Kettering University’s commitment to education that embodies technology and innovation and believe this endowment will be truly successful in opening doors and creating opportunities for students in the field who are most in need.”

Though science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) employment is surging, African American and Hispanic professionals are sig-



BRADY ERICSON, PRESIDENT OF MORSE SYSTEMS AT BORGWARNER; SUSAN DAVIES, VICE PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS; AND RICKY BROWN, DIRECTOR OF MULTICULTURAL STUDENT INITIATIVES

nificantly under-represented in the field. This is in-part because many underrepresented students lack the resources and vision to realize STEM success is achievable for them. Kettering University is working with BorgWarner, among other industry partners, to provide gateway opportunities that foster and promote curiosity, provide and leverage educational resources and focus on career transition into STEM fields for the long-term.

“We are grateful to BorgWarner for investing in experiential, as well as financial, opportunities for students,” said Sue Davies, Vice President of University Advancement and External Relations at Kettering. “The impact this, coupled with our unique Co-op and educational experience, will have on these students immediately prepares them to be innovators and leaders in STEM industries around the world. I’m most excited about how this will complement and further enhance our existing Office of Multicultural Students Initiatives (OMSI) which provides tutoring, mentorship and other support services to ensure our students’ success.”

BorgWarner presented the \$1,025,000 check to Kettering University on Feb. 25, fortifying the partnership.



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

“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***

+ BUSINESS



Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce Unveils New Name, Logo at Virtual Annual Meeting

Flint, MI. – The Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce announced today that it will become the Flint & Genesee Group, effective April 1. The newly branded organization will market its network of services through four divisions dedicated collectively to advancing the region’s attractiveness as a great place to live, work, play and invest.

The new name and brand architecture revealed at the Chamber’s 2021 annual meeting, held virtually, reflects a market-driven response to creating growth and transformation of Flint & Genesee’s business community.

“Our new brand strategy will provide our stakeholders with easier entry points into the organization and connect them more readily with the services, resources and information they need,” said Flint & Genesee Chamber CEO Tim Herman. “Broadly speaking, the Flint & Genesee Group will focus squarely on improving the economic success of Genesee County and its residents.

“We will accomplish this through the work of our four divisions: Flint & Genesee

Economic Alliance; Flint & Genesee Chamber; Flint & Genesee Education & Talent; and Explore Flint & Genesee.”

The roles and responsibilities of the divisions include:

- **Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance** is responsible for business retention and attraction, private investment, and jobs in Genesee County.
- **Flint & Genesee Chamber** adds capacity to small businesses.
- **Flint & Genesee Education & Talent** prepares youth and adults for academic and career success.
- **Explore Flint & Genesee** promotes the region and increases tourism in Genesee County.

“We believe that our rebranding will fundamentally improve our audiences’ understanding of who we are, what we offer and to whom,” said Herman.

In addition to unveiling a new name and brand identity at the meeting, the

Chamber presented its accomplishments from 2020, a year defined and shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Annual Report, themed “2020 Disruption Fueled Innovation,” provides details on how the Chamber navigated the challenges of the past year and responded to the changing needs of its stakeholders and the broader community. The organization became much more digitally focused to deliver services, information and value during an unprecedented year, affected by shutdowns, social distancing and mask requirements.

“It was a defining year marked by three interconnected issues: a global pandemic and ensuing economic downturn; a racial and cultural awakening about the pain caused by a long history of racial injustice and a highly divisive U.S. presidential election,” Herman said. “Amid these major disruptions, our team realized what we’ve built over time – in terms of our culture, leadership, agility, and trust – would play a significant role in our ability to navigate a crisis like no other in modern history.”

The Chamber learned early on that the global pandemic was significantly impacting Flint and Genesee County small businesses. To respond, a greater portion of the Chamber’s resources were dedicated to small business support; enlisting staff from across the organization to provide information, referrals, and financial resources; and to being a good listener and advocate for the business community.

Also during the meeting, keynote speaker Bethaney Wilkinson, founder of The Diversity Gap Academy, delivered a 10-minute presentation on how leaders can drive equity and inclusion in their businesses and organizations.

“Intentional leaders make all the difference,” Wilkinson told viewers. “They dignify people. They pay attention to power. They practice costly hospitality.

“You have what it takes to create this kind of culture. I encourage you to be bold, to be brave and to take some risks,” Wilkinson added.

+ BUSINESS

FLINT BISHOP INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Flint Bishop International Airport will receive nearly \$1 million grant

Flint, MI. — On March 30, Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-05), Chief Deputy Whip of the House Democratic Caucus, announced that Flint Bishop International Airport will be receiving a \$956,449 federal grant.

The federal grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation, will invest in taxiway improvements, which help aircrafts move between runways, ramps and hangars safely. Grant funding will also be used to acquire snow removal equip-

ment to help prepare the airport for winter weather events and avoid delays.

“Improving our infrastructure keeps our community connected to the global economy. I am proud to announce this federal grant for Flint Bishop International Airport to provide much-needed improvements to our airport,” said Congressman Kildee. “During the pandemic, Flint Bishop International Airport and its workers continue to provide quality, reliable service to our community and I am grateful for their continued commitment.”

Throughout the pandemic, Congressman Kildee has worked to ensure mid-Michigan’s airports receive funding to keep operations running and support the local economy. Previously, in April 2020, Kildee announced \$9.3 million in federal grants, as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, to mid-Michigan airports to help mitigate the economic impacts of the pandemic. In February 2021, Congressman Kildee announced \$4.1 million in federal grants, as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, to mid-Michigan airports to help offset cleaning, operations and personnel costs.

Three Rivers Corporation receive highest Associated Builders and Contractors National Safety Excellence Award

Flint, MI. — Three Rivers Corporation received the National Safety Excellence Pinnacle Award from Associated Builders and Contractors during their 31st Annual Excellence in Construction Gala on March 10, 2021 in Grapevine, Texas. The Pinnacle Award represents the highest level of safety achievement by merit shop contractors from across the United States and TRC was one of only five general contractors to be honored with this recognition.

The ABC National Safety Excellence Award recognizes companies who exhibit a continued commitment to jobsite safety and whose safety performance and pro-

grams are judged to be exemplary by the ABC National Environment, Health & Safety (EH&S) Committee. During the selection process, contractors were judged on a written application, self-evaluation scores, lost workday case rates, total recordable incident rates, leading indicator use, process and program innovations, and video interview conducted by members of ABC’s National Safety and Health Committee.

“This has been a challenging year and the women & men of Three Rivers Corporation stepped up and embraced those challenges. I am very proud of how our

people consistently deliver value to customers with an unwavering dedication to safety. We are honored to accept the National Safety Excellence Pinnacle Award,” said Jon Lynch, President of Three Rivers Corporation.



+ BUSINESS



ANGELA FOX

FACES of Flint & Genesee Business: Angela Fox, A Fox International

Approximately 25 years ago, hairstylist Angela Fox received a request from a longtime client that changed the trajectory of her career. Fox's client had begun to lose her hair and she didn't have the means to go through traditional routes such as hair restoration surgery to fix her problem. So, she pleaded her case to Fox.

"She said, 'You got to do something,'" says Fox. "So, I flew to Orlando then to Chicago and I began to learn the skills I needed for hair restoration and then I build upon that."

After that, Fox found her niche and since then she has helped many others find confidence in their hair – something that brings her joy still today.

"I have great memories of seeing smiles on my clients' faces when I am able to give them a hairstyle that makes them feel good," says Fox. "It may not be what they used to wear, but I will fix their hair or design a wig that puts a big smile on their face. That makes me feel good."

Since 2003, Fox has been special-

izing in helping clients who suffer hair loss through her studio. Recently she has downsized to a one-woman operation, but she is still giving clients a new sense of confidence.

What kind of clients do you see at your studio?

I am open to anyone! When someone comes in and needs help, I don't care if they are a man or a woman or someone who is transitioning – it doesn't make a difference to me as long as they want to feel beautiful.

How do you get involved with the community?

For a long time, I volunteered with the American Cancer Society, helping people with hair loss due to cancer treatment. I also work with individuals coming out of prison to get them ready for re-entry into the workforce. Right now, I don't work with any organization in particular but if someone calls me and has a need, I will

help them.

What has been your proudest moment?

A memory I will never forget is the first time I had to shave the head of a seven-year-old girl. She had cancer and her family told me they couldn't bring themselves to do it. I was happy to be there for the family.

Why did you decide to open in Flint Township?

I love the area and my son, at the time that I first opened, was going to school right down the road from my business. I also liked being in the middle of everything. I am close to downtown Flint and Grand Blanc and being right off the expressway my place is easily accessible for those traveling to see me.

How would you describe Flint to an outsider?

I would say it's small but mighty. We are resilient people. I travel so much teaching or going to hair shows, and I am always happy to come back home.

How did the pandemic affect your business?

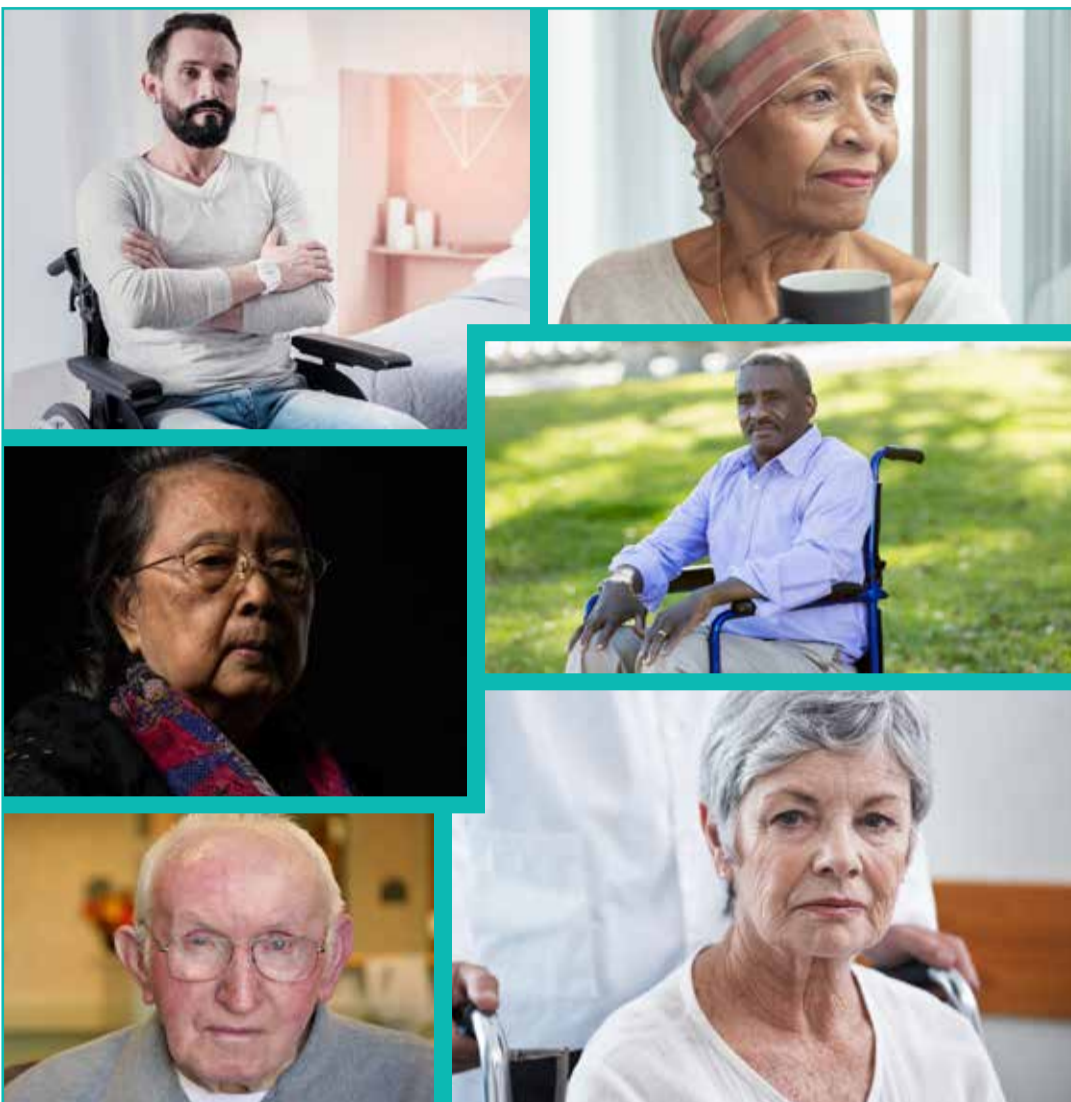
When it first hit, I was devastated. The government shut down my business immediately and it stressed me out. I started filling out grants and taking out loans but was worried I couldn't pay those back. The vaccine has given me a little hope that we can go back to normalcy. But I am still standing and as long as I am here, there is still hope.

Where do you like to shop, eat or spend time in Flint & Genesee?

I am everywhere, whoever has the best food or selection. I love to support our area, Flint city and Flint Township. When it comes to my favorite places, I like Hong Kong Buffet and La Familia.

What advice would you offer other business owners or future entrepreneurs?

Consistency. Have a plan, work from your plan and be consistent. If you start something, you can't put it on the back burner. Also, have six months to a year of savings before you start a business.



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+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste

PART TWO OF A TWO-PART SERIES

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Visible leadership paves the way for powerful changes that carry forward for generations. So is the case of the United Negro College Fund. And, as with so many other non-profits – and businesses! – it is the team behind the scenes that brings a vision to life. At UNCF that team included Harriet Sherman Schimel, who, over 13 years, played a key role in creating visibility for the organization

We salute this talented Jewish woman who worked with her Black and white brothers and sisters to create powerful change. The following is excerpted from a letter written by Schimel to her former colleagues and forever friends when we gathered to salute her retirement.

A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste... and so are dear friends and colleagues. It was terrific visiting with you yesterday from home and reminiscing about UNCF, the 500 East 62nd Street (NYC) Team, Y&R, Enterprise Press, and Dwight Carter's superb photography. What we accomplished together on behalf of Historically Black Colleges & Universities is a quiet and vital contribution to American history. Quiet because that was the sophisticated and dignified role of UNCF. Historic because broad access to advanced education is invaluable to fulfilling the American vision of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" for all citizens.

UNCF's founder Dr. Fredrick C. Patterson was a genius who lived to see his strategy for black colleges unfold in amazing ways during our tenure at UNCF. It was my privilege to get to know Dr. Patterson and learn from this great man, who maintained an office at UNCF all his life. The late great Christopher F. Edley was the magician who pulled this all together. He was an American patriot who personally broke many barriers before devoting his career to UNCF. He adopted Dr. Patterson's vision, earned the trust of some 40 college presidents (no mean feat), and took the pulse of our time to build a powerhouse for the benefit of young, talented future leaders who may have needed a scholarship or a mentor and the excellent yet nurturing environment of America's private historically black colleges. And Chris Edley chose us, each of us, directly or indirectly, to work on his team and fulfill his vision of a powerhouse nonprofit organization.

Living up to those standards meant a tough time and a grand time. Long hours striving for perfection. Satisfying corporate

Board members and college presidents who lived with very different challenges and spoke to very different audiences. There were passionate sorority & fraternity members and Hollywood superstars. I recall warning a maître d' in D.C. that we'd both lose our jobs if he mixed cans of Miller Beer and Budweiser in the same bowl at an event that somehow was attended by both of these fierce competitors, who were also both generous UNCF supporters.

There was a simple but amazing breakfast at the James Madison Hotel in D.C. before the first meeting of historically black college presidents at the White House with Jimmy Carter, who agreed to issue the first Presidential Directive on behalf of HBCUs.

Part two shares more of the UNCF team's adventures.



Copyright 2021 – Mel and Pearl Shaw

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

+ CHURCH DIRECTORY

B



Bethel AME Church
Rev. Dennis Laffoon
535 Cathay St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-755-7011



Bethlehem Temple Church of the Apostolic Faith
District Elder Curtis E. Johnson, Pastor
3521 Webber St
Saginaw, Michigan 48601
989-755-8381



Bread of Life Harvest Center
Senior Pastor Rodney J. McTaggart
3726 Fortune Blvd.
Saginaw, MI 48603
989-790-7933

C

Christ Disciples Baptist Church
Founder Pastor Eddie Benson
Pastor Genevieve Benson
3317 Lapeer Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-2444

Christ Fellowship Baptist Church
Rev. Robert Davis, Jr.
818 N. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-4435
PastorD818@gmail.com



Christ Image Community Church
5501 Gratiot Rd
Saginaw, MI 48638
(989) 759-9161
christimage.us

F



Faith Harvest Church
Bishop Ronald E. Chipp
1734 N. Mason
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-799-4200
faithharvestministry.org
office@faithharvestministry.org



Faith Ministries Church
Dr. Anthony Revis
3420 E Ashman St.
Midland, MI 48642
989-837-7777
faithministrieschurch.org

G



Glimpse Of Hope Ministries
Pastor Leslie D Lewis
2211 S. Outer Dr.
Saginaw Michigan 48601
989-755-9237
g.ministries@aol.com

Grace Chapel Church
Pastor James Nelson
2202 Janes Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-755-3212



Greater Renaissance
Pastor Cedric R. Cheatham
1535 S. Warren Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-752-1455
260-515-6456

Greater Williams Temple
608 E Remington St
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-755-5291

J



Jacob's Ladder
Bishop Elect Dempsey Allen
1926 Fairfield Street
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-799-6601

L

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

M

Messiah Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor Otis Washington
2615 Williamson Road
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-777-2636
Fax: 989-777-2640
messiahmbc@att.net
messiahsag.org



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

N



New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry
Pastor Roy & Evelyn Baldwin
2609 E. Genesee
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-777-8272
Pastorbaldwin@charter.net

New Beginnings Life Changing Ministries
Pastor Otis Dickens
2312 S. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-755-3650



New Birth Missionary Baptist
Pastor Larry D. Camel
3121 Sheridan
Saginaw, Michigan
989-327-1755



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



New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. Willie F. Casey
1721 Tuscola Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-7600

New Life Baptist Ministries
Dr. Craig Tatum
1401 Janes Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-1151
newlifelcm.com

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
thenewwayministry.org

P

Prince of Peace Baptist Church
Pastor Robert C. Corley Jr.
825 North 24th Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-2841

R



Resurrection Life Ministries Full Gospel Baptist Church
Pastor Carolyn L. Wilkins
2320 Sheridan Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-395-3142

S



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



Saint Paul Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. Vincent D. McMillon
120 North 15 St.
Saginaw, MI. 48601
stpaul2@yahoo.com
Facebook: St Paul MBC Family Connection



Second Baptist Church
Pastor-Elect Marcelle T. Smith
1770 W. Youngs Ditch Rd.
Bay City, MI 48708
989-893-8631

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
Pastor Carl Ballard
915 Federal Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-754-0489
stjohnlutheranelcasaginaw.weebly.com

T



Transforming Life Ministries
Pastor William Brown
523 Hayden
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-9573



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

V



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

W



World Outreach Campus of Greater Coleman Temple Ministries
Supt. H.J. Coleman Jr.
2405 Bay Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-752-7957

Z



Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor Rodrick Smith
721 Johnson
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-754-9621

+ SPORTS



DOW DIAMOND

Great Lakes Loons' home game tickets will be available on April 5

MIDLAND, MI – Limited game tickets for Great Lakes Loons May home games will go on sale Monday, April 5. Fans can purchase tickets at [Loons.com](https://www.loons.com) or by calling the Loons ticket office at 989-837-BALL. Game tickets for the remaining months of the season will be released on a month-to-month basis.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recently updated its Gathering and Mask epidemic order, permitting outdoor sports stadiums to operate at 20% of total seating capacity. The Loons have worked diligently with public health and government officials, and Major League Baseball to develop a comprehensive set of safety protocols that allow Loons fans to safely return to Dow Diamond.

“We are thrilled to welcome back the best fans in Minor League Baseball to Dow Diamond in a few short weeks,” Loons Interim President & General Manager Mike Hayes said. “Our entire organization is committed to providing a safe environment and entertaining experience for our guests.”

COVID-19 health and safety measures, in accordance with the MDHSS Gathering and Mask epidemic order, implemented at Dow Diamond include:

- In an effort to create the least amount of contact possible, all tickets will be sold online at [Loons.com](https://www.loons.com) or over the phone by calling 989-837-2255. Ticket purchases will not be available at the box office. Mobile tickets will be utilized to the fullest extent possible.
- All tickets will be sold in seating pods (2-6 people) with at least six feet of physical distance between other seating pods.
- All guests will be required to complete a health screening survey to gain admittance to Dow Diamond.
- Dow Diamond will be utilizing a cashless transaction plan for all sales for the 2021 season. This includes: parking, ticket sales, concession sales, and Loon Loft merchandise. Food & beverage items can be ordered via mobile app for express pick-up.
- Entry and Exit at Dow Diamond will be controlled with specified entry times, and staggered exit protocol to limit congestion at gates.
- Face masks must be worn at all times at Dow Diamond except when eating or drinking in your designated seating location. Neck gaiters

and face shields are not considered an acceptable face mask.

- While inside Dow Diamond, all guests at least 2 years old are required to wear a well-fitting face covering or mask that snugly covers the nose and mouth. Face masks must be worn at all times at Dow Diamond except when eating or drinking in your designated seating location. Guests can wear their own face covering, including homemade or cloth masks, as long as they cover your nose and mouth snugly. Neck gaiters, bandanas, and masks with valves or vents are NOT considered acceptable face masks. Face Shields must be accompanied by a mask.
- Guests will be encouraged to stay in their assigned seating location unless they are traveling to utilize one of Dow Diamond’s amenities.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available for guests throughout Dow Diamond.
- Physical distance signage and concourse decals have been installed to decrease contact in high-traffic areas.
- Bags will not be permitted, with medical or diaper bags being the exceptions.
- Significant enhancements to cleanliness and disinfecting the facility to CDC standards.

For up-to-date COVID-19 health and safety information, visit [Loons.com](https://www.loons.com) and click on the Health and Safety Information link located under the Club Info tab.

Should stadium capacities be expanded during the 2021 season, the Loons will make additional tickets available for purchase.

The Great Lakes Loons have been a Single-A partner of the Los Angeles Dodgers since the team’s inception in 2007. Dow Diamond serves as the team’s home and also houses the Michigan Baseball Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity, and ESPN 100.9-FM. For tickets or information about the Loons, call 989-837-BALL or visit [Loons.com](https://www.loons.com).

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VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 7

Black-Owned Neobank First Boulevard and Terrence J Launch Project Tassels



TERRENCE J

New York, NY – First Boulevard today announced Academy Award-nominated executive producer, actor, author and entertainment reporter, Terrence J, as Strategic Advisor, Financial Education of the digital neobank. Together they have launched Project Tassels: 1,000 students, 1,000 degrees, 1,000 new outlooks on life. Terrence J will also spearhead the Financial Education initiative to promote financial literacy among HBCU students through a video series created by First Boulevard in which Terrence J will educate HBCU students about credit scores, student loans, credit cards, life off-campus and the importance of budgeting and savings.

Project Tassels aims to help 1,000 Black students reclaim their "stranded credits," which a student has earned in the classroom but cannot claim due to an unpaid balance with their university. Stranded credits lead to transcripts being held as collateral and prevent students from obtaining their degrees -- though they are still held responsible for student loans. A recent study by Ithaka S+R estimated

approximately 6.6 million students have stranded credits in the U.S.

A New York Federal Reserve Bank study highlighted that workers with a bachelor's degree on average earn well over \$1 million more than high school graduates during their working lives. As Strategic Advisor, Financial Education, Terrence J will foster relationships with HBCUs to help First Boulevard identify students with good academic standing that are unable to graduate due to these stranded credits and pay off their unpaid balances.

First Boulevard's mission is to build generational wealth for Black communities—particularly among HBCU students and the rest of Black America. U.S. educational debt is currently at \$1.7 trillion continues to grow and disproportionately impacts Black students who tend to borrow more and have higher default rates than their white counterparts. This in turn results in delaying or preventing Black Americans from buying homes, building savings, or providing for their families and building generational wealth.

"I wasn't entirely knowledgeable about

the importance of financial literacy while attending North Carolina A&T State University, or even at the beginning of my career," said Terrence J. "Had I known then what I know now about wealth building, I would've taken small steps to better manage my finances sooner. With Project Tassels, helping 1,000 students get the degree they've earned will add an additional \$1B to circulate within the Black community. It's a great start, but to really change the game, I'm challenging other organizations to join us."

"Terrence J has shown a commitment to the advancement of Black America's youth for years and we couldn't be more excited to add him to our growing team of advisors and partners," says First Boulevard President and CEO, Donald Hawkins. "Through his work with Project Tassels, Terrence J will help over 1,000 people gain a new lease on life and with a focus on financial education, he'll also make a significant impact on HBCU students by providing modern day financial tips to avoid the debt trap and reach their goals."

Black youth making history

By SOFUS

Most Black boys don't fit the "school-to-prison pipeline" stereotype that is so pervasive in American society today! Here are two of them. I encourage you to remember their names and to lift them up in spirit and in adoration as they pursue their respective journeys to greatness!



MATHEW WHITAKER

Mathew was born 3 months premature in Hackensack NJ (2001) to May and Moses Whitaker. He weighed less than two pounds and was given less than a 50% chance of survival. 'Retinopathy of prematurity' was the cause of his blindness. No report of siblings suggests that Mathew may be an only child.

This accomplished American Jazz pianist (a 19 years old who is reminiscent of the great Stevie Wonder) released his first album, *Outta the Box*, when he was only 15 years old. He has played before audiences at Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. His tours include performances in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.



STEPHEN R. STAFFORD II:

Stephen, now 22 years old, was homeschooled by his mother until age 11. He entered Morehouse College (a Historical Black College) with a triple major at age 14 to study Medicine. Stephen's mother, Michelle Brown-Stafford, established a website to help other parents identify solutions for properly nurturing children who may be gifted and want to guide their children to exceptional academic performance.

This article is a tribute to all of the children and youth that we should honor for making notable contributions to the world in Black History. We should also celebrate them in addition to their ancestors who paved their way to unforeseeable opportunities.

Let us never forget to Identify and to Celebrate Our RISING STARS OF TOMORROW!



PICS OF THE WEEK BRIDGEPORT WINS DISTRICT TITLE

On Saturday, March 27, the Bridgeport boys' basketball team shut down Frankenmuth to claim a 53-33 Division 2 boys basketball district championship. On Tuesday, March 30, Bridgeport defeated Corunna in the regional semifinal. They will face Carrollton on Thursday, April 1, in Owosso for the Division 2 regional championship.



PLAYER ROSTER

- 2- Khalil Cliff
- 3- Remaureon Arthur
- 4- Jaylen Hodges
- 5- Torry Rohelia
- 10- Devontae Page
- 11- AJ Pipkins
- 21- Jeremiah Harris
- 22- Ameir Pickett
- 23- Omarion Wilkins
- 30- Taylor Lowery
- 32- Tre Jackson
- 33- Jaydon Brodnex
- 40- Zalyn Martin
- 42- Antwane Baker
- 44- Nyles Latimer



Coaches: Kevin Marshall, Isaiah Thomas, Courtney Griffin, Hil Winchester, Daronnie Mckenzie
Team Managers: Keira Parker, Lashay Jones, Dorian Brooks



We 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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*Pastor Hurley Coleman Jr.,
Senior Pastor, World Outreach Campus Church*



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