



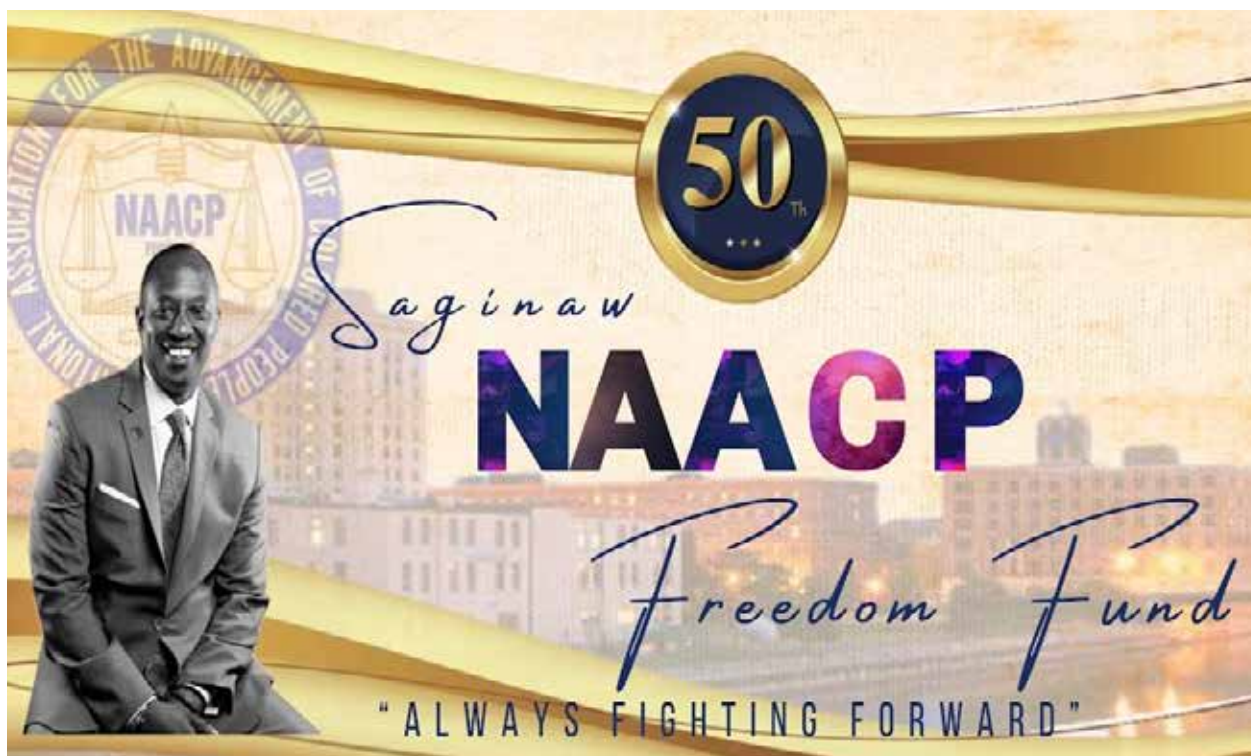
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SPORTS



SAGINAW'S REPEAT OLYMPIC CHAMP OWNS SEVEN OVERALL CROWNS

SPORTS, PG 46



50th NAACP Freedom Fund

"ALWAYS FIGHTING FORWARD"

COURTESY PHOTO

50th Annual Freedom Fund

Saginaw, MI – The 50th Annual Freedom Fund event sponsored by the Saginaw Branch of the NAACP, will be a hybrid event. We will offer both the in-person experience, and for those not comfortable attending in person or are unable to attend in person, there will be a virtual option this year.

Our theme, "Always Fighting Forward", clearly indicates the organization's focus with emphasis on the NAACP's ongoing mission to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons, jobs, and STEM focus

in the early development of our youth. We have proven success in our non-partisan voter education, registration, and get-out-to-vote programs. We will also continue our recognition process for our "Young Professionals". A program started to raise the awareness of our young people who are off to very successful careers across the entire job spectrum.

The event will be September 26, 2021, 5 p.m. The program will include entertainment and presentation of community service awards.



Stop the shootings? Try old-time boxing, with rules

LATINO BANNER, COVER



Building donated to fraternity in honor General David Hall

COMMUNITY, PG 21



Back to school: pandemic considerations

EDUCATION, PG 34

FEATURED STORY



SAGINAW SHOOTINGS REACTIONS: NEW VOICES COME TO THE TABLE

COMMUNITY, PG 11

MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Due Diligence

Due diligence is a phrase typically associated with business or legal decision making. Simply stated, it means to research, to do your homework to find any and all possible outcomes to the legally binding and potentially costly choice(s) you are about to make. When the process is completed, do it again! There is often much to gain or lose in instances requiring a due diligence approach before signing on the dotted line. This method of informed decision making is common practice in the business world and is in fact an expectation in the best interest of all parties involved.

Wikipedia offers a somewhat more academic definition of the term defining due diligence as, 'the investigation or exercise of care that a reasonable business or person is normally expected to take before entering into an agreement or contract with another party or an act with a certain standard of care. It can be a legal obligation, but the term will more commonly apply to voluntary investigations.' The word 'reasonable' stands out to me here as it is synonymous with sensible, rational, practical, and realistic. I remember the long-running television show Dragnet, which aired decades ago. There was a famous line which was said by Sgt. Joe Friday in almost every episode, 'All we want are the facts, ma'am.' Removing emotions, and alliances from an equation can result in very different decisions for individuals or groups seeking truth and healthy outcomes for everyone involved.

As Publisher of a news publication, I view a constant flow of articles, letters, opinions, and exchanges between readers on countless topics. Topics ranging from the trivial such as which condiment makes the best potato salad (seriously, and this topic gets pretty heated), all the way to the critical topic of whether the Detroit Tigers will ever again bring home the title (I will settle this debate once and for all with a resounding, yes!). So, I will be transparent and share that I found myself seriously considering a bit of misinformation that has been circulating on social media. Fortunately, I did not weigh in before honoring my very firm belief in the critical need to find the facts. The topic, 'Why hasn't the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) taken a stance on the COVID 19 vaccine?' The theories and comments had me wondering for a very short period of time. My initial and very simple google search resulted in hundreds, literally hundreds of articles, instruction and detailed explanations on the pros and cons of the vaccine. I laughed at myself for a moment and got busy doing what I consider to be the right and only thing to do - I responded to people who were willing to listen with directions to exercise the practice of performing due diligence research this topic of such vital importance. Due diligence also means reasonable care or required carefulness. Considering information from multiple credible sources is critical to arriving at the most educated and safe decision(s). To that end, I won't share the stance of the FDA. It is essential that you do your own search and reach your own conclusions.

Finally, in the words of Sgt. Friday, 'All we know are the facts, ma'am.' Right now, that's all we have to rely on. Dig a little deeper before reaching a conclusion. Weigh the costs, benefits, and risks just as if you were preparing to make a million-dollar investment into a business. In this case, we are considering and investing in the business of living. Informed decision making will always result in more favorable outcomes than emotions or opinions. A due diligence search for facts is a very responsible act which may support efforts to defeat an invisible force wreaking havoc in communities around the world - more importantly, it is an act of responsibility which will actually save lives. Just the facts, ma'am.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome Buckley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Jerome" and "Buckley" being significantly larger and more stylized.

Jerome Buckley
Publisher, Michigan Banner

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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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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE



COURTESY PHOTO

Support collected for mid-Michigan migrants

By MIKE THOMPSON

On a steamy 90-degree day in August, a fall or winter coat may seem like an odd gift to contribute for migrant workers in mid-Michigan.

But some families stay into the fall to pick local fruit crops, explains Daniel Soza III, one of the organizers of the Support Our Migrant Workers donation drive housed at Alejandro's Mexican Grill, 3072 East Holland in Saginaw near the I-75 exit.

Migrants are among the lowest wage earners and are not entitled to the basic assistance that even other low-income Americans receive, says Soza, vice president of Latino Leaders for the Enrichment of Advocacy and Development, LLEAD.

Clothing items for adults and children are welcome, along with household items, nonperishable foods and personal care items, such as toothpaste and toothbrushes.



COURTESY PHOTO

Stop the shootings? Try old-time boxing, with rules

By MIKE THOMPSON

Joaquin "Jay" Garcia Jr. revived the Saginaw Boxing Club out of love for the sport of his childhood, aiming to offer activities for kids who are following in his footsteps.

And if his effort somehow plays a role to prevent only one more incident in the rash of shootings that are killing and wounding too many young people again this summer, that's all for the better.

Nearly two dozen pugilists of varied ages and abilities and ethnic groups and genders (yes, there are a few girls) gather daily on late afternoons and early evenings in the low-ceilinged basement of New Beginnings Ministries at 701 Hess, which is housed in a 97-year-old former social club on the city's south end.

School-agers arrive at 4:30, sometimes with their fathers volunteering to help, and young adults take their turns at 6 p.m. Most equipment, from mats and gloves to heavy bags and speed bags, is donated. Buzzers sound every three minutes, the length of an official boxing round, for switches from one training station to another. Startups and wrap-ups are jumping jacks, pushups and sit-ups.

Not everyone shows perfect attendance, but most keep close in order to keep up with the grueling physical demands.

"This keeps them out of trouble," Garcia says. "We keep track of what they do outside of the gym, and they know that if they do something wrong, they will be sus-

CONTINUES ON LB PG 2, BOXING

LATINO BANNER SPONSORED BY GREAT LAKES BAY HEALTH CENTERS & TEAM ONE CREDIT UNION



Continued from LB Cover, boxing



JUAN GARCIA, THE GRANDPA

ended. This activity is important enough to them that they won't risk that."

Walking the walk

The Saginaw Boxing Club is an example of the types of programs that community leaders and activists say they wish to promote in the wake of so much local shooting violence. The difference this year, compared to previous summers, is that millions of anti-poverty federal dollars are in the pipeline for such efforts. Saginaw city schools are in line for \$65 million, City Hall \$52 million, county government \$37 millions.

Garcia says he hears about the shootings via mid-Michigan media, "but I'm really too busy to pay a whole lot of attention." He's also not really familiar with the federal funding linked to covid, except he's

aware that New Beginnings supporters are helping him line up for nonprofit status, known as "501(c)3."

He's strictly a volunteer, supporting his family with income from Dow Chemical Co., where he is employed as a lubrication technician. He first revived Saginaw Boxing Club in his garage before he connected with his cousin, Rev. Augustine Delgado, the New Beginnings pastor.

His grandfather, Juan Garcia, was a 1980s and '90s partner with legendary local trainer and promoter Jack Chantaca. Grandpa still helps with today's training at the church.

With a childhood background of fist-fighting skirmishes, grandpa offers his insights on today's troubles.

"The problem is that with the guns, they don't even know how to fight," he says. "This causes them to become follow-

ers. What my grandson and me are showing them, is that they have to lead."

Doubling up

Joaquin Garcia Sr. won a state Golden Gloves crown. A generation later, so did his son. They both were awarded Saginaw's Julius Piazza Memorial Trophy, Pops in 1990, the year his son was born, and Jay in 2011. They are the only father-son combo to double up on this achievement.

Nowadays, they are coaching winners, including at the state Golden Gloves, Mike Chester (heavyweight novice champ) and Chris Barlow (welterweight, novice third place). Four members took a recent trip to a Texas event, and Torriano Yrlas won a first-place trophy in novice light heavyweight.

For its next activity, Saginaw Boxing Club is hosting the Labor Day Boxing Bash on Saturday, Sept. 4, at New Beginnings. Action for public viewing begins at noon, with entrant registration beginning at 10 a.m. For more information, visit the club's Facebook page

Jay says he has learned not only boxing skills, but advice for his coaching and training.

"Be committed," he explains. "Make yourself reliable because they have to be able to trust you. Still be a student of the game. Each fighter is different, so keep it interesting for everybody."

Saginaw's City Council and Board of Education members are set to begin covid relief funding discussions in September. The Michigan Banner and the Latino Banner will update schedules as they become available.

For Main gun violence report see Community, Pg 11



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Julio's pro baseball years: Too short, but great times

By MIKE THOMPSON

His youthful three years in professional minor league baseball contain fantastic memories.

Still, he can't help but wonder whether different circumstances might have carried him to the most rare of hardball heights.

Saginaw's Julio Rodriguez strongly believes he may have landed in the Major Leagues if he would have been scouted at a younger age, similar to teenagers from the U.S.A.'s more upper-scale areas.

He graduated in 1974 from Saginaw High School, which barely had a team. Four years later, at age 22, he attended a tryout camp on a whim and landed a contract with the Kansas City Royals. Even his hometown Saginaw News described him as a "baseball longshot," because that was the honest reality.

"If I had gone to Arthur Hill, gained more game experience and been drafted when I was 18, I'd have gone somewhere in baseball," he says, looking back.

Not that he feels bitterness. If that were the case, he would not be compiling a scrapbook in middle age to cover his three seasons with younger peers in the Florida training leagues, along with all those years coming up in Saginaw.

His book may serve as a personal and family memento, as well as a conversation piece with his customers at Garber Buick on State Street, where he is entering his fourth decade as a sales representative.

Childhood swings

Scrapbook pages will begin at kindergarten age with his mother, Isabel Rodriguez, pitching underhanded in the backyard of the family's home on East Road at Moore Road in Spaulding Township. She would stand in the middle while Julio would smack the grass-stained spheres to one side, collect them, and then swing toward the other side.

He says Mom was pitching because his father had abandoned the home. She raised Julio and his three siblings by entering the workforce at the then-GM Saginaw Manufacturing Plant on East Genesee.

He was eight years old when Bob Rutherford, a top Spaulding Township youth sports organizer, signed him up to play T-ball. Coach Rutherford would remain as a friend and supporter until his death in 2004.

"Back then, our ball fields were plowed onto farm fields," Julio recalls. "We would remove the stones. Then, after it rained, there



COURTESY PHOTO

would be more stones and we would have to clear them over."

In T-ball, players would share tiny fielding gloves from a basket. Isabel Rodriguez supported her son in baseball but she didn't know a whole lot about it. When Julio advanced to regular junior leagues, he informed her that he would need his own mitt, and she promptly took him to an M-13 hardware store.

Even when the family moved back to Saginaw, near Houghton Elementary, Coach Rutherford kept in touch. His sister worked in the downtown Feige Furniture store. He would ride his bicycle to the store on game days, park it inside, and stay overnight at the Rutherford home.

Growing aware

Rodriguez eventually got to know "the Arthur Hill kids," as he still refers to them, playing summer ball as a teen. They would become best known for football with the Lumberjacks' 1974 legendary undefeated/unscored upon state champs, but they could play some hardball also.

"That's when I first realized my talents," he says. "I was pretty fast with a strong (throwing) arm, and I had a great batting average. When I was chosen for an all-star game, that's when I really knew."

Still, he expected no pro interest, not even from his favorite Detroit Tigers, and after graduating Saginaw High he joined in mother in the Saginaw Manufacturing workforce. He still took part in City Baseball Federation summer play at the old Vet's Park on Holland Avenue, and a friend took note of a Los Angeles

Dodgers' tryout camp in Clare. Julio arranged an off day and made the drive on a whim.

"I was the 10th of 146 tryouts to show up, so they gave me a number 10. They started us with 60-yard dashes, and I was really shaking, but I took off like a rabbit. That got their attention. Suddenly I wasn't 'Number 10' anymore, I was 'Rodriguez.' Then, in the hitting, we were asked to hit to different fields."

The scout informed him that the Dodgers were not interested in 22-year-old prospects, but he made a call to a friend from the Kansas City Royals, who were more interested. Rodriguez eventually met a Royals' rep at Buena Vista's Holiday Inn, inking his name and heading for Sarasota to the Royals' spring training camp.

Equal but not the same

During his three seasons with the Sarasota Royals in the Class A minor leagues, learned that all prospects were doing to get a chance to play, to prove or to disprove their potential.

He enjoyed several spells in which he was hitting for higher than a .300 average, smacking line drives to all fields and beating out infield hits with his speed, which was a Kansas City trademark. Still, he found himself in a rotation of eight prospects who shared the three outfield positions. It didn't help that he was 22 years old and his peers were 17, 18 and 19.

At times he would ask, "If they didn't have plans for me, why would they keep me?" This question was boosted when he pay was raised to \$600 a month, a nice increase by still only half of what he had earned at Saginaw Manufacturing.

When the end finally arrived, in 1980, he returned to Saginaw with some new skills, such as faster released on his throws. He also had stories to tell about spring training encounters with stars such as George Brett, Willie Wilson and Amos Otis. His proudest memory was when a fellow Puerto Rican, Hall of Famer Orlando Cepeda, told him he had the "quickest bat" that Cepeda had scouted in several years.

Rodriguez returned to discover that his GM job had disappeared during an economic slump at the time. He picked himself up, re-adjusted, and eventually found a place in the Garber family of sales employees.

What might have been if Julio Rodriguez had been born into a more typical baseball environment? Indeed, but what might have been missed if he didn't enter that tryout camp?

"For a 22-year-old to get a tryout after playing a limited youth schedule," he says, "that's quite an accomplishment in its own right."

Difficult decisions are the most easy to delay

By MIKE THOMPSON

For the second time in Alma, a delay is prolonging a debate over placing homeless immigrant teens in a federally funded temporary shelter.

Alma's City Commission delayed a decision on Aug. 10, a month after the advisory Planning Commission took extra time to make a recommendation to the governing body.

The refugees would come from the Rio Grande border, the focal point of U.S. immigration policy. Many among those flooding the border are refugees from war-torn Central American countries, includ-

ing children and teens on their own, who are seeking to escape war-torn conditions.

Shelters such as the one proposed in Alma, by Bethany Christian Services, would keep the teens for an average of 45 days apiece until adoptive and foster care homes are found in communities across the nation.

The Alma site is a vacant former nursing care home. More than 400 citizens, with a majority opposed, flocked to the Planning Commission in July and caused the first "motion to table" delay. Planners re-gathered and eventually rejected the shelter plan on a 5-2 vote.

Reasons cited for the denial include

fears that the immigrant teens possess criminal backgrounds and will bring diseases, such as covid-19. This has caused civil right activists, including some from Saginaw, to perceive that race bias has become a factor, creating an expansion of support for the shelter facility.

As one reason for the Aug. 10 delay, City Commission members claimed the Planning Commission meeting minutes had not been formally approved. They will have their next chances to decide during meetings at 6 p.m. on Aug. 24 and on Sept. 14. Mid-Michigan residents may keep up to date by Google searching "Alma immigration" or by visiting myalma.org.

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+ COMMUNITY



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Saginaw shootings reactions: New voices come to the table

By MIKE THOMPSON

"Come on. We have got to be bigger than that."

Tamara Tucker has lost three loved ones in local shootings. She made this statement while a wave of gun violence was sweeping through town, often among young people engaged in feuds. Then she showed in her hand one of the bullets that had taken the life of her daughter, MoeNeisha Ross.



TAMARA RUCKER

"What do they see that we never saw? What do they feel that we never felt?"



JESSE DAILY

Jesse Daily (1919 to 2010), a longtime civil rights leader and youth mentor, speculated during a prior troubled summer 25 years ago, in 1996, while teen-agers played

basketball at the First Ward Community Center. Then he showed in his hand a yellowed newspaper photo of a team he coached during the 1950s.

Different generations, similar questions. And so The Michigan Banner posed the Tamara Tucker challenge and the Jesse Daily deep thought to neighbors among us.



TORRIANO YRLAS

and have been involved, who I have been around."

Torriano Yrlas is a 2021 Arthur Hill High graduate who has taken up boxing as a newcomer with the Saginaw Boxing Club.

He says, "It's tragic. I don't know what they are thinking. I know people who are involved

Gradually, by choice, he has "been around" them less and less often.

"Now I just stay at home until it's time to go boxing," Torriano says. "I do my thing, and then I come back home."

With his powerful build, he dreams of a pro boxing career, and he already has a tournament novice trophy on display. But if that doesn't work out, there's always the chance to teach and to coach.

"I would talk to the kids and try to keep them on track," Yrlas says. "They need to think about different things, going to school, things they can accomplish."

Claudia Delgado assists her husband, Pastor Augustine Delgado, in outreach service at New Beginnings Ministries on the city's South Side. They are in their eighth year as a clergy team.



CLAUDIA DELGADO

She notes, "Sadly, it gets to a point where one will say, 'I've got to get you before you get me,' we have to find a way to break that cycle."

Claudia, who met her Army husband at Fort Hood in Texas, continues, "I am recently new to the table, and so I may hesitate to speak this, but we are not meeting the people at where they need to be met. They need to see us out there among them."

She says too many of the violent crimes take place when families begin to fall apart, and she offers an example. A mom works to support five children while her husband is imprisoned. Upon his parole, he finds work to help his wife catch up on bills. They feel they finally are seeing financial sunshine, but they don't realize the children feel neglected, despite all their hard work. The oldest boy gets involved in street and gang life. He thankfully survives

CONTINUES ON PG 12, SAGINAW SHOOTINGS

+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 11, Saginaw shootings

a serious knife wound, and now the family struggles to start over with this added burden.

"There's a lack of guidance not only for the children, but often times for the parents," Claudia says. "These young people have so much potential, but what is Saginaw offering them?"



MATT GEROW

Matt Gerow has focused mostly on homicides as a detective sergeant during the second half of his 24-year Saginaw Police Department career, and he offers a major suggestion for change.

He would ask perpetrators, and the community at large, to redefine the derogatory definition of a "snitch."

"Someone agrees to sell for a drug dealer, and gets caught, and then tells on the drug dealer in order to make things easier for themselves," Gerow summarizes, "then yes, call him a snitch. But if someone sees the events that lead to a homicide, and tells who did it, that's not a snitch, not when it comes to the taking of a human life. Let's change the rhetoric on this."

He says Saginaw's 65 percent rate of resolving homicides is roughly the same as in other cities across the nation, but it would be closer to 99 percent if witnesses all would cooperate. In some cases, he suggests, stronger witness security protections may lead to improvement. He adds that clergy are main sources of persuading witnesses not only to testify, but to change their own lives before they may encounter trouble

In another reflection, Gerow says law enforcement carries little effect when a wrongdoer feels more at home when incarcerated.

"If someone never has had a real family life, a gang or a prison may become like their family," he notes.

NeAsia Hopkins won a national art contest for a 3-D portrayal of economic disparity and injustice. She's a Saginaw High and SASA grad who is heading to college to pursue a career in art.



NEASIA HOPKINS

She says, "I have lost people I know, friends, and it's so disheartening to see so much potential to be lost. It's sad."

Still, she doesn't show the hatred that other victims' loved ones direct toward assailants.

"Something too many people fail to recognize is the role that poverty plays," she says, "We can't address all these problems without addressing the poverty."

Precise statistics are memorized within her creative mind.

NeAsia outlines: "If a parent makes \$9 to \$13 an hour, that's somewhere between \$1,080 to \$1,560 per month, after 25 percent is taken for taxes. How can someone even pay the rent, when rent is supposed to be no more than one-third of income, and take care of themselves, much less take care of a family? There is a lack of empathy among people in power for these situations.

She adds, "The children don't want to see their parents go through all that, and they want to do something about it, but they don't see jobs for their age groups, except for money to be made on the streets, and they wind up in those sorts of living circumstances, only trying to help.

"They don't mean to be out killing people on purpose. These are the impacts of poverty, and until we deal with this, nothing will really change."

Michael Balls is a Saginaw City Councilman and a volunteer youth mentor for 37 years with Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

He says some young boys, with absentee fathers and a lack of role-model mentors, set their own guidelines.

"When there are two, three, four; together, the one who suggests doing something stupid is the one they will listen to."

He pauses for effect:

"Stupid like the ones in Clio (in 2019) who threw the rocks onto I-75," he concludes, making a subtle point that concerns are not restricted to minority teens and young adults from Saginaw households.

"They end up in situations that might get to a point where lives are lost, and they don't know how to get out and move on."

Balls says he has faced challenges in Big Brothers, but the six young men under his wing generally have found success. The first accomplishment is that all six still are alive.

"We have to get involved with these kids, to keep them from becoming criminals," he asserts. "Some have nowhere else to turn."

**Boxing gloves, not guns. Latino Banner, Cover Story*



MICHAEL D. BALLS



COURTESY PHOTO

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+ COMMUNITY

Councilman questions police monitoring

By MIKE THOMPSON



MICHAEL FLORES

Are you a Saginaw city resident who is frustrated with what you perceive as slow police response to 911 calls?

City Councilman Michael Flores offers a suggestion that he admits is sarcastic, based on citizen complaints he has received and also on an Aug. 6 "peace demonstration" he organized at Borchard Park, the gazebo site north of the courthouse. An audience of about 40 gathered for the small event.

"We had seven state police officers show up," he said during remarks at the Aug. 9 council meeting, indicating his belief that this was an overreaction and citing police

officers' everyday complaints that they are severely in need of more personnel.

"So when we are talking about a (staffing) retention program and the necessity to patrol our streets, I think all we need to do is to say (on an emergency call) is that everything is a peace demonstration, and we will get plenty of police around it."

State troopers have assisted city police during tough budget times in recent years, with Saginaw's headcount dropping to 60, down from 155.

Despite the cooperative agreement, city administrators said they would not respond to Flores' statement because city officers were not involved. At The Michigan Banner, we were not able to reach state police at the Bridgeport Post in time for our online deadline.

Flores also has posted a Facebook video recording that shows a West Side Old Town small business owner, Kevin Jones, questioning city officers who are parked

side-by-side in a position that blocks entry on Adams Street, where his customer parking is located. One officer responds that their intent is to patrol and monitor the entertainment area along South Hamilton, where trouble has taken place.

In this case, city officials said they are declining to answer questions because Jones has not filed an official formal grievance with the City Clerk's Office. You can check out the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYpVmt09IO0>.



Saginaw's Old Town is a Midwest Sundown Town

YOUTUBE

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THE ARTIST, KEN NEWMAN STANDS IN FRONT OF HIS SCULPTURE

New sculpture at Downtown Saginaw Center celebrates education for all

University Center, MI – Delta College unveiled a new sculpture August 5 at its Downtown Saginaw Center during a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The outdoor sculpture, titled “Preparing for Success – Opportunity,” stands nearly seven feet tall and is made of bronze. It features a male and female student, both moving and looking forward toward a door that symbolizes opportunity.

“The sculpture embodies Delta’s commitment to the arts, humanities and diversity, but it also represents the college’s dedication to putting a college education within reach of all community members,” said Dr. Jean Goodnow, president of Delta College. “I hope it inspires everyone to consider their dreams and how they can rise up to achieve them.”

As the Downtown Saginaw Center was being built in 2018, Goodnow said the college began planning for art in and around

the building. The artist, Ken Newman, became connected to Delta through Mike and Sarah Jury, from Saginaw, who underwrote the cost for the sculpture.

Mike Jury said he hopes the sculpture serves as a gathering space for students – a place to ponder, rest or study.

“No matter what program a student is in, from welding to healthcare to business, we hope students see themselves in this sculpture and know that opportunity is there for them,” Jury said. “Opportunity is big for a Pioneer student, and Pioneer students go on to succeed.”

Newman, who traveled to Delta from his studio in Idaho, created the sculpture with input from Delta students who helped shape the concept for the piece.

“This sculpture is not mine alone,” Newman said. “This is a testament to work of the students and staff who assisted me throughout the process. I learned a lot

from them and that’s what art is all about. My hope is that this sculpture serves as a community meeting space, for people to come together.”

The seating area that surrounds the public art piece was funded by the Patricia L. and Robert W. Grant, Jr. Endowment through the Delta College Foundation. The Grants spent their lives in the Saginaw community and they had a passion for the city, supporting youth and advancing the arts.

The outdoor sculpture is the newest art piece to join Delta’s Sculpture Walk, which was created about 10 years ago on the main campus in celebration of the college’s 50th anniversary.

Learn more about the Downtown Saginaw Center at delta.edu/locations-maps/Saginaw.



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Who's imitating whom?



By **BISHOP DEMPSEY ALLEN**
SR. PASTOR OF JACOB'S LADDER
MINISTRIES (SAGINAW)

The word mimesis is Greek and means the imitation of life

in art and literature. It's literally translated a copycat. Perhaps you've gazed at a painting where the flowers in the foreground of the landscape seemed so realistic that you wanted to touch them despite the "do not touch" sign just to satisfy your own curiosity that they are painted facsimiles.

One might say also that life imitates literature; particularly when the body of work being mimicked is The Bible. After all, the Bible is the best selling book of all time according to Guinness World Records, 1995. No argument that it is a dramatic piece of literature an all encompassing body of work scanning the entire human experience. I often say that one could read the latest addition of the newspaper or however you get your news and find parallels in the Holy Scriptures that match the current events in specific detail.

Prophecy is defined as, the foretelling, clarifying, or predicting of future events. The state of dreaming is undeniable as a frequent source of this predictive and clarifying resource within the psyche. Who hasn't awakened from a dream with a solution to a plaguing problem that had robbed you of sleep? It is noteworthy to point out that because one may possess that spiritual gift he or she may not be anointed with the title of prophet.

Likewise the utterance or foretelling can only be given from the individual's own level of awareness or point of reference. John the Divine was instructed to write what he saw in the vision in The Revelation. Chapter 18 of this foretelling describes the fall of Babylon. This kingdom is assigned the feminine gender, and called a great city; a cage for an unclean and hateful bird. Further descrip-

tions include a place of great merchandise, which is destroyed in one hour. Verse 17 states that shipmasters and sailors watch her burn from afar off. Verse 19 states And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying Alas, alas the great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate. KJV.

What do you see? I see 911, that dreadful day of peril that took over 2900 lives. This great city New York, with its Twin Towers (The World Trade Center) in the harbor of the Hudson River cages a bird, an airplane crashing into the skyscraper. We all saw this happen in real time. The world's economic system was toppled before our eyes. We also stared in utter shock as the dust covered Rudy Giuliani, then Mayor of New York, gaiting down the street with a limp, the burning buildings visible over his ash covered head. Who's imitating whom?

The life and times of billionaire oil tycoon Howard Hughes 1905-1976 seem to parallel the life of the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar. 630-562 B.C. Considered Babylon's greatest ruler, he was reigning when Israel for taken captive. He raped Israel of their best and brightest.

The likes of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were among those taken captive. The book of Daniel covers the bulk of his horrific escapades. Both men were egomaniacs. Hughes so self absorbed that he stopped bathing for months on end totally neglecting his hygiene and paraded around nude. The king lived as a bovine-like creature, eating grass not bathing and allowed his nails to grow for seven years. The king built a 90 foot statue, declared it god and demanded it be worshipped. Hughes built the Spruce Goose, the largest wooden aircraft ever constructed and only flown once. Both were perfectionist, obsessed with grandiose gestures and self-adulatory promotions. Both were addicted to pride and for Hughes codeine, morphine, valium and women rounded out his list of proclivities. Nebuchadnezzar did acknowledge Jehovah prior to his death. Hughes did not honor God ever.

My final observation of Who's Imitating Whom compares the 2008 presidential election our 44th president Barack Obama to Barak the son of Abinoam. Judges 4 gives us a clear understanding as to the outcome. I would say that the shared name Barack is quite a coincidence; however there is no such word in the Hebrew language for that from which the Old Testament is translated. The additional biblical characters and their

modern day counterparts include Deborah translated "bee" which is wisdom. Science has concluded that without bees to pollinate then propagation of plants would not exist, thus without bees (wisdom) which is the proper application of knowledge, the human race would speed to extinction.

Sisera, a great military captain of those who opposed Barack is compared to Sen. John McCain, war hero and Republican presidential candidate.

Finally Jael, the woman who killed Sisera is compared to Sarah Palin, Alaskan governor who ran on the ticket with John McCain. Here we go. Keep up! God's people had been oppressed for twenty years by the Canaanites. Deborah who was the judge of God's people heard their cry for help and sent for Barack. She instructed him saying it was God's plan that he should lead in the fight against Sisera and the Canaanite army to save God's people. She assured Barack that God would give him the victory. Barack consented that he would go and fight only if Deborah (wisdom) would go with him. I want to help someone right here by letting you know that the battle is not yours but the Lord's. He will fight for you!

The battle ensues and while Barack and his troops are winning Sisera flees none the wiser into the clutches of Jael thinking she would help him. She comforted him, gave him milk and allowed him to nap in her tent. While he slept Jael took a tent stake and drove it through Sisera's temple with a hammer, fastening him to the ground killing him.

Barack Obama, a relatively unknown senator, took the wisdom and knowledge of the information age technology and waged a formidable campaign from the grassroots up. He mastered the electronic world of the internet. John McCain, in his fear of Obama's momentum added a woman to his ticket that effectively killed his chances as president.

Palin's endless plethora of infamous hyperboles like, "what's the difference between hockey moms and pit bulls? Lipstick", drove a stake into the McCain campaign.

Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived stated, "and there is no new thing under the sun". Ecc.1:9. This should alert us to the fact that history does repeat itself. Our quest should be to examine life's many roller coaster events to detect patterns, gaining insight and answers, becoming more perceptive as life speeds past and always question who's imitating whom.

+ COMMUNITY



What if you had a million bucks? For all of us to share?

By MIKE THOMPSON

In nearly 50 years of news reporting, one local story surprises me more than any other.

It's a current story

It's the general lack of public reaction to the millions upon millions of federal anti-poverty money coming to Metro Saginaw in the name of covid relief. These grants are in the name of pandemic relief, but they basically cover anything to benefit and uplift poor folks.

My surprise is that so many people, both leaders and everyday residents, have barely reacted. Neither much have local media, except for we here at The Banner.

Me? I continue reporting that this is Saginaw's biggest-ever windfall because that's what it is. This is \$52 million for

City Hall, \$65 million for city schools, \$37 million for the county, millions more for suburban and outlying governments and schools. These sums aren't simply more than usual, they're gigantically more than usual.

Indeed, you could say it's another "government story," and I'm a news reporter who gets overly caught up in government stories, while regular people do not.

What about covid as a top story? For that matter, what about these shootings that never seem to cease? Yes and yes.

Still, I'm looking at all this money. And there hardly has been any local discussion, at least not public, on how to spend it. Do you see it on the local news, or read about it? No. I'll bet many readers, even now, still have no idea what I'm talking about here.

We all, as good citizens, should be more into this. Not necessary to be all official. Simply some thoughts, some concepts.

In order to spark readers to finally become creative in this direction, I'm going to toss one of my own ideas into the mix. It's not my biggest one. Just one small example.

Drumroll, please.....

Maybe invest some of these new monies to hire plumbers to go door-to-door and check everyone's water pipes. This idea comes from the debate regarding using some of the funds to pay shutoff costs. Seems lots of folks have a lot of little leaks that they don't even know about. Get those drip-drips and pin pricks that might add a needed and wasteful \$10, \$20, \$30 to those monthly water-sewer bills, and fix them once and for all.

This isn't the biggest idea, like hiring hundreds of teens to mow all 2,000 of Saginaw's vacant lots, or converting all the empty school buildings into affordable housing. But it's something.

See? Just one teeny idea. To me, that's one way we all need to begin thinking as we head into fall and some planning finally begins.

Bottom line, let's not mess up by looking this gift horse in the mouth. We're not going to get another one.

And if you wish to drop a few chestnuts into the sack, your own ideas, please email them to mwtsaginaw@yahoo.com, and we will print them in The Banner.

City of Saginaw seeking input on the City's Master Plan

Saginaw, MI – The City of Saginaw would like residents to provide their input as we update the City's Master Plan. Now is the chance for citizens to provide their opinion on land use in the city, parks and recreation, and changes they would like to see in their neighborhoods. The input we receive from our residents will be integrated with other information to create goals and action items to guide City plans in the years to come. To participate in the online survey, visit <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6375852/Saginaw-Master-Plan-Stakeholder-Input>.

This Master Plan is a blueprint for the

city's future and serves as a roadmap to guide the City's decision-making. The plan is developed through comprehensive surveys and studies of present conditions and opportunities for future growth within the City. The Master Plan becomes the basis for all development decisions and helps to establish regulations to control the extent and layout of development within the City. The last Master Plan for the City was adopted in 2011. You can view a copy of that plan by visiting www.saginaw-mi.com.

Focus areas of the Master Plan include a Housing Plan, Transportation Plan, Parking Study, Parks and Recreation Plan,

and Land Use Considerations. Once these areas are completed, a final plan will be presented with a Public Hearing at a Planning Commission meeting and then final approval by the City Council.

Public Engagement is the key to a successful and beneficial plan. We need your input. The purpose of this survey is to engage the community, inform them about the Master Planning process and gain perspective on the needs, wants and desires of the citizens for their community.

The survey will be available on the Saginaw city website, saginaw-mi.com, until September 1, 2021.

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Saginaw building donated to fraternity in honor General David Hall, will be used as educational facility for youth



By **JIMMY E. GREENE**

CEO & PRESIDENT, ABC MICHIGAN

The late General David Hall didn't just serve the United States of America with distinction he served the Great Lakes Bay Region and his fraternity; Kappa Alpha Psi with the same kind of distinction; exceptionally. That kind of service should be memorialized and the General was recently conferred the honor of being buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Another fraternity brother, Arington Hicks recognized that this great man should be memorialized at home as well. Mr. Hicks made that possible donating a building he owns on the City of Saginaw's West Side to the Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation, a 501c3 organization that has for decades trained for leadership; young Black high schoolers in its Guide Right Program.

The success of the Great Lakes Bay Region will be largely dependent on the talent and intellectual property that we invest in our young people and more importantly the retention of them. The Region's ability to remain competitive is dependent upon this formula. This effort much like any journey first begins with a single step and the Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation's Guide Right Program just took a gigantic step in preparing a cradle to grave approach to train, to teach, to mentor, young Black men to lead the the Great Lakes Bay area region community. Guide Right is an intentional and targeted approach to afford the Region's less fortunate youths a respite from the drudgery of the streets, through sponsored business, education, entertainment and cultural enrichment.

The facility will offer a centralized leadership training site that will provide struc-

tured educational and occupational guidance of youth with an emphasis on character development. The Guide Right isn't a new concept since it's been in existence since 1922 and is the fraternity's national service program. It is a purposeful program for the educational and occupational guidance of youth, primarily inspirational, informative and the development of sound character. The purposes of the Guide Right Service Program is to place the training experience and friendly interest of successful local men at the disposal of youth needing inspiration and counsel regarding their choice of a life's career, and to arouse the interest of the entire community in the problems of youth as they seek to realize lives of usefulness.

How will the Hall Hicks Center be utilized: Leadership Training from the Region's Leaders from every field of Human Endeavor.

1. Leadership Development Courses
2. Prepare students for college with a local emphasis but not limited to SVSU, Davenport, Delta College and Northwood University. This will assist youth in the selection of courses leading to vocations compatible with their aptitudes and personalities.
3. Mentor our youth for academic success in middle school, high school and college. Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation will provide tutors and academic coaches. This will positively impact youth through a structured mentoring and training face to face interaction, doing so with group dynamics.
4. STEM: Activities include the preparation for careers

in engineering, skilled trades, manufacturing, chemistry and more.

5. An Entrepreneurial Training Center with some of the best business leaders holding sessions promoting and encouraging the spirit of free enterprise and entrepreneurialism. We will assist students in finding internships, to get started in employment and monitor their progress to insure success in their chosen fields.

Donations from community donors would be most welcome providing the monies for electrical, plumbing, carpentry and essential building modifications necessary for the enrichment of the Hall/Hicks Leadership Center and materials necessary to that end.



GENERAL DAVID HALL

+ COMMUNITY
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For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment (James 2:13)



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

The late Vance Havner said, "It doesn't take much religion to confess other people's sin." We are often quick to judge the sins of others while overlooking our own. Even though all sin is not the same, all unrighteousness is still sin. James says, "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it." This statement serves as an indictment against all of us. Since all of us are guilty of sin and in need of God's mercy, we should be merciful toward others. Loving your neighbor as yourself includes showing mercy. We often hear of someone's sinful behavior and respond by saying, "Lord have mercy!" But we are not asking for mercy. Instead, we are expressing our disgust with the sin and the sinner. The Lord has proven to be merciful, kind, and forgiving; we should follow His example. Jesus said, "Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

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+ COMMUNITY



SVSU STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF JOINED WITH OTHERS FOR A COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE IN SAGINAW AT THE ROETHKE HOUSE, AT 1805 GRATIOT AVE., AND THE STONE HOUSE, ADJACENT TO THE ROETHKE HOUSE AT 1759 GRATIOT SATURDAY, AUG. 14. (TIM INMAN, SVSU)

SVSU students' work contributes to success of Roethke House Open House

Saginaw, MI – A research project by three Saginaw Valley State University students is helping bring to light the history of Theodore Roethke, a Saginaw native and one of the greatest American poets of the 20th century. Their work contributed to the success of a series of open houses at the Roethke House and Stone House Thursday, August 12 – Saturday, August 14.

Ethan Alt, a creative writing major from Chesterfield Township; Madeline Bruesow, an English major from Kawkawlin; and Amber Campbell, a history major from St. Louis; conducted the research projects under the supervision of Sherrin Frances, SVSU professor of English and a member of the Friends of Roethke Foundation board of directors.

Frances teaches a class in the English department that introduces students to archival work and small museums. She said the students spent the winter semester cataloging the Theodore Roethke Museum's collection. In the spring, they developed a new museum tour and trained local high

school students as tour guides.

"The work was funded by two generous grants awarded by SVSU's Undergraduate Research Program," Frances said, "one to catalog the collection in specialized museum software and another for interpretive planning, which let the students put their deep catalog knowledge into practice creating exhibits and writing the tour narrative."

Additionally, six students in SVSU's College of Education created literacy activities inspired by Roethke's poetry, which they shared with children during the open house on Saturday. Five of the students are elementary education majors: Alyssa Crawford and Caitlynn Hancock, each of Midland, Anna Plotkowski of Clinton Township, Kimble Darbee of Bay City, and Alexis Dropps of White Lake. Jonathan Livermore, an English education major from Bay City, also worked on the literacy activities.

"The Roethke House and Stone House are an important part of Saginaw's story, and they provide a place where visitors can

feel inspired by the power of poetry and the power of writing," said Frances. "Local access to the small home museum for a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet offers tremendous opportunities for SVSU students who want to be writers, historians, archivists, curators, teachers, or so many other professions within the humanities."

The open houses were hosted by the Friends of Theodore Roethke Foundation, a nonprofit organization committed to promoting, preserving and protecting the literary legacy of Theodore Roethke by restoring his family residences for cultural and educational opportunities. The Roethke House, at 1805 Gratiot Ave. in Saginaw, was Roethke's childhood home. The Stone House, adjacent to the Roethke House at 1759 Gratiot, was owned by Roethke's uncle. "We are fortunate to have such a resource in our area," Frances said. "We are even more fortunate that the Houses are supported by our community and that SVSU facilitates and funds formal research projects and internships."

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IN MY HUMBLE OPINION

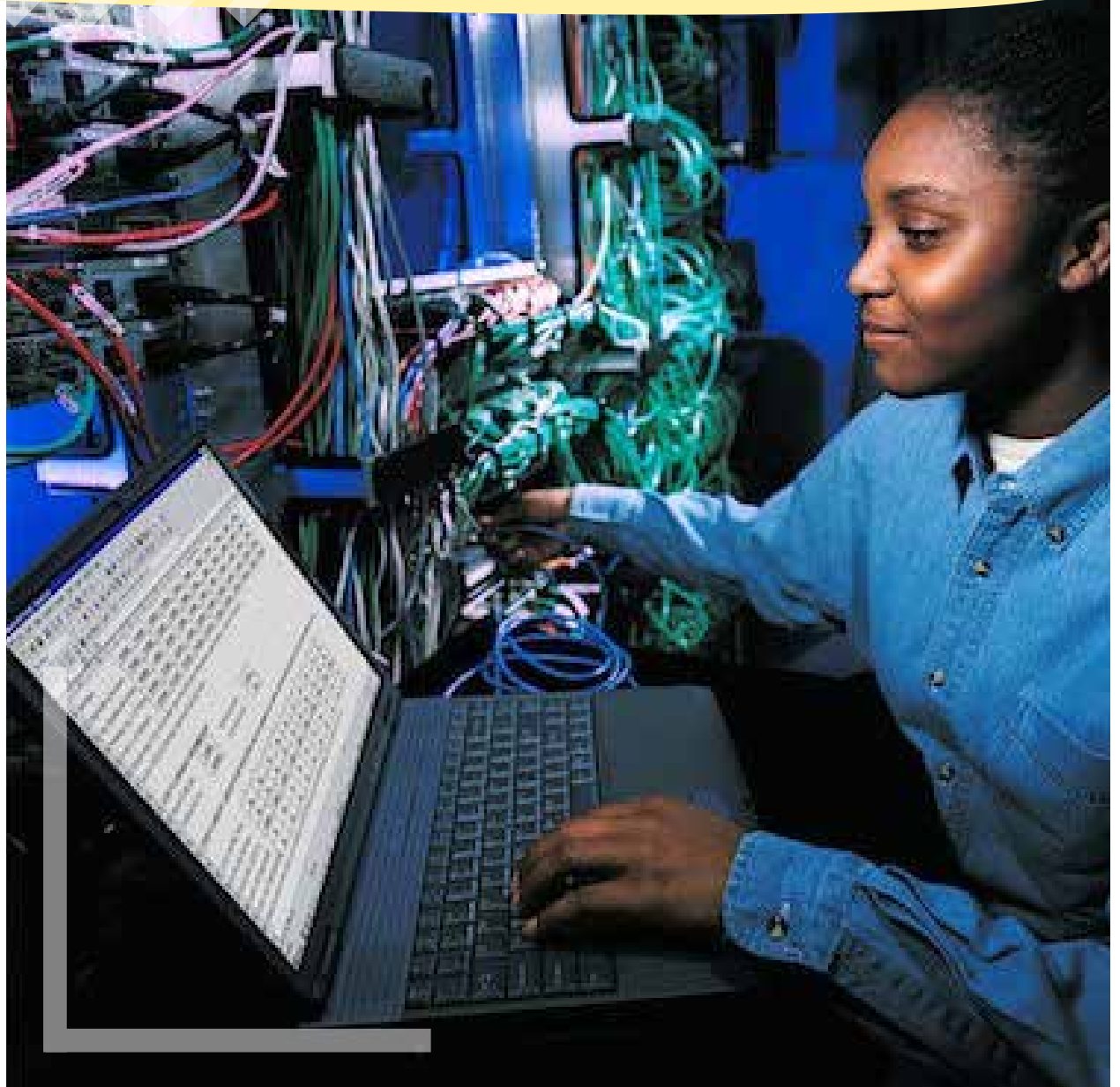
Black Women in Tech Should Be Celebrated



By **KEN H. SIMMONS, II**
MANAGING DIRECTOR, KENZO
PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Technology, as defined by Merriam-Webster's online dictionary is, "1a: the practical application of knowledge especially in a particular area: [ex.] medical technology, b: a capability given by the practical application of knowledge [ex.] a car's fuel-saving technology, 2: a manner of accomplishing a task especially using technical processes, methods, or knowledge [ex.] new technologies for information storage, and 3: the specialized aspects of a particular field of endeavor [ex.] educational technology." There is no mention of gender in the definition, but the reality is that most technology companies are male dominated and women are highly underrepresented.

For decades, careers in the tech industry and other STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields have not been very welcoming to women. Across all job sectors in the US, women being employed has grown to 47%, but the five largest tech companies in the world (i.e., Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google, and Microsoft) have an average workforce of approximately 33% women and they are the exceptions. Across the whole tech sec-



COURTESY PHOTO

tor, only 26% of computing-related jobs are held by women, just 3% are held by African-American women, 6% by Asian women, and 2% are held by Hispanic women, as per BuiltIn.com's article about women in tech statistics, updated 05 May 2021.

A common refrain when conversations turn to the low number of Black women in tech, "it's a pipeline problem". Intended to mean that there is not enough qualified talent available. According to Karla Monterroso, CEO Emeritus of Code2040, a non-profit company that advocates and works for parity in tech, demand is the problem and not supply. She is quoted in an article entitled, "The Deck Is Stacked Against Black Women in Tech" (updated 31 July 2021), saying the 'pipeline problem is an American pipeline problem — there are 700,000 open tech roles in the country,

and only 56,000 computer science graduates. And even with that pipeline problem, high-wage work is unwilling to hire Black and Latinx talent that exists. That's the problem.'

Forbes Insights did a survey in 2011 entitled, "Global Diversity and Inclusion Fostering Innovation Through a Diverse Workforce". One of the most important findings was that diversity is a key driver of innovation, and forms a critical component of a company being successful on a global scale. The survey included 321 executives with direct responsibility or oversight for diversity and inclusion from companies in the Americas (35%), Asia-Pacific (34%), and Europe/Middle East/Africa (31%) that had revenues exceeding \$500

CONTINUES ON PG 27, BLACK WOMEN IN TECH

Continued from pg 26, black women in tech

million annually. More than 40% of the respondents worked for companies with annual revenues exceeding \$5 billion. The majority of respondents agreed that diversity is crucial to encouraging different ideas and perspectives that foster innovation. A couple of the other significant findings were that senior management (C-level and board of directors) had responsibility for the success of a company's diversity/inclusion efforts in 70% of the participating companies, and that some progress has been made in gender diversity, but more needs to be done, and I say especially for Black women.

One way to help overcome these challenges is by bringing more media attention and institutional focus to the hundreds of achievements women have made in the tech industry. To that end, in my humble opinion, Black women in tech should be celebrated.

Black women in tech have been on the forefront of coming up with solutions, despite the many challenges they face and have faced in the past. Black women have been inventors and innovators of technology since the 19th century, and continue to make history in the 21st century. With the realm of technology being labelled 'male' and most of the attention being on the high-tech sector, we tend to overlook key inventions that took place in the domestic sphere.

On 14 July 1885, Sarah E. Goode, a 19th century inventor who reimagined the domestic space to make city living more efficient, was granted U.S. Patent No. 322,177 in Chicago, Illinois, becoming the first African-American woman in U.S. history with a patented invention. Ms. Goode had conceptualized an improvement in the "cabinet-bed". Her invention was a bed designed to fold up into a writing desk to meet the increasing demands of urban living in small spaces, "so as to occupy less space, and made generally to resemble some article of furniture when so folded", as stated in her patent letter. Her name does not appear in history books, and what she did remains largely unknown. The same goes for Mariam E. Benjamin ("Gong and signal chair for hotels" patented in 1888), Sarah Boone ("new Improvement in Ironing-Boards" patented in 1892), and Lyda D. Newman ("new and Improved Brush" for

hair, patented in 1898), who were all 19th century African-American women who successfully gained patents in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.

Black women have continued to play an important role in driving innovation during the twentieth and twenty first centuries. The first home security/closed circuit television system was invented by Marie Van Brittan Brown, a nurse from Jamaica Queens, New York. Brown's husband was an electronics technician and he assisted her in developing the system. On 02 December 1969, U.S. Patent No. 3,482,037 was issued to the couple for the "Home Security System Utilizing Television Surveillance".

On 21 October 1980, Valerie L. Thomas, a NASA scientist was issued U.S. Patent No. 4,229,761 for her invention of "a real time illusion transmitter for transmitting three dimensional illusions of an object", similar to image production by holographic means without the expense and complications. Ms. Thomas' invention employed "the illusionary effect created by concave mirrors to produce three dimensional image illusions at a remote site". NASA continues to use this technology and scientists are finding new uses for it, according to IP Watchdog in its 2021 article entitled, "From Home Security to VoIP: Honoring Black Women Inventors of the Last Half-Century."

The first African-American woman doctor to patent a medical invention is Dr. Patricia Bath. She holds five U.S. patents, and her first, U.S. Patent No. 4,744,360, was for "Apparatus for ablating and removing cataract lenses", issued on 17 May 1988. Dr. Bath went on to receive her next four patents in 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2003 all related to surgery and removal of cataractous lenses. She is also the co-founder of the American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness, which established eyesight as a basic human right.

My last example of why Black women in tech should be celebrated is Dr. Marian Croak, Vice President of Engineering at Google and an inventor on more than 200 patents, including Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and text-to-donate technology. Her groundbreaking development of VoIP laid the foundation for the calls we

use to stay connected and get things done during the COVID-19 pandemic. After the events surrounding Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans in 2005, Dr. Croak was motivated to develop a technology that would allow people to text a donation to non-profit organizations, like Red Cross. On 11 May 2010, she received U.S. Patent No. 7,715,368 for a "Method and Apparatus for Dynamically Debiting a Donation Amount", more commonly known as text-to-donate technology. In 2013, Dr. Marian Croak was inducted into the Women In Technology Hall of Fame.

This list of outstanding Black women in tech is by no means exhaustive. I know there are many more, hopefully dozens more that should be recognized and honored for their achievements against the odds. Despite that progress these women, and women like them have made, diversity and gender equality still have a long way to go especially in the tech industry.

Fortunately, as I write this article on National Women's Day in South Africa, my dear wife, Sanele Simmons, is being interviewed by one of our national newspapers about her tech business, a global e-commerce marketplace that provides a platform for women entrepreneurs to merchandise and sell their products & services, get business support & development, gain access to funding and connect with other like-minded women.

Diversity in the tech industry is happening little by little, and Black women in tech, who have faced and continue to face their own set of difficult and unique challenges should be celebrated today and every day. Hopefully, that will help the senior management (C-level and directors) change their perceptions and see the benefits their high-tech companies would experience with more Black women employed at all levels. And optimally, that celebrating these achievements will bring positive change to the funding environment and inspire more young girls to become founders of their own tech companies.

+ COMMUNITY

Michigan Department of Civil Rights issues statement on federal grants to help preserve Michigan civil rights sites and history

Lansing, MI – John. E. Johnson, Jr., Executive Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, has issued the following statement on the announcement that Michigan projects were selected to receive \$1.4 million in African American Civil Rights Grants from National Park Service.

“The history of the civil rights movement cannot be told solely through the study of storied marches and inspiring oratory. The places this funding will protect showcase the lived experience of Black families and communities striving for equality in a tumultuous and consequential time. We are proud of these places of significance to our own civil rights story

and echo the Governor’s words on the importance of preserving the sites where Michiganders fought for equity and fair housing.”

The Michigan Civil Rights Commission was created by the Michigan Constitution to safeguard constitutional and legal guarantees against discrimination. The Commission is charged with investigating alleged discrimination against any person because of religion, race, color or national origin, genetic information, sex, age, marital status, height, weight, arrest record, and physical and mental disability. The Michigan Department of Civil Rights serves as the operational arm of the Commission.



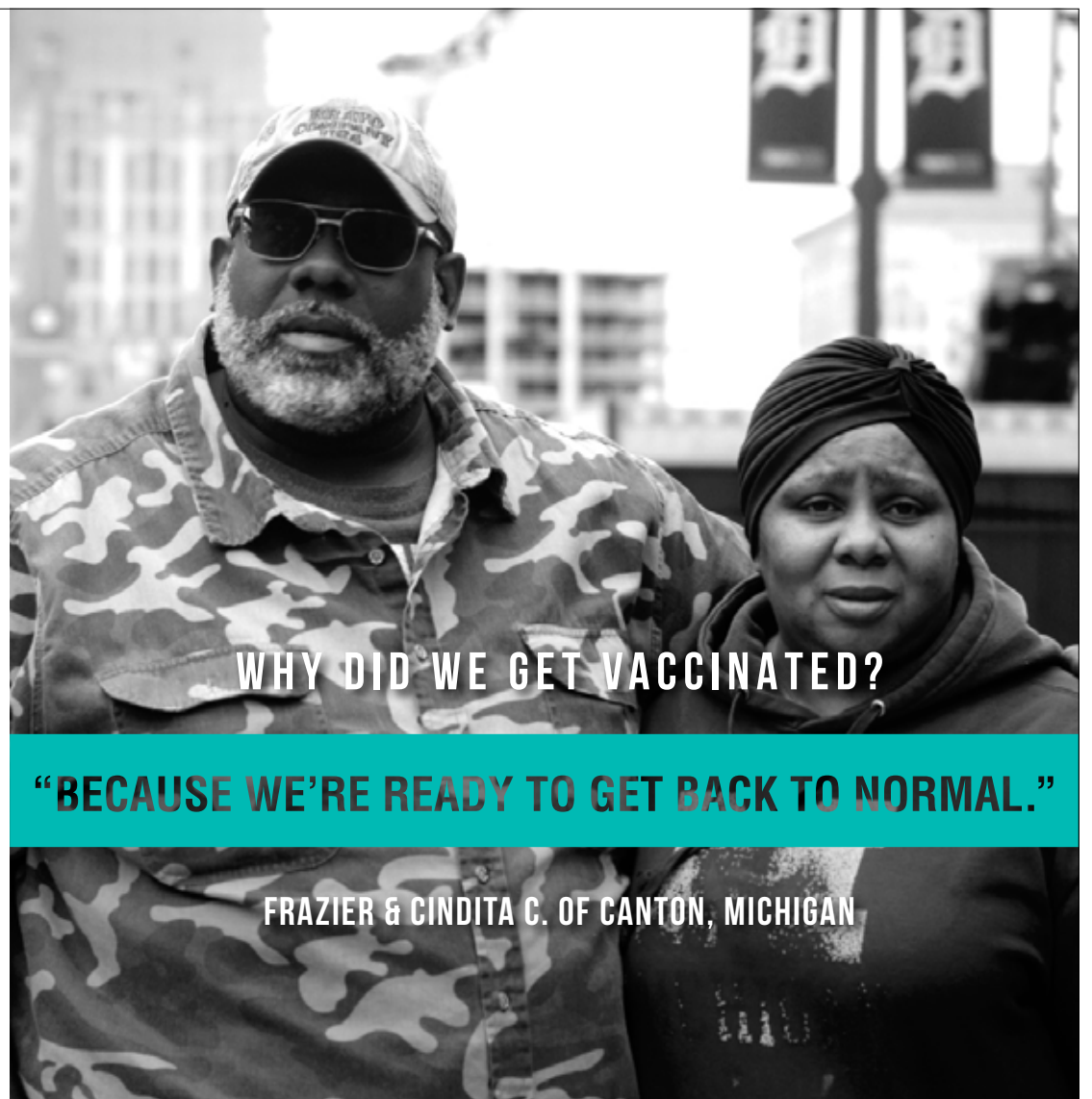
JOHN. E. JOHNSON, JR.

The COVID-19 vaccine will help us get beyond this pandemic.

There are so many things Cindita and Frazier missed in the last year: celebrating big holidays, going to movies, being with friends and family. They hunkered down in the house, life just stopped. They saw firsthand how COVID took away strong, vibrant lives. Which is why they believed it was so important to get vaccinated to get back to normal.

The vaccines have been tested for safety and are trusted by doctors.

Find your vaccine at Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine. Call 211, or text your zip code to 438829.



WHY DID WE GET VACCINATED?

“BECAUSE WE’RE READY TO GET BACK TO NORMAL.”

FRAZIER & CINDITA C. OF CANTON, MICHIGAN

+ COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

City Council hears more speakers, allows more time

By MIKE THOMPSON

During the start of a time when more citizens may sign up to speak, the Saginaw City Council will allow them more time to air their views.

Members unanimously voted Aug. 9 to boost the limit to five minutes, up from three minutes, which also will govern their own statements.

Councilman Michael Flores spontaneously moved for the change near the close of a session that featured the most public participation of any in 18 months, going back to the covid-19 strike of March 2020. In-person meetings resumed this summer and 11 residents signed up for podium turns on Aug. 9th, some addressing an outbreak of local gun violence and others offering their first ideas for making use of a record-setting \$52 million federal infusion of anti-poverty funds,

The bell-ringing chime that enforces the three-minute clock cut many of the speakers short, leading first-year member Flores to propose expanded time, which initially drew frosty responses from some of the more veteran members.

Flores explained simply that residents should have "a reasonable amount of time" to express their views, "where they can feel they are being heard."

Previous council members near the turn of the millennium had reduced the limit from five minutes down to three, frustrated with the time consumed at the time by "regulars" such as Earl Jesse, Johnny Sanders and Jack O. Schmidt. Some members privately aired desires to return home in time for Monday Night Football during the fall.

Saginaw's form of government was established 85 years ago, with three general phases until now:

- 1936 through 1965, business and professional interests dominated and most key decisions were made in private, often at the Saginaw Club next to the Temple Theater, before official votes back at City Hall.
- 1965 through 2004, movements such as civil rights and urban development and housing reform led to more diversity among council members, more split votes and more public input and controversy. During peak episodes, public speakers consumed more than four hours on a single night.
- 2004 to present, the midnight 5-4 dismissal of former manager Deborah Kimble prompted most council members to pursue pathways to teamwork and images of unity.

Newcomers take lead

Flores and two other rookies, Monique Lamar Silvia and George Copeland, are showing signs of bringing renewed sparks to Monday nights at City Hall. Autumn Scherzer and Bill Ostash, elected during a 2018 apathy lull when there nearly were not enough candidates to fill the nine chairs, also welcomed the boost in action. So did veterans Annie Boensch and Michael Balls.

Mayor Brenda Moore and Councilman Reggie Williams II joined the parade while also asking citizens to do their share.

"I'm taking back what's mine," said Moore, whose initiatives have ranged from a citywide cleanup to organizing aid for residents in danger of utility shutoffs. "Are you with me or against me? All I hear is what I haven't done. I don't want to hear it anymore."

Williams noted that most of the hundreds in Saginaw who protested the Minneapolis police slaying of George Floyd in May 2020 have not been heard from again, while the handful still involved are misinformed.

"From this point on, I'm going to say what it is I want to say, because if you don't like it, trust me, I don't think I'm running again," he told the meeting audience. "What you put on Facebook, about what the council does and doesn't do, this and that, I don't care."

"If you come before me, know what you are talking about."

Covid aid at forefront

The council has received the lion's share of public attention over its \$52 million in covid anti-poverty funds, even though the city school board is in line for \$65 million and Saginaw County government \$37 million, with lesser but still major sums to suburbs and small towns.

Major planning is set to begin in an all-day session on Sept. 17, but Mayor Moore promised a wide-ranging series of public hearings this fall before final decisions are made.

The Aug. 9 meeting was not an official forum, but still suggestions started to come forward for the first time. They ranged from converting old buildings, including empty schools, into low-income and senior housing, to employing teens and young adults in neighborhood cleanups, to creating a venue for food trucks, to establishing a dog park.

Some suggestions have nothing to do directly with the covid pandemic, but Congressman Dan Kildee told The Banner in a July interview that the main requirement is to tackle poverty concerns.

+ HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

MDHHS continues to increase community access to COVID-19 vaccines and testing with 22 neighborhood testing and vaccination sites

Lansing, MI – To increase access to the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine, the Michigan Department of the Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is partnering with 22 neighborhood testing sites across the state to now offer COVID-19 vaccines in addition to testing.

The testing sites were the result of Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist's COVID-19 Racial Disparities Task Force, and these efforts have helped flatten the early disparate outcomes for communities of color when it comes to COVID-19. In continuation of this collaboration, MDHHS is partnering with the neighborhood sites to make it easy and convenient for residents to get both vaccinated and tested. Neighborhood sites have provided 121,247 tests since their start.

"We know the best way out of this pandemic is through strong public health interventions like wearing masks, testing, and most importantly the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief deputy for health. "These neighborhood and community sites provide crucial and convenient access to testing and vaccines to ensure all Michiganders have equitable access to stay healthy and safe."

The safe and effective vaccines are free and no identification or insurance is required. Language interpreting services, including American Sign Language, are available and all sites are ADA accessible.

"MDHHS is doing a phenomenal job of working with churches, schools and other local sites to keep communities safe

through robust testing and making vaccinations accessible," said Pastor Marvin Miles of the International Gospel Center. "As a community, it is important that we combat these COVID-19 variants with safe and effective vaccinations that have been proven to work. This virus has hit home to many families, including mine, so we understand the importance of a community coming together in unity to combat this disease. We want people to be able to socialize and be in safe settings that helps their own mental health, because there is a mental health aspect to this."

Vaccinations and testing are available on a walk-in basis. To view all upcoming clinics and locations, visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus.

SVSU offers incentives for students vaccinated against COVID-19

Saginaw, MI – Saginaw Valley State University students who submit their proof of vaccination against COVID-19 can win \$1,000 scholarships and other incentives. The university today launched “Your Shot to Win Big,” an incentive campaign for students who are vaccinated against the virus.

“The most effective action you can take to protect yourself and our campus community against COVID-19 is to get vaccinated,” said Donald Bachand, SVSU president. “Even with the emergence of the Delta variant, the data shows that vaccines continue to be highly effective, particularly in protecting against serious illness, hospitalization and death.”

Survey data shows that more than 70%

of SVSU students are vaccinated. Students who have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine could win one of five grand prizes of a \$1,000 scholarship during the sweepstakes, which will run from August 9 to September 5. There will also be weekly drawings for \$100 gift cards for SVSU’s Barnes and Noble bookstore, on-campus dining, and gift cards to local attractions and businesses in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

To enter the sweepstakes, students should register online at svsu.edu/winbig between August 9 and September 5. They must provide proof that they have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

SVSU has partnered with Meijer Pharmacy to vaccinate nearly 25,000 individu-

als since January, including students, faculty, staff and community members. Meijer Pharmacy will hold a back-to-school vaccination event at the Meijer Pharmacy, 3360 Tittabawassee Rd., Saginaw on Sunday, Aug. 29.

In the fall 2021 semester, 80 percent of SVSU’s undergraduate classes are expected to be taught face-to-face. Face masks are required to be worn in classrooms through September 15.

“Safeguarding the health and well-being of the campus community is and always will be our top priority,” Bachand said. “We will continue to monitor health conditions and public health guidance and adjust our expectations accordingly.”

**“I WOULDN’T
WORK
ANYWHERE
ELSE.”**

Rosalind Williams
Registered Nurse

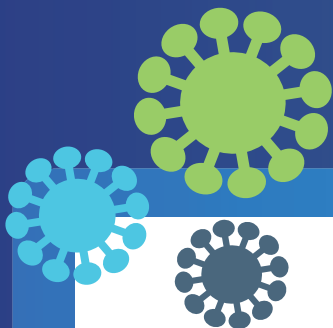


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Great Lakes Bay Health Centers has touched more than **118,000 LIVES** during the COVID-19 crisis – in patient care and community outreach with testing and vaccines.


55,884
COVID-19 TESTS
ADMINISTERED
IN 2020-2021 (AS OF JUNE 3, 2021)

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers (GLBHC) began offering community COVID-19 testing in March 2020 outside centers in Saginaw, and expanded to Bay City and Bad Axe. During the summer and fall, we partnered with churches and other community partners to bring testing to neighborhoods with “popup” events. We shifted testing to drive-thru access and do not require a doctor’s note or symptoms. Staff supported this effort on every level, including making calls to share test results. GLBHC added free Influenza community clinics through the fall of 2020. Volunteers have supported testing and vaccines.


15,091
COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES*
ADMINISTERED
IN 2021 (AS OF JUNE 3, 2021)

The Moderna vaccine was first made available to GLBHC staff in January 2021. Through the winter, staff worked with local health departments to administer vaccines to school professionals. The centers started receiving direct shipments of vaccines in March 2021, and began offering appointments to patients. GLBHC also began planning pop-up events at churches and other locations to access hard-to-reach populations. By April, the vaccine team had set up drive-thru vaccine clinics in Saginaw and Bay City and weekly clinics at the UAW Hall in Saginaw. Soon the public could access the vaccines without an appointment. Outreach continues into the summer, with young adults and teens becoming a focus.
**individuals each receive two doses*

TOTAL GLBHC PATIENTS SERVED IN 2020:



50,270 PATIENTS

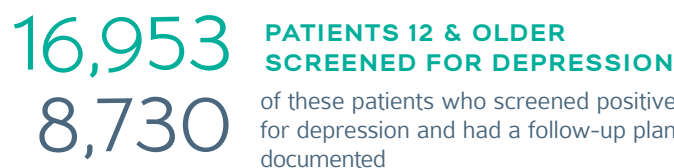
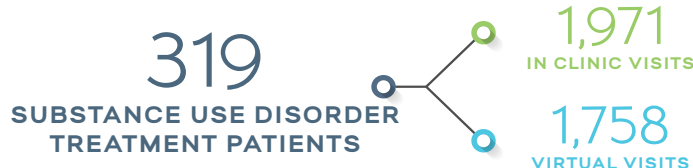
RECEIVING MEDICAL, DENTAL, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE AND OTHER VISITS

The COVID-19 shutdowns required centers to limit in-person visits in March-May 2020, but we never closed. Within two weeks, GLBHC had telehealth visits operational to stay in touch with patients. Before 2020, there were no virtual visits offered.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

COVID increased stress and demand for behavioral health services in 2020. Staff reached out to schools and saw increased referrals for children and teens.



DENTAL CARE

GLBHC dental centers were some of the only dental clinics open during quarantine to emergency care for patients experiencing pain or infection.

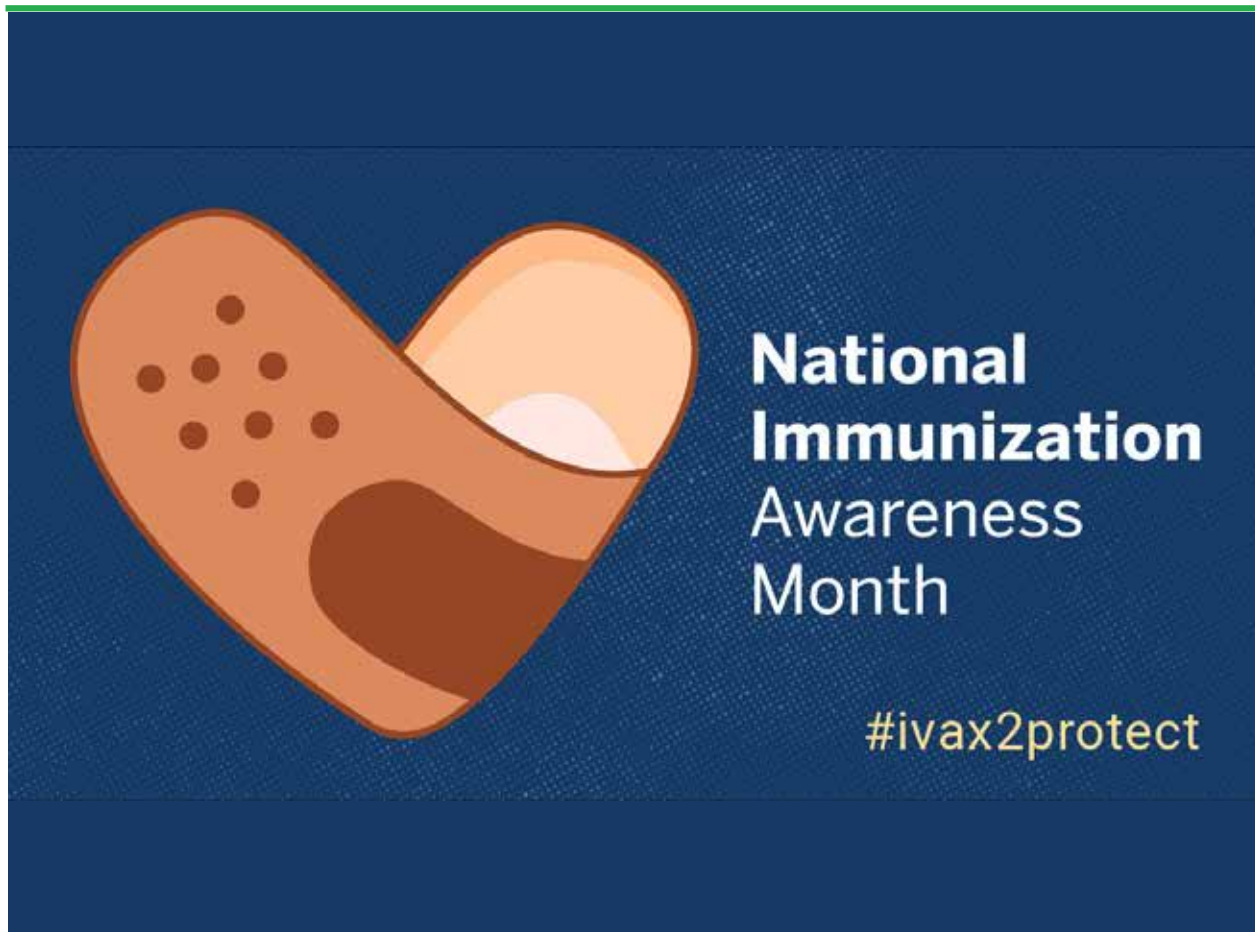


CHRONIC HEALTH MONITORING = BETTER OUTCOMES

During quarantine, GLBHC used grant funds to provide at-home monitoring kits to patients with COVID symptoms. The kits included blood pressure monitors and pulse oximeters to track oxygen levels. Telehealth visits were a lifeline for care management nurses to keep in touch with patients with chronic health conditions. Pharmacy staff made medication deliveries. A new Respiratory Clinic allowed staff to safely care for patients with COVID symptoms in person.



+ HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

Michigan families urged to catch back up on routine vaccines during Immunization Awareness Month

Lansing, MI – Vaccines are proven to protect people from serious diseases at every age. During Immunization Awareness Month, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) are urging Michigan families to talk to their healthcare provider to ensure family members are up to date on all recommended vaccines.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some individuals missed routine checkups and vaccinations. With children going back to school and adults going back to the workplace, it is now more important than ever for everyone to get back on track with routine vaccinations.

National Immunization Awareness Month highlights the importance of getting all recommended vaccines throughout the

lifetime. To help promote the safety of vaccines and ensure Michiganders get these potentially life-saving immunizations, Governor Whitmer has issued a proclamation declaring August 2021 as Immunization Awareness Month.

"Keeping Michiganders healthy and safe is my number one priority," said Governor Whitmer. "I encourage everyone take this time to educate themselves on the importance of immunizations to protect our overall public health and keep our families safe. I particularly urge all Michiganders get the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible. The vaccine is our best defense against the virus and will keep you, your loved ones, and your community safe."

"Vaccinating on time and following

CDC's recommended schedule is the best protection against serious diseases including COVID-19, influenza, hepatitis A, cancers caused by HPV and measles," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health at MDHHS. "We have the power to protect not only ourselves, but our entire community when we vaccinate on time."

Like many other states nationwide, Michigan saw a decline in vaccination coverage due to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to data from the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR), as of June 2021 only 54.7 percent of Michigan children 19 through 35 months of age were fully immunized with recommended vaccines.

MDHHS encourages Michiganders to visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Interactive Vaccine Guide, which provides information on the vaccines recommended during pregnancy and throughout a child's life. Adults 19 and older can take the CDC's Adult Vaccine Assessment Tool to find out which vaccines they may need. It is important that all Michiganders are up to date on recommended vaccines.

August is also a critical time for those who are eligible to get vaccinated against COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective at preventing COVID-19 disease, especially severe illness and death. For more information on COVID-19 vaccines and to find a vaccine near you, visit Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine.

During National Immunization Awareness Month, MDHHS joins the Franny Strong Foundation, with which it partners with on the IVaccinate campaign, and other organizations across the nation to spread the message that vaccines are one of the safest ways to protect health and lower risks for certain diseases and cancers.

MDHHS will be sharing information and resources on social media to highlight the importance of vaccines. Help us spread the word. Follow MDHHS on Facebook and Twitter (@MichiganHHS), and use #ivax2protect to share why you choose to vaccinate.

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

Back to school: pandemic considerations



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

As the new school year approaches, the pandemic has caused parents, teachers, and all associated with the place we call school to think about some pretty heavy topics. For the first time, ever, in our lifetimes we are looking at facemasks, vaccinations, and a multitude of issues in the context of school.

The purpose of this article is to offer some practical guidance and support as the school year approaches. There is a collective resolve to return to in-person classes, and it is important that parents and teachers receive encouragement and support.

The COVID 19 Delta variant in recent weeks has caused national, state, and local news stories about vaccinations, masks, social distancing, and related topics. These are stressful subjects, to be sure.

What are some suggestions for parents?

First, stay knowledgeable about guidelines at the local, state, and national levels.

This is a day-to-day challenge as the virus shifts and responses to it vary. It is entirely possible that one school may require one set of guidelines and another school different ones. Local media such as WNEM TV 5 and WSGW 790 AM do a great job with updating the public about new guidelines related to the pandemic.

Changing guidelines can be frustrating and confusing. What it is, however, is a reflection of how quickly the virus is moving and parents can stay updated by watching for changes and by keeping in close contact with their local school leaders.

Second, remember that guidelines and requirements are for the general public. As a parent, I would urge you to think of them as minimums. Should you want to exceed a requirement as a matter of personal safety, do the research and consider doing so. Face masks, for example, may be required indoors but maybe you feel they should be worn outdoors, as well.



COURTESY PHOTO

Just one example where parents may be more comfortable with more layers of protection that might be required.

Most of all, remain positive. If you share frustration with your child or in front of your child, you run the risk of eroding confidence, creating worry and stress for your child.

What about teachers?

Much the same as for parents.....keep informed and stay as positive & supportive as possible. You are in a unique leadership role: What you say and do matter. You can be a tone-setter and be the glue that helps hold everyone together. The pandemic has resulted in an increase of respect for teachers. Teachers have been heroes!

For everyone, your personal health and safety are paramount. Consult with your doctor about what is best for you and your family. This especially true for this virus and how it is constantly changing. For the big-ticket issue of vaccinations and impending booster shots, your physician is a great resource to help guide your thinking.

Best wishes to everyone as we enter the 2021-22 school year!

Resources:

<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98158-565342--,00.html>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2021/07/27/delta-variant-masks-back-to-school/5383646001>



“I would love for you to come to our downtown office to visit with me about becoming a Cardinal! I am happy to assist you with how to complete your admission application, explore academic programs, submit the FASFA, and discuss many other services at SVSU that bring you closer to your educational dreams.”

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Our convenient Riverfront Saginaw Center is open and ready to serve your unique needs.

Schedule your visit with Carmen Stricker, who will be available at our Riverfront Saginaw Center from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every Wednesday now through Aug. 18.

Carmen Stricker
989-625-1202 | ccstrick@svsu.edu



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+ EDUCATION

SVSU hires new dean of College of Health & Human Services



MARCIA MASTRACCI DITMYER

Saginaw, MI – Saginaw Valley State University has hired a leader with experience as an epidemiologist, researcher and community health specialist to serve as the new dean of the institution's Crystal M. Lange College of Health &

Human Services.

Marcia Mastracci Ditmyer comes to SVSU after serving as the associate dean for education and professor in residence with Emeritus at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), School of Dental Medicine where she provided leadership and assumed oversight for all educational programs and learning environments within the school. Her appointment begins August 1.

"I am very excited and look forward to working side-by-side with the outstanding students, faculty and staff at SVSU," Ditmyer said.

Ditmyer's experience and expertise are wide-ranging, from risk mitigation to leading complex change initiatives to building

partnerships across a variety of stakeholders, including K-12 institutions, businesses and government agencies. At UNLV, she facilitated the establishment of an inter-professional academic health center and most recently spearheaded the COVID-19 Response Team, using evidence-based best practices to maintain the continuity of education, while ensuring a safe and healthy environment for faculty, staff, students, and patients.

Deborah Huntley, SVSU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, said Ditmyer's strong record of professional service, leadership, research and teaching made her the right choice for the position.

"Dr. Ditmyer has a strong commitment to interprofessional education and an impressive portfolio of successful leadership experiences" Huntley said. "She is an outstanding choice to lead SVSU's exceptional programs in SVSU's College of Health & Human Services."

A Michigan native, Ditmyer received an MBA from Central Michigan University, a Master of Science from California College for Health Sciences, and a PhD from the University of Toledo. She also holds the Master Certified Health Education Specialist credential from National Commission for Health Education Credentialing.

Her formal training has allowed Ditmyer to work as an epidemiologist, researcher, and community health specialist.

Early in her career, Ditmyer worked in the automotive sector. In her 19 years at UNLV, she gained interprofessional experience working within a variety of health science professions, including medicine, dental, nursing, community/public health, occupational therapy, physical therapy, kinesiology and nutrition sciences, social work, and mental health counseling. She also is a senior consultant for the Academy for Advancing Leadership.

Ditmyer is a health and fitness enthusiast and believes in a holistic approach to wellness, centered on the principles of inclusion, empowerment, and personal well-being.

SVSU's Crystal M. Lange College of Health & Human Services provides a knowledge- and skills-based education, combining theoretical courses with clinical or fieldwork experience components to equip students for careers across the health care field. For more information about SVSU's College of Health & Human Services, visit svsu.edu/collegeofhealth-humanservices.

Delta College develops one- and two-day technical classes in response to employer needs

University Center, MI – In response to needs expressed by local employers, Delta College's Corporate Services office has launched a new boot camp that will provide technical training in a variety of specialized areas.

The one- and two-day classes, which take place in late August, are designed to be interactive and will be led by industry professionals at Delta's main campus. Individuals do not need to be an enrolled student to attend.

• **Microsoft Excel Beginner:** August

23, 8am-4pm, \$350. Register by August 10.

- **Precision Measuring Level I:** August 25, 8am-4pm, \$200. Register by August 16.
- **ISO-9001: 2015 Overview, Implementation and Auditing:** August 30 and September 2, 8am-4pm, \$550. Register by August 20.
- **Math for Technical Trades:** August 31, 8am-4pm, \$350. Register by August 23.

Jennifer Carroll, director of Corporate

Services, said Delta's employer partners cite basic math, computer and technical skills as the top skills missing from their employees.

"Our technical training boot camp classes are an example of how Delta responds to community needs. We are excited to offer them and look forward to employees continuing their professional development at our campus," said Carroll.

For more information, visit Delta's Technical Training Boot Camps website or email training@delta.edu

Saginaw school leaders explore rules for classroom returns

By MIKE THOMPSON

How strict will the Saginaw School District's covid guidelines stand for the 2021-22 school year that begins Monday, Aug. 30?

Board of Education members are scheduled to decide when they meet at the downtown central office at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 18. Their virtual meetings by computer are over, at least for now.

What does the future hold for age 12-and-up students who are not vaccinated? What about non-vaxed parents entering school buildings, or the general public attending sports contests or student concerts and plays?

All and more will be on the table, says Superintendent Ramont Roberts.

He simply seeks rules that are strong enough to maintain full-time traditional learning and avoid any sort of return to in-home lessons by computer.



COURTESY PHOTO

"We have to face the reality that in-school teaching is vital to our students," Roberts says. "We absolutely must have academic and educational support within the structure of the student environment. That's what we are doing."

The superintendent won't dwell on how many pupils fell behind, by how much, during the past year and a half of covid domination. His staff simply will rely on advanced learning materials, and methods of in-school learning, to keep the new

Delta virus at bay.

On Aug. 18, school trustees also possibly will begin to discuss priorities for \$65 million in covid relief monies. The funds are unprecedented, far in excess of any past federal grants. Despite the "covid" label, the main purpose is basic anti-poverty support.

Parents and caregivers are urged to seek updates on the district's website, spsd.net.

MDHHS updates school guidance and strongly recommends universal masking to prevent the spread of COVID-19

Lansing, MI – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued updated recommendations for schools designed to help prevent transmission of COVID-19 within school buildings, reduce disruptions to in-person learning and help protect vulnerable individuals and individuals who are not fully vaccinated. Because many students have yet to be vaccinated and students under age 12 are not yet eligible, layered prevention measures, including universal masking, must be put in place for consistent in-person learning to keep kids, staff and families safe.

The guidance has been updated to reflect the most current recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC) on masking and prevention strategies to help operate schools more safely. Mask use has been proven to substantially reduce transmission in school settings.

"We are committed to ensuring Michigan students and educators are safe in the classroom, including those who may not yet be vaccinated," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health at MDHHS. "MDHHS is issuing this guidance to help protect Michiganders of all ages. We continue to urge all eligible residents to get the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible as it is our best defense against the virus and the way we are going to end this pandemic."

MDHHS recommends that all schools adopt policies to:

1. Promote vaccination for eligible students, staff and families.
2. Require universal masking for students, staff and visitors regardless of community transmission rate or vaccination status.
3. Implement layered prevention measures.

To read the key strategies in detail, visit https://www.michigan.gov/som/0,4669,7-192-29942_34762-565926--,00.html



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.

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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



COURTESY PHOTO

U.S. House funding bills of interest to Mid-Michigan

Midland, MI – As the U.S. House of Representatives begins its August recess, several funding bills were passed at the end of July that could benefit mid-Michigan. According to Tony Stamas, President and CEO of the Midland Business Alliance (MBA), some of this funding for fiscal year 2022 could support local projects.

“Thanks to the efforts of Congressman John Moolenaar and his staff – as well as the City of Midland, the County of Midland and the MBA staff – our area is potentially on track to benefit from several initiatives in the current House bills,” said Stamas. “Congressman Moolenaar has worked to include language in bills that would help with flood recovery, sanitary sewer improvements, flood mitigation and more.”

He cautioned that there are many legislative steps ahead – including U.S. Senate

approval and final House-Senate negotiations – before mid-Michigan may see the funding.

The MBA Advisory Committee on Infrastructure provided an overview (below) of the types of requests that local entities have made through Moolenaar’s office. For those with specific funding requests, that funding may be available to mid-Michigan in 2022 if legislators approve these and other pending appropriations bills.

Requested Legislative Language

The MBA requested legislative report language in five individual fiscal year 2022 appropriations bills, urging coordination among five separate federal agencies – the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – on environment-based flood mitigation measures.

“Each agency has played an important role in the federal response following last year’s major disaster declaration,” said Stamas. “This report language is important to communicate to these agencies the congressional interest and intent on specific policy – in this case, the importance of environment-based mitigation measures to lessen the impact of future floods in our region. The report language we requested is now included in five separate funding bills in the House of Representatives.”

CONTINUES ON PG 40, FUNDING BILLS

+ BUSINESS**Continued from pg 39, funding bills**

Those bills are: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies (with oversight of the USDA); Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development and Related Agencies (with oversight of the USACE); Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (with oversight of NOAA); Subcommittee on Homeland Security (with oversight of FEMA); and Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies (with oversight of the EPA).

Three Funding Requests

First, on behalf of the City of Midland, City Manager Brad Kaye submitted a Community Project Funding request to Congressman Moolenaar for \$750,000 in grant funding under the EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) program. This funding would support Midland's storm and sanitary sewer improvements project. The funds would be specifically targeted to the planned sanitary sewer lining and manhole rehabilitation project, which is a key step toward improving the sewer system to build resiliency for future flooding and rain events. The \$750,000 in EPA funding for the City of Midland is included in the Interior & Environment Appropriations bill that passed the full House of Representatives on July 29.

Second, Midland Center for the Arts (MCFTA) President and CEO Terri Trotter submitted a Community Project Funding request to Congressman Moolenaar for \$500,000 for Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Economic Development Initiative grant funding to support the revitalization of the MCFTA as a cultural, educational, and economic cornerstone of Midland. This federal funding would allow the execution of a critical

stage of MCFTA's revitalization following the 2020 flooding. The \$500,000 for the MCFTA is included in the Transportation & HUD Appropriations bill, which also passed the full House of Representatives on July 29.

Third, on behalf of the County of Midland, County Administrator Bridgette Gransden submitted a Community Project Funding request to Congressman Moolenaar for \$400,000 in NOAA funding. These funds would secure data collection tools necessary to improve the understanding of flood risks within the Tittabawassee River Watershed. According to the request, these tools are critical to improving flood forecasting, assessing the threat of future flood events, and informing City and County emergency management personnel. This data would also inform local and regional emergency response efforts and support public education and early warning activities prior to a storm event.

While NOAA funding could not be earmarked for this specific purpose, the House Appropriations Committee included additional funding under the National Weather Service (NWS) account to address this critical need. Report language has been included in the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations funding bill, which has been approved by the full House Appropriations Committee. The report language reads, "The Committee is concerned about the limitations of NEXRAD due to its ineffectiveness in calculating low altitude rainfall, below 7,000 feet, in low lying areas on the edges of the radars' scannable range, lack of river gauges and lack of ground truth stations. The Committee, therefore, encourages NWS to install additional small data collection devices to better assess rainfall, water levels, and related climate data. The Committee encourages the NWS to install additional small data

collection devices to better assess rainfall, water levels, and related climate data. The NWS is urged to focus on watersheds where underestimates of local rainfall has led to damage of water infrastructure."

"Because of this report language, we feel confident that Midland County's needs for data collection tools can be addressed," said Stamas.

Additional Pending Legislation

"Over the last month, we have submitted the same funding requests to U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow's office, and she has submitted all three of our local funding requests to the Senate Appropriations Committee for consideration," said Stamas.

There is also pending House legislation that addresses two major FEMA-related challenges that affect mid-Michigan. "We've worked closely with Congressman Moolenaar and his team on the development of federal legislation to mitigate the financial burden that FEMA requirements are placing on the Midland area," said Stamas. Moolenaar introduced the "Rural Disaster Support and Relief Act" on May 19th, the one-year anniversary of the dam breaches and flood event. The legislation addresses a FEMA cost-share issue and includes a provision eliminating a FEMA flood insurance penalty affecting the Midland Center for the Arts.

More recently, the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee adopted an amendment in full committee to adjust the cost-share for major disaster declarations in the calendar year 2020 to no less than 90 percent federal and 10 percent local. The House Homeland Security Appropriations bill was approved by the committee but has not yet been considered by the full House of Representatives. This legislation is separate and distinct from Moolenaar's bill.

The legislative process on appropriations and budget approval is expected to continue throughout 2021.

"Congressman Moolenaar, Senator Stabenow, Senator Gary Peters and their teams have been very supportive and deserve credit and thanks for their tremendous support of the mid-Michigan area's needs," said Stamas.

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ON INFRASTRUCTURE**



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+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

Can I trust your nonprofit?

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Beyond the obvious of wanting to do something good and wonderful, what are the personal agendas an individual may want to advance in developing a relationship with your nonprofit? Do you know them? Can you meet them? Do you ignore them?

In the fairy-tale stories of nonprofits and the good they do there is often a white knight – a donor, board member or volunteer – who champions the work of the organization; gives major gifts; opens doors to meaningful relationships with other donors; promotes your nonprofit to the powers that be; and helps ensure your sustainability, program excellence, and targeted messaging. The nonprofit can focus on its “real work” and this mythical person will attract resources and solutions to proactively solve all challenges.

Here’s what we’ve observed. Very few organizations live in this fairy-tale world. Those who do have built a culture of fundraising into their nonprofit or institution and that work has taken place and resources. They trust the nonprofits they are involved with because they and those they know them, fund them, and are vested in their success.

When you are ready and wanting to diversify your supporters, board members, and donors, take some time to consider whether you are able or willing to accom-

modate the unspoken needs of those who can bring more resources to the table. These can be hard questions to ask and answer, but we suggest taking a moment to put yourself in the shoes of someone who may think differently from you.

Consider the following questions. Will a relationship with your nonprofit advance my career path? Is the work of your nonprofit something I can be proud of amongst their family and associates? Will this relationship give me the profile I want in the community? Is this an opportunity for me to make an impact? Will I be associated with a “winner?” Can I count on your organization and its leadership to help me become more successful personally and business-wise? Can your organization keep its word and follow through with those who I introduce as potential partners and donors? Can you follow through on commitments in a timely fashion? Will you treat those I introduce you to with great care? Will you reach out to me only when you need me? What about the “little” things: will phone calls and emails be returned?

Do you have the capacity and infrastructure needed to deliver on your vision? Are you open and transparent about your strengths, challenges, and where the “bumps in the road” may be? How will I be recognized and honored for my contribution? Can you deliver on what was prom-

ised? Do you know how to proactively get in front of issues that could erupt into a scandal?

People spend their lives building a reputation, relationships, and social and professional networks. These mean something to them. Take a moment to consider your willingness to value what these mean to those who you want to become involved with your nonprofit. You might find yourself with some new friends.



COURTESY PHOTO



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

+ 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
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Saginaw, MI 48638
(989) 759-9161
christimage.us

F



Faith Harvest Church
Bishop Ronald E. Chipp
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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
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Saginaw, MI 48602
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L

Life in Christ Ministries
Pastor Dennis Cotton, Sr.
2915 S. Washington Road
Saginaw, MI 48601
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M

Messiah Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor Otis Washington
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Saginaw, MI 48601
989-777-2636
Fax: 989-777-2640
messiahmbc@att.net
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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
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Saint Paul Baptist Church
Rev. Dr., Vincent D. McMillon
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Second Baptist Church
Pastor-Elect Marcelle T. Smith
1770 W. Youngs Ditch Rd.
Bay City, MI 48708
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St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
Pastor Carl Ballard
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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

U



United Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Cedric Nickson
4290 Lamson Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
Church: 989-759-9411
Pastor 810.223.2987

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



COURTESY PHOTO

Saginaw's repeat Olympic champ owns seven overall crowns

By MIKE THOMPSON

Draymond Green is returning home from Tokyo with another team gold medal for a U.S.A. squad in men's basketball, to go with a trio of NBA crowns with the Golden State Warriors.

Saginaw High School's gym was a second home to Draymond during his final Trojans' seasons, 2007 and 2008, when he led the Trojans to their final pair of Class A state basketball titles.

That's seven team championships in 14 years, along with individual accolades that have ranged from high school all-state to college All-American to thrice NBA all-star, along with Defensive Player of the Year.

Saginaw High's Athletic Director Marshall Thomas and his coaching successor, Lou Dawkins, had no idea that their fun-loving young leader would develop into a one-of-a-kind overall superstar who would focus far beyond scoring, into passing, rebounding and defending.

They learned one main thing, and that was to pay attention to his mother, Mary "TooToo" Babers.

"Between Draymond's freshman and sophomore seasons, Lou and I thought it would be a good idea to send him to a basketball camp for the best high school prospects," Thomas recalls, "but Mary kept him home. She wanted him to concentrate on his studies.

"This was just one example of her strength. Many of the Olympic individual winners were honored with tributes to their mothers, and I feel the same should be said in Mary Babers' benefit."

Not a typical star

Back to basketball, Coach Thomas salutes Green in a manner known best by insiders and by loyal fans.

"Draymond wasn't the fastest runner or the best shooter, and he couldn't jump all up into the rim," Thomas recalls. "Other coaches, and some fans, they didn't un-

derstand his game.

"Even when he entered Michigan State, they were somewhat skeptical down there. Lou and I would tell them, just give Draymond his chance, and you'll see. He's a winner."

Unlike most star players of modern times --, including Arthur Hill's Jason Richardson (Class of 1999), who departed East Lansing after two seasons for a successful pro career and two slam dunk titles -- Draymond stayed the entire four MSU seasons to hone his skills.

Even then, he was a second-round draft pick for Golden State (Oakland/San Francisco) who rode the bench for a spell before becoming a central figure in a Steph Curry-led juggernaut with five straight Finals bids from 2015 to 2019, including the trio of NBA crowns.

In the latest chapter, his performance in the gold medal win over France was typical of his atypical approach. He scored no points and didn't even attempt a shot, but he led the Olympians with five passing assists and made several key defensive plays down the stretch.

In one of his career landmark games, in 2017, Draymond became the only star player ever to record a triple-double while scoring only four points. His uncommon triple combo was 10 assists, 10 steals and 12 rebounds.

More glory to come

His longtime Golden State coach, Steve Kerr, predicts a future Hall of Fame entry.

"He is kind of a point forward, point center, very unique player," Kerr said in a national TV interview. "But I think the best way to measure Draymond is not with his stats. It's how much he impacts winning."

During past off-seasons, Draymond has conducted free youth basketball clinics at Saginaw High, but this August is uncertain because of the Olympic time and the covid Delta resurgence.

Coach Thomas says, "Any time I have asked anything of him, he has always been there and been supportive, very generous. I'm so proud of Draymond Green and all that he has accomplished."



COURTESY PHOTO

Charles Rogers will be inducted into the Michigan State Athletics Hall of Fame

Lansing, MI – Former football star Charles Rogers and legendary softball coach Carol Hutchens lead eight former athletes to be inducted into the Michigan State University Athletics Hall of Fame later this year.

This year's Hall of Fame ceremonies are on September 23rd. And the class will also be honored on Saturday, September 25th during the Michigan State-Nebraska football game.

Rogers, who helped Saginaw High School win a state football championship in 1999 went on to play professional football as a wide receiver for three seasons in the National Football League (NFL). He played college football for the Michigan State Spartans, earning unanimous All-

American honors and recognition as the top college wide receiver in the country. The Detroit Lions selected him with the second overall pick in the 2003 NFL Draft, but he was out of the league after only three years due to injuries and off-field issues.

While attending Michigan State University, Rogers played for the Spartans from 2000 to 2002. He broke numerous receiving records. Rogers still holds the school records for most touchdowns in a career with 27, breaking the record held by former Spartans wide receiver Kirk Gibson, and the school record for most receiving yards in a single game with 270. He broke Randy Moss's NCAA record of 13 consecutive games with a touchdown catch. During Rogers' 2002 junior season,

he had 68 receptions for 1,351 yards and 13 touchdowns, won the Fred Biletnikoff Award and Paul Warfield Trophy as the best college wide receiver in the nation, and was recognized as a unanimous All-American. His stock went up dramatically in his junior year when, in a game against Notre Dame, he outjumped two defenders to catch a Jeff Smoker pass in the back of the end zone, then managed to keep his left foot in bounds to score a touchdown.

As a player for the Detroit Lions, Rogers caught 22 passes for 243 yards and three touchdowns during his first five games of the 2003 season, before breaking his clavicle during a one-on-one drill with Dré Bly in practice, leaving him out for the season.

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 16

New survey shows Americans believe youth should receive money management education in high school



COURTESY PHOTO

Dallas, TX – There's a lot of talk about division about what is taught in school today, but the latest research by the National Financial Educators Council suggests that most of us can agree on one issue: we believe youth should learn about money management while in high school. According to the results of an NFEC survey conducted in August, more than 84% of Americans responded "Definitely Yes" or "Yes" to the question, "Do you think high school students should take personal finance courses in high school?"

Survey Details: 1,502 respondents between July 27th and August 11th 2021 were asked "Do you think high school students should take personal finance courses in high school?"

- 83.3% Responded "Yes" or "Definitely Yes"
- 8.8% Responded "Maybe"
- 7.9% Responded "No" or "Definitely No"

Complete survey results at: <https://www.financialeducatorsCouncil.org/financial-literacy-subject-survey/>

The purpose of the NFEC's research was to compare people's thoughts about teaching personal finance management

in high school with the other curriculum high schools typically offer. The findings were consistent across all ages and demographics and also echo results of previous surveys on this subject, which the NFEC has been conducting since March 2017. For example, an earlier study among 7,532 young adults indicated that money management was the course most young people in the US (50%) believed would benefit their lives the most.

To promote financial literacy in schools, the NFEC's petition encourage policymakers to mandate and fund comprehensive personal finance courses in public schools. These courses should be stand-alone courses led by trained instructors and require standardized testing. You can show your support and sign the petition at: <https://teachfinancialliteracy.org/>

As CEO of the NFEC, Vince Shorb has witnessed first-hand the need for youth personal finance classes. "People want money management to be taught in high school. Public schools have taught essentially the same coursework for 100 years, while overlooking personal finance – a subject that would benefit all students, not just a select few. It's time to mandate that public schools offer this important topic in their curriculum to prepare today's youth

for productive futures."

If we want to know whether classes offering financial literacy for teens are beneficial, we need only look to the US states that offer such education: Georgia, Idaho, and Texas have had mandates in place for high school financial education since 2000. A study by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) in these three states showed that, after the program had been taught for three years, students' credit scores (on a scale of 250 – 850) had gone up by an average 31.71 points in Texas, 16.19 points in Idaho, and 10.89 points in Georgia, compared with students in a neighboring state with no financial education mandate. These results highlight the powerful benefits of offering money education at the high school level.

The National Financial Educators Council is a personal finance organization with a stated mission to provide the highest quality of financial education. An IRS-designated Social Benefit Corporation, the NFEC is an enterprise focused on positive social impact. The organization has aided in the creation of thousands of programs over the last 15 years, reducing the time and cost of program development while offering training and resources to maximize campaign impact.



COURTESY PHOTO

YouthQuest expands reach of afterschool program in Flint

Flint, MI – During the 2021-22 school year, YouthQuest will provide afterschool programming at three Flint school districts. This includes Flint Community Schools, International Academy of Flint and – for the first time ever – Flint Cultural Center Academy.

“Adding Flint Cultural Center Academy to our roster means more students will have access to immersive learning opportunities that broaden their horizons while building upon the school day,” said Nefertari Jones, program director of afterschool education at Flint & Genesee Education & Talent, which administers YouthQuest, and is a division of Flint & Genesee Group. “What’s more, it’s an important resource for parents, providing their children with a safe space with supportive adults and friends.”

Now in its 11th year, YouthQuest provides high-quality activities that focus on academic support; enrichment; physical fitness and healthy behaviors; nutrition education; youth development and leadership; and family and community engagement. The program supports the “whole child,” which means that program staff work to positively impact the health, safety, and physical and emotional well-being of each student.

YouthQuest – which receives primary support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and 21st Century Community Learning Centers – will be held in person, with some clubs will be available via a remote format.

Program registration is now open for:

- Flint Community Schools, which begins on Aug. 16 (Please note that YouthQuest begins on Sept. 7 at Accelerated Learning Academy)
- Flint Cultural Center Academy, which begins on Aug. 23

YouthQuest will begin at International Academy of Flint Sept. 20, and registration will open Sept. 1.

For more information about this year’s program, or to register, visit yquest.org or contact your school’s YouthQuest site team leader.

To support the program’s continued growth, YouthQuest will host a hiring fair on Aug. 27 at the Flint & Genesee Group, located at 519 S. Saginaw St., in downtown Flint.

The program aims to fill two types of positions – learning guides (or frontline staff) and certified learning guides (or certified teachers). Anyone hired during the

event, which runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., will receive a \$250 sign-on bonus after completing 90 days on the job.

Learning guides and certified learning guides work 18 hours a week over the course of four days, Monday through Thursday. The starting rate for learning guides is \$13/hour, with a raise to \$14/hour after one year. For certified learning guides, the pay rate is \$16.50.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, have at minimum a high school diploma and be able to pass a criminal background check.

For more information, call (810) 600-1412 or visit flintandgenesee.org/careers.

About YouthQuest

YouthQuest is a high-quality, research-based afterschool program offering educational and enrichment activities that engage young minds. The program is administered by Flint & Genesee Education & Talent, a division of Flint & Genesee Group, with support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and 21st Century Community Learning Centers. For more information, visit www.yquest.org.



PICS OF THE WEEK

The Saginaw African Cultural Festival is the oldest on-going Black Arts Festival in the country. This year's festivities took place on August 13 - August 15 at the Morley Grounds and featured live musical performances, vendors, activities and more.

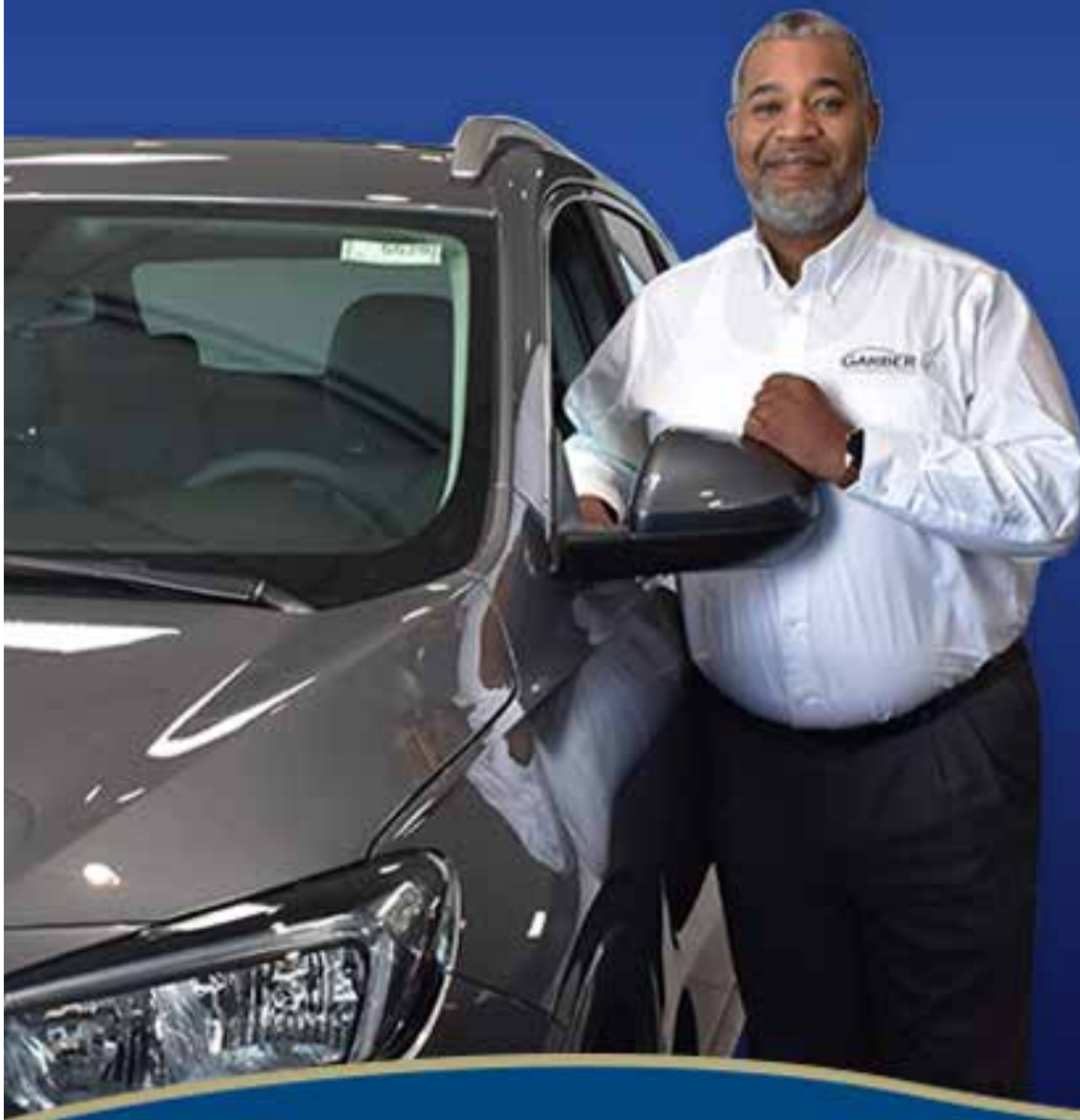


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Whatever your dreams, whatever your goals, your professors and friends at SVSU will fly with you every step of the way.

Since age 11, India Pernell has had a passion for expressing herself through writing. Yet, when she first enrolled in college, choosing a major proved to be elusive for the Oak Park native. "I was 'major hopping' until it finally occurred to me that I always enjoyed writing and that I was good at it." Now a published author, Pernell has her sights on a career in grant writing, publishing or the film industry. In fact, she has nearly completed writing a movie script. **Her confidence is nurtured by her positive attitude and accomplishments at SVSU.**



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