



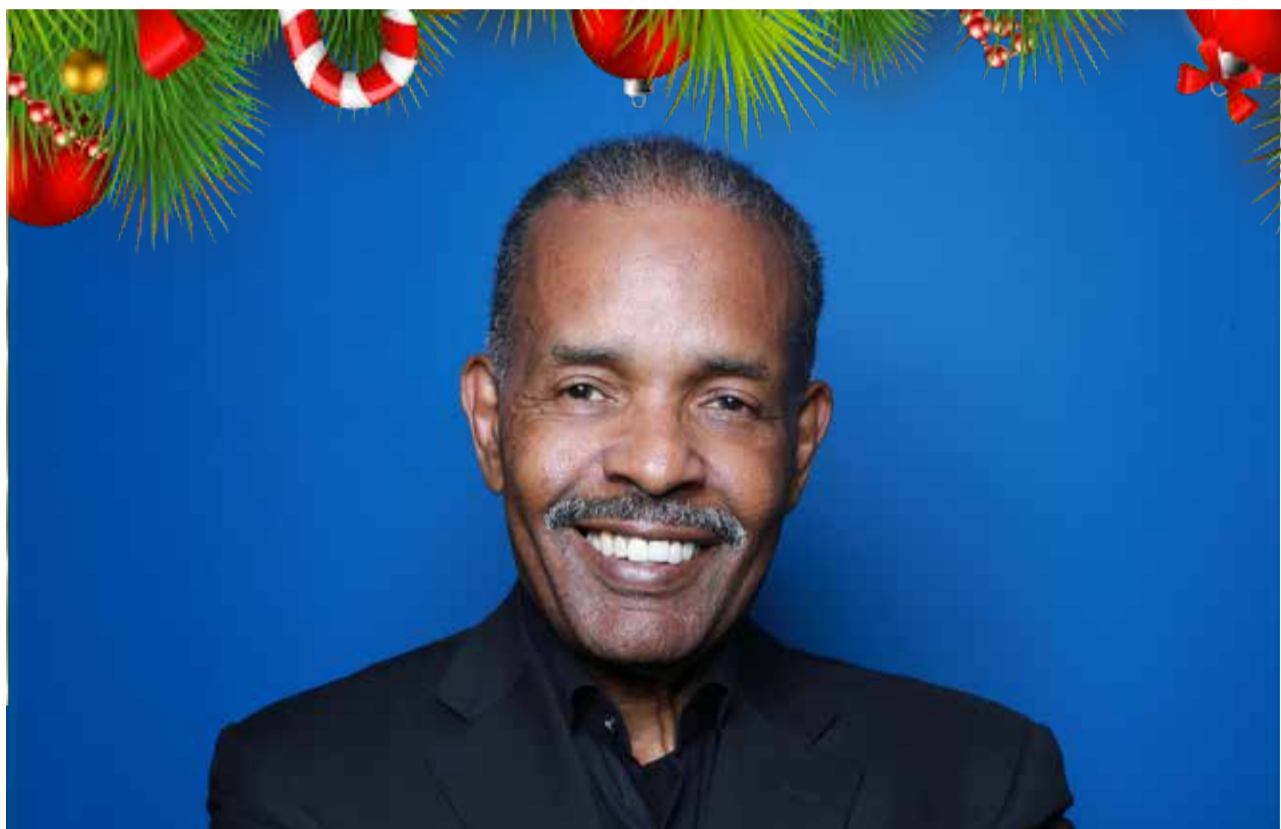
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MERRY CHRISTMAS

EDUCATION

SCHOOL SAFETY

EDUCATION, PG 34



JOE MADISON

Joe Madison will keynote virtual community networking event

The community is invited to a free virtual community networking event Friday, January 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., hosted by The Rising of the Phoenix organization in conjunction with the Michigan Banner newspaper. This event is sponsored by Delta College.

The Rising of the Phoenix is an organization based in Saginaw, MI, with an interest in all communities. Their mission is to support and help grow community busi-

nesses, non-profit or for profit, by providing access to resources and capital. The organization will also provide engagement for youth and young adults in the process of community development, while uniting all Michigan communities. "Together, we have a common bond whether it's crime,

**CONTINUES ON PG 2,
JOE MADISON**



Semiconductor becomes full partner with MAC

LATINO BANNER, COVER



More videos for Saginaw public safety

COMMUNITY, PG 12



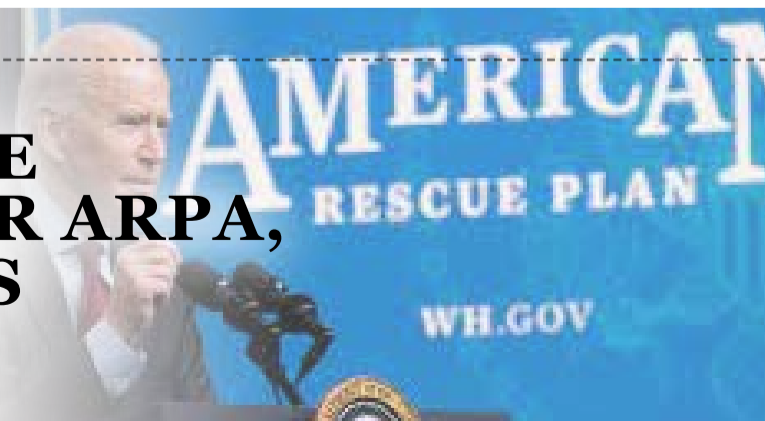
Saginaw school workers rewarded with enrollment bonuses

EDUCATION, PG 33

FEATURED STORY

MORE ADVICE PURSUED FOR ARPA, ESSER FUNDS

COMMUNITY, PG 11



Continued from Cover, Joe Madison

unclean water, blight, or a down-trodden economy due to the pandemic,” said Jerome Buckley, publisher and CEO, The Michigan Banner.

What can you expect from the event: To network with residents from neighboring communities on cause and effects. This is the first in a series of monthly networking meetings with a goal of continuing the conversation; sharing and seeking opportunities to implement ideas on making communities safe and thriving again. “We are fortunate to not only offer this as a free event, thanks to the generosity of our sponsor,” said Jerome Buckley, “but we are equally as fortunate to have as our keynote speaker, Mr. Joe Madison, The Black Eagle, who is a Sirius XM, radio talk show host.”

Madison has built a legacy of using his voice for those without one. His radio program, “The Joe Madison Show,” airs nationally weekday mornings on SiriusXM’s Urban View channel 126. During his four-hour program, Madison, also known as

“The Black Eagle,” talks about political and social issues, brings attention to social injustices around the world, and challenges himself and his listeners daily to “do something about it.”

Joe was inducted into the 2021 National Black Radio Hall of Fame for the “National Satellite Talk Radio Award.”

Named one of Talkers magazine’s 100 Most Important Talk Radio Hosts nine times, often in the top 10, Madison has interviewed world leaders, including President Barack Obama, among other notable guests.

A sociology major at Washington University, he was an all-conference running back on the football team, a baritone soloist in the university choir and a disc jockey at the campus radio station. He earned a bachelor’s degree in 1971, the first in his family to do so.

He has not forgotten the opportunities he received as a student and continues to give back to his alma mater. A member of the William Greenleaf Eliot Society, he has

generously supported scholarships, athletics and the Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement. For the past two decades, he has interviewed potential students for the admissions office.

He has brought international attention to human rights abuses in southern Sudan and helped free 7,000 Sudanese being held as slaves. In February 2015, he set a Guinness World Record at 52 hours for the longest on-air broadcast, raising more than \$250,000 for the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture. In June 2015, he made history again by broadcasting live from Cuba, becoming the first American radio host to do so in more than 50 years.

For more information on the event and how to view live, visit [Facebook.com/TheNewMichiganBanner](https://www.facebook.com/TheNewMichiganBanner) or www.themichiganbanner.com. For additional questions, contact Cynthia West-Edwards at 810-240-7784 or publisher020@gmail.com.

RISING OF THE PHOENIX

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

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As the holiday season approaches, and time to wrap up the Christmas shopping, I can't help but laugh a bit at family and friends who will again wait until the last possible moment to try to select the right thing for those on their list. We will have conversations about the crowds, the traffic, the items which are sold out, the commercialization of Christmas and the cost! How are we supposed to afford the 'must have' gifts on the lists of our children, spouses, and other loved ones? If we are to please everyone, it will require a payment plan that will still be in effect at the arrival of the Easter Bunny (we'll discuss him in months to come). For many families, cutting back is an absolute necessity. I call it 'streamlining'. Others call it being frugal (thrifty, economical). Still others may say it's just being plain old stingy! Call it whatever you like but we must find a way to ignore the hype and get back to the true meaning of Christmas.



Did you notice that joy, peace, happiness, and the birth of Christ haven't yet been mentioned in an article about Christmas? The true meaning is being lost by the wayside, not because of some sort of attack but instead the gradual replacement of heartfelt spiritual and religious beliefs with who received the greatest bounty. It will require a sharp turn or maybe even a sudden stop, but it can be accomplished if we begin to educate and prepare our families for the change. I watched an old Western in which the two children received one gift each and a peppermint. The boy was given a hand carved sling shot with his initials engraved on it and the girl unwrapped a small handmade doll. They were near tears with joy! That is a bit extreme for today however Christmas can and some would argue should be less about spending and more about giving – giving of yourself, your time, your assistance, your support.

Consider your Christmas traditions. Does your family really enjoy all of them or are many being observed because 'that's how we've always done it'? Some may be rather costly and time consuming (both in short supply) and no one knows why we continue to do it. If it doesn't bring the family joy, peace, or love, let it go.

Many businesses are struggling to stay afloat this year. Budgets are being stretched so far that perhaps we begin to rob Peter to pay Paul (an adage which means that we let something go and try really hard to make up for it later) so that we can purchase a few more packages to place under the tree. I haven't mentioned the cost of purchasing and decorating a tree? Astronomical. Establish a budget, share it with the family and try hard to stick to it. Trust me, my first attempt at streamlining was an abysmal failure. I rushed out and grabbed everything I could at the last minute. It takes practice. Practice at Christmas, on birthdays, on anniversaries, all the holidays that have been commercialized to equate cost with love can be returned to the original intent – an expression of love and caring for those special people in our lives.

Finally, as we celebrate this Christmas season, let's be mindful of our family, friends, and neighbors whose needs far exceed the latest toy on the market. People facing challenges won't always ask for help. If we are truly seeking joy, peace and love this holiday season, we will look for them and be a source of joy peace and love for them. Merry Christmas Saginaw. May your days be merry and bright – may you find so much peace and joy that you are able to share it with others.

Jerome Buckley
Publisher, Michigan Banner

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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE



COURTESY PHOTO

STARS goes beyond basic bus rides

LB PG 5



COURTESY PHOTO

Semiconductor becomes full partner with MAC

By MIKE THOMPSON

Saginaw's Mexican American Council is looking for good-paying job opportunities. Hemlock Semiconductor Operations (HSC), like so many companies these days, is in search of employees.

As the only producer of hyper-pure polysilicon headquartered in the United States, HSC has been a leader in polysilicon manufacturing since 1961.

A connection took place when MAC President Bobby Deleon reached out to HSC Chairman and CEO Mark Bassett, who in turn invited a delegation to the facility 10 miles west of Saginaw near where Gratiot Road (M-46) transforms from four lanes into a two-lane route.

There's a 7-Eleven and a gas station at Graham Road. Turn right, go a mile to Ged-

des Road, turn left and you're there.

"Few people have heard of us or know where we are located," Bassett told an assembly of a dozen community leaders.

Hemlock Semiconductor is the largest producer of hyper-pure polysilicon in the country, with plans to produce even more as demand for semiconductors and solar devices increases.

"HSC exists to connect and energize our world, and you can see that in the ways



HEMLOCK SEMICONDUCTOR
CEO MARK BASSETT,

CONTINUES ON LB PG 2,
HEMLOCK SEMICONDUCTOR

Save the Date

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Continued from LB Cover, Hemlock Semiconductor

that HSC polysilicon is used," Bassett said. "Polysilicon from HSC is the critical component in computer chips -- the 'brains' behind the electronic devices we rely on to make our lives easier, safer and more enjoyable. Polysilicon manufactured by HSC also is the fundamental building block for solar cells that harness sunlight to produce clean, renewable solar power."

He added, "A drive to 'get a little better every day' is part of our company culture. Every day, the company strives to create ever-purer polysilicon, and to tap the great ideas its employees have for reaching its goals."

In the cafeteria, a dominant poster states, "Working together to ensure HSC's growth."

The former division of Dow Corning Corp. now employs 1,200. HSC currently is working to hire new employees at wages that begin at nearly \$19 an hour.

In pursuit of diversity

Hemlock Semiconductor is focused on building a more diverse workforce, which means the Mexican American Council displayed perfect timing in making its inquiry. Bassett and his management team members said they are aiming to better reflect

the makeup of the Great Lakes Bay Region.

"In our beginning, we recruited mainly from the nearby farm community around Hemlock," said HSC Sustainability Leader Steven Holty. "These days, we need operators, trades, administrators and engineers from all over the U.S., the Great Lakes Bay Region, and definitely the City of Saginaw."

Bassett said efforts thus far include working with Delta College and Saginaw Valley State University, as well as in a co-op program with Saginaw Public School District students.

Mexican American Council members said they were surprised to learn that many of HSC's entry-level openings require only a high school degree or a G.E.D., and not the time in trade school that often is portrayed.

HSC also recently updated its human resources policies related to drug testing. These policy adjustments align hiring practices with the approach HSC currently takes regarding alcohol use and reflect the evolving legal landscape of medical and adult recreational marijuana use in Michigan.

Get workers ready

Company leaders said their task now will be to recruit and prepare qualified ap-

plicants to fill available positions.

Hemlock Semiconductor takes its role as a community supporter seriously, Bassett said. It already offers financial aid to institutions such as the Temple Theater, Saginaw Art Museum, Mid-Michigan Children's Museum, Saginaw Children's Zoo, and Saginaw Spirit hockey franchise. It also has provided Community and Regional Empowerment (CARE) grants to the Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Association and to One Week, One Street, to name a few of the recipients.

When MAC's Gil Guevara raised issues of immigration reform, based on his past experience, Bassett said he would be "open to that discussion."

MAC leaders also indicated that will seek similar arrangements with other mid-Michigan employers, using the Semiconductor arrangement as a model.

More information about the available jobs can be found on Hemlock Semiconductor's careers website, hscpoly.com/working-at-hsc.html. The Mexican American Council offers info on its Facebook page.



COURTESY PHOTO

LA CALLE MORRIS
PROMOTIONS PROUDLY
PRESENTS

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In Saginaw

2022



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LATINO BANNER
SERMONETTE SERIES

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'"

Matthew 1:23



By **PASTOR AUGUSTINE DELGADO**
NEW BEGINNINGS
MINISTRIES

A King Stepped Down

As we are in the heart of the Christmas season, let us take a few minutes and reflect on the goodness of God.

We may be down at times, but not out for the count. Pockets may be light but never empty. We may sick or healthy, on a mountain or in a valley, but one thing we should always keep in mind is, God is always with us.

We shall be blessed in the city and blessed in the field and blessed going out and blessed coming back in. It's all possible because "A King Stepped Down From His Throne."



VICENTE FERNÁNDEZ

Legendary Mexican singer Vicente Fernández dies at 81

Vicente Fernández, the famed Mexican singer and actor, died on Sunday after months in the hospital following a fall at his ranch outside Guadalajara. He was 81.

Fernández's career spanned five decades, during which he recorded more than 50 albums, filmed dozens of movies, and won three Grammys and eight Latin Grammys. He was born in 1940 and grew up in Huentitán El Alto, outside of Guadalajara, on his parents' cattle farm. As a child, he fell in love with the films of the popular Mexican actor and singer Pedro Infante and took up guitar, going on to compete in amateur music contests in Guadalajara as a young boy. He dropped out of fifth-grade and moved to Tijuana, where he found work as a waiter, janitor, and dishwasher.

In his early 20s, Fernández returned to Guadalajara and began busking at local

mariachi plazas. He looked out for a big break for years; it was finally in 1966 that he signed with CBS Records (later Sony Records), marking the start of a recording career that was prolific and rooted in classic ranchera balladry.

Fernández's expansive catalogue includes beloved originals such as "Volver Volver," "Mujeres Divinas," "Por Tu Maldito Amor," and "Aca Entre Nos," as well as interpretations of other hits such as "El Rey" and "La Diferencia." He starred in a run of films starting in the 1970s, with *Tacos Al Carbón*. In 1998, he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The singer was known lovingly by his nickname Chente, as well as "El Rey de la Música Ranchera" ("the king of ranchera music"), picking up the mantle from ranchera greats such as Infante and Javier Solís.



COURTESY PHOTO

STARS goes beyond basic bus rides

By MIKE THOMPSON

When STARS Director Glenn Steffens hitched a ride on Dec. 2, he wasn't heading out on a regular route.

Instead, the mini-bus stopped at the Mexican American Council headquarters, across from Hoyt Park, and picked up a dozen MAC reps for a 10-mile ride out M-46 to Hemlock Semiconductor.

The purpose was to connect the rural-location employer with metro Saginaw job-seekers, in particular of Latino persuasion.

Great, but what does Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services have to do with any of this? Don't they have enough to do, simply to keep the buses running on time, especially in the midst of our enduring covid pandemic?

Steffens responds, "STARS stands ready to problem-solve to help our neighbors find new jobs as well as a way to get there."

This has been his outlook during the five years since he took the reins, and he backs those words with actions, such as joining the Semiconductor exchange to see matters for himself and to offer ongoing support.

"When the community comes forward with needs, we will be there to assist in any way we can," he asserts.

Jamie Forbes, STARS director of external affairs, joined Steffens on the Semiconductor sojourn. Her experience in community relations includes serving as past director of

the Ezekiel Project, and then on the City Council.

She says: "Listening carefully, assessing needs and providing thoughtful and needed transportation is a way a transportation agency like ours can problem-solve. Public transportation can and should be innovative and creative. Jobs-related travel is a win-win for employees and employers."



JAMIE FORBES

First, election day rides

The proactive strategy has not been highly publicized, but gradually it has become instilled.

Residents may first have noticed when STARS began offering free rides to the election-day polls for citizens in need, and most lately ensuring essential travel and access to vaccination during covid times.

Lesser known, but even more revolutionary, is the four-year old "Pigeon Express," which transports Saginawians 60 miles back and forth to the Thumb lakeshore small town for employment at Blue Diamond Steel Casting.

It's not a freebie. The fee in January will rise to \$7 in each direction, or \$70 weekly for full-time work, deductible from paychecks. But Steffens says this remains a good deal as opposed to 600 miles per week for gasoline and costs for vehicle wear-and-tear.

"This means everything to someone who is working their way up," he notes. "A number of our riders, heads of households, have achieved gains to where they now have ob-

tained their own cars, but they still choose to ride the bus.

The Michigan Sugar processing plant in Sebewaing soon hopefully will be added, he says.

Blue Diamond subsidizes any costs that the rider fees fall short of covering. Steffens anticipates more contracts with local and regional enterprises in years to come, including possibly with Hemlock Semiconductor.

Big help, rare publicity

For another of many beyond the basics examples, STARS assisted with Meals on Wheels for the Commission on Aging, using funds from CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) to pay for operations, and for supplying vehicles and drivers, when covid caused a drop-off in volunteer delivery drivers.

Another example is \$100,000 for the READ Association of Saginaw County to pay for more 6,500 student trips for individual tutoring sessions.

In addition to rider fees, main sources of STARS funding are federal and state grants, along with a 3.2-mill property tax that costs city homeowners and renters \$100 per year or more. Steffens, as a result, seeks to maintain break-even status for the special services, especially when a long-term goal continues for voter approval to expand the property tax countywide.

"We are a public service," he emphasizes. "We work for the community. Our goal at STARS is simply to break even. We're not here to make a profit."



GLENN STEFFENS

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SEEN ON THE SCENE

The Novena to our lady of Guadalupe at St Joseph Catholic church in Saginaw hosted by the American G.I. Forum




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+ COMMUNITY

More advice pursued for ARPA, ESSER funds

By MIKE THOMPSON

Two of our local governing bodies are seeking help in governing, at least when it comes time to decide how to spend and invest record-setting infusions of federal dollars.

These funds are described as recovery aid from the covid pandemic, but guidelines will permit spending for a widespread array of anti-poverty activities.

Saginaw County is in line for \$37 million and City Hall for \$52 million via ARPA, the American Recovery Plan Act. The sums are one-time treasure chests, representing a 21st century one-time War on Poverty.

Spending may begin anytime within the next year and may extend for three years, and differences of opinion exist over the urgency and speed of moving forward.

From the start last spring, when news of the federal windfall first arrived, Saginaw leaders have said they must proceed with slower-paced caution, because federal bureaucrats have not set clear guidelines for the types of activities that may or may not qualify.

However, at the same time, Congressman Dan Kildee stated in a Michigan Banner interview last summer that the rules are not restrictive, and that he would join his staff as mediators for these types of Department of Treasury questions.

Members of the County Board of Commissioners, under Chairman Carl Ruth, have agreed to seek help from a private consulting firm, Chicago-based Guidehouse, to "evaluate funding proposals and ensure eligibility" for a fee "not to exceed" \$925,000.

These are monies that otherwise could have gone directly toward the funding requests from applicants, including county government itself and an array of nonprofits. Commissioners say the cost is worthwhile in the name of making sure that steps properly are followed, noting that boards in Wayne and Oakland counties, and in Clinton and Livingston, are employing the same consultants.

Meanwhile, the City Council earlier

tapped Lansing-based Private Sector Consultants to help oversee a community planning session at the Temple Theater, for a far lower one-day fee of \$10,000.

And now the council is stumbling over Mayor Brenda Moore's proposal to create a citizens advisory committee, specific for ARPA. Members on Dec. 6 put the idea on hold, with various views on selecting those who would serve. Talks are set to resume during the next session at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 20, which may be viewed on Charter Spectrum's Channel 191, which replays shown on YouTube.

Council overlooks HPC

Both the County Board and the City Council could have asked for planning help as far back as last summer, but leaders say they didn't realize their oversight would become so detailed and complex.

City Hall already is home to the Human Planning Commission, which for 46 years has reviewed the annual Community Development Block Grant package, typically about \$3 million.

But Mayor Moore and council members have overlooked the HPC for the far larger \$52 million, even with a statement of purpose that reads, "The Saginaw Human Planning Commission is hereby created to provide effective citizen participation in an advisory capacity only to aid the City Council in solving the social and physical problems of the city."

Darlean Carpenter has been an HPC member since its 1975 inception (Michigan Banner archives, Oct. 1), and she expressed concern at being omitted from the process,

"We should know who, what, why and how this committee would be set up," Carpenter says. "We have some very capable people on HPC. We should be in the loop somewhere."

At the Board of Ed

Still, in seeking advice, the County Board and the City Council stand ahead in openness and transparency compared

to the Saginaw School District, which is receiving \$65 million. The cash comes mostly from a source with a different title, ESSER, for Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief.

Unlike the County Board and the City Council, the Board of Education under President Charles Coleman has conducted no hearings and has indicated no process for accepting proposals from third-party nonprofit agencies. These include, for example among many, First Ward Community Center, Houghton-Jones, and Neighborhood House.

Top newcomers are Judge M.T. Thompson Jr.'s "Distressed Cities" proposal, along the new Youth Development Corp. on Weadock at Genesee, which is chaired by former longtime mayor Gary Loster with a mission similar to the former OIC.

If any talks are underway involving the schools, they are without the comparable public outreach that county and city officials have shown.

This is in spite of many leaders and citizens alike stating that a top priority for the federal funds should be youth programs and activities, and also in spite of public trust demonstrated in last year's landslide voter approval of \$99 million in property taxes for a new, unified high school and other building projects.

Recent labor contract boosts for teachers and other employees (see related report on these pages) have been paid for with increased state aid and an enrollment boost, not from ESSER in any way. The same is true for the millage for buildings, including a unified high school, five stories high at the current SASA site, and for renovations to keep portions of both the Arthur Hill and Saginaw High structures viable for other uses.

(Footnote: All communities are receiving shares of both ARPA and ESSER, which began prior to current "infrastructure" battles in D.C. Saginaw's grants are larger per-capita because of higher poverty.)



+ COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

More videos for Saginaw public safety

By MIKE THOMPSON

During the past decade, says Saginaw Police Chief Robert Ruth, cameras on telephone poles or atop the upper sides of business buildings are taking an ever-increasing role in law enforcement and public safety.

This is not Big Brother. The police are not watching our each and every move, nor is this their desire.

We and our motor vehicles are being filmed, more than we may realize, but rarely is anybody watching, except for officers viewing videos to gather evidence in locations where criminal activities have transpired.

"With nowhere near as many police officers, the use of cameras has become increasingly important," says Ruth, who oversees a department that has decreased from 150 at the millennium's turn to less than 50 today, relying more and more on state police support.

At the same time, there are not enough officers to assign even one to keep full-time watch on the video screens installed at headquarters. But if a suspect is fleeing the central city toward the northwest, for example, a desk officer may monitor action along the Davenport one-way. Or if the chase is to the southeast, the same goes for Genesee Avenue.

If the surveillance comes up empty, police may use the video tapes for further in-



SAGINAW POLICE CHIEF ROBERT RUTH

vestigation or share them with prosecutors for evidence in court cases.

More cameras approved

The latest addition to Chief Ruth's celluloid corps is slated to go into use early this coming year with cameras to monitor the city's major intersections, along with those in place downtown, in Old Town, and in various high-crime residential areas.

Outside grant funds for personnel, a.k.a. more cops, have become highly rare ever since the community policing era of the 1990s, but monies for buildings and equipment, a.k.a. cameras, have remained in place.

Saginaw's links with lenses took root with the highly publicized 2012 unveiling of ShotSpotter, featuring cameras activated by sharp gunshot noises. These served

as deterrents and investigation tools for several years, Ruth says, but as neighborhoods became increasingly abandoned and vacant houses were removed, the impact diminished.

Follow-up action during the past 10 years has included:

- 2014, body cameras, which have offered both protection for officers and "transparency" when citizens complain of mistreatment.
- 2019, the DDA (Downtown Development Authority) pays for cameras attached above business facades, with the owners paying for the utility costs.
- 2020, a city ordinance requires enterprises such as party stores and dance halls to install their own video surveillance. Some owners protest, but others welcome the opportunity to connect with police for added safety.
- 2021, cameras are added and/or upgraded on Old Town's Hamilton Street and at Ojibway Island.

Undeniable evidence

Another prevalent problem is that some motorists have become "drag racers," he says, aware that traffic patrols more and more have become a deterrent of the past. Cameras are able to record excess speed and license plate numbers at distances that exceed the length of a football field, but the final tough-to-solve challenge will be to achieve clear photos of the drivers behind the wheel. This technology not only may thwart speeders, but also may help catch criminal suspects or to connect with missing persons, such as elders who sneak away in the family car.

"Camera technology is just like phone technology. The older it is, the weaker it is. The newer it is, the better it is," Ruth said in a 2019 interview, a statement that still holds true as we enter 2022. "We'll be getting better, more up-to-date cameras where we can actually see things. We'll have better cameras."

Video surveillance and evidence "has helped us to solve crimes and to arrest perpetrators," Chief Ruth says.



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What do the holidays mean to ABC Michigan Members?



By JIMMY E GREENE
CEO & PRESIDENT
ABC MICHIGAN

Our industry is a tough one and every day we start the day with one important goal in mind; going home safe. The holidays give us a perspective at year end that remind us how blessed we are and how we can't take anything for granted. In our everyday life we are surrounded by a variety of people and host of external challenges as well. Some of the people we deal with on a daily basis are a joy to be with, and their loving presence nurtures and encourages us. Others may have the opposite effect, draining us of our energy, making us feel

tired and exhausted. Our well-being can be easily influenced by those around us, and if we can keep this in mind, we will have greater insights into the quality of our social interactions and their energetic effect on us.

The Holidays gives us more of an opportunity to think more deeply about the people we interact with, it becomes easier for us to work toward filling our lives and hopefully our workplace with people who help us cultivate healthy and positive relationships. Even though it might not always seem like we have much control over who we are with, we do. The power to step back from toxicity lies within us. Let's face it and be honest; holidays change and in a good way. Assessing the people we spend the most time with and then having that break from them allows us to see if they add something constructive to, or subtract from, our lives. More often than not; they matter.

When we surround ourselves with positive people during the holidays, we clear

away the negativity that exists around us and create more room to welcome more positive energy. Doing this not only enriches our lives but also envelops us in a supportive and healing space that fosters greater growth, understanding, and love of ourselves as well as those we care about. That's what we bring back to the workplace...too bad we don't have more of them.

Happy Holiday & Blessings to you & your families and Thanks for all YOU do for Free Enterprise & Merit Shop. You all truly bless me!



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New chief will lead Saginaw Chippewa Tribe

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribal Council Elect was sworn in on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at the December General Council Meeting in the Entertainment Hall inside Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort. Judge Patrick Shannon administered the Oath of Office to each Tribal Council Member and then opened the floor for nominations for Tribal Chief. Theresa Peters-Jackson was voted in and will serve as the newly elected Chief of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe for the 2022-2023

term.

Secret ballots were cast and the following Council Members were elected for the remaining Executive Council positions: Sub-Chief Jennifer Vasquez-Wassegijig, Secretary Martha Wemigwans and Treasurer Gayle Ruhl. Please see the attached results sheet for a breakdown of the executive positions.

Dave Merrill Jr. was elected to serve as the Sergeant-At-Arms and Alice Jo Ricketts will serve as Tribal Chaplain. Saman-

tha Chippeway, Frank Cloutier (District III Representative), Ron Nelson (District II Representative), Mary Quigno, Diana Quigno-Grundahl and Luke Sprague are the other elected Tribal Council members that will serve alongside the newly seated Executive Council.

Tribal Chief, Theresa Peters-Jackson shares, "Today I am truly honored to be selected as SCIT Chief. Our Tribal Members and community will always be a top priority. Thank you, love and blessings."

STEM Passport coming to a mobile device near you

The Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance has announced the release of the next-generation STEM Passport in the form of a digital app.

STEM Passport is a learning resource for 19 different hands-on, dynamic STEM activities in the community. The STEM Passport has reached more than 77,000 students, fueling the next generation's curiosity and involvement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

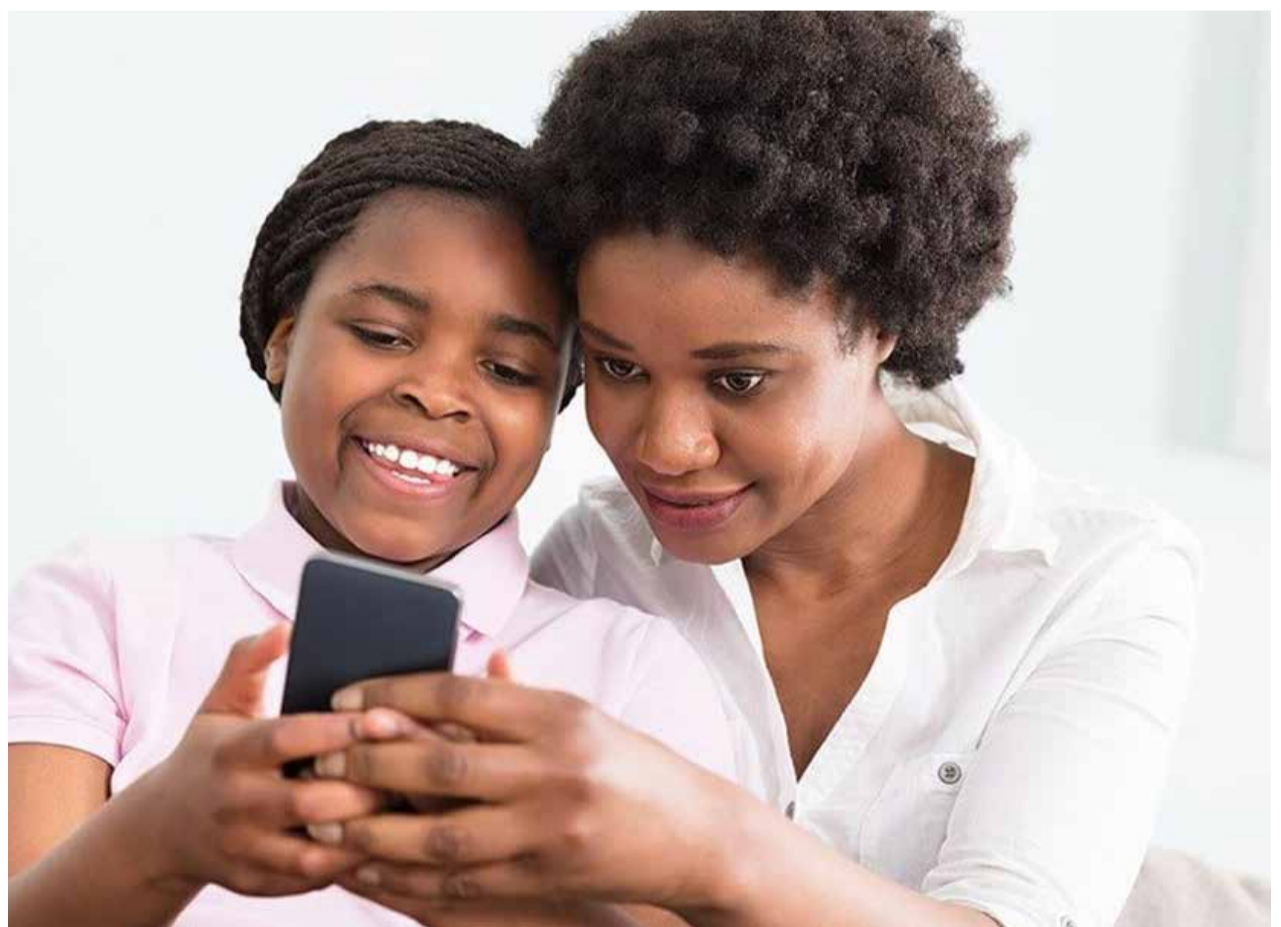
Launched in 2018, the Passport was initially distributed as a booklet to more than 55,000 children throughout the broader eight-county Great Lakes Bay Region. In 2020, the passport moved online given the digital needs of families in the pandemic, helping bring STEM learning opportunities to students across the region.

The app includes information on STEM activities at the following organizations:

- Arenac Community Center
- Bay City State Recreation Area
- Bay County Historical Society
- Beaverton Activity Center
- Castle Museum of Saginaw County
- Chippewa Nature Center
- CMU Center for Excellence in STEM Education
- Delta College Planetarium
- Forest Hills Nature Center
- Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum
- Midland Center for the Arts

- Mid-Michigan Children's Museum
- MSU St. Andrews STEAM – STEAM Education & Research
- Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum
- Saginaw Children's Zoo
- Saginaw ISD – Hartley Outdoor Education Center
- STEM@SVSU
- Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge / Green Point Nature Center
- YMCA Camp Timbers

The most recent iteration brings STEM activities directly to users' phones in an easy-to-use format supporting further STEM exploration and learning among youth during out-of-school time. The app is free and available for parents to bookmark on their smartphone. It's currently available as an installable web app and will be available in the App Store and Google Play in the coming weeks.



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Consumers Energy Foundation provides Cadillac, Flint projects with \$500,000 in prosperity awards

JACKSON – The Consumers Energy Foundation today announced two Michigan projects will receive Prosperity Awards to support local economic development efforts. Two \$250,000 grants are being awarded to both Communities First, Inc.’s efforts to restore the Masonic Temple and the city of Cadillac’s Community Revitalization Plan.

Prosperity Awards are designed to strengthen neighborhoods across Michigan and highlight the foundation’s commitment to Michigan’s businesses and communities.

“The projects in Cadillac and Flint will help these vibrant communities continue to grow and prosper, and the Consumers Energy Foundation is proud to support their efforts with these Prosperity Awards,” said Brandon Hofmeister, president of the Consumers Energy Foundation. “The foundation believes in a triple bottom line approach that focuses on people, the planet, and our state’s prosperity. These awards serve an important role in helping make wonderful ideas that will strengthen our state come to life, and we look forward to helping Michigan continue to grow.”

The winning projects were selected

among 20 final applicants. The two winners are:

- Cadillac – City of Cadillac Community Revitalization Plan (\$250,000) – The plan will help to clean overgrown and blighted areas, replacing them with microparks, green spaces and art displays. It will also improve residential facades and reduce blight and crime.
- Flint – Communities First, Inc.’s “Restoring Flint’s Downtown Gem” (\$250,000) – Communities First, Inc. will restore and reopen the Flint Masonic Temple’s restaurant and auditorium spaces as a premier arts and culture venue for the community that can seat 300 to 400 people for events, concerts, art shows, festivals, and other cultural activities, generating a significant positive economic and social impact for Flint.

Officials from Consumers Energy and the city of Cadillac will celebrate their Prosperity Award during a community

event this afternoon in Cadillac, and an event is being planned to celebrate Flint’s award later this year.

“This Prosperity Award from the Consumers Energy Foundation is a monumental achievement for the city of Cadillac and will serve as a catalyst to further progress our city,” said Cadillac city manager Marcus Peccia. “These funds can help reduce blight, improve our neighborhoods, and potentially create new people spaces - all important as we try to encourage further economic development activities such as attracting more attainable housing. These are all important components to build a stronger community for all.”

“Together, we’re working to revitalize Flint’s historic Masonic Temple, and this funding will help make that possible,” said Glenn Wilson, President and CEO of Communities First, Inc. “New flooring, polishing fixtures, new window coverings, fresh paint, updated lighting, and other upgrades will allow this century-old building to be a staple in the Flint community for generations to come. This venue will offer diverse programming that will ensure equitable access for all. We’re proud to partner with the Consumers Energy Foundation on this restoration effort to bring this iconic venue into the 21st century.”

The Prosperity Awards are the second of three \$500,000 grant allocations this year totaling \$1.5 million. Planet Awards winners were announced in April, and a request for proposals for the People Awards will be announced later this year.

The Consumers Energy Foundation is the charitable arm of Consumers Energy, Michigan’s largest energy provider. The Foundation enables communities to thrive and grow by investing in what’s most important to Michigan – its people, our planet and Michigan’s prosperity. In 2020, the Consumers Energy Foundation, Consumers Energy, its employees and retirees contributed over \$19 million to Michigan nonprofits. For more information, visit www.ConsumersEnergy.com/foundation.

Consumers Energy is Michigan’s largest energy provider, providing natural gas and/or electricity to 6.8 million of the state’s 10 million residents in all 68 Lower Peninsula counties.



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*If the foundations
are destroyed,
what can the
righteous do?*

(Psalms 11:3)



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

At the beginning of this psalm, it appears as though some crisis has risen in the national life of Israel and in the personal life of David. As a response to this crisis, some unwise counselor has suggested to David that he turn-tail and run away. But David responds by affirming his trust in the Lord. David then inquires of this unwise counselor, "How can you even suggest that I turn-tail and run?" This unwise counselor responds to David by saying, "Look! The wicked are out to get you. They have prepared their weapons and are waiting to ambush you." The question is then asked, "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" The foundations refer to the God-established order in every institution of society. Even though the foundations appeared to be crumbling then, and appear to be crumbling now, David helps us to go from panic to peace by reminding us of a few things. In this psalm we are reminded that the Lord is; He does exist; He is real. He reminds us that the Lord observes and examines. Everybody and everything is under divine scrutiny. We are also reminded that the Lord will judge. He judges individuals, groups, and nations. Finally, the Lord sees the upright and they will see Him. Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

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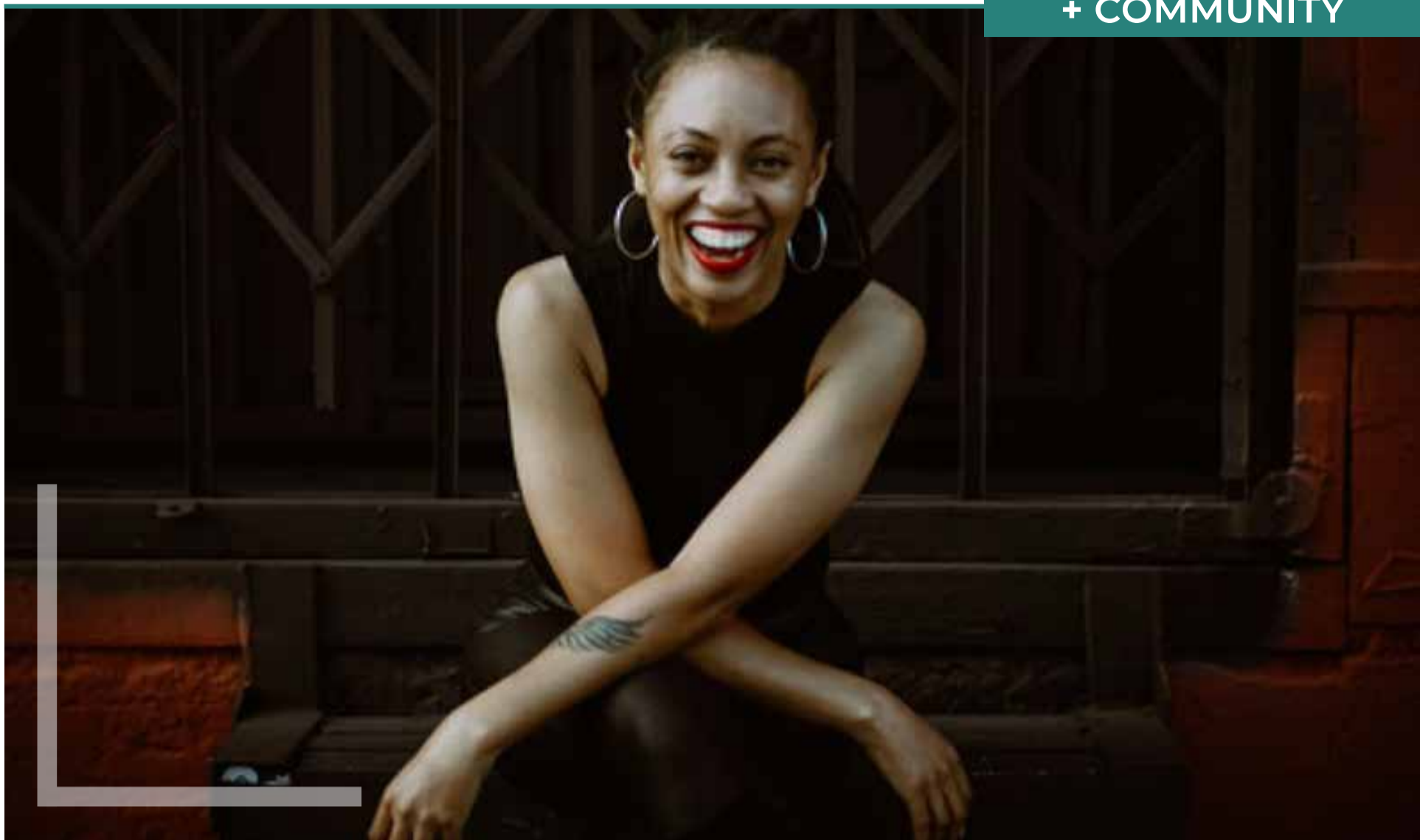
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CRYSTAL GREEN

To say that I didn't quite fit in would be an understatement. I was weird, at least that's what the other kids at Nelle Haley, Webber Middle and Bridgeport High said. I never knew what to say or how to say it. I never hung out because I wasn't allowed to. And my outdated hairstyles always really sucked. But I'm sure that my turtlenecks, corduroys, styleless shoes and less than flattering eyeglasses didn't help.

I didn't have many friends and because none of us were mature or bold enough yet to truly accept differences, I was labeled as mean. An outsider. A nerd, even. In school, in Black Saginaw and frankly, in my own family. And for many years, I never deeply connected with anyone because my lifestyle simply didn't allow me to understand theirs and well, I knew that, should they discover my absolute truth, they wouldn't understand mine.

Growing up, I spent most of my time living inside my head-- daydreaming, creating alternate realities, pretending that I was someone I wasn't, all the while struggling to find answers to closed-ended questions that felt very much open to me. Because the emotional abuse and domes-

tic violence that I experienced on a daily basis was just too much. Oftentimes, I felt lost, insufficient and angry. I felt alone and lonely. My prayers for freedom felt unanswered. And as time went on, my sole mission in life was to just get to the next thing, whatever that was. Because certainly, there had to be more in store for me.

But the meantime was still the meantime, which meant that I still needed an escape from the moment... from the constantly overwhelming emotions that rode my back like a sack of rocks. Early on, I was too shy to really speak up, so I found a way to express myself through writing. If I wasn't writing a new poem, I was writing an essay. If I wasn't writing an essay, I was writing a short story. And my writing served as a hiding place from a painful truth that I didn't yet know how to understand or accept.

Little did I know back then, but decades later, I would discover the power behind my pen. Not only would I use my writing to master essays or write rhymes, I would tell my real story. Not one layered in hidden meanings or twists and turns that pointed people away from me. My truth. In ways

that I never even knew I could. I would find the courage to grow into my own, to embrace my oddities and to use them to empower myself as a visual storyteller. I would become.

My path has not been smooth. And it has taken me a long time to come into this space--mentally, physically and spiritually. I've hit more bumps in the road than I ever could have prepared for and after spending most of my life on a constant chase for the next thing, I have oftentimes found myself forced to stop and smell the roses, a pitstop perhaps, because I simply would not have done it on my own. Cliche, I know. But it's true. In fact, I have missed out on so many experiences in my life because for so long, my focus was only on the road ahead. And slowly but surely I am learning to live in the moment, every time. Because nothing else really matters, right?

But my story isn't over. And neither is this one. Until next time...

- CRYSTAL GREEN

+ COMMUNITY

Holiday peace prize contest to distribute Christmas cheer

SAGINAW – The Mridha International Institute of Peace & Happiness (MIIPH) is holding an essay contest to award its first annual Holiday Peace Prize to 20 deserving individuals or families. The contest is open until December 20, and winning recipients will be announced December 23. The Saginaw nonprofit encourages entries to benefit

people who deserve some extra holiday cheer during the season. The contest is open until December 20 and entries can be

submitted at www.miiph.org.

Anyone interested in entering can visit the MIIPH website and join as a Friend of Peace. After registering, new members will be taken to the members area, where they can learn further details. There is no fee to join MIIPH or enter the contest. Entrants can nominate an individual, a family, or themselves for one of the 20 awards that will be distributed.

MIIPH, a subsidiary of the Mridha Foundation, was founded in 2021 by Dr. Debasish Mridha, an author/physician/philanthropist who operates Michigan Advanced Neurology Center and has written five books of his quotes and inspirational verses. The organization plans to engage the world community by offering enrichment and educational content on peace,

happiness, and harmony through its on-line learning platform.

"Words have the power to make impact and bring about positive change," says Dr. Mridha. "We want to provide a way for people in communities around the world to give holiday cheer to those who would benefit the most from it."

Founded in 2021, the Mridha International Institute of Peace & Happiness (MIIPH) is a 501(c)(3) company and a subsidiary of the Mridha Foundation. Based in Saginaw, Mich., the Institute is dedicated to promoting peace, happiness, and harmony through education, advocacy, and conscious consideration for others. For more information, visit <http://miiph.org>.



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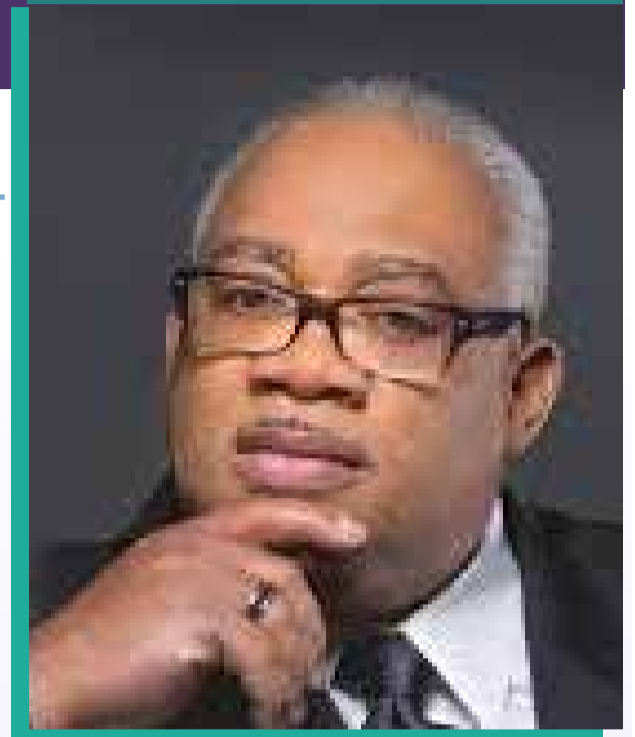
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I'M JUST THINKING.....

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



What if Mary said NO

An unusual thought occurred to me as I prepare for this holiday season. I was having a conversation about people as they prepared to gather and share gifts around the Christmas holidays, and I thought about the choices that we are making. We are still in an unprecedented time. The pandemic is raging in many areas as if there has been no break in the level of infections. At the same time, there are many people who are living their lives as if nothing out of the ordinary has even happened.

It has never been so apparent to me how that people are adamant about having a say about things that they consider a matter of personal choice. There is strong opposition to being told what to do or feeling as if they are forced to do something without having

the privilege of choice. Interestingly, this is not limited to age groups, race, gender, or even economic status. It seems that people just want the freedom to make their own choices about what they feel is important.

There are many casualties to this attitude. Relationships now have the stress of balance of will. Families have the friction of priorities among family members. Organizations are faced with the dilemma of members or associates deciding that their priorities are not in sync with the organization. That the organization should not have the power to make them submit to their historic or institutional rules. Even our government is experiencing a level of revolt, rebellion, and obstruction that is unprecedented.

This is happening while institutions are faced with the necessity to make rules and guidelines to protect those who they serve, or employ. Government officials are being threatened because the decisions for the greater good of the public go against individual liberties, or individual priorities. It is a difficult time to be in leadership at any level.

People are making choices, decisions, and levels of commitment are being challenged on a regular basis. It makes me think about history. In the past, great things have been accomplished usually because one individual made a decision that affected a large group of people. In some instances, it was a level of personal sacrifice that caused difficulty for the person, and sometimes even death. They made the decision, in spite of, the personal sacrifice or challenge.

The great heroes of culture in our times had to make decisions like this. Many people who were unknown by many at the time, but are now recognized in history, sometimes only be the mention of their initials, like MLK, or JFK, or LBJ..., just thinking.

What if Mary had responded to the angel in the biblical record of the Christmas story in a different manner? What if she had been focused on her own issues, and her own priorities? What if Mary had just decided to say no?

I realize that this is all hypothetical, because we have a record of what actually happened. In fact, we know more about the future of Mary's life than she could have ever imagined. All she had to go on was that the angel told her that she was highly favored of God. She had no real proof of anything, as we read her story. She just had this feeling, and she said this powerful thing...

"Be it unto me, even as you have said!" She then related the messages she was given to her cousin, her husband, and those who were in her life. She could only tell them what was told to her, and how she responded. I thought about this as I considered how I am going to respond to the things that come to me in this season. There will be requests of time and treasure from me. I will make decisions and will consider my own priorities.

In light of this story of an unknown young lady thousands of years ago who said yes to God, I encourage you to recognize that there is still a need for someone to say yes to something larger than themselves, greater than their personal priorities, and more difficult than the comfort they seek.

What if Mary had just said no.....
I am just thinking.....

+ COMMUNITY

IN MY HUMBLE OPINION

Best resolutions for the New Year



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

Resolution is a noun meaning, 1) “a firm decision to do or not to do something, and 2) the quality of being determined or resolute”, as defined by the Oxford Languages Dictionary. The practice of making New Year’s resolutions has been around for millennia, but it has not always been about self the way it is today.

Almost every ancient culture has some type of religious tradition or holiday that is associated with the start of a new year. Ancient New Year’s resolutions involved making sacrifices and promises to gods, praying for abundant harvests, and vowing to repay debts in the hopes that spiritual figures would bless the people with good fortune in the coming year.

Babylonians are credited by historians as the first people to make New Year’s resolutions more than 4,000 years ago (circa 2000 B.C.). This famed ancient city held its 12-day New Year religious festival, in March, not January, in accordance with an agricultural year, as per Cnet.com. A thousand years earlier, around 3000 B.C., ancient Egyptians took part in a celebration called Wepet Renpet, which translates to “the opener of the year”, according to Study.com. Apparently, there is no documented history of New Year’s resolutions at this time, but it is known that ancient Egyptians did celebrate with plenty of food, alcohol, and sex, which are characteristics of modern New Year celebrations.

Today, most New Year’s resolutions are secular despite the religious roots of the tradition. Rather than making promises to spiritual beings, most people make resolutions only to themselves, and focus purely on self-improvement. According to History.com, recent research found, “as many as 45 percent of Americans say they usually make new Year’s resolutions, only 8 percent are

successful in achieving their goals.”

In my humble opinion, the best resolutions for the New Year, and any time for that matter, can be found in the Ten Commandments. Even if you are not Christian or even religious, the morality of these mitzvahs is universal. Unfortunately, a 2007 Family Research Council study revealed that, “Only 14% can accurately name all Ten Commandments. Yet 78% of Americans are in favor of public displays of the Commandments.” It is ironic that most of us affirm the Commandments but cannot name them. During the settlement and founding of America, the Ten Commandments and biblical morality were taken very seriously. The Founding Fathers were very intentional to acknowledge God in the Declaration of Independence no less than four times: 1) “the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God...”; 2) “all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights...”; 3) “appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions...”; and 4) “with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence...”

For the majority that can’t name them, the Ten Commandments, as paraphrased from the New King James Version are as follows: 1) You shall have no other gods before Me (Exodus 20:3). 2) You shall not make idols, nor worship or serve them (Exodus 20:4-6). 3) You shall not take the Lord’s name in vain (Exodus 20:7). 4) Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy (Exodus 20:8-11). 5) Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long and prosperous life (Exodus 20:12). 6) You shall not murder (Exodus 20:13). 7) You shall not commit adultery (Exodus 20:14). 8) You shall not steal (Exodus 20:15). 9) You shall not lie (Exodus 20:16). 10) You shall not covet your neighbor’s house, nor anything that is your neighbor’s, including his or her spouse, workers, and livestock (assets/liabilities) (Exodus 20:17). The first four commandments are instructions about how people should relate to God, and the last six commandments are about how people should treat each other.

A 2018 nationally representative survey of 1,250 adults by YouGov and Deseret News found that half or more of US adults view each of the Commandments as important to live by, with ‘you shall not murder’

ranking at the top with 94%. After murder, the commandments against stealing (94%), lying (91%), honoring parents (85%), and adultery (83%) were seen as most important, as reported by Christianity Today. As we look for better strategies to prevent gun violence, Pastor Robert Jeffress of First Baptist Church of Dallas believes the first step should be instructing our children to obey God and His commandments. “Teaching people, starting with our children, that there is a God to whom they’re accountable is not the only thing we need to do to end gun violence, but it’s the first thing we need to do”, Pastor Jeffress told Fox News in 2018.

His statement was true then and is ringing the alarm bells of truth again today following the 30 November shooting at Oxford High School in Oakland County, Michigan where four students were gunned down in cold blood and seven people wounded by 15-year-old suspect, and sophomore at the school, Ethan Crumbley. This attack was the deadliest US school shooting since May 2018 when eight students and two teachers were murdered at Santa Fe High School in Texas. According to a CNN tally, “there have been 48 shootings this year on K-12 campuses, 32 of them since August 1.” On 09 December, USA Today reported that dozens of students, some as young as 9, were in custody in southeast Michigan juvenile detention centers following a rash of “copycat” threats similar to the Oxford High shooting rampage.

We need to keep the Ten Commandments more than ever, and with the New Year fast approaching, there is no better time to adopt one or more of them as your resolution(s). Other than the extreme case of murder, I was not able to provide more examples of the need in society in this format but believe me they are there. “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:3 NKJV). Some will be easier than others to keep, but if you follow all of them, you will be blessed. What we believe spiritually might differ, but what we believe morally should bring us together for a respectful, safe, loyal, just, truthful, and content society.

How to get your new baby's Social Security number

By **VONDA VAN TIL**
SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SPECIALIST

Welcoming a baby to your family is an exciting time. Doing paperwork, even for something as important as a Social Security number for your newborn, is probably one of the last things you want to do. We've made it easy. If your child is born in a hospital, the most convenient way to apply for a Social Security number is at that hospital before you leave.

When you give information for your child's birth certificate at the hospital, you'll be asked whether you want to apply for a Social Security number for your child. If you answer "yes," you will be asked to provide both parents' Social Security numbers. Even if you don't know both parents' Social Security numbers, you can still apply for a number for your child.

There are many reasons why your child should have a Social Security number. You need a Social Security number to claim your child as a dependent on your income tax return. You may also need a number for your child if you plan to do the following for your child:

- Open a bank account
- Buy savings bonds
- Get medical coverage
- Apply for government services

You can find more information by reading Social Security Numbers for Children at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10023.pdf.

Please share this information with people who are having a baby. Applying for a Social Security number at the hospital will save them time and let them focus on their new bundle of joy.



COURTESY PHOTO

Saginaw Promise



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Thank you!**

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PICTURED: TOP - (LEFT) HEIDI BERNREUTER, OFFICE MANAGER, (RIGHT) KAY KRAJKOWSKI, CLIENT CARE MANAGER (RIGHT), BOTTOM - (LEFT) DOUG HAMMOND, PRESIDENT. (RIGHT) ALEXANDER SCOTT, OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Great Lakes Bay fundraising efforts nets local Alzheimer's Association chapter extra monies

The Family Matters to Visiting Angels team has wrapped up their 2021 fundraising efforts as part of the Saginaw Walk to End Alzheimer's event with a little added green to their donation totals. The Visiting Angels – Great Lakes Bay team is being awarded an extra \$10,000 from Visiting Angels CEO, Larry Meigs and the corpo-

rate office, for finishing #8 of the top 10 Visiting Angels fundraising teams in the nation.

The extra donation brings the Visiting Angels – Great Lakes Bay 2021 fundraising total to \$18,176. This extra donation also increases the Saginaw Walk to End Alzheimer's event past its 2021 goal of

\$51,000 to a total of \$62,629 raised. All monies raised are donated to the Alzheimer's Association for continued research, advocacy, care and support programs.

The State of Michigan did very well this year receiving an extra \$40,000.00 in total from CEO Larry Meigs and the Visiting Angels home office. The South Central Michigan office out of Adrian, MI finished in 4th place earning an extra \$20,000.00. The Visiting Angels office out of Rochester, MI finished in 6th also earning \$10,000.00 like the Frankenmuth office. Across the country Visiting Angels offices fundraised over \$280,000.00.

"Visiting Angels would like to thank all of our family, friends, and business partners who have supported and contributed to our efforts over the past 10 years," says Doug Hammond, President of Visiting Angels – Great Lakes Bay. "It is truly amazing the support we have been shown for such a terrible disease. Currently, there is no way to slow, stop or cure Alzheimer's but we will continue to work and fundraise towards that day when we can slow, stop

and hopefully cure Alzheimer's. As Visiting Angels – Great Lakes Bay rolls into 2022 so will our continued efforts to End Alzheimer's."

About Visiting Angels

Great Lakes Bay Established locally in the Great Lakes Bay Region in 2000. Visiting Angels has been providing its award winning services locally for nearly 20 years. Visiting Angels – Great Lakes Bay provides in home care services to elderly, disabled, or individuals recovering from an illness, surgery, or accident. Visiting Angels serves portions of 5 local counties: Saginaw, Bay, Midland, Tuscola and Genesee. To find out more about Visiting Angels commitment to excellence please visit our website www.visitingangels.com/greatlakesbay or call (989)-652-6435.

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One night of Christmas Carols

EVENT DATE IS DEC 23RD


3 SINGERS WILL BE CHOSEN

1ST PLACE PRIZE \$300
2ND PLACE PRIZE \$125
3RD PLACE PRIZE \$75


AUDITIONS
DEC 8TH & 9TH AT 7PM

GIDEON CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
915 FEDERAL AVE
SAGINAW MI 48607

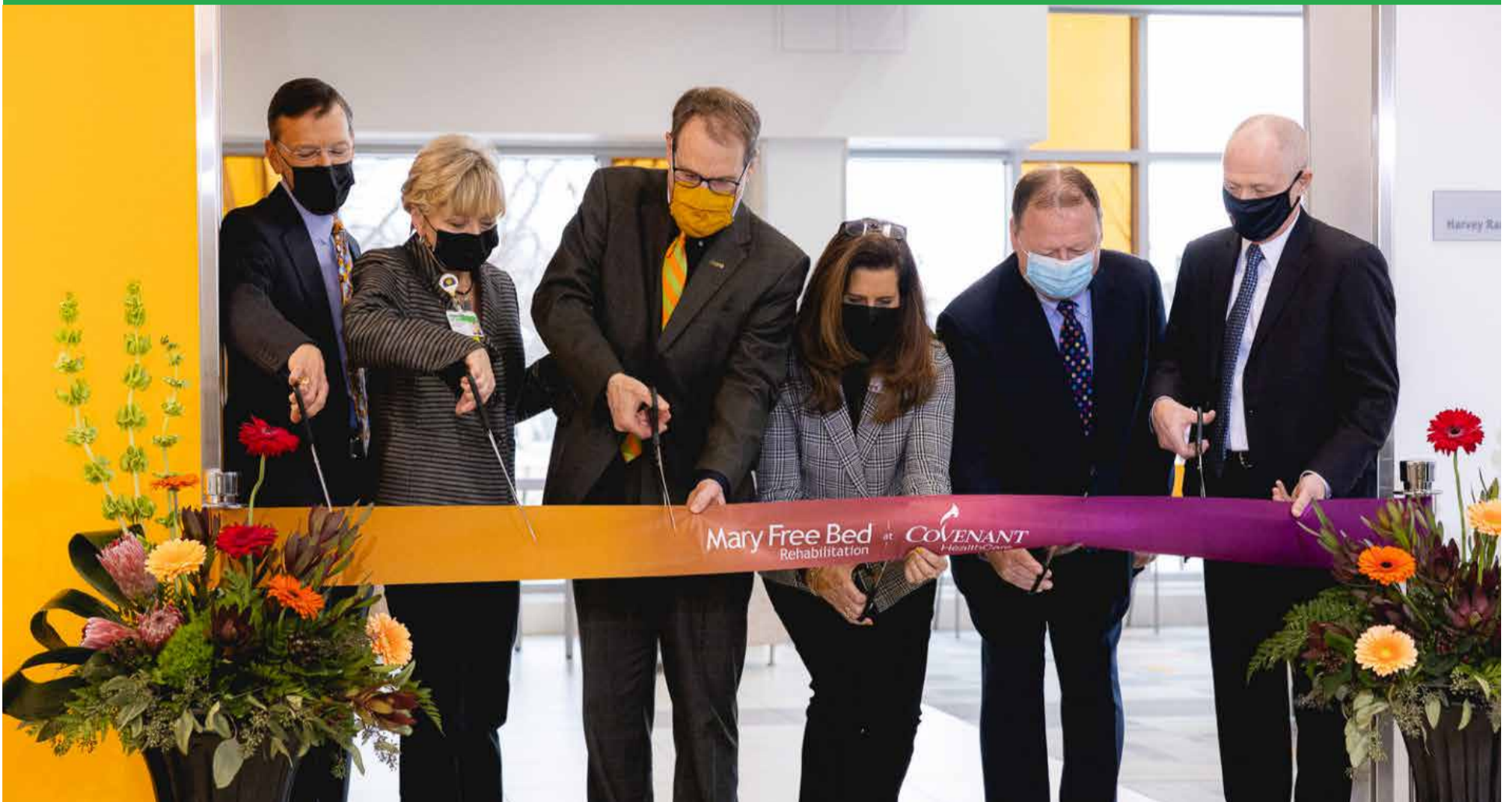
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+ HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

Ribbon cut for \$41 million rehabilitation hospital serving Great Lakes Bay Region

SAGINAW – In a virtual ceremony, leaders from Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation at Covenant HealthCare dedicated a new hospital today. The three-story building, located on the main Covenant HealthCare campus, is specially designed for rehabilitation. It houses 60 private inpatient rooms, outpatient therapy spaces, offices for six board-certified rehabilitation physicians as well as treatment and fabrication space for patients who require braces and prosthetic limbs.

“This beautiful and sophisticated new space is the product of the solid relationship between Mary Free Bed and Covenant HealthCare,” said Beth Charlton, president and CEO of Covenant HealthCare. “Together we’ve dreamed of elevating rehabilitative medicine in the Great Lakes Bay Region, and determination has pushed us through everything from supply

chain shortages to global pandemics.”

In March 2018, a joint venture between the two health care providers became operational. The pairing has been positive, and the number of people needing rehabilitation has been growing, fueling the decision to move forward with the new hospital.

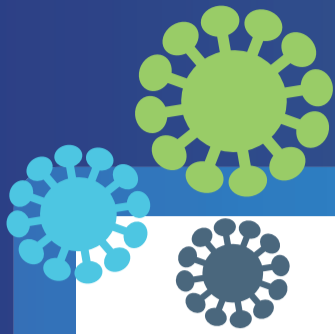
Kent Riddle, president and CEO of Mary Free Bed, came to know rehabilitation when his wife suffered a traumatic brain injury in a car crash. “I can personally attest that miracles can happen when hopeful and motivated patients connect with rehabilitation experts who love their profession and the patients they serve,” he said. Riddle predicted the future of Mary Free Bed at Covenant will include new programs, additional technology and helping more patients regain hope and freedom.


Decorated Vietnam veteran Bob Podleski also spoke about the critical im-

portance of vigorous rehabilitation. The two-time Purple Heart recipient, who’s constantly battled the adverse effects of Agent Orange, contracted COVID-19 in July. After a lengthy hospitalization, he arrived at Mary Free Bed at Covenant unable to sit up by himself. He’s home now, standing and determined to walk again.



COURTESY PHOTO





Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

www.GreatLakesBayHealthCenters.org

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

MDHHS offers mental health resources to combat winter blues this holiday season

LANSING – As Michigan enters a second holiday season during the COVID-19 pandemic, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) officials are offering tips and resources to help Michiganders cope with winter, or seasonal, blues that are common at this time of year.

"The shorter, darker days of winter can be difficult for many people," said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. "This season often deepens anxiety, depression and feelings of grief or isolation - especially after everything we've experienced these past two years. It is always okay to ask for help, and our department has resources available."

Dr. Debra Pinals, MDHHS medical director for behavioral health and forensic programs, observed residents are feeling the emotional strain of prolonged pan-

demical distress.

"People are struggling with the exhaustion of how long we have been dealing with this pandemic, and they're worried about what will happen in the future," Pinals said. "We generally see an uptick in depression and grief during the winter months, and COVID-19 certainly isn't helping. The winter blues is a spectrum of mental health conditions. It can range from simply feeling out of sorts or lonely to full-blown clinical depression with suicidal thoughts. We need to remind ourselves that self-care is critical and to give ourselves permission to take time for ourselves. Suicidal thoughts should not be ignored. People who do reach out for help are generally grateful for the support in getting through a difficult time."

MDHHS offers the following tips for

those suffering from winter blues:

- Stay active, even if it is doing small things each day.
- Eat a balanced diet and get enough sleep.
- Keep a schedule and try to get fresh air every day.
- Try to find a small pleasure for yourself within each day.
- Avoid using too much alcohol and avoid drugs.
- Create a buddy system to have someone you can call when you feel down.
- Set boundaries on how you want to spend your time in a way that works for you. Be respectful of others who may want things from you, but remember to take care of yourself.
- Seek professional help if you need it.

For a free, confidential conversation with a trained Stay Well crisis counselor, dial 888-535-6136 and press "8" at the prompt. The phone line is open 24/7 for any Michigan resident.

Visit Michigan.gov/StayWell to locate the nearest community mental health services program office, register for a virtual support group or access helpful brochures and recorded webinars.

Residents in Oakland County and the Upper Peninsula can get free, 24/7 behavioral health crisis triage, support, resource information and referral to local services through the Michigan Crisis and Access Line (MiCAL). Call or text 844-44-MICAL (844-446-4225). Chat is also available through Michigan.gov/MiCAL.

Michigan residents with serious mental illness or substance use challenges wishing to speak with someone who understands these issues can call the Michigan Warmline at 888-PEER-753 (888-733-7753). The service is available from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. seven days a week.

If you or a loved one is concerned about suicide, call 800-273-8255 or visit SuicidePreventionLifeline.org.

Virtual program offers smoking cessation support

Quitting smoking or vaping isn't easy, but it's easier with the right help. The American Lung Association's Freedom From Smoking® program is a proven way to quit and provides participants the options, resources and support to quit for good.

MyMichigan Health is offering a free, eight-session virtual Freedom From Smoking program beginning Monday, Jan. 17, 2022. The program will be held via Zoom on Mondays through Feb. 28, as well as on Wed., Feb. 9, from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

The program helps participants

develop a plan of action to quit smoking or vaping, and provides support toward remaining smoke-free for life. Freedom from Smoking is for current smokers and tobacco users aged 18 and older.

Registration is required by Friday, Jan. 7, 2022. The program is limited to 15 participants, and participants will receive the link to the GoTo Meeting after registering. Those who are interested in registering may visit www.mymichigan.org/freedomfromsmoking or call MyMichigan Health Line toll-free at (800) 999-3199.



COURTESY PHOTO

Covenant rectal cancer program earns national accreditation for quality care

SAGINAW – Covenant HealthCare has earned a three-year accreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC), a quality program of the American College of Surgeons.

Covenant HealthCare is just one of two accredited programs in Michigan, and one of only 39 accredited programs nationwide.

To achieve voluntary NAPRC accreditation, a rectal center must demonstrate compliance with the NAPRC standards addressing program management, clinical services, and quality improvement for patients. Centers are required to establish a multidisciplinary rectal cancer team that includes clinical representatives from surgery, pathology, radiology, radiation oncology, and medical oncology.

Additionally, the program met standards addressing the clinical services that the rectal cancer program provides, including Carcinoembryonic Antigen (CEA testing), Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), and Computerized Tomography (CT) imaging for cancer staging which allow patients to start treatment within a defined timeframe. Rectal cancer programs accredited by the NAPRC undergo a site visit every three years and are also accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer



COURTESY PHOTO

“The NAPRC accreditation is an important milestone for our program which helps ensure quality rectal cancer care by bringing together a multidisciplinary team of colorectal surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, radiologists and pathologists dedicated to the treatment of colorectal cancer,” says Dr. Tareq Kamal, Covenant HealthCare Rectal Cancer Program Director.

Accreditation by the NAPRC is granted only to those programs that are committed to providing the best possible care to patients with rectal cancer. The NAPRC provides the structure and resources develop and operate a high-quality rectal center and accredited programs follow a model for organizing and managing a rectal center to ensure multidisciplinary, integrated, comprehensive rectal cancer services.

**“I WOULDN'T
WORK
ANYWHERE
ELSE.”**

Rosalind Williams
Registered Nurse



**Join the Covenant
HealthCare family.**

When talking with Covenant HealthCare employees, one word always comes up: family. The close teamwork and respect among our people are what keep Covenant employees here, year after year. They love working for the region's leading hospital, providing extraordinary care and working with the area's finest healthcare providers. Join us and become a part of our family.

Apply at
CovenantHealthCare.com/Careers



**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

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

Saginaw school workers rewarded with enrollment bonuses

By MIKE THOMPSON

Payments of \$1,185 for each of the Saginaw School District's 676 employees, half of them teachers, are described as "enrollment bonuses."

Another outlook is that workers finally are being rewarded after accepting freezes and cuts during the financial hard times of the past decade, says Jean Weiss, a labor contract specialist with the Michigan Education Association teachers union.

The city school system finally is emerging with budget surpluses after threats of a state takeover similar to the type that overturned the Buena Vista district in 2014. A main reason is bare-bones spending during recent years. Another is an influx of federal funds to address hardship during the covid pandemic.

Earlier this year, the Board of Education approved the most generous contract since the late 1990s. Teachers received annual pay increases, and more importantly, a restoration of "step pay" to reward seniority.

A sidebar in the pact called for the bonuses if enrollment suddenly moved up-

ward, an occasion neither side actually anticipated.

But surprise! This fall's headcount jumped by 170 pupils, kicking in the special payments that arrived in employee paychecks on Dec. 10, just in time for the holidays.

At \$8,900 per pupil in state aid, the hike generated \$1.5 million in added revenue to cover the expense of the bonuses. Weiss said union members pushed for the same sum for each employee, rather than a percentage of individual wages, in order to uplift members on the lower end of the scale.

At this point, the overview becomes somewhat tricky:

- City school enrollment has fallen steadily after peaking at more than 20,000 a half-century ago, during the early 1970s when more than 35 schools were bulging within the bricks. Population flight, open enrollment and a dip in child births are main causes for a severe drop to 5,500 pupils, even with this fall's slight bump. More than half of those

buildings now are closed. The East Side has been especially hard hit, losing Central and Webber junior highs, along with a dozen elementaries -- Potter, Edith Baillie, Longstreet, Houghton, Morley, Heavenrich, Jones, Emerson, Longfellow, Webber, Salina and Coulter.

- Through all these years, labor pacts did not include bonuses for improved enrollment, at least not until this one. And now the count suddenly has increased. Does this mean the contract incentive caused teachers and other employees to work harder and to try harder, a direct cause of the gain in pupils? To say so, would imply they were not giving full efforts under prior contracts that lacked bonus provisions, and that certainly is not a picture that the union wishes to paint.

"Teachers always have worked hard," Weiss summarizes. "Teachers always have sacrificed."

She spoke in a backup role for SEA President Andrea Rethman, currently on temporary leave.

Unfortunately, we at The Michigan Banner were unable to make contact with Board President Charles Coleman and/or Superintendent Ramont Roberts during the past three weeks, in spite of repeated attempts. Roberts excluded himself from the bonus, and in the past he has contributed in various ways, including personal sponsorship of prom costs.

Unanswered questions for our Banner readers include:

- When was the previous year that enrollment increased in Saginaw schools?
- Are there any specific reasons for this year's sudden boost?
- Is there any info to predict future trends?

Limited press-release type info is found on the district's website, spsd.net.

+ EDUCATION

School safety



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

It was April 20, 1999, when the tragedy at Columbine occurred. Two students, wearing trench coats, entered the Colorado High School and after an event later described as a “massacre,” 12 students and 1 teacher were killed. At the time it was the worst instance of school violence in our nation’s history.

I felt in my gut that day that the world had changed, and that moving forward, nothing would ever be the same.

Since then, the United States has experienced more Columbine-like events...so many that at times we may feel numb. We categorize these acts of terror by the communities that suffered them....Virginia Tech (2007), Aurora, Colorado (2010), Omaha, Nebraska (2011), Chardon, Ohio (2012), Sandy Hook (2012), Stoneman Douglas High School (2018), and now Oxford.

Since 2013, there have been 46 school shootings with 70 people killed and 118 people injured making “school shootings” far too common. On November 30, 2021, Mid-Michigan found itself at “ground-zero” when a troubled student opened fire at Oxford High School and murdered 4 classmates, wounded 7 others, including a teacher.

Unpacking Oxford’s chain of events, there were many opportunities missed to stop the event. I am not simply second-guessing when I state this obvious fact...my purpose is to share some ways to prevent such tragedies from happening.

First, I want to recognize Tom Mynsberg and others like him who are experts in school safety. Let me be clear: I am not an expert in school safety; Tom and others like him have made their careers committed to keeping schools as safe as possible. And the Oxford shootings illustrate the rapid action from all first responders....it was reported that the shooter was stopped with a loaded gun that would have undoubtedly taken more lives.

One example. A math teacher quickly closed the door to the hallway, already locked due to advice from safety experts like Tom. In Carrollton we began to “lock” these doors as a preventive measure due to Tom’s advice; it played out in Oxford to save a classroom of math students from the shooter who attempted to gain entrance to inflict more damage.

The question I pose today, especially to our parents and grandparents, is, what can we do?

Truth is, there is a lot we can do as parents and grandparents to promote school safety. There are many great resources available, and in the interest of space I will offer my thoughts about the most vital thing we can do: Have conversations about school safety with your child.

These conversations can be life-saving. I compare them to conversations about what we do if there is a house fire. In this context, what can you do if there is a school shooting?

Neither conversation is comfortable or easy, but each are necessary in the event of a tragedy. The basics of the conversation can include the following.

- When the school has safety drills, take them seriously.

Drills are repetitive, by definition. They are designed to engrain behaviors that will “kick in” if or when a tragedy occurs. By taking drills seriously, the preparation can result in life-saving actions. As bad as Oxford was ~ and it was, indeed, bad ~ lives were saved because actions were taken that had been practiced by students and staff.

- Listen to your teachers and administrators.

Too many times students react nervously when teachers and administrators talk, and sometimes they start talking over them, especially during “normal” drills. Convince your child to resist this and to listen. And learn. Learn what to do if there is a tragedy.

Like passengers on a plane, we do need to know where the exits are! We hope we won’t need them...but if we do, we need to know.

Same for children at school. They need to know, just in case. That means paying attention and listening. It is not that hard (drills are efficient and last only a few minutes), and it can save their life.

- Learn to report students who seem troubled.

If a classmate is out of sorts, make sure your teacher or counselor or principal knows.

This is at the core of the Oxford event... it has reported by the Prosecuting Attorney that several educators were made aware of the strange and troubling behavior of the student. It is a fact that the behavior had been observed and was acted upon.

Yet still the event occurred. Does that mean it should not be a priority to report troubled students?

Not at all.

The actions at school are impossible to assess from a distance; we were not there and did not bear the responsibility of trying to help this young man.

We do know, however, that school officials ordered counseling for the student, and had that occurred, who knows what would have transpired. Four lives might have been saved. The student might not be in jail. The parents of the student might not be in jail, as well.

We will never know because the parents did not take their son for counseling, but instead, wanted him to stay in school that fateful day. That choice by the parents is the fulcrum... a tipping point of helping the student versus unleashing a school shooter.

In summary, I hope I have provided some practical advice that may help provide reason to unreasonable school shootings. School safety is a joint venture, taking input from law enforcement & first responders, educators, and parents. We all need to do our best in order to have the best results. Safe and secure schools. Where learning is a joyful and daily act.

The bottom line for me is this: I will remain optimistic and hopeful. As the prosecuting attorney stated: We are better than this.

Arthur Ashe famously once famously said, “Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what we can.”

Seems to me the quotation describes where we are at, right now, with school safety.

Resources:

<https://www.history.com/topics/1990s/columbine-high-school-shootings>

<https://criticalincidentman.com/>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/school-shooting-tracker-n969951>

https://news.yahoo.com/charges-filed-against-parents-suspect-180009400.html?fr=yhssrp_catchall

<https://www.thresholdsecurity.com/blog/14-school-safety-techniques-for-a-safer-campus/>

<https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/arthur-ashe-quotes>

+ EDUCATION



SVSU PRESIDENT DONALD J. BACHAND

SVSU graduates to cap off fall semester with in-person commencement on Friday

More than 400 graduates of Saginaw Valley State University will celebrate their determination to complete their academic degrees during Commencement exercises Friday, Dec. 17.

The university will hold two ceremonies for fall 2021 graduates: one at 12:30 p.m. for students in the colleges of Arts & Behavioral Sciences; Education; and Science, Engineering & Technology, and another at 4 p.m. for graduates of the colleges of Health & Human Services and the Carmona College of Business. Both ceremonies will be held in SVSU's Ryder Center and will be video-streamed live.

SVSU also is holding a Commencement ceremony Saturday, Dec. 18 for those who graduated in 2020 and did not receive an in-person ceremony due to pandemic restrictions in place at the time. More than 125 people have registered to participate in the Saturday ceremony.

SVSU President Donald J. Bachand will deliver remarks at each ceremony.

"Our students have overcome extraordinary challenges to complete their degrees. I'm extremely proud of all of our graduates who have persevered through all of the ups and downs of the past two



BROOKE ELWARD

years," Bachand said. "I'm very happy that we can share this occasion with students and their families."

Brooke Elward, a marketing major from Shelby Township, is among those graduating. She is looking forward to the celebration.

"I am thrilled to participate in

Commencement," she said. "College is where you choose what you love to do. I get to celebrate me finding myself with my family."

Of the 486 students who applied to graduate, 407 are expected to receive bachelor's degrees and 79 are expected to earn master's or other advanced degrees. Around 425 graduates have indicated that they will don regalia and participate in Friday's commencement exercises.

Elward has some idea of what's in store Friday; she was among the scores of volunteers who helped coordinate SVSU's first outdoor Commencement ceremonies in May.

"Seeing how happy those students were to walk across the stage outside in the rain made me excited for December," she said. "The shared energy of being proud of yourself, but also having the faculty show up to show you how proud of you they are, is phenomenal!"

Each graduating student is allowed up to four guests, and health and safety protocols will be observed. SVSU also is providing a live video stream of each ceremony. Details are available at www.svsu.edu/fall2021.

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

Legislature has the opportunity and funds to address teacher shortage now

LANSING - State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice applauded the state legislature's action to fund health-related measures for schools and health care facilities during the pandemic. The supplemental budget bill includes funding for recruitment and retention bonuses for health care workers.

Dr. Rice said, however, that the legislature should also take this opportunity to invest in important strategic solutions for the recruitment and retention of teachers for Michigan's public schools.

"It's important that the legislature is allocating over one billion dollars to support health care during the pandemic," Dr. Rice said. "But it shouldn't be at the exclusion of addressing profound shortages in the teaching profession."

State Board of Education President Dr. Casandra Ulbrich noted, "It's time for the state legislature to serve our students and school staff by passing a menu of teacher recruitment and retention initiatives to address the teacher shortage and strengthen public education."

Dr. Rice has sent to the legislature a detailed menu of proposed solutions to help school districts struggling to fill their

teacher shortages-ideas for which he first began advocating in October.

In a letter he sent to state legislative leaders on November 19, Dr. Rice said that the state legislature should invest between \$300 million and \$500 million over the next five years in the following strategies, among others noted in the letter, to help reverse Michigan's teacher shortage crisis:

- Tuition and other expense reimbursement for current college students, including district support staff members in grow your own programs, who make a commitment to pursue teaching.
- Loan forgiveness for recent college graduates who commit to careers in education and for current teachers who are working to pay off college loans.
- Scholarships for high school seniors who aspire to and commit to a career in teaching. States as close as Indiana have these sorts of programs. We should as well.
- Reviving and strengthening the teacher preparation pipeline in the Upper Peninsula and northern

Lower Peninsula which, unlike the rest of the state, rely very heavily on a single teacher preparation program to produce substantial numbers of teacher candidates.

- Supporting better the mentoring of new teachers.
- Easing restrictions on accepting teacher licenses from other states to help recruit and retain quality teachers in Michigan.

Dr. Rice said, "If we expect a major commitment from a wave of young people as our next generation of educators in our great state, the least we can do is to make sure that they don't go into debt to perform this all-important public service."

The Michigan Department of Education has also encouraged districts to begin Grow Your Own programs for school support staff who aspire to be teachers and for students who have an interest in teaching. Some federal Title II funding from MDE and some initial funding from the most recent budget negotiated by the governor and legislature are initial small investments for school districts to grow educators. Each of these can produce more teachers and more diverse teachers in Michigan schools in the coming years.

"Those efforts are important," Dr. Rice said, "but in the absence of major, targeted investments by the legislature of federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding or existing state revenue, they are not enough."

Michigan ranked last of 50 states in total education revenue growth, inflation-adjusted, from 1995 to 2015 according to the 2019 Michigan State University study Michigan School Finance at the Crossroads: A Quarter Century of State Control. This historic underfunding continues to harm both the teacher preparation pipeline and education for our public school children in the state.

"School staff have worked hard and well in very difficult circumstances through the last 21 months of the pandemic," Dr. Rice said. "Now we need legislative support regarding teacher recruitment and retention to address the teacher shortage to serve children properly."

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

Applications open for nearly 200 Delta College scholarships

UNIVERSITY CENTER – Delta College is currently accepting scholarship applications from future and current students for the 2022-2023 academic year.

More than 190 scholarships supplied by the Delta College Foundation are available, with many of them including multiple recipients. Last year, \$695,000 was awarded to 621 students, including Aleksander Zielinski, a student in the 2+2 welding engineering program with Ferris State University.

“The Great Lakes Bay Manufacturing Association Scholarship helped me tremendously,” Zielinski said. “My parents have a college fund for me and I’ve also been working to pay for a lot of the costs, but the scholarship helped keep the bills down.”

Any Delta student can apply for a scholarship, which can help with the cost of tuition and other costs and it’s a gift, so students don’t have to pay it back. Most scholarships are worth \$1,000.

The scholarship application includes essays, which are scored anonymously by scholarship raters. Judging criteria includes word count, spelling and grammar, and demonstration of knowledge and emotional connection. The first round of applicants will be notified of their awards on April 5; the second round is April 21. The deadline to apply is February 2, 2022.

Every year, the Delta College Foundation supports hundreds of students through the generosity of donors who provide funding for the scholarships. See a list of all scholarships.

Individuals considering attending Delta this fall are also encouraged to apply for a scholarship. Enroll at delta.edu/apply.

How to apply

1. Go to delta.edu/scholarships
2. Click on ‘Apply for a Scholarship’ on the left side of page
3. Click on ‘How do I apply’

4. Log into the AcademicWorks scholarship application link
5. Use Delta log-in to sign in

Before applying for a scholarship, applicants must be accepted at Delta College and have a student account. All scholarships must be used while at Delta College (with the exception of the Nickless Transfer Scholarship) and may not be transferred to another college or university.

Become a Scholarship Rater

Learn about Delta students and make a difference in their lives by rating scholarship applications. The volunteer opportunity includes reading and scoring essays from February 10-March 10. The process is anonymous, so raters do not see any of the student’s personal information. Email foundation@delta.edu to sign up or for more information.



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org

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

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

“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



DAVID YOUNGSTROM

Yeo & Yeo announces Dave Youngstrom as new CEO

SAGINAW – Yeo & Yeo, a leading Michigan-based accounting and advisory firm, announces that Dave Youngstrom, CPA, will begin his term as the firm's eighth President and CEO on January 1, 2022. Youngstrom will take over executive leadership of the firm's nine offices and all Yeo & Yeo companies – Yeo & Yeo CPAs & Business Consultants, Yeo & Yeo Medical Billing & Consulting, Yeo & Yeo Computer Consulting and Yeo & Yeo Wealth Management.

Youngstrom succeeds Thomas Hollerback, who will retire on December 31, 2021, after 38 years with Yeo & Yeo and serving the past nine years as President and CEO. Under Hollerback's leadership,

Yeo & Yeo has continually been recognized as a top performer. Accolades during Hollerback's tenure include being named an INSIDE Public Accounting Top 200 Accounting Firm, one of Michigan's Best and Brightest in Wellness for eight consecutive years, among Crain's Detroit Business 25 largest Michigan accounting firms and awarded Corp! magazine's Best in Michigan Business.

"The highlight of my career has been directing growth and innovation in all aspects of our companies, including modernizing our facilities. It has been a pleasure working with our clients and our people," Hollerback said. "I am thrilled to have Dave as my successor. He brings a firm-

wide perspective with a strong track record of driving initiatives that create great results."

Youngstrom, a principal and shareholder, serves on Yeo & Yeo's board of directors, is a member of the firm's strategic planning team and has led Yeo & Yeo's Assurance Service Line since 2015. He has very successfully directed the firm-wide audit practice, streamlining and growing the firm's assurance solutions.

"I see a bright future for Yeo & Yeo as we look to celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2023," Youngstrom said. "I am truly honored to lead the firm and look forward to challenging myself and others to find new ways to learn, grow, and support our clients while embracing our core values that include a commitment to taking care of our people, supporting our communities and finding innovative ways to lead Yeo & Yeo into the future."

Tammy Moncrief, Yeo & Yeo board member and managing principal of the firm's Auburn Hills office, added, "Dave was chosen to lead our firm for many reasons, but above all, for his immense passion for our people and commitment to delivering high quality, meaningful results for our clients. I am excited to see the firm continue to evolve and grow under his leadership."

Youngstrom earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from Saginaw Valley State University. In 1995, he joined Yeo & Yeo, was named principal in 2007, and has been instrumental in driving several key firm initiatives since. In addition to presenting for various professional organizations throughout Michigan, he is a firm supporter of his community. Youngstrom served as president of the Saginaw Valley State University Alumni Association, board treasurer of the Freeland Community School District for more than 10 years, treasurer and board chair of the United Way of Saginaw County for more than 14 years, past president of Saginaw Area Jaycees twice, treasurer of the Michigan Jaycees for three different presidents, and treasurer of the Michigan Jaycees Foundation.

+ BUSINESS**\$1 billion in funding will help secure historic opportunity for economic growth in Michigan**

LANSING – A package of bills vital to Michigan’s efforts to compete for, and win, transformational projects here in the state was passed by the Michigan Legislature last night with strong bipartisan support and is on its way to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s desk to be signed into law. With funding appropriated at \$1 billion, the programs will put the state in the strongest possible position to win projects that would create economic opportunity in the state for the next 20 years and beyond, while also delivering relief for businesses impact by COVID-19.

“We have said from the beginning that Michigan will move mountains to ensure we can compete for, and win, transformational projects that will bring long-term economic opportunity and security to regions and communities across the state,” said Quentin L. Messer, Jr., CEO of MEDC and President and Chair of the MSF Board. “This legislative package has been a team effort that reflects Michiganders’ ability to rise to, respond to and surmount challenges. From the Governor, legislative leadership across parties, business and labor stakeholders and to our dedicated economic development partners across the state, we appreciate the incredibly hard work and collaborative approach to rethinking our competitive positioning for large-scale investments that makes us better able to secure high-paying jobs for decades to come.”

Gov. Whitmer is expected to sign the bills in the coming days.

Read the full statement from Quentin L. Messer, Jr. at <https://www.michigan-business.org/press-releases/2021/12/messer-statement-on-passing-of-historic-economic-development-legislation/>.

To learn more about why businesses can find Pure Opportunity in Michigan visit michiganbusiness.org/pure-opportunity.



COURTESY PHOTO

Nexteer recognized in Newsweek Magazine’s list of ‘America’s Most Responsible Companies’

AUBURN HILLS – For the third year in a row, Nexteer Automotive has been named to Newsweek Magazine’s List of America’s Most Responsible Companies. For the 2022 list, Newsweek and Statista Inc. identified the top 500 most responsible companies based on research of publicly available performance data in the environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) categories, as well as an independent survey.

“Sustainability is an integral part of Nexteer’s culture, so we’re proud to be recognized for our ESG commitments in Newsweek’s List of America’s Most Responsible Companies for a third consecutive year,” said Robin Milavec, President, Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Chief Strategy Officer (CSO) and Executive Board Director, Nexteer Automotive. “Operating through our sustainability framework, we continue to focus on identifying opportunities to leverage sustainability as a Nexteer differentiator – such as by aligning our technologies with industry mega-

trends like electrification and by maintaining our commitment to conduct our business ethically and with transparency.”

“Our One Nexteer culture supports all employees to ‘Grow the Green Circle of Sustainability’ – empowering every one of us, in every Nexteer location, with the freedom to go beyond our defined scope of work, to explore, understand, suggest and continue to improve how we make tomorrow better than today,” added Milavec, who also chairs Nexteer’s sustainability steering committee.

To learn more about Nexteer’s overall sustainability efforts, please visit the Company’s sustainability webpage. Nexteer’s sustainability framework operates through five key focus areas: Business Ethics; Supply Chain; Environmental, Health and Safety; Community; and Value Creation.

To view the full list of America’s Most Responsible Companies 2022, please visit the Newsweek website.

+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

Suggested santa gifts for your favorite nonprofit

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

The holiday season is here! Festivities are in full bloom! Gifts are flowing – including those we give to the nonprofits we believe in. Nonprofits count on year-end giving to make ends meet so please give money – it is always needed, often more than you may realize. Then think about the “bow” you can place on top of your gift. Here are a few gift-topping ideas to consider. We’ve picked these as ways to help build capacity and infrastructure for 2022 and beyond.

Impact the bottom line with more than a check or online gift. Include your favorite nonprofit in your estate planning. If you own a business or manage a firm, provide a loaned executive. That means picking up the payroll costs while an employee works at a nonprofit – it could be once a week, or for six-months full-time, depending on the need and your resources. You can make a similar gift if you are a member of a professional, social, or faith organization: offer to give a number of volunteer hours. The greater the diversity of talents within your circle of associates the greater the types of services that can be offered through volunteer hours. Related to this, provide “simple” resources and in-kind services such as postage and copying, moving on up to graphic design, business strategy development, or developing a guide to building technology infrastructure.

Help build leadership, awareness, and donors. Nonprofits require volunteer talent, especially at the board level: you can help by identifying and recruiting board members. Awareness is an important prerequisite for fundraising and for increasing the number of people who know about a nonprofit. You can help increase awareness by forwarding emails within your circles, sharing information and including a personal note. While there’s only so much money any one for us can give you can multiply your impact by hosting a friend-raiser or a fundraiser at your home, office, or workspace. Recruit a “fund-buddy” to work with you to raise funds – you can double your reach when you ask a friend to join you in fundraising. You can multiply your giving even more with the “multiplier effect” – first challenge your fund-buddy to match your gift, and then ask her to challenge her circle of friends to match her gift.

More ideas. Underwrite a set number of hours of a grant writer’s time, or a series of workshops to help develop staff and volunteers. Honor a loved one or an associate by making a gift in their honor.



Provide a consultant to address specific organizational needs. Become a “VIP host” introducing stakeholders to the nonprofit. Offer your home or workspace as a site for trainings, meetings, or events. Sponsor an awareness campaign by purchasing print and/or electronic ads.

You have talents and resources to share. Take a moment to think outside the box and put a bow on your financial gift. You’re a vital member of our country’s ever growing nonprofit community!!!



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

F



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



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

G



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

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



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

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

J



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

L

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

M

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



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

N



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

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



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



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



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



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

New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
Pastor Alfred "AJ" Harris Jr.
3610 Russel St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-0801

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

P

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

R



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

S



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



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



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

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

T



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



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

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

19th Annual Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame banquet

By RUMI WILSON

If you've never attended the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame induction banquet you have missed at least three things. A great meal, a reverie of memories and tears, and the sometimes cliché ridden, yet insightfully heartfelt gratitude of the inductees.

There is more, of course. This year there is even the new SCSHF coloring book. Dependably, there's the founding legend and President since 2007 of the Hall of Fame himself, Mr. Jack Tany, resplendent in tuxedo, present from the welcoming table for entering guests, and throughout the program as Master of Ceremonies for the lengthy celebration of the recognized star athletes and coaches. Each year, Mr. Tany composes the impressive commemorative booklet which honors the new class of Hall of Famers. The book is filled with testimonials, tributes, photos and more statistics than even an actuary can stand.

Appropriately, the booklet's alphabetical list of advertising sponsors (A-Z) lacked only the letter "I". Remember, folks, there is no "I" in team!

This 19th annual SCSHF Induction Banquet held at Saginaw's Horizon Center began with highlighting Bill Agresta, whose 47-year teaching and coaching career included coaching football and basketball at Saginaw St. Mary's and Hem-

lock high schools, before becoming the longtime Hemlock track and cross country coach for both boys and girls. Mr. Agresta passed away in 2020. Beth Bull (Spencer) starred in softball at Bridgeport HS and then Central Michigan University where she helped lead the team to the Women's College World Series in 1987. Ms. Bull entered the CMU Athletic Hall of Fame with her teammates in 2018.

Saginaw High School alums Eugene Seals, Jr. and Roy Manning, Jr. did more than make their namesake dads proud by their accomplished careers at University of Miami (Ohio) and University of Michigan respectively. Mr. Manning, Jr. played pro football on five teams in three years after playing for the Wolverines. His father, Roy Sr., who accepted the SCSHF award for his son, joked that Roy Manning, Jr., currently coaching at Oklahoma University, changes teams so frequently that the family have two weeks worth of jerseys they can don, wearing a different one each day. Mr. Seals, Jr. who played professional basketball overseas after graduation in Spain, Colombia, and Mexico, could have given his acceptance speech in Spanish!

Robb Cook starred at Birch Run HS, not only playing both offense and defense in football, but accumulating a state championship in wrestling, as well. Mr. Cook continued playing both sides of the ball at SVSU, where he was twice voted team

MVP and still holds the GLIAC conference record for most tackles in one season.

In his acceptance speech, the Carrollton HS and CMU basketball star George Kubiak, who also ran track and played football in high school, remembered an awe-inspiring welcome home from the Carrollton community that greeted the Cavaliers team bus after they returned from a loss to River Rouge HS in the state championship Class B game. Mr. Kubiak enjoyed a stellar head coaching stint at Arthur Hill HS for nearly two decades.

The class of 2020 included one team induction: The St. Stephens basketball team, coached by Lefty Franz, which lost in the 1968 Michigan state Class C championship game by one point came back to win it all the following year in 1969. Known for their high scoring, unrelenting full court pressing defense, the Titans used dramatic steals and free throws from Rick Lawler at the end of the game to earn the state crown. Perhaps their conditioning and preparation really were the St. Stephens team secret weapons, as they even practiced on Sunday evenings, supported by family and friends.

In the most unusual, and in its own way, heartfelt award of the night went to Larry Brethauer. From his youth to adulthood, Mr. Brethauer enjoyed playing sports but earned no honors starring in any of them. The Saginaw High and Saginaw Valley alum earned his way into the Sports Hall of Fame by having a vision and acting upon it. He became the leader in restoring Hoyt Park, the crown jewel of the Saginaw Parks recreation system. Mr. Brethauer's speech, the longest of the evening, made an appeal to the attendees regarding the community benefit afforded by maintaining robust recreation and sports outlets available for Saginaw area youth and all ages to enjoy. The well-maintained beauty and multi-use facility of Hoyt Park today stands as a living testament to the ideals the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame, including the SCSHF guiding mantra that "if you're going to do something, do it correctly and do it first class!"

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 24



ERIC URBANIAK (LEFT) AND TERESA HOMSI (RIGHT) HOLDING THE 2021 STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

CMU students earn 2021 Student Sustainability Leadership Award

MOUNT PLEASANT – Central Sustainability, a Central Michigan University student initiative, has been awarded a 2021 Student Sustainability Leadership Award by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

Central Sustainability is being recognized for their work over the past two years, including developing the 2020 Central Sustainability Campus Survey Report and other data collection efforts, creating the Sustainable Purchas-

ing Policy for CMU, helping to create and lead the CMU Earth Week Conference and several other events, creating educational resources for students and the public, and more.

CMU students Teresa Homs and Eric Urbaniak created the group in summer 2020, initially focusing their work on raising CMU's STARS rating. Since then, the group, which operates through the Office for Institutional Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, has grown and continues to set the leadership

standard for creating positive change, both on and off campus.

The AASHE Sustainability Awards honor sustainability achievements, research advancements and student leadership. The awards aim to raise the visibility of high-impact sustainability projects and pioneering research, and to share innovations that inspire continued progress toward a sustainable future.

CMU
CENTRAL MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY

Online application opens Dec. 1, 2021

apply for Scholarships

UNDERGRAD • GRADUATE • CTE



— Class of 2021 —

649 AWARDS 396 STUDENTS

\$889,650

TOTAL 2021 SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS AWARDED

Since awarding our first \$500 scholarship in 1987, the Saginaw Community Foundation has awarded college scholarships to area students totaling more than \$7 million, thanks to our generous donors. Each year, over 300 college-bound or career and technical education students benefit from our scholarship awards.

Our single application process makes it easy to potentially qualify for one or more of our 235+ scholarships. **Applications will begin being accepted Dec. 1, 2021 and must be submitted by Feb. 15, 2022.** Visit saginawfoundation.org/site/scholarships/ for more information or call (989) 755-0545.



Saginaw

community foundation

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





PIC OF THE WEEK

On December 11, author Ivy Crudup hosted a book signing event for a variety of her books including her new release, *Misunderstood: Battling Fear & Anxiety*



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We

imagine.

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.**



**SAGINAW VALLEY
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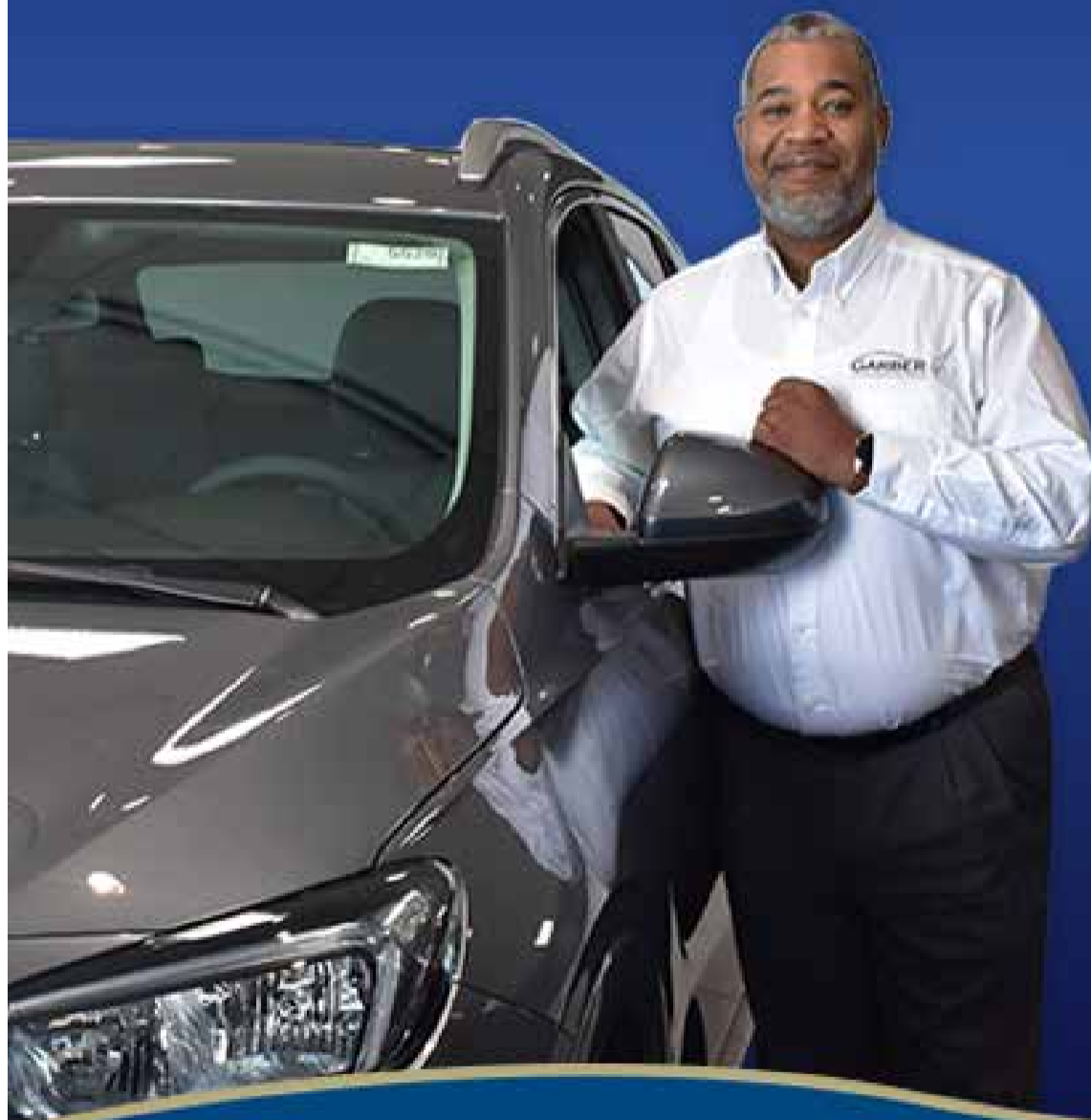


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