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SPORTS



HERITAGE HIGH HOOPER HAS HER SAY, ON AND OFF THE COURT

SPORTS, PG 48



COURTESY PHOTO

Is it covid aid, or not? Either way, D.C. dollars are coming

By MIKE THOMPSON

The stories that you may have been hearing are true. Saginaw city schools and local government indeed will be receiving windfalls of federal funding aid in the name of covid-19 relief.

Packages of \$67 million for the Board of Education and \$52 million for City Hall exceed the annual all-purpose general fund budgets of both entities.

Wow!

These may stand as the largest urban infusions in history for Saginaw and other cit-

ies across the nation, ranking up there with the War on Poverty that took root during the 1960s. And more dollars could be coming our way if President Biden and Democrats succeed in Congress.

Oldsters may recall Model Cities, CAC and block grants. Younger folks may be learning. That type of 1960s atmosphere seems on the verge of returning.

Suburbs and outlying areas also are in line for shares of the federal kitty, but their sums are far lower because as a whole they are middle-to-upper income. Saginaw Town-

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SAGINAW CITY 'TAX CAPS'

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ship, for example, stands to gain \$5.9 million for schools and \$3.8 million for local government, even though its 42,000 population now nearly matches the city's. Bridgeport, \$10.7 million for schools and \$970,000 local government, Carrollton, \$3.1 million for schools and \$557,000 government.

So the main rallying points are within the boundaries of long-suffering Saginaw city. Leaders have been speaking notes of caution, stating that the first priority is to cover covid costs. But during the final week of May, the windfall cat began to claw its way out of the bag.

- School Board President Charles Coleman: "These funds are unrestricted dollars that the organizations can use to fund needs that exist in our community. The caveat given to the Board of Education is that the funds be used to mitigate the deficits caused by the covid pandemic. This gives us a great deal of latitude in how we can use these funds."
- City Manager Tim Morales: "We understand that \$52 million in funding can transform a city. It is my goal and the goal of the City Council to utilize these funds to positively impact this community for generations to come."

At the same time, Morales continues to repeatedly emphasize, "The City is aware that many citizens and local organizations would like to begin discussion on specific use of the funding. We are always open to listening to input from the community. However, the City cannot make plans to utilize the funds until final rules are provided from the U.S. Department of Treasury"

Still, we are hearing more of the second part: "But yes, these are unprecedented dollar amounts."

In other words, we may begin to soar with all of our ideas, but at the same time we need to straighten up and fly right.

What should we do?

The new era of available funds was illustrated on May 27 when First Ward Community Center hosted a community forum that attracted nearly 100 social-distanced

citizens in the gymnasium, despite limited publicity. Participants were asked to write their ideas with felt markers on poster papers that were taped to the walls.

A few notations were directly covid-related, such as to check the homes of shut-ins and elders to ensure they have been tested and hopefully vaccinated, but most ran the general community improvement gamut.

Some were general: More youth activities. Some were specific: Employ teens in cleaning up and mowing overgrown properties.

Some were for social purposes: More community centers and use of closed school buildings. Some were for entertainment: Re-open a movie drive-in or a swimming pool or a roller skating rink.

A few were at odds: Tear down the eyesore homes. Repair the eyesore homes.

Some seemed to come out of the blue: Bring in more Children's Zoo animals. Some were tried and true: Improve education.

At one of the poster spots, the Rev. Craig Tatum took the initiative to write the ideas that people expressed, in order to keep things moving. He is the Pastor of New Life Baptist Church Ministries on Janes at Seventh and CEO of Mission in the City, which has made such a visible impact. He encountered Ceciel Reed, who volunteers to oversee a pair of teen-operated mini farms through the nearby Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Association's youth summer program.

They traded ideas in their first in-depth talk. For example, they agreed on a desire to put vacant school buildings to use. Ceciel, naturally, mentioned Houghton Elementary. Pastor Tatum answered with Central Middle. These types of general exchanges may evolve into action, now that a rare package of money is on the table.

Even when combined and streamlined, the ideas that people posted would fill several pages. One of the forum organizers, Jeffrey Bulls, said a compiled report will be issued to decision makers and the push for citizen inclusion will continue.

Board takes first step

The statements from Coleman and Mo-

rales, long-awaited in some quarters, took place on short notice, one day prior to the First Ward CC event. Either this was cause-and-effect, or it was quite a coincidence.

Among the leaders, Coleman took the first step when he proposed, with unanimous board support, a school/city/county team agreement to "come together and allocate some of those funds for youth programming." (Saginaw County also is in line for \$37 million.)

Coleman continued: "This request is that the allocation be substantial in its amount, and that it become part of a three-year strategic plan to offer resources and activities to the youth of our community. We must be the change that we are looking for, for our youth. The number of young men and women being shot down in our streets must be addressed. The number of young men and women being arrested for multiple criminal activities must be addressed. The deficits in test scores in our community must be addressed. The lack of high-speed internet access in our community must be addressed."

The proposal, the same as most others that will arrive in coming weeks, makes no mention of covid-19. Neither will potential plans within the Board of Education to bring back more teachers. Neither will possible moves by the City Council to restore more police officers and other employees. Disagreements may ensue over establishment functions versus new ideas, but they won't be covid-related.

As Coleman concluded: "This is just the beginning. The voters gave us a vote of confidence when they approved the millage (mainly for a new unified high school) to reimagine public education in the Saginaw Public Schools. Let us do more than just improve schools and curricula, let us move to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods."

Agree or disagree with how matters have transpired, this is today's developing scenario in Saginaw and in communities across the nation. Monies will continue to be described as "covid relief funds," even as they go far beyond directly addressing covid. Activists who for years have pushed in frustration for a 1960s style re-focus on cities never dreamed a viral pandemic would provide an oddly unexpected pathway.

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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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Did you know?

June is African American Music Appreciation Month!

The month-long observance, which was first inducted on June 7, 1979, by President Jimmy Carter was christened as Black Music Month. President Barack Obama renamed the national observance as African-American Music Appreciation Month. The observance was created to recognize and celebrate the historical influence African-Americans have had on the music industry and is intended to pay homage to the many artists, writers, songs and albums that have inspired music lovers and shaped American pop culture.

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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE



DANIEL R. SOZA III

Soza III finds new service with child refugees, many from the border

By **MIKE THOMPSON**

Until five months ago, Daniel R. Soza III had no idea that his service career would change 180 degrees, to a focus on helping international refugee children and teens find U.S.A. placement in foster care.

He had started back before the 2000 millennium working close to home, first with the Boy Scouts. Next, at Samaritas Community Center (better known as Neighborhood House), he was entering his fifth year as direc-

CONTINUES ON LB PG 3, SOZA III



MARIA CRISTINA RANGEL BARRON (LEFT) AND JANIE RANGEL ESCAMILLA (RIGHT) | [FACEBOOK.COM/CHULASMEXICANIMPORTS](https://www.facebook.com/chulasmexicanimports)

All Mexican and Tex Mex, all the time

By **MIKE THOMPSON**

Chulas Mexican Imports opened six years ago at 7755 Gratiot Road (M-46) in Saginaw's Thomas Township because the founding co-owners already were doing business on an informal basis.

Siblings Janie Rangel Escamilla and Maria Cristina Rangel Barron grew in the Texas border city of Edinburg, 50 miles northwest of Brownsville. When they

would travel back home, friends would ask them to bring back Mexican or Tex Mex goods, which would range from cultural clothing items to colorfully-wrapped candies.

Maria says, "We figured, why not open our own store, because we are doing this already."

CONTINUES ON LB PG 2, CHULAS

LATINO BANNER SPONSORED BY GREAT LAKES BAY HEALTH CENTERS

Continued from LB Cover, Chulas



CHULAS MEXICAN IMPORTS IN-STORE MERCHANDISE | [FACEBOOK.COM/CHULASMEXICANIMPORTS](https://www.facebook.com/chulasmexicanimports)

They decided to launch in what old-timers know as Shields, five miles west of the Saginaw County Club, not only because of the thriving local business district, but because it provides a midpoint. Maria resides in the City of Saginaw, while Janie's home is in Chesaning.

But their ideal location comes with a challenge. To maintain the ambience of Shields/Swan Valley as a homey bedroom community, business signs are restricted in size and in height. At the same time, Chulas (Spanish for "Beautiful" Mexican Imports) shares its signage with four other enterprises in a small roadside strip mall.

"People really have to look for us," notes Maria, who explains why advertising says "Across from Flannigan's," a popular

local pub in the business district.

At Chulas, shoppers will find kitchen gear to press their own masa for tamales, along with standard homemade tortillas irons and warmers for multiple purposes. And if someone aims to prepare a Texas-shaped tostada or cake, there's an item for that also.

The store is about the same size as a household garage, but there are no empty spaces and the colors seem to explode upon entering. In one step we find fine fashion clothing, in another a dollar store-type table filled with key chains featuring everything from the Mexican flag to celebrities to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

An advertisement from the first year seems overloaded, but it captures a mere

fraction of Chulas' contents: "Mexican Decorations, Baja Hoodies, Sombreros, Spanish Balloons, Sunglasses, Serapes, Mexican Toys, Wallets, Religious Gifts, Piñatas, Sundresses, Ponchos, Mexican Dresses, Jewelry, Guayabera Shirts, Purses, Mexican Candy. And Much Much More."

Greeting cards worded in Spanish? Game equipment for lotería, which is Spanish-speaking bingo? Maracas to enhance your next karaoke? Sports gear for the Dallas Cowboys and the Detroit Tigers, fave teams among Mexican Americans?

"Our customers tell us that we remind them of the stores from their childhoods," Maria notes.

From the start, the Rangel sisters opted to invest in store stock and quality instead of expensive media advertising. They made sure Chulas Mexican Imports established a presence not only within Saginaw's Cinco de Mayo Parade, but at festivals in places such as Janie's own Chesaning, home of the Showboat, along with Hemlock, Alma, Birch Run and Montrose.

Maria says word-of-mouth has drawn customers from such distant spots as the Grand Rapids area and from Traverse City, even Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Year-round Saginaw County customers are the main draw, but many patrons also are seasonal workers in occupations like farming and construction.

"People tell us that they find us because we are unique, with items they cannot find anywhere else," she says, "and we always listen to customers so that we can continue to find what they want."

The same as for most small businesses, the first few years for Chulas were a struggle at times.

"And then last year," Maria notes, "we had to close for covid, for half of March until near the end of June. But after we reopened, business has been phenomenal. Maybe people had no choice but to sit back and save their money, we don't know."

Chulasmexicanimports.com also features Facebook and Instagram pages. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays (closed Tuesdays), 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. The phone number is (989) 798-4456; the mailing address is 7755 Gratiot, Suite 5, Saginaw MI 48909; and the email is chulasmeximports@gmail.com.

Continued from LB Cover, Soza III



COURTESY PHOTO

tor when the doors suddenly were closed last December.

But Samaritas, renamed by Lutheran Social Services, kept him on board with a shift to refugee foster care, spanning most of Lower Michigan. His focus suddenly changed from young people near his doorstep to those in faraway lands.

Few career changes can be so clear-cut.

Aid for cultural children

For years, Latino families who are committed to international child rescue often have expressed special cultural interest in children from Mexico and from Central America. Publicity peaked during the Trump Administration with endless horrific reports of family separations along the Rio Grande border.

Soza's newfound role is to help recruit, counsel, and screen potential foster care families, who are volunteering among Mexican Americans in numbers that have soared, even during covid times.

"It's by far the most rewarding work that I've had, and I'm really happy with it," Daniel III says.

His office is in Lansing, following the same route his father, Daniel G. Soza Jr. took to work as an academic counselor at Michigan State University.

Foster care applicants across Lower Michigan usually opt for several years of long-term support to a teenager who has little chance of re-engaging with a home family. Expense stipends in the range of

\$25 per day help cover costs for housing, clothing and food. A Samaritas information brochure notes that the teens have "endured traumatic events in their short lives."

The outline continues, "You can help them adjust to the educational, financial, political and social systems in the United States. You can support them as they learn to be independent while also encouraging them to renew connections to their culture of origin."

Another option, mostly for families closer to Lansing and Ann Arbor, is transitional short-term foster care, 15 to 45 days, for grade school and middle school children who await reunions with their identified parents or family elders. In rare cases, circumstances or tragedies may expand these time spans, but permanent adoptions are not, in any way, involved in the process.

One of Soza's most rewarding days was when he chaperoned a boy back to Houston for a return to his parents.

"If I do well," he says, "I can help keep some kids out of those cages."

For more information, visit samaritas.org. Call Soza at (989) 780-2263 or email him at dsoza@samaritas.org.

Lutheran Social Services was renamed as Samaritas to reflect that services are for all people, not only for those of Lutheran faith. The Samaritas Senior Living of Saginaw care home continues to operate at 3200 State between Mackinaw and Bay Streets.

Like father and grandpa, like son

Seven years after his father's passing, Daniel III still welcomes questions and memories from friends of his father, Daniel G. Soza Jr.

They followed similar educational paths, starting with Catholic high schools (St. Joseph for Dan Jr., Nouvel for Dan III), followed by Delta College and then MSU.

Dan Jr. (1948 to 2014) later was known for his social and political activism, everything from bring Cesar Chavez to town multiple times, to leadership with Union Civica Mexicana, to 12 pioneering years on the Saginaw City Council, to the national presidency of HELO, Hispanic Elected Local Officials.

However, Daniel III's top recollections are not of big rallies or events.

"In my earliest memories," he says, "I would ride with my father while he went to the greenhouses around Saginaw, picked up donations of plants and flowers, and went to the homes of senior citizens to encourage them start gardens. I would help him dig the holes.

"One year there was a Saginaw News article," he continues, "but he didn't want publicity and it wasn't part of any program that he was involved in. It was simply something he wanted to do.

"Things were similar to with my grandpa (Daniel C. Soza Sr.) when he would organize the Mexican softball recreation leagues, or when he would work as a school crossing guard, always there to take me with him."

Daniel III is married to his 1990s MSU sweetheart, Fenis, pronounced "Fee-neese" with two children.

For now, he aims to stick with international foster care arrangements. Still, he laments the loss of Neighborhood House, a site where he had reduced an annual \$200,000 operating subsidy in half and where he was headed for break-even if Covid-19 had not killed a potential charter school arrangement with the state Department of Education.

"Now we're down to one community center, First Ward, and they're at the other edge of town," Soza notes. "Unless things change among the priorities of the funding sources, I'm not seeing any place for our kids to go."



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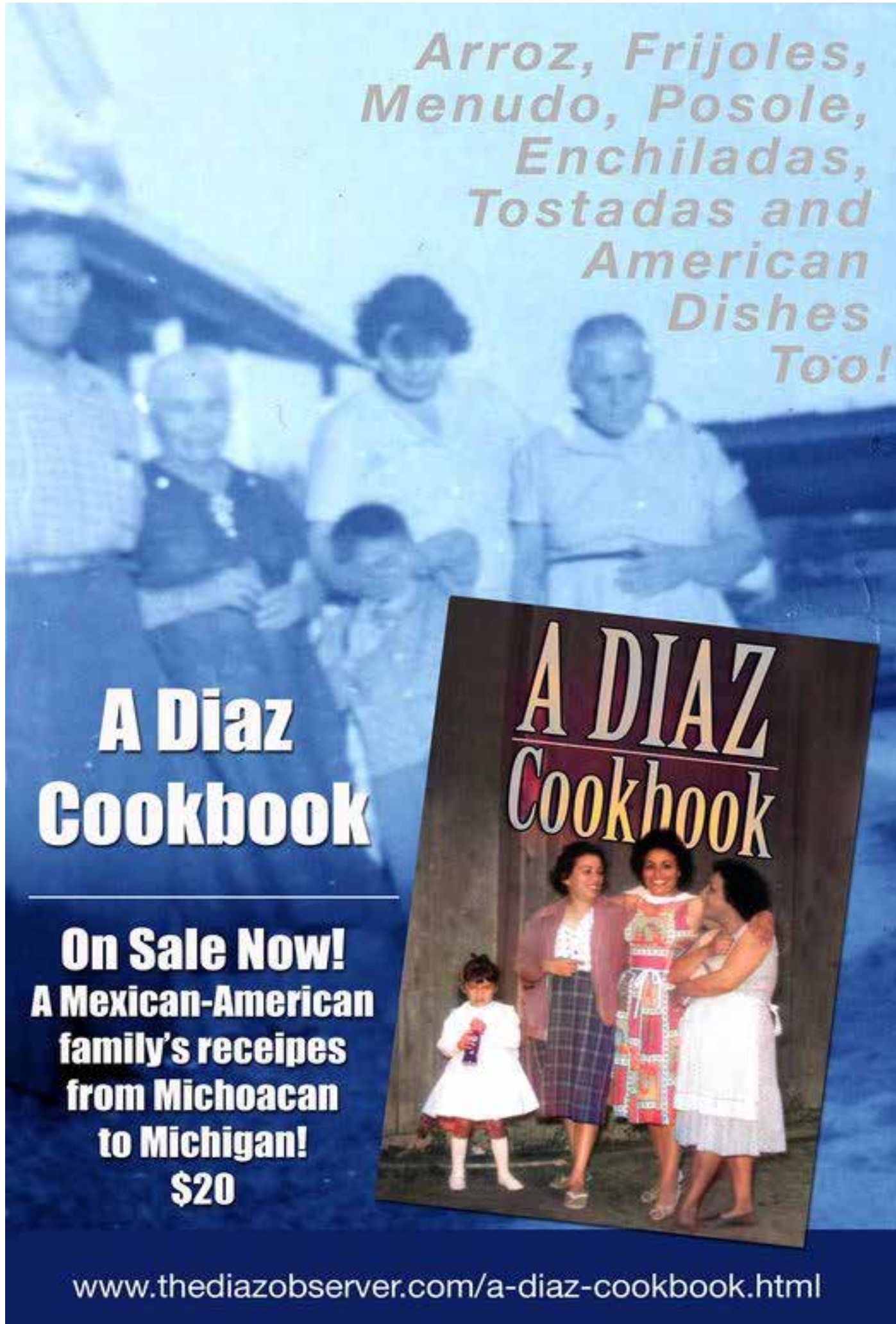
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+ COMMUNITY



VACANT LOT ON THE CORNER OF E. REMINGTON & WARREN TRUSS HOPES TO BEAUTIFY

Wish list for Jimmie Truss abandoned lot cleanups

By MIKE THOMPSON

Jimmie and Alicia Truss decided this spring to seek some modest attention for his ninth year of volunteering to clean and mow some of Saginaw's numerous overgrown vacant lots. Their main purpose is not to boast or brag, but to encourage others to also get involved by "adopting" lots near their homes, on their own blocks, to build momentum for a community-wide effort.

At the same time, they gradually have assembled a wish list of equipment that would allow Jimmie to tackle tougher tasks, such as clearing brush and small woodlots, dead trees and stumps, abandoned garages and large debris.

The outline includes not only heavy-duty equipment, but also resources for storage and transport. When we consider all the effort required, this makes sense.

"I don't want people to think I'm being greedy," Jimmie says with his characteristic modesty. "Simply, these are the items I would need to do a better job on some of the most challenging properties, including some where I cannot even start working with only my personal equipment."

Estimates are just that, ballpark estimates, not precise quotes or bids. They include:

- Exmark Lazer Z riding mower, 60-inch-wide deck, to replace use of his household mower. New, \$6,000 to \$8,000. Used, \$3,500 to \$4,000.
- Brush hog cutting attachment for a Bobcat T450, \$4,000.
- Wood grinder for tree stumps and trunks and large fallen branches, \$5,000.
- Stihl commercial chain saw, \$800 to \$1,000.
- A mini dump truck 2500HD-3500HD (automatic) to haul debris for compost at the city's site on Veterans Parkway. New, \$40,000 to \$50,000. Used, \$12,000 to \$20,000.
- An enclosed, attached trailer to assist with equipment loading and unloading, \$4,000 to \$5,000.
- Bobcat Skid Steer trailer, \$2,000 to \$5,000.
- A 20-foot storage container, \$2,500.

Alicia already has completed a gofundme page that raised \$5,600, and the couple also is exploring local nonprofit grants. Meanwhile, donors may contact either Jimmie or Alicia through their cash app at \$Barbedoll86, via email at truss.alicia@yahoo.com or through either of their Facebook pages.

+ COMMUNITY



YOLANDA IRVIN

Kingdom of Care Childcare opens June 7 at Riverview

By **MIKE THOMPSON**

Like mother, like daughter.

Yolanda Irvin is opening Kingdom of Care Childcare & Preschool Centers on June 7 in Riverview Plaza. Her mother, Gloria Smith, owned and operated Building Blocks Childcare on North Michigan across from Bliss Park from 2005 until she passed away in November 2018.

To follow a step farther, both retired from state employment to launch their second work careers. Gloria worked at MESC, the Michigan Employment Security Commission, while Yolanda was a manager at the downtown Saginaw office of the Michigan Department of Social Services.

But that's where the similar stories end. Mom began with no child care background in a cramped former print shop, while her daughter is starting in a larger shopping-mall storefront, backed by experience with her mother, joined by her 20-year-old offspring, Kayla Young, who will serve as Kingdom Care's administrative manager.

"Kayla was always with her grandmother, every summer, every day," Yolanda notes.

With all of her comparative advantages, she is aiming to put together "the Cadillac of child care" that in many ways functions similar to a school. Highlights include:

- Operations from 5 a.m. to midnight, six days a week.

- An overall learning approach that provides startups in "STEAM Education," adding arts to the standard STEM quad of science, technology, engineering and math.
- Certified teachers in creative arts, music and physical fitness.
- Separate rooms, each with bathroom facilities, for the three age groups: infant to age 3, pre-K ages 4 and 5, elementary and adolescent ages of 5 to 13.
- A meeting room for parent groups that may organize, similar to a school PTA.
- For general safety's sake, a resurfaced

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+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 12, Kingdom of Care

well-lit parking lot with cameras connected to a big screen in a security area immediately near the front door.

- For covid-19's safety's sake, body temperature checks upon entry and abundant hand sanitizers throughout the premises.
- Bilingual education begging at 8 months of age.

Yolanda's husband, Fred Irvin, owns a mid-Michigan dry cleaning store, American Cleaners in Mount Pleasant, and made time with a pair of handymen friends to perform much-needed hammer-and-saw

carpentry tasks. Yolanda and her friends took charge of bright paint on the walls and decorations everywhere, including in the toilet rooms. Playground-type equipment and seating are everywhere, along with book racks and stuffed animals.

Rough times took place. The Irvin couple moved in two summers ago, but faced delays with family matters and especially with the covid epidemic.

Still, Yolanda sees the Riverfront Plaza location as ideal for students at the Delta College downtown campus and Central Michigan University's medical classes at the Covenant Health Care campus, and

also for city residents who are headed for work in the suburbs.

She graduated from Arthur Hill High School in 1998 and comes to the table with a bachelor's degree in social work from CMU, along with studies toward a master's in business from Northwood University.

She aims to employ up to 19 people at Kingdom Care.

"We have decided to take everything we have newly developed, and to put it all in one spot," Yolanda summarizes.

The website is kingdomofcaredaycare.net, and the phone is (989) 401-5747.



INSIDE KINGDOM OF CARE

+ COMMUNITY



CHIPPEWA NATURE CENTER, 400 S BADOUR RD, MIDLAND, MI

Chippewa Nature Center to host native plant sale June 4-6

Midland, MI – Chippewa Nature Center (CNC) will host its 16th annual Native Plant Sale on Saturday, June 5 from 9 am to 4 pm and Sunday, June 6 from 12 to 4 pm. Members are invited to a special pre-sale on Friday, June 4 from 1-7 pm. Visitors may become a member and shop the sale on Friday. New memberships purchased through June 5 will receive a free plant of their choice or a credit toward their purchase; see website for full details. A complete list of plants available at this year's sale is available at www.chippewanaturecenter.org. Plants will be available for immediate purchase at CNC, located at 400 S Badour Rd in Midland.

Many varieties of native plants will be available including grasses, wildflowers, ferns, trees and shrubs. Specialty plants such as Cardinal flower, Michigan Lily, Virginia Waterleaf and White Wild Indigo wildflowers will be available, species you won't find at local nurseries. New to the sale this year are Goat's Rue, Early Goldenrod, Tall Flat-top White Aster, Black Gum and Choke Cherry trees, and Virgin's Bower vine. A pictorial guide of plants can be purchased for \$5 at the sale, complete with growing conditions, wildlife value

and more. CNC staff and the native plant group "Wild Ones" will be on-hand to help shoppers with their needs.

Native plant species are adapted to our climate and soils, making them easier to establish in your home landscape. Planting a diversity of native plants will add beauty to your landscape, providing a wide range of colors throughout the spring, summer and fall. Native flowers also attract many pollinators including bees, ruby-throated hummingbirds and butterflies.

Using native plants in your landscape is one way you can contribute to a healthy ecosystem! They provide the food, shelter and cover that wildlife needs to survive. By planting native species, you can help restore areas that are being displaced by invasive exotic or ornamental plants that have less value to wildlife.

The Native Plant Sale is generously sponsored by Ace Hardware & Sports; Bluemer Contracting; PM Blough, Inc. Landscape Architecture; Randi's Green Thumb; Ted's Home and Lawn, Inc.; Wild Ones – Mid-Mitten Chapter; Dennis and Barb Hurley and Deb Temperly.

Bay County Library to host international best-selling author Miles Harvey



MILES HARVEY

Bay County, MI – The Bay County Library System is excited to host international best-selling author Miles Harvey via Zoom on Wednesday, June 2 at 7:00 pm. Miles will talk about his acclaimed book, *The King of Confidence: A Tale of Utopian Dreamers, Frontier Schemers, True Believers, False Prophets, and the Murder of an American Monarch*, which was selected as a Michigan Notable Book and New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice pick in 2020.

Described as "[A] rollicking story, ripe for a Hollywood treatment" by *Vanity Fair*, and a tale that will "astonish and delight fans of American history" by *Publishers Weekly*, *The King of Confidence* masterfully chronicles the most infamous American con man you've never heard of: James Strang, the self-proclaimed divine king of earth, heaven, and an island in Lake Michigan, until his assassination in 1856.

"Miles Harvey is the author of the national and international bestseller *The Island of Lost Maps* and the recipient of a Knight-Wallace Journalism Fellowship at the University of Michigan. His book *Painter in a Savage Land* was named a Chicago Tribune Best Book of the Year and a Booklist Editors' Choice. He teaches creative writing at DePaul University in Chicago, where he is a founding editor of *Big Shoulders Books*" (milesarvey.com).

This event is FREE, but registration is required and limited. Call any BCLS branch library or register via the Calendar of Events at www.baycountylibrary.org. You will receive the Zoom link via email after registration.

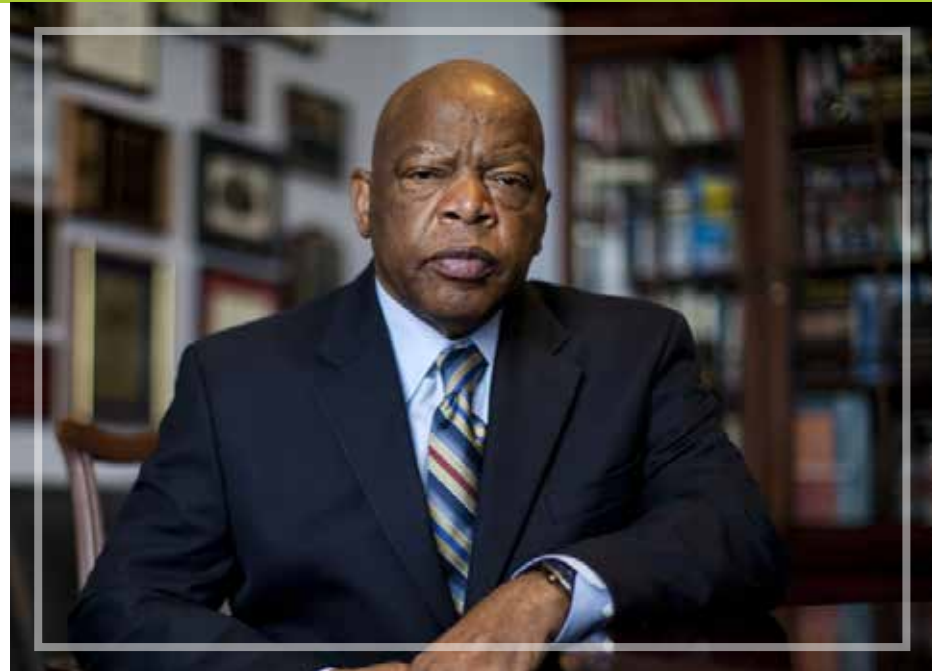
BOOK REVIEW

The *power* of Congressman John Lewis

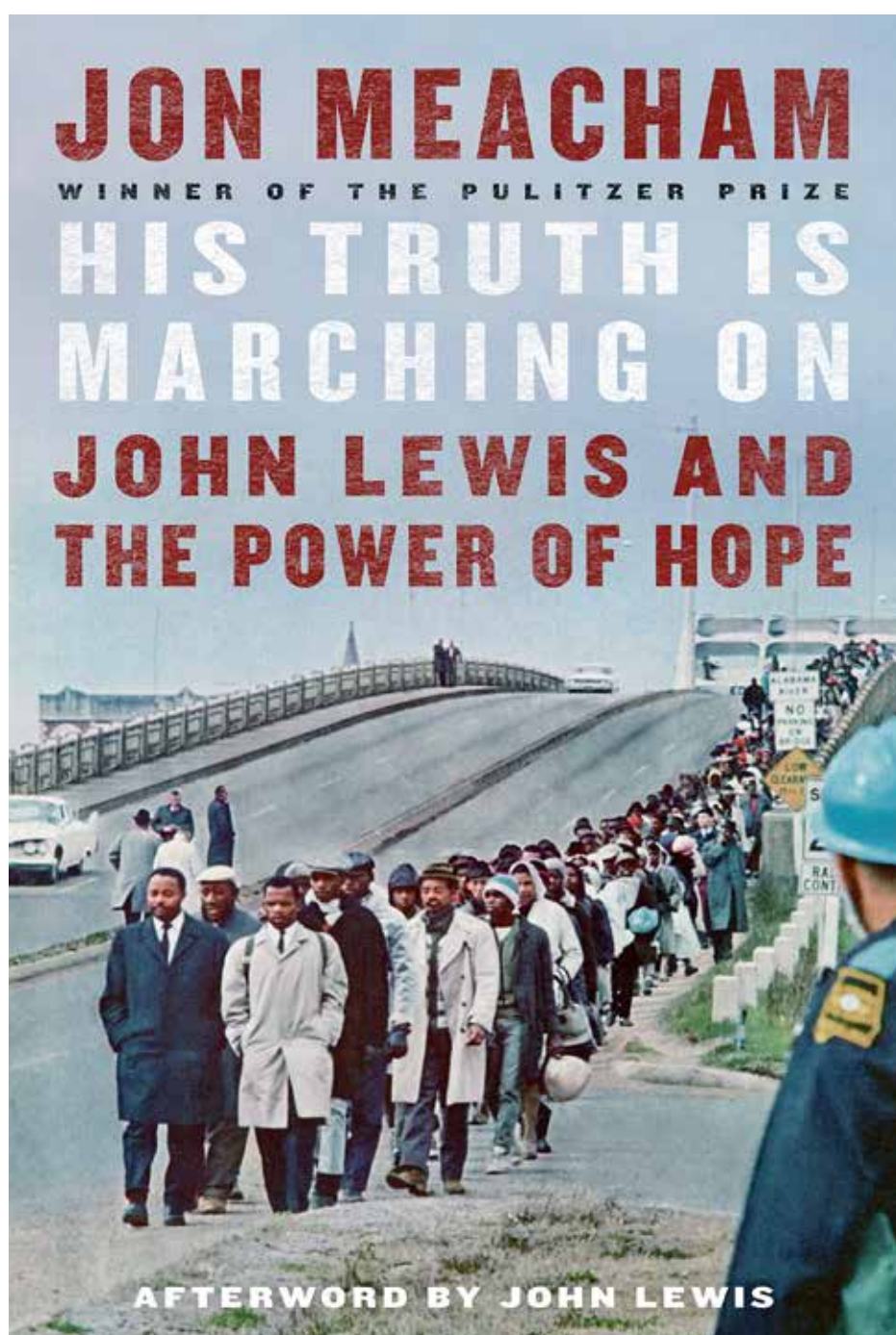
By MIKE THOMPSON

Months ahead of his death last July at age 80, John Lewis informed few people that his cancer of the pancreas was terminal.

One of them was a biographer he highly trusted, also a historian and a student of the civil rights movement. To add to the attraction, Jon Meacham also is a religious soul who, for example,



COURTESY PHOTO



AMAZON

had invested an intense inquiry into Jesus Christ's final words from the cross. This made Meacham a soul mate.

And so the pair collaborated on "His Truth is Marching on: John Lewis and the Power of Hope," which ultimately was a rush job, because the civil rights giant was hoping in 2019 that he may have a few more years to complete the biography. In the end, he had only one year, one with physical pain that Lewis mostly succeeded in keeping secret.

Therefore, Meacham's writing is most thorough in recounting the early years, beginning with Lewis as a shy, serious and studious student who grew up in Troy, a rural segregated Alabama community closest to Birmingham. Young John would sermonize to the barnyard chickens, which is more than one of the telling anecdotes that Meacham is so skilled at unearthing.

Preaching to farm animals also is a foreshadow of the intensity of the religious faith, and hope, that Lewis would embrace through all of his years. He never officially became a reverend, although he might well have. After all, he started as a student at Nashville's American Baptist Theological Seminary before he began to "get into good trouble" at lunch-counter sit-ins, with the first of his 40-plus arrests, mostly when he was a young adult.

The first one-third of Meacham's writing focuses closely on the biblical underpinnings and philosophies in the Christian studies of Lewis and his mentor/hero, Martin Luther King Jr. Some readers may impatiently wish to get on with the stories -- the lunch counters, the Freedom Rides, his March on Washington speech, and of course, the Selma beating at the foot of the Pettus Bridge -- but Meacham finds it vital to place the ultimate religiosity of John Lewis at the center, not as a sideline explanation of sorts, but at the core.

Readers also may wish there could have been more details of the post-1960s Lewis as an ongoing voter rights advocate and later, as a congressman for his final 24 years. But "His Truth is Marching" offers a bushel full of essentials, closing with the final words from Lewis himself, pre-planned as an epilogue from one of the American greats of our times.

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CREATIVE PERSPECTIVES

COLORS



By Brigitte Johnson

Please don't judge me by the color of my skin
Dig a little deeper, search my soul within
None of us were born with a multiple choice
Black, White, Red, or Yellow, We all have a voice

Today's society is full of crime, all our people doing time
What is the lesson, we're teaching our children today
To Fight First, ask questions later, Demand to have it their way

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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MICHIGAN BANNER
SERMONETTE SERIES

For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children
(2 Cor. 11:14)



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

This Scripture passage means exactly what it says. However, Paul's love and affection for the saints at Corinth causes him to see them as his own spiritual children. And like any good parent, he doesn't want to be a burden to them, but a blessing. Like any devoted parent, he is not seeking what the children possess, but he is seeking the children for who and whose they are. He is concerned about his relationship with them and their spiritual wellbeing. As their spiritual father, Paul has been placed in the peculiar position of having to defend his apostleship. This should never have happened because they were fully aware of his labor of love among them. They should have been defending and commending him. His ministry wasn't inferior to anyone's. All the signs of an apostle were performed by him in their midst. There was no reason for him to have to commend himself to anyone, especially to them. Dedicated parents don't have to commend themselves to their own children. They have already spent and been spent, labored and toiled, saved and sacrificed for the sake of their children. But this is what parents are obligated to do. And good parents do it out of obligation coupled with love. A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children; financial, but especially spiritual.

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To learn more or purchase "Sr. Marietta, Saginaw's Saint" visit www.emmaushousesaginaw.com/donations.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mr. George Floyd - Story within a Story

By **SOFUS**

One man has been prosecuted for the valued life that he extinguished related to a counterfeit \$20 bill. Now here we are, one year later, still grieving this tragedy and trying as best as we can to manage our posttraumatic stress.

As we continue to be saturated with information about Mr. George Floyd's death, it has been interesting to learn about some of the stories that haven't blasted us in the face over the last 12 months. One being the events that led up to policemen arriving at the scene.

Based on information from news outlets, police reports and court documents:

1. Mr. Floyd used a \$20 bill to make a purchase at Cup Foods Grocery Store in Minneapolis MN on May 25, 2020
2. The clerk (a 19 years old who had worked at the store for 4 months) believed that the \$20 bill might be counterfeit because of a blue colored tint on the bill that aroused his suspicions. However, he ac-

3. It was the clerk's understanding that the monetary value of all counterfeit money accepted by store employees would be deducted from their wages. This type of business practice is illegal and the store owner (when asked) stated that money being deducted from employees' pay was "not store policy".
4. Soon after this 19-year old clerk accept the "fake" \$20 from Mr. Floyd that day, he became more anxious about it being "fake" and reported it to someone identified as another employee. It isn't clear whether this person was a store manager. All the while Mr. Floyd sat in his parked car next to the store along with two other companions .
5. The 19-year old clerk was sent by whomever he had reported the incident to Mr. Floyd's car to ask him to come back inside and resolve the matter. After the first time, when the clerk went alone, and it yielded no results, he was sent back

a second time accompanied by two other store employees . But Mr. Floyd still did not "come back inside the store."

6. After that one of the store employees was instructed to call the police. Police Officer Thomas Lane (one of the four policemen who arrived on the scene) stated in an audio interview; "We were more concerned with attaining that person on suspicion of passing a counterfeit bill and then figuring out the validity of the bill,"

The horror that followed after officers arrived has been well documented and etched into our memories forever.

A transcript of the 911 call can be found at (<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/george-floyd-death-911-transcript-minneapolis-police/>). It is obvious throughout the conversation that the caller is consistently incoherent and, for whatever reason, seems cognitively impaired. Consequently, the information given to the 911 dispatcher was ambiguous, confusing, and questionable. In light of that, just how clear and coherent was the information that was passed along to the police who responded to the call? What the dispatcher said to the police does not appear in the transcript. Might the officers have approached Cup Foods differently if they had heard what the dispatcher tried to decipher? Gone inside the store first to determine whether it had been a "prank call" before approaching any alleged suspects at the scene. Might there have been a much better outcome for everyone involved if they had? The human brain fills with 'what ifs' when trying to process these types of tragedies.

Another travesty is the detecting counterfeit money burden that this business placed on clerks-cashiers who had to rely on their visual acuity, intuition, and instincts. All because the owner of Cup Foods failed to spend \$30 or less to purchase special marking pens made just for that purpose. A pack of Money Marker counterfeit bill detector pens can be purchased on Amazon.com for less than \$12.00. Can't help but wonder if the Cup Food owner had been a responsible employer and had had such pens, would this counterfeit situation not have cost Brother Floyd his life?

Quentin L. Messer, Jr. appointed CEO of Michigan Economic Development Corp (MEDC)



QUENTIN L. MESSER, JR.

Lansing, MI – The Michigan Economic Development Corporation Executive Committee named Quentin L. Messer, Jr. as MEDC CEO. The announcement comes following a national search led by the organization's Executive Committee that included a needs analysis for the role and input from stakeholders statewide on key attributes the position required for success.

"We work hard every day to bring good jobs to Michigan and support strong communities across our state through the critical work of the MEDC. Quentin brings a wealth of experience to this role and a clear passion for ensuring the benefits of economic development extend to everyone," said Governor Gretchen Whitmer. "These attributes will serve Michigan well as we continue to foster economic opportunity statewide and get people back to work. We are excited to welcome Quentin to Michigan to join the MEDC team and get to work for our people, communities and businesses."

As CEO, Messer is charged with implementing and executing MEDC's core mission of business development and attraction, community development, providing access to capital and enhancing Michigan's image and brand. His responsibilities will

include administering all programs, funds, personnel, contracts and all other administrative functions of MEDC.

"Throughout this national search process, we have remained committed to selecting a leader with the right experience and skills to carry out the ongoing and exceptional work by the MEDC to build a strong and vibrant economic recovery that helps our state's businesses retain, grow and create more good-paying jobs for Michigan's working families," said Awenate Cobbina, Chair of the MEDC Executive Committee. "Quentin is immensely qualified to step into this role and brings tremendous energy, insight and experience to help sustain and increase our momentum around economic development in Michigan."

Messer comes to the MEDC from the New Orleans Business Alliance (NOLABA) where he has served as President and CEO since 2015. He led efforts around business attraction, small business growth, talent development, branding and market responsive, equitable economic growth while also cultivating robust partner relationships and leading efforts to secure significant private sector investment. Under Messer's leadership, NOLABA became one of fewer than 90 economic development organizations globally to earn accreditation from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC).

"America is at its best when Michigan is at its best, and I'm thrilled to join the proven MEDC team, the Governor, the legislature and economic development stakeholders across this great state in driving an economy that creates upward mobility and opportunity for the broadest possible group of Michiganders," said Quentin L. Messer, Jr. "Economic development is about connecting people to good jobs, connecting businesses to great people and financial capital, and supporting vibrant communities, and I look forward to doing this vital work at MEDC."

Prior to his role at NOLABA, Messer served as the assistant secretary at Louisiana Economic Development, the lead agency for economic development for the state of Louisiana. In that role he was des-

ignated President of the Louisiana Economic Development Corporation, helping to provide financial assistance to small and medium size businesses in partnership with the private sector and federal agencies including the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Messer brings to his new role private sector experience at The Boston Consulting Group and O'Melveny & Myers LLP, as well as work at a variety of start-up ventures, including as a principal at Foster Chamberlain, LLC – a start-up venture accelerator and corporate venturing consultancy.

Messer also served on the Louisiana Economic Recovery Taskforce in support of the Louisiana State Legislature's COVID-19 relief efforts and was a member of the Reopening Task Force for New Orleans Public Schools. He has been named in Consultants Connect North America's Top 50 Economic Developers (2020, 2019) and was named Biz New Orleans CEO of the Year (2020) and Businessperson of the Year (2019).

An IEDC certified economic developer, Messer received a Bachelor of Arts from Princeton School of Public and International Affairs and his Juris Doctorate and Master of Business Administration from Columbia University's Law and Business Schools, respectively, and serves on board of directors of the International Economic Development Council, where he serves on the board's Committee for Public Conduct and also is the incoming Co-Chair, Racism in Economic Development Committee.

Messer replaces Mark Burton, who stepped down from the position in March of this year. MEDC Executive Committee Chairman Awenate Cobbina and Vice Chairman Jeff Noel will continue to lead the MEDC until Messer's appointment takes effect on July 19, 2021. Noel will serve as the official CEO, as legally required, with decisions and approvals being concurrently executed with Cobbina.

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IN MY HUMBLE OPINION

The COVID-19 Pandemic is a Blessing in Disguise



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

There is no doubt that the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) has touched every corner of the world. It has had a devastating impact on human health and the world economy. While the global death toll from COVID-19 approaches 3.5 million people, which is undoubtedly tragic and my heart goes out to all the families that have suffered the loss of loved ones, the global recovery rate is approaching 150 million from more than 168 million people infected with the disease, and that is a blessing. As a matter of fact, the COVID-19 pandemic is a blessing in disguise. Our planet, women empowerment, e-learning, e-commerce, ICT, families, and churches experienced opportunities to benefit during this challenging time.

I will focus on a just a few of the areas mentioned above as examples of the silver lining that has come with the dark cloud of COVID-19.

Women Empowerment

COVID-19 has helped us refocus our attention on what is really important to human survival: food, shelter, clothing, health, community, and the need to ensure equality. Just as the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918, which took approximately 50 million lives, led to the creation of a favorable environment for the comprehensive equal rights amendment to help women work in roles previously reserved for men, a century later this pandemic is giving us the op-

portunity to recalibrate gender inequality. For instance, by ensuring equality measures for women in the Africa agriculture sector, the labor force will be empowered, a viable economic system will be created, and most importantly the food system will be strengthened to provide healthy nutrition to boost immunity needed to fight the coronavirus. The systemic gain of this process will definitely make the supply chain more robust, even post COVID-19.

In Africa, approximately 40 percent of women are involved in farming at a primary level. Approximately, 70 percent of the food eaten on the African continent is grown by women farmers, according experts. Women farmers tend to be the primary caregivers to their families. With emerging technologies, women can be empowered to scale up production and eradicate hunger on the African continent.

Church

Despite churches and places of worship being closed and/or gatherings being severely limited to just a few hundred people, access to religion and messages of hope has continued to grow.

According to a local media source, in a digital world church has no walls, and the founding pastor at Life Church Michigan, Jonathan Herron believes that virtual church is here to stay even in a post-pandemic world. Life Church Michigan has a growing online audience while fewer people are gathering in person for services. Rev. Hurley Coleman, Jr. of World Outreach Campus Church experienced growth online after Michigan churches closed their physical doors last year. People are able to share the services and more people can get the message.

For those that prefer to be alone while they pray and worship, the ability to watch a service on their phone is extremely valuable.

E-Learning

The COVID-19 pandemic is a once in a century event, hopefully, and it forced nations to go into lockdown, which impacted people and businesses all over the world.

Although it made people stay inside, it also encouraged people to spend more time on the internet watching useful content, educating themselves and learning new skills.

In my case, my wife and I have a company that was primarily doing event management pre-COVID-19, and our last physical event was a high tea on 08 March 2020 in celebration of International Women's Day, which happens to be my late mother's birthday, God rest her soul.

I am an African American based in South Africa and we went into a 21-day lockdown on 27 March, and more than 400 days later we are still in lockdown, Level 1. In order to survive the last year and two months, we had to pivot to generate income online working from home. We attended a comprehensive webinar series hosted by our local chamber of commerce to learn about e-commerce. Following the training, we implemented what we had learned and officially launched an e-commerce marketplace for women that my wife heads on 09 August 2020, National Women's Day in South Africa.

Additionally, I started doing some business consulting online with a client in the United States. I made new connections through that network, and eventually it brought me in contact with The Michigan Banner. Now, I am writing my first article for my new column in the very same newspaper, and that's a blessing for sure.

Environment

The pandemic is mother nature taking its lost ground from us human beings. The industrial revolution and relentless pursuit of profit, or need to establish supremacy based on the metric of material wealth has nearly destroyed what took more than a billion years to develop. Fossil fuels, natural reserves, glaciers, reefs, rivers, and more have been depleted or destroyed in less than 150 years. Just a few months of forced restraint on us has started healing the planet of its pollution, air is cleaner, rivers have fish again, and some endangered animals, like pangolins

CONTINUES ON PG 23, COVID-19

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Continued from pg 22, covid-19

(the most trafficked in the world) are starting to recover.

COVID-19 has had drastic effects on social and economic fronts due to lockdown, but has some positive effects on the natural environment, according to the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI). Industrial activities shut down globally, and the transport and manufacturing sectors have been heavily affected by the pandemic. COVID-19 has had a severe negative impact on human health and the world economy; however, it has also resulted in a reduction in pollution due to limited social and economic activities. NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) and ESA (European Space Agency) released data that indicates pollution in some of the epicenters of COVID-19, like Wuhan, Italy, Spain, the USA and others has reduced up to 30%. This fact could see a reduction in the people

that die worldwide due to poor air quality, which is currently 4.6 million annually.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), other positive effects include reduced road traffic and road accidents, and the lowered levels of air pollution resulted in lowering heart attack rates. Crime rates have fallen and, in many places, expenses are reduced. Communication amongst families, community action, behavior, sanitation, hygiene, online and distance learning have all been positively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am fine, my immediate family, and most of my extended family are all doing well by the grace of God. We have been, and continue to be very strict with precautionary measures like wearing a mask, keeping social distance, avoiding large crowds, and meeting people online via video conferencing to minimize the chances of getting infected with the coronavirus.

It's all about perspective. In spite of the pain caused by the pandemic, we can make lemonade from the lemons it has served up during this uncertain time. One of the most important lessons I have learned is that there is always an opportunity in every difficult adversity. Collectively, we should learn some important lessons, and one of them is about taking care of our environment seriously. Our nonstop activities around the world were creating endless pollution, which is not good for us or our future generations. The COVID-19 pandemic forced everyone stop and go into lockdown, which has benefited our environment to breathe properly for some time.

COVID-19 and many such challenges will come and go, but most importantly we must not forget those we have lost, and the lessons we have learned and the advances we have made are blessings in disguise.

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Child & Family Services of Saginaw is Announcing Jill Hogenson as the New President/CEO



JILL HOGENSON

Saginaw, MI – The Board of Directors of Child & Family Services is pleased to announce and welcome Jill Hogenson as its new President/Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

“Jill comes to us via a rigorous application and interview process with 36 years of experience post master's in social work. She has a Master's degree in Social Work and brings a broad range of experiences in

many settings, including psychiatric, medical, and legal arenas.” says Terry Keyser, Chair, CFS Board of Directors.

Hogenson joins the organization after working as a Therapist Services Supervisor for HealthSource Saginaw's Behavioral Professional Services Outpatient Clinic. Prior to her work at HealthSource, Jill worked for 26 years in the office of the Saginaw County Friend of the Court as a Custody Specialist, giving her wide contacts among various agencies and area professionals. Her lengthy history of work experience, beginning in the community mental health arena, extending to both inpatient and outpatient psychiatric settings, and the experience in the courts, school and medical fields has given her a broad perspective on the depth and com-

plexity of services, as well as the necessity of coordination of care.

“I am thrilled and excited to have been chosen as the new President/CEO for Child & Family Services of Saginaw, an agency with a rich history and intentional vision of helping individuals, children and families in the process of building better lives.” shares Jill Hogenson. “Over 30 years ago, I was given a pivotal start to my career in Saginaw by Child & Family Services. It is now my honor to return and lead this agency, as we move forward, working to reach out, care for and serve our community. As I take on this new role, it will be my goal to utilize my experiences to initiate present day changes, allowing for sustainable growth for our future as an agency.”

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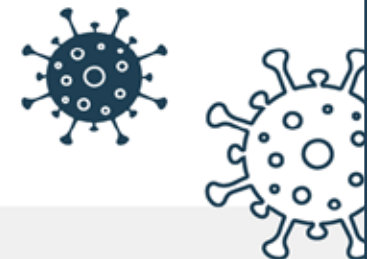
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 - For example, guidelines or rules for an indoor wedding or conference would be set by the establishment in which it is hosted.
- Face masks continue to be required for non-vaccinated individuals indoors.



Beginning July 1, all broad epidemic orders will be lifted.



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COURTESY PHOTO

SVSU students help revitalize Saginaw neighborhood

Wolohan Fellows partner with Mustard Seed Shelter and Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity

Saginaw, MI – Ten SVSU students, members of the university's Richard V. Wolohan Fellowship in Service and Leadership, are leading an effort to rehabilitate the exterior of a 127-year-old home in Saginaw as part of a neighborhood revitalization effort in the area surrounding the Mustard Seed Shelter.

The project includes scraping and painting the 2,300 square-foot two-story home, which was built in 1894. The home is located at 1323 Janes Ave. The project is being done in collaboration with the Mustard Seed Shelter and Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity. Work began Friday, May 14 and is expected to be completed Sunday, May 23.

The 2020-2021 Wolohan Fellowship cohort includes:

- **Joseph Bartels**, an accounting major from Saginaw
- **Matthew Bartels** of Saginaw, who recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing
- **Savannah Bruske**, a biology major from Saginaw
- **Alejandra Fulgencio**, a biology major from Saginaw
- **Katelynn Jacob**, an elementary edu-

cation/special education major from Freeland

- **Micaela Lewis**, a business major from Freeland
- **Alisha Moore**, a creative writing major from Saginaw
- **Alyssa Rivera**, a literature major from Saginaw
- **Alexandra Schultz**, a music major from Saginaw
- **Emily Vogelpohl**, a social work major from Saginaw

Matthew Bartels, one of the SVSU Wolohan Fellows leading the initiative, said the idea for the project came from a discussion he had with his aunt, Amy Bartels Roe, executive director of Mustard Seed Shelter. One of Mustard Seed's guests was raised in the house, which has been in her family for generations. Mustard Seed Shelter has been actively working to help revitalize the neighborhood.

"We just completed a major expansion and renovation project in 2020 that more than doubled our capacity to serve women and children experiencing homelessness," said Bartels Roe. "From the beginning of that project, our hope was to use it as a catalyst in our neighborhood to improve the

quality of life for those we serve, as well as our neighbors and other nonprofits in the area. This initiative represents progress toward achieving the dream of making our neighborhood a beautiful, welcoming place for those who live, work, play and visit here."

"We chose this house for two reasons," said Bartels, the SVSU student. "First, this house was built in the late 1800s and is one of very few houses in this area built during this time period still in livable condition. Refurbishing this house will add years to its lifespan and allow it to maintain its place as a piece of Saginaw history.

"Second, refurbishing this house is part of a larger neighborhood revitalization project occurring in this neighborhood. The impact that recent projects such as establishment of the Rufus M. Bradley Community Park and the Mustard Seed Shelter Expansion have had on this neighborhood have been tremendous. Our work on this house will continue the mission of the revitalization project, and we hope that our work will encourage others in the neighborhood to take pride in their own homes and community."

In addition to providing labor, the Wolohan Fellows sponsored funds for the paint, primer and other materials and supplies, including rental of a scissor lift. Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity also made available materials at very reasonable rates or through loan. Mustard Seed and Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity helped the Wolohan Fellows navigate countless project details.

Work on the project will continue May 21-23, with shifts of varying lengths. Volunteers of all skill levels are needed. Visit tinyurl.com/hpus2vjs for more information and to sign up.

The Wolohan Family Foundation created the Richard V. Wolohan Fellowship in Leadership and Service at SVSU to encourage students to demonstrate the kind of community leadership that characterized Mr. Wolohan's life. SVSU students may apply for the program at any stage of their academic career.

More information about Mustard Seed Shelter can be found at themustardseedshelter.org. For information about Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity, visit sshfh.org.

For Foodies –

By *SOFUS*

Summer should be a Time to Splurge!

June is a nationally designated month when many people start to enjoy some of the following American traditions.

June 2: National Rocky Road Day



Now an American classic and favorite; rocky road ice cream is a blend of chocolate ice cream, nuts, and marshmallows. It was originally concocted around 1929 (during the Great Depression). This flavor with the quirky name tended to make people who had access to it smile as they enjoyed the tasty treat.

June 4: National Donut Day

Hanson Gregory was a 16-year old American who claimed to have invented the ring-shaped doughnut with a hole in the center back in 1847. He became dissatisfied with the greasiness of dense, fried pasties of various shapes that had no hole and were usually raw in the center.



June 7: National Chocolate Ice Cream Day

Chocolate flavored ice cream can be traced back to Naples, Italy, 1692. In the U.S. it gained wide popularity in the 1800s.



June 9: National Strawberry Rhubarb Pie Day

It's believed that combining strawberries and rhubarb into a mixture and baking it inside of a pastry shell originated in Germany and the UK. It appeared in North America in the late 1700s. These two fruits combine for a perfect not-too-sweet, not-too-tart filling. And it's always good with ice cream. *Rhubarb leaves are toxic and humans should never ingest them. Symptoms can include: breathing difficulty and burning in the mouth, according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine at the National Institutes of Health.



June 17: National Apple Strudel Day

This iconic dessert is one of the most popular treats in any traditional Viennese café and is considered by many to be the national dish of Austria. The oldest known strudel recipe dates back to 1697. Made with thin layers of flaky crust, tons of apples, and brown sugar, it pairs well with coffee as a good way to start the morning. Pairing it with vanilla ice cream makes for an awesome dessert.



June 25: National Strawberry Parfait Day



Strawberry parfait is a creamy treat that's usually served in a tall glass to show off its ingredients. Typically, it contains layers of fresh sliced strawberries, vanilla Greek yogurt and homemade granola. Parfait originated in France, 1894, where it was a frozen dessert made of eggs, sugar syrup, and cream.

BON APPETITE! AND MAY YOU LOOK FORWARD TO ENJOYING THE 'DAYS OF SUMMER'

HEALTH

Michiganders urged to take precautions to prevent heat-related illness as temps climb across the state

Lansing, MI – With temperatures expected to reach close to 90 degrees in Michigan this summer, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is reminding all residents to stay cool to beat the heat.

MDHHS routinely reviews emergency department (ED) data for heat-related illness. As daily temperatures rise above 80 degrees, ED visits for heat-related illness tend to increase. This is often more likely for the first high-heat event of the year as people are not as used to those temperatures and are not taking the necessary precautions.

"It's important Michiganders stay hydrated and understand the risks of excessive heat exposure during this warm weather," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief deputy director for health. "Young children, older adults and those who have medical conditions are at increased risk for heat-related illness, so be sure to check frequently on them and others in your community who may need additional assistance."

To prevent complications from the heat, residents are encouraged to:

- Drink more fluids and avoid liquids with large amounts of sugar or alcohol.
- Limit outdoor activities to when it is coolest in the morning and evening.
- Spend time indoors in air conditioning.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored and loose-fitting clothing.
- Wear sunscreen, as sunburn affects a body's ability to cool down.
- Check on elderly neighbors and relatives to determine if they need assistance.

For those without access to air conditioning, text or call Michigan 211 or con-

tact your local health department to find out if there is a cooling center nearby. You can also spend some time at an air-conditioned store, shopping mall or other public building - even a few hours spent in air conditioning can help. Remember to follow guidance regarding COVID-19 precautions including wearing a mask or other face covering if not vaccinated and practicing social distancing (keeping a distance of at least 6 feet from others).

In addition to staying hydrated and out of the sun, residents are reminded to never leave children or pets alone in a car even with windows cracked. Temperatures inside a car can easily be double the temperature outside, and because a child's body heats up three to five times faster than an adult's they are more susceptible to heatstroke.

Heat exhaustion and heatstroke are both forms of heat-related illness. Signs of heat-related illness vary but may include heavy sweating, muscle cramps, weakness,

dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, fainting, an extremely high body temperature (above 103°F) and tiredness. Heatstroke occurs when the body is unable to regulate its temperature and can result in death if not treated promptly.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has also issued an Air Quality Action Alert in several counties for Friday, May 21 due to potentially unhealthy levels of ozone. Poor air quality caused by higher levels of ozone can harm certain sensitive populations such as children, older adults, and those with asthma or other breathing problems. More information and updates on Air Quality Alerts are available at EGLE's MIAir Page.

For more information about how to protect yourself and your loved ones from heat-related illness, see the MDHHS Heat Awareness and Safety Fact Sheet, or visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website.



COURTESY PHOTO

MDHHS recommends Michiganders avoid foam on lakes and rivers

Lansing, MI – As the summer months approach, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is issuing its annual recommendation that Michiganders should avoid contact with foam they may see on Michigan waterbodies such as lakes, rivers and streams.

The foam may have unknown chemicals or bacteria in them, so it is recommended to avoid contact. Foam can form on any waterbody, but foam on some waterbodies may have high levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-containing foam tends to be bright white in color, is often lightweight and may pile up like shaving cream on shorelines or blow onto beaches.

Naturally occurring foam without

PFAS tends to pile up in bays, eddies or at river barriers such as dams. Naturally occurring foam is typically off-white and/or brown in color and often has an earthy or fishy scent.

If contact with foam is made, care should be taken to rinse or wash it off as soon as possible, particularly if PFAS contamination is suspected in the waterbody. The longer that foam remains on the skin, the greater the chance of accidentally swallowing the foam or the foam residue left behind.

MDHHS' recommendation to avoid foam on waterbodies is for people of all ages, including young children. An MDHHS evaluation suggests young children could have PFAS exposure that may in-

crease their risk of negative health effects if they have repeated contact with foam containing high amounts of PFAS for a few hours a day throughout the recreational season. Contact with surface water, including swimming or other recreational activities in waterbodies containing PFAS is not a health concern. PFAS-containing foams typically have a much greater concentration of chemicals than what is found in the water itself.

More information on PFAS-containing foam can be found under the "PFAS Foam" section at Michigan.gov/PFASResponse. If you have questions about exposures to PFAS and/or foam, call the MDHHS Environmental Health hotline at 800-648-6942.

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WORK
ANYWHERE
ELSE.”**

Rosalind Williams
Registered Nurse



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COURTESY PHOTO

A Tribute to 2021 Graduates



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

The school year is drawing to a close for graduating high school seniors and for college graduates at all degree levels. It has been an unforgettable school year!!!

With graduation comes commencement ceremonies! The ceremonies are in all shapes and sizes. Virtual. In-person. Drive through.

Most are outdoors, with social distancing and shortened ceremonies. With new guidelines just now being relaxed, some ceremonies might be accommodated at the last minute.

Personally, I love commencement. The joy and tears, the combined sharing of love for each other and the human spirit of never, ever giving up, all are wonderful to see.

The speeches are highlights, too. The nervous energy and preparation are unparalleled. Whether it is a well-known dignitary or a student selected from the class, their best efforts is revealed in a few moments in the spotlight of the ceremony.

What goes into a great commencement address?

For this question I reflected upon my own experiences as an administrator, plus I consulted the website, icebreakerideas.com (Ice Beakers dot com) for analysis.

Here are components of a great commencement speech I will offer in honor of this year's grads.

First, the speech needs to feel like it is brief. In other words, the audience should be "locked in," so much so that no one looks at their watch. Likely 10-15 minutes is better than 30-35 minutes, so the message needs to be focused, organized, and delivered in an interesting way.

Most important of all, the address should have a clear purpose.

*Serious speeches reflect upon Life's Lessons or Always remaining friends. Heavy language such as, "The importance of taking risks" or "Lessons we learned in school." Themes like, "Life is short, make the most of it."

I like serious speeches like these because they are a challenge to pull off without the audience looking at their watches.

*Inspirational speeches can move the audience to tears. They often are fueled by a story. A quote. A song.

Inspirational speeches are most memorable for graduates if they connect with them at their level. It may be an expression of gratitude directed at a teacher or

classmate or parent or coach. The speaker is redirecting the spotlight to another person for reflection and admiration. Very moving!

*Funny graduation speeches can be very entertaining.

Using humor is a strategy many speakers employ to hold the audience and to weave into the speech. Some of the more memorable speeches found on Internet are humorous.

I love this one! George W. Bush told students at Southern Methodist University in 2005, "To those of you who received honors, awards, and distinctions, I say well done. And to the C students, I say you too, can be president of the United States."

Comedian Amy Poehler started her address to Harvard in 2011 with the line, "Friends, Romans and countrymen: lend me your beers."

Funny!

All of this leads to the most important point, we celebrate all 2021 graduates!

We congratulate you and admire you for your achievements. Especially this moment, this year, with a pandemic full throttle during the past fifteen months. You have shown more patience, more persistence than any previous graduates.

Best wishes as you travel life's roads!



Saginaw Promise Golf Outing

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021*
SAGINAW COUNTRY CLUB
(4465 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw MI 48638)

Grab Your Golf Clubs for a Great Time!!!

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES - REGISTRATION

Proceeds to Benefit Saginaw Promise Programming & Scholarships

- EVENT SPONSOR** **\$3,000**
 - Foursome with carts
 - Sponsor name displayed at event and recognized at dinner
 - Opportunity to welcome & address golfers prior to "shot gun start"
 - Opportunity to host a golf activity on course or display table near registration
 - Name listed on Saginaw Promise website
 - Hole Sponsorship

- DINNER SPONSOR** **\$1,500**
 - Foursome with carts
 - Sponsor name displayed & recognized at dinner
 - Opportunity to welcome and address golfers at dinner
 - Opportunity to host a display table at dinner
 - Name listed on Saginaw Promise Website

- LUNCH AT TURN SPONSOR** **\$800**
 - Foursome with carts
 - Sponsor name displayed at "Lunch at the Turn" and recognized at dinner
 - Opportunity to host golf activity or display table
 - Name listed on Saginaw Promise website

- CART SPONSOR** **\$600**
 - Sponsor name on golf carts and listed on the Saginaw Promise website

- DRIVING RANGE SPONSOR** **\$350**
 - Name displayed at event and announced at dinner

- HOLE SPONSORS** **\$200**
 - Sponsor name and or/company logo on hole and listed on the Saginaw Promise website
 - Recognized at dinner

PRIZE DONATIONS WELCOME

All prize donations will be recognized at the event and listed on the Saginaw Promise website.

Sponsors: Please email your company logo to DSanchez@SaginawPromise.org.
EPS or hi-res JPG preferred.

REGISTRATION 8:45 - 9:45 AM • SHOTGUN START 10:00 AM

Four Person Scramble - Includes: 18 Holes with Cart, Driving Range, Hot Dog & Chips at the Turn, BBQ Chicken Dinner and Awards Presentation

GOLF PER PERSON - \$150

GOLF FOURSOME TEAM - \$600

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Business: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Total Amount for **Golfing** \$ _____

Total Amount for **Sponsorship** \$ _____

I would like to make a **Donation** \$ _____

I would like to **Donate a Prize** Yes No

Total Amount **ENCLOSED** \$ _____

Team Name _____

Player #1 _____

Player #2 _____

Player #3 _____

Player #4 _____

Make Check Payable:

Saginaw Community Foundation, 1 Tuscola St. Suite 100, Saginaw, MI 48607 and indicate Saginaw Promise on the Memo Line

*Saginaw Community Foundation is the fiscal agent for Saginaw Promise

For Questions, please contact Deborah Sanchez at (989) 755-0545 or email DSanchez@SaginawPromise.org

EASY ONLINE REGISTRATION / PAYMENTS (Credit Card Only)

https://SaginawFoundation.ThankYou4caring.org/promise_golf

Deadlines

Sponsors: Respond by August 9, 2021
Golfers: Sign up before August 13, 2021

+ EDUCATION



AMY WASSMANN

Amy Wassmann, ISD Whole Child Programs Director receives 2021 Harrison Award

Saginaw, MI – Amy Wassmann, Whole Child Programs Director for the Saginaw Intermediate School District (SISD), is the recipient of the Michigan Model for Health™ State Steering Committee's 2021 Harrison Award. The Harrison Award is an annual recognition that honors individuals who have made a significant and lasting contribution to Michigan's school health in education.

While working at Saginaw ISD for the past 13 years, Mrs. Wassmann has coordinated with schools and community organizations to facilitate physical and mental

health supports to educate children and teens to lead safe and healthy lives. Amy earned her Master of Social Work degree at Michigan State University and has experience working with youth, families, and schools in the areas of whole child and comprehensive school health including trauma/ACEs, mental health, social-emotional learning, suicide, sexual health, substance misuse prevention, violence/bullying, and nutrition/physical activity. She also works with school districts on systems-level work around wellness policies, Sex Education Advisory Boards, whole child initiatives,

evidence-based health curricula, building adult resilience, data collection, and trauma-informed practices. Prior to joining Saginaw ISD, Amy served as a mental health therapist working with adolescents involved in the juvenile justice and foster care systems.

Mrs. Wassmann stated, "I am honored to receive this award. My love and appreciation for the educators, students, and residents of Saginaw County is my motivation day in, and day out. Throughout my 13 years at Saginaw ISD, I have focused on building strong relationships. Relationships are key in so many things, but especially in creating any lasting change. This award is a symbol of the relationships built. I am but one person and could not have been successful alone."

Mrs. Wassmann's current leading initiatives include Project Dottie, InPACT@School, and InPACT@Home. Project Dottie provides feminine supplies to all students at participating schools throughout Saginaw County, specifically to assist families that may struggle to purchase products. InPACT@School, a pilot program in Saginaw County starting in the 2021-22 school year, will assist teachers in implementing physical activity throughout the day to interrupt prolonged periods of sitting and better prepare students for learning. InPACT@Home is a program that will offer free and equitable access to in-home physical activity videos and resources for students and families.

In addition to these initiatives, Mrs. Wassmann is a representative of the Social-Emotional Learning and Children's Mental Health Network led by State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice. Further, Amy also serves on several coalitions and collaboratives in Saginaw County that address mental health, food access, and the overall health of Saginaw County residents. Heather Phelps, Saginaw ISD Director of Instructional Services, said, "Saginaw ISD and Saginaw County are fortunate to benefit from Mrs. Wassmann's passion and unique knowledge, and talents. We are proud to have her as a member of our team."

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

Michigan Lottery contributes record \$1.179 billion to Michigan schools in 2020

Saginaw, MI – The Michigan Lottery raised more than \$1.179 billion for Michigan schools in fiscal year 2020. This marks the sixth record-setting year in a row for Lottery contributions to the School Aid Fund and the second consecutive year that the Lottery has generated more than \$1 billion for public education in a single fiscal year.

“We continue to find ways to make historic investments in our classrooms in conjunction with the bipartisan budget that I signed last year to make the largest investment in K-12 education in the history of our state without raising taxes,” said Governor Gretchen Whitmer. “The Michigan Lottery’s \$1.179 billion contribution in education will add to this record investment to help our students, our teachers, and our communities thrive. For six years in a row, the Michigan Lottery has set records, and I am grateful to the players,

retailers, vendors, and state agencies who make this investment in our kids and their future possible.”

Lottery contributions to the School Aid Fund over the prior five years were:

- FY19: \$1.070 billion
- FY18: \$941.28 million
- FY17: \$924.11 million
- FY16: \$888.91 million
- FY15: \$795.50 million

Since 1972, the Lottery has raised more than \$24.5 billion for public education in Michigan. Approximately \$5.8 billion or 23.6% of that amount was raised over the last six record breaking years.

The Lottery set several other significant records in FY20, including more than \$4.2 billion in sales, more than \$2.5 billion in prizes to players, and more than \$307 million in commissions to Lottery retail loca-

tions across Michigan ranging in size from small independently owned stores to large chains.

Record sales in FY20 were driven in part by the Lottery’s internet platform and instant games. Internet-based sales increased by almost 88% and instant-game sales increased by about 23% compared to FY19. The Lottery’s internet platform saw an increase in player registrations which led to greater awareness of games both online and at retail. Players participating in promotions online frequently receive offers redeemed at retail locations, further connecting Lottery’s internet platform to retail businesses.

“Each Lottery purchase in Michigan helps raise critical funding for our schools,” said Lottery Commissioner Brian O. Neill. “The last six record-setting years would not be possible without the support of our players and the dedicated work of our retailers, vendors, and teams at both Lottery and supporting state agencies.”

The Lottery is also committed to promoting responsible gaming. Michigan was the first state lottery to receive certification of its online program through the National Council on Problem Gambling and also has attained Responsible Gaming Verification through the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries. Responsible gaming information and resources are available on the Lottery’s website at: www.michiganlottery.com/responsible-gaming.

For each dollar spent on a Michigan Lottery ticket in FY20, approximately:

- 61 cents went to players as prizes
- 28 cents went to the School Aid Fund to support public education
- 9 cents went to commissions for retailers and vendors
- 2 cents funded the Lottery’s operations and administrative costs

Under state law, all profits from the Lottery go to the School Aid Fund.



For fun.
For schools.

+ EDUCATION

Three finalists chosen for Delta College president

University Center, MI – Three finalists for the president of Delta College have been selected and each candidate will participate in a public forum that is open to campus and community members.

The candidates are Reva Curry, vice president of Instruction and Learning Services at Delta College; Michael Gavin, vice president of Learning at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, Maryland; and Ty Stone, president of Jefferson Community College in Watertown, New York.

To learn more about each candidate visit www.delta.edu/board-of-trustees/presidential-search.

Ty Stone, Ph.D.



Ty Stone, Ph.D., is President of Jefferson Community College in Watertown, New York. She previously served as Vice President of Strategic Initiatives at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Stone earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Organization and Management from Capella University in Minneapolis; a Master of Business of Administration in Organizational Strategy from Trinity University in Washington, D.C.; and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Maryland.

Reva Curry, Ph.D.



Reva Curry, Ph.D., is Vice President of Instruction and Learning Services at Delta College in University Center, Michigan. She previously served as Executive Director for Stockton Center for Community Engagement at Stockton University (formerly Stockton College) in Pomona, NJ. Dr. Curry earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia; a Master of Education in Education from Augusta College in Augusta, Georgia; and a Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Technologies from Medical College of Georgia in Augusta.

Michael Gavin, Ph.D.



Michael Gavin, Ph.D., is Vice President of Learning at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, Maryland. He previously served as Associate Vice President of Learning and Academic Affairs at Anne Arundel Community College. Dr. Gavin earned a Doctor of Philosophy in American Studies from the University of Maryland in College Park; a Master of Arts in Literature from American University in Washington, D.C.; and a Bachelor of Arts in Literature from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.



COURTESY PHOTO

Michigan Department of Education opposes senate bill to retain 3rd and 4th grade students next year

Lansing, MI – The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) strongly opposes legislation that was adopted on May 26 by the Senate Education and Career Readiness Committee to push the state's mandatory third grade retention requirement to next year due to the pandemic, but penalize both third and fourth grade students in the 2021-2022 school year.

As required by the state's Read By Grade Three law, third grade students who score 1252 or below on the English language arts (ELA) M-STEP are identified for retention in third grade. MDE and the State Board of Education consistently opposed the retention component of the law.

"Third grade retentions are bad public policy, and even more so if expanding to

students in two grades," said State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice. "Local school districts need to work carefully with families to focus on reading supports and minimize retentions and the resultant adverse impact to children."

Senate Bill 265 was amended by the Senate committee today to add fourth grade students to the retention penalty next school year. The bill was reported from committee on a 4-2 party line vote and sent to the full Senate for consideration.

"Doubling down on bad policy is not the answer," said Dr. Michael Rice. "Instead, to improve early literacy, the legislature should fund early childhood education for all eligible children in the state,

smaller early elementary class sizes, one-on-one tutors for children in need, and diverse classroom reading materials for early elementary students."

State Board of Education President Dr. Casandra Ulbrich added, "I appreciate the apparent acknowledgement by the Senate committee members that the third grade reading bill is flawed, especially in a pandemic, but expanding it is clearly not the answer. It's time to throw in the towel on this bad public policy. A standardized test should never be used to determine the trajectory of a child's education and punishing children is an ineffective method of getting them to fill in the right bubble on a test."



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org

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

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

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

HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START

FREE PRE-SCHOOL
Enrollments for 0 to 5 year olds
Call: 752-2193 or
Visit the Claytor Head Start Building at:
3200 Perkins
Saginaw, MI 48601
REGISTER NOW!
Saginaw County Free Pre-School Partnership

+ BUSINESS

Michigan Leads Venture Capital Growth in Great Lakes Region

Lansing, MI – In a new article highlighting the growing availability of venture capital across the U.S., Crunchbase points to Michigan as the fastest growing state for VC investment, with an increase in venture dollars from \$300 million in 2016 to \$3.1 billion last year.

Crunchbase credits major investments including StockX's \$110 million Series C round in 2019 and \$275 million Series E last year at a \$2.8 billion valuation, along with Cisco buying Ann Arbor-based Duo Security for \$2.35 billion in 2018 for helping to attract new out-of-state money to Michigan in recent years.

But Michigan's venture capital ecosystem is not entirely dependent on out-of-state backers. The Michigan Venture Capital Association 2021 Annual Research Report notes that Michigan venture investors helped back nearly every Michigan venture-funded startup, demonstrating the health of the state's entrepreneurial economy. That report also found venture capital funds under management of firms headquartered in Michigan in 2020 was \$2.8 billion, an increase of 28 percent over the last five years.

"We are seeing incredible deal flow and have for more than two years," Martin Dober, senior vice president at Invest Detroit and managing director of its venture capital arm, ID Ventures, is quoted saying in the Crunchbase article. "We did about three times the amount of investments in 2020 than we did in 2019, and that was in the midst of a pandemic," Dober said.

The ongoing and growing support from

in-state venture capital firms continues to signal Michigan's competitiveness and growth on a national stage, with the MVCA report finding that every dollar invested in a Michigan startup by a Michigan venture capital firm attracts \$9.70 of investment from outside of Michigan.

Early-stage funding also continues to remain critical to the success of startup companies and entrepreneurs. Through a number of strategic partnerships, Michigan is able to help startups achieve the early-stage funding needed to succeed in getting to the point where venture capital and angel investors begin to step in. From the MEDC's Entrepreneurship & Innovation initiative's Pre-Seed III Fund – administered by Michigan State University Foundation through Michigan Rise – to grants through the Michigan Mobility Funding Platform, startups and entrepreneurs have a variety of options for accessing the capital they need early on to spur success and growth in Michigan.

Also helping this ecosystem continue to

thrive: a quality of life with affordable cost of living that continues to position Michigan as a top place for talent. The most recent example of this is CBS News ranking Ann Arbor the #6 best place to live in the U.S.

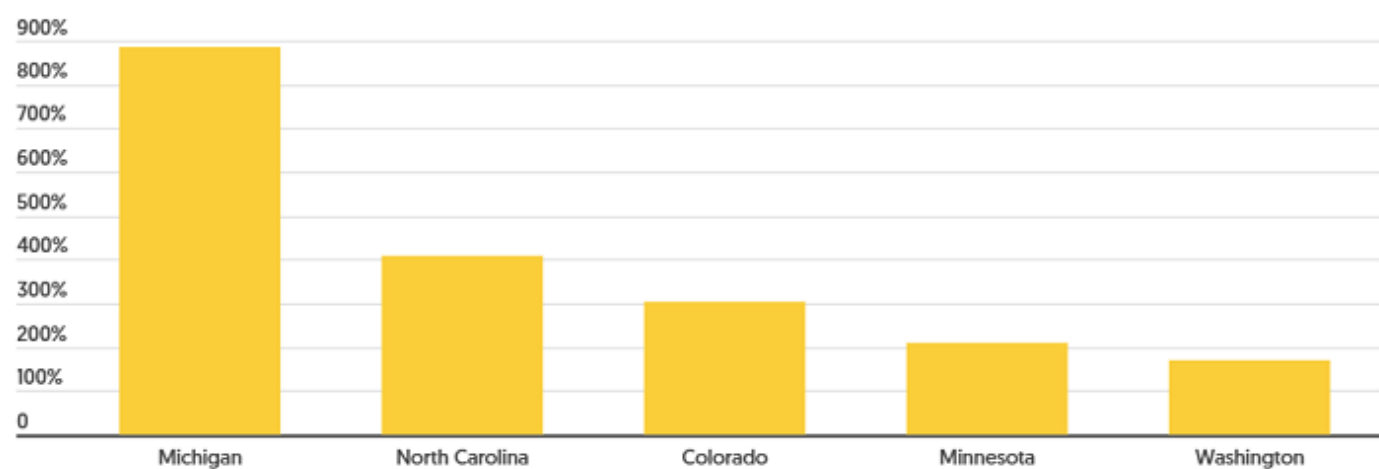
"Entrepreneurism will be the 'shot in the arm' Michigan's economy needs to recover post-pandemic and with the state of Michigan supporting early-stage funding in the startup ecosystem we can ensure that ideas with potential can ultimately evolve into companies that create jobs, pay taxes and grow our economy," said Fred Molnar, Vice President of Entrepreneurship & Innovation at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Read more about how entrepreneurs and startups are finding Pure Opportunity in Michigan here.

To learn more about the resources and tools available to help startups and entrepreneurs grow in Michigan, go to michiganbusiness.org/entrepreneurship.

Fastest-Growing States For VC Investment

U.S. states with largest percentage growth in venture capital investment between 2016 and 2020, per Crunchbase data. Only includes states with at least \$1 billion in venture investment in 2020.



crunchbase



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Great Lakes Bay Manufacturers Associations receives Readiness Initiative Grant

Saginaw, MI – The Great Lakes Bay Manufacturers Association (GLBMA) is pleased to announce they have been selected to receive the regional Industry 4.0 Readiness Initiative Grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

The regional grants will help drive Industry 4.0 readiness in small and mid-sized manufacturers statewide. The GLBMA was one of the ten organizations to be awarded monies. The grant amount received is \$106,175 to study the Industry 4.0 readiness of prosperity region 5 covering Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland, and Saginaw counties.

As a result of the grant, the GLBMA will partner with the local Resource and Economic Development Partners: Bay Future, Middle Michigan Development Corporation, Midland Business Alliance, Saginaw Future, Gladwin County EDC, Greater Gratiot Development Inc., Arenac County Economic Development Corporation, Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center, Michigan Works!, Small Business Development Center, Central Michigan Manufacturers Association, Saginaw Valley State University, and Saginaw ISD to develop an Industry 4.0 readiness questionnaire, informational webinars, manufacturing roundtables, and a regional Industry 4.0 event.

Serving on the regional grant team are as follows:

- **Jim McBryde**, Middle Michigan Development Corporation
- **Bob Balzer**, Gladwin County Economic Development Corporation
- **Steve Jonas**, Saginaw Future
- Matt Shoffner, Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center
- **Jennifer Geno**, Saginaw Intermediate School District
- **Joe Kaczmarek**, Michigan Works! Great Lakes Bay Region
- **Harry Leaver**, Central Michigan Manufacturers Association
- **Beth Roszatycki**, Michigan Small Business Development Center –



- Northeast & Great Lakes Bay Region
- **Tanya Blehm**, Great Lakes Bay Manufacturers Association

Taken from the MEDC press release from April 27, 2021

The Michigan Strategic Fund today approved nearly \$2 million in grants for 10 nonprofit organizations around the state to provide regional Industry 4.0 programming and services to increase manufacturers' readiness to adopt Industry 4.0 technologies. The funding is part of an MEDC-led effort to ensure that 50 percent of Michigan manufacturers – or 6,200 businesses – are prepared to adopt Industry 4.0 technologies at some level by 2025.

MEDC issued a Request for Proposals on December 8, 2020, soliciting proposals from Michigan-based nonprofits and Michigan-based governmental entities currently engaged in economic development activities to develop and implement regional activities that encourage innovation and increase manufacturers' awareness and readiness to adopt and implement Industry 4.0 technologies.

Grants will be used for a variety of efforts to further Industry 4.0 readiness within each specific region, including technology demonstrations and pilots, outreach and education efforts, readiness assessments and awareness-building activities. These projects range in scope from establishing regional consortia and round-

tables to supporting pilot projects and planning, and physical infrastructure and equipment to provide sandbox opportunities.

Industry 4.0 is defined as the convergence of digital and physical technologies, including artificial intelligence, 3D printing, robotics, augmented and virtual reality, the Cloud and cybersecurity. Approximately 42 percent of Michigan's current labor force could be negatively impacted by automation, and with MEDC's strategic focus on retaining companies and fostering high-wage skills growth in target industries such as Advanced Manufacturing, there is a strong need for a multipronged effort to ensure Michigan's small to medium-sized manufacturers adopt Industry 4.0 technologies.

The Industry 4.0 initiative aligns with MEDC's strategic focus area of advanced manufacturing and continues to extend Michigan's rich manufacturing heritage and technological know-how to develop the innovative, high-tech products of the future. With the fifth-largest advanced manufacturing workforce in the country and more than 13,000 workers employed in industries related to Industry 4.0 and automation – the most in the nation – this effort also secures continued opportunity and stability for Michigan's manufacturing workforce for years to come.

+ BUSINESS



The Class was developed by Terry Duperon; an entrepreneur, inventor, author and speaker who has taught over 1000 students through Duperon Education.

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Dow receives the 2021 Manufacturer of the Year award

Midland, MI – Dow was named 2021 Manufacturer of the Year, Large Enterprise, by the Manufacturing Leadership Council (MLC), a division of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM). The Manufacturer of the Year Award is given to the company that shows best-in-class achievement. This is the third time Dow has won this prestigious award in recent years, (2015 and 2017). The 2021 Manufacturer of the Year Award was presented at the virtual Manufacturing Leadership Awards Gala on May 19, 2021, with several companies participating representing a wide range of industries including automotive, chemical, consumer goods, financial services, and telecommunications.

“We are extremely honored to receive this recognition, especially given the difficult challenges we had to overcome this past year,” said John Sampson, Dow’s senior vice president of Operations. “It takes an entire team and this award validates the flexibility, adaptability and resiliency of our employees and their continued focus on meeting the needs of all our stakeholders.”

The MLC developed the Manufacturing Leadership Awards to honor manufacturing companies and leaders that are shaping the future of global manufacturing. Origin-

ated in 2005, the Manufacturing Leadership Awards have honored hundreds of innovative manufacturing companies from around the world.

In addition to the 2021 Manufacturer of the Year Award, Dow previously announced that it had been recognized with five additional Manufacturing Leadership Awards by the MLC. The awards are given to individuals and projects that have excelled in the advancement of manufacturing capabilities. Recipients are chosen by a panel of expert judges for results that have delivered outstanding examples of technology-driven leadership combined with a commitment to innovation and improvement.

The Manufacturing Leadership Council has recognized Dow for three significant project awards.

- Dow’s Manufacturing 4.0 has received the Enterprise Integration and Technology Award. In addition, Dow also received recognition as the High Achiever for the Enterprise Integration and Technology Leadership category.
- The E2E Business Planning Program was awarded the Supply Chain Award.

- Accelerating Innovation in Instrumentation & Sensors at Dow Texas Operations received the Industrial Internet of Things Award.

Two members of Dow’s team were also recognized with individual awards.

- Billy B. Bardin, global digitalization director, was selected for the Visionary Digital Leader award. Recipients of this award are among manufacturing’s most forward-thinking leaders.
- Katherine Duggan, senior process automation engineer, was selected as a Rising Digital Star. Recipients of this award are among manufacturing’s brightest future stars and are leading the way for the possibilities of tomorrow.

Dow was also recognized for its “COVID-19 Operational and Community Response” as part of the Creators Respond Honor Roll, which recognizes all projects from this year’s awards that were in direct response to the pandemic.

About the Manufacturing Leadership Awards

The Manufacturing Leadership Awards honor manufacturing companies and individual manufacturing leaders that are shaping the future of global manufacturing. Winning projects and individual manufacturing leaders have demonstrated achievement in one of a wide range of categories and are chosen by a panel of expert judges for results that have delivered clear and compelling value, return on investment, and other tangible outcomes. There will be several winners in each category, including one High Achiever’s Award in each project category, as well as a 2021 Manufacturer of the Year for both small and large enterprises. Also unveiled at the gala will be the ML Awards Manufacturing Leader of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award winners.

For more information on the Manufacturing Leadership Awards, please go to <https://mlawards.manufacturingleadershipcouncil.com>.


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+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

It's nice to be wanted – recruiting board members

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

What does it take to build a strong board that supports the growth of the nonprofit it governs? Is it all about people of “power, influence, and wealth?”

Building and sustaining a board that helps build and sustain your nonprofit takes time. Don't rush it. You plan on your organization being around and if you build your board with the wrong people, you will then have to deal with that. Think about it this way, boards are always measured by how well they recruit the CEO of the organization. But the complement of that is how well the CEO can recruit and help build the board.

Nonprofits are pressured to rush to fill board seats and to fill them with high profile people, ideally people of wealth, influence, and power. But is that the right path for your organization? Here are a few things to consider including on your “wish list” as you grow your board.

Board candidates need to believe in the mission, vision, goals, and priorities of the organization. Each should possess special skills and experience that coincide with your nonprofit's needs. They should be willing to be an advocate for your organization, and to provide in-kind services and resources through their business, relationships, family, or network. They should be willing to make a meaningful gift and to raise funds. Key to all this is their understanding of their specific role and responsibilities as a board member, and the roles and responsibilities of leadership across the organization.

Prospective board members should be willing to give of their time, especially for agreed upon meetings and events. They should be willing to dedicate time to understanding your organization's bylaws



COURTESY PHOTO

and charter, strategic plan, fundraising plan, budget (both expenses and revenue sources), and your case for support. They should be willing to provide leadership when called up and to demonstrate their commitment.

Here's the bottom line: you should put as much energy into recruiting a board member as you put into cultivating a major donor. You are asking people to give a major gift: the gift of their time, energy, and resources. Focus on the quality of the members you are recruiting. It is better to have a few good people, than a larger group that stumbles over itself.

Building a board is a process that takes time. If you are a CEO you need to consistently allocate time to recruiting and nurturing board members. Your goal is to create a culture amongst the board where members support the mission and vision and understand how and why decisions are made. You want more than people who say “you can use my name;” more than people who can write a fat check.

As a prospective board member, you know you are wanted when people are ready to receive your gifts. As a nonprofit, you know you are wanted when people want to be on your board.



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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 Elect Dempsey Allen
1926 Fairfield Street
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-799-6601

L

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

M

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



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

N



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

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



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



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



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



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

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

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

P

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

R



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

S



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



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



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

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



Transforming Life Ministries
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Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-9573



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

V



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

W



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

Z



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

+ POLITICS & POLICY

Saginaw city 'Tax Caps'

Will an old local issue return?



By **MIKE THOMPSON**

(Note: This is the third and final piece in an in-depth review of the City of Saginaw's annual budget, heading to a final adoption by the end of May. Prior segments may be found in Michigan Banner archives, Feb. 1 on Page 46, March 1 on Page 28.)

Talk of a possible Saginaw property tax increase may emerge as soon as this summer. This would happen by seeking voter approval to remove two 1979 tax caps. To begin, two main points:

1. This would involve a far, far lower fraction of a sum than last year's Board of Education 7-mill plan for new and renovated city schools, including a unified high school. The City Hall sum likely would be closer to 0.7 mill, or one-tenth the school increase. Instead of Benjamins, \$10 bills.
2. The background info will be far more age-old and complex than for the

school millage, even though we are talking dimes versus dollars.

So why even bother? Because we should know. Besides, it can't be more complicated than the NFL player draft or Real Housewives or the lottery or the various complexities that many of us willfully endure.

We started these articles last winter on the principle that an informed citizen is the best citizen. So here we go.

Begin with Reagan

To learn why we may see a local tax hike soon, we are required to travel all the way back to the late 1970s, when Ronald Reagan still was governor of California. He was somehow known as a positive Mr. Sunshine, but at the same time he preached a negative: "Government is not the solution to our problems, government IS the problem." And so on.

When he started his run for president, in addition to speaking of "states rights" and other anti-civil rights code language, Reagan also started a huge tax-cut movement, with Proposition 13 in his home state. Copycats emerged across the nation. In Michigan, we had the Headlee Amendment, which was even more severe than Reagan's Prop 13. And here at home, Saginaw United Taxpayers and the Tax Caps.

Basic strategy in the Reagan Anti-Tax Revolution was to use cost-of-living as a hedge. In Saginaw, this involved "capping" annual property tax revenue at \$3.83 million, frozen at the 1979 level, and the individual rate at 7.5 mills, forced even slightly lower with yearly inflation.

But let us not allow facts and details to confuse us. Saginaw, unlike the federal government, is locked to a strict no-deficit limit. This is fine with fiscal conservatives,

CONTINUES ON PG 47, TAX CAPS

Continued from pg 46, tax caps

at least until they wind up with fewer cops and more potholes and so on.

Saginaw has had these Tax Caps for 42 years. Some consequences:

- Overall, we have about 400 city employees, down from more than 1,000 back then.
- Our police force is 60 officers, down from the 1979 count of more than 200, with reliance on state troopers more than ever.
- We have 39 firefighters, down from 140, and with the closing of Hess Station, one-quarter of town lacks its own immediate response.
- We don't even have city recreation any more, which had produced activities for all ages and hundreds of job for teens.
- We are required to pay separate for our trash pickup.
- We also have a separate transit tax.
- Our Civic Center would be gone without a shift to a county millage.
- We needed federal money to begin demolishing a backlog of abandoned, vacant houses.

Leaders opposed, not the people

The Tax Caps have been opposed by virtually every civic leader since 1979. Henry Marsh, Stu Francke, Ruben Daniels, Paul Wendler, Pamela Leckie, Frank Andersen, Henry Nickleberry, Gil Guevara, Sister Ardeth Platte, Joe Stephens, Minnie Rosales, Larry Crawford, Foster Gibbs, Wilmer Ham, Dick Garber, Carol Cottrell, Greg Branch, Joyce Seals, Dennis Browning, an endless list.

In misery over the Tax Caps, former City Manager Tom Dalton once sarcastically quoted the comic and filmmaker Woody Allen: "We have a choice between permanent, dire misery on one hand, or total destruction on the other. God help us to make the right decision."

Some of those leaders now are deceased. So are the duo who led the local version of the anti-government Reagan Revolution, Dr. Walter Averill III and attorney Al Schmid, who persuaded a majority of citizens to vote against all those other leaders.

Is this sounding more like a litany of

the past than a concern of the present? It might be, if not for Saginaw's immediate past mayor, Floyd Kloc.

Ever since his election to the City Council in 2011, Kloc quietly but consistently hammered at the Tax Caps and kept them alive. He stepped it up a notch as mayor for the prior two years. His outlook comes from his long-time role pre-millennium role in the city attorney's office, from seeing the aftermath of the severe limits on revenue. This may be old news, he asserts, but it's still the reason the city's financial health and overall programming remain stuck in the mud.

All the various Tax Caps gadgets details may prove overwhelming, but not to Floyd Kloc. He can argue the evils endlessly, with the latest from his written notes, to his pocket calculator, teamed with his attorney's mastery of the ordinance. His main frustration is when anti-taxers lie and deceive, for example, describing a property tax statement as a "city tax" when 85 percent is for other purposes, mainly for schools and countywide operations.

To start, due to rollover inflation, a 1979 dollar bill is worth only 27 cents nowadays, although our immediate past mayor nails it down with more specifics:

"The dollar," Kloc writes, "had an average inflation rate of 3.13% per year between 1979 and today, producing a cumulative price increase of 264.84%, so a dollar today is only worth 27% of a dollar in 1979."

Pfew! Next stop, calculus? We need all the facts and we need transparency, but simplicity also is in order.

Future questions

Floyd Kloc and myself agree that the Tax Caps have seriously harmed Saginaw with ridiculous rules that prevent inflation adjustments. It's like if the minimum wage were stuck in granite at \$1 an hour, or a Social Security check at \$100 a month. We also agree that Saginaw needs to get rid of these Tax Caps monsters.

But we disagree on some details.

- My view is that while Saginaw's scenario is extremely severe, we are not "living on a 1979 income." We've dodged some of the Tax Caps impact

with a 1989 city income tax increase, a 2005 police/fire 7.5-mill special assessment that doubles the "capped" millage rate, and a \$210 trash collection fee. Kloc responds that the Tax Caps have cost the city budget at least a combined \$55 million over the past four decades, far beyond repair from the patchworks that I outline.

- The former mayor states, "When the City's four seasons of recreation programs available to kids to keep them off the streets were eliminated, the Civitan was closed, and our parks were no longer maintained, when the police and fire departments were decimated by personnel cuts, the increase in crime was both predictable and a huge incentive to abandon city housing and businesses." I don't blame the Tax Caps for all that, or see rescinding them as a path to a turnaround in those areas. Bottom line, as he further reflects, the former mayor pretty much says the same. The Generous Motors years are long gone.
- Finally, Floyd Kloc has insisted that the Tax Caps travesty needs to be put back on the ballot, but that everyday citizens should take the lead, instead of relying on their elected leaders. I definitely disagree here. Council members are elected to lead

Now that he's an everyday citizen himself, Mr. Kloc is sort of hedging a bit, saying that the potential referendum originators should not only be everyday citizens, but everyday citizens who don't so happen to be former mayors. Still, he aims to at least raise the Tax Caps with leaders of Saginaw's civic groups and neighborhood associations.

"That is, if covid ever allows them to begin meeting regularly again," he adds with a tinge of frustration.

This means a tax proposal would be up to Kloc's successors, featuring Mayor Brenda Moore and a City Council comprised of mostly newer members, along with City Manager Tim Morales and a veteran administration.

And if "Tax Caps" return to the local political jargon in the months ahead, well, you heard it here first.

+ SPORTS



ZAR'RIA MITCHELL

Heritage High hooper has her say, on and off the court

By MIKE THOMPSON

This fall, Zar'ria Mitchell will enter her junior year at Saginaw Township's Heritage High School as an honors student and as a standout point guard on the tradition-rich Lady Hawks basketball

team.

She also will begin as a newly selected member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Student Advisory Council.

Her assignment is to begin considering ideas for improvement in athletics at more than 500 prep programs across the state,

but she already had a pair of topics in mind even before she achieved a seat at the table.

"I want to be a voice for our school," says the speedy long-court dynamo, who teammates and friends often simply refer to as "Z" and who favors an "up tempo" brand of basketball.

First, she says officials should find ways to organize safe sports competitions even during the covid-19 era, because so many college athletic scholarships are at stake when shutdowns have taken place.

Second, she says equality for female athletes still is not fully achieved.

"Boys get more opportunities," she asserts, pointing to practice times and especially to weight room training, a comparative issue that emerged in national news reports during the college March Madness men's and women's tournaments last March.

Zar'ria bills herself as 5-foot-6, but that might include a couple inches of her curly hair piled on top when she plays.

"It doesn't matter," says Coach Eugene Seals Jr., with a chuckle. "No matter what her size, everyone's afraid of her. She's fast, but also shifty. She's the type of player who can hold her own with the guys."

Support from the school

Zar'ria comes from athletic lineage. Her father, Troy Mitchell, played basketball and football at Bridgeport High School. Her mother, the former Jodi Erwin at Pinconning High School, was good enough in softball to achieve a scholarship at Ball State University.

When Mom first discovered the MHSAA opportunity on the internet she figured this would be a perfect fit for her daughter, already an activist in Heritage's Black Student Union and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Ivylette Youth Group.

Athletic Director Justin Thorington provided the letter of recommendation, noting that Zar'ria faced the freshman challenge and pressure of entering a program that had won state championships in 2017 and again in 2018.

CONTINUES ON PG 49, MITCHELL

Continued from pg 48, Mitchell

"While her talent certainly contributed to her making the team, it was her ability to be a leader on the court that made her a no-brainer to making the team and to start," he wrote. "Zar'ria is a leader in our community, having volunteered for the Saginaw Children's Zoo, African Festival, Greek Festival, and Coats for Kids, to name a few of many."

Thorington also explained that Miss Mitchell, who aims beyond basketball for a career in nursing, also has performed the sensitive service of supporting students with autism, "all while having a contagious smile on her face."

"Z" also was smiling after she achieved her personal athletic highlight, sinking a buzzer-beating half court shot last winter to win a big road game at Detroit Renaissance High School. She earned Saginaw Valley League postseason honors as both a freshman and a sophomore, and as she grows older and stronger she potentially will be a candidate to contend for SVL Player of the Year.

Coach Seals recalls not only the super shot at Detroit Ren, but also significantly a

game that the Lady Hawks ultimately lost after a good battle.

"It was against Holt, and Zar'ria wasn't playing like herself," says Seals, who was a Saginaw High statewide standout two decades ago. "Like any athlete at times, she was down on herself, and I was trying anything for her to keep her head up."

"All of sudden, she went out and got a bunch of steals, played great defense, and hit a lot of shots. We still lost by four points, but it would have been a whole lot worse if not for Zar'ria. That's the same sort of drive that will make her great for the state student advisory commission."

Future outlook

She would treasure a chance to continue in college and ultimately the pros -- if not in the WNBA, then overseas -- not only for the higher level of competition, but to enhance her potential as a future coach. Her busiest season is the spring, when she plays soccer at a second Heritage sport and also takes part with an AAU youth travel team, the Michigan Elite Storm.

Unlike many of her peers, she says she doesn't have a particular favorite player, although she admired the efforts in the NCAA women's tourney from Arizona's Aari McDonald, a role model to Zar'ria with her speedy flashes, who gained fans while she led her team to a narrow one-point finals defeat to Stanford.

She followed the Heritage High champs while she was prepping at White Pine Middle. She admires Moira Joiner, an all-stater who is entering her junior year with the Michigan State Spartans and whose footsteps she hopes to follow to East Lansing.

"I just like watching everybody, and learning from them," she sums up. "I don't have a whole lot of time to watch on television, but I have learned to watch game film to prepare for our next opponents."

Her MHSAA duties will include bimonthly online meetings during the next two years, along with annual in-person overnight conferences in Lansing. As her teammates and friends know, Zar'ria won't hesitate to speak up.

More Volunteers Needed for the Dow GLBI – Can You Help?

Midland, MI – Volunteers are still needed this summer at the Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational! To reach our goal of 1,000 volunteers, we need your help! With over twenty committees, ranging from Marshals to Hospitality Structures, there are opportunities to get involved for all ages and experience levels. Check out the two infographics attached to this email which outline the community and environmental impact from the tournament in 2019. This year, the tournament will take place at the Midland Country Club July 12 – 17. Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to register now since shift times are filled on a first come, first served basis.

Volunteer Package

The 2021 Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational Volunteers Package is \$45. The cost helps the tournament offset the price of volunteer uniforms and has an

approximate value of \$400. The package includes the following benefits:

- Two (2) Official Tournament Golf Shirts
- One (1) Official Tournament Hat or Visor
- One (1) Volunteer Badge - To use for your Tournament Credential and Parking Pass during Tournament Week.
- Two (2) Weekly Tickets – For friends or family members
- Two (2) invitations to the Volunteer Appreciation Party which includes one (1) raffle ticket and the chance to win over \$5,000 worth of prizes
- If you work more than 3 shifts and check in via the TRS system with your chair or hole captain you will receive an extra raffle ticket each shift exceeding the committed 3 shift amount.

- Appropriate PPE will be supplied in accordance with local and state guidelines

More Resources

- Curious about all the different opportunities to volunteer? With over 20 different committees, we have a spot for you! Click the link below for a description of all the youth and adult Dow GLBI Volunteer Committees! (<https://www.dowglbi.com/committees>)
- Interested in being a volunteer, but want more information? Click the link below for a list of frequently asked questions on our website! From registration to uniforms, we have the answers for you. (<https://www.dowglbi.com/volunteerfaq>)



www.hoytparkyouthbaseball.com
to register and pay online.

Registration Deadline June 13, 2021

*League registration reserves a free spot in the
Sugar Beets Baseball/Softball Camp at Hoyt Park
June 15-16th (12-3 pm)

COST:

\$20 per player

* \$3 additional fee charged on registration site

NEED A TEAM?

T-Ball & Coach Pitch teams will be formed by
the League. Division Players needing a team
may sign up and will be placed on the waitlist.

Additional information is available on our
website: www.hoytparkyouthbaseball.com
or call SCPRC at 989-790-5283



Hey Batter Batter!

WHO:

All Saginaw County
BOYS & GIRLS

Age 5-6 (T-ball)

Age 7-8 (Coach Pitch)

Division teams:

10U, 12U & 15U

WHEN:

10 Game Season

July 6th - Aug 5, 2021

Tuesday & Thursday

Evenings

WHERE:

Hoyt Park

1574 S. Washington Ave

Saginaw, MI

Division Teams (10U, 12U & 15U)
require a team sponsor. Please
send \$200 sponsorship fee to:
Saginaw County Parks
111. S. Michigan LL 012
Saginaw, MI 48602.

Division players are still required
to register and pay online to be
qualified to play in the league.

+ SPORTS



LOONS.COM

Loons “Re-Opening Day” set for June 1st

1,000 complimentary tickets for frontline workers, first home game at 100% capacity

Midland, MI – Let’s do it again! The Great Lakes Loons are excited to welcome back fans to Dow Diamond for Opening Day Re-Opening Day when the Loons take the field against the West Michigan Whitecaps on Tuesday, June 1st. The game marks the first time that Dow Diamond will operate at 100% capacity for a Loons game since September of 2019. The elimination of capacity restrictions follows the announcement by Governor Gretchen Whitmer last week at Dow Diamond that outdoor sporting facilities can operate at 100% capacity starting June 1st.

To celebrate, the Loons, in partnership with Hemlock Semiconductor, are offering 500 pairs of complimentary lawn tickets (1,000 tickets in total) for the June 1st game to Hometown Heroes as a token of thanks and gratitude for their bravery and

sacrifice during the COVID-19 pandemic. The first 500 frontline healthcare workers, first responders, active-duty military, or veterans that present a valid ID for their line of service at the Dow Diamond box office may claim a pair of tickets. The box office is open for claims May 25th – 28th from 10 AM to 4 PM. Hometown Heroes will also receive a voucher for a free meal, courtesy of Hemlock Semiconductor, when they enter the gates on June 1st.

Additionally, the Loons will be celebrating the triumphs of the Midland Area Farmers Market during the pandemic and Midland County flood in partnership with the Midland Business Alliance as part of the Small Business Tuesday series. Ten farmers market vendors will be featured on the Dow Diamond concourse, providing fans with great offers and information

about their businesses.

Re-Opening Day will see the Loons take on the Detroit Tigers High-A Affiliate, the West Michigan Whitecaps, for the first time at Dow Diamond this season. The Loons won four of six games when they visited Grand Rapids earlier in May. Spencer Torkelson, the 2020 Major League Baseball #1 overall draft pick, selected by the Tigers, will make his Dow Diamond debut when the teams square off on June 1st.

Single-game tickets and mini-plan ticket packages for the entirety of the 2021 season also go on sale on June 1st. To purchase, visit Loons.com, call the box office at 989-837-BALL or stop by Dow Diamond between 10 AM and 4 PM, Monday through Friday.

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

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Teen's S.W.A.G. moves ahead, with success



COURTESY PHOTO

By **MIKE THOMPSON**

We informed Julian Morris, a SASA student, that the Michigan Banner aimed for an update on his teen magazine, S.W.A.G, that earned local headlines in January when he launched his eye-catching product online.

"I wanted to be the next Steph Curry," he began our May 25 interview, "but my mother said that in case that doesn't work out, I needed a Plan B, so I started my own magazine."

We interrupted and asked Julian why he was repeating almost the exact same basketball-star quote that he had offered last winter to the Saginaw News and to TV-

5, but the first-year editor and publisher denied that he was deploying a memorized sound bite.

He responded, "I still have my Plan A, and that's still to be the next Steph Curry."

B-ball team tryouts will be scheduled near October 20th, Julian's 14th birthday, after he begins his freshman year this fall at the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy.

His mother, Denita Dorsey, and his father, Nathaniel Morris, have seen proof that their son has not been sidetracked by the sports dreams that occupy so many young minds.

Julian has honored his promises to more than 400 paid subscribers (\$4.99 per issue; \$49 per year) by promptly publishing on deadline each month under the

S.W.A.G. moniker, which stands for "Students With A Gift." The covers appear as polished as People Magazine, for example, or Ebony, or Newsweek. He started with his own exclusive reporting, but as a true team player he has recruited a staff of three student peers and a pair of adult mentors.

"I'm glad that it's still going," he says, "and that I've been able to get more people involved" in the production.

Make no mistake, Julian may have launched his magazine on sort of an impulse, isolated by covid with time to kill, but prior study habits ensured that he was

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Continued from pg 52, Morris



SWAG MAGAZINE STAFF MEMBERS VISIT U ME PAINT EXPERIENCE

prepared when the time came. His parents offer thanks to educators at SASA and previously at Handley School's Program for the Creative and Academically Talented, which have enrolled the youngster in a curriculum that emphasizes global studies and language arts.

"He's always been a voracious reader," his mother says, pointing to the example of the "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" series that features fantasy adventures with a teen-age super hero.

As for basketball, Denita and Julian are regular TV viewers, often picking different sides for rooting. She's a LeBron James fan, for instance, while her son still hasn't forgiven King James for knocking off Steph and his Warriors (including

Saginaw's Draymond Green) in the 2016 Finals, when the future journalist was a mere 8 year old.

S.W.A.G topics have ranged from basic, how students can cope with covid-19, to creative, such as how Mothers Day was established in the first place. His interviews with local leaders have included his pastor at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, the Rev. Marvin Smith. On a larger scale, his big scoop so far has been Jemele Hill, a Detroit-born sports journalist of outspoken note. And his June 13 edition will feature Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist.

The Lansing connection took root last February, when his initial publicity caught the eye of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and her aides, and she invited him to speak dur-

ing an online Black History Month youth event.

He shows a streak of capitalism, vowing to one day "build a media empire." At the same time, his social heart shows with formation of a nonprofit, "For Julian's Sake," dedicated to boosting underprivileged children and teens.

Classmates may somewhat think of him as a nerd, Julian concedes, "but they like the magazine a lot, and I'm trying to show them that there is something else they can do, instead of wifi and video games."

The website is theswagmagazine.com, and the email address is therealswagmag@gmail.com



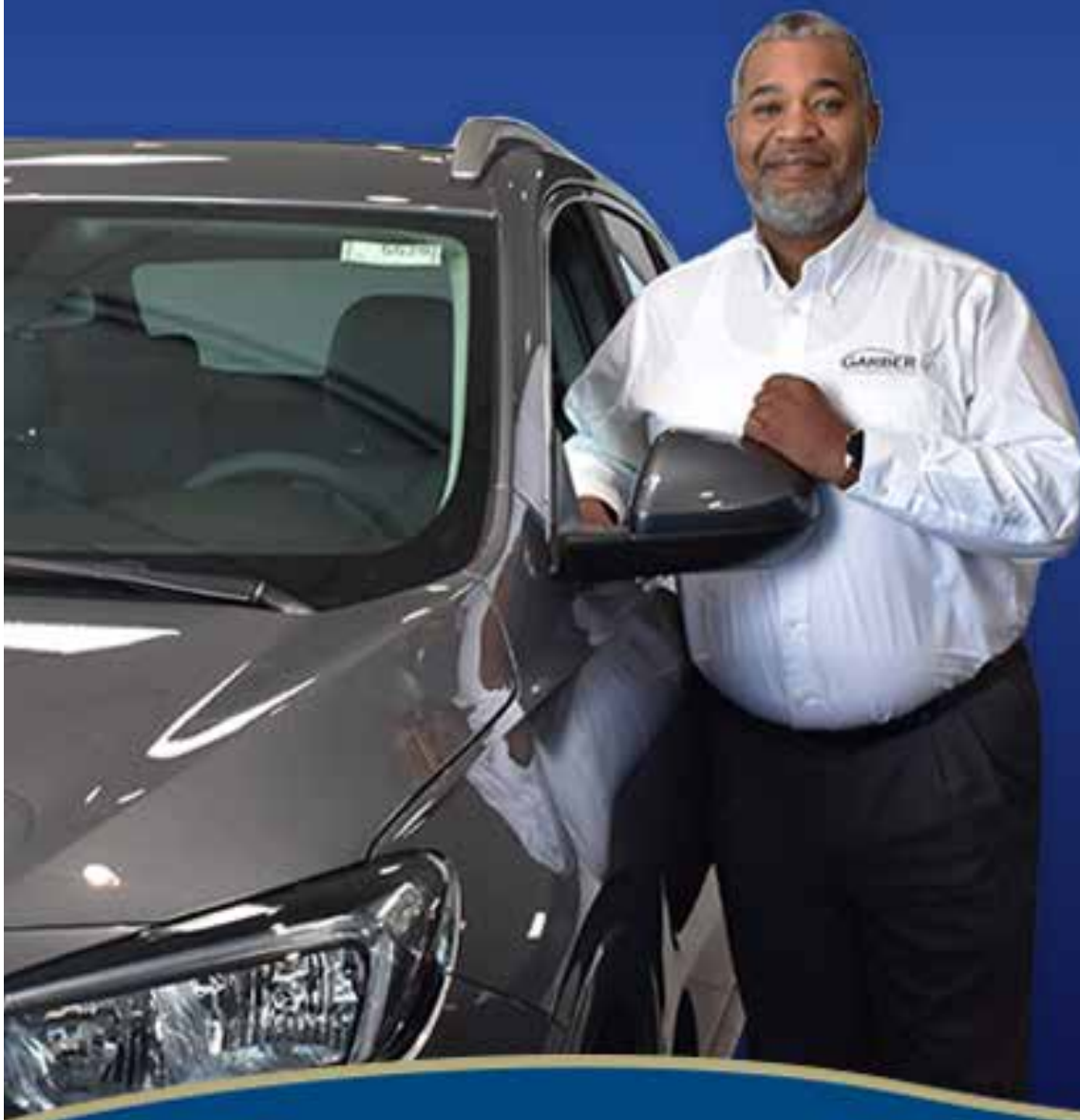
PIC OF THE WEEK
SAGINAW HIGH'S CORION PRITCHETT

Congratulations to Saginaw High School's **Corion Pritchett**, Saginaw Public Schools 2021 Turnaround Achievement Award recipient!



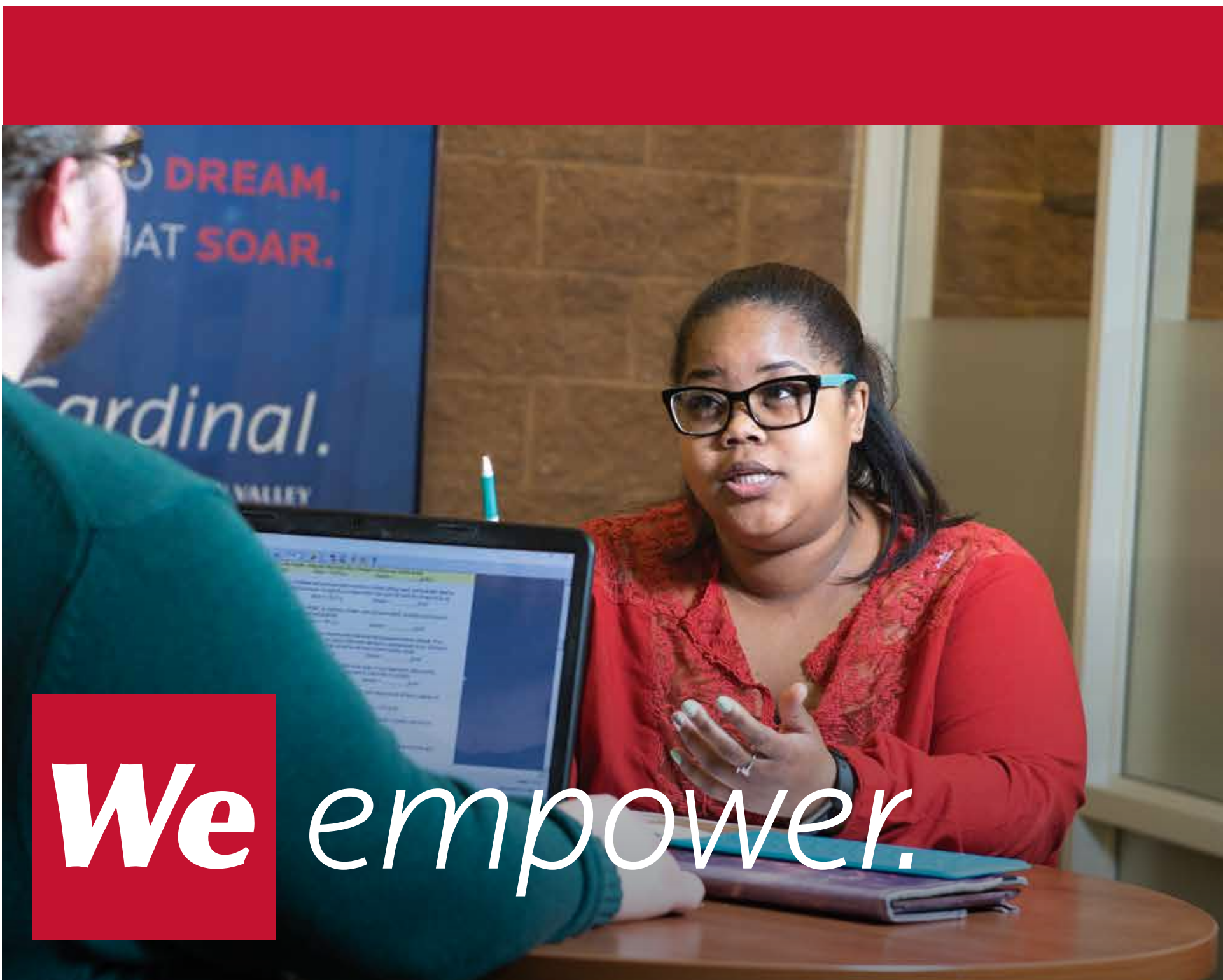
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