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HAPPY FATHER'S DAY (SUNDAY, JUNE 20)

SPORTS

DELTA COLLEGE SOCCER CLAIMS FIRST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

SPORTS, PG 48



GLENDORAH SURLES LAWRENCE

Houghton-Jones leader retires maybe!

By MIKE THOMPSON

Glendorah Surles Lawrence is retiring from her leadership role in the Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Association, but if she intends to kick back and remove two of her countless pairs of shoes, someone has a different idea.

Her mother.

"I'm proud for all that she's done," Pauline Lawrence told participants during a

June 15 tribute, "and also for all the things she's still going to do. I know she's not going to go home and do nothing."

Glendorah is stepping down June 30 as manager of the Houghton-Jones headquarters, 1708 Johnson, after three decades with one of Saginaw's most steady and enduring community groups.

She's a 1975 graduate of Saginaw High School and a product of both Delta College and Saginaw Valley State University, lead-

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Prayer walkers bless all involved for One Week, One Street on June 21-25

COMMUNITY, PG 12



My Father's Day Tribute to David Hall

COMMUNITY, PG 15



Sweet: The Story of the Saginaw Sugar Beets

COMMUNITY, PG 20

FEATURED STORY

CITIZEN-POLICE PANEL GATHERS, LONG AFTER ITS CREATION

COMMUNITY, PG 18



Cover, Houghton-Jones

ing to her first career as a Dow Chemical Co. global communications manager and administrator. Volunteer time with the Houghton-Jones group became daily work in 2014 when she filled a void to take the reins as office manager.

The Houghton-Jones area surrounds the now-closed elementary school areas east of downtown. Founding leader Christina Jones, still active at 86 and for whom the resource center headquarters is named, described Glen as "like a daughter to me" in presenting one of the honorariums. Mayor Brenda Moore, who resides near the resource center, offered a proclamation from the City Council.

Other presenters included members of the Houghton-Jones resident board, and John Stemple, the city's director of neighborhood services, who coordinates the Neighborhood Association Action Group for which Houghton-Jones serves as a leading role model.

Houghton-Jones accomplishments include cleanup campaigns to gardening projects to assisting with a Habitat for Humanity housing "Blitz Build." Youth activities are a cornerstone, ranging from after-school and summer learning to a pair of teen-oversight farm gardens on former abandoned lots. A most recent victory was demolition of a long-time major eyesore, the former gas station and repair garage at Sixth and Lapeer, with Glen transporting an elderly adjacent neighbor woman to the meetings

Glendorah's father, David Lawrence Sr., was a UAW Local 455 (Nodular Iron) leader prior to his death in 1988. David and Pauline were a young couple in Lowndes County, Alabama, when a dispute between himself and a neighboring white family during the early 1950s led to gun threats that forced the couple to flee to Saginaw. This instilled a civil rights spirit within Glen that led not only to her neighborhood

involvement and other forms of local activism, but also taking part in a 20th anniversary March on Washington (1983) and a 50-year commemoration of Bloody Sunday (2015) in Selma, which took her home as a part of Lowndes County.

President Obama was featured in the Selma event, but Glendorah already had converted a room in her home in tribute to his 2008 election and to his subsequent accomplishments.

For a brief spell during the surprise ceremony, Glendorah was moved to tears. A more humorous moment took place earlier, when she hollered to the attendees, "If only you had told me about this, I would have put on some lipstick."

As for the collection of shoes that her mother won't allow her to kick off quite yet, well, there's a reason Glen's license plate and also her email address contain the moniker, "G-style."



ON JUNE 15, THE CITY OF SAGINAW HONORED GLENDORAH LAWRENCE FOR HER SERVANT LEADERSHIP AT HOUGHTON JONES NEIGHBORHOOD TASK FORCE

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The Michigan Banner, Latino Banner and Youth Banner operates and serves as a print and online media venue committed to educating, informing and enlightening our readership regarding events and news that directly and indirectly affect the communities regionally and globally. Furthermore, to serve as a catalyst and a link for cultivating young adults as entrepreneurial and business leaders for the future.

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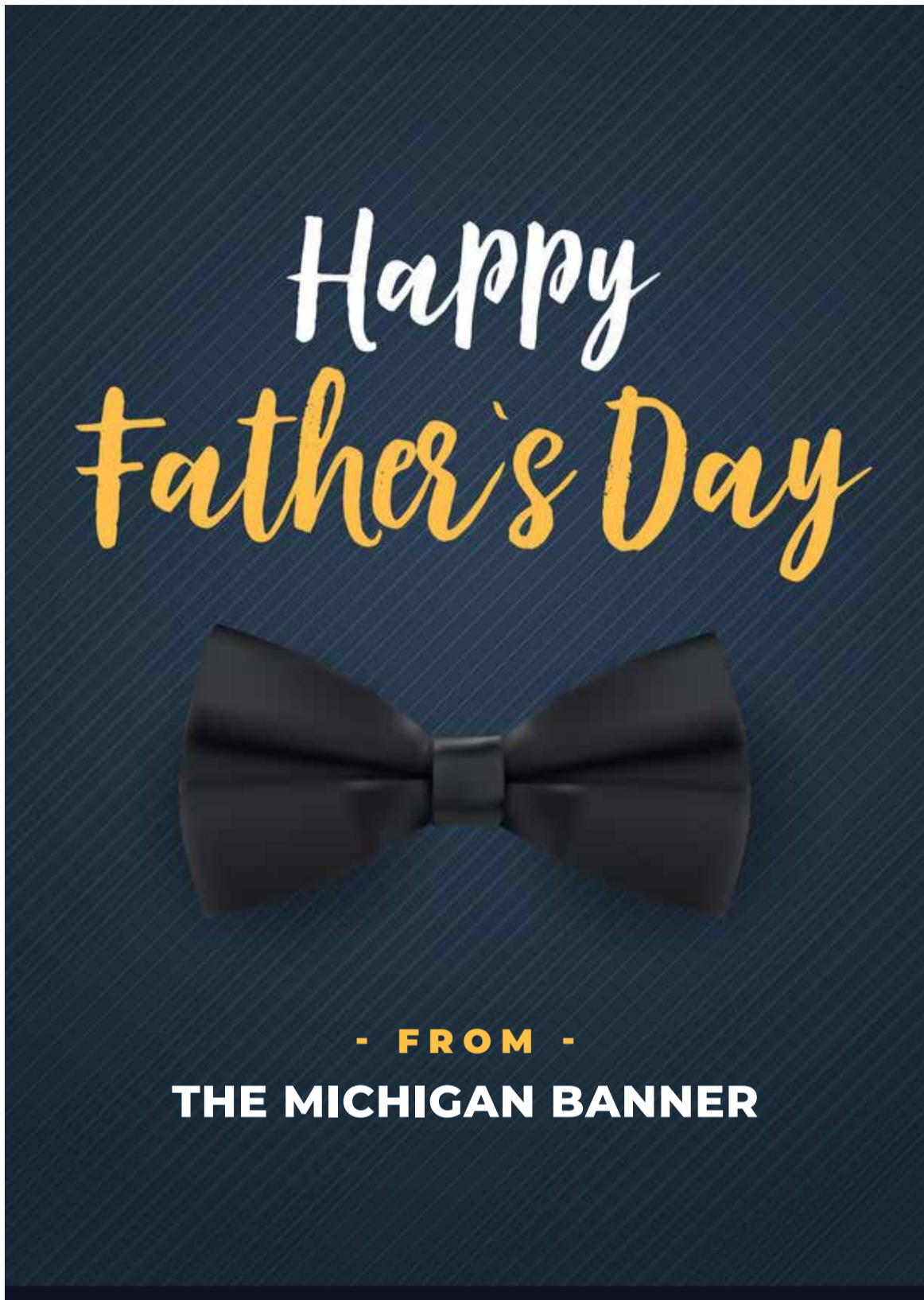
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THE MICHIGAN BANNER

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Latino Banner

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ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Spanish Broadcasting System appoints new president

Miami, FL – Spanish Broadcasting System, Inc. (the "Company" or "SBS") (OTC: SBSAA), the nation's largest Hispanic-owned and targeted media and entertainment entity, announced today that it has named Albert Rodriguez to the position of President of SBS, succeeding Raúl Alarcón, who has served in that capacity since 1985.

Mr. Rodríguez will retain his current title of Chief Operating Officer and will report to Mr. Alarcón, who

CONTINUES ON LB PG 3, SBS NEW PRESIDENT



ARMANDO RAMOS

Looking for a job? Or for a Tony's meal? Mando's the man to call

By MIKE THOMPSON

Armando "Mando" Ramos works two regular jobs, so it should come as no surprise that he believes the old-line outlook that any able-bodied adult should stand ready to keep at least one source of employment, even during the hardest of times.

His first job is as a business agent with LIUNA Local 1098, mid-Michigan's 1,500-member branch of the Laborers In-

ternational Union of North America, representing an array of skilled trades members who range from carpenters and road builders to public service employees.

His second line of work, attained two years ago, is as owner and occasional short-order grill cook at Tony's Take Out Restaurant at 2331 South Michigan, near the southwest bend. His wife, Jaime, op-

CONTINUES ON LB PG 2, ARMANDO RAMOS

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Continued from LB Cover, Armando Ramos



ARMANDO RAMOS AND JAIME RAMOS

erates the day shift while he takes charge in the evening hours. They have been companions for 25 years and wedded for 20, teaming to raise their four children.

Twenty-four and seven? Ramos needs and uses all 168 of those weekly hours.

"My role (in the union) is to put people to work, which I succeed in accomplishing nearly every day," he says. "It can be very demanding, hard and hot work, but for anyone who is willing to go through the training and to be reliable, there are a lot of jobs out there."

Armando realizes others may see things differently, and he insists his outlook is not political, but he makes no exceptions, other than the time of the 2008-09 "great recession" that placed the economy on the brink of disaster.

"When people say they can't find a job, I don't see where they are coming from," Ramos says, pointing to skilled trades managers who constantly say they must look elsewhere to fill their work crews. He connects constantly with partners such as the Saginaw Career Complex (formerly Averill COC and before that, Arthur Hill Tech) to perform outreach.

Childhood work

Mando is the 15th and final child of Anastacio and Rita Ramos, and he says his labor ethic comes from his father, a life-long Nodular Iron employee in Saginaw's southwest section who passed away in 2007 at age 80. Mother Rita lives on with the children's support.

"Our father required us to get up on Saturdays and to work, cutting grass and weed-whacking, whatever needed to be done," he recalls.

He made his way through Merrill Park Elementary School, South Middle and Arthur Hill High, graduating in 1992. Along the way, he became a young teen worker at the next door Tony's Take Out, beginning with the chore of keeping the parking lot clean.

He took an array of hard labor jobs as a young adult and became active in Local 1098 affairs, which led to his eventual appointment to the union post, in which he is marking his 10-year anniversary.

The years have not softened his outlook. He remains a go-to guy for young job-seekers, but he estimates that fewer than half nowadays are following through.

"I'd say about four in 10," Ramos notes, responding to a question to measure his success rate. "Quite often, the main thing is not so much the work, it's learning to be on time, which is the main rule in the skilled trades. But for people who are willing, we are always there to help them to take care of themselves and their families."

Meanwhile, he says Tony's Takeout is flourishing. He remained a regular patron with his spouse and children for years after his teen jobs, and when owner Gary Lagalo opted to retire in 2019, Armando was the first choice to take the keys of the bright 82-year-old mini-landmark painted in green, white, and red -- the national colors of both Italy and of Mexico.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays. The takeout number is 793-6250, while Ramos can be reached at Local 1098 at (989) 385-2843.

"Covid has been no issue for us," he says. "We are entirely takeout, people know the menu, and our food is hot and quick to prepare."



TONY'S TAKE OUT (2331 S MICHIGAN AVE, SAGINAW, MI)

Continued from LB Cover, SBS new president

will continue in his position as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

As President, Mr. Rodriguez's duties will include managing all aspects of SBS' operations and overseeing the future growth and financial performance of the Company's radio, TV, digital and experiential businesses and market-leading brands.

Widely regarded in industry circles as a leader in the Latino multimedia sector, SBS is the largest certified minority-owned, Hispanic-targeted media company in the nation, operating top-rated radio formats in the country's largest markets, including flagship WSKQ-FM in New York City, America's most-listened-to station in any language (and the #1 Spanish-language station in the world); Aire, the most expansive Spanish-language radio network with 300+ affiliates; LaMusica, the country's highest-rated and fastest growing Hispanic streaming app; MegaTV, the popular news and political commentary television network; and concert promoter SBS Entertainment and its perennially sold-out roster of signature live events.

"Albert has demonstrated an amazing ability to deliver industry-leading financial results for the Company during the most extraordinarily challenging times in the history of electronic media. He has personally spearheaded a number of corporate initiatives which have been instrumental in establishing the Company's leadership standing, while adroitly handpicking an executive team which is second-to-none in the industry," stated Mr. Alarcón.

"After nearly a quarter century of dedication and loyalty in building a track record of stellar achievements, no one is more qualified than Albert Rodríguez to expand upon this Company's treasured legacy of nearly four decades of service to the nation's Latino community. I congratulate him on his many accomplishments and very much look forward to his firebrand leadership of SBS in the future," added Alarcón.

Mr. Rodriguez commented, "I am honored that Raúl is entrusting me with these added responsibilities, particularly at this time of universal recognition and acceptance of the awesome power of the Latino consumer. I look forward to continue executing our Chairman's vision, which has created extraordinary value for the Company and its shareholders, and to working with our amazing team of content and sales professionals as we together write the next exciting chapter in the history of SBS as the preeminent entertainment destination for U.S. Latinos", added Rodriguez.

The Company signaled that it will be implementing additional management initiatives in the coming weeks as part of its ongoing efforts at solidifying and expanding its competitive standing in the U.S. media marketplace.



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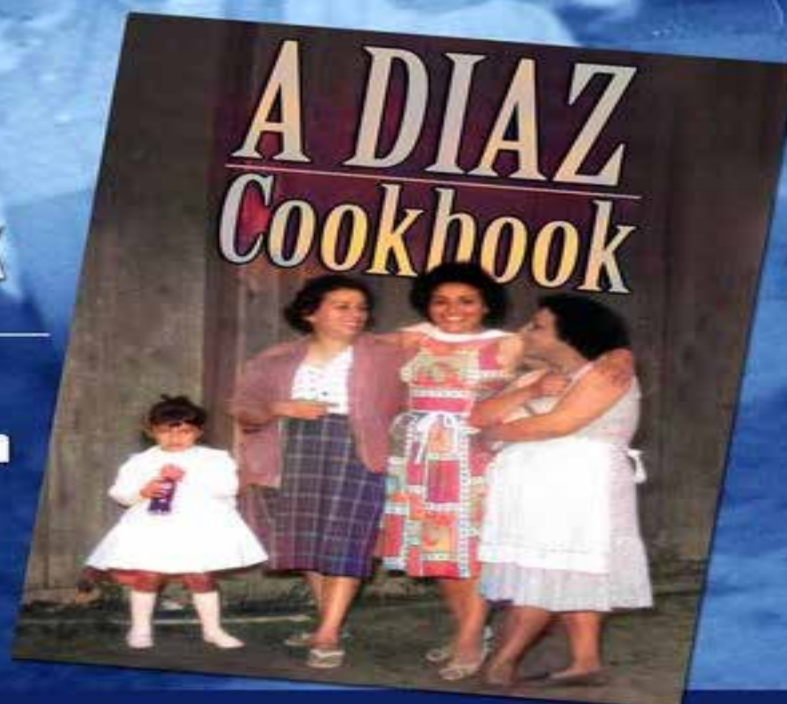


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Another forum on D.C. covid urban grants windfall

By MIKE THOMPSON

A student forum on spending an upcoming windfall of federal money, designated as covid relief aid but available for general anti-poverty projects, has been scheduled

The event is set for 5 p.m. Thursday, June 17, on the front lawn of the Saginaw County Courthouse. It is described as "youth centered and youth moderated," organized by an unnamed assembly of local activists who hosted an introductory late-May gathering at First Ward Community Center.

Mostly through the American Rescue Plan Act, ARPA. Saginaw Public Schools are in line for \$67 million and City Hall \$52 million, along with \$37 million for Saginaw County. These funds were approved last winter as President Biden's first major victory, and are not subject to the current battles between the Trump's triumphant rival and MAGA Republicans in Congress. Suburbs are slated for proportional smaller shares that still are substantial.

As the Michigan Banner reported on June 1 (see archives), these by far are the largest infusions of federal revenue sharing and urban aid since the 1960s, when the War on Poverty started. The feds, unlike states and local units, are allowed to run unlimited budget deficits.

Jeffrey Bulls, an organizer of the first forum and now the June 17 youth follow-up, says the meetings are intended to provide residents with a voice on how the windfalls are invested during the upcoming three years.

He is critical of what he describes as slow acting among local leaders, painting a contrast to a comprehensive Detroit out-

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line already drawn by Mayor Michael

Duggan and available with a simple Google search for "Detroit ARPA plan." Duggan would use about half of the Motor City's money to cover covid-caused budget shortfalls and layoffs, and devote the remaining half for block grant-style proposals from groups and nonprofit agencies,

The Saginaw activists have received more than 120 forum and online responses to a community poll, tinyurl.com/ARPASagSurvey.

Meanwhile, the Saginaw school board's only action has been to approve a general statement by their president, Charles Coleman, seeking a cooperative school/city/

county pact to invest in yet-to-be identified youth facilities and projects. City Council members, with Mayor Brenda Moore, have agreed with City Manager Tim Morales to await more information on specific federal rules.

The Saginaw County Board of Commissioners, under Chairman Carl Ruth, also has not acted or launched any planning for the federal monies. The county board and its committees are scheduled to take a summer break for the entire month of August even as commissioners, unlike council members and school trustees, receive five-figure salaries and personal insurance coverages.

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COURTESY PHOTOS



1 WEEK 1 STREET

Prayer walkers bless all involved for One Week, One Street on June 21-25

By MIKE THOMPSON

Ethel Shaw was leading a small cluster of prayer-givers along the Beechwood and Elmwood roadways, target territory for this year's annual One Week, One Street top-to-bottom community cleanup campaign.

"Pray that all volunteers will reflect the positive service in tribute to Christ, Our Lord," she said softly, not with any of the usual bullhorn shouts. "Pray that the people of the community will feel encouraged, for among us there is hope."

This was June 11, 10 days before One Week, One Street is scheduled to commence beginning Monday, June 21, with up to 100 volunteers gathering for five consecutive days of intensive efforts to spruce

up homes and clean vacant lots that have gone through various degrees of neglect.

But this wasn't too soon for Ethel and her assembly. They were striding the side streets on various days to ensure that the residents, the volunteers and the selected area are blessed.

"We need to enter ahead of time, both to raise the banner of the Lord and to earn the respect of the people who live there," she explained afterward.

Volunteers needed

Young and old alike are invited to help, based on their personal abilities, gathering each of the June 21-25 weekdays at 9 a.m. at the 2600 block of Beechwood, a block from the entry point onto Lynwood from Web-

ber, west of Saginaw High School near the railroad tracks.

Work equipment, refreshments, lunches and energy snacks are provided until closing time at 4 p.m. each afternoon. Volunteers should arrive in comfortable and safe work attire, if possible with garden gloves. For example, no open-toe sandals. Groups of children and teens require adult supervisors. Options range from one day, to several, to the full week.

Participants may recall past Habitat house-building blitzes that were similar. The difference with One Week, One Street is that fewer folks are needed with expert skills, such as carpenter or electrician.

Lead organizers are Pastor Roy Baldwin of New Beginnings Deliverance Ministries on East Genesee and outreach missionary Tamara Klida of Auburn United Methodist Church, located north of Delta College in the small town between Bay City and Midland. They first encountered nearly a decade ago at a planning workshop organized through the Saginaw Community Foundation, which continues as an ongoing sponsor, and they discovered their common goals for a worthwhile civic project.

Past target streets have included Fulton, Roberts, Ruckle, Harold, Rust (the side street) and Webber (a three-block section)

Ethel Shaw, a retired Saginaw educator at Saginaw High and Arthur Hill, says the inspiration for the advance prayer walks began with similar street ministry years ago through Holy Communion Gospel Center.

"We always prayed about the needs in the neighborhoods, for people to come together," she says. "Then we learned of (One Week, One Street) and we believe that this became the answer to our prayers."

A couple from her church were part of the prayer walk -- Yvonne Thomas and husband Marshall Thomas, the Saginaw High educator and sports coach who never seems to truly retire.

Still, One Week, One Street from the start has been a multi-congregation outreach among more than 30 churches, along with local businesses and civic groups. Also joining the prayer walk were Katoya

CONTINUES ON PG 13, ONE WEEK ONE STREET

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Continued from pg 12, One Week One Street

Richmond from Christ Image Community Church and Pastor Genevieve Benson of Christ Disciple Baptist Church.

Seeing the challenges

Beechwood and Elmwood are two "wood" streets that don't reach out all the way to Webber, and thus are less recognized. The group passed the usual mix of well-kept older homes with neat lawns and gardens, side by side with abandoned eyesores strewn with garbage, along with overgrown vacant lots.

Some of the never-cut lots have evolved into mini forests and woodlots. One of the city's infamous dump sites (car seats, couches, mattresses, shingles) gives the image of a war zone on an isolated bend along Elmwood.

At a small, neat 67-year-old home on Beechwood near Morris, Nicholas Gonzalez joins his wife, Rachel, to maintain small front and side flower gardens. They are the original owners from the early 1950s. Their four grown children help them keep up with other chores. A pair of trashy abandoned houses are across the street. Ironically, one yard contains an empty

container with a hose that had been used to spray weed-killing chemicals.

"I look out my window and I see this. I go on my porch and I see this," said the retired autoworker. "It would be best to have them torn down, but I will be happy just to see them be cleaned up."

Nearby, Gregory Wicker had finished mowing a cousin's front yard, devoting extra time with a leaf blower to clear the clippings.

He generally was skeptical of a focused cleanup effort as he scanned the surrounding messy areas, but still he felt an uplift.

"Ain't no telling," he said, "Maybe if people will come together, things will get better."

Community support

A major source of financial support has arrived this year with a \$10,000 grant from Hemlock Semiconductor.

In addition to the Saginaw Community Foundation and Hemlock Semiconductor, top donors for One Week, One Street are Wanigas Credit Union, Burt Watson Chevrolet (Freeland), Deshano Community Foundation (Gladwin), Home Depot

(Thomas Township/Shields), Saginaw Bay Underwriters, UAW Local 699, and countless individuals.

Potential volunteers with questions may call Tamara Klida, (989) 662-4245, send email notes with questions to one-weekonestreet@aol.com. From June 21-25, to keep up with daily outlooks and weather forecasts, visit the One Week, One Street page on Facebook.



COURTESY PHOTOS

+ COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

LGBTQ community still fighting for equality

By **SOFUS**

When many folks think about equality and social justice in this country, the first thing that comes to mind is, WOW, what a mess! Largely because of the increase in hate crimes and physical violence towards some groups based on (1) ethnicity, race, ancestry; (2) religion; (3) sexual orientation; (4) gender identity; (5) disability; and (6) gender.

June is designated Gay Pride month. A time to celebrate victories and accomplishments, advocate for justice and fairness, and to educate people in American society (and around the world) about this segment of our communities. A community that still faces ongoing prejudice and persecution because they have the courage not to conform to someone else's standard regarding their self-expression and refuse to live by someone else's beliefs regarding whom they should love.

Despite significant steps forward, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Americans (LGBTQ) still lack basic legal

protections in states across the U.S. The patchwork nature of state non-discrimination laws and the lack of permanent, comprehensive federal non-discrimination laws leaves millions of people subject to uncertainty and potential discrimination that impacts their safety, their families, and their day-to-day lives.

March 7, 1972: East Lansing became the first community in the United States to protect residents from discrimination based on sexual orientation when the City Council approved a policy outlining that the Council would "employ the best applicant for each vacancy on the basis of his qualifications for the job and without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, sex or homosexuality." Executive orders signed by Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm in 2003 and 2007 prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression, respectively, in state employment. The City of Saginaw is one of 5 municipalities in Michigan that only protects people from housing discrimination based on their sexual orientation. (<https://www.hrc.org/resources/the-equality-act>).

Transgender (in the LGBTQ acronym) refers to individuals whose gender identity is different from the gender they were thought to be at birth. Transgender and non-gender conforming people (TGNC) tend to face more discrimination, violence, social and economic marginalization, and abuse across the lifespan. Marginalization and discrimination that also takes place within the LGBTQ Community. And young transgender women of color almost certainly face a higher chance of being murdered.

Black transgender women are 66% of all victims of fatal violence against TGNC. From 2013-2018, the Human Rights Campaign and other advocacy groups tracked 202 cases of fatal violence against transgender and gender nonconforming people across 30 states and 113 cities nationwide. Members of this community report being bullied, often seen as sex-workers, and mistreated by police. Violence against them is now considered a crime. Hate crimes that soared in 2019 but are difficult to track because less than 15% of law enforcement departments nationwide report hate crime data to the FBI.

Something that I've learned this month about the LGBTQ Community is that November 20th is Transgender Day of Remembrance. This day seeks to highlight the precious lives that were lost due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence; sometimes in the most brutal ways possible. Transgender Day of Remembrance was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998.

https://www.lambdalegal.org/sites/default/files/transgender_booklet_-_anti-trans_violence.pdf

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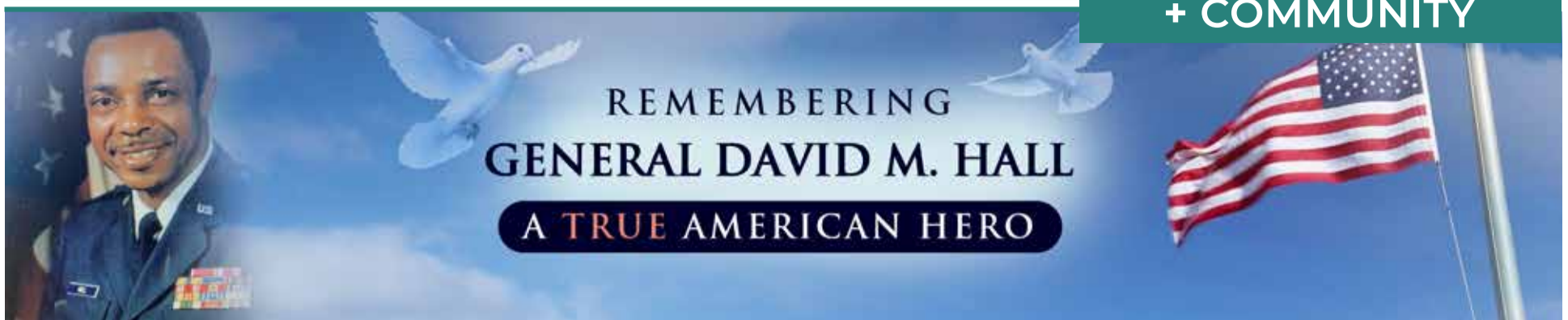
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5551619/>

<https://www.hrc.org/resources/an-epidemic-of-violence-fatal-violence-against-transgender-and-gender-non-conforming-people-in-the-u-s-in-2020>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/anti-transgender-hate-crimes-soared-20-percent-2019-n1248011>

<https://www.hrc.org/resources/the-equality-act>

+ COMMUNITY



My Father's Day tribute to David Hall

By **JEROME BUCKLEY**
PUBLISHER, THE MICHIGAN
BANNER

David Hall was my friend. I'd like to take a few moments to reminisce about how that came to be. A little over 18 years ago, a man of tremendous character, a man whom I was honored to call my friend and mentor gave me a call. Mayor Henry Marsh called to invite me to lunch. He said that there was someone he wanted me to meet. He said that this man would make a difference in this community, in my business and ultimately, if I learned to listen, he'd make a difference in my life. I wondered who a man like Henry could possibly hold in such high regard. If you

knew Henry, you will understand why I was a bit anxious about this invitation. I was always prepared to take away nuggets of wisdom whenever I spent time with him for he was a very wise man. And again, I was honored that he found me still teachable – somehow worthy of spending his valuable time with on a very regular basis.

Henry and I were already seated when the new guy arrived. As he approached the table, every person in the room turned to acknowledge his presence. With great dignity and humility, he commanded an uncommon level of respect from a room filled with total strangers! He towered over both Henry and I as we stood to greet him. Without knowing at the moment that he was indeed a Brigadier General in the United

States Air Force, I called this new acquaintance who was to be a dear friend and confidante for many years, 'General, Sir'. He was soon instrumental in the formation of the steering committee which founded the Saginaw Banner which evolved into what is today known as, The Michigan Banner News. Still thriving, The Michigan Banner News will celebrate its 19 year anniversary next month.

My General, Sir wrote many articles and served as a source of encouragement and support whenever needed until his recent passing. David Hall, affectionately known to many as Dave, was 'General, Sir' to me. I have always counted it an honor and a privilege to call him my friend.

Giants are usually talked about in folklore – stories of mythical beings of super human size and strength. I realized very early on that whenever I was in Dave's presence I was in the presence of a giant. Dave was a giant both literally and figuratively. Earning the rank of Brigadier General during an era when African Americans weren't as readily recognized for their contributions was a remarkable accomplishment. Always a devoted family man, Dave modeled fatherhood and a work ethic which had a tremendous impact on the young men and women he mentored over the years, myself included. Always committed to helping develop potential in the youth he observed in need of direction, Dave published his book entitled, The 'A B C's of Leadership' so that he could reach a broader audience. I can't prove it but I think he gave away more copies than he sold because his main purpose was to build people not a more robust bank account.

I could go on and on about my friendship with Dave. He was truly a giant in my life and the lives of countless others. Thank you to his lovely wife, Jacqueline and the rest of the family for sharing him with us over the years. I will take a moment now to give a final salute to you, 'General, Sir'. You will be deeply missed. Farewell my friend.

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Mid-Michigan native Sarah Opperman named chair of Isabella Bank Corporation and its subsidiary Isabella Bank



SARAH OPPERMAN

Saginaw, MI – Sarah R. Opperman, retired executive of The Dow Chemical Company and lifelong mid-Michigan resident, has been named chair of the Isabella

Bank Corporation (OTCQX:ISBA) and Isabella Bank Board of Directors. Former Chair David J. Maness will remain a member of the board.

“Mr. Maness and Ms. Opperman are visionary leaders,” said Jae A. Evans, President and Chief Executive Officer. “Both are resolute in upholding Isabella Bank’s 118-year history and culture as an independent, locally owned and operated community bank. They are strategic in their approach to growth while keeping a steadfast focus on knowing and serving our customers and communities extraordinarily well.”

Maness has been a director of Isabella Bank since 2003 and joined the corporate board of directors in 2004. He was named board chair in 2010.

Opperman joined the boards of Isabella Bank Corporation and the bank in 2012. She worked for Dow nearly 30 years, retiring in 2009 as vice president of Global Government Affairs and Public Policy. In 2018, she served as interim president and CEO of the Midland Business Alliance, an integrated business hub that includes economic development, the Chamber of Commerce and four other organizations. She received the Chairman’s Award from the Alliance in 2019 for her contributions in strategically realigning and relaunching the organization.

“Sarah’s vast experience in corporate business strategy and organizational leadership is invaluable as Isabella Bank continues its drive for growth and shareholder value,” Evans said.



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Try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Understand what the will of the Lord is (Ephesians 5:10, 17)



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

Two of the most important things in life are discerning what is pleasing to the Lord, and understanding what the will of the Lord is. Here we have before us discernment and understanding. We are also faced with the responsibility of pleasing the Lord and knowing His will. It all begins with the new birth; being born again; having new life in Christ Jesus. This is first and foremost because the natural (unconverted) person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Believers are constantly testing, proving, and distinguishing what is pleasing and acceptable to the Lord. We also search the Scriptures to discover for ourselves what He deems acceptable and pleasing. By practicing spiritual discernment and exposing ourselves to the Word of God, it becomes clear to us what is acceptable to Him. It is also necessary that we understand what His will is. What is God's disposition toward His children, His church, and His world? What about racism, injustice, oppression, and every other societal ill? The Word of God and the Spirit of God can answer these questions, and solve these problems. Discern and understand.



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Citizen-police panel gathers, long after its creation

By MIKE THOMPSON

Saginaw's new Citizens-Police Advisory Commission finally gave birth to its first meeting in early June, nine months after the previous City Council passed an ordinance for the panel to be formed.

As we should expect, the new volunteer members did not immediately issue any earth-shattering statements on policing matters that have gained so much national news focus, especially after the deaths of George Floyd and other victims. They simply began to get started on matters such as when to meet and how to deal with ever-changing covid standards.

Chief Robert Ruth took the city department's helm a year after the 2012 police slaying of Milton Hall, a 49-year-old mental health patient, which remains Saginaw's hometown scar among tragedies across the USA. Ruth quickly launched various reforms and put together an internal advisory group, and last summer he helped to put in place what was supposed to be the higher-profile CPAC.

Perhaps in retrospect to the organizers on staff and on the Council, a participation barrier evolved from the specified slots on the nine-member panel, which present a first-ever provision on any local governing or advisory body. It took months to receive applications for a high school student, a Latino American and an ex-offender to volunteer, and the seats for a mental health professional and an "active LGBTQ+" still remain vacant after nearly a year.

The membership strictures, combined with a declining interest in local affairs versus national news network viewership, means the Citizens-Police Advisory Commission remains virtually unknown to many residents.

To lay groundwork at CPAC's debut session, Chief Ruth organized in the lead role. He was joined by his top brass, and by Lt. Todd Parsons of the state police, who have taken on increased local duties to assist the depleted city ranks. City Manager Tim Morales also took part, along with Clerk Janet Santos, as staff in the virtual

meet doubled the count of five commissioners.

Ruth spoke of "building bridges," and noted that nationwide "during the past year and a half, there's not much support for police officers." He spoke in general praise of his personnel and invited the new commissioners to take part in ride-a-longs to see for themselves and "to dispel some of the rumors that may be out there,"

The chief also suggested that as CPAC members decide on a citizens complaint process, they may wish to use the revised procedures that are outlined on the department's website via saginaw-mi.com. He pointed out that "commendations" also are solicited, along with complaints, offering the example of a recent \$1,000 donation from Wanigas Credit Union along with a thank-you resolution and with free food at shift roll calls.

Saginaw previously operated a Police-Community Relations Commission, which folded during the 1990s due to lack of ongoing citizen participation, and a Human Relations Commission, which met a similar death shortly after the millennium. The HRC on occasion attempted to probe public complaints but faced resistance from authorities. In contrast, the new CPAC members are promised access to some of the documents and testimonies, although the panel will remain strictly advisory.

Members are:

- **Pastor Bob Davis** of Christ Fellowship Baptist Church, who serves as police chaplain.
- **Evelyn McGovern**, founding leader of Women of Colors, nominated to represent African American organizations, although the group identifies itself as including all ethnic groups.
- **Alberto Teneyuque** of the Mexican American Council, nominated on behalf of Latino groups
- **Debbie Melkonian** of the Adams Boulevard Neighborhood Association,

for the perspective of such groups

- **John Milne**, a former City Council member, at-large basis. (Other local boards are entirely at-large.)
- **Timothy Holden**, representing "ex-offender" residents who are striving to overcome criminal backgrounds.
- **Kelcei Schultz**, a Carrollton High School freshman. She's eligible because she is a Carrollton open enrollment pupil, a city resident in her family home.
- Mental health professional (vacant).
- Active LGBTQ+ (vacant).

It is not clear whether the LGBTQ+ designation is defined to mean sexually active. Also, an ordinance provision for a minimum of four females (there is no minimum for men) means that if a mental health professional is identified who is male, then the LGBTQ+ designee would be required to be a woman, and vice-versa.

Teneyuque and Holden were absent from the first meeting, which meant a five-member quorum barely was achieved. This debacle may continue as long as the pair of vacancies remain.

Members decided to meet again at an undetermined August date.

For information or to possibly apply for membership, contact the city clerk's office, 759-1480.



COURTESY PHOTO

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COURTESY PHOTO

I'm a prince 'cause he's a king

By MB STAFF WRITER

There seems to be an endless supply of humor regarding the supposed differences between the celebration of Mother's Day and Father's Day. Mothers typically receive a great deal of well-deserved special treatment including cards, flowers, dinner reservations, spa days, and other gifts - very special treatment. Fathers, on the other hand, are certainly acknowledged but with a bit less fanfare. Colorful

neckties (frequently with a child's favorite cartoon character), cologne, and/or a home-cooked meal are at the top of the list of gift choices for dads. I admit that, while humor is priceless, I find more than just an element of truth in the comedians' stand-up routines. So, it is with a sense of honor that I get to offer a heartfelt Father's Day tribute to dads in this edition of the Michigan Banner.

This children's poem, published years ago, is a reminder this Father's Day to em-

brace the children - no matter the age; to remember that they are listening to our words of wisdom but, more importantly, they are watching. Chances are great that they will do as we do more readily than as we say:

I'M A PRINCE 'CAUSE HE'S A KING

I'm a prince cause he's a king, I have so much to learn.

The king says not to worry, but to be like him I yearn.

What is it like to be the king? How did he get so tall?

Why can't I fill his shoes right now? I need answers to it all.

Well, I'm a prince cause he's a king, he calls us family.

This royalty means so many things - come take a walk with me.

It means going to worship the King of all things - being thankful for all of the joy that he brings.

It means lots of hard work. It means getting things done.

It means working together, a father and son.

It means learning the ropes, like which rope to climb.

The king tells the prince, 'Son, you're doing just fine.'

It means sharing it all with the people we know - God's love and his blessings continue to flow.

It means laughing and talking at supper each night. This warm, loving family is such a delight.

It's time to turn in now, it's getting quite late, we all bow our heads and give thanks for this day.

The king will rise early; a new day begins. He'll head off to work. I'll play with my friends.

The king is my teacher - I'm learning great things. I have to... a prince must learn from the king.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

+ COMMUNITY



HOMEGROWN: WHERE THE SWEETNESS OF THE SAGINAW SUGAR BEETS IS NURTURED

Sweet: The Story of the Saginaw Sugar Beets

By RUMI WILSON

For baseball fans, summer holds promises and memories nourished from youth. A baseball diamond sparkles in this ideal picture. Two opposing teams competing in the game that came to be called America's Pastime. The summer game.

Unfortunately, for many kids, especially in urban communities, the allure of the American game had become, well, past its time. A saga of empty lots, abandoned

fields, lack of coaches, equipment, and passion.

Until recently, such was the same for the city of Saginaw. Not anymore. Thanks to visionaries and athletic enthusiasts, Saginaw sports a new organization, the Saginaw Sugar Beets, which is committed to developing youth baseball and more. In a short four years, what began as a summer league for college baseball players now involves youngsters as young as eight years old and under. In fact, youth softball opportunities are now offered as well.

In addition, starting this late summer and fall of 2021, the Saginaw Sugar Beets organization will soon be sponsoring youth tackle football in Saginaw, with teams outfitted in uniforms, pads and helmets.

If you haven't been to Hoyt Park lately you will be impressed driving through the one-mile oval, long a jewel of the central park system located near the Saginaw River. The baseball and softball diamonds at Hoyt Park have been beautifully restored and maintained. It is a big job. Budget cuts to the City of Saginaw

decimated parks and recreation funding. The Saginaw Sugar Beets organization stepped into the picture, providing free ground crews to cut the grass and keep the infields groomed. The Sugar Beets organization have been able to support long-time activist Larry Brethauer, another visionary, who, since 2008 led a restoration and resurgence of the park through the Friends of Hoyt Park association.

Mr. Corky Thompson is the low key, affable, self-deprecating Saginaw Sugar Beets President and guiding hand. He now manages a full time, year-round staff of four and a seasonal crew of five more. But that will expand as the Saginaw Sugar Beets just keep growing. This summer, around the Fourth of July, the Sugar Beets will open an athletic/ sports equipment store on South Washington Avenue, situated in the Bancroft building in Downtown Saginaw. The new store, called "Hey, Blue!" will employ up to twelve workers.

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The name comes from a baseball expression for contacting an umpire during a game.

The impetus and inception of the Saginaw Sugar Beets in October, 2017, whose mission has been to create athletic opportunities and development programs, reflects a long-time passion on the part of Mr. Thompson. Corky grew up and played sports in Saginaw as a kid. It was a different era. Playgrounds were plentiful. Many athletes were able to play three or four different sports in a year. Four junior high schools competed against one another in the City of Saginaw alone.

Mr. Thompson eventually played sports with the likes of Brian Pruitt, Sam Sword and Marvin Wright at Arthur Hill High School. But Corky Thompson starred and went on to play college baseball, pitching for the Alma Scotts, eventually graduating from Saginaw Valley State University. He started coaching sports, baseball, basketball, at the high school and college level. Mr. Thompson coached the Arthur Hill varsity baseball team for seven years. Since 2015, Corky has been the assistant coach of the Lawrence Tech University baseball squad.

His personal enjoyment and enrichment playing and coaching sports unwavering, Mr. Thompson pumped with a passion beyond himself. He saw a huge and growing need in his beloved community. Kids were going without coaching, without the fellowship of playing sports with teammates. Young people had few outlets and could easily turn in bad directions. Corky wasn't alone in lamenting the lack of chances young people had to play in organized sports. Something had to be done.

In 2017, Corky Thompson stepped onto an imaginary pitching mound and threw a fastball down the middle of the plate. Strike one. He helped start the Saginaw Sugar Beets summer baseball program with returning college level players competing in their off season. A composite of players from different schools, the Sugar Beets experienced success. It was a sweet beginning. The Sugar Beets acquired a 4,000 square foot in-door practice facility on Universal Drive in Saginaw Township.

Next, Mr. Thompson and the Sugar Beets threw a curve ball, redirecting the Beets into the city of Saginaw creating a



SIX YEAR OLD QUINN SEVARD PRACTICING HER THROWS



BRANDON EVANS, SAGINAW SUGAR BEETS BASEBALL DIRECTOR



SUGAR BEET JERMAINE MILLER, JR. TAKES A BIG SWING

new, expanded home in their larger 10,000 square foot in-door practice facility. It is located on Niagara, next to the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy, under the shadow of the former Saginaw Bean Bunny tower. The widening scope of Beets baseball now grew to include more than 300 families of kids playing from eight/ nine years and younger up to 18 and under. Strike two.

The Sugar Beets travel teams play up to fifty games over the course of each summer competing in tournaments around the state and even the nation. In fact, the Saginaw Sugar Beets will help play host to a baseball tournament the weekend of June 17-20th, 2021. Games will be played at three local facilities: Hoyt Park in Saginaw, Liberty Park in Bridgeport, and Wickes Park in Saginaw Township. The tourney will feature 10 and under to 15 and under baseball teams.

With hundreds of kids and families going full tilt, with more than one hundred local sponsors, have the Saginaw Sugar Beets found that sweet spot and shifted gears into cruise control? Not quite.

Corky Thompson is still on that imaginary pitching mound. This time he has configured a high hard slider pitch. This time he is confident it will be another strike. Mr. Thompson is counting on the vacuum for developing footballers in the city of Saginaw to deliver another winning program benefiting local youth, their parents, families and friends.

Youth football for third graders to eighth graders will be the next step in the evolution of the Saginaw Sugar Beets and the registrations for those potential tiny-tot to teenage footballers are happening now. During the first two days of online registrations more than seventy kids signed up. Social media and word of mouth generated a huge response. There is a June 24th cutoff date, with a goal of 27 youngsters per team. The cost is \$150 per player out of pocket, but the Beets have a variety of funding sources for young re-

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+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 21, Sugar Beets

cruits, such as selling flowers and need based scholarships for those who can only afford, at least, the ten-dollar initial registration fee.

Football practice will begin August 9th, 2021 and scrimmages will start August 28th. Competing in the Central Michigan Youth Football League, Saginaw Sugar Beet football squads' six game seasons will play out over successive Saturdays beginning on September 11th, 2021.

On recent visitations, the store front for the Saginaw Sugar Beets seven day a week sporting goods retail operation in downtown Saginaw's Bancroft building is well underway. The store will feature a wide windowed view of the South Washington streetscape. Although the Sugar Beets retail sports outfitter will carry equipment and uniforms for the Beets teams it will also carry a good variety of high-end sporting apparel and paraphernalia. Will it be a harbinger for more retail expansion in downtown? At least the Saginaw Sugar Beets keep planting seeds in the city.

Michigan trails only California among the states in the nation in the number of diverse agricultural crops it grows. Long the automotive and Great Lakes state, people often do not realize the big impact of farming on Michigianians. If you ride your bicycle or walk on the Harger Line rail trail running from Buena Vista to Richville you will be afforded a rich introduction into the Saginaw Valley's main cash crops as part of your experience. Sugar beets, which become plump in the ground over the course of the growing season, feature at the top of Saginaw County crops and you will see fields aplenty of them along the Harger rail trail.

Ninety percent of all the sugar beets produced in the United States east of the Mississippi are grown in Michigan, mostly in the Saginaw Valley and Thumb area. Fifteen thousand acres in Saginaw County alone are planted each year in sugar beets (an area 1 1/3 times the City of Saginaw in size). Michigan Sugar company contracts 160,000 acres in the region (about 18 Saginaw cities put together). It generates close to half a billion dollars annually, according to Thomas Wenzel of the Michigan State University extension services.

So, the Saginaw Sugar Beets name and logo honor the locally valuable sugar beet,



SAGINAW SUGAR BEETS PRESIDENT CORKY THOMPSON



SKILLS PRACTICE ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE SAGINAW SUGAR BEETS FACILITY OF NIAGARA

even as the Saginaw Sugar Beets organization strives to improve the city at the heart of the region where the beets are planted, grown and harvested.

Inside their indoor facility all ages of Saginaw Sugar Beets baseball players practice their skills. The building is a shield for the kids against the unpredictable elements of capricious Michigan weather. They play catch, take turns hitting into the nets. Two floors of young folk, boys and girls enjoy having fun while developing skills. Here, in this building with no windows on the banks of the Saginaw River, the youngsters themselves have been planted, they grow, and down the path of the near future who knows the harvest that awaits?

Managing the structured practices and frenetic interactions inside the Beets facility, baseball director Brandon Evans sees a steady flow of parents and youth participants. A twenty-two-year-old graduate of Rochester University, he also coaches the 15 and under team, schedules one on one tutorials, and sets up arrangements for weekend tournaments. Some tourneys will be played as far away as Branston, Missouri and Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

An athlete himself, Evans says "I love giving kids an opportunity and facility I never had." Mr. Evans identifies with the array of socioeconomic backgrounds and diversity he finds in his Sugar Beets, the year-round bustle of practices, the dedication and camaraderie cultivated in his young charges. He loves that his kids from rival schools who play together all summer long as Saginaw Sugar Beets will go home to compete against one another during the

school year for "bragging rights".

The Saginaw Sugar Beets organization attracted scores of local businesses and volunteers to help create their successful model. Key among the business sponsors are Garber Automotive, Macys, and Innovative Exteriors of Midland. Parents and families play an integral part of the process. It takes tremendous cooperation and dedication to attend to all the practices, preparation, planning and the playing out of so many activities, tournaments, and games.

Sugar Beets General Manager and marketing director Kelsey Anderson helps keep everybody, including Corky Thompson, stay focused on the future and the growth taking place for the Saginaw Sugar Beets organization. The crew have come so far and so fast they do not have time to rest on their accomplishments. The famous Saginaw Bean Bunny sign next door recently came down in preparation for the new high school that will unify the two sides of Saginaw, long divided by the Saginaw River.

Saginaw Sugar Beet signs will soon be visible on both sides of the river with just two blocks and the Genesee Avenue Bridge between them. Soon more Saginawians will start to notice and pay attention to the vision being realized. The untapped potential of a new generation being nurtured. Growing into, and around and up right here in Saginaw, Michigan.

+ COMMUNITY

Becoming a better father

By **JIMMY E GREENE**
CEO & PRESIDENT,
ABC MICHIGAN

We understand that we want to be better but have no clear definition of what better means and that is part of the process.

At some point in our lives, many of us find ourselves overcome with the desire to become better people. Better Dads. And that's hard to do while we are navigating this world trying to provide for our families. That requires that we grow, expand, and change. This innate need for personal expansion can lead us down many paths as we develop within the context of our individual lives. Yet the initial steps that can put us on the road to being a better dad are not always clear. To ease this often frustrating uncertainty, we can take small steps, keeping our own concept of growth in mind rather than allowing others ex-

amples to direct the course of our journey. Comparing yourself to other dads is a recipe for failure.

Becoming a better father in your own eyes is a whole-life project, and you should focus your step-by-step efforts on simple things; the day to day things like being around. Love should be a key element of your efforts. When you acknowledge that all your children are deserving of love, compassion, consideration, and dignity, you are naturally more apt to treat them in the manner you yourself wish to be treated. You will intuitively become a more active listener, more attentive, and truthful to your children. And nothing beats finding a little quality time and being present with them in an upbeat attitude.

As you vow to develop yourself further and be a better father, you can take pride not only in setting an example for them, but also in the fact that you are cultivating



a reward of peace within yourself through your choices, actions, and behaviors that you've embraced on that journey of fatherhood. And look here's the deal; you may never feel you have reached the pinnacles of fatherhood that you hope to achieve, but the joy of journey will make you a better person, man, and father. Becoming a better father is your choice and is a natural progression in your journey of self-awareness and peace.

700 young black men – sacrifice, commitment, dedication

By **SOFUS**

Several weeks ago, this nation experienced, but very few witnessed, the ceremony where slightly more than 700 Black African American Males completed their stay at a U.S. institution that was not a jail or prison. These young black men were in the 2020 and 2021 graduating classes at Morehouse College; a private Historically Black Men's Liberal Arts College in Atlanta, Georgia. Sadly, and shamefully, their transition from something other than a correctional facility may be why it received little, if any, coverage by mainstream media networks. Media that seemly seizes every opportunity to portray negative images of Black Men! You can access Morehouse College Baccalaureate Ceremony on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eh7wXPO3-c8>

Morehouse College (founded in 1867, two years after slavery officially ended) is one of 107 Historical Black Colleges and Universities with more than 228,000 students enrolled. Black students who are not in the school-to-prison pipeline! Black

youth we seldom hear about! Fifty-six of these institutions are under private control, and 51 are public colleges and universities.

Familiar names of Morehouse alumni include: Rev Martin Luther King Jr, Spike Lee, Samuel Jackson, Jeh Johnson, Julian Bond, Herman Cain (Chair/CEO Godfather's Pizza), former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, musician/activist Babatunde Olatunji, and many others.

Being presented with positive images in addition to knowing former and current history is necessary for a culture to survive and to thrive. And it is particularly important in the education of our youth. With that said, a feature of this publication, *The Michigan Banner*, that should be highlighted is its commitment to educating, informing, and enlightening the community by sharing 'GOOD NEWS' about people and events in this region and beyond. Clearly more needs to be done at the national level when it comes to spreading "GOOD NEWS"! And the Morehouse graduation is an excellent example. How many people across this nation are aware of this

prideful achievement?

Please keep in mind that whatever the movement and whatever the cause, mainstream media and those who seem averse to that which is good, positive, and moral must not continue to dictate and shape the narratives. Because one thing recent history has shown us is that (1) this as a sure-fire way to assure that important messages and stories are left untold, (2) why people collectively lose interest in particular matters, and (3) how the momentum of social movements die.

Side Note: As I complete this article, talk show host Bankole Thompson on 910 AM Superstation in Detroit has begun his broadcast with excerpts from Bryan A. Stevenson's commencement address this year at Morehouse College. The brilliant Attorney Stevenson is Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery AL and graduate of Harvard Law School.



+ COMMUNITY

IN MY HUMBLE OPINION

We really need better leaders in Africa



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

This is my second article for the column and I realized that I didn't properly introduce myself in the previous edition. Please forgive me, but I was excited and wanted to get straight to my opinion that the COVID-19 pandemic is a blessing in disguise. This time, please allow me to let you know a little about who I am and where I come from before giving my opinion in this edition.

My name is Ken H. Simmons, II and I was born and raised in Oakland, California. I am the third generation in my family to live and work in Africa, following as an entrepreneur in the footsteps of my grandfather, Jake Simmons, Jr. who was a pioneer in the oil business out of Oklahoma. He opened the oil trade between the United States of America and parts of West Africa in the 1960s. Companies including Phillips Petroleum, Texaco, and Signal Oil & Gas were introduced to exploration and drilling opportunities in Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, and Ivory Coast by my grandfather. In 1978, three years before his death, Ghana's head of state awarded Jake Simmons, Jr. the Grand Medal, the nation's highest honor, for his services to the country's economy.

My first visit to Africa was in 1974 when I was 9 years old. It was a big family trip organised by my late uncle, Don Simmons that included my late father, Kenneth Simmons, my late aunt, Barbara Simmons, and three first cousins. Before departing New York for the Motherland, we stayed at a very fancy hotel, which I think was the Waldorf Astoria, but I stand to be corrected. Though I will never forget the day before we left, the

8th of August, because it was the day President Richard Nixon resigned from the presidency due to the Watergate scandal. My family and I watched that historic moment live on television in the hotel. The next day, we embarked on our trip to Africa, departing from JFK International Airport, laying over at Heathrow International Airport in London, and arriving at the Lagos International Airport in Nigeria some 14 plus hours later.

We stayed about three weeks on the continent, visiting Nigeria, Ghana, and Kenya, and one of the most significant memories I have, which I must mention, is visiting Elmina Castle in Ghana. It is historically unique as being the first European slave-trading post in all of Sub-Saharan Africa. Originally built by Portuguese traders to protect the gold trade in 1482, it was captured by the Dutch 155 years later to serve the slave trade. At the seaboard side of the castle was a tunnel to the infamous portal called the "Door of No Return" through which thousands of African men and women were forced onto slave ships bound for North and South America. I was very young, so it didn't really hit me the way it has since, but I remember my father getting emotional and my heart aches when I think about it now.

Before I go too far off on a tangent, as I was only introducing myself, I must state my humble opinion that we really need better leaders in Africa. I think it is important to understand a bit of the context of Africa as we scrutinize leadership and seek solutions.

In modern times, most of the African continent was colonized by European countries that included the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Portugal, Belgium, Spain, and Italy from as early as the 16th century right up to the beginning of the 20th century. The latter part of this period is often referred to as the "scramble for Africa", which resulted in the rapid colonization of the continent. It is worth noting that two countries avoided being colonized by European powers, Liberia and Ethiopia. Liberia, although founded by Americans for free Black people in America at the time, is considered by some scholars to have never been colonized, and Ethiopia (one of the world's oldest countries) is also considered "never colonized", defeating Italy in a crushing victory at the Battle of Adwa in 1896 and resisting

further attempts during Italian occupation (1936 to 1941).

In 1945, The 5th Pan African Congress was held in Manchester, England, and it is seen as a major landmark in the achievement of African independence. Many future African independence leaders were in attendance, including Jomo Kenyatta, later President of Kenya, Kwame Nkrumah, later President of Ghana, Obafemi Awolowo, later Premier of South West Region Nigeria, and Hastings Banda, later President of Malawi. These leaders, and others that pushed for independence like Julius Nyerere, Tanzania's first president, Patrice Lumumba, Congo's first prime minister, Sylvanos Olympio, Togo's first president, and Thomas Sankara, revolutionary turned president of Burkina Faso were good for the forces of colonial power they faced and overcame in their seasons. They shared a common belief in Pan-Africanism; a global movement that aims to encourage and strengthen the bonds of solidarity between all indigenous and diaspora ethnic groups of African descent. They used its ideologies to gain independence and did the heavy lifting to put the continent on a path to prosperity and world power, but many of their gains were reversed or eroded by corruption and poor leadership.

The following are just a few brief case studies of the kind of corruption I am talking about.

Sani Abacha, president of Nigeria from 1993 to 1998, reportedly stole between \$1bn and \$5bn from the country's coffers using fraudulent funding requests to the central bank, awarding highly inflated state contracts to his friends to pocket the difference, and demanding huge kickbacks from foreign companies operating in the country. In 2020, the National Bureau of Statistics reported that 40.1% of the population (more than 82 million people) were poor and lived on less than \$1 a day.

Mobutu Sese Seko seized power in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) and was president from 1965 to 1997, and is suspected of stealing approximately \$5bn by selling the country's wealth of natural resources while the majority of people lived in abject poverty. He was a notorious dictator

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+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 24, Leaders

who ran a murderous regime that brutally suppressed any opposition. According to the World Bank in 2021, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has the third largest population of poor globally. It was estimated in 2018 that 73% of the population (approximately 60 million people) lived below the poverty line, which is less than \$1.90 a day.

Despite Ghana being one of the least corrupt countries in Africa, it was reported by Transparency International in 2019 that close to \$3bn is lost to corruption annually. One of the ways this happened is when President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo gave away the country’s power supply – the Electricity Company of Ghana to an independent foreign power producer that allegedly includes his friends, politicians, and businessmen linked to his administration. Statista reported that the international poverty rate was forecast at 11.3% as of 2021, which means more than 3.5 million people live below the poverty line of \$1.90 per day.

Unfortunately, these case studies could

go on and on, but I do not have that liberty here nor is it necessary when Transparency International has its Corruption Perceptions Index. In its 2020 report, Sub-Saharan Africa was the lowest-scoring region with an average score of 32 out of 100, which was below the global average of 43 and represented “a bleak picture of inaction against corruption”, as reported by Quartz Africa. South Africa, among Africa’s top five economies, ranked just above the global average with a score of 44. The score could have been higher except for the several high-level corruption cases over recent years, including the “State Capture” scandal that resulted in president Jacob Zuma’s resignation in 2018.

It is common knowledge that Africa is rich in natural resources ranging from arable land, water, oil, natural gas, minerals, flora, and fauna; and statistics make it plain. According to the UN Environment Program (UNEP), “Africa is home to 30 per cent of the world’s mineral reserves, 8 per cent of the world’s natural gas, 12 per cent of the world’s oil reserves, ... 40 per cent of

the world’s gold and up to 90 per cent of its chromium and platinum.” Africa has the largest reserves of cobalt, diamonds, platinum, and uranium in the world. 65% of the world’s arable land and 10% of internal renewable water sources are in Africa.

The continent has a lot to gain by collectively pulling together and properly utilizing its vast natural resources to finance the development agenda toward greater prosperity. Proper utilization means employing climate resilient, sustainable, and results-oriented methods of exploiting the natural resources.

Of course, Africa’s greatest resource is its people. With a population of more than 1.3 billion that’s set to double in the next few decades, the countries’ leaders must overcome the systemic challenges to unification. Symbiotic immigration policies between African countries and improved transportation infrastructure will be one of the greatest enablers for intergenerational prosperity across the continent.

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SAGINAW: Did ya 'naw?



COURTESY PHOTO

By MIKE THOMPSON

Somehow we are known as the Saginaw Valley, especially among pre-Great Lakes Bay Region oldsters, but the slope is only roughly one foot per mile.

The landmark Water Treatment Plant near Hoyt Park, the Children's Zoo and Ojibway Island is 600 feet above sea level. The closest suburbs like Carrollton, Buena Vista and Bridgeport are between 605 and 610. Outlying exurbs such as Frankenmuth, Freeland and Birch Run are in the 620 range. Chesaning is the most distant, as we have learned since their takeover of the County Fair, but their sea level still is within 630 feet.

Some "valley," huh?

But these tiny climbs still make a difference, because even such a minor foot-per-mile elevation requires pumping in the pipes.

Lots of lots

We are hearing about Jimmie Truss, Saginaw's noted relentless volunteer for mowing vacant lots on personal time and expense. A handful of other citizens also

take on substantial workloads, and hundreds more tackle overgrowths near their homes.

And so, we don't mean to discourage anyone, but we asked County Treasurer Tim Novak, and he filled in our blanks:

"Saginaw County contains 3,591 abandoned properties, including 3,082 within the Saginaw city limits. Among them, 2,894 are vacant lots where spring and summer overgrowth takes place."

And:

"The 188 properties with buildings or houses on them have many that are designated as candidates for demolition as money is available."

Also:

"With approximately \$1.1 million in annual funds generated from property taxes, property sales and contributions from the county budget, the 16-year-old Saginaw County Land Bank Authority spends roughly \$225,000 annually on grounds care, which includes contracts with the City of Saginaw and Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy."

This explains why so many lots are par-

tially mowed, with only triangles to clear intersection views for motorists.

And for all the Davids and Davedas out there who are challenging Goliath's blight, you can take ownership of tax-reverted vacant lots that are adjacent to your home. Call the land bank at 792-6028 to inquire. Cost as low as \$180, plus minimal annual property taxes.

Miles to go

We may assert that Saginaw's city budget costs should be reduced, in tandem with losing more than half of the 1960 peak population of 98,265,

Yes, in some ways, but the city still is home to 278 miles of streets (96 main) that require plowing and minimal pothole fills. An engineering consultant estimated the cost of repairs for ideal conditions at \$271 million, which would be 271 times the annual spending.

And we still have a couple dozen parks that need cutting, no matter how many people are around to use them. Even Ojibway Island still needs to be mowed, regardless of the current status.

(Anyone with similar "did ya 'naw" items may send them to mwtsaginaw@yahoo.com.)



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GWENDOLYN C. OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN




+ COMMUNITY

BV '81 grad seeks unity, not thanks, for free-of-cost student reunion

By MIKE THOMPSON

Buena Vista High School's classes of 1980, '81, and '82 are doing something completely different for their reunions, thanks to a grad from the middle group, Felix Banks.

Most alumni and alumnae from other schools stick to their own separate year and reserve a dinner hall. Costly tickets cover not only the meal, but a band or a disc jockey, playing dance music into the wee hours.

Not this group.

On Saturday, June 19, the event begins at 8 a.m. in the morning, not in the evening, running until sunset.

It will commence at BV Community Park, 1940 South Outer Drive, instead of at a showy nightspot.



FELIX BANKS

Banks, now a Chrysler autoworker living in Southfield, is donating all costs for park rental, music and a giant BBQ cook-out. With free admission, participants simply are asked to wear a mask, regardless of whether they themselves have been vaccinated.

He intended to modestly remain anonymous, but he was persuaded to step for-

ward because he aims to boost the image of his childhood and teenage stomping grounds.

"Many of my family members still have remained in BV," Felix says, "and I hear too much negativity now. This did not exist back then, not that I recall. So let's do something positive, something for the young people to see."

In fact, as word has spread, organizers have opened the event to any former BV Knights and their guests, regardless of what year they graduated.

A Buena Vista reunion event takes on added nostalgia because finance troubles in 2014 led to a state shutdown and dissolution of the entire district.

"This has been most hurtful for all of us," Banks notes. "The high school was a symbol for all of Buena Vista."

The advance weather forecast for June 19 is sunny with a high temp of 77 degrees.

HAPPY
Father's
DAY

**Bishop Larry
D. Camel**

*Bishop, New Birth
Missionary Baptist
Cathedral*

*CEO, Parishioners
on Patrol*



+ COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

Despite COVID challenges, Michiganders show surprising resilience

A new survey of Michigan residents from The Wellbeing Lab has revealed that while 13% reported they are really struggling, 10% of are consistently thriving, and 41.7% are living well, despite struggles.

The Wellbeing Lab 2021 Communities Report, surveyed a randomly selected sample representative of Michigan's adult population by gender, age, and location at the end of March 2021, to provide insights into current states of wellbeing across communities in the region.

The research demonstrates that even when facing a global pandemic, a changing political and economic landscape, and numerous personal and professional challenges, it appears that it is possible to thrive despite struggle. Although the study found that women, people aged 18 – 24, people of color, and people in households earning less than \$20,000 were significantly more likely to report that they were really struggling.

The data clearly shows that caring for community wellbeing is more than just the sum of how individuals are feeling and functioning. Instead, our wellbeing perceptions, experiences, and behaviors are diverse, and are shaped within our communities by:

- Intrapersonal factors (e.g., personality, skills, motivation)

- Interpersonal factors (e.g., our interactions with and relationships with others),
- External community factors (e.g., housing quality, education levels, access to resources, equality) that dynamically impact each other.”

For example, people who were thriving even in the face of struggle reported:

- Higher levels of ability and motivation to care for their wellbeing, and safe spaces to talk with others about the wellbeing challenges they may be facing.
- Feeling like they belonged in at least four or more places in their community - like their family, with friends, at work, and in their neighborhood.
- Having access to community healthcare facilities, natural environments (like parks) , mental health support, opportunities for connection and wellbeing information and tools.

Unfortunately, almost four of every ten people in Michigan felt it was best to

keep their wellbeing struggles to themselves. Given mental health was the leading cause of struggle for 33.2% of Michiganders, normalizing and making it safe to talk about these struggles for more people in the community could have a significant impact on wellbeing.

Other wellbeing challenges that emerged from the survey for Michigan included:

- 90.7% of Michiganders reported feeling worried or anxious about the economy, and this was largely true of all demographics groups but was slightly more heightened for Asians.
- 53.1% of Michiganders reported having enough financially to meet their needs this month; however, this was less likely to be true for women, Asians, and people of color.
- People who had received either a single or both doses of the COVID-19 vaccination were significantly more likely to be thriving. People who reported having no intention of receiving the vaccination were statistically more likely to be really struggling.
- Two out of every ten Michiganders (21.4%) reported feeling very lonely and isolated. People aged 24–35 years and all people of color were significantly more likely to report that they had felt alone and isolated over the past two weeks.
- 43.6% of Michiganders reported having a neighbor they could call in an emergency. However, Asians and people aged 18–24 years were less likely to have this community support.

The good news is that data clearly shows that there are immediate actions communities can be taking to help everyone in their community have access to the knowledge, tools and support they need to care for their wellbeing.

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+ COMMUNITY



HIGHLIGHTING 2021 HEART OF THE CITY AWARD RECIPIENT:

Oslin Brummell-Presley

Oslin Brummell-Presley, affectionately known as Lynn, has always been an active and accessible member in the Saginaw community for over 55 years. Lynn is a proud advocate for all family members of any walk of life. Lynn was born in Guyana, South America and came to Saginaw, Michigan to further her education. While attending Delta College, she organized and served as President of its first International Club until graduation. Lynn quickly became highly active and faithfully served

the Saginaw community on numerous levels. She also attended and graduated from Saginaw Valley State University and Michigan State University.

Lynn earned her Master's in Social Work and is Licensed by the State of Michigan. She is a Family Therapist, Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor, Certified Prevention Specialist, Certified African Centered Social Worker, and a HIV - AIDS Counselor. Lynn is a long-time member of United Methodist (Ames)

Church and is happily married to Raymond Presley. They are proud parents, grandparents, and great grandparents. They have been Foster and Adoptive parents for over 25 years.

In 2008, after 25 years of service, Lynn retired from Saginaw County Department of Public Health (SCDPH) as Coordinator of Family Youth Initiative (FYI) under the Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention Services (TAPS). She also served as Health Educator, family therapist, social worker and women and family specialist. During her tenure, she was instrumental in developing and organizing the Cultural Competency Committee and Annual Girls Conference for SCDPH for Saginaw community. In 2003, Lynn was honored to be the first recipient of the LYNN BRUMMELL-PRESLEY MENTOR AWARD. For many years Lynn also worked part-time at Professional Psychological & Psychiatric Services (PPPS) as a Licensed Therapist.

Mrs. Brummell-Presley was an active member of numerous professional and civic organizations. Original member and Elder of Saginaw African Cultural Festival, Kuumba Actors, Kwanzaa Celebration. Lynn was also the first African American female to serve as President of Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Council for 2 terms. She was co-chair of Sankofa Mentorship Task Force and Youth Development Program with National Association of Black Social Workers and a current member of Greater Detroit Association of Black Social Workers. She also served as the State Representative for Michigan.

For the past few years Lynn has been working as a Prevention Specialist Supervisor for Women of Colors, Saginaw County Youth Protection Council and First Ward Community Service EnVision Center.

Besides staying busy with her family and the community, Lynn and her husband Ray love to travel, enjoy music, cooking, reading, attending performing arts events and indulging in cultural experiences.

+ HEALTH

Covenant HealthCare achieves SRC's Center of Excellence in robotic surgery accreditation

Saginaw, MI – Covenant HealthCare has recently achieved accreditation as a Center of Excellence in Robotic Surgery, recognized for providing the highest quality of care and patient safety by Surgical Review Corporation (SRC). Additionally, eight surgeons joined Covenant HealthCare on the journey and became accredited Surgeons of Excellence.

Status as an accredited facility means that Covenant HealthCare has met nationally and internationally recognized standards. Not all hospitals and surgeons seek accreditation; not all that undergo the rigorous requirements and inspection process are granted accreditation.

“The level of collaboration between surgeons, staff, and leadership necessary to achieve recognition as a Robotic Center of Excellence validates Covenant HealthCare’s commitment to ensuring patient safety and quality,” says Aimie Goodrow, Director of Surgical Services. “Consistently delivering safe surgical care using state-of-the-art technology and demonstrating commitment to continuous improvement have been key initiatives for this first-class team, our patients and our community.”

Healthcare organizations and surgeons seeking accreditation by SRC undergo an extensive self-assessment and inspection process. This includes physicians, nurses and administrators who are actively in-



(LEFT TO RIGHT): WAEL SOLH, MD (COLORECTAL SURGERY); TODD RICHARDSON, MD (GENERAL SURGERY); GREGORY SUTTON, MD (GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY); ELIZABETH PAULUS, MD (SURGICAL ONCOLOGY); SANJEEVKUMAR KAUL, MD (UROLOGY); MAHER GHANEM, MD (HEPATOBILIARY SURGERY); DUANE HEILBRONN, MD (OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY SURGERY); SUJAL PATEL, MD (GENERAL SURGERY)

involved in the accredited program. The inspection is consultative and educational, presenting best practices to help an organization or surgeon improve its care and services.

“We’re proud to recognize Covenant HealthCare for their commitment to advancing and providing quality care for all

patients,” said Gary M. Pratt, CEO of SRC. “This accreditation signals that this hospital is among the best in this specialty and is dedicated to delivering the highest level of care possible.”

To learn more about SRC and the accreditation process, visit surgicalreview.org.



(LEFT TO RIGHT): LINDSEY LATARTE (HARRISON CAMPUS OPERATING ROOM MANAGER), AIMIE GOODROW (DIRECTOR OF SURGICAL SERVICES); LYNN MINER (ROBOTICS ADMINISTRATOR)

+ HEALTH

Michigan's aging adults can sign up for free online classes offered by MDHHS to improve their brain health; June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month

Lansing, MI – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and GetSetUp are partnering to offer classes to improve brain health during June, which is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month.

Healthy lifestyle choices can improve general health and can possibly protect the brain from Alzheimer's disease.

The MDHHS Aging & Adult Services Agency has a partnership with GetSetUp, a mission-driven education technology company dedicated to creating economic and learning opportunities for older adults. The partnership provides free virtual learning and social engagement opportunities for Michiganders ages 60 and over.

The Alzheimer's Association says regular physical exercise may be a beneficial strategy to lower the risk of Alzheimer's and vascular dementia. Exercise may directly benefit brain cells by increasing blood and oxygen flow in the brain. Additionally, studies say that maintaining strong social connections and keeping mentally active as people age might lower the risk of cognitive decline and Alzheimer's.

"Dementia - including Alzheimer's disease, which is the most common form - is an emerg-

ing public health crisis," said Dr. Alexis Travis, who recently became senior deputy director for the MDHHS Public Health Administration and previously was senior deputy director of the Aging and Adult Services Agency. "An estimated 190,000 Michiganders age 65 and over are living with Alzheimer's disease. That number is expected to grow to 220,000 by 2025. Brain health is a crucial component of healthy aging and we are pleased to offer these and over 150 classes on the GetSetUp platform to older Michiganders at no cost."

GetSetUp offers a wide variety of classes to empower older adults to connect with others and stay healthy, including:

- Class Series: Our Minds Matter...Embrace Mental Health!
- Yoga for Beginners
- Get Moving by Line Dancing (the Hustle)
- Mindful Chair Yoga
- Get Moving with QiGong
- Ageless Grace: Exercises for the Body and Mind
- Social hours and interest groups on a range of topics, including a social hour

on brain fitness and Dementia Caregivers Unite

"We have designed GetSetUp online classes and events to provide the physical, mental and social activities that are so critical to healthy living as we work toward a day when we can all age-in-place," said Lawrence Kosick, co-founder of GetSetUp. "And starting in June, we're excited to be able to offer even more programming to support brain health and education around dementia and Alzheimer's disease. With over 80,000 of Michiganders over age 60 already benefiting through our partnership with MDHHS, we're excited to be able to expand our content in the areas that are most needed and support even more older adults in Michigan."

Michiganders age 60 and over may enroll in any GetSetUp session at no cost by visiting getsetup.io/michigan and using the code MICHIGANHEALTH or by calling 888-559-1614.

For more information about Alzheimer's disease and dementia, contact the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org or 800-272-3900.

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ANYWHERE
ELSE."**

Rosalind Williams
Registered Nurse



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+ EDUCATION



Summer Reading

COURTESY PHOTO



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

Summer is here, and it is a great idea for parents to help their children think about books to read this summer. The purpose of today's segment is to encourage people to make plans now about "summer reading."

The benefits of summer reading are many! They include the opportunity to grow in new ways, exploring new topics and concepts, learning about explorers and inventors and persons who have had interesting lives to draw upon. Reading builds vocabulary and confidence. Every page turned, every chapter concluded, and every book read provides an unmistakable sense of accomplishment.

Here are some suggestions to consider in building a summer reading plan.

Consult with your child's school

Age & subject matter will be important

factors to consider, and the school can really help.

- What books are recommended?
- How will they help bridge to next year?
- Are there courses next year that have reading lists, and will reading any of these books in advance be of benefit?

Many classes have "classics" for students to read, and gaining advanced knowledge of them can be of value. As a student I recall being amazed at how much more I understood when I read a book a second time. I discovered new details a second time; I felt a deeper sense of understanding that way. Reading a book that is on the horizon early can be of similar benefit. The school will be able to help with such decisions.

Ask your child

This seems fundamental, but sometimes as adults we sort of skip this important step. What is of interest to the child will help fuel the necessary motivation to read.

For me, it was biographies. I loved books about Jackie Robinson and Roy Campanella, famous baseball players with stories much, much deeper than the game

of baseball. These two books exposed me to concepts about Civil Rights and fairness. In Campanella's circumstance, he became paralyzed from an automobile accident and told a story of perseverance and hope that I had never thought of before. They caught my interest, and I could not put them down.

Therefore, finding a similar "spark" in what your child would like to read is a vital step in creating a plan for summer reading.

Visit your local library

The Public Libraries of Saginaw and their "Tails and Tales" Summer Reading 2021 program has just launched programs for Early Literacy (birth through age 3), Preschool through 6th grade, Teens (7th -12th grade) and Adults (ages 18+)

These programs give opportunity for reading books, e-books, magazines, newspapers, listening to audio books, or reading together as a family.

Terrific ways to generate ideas and to motivate summer reading!

Research the web.

The Internet is rich with suggested reading lists for learners of all ages. These can be reviewed at home to get an idea of what books should be considered this summer.

There are book clubs and summer programs from which to draw. They are low cost or no cost in many cases. PBS and the Michigan Learning Channel's summer programming is offered free to students with reading materials that complement eight weeks of themed programming on topics as varied as "space" and "animals."

The bottom line is this: with so many benefits, now is a great time to consider "summer reading" options for your child this summer!

References:

<https://literati.com/?extCouponCode=LITERATI&msclkid=e03441628a6c15457c0721d9e3008c1a>
www.michiganlearningchannel.org



Saginaw Promise Congratulates the
CLASS OF 2021!

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

Recognizing two Community Leaders who will retire in 2021!

“Saginaw Promise is able to do what it does, because of the support of its partners and donors. Saginaw Promise extends its appreciation and best wishes to two leaders in our community, who have each supported the Saginaw Promise to impact Saginaw’s future, its economy and the lives of its students through postsecondary education. Saginaw Promise extends best wishes to Ed Bruff, President and CEO of Covenant HealthCare and Dr. Jean Goodnow, President of Delta College.

Thank you!



“Saginaw Promise is an important component of Saginaw community which makes it easy to support because our children are the ones who will be taking care of us in the future.”

**Ed Bruff, President and CEO, Covenant HealthCare
Retiring June 30, 2021**



“Coming from a low-income family and being a first generation college student, I support efforts to offer resources for students to attend college. I’m proud that Delta College also provides educational opportunities and counseling to those receiving the Saginaw Promise scholarship, as well as all students who enroll from the Saginaw Public Schools.”

**Dr. Jean Goodnow, President, Delta College
Retiring August 31, 2021**



Saginaw Promise | 1 Tuscola St., Suite 100, Saginaw, MI 48607 | (989) 755-0545

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

New After school S.T.E.M. program coming to Saginaw High & Arthur Hill

Saginaw, MI – Saginaw High and Arthur Hill High Schools, will participate in an after-school Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program focused on growing, inspiring, engaging, and exposing future Innovators, creators, makers and entrepreneurs. Lead by Saginaw S.T.E.M., the program is scheduled to kick off in October 2021. Throughout the yearlong collaboration, the pilot program will consist of 5-10 students that will work alongside industry professionals to design, build, and test an electric-solar vehicle to compete in the Solar Car Challenge in summer of 2022. Our goal is to support and build our communities by providing underserved urban youth with resources and opportunities to develop careers in S.T.E.M. The program will include a standardized curriculum using problem-, place-, project- (3-P learning) based objectives defined in collaboration with Saginaw Public School District, local colleges and universities, and other

STEM industry partners, by incorporating a twofold mentorship program that includes peer mentors from community partners such as Saginaw Valley State University, Delta College, Dow, Nexteer, Hemlock Semi-Conductors, and other industry leaders. In addition to validating the curriculum, the program will focus on establishing and expanding these relationships, thus formalizing the foundation that creates opportunities for long-term student success.

About Saginaw S.T.E.M.

In response to the national agenda for increased STEM education, Saginaw S.T.E.M. has created a platform to engage students, especially underrepresented minorities, in STEM education through after-school enrichment. In addition to focusing on learning outcomes that increase both knowledge and skills, Saginaw S.T.E.M. is committed to creating a systematic means of supporting our students from secondary education through entry into the STEM

workforce.

The Problem

The state of Michigan, and the U.S. are currently experiencing a major skills gap for a wide range of advanced STEM disciplines. Many secondary and post-secondary students have little to no awareness of the many careers available in STEM. Exacerbating this issue is the fact that the state is also experiencing the drain of its talent pool to other regions of the country. Currently, there are nearly 8.6 million STEM jobs in the US, which represents only 6.2% of the US employment.

The Solution

The pilot program will initially establish two teams that will work both independently and cooperatively to complete a solar vehicle project. The pilot teams, made up of 5-10 students, will include Arthur Hill and Saginaw High School students.

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+ EDUCATION

Delta College Board of Trustees selects Michael Gavin as first choice candidate for president

Saginaw, MI – The Delta College Board of Trustees has selected and offered the position of Delta College President to Dr. Michael Gavin.

After a rigorous search, the board voted to offer Gavin the presidency June 8 at a public board meeting. The trustees discussed each candidate and reviewed comments from faculty, staff, students and community members before making a decision. The Board also authorized a virtual campus visit to Gavin's current college and directed Chair Nash, together with counsel, to negotiate the employment contract.

Gavin, Ph.D., is currently vice president of Learning at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, Maryland. Gavin has a doctorate in American studies from the University of Maryland in College Park, a master's degree in literature from Ameri-



DR. MICHAEL GAVIN

can University in Washington, D.C., and a bachelor's degree in literature from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

"We had a tremendous and well-quali-

fied pool of candidates to consider, and I'd like to thank all members of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee for their dedication to this process," Board Chair Mike Nash said. "I'd also like to thank all campus and community members for their participation in sharing their thoughts and hopes in a new leader. Dr. Gavin impressed us all with his experience and strategic vision of Delta, and I am confident he will be an outstanding leader for years to come."

Trustee Mary Lou Benecke chaired the search advisory committee for the replacement of Dr. Jean Goodnow, who will retire in August after serving 16 years as president. Delta began the search for its next president in January, shortly after Goodnow announced her retirement.

Learn more about the search at delta.edu/presidentialsearch.

MDE Supports Federal Title IX Action Prohibiting Sexual Discrimination

Lansing, MI – The Michigan Department of Education showed support of the announcement by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights that the federal department will enforce Title IX's prohibition on discrimination on the basis of sex to include: (1) discrimination based on sexual orientation; and (2) discrimination based on gender identity.

"We appreciate the U.S. Department of Education's announcement recognizing that all means all when protecting the rights of our students," said State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice. "Diversity, equity, and inclusion for all students, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender identity or sexual orientation, make our schools stronger, safer and more dynamic."

"Learning side-by-side helps build a society that can live side-by-side," Dr. Rice said. "We need to foster this acceptance more each day for our children to witness, experience, and learn."

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the

basis of sex in any education program or activity offered by a recipient of federal financial assistance.

"I applaud this move by the U.S. Department of Education and appreciate the work being done by the Michigan Department of Education to ensure its positive impact," said Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel. "No student—regardless of their sex, gender identity or sexual orientation—should ever face harassment or discrimination. I support this enforcement and will continue to fight for equal treatment and protection under the law as Michigan's top law enforcement officer."

The interpretation of the U.S. Department of Education (USED) stems from the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, issued one year ago this week, in which the Supreme Court recognized that it is impossible to discriminate against a person based on their sexual orientation or gender identity without discriminating against that person based on sex, which is prohibited by law.

The USED's Office of Civil Rights recently reported that LGBTQ+ students often face additional challenges in schools, including disproportionately experiencing persistent bullying, harassment, and victimization.

The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) says it has long recognized that Title IX protects all students, including students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, from harassment and other forms of sex discrimination, and that Title IX prohibits harassment and other forms of discrimination against all students for not conforming to stereotypical notions of masculinity and femininity.

USED issued today's Notice of Interpretation addressing Title IX's coverage of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in light of the *Bostock v. Clayton County* Supreme Court decision.

+ EDUCATION



TAMI SIVY

SVSU chemistry professor named Michigan Distinguished Professor of the year

Tami Sivy is one of three recognized by Michigan Association of State Universities

Saginaw, MI – Saginaw Valley State University's Tami Sivy, professor of chemistry, has received the Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year award from the Michigan Association of State Universities. The award recognizes the outstanding contributions and dedication exhibited by the faculty from Michigan's 15 public universities to the education of undergraduate students. She is one of three professors in the state to receive the honor.

Sivy joined the SVSU faculty in 2008 and has served as department chair since 2015. In her tenure at the university, Sivy has promoted outstanding student experiences for undergraduate students, creating opportunities for research and community partnerships. She emphasizes developing students' critical thinking skills and helps them discover joy in learning.

"Dr. Tami Sivy represents the best of teaching, research and dedication to student success," said Dr. Daniel J. Hurley,

CEO of the Michigan Association of State Universities. "She mentors and empowers her students, symbolizing the excellence in higher education for which Michigan's public universities are globally renowned."

Sivy not only teaches classes at every level, she is responsible for the entire upper-level biochemistry curriculum and has mentored more than 50 SVSU students in laboratory research. Sivy sits on the steering committee of the Saginaw Bay Environmental Science Institute at SVSU. She also was involved in the development of the SVSU /STEM/Dow Science and Sustainability Center's mobile laboratory and the curriculum that is used in outreach activities to area students. She has mentored many regional high school teachers and students in environmental research projects.

In 2019, Sivy and her under-

graduate students began using rapid DNA testing to detect fecal contamination and its sources in water at public beaches in Bay County. This pioneering work led the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to request her assistance in adapting testing for the COVID-19 virus in wastewater. Sivy was the first in Michigan to engage undergraduate students in this testing, which spans the SVSU campus and seven surrounding counties. In support of freshwater and wastewater testing, she has received nearly \$4 million in external funding.

"As a faculty member at SVSU, Dr. Sivy positively impacts the classroom and surrounding community through her research on water quality," said Deborah R. Huntley, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at SVSU. "She is a teacher who mentors and understands the needs of students. Her dedication to the success of students and her commitment to her community, colleagues and SVSU are well evident."

Sivy has won several awards at SVSU, including the Franc A. Landee Award for Teaching Excellence, the most prestigious teaching award conferred by the university. She also was an exchange professor at Shikoku University in Tokushima, Japan, where she served as an ambassador of SVSU to the community and taught undergraduate courses.

Sivy earned her B.S. in biochemistry from Calvin College and her Ph.D. in chemistry and biochemistry from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

The two other 2021 recipients include Thomas Werner of Michigan Technological University and Yunus Zeytuncu of University of Michigan-Dearborn.



COURTESY PHOTO



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org

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

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

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

+ BUSINESS

Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance releases Genesee County Small Business Analysis

Flint, MI – Diversifying Genesee County's economy by creating an entrepreneurial support system that fosters networks and cultivates strong leaders will be critical to the region's long-term sustainability, according to a new report released today by the Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance.

The 2021 Genesee County Small Business Analysis also found that area small businesses owners believe that improving access to capital or providing direct financial support is the best way for policymakers and economic development organizations to help locally owned and operated enterprises succeed. Additionally, increasing the visibility of Flint & Genesee businesses through target marketing or "shop local" initiatives is viewed as an effective and efficient way to build a resilient and vibrant local business community.

"We are focused on reducing obstacles for small business owners to be successful while clearing a pathway for the development of new and innovative local industries," said Tyler Rossmassler, executive director of the Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance. "From these findings, we can determine the resources and strategies to aid current and future local small business owners and strengthen our local economy."

The report's findings are based on the input of 350 small businesses that responded to the Genesee County Small Business Landscape Survey, conducted earlier this year by Ann Arbor-based research firm EntryPoint. Respondents completed a 7-minute questionnaire designed to gauge the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the local marketplace. EntryPoint also integrated economic and business data from other sources, such as the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and CB Insights, and conducted interviews with several respondents for more detailed knowledge of the county's small business community, which consists of more than 3,000 businesses.

As defined by EntryPoint for this re-

search, small businesses are all registered businesses in Genesee County with 25 full-time employees or fewer and less than \$10 million in average annual revenue. Small businesses are spread throughout the county with the highest concentration of businesses in larger communities, such as Flint, Grand Blanc and Fenton.

"Research helps economic development organizations and nonprofits gain a deeper understanding of the evolving needs, challenges and opportunities facing small business owners," said Emily Heintz, founder and managing director of EntryPoint. "By focusing on the lived experiences of small business owners, we can create a strong foundation of knowledge, resulting in impactful and equitable outcomes that foster inclusive and vibrant communities."

Key Findings from the 2021 Genesee County Small Business Analysis

- Businesses in the professional services (31%), food and beverage (17%), and retail (13%) sectors are the most prominent, followed by art, entertainment and recreation, and nonprofits.
- 83 percent of BIPOC-owned (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) businesses in Genesee County are less than 15 years old. Over half of these companies are in their first five years of business.
- 29 percent of small business owners in Genesee County reported having difficulty obtaining outside funding because they did not have access to the necessary network of individuals or organizations who might invest in their companies.
- 75 percent of small business owners anticipate needing additional outside funding for their businesses to continue operating successfully. Small businesses in Genesee County hope to obtain over \$180 million in outside funding over the next 18 months; on average, this is 3x what they have acquired in the past.
- Prior to the pandemic, the most common sources of capital historically accessed by small businesses in Genesee County were friends and family, high net-worth individuals, and foundation/corporate grants.
- Net income for personal care businesses was down 100 percent in 2020 – the largest decrease in income of any sector followed by businesses in the art, entertainment and recreation, and construction sectors.
- 61 percent of small businesses across Genesee County believe the best way for policy and economic development organizations to support their companies is to increase access to capital or provide financial support directly.





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2021 SMALL BUSINESS EXPO



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2021 SMALL BUSINESS EXPO

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+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

Can your leadership be bought?

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

This column is especially for nonprofit CEOs: we know you have to secure buy-in from your leadership, but how exactly do you do that?

If you're going to be successful at fundraising, you can't go it alone. At a minimum, the CEO and the board need to be working together. But how does that happen? You can say "I want your buy-in" or you can demonstrate that your vision is feasible, and that partnership will make it even better. Here are a few ways that your words and actions can encourage buy-in.

Be visionary, innovative, and creative. These are not qualities that belong to "someone else." We know you have it. Find that part of you that can see beyond budgets, deadlines, and to-do lists. Look at the big picture, look to the future. Imagine the best for your organization and act from that place. One way you do that is in how you communicate – do you lead with inspiration, or the challenges you are facing? Do you share the news of your nonprofit, or do you talk about everything other than your work, vision, and impact? You don't have to monopolize or dominate every conversation, just make it your business to share what's up. You can do that by posing a question, "Ramel, I'm thinking we could restructure our senior program. Can I share my ideas with you? Your experience will help me clarify my thinking."

Imagine that conversation, and then imagine the CEO who is constantly struggling and communicating that "my board just doesn't get involved," or "no one wants to give to us." Do you want to be the person who is always fighting resistance, or do you want to welcome solutions? At the end of the day you want to assure your board members that you can and will be



COURTESY PHOTO

successful. Here are a few more things that can give your board (and others) comfort.

Work from a plan, and don't change it every two months. Nurture your relationships across the community. Call on others when you need help and be there when others need you. Support your peers and welcome new leaders to the community. Create awareness for your nonprofit; find ways to share your story and impact. Know who to call within the local media to suggest a story or request coverage, and sustain those relationships. Know what you are raising money for. Not just how much you need, but how the money will be allo-

cated and what the anticipated impact will be.

Finally, manage your fundraising operation. If you don't know fundraising, learn it. Talk with other CEOs to learn how they manage their operations. Talk with your development team regularly, learning how they are advancing, what they are focused on, and the role you need to play. Actively raise funds for your organization, create ways for people to join with you, and lift up those who join in. Make it all about the success of others, not about your personal success. One person can only do so much – lift up those around you.



Copyright 2021 – Mel and Pearl Shaw

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

+ CHURCH DIRECTORY

B



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



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



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

C

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

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



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

F



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



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

G



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

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



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

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

J



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

L

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

M

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



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

N



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

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



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



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



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



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

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

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

P

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

R



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

S



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



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



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

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



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



True Vine Baptist Church
Pastor Paul E. 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
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Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor Rodrick Smith
721 Johnson
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989-754-9621

+ POLITICS & POLICY

NAACP SAGINAW BRANCH

INVITES YOU

A Visit with Jocelyn Benson, Michigan Secretary of State

Topics: Election Reform & Redistricting

Thursday, June 17, 2021 -- 5:00 p.m.

"Live Streamed" on NAACP Saginaw Branch Facebook Page

GUEST PRESENTERS



The Honorable
JOCELYN BENSON

MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE



The Honorable
AMOS O'NEAL

95TH DISTRICT STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Saginaw NAACP to host virtual meeting with Jocelyn Benson & Amos O'Neal

Saginaw, MI – The NAACP Saginaw Branch invites representatives of the media to a virtual meeting with Jocelyn Benson, Michigan Secretary of State on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. to be "live streamed" on the NAACP Saginaw Branch Facebook page.

The session will include discussion on two topics. First, the session will provide an overview and status update of 2021 election reform legislation introduced in

the Michigan Legislature. In addition, the Secretary Benson will provide and update on the work of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission and how their work will impact voters throughout the state of Michigan.

In addition, 95th District State Representative, Amos O'Neal has accepted the NAACP invitation to offer his perspective on election reform efforts in the state and progress of the Michigan Independent Cit-

izens Redistricting Commission.

The special session promises to be very informative. Members of the public will be afforded an opportunity to direct questions to the guest presenters.

For more information or to confirm your attendance please direct your call to: Terry Pruitt (989) 992-1816 or Carl Williams (989) 574-7432.

+ POLITICS

Seen on the Scene: SVSU hosted Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist and State Representative Amos O'Neal on June 11. The Lieutenant Governor delivered an opening lecture to the 2021 Cohort of the Henry Marsh Institute for Public Policy.



COURTESY PHOTOS


 + SPORTS

DARIUS PHILLIPS

NFL Cincinnati Bengals cornerback Darius Phillips presents Inaugural Sandbox Legendz Skills Camp

Will train 150 youth in hometown Detroit

Detroit, MI – In his off-season, Detroit-ter Darius Phillips, cornerback for the Cincinnati Bengals of the National Football League (NFL), maintains his residence in Detroit and is back to establish Inaugural Sandbox Legendz Skills Camp. The one-day football camp will train youth in grades 6 through 12 at the Stein Park/Hope Field located at the corner of Chicago and Stahelin St., near Cody High School, 18445 Cathedral St., Detroit, MI, 48228. Pre-registration is required online at www.legendzskillscamp.com. Space is limited to the first 150 registrants. Parents must complete the application process. Review the attached flyer.

The camp will be held on June 19, 2021; from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Youth will check-in at the registration desk from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Stein Park/

Hope Field. The camp will include one-on-one football instruction with Phillips himself, as well as hands-on training with other NFL players and Cody High School coaches.

“I want to work with youth players whose passion is to play the game, develop skills on the field, as well as lifelong skills for those who may not desire to play,” Phillips exclaimed.

The Inaugural Sandbox Legendz Skills Camp sponsors include NFL Foundation, USA Football, and locally by the Cody Rouge Community Action Alliance. Sponsors are needed and may call Dr. Patricia Butler, Detroit Coordinator for the football camp, at 313-221-3747 for more information.

Phillips was a star receiver at Robichaud High School, Dearborn Heights, MI.

After high school, he attended Western Michigan and became renowned for his elite kick and punt returning capabilities, as well as his stellar defensive play. Scoring touchdowns through receiving, interceptions, fumble recoveries, and punt and kick returns, Phillips did it all for Western Michigan. In 2018, he was plugged into the defensive side of the game, leading him to be drafted 170th overall to the Cincinnati Bengals.

Phillips, at 25-years-old, is focused on giving back to youth in the neighborhood he resided in and wants to build coalitions, becoming a source of support for them. For more information, please visit the website.

The public and the media are invited to attend the event. Seating is limited and guests are encouraged to bring their own lawn chair.

+ SPORTS



DELTA.EDU

Delta College soccer claims first national championship title

University Center, MI – Members of the Delta College women's soccer team won their first NJCAA Division III Women's Soccer National Tournament June 5 in New Jersey.

The tournament, which took place June 2-5 at Union County College, marked the team's third trip in a row to the national championship and its first win. The Pioneers faced the Dallas College Brookhaven Lady Bears during the final game and won, 4-1.

"It was this team working hard for 10 months not knowing if there would even be a tournament," said Damon Amey, head soccer coach for Delta. "They brought in everything we are about, and

they never complained once. The offensive players showed up, and when they had the opportunities to put the ball into the back of the net, they did just that."

First-year student Faith Webber, a forward from Grand Blanc, scored the first goal of the game.

"I've never been on a team that each player put forth the effort that this team did," Webber said. "It was the energy and drive to be that person to put a goal in the back of the net or make that defensive stop. Our coach from the beginning told us always to take the high road. We are a family."

The Pioneers finished the season undefeated, 12-0, a first for the team, said

Dionne McCollum, director of the Athletics and Student Athlete Development.

"This win is life changing and these ladies will carry this with them for the rest of their lives," McCollum said. "They have been extremely resilient. From having their season pushed back 10 months to being tested for COVID often and having multiple games canceled, they stayed together as one unit and that is thanks to the leadership of their coaches, Damon Amey and Paul Stenglein."

In May, the Pioneers advanced to the national championship after defeating Jefferson College, which earned them the NJCAA Midwest District title.

Learn more about the Delta College women's soccer team at deltapioneers.com.

Team Roster

Katie Bishop (Grand Blanc)
Lexi Blanchard (Houghton Lake)
Carley Bolen (Tawas)
Maddy Boyes (Freeland)
Macy Dickinson (Alpena)
Rachel Durussel (Saginaw)
Tessa Garnett (Grand Blanc)
Mackenzie Gilbert (Davison)
Elizabeth Green (Midland)
Emma Gustafson (Traverse City)
Rachel Hahn (Essexville)
Alex Heeke (Grand Blanc)
Emerson Lynch (Freeland)
Molly Mantei (Bay City)
Tori Pilon (Freeland)
Charlotte Pohl (Midland)
Olivia Rechsteiner (Bay City)
Claire Rousse (Bay City)
Karli Scott (Cadillac)
Paige Timpe (Plainwell)
Ila Tuller (Corunna)
Natelle Vantol (Essexville)
Faith Webber (Grand Blanc)
Olivia Willette (Bay City)
Anna Young (Alpena)
Eden Zann (Alpena)
Meredith Zinz (Saginaw)

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 12

Flint Teens Needed for Summer Jobs in Genesee County



COURTESY PHOTO

Flint, MI – Flint & Genesee Education & Talent aims to fill a variety of seasonal job openings, with work beginning as early as next week for some positions. Applications for these jobs—which are open to teens, ages 16-19, who live in the City of Flint—are due immediately.

According to Director of Talent Development James Avery, there are nearly 40 openings available through the Summer Youth Employment Program, which supports the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' initiative to introduce youth in urban areas to outdoor career opportunities. Assignments will range from blight elimination and landscaping to gardening and grounds maintenance.

These young workers will also complete park maintenance and beautification projects at nearby state parks as well as participate in a variety of recreational activities, including kayaking, rock wall climbing and ziplining.

"We're proud to once again partner with the Michigan DNR to connect Flint teens with meaningful work experience," Avery said. "This is a great opportunity to build your resume, grow your network and try something new in an outdoor setting."

Employers participating in this year's outdoor employment program include the City of Flint, Green DREAMS, Joy Tabernacle Urban Renaissance Center, Kearsley & Swartz Creek Golf Course, Michigan

Transportation Authority, Second Chance Ministries and Unlimited Blessing Ministries/Green Mitt.

Additionally, some job openings are still available through the Summer Youth Initiative, or SYI, which is a separate program administered by Flint & Genesee Education & Talent. This year's SYI program, which receives primary support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, is open to graduates of the TeenQuest pre-employment training program who are between the ages of 14-21.

CONTINUES ON PG 53, SUMMER JOBS

Continued from pg 52, summer jobs



COURTESY PHOTO

Participating SYI employers include Asbury Community Development, Beecher Community School District, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flint and Genesee County, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Flint, Chosen Few Arts Council, Clio Area Schools, Communities First, The Disability Network, Flint Children's Museum, Flint Freedom Schools Collaborative, Flint Housing Commission, Flint Public Library, Flint River Watershed, Foodbank of Eastern Michigan, GCCARD, Genesee County Parks, Goodwill Industries, Grand Blanc Parks, International Academy of Flint, John L Group, Michigan Community Services Inc., Motherly Intercession, Mott Community College, Neighborhood Engagement Hub, NESK Catholic Charities of Shiawas-

see and Genesee Counties and Sylvester Broome Empowerment Village.

In total, Flint & Genesee Education & Talent expects to help 312 teens and young adults secure employment this summer through the Summer Youth Employment Program and Summer Youth Initiative.

To apply for the Michigan DNR Summer Youth Employment Program—open to teens, ages 16-19, who live in the City of Flint—visit <https://www.flintandgenesee.org/flint-teens-needed-for-summer-jobs-in-genesee-county/>.

To apply for Summer Youth Initiative—open to TeenQuest graduates, ages 14-21, who live in Genesee County—contact Dawn Bye at (810) 600-1413 or dbye@flintandgenesee.org.

About Flint & Genesee Education & Talent

Flint & Genesee Education & Talent, a division of the Flint & Genesee Group, provides high-quality talent development from cradle to career through programs such as YouthQuest, TeenQuest/Summer Youth Initiative, Flint Promise and Career Edge. By building a solid foundation of personal, academic, and career-oriented skills, the programs offered through Education & Talent prepare the current and future workforce in Flint & Genesee. The division receives support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, 21st Century Community Learning Centers and other generous funders.



PICS OF THE WEEK

Recognize this couple?
Last week George Peeples Celebrated his 78th Birthday!



Saginaw African Cultural Festival committee congratulates Ms. Demona Reed for receiving Saginaw Arts & Enrichment Commission's "All Area Art Award"



We

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

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



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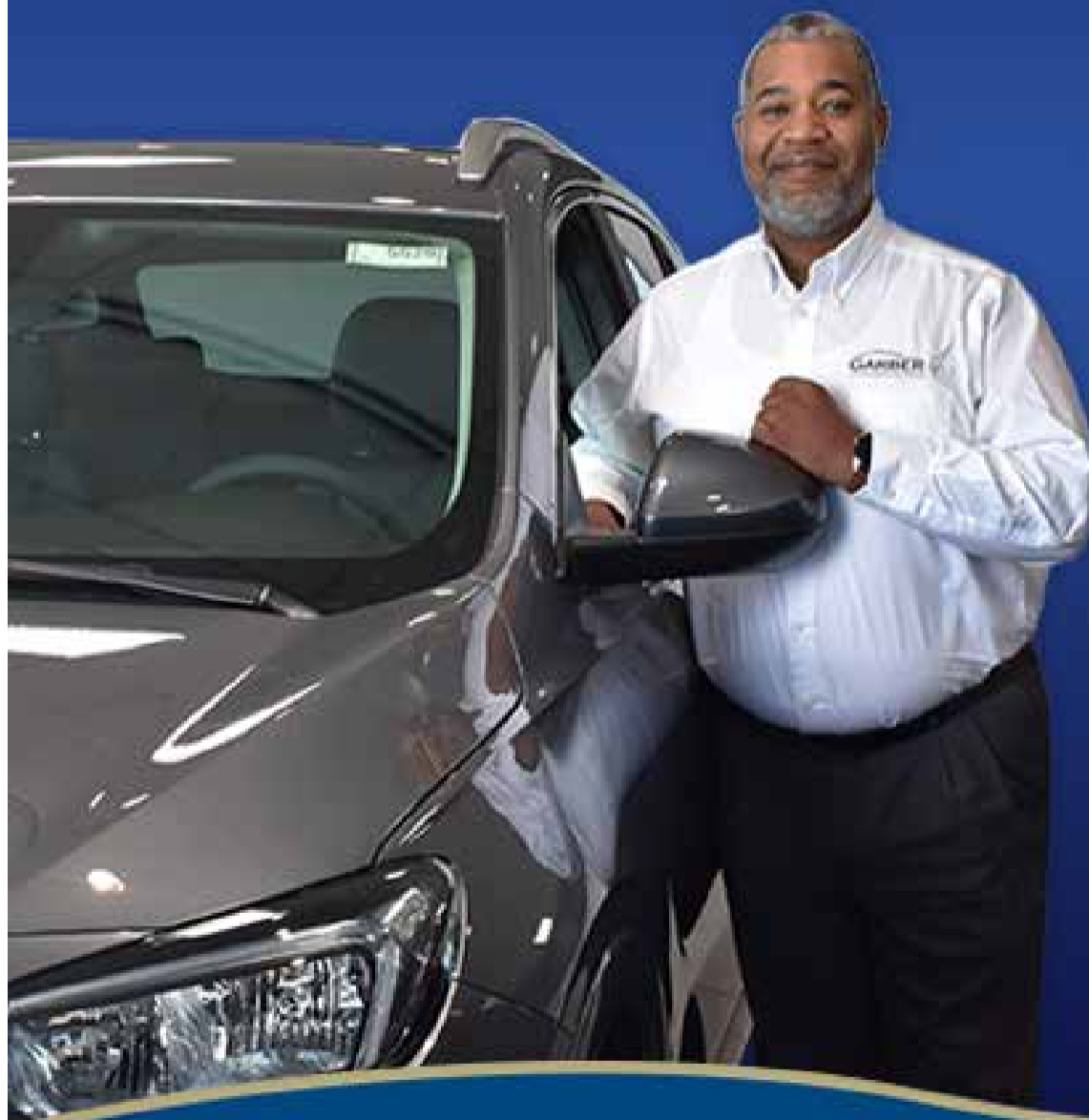
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