

Michigan Banner

Leading in Diversity for 18 years

Happy Mother's Day



WHAT'S INSIDE >>>

Local views on Chauvin/Floyd verdict and reform

COMMUNITY, PG 14

RECOGNIZING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

COMMUNITY



MCMATH ACHIEVES 40 YEARS OF SAGINAW COUNTY CAC SERVICE

COMMUNITY, PG 28





JEROME BUCKLEY, PUBLISHER



MICHELLE MCCOY, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF




VERA MCMILLION



We have lots of work to do

COMMUNITY, PG 11



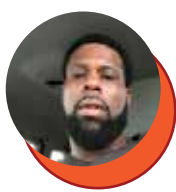
Role models for Saginaw beautification

COMMUNITY, PG 17



Vacant lot ownership adds appeal, reduces cleanup needs

COMMUNITY, PG 23



Young people still work hard, says FWCC project leader

COMMUNITY, PG 26

The Michigan Banner joins Facebook Journalism Project's Reader Revenue Accelerator program

By MB STAFF

The Michigan Banner is proud to have been selected to participate in the Facebook Journalism Project's Reader Revenue Accelerator. The business training program - which will explore subscriptions and membership revenue models - includes hands-on workshops led by news industry veterans, grant money to test, implement, and iterate strategies, and inspiration from

similar newsrooms.

The Accelerators will run from April 20 through mid-July, followed by a six-month period to execute specific grant-funded initiatives. Grants will be distributed by the Local Media Association, our partner in these two programs.

"We are delighted and encouraged to see the diversity of applicants overall, and the

CONTINUES ON PG 2, FACEBOOK

FEATURED STORY

SCOTT SAWYER NAMED 2021 MICHIGAN SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

EDUCATION, PG 39



SERVE INNOVATE

Cover, facebook

selected participants in particular,” said Jay Small, chief operating officer of the Local Media Association. “We at LMA are familiar with quite a few of the participants, and know their strong commitments to quality local journalism. Others are new to us but show those same commitments. We look forward to seeing them all grow

through their work in the Accelerators.”

The Michigan Banner was selected from nearly 300 applications and will be joining 29 other newsrooms from across the United States and Canada throughout the 9-month program. Participants were selected based on a demonstrated impact on their community, commitment to

the program’s requirements and their readiness to pursue their biggest business opportunities.

The Michigan Banner is grateful for the opportunity to work with leaders in this industry to provide a better experience to our readership and supporters.



**MAY IS
MENTAL
HEALTH
MONTH**

SCCHMA offering free mental health first aid training this month

Saginaw, MI – Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) is offering mental health first aid training. The training typically costs \$170.00 but, for those who participate or sign up in May, it is free of charge in celebration of Mental Health Awareness Month.

Mental health first aid teaches suicide prevention and how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders,” stated Alecia Schabel, SCCHMA continuing education supervisor. “This training gives you the skills you need to provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care.”

The course is available for community members, employers, police officers, hospital staff, first responders, faith leaders and caring individuals. Training sessions are forming for adult, youth and public safety mental health first aid groups. Courses are offered virtually through Zoom, unless identified as live, on the following dates:

Adult Mental Health First Aid

- May 11, 2021
- May 20, 2021 (live)
- May 21, 2021
- June 9, 2021
- June 24, 2021

Youth Mental Health First Aid

- May 5, 2021 (live)
- May 17, 2021
- June 27, 2021
- June 29, 2021

Public Safety Mental Health First Aid Training

- May 18, 2021 (reserved for first responders only)

According to the Foundation for American Suicide Prevention, 123 people, on average, die by suicide each day. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 630,000 people died from drug overdose from 1999 to 2014. These statistics illustrate the importance of this training.

For more information on mental health first aid training or to sign up for a training session, visit sccmha.org or contact Alecia Schabel, SCCHMA continuing education supervisor, at (989) 797-3451 or aschabel@sccmha.org.



**SAGINAW COUNTY
COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH AUTHORITY**

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MISSION

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

DISCLAIMER

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DEADLINES

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SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Mailed or e-mailed
Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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MOM



BY BRIGITTE JOHNSON

**There Have been times in my life I have made you cry
By talking back or telling an unnecessary lie**

**I thought I knew it all way back then
I turned you away when you wanted to be a friend**

**Mom I would like to express my feelings today
To tell you your loved in a very special way**

**I thank you for all the times you stood by
For holding your head up, when you wanted to cry**

**I thank you for knowledge you provided me
through the years
For whipping me when I needed it for wiping away
me tears**

**I thank you for the no's your felt you had to say
For not allowing me to have my own selfish way**

**I thank you for not giving up on me when I made
you sad
I dedicate my life to you for you have made me glad**

**I Thank God I am your child each and every night
I pray that he keeps you safe and in his perfect sight**

Happy Mother's Day!

IN THIS ISSUE ▶

Latino Banner	LB 1 - LB 5
Community	11
Politics & Public Policy	36
Health	38
Education	42
Business & Wealth	47
Sports	54
Youth Banner	56 - 57

MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Reimagine the journey



It seems that people all over the world have dug their heels in the sand and decided to stand firm in beliefs that may not be in our collective best interest. The issues vary from country to country, state to state and even on a micro level from one community to the next. It is now past time, I think way past time to face the fact that hope for a healthy future is in the hands of the next generations. It is incumbent on current leaders to leave them with the tools needed to recover from the divisive rhetoric and actions which have made it difficult to consider compromise or conciliation. “Not everything that is faced can be changed; but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” James Baldwin (Fifth Avenue, Uptown Esquire). It is entirely possible for us to face our challenges so that we can embrace a more peaceful and healthy future.

Reimagining many long-held beliefs about ourselves and others will be of utmost importance. To reimagine is to imaginatively rethink or reinterpret actions or events. There is an old African Proverb that states, ‘Until the lion tells the story, the tale of the hunt will always glorify the hunter.’ Simply stated, the stronger person or group – the one who tells the story first will shape the narrative with himself as the hero. This idiom holds true in very small situations such as within a family unit as well as on a grand scale such as with nations. Lines are drawn in the sand with the storyteller, the one with access to the marker and the microphone, writing and repeating tales of bravery and valor so amazing and convincing that over time, even the lion is convinced that he deserves whatever fate has thrust him and others like him. Any attempt to change the storyline is met with swift and harsh consequences. Young minds will reimagine where we have been, how to acknowledge and address it and then move forward toward a very necessary healing.

Realizing or becoming fully aware of something gives it actual form or brings it to life. Realizing truth, some of which may be unpleasant and uncomfortable to face, will actually cause things to happen. For example, realizing the devastating and demoralizing cost of poverty to entire nations may facilitate change in how we view children and families in need of support – not judgment. “Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor.” James Baldwin (Fifth Avenue, Uptown Esquire). Considering the underlying and historical causes of poverty i.e., become fully aware, enables us to aid critical to the well-being of our most vulnerable citizens.

Reconstructing communities with much need resources, some of which was recently made available at local, state, and federal levels will be the outcome of reimagining and realizing a better way. Millions of people world-wide have experienced tremendous loss including the most devastating of which has been the actual loss of loved ones. Many of the people with limited resources and/or access to resources have not fared well. Reconstruction involves rebuilding - reforming something that has been damaged or destroyed. Disparity in wealth, health, infant mortality rates, education, and life expectancy limit opportunities for success. Throughout the nations, leaders throughout communities Rebuilding suggests that a foundation existed and for many it did not. Leaders with insight and vision will prove to be up to the challenge of building or rebuilding better. Safe, healthy, and equitable communities depend on it.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome Buckley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

Jerome Buckley
Publisher, The Michigan Banner

Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE



Cinco de Mayo
(Wednesday, May 5)
is a celebration of Mexican heritage. It commemorates the date of the Mexican army's victory over France at the Battle of Puebla in 1862 and is also known as Battle of Puebla Day.



JOHN AYALA

Open up the community activist leader within

LB, pg 3

SUPPORTING COLLEGE SUCCESS FOR LATINO STUDENTS: STRATEGIES FROM THE FIELD

Exploring cultural centers

By **OSCAR MEDINA**

Historical Background

While our family members and friends pursue a college degree as students of color, they might find that navigating their university can be difficult because they were not initially created with them in mind. Instead, many if not most institutions were built for white students, commonly referred to as PWIs (predominately white institutions). The purpose of this article is to detail a historical context on cultural centers at universities and demonstrate their benefits for students. I hope you can suggest to your loved ones to seek out the cultural centers on their campus if they need a “home away from home” or demand their administration create one if one does not exist.

Cultural centers grew out of the need for students of color to find their voices and stop assimilation. For example, Patton and Hannon (2008) illustrated that “African American students were expected to assimilate into the White racial fabric of PWIs and accept the existing institutional culture—a culture plagued by racism, oppression, and discrimination” (p. 142). As a result, cultural centers were established partly due to the activism sparked by the Civil Rights movements (Patton, 2006). While the Civil Rights movement produced discipline, students demanded

CONTINUES ON LB PG 2, CULTURAL CENTERS

FEATURED EVENT



A.L.A.S. presents

Cinco de Mayo Showcase



ZOOM Event

Featuring Local Artists
May 4th, 2021- TUESDAY

Show starts at
7pm - Michigan
6pm - Texas



For More Info Contact **Gil Guevara** on FB
or **DM Artistas Latinx en Accion Siempre** on FB Page
Web Link on **Event Page!**



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LB Cover, Cultural centers

their university officials offer “Black studies courses, increase recruitment of and financial assistance for Black students, support for cultural activities, and establishment of cultural centers” (Patton, 2006, p. 628). Although many debated their establishment, most PWIs “reluctantly permitted” cultural centers for students of colors to be created (Jones et al. 2002, p. 21). Luckily, with the inception and continuance of cultural centers, they served “the social, political, outreach, academic, and other cultural needs of students within campuses” (Jones et al. 2002, p. 21).

Historically, Patton (2010) demonstrates the emergence of Latina/o/x cultural centers and explains the benefits that these centers have for Latina/o/x students. For example, Latina/o/x students “as part of a wave of social justice activism in the late 1960s and early 1970s [demanded] the hiring of bilingual admissions staff to focus on Latina/o/x recruitment, the establishment of Latina/o/x studies programs, development of support services to serve underrepresented students, and the creation of Latina/o/x cultural centers” (Patton, 2010, p. 12). After the cultural center demands were met, they proved to better the experience of Latina/o/x students.

Cultural Center Benefits

Through analyzing five publicized programs at the Latina/o/x cultural center at the University of Indian, Cheesman, et al. (2008) illustrates how these programs foster the nourishment of Latina/o/x culture. One emerging finding was that La Casa served as a learning environment by providing “the campus community with opportunities to interact and discuss aspects of Latina/o/x culture in a knowledgeable environment” (Cheesman et al., 2008, p.18). Additionally, the programs fostered engagement by participants distributing handouts that entailed a list of recommended readings. Furthermore, the notion of “knowledge sharer” is presented, which is the acknowledgment and acceptance of cultural distinctions and the integration of the “program attendees’ knowledge into the discussion” (Cheesman et al., 2008, p. 18).

Patton (2010) also articulates that the improvement for Latina/o/x students’ experience at PWIs was and continues to be grand with cultural centers. As well as serving as a haven, cultural centers offer a place for students to think critically about race and society, give an outlet for voice (newsletter, bulletin, and literary journals), explore racial and ethnic identity development, vent their anger with situations that they may experience on campus, promote community outreach and

social justice, and provide programs that foster the nourishment of Latina/o/x culture.

These examples clearly illustrate how ideal cultural centers are for Latina/o/x students at PWIs. Although Latina/o/x students understand the benefits they receive through cultural centers, institutions must also understand the advantages of having such centers established. Thus, institutions must recognize cultural centers’ importance as they provide an abundance of support for not only Latina/o/x students but for the school and the community as a whole. One of the benefits of having a Latina/o/x cultural center for the school is that they inform the larger campus of the vast diversity that encompasses the Latina/o/x population, therefore ridding the trend to encapsulate Latina/o/x students as one homogenous group (Patton, 2010).

Potential risk for Cultural Centers

In addition to focusing on the importance of cultural centers for Latina/o/x students, Patton (2010) focuses on the dire need to focus on their future, as there are constant threats to its existence. Because cultural centers began to change the landscape for PWIs, particularly the Midwest, to benefit the need of students of color, groups have debated their continuation, value, role, and importance (Jones et al. 2002). Along with groups challenging the significance of cultural centers, another setback for the thriving of these centers has been the decrease of state funding (Patton 2010b). With the lack of funding to public institutions, it is clear to see that cultural centers are the first to take a “hit” as they are, by its opposer, not seen to benefit the university as a whole.

As a consequence, Latina/o/x cultural centers must constantly warrant their relevance to the institution. As emphasized by Patton (2010b), she offers several suggestions for cultural centers to validate their existence. These include, but are not limited to, support the institution’s overall mission, contribute to the institution’s academic and student affairs components, accept all students, and serve as a beacon for community building. Challenging cultural centers for not benefiting the whole school (white students) serves as an example of interest convergence. Despite the fact that interest convergence in its inception is binary to black and white, black can be inclusive of other people of color that have been traditionally marginalized. Moreover, interest convergence, according to Bell (1979), is when “the interest of blacks in achieving racial equality will be accommodated only when it convergences with the inter-

est of whites” (p. 523).

Although limited, the literature on cultural centers and Latina/o/x cultural centers illustrates that cultural centers foster a positive space for students of color, particularly Latina/o/x students, at PWIs. Allowing students to connect with other Latina/o/x students and explore and develop one’s identity are positive ways that cultural centers produce cultural nourishment. Additionally, cultural centers provide the space to express their anger with situations they may experience on campus and think about race and society. Although these counter spaces are ideals for Latina/o/x students, they are not present on every PWIs. Recognizing that Black and Latina/o/x students in the 1960’s and 1970’s demanded representation through the establishment of ethnic studies, cultural centers, and an increase in students and staff of color, these past efforts can offer a foundation or plan for future students to demand that their administration build a cultural center if one doesn’t exist.

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JOHN AYALA

Open up the community activist leader within

By MIKE THOMPSON

John Ayala says retirement is providing the time and opportunity for social activism that remained mostly hidden during his 40-year career as a family man, as a youth sports coach, and as a General Motors salaried employee.

He now encourages others in his new shoes to follow his footsteps, whether they are his fellow and sister retirees, or young-

er folks simply seeking a sense of direction.

Ayala still finds time for bike rides with his wife, Kathy, and for encounters with his three grownup sons and his three young granddaughters. There are plenty of hours for relaxing with a good book or with a topical television show.

But also, since the start of the new year, he has played a leading role in organizing covid-19 vaccinations at St. Joseph Catholic Parish. This effort was for the benefit of

an underserved Latino community, however, anyone who met the age requirement was accepted. To help in this effort, John made about 300 phone calls to register people and to confirm appointments, helping people feel confident in their decision to get the shots.

Whatever the issue or the concern, John Ayala is ready to help find a solution.

"I'm just one example that the ability is out there, among many people who may believe they are not qualified," he notes. "My experiences are not the same as for young people nowadays, but I still can serve as an example or as a mentor."

His inspiration took root in 2018, after his retirement as a GM finance manager, when he accepted a Facebook invitation to attend a community meeting on the fates of immigrants stopped at the Texas border, including children separated from parents and retained in cages.

At this meeting, John engaged in a conversation with Bobby Deleon, longtime president of Saginaw's Mexican American Council, MAC, who challenged him to put his interests into action. Deleon stayed in contact, asked John his perspective on different topics, and offered an invitation to become a member of MAC.

Ayala came up with his first priority on his own. He notes, "I said to Bobby, "At these meetings, I see the same people, over and over. They are good people, but there are other voices we are not hearing, and we need to reach out to them."

During earlier years, he felt he was among those unheard voices.

He was among seven children of a single mother, Mary Paramo, attending Potter and then Morley elementary schools, then Arthur Eddy Junior High, and finally Saginaw High, Class of 1969.

John says he benefited from the many programs of the mid-60s to help disadvantaged youth; including the Neighborhood Youth Corp (NYC) during his years at Saginaw High School. Donald Efremoff, NYC director, saw something in John not apparent in his run-of-the-mill grade point average. Efremoff would eventually place John in three different work-study programs -- Saginaw Board of Education, Saginaw Police Department, and Chevrolet Manufacturing (the old Chevy Transmission Plant). They turned out to have a profound impact.

CONTINUES ON LB PG 2, AYALA

LB Cover, Ayala

Ayala had not planned on a secondary education, but Chevrolet experience spurred him to apply to that "small college in the cornfield" at the time. Saginaw Valley College.

Despite his success, he still endured rough reminders of his Mexican American status, such as a demand that he fill a GM supervisor's company car with a fresh tank of gas, or when his new supervisor remarked that he thought "manual labor" was a Mexican trait.

Undeterred, Ayala would bring Mexican pastries and cookies to the office on his birthday. Others would bring donuts and bagels. John wanted his colleagues to know about conchas and empanadas. He was proud of his ethnicity, and wanted to share it with others.

Ayala endured insults in silence, often with a stare that said, "Are you kidding me?" But he didn't become shy. He volunteered to coach soccer in the former Saginaw School District Friendship Games exchange with Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and then accepted coaching positions for soccer teams in Saginaw Township rec leagues, and later, high school coaching positions at Douglas McArthur, Heritage, and 22 years at Frankenmuth High.

He also accepted an Advisory Board position for Delta College's Somos Hispanos program, or We Are Hispanics. Excerpts of John's address to Delta College students from 20 years ago are attached in closing, with principles he still believes.

"I have always possessed strong feelings about my ethnicity," Ayala says. "Don't call me Spanish. My ethnic heritage is Mexican, and I've never wanted to be anything else. Through the MAC Center, I have better learned the power of self-expression, and to be part of the dream for better lives for my people. I encourage others to do the same."

For information, visit the Mexican American Council's Facebook page or call 401-8281.

A few Somos hispanos highlights of John Ayala's remarks to Delta College pupils

(For a full version, visit John's Facebook page)

"I stand before you today humbled to be an invited speaker. I have no long list of accomplishments. I have never published anything. I am not famous. I am nondescript. Who am I that I should be here, in this place of honor? In my sharing, perhaps you will hear your experiences, the experiences of your family. The experience of being a Latino in a country that is at once significantly ours and at the same time overwhelmingly Anglo. The experience of being assimilated, and the struggle to remain what our parents were.

"..... I do not understand the perception by some that we are all the same, when in fact, like most of America, it is the richness of our differences that makes our tapestry beautiful.

"..... Yet there is a recognition that all have not shared equally in what America has to offer. This is not something new, but something Americans do. Over different times in history, Americans have focused on different groups. The Native Americans had a time. African Americans have had a time. With all the talk of Latinos becoming the largest minority group in the near term and perhaps the largest group in the future of America, it is now our time."

"..... What I say next could be considered divisive. It is not intended to be so. The Hispanic movement in large measure rides the backs of our Mexican-American numbers, 70-plus percent in Saginaw County, similar nationally. But I don't see that same relationship in the representation of Hispanics in places of authority.

"To be sure, I admire the success of our Latino brothers. I do not resent them. I want us emulate them. I want our piece of the action. Not as a gift, nor as an appeasement, but because we will have earned it. My experience is here in Saginaw, but I think that experience is reflected across the country. Our high school dropout rates for Mexican Americans are among the highest for all groups. I suspect that our graduation rates for students who start college are not very good. We are a disproportionate number of the prison population. Our tierra is mea-

sured in city blocks.

"That all said, we must also understand that we have great potential. We need to change our perception of ourselves and how the rest of the world sees us. Our tierra must be measured from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, From the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to Brownsville, Texas. Our tierra must include the Halls of Congress, the surgery rooms of our hospitals, and the boardrooms of Corporate America. We must believe that our potential is limitless. And then we must go out and prove it!

"There is great opportunity in this land. With all the attention being directed to Latinos, we must be ready to seize the moment. There many things we can do to be prepared. Some we already do. We are hard workers. We have strong family values. We now need to build on those and add that we are educated and trained in the skills required for the best jobs tomorrow has to offer.

".....I also challenge all of you to share with others the things that make us who we are. The biggest thing that keeps people apart is fear. It is a human trait to fear, or at the least be suspicious, of what we do not understand. It can be little things. I will sometimes bring Pan Dulce to work when others are bringing in bagels or donuts. Invite colleagues to your home. When we discover that we are more alike than different, the differences can be celebrated as the spice of life. And in our integration, it is not necessary to turn our back on our culture. Indeed, we can expand the definition of mainstream culture and all be the richer for it. I love learning about others. I am sure others would love learning about us. And do not accept as gospel that Minority organizations are inherently racist. They serve as the bedrock that enables us to enrich the larger community and maintain a sense of self.

"..... I am American, I am Latino, I am proud, I am hopeful. And when I have doubt, I look out over a collection of our youth and I am restored to confidence. God bless you!"

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EDDIE ROGERS JR. AND LESLIE WILSON-THOMAS

We have lots of work to do

By MIKE THOMPSON

If amazing volunteers like Eddie Rogers Jr. and Jimmie Truss Jr. can devote endless volunteer labor to cleaning up Saginaw's overload of abandoned lots and eyesores, cannot the remainder of us donate at least a few hours on a springtime Saginaw morning?

Mayor Brenda Moore and the City Council are asking this question as they organize toward Saginaw Team Up and Clean Up Day, which will commence at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 15, at City Hall. Squads of volunteers will be directed to sites across town in desperate need of major TLC. Their only pay will be a free picnic lunch afterward, upon returning noonish to City Hall, along with the positive feeling of doing a good deed for the common

cause.

Nobody will be turned away, but project organizers are asking anyone who can help, young or old, to preregister at inspections@saginaw-mi.com or 759-1540. Simply provide name(s) and contact info on or before May 7, to help the staff calculate the amounts of needed supplies.

"If anyone is unable to work on the lots, they still may assist with our help stations at the various locations," Mayor Moore says, following her inaugural pledge last November to seek increased community involvement.

If you could use some inspiration, following are a pair of testimonials.

Eddie Rogers and friends

Four years ago on a sunny and pleasant

morning, Eddie Rogers was taking his dogs for their regular walk along Cumberland Street when he finally reached a breaking point with all the garbage scattered along the route.

He returned home, fed the pooches, canceled his plans for a relaxing game of golf and grabbed a box of trash bags. Five hours later, he had filled 20 of them with fast-food wrappers and containers, and with pop, beer and booze bottles, many of them shattered into pieces.

Since that day, he has repeated this type of volunteer action over and over again.

Rogers explains, "My mother (Katherine Rogers-Sample) always taught us, if there is something that needs to be done, don't sit back and complain, just get out and do it."

He's a career Nexteer employee who volunteers in his neighborhood along Hadley, a block south of East Holland on the city's outskirts, but he also can be found in eyesore spots all around town. He's a 1985 graduate of Nexteer's neighbor, Buena Vista High School.

He transports a riding mower, a chain saw and a weedwacker on his pickup and his trailer. His blades amid waist-high grass and weeds encounter troublesome clashes with countless hidden dead coons and possums, chunks of scrap metal, worn mattresses, and disposed tennis shoes, for just a few examples. One time he rode atop a litter of newborn bunnies, but discovered thankfully he had set his mower high enough to avoid hurt or harm.

And yes, once he found a \$20 bill.

His hardest labor comes when scavengers dump materials near the entrance to the Clinkston Scrap Metal location, South 15th at Hadley, that the junkyard will not accept, mostly glass. He loads the items and takes them to the City Hall dropoff disposal site, open on the second Saturday morning of each month.

He realizes some folks say he's out of his mind and that others make fun of him, but his supporters and occasional workmates include his lady friend Leslie Wilson-Thomas, his sister Karen Rogers, his brother Anthony Rogers, and his buddies

CONTINUES ON PG 12, WORK TO DO

+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 11, Work to do

Darrell Beeman and Ray Carroll.

"Leslie doesn't like all the trash, neither," he says. "She will follow me out, although she stays close to the house."

Eddie doesn't wear his faith on his sleeve, but he says his service provides a spiritual feeling of sorts.

"When you have a passion for doing something, a peace comes to you," he explains. "People tell me, 'Eddie, you are going to be blessed for all you do,' and I tell them that I already am blessed, just to be able to do the work at all."

This doesn't mean frustration never occurs, especially when he returns to see that one of his adopted locations has become a mess all over again.

"Children shouldn't have to ride bikes or walk to school on sidewalks filled with junk and trash and broken glass," Rogers states. "It's not all the people doing this, but why do some seem to have a need for smashing bottles and throwing stuff out of their car windows?"

"Still, whenever I see it, I say, 'Let me get this up.' "

Jimmie Truss and long days

If you sometimes get rid of large household scrap items and containers at City Hall's second-Saturday dropoff spot along East Holland, odds are that Jimmie Truss will help you to unload.

That's part of his multi-purpose job as a "packer operator." He also mans a snow plow truck, removes dead and diseased trees, and fills potholes, among his various duties.

We would think Jimmie would be tired and exhausted when he gets out of work, and indeed he sometimes is. But on many spring and summer days, he will head out with his riding mower, his chain saw and his other equipment to randomly clean and mow Saginaw's abundant vacant lots.

"I do everything from my heart," he explains to anyone who may ask why he performs all this work free-of-charge, starting with a 90-year-old neighbor woman with whom he exchanges written notes because she barely can hear. He says his role models are his parents, Jimmie and Otisean Truss, who were similar good neighbors during his childhood.

While he volunteers even after his City of Saginaw work shifts, he also donates what most of us would reserve as off days, taking time from two main hobbies, which are roller skating and cooking.

"I was able to do 10 lots last Saturday," Truss said during a recent interview. "That leaves only one more, and I'll be finished with the whole block... The rink (in Mount Morris) will always be there."

He is humble and modest about almost everything, except for being humble and modest, which is something he sort of boasts about in his own way,

"I'm probably as nice of a guy as you'll ever meet," Jimmie says, matter-of-fact. "Whenever I see a need, I try to help."

He has been a soul mate with his wife, the former Alicia Jones, since around back when he graduated from Arthur Hill High School in 2002. They officially tied the wedding knot in May 2012; this was about when he tackled his first project, which was a trio of lots near their central East Side home.

Alicia, a child care teaching specialist, in no way feels neglected. She often joins her husband at the selected sites all across both sides of the river, taking the lead role to remove paper and other debris while hubby gets started on cutting. Then she will make friends with grateful neighbors who come out to observe.

She's also a Facebook cheerleader for Jimmie, as they recently are following advice to more fully share their efforts in public, hoping that others will follow their example.

When neighbors offer thank-you praise, Jimmie asks them if they will adopt the lots and take turns mowing, now that he has made the task less back-breaking to perform. If he returns to see progress, he is pleased. If not, he simply performs a fast do-over and moves on.



JIMMIE TRUSS JR. AND ALICIA DANIELLE

"It would be great to see more people get involved," he says. "As long as you take precautions, cleaning up an abandoned lot can become a family event,"

Usually there are rewards for his good deeds, but a few times not. A year ago, Jimmie ran over a bee hive buried in the overgrowth and suffered a sting attack, even eyelids, that sidelined him for a spell. This spring he had the misfortune to cut into a dead cat, causing a stink to high heaven,

"Even when you do a walk though," he explains, "the growth can be so high, or matted down, that you will miss some hidden problems."

The couple accepts donations to maintain their mower but they aren't interested in money, except ideally to obtain heavy equipment to chew up fallen tree branches and embedded stumps. Jimmie's hardest labor currently is hauling these to the city's compost site on Vet's Parkway.

Eddie Rogers Jr. and Jimmie Truss Jr. just so happen to be second cousins. They will continue giving their time all summer long, but all they are asking of their fellow and sister citizens is to sacrifice a few hours for one Saturday morning, 8 a.m. May 15, Saginaw Team Up and Clean Up Day.

+ COMMUNITY



CONSUMERS ENERGY

Pit & Balcony Community Theatre welcomes three new board members

Saginaw, MI – Pit & Balcony Community Theatre is excited to announce the addition of three highly enthusiastic and engaged community members to its Board of Directors. Hope Brown, Brandon Harris, and L'Oreal Hartwell will fill the remaining three seats on the community theatre's board.



Hope Brown has been involved with Pit & Balcony since 2015 as a performer, director, assistant director, and assistant stage manager. She is a licensed cosmetologist and mother of one. Hope is passionate about growing a strong community that thrives through art and performance and is excited to increase her engagement with the City of Saginaw through the Pit & Balcony Board of Directors.

Brandon Harris is a Saginaw native, proud partner to Michelle and father of four – Brandon, Brooklynn, Brielle, and

Micheal. He is an active Mentor in the READ Association of Saginaw County and a fierce advocate for public policy. Brandon believes that art is a universal language and a bridge to connect humanity. He hopes to utilize his position on Pit & Balcony's Board to continue to bridge the gap in our community with relationship building and advocacy for the arts community.



L'Oreal Hartwell has been involved with Pit & Balcony as a sound designer since 2018. She is an author and entrepreneur, proud wife, and mother of five. L'Oreal has earned her Master of Science in Entertainment Business and uses her skills and experience to help other entrepreneurs build their digital presence.



Her book, *The Gold Mind: Think & Grow Happy, Healthy & Wealthy*, is designed to help readers realize their potential by exploring their limitless possibilities using simple, time-tested principles to unlock the power of the mind. L'Oreal values the creative outlet Pit & Balcony gives her and is excited to connect with her community through this board service.

Pit & Balcony's Board of Directors is an operational board. Members serve on multiple committees, engage with the community at large, and have a strong hand in the operations of the organization. Directors have backgrounds in the arts, business, education, marketing, design, and community outreach. The addition of Hope, Brandon, and L'Oreal rounds out an outstanding team of individuals passionate about arts and culture contributing to the vibrancy of Saginaw.

More information about Pit & Balcony, upcoming performances, its board of directors, and ways to get involved can be found at www.pitandbalconytheatre.com

+ COMMUNITY

Local views on Chauvin/Floyd verdict and reform

COMPILED BY
MIKE THOMPSON

The Michigan Banner during the past week posed a survey question: "What is your reaction to the Derek Chauvin/George Floyd verdict, and would you offer suggestions for law enforcement reform?"

Following are the responses we gathered, but we are disappointed we did not receive statements from key law enforcement decision-makers, including Saginaw County Prosecutor John McColgan, County Sheriff Bill Federspiel, Undersheriff Miguel Gomez, and Saginaw City Police Chief Robert Ruth. State Sen. Ken Horn and Rep. Amos O'Neal also declined.

Saginaw County Circuit and Chief Judge Darnell Jackson did respond, but he said he felt he should not participate while in an official judicial role. Each was sent three email appeals during the past two weeks.



Terry Pruitt, Saginaw NAACP branch president

"I am pleased with the verdict. However, I will admit that I was somewhat apprehensive as to the outcome. Much of this nation's history strongly suggests that it is rare when a white police officer is held legally accountable for the death of an unarmed black man or woman. At the end of the day, I want to be hopeful that the court decision represents a major step toward turning the corner for the sake of justice and accountability for the nation's system of law enforcement. My own observations suggest that there is an immense sense of gratitude for many of us that the so-called "system" worked this time. However, make no mistake about it, there is much more that must be done to address the systemic inequity, injustice and racism that still exists in our country -- not only in law enforcement but within many of our institutions and the societal contract between white and black

America.

"Let us all strengthen our resolve to end racism and the taking of the lives of unarmed black men and women. This starts with getting our Congressional representatives to pass the George Floyd Law Enforcement Reform Bill. This legislation, if passed, would put in place a national set of standards under which law enforcement must operate. Among other things it proposes a ban of choke holds and no-knock warrants. It further establishes requirements around the use of body cameras, and training standards for de-escalation techniques, among the major provisions that will better serve our communities and, indeed, benefit law enforcement officials if they fully commit to implementing these steps."



Reggie Williams, Buena Vista police chief and Saginaw City Council member

"I was pleased with the verdict because it was just."



Vanessa Guerra, Saginaw County Clerk and former state rep

"I believe the jury came to the right conclusion. As grateful as I am for this verdict, it was difficult to feel "celebratory" because at the end of the day George Floyd was murdered and his family and loved ones must live with that fact every day.

"There are many reforms needed, but a few I can list right away include creating a publicly accessible database of police misconduct, automatically referring investigations involving police misconduct to the Attorney General's Office, and reinstating residency requirements for police officers

to live in the communities they serve. These are not new ideas, just a few of many that have recently been discussed at the state level."



Eric Braddock, Army veteran and current chairman of Saginaw Citizens United for Equity and Justice

"Social Media today has made an impact by exposing the dark truth about police brutality against Black Americans. Thirty years have gone by since the major broadcasting of the brutal beating of Rodney King, where four white police officers were acquitted, resulting in a four-day riot. Today, we are still raising issues on police use of force, and racial and economic disparity in the Black American communities across the country.

"The verdict is only one small step towards equitable justice. Law enforcement agencies need to show transparency and accountability to the community by providing citizen complaint programs, statistic reporting, officers disciplinary and personnel record public access, and public relations violence and prevention programs. Personal interactions between police officers and community members build mutual trust, which is essential to addressing neighborhood problems and reducing crime."



DEREK CHAUVIN APPEARS IN COURT AFTER BEING FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER IN GEORGE FLOYD'S DEATH

CONTINUES ON PG 15, CHAUVIN/FLOYD

Continued from pg 14, Chauvin/Floyd



Brandell Adams, 2020 state rep candidate and initial chairman of Saginaw Citizens United for Equity and Justice

"For me, the verdict restored a measure of faith in the American criminal justice system. After all, Derek Chauvin took George Floyd's life – his actions were disgusting, inhumane, and illegal. Law enforcement is tasked with protecting and serving our communities – a task that does not include executing their version of justice. The goal is to bring suspects safely into custody. It is the job of the courts to adjudicate the guilt or innocence of the suspect, and if found guilty, the 'criminal' must then pay a penalty. Officers who do not understand their role in this process, who egregiously overstep the bounds of lawful use of force, must themselves be brought to justice.

"Lawmakers can do more to prevent incidents like this from happening in the first place by ending qualified immunity, banning chokeholds, curtailing 'no knock' warrants, requiring "Duty to Intervene" policies, providing incentives for agencies that hire officers who live where they serve, maximizing pretextual traffic stops/get license plate info and mail tickets for minor violations, incentivizing de-escalation and rewarding officers who apprehend with minimal use of force, hiring mental health professionals to work alongside officers "



Evelyn McGovern, Women of Color president and co-founder and Citizens United member

"It was a surreal moment for me when I first heard the verdict on all counts guilty for Derek Chauvin. I couldn't move for awhile and I just set absorbing the news coverage on CNN. I finally realized at the conclusion of Dereck Chauvin's trail verdict, that he in

fact was found guilty of MURDER! However, like George Floyd's family sentiments, I also feel we have to continue to fight for equity and justice more now than ever before. My prayers go out to all families that have been horrifically traumatized by senseless deaths in our country. God bless us ALL! "



Willie Haynes, president, Ezekiel Project, and former Saginaw City Council member

"It was a historic verdict, the first time in my lifetime that I ever saw police officers testify against another police officer. When you know better, you should do better.

"The main steps we need now are transparency and accountability, for those who recklessly enforce the law. States must change qualified immunity status. and if they don't do it, the federal government must step in. Also we need stronger Civil Rights Commissions at both the state and the federal levels."



Joyce Seals, Ezekiel Project, Saginaw Board of Education and former mayor

"The jury did not make their decision so much based on innocent or guilty, because the case was so obvious. The members understood that volatile events would take place in this country if a not guilty verdict had been rendered. It's like they said, 'Okay, we did what you wanted, so now please calm down and do not cause any harm.' They did what they had to do to keep the peace.

"I'm not for the 'defund the police' movement. Police are necessary to defend us in cases of wrongdoing, but for reform, we need to change to more community policing and to attempt to bring back residency requirements. A problem is that too many officers are not familiar with the people the areas where they are assigned to serve, and this leads to misunderstanding. For example, if an African American male tends to speak loudly, that does not mean that they are being aggressive. That's just part of the culture."



Hattie Norwood, founder of 3PCI, Proactive Community Involvement, and owner of Sisters United Communication Consulting and Representation

"In this obvious case of murder, I am happy that there is at least some justice, but am feeling that one victory is not enough. This makes me wish we could go way back a few years -- hell, decades -- and charge all of the vile officers who have notoriously committed these crimes against my people. Also, we need to investigate beyond the well-known cases, recognize and seek justice for all. One of many examples would be Mitrice Richardson, who went missing after being jailed in California.

" I hear the talk of reform, but I do not believe police can be reformed. I find it unreasonable to pour in more funds to 'educate' officers, This hasn't worked for more than 200 years.. Work on new methods of community policing. It's time to try something new, and fear not the push-back. We need to start by utterly dismantling and re-creating. Proactively."

+ COMMUNITY

CREATIVE PERSPECTIVES

City of Saginaw Community Clean Up



Team Up to Clean Up

Let's take pride in our community! Bring your family, church group or community group out to help clean up our City! Proper work attire and work gloves are recommended. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. In order to better organize volunteers **PLEASE RSVP BY FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021** to participate in this community effort!

Saturday, May 15, 2021 * 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
City Hall * 1315 S. Washington Ave.

Please RSVP to the Inspections Department at 989.759.1540 or inspections@saginaw-mi.com by **Friday, May 7.**



COLORS



By Brigitte Johnson

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAGINAW COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

515 N. Washington Ave., 3rd Floor | Saginaw, MI 48607
P 989-752-7161 | info@saginawchamber.org
www.saginawchamber.org

+ COMMUNITY



Role models for Saginaw beautification

By MIKE THOMPSON

"One Week, One Street" is returning after one year.

The leaders are Pastor Roy Baldwin of New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry and Tamara Klida, an outreach missionary from Auburn United Methodist Church.

They won't let the covid outbreak stop them again like last year, when the pandemic's onset snapped a seven-year run of adopting a Saginaw street for a complete makeover.

"We have seen other examples" of restoration projects that adjusted to the outbreak, Baldwin says. "We will practice the social distancing and wear masks, and instead of gathering under one big tent for our meals, each work group will have to stay by itself. There will have to be less of the mixing that we had always been able to engage in the past."

They have a head start on Saginaw Team Up to Clean Up Day, slated for Saturday morning, May 15, with volunteers gathering at 8 a.m. at City Hall prior to fanning out into the neighborhoods. They already have started a survey of residents along this year's target streets, Beechwood and Elmwood near Webber, and their One Week will commence on Monday, June 21.

And no, they have not changed the name to "One Week, Two Streets." They simply believe that their track record demonstrates that they can take on a larger workload.

Baldwin and Klida first encountered at a Saginaw Community Foundation planning



PASTOR ROY BALDWIN AND TAMARA KLIDA RECEIVE \$25,000 AT THE 2015 SAGINAW COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNUAL CELEBRATION

workshop nearly a decade ago, and both brought a mix of strengths and challenges with them.

The pastor had attempted a neighborhood project previously, but he perceived that turnout was low because he lacked experience at such an endeavor. Tamara possessed organizing skills from Auburn Methodist's church missions to poverty areas in Appalachia, and she wishes to begin a similar venture closer to home. She lacked local contacts, however, but Baldwin filled that void. The team was formed, and they have recruited more than 100 volunteers for their previous projects.

A missionary approach requires more

than a day, which is where the "One Week" concept emerges. Mayor Brenda Moore and City Council members will feel pleased if volunteer groups that begin on May 15 will feel motivated to follow-up in similar intensive ways later in the spring and summer.

Klida compares One Week One Street to the tradition of Habitat for Humanity home-building blitzes that many residents have observed.

"The difference is that Habitat volunteers generally are skilled professionals, such as carpenters and electricians," Tamara said. "We might do some smaller home repairs, but mainly we are about cleaning up trash, cutting down weeds, and mowing. A volunteer isn't required to have special skills."

She's a Freeland High School teacher who volunteers year-round to keep One Week, One Street together, and who makes time during her summer break for the special full project.

For his part, Baldwin squeezes in hours between his pastoral duties and his ownership with wife Evelyn of the 2-year-old Baldwin's Smokehouse BBQ restaurant at 3316 East Holland in Buena Vista. One of their pre-One Week ventures, still alive, is to oversee a youth enrichment and activities center adjacent to New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry, 2609 East Genesee.

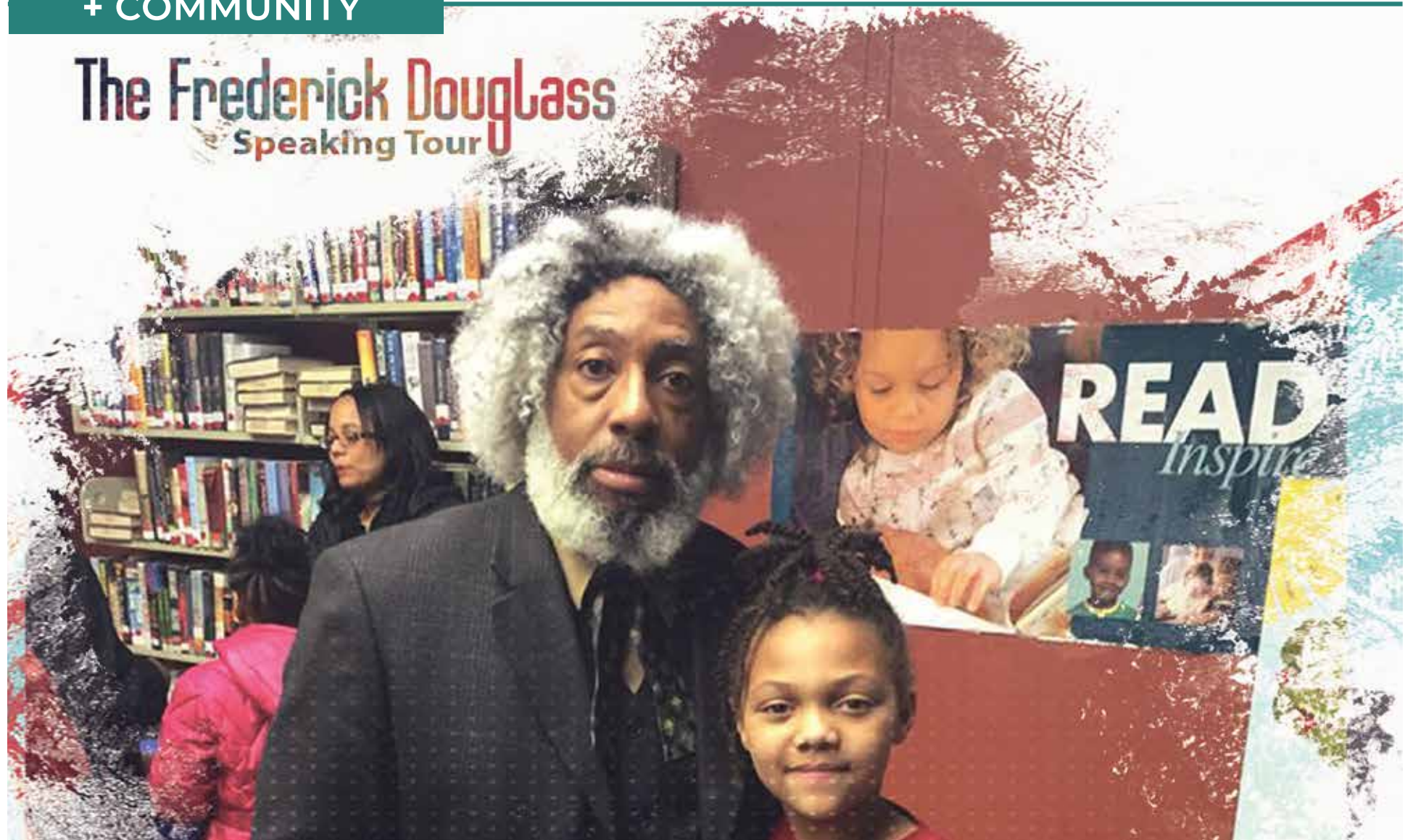
"We raised our children on Hiland Street (near Saginaw High School) and our goal is to give back to the community," he says.

Information on One Week, One Street is available on their Facebook site.

Meanwhile, leaders of groups with plans to take part in Saginaw Team Up to Clean Up Day on May 15 may register by Friday, May 7, by calling the City Hall Inspections Division at 759-1540 or by sending an email to inspections@saginaw-mi.com. Individuals looking for something to do may follow the same contacts. Volunteers should gather at City Hall at 8 p.m. prior to fanning out to their cleanup sites. Post-work lunches will be provided to all volunteers, who should bring their own work gloves if possible.



+ COMMUNITY



NATHAN RICHARDSON | SPIRITUAL CONCEPTS PUBLISHING

The historical context for DC statehood

By **NATHAN M. RICHARDSON**
POET, AUTHOR & FREDERICK
DOUGLASS HISTORIAN

In 1869 President Ulysses S. Grant started a commission to study the annexation of then Santo Domingo as a U. S. territory with design to eventually give the territory statehood. Frederick Douglass was appointed a member of that commission; a position that would eventually lead to an appointment in 1879 as the ambassador to Haiti.

The Haitian Revolution lead by Toussaint Louverture won that country's independence in 1804. 50 years later that spirit of self determination was still fresh in the memory and physique of the Caribbean people. Many of them saw the annexation

of Santo Domingo as just another colonial power grab. But Frederick Douglass saw it differently. With the Reconstruction Act in America supporting the full enfranchisement of colored people, and with the 15th amendment to the Constitution well on its way to ratification of the black man's the right to vote, Douglass envisioned another state of voting black people added to the union.

Of course former Confederates were radically opposed to the annexation for the same reasons they were opposed to Reconstruction. Also opposed were black nationalists who wanted to maintain their sovereignty. Douglass, just as he had faced opposition during the civil war with his idea of adding black soldiers to the fight, traveled to Santo Domingo and returned

to the United States campaigning throughout the black community rallying support for annexation.

It was a pivotal moment in American history and the future of democracy in America. The 15th Amendment was ratified in 1870, but Santo Domingo was never annexed. It never became a state and Reconstruction collapsed under the forces of defiance in the south and apathy in the north. The numbers that might have tipped the balance of political power never materialized. And here we are 150 years later debating the question of DC statehood and still battling voter suppression through intimidation and disenfranchisement. In the words of Mark Twain; *"History may not repeat itself, but it often rhymes."*

+ COMMUNITY

MICHIGAN BANNER
SERMONETTE SERIES***Greet also the church in their house (Rom. 16:5)***

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

How is the spiritual health of the church that meets in your house? When the church was in the days of its infancy, believers sometimes met in homes that were large enough to accommodate the worship service attendees. These were house-churches. The homeowner wasn't necessarily the pastor; he was just someone who opened his heart to the Lord and opened his doors so the Lord's people would have a place to worship, fellowship, learn, and grow. If the home was owned by a husband and wife, they were not co-pastors of that congregation. They simply offered their place of residence as a place of worship for the local congregation. But how is the spiritual health of the church that meets in your house? The church that the apostle Paul greets in this verse met in the home of Priscilla and Aquila. They were not pastors or co-pastors, but they were Paul's fellow workers in Christ Jesus. Do you not know that we can be workers for Christ in our own homes? Absent of position or title we are equipped to work in and for Him right there in our homes. Many believers are trying to save the community, city, and world, as their homes go to hell. The health of the church in your house is directly related to the spiritual health of the homeowner. Priscilla and Aquila (the homeowners) had risked their own necks for Paul's life. Sharing in the sufferings of another often begins after we lay ourselves on the line in support of them. This is when the reproaches that fall on them begin to fall on us. Lay it all on the line for those who share an address with you, and share in their sufferings. Having this kind of courageous character contributes to the spiritual health of the church in our homes. Believers of this caliber are worthy of our thanks. God won't say thanks, but He will say well done!



STARS

STARS offering free county-wide vaccine trips

Saginaw, MI – Starting Thursday, April 29th, Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services (STARS) and the Michigan Transportation Connection (MTC) have partnered to offer free personal vaccine trips for anyone in Saginaw County. Call 1-844-532-7433 and then press 2 to schedule your free vaccine trip. Rides can be scheduled from 8AM and 5PM and should be scheduled

in advance.

'Saginaw residents need better access to vaccines. Let's get it out there. Let's get this done. Call 844-532-7433 and press 2 to get a free ride to your dose of hope,' said Executive Director Glenn Steffens. Riders must properly wear masks at all times.

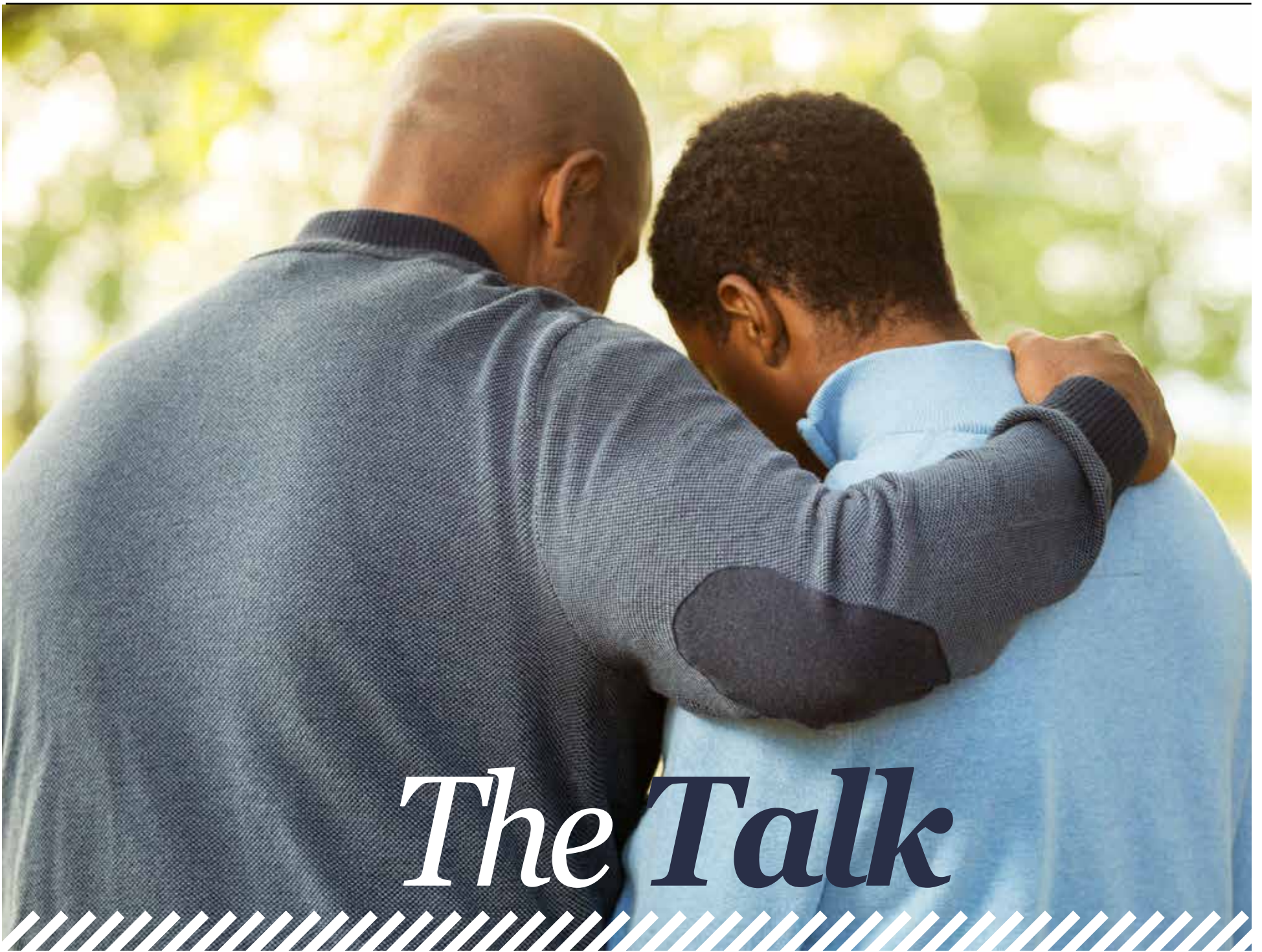
For the latest service information, visit www.saginaw-stars.com.

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 17, 2021**1st Annual "Concert for a Cause"**

The YMCA of Saginaw, in partnership with the Emmaus House, will host the 1st Annual "Concert for a Cause" outdoors on Thursday, June 17, 2021. Proceeds will be shared between these two leading nonprofits.

Event details are being finalized regarding performers. Watch for more information coming soon!

- Local musicians with a variety of selections;
- Free admission;
- Business and service organization sponsorships available;
- Multiple 50/50 raffles on site;
- Food available for purchase.



By **JIMMY E GREENE**

CEO & PRESIDENT, ABC MICHIGAN

Black fathers across the country are schooling their young sons in what we call “the talk”. That life lesson that might very well save their lives when they find themselves in an interaction with police officers. That’s when they were told what to do — and what not to do — when the police pull up.

Black parents know their child’s life could depend on it. It could be the only thing that saves them in that flash of a moment. Because of the rash of police and counters that in with the death of a black man even white people are learning what “the talk” is. I had always felt reluctant to have that talk when my sons were younger because it was a reckoning that their childhood was coming to an end. As adults, we know life is unfair. But when we have to explain to our children that those sworn to serve and protect can’t be relied on to serve and protect them — can’t be relied on to be fair — that’s where the promise of America betrays Black families.

Recently I wondered, what would happen if every white child’s parent sat him or her down for “The Talk”? It could be the same talk Black children get, with one dif-

ference: They’d be told that if they slip up and forget, if they ask the officer a question or even if they lose their temper and mouth off a bit, there may (or may not) be a consequence. But, because of their whiteness, the consequence would almost never be death. The parent would explain how white privilege wraps their white child in a soft blanket of love, protects them from the harsh condemnation of prejudice and preserves their childhood well into their teens and early 20s.

Maybe it’s that white talk on top of the black talk that parents are having which might create the kind of chemistry that when those two young boys meet as men; one a Citizen the other a police officer that interaction will prove to be less tragic than what we’re experiencing of late.

ON SALE
MAY 4!

BIG CASH. BIG FUN.



Introducing new **Jumbo Cash Instant Games** from the Michigan Lottery. There are top prizes up to **\$2,000,000** and over **\$185 million** in total prizes.



Overall odds of winning \$50,000 Jumbo Cash: 1 in 4.63. Overall odds of winning \$500,000 Jumbo Cash: 1 in 4.17. Overall odds of winning \$1,000,000 Jumbo Cash: 1 in 3.77. Overall odds of winning \$2,000,000 Jumbo Cash: 1 in 3.51. Knowing your limits is always the best bet. Call the Michigan Problem Gambling Helpline for confidential help at 1-800-270-7117.



THE MICHIGAN BANNER NEWS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AT&T



Empowering all Americans

In 2019, AT&T spent more than \$14.2 billion with businesses owned by minorities, disabled, women, veterans, service-disabled veterans, and LGBTQ+ individuals.

Because AT&T believes in a culture that promotes respect and success for all.



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AT&T & The Michigan Banner 2021

Vacant lot ownership adds appeal, reduces cleanup needs



WILLIE BUTLER

By MIKE THOMPSON

A golf course in the middle of Saginaw's battered East Side?

Well, not quite.

But just ask Willie Butler how he keeps his lawn so well-manicured on both sides of his beautiful 3,000-square-foot home on Janes Street between Sixth and Seventh.

"I was a greenskeeper at the old Bay City Country Club," says Butler, prior to beginning his Steering Gear career during the 1960s.

His is a local pioneer in obtaining adjacent lots seized when owners abandon their homes, which often had been converted to rentals prior to their code enforcement demolitions, and then decline to pay ongoing property taxes. That's why his property is triple-sized.

Mayor Brenda Moore and the City Council are focusing mostly on group projects for Saginaw Team Up to Clean Up Day on Saturday, May 15, but in the long run she urges homeowners to follow Butler's example and obtain next-door lots for yard space, garages, gardens or children's play areas.

Butler added a garage and converted his driveway to a double entrance/exit U-

shape that surrounds his home, but his main showcases are the pair of side yards that -- with enough rain -- appear as if they were parts of cable TV's Golf Channel.

Well into his senior citizen status, he handles the lawn chores on a riding mower.

"I don't consider it to be work," he says. "It's my choice, a privilege."

Butler waited while homes to his east and west became abandoned and decrepit, eventually demolished when City Hall had a healthier budget. He obtained both lots at state auctions during the 1980s.

More and more properties, a few still with houses standing, are meeting similar fates as time passes. Residents gradually have learned to take advantage through ownership, although in the past they sometimes faced bid competition from out-of-town speculators who had fallen for "get rich in real estate" television infomercials.



We see examples of "taking back the community" everywhere we drive, especially on side streets. The First Ward area and the South Side contain the most vivid examples of hardship sections that are too far gone, but in general much of the community's appearance has improved since the turn of the millennium. President Obama's economic recovery funds to demolish some of the eyesores has played a major role.

To guard against an influx of absentee auction buyers, Saginaw County formed a take-charge Land Bank Authority in 2005. This was modeled after a similar venture to our immediate south, when current U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee was Genesee County treasurer. The main purpose is for local government to keep control of these properties. Marv Hare, the former county treasurer, put Saginaw's land bank in place, and Tim Novak, the current treasurer, oversees operations and chairs the governing board.

With rare exceptions, only an adjacent homeowner may acquire a side or rear lot, which eliminates outside bidders. Novak says the land bank has placed up to 100 lots per year in private ownership. The phone number to call is 792-6028, and the web page is at saginawcounty.com/departments/treasurer/land-bank/.

The cost is \$180 and added property taxes typically are no more than \$50 per year. Several dozen lots with houses still standing are available to the general public at higher prices that often lead to bidding among potential buyers, but Novak cautions that many are in extreme bad shape and beyond reasonable means of repair.

As for the vacant lots, an irony is that blight also can have a good aspect. Saginaw's older pre-automobile neighborhoods were (and are) highly congested. Removal of some houses creates green-space and yard space, and private acquisition of the lots adds to the tax burden while reducing the burden on mowing crews.

Novak summarizes, "There definitely is a benefit from the land bank."

Meanwhile, leaders of groups with plans to take part in Saginaw Team Up to Clean Up Day on May 15 may register by Friday, May 7, by calling the City Hall Inspections Division at 759-1540 or by sending an email to inspections@saginaw-mi.com. Individuals looking for something to do may follow the same contacts. Volunteers should gather at City Hall at 8 p.m. prior to fanning out to their cleanup sites. Post-work lunches will be provided to all volunteers, who should bring their own work gloves if possible.



+ COMMUNITY



Remembering ALDA

Mrs. Alda Louise Smith went home to be with her Heavenly Father on Sunday, April 26, 2020. She was born to Allen

and Rosanna Barnes in Richmond, Virginia on January 24, 1933. Alda's mother later married Rance Crooks and he raised her.

Alda had been a resident of Saginaw Michigan for over seventy years. She was a graduate of Saginaw High and attended colleges Saginaw Valley and Jackson Barber College. Alda married Jesse C. Smith in June of 1966. He predeceased her in September of 1974. She was a member of Zion Missionary Baptist Church, where she served on the Nurses Guild, Courtesy Committee, and sang in the Mass Choir.

Alda was a professional barber for over fifty years in Saginaw. She worked at House of Style Beauty and Barber Shop for many years. She also worked at Porters Barber Shop. She was very active and social, an elegant fashion dresser and loved entertaining people as well as being entertained. She was a lover of many kinds of food and had a laugh that would light up the world.

Alda was preceded in death by her hus-

band, Jesse Smith; parents, Allen Barnes, Sr., Rosanna (Rance) Crooks; sisters, Myreeta Barnes Price, Jacqueline Barnes Wright; stepmothers, Anna Barnes and Georgann Rice.

She leaves to cherish her memory one sister, Diana Barnes; two brothers, Oliver Barnes, Allen Jr. (Evelyn) Barnes; seven nieces; nine nephews; many self-professed godchildren, cousins, other relatives in Saginaw, North Carolina and Florida and friends, including her special friends, Glen and Ellen Simon who were also her caregivers in Saginaw, Michigan, Marion Hardaway, Marcus and Marge McToyer, Shirlene Rozier and Ethel Gist.

The Family would like to express a special thanks to Glen and Ellen Simon for all their thoughtfulness and kindness showed to Alda in her times of need and during her illness, Ivan E. Phillips and the Staff of Paradise Funeral Chapel.

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+ COMMUNITY



Young people still work hard, says FWCC project leader

By MIKE THOMPSON

Some older scolders don't think much of today's generation. They may skeptically say, "These young people nowadays, they don't want to work."

Rob Brown says he knows 500 cases to the contrary.

For the past decade, he has supervised 50 teens and young adults per year, ages 16 to 24, as the First Ward Community Center's youth employment coordinator.

With funds from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Brown's teams have cleaned up and spruced up local parks, and also state campgrounds along the highways up north.

Mayor Brenda Moore plans to put them to work again on May 15 as part of her organizing plan for Saginaw Team Up to Clean Up Day.

The First Ward protégés defy the notion that aching muscles from a hard day's labor no longer exist.

"I don't buy into (the stereotypes)," Brown says. "Our work proves that they will go by what they are taught and by what they see. They learn about self-esteem and



ROB BROWN, FIRST WARD COMMUNITY CENTER'S YOUTH EMPLOYMENT COORDINATOR

that there is a better way to do things."

Joedel Lowe is a program veteran who graduated from Saginaw High School in 2016 and who now works as a manager at the Popeye's on East Holland Street. He says cutting down trees and removing debris are samples of going beyond picking up litter.

"On Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, we performed DNR work, and on Tuesdays we did school work and met with (private sector) business people who gave us inspirational messages," Lowe says.

"It helped to give us a strong work ethic, plus receiving a paycheck."

Dajhia Parham completed four years before achieving her Saginaw High diploma in 2018. She's now a supervisor at Sam's Club on Bay Road.,

"It helped prepare me for a real job," notes Parham, who says she was somewhat active in grade school playing sports, "but nothing compared" to the challenges on Rob Brown's crew.

"It kept our attention centered, instead of just being in the house all day, and we were able to do good for the community and for the people," she adds.

Both said a highlight was "One Week, One Street," a neighborhood restoration project coordinated by the Rev. Roy Baldwin and by faith-based organizer Tamara

Klida. (A separate report is featured elsewhere on these pages.)

Some adults may feel skeptical, Lowe agrees, "but many of them have complimented us for our work through One Week, One Street." Joedel joins Dajhia in taking special pride in a neighborhood park they helped to create along Hiland Street near their alma mater.

In Saginaw, they also have tackled Vet's (McKinney) Park, Wickes Park, Green Point Nature Center and Haithco Recreation Center. For the most recent African Cultural Festival at Morley School Park, they cleaned, mowed and weeded the sprawling area along Lapeer Street and painted the remaining facilities.

Meanwhile, leaders of groups with plans to take part in Saginaw Team Up to Clean Up Day on May 15 may register by Friday, May 7, by calling the City Hall Inspections Division at 759-1540 or by sending an email to inspections@saginaw-mi.com. Individuals looking for something to do may follow the same contacts. Volunteers should gather at City Hall at 8 p.m. prior to fanning out to their cleanup sites. Post-work lunches will be provided to all volunteers, who should bring their own work gloves if possible.

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+ COMMUNITY



MARY MCMATH

McMath achieves 40 years of Saginaw County CAC service

By MIKE THOMPSON

Check Mary McMath's employment resume as she celebrates her 40th anniversary at the Saginaw County CAC.

Next, check the Community Action Committee's web page, saginawcac.org, for a list of programs and services.

Just about everything will match, because McMath has pretty much done it all since she began as a CAC weatherization

secretary in 1981, in a referral via the Job Training Partnership Act under Bob Viera and the late John Falls.

Modestly soft-spoken and definitely not the boss type, Mary nonetheless became a weatherization manager. Then minor home repairs. Emergency services. Food and nutrition. Housing counseling. Senior citizens.

Lillie Williams-Grays, CAC director, stepped down in January after 16 years.

Mary took the temporary reins for a portion of the interim, and now she aims to conclude her career as deputy director supporting the newly hired Hurley Coleman III. (See the Michigan Banner's April 16 edition.)

"Actually I had always thought of becoming a school teacher and a minister," McMath reflects, "and then I was sent to the CAC, and I've been here ever since."

She is the eldest of eight children of the dearly departed Essie McMath, a day-care provider and evangelist from St. Louis who moved the family north to Saginaw during the 1970s. Mary graduated from the Gateway City's Beaumont High School, and then in Saginaw she worked several waitress jobs to help support her mother and her youngster siblings. She also studied in her spare time at Delta College, until her first steps at CAC.

In Saginaw and across the nation, multi-purpose community action agencies since the 1960s have served as the main sources for federal funds to address poverty concerns. Mary says primary traits for outreach workers are "to get to know your customers" and "to put yourself in their shoes, always showing respect."

Much of her work has involved direct aid to residents, such as providing home insulation materials or simple boxes of food.

At the same time, housing counseling -- especially during the crisis years near 2008 and 2009 -- went beyond giving and into preservation.

"We helped a whole lot of people to save their homes," she recalls.

Mary's favorite aspect of service is her encounters with people, but she also has gained skills through the years in filing the federal paperwork and grant applications that are necessary to keep the funds flowing. Therefore, one of her main ongoing roles is to assist Coleman as a mentor as well as an assistant.

"He is an outstanding choice to become our director," Mary says. "This will mark 40 years for me, and it's time for the younger people to come in with their newer ideas."



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+ COMMUNITY



WAUNITA PETTIFORD

Tough times motivate Bethel AME members to grow their own

By MIKE THOMPSON

At Bethel AME Church, Pastor Dennis Laffoon is tapping the experience of members to convert portions of seven nearby vacant lots into urban vegetable gardens.

Advanced Master Gardener Waunita Pettiford was raised on a farm. Now she is helping her church to start one.

The project won't be as demanding as her 1950s/60s childhood chores on a family farm in Spaulding Township, but she's eager to see some first spring sprouts.

"We're going to have a good one," Waunita predicts with confidence. "We just need to get our watering systems in

place, and to pray for good weather."

For Saginaw Cleanup Day on May 15, Mayor Brenda Moore and Saginaw City Council members are aiming to promote the standard rake-up-and-pick-up projects on vacant lots and abandoned properties across the community. Still, their support will blossom when groups and churches like Bethel go beyond one day and devote themselves through the entire summer.

Pastor Laffoon was promoting the garden project even prior to covid's first strike in March 2020, taking note of rising hardship in northeast Saginaw and all across town. When Bethel began serving as a pandemic emergency food distribution center, his focus was reinforced. A Saginaw Community Foundation grant is helping with startup expenses.

Waunita Pettiford achieved master gardener status from Michigan State Cooperative Extension to certify her leadership with the Downtown Farmer's Market, and she helped to organize the SVRC move to the former Saginaw News headquarters, but her experience is lifelong.

Near Bethel, members realized that the best approach would go beyond basic plowing or rototilling, with construction and filling of raised soil beds, vital to keep weeds out and to keep the cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, corn stalks, greens and herbs organized from one another.

And then, when unseasonable summer-like warmth arrived at the start of April, they knew enough not to rush any planting. More chill and frost would be forthcoming, as April's later days would prove.

In fact, even the May 15 date for Saginaw's city cleanup will stand too soon for the seeds. Waunita and the Bethel AME team will put the final touches on site preparation for planting on the Memorial Day weekend and in early June.

Other main gardening projects are the Saginaw County Youth Stand, run by teenagers under advisor Ceciel Reed of the Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Task Force, 1708 Johnson, (989) 752-1600; and the H.M. Boyd Community Garden, 1417 South Hamilton behind the Service Employees International Union SEIU headquarters and hall on South Michigan, Heather Boyd, (734) 845-8047.

Laffoon and Pettiford will aim for northeast neighbors to help "adopt" the gardens along Cathay Street, providing the necessary daily maintenance and over-

sight, with plans for a walking trail, pavilion and children's play area still in the works. A first step is to ask the neighbors which produce choices should have priority for planting.

Juanita recommends that household novices seek advice at one of the chain mega household centers, or better yet from hometown Abele's Greenhouse and Garden Center, 3500 Wadworth, (989)752-5625.



PASTOR DENNIS LAFFOON

Pastor Laffoon remains grateful for the expertise among the congregants. He is lighthearted when he notes that his only previous gardening experience was a year ago at Mother's Day, when he joined his three children to prepare a new household garden spot for their mother, Rochelle.

"That will make me a novice," he says, "but I anticipate that I will be learning a whole lot more in the weeks to come."

Meanwhile, leaders of groups with plans to take part in Saginaw Team Up to Clean Up Day on May 15 may register by Friday, May 7, by calling the City Hall Inspections Division at 759-1540 or by sending an email to inspections@saginaw-mi.com. Individuals looking for something to do may follow the same contacts. Volunteers should gather at City Hall at 8 p.m. prior to fanning out to their cleanup sites. Post-work lunches will be provided to all volunteers, who should bring their own work gloves if possible.



JUST A GLIMPSE

BY DONIQUA SOVIA

Il wish you could see what I see; how you have everything you need to succeed. The gifts, talents and creativity. You say you can see it, but what you see is a glimpse, and that's what you see, because all you do is glance, you don't stop and your eyes don't land on the whole picture cause if you saw what I saw, man could nothing distract ya.

You're not seeing it. Why? Not cause you don't believe it, but your focus keeps on shifting, and you're carrying weight that was never meant for you to be lifting and your strength is really starting to stagger, because you're focused on people that don't matter, and that's causing you to put your dreams on the back burner. But baby if you could only see, if you could only put my glasses on you'd be able to read, but you keep yours on and life will be blurry.

It pisses me off, you comprehend, but the understanding is lost. You're not counting the cost, and it's your potential that will be gone, because you're NOT A STANDARD PERSON BUT KEEP ACTING LIKE YOU ARE! Don't chase. Embrace. Don't lose; use. Untie the noose, I know life can be suffocating, but never lose hope or motivation, because I see it in you, all

that are, and all you see is glimpse, but you will go far.

I wish you would quit glancing and quit getting glimpses, I hope you can trust me and let your focus start shiftin, because if you saw what I saw; There would be no more hesitation.

+ HEALTH

CDC provides new guidance for those who are fully vaccinated

Saginaw, MI – Nearly 40% of Saginaw County residents 16 years of age or older are enjoying the benefits of vaccination. You should too!

Remember, people are considered fully

vaccinated for COVID-19 two weeks after they have received the second dose in a two-dose series or two weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine.

These new recommendations from the

CDC apply to non-healthcare settings.

Fully vaccinated people can:

- Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Visit with unvaccinated people (including children) from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Participate in outdoor activities and recreation without a mask, except in certain crowded settings and venues.
- Resume domestic travel and refrain from testing before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.
- Refrain from testing before leaving the United States for international travel (unless required by the destination) and refrain from self-quarantine after arriving back in the United States.
- Refrain from testing following a known exposure, if asymptomatic, with some exceptions for specific settings.
- Refrain from quarantine following a known exposure if asymptomatic.
- Refrain from routine screening testing if asymptomatic and feasible.

For now, fully vaccinated people should continue to:

- Take precautions in indoor public settings like wearing a well-fitted mask.
- Wear masks that fit snugly when visiting indoors with unvaccinated people who are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease or who have an unvaccinated household member who is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease.
- Wear well-fitted masks when visiting indoors with unvaccinated people from multiple households.
- Avoid indoor large-sized in-person gatherings.
- Get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Follow guidance issued by individual employers.
- Follow CDC and health department travel requirements and recommendations.

Choosing Safer Activities

	Unvaccinated People	Your Activity	Fully Vaccinated People
Outdoor			
Safest		Walk, run, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people	
Less Safe		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	
Indoor			
Less Safe		Visit a barber or hair salon	
		Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum	
		Ride public transport with limited occupancy	
		Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households	
Least Safe		Go to an indoor movie theater	
		Attend a full-capacity worship service	
		Sing in an indoor chorus	
		Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar	
		Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class	

Get a COVID-19 vaccine

Prevention measures not needed

Take prevention measures
Fully vaccinated people: wear a mask
Unvaccinated people: wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and wash your hands.

- Safety levels assume the recommended prevention measures are followed, both by the individual and the venue (if applicable).
- CDC cannot provide the specific risk level for every activity in every community. It is important to consider your own personal situation and the risk to you, your family, and your community before venturing out.

Ascension Michigan announces self-scheduling for COVID-19 community vaccination clinics in Grand Blanc and Saginaw

Saginaw, MI – Community members can now self-schedule a vaccine appointment for the Ascension Michigan community vaccination clinics located at:

- Ascension Genesys Conference and Banquet Center - 805 Health Park Blvd., Grand Blanc, MI
- Ascension St. Mary's Health Education Center - 800 S. Washington Ave., Saginaw, MI

The clinics are open to all community members who are eligible to receive vaccines, which is every Michigan resident age 16 and older.

“The need to reach all Michiganders with COVID-19 vaccines is critically important, especially now that we’re experiencing a surge,” said Michael Wiemann,

MD, president of Ascension Medical Group. “We expect to administer 1,200 first doses a week at the Ascension Genesys vaccination clinic and 1,000 first doses a week at the Ascension St. Mary’s clinic as we do our part to help achieve community immunity,” said Dr. Wiemann.

Appointments are required and can be made at <https://ascensionhealth.inquicker.com/vaccine>.

Vaccinations must be scheduled in advance, and walk-ins will not be accepted. Persons without an appointment will not be eligible for vaccination at this time. Individuals who are 16-17 years of age must be accompanied by a parent and will need to make sure they select the Pfizer vaccine when setting up their appointment. Once you click on the self-scheduling link, if no open appointment slots are displayed, all appointments have been filled for the cur-

rent schedule. Please continue to check back as more appointment schedules are added.

In addition to our community vaccination centers, Ascension Michigan has been actively setting up vaccination ‘pop up clinics’ in communities across the state, including rural and underserved areas where social vulnerability is high.

“It’s vital for all of us to build community immunity to COVID-19, particularly to protect those most at risk,” said Dr. Wiemann. “A key to achieving community immunity is ensuring that everyone receives a vaccine against this virus as soon as it’s available to them – to protect not just themselves, but their loved ones, friends and neighbors as well.”



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- 50,000 gloves
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- 312 gallons of sanitizer
- 5,000 caps and hair nets
- 4,100 shoe/boot covers
- Thousands of donated meals
- Thousands of dollars in gift cards and monetary donations
- Countless prayers and messages of encouragement

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



+ HEALTH

Covenant HealthCare nationally recognized with an ‘A’ for the Spring 2021 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade

Saginaw, MI – Covenant HealthCare received an “A” grade in the spring 2021 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, a national distinction recognizing the Covenant team’s achievements protecting patients from errors, injuries, accidents, and infections. The Leapfrog Group is an independent national watchdog organization committed to health care quality and safety. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade assigns an “A,” “B,” “C,” “D,” or “F” grade to all general hospitals across the country and is updated every six months. It is the only hospital ratings program based exclusively on hospitals’ prevention of medical errors and other harms to patients in their care.

“We are extremely humbled and inspired to be recognized with the Leapfrog Hospital ‘A’ Safety Grade once again,” says

Dr. Michael Sullivan, Vice President of Performance Improvement/Chief Medical Officer. “This is a recognition of the dedication and commitment of each and every one of our caregivers to patient safety and Zero Harm. This is especially meaningful this year in light of the challenges we have all faced.”

“An ‘A’ safety grade is an elite designation that your community should be proud of,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “The past year has been extraordinarily difficult for hospitals, but Covenant HealthCare shows us it is possible to keep a laser focus on patients and their safety, no matter what it takes.”

Developed under the guidance of a national Expert Panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses up to 27 measures of publicly available hospital safety data

to assign grades to more than 2,700 U.S. acute-care hospitals twice per year. The Hospital Safety Grade’s methodology is peer-reviewed and fully transparent, and the results are free to the public.

Covenant HealthCare was awarded an “A” grade today when Leapfrog updated grades for spring 2021. To see Covenant’s full grade details and access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit hospitalsafetygrade.org and follow The Leapfrog Group on Twitter and Facebook.



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

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

Learn more at Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine

Spread Hope
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+ EDUCATION



Education Matters



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

On WNEM TV 5, I touched upon what I called the “30,000 foot view of education” today. What are the top issues in education?

The Internet provides access to information from outside our region, providing different perspectives. I looked to the University of Texas at Arlington, where they recently identified the Top Educational Issues for 2021. The list gives us an idea of what education will look like emerging from the pandemic and moving forward.

Here they are in the order researchers have listed them.

1. Learning loss

Each year we have referenced “summer slump” and other effects from being out of school during summer months. The pandemic has ramped this effect upward to

new heights. In some ways, the pandemic has been with us in an educational sense for nearly 14 months now....and counting.....this could equate to more than four “summer slumps”

My friend and colleague Sherry Schock calls this “learning lag,” rather than “loss.” Using the term “lag” implies the opportunity for students to “catch up,” that the “lag” is not permanent.

I would agree! Nevertheless, it is an issue that is at the top of the University of Texas at Arlington’s list.

2. Extended remote learning

The pandemic has forced education to use technology in new and personal ways. Texas researchers make the case that these new approaches will remain in use to supplement traditional schooling.

Former State of Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Watkins is a friend and colleague who has advocated for “more technology” to be used in education for nearly two decades. He claims, with solid basis, that schools have resisted technology due to it being hard, expensive, or otherwise threatening. The pandemic has removed many of these barriers for schools moving forward.

3. Equitable technology access

Therefore, related to remote learning is access to the technology that provides it. Such a huge challenge, in terms of logistics, costs, and capacity. It has to be similar in some ways to what our nation faced when attempting to provide electricity to rural areas a century ago.

4. Privacy

This surprised me, at first. But after thinking about the issue, it makes sense. With COVID 19 and health tracking / contact tracing, a new realm of privacy issues surface. When you add to the mix the use of Zoom and other technologies that link student data to the Internet, there are data security issues that arise.

In a way this is fertile ground for legal analysts. What should be known to the public and what shouldn’t?

5. The future of educational policy

All of these new issues to education translate into the need to examine educational policy at all levels....national, state, and local. How local school districts grapple with future educational policies will be monumental. The need for citizens to step up and serve on local school boards, school improvement committees, and so forth will be increasingly important.

I want to recognize the researchers that assembled this list; it is concise and causes us to reflect upon the impact of the pandemic on schooling and how it will be sustained moving forward. Even from far away, the list is applicable to Michigan and schools in our region.

I would add to the list a few other specific issues to Michigan schools, including but not limited to teacher shortages, how school funding can be reformed, and the propensity for testing students repeatedly during school time. These topics are fuel for reflection and perhaps another article at another time.

Resources:

<https://academicpartnerships.uta.edu/articles/education/k-12-policy-issues-2021.aspx>

https://www.wnem.com/news/education_matters/



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

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

PRIZE DONATIONS WELCOME

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

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

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

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

GOLF PER PERSON - \$150

GOLF FOURSOME TEAM - \$600

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Business: _____

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

Email: _____

Total Amount for **Golfing** \$ _____

Total Amount for **Sponsorship** \$ _____

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

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

Total Amount **ENCLOSED** \$ _____

Team Name _____

Player #1 _____

Player #2 _____

Player #3 _____

Player #4 _____

Make Check Payable:

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

*Saginaw Community Foundation is the fiscal agent for Saginaw Promise

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

EASY ONLINE REGISTRATION / PAYMENTS (Credit Card Only)

https://SaginawFoundation.ThankYou4caring.org/promise_golf

Deadlines

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

+ EDUCATION



SAGINAW PROMISE

A College Scholarship for students who live and graduate in Saginaw!

Saginaw Promise—Making an investment in the future of Saginaw and in the lives of its students through a postsecondary education scholarship

Saginaw, MI – The Saginaw Promise is an economic initiative intended to affect Saginaw’s economy and quality of life by promoting and supporting a culture of postsecondary education for all of its graduating students through information, programming and a “last dollar” scholarship. The Saginaw Promise is working to affect change in Saginaw through a “residence based” scholarship; a benefit and incentive for families who live in Saginaw. The Saginaw Promise believes that postsecondary education is the “change agent” to affect the future of Saginaw and the lives of its students. Postsecondary education, once earned, will open the doors to life’s opportunities and possibilities. Since 2012, \$1,025,049 scholarships have been awarded to 590 scholars. “To impact the life of an individual through education, will impact their family, people they inter-

act with and the community in which they live”, stated Joyce Seals, Saginaw Promise, Chairperson.

2021 marks the 10th group of scholars to be awarded scholarships. Scholarships are awarded to students who reside in and graduate from a high school in the Saginaw Promise Zone (which includes the cities Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Kochville and that area of Buena Vista designated to the Saginaw Public School District). The scholarship is an agent for change. Since 2011, high school graduation rates in Saginaw Public School District have risen, dropout rates have decreased, FAFSA completion has grown and scholars are earning program certificates and degrees.

Program and scholarship funding are raised annually through direct appeal and special events. Donors include, individuals, organizations, businesses and foun-

dations who believe that postsecondary education is “key” to affecting Saginaw’s future and that of its students.

How to apply: Students must complete the online Saginaw Community Foundation scholarship application at saginawfoundation.org/site/scholarships/, which opens November 1, 2021. The scholarship is renewable up to two years and must be applied for annually. Students must also complete FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at <https://fafsa.ed.gov>. The Saginaw Promise scholarship can be used at community colleges, universities and technical/trade schools in Michigan for tuition and mandatory fees only.

To support the Saginaw, Promise or for information call (989)755-0545 or visit www.saginawpromise.org.

+ EDUCATION



SCOTT SAWYER

Scott Sawyer named 2021 Michigan school business official of the year

Saginaw, MI – Saginaw ISD Deputy Superintendent, Scott Sawyer, J.D., has been named the 2021 Michigan School Business Official of the Year by Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO). This prestigious annual award honors an individual whose recent accomplishments and contributions in school business have occurred during the past two years.

Bill Chatfield, MSBO President, stated, “Mr. Sawyer was pivotal in leading the Saginaw ISD in providing guidance concern-

ing COVID-19 pandemic legislation. He presented at the local, regional, and state-level on a variety of topics related to COVID-19.” Mr. Chatfield continued, “Scott developed a comprehensive flow-chart that reflects general legal standards outlining the Federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act and coordinating employee leave options along with employer onboarding protocols used by school districts throughout the state.” [watch video]

The MSBO awards ceremony took place

online via Zoom on Wednesday, April 21, during the 82nd Annual Conference and Exhibit Show Opening Ceremonies. As MSBO’s School Business Official of the Year, Mr. Sawyer received a professional development scholarship to attend the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International Annual Conference and Expo taking place October 13-16, 2021, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Additionally, by proxy of this recognition, Mr. Sawyer is now also simultaneously nominated for ASBO International’s Eagle Award, which honors school business professionals who stop at nothing to be change agents for the students in their district and beyond.

Mr. Sawyer provides servant leadership to all internal departments within the ISD and over 800 employees, as well as local school districts and educational programs throughout Saginaw County. Scott is a strong advocate for all students and educators. He demonstrates a consistent commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and has helped facilitate Orange Frog corporate leadership training, based upon Shawn Achor’s style of sustainable peak performance and positive psychology, to ISD staff and regional educators. Further, Scott serves on the Saginaw Light Up the City Planning Committee, and remains an engaged member of the Michigan Negotiators Association, Michigan Association of School Personnel Administrators, Saginaw County Bar Association, Saginaw Valley School Business Officials, and Michigan School Business Officials.

Saginaw Intermediate School District Superintendent, Jeffrey Collier, stated, “Scott Sawyer is a highly respected and valued leader throughout the Michigan educational community. He works in close partnership with local school districts to support critical decision-making and models ethical professional standards. Scott’s determined focus, dedication, and expertise in school business services benefits our organization, our county, and our regional partnerships. On behalf of the entire Saginaw Intermediate School District, it is an honor and privilege to join MSBO in celebrating Mr. Sawyer’s prestigious recognition.”



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



DOW.COM

Dow wins a total of six 2021 Edison Awards for breakthrough technologies

Midland, MI – Six breakthrough technologies from Dow (NYSE: DOW) have been selected from hundreds of nominees to be recognized with prestigious Edison Awards. Dow received five gold awards and one silver award in the categories of: Materials Science and Engineering; Manufacturing, Logistics & Transportation; and Sustainability, which were recently presented at the annual Edison Awards ceremony.

Established in 1987, the Edison Awards have honored the best in innovation and innovators. Being recognized with an Edison Award™ is one of the highest accolades a company can receive in the name of innovation and business success. Dow is the first company ever to receive five Gold Edison Awards in a single year and has won more gold awards cumulatively over the last decade than any other company.

A.N. Sreeram, senior vice president, Research & Development, and chief technology officer, said, “Thomas A. Edison was one of the world’s greatest and most prolific inventors who had a tremendous influence on our modern-day lives. His inventions centered on market needs just like Dow’s do today. It is an honor to receive these namesake innovation awards, which recognize that Dow technologies solve customer and societal needs, simultaneously deliver product performance and sustainability, while also creating value for our shareholders.”

Learn more about Dow’s award-win-

ning technologies below or visit Dow Science & Sustainability for more information.

Gold - DOWSIL™ CC-8030 UV and Moisture Dual Cure Conformal Coating won a gold award in the Manufacturing, Logistics & Transportation Materials for Manufacturing subcategory. DOWSIL™ CC-8030 UV and Moisture Dual Cure Conformal Coating is the first to combine innovative polymer technology with the sustainability of room temperature cure by primary ultra-violet (UV) cure and a secondary moisture cure. CC-8030 is a one-part solventless 100 percent silicone conformal coating that offers high reliability protection of sensitive electronics and can be applied quickly and efficiently by automated processing.

Gold - DOWSIL™ TC-5515LT Thermally Conductive Gap Filler won a gold award in the Manufacturing, Logistics & Transportation Thermal Conductivity subcategory. DOWSIL™ TC-5515LT makes electric vehicle (EV) batteries better. High power batteries require effective thermal management. TC-5515LT provides heat transfer to keep EVs operating safely with maximum range and lifetime. Optimized for ease-of-use and long-term reliability, the product benefits leading auto manufacturers and consumers.

Gold - DOWSIL™ TC-3065 Ther-

mal Conductive Silicone Gel for 5G Optical Access Infrastructure won a gold award in the Engineering & Material Science Thermal Conductivity & Heat Treatment subcategory. DOWSIL™ TC-3065 provides thermal dissipation for the optical interconnects vital to 5G telecommunications and data communications. Error rates are significantly reduced and device lifetimes extended in these demanding applications.

Gold - DOWSIL™ VE-8001 Flexible Silicone Adhesive by Dow won a gold award in the Engineering & Material Science Adhesives subcategory. VE-8001 is designed for foldable and rollable consumer electronic devices. Once cured by heat, it shows superior folding durability performance, which provides stable mechanical properties even after folding tests. The high tensile strength and appropriate elongation help to dissipate the stress that is generated during the bending and folding of the devices.

Gold - RHOBARR™ 320 Polyolefin Dispersion won a gold award in the Sustainability Environmentally Friendly subcategory. RHOBARR™ 320 Polyolefin Dispersion enables sustainable coated paper goods. Applied as a thin coating from an aqueous dispersion, it provides barrier to liquids/grease using up to 70 percent less raw material compared to extrusion coated products, allowing paper coaters to produce more sustainable, more recyclable food service items and packaging.

Silver - DOWSIL™ Crystal Clear Spacer won a silver award in the Engineering & Material Science Adhesives subcategory. A new technology enables the manufacture of crystal-clear silicone spacers that can be applied on substrates and develop durable adhesion. This unique feature was patented and used to create energy-efficient transparent refrigerator doors. Our invention reduces production cost and enhances the aesthetics and durability of refrigerator doors.

Learn more about the Edison Awards program and past winners by visiting: www.edisonawards.com.

+ BUSINESS

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

Each one of us was born with the ability to create, and The Class will help you rediscover who that person is and how to unfold a world of endless opportunities and possibilities. Whether you want to create a product, a business, a book or a life you love, the how-to will always show itself.

The Class, as it exists today, takes us through the skills and practices to bring something into the future that hasn't been done before. As Terry says, "never be the one who limits you".

The Class is for anyone looking for the next step. People walk out with more of themselves than when they entered and leave with the tools to create, lead and fulfill their dreams.

facebook.com/duperoneducation

THE CLASS

UPCOMING CLASS SERIES

June 8, 15 and 22

6:00-9:00 pm

SIGN UP TODAY

LIMITED CLASS SIZE





GREAT LAKES LOONS

United Financial Credit Union opens new office in Bay City

Saginaw, MI – United Financial Credit Union excited to announce that their new Bay City Office is open! Now members have even more convenient locations when it comes to banking with United Financial Credit Union. United Financial Credit Union will host a grand opening and ribbon cutting for its newest branch at 4:00pm on Tuesday, May 18th. The credit union is celebrating the new office with new account and loan specials and giveaways.

The office, located at 6354 Westside Saginaw Road {M-84} at the corner of 3 Mile Road and Westside Saginaw Road in Frankenlust Township, is the credit unions

7th branch location.

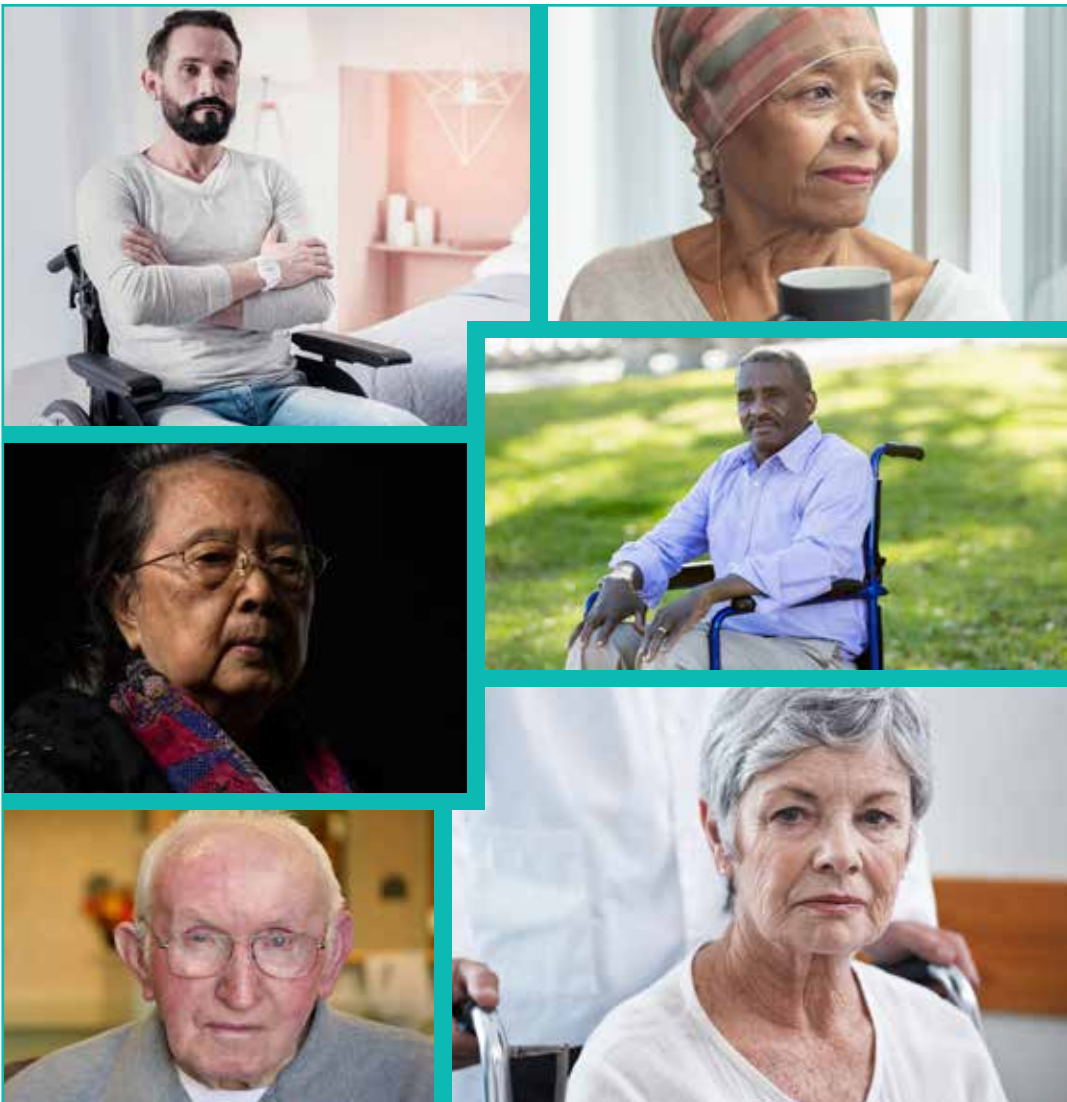
This location is a full service branch featuring some of the newest technology in member service delivery. The one story branch will be able to process new accounts, mortgages, consumer loans, insurance products, and wealth management services for personal or business members. The lobby will feature a teller pod for one-on-one personal attention and will also have a Live Interactive Personal Teller available, along with three private member offices. Lobby Hours are Monday – Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm.

The nontraditional standalone drive thru will feature Live Personal Tellers –

which means you'll receive great face to face service without ever having to leave your vehicle. The drive thru is open expanded hours are Monday – Friday 7:00am – 7:00pm and Saturday 8:00am – 2:00pm for member transactions and they can also be used as a 24 Hour ATM.

Visit their website at www.unitedfinancialcu.org to learn more about the Credit Union.






No one should have to face this pandemic alone.

34,000 job opportunities are available for caregivers.

In their faces, you may see your mother. Your grandfather. Your neighbor. If you have the heart of a caregiver, someone needs you. Due to this pandemic, there is a critical shortage of caregivers. Whether you have a few hours a week to spare to pick up groceries or make meals, or can give care full-time, earn income while making a difference.

Register at ConnectToCareJobs.com.






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Saginaw, Michigan 48607

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\$10 haircuts
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- Helping you achieve your dreams
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+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

Start small, plan big

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

There's a lot of pressure today to do something big, make an extraordinary impact, raise a lot of money. Nonprofits are feeling the pressure to respond to the needs of the times, and to pivot towards a new future. Some philanthropists and foundations are offering large sums of money to support these big-time changes.

That's all well and good, and in many instances the investments being made are long overdue. But we want you to remember who you are, what your mission and vision is, and to evaluate each call to action or potential investment with a clear-headed assessment of your capacity and infrastructure.

Here's what we mean. Do you have the people, knowledge, expertise, relationships, technology, systems and processes to support what you are being called upon to do? While your organization may have a transformative vision, where is it in its life-cycle in terms of experience with designing, piloting, implementing, tracking, evaluating, and reporting on projects?

You may be offered gifts and grants that will finance long-delayed or under-funded projects and programs, but can you execute in the expected timeframe? As noted above there is a lot that goes into success.

Money is pivotal, but not all that's needed. We advise board members, CEOs and donors and staff to have honest conversations with government agencies, foundations, individuals, or corporate donors about what it will really take to do what they are asking you to do. Too often money is offered that is "just enough to not fail, and not enough to win." Your organization may be forced to grow faster than you can manage, because you are working to meet someone else's goals without the capacity and infrastructure to support your success. Here are two things to consider:

First, define what you will need to do what is being asked of you. Write it up as a narrative, define the type of people you will need; identify your technology and systems needs; create an initial draft budget. Then ask someone else to look at it and give you their guidance. Go back and revise. Share with those who want to invest in your organization – or who you want as partners, donors, or funders.

Second, get a taste of success. Start with projects you believe to be achievable with your current level of staff and volunteers. Structure projects so those involved are supported and can see that their involvement and skills contribute to tangible suc-

cesses. As your team experiences a taste of success you should also be looking for talented people to join them. Take time to assess your organization's current capacity and identify the additional skills and expertise you need to add to your staff and board. Identify specific people who meet your criteria, and implement a plan to explore if, when, and how they would want to be involved and in what role. Carefully recruit the right board members, volunteers, and staff – know what you need to do and find people who can do it!

Start with what you do well.



Copyright 2021 – Mel and Pearl Shaw

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

+ CHURCH DIRECTORY

B



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



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



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

C

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

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



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

F



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



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

G



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

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



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

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

J



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

L

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

M

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



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

N



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

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



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



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



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



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

New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

Pastor Alfred "AJ" Harris Jr.
3610 Russel St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-0801

New Way Ministries

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

P

Prince of Peace Baptist Church

Pastor Robert C. Corley Jr.
825 North 24th Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-2841

R



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

S



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



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



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

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Pastor Carl Ballard
915 Federal Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-754-0489
stjohnlutheranelcasaginaw.weebly.com

T



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



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

V



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

W



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

Z



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



GREAT LAKES LOONS

Fortress Golf Course announced as host site of the 2021 Dow GLBI amateur qualifier

Frankenmuth, MI – The Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational announced Friday that The Fortress Golf Course in Frankenmuth will host the 2021 Dow GLBI Amateur Qualifier presented by Frankenmuth Insurance. Registration is now open for the event that is scheduled for June 2-3.

The two-player team format invites women's collegiate varsity golfers to compete for a chance to earn sponsor exemptions to the 2021 Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational. This will also be the first time that the Dow GLBI will hold an amateur qualifier that is sanctioned by the Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA).

"We could not be more thrilled to team up with the Dow GLBI, the GCAA and Frankenmuth Insurance for this one-of-a-kind opportunity in the Great Lakes Bay Region," said The Fortress Director of Golf

Nick Shelton. "The Dow GLBI has made such a positive impact in our community and The Fortress is honored to be a part of its history."

Eligible participants include varsity women's collegiate golfers from the 2020-21 school year or those who are scheduled to be on a varsity roster in the 2021-2022 school year. To qualify, the maximum individual and team handicaps cannot exceed a 4.0. Those interested in competing in the Dow GLBI Qualifier presented by Frankenmuth Insurance must register online at www.zehnders.com/ticketing/dowglbiqualfier by May 20. The \$150 per player/\$300 per team entry fee includes competitive rounds, a welcome reception meal, continental breakfast and lunch on both days of competition, pre and post tournament round range balls and one

Nike tournament gift bag per player.

"The Dow GLBI is proud to partner with The Fortress, the GCAA and Frankenmuth Insurance who are aligned with our goals to support the communities that we live and work in," said Dow GLBI Executive Director Chris Chandler. "We are excited to offer this unique opportunity that allows female collegiate golfers to play alongside the biggest names on the LPGA Tour in July."

The 36-hole tournament will kick off on Wednesday, June 2, where two-player teams will compete in both better ball and alternate shot formats. After completion of play on Thursday, June 3, the team with the lowest score will receive an exemption into the 2021 Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational.

Tyler Kring named Great Lakes Loons Assistant General Manager of Business Development

Saginaw, MI – Jessica Gillespie Named Human Resources Assistant, Elizabeth Getzinger, Jimmy Metiva Named Creative Team, Jeff Ross Named Head Groundskeeper.

The Great Lakes Loons announced today that Tyler Kring has been named Assistant General Manager of Business Development of the Great Lakes Loons. The 2021 season will mark Kring's 10th season with the club after serving in several roles since joining the Loons in 2012. In his new role, Kring is responsible for the sale and activation of corporate partnerships, external marketing efforts and media relations, and in-game entertainment and promotions.

"Tyler embodies the culture and values of the Loons, demonstrating a strong commitment to his clients, teammates, and the organization. His attention to detail has driven results not only for the Loons but for our corporate partners throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region and that will certainly continue as he takes on the marketing duties for the Loons and works with our creative team on cultivating the best fan experience in Minor League Baseball", stated Chris Mundhenk, President and General Manager.

Kring, a native of Cadillac, Michigan, holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Central Michigan University and a Bachelor's Degree in Sport Management from the University of Michigan. He joined the Loons as an intern in 2012 before joining the ticket office full-time in 2015 as a Group Sales Coordinator. He was promoted to Director of Corporate Partnerships before the 2018 season. He resides in Auburn with his wife, Ashley. In the community, Kring is a member of the Corteva Agriscience Community Advisory Panel, a Community Impact Panel member for United Way of Midland County, and a board member of the P.C.U.P.S. (Prostate Cancer Understanding Prevention and Screening) Foundation.

"The Loons have been my home since I was eighteen", stated Kring. "I'm humbled and honored to not only be a part of one of the greatest organizations in the Great Lakes Bay Region but one of the greatest organizations in all of professional sports. I'm incredibly excited to welcome fans back to Dow Diamond for the first time in 604 days when the Loons take the field next Tuesday and to get back to doing what we do best – creating memories and experiences that will

last a lifetime".

The Loons have also named Jessica Gillespie as Human Resources Assistant, Elizabeth Getzinger as Creative Services and Content Coordinator, Jimmy Metiva as Video Production Manager, and Jeff Ross as Head Groundskeeper.

Gillespie, a Midland native, joined the Loons in 2020 before the pandemic as the Executive Assistant to the leadership team of the Loons and the Michigan Baseball Foundation (MBF) and serves as the main liaison to the MBF Board of Directors. The addition of Human Resources Assistant to her role will see Gillespie handle all employee on-boarding activities for the Loons, as well as spearhead employee recruitment for the team.

"Jessica is truly the definition of a team player", stated Mundhenk. "The timing of her joining the Loons just before the pandemic could not have been less fortunate, however, she's a bright spot of enthusiasm and can-do attitude. She's a great ambassador and will be a welcoming face to people joining our team." "I'm very excited for this new opportunity", stated Gillespie. "Being able to live out the Loons values and experience while forming relationships with our staff and fans is incredibly rewarding."

Getzinger, a native of West Branch, Michigan is a recent graduate of Saginaw Valley State University with a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Graphic Design and a minor in marketing. In her role, Getzinger is responsible for all graphic design needs for the Loons, as well as managing the Loons' website and social channels. Before joining the Loons, Elizabeth served as the graphic designer for Elevation Performance and SVSU Football.

"Elizabeth is an incredibly talented designer who brings a fresh perspective and voice to the team. We're excited to have her as a member of our team as she starts what no doubt will be a promising career in sports", stated Kring. "I am thrilled at the opportunity to work in sports and use my talents to help the Loons grow. I grew up spending summers playing softball and now I'm able to spend more summers at the field seeing people enjoy the game as much as I do", stated Getzinger.

Metiva, a native of Saginaw, Michigan, brings ten years of video production experi-

ence to the Loons. In his role, Metiva is responsible for all video production and motion graphic needs for the Loons, as well as in-stadium event production and live streaming of Loons home games. Before joining the team, Metiva was the Television and Digital Content Manager for the Flint Firebirds from 2016 to 2020, as well as the Digital Content Coordinator for the Grand Rapids Drive from 2014 to 2015.

"Jimmy brings an enthusiasm to the Loons that is unmatched. His passion for creating a second-to-none fan experience will no doubt be noticed by our fans and I'm excited for them to experience Jimmy's game production," stated Kring. "I've been a Loons fan since the team's inception in 2007. The quality of entertainment the team has historically produced on a nightly basis is the best in the area. I couldn't be more excited to be a part of it and put on the best show we can each night," stated Metiva.

Ross, a native of East Tawas, Michigan has been a member of the Loons grounds crew since 2016, most recently serving as Assistant Groundskeeper since 2018. The 2021 season will be Ross's first season as Head Groundskeeper. In his role, Ross supervises all aspects of the day-to-day operations of the playing field at Dow Diamond, and all aspects of grounds maintenance on the entire Dow Diamond property.

"Jeff is an incredibly knowledgeable and talented groundskeeper", stated Dan Straley, Assistant General Manager of Facility Operations, "His attention to detail is what makes Dow Diamond one of the premier playing surfaces in all of Minor League Baseball." "Dow Diamond has a deep tradition of being a premier event facility, not only in the region but in the country," stated Ross. "I'm excited to take on this role and to continue to provide an award-winning field for Loons games and many other events."



+ SPORTS



www.hoytparkyouthbaseball.com
to register and pay online.

Registration Deadline June 13, 2021

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

COST:

\$20 per player

* \$3 additional fee charged on registration site

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

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



Hey Batter Batter!

WHO:

All Saginaw County
BOYS & GIRLS

Age 5-6 (T-ball)

Age 7-8 (Coach Pitch)

Division teams:

10U, 12U & 15U

WHEN:

10 Game Season

July 6th - Aug 5, 2021

Tuesday & Thursday
Evenings

WHERE:

Hoyt Park

1574 S. Washington Ave
Saginaw, MI

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

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

+ SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTO

MHSAA participation data published for abbreviated 2019-20 school year

East Lansing, MI – Data collected from Michigan High School Athletic Association schools for the annual national participation study has been published, noting that comparisons of overall participation and Spring sports data to past years must include the context that Spring sports teams had not begun competition before sports were halted March 16, 2020, and eventually canceled, and that reporting for those sports may be incomplete.

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) did not publish results of its national survey for the 2019-20 school year. However, the data

collected for MHSAA sports has been posted to the MHSAA Website; results from the 2000-01 school year to present may be viewed at www.mhsaa.com by clicking on Schools > Administrators > Sports Participation Listing.

A total of 274,126 participants competed or had begun practices in MHSAA-sponsored sports during the 2019-20 school year. The overall MHSAA participation totals count students once for each sport in which they participate, meaning students who are multiple-sport athletes are counted more than once.

Boys participation fell 2.7 percent to

157,323, and girls participation also decreased, by three percent to 116,803. However, both measures include totals received for Spring sports, which saw reduced participation reported in eight of nine sports offered and the majority by significant percentages indicating the effect of the COVID-19 stoppage.

However, data collected for the Fall and Winter revealed mostly consistent comparisons with eight sports showing increases in participation from 2018-19 and 11 showing decreases (not counting girls tennis, which is played in Fall in the Upper Peninsula but by the great majority of the state's teams in the Lower Peninsula during Spring). Girls and boys bowling both set participation records with the girls total of 3,134 athletes up 1.3 percent over the previous season and the boys total of 4,495 up 3.8 percent over 2018-19.

Girls alpine skiing and wrestling enjoyed the second-largest percentage increases in participation in 2019-20 of three percent each, girls skiing to 786 athletes (the sport's most since 2004-05) and wrestling to 9,777 participants. Volleyball bounced back from a dip in 2018-19 with an increase of nearly a percent to 19,248 participants, and boys swimming & diving similarly bounced back with a 1.1-percent increase to 5,059 participants. Girls golf (0.6 percent, 3,610 total participants) and boys tennis (1.3 percent, 6,339 athletes) also saw increases despite Upper Peninsula seasons in those sports not being played. Girls lacrosse, with 3,224 participants, was up 1.4 percent and set a record despite the sport being halted prior to the start of competition.

Of the 11 Fall and Winter sports that saw decreases in participation from 2018-19, eight were by 1.6 percent or less. Football, with 34,339 participants during the 2019 season, remained the most-played sport despite a 3-percent decrease from the previous year. Boys track & field (21,650) and boys basketball (21,016) had the next-highest totals of participants reported. Volleyball (19,248) remained the most popular girls sport by participation, followed by girls track & field (16,274) and girls basketball (15,133).

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 9

Elks name \$50,000 'Most Valuable Student' scholarship winners



COURTESY PHOTO

More than 23,000 students applied for the Elks National Foundation's Most Valuable Student scholarship, but only 20 interviewed for the six top awards of up to \$50,000.

On April 23 and 24, the 2021 Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Top 20 National Finalists met virtually. Each student will receive an Elks National Foundation college scholarship of at least \$20,000.

Scholars from California to Connecticut tuned in for a weekend full of virtual programming. Through the power of technology, the scholars were able to connect with each other and learn more about the Elks.

"It's been an incredible experience to see so many like-minded people from such interesting and diverse backgrounds," reflects Caleb Matthews of Oregon. "Everyone here has such an interesting, different and important story. Understanding the breadth of humanity is something I'm really going to take with me."

The top winners of a \$50,000 MVS scholarship are Jacob Lockman, sponsored by Mount Adams (White Salmon), Wash., Lodge No. 1868, and Gellila Asmamaw, sponsored by Lancaster, Pa., Lodge No. 134.

Through the Most Valuable Student scholarship program, high school seniors can apply for a college scholarship of up

to \$50,000. To see a full list of the Top 20 MVS finalists and to learn more about the Elks National Foundation's scholarships, visit elks.org/scholars.



**Elks
National
Foundation, Inc**



COURTESY PHOTO

Survey: majority of U.S. teens don't believe everyone is presented with "A Level Playing Field" when it comes to financial opportunity

Colorado Springs, CO – A new survey of 1,000 teens conducted for Junior Achievement by the research company ENGINE Insights shows that a majority of teens (51%) don't believe everyone is presented with "A Level Playing Field" when it comes to opportunities to achieve financial success. About a third (32%) believe the playing field is level. The survey of 1,000 13- to 17-year-olds was conducted by ENGINE Insights from March 25-30, 2021.

In terms of the biggest challenges to achieving financial success, most teens (53%) cite the cost of higher education, followed by a general lack of understanding of how money, investing, and the economy work (46%). Other challenges include pay gaps based on gender, ethnicity, and other

factors (45%); education not being equal for everyone (42%); government not doing enough to help (29%); lack of access to loans for business and housing (21%); and business not doing enough to help (14%).

Other findings from the survey include:

95% of teens believe education plays an important role in leveling the playing field, with 69% saying it is "Very" or "Extremely" important.

38% of teens say they have had some sort of financial literacy class in school.

87% of teens agree with the statement, "Every student should have at least one financial literacy class before graduating

high school."

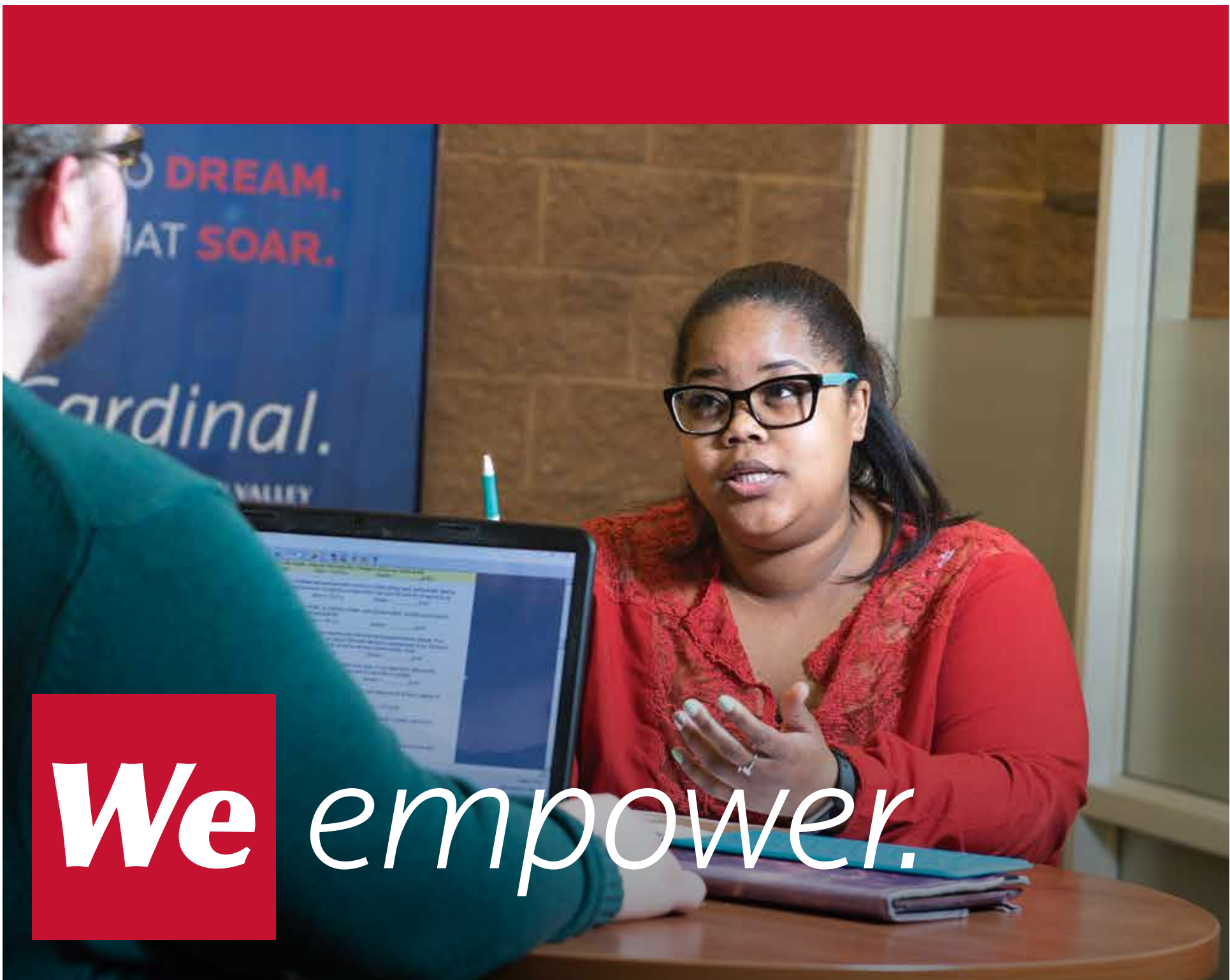
"These survey results show that our nation's teens believe education has a critical role to play in addressing the financial insecurity and inequity many Americans face," said Jack E. Kosakowski, President and CEO of Junior Achievement USA. "We have an economic system where success is dependent in part on the financial literacy of individuals. However, most Americans aren't introduced to these concepts until they are adults, when a lack of knowledge can result in life-altering consequences. That's why it's critical we deliver financial literacy education to young people while they are still in school."



PICS OF THE WEEK ARTHUR SMITH, SAGINAW CAREER COMPLEX

Congratulations to Saginaw Career Complex Student, Arthur Smith! Arthur won gold for the state of Michigan SkillsUSA in employment application. Arthur will now be going on to SkillsUSA Nationals in June.





We empower.

*Brittany Saunders is ready to pay it forward. The Chicago native enrolled at SVSU with ambitions to pursue a teaching career. Brittany was encouraged and invigorated by other passionate educators who worked closely with her to ensure she would accomplish her goals. And she is. Even before she was set to graduate, Brittany could boast a résumé with a paid internship in a school district along with K-12 classroom experience. **Now she can't wait to begin a professional career, inspiring students with the same kind of one-on-one attention she received from her professors at SVSU.***



SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY

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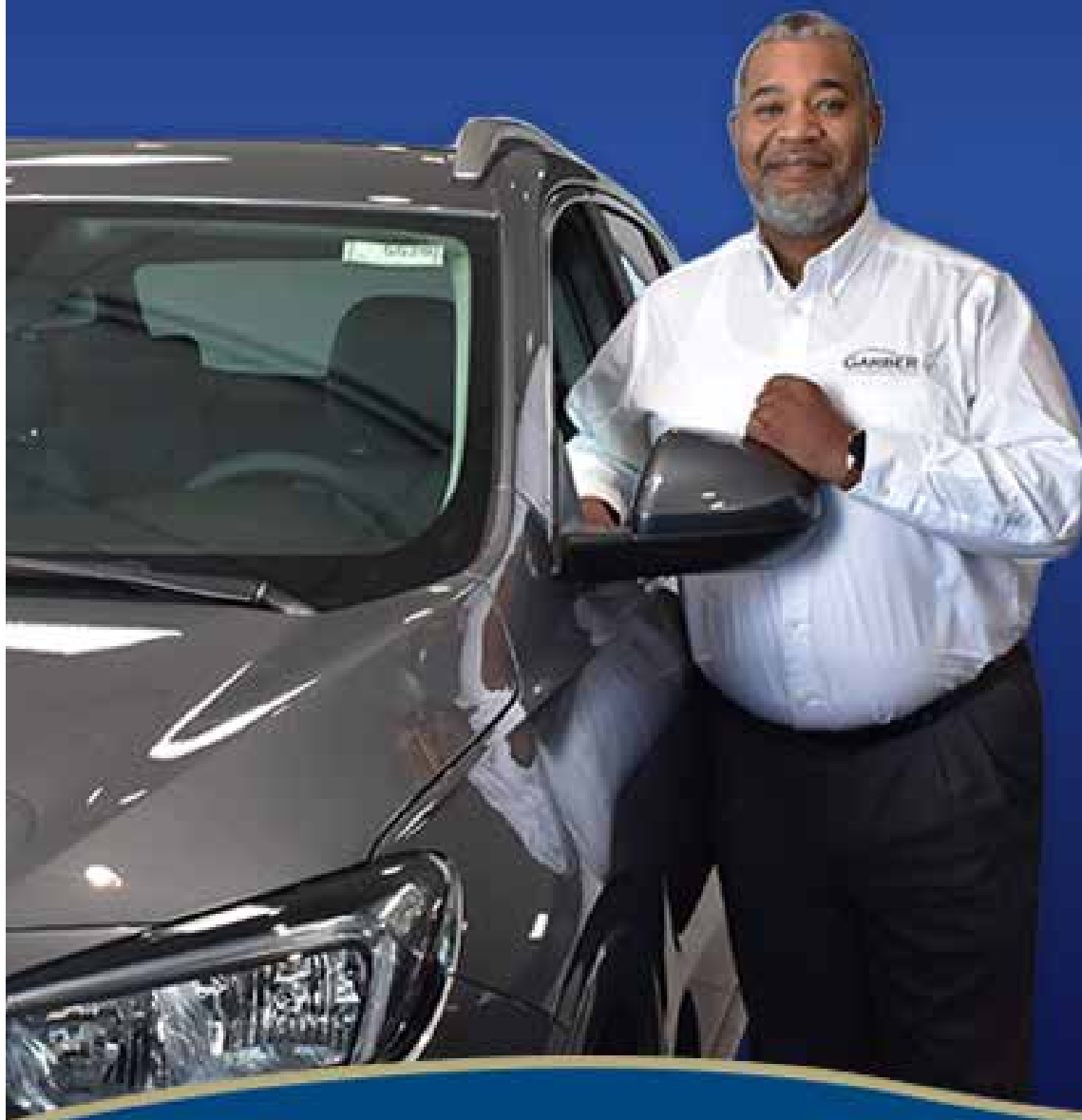
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