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MEMORIAL DAY (MAY 31) // REMEMBER & HONOR

COMMUNITY



A MAGICAL FASHION NIGHT IN SAGINAW!

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'TEAM UP TO CLEAN UP' VOLUNTEERS (JOYCE HARVIN)

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 **School districts plan for covid relief funds**

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 **How long can present trends continue?**

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Citywide cleanup may lead to more action

By MIKE THOMPSON

Saginaw Team Up to Clean Up Day on May 15 was still in progress, and Mayor Brenda Moore was mapping future plans.

She toured more than a half-dozen work sites where volunteers gathered at elementary schools and then fanned out into neighborhoods. These included Jessie Rouse, Loo-

mis and Arthur Eddy on the East Side and Stone, Herig, Handley and Chester Miller on the West Side. The mayor offered encouragement, thank-yous and hugs to some among more than 100 volunteers from churches, neighborhood associations, union locals and youth groups.

CONTINUES ON PG 2, CITY CLEANUP

FEATURED STORY

POLICE REFORM? SAGINAW CITY COPS AIM TO INTEGRATE

COMMUNITY, PG 14



Cover, city cleanup



COURTESY PHOTOS

Closing remarks took place while returning crew members chomped on Koe-gel's franks and chips donated from Old Town's Woody's Hot Dogs. The prime sponsor was the Saginaw Community Foundation.

"Look at you all," Moore intoned to the assembly at City Hall's front steps. "Don't tell me what you can't do."

In a more quiet setting, the mayor said she hopes to establish cleanup day as an annual event on the third Saturday of each May, with the first weekend occupied by Cinco de Mayo and the second weekend by Mother's Day.

She also aims to assemble a specialty crew of trash haulers, landscapers and tree-trimmers so that future efforts may go beyond picking up trash, litter and debris.

Later in the day, she learned Saginaw

is in line for a \$200,000 state grant for cleanup purposes.

Meanwhile, for the remainder of this spring and summer:

- If a group missed May 15 but still wishes to organize its own community cleanup project at a park or a vacant property, place trash bags and debris at curbside and contact the Inspections Division at 759-1540 or inspections@saginaw-mi.com.
- To volunteer for a more intense project, similar to a Habitat housing blitz visit the One Week, One Street website or facebook page. Their target area for the week of June 21-25 will be the former Web-

ber School area along Elmwood and Beechwood.

- For information on obtaining and maintaining an adjacent vacant lot for a cost as low as \$180, if the prior owner failed to pay taxes, call the Saginaw County Land Bank Authority at 792-6028.
- To donate gas money and cleanup equipment for Jimmie Truss, who is earning recognition and praise for volunteering to clean and mow vacant lots in his spare time free-of-charge, consider a gofundme site organized on the Facebook page of his wife, Alicia Truss.

MICHIGAN BANNER

301 E Genesee Ave, Suite 201B
Saginaw, MI 48607
989.992.2600
publisher022@gmail.com

CEO/COO

Jerome Buckley
publisher022@gmail.com

PUBLISHER

Jerome Buckley, Jr.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Michelle McCoy
editor@michiganbanner.org

EDITOR EMERITUS

Rae Lynn Buckley

**THE LATINO BANNER
PUBLISHER**

Jerome Buckley
thelatinobanner@gmail.com

OMBUDSMAN

Elaine Gregory McKenzie

MISSION

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Don't Quit



One of my most notable remembrances of my father is his wisdom. Far beyond any academic achievements, my father respected, understood the value of and daily practiced the principle of hard work. He spoke it daily. He modeled it in every aspect of his life. He settled for nothing less from everyone in the household - everyone had age-appropriate duties. Most importantly, I think was the lesson learned from his insistence that, 'Whatever you do, be the best! If it's shining shoes, be the best shoe shiner there is.' Quitting was not an option. From schoolwork to sports to anything we set our minds to accomplish, he insisted that you get up and try again. And again. World renowned author and minister Dr. Norman Vincent Peale revolutionized the concept of positive thinking as a means of changing and controlling your thoughts and as a result, your destiny. When he published one of his many best sellers, 'The Power of Positive Thinking' (1952), he said, 'Nothing is more confusing than people who give good advice but set a bad example'. Over the years, I have heard many variations of his words of wisdom and tips for a successful life but none with the impact that came with his living example.

One of my favorite, go-to books on the topic of perseverance and success is, 'Think and Grow Rich' by Napoleon Hill. Please keep in mind that when I speak of being rich, really rich, I am speaking of far more than dollars and cents. He said in the book, "If you give up before your goal has been reached, you are a 'quitter'. A QUITTER NEVER WINS AND A WINNER NEVER QUILTS. Lift this sentence out, write it on a piece of paper in letters an inch high, and place it where you will see it every night before you go to sleep, and every morning before you go to work". My grandmother provided this principle in our lives through daily sharing of scripture from the Bible (as children we were certain that she had memorized it in its entirety). There was a meaningful and encouraging scripture or phrase that fit any and every situation we faced. They both worked tirelessly to ensure that we would not grow up to be quitters in the game of life. The ability to stick-to-it is a skill that is learned over time and best internalized when consistently modeled by a respected adult or mentor. We learned that everyone makes mistakes but that no one should be judged by his worst decision. Peale also said, 'Never let any mistake cause you to stop believing in yourself. Learn from it and go on'.

Respect is a key component of all human interaction or communication. My father was a military man who commanded respect through action. Clean shoes, crisply starched shirts (yes, there was a time when one's outer appearance really was a source of pride) were a must. Judging others who may have had less was not modeled in the home nor allowed. Treating others with respect and demanding the same in return were signs of strength. In the words of Hill, "I will eliminate hatred, envy, jealousy, selfishness, and cynicism, by developing love for all humanity, because I know that a negative attitude toward others can never bring me success. I will cause others to believe in me, because I will believe in them, and in myself." Long before the publication of Think and Grow Rich, we learned to value healthy, mutually respectful relationships and to comfortably walk away from those whose values differed from our own. Respectful discourse is much needed but seems to be in short supply.

Every principle quoted in this book and countless others has been passed down from generation to generation by grandparents, parents and others who have provided guidance to those in their care. These gate-keeper's names may never appear on a list of best-selling authors or speakers but have helped to shape the many honest, hard-working, contributing citizens in this and other communities. I recall receiving my own copies of 'The Law of Success' and 'Think and Grow Rich' from my mentor/friend, Ernest E.J. Mathis. He was a very successful entrepreneur in Grand Rapids, MI who poured into young people within whom he recognized potential for success. He insisted that a voracious love of reading was a critical element to finding success in any field. To a great degree, I am proud to attribute some of my own accomplishments to his coaching and guidance which was consistently modeled in his day-to-day business dealings. Mathis shared books and information which motivated him, fully expecting that it would inspire me and many others to higher heights in our chosen area(s) of interest. Subsequent wisdom gained from his modeling, strategies learned in the readings and the hard work ethic instilled long before, resulted over time, in very strong families, the launching of numerous businesses some of which continue to thrive. Through the years, and more frequently recently, I have heard the frustrated wonderings of people contemplating the purpose of 'getting up again'. Circumstances can sometimes seem bleak or hopeless. I share an emphatic, heartfelt 'no - don't quit', to those of us in need of a gentle nudge to stay in the game. Now would be a great time to find the book, quote or scripture that resonates within - one that gives you the fortitude to get up and try again - one more time. You may be just one failure away from a total breakthrough. Planting seeds of success into next generations requires us to give it another try.

"I would rather attempt to do something great and fail, than to do nothing and succeed".
Dr. Norman Vincent Peale

A large, elegant handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome Buckley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'J'.

Jerome Buckley
Publisher, The Michigan Banner

Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

NEW STUDY: Facebook is primary driver of COVID-19 misinformation in the Latinx community, fueling vaccine hesitancy

Washington, D.C. – According to a new study, among Latinx respondents who have not yet been vaccinated, 51% say they will likely not get vaccinated against COVID-19 at this time -- this number rises to 67% within Spanish-speaking households. The two most commonly cited reasons against taking the vaccine are around safety and effectiveness, which are especially prevalent in Spanish-speaking households. The study goes on to find that misinformation around COVID-19 and the vaccines play a critical role in fueling vaccine hesitancy among Latinos. Facebook (49%) and local news (39%) are the top reported platforms spreading inaccurate and harmful information around the vaccines.

The study, which was conducted by Change Research on behalf of the Latino Anti-Disinformation Lab, a joint project of Voto Latino, the nation's largest Latinx voter registration and engagement organization, and Media Matters for America, a

**CONTINUES ON LB PG 2,
COVID-19 LATINX**



DR. FELIPE LOPEZ SUSTAITA

Executive Director of Hispanic/ Latino Commission of Michigan accepts new position

Lansing, MI – Dr. Felipe Lopez Sustaita, Executive Director of the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan (HLCOM), has announced he accepted a position at Lansing Community College. His last day with the commission will be May 14, 2021. Felipe has led the HLCOM for almost five years, since July of 2016.

While serving as Executive Director of the HLCOM, Felipe founded the Statewide Hispanic/Latino College Graduation Ceremony and worked with the commission to award approximately 100 scholarships to college and university students across the state. Felipe also drove over 50,000 miles to conduct community outreach and recently played an active role in ensuring that the Hispanic/Latino community has access to COVID-19 vaccines.

Felipe said that it has been an honor

and privilege to serve in this role. He went on to say that the best part of the job was all the people he had the opportunity to meet across the state and the chance to cultivate the young professionals who he worked with: Daniel Carreon-Camberos, Jose Luis Mendez, Ana Manzano, Clarissa Mezquitic, Janet Ibarra and Dr. Patricia Jaimes.

Felipe will be starting his new role as Associate Dean of Student Support at Lansing Community College on May 17, 2021. In his role he will be leading seven departments which include Adult Resource Center, the Center for Student Access, Counseling, Veteran and Military Affairs Department, Fostering Stars, Office of Student Compliance and Global Student Services.

LATINO BANNER SPONSORED BY GREAT LAKES BAY HEALTH CENTERS

Continued from LB Cover, COVID-19 Latinx



COURTESY PHOTO

nonprofit disinformation watchdog, found that almost 4 in 10 Latinx respondents report having seen material or information that makes them think the COVID-19 vaccines are not safe or effective. In addition 6 in 10 Latinos know someone in their household or community who is unwilling to take the vaccine because they believe it will be harmful to them.

Specifically, the survey found that:

- Among Latinos who have not been vaccinated, the majority say they do not plan on getting a COVID-19 vaccine or are hesitant to get one because they believe it is not safe (51%) – this number rises to 67% among Spanish-dominant speakers.
- Latina women (48%) are less hesitant to take the vaccine than Latino men (54%); however more than one-third (34%) of women are more likely to only accept a specific vaccine versus only 25% of men.
- Of those respondents who are unsure about getting vaccinated, Latinos under the age of 50 (78%) and that speak Spanish as their primary language at home (49%) are among the most hesitant to get the vaccine.
- Nearly 40% of Latinx respondents say they have seen material or information that makes them think the COVID-19 vaccine is not safe or effective. Another 20% say they have directly received wrong or harmful information about the vaccine, primarily on Facebook (53%) and messaging apps (43%), such as SMS, WhatsApp, WeChat, Telegram, etc.
- The top three sources that Latinos turn to for information about COVID-19 and the available vaccines are the Centers for Disease Control (56%), the news (53%), and their primary healthcare provider (46%); Spanish-dominant speakers are more likely to rely on their family for information (29%), compared to English speakers (19%).
- 72% of Latinx respondents who are unsure about getting the COVID-19 vaccine say they know someone in their household or community who is unwilling to take the vaccine because they believe it will be harmful to them.
- Overall, 78% of Latinx respondents believe COVID-19 misinformation is a very serious or somewhat serious problem, particularly when thinking about their community, family, and friends.
- "These numbers should be alarming to anyone who wants to see us

get through this pandemic," says María Teresa Kumar, co-founding president and CEO of Voto Latino. "Voto Latino is launching a massive, coordinated response against the spread of disinformation and we invite those in government, business leadership, social media corner offices, and at home to join us in the fight against these dangerous lies."

"We're meeting a strong threat with a stronger response – the truth," added Tom Perez, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee and co-chair of the Latino Anti-Disinformation Lab. "This powerful investment in Latino community communications infrastructure will help protect our community and the country, helping ensure that our families and friends will not be victimized by unchecked misinformation and lies again."

"Misinformation and disinformation have harmful consequences," said Angelo Carusone, president & CEO of Media Matters. "The poll's findings further illustrate both how central Facebook is to the larger disinformation problem and how their efforts to address false information - especially non-English disinformation - are grossly inadequate. This is an alarm bell warning us about the increasing threat of disinformation targeting the Latinx community."

The survey is the beginning of a large-scale bilingual message testing campaign through the Latino Anti-Disinformation Lab. Voto Latino and Media Matters will be developing and testing public health messages and materials in both English and Spanish aimed to combat COVID misinformation and to boost vaccination among the Latinx community based on the findings. The campaign will also include digital video ads that feature calls-to-action from authoritative and influential figures, such as academics, scientists, and educators.

The campaign will be the first and largest campaign of its kind, with a goal of targeting communications to the 12-15 million Latinos in the U.S. who have not yet been vaccinated.

SEEN ON THE SCENE

On May 6, the Mexican American Council hosted a gathering for the National Day of Prayer.





ELVIS MACHUL
Finance Director
Garber Buick Saginaw

(989) 497-4444 ext.1605
emachul@garberbuick.com



JULIO RODRIGUEZ
Sales Consultant
Garber Buick Saginaw

(989) 497-2222 ext.1622
j.rodriguez@garberbuick.com

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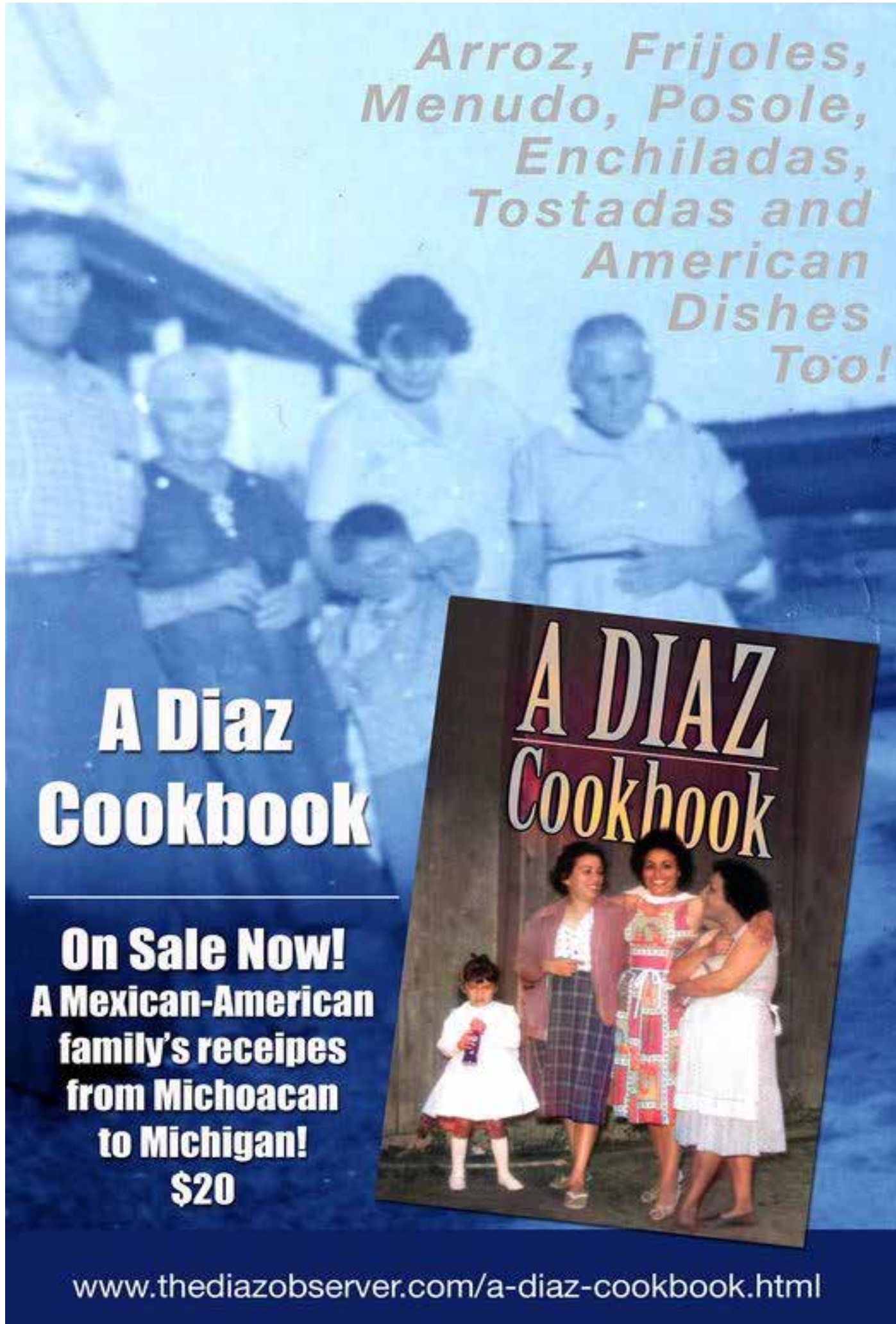
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+ COMMUNITY

il May 10, 2021



CITY OF SAGINAW YOUTUBE

A few rare sparks at latest City Council meet

By MIKE THOMPSON

A 17-year pattern of mostly unanimous votes on the Saginaw City Council went by the wayside at a May 10 meeting.

The question now stands, are more split votes to come?

In the May 10 roll calls:

- Councilman Michael Flores asked for a council rule prohibiting members, during covid-era virtual meetings, from speaking one-to-one on cell phones. His proposal failed on an 8-1 vote. Other members said they resented any implication that they were secretly sharing remarks

during meetings and votes, with the senior member, Annie Boensch, asserting that Flores was engaging in "Silly Season."

- Councilwoman Monique Lamar Silvia asked that \$45,000 in federal money for increased First Ward security lighting along Norman Street be transferred instead for street repairs and building demolitions. Her motion was defeated, 7-2, with support only from Flores. Mayor Pro-Team Michael Balls responded that the lights are needed for public safety, especially among newer houses built near First Ward Community Center. Silvia countered in turn that crime rates are down in northeast Saginaw.

The current council includes Boensch, Balls and Mayor Brenda Moore as veterans. Bill Ostash, Autumn Scherzer and Reggie Williams are more recent in experience. Flores, Silvia and George Copeland are newcomers elected last November.

City Council proceedings have gone through three general phases after voters put a new City Charter in place in 1936.

Up until the later 1960s, business interests controlled the governing body and mostly remained in lockstep.

Social change then led to more discussion, diverse opinion and two-sided votes linked to more modern times

This continued all the way into 2004, when the city manager at the time, Deborah Kimble, was dismissed on a 5-4 midnight vote.

Since then, "council unity" has been a prime theme. The pair of divided votes on May 10 were minor, in comparison to the big picture, but they will remain in the immediate memories of all involved.

Meanwhile, there were two main points of unanimous agreement.

A \$132 million budget for 2021-22 was introduced without objection, with a final vote scheduled for Monday, May 24, with no major changes from recent cutbacks and bare-bones years.

Also, members took turns urging residents to "put their guns down" and end another recent spate of local violence and homicides.

'Bean Bunny' on agenda

Councilman Ostash, a historian, said numerous constituents are pushing to preserve the west riverfront's "Bean Bunny" grain elevator, slated for demolition to make space for a football/soccer/track facility when a unified high school is built on the adjacent SASA location. Plans, including a Saginaw Community Foundation fund drive, call for saving the neon sign but not the building, and so the councilman's statement amounts to a protest. Ostash also suggested that with preservation, the school's sports teams could be named the "Jack Rabbits."

+ COMMUNITY



SPSD BOARD MEETING

School districts plan for covid relief funds

By MIKE THOMPSON

Among active parents, word is beginning to spread that local school districts are in line to receive their largest shares of covid-relief aid.

But their leaders are reluctant to discuss these infusions of federal taxpayer support and relief.

Saginaw City Superintendent Ramont Roberts says, "I am not prepared to speak to how we are going to utilize those funds. We are still in the planning phase."

Bridgeport Superintendent Mark Whelton says, "Thank you for reaching out. Once plans are finalized under the guidelines, I will be happy to share those."

Both declined to outline their districts' covid-related spending to date, anything from home-schooling technologies to air purifiers for classrooms. Also, of course, to reveal details after a plan is approved forecloses public participation along the way.

But at least Roberts and Whelton answered the Michigan Banner survey. Saginaw Township Superintendent Bruce Martin and Carrollton Superintendent Rachel Snell provided no responses at all, which involved four attempts at inquiry during the past week.

Republicans, Whitmer clash

Indeed, one reason for an uncertain and delayed outlook is confrontation between state Republican lawmakers and

Democrats led by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, similar to conflicts in Washington between the GOP and President Biden. Federal aid is steered through state governments, and Lansing Republicans are aiming to impose rules, ranging from more school hours to higher student test scores, while Whitmer and Dems oppose blocking the money.

Initial federal funds were approved during the first covid outbreak in March 2020, during a brief period of cooperation between Donald Trump and Congress. This is known as CARES, the Covid Aid Relief and Economic Security Act, covering not only schools but overall items such as stimulus and unemployment checks, and business support.

Larger sums from newly elected President Biden and Democrats came forth earlier this year, over Republican objections, entitled ESSER, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Act, otherwise known as the American Rescue Plan.

According to the Michigan Education Justice Coalition, combined federal aid so far is:

- Saginaw School District, 5,275 students, \$67 million
- Saginaw Township schools, 4,865 students, \$5.9 million
- Bridgeport schools, 1,515 students, \$10.7 million
- Carrollton schools, 1,815 students, \$3.1 million

Why are Saginaw city schools receiving so much more money, per pupil, than the inner suburbs? The answer is because the funding formula is based on anti-poverty federal "Title I" standards, and this has created another source of controversy, with middle-income and even moderate-poor districts claiming they are shortchanged.

But this dispute is mainly internal among educators. The primary issues are (1) how much money might Republicans block, and (2) how will the local districts spend the new funds they eventually receive?

Expectations rise

Stories already are circulating that schools will receive funds in excess of covid needs. One Saginaw parent, for example, has pushed for money to support First Ward Community Center and to help rescue the now-closed Neighborhood House. Past school boards never have bankrolled community centers, although City Hall formerly operated the Civitan and Merrill Park centers.

One stipulation is that at least 20 percent of funds address "learning loss" during pandemic times, which is considered more severe among children in poverty and/or in special education. The Michigan Department of Education describes "broad permissive lists of allowable" spending, with "considerable flexibility."

Obvious covid-related categories include PPE (personal protective equipment), cleaning and sanitizing products, ventilating and air purifying, and home computers for virtual classroom learning. Many of those investments began immediately in March 2020 and remain ongoing.

There are gray areas. Facility repairs with special funds are intended to address "student health hazards," for example, but to what degree? After-school and summer school classes, along with family mental health services, may address covid-caused "learning loss," but educators would desire to offer these special efforts, pandemic or no pandemic.

Parents who wish to conduct further research may Google-hunt with a phrase as simple as "michigan school covid funds rules." Also, the Saginaw Ezekiel Project website will host "Virtual Lobby Week" May 25, 26 and 27.

+ COMMUNITY

A magical fashion night in Saginaw!



By JIMMY E. GREENE

With undergraduate and graduate degrees in education, Detroit native and Marine Corps veteran, Montee Holland was a first-hand witness to fashion at a young age by way of his mother, coach and Dean of Students. To Holland, they were style. With a personal declaration to emulate his examples, birth was given to a vision. Motivated by the prohibition era and the famed Motown groups, Montee Holland, President of the Tayion Collection (pronounced Tay-on) began designing in the late eighties with little more than an eye for putting things together. That's how it all started, with Holland "putting things together" for himself.

Encouraged by the feedback, Holland began designing for other people. The response was great, and word quickly spread. After setting aside time for college, graduate school and positions within two Fortune 50 companies, fashion again called his name, and Holland answered. Things took off so quickly, and it was almost overwhelming. Stepping out on faith Holland left his pharmaceutical sales job at Pfizer to produce his first ready-to-wear collection for the masses. Presented in 2003, The Tayion Collection with its classically tailored details and modernistic appeal was on its way.

The Tayion and T-Fusion Collections are where the Renaissance man meets the new millennium man. Holland likes to say his brand is "where the custom suit merges with ready to wear." He prides himself in the ability to provide the feel and look of



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TAYION

BY MONTEE HOLLAND

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purchasing a custom suit at the competitive price of ready to wear found on the rack.

Holland participated in The Workshop at Macy's in 2019 and was the first veteran-owned brand to participate in the program since Veteran and LGBTQ-owned businesses were added to the list of qualifications. Since participating in the program, the collection continues to garner much success in with men's suiting retailer domestically and internationally and pre-

sented with the "Best in Show" award at the 2019 MAGIC Men's tradeshow. And guess where Montee decided to roll out this collection...Saginaw! The audience was a mix of Saginaw County leaders; Black, White, Hispanic, Asian; Male and Female. It was Saginaw's finest reviewing Montee's finest. I would love to see so much more of this in Saginaw!

Thank you Montee!!



+ COMMUNITY



FACEBOOK.COM/SAGINAW-POLICE-DEPARTMENT-1447299688837398

Police reform? Saginaw city cops aim to integrate

By MIKE THOMPSON

Efforts to expand an ethnic and gender mix within police personnel continue in Saginaw and most other cities.

Where will we find the job candidates? The Michigan Banner today, as a main focus of this report, will present stories from four city officers, three who are minorities and one who is female. Leaders in the Police Department and among our residents believe these sorts of examples may help with recruiting.

Through history, community relations in law enforcement have led to challenges and at times to outright discord. This focus has become more intense with highly-publicized deaths during the past decade, including George Floyd last year and Saginaw's own Milton Hall in 2012.

Proposed reforms range from more accountability, to residency requirements, to increased training, all the way to "defunding the police" for other purposes, but a common theme going back through all these years is improved integration in hiring, so that police "look like" the neighborhoods where they serve rather than appearing as an "occupying force."

Saginaw's biggest steps in this regard took place during the 1980s and 1990s, in spite of police union resistance and law-

suits from white officers claiming reverse discrimination. By 2000, the turn of the millennium, the counts included:

- 155 officers total
- 32 African American
- 17 Latino
- 25 female

But the millennium was when the biggest cutbacks started to take hold, creating barriers to integration based in part to last hired/first fired. This year's 2021 numbers have nosedived:

- 60 officers total
- 7 African American
- 5 Latino
- 7 female

This scenario has remained virtually frozen since 2015, when Saginaw-born Robert Ruth was hired as chief, and promised to aim for racial balance in the wake of the Milton Hall slaying. Ruth's predecessor, Gerald Cliff told the City Council repeatedly that minority hiring was a challenge because Saginaw could not financially compete with Detroit suburbs that offered starting pay in the range of \$10,000 higher. It turned out that Cliff had departed the top Detroit ranks with a reverse discrimination claim of his own.



Lt. David Kendziorski is a 25-year Saginaw police veteran who is leading the latest recruitment push. He joined Ruth in stating that a key to overcoming Cliff's conundrum is to pursue young men and women from the mid-Michigan region.

Among the officers who the Banner features today, Julian Guevara is a graduate of Nouvel Catholic Central High School, Vince Jackson attended Mackinaw Academy, Desirae Kzinowek is a product of Essexville Garber High and Nick Jacobs comes from Pinconning High. Kendziorski himself grew up in Bay City.

"At a time like this interest may seem to be at an all-time low," Kendziorski says, "but at the same time, this is a great time to reach out to our different populations. We have many opportunities for personal development and rewards. There are opportunities on patrol, within our investigative arena or in our traffic bureau. If a young person wants to become part of the change, we are here."

When Ruth was hired six years ago, he issued a written statement that says:

"We're going to do everything we can to mentor our youth in Saginaw so they want to be police officers and firefighters in the future. We should reflect the community we police. Hopefully we can change that in the next few years

"Diversity issues aren't just a problem here at our department. It's a problem for every municipality in the United States.

"We are taking new applicants right now and we're also going to start an explorer program. Anything we can do to recruit and encourage minority candidates to come to the city of Saginaw is great. It would be great if we could hire people from Saginaw, because then they'll stay like I did."

"My game plan is to focus on education, to educate people in the schools through the explorer programs. But we can't do it ourselves. It has to start with the family and the parenting and we need

CONTINUES ON PG 15, POLICE

Continued from pg 14, police

help through members of the clergy and the education system too. We're just one element of that."

Bobby Deleon, president of the Saginaw Mexican American Council, MAC is among community leaders who support the recruitment effort.

"When we were small kids, we played cops and robbers and some of us would say we wanted to be police officers or firefighters, but after that, none of us really thought any more" about going into that type of work, Deleon says.

"Nowadays, there seems to be a growing lack of trust between the community and the police, and so I encourage young Latino men and women to consider these careers."

The Saginaw Police Department web site at saginaw-mi.com contains information on employment opportunities, and Kendiorski's phone number is 759-1235. Following are the recruitment and startup stories of four Saginaw officers:

JULIAN GUEVARA

Saginaw city police arrange "ride-along" experiences to provide residents with a first-hand look at what they do on a daily basis.

But Julian Guevara wasn't just another citizen 15 years ago. He was a teenager who was exploring his career choices.

"I must have asked for about five of the ride-alongs, at different times," he recalls. "I liked the camaraderie, the brotherhood, the fast-paced work, and also, the thought of putting on a uniform and looking professional."

As a result, the 2007 graduate of Nouvel Catholic Central High School reports to work as Detective Julian Guevara.

He also remembers a pair of ride-along stories that reflect polar opposites for a police officer.

One was a car chase, "zero to one hundred in an instant," but the other was a slower-paced drama.

"There was a young teen who went missing, who had not done so before," Guevara says. "It was really hard on the father and the mother. I was able to see the compassion that the officers showed toward the family and the tremendous effort that they put forth."

He received his training through Central Michigan University and Delta College and began his career in Atlanta.

"I just wanted a change, to leave Michigan for a while," says Julian, currently engaged to be married, "but I always planned to come back. This is where I'm from. My family is here."

In spite of criticism of police, Guevara says family and friends are totally supportive.

"They understand that not everybody who is a police officer is a bad police officer," he says. "They see that this is a fine profession and that they benefit from our service."

Future plans include ambition for promotions, and to one day specialize in tactical law enforcement training.

Meanwhile, he maintains full awareness of the risks that go with his service. He speaks of initiating a car chase in Atlanta that led into a housing complex where snipers had engaged in a murderous shooting spree only a few days prior.

"I was by myself in that courtyard for a moment, spontaneous, and thankfully nothing took place," Guevara recalls, "and then there was that feeling of relief, for all those blue lights to arrive with me."

VINCE JACKSON



His assignment was to help transport a resident to a mental health review, but Officer Vince Jackson of the Saginaw Police Department paused during the encounter.

He was familiar with elder relatives who had gone through Alzheimer's and dementia, and he felt this might be a similar scenario.

"I said I was in no way a mental health expert, but with the shaking and so forth, I felt that I recognized some of the symptoms," he notes.

Jackson's feedback helped to steer the woman to a proper course of treatment, and he says this is a primary reason he chose to become a policeman.

"You know your own community, and you see that this is a way you can help," explains Jackson, a 2005 product Mackinaw Academy, followed by Delta College training. "In addition to our own knowledge and backgrounds, we also have access to information and to the local agencies."

He adds, "Little kids say they want to become police officers and firefighters. Me, I never stopped."

After a decade serving at the Saginaw County Jail, Vince enlisted for police work and came on board in his hometown four years ago.

"I have looked into working other places, especially Detroit, but being from Saginaw gives me a perspective that keeps me at home," he explains.

Besides that, Jackson and his wife, Rayshon, are raising a son who now is in first grade.

He says he is "100 percent" fulfilled by his career decision for law enforcement, in spite of skepticism that he knows exists.

"We see some officers who violate codes of conduct, and I'm always glad for the times when families receive the justice they deserve," he says. "At the same time, as officers, we receive information on the less-publicized cases involving use of force."

At times, he points out, restraints are justified and necessary.

"A number of people don't like police right now," he acknowledges. "They won't say anything directly to you. But at the same time, people will roll down their car window, or just stop and say, 'We appreciate you. You are doing a good job.'"

He encourages young people to ask themselves not only about possibly choosing law enforcement, but also to consider the types of police work that may best suit their goals and their personalities.

"People have different reasons for becoming police officers," Jackson says. "and there are different lines of law enforcement service that they may enter. One may say they simply want to help people, while another may be stronger, saying, 'I want to get these illegal drugs off of the streets.' Each can find a role."

Vince says he is comfortable in either approach.

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He explains, "A woman said to me, 'I hear it being said, defund the police and use more social workers. But if something happens and I have to call, I want to see a police officer on my steps.'"

He adds, "All organizations at times are in need of some sort of reform. But with police, some of the people who are speaking are not familiar with what we do." He suggests a first step of better educating the public.

DESIRAE KZINOWEK



The address was familiar to Desirae Kzinowek and her fellow officers. And the story was all too sadly common.

The emergency was that the caller was being assaulted by her male

companion, but by the time Kzinowek and her patrol teammate arrived, the victim would hesitate and fail to follow through on the grievance.

"Finally, on this one response, we had extra time to talk for a longer period, because another call did not arrive right away," Desirae explains. "I was better able to express to her, 'You can tell me, you can trust me.' And so at last she gave a statement that allowed us to take the man to jail, and she agreed to enter the Underground Railroad (women's shelter), where they provided her with mental health counseling and eventually a ride back to her home state."

This anecdote summarizes one of the main reasons why Kzinowek chose to pursue a career in law enforcement, beginning with her childhood in the Thumb's Uby community and taking shape at Garber High School in Essexville, a Bay City suburb, where she graduated in 2014.

"When we get out into the field, women often will open up more with a female officer," she notes, while adding that this is not only a woman-to-woman deal. Often times children, and even some grown men, will feel more comfortable which what she describes as a "softer, approachable" police presence.

At Delta College, Desiree enrolled in

"Three Plus One" programming that enabled her to achieve a 2017 bachelor's degree in law enforcement from Ferris State University while remaining close to home. She started later that year in Saginaw.

All along, she acknowledges reactions along "both sides" from family and friends.

"Those who are not as supportive have never liked police," she says, based both on personal experiences and negative national publicity, "but still they tell me, 'It's okay for you if that's what you want to do.'"

She's in her fourth year, and she hasn't changed her mind. Her only regret is that Covid-19 has thwarted her from getting more involved in personalized community policing in her assigned southwest area. Her longer-term goals are to achieve some rank, starting with sergeant, and to explore teaching.

"I still love it," Kzinowek says. "I enjoy meeting people, and helping people, and every day we have different experiences."

NICK JACOBS



Police recruits sometimes will arrive from virtually any place at any time, and Sergeant Nick Jacobs with Saginaw police is an example. Unlike other officers featured in this article, he did

not aim for law enforcement as a child or teenager. He was engaged in a phys ed curriculum at Saginaw Valley State University, when a friend encouraged him to try a pair of Delta College classes in criminal justice.

"I was hooked," he recalls. "The study of criminal law, the nature of the work, it all clicked with me."

He served stints at the Saginaw County Jail and with the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department before he enlisted with city police in 1998.

At the time, Jacobs was one of 17 Latino officers out of 155 total. Today, he's among 5 out of 60. And so the number is lower but the percentage or proportion is about the same.

"When I graduated from the Police Academy, there were about 40 of us who

finished," he recalls, speaking of the total group. "In this last most recent class, there were 9. It's harder to get people signed on to a career, with the negative light that is cast now."

Nick answers skeptics mainly by standing up for himself.

"As long as you are responsible for yourself and your actions, there are many positives," he says. "There is great camaraderie among officers. We all depend on one another. You won't find that in other careers."

Officers constantly say their work isn't always glamorous, like on TV shows, but one of Jacobs' favorite personal stories could be placed within a script.

One day a serial crook held up a gas station, and then carjacked an elderly woman, and then robbed a dollar store. While his peers flooded the store location, Nick decided to linger near the car theft scene. Sure enough, he spotted the stolen vehicle and initiated a car chase that led to the suspect's arrest after a crash with an oncoming state trooper.

"It was all quite cinematic," he says, in summary.

Jacobs' strategic decision led to the scenario, showing that officers often must think for themselves rather than always following strict procedures. This demonstrates why one of his favorite functions is to serve as a training supervisor.

"The recruits tell me that I was their toughest instructor, but that they also learned the most from me," he notes. "That's the best compliment, and they also keep me sharp."

Nick tells job-seekers they won't get rich, but they can make a good living with a retirement age that is young by comparison.

"To be honest, there are all the great points but there will always be negatives," Jacobs says. "Most people in Saginaw, the vast majority, appreciate having us around, but there will always be naysayers."



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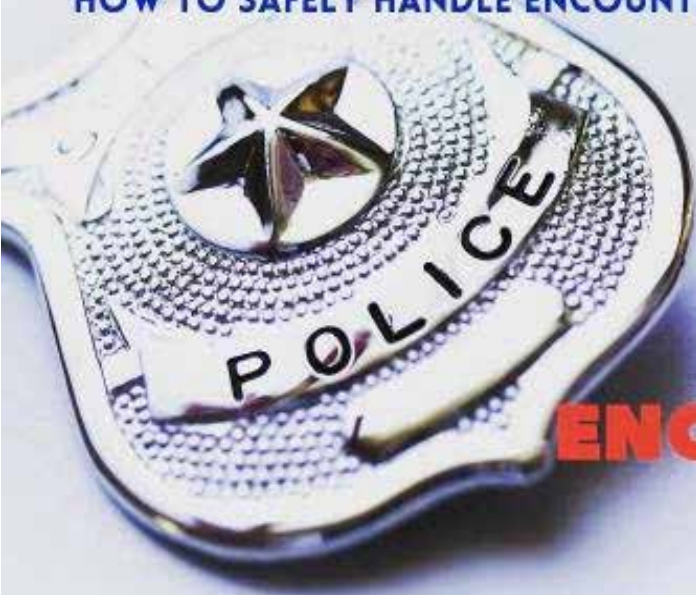


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CREATIVE PERSPECTIVES

A Service to Our Community

HOW TO SAFELY HANDLE ENCOUNTERS WITH THE POLICE



POLICE ENCOUNTERS 101

For ages 14 and up.

May 19, 2021
12pm-1pm

Panelists
Twannie L. Gray, LMSW, Director
Officer Brandon Murphy
Lieutenant Ebony Rasco
Attorney Ayiteh Sowah
Attorney Jeremy Tatum
Judge M.T. Thompson Jr.
Attorney Demond Tibbs

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After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Hosts: Jheri McAfee, Sheila Ray-Darley, Camille Toney



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By Brigitte Johnson

Please don't judge me by the color of my skin
Dig a little deeper, search my soul within

None of us were born with a multiple choice
Black, White, Red, or Yellow, We all have a voice

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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MICHIGAN BANNER
SERMONETTE SERIES

*Not that we are sufficient
in ourselves to claim
anything as coming from
us, but our sufficiency is
from God, who has made us
competent (2 Cor. 3:5-6)*



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

It is a proven biblical fact that Satan often attacks the mind of the Christian believer. All of the troubles we bring upon ourselves begin with our own misguided and prideful thinking. One of the dangers of being used in service for the Lord is to give yourself too much credit. Without the enabling power of the Holy Spirit we are not adequately equipped or competent to serve effectively in any type of ministry. Because of our personal insufficiencies and inadequacies, we dare not think of ourselves as the source of anything that has spiritual and eternal value. The apostle Paul said to the saints at Rome, "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh." We are not competent or adequate within ourselves, nor are we worthy to think of ourselves as "all of that" when it comes to our laboring in the Lord. Paul said to the Corinthian congregation, "For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am. I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me." When it comes to Christian ministry and all it entails, who is sufficient for these things? The answer is a resounding, "No One!" But by the grace of God our competency and ability comes from Him and Him alone. There is no higher or more humbling privilege than to be called and used by God.



STARS

STARS still requires masks on vehicles for all riders

Saginaw, MI – While the CDC and State of Michigan have lifted mask requirements for vaccinated people in public, Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services (STARS) and other Public Transit Systems still require passengers to wear masks while riding. The CDC, TSA, and Homeland Security have not changed mask rules or recommendations for public transit.

"While I applaud this progress, I ask the community to respect our drivers and riders, continue to be safe, and mask up on all public transportation services even when fully vaccinated," said Glenn Steffens, Executive Director.

For more information on STARS safety protocols, visit www.saginaw-stars.com.

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Sr. Marietta, Saginaw's Saint



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I'M JUST THINKING.....

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

*This
time*

Just recently we were all celebrating Mother's Day, celebrating the powerful women in our lives who accepted the gift and responsibility of motherhood. I thought of all of the categories of engagement that these women would fill; their homes, their careers, their dreams, and in their communities. Each one of those roles has what Ecclesiastes 3:1 describes and "a time and season". In fact, many of those roles have overlapping seasons, that demanded choices to be made about the priorities that would be pursued in their own time. Each time.....

I thought of my own dear mother who, with my father, gave birth to and raised 11 children. I often wondered now how she did it. We only have three in our house, and the times that it has brought for my wife and I were and are challenging to say the least. We learned to be sensitive enough to know that you cannot do the same thing the same way every time, for every child, for every circumstance, despite any apparent similarities.

The verse in Ecclesiastes 3:1 is properly rendered, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." This verse seems to be so powerful in this season of awakening. The conversations that we are having around the many social issues that have long needed the truthful dialogue that we are now experiencing. If those who have gone on before us could be at the table now, speaking their truths, I can only imagine what they would say to us.

It is troubling to see the level of engagement from some places that I never expected, while there is a lack of engagement from places and people who I thought would be the most vocal, the most vigilant, and the most expressive. In the

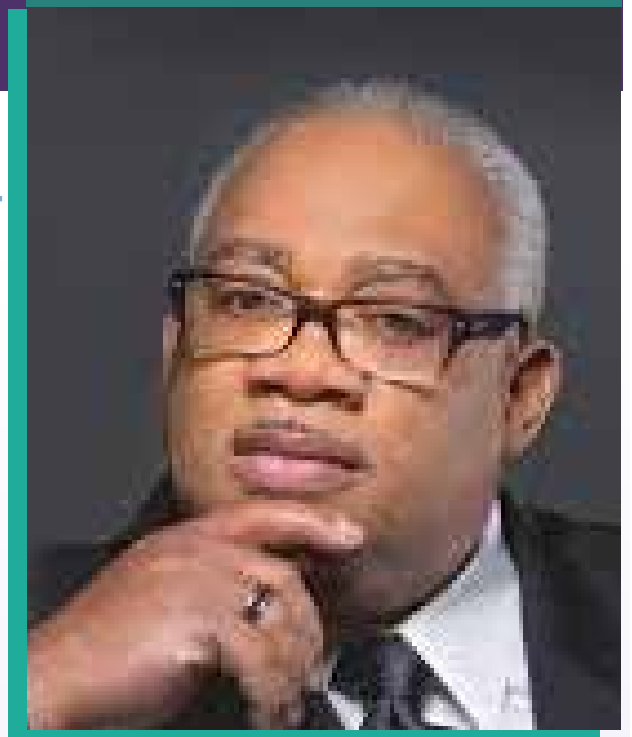
years gone by people sacrificed life and limb for purposes that were greater than themselves. I cannot read the historical accounts of icons of social leadership without noticing that none of them had the luxury of only one issue at a time. So often the issues were multiple, they had to decide which one to give their time to.

We live in a world that is full of instant information. In my mother's days, what happened in India was not known to us in America until many days had passed. Today, we see it when it happens. The distance of time and space has been reduced by the internet, satellite television, and the swift coverage of 24 hour news. What is even more important is how quickly what happens in another part of the world can affect what we experience in our city, and in our personal lives.

We were in the throes of a contentious political election, which had been cast as the "most important election of our lifetime", when the world was overwhelmed by a pandemic that within months would cause a world wide shutdown. This changed the process of everything that we were doing, but the "thing" had what we hoped would be a brief season. The lesson was learned quickly that we were not in an abbreviated season of pandemic, but an extended one. All of our norms were affected so that we had no norm. In times past, we could refer to previous experiences like this one and figure out how to manage, but this time.....

While we were adjusting to the new norms and the lifestyle changes that it caused, we began to understand the weight of the loss due to the pandemic. The numbers of sick and hospitalized was staggering, but even more staggering was the toll of the deaths that were being experienced around the world. It was so much more impacting because it wasn't just happening in foreign places, but in our own communities, in our own families. We have had death and sickness to deal with before, but this time.....

As an African American man growing up in this country, there are certain experiences that were not foreign to me or any of my family and friends, things that African American men experience regardless of their social or economic status. Just being black influences the way that we are treated, while working, while studying, while driving, while living. This season of "pandemic" influenced more than just the physical health of people, but the mental and social health as well. It created an unexpected sensitivity and empathy of exposure so that when the world witnessed an occurrence that was not unique by its nature, but by its timing, there was a totally unexpected reaction.



George Floyd was not the first black man to die at the hand of what seemed to be a callous white police officer, but in this season of exposure, his death was more brutal, more heinous, and more personal. What was truly amazing was that these sentiments were felt by much more than just his family, his immediate community, and his neighborhood. It was felt around the world. There were marches and protests against this visual brutality in countries and among people who had no immediate connection to George Floyd, black people in America, or even America. Around the globe there were Black Lives Matter protests, often with no one black in the crowd. There was an empathy, and an experience; a moment of exposure this time.

The presidential campaign kept going. The pandemic kept going. The governmental divisiveness continued. The news and social media kept going. Everything kept going, but this time there was something else happening. This time.....

I would often watch my mother multitasking in our home with the dinner on the stove, the clothes washer humming-Shaka Shaka Shaka! My siblings and I would be playing and the normal conflict would come up that only she could solve. The phone would ring and one of the church members would have an emergency that only she could address. How did she have the time to do all of those things? How could she manage all those priorities, and never drop the ball?

I thought the other day about all of this. I was thinking about Mom. If she was here, what would she focus on this time.....

I'm just thinking.....

SA'VEYA JACKSON

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What's going on



By RUMI WILSON

Half a century ago, at slightly longer than half an hour in length, Marvin Gaye created a musical masterpiece. It is called the single greatest popular music album ever made by Rolling Stone magazine, Smokey Robinson, Dr. Michael Eric Dyson. The Guardian, New Music Express and many others. The album title and eponymous first hit single released asked a question so relevant after five decades it still resonates today. What's Going On? We should ask ourselves.

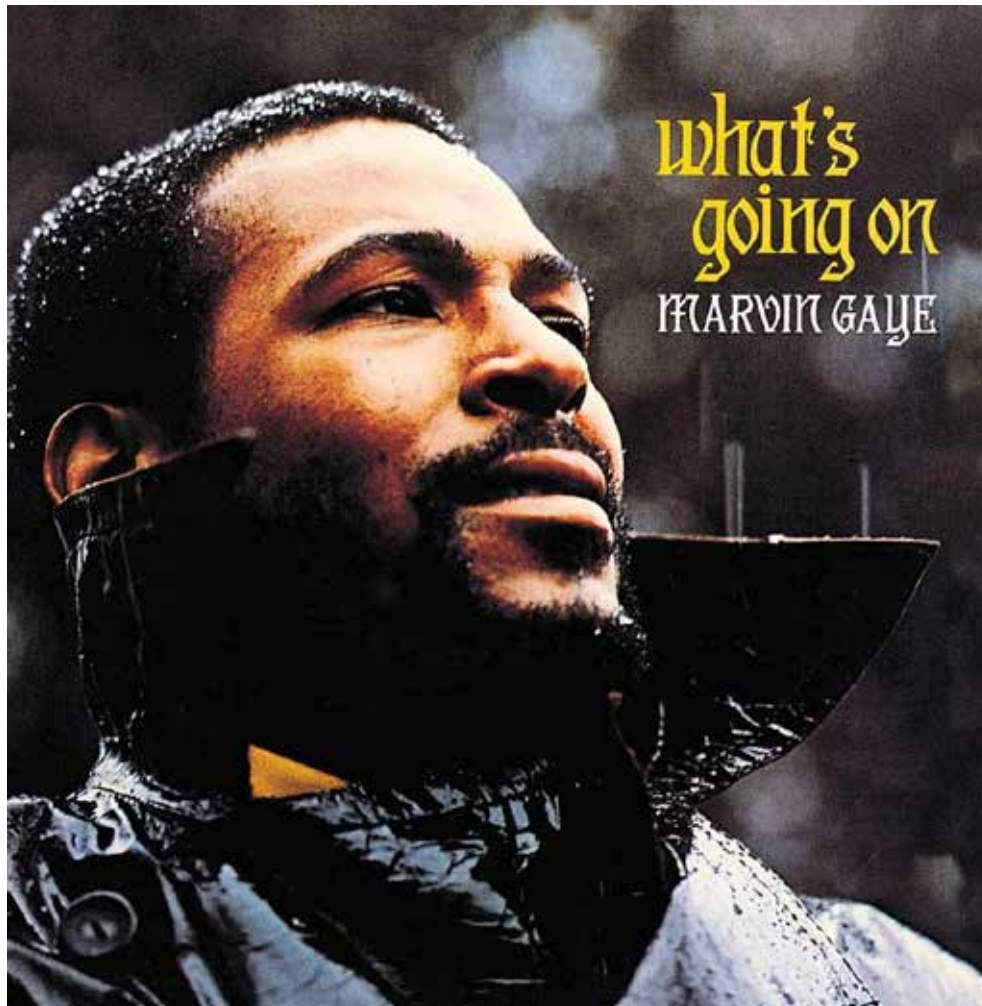
Listening now we would all benefit if the five generations existing on the planet today concisely answered the question collectively and collaboratively. What is Going on? Will America reprise the prophetic mystic deliverance foretold in her embryo myth? Will the country finally grow up and into what her visionaries have wanted her to become?

And yet What's Going On was not only a question, but an affirmation, a greeting, a statement, a meme, a sign, a heads up, a wake-up call. And the songs sing out strong as ever. The lyrics were the first printed on a Motown album and have weathered the years like proverbs and psalms.

“Woah, ah, mercy, mercy me, Ah, things ain't what they used to be, no no Where did all the blue skies go? Poison is the wind that blows From the north and south and east. Woah mercy, mercy me, yeah, Ah, things ain't what they used to be. Oil wasted on the ocean and upon our seas, Fish full of mercury”

“There'll come a time when the world won't be singing
Flowers won't grow, bells won't be ringing
Who really cares, who is willing to cry to save a world that is destined to die”

Musically, what's going on stands up to the test of time. It sounds remarkably as fresh and haunting as when I first heard it fifty years ago. Nothing else sounded quite



like it then or now. It immediately commanded and still demands our attention. “Mother, mother”, Gaye softly pleads in a cry George Floyd echoed, but where Floyd drew his last breaths, Gaye breathes into the remaining music an almost seamless

musical prayer and jeremiad of Biblical proportions.

Marvin Gaye was able to channel the street, the ghetto, the church, the protest, the movement, the struggle, the rebellion, the revolution, all of it into one album. He would tell everyone that divine inspiration flowered into the music that emerged on What's Going On.

The story of What's Going On is part of its glory. Marvin Gaye, beset by his own brother's experiences returning to America as a Vietnam War veteran (What's Happening Brother); Detroit's violent racial conflict (What's Going On); the automobile industry's looming economic crisis (Inner City Blues), a growing world ecological disaster (Mercy, Mercy Me), and the national spiritual malaise untranscended going back to slavery (Save The Children)(Wholy Holy); synthesized in thirty-five minutes key discussions and societal issues we've never resolved.

In making the record he didn't do it alone. Marvin Gaye drew upon all the resources that had made Motown great. But he did it in a way no Motown artist had tried or dared. He enlisted the label's stellar Studio musicians, including the Funk brothers, combining their soul, pop, jazz and classical music training. Gaye collaborated with other song writers to craft his vision. David Van de Pitte helped create beautiful arrangements for the songs. Gaye even parlayed his friendships with Detroit Lion football players (Lem Barney and Mel Farr) to use them as background singers and the voices which open the album.

Washington DC Pentecostal preacher's son, DooWop singer (Moonglows), consummate musician (drums, keyboards), extraordinary duet artist (Kim Weston, Tammi Terrell), avid reader, spiritual seeker, Marvin Gaye drew on all this experience to synthesize a musical statement that captured the cultural Zeitgeist of the 1960's

CONTINUES ON PG 25, WHAT'S GOING ON

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Continued from pg 24, what's going on

and early 1970's. The album reached the zenith of the soul music age. Though Gaye would never replicate the genius again, he inspired and freed Motown brother, and Saginaw native Stevie Wonder, who would record over the next five years the greatest succession of five albums by a solo artist in pop music history (Music of My Mind/Talking Book/ Innervisions/ Fulfillingness First Finale/ Songs In the Key of Life).

The single What's Going On was released in January 1971 over the objections of Motown quality control. The song had been held up for six months because Berry Gordy thought the song unmarketable. It had originated with Renaldo Obie Benson and composer Al Cleveland, not even originally intended for Marvin Gaye. When the song was released, it became an instant hit, selling a hundred thousand copies in days, and Gaye was finally granted cre-

ative license to make an entire album. That Marvin Gaye created much of the album working feverishly in the Motown studios in half a month is a miracle. That we continue to ask ourselves the same question What's Going On facing the very same racial, social, economic, environmental, spiritual and personal dilemmas Marvin Gaye addressed on vinyl record is as poignant as the music itself.

That the album never would have been made if Motown patriarch Berry Gordy had prevailed is a providential coincidence. Yet, in the end, Marvin Gaye's persistence won out. Will our persistence win out, as we as a society keep facing the myriad and seemingly overwhelming problems Gaye {addressed} head on fifty years ago?

"Who really cares to save the world from despair" Marvin cries on Save The Children.

The song resonates with the Millennial and post millennial generations inheriting the schizophrenic society we've not healed. Marvin Gaye might be talking to the environmental wunderkind Greta Thunberg, the Biden inaugural poetess Amanda Gorman, the Nobel prize winning Los Angeles street composer Kendrick Lamar or the youthful Black Lives Matter activists who last year engendered the biggest social protest movement in American history. In fact, Gaye is speaking to the whole country and world. To all of us.

Four hundred years of evolving and non-evolving history, two hundred fifty years of stunted democracy, one hundred seventy years of black freedom rising, one half century of a renaissance musical legacy left to us to ponder still, what if?

What's Going On, and on and on.

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PANELIST:
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Kevin Fischer
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Barb Smith
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Its time we end the silent cry and speak out about domestic violence!
For more info please contact Jeannie- Castell Morris 989.392.4911

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Last Weekend Before State Individual Income Tax Deadline

Lansing, MI – Taxpayers who have not yet filed their state income tax returns are urged to take advantage of the last weekend before the May 17 deadline to ensure accuracy, according to the Michigan Department of Treasury (Treasury).

"This weekend is a great opportunity for taxpayers to set aside time to file their returns," said Deputy State Treasurer Glenn White, who oversees Treasury's Revenue Services programs. "With the deadline rapidly approaching, e-filing is a great option for taxpayers. It's safe and secure, enabling returns to be filed accurately."

Choosing electronic filing and direct deposit is convenient, safe and secure. Last year, more than 4.4 million Michigan taxpayers e-filed, which is 86

percent of state income tax filers. For more information about e-filing, go to www.mifastfile.org.

Individuals who e-file typically receive their refunds approximately two weeks after receiving confirmation that the tax return was accepted by the state of Michigan.

State income tax returns must be submitted electronically or sent through the U.S. Postal Service before midnight on Monday, May 17. For the convenience of taxpayers, the state's individual income tax deadline is the same date set by the Internal Revenue Service.

A Taxpayer Notice issued by the state Treasury Department provides details about the individual income tax deadline change.

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+ COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

How long can present trends continue?

By **CHRIS DOUGLAS**

The shutdowns last year, which continue in some form this year, devastated the economy. The unemployment rate increased from a 50-year low in February 2020 to the highest rate since the Great Depression in April 2020. The policy response to this economic devastation has been unprecedented. Three COVID-relief bills have sent three waves of checks to most Americans, as well as giving aid to state and local governments and various businesses. Unemployment benefits have been repeatedly extended and enhanced so that currently, an extra \$300 per week is added to the weekly unemployment benefit. Numerous other benefits have been included in these relief bills, including an expansion of the child tax credit to \$3,600 for children under six years old and to \$3,000 for children over six.

The checks and the expansion of the child tax credit represents a massive amount of government spending going to most Americans. The COVID relief bill signed into law by President Biden in March 2021 paid \$1,400 to everyone in a

household below an income threshold of \$75,000 for a single person, \$112,500 for a head of household, and \$150,000 for a couple filing jointly.

Consider a family of four with two children under six years old. This family would have received four, \$1,400 checks plus \$3,600 for each of child, or \$12,800 total from this latest bill. This is on top of the payments the family would have received in the first two COVID relief bills. This payment was sent regardless of whether the family lost employment or income during the shutdown. Many people were able to work from home during the shutdowns and thus suffered no loss of employment or income yet received substantial cash payments from the federal government anyway. This is impossible justify on economic grounds and is unsustainable over the long term.

This is an issue because after three rounds of relief payments over the course of a year, many people are expecting these relief payments to become a permanent fixture of the economy. A petition for monthly, \$2,000 relief checks has over two million signatures as of this writing.

Elected officials likely realize that funneling this kind of money to voters will be politically popular, increasing the likelihood that these checks become permanent.

State and local governments received \$350 billion in relief payments from the March 2021 COVID relief package. State and local tax revenues declined by \$100 billion the second quarter of 2020 but rebounded by the same amount in the third quarter and then increased by \$60 billion in the fourth quarter due in large part to the economy reopening. This means that state and local governments collectively lost approximately \$40 billion in tax revenues in 2020 due to the COVID-19 economic shutdown. The aid to state and local governments in the March 2020 relief package is thus nearly nine times the loss of that revenue that these entities suffered due to COVID! The point of a COVID relief package is to give aid to those who have suffered a loss of income and employment during the recession, not be like winning the lottery.

CONTINUES ON PG 29, PRESENT TRENDS

Continued from pg 28, present trends

Shoveling unlimited quantities of money through these relief packages is politically popular but has long term costs. One is the national debt, which has increased by \$4.5 trillion during the last year. The national debt is currently larger than the amount of yearly economic output in the United States, a level not seen since World War II. The national debt will likely increase by another \$4 trillion in 2021, with multi-trillion dollar yearly deficits as far as the eye can see after that. Political pressure to for future relief packages will only add to that amount. At some point, lenders are going to question the federal government's ability to repay what it has borrowed. When that occurs, then the federal government will be in real trouble.

Taxes will have to be raised, spending cut, or money just printed to cover the difference. Raising taxes to cover a \$3 trillion budget deficit is not feasible. The federal income tax collects just under \$2 trillion per year during normal economic times. Thus, income taxes would have to more than double to raise an additional \$3 trillion, assuming everyone pays, which they would not as black markets would flourish to avoid taxation. If income taxes were really increased by this amount, that would push the effective tax rate a middle-class taxpayer pays to nearly 50%, meaning half of all income earned would just go towards paying federal income taxes. Throw in all the other taxes people pay, such as payroll taxes and state and local taxes and approximately 80% of someone's income would be taxed away. This would never happen without causing an economic collapse. There simply are not enough rich people to tax to raise taxes on the rich to cover this spending. The federal government could seize all the income from the top 1% not currently being taxed and it would not be nearly enough to close the budget deficit.

Cutting \$3 trillion in spending would be politically impossible. The government could eliminate everything it does besides Social Security, Medicare, defense, interest on the debt, and COVID relief and that would save less than \$1 trillion. Cutting more than that would mean cutting programs that have long through to be politically untouchable, programs such as Medicare.

Printing money is often the path of



COURTESY PHOTO

least resistance when a government finds itself in this position. In other words, the government just prints what it is short and then spends this newly printed money. A lot of this has happened during COVID. The Federal Reserve has essentially become the financing arm of the federal government, having increased the money supply by approximately \$2.5 trillion during the pandemic. The concern is that this will lead to inflation. The chair of the Federal Reserve as said inflation will be "transitory," meaning it will be a short-term phenomenon. We are seeing signs of inflation already. Home prices are up by 12% nationwide since the pandemic began, with prices increasing even more rapidly in some markets. The supply of available homes is in short supply with bidding wars for houses that hit for the market and the final sales price being above asking. Lumber prices have more than doubled during the pandemic with construction material prices in general increasing by 17%. Food prices have increased by less but are still nearly 4% higher than before the pandemic.

Some of these price increases are due to supply chain disruptions, which is why the Federal Reserve Chair claims inflation will be transitory. Once the supply chain disruptions get ironed-out, prices will fall, so the thinking goes. However, some of the price increases are likely due to the

massive relief packages financed by printing money. If people receive over \$10,000 from the federal government that was simply printed and try to spend it, then the prices of what is purchased will start to rise. This likely explains why the prices of housing, lumber, and construction materials has risen as demand for these things has surged during the pandemic.

The economy feels broken. Help wanted signs are everywhere and there are currently as many job postings as before the pandemic. Yet, the unemployment rate remains stubbornly high with a fewer percentage of Americans working than even at the bottom of the Great Recession 12 years ago. One reason is that the enhanced unemployment benefit disincentivizes work as unemployment fully replaces lost income from working for many workers. Many bars and restaurants are offering signing bonuses in the hundreds or thousands of dollars to attract workers and have had to reduce hours due to a lack of staff. Random things are in short supply at the grocery store. Federal spending and monetary expansion are clearly unsustainable. The entire economy is on an unsustainable trajectory and it is not all clear how long these trends can continue before the damage is irreversible. Policymakers need to work on getting the economy back to where it was in February 2020 before what is broken cannot be repaired again.

+ HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Are the kids OK?

By MB STAFF

Are the children OK is a question that must be in the forefront of our decision making as we plan around restructuring our homes, schools, and communities. We all experience a bit of anxiety from time to time. It is a very natural emotion which can actually be helpful in some situations. For instance, before taking an important exam or participating in a competitive sport, experiencing a manageable amount of anxiety may serve as a driving force or bring focus to the task at hand. It is also normal to feel anxiety when facing danger or other challenging situations. If, however, the anxiety is debilitating, results in disruptions in school or peer relationships, diminishing health and/or hampers one's ability to perform everyday tasks there may be a need for professional interventions or treatment. While it is certain that there has been a significant increase in anxiety disorders and other behavioral challenges in children, it is important to recognize that they can be treated.

Children have witnessed at least one full year of the consistent, angst inducing risk of a life-threatening disease. Many have experienced the loss of parents, care givers and other loved ones. They have been socially isolated with the prolonged closing of schools. Opportunities for physical activity or recreation, a proven technique to reduce anxiety has been extremely limited. Depending upon the age of the child, they are all too aware of the financial/economic struggles associated with their parent's job losses – a stressed and anxious parent may not be emotionally available to support a small child who may not be able to verbalize his or her fears. Assuming that this will 'blow over' or that the child will be OK as soon as schools re-open or the virus goes away may leave children vulnerable to lasting effects which could be alleviated if addressed sooner rather than later. Seeking treatment for yourself or your child is a sign of strength that enhances the likelihood of learning to manage their emotions

and live a healthy and more productive life.

Children experiencing fear and anxiety may feel that there is no hope. Hopelessness manifests in very unique ways depending upon the child's age, personality, family dynamics, and many other behaviors. One child may withdraw and go unnoticed because he does not make waves while a sibling may become aggressive and angry with little or no provocation resulting in consequences for behavior that appears to be intentional disobedience or disrespect. Extreme changes in behavior are certain indications of underlying feelings in need of a mental, physical, or medical health check. If the need for diagnosis and treatment is necessary, again, sooner rather than later will be essential to the level of resilience developed and ultimately to the long-term well-being of the child. Your health care provider is a good place to begin your search for help.

Children often respond or react to the behavior of the adults in the home. If, for instance the constant reminders on the news cause fear, anger, or depression in the adults it is likely that the children will respond in like fashion. It is critical then,

that the adults practice self-care and seek support or assistance as needed – sooner rather than later. Take care of you. The most important habits to consider are eating a healthy diet, getting proper rest and regular exercise. Self-care is critical; however, we must be mindful that it has become a marketing tool for businesses world-wide. How will we survive without the soft, satin eye mask (\$17.99) to help facilitate a productive night's sleep? How about a new treadmill since gyms have had limited availability (anywhere from \$700.00 upwards)? In an already uncertain economic climate, purchases such as these may intensify concerns surrounding the ability to provide the necessities of the home. A simple Google search for no-cost ways to create an eye mask produces quite a few options with the bonus of spending time together working on the project. This is a win/win i.e., no cost and no pressure family craft time.

Are the children OK? Let us be attentive to their changes in behavior or silent cries for help, take care of ourselves and seek treatment as needed – sooner rather than later. The children will be OK.



+ HEALTH



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- Countless prayers and messages of encouragement

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



+ HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

Delta College to host open COVID-19 vaccination clinic

University Center, MI – Delta College is partnering with the Bay County Health Department to host a drop-in COVID-19 vaccination clinic in May.

The drive-through clinic, which uses the Pfizer vaccine, will be open every Tuesday from 10am-6pm for all Michigan residents, 16 years and older. No registration

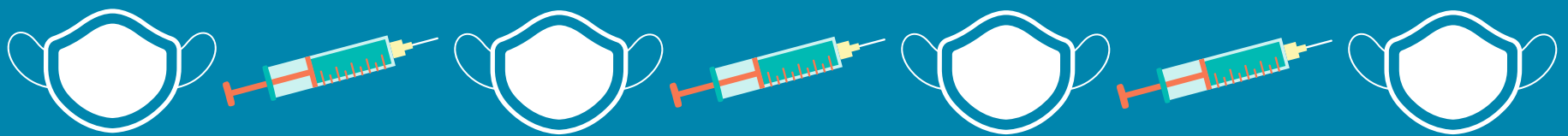
is required to get the vaccine.

“We are very pleased to partner with Delta College to be able to offer a Covid-19 vaccination clinic that’s open to everyone in Michigan with no registration needed,” said Joel Strasz, Public Health Director. “I encourage all citizens to learn more about the importance of getting vaccinated, including the personal and community health benefits. The vaccine is how we’re going to put this pandemic behind us.”

The clinic, located in the southeast parking lot on the main campus, is operated by the Bay County Health Department with assistance from Delta faculty, staff, alumni and students. Please use Delta College’s Delta Road entrance.

A parent or guardian must be present for those who are under 18 years old.

For more information, visit baycountymi.gov/Health/COVID19/Vaccine or call 989-758-3601.



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

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Learn more at Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine

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+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

Honoring our teachers



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

Last week the National Teacher of the Year was named. You may have seen the coverage of Juliana Urtubey, a special education teacher at Kermit R. Booker, Sr. Innovative Elementary School in Las Vegas, Nevada, being honored as this year's honoree.

Juliana co-teaches in pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade special education settings, where many of her students are English language learners. Her students affectionately call her "Ms. Earth" because she uses gardening and other outdoor educational strategies with her students, and they love it. To say she is able to reach her students in new and significant ways is an understatement.

When the announcement was made on the CBS Morning News, I was watching at the YMCA of Saginaw on a treadmill. Morning Anchor Gayle King cut away to a live feed from Juliana's classroom (with the time change it had to be about 5:30 a.m.), and from the hallway in came First Lady Dr. Jill Biden with flowers to honor her. It was a surprise for Ms. Urtubey and an emotional moment for everyone, including me as I jogged on the treadmill. It was significant that the First Lady chose to honor Juliana the way she did, especially since Dr. Biden is a teacher as well.

I have heard it reported that Dr. Biden is the first-ever First Lady to work while serving in office.

The emotional broadcast made me reflect upon the great job teachers have done during my career and most recently during the pandemic. Teachers have been the "glue" that held schools together during the pandemic.....remote, in-person, remote (again)....back and forth.....the adjustments and accommodations have been relentless due to COVID 19.

We all appreciate the great teachers we have had ourselves and grown to know over time. This week my high school coach will be visiting us for a round of golf, Mr. Pedersen. He and his wife Sue were dedicated teachers at Concord H.S. near Jackson where I grew up. They were great role models for me, and they continue to be!

What makes the National Teacher of the Year, Juliana, and the Pedersens and so many others stand out?

I will highlight three of the most important traits of an outstanding teacher that I feel jump out.

- 1 Outstanding teachers show they care. They listen to their students' stories and questions. My wife Joan was a terrific teacher & elementary principal, and used to say to her youngest students, "is that a story or a question" when they would raise their hand and start to speak. She would also hand out treats to her students with the saying, "you get what you get, you can't pitch a fit," so students would practice kindness and accept whatever flavor of treat they were given.

These actions demonstrate kindness. I think students have an invisible "kindness detector" of some kind; students can scope out who cares right away.

2. The best teachers are the strong communicators. They explain things clearly; they ask great questions to probe for understanding. They pause, and they listen. They pace their

lessons to maintain interest.

One of the most interesting communicators I ever saw was Mr. Art Spongberg, a colleague of mine in Oscoda who taught math. Art had the uncanny ability to face his math students and write on the chalkboard (remember chalkboards, right?) by writing over his shoulder. He made eye contact, he wrote clearly, and his unique skill was a novelty that never, ever grew old. Art was an exceptional communicator with an unbelievable talent.

While few if any can write equations like that, it demonstrates a desire to meet students where they are and communicate with them with empathy.

3. Finally, without exception, outstanding teachers are enthusiastic. They LOVE their job; they LOVE their students. While they may enjoy an occasional snow day, they LOVE it when school is in session. They never seem to tire and are constantly "trying" new ideas. New strategies. New concepts. They may sing or tell stories. Maybe corny jokes. They spark creativity. Their enthusiasm spreads to their students.

In honor of Dr. Jill Biden and the National Teacher of the Year, Juliana Urtubey (aka, "Ms. Earth"). The Pedersen's and Mr. Spongberg and my wife, Joan.....all the great teachers we all know and love.....a sincere, "thank you" to all of you, for your enthusiasm, communication, and care.

Resources:

<https://news.yahoo.com/jill-biden-surprises-2021s-teacher-131153161.html>

<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/understood-mentor-fellow-juliana-urtubey-named-2021-national-teacher-of-the-year>

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



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Sponsors: Respond by August 9, 2021
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+ EDUCATION



JAYATI GHOSH

SVSU hires new dean for business school

Saginaw, MI – Saginaw Valley State University has hired an experienced leader in business education to serve as the new dean of the institution's Scott L. Carmona College of Business.

Jayati Ghosh will head SVSU's business school after devoting more than two decades to a career in higher education, most recently at Widener University in Chester, Pennsylvania. Ghosh said she was excited for the opportunity to join an institution with SVSU's strong ranking among top business schools worldwide.

"I am honored and excited about the opportunity to lead the Carmona College of Business in its upward trajectory of academic excellence," Ghosh said. "I am impressed by the commitment of the college towards the professional and personal development of students and looking forward to working with the faculty and staff, centers of excellence and engaging with the community."

Deborah Huntley, SVSU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, said Ghosh brings impressive leadership experience

to SVSU as an administrator as well as a strong record of professional service, research and teaching.

The arrival of Dr. Ghosh comes at a very important time for our Carmona College of Business," Huntley said. "She brings extensive leadership experience as a dean, and we are counting on her experience and innovative thinking to enhance business education for our students and to collaborate with regional businesses to support the vitality of our region. We have outstanding faculty and a world-class facility, and I know she is excited about the opportunities at SVSU."

SVSU opened the doors to its new \$25.4 million business facility in spring 2020. The 38,500-square-foot addition includes data analytics labs and Bloomberg Trading terminals, which track stock data in real time. Upgrades include cutting-edge equipment used by Fortune 500 companies, providing students with hands-on experience utilizing resources adapted to match global business trends.

Ghosh has over 25 years of higher

education experience at public and private institutions. As dean of the School of Business Administration at Widener University, Ghosh led program development, AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) and Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education accreditations, Widener University's Small Business Development Center SBDC, Environmental Management Assistance Program and worked with alumni and business leaders.

Prior to joining Widener University, Ghosh held leadership roles including associate dean, director of the Honors Program, director of faculty development and founding executive director of the Global Education Office at Dominican University in San Rafael, California. She held teaching positions at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario, Canada.

Ghosh serves on AACSB peer-review teams as a member and chair and serves as mentor to a school going through initial accreditation process. She has served on the Steering Committee of the Small Schools Network Affinity group of AACSB and is a member of Women Administrators in Management Education, an AACSB affinity group.

Ghosh is a strong advocate of high impact practices such as internships, cooperative education, global experience, faculty-led research with undergraduate and graduate students, and service learning.

Ghosh completed her doctorate at the University of Waterloo (Ontario, Canada) and earned an M.A. from Wilfrid Laurier University (Ontario, Canada). She also earned an M.S. from University of Calcutta (India).

SVSU provides access to tools and technology fine-tuned for the next generation to strengthen an academic college already honored with an AACSB-International accreditation, a gold standard distinction earned by fewer than 5 percent of the world's business colleges. For more information about SVSU's Carmona College of Business, visit svsu.edu/scottcarmonacollegeofbusiness.

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

MDE continues to help districts address teacher shortages

Lansing, MI – The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is helping local and intermediate school districts address the shortage of special education teachers.

"There is a critical shortage of special education teachers in many Michigan school districts," said State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice. "Allowing for some flexibility will help districts better staff their classrooms and meet the needs of our students with disabilities."

In support of the state's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan goal to increase the number of certified teachers in critical shortage areas, MDE is providing intermediate school districts (ISDs) and local school districts, both traditional public school districts and public school academies, with flexibility regarding appropriately certified and endorsed special education teachers in specific special education

programs. The flexibility will be available through a waiver application.

Waivers under this flexibility are designed to minimize special education program vacancies and address the current critical teacher shortage, to provide flexibility with current and newly hired special education teachers, and to reduce the use of substitute teachers in special education programs.

"The shortage of highly qualified special education teachers in Michigan is detrimental to the continued success of students with disabilities," said Kanika Littleton, project director for the Michigan Alliance for Families and a parent of a student with disabilities.

"Often, ISDs and districts must rely on substitutes to educate students with the most significant educational, functional, and behavioral needs. These substitutes,

while generous with their time and passion to support students, lack the necessary education and pedagogical knowledge to adequately teach students in need of specialized instruction and support," Littleton added. "These waivers will provide the needed flexibility to allow students access to trained, qualified special education teachers and are a critical step in improving outcomes for our students."

State law allows for a limited time waiver of state administrative rules governing teacher certification. MDE is creating a limited time waiver opportunity for ISDs and districts to allow a teacher with a special education endorsement in any area to be assigned to a special education program that differs from his/her endorsement area. The eligible special education programs under this waiver include programs for students with cognitive impairments, emotional impairments, learning disabilities, speech and language impairment, physical and other health impairment, and severe multiple impairments.

The executive director of the Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education (MAASE) says that MAASE continues to support the MDE Path Forward strategic action plan recommendation to expand the pool of highly skilled and supportive educators by exploring flexibility in categorical endorsements.

"We believe this limited waiver, relative to endorsement, will maximize a district's ability to fill vacancies with special education teachers instead of relying on substitutes," said Abby Cypher, executive director at MAASE. "We share the department's passion for having the most highly qualified educators in our classrooms, and we appreciate the recognition of the flexibility needed to accomplish this during this time of critical shortage in the field."

These waivers may be approved for one year with the option to renew for any ISD or local school district that is able to demonstrate the intent of the rule can be addressed in a more effective, efficient, or economical manner, or that the waiver is necessary to stimulate improved pupil performance. The ISD or school district must also be able to demonstrate unsuccessful attempts to fill an open special education position with a properly endorsed special education teacher.



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org

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

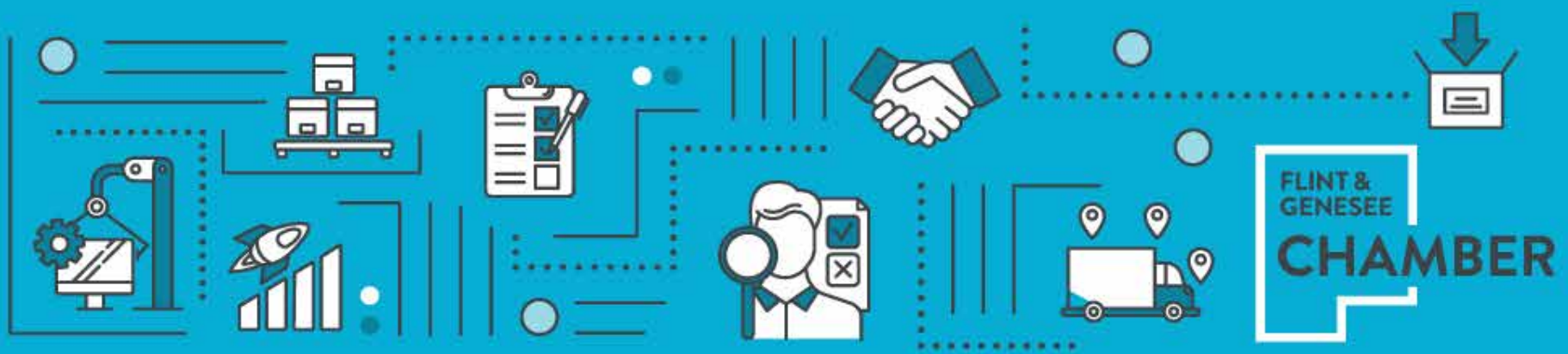
Joe Baca, former Dem. Calif. Congrmn., Dist. 43.

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

+ BUSINESS

Flint & Genesee SMALL BUSINESS MONTH

• May 2021 •



COURTESY PHOTO

Flint & Genesee Chamber celebrates local small businesses all month long

In a show of support for Genesee County's small businesses and entrepreneurs, the Flint & Genesee Chamber, in conjunction with the Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance and Explore Flint & Genesee, is celebrating local businesses throughout the entire month of May.

Modeled on National Small Business Week, established by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) more than 50 years ago, the Flint & Genesee Chamber decided to dedicate a whole month to acknowledge the critical contributions of entrepreneurs and small business owners to the local economy.

"We are emphasizing the three Rs during Flint & Genesee Small Business Month," said Andy Younger, executive director of the Flint & Genesee Chamber. "We want to recognize and promote small businesses in Flint & Genesee; strengthen

relationships with our Chamber members; and highlight the resources that are available through the Flint & Genesee Chamber, the Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance and the Procurement Technical Assistance Center to help businesses thrive."

Younger added that Flint & Genesee Small Business Month is also part of the COVID recovery effort, as businesses look ahead to resuming normal operations with the appropriate safety precautions in place.

"We know, for example, that restaurants have been hit extremely hard by COVID but it's not only restaurants," he said. "Many retail shops have suffered as well. Foot traffic is nowhere where it needs to be in our city centers for healthy commerce."

There are 17,974 small businesses in Genesee County with 500 or fewer employees, which is the SBA's threshold for

designation as a small business. Of those, more than 16,000 local businesses have 10 or fewer employees.

The Flint & Genesee Chamber has set up a webpage to promote to the month-long observance. It includes profiles of local small business owners, a calendar of events, and a social media toolkit for business owners and patrons. To access, visit flintandgenesee.org/flint-genesee-small-business-month.

"Small businesses are key to establishing and maintaining a strong sense of place, and a strong sense of place contributes to a vibrant local economy and community," Younger said. "We encourage residents to join us in celebrating our local small businesses through their patronage and by using the hashtag #SupportFlint-Genesee on their social media accounts."



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+ BUSINESS

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Jolt Credit Union Breaks Ground on 28,000 Square Foot Administrative Building

Saginaw, MI – On May 5, hard hats and shovels were on display as Jolt Credit Union celebrated the groundbreaking of a new 28,000 square foot administrative

building that will be located adjacent to the credit union's 6180 State Street, Saginaw location. The building is designed by TSSF Architects Inc. and construction is

by Spence Brothers. The building is scheduled to open in Summer 2022 and will unite a total of more than 40 team members from the e-Services, Member Support Contact Center, Information Technology, Community Affairs and Marketing departments who have been working remotely from separate credit union locations. This will improve collaboration and communication within the credit union. The other credit union locations will have the opportunity to repurpose areas for additional member service space where these staff were working. The building also features a training and conference space that will be used for financial literacy community programs and to hold periodic all-staff training.

Jolt is a member-focused and community active Credit Union who has been helping members build stronger, happier lives for over 60 years with easy-to-use banking tools.

Spence Brothers Announces Leadership Transition Plans

Saginaw, MI – Spence Brothers recently announced new titles for their top company leaders, which better represent their responsibilities in the current phase of their long-term leadership transition plan. Spence Brothers, a Construction Manager and General Contractor, has built trust and important facilities throughout Michigan since 1893. With offices in Saginaw, Ann Arbor, and Traverse City, they hold a strong connection with the communities in which they work.

Herb Spence III, formerly President & CEO, is now Chairman & CEO. Herb retains responsibility for the overall success of the company, their people and their project partners. He will also continue to strengthen and lead strategic planning and community involvement efforts.

Ed Spence III, formerly Downstate Regional President & COO, is now company President & COO. Ed continues to oversee day to day operations in Spence Brothers' Saginaw and Ann Arbor office areas, as well as safety and continuous improvement efforts. He also now has overall responsibility to oversee and assist all com-

pany operations leaders.

Bob Spence III, continues to oversee day to day operations in their Traverse City office area as Northern Michigan Regional President. He will be continuing to increase mutual support and collaboration with Ed to better serve their people and their customers throughout the state. Bob also works with Herb to help lead strategic planning and community involvement efforts.

In addition to Herb, Ed and Bob, the

company's Executive Directors team still includes Brian Keeler - VP of PreConstruction Services, Dave Spence - VP of Trade-work Operations and Norm Thomas – CFO & Treasurer. Together, they support their Operations Directors and entire team, as they all strive to fulfill Spence Brothers' mission "To build trust and important facilities with great people and organizations, driven to help each other and our communities thrive."



SPENCE BROTHERS

"Building Trust Since 1893"

+ BUSINESS

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

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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.

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THE CLASS

UPCOMING CLASS SERIES

June 8, 15 and 22

6:00-9:00 pm

SIGN UP TODAY

LIMITED CLASS SIZE



Five Dow leaders receive global recognition for helping ethnic minority employees break down barriers in the workplace

Midland, MI – Dow recently announced that five leaders earned recognition on three 2021 EMpower Ethnic Minority Role Model lists, including Top 20 Advocates, 100 Ethnic Minority Executives, and 100 Ethnic Minority Future Leaders.

The EMpower Ethnic Minority Role Model lists showcase business leaders who are breaking down barriers at work for ethnic minorities in the UK, Ireland, Europe, and people of color in the United States and Canada. Honorees are recognized for the success in their own careers and efforts to drive for more inclusive workplaces.

“Diversity in the workplace is a catalyst for business success,” said Karen S. Carter, chief human resources officer and chief inclusion officer. “At Dow, we are committed to diversifying our workforce across the talent pipeline and the global enterprise, which enables us to deliver the most value to our stakeholders.”

Dow employees selected for EMpower Ethnic Minority Role Model Lists include:

Top 20 Advocates List, #3

Jim Fitterling, chairman and chief executive officer

Top 20 Ethnic Minority Executives List, #9

Mauro Gregorio, president, Performance Materials & Coatings, Latin America oversight

Top 100 Ethnic Minority Executives List, #69

Karen S. Carter, chief human resources officer and chief inclusion officer

Top 20 Ethnic Minority Future Leaders List, #13

Shruti Bahadur, global program leader for eMarketplace, Customer and Employee Experience

Top 100 Ethnic Minority Future Leaders List, #40

Kalyani Martinelango, associate R&D director, Core R&D Engineering and Process Science

Last year, Dow announced the implementation of Dow ACTs, a strategic framework and action plan focusing on Advocacy, Community and Talent. The holistic plan demonstrates the Company’s commitment to address systemic racism in the U.S and accelerate change. As a strategic action, Dow has pledged \$10 million over the next 5 years to help advance social justice and racial equality.



Jim
Fitterling



Mauro
Gregorio



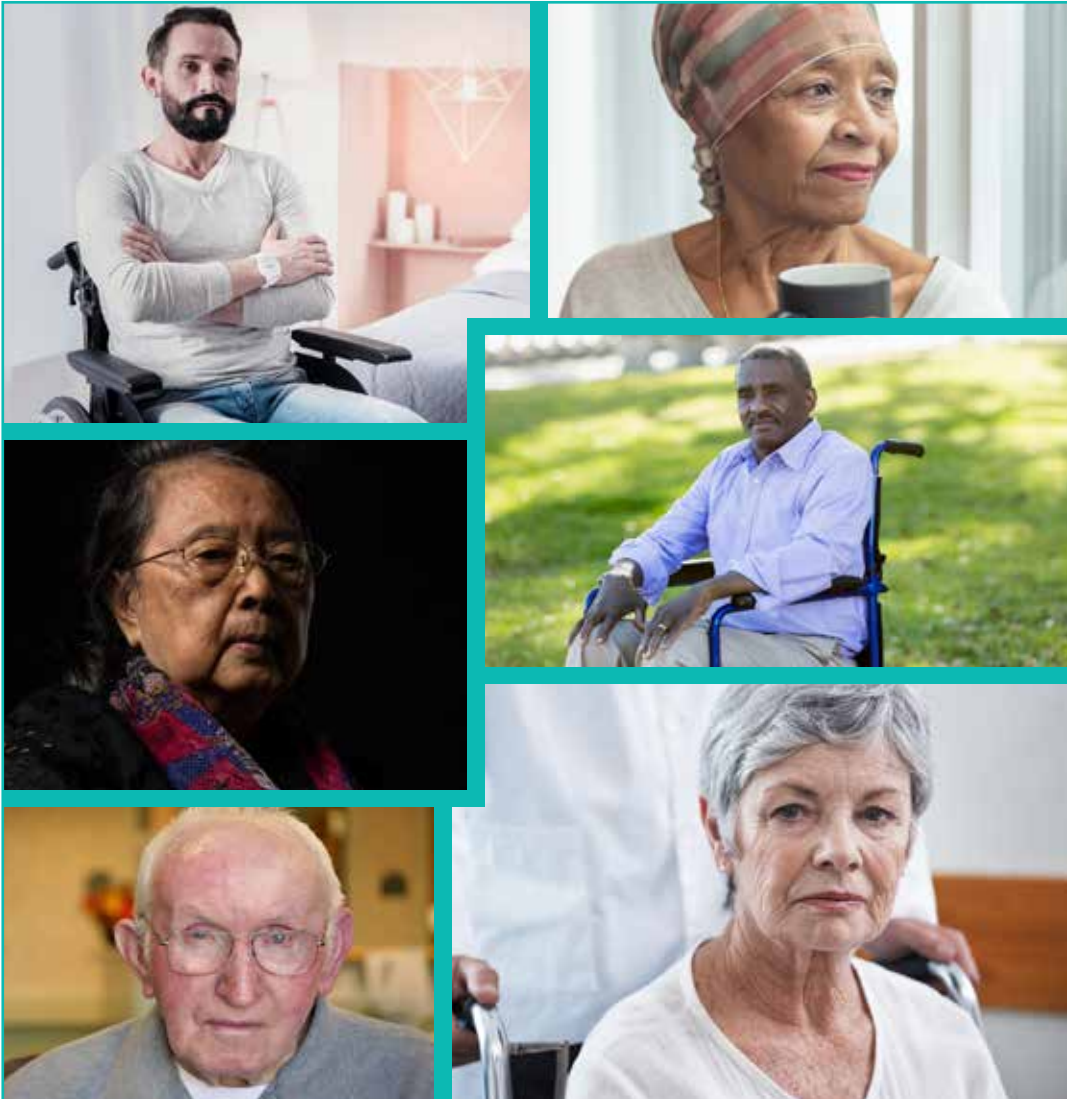
Karen S.
Carter



Shruti
Bahadur



Kalyani
Martinelango




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.

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+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

Should your campaign have an advisory council? Is it added work or a blessing?

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

When structuring a fundraising campaign, nonprofits are encouraged to have campaign chairs, co-chairs, honorary chairs, and an advisory council. The benefits of the first three are well known, but the value of an advisory council can be overlooked. Some campaigns view this council as “just added work”, while others reap benefits.

For those who want to “win” with an advisory council, we share four concepts.

The benefits are many. People serving on this council provide advice and open doors. They have special skills, fundraising experience, or relationships of value to your nonprofit, and they use them on your behalf. Their names are listed on campaign materials, and this serves as an endorsement for your campaign. Oftentimes people want to know who is associated with your campaign. When they see the names of people they respect listed as advisory council members you increase the perceived value of your campaign. Advisory council members can extend the reach of your organization and campaign beyond your current constituency.

It's a win-win. For your organization, an advisory council is a recruiting ground for new board members and other volunteer leaders. You meet and work with people who might not otherwise be engaged with your nonprofit. Members don't have to have a history with the organization – just shared values and a belief in what you are trying to achieve. They are building a history with your nonprofit in this role. They are also expanding the reach and capacity of the campaign. When an advisory member provides guidance or strategy, makes a phone call, or participates in a meeting you can accomplish more in a day than you could imagine.



COURTESY PHOTO

Advisors benefit too. Those serving on your campaign advisory council have the opportunity to be engaged in a project they believe in without a major time commitment. They are not required to attend meetings – they are simply available to the campaign on an as-needed basis. They don't have to solicit gifts, but it is always an option. And, they are invited to all special events. They benefit from the public exposure that comes with being associated with your campaign, without the responsibilities associated with being a board member or campaign chair. They do not set policy or direction: they are advisors. They also provide an additional set of eyes watch-

ing the progress of the campaign. In this capacity they can help identify opportunities and create solutions when challenges arise.

What you need to do. If you choose to create a campaign advisory council, we recommend you have a job description with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. This helps members know what it means – and what it does not mean – to be on your advisory council. Most importantly, be sure to ask for their advice. People know when you are “using” their name vs. when you want their guidance.

An advisory council can be added work or a blessing. Which will it be for you?



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

+ CHURCH DIRECTORY

B



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



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



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

C

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

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



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

F



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



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

G



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

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



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

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

J



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

L

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

M

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



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

N



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

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



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



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



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



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

New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

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

New Way Ministries

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

P

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

R



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

S



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



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



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

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

T



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



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

V



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

W



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

Z



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

+ POLITICS



COURTESY PHOTO

Gov. Whitmer lifts mask requirement for fully vaccinated Michiganders

Lansing, MI – On May 14, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is updating the Gatherings and Mask Order to align with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's latest guidance on face coverings. The new order will effect on Saturday, May 15 at 9AM.

"For more than a year, we've been following the best data and science to slow the spread of COVID-19 and save lives," said Governor Gretchen Whitmer. "The vast majority of us have trusted the scientists and experts to keep us safe during the pandemic, and it has worked. With millions of Michiganders fully vaccinated, we can now safely and confidently take the next step to get back to normal. The message is clear: vaccines work to protect you and your loved ones. If you have not yet received your vaccine, now is the time to

sign up. This pandemic has been one of the toughest challenges of our lifetimes, but we came together as a state to persevere. We have all been working incredibly hard toward getting back to some sense of normalcy, and today's news makes all of that work worthwhile."

On Wednesday, May 13, the CDC released updated guidance recommending "fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance."

"It's critical that eligible Michigan residents who have not yet been vaccinated schedule their appointments as soon as they can," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and MDHHS chief deputy director for health. "Getting shots in arms is the best way to end the pandemic.

If you have not yet been vaccinated, it is important to continue to mask up to protect yourself and others from COVID-19."

"The safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine and all the hard work that Michiganders have done allows us to take a big step in returning to normal," said MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel. "This updated order keeps Michigan in alignment with CDC guidance that is based on the knowledge of health experts. I urge our residents to continue to be respectful of each other as we move forward."

Under the updated MDHHS Gatherings and Mask Order, Michiganders who are outdoors will no longer need to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status. While indoors, fully vaccinated Michiganders will no longer need to wear a mask, but residents who are not vaccinated, or have not completed their vaccinations, must continue to wear a mask or face covering to protect themselves and others. After July 1, the broad indoor mask mandate will expire.

The news was welcomed with bipartisan support:

"The new guidance from the CDC and the state's loosening of the mask mandate in a safe way is very welcome to our communities - we are excited to get back to normal," Mayor Don Gerrie (R - Sault Ste Marie) said. "We appreciate the partnership efforts throughout our state and in our local communities in following the covid-safe guidelines and making sure vaccinations are readily accessible to residents in a fast and efficient manner. I am thankful every day for the amazing health care and public safety professionals we have in Michigan."

To date, Michigan has administered 7,875,785 vaccines. According to CDC data, 55.6% of Michiganders ages 16 and older have received at least one dose, with more than 43% percent of Michiganders ages 16 and older being fully vaccinated. The state has also administered the vaccine to 927 Michiganders between the ages of 12 to 15 years old.

+ POLITICS



COURTESY PHOTOS

Lt. Governor Gilchrist receives second dose of COVID-19 vaccine during first stop of 'Making Real Change' tour

Lansing, MI – On May 10, Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist received a second dose of the safe and effective Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at the community vaccine site at Berston Field House in Flint, where he launched the 'Making Real Change' tour to promote vaccinations in cities across the state.

"I am proud to have received my second dose of the safe and effective vaccine, so that my loved ones and I will be fully protected against COVID-19," said Lt. Governor Gilchrist. "This virus has disproportionately harmed Black Michiganders and other people of color across the state, and we must continue to be vigilant in our pandemic response to address the specific needs of these communities. That is why I am launching the Making Real Change tour, to highlight easy, equitable vaccine access; encourage people who may still be hesitant to get the safe, effective vaccine;

and equip everyone who has been vaccinated with the information and resources they need to tell their stories in a way that leads to more people choosing to get vaccinated. The best thing all of us can do to protect ourselves, our families, and neighbors is to get vaccinated, so we can get back to doing the things we love together."

The 'Making Real Change' tour will highlight the administration's continued efforts to flatten and eliminate racial disparities during the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on what the state has learned to apply those lessons to equitably administering vaccines; and what the state doing to build the resilience required to close racial disparities in health and other areas within communities.

The Making Real Change Tour will also make stops in Saginaw, Grand Rapids, and Detroit.

To date, the Michigan Coronavirus

Task Force on Racial Disparities has focused on two goals: one to reduce the disparities in the mortality rate of COVID-19, and the second to connect those interventions to more extended term efforts. Additionally, this task force has worked to close the digital divide in telehealth and remote learning, launched a "Get Covered" campaign to make a coordinated push for every Michigander to sign up for health insurance, increased mobile testing infrastructure, which has transitioned seamlessly into vaccine administration and provided guidance to health care professionals on avoiding implicit bias.

The task force was created per Executive Order 2020-55, and acts in an advisory capacity to Governor Whitmer. It studies the causes of racial disparities and recommends actions to address the historical and systemic inequities.

+ SPORTS



GREAT LAKES LOONS

Zar'ria Mitchell selected for MHSAA Student Advisory Council

Saginaw, MI – Zar'ria Mitchell has been selected as one of eight Class of 2023 students state-wide to serve on the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Student Advisory Council.

The Student Advisory Council is a 16-member group which provides feedback on issues impacting educational athletics from a student's perspective, and also is involved in the operation of Association championship events and other programming. Members of the Student Advisory Council serve for two years, beginning as juniors. Eight new members are selected annually to serve on the SAC, with nominations made by MHSAA member schools. The incoming juniors will join the group of eight seniors-to-be appointed

a year ago

Selected to begin serving on the Student Advisory Council in 2021-22 are: Sam Gibson, Plainwell; Brady Leistra, East Grand Rapids; Caroline Li, Okemos; Sam Matias, Lansing Catholic; Zar'ria Mitchell, Saginaw Heritage; Carney Salo, Escanaba; Brandon Thompson, Petersburg Summerfield; and Keira Tolmie, Clarkston.

Those eight new members were selected from 114 applicants. That applicant total was 40 percent more than the total number of applicants who generally apply for SAC positions every year.

The first Student Advisory Council was formed for the 2006-07 school year. With the addition of this class beginning this summer, members will have represented

122 schools from 46 leagues plus independent schools that do not play in a league. Combined, the new appointees have participated in 12 MHSAA sports, and five will be the first SAC members from their respective schools.

The Student Advisory Council generally meets seven times each school year, and once more for a 24-hour leadership camp.

In addition to assisting in the promotion of the educational value of interscholastic athletics, the Council discusses issues dealing with the 4 S's of educational athletics: scholarship, sportsmanship, safety (including health and nutrition) and the sensible scope of athletic programs. There also is a fifth S discussed by the group – student leadership.



REGISTRATION:

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
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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
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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.

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 10

ON THE JOB:

Jalondria Dhrubo



COURTESY PHOTO

Flint, MI – Carman-Ainsworth High School graduate Jalondria Dhrubo is following her dreams. After graduating from high school and TeenQuest she went on to Mott Community College where she obtained a Nail Technician/Salon Management Certificate and a Cosmetology Certificate.

“After college, I worked in a salon for a brief time,” says Dhrubo. “Then I realized I wanted to create a space that was more intimate and personal.”

Dhrubo transitioned to working from home for a while, then in 2020 she began renting space in a salon suite on Linden Road, which houses over 20 independent cosmetologists. But she didn’t stop there.

While working with clients, Dhrubo found that her customers were looking for haircare products that worked well with natural hair but were struggling to find what they needed. She took that opportunity to start her all-natural hair care product line, which she now sells to her clients and other local customers.

“The products I make have no harsh

chemicals and are sustainable,” says Dhrubo. “I made products with ingredients that are familiar to my clients. And they can trust my products because I would never sell someone something I wouldn’t use myself.”

Dhrubo, owner of J. Nicole Custom, is continuing to work in her dream job and build her hair care businesses, crediting the confidence she had to do so to her time in TeenQuest.

How did lessons learned in TeenQuest/SYI help you on the path to your current career?

It taught me responsibility and how to show up for myself professionally. Our facilitator, Mr. Richardson, always gave me advice. He’d say, “You’re a hard worker but you have to keep that motivation.” That has always stuck with me.

What is one of your favorite memories from SYI?

Working at the Food Bank was amazing. I thought it was fun to work on an as-

sembly line. I also thought the mission of the Food Bank was really cool. It opened my mind to understanding there are people in my community that need help and I was able to have a part in helping them.

What advice would you offer current TeenQuest students?

Don’t take the experience or knowledge that is available to you for granted. The people you met could be lifelong connections even after the program.

What has been your proudest moment since TeenQuest?

Having the opportunity to start working at a young age through TeenQuest, some of my proudest moments have been compliments on my work ethic and the way I carried myself in jobs I had afterward. Having my leaders see that in me helped me believe in myself and led me to be self-employed.



COURTESY PHOTO

Student-Run Businesses Achieve Success Through Virtual Marketplace

Flint, MI – Through a program run by Genesee Intermediate School District, YouthQuest students have been selling products at the Flint Young Entrepreneur Market since April.

“Keeping students engaged during the pandemic has been quite a challenge,” says Nefertari Jones, program director of afterschool programming for the Flint & Genesee Education & Talent. “By partnering with GISD’s YEI program our middle school and high school students have been able to stay engaged as well as successfully grow their businesses.”

Through the program, students sell items online that are available to purchasers at the Flint Farmers’ Market on specific pick up days. Students participating in the program have made a combined total of

over \$3,800 with one more virtual market pick up day in May. Students keep all the money they earn. Some students save the money, some spend it while others invest it back into their business.

Through YouthQuest, students also have the opportunity to participate in the YQ Biz club where they are mentored by Jimantra Grant, program data assistant for YouthQuest.

“We guide students through the process of developing a business,” says Grant. “They come up with product ideas, develop pricing, create marketing plans and are in charge of their business.”

The club, which started at the beginning of the school year, has grown to 11 students and is held after school in a virtual setting. According to Grant, students have grown

a lot during the past few months while developing their businesses.

One student in the club, La’Niya McMillan started her business, Luxurious Nails by Niya, selling custom press-on nails and providing nail services.

“It’s been really fun,” says McMillan. “I like how they are helping us get our business out there. It’s a great experience.”

The next pick up day for the virtual market is Saturday, May 8. To purchase items from the local youth entrepreneurs, visit the Flint Young Entrepreneur Market website.

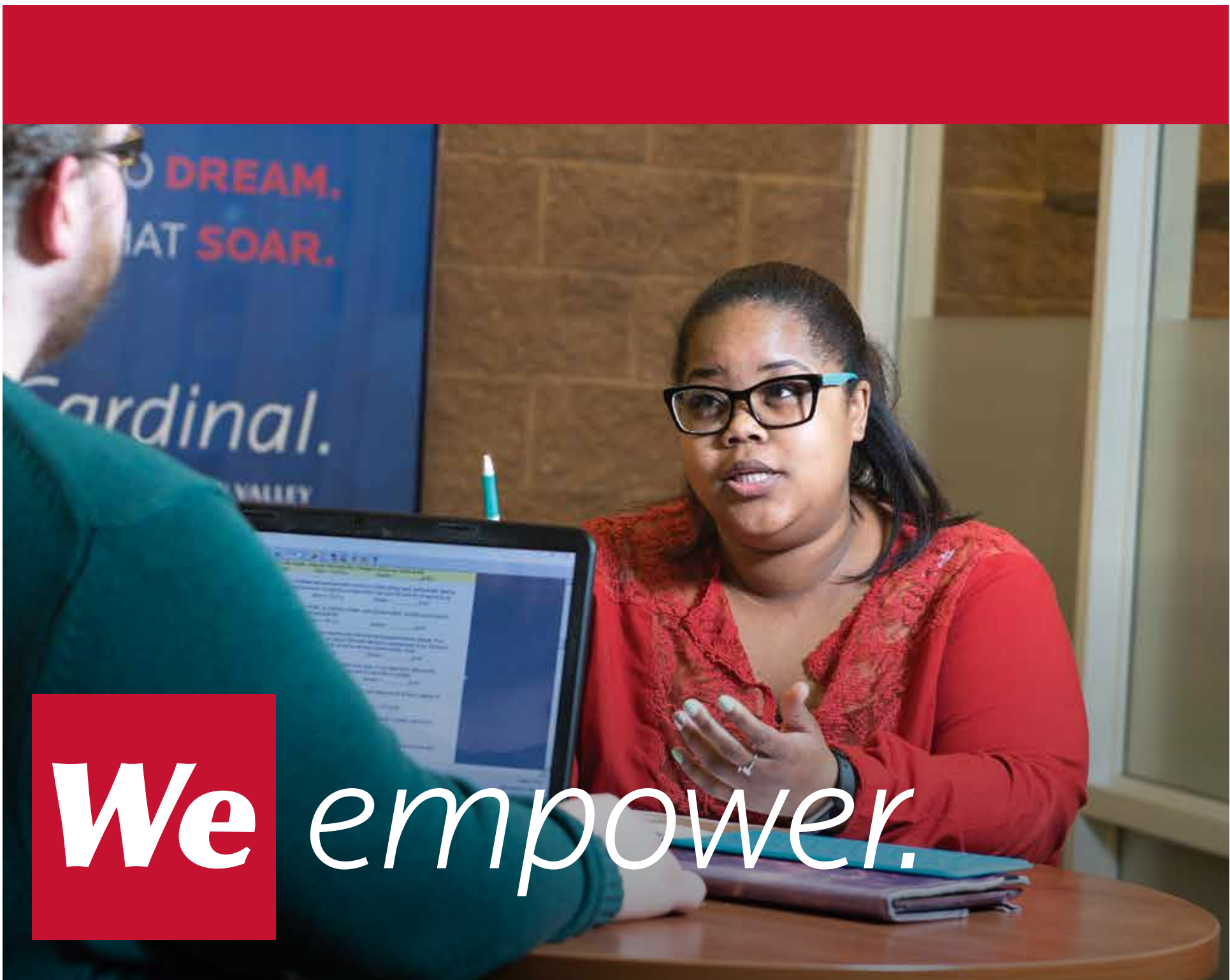
YouthQuest is made possible through the generous support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and 21st Century Community Learning Centers.



PICS OF THE WEEK EVANGELIST RUTH C. PRYOR

Congratulations to Evangelist Ruth C. Pryor for being recognized by the state of Michigan as Mother of the Year!





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*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.***



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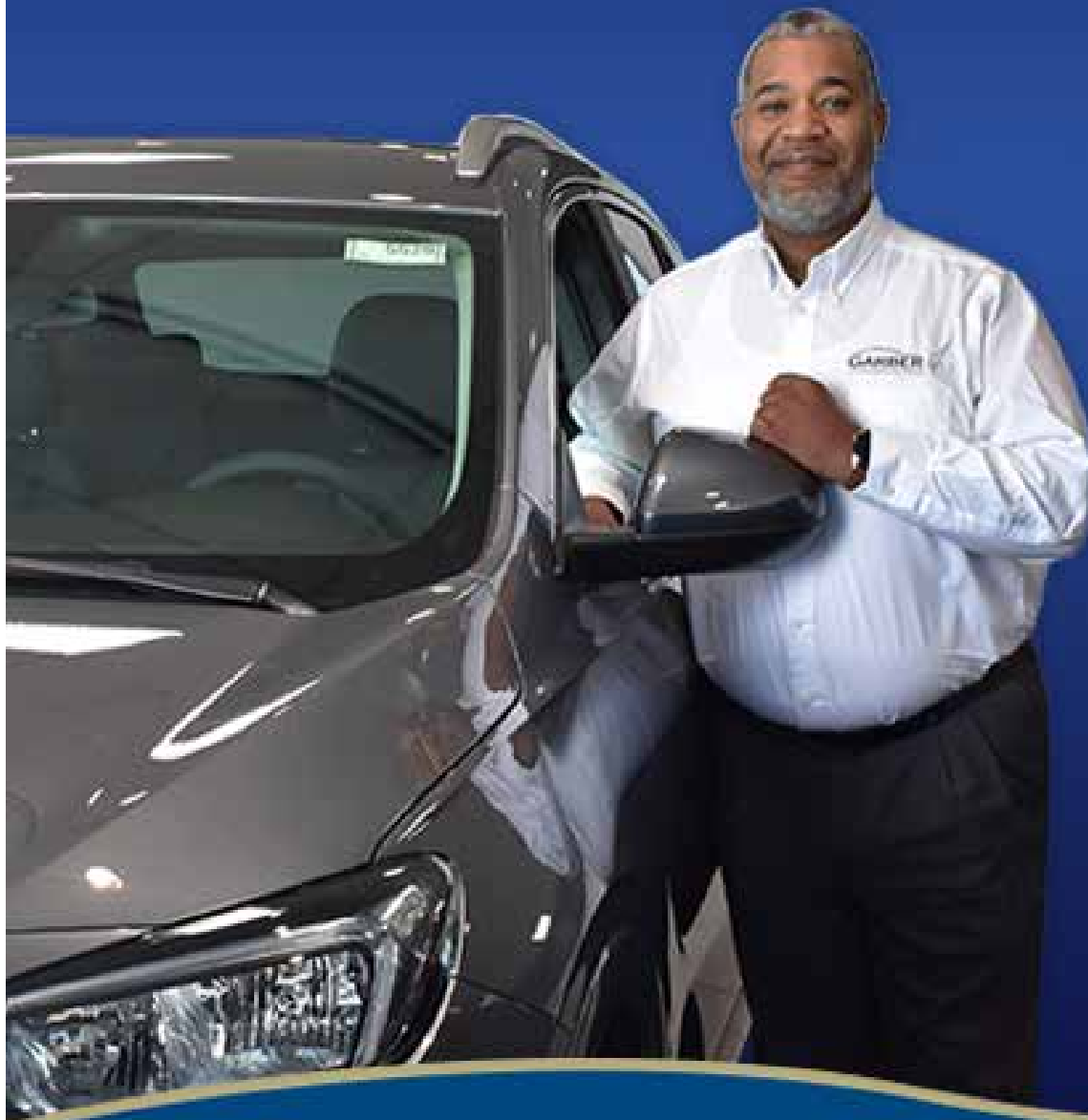


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