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SPORTS



'SAGINAW UNITED' MAKES THE BEST OF 0-AND-9

SPORTS, PG 41



PICTURED FROM L TO R - (TOP) BETH BULL (SPENCER), LARRY BRETHAUER, ROBB COOK, EUGENE SEALS JR., ROY MANNING JR. (BOTTOM) GEORGE KUBIAK, THE LATE BILL AGRESTA, AND THE 1968-69 STATE CHAMPION ST. STEPHEN'S BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame will host annual induction banquet

On Sunday, November 7th, the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame's induction banquet will be held at Horizons Conference Center.

The Class of 2020 includes Beth Bull (Spencer), Larry Brethauer, Robb Cook, Eugene Seals Jr., Roy Manning Jr., George Kubiak, the late Bill Agresta, and the 1968-69 state champion St. Stephen's boys basketball team.

The purpose of the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame is to foster amateur sports competition by recognizing present and former area athletes, coaches and others who have distinguished themselves

in the field of athletics, either individually or by virtue of their performance on or in connection with athletic teams representing their high school, community college, four-year college, university or professional team or sport: or by meritorious effort on behalf of athletics. The SCSHF hosts an annual banquet that honors and awards truly outstanding Saginaw County male and female athletes.

Banquet tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased online at saginawcountysports.org or by calling 989-921-3677. *Tickets at the door are \$55.*



Saginaw leaders seek ARPA funding input

COMMUNITY, PG 13



Profile: Dionne McCollum, Delta College

COMMUNITY, PG 24



Saginaw Parks incarceration

COMMUNITY, PG 26

FEATURED STORY

A PLACE FOR SAGINAW'S YOUNG PEOPLE TO GAIN HOPE

COMMUNITY, PG 11



MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Good Trouble – Necessary trouble, mandatory overtime

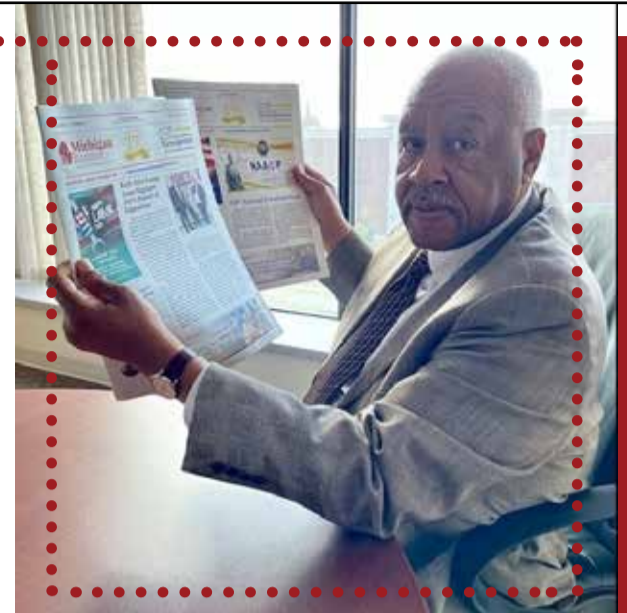
A few of my friends and I were hired into Central Foundry "Malleable Iron" Powertrain Division (now torn down and removed) during my senior year of high school. 'The plant', we called it. For that time and at our age, the pay was something to brag about. You can bet your bottom dollar that we did just that. At first, we soon discovered that even when there was time off the exhausting work along with maintaining passing grades in school made staying in, in fact turning in early all too inviting. Our social lives were pretty much non-existent for a while. During holiday seasons and at other times as well, we were required to work mandatory overtime. That meant two shifts, back-to-back with little sleep AND having to stay awake in school the following day. We made the sacrifice because it was worth it. We were able to contribute to our families, having a car of your own made dating less challenging and perhaps most importantly, becoming self-sufficient at an early age built confidence and pride. Another very fond memory from that season in life came from someone who over time became a dear friend and giant in the community. Sharon Floyd passed away a few days ago. At the time that my friends and I were new hires at the plant, she was a very young and recent graduate hired to teach English to students who dared her to engage us and make learning enjoyable – a tall order for the entire class but even more of a challenge for those of us who were sleep deprived. But she did it. Day after day she held our interest, demanded we submit quality papers, and nothing less than respect and obedience were tolerated from a group of kids who tested limits at every opportunity. Sharon will be missed by many – her legacy as an educator, community leader and her commitment to caring for others will live on.

To sacrifice is to give up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy. As seventeen and eighteen year-old high school students, working mandatory overtime meant we missed out on many weekend activities, were often exhausted, and schoolwork suffered a bit. The benefits however, a few of which I mentioned above, far outweighed the sacrifice. We had the option to walk away at any time we chose to do so – some of us did just that. Their decision wasn't bad – they simply chose a different path. Making a conscious decision to cause or participate in 'Necessary Trouble' will usually require sacrifice. As with our early work experience, and mandatory overtime, you can choose to walk away but something will be lost in the exchange. When the late Georgia State Representative John Lewis spoke of 'Good and Necessary Trouble', he was able to draw upon his personal life experiences. He'd had several near-death experiences (beginning during his teens) as a result of his choices to sacrifice for change. He said that even as a young man, he made the sacrifices in his efforts to, 'redeem the soul of America'. For him and others across the nation the sacrifices were mandatory – the consequences were severe but what was to be gained far outweighed those costs. He went on to say, "Take a long, hard look down the road you will have to travel once you have made a commitment to work for change. Know that this transformation will not happen right away. Change often takes time. It rarely happens all at once. When we were getting arrested and waiting in jail or standing in the unmovable lines on the courthouse steps, we didn't know what would happen, but we knew it had to happen." *Across That Bridge: Life Lessons and a Vision for Change*.

As it was with the young John Lewis, so it is again necessary – mandatory, that we take stock of what is happening around us. A steady diet of the disheartening rhetoric spewed on social media, 'news' outlets, from shock jocks on the radio and other forms of communication can leave one wondering about our ability to turn this thing around. Yes, we can. It will require overtime levels of sacrifice and consistent modeling and training of young people who are prepared to take lead roles in every arena i.e., families, government, politics, faith/religion, and all other systems designed to maintain safety and security in our communities. They are prepared to listen, compromise, and explore new possibilities to develop a kinder, gentler approach to problem solving. Just in case this sounds a bit warm and fuzzy – even unattainable, let's consider the words of General Colin Powell who said, 'A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work.' Young people have an abundance of all three. Let's give them permission, even our blessing to stand up and speak up as they seek opportunities to change the course, we're on. There is much to be done. Some of us will have to work overtime – yes, it will be mandatory - to participate in the 'necessary trouble' which will, over time change the way we communicate and the way that we view and/or treat people whose views may differ from our own. The sound of the youth becoming actively committed and involved in Good Trouble – Necessary Trouble gives hope for a better tomorrow. Let's create and support opportunities for their success.



Jerome Buckley
Publisher, Michigan Banner



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

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

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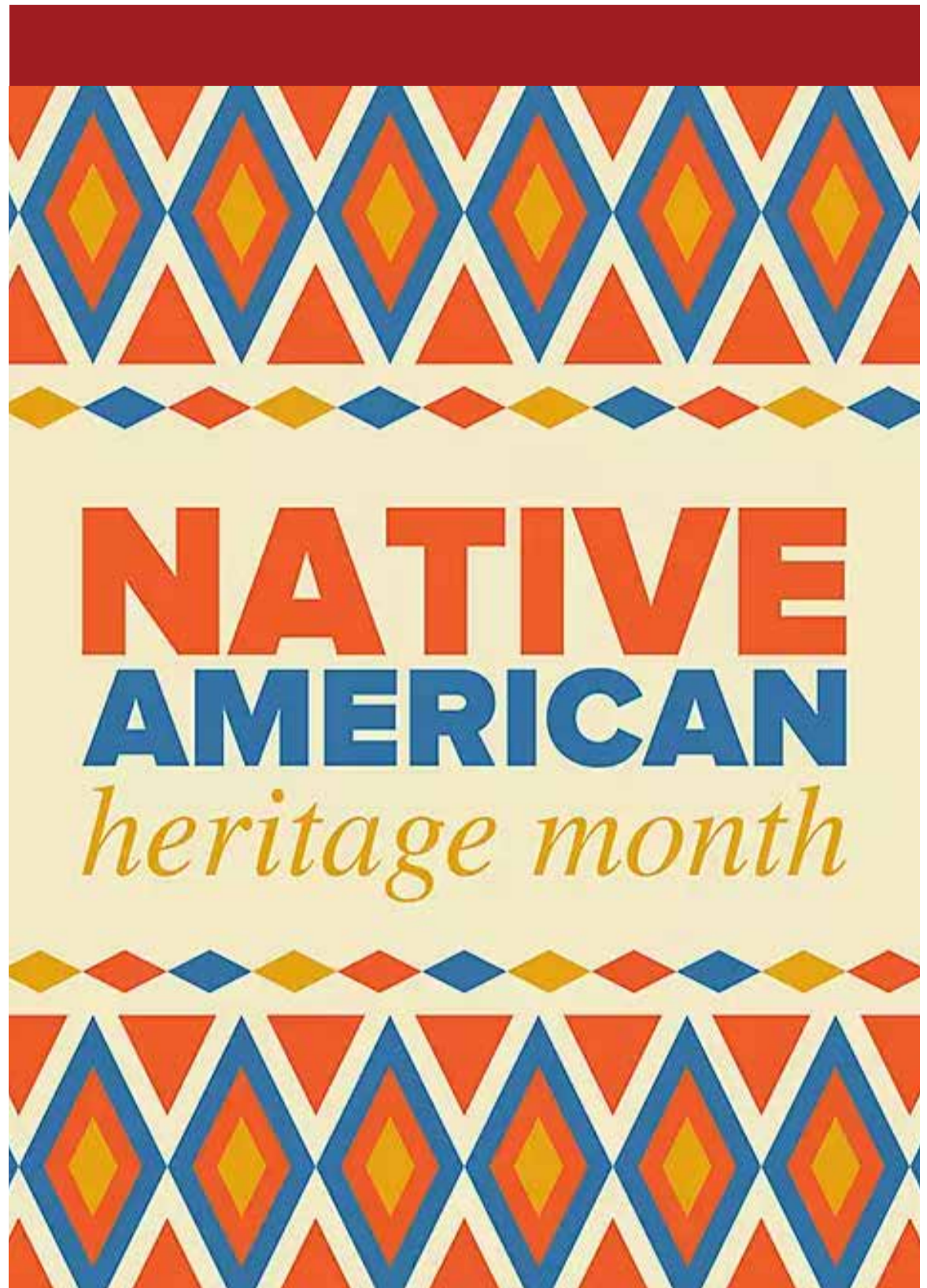
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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

7 No-nonsense paths to grants for Hispanic small business owners

Finding grant opportunities available for Hispanic small business owners can be tricky, but they do exist. The following seven sites and programs offer access to authentic grants that can provide you with the funds you need to get your business venture off the ground.

1. **Minority Business Development Agency**
<https://www.businessgrants.org/p/mbda-business-grants.html>
2. **FedEx small business grant**
<https://www.fedex.com/en-us/small-business/grant-contest.html>
3. **Grants.gov**
<https://www.grants.gov>
4. **Business Consortium Fund**
<https://www.bcfcapital.com>
5. **National Association for the Self-Employed (NASE)**
<https://www.nase.org/become-a-member/member-benefits/business-resources/growth-grants>
6. **Small Business Technology Transfer and Small Business Innovation Research**
<https://sbir.nih.gov/about/what-is-sbir-sttr>
7. **USDA Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG)**
<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-development-grants>



COURTESY PHOTO

ARPA inclusion for all

By MIKE THOMPSON

Saginaw's Mexican American Council Saims to prevent exclusions that have taken place too often, past and present.

An example transpired Oct. 29, when MAC teamed with City Councilman Michael Flores to host a forum on spending plans for ARPA, the American Rescue Plan Act, which is sending a record-setting \$52 million to City Hall in federal aid for anti-poverty outreach in the wake of the covid virus pandemic.

The Oct. 30 event attracted more than 40 participants to King of Kings Ministries at 1030 South Washington.

"We want respect like everyone else, to be at the table," said MAC President Bobby Deleon to open the two-hour session.

With the respect and table seat attained, many remarks mirrored concerns that have been expressed among all population groups. These include maintaining small businesses, always vital among Latinos, along with tackling blighted conditions, Crime always is top tier.

The most specific issue for Latinos was to bring broadband to underserved homes, often out of the loop because of language barriers and cultural factors.

CONTINUES ON LB PG 2, ARPA

LATINO BANNER SPONSORED BY GREAT LAKES BAY HEALTH CENTERS & TEAM ONE CREDIT UNION



Continued from LB Cover, ARPA

City Manager Tim Morales emphasized that Hispanic nonprofit and third-party groups should not feel intimidated from seeking funds for special projects, because his office and staff members are available to provide information and assistance.

Some strict standards are necessary because "the city is accountable for all the money," he noted, including funds that would support block-grant type activities.

At this point, Morales offered his first public estimate on covid-caused costs to the general fund budget. He pegged the five-year sum at \$20 million or about \$4 million per. The general fund, by comparison, is \$34 million, balanced during Morales' seven-year tenure.

The \$20 million figure will have an impact, of course, on how much of the \$52 million windfall may become available for nonprofit agencies and third-party groups. There still would be competition with ex-

panding city programs for anything from overgrown land to restoring recreation. Other advocates will seek "heroes" bonus pay, retroactive, for anyone deemed essential at-risk workers, anyone from in-house city public safety employees to private-sector health care workers.

On the positive side, ARPA already is in place and has nothing do with whether or not Congress and President Biden approve anything in addition under an "infrastructure" label.

Startup on two issues

All involved focused on needing to work together, and an unexpected illustration took place when Morales noted that city operations are hampered by the covid-era shortage of job applicants, especially for the water department during the startup of lead service pipe removal.

An instant response came from Armando Ramos, business agent for Laborers Local 1098, who repeated past confidence that he is equipped to fill any sorts of any job vacancies. Their meeting of the minds is to happen soon.

Ramos for years has done double duty with his wife, Jamie, as co-owners and operators of the Tony's Takeout at 2331 South Michigan. He aired grievances that the city's revolving loan fund, SEDC, Saginaw Economic Development Corp., has "shot down" his modest proposals for an upgrade loan. Deleon asserted that he repeatedly has heard similar stories, and that seeking answers will become a MAC priority.

To learn more about the Mexican American Council, 1537 South Washington, call 989 213-3248.





ELVIS MACHUL
Finance Director
Garber Buick Saginaw

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



JULIO RODRIGUEZ
Sales Consultant
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"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

John 16:33



By PASTOR AUGUSTINE DELGADO
NEW BEGINNINGS MINISTRIES

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COURTESY PHOTO

Special Olympics launches first-ever fitness campaign aimed at Hispanic athletes with intellectual disabilities

Washington, D.C. – For the first time in its over 50-year history, Special Olympics today launched a fitness campaign aimed at Hispanic athletes with intellectual disabilities. The campaign, Escuela de Fuerza, which translates to School of Strength, drops at a key moment during the pandemic when many athletes with intellectual disabilities are working out from home to avoid public spaces. According to a New England Journal of Medicine Catalyst study, people with intellectual disabilities are almost six times more likely to die from COVID-19. Additionally, Hispanic communities have been especially hit hard during the pandemic, with COVID hospitalizations higher among the Hispanic population.

Escuela de Fuerza was developed in partnership with Special Olympics Global Ambassadors and MLB superstars New York Second Baseman Gleyber Torres and Chicago Catcher Willson Contreras, who are also featured as commentators throughout the workout series. The series targets Hispanic athletes around the United States in their late teens through early thirties, and is led by five Special Olympics athletes: Tomás Monsiváis, Abigail Zamorano, and Julián Rodríguez from Texas, Belem Chavez from Illinois, and Ramón Jiménez from Nevada.

To promote health equity and reach a Hispanic audience, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention partnered

with Special Olympics to fund Escuela de Fuerza. Escuela de Fuerza is based off the original and widely popular School of Strength fitness campaign that was launched in March 2020.

Housed on www.specialolympics.org/escuela-de-fuerza-espanol, Escuela de Fuerza features four workout videos with varying levels of difficulty, accompanied by downloadable toolkits for coaches and caregivers that feature recipes, games, and health tips encouraging athletes with intellectual disabilities to commit to a lifetime of fitness habits. Data collected by Special Olympics reveal that over 60% of Special Olympics athletes are overweight or obese, and one in five lower their blood pressure from high to normal after taking part in Special Olympics fitness programming.

"Now, more than ever, all athletes, especially those with intellectual disabilities, need to keep their bodies fit and strong in a challenging routine. I had lots of fun filming this campaign with Special Olympics and I hope all Hispanic athletes, no matter what fitness level, enjoy these workout routines as much as I do. I very much support Special Olympics making it a priority to reach young men and women with intellectual disabilities in the Hispanic communities," shared New York Second Baseman Gleyber Torres.

"I've been a long-time supporter of Special Olympics, and last year I joined the organization as an Ambassador to further

my support of their mission to end discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities. Over the years, I met many Spanish-speaking athletes with intellectual disabilities and made an immediate connection. Their determination inspired me to work on the Escuela de Fuerza campaign to get others excited about working out and getting fit," shared Chicago Catcher Willson Contreras.

Fitness plays a vital role in both physical and mental health as well as sports performance. To date, over 150,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities have taken part in Special Olympics fitness programming worldwide.

"Our athletes are fierce competitors who should have the same opportunities as everyone else to be active, work out, and be healthy. We are changing the face of inclusive health by giving our athletes opportunities to enhance their fitness," said Special Olympics Chief Health Officer Dr. Alicia Bazzano. "People with intellectual disabilities die on average 16 to 20 years earlier than those without intellectual disability often due to preventable causes. Becoming and staying fit can reduce those gaps. Escuela de Fuerza is a fantastic series of videos and materials to encourage our Hispanic community of athletes to not only stretch their fitness goals, but stay committed to their health journeys."

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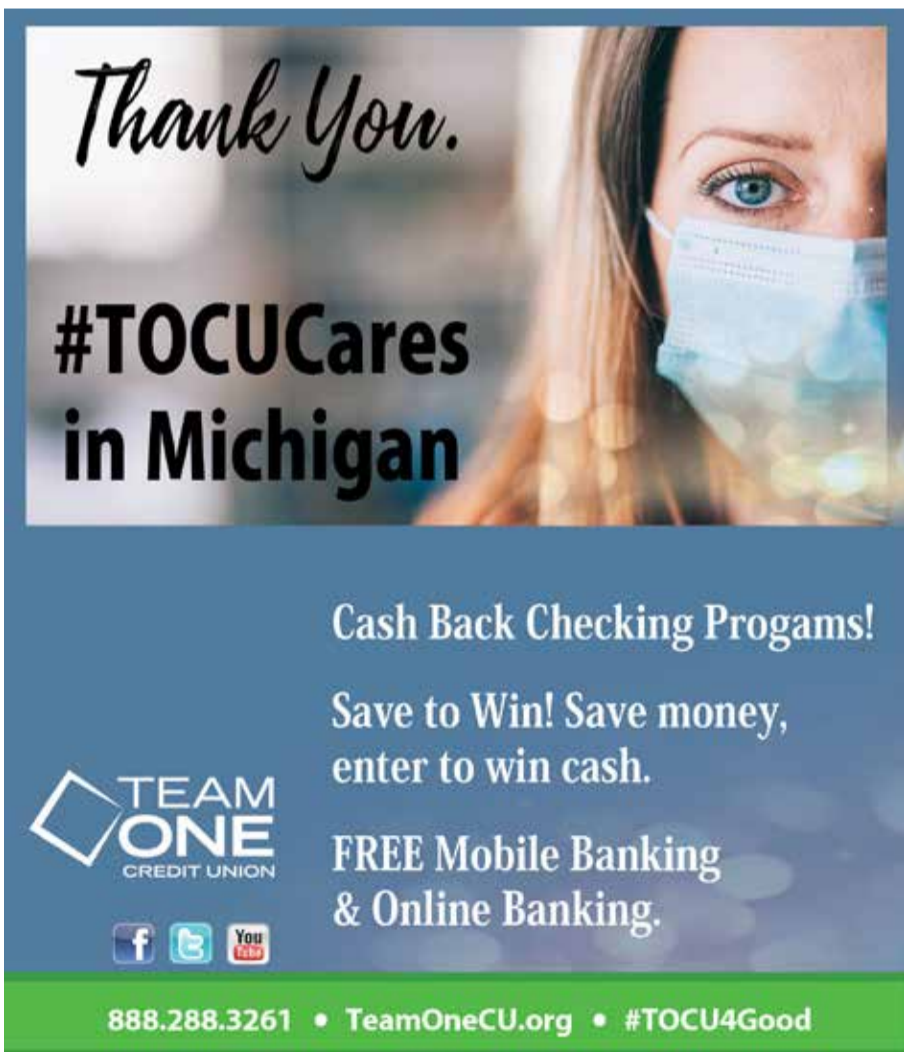


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+ COMMUNITY



PICTURED: INSIDE YDC AND ERIC EGGLESTON, CEO OF YDC

A place for Saginaw's young people to gain hope

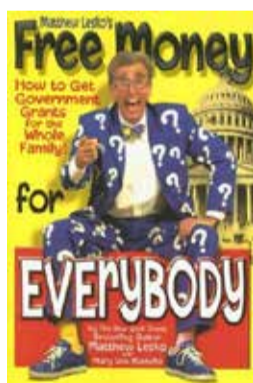
By MIKE THOMPSON

Why was Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in downtown Saginaw on Oct. 27, delivering a \$500,000 check to help local young men and women overcome the challenges of job training, employment, and remaining free of the criminal justice system?

It's because Eric Eggleston, unlike virtually anyone else, actually listened to that goofy TV guy (Matthew Lesko, now 77) with question marks scattered all across his seersucker suit, selling a guidebook for gaining government grants.

"Believe it or not, I ordered all of those books," Eggleston explains, "and I studied them closely."

Inside the fine print, he found info that led to a U.S. Department of Labor startup grant for \$1.5 million. He gained guidance and support from U.S. Rep. Dan



MATTHEW LESKO'S FREE MONEY FOR EVERYBODY BOOK

Kildee, for whom he had volunteered to assist with conducting community forums. He has organized local stakeholders to create Youth Development Corp./USA, with a modest storefront at 126 South Weadock, across from the Social Security office.

The second-year success had been so solid that state Rep. Amos O'Neal was able to bring home the governor and another half-million for the new YDS, which focuses on ages 16 to 24, especially on those who have dropped out of school and/or encountered troubles with the law.

Teamwork is reflected among the leaders who welcomed Whitmer, including Kildee aide Jake Bennett, Mayor Brenda Moore, Police Chief Robert Ruth, Sheriff William Federspiel, City Councilman Reggie Williams and Saginaw Future's Delena Spates Allen (former city school board trustee), joined by the NAACP's Carl Williams (former councilman and state rep) and the Mexican American Council's Bobby Deleon, along with labor union leaders representing skilled trades.

City Councilman Michael Balls, now mayor pro-tem, often speaks of a need for mentors, such as his longtime role with Big

Brothers/Big Sisters. He is a Youth Development board member.

Another attendee was Gary Loster, Saginaw's turn-of-the-millennium mayor and now YDC's board chairman. The Youth Development Corp. may sound similar to the former OIC, with which Loster formerly served, but he explains a key difference.

"The OIC would train students in the skills to meet the job requirements, but the connections were not always in place," he says. "Here at YDC, we work directly with the employers and with the apprenticeship programs."

Aiming to save lives

Eggleston chooses few words to describe the hardships faced by many students. He simply states, "From when we started, two of our students have been murdered and four others have been shot."

So far in Saginaw, even with those tragedies, 45 applicants have signed up and

CONTINUES ON PG 12, YDC

+ COMMUNITY**Continued from pg 11, YDC**

COURTESY PHOTO

are at various stages of progression. Seven have completed the process, and have found either employment or, at minimum, internships.

"I never dreamed I would end up in this type of position," Eggleston says.

Enrollees may pursue careers in such fields as home repair and construction, residential plumbing and wiring, carpentry and roofing. One goal is to build five new houses, somewhat similar to the past Habitat properties for low-income families, near Janes Street and Fourteenth. Another is to help set up a community grocery for "food desert" residents who currently live miles from the distant megamarkets.

A cornerstone is not simply the classes offered, but "wraparound" support services such as child care, counseling and transportation. Expungement of minor criminal records also is available. An added incentive is that enrollees receive \$11 an hour for their classroom time, with potential to gain up to 47 Delta College class credit hours, the equivalent of three full-time semesters.

The former auto parts store on South Weadock is remodeled into sections for hands-on work experience.

An "E" is a failing grade in school, but the five "E's" at Saginaw's YDC are equity, education, experience, employment and

empowerment.

Eggleston says, "We try to place them in a situation where they do not land in harm's way."

Hands-on learning

Keon Bowen was the maximum age, 24, when he started two years ago. He is more than halfway finished with installing a quartet of electrical circuits into model wall space.

"I'm going to accomplish this," he vows. "I'm going to get my G.E.D. and learn how to keep a job. It doesn't really matter at all what the job is, as long as I get there."

Antonio Lee, 19, enrolled a year after Keon but still has a decent start on his model for home insulation. He says he never considered himself as a candidate for crime, but he often joked and played around at Saginaw High instead of concentrating on his education.

"I would have my days," he notes. "The difference here (at YDC) is that we have smaller groups. Everything is more peaceful and everyone is more positive."

He shares that he has dreamed of becoming a lawyer, but then he hesitates.

"Not right now, though," he cautions himself. "I have a lot of options."

Personal experience

Eggleston, as a teen and then as a young adult, faced many of the same challenges that his enrollees have encountered.

He graduated from Bridgeport High School in 1990, having been placed in special education all the way until he emerged during his senior year. He says he escaped the trap by taking part in DECA, Distributive Education Clubs of America, which steered him on a path to an eventual University of Southern California four-year degree in corporate structuring.

Back in his home state, in Detroit, he was saddled with a criminal record via his 2005 conviction in a bad-check embezzlement case. While serving his one-year sentence under a county jail tether, he began to form his YDC inspiration.

"My heart was broken to see that folks who look like me didn't have opportunities to learn skilled trades in their community," he explains.

The three-year federal grant expires this year, while the two-year state support runs through 2023. Youth Development Corp. also oversees projects as nearby as Flint and as distant as Memphis.

For information, call (989) 401-1166 or visit ydcusa.com.

County clerk assists with expungements

By MIKE THOMPSON

Vanessa Guerra has received an honor from the Saginaw Bar Association.

Yes, the county clerk also is an attorney, among 360 members of the local Bar.

Her award comes from the Pro Bono Committee, saluting her volunteer pro bono support for assisting residents with expungement of their minor criminal records. This process aims to remove barriers in employment applications, a major social justice concern for the Bar Association and for elected leaders who include Dana Nessel, state attorney general.

Guerra reports that community workshops have drawn more than 250 expungement applicants, informing them that they may clear their records without encountering big-time costs and hassles.

"Major changes have taken place under this attorney general," says Guerra, focus-

ing more on the issue than on her individual honor.

She explains that her courthouse office maintains records, Michigan Works conducts client background checks, and Legal Services attorneys assist with the operation.

She describes her efforts as basic public service, helping constituents in the same way as assisting with anything from voter registrations to marriage licenses to passports.

When Guerra achieved her law degree at University of Detroit-Mercy, she intended -- of course -- to launch a career as a practicing attorney. Her path changed to elected official with victories first in Bridgeport Township, next for state representative, and last year for clerk.

This naturally has caused her to sometimes to question whether all those rigorous years of law school truly had been needed, but this is an example of times



VANESSA GUERRA

when she still values her status as a lawyer.

"We see how lives are being changed through these expungements," Guerra notes.

For information, call Michigan Works at 752-3115.

Saginaw leaders seek ARPA funding input

By MIKE THOMPSON

Step Two begins this week for Saginaw City leaders to set a plan for a record-setting \$52 million in federal anti-poverty aid.

Nonprofit groups that intend to pursue grant requests for special-purpose programs are invited to send leaders to a pair of open houses at City Hall regarding ARPA, the covid-related American Recovery Plan Act.

The schedule is from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 2, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, June 5.

Council members and top administrators will not be present all at once. They will rotate to answer questions and to make sure information is available.

Step One combined a City Council planning session with a resident survey that drew more than 1,000 responses. Both resulted in obvious top priorities -- housing conditions, crime, street repairs and job creation.

Step Two is for groups with ideas that would tackle the Step One goals.



COURTESY PHOTO

City leaders are on track to spend an undetermined share to partially address budget shortfalls, primarily for police and fire. Special projects could include cleaning some of the city's 2,000 abandoned vacant properties. Remaining funds could go for third-party grants. City Manager Tim Morales told the council that 14 proposals so far are for roughly a combined \$3 million.

In addition, essential workers in both the public sector (cops, firefighters, emergency crews) and in the private sector

(mainly health care) make seek present and past "heroes" pay, based on encountering higher risks to their own well-being. Hoyt Nursing Care support staff already have made a pitch to be included, as have city police unions.

Mayor Brenda Moore, in a press statement, said, "We want to be sure not only are following the guidelines of the federal government for the use the funds, but also focusing on programs and projects that are priorities for our residents and businesses."

Congressman Dan Kildee has said he already believes the guidelines are clear, and that his office will troubleshoot any questions with the rules.

Communities may take up to three years to begin investing the monies, but local advocates and activists have called for faster action.

Saginaw County is receiving \$37 million through ARPA, and smaller suburbs also are set for shares. City schools are in line for \$65 million via ESSER, Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief.

+ COMMUNITY

Splendid in the summer

By MIKE THOMPSON

Late fall and winter are on the forefront, but Herlinda Sherbino and Jamie Sanders-Hicks are carrying summer with them.

They are among city homeowners to capture beautification awards from SCENIC, the Saginaw Code Enforcement and Neighborhood Improvement Cooperative.

The Sherbino home is at 4023 Fulton, while Jamie and her husband, Raymond Hicks reside at 717 Cathay.

"This summer I just wanted to do a little more, to make it more of an extravaganza," Linda Sherbino says. "Someone might say we live in a bad neighborhood, but that is all the more reason to keep up the best we can.

"I noticed that the more we did, the more one of the neighbors did at his own place, getting out there and working on his

landscaping. It helps to set an example." After 32 years, Jamie still can help out, but she often defers to her husband and their loyal son, Charles Hicks, a frequent visitor.

"You need to have patience while you are learning," she says, noting that her first startup challenge years ago was mixing peat moss properly into garden soil.

After a slow summer of 2020 at the start of the covid outbreak, Jamie says she bounced back this year with the help of her community home and garden center, Abele's, only a short drive out Wadsworth.

Volunteers from Bethel AME Church also set urban gardens across the street from her home, previously featured in Michigan Banner's May 1 archived edition.

"Too me, it is not work," she says. "It is enjoyment."

More than 300 nominations were submitted this year.

Awardees received sponsor-funded gift

certificates, work buckets filled with supplies and honorary plaques for display in their homes.

"The feedback we have received shows that our citizens want to accentuate the good things in their neighborhoods," says James Martin, SCENIC code enforcement inspector.

"This program recognizes exceptional work and acknowledges those residents that help make Saginaw beautiful. We want these citizens to know that their efforts are not going unnoticed. We hope this recognition program will not only build pride in our neighborhoods but also will build unity between neighbors. It means so much when one neighbor recognizes another for their hard work and efforts."

Nominations will re-open next May for the 2022 honors. Contact Martin at City Hall, 989-759-1296.

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I love being a moderate more every day

By **JIMMY GREEN**
CEO & PRESIDENT, ABC MICHIGAN

We moderates need to wake up — *fast*. We need to rouse ourselves from indifference, come together and develop a coherent platform that can propel our ideas into the limelight. I'm tired of occupying a vacuum between the push and pull of extremist ideologies. I'm tired of getting no respect from the right *or* the left. If you're a moderate, you should be tired of it, too.

Moderate ideas are the most lucid, the fairest, the most practical, the most sensitively reasoned, and the most representative of society as a whole. (That's why

I consider myself a moderate, and why I believe so fervently in our cause.) So why are we moderates, to this day, a vast and voiceless *nothing* between the two constantly flapping wings that dominate the public debate?

The majority of Americans characterize themselves as moderates. But where's the passion, the camaraderie, the inspired rhetoric? Being a moderate means more than adding up the ideas of the right and left, and taking the average. It means being brave enough to stand up and shrug off the crossfire from the opposing trenches. It means being reckless and resolute enough to declare that, for example, the pro-life and pro-choice factions are both equally

rigid and equally wrong... that the abortion issue will never be resolved until more nuanced and moderate minds prevail.

American culture has been dominated by dueling extremists since the McCarthy era, and the strife grew nastier than ever under the polarizing reign Trump. The U.S. has essentially split into two nations, red and blue, implacable and apparently irreconcilable. Why do we stand around and twiddle our thumbs? Thinking moderates everywhere owe it to themselves and their country to wake up and forge a radical middle that can influence public debate, win votes and stitch a sundered nation into the strong and happy union it was always meant to be.

Water customers' failure to comply with requests could lead to service shutoffs

Saginaw, MI – The City of Saginaw would like to announce to residents that water shut-offs will resume on Monday, November 8 for any resident for failure to respond to notices requesting access to metering equipment or service line inspection.

At this time the city is not resuming shutoffs due to non-payment.

The city is currently experiencing problems being able to enter into some homes to check the metering equipment or water service material types (lead, galvanized or copper). Without proper examination of the metering equipment, the homeowner may be left with a high bill due to the fact that the city could not get the read or fix the equipment.

In the past, the city has turned off service for failure to respond to notices for zero read, meter error messages, or high read meters (possible error). This is done to make sure that the meter is in proper working order – it protects the customer from high bills due to leaks or meter errors, and protects the water system if there is use but the meter is not registering. Failure to comply with the service line material check also prevents the city from complying with State of Michigan regulatory requirements and prevents the city from



COURTESY PHOTO

staying on schedule with our water service line replacement program.

City Staff are currently leaving notices on customer's doors stating that access is needed to the water meter and lines, however many requests are being ignored. This is also true for the water line replacement and verification crews; staff are leaving cards and voice mails to do inspections and replacements per the State of Michigan regulatory requirements, but are getting no response from many property owners.

In order to maintain the system and compliance with the lead/copper service line replacement program, the city must resume shut offs on Monday, November

8 for failure to comply with these notices. Customers will be notified 10 days prior to any shut off – which will only occur after multiple attempts to contact them.

The city has paused water shutoffs for non-payment for several months. The only water shutoffs that were being done were due to a potential cross connection, emergency turn off due to broken pipes, and accounts that were requested to be closed and finalized.

“The Maintenance and Service Division needs to be able to do its job. We need to be able to access meters for a multitude of reasons. When the homeowners do not respond and allow us into the homes to inspect meters and water lines, this is a potential liability for the city and could be very costly for the customer. I encourage any resident that receives one of these notices to contact our Maintenance and Service Division immediately” Phil Karwat, Director of Public Services.

For additional questions on the metering equipment notices, please contact Water Billing (989) 759-1450. All questions on lead water line replacement and verification should be directed to Maintenance and Service (989) 759-1639.

+ COMMUNITY

Saginaw launches lead pipe replacements

By MIKE THOMPSON

A \$4.5 million state grant will help Saginaw get started on a mandated 20-year, \$50 million plan to remove and replace lead drinking water service lines.

Statewide action took root amid the Flint water crisis of the past decade, even though the main cause was improper treatment of the water source, not the ages of the pipes.

State and local officials say water in Saginaw and other cities is safe to drink and the 20-year target is meant as a long-term deadline. City residents who wish to learn their date for replacement pipes may phone 759-1646.

Under Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, the former Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been renamed the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), and Saginaw is among 37 older

and low-income communities to qualify for initial help.

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund describes the aid as "principal forgiveness loans" that need not be repaid -- in other words, upfront grants.

For the remaining \$45.5 million in future Saginaw costs, funding is unclear. City officials already have adopted flat-fee increases in monthly bills.

Suburbs and small towns that receive bulk "city water" from a Tawas pipeline along Lake Huron will need to figure out their own plans to meet costs for residential pipes. They have fewer problems because their buildings are newer, built with copper or plastic lines.

In Saginaw, by contrast, some of the pipes close to downtown and Old Town are from the 19th century.

"It's rewarding that our efforts have paid off and we will receive this money,"

said Paul Reinsch, Saginaw director of water and wastewater treatment, in a City Hall press release.

"We understand the importance of clean safe drinking water for public health, and we want to maximize the benefit our community receives from these funds."



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Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.® - Iota Chi Lambda Chapter celebrates 50 years of service and advocacy on November 12, 2021

Saginaw, MI – Iota Chi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.® will host more than 100 of its members during events on Friday, November 12 and Saturday, November 13 in Saginaw County.

On Friday November 12, 2021, the chapter will commemorate 50 years of fraternal fellowship and 50 years of service to Saginaw and cities within mid-Michigan. A 50th Anniversary Celebration and Appreciation Event is planned to recognize charter members, community partners and dedicated sponsors who have supported the organization over the past five decades.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.® is the first intercollegiate historically African American fraternity, founded December 4, 1906 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Iota Chi Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity was established in 1971 by eight (8) members of the Fraternity who resided in various communities

throughout Saginaw and Bay City. With the assistance of brothers who were members of nearby Fraternity chapters, Iota Chi Lambda received its charter on February 20, 1971.

Charter members, and the university from which they graduated, include George W. Adams (Morris Brown College, 1960); James H. Gaddis (Alcorn State University, 1962); Laval Humes (Western Michigan University, 1961); Bruce Mosley (Ferris State University, 1966); George Pitts (Lane College, 1961); Willie Thompson (Western Michigan University, 1961); Leonard Williams (Alabama State University, 1963) and John Diamond (Wayne State University, 1956).

On Saturday November 13, 2021, the Iota Chi Lambda (Alumni) chapter and Rho Delta (College) chapter will host the Fraternity's 2021 Michigan District Conference on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University. More than 100 men, representing 11 college chapters and 9 alumni

chapters from the state of Michigan, will be in attendance.

The conference theme, "21st Century Reconstruction – Alpha Edition", seeks to raise awareness and offer potential solutions to current matters reminiscent of the social and economic challenges faced by our nation and communities during the Reconstruction Era.

"As Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.® is the first intercollegiate historically African American fraternity in the country, it is particularly fitting that Iota Chi Lambda – the first African American fraternal chapter to be seated in Saginaw, Michigan - will celebrate 50 years of brotherhood, service and advocacy to the community by hosting this year's District Conference," said Lindsey Williams, Director, Michigan District of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.® "We look forward to acknowledging the 50th anniversary of this phenomenal chapter while conducting the business of Alpha."

Delta plans events for Native American celebration

University Center, MI – Storytelling, a food tasting, and a presentation about traditions will highlight Delta College's Native American Heritage Month throughout the month of November.

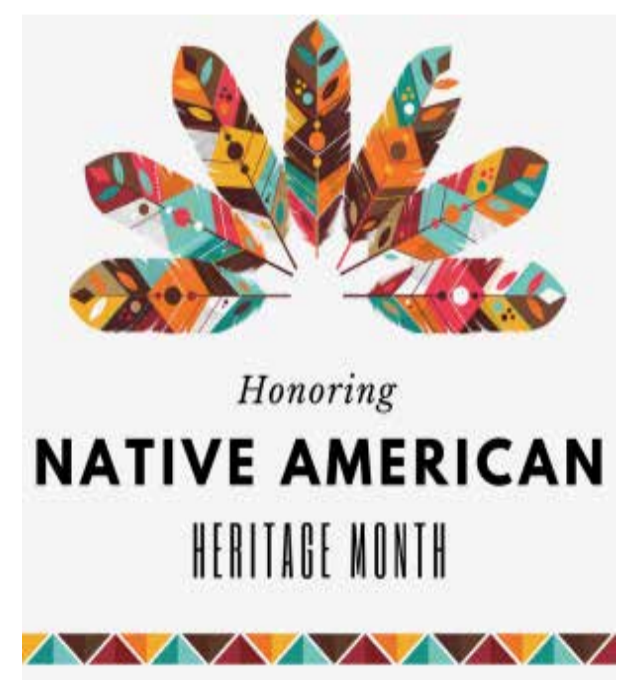
The events, free and open to the public, will take place in conjunction with National Native American Heritage Month, a collaborative project of the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities, among others. The month is a time to celebrate diverse cultures, traditions and histories of Native people.

Celebrate Contemporary Native Americans – November 9 – 11am: Learn about contemporary Native Americans at a special showcase in the Lower West Student Lounge on the main campus and in the student lounges at the Downtown Midland and Downtown Saginaw centers.

Native American Food Tasting – November 17 – 11:30am: Help Delta College celebrate Native American Heritage Month by sampling historically Native American foods in the Lower West Student Lounge on the main campus.

Celebrate Influential Native American Leaders – November 18 – 11am: Learn about several influential Native American leaders and their impact on Native American culture and traditions. The display will be located in the Lower West Student Lounge and at the Downtown Midland and Downtown Saginaw centers.

Native American Rituals and Ceremonies – November 24 – Noon: Learn about the many historical Native American rituals and ceremonies during a special virtual presentation. Join on Zoom at go.delta.edu/nativerituals.



For more information, contact Alison Ginter in the Student and Civic Engagement Office at alisonginter@delta.edu.

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*Do not rejoice when
your enemy falls,
and let not your
heart be glad when
he stumbles, lest the
Lord see it and be
displeased*

(Prov. 24:17-18)



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

The children of God should never rejoice in someone else's misfortune, even if it's an enemy. People often think they know the reason for the adversity that others experience. But in reality they don't. Calamity makes its way into everyone's life for reasons unknown to us; only God knows. It is true that we all reap what we sow, but only God knows every minute detail of everyone's situations and circumstances. This kind of response from the people of God is displeasing in His sight. Rather than celebrating and gloating when our enemies trip up and fall, we should return to the Word of God. Jesus said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Proverbs 25:21-22 says, "If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you." My mother would often say, "Kill them with kindness." As children of God, the only thing we have a right to do is the will of God.

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PICTURE THIS...



IF THIS PHOTOGRAPH STRIKES YOU AS REMARKABLE, IT IS BECAUSE IT REPRESENTS A COMPLETE CONTEXT OF AMERICAN CIVIL WAR HISTORY. Captured here is Nathan M. Richardson engaged in a first person portrayal of the abolitionist Frederick Douglass talking with students about his role during the civil war and the emancipation of the slaves. Please take note that the monument of General Stonewall Jackson is still standing.

This is actually a picture of what Critical Race Theory is intended to look like; a narrative that tells the complete story of American History. In the words of Frederick Douglass; “If America is false to her past and false to her present, she will solemnly be false to her future.” Douglass was critical of the Lost Cause Narrative because it totally dismissed the suffering of whole millions of men and women in bondage as well as the contributions they made to America in spite of their suffering. Douglass called those who white wash American history “The Apostles of Forgetfulness”.

The students pictured here are learning about the American Civil War in full context. There is no value in excluding either of the historic figures in the image that help these children come to a complete understanding about how this great country was established. When we as adults serve our children a history that has not been properly preserved, we are in fact spoiling their future.

America is an interracial marriage that can't be annulled and we are the offspring of a shotgun wedding. But we do have a choice on how to deal with our estrangement. We can be like Cain and Abel, one brother who murdered his sibling over favor with God or we can be like Jacob and Esau, twins who almost came to war over the favor of their parents Isaac and Rebekah. Fortunately they reconciled upon the revelation that family bond is more important than birthright.

~ Nathan M. Richardson; Poet, Author & Frederick Douglass Historian

+ COMMUNITY

IN MY HUMBLE OPINION



COURTESY PHOTO

Black Friday should be renamed



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

As most people today know, “Black Friday” is a colloquial term for the Friday following Thanksgiving Day in the United States”, and has routinely been associated with one of the busiest shopping days in the United States since 2005 (Wikipedia). Unfortunately, there are several negative stories associated with its history from links to slavery, to traffic congestion, and to offending Native Americans. Given the negative connotations associated with “Black Friday”, in my humble opinion I

think it should be renamed.

Over the last century plus, certain events have been described as “Black Friday”, “Black Saturday”, “Black Monday”, “Black Tuesday”, and “Black Thursday”, and none of them are positive. According to a Dictionary.com article entitled, “The Popular Story About Black Friday's Name is a Myth”, the true origin of the Black Friday we know today, “lies in the sense of Black meaning ‘marked by disaster or misfortune.’” One of the stories I came across is more sinister than that. It is highly controversial and appears to generate a lot of negative reactions when it is mentioned or even suggested. As you should know by now, I am an eternal optimist and all about good news. So, I will attempt to present this first story in a balanced manner that does not provoke any negativity, and is for the sake of thoroughly investigating the issue at hand.

In doing my research for this article, I came across an organization called Tellers Untold, which is a US based media platform that features stories of those typically overlooked, underappreciated, and often forgotten in an effort to bridge the knowledge gap and redefine history within a more inclusive context. Their goal is to “inspire, motivate, encourage, and empower others to familiarize themselves with the game-changers of the black diaspora who have and will pave the way for them.” In one of their articles published last year Novem-

ber, they explore the possibility that there could be a portion of truth in the rumours that Black Friday is based on slavery.

The article says that one of the origin stories about where the idea for Black Friday comes from, and not necessarily the term, is that plantation owners in the South were given the opportunity to purchase slaves at a discount the day after Thanksgiving. Slavery in America started in 1619 and for 200+ years it was a commercial king where human lives, African men, women, children, and babies were reduced to mere commodities that were traded in a public exchange system that included auctions and scrambles. In a scramble, the slaves would be kept in an enclosed area and buyers would pay a flat fee for access. Once all the buyers paid, the person in charge would open the enclosure for the buyers to bum-rush the slaves to get the ones they wanted. The article clearly states that, “a direct correlation between selling slaves cannot be affirmatively connected to the Black Friday tradition.” But it says that one tradition has persisted, “the insatiable greed of commercialism and the psychological conditioning of consumerism. Both of which played an integral role in the continued reliance and support of slavery. In many ways, the very manner in which shopping is conducted is reminiscent of the slave-selling and buying process. Bidding wars, scrambling, and the purchase of last-minute items are a dark reminder of the plight of the slave.”

According to Business Insider, the true story behind the Black Friday name is dark, but not as dark as slavery. On 24 September 1869, the term “Black Friday” was first used “when two investors, Jay Gould and Jim Fisk, drove up the price of gold and caused a crash that day.” Gould, a financier, and Fisk, a railway businessman, took advantage of their connections with the Grant Administration to buy up as much of the nation’s gold as they could with the hope of driving the price sky-high and selling for outrageous profits. When President Grant found out about the manipulation, he instructed the Treasury to

CONTINUES ON PG 23, BLACK FRIDAY

Continued from pg 22, Black Friday

release a large supply of gold into the market, which stopped the run on gold and caused the price to drop by nearly 20%. Wikipedia says that, “Fortunes were made and lost in a single day, and the president’s own brother-in-law, Abel Corbin, was ruined.” Sixty years later, on 29 October 1929, another stock market crash referred to as “Black Tuesday” marked the start of the Great Depression. The days leading up to it were also called black starting with “Black Thursday” on 24 October when panic set in, and “Black Monday” when the market started going into free fall.

In the 1950s, the term “Black Friday” caught on with factory owners when their managers started referring to the Friday after Thanksgiving as Black Friday because so many of their workers decided to falsely call in sick to extend their holiday weekend. About 10 years later, Rochester and Philadelphia police started using the terms “Black Friday” and “Black Saturday” to describe the large crowds and traffic congestion that occurred on the Fridays and Saturdays after Thanksgiving. Apparently, the officers had to work 12-hour shifts to deal with all the people. According to the Dictionary.com article I referenced earlier, “Retailers tried to change the name to ‘Big Friday’ [and Big Saturday], because of the gloomy connotations that the original name has (what with the ‘Black Monday’ of it all). When that didn’t take, eventually, stores across the country decided to interpret the name as taking their ledger books from red to black (indicating that it was the day they moved out of their debt)” to try and put a positive spin on it.

The idea of retailers tying their holiday deals to the Friday following Thanksgiving predates the use of the “Black Friday” term by decades. In 1939, Thanksgiving was going to fall on 30 November and President Franklin Delano Roosevelt officially moved it to the week before because of pressure from the Retail Dry Goods Association. Retailers thought the shorter holiday shopping season would have a negative impact on revenue, but many Americans, some retailers, and the media called it “Franksgiving”. The HuffPost reported on 06 December 2017 that, “Roosevelt defended the change by emphasizing ‘that the day of Thanksgiving was not a national holiday and that there was nothing

sacred about the date, as it was only since the Civil War that the last Thursday of November was chosen for observance”. Roosevelt showed lack of compassion for the people and American heritage while revealing how his Administration catered to industry and big business. In 1941, Congress passed a law that made Thanksgiving occur on the fourth Thursday of November.

In 2008 and 2009, under two different presidents (President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama respectively), Native American Heritage Day was signed into law and designated the Friday after Thanksgiving as the official holiday. It appears that Native Americans are not happy with the designation. In a 2017 article entitled, “Native American Heritage Day Falling On Black Friday Is ‘Poor Taste’”, journalist and activist Simon Moya-Smith says, “Native American Heritage Day should be a day when the nation takes time to recognize our contributions, our sacrifices, what happened to indigenous people, what’s still happening to indigenous people. Instead, Native American Heritage Day falls on Black Friday, a day of excess and gluttony and greed and aggressive capitalism. And that’s extremely in poor taste.” As a person of African and Native American heritage myself, I also feel offended that in the whole month of November, which is Native American Heritage Month by the way, the government could not find another day to celebrate Native Americans. As Moya-Smith states, “Native American Heritage Day falls after a holiday that omits the murder and mutilation of Natives. And that’s even more difficult to stomach for me ... For indigenous people that day is known as ‘Un-Thanksgiving’ or ‘the National Day of Mourning.’ Because we mourn the millions of indigenous people who died as a result of aggressive settler colonialism.”

So, for many Native Americans it isn’t even about changing the name of Black Friday, it’s about having no association with it or the day after Thanksgiving at all. Given all of the other negative connotations and associations with Black Friday and black days in general, I think it should be renamed. It appears that I am not completely alone, albeit for different reasons, because The Washington Post, CNN, and

Media Post, one of the largest and most influential media, marketing and advertising sites online, agree that Black Friday should change. As far back as 2015, The Washington Post published an article entitled, “Let’s be honest: Black Friday needs a new name”. The very first paragraph says, “Black Friday is still hanging on as our catchall name for the kickoff of the holiday shopping season. But it’s no longer a very good one, because the event has metastasized into several days and Friday is losing ground as the most important single day of the shopping bonanza.” This was years before COVID-19, and since the pandemic online shopping has grown exponentially and both Media Post and CNN think that will change “Black Friday” forever.

CNN’s article on 07 July 2020 is entitled, “Black Friday as we know it is dead”, and it says that the massive crowds at malls and stores the day after Thanksgiving has attracted for decades are no longer possible in a pandemic. It also mentioned that Macy’s was considering starting its Black Friday marketing push right after Halloween with a focus on online deals. The following month, Media Post asked, “Should the industry say goodbye to ‘Black Friday’ and replace it with ‘Cyber Week’ once and for all?” An overabundance of data showed that Cyber Monday, the first day after the holiday weekend with huge online only discounts, would extend from Black Friday through the following week, which it did. The trend is expected to carry on this year as experts forecast the trajectory of e-commerce to continue upward despite recovering economies and reopened stores.

Because “Black Friday” is no longer a one-day event and Cyber Monday is also stretched beyond a day, perhaps a new name could be Holiday Deal Days, Year-End Bonanza, Five-Day Frenzy, Retail Therapy Week, 12 Days of Savings, or something catchier that will not be offensive or connected to any dark and sinister origins. If you had to rename Black Friday or that discount shopping time of the year, what would you call it?

+ COMMUNITY

Profile: Dionne McCollum, Delta College

By MIKE THOMPSON

As she engages in her fourth year as Delta College's athletic director, Dionne McCollum has viewed equality in various ways

In her adult career, she sees a need for females to receive a similar level of opportunities as males, first as athletes and later as coaches and administrators.

But it all started as she grew up in metro Detroit, where four older sports-minded brothers might knock her down on the basketball court, equal to being simply one of players.

"All the time," she recalls, with a laugh. "and my brother Marques and I still are very competitive. Who's the better athlete? Who's the better shooter?"

Her father, David Lee Johnson, came from a large family with athletes of their own. He passed away three years ago, just prior to her getting started at Delta. Her mother, Deborah Malone-Johnson, remains as a sports superfan who knows not only all the players, but also all the rules.

And Dionne knows the rules as well, not only for the games, but for the student-athletes who don the Pioneers' green and white. These are basic standards such as proper conduct, achieving good grades and focusing on teamwork.

"Dionne's leadership has provided an opportunity for Delta College Athletics to remain in the national discussion not only for their athletic success but more importantly for the academic success of our students." says Shelly Raube, dean of student success. "She continues to build a culture of one mentality within the program, inspiring our student-athletes to be inclusive



DIONNE MCCOLLUM

of everyone while working hard for what they want to achieve in life."

Expand the focus

Prior to Dionne's Delta appointment, the college arranged for the title to be expanded to "director of athletics AND student-athlete development." This was to put a focus on the advancement and success of pioneer student-athletes.

During her childhood, elementary sports for girls were severely lacking, so Dionne's family enlisted her in PAL (Police Athletic League) programs.

She grew to 5-foot-8, above average height for a female but shorter in stature for a women's game in which the best-known standouts have included Cheryl Miller (6-foot-3), Lisa Leslie (6-6) and Candace Parker (6-4).

Dionne says, "I am 5-8, but 6-2 at heart, I was a defensive specialist, taking pride in the grind of the game."

Her fondest career stat line in that spirit is 14 rebounds and 12 steals in a playoff contest.

At Southfield High School, she was aiming for a basketball scholarship at a Division I major university until mononucleosis sidelined her for a major spell. She instead accepted an offer from Wayne County Community College, where one of her not-so-fond memories is a 2005 one-point tournament defeat at the hands of school to the north, known as Delta College.

Rescued at a juco

At WCCC, she began her transition from the high school heartbreak. Her explanation reflects her belief in the value of adult leaders, all the way up to college level.

"I reclaimed my love for basketball," Dionne states, "with three coaches, Coach Jones, Coach Jeff, and Coach Tone, who believed in me more than I believed in myself."

She also found a future role model in the athletic director, Thomas Howard.

"He never called me Dionne, only 'Southfield,'" she recalls. "I would know by the tone of his voice when he said 'Southfield,' if he was happy or not with me.

"Mr. Howard effected real change in our lives, keeping track of us even after we left for new journeys. We remained in touch until his passing. Part of my motivation is to be the female A.D. version of Mr. Howard, which are really big shoes to fill."

She finished her four-year diploma and her playing career at an HBCU, Kentucky State University. She next followed into collegiate coaching, which she embraced for 12 years.

But when she was surrounded by eager athletes from a variety of sports, crowded into her office, she says she felt a call to empower herself to act even more strongly

**CONTINUES ON PG 25, DIONNE
MCCOLLUM**

+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 24, Dionne McCollum



COURTESY PHOTO

on their behalf by entering into the administrative ranks. With this goal in mind, her studies ultimately led her to pursue a PhD in sports leadership and management from Concordia University Chicago.

Meanwhile, in a big step during the middle of the past decade, she served five

years as an assistant athletic director for Washington, D.C., K-12 schools, overseeing 140 coaches and an array of designated sports. This role helped to expand her focus on creative approaches.

Measuring success

At Delta, teams have achieved regional and even national success in an array of sports. Foremost are women's soccer national championships, and men's and women's basketball clinching regional crowns, and building baseball as a new program. The achievements would be better recognized if not for the demise of local media compared to past generations, especially in sports.

Dionne takes pride while still emphasizing increased study halls and extracurricular, ranging from creating and organizing the Pioneer Special Olympics and the revival of a student-athlete advisory committee (SAAC). A recent example is Pioneer SAAC conducting a diapers and wipes drive during tough times, gathering support for any parents and caregivers in need. She also favors bringing motivational speakers to the campus as another resource.

She recognizes that many of the student-athletes view Delta, by its nature, as a stepping stone to academics and sports at four-year universities and specialized careers. She helps them prepare for their

departures, often based on her personal experiences, and keeps track of their endeavors after they depart.

Mental health has gained recent attention through stories involving such athletes as Simone Biles, Naomi Osaka, Kevin Love and Ben Simmons. Dionne already was on the mental health forefront, ahead of her time, based a great deal on her high school challenges with mononucleosis. This is reflected in her "developing a stronger you" approach.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dionne's husband is Dominic McCollum, who travels to work at General Motors in Burton, a suburb east of Flint. Their first encounters were as ninth-grade athletes at Southfield High, where he was a football standout. Their children are Demi, Dominic Jr., and Dule'.

Yes, she misses coaching, demonstrated on the sidelines or in the stands as she enthusiastically cheers all the teams that represent Delta and the mid-Michigan region.

"I'm probably one of the more animated athletic directors," she acknowledges.

"Pioneer student-athletes embody the 'Juco Tough' mentality. They are top-tier athletes and individuals desired in athletic programs at four-year schools, and also by future employers."



COURTESY PHOTO

+ COMMUNITY



PICTURED: MONUMENT IN MEMORY OF FIRST LOCAL WHITE MAN AND CEMENT BLOCKS AT OJIBWAY ISLAND ENTRY

Saginaw Parks incarceration

By RUMI WILSON

Saginaw used to have a Parks and Recreation Department. The envy of many municipalities, Saginaw enjoyed beautiful park and playscapes easily assessable to young and old alike. Once numerous, some city parks could now, humorously, be called Parks Incarceration.

It seems the deplorable actions of a few can impact everybody else who might otherwise desire the easily enjoyable greenery of nature Saginaw can provide.

Take Ojibway Island. But not for a nice drive, because you cannot drive your car on the island anymore. Approaching Ojibway in the old-fashioned way, wait. Your vehicle is obstructed by military grade cement blocks to preclude potential truck bombings of the wildlife who have overtaken the island.

Apparently, sometime in the spring of 2021, youthful Fast and Furious aficionados were speeding and turning donuts with their cars on the grassy expanses of Ojibway Island. Saginaw officials responded by banning vehicle traffic on the island. Ironically, the city recently spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to create a now unnecessary curbed walking/ biking



DUCKS AT OJIBWAY ISLAND

path lane along the Saginaw River stretch of Ojibway Island roadway.

On a recent visit, the aftermath of the Ojibway Island declaration of park incarceration could be ascertained. Dozens of picnic tables, upended in a vacant parking lot were chained together back-to-back to prevent their use or abuse. An empty bandshell accumulated rust and nary a whisper of practice or performance space utilization. The First Whiteman monument dedicated to Father Nouvel still stood strong, but stonily underappreciated. Who seemed to be having the most fun were the flocks of geese.

Interviewing the ringleader for the Canadian geese, a gander nicknamed fittingly "Goose", he proudly asserted "We run this joint."

Not shy to honk his own horn, Goose declared that the big birds had banded together to declare the island a goose stomping and dumping ground right after the city ban on cars on Ojibway. "We call this Shiawassee Flats North", Goose declared. He quickly added, "We keep it nice for the feathery kind and we don't allow no drag racing among our young chicks, neither."

As Goose continued squawking smack while he waddled among his minions, other critters merrily meandered about. A couple of groundhogs among the dozens zigzagging in search of food or a lark, argued good naturedly about whether they should be called muskrats, hedgehogs or woodchucks. "Woodchucks? Hahaha! Now that's funny", the smaller one chuckled.

A beautiful late summer afternoon collected the coming twilight. The circular swath of huge willow trees around the great open lawn on Ojibway whispered in awe of the natural beauty of a Saginaw, Michigan summer. Oblivious to the trivialities beneath them, the willows swayed and cast their shadows equally upon all the numerous creatures inhabiting Ojibway, even an odd couple of human beings jogging slowly around the island.

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GudFella's
BARBER SHOP

A BALDWIN MULTI-MEDIA GRAPHIC
Decades of Life in the Barbershop

BLM

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Stephon Clark Breonna Taylor George Floyd Milton Hall Trayvon Martin Botham Shem Jean

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www.wildfirecu.org NCUA

+ HEALTH



PICTURED: KATHLEEN SCHACHMAN, H.R. WICKES ENDOWED PROFESSOR OF NURSING AT SVSU AND TRISHA CHARBONNEAU-IVEY, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF SVSU'S CENTER FOR RURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & ADDICTION STUDIES

SVSU working to expand substance use treatment across rural Michigan

Saginaw, MI – Saginaw Valley State University aims to expand and improve substance abuse treatment for populations throughout rural Michigan through a new educational program for nurse practitioners. The university's Department of Nursing has created a new program, Core Addictions and Recovery Education for Nurse Practitioners (CARE4NPs), and will implement it with funding through a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) Providers Clinical Support System (PCSS)-Universities.

Kathleen Schachman, SVSU's H.R. Wickes Endowed Professor of Nursing, and Trisha Charbonneau-Ivey, associate director of SVSU's Center for Rural Behavioral Health & Addiction Studies, successfully applied for the grant, which will provide \$450,000 over three years for the development, implementation and evaluation of the CARE4NPs program.

Through this program, SVSU will ensure that all nurse practitioner students in its Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

(PMHNP) programs receive the education and training to develop the practice knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to provide compassionate and evidence-based care to people with substance use disorders.

"Michigan's rural population has been especially hard hit by opioid addiction," Schachman said. "Medication for addiction treatment, such as buprenorphine, is considered the gold standard for treating opioid use disorder, but there is limited capacity to deliver this type of addiction care in rural Michigan."

"We intend to improve access to medication for addiction treatment for opioid use disorders by increasing the number of nurse practitioners and other eligible providers in rural Michigan who prescribe buprenorphine, expanding the availability of this potentially life-saving treatment in primary care practices."

Schachman said she and her colleagues have identified four goals for the program:

1. Decrease the educational gap in substance use treatment through

the development and deployment of CARE4NPs, an integrated addictions-focused curriculum for FNP and PMHNP students.

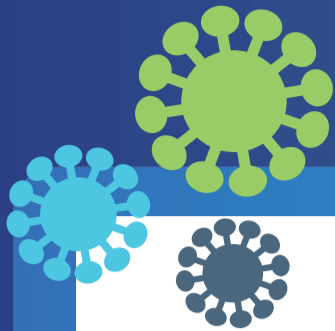
2. Improve competence, confidence and readiness of FNP and PMHNP students to assess, diagnose, and treat individuals with opioid use disorder through didactic, simulation and clinical immersion experiences.
3. Build capacity and expand statewide expertise among rural primary care teams to implement best practices in MAT.
4. Reduce stigma and other barriers that limit buprenorphine prescribing practices.

Placing nurse practitioner students in rural health clinics is integral to the program, providing practical experience for the students and expanding the capacity of those clinics to provide medication to patients.

"We are confident that approaches that address both the education gap and obstacles to buprenorphine prescribing will improve access to medication patients with opioid use disorder in rural Michigan," Schachman said.

CARE4NPs is not the first program SVSU has implemented to address substance use disorder. The university also participates in Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes). Developed at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Project ECHO is a collaborative model of medical education and care management that facilitate the sharing of knowledge among healthcare providers, ensuring they can provide the right care at the right time, wherever they are. SVSU offers two Project ECHO programs: SUD ECHO for substance use disorders and PSUD ECHO for perinatal substance use disorder.

"We recognize that access to medical and mental health care can be challenging in our rural communities," Schachman said. "Our goal is to make it easier for healthcare providers to access the information they need to offer effective care to more patients throughout the state."



Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

www.GreatLakesBayHealthCenters.org

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers has touched more than **118,000 LIVES** during the COVID-19 crisis – in patient care and community outreach with testing and vaccines.

55,884
COVID-19 TESTS
ADMINISTERED
IN 2020-2021 (AS OF JUNE 3, 2021)

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers (GLBHC) began offering community COVID-19 testing in March 2020 outside centers in Saginaw, and expanded to Bay City and Bad Axe. During the summer and fall, we partnered with churches and other community partners to bring testing to neighborhoods with “popup” events. We shifted testing to drive-thru access and do not require a doctor’s note or symptoms. Staff supported this effort on every level, including making calls to share test results. GLBHC added free Influenza community clinics through the fall of 2020. Volunteers have supported testing and vaccines.

15,091
COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES*
ADMINISTERED
IN 2021 (AS OF JUNE 3, 2021)

The Moderna vaccine was first made available to GLBHC staff in January 2021. Through the winter, staff worked with local health departments to administer vaccines to school professionals. The centers started receiving direct shipments of vaccines in March 2021, and began offering appointments to patients. GLBHC also began planning pop-up events at churches and other locations to access hard-to-reach populations. By April, the vaccine team had set up drive-thru vaccine clinics in Saginaw and Bay City and weekly clinics at the UAW Hall in Saginaw. Soon the public could access the vaccines without an appointment. Outreach continues into the summer, with young adults and teens becoming a focus.
**individuals each receive two doses*

TOTAL GLBHC PATIENTS SERVED IN 2020:



50,270 PATIENTS

RECEIVING MEDICAL, DENTAL, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE AND OTHER VISITS

The COVID-19 shutdowns required centers to limit in-person visits in March-May 2020, but we never closed. Within two weeks, GLBHC had telehealth visits operational to stay in touch with patients. Before 2020, there were no virtual visits offered.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

COVID increased stress and demand for behavioral health services in 2020. Staff reached out to schools and saw increased referrals for children and teens.



DENTAL CARE

GLBHC dental centers were some of the only dental clinics open during quarantine to emergency care for patients experiencing pain or infection.



CHRONIC HEALTH MONITORING = BETTER OUTCOMES

During quarantine, GLBHC used grant funds to provide at-home monitoring kits to patients with COVID symptoms. The kits included blood pressure monitors and pulse oximeters to track oxygen levels. Telehealth visits were a lifeline for care management nurses to keep in touch with patients with chronic health conditions. Pharmacy staff made medication deliveries. A new Respiratory Clinic allowed staff to safely care for patients with COVID symptoms in person.



+ HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

War Memorial Hospital signs agreement to join MidMichigan Health

Sault Ste. Marie, MI – War Memorial Hospital and MidMichigan Health have signed an agreement which would make War Memorial the eighth Medical Center in the MidMichigan Health system. War Memorial and MidMichigan leadership expect the affiliation to be completed in early 2022.

“This is a very exciting time for our organization. We are pleased to have reached this portion of the agreement and look forward to completing the final steps to become part of the MidMichigan Health family,” said David Jahn, FACHE, president and CEO, War Memorial Hospital. “MidMichigan is well-respected and shares our commitment to our community, employees, health care providers and volunteers. This partnership will allow us to continue our growth and offer greater services and advanced care for our patients.”

In April 2021, the War Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees gave approval to move into a nonbinding letter of intent with MidMichigan

following months of evaluating proposals from various health systems. A letter of intent was signed and an extensive due-diligence process was recently completed.

“It has been a joy to work with David, the board and the leaders of War Memorial, throughout this journey and to this stage of a definitive agreement. They share the same focus of keeping the patient the center of all that we do,” said Diane Postler-Slattery, Ph.D., FACHE, president and CEO, MidMichigan Health. “We believe coming together will make our organizations stronger. More importantly, the communities we serve will benefit from our collaboration with enhanced services and the delivery of trusted, reliable and high-quality health care.

“This agreement continues the positive progress that we have made at War Memorial Hospital. Our affiliation with MidMichigan will provide even more opportunities for our hospital to grow and provide additional servic-

es to our community. We are looking towards a bright future ahead,” concluded Jahn

About War Memorial Hospital

War Memorial Hospital is a non-profit independent hospital located in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The 49-bed hospital employs over 900 people and serves the Eastern Upper Peninsula by providing complete medical care including diagnostic services, emergency services, urgent care, orthopedics, rehabilitation, obstetrics, family medicine and many specialty services. War Memorial has a Long Term Care facility attached to the main campus of the hospital and a standalone Behavioral Health Center in nearby Kincheloe, Michigan. War Memorial also many outpatient offices across the Eastern Upper Peninsula including lab, primary care and rehabilitation services. Priding itself on providing high quality healthcare close to home, War Memorial believes in making a difference in our great community.

+ HEALTH

**“I WOULDN'T
WORK
ANYWHERE
ELSE.”**

Rosalind Williams
Registered Nurse



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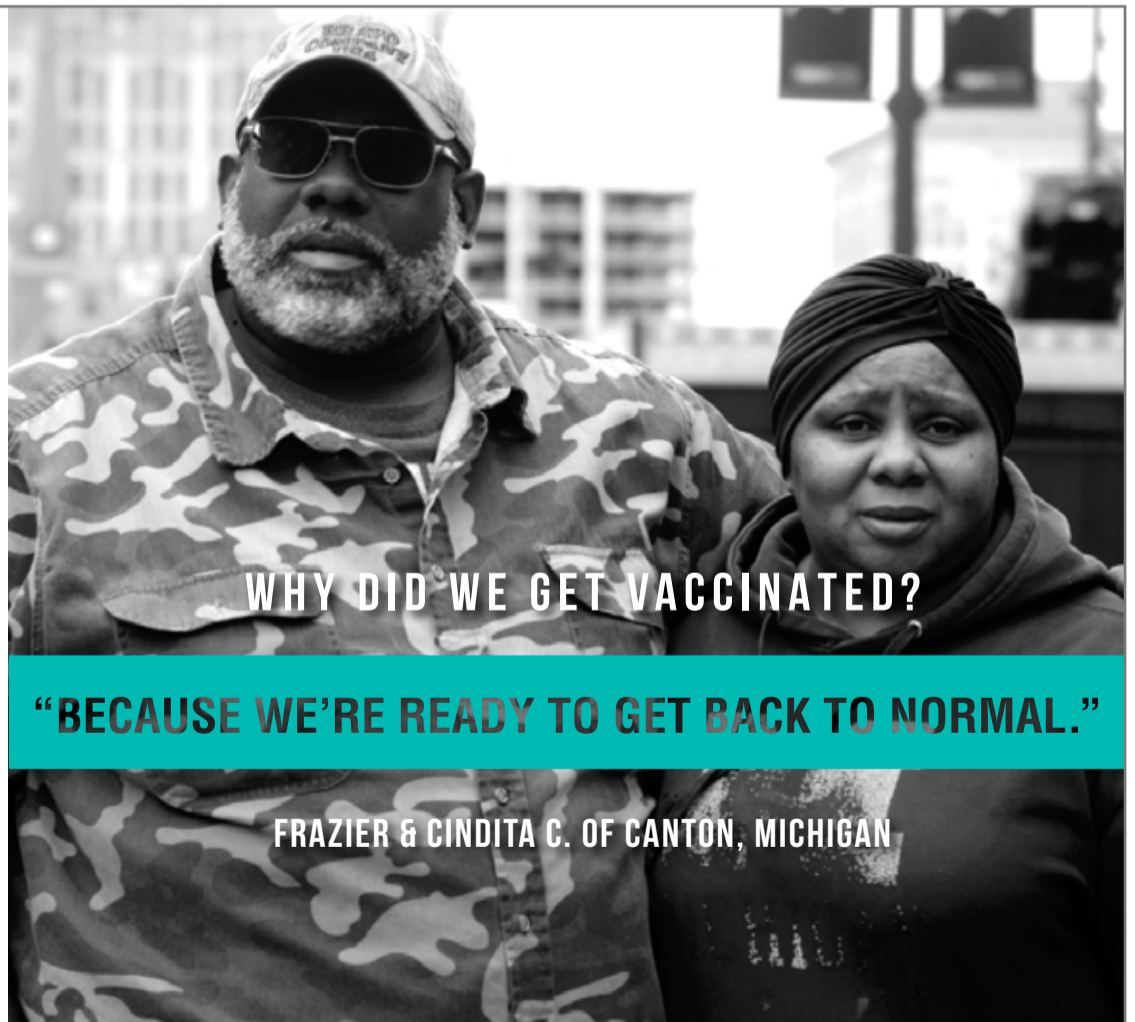


**The COVID-19 vaccine will help
us get beyond this pandemic.**

There are so many things Cindita and Frazier missed in the last year: celebrating big holidays, going to movies, being with friends and family. They hunkered down in the house, life just stopped. They saw firsthand how COVID took away strong, vibrant lives. Which is why they believed it was so important to get vaccinated to get back to normal.

The vaccines have been tested for safety and are trusted by doctors.

Find your vaccine at Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine.
Call **211**, or text your zip code to **438829**.

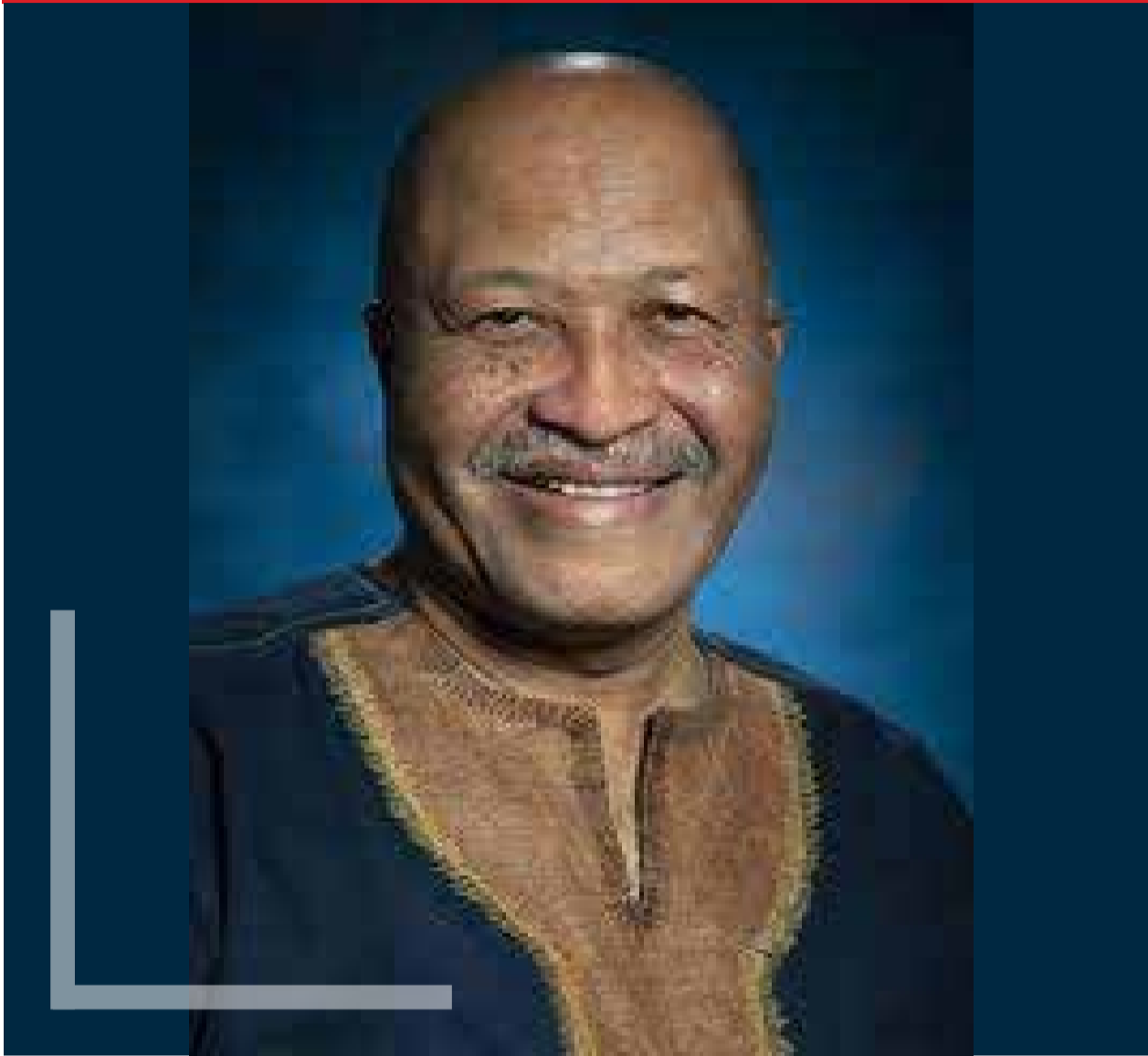


WHY DID WE GET VACCINATED?

“BECAUSE WE’RE READY TO GET BACK TO NORMAL.”

FRAZIER & CINDITA C. OF CANTON, MICHIGAN

+ EDUCATION



JOSEPH OFORI-DANKWA

Saginaw Valley State University professor receives distinguished professor of the year award

Saginaw, MI – Saginaw Valley State University Professor Joseph Ofori-Dankwa was recognized as one of the state's three recipients of the 2020 Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year Award by the Michigan Association of State Universities. The award recognizes the dedication and outstanding efforts of faculty from Michigan's 15 public universities to the education of undergraduate students.

"Dr. Ofori-Dankwa's commitment to bringing his students outside of the classroom and into the world shows how higher education in Michigan continues to evolve to meet the needs of its students and Mich-

igan's people," said Dr. Daniel J. Hurley, CEO of the Michigan Association of State Universities. "These professors give their all when it comes to dedication to student success, helping them achieve their ambitions, all the while strengthening Michigan's prosperity."

Ofori-Dankwa is the Harvey Randall Wickes Professor of International Business and a professor of management at Saginaw Valley State University. Since joining SVSU in 1987, he has earned several university awards including the House Family Award for Teacher Impact, the Rush Distinguished Lectureship,

the Braun Fellowship, and the Thomson Award for Community Engagement. He has helped develop and teach courses for SVSU's Vitito Fellows Global Leadership Institute, including experiential leadership projects for SVSU business students. Among the inter-disciplinary teaching initiatives he has helped to co-coordinate is the B.A.T.S. (Business, Art, Theatre and Sociology) program.

A native of Ghana, Ofori-Dankwa is a leader in expanding programs to Africa. He has led and facilitated 10 trips with students, faculty, and Saginaw community leaders to Ghana since 2000. In addition, he served as a faculty advisor for SVSU electrical and computer engineering students planning to design and install solar panels at a health clinic for the Royal Seed Home Orphanage in Ghana.

He has founded or coordinated additional programs including the Makola Institute, which is a training and advocacy center for market women and small-scale business operators in markets in Ghana, and the Makola Foundation which provides funding for entrepreneurs and students. He has also provided a curriculum on leadership and ethics for the U.S. State Department's Young African Leadership Institute, initiated by former President Obama and located at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration.

Ofori-Dankwa received his Bachelor of Law from the University of Ghana, his M.S. in management and technology from the University of Wales, and his Master of Labor & Industrial Relations and Ph.D. in organizational behavior from Michigan State University.

The other two recipients of the 2020 award were Grand Valley State University Professor Stephen Mattox and University of Michigan Professor H. Scott Fogler.

The Michigan Association of State Universities recognized Ofori-Dankwa and Tami Sivy, SVSU professor of chemistry and a 2021 recipient of the award, during the SVSU Board of Control meeting on Monday, Oct. 25.

+ EDUCATION



KIMBERLY HOUSTON

Embracing life's aha moments

For Kimberly Houston, college was life-changing

By LEAH TWILLEY

As the first member in her family to graduate from college, Houston's parents instilled in her the importance of honesty and hard work at an early age.

"Education really changed the trajectory of my life," said Houston, who grew up in St. Louis, Missouri. "A good education begins to expand your mind and thinking,

and growth happens through your experiences."

Houston's belief in the power of education, specifically at Delta College, inspired her to establish an endowment to fund experiences for students to learn about themselves and the world around them.

The Kimberly R. Houston Leadership and Service-Learning Endowment will provide opportunities for students to ex-

plore career options, volunteer in their communities and travel, all while imparting the importance of civic engagement. The opportunities will focus on cultivating the skills and knowledge needed to become leaders, including creativity, self-reliance, conflict resolution, ethics, social and cultural understanding, and more.

"My hope is that students who receive support from this endowment come away with the understanding they have the power to be change makers," she said. "I want them to be challenged and to know that they are capable of leading and influencing."

In a way, the new endowment has been years in the making. Houston has more than 35 years of leadership experience in business, philanthropy and fund development. She worked for the Dow Corning Corporation in multiple positions, including president of its foundation, among other roles in the community. She also served as a Delta trustee and board chair, and was a member of the Delta College Foundation Board of Directors.

"There is this sense of lifelong learning that's really embedded in Delta's culture," Houston said. "You can see growth and learning happening to everyone, everywhere – from students and faculty to staff and even among members of the Delta College Foundation and trustees."

Houston said through experiences associated with the endowment, she wants students to have what she calls aha moments – sudden feelings of discovery or realization that can be transformational.

For her, some of those inspiring moments happened through conversations with her parents and her daughters, Shelby and Aja.

"My daughter, Aja, is an artist by trade. When she graduated from college, she said, 'Mom, you're an artist. If you create, you're an artist.' That was an aha moment for me because I never considered myself to be an artist," she said.

"Delta students are artists too. They can take their gifts into the world to create, to serve, to lead."

Interested in creating an endowment or supporting scholarships at Delta College? Contact Sheryl Kiscadden at 989-686-9627 or sherylkiscadden@delta.edu.

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

Shortages in teaching and support staff



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

Like other businesses, schools are seeking employees. There are shortages in nearly every educational role, and this has been brewing for the past several years.

When I was in the role of Dean in the College of Education at SVSU, I was often a "cheerleader" bringing encouragement for undergraduates to consider the teaching field. Like Tom

Izzo, I was often recruiting on our campus and at Community College campuses for "players." The critical areas four years ago were special education, math, and science.

Now the critical areas are all grades, all subjects. In fact, if anyone would like to be considered for an elementary position, I know of an opening in a good school that is going unfilled right now!!!

This also is true for substitute teachers; they are in very short supply.

So, if you are a retired teacher, consider coming back for a year or two, even part time. Or if you went to college and got a degree in another field, or if you attended college and didn't finish a degree you can be used in a local school near you. As a substitute teacher. Or maybe as a teacher assistant or paraprofessional; they are also in very short supply.

Perhaps you drove truck and stayed away from college, that is okay; you could drive a school bus.....bus drivers are in short supply, too. The local media has done a great job reporting on bus driver shortages and has helped "get the word out" about this critical role.

Others in the reading audience might be able help out as lunch room or playground aides, substitute secretaries or custodians.

I believe in strong schools, both public and private. Now is a great opportunity to step into the world of education.

Feel free to reach out to me, or better yet, reach out to your local school. They might find a call from you, expressing interest in helping out, a huge "booster shot" that is sorely needed.



“I would love for you to come to our downtown office to visit with me about becoming a Cardinal! I am happy to assist you with how to complete your admission application, explore academic programs, submit the FASFA, and discuss many other services at SVSU that bring you closer to your educational dreams.”

At SVSU, we see and cultivate your full potential. Cardinals fly far beyond the classroom.

Our convenient Riverfront Saginaw Center is open and ready to serve your unique needs.

Schedule your visit with Carmen Stricker, who will be available at our Riverfront Saginaw Center from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every Wednesday now through Aug. 18.

Carmen Stricker
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Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org

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

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

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

+ BUSINESS



MIDMICHIGAN HEALTH

MBA announces top employers in Midland County for 2021

Midland, MI – The Midland Business Alliance (MBA) has compiled the list of the top employers in Midland County for 2021, starting with the largest.

Please note that Dow’s number of 4,003 is based on numbers provided in 2019 for Midland County only. The 2021 number provided by Dow is 9,727 for the entire Great Lakes Bay Region and includes both employees and contractors.

Business Name

MidMichigan Health	4878
Dow	4003
Midland Public Schools	1039
Dupont	697
Corteva Agriscience	664
Greater Midland	564
TCF Bank	535
Northwood University	501
City of Midland	467

Three Rivers Corporation	396
Walmart	327
Midland County	324
Meijer	303
Huhtamaki Plastics	257
International Flavors & Fragrances	250
Bierlein Companies	236
Trinseo	230
Fisher Companies	200
Bullock Creek Schools	195
Robinson Industries	150

“In assembling the list of largest employers in our community, we’re grateful to see growth, industry adaptation and development throughout Midland County,” said Tony Stamas, MBA President & CEO. “The past two years have presented unique challenges, and the MBA team continues to adapt as well, remaining nimble in our support of legacy industry, new endeavors

and Midland’s latest innovators ensuring our businesses have the best opportunity to thrive.”

The MBA Foundation serves the County of Midland as its Economic Development organization (EDO) focused on attracting, growing and supporting businesses throughout our community. The MBA works closely with the County of Midland, City of Midland, City of Coleman, Village of Sanford and throughout the entire county in these initiatives.

Bridgette Gransden, Midland County Administrator/Controller, said about the list, “We are encouraged to see that the Largest Employers for 2021 reflects a strong mix of businesses and industries across Midland County. From grassroots, locally-owned and operated companies to Fortune 100 companies, our business community is diverse and growing.”

+ BUSINESS

Dornbos Printing Impressions to merge with Reimold Printing

Saginaw, MI – Reimold Printing Corporation and Dornbos Printing Impressions have been proudly serving the Great Lakes Bay Region since 1972 and 1889, respectively. For many years, our complimentary shops have been working together to produce your unique projects.

We are pleased to announce that we will be combining operations to bring you more benefits, and continue our tradition of excellent service for many more years to come. Once the merge is complete, all operations will continue from Reimold Printing Corporation, located in Kochville Township.

If you have any questions about this exciting news and what it will mean for you, please reach out to us. We're looking forward to all the new and continued relationships this opportunity will bring!



LARA becomes Michigan's 18th Gold-level Veteran-Friendly employer

Lansing, MI – For its success in hiring and retaining military veterans, the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) has been certified as a Gold-level Veteran-Friendly Employer by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA).

LARA becomes just the 18th employer in Michigan - and the fourth State of Michigan department - to achieve prestigious Gold status as a Veteran-Friendly Employer (VFE).

LARA's commitment to former service members includes employing about 70 veterans, retaining more than 85% of veterans hired in the past few years and operating a veteran-specific orientation and a Veteran Liaison group in which employee veterans assist customers who are veterans.

"We are proud to have earned this Gold-level recognition through a commitment to recognize and support veterans who work on our team," said LARA Director Orlene Hawks. "Through the Veteran-Friendly Employer program, we are able to join other forward-leading employers who share LARA's commitment to hiring, retaining and growing the careers of veterans. LARA extends that commitment to veterans coming to live and work in Michigan through our Veteran Reciprocity Initiative, which allows a transfer of certain licenses gained in other states to a comparable Michigan license creating a fast-track path to employment."

Established in 2013, the VFE program recognizes more than 400 employers with either Bronze-, Silver- or Gold-level status for their dedication to supporting veteran talent. Participants can network with other companies to share best practices and take advantage of free training to improve veteran outreach practices. In addition, veterans can more easily identify employers committed to hiring and supporting former service members in their workforces.

With the Gold-level certification, MVAA recognizes LARA's commitment

to supporting veterans by understanding the unique and diverse skill sets and experience veterans bring to the workforce. MVAA is the central support agency for Michigan's nearly 600,000 veterans and their families, connecting them to benefits and resources.

"LARA has a proven track record of supporting veterans and I am pleased to see them become a Gold-level Veteran Friendly Employer," said MVAA Director Zaneta Adams. "Our veterans are equipped with valuable skills and abilities that make them excellent candidates and we are proud to see another state agency take notice. These efforts to elevate veteran workers are part of what makes Michigan a great place to live, raise a family, work and retire."

LARA's estimated 70 veteran employees represent about 4.4 percent of its workforce. In 2021, 10.6 percent of the department's new hires were veterans. LARA is the fourth state agency to receive Gold status, joining the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Michigan State Police (MSP).

To be recognized as gold, employers must retain at least 75 percent of veteran hires over the past 12 months, implement internal veteran support networks and create either a hiring rotation or leadership development program within their organization, in addition to meeting all other program requirements.



+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

Lost and found donors

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

We are entering the height of fundraising season! Giving Tuesday is November 30th, and then it is fundraising nonstop until the end of the year. Are you ready?

When it comes to year-end fundraising, many organizations focus on ensuring those who gave in the prior year will make a gift this year. The next priority is often new donors: who can we attract through our events (live, virtual, and hybrid); who will give through our online giving portal; and will we bring in donors from our social media? The group that is often overlooked is lapsed donors.

In the language of fundraising, a lapsed donor is an individual or organization who made a gift in the past but did not give last year. We recommend creating a team that specializes in “recovering” lapsed donors: the team can include board members, staff and volunteers. Here are a few ways to help ensure your lapsed donors don’t become lost!

Review the information in your database. If you are a small organization or a start up, compare your excel files or QuickBooks data. Identify those who gave in 2019 but did not give in 2020. That list is your lapsed donor list. Carefully look for those who gave a major gift: those are your priority lapsed donors.

When working with lapsed major donors, determine who is the right person within your organization to reach out with a personal phone call to share an update about the work of your nonprofit and to ask for a gift. Ideally, the person would



COURTESY PHOTO

be someone who knows the donor. If there isn’t a personal relationship, the call could be made by the executive director or a board member. For all lapsed donors, share the lapsed list with board members and staff to learn “who knows who” and who could reach out to those they know.

Develop an action plan: how many donors will your team reach out to in the next three weeks. Set a goal for how many lapsed donors will make a gift this year and set a goal for how much money you want to raise from this group. This should be a part of your dashboard reporting at your fundraising meetings.

Build confidence in your “recovery team” by creating a list of talking points in advance to guide conversations and

help your team remember to make the ask. Consider using our free guide “How to Solicit a Gift” tool as a starting point. Provide examples for what the impact of a gift would be – for example, a gift of \$99 would provide books for two students.... a gift of \$250 supports our senior health advocacy initiative.

Consider offering incentives, benefits, and opportunities for those who renew their gift. This could be a coffee mug, a personal tour (virtual if needed), or the opportunity to be a sponsor or to receive special recognition.

The pursuit of lapsed donors could determine whether or not you meet your fundraising goal.



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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



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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
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Saginaw, MI 48603
989-790-7933

C

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Pastor Genevieve Benson
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Christ Fellowship Baptist Church
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Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-4435
PastorD818@gmail.com



Christ Image Community Church
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Saginaw, MI 48638
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christimage.us

F



Faith Harvest Church
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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
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Saginaw, MI 48601
989-755-3212



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

Greater Williams Temple
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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
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2312 S. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-755-3650



New Birth Missionary Baptist
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3121 Sheridan
Saginaw, Michigan
989-327-1755



New Covenant Christian Center
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989-752-8485



New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
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1721 Tuscola Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-7600



New Life Baptist Ministries
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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
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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
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Second Baptist Church
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Bay City, MI 48708
989-893-8631

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

T



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



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

U



United Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Cedric Nickson
4290 Lamson Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
Church: 989-759-9411
Pastor 810.223.2987

V



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

W



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

Z



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

+ SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTO

'Saginaw United' makes the best of 0-and-9

By **MIKE THOMPSON**

Players on this fall's Saginaw United football team, blending Saginaw High and Arthur Hill, found some "ups" among the obvious downs of a winless season.

They discovered lessons in tackling -- not only the physical tackle on the field, but also in mentally tackling adversity.

Family and friends gave support from Day One, of course, but skeptics remained among some adults and, most hurtfully, some classmates.

"There were a lot of ups and downs," says Lionel Baldwin II, an Arthur Hill junior, "but in the end, we conquered adversity. A lot of people didn't think we could stay together (between the two schools), but we stayed tight. There were no argu-



MICHAEL BALDWIN AND LIONEL BALDWIN II

ments all season, none player-to-player and none player-to-coach."

The team was anchored by Isaiah Paige, a Saginaw High senior all-conference lineman, who says he was told "all the time"

that Trojans and Lumberjacks would not be able to get along.

"They didn't understand," Paige says. "I was already working out with half of the Arthur Hill players in the offseason, even before we knew we would have Saginaw United."

He adds, "It was a great experience. We didn't win any games, but we competed and we definitely got better as the season moved ahead."

Lionel's sibling, freshman Michael Baldwin, learned not only from Coach Lee Arthur Jr. and the staff, but also from teammates at higher grade levels.

CONTINUES ON PG 42, SAGINAW UNITED

+ SPORTS**Continued from pg 41, Saginaw United**

PICTURED: ISAIAH PAIGE, DYLAN MOORE, KARIM MCCUNE

"It was my first high school experience, and so everything was new," Michael says. "We were able to work as a team, to go out every Friday as a well-oiled machine."

Startup growing pains

The machine hummed at times for fleeting moments, but often it leaked oil. That happens at times in a struggle to build something new.

Saginaw United opened the season on Aug. 26 with a narrow defeat at the hands of Heritage High, but that was as close as the new team would come. A comparison is that Heritage also was born of a declining enrollment merger, the 1980s combo of the former MacArthur and Eisenhower schools. Both teams concluded on Oct. 22 with near-identical scores against undefeated foes. United was swamped, 56-18, by Grand Blanc and Heritage was steam-rolled, 56-19, by Mount Pleasant.

Isaiah Paige achieved first-team Saginaw Valley League status as a two-way tackle, and Lionel Baldwin was selected for second-team offensive center. He also played defensive tackle and was the short snapper for field goals. The only reason he couldn't be the long snapper for punts was that he himself was the punter.

Other honorees were Saginaw High's Dylan Moore (quarterback and defensive back) and Karim McCune (wide receiver). Michael Baldwin's prime accomplishment was to earn starting status, as a mere fro-

sh, at middle linebacker.

At the Michigan Banner, we attempted without success to reach Coach Lee Arthur Jr., but Assistant Coach Finao Love says a benchmark for Saginaw United was achieving the respect of opposing coaches.

"The ultimate compliment is from the Grand Blanc head coach," Love states, "saying our kids played with heart and class. He said they showed great sportsmanship and the program is going in the right direction. Time to keep rebuilding our program, because this is one of the toughest leagues in the state."

To stand even more United

A source of frustration was being branded, in some quarters, as "losers," when if not for them, neither Arthur Hill nor Saginaw High would have had any sort of team. Some of the sharpest digs came from athletic classmates who could have enlisted in football but chose not to do so.

"It was very negative and discouraging," Michael Baldwin notes, "but at the end of the day, we still were a team."

The siblings individually know what it takes to win from their youth football years, from flag to tackle. Lionel also is a champion wrestler at The Hill.

"I've had success in wrestling, and I'm looking forward to next season in football," he says.

Meanwhile, Isaiah Paige is looking forward to college. He has received one small-

college scholarship offer and is hoping for others, but either way he aims to continue his education building upon a 3.2 GPA. His main career interests are engineering and sports management.

Individuals may retain hopes from the examples of a pair of ex-Trojans who also were members of winless teams. Calvin O'Neal (1976) went on to become an All-American linebacker at Michigan and an all-pro with the Baltimore Colts. Terry McDaniel (1984) took his gridiron talents and state champion sprinter speed to Tennessee prior to an all-pro career at defensive back with the Oakland Raiders.

A new tradition

The Saginaw High rivalry with Arthur Hill dates in all sports dates back to 1894. Emotions have sizzled out of control at times in recent years, leading to games played during morning hours or closed to the public. This why some followers were skeptical that the merger would work, win or lose.

Games alternated between SHS and AHHS. The prime uniform color was gold, adopted from both schools. Community feedback will begin soon for naming the unified high school, set to open in fall 2023 at the current SASA site, along with a nickname and team colors. Property owners voted a year ago to pay hundreds of dollars for district wide school renovations, featuring the new high school.

Sports participation, especially in football, has declined across the nation in all sorts of communities, both urban and rural. The unified high school is virtually ensured of basketball success, and The High and The Hill both will keep their individual hoops teams until the merger, but football is a bigger challenge.

Population and enrollment both have dropped to sharply the combined headcount for the new high school will stand at 1,200, smaller than either school contained during their golden eras.

"The team will definitely move forward, next year and in the future," Isaiah says. "Other teams would beat either Saginaw High or Arthur Hill by 50 points, but when we combined we were able to compete with them."

+ SPORTS



SASA STUDENTS PLAYING THE GAME APEX LEGENDS

Who would have thought? Computer games offer life skills, even college aid

By MIKE THOMPSON

How many parents have chastised their children to quit playing all those video games and to get busy on their school homework?

This is common, of course, and often for good reasons.

But sometimes we see some rare thumbs-ups, such as the new E-Games clubs at Saginaw High, at Arthur Hill and at SASA.

Some students said their parents initially were skeptical, but their faith in the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy prevailed. After all, their regular classloads are difficult as they aim for careers in computer programming, engineering, physics and tech in general.

Cailan Anton says he would rate his skills "between 8 and 9" on a 10-point scale in such challenges as "Duel 3" and "Little Rock."

He was surprised to find the chance during his sophomore year, to incorporate computer games into his academics.

"I always wondered if I could (compete)," he says, "but I never expected it to happen."

Shania Noel also competes in a traditional sport as a SASA volleyball team member. She sees similarities with eSports, but also differences.

A dive for the volleyball is an instinctive reaction, she explains, while a computer game causes her to question her judgment decisions more often.

Principal Rachel Reid notes that the students do more than engage in fun times. They are called upon to market and advocate for themselves, to engage in teamwork and problem-solving, and even to advertise.

Mit Foley, assistant superintendent for secondary education and the district's athletic director, said he had heard of other schools forming eSports clubs to foster student growth in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and other related fields by playing video games. His interest grew when he heard of scholarships available to top players, similar to athletic scholarships.

"Currently," he says, "there are hundreds of colleges and universities that offer tens of millions of dollars in eSports scholarships, and our students will be in a position to compete for those scholarships."

"Esports engages students in leadership and strategic/critical thinking skills to excel in the sport, all of which are needed to be successful in college."

He adds, "Esports are co-ed, providing an all inclusive environment that allows everyone to engage who otherwise might not participate in extracurricular activities."

Club coordinator Andrew Kowalski is a math instructor who compares the daily after-school activities to taking part in the school band, which he did as a teenager.

"Not everyone wants to play a sport," he said. "but students in eSports hone many of the same skills and learn similar life lessons."

Jackson Duby sounds like an athlete when he says, "I played a lot of sports when I was younger, but this also is something that I really feel from within."

Parents and students, of course, all will have their own way of viewing the new option.

Elliot Elias says his father questioned the merits of eSports at first, but reached a conclusion in favor, saying, "You really don't need to play football, neither."

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 21

7 pieces of advice for incoming College freshmen

COURTESY PHOTO

If you ask someone who has recently left college what they would have done differently, it's likely they would have made a lot of changes - but they will also admit that their mistakes helped them learn. This list of advice for incoming freshmen heading off to college focuses around themes of self-worth and gaining confidence.

1. College is literally full of unlimited resources - use them

Once you graduate and move on and begin to deep dive into your career (or figure out what you even want your career to be), you'll wish you took advantage of all the free resources you had in college. Okay, obviously they aren't free, that tuition bill is pretty hefty after all ... but you're paying for it anyway, so why not use it?

2. Enjoy the social scene, but don't let it destroy your GPA

You have every single reason in the world to grow your social circle in college. It's what you do. It's a rite of passage. If you don't, you're missing out. Go out, have fun, but remember that your first responsibility is to show up to class, be prepared to perform well on exams, and turn in assignments that you can be proud of. There will be a million more chances for you to party and be social, I promise. Be wise with the time you have.

3. No decision is permanent (except the ones that lead to a 2.5 GPA)

You can change schools, your major, and anything else under the sun, and you can change them back if you want. Not knowing is okay. We're told to think carefully about our decisions as we enter college, and somewhere along the way we begin to believe that the

stakes are always high and every decision we make is final. Well, that's not entirely true. The truth is, every decision you make does affect the next one, but there's always another decision ahead, and any one of them might put you on the right path. Trust your gut, make decisions that feel good to you (and no one else but you), and remember that you can always change your mind.

4. Take note of how much and what kind of debt you're incurring

Did you know that money is the biggest source of stress for 44% of Americans? It's easy to think "future me will worry about that," but present you can take preventative steps by making good decisions today. Paying attention to the types of debt funding your college degree can make a huge difference in the success of your post-college life. When you know what your interest rates are, and all the options you have after college to pay back the debt you owe, you can make much smarter life choices. Even making a choice as simple as living with your parents for one or two years after college to save money and create a cushion of support for after your student loan payments start kicking in is a better decision than just seeing what happens.

5. Find a mentor and build a strong relationship with them

This is a great piece of advice for incoming college freshmen, and it goes back to point number 1, that you'll never have more resources than right now. Identify a professor or other professional you admire and learn what steps they took to achieve their goals. If they're open to mentorship, ask them questions and really allow the relationship you have with them to grow into something that you can take with

you after graduation. The more you work on this relationship, the easier it will be to find mentors in your future workplace who will help you and go the extra mile to help you find your own success. Plus, the more you learn from a mentor, the more likely you are to become a mentor someday to someone, and that is such a rewarding and fulfilling role to have in life.

6. Get comfortable with being uncomfortable

This is really true. Learning is hard. Not understanding things the first time sucks. Getting shut down blows. Failing makes us feel horrible about ourselves. The truth is that life isn't supposed to be comfortable all the time. These uncomfortable situations are opportunities to grow. It's how we react to these situations that make us successful, that teach us the lessons and give us the fire under our feet to be better next time. If you don't work for what you want, you'll never get it. Instead of taking the easy road, challenge yourself by working for things that seem out of reach. If you work hard enough you will eventually succeed, and that's enough motivation to keep going.

7. Your self-care is important

Stop neglecting caring for yourself because you feel like it's selfish or a waste of time. In truth, self-care is a gift you can give to yourself that pays back in dividends. Working in ways that support your values, morals, and overall sense of self will get you more job offers, more meaningful relationships, and way more happiness than doing things because you feel like it's what you should be doing. Starting the habit of self-care now will benefit future you immensely.

Online application opens Dec. 1, 2021

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PICS OF THE WEEK

REMEMBERING MS. SHARON FLOYD (May 3, 1947 - October 28, 2021)



VISITATION

Nov. 7 | 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM

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

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



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