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COMMUNITY



**LABOR DAY
TRIBUTE**

**HARRY BROWNE,
NORM OSBORNE,
HENRY NICKLEBERRY**

COMMUNITY, PG 18

Ruth Ann Knapp Joins Saginaw ISD's Board of Education

Saginaw, MI – Ruth Ann Knapp, a current elected school board member of the Saginaw Public School District, was selected to serve on Saginaw Intermediate School District's Board of Education, effective July 2021.

Ruth Ann Knapp was born in Michigan and raised in rural Idaho. She began teaching for two years in Oregon before transitioning back to Saginaw where she taught for more than 40 years in the Saginaw Public School District. Throughout her teaching career, she predominantly taught elementary music, with experience in nearly all of Saginaw Public's elementary schools. She also served as the district's K-12 Music Coordinator and Fine Arts Coordinator.

Ms. Knapp actively volunteers with art shows, including the Saginaw County Art Show held at Fashion Square Mall each spring. She is also President of Positive Results Downtown Saginaw (PRIDE) and works on Saginaw's Christmas and Memorial Day Parades, Holidays in the Heart of the City, and Friday Night Live. She is a former Director of the Saginaw Kids Choir, and has twice served with the Michigan Music Education Association as President and founded its Archives and Government Relations Program. Further, Ruth Ann is



RUTH ANN KNAPP

a member of the local NAACP leadership team and volunteers for Arson Watch as a committee member. In 2018, she received the All-Area Arts Award, and in 2021 received the Whitney E. Young Jr. Service Award.

Jeffrey Collier, Superintendent of Saginaw Intermediate School District, stated, "On behalf of the entire Saginaw Intermediate School District, I am proud to welcome Ruth Ann Knapp to our Board of Education. Ms. Knapp brings to our organization intangible leadership experiences, extensive professional networks, and positive community partnerships. I anticipate that Ms. Knapp's experience, vision, and relationships will further strengthen the foundation of our school board, in alignment with our Saginaw ISD's vision and mission to serve, innovate, and empower."



Covid-19 can't kill G.I. Forum

LATINO BANNER, COVER



Fairgrounds, Manufacturing Plant sites become local 'badlands'

COMMUNITY, PG 11



John Stemple 'Director of Neighborhood Optimism'

COMMUNITY, PG 16

FEATURED STORY

BEYOND THE MASKS: CITY SCHOOLS REOPEN

EDUCATION, PG 37



MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Good trouble

An oxymoron is described as a figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction. For example, in the tale of Romeo and Juliet, Juliet calls Romeo a "beautiful tyrant, fiend angelical" when she learns that he killed her cousin. Killing her cousin makes him both fiend and tyrant but because she loves him, her heart still sees him as beautiful and angelic. Contradictory terms juxtaposed to convey two very true but opposing views on the same topic. Another well-known oxymoron came from the late and I consider great United States Representative (Georgia's 5th Congressional District) and civil rights activist John Robert Lewis. He was one of the 'Big Six' leaders who organized the 1963 March on Washington. In his never-ending crusade for equality, particularly regarding voting rights, he coined the phrase, 'Good Trouble'. He knew that there would be consequences for the 'trouble' caused in marches, sit-ins, and other forms of non-violent protest; however, it was for the good of humanity making it a worthwhile, even necessary course of action. My thoughts in this editorial cannot be compared to the writings of Shakespeare nor do they come close to the profound words and courageous works of a statesman such as John Lewis. But they are my thoughts and though they may result a bit of 'good trouble' they may also prompt a few courageous conversations which help us as a community to consider varying points of view and perhaps even reach a place of compromise in our decision making on a topic of critical importance – voting rights.



So, here is the true tale of five generations of men and the sometimes-treacherous journey leading to the current state of affairs in efforts to maintain the free, safe, secure and available to all right to vote in America:

Generation 1. My great, great grandfather, Mr. Riley Buckley, born in the early 1800's could not legally vote. The right was reserved for wealthy, white, male landowners.

Generation 2. My great grandfather, Mr. Jesse Buckley, born in the mid 1800's was not allowed to vote. He was a hard-working and honorable Christian man born during a time when severe restrictions were enforced legally or by landowners who would not under any circumstance permit non-whites or women the right to participate in the legislative process.

Generation 3. My grandfather Rev. Edgar Buckley, born in the late 1800's could not vote. Even though state legislatures began to limit the property requirement for voting and the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution had passed (ensuring theoretically that people could not be denied the right to vote because of race), other barriers were present. Poll taxes, literacy tests, violence, and other obstacles were implemented to guarantee very limited opportunity to exercise one's right to vote, effectively keeping the vote out of the hands of African American men.

Generation 4. My Father Mr. Rowan Buckley, affectionately and respectfully known as Mr. Roy, was born in the year 1915. He lived to experience the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965. Again, on paper, this reestablished that all men were born with the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness (and the right to vote). There was still tremendous risk involved – an African American male could face severe consequences for exercising his right to go to the polls. He voted! He was willing to take the risk. He voted.

Generation 5. Mr. Jerome Buckley, born 1953 "born thirty-eighth years later", Founder and Publisher of The Michigan Banner Newspaper exercises every opportunity to vote. Tracing the trials and hardships of four generations before me, makes it essential that I do so. There is a 6th generation of Buckley's who understand the significance of performing their civic duties and participating in the process. They are raising yet another generation to do the same.

Now, the 'good trouble'. None of these rights came without struggle. Remember Representative John Lewis. He was arrested many, many times. He was beaten – severely beaten to protect the rights of all people to have a voice in our government through the vote. To the generations before us who paved the way we give thanks. To those of us with the ability to engage, let's not miss any opportunity to do so. Participate in local, state and national decision-making by staying informed and casting votes for the betterment of our country. Good trouble - now is the time.

Jerome Buckley
Publisher, Michigan Banner

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MISSION

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

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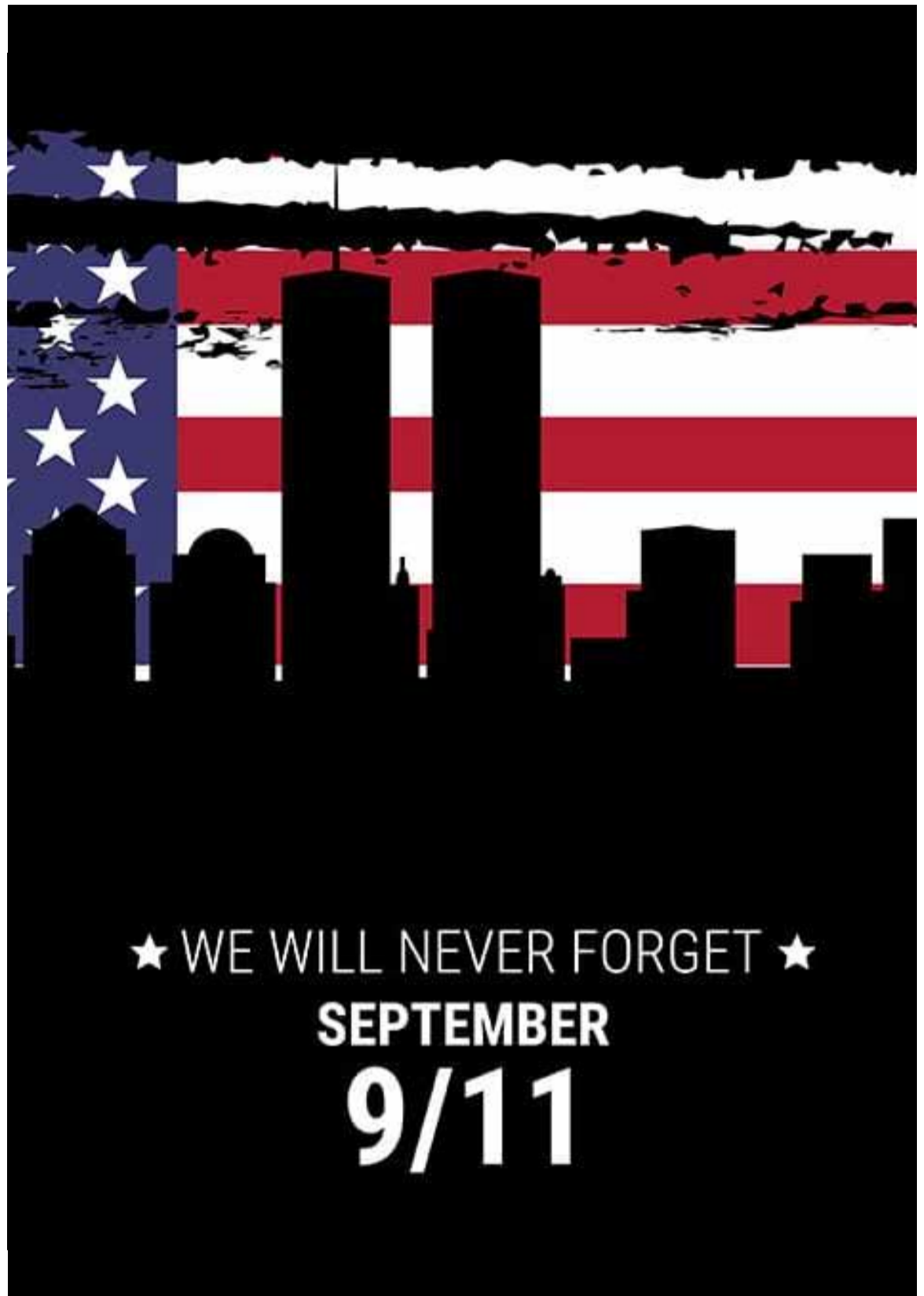
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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

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AMERICAN GI FORUM - SAGINAW, MI CHAPTER

Covid-19 can't kill G.I. Forum

By **MIKE THOMPSON**

After the American G.I. Forum formed in 1948 in Corpus Christi, Dr. Hector P. Garcia and his board aimed during the 1950s to expand from Texas into a nationwide advocacy force.

Saginaw was among the earliest communities across the U.S.A. to come on board, with a start during the middle of the Eisenhower years, and the history moving forward will be celebrated at the scholarship luncheon, says Gilberto Guevara, the local G.I. Forum commander.

Dr. Garcia began with a focus on VA medical rights for Mexican-American servicemen who faced bias in gaining their rightful benefits. Soon, out of necessity, issues of law enforcement injustice and voting exclusion also came to the forefront.

Saginaw's G.I. Forum, like most other branches, supported the national activism, but locally was more of a fund-raising club. A top focal point became education, with

scholarships to bring college costs within reach and events to raise the funds, in line with Dr. Garcia's slogan, "Education is our freedom, and our freedom should be everybody's business."

Guevara says the scholarship funds have been a mainstay for family budgets across the community, but the impact goes beyond dollars.

"Many recipients were the first in their families to attend college, and so their successes were step-



GILBERTO GUEVARA

**CONTINUES ON LB PG 2,
G.I. FORUM**

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



Continued from LB Cover, G.I. Forum

pingstones for their brothers and their sisters," he explains. "They were able to come home and tell stories of what they had experienced, what it was like to enter higher education."

The earliest Saginaw grants to help with tuition and textbooks came at a time when Mexican-Americans were excluded from some of the other school-aid programs, he adds, and so links with the G.I. Forum helped to build trust for family connections with the entire scholarship system.

G.I. Forum men were more than happy to support the equal rights of their spouses to form their own Women's Auxiliary. Among the first leaders was Sarah Pena, who married Korea vet Guadalupe Pena (1927 to 2016) upon his return in 1954 and began studies toward her own nursing career.

"We started in 1956 by supporting the men's activities," she says. "We would help to prepare the meals and set the tables, and then take tickets at the door. In time we would do our own activities in cooperation with the men, like card parties and tamale sales, but the whole purpose still was to make money for the scholarships.

"Eventually we decided that we would like to be able to select our own scholars, but it was never really divided. The men would select both males and females, and so would we."

A generation later, Lupe Guevara also enlisted in the Women's Auxiliary after husband Gil finished his Vietnam service.

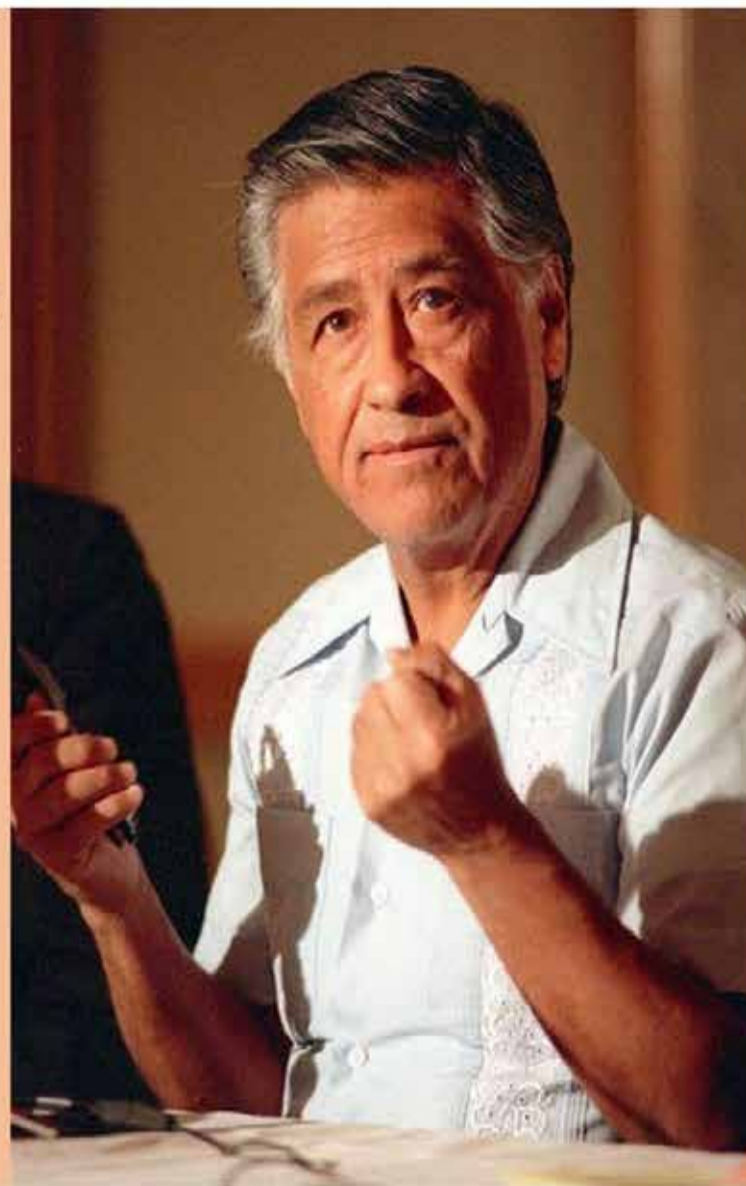
"Looking back," Lupe says, "we always should remember the importance of these scholarships, not only for the young men but also for the young women. Men in college still had more options, but the post-high school studies helped women move into such professions as school teachers, nurses, accountants and secretaries."

The Sept. 15 luncheon is set with the opening of Hispanic Heritage Month. It was originally scheduled for March 31 as a highlight for Michigan's Cesar Chavez Day, but the covid pandemic forced the delay.

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LATINO BANNER
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Hold on, "Help is on the way"



By **PASTOR AUGUSTINE DELGADO**
NEW LIFE BAPTIST
MINISTRIES

Through these turbulent times we are facing as a city, a state, a nation and as world we can lose hope and not see any good in anything. But I would like to encourage you to hold on to the promises of God and His word.

Too many times people focus on the negative of the situation and that is completely the opposite and contradictory towards the promises that God gives us. In His word, He provides a way out of every and any situation. I believe He is still a can-do God, bigger than the pandemic. He still can heal our land.

Yes, I know, things are going on that are unexplainable, People are tired, young and old, but if we hold on and come to-

gether as a body of believers, as family, as a community in prayer and hold unto our faith we will begin to see things happen in the physical world and in the spiritual world. So today, please don't give up hold on just a little bit longer help is on the way!!!!

Scripture reference Isaiah 40:29-31: *"He gives power to the weak. And to those who have no might. He increases strength, Even youth shall faint and be weary, And young men shall utterly fall, But those that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength and mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint."*



COURTESY PHOTO

Sept. 14 vote could close Alma shelter debate

By **MIKE THOMPSON**

For a proposed federal shelter for homeless immigrant teens taken at the bor-

der, the Alma City Commission may finally end a summer filled with delays.

A meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14, is moved to the Alma High School audito-

rium instead of City Hall, in anticipation of another massive crowd, matching the 400 who flocked to a Planning Commission hearing in July.

The plan would open a vacant former nursing home for up to 36 teenage refugees from wartorn Central American nations, for temporary 45-day shelter while they are connected with foster or adoptive homes.

Residents are divided. Opponents express fears that the teenagers will bring criminal backgrounds, along with cases of covid and other plagues. Supporters of accepting the shelter program say the fears are unfounded.

Foes have been in the majority, and the Planning Commission voted 5-2 in July to recommend that the City Commission turn down the plan.

This has caused civil right activists, including some from Saginaw, to perceive that race bias has become a factor, creating an expansion of support for the shelter facility. They have attended the Alma meetings, and have urged others to join them in the 40-mile travel out M-46 west. Mid-Michigan residents also may keep up to date by Google searching "Alma immigration" or visiting the city's website, myalma.org.



LATINO LEADERS FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF ADVOCACY AND DEVELOPMENT (LLEAD) PRESENTS AN ONGOING

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- Vicks Vaporub
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COURTESY PHOTO

Fairgrounds, Manufacturing Plant sites become local 'badlands'

Baker-Perkins property finally in line for cleanup

By MIKE THOMPSON

In most older neighborhoods, the main eyesores are rundown abandoned houses and overgrown vacant lots.

The area east of Saginaw High School is different. The major rough spot is the sprawling, abandoned Saginaw County Fairgrounds and horse track property.

Then head up East Genesee less than a half mile, and the old GM Chevy Transmission Plant constitutes another cavernous wasteland.

In most older neighborhoods, the blight villains are privately owned. But in southeast Saginaw, public entities hold the deeds.

In fairness, the Saginaw Housing Commission's massive fairgrounds headache

was created by previous leadership two decades ago.

Also in fairness, the Saginaw County Treasurer's Office has possessed the abandoned auto-plant ownership for less than a half-year, after a mandated foreclosure last March. The property will be offered for sale at a public tax auction on Sept. 2, says Treasurer Tim Novak. The minimum bid at the auction will be \$362,500, with an additional \$30,600 owed for the summer taxes at that time. If the property fails to sell at the auction, it will revert to the County Land Bank Authority before the end of the year.

Homeowner Teresa Stitt represented the Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association at the City Council's August 23rd meeting, and she said regardless of the

background stories, residents finally want something done.

"We have 120 to 130 acres of (combined) badlands in the middle of our community," said Stitt, who explained her opinion that the strife has led to the lack of amenities such as a grocery store, a bank or a community center.

She brings her own expertise as a retired Delta College academic dean for community development.

Stitt thanked city SCENIC staff for taking action to clean up 17 residential abandoned houses and lots, in cooperation with a youth summer jobs crew from First Ward

CONTINUES ON PG 12, LOCAL 'BADLANDS'

+ COMMUNITY**Continued from pg 11, Local 'badlands'**

Community Center, from a list compiled by the Fairgrounds Neighbors' 20 members.

But she asked for more respect for citizens close to Saginaw High, and also across East Genesee from the fairgrounds.

Specifically, she requested for city leaders to draft a "rescue plan," with a share of the city's oncoming \$52 million in federal covid anti-poverty aid, to clean up and restore the fairgrounds and auto plant properties, possibly for affordable housing or for any other valid purpose. This is the first clear-cut major proposal in the four months since the funding was unveiled last spring.

Long-time fairgrounds story

In the case of the fairgrounds, the Saginaw County Agricultural Society moved the county fair all the way out to Chesaning after 2001, citing sharp declines in attendance. Resentments, and accusations of racism, arose among some city dwellers.

The Housing Commission, acting upon the emotion of that time, immediately moved to buy the fairgrounds for \$500,000. Members acted in defiance of HUD funding rules set in the Detroit regional office, with a stated goal of neighborhood development that would earn profit from the purchase price. The result was a HUD sanction, for this and other violations, that newer leaders through the years have struggled to address.

Lesley Foxx became director in 2012, a decade following the HUD penalties. She explains:

- The Saginaw Housing Commission still owes HUD for the sanctioned purchase, \$535,903 to be exact, with an agreement to continue attempts to sell the property to repay the debt.
- Public housing day-to-day programs and services, in the meantime, are not negatively affected.
- Federal funds are designated for those programs, not for maintenance of property which the former local commission should not have purchased in the first place,

19 years ago. However, the Housing Commission has found methods to maintain and mow around the exterior, in order to decrease trespassing, vandalism and crime.

"The Saginaw Housing Commission would love to see the property developed," Foxx says. "However, the Saginaw Housing Commission may only sell the property as defined by the repayment agreement. (HUD has) an interest in the property, and we are not allowed to do anything without approval."

Stitt says an appeal to Congressman Dan Kildee for intervention may become the Fairgrounds Association's next step.

"As residents, we look at the Housing Commission and HUD as one," she said. "They need to figure out a way to internally collaborate on this. We are the ones who are suffering."

Newer Delco developments

At the Saginaw Manufacturing site, in 1999 GM Motor Transmission switched the ownership moniker to Delphi Automotive Systems LLC. There was another no-cost switchover in 2009 from Delphi to JRG Saginaw LLC, which then sold in 2018 for \$3.35 million to Allied Properties LLC, listed as a New York City real estate management firm, which changed its name to Allied Properties Saginaw but still faced the March 31 land bank foreclosure for failure to pay property taxes.

Treasurer Novak, who also manages the Land Bank Authority, says the 60-acre property is an industrial complex with a large office building still standing. The current taxable value is \$482,900. This property is unsanitary and poses a potential health hazard. The last time a property tax payment was made was 2018, prior to the recent owners who never made a property tax payment.

"As for the neighbors, I would say that if the property isn't purchased at the tax auction, the Land Bank will do what it can to keep the property secure," Novak says. "More importantly, we will work with Saginaw Future to see if there are potential suitors for this property for development.

"In the past, for larger properties like

this we have been able to secure grants that have helped to clean up the property which we would look for with this piece if it indeed doesn't sell at the Land Bank."

Teresa Stitt described the record-setting anti-poverty aid, in the name of covid but not totally linked, as a "gift from the hands of God." She added, "We don't want it said that Saginaw received a \$52 million dollar gift, and they didn't feed the hungry, didn't shelter the homeless, didn't give alms to the poor."

Baker-Perkins finally to go

Covid-aid shares from D.C. (with surprisingly scant media coverage, except for your Michigan Banner) also will include \$65 million for city schools, \$37 million for county government and millions more for the suburbs and outlying small towns.

The City Council's first on-record expenditure will be \$197,700 for a long-awaited completed demo of the former Baker-Perkins site at 1010 Hess, a couple miles toward the river from the fairgrounds.

Novak says, "The Land Bank has partnered with the City of Saginaw to clean up this horrible eyesore over the past eight years. We have used EPA funds and other grants, along with Land Bank funds."

"There was an out-of-town developer that bought the property in 2011 and tore the steel out to scrap it and left a horrible eyesore of half demolished buildings and piles of rubble," Novak explains. "Three years later the property was again foreclosed due to non-payment of property taxes in 2014. The Land Bank has sold pieces of the site to a neighboring business to help them secure their property in exchange for promise of future development. The Land Bank also transferred part to the City of Saginaw, which owns a cemetery adjacent to the property."

Buena Vista-based Rhode Brothers Excavating received the contract bid, an initial example of how the urban aid funds will promote job creation and preservation in the wake of the pandemic's economic harm.

This property consists of various parcels that were purchased in 2011 from the County Treasurer at a public tax auction.



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We can stop the violence



By HON. M.T. THOMPSON, JR.

We will not stop the violence in Saginaw until we treat it with the same urgency as the Corona virus and commit the resources necessary to address its root causes. The purpose of this memorandum is to: (1) focus attention on its root causes; (2) identify the composition of the growing street force which is committing the violence; and (3) discuss the need to provide this group of young adults with character training, positive recreational options, improved K-12 education, educational recovery programs and job training programs.

I. We Have Put Our Children In Harm's Way

The elimination of positive recreational options in the city of Saginaw has left our children in harms way. They have no safe and supervised place to gather and socialize. As a result, they hang out in the streets where they face the constant threat of gangs, drugs, crime, etc. Eventually, many of them get enticed into these type of negative activities. Idle hands are the devil's workshop.

When I was growing up, the City of Saginaw operated year round recreation centers where young adults could safely gather and socialize. These centers were located throughout the city and provided a variety of youth development programs. They included: Civitan Community Center; the 4th and Kirk Community Center; First Ward Community Center; Audrey Frances Community Center; Trinity Commu-

nity Center and the Neighborhood House. First Ward is the only one still open. The adults who worked at these centers were from the surrounding communities and were familiar with many of the families and young adults. They served as mentors and role models and taught valuable life lessons.

During the summer, the City of Saginaw's Recreation Department also ran free day camps on the grounds of many of the public schools and in several public parks. Saginaw also had a couple of public swimming pools. All of these activities have been eliminated.

During this same time period, Saginaw Public Schools opened its school buildings for after school recreational activities and the churches sponsored both a baseball and basketball league. All of these recreation activities have been eliminated. We have abandoned our children and left them in harm's way.

II. A Substandard School System, The Closing Of GM Plants, And The Elimination Of College Options Has Fueled The Growth Of Saginaw's Street Force

When I graduated from Saginaw High we had four basic options: (1) General Motors; (2) college; (3) the armed services; or (4) prison. During my senior year, all of the male seniors were summoned to the office to meet with a General Motors' representative. We were told that we were being put on co-op and that we would be released from school at lunch time to go to work. For the rest of my senior year, I went to school in the morning and then to work for General Motors. At that time, you could make more working for General Motors than you could make teaching school.

The majority of my classmates retired

from General Motors and we assumed that our sons and grandsons would too. As a result, many of us did not prepare our children for anything else. There was no need to emphasize education, "Generous Motors" was waiting. General Motors absorbed all of the school district's drop-outs and failures. It would even hire men with felony convictions. Nobody anticipated the plant closings. Our communities' number one employer disappeared overnight.

Most colleges simultaneously discontinued their minority admissions and affirmative action programs.

As a result of these lost employment and educational opportunities, we witnessed a growing street force. Many of those young adults who would have historically been employed by GM or went to college now spend their time in the streets just hanging out. They have tried so often and failed so many times that they have given up hope. It is hard to explain how the world looks to this group of young adults or the psychic damage they have sustained. They have rejected the American Dream of getting ahead by getting a good education and working hard. They see that the American Dream did not work for their kin, and they have no reason to believe it will work for them.

Many of these young people choose gangs, drugs, and crime out of desperation before they realize the life altering consequences of these choices. An effective drug education and crime prevention program might steer some of them in a different direction. So would the type of mentors that was previously provided at the city's recreation centers. Many of these young adults believe that selling crack on a street corner is their best employment option. They are

CONTINUES ON PG 15, STOP VIOLENCE



COURTESY PHOTO

+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 14, Stop violence

not prepared to surrender to a minimum wage lifestyle.

III. Where Do We Go From Here?

1. Character Training. We must teach our children what is acceptable and what is unacceptable conduct. We need effective crime and drug prevention programs in our schools, churches, and community centers. We must teach our children the consequences of gangs, drugs, and crime before they get involved in it. We can no longer afford to stand on the sidelines pointing fingers. It's the parents' and/or the school's fault. We must stand in the gap.

2. Positive Recreational Options. As stated above, recreation is an effective crime and violence

prevention strategy/tool. The City of Saginaw must re-institute the comprehensive recreation program it once had. We can stop the flow of children and young adults into the street force. We must keep our children out of harm's way. Let's turn some of our empty school buildings into recreation and resource centers.

3. Education. We need a K-12 and secondary education system which prepares our children and young adults for the job market, as well as some form of secondary education.

4. Job Training Program. We need special job training programs which are designed specifically for the academic level of our street force. Delta College and Saginaw Valley State University could play a major role in this effort.

5. Help From Local Employers. We need local employers to provide special co-op on the job training positions for members of our street force.

Finally, we will not stop the echo of gun fire in our community until we provide our children with the training and tools they need to succeed. As long as they are hopeless and have no reason to believe that tomorrow will be better than today, the violence will continue. The only question is whether or not we will commit the time, talent, energy, and resources necessary to save our children.

E-mail me at malikthompson@sbcglobal.net and tell me why you agree or disagree with this analysis and what you believe we should do to stop the violence.



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John Stemple

'Director of Neighborhood Optimism'

By MIKE THOMPSON

Not a lot of Saginawians will boast that the city's urban conditions are vastly improved in comparison to 20 years ago, but the retiring Director of Neighborhood Services is among them.

John Stemple makes no apologies as he states his case.

"Generally speaking, complaints we received in the past are being resolved, and we receive fewer of them," says Stemple, whose successor will be a longtime teammate at City Hall, Darrin Jerome.

But the point is, Stemple's strategy kept him away from City Hall for countless hours, many of them with leaders of 16 neighborhood associations and block clubs that do their own things to varying degrees, but who also gather monthly to build cooperation. He also is a founding leader of SCENIC (Saginaw Code Enforcement Neighborhood Improvement Cooperative), which still may be little-known, but unites agencies, police, firefighters and blight fighters in teamwork that did not exist in the past.

Some of the better known associations are Houghton-Jones, Covenant Neighborhood, Cathedral District, Heritage Square and Adams Boulevard.

A highlight SCENIC volunteer effort, now becoming long-forgotten, has virtually eliminated past outbreaks of mass arsons during annual Halloween "Devils Night" hooliganism.

"Hope in Saginaw has to come from the residents here in the city to be a part of the solutions," Stemple insists.

Back near the turn of the millennium, HUD has placed a freeze on federally funded demolitions of abandoned properties. City staffers gradually settled matters with the feds' Detroit office, and President Obama's original economic recovery stimulus provided hundreds of thousands of dollars for renewed demos. Indeed, it may seem that one eyesore replaces the next, and that overgrown vacant lots aren't much better.

So what to do? Stemple has stood for

stubborn. Consider his 2020 invite to a citywide meeting, conducted during the heart of the covid epidemic with the safety precaution of gathering, with masks and distancing, outdoors at Bliss Park.

He wrote: "This meeting (is) crucial to the future of our neighborhoods. There are many serious topics that we need to discuss and goals to be established. We want citizens to know that we are here to listen to them. Everyone who attends can make a valuable contribution to their neighborhood and to the city."

Stemple aimed for a party atmosphere, recruiting food vendors and trucks to offer a free chow down for all.

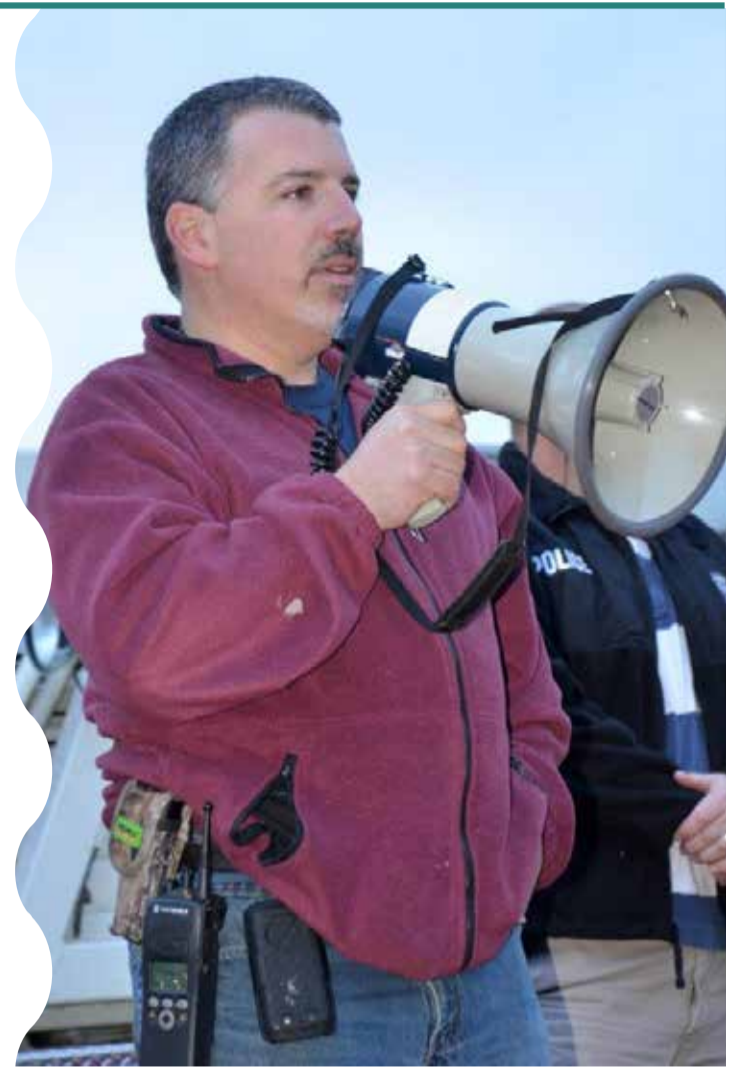
He concluded, "We, as a community, have experienced many challenges in the past six months. The meeting will allow our neighborhood groups to come together, while six-feet apart, and celebrate -- not only all that we've done, but all that we plan to do."

Or, consider his explanation back in 2008 when SCENIC city vehicles first appeared on the streets.

"Meetings (with neighborhood residents) were brutal in the beginning," he wrote. "Twenty years of broken promises had to be aired, and we had to earn their trust."

Stemple is a 1988 Freeland High School grad who achieved an SVSU bachelors degree in business and briefly launched his own home construction company. Marriage and family life persuaded him to seek a more reliable income with more regular hours, just as he will do in semi-retirement as a part-timer for his home base in Tittabawasee Township. He began modestly in Saginaw, in 1995, in block grant home repairs as a specification writer, and gradually worked his way into leadership, in a career he never would have anticipated.

In a similar fashion, Darrin Jerome be-



JOHN STEMPLER

gan in 1997 as a plumbing and mechanical inspector. An early sign of his future was as member of the original SCENIC team. He became a chief inspector six years ago.

Jerome says, "I look forward to building on the great work our team has done, and to continue to strengthen our neighborhoods and improve the quality of life in our city."

Saginaw is in line for a two-year federal infusion of \$52 million in anti-poverty funds linked to covid-19, and the share for neighborhoods should greatly exceed even the Obama stimulus money that arrived when SCENIC was beginning. City Manager Tim Morales says he sees Jerome as best qualified to maintain the teamwork approach during a "pivotal time" to pursue long-sought improvements.

John Stemple agrees. During his farewell meeting on Aug. 23, he told the City Council that an improved housing market, combined with a renewal of support funding, could bring housing upgrades and even new construction back to Saginaw.

"I think we're on the edge of something good happening," he summarized.



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LABOR DAY TRIBUTE

Harry Browne, Norm Osborne, Henry Nickleberry

By MIKE THOMPSON

Harry Browne graduated from Saginaw High School in 1925, Norm Osborne in 1934, Henry Nickleberry in 1945. They are forever linked in our historic local African American involvement and leadership in the labor movement.

Two of the men still were in diapers when their families moved to Saginaw -- Browne's from London, West Virginia, and Nickleberry's from Wichita Falls, Texas. Osborne was born in Saginaw to parents who had arrived from Trinidad.

The Brownes came independently in 1909 and the Osbornes in 1912, when as few as 300 black citizens were scattered across all sections of Saginaw County in various labor professions. (As historian Roosevelt Ruffin once noted, there were not enough black people here prior to 1925 for white people to really monitor or segregate where they lived.)

The Nickleberrys arrived a generation later in 1929, part of the first wave of Great Migration families that began to come north to the First Ward during the middle 1920s in pursuit of auto-plant employment.

The three men achieved many "firsts" for African Americans, both within and outside of labor unions. And the labor movement remains an underrated aspect of black history. In Saginaw, specifically, the black population soared from 328 in 1920 to 16,550 in 1960? Why? Jobs, and the labor unions that helped to keep these jobs in place for so many years.

Browne's pioneering landmarks were as head of the Saginaw AFL-CIO, and then UAW Local 668, and then the United Fund drive (now United Way), and then the County Board of Supervisors (now Commissioners). In 1955, he narrowly was defeated for a City Council seat, which was achieved six years later, in 1961, by attorney Henry Marsh. Browne Airport, on Janes Road in Buena Vista, bears his name.

Osborn's inroads expanded into representing the UAW into social issues and concerns, integrating such groups as the Saginaw Social Services Club, the Saginaw County Council of Churches and the Boy

Scouts of America.

Nickleberry's barrier-busting went beyond Saginaw's borders. In 1948, he became the one of the nation's first black UAW international representatives, appointed by Walter Reuther. He later became the first black chairman of the Saginaw Department of Social Services Board and closed his career as Saginaw's mayor from 1989-93.

HARRY BROWNE (June 12, 1908 to Sept. 4, 1990)



Browne was a pioneer in more than the labor movement. He was among only a handful of African American students to enroll in 1926 at Michigan State University, with

electrical engineering as his field of study.

His first racial slap in the face took place when a professor told him, in front of the entire classroom, "Hey Browne, what are you gonna do, open a shoeshine stand and run it electrically?" Beyond his initial dismay, he used this slur as motivation.

Indeed, black electrical engineers were not in demand at the start of the Great Depression, and so upon his return to Saginaw from East Lansing, Browne found work at the Grey Iron foundry. Blacks were mostly restricted to the metal castings operations at Grey Iron and Malleable Iron, for jobs Nickleberry described as "so rough and injurious, so hostile, so flamingly hot."

Browne gradually was elected and appointed to UAW 668 leadership by the same white co-workers who overall harbored deep racism and animosity toward African Americans. This was a partnership of convenience. Many of them, unlike their black peers, were first-generation European immigrants, barely versed in the English language that governed their labor conditions and their wages. Harry Browne may have possessed a black skin, but he was college-educated and eminently qualified to rep-

resent their illiterate selves in their union. (And in addition, according to the joke back then, the foundries were so dirty that EVERYONE looked like a black person before the work day was done.)

During those early years of the UAW, Browne was not in a position to enact racial reforms within the union. Therefore, he took small steps, such as landing startup jobs for individual black peers and registering them to vote, and setting up classes for them in reading and writing.

"Harry pushed me all the way," Nickleberry later said. "He was my mentor, like a father. He helped to lay the foundation."

Browne also became a charitable go-to guy in the First Ward, like a one-man welfare office. If someone was short on food, or a rent payment, or whatever, he was there to help, often at personal expense. Ruben Daniels remarked, "I can't count the times when I saw Harry peel off some bills."

This spirit of giving eventually caused him to establish Browne's Mortuary, which essentially was a non-profit enterprise during its early stages, often offering funeral services free of charge. During his final elder years, Harry Browne summed things up: "That's why I'll never have anything. Piling up money means nothing to me."

NORM OSBORNE (May 18, 1915 to April 11, 1998)



During his early childhood, Osborn recalls, "There were no rich families, there were no poor families, and race was not an issue. We didn't even think

about it."

Then he was rejected for Boy Scouts membership because of his pigment.

He not only formed his own Boy Scout troop, but he became a lifelong leader in the national association, ultimately receiving the prestigious "Spirit of Scouting" honor.

"It hurt me when they didn't want me because of my skin color," he recalled in a 1990 interview, "but I guess I was a little bit more hard-edged than I had imagined."

Osborne first gained his progressive social outlook starting in 1935, during the

CONTINUES ON PG 19, LABOR DAY

+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 18, Labor Day

heart of the Depression. He found government employment and support through President Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps and rode a bus north to the Tawas City area, where he cut trees, dug ditches and strung telephone lines. He reaped \$30 per month and kept a mere \$5 for his own expenses, sending the \$25 remainder back home to his family as the eldest of seven children.

His union involvement began a year later, in 1936, with UAW Local 467, when he found work at the Saginaw Manufacturing Plant on East Genesee Street, later Delco Moraine. He noted with sarcasm that black workers were relegated to broom-and-shovel jobs until the onset of World War II led to manpower shortages.

"Overnight," he said, "I was suddenly qualified to operate a machine. I had quite a revelation overnight, didn't I?"

He instead represented the UAW through outreach into the community, and also served as the first black person on municipal boards such as the Saginaw City Planning Commission.

For his efforts in scouting, he received the national UAW's Outstanding Service Award.

"In the UAW, I never wanted to be an organizer or a negotiator or a committeeman," Osborne said. "My interest was in community services. I listened to people's problems and I helped them."

HENRY NICKLEBERRY
(Nov. 2, 1927 to Sept. 13, 2013)



Unlike Harry Browne at MSU, Nickleberry was popular among white people during his young adult years.

He started at Grey Iron as a coremaker on his 18th birthday,

which was November 2nd, 1945. Within a couple weeks, the UAW launched its first-ever national strike, which turned out to last 113 days, all though the winter. And it just so happened that his father, Herman Nickleberry, owned and operated Nick's Garage on North Washington Avenue, directly across the street from the foundry, which became a de facto local strike headquarters for UAW 668.

The mostly white picketers may not normally have patronized Nick's Garage, but color was no barrier when taking a warm-up break from the bitter cold. And when the strikers were hungry, farmers from the nearby Thumb area would donate potatoes, cabbages, even some chickens, to be cooked on the stove at Nick's Garage.

Henry himself, always outspoken, became a picket captain.

"I joined the union and immediately started spouting off," Nickleberry once reflected, with his familiar laughter.

He still was only 20 when national UAW chief Walter Reuther picked him to become one of the union's first African American international representatives, the launch of a lifelong career which closed from 1980-86 as a top aide to one of Reuther's successors, Mark Stepp. (Nick then began a second career in local politics, elected to the City Council in 1987 and then appointed mayor by his peers from 1989-93.)

In his union role, he spent plenty of time on the road, taking personal steps to integrate previously segregated restaurants and hotels in towns that ranged from Port Huron to Muskegon.

Back at home, he seemingly was everywhere. NAACP, United Fund, Frontiers International, Cub Scouts. He was the first black member of the Social Services Board, from which for many years he donated his \$25 per-meeting stipends to local welfare charities. While serving on a public housing board during the 1950s, he helped prevent the Daniels Heights project from being established as racially segregated, with the 14th Street railroad tracks as the proposed dividing line. As a member of the St. Mary's Hospital Board of Trustees, he was instrumental in preserving the East Side home base and preventing a wholesale move to the suburbs.

He frequently penned his viewpoints in letters to The Saginaw News People's Forum. When the topics pertained to union business, he signed off as "UAW Region 1-D, international representative." When addressing local issues, he merely listed his then-home address on North 12th Street near Lapeer.

"These are problems not only to the group in question," he once wrote, in words that still hold true today. "They are important to the total community."

He also wrote, "People are disappointed and disgusted. We need to set a constructive fire to them."

MORE LOCAL LABOR HEROES

Some old-timers and historians will say that The Banner should have included Rev. William Bowman in same chapters as Harry Browne and Henry Nickleberry. However, unlike our featured duo, Bowman spent the highlights of his career in Detroit rather than in Saginaw.

He was born in Judsonia, Arkansas, on Christmas Day 1900, and headed for Saginaw in 1925, among the very first wave of Southern blacks to ride the trains north for auto jobs that paid three times as much as picking cotton. In 1937, he was among black men who the UAW hired (part-time) to help the union with integration. His efforts led to his 1945 appointment as a UAW international representative, three years ahead of Nickleberry, and his move to Detroit.

He was described as "highly respected and articulate." His title as Rev. Bowman came because he served as pastor of the original Christ Community Church, on Fourth and Farwell, for a brief spell in 1938-39.

Saginaw historian Willie McKether compiled a list of other blacks who served, during the 1940s and 1950s, as UAW local union officers -- presidents, veeps, bargaining committees, trustees, financial secretaries. McKether acknowledged that there may be omissions, but his history is as thorough as possible. Included are:

Grey Iron, Local 668 -- Harry Browne, Ed Hall Jr., Leon Hall, C.O. Kelly, Willard Sparks, Barney Nichols, Joe Wiggins, John Conners, James Jackson, Eunice Williams, Reeves Barbour, James McDaniel, Glynn McArn, Willie Harris, John Ernie Ramzey.

Malleable, Local 455 -- Thaddeus Ervin, Thad Bowman, Thomas Beeler, Ezell Smith.

Malleable Iron was less integrated than Grey Iron, and so historical black leadership came in later years through the efforts of Sam Young and Bennie Pruitt, Local 455 bargaining chairmen during the 1970s and the 1980s, and also David Lawrence, Larry Houston, Zebedee Love and Ceceil Anderson.

(Sources for this historical report are Saginaw News archives and Willie McKether's "Voices in Transition: African American Migration to Saginaw, 1920 to 1960." McKether's thesis, which served as his 2005 doctorate dissertation in sociology at Wayne State University, is available for review at Hoyt Library, along with Roosevelt Ruffin's "Black Presence in Saginaw: 1855 to 1900.")

Reprinted from Michigan Banner, Sept. 1, 2018

BE TRUE TO WHO YOU ARE.

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Thin blue line



By JIMMY E. GREENE
CEO & PRESIDENT, ABC MICHIGAN

I can't imagine that this article will make a lot of people happy because talking about law enforcement isn't a great way to raise one's popularity. The "thin blue line" is a term that typically refers to the concept of the police as the line which keeps society from descending into violent chaos and it also honors fallen cops. Lately that flag or symbol has taken a lot of heat. Detractors insist the symbol makes people of color feel unsafe and some communities

have banned it. As if that's the issue on crime?

What's astonishing to me are the number of young kids being killed in shootings. Check out the statistics in Chicago, Minneapolis, Detroit, Flint, and I could go on and on and none of them killed by cops. They were killed by criminals. Sadly, many of those criminals are Black. Police officers aren't making minority neighborhoods unsafe; criminals are. That's not to say we don't have opportunities to improve relations between our inner cities and law enforcement because we do.

Last year police officers nationally killed 18 "unarmed" blacks, according to the Washington Post, a category that includes suspects grabbing an officer's gun or fleeing in a stolen car with a loaded pistol on the car seat. Assuming, as a highly conservative estimate, 8,300 black homicide victims in 2020 (the toll will likely

be over 10,000), those 18 unarmed blacks would make up 0.2% of all black homicide victims. The vast majority of the rest will have been killed by black criminals.

What frightens me more is that the City of Saginaw and cities like it with rising crime rates will never reach its full vibrancy and increase its tax base by being an unsafe city. I definitely understand the sensitivities surrounding our elected officials and the great divide between the community and the police force but if not them then who? It is imperative that our city leaders foster a better relationship between its citizens and the police force in order to truly drive our inner cities to greater heights.

So whether you support the police and the thin-blue-line icon or not, the idea that they are the only thing standing between order and chaos is borne out daily.

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SERMONETTE SERIES

There will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies

(2 Peter 2:1)



By PASTOR RODRICK A. SMITH
ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH

For everything that God has, Satan has a counterfeit. In days of old there were prophets who were sent by God to deliver His message. But there were also false prophets who were sent by Satan to deliver a message that was different from that of the true prophets. The prophecies of God's prophets always came to pass, while those of the false prophets never did. Today there are Pastor-Teachers sent by God, and there are Pastor-Teachers sent by Satan. My childhood pastor would say that Satan doesn't wear red leotards with a pitchfork. And he would describe Satan as a nice-looking, well-dressed, polite, smooth-talking individual. Because of these outward attractions false teachers are able to secretly bring in destructive heresies and lead people astray. Remember, the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field, and he deceived Eve. Heresy is a position or doctrine at variance with established, orthodox church doctrine. Peter refers to the doctrine of the false teachers as "destructive heresies." This language implies a willful departure from accepted teaching, and the spiritual damage it does to the unsuspecting. My brothers and sisters, there is an abundance of heretical teaching in the church today. However, it is so subtle that it goes unnoticed by the uninformed. Test and prove everything by the Word of God.

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I'M JUST THINKING.....

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

The Seeds of discontent

I have been really paying attention to the level of public discourse for the past few years, in fact the past two decades. It was about that time that I told one of my friends that I am in constant debate with that I was concerned about the diminishing level of civility in public discourse. We saw the conversations go from opposing policies to personal attacks, from opposite political positions to conversational anarchy. It was difficult to watch adults on prime time television having shouting matches to see who could command the most screen time.

What became lost in that atmosphere was more than just clear insight on policy positions, candidate view, or legislative agendas. What we lost most was a confidence in the institutions that we were hoping would maintain the civility that made society work. All of our institutions were under attack. The legislative, the administrative and judicial branches of government were under attack. The educational system was being tested. Law enforcement became a subject of constant inquiry about the integrity of equal treatment for all citizens. Even the community of faith was lifted up as a charade by those who wanted to do so.

It was a slow process, a drip-drip

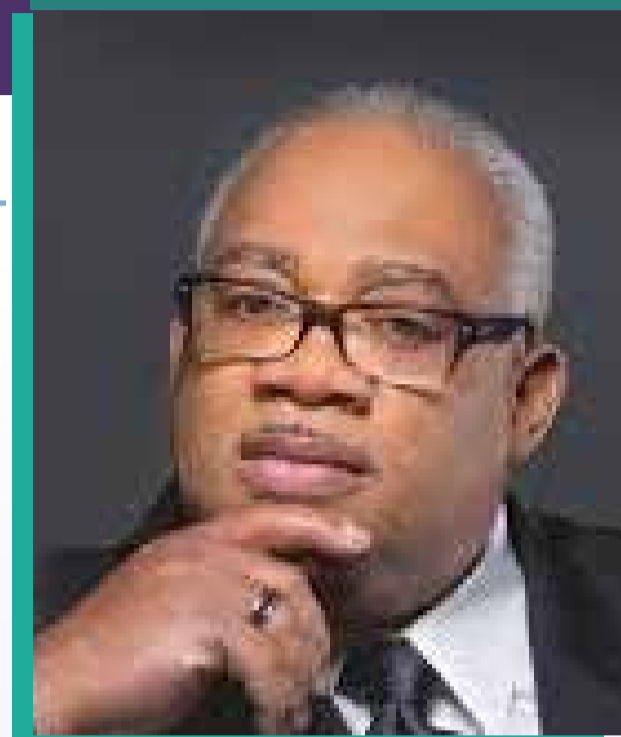
wearing away of the confidence that we once lived with. Seeds of discontent were sown to make us questions political and faith leaders that we had always trusted. One person would become the example that all would be measured by. Every mistake and misstep became the new norm, until we reached a point where it became hard to believe anything or anybody.

The freedictionary.com defines sowing the seeds of discontent as “to do something that ensures a certain outcome, to cause someone to have negative thoughts or feelings.” If you really think about it, this is what we have seen over the past number of years. The argument of “whataboutism” is a classic seed of discontent. It is an argument that comes just short of a direct accusation, but is a strong suggestion that one thing is as bad as another. The two issues need not be the same in action or damage, but the inference “sows the seeds” just the same.

When people started declaring that “Black Lives Matter”, the response was “All Lives Matter.” The two statements are not mutually exclusive, but the argument intends to polarize one side against the other. People who were basing their political positions on policy questions were pushed to accept a candidate in spite of their policy position. This soon became a question of loyalty, which carried a penalty of attack from within the group.

The truth of law, politics, and judicial integrity were lost in a sea of discord, based on the popularity or dislike of a candidate. The seeds of discontent were sown years before the election of 2016, which created an environment that allowed for a persona with no political experience, no true personal success to be elevated to the most powerful position in the country. There were enough questions about integrity in either party to create an opening for the present circumstance.

Who would have thought that we would have a situation like today where more people disbelieve in the reports of the scientists that are providing



recommendations about health, than believe them causing continued exposure to a deadly virus, to have a political environment that is so steeped in discontent that an election cannot be considered complete a year later. Who would have believed that communities would have so much distrust of local officials that every decision is questioned, lives are threatened, and public discourse is dangerous.

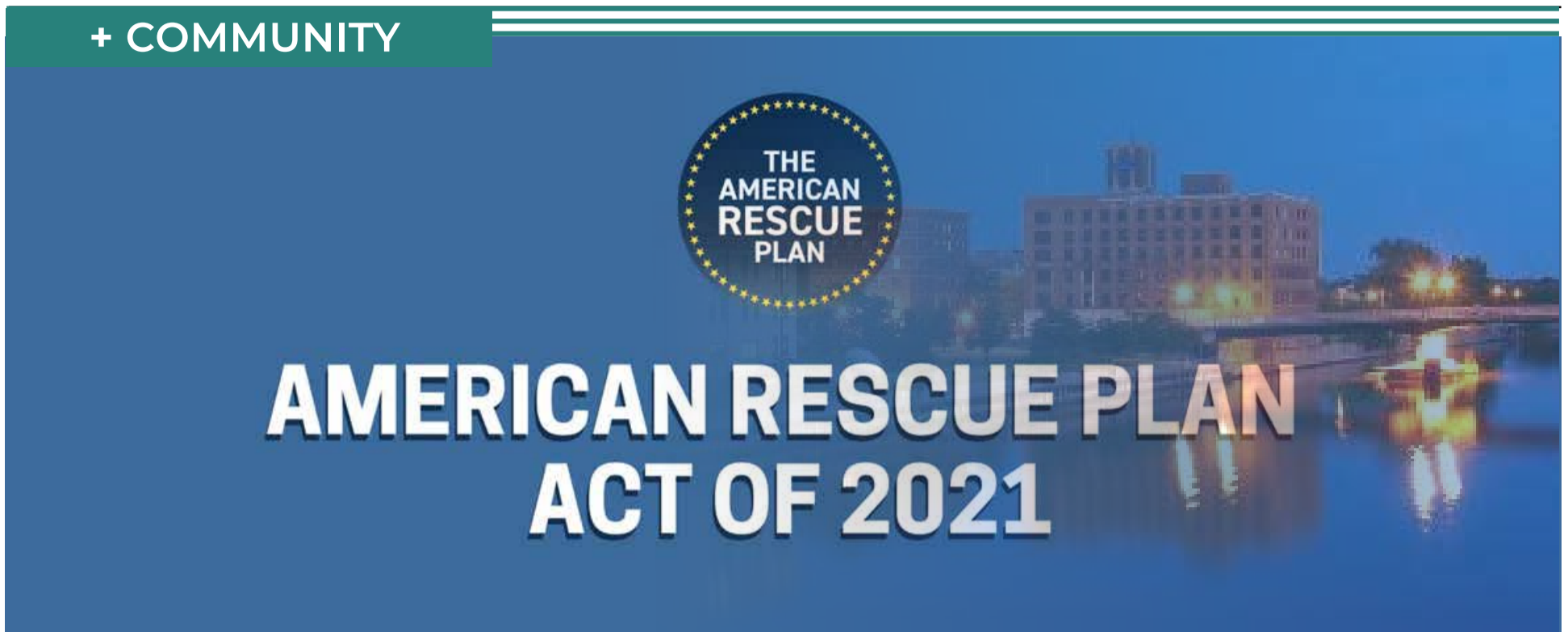
The seeds of discontent have borne the fruit of generational distrust, economic disparity, and political separation that seems to be without a solution. It begs the question, “Is there an answer for this season of discontent?”

The farmers of old would plow the entire field under and start fresh. It would be difficult to do that with society, but we need to start somewhere. I suggest that we begin with some honest discussion about where things are, who we are, and what we as a community would truly like to see. We can start this at every level of discourse, the home, the church, the community, the state and federal government.

In the place of “seeds of discontent”, let’s sow some “seeds of hope”, “seeds of peace”, and “seeds of love.” I just think that this would make a big difference in the present culture.

I’m just thinking.....

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COURTESY PHOTO

City of Saginaw seeking input on how to spend \$52 million in ARPA funds

Saginaw, MI – The City of Saginaw would like residents to provide their input on the use of \$52 million in federal funding that the City will receive from the American Rescue Plan Act legislation. To participate in the online survey, visit <https://saginaw-mi.typeform.com/ARPA2021>. The online survey will be available through September 7. Paper copies are also available in the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 1315 S. Washington Avenue Room 102. Survey results will then be analyzed by city staff and Public Sector Consultants. The results will be presented at the Strategic Planning Session scheduled for 9 am on September 17, 2021 at the Temple Theatre, 201 N. Washington Avenue.

“The ARPA funds allocated to Saginaw provide an opportunity to invest in community needs that were magnified by the pandemic, and to consider generational investments in public infrastructure,” said Tim Morales, City Manager. “Our survey allows residents to tell us what they feel are the key areas where we should focus to take our city to the next level. The input we receive from residents will be presented at the upcoming Strategic Planning Session. Citizens will have additional opportunities to provide input as we proceed through the allocation process.”

The U.S. Treasury Department has limited the use of ARPA funds to the following areas:

- To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality
- To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers
- For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency
- To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

In late June, the city received the first

of two ARPA installments in the amount of \$26,044,836. A second installment is anticipated in the same amount in the Spring/Summer of 2022. The city has until December 31, 2024, to obligate the funds and December 31, 2026, to spend the funds.

City administration encourages the community to focus on recovery goals when completing the survey. The intended outcome is to align the community goals with the City Council's strategic goals and objectives.

“We want to be sure we are staying within the bounds laid out by the federal government for the use the funds, but that we are also focusing on programs and projects that are priorities for our residents and businesses,” said Mayor Brenda F. Moore. “ARPA funding provides a unique opportunity to build on these priorities and invest in Saginaw's people, neighborhoods, and businesses. This survey is just the start of a large community engagement campaign to receive feedback from our residents. I encourage all of our community members to take part in this survey.”

For questions regarding the September 17 Strategic Planning Session at the Temple Theatre, contact the City Manager's Office at (989) 759-1401.

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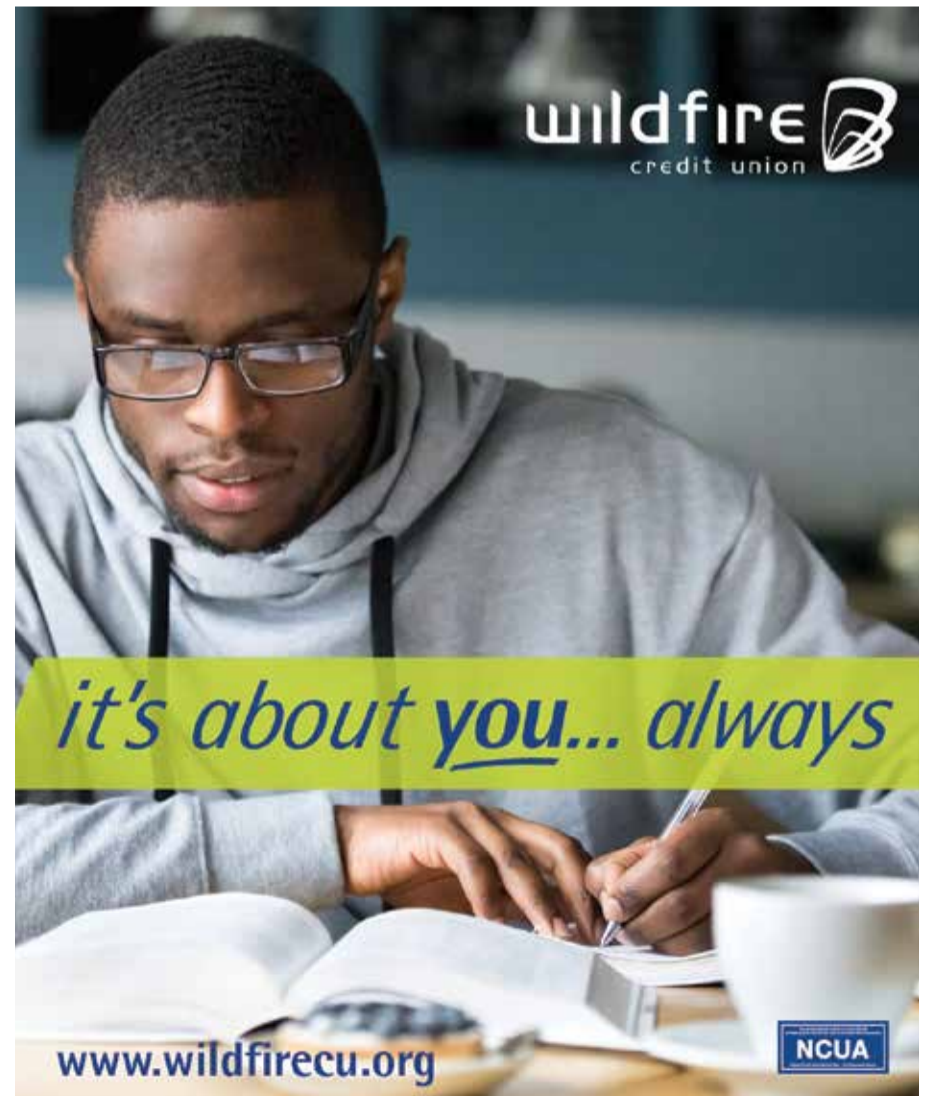
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IN MY HUMBLE OPINION

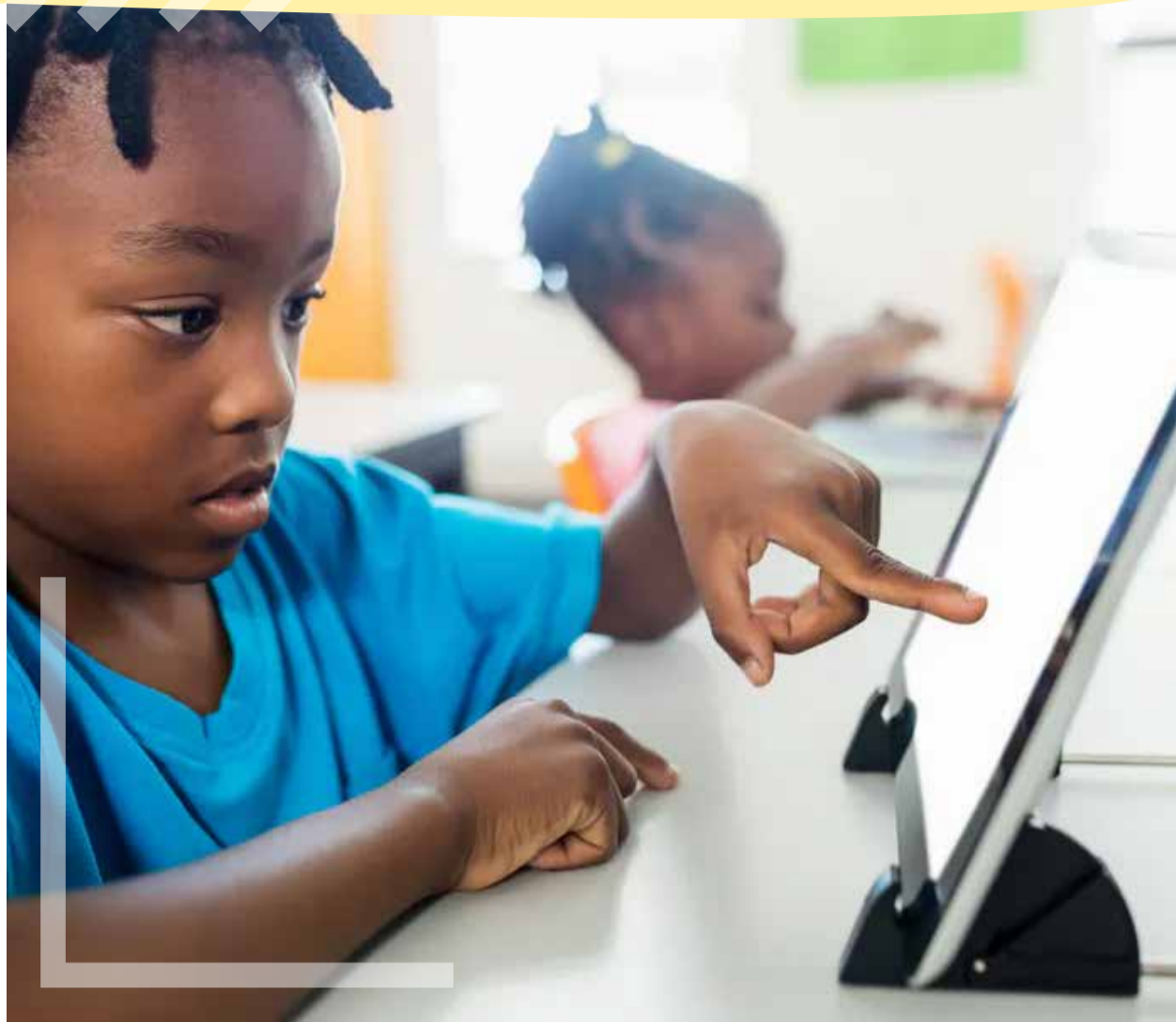
Coding for kids is critical



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

In my last article on 16 August 2021, entitled "Black Women in Tech Should Be Celebrated", I wrote about the hundreds of thousands of tech jobs that are open in the US with only 50,000 plus computer science graduates to fill them. According to Emerson's (NYSE: EMR) fourth annual survey about STEM fields and education, "the number of roles requiring STEM expertise is growing at a rate that exceeds current workforce capacity. In manufacturing alone, the National Association of Manufacturing and Deloitte predict the U.S. will need to fill about 3.5 million jobs by 2025; yet as many as 2 million of those jobs may go unfilled, due to difficulty finding people with the skills in demand." The survey is entitled, "Emerson Survey: 2 in 5 Americans Believe the STEM Worker Shortage is at Crisis Levels", and it supports my humble opinion that coding for kids is critical.

Before we get into the benefits and opportunities coding provides for kids, let's get a clear understanding of what coding is. Coding is the process of using a programming language to tell a computer or device how to do something or behave in a certain way. Coding is how we communicate with computers, and what we use to build and run websites, apps, games, and more. People who make or write code are called coders, programmers, or developers. It is very important to note that every



COURTESY PHOTO

electronic device we use, from refrigerators and water heaters to motor vehicles and buildings relies on computer code.

Computers have their own elemental language called machine code or machine language, which is comprised of a series of binary numbers and looks like a very long sequence of zeroes and ones (i.e., 01001000 01100101 01101100 01101111 00100001). This code is read by a computer's central processing unit (CPU) and tells the CPU to perform a certain task. Computers can't understand English, Chinese, French, Zulu or any human language and don't know how to do anything by themselves before they are given instructions in their language, and that's the job of the programmer or coder. While it is possible to learn machine code, it takes a long time and programmers rarely deal directly with machine code anymore. Fortunately, there is an easier way to communicate with computers, a programming language; an artificial language designed to give instructions to a computer.

There are many different programming languages and some sources put the total number at nearly 9,000; however, the most accepted answer is 700. Only the 50 most popular programming languages are in common use today, and they include Java, JavaScript, Python, C++, Visual Basic, Ruby, Scratch, Lua, and Stencyl. The last three are among the most popular for kids because the simplicity of visual programming gets them excited and enthusiastic about doing it.

I know it might seem difficult to imagine a young brain learning something so complex, but coding for kids is a reality. The many coding camps, websites, apps, coding tutors, after-school programs, and toys have made the activity easily digestible.

In today's tech-driven world, computer science is no longer vocational, it is found-

CONTINUES ON PG 27, KIDS CODING

Continued from pg 26, kids coding

dational. Technology affects every industry and companies are desperately trying to hire computer programmers everywhere. There are many reasons to learn coding, including problem-solving skills, critical thinking, creativity, and an abundance of job opportunities. From my research I have selected 9 benefits that learning to code provides.

1. Better understanding of the world

With coding knowledge students are able to understand the world around them better. Most people don't know anything about how smartphones, laptops, social media platforms, and video games operate. Basic programming knowledge can open our eyes to the infinite possibilities of coding and change the way we interact with technology.

2. Coding is fun and rewarding

I think it's obvious that coding is logic-based, but it is also an extremely creative activity. With coding knowledge, you can develop websites, apps, games, and more as mentioned previously. Many developers enjoy the challenge and reward of debugging their programs and seeing their codes come to life. Visual programming languages make coding easy and fun, and especially when you are learning to code.

3. Improves creativity

Just like we use human languages to express ourselves, coding and programming languages are used to express all kinds of creativity. Computer coding empowers kids to be creators of digital media and technology and not only consumers. They can imagine what their own video games, websites, or apps might look like and are capable of doing, and have an outlet to express that vision instead of simply being technology users.

4. Improves problem solving

Coding requires the ability to take

complex problems or tasks and break them down into smaller parts. Kids learn how to approach a problem the way a software engineer would with logical, computational thinking. Kids and teens with this type of training tend to excel at school in math, reading, and science. The ability to solve problems is a very useful trait in life in general and can help a person overcome adversity.

5. Improves persistence

Regardless of how easy some programming languages are, relatively speaking, learning to code is a challenge like any new discipline. Coding can involve some trial and error, research for solutions, and collaboration to complete a task or solve a problem. Coding teaches the valuable skill of persistence to overcome challenges.

6. Improves collaboration

I believe that every student is capable of learning, and every student can learn to code, especially when collaborative learning is applied. Participation in teams enables kids to learn from each other and become teachers or students depending on the needs of the situation, and the learning process of programming does this very well. Issues that might appear when mixing a certain piece of code with another one can readily be revealed and resolved through collaboration.

7. Improves communication

Throughout school, work, and life communication is a skill that is absolutely essential. When kids learn how to code, they learn how to communicate with the most simple-minded audience there is, computers. As mentioned earlier, computer coding teaches kids how to break down complex ideas and arrange them in a way that computers can understand. People who can communicate complex ideas clearly and simply tend to be

successful in different industries and occupations.

8. Provides a competitive advantage

When applying to universities, colleges, internships, and jobs possessing the ability to code, you become more desirable in the eyes of potential admissions officers and employers. It's that simple.

9. Coders are in high demand

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, experts predict that millions of STEM jobs will go unfilled by 2025 due to a lack of highly skilled candidates. Therefore, the demand for coders is high and is predicted to remain that way for years to come.

We as parents and relatives need to take action and demystify coding by exposing ourselves and our children to it. From the experience my wife and I have with our 6-year-old daughter (last born), coding for kids is not as daunting as it might seem and is a unique way to engage in learning and spend quality time together. Our daughter has fun and we enjoy seeing her excitement when her app or game works as she designed it.

It is critical for kids and teens to take coding courses today if they want to capitalize on the abundance of computer science jobs in tomorrow's landscape. A child who learns how to code will have an advantage in life with more employment and entrepreneurial opportunities available to them in the future regardless of the industry, whether it be in the tech sector, finance, retail, health or many others. Coding should be taught in schools for this very reason.

If you have a kid or teen with a coding interest, by all means help them to learn to code. If they have other interests and have never coded, still consider it, because it's that important. At least you'll be glad you gave it a chance.

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+ COMMUNITY

Saginaw Choral Society announces fall season

Saginaw, MI – Saginaw Choral Society will celebrate their return to the concert stage following the Covid shutdown with a holiday concert, Holiday Pops: Saginaw Sings, shared jointly with Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra, on Tuesday, November 30, at 8:00pm in the Temple Theatre.

Executive Director Tamara Grefe and Artistic Director Jeremiah Kraniak issued this joint statement. “After eighteen months of not being able to sing, we wanted to come back to the concert stage in grand celebration. The combined forces of the Choral Society and Saginaw Youth Choir with our sister organization, Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra, and the Saginaw Bay Youth Orchestra in the exquisite Temple Theatre will be grand indeed! We want everyone to come away with the music and the spirit of the season in their hearts!”

The concert also features Saginaw native and special guest, Todd Michael Hall, from the hit NBC TV show, The Voice.

To kick off the season, on Tuesday, October 5, the Choral Society will present Songs in the Gallery: A Season’s Toast at Saginaw Art Museum at 5:30pm.

Jeremiah Kraniak describes the event, “I have been looking for an opportunity to showcase musically some of the wonderful voices in the Choral Society with the art in the Museum’s beautiful galleries. With shared hospitality and a celebratory toast to our return to singing, this is the perfect opportunity! Attendees will be able to stroll through the Museum and hear performances paired with the period or subject of the art. We’ll gather first for a toast, then performances will repeat in the galleries on the hour.”

Tamara Grefe continued, “To say that we are excited to be coming back to sing-

ing is an understatement. We can’t wait! Yet, keeping our singers and audience safe is our priority. We have planned a Fall season with that in mind and will announce a winter/spring series in the near future. For that reason, we have decided it best not to offer a subscription ticket series, but rather to promote and sell tickets on an event-by-event basis.”

Reservations for Songs in the Gallery at \$30 per attendee are available on the Choral Society website www.saginawchoralsociety.com beginning September 1.

Tickets for Holiday Pops: Saginaw Sings will be available through the Temple Theatre box office during their Friday 10am - 4pm hours or online at www.templetheatre.com beginning September 16.

For up-to-date news from Saginaw Choral Society, please visit www.saginawchoralsociety.com.

ELGA Credit Union's Terry Katzur named Michigan Credit Union League Professional of the Year

Saginaw, MI – ELGA Credit Union’s (ELGA) Executive Vice President, Terry Katzur, has been named Professional of the Year by the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL). This award recognizes his leadership within the credit union, and his contributions to the industry as a whole. He was awarded this honor at the MCUL’s Annual Convention & Exposition on August 24th. This prestigious award is given to one credit union professional each year.

Katzur has served ELGA Credit Union since 1996, when he began his career as a co-op student. “Terry is a kind and considerate leader who is well respected, trusted and loved at ELGA Credit Union,” said Karen Church, ELGA CEO. “His leadership has always guided our associates, and over the past year it has been invaluable in ensuring our associates and

members have felt safe and connected. He is very deserving of the Professional of the Year award.”

“It is an honor to be recognized by the industry that I’ve dedicated my career to and that does so much for the communities and members that credit unions serve,” said Katzur. “Especially as I look forward to the future of my career, this award means a lot.”

After more than 25 years with ELGA Credit Union, Katzur prepares to shift his role in 2022, when he will be named Chief Executive Officer.



TERRY KATZUR



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+ HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers expands substance use disorder services

Saginaw, MI – Great Lakes Bay Health Centers began offering services for substance use disorders (SUD) less than five years ago, and continue to expand its outreach. The program started in Saginaw at the GLBHC-Janes Street center, then moved to the new GLBHC-Davenport center in 2018.

At Davenport's walk-in Wellness and Recovery Center, GLBHC partners with Ten16 Network of Midland to have persons in recovery serve as coaches. A new Recovery Center has just opened at GLBHC-Bay City South on Trumbell. Both centers also have their own pharmacies, which offer low-cost medications.

The SUD program includes behavioral health counseling and psychiatry, peer coaching and group sessions – in conjunction with medication assisted treatment to help reduce cravings and support recovery.

Vivitrol (Naltrexone) is a monthly injection that aids in treating opioid and/or alcohol dependence. It is not a narcotic and it's non-addictive. It is available at GLBHC-Davenport, Bay City South and Thumb Area (Bad Axe) and Shiawassee (Owosso) locations.

Davenport has begun offering Suboxone (Buprenorphine) as a medication-assisted treatment, as well. This offers another option for patients in recovery.

This medication is taken in strip or tab-

let form, which is placed under the tongue until it dissolves in about 30 minutes. It is a long-acting opioid medication, which binds to an opioid receptor in the brain. Suboxone can also help with the symptoms of withdrawal, making it a bridge to recovery.

This treatment is part of the integrated behavioral health services offered along with primary care at GLBHC medical center. Therapists work with medical care providers to treat the whole person.

The sign over the coach in the Recovery Center at Bay City South says "Come in and stay a while." Alesha Weigl, who has worked as a recovery coach for 2 years, painted it herself. "Recovery happens in safe places," she says. She wants anyone who is interested in learning about recovery to feel comfortable coming up the stairs to her office. She is ready to greet them. She is also the co-chair of the Bay County Prevention Network. She expects patients to learn about the center mostly through word of mouth.

About 700 GLBHC patients are currently prescribed a Medication-Assisted Treatment such as Vivitrol or Suboxone. Patient records show that about 8 percent of the 50,000 patients at all GLBHC centers are diagnosed with a substance use disorder.

"Patients have to be committed to this

program," said Gail McGee, SUD/Expanding Services Manager. "It is fairly rigid with its requirements. Patients must be in counseling, peer recovery and therapy groups, along with the medication. We feel strongly this is the right program. It's not the medicine that does the work of recovery, it is the behavioral changes. People can recover and we see it making a difference in their lives."

Steve Scheib, the SUD counselor at Bay City South, is excited to be part of the program and opening the doors to the public. His experience as a veteran and a person in recovery helps him to connect to many patients, he said.

"Some people are still afraid to get to know people in recovery," he said. "We are here to be welcoming and not judgmental. When they first come in, they say this is nice. They don't expect to feel appreciated."

Staff are working to spread the word about the services at Davenport and Bay City South. With additional growth, they plan to build out additional space at the Bay City South center to add Suboxone treatment there too.

"With how unique this program is, we know more and more people will come in once the recovery community is more aware of us," Scheib said.

GLBHC is taking SUD treatment into communities to partner locations in Saginaw, Bay City, Caro and Midland on a mobile medical unit. The custom-renovated RV houses primary medical care and behavioral health services on wheels. It can take Vivitrol to patients who can't get to a center. Locations include Restoration Community Outreach in Saginaw and probation/parole offices in Caro.

Another way GLBHC is reaching people struggling with substance use is through a grant-funded Quick Response Team that brings together community recovery partners to make home visits to individuals who have experienced an overdose. Referrals come from ambulance and emergency room encounters. GLBHC's SUD program is a long-term resource to help these patients stay in recovery after they have accepted initial inpatient care to stop using a substance.

Michiganders urged to take precautions against mosquitoes

Lansing, MI – Michigan residents are being reminded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to protect themselves from mosquito bites following the detection of the first Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)-positive mosquito pool of the year in Barry County.

The discovery in Barry County follows a report by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of an EEE-positive horse from Livingston County and underscores the need for both Michigan residents and horse owners to take precautions.

"These discoveries indicate that the EEE virus is here in Michigan and provides warning that residents could also become infected by a mosquito," said Dr.

Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief deputy director for health. "Michigan residents are urged to take precautions and protect themselves from mosquito bites as EEE is one of the most dangerous mosquito-borne diseases in the U.S., with a 33 percent fatality rate among humans who become ill."

EEE has a 90 percent fatality rate in horses that become ill, and infection in both people and animals occurs through the bite of an infected mosquito. EEE is not spread from person-to-person.

Signs of EEE include the sudden onset of fever, chills, and body and joint aches. Illness can eventually develop into severe encephalitis, resulting in headache, disorientation, tremors, seizures and paralysis. Permanent brain damage, coma and death

may also occur in some cases.

Additionally, West Nile virus activity in Michigan has increased in wildlife and mosquito populations. Health officials have identified 11 positive mosquito pools and 10 infected animals in the Lower Peninsula. No human cases of West Nile virus have been reported to date; however, a case has been reported in a horse from Midland County.

Mosquito-borne illness will continue to be a risk in Michigan until late fall when nighttime temperatures consistently fall below freezing.

For more information about mosquito-borne diseases, visit Michigan.gov/emergingdiseases.

**"I WOULDN'T
WORK
ANYWHERE
ELSE."**

Rosalind Williams
Registered Nurse

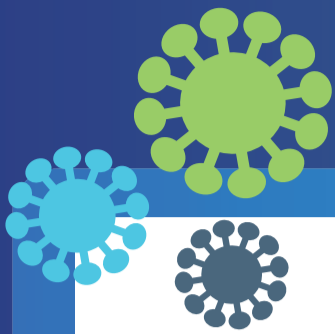


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Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

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

Health Alliance Plan and MSU Health Care announce joint effort to improve senior health

Saginaw, MI – Health Alliance Plan (HAP) and MSU Health Care are joining forces to educate MSU alumni and other Medicare-eligible individuals about HMO and PPO insurance products this fall as an early outcome of the Henry Ford Health System partnership with Michigan State University. HAP's popular Medicare Advantage insurance products will be available across 36 HAP service counties. The zero-dollar premium HMO and PPO plans provide seniors with the highest quality health care backed by exceptional providers and HAP's renowned customer service.

This initiative is one of the first outcomes of the historic 30-year partnership between Henry Ford Health System and MSU, which was announced in February 2021. The Henry Ford/MSU agreement is designed to facilitate and support groundbreaking research; provide best-in-class cancer care; expand training and diversity among the next generation of health care professionals; and address health care disparities in traditionally underserved communities.

"We are delighted to expand the Henry

Ford/MSU partnership through this program," said Michael Genord M.D., HAP's President and CEO. "As a Michigan-based insurer, HAP is committed to providing a personalized customer experience, and we're proud to say that our customer satisfaction consistently scores high marks with our members. That was demonstrated yet again when we were recently ranked highest in member satisfaction among commercial health plans in the Michigan region, according to the

J.D. Power 2021 U.S. Commercial Member Health Plan Study?."

The HAP/MSU Health Care partnership marks another significant milestone in HAP's strategic expansion across Michigan using tailored Medicare Advantage products. In 2019, HAP partnered with Mercy Health to create a Medicare Advantage plan targeted specifically to the needs of West Michigan residents in Kent, Muskegon, Ottawa and Oceana counties. HAP added seven more West Michigan counties – Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalam-

azoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren in 2020. The HAP/MSU Health Care partnership will extend HAP's reach to approximately 100,000 eligible seniors. This includes a portion of the more than 270,000 MSU alumni based in the state of Michigan.

Adults with medical insurance are more likely to be screened for conditions such as cardiovascular disease, colon cancer, diabetes and other preventive care measures recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force.

The HAP/MSU Health Care partnership furthers MSU Health Care's mission to improve the health of Michigan communities. This spring, MSU Health Care announced two initiatives to increase access to care: An affiliation with Everside Health to offer employer sponsored direct primary care and a collaboration with Higi to connect individuals to care through their Smart Health Stations in local super-center chain and grocery stores.

"The partnership with HAP is critical to our mission to improve the health of our communities," said Seth Ciabotti, CEO for MSU Health Care. "Research has shown that lack of insurance is a barrier to receiving timely health screenings and preventive care. Through the HAP/MSU Health Care partnership exceptional health care and cost-effective insurance opportunities come together to support better health outcomes."

HAP's deep commitment to Michigan seniors is evident in this partnership with MSU Health Care and in HAP's ongoing efforts to provide affordable, valuable Medicare options to seniors. HAP's Medicare Advantage HMO earned 4.5 stars (out of 5) from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), ranking HAP's plan first among Michigan-based insurers and in the top 10% nationally. CMS uses Star Ratings to help consumers make informed decisions about Medicare supplement options, measuring more than 40 performance metrics in five categories.

"Our pledge to HAP members is to provide them with high quality insurance coverage and excellent customer service. We continue to earn high scores from members across all ratings platforms," Dr. Genord noted. "And, with the commitment of our dedicated team, we know we will continue to exceed expectations."

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

Reflections on opening of school



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

The Michigan Banner has done a great job as local schools launch the 2021-22 school year, covering many stories from all aspects, and today I would supplement with observations I have made from being inside schools in our region.

Teachers make the difference!

It is incredible to see teachers stepping up in so many ways, well beyond their classrooms, into the parking lot to greet morning arrivals, in the cafeteria opening hard-to-open packaged lunches, on the playground at recess, and on and on and on. Teachers are seen everywhere, perpetually moving and helping ensure student safety and confidence as they learn new patterns and routines.

Students have been under the caring

and watchful eyes of their teachers, continuously.

Organization matters!

The preparations leading up to opening school are evident. Desks numbered. Directional arrows in hallways. Hand sanitizers at every turn. Spacing for social distancing pre-planned.

Clearly, principals had thought out every detail in advance for a safe school opening. By “every detail,” perhaps the lunchroom is a good example to share. Students arrive with their teacher, one group with packed lunches, another wanting school lunch. They quietly went to assigned seats and enjoyed their food. Once finished, they clapped their hands in unison to signal a shift to line up for recess, and off they went into three separate groups. Soon as they left, another group arrived to a separate set of tables while the vacated ones were wiped off and sanitized. The floor remained clean, with the few crumbs swept up quickly and disposed.

The lunchroom routine repeated for nearly two hours, feeding more than four hundred hungry youngsters of all ages. The plans were implemented and proved to be well-worth the effort.

COVID 19 impacts!

I have touched upon the impressive sanitation measures deployed due to COVID 19. School was clean; people’s health and safety remain the highest of priorities. I was curious about masks, and I had one to wear, too.

Many staff and students wore them as a matter of choice, and I did, too. It was not a big deal; people went about their business without fanfare. I found it a bit harder for me to hear as the mask does muffle sounds. Several teachers used amplification to successfully offset the challenge.

For all of the public focus on masks, the school setting was calm and well-managed.

In summary, the opening of school was wonderful! The focus was on students, as it should be. It reflected significant planning and preparation. Staff were ready, positive, and helpful. It was a “team effort,” with teachers, secretaries, counselors, bus drivers, librarians, principals, custodians, food service and all other personnel working together like clockwork.

Educators have been disrupted and challenged by the pandemic, and have they have done a great job in response.

Resource: <https://news.virginia.edu/content/back-school-2021-school-counselors-role>

Beyond the masks: City schools reopen

By MIKE THOMPSON

Yes, 5,400 city students will have a requirement to wear covid protective masks again this school year.

But no, they won't have any options to take classes at home on personal computer equipment.

The mask mandate has gained nearly all of the media coverage after the Saginaw Board of Education, unanimously and with virtually no discussion, approved Superintendent Ramont Roberts' plan at an August 18th meeting.

This has been a big newsmaker, especially when none of Saginaw County's suburban or small-town districts so far has set similar must-mask rules.

A bigger long-term story, however, may prove to be the attend-school-or-nothing edict. If parents oppose masking, no more home lessons are offered. They have no choice but to send their children elsewhere.

City school leaders were highly unhappy with the results of last year's virus venture into home-based education via computers, and they are vowing not to repeat the experience this time around.

"We have to face the reality that in-school teaching is vital to our students," Roberts said prior to the vote, in a Michigan Banner interview published Aug. 16. "We absolutely must have academic and educational support within the structure of the student environment. That's what we are doing."

It's uncertain what would happen if a major Delta virus outbreak would force all schools, city and outlying, to close buildings en masse.

Still, city schools face limits within the strict approach.

Teachers may be encouraged but not forced to vaccinate, and Roberts reports that 16 percent in Saginaw still have declined to take shots. Also, he notes that only 65 secondary pupils took part in three August vax clinics that the high schools offered, and that the district lacks the capacity to compile parent statistics.

Students who catch covid will face 10-day quarantines, but the superintendent notes, "As always, we can only rely on the

parent to provide us with information relative to student testing results."

Will the mask mandate cause Saginaw schools to lose, or possibly gain, students? The first signal could come with fall enrollment counts during late September.

Initial covid-aid investments

In the long run, mask mandates are less important than changes the city schools will offer with a record-setting \$65 million bonus in federal aid during the next three years, in the name of anti-poverty covid-19 relief.

The Aug. 18 presentation by Roberts and his staff focused basically on hiring as many teachers as possible, ranging from finding new blood to bringing back those who have retired. Goals are not only to sharply reduce class sizes, but to increase personal tutoring and after-school programming. A school district known less than a decade ago for budget deficits and state takeover threats now is flush with money to pursue long-desired improvements and reforms.

But school leaders are not promoting this point, even though a stronger student recruitment push is supposed to be linked to last year's voter approval for a 6-mill boost in property tax, raising \$100 million for building improvements, including a consolidated high school. Families are paying several hundreds of dollars extra per year -- homeowners through their direct assessments, and tenants through higher rents.

In addition to the new covid aid, part of this fresh financial solvency is a result of city schools' own efforts, building a \$19 million reserve "rainy day" account during the past five years.

And part, in irony, is due the pandemic itself. The district saved about \$2 million last year simply because buildings were closed for prolonged periods.

The federal windfall mostly is labeled ESSER, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief. School leaders can chip into this money -- which they barely publicized during spring and early summer -- to recover costs for such 2020-21 major outlays as take-home computers and other technology, classroom air purifiers and

hand sanitizing stations, touch-free drinking fountains and nightly building fumigations. More importantly, they can spend ESSER funds for more teachers.

If they can find a dozen new hires, they'll do it. Another dozen? No problem. Another? Bring 'em on.

This is illustrated with opportunities for regular staff and retirees to teach after-school and tutor, four days per week, at a rate of \$29 per hour. Extra stipends also will be offered for teaching specialty classes that expand the curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities.

Roberts and his staff did not outline costs or ESSER shares during their presentation to the school board. In turn, none of the seven board members asked about finances. At The Michigan Banner, we made repeated information requests during the week after the meeting, but no immediate response was forthcoming.

A quiet startup

Fewer than a dozen residents attended the major policy session and no parents spoke. This is in contrast to other school systems in Michigan and across the nation, where stormy fireworks have exploded.

Board President Charles H. Coleman Sr. says he sees no concerns with apathy arising in the city.

"There was a great deal of displeasure with the board previously, but the current feeling that I have gotten from parents and concerned citizens is that the less they hear about board activities, the better," Coleman says. "It is not that they are not concerned, but they are pleased with the progress that is happening at the board table. They are looking at the plans for the new buildings and looking at how we are working with Superintendent Roberts and they are happy with what we are doing."

"I do not think that we have a perfect board, but we have learned how to disagree agreeably. We work together to achieve solutions which are in the best interests of the students. This is what we think the community wants to see happen at the board table, making decisions that benefit students first."

+ EDUCATION

Nominations encouraged for Michigan Lottery's Excellence in Education Awards to honor outstanding educators

Lansing, MI – Parents, students, school staff members, and others are encouraged to nominate outstanding public-school educators for the Michigan Lottery's 2021-22 Excellence in Education awards.

All public-school employees may be nominated for the awards, which recognize educators who go "above and beyond" to make a difference in the lives of children. To nominate a public-school educator, go to <http://bit.ly/ExcellenceInEducation>.

The Michigan Lottery established the Excellence in Education awards in 2014 to recognize outstanding public-school educators across the state during the school year.

One outstanding educator will be selected each week and will receive a \$1,500 cash prize plus a \$500 grant to their classroom, school or school district. One of the weekly award winners will be selected to receive the Lottery's Educator of the Year award and will receive a \$10,000 cash prize.

Each winner also will receive a plaque and be featured in a news segment on the

Lottery's media partner stations: WXYZ-TV in Detroit, FOX 17 in Grand Rapids, FOX 47 in Lansing, and WNEM-TV, Saginaw.

The winner of the 2021 Educator of the Year award was Janice Smith. She is a school social worker at Fisher Magnet Lower Academy, which is part of the Detroit Public Schools Community District.

More than 800 educators were nominated during the seventh year of the educational awards program and 34, including Smith, were selected to win a weekly award.

Previous winners of the Educator of the Year award:

- **2020** – Megan Sidge, an Autism Spectrum Disorder teacher at Hickory Woods Elementary, which is part of the Walled Lake Consolidated Schools.
- **2019** – Stewart Kieliszewski, an Earth science, biology, mechatronics, and media teacher

for eighth through 12 graders at the Ugly Community Schools.

- **2018** – Kerri Moccio, a literacy intervention specialist at Bedford Elementary School in Dearborn Heights
- **2017** – Linda Holzwarth, a social studies teacher at Portage West Middle School in Portage
- **2016** – Daniel Carr, a Spanish and sports marketing teacher at Waverly High School in Lansing
- **2015** – Michael Craig, a special education teacher at the Charles Drew Transition Center in Detroit

Excellence in Education award nominees are evaluated on: Excellence, Dedication, Inspiration, Leadership and Effectiveness

Community celebrates grand opening of new Downtown Midland Center

Midland, MI – Excitement, interest and Pioneer pride were all felt and seen at two events held in August to celebrate the opening of Delta College's new Downtown Midland Center.

Many community members, Delta students and families attended the grand-opening public open house August 7, where they took tours of the new building, talked with faculty and staff, and enjoyed activities. A formal dedication ceremony took place August 12 that was attended by local legislators, supporters and donors.

"This remarkable building represents an investment by this community in the local workforce, in our students and in the future," said Delta College President Emeritus Dr. Jean Goodnow. "It also rep-

resents Delta's commitment to education for decades to come."

Goodnow said the new center marks the completion of a multi-year effort to bring Delta to downtown areas in the three major districts it serves: Bay City, Midland and Saginaw.

"Residents expressed the need for more accessible locations, with programs that lead to good careers. This is a culmination of that significant effort," she said at the dedication event.

Delta College President Dr. Michael Gavin said the new building will provide educational opportunities for all students,



COURTESY PHOTO

including high school students, regardless of their busy schedules and travel struggles.

"Delta is focused on helping to train and educate the workers needed for all businesses in our region," he said.



“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.”

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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

989-625-1202 | ccstrick@svsu.edu



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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. Calif. Congrmn., Dist. 43.

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

+ BUSINESS

Michigan Sugar Company investing over \$65 million in Bay County

Monitor Township, MI – Michigan Sugar Company today announced plans to invest more than \$65 million to construct a desugarization facility at its factory located at 2600 S. Euclid Ave. in Bay County's Monitor Township (commonly known as the company's Bay City factory).

The facility will allow Michigan Sugar Company to produce up to an additional 80 million pounds of pure, all-natural sugar annually from molasses that is a by-product of the process through which sugar is extracted from sugarbeets. Currently, Michigan Sugar Company has the capacity to extract additional sugar from 60% of its molasses. The new facility will allow the company to extract additional sugar from 100% of its molasses.

The project is expected to begin in fall 2021 and is scheduled to take 18 to 24 months to complete. Once operational, the company expects to process as much as 650 tons of molasses daily, up from the current amount of 325 tons per day.

"This enormous undertaking, investment, and commitment by our grower-owners will have a multi-generational impact for our cooperative," said Mark S. Flegenheimer, President and CEO of the company, which was founded in 1906 and became a grower-owned cooperative in 2002. "This is a historic day for our owners, our employees, our customers and our community."

Flegenheimer explained the enormous economic impact the new facility will have.

"Simply put, we can sell sugar at a higher price than we sell molasses," he said. "Our nearly 900 grower-owners will see added annual revenue of \$10 million to \$15 million, in perpetuity."

Michigan Sugar Company's grower-owners are spread out across about 20 Michigan counties, as well as Ontario, Canada. The 13-member Co-op Board of Directors approved the desugarization project earlier this year.

"This facility will replace our current desugarization equipment that was installed in the 1990s," said Adam Herford, a grower-owner from Elkton who serves as

Chairman of the Board. This is one of the most substantial investments made in the history of our company and brings Michigan Sugar Company up to par with other sugar producers across the United States."

Before desugarization equipment was installed at the Bay City factory in the 1990s, Michigan Sugar Company sold all its molasses as a byproduct.

Herford said that at the heart of this investment is a story about sustainability.

"We are going to produce up to 80 million more pounds of sugar annually without planting another acre of sugarbeets," he said, adding Michigan Sugar Company's grower-owners annually plant and harvest about 160,000 acres of sugarbeets. "That means 80 million more pounds without any additional passes over our farm fields with our equipment, without any further spraying of our crops to ward off disease and pests, and without burning any additional fuel on our farms to expand operations."

"This truly is a win-win for all involved."

As part of the \$65+ million investment, Michigan Sugar Company plans to add \$4 million in juice softening equipment at its factory in Caro and its factory in Sebewaing, said Jason Lowry, Michigan Sugar Company's Vice President of Operations. Lowry explained that when factories desugar molasses, they need the molasses to be soft.

"We have juice softening equipment already in Bay City and we installed juice softening equipment at our factory in Croswell as part of a \$70 million capital upgrade of that facility over the past six years," Lowry said. "Now, we'll add that equipment in Caro and Sebewaing, which means those factories, and those communities, also will benefit from our investment."

Pedro L. Figueroa, Michigan Sugar Company's Vice President of Sales and Marketing, said the investment in the desugarization project completely aligns with a goal to drive sales of Michigan Sugar's Pioneer Sugar brand, as well as private label, value-added packaged sales with the

company's key partners.

"Our project also ensures a significant volume in our "farm-to-table" and Certified Vegan sugar supply through agricultural and food production sustainability improvements, in addition to creating important scale-up efficiencies that will consistently increase domestic sugar production in Michigan for many, many years to come," said Figueroa.

Community leaders praised Michigan Sugar Company's investment.

"Michigan Sugar has demonstrated its commitment, leadership, and major economic impact to our community with the announcement of this transformational capital investment," said Trevor Keyes, President and CEO of Bay Future Inc., which helped Michigan Sugar Company in numerous ways as this project was being planned "As one of Bay County's top employers, the impact of this project will have a ripple effect throughout Bay County, providing both direct and indirect benefits across businesses and to community members who call Bay County home."

Added Monitor Township Supervisor Terry Spencer: "As one of our township's largest taxpayers and employers, we depend greatly on Michigan Sugar Company as a pillar of our economy. This is a company with 930 year-round employees, 1,100 seasonal workers, an annual payroll of more than \$65 million, and an annual economic impact of more than \$500 million."

Spencer emphasized that although this project has an attention-grabbing price tag, Michigan Sugar Company has made significant investments at its Bay City factory for years.

"This company literally invests millions of dollars each year to improve its facilities and operations," he said. "Michigan Sugar's factories are among the oldest in the world, but inside they are filled with state-of-the-art equipment and technology. We are so fortunate the company's grower-owners have continued to invest in these factories and these communities year after year after year."

+ BUSINESS



COURTESY PHOTO

Flint & Genesee Group planning region's 'Largest In-Person Job Fair' on Sept. 16

Flint, MI – The Flint & Genesee Group is working with community partners to host the Genesee County Career Expo on Sept. 16 at the Dort Financial Center. Organizers behind what aims to be the largest in-person job fair in the region have already registered more than 30 employers – representing a collective 650+ job openings – for the event.

“There are nearly 15,000 people who are actively seeking employment in Genesee County – and that’s not even including those who are underemployed or looking for a career change,” said Brianna Mosier, director of Organizational Development at the Flint & Genesee Group. “At the same time, we know there are thousands of job opportunities available through our local businesses and organizations. Our goal is to help bridge that gap.”

The event, which runs from 1 to 5 p.m., will bring together a wide variety of job opportunities in various industries, including healthcare, manufacturing and education. According to Mosier, the Flint & Genesee Group and its partners hope to attract up

to 100 employers and 1,000 job seekers to the event. Partners for the event include the City of Flint, Community Foundation of Greater Flint, Fenton & Linden Regional Chamber of Commerce and Grand Blanc Chamber of Commerce.

So far, confirmed employers include Aflac, Al Bourdeau Insurance Agency, Ascension, Ashley HomeStore, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flint and Genesee County, Century Tool & Gage, Citizens Statewide Security, Clear View Building Maintenance, Domico Med-Device, Genesee County, Genesee Intermediate School District, Hamilton Community Health Network, Hurley Medical Center, Lear Corporation, Mac Pizza, Miller Industries, MTA Flint, Pinnacle Hospitality, Pri-merica, PrintCom, Rassini Brakes, ResourceMFG, Residence Inn by Marriott, Servpro, Shelter of Flint, STAT EMS, Teachout Security Solutions, Total Benefit Systems, TouchPoint Support Services, Unified Staffing and YMCA of Greater Flint.

What will separate the Genesee County Career Expo from other employment

events isn’t just its size, but also its scope. The job fair will shine a spotlight on resources available through community agencies that can help address common barriers to employment, including child-care and health issues. Everything from vaccinations to complimentary haircuts will be available to job seekers during the event.

Walk-ins are welcome, although applicants are encouraged to register by Tuesday, Sept. 14 at flintandgenesee.org/job-fair.

Employers can sign up by completing the form at flintandgenesee.org/career-expo before the Sept. 10 deadline. Likewise, community agencies can sign on to showcase their resources by completing the form at <https://bit.ly/2UH3YE5> by the same deadline.

For more information and the most current list of participating employers, visit flintandgenesee.org/jobfair.



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+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

The best people on the planet

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

We truly believe that successful fundraising requires board engagement and leadership. But how exactly do you – as an executive director – engage your board members? Here are a few suggestions.

Most of us don't like to be told what to do! That includes nonprofit board members. Keeping this in mind, we suggest a move away from "board assignments" and towards volunteering. Here's what we mean.

First, meet one-on-one with your board chair. Share your vision for the organization, your goals, and fundraising priorities – both short term and long term. Ideally you should have these written up so your chair can have a copy to review.

Ask your chair what they think about your vision, goals and fundraising priorities. Discuss these. Gain their insights and suggestions; be honest and open about which of their ideas you can implement now, and which may take more time. Ask your chair how they want to be involved with the organization's fundraising, and who from the board – and from outside the board – could help raise money. Share a list of the methods the organization uses to raise funds and talk about the activities associated with these.

Ideally you will also have these written up for easy review. Ask your chair which items they can help with. Ask who they believe would want to support the organization with money and resources, and if they would be willing to talk with them about doing so.

Let your chair know that you will be meeting with each board member for a similar conversation; and be sure to schedule those conversations. You may think, "we can discuss this at a board meeting – I don't need to meet with every board member!" We discourage this thinking. We've learned from experience that people are more upfront and honest when talking one-on-one. And that's what you want – an opportunity to build or strengthen your relationship with each board member. You want to learn what their concerns are and what they are willing to do to help advance your organization's vision and fundraising.

During your individual meetings be sure to share the organization's recent accomplishments, and the board's role in those accomplishments. Share a list of the areas where you need assistance from individual board members throughout the year. If your nonprofit has a board commitment form, now is a great time to share that with each board member and to answer any questions they may have. Be sure



COURTESY PHOTO

to share how each board member will be recognized and acknowledged for their service as a board member.

Make sure you leave each meeting with your board members agreeing to take responsibility for a specific action or project that uses their skills and is within their comfort zone. Let each member know that they will be expected to report out to the board, orally and in writing, on their progress.

Experience has shown us that board members are more than willing to become involved: you have to listen to their ideas and support them in implementing them.



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

+ CHURCH DIRECTORY

B



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



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



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

C

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

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



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

F



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



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

G



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

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



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

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

J



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

L

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

M

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



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

N



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

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



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



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



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



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

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

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

P

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

R



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

S



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



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



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

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

T



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



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

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

MHSAA Fall practices to begin with common start date, return of traditional schedules & formats

Lansing, MI – Teams participating in all nine sports for which the Michigan High School Athletic Association sponsors postseason tournaments – featuring more than 100,000 student athletes statewide – begin practice Monday, Aug. 9, and with a return to traditional schedules and MHSAA Tournament formats after COVID-19 resulted in various adjustments for the Fall 2020 season.

Postseason competition in cross country, football, golf, tennis and swimming & diving will revert to their customary formats this season, with all fall sports scheduled based on their traditional calendars other than beginning practice with a common start date for the first time. At the time of this release, there are no COVID-19-related state-ordered restrictions regarding school sports, for either athletes or spectators, from either the MHSAA or the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS). County health departments and local school districts may institute restrictions for venues in their areas, and teams traveling to those schools and venues must follow local mandates.

For most of the MHSAA's modern history, football teams had begun practice Monday of the first week of the preseason, followed by the rest of fall teams two days later. A 2019 rule change allowed a few more sports to begin on Monday, dependent on their Finals dates that fall. The common start date for all fall practices this season and annually moving forward was approved by the MHSAA Representative Council at its Spring Meeting in May and allows all teams to begin the 16th Monday before Thanksgiving.

Football teams still must have 12 days of preseason practice at all levels before their first game, over a period of 16 calendar days before the first kickoff, with the first varsity games this fall scheduled for Aug. 26 and the weekend of Aug. 27-28. Competition this fall may begin Aug. 16 for golf and tennis teams and Aug. 18 in cross country, soccer, volleyball and swimming

& diving.

One of the most anticipated sport-related changes for Fall 2021 is the full implementation of the “enhanced strength-of-schedule” format for selecting the 256-team field for the 11-Player Football Playoffs. The new format eliminates automatic qualification based on win total and bases it solely on playoff-point average, which also is determined differently in that it now awards teams more for playing tougher schedules. (Click for a more detailed comparison of the previous and new formats: www.mhsaa.com/portals/o/documents/FB/Adjusted%20SOS%20Table.pdf.)

The new playoff-point formula was used in 2020 to seed teams at the District and Regional levels, but its use for qualification was put on hold as COVID-19 caused a one-season switch in playoff format that allowed all teams to qualify.

Additional rules changes in cross country, football, golf and tennis will be most noticeable this fall:

- Cross Country will provide an opportunity for more individual Finals qualifiers this season, as a minimum of seven individual qualifiers will advance from each Regional race. Previously, runners on teams that did not qualify as a whole could still advance to the Finals if they finished among the top 15 individuals at a Regional – but at some Regionals runners from the team qualifiers filled the great majority of those top 15 finishes. The seven individual qualifiers from each Regional this season will be the first seven finishers from teams that do not qualify as a whole, even if they finish outside of the top 15.
- Another football change continues the focus on minimizing injury risk, addressing blocking below the waist in the free-blocking zone

(the rectangular area extending laterally four yards to either side of the snap and three behind the line of scrimmage). The new rule states a below-the-waist block in the free-blocking zone must occur as an immediate, initial action following the snap, instead of the previous rule which allowed an offensive lineman to delay and block below the waist as long as the ball was still in the zone.

- For Lower Peninsula girls golf, teams will be required to use the scoring platform iWanamaker also for the regular season, just as they were required to do so for MHSAA Tournament competition during the 2020-21 school year. The scoring platform is made available through the MHSAA Golf app, which was created and is operated by iWanamaker and allows golfers, coaches and fans to chart scoring in real time.
- In tennis, if a seeded player withdraws on the day of an MHSAA Regional or Final, all seeded players below that withdrawing player (including the provisional seed in that flight) will move up and be placed on the proper line for that new seed. (Non-seeded players drawn into the bracket will not be moved.)

The 2021 Fall campaign culminates with postseason tournaments beginning with the Upper Peninsula Girls Tennis Finals during the final week of September and wraps up with the 11-Player Football Finals on Nov. 26 and 27. Visit www.mhsaa.com for a complete list of fall tournament dates.

+ SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTO

Historic Sunday lifts Loons over Captains

Pages, Leonard make HR history to retake sole possession of first in East

Eastlake, OH – The regular season series concluded between Great Lakes and Lake County on Sunday at Classic Park when the Loons (55-47) defeated the Captains (54-48), 10-2. In their 24 matchups, Great Lakes outmatched the Cleveland Indians' High-A Captains, 15 games to nine. Sunday's win gave the Loons their eighth series victory of the season, and came as their 12th win in their last 16 ballgames.

Andy Pages tied Kyle Russell's 2009 record of 26 home runs in a single Loons season when he went deep in the eighth inning. Eddys Leonard contended for the spotlight with his three HRs on Sunday, joining Cody Thomas (2017) and Niko Hulsizer (2019) as the third Loons player since 2007 to hit three home runs in a game.

Finishing 4-for-5 with his three HRs and a single, Leonard set a new Loons individual game-high with 13 total bases against the Captains. Jonny DeLuca set the previous marker with two HRs and a triple against West Michigan on July 31. Andy Pages set the previous record of 10 the night prior, with two long balls and a double.

Jesus Vargas fell an out away from his fifth quality start in the Sunday win, allowing two solo homers as his only runs

allowed on five hits, walking none and striking out six in 4 2/3 innings. In his two starts against Lake County, Vargas allowed just three earned runs in 9 2/3 innings, walking none and striking out 14 batters.

Great Lakes threw an arsenal of arms from Jose Hernandez (W, 1-1), Kevin Malisheski, Mike Mokma and Jose Rudolfo. The four relievers delivered the final 4 1/3 innings in scoreless fashion for the Loons, striking out six batters and allowing no walks. Lake County tallied just two hits in the final 4 1/3 frames, finishing 0-for-4 with runners in scoring position.

The Loons taxed Captains starter Mason Hickman (L, 7-7) for seven runs on nine hits, despite three of them being earned. Hickman lasted five innings on the mound, exiting with no walks and nine punch outs. Five HRs for Great Lakes raised the weekly total to 12 against the Captains.

Brandon Lewis gave the Loons their first lead in the top of the fourth, ending a 1-0 deficit with a two-run HR. The Sunday HR for Lewis was his second long ball of the series, coming as his 17th of the season. Lewis drove in his third RBI in the next inning with two outs, scoring Pages from second on a single. After Jorbit Vivas

scouted a ball into right to bring in Lewis, Leonard knocked his second HR of three of the day.

The Loons benefited from seven of their 10 runs coming in the middle fourth and fifth innings. A four-run fifth looked bleak with the bases empty and two outs for Pages, who reached on a throwing error from Captains' Christian Cairo, the game's only error. Lewis scored him in the following at-bat, then stole his second bag of the season.

Of Lake County's 20 losses at Classic Park this season, eight of them belong to Great Lakes in 12 games played.

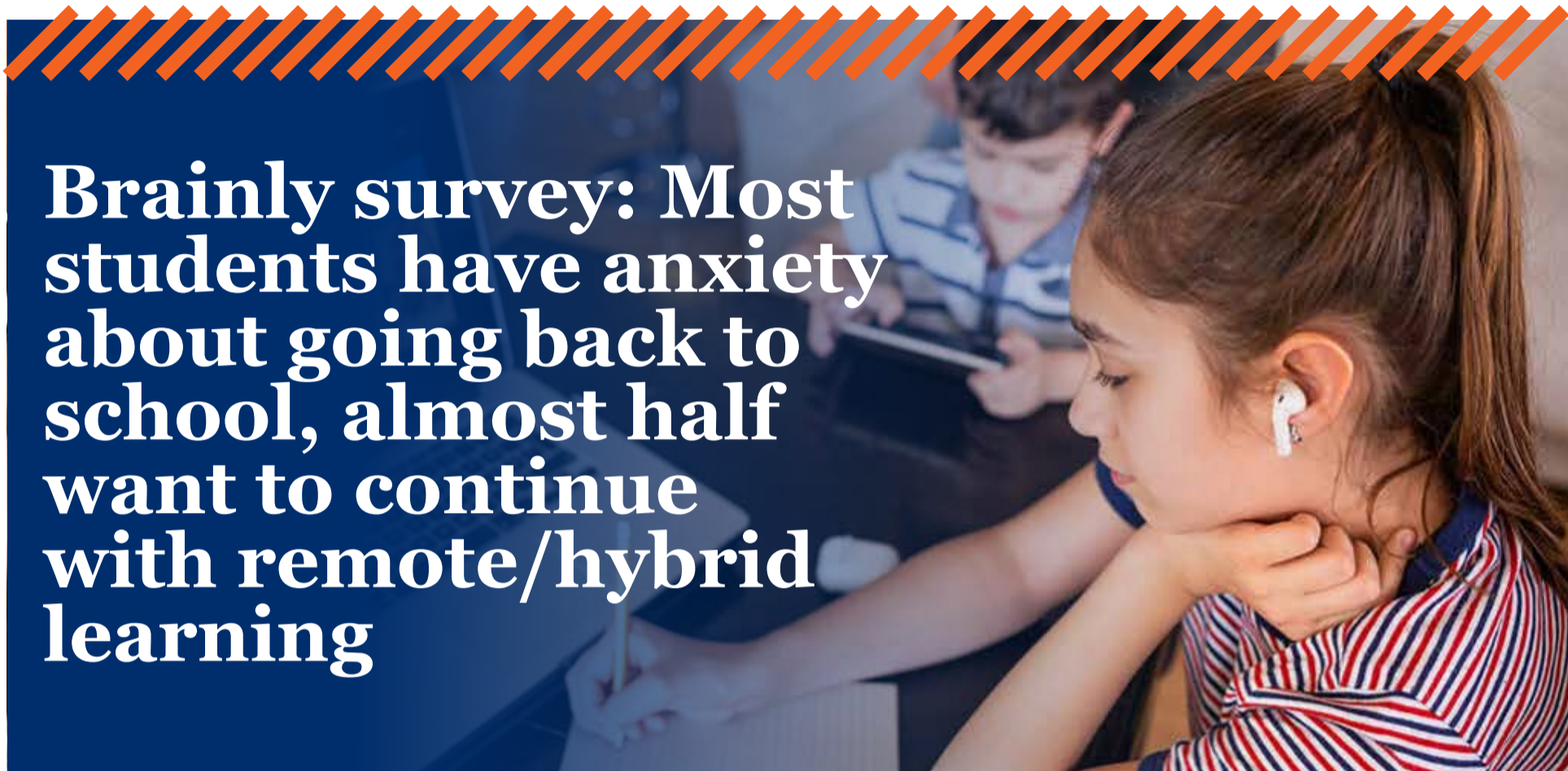
Sunday's series win for Great Lakes was their third-consecutive, error-free game. This season, the Loons defense has coughed up the fewest errors in the High-A Central with 86 in their 102 games.

The Loons look forward to the conclusion of the 2021 regular season, with 12 of their upcoming 18 games to take place at Dow Diamond. Great Lakes welcomes the Fort Wayne TinCaps to town on August 31, hoping to continue their run at a post-season spot before season's end on September 19. First pitch on Tuesday is scheduled for 7:05 P.M. EDT at Dow Diamond, with gates opening at 6:35.

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 17

Brainly survey: Most students have anxiety about going back to school, almost half want to continue with remote/hybrid learning



COURTESY PHOTO

New York, NY – After more than a year and a half of remote, hybrid and socially-distanced learning, many students throughout the United States are returning to classrooms.

However, a survey of 3,000 US middle and high school students conducted by Brainly, the world's largest online learning platform, finds that users are reporting a mixture of emotions regarding the return to school. 66% of students reported that they felt anxious about the upcoming school year, while 63% reported that they felt excited. Most strikingly, nearly 40% reported that they felt they were not prepared for the upcoming school year. In the same survey parents also reported many of the same concerns for their children.

While students and parents embraced a variety of new digital education tools during the shift to remote learning, Brainly's survey found that the majority of students remained enthusiastic about a return to the classroom for the coming school year. When given the option, only 44% of students wanted to go back to full-time, in-

person learning. 30% preferred hybrid learning and 16% preferred all remote learning. However, middle school students have a more positive outlook regarding the return to full-time learning than their high school counterparts.

"These findings underscore the reality of a pandemic that has stretched on longer than any of us could have imagined," said Patrick Quinn, Parenting Expert at Brainly. "To some extent, students have begun to normalize virtual learning, which presents a whole new host of challenges now that we're bringing them back into the classroom. The ultimate goal is to provide students with a dynamic and complete educational experience that will let them thrive in the real world."

Students report a variety of reasons for their apprehension about going back to school full time. Nearly a quarter of students cited in-person tests as the reason they are least excited about returning to school. For middle school students, bullying was the second most common cause of concern, and for high school students,

the social anxiety caused by being around groups of people was their most common concern.

"During the pandemic we witnessed Brainly become an indispensable resource for over 350M students and parents globally as they worked to balance their changing needs during remote learning," said Michał Borkowski, CEO and co-founder of Brainly. "We know that the best educational outcomes happen when students have access to both in-person and online support, which is why we recently rolled out new products such as Math Solver and Brainly Tutor to provide them with a path to academic success, no matter the learning format."

Brainly is the world's largest online learning platform and is available globally on mobile and desktop devices. Created to supplement middle and high school study, Brainly gives students a platform to learn from each other and build confidence through helping others find the answers they need to succeed in coursework. The survey's full results are available here.

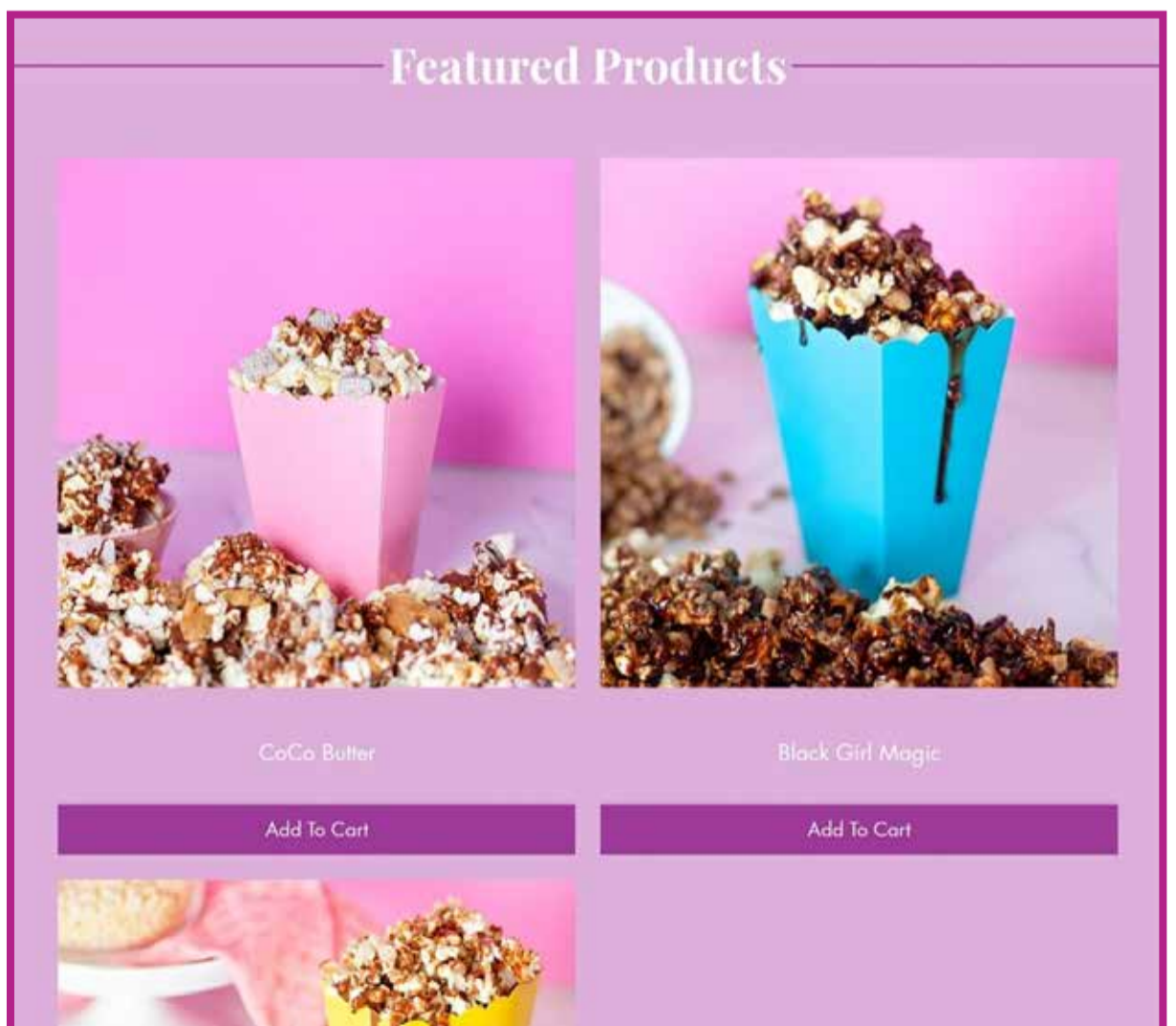
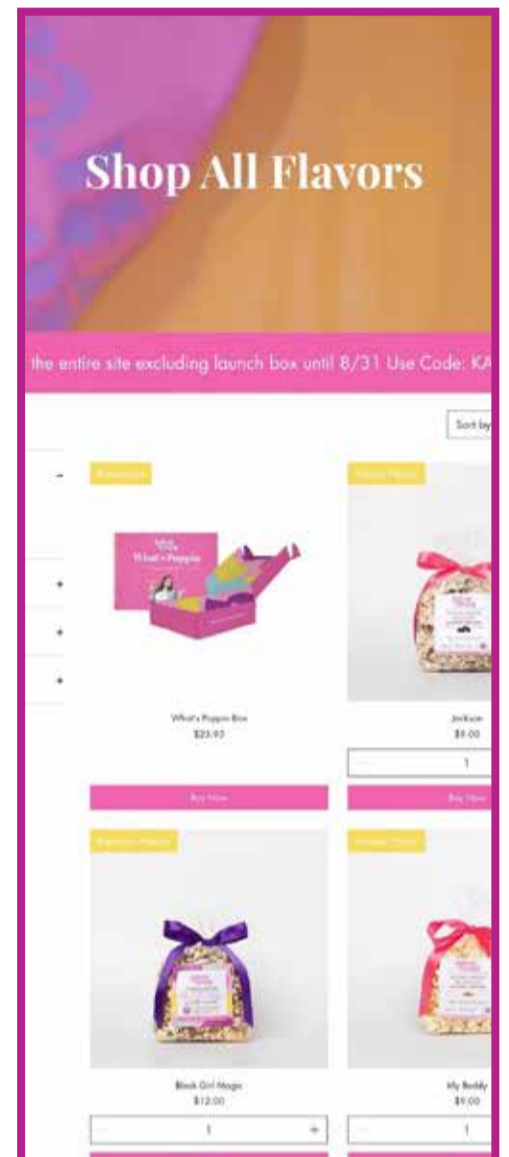
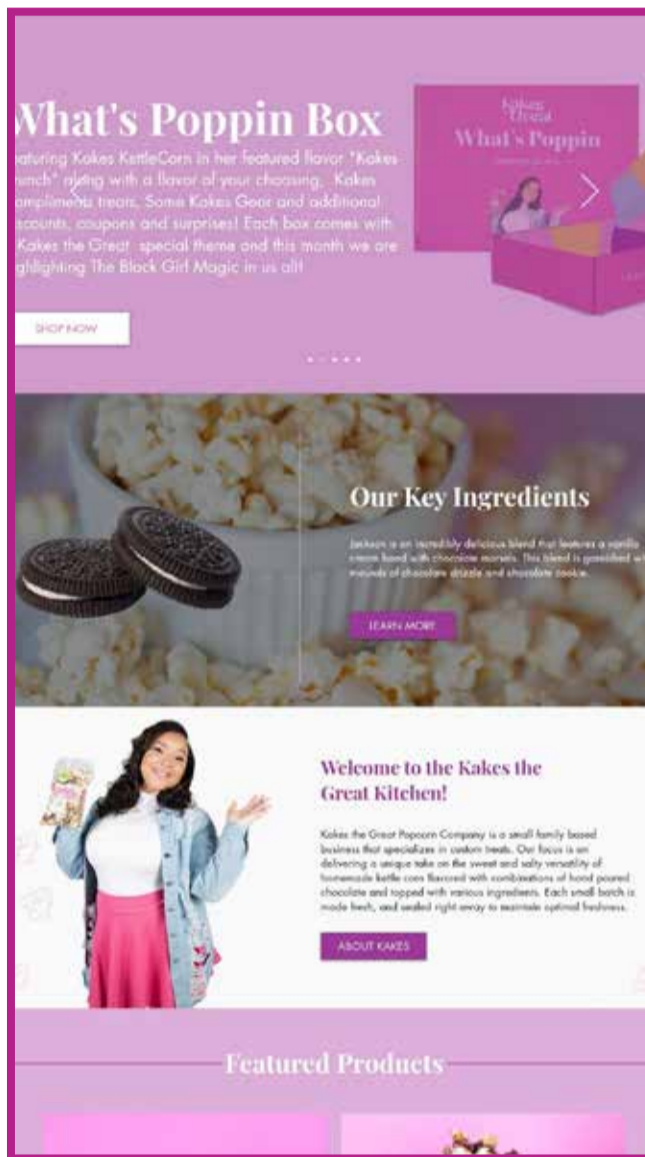
Kakes The Great Popcorn Co launches new website Order the sweet & Savory treats Online

Saginaw, MI – You can now order popcorn online from Kakes The Great Popcorn Co at www.kakesthegreat.com.

Kakes The Great Popcorn Co. is a small family based business that specializes in custom treats. They focus on delivering a unique take on the sweet and salty versatility of homemade kettle corn.

The company was founded by teen entrepreneur Kaylynn Martin, age 15, who manages the business with the help of her mother, Alesha Martin.

In addition to their new on-line store, you can also purchase Kakes The Great Popcorn Co in person at Delicious Sweets Bakeshop in the SVRC Marketplace in downtown Saginaw and in Katy's Kards on Court Street.





PICS OF THE WEEK

On August 28, Saginaw STEM hosted “Electrical Circuit Day” at Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy.

Saginaw S.T.E.M., a 501c3 Organization, is committed to exposing, inspiring and engaging members of the community into the world of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). To learn more about the organization visit www.saginawstem.org.



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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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