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COMMUNITY



**SURVEY:
TOO MUCH
TALK, TOO
LITTLE ACTION?**

COMMUNITY, PG 14



Saginaw NAACP 2021 honorees

By MIKE THOMPSON

Odail Thorns and his wife, Mamie Thorns, will receive separate "Saginaw Heroes" honors at the NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner because each of them is deemed individually deserving, but it's near impossible to tell their stories separately.

Odail grew up as a youthful Arkansas civil right activist and started his General Motors career in 1965 as an organic chemist at Delco Remy near Indianapolis. He moved up into the GM executive ranks. By 1995, he was an executive in Saginaw in what started as Steering Gear. Meanwhile, Mamie attended an integrated private secondary school in racist Mississippi during the 1960s, and later launched her teaching career in Indy. They encountered when Odail returned to his former hometown for a civic event, at which Mamie also was present. They wedded in 1995.

Mamie found a role at Saginaw Valley State University, where she continues as chief diversity officer. Odail stepped down from GM near the millennium, but he was recruited from retirement to serve as the City of Saginaw's director of development from 2005 to 2012. Both are honored for their many civic involvements, overall in Greater Saginaw and within the Saginaw NAACP Branch.

Also achieving "Saginaw Heroes" awards are Monica Reyes, and a community project known as "Bridge the Gap."

Monica has retired as SVSU's director of dis-

ability services, but she continues as the founding director in 2010 of the Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute. She wrote, "In the past five decades, Latino leaders have made their mark for different organizations and programs to help our greater community. Yet, in more recent years, concern over the (lack of) involvement among Latino youth helped propel the creation of GLBHLLI. Several barriers were identified as too-low college enrollment and low participation of young adults in leadership roles." She credits Mamie Thorns for providing major startup advice for the Institute, along with guidance from Jimmy Greene, the founder of Saginaw's comparable African-American Leadership Training Institute.

Bridge the Gap is a seven-year-old effort to build improved relations between law enforcement and communities of color, a need that became even more focused after the May 2020 police slaying of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Local candidates for police work receive financial aid for Delta College Police Academy classes and for further training. In addition, sponsored events have ranged from an outdoor summer basketball tournament, similar to the former Gus Macker, to last month's free downtown picnic.

CONTINUES ON PG 2,
NAACP HONOREES



Michael Cruz keeps the kitchen going

LATINO BANNER, PG 4



Saginaw planning emcee returns home

COMMUNITY, PG 12



Freedom Fund keynoter brings one-of-a-kind background

COMMUNITY, PG 19

FEATURED STORY

OJIBWAY REOPENS WITH VEHICLES BLOCKED

COMMUNITY, PG 11



Continued from cover, NAACP Honorees

Young Professionals

The Saginaw NAACP also has adopted a Young Professionals awards category. Following are the 11 honorees, along with excerpts from information they submitted to the Saginaw Branch:



Ce'Erica Allen, CEO of FRS Marketing, Branding and Design: "My approach to design has always been to combine my business expertise with my passion for art. I graduated from Savannah (Ga.) College of Art and Design in 2017 and eagerly began working for companies like Kohl's and Morrison Healthcare. After the birth of my first child, I realized no corporate 9-to-5 was worth strangers raising my daughter, so my full-time freelance journey began. With an education in marketing and industry experience in graphic design, I've been able to help numerous passionate business owners flourish. I have also acquired a long-time Saginaw local establishment, Katy's Kards, located near the Court Theater, which has allowed me to expand my expertise and grow a local brand into a business that can continue to serve my community while providing for my family."



Wen'zell Franklin, operations associate for Chick-fil-A: "I started my leadership journey at the age of 15 when I was hired at my local McDonald's in Saginaw. The moment I stepped foot behind the counter, I realized that I had a passion for putting people first and developing others. By being persistent and committed to holding true to the McDonald's standard, I quickly moved up the ranks in leadership. As a general manager, I have developed more than 50 leaders in the McDonald's system while taking over multiple restaurants in the Southeast Michigan Region. This year, I accepted a role with Chick-fil-A as an operations associate in the Chicago office, where I consult and support more than 50 locations, registering a 20 percent improvement in only three months."



Shondral Jackson, owner of Caring Hearts CNA Nursing Center and Heavenly Heart Home Care: "I am a take-charge professional, entrepreneur, business owner, mother and mentor. I was born and raised in Saginaw, receiving my nursing diploma from Delta College and later my associates degree in nursing from Henry Ford College in Dearborn. I have been a business owner for more than six years. I am also the owner of Daniel's Den Adult Foster Care Home and Modern Day Scrubz. I am the founder of the Made-unashamed mentoring program, where I help young women find their worth, identity, purpose and value."



Byonka Moten, owner and head stylist of Sundaze Beauty Company: "I am a Saginaw native who has been a licensed cosmetologist since November 2016. I offer a range of different services, from makeup to

hair extensions to natural hair services. I specialize in silk press and hair color. I pride myself on assisting clients with their healthy hair journeys, and by keeping up with the latest research and products for my clients. Each time a client has an appointment, she receives a personalized consultation, the utmost professionalism and a beautiful, healthy hair style that's sure to keep her coming back."



Dr. Shawna Patterson-Stephens, chief diversity officer for Central Michigan University: "I have dedicated my career to identifying practical ways to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and positive social change within higher education. I am a wife and mother, an artist, and a novice gardener. I have published several works while also seeking to ensure scholarship remains accessible, evidenced through projects like my podcast, "Scholar Tea". I am currently a co-PI in a national project examining the experiences of Black doctoral women, editor of the forthcoming volume, 'Dirty Computer: Black Cyberfeminism in the Digital Age,' and co-editor of the forthcoming volume, 'Advancing Inclusive Excellence in Higher Education.'"



Lorenzo Reynolds, owner of Ultimate Fitness and Wellness, LLC: "My youth and amateur boxing career included an array of national and state championships. Today I am a coach and certified fitness trainer, with a certificate of ministry from The Potter's House in Dallas. With the above combo, my company is focused on the mind, body and spirit. Ultimate Fitness promotes wellness through physical fitness and education of the body. I have a passion to encourage and to motivate youth from various walks of life. I travel as a public speaker, sharing personal testimony. I find pleasure in teaching on the psychology of a champion and overcoming adversity. My determination and passion for life exemplify my belief that you must Be Great or Be Forgotten."



Anthony Taylor, Tri-Star Trust Bank senior vice-president and director of personal trusts: "I have 10-plus years experience working in financial and administrative roles, primarily focused on relationships, wealth, and financial management. My passion is to walk alongside individuals to help them achieve their financial goals. I received my master's in administration from Central Michigan University, and graduated from the School for International Training in Queensland, Australia, with a focus on natural and cultural ecology. Currently I serve as a member of the Dow-Dupont Community Advisory Panel and co-chair of the Temple University Arts Affinity Ambassador group. More recently, I also chaired and led the successful passing of the Dow Event Center millage campaign."



Camille Toney, Dow Chemical Co. senior counsel and deputy director for ethics and compliance: "My responsibilities include global

ethics and compliance oversight, internal investigations, and advising Dow's Office of Inclusion. Before Dow, I practiced at a private firm in St. Louis, specializing in employment, labor and benefits law. I'm a member of Midland's Alumni Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Tri-City Chapter of The Links, Inc. I'm also a board member of Windover High School in Midland. My JD and MBA degrees are from the University of Alabama, and I also received my bachelor's degree in economics from UCLA, where I competed in varsity soccer."



Jimmie Truss, owner and operator of Exquisite Lawns, Landscaping and Maintenance: "For years, I have volunteered at no cost for many vacant property cleanups, and recently I developed a program that I presented to the city leaders to incorporate ongoing cleanup, called 'Adopt a Spot'. If implemented, it would give local businesses or residents the chance to adopt an area to beautify and keep clean. My goal is simply making overgrown vacant lots look good again, with surrounding neighbors pleased to see the new changes. Every minute of it, I do from the kindness of my heart and I even use my own equipment. I take pride in what I do, and I encourage others to come out and do the same. Take back one lot at a time."



Jamie Wallace, co-owner, director and instructor at Extreme Dance Arts: "Through my business I have been able to mentor thousands of youth. Many have gone on to excel on college dance teams and in pageants, and have appeared in movies, music videos, and commercials. Others have become doctors, lawyers, teachers, and dance instructors. When a student walks through our doors we believe in teaching them more than just dance. They also learn self-confidence, teamwork, determination, and a strong work ethic. We offer scholarships to students in need, and a free summer dance program, and a free program for students with special needs, and we are currently working on implementing a free program for children in the foster system."



Cierra Warren, CEO and owner of Delicious Sweets Inc.: "I own and operate three local bakeries. I moved to Saginaw in 2010 with a scholarship at SVSU, where I studied social work. On the college campus is where Delicious Sweets was birthed. Although I had been baking since age 11, I never thought I would have a baking business or actual storefronts. After college I worked in my social work field, but I also built my business before and after work and on the weekends. From then until now, I have opened three locations, including Fashion Square Mall, SVRC Marketplace, and Great Lakes Crossings Outlet in Auburn Hills. I wake up every day and go after my dream while touching the lives of others in a very sweet way!"

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MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Courage + GOOD TROUBLE = Change

Good Trouble typically requires one to 'speak truth to power'. This phrase has become somewhat of a cliché often used to give credence to very trivial causes while historically, through music, voice and action, it gave life to movements that literally changed the world. Preparing for the original editorial on the 'Good Trouble' concept left me with more questions than answers which of course required a deeper dive into the many, many possible outcomes for one who chooses to take a 'good trouble' stand. Initially, I suggested moving full steam ahead for worthy causes without giving a second thought to full consideration of potential consequences. Costs can range from feeling helpless, hopeless, or even a bit humiliated in the loss of a battle for justice all the way to the end of the spectrum to include the actual loss of life. Choosing to engage in good trouble as an individual or within a group should be well thought out – one must weigh the risks.

Speaking truth to power requires means to confront individuals or systems in positions with the authority to build a community or conversely, have the authority to bring it all down. A phrase believed to have been coined by a civil rights leader in the 1950's, it means to take a brave and moral stance on matters potentially affecting one's own well-being, reputation, ability to earn a living and familial and other important relationships. Finding examples of very well-known and extremely disastrous outcomes to speaking truth is a Google search away. Going back - as far back as Biblical days, here are just a few examples of how using your voice or talent(s) through any medium (music, dance, written word, demonstrations, etc.), to shine a light on injustice can change the world:

John the Baptist lost his head (literally beheaded) for speaking truth to the powerful King Herod and his wife Herodias.

The prophet Elijah survived the attack by the powerful Ahab and his wife Jezebel speaking out about their very treacherous acts of cowardice.

The activism of Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, W.E.B. Dubois and many, many others spoke volumes to the powerful systems of slavery and discrimination resulting in freedoms and opportunity which would not have been realized without their bravery.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X took very different approaches in their courageous fight against powerful systems and individuals. Sadly, both resulted in loss of life.

A hunger strike by the comedian Dick Gregory brought much needed national and global attention to the civil rights struggle.

Musicians, authors, poets and others put it all on the line for the sake of truth for change. Billie Holiday, for example lost her career and many friendships/relationships, over the truth in the lyrics of several of her songs, with 'Strange Fruit' actually being condemned by the FBI! She refused to be silent and paid a very high cost in her finances and other areas of her life.

Heroism is not limited to any race, gender or age. At just 17 years of age, young Malala Yousafzai won the Nobel Peace Prize (2014) for taking a bold and courageous stand against the Taliban in her quest to secure educational opportunities for women in Pakistan. She survived and continues to thrive after being shot for her activism.

Lastly, a great example of speaking truth to power is that of a young man, now 31 years of age, who ran for and won the office of Mayor (Stockton, CA) in 2017. Michael Tubbs served the four-year term as mayor after having served four years as an elected member of the City Council during his early 20's. He saw the need for change in his community and the world around him and decided to be the voice of change. He was quoted that year saying, 'I need other folks, all folks to speak up and say something' – making 'good trouble' through speaking truth to power.

Good trouble – speaking truth to power requires action. Say something. Do something. Complacency is not an option and continued silence is eventually received as consent. Maybe it is time to put your hat in the ring for a local run for office. Maybe you'd prefer to take it slow and actively support someone else. Maybe slower still and serve in some capacity (union, perhaps) in the workplace. The key is to act on behalf of building and maintaining healthy individuals, families and systems which ultimately are the foundation of healthy communities. More good trouble to come.



Jerome Buckley
Publisher, Michigan Banner

Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

**HISPANIC
HERITAGE
MONTH**

September 15 - October 15

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period.



EMPTY WARWICK LIVING CENTER WILL TURN INTO A TEMPORARY IMMIGRATION SHELTER

Alma leaders, on 4-2 vote, allow immigrant shelter

By MIKE THOMPSON

In Alma, a small college town 50 miles west of Saginaw, a courageous group of elected leaders took action to break national trends that oppose civil rights.

Four members of the City Commission on Sept. 14 led a 4-2 vote to approve a plan to house migrant teenage boys from the Rio Grande border, for temporary shelter in a former 36-bed nursing home.

Immigration, along with voting rights, have been two main social justice focal points during recent years. Opponents of the shelter dominated an audience of more than 100 citizens who observed the discussion and the vote, expressing fears that ranged from gang activity to higher crime to an import of diseases.

"We believe that Alma is a compassionate and welcoming community, and we look forward to providing life-saving services for vulnerable children and youth here," said Krista Stevens of Grand Rapids-based Bethany Christian Services, in

an Associated Press report.

The shelter will provide housing for up to 40 days or until a sponsor can be found. The boys, ages 12 to 17, crossed the U.S. border without parents or guardians and do not have legal status in this country. Advocates describe them as refugees who aim to escape violence in their Central American homelands.

Much of the Donald Trump presidency was rooted in barriers to border crossings and harsher penalties.

On a similar split vote, Alma's Planning Commission had recommended two months ago against the required zoning change.

The story gained a small share of national media attention and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights became involved, urging city commissioners not to make decisions based on fears, stereotypes and "unfounded assumptions."

News reports may be found with a Google search for "Alma Bethany immigration."

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LLEAD focuses on next generation

By MIKE THOMPSON

Numerous organizations are governed by older scolders who vow "to get the young people involved," but LLEAD is taking a for-real approach.

Latino Leaders for the Enhancement of Advocacy and Development has established a student internship program in cooperation with Michigan State University. As we reported during the summer, the group aims to form a stronger statewide voice for social action and for justice, inspiring supporters to get more involved in their communities.

The interns have gained career experience while their work also has benefited LLEAD. Following are three of their stories:



Gabe Gurule, finishing his junior year last spring at Michigan State, had a head start when he asked one of his instructors, Diana Rivera, for advice on how to expand his horizons. Coincidence! Diana was looking for a LLEAD summer intern, in her role as committee chair for the full board. The timing was ideal.

Starting in childhood, Gabe was influenced by maternal grandparents who advocated for migrant workers' rights and for their first courageous steps toward unions. He had been student government president at Ann Arbor Huron High School and already was involved in the Washtenaw County Democratic Party, stumping for candidates even before he himself was old enough to vote.

LLEAD, with its array of programs, helped him to learn about writing grant applications. He also undertook an effort to influence his classmates, along with young adults in general, to get more involved in their hometown affairs, for example running for a school board or a town council or a simple advisory committee.

"There's no short answer," Gabe has concluded. "Everyone has their own issues. Maybe schools, maybe the police department. Maybe 'I can't go fishing anymore,' so it's pollution and the environment. We need to find what values they possess and to figure out a holistic picture, so that an issue becomes a responsibility and a personal challenge."

He adds, "If we have more people to represent us who look like us and who think like us, things will be better for all of us."

Gabe is maintaining his history major and his LLEAD connections into his senior year, with a goal of bringing more unity to branches in Lansing, Saginaw, Mount Pleasant and the Holland area near Grand Rapids.

He unselfishly dreams not of becoming a political star himself, but of working as a campaign coordinator and/or as a community organizer.

Camryn Thomet, in contrast to Gabe Gurule, simply was searching some sort of general student internship to help begin her MSU senior year. She had nothing specific in mind.

Then she found LLEAD, and talk about specific! Her first task is to compile a directory of statewide resources, business or nonprofit, that would have any sort of value or connection to her new employer, and then to build it into a web site. This may seem like a giant dose of spreadsheet grunt work, but Camryn has accepted the task with enthusiasm.

She has experience in what others may view as being stuck on a computer. In the summer of 2019, to help pay her way

through college, she worked as a medical records assistant at Battle Creek's Day-one Family Healthcare, near her outlying home town of Union City, organizing updated online files.

She volunteered for community service during her years at Union City High School, and as a younger child she accompanied her mother to human resources work at Dayone. Her field-of-study major is human capital and society, with a minor in leadership organization.

Camryn envisions a career in what older folks might describe as social work.

"Everyone is different, of course, but a lot of people my age will do something that's not all about making a lot of money," she says. "It can be more about being happy and having fun."



While Gabe and Camryn hail from smaller downstate communities, **Allison Feliciano** comes to Michigan State, and to LLEAD, from the New York City metro area, specifically

from Sayreville, New Jersey.

This helps to explain why her career goal is to work as "a human resources specialist for a big company, and to be a part of a larger community."

Still, at MSU, Allison has learned through LLEAD that social and civil rights issues for Latinos and for all peoples of color exist just as strongly in smaller outposts.

One of her main tasks is to work with LLEAD leaders, including a good share of elders, to keep their web page fresh and to promote their efforts in social media. This is spot-on training for her goal to one day possibly work for Google.

Like Camryn, her major is human capital and society, with a minor in leadership organization.

"I like that LLEAD is a nonprofit," Allison says, "which gives me a chance to do something for my community."





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SERMONETTE SERIES

Keep Shining



By PASTOR AUGUSTINE
DELGADO
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST
MINISTRIES

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

-- Matthew 5:16

Nowadays, with the way the world has changed and with the trying times we are currently facing, it's easy to want to give up on God, our fellow brothers and sisters, or even give up on ourselves. A wise woman once told me, "If you woke up to lose, you might as well go back to bed." God did not create us to give up or quit or to feel sorry for ourselves. He created us to win, and not only win, but to be a blessing to those around us.

So, no matter what you are facing or going through today, let your light shine on all occasions. Don't give up. Continue to do good, because the next generation is watching you.

Keep calm and shine on

Michael Cruz keeps the kitchen going

Home of Saginaw's top-rated tamales will expand

By MIKE THOMPSON

Wouldn't it be great for Dad and Mom to own a restaurant?

Better yet, a Mexican eatery.

All the tamales and tacos you can eat. Burritos, beans and rice. Nachos, of course. And when you grow old enough for the tummy to get testy, a soothing bowl of menudo.

Saginaw's Michael Cruz, born in 1965, grew up with all these goodies on his childhood plate when his parents, Santos and Gloria Cruz, started in 1969 peddling takeouts, along with groceries, on the central East Side.

But sacrifice also was involved.

"I was 12 years old when I began working, and as a family member I received no special treatment. It was get out the soap, get out the mop, and clean up," he recalls.

"There would be school dances and outings, and I wouldn't be able to go because I had to work," says Cruz who started in the inner city at St. Mary's and finished in the township at the former MacArthur High.

"On a Wednesday night, when the trucks came in, we might be stocking the shelves until 4 o'clock in the morning. And then on Thursday, it was still get up at 8 o'clock. It was what it was. But it taught me a lot, how to be accountable for myself, how to always be on time."

The Cruz anchor site started, and still remains, in a 19th century storefront at 1200 Martha behind the old Central Junior High School site. For a time the family also operated Superstar Superette at Warren and Atwater, now demolished, and an arched



RAQUEL ROCHA AND MICHAEL CRUZ

drive-thru at Washington and Atwater, now painted over as a civic art piece.

Grocery sales slowly evaporated with the arrival of neighborhood markets like A & P, then supermarkets such as Kroger, and then megastores like Meijer and Wal-Mart. What remains on Martha Street is essentially a takeout eating place, renamed Cruz Kitchen, with Vargas bread and a few other items also for retail.

An expansion now is in the plans. Michael and his cousin, Raquel Rocha, have obtained a former Tony's takeout at 2525 East Genesee and Fulton, across from the former Sullivan's near the fairgrounds. They are aiming to open "Cruz Thru" at some point this fall.

Michael has seen two brothers pass away all too soon, but he has stayed with the business along with a sister, Yolanda, through all of the 52 years. Santos and Gloria are well into their 70s, and Michael and his dad now take turns with the cooking.

Customers come not only from the neighborhood but from mid-Michigan outposts such as Bridgeport, St. Charles and Freeland. Some visit when returning home from Detroit, Chicago, even retirement homes in Florida. Tamales are the most portable menu items and are ordered by the take-home dozens. In fact, Cruz Kitchen won a pair of Union Civica "best tamale" prizes prior to covid-19 canceling the annual contest.

Michael says the key to a top tamale is a combination of love, and the right spices in the right amounts.

"But I'm good at eating everything on the menu," he notes, with a laugh.

And so more work lies ahead for Michael Cruz, enough work at times to take him back to his teenage years.

Office of Multicultural Student Affairs

Hispanic Heritage Month 2021

"Esperanza: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope"

Presented and sponsored by: Student Association, Marshall Frederick's Sculpture Museum, Femxle Empowerment & Multicultural Education, Pinterest by Program Board, Valley Nights.

All Month Long: *Saginaw Area Eatery Dash*

Hispanic Heritage Month Kahoot

Wednesday, September 15th
7:00 pm
Zoom

Test your knowledge of Latinx history and pop culture facts. Win up to \$100 in prizes!

Hispanic Heritage Month Raffle

Friday, September 17th
5:00 pm
OMSA Instagram Live

Enter in OMSA for your chance to win one of three grand prizes centered around Hispanic Heritage Month!

Hispanic Heritage Month Kick-Off ★

Saturday, September 18th
1:00 pm-4:00 pm
Marshall Frederick's Museum

Join OMSA at the Marshall Frederick's Museum showcasing the community book read: *House on Mango Street*. View the exhibit: Time Refocused photographs by Luis Garza.

Latinx Craft Night

Wednesday, September 22nd
6:00 pm-8:00 pm
Wedge Lounge 1&2

Make your own personal piñata with a chance to bust open a piñata full of prizes. Win up to \$500 in gifts and prizes!

Lotería Night

Tuesday, September 28th
7:00 pm
Student Life Rotunda

Play Mexican bingo and learn Spanish terms for a chance to win up to \$500 in gifts and prizes!

Hispanic Alumni Meet & Greet

Thursday, September 30th
6:00 pm
Alumni Lounge

Meet the SVSU Latinx alumni for an evening of hors d'oeuvres, networking, and trivia games!

Coffee House: Hispanic Heritage Month Edition

Monday, October 4th
8:00 pm
TSAR

Join us for a cultural night of Latinx desserts, songs, and relaxation. Win up to \$50 in prizes!

Latin Dance Night

Wednesday, October 6th
7:00 pm
Student Life Programming Room

Come learn traditional Latinx dances and music while making up your own moves! Win up to \$50 in prizes!

MHAW Self Care Live

Thursday, October 7th
7:00 pm
Instagram Live

Join us live to discuss the importance of taking care of our mental health and learning new methods of practicing self-care. Win up to \$100 in prizes!

Movie: COCO

Thursday, October 14th
9:00 pm
TSAR

Watch the vibrant tale of family, fun and adventure, an aspiring young musician embarks an extraordinary journey to the magical land!

 @SVSUOMSA

 @OMSA_SVSU



Dia de Los Muertos Skull Painting

Tuesday, October 26th
6:00 pm
Student Life Programming Room

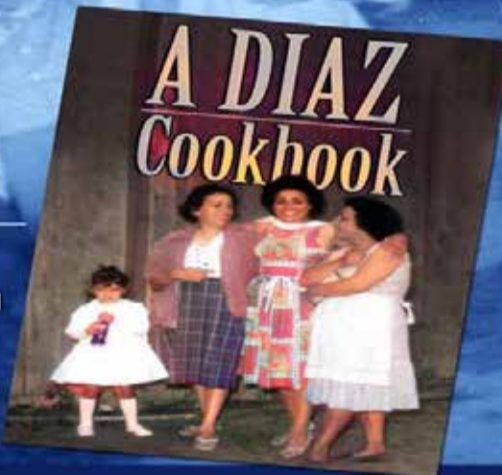
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COURTESY PHOTO

Ojibway reopens with vehicles blocked

By MIKE THOMPSON

In a decision made mostly by City Manager Tim Morales instead of the elected City Council, Ojibway Island's gates were re-opened Sept. 13 with the circle drive blocked to motor vehicles.

A \$10,000 parking area at the entrance, which actually was approved by the governing body, now is in place, although with only 19 spaces. So are added security cameras.

The whose-in-charge confusion, which only The Michigan Banner has reported, came forth last summer when a majority of City Council members said they were following a 75-year-old City Charter provision that says the council should set overall policy, while their appointed manager runs day-to-day operations without their interference.

Members agreed to classify Ojibway's fate as a day-to-day operation rather than as a policy matter, which took them off of the hook from voting, even if they sup-

ported Morales. The reason they voted on the parking area was because the cost exceeded \$2,000, another City Charter rule.

The full City Charter section says the manager "is the chief administrative officer of the city government and upon whom is placed the responsibility for efficient operation of the city." In effect, the council is similar to a corporate board, with the manager as CEO.

When we at The Banner attempted to survey council members during August, they did not respond. We later learned Morales cautioned that if five or more of them (a majority of nine) answered, their responses could constitute a "quorum" that might violate the Open Meetings Act. This marked our first occasion to encounter this type of logic.

Based on that line of thinking, if five members were up for election and spoke at a candidate forum, this also could be considered a possible Open Meetings Act lawbreaker.

Regardless, the initial reason for clos-

ing Ojibway last spring was described as preventing any type of covid "spreader" gatherings, while the inner discussion focused on reckless motorists damaging property while they endangered public health and lives. Littering also was a concern.

The lot is between the entrance and the river. It would hold about a dozen cars. To reach a count of 19 parking spaces, some would need to parallel park along the entrance.

In a City Hall press release, Phil Karwat, public works director, stated, "The City spent a significant amount of time researching ways to expand parking and access on the island. Parking and security improvements were completed throughout the summer, and citizens can now enjoy easy access to the beautiful park in a safe and secure environment.

"Barriers have been placed to keep the drive safe for those wishing to walk the island or utilize the drive as a bike path. The barriers to the circular drive can be removed for special events and large gatherings that have been approved through the Parks and Facilities Division." (City officials previous said his could include family gatherings such as reunions, etc.)

Karwat added, "We know how popular Ojibway Island is for outdoor exercise, recreation and public events. We feel this is the most practical and beneficial option that works for the island at this time. It will create additional spaces at the front of the park for ice fishermen in the winter, and allow easy access in the warmer months for families and individuals to enjoy a run, bike ride, or picnic."

Morales remarked, "Our primary goal was to create a more secure environment. We have an obligation to ensure the safety of the citizens and guests who visit Ojibway, and to protect the beautiful island park from any costly damage."

For more information using Ojibway, with circle drive access, for a family event, call the city parks office at 759-1662.

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TIM DEMPSEY

Saginaw planning emcee returns home

By MIKE THOMPSON

The advisory firm that will help to guide the Saginaw City Council's initial planning session for a record-setting \$52 million in federal aid is out-of-town from Lansing, but older participants will see a familiar face from two decades ago.

Tim Dempsey, a vice president with Public Sector Consultants, was director of Saginaw's DDA, Downtown Development Authority, from 2000 to 2004.

City Council members officially will be in charge, along with City Manager Tim Morales, officially are in charge, but they are paying Public Sector Consultants a \$10,000 stipend to expertly help guide the talks. When Dempsey saw Saginaw on Public Sector's roster of dozens of Michigan communities seeking advice, he was eager to step up.

The starting time is 9:00 a.m. Friday, September 17th at the Temple Theater's ballroom and likely will endure until early in the afternoon, focusing on ARPA, the American Rescue Plan Act. The funding

is intended to help communities recover from struggling with covid damages, although projects need not tackle the pandemic directly.

Other governing units and schools also are receiving shares of federal aid, but the City Council as usual has its own spotlight.

Dempsey, still in his 20s, arrived in Saginaw at a millennial time of revival not only for the Temple, but all along the South Washington corridor toward City Hall, led by the Shaheen family. There also was a "Cool Cities" theme during Jennifer Granholm's startup as governor that proved less impactful.

Then he departed for a 15-year career in East Lansing city government before he enlisted with Public Sector Consultants in 2019.

"I go through town once or twice a year on visits to family in Bay City. Both my children were born in Saginaw and it will always be special to me," Dempsey said in an interview with The Michigan Banner.

"The people stand out the most - residents, business and property owners, city staff, and elected officials. So many people

wanted to see the city improve and were committed to doing so. Anytime we made progress it was because people worked together and it was a team effort.

"I'm especially thinking of the South Washington Committee with the city government, Saginaw Future, NRS (the former Neighborhood Renewal Services), the DDA, and the Chamber all pitching in to make things better. All that effort led to private sector investment."

Looking forward to Sept. 17, he said, "Given my history with the City, I'm excited to be back and helping."

City Hall leaders have exercised caution in managing the \$52 million, which is far larger than grants even during the 1960s War on Poverty, adjusted to inflation. They say the planning session will serve as only the beginning for more community interaction, describing the funds as a major opportunity to make true inroads into combating poverty with changes and improvements that will cause everyone to take notice.

They have a specific frame for the planning session: "What strategic investments of ARPA funding will advance the prosperity and quality of life for Saginaw residents?"

In general, some of the money is destined to maintain and enhance basic city services, with some potential new ventures, and another share will be available for third-party nonprofit proposals, similar to community development block grants through the years.

Dempsey's role is to help with the longer-term vision, but for one long day at the Temple Theater, his task will be keeping matters on track.

"First, it's critical to engage the participants throughout the session," he said. "The second is to keep it moving. We (at Public Sector) have a process that should do both, and this is certainly a topic where there is no shortage of ideas."

"Saginaw is facing the same challenges as many communities across Michigan and the nation, determining how to best spend these once-in-a-generation federal dollars to improve our communities, both to address short-term pandemic impacts and long-term investment needs."

And Dempsey doesn't overestimate the one-time \$52 million infusion.

"The needs," he cautions, "are always greater than the available funding."

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**Appropriate face coverings are required while in the
Temple Theatre**

+ COMMUNITY

Survey: Too much talk, too little action?

By MIKE THOMPSON

"Being in this city for 25 years, I've been involved, as so many of you have been, in so many meetings. I mean, just meeting after meeting after meeting. The same issues, peaks and valleys, for 25 years. We have great ideas, but we don't seem to make any of it happen. It's time for us to take action."

Reggie Williams issued this statement from the City Council table on August 23rd, and he's also the Buena Vista police chief after a prior career in the Saginaw ranks.



REGINALD WILLIAMS

At The Michigan Banner, our first reaction was to pursue local reactions. We selected a panel of and sent a repeated series of four simple notes, asking only 10 minutes of their time for a one-question survey. To our surprise and chagrin, most did not respond. Among those who declined their outlooks on Reggie Williams' statement are:

- Our state senator and our state representative.

- Our mayor and city manager, and our county commission chairman and controller.
- The county sheriff and the city police chief.
- CEO's of the two main non-profits, the Saginaw Community Foundation and the United Way of Saginaw County.

We do not know whether Councilman Williams' outlook left them tongue-tied, or whether they may decline to respond to the humble Michigan Banner in the same way they would respect a longer-established venue, such as The Saginaw News or WSGW or TV5.

At any rate, The Banner did at least receive a six-pack of reactions from two dozen individual inquires, which we share today:



CHARLES COLEMAN

Charles Coleman, school board president and former City Council member: "I agree with Councilman Williams' statement that it is time to take action. I have participated in the meetings and have heard the good ideas, but have not seen very much action. Having served on both City Council and the Board of Education, I recognize the barriers to taking some of the actions. It is easy to propose actions, but the reality is that it is not always easy to make them happen. Barriers, from funding difficulties to policy constraints, have delayed them or caused the actions not to come to life. Financial constraints have limited the ability of our public bodies to act, but with the COVID relief funds, we may be able to do something. As you know, I have called for the City, the County and the Board of Education -- through the City, County School Liaison Committee -- to come up with some specific actions that can be undertaken. This committee has met to start considerations. It is our intention that from these meetings some action will be taken."



CRAIG DOUGLAS

Craig Douglas, retired Carrollton school superintendent and SVSU academic dean: "As an educator, I welcome the call to action as described by Reggie Williams. Now is the time for leaders to lead!!! Our hope and our future is in the hands of those who are in positions of authority, including but not limited to elected officials, business leaders, and those who lead public and private sector organizations. To each of you, I plead for you to lead by example. Roll up your collective sleeves. Go to work, for all of us but especially for you and your families. Do it with civility and respect. Tell the truth. Be kind. Most of all, be bold!"



JOYCE SEALS

Joyce Seals, former mayor and school board president, still on the board: "I thank Councilperson Williams for his service, but the comment he has made is a gross exaggeration of the facts. It is true that any City could say that they have had programs that have come and gone, but we have some that have been successful and continue to this day. Example: Neighborhood associations were strengthened by the City Council decision to hire two groups, MSU and a group out of Detroit, to work with our neighborhood associations over a year to (1) Help them formalize their structures, (2) Assist them on understanding city government and how to effectively interface with it, (3) Learn about funding projects and getting their 501(c)3, and (4) Much more including leadership training.....The goal was that strengthening the people would stabilize neighborhoods, empower them to take action on issues in their own backyard, and create safer neighborhoods in the process. I could go on. We have had other great efforts that have paid off in the long run. Let's celebrate the great accomplishments

CONTINUES ON PG 15, SURVEY

+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 14, survey

we've made and figure out how we can do some more of these sustainable programs. We'll throw our failure under the Blood Smile."



BOBBY DELOEON

Bobby DeLeon, retired school social worker and president of the Mexican American Council: "What Reggie Williams de-

scribed is true. For the last 25 years nothing has changed in Saginaw. It's always been black and white. It's always been that the council has been divided, it wouldn't matter if a Hispanic person is on the council or not. It means nothing because he or she has no power....The truth is, council has to deliver with great ideas, but they can't deliver because 'black and white' is in the way. And if they do, it's only for themselves. And if it is for the community,

it's paying back favors.... The City Council needs to look at our community. We can make it happen."



JEFFREY BULLS

Jeffrey Bulls, citizen activist, Community Alliance for the People: "I'd question whether we've had great ideas or not. I contend that we haven't. We keep convening the same 'leaders' in rooms and putting forth the same

ideas. Even worse, the same people who have no real connections to the community they say they serve. And then wonder why there's no progress? You're not talking to the right people. You're also not talking to the people in the community who are most affected. That matters more than anything else."

Annie Boensch, with 10 years, is the longest-serving City Council member: "In Saginaw, we do face recurring issues, many of which are not within our direct control.



ANNIE BOENSCH

Many of our issues require state and federal solutions or at a minimum, their cooperation. I think people have the best intentions and that it is human nature to want to meet and discuss the challenges we face, but most often that's the easiest part. Building consensus and finding tangible, pragmatic solutions that can be implemented is the hard part. ... We find solutions when we have a clear idea of what we have control over, what can be accomplished and have a clear set of steps to take to move forward. Many times, people just need to be given a space to be heard, sometimes listening helps as much as any action that could be taken. It's important to be intentional with our conversations."

Former WNEM TV5 Emmy-winning anchor Allison Payne dies at age 57



ALLISON PAYNE

Chicago, IL – Allison Payne, the former Emmy-award-winning anchor at WGN, died earlier this month at

age 57, her former employer announced over the weekend.

Payne moved back to her hometown of Detroit in 2011 to form her own production company in 2011 and died at her home on Sept. 2, WGN said on Saturday. The nine-time Emmy recipient worked for WGN for 21 years and worked as a news anchor alongside Steve Sanders and others for much of her time with the station.

"I couldn't have asked for a better partner than Allison Payne. She had it all ... smart, beautiful and inquisitive, but most of all, my friend," Sanders said in a news release.

Payne played a major role in mentoring young students in Chicago, WGN said in a news release and did several stories across

the globe during her career. Payne traced former President Barack Obama's family roots in Kenya and traveled to the Ivory Coast with the Rev. Jesse Jackson, according to a news release issued by WGN.

Payne, who was first hired as a 25-year-old reporter out of Saginaw, Mich., in 1990, also set up a foundation for students looking to get into journalism. Her final assignment with WGN was a piece on the 10-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and according to former WGN producer Pam Grimes, "nurtured interns who were so grateful for her attention and she went well beyond that."

"Allison was young, vibrant, sharp, articulate. She was amazing," WGN meteorologist Tom Skilling said in a news release. "You looked at Allison and thought here is a young journalist who has the world before her. One could only speculate where that incredible career was going to go.

"She was a delight, a kind human being... so sweet."

Chicago media critic Robert Feder reported on Saturday that Payne suffered a series of mini strokes in 2008 and struggled

with depression that kept her off of the air for much of that year. Payne also acknowledged battling alcohol addiction as well and also experienced other health issues over the years, Feder reported.

In a lengthy Facebook post on Sunday, Skilling wrote that he had worried about Payne in recent years as she struggled with sadness and depression. He called her death "a tragedy difficult to put into words."

He said that since leaving WGN, Payne watched as a "warm, incredibly bright and articulate colleague" dim for reasons that weren't clear to Skilling, he wrote in the post. He said that there was "a sadness which began overtake her" and said that she would often tell her former colleagues about her battles with depression.

"Allison Payne was a one-of-a-kind talent who quickly became one of Chicago's Very Own," Paul Rennie, vice president and general manager of WGN said in a news release Saturday. "We are grateful for the many contributions she made to WGN-TV and to Chicago. Talented and much admired, she will be greatly missed."

+ COMMUNITY

Houghton-Jones in leadership transition

By MIKE THOMPSON

Saginaw's oldest ongoing grassroots group has new blood to help stir the ship.

The Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Association, in action since 1992, has welcomed Lashawn Williams as program manager and Janell Harrell as office manager. Both began in July as successors to Daphane Bardell and Glendorah Lawrence.

Houghton-Jones is named for the two former elementary schools east of downtown. The headquarters at 1708 Johnson is home to youth programs, both after school and during the summer, and also is used for various adult activities and meetings. Young people also help to manage and provide labor for a pair of farm gardens on formerly vacant land, partnering with the Farmers' Market and Good Neighbors Mission to sell and donate the produce.

Neighbors also volunteer for flower-planting and cleanups, and one of their most recent accomplishments was to finally persuade authorities to tear down an abandoned gas station eyesore at Sixth and Lapeer.

Leaders such as Charles Coleman, Board of Education president, and former Mayor Joyce Seals, who now joins Charles on the school board, got started with what once was known as the Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Task Force. The



center is named for Christina Jones, one of the founders, and the reading room for the late Sister Lois Ann Scheaffer (1937 to 2015), a former principal who volunteered as a tutor.

Social work plans

Lashawn Williams grew up on Saginaw's East Side. She is in her senior year studying social work at Saginaw Valley State University, after graduating from Arthur Hill High and from Delta College.

Her Houghton-Jones work will provide ideal experience, along with her other employment at her alma mater, The Hill, as a teacher assistant who serves the needs children with learning disabilities.

"Our center is open to the entire community, to youth groups and senior citizens, to all people," Lashawn says, "There are so many different programs. We have a lot to offer. First Ward Community Center is on one end, The Nabe (Neighborhood House) is on the other and we are in the middle."

Lashawn is learning how things work in neighborhood organizing, especially the

protocols.

"I have some additional ideas," she notes, "but I want to take them to our board first."

Back at home

Janell Harrell says she is "back home" in Saginaw. She grew up and worked her early young adult years in the Fort Worth/Dallas area, specializing in health care, with regular visits back up north. She has moved back for a new career in a smaller-town setting, and to renew ties with her mother, Janice Merriweather, and her family.

"I'm just trying to do my part, to help to make a difference in the community," she explains. "I've always wanted to help out."

She views her grandmother, Lucille Hicks (1942 to 2018), as a model for how good citizens can create better neighborhoods. Mrs. Hicks was known as the Candy Lady for years, as she gathered treats for students at the old Central Middle School.

Don't let the title "office manager" fool you. Janell's job involved answering phones, managing paperwork and monitoring the grants-based budget, but she also will be out and about with neighbors from 11th street down to Fifth and Sixth, from I-675 across to Janes.

"It's definitely a multi-faceted position," she says.

The Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Association always is in need of volunteers. Call 752-1660 or visit houghtonjones.org.

ELGA Credit Union Foundation for Impact to host "Raise the Purse"

Saginaw, MI – The ELGA Credit Union Foundation for Impact (Foundation) is set to host "Raise the Purse", a fundraising event to benefit Hurley Children's Hospital - Flint's own Children's Miracle Network (CMN) hospital, on Friday, September 17th. Those wishing to attend are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance, as the event is expected to sell out. Tickets can be purchased online at www.eventbrite.com. A direct link to purchase tickets is also available on ELGA Credit Union's

Facebook page.

"Hurley Children's Hospital is an incredible resource to the children of our community," said Lori Hawk, Foundation Board President. "We know that every dollar raised will go directly to impact children receiving treatments at Hurley – whether they're spending their first days of life in the NICU or receiving treatment for cancer. We are proud to be raising funds to support Hurley as our first ELGA Credit Union Foundation for Impact fundraising

event."

Funds raised at the event will directly support pediatric patients at Hurley. Children's Miracle Network is the charity of choice for credit unions across the United States. The event will feature new and used purses for sale – with many brand new designer purses up for grabs. Guests will also enjoy a taco bar and a margarita.

Tickets for the event are \$25 per person and available online.



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Freedom Fund keynoter brings one-of-a-kind background

By MIKE THOMPSON

Growth times 100

The keynote speaker for the Saginaw NAACP's annual Freedom Fund Dinner is the founding president and CEO of U.S. Black Chambers Inc., but some of his roots are less business oriented.

They're tied with the Black Panther Party.

Ron Busby grew up in Oakland starting in 1960 and his father, Willie Busby, was a revolutionary activist with the support of his mother, Carlos Busby.

Ron recalls not the Panthers' stereotype image of uniformed leaders in high-back chairs with military weapons, but instead tagging along when his father and mother served breakfasts to children in need, the group's less-recognized main project.

The Black Panther spirit of self-sufficiency was shown as his parents boldly launched Superclean Services. Their five janitorial employees eventually were themselves, an older Ronald and his two sisters.

Ron maintained an entrepreneurial flair of his own as an adolescent. He managed his own newspaper route and sold anything at school that he could conjure, starting with day-old donuts.

He moved ahead to twin business degrees from Florida A & M University and Clark Atlanta University, a pair of historical black schools. Next he launched into the corporate world -- Exxon and Xerox, mainly IBM and Coca Cola -- while keeping a hand in his mom's and pop's enterprise.

He says a turning point took place when he pursued a Coca Cola promotion in 1987. At age 27, he won the position over a 56-year-old white manager. This was not because of affirmative action, he was told, but because he worked harder, 12-hour days. But rather than celebrate, he gained a realization.

"If that could happen to a 30-year veteran executive, what might occur with myself down the road?" Busby recalled in a Michigan Banner interview. "I decided then and there that I needed an exit strategy."

His first step was to deploy those corporate lessons into building Superclean into USA Superclean, a chain of franchises that now employ more than 1,500. Annual revenue soared to \$15 million by the turn of the millennium, 100 times more than the first-year \$150,000, easily allowing his parents to begin a restful retirement in rural Alabama.

Ron had the option to slow down also, but instead he geared up by exploring other ventures himself and by joining the growing array of organizations devoted to minority business owners. Most recently, he has served on the U.S. Small Business Administration's Council on Underserved Communities, and on the Obama White House African American Leadership Council.

In the process, he has learned in-depth about the challenges that his peers confront. They range from lack of recognized names and lack of experience, but the main obstacle even in this 21st century is racial bias in obtaining needed and vital financing capital, similar to home mortgage redlining in past generations.

Thus, he felt inspired to organize and take leadership of U.S. Black Chambers Inc. in 2009, asserting that civil rights must include economic rights. USBC offers education and training for budding entrepreneurs, along with advocating to opportunity and inclusion. Most importantly, the association pursues expanded financing options.

"Money isn't an indicator of success," he says, explaining his transition to working for the greater good. "True success is measured by the impact you have made."

To meet the challenges

If you don't know, Busby will tell you:

- One in three black-owned businesses operates solely on family savings, with no lender financing or support whatsoever.
- Of the capital provided by black-owned banks, 70 percent goes to



RON BUSBY

enterprises that have been denied by the white-owned and managed power establishment.

When the most powerful corporations complained they "couldn't find" sufficient minority-owned contractors and suppliers, USBC compiled a put-up-or-shut-up list of 115,000, with ongoing updates.

And when covid small-business aid started last year under the Trump administration with the Paycheck Protection Program, Busby and his peers took note that minority businesses too often were last in line for PPP funds, and they took action for reforms.

A major Saginaw storyline this year has been African American teens and adolescents, with parental oversight, forming their own small business enterprises. Busby offers encouragement, but he also urges families to enroll their youngsters into mentorship and apprentice programs, or simply for young people to take work with established companies, even for free, so that the training and experience they gain is properly and expertly directed.

He notes that of 2.6 million businesses in the United States, more than 90 percent have zero employees, supporting only the individual who charges money for services. Therefore, he says, a main focus must go beyond family-owned into franchising.

Overall, one of his favorite sayings is, "For there to be a great America, there must be a great Black America."

For a pair of in-depth interviews, Google search for "Ron Busby Inc. magazine" and "Ron Busby Forbes."

NOTE: The Saginaw NAACP was born in 1919, only a decade after the national group formed in 1909. On Sept. 26 at Horizons Center, the Freedom Fund Dinner will achieve its 50th anniversary. Covid-era limited seating already is sold out, but at-home virtual experience tickets are \$40. Call 752-0614, or visit saginawnaacp.org or the Facebook page, NAACP Saginaw Branch.

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MICHIGAN BANNER
SERMONETTE SERIES

*Salvation belongs to
our God who sits on
the throne, and to
the Lamb*

(Rev. 7:10)



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

Salvation is deliverance from sin and the penalty of sin. The ultimate penalty of sin is eternal separation from God while experiencing the excruciating pain of hell. Those who have received God's free gift of salvation have been delivered from hell and all of its torment. Salvation was God's idea; it was birthed out of the love that He has for mankind. Therefore salvation belongs to God the Father and God the Son. Revelation 7:9-17 describes the vast multitude of people from all the nations of the world who will be saved during the coming tribulation. This group is described as a great multitude which no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They are crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" These tribulation saints are in heaven standing before the throne of God. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. The apostle Peter said, "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Enough said.



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+ COMMUNITY

How Much Do We Really Know About Our Tax Dollars?

By MIKE THOMPSON

"I'd kinda like to be the pres-id-ent, so I could show you how your money's spent."

-- War, the musical band, "Why Can't We Be Friends?"

My opinion is that most of us, even we political nerds, have little idea how our tax money is spent.

Many people, especially Trumpie MAGA's to varying degrees, wrongly believe a bunch of money goes for welfare -- food stamps, unemployment, and so on. On the flip side, left-wingers like myself imagine it's mostly all for military weapons.

And that's just the national and federal side. What about locally? Some folks actually think local-

ly, it all goes to their city or township, because that is where the bill comes from.

It may be impossible to really get to the bottom of things, but we should be able to get far more close than we are.

As a former sports reporter (and 7-Eleven cashier), I'm pretty good with numbers. After much thought, it seemed a good idea would be to measure our local taxes alongside our federal taxes, to learn more about both. We do this by comparing similar amounts. We don't pay similar amounts, of course (feds are way-way more than local), but that doesn't mean we cannot COMPARE similar amounts.

My method is not perfect. It does not include



sales taxes and fees, for example.

On this page, you will see is my family's property taxes, total \$1,747, compared to \$1,747 in federal income taxes, along with breakdowns of how both are spent. (For the federal breakdown, we thank the National Priorities Project.)

Most important, my method applies not only to me, but to anyone of you. You can follow this exercise, and even tailor the steps to your own finances.

Saginaw Taxes

First, our property taxes. We live in the Saginaw city (and we also live in Saginaw County and in the State of Michigan, of course). Our 80-year-old house, a half-mile north of the courthouse, has a sale value of \$64,000, taxable half SEV \$32,000, about average.

MILLAGE	PURPOSE	COST
7.500	City Hall police/fire	\$240
7.383	City Hall operations	\$236
6.100	Saginaw school building debt 2020	\$201
6.000	State K-12	\$195
5.180	Saginaw school building debt 2004	\$166
4.856	County operations	\$155
3.995	Public libraries	\$126
3.200	STARS public buses	\$96
2.043	Delta College	\$65
2.042	ISD county special ed	\$65
1.750	County sheriff	\$56

1.000	ISD county career ed	\$32
0.640	County mosquito control	\$21
0.590	County Commission on Aging	\$19
0.480	County Health Department (covid)	\$15
0.449	County hospital (HealthSource)	\$15
0.425	County animal control	\$14
0.294	County parks	\$10
0.280	Children's Zoo	\$9
0.199	Castle Museum	\$6
0.146	ISD county general ed	\$5
52.553	TOTAL	\$1,747

▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ Federal Taxes & more on pg 23

Continued from pg 22, tax dollars

Federal Taxes

We pay far more than \$1,747 in federal taxes, but to keep apples with apples, this is how our first \$1,747 share would be divided:

HEALTH	\$510
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes \$414 for Medicare and Medicaid Includes \$8 for Children's Health Insurance Program Includes \$3 for Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) 	
MILITARY	\$412
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes \$209 for Military Contractors Includes \$80 for Military Personnel Includes \$37 for Lockheed Martin Includes \$12 for Nuclear Weapons & Related 	
INTEREST ON DEBT	\$259
SOCIAL SECURITY, UNEMPLOYMENT AND LABOR	\$118
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes \$29 for Earned Income Tax Credit Includes \$8 for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Includes \$2 for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program 	
VETERANS BENEFITS	\$106
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes \$55 for Income Support Includes \$40 for Veterans Health Administration 	
EDUCATION	\$81
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes \$60 for College Financial Aid Includes \$12 for K-12 Education 	
GOVERNMENT	\$79
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes \$13 for Immigration & Border Control Includes \$3 for Federal Prisons Includes \$3 for Census Bureau 	
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE	\$66
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes \$32 for SNAP (food stamps) Includes \$11 for School Lunch & other food programs 	
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY	\$39
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes \$5 for Disaster Relief Includes \$3 for Public Housing Includes \$1 for Homeless Assistance Grants 	
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT	\$23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes \$3 for Environmental Protection Agency Includes \$1 for Renewable energy & energy efficiency 	
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	\$22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes \$15 for State Department Includes \$1 for Health-related Foreign Aid 	
SCIENCE	\$17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes \$10 for NASA Includes \$4 for National Science Foundation 	
TRANSPORTATION	\$13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes \$2 for Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Includes \$1 for Federal Aviation Administration 	
TOTAL	\$1,747

Viewpoints

We have many observations, and here are a few:

- Some 15 percent of every federal tax dollar goes for interest on the debt, but the feds do not allow states and cities to run debts. Do as we say, not as we do.
- The federal share for energy and the environment, \$23, is far, far too low. That's barely 1 percent of what we pay. All these terrible storms nowadays, all the threats to life for our children and grandchildren.
- The military for years has been out of control, not for soldier pay, but for weapons. But if Biden (or anyone) tried to say anything, they would be crucified by voters.
- Where is all the supposed big money for welfare? We pay \$32 for the food stamp program, and that's the "biggie." Only \$11 for school lunches, \$8 for unemployment, \$5 for disaster relief, \$3 for public housing (all those Section 8 renters), and a whopping \$1 for the homeless.
- Locally, those new schools (Thompson Middle and Loomis Elementary in 2004, and now the new high school and SASA in 2020) really do cost some money. And all those "tiny" county millages add up, also.

We could go on and on and on, but what do YOU notice?

You Can Do The Same Comparison That We Did

1. Check your most recent property tax statement for the amount you pay. This will show the total.
2. To break down the line items, multiply each millage rate by 1/1000 of your taxable value. (For example, 3.2 mills for STARS times \$32, 1/1000 of our \$32,000 taxable value, means we pay \$96 for the buses.)
3. Find Your Federal Income Tax Receipt on the National Priorities Project (nationalpriorities.org/interactive-data/taxday/), and enter the same amount as your total property tax. You will get a similar IRS breakdown to the one we received.

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IN MY HUMBLE OPINION



COURTESY PHOTO

The rapture and tribulation are imminent



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

I researched and wrote this article during the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and the Jewish new year celebration of Rosh Hashana. That makes this year and this month a time for sober reflection. September 2021 is high watch-time for the possible fulfilment of Bible prophecies. As a devout Christian, it is my humble opinion that the Rapture and Tribulation are imminent.

I am sure as you read this, you are thinking, “oh my goodness, not another paranoid prediction of the end of time”. Please do allow me to unpack this issue and my humble opinion before switching off or turning the page. I am not trying to convince anyone of anything. I am just stating the facts, as I always try my best to, and then you will decide for yourself.

Admittedly, doomsdayers have prophesied the apocalypse for centuries. Of course, none of the end-of-world predictions ever came true, and I am not trying to predict anything or prophesy. All I am saying is that the signs are there. Many religious traditions, including Judaism, Islam, and Christianity have beliefs about the end of time, which is called eschatology. Eschatology is not only about the future, it’s also about the present and the past. Interestingly, and perhaps for another article, the African ancestral religious world-

view does not share the same eschatology as those previously mentioned. According to Kenyan philosopher, John S. Mbiti, “African peoples expect human history [and time] to continue forever”.

In Christian eschatology, the Rapture, which is often capitalized, means, “the final assumption of Christians into heaven during the end-time” (Mirriam-Webster Dictionary). In this context Tribulation, also referred to as the Great Tribulation, “is a period mentioned by Jesus in the Olivet Discourse as a sign that would occur in the time of the end” (Wikipedia). My understanding is that they are separate events. The Rapture will come first, then the Tribulation is predicted to last for a period of 7 years culminating in the second coming of Jesus.

There are a number of signs and events of the End Times explained in Biblical scripture. From Psalms, to the Book of Daniel, Matthew, Thessalonians, and of course the Book of Revelation and more. Let’s examine a few of them to see if they correlate with any events in our lifetime.

I think natural disasters are the most common events people tend to associate with the end of days. In Matthew 24:6-7, Jesus tells his disciples, “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.” The last year or so has proved to be one of the deadliest times to be alive. From locust swarms in Asia, East Africa, India, and the Middle East to earthquakes in China, Iran, Russia, Turkey, and the Caribbean, volcano eruption in the Philippines, flash floods in Indonesia and Spain, wild fires in America, India, and Australia, hurricanes in the Caribbean, Cuba, and America, and of course COVID-19 it appears prophecy is being fulfilled.

In the Book of Ezekiel, chapter 37, verses 21-22, God speaks to the prophet saying, “Thus says the Lord God: ‘Surely I will take the children of Israel from among

CONTINUES ON PG 25, RAPTURE

Continued from pg 24, rapture

the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel...". Jews were dispersed from Israel, their original homeland, in 70 A.D. when the Romans destroyed the Second Temple in Jerusalem. Against all odds, on 14 May 1948, nearly 2,000 years later, Israel was officially declared an independent Jewish nation with the help of the United Nations and United States of America. While this historic event seemed to be a victory for Jews and fulfilled the prophecy of Ezekiel, it also marked the beginning of more violent conflict with Arabs and Arab nations, which ties into another sign of the times. It also started a prophetic timeclock counting down to the Great Tribulation.

In chapter 9 of the Book of Daniel, the prophet records what is known as the "Seventy-Weeks Prophecy". Most theologians and scholars interpret this as 490 years, not weeks. I will focus only on what the prophet wrote and what has been fulfilled. In verse 25 he tells us what will happen 69 weeks into the 70 weeks, "To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be rebuilt again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times." On 14 May 2018, exactly 70 years after Israel became a nation, President Donald Trump acknowledged Jerusalem as the capital of Israel by moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. With this move, Jerusalem was restored, and just last month Mayor Moshe Lion announced his plans to implement his 2018 campaign promise to upgrade and develop the city. 69 of Daniel's 70 weeks prophecies have already been fulfilled. The last events to occur are the destruction of the city and a peace treaty with one foretold to be the antichrist. When he signs his name on the treaty, Daniel 9 will be fulfilled and the Great Tribulation will begin on that day.

In Ezekiel 38, God reveals to the prophet that there will be a battle between a country from the far north and Israel. Ezekiel 38:15-16 says, "Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a

mighty army. You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes." The attack will come from "Gog, of the land Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal". Biblical scholars, including Dr. Roger Barrier retired senior teaching pastor out of Arizona, says "Gog is a person who rules over the land of Magog (Russia). Magog means the 'Prince of Rosh'. (Gog) Rosh is the old root word for the land of Russia." Verse 5 also mentions other nations that will be with Magog, "Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet;". Persia is a reference to modern-day Iran.

Now, interestingly enough, Iran and Russia held a joint naval drill in the northern Indian Ocean in February of this year and plan to do annual drills that include China starting this year or next year in the Persian Gulf, as reported by the New York Post and others. These actions along with Iran's advanced nuclear program, which it asserts is peaceful, have made Israel intensify its preparations for possible action against Iran. On 07 September 2021, Al Jazeera reported, "Military plans dealing with Iran's nuclear programme have been 'greatly accelerated'" warned Chief of General Staff Aviv Kohavi of Israel. While this is not fulfillment of Ezekiel 38 and 39, it certainly appears to be moving closer to fulfillment, especially with Russia (Magog) allied with Iran.

At least I am not alone in my opinion that Rapture and Tribulation are imminent. According to a 2020 study of evangelical and historically Black churches by Nashville-based Lifeway Research, "Almost 9 in 10 pastors see at least some current events matching those Jesus said would occur shortly before [He] returns to Earth." In July 2021, TheHill.com published an article about climate change stating that there are, "44 percent of Americans who believe that natural disasters are proof of the end time."

The Rapture could actually take place today. According to Evangelist, Tiff Shuttlesworth of Faith Christian Center in Texas in his sermon earlier this year, entitled, "Can You Take The Mark of The Beast Ac-

identally" which is published on YouTube, "there is not one thing in the Bible holding back the Rapture of the church in the 21st century. Not one single thing in the Bible that needs to be fulfilled for the Rapture to take place." The signs in the Bible point to the events that take place after Rapture. The Rapture will take place in the twinkling, or blink, of an eye, which scientists say is one tenth of a second. There will be no time to pray, repent, go to church, or speak to anyone.

There is a schedule for the Rapture and the Great Tribulation, but Matthew 24:36 says, "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only." Verse 44 goes on to say that we must be ready all the time, "for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Believers in Jesus Christ should never fear the End Time because of the Rapture. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 Paul writes to the church in Thessalonica, "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words."

Apparently, we use approximately 1.6 earths worth of resources every year, which obviously is not sustainable and contributes to global warming, climate change, and ecological imbalance. So, some think this is the greatest sin of all time and that the environment will fry us before Jesus can save us or judge us. COVID-19, climate change, biodiversity loss, and social unrest may very well become the four horsemen of the Apocalypse, in ways we could never have envisioned. I believe in the Word of God and He can manifest His Word however He sees fit. His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts. What do you believe?

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STAND WINGS SOS

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input on the session and the ARPA funding. Additionally, the meeting will include multiple breaks, where Council Members may choose to interact with the citizens attending the meeting and hear their ideas.

City Manager Tim Morales commented on the session, “The American Rescue Plan Act funding will allow the City to address problems caused by or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our September 17 Strategic Planning Session gives citizens the opportunity to observe and listen as Council Members brainstorm and cluster ideas on the use of the ARPA funds. This planning session will determine the next steps and future meetings with public input discussions. We encourage citizens to attend and observe this important session.”

To speak during the public input portion of the meeting, citizens must contact the City Clerk’s Office, 1315 S. Washington Room 102 (989) 759-1480, prior to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 16, 2021. All guests are required to wear a mask or appropriate protective face covering when inside the Temple Theatre. If you would like more information on the Strategic Planning Session, please contact the City Manager’s Office at 989 759-1403.

City provides overview of September 17 strategic planning session

Saginaw, MI – The City of Saginaw would like to provide citizens with an overview of the Strategic Planning Session scheduled for Friday, September 17 beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will take place at the Temple Theatre Ballroom, 201 N. Washington Avenue.

The main discussion topic for this Strategic Planning Session will be the use of \$52 million in federal funding that the City will receive from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) legislation. The meeting will be facilitated by Tim Dempsey, Vice President of Public Sector Consultants. An overview of the ARPA funding and eligible expenses will be included in the presentation, as well as the official City of Saginaw ARPA survey results.

Following the overview and presentation of the survey information, the council planning will begin and will be focused on the following question - “What strategic investments of American Rescue Plan fund-

ing will advance the prosperity and quality of life for Saginaw residents?” During this time, Council Members will be working with other Council Members to cluster ideas and develop project categories for the ARPA funds. The public will be able to observe and listen to this facilitation of ideas and council discussion.

The City fully expects for there to be additional meetings with public input and discussion following the September 17 session. Future meetings will be part of the “next steps” discussion that will close the Planning Session portion of the meeting.

After the completion of the planning session, the meeting will return to the regular council agenda. This will include the approval of any consent agenda items as well as a time for public input. This will be the time for the public to provide comments and

Strategic Planning Session – Presentation Schedule

Time*	Agenda Item	Facilitator
9:00 AM	Welcome remarks	Mayor Brenda F. Moore City of Saginaw
9:05 AM	Overview of Today’s Session	Tim Dempsey Public Sector Consultants (PSC)
9:10 AM	American Rescue Plan Opportunities	Dr. Eric Scorsone Michigan State University
9:35 AM	Community Survey Results	Tim Dempsey PSC
9:45 AM	Strategic Planning • Commitments and Process • Step 1: Context • Step 2: Brainstorm • Break (10 minutes) • Step 3: Cluster • Step 4: Name • Step 5: Resolve	Tim Dempsey PSC
12:15 PM	Next Steps	Tim Morales City of Saginaw
12:20 PM	Wrap Up and Thank You	Mayor Moore City of Saginaw
12:30 AM	Lunch Break	-
1:30 PM	Return to Council Consent Agenda	-
3:00 PM	Adjourn*	-



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+ HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

Ascension Michigan signs 25-year agreement with CMU College of Medicine to train medical students

Mount Pleasant, MI – Ascension Michigan has signed a 25-year agreement with Central Michigan University College of Medicine to help educate and train medical students at several Ascension Michigan hospitals including Ascension St. John Hospital in Detroit, Ascension St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw and Ascension Genesys Hospital in Grand Blanc.

"We are very proud to have solidified this agreement with CMU College of Medicine," said Charles Husson, DO, chief medical officer, Ascension Michigan. "This long-term agreement aligns with our strategic goals of clinical collaboration in the medical education space and most importantly, ensures quality training for future physicians. Our education and training will help prepare these medical students to provide comprehensive healthcare services to Michiganders across mid-Michigan - including those who live in rural communities, as well as metropolitan and inner-city areas. These students are key to enhancing

access to patient-centered, compassionate care in the future."

Third and fourth-year CMU medical students will have opportunities for clinical rotations at the three Ascension Michigan hospitals, which offer a continuum of acute and critical care services including emergency medicine, family medicine, general surgery, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatric medicine and surgery, and behavioral medicine.

A strong foundation between the organizations has been built over decades.

"For more than 50 years, Ascension St. Mary's has been a part of what is now CMU Medical Education Partners and its graduate medical education programs," said Stephanie Duggan, MD, president and CEO, Ascension Michigan Northern Ministries. "We have partnered well through the years to create a high-quality education and training environment for medical students as well as residents. This collaboration is vital to advancing medical

education as we work together to develop a healthcare workforce that will be able to care for our communities' families for generations to come."

The CMU College of Medicine was established to address the state and national physician shortage. Beginning with the inaugural class of 2017, approximately 500 doctors have graduated from the College of Medicine. Of the graduating class in 2021, more than 60 percent entered primary care residencies and nearly 50 percent remained in Michigan.

"This agreement with Ascension Michigan hospitals streamlines and secures for the long-term our joint commitment to providing exceptional education for medical students, and outstanding comprehensive care for Michiganders," said Dr. George E. Kikano, CMU vice president for health affairs and dean of the CMU College of Medicine. "The need is great. Collaborations such as this one set the stage for a brighter and healthier future for us all."

+ HEALTH

Hospital Hospitality House of Saginaw to start a new meal program

Hospital Hospitality House of Saginaw, Inc. is starting a new meal program at McNally House. This program will provide meals to guests staying at the house with an option for guests to pick up meals to take with them to the hospital. For many of the guests, having a warm meal to come back to after a long day at the hospital can be a bright spot during a difficult time.

Hospital Hospitality House of Saginaw is currently seeking individuals, groups, and businesses that are interested in providing a meal for the house. Meals can be prepared onsite at McNally House or can be prepared and dropped off. Those that are interested can sign up through mealtrain to schedule meals for the month of October or for months going forward. For

those that would like to help, but aren't able to make a meal grub hub gift certificates and donations are accepted through mealtrain. To sign up please visit: <https://mealtrain.com/70qgl9>.

About this Meal Train page

McNally House is a Non-Profit in Saginaw serving guests from all over Michigan. Have you ever wondered what would happen if you got into a car accident far from home and your family member was seriously hurt? Here at McNally we have 17 rooms where guests can stay who are here with the most important people in their lives, some of them facing dire circumstances. Families with babies in the NICU at Covenant who live more than 50

miles from the hospital can utilize our facility to stay close to their baby. We also serve St. Mary's and the VA hospital when people travel here for surgery's, appointments, and sometimes chemo. By signing up to provide a meal you would be helping these families with so much more than a full stomach. This gives them an opportunity to really rest at least once a day. Sometimes when you are going through some of the scariest moments of your life it is easy to forget to take care of yourself. By providing a meal you are reminding a mom that she needs to stay healthy, reminding a husband that he needs to eat, reminding a sister that its ok to take a deep breath and rest for a moment. Thank you so much for your support!

**“I WOULDN'T
WORK
ANYWHERE
ELSE.”**

Rosalind Williams
Registered Nurse

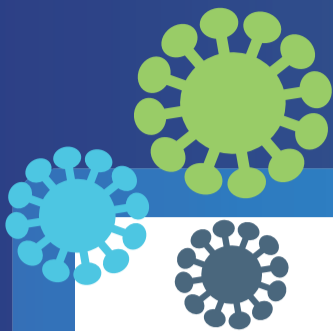


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Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

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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.



16,953 PATIENTS 12 & OLDER SCREENED FOR DEPRESSION
8,730 of these patients who screened positive for depression and had a follow-up plan documented

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.



MDHHS launches online access to immunization records for Michiganders ages 18 and older

Lansing, MI – To help Michiganders ages 18 and older more easily access their immunization records, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has launched the Michigan Immunization Portal.

Michigan adults with immunization records posted in the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR), including COVID-19 vaccination, will be able to locate their own record online and download, save or print this information. The portal was funded through CDC grant dollars and was officially launched in mid-August.

"We want to make sure Michiganders

are able to access their vaccination records as easily as possible as this is important health information," said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. "The Michigan Immunization Portal allows them to find their record from their computer or smart phone and save a copy for their records. This will also allow anyone who has misplaced their COVID-19 vaccination card to print a record of their vaccination."

To ensure privacy and that individuals are only able to access their own immunization records, Michiganders must create a MILogin account at Michigan.gov/MiImmsportal and upload a valid government issued photo ID such as a driver's

license, state ID or passport. There is no cost to access the portal.

Immunizations provided in another state or country may not be included in an individual's record in the portal. If an individual's immunization record can't be found, records can still be requested from a physician's office or local health department.

As the portal is only available for those 18 years or older, parents won't be able to download their child's immunization records. Parents may contact their child's physician's office or local health department to get a copy of their immunization records.

A closer look at suicide awareness, prevention

Saginaw, MI – September is National Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month and MidMichigan Health wishes to continue to raise awareness and educate the community on the risk factors and warning signs of suicide.

"Suicide is preventable, and we can all be a part of that prevention," said Kathy Dollard, Psy.D., L.P., director of behavioral health, MidMichigan Health. "Everyone can play a role by learning to recognize the warning signs, showing compassion and offering support."

The Suicide Prevention Lifeline states that knowing the following warning signs may help determine if a loved one is at risk for suicide:

- Talking about wanting to die or to kill themselves
- Looking for a way to kill themselves, like searching online or buying a gun
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live
- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs
- Acting anxious or agitated, behaving recklessly
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Withdrawing or isolating themselves
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge

- Extreme mood swings

Suicide prevention starts with recognizing these warning signs and taking them seriously. "If you think someone you know may be feeling suicidal, the best thing to do is ask. These conversations may feel difficult and uncomfortable, which is entirely normal," continued Dollard.

The National Institute of Mental Health offers these five action steps:

1. Ask. "Are you thinking about killing yourself?" It's not an easy question, but studies show that asking at-risk individuals if they are suicidal does not increase suicides or suicidal thoughts.
2. Keep them safe. Reducing a suicidal person's access to highly lethal items or places is an important part of suicide prevention. While this is not always easy, asking if the at-risk person has a plan and removing or disabling the lethal means can make a difference.
3. Be there. Listen carefully and learn what the individual is thinking and feeling. Research suggests acknowledging and talking about suicide may reduce rather than increase suicidal thoughts.
4. Help them connect. Save the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's (1-800-

273-TALK (8255) and the Crisis Text Line's number (741741) in your phone, so it's there when you need it. You can also help make a connection with a trusted individual like a family member, friend, spiritual advisor, or mental health professional.

5. Stay connected: Staying in touch after a crisis or after being discharged from care can make a difference. Studies have shown the number of suicide deaths goes down when someone follows up with the at-risk person.

"Start the conversation, provide support, and direct help to those who need it," concluded Dollard. "These important steps can prevent suicides and save lives."

Those who believe someone is in imminent danger of taking their own life, call 911 immediately. Those seeking help are encouraged to call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1 (800) 273-TALK (8255). Those in crisis can also text HOME to 741741 to connect with a crisis counselor.

MidMichigan Health offers comprehensive behavioral health services from outpatient one-on-one therapy, intense outpatient program to meet the need of older adults, to partial hospitalization program and inpatient services. A complete list of services can be view at midmichigan.org/mentalhealth. A free on-line depression screening is available at midmichigan.org/depression.

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

Disrupted learning during the pandemic causes dip in state assessment scores

Lansing, MI – After a year and a half of disrupted learning due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, student state assessment scores from this spring dipped from the last time that students were given statewide assessments in the spring of 2019.

"In spite of the extraordinary efforts of educators, support staff, school leaders, parents, the broader community, and students themselves, the disruption of the pandemic has inevitably resulted in unfinished learning for many of our children," said State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice. "Results from the state summative assessments and the local benchmark assessments show that some students were able to make relatively normal gains, while many others will be working with their teachers to accelerate their learning to catch up to where they otherwise would have been in the absence of the pandemic. In Michigan and across the country, we have our work cut out for us."

The percentages of 8th and 11th grade students who scored proficient or above

this year on the English language arts (ELA) PSAT and SAT tests improved over 2019, while the percentages of students who scored proficient or above in ELA, math, and social studies in all other grades declined (see the table below).

Dr. Rice noted that precise comparisons to any previous years' scores would be difficult. Students did not take the M-STEP in the 2020 school year, and the percentages of students who took the ELA and math M-STEP tests this year ranged by grade and subject from 64 to 72 percent.

"The 2020-21 school year was such an uneven year with high health risks for students and staff, inconsistent technology, and variations in teaching and learning across the state," Dr. Rice said. "Any analysis of M-STEP results must factor in low participation rates in state testing."

State Board of Education President Dr. Casandra Ulbrich and Dr. Rice requested that the U.S. Department of Education waive the statewide M-STEP assessments for the second straight year. The request

was made in part to maximize student learning time, which had been adversely affected during the pandemic. In addition, the state legislature had mandated district-chosen benchmark assessments to give parents and educators a sense of where students were academically and how educators needed to move forward with individual students. While the U.S. Department of Education (USED) granted MDE's request for waiver of high-stakes accountability requirements, it denied the request to waive state summative assessments. As such, the M-STEP was required to be administered by local school districts, but was optional for students to take depending on parents' beliefs about how safe it was to come into school to take the assessment.

Students who took the state assessments were more likely to be from districts that offered in-person or hybrid learning and less likely to be students of color, economically disadvantaged students, or English learners.

While achievement gaps appear to have narrowed among particular groups of students in different grades and subjects, it must be noted that all students did not test, and that groups of students who are historically lower achieving did not take the tests in the same percentages as some groups of historically higher achieving students. As such, the results should be viewed with caution.

"Districts are encouraged to dig into their data at the school and district levels to better understand and address gaps," Dr. Rice said.

"Educators know what we need to do and have already begun to do it, with longer summer school programs, accelerated learning, with greater creativity, for more children, and with earlier school year starts," Dr. Rice said. "Across the country, it will require intense focus to address the gaps so apparent pre-pandemic and, in some cases and places, more so after 18 months of the pandemic."

For a complete look at this year's assessment results, please go to www.mischooldata.org.

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

Saginaw schools, unlike suburbs, mandated masks from Day One

By MIKE THOMPSON

Among the county's dozen districts in August, only Saginaw City schools adopted a mask-wearing rule not just for students and teachers, but also for parents and anyone else entering a building.

By mid-September, covid outbreaks forced the two largest suburbs, Saginaw Township and Swan Valley, to adopt emergency mouth-and-nose mandates. Then, as the Michigan Banner went online, a virus rash led to a sudden shutdown of St. Charles High School.

The chain of events may cause city school leaders to feel vindicated, but they're not saying "told you so," even though they rightfully could.

"Our educational leaders demonstrated great strength to make a decision to keep kids and staff safe despite the current atmosphere," said Trustee Joyce Seals, past mayor and board president. "That's what

great leaders do: Make the right decisions, even when they are tough ones."

Superintendent Ramont Roberts was more low-key.

"This is a tough situation for all educators, particularly those in leadership positions," he said. "I wish all of them the best as they try to navigate through this crisis."

Saginaw Township, Swan Valley and St. Charles had reported at least 19 covid cases apiece as of Sept. 16. In Saginaw, even with more pupils, the count was four, Roberts said.

Will Saginaw gain enrollment by being ahead of the action in the covid crisis?

"We are not in a position to report on enrollment as it is too early," the superintendent said. "We will present a formal report to the board in October."

He also will wait until next month to break down spending for the new school year, including a start up on \$65 million in federal aid, a record amount, which is in

the name of covid assistance but is geared for anti-poverty efforts. The City Council (\$52 million) and the County Board (\$37 million) have conducted public hearings, but school leaders have issued no similar plans, even though Seals and President Charles Coleman began their involvement as Houghton-Jones community organizers.

An emphasis for the money is to recruit and hire more teachers for lower class sizes, increased one-on-one tutoring and expanded after-school academics.

"We are still in the market for teachers, as we have a few vacancies," Roberts said.

He told the board in August that about 15 percent of the 340 teachers, about 45, have refused vaccinations, but he Roberts recommends no requirement on the local level. This means federal or state officials would need to act.

+ 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



School & Community Ties



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

In most schools, the school and its community are closely tied together. When one entity has an idea, it is translated to others. One example close to home is an annual football game hosted by Carrollton High School near the anniversary date of 9/11/2001.

Respectfully called the "Service/Tribute Game," this year the game will fall on

September 17, 2021 and features Bullock Creek High School at Carrollton. In support of local and American Heroes (Veterans, Active Duty Military, and First Responders), in honor and remembrance of the lives lost on 9/11/2001

Kickoff is 7 p.m.

The date is just seven days after the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the United States that killed 2,996 and injured over 6,000.

All veterans, active-duty military and first responders attending the game will be admitted free of charge and invited to be honored at pre-game and half-time ceremonies.

The next day, Saturday, September 18th, a competitive Cornhole Tournament will be held in Carrollton sponsored by the Carrollton Lions Club.

One portion of the proceeds from the

Cornhole Tournament will be dedicated to the Carrollton/Zilwaukee VFW Post 1859. Chartered in 1936, the VFW is a nonprofit organization that strengthens our community.

Another portion of the proceeds will be earmarked for the Carrollton Lions Club and their annual food drive. Founded in 1967, the Lions Club also strengthens our community.

One community. One school system. Three community partners (Township Police & Fire Departments, Lions Club, and VFW Post 1859).

The school is at the center, in the key roles of organizer, host, and entertainment.

This is simply one of many, many examples where the school is the center of the community, providing energy for others to the benefit of all.



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

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

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

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

Carmen Stricker
989-625-1202 | ccstrick@svsu.edu



SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY
svsu.edu/opportunity



200 S. Washington, Saginaw • svsu.edu/go/visit



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



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

“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

An advertisement for Saginaw ISD Head Start & Early Head Start. It features the organization's logo at the top, which includes the text "SAGINAW ISD HEAD START EARLY HEAD START". Below the logo, it says "HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START". The ad includes a photo of three children and a photo of a child with colorful handprints. The text reads: "FREE PRE-SCHOOL Enrollments for 0 to 5 year olds Call: 752-2193 or Visit the Claytor Head Start Building at: 3200 Perkins Saginaw, MI 48601 REGISTER NOW! Saginaw County Free Pre-School Partnership".

+ BUSINESS



COURTESY PHOTO

Midland County and MBA move forward with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study

Midland, MI – In August, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) presented its proposed scope, estimated costs and projected timeline for a hydrologic/hydraulic study of the Tittabawassee River Watershed to representatives of the County of Midland and the Midland Business Alliance (MBA) Advisory Committee on Infrastructure. At the Midland County Board of Commissioners meeting on September 7, both the Administration & Operations Committee and the Finance Committee recommended the approval of the agreement between USACE, the MBA Foundation and the County of Midland to begin this study.

“This study of the hydraulics and hydrology of the watershed – what we refer to as the ‘flood study’ – will give us current data that can be used to create a comprehensive plan to improve the frequency and severity of flooding in Midland County and surrounding areas,” said Lee Ann Keller, co-chair of the MBA Advisory Committee on Infrastructure. “The data and analysis will allow the engineers to suggest, for example, the locations and amounts of flood-water retention that would be needed to mitigate future flooding.”

The data collection, analysis and resulting recommendations are likely to take two years to complete, according to the

USACE. The first step was the agreement and signed contract between the County, MBA and USACE.

The projected cost of the study is \$861,000. USACE will pay for half of the study, with the other half falling to local support. Through the donations of local businesses and foundations, the MBA Advisory Committee on Infrastructure has pledged to cover this 50 percent cost share.

“This ability to fund the study is thanks to our supportive community donors: Charles J. Strosacker Foundation, Cor-teva, Dow Company Foundation, Fisher Companies, Hemlock Semiconductor Corporation, Midland Area Community Foundation, MidMichigan Health, Patricia and David Kepler Foundation, Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, and Three Rivers Corporation,” said Keller.

Part of the local cost sharing can be through in-kind services, such as the needed surveying and geographic information system (GIS) mapping. After the Midland County Board of Commissioners approved the USACE agreement, the MBA Advisory Committee on Infrastructure sent out requests for proposal (RFPs) to companies that provide surveying and GIS services. The RFPs solicit bids and qualifications from these firms.

“With almost 60 miles of waterways

that need to be surveyed and mapped, this is a big job,” said J.W. Fisher, co-chair of the MBA Advisory Committee on Infrastructure. “But we can drive the surveying and provide that data to the Corps of Engineers to launch the project. Getting this done right away should help move the project along significantly. We plan to select the surveying firm soon and have that firm complete the fieldwork by the end December and the delivery of the data to USACE by the end of January.”

The committee is also discussing hiring an engineering firm to work in tandem with the USACE during the study. “We would like the engineering firm to start looking for what we call ‘low-hanging fruit’ – projects that might be easy and fast to implement and could have positive impacts on flood mitigation and building resilience in the region,” said Fisher.

“This is an exciting time while we move forward on the study,” said Keller. “As we make progress, we will continue to keep the community updated at www.MBAmi.org/floodstudy.”



MIDLAND BUSINESS ALLIANCE

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON INFRASTRUCTURE**

+ BUSINESS



COURTESY PHOTO

Fortune and Great Place to Work® name Dow one of the 'Best Workplaces in Manufacturing & Production™'

Midland, MI – Great Place to Work® and Fortune magazine have named Dow one of the 2021 Best Workplaces in Manufacturing & Production™. This is the first time Dow was named to this prestigious list, ranking #3 on the list.

Great Place to Work is the only company culture award in the U.S. that selects winners based on how fairly employees are treated. Companies are assessed on how well they are creating a great employee experience taking into consideration all aspects including race, gender, age, disability status, and job responsibilities.

"The last 18 months has further underscored the significant role of the manufacturing and production sector in times of crisis as well as in our everyday lives," said Dow Chairman and CEO Jim Fitterling. "Team Dow is passionate about our ability to deliver products and solutions that are

creating a better future for all of our stakeholders. This recognition from Fortune and Great Place to Work® is a testament to what has always been our single greatest advantage at Dow – our people."

The Best Workplaces in Manufacturing & Production ranking is based on analysis of survey responses from more than 220,000 current employees across multiple companies in the U.S. Great Place to Work, the global authority on workplace culture, selected the list using rigorous analytics and confidential employee feedback. Companies were only considered if they are a Great Place to Work-Certified™ organization.

"Dow people are uniquely talented, earnest, innovative and they strive to create a culture that includes everyone," said John Sampson, Dow Senior Vice president for Operations, Manufacturing & Engi-

neering. "Team Dow creates a great place to work every day, and we recognize them for all they do to contribute to this recognition."

"The Best Workplaces in Manufacturing & Production have shown incredible care for their employees," says Michael C. Bush, CEO of Great Place to Work®. "In 2020 and beyond, these companies rewarded the hard and unrelenting work of their employees by creating a safe space for them to thrive in their careers and in their personal lives."

In 2021, Dow ranked #99 on the Great Place to Work® and Fortune 100 Best Companies to Work For® list. The Company was also named one of the "2021 PEOPLE Companies that Care®" for 2nd consecutive year.

+ POLITICS & POLICY

Kildee leads effort to create good-paying Michigan jobs, help consumers afford electric vehicles and combat the climate crisis

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-05), Chief Deputy Whip of the House Democratic Caucus and member of the House Ways and Means Committee, praised the Ways and Means Committee’s passage of his legislation to expand tax credits for middle class families to purchase an electric vehicle. The legislation passed as a part of President Joe Biden’s Build Back Better Budget reconciliation bill.

Under current law, consumers may receive a tax credit of up to \$7,500 if they purchase an eligible electric vehicle. However, the tax credits begin to phase out permanently once automakers sell over 200,000 units. Several automotive makers, including General Motors, have already exceeded the current cap.

Congressman Kildee’s legislation would expand the existing consumer tax credit for electric vehicles and add incentives for vehicles made with union labor. After five years, only cars assembled in America would be eligible for the tax credit. The legislation focuses on helping working class and middle class Americans purchase an electric vehicle, while ensuring that the wealthy and luxury cars are not eligible for credits.

“My hometown of Flint was the birthplace of the labor movement and helped put the world on wheels. Now through my work in Congress, I’m working to ensure that American auto workers can put the world on electrified wheels,” Congressman Kildee said. “As a country, we either let China continue to dominate the production of electric vehicles, or we can make strategic investments now that will result in American workers and union labor making these vehicles here in the United States. Electric vehicles are a win-win when it comes to protecting our planet from pollution and growing our economy. I want to thank President Biden, Chairman Neal and Senator Stabenow for working closely with me on this legislation to support Michigan jobs.”

“With the partnership of our federal

government, I know our workers, manufacturers, and suppliers are going to lead the charge on producing electric vehicles. Today’s passage of our consumer rebate shows our commitment to American innovation and American jobs. It will make sure taxpayer dollars are used to purchase vehicles built in the United States and by American workers, while also addressing the climate crisis,” said Senator Stabenow.

“More electric vehicles on our roads means fewer emissions, cleaner air, and a healthier future for our communities,” said Congressman Jimmy Gomez. “Congressman Kildee’s legislation and my bill, the Affordable EVs for Working Families Act, will accelerate our transition to electric vehicles by strengthening purchase incentives to give millions of Americans the opportunity to drive electric for the first time.”

Congressman Kildee’s legislation, developed with Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), would:

- Make consumers eligible for a \$7,500 credit for a qualifying electric vehicle for the first five years and provide a \$4,500 bonus if it is made by union workers, and a further \$500 bonus if made using a battery made in the U.S.;
- After five years, only electric vehicles assembled in the U.S. would be eligible, while other bonuses would still apply;
- Makes the tax credit fully refundable and transferable at the time of purchase so the consumer can get their tax credit when purchasing the vehicle, instead of having to claim the tax credit on their annual tax return;
- Ensure that no American making over \$400,000 would be eligible to receive the credit.
- Creates limits for the price of the vehicle eligible to ensure that luxury cars are ineligible for the credit.

This proposal is supported by the below originations:

- The International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)
- The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
- Ford Motor Company
- General Motors
- Stellantis
- Michigan League of Conservation Voters
- ITC Holdings
- DTE Energy
- Consumers Energy
- American Lung Association
- BlueGreen Alliance
- League of Conservation Voters
- Environmental Defense Action Fund
- Natural Resources Defense Council Action Fund
- The Sierra Club
- Edison Electric Institute (EEI)

Congressman Kildee has led the effort to boost clean energy manufacturing and support automotive works in the U.S. House of Representatives for many years. He previously introduced the Driving America Forward Act in 2019. In 2020, three of Congressman Kildee’s bills were included as recommendations in a 2020 committee report on climate change. As a member of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade, Kildee has been an advocate for enforcing trade agreements that protect Michigan workers and businesses. Last Congress, Kildee fought to improve and ultimately pass the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement, replacing the disastrous North American Free Trade Agreement and has worked to hold auto companies in Mexico accountable to the agreement.

+ POLITICS



JOCELYN BENSON

Secretary of State fights vote restrictions

By MIKE THOMPSON

Some of the voting restrictions that Republicans are pushing in Michigan and other states, following Donald Trump's 2020 defeat and his non-ending charges of voter fraud, may seem simple and not so hard to overcome.

Require a stamp on a mail-in ballot? Okay then, find the coins for a postage stamp.

No more voting in advance? Just go back to showing up on election day, like old times.

But the seeming little digs add up to lower turnout among long-harassed voters of color who mostly oppose Trump and vote Democratic, said Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson in a recent Saginaw visit, and that's why GOP right-wingers are pushing them.

Even more dangerous, Benson said, are proposed provisions that would help local officials and canvassers challenge and even overturn results, as Trump's MAGA element has been attempting to do.

At the invitation of Rep. Amos O'Neal, she spoke to an audience of nearly 100 on a weekday at UAW Local 699 Hall. Other leaders who urged citizens to stand strong in opposition were Terry Pruitt, Saginaw

NAACP president; Gary Loster, former mayor, and Pastor Hurley J. Coleman Jr. of World Outreach Campus Church.

All described the actions as a rollback of the hard-won Voting Rights Act of 1965, achieved following the Selma-to-Montgomery march. Federal legislation to help block the state rollbacks is named for John Lewis, nearly killed on Selma's Bloody Sunday. The proposal has been stalled in Congress.

The cauldron of controversy will heat up across the nation and during the Michigan Legislature's fall session, although Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has vowed to veto any of the 39 items that may come her way.

Benson has divided the list of proposed bills into restricted voting rights, harm to election oversight by local clerks, and out-and-out "significantly flawed."

Here's the details:

Restricted voting rights

- **SB 273** Enables county canvassers or the Secretary of State to remove or prohibit drop boxes if they don't meet unnecessarily restrictive, unrealistic, and unfunded security protocols.

- **SB 285** Limits voting by mail to those fortunate enough to own or have access to a copy machine, as it requires a photocopy of ID to be included with mailed absentee applications. In-person requests would require showing ID.
- **SB 286** Bans use of drop boxes on Election Day, when they are most needed. (Ban starts at 5 p.m. the night before.)
- **SB 287** Bans prepaid postage on absentee ballot return envelopes.
- **SB 302** Requires voters to attest they are not registered or legally residing out of state, even though both could be true and they would still have the right to register in Michigan, which would result in their older registration getting canceled. (Current law also already prohibits double voting.)
- **SB 303 & 304** Ban the use of a sworn affidavit if a voter arrives at their polling place without ID. Those voters would be required to vote a provisional ballot, which would not be counted unless the voter provides more documentation than is currently required by law.
- **SB 308** Requires overly specific and restrictive signature verification rules.
- **SB 309** Gives challengers stronger protections than poll workers in order to lengthen voting lines and enable more improper challenges that could disenfranchise eligible voters.
- **SB 310** Prohibits the Secretary of State from sending unsolicited absentee ballot applications or directly linking to the application on the Department of State website.
- **SB 311** Only allows military overseas, and not their dependents, to return ballots electronically using their Common Access Card, which servicemembers say is notoriously unreliable, and the Department of Defense has not agreed to make available for voting.

Harm to election oversight

- **SB 279** Allows two challengers per party for every for 2,999 ballots at an

CONTINUES ON PG 43, VOTER RESTRICTIONS

Continued from pg 42, voter restrictions

absentee ballot counting board, and one additional challenger per party for each additional 2,999 ballots.

But total ballot count is unknown prior to counting, and this volume of challengers could be unmanageable.

- **SB 280** Limits to 100 days the canvassing of initiative petitions, with no exceptions, but provides no funding for additional Bureau of Elections staff needed to accomplish this.
- **SB 282** Bans staff of the state's own technology department from accessing the state voter registration database, despite the fact that they built it and maintain its security. Also bans clerk staffs from accessing the database, while granting new access to staff from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, who do not need access. Attempts to ban something that does not currently happen, based on disinformation that civic groups like Rock the Vote had direct access to the database, which they did not.
- **SB 283** Provides only 10 hours for pre-processing absentee ballots even though that proved insufficient and the national best practice is seven days. This will not prevent delayed results that enable the misinformation that harms voter trust in elections.
- **SB 284** Bans local election jurisdictions from accepting non-government grants of all kinds, despite failure of the state to fund elections.
- **SB 289** Enables state legislators to appropriate or withhold federal election funds, despite failure of the state to fund elections.
- **SB 290 and 291** Ban nonpartisan challengers and allow all candidates to appoint challengers. Remove felony penalty for those appointed based on false statements.
- **SB 292 and 293** Require challenger training, but without penalties for noncompliance. Also ban nonpartisan challengers, who play an important role in ensuring election integrity.
- **SB 294** Requires ratio of partisan election inspectors in each community not be more than 2:1, an unnecessarily strict requirement, rather than requiring political parties to submit names or clerks to notify parties of

availability. (Depending on the local population, many jurisdictions have trouble finding challengers from one party or the other.)

- **SB 295** Requires training election workers to match tabulator counts to voter counts hourly, which will not work if a tabulator jams or in other circumstances where the tabulator count is not up-to-date in real time (and is why the unofficial election night count is on the paper tally, not the tabulator screen).
- **SB 296** Increases the chances a canvassing board will fail to certify, by enlarging them and requiring a supermajority to certify.
- **SB 297** Requires a canvasser from each party present during county canvass with no enforcement mechanism to ensure that canvassers actually show up, enabling canvassers to stop or veto a canvass by not attending. Also gives canvassers improper authority to approve or deny county clerk staff selected to assist the canvass.
- **SB 299** Requires vote counting to stop and results to be reported by noon the day after the election, creating a legal impossibility for clerks who have no authority under law not to count all valid ballots, and despite the fact that clerks currently have no incentive not to count efficiently.
- **SB 305** Bans name or likeness of an elected or appointed official on any election-related communication, which would require rewriting numerous forms and documents in likely every jurisdiction in the state, and reduce confidence in officially produced voter education.
- **SB 307** Requires full text of ballot initiatives to be included with ballots, but does not provide funding for significant additional printing costs.

Bills with major flaws

- **SB 274** Allows pre-registration at 16 years old, but only at a Secretary of State office instead of allowing youths all registration methods available to other citizens.
- **SB 275 and 276** Allow video

recording of audits (which is already allowed) and absentee ballot counting boards (which would violate voter privacy when a ballot is found to have been submitted without a secrecy sleeve) and require the Bureau of Elections to host those videos online without providing funding to do so.

- **SB 277** Requires deceased voter registration cancellation but without clear matching criteria and protections against wrongful removal.
- **SB 278** Redundantly requires sealed ballot envelopes to be placed in sealed ballot containers.
- **SB 281** Requires the voter registration database to be updated based on multistate records, which is already done, and to post numbers of registrations cancelled for these reasons, which is not funded and already available by FOIA.
- **SB 288** Requires the Bureau of Elections to record and livestream precinct-level audits with election inspectors from both parties present, despite the fact that audits are already open to the public and no funding is provided for video recording and streaming.
- **SB 298** Extends county canvass from 14 to 21 days but does not enable state canvassers to continue to meet six days after county canvasses are completed.
- **SB 300 and 301** Establishes early voting only from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the second Saturday before Election Day, rather than when most needed closer to Election Day, and on multiple weekdays and weekend days and across daytime and evening hours to support the schedules of all voters.
- **SB 306** Requires the Secretary of State to post names of clerks not current on required training, but at a time when newly elected clerks are just taking office.

+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

CEO transition

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Leadership change is a constant, especially within the nonprofit sector. While change can be positive, sometimes a leadership transition can feel threatening and crazy making. You don't know who the new person will be, when they will come onboard, and how it will impact your job and responsibilities. If you work within fundraising, the ever-critical question looms: is this person a fundraiser?

With this column we share suggestions for how to survive a leadership transition and find solid ground. We want you to be proactive in building your relationship with the new leader, whether they are leading your department or the organization as a whole.

When talking with your new leader, seek to learn their vision, goals, and fundraising priorities, if they have any at this point in time. You want to learn how they see their role as it relates to fundraising. If they are joining your nonprofit as an executive, you want to learn whether they see themselves as a fundraiser, a motivator, a strategist, a closer, a manager, or a combination of these roles. Ask what they like and don't like about fundraising, listening for information that can help you best support their strengths and – if possible – work around those aspects of fundraising they might want to avoid.

Be prepared to concisely share past and present fundraising priorities and an overview of the organization's fundraising

strengths and challenges. Talk about the resources you have within your department including people, technology, resources, and relationships. Share how these impact the organization's fundraising. Clearly communicate the resources and support you and your department need to be successful. Share information about initiatives or campaigns that are in progress or in the planning stages. Let your new department or organizational leader know where you are with work and prospects that have been assigned to you. Talk about past and current timelines and action items and how these may need to shift.

Be prepared with questions you have. These can include asking about their expectations of the board and other key leaders within the organization, and their expectations of you and your department. Be as specific as you need to be, asking questions such as: How can I help you make the transition as smooth as possible? How often can we meet during this period of on-

boarding? How do you want me to report to you – both orally and in writing – and what are the key things you want to know about? What are your priorities and what is the dashboard that you keep your eyes on? What do you need from me for you to be successful during your tenure?

You don't want to come across as a “yes person” with no mind of your own. You want to be perceived as knowledgeable, experienced, open minded, and ready to partner. Your success, the new person's success, and the organization's success will depend on the relationship you form, how you share information, and how you blend your strengths and mitigate weaknesses.



COURTESY PHOTO



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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
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Saginaw, MI 48638
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christimage.us

F



Faith Harvest Church
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1734 N. Mason
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-799-4200
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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

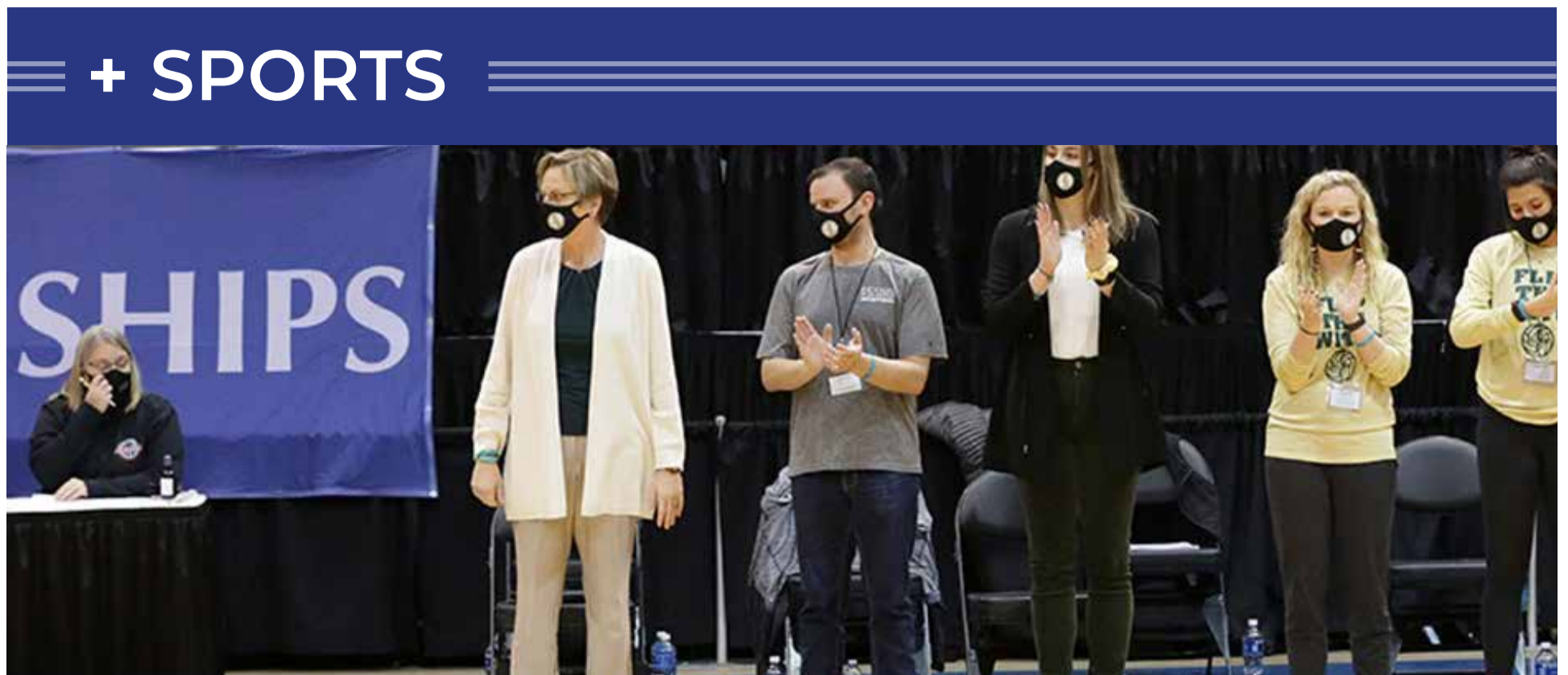


World Outreach Campus of Greater Coleman Temple Ministries
Supt. H.J. Coleman Jr.
2405 Bay Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-752-7957

Z



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



COURTESY PHOTO

Michigan High School Athletic Association's Update Meeting series returns in person

Lansing, MI – The Michigan High School Athletic Association will conduct its 44th annual Update Meeting series in person in the coming weeks – after the 2020 series was provided online only because of COVID-19 – and this year's schedule will again offer in-service programming for athletic directors at six of the seven locations.

The Update series is annually attended by more than 800 school administrators. During the meetings, information about current MHSAA activities is disseminated, issues affecting interscholastic athletics are discussed and attendees are surveyed on various topics.

Six luncheon meetings are scheduled in the Lower Peninsula, and a morning meeting is scheduled for Marquette in the Upper Peninsula. MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl will address high school superintendents, principals, athletic directors and school board members on a variety of topics at these meetings. Update Meetings also provide school administrators an opportunity to ask questions and discuss any recent changes in the Association's rules and regulations.

This also will be the 19th year of Athletic Director In-Service programs conduct-

ed during morning-long sessions prior to most of the Update Meetings. These workshops are designed to help prepare those administrators for the rigors of their jobs, and with the Update Meetings offer those in attendance an opportunity to meet with administrators from neighboring school districts with whom they normally are not able to have day-to-day contact.

The meeting in Lansing on Oct. 6 also will serve as the Annual Business Meeting for the MHSAA. The registration form for Athletic Director In-Service and Update Meetings is available on the "Administrators" page under the "Schools" heading on the MHSAA Website (<https://www.mhsaa.com/Schools/Administrators>).

Here is a schedule of the 2021 Update Meetings:

- **Sept. 15** – Four Points by Sheraton, Kalamazoo (Noon – Preceded by AD In-Service at 8:30 a.m.)
- **Sept. 20** – Ukrainian Cultural Center, Warren (Noon – Preceded by AD In-Service at 8:30 a.m.)
- **Sept. 22** – Zehnder's Restaurant, Frankenmuth (Noon – Preceded by

AD In-Service at 8:30 a.m.)

- **Sept. 27** – English Hills Country Club, Comstock Park (Noon – Preceded by AD In-Service at 8:30 a.m.)
- **Oct. 4** – Otsego Club & Resort, Gaylord (Noon – Preceded by AD In-Service at 8:30 a.m.)
- **Oct. 6** – Causeway Bay, Lansing (Noon – Preceded by AD In-Service at 8:30 a.m.)
- **Oct. 22** – Northern Michigan University Superior Dome, Marquette (10 a.m.)

The MHSAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation of voluntary membership by more than 1,400 public and private senior high schools and junior high/middle schools which exists to develop common rules for athletic eligibility and competition. No government funds or tax dollars support the MHSAA, which was the first such association nationally to not accept membership dues or tournament entry fees from schools. Member schools which enforce these rules are permitted to participate in MHSAA tournaments, which attract more than 1.4 million spectators each year.



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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 18

GOBankingRates explores how Gen Z is navigating the future of finances

COURTESY PHOTO

Los Angeles, CA – Move over Millennials, Generation Z is changing and carving out a new landscape of personal finance and money for everyone else. Learning from the challenges and tribulations of generations that came before, Gen Z is tackling subjects like student debt, investing and real estate in different ways.

"When we look back on generations, we can usually pick out their 'defining moments' -- events that shaped them and turned them into who they are today. We're living through one of these events right now. Every person from every generation has been affected by COVID-19, but in this content package, we've been able to explore specifically how it's impacting teens and young adults. It's important to learn from the generations that came before you, but there's really no one who can look back and tell Gen Z how to come of age during a pandemic. It's important to create content for this specific generation as they begin to learn and apply personal finance in their everyday lives," said Levi Leidy, Jr. Writer/Editor at GOBankingRates. "They could be starting their first job, budgeting as a student, or launching a career -- but money matters, and how you first build that relationship with money can impact you for the rest of your life."

According to a new survey by GOBank-

ingRates, approximately a third of Gen Z aged 18 to 24, don't have any kind of debt and with three-fourths of that generation having less than \$10,000 in debt, including student loans. A staggering difference compared to the generations before them like Generation X, those born between 1965 and 1980, who lead for the generation with the largest debt. 19.3% of Gen X respondents say they are \$60,000 or more in debt and more than 56.01% have at least \$10,000 or more in debt.

Some experts say that Gen Z has seen the effects of financial crashes on their parents and grandparents thus traumatizing them and making them more wary of financial burden. Another reason so many Gen Z'ers have less worries of debt is because fewer of them are taking on the kind of massive student loan debt that crushed the Millennial generation. Specialized training online or vocational training is proving the way to go for Gen Z over the traditional college path. "Every generation has a unique relationship with money," said Don Sena, VP of Content at GOBankingRates. "We wanted to explore how and why this generation's attitudes toward personal finances and investing differ from past generations, while also offering information and advice to help Generation Z make smart financial decisions."

Another interest of Generation Z that has become increasingly of notice is investing. Thanks to apps and social media, Gen Z can access the stock market more easily than any previous generation. A GOBankingRates survey revealed that 19% say they invest in real estate while an additional 17% dabble in cryptocurrency. Gen Z seems to view crypto as less risky compared to stocks and options that previous generations liked to invest in. The survey also notes that 22.4% of them invest in stocks; 19% in real estate 16.7% in a 401(k) or IRA; 12.5% in a mutual fund or ETFs.

While increasing their financial stability is of extreme importance due to the uncertainty of the current world, Gen Z is prioritizing other aspects now more than ever instead of focusing on a higher salary. According to another GOBankingRates survey, perks like working from home and flexible vacation time are a top priority for 41% of Gen Z workers. "Just as millennials are hitting their 40s, Gen Z is rapidly aging into adulthood -- it's estimated that by 2025, they'll make up about 27% of the global workforce. And with growing emphasis placed on tech and social media in professional spaces, Gen Z will have an enormous influence," said Leidy.



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For more information contact Women of Colors at 989.737.9286 or ewmtoday@aol.com.





PICS OF THE WEEK

On September 5, 2021, Mayor Brenda Moore hosted a 'Stop the Violence' Prayer Revival in Saginaw to address the recent uptick in violent incidents. The event featured nearly a dozen local Pastors who spoke and prayed over the city.

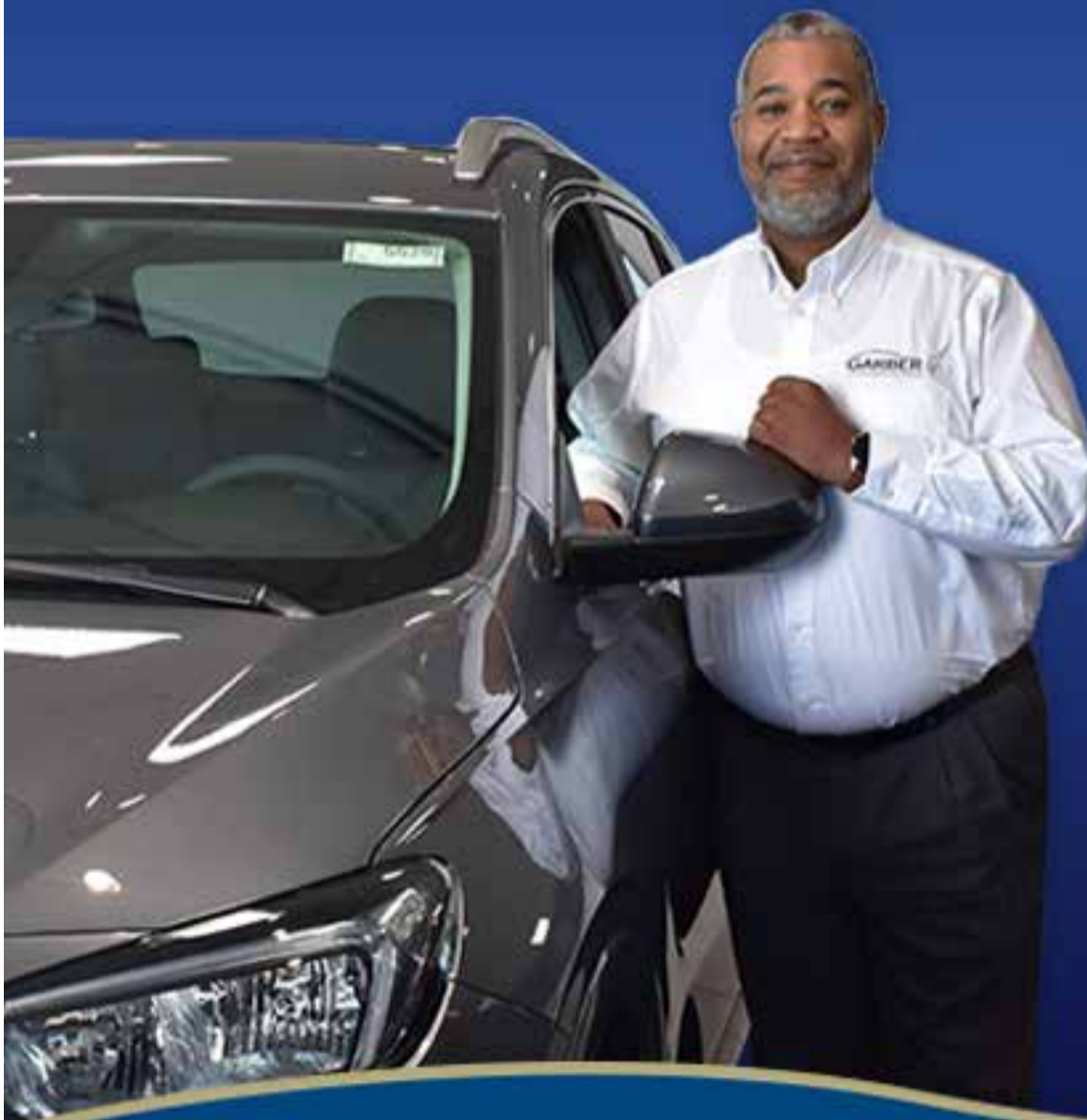


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Whatever your dreams, whatever your goals, your professors and friends at SVSU will fly with you every step of the way.

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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