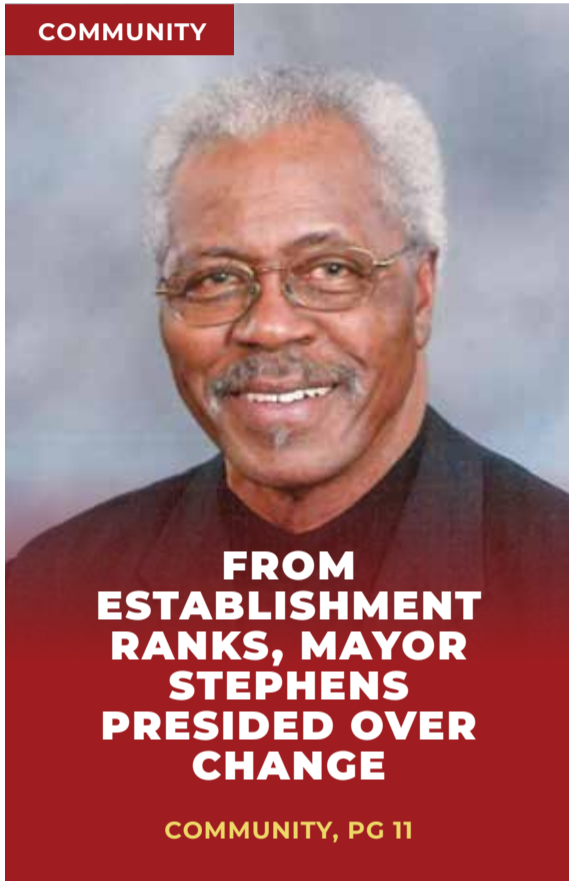




CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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COMMUNITY



Young coach rescues Arthur Hill wrestling

LATINO BANNER, COVER



George Floyd case forgotten in Saginaw?

COMMUNITY, PG 16



ARPA advice, for a price

COMMUNITY, PG 18



Influential African American educators

EDUCATION, PG 34

By MIKE THOMPSON

Ava Lewis is a respected role model among local nurses, but for years she avoided getting involved in Hospice care for terminally ill patients.

"Knowing myself. I was concerned about being too emotional for that sort of a role," explains the coordinator of the family nurse practitioner program at Saginaw Valley State University. "To work in primary care for patients, we can make that adjustment, but end-of-life... I didn't know whether I was prepared for that type of nursing."

She has thought about this for years,

never forgetting the services and the comfort that the Aleda E. Lutz VA Hospice had provided back in 1995 during the final weeks for her father, Napoleon Lewis, Sr., who passed away at age 71.

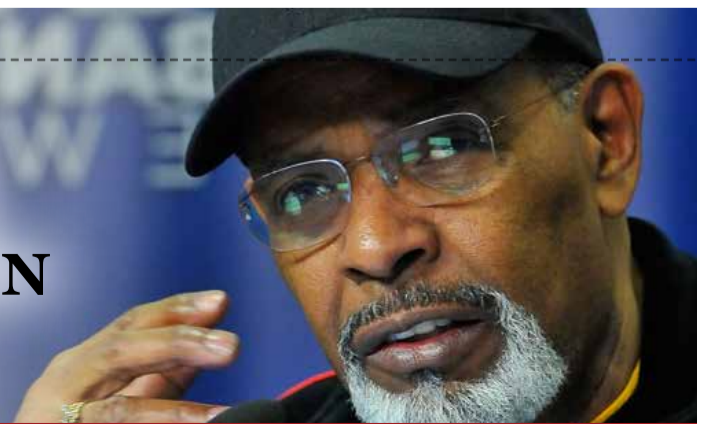
"He received extraordinary care during his time in their Palliative and Hospice Unit," says Ava, who continues to care for the matriarch, Nelia Lewis, still spry at 95, ever-loyal to her regular daily television shows.

CONTINUES ON PG 2, AVA LEWIS

FEATURED STORY

A RESPONSE TO JOE MADISON'S CALL FOR ACTION

COMMUNITY, PG 14



Cover Story, Ava Lewis

To face the challenge

She didn't hesitate in guiding work-study students when they traveled to Third World poverty communities, or to domestic disaster sites such as New Orleans, post-Katrina. But Hospice was an entirely different dilemma.

When the COVID-19 outbreak sidelined some of her activities two years ago, Ava found time and renewed motivation to finally enroll in an online Palliative Care and Hospice NP Certification program through University of California at San Marcos.

Today she is taking the final steps toward certification under the mentorship of a Hospice veteran, Dr. Eugene Seals. They first made connections via his daughter and co-practitioner, Dr. Delecia Pruitt, who now is medical director for the Saginaw County Department of Public Health.

Lewis will join Hospice teams that feature a nurse, a social worker, a chaplain, and anyone else who is needed to assist. Concerns may range from providing end-of-life care, to finances to inheritance, down to what to write in the obituary and grief support.

Dr. Seals says he took an interest in

Hospice when he encountered patients who lacked support. In a few cases, they had no children. In other scenarios, the offspring had moved out of town and/or were not as attentive as they could have been.

"Or maybe the patient simply needs somebody to talk with them," he notes. "When someone feels nobody is there, regardless of their health, that's when the real suffering takes place."

Nurses are social workers

In addition to attaining her Ph.D from Michigan State University, Lewis studied sociology along with nursing.

"Sociology teaches us how to relate to people from all populations," she notes, "and also how to develop as good leaders."

Among all populations, she adds, many African-Americans and other ethnic minorities bear an historic distrust of the U.S.A.'s medical system. That's why fewer families place elders into hospitals and nursing homes. Lewis, through her Hospice certification, aims to help build trust and inclusion so that challenges for patients and for loved ones may become less burdensome.

Ava advises: "There is a perception that by placing a loved one in Hospice, family members are 'putting them there to die,' and nothing could be farther from the truth. Hospice care is designed for people who are nearing the end of life, this is true. However, the services are there to maximize comfort for the patient who is terminally ill by reducing pain and addressing physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs. These services also assist and serve as a resource for family and caregivers during the patient's transition at the end of life."

While some patients may be within weeks or even days of passing away, others may live on for months or even a few more years. Also, she says, everyone could use a helping hand now and then, even when they resist and don't feel a need, even as they are entering their closing times.

Hospice care generally is covered by Medicare or other insurers. An array of providers are available, with info online or via hospitals and nursing homes. Dr. Seals is mentoring Ava Lewis through Americans Home Health and Hospice Care in Saginaw.



AVA LEWIS

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

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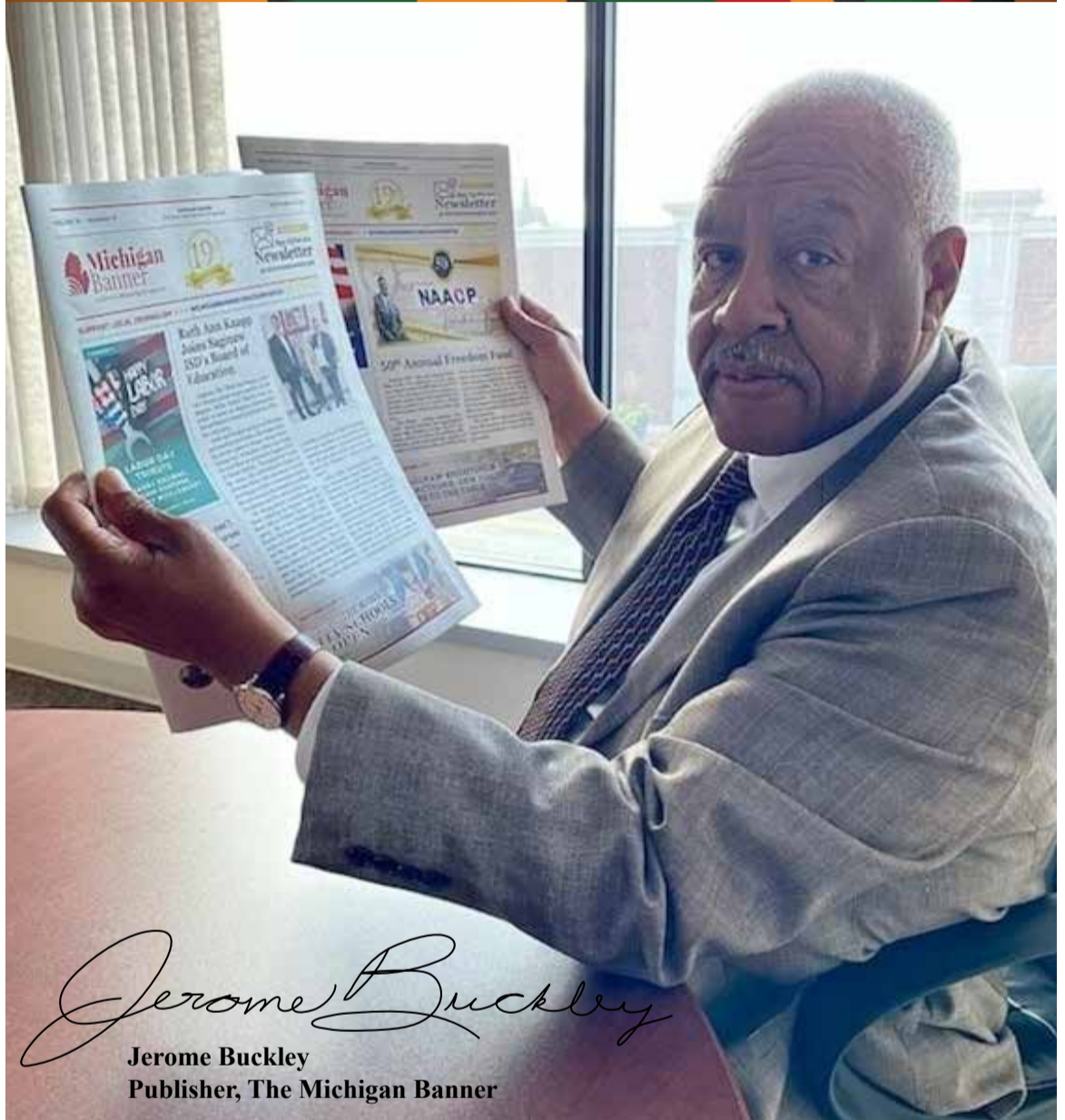
2 weeks before each publication date of the 1st and 16th of each month

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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE



A shining light for Saginawians in need

LB PG 5



ANGEL RODRIGUEZ

Young coach rescues Arthur Hill wrestling

By MIKE THOMPSON

When Angel Rodriguez started as Arthur Hill High's varsity wrestling coach a decade ago, the team had only about a half-dozen members.

This season, the count has surpassed 20.

"I give all the credit to my kids," he says. "They're the ones who do the recruiting. It's mostly word-of-mouth."

His peers among the ranks know better.

They have voted him Coach of the Year in the Saginaw Valley League for the second time, and they also unanimously accorded him similar status in Saginaw County. At the county meet, Arthur Hill was runner up, the highest finish in the school's history, behind perennial powerhouse Birch Run. The Hillites finished with a 17-9 dual meet record.

CONTINUES ON LB PG 2,
RODRIGUEZ

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



Continued from LB Cover, Rodriguez

Okay, Coach Rodriguez modestly will accept a small share of accolades.

"Once they are recruited to sign up, it's my job to keep them," he says. "They know their coach isn't going anywhere, isn't going to leave them, which is especially important in a sport as difficult as wrestling."

"When they stay committed, when they stay true, they know I will be there for them, no matter how hard the times may become for them."

He adds, "My highlight as a coach is watching the program grow and evolve to what it is today, as well as enjoying all the love my wrestlers have been getting in the past couple years. They work so hard and it's exciting to see them get the recognition they deserve."

Senior Melvin Brewer says he was a novice, and Coach Rodriguez guided him all the way to a third-place finish at the 14-school county meet: "Coach never gave

up on me."

Junior Lionel Baldwin placed second at both the county and conference competitions: "It doesn't matter how good you are, it's how hard you work that matters. He works so hard for us that it makes us want to work just as hard for him."

Younger sibling Michael Baldwin owns a third-place county finish to build upon: "Coach respects all of us, and he's really patient to help us get there."

Arthur Hill fell to Davison, the defending state champs, in the district team finals. Victor Canales and Lionel Baldwin qualified for individual regional competition.

Rodriguez played the regular sports as a child, but he took an interest in wrestling as an Arthur Hill freshman. He gradually improved as a four-year letter-winner and as a regional qualifier during his senior season.

"I was attracted to the individual aspect of wrestling," he notes, "but also to the team identity, and the main accomplishment was that we won the district (championship) three years in a row."

Angel graduated in 2008 and enlisted for four years of Marine Corps service. When he returned in 2012, he agreed to fill the Arthur Hill coaching vacancy, not realizing his volunteer gesture to help out would become permanent.

Spectators will not observe the hard-driving, bombastic style that nowadays has become more prevalent in school and youth sports coaching.

"I don't yell much, compared to the first two or three years," he says. "I've learned that if we simply talk, they are more apt to listen, and there's no need to be a big disciplinarian."



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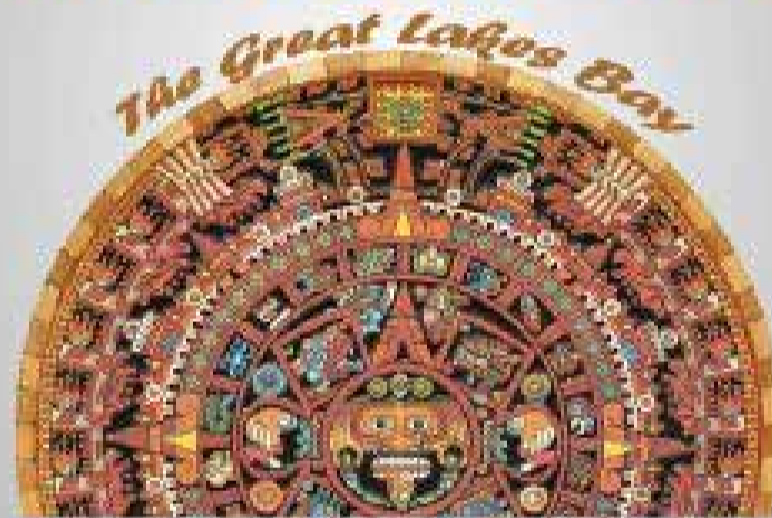
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PASTOR ADOLFO MARTINEZ AND SPOUSE AND ASSOCIATE PASTOR, ERLINDA OLIVARES

A shining light for Saginawians in need

By MIKE THOMPSON

Radiant Church of God celebrates its fifth anniversary this summer at 708 West Genesee, and the congregation with an uncommon name indeed is spreading its light through all of Saginaw.

Pastor Adolfo Martinez joins his spouse and associate pastor, the former Erlinda Olivares, to conduct community retreats and Bible study sessions. Furthermore, through ties with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, a pantry is maintained and regular giveaways take place, including the most recent event on a bone-chilling day at the beginning of February.

"There is a great need in Saginaw, especially during the pandemic," he says, explaining why Radiant Church's outreach extends beyond the four walls.

Ongoing distributions are slated to begin at noon on Feb. 17 and Feb. 24. Pa-

trons need not show paperwork. In fact, they need not even become Radiant congregants, even though the Martinez couple welcome all visitors, especially on Sundays.

"We have had up to 300 families come through in one day," Erlinda notes. "All receive our blessings and our message, and spiritual seeds are planted to go with the needed food that they receive."

Adolfo Martinez felt he was falling short spiritually until about 20 years ago, when a retreat revelation and encouragement from Erlinda sent him toward a new path.

"I had gone to church and I knew of the Lord, but I had never sought him out on a personal level," he says. "My eyes were opened to many things."

Numbers of people go through spiritual transformations, but few become clergy themselves.

"Everyone has a calling to be a servant of God, in some way," he reflects. "Mine is preaching and the ministry."

He works for Niles Industrial Coatings, a mid-Michigan contractor based with Dow Chemical, and so he must squeeze hours tightly to meet ministry commitments. Meanwhile, Erlinda is a retired manager from the state Department of Health and Human Services, with a 42-year career that provides insight and empathy into what she describes as her "higher calling" with Radiant Church.

Adolfo Martinez summarizes, "It's all about church, every day."

Volunteers always are needed for the food giveaways and pantry stocking, or for any of Radiant Church's programs and activities. Anyone interested may call (989) 401-2134, or visit the church's website (www.radiantchurchofgod.org) or Facebook page.

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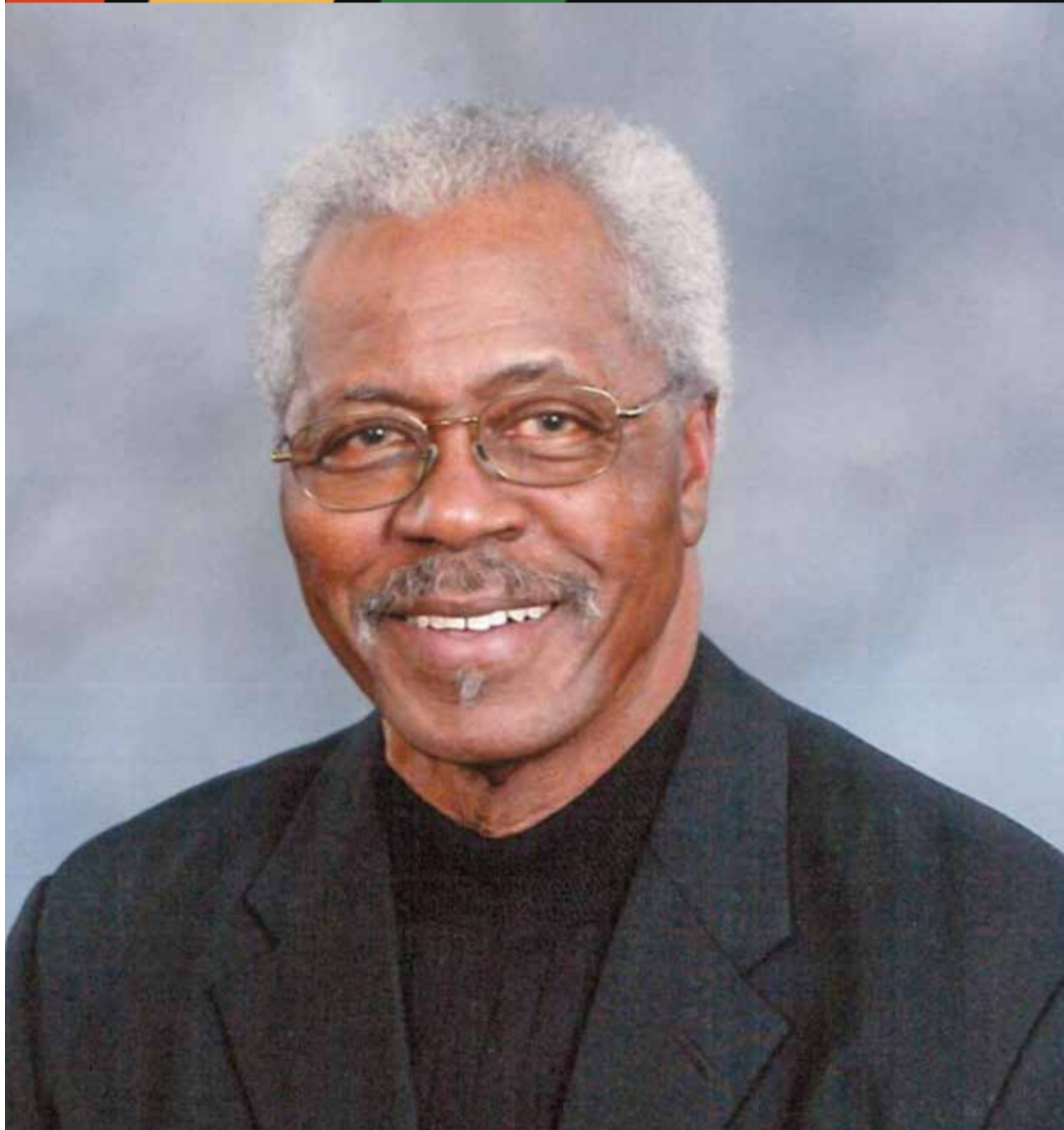
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BLACK HISTORY MONTH



SYLVESTER JOE STEPHENS

From establishment ranks, Mayor Stephens presided over change

By MIKE THOMPSON

Sylvester Joe Stephens began his City Council service in 1973 as part of the business group, United Saginaw Citizens (USC), that at the same time dominated local politics.

By the time his fellow members appointed him mayor in 1977, the professional interests had lost their majority, and he

presided for his two-year term while USC disbanded and many of the Saginaw Club patrons who had run the show were moving to the suburbs.

When he finally retired from council service in 1985, the turnover was complete and the council now was totally independent of the slate politics that had been the trademark of USC, also formerly known as the Committee of 50.

Therefore, Joe Stephens -- who passed away Feb. 1 at age 86 -- was a primary participant in the major era of change under the revised voter-approved City Charter, which took effect on Jan. 6, 1936, which just so happened to be the day he was born in Columbus, Ga.

He was Saginaw's second African American mayor, filling that role a decade after Henry Marsh served as the pioneer from 1967-69.

Giant footprints to follow

Stephens held common ground not only with Mayor Marsh but with another civil rights giant, Ruben Daniels, following Daniels' footsteps into the city police ranks.

But while Marsh and Daniels arrived too early to fight for major integration of the police and fire operations, Stephens was right on time. Dr. Larry Crawford, who would become Saginaw's third black mayor, was elected to the council in 1981, and worked with the man he described as his mentor for affirmative action hiring provisions that generally survived legal challenges. In the Saginaw public safety ranks today, personnel is about one-third persons of color, compared to less than 10 percent during the early 1980s.

Stephens went a step farther in 1984 when he asserted he possessed knowledge that a "small number" of city police officers were guilty of sex crimes, falsification of reports, theft of evidence and use or resale of drugs taken from citizens under arrest.

The council employed three attorneys -- including M.T. Thompson Jr., a future District Court judge -- who found enough testimony to pursue a grand jury probe, which was blocked by a panel of Circuit Court judges. However, the police chief at the time, Alex Perez, said the findings led to reforms within the department.

Another landmark for Stephens took place in 1983, when he joined Crawford

**CONTINUES ON PG 12,
JOE STEPHENS**

+ COMMUNITY**Continued from pg 11, Joe Stephens**

and three newly elected members to comprise the first black City Council majority ever in Saginaw's history. The newcomers were Mildred Mason, Lou Oates and Carter McWright. A similar 1983 scenario on the Board of Education mixed Daniels and Willie Thompson with Jim Woolfolk and Hazel Wilson.

Stephens, in his post-police role as a General Motors personnel supervisor, joined Daniels as go-to guys for residents seeking jobs in the auto plants and in other venues. He is quoted in his obituary saying, "I don't toot no horn but in the position I was in, I just happened to be the person that carried a lot of weight. The things I did for people, somebody had made a sacrifice before me, (for me) to get a job like that."

MLK street-name squabble

Stephens also clashed with McWright, at the time owner of the Music Planet record store, who proposed renaming Genesee Street in honor of Martin Luther King Jr., as many cities have done with main thoroughfares. Stephens resisted because his family owned a home in the new upscale Ren View subdivision behind Sagi-

naw High School and the old fairgrounds, which includes its own central street named for MLK. Following the dispute, he often jokingly referred to McWright as "McWrong."

Some observers branded Stephens as liberal because of his actions for police reforms, but he was an Army vet who often took conservative stances and votes. This often placed him at odds with Sister Ardeh Platte on the council, whom he once accused of misleading African Americans with "plantation politics." Platte, who passed away in September 2020, stepped aside in 1985 to devote her full attention to anti-war and anti-weapons protests.

At the same time, Stephens battled against right wingers who organized in 1979 for property tax limits, or caps, which remain in place today.

In conclusion, Stephens shared common experiences not only with Henry Marsh and with Ruben Daniels, but also with current Mayor Brenda Moore. Both Stephens and Moore, 40 years later, served as board presidents for the Michigan Municipal League, which provides support services for more than 500 cities and townships within the state's boundaries.

*Read More Black History Month Articles***Edith Prunty Spencer, a pioneer in the Flint community***Page 23***In My Humble Opinion: Black History is World History***Page 24***History of the Black Church and its significance today***page 26***Influential African American educators***Page 34*

JOE STEPHENS | THE SAGINAW NEWS

+ COMMUNITY



'What's Miss Della cooking today?'

Michigan Banner readers were introduced on Feb. 1 to Saginaw's own Dolores Grant-Fall, an immigrant from Guyana via New York City's Harlem neighborhood, who was the popular head cook when Neighborhood House still was open. She offers another recipe this time around, for warm snacks while chilly temperatures linger for the March Madness college basketball tournaments.

Cod Fish Croquettes

Ingredients

1 lb. cod fillets
2 medium potatoes
2 eggs

1/4 cup finely chopped green onions
1 stick of celery, also finely chopped
Oregano, garlic, pepper to taste



Instructions

Peel potatoes, boil and mash, refrigerate. Boil cod (or other fish) 15-20 minutes, cold water rinse and crumble. Mix all ingredients into balls. Deep fry to golden brown. Cool and stick with toothpicks

There you go. Maybe allow guests to sample one of these special hors d'oeuvres each time their team scores a basket.

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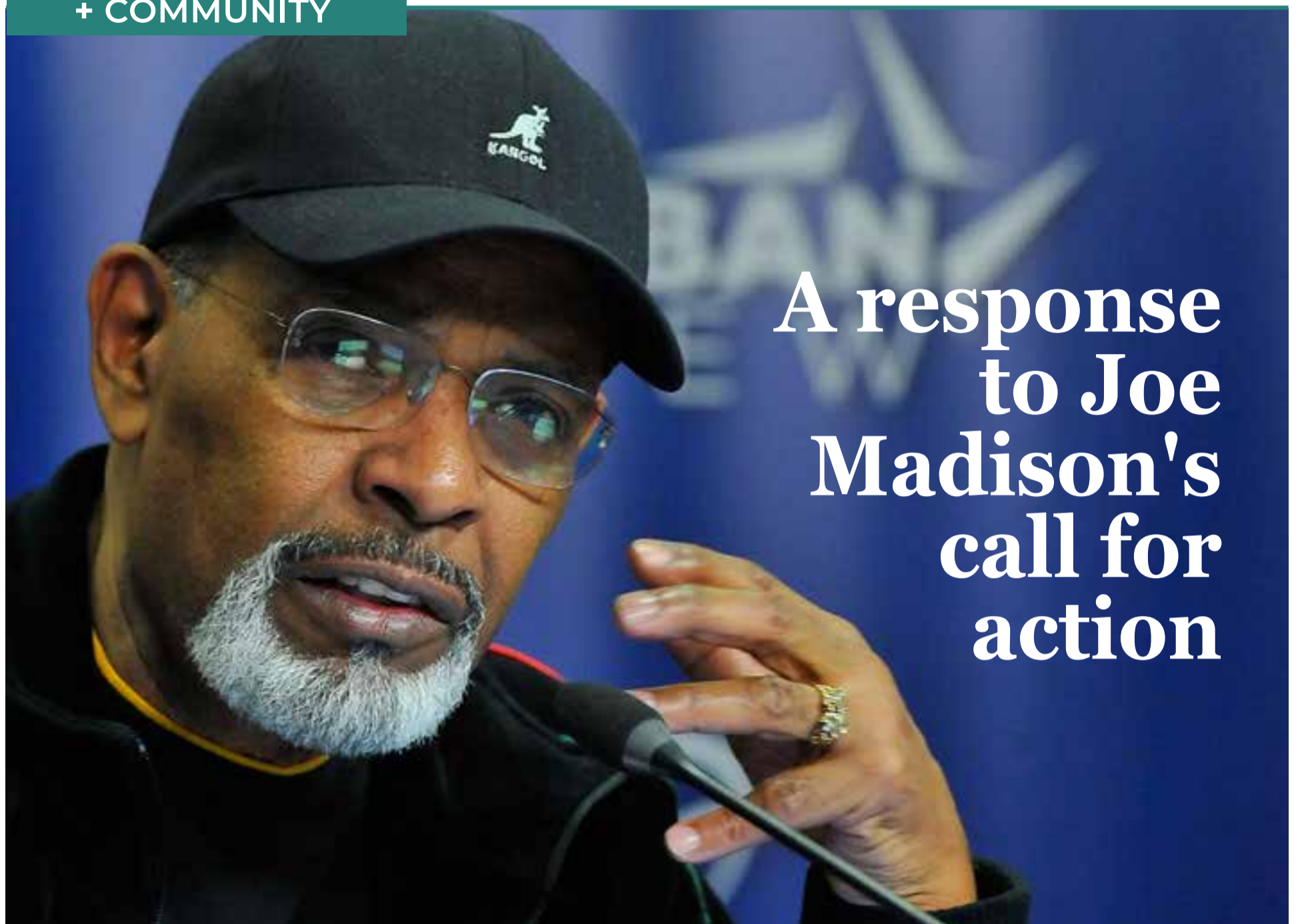


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JOE MADISON

A response to Joe Madison's call for action

By **MIKE THOMPSON**

When The Michigan Banner and Delta brought civil rights broadcaster Joe Madison to Saginaw, he was two months into his solid-foods hunger strike in pursuit of a "John Lewis Law" to prevent roll-backs of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Sadly, in the Jan. 7 "Rising of the Phoenix" aftermath, the Black Eagle has felt forced to give up his fast, overpowered by the steadfast right-wing opposition.

This awful scenario reinforces that we now must become stronger than ever, or all principles of the civil rights movement are at risk.

Part of the Saginaw start toward becoming stronger could be a highlighted emphasis on community organizing via community service. We need to form a

stronger team, or we are going to continue to fall short in too many of these battles.

Should not a better-organized Saginaw have delivered thousands of petition signatures to Joe Madison? That's one of countless examples where we could do better with more of those old-time direct action approaches.

"Don't agonize. Organize," never has been more true.

Role model for service

To learn more, my thoughts turned to Terry Pruitt, president of the Saginaw NAACP branch, who launched his lifelong community service a half-century ago. He had achieved a four-year degree at Central Michigan University, and then an MBA at Western Michigan, and lucrative out-of-town job offers were flowing his way.

Instead, friends back home in Saginaw pitched him to come back home and to take a post, for comparative peanuts, with Model Cities outreach.

Model Cities was a prime arm of the so-called War on Poverty, and Pruitt's assignment was as a community organizer in the First Ward area. This wasn't the Peace Corps or even the domestic version, VISTA (Volunteers In Service to America), but his sacrifice was the same.

"I went out, house-by-house, knocking on doors," he recalls. He encouraged residents to get involved in neighborhood groups, conducting activities such as cleanups, and also taking part in local social action.

**CONTINUES ON PG 15,
JOE MADISON**

+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 14, Joe Madison



TERRY PRUITT

Pruitt explains, "There were mortgage foreclosures, and blight, and the negative effects of the highway (I-675). I knew the neighbors, and how to communicate with them."

Those enhanced skills helped to prep him for a career of many pathways, mainly his tenure with Dow Chemical, first as a business quality leader and later as manager of public affairs and state government relations.

And guess what? While Terry Pruitt is known for his NAACP leadership, one of his unsung roles is as past chairman and member of the Michigan Community Service Commission.

"We need to uncover that service ethic among young people," he summarizes. "Once you gain that mindset, it stays with you. My phone never stops ringing. It's always been that way."

Places to get started

The commission oversees Michigan AmeriCorps, along with more than a half-dozen similar efforts with names that most people will not recognize.

Terry, not one to speak of himself, suggested that more information could be obtained from the Saginaw Community Foundation via Reneé Johnston, the president and CEO. She first emphasized that a young person need not wait until college age to engage, because seeds for community service may be planted sooner.

She recited a sample list of settings, which she noted is far from all-inclusive: Hospitals and nursing homes; food pantries and soup kitchens; tutoring for elementary children; parks and recreation.



RENEÉ JOHNSTON

Community service may help a young person narrow down career choices, she says, and it also boosts college scholarship applications and employment resumes,

For those with high interest in social concerns, similar to Terry Pruitt during the early 1970s, Reneé notes that the foundation oversees Youth FORCE, similar to a student council but with delegates from most of the county's high schools. Members oversee SCF mini-grants for community projects, in the process gaining experience in service and in activism.

Become a new 'model city'

My own experience in community service came by random happenstance, which is my reason for offering this essay's suggestion for a more widespread local effort. My assigned area was north of I-675, and my only training was to canvass as a humble resource person and recruiter, not as a speaker myself.

The kindness of the neighborhood residents was its own reward. Breezy summer porches, cozy winter kitchens. But all sentiment aside, I wanted Northeast Saginaw Neighbors to win when we confronted issues and challenges. Win like winning in sports or in other ventures. Isn't that the point?

Clearly, we didn't win the Big Picture, with today's First Ward deep into abandonment.

But there were victories. Some of the main attainments were:

- Fair relocation for families in the 1976 path of the 5th/6th underpass, unlike the bulldozing for '675,' and

installation of more stop signs and stoplights at the hazardous highway exits.

- Establishment of Neighborhood Renewal Services and HOP, the Home Ownership Program, to begin reversing the tragedy of mortgage redlining.
- Cleaning and acquiring vacant lots, which helped to spark formation of the county land bank, and restored weekly trash pickup when a cutback to biweekly proved disastrous.

Some defeats were inevitable, such as the closing of Third Street at the tracks, then the loss of the Norman Fire Station, then the ultimate closing of Potter School. Still, I despised when we lost, just as I now despise feeling that Joe Madison has been defeated on voting rights.

We may say Madison still is a winner in raising public awareness and serving as a role model, but come on now. Wouldn't we wish his first real meal in 80 days had followed a successful passage of that John Lewis Law? Could we have shown more support when he visited?

Part of Saginaw's response to Joe's call for action could be to establish community service and community organizing as even stronger facets of our local culture. No, we wouldn't need yet another new program or agency. As Terry Pruitt and Renee Johnston inform us, an array of options already exist to build upon. A starting point would be to better unify and publicize these choices. Renee says any young person or parent may receive guidance on volunteerism and community service by contacting the Community Foundation, (989) 755-0545.

And then maybe inform Joe Madison by January 2023 that his hunger strike really did reap a result. Do you remember Saginaw, sir? You inspired us to get better organized, beginning with community service and organizing

And we did. A victory.

+ COMMUNITY



HUNDREDS PROTEST NEAR FASHION SQUARE MALL OVER DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD (JUNE 6, 2020)

George Floyd case forgotten in Saginaw?

By MIKE THOMPSON

Twenty months after 1,000 Saginawians marched to the courthouse to protest the police slaying of George Floyd, a local advisory group formed in the aftermath cannot even manage to attract a five-member quorum to conduct business.

A scheduled meeting of the Citizens/Police Advisory Commission, CPAC, was canceled Feb. 15 due to lack of attendance.

The previous City Council passed an ordinance to establish the panel, months after the Floyd killing caused an outcry to reach a peak both locally and nationally. Other tragedies during early 2020 involved Ahmad Arbury and Brianna Taylor.

CPAC members met only twice last year before they decided they only need

to gather once every three months rather than monthly, a scaled-down provision that failed to muster a majority on one of February's few non-stormy afternoons.

Two slots on the nine-seat commission have remained not filled from the start. One is reserved for a mental health professional and the other for a designee from among Saginaw's LGBTQ population. Categories for an African American, a Latino and a high school student already are filled. No other City Hall body, including the City Council, contains similar provisions for designated group representatives.

The question for council members now is whether they will take action to ensure a viable advisory group that is capable of conducting business.

City Hall has faced challenges maintaining boards and commissions, even prior to the two-year-old pandemic. Still, established bodies like the Human Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals have carried out their duties.

CPAC is assigned to aim for improvement of community relations with law enforcement, and also to solicit and investigate individual complaints from citizens who perceive that they have been mistreated by law enforcement.

Citizens who wish to get involved, in spite of CPAC's stall, may form their own groups, speak to council members or contact the City Clerk's Office at (989) 759-1480.

+ COMMUNITY



MICHELLE ALEXANDER

SVSU presents legal scholar in virtual discussion about mass incarceration

SAGINAW – In honor of Black History Month, Saginaw Valley State University’s Office of Diversity Programs will present “The New Jim Crow: A Courageous Conversation” with author Michelle Alexander. The virtual presentation will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. To register for this free, public presentation, visit svsu.edu/diversity.

Alexander brings audiences profoundly necessary and meaningful insights on the practice of mass incarceration in the U.S. justice system, as well as an eye-opening discussion on ending racial caste in America.

She is the author of the bestselling book “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness,” in which she exposes systemic racism in the American prison system.

Alexander is a legal scholar, social justice advocate, columnist at “The New York Times” and visiting professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. She explores the myths surrounding our criminal justice system from a racial and ethical standpoint and offers solutions for combating this epidemic.

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ARPA advice, for a price

By MIKE THOMPSON

A national consulting firm will receive \$150 per hour to advise Saginaw city leaders on how to spend \$52 million in federal anti-poverty tax funds during the next two years.

The largest-ever D.C. infusion is known as ARPA, American Recovery Plan Act, which was approved early in 2021 to help communities cope with COVID-19 hardships, prior to Republicans becoming organized in their resistance to President Biden and the Democrats' agenda. Current logjams continue in Congress over additional funding via Build Back Better proposals, but the \$52 million so far is secure on the books.

On Feb. 7, City Council members authorized up to \$850,000 for Chicago-based Guidehouse Inc., as needed over a three-year span, to assist with meeting federal guidelines for spending the windfall. Members of the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners unanimously have endorsed a similar \$925,000 arrangement for their \$37 million share.

Guidehouse has been hired by numerous municipalities across Michigan and

the nation.

Michael Flores was the lone council opponent to the arrangement. He didn't debate a need for guidance in dealing with the federal bureaucracy, but he questioned the dollar amount, with Guideposts absorbing up to 1.64 percent of the total ARPA allotment. These are funds that otherwise could go directly into programs and services.

City Manager Tim Morales responded that the long-term agreement is intended to maintain a stable, consistent source of support, and that if council members are displeased with Guidehouse's efforts, they may "opt out" of the arrangement at any time.

City and county leaders have asserted that citizens should not overreact to the contract amounts, because the governing bodies will seek Guidehouse's expertise only on an as-needed basis. For that matter, Congressman Dan Kildee is a Flint Democrat who helped to write the rules for eligible ARPA activities, and he says his office staff is available to answer questions or to resolve disputes, consultants or no consultants.

Morales and County Controller Robert

Belleman have estimated they will recommend using at least half of the funds for basic general budget shortfalls that are at least partially caused by the pandemic, making the remaining millions available to proposals from third-party social agencies that range from First Ward Community Center, for one example, to Child and Family Services.

The Saginaw Board of Education is in line for \$65 million for a similar purpose but with a different name, ESSER, Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief. The school board has not invited agency proposals and thus has not discussed employing a consultant. This is in spite of a freshly-grown general budget surplus that allowed this school year's \$1,185 bonus payments to more than 600 district employees, half of them teachers.

At the City Council table, Flores inquired about the difference between "consultants" and "analysts." A Guidehouse representative answered that the job titles are "interchangeable," and that the firm may hire outside experts -- in effect, consultants to the consultants -- when cost savings is possible.

In addition to Flores, only Monique Lamar Silvia and George Copeland asked questions. They are the three newcomers from the November 2020 election. The veteran members often prefer to direct their inquiries to Morales in advance and in private.

One point of agreement is that the local shares, from more than \$2 billion in total federal allotments, represent a one-time opportunity to take truly major steps to address community challenges, everything from family financial hardship, to physical and mental health, to abandoned buildings and overgrown vacant lots.

Spending decisions are due by calendar 2023, with budgets that could extend into 2026. A clear majority of established community leaders have emphasized patience and caution in allocating the monies, while mostly-younger activists have urged a speedier sense of urgency.

The Michigan Banner has provided at least one update report per online edition ever since ARPA's onset during spring 2021, and our coverage will continue during the months ahead.

+ COMMUNITY

Road salt is cheaper but still saved for main streets

By MIKE THOMPSON

Not everything is going up in price.

Saginaw City Hall is restocking on road salt, and the price of \$59.86 per ton from Detroit Salt Company is down 13 percent from last year and 19 percent from two winters ago.

City Council members have approved \$149,650 for 2,500 tons, which includes shipping and handling. The S&H is far more costly, of course, than for the gadgets some of us may order via QVC or HSN. A cooperative purchasing arrangement through the State of Michigan ensures the lowest available bulk prices. Truckloads will refill the 4,000-ton capacity salt barn, located across Holland Avenue near the rear of Ojibway Island.

Much of the supply will be reserved to begin next winter, following past practice.

Detroit is known as the Motor City, but otherwise the moniker could be Salt City. A gigantic mine owned by Detroit Salt is 1,200 feet below Motown's surface, spread across 1,500 acres and serviced by more than 100 miles of underground man-made passageways.

For that matter, by comparison, Saginaw has 300 miles of streets, roughly 50 miles main and 250 in neighborhoods

City officials did not immediately respond to The Banner's inquiry, asking why side streets no longer are salted following snowfalls. For example, even Salt Street in the southeast section is a side street and therefore is not salted. Neither is Saginaw Street, a short six-block stretch in the same part of town.



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Poetry Moment

BY DONIQUA SILVIA

It labored in the cotton fields, on plantations and on farms.
It held up our dignity when we couldn't raise our arms.

It soaked up blood through bandages, from the whipping post,
and it guided us through the night as we followed the drinking gourd.

It was present in the streams, and lakes, where we didn't know how to swim.
It gave us the courage to run, and at times kept us hid.

It was in the folklore, and stories that we brought from our home,
and we passed it to our children should we transcend on home.

It got us through the day, and held us through the night.
It showed up in the smallest things, like being able to learn to write.

What is it? You may say. What helped us pave the way?
Well I'll tell you it was strength that brought us to today.

+ COMMUNITY

Hometown Highlight: Dwayne Adway

Saginaw Native Dwayne Adway is best known for his major motion pictures credits include *Friendship*, *Into the Blue*, *First Daughter* and *Soul Plane* among others and the Dark Comedy *Bad Roomies*. His television credits include a recurring role in the CBS series *Close to Home* and *Robbery Homicide Division* as well as numerous guest appearances on various television series including *Sons of Anarchy*, *CSI*, *NYPD Blue*, *Girlfriends*, *The Steve Harvey Show* and *ER*. Dwayne next will play the lead in the retro film *Jungle Fire* and Apple TV's upcoming series "Vital Signs" next to DR. Dre. It is the diversity of Adway's characters in his film roles that showcase his charm and charisma as a true talent. Adway made a splash in Hollywood from his highly acclaimed and critically well-received role as the flamboyant and misunderstood Dennis Rodman in ABC's telepic "Bad As I Wanna Be; The Dennis Rodman Story." Adway also has a presence in the independent film world and is known for his notable performance in "Cloverbend," and his starring role in the movie "100 Kilos," which documents the rise and fall of the Freeway Boyz.

Despite his abilities, the Saginaw native did not have childhood dreams of becoming an actor but instead fell into it by accident. He attended Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University on a basketball scholarship and received his B.S. Degree in Business Administration. Then went on to pursue his MBA at Georgia State. It was at Georgia State that Adway took an acting class for sheer enjoyment; only to discover his love for the craft. He eventually switched his interest to pursue a Master Degree in Fine Arts. But it was after seeing Denzel Washington in "Mo Better Blues" that Adway decided to take the chance on pursuing a career as an actor. He performed in several theatrical productions during his residence at the Alliance Theater in Atlanta, GA; including roles in "MacBeth," "Othello," and "Dutchman and The Slave." At this time, he was also cast in the independent feature film "Midnight Edition," and in the CBS movie of the week, "Complex of Fear. To further his own zeal for his craft. He started a production company in 2007, Amethyst Entertainment



DWAYNE ADWAY

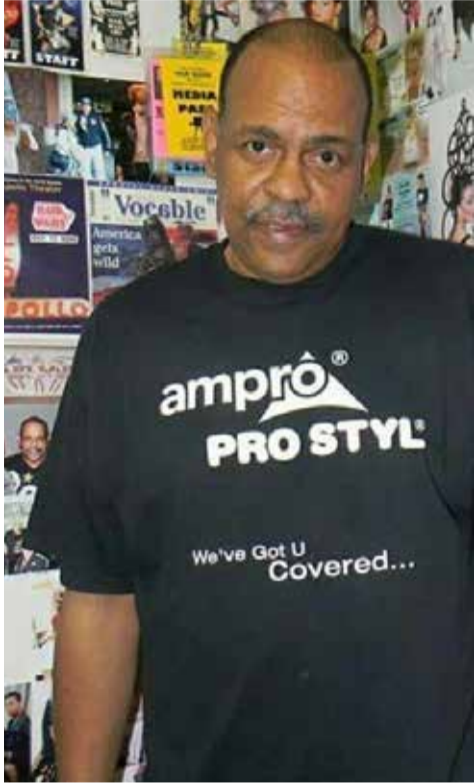
after his birth stone, with the vision of developing films and scripted and unscripted TV projects he is truly passionate about.

In addition to on-screen acting, Adway has done voice-over campaigns for the likes of CK 1, Chevy, Cingular Wireless, UPS, Dominoes, and Match.com, as well as the scratch recordings on the Dreamworks feature "Shark's Tale" for Will Smith. One of his favorite projects to date was the voice of 50 Cent's nemesis in the Fall 2005 release of the Interactive Game "50 Cent: Bulletproof." Adway's interests

outside of acting include golfing, fishing, cooking, writing poetry, and wine tasting. He also makes a point to give back to the community and regularly participates in events and activities for Elizabeth Glazer's Pediatric Aids Foundation and for Los Angeles Homeless Mission, and has been a member of the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masonry Society for 20 years. Adway has an extensive collection of music that ranges from Jazz, Classical, Country, and Hip Hop.

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Looking Back: Hair Wars founder David Humphries remembers 12 years of sponsorship with Pro Style hair products





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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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Edith Prunty Spencer, a pioneer in the Flint community



By **WANDA HARDEN**

As we recognize pioneers in the African American community and their achievements to Black History, one such legend in Flint, is Edith Prunty Spencer. She is currently 95 years young and still active in the community.

Edith and her late husband, J. Merrill Spencer, were well known for their entrepreneurship and operation of the successful House of Spencer Mortuary from 1955 until 1997, which became one of Flint's longest-operating funeral homes of its time.

Ms. Spencer graduated from Kimball High School in Kimball, West Virginia where she was a member of the National Honor Society and co-valedictorian of the class of 1943.

She attended Shaw University in North Carolina where she became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Beta Rho Chapter in December 1944. She graduated in 1946 with a degree in English. A year later, she received her bachelor's degree (BSLS) from Atlanta University School of Library Service in 1947.

Edith Prunty Spencer moved to Flint in 1950 and began her career at the Flint Public Library in 1951 as a cataloger where she retired in 1987 as Head of Adult Services. She received her degree certificate in mortuary science in 1962 from Wayne State University.

Ms. Spencer has been active with various organizations including Michigan Works, Career Alliance Board, League of Women Voters, Friends of Alfred P. Sloan, Urban League of Flint, Flint Board of N.A.A.C.P., Flint Institute of Arts and the Salvation Army.

Mr. and Mrs. Spencer were consid-



EDITH PRUNTY SPENCER

ered civil rights leaders as they fought the courts for several years for the rights of blacks to own cemetery plots and to bury blacks in white-owned cemeteries. In one case it was the "Right to Title" (right of a black person to own plots in a white-owned cemetery) and then a second case was the "Right to Bury" (right to bury a black person in the plot you own in a white-owned cemetery). Their suit led to the desegregation of cemeteries in Genesee County and Michigan in 1966.

Edith Prunty Spencer has been actively involved in the Flint Community since her move to the area in 1950. She has been a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church since 1951. Ms. Spencer has been involved with the United Negro College Fund, helping to raise funds for scholarships so that disadvantaged students could attend college. She was a long-time supporter of Jordan College in Flint and served as treasurer of Michigan Works Career Alliance. She has been an active member of the League of Women Voters for over half a century. She chaired committees for the successful millage campaigns to fund the Flint Public Library. She has served on the board

of the Friends of the Alfred P. Sloan Museum and was involved with the committee on African American history in Flint that evolved into Flint Journal reporter, Rhonda Sanders' book *Bronze Pillars: an oral history of African Americans in Flint*. She has also been involved with the Urban League of Flint, the Flint Branch of the NAACP, Planned Parenthood for over forty years, the Flint Institute of Arts and has served on the board for the Salvation Army for over 38 years.

Ms. Spencer is a charter member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha, Zeta Beta Omega Chapter of Flint, which was formally chartered in 1953.

Edith Prunty Spencer has been the recipient of numerous awards including: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Citizenship Award 1978, The Sojourner Truth Award from the Flint Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs 2000; Hands of Mercy Award 1994 as well as a lifetime achievement award for over 30 years of service from the Salvation Army 2009, Don L. Riegle Award for Community Service Award 2011 from the Flint Jewish Federation and in 2015 the Bell Brotherton Award from the Michigan League of Women Voters.

It is an honor to recognize and highlight the achievements and servitude of Ms. Edith Prunty Spencer, a pioneer in the Flint community.

Wanda Harden is the Community Engagement and Communications Manager at the Flint Public Library. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, Flint Alumnae Chapter, and The Flint Area Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. She is active with the Community Foundation of Greater Flint, Tuuri Health Advisory Committee, and the Flint Kids Fund Advisory Committee.

Reference: *MLive Flint Journal archives*
03/05/1978, 04/06/2000, 05/09/2009

+ COMMUNITY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

IN MY HUMBLE OPINION



Black History is World History



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

As most people know, even around the world, February is Black History Month in the United States and Canada. It is an opportunity to understand history beyond slavery and racism and to celebrate Black achievement. Naturally, much of the focus is on the two North American countries mentioned, but Black people have made major achievements and impacted history far beyond the US, Canada, and the continent of North America at large. In my humble opinion, Black history is world history and it should be recognized and celebrated everyday and in every institution where history is taught and promoted.

Noted educator, scholar, and author, Carter G. Woodson, known as the “father of Black history”, created Negro History Week in February 1926, which evolved into Black History Month by the late 1960s.

Woodson chose February as the month for observance because it coincided with the birthdates of both former US President Abraham Lincoln and social reformer, abolitionist, writer, orator, and statesman Frederick Douglass. Both men played a significant role in helping to end slavery.

In 1915, the historian, Woodson, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which was later renamed the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), and its mission is “to promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community.” ASALH is the oldest historical society established for the promotion of African American history, and Woodson helped establish the field of African American studies. In 1933 he wrote that Black achievements were “overlooked, ignored, and even suppressed by writers of history textbooks and the teachers who use them”, in his book “The Miseducation of the Negro”. Woodson concluded that this fed racial prejudice and the false belief that “the Negro has never contributed anything to the progress of mankind.”

The fact of the matter is Black people have impacted politics, culture, and the economy around the world. Since I am based in Africa, I will highlight two figures

that show that Black people have always had a global impact. The first is believed by many to be the richest person who ever lived, and his name was Mansa Musa. He was the ruler of the vast empire of Mali in West Africa, which stretched from the Atlantic coast in what is now Senegal to near the southern border of present-day Algeria from 1312 to 1337.

The Mali Empire, which was established in 1240 and lasted until 1645, was the largest and richest empire ever in West Africa. The capital city was Niani, and the most important trading city was Timbuktu near the River Niger and located where major waterways and land routes converged. Mali's exports of gold, copper, salt, and ivory made the empire, and Mansa (meaning king) Musa extraordinarily wealthy. With his army of approximately 100,000 men, including an armored cavalry corps of 10,000 horses, Mansa Musa was able to expand the empire and double its territory making it second in size only to that of the Mongol Empire at the time. The Empire played a significant role in the spread of Islam across West Africa due to the indigenous rulers adopting the religion from their contact with Arab merchants.

In 1324, like many other devout Mali rulers before and after him, Mansa Musa undertook his hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, but when he arrived in Cairo, Egypt in July of that year en route, he caused an absolute sensation. Even the Sultan was astounded by the wealth this West African king had brought with him. According World History Encyclopedia, “In some accounts, each of 100 camels carried 135 kilos or 300 pounds of gold dust while 500 slaves each brandished a 2.7 kilo (6 pounds) gold staff. In addition, there were hundreds of other camels loaded down with foodstuffs and textiles, horse riders waving the huge red and gold banners of the king, and an impressive human entourage of servants and officials that numbered in the tens of thousands.” He gave away so much gold, and his entourage spent so much shopping in the markets during their three-month

**CONTINUES ON PG 25,
BLACK HISTORY**

+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 24, Black History

stay that the value of the currency in Cairo plummeted and it would take more than a decade for the flooded gold market to recover.

According to the World Economic Forum, "By the time he [Mansa Musa] died in 1337, the Mali empire was widely known as a complex, advanced civilization. In the subsequent decades, while Europe was struggling through the Hundred Years' War, Mali prospered."

The second person is Lucius Septimius Severus who was Roman emperor from April 193 to February 211 AD. He was of Libyan descent from Lepcis Magna and came from a locally prominent Punic family who had a history of rising to senatorial as well as consular status in the Roman Empire. His blackness is a bit controversial because there are scholarly arguments on both sides that he was, and was not Black. What they all agree on is that he was definitely an African.

Roman Emperor Septimius Sever-


us, who ruled large parts of Europe, the Middle East and Africa, is notable for the militarization of the government, growing Oriental influences in society, and high development of civil law. In 208 when he came to London, he helped strengthen Hadrian's wall and actually built the first few walls of London with members of his massive army.

Regarding the issue of his blackness, "The ancient Greeks and Romans had no concept of the existence of a 'black race' and a 'white race' existing in contrast to each other. This idea as we know it today was made up by light-skinned people of western European descent in the Early Modern Period (lasted c. 1450 – c. 1750) in order to justify their brutal enslavement of dark-skinned people of African descent", according to history scholar Spencer McDaniels and as published in her article, "Was Septimius Severus a Black Roman Emperor?". Ancient Romans did not have a system of racial classification based on

skin color like we do today. A person's skin color was just a physical characteristic, no more or less significant than a person's hair or eye color.

A family portrait of Septimius Severus painted in circa 199 AD and called the "Severan Tondo" depicts him with bronze colored skin and with a curly beard and hair. This is in contrast to the lighter skin tones of his wife of Syrian ancestry and their two sons. As McDaniels states, "Based on this portrait, I think you could undoubtedly describe Septimius Severus as a 'person of color'".

Ultimately, "blackness" and "whiteness" are inherently subjective categories that are over emphasized and politicized to the detriment of society. So, in this month of February and going forward let us celebrate Black history as world history, and the race of the historical figures can be mentioned as side note (i.e. ...who also happened to be Black...). What do you think?



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BLACK HISTORY MONTH



"THE BLACK CHURCH: THIS IS OUR STORY, THIS IS OUR SONG" SERIES ON PBS

History of the Black Church and its significance today

By CYNTHIA WEST-EDWARDS

In recognizing Black History, one institution we cannot forget which has great significance to Black history and is an integral part of the African American community is the Black or African American church. This institution has been a sanctuary, a place of redemption, salvation, and validation. It is where you are taught the love of Christ, the Holy Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As a congregant, you could attain positions or titles. You are always, "brother and sister". If you are in a leadership position in the Black church, you strive to be an inspiration to others as their Pastor, Deacon, Deaconess, Sunday School teacher, or Trustee, to name a few. You are committed to a ministry of guiding your flock or mentoring and inspiring the next generation. Teaching them the importance of Christianity, ensuring they are taught morals and values with hopes they will have even greater opportunities in life is extremely important.

The history of the Black church dates to 1758 as it was the first source of land ownership for Black African slaves in America.

During that time, many members of white society looked upon Black religious

meetings as a threat to white existence. This did not deter the African slaves from establishing and relying heavily on their churches.

The Black church displayed an air of militancy in the eyes of white Americans. Insurrections such as Nat Turner's Rebellion which took place in Southampton County, Virginia, were born out of the religious inspiration of slaves, which horrified white Americans.

For African Americans, regardless of their denominational differences, Black Churches have always represented their religion, community, and home.

One of the First known Black churches in America, the African Baptist or "Blue-stone" Church was organized before the American Revolution. It was founded on the William Byrd plantation near the Blue-stone River, in Mecklenburg, Virginia. Other early Black Church milestones included the Baptist and Episcopal denominations.

The First African Baptist Church of Savannah, Georgia began in 1777. This is said to be the oldest Black church in North America.

According to the African American Registry,(AAREG), the term "the Black Church" is a misnomer. It implies that all

Black churches share or have shared the same aspirations and strategies for creating cohesive African American communities. This is simply not true, and there are differences found among Black communities. One can see these differences in their doctrines, and styles of worship such as Baptist, Catholicism, Pentecostal, and African Methodist Episcopal churches. The Black church was and still is a voice in the community. They are organized politically and spiritually, and not only teach Christianity but are relied upon to address specific issues which affect their congregation.

In African American history, "the church" has long been at the center of Black communities. It is just as important today as it was to our ancestors when they first established the church.

Reference: African American Registry AAREG

Suggested readings:

African American Registry, The Black Church by Henry Louis Gates, Jr

A History of the Black Baptist Church by Wayne E.Croft, Sr.,

A History of the African American Church by Leroy Fitts

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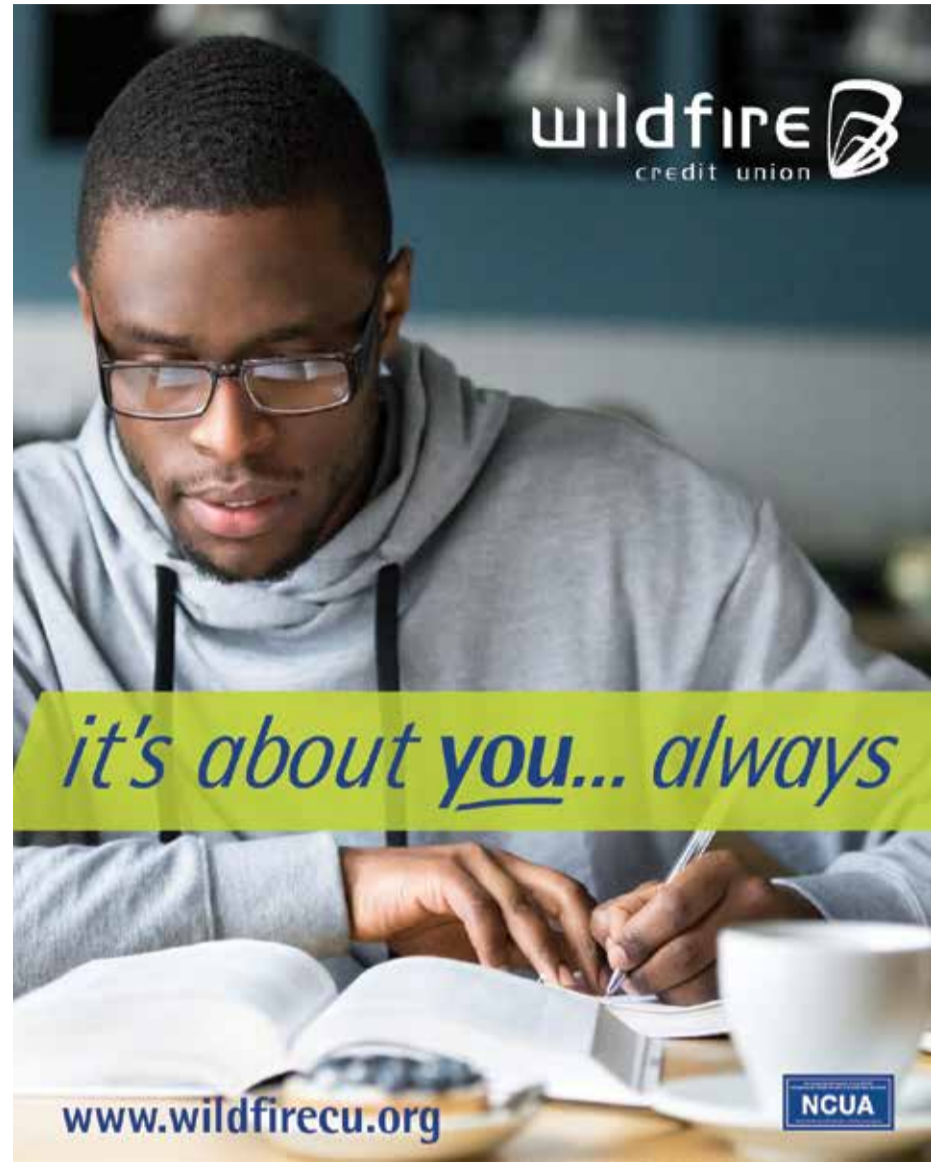
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+ HEALTH

HEART HEALTH MONTH

What food makes your heart happy?

1 in every 4 people die of heart disease each year in the United States.

Your heart is the hardest working organ in your body

R.I.P. R.I.P. R.I.P. R.I.P.

COURTESY PHOTO

MDHHS celebrates Heart Health Awareness Month this February

LANSING – Heart disease is the number one cause of death of women in the United States and in Michigan, causing about one in five deaths in 2020. In recognition of Heart Health Awareness Month and the American Heart Association's Go Red™ for Women campaign, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) WISEWOMAN program and Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Unit are working together to raise awareness of this important health issue.

From 2019 to 2020, mortality rates due to heart disease increased nearly 2% among white non-Hispanic women, more than 8% among Hispanic women and nearly 10% among Black non-Hispanic women aged 25 and older nationwide. Although women are disproportionately impacted, heart disease can affect people of any age, gender, race and ethnicity.

Both the WISEWOMAN program and the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Unit work to identify and communicate

risk factors for heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke and other chronic conditions such as diabetes specifically through the work of the Michigan Million Hearts® Network. Million Hearts® 2022 is a national initiative to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes co-led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

"It's important for women and Michiganders to know their risk factors for heart disease," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MDHHS chief medical executive. "Being aware of risk factors and also giving people tools they need to lead a healthier lifestyle will improve quality of life."

Most heart disease and other cardiovascular diseases can be prevented with education and living a healthy lifestyle such as:

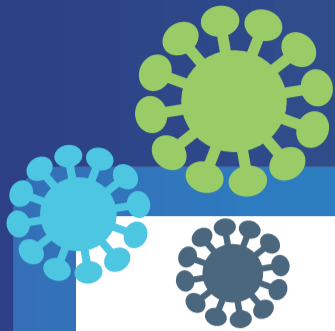
- Not smoking and avoiding exposure to secondhand smoke.

- Engaging in regular physical activity.
- Eating healthy.
- Managing blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol.
- Achieving and maintaining a healthy weight.

Women should talk with their health care providers about their health including any risk factors they may have for cardiovascular disease. For information on risk factors as well as signs and symptoms of cardiovascular disease, visit Go Red for Women.

For more information about the WISEWOMAN program call 844-446-8727. Locate an enrollment site for the WISEWOMAN program online.

For more information about the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Unit, visit Michigan.gov/CVH.



Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

www.GreatLakesBayHealthCenters.org

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

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

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

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

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

TOTAL GLBHC PATIENTS SERVED IN 2020:



50,270 PATIENTS

RECEIVING MEDICAL, DENTAL, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE AND OTHER VISITS

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



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

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



DENTAL CARE

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



CHRONIC HEALTH MONITORING = BETTER OUTCOMES

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



“Bridging the Behavioral Health Disparity Gap”

Women of Colors (WOC) Offers
\$50 VISA GIFT CARDS

Discuss your experiences with Behavior Healthcare Services



WOC seeks African Americans who have had Mental Health and Substance Use services within the last 5 years.

Must be 18 years of age or older and reside in Saginaw County



 SCAN ME

**MICHIGAN HEALTH
ENDOWMENT FUND**



For more information call (989) 399-8775 Ext. 5

+ HEALTH

Mid-Michigan Medical Centers in Alma, Mt. Pleasant Ease Visitor Restrictions

With COVID-19 hospitalizations and community cases of the virus decreasing, MyMichigan Medical Centers in Alma and Mt. Pleasant will ease visitor restrictions effective Feb. 15. Visiting hours for Medical Center Inpatient Units will now be held daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Behavioral Health Units remain daily from 6 to 8 p.m., and visitors of patients in Specialized Care Units are to check with the nurse's station to determine appropriate visiting times.

"We recognize that an important aspect of care and healing is having a family member or support person with our patients whenever possible," said Marita Hattem-Schiffman, president, MyMichigan Medical Centers in Alma, Clare and Mt. Pleasant. "We have been carefully monitoring the number of state and local cases and are pleased to see a steady decline. However, the safety of our patients, visitors and employees is our priority. While we will ease our visitor restrictions, our protocols for health screening, universal masking and social distancing in our facilities will remain in place."

Based on current available COVID-19 data, the visitor policy for MyMichigan Medical Centers in Alma and Mt. Pleasant has been updated to the following:

Inpatients

Each inpatient who is not COVID positive is allowed 2 visitors/support persons at a time.

- Maternity inpatients may have 2 support persons plus a certified doula. The support persons must be the same two individuals during the entire stay. Support persons may be further restricted during triage, outpatient visits or special procedures. Exceptions may be granted based on individual circumstances upon patient request and as supported by the care team.
- Due to space limitations, some waiting rooms may be closed or restricted in number of visitors. Inpatient visitations should occur in the patient room.

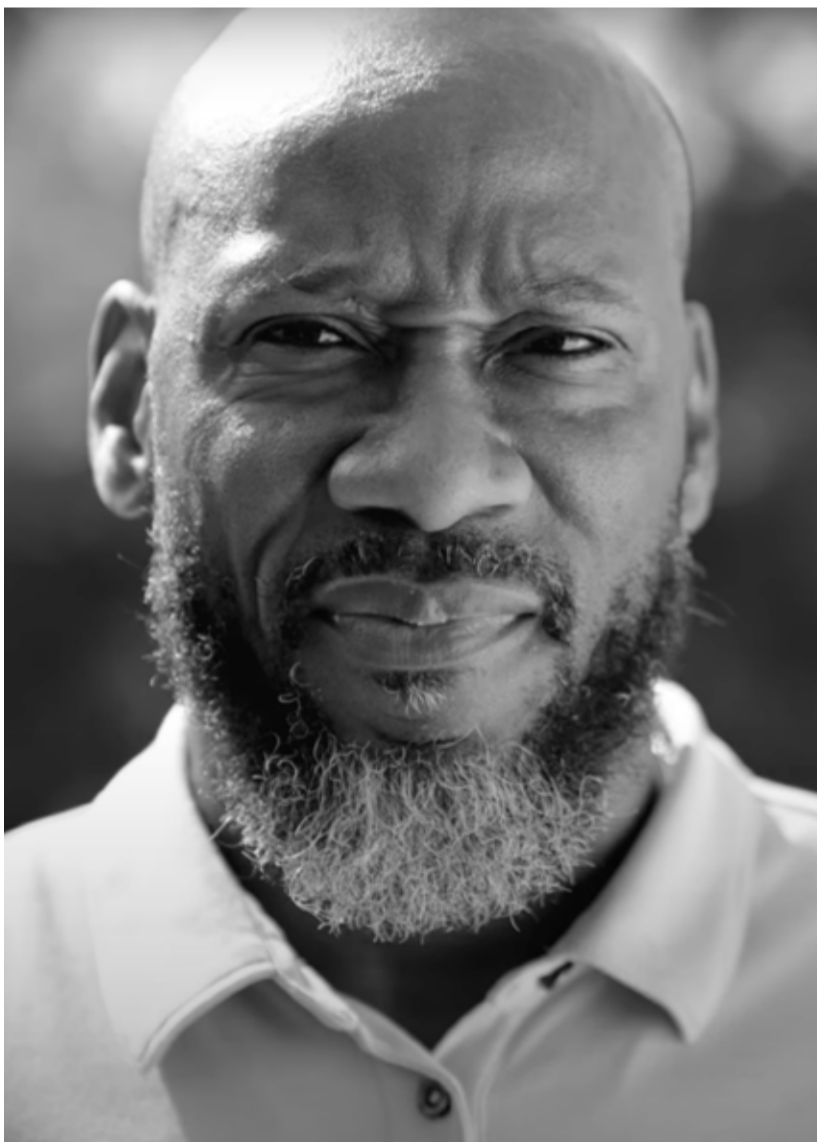
Emergency Departments

- Only 1 visitor/support person per patient, unless therapeutic to the patient and approved by the staff.
- Pediatric patients may have 2 parents or legal guardians.

Doctor's Offices, Outpatient and Surgical Departments

- Patients who are not COVID-19 positive or suspect may designate 1 support person during outpatient visits, such as doctor appointments or testing.
- Pediatric patients may have 2 parents or legal guardians.

For more information visit <https://www.midmichigan.org/about/news/2022/alma-mt-pleasant-ease-visitor-restrictions/>



"I ALSO WAS HESITANT... THEN I DID THE RESEARCH."

DR. JOHN DUCKWORTH, PASTOR, GETHSEMANE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Research shows COVID vaccines are safe. Get the facts, then get vaccinated.

Like many in his community and congregation, Dr. Duckworth questioned the COVID vaccines at first. Would they be safe? Could they be trusted? But he didn't rely on rumors or social media for answers. He spoke to people who had received the vaccine. He looked to medical experts. And then he got vaccinated to protect himself and others.

The vaccines have been tested for safety and are trusted by doctors. But it's okay to have questions. Do your homework and get answers, like Dr. Duckworth.

To find your vaccine: Visit Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine, call 211, or text your zip code to 438829.





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A team of physiatrists with specialized training and experience in rehabilitative care have joined Dr. Sohail Jilani, medical director of the Mary Free Bed at Covenant HealthCare Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Program.

Our inpatient program now serves children and adults with complex conditions, such as brain injuries, multiple trauma and spinal cord injuries. Outpatient services include follow-up care for former inpatients as well as treatment for common diagnoses, including back pain and disorders of muscles, tendons and bones.

For more information and referrals, please call 989.583.2720 (Outpatient Practice) or 989.583.2817 (Inpatient Rehabilitation).



MaryFreeBedatCovenant.com
700 Cooper, Suite 1100, Saginaw, MI 48602
GPS Address: 1100 Cooper, Saginaw, MI 48602

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

Whitmer education budget proposal would have major impact on teacher shortages in Michigan

LANSING - Governor Gretchen Whitmer's pre-K-12 budget proposes historic investments in school funding and would have a major impact on the shortage of teachers in Michigan public schools.

State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice applauded the broad strokes of Whitmer's recently unveiled 2023 state budget and the budget's proposed spending on pre-K-12 education, including a five-percent increase in the per-pupil grants to school districts, investments to recruit future educators, and incentive bonuses for current educators.

"This is a great education budget," Dr. Rice said of the governor's proposal. "The plan associated with recruitment and retention efforts is very strong. The retention bonuses would help retain teachers and support staff—a very persistent challenge in Michigan public schools. The recruitment investments would help districts develop grow-your-own programs to help support staff become teachers, inspire students to join the education profession, and provide scholarships for future educators and stipends for student teachers.

"This budget would help advance every single goal of the state's Top 10 state strategic education plan and, in so doing,

would improve the lives of our more than 1.4 million Michigan public school children," Dr. Rice said.

The governor's recommended budget includes total funding of \$18.4 billion in fiscal year 2023, with a \$435 per pupil increase in the state aid foundation allowance to \$9,135 per pupil, a five-percent increase or an additional \$580 million for school districts.

"I applaud the governor for making public education a top priority in this budget proposal," said State Board of Education President Dr. Casandra Ulbrich. "These investments will have a lasting impact on schools in Michigan."

Whitmer's budget recommendation, presented to the state legislature this morning by State Budget Director Chris Harkins, promotes a \$1.7 billion investment in educator retention programs and \$600 million for educator recruitment programs.

The retention programs include \$1.5 billion for bonuses to educators who agree to continue working in their school districts over the next four years; \$50 million annually for teacher onboarding and mentoring programs; and \$75 million for innovative approaches to addressing regional

educator needs.

The \$600 million targeted for recruitment programs would help strengthen the teacher talent pipeline in Michigan. Scholarships for future educators, stipends for student teachers, and expansions in the grow-your-own programs of local districts highlight the teacher recruitment investments proposed by the governor.

"The governor's proposed investment of over \$360 million in school-based mental and physical health supports and the creation of a \$1 billion school infrastructure fund of which \$170 million would be available for school infrastructure grants starting next year would help address many pressing needs facing our students and educators," said State Board of Education Vice President Dr. Pamela Pugh. "This bold action lays the necessary foundation for the support that our children and educators deserve."

The governor's budget recommendation reflects many of the strategic investment strategies that Dr. Rice sent to the state legislature in November to address the state's teacher shortage.

"There is increasing awareness of the enormous effect that the teacher shortage, exacerbated but not caused by the pandemic, has had on our public schools," Dr. Rice said. "Our needs are urgent, and we are encouraging the legislature to accelerate this funding through a supplemental budget passed by the start of spring to give local school districts the time to begin to implement these efforts before the start of next school year."

The governor's budget also recommends significant funding increases for pre-school and after-school programs, students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students, English learners, and career and technical education. Children's mental health and school safety would also receive significant increases under this budget, and school infrastructure is substantially addressed.

"The additional funding is substantial and important to meet the needs of Michigan public school children," concluded Dr. Rice.

+ EDUCATION

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



FROM L TO R: DR. CARTER G. WOODSON, MAXINE (ATKINS) SMITH, DR. ROD PAIGE

Influential African American educators



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

The origination for studying Black History can be traced back to 1915 and a man named **Dr. Carter G. Woodson** (1875-1950). Today I would like to highlight Dr. Woodson and two other African American educators in honor of Black History Month.

Starting with Dr. Woodson, we learn he was a spirited trailblazer in many ways. He started his educational career when he was 20, entering high school after working in the coal fields of West Virginia several years. Because he was self-taught in English, math, and other subjects, he finished high school in just two years. Two years to complete high school, after turning 20 years old!

Woodson entered college and continued his education that culminated in a PhD from Harvard University; he was just the second African American to earn a doctorate from Harvard and the first one to be born to parents who had been slaves. Again, reflect upon those two important points: Harvard graduate and first to be born to parents who had been in slavery.

Soon Dr. Woodson embraced the chal-

lenge of identifying and honoring African Americans. His efforts led to several accomplishments (e.g., established what is now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc. (ASALH); founded *The Journal of Negro History* in 1916 and *The Negro History Bulletin* in 1937). For all of his efforts, Woodson has been referenced as the Father of Black History.

Dr. Woodson mentored many young scholars and was widely known for helping female historians before others.

Next, I would like to highlight an activist that helped to advance the Civil Rights movement forward, **Maxine (Atkins) Smith** (1929-2013). Unlike Carter Woodson, Maxine finished high school early at the age of 15 and quickly earned college degrees in biology and French. Let that sink in: Finished high school at an early age and studied two diverse and rigorous subjects.

Teaching at the college level, in 1957 Maxine applied to work on her doctorate at the University of Memphis only to be denied admission due to her being black. This is terribly hard for me to comprehend, being denied admission due to skin color. It stirs anger in me just thinking about it now. Smith responded not in anger but by becoming an activist for the Civil Rights movement by joining the NAACP and ascending to the role of Executive Secretary of the Memphis branch. She remained in that role for more than three decades.

In 1960 Maxine Smith helped to desegregate Memphis Schools and personally took 13 African Americans to school

herself, most likely at high levels of risk and cost. Later in 1971 she was elected to the Memphis Board of Education as the first African American to do so. She stayed on the Board until 1995, having been elected its president for the final two terms she served. In 1994, Governor Ned McWerter appointed Maxine to the Tennessee Board of Regents which oversees many public colleges and universities in the state.

Finally, lets focus upon **Dr. Rod Paige** (1933-) was appointed to the cabinet of President George W. Bush in 2001 in the role as Secretary of Education, the first African American to hold that office. He oversaw the policies we may recall being so public and hitting close to home, often referred to as No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

What is interesting to me about Dr. Paige is he rose through the ranks like many of us. He coached football and taught high school while working on his doctorate from Indiana University right here in the Big Ten. He went on to serve as Dean of the College of Education Texas Southern University, served on the Board of Education and then as Superintendent of Houston Independent School District, the 7th largest school system in the United States. In 2001 Paige was Superintendent of the Year in recognition of his leadership and soon nominated by President Bush for Secretary of Education, making him the first school superintendent to serve in that role.

In honor of February as Black History Month, I hope you have enjoyed the three examples I chose for today's article~ Dr. Woodson, a historian who has been named the Father of Black History; Ms. Smith, a Civil Rights activist; and Dr. Paige, a practitioner who ascended to high office. These are fine examples of many, many African-American Educators. Trailblazers. Fearless and courageous. Making pathways for all of us to be better educated and informed.

Resources:

<https://asalh.org/about-us/origins-of-black-history-month/>

<https://www.nps.gov/cawo/learn/carter-g-woodson-biography.htm>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maxine_Smith

<https://aaregistry.org/story/first-african-american-secretary-of-education-appointed/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rod_Paige

<https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/government/paige-bio.html>

SVSU day of giving generates over \$102,000 for scholarships and more

SAGINAW – Thanks to an outpouring of support from alumni and friends of Saginaw Valley State University, the university will be able to offer scholarships to students who face financial hurdles to completing their degrees.

On Wednesday, Feb. 2, the SVSU Foundation held its 7th annual “2/2 for SVSU” giving day campaign, raising over \$102,000 and exceeding its goal of \$100,000. The focus of this year’s effort was a new Student Success Fund to support transfer, retention and degree completion scholarships.

“Every year, our alumni and friends demonstrate their confidence in SVSU and our mission by supporting ‘2/2 for SVSU,’” said SVSU President Donald Bachand. “This private support enables our students to earn their degrees and begin rewarding careers with employers throughout the region and beyond.”

Encouraged by “seed” funds of \$40,000 from the Wickson-Link Memorial Foundation and the Allen E. and Marie A. Nickless Memorial Foundation, donors stepped up to grow the fund to \$100,000. Challenge gifts from the Alice E. Turner Memorial Trust and SVSU Foundation staff also helped spur contributions throughout the day.

“We are very grateful for the support of the SVSU alumni and friends who supported the university through our ‘2/2 for SVSU’ campaign,” said Andrew Bethune, executive director of the SVSU Foundation. “The generous support of the Wickson-Link and Allen E. and Marie A. Nickless Foundations was instrumental in the success of the campaign, and the matching gift challenges helped us maintain our momentum throughout the day.”

Many students have faced hardships

over the past two years, making the new scholarships particularly timely.

“There are very few scholarships designated specifically for upperclassmen or for students who transfer to SVSU, and none at the moment devoted to helping students return to SVSU to finish degrees following an interruption,” said Ann Schumann-Ousley, manager of annual giving and data management for the SVSU Foundation. “These new scholarship funds will meaningfully impact these students’ lives and allow them to stay in college or to get back on the path to an SVSU degree.”

Held every year on Feb. 2, the “2/2 for SVSU” campaign was modeled on the Giving Tuesday fundraising initiative. Since the first giving day in 2016, donors have contributed over \$525,000 through the annual event



Multicultural Academic Student Services (MASS) is a comprehensive office, which provides academic, personal, social and cultural support to students. To empower and retain students, the office provides culturally relevant services through academic achievement, scholarship, cultural celebrations, mentoring, and diversity education which promotes the successful transition, persistence, achievement and graduation of students.

Multicultural Academic Student Services seeks to promote a campus community that fosters the holistic development of multicultural students by providing support for their academic goals, while expressing genuine care for their personal development and well-being, advocating on their behalf and encouraging the full use of all university resources.

The office maintains strong relationships with students, parents, alumni, faculty/staff as well as the community, while building support for the successful matriculation and retention of students.

Simply put.....MASS is your home away from home.



MULTICULTURAL ACADEMIC STUDENT SERVICES
CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Celebrate • Educate • Advocate • Activate

“Coming together is a beginning. Working together is progress. Growing together is success!”




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Learn more about the Multicultural Academic Student Services office today!

Multicultural Academic Student Services (MASS)
103 E Preston St., Suite 112
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859
Phone: 989.774.3945
Fax: 989.774.1376
Email: mass@cmich.edu

CMU is an AA/EO institution, providing equal opportunity to all persons, including minorities, females, veterans and individuals with disabilities (see cmich.edu/ocrie).

+ EDUCATION

ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT CLIMATE CHANGE AND HOW IT IMPACTS US

FEBRUARY 23 • 7PM • ZOOM EVENT



Jennifer Atkinson is an author and associate professor of environmental humanities at the University of Washington, Bothell.



Elizabeth Kolbert is a journalist, author and visiting fellow at Williams College.

President's
Speaker
Series

Register at delta.edu/climatechange.
A link will be sent to your email.

For more information, contact
David Baskind at 989-686-9374.



Seen on the Scene:
On February 10-11, Saginaw Career Complex Culinary Arts Students traveled to Baker CIM for the region 3 SkillsUSA culinary, baking and restaurant service competitions.





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. California Congressman

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

+ BUSINESS

The 989 Collection

In December 2020, Haley Hall and Kimberly Johnson co-founded a small e-commerce business named The 989 Collection. Proud to be from Saginaw, the pair wanted to create apparel to represent their community while also finding a way to give back.

Both Hall and Johnson received numerous scholarships from local Saginaw organizations when they were pursuing higher education. Hall graduated from Howard University in Washington, DC and Johnson graduated from Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, MI. They attribute much of their success to the Saginaw community – from financial support to emotional support. With Hall's business background and Johnson's fashion design background - they knew they'd be a great duo.

When the two were brainstorming the business plan, it seemed fitting for a scholarship aspect to be involved. They decided a portion of the proceeds from sales would be contributed to the scholarship fund to support under-represented students from Saginaw pursuing higher education. In addition, there is an option on their website to donate separately to the fund without buying apparel. Their goal is to award a scholarship annually. In August 2021, they awarded their first scholarship to a Saginaw native attending Saginaw Valley State University.

Hall & Johnson say, "There are so many talented people from Saginaw located around the world and we want to assist with creating more." Any bit of financial assistance and emotional support they can give students, they will.

While Hall and Johnson have moved away from Saginaw, it will always be home. This is the case for many from Saginaw and Michigan in general. On social media, The 989 Collection features a series called "Hometown Pride Wednesday" where they showcase a fellow Michigander sporting apparel from the brand along with a short biography. This allows the community to grow in a fun way and show where people are located around the globe.

While The 989 Collection caters mostly to Saginaw natives, they are starting to offer apparel for all Michiganders. They hope to expand and become a staple for Michigan apparel. You'll find everything from simple designs to apparel with popular landmarks on them. They also sell mugs and tote bags which make great gifts. You can find them at www.989collection.com.

"We're excited for what's to come and thank the Michigan community for their continued support!" says Hall & Johnson.



HALEY HALL (LEFT), KIMBERLY JOHNSON (RIGHT) PICTURED IN DOWNTOWN SAGINAW IN THE 989 COLLECTION APPAREL



FRIENDS IN FRONT OF SAGINAW MURAL WEARING THE 989 COLLECTION APPAREL

+ BUSINESS



AAAC CO-CHAIRS EBONIE GIPSON AND LUTHER BROWN, JR.

The African American Advisory Committee in Flint is energized for 2022, and beyond

FLINT – The African American Advisory Committee (AAAC) of the Flint & Genesee Chamber began 2022 with new leadership and a refined mission to support the growth and success of Black-owned businesses in Genesee County.

The AAAC serves as the liaison between the region's growing African American business community and the Chamber. AAAC members partner with the Chamber to support the advancement and development of African American businesses.

Co-chairs Ebonie Gipson and Luther Brown, Jr. – entrepreneurs and business owners themselves – share a common vision about the committee's agenda moving forward: expanding the resources available for the region's African American-owned businesses and enhancing their operational capacity.

"I think a lot of upstart Black-owned businesses don't always know what resources are available or how to access

them. The AAAC can assist with that," said Gipson, owner of I'm Building Something Consulting, LLC, which offers strategic planning, branding and marketing. "I remember not knowing where to start or what resources were available when I started my business."

Improving access to capital typically tops the list of needs for most small business owners but there are other important considerations, too, in growing and sustaining a business.

"Becoming financially educated in keeping your books is really important," said Brown, chief operations officer of The John L Group, a family-owned business that provides logistics, financial and construction services. "If you don't have that in order, you're at a great disadvantage whether you have access to capital or not."

Increasing the visibility of African American-owned businesses is also central to the committee's work, the co-chairs

added. In addition to improving the businesses' marketing reach to attract new customers and clients, developing an ecosystem will help create opportunities among local businesses.

"Once you understand where the opportunities are, you might be able to recycle dollars locally whenever possible, instead of having to look outside the community, like to Saginaw or Detroit," said Brown.

Gipson and Brown each made points to acknowledge the foundation laid by previous leaders of the AAAC. They are now eager to build upon it by revving up the committee's recruitment efforts and moving from quarterly to monthly meetings.

"Luther and I are both entrepreneurs in the community," Gipson said. "So, we are advocates for other entrepreneurs. It means a lot to me because I believe in the power of resources."

+ BUSINESS

CMS Energy Names Tonya Berry Senior Vice President of Transformation and Engineering

JACKSON – CMS Energy, and its principal subsidiary Consumers Energy, announced today that Tonya Berry is named senior vice president of Transformation and Engineering, effective immediately. Tonya previously served as the vice president of gas operations responsible for gas transmission, distribution, and the integrity of the company's gas system. With her new position, Tonya will be responsible for electric and gas engineering, as well as, resource planning, project management, environmental services and our quality department.

“Tonya has demonstrated a strong commitment to serve customers, strengthened the processes we use to do our work and inspired our co-workers to deliver results during her time at Consumers Energy,” said Garrick Rochow, President and CEO of CMS Energy and Consumers Energy. “Tonya leads with joy and epitomizes our company’s triple bottom line and culture of caring for people, the planet and our state’s prosperity.”

Berry has served as vice president of gas operations since 2020 and previously as vice president of operations performance. Berry has expertise in gas, engineering, and over 20 years of experience in deploying Lean methodologies to enhance quality and improve work management within gas and electric groups. Prior to joining Consumers Energy, Berry also worked for Chrysler LLC in lean operations and industrial engineering. She has a Bachelor’s in industrial engineering from the University of Michigan, and a Master’s in business administration from Wayne State University.



TONYA BERRY

SVSU holding manufacturing and information technology employment fair

Those seeking careers in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, computer science and computer information systems should attend Saginaw Valley State University Manufacturing & Information Technology Employment Fair on Wednesday, Feb. 16 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at SVSU’s Curtiss Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

The Manufacturing & Information Technology Employment Fair will spotlight more than 20 employers seeking part-time and full-time employees as well as intern and co-op employees.

“This is a terrific opportunity for those who want to explore internships and careers in manufacturing and IT fields,” said Jim Dwyer, executive director of SVSU career services.

Sponsors include the Great Lakes Bay Manufacturers Association, Amigo, Nexteer Automotive and HSC.

Attendees can see a list of the employers who will be present and register for the event through the Cardinal Career Network (Handshake) using the links on the SVSU Career Services Website.

Professional attire is recommended for attendees.



+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

Where will your next lead gift come from?

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Are you ready to jump into a fundraising campaign without knowing where your lead gifts will come from and why they are important?

A lead gift is a gift or grant that represents a minimum of 10% to 20% of your fundraising goal. You need to know your goal to determine the size of a potential lead gift; and you need to know who has the capacity and interest to give a lead gift so you can strategically allocate your time and resources.

It can be easy to start fundraising by getting everyone involved and raising as much as you can. One problem with this method is that you can spend as much time pursuing a \$500 gift as a \$50,000 gift. Use your time as wisely as possible, by starting with lead gifts and building momentum. If a lead gift represents 10% to 20% of your fundraising goal, then you would need a gift of \$25,000 to \$50,000 for a \$250,000 fundraising goal. If your goal is \$8 million, your range could be from \$800,000 to \$1.6 million. Remember, you can look for several lead gifts. Here are two suggestions for finding them.

First look to those closest to your organization or institution. A lead gift could come from a member of your board, or one of their colleagues, family members, business partners, or friends. Talk about potential lead gifts as part of the board's annual budgeting and fundraising planning. Also speak with board members individually to gain insights and suggestions



COURTESY PHOTO

they may not feel comfortable sharing at the group level. Look to your long-term donors and volunteers as well. They often share a common vision and believe in your mission and goals. One may want to make a large gift that can symbolize their legacy – or honor the legacy of someone they love or respect. Importantly, if you are using a campaign structure, you want your co-chairs to make the lead gift. That is part of their role as a campaign chair: to make a lead gift. Last but not least, look to an individual or a family that is grateful for the services and impact that your non-profit has made on their lives: they may be honored to give back in this way.

Next, consider a local or national foundation whose mission and goals are in

alignment with what your organization is proposing. Look also to local or state government for funding in areas where your organization's work aligns with their goals, or where you can "solve" a problem that they cannot. Look also to individuals who may not have a history with your non-profit, but whose goals and mission align with yours, as well as a corporation who may see partnering with your organization as a way to help them meet their community obligations and commitments.

Knowing who to ask for a lead gift means you, your board, and fundraising leadership know who to focus on cultivating and soliciting.



Copyright 2021 – Mel and Pearl Shaw

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

+ CHURCH DIRECTORY

B



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



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



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

C

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

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



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

F



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



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

G



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

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

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

J



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

L

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

M

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



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

N



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

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



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



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



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



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

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

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

P

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

R



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

S



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



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



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

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

T



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



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

U



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

V



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

W



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

Z



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

+ SPORTS

Red Wings, Tigers open Black History Month with first Game Changers honor

DETROIT – The Detroit Red Wings and Detroit Tigers are proud to begin the second year of the Game Changers series, presented by Comerica Bank, beginning with a celebration of Black History Month.

The first Game Changers honoree for Black History Month is lifelong Detroit resident Jason McCrimmon, who is the founder of Detroit Ice Dreams and the ambassador for the Red Wings' pioneering Learn, Play, Score program.

"We're thrilled to kick off another year of honoring incredible community leaders making a positive impact on kids every day with our partners at Comerica Bank," said Kevin Brown, director of community impact for Ilitch Sports + Entertainment. "Game Changers is set to grow in 2022, celebrating more impactful leaders and introducing networking opportunities for community partners at Little Caesars Arena and Comerica Park."

McCrimmon is a former inner-city youth hockey player who began his journey at Jack Adams Memorial Arena as part of the Detroit Hockey Association. He played Division III college hockey at Wisconsin's Northland College before transferring to UMass-Boston and Suffolk University.

After college, McCrimmon played four years of professional hockey in the U.S. and overseas, becoming the first African American to be named captain of a Finnish hockey team.

Once he hung up his skates in 2012, McCrimmon wanted to give kids an opportunity to enjoy hockey and have representation within his neighborhood, so after the Detroit Hockey Association disbanded, he created Detroit Ice Dreams.

"The Detroit Hockey Association was a home away from home for us, so I kept helping out when I played college, junior hockey and professional," McCrimmon said. "The program dissolved and there was a void there, so I decided to start Ice Dreams."

Detroit Ice Dreams is dedicated to promoting and subsidizing hockey for underrepresented youth in the community. The organization provides high-quality recreational, social and mentoring support while encouraging academic excellence and the promotion of community involvement. It also provides a college scholarship program to help students with tuition and supplies.

"We encourage more than just hockey. We stress accomplishing great things on and off the ice," McCrimmon said. "Ice Dreams supports the need to establish positive val-

ues, goals, invaluable life skills and positive involvement in the community as leaders and productive members of society."

Participants of Detroit Ice Dreams engage in several community initiatives each year, including volunteering at Gleaners Community Food Bank, and feeding and distributing blessing bags to the homeless. Every year the organization also proudly hosts a Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway and Back to School Backpack Giveaway, as well as an Adopt a Child/Family program for Christmas.

"We couldn't think of a better honoree to kick off our 2022 Game Changers series than Jason McCrimmon," Brown said. "Serving as the Red Wings' official Learn, Play, Score ambassador since 2020, Jason uses his personal experience and deep passion for hockey to inspire thousands of kids across Detroit to dream big through the sport each year."

McCrimmon is proud of how much Detroit Ice Dreams has grown since its inception eight years ago, but he is most proud of how much his former participants have grown as human beings.

"Seeing the kids from 2014 to now, some of those kids played in our junior program, some of those kids are in college right now, some are graduating," he said. "I'm proud of the part we played in incorporating different values from the game of hockey into our program. They took what they learned and are doing a lot of great things outside of hockey."

McCrimmon, who is also the first African American majority owner of a Junior Hockey program -- Motor City Hockey Club -- is happy to provide representation in his community and show kids with similar backgrounds that anything is possible.

"You see it, you can do it. If you're in a situation where you know the support system is there, anything is obtainable," McCrimmon said. "It's even better to see a guy that you know came up the same as you and become successful. You can be a doctor or a lawyer or a garbage man, whatever you choose to be, just being able to take care of your family and give back to the community is a success in so many ways."

McCrimmon said being celebrated as part of the Red Wings and Tigers Game Changers is a full-circle moment and an incredible honor.

"It's huge. I've been going to Joe Louis Arena since I was a baby," he said. "To be part of the Red Wings in any capacity is amazing, let alone being honored for what we do in the



JASON MCCRIMMON

community, I think it's huge. I'm very grateful and excited."

McCrimmon is thrilled to see the Red Wings and Tigers in their second year of promoting Game Changers in the community and said it's a big opportunity to shine a spotlight on hard-working people making a difference in metro Detroit.

"I think it's great. You're in a situation where you're touching different backgrounds," he said. "The city has so many diverse people, and now we're able to get a spotlight on those people. I think it's huge that the Red Wings and Tigers are doing this. Game Changers is a way to get to an arm out there to reach different people."

Despite all the incredible work that McCrimmon has done, he has no plans of slowing down any time soon. His ultimate goal, beyond seeing his participants doing great things in the community, is having one of his kids become a member of the Red Wings organization.

"When we have this conversation five or six years from now, we might have a kid in the Red Wings organization, or we could have a kid who's working for the Red Wings," he said. "Anything like that that lets us see the growth of Detroit Ice Dreams or the Learn, Play, Score program, to actually be part of the Red Wings organization, I think would be amazing."

For more information about Detroit Ice Dreams, visit DetroitIceDreamsHockey.com; to learn more about the Detroit Red Wings Learn, Play, Score program, visit DetroitRedWings.com/LearnPlayScore.

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SAGINAW – Girls ages 11-18 who live in Saginaw can apply to be Saginaw's Miss Juneteenth. The pageant will be held on June 17th, 2022 at Horizons Conference. For more information about the pageant you can email saginawmissjuneteenth@gmail.com or call 989-249-3802.

The History of Juneteenth

On "Freedom's Eve," or the eve of January 1, 1863, the first Watch Night services took place. On that night, enslaved and free African Americans gathered in churches and private homes all across the country awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. At the stroke of midnight, prayers were answered as all enslaved people in Confederate States were declared legally free. Union soldiers, many of whom were black, marched onto plantations and across cities in the south reading small copies of the Emancipation Proclamation spreading the news of freedom in Con-

federate States. Only through the Thirteenth Amendment did emancipation end slavery throughout the United States.

But not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas.

The post-emancipation period known as Reconstruction (1865-1877) marked an era of great hope, uncertainty, and struggle for the nation as a whole. Formerly enslaved people immediately sought to reunify families, establish schools, run for political office,

push radical legislation and even sue slaveholders for compensation. Given the 200+ years of enslavement, such changes were nothing short of amazing. Not even a generation out of slavery, African Americans were inspired and empowered to transform their lives and their country.

Juneteenth marks our country's second independence day. Although it has long celebrated in the African American community, this monumental event remains largely unknown to most Americans.

The historical legacy of Juneteenth shows the value of never giving up hope in uncertain times. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is a community space where this spirit of hope lives on. A place where historical events like Juneteenth are shared and new stories with equal urgency are told.

SOURCE
<https://nmaahc.si.edu>



COURTESY PHOTO

TeenQuest offers last chance to earn invite to 2022 summer job fair

FLINT – This April, Summer Youth Initiative, SYI, will offer hundreds of high school students the opportunity to interview for jobs with employers in Flint and Genesee County. To secure an invite to the annual job fair, job seekers must first complete the TeenQuest pre-employment training and leadership program, which will kick off its final qualifying session of the school year this month.

“Last year, nearly 200 students gained valuable work experience, built their professional network and earned a paycheck through SYI,” said James Avery, director of talent development at Flint & Genesee Education & Talent, a division of Flint & Genesee Group. “In each case, their journey started with TeenQuest, where they learned how to stand out to employers, not just in the interview process but also on the job.”

According to Avery, TeenQuest helps

students focus on developing the skills needed to secure and keep a job. Hands-on activities promote key soft skills including communication, goal setting and conflict resolution. Participants also learn how to write resumes and prepare for interviews.

Looking forward, TeenQuest will be held Feb. 22 to March 24, Mondays through Thursdays, at the following locations and times:

- Carman-Ainsworth High School: 2:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
- Kearsley High School: 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Grand Blanc High School: 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- New Standard Academy: 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
- Swartz Creek High School: 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

With the exception of Kearsley High School, students do not need to attend the host schools to participate in TeenQuest. The program is open to all teenagers, ages 14-19 in grades 9-12, who attend school in Genesee County (e.g., public, private, charter, alternative and home school).

A virtual session will also be offered from 4-6 p.m.

“We realize student schedules have been once again significantly impacted by COVID-19,” Avery said. “That’s why we’re offering this virtual session. It’s open to anyone who may have missed out on the program earlier this year or is unable to attend our upcoming session in person.”

To learn more about TeenQuest, or to enroll in the program, visit flintandgenesee.org/teenquest.



PICS OF THE WEEK

Last month, Saginaw native and hair guru Gigi Ford celebrated 50 years in the hair care industry with an event in Leandro, California. Ford announced her retirement from the industry as she shifts her career to new endeavors.



COURTESY PHOTOS



We

empower.

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



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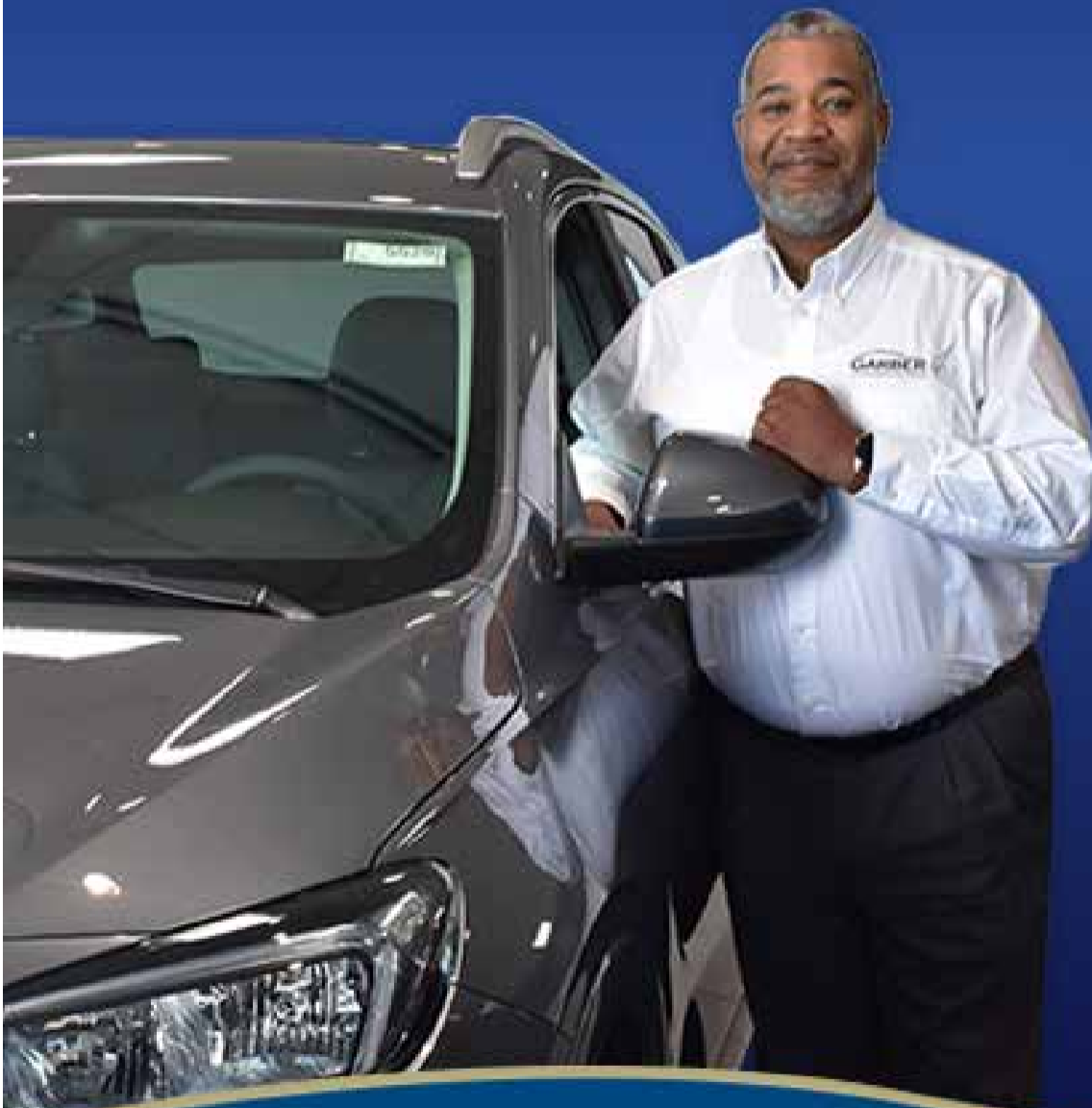
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