

THE MICHIGAN BANNER

Celebrating 18 years of Positive News Stronger Together, in these Challenging Times



Turnout, precincts tell Saginaw County's election story



Politics, pg 24



Leading in Diversity, Empowering Communities and Changing Lives www.michiganbanner.org



Dr. Nurame Austin tributes



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Guest Editorial: Lincoln's second inaugural address



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Jimmy Greene gives remarks on Presidential election results



Community, pg 25

Biden wins Presidency, Harris makes history



courtesy photo

The 2020 United States presidential election was the 59th quadrennial presidential election, held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. America chose Democrat Joe Biden as its 46th president and U.S. Senator Kamala Harris as Vice President. This election was the first since 1992, and eleventh time overall, in which an incumbent president failed to win re-election to a second term.

The election also saw the highest voter turnout since 1900, with Biden and Trump each receiving more than 70 million votes, surpassing Barack Obama's record of 69.5 million votes from 2008. With more than 78 million votes and counting, Biden received the most votes ever cast for a

candidate in a U.S. presidential election.

Harris made history by becoming the first woman, the first Black person and the first person of South Asian descent to become vice president.

Although President Trump has not conceded, Biden and Harris will be sworn into office on Wednesday, January 20.

"I understand the disappointment tonight. I've lost a couple of times myself. But now, let's give each other a chance," Biden said in a victory speech Saturday night. "This is the time to heal in America."



A tribute To my Aunt Nurame (Dr. Nurame Austin)

By Sonia Jackson Myles



My Dearest Aunt Nurame,

I am so honored that I knew you from the beginning of my life. Remembering the sound of your voice, your soft touch, your warm embrace, your powerful voice, your LOVE for me gives me strength. The peace that passes all understanding, that my Grandmother used to speak about, belongs to me as I think about you and all that you represent...in life and as you have transitioned. I'm so thankful that you are with our beloved Rev. Austin again. I know that my mother & your Sister, Nella D. Jackson, shouted when she saw you! I rejoice in knowing that you heard these words as you entered the gates of heaven: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!"

Aunt Nurame, you are the definition of a virtuous woman! I am using the term "are" because you will always be with us! This biblical scripture, in the New King James Version of Proverbs 31: 10-31, describe you with great distinction:

¹⁰ Who can find a virtuous wife?
For her worth *is* far above rubies.
¹¹ The heart of her husband safely trusts
her;
So he will have no lack of gain.
¹² She does him good and not evil
All the days of her life.
¹³ She seeks wool and flax,
And willingly works with her hands.
¹⁴ She is like the merchant ships,
She brings her food from afar.
¹⁵ She also rises while it is yet night,
And provides food for her household,
And a portion for her maidservants.
¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it;
From [c]her profits she plants a vineyard.
¹⁷ She girds herself with strength,
And strengthens her arms.
¹⁸ She perceives that her merchandise *is*
good,

And her lamp does not go out by night.
¹⁹ She stretches out her hands to the
distaff,
And her hand holds the spindle.
²⁰ She extends her hand to the poor,
Yes, she reaches out her hands to the
needy.
²¹ She is not afraid of snow for her
household,
For all her household *is* clothed with
scarlet.
²² She makes tapestry for herself;
Her clothing *is* fine linen and purple.
²³ Her husband is known in the gates,
When he sits among the elders of the
land.
²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells
them,
And supplies sashes for the merchants.
²⁵ Strength and honor *are* her clothing;

She shall rejoice in time to come.
²⁶ She opens her mouth with wisdom,
And on her tongue *is* the law of kindness.
²⁷ She watches over the ways of her
household,
And does not eat the bread of idleness.
²⁸ Her children rise up and call her
blessed;
Her husband *also*, and he praises her:
²⁹ "Many daughters have done well,
But you excel them all."
³⁰ Charm *is* deceitful and beauty *is*
passing,
But a woman *who* fears the LORD, she
shall be praised.
³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands,
And let her own works praise her in the
gates.

My mother loved to tell stories about how excited you were when she found out that she was pregnant with me. You were always a loyal and loving Sister to her. You were "The Sister Accord" before "The Sister Accord" was birthed by me. You taught her how to play the piano and when she got up the nerve to play for Sunday School class, you were right there with her. When her music fell off of the piano, you immediately took the book to her so that she could continue playing. She was so embarrassed, but you gave her the support she needed.

Mama would smile with so much joy when she shared how you would place McDonald's sandwiches in the door for me! You were always thinking of and looking for ways to bless me. Your character, which was highlighted by your wisdom, passion for education and kindness are just a few reasons why I love you so much! You are such a significant part of my village. Now, you have become another one of my angels in heaven. I will hold on to my special memories of you as I work to mend my broken heart by your transition. I will hold on to my thoughts of our conversations. I will always remember how you held my hand...with security, protection and pure love. I LOVE YOU! Rest In Power In Heaven My Dear Aunt Nurame!

...Tributes continue on page 11...

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MISSION
The Michigan 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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Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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grateful. She was always willing to offer advice, love, and support to me, my daughter, Angela, and especially my wife, Irma Jean Gates-Smith, who succeeded her as Zion’s First Lady after 44 years of faithful service. That service continued long after we arrived.

Her smile was infectious; her love for people always on display with Zion’s members, and the community at-large. Her love for music was demonstrated by her assistance to our Music Ministry whenever called upon. Every once in awhile, in the early years of my tenure, we would experience the joy of her gift: command of her chosen instrument—the Hammond organ. She was an integral part of the Women’s Ministry, and served as mentor, instructor and advisor for many years.

Dr. Austin was a vibrant presence in worship, though she sat quietly, musing in the spirit. As her Pastor for the last 20 years, I will miss seeing her and experiencing her sweet, sweet spirit.

I, my family, and our Zion Missionary Baptist Church family, salute Dr. Nurame Austin, and pray that you take comfort in knowing: To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. We love you. We are praying with you, and we thank God that death is not the end.

Pastor Rodrick A. Smith
Zion Missionary Baptist Church

My Family and I relocated to Saginaw, Michigan in 2001 following my call to the Pastorate at Zion Missionary Baptist Church. One of the first blessings we encountered was Dr. Nurame M. Austin—a wonderful woman of God, who was the same from the first moment we met. She accepted my family and me with open arms. She was genuine in her interactions with me, and for that I am

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THE MICHIGAN BANNER NEWS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AT&T



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THE LATINO BANNER

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

Vamos Adelante



**Voto Latino
celebrates critical
efforts in mobilizing
Latinx voters for
Biden win**



LB pg 3

**Submit your
news at**
michiganbanner.org



2021 Award Recipients

- Jack Luna
- Domingo Vasquez
- Celestina Robles
- Kapulli Tekpatl
- Juve Aldaco Jr.
- Elida Andaverde
- Nina Hageneass
- Bobby Barrera
- Pride Inc.

*Homage award in
memory of Miguel Luna
and Jesse Salcedo*

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For more information
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If you are uninsured, you can still be tested.



Saginaw County

The Saginaw COVID-19 drive thru testing location has moved to:

1417 Cumberland (across from the post office)
Saginaw, MI 48601

Monday - Friday 9:00a.m. – 1:00pm

Drive-thru hotline (989) 293-3492



Bay County

Behind Bayside health center

3884 Monitor Rd., Bay City, MI 48706

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 12:00 noon

Drive-thru hotline (989) 280-0725
(Bay County & Imlay City)



Huron County

Thumb Area parking lot

876 N. Van Dyke Rd., Bad Axe, MI 48413

Mon., Wed., Fri. 10:00am -12:00 noon

Drive-thru hotline (989) 284-0076

Please call (989) 921-5353 for assistance with health insurance enrollment

Voto Latino celebrates critical efforts in mobilizing Latinx voters for Biden win



courtesy photo

Washington - Voto Latino's voter registration campaign proved critical to Democrats' success in recapturing the White House and ending the Trump presidency. At the beginning of the 2020 election cycle, Voto Latino set a goal to register 500,000 voters. The organization successfully registered 601,330 people across the country, specifically targeting states that would end up securing victory for President-elect Joe Biden, mobilized 3.7 million voters, and raised \$33.2 million to invest in education, engagement, and empowerment efforts. In multiple battleground states – including Arizona and Georgia – the turn out of Voto Latino's registered voters secured the margin of victory. No other organization was able to register and turn out Latinx voters at the scale of Voto Latino, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered traditional voter registration activities.

"Latinx voters, for the first time ever, comprised the second-largest voting bloc in the country and Voto Latino capitalized on our expertise and infrastructure to turn them out in record numbers," said María Teresa Kumar, president and CEO of Voto Latino. "Young

Latinx voters – the core of our audience – made up the largest bloc of voters within the Latinx electorate in key states such as Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, and Pennsylvania. We started our work early and we ran programming year-round. Our 2020 campaign should become the Democratic blueprint for engaging and turning out Latinx voters."

Voto Latino also wishes to express its sincere gratitude to its supporters, volunteers, and especially, to the voters of the United States of America. This election was unprecedented. With a global pandemic, increasing divisiveness, and political uncertainty, this country answered the call of duty and performed as required. Through our work, Voto Latino has indelibly transformed the American electorate for decades by growing and empowering the Latinx voting bloc. The Latinx community has always been a part of this country, but our political power and agency have been ignored and hampered for too long. Through a robust voter registration and empowerment campaign, Voto Latino has demonstrated the necessity of Latinx inclusion in our democracy. Latinx voters proved pivotal to the outcome of the election and the victory

of President-elect Joe Biden. In multiple battleground states, the margin of victory was often smaller than the number of voters registered by the organization.

Voto Latino played a major role in registering and mobilizing low-propensity Latinx youth voters to the polls in multiple must-win states. 79% of those registered by the organization were between the ages of 18 and 39. 58% were women. Overall, 54% of those the organization registered were first-time voters. Additionally, 40% of all 2020 Latinx early voters did not vote in 2016.

Voto Latino is a grassroots political organization focused on educating and empowering a new generation of Latinx voters, as well as creating a more robust and inclusive democracy. Through innovative digital campaigns, culturally relevant programs and authentic voices, we shepherd the Latinx community towards the full realization of its political power.

VOTOLATINO*

Community Board

Submit your announcements and events at themichiganbanner.com/submit

VIRTUAL FIESTA HISPANA

Maskerade Gala

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6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

248-792-2763 | Email: info@mhcc.org

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We encourage readers to send letters, story ideas, comments and questions.



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COMMUNITY

Citizens United receives first police complaint

By Mike Thompson

For participants in the newly formed Saginaw Citizens United for Equity and Justice, the first police conduct grievance we received was of a far different nature than we may have expected.

A retired Catholic nun accompanied member Arletta French to our November meeting. The church elder, whose identity we will keep anonymous, listened to us discuss how to spread the word that residents who feel they face racial bias in traffic stops, issuing of tickets or any sort of law enforcement encounter may seek answers by filing complaints.

Then she spoke up at the meeting's conclusion, saying she did not feel any case of bias but she still had faced wrongful treatment.

So we listened and helped her to write things down. And following is the paperwork that she will submit:

SUBJECT: Police conduct inquiry

FROM: Anonymous (she will ID herself when filing, of course)

I am filing this inquiry because I was involved in a two-car fender-bender on West Michigan within the city limits on June 29.

Neither myself nor the other motorist were seriously injured, but we called the city police station at 3:30 p.m. for an accident report, for insurance purposes. We waited until 7 p.m. The responding officer apologized for the time length and said he had picked up a note that was left at the desk by an officer on the previous shift.

Two statements were spoken during the

wait time, about which I wish to inquire for your official response:

(1) An onlooker at the accident scene said officers often do not respond to calls late on their shifts, because then this would delve into overtime hours, which are discouraged. And so they pass these calls to the next shift. If this is a budgetary concern, then so be it, but if a response time is going to be more than three hours, it seems we civilians should be informed so that we may make other arrangements.

(2) The motorist who collided with me was a young Latino-American man, and when I suggested we call again during our wait, he said that might be a bad idea because "if you call twice, sometimes they may go harder on you," I am curious whether he may feel any cause to feel this way because of his status as a racial minority.

Your prompt response would be appreciated. Thank you for your consideration.

This example was not done in Citizens United's name and is not meant to seem overly simple, especially considering the history and nuances that are the heart of civil rights. This merely is intended to demonstrate that there ARE ways for people to stand up for themselves and represent themselves, even if they need a helping hand from a group such as Citizens United. Plans are underway to distribute community messages, such as posters and followup surveys, so that the general public will realize that Citizens United is there to support them. Task forces also are being formed to tackle such concerns as education, emergency situations and mass incarceration. Meanwhile, City Hall's new Citizens Police Advisory Commission, CPAC, remains slowly in the works.

The next meeting will occur in virtual zoom mode at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5. Anyone who wishes to take part may send an email to mwtsaginaw@yahoo.com. Saginaw Citizens United for Equity and Justice also has a website in the works.



courtesy photo

...Saginaw community members remember Dr. Nurame M. Austin...

On Monday, November 9, 2020, Dr. Nurame M. Austin passed away at the age of 89 years. Pastor Roderick A. Smith and Rev. Hurley Coleman Jr. reflect on Dr. Nurame M. Austin and her lasting impact.



Pastor Hurley J. Coleman World Outreach Campus

There are many observations that “pk’s”, preachers kids, have that are different from the general public. It is because of the lens that we look at life through. In the realm of the “pk” world, there is another filter that pastors kids see through. It is from the perspective of being involved in the ministry, whether we choose to or not. It makes the relationships of our parents significant in our lives, especially when those relationships are preachers with kids. That is how I came to know “Mom” Austin.

Dad Austin, Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Austin, Sr., moved to Saginaw in the year that I was born. By the time I was four years old, he was a fixture in our family as he and my father, Rev. Dr. H.J. Coleman, Sr., developed a friendship that became so close that they actually looked alike. It was a natural connection that our families would be so close. Mom became “Mother” to all 10 of us, just like she was for so many others. It just seemed different to me.

Roosevelt Jr. and I shared our birthdays. Dona and I graduated together. My oldest sister, Hurlette, learned to play hymns on piano with Mom Austin. I would watch Mom Austin and my mother, Dr. Martha W. Coleman, speak to each other in church without opening their mouths. They had such an unusual bond. There are times when I am sure that they worked together to keep us (me) on track.

What made Dr. Nurame M Austin so special was that there are literally hundreds of people who would have the same kind of feelings about her and Rev. Austin that I have. My Mom went to heaven over 20 years ago, and Dad 19. They were so close to each other, it was as if they couldn’t be apart. The Austin’s became not just our other parents, but our parents. I am sounding selfish, but Dona and Debbie know that this is true.

There were times when all I wanted to do was sit with Mrs. Austin for a few moments at that table, and hear her say, “Well, you know.....” God blessed our community with a wonderful mother who was an educator, a counselor, a singer, a musician, a leader, an example, a secret keeper, a knowing eye, strong and solid, soft and gentle, a phenomenal woman. Her life impacted this community in such a powerful quiet way.

Dr. Nurame Austin exemplified the Proverbs 31 Woman:

...Continues on page 12...

...Saginaw community members remember Dr. Nurame M. Austin...

31:10 “Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.”

31:29 “Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

31:30 “Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.”

31:31 “give her the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

Rest in Heaven, Mom and Dad Austin



Michael Webster Saginaw County Board of Commissioners Chairman, District #11

Using this time to acknowledge, honor and celebrate the amazing life of Dr. Nurame Austin, I count it a privilege to have known Dr. Roosevelt and Dr. Nurame Austin, to witness the decades of impact and contributions they made to our community, and to be a recipient of the love that they provided to my family. Nurame Austin was even more amazing in her achievements on her own, having served as the First Lady of Zion missionary Baptist Church for

more than four decades and playing piano for church many of those years.

Nurame Austin also distinguished herself in service to the Economic Development Corporation of Saginaw County as its longest serving Board Member and Board Secretary for 38 years. I was privileged with the opportunity of recognizing her at our Saginaw County Board Meeting in June of 2017. I am grateful that we had the opportunity to give her “one” of the many flowers that she received “while she yet lived.” Considering the 2017 presentation and ceremony, it reminds me that we should continuously express our appreciation for those who have served as the pillars of our community, who have come before us, blazed unthinkable trails, carried the torches and have made a way for us to excel today. Dr. Nurame Austin was a gracious pillar of our community whom we will dearly miss.

...Continues on page 13...

...Saginaw community members remember Dr. Nurame M. Austin...

Pastor Marcelle T. & Jen Smith



We had the very special honor and privilege of being counseled by Pastor and Dr. Austin before marriage. We wanted Pastor to marry us, but he insisted on attending as Grandad. He and Marcelle were so close. And even though their biological grandchildren gave them their affectionate names, we claimed those names for ourselves. Gaumy and Gaumpy will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

The last time we sat with Gaumy we had taken her roses. It was our anniversary, but we desperately wanted to share just a little of the love that's been so graciously given to us. Aunt Deb and Aunt Dona were there, and we talked about a ceremony at Horizons where Gaumpy showered Gaumy

with dozens and dozens of roses. When she got up for remarks, Gaumy gushed about the "Reverend" and the source of their love. (What happened next Jen says she will never forget.) Gaumy insisted that every woman in attendance take a rose for herself. "We all deserve love," she said.

As we sat together on the living room couch, in front of the table Josiah used as a prop when learning how to walk, we told her how moved we were by that day, and how grateful we are, as a couple, for their sacred example. She smiled her soft smile and said, "I'll tell Reverend when I talk to him tonight."

We wanted to hold her hand. To hug her tight. To find a million other ways to say thank you. Because in her longing, she reminded us once again how important it is to know a love that stretches beyond what eyes can see.

Broken and overflowing is the best way to describe what this feels like. She walked this earth for 89 years, and for so many of us, that will never be enough.

When we got the call that she was taken to the hospital, we looked at each other and realised: She's making room. To our dear cousins, Amber, Erin, Nia, Bink (Deena), so much of her wisdom—their wisdom—abides in you. It's been there all along. Now, you have the room.

To the rest of our Austin, and Zion MBC family: you have our full support—in deed, and in prayer. Although we will miss their earthly presence dearly, we take refuge in The Light, and the assurance that one day we will see them again, face-to-face.

Until then, let's love each other real good.



Lincoln's second inaugural address (1865)

By Eric Gilbertson, Former President of Saginaw Valley State University



courtesy photo

Visitors to Washington D.C. are often drawn to the Lincoln Memorial. This is the site of many historic occasions, including King's eloquent "I have a Dream" speech in 1963. Chiseled on the Memorial's inner walls are two of Lincoln's speeches: The "Gettysburg Address," and the less well-known but perhaps even more inspiring Second Inaugural Address.

I find myself thinking these recent days about that Second Inaugural. He was speaking in 1865, near the end of a bloody civil war that had cost the lives of some half million American husbands and wives, sons and daughters, friends and comrades. Passions were high, the pain of those losses was fresh and deeply felt, and a mood of revenge was in the air.

It was at that instance and in that context that our sixteenth president, having just won a hotly contested election, addressed an anxious, grieving and angry nation.

He spoke of the conflict and its ironies:

"Each (side) looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible and prayed to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. . . The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes."

He then called upon what he once described as the "better angels of our nature," reciting these memorable words:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right; let us strive on to finish the work we are in: to bind up the nation's wounds . . . to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

It was, of course, a profoundly religious exhortation. And while Lincoln himself was

never a member of any church he was deeply devout. Once before he famously said that "When any church will inscribe over its altar, as its sole qualification for membership, the Savior's condensed statement of the substance of both law and Gospel, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and thy neighbor as thyself,' that church will I join with all my heart and all my soul."

His words call upon us still – especially at this, yet another moment of anger and anxiety and division. If there is hope for us as Americans, surely it will require summoning those better angels to set aside the politics and resentments that so divide us. This is easier said than done, of course. But with malice toward none, with charity for all, perhaps we can each do our part to bind up our nation's wounds.

Amen.

Indecision.

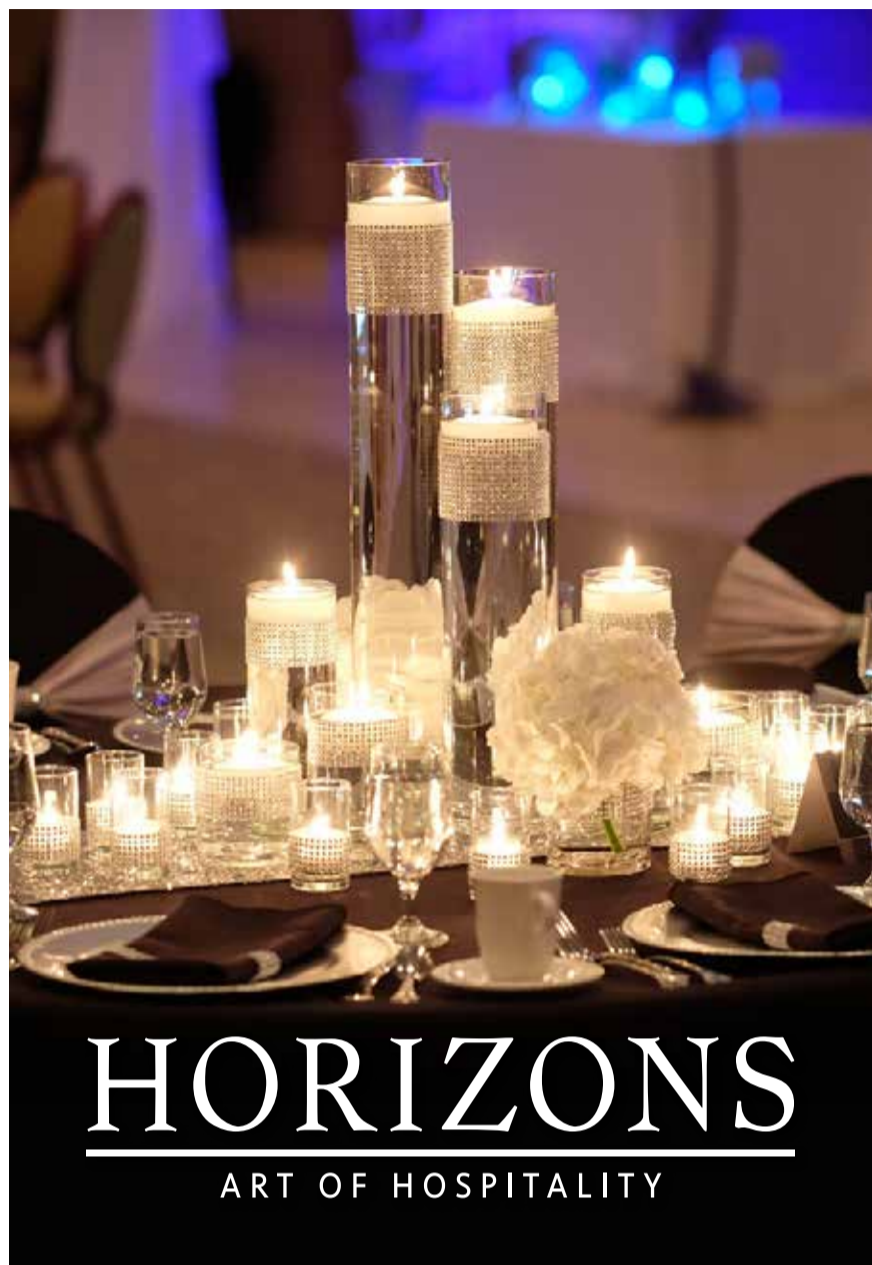
**Good
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STARS limits service due to Covid-19 explosion

Saginaw, MI - Effective Monday, November 16, STARS will make the following service changes:

- City Bus Routes are Suspended Until Further Notice
- Dial-a-Ride "LIFT" Services will be open to the General Public for Essential Trips Only
- The Pigeon Express job route and Rides to Wellness will run as normal

STARS is limiting services out of concern for employee and public health due to the recent Covid-19 spike in the Saginaw Area. Due to high demand and limited resources, STARS LIFT Services will screen trips to limit abuse. Rides are currently free of charge.

What is an Essential Trip?

- Trips for Groceries (One Trip per Week per Household)
- Trips for Physical and Mental Health Needs (Appointments, Prescriptions)
- Trips for Essential Jobs - Essential Jobs Include: Hospital/Medical, Grocery/Food (take-out), Essential Production

Essential Trips are NOT (examples):

- Retail Shopping, Entertainment, Bars, Visiting Friends or Family, Salons/Barbers, Laundromats

LIFT Dial-a-Ride Services are available Monday through Friday from 5am until 9pm. To schedule essential trips, call 989-753-9526 Monday through Friday between 9AM and 3PM:

- General Public Riders must schedule 1 business day in advance
- Silver Card Riders (Senior Citizens) can schedule up to 2 business days in advance
- Gold Card Riders (Disabled) can schedule up to 2 weeks in advance

All riders 3 years and older must wear masks at all times and use provided hand sanitizer upon entry, or be refused service. STARS continues to clean vehicles regularly and has adopted many safety protocols to ensure safe travel.

STARS Executive Director Glenn Steffens stated, "It's unnerving how the situation has

deteriorated so fast. Monday and Tuesday of this week saw about a quarter of the cases in Saginaw of the entire first six months of this pandemic. This is a big red flag and we must respond appropriately and swiftly to save lives."

To stay updated on current STARS news visit www.saginaw-stars.com.



courtesy photo



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A message from the publisher: risk takers

A few years ago, after an extended absence, I reconnected with an old friend. We grew up together on the South side of Saginaw long before communities became territorial to the point of having to be mindful of one's geographic location to be safe. My friend and I reminisced about how we had enjoyed sun up to sundown outside play with bathroom breaks only. We agreed that far too much time had passed without contact. We were family. Everyone knew whose Mom could cook and timed with perfect precision our presence at dinner time when certain meals were being served. I still hold bragging rights for my Grandmother's (affectionately known as Mama Clara), sweet potato pies and coconut cakes on Sundays after dinner. Great catching up but the purpose of his call was to discuss a business opportunity. After a lengthy and detailed conversation, we decided that it would be mutually beneficial to both of us, scheduled a time to meet and crafted a contract which did prove to be profitable.

The following year, we were both contacted by another friend with whom we had lost contact decades ago. He had experienced a few challenges prior to moving away which left many family members and friends somewhat disappointed. He too, had a business opportunity to discuss. None of the latest pyramid schemes – an actual opportunity which had tremendous potential to be of benefit to the community and to my business as well. I scheduled a meeting with him just as I had done with our mutual friend the year before. That friend, however had chosen not to engage. He reminded me of how things had ended many, many years before and wondered how I could possibly be willing to take such a risk. Let me share quickly that I have permission from both friends to share this bit of history with hopes of others learning from our experience. I'll come back to the outcome of our exchange a bit later.

What is a risk taker? It is most often associated with an entrepreneur, intrigued with market volatility who views an investment as an opportunity to yield a higher return. While this does take courage and can lead to personal wealth or a lucrative career, my friends and I were facing a risk taking 'opportunity' which would yield far more than financial gain. We were faced with an opportunity to rebuild relationships,

support one's standing in the community and to model behavior which will hopefully be mimicked by young entrepreneurs who are the future of this community. Risk takers don't blindly throw caution to the wind – they take calculated risks. They strategically weigh the pros and cons and make decisions using both head and heart. It takes courage to be a risk taker. If your projection is off, aside from possible monetary losses, you may face scorn, ridicule and rejection. Entire families, in fact in times of old, entire nations have fallen as a result of risking it all for the sake of something seemingly insignificant and not worth it to the majority. Risk taking is not for the faint at heart. How then, do we determine when to step outside of our comfort zone, a critical component required whenever we choose to take a chance on people. These tough decisions can have massive impacts on the people we care about, the immediate/surrounding community and perhaps depending upon weight of the decision, even on the industry in which we thrive.

We must be careful to fully understand the personal risks and the risk to others who may be impacted. If we fully believe it is a risk worth taking, we will honestly share the possibilities with family, business associates and others who may face negative outcomes or losses if things don't quite work out. We listen to opposing views and we don't hide behind an inflated ego and 'give away the store'. This conversation, however is addressing the need for us to reconsider our work and relationships with people which requires us to recognize that people can and do change. They change for many, many reasons but I found and would like to share a list of three which resonate my belief in the capability of humanity to self-correct and grow: They have learned a lot, they have suffered enough and they have gotten tired of always the same thing. Simply stated, this means that we don't have to be products of our circumstances – we have the ability to change because we choose to be products of our decisions.

I said that I would get back to my friends and I. The friend who returned to Saginaw is now a family man, married with children. After moving away with a High School diploma, he has earned two degrees (BA and MA), surpassing both of us. I mentioned that there had been decades with only the occasional

and vague report from mutual connections of his being 'fine'. I entered into a contractual agreement without enough contemplation. I should have been more inquisitive considering all that was at stake. Our other friend, however was all too willing to write him off without giving any contemplation at all. Our returning friend had an obligation to address our possible reservations, to be willing to assure us that we were now dealing with the grown-up version of our childhood playmate. After a few trips down memory lane, we realized that he could very easily have recalled us as those young trouble makers from the neighborhood and pursued opportunities elsewhere. As it turns out, he took a chance on us as well. The past year has been productive professionally as well as personally for all three of us. It has actually been even more far reaching. As a result of our working together, each of us have been enabled to provide opportunities for others. It's really good to have them back.

Taking a chance on people requires a bit of risk taking from everyone involved. In the current state of chaos and uncertainty with a global pandemic, economic uncertainties, challenges in our ability to provide a quality virtual education for our children which will impact generations and finally what appears to be a growing unwillingness to consider varying points of view, risk takers are needed! I have chosen to weigh the costs and make decisions (take the risk) in the best interest of the future of those around me. We live on a planet that circles a ball of fire next to a moon that moves the sea! Understanding this as a reality – and it is a reality – we can choose to be risk takers in the best interest of the future of people we care about.



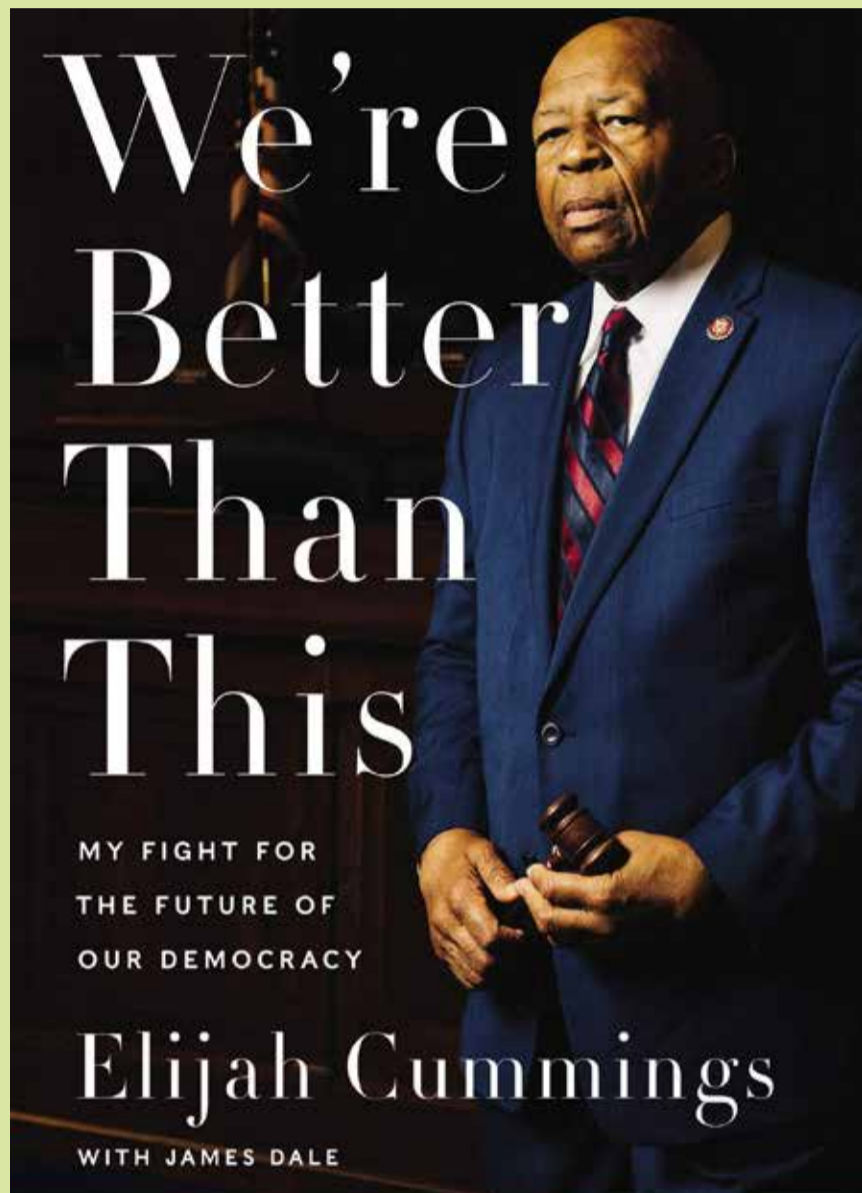
Jerome Buckley

Jerome Buckley
Publisher, The Michigan Banner

BOOK REVIEW

A legacy written during the final year

By Mike Thompson



Elijah Cummings and John Lewis often were described as look-alikes. This was not only among outside observers, but in jokes between one another.

They also held similar progressive views on civil rights and poverty issues.

But the two congressman, who both have died during the past 13 months, of course were not the same. Nobody is.

This is shown in Cummings' post-mortem memoir, "We're Better Than This: My

rights involvement as a young adult. But then, that era had pretty much concluded when Cummings reached manhood during the 1970s.

He was the third of seven children reared in Baltimore by former sharecroppers who doubled as weekend preachers, conservative in their sanctified way.

Cummings writes, "I grew up in a house that was very religious. You couldn't dance or play cards. My mother lived to age 92 and never wore makeup a day in

Fight for the Future of Our Democracy." Lewis, the better-known, had authored six books and upon his passing provided an essay that the New York Times published (and Morgan Freeman orated).

Cummings was 11 years younger, and thus a mere 14-year-old adolescent when Lewis was beaten nearly to death in 1965 at the foot of Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge.

His autobiography, perhaps because he compiled it in haste, does not reflect any extensive civil

her life. In reality, they preached all day, every day, in every room of our house, without calling it that."

Some of the lessons focused on the challenges of overcoming racism. His father would tell the children how their paternal grandfather had died of a sudden illness when a doctor, using a slur, refused to take him to an all-white hospital in their hometown. Other stories, while not so stark, took similar themes.

Emphasis was on education. Elijah Cummings, a high school honor student, went on to achieve his law degree at nearby Howard University, and then gained tenure in the Maryland state legislature prior to winning a seat in Congress in 1996, a decade after Lewis.

Cummings first gained national stature in 2005, seeking justice in the police killing of Freddie Gray while at the same time taking to the streets five blocks from his home in an effort to nonviolently redirect the disorder that ensued.

And then, on the Republican-controlled House Oversight and Reform Committee, he served as a countervoice to such eventual Trumpies as Darrell Issa, Jason Chaffetz and Trey Gowdy. When the Dems took charge following the 2018 midterms, Cummings suddenly became chairman, but at the same time he began entering the final stages of his cancer-related illness and asked a prominent Baltimore journalist, James Dale, to help him compile his memoirs. He was in constant pain, unknown even to reporters, as he challenged the Trump crowd's ethics during his final 18 months.

As in all books that I recommend, you can rent "We're Better Than This" free-of-charge by ordering it at your local library.

HealthSource Saginaw CEO Passes Away After Battle with Cancer



It is with our deepest regret that we inform you of the sudden passing of our President & Chief Executive Officer, Lisa Lapham. Lisa has battled breast cancer for the past year and half. She recently underwent two surgeries and was recovering well, however we received word Wednesday morning that she passed away Tuesday night due to complications following surgery.

In accordance with the HealthSource Succession

Plan, the Board of Trustees has appointed Michelle Trevillian as Interim President & Chief Executive Officer. The Board of Trustees, along with the Executive Leadership Team are committed to the patients/residents and staff of HealthSource, and are focused on working together.

Each of us grieves the passing of the tremendous leader and individual Lisa was. Our thoughts are with her family at this difficult time.



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I'm Just Thinking..... with Pastor Hurley J. Coleman, Jr., World Outreach Campus Church

Find your gift

It was my first semester in college, and my best friend had been killed in car accident. I was in a real deep and dark place. I had been invited to pledge a fraternity at Eastern Michigan University, Kappa Alpha Psi. No one that I knew was in a fraternal organization. I came from a very close family, wonderful parents, and with a solid community foundation.

One of my first interactions was with a graduate brother named Eugene Beatty. He asked me a pointed question that I will never forget. "So, young brother, what is it that you want to do with your life? What is your major? My answer was the same to both questions. "I don't know."

This brother took the time to talk to me about what moved me, what I was interested in, what really made me feel good. I found that my best times were when I was making other people happy, making something happen for people who didn't think it would, and finishing something that made a difference.

At the time, he was the recreation director for the city of Ypsilanti. From that discussion, I selected my major in Parks and Recreation Administration. I completed my pledge session, and became a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. When I graduated, I began my career in parks and recreation, and served in a number of progressive positions for the next 24 years.

I found myself telling other young people what he told me. "Find what you would do if you

didn't get paid for it, something that you will love waking up to everyday, and make that your career. You will never feel like you are going to work."

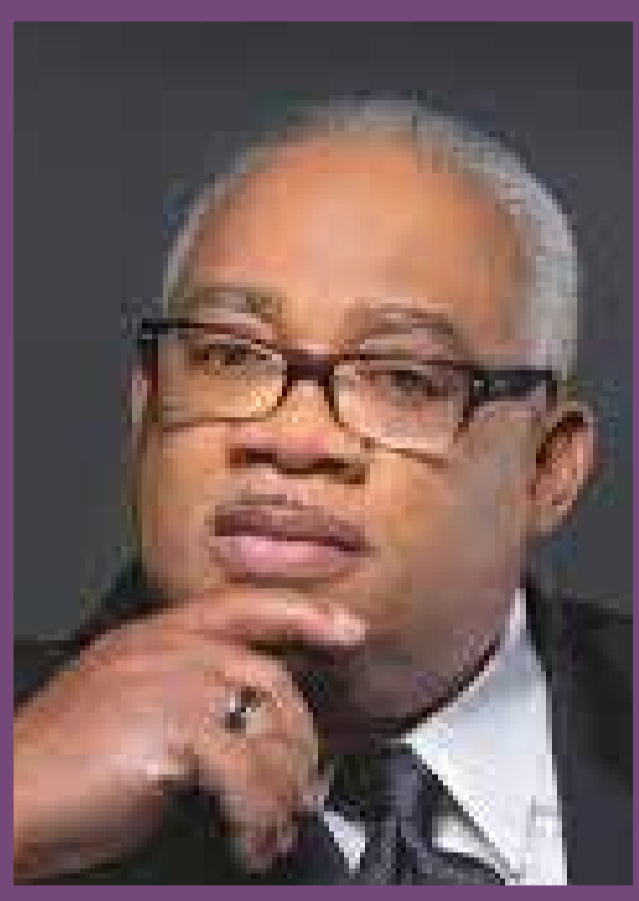
It wasn't until I started pastoring that I truly understood what Eugene Beatty was saying to me. He was telling me to find my gift, and work in it, live in it, grow in it, be fulfilled in it.

Everyone needs to know what they are placed on this planet to do, and to invest themselves in it. Everyone will not be able to make it their primary income producer, but everyone should include the thing that moves them in their life.

We are watching things on the national picture, especially in politics and the public arena, where it makes you wonder why people are doing the things that they are doing. It is really easy to see someone else doing something that is admirable, and want to do it.

So many people try and find that what looked easy for one person is impossible for another. It is like a sermon that I heard the late Bishop H. J. Williams preach, "You Got What You Wanted, but You Lost What You Had."

Life is too short to be miserable, and in a role that doesn't fulfill you, or use your potential. Maybe you can't change your career, but you can add that thing that will



give you purpose and fulfillment.

In the coming days, we as a community will need to do so much to help each other overcome the trauma of the pandemic, the economic morass that we are living in, and the PTSD of this recent election process.

Some of you who are reading this will know that you can help your neighbor, or the public, or the community. Someone will need to fill in that next political spot.

Take the time to look into your heart, and find what moves you, what you can do to improve the lives of others, what you were born to do?

I'm just thinking....., there is someone out there that will give us the next big thing. I wonder, is it you?

Child fire safety project wins award

By Mike Thompson



courtesy photo

Caring. Compassion. Concern.

And maybe most of all, creativity.

These qualities are combined to help Captain Aileen Pettinger of the Saginaw Fire Department achieve statewide Public Educator of the Year honors from the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society.

Pettinger, a 23-year veteran of the department, was assigned by Chief Christopher Van Loo to oversee a federally-funded school project, "Sound Off for Fire Safety," to educate second- and third-graders regarding two smoke alarm sounds. These sounds include chirping, (which indicates a low battery) and beeping (which indicates a normal-operating smoke alarm).

Saginaw was among only 40 departments nationwide, and the first and only in Michigan, selected for Sound Off selected by FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Association.

Pettinger improved the guidelines in such an outstanding manner that she was invited to speak at a national conference and to consult elementary educators in other school systems across Michigan. And then came the state award.

"I've always been involved in our department's community relations team," she says simply. "We talked things out and we came up with these ideas together."

The original Sound Off concept was to speak in classrooms for about 20 minutes with explanations of chirping and beeping, and then encourage the children as homework to explore their own living spaces and to report back their findings.

With the additions of Pettinger and her fellow firefighters:

- Students were encouraged to return not only with their reports, but with their parents' contact information.
- Firefighters volunteered to return with free-of-charge smoke alarms, which have been donated to local departments for years, and to expertly install the devices in proper locations.
- Meanwhile, family fire drills were conducted.
- A final reward for participating children and their families was a pizza party.

"Many parents told us that they had never gone through a family fire drill before, and so it was a learning piece for entire families, to designate emergency exits such as windows that could be opened," Pettinger notes.

Retired Saginaw Fire Marshall Ralph Martin, now a state inspector, supported her in the project and announced the reward during a recent City Council session.

Chief Van Loo says these types of efforts not

only create positive community relations, but they also save lives. He cites a late-September house fire on North Andre near Court Street in which three adults and six children escaped after responding to smoke alarms that were among 10,000 that firefighters had installed six years earlier, with previous FEMA support...

Although Covid has presented many challenges in fire safety education, Saginaw firefighters have addressed them in stride. Prior to smoke alarm installations, families are screened over the phone. Upon arrival at the home, Saginaw firefighters and families all wear masks and social distance through out the installation. As an additional precaution, families and the fire officer discuss fire safety and perform fire drills outside while the remainder of the crew installs smoke alarms in the home. Just like an emergency situation, the Saginaw Fire Department has met the challenge of teaching fire safety during a pandemic and accomplished the goal of continuing a successful fire education program.

She prays for a return, even while the Fire Department remains so short-staffed that the Hess Station in one of Saginaw's mapping quadrants remains closed.

"We just have to continue plugging away," she says, "We need this interaction with the community."



courtesy photo

Sermonette by Pastor Rodrick Smith of Zion Missionary Baptist Church



The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes (Matt. 21:42)

As children of God we will sometimes experience rejection as we attempt to do the Lord's will. It should also be noted that without proper spiritual perception we may be guilty of rejecting someone or something

sent to us by God. This rejection is a refusal to accept what God has graciously given to you. It is also to be despised because of unmet expectations. Jesus is the stone that was rejected for both of these reasons. The church is referred to as a "spiritual house" being built with living stones, with Jesus being the chief cornerstone. The rejection that Jesus experienced came from the so-called builders; the religious leadership, who should have been familiar with the spiritual blueprints and building codes. But their rejection of the stone did not change the stone. The stone was still the stone. The Rock is still the Rock. People may reject Christ, but He's still the Christ. They may reject you, but keep on being who God saved you to be, and keep on doing what He called you to do. Rejection of the stone didn't cancel out the use of the stone. Even

though men rejected the stone, it was still used by God. The building of God's spiritual house could not be completed without it. Even though the stone was rejected, it became the chief cornerstone: the large stone placed in the foundation at the principal corner of the building, that was essential to its construction. Even though it was rejected, God had a plan for the stone. He knew the content, ability, and necessity of the stone. He knew they needed the stone. He prescribed and sent the stone. But Jesus was despised and rejected, and we will experience the same treatment. Humiliation always precedes exaltation. Concerning Jesus, God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name that is above every name. Concerning us, we will be given a white stone, and on the stone a new name. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes!

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Police Commissioners say chokehold ban, other reforms will improve Detroit Cops
Detroit Free Press - July 2020

Chokeholds banned by Detroit police board, among use-of-force policy changes
MLive - September 2020

The reforms approved were part of proposals made by the Board back in June and submitted to the Department and community amid global protests sparked by the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police.
WXYZ-TV 7 Breaking News

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POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Turnout, precincts tell Saginaw County's election story

By Mike Thompson

For anyone who is into local politics, reviews of "Saginaw County election results" consistently reveal some eye-opening results.

Voter turnout in Saginaw County as a whole was 66.3 percent. The city of Saginaw is recorded at 49.5 percent which again may indicate that urbanites are lagging behind, but I have learned through the years that this may be an unfair impression, for this series of reasons:

- Past local clerks have explained that as they become understaffed Saginaw doesn't even have enough money for police and fire and recreation, so we know the clerk's is going to be bare boned. They lack personnel to keep up with removing names of the deceased from the rolls, or folks who have moved, which happens most frequently in low-income neighborhoods.
- The city's census-estimated population has dropped to 48,115. Voting rolls are listed at 37,808, a difference of slightly more than 10,000. But we know we have more than 10,000 children within our boundaries. This means we actually have fewer registered voters. Clerks have estimated the overload at 5,000 or more.
- So let's say we remove 5,000 names, for the sake of realism and truth. Suddenly the city's turnout is 55 percent, still not good, but more respectable.

Big turnout countywide

By the way, the county's two-thirds showing is possibly the highest in history. Sadly, we could not find solid records going way back. But rounding off, about 10,000 more voters came forward than in 2016, when turnout was 60 percent.

For president, Saginaw County was slightly closer than the nation. Joe Biden nipped Donald Trump, 51,068 to 50,785. His margin, as we may expect, was most pronounced in virtually all-black neighborhoods, such as 662 to 36 in the First Ward. Biden also dominated the city's West Side, but Trump (who won 57 percent of the national white vote) closed the gap in the county's outlying areas.

A similar pattern emerged for U.S. Senate, with Democratic incumbent Gary Peters nosing out John James but an almost identical margin of 51,520 to 49,909.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee of Flint faced a local challenger in the GOP's Tim Kelly from Saginaw Township, but Kildee still dominated Saginaw County, 32,260 to 17,259.

For 95th District state representative, Amos O'Neal faced weak opposition from non-campaigner Charlotte DeMaet, and eased home in a landslide, 25,909 to 10,190.

In the suburban and rural 94th District, Demond Tibbs faced a tougher challenge against GOP incumbent Rodney Wakeman. Tibbs held his own in Saginaw Township but fell short everywhere else, with only about 25 percent in Frankenmuth and 35 percent in St. Charles, Freeland and Shields, Wakeman prevailed, 31,457 to 21,065.

Some surprised at tax wins

Some analysts predicted millages might have a tough go during the corona pandemic, but the Health Department tax (52,774 to 38,382) and city schools' buildings levy (11,792 to 7,937) both reaped about 60 percent. Delta College's renewal was equally clearcut, 51,110 to 39,376.

For every 10 people who voted for president at the top of the ballot, nine found their way to the tax questions on the bottom of the flip side. This answered concerns that a high number of voters, especially those opting for absentee, might miss out on the local questions.

The Saginaw City Council gained three new members in Monique Lamar Sylvia, Michael Flores and George Copeland, along with incumbent winners Reggie Williams, the top vote-getter, and Annie Boensch. They will join a quartet who terms expire in 2022, including Brenda Moore, Michael Balls, Bill Ostash and Autumn Sherzer. Members on Nov. 9 unanimously appointed Moore as mayor and Balls as pro-tem (aka vice-mayor) for the coming two years,

Longtime city educator Janet Nash dominated the Board of Education vote, which meant one of the two Thompsons would have to give up their chairs. Mattie Thompson scored about 500 more votes than son Jason and thus will maintain the seat she originally gained upon the death of her husband, Willie Thompson.

Finally, the county sheriff's election was a landslide: Incumbent Democrat William Federspiel 64,194, the GOP's Rich Riebschleger 36,033,





Now that Former Vice President Joe Biden has won the presidency it is time to begin looking at a President Biden Administration and more importantly the way forward. I was thinking about Senator Lindsey O. Graham speaking on Biden “as good a man as God ever created,” he said. “If you can’t admire Joe Biden as a person, then you got a problem. You need to do some self-evaluation. ‘Cause what’s not to like?”

I am counting on Graham’s opinion of Biden and one of my political heroes Senator McCain who spoke so glowingly on Biden in the 30 years they served together to be a true reflection of him. If so then despite the political divide that created a gap in the friendship between Graham and Biden; and if Republicans control the senate we’ll see efforts to cross the aisle and get things done. And there is so much more to get done. I think we forget that in spite of COVID, the wheels of this country continue to churn.

President Elect Biden already has the skill-sets to do that and with his relationships over decades with Republican senators he’s already one huge step ahead. You’ll note how many of them actually like him. Not easy in these times. Senator Graham in his senior leadership role I think will be the bridge to that and with the checks and balances of a divided government; the House will be unable to initiate an aggressive and progressive agenda that would only serve to cement Senate Republicans in a constant defensive posture and the gap widens.

We’ve got challenges ahead of us, staying healthy and getting this virus controlled; satisfying voters that every vote was counted correctly but mostly, maintaining a perspective that was summed up by Senator McCain “We are Americans first, Americans last, Americans always. Let us argue our differences. But remember we are not enemies, but comrades in a war against a real enemy, and take courage from the knowledge that our military superiority is matched only by the superiority of our ideals, and our unconquerable love for them”



**Jimmy E. Greene, CEO/President
ABC Michigan**

MDHHS issues three-week epidemic order due to Covid rise

Lansing, MI - The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued a new emergency order on November 15, 2020, effective November 16, 2020 that enacts a three-week pause targeting indoor social gatherings and other group activities in an effort to curb rapidly rising COVID-19 infection rates.

Under this order, indoor residential gatherings are limited to two households at any one time. However, MDHHS strongly urges families to pick a single other household to interact with over the next three weeks, consistent with new guidance released by the department. The order is aimed at limiting residential and non-residential gatherings where COVID-19 spreads rapidly. Bars and restaurants will be open for outdoor dining, carry-out and delivery only. Gyms will remain open for individual exercise with strict safety measures in place. Casinos, movie theaters and group exercise classes will be closed. Professional and college sports meeting extraordinary standards for risk mitigation may continue without spectators, however all other organized sports must stop. Colleges and high schools may proceed with remote learning, but must end in-person classes.

“In the spring, we listened to public health experts, stomped the curve, and saved thousands of lives together. Now, we must channel that same energy and join forces again to protect our families, frontline workers and small businesses,” said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. “Right now, there are thousands of cases a day and hundreds of deaths a week in Michigan, and the number is growing. If we don’t

act now, thousands more will die, and our hospitals will continue to be overwhelmed. We can get through this together by listening to health experts once again and taking action right now to slow the spread of this deadly virus.”

“Indoor gatherings are the greatest source of spread, and sharply limiting them is our focus,” said MDHHS Director Robert Gordon. “The order is targeted and temporary, but a terrible loss of life will be forever unless we act. By coming together today, we can save thousands of lives.”

Today’s order, which takes effect Wednesday, Nov. 18, is not a blanket stay-home action like in the spring. The order leaves open work that cannot be performed from home, including for manufacturing, construction and health occupations. Outdoor gatherings, outdoor dining and parks remain open. Individualized activities with distancing and face masks are still allowed: retail shopping; public transit; restaurant takeout; personal-care services such as haircuts, by appointment; and individualized exercise at a gym, with extra spacing between machines.

Michigan has seen fewer outbreaks associated with elementary and middle schools, and younger children are most in need of in-person instruction. In-person K-8 schooling may continue if it can be done with strong mitigation, including mask requirements, based on discussion between local health and school officials. Childcare also remains open to support working parents. Throughout this crisis, Michigan’s teachers and childcare workers have served on the front lines ensuring support for working parents and educating our children. Governor Whitmer’s administration has worked around the clock to protect Michigan’s teachers and childcare workers and the other heroes serving on the front lines of the pandemic.



Saginaw's new mayor seeks our involvement

By Mike Thompson



courtesy photo



courtesy photo

During her first seven years on the Saginaw City Council, Brenda Moore has been known among her fellow and sister members as the one who cheerleads, the one who prods and pushes them to get involved in community life.

She has done so in such a positive and friendly manner that they unanimously have appointed her as Saginaw's new mayor.

And now she is going to expand her personality to it's fullest, prodding and pushing all of the city's 47,000 citizens.

One day it might be a picnic or concert at Ojibway Island. The next a citywide neighborhood meeting. The next a community

cleanup. And then a "lights on" event to promote public safety. With Brenda Moore, if you're going to sit on the sidelines you're going to hear from her. Be there or be square.

"Unity in the city will be the main priority," she says. "Yes, we've got some work to do, to reach a point where everyone is treated equally and feels that they are treated equally."

She aims to set achievable goals, so that residents who enlist with her leadership will not grow frustrated and feel they are falling short.

"It's like if you light a light under one person, maybe this will catch on with others," she says.

She says she gained her spirit as one of five children of Edward and Janie Louise Moore, in a family home on North Ninth Street across from the former Mershon Pool, where she still resides today.

"They both were givers," she recalls. "They would help anyone and everyone. They have always been my role models."

Moore attended Houghton Elementary and then Central Junior, graduating from Saginaw High School in 1973. She pursued studies at Delta College and Saginaw Valley State University, achieving a bachelor's degree in social work. She has worked in an array of community roles, perhaps best known as an organizer for Service Employees International Union, SEIU, and for operating a bail bonds service.

Even if she had not become mayor, Moore already carries a landmark achievement. In September she completed her tenure as the first African-American woman to serve as president of the 120-year old Michigan Municipal League, a statewide coalition of local government leaders.

"I hope to continue to help bring resources to Saginaw, to contribute to our city's revitalization," she says.

Local leaders join Governor Whitmer's Black Leadership Advisory Council



Courtesy Photos | Carl Williams, Karen Carter

In August, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed a new order and directive to address racism and to expand training for state employees.

Gov. Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-163 that would establish a new government panel to advise her on the treatment of Black Michiganders.

The Black Leadership Advisory Council will act in an advisory capacity to the governor and develop, review, and recommend policies and actions designed to eradicate and prevent discrimination and racial inequity in Michigan. To accomplish this goal, the Council is charged with:

- Identifying state laws, or gaps in state law, that create or perpetuate inequities, with the goal of promoting economic growth and wealth equity for the Black community.
- Collaborating with the governor's office and the Black community to promote legislation and regulation that ensures equitable treatment of all Michiganders, and seeks to remedy structural inequities in this state.

- Serving as a resource for community groups on issues, programs, sources of funding, and compliance requirements within state government in order to benefit and advance the interests of the Black community.
- Promoting the cultural arts within the Black community through coordinated efforts, advocacy, and collaboration with state government.
- Providing other information or advice or taking other actions as requested by the governor.

Whitmer recently announced the members of the Black Leadership Advisory Council which consists of the director of LEO, or the director's designee, and 16 individuals appointed by the governor representing Black leadership in various fields, such as economics, law, public policy, education, health and wellness, technology, the environment (including environmental justice) and agriculture, community safety and preparedness, arts and culture, and media and communications. At least one member of the Council must be an immigrant or individual with expertise in immigration policy, and at least one member must be between the ages of

18–35. After the initial appointments, members will serve 3-year terms.

Carl M. Williams of Saginaw and Karen Carter of Midland were both chosen as members of the Black Leadership Advisory Council.

Carl Williams is the vice president of the NAACP Saginaw Chapter. He previously served as a state representative for the 95th House District, mayor pro tem, and a member of the Saginaw City Council. Mr. Williams retired from Delphi Automotive Systems where he was a production supervisor. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Central Michigan University. Mr. Williams is appointed to represent Black leadership in public policy for a term commencing November 12, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2023.

Karen Carter is the chief human resources officer and chief inclusion officer for Dow Chemical Company. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Howard University and a Master of Business Administration in International Business from DePaul University. Ms. Carter will serve as Chair of the Business Leaders Committee.

The Black Leadership Advisory Council is housed in the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity and will act in an advisory capacity to the Governor and develop, review, and recommend policies and actions designed to eradicate and prevent discrimination and racial inequity in this state. The Council will also work to identify state laws, or gaps in state law, that create or perpetuate inequities, collaborate to promote legislation and regulation that ensures equitable treatment of all Michiganders, serve as a resource for community groups, and promote the cultural arts in the Black community.

For more information about the Black Leadership Advisory Council and all of the newly appointed members, visit www.michigan.gov.

Holiday Steps: Win a FitBit Charge and Step toward Safe Celebrations with The Michigan Banner!



One of the many things that The Michigan Banner family is thankful for is the opportunity to be part of your holiday traditions. We appreciate you. We are grateful every time you mention a Michigan Banner article during a dinner conversation. We are grateful every time you visit a church or business who chooses to reinvest in the community by advertising with us. You continue to let us into your homes and find us on your devices. We can't say thank you enough.

So much is changing in the world and in our community. Many of our 2020 celebrations are changing, too. While The Michigan Banner gets to be with you in many of the same ways we have in the past, we know that many families are confronting dramatic

changes to the way they fellowship with one another during this season.

Whatever holidays, celebrations or quiet moments you observe with others in November and December, the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing expectations might pose challenges to these traditions. If history teaches us little else, we know that our community can overcome a challenge with grace, style and resilience.

We want to know more about how you're managing this change, and the steps you're taking to keep yourself and your family safe. Holiday Steps is a contest for readers who want to show off their social distancing creativity and to help inspire safer celebrations for others in our community. Five winners

will receive a FitBit Charge just in time to treat someone – or to treat themselves – this holiday season.

To get started, follow us on Facebook @ TheNewMichiganBanner. Then, share our page with family and friends. On November 20 start tagging us in your posts and pictures about your safe celebrations. Every time you tag us or share our page, you'll be entered into our drawing. Join us on Facebook Live Saturday, November 28 to hear us read the drawing winners. Keep checking our page for more details and additional prizes!

While many things will be different this season, our commitment to you remains the same. We look forward to seeing your Holiday Steps!

HEALTH

Fund-raiser fill gaps in health care services

By Mike Thompson



Jill Armentrout

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers is a major provider of medical care in Saginaw and the surrounding region, but many of the leaders and staffers still perceive that more residents should be aware of the services provided. Their fifth annual fund-raising event, Changing Lives 2020 A Year of Hope, is Covid-forced to go virtual this year, with airings on Facebook at noon and 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 19. Supporters may register and donate at greatlakesbayhealthcenters.org/donate2020. The event will be aired on Facebook, so no special link is required to join.

National health insurance has long been a topic of up-and-down debate, but a form of national health care has been offered since the 1960s. First came Medicare and Medicaid, and a few years later federally qualified health centers arrived, although they first were more commonly known as clinics.

The United States today has more than 14,000 health centers serving 29 million patients, a majority from low-income or impoverished families.

Great Lakes Bay is among them, the second largest of 42 in Michigan, mainly serving territory that stretches from Gratiot County to the Thumb. The budget is \$52 million to serve more than 57,000 annual patients with a staff of 500-plus, with a majority of the money coming from Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement and a yearly federal grant, along with private insurance payments. This is a tremendous advancement over a modest startup \$75,000 grant in 1968 to serve migrant farmworkers, under the original name of Health Delivery Inc.

Health care centers do not cover hospital care for such advanced afflictions as cancer. That's where national health insurance is intended to enter the picture. Instead, health care centers focus on prevention and treatment and lower prescription costs for such common but chronic conditions as diabetes, hypertension and dental care, along with such behavioral challenges as depression and substance abuse. In addition, 30 percent of the patrons are children.

Jill Armentrout, Great Lakes Bay Health Centers fund development coordinator and grant writer, acknowledges that community contributions cannot be expected to support such a large day-to-day operating budget. Instead, the annual fund-raising campaign focuses on special unfunded purposes, such as transportation and wages for community outreach health workers.

Grants and support from local foundations help pay for capital improvements such as the current need for a \$500,000 3D mammogram machine.

The covid pandemic has created an added burden this year, stretching both staff resources and the budget. Great Lakes Bay's most visible contribution has been to organize drive-through testing sites. Attarpour says management estimates an added programming

cost of \$4.4 million, along with a \$5 million loss in revenue from reduced patient in-person visits, for a combined negative of \$9.4 million. Federal covid emergency grants have covered \$7.8 million of the loss.

Dr. Waheed Akbar, Saginaw orthopedic surgeon and Great Lakes Bay Health supporter, will serve as the fund-raiser host. President and CEO Dr. Brenda Coughlin will present an annual report and an outlook for the future, and patients will offer their stories of hope and success. Board member and patient Tarshia Lewis and healthcare staff including Omar Jones and Paula Peters also will share their stories.

"This year has been a fight for health in the face of COVID-19," Armentrout says. "Great Lakes Bay Health Centers had to temporarily close some services and begin offering telehealth care as a lifeline to patients.

More patients are back in the centers now and services are all open, which requires more safety equipment and screening staff

"The need for behavioral health services is exploding, along with the number of people losing health insurance. The support of partners like you is critical to our ability to continue to provide all these services."

She concludes, "The event is virtual this year, but the needs of the people you will help are very real. You can Change Lives because You Care and bring Hope to 2020 and beyond. We will come together and bring healing to our communities."



Covenant HealthCare opens new COVID-19 testing center

As a means to minimize exposure to Coronavirus (COVID-19), Covenant HealthCare has opened a drive thru COVID-19 Testing Center specifically for individuals who have COVID-19 symptoms and an order to be tested from their provider.

The drive-thru Covenant COVID-19 Testing Center is located in the Covenant facility located at 925 N Michigan Avenue in Saginaw

with access off Fayette Street. People who come to the center MUST have a doctor's order to have a sample taken for COVID-19 testing. As a safety precaution people are asked to remain in their vehicles throughout the process. Currently, samples taken at the center are being sent to outside laboratories. Results are expected within 2 to 4 days. Testing demand may impact the turnaround time of results.

The Covenant COVID-19 Testing Center is operational Monday through Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm, and Saturdays 9 am until 2 pm. The center is closed on Sunday.

People are advised not come to the Covenant Testing Center without a doctor's order for COVID-19 testing.

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers' Nov. 19 Virtual Fundraiser making "2020 A Year of Hope"

By Mike Thompson



courtesy photo

She simply says, "I owe Great Lakes Bay Health Centers for my life."

Shafeka Ramsey's car was broadsided by a semitruck, on the driver's side, four years ago.

She suffered knee and back injuries, but those weren't her main challenges in the long run.

"I stayed in my bed for a year after the car accident and I had always worked, usually

two jobs at a time," notes Shafeka, a career cook now employed by Compass Group at Saginaw County Head Start. "I went into severe depression and I was overeating, due to me not being able to work after the accident." "I had to depend on other people to take care of me and I didn't like it. My hair was matted to my head and it was falling out, I was over weight. I needed pills just to go to sleep I would stay up for days and my marriage was falling apart. I hated who I was and I just didn't like who I saw in the mirror."

Shafeka, a 38-year-old mother of four at the time, had been avoiding doctor visits for years. In January of 2017, she did a follow up visit at Janes Street Academic Health Center after her car accident and she is very grateful she did,

because she got the help she needed.

"My blood pressure was way up and I had developed type 2 diabetes. I always ate what I wanted to eat and due to my depression I would eat until I got sick sometimes, food was my safety blanket. And because of my unhealthy choices I had to take insulin and a pill. On my mother's side of the family, the women's had died of kidney failure. So when my doctor told me, 'You're going to be on dialysis if you don't change your way of eating.' I listened to him and did every thing

he said -- my psychiatrist and my thereapist also.

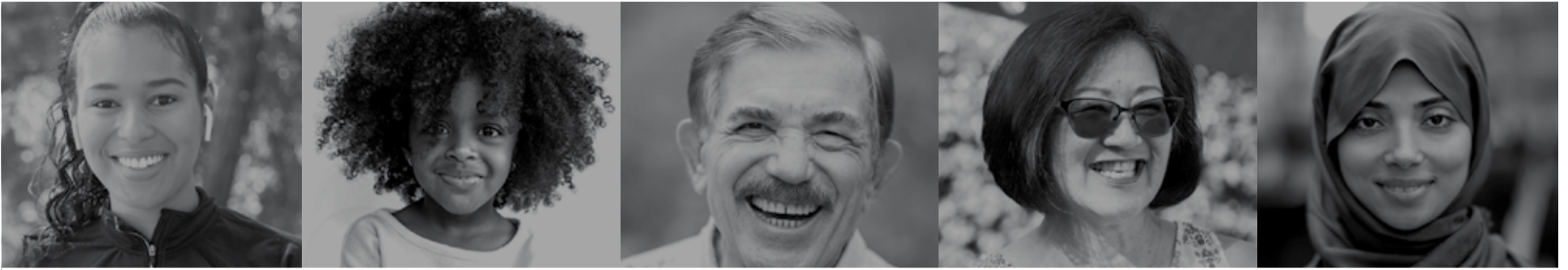
"I started by getting rid of the pop, and then the candy, cookies and cakes. I ate healthier and counted calories I was 330 pounds at the time but I had lost 30 pounds, in a short period of time after I cut sugar out of my diet. All together I lost 60 pounds because I chose to listen to my health team."

When she says "it's been nearly four years of struggle," she's not only speaking of herself, she's also speaking unselfishly of her Great Lakes Bay caregivers.

"They all have worked hard to get me better," Shafeka concludes. "My memory is not so good since the accident. They always call to check on me, to remind me of appointments, and to make sure I'm taking my medicine or checking to see if I need refills I never had that type of experience before at any other medical facility, I feel like I'm apart of their family.

"At one point, I was prescribed with 16 pills. Sixteen different medicines. And now I am down to two pills.

"I'm keeping up with my exercises, and working as a cook also, we stay on our feet moving around all the time. I'm calmer, happier and now I can sleep at night without pills. I was able to reverse everything because of my health care team. They helped save my life and I will always be grateful."



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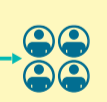


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As we continue to face COVID-19, we're now facing flu season. Now more than ever, getting your flu vaccine is essential. The vaccine is proven to protect millions of people every year from flu. Protect yourself and your community today. To learn more, including where to find a flu vaccine, visit Michigan.gov/Flu.




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-  If you test positive for COVID-19, someone from the Health Department will call you privately to:
 -  Ask how you are feeling.
 -  Ask about people you were in close contact with recently.
 -  Connect you to testing and helpful resources.
 -  Stop the spread of COVID-19, and call the people you have recently been around to let them know to get tested and watch for symptoms.

Your name and personal information will not be shared with anyone.

To learn more about contact tracing, visit [MICHIGAN.GOV/CONTAINCOVID](https://Michigan.gov/CONTAINCOVID) or call the Michigan COVID-19 Hotline at **888-535-6136**.

**Spread Hope
NOT COVID**



Covid won't quit, despite local tax victory

By Mike Thompson



courtesy photo

There's an upside and a downside to the Saginaw County Health Department's first-ever local property tax, says Health Officer Christine Harrison.

The positive aspect of the 52,774 to 38,382 victory for a new 0.48 mill levy, she says, is that annually the \$10 million budget will reap a \$2.4 million infusion not only to shore up basic services in such areas as treatment and prevention of historic chronic ailments such as cancer and heart disease, but also to combat the still-new covid challenge.

The negative portion is that the pandemic is becoming so speedily horrific that those on the front line worry that they never may catch up.

"Many are asking – what happens now?" Harrington notes.

While expressing gratitude to favorable

voters, she adds, "In reality, we won't see those additional dollars for months, but our priorities once they are available will be staffing, launching mobile services, new lab equipment to increase our testing capacity, and relentless communications.

"The current surge of cases is shining a light on just how under-staffed we are. In just over two weeks, our positive cases have increased by more than 1,500 and our positivity rate is above 10 percent and climbing. So are hospitalizations. We have announced that procedures for individual case investigations are changing."

For every step forward, two steps back? Harrington continues: "Health department staff, even working at full capacity, are no longer able to investigate all positive cases and notify close contacts quickly given our recent surge. We are now asking individuals

who test positive for COVID-19 to use a new online self-reporting form. Information on our website will guide individuals on how to isolate and notify close contacts for quarantine. The form they fill out will provide us with the data we need to complete each case in the Michigan Disease Surveillance System without lengthy phone calls."

That being said, the director still finds hope.

"We are so pleased that our community understands the value of the health department and is willing to invest in steady, predictable and adequate funding that enables us to do the job of safeguarding everyone in Saginaw County," Harrington says.

"Despite our differences on so many other issues, it's gratifying to know that our community is united in wanting Saginaw County to be an even better place to live, work, play and be well.

"We're doing all of this so we can prioritize the work of our case investigators on managing outbreaks in schools, businesses, and in vulnerable populations, to minimize the spread of COVID-19 within the community. We are continuously brainstorming ways to be as responsive as possible right now to safeguard Saginaw. This includes planning for mass vaccination once a COVID-19 vaccination is approved by the FDA.

"Meanwhile, we are pleading with residents to double down efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19: Wash your hands, wear your masks, watch your distance. Stay home for at least 10 days when sick with COVID-19 or COVID-like symptoms. Stay home for 14 days if exposed to COVID-19.

"Avoid crowded gatherings and other high-risk behaviors. Be sensible and safe with upcoming traditions like deer hunting season and Thanksgiving. Please do your part and help minimize the spread of COVID-19."

The tax will cost property owners 24 cents for each \$1,000 of sales value, which is double the taxable value found on our tax statements. For example, \$7.20 on a \$30,000 sales value, \$14.40 on \$60,000 or \$24 on \$100,000.

Health care outreach goes beyond only health care

By Mike Thompson



Omar Jones

For Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, Omar Jones carries the job title of community health worker at what old-timers know as the Janes Street Clinic.

He also could be known as a "whatever it takes" worker.

"My role is to help patients to meet any need they may have," Jones explains, "It could be food, clothes, shelter, utility payment assistance, health insurance navigation."

Great Lakes Bay Health's original mission during the 1960s was to assist migrant workers in mid-Michigan farm fields, and the task quickly expanded to serving the impoverished home population.

In his own circumstances after graduating from Saginaw High School in 2000, Jones found

himself performing similar outreach.

"Family members, relatives, friends, I felt a responsibility to help," he says. "When I learned that work in case management was possible as a career, it lined up with my personal life."

Jones began in 2013 with Covenant Health Care, and then came on board in 2015 with Great Lakes Bay Health at Janes Street. Meanwhile, he is studying online with Eastern Michigan University in pursuit of a degree in social work.

He says his fellow and sister residents generally are aware of local poverty and hardship, but they often do not recognize the intensity of the challenges.

"Most of my patients come to me by referrals, but I would find plenty of work to do just by going through our waiting room, or walking out into the neighborhood," he notes.

For example, one of his cases involved an 80-year-old mother who arrived from the Caribbean to assist her ailing daughter, and almost immediately fell ill herself. She has been in no position to gain citizenship and both of the women struggle

daily to survive. Jones hooks them up with food giveaway events and does everything within his power to assist.

At the same time, he says matters don't always boil down to lack of finances along.

"You can drive the streets and see homes that look so solid, even beautiful, on the outside, but you'd never dream of what's happening on the inside," he notes. "So many people struggle to figure out what they may need, even if they have health insurance, Medicare or Medicaid. They need direction in order to navigate the health care system."

The covid pandemic has made such communication far more difficult during the past nine months. Jones and other Great Lakes Bay Health personnel temporarily have stopped receiving visitors or making house calls.

"We can make phone calls and arrange zoom meetings, but some people don't have telephones or computers," he says. "We have reached a point where sometimes I simply have to meet a patient out in the parking lot."

Dentists are among the best doctors

By Mike Thompson

Some of us may place health care and dental care in two separate categories.

Heart disease? A health concern.

Diabetes? Check that blood sugar.

Cancer, high-blood, and nowadays COVID-19? All medical issues.

But a forehead-splitting toothache, or general deterioration of teeth and gums? That's separate. See a dentist.

At Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, leaders and staff understand that oral health is a key aspect of overall medical care. That's why Dr. Paul Crowley, chief dental officer, oversees a staff that includes 15 dentists, 11 hygienists, and 28 dental assistants. They offer services from six regional locations and from three mobile bus units.

"We have the capacity to perform most of our dental services on-site, without relying very often on referrals to outside providers," Dr. Crowley says.

Many Great Lakes Bay Health Center' patients

face barriers such as lack of transportation and lack of informational resources. GLBHC is breaking those barriers by offering transportation services in the Saginaw/Bay area, taking patients to their appointments and back home. The trio of mobile dental units, one with a wheelchair lift, visit over 120 schools, several adult care homes, and other locations of need. They make their presence known within the communities they serve by developing and also attending community events. To promote public awareness, the dental buses travel to health fairs and also conduct "pop-ups" at virtually any available location with a large enough parking lot.

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers has dental sites in Saginaw, Bridgeport, Owosso, Bay City, Imlay City, and Bad Axe.

The program accepts most forms of dental insurance and also provides a sliding scale to decrease the cost for those who are uninsured or underinsured.

Similar to all areas of medical care, the corona pandemic has raised its ugly head in dentistry. For instance, dental services to migrants working in

our farm fields was severely restricted during the past summer.

Employee and patient safety is of utmost importance at GLBHC. All employees and patients are prescreened prior to entrance into their facilities. Providing a sterile environment has always been our priority and will continue to be. Additional precautionary equipment has been installed. Air purifiers are constantly overturning the air and extraoral suction units are used to decrease the amount of aerosol in the air, helping to protect patients and staff.

Like many of the personnel at Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, Dr. Crowley has devoted his career to Public Health. Even before attending dental school at Tufts University in Boston, MA, he devoted two years to addressing hardship in South America. His current donated services include annual mission trips in Peru and Romania.

"That's why I'm here (at Great Lakes Bay Health since 2012)," Crowley says simply. "All of my years have been within the public health sector."

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- 50,000 gloves
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- 5,000 caps and hair nets
- 4,100 shoe/boot covers
- Thousands of donated meals
- Thousands of dollars in gift cards and monetary donations
- Countless prayers and messages of encouragement

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



Covid or not, isolation may lead to drug issues

By Mike Thompson



courtesy photo



Sarah Marquez

Effects of the covid outbreak are apparant to Sarah Marquez every day, regardless of whether individual patients have contracted the virus or not.

"There is a 30 percent increase in opioid use across the nation," says the substance use disorder coordinator for Great Lakes Bay

Health Centers, "and use of alcohol and other drugs has increased as well. Much of this may be attributed to the feelings of isolation that take place. Isolation can be a trigger."

While the virus creates a suddenly unexpected and unusual challenge, barriers to recruiting and keeping clients remain standard.

"There is a lot of stigma still behind seeking treatment and help," Marquez notes. "People don't want to feel they are being checked on. They won't want judgment."

She says Great Lakes Bay aims to overcome this sort of hesitation, doubt and fear by offering a comprehensive "integrated health system" that goes beyond the usual old-time perception of a drug clinic.

"We have primary care doctors on hand, pain management programs, phsychiatrics in the building," Marquez explains.

In addition to drawing patients to various locations such as Janes Street Academic

Health Center, outpatient therapy and programming from mobile unit also are available.

"Some people with needs fall to realize that most insurances will cover substance abuse services," she points out, "and for people who lack insurance, our sliding fee scale allows us to offer our services for mininal costs."

Marquez is a 2004 graduate of Saginaw's Michigan Lutheran Seminary who has pursued bachelor's degree studies at Central Michigan University and then a master's diploma from Michigan State University, focusing on social work and psychology.

She says her movtivation to pursue her career and her studies came from substance use challenges that were encountered by a high school best friend, and also among some family members.

"This made me see how I could help others," she explains.

BUSINESS & WEALTH

Saginaw biz startup takes a new approach to coffee shops

By Mike Thompson



courtesy photo

Yum Yum Cereal Bar? A new small business enterprise in Saginaw's Riverview Plaza, launched by Saginaw's Shantaria Smith with her husband, Reggie Millz.

What in the wide, wide world is a cereal bar?

To sum things up, a cereal bar is similar to a coffee hangout, where a patron may enjoy some mocha, sit back, and socialize. Or maybe hook up their PC on wifi. Or view the weekend ballgame on the overhead big screen. Or perhaps just isolate, by one's lonesome, and read a book.

Or snack on a bowl of cereal. That's the difference. A bowl of cereal as an option, instead of the usual coffee.

Admit it. A number of we grownups remain kids at heart, to varying degrees. Some among us still chow down as Tony the Tiger (Frosted Flakes) or Toucan Sam (Froot Loops). Some of us still are coo-coo for Cocoa Puffs. Some of us are silly rabbits who never have admitted that Trix are for kids.

So go ahead, friends in my group visiting Yum Yum. Go ahead and sip your lattes (those

are available at Yum Yum also, the same as at any old stodgy coffee house). Me, today I'm opting for some Frosted Mini-Wheats with soy milk. And I might just get goofy and mix some Apple Jacks into the same bowl.

Shantaria says the most far-out mixing example she has seen so far was a customer who took a bowl of Fruity Pebbles and cascaded a container of chocolate milk upon it.

Fun is serious business

Creativity and fun are the essences of patronizing a cereal bar.

Still, Shantaria bottom-line sees all of this as a serious business proposition.

"My friends love the concept," she says. "It's different. It's a good idea, and they like the location, because many of them are downtown students at Delta College and SVSU."

A self-serve container of cereal, anything from the sweet treats to the basics such as traditional corn flakes or rice krispies, sells for \$1. So do the milks, from regular to almond to soy to lactose-free, with chocolate and caramel and strawberry mixers available. Pop-tarts are in the vending machine, along with the an assortment of chips and candy bars. Basic or creative coffees are bargains, far less costly than a Starbucks, and donuts are in stock. An array of juices are chilled. There's even a microwave for the Jimmy Dean breakfast sandwiches.

Walls are adorned with portraits, not of celebrities or sports heroes, but of cereal box

covers. The storefront is narrow but the room is more than 100 feet deep, allowing plenty of safe space for covid social distancing.

Get this: Shantaria, a former basketball standout at Buena Vista High School, class of 2006, has purchased a Kokomo's or Buster's type of hoop shoot machine. And customers need not plug coins. It's free, as long as a patron makes a food or beverage purchase of some sort.

The man behind it all

Actually, Shantaria's husband is the inspiration for the small business venture. She describes Reggie and their two young daughters as constant breakfast cereal connoisseurs.

"Anything fruity," she says with a chuckle, "and also the Leprechaun," referring, of course, to Lucky Charms.

Shantaria and Reggie went to the extreme of online exploring, and learned that cereal bars long have been prominent in European cultures, especially in ritzy Paris. And from their research came the idea to give Saginaw a taste, even though they only are able to ID a few nationwide and none in Michigan.


So why try, seemingly against all odds?

"Life is a gamble," Reggie explains, "Everything is a gamble."

Shantaria adds, "I know a lot of people, have a number of friends, from growing up in Saginaw, from attending Delta and Saginaw Valley, and from serving in the Saginaw police reserves."

Yum Yum Cereal Bar is open Mondays through Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. with plenty of storefront parking in the repaved Riverview lot, on West Genesee near the bridge..



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EDUCATION

City schools rebuilding: Speaking of sports

By Mike Thompson



courtesy photo

Now that the Saginaw School District has won voter approval for a 7-mill, \$99.95 million buildings bond issue, with the highlight being for construction of a unified high school, some of the main questions turn to athletics.

Not that the first priority is anything other than academics, of course. But after all, this is the land we inhabit. How well are U-M and MSU students performing in their coursework this semester? Huh, what's that question? Okay, how are the Wolverines and the Spartans faring this fall on the football gridiron? Not so good, you say? The teams provide a much more simple path for alumni and fans to focus upon.

So when we posed some questions for Superintendent Ramont Roberts following the 11,792 to 7,937 victory at the polls, we began by speaking of sports. We learned that:

- Most everything is in the warm-up stage right now. But rest assured, staff, students,

parents and community members all will have a voice on naming the new school, choosing the signature colors, the nickname, the mascot.

- We know the new high school at the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy west riverfront site will be smaller than either Saginaw High and Arthur Hill, which both have fallen well below one-half capacity from the old baby boom era, but we have not yet figured out how many seats will be in the public gymnasium where our newly minuted powerhouse basketball teams will perform. The SASA few-seats gym will remain for in-school daily use,
- If matters work out, the football stadium will be placed between the new school and the ancient Bean Bunny grain elevator tower on North Niagara Street.

Aside from the unified high school, other work during the upcoming two-and-a-half years will

involve construction of a new Handley School on the Arthur Hill site, conversion of an Arthur Hill wing to house the relocated SASA, and conversion of a Saginaw High wing to re-establish an East Side middle school. At the same time, most of the World War II-era AHHS and SHS buildings will be razed.

Will demolition be blended side-by-side with construction and renovation? Roberts says planning on this question is beginning this month.

Election precinct results show support in the 70 percent range on the East Side, and about 55 percent on the West Side. However, voter turnout was far stronger on the West Side. The only three opposing precincts were Zilwaukee, Kochville and a small rural section of Buena Vista.

State law reforms under Proposal A allow school districts to seek local millages for buildings and technology, but not for operations such as hiring more teachers. However, Saginaw district leaders emphasized during the campaign that the infrastructure improvements also will help them improve curricula and academic offerings, especially at the high school. They also point to hopes for stabilized enrollment numbers, stemming a slide of decline for Saginaw and other urban districts that started to take root more than 40 years ago

The tax will cost property owners \$3.50 for each \$1,000 of sales value, which is double the taxable value on our property tax statements. For example, that's \$105 on a \$30,000 sales value, \$210 on \$60,000 or \$350 on \$100,000.

More information on the buildings plan and the district's strategic plan is available on the website, spsd.net.

Saginaw Community Foundation now accepting scholarship applications

Saginaw, MI – Saginaw Community Foundation (SCF) is now accepting scholarship applications. Each year, SCF awards hundreds of scholarships to post-secondary education students (community college, university, nontraditional and Career and Technical Education [CTE]/vocational students). Applications for 2021 scholarships are due Feb. 15, 2021.

To apply, students need only complete a single online application to be considered for one or more of the nearly 230 scholarships available, including the Saginaw Promise Zone scholarship. Many of the scholarships offered are awarded to multiple students and students can individually earn more than one award. Visit saginawfoundation.org/site/scholarships/ to review instructions, begin an application or review a directory of scholarship opportunities. Besides offering scholarships for residents of Saginaw County, SCF offers many opportunities for residents of Bay and Midland Counties and even many parts of Michigan.

“Education is vital to the growth and future of every community. Scholarships can help people in our region obtain a degree, certificate or other training that will help further their aspirations and goals,” said René Johnston, president and CEO at the Foundation.

Earlier this year, a total of 389 high school, college and nontraditional students were awarded 588 scholarships representing 51 schools. A record-setting total of \$803,250 was awarded to recipients.

“The scholarships we award each year are made possible because of the generosity of our donors and their commitment to education,” said Mai Lee, program officer at SCF. “Our donors are individuals, families, civic groups and businesses who believe in the value of education. To them we extend our deepest appreciation as they make the dream of higher education come true for so many students.”

Since 1987, the foundation has awarded more than \$7.2 million to students to help them achieve their educational goals.

“People traditionally think scholarships are just for high school seniors,” Lee said. “At the Saginaw Community Foundation, we offer scholarships for many individuals seeking higher education – from displaced workers to the single mother just returning to school to a student working full-time and attending college part-time.”



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- ✓ In 2020, there are **110** Saginaw Promise Scholars!
- ✓ The Saginaw Promise nears the threshold of awarding **\$1,000,000!!!**
- ✓ Saginaw Promise Scholars are earning program certificates and degrees!!!



Brianna Robinson / Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy / Class of 2012 / Earned Bachelor Degree in Kinesiology in 2016 from Michigan State University

What has the Saginaw Promise meant to her education: *"I remain extremely thankful for receiving the Saginaw Promise Scholarship and support... and I would encourage today's high school students to pursue their assistance"*



Johnnie Johnson III / Saginaw High School / Class of 2016 / Studying Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement with plans to become a Criminal Defense Attorney

What has the Saginaw Promise meant to his education: *"...I don't know if I could have made it without the Saginaw Promise... major props to them"*

**To donate by charge card: <https://saginawfoundation.thankyou4caring.org/saginawpromise>
To donate by check: Cut out and return the pledge form below**



"Saginaw Promise/Community Campaign" In support of the Saginaw Promise, I am donating a gift to the 2020 Community Campaign in the amount (checked). Please find enclosed my contribution.

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 \$100.00
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 \$500.00
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**Make Check payable to *Saginaw Community Foundation/Mail to the Saginaw Promise:
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**The Saginaw Community Foundation is the fiscal agent for the Saginaw Promise*

Learn more about The Saginaw Promise at www.saginawpromise.org or call (989) 755-0545 • Like us on



About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

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

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

FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Major gifts within reach

Many nonprofits depend upon major gifts, and they depend on their development staff to secure those gifts. Some have a list of major gift prospects. But a list doesn't mean you will receive major gifts: it's the successful few who unlock the power of those prospects.

Here are a few “secrets” to success. First, start with your board. If you want to start or grow a major gifts program your board needs to support the project and must be willing to become engaged as solicitors and door-openers. Second, study your donor list. Sometimes there are potential major donors “hiding” in your database. Look for those with a long and consistent history of giving, and those who have also been engaged as volunteers. People with a history of giving and involvement may be waiting to be asked to give at a higher level. If you believe someone can give a larger gift, we suggest you start a conversation. Third, remember that current major donors are a valuable resource: take time to help current donors feel a part of your organization's success. Engage them in identifying new major donors; and invite current donors to host or co-host virtual fundraisers and small fundraisers, perhaps with a board member or other donor. Remember: retaining gifts from current major donors and growing their giving and involvement is a large part of your major gifts program. It takes much more time, effort, and creativity to engage new donors than it does to retain and grow

your current donors.

Once you have identified prospective major donors and those who could serve as volunteer solicitors, get started with the following.

Define what a major gift is for your organization. For small organizations, the amount could range from \$500 to \$5,000. For larger institutions, it could range from \$25,000 into the millions of dollars. The term “major gift” is relative to your organization's budget. Work with your top leadership to identify donors and solicitors. Ask who they believe are prospective major donors, how they want to be involved, and what they believe are the right ways to cultivate and solicit those they are recommending as donors.

Prepare your team for the work of identifying, cultivating, soliciting, and

stewarding major gifts. This means offering live and recorded orientation sessions that include information such as fundraising priorities and goals, how much has been raised to date, and the anticipated impact of your work. You can include a “role play” or demonstration of what a cultivation or solicitation conversation looks and sounds like. This can ease apprehensions that most of us have.

Importantly, allocate sufficient time for staff and volunteers to do the work that is required. Most major gifts do not magically appear. Some do, but that's not something to count on. Make cultivation and solicitation a scheduled part of your work or volunteer life. Finally, say thank you as many times as you can. Major gifts are within the reach of your organization, they just may be outside of your comfort zone.



Copyright 2020 – 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.

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989-753-1886 / fax 989-753-2880
rcosag@yahoo.com

Saginaw County Business & Education Partnership

1213 South Washington Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-399-0016

Saginaw County Community Action Agency, Inc. (CAC)

2824 Perkins Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-7741

Saginaw Promise

1 Tuscola St., Suite 100B
Saginaw, Michigan 48607
(989) 755-0545
www.saginawpromise.org

The Michigan Banner Outreach Ministries

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Saginaw, MI 48607
989-992-2600

The Saginaw Community Foundation

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Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-2444

Christ Fellowship Baptist Church

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Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-4435
PastorD818@gmail.com

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Jacob's Ladder

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Life in Christ Ministries

Pastor Dennis Cotton, Sr.
2915 S. Washington Road
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989-401-4465
LifeInChristMinistries07@gmail.com

Messiah Missionary Baptist Church

2615 Williamson Road
Saginaw, MI 48601
Pastor Otis Washington
Phone: 989-777-2636
Fax: 989-777-2640
messiahmbc@att.net
www.messiahmsag.org



Mt. Olive Baptist Church

Pastor Marvin T. Smith
1114 N. 6th Street
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989-752-8064



New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry

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Saginaw, MI 48601

989-777-8272

Pastorbaldwin@charter.net



New Beginnings Life Changing Ministries

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New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

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www.thenewwayministry.org



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Supt. H.J. Coleman Jr.
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SPORTS

Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame banquet postponed



courtesy photo

At the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame, our No. 1 priority is always our members and inductees.

Because we value the health and safety of all of you, we have made the conscious decision to postpone our annual Induction Banquet that would have honored our Class of 2020.

Our decision was based upon the current State of Michigan COVID-19 prohibition on large gatherings, the uncertainty of when the prohibition will be lifted, and in the interest of

protecting the health and safety of our guests.

We look forward to celebrating with our members, inductees and their guests at the 2021 Hall of Fame Induction Banquet to be held on Sunday, November 7th, 2021, at Horizons Conference Center in Saginaw County.

Inductees include the late Bill Agresta, Larry Brethauer, Beth Bull (Spencer), Robb Cook, George Kubiak, Eugene Seals Jr., Roy Manning Jr., and the 1968-69 St. Stephen's

state champion basketball team.

Additionally, the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame will honor its Dr. Tom Slade High School Athlete of the Year, as well as award its two scholarships – the Team One Credit Union Scholar-Athlete award and the Pat Brady Community Service award.

For additional information, please contact Hall of Fame president Jack Tany at (989) 737-4725.

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 21

Nearly one-in-four teens less likely to consider starting a business as an adult as the result of COVID-19 impact

courtesy photo

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. -- A recent survey for Junior Achievement (JA) by research firm ENGINE Insights shows that nearly one-in-four teens (22%) say they are less likely to consider starting a business as an adult due to the impact of COVID-19 on small business. The release of the survey results coincides with National Entrepreneurship Month in November. The 2020 survey of 1,000 teens between the ages of 13 and 17 was conducted from October 20 to 25, 2020.

"Entrepreneurship drives innovation, creates jobs, and builds communities, but these results raise some concerns about what business creation will look like in the future," said Jack E. Kosakowski, President and CEO of Junior Achievement USA. "It's important that we encourage today's young people to consider entrepreneurship as a career option for the future. That's why entrepreneurship is one of the main areas of focus for Junior Achievement's educational experiences."

To help introduce teens to entrepreneurship, for the past five years Junior Achievement

has offered JA Launch Lesson. JA Launch Lesson is a point-of-entry program delivered by community entrepreneurs. Students gain firsthand knowledge about starting a business and the entrepreneurial journey. Since its introduction, JA Launch Lesson has reached more than 210,000 teens. This year virtual options of the program will be offered.

Despite the concerns of some teens about starting a business, the survey shows a majority remain open to the idea of being an entrepreneur. More than two-thirds (68%) of teens were "likely" to consider starting a business or becoming an entrepreneur as an adult.

Other findings of the survey include:

- Nearly a third of teens (30%) said they would need a "role model in business" to consider becoming an entrepreneur. While most teens (52%) said they need "someone to invest" in their business to consider being an entrepreneur
- Three-in-ten (31%) of teens stated their

greatest concern with starting a business is "not having enough money".

Methodology

This Youth CARAVAN survey was conducted by ENGINE INSIGHTS among a sample of 1,000 respondents aged 13-17. This survey was live on October 20-25, 2020.

Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have volunteered to participate in online surveys and polls. The data have been weighted to reflect the demographic composition of the 18+ population. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to multiple sources of error, including, but not limited to sampling error; coverage error; error associated with nonresponse; error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments.

TeenQuest students on the job: Shariona Smith



courtesy photo

Mott Middle College graduate Shariona Smith is busy working toward her dreams of owning her own event planning service. In the meantime, however, Smith works for General Motors, where she sanitizes touchpoints in their factory – a job that was created after the coronavirus pandemic began.

“Each morning, we start with a meeting where we are given the touchpoints we are tasked with sanitizing,” says Smith.

Meanwhile, Smith is making sure she doesn’t stray from her goals. She is currently working with a group called Where to Travel where she is working on becoming a self-employed travel agent.

“Working as a travel agent will help give me the experience needed to get into the event planning business,” says Smith. “I will be able to learn how to work with customers, organizational skills and how

to work from spreadsheets.”

Learn more about Smith’s goals and how lessons learned in TeenQuest are helping her on her journey.

What made you interested in event planning?

I worked for the Big Brothers Big Sisters Club of Greater Flint, and they put on a fundraising event every year called Suits & Sauce. We helped set up and run the event and seeing it run so smoothly was very exciting for me.

What lessons have you held onto from TeenQuest?

Working with Mr. Gaines. He always used to talk with me and was the one who made me believe I could get a summer job.

What skills from TeenQuest have you

used while interviewing for a job?

Walk into an interview with the confidence that you already have a job. And once you get a job, make yourself irreplaceable.

What advice would you offer current TeenQuest Students?

Pay attention. The skills they teach you will help you in the future. Listen to your facilitator when they talk about how they got to where they are now. Ask questions and get knowledge out of them. And most importantly, have fun.

TeenQuest and Summer Youth Initiative are made possible through the generous support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.



PICS OF THE WEEK

On Saturday, November 14, Women of Colors hosted their annual "Warm a Child for Winter" event. The group along with volunteers distributed coats, hats, gloves, and scarves to local kids, teens and adults.





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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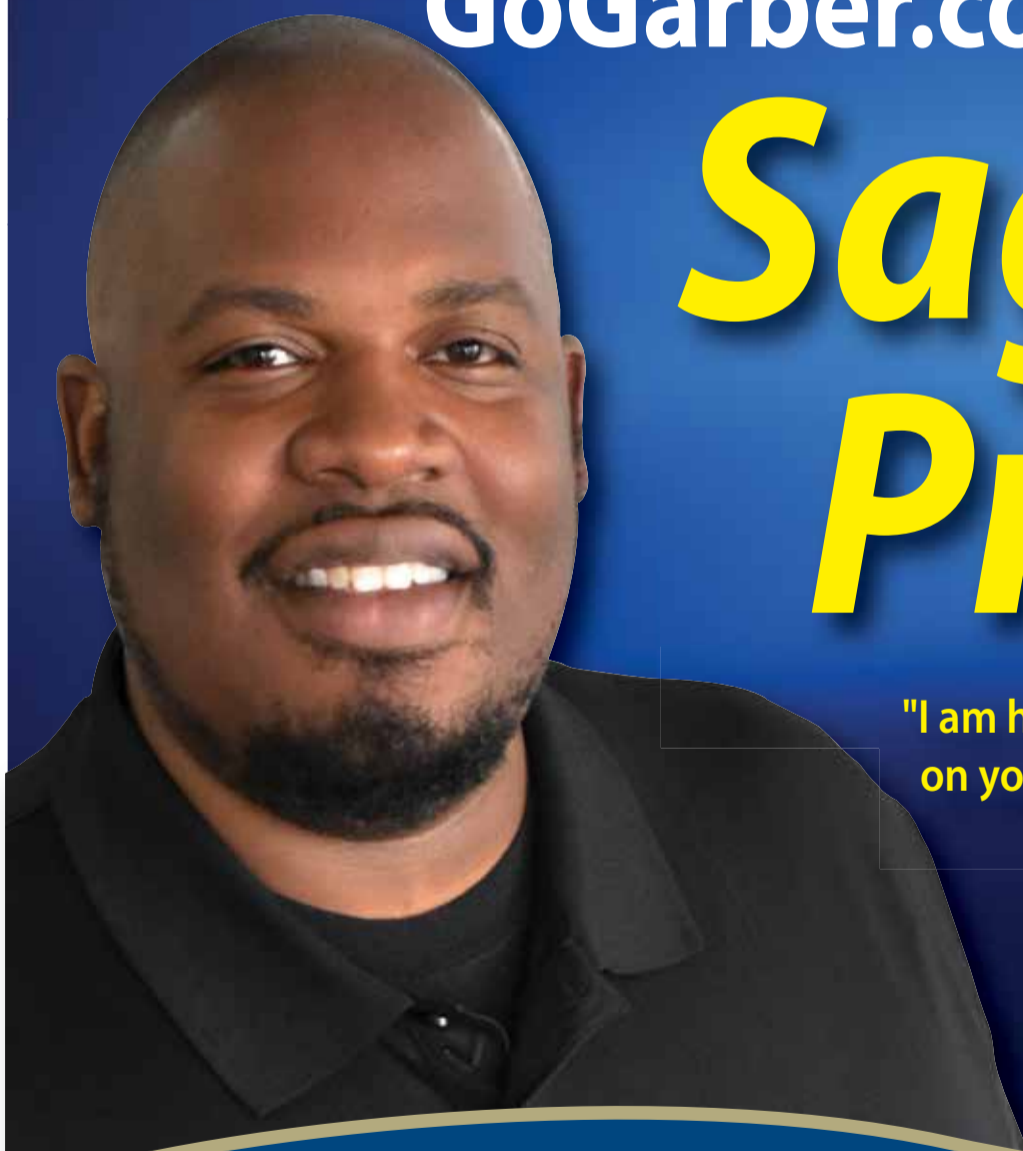
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