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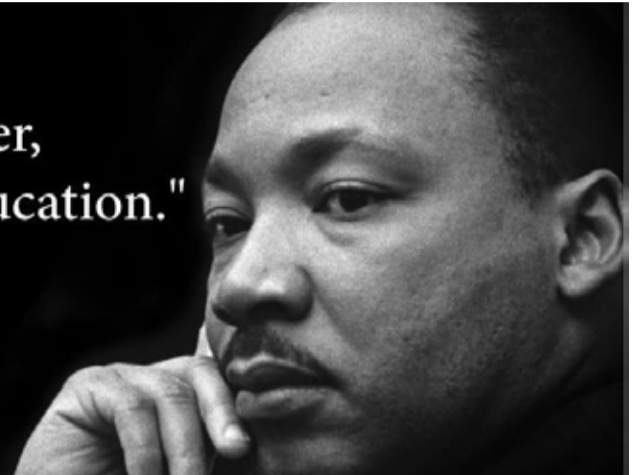


Citizens United keeps focus on jailing, officers named; city board seeks nominees

Community, pg 11

"Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education."

Martin Luther King Jr.



Leading in Diversity, Empowering Communities and Changing Lives

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Leadership in times of crisis



Community, pg 14

Ascension St. Mary's prepares to open new Emergency Care Center



Health, pg 29



Van Jones to keynote SVSU's virtual MLK event next week



courtesy photos

Saginaw Valley State University in January will welcome Van Jones, a political commentator who regularly appears on nationally-televised TV programs, to deliver the keynote address for the 12th annual Great Lakes Bay Regional Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. This year's event will be presented virtually.

Jones will appear Monday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m. in an SVSU-hosted live event, streamed free

online. To view the event, participants must register at svsu.edu/mlk.

The Yale-educated attorney serves as president and founder of Dream Corps, a nonprofit focusing on social justice. He appears regularly on TV as a correspondent on CNN and a commentator on political talk shows such as NBC's "Meet The Press."

Continues on pg 3, SVSU MLK event

Dr. Martin Luther King: The Legacy Lives On



courtesy photo

On Monday, January 18, 2021, the nation will observe and celebrate the 35th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. President Ronald Reagan signed the bill making the third Monday of January each year the official day to honor the life and legacy of the great orator and Civil Rights leader. Three years after the signing of the bill, January 1986 became the first day of commemoration of a man whose leadership and teachings still guide the use of non-violent protests to demand systemic and institutional racial, social and economic equality and justice. Dr. King, often described as a servant of the people, led protests during a dangerous and tumultuous time of unrest in our history which ultimately resulted in the violent and shocking end to his life. His dream, however, could not be silenced and continues to thrive decades after the tragic loss of his presence.

The day designated to honor Dr. King is also known as a national day of service. He was a servant of the people often sacrificing his home and family to participate in, speak to, meet with, organize in preparation for, the list goes on. Dr. King served the people in any capacity necessary. No task was too great or small to manage. Service to provide relief and support to one's community is a critical element to any successful effort to effect change. In one of his many profound and world changing speeches, Dr. King is quoted saying, "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward." Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This means that in some way, great or small each of us can contribute to the betterment of our homes, the workplace and to our own personal growth and development. Considering our

very limited ability to provide community service outside of our individual spheres of influence, it may seem difficult to fly right now i.e., give back to others. Moving forward requires action. Using the date set aside to honor a hero, someone who literally laid his life on the line, to catch up on the latest TV series does not count as movement.

Participating in one of the many virtual events honoring Dr. King this year will not be the same as previous years when coming together in large numbers for a meal, listening to an informed and powerful keynote speaker, honoring community leaders and finally giving to the cause of your choice was an enjoyable evening. Across the entire nation, annual events had to be cancelled. Complacency would have us justify inactivity with a phrase that seems to be gaining traction, 'well, maybe next year'. Let us not allow ourselves to be lulled into complacency. Find a safe location or activity to support through volunteering your time, drop off food or blankets to a local shelter, safely deliver meals to an elderly person, get a call list from your church and devote time to speaking with people who are homebound without family members to spend time with, by all means listen to or read speeches or history of Dr King, these are just a few simple, low cost service activities which we can commit to in recognition of one of the greatest servants of the people, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Let us help to keep his great legacy alive. Fly, run, walk or crawl - but move – move forward!



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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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Cover Story, SVSU MLK event

Previously, he worked as the green jobs advisor for President Barack Obama in 2009. In that role, Jones helped coordinate \$80 billion in green energy recovery spending.

He authored three New York Times Bestsellers including “The Green Collar Economy,” “Rebuild the Dream,” and “Beyond the Messy Truth: How We Came Apart, How We Come Together.”

Jones led several social and environmental justice enterprises over the years, including The Ella Baker Center for Human Rights and Color of Change.

He received recognition over the years from several organizations. Jones was the recipient of the World Economic Forum’s “Young Global Leader” designation, Rolling Stone’s “12 Leaders Who Get Things Done,” Fast Company’s “12 Most Creative Minds On Earth,” a Webby Special Achievement Award, and Time’s “100 Most Influential People in the World.”

The 2021 MLK Jr. Celebration theme is “Working Together.”

Mamie T. Thorns, the event organizer, said a theme promoting unity is especially relevant considering the

virtual event will happen two days prior to the scheduled U.S. presidential inauguration ceremony.

“We’re hoping the speaker will energize and motivate us, as well as give us all points on how we can bridge the divides that separate us,” said Thorns, SVSU’s chief diversity officer.

In addition to Jones’ keynote address, the Jan. 18 program will include the presentation of regional scholarship awards by the Bay Area, Midland Area and Saginaw community foundations to high school seniors who have embodied Martin Luther King Jr.’s ideals.

Officials also will announce the winners of the Drum Major Awards, which recognizes people whose community involvement in the Great Lakes Bay Region serves to advance King’s vision.

Jones joins a prestigious list of keynote speakers featured during the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Celebration at SVSU. In January 2020, Ruth D. Jones, a trailblazer at NASA, served as the guest. Previous speakers include Valerie Jarrett, former senior adviser to President Barack Obama, in 2019; Karen Carter, the chief inclusion officer for The Dow Chemical Company, in 2018; and former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder in 2017.

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THE MICHIGAN BANNER NEWS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AT&T



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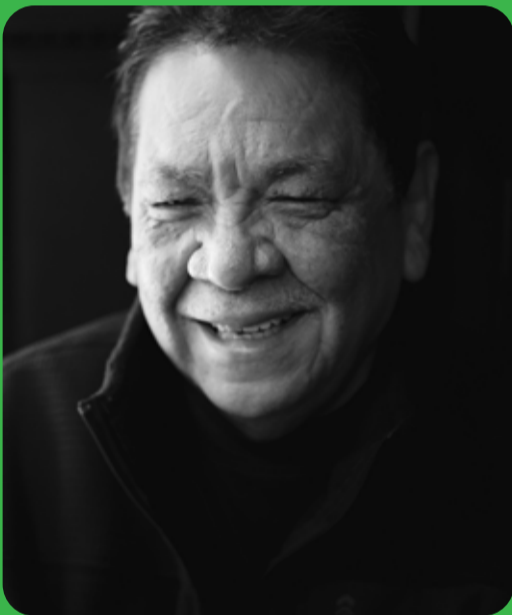
THE LATINO BANNER

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

Vamos Adelante



Saginaw Spotlight: Bobby Deleon



LB pg 4

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LLEAD and The Ezekial Project recognize local healthcare staff

Two community organizations, The Ezekiel Project and Latino Leaders for the Enhancement of Advocacy and Development (LLEAD) came together to show their love to healthcare workers. They teamed up for Operation: WeCareGLBR and raised over \$2600 to show appreciation to 88 healthcare heroes in the Great Lakes Bay Region. In addition, they also purchased \$1300 in gift cards from local area restaurants.

On Thursday, Jan. 7, the project organizers delivered gift bags to 30 healthcare workers at Ascension St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw. Rev. Susan Hand is a chaplain with the hospital's Mission Integration department and coordinated the distribution.

"When I heard about how the Saginaw community was coming together to lift up our healthcare heroes, I nominated many of the wonderful people here at St. Mary's Hospital," said Rev. Susan Hand, Chaplain, Ascension St. Mary's Hospital. "This is so wonderful to see them recognized today and be strengthened and lifted in the spirit of love with these gift bags."

"My hope for the Operation WeCare gift baskets was to show gratitude to our healthcare heroes, appreciating all of the sacrifice, love and hard work they have provided within the healthcare system," said Jessica Hernandez, Executive

Director, The Ezekiel Project. "Even after being in this pandemic for almost a year now, we wanted to make sure those in healthcare know that the community appreciates everyone so much."

Angelo Kapp, Vice President of LLEAD, joined in meeting with staff at Ascension St. Mary's. "I have many members of my family that work in the healthcare field and it's already a stressful environment besides it being a pandemic. They are not able to work from home and are on the frontlines everyday," stated Kapp. "In the beginning, everyone was supportive of our healthcare workers but, over time, it lingered. With the recent wave of COVID hospitalizations, we felt it was important to show our support again and give them a boost in their spirit, show them we care, acknowledge the sacrifices they are making so our communities can be safe."



Newly registered Latinx voters key to Georgia runoff victory, Voto Latino registered 15% of all new Georgia voters since general election

WASHINGTON - A coalition of young, diverse voters delivered two Democratic Senate seats in Georgia, which has one of the fastest-growing Latinx populations in the country. Voto Latino, the nation's leading Latinx voter registration outfit, registered 11,528 Georgian voters between November 30 and December 7 for the January 5 Senate runoff. Voto Latino previously registered 35,787 Georgians for the 2020 general election cycle, in which Biden won by 11,779 votes.

"Georgians' unprecedented turnout in a runoff election demonstrates that long term investments in community organizing are effective, and that every vote does matter," said María Teresa Kumar, president and CEO of Voto Latino. "This is Voto Latino's third Georgia election, and our wins could not have been possible without our volunteers, community partners, and the steadfast leadership of Stacey Abrams and Lauren Groh-Wargo of Fair Fight."

TargetSmart estimates that at least 74,487 Latinx voters voted early for the runoff election – 64% of the November 2020 early vote total and 180% more than the Latinx early vote total in 2016. In the midterm election of 2018, approximately 10% of Latinx voters turned out. This year, that number could be as high as 65%, exceeding all expectations and capping off a wave of Latinx voter engagement throughout the country during this election cycle.

This special election concludes Voto Latino's record-breaking investment in Latinx political empowerment for the 2020 cycle. After close to a decade of organizing in many of these states, a \$34.2 million dollar effort, Voto Latino registered 601,330 voters in Arizona, Texas, Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Colorado, and Florida, and mobilized 3.7 million low propensity voters to the polls. This cycle, Voto Latino's work helped flip Arizona and Georgia, defended Nevada and Wisconsin, sent four new Senators to Washington, and turned Texas and North Carolina purple, demonstrating the overwhelming contribution Latinx voters in



courtesy photo

the South made to deliver the White House.

For the Georgia effort, Voto Latino partnered with local organizations within the state for a host of election-related activities. Voto Latino's partners included Fair Fight, La Borinqueña, Athens AntiDiscrimination Movement (AADM), Blueprint 58 Atlanta, Georgia League of Women Voters, Georgia Muslim Voter Project, Georgia Sierra Club, Mijente, New Georgia Project, Pro Georgia, Southerners on New Ground (SONG), State Voices, Students for Tomorrow, and the Trans Queer Liberation Movement.

Through Voto Latino's numerous local partnerships, it co-hosted virtual text banks and organized events, such as a Fuse TV Townhall with board members Rosario Dawson and Wilmer Valderamma. VL Impact Council Co-Chair Zoe Saldana also

contributed to the effort. The Georgia program included texting 95,000 young voters of color, providing media training to 33 volunteers, collaboratively sending 1,140 handwritten letters to voters, providing thousands of rides to the polls through Lyft, and uplifting the work of numerous local organizations.

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★

A portrait of a smiling man with short dark hair and a goatee, wearing a grey suit jacket, a white shirt, and a red and grey striped tie. He is standing in front of a wall with a large shield-shaped logo.

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Years!*

Elvis Machul

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Saginaw Spotlight: Bobby Deleon



courtesy photo

“I was born in San Marcos, Texas. When we came to Michigan, it seemed like my father already established himself as finding a job. He had a regular job; it wasn’t working in the fields. When it came to migrant work, mom and the rest of the women would go out into the fields and pick potatoes or cucumbers.

I grew up making the decision that I wanted to be a musician. My father and I disagreed, he wanted me to work in the foundries like everyone else. I didn’t want that. I wanted to be what I wanted to be.

The idea of dropping out of high school and putting my focus into music wasn’t easy. In 1970 I put a group together called ‘Mas Caliente’. It wasn’t the idea of conquering music; it was the idea of conquering what my dad didn’t understand. What I wanted to be as a Hispanic person, as a Mexican man.

After 25 years of playing on the road, we decided it was time to come to an end. It was December. I came home and told my wife there was no more music. For the first time, I couldn’t afford to buy Christmas presents. My wife and I heard a knock on the door. There were two ladies that brought us \$300 to buy

gifts. That night we cried and I asked, ‘How can I ever thank God?’

Then it was the new year. I received a call from the Bilingual Migrant Program offering me a job to help with gangs in schools. This was back in the ‘90s when people were having a hard time with the gangs. Most of the gang members back then were young Mexicans. I didn’t know anything about kids or gangs, but I was well known in the community and they respected me. They wanted to hire me, but I didn’t have an education.

Two weeks after that, I had a job working with the Saginaw Board of Education, without an education. We put a team together with the Bilingual Migrant Program. We were there to engage with the parents and give them some hope. We set them up with programs for their families. We let them know we were working with them and they could come to us in times of struggle. They were afraid to talk. They were afraid to say anything that may get them into trouble.

They began to have faith in me. They knew I would never turn my back on them. They still believed there was hope. That was my goal.

Back in the ‘90s, there was a person who was treated unjustly with his employment, his employer fired him without reason. We all got together and fought for this young man. We didn’t end up winning, but we ended up realizing our people should not be treated this way. That’s how the Mexican American Council started, because of him.

There were five people involved in forming the Mexican American Council. They decided to bring me in because I was involved with the gangs and education.

Things were beginning to change. We began to see our kids in the streets. There were no more migrant workers, or field workers. The younger kids didn’t want those things. Things were changing rapidly and the Mexican American Council saw that.

We began to see it in the ‘90s. These kids that were gang members were being permanently thrown out of school. We put a priority on education. The Mexican American Council made the Chavez Academy School

for students. Some of the gang members graduated and went on to college.

After that, the community began to bring issues to us. They began to hold us responsible for taking action on the issues they brought to the table. These are Mexican people who never spoke out because they were afraid. After we established the comfort, they would come in and speak with us privately. Then we would know what actions to take and what doors to open.

When I became President of the Mexican American Council, I started thinking about my responsibilities. How to open new doors, how to think differently about the justice system and employment, and how I would bring the young people into this era of the Mexican American Council.

I reached out to Delta and Saginaw Valley State University. We started collaborating with our young people. I couldn’t go to the colleges and tell the youth what I wanted from them. I wanted them to tell us what we needed to do to get the youth in school and stay in school. I wanted them to tell me what they wanted from me, from us, from the community.

One of the proudest moments of my life was putting together the Latino Leaders for the Enhancement of Advocacy and Development (LLEAD) in Saginaw. LLEAD is partnered with the Mexican American Council and deals with everything from education and employment, to ICE and racism. It has opened more doors than any organization I’ve known in the state of Michigan. We’re still growing and moving forward, preparing the future for our kids.

We’re beginning to see more Hispanic kids graduating. The young people are motivating themselves and working together for the community.

I see the future of tomorrow and we are going to be more united than ever.”

- Bobby Deleon, Mexican American Council

Story and photos by Phil Eich and the City of Saginaw Government

Community Board

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- DANIEL CARREON CAMBEROS**, HLCOM Program Coordinator

STUDENT PANELIST:

- BETZABETH ARREDONDO LOPEZ**, Wayne State University
- ROSAURA DOMINGUEZ-REBOLLAR**, Michigan State University
- CRISTIAN CASANOVA**, University of Michigan
- AMANDA OZUNA**, Michigan State University

www.facebook.com/hlcom (livestreamed event)

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COMMUNITY

Citizens United keeps focus on jailing, officers named; city board seeks nominees

By Mike Thompson



courtesy photo

Is it possible to safely reduce the Saginaw County Jail's intake and headcount, especially after a Covid-19 outbreak that infected 22 inmates late last year?

Saginaw Citizens United for Equity and Justice will continue asking after an initial meeting in which Undersheriff Miguel Gomez represented Sheriff William Federspiel.

Citizens United, which formed last fall after nationwide summer demonstrations against cases of police violence and misconduct, proposes slowing the pace of arrests for minor non-violent violations such as traffic stops and nonpayment of child support, etc., that do not threaten the general public.

Gomez said authorities will keep the idea on the table until a February follow-up that hopefully will involve Federspiel, along

with other leaders in criminal justice such as prosecutors and judges.



Eric Braddock, Citizens United's new chairman, said, "They're not releasing anybody earlier than usual. They say that during the process of intake, they separate the (arrestees) who tested positive

and they are immediately quarantined and monitored by the nursing staff. They say they can handle those with vulnerable medical conditions, and get them to the hospital for treatment, and then get them back to the jail. They are not automatically pushing to release

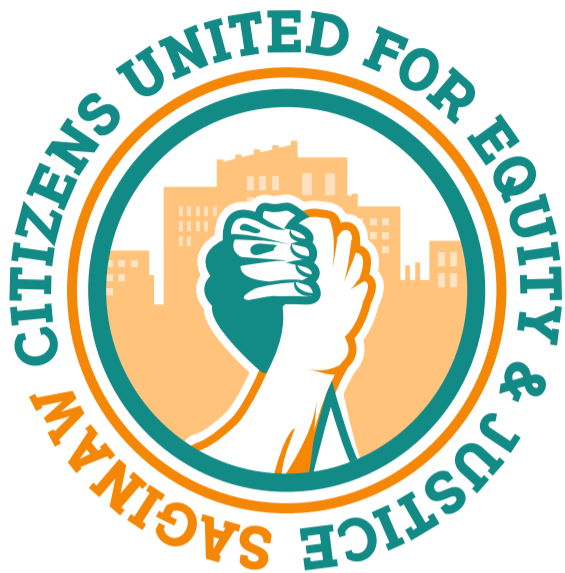
people due to the covid pandemic."

He added, "In consideration of the homeless and mental health populations, Saginaw Citizens United has concerns regarding the jail relationship and procedures with the County Mental Health. Saginaw Citizens want to investigate the process to ensure that our homeless and mental health populations are getting the resources they need. Undersheriff Gomez agrees more should be done. According to Gomez, the facility just cannot afford to send the mental health detainees out for treatment. County Mental Health professionals monitor the inmates once a week. "

Gomez further suggested that people with concerns could provide personal protective

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Continued from pg 11, Citizens United



equipment for friends and relatives, such as masks and gowns and disinfectant wipes, beyond what the jail furnishes. PPE should be contained in its original packaging.

For Citizens United members, an overall goal is to reduce mass incarceration, not only during the covid era but in the long term. Seven times more Americans are imprisoned than in 1960, with a disproportionate effect on ethnic minorities. This statistic includes not only federal and state prisons, but also local jails.

In addition to homelessness and mental health, another issue is that some prisoners may remain behind bars for extended periods, sometimes several years, while they await a case to go to trial. Other concerns include cash bail and plea bargaining, which may discriminate against arrestees with lower incomes.

Members will pursue their concerns and raise questions not only with local police agencies, but also with prosecutors, judges, and public defender representatives. Saginaw's Ezekiel Project, a faith-based social advocacy group, is working on similar subjects and will join hands with Citizens United, said President Willie Haynes and Organizer Hayley Rivera.

Saginaw's NAACP Branch already is enlisted, and President Terry Pruitt informed Citizens United members that progress is underway at the state level, in particular through the Black Legislative Caucus.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer got the ball rolling early in January when she signed a bill

that would eliminate jail for many non-dangerous traffic crimes, reduce a number of misdemeanors to civil infractions, and end mandatory minimum sentences that often come into play with drug crimes. Other provisions would reduce jail time while awaiting trial and expand expungement of criminal records.

Pruitt said group members, while continuing to advocate locally, also may lend support to statewide and national efforts for criminal justice reform. He also said communication must take place with local police officials and prosecutors, who first decide whether or not a suspect will wind up at the sheriff's jail entrance.

Officers chosen

Citizens United members selected Eric Braddock, a retired U.S. Army staff sergeant, to serve as chairman for 2021. Eric takes the reins from startup chair Brandell Adams, a law student and recent SVSU grad who had been a state House 95th District candidate.

Braddock served two tours of Middle East combat duty in Iraq. Back home in retirement, he's working as a teacher's aide for Saginaw Public Schools and a volunteer youth basketball coach.

He graduated in 1994 from Saginaw High School, where he played three varsity seasons under Coach Marshall Thomas and was selected as homecoming king. He then enrolled at Lansing Community College and Delta College prior to enlisting in the Army. After retiring, he completed an associates degree at Central Texas College, where he had been stationed, and now is studying at SVSU for a major in political science.

Eric is a cousin to Saginaw's hometown Braddock family and recalls conversations with Charles Braddock (1958-2013), who was a city police officer and later a member of the state parole board.

"Charles had his influence as a police and parole officer, and a community activist," Eric says. "This is an opportunity to get involved similar to how he did, as an advocate and an organizer, to give something back, to see change in the community."

The vice-chairwoman will be Arletta French, a retired social worker and past leader of the Community Prescription Support Program. Previously serving was Evelyn McGovern, founding president of Woman of Colors, a community involvement group.

Returning as secretary is Vicki Hill, a credit union officer and "Gospel Lady" hostess on KISS-FM 107.1.

Returning as treasurer is Michelle McCoy, founding owner of KMS Creative Group and editor-in-chief of The Michigan Banner.

Apps needed

Saginaw new Citizens Police Advisory Commission, formed last October via a City Council ordinance, lacks applicants to get started, says City Clerk Janet A. Santos.

She has received no nominating forms for five of the nine slots. They are:

- Rep from a local high school (the school need not be located in the city but the student's family must reside inside the boundaries).
- Rep from the Mexican American Council or a "similar (Latino) organization."
- Rep from the LGBTQ population.
- An ex-offender.
- A mental health professional.

The other four slots already have reaped applicants, although other individuals may apply. They are NAACP or a "similar (African American) organization," a neighborhood association, an at-large rep and the police chaplain.

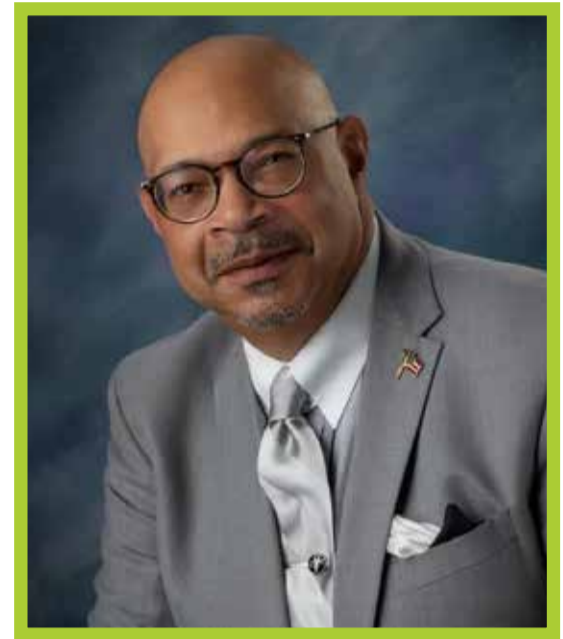
Apparently, all parties involved, including Citizens United, have dropped the ball on this vital applicant recruitment process. To apply, visit the clerk's office at City Hall between 8 a.m. or 4 p.m. weekdays, or call 759-1480, ext. 6. Or visit www.saginaw-mi.government/city_clerk/index.php and look for "apply for boards and commissions."

OPINION >>>>

I think we've allowed ourselves in this country to diminish the demand, the necessity for real leadership that doesn't come with a corporate title, a religious label, a sports team or a political party. What we've done and the repercussions are playing our daily is to demand that level of leadership us; yeah ourselves. We've become mobs and and that isn't a violent moniker but a group think one. The kind of leadership that says no, that's wrong. Or that's not fair or decent. The kind of leadership that doesn't make excuses for behaviors that are criminal or destructive to relationships and community. The kind of leadership

that has the courage to tell others no; don't do that. The leadership that leans on an inner guidance; your own principles and ideals that are centered around kindness, respect, compassion and understanding. Why would you need anyone to "lead" that? The leadership that can offer fair opinions but not damning judgements. Opinions that invite further debate. It's not Trump's fault or Biden's fault or Republicans or Democrats; it's you. You lead them not the other way around. We have ceded that which makes us our own leaders; a grounded sense of what is right and what I wrong. We don't need to be led, we need to lead. If we are to get back a sense of community, country, and fellowship then it first starts with our own accountability;

who are we and are we apart of the problems facing this country or a part of the solutions. Depending on your response to that you've answered the question on if you're being led or leading.



Jimmy E Greene,
CEO/President
ABC Michigan



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Leadership in times of crisis

By Eric R. Gilbertson

Library shelves are filled with thick volumes analyzing leaders in times of historic crises. And while the term “crisis” is so often over-used as hyperbole that it may no longer have any clear shared meaning, most would agree that the situation in our Country today does, in fact, fit the standard dictionary definitions: a “decisive moment,” a “time of danger or great difficulty,” a “turning point.”

So what does history teach us about those who would lead in such troublesome episodes?

Most crises develop and simmer over years or even centuries before erupting in a dramatic moment. Take, for example, the American Civil War in the 1860s; or the American Civil Rights movement that at long last captured public attention in the 1960s; or the relatively sudden Constitutional conflict in the early 1970s that now goes under the tagline “Watergate;” or the long-sought demise of legalized apartheid in South Africa in the 1990s.

Leaders in those moments made the critical difference: Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., Gerald Ford and Nelson Mandela. If there was a common thread to their critical leadership it was a decision to lead with reason rather than anger and vengeance. Think about Lincoln speaking with not just eloquence but purpose and compassion at Gettysburg; King writing his compelling letter from the Birmingham Jail; Ford’s courageous but unpopular pardon of Richard Nixon – whose misdeeds were more tawdry than treasonous; and Mandela returning to South Africa with astonishing grace and forgiveness after years of cruel imprisonment on Robben Island.

There is so much anger in our Country these days; it seems to dominate our news and our conversations. And there is much to be angry about. I’m angry. I suspect so are those of you reading this.

But history also teaches that anger is too often blinding, consuming. It clouds judgement and only breeds more of itself – until it eventually and inevitably leads to regret.

It’s interesting, and depressing, that so many of those seeking support for their political ambitions proudly boast that they will “fight” for this or that – to satisfy our selfish wants or

to punish perceived or imagined villains. But one sage politician who I greatly admired once remarked that he wished candidates would pledge to “work” for worthy goals – not just to engage in constant and unsatisfying pugilistic contests in the political arena. He understood from long and sad experience that even “winning” a heated political fight most often only sets the stage for a reciprocal assault.

Working for goals in a democracy requires reason, discipline, patience and, when necessary, firmness. It’s not soft or craven. And it’s not just temporarily vanquishing the “other side” for short-term gain. It’s the hard but more effective work of persuasion.

Working, not necessarily fighting, for gains in a democratic system may be the only way to make lasting progress.

Today’s crisis – and the anger it has stirred among almost everyone – cries out for leadership that is calm and rational, that teaches how eventually we’ll all somehow have to get along if our experiment in democracy is to survive. Whatever is said and done now must keep that eventual coming together in mind if we are to be well led.

Our laws must be rigorously enforced, of course, and those who violate them must be held accountable. There is real evil that must be named and confronted; those who would promote it should be rebuked and marginalized. And we must tenaciously insist on rigorous truth-telling and reject those who manipulate passions with mendacity.

But these things must be done with calm and reason, and for the purpose of restoring and protecting sacred norms - not merely inflicting revenge.

There are causes that might bring us together, that can rally us for the common good. Surely people of good will can agree that a pandemic must be contained, that shared prosperity is in our enlightened self-interest, that invidious discrimination harms our fellow citizens and stains our ethic and our culture, that law enforcement is necessary and needs help and guidance not sweeping condemnation, that our role in the larger world can and should be restored with respect for others while not

surrendering our own interests.

These are goals that might begin to bring us together.

I once asked a football coach whether his team was experiencing tensions and divisions, as reports had indicated were plaguing other teams. “No,” he said, “we don’t have time for any of that because we’re too busy trying to win football games.”

Maybe he was on to something. Our differences and problems are real and harmful - but we can be made better if we’re joined in common causes that unite rather than divide us. We sorely need such common causes now.

And so we look to leaders for calm and thoughtfulness - even amidst all the emotional clamor for conflict and recrimination. But it’s not enough to expect the seekers of high offices to practice and exemplify calm and reason. That is too easy, and it abdicates our own personal responsibility to demonstrate character and decency where we live and work. We each lead in our own smaller venues – our workplaces and neighborhoods, churches and schools and, yes, even our own families. After all, children are watching and listening.

We all have a role – and a duty – to lead in our own way and to live out what Lincoln called those “better angels of our nature.”

King led with a compelling vision – a dream not yet realized but still perhaps achievable. Ford led with courage and perspective, placing the nation’s longer-term interests above his contemporary political popularity. Mandela led with an insistence on both truth and reconciliation, advancing democratic values and ideals in a fractured nation.

Our times demand such leadership – not just from celebrities but from all of us – to speak and act with reason and the loftier purpose of bringing neighbors and fellow citizens and families together. As Lincoln implored in 1865: “With malice toward none, with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us . . . bind up the nation’s wounds . . . to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”

January 6, 2021 Aftermath: Where does America go from here?

By Terry Pruitt, President NAACP Saginaw Branch



courtesy photo

I'm troubled. I continue to try and wrap my mind around what happened in our nation's capital a few days ago. Most importantly, as the leader of the local branch of the nation's most prominent civil rights organization I'm trying to discern my role in explaining what I saw and what I need to do to help us get past it. What most of us witnessed on January 6th was absolutely horrifying. No amount of rationalization or supportive explanation can justify the actions of largely white insurrectionist. Our nation has seen protests and riots throughout our history, we only need to look back to this past summer. I would argue that we have not seen anything like what took place on a day, when our congressional leadership was gathered in our nation's capitol, to complete the final step in confirming the election of our 46th President.

Instead of witnessing an orderly process called for by the constitution, a step critical to our democracy, we saw uncontrolled and enraged people invading the capitol to terminate the process. We clearly saw a riotous mob attack on the workings of democracy in our nation. There were five deaths resulting from this tragic event. I ask that we continue to pray for all families and those whose lives have been affected.

No matter your political affiliations or beliefs, no one can say that what the nation witnessed on January 6, 2021, in our nation's capitol is something citizens of this

nation can say we are proud of.

There are those who vehemently argue that this country experienced the worst day of our existence as a sovereign nation. How we continue to presume our mantle in the eyes of the rest of the world as the leader fairness, truth, honor, and justice, is now confounding issue for our leaders to deal with.

The central question is where does America go from here? I readily admit that I don't have all of the answers, but it is my sincere hope that there are some important lessons-learned following these events. We must start with the recognition of the basic division that has plagued this nation for centuries. At the top of this list is racism. The consistent "elephant in the room" that too many don't want to talk about. Shrouded in the issue of racism is the issue of white privilege. Much of what we witnessed in Washington, D.C. once again exposed racist and anti-Semitic precepts. There is absolutely no way for this nation to move forward without addressing these core issues. We must get past the division, hatred, labeling and stereotyping we see and hear all

to often in this county to start turning things around.

I've always been an optimist. So, maybe we can learn to be kinder to each other, be willing to listen to each other, even if we remain in disagreement. In my view our nation needs to be united at time like this, not divided. Healing will come when we see each other as brother and sister and not as enemies. Clearly, we are not there yet.

So, as I continue to develop my thoughts about what we need to do from here I offer these thoughts as additional starting points We can try harder to learn how to love each other. Maybe we can develop a greater appreciation for the freedoms afforded us in this nation and not take them for granted.

Finally, I urge we acknowledge that each of us is created in God's image and likeness, and from our conception to death each of us has significant and immortal value. So, give it some thought. What will you do to help the nation heal from its wounds and move us collectively forward?



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The spirit of fulfilled hope

By Dr. Anthony Revis, Faith Ministries Church, Midland, MI



Luke 19:1-10

There comes a time when you need to do more than what is expected; you need to do the unexpected. Yes, you are doing okay. And yes, you are in pretty good shape, but something is still

missing. Something inside does satisfy you as you want. You are at the top of your profession, but it's doesn't really feel like it. You have a great marriage, but it is still a little empty. Everybody thinks they know you, but do you know the real you? In other words, our lives can get in a rut of accepting life and just life, without the meaning we need. We can find live up to less than hope says we can have. We want to be fulfilled, but we don't know how to get it. If that is you, then it's time to climb up to a new level of hope. It's time to grab "A Spirit of Fulfilled Hope." A Spirit of Fulfilled Hope is a mindset of faith that makes you take actions to do what seems even odd to meet what will fulfill your longing heart's expectations. And when you do, you will discover that God will save you from your despair. Let me ask you a question: Do you believe there is something more for you; you should be healed; you should be whole, but you are not there, yet? Then get up and do something that shows that you have faith in the possibility of being better. Yes, you are doing okay, but that is not enough anymore!

Look at what happened in the book of Luke.

Luke 19:1-4 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

Some of us need passing through blessing, meaning you need to take advantage of the opportunities that keep passing you by. Ask the Lord for passing through blessings. Look at more of the story.

Luke 19:5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today. 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

It's time for you to that place, position, and posture that lets your spirit get a better view of the Lord being available to you. Yes, climb up! But, then be ready to come down to start a new walk of hope that only the Lord, Jesus Christ, can give you. You have done well with your life so far, but there is more. There is a new level of satisfaction awaiting you. And when it happens, don't worry about the chatter – it can't hurt you. Look at what happened here.

Luke 19:7-8 All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." 8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

An honest heart is not afraid to show sincerity and repentance. When you're ready to let go, you can go.

Luke 19:9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

A Spirit of Fulfilled Hope tells you that you too can be one of God's best, not just good at what you do. Christ came for you just like He came for everyone else, and not only hope for the afterlife but hope for this life. You don't have to continue to pretend that you have it all together. God will help you to put it all together.

So, how about some principles of faith to consider based on the scripture we shared? Here they are:

1. Who you are and what you have is no reason to stop dreaming for more. It's alright to have more. If you have a giving spirit, God will always give you more to offer.
2. Don't let your physical attributes and abilities cause you to defeat your destiny purpose. Give it a try anyway. Don't sell yourself short.
3. Keep looking for that moment when the

4. person who can help you will help you
4. People will talk about you when they see you making progress. Let them talk!
5. The size of your hope will make room for a deposit from God for a better future

God's got a blessing for you; it is yours as soon as you take action! A Spirit of Fulfilled Hope says that God's deposit for you is only a matter of time. So look for God to turn your story into a testimony! Look for God to take you and elevate your commitment simply because you took action; you showed faith that caught God's attention. Yes, it was out of character for you, but it was in fashion with God. So, do it! Do something that gets God's attention so you can fulfill the inner spirit – the one that's calling you to a new position in Christ. So, here are three actions that will do it:

1. Challenge everything about who you are to get up and find what truly fulfills your life. Who are you? What is your strength? What are you good at? Channel that and go for it before you wake and realize that what you've been living is fulfilling.
2. Listen for the invitation from hope for you! Listen for your opportunity to change.
3. Be willing to let go of good stuff for more extraordinary substance. You don't have to stay like you are, even if there is nothing precisely wrong. Living right doesn't always mean you are living fulfilled. There is more to life than just breathing air.

A Spirit of Fulfill Hope is that hope that says I am ready for Jesus to call me for my fulfillment.

How long will you delay getting there just because you can't see hope? Stop dragging your feet; stop making excuses; stop waiting for nothing. You have to make your way to it, a place of elevation, as did Zacchaeus; where is your line of sight so you can see your hope?

So, when you finally realize you're ready to rise to your next elevation, go ahead and run ahead of it all. Climb up so you can see hope passing your way and so hope can see you and accept you into its arms. Faith and hope will get you there; God will deposit the blessing in your heart when you make the next move. A Spirit of Fulfilled Hope is waiting to reestablish your life. Believe Christ for it.

Dear Editor,

Excerpt from a newspaper article published in 1860; “Armed pro-slavery militias streamed into Kansas from neighboring slave state Missouri to disrupt territorial elections. They stuffed ballot boxes, intimidated voters, threatened candidates, and in at least one instance, kidnapped and killed a free-state candidate for the territorial legislature.”

Fast forward to 1987 and you might be able to find an Op-Ed that I wrote to the editor of the Suffolk News Herald. As an Army Staff Sergeant supervising the National Guard Armory in that city, I pushed back at then leader of the Suffolk NAACP, who wanted to take down a confederate flag hanging on the wall in the building. That action on its face might seem like a contradiction of this letter. My argument with him and the intent of my letter to the editor was to say, we should be spending our energy to end the ideology not just take down the symbols. On the very day he stood before my desk, a bulldozer was breaking ground on a new shopping center on White Marsh Road on the west end of town, next door to the Cypress Manor public housing complex. In addition to a much needed grocery store, they were also including a Virginia ABC store. I’m sure you can visualize the picture of someone pouring gasoline on a fire. History has proven me right. The community under the direct influence of alcohol, suffered long term negative consequences and the shopping center stands almost empty today. The same grocery store once next door, is now 2.5 miles away.

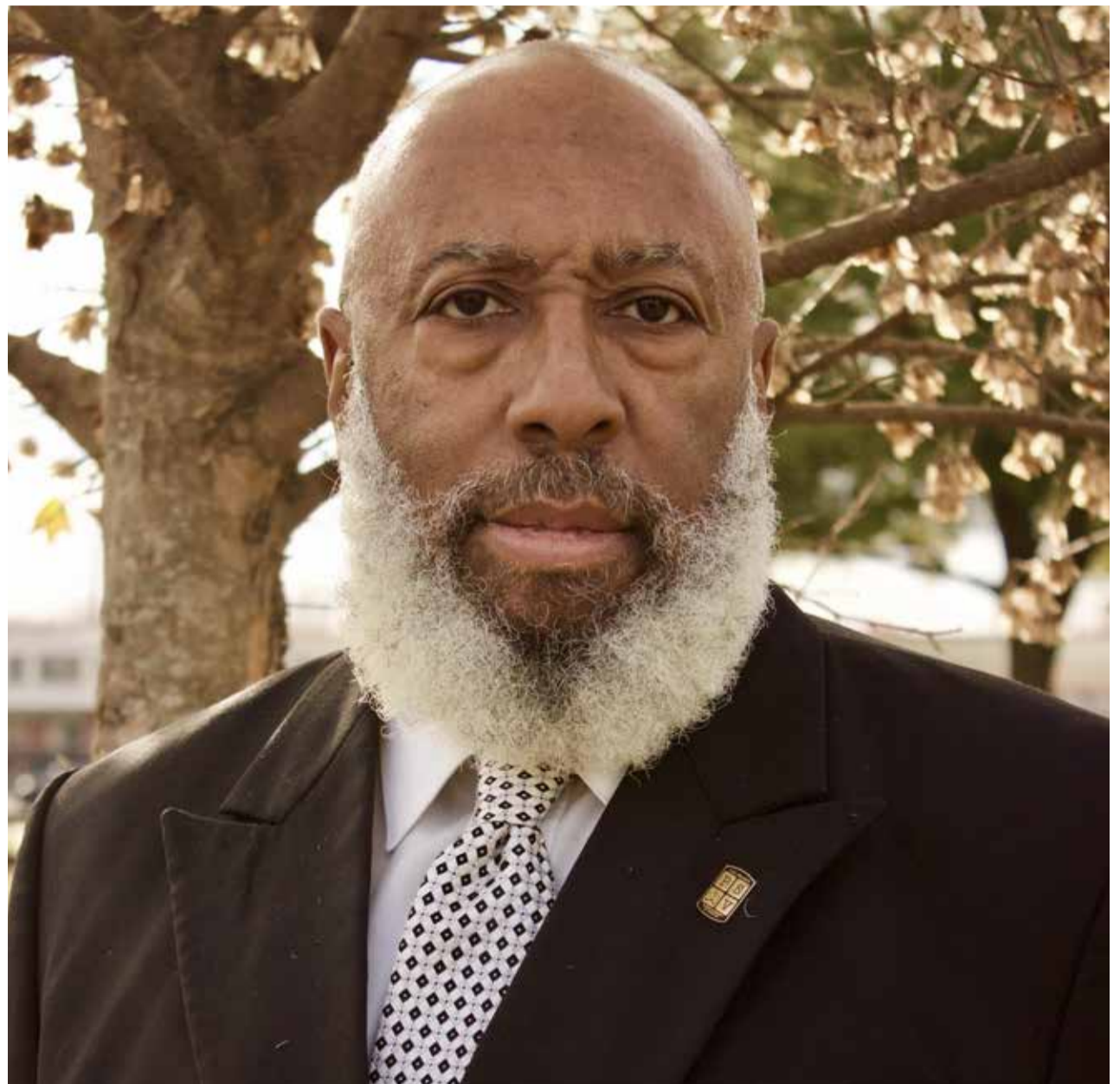
The double standard is clear. America rails against those who kneel when the National Anthem is played but are silent about those who fly the Confederate flag in their yards and on bumper stickers. They revere Generals who fought against the country and dismiss those who fought and died defending it. The constitution they claim to stand for, means nothing after Democrat and Republican appointed judges on The Supreme Court dismiss their claims of a fraudulent election. I do not believe they are Republican or Conservative. All the facts of history and present events prove the primary participants in this insurrection are in fact CONFEDERATES... For the first time in American history, a rebel carrying

a Confederate Flag ran through the capitol building of the United States of America.

In movies, on television and now in video games, America has a long history of glorifying rebels and bad men; gunslingers, mafia bosses, and as of lately in the African American community - Thug Life! Shouldn’t we expect a criminal after losing 20 years of freedom in a penitentiary, return to society and establish a post narrative of how he went wrong? Why would we grant him freedom and allow him to make a living, creating a new generation of criminal disciples? I do not believe it serves the common good to hide the dark history a person or a nation. That would allow someone headed down that same road to make the same mistake. Creating a narrative that the dark road was an enlightened path is equally dangerous for future generations. Likewise dangerous is the idea that the Confederacy was a noble cause or the romantic narrative that the South will rise again.

They claim Patriotism and while it is true the Declaration of Independence grants the citizen the right to overthrow an oppressive government, history sets the standard. For those so daring to make a claim of independence from the established government – history only awards the title of Patriot to winners! Losers are branded rebels. Confederates lost the civil war in 1863. They lost their fight against Civil Rights a hundred years later in 1963. They lost the 2020 election. Their insurrection on January 6th was a miserable and embarrassing failure. Hopefully the inauguration on January 20, 2021 will mark the beginning of a 21st Century Reconstruction that was never completed after the Civil War. Prayerfully we will enjoy another 200 years of democracy moving forward to the elusive goal of a more perfect union.

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



courtesy photo

More than a holiday greeting

By Pastor Carolyn L. Wilkins, Resurrection Life Ministries Full Gospel Baptist Church



courtesy photo

Over the past Christmas holidays, I received a greeting from a favorite family friend with the usual special family photo collage. And as in the case with their previous holiday mailings, it expressed their love to all the mail's recipients... inclusive of grandparents, parents, and grandchildren, expressing love, growth, fun, and wishes for a promising New Year.

Hence, it was just last month we mailed or received holiday greeting cards from loved ones, family, friends, and well-wishers encouraging us to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Prosperous New Year.

Can you recall or imagine the smiles, warm feelings, and cheery chuckles each greeting card brought during a year of tragedy, devastation, and uncertainty? Hopefully, these beautiful thoughts and gestures are carried over into the New Year.

Now think about it. Someone thought enough of another person to purchase a card, get a stamp, and mail it rather than text. That was the extra mile of the way in this day/hour of "microwave everything." There is no thought or gesture of another

that should be taken lightly or for granted.

This new year's morning was like none other "a special download" personalized scripture greeting for me.

"Beloved "I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers". III John 1:2

What a refreshing message to start the New Year! After all a new year brings a fresh start, new beginnings, hope and aspirations to one's life. This greeting to me was clear and distinct in its physical and spiritual nature for my life 1) Prosperity in all things 2) Good Health 3) A Prosperous Soul.

Familiar with the passage, I did not take it lightly nor for granted... after all, the Lord stirred my spirit to hear, read and meditate on His greeting scripture to me New Year's Day.

"Beloved, (Dear Friend), I pray that you may prosper in all things, and be in good health, just as your soul prospers." III John 1:1-2

The apostle takes his pen, a piece of paper and writes the above greeting scripture to his friend and prays a heartfelt word of encouragement for a bright successful future in every way, good sound physical health and above all (key) that his soul prospers. He gives the letter to a hand-picked personal courier to ensure its arrival to his friend.

Imagine receiving such a positive letter/notecard genuine in content, purposed explicitly for the receiver with an urge to "Keep on – Keeping on" despite naysayers, personal persecutions and in perilous times. Be encouraged my friend in everything.

Prosperity begins within and flows as an outward outcome "inside out". A fertile soul is a prosperous soul and a place where God can sow what He intends for it. Beloved, prosperity is not just a \$ amount that attributes to one's success in all things as this scripture has been misrepresented by many. Financial abundance is one aspect of what it means to live a full and rich life. Know that it includes principles of spiritual prosperity, intellectual prosperity, emotional prosperity, physical prosperity, relational prosperity social and

vocational prosperity.

Everything is nothing without the fulfillment of spiritual prosperity God's Word, Prayer, Meditation, Fasting and Christian Fellowship.

Soul Check: Is my soul hollow or full? Is my soul prospering in the Word of God? Am I making daily strides and choices that position and propel me into a purpose for living a full and rich life? How well is my soul prospering?

My friend, as your soul prospers, every area of your life will prosper. Your will becomes His will and a prosperous soul is our access key to living the abundant life in Jesus fulfilled and rich.

A GOLDEN NUGGET: Grow and Develop Intentionally!

My prayer for you, A New Year's Prayer 2021

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper, and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth". III John 1:2 KJV

Father in Heaven,

Our entrance into this New Year is with your blessing and permission for which we are grateful. You bring hope, joy and permit the prosperity of our lives. Thank you! You alone cause our spirits to be revived and born again. Thank you! Give us new songs to sing and secure our rhyme and reason of life in you. No matter what comes or goes we can trust in you. Your mercies are new every morning Great is your Faithfulness to this nation, community pastors, state and community leaders, workers and God's people. Come and kindle in us that flame of love and unity in you.

In Jesus Name, Amen

P.S. Take the prescribed greeting to heart for yourself. Daily exercise in the Word. It is the big gulp of life your soul needs to survive. "O taste and see that the Lord is good": Psalm 34:8

Happy New Year!

Longtime math professor to receive Delta College Spirit of MLK Award



courtesy photo

Beth Kelch, associate professor of mathematics, has been named the 2021 recipient of the Spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr. Award.

Kelch, who is also co-coordinator of the Faculty Center for Teaching Excellence, will receive the award January 18 at the 25th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Luncheon, taking place virtually this year.

“I am deeply honored and humbled that my small efforts to deepen Delta’s understanding of racial issues would result in receiving this award,” Kelch said. “The spirit that drove Dr. King’s passion, action and hope is the same spirit that encourages me to engage in this work.”

Kelch, from Cleveland, earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from the College of Wooster in Ohio. She joined Delta in 2004 as an adjunct instructor and structured learning assistant. Inspired by her hard-working students, so she decided to go back to college to earn her master’s degree in mathematics education from Florida State University. She became a full-time math instructor in 2013.

She is a member of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council at Delta and participates in Achieving the Dream initiatives. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Fostering Hope in Michigan, a nonprofit organization that serves the needs of foster children and teens. Kelch and her husband Rob have three children.

Kelch thanks several colleagues for their support and education: Loyce Brown, Angela Guy-Lee, Katrina Nichols, Lula Woodward and Michelle Iqbal.

The award is presented by the Delta College Black Faculty and Staff Association and the Saginaw chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, of which MLK was a member. Each year, BFSA members select an employee whose service to the college and community exemplifies the spirit of MLK’s work and values.

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

The truth is often hard to face



The truth is often hard to face, and even harder to deal with. Often, truth is the greatest obstacle to forward movement, and it is the often the most difficult enemy of change. It is truth that is so evident that we face at this time in our lives.

The scenes we witnessed in capitol of the United States, desecration of the most powerful emblems of what democracy represents in the world revealed an uncomfortable truth for all of us. Some have said that what we saw and heard is does not represent America. There is an important question that we need to ask, truthfully. Is that America, or not?

There is another specter that haunts this scene. Both sides of the scene in Washington claims that they are doing the work of God, that they are defending the faith and the constitution. We are in a moment that challenges everything that we have held as our belief in the appeal of "a more perfect union."

I have seen much in the years of my sojourn on this planet. I am the great grandson of an American slave, the grandson of a sharecropper, and the son of a great minister who fled the south in the great migration of the 1940's. He was a part of a large contingent of African Americans who came looking for lifelong opportunities. They left the Jim Crow south to come north to unspoken rules that were designed to keep them from realizing the full potential of their lives and desires.

Like those who came before them, they found ways to preserve and overcome adversity, to create lives for their families, achieve great things, and bring about an equity that no one could have forecasted. All this was done under the duress of the America that we know, and that we now see, again.

I was in a meeting recently and the discussion leader told us that everyone has some racism in their psyche. It is either explicit or implicit. The explicit

racism is visible to all, and implicit racism is hidden from immediate view, but is revealed in actions, words, or deeds. It is this moment of explicit racism that is revealing a dark underbelly of implicit racism that is America.

The FBI and the National Security leaders advise that the most dangerous predators in our country are our own countrymen, and they have taken on the cloak of Christianity and the American ideal. Under the label of "White Supremacy", they have decided that it is time to protect their American Dream. A truth that is hard to hear, and much harder to face.

Many of those who believe in this mission are our friends and neighbors, or so we thought. We watched as the political environment became so polarized and vocal, to the extent that it divided families, communities, friends, and even faith. The segregation was not physical anymore, it was emotional. We saw it raise its ugly head during the pandemic, when it became apparent that black and brown people seemed to be infected at a higher rate than the white people; that the cities were at a higher risk than the suburbs. It was clear that those who were in better financial situations and could work from home were less exposed than those in the difficult positions that had to go to work, that couldn't afford to miss their pay.

Yes, this is the same America that the 1619 project illustrated, that the true story of indigenous people tells on a daily basis. It is the same story that welcomed immigrants from all over the world to work the menial jobs, and then ushered them to ghettos and urban pockets throughout the country. Within those areas, the racial stratification made some neighborhoods homogenous to perpetuate the idea of their truth, that some are better than others because they are more than the others. The idea of "all men created equal" didn't really mean all men, but all "white" men.

It wasn't just black people and indigenous people who were caste in this America. It was the Irish, and the Jews, and the Germans, whichever was convenient. We have seen plantations, Japanese internment camps, massacres of tribes, lynching, and all sorts of terrible things in this America. That is the truth, uncomfortable and inconvenient.

But there is another truth. There has always been an element of righteous judgment in this country. There has always been someone who would stand for the ideal of "one nation under God with liberty and justice for all." There has always been someone who would face the awful truth with the truth of righteousness and fight for those who could not fight for themselves. There has always been someone who could hear the painful cries of the heart of the bonded and create an "underground railroad", risk their own lives to help others have a better life.

There has always been an American truth that was friend to the friendless, giving a home to the homeless, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked. There has always been someone who would take the risk of doing the necessary thing to change conditions that truth demanded.

There is a powerful bible verse that comes to mind as I am thinking about this, "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." Ezekiel 22:30.

Truth is often hard to face, and even harder to deal with. It is often the greatest obstacle to forward movement, and most often the most difficult enemy of change. It is time to face the hard truth.....

I'm just thinking.....

Saginaw Spotlight: Renee Johnston



courtesy photo

"A community foundation has always been defined as an organization that focuses on a geographic region and lays the foundation for the future, and a lot of what we do here at the Saginaw Community Foundation has evolved from that. How we lay that foundation for the future is in the development of relationships with the donors who establish endowment funds with us.

The endowment funds are really what give the Community Foundation the ability to give back and support the community, forever. That's the power of these endowments -- they're for good forever -- that's our motto.

We've had to evolve. I think that when defining a community foundation, you need to not only support a specific geographic region for the future but it also lead it along the way. That leadership can come in a lot of different forms. You also change and provide services based upon the changing needs of your community.

With this pandemic, we have seen things change even more as far as people's needs. For example, we just had a conversation in a community call that I convene about how we are not only seeing food lines get bigger, but who is in those food lines is changing, as well.

Part of it is an elevated awareness of resources available. At one point in time, many of these people didn't realize certain resources were available or never thought about or knew how to seek out these resources.

We are all promoting 211 Northeast Michigan. This is a resource that is available via call, text or online chat 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you need help with utilities or food or housing, or many other things, if you don't know where to go, 211 can connect you with someone who can help.

About three years ago, we established an impact investing arm within our organization. Our board felt we needed to do more than grant-making and scholarships -- that we needed to make some long-term, long-lasting investments in the community. We knew there may be some important initiatives or activities that needed an initial investment to either

encourage other investors to invest or to be that key investment to make something available that wouldn't otherwise exist had the Community Foundation not made that initial investment.

Our building here on Tuscola, behind The Temple Theatre, was actually our first investment. Our goal behind buying this building was to show the community that we're here to stay. We believe in this downtown and we believe in this community. Our next impact investment was in Saginaw Covenant Academy, which helps prevent youth homelessness and incarceration by providing educational opportunities and other services to at-risk youth. We gave them a \$400,000 loan that they would pay back -- \$100,000 a year for four years -- interest-free.

Another example is a COVID example. Saginaw Future made us aware of dollars they would be receiving from Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to provide small business loans in the form of grants.

So we worked out an agreement with Saginaw Future Inc. that allowed them to make some initial grants, and then they identified some other applicants that might benefit more from a loan than a grant. We reached out to those organizations and told them that, with their permission, we'd like to review their applications and consider them for a loan. We gave out a number of one-year, \$5,000-\$10,000 loans to help out some of our small businesses and that was through our impact investing arm."

I am a Saginaw native, born and raised here. I graduated from Michigan Lutheran Seminary, then went on to Alma College and then to law school at Valparaiso University.

I'm an only child and my parents would agree that I pretty much lived a sheltered life. But when the opportunities for me to broaden my wings came about, they encouraged me to do so. I studied abroad twice. I spent six months studying in Australia when I was in college. And then when I was in law school I was able to go to Oxford. They had a program that brought in Supreme Court justices. The year I went, Justice Ginsburg was our instructor. That was pretty amazing.

After I graduated from law school, I moved back to Saginaw. I remember thinking, "Gosh, I'd love to figure out what I can do to give back to my community." Because I have always cherished and loved my hometown. I have so many memories, which is really neat because memories not only mean a lot to me but they also mean a lot to my children. That's when I became active with the Junior League, thinking this was going to be my role and what I was going to do to give back while I was working my corporate job, with Delphi.

Later, I had friends back here who encouraged me to apply for the Saginaw Community Foundation position when it opened up. My husband and I both had been promoted within Delphi and were living in Detroit at the time.

I knew about the Community Foundation because I was an active member of the Junior League of Saginaw Valley, which started this organization. So I knew of it in that way. But I thought, maybe this is something worth a try. I felt like there was something even greater that maybe I could do or was meant to do for my community.

And here I am. I've been with the organization now for 16 years. I tell everybody that I have the best job ever. I get to work with this wonderful team. I get to work with wonderful leaders in the community to figure out how we can lay that foundation for the future of this community.

Whether I'm dealing with contracts or helping other attorneys figure out how to name the Community Foundation in somebody's trust or estate or whatever it may be, I draw on my legal background. I credit all of my experiences -- law school, my corporate experience, Junior League -- for making me who I am to lead this organization today. I think these experiences not only have made me a better person, but a better leader, as well.

My husband and I have two beautiful children. Whenever I'm home with them I am committed to meeting their needs. My daughter is 14, so of course she's like, "I'm OK."

When she was little, she'd say, 'I want to be what you are. I want to work for you.' She's moved on but now my son says he wants to come work for me and do what I do.

My kids know how much my work means to me. I also want them to know how much they mean to me, so I dedicate whatever time I can to them, spending quality time and making memories.

I remember one year on a Friday before Christmas break, I took my son and three of his buddies to see the Star Wars movie that had just come out. And when we got home, I took my daughter and a couple of her girlfriends to Frankenmuth for a carriage ride. She'd always wanted to do that. It's all about making memories.

They will say, 'Mama, do you remember when ...?' or, 'Those were memory makers' That's what's important to them.

On Saturday mornings, I get up at six o'clock. I start the coffee and light a candle. Nobody else is up yet, so it's quiet. I read my meditations, then answer emails until about 8 or 8:30. And then the house starts stirring and we're off to the races."

- Renee Johnston, President & CEO of the Saginaw Community Foundation

Story and photos by Phil Eich and the City of Saginaw Government



The 'old soul' movement: Stacy Abrams

By Wardene Talley



courtesy photo

Most of us have heard and probably used the old saying, 'That child has an old soul', or 'He/she has been here before'. I was reminded of it recently when I heard my grandson in another room practicing on the drums he received for Christmas. First, I heard the Louie Armstrong classic, 'What A Wonderful World'; and later a more upbeat tune, M. C. Hammer's 'Hammer Time'. He is only nine years old. Both of those songs were written and performed decades before he was born but he connects with the lyrics and beats of a wide range of music typically not found to be of particular interest to children – an old soul. For the past 12 to 18 months, another old soul has been in the forefront of the news and most recently a topic of discussion nationwide. She is heralded a hero by many and a force to be reckoned with by all. Yes, I am speaking of the brilliant political strategist from the state of Georgia, Ms. Stacy Abrams. In her mid-forties, Ms. Abrams speaks and governs her actions with the wisdom and experience of many of the giants in the Civil Rights and

Women's movements – an old soul.

A quick internet search for the definition of an old soul provides countless lists of very positive character traits and behaviors one can expect to find in these people who tend to stand out as quiet storms in times of uncertainty. They seem wise and settled. Simply put, an old soul is a person who seems much older and wiser than their actual age. They have high intelligence, intuition and usually a very keen insight into the human condition and are accompanied by maturity and a willingness to stand firm in one's beliefs and interests. These attributes describe Ms. Abrams' conduct during her recent thrust into the national debate on equality and justice initially for the citizens of her home state and eventually for the entire nation. Throughout the process, she remained steady and tempered as old souls cannot be distracted from their purpose.

Ms. Abrams' modern day accomplishments

place her in the company of activists such as Sojourner Truth. Born into slavery in 1797, Truth escaped to become a prominent abolitionist and women's rights activist. During the Civil War, she helped recruit black troops for the Union Army. She rallied people to donate food, clothes and other supplies for displaced families and worked vigilantly after the war to secure federal land grants for former slaves. Unfortunately, these efforts were unsuccessful however, she had paved the way for others to pick up the struggle as she continued the fight for freedom. A prolific orator and writer, Truth wrote her autobiography and sold it to help support herself and the causes she was passionate about. She dined with President Abraham Lincoln during which time she is said to have shared with him her story and that of the people she fought to help find freedom.

Accomplishing many firsts - as a woman, as a black woman, Truth's powerful writing, 'Ain't I A Woman?' was delivered at a Women's Convention in 1851. A brief excerpt of that writing remains relevant in the struggle for justice and equality today: 'If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again! And now they is asking to do it, the men better let them. Obligated to you for hearing me, and now old Sojourner ain't got nothing more to say'. Truth died in Battle Creek, Michigan in 1883.

Ms. Abrams' strategies are reminiscent of another hero from days of old, Harriet Tubman. Known to many as, 'The Conductor', after escaping slavery in 1849, Tubman spearheaded many treacherous journeys to free enslaved people on the Underground Railroad. She studied her 'enemies' so that she knew who she was up against. She learned the lay of the land, eventually knowing every twist and turn even in darkness so that none were lost on the very dangerous treks to freedom. Perhaps most importantly, recognizing that change requires a great deal of support, she developed networks of trusted allies who would provide shelter and other resources when needed. They helped to raise money

Continues on pg 24, 'old soul'

Continued from pg 23, 'old soul'

for food, clothing, and safe lodging. She was known to mail letters informing others of their duties and possible changes in plans. After the passing of the Fugitive Slave Act which carried harsh penalties for anyone aiding escapees, the Conductor had to be even more strategic in her planning and movements. It was still essential however, that they kept the atrocities of slavery in the forefront of the minds of people who with knowledge and understanding were potential allies. It was also necessary to educate the people she risked her life to free. One of her most profound quotes, "If I could have convinced more slaves that they were slaves, I could have freed thousands more". Helping people to understand they had the power to effect change was then and is now critical to a successful movement.

Ms. Abrams' likeness to another giant in the civil rights and women's movements gives us another glimpse into her 'old soul'. Shirley Chisholm was a pioneer. She was the first black woman elected to the United States Congress (1968) and represented her District for seven terms. Her many

accomplishments and firsts include being the first African American candidate for a major party's nomination for President of the United States. She said, 'I am and always will be a catalyst for change'. She also said that 'I ran for the presidency, despite hopeless odds to demonstrate the sheer will and refusal to accept the status quo. If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.'

After serving 11 years in the Georgia House of Representatives, Ms. Stacy Abrams was the Democratic party's nominee for the Georgia gubernatorial election. Of her many firsts, she was the first African American female in the United States to hold this honor. She did not win that highly contested election however, she learned a great deal from the loss. Voters needed to turn out in higher numbers. To do so, particularly in time for the next major election, voters had to register. A precision sharp strategy would be necessary. As Sojourner Truth recruited troops for the war, Abrams recruited grass roots level troops to go to the streets and register voters. As Harriet Tubman studied her enemies and learned the

lay of the land, Abrams studied the tactics of those who had joined forces against her during her own run for office. Like Tubman, she developed an entire network of hard-working supporters who would roll up their sleeves going door to door to register voters. Also, like Tubman, she launched a successful nationwide effort seeking much needed funding to educate voters of the need to turn out in the very high stakes election. And lastly, like Shirley Chisholm, she demonstrated the sheer will and refusal to accept the status quo. This time, her team won a victory which has proven to be a far greater accomplishment than the Governor's office would have been.

In a 2018 Washington Post interview Ms. Abrams described herself as follows, 'I'm a writer, a politician, a tax attorney, a civic leader and an entrepreneur.' I see her as an 'old soul', wise beyond her years with many accomplishments and firsts yet to come. Congratulations Ms. Abrams. When you were denied a seat at the table, like Shirley Chisholm, you brought the folding chair.



SAGINAW VALLEY

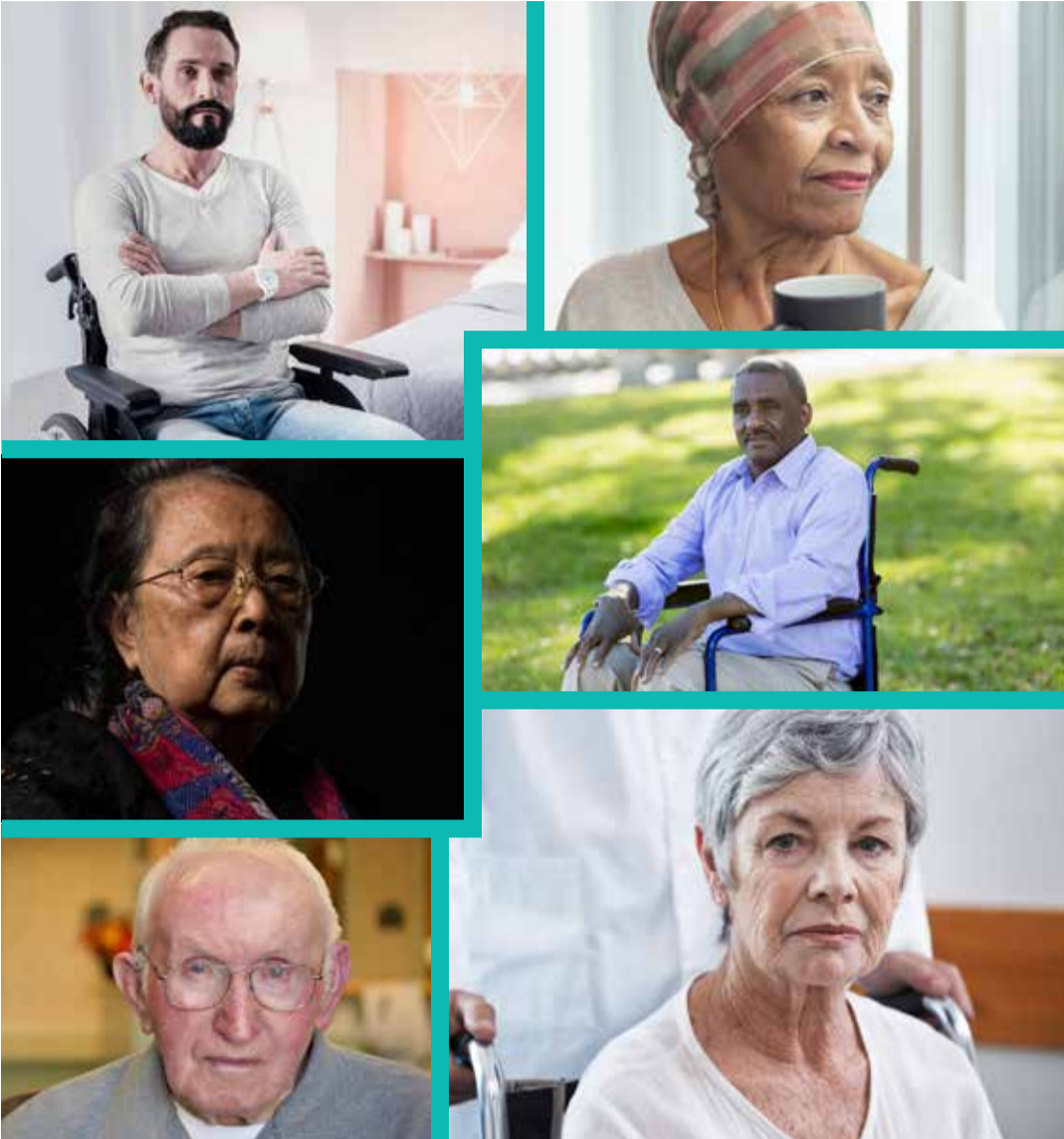
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Sermonette by Rev. Rodrick A. Smith, Zion Missionary Baptist Church



courtesy photo

What is a human being that You remember him, a son of man that You look after him (Psalm 8:4)?

Dr. Tony Evans says, "The modern person tends to be full of himself or herself because God is so small in his or her eyes. But when we see God as he truly is (massive), we understand how truly miniscule we are." One of the marks of genuine religion is a sense of awe and wonder as one considers the Creator and all He has created. It begins with LORD, our Lord, how magnificent is Your name throughout the earth! You have covered the heavens with Your majesty. David stands in awe before the majesty of his Creator God. This is a God who accepts the praises of innocent little children as they approach

Him in the simplicity of their faith. As David considers the glory and majesty of God, he asks, "What is man that You are mindful of him?" Here David speaks of frail man, mortal man, living in his fallen human existence. Yet human beings are the particular objects of God's undivided attention. God never allows man to slip from His thoughts as He brings to fruition His plans for His entire creation. God has invested glory and honor (in a limited sense), on fallen human beings. He cares for and acts on behalf of the sinful human race. He is mindful of us, and He cares for us. The apostle Peter says, "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."

Women of Colors Launches Social Media Campaign



Women of Colors (WOC), a non-profit organization serving the Saginaw community, plans to launch a new social media campaign this year. WOC completed this work in collaboration with Cardinal Solutions, a program of distinction at Saginaw Valley State University. The social media campaign will promote WOC's programs, forums, and initiatives on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Some highlights about WOC's community contributions appear below.

From November 2019 to April 2020, WOC reached more than 1,000 community members, including 700 youth.

Over 90 percent of people who attended WOC's forum on systemic racism, "Time to Have a Conversation," noted on a September 2020 survey that they felt "very satisfied" with the event.

From December 2019 to February 2020, WOC administered a program titled "Prime for Life" to youth in juvenile detention, measuring their understanding of prevention strategies for substance abuse before and after completing the training. Participants saw an increase in average test scores from 57% to 67%.

In 2019, WOC distributed more than 400 coats and winter accessories to children up to 16 years old.

Evelyn McGovern, WOC's president and cofounder, views community as a key value. "Women of Colors is a community organization," she says. "We are here for the community. We can't do what we are doing unless we have collaboration with agencies, businesses, churches, and schools." She hopes the social media campaign will enable her organization to reach more people who could benefit from community events and services, as well as additional volunteers.

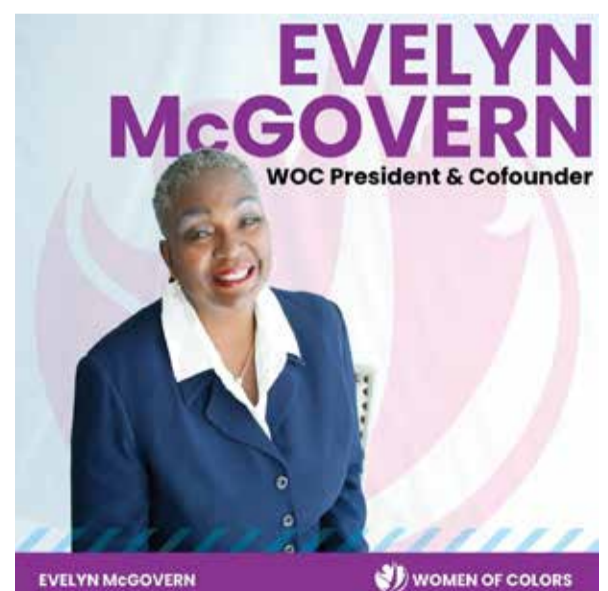
The WOC-Cardinal Solutions team created promotions for:

- Women of Colors as an umbrella organization;
- the programs Warm a Child for Winter,

Students and Future Technology, and WOC Prevention;

- the forums Time to Have a Conversation, How I Overcame, I'm Still a Man, and Your Voice Your Choice; and
- a giving initiative for WOC.

WOC's mission is to promote multi-cultural diversity and enhance community relations in Saginaw County by performing community service, mentoring youth, and collaborating with other organizations. For more information, call (989) 737-9286 or visit www.womenofcolors.org.



POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Ken Horn's senate statement on the capitol violence



courtesy photo

As we opened Michigan's 101st Legislative Session, I rose to make an official statement on behalf of my District.

The following words will be entered into the Legislative Journal:

"I rise today to address my colleagues, to say that nothing that happens in Washington DC, nothing that happens around Nation, and nothing that happens in Michigan should stop

this Senate from unifying for the good of all our people.

While I've spoken privately with many friends, I'd like to share my reflections on last week's deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. It is not my intent to change minds at this point, nor to open any wounds.

In fact, it is precisely my hope to calm the waters and to help open a path that begins the

healing process, with the understanding that we're all trying to do what we can to make our little corner of the world a better place to live.

My first reaction to the news reports on 1/6 was one of stunned disbelief. To me, it felt like one of those moments of disorientation, much like 9/11 as we tried to make sense of the tragedy that was unfolding right before our very eyes.

The more I studied the storming of the Capitol, the more emotions began flooding in; disbelief, sadness, disappointment, and grief.

The nation experienced a true sense of loss. We mourn the loss of life, a certain sense of innocence, a loss of trust, a loss of our sense of self-governance. We lost all of this to a moment of shear anarchy.

It was not an American moment of greatness. It certainly was not democracy. It was a slap in the face of patriotism. I was embarrassed for all those that stormed the Capitol claiming it was "their" house, forgetting that it is "ours".

This cannot happen again at our U.S. Capitol. Nor can it happen at our Michigan Capitol.

Please pray with me that our elected leaders and the people we serve are protected at all times. That our law enforcement officials are always safe and well prepared.

Because unity and peace begins at home, please join me in praying that the Lord helps brings peace to the people of our nation, and peace to the hearts of all people.

God Bless Michigan. God Bless the United States."

I from my family to yours, let me wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Who is accountable? Part II

This article identifies the top 10 wealthiest members in the U.S. Senate who bear responsibility for addressing the nation’s economic decline, social discord and pandemic crisis. “Fat cats in Washington” who are crucial to meeting our current challenges and determining the nation’s fate.

Like members of the U.S. House of Representatives, Senators receive a base salary of \$174,000/year, excellent health benefits that continue into retirement, and retire with 80% of their base salary (currently \$139,200/year for life). During the vice president's absence, the president pro tempore is empowered to preside over Senate sessions. The salary for that position and for Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. Senate is \$193,400.

The top 10 wealthiest members of the U.S. Senate include eight Republicans and two are Democrats. None of these Senators are from the Great State of Michigan.

Note: This list is based on data from 2018 and does not include the wealthiest Senators beginning 2019 – 2020. One such Senator is Kelly Loeffler (Republican - Georgia 13th District) whose net worth in 2020 has been estimated to be as high as \$800 million. This suggests that her wealth equals that of the top 5 Senators on this list combined.

The information below is based on their reported net worth in 2018, as reported by the Center for Responsible Politics. They are listed in descending order.

1. Rick Scott Republican - Florida 13th Congressional District. \$259,663,681



2. Mark Warner Democrat - Virginia 7th Congressional District. \$214,092,575



3. Mitt Romney Republican - Utah 3rd Congressional District. \$174,490,570



4. Mike Braun Republican - Indiana 4th Congressional District. \$136,831,124



5. John Hoeven Republican - North Dakota At-Large Congressional District. \$93,379,138



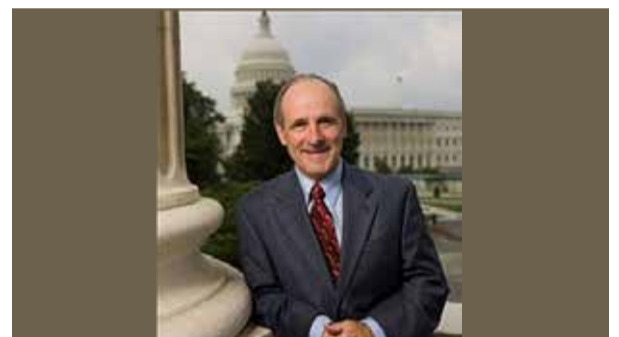
6. Diane Feinstein Democrat - California 14th Congressional District. \$87,938,540



7. Ron Johnson Republican - Wisconsin 3rd Congressional District. \$78,467,014



8. Jim Risch Republican - Idaho 2nd Congressional District. \$41,807,024



9. Mitch McConnell Republican - Kentucky 4th Congressional District. \$34,137,534



10. Steve Daines. Republican -Montana At-Large Congressional District. \$32,863,042



After looking at this list of wealthiest Senators, and wealthiest Congressmen in the January 1, 2021 edition, my only thought is; “IT MUST BE NICE”!

~ Sofus ~

HEALTH

Ascension St. Mary's prepares to open new Emergency Care Center



courtesy photo

Ascension St. Mary's Hospital plans to open their new Emergency Care Center addition at its downtown location, 800 S. Washington Avenue in Saginaw, in early January 2021. The newly constructed addition provides patients with an airport style drop-off/pick up and continuous drop-off canopy for inclement weather. Access for ambulances is also greatly improved with the now completed second phase of the project.

The \$17.6 million expansion project began in October 2019 with six phases of work, Phase two, which was just completed, included the construction of a 12,600-square foot addition, renovating existing space, infrastructure improvements for electrical, heating, ventilation and information technology systems, and improving access for ambulances and the public. The enhancements will transform the facility

into a state-of-the-art emergency and level II trauma care center with 24 exam/treatment rooms and two trauma rooms. As Michigan's northernmost Comprehensive Stroke Center, the new Emergency Care Center will further strengthen the hospital's ability to provide high quality stroke care.

"We are very excited and looking forward to opening the new addition and ambulance bays," said Stephanie Duggan, MD, Regional President, Ascension St. Mary's. "We had been in the planning process for over a year before our groundbreaking in October 2019. As part of the planning work, we identified that a new emergency entry for ambulances and the public was a top priority. Significant excavation and construction to reduce the gradient to the Emergency Department has taken place to create a safer entryway for ambulances and our community," explained Duggan.

In addition to the new ambulance point of entry and multiple parking bays, a covered entrance will improve access for walk-in patients. Individuals coming to the new Ascension St. Mary's Emergency Care Center will also find a new registration and triage area which will improve patient flow and increase capacity and efficiency. The waiting area will be larger, more spacious and feature modern day furnishings to improve the patient and visitor experience.

The next phases of renovation will involve the existing emergency department space to create new, larger exam rooms and trauma suites. The work will continue to be staged so there is no disruption of services. Emergency and trauma care will continue to be provided through the existing emergency care in downtown Saginaw and at Ascension St. Mary's freestanding emergency care center located in Saginaw Township, at 4599 Towne Centre Blvd., at the corner of Towne Centre and Schust. Both locations are open 24/7.

How to reserve a dose of the covid-19 vaccine for adults 65 and older



Saginaw County HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Saginaw County residents who are 65 years of age and older are now eligible to reserve a COVID-19 vaccine dose. Currently, Saginaw County is still vaccinating health care workers and long-term care residents in Phase 1A, with the hopes to begin 1B as soon as doses are available.

If you are 65 years of age or older, here's what you can do NOW to RESERVE YOUR DOSE:

Register your name, age, address, cell phone, and email address with the Saginaw

County Health Department at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GDC2BXL>. This link is available at www.saginawpublichealth.org.

Friends and family may register on behalf of a loved one who is not comfortable with technology – and may use their own email or cell phone number for notifications.

Those who are unable to register online or don't have a family member to assist may call the Saginaw County Commission on Aging for help! Just call (989) 797-6880. Staff will take your name, address, cell phone, and email address and enter you into the health department's system to reserve your dose.

Once you are registered and doses become available, the health department will notify you via email and/or text for the day, time and location where you can go to receive

your vaccination. Providers in Saginaw County are working together on this large and complex initiative, so you may be directed to one of our hospitals, a partner clinic, or a Saginaw County Health Department drive-thru vaccination clinic near you.



courtesy photo

SCIENTISTS HAVE TAKEN HUNDREDS OF STEPS TO OPEN THIS DOOR.



Developed by a proven process, the COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective.

Decades of research, followed by months of clinical development. Tens of thousands of diverse volunteers in clinical trials. Scientists and doctors worldwide have joined forces to bring us a safe, effective vaccine for COVID-19... and help give us our lives back.

Learn more at Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine.



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Covenant HealthCare prides itself on delivering extraordinary care. But lately, we've been on the receiving end. Our community has given us:

- 20,000 N95 masks
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- 50,000 gloves
- 2,000 pairs of goggles
- 312 gallons of sanitizer
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- 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.



Michigan speeding up vaccinations; ranks 11th in the nation for the number of first doses of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine administered



courtesy photo

LANSING, Mich. – Michigan hospitals, local health departments and Federally Qualified Health Centers are quickly increasing the pace of vaccinations in the state, administering three times the vaccine last week compared to the number of doses administered the first week.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tracker data, Michigan is 11th in the nation for the number of first doses administered to date (124,689) behind Texas, California, Florida, New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Tennessee, New Jersey and North Carolina. Michigan's COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard currently shows 152,511 doses administered due to a lag between when CDC posts data and the state updates its information.

“The more people that are vaccinated, the less spread we will have, the fewer deaths and the quicker we can get back to a sense of normalcy,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. “With a new variant of the virus in the United States, one

that may be easier to spread than the current variant, there is more urgency than ever to vaccinate as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, with the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine.”

In an effort to increase the pace and make vaccine available to those who have the highest level of risk, because of where they work or their age, Michigan today announced it would begin offering vaccine to Michiganders age 65 and older; frontline essential workers including police officers, first responders, frontline state and federal workers and jail and prison staff; and preK-12 teachers and childcare providers.

Additional data information based on CDC tracker data:

- Michigan is ranked 10th in the nation for number of doses distributed (480,750) (behind California, Texas, Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia).
- Michigan is ranked 29th in doses distributed per 100,000 population

(4,814) (Tennessee, New York, Missouri, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Texas are just below Michigan).

- Michigan ranks 40th in the number of first doses administered per 100,000 population (1,249) with California, Nevada, Louisiana, Idaho, South Carolina, Kansas, Arizona, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi ranking lower. Using Michigan's dashboard number this would increase to 1,525 per 100,000.

“Although we have made progress, there is still a lot of work to do,” Khaldun said. “We have to all continue to do our part to end this pandemic. Wear your mask, wash your hands, continue social distancing and when it is your turn, sign up for an appointment to get the vaccine.”

Information around the COVID-19 outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

EDUCATION

Carrollton schools set example for feeding students during at-home learning

By Mike Thompson

The 15-member food service team for Carrollton Public Schools "would love to see the smiling faces" of the district's 1,806 students gathered close together in the centralized elementary, middle and high schools that form a campus environment, says Director Jackie Coffey.

But at the same time, she prefers the newfound meal home delivery strategies to the thought of trying to social distance the children and the teens for meals without masks.

"We are providing a huge benefit to all of our families," she says, especially those who face financial hardship as the epidemic approaches the one-year mark.

Carrollton school leaders hoped to reopen last fall, but then a second wave of the virus delivered a crushing blow.

This has required Coffey and her staff to manage takeout and delivery operations, and deliveries extend beyond tiny Carrollton. The district is a Saginaw County leader in cross-district open enrollment, drawing pupils not only from neighboring Zilwaukee and Saginaw city, but some from as far away as Buena Vista and Bridgeport. To reach those families, the crew deploys a food van. Employees who believed they were taking work as cooks and servers now find themselves in dual roles as delivery runners. Each child receives seven days worth of breakfasts and lunches, extending into weekends as federal covid response focuses on children's nutrition. Another extended change is that food is provided for toddlers who have not reached school age.

Each week, Wednesday is the featured day for deliveries and pickups. Other days are invested in shopping and unloading goods, and in preparing food bags.



courtesy photo

Putting the packages together "is like working on an assembly line," Coffey explains.

To prepare meals for the home instead of the school cafeteria, the food service team now purchases more items in single-serve packaging, but quantities remain available from sources such as Gordon Food Service. For example, french toast for breakfast is available in boxes of 100 individually wrapped slices.

As part of the learning experience, the Carrollton workers first prepared for at-home schooling in March by assembling individual meals.

"Since then we have figured out that it's better to put all the frozen items together, the cooler (refrigerated) in another bag, and then the non-perishable items, such as cereal, also

separate," Coffey says. This makes it easier for parents to put food away once they get home.

"I am super-proud of the staff and their commitment to feeding students," she adds. "Parents and students tell us that they love the variety of our meals and our available fresh produce."

And yes, the kids still on occasion may feast on pizza slices, although they are delivered frozen for home prep.

Burgers? Again affirmative, except hold the cheese.

"It would be difficult to do slices with this type of delivery system," Jackie Coffey acknowledges.

Delta College President Dr. Jean Goodnow announces retirement



courtesy photo

After nearly 16 years of serving as president of Delta College, Dr. Jean Goodnow announced she will retire in August 2021.

Goodnow became the fourth, and first woman, president of Delta in 2005. She has led the college through tremendous growth, change and success, all while leading with the belief that students come first and foremost.

Goodnow made the announcement at a regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting on January 12. She said the announcement was made to ensure plenty of time for the Board to find Delta's next president through an inclusive process that will include faculty, staff, students and the community.

"It has been a treasured honor to serve as your president," Goodnow said. "I love Delta College today, and will always cherish the wonderful people I have been blessed to work with during the time I've served as president. I am deeply proud of how our faculty and staff care about and serve our students. Delta is truly one of the best colleges in the nation."

"There's much work to do during the next eight months to position Delta for the future. You'll find me doing the job I love: leading Delta and helping students achieve their dreams. It's vital to continue our efforts to

make everyone feel they belong at Delta."

"It is bittersweet to see Dr. Goodnow announcing her retirement from Delta College," said Michael Nash, chair of the Delta College Board of Trustees. "She's been a remarkable leader for the college and the legacy of her many accomplishments will benefit our community for years to come."

Since Goodnow became president of Delta, she has positioned the college as a national leader in sustainability. Under her leadership, the college has also received numerous awards and recognitions for its attention to student success, technology and veteran services. Recently, to increase access for students and meet the needs of area employers, state-of-the-art learning centers have been constructed in Downtown Saginaw and Downtown Midland.

At the national level, Goodnow is a Board Member of the League for Innovation in the Community College, previously serving as Board Chair. She is a member of the STEM Higher Education Council, and has served on the Board of the American Association of Community Colleges.

In Michigan, Goodnow is a member of the Michigan Community College Association, serving as past Treasurer. Regionally, she serves on the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance Board of Directors, Field Neurosciences Institute Board of Directors, Great Lakes Bay Regional Trails Committee, and is an honorary member of the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors. Past commitments include the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Bay Future Board of Directors, Saginaw Future Inc. Board of Directors, and the MidMichigan Health Corporate Board of Directors.

Goodnow has received multiple awards and recognition:

- Shirley Gordon Phi Theta Kappa National Award
- Community College Alliance Leadership Award
- The Spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from the Delta College Black

Faculty and Staff Association

- Lifetime Achievement in Higher Education and Community Outreach, from the Saginaw County Branch of the NAACP in 2013
- Governance Award from Delta College's American Association of University Professors
- Athena Award recipient, presented in 2018 by the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

"Dr. Goodnow's departure leaves big shoes to fill," Nash said. "We will be launching a national search immediately. It will be a transparent process allowing for input from faculty, staff and the community. While we have time to be thorough and thoughtful, August will come quickly, so we will also need to be expeditious in our approach."

Goodnow is a graduate of the University of Iowa, where she earned a doctorate of philosophy in higher education administration, a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling and a bachelor's degree in sociology. She has also completed post-graduate study at Harvard University.

A native of Iowa, Goodnow is a first-generation college graduate and she was raised by her grandparents on a small farm. Her career spans 49 years in higher education, with 25 years serving as a community college president.

Upon her retirement, Goodnow will work on behalf of community colleges at the national level and pursue other personal interests.



courtesy photo

Dedicated SVSU theatre professor earns prestigious national honor for teaching



courtesy photo

Peggy Mead-Finizio, assistant professor of theatre at Saginaw Valley State University, is this year's recipient of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) Innovative Teacher award.

Mead-Finizio is one of only eight recipients in the nation to receive this remarkable honor for the 2020-21 academic year.

Each KCACTF region recognizes an individual or organization with this award to celebrate extraordinary contributions to the teaching and producing of theatre. The recipient must demonstrate excellence in educational theatre and a significant dedication of their time, artistry and enthusiasm to the values and goals of the KCACTF.

Mead-Finizio has exemplified these qualities through her inspiring passion and dedication

to her students. David Rzeszutek, department chair and professor of theatre at SVSU, noted Mead-Finizio serves as an integral part of the growth and success of SVSU's theatre program.

"Since Peggy started at SVSU, she has created an upward trajectory for our program. Each year, our technical program grows stronger and our student's successes are a credit to her guidance," Rzeszutek said. "She has been an invaluable professor within the theatre department, always going above and beyond to support and empower her students.

"Peggy wears many hats: Teacher, Mentor, Technical Coordinator, Lighting Designer, Master Electrician, Choreographer, Sound Designer and more," Rzeszutek said.

"Peggy is an invaluable colleague to the

faculty and an outstanding teacher and mentor to her students. She is a voracious researcher and designer, adaptable to change, positive and honest."

Her devotion to her students and enthusiasm for theatre education were amplified as she navigated teaching during a pandemic. Mead-Finizio's determination and ability to adapt meant that her students were still able to successfully present fall theatre productions.

"As we transitioned into our theatrical season in a pandemic, Peggy led our department and students by learning and implementing a three-camera set up on a soundstage built in our scene shop while creating and powering a lighting rig from scratch," said Rzeszutek.

"At the same time, in our proscenium theatre, she led the technology of a single-camera green screen studio that was built on the other side of the scene shop wall for our other fall production."

Her leadership and perseverance allowed her students to have a positive learning experience, despite tremendous obstacles.

"Even more remarkably, both shows rehearsed and filmed simultaneously to beat the holiday break when students would not be able to return to campus," said Rzeszutek.

"She guided both productions through the editing process and coordinated the students in group efforts to also learn how to edit; a herculean feat indeed."

Not only is Mead-Finizio being awarded for her outstanding achievements, but several of her students are being recognized by the KCACTF for their accomplishments as well. Two of her students recently reached the Region III final round for design at the KCACTF for their prowess in lighting and sound design, in part due to Mead-Finizio's mentorship.

Mead-Finizio will receive her award Saturday, Jan. 9 via a virtual ceremony during the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region III conference.

Midland Public Schools hires Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

De'Ondre "DJ" Hogan has been hired as Midland Public Schools full-time Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

De'Ondre will join Midland Public Schools on January 18th after relocating from West Michigan where he has worked as a Community School Coordinator for Kent School Services Network (KSSN). In addition, he served as an influential leader on their KSSN Anti-Racism Workgroup.

Prior to his work with KSSN, De'Ondre was the Equity and Inclusion Coordinator at Grand Rapids CC High School.

Midland Public Schools say they look forward to De'Ondre providing leadership and guidance to Midland Public Schools based on his experience working on DEI-related staff development, climate surveys, student interventions, and being an influential member of the KSSN Anti-Racism Workgroup.



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Source: MI School Data

- ▶ Arthur Hill High School from 82.5% to 90.17%
- ▶ Saginaw High School from 67.0% to 86.92%
- ▶ Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy (SASA) from 85.3% to 95.65%

Dropout rates have decreased (2011-2019)

Source: MI School Data

- ▶ Arthur Hill High School from 7.5% to 5.2%
- ▶ Saginaw High School from 19.55% to 8.46%
- ▶ Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy (SASA) from 14.75% to 2.17%

Students can apply Online today. Deadline to apply is **February 15, 2021.**

To learn more visit www.saginawpromise.org.

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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.

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Fax 989.921.7146

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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

BUSINESS & WEALTH

Last year, Flint SOUP gives boost to community businesses, entrepreneurs

In 2020, a dozen different entrepreneurs and small business owners received funding and technical support services after participating Flint SOUP's pitch competitions, held over the course of last year.

"We started Flint SOUP in 2012 after finding that there are three main barriers to launching a flourishing business," said Adrian Montague, executive director of Flint SOUP, which raises seed funding for start-ups in Flint and Genesee County. "That includes lack of capital, lack of resources or network and not knowing where to start. So we started the soup model (which exists in other regions and states) and tweaked it to serve our residents best."

To do that, the organization hosts at least four community dinners a year, where participants present their business ideas before an audience of community members. The attendees, who make a nominal donation of \$5 or more to attend, then cast their vote for their favorite business idea. Those dollars go into a pot of funding that the winner takes home.

"These events really bring people together," Montague said. "It's not a panel of judges who are deciding who wins. It's literally the community—they're looking at the needs in their own corridors and saying, 'I see value in this and want to support it.'"

Depending on their level of development, businesses who won first, second or third place during their competitions received seed funding ranging anywhere between \$500 and \$2,500. In addition to the funding provided through admission fees, these micro-grants were made possible with the support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, in addition to the Flint & Genesee Chamber, Michigan Small Business Development Center (CARES ACT), Flint SOUP and other area partners.

"We were excited for the opportunity to help provide seed funding to some of these local entrepreneurs," said Tracy Joseph, business financing manager at the Flint & Genesee



courtesy photo

Chamber. "It's a great way to build our entrepreneurial ecosystem, while helping individual business get started or take their operations to the next level."

Entrepreneurs that received funding and support services through the 2020 pitch competitions included:

- Andy Williams — Associated Cleaning Services
- Aujanee Young — Lodestar
- Brittni Weatherspoon — Synergy x Spice
- Chad Church — GreenerHouse (ECO CAST presenter)
- Jaylen Bradley — IceySolez
- Kayla Laird — Mobars
- LaDonna Wyatt — Brook's Tea
- Sha'Nayta McClain — Soft Touch Cleaning
- Shane Proulx — Flint City Handball Club
- Theresa Lucas — Life Without Limits Social Enrichment Alliance
- Timirr Horton — Chayah
- Trevor Relerford — Brick By Brick Entertainment

Additionally, the organization also provided various wrap-around services to alumni of

previous Flint SOUP events, including:

- Anthony Artis — The Artis Collection
- LaTashia Perry — Kids Like Mine
- Louella Jamerson — Breath OF Life Smoke Inhalation Kit

Interested in getting involved? Follow Flint SOUP on Facebook to stay informed about future events. Area professionals might also consider participating in the organization's Startup Bank, in which business owners and experts donate their time to provide mentorship and guidance about everything from prototyping to legal matters.

For more information about these opportunities, contact Adrian at adrian@flintsoup.org.



Treasury: business taxpayers reminded about wage statement and income record form due dates



courtesy photo

Business taxpayers are reminded that they must submit their wage statements and other income record forms -- such as W-2s, 1099-NEC and 1099-R -- to the Michigan Department of Treasury on or before Jan. 31, 2021.

Business taxpayers may electronically upload their wage statements and income record forms by using Michigan Treasury Online (MTO). Employers with more than 250 employees must file their wage statements electronically.

For more information about MTO and how

to file wage statements electronically, visit: www.michigan.gov/mtobusiness

Business taxpayers can submit their 1099-MISC income record forms on or before Feb. 28 for paper filers and on or before March 31 for electronic filers.


While certain wage statements and income record forms are due on or before Jan. 31, 2021, the Sales, Use and Withholding Taxes Annual Return (Form 5081) is still due on Feb. 28, 2021. Wage statements and income record forms filed on or before the Jan. 31 due date need not be submitted again with Form

5081.

“Business taxpayers should keep these deadlines in mind when submitting wage statements and filing returns,” said Deputy State Treasurer Glenn White, who oversees Treasury’s Tax Administration programs. “If deadlines are missed, there could be processing delays and penalties applied.”

To learn more about Michigan’s tax system, go to www.michigan.gov/taxes or follow the state Treasury Department on Twitter at @MITreasury.



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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Leveraging windfall gifts to Black organizations

As 2021 begins there are Black-led organizations and historically Black colleges and universities that are financially stronger than they were last year. These include nonprofits who benefited when foundations and corporations used a “racial equity lens” to guide their giving; and HBCUs who received windfall gifts. There are also organizations who want to attract attention and giving. This column is for all; it is encouragement as the year begins.

Here’s what we know, believe, and teach: fundraising is ongoing, it doesn’t take a break, there is no “vacation.” Fundraising – and fund development – is an organization’s commitment to its sustainability. It is the way leaders, participants, neighbors, and stakeholders reaffirm the importance of an institution, and ensure its future. If you received increased government funding, a windfall gift, or a growth in your annual giving last year, we ask that you don’t fall prey to a false sense of security. In the world of fundraising, last year’s gifts are last year’s gifts. You have to focus on this year and the years ahead.

That means you must continue to invest in fundraising: invest time, money, staffing and your best thinking. If you benefitted from increased giving, work to continue those gifts. Invite new donors to become “family,” and not visiting guests. Meet with them, or their representatives as possible. Share how you will use their gift; communicate the anticipated impact it will make.

Whether you received new money or not, take time to build on the momentum active within philanthropy and the nonprofit sector. Leverage this historic moment: people who can give are looking at who they have

overlooked. They are changing their giving, understanding how important it is to ensure that Black and Brown organizations are well staffed and capable of meeting the diverse needs and desires of those they serve.

Take time to document your organization’s vision, especially now that so much has changed. Share what you need to do differently; what’s core to your work; your successes and your challenges. Share your plans and let people know how they can help you bring them to life. Anticipate your needs and communicate them. If there’s a “little more” you need in order to get the most benefit from public funding, or a one-time gift, tell people exactly what you need.

As the year starts, plan for the year end. Define how you will measure impact, and how you will report on the money you’ve spent. If you receive a new major investment, think about what questions your community may have, and proactively answer them. Plan for how to get ahead of any rumors or

misconceptions that may arise.

In 2020 our clients collectively received over \$75 million in what can be considered “new money.” Our goal is to help them sustain and grow above and beyond the major investments they’ve received: we want them to sustain over decades with strong boards, a committed group of major donors, and engaged community support. We want the same for you. Happy New Year!



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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SPORTS

Lions agree to terms with Brad Holmes to become team's new Executive Vice President and General Manager



courtesy photo

Allen Park, Mich.— The Detroit Lions announced today that they have agreed to terms with Brad Holmes to become the team's new Executive Vice President and General Manager.

Holmes will oversee the Lions' football operations and report directly to Principal Owner and Chairman Sheila Ford Hamp and President and CEO Rod Wood.

LIONS PRINCIPAL OWNER AND CHAIRMAN SHEILA FORD HAMP

"On behalf of the entire Lions organization, I am thrilled to welcome Brad Holmes to Detroit. Several weeks ago when we embarked on this process, it was critical that we find the right person to fit our vision for this team. It was evident early on that Brad is a proven leader who is ready for this opportunity. We are thrilled to introduce him to our fans as a member of our football family."

LIONS PRESIDENT AND CEO ROD WOOD

"Throughout our search for a new general manager, Brad was someone who stood out immediately. His abilities as a critical thinker, along with his extensive experience implementing technology and analytics into his approach to scouting, were among the many decisive qualities Brad displayed in our time getting to know him during the interview process. We look forward to him helping lead our organization as we take the next steps as a team."

Holmes joins the Lions after spending the previous 18 seasons with the Los Angeles Rams (2003-2020). In 2013, the Rams elevated Holmes to Director of College Scouting, where he was responsible for overseeing the team's college scouting operations for the past eight seasons.

During his tenure leading the team's college

scouting department, Holmes helped the Rams capture two NFC West titles en route to three playoff berths and an appearance in Super Bowl LIII. After originally joining the Rams in 2003 as a public relations intern, Holmes transitioned into scouting and has since spent nearly two decades in a variety of roles within the organization's player personnel department, including national scout, area scout, national Combine scout and scouting assistant.

In his previous role, Holmes collaborated with the Rams' personnel directors to improve technological resources and enhance overall scouting procedures. While holding a prominent leadership role in the player personnel department from 2013-20, Holmes helped the Rams achieve a 64-58 record (.524), while having a total of 25 players named to the Pro Bowl during that span. Holmes played an integral role in drafting several key players on the Rams' current roster, including DT Aaron Donald, QB Jared Goff, WR Cooper Kupp and S John Johnson.

A Tampa, Fla. native, Holmes graduated cum laude from North Carolina A&T in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Mass Communications and was a four-year letterman for the Aggies at defensive tackle. He was voted team captain and helped A&T win the 1999 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference and Black College Football National Championship.

Holmes is the son of Melvin Holmes, who played offensive line for the Pittsburgh Steelers from 1971-73, and is also the nephew of former Lions defensive back Luther Bradley (1978 first-round pick). He is married to his wife, Lisa, and together they have a son, B.J., and a daughter, Lola.

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 2



Flint Promise Colleges & Universities pave the way for future careers

courtesy photo

Planning for the future can be hard, especially for students nearing the end of high school and looking forward to college. For students who live and attend school in Flint, the Flint Promise scholarship helps make going to college a reality from a financial standpoint – but there is still the question of which path to take.

“Choosing a career pathway is an important step in your college experience,” says James Avery, director of Education & Training for the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce. “Luckily, with the help of college advisors and Flint Promise success coaches, students can find the right path for them.”

The website Best College Reviews offers a listing of 10 popular and sustainable career fields for those entering college. The colleges and universities that partner with Flint Promise have opportunities to follow several of these career pathways. For instance:

Mott Community College

One of the top emerging career fields today is in computer information systems. Mott Community College offers an associate in applied sciences program that can start students on the path to a career in computers such as working in an information technology department.

Another popular and fruitful career pathway according to the website is in nursing. Mott Community College offers an accredited associate in nursing degree program that is great for students interested in that field.

University of Michigan-Flint

Also at the top of the list is physical therapy, a field that is expected to grow 26 percent by 2026. For students interested in pursuing the profession, the University of Michigan-Flint offers a pre-physical therapy program that sets students on path to earning a doctorate in physical therapy, also offered at the university. Also, in the medical field, pharmacology is a growing career pathway. The University

of Michigan-Flint offers a pre-pharmacy program that will put students on the path to attend one of the three pharmacy schools in Michigan: University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Wayne State University and Ferris State University.

Kettering University

One of the top engineering schools in Michigan, Kettering University offers bachelor’s degrees in two other emerging career pathways: electrical engineering and chemical engineering.

A is aeronautics and aviation technology. Additionally, Kettering’s bachelor’s degree program in mechanical engineering can set students on the path for post-secondary degrees in aeronautics and aviation—another field of study that is becoming popular

For more information on Flint Promise, visit theflintpromise.org.

On the Job: Tara Simpson

Northwestern High School graduate Tara Simpson had her first work experience at Holmes STEM Academy, where she worked in the office. Now, she works as a healthcare recruiter for Maxim Healthcare Services, where she connects nurses with children who require long-term, in-home care.

While she works as a healthcare recruiter, Simpson is pursuing her third post-secondary degree.

“I received my associate in business management and my bachelor’s in HR management and business management from Baker College,” says Simpson. “Currently, I am working on my doctorate of business administration at Walden University.”

Completing these degrees has been an accomplishment that has given her great pride.

“My proudest moment is walking across the graduation stage four times so far – one time for graduating high school and three for post-secondary degrees,” says Simpson. “My plan is to teach business courses at a university level because I can relate to college students through my journey.”

In the meantime, Simpson is happy with her current position and expresses thanks to TeenQuest and Summer Youth Initiative for giving her the skills to get to where she is today.

What does a typical day as a healthcare recruiter look like?

I hire nurses for children in need of 24-hour care. During my day, I recruit employees and fill shifts, make schedules for nurses and perform clerical work such as answering phones, insurance authorization and approving paid time off for our staff.

How has the pandemic affected your job?

It’s affecting my work tremendously. The training program for my position is 26-weeks long, and I just hit my four-month mark. Working from home has made training more difficult because instead of being able to work directly with supervisors, I have to connect with them virtually.



courtesy photo

What lessons learned through TeenQuest helped you on your career path?

The biggest lesson was on leadership. Before the program, I didn’t have experience in leading, but the program really instilled that in me. I’ve used these skills throughout my employment and education journey.

What connections did you make through the TeenQuest program?

My supervisor at my first Summer Youth Initiative job, Jonique Donald, and I developed a good relationship that has become a lifelong connection. We still keep in contact and are good friends now. I also made other friends through the program and

although we’ve since parted ways, those relationships lasted for years.

What advice would you offer current TeenQuest students?

Stick with it. There are times when I found myself questioning, “Why am I here?” At the time, I couldn’t figure out what I was supposed to be getting out of the program. But later I realized the important skills that I learned and was able to take with me into my career.

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



PICS OF THE WEEK: **JULIAN JAMES MORRIS**

Julian James Morris is a 13 year old eighth grader at Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy located in Saginaw, Michigan. His academic concentration is Global Studies. Julian loves the game of basketball, both playing the sport and watching it with his father. When he's not taking care of virtual school business, he's running his own business. He enjoys playing NBA2K on his PS5 and Roblox. Julian attends Mt. Olive Institutional Missionary Baptist Church in Saginaw and he serves on the Youth Usher Board and in the Youth Drama Ministry. He also spends time researching stocks and learning about trading options. SWAG Magazine is his first business venture, but he has plans on building a media empire, including other news outlets and venturing into sports broadcasting. SWAG Releases January 20, 2021.





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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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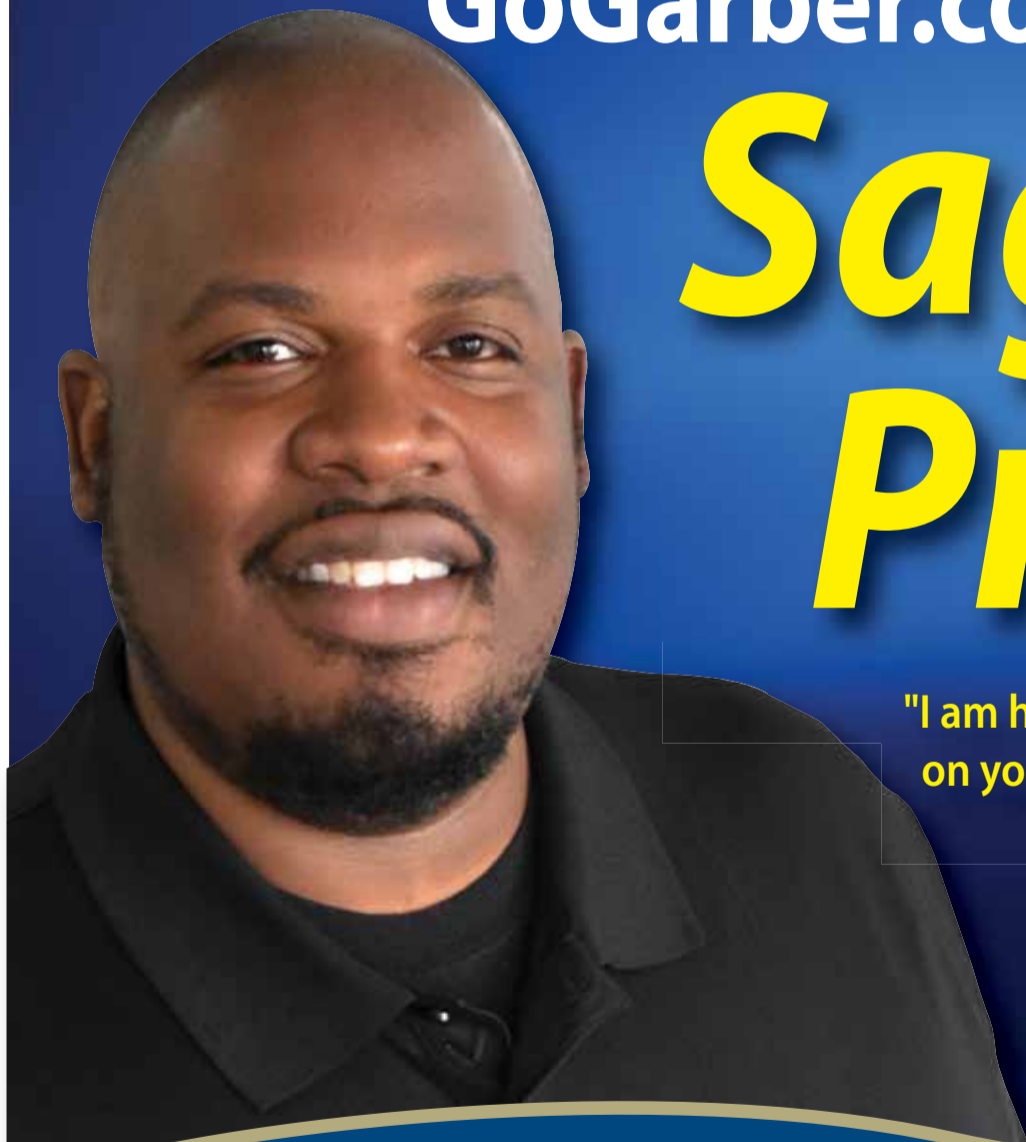
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