

Hate Hoaxers Have a Home in Livingston County

Introduction

Livingston County has long been recognized as a safe place to live and raise a family. *CrimeGrades.org* provides our county with their best crime rating of A+. Though we have an exceptionally low rate of crime, the same cannot be said of our rate of fake hate crime. It sticks out like a sore thumb that citizens of law-and-order Livingston County have been disproportionately attacked by fake hate crime artists intent on smearing our community as racist. This report compares the fake hate crime rate of our county to the national average and delves into the reasons why hate hoaxers target the good citizens of Livingston County with their heinous attacks.

Background

I recently completed my second investigation into a fake hate crime intended to slander the citizens of Livingston County as racist. I reflected on both investigations and wondered why our community was the target of two hate hoax smears in a period of three years. It seemed to me that this rate of fake hate crimes was high — but is it? I decided to examine the available data to ascertain if the good citizens of our county were being attacked with an extraordinarily high rate of phony hate crimes.

While metropolitan urban areas struggle with high rates of crime, our county struggles with a high rate of fake hate crime.

History

In 2021 Renay Gedeon of Green Township falsely claimed that her farm was vandalized in a hate-motivated crime. Within two days, after leading police on a wild-goose chase to find her non-existent farm, Gedeon confessed that she lied about owning a farm. While publicly claiming her farm was vandalized, Gedeon used GoFundMe to raise money from the public to repair her non-existent farm. Her fraud ultimately led to the Livingston County Prosecutor's Office to charge her with a felony — Attempted False Pretenses. Also referred to as swindle, fraud, and confidence game, this felony is punishable by up to 5 years in prison and a fine. Gedeon avoided prison time by paying \$775 in fines and costs after pleading guilty to the misdemeanor crime of False Report of a Misdemeanor.¹

¹ Nakagiri, Wes, "Anatomy of a Fake Hate Crime," published July 14, 2025 (note: date corrected)

Hate Hoaxers Have a Home in Livingston County

In 2023 Julie Ohashi of Oakland County (Highland Township) claimed she was the victim of a hate crime when a swastika was burned into a large tree on her property. Police investigators found many elements of Ohashi's allegation were at variance with the truth. The most egregious Ohashi lie was that her husband was Black — he is not. Lying about her husband's race helped Ohashi to frame her hate hoax as an anti-Black hate crime. Coming in a close second in the outrageous lie category, Ohashi and the media reported that this (fake) hate crime occurred in Livingston County when in fact it occurred in Oakland County. With malice aforethought and the help of a complicit media, Ohashi deliberately took aim at the citizens of Livingston County.²

Thus, in a three-year period hate hoaxers twice attempted to indict our citizens as racists. A favorite slogan of Stand Against Extremism (SAGE), a local left-wing organization, is "Hate Has No Home in Livingston County." However it is clear that instead "Hate Hoaxers Have Found a Home in Livingston County." Unsurprisingly, hoaxer Julie Ohashi is a leader of SAGE.

Crime and Population Statistics

This report relies on various crime and population statistics to compare Livingston County versus the entire nation. This report compares: 1) overall crime rates, and 2) fake hate crime rates.

This report cites crime statistics published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI),³ the Michigan State Police via its Michigan Crime Incident Reporting (MICR)⁴ system, and the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism – California State University San Bernadino (CSHE).⁵

² Nakagiri, Wes, "Made for News Media Hate Crime," *CommissionerWes.com*, published 2023, <https://commissionerwes.com/made-for-news-media-hate-crime/>

³ FBI Crime Data Explorer, *Federal Bureau of Investigation*, <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/query>

⁴ Michigan Incident Crime Reporting, *Michigan State Police*, <https://www.michigan.gov/msp/divisions/cjic/micr>

⁵ Prof. Brian Levin, "REPORT TO THE NATION: 2019, FACTBOOK ON HATE & EXTREMISM IN THE U.S. & INTERNATIONALLY." *Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism – California State University, San Bernadino*, published July 30, 2019, accessed July 4, 2025, https://www.csusb.edu/sites/default/files/CSHE%202019%20Report%20to%20the%20Nation%20FINAL%207.29.19%2011%20PM_0.pdf

Hate Hoaxers Have a Home in Livingston County

With respect to population, this report cites statistics published by Senate Fiscal Agency of the Michigan State Senate,⁶ and the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.⁷

Overall Crime Rate Comparison

I examined the most recent crime statistics available on the FBI’s website. Accordingly I used data from 2022 and 2023. I initially considered including 2021 but opted against it as the FBI website included a cautionary note stating, “Due to the full transition to NIBRS and the lack of data for agencies that are not fully transitioned, the 2021 data year cannot be added to the 5-, 10- or 20-year trend presentations that are based in traditional methodologies used with summary data.”

Table 1: Crime Rate Comparison

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Location	Crimes per year, average	Population, average	Crimes per year, per 100k population	Livingston Crime Rate vs. U.S.
Livingston	1,142	196,428	581	25.98%
U.S.	7,565,721	338,259,155	2,237	

The statistics shown in Table 1 shows our county has a crime rate that is about one-quarter that of our entire nation. This data confirms why Livingston County is recognized by *CrimeGrades.org* as a low-crime county.

Fake Hate Crime Rate Comparison

The FBI does not publish statistics on fake hate crimes. Thus, I used statistics compiled by the CSHE.⁸ The following excerpt from their website explains the mission of CSHE:

⁶ “Michigan Population, by County, Selected Years 1990-2024.” *Senate Fiscal Agency, Michigan State Senate*, <https://sfa.senate.michigan.gov/economics/michiganpopulationbycounty.pdf>

⁷ “Monthly Population Estimates for the United States: April 1, 2020, to December 1, 2025 (NA-EST2024-POP).” *United States Census Bureau, Population Division*, Release Date December 2024, <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/tables/2020-2024/national/totals/NA-EST2024-POP.xlsx>

⁸ Prof. Brian Levin, “REPORT TO THE NATION: 2019, FACTBOOK ON HATE & EXTREMISM IN THE U.S. & INTERNATIONALLY.” *Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism – California State University, San Bernadino*, published July 30, 2019, accessed July 4, 2025,

Hate Hoaxers Have a Home in Livingston County

The Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism (CSHE) at California State University, San Bernardino, is a research and policy center dedicated to understanding and addressing hate crimes, extremism, and their broader social impacts. Through interdisciplinary research, education, and community engagement, the CSHE works to identify the causes of hate and extremism and develop evidence-based strategies to combat them. The Center collaborates with policymakers, law enforcement, educators, and community organizations to advance justice and social progress. By empowering individuals and communities with knowledge and practical tools, CSHE aims to foster resilience and help build a safer, more just society for all.

The CSHE defines a False Hate Crime⁹ as:

- 1) an allegation or commission of a crime in the U.S.,
- 2) reported, generally by "target," to police or administrative authority (e.g. university administrators or campus police) as hate motivated crime,
- 3) but, discovered to either:
 - not have been committed as alleged, or
 - to have been committed by the reporting actor against his/her self, own immediate home/residential area, house of worship, workplace, or campus community, with one primary motive being false appearance as a hate crime.

The CSHE has not published their fake hate crime data on a regular basis. In their 2019 report, the CSHE published their most comprehensive set of fake hate crime data. Their 2019 report contains data from 2016 – 2018. These three years represent the entirety of their publicly published data available online.

https://www.csusb.edu/sites/default/files/CSHE%202019%20Report%20to%20the%20Nation%20FINAL%207.29.19%2011%20PM_0.pdf

⁹ Prof. Brian Levin, "REPORT TO THE NATION: 2019, FACTBOOK ON HATE & EXTREMISM IN THE U.S. & INTERNATIONALLY." Page 66, *Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism – California State University, San Bernadino*, published July 30, 2019, accessed July 4, 2025, https://www.csusb.edu/sites/default/files/CSHE%202019%20Report%20to%20the%20Nation%20FINAL%207.29.19%2011%20PM_0.pdf

Hate Hoaxers Have a Home in Livingston County

Table 2: Fake Hate Crime Data for the Entire United States

Year	False Hate Crimes Reported	Reported Hate Crimes	% False Rate
2016	25	6,121	0.41%
2017	28	7,175	0.39%
2018	11	7,600	0.14%
Total	64	20,896	0.31%

With a national average false hate crime rate of 0.31%, we can now calculate the ratio of reported hate crimes to fake hate crimes. For example, nationally for every 1000 reported hate crime we would have $1000 \times 0.31/100$ fake hate crimes. This is 3.1 fake hate crimes for every 1000 reported hate crimes, or 1 fake hate crime for every 322.6 reported hate crimes.

Now let us calculate the fake hate crime rate for Livingston County.

There were at least two fake hate crimes perpetrated against Livingston County citizens in the period 2021 through 2023. To calculate the fake hate crime rate we need to know how many reported hate crimes there were in this same period. Reported hate crime data from this period was obtained from MICR and displayed in Column 2 of Table 3.

Table 3: Livingston County Fake Hate Crime Rate

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Location	Reported hate crimes 2021-2023	Fake hate crimes 2021-2023	Ratio of reported hate crimes to fake hate crimes
Livingston	25	2	12.5 to 1

The data in Table 3 shows Livingston County experiences 1 fake hate crime for every 12.5 reported hate crimes. Recall that the national average is 1 fake hate crime for every 322.6 reported hate crimes. Shockingly, the fake hate crime rate in our community is over 25 times the national average.

Let that sink in. In “law-and-order” Livingston County our crime rate is one-quarter that of the national average. In contrast, our fake hate crime rate is over 25 times the national average. While metropolitan urban areas struggle with high rates of crime, our county struggles with a high rate of fake hate crime.

Hate Hoaxers Have a Home in Livingston County

Why Has Livingston Become a Haven for Hoaxers?

With a fake hate crime rate that is over 25 times the national average, Livingston County clearly qualifies as a haven for hate crime hoaxers. Why in our low-crime county do fake hate crimes flourish?

I have lived in Livingston County since 1996 — almost three decades. During my time here I have found our Livingston County to be a welcoming community. I have never experienced any form of discrimination or racism. The only incident of a racial nature is when a former Democratic candidate for County Commissioner accused me of condoning white supremacy. That a local Democrat accused me, an American of Japanese descent, of condoning white supremacy shows the utter lunacy of today's left.

I was elected to the Livingston County Board of Commissioners in 2018. During my 6-plus years on the Board I have been re-elected three times. During my tenure I have served as Chairman of two committees, as well as Chairman of the entire board. My election and repeated re-election to the County Board, as well as leadership roles on the Board, illustrates well that our citizens are color-blind when it comes to the issue of race. If Livingston County were such a hotbed of hate, I would have never been elected, much less re-elected three times.

So, why do fake hate crimes flourish here? The short answer is that the media is eager to amplify the leftist agenda. But it all starts with the history of one KKK leader who moved into Livingston County over a half-century ago and passed away over three decades ago. Yes, the legacy of KKK leader Robert Miles (D) is the key ingredient that makes Livingston County a hotbed of fake hate crimes.

Miles' infamous legacy still casts a long shadow over our community. His shadow endures not only because of the magnitude of Miles hateful actions; it also endures because the media doggedly uses his legacy to drive their fake news narrative that citizens of our heavily Republican county are racist.

The hate hoax is just another weapon in the arsenal to advance the leftist agenda.

Desperate to gain political power, the left has opted to use a weapon of mass destruction in the form of the hate hoax to attack their political opponents. However, the left is not satisfied with zeroing in on their specific political opponents, they choose to target our entire community. By the way, this strategy has not worked for them as Republicans continue to dominate the political landscape throughout our county.

Hate Hoaxers Have a Home in Livingston County

The Historical Significance of Livingston County

Why do hoaxers prefer Livingston County? The bottom line is that any hoaxer worth their salt wants to maximize media coverage for their slanderous production, while at the same time driving home their favorite fake narrative that Republicans are racist. Hoaxers can achieve both goals by staging their fraud in our county.

Hoaxers desire a historically significant location to stage their fake news production. Hoaxers know that choosing a location with historical significance increases the likelihood of garnering significant media coverage. Locations with historical or symbolic importance often carry inherent news value due to their cultural, political, or social resonance. Media outlets are more likely to cover events in such places because they provide a compelling backdrop that can amplify the narrative and draw public interest. For example, protests at sites like national monuments, historic plazas, or places tied to past social movements (e.g., Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge or Washington, D.C.'s National Mall) tend to attract attention due to their symbolic weight.

Because of the legacy of former KKK leader Robert Miles (D), Livingston County checks the box for historical significance. That this KKK leader and past campaign manager for racist Alabama Governor George Wallace (D) resided here provides Livingston County with the backdrop of historical significance that is craved by hate hoaxers looking to maximize media coverage. Also attracting the left-wing hoaxer to target our county — Livingston County is a family-friendly conservative community with values supported by the Republican Party. By targeting our overwhelmingly Republican County, Democrat-aligned hoaxers not only have the historical backdrop, they also are able to attack Republicans as racist.

Hoaxers Benefit from Livingston's Rabidly Biased Media

By selecting Livingston County as the venue for their fake hate crime, the hate hoaxers have instantly increased the newsworthiness of their staged event. Connecting their orchestrated fraud to our county provides hoaxers with an irresistible "news hook," to reel in their media partners. By locating their hoax in Livingston County the fraud artist also benefits from a local media with rabid leftist views. Given the local media's incessant driving of their fake news narrative that Republicans are racist provides hoaxers with an implied guarantee that their fraud will generate headline news. By choosing Livingston County for the venue the hoaxer makes it easy for their allies in the left-wing media to publish their next fake news hit job on conservatives. The only task left to accomplish before publishing an article about the fake crime is for the media, acting as stenographers, to dutifully publish whatever lies the hoaxer feeds them.

Hate Hoaxers Have a Home in Livingston County

Nationally it is well known that the fake news media has a left-leaning bias. The same holds true with respect to Livingston County media. However, not all media leftists are created equally. Two local media figures deserve special mention for their extreme prejudice against citizens of our county.

Jon Arking was the WHMI News Director at the time of the Gedeon hoax. Better known by his fake name Jon King,¹⁰ Arking was later forced out of his job for being biased. During an interview with Michigan Public Radio, Arking was asked about WHMI management forcing him out. Arking initially claimed management never provided him with specifics on why he was being let go. Later in the interview Arking finally admitted, “I was told that, well, there's a perception that I am biased.”¹¹

The extent of Arking’s bias was fully revealed when he interviewed hoaxer Renay Gedeon on-air the day after she perpetrated her fake hate crime. In an emotional diatribe Arking made known his extreme bias against our community. Arking’s diatribe bears repeating in full:

I mean first of all, I, you know we are, we are, devastated along with you and I think like I said, I, me personally, I just, I am outraged by this. This is completely unacceptable and I, I guess this stands as a, a absolute you know testament to, it is a physical testament to the fact that for those in this community who say that this is no longer here that this kind of racism and hatred and intolerance is something that’s in our past and we don’t, I, I say this is proof positive that, that is an absolutely incorrect wrong statement. It is here it is still happening this, these sorts of intolerant behaviors are well within this community and it is time, well past time for us as a community to simply stand up and say no more no more of this.¹²

Using the Gedeon hoax as evidence to support his bias, Arking made it crystal clear that he believed racism, hatred, and intolerance are alive and well in Livingston County. He said, “These sorts of intolerant behaviors are well within this community.”¹³

¹⁰ Arking, Jonathan. "Jonathan Arking - Biography." Jewage.org. Accessed June 3, 2025.

https://www.jewage.org/wiki/en/Article:Jonathan_Arking_-_Biography.

¹¹ Harlow, Elizabeth, “Livingston broadcaster discusses “forced departure” from radio station.” *Stateside, Michigan Public Radio*, published February 1, 2022, at 11:24 PM EST,

<https://www.michiganpublic.org/show/stateside/2022-02-01/livingston-broadcaster-discusses-forced-departure-from-radio-station>

¹² “Local Farmer Renay Gedeon on Racist Graffiti.” *WHMI*, Air Date: August 11, 2021,

<https://www.whmi.com/programming/podcast/6702>

¹³ “Local Farmer Renay Gedeon on Racist Graffiti.” *WHMI*, Air Date: August 11, 2021,

<https://www.whmi.com/programming/podcast/6702>

Hate Hoaxers Have a Home in Livingston County

With his extremist view toward our citizens, Arking and hate hoaxers are natural allies. Jon Arking is truly a hoaxer's BFF, best friend forever.

While Arking is the King of hateful media prejudice, Tess Ware (She/Her) has quickly risen to Queen. That she displays her pronouns suggests that her values are far to the left of even a typical media figure. Ware's extremism is such that she (and her editor Cassandra Lybrink) do not need the catalyst of a hate hoax to publish a story that slanders county residents as racist.

As I presented in a prior report, on July 25, 2024, the *Livingston Daily* published an article citing the Renay Gedeon hoax as a true hate crime that occurred in our county.¹⁴ Titled, *Timeline: Livingston County's complicated history with race*, Reporter Ware (She/Her) and Editor Lybrink jointly authored this article. The inclusion of the Gedeon hoax in this article as a true hate crime is inexcusable. More than two years prior to publishing their article Gedeon pleaded guilty and was criminally convicted of filing a False Report of a Misdemeanor. Readers should be rightly concerned that Ware and Lybrink may have included other fake information in this and other stories.

The media's relative lack of interest in exposing hoaxes that don't involve famous figures is a big part of the problem.

Local Media Ignores the Truth

You will not find any media reports calling out Gedeon or Ohashi for their hate hoaxes. Our local media turns a blind eye to the truth once the ink has dried on their initial story. Why ruin a good smear? With their initial article the local leftist media achieved their prime objective of smearing our conservative county. Why would the media bother expending further resources with a follow up story reporting the truth when the truth runs counter to their false narrative that Republicans are racist?

Local media has failed to report the truth about Livingston County's fake hate crimes. Indeed, they have not bothered to correct the record. In contrast, other media sources have, at least occasionally, demonstrated enough integrity to report the fraud.

¹⁴ Ware, Tess and Lybrink, Cassandra, "Timeline: Livingston County's complicated history with race," *Livingston Daily*, published July 25, 2024, 4:09 am ET, accessed June 25, 2025, <https://www.livingstondaily.com/story/news/local/community/livingston-county/2024/07/25/timeline-livingston-countys-complicated-history-with-race/74510078007/>

Hate Hoaxers Have a Home in Livingston County

Here are a few instances where the public was informed about hate hoaxers:¹⁵

1. Jussie Smollett: “Smollett told police someone put a noose around his neck and yelled racist and homophobic slurs. According to police, he also told detectives the attackers yelled, ‘This is MAGA country!’ before fleeing the scene.”¹⁶ Smollett was later determined to have perpetrated a hoax.
2. LaTarsha Brown: “A Pennsylvania city worker was accused Monday of staging a fake ‘hate crime’ after she allegedly planted a noose at her own desk, according to police.”¹⁷
3. Ariel Agudio, Alexis Briggs, and Asha Burwell: “The shocking allegations of a racially tinged assault at the University at Albany appeared to unravel Thursday as police accused three black students of making the story up and charged the women with assaulting a fellow bus passenger.”¹⁸
4. Tawana Brawley: “In 1987, 15-year-old Tawana Brawley claimed she'd been abducted and raped by a group of white men in Dutchess County, New York. Brawley, who is African American, was found by police with the letters "KKK" written on her chest and a racial epithet written on her stomach. She told her lawyers that two of the assailants were law enforcement officials.”¹⁹ “But the incident turned out to be a hoax: After seven months of investigation, including over 6,000 pages of testimony by 180 witnesses, a grand jury found that Brawley had lied about the attack. Six months after the trial, he [sic] former boyfriend told reporters she invented the allegations to avoid being punished for running away from home.”

¹⁵ In these examples the perpetrators of these fake hate crimes were Black. Contrast this to Livingston County where the perpetrators of the fake hate crimes were White. Does this illustrate local leftist's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)? Does their DEI also include equity in perpetrating fake hate crimes?

¹⁶ Segarra, Edward, “Jussie Smollett says he has ‘to move forward’ after alleged hate crime hoax,” *USA Today*, published September 29, 2024, 6:01 pm ET, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/entertainment/celebrities/2024/09/29/jussie-smollett-talks-hate-crime-hoax/75443719007/>

¹⁷ Propper, David, “PA city worker accused of staging ‘hate crime’ hoax after allegedly planting noose at her own desk,” *New York Post*, published March 25, 2025, 1:55 am ET, <https://nypost.com/2025/03/25/us-news/pa-city-worker-accused-of-staging-hate-crime-hoax-after-allegedly-planting-noose-at-her-desk/>

¹⁸ Carleo-Evangelist Jordan and Bump, Bethany, “Charges filed against UAlbany students who claimed bias attack,” *Times Union*, updated February 25, 2016, 8:53 pm, <https://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Charges-filed-against-UAlbany-students-who-6854003.php>

¹⁹ Hutzler, Alexandra, “Who is Tawana Brawley? As Al Sharpton Feuds With Trump, False Rape Accusation Against Law Enforcement Officials Resurfaces,” *Newsweek*, published July 29, 2019 at 2:06 pm EDT, <https://www.newsweek.com/tawana-brawley-al-sharpton-rape-1451599>

Hate Hoaxers Have a Home in Livingston County

Livingston County media has struck out when it comes to reporting the truth about fake hate crimes. Our local media's lack of interest in exposing fake hate crimes will undoubtedly lead to more fake hate crimes. This point is reinforced in an opinion piece published in the *Wall Street Journal*.²⁰

In his 2019 opinion piece Jason Riley, a Black American, offered his commentary about fake hate crimes. He concluded his commentary by touching upon the media's lack of interest in exposing fake hate crimes. In his final paragraph Mr. Riley wrote:

If "Hate Crime Hoax" merely offered examples to illustrate the extent of this phenomenon—and the book offers nearly 100—it would be providing a much-needed public service. But Mr. Reilly has a larger point to make. The Smollett case isn't an outlier. Increasingly, it's the norm. And the media's relative lack of interest in exposing hoaxes that don't involve famous figures is a big part of the problem.²¹

The applicability of the last sentence of Mr. Riley's commentary, made five years ago, is spot on today in Livingston County. Critical reporting about the lies of the two hate hoaxers would function as a deterrent to future fake hate crimes. That the media chooses not to cover stories of fake hate crimes fosters future fake hate crimes.

Not All Media Outlets View You as Racist

During my extensive research for this report I concluded that not all media outlets exhibit the same degree of bias against the citizens of Livingston County. While all media outlets tilt to the left, not all media outlets believe that the behaviors of racism, hatred, and intolerance are well within our community. To avoid painting all media with too broad of a brush, I offer the following for your consideration.

During my research into fake hate crimes in Livingston County I examined scores, if not hundreds, of online publications and websites. Much to my surprise, when it comes to the topic of fake hate crimes, one local media company differed from the rest. While other media organizations have

²⁰ Riley, Jason, "Hate Crime Hoaxes Are More Common Than You Think," *Wall Street Journal*, published June 25, 2019, 6:55 pm ET, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/hate-crime-hoaxes-are-more-common-than-you-think-11561503352>, this article is also viewable without a paywall at <https://manhattan.institute/article/hate-crime-hoaxes-are-more-common-than-you-think>

²¹ Jason Riley is referring to the book, *Hate Crime Hoax*, written by Wilfred Reilly

Hate Hoaxers Have a Home in Livingston County

capitalized on hate hoaxes to smear our community as racist, the *Livingston Post* has refrained from engaging in the practice.

Having quit reading the *Livingston Post* quite some time ago I was unfamiliar with their content regarding fake hate crimes. However, with respect to conducting research for my reports, I decided to investigate how the *Livingston Post* characterized fake hate crimes. In my view, it would not be ethical to exclude this publication as I wanted a comprehensive understanding of how media companies wrote about hate hoaxes in our county.

I used Goggle, Bing, and Brave to search the internet for articles relevant to my topic. As I compiled my data I noticed no (zero) articles published by the *Livingston Post* on either the Gedeon or the Ohashi hoax. This was startling! How could a left-wing news organization fail to cover these “headline” stories? How could these leftists overlook an opportunity to smear our county as racist?

Could these search engines have failed to find articles published by the *Livingston Post*? Or, maybe I worded my search in a manner that caused *Livingston Post* articles to be inadvertently excluded. To satisfy my own curiosity I surfed over to *thelivingsonpost.com* and explored their website using their own search function.

The result of my website investigation confirmed that the *Livingston Post* had not published a single article about either hoax. Using their own search function I observed 37 articles containing “KKK” and 11 articles containing “swastika.” Recall that Renay Gedeon used “KKK” as a prop for her hoax, while Julie Ohashi used a “swastika” as a prop for her hoax. My review of the 48 articles showed none of them were written about these hoaxes.

Yes, the *Livingston Post* should receive recognition for opting not to publish the lies of the fake hate crime artists. However, it bears mentioning that neither the *Livingston Post* nor any other media outlet published any stories referring to the antics of Gedeon and Ohashi as hate hoaxes, including failing to cover Gedeon’s criminal conviction and sentence.

While the *Livingston Post* should receive favorable recognition for not giving credence to the hate hoaxes, the same cannot be said of Gannett-owned *Livingston Daily*. Before delving into this I will present some background information regarding the formation of both the *Livingston Post* and the *Livingston Daily*.

Maria Stuart and Buddy Moorehouse are two of the primary contributors for the *Livingston Post*. Both were previously editors for the *Livingston County Daily Press and Argus* (LCDPA). During their tenure,

Hate Hoaxers Have a Home in Livingston County

the LCDPA was a printed newspaper. While LCDPA leaned left I chose to subscribe to the paper as it was not like the flaming leftist rags we so often see today.

The LCDPA eventually became today's *Livingston Daily*. The transition to the *Livingston Daily* occurred in 2005 after Gannett purchased *HomeTown Communications Network*. *HomeTown Communications Network* was the parent company of LCDPA. In 2009 Stuart and Moorehouse were laid off from Gannett, their jobs were eliminated. The *Livingston Post* was formed in the wake of these layoffs. In the meantime the *Livingston Daily* continued lurching farther and farther left such that I cancelled my subscription.

Regarding fake hate crimes, the media coverage from *Livingston Post* and the *Livingston Daily* could not be more different. In contrast to the *Livingston Post*, the *Livingston Daily* has written about both hoaxes as if they were the gospel truth. Compounding their deception, the *Livingston Daily* has never corrected their stories for either incident.

With respect to the general issue of race, the tone and tenor of reporting from the *Post* comes across as far less partisan and harsh than that of the *Daily*. Some of the more memorable articles I read during my research were published by the *Post* as they castigated Democrats for smearing our entire county as racists.

So we have two left-wing media organizations taking two hugely different approaches to report hate hoaxes along with general issues of race. Why is that? Here are my thoughts:

- *Post* writers Maria Stuart and Buddy Moorehouse are long-time members of Livingston County. In contrast, *Daily* writers Tess Ware and Cassandra Lybrink do not even live in our county. Voting records show that Ware lives in Wixom while Lybrink lives across the state in Holland.
- The *Post* writers are connected to our community and likely have cultivated more local sources than the out-of-towners from the *Daily*. Local sources make it easier to confirm the authenticity of news stories. In other words, they do not have to rely only upon the hoaxer's version of the story.
- The *Post* writers are in their 60's while the *Daily* writers are in their 20's. With 30-40 years more experience, it is possible they have a more refined bullsh*t filter. Also, the *Post* writers grew up in an era that valued "shoe leather" and "investigative" journalism. In today's era it appears that "clicks" are valued the most.

Hate Hoaxers Have a Home in Livingston County

- The *Post* writers have first-hand knowledge of KKK-leader Robert Miles. They are directly familiar with both his life and times as well as his legacy. The *Daily* writers likely only know what they have read on the internet.
- Being residents of Livingston County, the *Post* writers know first-hand that intolerant behaviors of racism and hatred are **not** well within this community. *Daily* writers do not have this first-hand knowledge.
- The *Daily* writers also contribute content to USA Today. In fact Buddy Moorehouse once described the *Daily* as a “tiny version of *USA Today*.”²² Do *Daily* writers feel the pressure to author stories with spectacular headlines that will make national news — such as hate crimes? Vying for recognition among their Gannett colleagues, do the *Daily* writers use the Miles legacy and fake hate crimes with little regard to how it impacts county residents?

It is important that Livingston County citizens push back against the false narrative that the intolerant behaviors of racism and hate are embedded into the fabric of our county. A similar point was brought to the fore in a letter to the editor written by Evelyn Gallegos, a Democrat. Earlier this year Ms. Gallegos wrote a letter to the *Livingston Post*, titled “LETTER: Commissioners must help defeat county’s racist image.”²³

I agree! And hence I am publishing my research.

About the Author

Livingston County Commissioner Wes Nakagiri (R) serves the citizens of District 4. His district is comprised of Hartland Township and a portion of Oceola Township. Serving in his fourth term, Nakagiri is passionate about delivering effective and efficient government for our citizens. During his tenure, Livingston County has been recognized for having the lowest county property tax rate in Michigan, the best Crime Grade rating of A+, and is in the top 5% nationally for the Healthy Community ranking.

²² Moorehouse, Buddy, “The Daily Press & Argus turns 20: The inside story of how it started and how it crashed.” *The Livingston Post*, published September 6, 2020, <https://thelivingstonpost.com/the-daily-press-argus-turns-20-the-inside-story-of-how-it-started-and-how-it-crashed/>

²³ Gallegos, Evelyn, “LETTER: Commissioners must help defeat county’s racist image.” *The Livingston Post*, published on January 16, 2025, <https://thelivingstonpost.com/letter-commissioners-must-help-defeat-countys-racist-image/>