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Merry Christmas!*

THE MICHIGAN BANNER

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SAGINAW MAX SYSTEM OF CARE



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MAX staff (from left): Dalia Smith, Timothy Walker, Denise Montrel, Keva Clark, Melissa Lee, Ashley Wilcox, Kelley Blanck, and Wardene B. Talley.

From Our Family To Yours:

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Enjoy a safe and peaceful holiday season

Horn Hometown Tours: Kluck Nursery

LANSING, MI — State Sen. Ken Horn recently wrapped up his Hometown Tours for the year at Kluck Nursery and Christmas tree farm in Thomas Township.

Marty Royer, who is responsible for marketing and human resources for the nursery, greeted Horn and made sure the senator was equipped for an afternoon of harvesting and preparing Christmas trees.

“I not only considered this to be an exciting stop, but one that was fitting for the season,” said Horn, R-Frankenmuth. “I’ve enjoyed bringing my family out here over the years and thought it would be a fantastic way to close out my 2015 Hometown Tours.”

Kluck Nursery is a fourth generation, family-run operation that has held its roots in the Saginaw community since the 1920s. Beginning with an acre of land, the Kluck family has expanded its operation to a full-service wholesale and retail nursery that has exponentially increased, now encompassing more than 300 acres.

“When I first got there, Marty gave me a great overview of the history of the farm, their day-to-day operations and what he had in store

for me,” Horn said. “I was most impressed by what they have been able to build over time. To be able to start with a few acres and build it into a successful 350-acre business that has been family owned since the beginning is a textbook example of the American dream.”

After getting geared up and gathering the equipment, Horn and Royer began combing row after row, inspecting the trees and making sure they were all in perfect condition before consideration for sale.

“Each year they plant roughly 6,000 Christmas trees,” said Horn. “It amazes me how they keep each one of the trees so neat and tidy looking. Each tree has a perfectly symmetrical cone shape to it — and they do it by hand.”

Once a tree is selected, it is cut down, placed on a pull cart and taken up to the preparation area where it will go through various stages before reaching the customer’s vehicle. Each stage has its own special purpose related to customers’ various needs.

First, the tree is measured with rods that are seven, eight or nine feet, which represent ceiling height. This ensures the tree will comfortably fit in the customer’s home. It is then trimmed and

drilled for mounting in a Christmas tree stand and shaken to get rid of any loose needles. Finally, it goes through a baler, where it is wrapped with twine and prepared for easy transport.

“I had a bit of trouble with the baler at first, but I got it down and I was able to wrap some trees for a few customers,” Horn said. “It was a great experience learning the ins-and-outs of the operation and getting to meet a few new faces throughout the process.

“If you’re in the market for a Christmas tree, I am confident the family- and pet-friendly atmosphere at Kluck’s will be a great treat for you and your kids.”

“I’d like to thank everyone involved and all who made this, and all of the 2015 Hometown Tours, a success,” Horn said. “I want to personally thank Tom Kluck for having me out to his nursery and Marty for giving us such a great and informational tour. Merry Christmas.”

Horn’s Hometown Tours feature various communities in the 32nd District. If you are interested in having Horn visit, please contact his office at (517) 373-1760, toll-free at (855) 347-8032 or by email at SenKHorn@senate.michigan.gov.



After choosing and harvesting a tree, state Sen. Ken Horn, R-Frankenmuth, loads his pull cart and makes his way toward the prepping station, where the trees are prepared to take home.



State Sen. Ken Horn, R-Frankenmuth, speaks with owner Tom Kluck (right) and Marty Royer (center) during the final stop on Horn’s 2015 Hometown Tour series.



State Sen. Ken Horn, R-Frankenmuth, receiving instructions from Royer on the proper technique for wrapping a tree with the baler.

The Michigan Banner

1400 W. Genesee
Saginaw, MI 48902
989.753-3475
publisherthemichiganbanner@gmail.com

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Publisher and Senior Editor

Jerome Buckley
publisher022@gmail.com

**The Latino Banner
Publisher**

Jerome Buckley
thelatinobanner@gmail.com

The Latino Banner

Rosa Morales
Contributor

Circulation & Distribution:

Staff

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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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End of the Year Salutation



Judge Darnell Jackson

Greetings to all who may read this letter. As I begin, let me state upfront that I have no idea what each of you may have gone through this past year, or are going through at the moment. My objective in writing this letter is to cause you to reflect upon where you have been and where you would like to go in the upcoming new year.

In the past year, from a global perspective, it seems as though the world is more chaotic than it has ever been. With widespread terrorism, mass shootings in the United States, natural disasters, a sluggish economy and continual challenges to stable family life, we all somehow feel the effects of these negative things.

And with such things going on, is it any wonder that so many feel so lost at this time of year? Is it any wonder that so many have been robbed of the joy that is so essential to living a fulfilled life? Is it any wonder that so many are desperately seeking hope and sometimes in the wrong places?

Despite these nagging questions, let me share with you what I think the real wonder is. The real wonder is that regardless of all these things occurring, the overwhelming majority of us still find the strength to carry on. And not just to survive but to actually strive. We strive because we realize that the greater good is bigger than our individuality.

There are some of us who still believe that we were put here to help others. We believe

we're at our best when we're helping others find solutions to the problems they face. We believe that there is always more light than darkness. We believe that what we do for others always comes back for good. And we believe that in order for us to be fulfilled we need to be living our lives to the fullest, despite the obstacles that we might face.

So, where will you go in the new year? This is like the choices we have when there is freshly fallen snow that no one has walked on. Others will be able to trace which direction you went in just by looking at your footprints. Your life in the new year should be no different.

In the new year, we each start with a clean slate. Each of us gets to decide which direction we take. When you decide which direction you take, make it so that others will be able to look at your footprints (demonstrated by the things that you do) and see that the direction you took was indeed the right one.

As I close, I want to leave you with some thoughts that came to me one night as I sat reflecting on this past year in my life, and contemplating the year to come. I believe that there is something in these thoughts for everyone who reads them, and invite you to adopt them as your own.

“At this time in my life...”

- I have more questions than answers;
- I have more tasks than completions;
- I have more challenges than ever and yet;
- I have more hope than despair;
- I have more direction than I am lost;
- I have more faith than I have fear, and;
- I have no choice but to carry on.

I pray that something I have said touches each and every one of you where you needed to be touched. I pray that God continue to bless you and all of your loved ones. And I pray that you each have a happy and productive New Year.

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Duclos Insurance Co. 7531 Gratiot Road Saginaw, Mi 48609 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm	Jamz Boost Mobile 1307 Court Street Saginaw, Mi 48602 Mon-Fri 11am-7pm Sat 12pm-5pm	Maria's Restaurant 6090 State Street Saginaw, Mi 48603 Mon-Thur 8am-9pm Fri-Sat 8-10pm Sun 8am-8pm	Red Horse Bar 4798 State Street Saginaw, Mi 48603 Mon-Sun 7am-2:30am
Accepting new or gently used coats	Tri City Kustomz 7545 Gratiot Road Saginaw, Mi 48609 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm	Xtreme Tire & Mechanics 2604 E. Genesee Saginaw, Mi 48601 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm Sat 8am-3pm	



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Director of the Michigan Hispanic/Latino Commission to Retire



*Dr. Marylou Olivarez Mason
Photo Courtesy: gvsu.edu*

Dr. Marylou Olivarez Mason, Executive Director of the Michigan Hispanic/Latino Commission (HLC), has announced she will retire from state government, effective Dec. 31, 2015. Mason has led the HLC (previously the Office on Spanish Speaking Affairs) for

almost thirty years, beginning in January of 1986. She was the first woman to hold that position.

“Marylou Mason has spent her career working with Michigan’s Hispanic-Latino community,” said Agustin Arbulu, Executive Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, the state department where HLC is housed. “We are grateful for her many years of service to the state, and congratulate her on a well-deserved retirement.”

Mason was born in San Antonio, Texas, and came to Michigan as a child to work with her family as a seasonal farmworker. After several years, her family settled permanently in Saginaw, where she graduated from St. Joseph High School and the Saginaw School of Nursing. She held various positions in the medical field until 1977 when she joined the Michigan Department of Civil Rights as assistant to the District Director of the Saginaw Community Relations Bureau. In 1981, she transferred to the Civil Rights Office in Lansing as an investigator. In March of 1986, she became Assistant Director of the Commission on Spanish Speaking Affairs, and in August of that year, she was appointed Executive Director of the Commission by Governor James Blanchard.

While serving as Executive Director of the HLC, Mason initiated the Michigan Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, the Hispanic Student Summit and Legislative Advocacy Day at the

state capitol. She has served on a number of local, state and national boards and commissions, and was the first Hispanic woman to serve on the Lansing Community College Board of Trustees.

Mason has received numerous awards and recognitions during her career, including the Diana L. Gorham Lifetime Achievement Award from the Greater Lansing YWCA for her extensive work in government; the Cesar Chavez Community Service Award from the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute; the Ordinary Women Doing Extraordinary Things Award from the Michigan chapter of the National Women’s History Project; and the Regional Mujer Award from the National Hispana Leadership Institute. She received an honorary doctorate degree from Great Lakes Bay Early College for her community work at the state, national and international levels. In October of 2014, she was inducted into the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame.

Mason has served on advisory councils for three presidents of Mexico – Vicente Fox, Felipe Calderon, and Enrique Pina Nieto – and in 2005, she received the OHTLI award, the highest award the Mexican government bestows on an individual outside Mexico.

Mason was married to the late George E. Mason, retired Assistant Attorney General. She has four sons and one daughter, fourteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

“We are grateful for her many years of service to the state, and congratulate her on a well-deserved retirement.”

Rep. Guerra Applauds Passage of Economic Development Incentive

Legislation paves way for \$5 billion, 1,000-job project

LANSING, MI — State Representative Vanessa Guerra (D-Saginaw) welcomed the passage of legislation today that will help bring Switch, a major technology company, to Michigan. Switch intends to invest \$5 billion to transform the former Steelcase headquarters in the Grand Rapids area into a state-of-the-art data center that will employ 400 people and support another 600 high-tech jobs at companies that will co-locate equipment at the center.

“My Democratic colleagues and I have

been working hard to enact legislation that will bring new investment and job creation to Michigan, and that’s exactly what these bills do,” Guerra said. “These are exactly the kinds of 21st century jobs our state needs to keep young professionals in our state and reverse the brain drain.”

Guerra supported Senate Bills 616-617, which exempt certain equipment purchases by data centers, including Switch, from the state’s 6 percent sales tax and use tax. The bills require a certain amount of job creation to qualify for the

tax exemptions, and also require that the state’s School Aid Fund be held harmless from any loss of tax revenue incurred by the incentive.

“This is a win-win situation — bringing high-tech investment to Michigan without mortgaging our future in return,” Guerra said. “House Democrats were instrumental in passing these bills, and this legislation could spur other data centers to locate in other areas of the state. We will continue to work toward economic development that will help rebuild the middle class.”



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

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TeamOne Credit Union Holiday Mixer



Courtesy Photos



About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

Early Head Start, launched in 1995, provides support to low-income infants, toddlers, pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



**Sabrina
Beeman-Jackson**

Saginaw ISD Head
Start/Early Head
Start Program
Director

"Head Start is designed to ensure that all children - regardless of their family's income, race, or ethnic background - are able to enter kindergarten ready to learn."

Lucille Roybal-Allard

"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

INTERSECTION OF BUSINESS & WEALTH



Mallory-Van Dyne-Scott Bar Association Elects Officers for 2015-2016

Flint, MI ---The Mallory-Van Dyne-Scott Bar Association, the organization of African-American attorneys and judges in Genesee County elected officers for 2015-2016 last month. Officers elected include I'Lanta Robbins, President; Angela Wheeler, Vice-President; Stephanie Cannon, Secretary; Torchio Feaster, Treasurer; Judge Herman Marable, Jr. and Vinson Carter, Members of the Board of Directors.

The Mallory-Van Dyne-Scott Bar Association was founded in 1989, and takes its name from Dudley Mallory, R.M. Van Dyne, and Elisha Scott, three of the earliest African-American attorneys in Genesee County.

The mission of the Association is to enrich the community by zealously advocating on behalf of the under-represented and to educate the public and enhance the justice system through scholarship, public service and education.



Mallory-Van Dyne-Scott Bar Association 2015-2016 Executive Board (front row) VICE PRES. Angela Wheeler, PRESIDENT I'Lanta Robbins, SECRETARY Stephanie Cannon, SECRETARY Stephanie Cannon (back row) DIRECTORS Judge Herman Marable, Jr., and Vinson Carter [not pictured: TREASURER Torchio Feaster]

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Wishing the Michigan Banner congratulations and continued success on your 13th anniversary.



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New CEO Named for Midland Area Chamber of Commerce and Midland Tomorrow



Midland, MI – William “Bill” Allen has been named the President and CEO of the Midland Area Chamber of Commerce (MACC) and Midland Tomorrow umbrella organization, with his tenure beginning in mid-January 2016. The new umbrella organization creates a partnership between the MACC and Midland Tomorrow designed to strengthen Midland County’s economic development efforts and maximize resources.

Allen is currently the President and CEO of the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce in New Mexico. He has a background in

chamber management and has been active in the Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance. Allen's other involvement with the industry and community includes an education advisory council, legislative coalition, regional marketing committee, as well as the affordable housing land bank and trust advisory committee. He also was involved in the Western Association of Chamber Executives, and was honored with its Russell J. Hammer Award in 2014. Prior to his current position, Allen was the Executive Director of the Royal Oak (Michigan) Chamber of Commerce and built an extensive background in operations, sales and management with the Xerox Corporation and in the real estate industry.

The extensive national search for the right person to fill this position was overseen by both the MACC and Midland Tomorrow Boards of Directors.

"Bill Allen has demonstrated a record of

success and innovation in private industry, business and economic development, and chamber of commerce work. We look forward to him bringing that experience and energy to Midland Tomorrow as we continue to concentrate on retaining and attracting employers to the greater Midland community," said Jon Lynch, Board of Directors Chairman for Midland Tomorrow.

Steve LaLonde, Board of Directors Chairman for the MACC said, "Allen will be a great addition to both of these organizations. He has the experience and the drive to make great things happen for our business community. We look forward to him joining us as this partnership between the Chamber and Midland Tomorrow strengthens and grows."

Originally from Michigan, Allen is a graduate of Northwood University. He will be moving to Midland with his wife and children in the coming months.



The Michigan Tobacco Quitline

Now through December 31, 2015, the Michigan Tobacco Quitline is offering free telephone coaching and nicotine replacement therapy to anyone, regardless of insurance status. A quitline coach will work with you to create a quit plan that is best for you.

Special services and information are available for spit tobacco, non-English speaking callers and persons with hearing impairments. The quit line has special help for pregnant women and they earn rewards after every call.

Research shows that while quitting is difficult for most tobacco users, people who use tobacco can increase their success in quitting with help. Quitters are most successful when using a combination of therapies, including resources such as nicotine replacement, counseling, self-help materials, and a strong support network of family and friends.

Get a jump on your New Year's Resolution to quit smoking and call today at 1-800-QUIT-NOW. Visit <https://michigan.quitlogix.org/> for more information or to enroll online.

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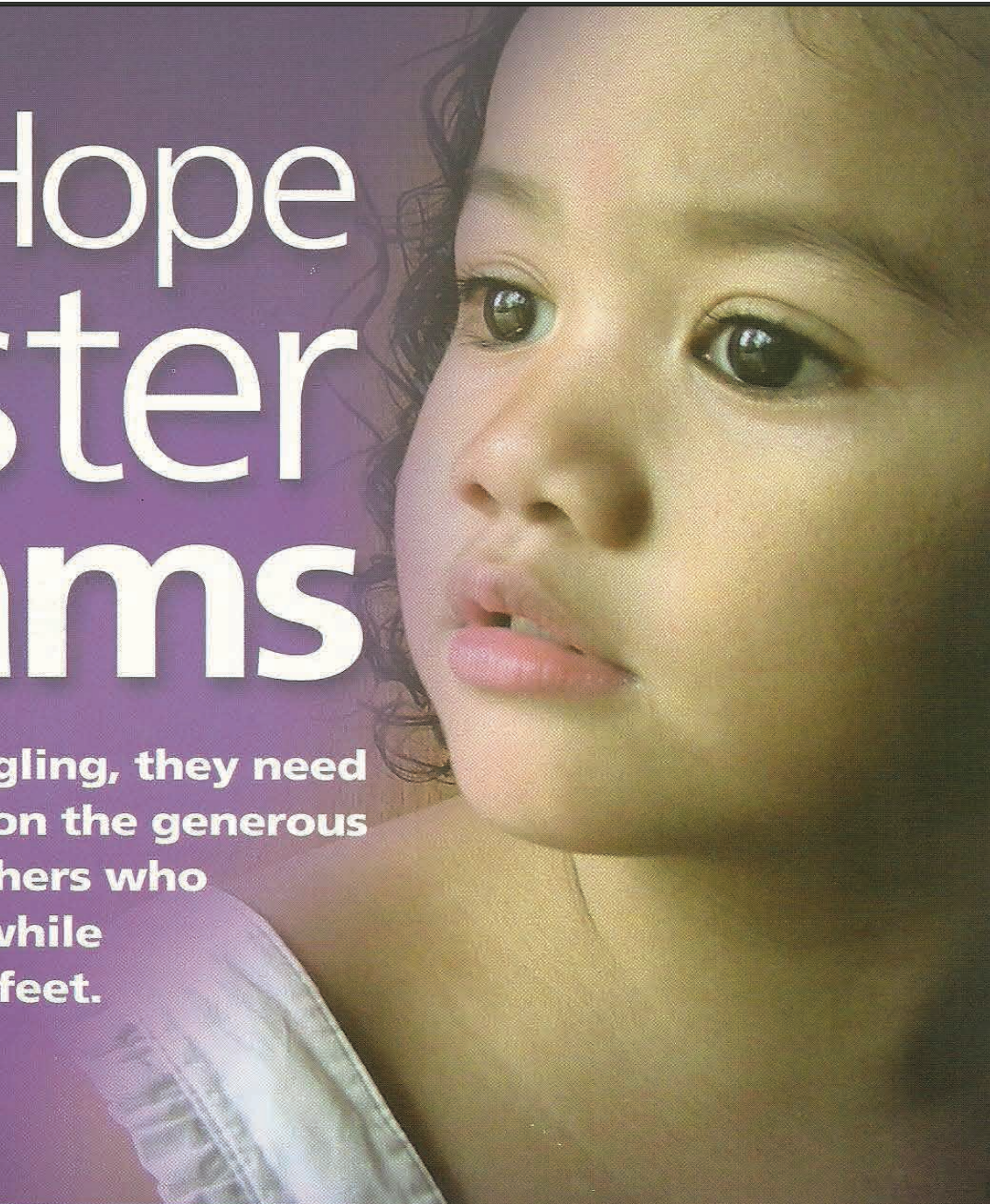
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State of Michigan, Department of Human Services,
DHS-Pub-205 (3-13)

6 Sexy Cold Weather Dates to Bring the Heat to Your Marriage



Courtesy Photo

The weather outside is frightful, I know, I know. Although we've mostly only had a taste of snow in most parts of the country, we all know there is much more to come. And, when it does, it'll force us indoors and limit our plans and activities, or so we thought.

Date nights can't stop because it's a little cold and dreary outdoors. We may have to get a little creative, but it is a must that we keep the marriage flame burning (especially during the winter). Here are a few sexy cold weather dating ideas for you and your spouse.

Bundle each other up and play in the snow

When was the last time you went to the park or even to the backyard and had a good old fashioned snowball fight with your boo? Or what about sledding, ice skating, or even making a snowman together?

We sometimes think we've outgrown the playful things we used to do as children. I find that they are even more fun as adults. They also provide a way to do something spontaneous and different.

So wrap him up in his favorite scarf, or help her slip into her snow boots and head out for some adult fun. For these activities, the kids are optional. Oh, and don't forget how sexy it will be to unbundle one another when you return.

Schedule a couple's only ski weekend

Most cities have lodges and resorts a lot closer than you think that offer reasonable ski packages. There's something romantic about a weekend getaway, especially ones that offer a fireplace and some hot cocoa.

Being with other couples brings another level of positive energy and makes us feel good about being in love.

Host a wine tasting event for other couples – or just the two of you!

TNMCoupleRedWineBuy a few different bottles of wines you enjoy and invite a few other couples to a tasting at your home.

Ask the other invited couples to bring some of their own, and let the tasting begin.

You'll enjoy the conversations that come from the examination and explanations of the wines selected.

Again, there is just something special about the positive energy that comes from being in the presence of other couples.

But hey, if it's just you two, it will be your two favorite people! And it's another activity you won't have to leave the house for.

Plan some indoor picnic fun

Move that furniture out of the way and set up a romantic picnic in the middle of your living room. Having your favorite comfort foods and a bottle of your favorite bubbly should do the trick.

Remember to lay out your blanket, feed one another, and share your innermost thoughts. Make it even more exciting by having some outdoor summertime sounds playing in the background. Think birds chirping and sounds of waves splashing.

Organize a chili cookoff

Perhaps you and your spouse are known to brag on who's the better cook. Why not put it to a test and see who makes the best pot of chili.

You could invite other couples over, have the kids be the judge, or just decide between the two of you. Remember, the preparation and smack talking should be the most fun.

Construct an indoor camping site

First, only one sleeping bag needed. Next, all the lights must be off and the space should only be lit by candles or camping lanterns.

Plan a sexy scavenger hunt where your spouse has to search for a pair of your sexy underwear, or a naked photo of yourself you've hid.

Make it your own, but make it hot! Pitching a tent inside adds to the fun. Make a few s'mores (campfire not needed), share some scary stories and cuddle up for the rest of the evening.

Marriage never has to be boring. Whether it's hot and sunny or below zero, couples should always be looking for ways to enjoy time spent with one another. That time needs to be valued and is definitely one of the benefits of being in love.



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HEALTH

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Michigan Blood encourages donors to give the gift of life

Saginaw, MI – A blood donor recently shared, “I left a pint of me with Michigan Blood, but I got so much more in return.” That’s what happens when donors give from the heart – they give someone another day, another chance at life, and another opportunity to impact someone else.

Michigan Blood is asking residents to give from the heart this holiday season by donating blood. As a special thank you, anyone who attempts to donate at any Michigan Blood donor center will receive a \$10 Kohl’s gift card (while supplies last – special event times and dates vary by location). Donors can also take a special gift tag to let someone know they gave blood in their honor and can add that person’s name to Michigan Blood’s “I Gave the Gift of Life in Honor of” boards.

The blood drive will take place at the following locations in the Great Lakes Bay Region:

Saginaw Donor Center 1771 Tittabawassee, Saginaw Thursday, Dec. 24 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 1 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Bay City Donor Center 1710 N. Johnson, Bay City Wednesday, Dec. 23 Noon – 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30 Noon – 7 p.m.

Midland Donor Center MidMichigan Medical

Center – Midland 4005 Orchard, Midland Tuesday, Dec. 22 Noon – 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29 Noon – 7 p.m.

Dow Diamond Donor Center 825 E. Main, Midland Thursday, Dec. 24 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Blood donations helped save eight-year-old Addison Mayfield of Bay City. Addison was born five weeks premature, and shortly after her arrival, she was diagnosed with Persistent Pulmonary Hypertension of the Newborn, or PPHN. PPHN is a serious and sometimes life-threatening condition. Newborn Addison received two blood transfusions which helped save her life, and each one was possible because of generous Michigan Blood donors.

Elizabeth Mayfield, Addison's mother, says she and her family encourage others to donate if and when they can.

“Definitely, without those blood transfusions, Addison wouldn’t be here today,” said Mayfield.

Any healthy person 17 or older (or 16 with parental consent) who weighs at least 110 pounds may be eligible to donate. Blood donors should bring photo ID. To schedule an appointment, or for more information, individuals can call 1-866-MIBLOOD or visit www.miblood.org.

About Michigan Blood

Founded in 1955, Michigan Blood is a fast growing, independent, non-profit blood bank

headquartered in Grand Rapids. It provides blood products and services for more than 50 hospitals throughout Michigan and is an established leader in quality and service. Michigan Blood collects more than 120,000 units of blood each year at nine permanent donation sites and more than 3,700 mobile blood drives in 37 counties statewide. Michigan Blood has a nationally recognized stem cell (marrow) program and created Michigan’s first public cord blood bank. In addition, Michigan Blood provides therapeutic apheresis, cellular therapies for the treatment of cancer and transfusion medicine consultations. For more information, visit www.miblood.org.



Access Affordable Health Care and the Insurance Marketplace

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) provides Americans with better health security by expanding coverage, lowering healthcare costs, guaranteeing more choice, and enhancing the quality of care for all Americans. Everyone is entitled to affordable healthcare.

Under the law, a new “Patient’s Bill of Rights” gives the American people the stability and flexibility they need to make informed choices about their health. Some of

the benefits of this coverage include:

- Ending Pre-Existing Condition

Exclusions for Children: Health plans can no longer limit or deny benefits to children under 19 due to a pre-existing condition.

- Keeping Young Adults Covered: If you are under 26, you may be eligible to be covered under your parent’s health plan.

- Ending Arbitrary Withdrawals of Insurance Coverage: Insurers can no longer

cancel your coverage just because you made an honest mistake.

- Guaranteeing Your Right to Appeal: You now have the right to ask that your plan reconsider its denial of payment.

Open enrollment began in November and ends January 31. Compare healthcare plans so that you can find the best one for you, and sign up before the enrollment period ends.

JUMP TO PG 19, HEALTH CARE



SPEAK up!

**If you suspect child abuse,
call (855) 444-3911***

If you suspect a child is in **immediate** danger, don't delay - call 911.

For more information on child abuse and how you can help break the cycle, call CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region at (989) 752-7226.

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Accelerating health care

Mobile Health Central celebrates first year on the road



Courtesy Photo

By Reneé Castellon

Nearly 300 people participated in health screenings offered by Mobile Health Central in its first year on the road. The 39-foot motor coach traveled to Harrison, Ypsilanti, Farwell, Gladwin and other communities throughout Michigan, furthering its mission of serving rural and underserved communities by providing residents access to high-quality health care and preventive health education.

The primary focus has been on audiology screenings offered by faculty and graduate students from The Herbert H. & Grace A. Dow

College of Health Professions. Screenings were conducted at:

- Harrison Street Fair
- Farwell Health Fair
- Special Olympics Michigan Fall Games in Ypsilanti
- Special Olympics Michigan Summer Games in Mount Pleasant
- Sugar River Health Fair in Gladwin

At the Sugar River Health Fair, 27 seniors between the ages of 61 and 84 completed audiology screenings. Of those who participated, 21 were referred to providers in the community for additional hearing care.

FROM PG 17, HEALTH CARE

You can learn more about the insurance marketplace and how to apply for benefits at www.healthcare.gov.

If you are 65 or older, you are entitled to Medicare. Certain people younger than age 65 can qualify for Medicare, including those who have disabilities and those who have permanent

kidney failure. The program helps with the cost of healthcare, but it does not cover all medical expenses or the cost of most long-term care.

You can access everything you need for Medicare, including online applications and publications, at www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare.

Social Security and affordable healthcare

Mobile Health Central also served as the emergency first-aid station at the #LIVELIKEREED Glow Run.

Planning for the future

The success of Mobile Health Central depends on building strong programs and partnerships. Several tours were given to increase awareness of the service, with university administrators, faculty, staff, students, state officials, academic administrators from other institutions, trustees and other community partners participating.

"Creating sustainability through community collaboration has been my focus," said Tracy Speier, outreach coordinator for community partnerships and services. "I'm continuing to build partnerships and establish relationships with regional health systems, rural health clinics and academic institutions to work on projects such as health care delivery, telehealth services and academic opportunities."

Speier spearheaded a partnership with the Central Michigan District Health Department on a one-year \$100,000 rural health network development grant funded through the Health Resources Services Administration that includes 16 other organizations within central Michigan. The grant supports efforts to implement a rural health network. She also created partnerships with CMDHD and EightCap's Head Start of Isabella and Gratiot counties to provide school physicals for students during the summer.

If you're interested in partnering with Mobile Health Central or would like more information about how to bring it to your community contact Tracy Speier at 989-774-2900 or mhcentral@cmich.edu.

go hand-in-hand. The Affordable Care Act and Medicare help ensure that you and your family are covered.

Stephanie Holland is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 455 Bond St, Benton Harbor MI 49022 or via email at stephanie.holland@ssa.gov

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EDUCATION



Diversity leader and SVSU alum Dexter to speak to SVSU graduates

*Billy Dexter**Courtesy Photo*

Saginaw Valley State University students will hear from an alumnus who is recognized as a national leader in creating diverse leadership teams for major corporations. Billy Dexter will address graduates during Commencement exercises Friday, Dec. 18 at 7:30 pm. and Saturday, Dec. 19 at 11 a.m. in SVSU's Ryder Center.

Commencement exercises for graduates in

the colleges of Business & Management and Health & Human Services will be held Friday evening. Students completing degrees in the colleges of Arts & Behavioral Sciences, Education, and Science, Engineering & Technology will take part in the ceremony scheduled for Saturday morning.

As is tradition, SVSU President Donald Bachand will congratulate each graduate in both ceremonies as he or she crosses the stage.

The graduating class consists of 637 students who have applied to graduate, including 560 who have indicated that they intend to don regalia and march in their respective ceremonies. A total of 505 students are expected to complete bachelor's degree requirements, and another 132 students are expected to complete master's and advanced degrees.

An SVSU graduate, Dexter serves as a managing partner at Heidrick & Struggles, an executive search firm. He leads the company's global diversity advisory services practice that assists clients in creating diverse leadership teams. Dexter works with clients to develop inclusive solutions for talent acquisition and leadership development for global executives. His clients include major companies such as Allstate, Capital One, John Deere and the NBA.

A leader in the talent acquisition and diversity/inclusion field for more than 25 years, Dexter previously served as executive vice president and chief diversity officer for MTV

Networks, a Viacom company. Prior to that, Dexter was president of Hudson Inclusion Solutions, a business division of Hudson Highland Group, a diversity consulting practice he founded within Hudson Highland.

A resident of Lemont, Illinois, Dexter currently serves on the board of directors as a trustee of the Metropolitan Club of Chicago, Link Unlimited Scholars, the Executive Leadership Council, the Goodman Theater of Chicago and the NFL Players Advisory Association.

Dexter has received numerous honors, including a recent selection by Chicago United as a recipient of Business Leader of Color. The Society of Human Resources Management named him one of the "Top 100 Global Diversity Thought Leaders." Savoy Magazine awarded Dexter with its trailblazer award and recognized him as one of the Top 50 African-American executives in 2010. SVSU selected him for an Outstanding Alumni award in 2011.

Actively involved as a student at SVSU, Dexter was a member of the 1982-83 NAIA national championship track and field teams; he was a member of student government and the Organization of Black Unity, and was selected as Homecoming King in 1983. He was selected as SVSU's Outstanding Alumnus in the College of Art & Behavioral Sciences in 2010. Dexter also completed a master's degree at Michigan State University.

Delta College Offers Short Term Job Training in Healthcare

Delta College LifeLong Learning is offering several short term job training programs in healthcare this winter. Opportunities include Pharmacy Technician, Phlebotomy Technician, Medical Administrative Assistant, and Medical Insurance Billing & ICD-10 Coding – all of

which are expected to have an increase in the number of positions over the next four years.

The 15-week Pharmacy Technician program, held in a pharmacy-like classroom environment, will provide the skills, knowledge, and simulated lab experience

needed to be a success. Local employers favor hiring Pharmacy Techs who have formal training and certification is now required in the State of Michigan.

JUMP TO PG 23, DELTA COLLEGE



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Wednesday, January 20, 2016 • 7:00 p.m.
Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts • SVSU

with Keynote Speaker

N. Cornell Boggs III

Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Dow Corning



N. Cornell Boggs III has served as senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary for Dow Corning since 2012. In that role, he is responsible to lead the company's global legal, corporate security, and government relations functions. Prior to joining Dow Corning, Boggs served as chief responsibility and ethics officer for MillerCoors, LLC, and worked in the corporate legal departments of several companies. Boggs began his career as a judicial clerk for the Court of Appeals of Indiana, followed by an appointment as a trial attorney at the United States Department of Justice. He completed a bachelor's degree and a law degree at Valparaiso University, where he currently serves on the board of directors.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS

The Great Lakes Bay Regional Community Foundations (Bay Area, Midland Area, Saginaw) present these scholarships to outstanding high school seniors across the region who have demonstrated Dr. King's teachings.

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The event is FREE of charge and open to the public.

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- NAACP CHAPTERS

SVSU will provide reasonable accommodations for those persons with disabilities. Individuals who wish accommodations should contact the University Conference and Events Center at (989) 964-4348 at least three days prior to the event. SVSU does not discriminate based on race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical impairment, disability or veteran status in the provision of education, employment and other services.

International journal names SVSU's Puia among world's top 50 business educators



George Puia

Courtesy Photo

A Saginaw Valley State University educator was named among the top business professors in the world by an international journal focusing on business and economics.

George Puia, SVSU's Dow Chemical Co. Centennial Chair in Global Business, learned he was among 50 educators worldwide to receive the inaugural Oxford Journal Global Top 50 Educators Award.

Puia – along with two SVSU students

and two alumni – attended the 13th annual Global Conference on Business and Economics at Oxford University in England Nov. 22-23, when they presented their research paper exploring links between culture and entrepreneurial development.

A letter to Puia from the Oxford Journal staff explained the standards for the award:

"... You embody the standards expected for the winner of this prestigious award. Your vast and innovative contributions to your discipline, as well as your passion for the educational enterprise as a whole set you apart from others in your field. In an era in which educators seem to be ever more specialized and focused on their own productivity, your persistent focus on students and encouragement of their success makes you stand out as a role model for excellence in education."

Puia learned he received the award while at the conference in England.

"I felt especially honored to receive the award in front of students and alumni who had collaborated with me on some very engaging research," he said.

Puia joined SVSU in 2000. He has collaborated with SVSU students on a number of research projects and has traveled internationally with many students on faculty-led study abroad trips. Puia completed a Ph.D. at the University of Kansas.

The full list of the Oxford Journal Global

Top 50 Educators Award recipients has not been published yet. The partial list includes educators from higher education institutions such as the University of Notre Dame and the University of South Carolina as well as colleges abroad including Manchester Metropolitan University in Great Britain and Afyon Kocatepe University in Turkey.

Among those who attended the conference with Puia were students Zackary Gibson, a marketing major from Davison, and Heidi Hicks, a management major from Saginaw.

Two SVSU alumni also worked on the research paper presented there: Lisa Maroni and Rosalie Stackpole. Maroni, a Royal Oak native who received a bachelor's degree in international studies in 2010, now serves as assistant director of international recruitment and admissions at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona. Stackpole, a Trenton native who received her bachelor's degree in marketing in May, works as a marketing project manager at Bloomfield Hills-based Flexible Plan Investments, Ltd.

The group's research paper was titled, "Indulgence, Restraint, and Within-Country Diversity: Exploring Entrepreneurial Outcomes with New Constructs."

The Global Conference on Business and Economics was sponsored by the Oxford Journal, as well as the Association for Business and Economics Research.

FROM PG 21, DELTA COLLEGE

This course includes a mock certification examination to prepare for the National Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam. According to the Bright Outlook Occupation Survey conducted by O*Net, this career is projected to grow much faster than average (employment increase of 22% or more) over the period 2012-2022.

Delta College's Phlebotomy Technician course prepares for work in a clinical setting as a Phlebotomist in accordance with procedures established by the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards. This 9-week program includes an invaluable clinical

experience component, due to partnerships between Delta College and local hospitals, providing a unique position to learn with some of the area's largest employers.

The 11-week Medical Administrative Assistant program teaches the fundamentals of the role and prepares for a rewarding career. This program also includes a clinical experience with regional employers. The outlook for this career is projected at a much faster than average growth by the Bright Outlook Occupation Survey conducted by O*Net. Delta College's program has experienced 100% program completion and employment rates within the last year.

The Medical Insurance Billing & ICD-10

Coding course at Delta College is uniquely designed with hands-on, computer lab training allowing students to navigate the insurance billing software. Beginning in October 2015, the healthcare industry began transitioning from ICD-9 diagnosis codes to the ICD-10 system presenting significant challenges and a demand for trained professionals. This 6 week program presents the newly adopted ICD-10 basic diagnostic and CPT procedure coding as well as basic insurance concepts and the terminology used by health insurance carriers.

For more information about these programs please contact Delta College LifeLong Learning at 989-686-9444 or visit www.delta.edu/lifelonglearning for a complete schedule.

Photojournalism students chronicle immigration journeys in Michigan

Workshop tells stories of immigrants, builds students' photography skills

Immigration in America was explored by fourteen photojournalism students at Central Michigan University through a collection of photo stories. The project, titled "Fences: Faces of Migration," was the culmination of a two-week workshop led by world-renowned photographer Danny Wilcox Frazier.

"The debate around immigration has become embroiled in hostile political rhetoric," Frazier said. "We looked closely at how immigration policy impacts individuals. The group project brings to light issues facing the newest Americans living across Michigan and personalizes their struggles in a country divided by politics and ideology by giving faces to the faceless."

Photos from the "Fences: Faces of Migration" collection are featured in nine banners hanging outside of the Biosciences Building construction site.

Fences: Faces of Migration

Junior Clarissa Williams had found an immigrant in her hometown of Detroit and said the project gave her experience beyond photojournalism.

"Even though you hear people speak about illegally entering the country, you never really comprehend what a dangerous and terrifying experience it is," Williams said. "Seeing the residual pain and fear in their eyes as they recounted their stories to me made my heart heavy. I always understood the general motive of people who migrate illegally, but it wasn't until now that I was able to really grasp the plight that plagues those who need to migrate and only enter illegally because they are forced."

Emily Mesner, CMU photojournalism major, said this is her third time participating in the annual workshop.

"Every year after the workshop I am more passionate to tell stories," she said. "The workshop pushes me to be a better person and photojournalist. I'm not sure where I will end up

or what I'll be doing after I graduate, but as long as I have my camera with me and I am telling stories I know I'll be fine."

View several of the student-created stories below and read about what they learned through the experience, both through gaining an understanding of how immigration affects people and how they gained skills in the process.



Courtesy Photo



Kaiti Chritz

Midland senior Kaiti Chritz reviewed how immigration is communicated within the U.S. media. Her project was a video, incorporating media clips, audio and photographs.

"Some of these images were created with a single frame with multiple exposures, and some were curated images from social media," she said. "It was eye-opening to see the conversations happening in the media and social media. It truly seems that the screen on a television or computer acts as an invisible barrier that makes people feel protected, as if they can say anything they want with no consequence."

SAVE THE DATE

Legacy Civic Fund Presents

4th Annual Gala Dinner

Sunday, January 17, 2016
Temple Theatre
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
(Doors open at 6:00 pm)

Plated Meal Music by: Kyrsta
Comedy: Horace "H.B." Sanders

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Dr. Roger Kahn, Rhonda Butler,
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Lois Sheaffer (Posthumously)

Scholarship recipients will be
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COMMUNITY

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“FEED”

FAMILY EMPIRE EMPOWERMENT DAY



Saginaw Public Schools Safe Schools Healthy Students and Early Childhood Programs will present Family Empire Empowerment Day (FEED), which is an opportunity to “feed” our families with knowledge, resources, and physical food that will promote academic and social/ emotional growth, healthy family and community relationships, health & wellness, and much more. The event will take place Friday, January 15, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Henry Doerr Child Care Center. Vendor informational stations will take place throughout the school hallways. Hands-on activities and mini-workshop sessions will be held inside the classrooms. There are four available times to teach on a variety of topics during the 45 minute mini-sessions: 12:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 4:20 p.m. You may choose one or more session times. Please see the attached

“Save the Date Flyer” for details on topics you may want to cover or highlight about your agency. The event is part of our district-wide initiatives and goals to engage and connect schools, families and communities in order to improve student outcomes. The targeted audience is Pre - K- 12th grade students and their families. FEED is free and open to all SPSD schools, school staff, parents and community members.

The objectives of the event include:

- Provide parents and families with academic learning at home resources tools
- Promote early childhood social and emotional learning development
- Promote mental, emotional, and behavioral health
- Connect families, schools, and communities

- Prevent behavioral health problems
 - Create safe and violence free schools
 - Promote health & wellness
 - Increase awareness of local health services and resources
 - Motivate participants to make positive health behavior change
 - Teach healthy self-care practices
 - Share college & career readiness information
 - Increase awareness of SPSD Early Childhood/ Safe Schools/ Healthy Students Program
- Your agency or business is invited to showcase its services at this event by providing educational information, screenings and health awareness activities, and resources helpful to parents and students. A limited number of free booth spaces are available, so contact us soon.

Vendor details:

Date: Friday January 15, 2016

Health fair hours: 12:p.m. to 5:00p.m.

Location: Henry Doerr Child Care Center, 3270 Perkins Street Saginaw, MI

Estimated attendees: 800

Booth size: 1 6ft table and 2 chairs per vendor (table coverings are not provided)

Booth setup: Friday, January 15, 2016 9:00 a.m. (contact for January 14 setup times)

Vendor fee: FREE (Lunch and dinner snack will be provided)

Contact: Tiffany L. Pruitt, tp Pruitt@spsd.net or 989-399-6593 for additional details and to confirm your participation. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for considering participation in our community event.

Sincerely,
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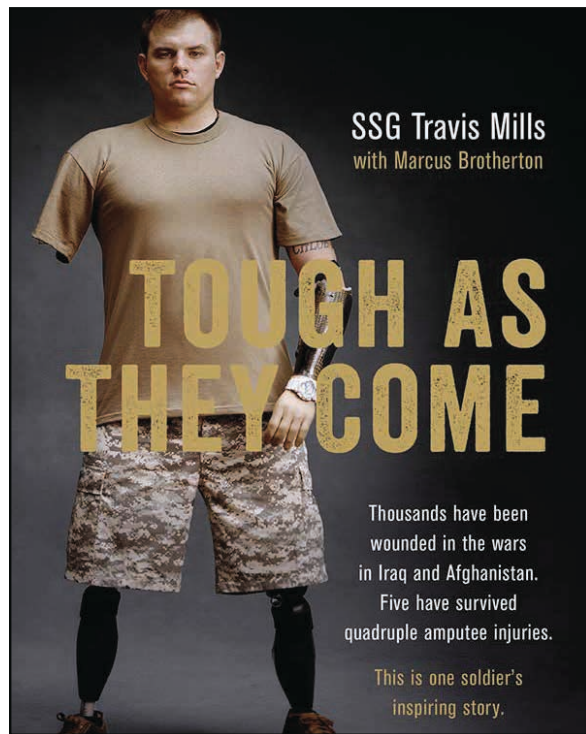
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Travis Mills – Tough as They Come – Book Signing

Friday, December 18, 2015 at 6:30 PM



On April 10, 2012, United States Army Staff Sergeant Travis Mills of the 82nd Airborne had what he describes as “a normal day at work that turned ugly.” In **TOUGH AS THEY COME** (written with Marcus Brotherton, foreword by Gary Sinise), he shares his story of surviving “a simple act of war” that led to the 6’3”, 250-pound man becoming one of only five surviving quadruple amputees from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. **TOUGH AS THEY COME** will be available for sale during the signing. Fans that have already purchased Travis’s book are asked to bring a receipt with their book to have it

signed. The signing is a ticketed event. Fans can pick up a free ticket by visiting Barnes & Noble Saginaw beginning 9:00AM on Thursday, December 17th. Tickets will be given out at the door throughout the signing. Fans will be called up in groups based on ticket number.

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Social Security Evolves to Serve Customers

By: Stephanie Holland, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Social Security is at the forefront of adapting and meeting the ever-changing needs of our customers. Technology plays an important role in helping us provide the world-class customer service America expects and deserves. And we’re changing to keep current with new laws and judicial rulings as well.

Social Security listens to your needs as we improve the technologies that enhance the customer experience. We continue to look for new services to add to my Social Security to make it an even more powerful resource for you and your family, at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Another way we’re evolving is by adapting to legal and social changes. In 1935, when Social Security was created, the definition of “family” was different than it is today. On June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court issued a decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, holding that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry in all states. As a result, more same-sex couples

will be recognized as married for purposes of determining entitlement to Social Security benefits or eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments.

Not only have we adapted to provide benefits for same-sex spouses, but transgender people can now change the gender marker on their Social Security records based on identity, with no requirement for reassignment surgery.

Our mission at Social Security is to deliver services that meet the changing needs of the public. By keeping the public informed of their benefit estimates with my Social Security and adapting to our changing society, we will continue to achieve our goals and help you achieve yours. No matter who you are, you deserve the benefits of Social Security. Find out more at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Stephanie Holland is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 455 Bond St, Benton Harbor MI 49022 or via email at stephanie.holland@ssa.gov

Long Range Weather Forecast

Dec 14-22:

Lake snows and snow showers, cold;

Dec 23-26: Flurries, cold east; sunny, mild west;

Dec 27-31:
Snowstorm, then flurries, cold

Source: <http://www.almanac.com/weather/longrange/MI/Saginaw>

Congressman Dan Kildee Pushes Action on Flint Water Crisis, Infrastructure Investments at White House Meeting of President's Export Council

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-05) today spoke at the White House about the Flint water crisis and the need for critical investments in our nation's older, industrial cities like Flint, Saginaw and Bay City, especially when it comes to improvements to our infrastructure and aging water systems.

Congressman Kildee's remarks came at a meeting of the President's Export Council, where he is one of only five members of the U.S. House of Representatives appointed to advisory board. The President's Export Council is the principal advisory council to the president on trade and manufacturing, made up of both government and private sector leaders. Since his appointment in January by former Speaker of the House John Boehner, Congressman Kildee has used his position on the council to push for policies that support American workers and American cities. It has also allowed him to advocate for economic policies that create jobs and boost U.S. manufacturing exports.

"A lot of cities are left behind, and it's largely because we have not given them the tools that they need to succeed," Congressman Kildee said today in his remarks. "It's really important that we invest in these older communities. They can do wonders for our country, they can create greater equity, and they can actually grow our economy, but we've got to unleash their capacity, and it's going to take significant investment to do that."

A video of Congressman Kildee's remarks can be viewed here, starting at 1:01:25. To learn more about the President's Export Council, visit <http://trade.gov/pec>.

A full transcript of Congressman Kildee's remarks, as delivered at today's meeting, is below:

"Thank you very much, and thanks for giving us each a few minutes to comment. As Congresswoman [Suzan] Delbene said, when we leave, it will not be because we're rushing from the room due to something that [U.S. Trade Representative] Mr. [Michael] Froman said – it's because we have to go vote.

"Let me explain a bit. The goals of this

organization are obviously critical to the success of this country and to the growth of our economy. But I want to hone in on a particular aspect of the challenge that we face, and for those of you who are not aware, I come from a town called Flint, Michigan. Flint is the birthplace of General Motors. In 1908, GM was founded in that community. But it is a city that has experienced extraordinarily difficult times in the last several decades. So the focus that I want to bring and support is the focus of the Export Council on the need to reinvest in our productive capacity.

"Obviously there has been an important debate on how we engage global trade, and there will continue to be, I think, a very important debate within Congress as to how we do that. But as important as that – perhaps more important – is how we support expanding the productive capacity that we have here in the United States to make, to produce those sorts of products that we then can sell, not only to our domestic market, but across the globe. Essential to that, from my perspective, is a much stronger emphasis on reinvesting in those older industrial communities. I think about some of the companies represented in this room, many of which were really born of innovation that occurred in the last century in those older industrial spaces that we have seen wither in ways that I think are really completely unacceptable.

"I just mentioned my own hometown of Flint, and I'll just use this one anecdote. Today, as we sit here, in Flint, Michigan – a community that put the world on wheels – that community cannot ensure to its residents clean, drinkable water. It's a city of 100,000 people, that for 14 months had lead levels in its water system that were so high that 7,000 children under the age of five – for 14 months! – were exposed to lead in a way that will affect the trajectory of their lives permanently. This, in the twenty-first century, in the wealthiest nation, at the wealthiest moment in its history, in a community that could greatly contribute to the productive capacity of this nation, but has not been able to fully realize that because we,

as a nation, have allowed our older cities to atrophy.

"So there is no trade agenda that can be fully realized that doesn't have us going big – going real big – investing in infrastructure, in ports, in rail, in roads and bridges, in IT, and in water infrastructure. While we will take an important step forward in sort of getting back to where we need to be, with a less than temporary approach to transportation infrastructure, I just really hope that we can, as a council, and particularly the private sector leadership which has been so critical to this question, find a way to move an agenda that has us reinventing in those places that were once really important to the development of our productive capacity, and I firmly believe are essential for that in the future.

"There are many cities, even during periods of economic growth, and I speak from experience – I was in local government for 33 years before I came to Congress – there are many cities that are often left behind, even during periods of great economic expansion. You go to the 1990s and see what happened in all the private sector job growth that we saw; the private sector job growth that we've seen in the last five, six years has been extraordinary, but a lot of cities are left behind, and it's largely because we have not given them the tools that they need to succeed. We see some of our competitors spending, in some cases, ten times what we are as a percentage of GDP on that basic infrastructure. And especially when we look at how difficult it is for these older cities to reposition themselves, I think it is incumbent on all of us, but particularly I'm imploring our private sector leaders, to continue to speak up on this question, because your voices are so critical.

"It's really important that we invest in these older communities. They can do wonders for our country, they can create greater equity, and they can actually grow our economy, but we've got to unleash their capacity, and it's going to take significant investment to do that."

Non Profit Directory

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Saginaw County Community Action
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 989.754.4435
 PastorD818@gmail.com

Corinthian Baptist Church
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 1734 N. Mason
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 Website: www.faithharvestministry.org
 E-mail: office@faithharvestministry.org

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LifeInChristMinistries07@gmail.com

Messiah Missionary Baptist Church
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 Pastor Otis Washington
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Carleton Green loves to help people — specifically, to create opportunities for others. It's why the sophomore communications major devotes himself to organizations driven to develop people's potential. Carleton is the vice president of SVSU's chapter National Society of Leadership Success, an organization on campus that emphasizes goal-setting and achievement. In fact, Carleton's chapter achieved a few goals of its own: in its first year, it has been named the Best New Organization and become the largest registered student organization on campus.

A brother in the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity and a former mentor in the Great Lakes Bay Region Youth Leadership Institute, Carleton also recently became involved in AISIEC, an international organization that helps students arrange exchanges abroad. "I have done so much and have become involved in quite a few organizations," Carleton says. "I love that SVSU feels like my home away from home."



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