

THE MICHIGAN BANNER

Leading in Diversity

“Empowering Communities and Changing Lives”



Journey of Excellence
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‘Crisis Mode’...
P L B 1



Thanks...
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Congratulations...
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Passion to Serve
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National Women’s History Month

Saginaw MAX System of Care Recognizes Local Community Leaders



Hon. Judge Faye Harrison



Rita Truss, Retired
Director of Saginaw DHS



Hon. Judge Barbara Meter



Shelly Marner, Acting
Director of Saginaw DHS

Saginaw - In March of 1980, President Carter issued a presidential proclamation announcing National Women’s History week to celebrate the rich history, rights and strengths of women across the U.S.

Following, President Reagan was given the honor to pronounce the week in March for National Women History week, saying, “American women of every race, creed, and ethnic background helped found and build our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways...”

“As leaders in public affairs, American women not only worked to secure their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also were principal advocates in the abolitionist, temperance, mental health reform, industrial labor and social reform movements, as well as the modern civil rights movement.”

In 1987, the week of celebration was expanded to National Women’s History month, and the month of March is now marked with different activities across the nation.

March 1 has been deemed Women’s History Month Family Day, while others also encourage and support multicultural women’s history standpoint by honoring not one culture, but women of diverse cultural, ethnic, job-related, race, and class backgrounds.

If you would like to learn about event hosting opportunities and how to get involved in National Women’s History month, you can visit the National Women’s History Project website at <http://www.nwhp.org/information/contact-us/>.

Every year there is a different theme for celebrating and unifying everyone in celebrating National Women History month.

This year’s theme will be: Weaving the Story of Women Lives. The purpose for this is based on the strong individual leaders in our world that shows what women can offer and do, and what our ancestors did before our time. These are very powerful stories to hear and teach to the next generation of women leaders.

In honor of this month and the strong women it celebrates, Saginaw MAX System of Care would like to take this time to recognize local community leaders who have led the charge for a better future for Saginaw’s youth and families.

Judge Faye Harrison of the 10th Circuit Court Family Division and Rita Truss, Director of Saginaw DHS, both said farewell at the end of 2014, after years of dedicated service and commitment to this community.

These women have been amazing role models and beyond, proving that hard work and passion can lead to many great opportunities for better lives.

We are so proud to have been able to build such strong relationships with these women leaders and we will miss their tenacity.

However, we are thrilled to be building new and promising relationships with the leaders who took their place – Judge Barb Meter and Shelly Marner.

We look forward to what the future holds for youth and families in our community under their leadership and could not be happier that young girls and women in Saginaw will continue to have strong, positive role models.

A Millennial Role Model for All Ages...



Tiffany Pruitt

Saginaw – Tenacity and progressiveness describe Tiffany L. Pruitt as she continues her path of serving her community and success in her journey of educational excellence.

Tiffany was born in Birmingham, Alabama to the late Leonard James and Debra Agee. After graduating from high school, she enlisted in the United States Army where she was a Chemical Operations Specialist.

Later moving to Midland then to Mt. Pleasant, Tiffany attended Central Michigan University, where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism and Public Relations and a Master's of Science degree in Education with an emphasis in Teaching and Learning.

Pruitt will complete a second Master's on May 9, 2015 from Central Michigan University in Educational Leadership, which will also certify her as a school principal.

In addition, she also have completed 42 of the required 60 doctorate level credit hours in Education and will jump back into her dissertation coursework after completing her principalship certification this summer.

Ms. Pruitt has worked for Saginaw Public Schools for almost 10 years serving in multiple roles which include, College & Community Access Coordinator, Academic Enrichment Specialist, 21st Century After- School Program Site Supervisor, English Language Arts Teacher, Strategic Reading Teacher and READ 180 Teacher.

Currently, she is the Safe & Supportive Schools Building Liaison at Saginaw High School, where she oversees student engagement, parent/community engagement, Restorative Justice Practices, making sure the school is bully-free and eliminating any barriers to learning for students, staff, and families.

During her career with Saginaw Public Schools, Pruitt has received state recognition for exceeding expectations of program requirements, and for active and successful student, parent

and community involvement services and events taking place under her leadership.

Before her career in education, Pruitt became one of the first full- time African- American news reporters for the Bay City Times Newspaper in which she wrote features for the True North session.

She also covered Township Government and Education as news beats, and received the Bay City Times Newsroom Writing Excellence Award during her stint at the paper.

With a vision for the future of the youth, Pruitt has led student groups such as the National Student Council, National Honor Society, Cougars for Change, and Journalism Club.

Pruitt also works closely with Faith Ministries Church under the leadership of Dr. Anthony and Dr. Linda as the senior and youth project dance coordinator, and is also a minister and the founder of F.I.G.H.T., which is an acronym for Finding Intelligent Good Honest Things in which she travels as a motivational speaker under the Independent Ministry.

She tutors struggling readers and writers of all ages and mentors many youth throughout the Tri-City Area.

Pruitt is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and a host of professional journalism and education professional organizations.

In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, her "Honey", godchildren, reading, writing poems and short stories, cooking and creative dance.



Tiffany L. Pruitt, Director, and the Silent Voices Mime Team who traveled throughout Michigan during a Black History Tour inspiring others through their dramatic interpretation of what it means to celebrate a great past and a great future.

The Michigan Banner

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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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Lifetime Achievement Honorees

The YWCA Lifetime Achievement Awards seek to honor women who have demonstrated a consistent lifetime of commitment to the well being of their community, are pioneers in women's leadership, continue to practice or promote women's leadership in their personal, professional or volunteer careers, and have demonstrated their support of the YWCA mission through their accomplishments and achievements.



Sheilda Braddock
Advisor to the Wickes Foundation/Community Liaison



Dot Hornsby
Retired School Teacher and Community Volunteer



Mary Neely
Lifetime Community Volunteer



Karen Tighe
Retired Bay County Probate Judge

Women of Achievement Honorees

The Women of Achievement Awards seek to honor women leaders who have made outstanding contributions to their organizations or communities through volunteer or professional activities.



Business
Heidi Bolger
Principal, Rehmann



Community Leader
Stacy Erwin Oakes
Owner, Erwin Properties



Entrepreneurship
Nichol Krupp
Owner, Krupp Photography



Education
Monica Reyes
Assoc. Dir. Center for Business & Economic Development, Saginaw Valley State University



Healthcare
Kay Wagner
Director of Quality, MidMichigan Health

Student Honorees

Emily Bagwell, Northwood University
Hillary Degner, Saginaw Valley State University

Tenesha Blair, Delta College
Alayna Smith, Central Michigan University



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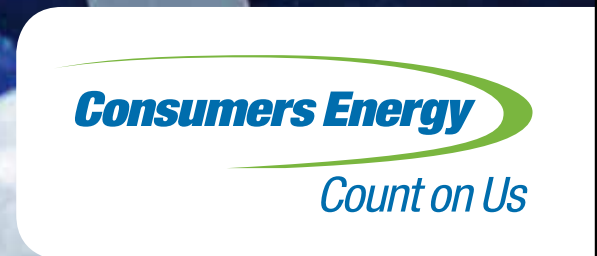
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6	\$63,940
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THE LATINO BANNER

Líder en la diversidad

Vamos Adelante

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Immigration Courts 'Operating In Crisis Mode,' Judges Say

By Richard Gonzalez
National Public Radio

Calif. - As Congress debates the fate of President Obama's immigration policies, the nation's immigration court system is bogged down in delays exacerbated by the flood of unaccompanied minors who crossed the southern border last summer.

The administration made it a priority for those cases to be heard immediately. As a result, hundreds of thousands of other cases have been delayed until as late as 2019.

Even before this past summer's surge of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum, the immigration courts were already clogged, says Judge Dana Leigh Marks, president of the National Association of Immigration Judges.

"What is an adjective that describes crisis squared?" she asks. "Crisis times crisis. We have been operating in crisis mode for years."

There were too many cases for too few judges, and adding in the cases of the unaccompanied minors only made matters worse. There are currently more than 429,000 cases pending in the courts with just 223 judges.

Marks, who does not speak for the Justice Department, says it's no longer the situation that the first case in is the first case heard.

"Now it's the last cases that come in, the recent border crossers — those cases are moved as it is to the front of the line," she says. "And that displaces cases that have been waiting on the dockets for months or years depending on the court location."

Lance Curtright, a San Antonio immigration lawyer, says his firm has hundreds of clients who are in limbo.

"Some of my clients would qualify to get a green card. They can't get it, so their pathway to citizenship is being delayed," he says. "The anxiety that they live through is just remarkable because they don't know if they are going to be deported or not. It trickles down to their family members, their spouses and their children as well."

This story is familiar to Enrique Arevalo, an immigration attorney based in Pasadena, Calif. He says some of his clients have been waiting years to legalize their status and need only a 15-minute hearing for a judge to finally sign off on their cases. But now they're told they'll have to wait indefinitely.

Arevalo says there's a simple solution. "Just like they hire more Border Patrol persons to patrol the border, they should hire more immigration judges to make this a more expeditious process," he says. "So, expeditious justice I don't think really exists when it comes to immigration law."

The Obama administration has proposed hiring more immigration judges, but that request is hung up in Congress.

As the delays mount, the immigration court system faces other problems. By prioritizing the cases of the unaccompanied minors, the administration fast-tracked their court hearings, creating a shortage of lawyers as legal service providers are swamped with cases.

According to federal records collected by Syracuse University, there are roughly 60,000 unaccompanied minors in the courts. Less than 30 percent have lawyers. Without a lawyer, a minor has a very slim chance of staying in this country.

And even those with a lawyer face another potential obstacle.

"Many of the children are actually never properly notified of the date when their court hearing is, and that problem has been going on for months," says Ahilan Arulanantham, an attorney with the ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project.

He says with the fast-tracking of cases, basic administrative processes — like providing minors and their families with adequate notice of their hearings — broke down.

"In many places, what judges are doing is they are ordering the children deported, in absentia, without them having appeared in the courtroom," he says. "And that is obviously extremely unfair when they didn't know about the court date to begin with."

Representatives of legal service providers have met with administration officials to discuss the problems of adequately notifying minors of their court dates. But no immediate solutions were offered.



People in Miami protest the Texas district judge who on Tuesday temporarily blocked the implementation of President Obama's executive actions on immigration.

Photo Credit: Joe Raedle/Getty Images

Community Leadership Shares Experiences at Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center Celebration

The Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, in Saginaw, on February 20, celebrated Black History Month with a special event and theme “A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture” with guest speaker, Major General (Retired) Adolph McQueen.



(L-R) Adam B. Gonzalez, Commander American GI Forum, Saginaw, MI Chapter, and Major General (Retired) Adolph McQueen, Jr., Guest Speaker. Photo Credit: Dr. Kia Smith, Ph.D



(L-R) Archia Jackson- Black Employment Program Manager/ Co-Chair Diversity Advisory Committee, Cheryl Biggens- Co-Chair Diversity Advisory Committee, Civil Rights Advisor, Major General (Retired) Adolph McQueen, Jr., Peggy Kearns- Director, Aleda E Lutz VA Medical Center. Contributing Photo

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

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2015 National Women's History Month Honoree

Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives

Vicki L. Ruiz (1955 –)
Educator and Pioneer in Latina History



*For me, history remains a grand adventure,
one which began at the kitchen table listening
to the stories of my mother and grandmother and
then took flight aboard the local bookmobile.*

Vicki Ruiz

The first in her family to receive any advanced degree, Vicki L. Ruiz earned a Ph.D in History at Stanford in June 1982. Two months later she showed up for her first teaching position with a baby on her hip and another on the way. Over the course of three decades, Ruiz has been a major force in shaping the field of Chicana history.

In 2012, when she became the first Latina historian inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Her commendation recognized her pioneering scholarship and leadership “skillfully blending insights from

the history of women, of workers, and from the arena of ethnic studies.” Ruiz has inspired generations of students and scholars to integrate this large and complex ethnic group into the broad tapestry of American history.

Over the course of three decades, Dr. Ruiz has published over fifty essays and one dozen books including Cannery Women, Cannery Lives and From Out of the Shadows: Mexican Women in Twentieth- Century America.

Her edited or co-edited collections include Unequal Sisters: An Inclusive Reader in U.S. Women's History and the three-volume, Latinas

in the United States: A Historical Encyclopedia.

Dedicated to the people whose lives she writes back into history, Ruiz, explains: “As a historian, I have had the privilege of interviewing people whose quiet courage made a difference in their lives and in their communities.”

A committed educator, Dr. Ruiz contributed to numerous public history projects, including documentaries, museum exhibits, oral history programs, high school workshops, and teacher seminars.

She is currently President-elect of the American Historical Association.

Source: <http://www.nwhp.org/>



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Intersection of Business & Wealth

Thank GM's Edward Welburn for That Car



Ed Welburn, (2nd from left) Vice President of Global Design for General Motors presents a check to Howard University and Lorraine Fleming, the dean of the College of Engineering, Architecture & Computer Sciences as Barron Harvey, the dean of the School of Business (far left) and Sherwin Prior, the managing director for GM Ventures look on.

Photo Credit: Tony Powell/GM

By Khari Arnold

Special to NNPA from Howard University News Service

Washington – If you love the sexy, sleekness of the Chevrolet Corvette, the elegance and luxury of the Cadillac Escalade, the cool truck/SUV look of the Chevrolet Avalanche or the pure brawn of the Hummer H2, you can thank Edward Welburn Jr.

Welburn is not exactly a household name, but for more than 20 years the Howard University graduate and one of the top executives for General Motors, has been overseeing the design of many of the world's top cars and winning awards and accolades, including from President Barack Obama.

For that work, Welburn, the vice president for General Motors Global Design, was honored recently as the Engineer of the Year by engineers from the automobile, space, science and technology industries at the 29th annual BEYA STEM Conference in Washington.

The conference is dedicated to building diversity in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields, an issue Welburn has led on during his 43-years in the automotive industry.

Welburn said while he has received many honors, BEYA's was truly special.

"It's still sinking in," he said. "To be recognized for something you love to do, and have fun doing, it's kind of cool. It's real cool."

To honor his alma mater and to aid increased diversity and curriculum development in the STEM field, Welburn presented an \$110,000 check to Howard University on behalf of General Motors.

"In achieving my goals, one of the defining chapters in my life was the time I spent at

SEE P 11, Thanks...

The Reality Store

Midland - The Reality Store located at 800 West Chapel Lane in Midland is a "packaged" program that helps students think about their future in terms of the financial resources they will need to support their desired lifestyle, and will be open March 10, 2015, 7:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Students are given a simulated checkbook, with a full month's salary for their chosen career, and then must visit various stations, paying the same types of bills that we all pay on a monthly basis: taxes, housing, transportation, child care, grocery, etc.

The students will discover whether or not their chosen occupation will support their desired lifestyle, and, at the end of the simulation, will visit with a professional to determine what changes they could have implemented to ensure a more positive financial outcome.

Volunteers from the business community are needed to staff the various stations in morning shifts and afternoon shifts. All information is provided to volunteers ahead of time; you don't need to develop or plan anything!

For additional information concerning the Reality Store, call 989.839.9901.

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SVSU Names Wierda to Lead STEM Initiatives Coordination

University Center, MI - Saginaw Valley State University has assigned a highly respected educator to coordinate SVSU's focus on improving STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education in the region. Carolyn Wierda has been named executive director of STEM@SVSU; in that position, she will convene those that are involved in STEM initiatives at SVSU.

"I'll be working with those involved in those programs on campus so we can collaborate and enhance our relationships with external partners," said Wierda, who has been serving as associate dean of SVSU's College of Education. "It's critically important for the university to take a lead in STEM because of the needed pipeline for the region's economy."

Recent exam results indicate a majority of local high school students are not considered college-ready in the STEM fields despite the growing emergence of job opportunities in related industries within the region.

Wierda also serves as chair of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance's education council and is one of three leaders for its STEM Impact Initiative.

She will continue in her role as co-director of the university's Gerstacker Fellowship program, a leadership development program for K-12 educators.

Prior to SVSU, Wierda enjoyed a distinguished career in K-12 education, concluding her K-12 career as superintendent of Bay City Public Schools, a post she held for five years. She also served as an assistant superintendent for Saginaw Township and Bay City.

Following five years as a classroom teacher in Ohio and Michigan, Wierda served as an elementary school principal for a combined 11 years in Merrill and Saginaw Township schools before moving into her other administrative roles.



Carolyn Wierda

SEE P 11, STEM Initiatives...



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FROM P 9, Thanks...

Howard University,” Welburn said. “There is hardly a day that goes by that I don’t think about the instructors and professors and the guidance that I received from them and what I learned.”

LaWanda Peace, the assistant dean of Howard’s College of Engineering, Architecture and Computer Sciences, said Welburn’s contribution by example and his donation can point more Howard students to STEM careers.

“It’s really important to get our young Black people into the STEM area,” Peace said. “STEM is where it is now. It really is.”

Peace added: “Back in 1972, when we first started trying to get young, Black people into

engineering, it probably wasn’t even 3 percent of the workforce that was Black at that time.”

When Welburn was 11, he wrote General Motors asking for information on how to become a car designer. Eleven years later, he joined General Motors as an associate designer in the Advanced Design Studios.

Welburn, who also interned at the company the summer before he graduated, would go on to become the first African-American designer at General Motors. In Welburn’s current position, every car that General Motors develops globally is created under his design direction.

Welburn, the highest-ranked African-American in the automotive industry, said he wants to see

more African-Americans and other people of color to follow on his path.

“I just want to see Black folks do well,” Welburn said. “I want to see them succeed. Car design was what I wanted, and I know there are people out there who have the same dreams, whether it’s car design or whatever it is that they’re interested in. We need to do everything we can to open doors and help them realize their dreams.”

Welburn concluded: “I know from my many years designing automobiles for General Motors is that having a diverse workforce has huge benefits in developing a design for a car.”

FROM P 10, STEM Initiatives...

Wierda completed a bachelor’s degree at Bucknell University, a master’s degree at Michigan State University, and additional graduate course work at SVSU.

In her new role, Wierda will work with STEM-gearred programs at SVSU. Those initiatives include the following:

- The Dow Corning Foundation/SVSU Community STEM Partnership, which provides professional development for K-12 STEM teachers.

- The Dow Science and Sustainability Education Center, a collaboration with Dow Chemical Co. to support increased educational outreach and research opportunities at SVSU.

- The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow STEM Scholar Network, a program promoting STEM-related research programs for middle school, high school and SVSU students.

- The STEM Program Manager office, which will connect the Dow Chemical Co. STEM ambassadors to area classroom teachers and students.

- The Consumers Energy Engineering Talent Development Program, which develops a pipeline of electrical engineers to meet the region’s energy industry needs.

- The SVSU Regional Mathematics and Science Center, which provides leadership, curriculum support, professional development and student services to educators in local school districts.

Wierda’s new appointment is effective immediately.

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Buena Vista Police Department

The 1st Session of the Buena Vista Citizens Police Academy Starts March 4, 2015

Buena Vista, MI – The role of a police officer has always been of interest to the average citizen. The film industry has capitalized on this curiosity and television shows and movies about police officers are staples in the entertainment industry, but how accurate is the information they provide about law enforcement?

The creation of the Buena Vista Citizens Police Academy will afford citizens the opportunity to learn about their local police department and take a behind the scenes look at what law enforcement work is all about.

Participants also gain an insider's knowledge of the police agency, enabling them to make informed decisions on issues affecting the police and the community.

Applications are currently being accepted for the FREE Buena Vista Citizens Police Academy, scheduled to begin on March 4, 2015. Participants must be 18 years of age or older and a resident of Buena Vista or work in Buena Vista.

“The Citizens Police Academy is a free program for our community which is intended to increase the understanding and cooperation between the police and our community members,” said Robert Schulz, Buena Vista Chief of Police.

“This education, along with the relationship established with members of the Police Department, assists in achieving the ultimate goal of community oriented policing – the reduction of crime through a stronger citizen commitment to the Police Department and the community.”

The 16-hour program format includes practical demonstrations, hands-on exercises, as well as presentations.

“When the Chief and I started to discuss the possibility of the Academy, it was my feeling this would be an excellent way to develop and build positive relationships with the community and the Police Department.

“Given the fact that we are a smaller community, it's very possible to have a personal relationship with our officers,” stated Gregory K. Carter, Board Trustee. “I admire and respect the fact Chief Schulz wants to do this and the Board supports this initiative.”

Classes are scheduled on Wednesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., March 4 through April 22, 2015. The first class will meet at the Buena Vista Township Police Department. Citizens interested in attending need to register with the Buena Vista Police Department by calling 989-753-7793 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Robert Schulz, Chief of Police (989) 753-7793.



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NCUA **LENDER**

The Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council Names New President

By Jessica Byrd
The Michigan Chronicle

The Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council (MMSDC) (<http://www.minoritysupplier.org>) has announced Michelle Sourie Robinson as the new president/CEO. She replaces Louis Green, who resigned to start a new venture in December, 2014.

Robinson brings a wealth of experience, having spent thirteen years at Home Depot where she created their first supplier diversity department and supporting strategy, before founding Give & Receive, a non-profit organization that connects individuals and corporations to various charities.

In her role at Home Depot, Michelle also led the varied functions in support of the company's multi-billion dollar Government Services Administration contract.

As she and her team drove this strategic business focus, her primary responsibilities included the sourcing and development of women-owned, minority-owned and small businesses, the training and support of over 400 product and service buyers, as well as multi-level outreach activities on behalf of the entire Home Depot enterprise.

Her corporate career includes two of the world's largest \$70 Billion plus organizations; having

begun as the youngest and first African-American attorney employed by Wal-Mart as Corporate Counsel, and ending after twenty years of professional service while being widely-regarded as one of the top in her field.

"We are privileged to have Michelle in this role," said Steve Kiefer, GM vice president of Global Purchasing and Supply Chain. "She brings great value and expertise which will benefit the MMSDC at every level."

A native of Oklahoma, Michelle earned her B.S. in Organizational Administration from Oklahoma State University and holds a J.D. from the University of Kansas.

She has served on numerous boards, including but not limited to National Minority Supplier Development Council, National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, as well as Women's Business Enterprise National Council for which she was a member of the Executive Committee, and Diversity Information Resources where she served as Vice-Chair.

She was active within her church and community where she chaired the strategic planning committee, serves on the Howard University School of Communications Board of Visitors, Southern University MBA Advisory

Board, and was an active member of Leadership Atlanta.

She and her husband have relocated from Atlanta to the metropolitan Detroit area, and look forward to becoming part of the corporate and community fabric of the community.



Michelle Sourie Robinson

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Horn, Moolenaar Present Frankenmuth Students with Rotary Club's 'Volunteers of the Year' Award

LANSING—The Frankenmuth Morning Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at Zehnders of Frankenmuth for breakfast at 6:45 a.m., and meetings begin at 7 a.m. Visit www.fmrotary.com for more information.



State Sen. Ken Horn, R-Frankenmuth, (right) U.S. Rep. John Moolenaar (center) and Frankenmuth Schools Superintendent Mary Anne Ackerman (left) presented the "Frankenmuth Morning Rotary Club Youth Volunteers of the Year" award at the club's weekly breakfast meeting to this year's winners: Mark Sylvester and Abigail Vaughn of Frankenmuth High School.

Photo Credit: Karen Zehnder at Rummel Studios

Your Book, Your Community

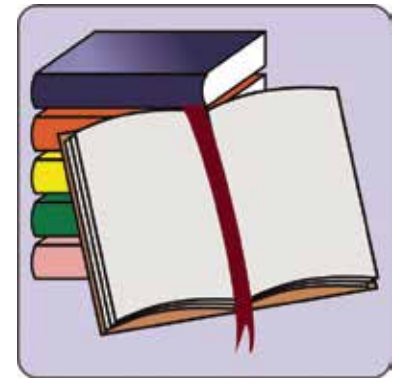
Saginaw - This year, the Public Libraries of Saginaw wants you to tell us what your favorite book is. We're calling this event Your Book, Your Community and we want to hear your voice.

Throughout the winter and early spring, the Public Libraries of Saginaw will be offering all community members the chance to share what book changed their life and why.

Children, tweens, teens, and adults... individuals and families... all members of our community... we invite you to take a moment to share your story on camera to be included in a video montage of community readers which will be shown at the April 18 event.

If you would like to share your story, visit Wickes Library, 1713 Hess, on Monday, March 30, anytime between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

If you're camera-shy, but want to leave written testimony for us to share, email Kim at Hoyt Library at kwhite@saginawlibrary.org or use #saginawlibrary on your social media post about your book.



U-M is No. 8 Biggest Producer of Peace Corps Volunteers

By William Foreman
Associate Director of
International Communications
University of Michigan

Ann Arbor—The University of Michigan was the eighth-largest producer of Peace Corps volunteers last year, with 51 undergraduate alumni serving around the world, the agency has announced.

The university also ranked No. 5 on the Peace Corps' list of the top-producing graduate schools, with 12 alumni working on sustainable development projects in agriculture, community economic development, education, environment, health and youth development.

U-M has a long history with the agency that was created in 1961, and this is the 15th consecutive year the institution has earned a spot on the annual list.

President John F. Kennedy first proposed the Peace Corps while speaking at the university, and U-M is the fourth all-time producer of volunteers, with 2,596 alumni having served in the agency.

"The Peace Corps provides an indispensable opportunity for young people out of college to

put their unique skills to work making a difference for communities around the world," Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet said.

"Volunteers make lasting change by living and working at the grassroots level in their communities of service and using their talents to tackle some of the most critical challenges in international development."

U-M alumna Genevieve James is serving in the Peace Corps in the West African nation of Ghana as a health, water and sanitation volunteer.

She has worked with a primary school to build a garden that provides fresh vegetables to 600 students. James also promotes proper sanitation and using treated bed nets to prevent malaria.

"The biggest thing that pushed me to joining Peace Corps is that I wanted a challenge," said James, who earned a degree in social anthropology with a minor in African studies in 2011.

"I wanted to do something that was difficult, would make me think outside the box, and was the opposite of the comforts I had in the U.S."

Nationally, the University of Washington pulled in the highest number of volunteers with 72 graduates currently serving in the Peace Corps. The University of Wisconsin was No. 2 with

69 and the University of Florida was third with 66.

The Peace Corps works with U-M to host two on-campus recruiters: Benjamin Morse, who served in Ethiopia, and Katie Collins, who served in Ukraine. They can be reached at 734-647-2182 and peace.corps@umich.edu.



U-M alumna and Peace Corps volunteer Genevieve James gathers with teachers at an incinerator they built for the primary school in her community in northern Ghana. *Image courtesy: Peace Corps*



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson
Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early
Head Start Program Director

NHSA Annual Head Start Conference



NHSA's Annual Head Start Conference and Expo is the largest national event devoted to the Head Start and Early Head Start community. This year more than 5,000 executive directors, directors, administrators, managers, teachers, policy council members, and parents from every state will gather in Washington, D.C. March 29 - April 2, 2015. Visit www.nhsa.org for conference details and registration.

March 29 - April 2, 2015. Visit www.nhsa.org for conference details and registration.

About Saginaw ISD HS/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 of your questions and make every effort to ensure you are 100% satisfied.

“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 Head Start
Claytor Administrative Building
3200 Perkins Street * Saginaw MI 48601
989.752.2193 * 989.921.7146 Fax

Office Hours:

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Wednesday: 8 AM – 4:30 PM
Thursday: 8 AM – 4:30 PM
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: Closed

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org

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Top 5 Tips for Reducing Risk of Kidney Disease

NY - The kidneys work ‘round the clock to filter 200 liters of blood each day, removing two liters of toxins, wastes and water in the process.

Below are 5 tips to reduce your risk of kidney disease according to the National Kidney Organization.

Consider your lifestyle habits. Following a healthy diet and exercising regularly is an important element of kidney disease prevention.

Maintaining healthy blood pressure and blood sugar levels is a critical way to prevent kidney disease and slow its progression. To lower blood pressure and protect your kidneys, reduce your salt intake and watch for high sodium levels in processed foods.

Get tested. If you’re the one in three Americans who is at increased risk for kidney disease due to high blood pressure, diabetes or a family history of kidney failure, it’s important to get your kidneys checked during your annual physical. There are two simple tests to check for kidney disease:

A urine test for albumin, a type of protein. When there is too much protein in the urine, it means that the kidneys’ filters have been damaged and are starting to leak protein. Albuminuria – or too much protein in the urine – is one of the earliest signs of kidney damage.

A blood test for creatinine. Creatinine is a natural muscle by product and this measurement is used to calculate your estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR). The eGFR tests how well the kidneys are filtering wastes from the blood.

Weigh in. Maintaining a healthy weight has important implications for your kidneys. When you are obese, the kidneys have to work harder to filter out toxins and to meet the metabolic demands of the increased body mass index (BMI), increasing your risk of developing kidney disease.

Obesity also increases your chance of developing diabetes and high blood pressure, two major risk

factors for kidney disease. Weight loss can help reduce your risk of developing kidney disease.

Be alert when taking meds. Many prescription and over-the-counter medications, including pain medications, are filtered by the kidneys. This means that your kidneys break down and remove these medications from the body.

Always read labels and weigh the risks and benefits of taking a particular medication. Avoid excessive use of medications that can harm the kidneys, such as ibuprofen and naproxen.

Commit to quit. Smoking can worsen kidney disease and diseases that damage the kidneys, such as diabetes and high blood pressure.

Quitting can be difficult, but it is one of the most important lifestyle changes that you can make to protect your kidneys and impact your overall health.

Be sure to check with your physician about any concerns you may have regarding your kidney health.

Source: <https://www.kidney.org>



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Social Security Helps People with Kidney Disease



Vonda VanTil

By Vonda VanTil, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Grand Rapids - Social Security wants to help spread the word about the importance of kidney health and what to do if you think you or a loved one has a kidney-related disability.

Kidney disease prevents your kidneys from cleansing your blood to their full potential. Did you know that one out of three Americans is currently at high risk for developing kidney disease?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 20 million Americans have chronic kidney disease, and most of them don't even know it.

Ebie is a prime example. Ebie was an emergency room worker with an active life at work, home, and in his community. He had no idea he had developed a kidney condition until one day he felt ill while driving to work and had to call a coworker for help.

Our Faces and Facts of Disability website features Ebie's story. He says people who receive Social Security disability benefits "can provide for themselves better and have a high quality of life."

As Ebie explains, many people with kidney diseases can greatly increase their quality of

life with Social Security benefits. You can learn more about Ebie's story at www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts.

If a kidney disease such as end-stage renal disease (known as ESRD) requires chronic dialysis and prevents you from working, Social Security may be able to help you.

If you're undergoing dialysis, have had a kidney transplant, have persistent low creatinine clearance levels, or have persistent high serum creatinine levels, you may qualify for disability and/or Medicare benefits.

You can find more information about eligibility based on kidney disease and the benefits available to you by reading our publications, Disability Benefits and Medicare, both available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

If you think you may be eligible for Social Security disability benefits based on a kidney disease, please do not wait. Go to www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityssi, where you can apply for benefits online.

Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp St NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov

Researchers have found that
people with gum disease
are almost **twice as likely** to
suffer from coronary
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— American Academy of Periodontology

If you would like additional information concerning gum disease and coronary heart disease, contact:

Jack Weston Nash, DDS, AGD Fellow,
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Saginaw MAX At-A-Glance



Saginaw MAX System of Care is a partnership of all of the youth and family-serving agencies that can provide the necessary care to youth with complex emotional and behavioral issues (sometimes referred to as Serious Emotional Disturbance or SED). It was designed to provide a tightly coordinated structure of care and eliminate gaps in service delivery.

221 YOUTH ENROLLED

To date, 221 youth and families have been enrolled into Saginaw MAX System of Care since the initiative began accepting referrals in 2011.

Better School Performance 75%

Seventy five percent of youth and families reported a maintained or improved school performance after twelve months of System of Care support.

23% Decreased Bullying

After twelve months of System of Care support, 23% of youth and families reported a decrease of bullying or threatening behaviors.

Decrease in "Acting Out Behaviors" 25%

Following twelve months of support from System of Care, 24% of youth and families reported a decrease in "acting out behaviors" such as difficulties with relationships and rule breaking as well as displays of irritability and belligerence.

CORE PRINCIPLES

- All planning and service delivery is family-driven and youth-guided.
- Agencies and programs are equally able to serve all people who need service, regardless of racial, ethnic, language or cultural differences.
- Public and private agencies are all working together for the benefit of the youth and his or her family.
- All care is designed for the individual, and evidence and scientific based - meaning its application is rooted in solid research and is based on proven results.

TARGET POPULATIONS

Saginaw MAX is designed to help young people with complex emotional and behavioral challenges and their families. You may be eligible for participation if you or your child:

- is six to 17 years of age
- has emotional or behavioral issues that interfere with or limit the child's role or functioning in the family, school or community activities
- is receiving mental health services and one or more of the following:
 - special education
 - juvenile justice
 - child protective services (voluntary or involuntary)

WHAT IS SED?

Mental illness in youth, or as you may hear it called, Serious Emotional Disturbance, is a diagnosable mental, behavioral or emotional disorder affecting someone under the age of 18. It must:

- exist or have existed within the past year
- exist or have existed long enough to meet the American Psychiatric Association's diagnostic criteria
- have resulted in functional impairment that interferes with or limits the child's role or functioning in family, school or community activities

Serving the Medical Community at Large



Archia Jackson

Saginaw - A lifelong resident of Saginaw, Archia Jackson graduated in the top 20 of her class from Buena Vista High School in 1990.

After obtaining a nursing degree from Great Lakes College, now Davenport University, she continued to pursue her education and received a Bachelors Degree in Management & Organizational Development from Spring Arbor University, and a Master's Degree in Science Administration with a concentration in Health Care Administration from Central Michigan University.

Throughout her nursing career, she has provided nursing services through many avenues to include Covenant Health Care, 17 years, where she served in many capacities in orthopedic medicine, medical pulmonary, and emergency medicine as Charge Nurse until she decided

to join the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center for 7 years.

Jackson also worked at Health Source Saginaw for 9 years as an on-call Administrative Nursing Supervisor, staff nurse in mental health and in substance abuse, and remains active in bedside nursing from time-to-time providing services through agency staffing for Select Specialty Care in Saginaw.

Currently, she is the Nurse Manager for Specialty Care Services for the VA Medical Center where she leads a total of 43 nurses in the diverse clinics, and a certified Independent Basic Life Support (BLS) Instructor in which she serves the Saginaw Community contributing some of her time to Hospital Education at the VA.

Jackson is presently the President of the Saginaw VA's Employee Association which provides perks to hospital staff by engaging them in activities to increase morale and opportunities to participate and serve in community-wide events such as lead for the Memorial Day Parade, Holiday parties, children's holiday parties, etc.

She is also the Black Employment Program Manager and Co-Chair's the Diversity Advisory Committee. As a member of the committee, she provides internal and outreach services to the African-American community and other ethnic groups on how to obtain medical benefits as a Veteran, informs employees and potential employees on employment opportunities as

well as educating staff on diversity issues in an effort to improve cultural awareness.

In 2011, Jackson was selected as one of two Veteran Integrated Service Network (VISN 11) Trainers for Special Emphasis Program Managers (SEPM), and in August 2014 she was recognized as Diversity Supervisor of the Year locally for Saginaw and for the VISN.

Jackson also serves as President of the Saginaw Chapter, Black Nurses Association, Inc. The Saginaw Black Nurses Association (SBNA) is the local chapter of the National Black Nurses Association, Inc., and was established in 1971, dedicated to improving health outcomes for those who are underserved or who face barriers for access to health care.

The Association also donates various goods to the Saginaw County local shelters and has recently collaborated with a prescription assistance program that will assist underserved individuals in receiving medications at a discounted rate.

Jackson is a member of Top Ladies of Distinction and serves on the Executive Board as the Secretary for the National Sorority Phi Delta Kappa, Gamma Kappa Chapter, Inc. She is also a youth advisor for the Gamma Kappa Kudos.

Married to her high school sweetheart Otis W. Jackson II for 19.5 years, they have two children, LaTia, a Senior at Eastern Michigan University, and Otis W. Jackson III, Junior at Heritage High School.

What is Chronic Fatigue Syndrome?

By Mayo Clinic Staff

Minn - Chronic fatigue syndrome is a complicated disorder characterized by extreme fatigue that can't be explained by any underlying medical condition. The fatigue may worsen with physical or mental activity, but doesn't improve with rest.

The cause of chronic fatigue syndrome is unknown, although there are many theories — ranging from viral infections to psychological stress. Some experts believe chronic fatigue syndrome might be triggered by a combination of factors.

There's no single test to confirm a diagnosis

of chronic fatigue syndrome. You may need a variety of medical tests to rule out other health problems that have similar symptoms. Treatment for chronic fatigue syndrome focuses on symptom relief.

In general, see your doctor if you have persistent or excessive fatigue.

Praise Connections & Life

Why American 'Soldier of Christ' Is Taking on ISIS

VA. - He calls himself a "Soldier of Christ," and he's back in Iraq battling ISIS on the front lines.

The man, identified only as Brett, is a 28-year-old U.S. Army Iraq war veteran. For the safety of his family, he's requested that his last name remain unknown.

Brett returned to Iraq six months ago to join a Christian militia fighting ISIS. He's involved in a battle near Mosul.

"I may not know them before, but they're my people -- the Assyrian Christians of this world -- they're indigenous to this part of the

world," Brett said. "People are hell-bent on erasing them in the history."

"People ask me, 'Why you?' I come back, and I say, 'Why not? Why just me? Where's everyone else at?'" he told ABC News.

"Jesus says, you know, 'What you do unto the least of them, you do unto me,'" he added. "I take that very seriously."

Brett said he has a price on his head but says it's in God's hands and God's will. He believes God has equipped him with many tools to fight ISIS.

Source: CBNNews.com



Army veteran Brett, 28, who requested that ABC News not use his last name to protect his family back home, has been fighting against ISIS in Iraq to protect the Christians and others in this part of Iraq who have been terrorized by the militant group's onslaught.

Photo Credit: ABC News

Saginaw Community HIV/AIDS Task Force Observes National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS

Saginaw – The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS begins Sunday, March 1, 2015. Faith-based institutions in the community will join thousands of faith communities across the nation in observance of the National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS in an effort to bring attention and awareness to the AIDS epidemic here in Saginaw County.

HIV and AIDS is our problem! Solutions to ending this health disparity will require a unified effort. With local spikes in mother to child transmission and disproportionate numbers of young African Americans receiving a new HIV diagnosis, we cannot stand by and do nothing.

There are about 8,240 people fighting to survive an AIDS diagnosis here in Michigan and in the country HIV infection remains as one the leading causes of death among persons 25 to 44 years old, particularly among African Americans.

Take action by participating in a Prayer and worship service as part of the National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS Wednesday, March 4, 2015. The Sponsoring Church is St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Pastor Judy Boli. The service will be from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 2720 Tuscola, in Saginaw. To close the week there will be Free Confidential HIV testing offered after the normal Sunday service on March 8, 2015.

In addition, HIV Testing will be offered Free of charge Monday, March 2, to Friday March 6, 2015 at the Hearth Home located at 732 Hoyt. Testing will be from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily and all persons 13 years of age and older are welcome to participate.

For more information, contact the Hearth Home at 989-753-9011, or email dverdun@healthdelivery.org



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6200 STATE STREET, SAGINAW MI 48603
TICKETS: \$30 PER PERSON

Women's Day Service
Sunday, March 8 | 11AM

VICTORIOUS BELIEVERS MINISTRIES
624 SOUTH OUTER DRIVE | SAGINAW MI 48601

Evang. Ruth C. Pryor, WOV Director | Pastor & Mrs. Christopher V. Pryor, Hosts | VictoriousBelievers.com | facebook.com/VBMnation

FAITH BASED DIRECTORY

Saginaw

Bethel AME Church
 Pastor P. David Saunders
 535 Cathay St.
 Saginaw, MI 48601
 (989) 755-7011

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

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 Founder Pastor Eddie Benson
 Pastor Genevieve Benson
 3317 Lapeer Street
 Saginaw, MI 48601
 (989) 754-2444

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 818 N. Washington Ave.
 Saginaw, MI 48601
 (989) 754-4435

Corinthian Baptist Church
 Pastor Roy L. Manning
 104 S. 10th St.
 Saginaw, MI 48601
 (989) 754-1820

Faith Harvest Church
 Bishop Ronald E. Chipp
 Faith Harvest Church
 1734 N. Mason
 Saginaw, MI 48602
 (989) 799-4200
 Website: www.faithharvestministry.org
 E-mail: office@faithharvestministry.org

Grace Chapel Church
 Pastor James Nelson
 2202 Janes Ave.
 Saginaw, MI 48601
 989.755.3212

Greater Williams Temple
 Bishop H.J. Williams
 608 Remington
 Saginaw, MI 48601
 (989) 755-5291

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

Life In Christ Ministries
 Pastor Dennis Cotton, Sr.
 2915 S. Washington Ave.
 Saginaw, MI 48601
 989-752-2837
LifelnChristMinistries07@gmail.com

Messiah Missionary Baptist Church
 2615 Williamson Road
 Saginaw, MI 48601
 Pastor Otis Washington
 Phone: 989-777-2636
 Fax: 989-777-2640
 Email: Messiahmbc@att.net
 Website: www.Messiahsag.org

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

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

New Birth Missionary Baptist
 Pastor Larry D. Camel
 1418 S. Warren
 Saginaw, MI 48601
 (989) 755-6604

New Covenant Christian Center
 Pastor Ron Frierson
 523 Hayden
 Saginaw, MI
 752-8485

New Life Baptist Church
 Pastor Rufus Bradley
 1401 Janes St.
 Saginaw, MI 48601
 (989) 753-1151

New Mt Calvary Baptist Church
 Pastor Robert E. Donald
 3610 Russell St.
 Saginaw, MI 48601
 989.754.0801

Ninth Street Community Church
 Pastor William L. Scott, Jr.
 Assistant Pastor Rex Jones
 1118 N. 9th Street
 Saginaw, MI 48601
 989-752-7366

Prince of Peace Baptist Church
 825 North 24th Street
 Saginaw, MI 48601
 989.754.2841
 Pastor Robert B. Corley, Jr.

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
 Pastor Connie Sassanella
 915 Federal Avenue
 Saginaw, MI 48607
 Phone: 989-754-0489
 Worship: 9:30 AM
stjohnlutheranelcasaginaw.weebly.com

St. Paul Baptist
 Pastor Vincent D. McMillon
 120 N. 15th St.
 Saginaw, MI 48601
 (989) 752-5023

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

St. Lukes CME Church
 1121 Tuscola
 Saginaw, MI 48607
 (989) 755-0351

The Potters Touch Ministries
 Pastor Kareem J. Bowen
 1402 North 6th Street
 Saginaw, MI 48601
 989.755.9406
[Facebook.com/The Potters Touch](https://www.facebook.com/ThePottersTouch)

Transforming Life Ministries
 Pastor William Brown
 3024 South Washington Avenue
 Saginaw, MI 48601-4353
 (989) 754-9573

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

Victorious Believers Ministries Church
 Rev. Christopher V. Pryor
 624 S. Outer Dr.
 Saginaw, MI
 (989) 755-7692

Wolverine Baptist State Convention
 615 S. Jefferson Ave.
 Saginaw, MI 48607

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

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



Obituaries and Memorials

To Celebrate a Life

Call 989.753.3475, or email themichiganbanner@gmail.com

Subject: Being a Christian

By Buster Harper

*When I say..."I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting "I'm clean livin'."
I'm whispering "I was lost.
Now I'm found and forgiven."*

*When I say..."I am a Christian"
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
And need Christ to be my guide.*

*When I say..."I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak
And need His strength to carry on.*

*When I say..."I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
And need God to clean my mess.*

*When I say..."I am a Christian"
I'm not claiming to be perfect,
My flaws are far too visible
But, God believes I am worth it.*

*When I say..."I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches
So I call upon His name.*

*When I say ..."I am a Christian"
I'm not holier than thou,
I'm just a simple sinner
Who received God's good grace*

All are Welcome to Easter Preparation Services

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
Pastor Connie Sassanella
915 Federal Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48604
989.754.0489



March 4, 11, 18, 25, 2015 Wednesdays Worship 7 p.m.
April 2, 2015 (Maundy Thursday) Worship 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.
April 3, 2015 (Good Friday) Worship 12 pm & 7 pm
April 5, 2015 (Easter) Worship 9:30 am

Women of the Pearl

Women of the Pearl

Matthew 13:45-46 says, "Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."

Jesus, like the merchant, gave everything to call us his own. He wants to spend eternity with those he has redeemed. Uganda is nicknamed 'The Pearl of Africa' and women in this country desperately need to hear how precious they are to the Kingdom.

Women in Uganda desire to grow in their relationship with the Lord but resources are limited. Our hope is to empower women by educating them in literacy, agriculture, business ownership, hygiene, nutrition and ministry leadership. Through collaboration and partnerships, the women in Uganda will find a renewed hope rooted in faith. They will become equipped to make disciples and spread the love of Jesus to their congregations and villages. In addition, they will learn the skills needed to provide more consistently for their families.

Discipleship

Edith is passionate about teaching the Word. After one seminar on teaching the faith, Edith went back to her village and began sharing what she learned. She has visited over 12 villages, and planted more than 5 congregations. In addition to her passion for



growing the Kingdom, she also teaches practical skills like how to build fuel saving stoves and how to make handcrafts to generate an income. She joyfully shows the love of Jesus through her actions.

Innovation and the Entrepreneurial Spirit!

Want to see an example of what can be done using discipline and creative thinking? Margaret took 30,000 schillings (\$11.50 USD) and purchased drums and animals. With the drums she teaches faith through music and dance to the youth of her congregation. The animals help generate income and she used the proceeds as capital to start a business in handcrafts; like making paper bead necklaces. Thinking outside the box is critical to helping these women change their cycle of poverty and Margaret is paving the way!



Leadership



Jane is the catalyst for women's ministry and serves on the Board of Directors for the Lutheran Church Mission in Uganda (LCMU). She passionately desires to impact the lives of women for a brighter and more self-sustained future of service to one another and the Church. She runs her own shop in Masindi and her gift in leadership is key to the success of Women of the Pearl.

Empowerment

Role models can leave long-lasting impressions. Violet has demonstrated strength, intelligence and a servant's heart to hundreds of Ugandan women. Joy emanates from her smile and compassion flows from her heart. She acts not only as an advocate and translator, but also educates women in the areas of hygiene, nutrition and child care. Her motivation comes from a desire to serve her Lord and a little from her obsession with chocolate!



Partner with Us

Will you prayerfully consider contributing to the exciting work God is doing in Uganda through women's ministry? All donations are used to fund Women of the Pearl and checks should be made payable to "Our Savior Lutheran" (please include "Women of the Pearl" in the memo line). Women of the Pearl is blessed to partner with Our Savior Lutheran Church in McKinney, Texas to ensure your contributions are tax deductible. Mail contributions to:

Our Savior Lutheran Church
Attn: Women of the Pearl
2708 Virginia Parkway
McKinney, TX 75071



E-mail us:
womenofthepearl@gmail.com

Follow "Women of the Pearl" on Facebook

www.womenofthepearl.org

The “Carnegie Hall or Bust” Fundraiser

Part 2

By Mel and Pearl Shaw
Saad & Shaw Comprehensive Fund
Development Services



Dr. Todd Robinson

Dr. Todd Robinson is a navy pilot and flight surgeon, author, film producer, medical school faculty member, and a practicing physician. He is an MD and a Ph.D. But until now there was one area in which he had no experience: fundraising.

Here’s the background: Getting ready for the world premiere of renowned composer Earnestine Rodgers Robinson’s oratorio “Exodus” required fundraising.

Dr. Robinson, Mrs. Robinson’s eldest son, and family members needed to raise \$140,000 to \$170,000 to bring 200 diverse choir members to New York City’s Carnegie Hall. The family organized supporters as Chicago Voices United. But, surprisingly, not as an independent 501c3 organization.

“One of the FUNdraising Good Times! articles talked about being creative in looking for funding sources as it pertained to nonprofits. This was very encouraging as we struggled in the early phases.

“Initially, we used personal funds and a loan as start-up capital for Chicago Voices United. But we quickly realized that we needed the nonprofit status to be more attractive for donations,” Dr. Robinson shared.

Instead of becoming a 501c3 organization, Dr. Robinson asked an existing nonprofit if Chicago Voices United could become a “sponsored project” of that nonprofit. The answer was yes, and months of paperwork and filing fees were saved, allowing the group to focus on their goal: fundraising for choir members.

They launched a website, www.ChicagoVoicesUnited.org, and attempted crowdsource funding, website marketing, and social media, but found each to be “extremely ineffective.”

“We decided to go a different approach. Like the article I read and resonated with, we had to get creative with our fundraising,” Dr. Robinson shared. “As a result, we decided to pursue industries/companies directly involved in our fundraising needs, such as hotels and airlines based in Chicago. We figured it would be easier for a company to donate their time or services to a homegrown project instead of just forking over cash.”

The results? “Requesting donations in the way of services, we quickly landed a sponsorship from Hyatt, who made a donation in the form *SEE P 28, The Carnegie Hall or Bust Fundraiser*

SAVE THE DATE

**Jeans
Jewels
& Jazz**

CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH FUNDRAISER

Saturday, April 11, 2015
10:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Horizons Conference Center

Sponsored by: Tri-City Chapter, The Links, Incorporated

Proceeds will benefit Great Lakes Bay Regional S.T.E.M. Programs and Other Community Service Projects

Enjoy a Delicious Brunch, Live Jazz and R&B Champagne Raffle for Jewels and much more

Donation: **\$50 per ticket**
Make checks payable to: Tri-City (MI) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated

“Just as partnership is the heart of a fruitful relationship with God, so partnership is the heart of Habitat for Humanity.”

~ Clive Rainey, Habitat’s first, and longest serving, volunteer



Inside the ReStore

“Seeking to put God’s love into action, Saginaw Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.”

Saginaw - Donations of furniture and appliances are always needed. They go like hotcakes. Other donations such as new and used building materials are always appreciated.

ReStore Saginaw helps us fulfill our mission in various ways. First, ReStore Saginaw is the place many go to find what

they need for their home. They would rather see what we have than go to a big box store to purchase the item new at retail prices. Someone else will buy it and give it a home and use the item for years to come.

Second, it gives landlords and homeowners a low-cost option to repairs to their homes.

Finally, it generates income for Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity’s mission. We believe in being environmentally

committed to reducing waste in landfills. Instead of throwing it away where it ends up in a landfill, throw it our way.

If you haven’t been to the ReStore recently, we invite you to come and take a look. You never know what you’ll find, it’s a new store every time.

The ReStore is located at 315 W. Holland Ave., and the hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For additional information, or to donate items call 989.754.9435.

FROM P 27, The Carnegie Hall or Bust Fundraiser of “discounted” room prices; and in the world of expensive hotel rates of downtown Manhattan, this was a big win.

Now, the price of lodging during the concert event was more within reasonable reach of our average choir member,” Dr. Robinson continued. “This also made it easier for us to recruit choir members. Recently, United Airlines have expressed interest in making a donation of its services.”

A January “sneak preview” of Exodus in Chicago was well-received and part of the Robinsons’ fundraising strategy: potential donors and influencers had the opportunity to experience the oratorio and become inspired. Follow up meetings are in progress as we go to press.

Dr. Robinson’s advice: “Constantly monitor your efforts with a critical eye; be adaptive and flexible enough to quickly change directions if

needed; and think creative.”

You can donate at www.chicagovoicesunited.org, or by calling Dr. Robinson at 901-414-3366, or contact him by email at info@chicagovoicesunited.org

Mel and Pearl Shaw position nonprofits, colleges and universities for fundraising success. For help with your fundraising visit www.saadandshaw.com or call (901) 522-8727. Copyright 2015– Mel and Pearl Shaw

NON PROFIT DIRECTORY

A. Philip Randolph Institute
P.O. Box 1107
Saginaw, MI 48606

American Red Cross
1232 N. Michigan
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-754-8181

CAN Council Saginaw County
1311 N. Michigan Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48602
(989) 752-7226 / fax (989) 752-2777
www.cancouncil.org

Circle of Love
1809 Durand Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-754-2377

Emmaus House of Saginaw
733 S. 15th Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-755-7538

THE EZEKIEL PROJECT
ezekielprojectnow@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 3470
Saginaw, MI 48605-3470
Phone: 989-755-1620
Fax: 989-755-4038

First Ward Community Center
1410 N. 12th Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-0411

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan
5470 Davis Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48604
989-799-9565

Good Neighbors Mission
1318 Cherry Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-399-9918

Health Delivery, Inc.
501 Lapeer Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-759-6400

Houghton-Jones Task Force
1708 Johnson Street
Saginaw, MI
989-752-1660

Lighthouse Outreach Center
808 Janes Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-928-9096

Mobile Medical Response
834 S. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989.758.2900

Michigan Banner Outreach
1400 W. Genesee
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-714-2240

Pit and Balcony Theatre
805 N. Hamilton
Saginaw, MI 48602
www.pitandbalconytheatre.com
989-754-6587
pitandbalconytheatre@yahoo.com

Public Libraries of Saginaw
Butman-Fish, Hoyt,
Wickes & Zauel Libraries
505 Janes Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-755-0904
www.saginawlibrary.org

Restoration Community Outreach
1205 Norman
Saginaw, MI 48601
(989) 753-1886 / fax (989) 753-2880
Email: rcosag@yahoo.com

Saginaw County Business
& Education Partnership
1213 South Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989.399.0016

Saginaw County Community Action
Agency, Inc. (CAC)
2824 Perkins Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-7741

SVRC Industries, Inc.
919 Veterans Memorial Parkway
Saginaw MI, 48601
Telephone: 989-752-6176

The Saginaw Community Foundation
1 Tuscola, Suite 100
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-755-0545

Women of Colors
P.O. Box 5525
Saginaw, MI 48603
989-399-9275 or 989-737-9286

Community Financial Literacy News

Financial Tips from Team One Credit Union: Q&A



Andrea Sanchez
Community Development Specialist
Team One Credit Union

Knowing how to effectively manage your finances is key to reaching your financial goals. Here are a few tips to help you brush up on your basic skill knowledge of managing your finances.

1. Does carrying a balance on your credit card help your credit?

Responsible use of a credit card can help you build a positive credit history and credit

score. However, you don't need to carry a balance to do that. Instead of paying more in interest charges, try to pay the balance in full each month and avoid closing your credit cards, especially if you've had them open for a long time.

2. If you want to improve your credit score, what is the best step to take?

Make more than the minimum monthly payment and keep the balance to less than half of what your credit limit is, if possible.

3. How many times a year can you receive a free credit report?

You can pull your credit report three times a year. If you are denied credit based on something in your credit history file, you are eligible for a free credit report from the reporting bureau used. However, regardless of your credit activity, you can get one free credit report each year from EACH of the three credit reporting agencies. (Experian, TransUnion and Equifax)

4. How big should your emergency fund be?

Your emergency fund should be six months of living expenses. While the amount varies according to your living costs, you're other assets, and whether you are a one-or two-income

household, a good starting place for emergency savings is having enough to cover six months of living expenses.

5. If your credit score dropped because you got behind on your bills, what's the best way to improve your credit score?

Pay your bills on time! Canceling your credit cards won't help because the balance owed and your payment history will stay on your credit report. A credit repair service cannot fix accurate negative information. On time and a consistent ongoing payment record can fade the impact of negative information.

6. What is the best way to pay down large debts?

Pay down the highest interest debt first, regardless of the size of the balance. When one balance is paid off, you would then put those payments towards the next highest interest rate debt.

Do you have more questions or would you like to have a Budgeting 101 Workshop presented to your organization? Contact Andrea Sanchez at Team One Credit Union by email at asanchez@teamonecu.org today.

Shark Tank Star to Discuss Goal-Setting Expertise at Central Michigan University

Mount Pleasant- The founder and CEO of FUBU and star of ABC's "Shark Tank" will talk at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, at Central Michigan University in Finch Fieldhouse about how to "Get into the Goal-Setting Mindset."

A native of Hollis, Queens, and the birthplace of hip-hop music, John created one of the most iconic fashion brands in recent years. FUBU, or "For Us By Us," is an urban apparel label that started in his mother's basement and has grown to more than \$4 billion in worldwide retail sales.

He has been a cast member for eight years of "Shark Tank," an entrepreneurial reality TV show. As one of the "Sharks," John joins four

other executives in listening to business pitches from everyday people. He invests his own money and becomes partners with winning entrepreneurs.


John has been featured on Bloomberg News, CNBC, Fox Business and the Wall Street Journal. He has earned several prestigious awards including Crain's Business of New York 40 Under Forty Award, NAACP Entrepreneur of the Year, BrandWeek Marketer of the Year and Ernst & Young's New York Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

The event is free and open to the public. Seating is first-come, first-served and no tickets are required.




Daymond John

Culture and Arts...



Women of Colors, Inc.
22nd Anniversary Celebration
~ and ~
2015 Community Leadership Awards Banquet
Saturday, March 28, 2015
at
Saginaw Valley State University
"Curtis Hall"
Doors Open at 5:30 pm
Dinner at 6:00 pm
Tickets: \$40.00 per person

Live Auction!
Live Entertainment
Saxophonist Chet Allen



Sponsored by:

Fairfield Inn Marriott
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Little River Casino
And many more...

To Order Tickets Please Call: (989) 737-9286



The Art
of
HEALING

**Sexual Assault
Awareness Month**

Have you experienced a trauma in your life related to sexual assault? Have you wanted an outlet or a way to express your experience to the world and where it can even be done anonymously? The Art of Healing is all about helping people cope and have an outlet to express their experience and help raise awareness in the month of April. We want artists of any level to submit artwork that captures their journey or opposition of sexual assault.

Who Can Submit Art?

- Survivors
- Family Members of Survivors
- Friends of Survivors
- People who oppose Sexual Assault

(Artwork can be submitted anonymously)

What Forms of Art?

- Paintings
- Drawings
- Photography
- Writings
- Textiles
- Sculptures
- Anything you can create!

For more information on how to get involved, or if you want to submit art, stop in to Child and Family Services:
2806 Davenport Ave, Saginaw, MI 48602

Questions?
Contact Chris Sowatsky at Child and Family Services with any questions!
Email: csowatsky@cfcsaginaw.org

Piano Palooza Raises Money for Independent Living Programs

Midland - A community of 225 supporters came out Saturday, February 7, for Disability Network of Mid-Michigan's (DNMM) ninth annual Piano Palooza fundraiser at the Midland Country Club. The event included a candlelight dinner, raffles, a silent auction, and entertainment provided by local musicians.

Proceeds from the event support DNMM's various independent living programs including veterans peer support, S.T.A.G.E.S. Youth Transition, Nursing Facility Transition, In-Home Supports, Supports Coordination, and Business Services.

"We are indeed fortunate to have a wide network of supporters from throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region," said DNMM Executive Director David Emmel.

"Through their generosity, a teenager with disabilities builds the necessary skills to transition into adulthood; a veteran with

a disability returns to civilian life with peer support from other veterans; a person wishing to move out of a nursing home gains independence and a greater quality of life in their own home; and workplaces and communities become more accessible and inclusive."

Several individual success stories were highlighted in a video featuring various consumers working with Disability Network to reach their own independent living goals.

Also featured at Piano Palooza were the talents of several local piano musicians. Matthew Conley, Val and Cynthia Lemen, David Valentine, George Widiger, Steve Najmy and Georgia Abbott each entertained guests for a half hour with a variety of styles and selections.

For more information about Disability Network of Mid-Michigan visit www.dnmm.org.





Spencer's Restaurant

5530 Gratiot Road
between M-47 & Center Rd. in Saginaw, MI
989.793.4500

www.spencersroute46.com
M-F Open for Lunch 11:30 a.m.
Sat. Open at 5 p.m.
CLOSED Sun

Spencer Dambro, Owner

**Village of Wolverine Lake
Easter Bunny Luncheon**

Saturday, March 28, 2015

Child - \$5.00 in advance, \$7.00 at the door
Adult - \$2.00 in advance, \$3.00 at the door

*Limited number of walk ins will be allowed
as space and supplies permit

Time - 1:00 to 3:00pm Egg Hunt at 2:00pm

Eat lunch and visit with the Easter Bunny!
Includes - Pizza, dessert, crafts and egg hunt.

Register at: Village Hall
425 Glengary Road
Wolverine Lake, MI 48390
or on the website
www.wolverinelake.com

Information/Questions:
#248-624-1710

This event is held at the Richardson Center
1485 E. Oakley Park Road, Commerce, Mi 48390

Where Did You Get That Hat
Presents

Spring
Time
In
Paris!



Custom hand-made hats for any occasion
By Design Specialist Yvonne Ellison

Sunday, March 29th, 2015
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Anderson Enrichment Center
120 Ezra Rust, Saginaw, MI

For more information contact
Yvonne at (989) 529-4193
or online at Wheredidyougetthathat.net

Admission is Free!

Celebrating Young Filmmakers

MI- The Michigan Student Film Festival is unique in the nation for providing a public venue for the work of students in grades K-12, as well as giving recognition and significant awards to young media artists.

DAFT is proud to present The Michigan Student Film Festival, now in its 47th year, on Saturday April 25, 2015, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the Detroit Film Theatre @ The Detroit Institute of Arts.

The deadline to enter is March 4, 2015. For additional information visit <http://www.daftonline.org/>

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. • Zeta Omega Zeta Chapter • Saginaw, MI

Finer Womanhood **CELEBRATION**

Join us as we celebrate our Woman of the Year, youth, members and organizations of the Saginaw community with

Keynote Speaker

Jasmin Alexander

Miss Black USA 2014 and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Member

Saturday, April 11, 2015

11:00 a.m.

Horizons Conference Center

6200 State Street
Saginaw, MI 48603

Ticket on Sale NOW!

Ticket Price: \$40

For more information or to purchase tickets or ads:
visit www.SaginawZetas.org
or email saginawzetas@gmail.com

Reflections of-U-TOO

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2103 Sheridan Avenue
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Salon: 989.753.4600 • Barbershop 989.753.2677
Salon Hrs. Tues. – Fri: – 10 am – 5 pm * Sat. 8 am – 7 pm
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We Sell and Use Egyptian Gold - Stops Hair Breakage



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9 A.M. – 6 P.M.

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God-Fella's
BARBER SHOP

Master Barbers:
Thurman Perkins
Ahmad Ervin

Barber:
Maurice Taylor

College Color Class * Sun. - March 8 * 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

In order to be the best, you must learn from the best.
This class will cover all types of coloring products
in relation to the structure of the hair

In one exciting afternoon, you'll learn HOW
to color hair with perfect results every time.

Key topics will include:
*Hair Structure
*Types of Color
*How to Formulate
*Additives and Conditioning that WORK!

Rob Willis
a former Mizani Master
& globally recognized
Haircolorist. Go to:
www.robwillisglobal.com

Kathy Parin
U.S. Board Certified
Haircolorist & creator of the
formula Color ZEN.
www.planethaircolor.com

LIMITED SEATING
@ Spa Renaissance
85 E. Big Beaver * Troy, Mich., just east of I-75
Tickets: \$50 advance
\$100 at the door (if available)
313.534.8318

Let these two very qualified colorists demonstrate how to make hair coloring profitable, painless and giving
you repeat business. If you have a passion for the industry, wow your clients with your color know how.

Refreshments served & win tickets to the 2015 Hair Wars "Color Show" - April 26 at the Adoba Hotel in Dearborn
Get that Hair Education and stay a step ahead of the rest!

The Men Who Will Along
With Detroit United Quartet Ministry

Present
**The 54th Anniversary of
Lee Williams and The Spiritual QCs**

March 29, 2015
4:00pm / Doors open at 3:00pm

**PALM
SUNDAY**

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Sports

“Fight of the Century”



Boxing icons Floyd Mayweather, Jr., right, and Manny Pacquiao, left, meet for the first time at courtside at the American Airlines Arena in Miami at halftime during the Miami Heat-Milwaukee Bucks game on Jan. 27, 2015. At center is Pacquiao's adviser Michael Koncz. *Photo: YOUTUBE*

By Mercy Soriano

Las Vegas - Boxing experts, analysts, and almost everyone have started weighing in on who will most likely win what promises to be “The Fight of the Century” between Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather, Jr. on May 2, 2015 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

Initial analyses point to a win by Pacquiao if through KO, but if the fight boils down to the judges' decision, then Mayweather would have the edge.

Touted as the “richest” in history, the highly anticipated bout will unify the WBO and WBC welterweight championships and is expected to set a new record for pay-per-view buys with an early estimate by Forbes magazine of \$250-million gross.

MGM Grand announced that within three minutes of the fight confirmation, all the 6,852 rooms in the hotel complex were sold out

Source: The Christian Times

Youth Basketball 3 on 3 Tournaments is Coming!

Saginaw - The YMCA, at 1915 Fordney St., in Saginaw welcomes teams to register for the 3 on 3 basketball tournaments on March 27, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

To participate, you must have a team of 3 and are between the ages of 8 to 18. Pre-registration is required. For additional information contact Autumn Sacquety, Program Director, at 989.753.37721



Saginaw Sting vs. Reading ASI Panthers at Dow Event Center



The Saginaw Sting indoor football team vs. Reading ASI Panthers on March 20, at the Dow Event Center, 303 Johnson St., in Saginaw. Tailgate is at 6 p.m. and kickoff at 7:30 pm.

Purchase your tickets in person at The Dow Box Office, Ticketmaster.com, DowEventCenter.com and all Ticketmaster locations or to charge by phone call 800-745-3000.

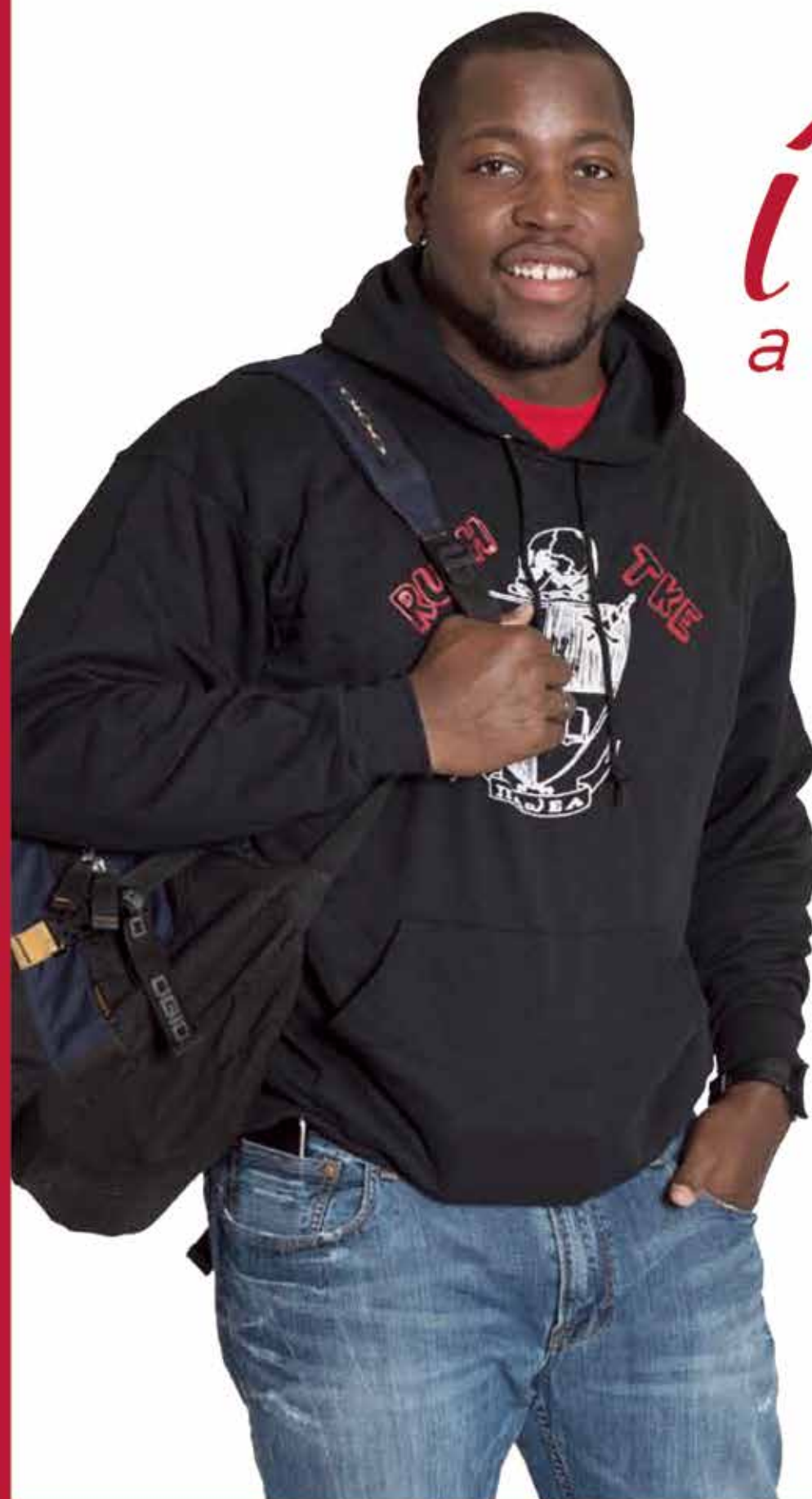
The Monster Truck Tour Arriving Soon

Saginaw - Next weekend, March 6, and 7, for the first time ever, the Toughest Monster Truck Tour is coming to Dow Event Center in Saginaw with six of the nation's toughest monster trucks including Bigfoot, Toxic, Over Bored, and Wild Thang. Unlike previous monster truck events in Saginaw, this year's event will be ON DIRT.

The Toughest Monster Truck Tour begins at 7:30 p.m. on March 6, and at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on March 7, 2015. Kids age 2 to 12 can sit outside the gold circle for just \$12 in advance. and discounted family 4-packs, and group rates are also available.

Tickets are available at Dow Event Center and all Ticketmaster outlets including www.ticketmaster.com and by phone at 800-745-3000. All seats are reserved. Additional fees may apply.





i am a role model

Tackling life is a matter of problem solving — that's Terrance Moore's way of thinking. And what better way to improve the world than to help others as they leap life's hurdles? The junior criminal justice major likes to be there when someone can use a helping hand: Terrance serves as a resident assistant, helping his students overcome the roadblocks of college life, and as vice president of the Cardinal Military Association, supporting veterans through any difficulties they might face.

A firm believer in support systems, Terrence is also a member of the National Leadership and Success Society, an organization that unites students who want to set and achieve goals. And as part of the Greek fraternity Tau Kappa Epsilon, the Criminal Justice Society, and the co-ed service fraternity Alpha Sigma Pi, he's learned that the best way to lead is by example. "If I don't help," he said, "who will?"



Prospective or transfer students can check out SVSU by taking a campus tour and meeting with an admissions representative. Call (989) 964-4200 or email admissions@svsu.edu.

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