

# THE MICHIGAN BANNER

Celebrating 15 years of Positive News!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!




**Mott Community College to advance solar job training**

**Business, Page 17**



**SVSU honors teaching, research and contributions at awards banquet**

**Education, Page 24**



**Honoring MLK Jr.'s Drum Major Legacy: Innovative Pathways to Success**

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Leading in Diversity, Empowering Communities and Changing Lives [www.themichiganbanner.com](http://www.themichiganbanner.com)



**39th annual Cinco de Mayo Parade and Festival**

Latino Banner, Cover Story

## Saginaw Community Foundation partnering with UK-based nonprofit



*courtesy photo*

On Friday, November 2, the Michigan Banner will showcase Girl Effect at the 2nd annual Heart of the City Awards.

Girl Effect, a U.K.-based nonprofit organization, recently completed a pilot of its award-winning TEGA (Technology Enabled Girl Ambassadors) program in Saginaw during 2017. Originally created and deployed in Northern Nigeria, the TEGA program is designed to uncover insights about girls in some of the hardest to reach communities in the world. Over the past few years, the program has been used in a variety of

countries. The pilot program in Saginaw marks the first time the TEGA program has been used in a developed nation anywhere in the world.

“At Girl Effect, we know that when it comes to understanding girls in hard-to-reach communities, conventional research methods have serious limitations,” said Laura Scanlon, director of TEGA at Girl Effect. “To unleash change, there needs to be a much better understanding of girls’ realities.”

Continues on pg 2, Girl Effect



**#breakthestigma**

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

**Celebrating Mental Health Awareness Month**

Health, Pg 12

# Cover story, Girl Effect



*courtesy photo*

Our hope is that TEGA's success in Saginaw will not only help pave the way for changing the situation for girls living there, but will pioneer a new wave of mobile innovation in the development sector, shifting from treating the symptoms of poverty to addressing its root causes."

During the pilot, Girl Effect worked alongside Saginaw-based Youth M.O.V.E to employ and train a group of young women from Saginaw to become fully qualified Technology Enabled Girl Ambassadors and conduct research through custom-designed smartphones.

"All too often, not enough time is spent actually listening to young people, how they feel about their community, and what they think needs to change – that's particularly

true of young women and girls," said Willie Hillman, director of Youth M.O.V.E Saginaw. "This research has the potential to give young women in Saginaw a platform to make their voices heard, and we hope it will be embraced by those who have the power to make change happen."

During 2017, the TEGA's completed 10 rounds of research, conducted 350 interviews with men, women and young people, and collected over 6,000 video and audio clips.

These insights, about ambition, sex, education and violence captured during peer-to-peer interviews and self-reflection, help paint truly authentic insights into the lives of young people in Saginaw. Insights that adult researchers would most likely never gain.

Thanks to grant funding from SCF and area private foundations, Girl Effect is committed to continuing the TEGA program in 2018. A local leadership team is being assembled to lead a network of researchers that will give these young Saginaw girls a voice. The goal of the research will be to strengthen local programs and create real-life impact.

"We are excited to partner with Girl Effect and its TEGA program," said Reneé Johnston, president and CEO, Saginaw Community Foundation. "SCF will be acting not only as a funder, but also as a convener, bringing area agencies together to discuss new ways to uplift young women in our community based upon the findings of the TEGA research."



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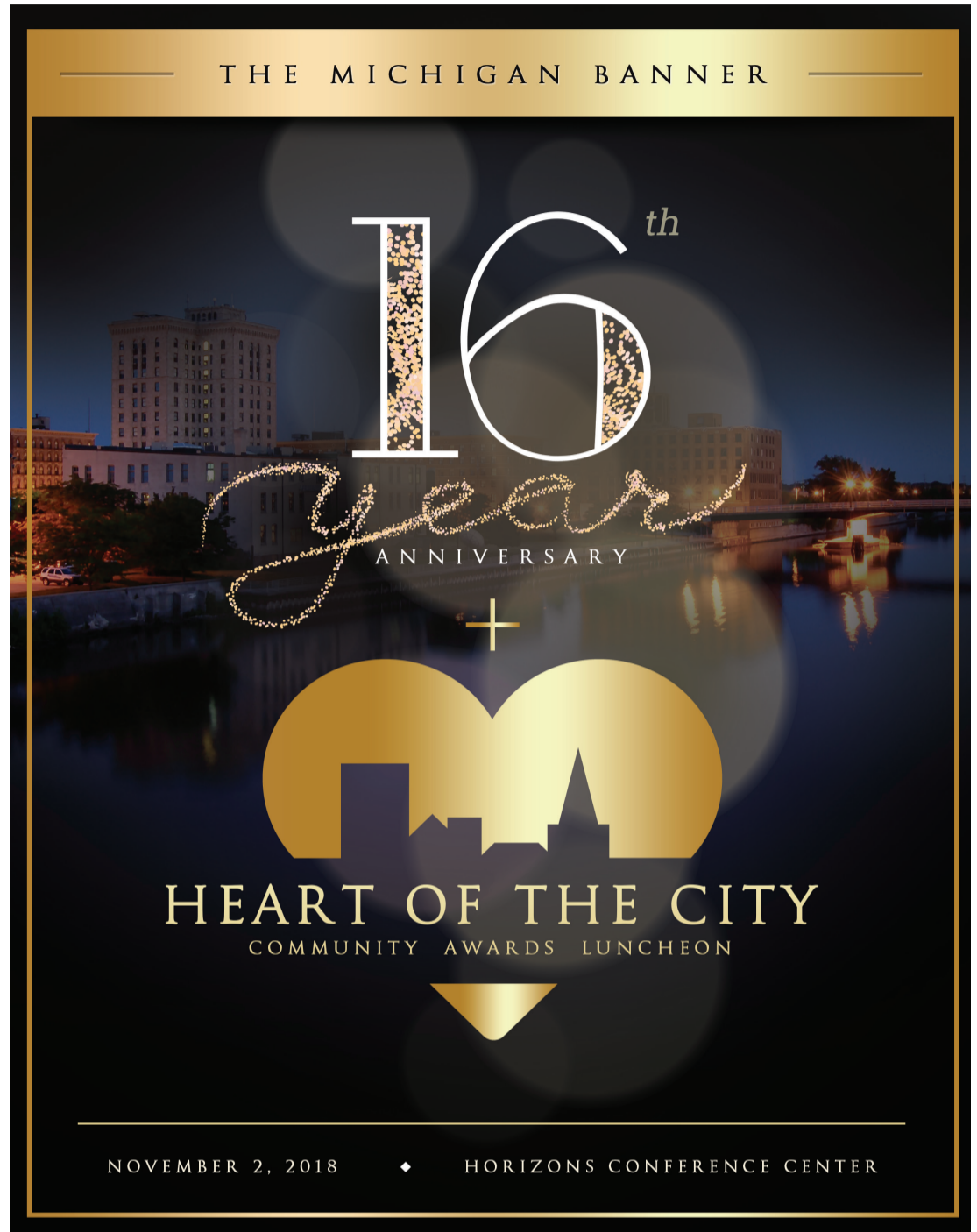
**MISSION**  
The Michigan Banner operates and serves as a print and online media venue committed to educating, informing and enlightening our readership regarding events and news that directly and indirectly affect the communities regionally and globally. Furthermore, to serve as a catalyst and a link for cultivating young adults as entrepreneurial and business leaders for the future.

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SAGINAW ALUMNI CHAPTER OF KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY PRESENTS

6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# ALL MEN'S

## HEALTH FAIR

### SATURDAY • JUNE 2 • 2018

10 AM - 2 PM

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# THE LATINO BANNER

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

Vamos Adelante



## Mark your calendar for the 39th annual Cinco de Mayo Parade and Festival

**nhmc** National Hispanic Media Coalition

**TELEVISION WRITERS PROGRAM**

Apply today for the paid five-week intensive scriptwriters workshop that prepares Latinos for writing jobs on television shows at major networks.

To apply, for program dates and other information: [nhmc.org/writersprogram](http://nhmc.org/writersprogram)

Deadline to submit: **August 5, 2018**

Sponsored By:

Supporters: Southwest Final Draft, NBC, Disney ABC Television Group



La Unión Cívica Mexicana of Saginaw presents the 39th annual Cinco de Mayo Parade and Festival Saturday, May 5, 2018, at Huntington Event Park. (NEW LOCATION) This year's theme is "La Vida De Artes," (The Life of Arts) recognizing the contributions of arts in our lives. Organizers expect over 100 entrants, making the Saginaw Cinco de Mayo Parade the largest Hispanic parade in the state of Michigan. The

event commemorates the famous May 5, 1852 Battle at Puebla in Mexico in which a small army of Mexicans led by Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza defeated much larger French invading forces sent by Napoleon III, but also the positive contributions of local Hispanics in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Continues on LB pg 3, Cinco de Mayo



# Community Board

Submit your announcements and events at [themichiganbanner.com/submit](http://themichiganbanner.com/submit)



SAVE THE DATE



# LA MAFIA

They've won multiple Grammy and Latin Grammy Awards. Now, for one night only, get ready to tear up the dance floor to the Tejano and pop music beats of La Mafia.

**CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION! SATURDAY, MAY 5 • 8PM**

Want to rock the Certified Hottest party this Cinco De Mayo? Then head to Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort for a night of festive live music you'll never forget!

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**AJ CASTILLO**

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**CINCO**  
5TH ANNUAL  
**CINCO DE MAYO**  
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Run / Walk  
**Sunday, May 6th, 2018**

Proceeds go to help local Scholarships

Registration begins at 11:30am  
1 pm start time  
Andersen Enrichment Center  
120 Ezra Rust Drive  
Saginaw, MI 48601

\$25.00 pre-registration  
\$30.00 day of event  
*Pre-Registration includes Event T-shirt*  
*First 150 registered will get a free sombrero, and all runners will receive a finishers medal*

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email: [cincokrun@yahoo.com](mailto:cincokrun@yahoo.com) • [www.CincoKrunSaginaw.com](http://www.CincoKrunSaginaw.com)

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

### DEADLINES

2 weeks before each publication date of the 1st and 16th of each month. Submission Procedure: Mailed or e-mailed to the [latinobanner@gmail.com](mailto:latinobanner@gmail.com). Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF



# Cover story, Cinco de Mayo



## PARADE

The parade begins at 10:30 a.m. Its staging area is at Saginaw's Ojibway Island. The parade then heads over the Court Street Bridge and turns north on North Michigan Ave., then east onto Genesee ending at Saginaw Arts and Science Academy (SASA) back parking area.

Leading the parade is Grand Marshal Rebecca Sanchez, who celebrates 40 years as an educator and first Hispanic Chairperson of Team One Credit Union. Restaurants, civic associations, youth groups, marching bands and low rider vehicles will participate. This year La Unión Cívica Mexicana celebrates its 73rd anniversary since its incorporation as a non-profit civic organization in 1945, and is represented by their queen Miss Maia Rose Wiederhold.

## FESTIVAL AT HUNTINGTON EVENT PARK

The festival at Ojibway runs from 12:00 p.m. to 5 p.m. The public is invited to sample tasty Mexican food from vendors and enjoy the live music and folkloric dancers. Musicians like Saginaw's own Champ Garcia with King of Kings who will play Christian-based Tejano sound and well, as Pontiac's Xplozivo and Conjunto Contento of Crosswell who will provide a Tejano/Norteño/Norteño musical showcase from the stage. Also performing with elaborate costumes is the Ballet Folklorico Moyocoyani Izel from Detroit, Michigan. Activities for the children include an Inflatable Play Land area with six inflatables rides.

## SOARING EAGLE CASINO CONCERT

The celebration continues from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. with the Cinco De Mayo Extravaganza at the Soaring Eagle Casino in Mt. Pleasant. Headliners are: Grammy Award Legends La Mafia and Cumbia extraordinaire AJ Castillo. Tickets are available at the Soaring Eagle Casino.

Main sponsors of the 39th Cinco de Mayo Parade and Festival are: Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort, Catholic Federal Credit Union, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan, UAW 1-D, Dow Chemical, Garber Buick, Chemical Bank, and Mi Gente Magazine.







ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

# EL TORNEO 2018

Vice  
2

**JUNE 28 | 12PM**

**THORNAPPLE POINTE GOLF CLUB**  
7211 48TH STREET SE | GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49512

**REGISTRATION IS AT 11AM**

Contact Danielle Dubay at [danielle@westmihcc.org](mailto:danielle@westmihcc.org) for more information

[hccwm.org](http://hccwm.org) | 616.452.3960 | 1167 Madison Ave. SE Suite 102 | Grand Rapids, MI 49507



# Believe. Do.

When a community works together, anything is possible. That's why we strive to create opportunities through jobs, education, and promoting the responsible use of our technology.

**That's why we proudly support the Michigan Banner and congratulate its team on the occasion of the Banner's 15th anniversary!**



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The Michigan Banner News & The  
Michigan Banner Outreach Ministries

presents

## Heart of the City Community Awards

### Impact Turnaround Award

Laura Biggins, Garber Buick  
Cameron Brady, Habitat for Humanity  
Gavin Goetz, AT&T

### Outstanding Business Award

Team One Credit Union  
Catholic Federal Credit Union  
Evans & Browne Funeral Home

### Leadership Award

Dr. Mamie Thorns  
Pastor Chris Pryor  
Joyce Seals  
Adam Gonzalez  
Rita Truss

### Rising Business Award

Markeen Baker, The What Don't Kill You Show

### Visionary Award

Richard & Wanda Stringfield, Students &  
Future Technology Program (SaFT)  
Sheilda Braddock, Isabella Bank

### Motivation Award

Michael Marsh  
Rev. Dr. Willie Casey

### Ministry of the Year Award

Francis Irvin, Jail Ministry

### Outstanding Journalism/Media/PR Award

JJ Boehm, SVSU  
Bob Johnson, MLive

### Diversity Award

Willie Haynes, Ezekial Project

### Outstanding Non-Profit Award

Samaritas (prev. Neighborhood House)  
Saginaw Restoration  
Positive Results Downtown Saginaw  
Sabrina Jackson, ISD Head Start

## Celebrate With Us

On Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, The Michigan Banner Newspaper will celebrate 16 years of positive, informative and inspiring news in the Great Lakes Bay and Flint region.

The Michigan Banner *Heart of the City* Awards luncheon will take place from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm at Horizons Conference Center and will pay tribute to past, present and future community members and organizations who are committed to service and volunteerism in the Great Lakes Bay area.

We understand the vitality and growth of a community depends greatly on its individuals and organizations. It gives us great pleasure to celebrate 16 years of service by recognizing the people who have demonstrated excellence in leadership through deep local understanding and outstanding initiative.

Several community awards will be presented including Community Impact Award, Outstanding Business Award, Leadership Award and more.

There are many sponsorship and advertising opportunities available. As a sponsor not only will you help support The Michigan Banner Newspaper's 16 year Anniversary event but you will also help support our non-profit organization, The Michigan Banner Outreach.

The Michigan Banner Outreach, established by Rae Lynn Tinsley-Buckley in 2010, was developed to meet the needs and challenges of the youth in our communities while creating opportunities for students to gain work-based experience in all phases of media.



Rae Lynn Tinsley-Buckley  
Scholarship

The Rae Lynn Tinsley-Buckley Scholarship will be awarded to two High School Seniors. Preference will be given to those students pursuing a degree in journalism.





HEALTHFORMATION 4 U PRESENTS



THIRD ANNUAL  
**SMOOTH JAZZ & R&B BENEFIT CONCERT**

THE **DOW** EVENT CENTER

303 JOHNSON STREET SAGINAW MI 48607

SATURDAY, MAY 12TH, 2018

4PM DOORS OPEN / 7PM SHOWTIME

**TICKETS \$30 ADVANCE / \$35 AT DOOR**

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**FEATURING:** DETROIT'S J. CANADY & THE SOULNYCE BAND WITH LARONN "SOUL DEACON" DOLLEY  
**SINGER, T.V. HOST, AUTHOR, & MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES:** SOPHIA JANELL TAYLOR— FLINT, MI

**HORS D' OEUVRES SERVED BETWEEN 5PM - 6:30PM & CASH BAR**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 989-475-1165 OR 989-213-1972**



# HEALTH

## Celebrating Mental Health Awareness Month



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Raising awareness about mental illness and related issues is the primary focus of Mental Health Awareness Month. Each year, the Saginaw MAX System of Care Expansion Grant (SOC) initiative seeks to raise awareness about the importance of children's mental health and show that positive mental health is essential to a child's healthy development. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Awareness Day 2018 theme is: Partnering for Health and Hope Following Trauma will focus on the importance of an integrated approach to caring for the mental health needs of children, youth, and young adults who have experienced trauma, as well as their families. This annual observance is not a new phenomenon. In the late 1940's, the first National Mental Health Awareness Week was launched in the United States. During the 1960's,

this annual, weekly campaign was upgraded to a monthly one with May the designated month. This year, more than 1,100 communities and 160 national collaborating organizations and federal programs will organize local Awareness Day activities and events around the country.

Negative attitudes and stigma associated with mental health have reduced and a trend of growing acceptance towards mental health issues and support for people with them. It is still, however all too common to place blame and invoke fear when dealing with issues concerning 'those people with mental illness'. There is still a tremendous need to continually educate communities on the importance of supporting children, youth, and families in their efforts to navigate the mental health and other child serving systems in their

journey to safe and positive outcomes. Proper education can also help families and individuals to minimize and often avoid problems or consequences related to a mental health diagnosis by making positive lifestyle choices in how we act and think. Proper education can also encourage people to take responsibility for the prevention of mental health issues during times of personal challenge and stress.

Critical to the healthy growth and development of the families we serve is our willingness to collaborate and provide care for one another whenever possible. There is still work to do. Together with local, state, federal and tribal partners, SAMHSA works every day to achieve the goal of zero suicide nationwide. Collectively, these efforts to collaborate, provide care, support communities and provide resources has the potential to literally save lives - every single day.

As we embark upon Mental Health Awareness Month 2018, Saginaw MAX SOC would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners, network providers and the entire community for your continued support of the Expansion initiative. A number of events have been planned in observance of this month. Please note the fliers and related stories in this edition of the Michigan Banner.



*courtesy photo*



## Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention grant applications sought by Michigan Children's Trust Fund

LANSING, Mich. – The Children's Trust Fund is seeking proposals from community-based organizations to provide services to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Successful grantees can receive up to \$50,000 per year for four years beginning in October 2018.

This funding opportunity from the public nonprofit Children's Trust Fund within the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is for community-based secondary direct prevention programs/services designed to promote strong, nurturing families and prevent child abuse and neglect. The target population is families that have risks or challenges in their lives that could result in parenting and child development difficulties and the risk of child abuse or neglect.

The funding is not to support programs for children and families when child abuse and neglect already has been substantiated. These Direct Services grants are currently funding innovative services statewide. Examples include:

- Home visitation programs such as Healthy Families America and Parents as Teachers.
- Services for families with incarcerated parents.
- Parent Education Support Groups in family resource centers.
- Positive Parenting using the Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) Model.

Grant applications must be submitted electronically through the MI E-Grants program. Applications will be accepted through May 22, 2018, at 3 p.m. The Children's Trust Fund – Direct Service project period is Oct. 1, 2018 – Sept. 30, 2022.

For more information or to apply, visit the MI E-Grants website at <http://egram-mi.com/dch> and click the "About EGrAMS" link on the left panel to access the "Competitive Application Instructions" training manual. The complete request for proposal document can be accessed on the MI E-Grants website in the "Current Grants" section by clicking the "Children's Trust Fund – Direct Services" link and accessing the "CTFDS-2019" grant program.



**Children's Trust Fund**

*Protecting Michigan's Children*

## Michigan's Safe Delivery Law helping save the lives of newborns



*courtesy photo*

LANSING, Mich. – Last month (April), was Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is urging Michigan citizens to learn about the state's Safe Delivery Law, and how they can help keep babies safe by promoting awareness of the statute.

To highlight the importance of this potentially life-saving law, April 20 has been proclaimed Safe Delivery of Newborns Day by Gov. Rick Snyder.

Under the law, a biological parent may legally surrender an infant no more than 72 hours old to an emergency service provider. An emergency service provider is a uniformed or otherwise identified employee or contractor of a hospital, fire department or police station that is inside the building and on duty, or a paramedic or emergency medical technician, who responds to a 911 call.

"Tragically, newborn infants have died due to neglect and exposure after being abandoned. This reminds us of the importance of ensuring public awareness of the Safe Delivery Law," said Nick Lyon, MDHHS director. "We urge all Michiganders to help spread the word about the safe, legal and anonymous option of surrendering an infant, who will then be placed with a loving adoptive family."

Since the state law was enacted in 2001, more than 200 babies have been surrendered in Michigan.

To learn more about the Safe Delivery Law, visit [Michigan.gov/safedelivery](http://Michigan.gov/safedelivery) or call the toll-free 24-hour hotline at 866-733-7733.



# 20th Annual Community Walk & Roll for Mental Health Awareness will take place in Mt. Pleasant

The 20th Annual Community Walk & Roll for Mental Health Awareness will be held Saturday, May 12, at Island Park in Mt. Pleasant. Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m.


The walk is co-sponsored by Mid Michigan Industries (MMI) and Community Mental Health for Central Michigan (CMHCM), in cooperation with Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation. Last year over 225 walkers and rollers attended this community awareness event, and 300 are expected this year.

The walk begins at Island Park, located at 331 North Main Street in Mt. Pleasant, and travels through the paths of our local city parks. There are many routes available for walkers & rollers, so everyone can travel at their own pace. The purpose of this event is to demonstrate that


everyone can take advantage of the wonderful Mt. Pleasant park pathways no matter what their level of ability. After the Walk & Roll refreshments and door prizes are planned.

You may register the day of the event or to pre-register; you can pick up forms at any MMI office throughout mid-Michigan, (see [www.mmionline.com](http://www.mmionline.com) for local address), or at CMHCM, located at 301 South Crapo, Mt. Pleasant.

For more information about this event, please contact Clayton Brown 989.773.6918, Linda Wagner Shoffner 877.386.7707 or Julie Rookard at 989.772.5938. Door Prize Drawing and refreshments will be available after the walk!





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# Mental Health in the African American Community



*courtesy photo*

Although anyone can develop a mental health problem, African Americans sometimes experience more severe forms of mental health conditions due to unmet needs and other barriers. According to the Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, African Americans are 20% more likely to experience serious mental health problems than the general population. Common mental health disorders among African Americans include:

- Major depression
- Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- Suicide, among young African American men
- Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), because African Americans are more likely to be victims of violent crime

African Americans are also more likely to experience certain factors that increase the risk for developing a mental health condition:

- **Homelessness.** People experiencing homelessness are at a greater risk of developing a mental health condition. African Americans make up 40% of the homeless population.
- **Exposure to violence** increases the risk of developing a mental health condition such as depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder. African American children are more likely to be exposed to violence than other children.

Different reasons prevent African Americans from seeking treatment and receiving quality care.

In the African American community, many people misunderstand what a mental health condition is and don't talk about this topic. This lack of knowledge leads many to believe that a mental health condition is a personal weakness or some sort of punishment from God. African Americans may be reluctant to discuss mental health issues and seek treatment because of the shame and stigma associated with such conditions.

Many African Americans also have trouble recognizing the signs and symptoms of mental health conditions, leading to underestimating the effects and impact of mental health conditions. Some may think of depression as "the blues" or something to snap out of.

Because of the lack of information about mental health issues, it's not always clear where to find help when you may need it. Fortunately, you came to the right place to learn about what mental health conditions are and how to access treatments and supports.

Don't let fear of what others may think prevent you or a loved one from getting better. One in 5 people is affected by mental illness. This means that, even if we don't talk about it, most likely we have one of these illnesses or know someone who does.

Only about one-quarter of African Americans seek mental health care, compared to 40% of whites. Here are some reasons why:

- **Distrust and misdiagnosis.** Historically, African Americans have been and continue to be negatively affected by prejudice and discrimination in the health care system. Misdiagnoses, inadequate treatment and lack of cultural competence by health professionals

cause distrust and prevent many African Americans from seeking or staying in treatment.

- Socio-economic factors play a part too and can make treatment options less available. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of 2012, 19% of African Americans had no form of health insurance. The Affordable Care Act is making it easier and more affordable to get insured.

## Finding The Right Provider For You

Culture—a person's beliefs, norms, values and language—plays a key role in every aspect of our lives, including our mental health. Cultural competence is a doctor's ability to recognize and understand the role culture (yours and the doctor's) plays in treatment and to adapt to this reality to meet your needs. Unfortunately, research has shown lack of cultural competence in mental health care. This results in misdiagnosis and inadequate treatment. African Americans and other multicultural communities tend to receive poorer quality of care.

However, you can improve your odds of getting culturally sensitive care.

While we recommend you go directly to a mental health professional because this is their area of expertise, if you do not feel comfortable right away, a primary care doctor is a great place to start. The primary care doctor might be able to start the assessment to determine if you have a mental health condition or help refer you to a mental health professional.

Your mental health provider will play an important role in your treatment, so make sure you can work with this person and that you communicate well together. Mention your beliefs, values and cultural characteristics. Make sure that she understands them so that they can be considered in the course of your treatment. For example, mention whether you would like your family to be part of your treatment.

If finances are preventing you from finding help, contact a local health or mental health clinic or your local government to see what services you qualify for. You can find contact information online at [findtreatment.samhsa.gov](http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov) or by calling the National Treatment Referral Helpline at 800-662-HELP (4357).

**For more information and resources visit**  
<https://www.nami.org/>



# Free Skin Cancer Screening

*Find out if you are at risk...*

**Thursday, May 3, 2018**  
**5:30 - 7:30 pm**

**Covenant Cancer Care Center**  
5400 Mackinaw (sign in at the main desk on the first floor)

## Love the skin you're in



**TYPE I:**

You burn and never tan in the sun.

**TYPE II:**

You almost always burn and rarely tan.

**TYPE III:**

You sometimes burn and sometimes tan.

**TYPE IV:**

You tend to tan easily and are less likely to burn.

**TYPE V:**

You tan easily and rarely burn.

**TYPE VI:**

Although you do not burn, you are still at risk for skin cancer.

An estimated 91,270 men and women in the United States are newly diagnosed with melanoma skin cancer each year.\* **Are you at risk?**

Your skin type is one of the major factors in your risk for skin cancer. Certain types of skin are at greater risk for developing sun damage and skin cancer. **Which type are you?**

Everyone should check their skin regularly for suspicious moles and growths. Those with skin types I-III should have an annual skin check up with a professional.



\*American Cancer Society, 2018 facts and figures.

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If you are uninsured or your insurance does not cover skin screenings, **Please call 989.583.6278, option 1, to register today. Space is limited!**



# BUSINESS & WEALTH

## Mott Community College partners with Cypress Creek Renewables to advance solar job training



*courtesy photo*

Mott Community College and Cypress Creek Renewables today announced a partnership to invest in Michigan's solar energy workforce. The initiative establishes a Solar Program Fund at Mott Community College with a \$20,000 grant from Cypress Creek Renewables.

The new fund will assist Mott Community College in developing programming centered around renewable energy coursework, as well as providing scholarships for students pursuing careers in solar energy. Cypress Creek's grant will specifically focus on providing assistance to women, veterans and ensuring a diverse and inclusive workforce.

"We are thrilled to launch our first partnership

with a solar company and specifically with Cypress Creek, a national leader in solar," said Mott Community College President Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffiea. "As solar grows across Michigan, our community will be prepared to fill these jobs."

Flint Mayor Karen Weaver said, "Investment in our community colleges is essential to creating new opportunities for our community. I applaud Mott Community College and Cypress Creek for this innovative collaboration that will provide training for our region's growing clean energy economy."

The solar industry currently employs more than 4,100 people across the state. Solar advocates are hoping that number will grow soon, as more

independent power producers begin developing and building projects in Michigan.

"The Flint & Genesee region has long been a leader in clean energy through the efforts of the E3 Innovation Network," said Tim Herman, CEO, Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce. "We're focused on connecting businesses with green products and services, and connecting individuals with green jobs. So, we're proud to welcome Cypress Creek Renewables and utility scale solar to our community, and we're excited that this partnership may lead to more jobs in clean energy in our community."

Cypress Creek Renewables is a national solar developer that constructs, owns and operates solar facilities throughout the United States. The company is working to develop local solar projects across Michigan.

"Our partnership with Mott Community College will help ensure that the solar industry has access to the right people – now and in the future – as we build out our growing pipeline of solar projects throughout Michigan," said Cypress Creek Director of Development Joe Cottle. Cottle, a Jackson County resident, manages the company's development efforts in the state.

This partnership with Mott Community College is a part of Cypress Creek's workforce development initiative. The company's aim is to strengthen the U.S. energy workforce through proactive investment in job training and workforce development. Cypress Creek previously announced partnerships with Kankakee Community College in Illinois, Hudson Valley Community College in New York, Greenville Technical College in South Carolina, and Cape Fear Community College in North Carolina.





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# Peters, Risch Intro. Bipartisan Bill to Increase Federal Cybersecurity Resources for Small Business

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators Gary Peters (D-MI) and Jim Risch (R-ID) introduced bipartisan legislation to provide additional cybersecurity resources to small businesses. The bill would create cybersecurity assistance units at Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) throughout the country. The new assistance units will serve as a point-of-contact for small businesses that suffer a cyber-attack, helping businesses find a solution to the problem and prevent more attacks in the future.

“In an increasingly interconnected society, it is critical that small businesses have the resources and support to protect against damaging cyber-attacks that often have devastating consequences,” said Senator Peters. “This bipartisan legislation will bolster cyber-resources and information sharing for small businesses in Michigan and across the country, while allowing small businesses to focus on doing what they do best: serve customers in their community.”

“While the internet is a necessary tool for small businesses in the competitive marketplace, it also presents a real vulnerability to their information and operations,” said Senator Risch. “Cyber-attacks are increasingly aimed at small businesses, who are entrusted with the valuable personal and financial details of their clients. For the small mom and pops that don’t have the resources to invest in specialized equipment or employees, cyber-attacks can be an existential threat. This bill will offer small businesses a safe place nearby to turn to when a threat or attack happens.”

Cyber-attacks can have devastating effects on small businesses, which operate on narrow margins and with less capital. An unexpected breach can result in permanent loss of essential data, customers taking their business elsewhere, or the business shutting its doors. The State of Michigan estimates that they detect over 600,000 attempted intrusions to their information systems every day.

To combat this, the Small Business Advanced Cybersecurity Enhancements Act of 2018 would:

- Establish SBDCs as the primary liaison for federal information sharing for small businesses;
- Ensure that small businesses engaging with

SBDCs receive the same protections provided for individuals who make disclosures under the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act (CISA); and

- Coordinate expertise from several federal agencies to provide small businesses with the best resources to prevent and recover from cyber-attacks.

Michigan is home to 11 SBDC regional offices, which worked with over 5,500 businesses across the state in 2016 and helped establish over 400 businesses.

This bill has received broad support from groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the

Realtors Association. Similar legislation passed committee in the House of Representatives.

Peters, a member of the Senate Cybersecurity Caucus, has worked to strengthen public and private sector cyber capabilities. Last year, Peters introduced legislation to expand efforts to train SBDC employees to become certified in cyber strategy counseling, and improve cyber threat coordination between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and state and local governments. In 2016, bipartisan legislation introduced by Peters enabling SBDCs to work with DHS to assist small businesses in planning for and protecting against cyber security attacks was signed into law.



*courtesy photo*



## Mistequay Group Receives PTAC Best Small Business of the Year Award Recognition



*mistequaygroup.com*

Saginaw, MI – Mistequay Group was selected as the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) Best Small Business of the Year Award for government contracting by Michigan Celebrates Small Business (MCSB).

The state's premier awards program celebrates small business is a partnership of the Michigan Small Business Development Center, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the Edward Lowe Foundation, Small Business Association of Michigan, the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Michigan Business Network.

Mistequay Group is a precision manufacturer offering a variety of manufacturing and custom-engineered solutions to solve the most complex challenges.

Headquartered in Saginaw, Mistequay has four locations in the State of Michigan. The company started in 1991 with 18 people, and currently employs over 130 full time team members in the State of Michigan.

"Mistequay invests heavily in our most valuable asset, our dedicated team members," said Jim Paas, owner/president of Mistequay Group. "We accept this great recognition on behalf of all our outstanding employees and customers."

Mistequay offers a wide range of prototype and production machined components, with specialized product lines in commercial and military aerospace ballscrew assemblies, along with driveline solutions utilizing proprietary constant velocity prop-shaft and half-shaft components.

"The Saginaw Future PTAC has worked with Mistequay for a number of years and we are proud to have nominated the manufacturer as the PTAC of the year," said Saginaw Future PTAC Manager Delena Spates Allen. "We strongly encourage Saginaw County and Great Lakes Bay Regional companies to pursue local, state and national government contracting."

## Joseph Wehner Joins Saginaw Medical Federal Credit Union



Saginaw Medical Federal Credit Union welcomes Joseph Wehner as its new Commercial Lender. Wehner has 16 years of financial management experience including small business banking, branch management, and commercial lending from both the credit union and banking sectors. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Saginaw Valley State University.

"Joe will be a great asset to our credit union as well as the Saginaw community," said Laura Crase, CEO of Saginaw Medical Federal Credit Union. "His knowledge and experience in commercial lending will enhance our

business lending services to new and existing business members."

Wehner is a Saginaw Township resident and a current board member of the Boys and Girls Club of Great Lakes Bay Region.

## Rehmann Honored as 50 Best Accounting Firms to Work For

Rehmann, a fully integrated financial services firm of CPAs and consultants, wealth advisors and corporate investigators, ranked 24 th overall— among other honors — in the latest Vault Accounting 50 rankings.

The Vault Accounting 50 report highlights the best accounting firms to work for. Rehmann landed among the best in the following additional categories:

- **#13 in Work-Life Balance**
- **#16 in Hours**
- **#16 in Diversity for Women**
- **#20 in Firm Leadership**
- **#21 in Client Interaction**
- **#21 in Culture**

"I strongly believe that employee satisfaction is one of the most critical factors for successful, stable growth," said Katie Strehler, Rehmann's chief human resources officer. "Rehmann would not be where it is today without the hard work and commitment of our associates. We are honored to be recognized by Vault for building and sustaining a positive company culture."

The Vault Accounting 50 data is compiled using a weighted formula that reflects the primary issues that accounting professionals care most about, including quality of life rankings such as culture, satisfaction, work-life balance, and compensation in combination with overall firm prestige. The ranking is based on the following criteria: 35 percent prestige, 20 percent firm culture, 10 percent work-life balance, 10 percent compensation, 10 percent overall job satisfaction, 5 percent business outlook, and 5 percent formal training and 5 percent informal training.



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# EDUCATION

## Mott Community College to name Family Life Center in Honor of Lenore Croudy



*courtesy photo*

The Mott Community College Board of Trustees voted Monday, April 23, to name the College's new Family Life Center in memory of former Board Chair Lenore Croudy. MCC is repurposing and revitalizing the former Woodside Church building, located adjacent to the main campus in Flint, into a Family Life Center to ensure student success and completion of their educational goals, while providing much-needed high quality learning opportunities for the children of Flint and Genesee County.

Lenore Croudy passed away January 19, 2017.

"The Lenore Croudy Family Life Center will serve as a tribute to Mrs. Croudy's 29 total years

of service and leadership as a Trustee, including 21 years as our Chairperson," said Board Chair Michael Freeman. "She was well known for her commitment to the College, its students and their families, and she firmly believed that education is a powerful force for good," he added.

"Establishing a Family Life Center in Mrs. Croudy's name honors her legacy to the fullest, by helping to reduce barriers and challenges that impede our students' success," said MCC President, Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea.

An \$8 million renovation of the former Woodside Church is underway to develop the Family Life Center. The renovation includes expansion of

the College's nationally ranked Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC), which will allow the program to increase enrollment from a maximum of 75 children to a maximum 125, and to serve children from birth to five years of age. It currently is available to children two-and-a-half to five years old. Additionally, the Family Life Center will co-locate the Early Childhood Education academic program within the Center, providing new learning spaces and experiential learning opportunities for student pursuing a certificate or associate's degree.

It also will serve as a resource hub, helping MCC students and their families address such basic needs as food, housing and transportation. Non-student parents of children in the ECLC program will also have the ability to access family support services on site.

The renovation is funded by a \$3 million grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, proceeds from the sale of \$3 million in voter-approved bonds and a \$100,000 grant from the McFarlan Charitable Corporation/McFarlan Villages. The remaining project balance of just over \$2 million will be raised through additional grants and the "Lenore's Lifetime Friends Campaign."

Lenore Croudy was an educator in the Flint Community Schools for more than 40 years, and served as President of the Congress of Flint School Administrators. She was first elected to the MCC Board in 1987 and was appointed Board Chair in 1995. During her tenure as Chair, she worked with six College presidents, helping lead MCC through periods of financial difficulty to record enrollment levels, and a designation by the Aspen Institute as one of the 10 best community colleges in the nation. Mrs. Croudy told anyone who would listen that "MCC was the best college in the city, state, nation, and beyond."

For more information about "Lenore's Lifetime Friends Campaign," call 810-762-0269 or email [lennetta.coney@mcc.edu](mailto:lennetta.coney@mcc.edu).



# Delta holds 2018 Commencement Ceremony



*courtesy photos*

Delta College held its 56th commencement ceremony on Friday, April 27. About 300 of the 1,700 associate degree or certificate graduates from the past year attended.

Student speakers were Heather Radick, who earned an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Skilled Trades – Electrician, and Delaney Gravlin, who graduated with an Associate in Arts with highest honors. Radick is employed as an electrician and Gravlin plans to further her education with the goal of becoming a high school teacher.

The ceremony will air on Delta College's public television station, Q-TV, during the following times:

- Wednesday, May 2, 7pm - Q-TV MHz

#### Worldview

- Thursday, May 10, Noon - Q-TV MHz  
Worldview
- Tuesday, May 15, 2pm - Q-TV MHz  
Worldview
- Sunday, May 20, 10am - Q-TV MHz  
Worldview
- Monday, May 28, 4pm - Q-TV MHz  
Worldview

Delta College is one of the nation's leading community colleges, known for graduates who make a difference in our communities. In fact, 97 percent of graduates in the last five years live in Michigan, and 82 percent reside in Delta's service area – Bay, Saginaw and Midland counties. For more information about Delta College visit [delta.edu](http://delta.edu).





# SVSU honors teaching, research and contributions to community at awards banquet



facebook

Saginaw Valley State University honored one of Saginaw's most active community leaders, as well as faculty and staff who display extraordinary enthusiasm and dedication, during SVSU's All-University Awards Banquet Friday, April 27.

The Distinguished Service Award, SVSU's most prestigious award for a community member, was given to Dave Abbs.

Abbs served on the SVSU Board of Control from 2005 to 2013, including two years as chair.

After completing his term on the board, he accepted perhaps his most significant SVSU assignment: serving as chair of the presidential search advisory committee during 2013 and 2014. Abbs continues to support SVSU through his volunteer service on the board of directors for the SVSU Foundation, where he currently serves as secretary. He also has served on SVSU's Board of Fellows and the Alumni Association board.

In the community, Abbs has supported numerous philanthropic causes and organizations. He is a past board chair of the Saginaw Community Foundation, and he has served as board president for the Bay City Noon Optimists, the Saginaw Valley Rotary club, the Saginaw Art Museum, and the One Hundred Club of Saginaw County, which provides financial support to the families of first responders killed in the line of duty. In business circles, Abbs has served on the boards of the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce and the Kochville Township Business Association.

Abbs graduated from SVSU in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in marketing and management. He is the owner of Abbs Retirement Planning Advisors in Saginaw; he is also a certified financial planner.

Several SVSU faculty and staff members also received recognition for outstanding achievement and dedicated service during the 29th annual ceremony.

Andrea Frederick, associate professor of nursing, received the prestigious Franc A. Landee Teaching Excellence Award. She has spent years cultivating a career in nursing, nursing management, health care administration and nursing education. After retiring from MidMichigan Medical Center, Frederick joined the SVSU nursing faculty in 2010. As an instructor, she strives to enhance curiosity, tenacity, compassion and accomplishments that inform lifelong learning. Frederick enjoys the energizing atmosphere of an academic setting because it links experienced professionals with passionate novices that are eager to make an impact.

Kaustav Misra, associate professor of economics, received the Earl Warrick Award for Excellence in Research. His research interests are in the fields of public economics, international economics and family business. Misra has authored more than 20 scholarly articles appearing in peer-reviewed journals such as "Economics of Educational Review," "Journal of Socio-Economics" and "Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice." He

also has presented at more than 70 national and international conferences. Among his honors, he received the Best Doctoral Paper in the Entrepreneurship/Information Technology/Innovation track for 2011 for the Southern Management Association.

The House Family Award for Teacher Impact was presented to Warren Fincher, associate professor of sociology. Since joining the faculty in 2012, he has served as the faculty adviser for the Sociology Club; he has organized three student trips to the annual Michigan Sociological Association meeting and he led a month-long study abroad trip to India. A recent alumna headed to graduate school nominated Fincher. She wrote: "Dr. Fincher saw my potential as an excellent student and scholar way before I began to believe in myself. He has supported my insight as well as challenging certain ideals. He was one of the reasons I was excited to continue at SVSU in the sociology program."

Roberto Garcia received the Mary H. Anderson Adjunct Faculty Award for his part-time teaching role in the English department. He aims to inspire his students to think differently about modern culture. To do that, Garcia's course, titled "Rethinking the Dominant Culture: Jay-Z and Modern America," teaches students about the history of hip-hop and rap in order to examine the genre's impact on modern society and culture. His nominator wrote: "Roberto is an outstanding adjunct faculty member. He has taken a step to create a general education course that is relevant to urban culture and society that students have really enjoyed."

The Thomson Award for Empowering Learning in Community Engagement was presented to J. Blake Johnson, professor of art. He dedicates a great deal of his time to SVSU and the surrounding community through Cardinal Solutions, which was started by Johnson and others to support community businesses and organizations while offering students the opportunity to build their résumés and portfolios by completing real projects for clients. A student nominator wrote: "Since arriving at SVSU, Blake has been a mentor to me and has pushed me to produce my best work. By working with local businesses and organizations in a real-world studio environment, I have seen my design, communication and project management skills grow by leaps and bounds."

**Continues on pg 25, SVSU Honors**



## Continued from pg 24, SVSU honors

Jennifer Bridges, professor of kinesiology, received the Excellence in Online Teaching award. In the field of kinesiology, there is an expectation that each course will offer a high level of interactivity and hands-on learning. To accomplish that through her online courses, Bridges developed Motor Development Day in Kinesiology 372, a hybrid course in which students are presented with the primary theories of motor learning and motor development throughout the lifespan. In the course, infants, children and older adults volunteer to work with the students to assess various aspects of their motor milestones.

The Ruben Daniels Community Service Award was presented to Kevin Schultz, director of alumni relations, who is active on the SVSU campus and in the community. He lends his time to the Saginaw Children's Zoo where he serves on the board of directors; he is a past president of both the Fordney Club of Saginaw County and the Saginaw Sunrise Rotary Club. His community involvement also has included volunteer service for the American Legion, the Knights of Columbus, Leadership Saginaw County and the Saginaw County Republicans, among others.

Two recipients were given the Terry Ishihara Award for Outstanding Co-Curricular Involvement: Ava Lewis, professor of nursing, and Sharmee Gloss, public school academy transitions coordinator.

Lewis aims to serve both students and the larger community. She is a nurse practitioner at the Bay Community Health Clinic in Bay City and at the Saginaw Health Clinic. Lewis shares these experiences with her students through course lectures and student volunteer opportunities. Her care for others extends beyond the region, as Lewis has led study abroad trips to Zambia in 2010, 2013 and 2016 where students worked to provide nursing care and HIV education in schools, villages, clinics and through home health visits.

Gloss dedicates a great deal of her time to the success of students of SVSU; she advises 87 undergraduate students and cultivates their confidence, independence, curiosity and passion through support and engagement. To give students the

opportunity to learn about the history of surrounding communities, Gloss organized a two-day program for students in 2017 in which they viewed the film "Detroit," participated in a discussion on the impact of the movie, traveled to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and spent an afternoon in downtown Detroit.

Monica Reyes received the Roosevelt Ruffin Diversity Award. She dedicates a great deal of time to community causes, developing organizations such as the Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute, for which she currently serves as director. The program, designed to address a lack of Hispanic representation on community boards within the region, aims to identify potential leaders who may not normally be recognized through traditional channels. Reyes also was appointed to the Governor's Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan in 2016. The commission recently selected Saginaw for the state's annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration.

The Outstanding Performance Award for Administrative Professional staff was given to Cara Shaw, accounting supervisor. She contributes a great deal to the Controller's office through her technical, organizational and communication skills. Shaw's responsibilities encompass a range of tasks, including accumulating and providing the annual grant reporting for the university, a task she completes flawlessly, according to her colleagues. In addition to her many other duties, she devoted countless hours with SVSU's Information Technology Services department during the initial setup of the university's new financial reporting software and installation phase, making her the resident expert for her colleagues.

Donna Helmreich-Lopez, faculty secretary and office coordinator, received the Outstanding Performance Award for Support Staff. She is highly-respected for her dependability, attention to detail and positive attitude in all the roles she fills. Though her duties are time consuming, colleagues note that Helmreich-Lopez consistently offers her assistance to those who need it, completing tasks efficiently and accurately. One nominator wrote: "We are continually amazed at both the quantity and quality of the work she accomplishes. She is a dynamo of energy and gets things done very quickly."

## Carrollton students invited to give national presentation on SVSU-run Chief Science Officers Program



*courtesy photo*

Two Carrollton High School students traveled to Washington, D.C. to present on the work they have been doing to increase interest in math and science among their peers. During the academic year, Hudson Holm and Emily Jaremba have been participating in the Chief Science Officers program organized by Saginaw Valley State University.

Earlier this month, they shared lessons they have learned through the program at the STEM Ecosystems 2018 Spring National Community of Practice Convention – in conjunction with the U.S. News & World Report STEM Solutions Conference – in Washington, D.C.

The Carrollton students were joined by Adrienne Cole, SVSU director of STEM, and Craig Coopersmith, a Carrollton high school science teacher and SVSU alumnus. They presented on two topics: "Growing Significant Business-to-Student Partnerships" and "Fostering Cross-Sector Collaborations."

The Chief Science Officers program is a student-led initiative to increase interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Middle school and high school students are selected for the program and are then empowered to influence a wide range of STEM opportunities in their schools and communities.

SVSU received a \$40,000 grant from The Dow Chemical Company Foundation to run the community-minded pilot program at middle schools and high schools in Bay, Midland and Saginaw counties for the 2017-18 school year. It is modeled after a similar program that has proven successful in Arizona.

While they were in Washington, D.C, Holm and Jaremba visited the NASA Headquarters met with Sandra Cauffman, deputy director of the Earth Sciences Division. They also had a chance to collaborate with students participating in chief science officer programs in Arizona and Oregon.





Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start  
Program Director

**About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS**

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

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

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

women and their families.

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

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

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

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For additional information concerning  
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Source: [www.saginawheadstart.org](http://www.saginawheadstart.org)

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

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

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



# FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

## What will be your fundraising legacy?

*As you begin your board service, define what you want to achieve by the time you leave*

Whether you are a new or established board member we suggest you take the time to define for yourself what you want to accomplish through your service. Time will pass; crises will arise; there will be leadership changes, budget shortfalls, unexpected windfalls, mergers, resignations and more. You and your fellow board members will have to respond and react. In order to assure you are more than responsive, we suggest you set a fundraising-related goal that you consistently advance so when your board term comes to a close you will leave a legacy.

You set the goal. There are many to choose from. You could raise a specific amount of money; to build a partnership with a business or corporation; to develop and grow a revenue-generating special event; or to grow an earned income stream. You might commit to serving as chair of the development committee of the board with the goal of creating a proactive fundraising culture within the board. You may choose to have your business, faith community or sorority “adopt” the organization, giving time, money and resources in a concentrated fashion. Depending on your experience, you might take the lead in evaluating the current management of your institution’s endowment or your organization’s reserve fund with the goal of reducing risk and fees.

Of course your goals need to benefit the

organization you are serving. That is a must. Keep your eyes and ears open for those areas where your expertise, connections and resources can make a difference. In most cases you should be able to quickly assess these. Talk with your fellow board members and appropriate staff to gain the input and guidance you need.

Seek to make a lasting change or impact. Put in place something that will continue to make a difference in the life of the institution or organization. It could be an event, a program, a policy, a procedure, a fundraising event, an awareness event. Whatever it is, you want it to sustain

beyond your board term.

Once you have an understanding of the organizational culture, priorities, assets, and challenges make your move. Be assertive: make your goals known, or simply go to work knowing that the fruits of your labor will speak volumes.

Step into the leadership opportunity that is awarded to you as a member of the board. You can leave a legacy.



*Mel and Pearl Shaw | Courtesy Photo*

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Mel and Pearl Shaw are authors of four books on fundraising available on Amazon.com. For help growing your fundraising visit [www.saadandshaw.com](http://www.saadandshaw.com) or call (901) 522-8727.



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## Honoring MLK Jr.'s Drum Major Legacy: Innovative Pathways to Success



Bishop Larry Camel and Lady Elect Shirley Camel are pictured with fellow award recipients

To honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., earlier this month the U.S. Department of Education hosted the Honoring MLK Jr.'s Drum Major Legacy: Innovative Pathways to Success event. Honoring Dr. King at this time held even more significance because the following day was the 50th anniversary of his assassination, which shook the world on April 4, 1968. Although his fight for justice and peace was cut short, celebrating his legacy reminded us what it means to be persistent and righteous leaders for change, especially for the benefit of our youth in communities and schools across the nation.

### Recognizing the Drum Major Spirit

ED's Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans honored members of communities across the nation who have upheld Dr. King's legacy through their extraordinary everyday acts of service, especially benefiting youth and education. These distinguished honorees received the 2018 MLK Jr.

Drum Major Innovation Service Award.

As Dr. King once said, "If you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice, say that I was a drum major for peace, I was a drum major for righteousness." The award recipients demonstrated the drum major spirit in their own way, whether as a school administrator, faith leader, community leader, parent or other engaged leader.

### "You Matter"

One award recipient who really touched the hearts of audience members shared his story of a trying educational journey, overcoming life challenges and achieving a purpose-driven life. Stacey L. Young, now a college professor, author, radio host and founder of a community organization, did not have a traditional educational experience. After barely graduating high school and dropping out of college – twice – he now has a bachelor's and two master's degrees.

Mr. Young spoke of the importance of engaging with students in the classroom and getting to know them beyond test scores. He credits his ability to stand with us today, to tell his story and to give back to students, to someone once telling him, "You matter."

The idea that students need to know that they matter – that their education matters and that we are willing to address their specific needs to help them succeed – was one of the greatest takeaways of this event. Mr. Young explained that if he had more educational supports, engagement and options while struggling in school, it would not have taken him as long to finish and achieve in school and through postsecondary education.

### Speed Mentoring for Students

The last session of the event was tailor made for the students who joined us. Speed Mentoring for Students matched each student with six professionals.

**Continues on page 31, Honoring MLK**



## Continued from pg 30, Honoring MLK



*courtesy photo*

Students were able to voice their opinions about how the school system can better serve them, as well as utilize this network of established professionals.

Some of the questions the students posed related to how to strengthen relationships between educators and students. Students also received advice about how they can make a change for the better on their respective campuses.

For instance, Joshua, a high school junior from Maryland, really soaked in the discussion. Rather than simply collecting cards and exchanging emails, he challenged the professional educators of the group.

He offered his advice for how teachers could better engage their students. He also participated in a discussion regarding how college students could help to affect change on their campuses.

This session ended with each adult panelist offering a piece of advice to the student in their

group. Xavier Richardson, Executive Vice President and President of Foundations of Mary Washington Healthcare, who had taken a genuine interest in some of the comments Joshua made, explained the importance of networking to Joshua and challenged the student to use some of the business cards that he received that day.

### **Secretary DeVos Congratulates the Recipients**

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos joined the award recipients on stage to deliver closing remarks. The Secretary congratulated the 2018 MLK Jr. Drum Major Innovation Service Award recipients and thanked them for honoring the legacy of Dr. King through their contributions to youth and their communities.

She shook hands and took pictures with each of the award recipients as well as with the student participants.

One program attendee who was especially pleased by the presence of Secretary DeVos was Dr. Annie

Mable McDaniel Abrams, a civil rights leader and retired educator from Arkansas. Dr. Abrams was pleased to share her experiences about growing up during the civil rights movement and the progress that she has seen over time in education. But she also acknowledged there is still work to be done.

Dr. Abrams expressed her belief in the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the responsibility we all have to continue to provide quality educational opportunities for our youth, even as times change. Dr. Abrams and Secretary DeVos discussed the meaning of this event as they stopped for pictures on stage.

The Honoring MLK Jr.'s Drum Major Legacy: Innovative Pathways to Success event was truly impactful and allowed us to honor the amazing work that is being done to support the education of our youth and those who are committed to their achievement. We appreciated the opportunity to honor MLK Jr.'s legacy, inspire participants and engage with students.





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# Leadercast Event brings Dr. Mae Jemison and others to Mid-Michigan Community College



*courtesy photo*

Mt. Pleasant, MI – Get your tickets now for Leadercast—the world’s largest one-day leadership conference on May 4, 2018 8:30am – 4:30pm EST. This year marks the third year that Mid Michigan Community College (Mid) is hosting the event at its Mt. Pleasant campus.

Let world-renowned speakers inspire the leader within you – with insights, enthusiasm, and real-world advice you can’t do without. Who better to learn from than people who’ve faced the same leadership challenges as you, and succeeded?

Leadercast is your ticket to becoming the best leader you can be—NOW and in the future. It’s a once-in-a-lifetime experience, yet it’s also part of a leadership journey in which individuals and groups come back to “re-ignite” year after year. Attend Leadercast to receive a wide array of valuable benefits, including the opportunity to:

- Get empowered by world-class speakers who show you how to become a more effective leader
- Let each of these speakers provide you with

useful takeaways, including digital summaries you can share when you return to the office

- Surround yourself with other leaders who share your passion for learning and leading
- Focus solely on self-improvement by removing yourself from your work environment and immersing yourself in the event
- Spark your creativity and fill yourself with fire-in-the-belly determination to drive your team to new levels of achievement
- See why leading yourself is a vital prerequisite to leading others
- Also, lunch is included—perfect for networking with colleagues and the leaders you’ve just met.

Keynote speakers are:

**Carey Lohrenz** - First Female F-14 Tomcat Fighter Pilot in the U.S. Navy

**Ian Cron** - Bestselling Author, Psychotherapist, and Speaker

**Andy Stanley** - Leadership Author and Communicator

**Dr. Jim Loehr** - World-renowned Sports Psychologist

**Michael Hyatt** - Bestselling Author and transformative workshop facilitator

**Jen Bricker** - Acrobat, Aerialist, Author, and Speaker

**Dr. Mae Jemison** - Engineer, Physician, and first woman of color in the world to go to space

Tickets for the event are just \$70 per person and include lunch. Details and tickets are now available at [www.leadercastmmcc.eventbrite.com](http://www.leadercastmmcc.eventbrite.com) For more information about Leadercast, contact Greg Sieszputowski at [gsieszputowski@midmich.edu](mailto:gsieszputowski@midmich.edu) or at (989) 386-6622.



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# Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter will host 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Hats Off to Mom Scholarship Luncheon



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter will host its 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Hats Off to Mom Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday, May 5, 2018 at 10:30am at Horizons Conference Center, Saginaw. This program allows the chapter to provide service to all mankind through extraordinary programs of community service and by the awarding of scholarships to deserving students in the Saginaw community.

Additionally, the program will feature an enjoyable hat show and numerous vendors.

Souvenir Booklet AD: We ask that you consider purchasing an ad to be published in our keepsake souvenir booklet. The ad form is attached. The deadline for ads is April 2, 2018. All proceeds will benefit scholarship and community service programs in the Saginaw community.

The luncheon theme is “Launching New Dimensions of Service: Empowering Women To Step Up and Speak Out.” The program will recognize an exemplary community leader as the “Mother of the Year,” a dedicated sorority member as the “Soror of the Year” and award \$4000.00 in scholarships to deserving graduating high school seniors from the Great Lakes Bay region.

Additionally, please consider purchasing a table of 10 at \$400. Individual tickets are \$40 for adults and \$20 for youth under 18 years. Children aged 6 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased through any member of the chapter, or by contacting Mrs. Lorrin Genwright at [lovelorrainevents@yahoo.com](mailto:lovelorrainevents@yahoo.com).

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## Calling Artists for Saginaw Old Town Art Fair



The Saginaw Old Town Art Fair is located on the 400 block of Court Street, in the historic Riverfront District of Saginaw, Michigan. Saginaw Old Town Art Fair sits amidst historical architecture, established and supportive local businesses, and a vibrant art and music scene.

The Saginaw Old Town Art Fair is presented by the Old Town Saginaw Association and Saginaw Art Museum. Their mission is to provide the opportunity to showcase a breadth of fine art in the heart of Old Town Saginaw, while providing the opportunity for community members to view and purchase artwork, participate in free art based activities, and see live art demonstrations. The Saginaw Old Town Art Fair is excited to welcome artists to their town and offer their hospitality.

All work must be the creation of the exhibiting artist: the original concept design, style and execution must be attributable solely to the displaying artist(s). All work on display must be consistent with the images submitted. Artists must be 18 years of age or older.

Applications are now available for artists to apply for the Saginaw Old Town Art Fair. Applications are through Zapplication.org <https://www.zapplication.org/event-info.php?ID=6513>

2018 ART FESTIVAL DATES  
Friday, August 10 10:00 am - 7:00 pm  
Saturday, August 11 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Artist Application Deadline: Saturday, June 30, 2018 midnight EST through Zapplication.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/saginawart/>

## YMCA of Saginaw Increases Availability of Water Safety and Swim Lessons in Underserved Communities



*istock*

As part of the Y's commitment to reduce drowning rates and keep kids safe in and around the water, the YMCA of Saginaw will provide scholarships for swim instruction and water safety to children from underserved communities in Saginaw.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, fatal drowning is the second leading cause of death for children ages one to 14. A study conducted in 2011 by USA Swimming found that in ethnically diverse communities, the youth drowning rate is two to three times higher than the national average. Additionally, nearly six out of 10 African American and Hispanic/Latino children are unable to swim, nearly twice as many as their Caucasian counterparts.

“Educating children about how to be safe around water is just as important as teaching them to look both ways before they cross the street,” said Tina Swanton, Aquatics and Lead Program Director, YMCA of Saginaw. “The Y teaches children of all ages and backgrounds that water should be fun, not feared, and this practice not only saves lives, it builds confidence.”

The Y has been a leader in providing swim lessons and water safety for 150 years. The YMCA of Saginaw continues to help youth and adults experience the joy and benefits of swimming so they can be healthy, confident and secure in the water. There are a variety of programs to choose from, including Safety Around Water, Group Swim Lessons for ages 6 months to adults, Conditioning, Endurance Sports and Games, Sharks Swim Team, Master's Swim Team, and more.

In addition to learning lifesaving water safety skills, children can increase their physical activity by swimming. Swimming also motivates children to strive for self-improvement, teaches goal orientation and cultivates a positive mental attitude and high self-esteem. It teaches the life lessons of sport and sportsmanship, so that children can learn how to work well with teammates and coaches and how to deal with winning and losing—skills that last a lifetime.



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## Restoration Community Outreach

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rcosag@yahoo.com

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## Saginaw County Community Action Agency, Inc. (CAC)

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## The Michigan Banner Outreach Ministries

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989-992-2600

## The Saginaw Community Foundation

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— Romans 15:7*







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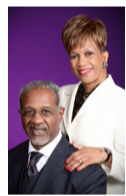
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# POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

## Secretary of State Ruth Johnson reminds voters of local May elections



*courtesy photo*

### Municipalities, libraries, school districts seeking voters

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson reminded eligible voters to head to the polls Tuesday, May 8.

“Local elections in May often include your area school districts, libraries and municipalities,” Johnson said. “I encourage you to cast a ballot on Election Day if you’re a registered voter, because these elections directly affect your community.”

Of Michigan’s 83 counties, 66 will hold elections. To find out if their community is holding an election, voters can visit [www.Michigan.gov/vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/vote) for more information. The polls will be open on Election Day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Residents may visit the Michigan Voter Information Center at [www.Michigan.gov/vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/vote) to see their sample ballot and find their polling place. Residents also can find information on absentee voting, Michigan’s voter identification requirement and how to contact their local clerk.

Voters who qualify may choose to cast an absentee ballot. As a registered voter, you may obtain an absentee ballot if you are age 60 or older; physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another; expecting to be absent from the community in which you are registered for the entire time the polls will be open on Election Day; in jail awaiting arraignment or trial; unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons or will be working as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence.

Voters with absentee ballots are encouraged to put those ballots in the mail as soon as possible to

ensure timely delivery. Those who wish to receive their absentee ballot by mail must submit their application by 2 p.m. Saturday, May 5. Absentee ballots can be obtained in person anytime through 4 p.m. Monday, May 7. Voters who request an absentee ballot in person on Monday, May 7, must fill out the ballot in the clerk’s office. Emergency absentee ballots are available under certain conditions through 4 p.m. on Election Day.





## Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-05) and Congressman Jim McGovern introduce bill to expand healthy food access to underserved communities

Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-05) and Congressman Jim McGovern (MA-02) today introduced legislation reauthorizing and expanding funding for a fruit and vegetable incentive program to improve access to healthy foods for Americans who receive nutrition assistance, also known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The Kildee-McGovern bill, The Gus Schumacher Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) Program Reauthorization Act of 2018, makes critical investments in fruit and vegetable incentive programs like Michigan's successful "Double Up Food Bucks" program. These programs double the purchasing power of SNAP benefits if recipients use them to buy nutritious fruits and vegetables at places like grocery stores and farmers markets. For instance, a family that spends their SNAP benefits on Michigan-grown fruits and vegetables would receive a dollar for dollar match to buy additional fruits or vegetables, essentially doubling the value of their food assistance benefits. Massachusetts has a similar "Double Up Food Bucks" program called the Healthy Incentives Program that has been very successful. In its first season, more than 35,000 families participated in the program and were able to gain access to almost \$3 million in healthy local produce.

The Kildee-McGovern bill is named after Gus Schumacher, a champion of SNAP and fruit and vegetable incentive programs, and former Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Gus Schumacher sadly passed away last year.

The Kildee-McGovern legislation would:

- **Invest in healthy food incentive programs like Double Up Food Bucks**, from the current level of \$100 million to \$275 million over five years. This will help each program across the country reach more families and seniors.
- **Expand access to healthy fruits and vegetables** by encouraging Double Up Food Bucks and other successful food incentive programs to be used at grocery stores and farmers markets.

- **Provide training and technical assistance to grocery stores**, farmers markets and public and non-profit agencies so they can best implement this program. Training will connect stores and markets to best practices developed over nearly a decade so they can best serve their community.
- **Rename the FINI program to honor Gus Schumacher**, the former USDA Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services and SNAP incentive champion.

"I'm proud to work with Congressman McGovern to expand access to healthy fruits and vegetables for Americans who currently rely on food assistance," Congressman Kildee said. "By supporting successful programs like Michigan's Double Up Food Bucks, we are increasing the purchasing power for families and making it more affordable to buy fresh fruits and vegetables. This will expand access to nutritious food and improve the health of millions of families, children and seniors across the country. In the last Farm Bill, we successfully pushed to fund these important initiatives, and this year I am proud to continue fighting for these efforts because no American should have to struggle with putting food on the table for themselves and their families."

"Solving hunger starts with smart programs like FINI that make it easier for SNAP recipients to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables and stay healthy. FINI enabled my home state of Massachusetts to expand its double up bucks program statewide and has dramatically increased the access to fresh fruits and vegetables for SNAP recipients. It's a good investment," Congressman Jim McGovern said. "Gus Schumacher was one of America's strongest voices in the fight to end hunger and a local food champion who helped connect farmers with families in need. Naming this program after him is a beautiful tribute to a lifetime working to ensure hungry families have access to the fruits and vegetables they need. I am proud to work with Congressman Kildee to continue the important work FINI does every year to help reduce hunger across the country."

## Michigan Selected for Policy Academy Focused on Preventing Targeted Violence

Gov. Rick Snyder today announced that Michigan is among four states chosen by the National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices to participate in a policy academy focused on developing strategic plans to prevent ideologically-inspired violence.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Terrorism Prevention Partnerships is funding the policy academy that will allow teams from Michigan, Colorado, Illinois and Virginia to learn from national experts and peers from other states as they develop their strategic plans.

"Unfortunately, targeted violence continues to be a problem that plagues our nation," said Snyder. "Being selected for this Policy Academy is an opportunity for Michigan to learn from subject matter experts and build partnerships with participating states as we further enhance our plans to prevent acts of violence driven by ideology."

Michigan and the other three states will participate in two policy academy meetings, an in-state workshop and a series of conference calls and webinars during implementation of the plans.

"The protection of Michigan residents is our highest priority," said Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue, director of the Michigan State Police and State Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. "This academy will allow us to work collaboratively to develop a comprehensive strategy to combat violent extremism and targeted violence."

To learn more about the NGA visit [www.nga.org](http://www.nga.org).



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## SPORTS

## Leadership Changes for Michigan Baseball Foundation



MIDLAND, Mich. - After over 12 years with the Michigan Baseball Foundation (MBF) and MBF Enterprises (MBFE), the organization's first and only president, Paul Barbeau, will be leaving his role effective May 6, 2018, to join the Dow Chemical Company as Director, Real Estate Strategy & Facility Development.

Assuming elevated roles in a leadership restructure for MBFE are Scott Litle as Senior Vice President - Chief Operating Officer, Jana Chotivkova as Vice President - Chief Financial Officer, and Chris Mundhenk as Vice President - Chief Revenue Officer. MBFE is a social enterprise focused on driving economic development and improving the quality of life in the Great Lakes Bay Region. MBFE owns the Great Lakes Loons, ESPN 100.9-FM and the State Street restaurant. Litle, Chotivkova, and Mundhenk will be leading and managing all aspects of these businesses.

After retiring as Chief Executive Officer of Chemical Bank in June 2017, David Ramaker has joined the organization as Interim President of the Michigan Baseball Foundation. MBF owns Dow Diamond and leads Momentum Midland, a collaborative effort to drive investment and vibrancy in and around downtown Midland. Ramaker's focus will be to lead MBF's efforts in these areas.

Ramaker has been added as a Director for both MBF and MBFE. Barbeau will remain on the

Board of Directors for both MBF and MBFE.

"I am very grateful to Bill Stavropoulos - and so many other leaders, community members, and Loons fans - for the opportunity to lead MBF and MBF Enterprises since 2006," said Barbeau. "As I transition to this new professional opportunity, I am confident this new leadership structure and team will take the Loons and downtown Midland to new heights."

Barbeau joined MBF and MBF Enterprises in 2006 as the first president and general manager of the Great Lakes Loons and helped launch the team, aid in the building of Dow Diamond, and facilitate the now long-standing partnership with the Los Angeles Dodgers. In the years that followed, Barbeau led MBF's economic development and downtown Midland investment initiatives and provided leadership for MBF Enterprises, including the acquisition of ESPN 100.9-FM (WLUN) in 2008 and the opening of the State Street restaurant in the East End Development in 2014.

Under Barbeau's leadership, the Loons franchise has been built from the ground up. Nearly three million people have attended Loons games over the franchise's first eleven seasons. In addition, Dow Diamond has hosted over 1,700 other events, including concerts, trade shows, business meetings and private functions. In January 2008, Barbeau received the Ruby Award from Great

Lakes Bay Regional Lifestyle Magazine, an honor recognizing young professionals in the Great Lakes Bay Region. After the 2008 season, Barbeau was named Midwest League Executive of the Year.

"Paul has been instrumental to our efforts to improve the quality of life in the region and create new investment in downtown Midland," said Bill Stavropoulos, Founder and Chairman of MBF and MBFE. "On behalf of both Boards of Directors, I want to thank Paul for his many contributions. We are excited to welcome new people and perspectives to our organization and look forward to many more years of success and impact. David's years of Midland business and community leadership will help MBF further its mission of downtown investment."

Like Barbeau, Litle joined MBF and MBFE in 2006 and most recently served as the Senior Vice President and General Manager. Litle previously held the roles of Vice President of Sales & Event Operations and Assistant GM of Ticket Sales & Event Operations.

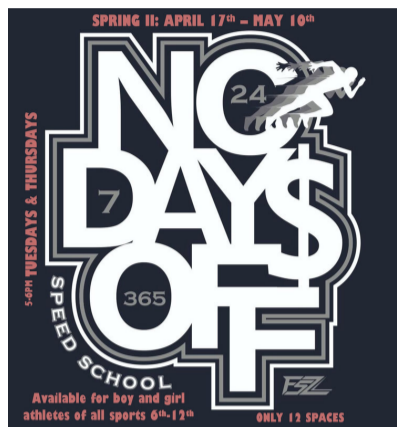
Chotivkova has been with MBF and the Loons since 2012 after spending 12 years in the public accounting sector. She most recently served as the Vice President of Finance.

Mundhenk has worked in the sports and entertainment industry since 2001 and has spent the last 12 years with MBF and the Loons. For the last year, he has served as the Vice President of Business Development. His previous roles have been Vice President of Marketing & Entertainment and Assistant GM of Marketing & Entertainment.

Ramaker joined Chemical Bank as a Vice President in 1989, was appointed President and CEO of Chemical Bank in January 1996, and was the CEO and President of the Chemical Financial Corporation until June 2017. He has also served in a variety of roles with area non-profit organizations including the Herbert H. & Grace A. Dow Foundation, Midland Area Community Foundation, Midland Center for the Arts, Midland Tomorrow, Midland Business Alliance, Midland County Economic Development Corporation, United Way of Midland County, and Midland DDA.



# Freeland Sportszone offers Summer sports fun for area youth



## FOOTBALL FACTORY PRESENTS SPEED SCHOOL

8-Class Program | Spring II: April 17 - May 10  
Tuesdays (APC) & Thursdays (Turf Room)  
5 - 6 PM  
6th - 12th Grade Boys & Girls of All Sports  
Cost per Program:  
\$90 Members  
\$120 Non-Members



## DIG MY GAME VOLLEYBALL CAMP & CLINIC BY SVSU CARDINALS

5-Week Clinic | 3-Day Camp | 2-Day FREE CAMP (1st-4th Grade)  
Clinic May 16 - June 13 | Every Wednesday 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (5th - 8th Grade)  
Camp June 18 - 20 | 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (5th - 8th Grade)  
FREE CAMP June 18 & 19 | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (1st - 4th Grade)  
Camp Cost: \$60 Members / \$90 Non-Members  
Clinic Cost: \$50 Members / \$70 Non-Member  
Package Camp and Clinic: \$100 Members / \$130 Non-Members  
\*CLINIC REGISTRATION DEADLINE: May 16th  
\*CAMP REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 8th



## FSZ SUMMER FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE

5 Week League - 5 Weeks of practices and games  
July 10 - August 7  
K - 1st & 2nd - 4th Grade Boys & Girls  
Games: Tuesdays at 5:00 PM  
Location: Tittabawassee Twp. Park  
Cost: \$50 Members / \$70 Non-Members  
\*REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 25th



## FSZ COVERAGE ACADEMY

3-day camp | Defensive Backs and Linebackers  
June 19 - 21  
6th - 9th Grade  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Location: FSZ  
Cost: \$50 Members / \$70 Non-Members  
\*REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 8th

**For more Summer Sports Events visit:**  
**[www.freeland-sportszone.com/youth-sports.html](http://www.freeland-sportszone.com/youth-sports.html)**



# Neighborhood Revitalization 2018

## BUENA VISTA HOME REPAIRS May 17 – 23

*Put your faith in action!*

Volunteer to help your  
community and learn new skills

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email at: [alysadeplonty@sshfh.org](mailto:alysadeplonty@sshfh.org)



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# Raise Hope and Foster Dreams

When a family is struggling, they need to know they can rely on the generous help and support of others who will take in their kids while they get back on their feet.

**Become a  
foster parent**  
[michigan.gov/hopeforahome](http://michigan.gov/hopeforahome)

**1-855-MICKIDS**

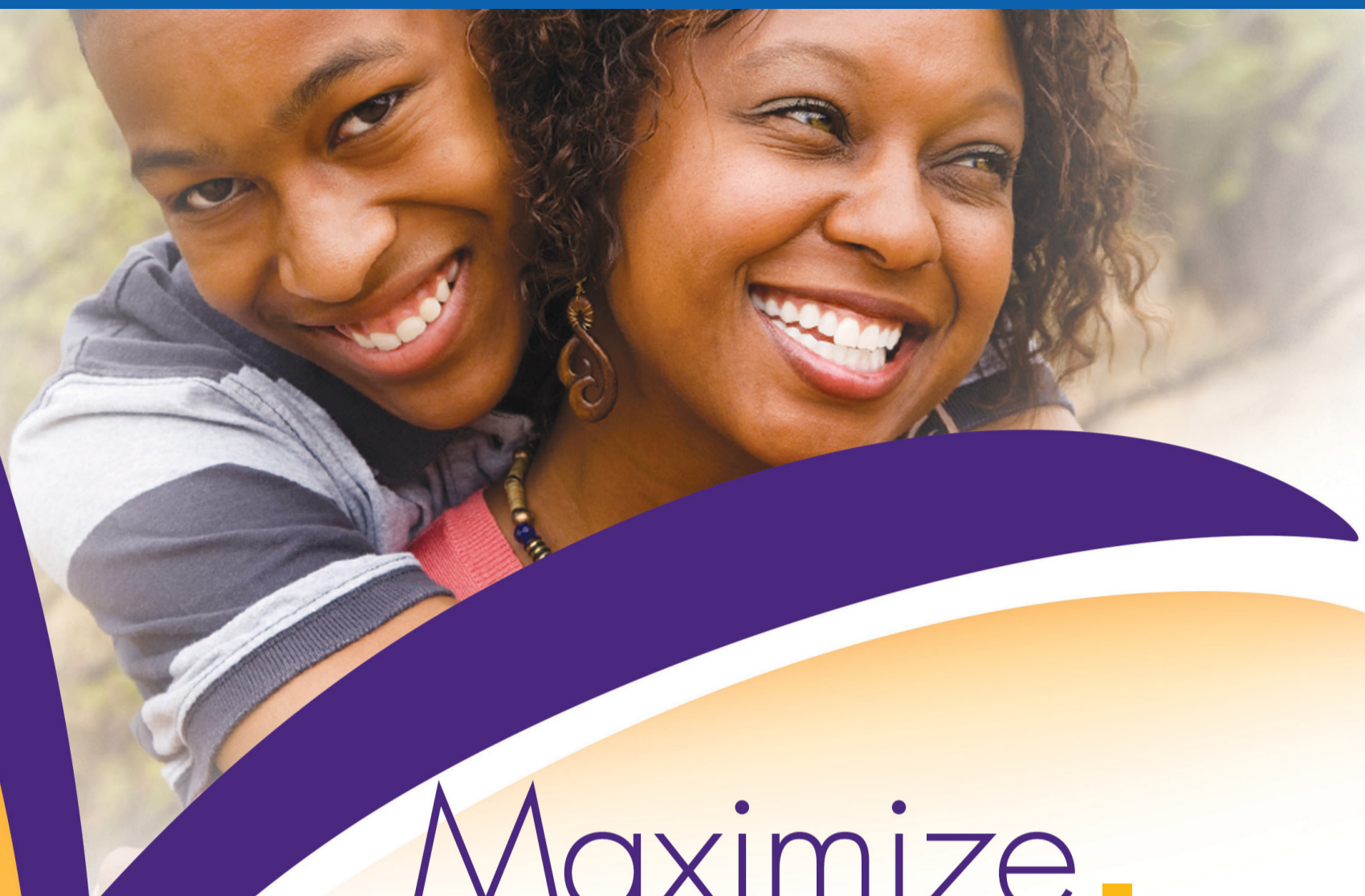
Call to learn more  
about foster care



Department of Human Services (DHS) will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political beliefs or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc. under the American with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to a DHS office in your area.

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





# Maximize Results

The story of a child with Severe Emotional Disturbance is too often one of tragedy. With the right help and the right team, it can be one of triumph. We maximize results — to give more family stories a happy ending.

Contact Wardene Talley  
**989-754-2288**







# CHANGES TO OUR NEW ROUTES

START DECEMBER 31, 2017

## Route 1:

Was: (INBOUND) Congress > Mason > State  
Change to: (INBOUND) Congress > Bay > State

## Route 211 becomes Route 112:

Was: Perkins > Outer > Woodbridge  
Change to: Woodbridge > Outer > Perkins  
Adding: Ricker Center

## Route 3:

Stays on Michigan to Superior - No bridge crossing  
Drops: YMCA (YMCA on Route 7)

## Route 54:

Drops Ricker Center (Ricker Center added to Route 112)

## Route 6 changes to Fashion Sq and SVSU Express:

Was: Weiss > Bay > SVSU > Tittabawassee > I-675  
Change to: I-675 > Fashion Sq > SVSU > Fashion Sq > I-675  
Adds: Fresnius Dialysis Center

## Route 7:

Adds: Ruffin Clinic, YMCA, MI Works, DaVita Dialysis  
Drops: Michigan Ave (added to Route 3)

## Route 82:

Was: Vets > Jefferson > Warren  
Change to: Jefferson > Warren > Vets  
Will take Jefferson to Williamson (Drop Holland, Weber, Hess)

## Route 9:

Drops inbound WalMart stop (Route 6 adds a WalMart stop)

## Route 106 - Big Changes!:

Will now Depart at top of hour (:55) instead of bottom (:25)  
Was: I-675 > Tittabawassee > Fashion Sq > Bay > Weiss  
Change to: Weiss > Covenant Mackinaw > Fashion Sq > Tittabawassee > I-675  
Adds: Covenant Mackinaw  
Drops: Bay Pointe Apts, Southbound Bay (Route 9 Adds Southbound Bay)





## PIC OF THE WEEK

**Members of the 1999 Saginaw High School State Championship Football Team are pictured below. The team will be inducted into the Saginaw County Hall of Fame in November.**



*facebook*

The purpose of the Saginaw County Hall of Fame is to foster amateur sports competition by recognizing present and former area athletes, coaches and others who have distinguished themselves in the field of athletics, either individually or by virtue of their performance on or in connection with athletic teams representing their high school, community college, four-year college, university or professional team or sport: or by meritorious effort on behalf of athletics. The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner and Induction Ceremony will take place on Sunday, November 4, 2018 at Horizons Conference Center. Other inductees include: Sue Guevara, Rick Haveroft, Danielle (Kamm) Carter, Dennis Konuszewski, Tory Jackson, Terrance Roberson, Stuart Schweigert.

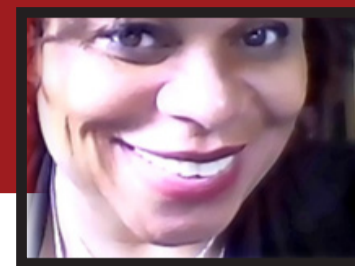
**For more information visit: [www.saginawcountysports.org](http://www.saginawcountysports.org)**



# THE SAPPHIRE BOX

By Joann L. Washington

## INDIGO SOUL STORY COLLECTION



### Sapphire Box – Name Pronunciation:

Aboutoi (Aboo – too)  
Aliano (Ali-an- o)  
Atinee-nee (An-tin- knee-nee)

BaAugiee (By-Aug- ee) Tribe  
BaDomi (Ba-Dom- me)  
Boomdoca (Boom-doc- a) Tribe  
King Shoboo-boo (Sha-bo- bo)

Ndaymacozi (N-day- ma-cozy)  
Shebna (Sheb- nah)  
Shonobie (Sha- no-be)  
Wafoozi-maxsum (Wa-Foo- zi- mac-sum)

Three sons of a BaAugiee King were loyal to their father, true to their tribe and glorified their native homeland of AFRICA. Each morning before a sable sky, Atinee-nee, Aboutoi and Shonobie danced and sang gloriously to welcome the birth of a new dawn, heaped in many bangles of fine gold and the purest of silver that clung to their limbs.

Around the Warrior's necks swung thickly knotted strands of rare "Red African Pearls" called Wafoozi-maxsum, which the BaAugiee believed possessed spiritual healing and transformational powers to cleanse, protect and smooth ailing spirits. Their rhythmic jumps and twists, fused with the rich harmonic perfection of their voices, emanated over the boom-boom thunder from the talking drums, to soared effortlessly into the sacred abyss of their ancestors.

Atinee-nee, Aboutoi and Shonobie danced for praise. They petitioned for protection and victory for another day's safe passage blessed from The Almighty.

Each son was a perfect reflection of the other. King Shoboo-boo, the Chief of the Ba- Augiee people was a wise and respected king, whose wit and deeds spread far beyond Ndaymacozi land, but far down the cool loping hills, through the dense jungles, and ran swiftly across the burning savanna. To Shoboo-boo's good credit, he sought no favor in one particular son. But as sure as the next moon, he would have to choose from amongst his son's for a worthy king.

Since there could be only one king, the task would be difficult. Just the thought of it, brought a nagging ache into his heart.

Within the BaAugiee village lived beautiful young maidens eager to be adorned with the title of "First Wife." But there was one among them so desired, that each of Shoo-boo's son's desired her hand to wife. After months of fruitless trials designed to ordain a successor, King Shoboo-boo still failed to choose a heir from amongst his son's to one day rule Ndaymacozi. Early each morning, his son's gathered strong shields and spears – to led hunting parties

into the thicket to hunt for food. The warrior's wife's labored in the fields, dried fabric, primed wheat, cow peas, and jute plant. The maidens prepared the maize for grinding, and most importantly cared for the children.

One morning King Shoboo-boo sought the advice of Prince BaDomi, father of the radiant and clever Aliano, the true heart song and burning flame of each of the king's three sons. Aliano was Prince BaDomi's youngest daughter.

BaDomi was the sage brother of a Sultan King, and trusted friend of Shoboo-boo. BaDomi's tribe, the ferrous Boomdoca was captured and defeated 40 score and 7 years prior by the fearless and invincible BaAugiee Warriors. The Boomdoca's gold, women, girls, lands, cattle, sheep, goats and all possessions taken, as spoils of war. In time, Boomdoca people were given their freedom and married into the BaAugiee clan, relinquishing all Boomdoca kinship. One day King Shoboo-boo woefully summoned Prince BaDomi, and shared his frustration. The insightful man listened with his with his ears, but saw through the eyes of his heart. After Shoboo-boo finished speaking, BaDomi went straight away into a secret place in his hut.

He returned sometime later with his huge black hands, wrapped around three, beautiful, sapphire boxes!

King Shoboo-boo was utterly bedazzled by their flawless beauty, luster and the strange way they seemed to magically change color in an instance. The King and the Sultan's brother, like two 'weaver birds' whispered among themselves well into the starry night, until they finally sowed a clever plan between them that would surely profess the next ruler of Ndaymacozi land!

It was told, King Shoboo-boo took ahold of a peculiar sickness. So powerful this sickness was, not even the transformational healing powers of the wafoozi beads could touch it! His son Atinee-nee was summoned.

A feeble King Shoboo-boo whispered between labored breaths, telling his son of rare herbs that only grew in the cold amber waters of the dreaded man-eating 'gin-gin'. He would have to travel far south to search in the sweet, healing, but deadly waters. Without delay Atinee-nee set off to bring back the herbs. When he reached the yellow lagoon, feeling the warmth of his father's love, he cut through the cold reservoir, without making so much as a ripple.

He plunged deep, down towards its bottom. To his astonishment he reached the bottom very quickly and discovered gaggles of tawny herbs...but there was something else, hidden amongst the herbs...it was a sapphire box. Quickly Atinee-nee pulled the herbs and grabbed the box. Once on land he opened the box and found a precious black ruby. Atinee-nee's haste became tempered by the brilliant glitter of the jewel. Mystified by the lull of the stone, he forgot himself and his urgent quest!

With herbs in hand, Atinee-nee returned to his father's bedside to find him lying very still barely breathing. The peculiar spell gripped tightly around his Father's life. Atinee-nee feared that his Father was dead, but BaDomi, who kept a watchful eye over the king, allayed his worse fears. BaDomi spied Atinee-nee's hands for the herbs. "You have done well my son!" said BaDomi. Atinee-nee was so ashamed and guilt laden, he couldn't look BaDomi in the face. The young Warrior only turned and hurried away...never mentioning the sapphire box.

The next day, found Shoboo-boo suspended in the throes of anguish – between this world and the next. Death drums resounded throughout Ndaymacozi land. Aboutoi was then summoned by the Sultan's brother.

"You must journey far across the Savanna...to a place of many thick thorn trees. There is one among them that is red...you must bring me the root for your Kings LIFE!! It is great...shaped like the foot of the elephant!" voiced BaDomi.

Continues on pg 49



## The Sapphire Box, continued...

Aboutoi adorned himself with a shield made from brass, and skins of leather, with a keen dragger made from ivory, to chisel the root from the thorn tree. When he reached the red thorn tree it was mighty. The warrior painstakingly foraged under the relentlessly desert heat - carefully following the trails of many tangled and twisted vines, that zig-zagged and ricocheted over the dusty parched earth, until he came upon a great root, in the shape of an elephant's foot.

Straightaway, the young BaAugiee warrior began to chisel loose the root. After he cut it free, Aboutoi notice something just on the far side of the thorn tree.

It gleamed and dazzled under curls of bobbing heat. It was a sapphire box. First, Aboutoi stood above the box. Then he kneeled down and slowly opened it.

In the box was a slim golden crown speckled with many crimson rubies that jumped and danced against the sun. Aboutoi let the thorn root slip from his hand and adorned himself with the splendid crown. Proudly he marched among the thorn trees, losing sight of everything before him. When Aboutoi finally returned, BaDomi searched his hands for the root. "You have done well," spoke the man. Aboutoi could not look BaDomi in his deep set eyes...instead he too turned and hurried away, never mentioning the sapphire box. When the next day came, there was still no change in King Shoboo-boo's status. Shonobie was then summoned to his father's bedside.

BaDomi told the young man, "You must go into the deep cursed forest of Queen Shebna! You must travel until the forest thickens so deep, it turns to water. There the earth will be rich with green parley-oil. You must fetch the parley-oil to mix the herbs and roots to cure your beloved King Shoboo-boo. It will be arduous and will require all of your strength, courage and cunning not to succumb to the tricky of "The Black Lioness!" BaDomi warned.

He gave Shonobie his special wafoozi beads to protect his spirit from the evil that lay in wait for him. BaDomi placed in his hands a long brass vase, with a darkly colored cork, to seal-shut every drop of the precious oil.

Shonobie ran. He knew time was short. He knew his Father's precious life depended on the decisions that he and he alone would have to make, to either save or kill his beloved King! Once he entered into the forest, Shonobie body felt unusually warm.

Shonobie moved further and further into the dense forest, until his feet became wet. The BaAugiee Warrior followed a short distance more...where the forest turned into oozing pools of emerald green water...he pulled the brass vase from his belt and filled it to the brim with the precious, lifesaving oil.

After he closed-shut the vessel, and slipped it back into his belt, he notice something just beneath the surface of the green water, next to his feet. It was a magnificent sapphire box! Shonobie scooped the box up and began to run as fast as he could out of the emerald dense forest.

As he reached drylands, something directly in his path cause him to stop. It was a Beautiful Warrior Woman, holding a mighty spear, blocking his path.

Shonobie girded his courage and advanced towards her exposing a sharp dagger! "Queen Shebna!" he shouted, "I do not fear you! I have no quarrel with you. I only come for the precious parley-oil to save my Father's life...surely you can understand!"

"You ARE my enemy... your Father is my enemy... your father's father, father was my enemy! You should be wise to fear me BOY!! You dare to trespass in my forest...MY FOREST! You steal my parley-oil to save your dying King and you bring me nothing...? No gift to bargain for your life?!! I am Queen Shebna! I rule here! This is my forest... not BaAugiee...not Ndaymacozi land...do YOU understand!" she scoffed.

The ragging Shebna grew and grew as tall as the trees into a fuming giant before Shonobie's very eyes.

Without hesitation, Shonobie fell to his knees, humbled himself and asked for forgiveness from the giant queen. Underneath his garment, he unveiled to Queen Shebna, the splendid sapphire box, he found only a few moments earlier.

"My Father...King Shoboo-boo of the BaAugiee Tribe, from the land of Ndaymacozi, presents this fine gift to Queen Shebna! Please except this gift as a token of our appreciation and the beginning of peace...between our lands!"

Queen Shebna began to shrink down to human size again. Shonobie rose to his feet with his head bowed, and presented her with the fine gift...when she touched the box, it instantly turned to solid gold. The Queen began to giggle with childish delight.

So enamored was she with Shonobie and his fine gift (for the moment), the dense forest opened, and pointed the warrior to a swift and save journey home.

The Sultan's brother was overjoyed when Shonobie return - He spied his hands and found the vessel brimming with parley-oil.

"Shonobie, you have returned...and with great haste! You have, indeed, done well! What have you found?"

"I found a box! A beautiful box...but I feared to open it. My King needed the parley-oil more than I needed

to know what exquisite treasures the box concealed.

I sacrificed the box for the love of my King. I sacrificed the box for the love Ndaymacozi land; I sacrificed this treasure for the one true love of my life...Aliano! "You have done well!" BaDomi spoke again with admiration. The man hurried away into King Shoboo-boo's hut, leaving the young man alone to reflect on his journey.

The next dawn, a sacred fire burned. The three sons were summoned to the circle. When they all arrived, much to their surprise, they witnessed their Father before them, in perfect health, joined by BaDomi, the Sultan's brother. Both men's eyes twinkled in unbelievable joy.

The King praised each of his sons for their bravery, and asked them about their quest. Atinee-nee and Aboutoi gave little detail about their true quest and spoke nothing about finding a sapphire box.

When the King asked Shonobie about his quest, Shonobie immediately spoke of finding a beautiful sapphire box, and his encounter with Queen Shebna, and how he gave up his treasure without ever knowing what was inside. The King sprang to his feet and embraced his son. For the first time his heart found a glorious favorite!

"It was so beautiful... I wanted so desperately to present it as a gift to a maiden Father. I have found my wife. She would have been the first to know what spectacular treasures it held!" All eyes looked at Shonobie.

"What maiden is this?" questioned the King.

Shonobie smiled down on himself, and replied, "Aliano, the daughter of BaDomi is the keeper of my heart!"

There was much rejoicing and planning between the King, BaDomi and the BaAugiee tribe, in celebration of his newly appointed successor of Ndaymacozi land, but jealousy and bitterness crept into the hearts and minds of his most trusted and much-loved brothers, Aboutoi and Atinee-nee.

The once inseparable bond of brothers died horribly, as the promise of love begins...and ends painfully leaving in its wake, an agony beyond words... The seeds of rebellion soon spread to the forest of Queen Shebna...she vowed to use all her dark powers to finally control the lands of the north...that of her ancient enemies the BaAugiee of Ndaymacozi land!





# SPRING BREAK IS FREE NEXT YEAR!

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- ✔ Pay No City Income Tax through 2026
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Current rate is 4.25% = **\$8,500**
- ✔ City of Saginaw income tax savings  
Current rate is 1.5% = **\$3,000**
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