



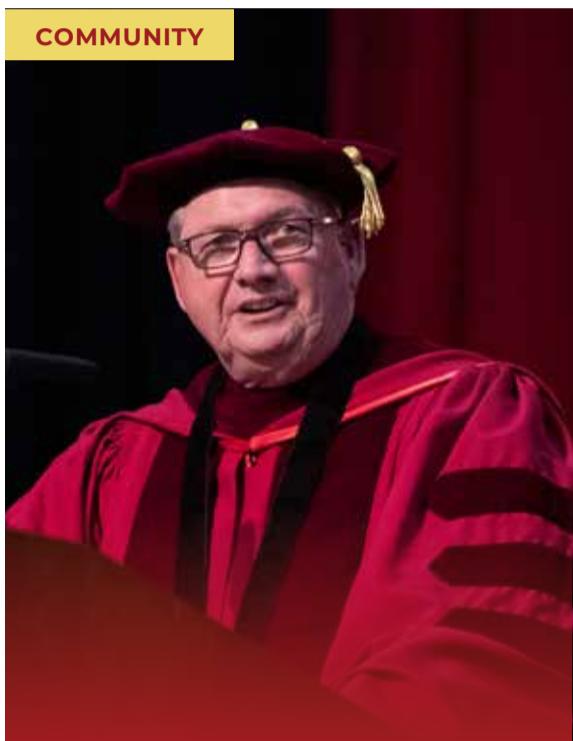
# The Michigan Banner

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**COMMUNITY**



## PRESIDENT BACHAND ANNOUNCES PLAN TO RETIRE FROM SVSU

COMMUNITY, PG 22



## MSU retired professor campaigns for immigration common ground

LATINO BNTER, PG 5



## BV farmers market grant will occupy only ROTC rear of school

COMMUNITY, PG 12



## More than subs and spuds at new South Side shop

COMMUNITY, PG 37

## U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to give virtual talk at SVSU in January

SAGINAW — The country's former top foreign affairs adviser to the president of the United States, Condoleezza Rice, will be the keynote speaker for the 13th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Celebration, hosted by Saginaw Valley State University in collaboration with the Bay Area, Midland Area and Saginaw community foundations.

Rice's keynote remarks will be streamed live to an SVSU audience Wednesday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. Individuals may register to attend virtually at [svsu.edu/mlk](http://svsu.edu/mlk). The celebration is free of charge.

From January 2005 to January 2009, Rice served as the 66th Secretary of State of the United States — the second woman and first Black woman to hold the post. Rice also served as President George W. Bush's national security adviser from January 2001 to January 2005 — the first woman to hold the position.

Rice currently serves as the Denning Professor in Global Business and the Economy at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, the Thomas and Barbara Stephenson Senior Fellow on Public Policy at the Hoover Institution, and professor of political science at Stanford University. She is also a founding partner of Rice, Hadley, Gates & Manuel LLC, and since September 1, 2020, has served as the Tad and Dianne Taube Director of the Hoover Institution.

Rice served as Stanford University's provost from 1993 to 1999. In 1997, she also served on the Federal Advisory Committee on Gender-Integrated Training in the Military. From February 1989 through March 1991, Rice served on President George H.W. Bush's National Security Council staff. She served as director, then senior director, of Soviet and East European Af-

fairs, as well as special assistant to the president for National Security Affairs. In 1986, while an International Affairs Fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations, Rice also served as special assistant to the director of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, Rice earned her bachelor's degree in political science, cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Denver; her master's in the same subject from the University of Notre Dame; and her Ph.D., likewise in political science, from the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver. Rice is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and has been awarded 15 honorary doctorates.

In addition to the keynote address by Rice, the Jan. 19 program will include the presentation of regional scholarship awards by the Bay Area, Midland Area and Saginaw community foundations to high school seniors who have embodied Martin Luther King Jr.'s ideals. Officials also will announce the winners of the Drum Major Awards, which recognize those whose community involvement in the Great Lakes Bay Region advances King's vision.



CONDOLEEZZA RICE

**FEATURED STORY**

## ATTENTION NEVER STRONGER ON POVERTY, SOCIAL NEEDS

COMMUNITY, PG 11





## TIS' THE SEASON

**M**y immediate and extended families have grown so much over the years that we now pull names and exchange gifts with one adult while continuing the practice of splurging on the small children. As this headcount continued to grow exponentially, so did the numbers of friends, colleagues, church members – you can see where this is going. Over the years (decades actually), the time, energy and expense involved became overwhelming! This from a man who has the resources available to indulge a bit thinking out loud about the families who struggle each year to live up to the hype i.e., the commercialism which begins on Halloween and continues around the clock until the stroke of midnight on December 24th . So, as if there needed to be one more divisive subject of debate, over the past few years beginning with the abbreviated 'X Mas" greeting, the 'war on Christmas' has been a major topic of conversation. Hearing the words, 'Happy Holidays' usually said with a smile has become cause to cancel orders, exit the business without the carefully selected items for loved ones, respond with an ice cold, 'Merry Christmas to you' or even to mutter a few chosen words that cannot be printed in a family newspaper on the way out. Observing this type of behavior kind of puts a damper on the whole 'tis the season of love, peace and joy' frame of mind.

The Christmas season is a mix of religious and secular traditions practiced in countries worldwide. It is a time of spiritual reflection of the very basic tenet of Christianity – a day set aside to recognize and celebrate God's love for the world through the birth of the Christ child, Jesus. Obviously, this is a Christian (followers of Christ) holiday. There are, however many other religious and non-religious holidays observed during the month of December as well. A short and not at all inclusive list includes Ramadan, St. Nicholas Day, Feast of Immaculate Conception, Zionism Day, Human Light Celebration, Christmas Eve, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Holy Innocents Day. Happy Holidays is a phrase used to be inclusive – a way to acknowledge people whose beliefs differ from my own. It doesn't in any way weaken or dilute my faith and it certainly does not cancel the joy, the peace, or the love of and for mankind which rests in my heart. The spirit and joy of Christmas lives inside of us – not solely in a holiday greeting often used to sell merchandise.

I recognize the fact that this is a hot topic which has over time polarized groups of people mainly in the faith community. I am hopeful (this is a season of hope) that my thoughts are cause for unity. There are so many critical issues to be addressed. Let's not major in the minors – being greeted with respect and a smile cannot continue to be such a bone of contention. We continue to be who we are called to be – purveyors of truth and love while respecting others' right to their beliefs. I think that message will speak volumes far beyond the argumentative approach that has picked up speed over the years. Good Trouble – Necessary Trouble. I haven't taken a break from this mantra. It is necessary to prioritize or pick your battles. Recognizing that salesclerks are not the enemy and asking ourselves important questions will go a long way in our efforts to create a peaceful environment during the holidays and far beyond. Just a couple of queries to consider might be; Is this a necessary battle? Must all 'fights' be aggressive and contentious? I can't count the numbers of times I heard my grandmother say, 'You catch more flies with honey than vinegar'. I remain hopeful that this season will indeed be one of joy, peace, and healing.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
**from Jerome Buckley & The Michigan Banner family!**

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The Michigan Banner, Latino Banner and Youth 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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**As the holiday season approaches, nostalgia settles upon us, and we are reminded of what is most important: each other.**

We have faced so much as a community just in this last year alone. But as we continue the journey ahead, we're grateful to do so together – just as we have always done.

The challenges of the pandemic – coupled with the painful examples of ongoing systemic racism, unrest and injustice we face – have taken a mental and emotional toll on us all.

While some may tend to busy schedules, bustling store runs, and holiday meal planning, others will try to withstand the pressure of caring for loved ones and their children, the anxiety of juggling bills, and all while navigating mental health impacts that the pandemic still contributes to today.

What I do know is that while we are all experiencing this holiday season in varying ways, it is that shared experience that grounds us as a community, gives us the strength to lean to one another, and unites us in the way forward.

Those very challenges and experiences bring us to where we stand today and allow us to find gratefulness in the midst of what may feel like hopelessness.

It's been a difficult year. There's so much to be concerned about, and to fight for, and so much work to be done. But right now, let's take a moment to recognize, amidst all the challenges, the things that we have to be grateful for.

This season is about our human connection, shared experiences, and how they shape who we are as a community that remains committed to lifting one another, time

and time again.

I am so hopeful and inspired by the ways we've continued to come together for one another over this past year. Through disaster and crisis, from neighbor to neighborhood – we are united.

For that and so much more, we have reason to be thankful.

As we embrace a new sense of normalcy, know that United Way will continue to work to lift families out of crisis and foster equitable communities where all households are stable, and every child can thrive.

If you or someone you know is struggling or in need, reach out. Your health and well-being are important. A phone call to United Way's 2-1-1 helpline could provide help and stability.

You never know who may be counting on your generosity. If you have the gift of time, share it with our community. There are several volunteer opportunities available to you during the holidays and beyond.

Please, take care of yourself and each other. May we all be anchored in compassion, care, and grace.

It is a privilege to Live United and Light the Way for our community. Your support makes it all possible. We are thankful for you this and every day.

*Darienne D. Hudson*

**Darienne Driver Hudson, Ed.D.  
President and CEO  
United Way for Southeastern Michigan**

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## THE MICHIGAN BANNER NEWS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AT&amp;T



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# LatinoBanner

**LIDER EN LA  
DIVERSIDAD**  
**VAMOS ADELANTE**



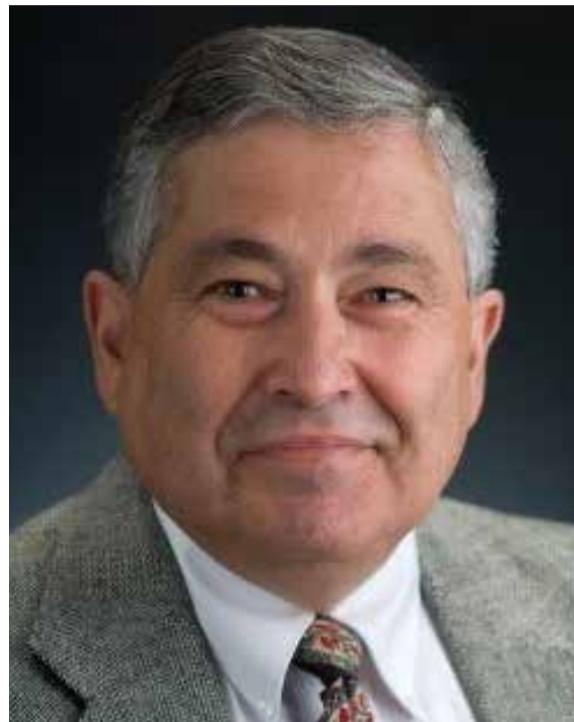
COURTESY PHOTO

## These 'Angels' are taking care of holiday giving

LB PG 5



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EDILBERTO "ED" MONTEMAYOR

## MSU retired professor campaigns for immigration common ground

By MIKE THOMPSON

**H**e volunteers his time to advocate for immigration, even though he never encountered personal prejudice in moving from Mexico to the U.S.A.

Edilberto "Ed" Montemayor, a retired Michigan State University professor of human resource management, is looking out for others.

"I was a college student from a privileged family, so there were no issues for me," he says, "but others, of course, have

not been so fortunate. I see people who have been here for 10 years, even 20 years or more, who suddenly are deported, taken from their homes, from their spouses, from their children. The punishment is really very cruel."

The native of Monterrey in northern Mexico is devoting a large chunk of his retirement years to a "Statute of Limitations for Immigrants" that would take effect for anyone without documents who has lived on United States soil for at least 10 years with a good record of behavior

"For other minor misdemeanor crimes there are statutes of limitation, but not for immigrants who are considered unlawful," Montemayor says. "We are trying to make people aware that there is a simple and sensible solution to all of this debate."

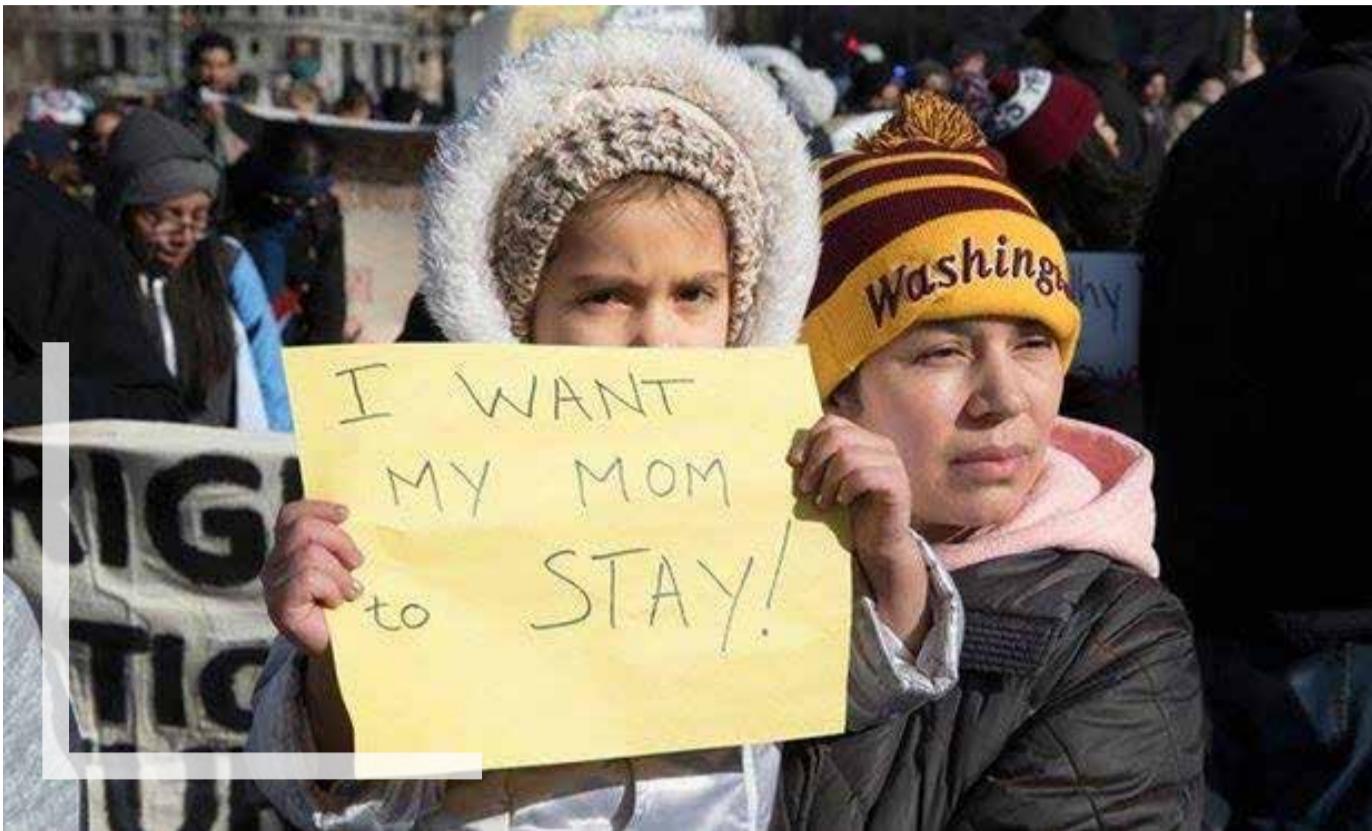
Some elected officials, he says, need to be "made aware" of the Statute of Limitations approach. He encourages supporters to call them and to write them.

He adds, "Those of us who live in the U.S. owe a lot to undocumented immigrants. We could not get the amount, quality, and price of fruits, vegetables, dairy, meat and poultry we enjoy without the hard work of millions of undocumented immigrants. Just visit any dairy farm in Michigan and you will hear blasting radios with Mexican music. Ask farmers, and they will tell you Michigan agriculture could not survive without migrant workers, many of whom are 'undocumented'. The same can be said about the tasty food we enjoy in many restaurants where immigrants without 'papers' toil in hot and steamy kitchens; or about construction for the top quality newly-built homes some of us buy."

Then he offers his summary: "You get the picture. The American economy could not work as it does without the millions of undocumented immigrants who perform jobs the rest of us will not take, at least for the wages employers pay for such work."

**CONTINUES ON LB PG 2,  
MONTEMAYOR**

## Continued from LB Cover, Montemayor



COURTESY PHOTO

### First, the U.S.A. Next, MSU

Ed and his wife, Teresa came to the U.S. during the 1980s seeking a better life for themselves and their three Mexican-born children. They worked hard and achieved the 'American dream.' However, he knows many other immigrants are still struggling to live like the rest of us, even though they have also worked very hard, even harder than Ed and Teresa did.

He enlisted on the Michigan State faculty in 1990, age 40 at the time, after completing his Ph.D doctorate at U-M -- the University of Minnesota, as he teases his Ann Arbor friends.

Ed's politics during his MSU tenure were progressive but not activist -- at least not until 2015, when Donald Trump launched his campaign for president with an aggressive stand against immigration. He worked for the Bernie Sanders campaign until Hillary Clinton captured the Democratic nomination, and he was a frustrated onlooker when Donald Trump launched his bans and his wall-building along the Rio Grande.

In 2017, he helped organize a Lansing riverfront rally that drew 500 supporters, and then he took part in urging local leaders to establish the state capitol as a sanctuary city, offering protections for poten-

tial deportees.

For a span, he was sidelined with personal health concerns. Now he's back in 2021, as strong as ever, resisting Trump's MAGA claims that most migrants are murderers, rapists and drug dealers.

"We have a human rights tragedy in this country," Montemayor says. "Millions of good 'undocumented' people live as second-class persons, constantly under the fear of making a minor mistake (like a traffic violation) and ending up deported. It is not only them, there are also millions of American-born spouses and children of these 'undocumented' immigrants who live under the same stress." He adds, "For years we have known millions of 'undocumented' persons live and work in our country, an estimated 11 million, and we have tolerated our government's failure to do anything about it. By accepting their presence and benefitting from their work, 'we the people' have granted these undocumented immigrants the right to stay in our country! Many of them do not want citizenship, they just want to live free from fear of deportation."

President Biden has said he backs the statute-of-limitations solution, but this is virtually unreported and unknown during a Trump backlash time in which sympathizers are unable to win the needed

votes for something as basic as the DREAM Act for young adults who had no say-so in being U.S.A. bred, because parents and guardians brought them here in early childhood. Ed consistently points out that various conservative groups and think tanks, like the Cato Institute, also have come on board.

### A popular revolution

Public opinion, Montemayor notes, is more than 75 percent in favor of ending deportation for the Dreamers and for long-established migrants. He has presented information regarding the Statute of Limitations Solutions to the Latino Leaders for the Enhancement of Advocacy and Development (LLEAD) and the Mexican American Council of Saginaw, and both entities are supporting these efforts.

"We are a nation of laws. But we are also a nation that claims we seek equal justice and fairness for all. Yes, undocumented immigrants 'broke the law,' but they only committed a minor offense," he says. "Entering our country without permission is only a misdemeanor. Staying after one's visa expires is not even a 'crime,' it is only a civil infraction. Becoming an undocumented immigrant is probably the only minor offense for which we do not have a Statute of Limitations."

He continues, "Remember the civil rights movement, the movement against apartheid in South Africa, and the movement to stop the Vietnam War. 'We The People' pushed our government to do the right thing in the past. It's time to do the same on behalf of the many good 'undocumented' people living in our country because they lack political influence by themselves."

His personal moniker is, "We are ALL migrants."

Readers who wish to get involved may contact Ed Montemayor via his email, [edilberto.f.montemayor@gmail.com](mailto:edilberto.f.montemayor@gmail.com), or check the Facebook page, "Michigan Latinx Info Network." To conduct research, Google search for "immigration statute of limitations." If advocating with a legislator, refer to Registry Act (8 US Code 1259).

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*John 3:16*



**By PASTOR AUGUSTINE  
DELGADO**  
NEW BEGINNINGS  
MINISTRIES

We prepare to spread the holiday cheer in a variety of ways. These may include decorating the tree with lights and bulbs, or preparing your favorite dishes. This could be as simple as wearing your holiday sweaters, eating at your favorite restaurants, planning your parties or programs, etc.

Let us not forget the real reason for the season: A Savior came for you and I, and as we spread the Holiday Cheer, let's spread the love of Christ as well.



ELVIS MACHUL JR.

## SVSU recruit shoots longballs, but will remain close to home

**By MIKE THOMPSON**

Elvis Machul Jr. was squaring off against his father in another one-one-one basketball showdown.

This would become a big day in the young teen's transition to become a hoops standout for Arthur Hill High, where he now is entering his senior season with a Saginaw Valley State scholarship signing already achieved.

His dad, who himself had played college ball, was not one for favors and always played him tough with the slogan, "Go hard or go home."

But on this day two years past, young Elvis rained down a storm of long-range bombs, swishing one after another like his fave high-arcing pro, Damien Lillard.

A final twine-tinkler closed out his first-ever triumph over his dad.

### Dad loses and loves it

Elvis Sr. may aim to play it strict, but he couldn't help but chuckle as he recalled, "One after another from downtown. Way out near midcourt. I couldn't stop him. You have to play him close and run all over with him, or he will make you pay."

Junior canned enough jumpers during his Arthur Hill junior season to average 13 points, along with five rebounds, achieving Saginaw Valley League honors. Now he's prepping for a college career at a school with the same name.

"I'll have a chance to play in my hometown and to get a great education at the same time," says Arthur Hill's valedictorian for the Class of '22.

Tony Davis was dad's coach at Carrollton High back near the turn of the millennium,

when the Cavaliers achieved district and regional championships, and he now is the son's taskmaster at Arthur Hill.

The elder Machul extended his career to Delta College and to Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. Dad has imparted top-notch training and guidance, the coach notes, while mom, Diana Guerra Machul, is a Hillite alumnae.

"Elvis (junior) is a hard worker and a quality kid," Coach Davis says, referring to a schedule of three workouts per day. "He's always positive and he makes things happen. The team feeds off of his energy."

A top goal for 2021-22 is improvement in the overall floor game to complement the dead-eye shooting.

### Saginaw flavor for SVSU hoops

Future teammates in the SVSU backcourt will feature a local flavor, including Freddie McIntosh (Saginaw High), Brian Booker Jr. (Heritage) and Tre Garrett (Bridgeport).

Young Elvis says his career highlight is a 27-point game with UTS Elite to help his team to the Elite 8 at the NY2LA Grassroots Championships in Orlando.

He notes, "Traveling the nation over the last six months playing against elite competition has really prepared me to help my Lumberjack team have a great season."

Even when the shots are not immediately falling, he says, "You always gotta trust that the next one is going in."

He aims for a career in pro hoops, and his fallback still will include athletics, anything from management of a fitness facility to becoming a sports journalist.

Either way, he says, "I want to play basketball for as long as possible."



COURTESY PHOTO

## These 'Angels' are taking care of holiday giving

By MIKE THOMPSON

**W**hen Elvis Machul was a little boy, his Christmas gift list was topped by an Ultimate Warrior wrestling action figure.

His wish came true because his family in Saginaw possessed the means to make it happen.

This was during the 1980s. Today, as Garber Buick's Finance Director, one of

his numerous volunteer outreach roles is to help bring the same holiday joy to children from less fortunate families.

He serves as president of Christmas with Angels, a 5-year-old effort that is aiming to bring gifts and a full-course dinner to 30 families.

"No child should go without a gift," is Machul's simple, basic mission statement.

Parents in need receive a gift-buying shopping spree at Walmart. Volunteers

help them wrap the presents at their annual wrapping party/ hall decorating event and Santa passes them out during a group dinner celebration at the La Union Civica Mexicana hall.

Machul achieved a master's degree in business administration from Northwood University's Richard DeVos Graduate School, but when his volunteer peers appointed him to lead Christmas with Angels, some may not have realized he's also a United Way board member who worked a pair of pre-Garber years as Dow Chemical's corporate volunteer manager for the Saginaw area. Under his leadership, Dow employee UW participation skyrocketed by 864 percent during 2011 and 2012.

And so, with his motivational expertise, it should come as no surprise that Christmas with Angels has united three dozen individuals and businesses to come on board as donors, and that the team in 2017 raised \$8,700 right off the bat, nearly tripling the modest first-year goal of \$3,000. Machul gives all the credit to the great group of angel volunteer committee members and the community support has been amazing.

Elvis says, "The 2020 campaign was different than ever with the covid pandemic not allowing us to have the event for the children, but we collaborated with six local churches to support 30 families. The team from Christmas with Angels is excited to see all those smiling children, and we have returned stronger than ever, with a \$12,000 goal."

Supporters with donations may drop them off at Garber Buick, 5925 State, or at the Mexican American Council's MAC headquarters, 1537 South Washington. Call (989) 497-4444 or 989-213-3248 with questions, or visit the Christmas with Angels page on Facebook.

(Footnote: Elvis Machul's additional volunteer service is, or has been, with Habitat for Humanity, the Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Business Association, the GLB Hispanic Leadership Institute, Leadership Saginaw, and the Deindorfer Woods park improvement project adjacent to the Veterans Hospital on Weiss Street. Somehow, he still finds time to help his team and to arrange financing for Garber patrons.)

# COMMUNITY BOARD

Submit your **announcements** and **events** at [michiganbanner.org](http://michiganbanner.org)



## Fiesta Hispana Gala

The Annual Fiesta Hispana Gala has served as the Hispanic business community's premier social event for over 30 years. Every year, the Fiesta Hispana Gala offers an extensive program featuring prestigious guest speakers, awards, dinner and dancing, and significant opportunities for sponsors to receive recognition and visibility to business decision-makers that attend every year.

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# = + COMMUNITY =



ABANDONED COMMERCIAL PROPERTY IN SAGINAW

## Attention never stronger on poverty, social needs

By MIKE THOMPSON

Suddenly, an array of ideas came forth for addressing poverty and hardship in Saginaw.

- Employ local artists to paint murals of historical local leaders and civic giants.
- Refurbish the aging Pit and Balcony Community Theater on North Hamilton Street.
- Support faith-based social outreach via a storefront ministry on Sears Street near the RR tracks, an area generally abandoned and written off as a "green zone."
- Pursue a social "re-entry program" for former prisoners on parole.
- Strengthen after-school youth

recreation and education efforts.

During a normally tedious City Council session on Nov. 22, these proposals emerged during a 15-minute string of citizen comments that were captured within the City Hall chambers and on cable access television.

### Old-time atmosphere

The breakout of public participation never would have taken place in the past, except for the 1960s and 1970s.

The reason for the rising interest is the record-setting influx of federal revenue sharing, to address poverty and hardship that have emerged from the covid virus pandemic. Similar to the War on Poverty and Model Cities from a half-century past, ideas and attention are flowing.

Even if most residents still don't recognize the initials for ARPA, the American Rescue Plan Act, or ESSER, Elementary

and Secondary Emergency Relief, they are becoming aware that their local governing bodies suddenly possess some of the social needs funds that they so often have dreamed of.

City Hall with its \$52 million has become the main focal point. City schools are in line for \$65 million and Saginaw County government for \$37 million, with smaller but still substantial aid for the surrounding suburbs and towns.

City and county leaders have indicated they will accept proposals from nonprofits and/or third-party service providers, while school leaders (in spite of reaping the most money) have remaining virtually silent on the matter. This may explain why the Nov. 22 speakers gravitated to the City Council, rather than to the school board or the county board.

### Questions ahead for 2022

A key question remains: What shares of the monies will the entities reserve for their basic budgets, versus how much will they make available for block grant-style proposals?

Administrators and elected officials have proceeded with caution, in part because these sorts of windfalls are new to them, and in part because the federal timelines give them a more than a year to get started and up to four years (at this point) to get finished. The caution is top-level for some of them. Carl Ruth, Board of Commissioners chairman, displayed satire when he asserted at a Nov. 18 meeting that "maybe a trillion" dollars might help with budget issues that remain in the mere millions.

Ruth spoke at a planning session of a so-called "liaison" group of representatives from the county, the city and the school board, who have agreed to team up when possible, in order to ensure maximum value for the federal funding infusion. However, with holidays and winter getting in the way, the liaison panel will not gather again until February.

The slower pace will allow existing applicants to fine-tune their proposals and even more new groups to come forward, but they should be prepared to present by the first of the year, or they may miss out on consideration.

**+ COMMUNITY**

# BV farmers market grant will occupy only ROTC rear of school

By MIKE THOMPSON



TORRIE LEE

**B**uena Vista's new farmers market, boosted with a \$200,000 federal grant to open next summer, will not occupy the main high school building.

Instead, planners will aim to set up the showcase in the former Reserve Officers Training Corps facility, ROTC, on the rear of the campus along Towerline Road. This will avoid clogging the main traffic artery along Holland Road.

BV High's gymnasium and auditorium will remain available for community events, says Torrie Lee, township superintendent, with classrooms showing potential for anything from a health clinic to a computer center to a skilled trades training academy. Another goal is to move township offices from their longtime smaller home on Outer Drive.

But those are dreams and plans for future years. The farmers market is starting to happen now, with winter and spring planning ready to begin.

## No more Krogering

While the main emphasis is forward-looking, Lee also includes some retrospect. The USDA support, she says, allows a celebratory answer to the 2016 Kroger supermarket closing on Dixie Highway near Hess, within a small chuck of BV's border that wedges between Saginaw City and Bridgeport.

All residents in the area, she notes, "lost their primary provider of fresh groceries," with Save-A-Lot at the old Fort Saginaw site offering the only smaller-scale alternative.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, she says, "considers much of the township a food desert, or a low-income region vapid of fresh fruit, vegetables, and other healthful whole foods . . . largely due to a lack of grocery stores, farmers markets, and healthy food providers."

She adds, "More than 100 households in BVCT do not own personal vehicles,

which exacerbates the impact of living in a food desert. The decision to open a farmers market will not remedy the problem in totality, but it will help to bring an abundance of opportunity to improve access to fresh food for the residents.

Superintendent Lee also notes, "The township is more than 70 percent agriculture, rich in farmland. The top agricultural crops are sugar beets, corn, soybeans, dry beans and wheat. As a soil-rich part of Saginaw County, BVCT is among the top agricultural crop areas in the state of Michigan and in the nation."

## Stabenow issues check

U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, a Democrat known for her connections with farmers, announced the \$200,000 check via the USDA's Rural Business Development Grant Program.

"Farmers markets spur economic development in local communities, connect more families with Michigan-grown fruits and vegetables, and create new markets for local farmers," Stabenow said. "This is a win-win for families and local food producers in the community."

Lee says the farmers market will lead to job creation in Buena Vista and beyond, along with increased tax revenue for the township.

She says, "One of the goals of the township is to create, as well as to welcome, projects that will provide positive and significant 'quality of life' improvements for the community as a whole, and we strongly believe that this is one project that will indeed do just that. We are very fortunate to have the support of the USDA."

Markets are getting started in an array of communities, including an attempt to expand in Saginaw's downtown. Lee sees no aspect of competition, simply a quest to serve the Buena Vista public.

Supervisor Christina Dillard adds, "I personally love SVRC and visit quite often. Although our vision for the former high school includes a farmer's market and business spaces much like SVRC, we have a dire need (as a food desert) for more fresh produce and revenue for the farmers in the Buena Vista community. With over 20,000 square feet available in the former

school, we can dream big and include resource hubs for health and human services, resources for veterans, community entertainment including a movie theatre, concerts, celebratory event spaces, sporting events, and more!"

## Alumni rally for BV High

Buena Vista High, Home of the Knights, has been closed since 2013 after a state finding of financial troubles shut down the entire district, with most students transferring to Saginaw city schools.

Similar to the Kroger closing, a past event remains part of the future outlook. The Township Board's purchase of the high school in 2020, for \$35,000 from the Saginaw School District, was a main turning point.

The community feeling runs so high that a group of volunteers engaged in a weeklong spring cleanup of the school site. Then, the Class of '81's Felix Banks, now a Southfield autoworker, sponsored out-of-pocket an all-years reunion summer picnic at the township park. (Michigan Banner archives, April 16 and June 16.)

"The situation with the high school has been most hurtful for all of us," Banks explained at the time. "The high school was a symbol for all of BV."

Buena Vista's general fund budget has grown strong enough to absorb the required \$100,000 local share that is required as a 50 percent match for the \$200,000 from the feds.

Also, these funds come from an established USDA program, and the dollars have no connection to the highly-publicized ARPA, American Rescue Plan Act. The record-setting ARPA windfall is intended for covid-era anti-poverty projects. Saginaw City gets the most attention but Buena Vista's two-year share is \$848,000, which for a comparison's example is more than quadruple the farmers market grant, but still dwarfed by City Hall.

Lee says township leaders, similar to their peers in other communities, still are in the first stages of deciding how to invest the one-time ARPA lump sum. One priority beyond the regular budget is to establish an operation for low-income home repairs.



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## + COMMUNITY

## Celebration in Buena Vista slated

A first-ever Holiday Bazaar has joined the Buena Vista Community Center's events calendar from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 10.

Highlights will include foods and beverages for the season, music and singing, children's crafts and activities, raffles for gifts and a tree lighting ceremony.

Admission is free, with requested donations of non-perishable food items, including canned goods, for BV's 1% Veterans Food Pantry.

Anyone interested in a vendor booth may send notes to Ashley Griffith, agriffith@bvct.org, or call the township offices, (989) 754-6536





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COURTESY PHOTO

# Downtown Saginaw Farmers' Market: more questions than answers

By RUMI WILSON

It was cold, damp and there were no throngs or much enthusiasm for the closing hours of the season run. Ironically, though, the final day of the Downtown Saginaw Farmers' Market demonstrated some of the possible solutions for a challenged local mainstay. But it also illustrated age-old problems facing the City of Saginaw and the broader community.

As dedicated Farmers' Market vendors surveyed the quiet wind-down of their months long season, and pondered an uncertain future, few shoppers selected from the waning local fall food selections. However, posted signs indicated there would be an event following the wake of the familiar 3:00 p.m. closing day time cutoff. It was Halloween, after all and in coordination with the SVRC Marketplace, some vendors planned to remain if any kids or families would show up for a planned trick or treat extravaganza. Empty parking spaces were plentiful; that is until they were not.

The wind of change spun like a Michigan weather vane. Suddenly there were costumed kids, adults, families everywhere, by the hundreds, piling out of

cars and making their way eagerly to the Farmers' Market and SVRC Marketplace. Dinosaurs, comic book superheroes, and dreadfully attired creatures had come to the rescue and downtown's demeanor lit up like a child's smile.

What had happened? A planned big event for one thing. It was Halloween weekend, and the word had obviously gotten out and folk were streaming into downtown even as the shortened daylight was disappearing.

The holiday festivities also offered something free as an incentive to attend. In one of Michigan's most economically challenged communities, free stuff is tough to ignore or turn down for struggling families.

Several organizers and staff persons who witnessed the crowds who showed up for the Halloween fun shared that they felt it was the biggest burst of positive vitality since the Grand Opening three years ago. The Farmers' Market vendors along with the SVRC businesses, and volunteers had joined together and tapped into an energetic second wind, considering how hard and how long they already persevere, committed as they are to surviving and thriving

in a downtown environment. Determined to give of themselves and their hearts, they scored a big win, judging by the fun, interactive warmth, and the enthusiastic laughter and smiles, coming as it all did on the official last day of the outdoor Downtown Saginaw Farmers' Market.

In this second part of a series exploring the fate of the Farmers' Market, and downtown Saginaw in general, readers, and leaders are asked a simple question in the search for solutions to reinvigorating a potential cornerstone of Saginaw pride and unity. What might you be willing to do to support those who are currently doing their best to offer a safe, enjoyable, nutritiously edible bite of the Saginaw social, cultural and economic scene?

The volunteer Board of Directors for the Downtown Saginaw Farmers' Market (DSFM) are assessing 2021 on sound financial footing, looking for ways to reinvigorate things for 2022. The DSFM enjoys philanthropic support as well as the collaboration of the next-door SVRC Marketplace. However, it needs more vendors, more draws for customers, shoppers and people looking to enjoy an outdoor activity near the Saginaw Riverfront. It needs more buyers to support vendors selling products. The Downtown Saginaw Farmers' Market needs more buyers-in who see a role for themselves in helping create a more dynamic, diverse and vibrant new market.

In the final article of this series, we will look at some possible answers for questions facing the market. How can the visibility of the Downtown Saginaw Farmers' Market be enhanced so that travelers to and through downtown Saginaw know it is happening? How can the parking situation be changed so that intended shoppers at DSFM can more easily and conveniently access the market? Who else can be involved, not already in the game, to make the market grow again? What measures can be taken to refamiliarize Saginaw area residents with reasons why they should make the DSFM a regular destination? What vendor draws can be recruited to attract more customers? What relationships will enhance the vitality of the Downtown Saginaw Farmers' Market?

**+ COMMUNITY**


COURTESY PHOTO

# My story thus far

By CRYSTAL GREEN

I've grown to accept the fact that my story isn't very unique. Born to a substance-controlled mother who did the best she knew how, rest her soul. Raised by a mentally exhausted grandmother who never found the courage to truly lay down her burden. Rest hers, too. And brought into a world full of people who weren't quite ready to openly see themselves in me. Because although doing so would have made me feel less alone, doing so would have made them feel the complete opposite. So, no my story isn't unique. But it is my truth. One that I've learned to own with every fiber of my being.

You may remember her as the prettiest and the smartest of the Eli girls, or perhaps I'm just being biased. But from what my family members and her close friends have shared with me over the years, my mother, Johnnie Mae did it like no other. Her infectious laugh. Her large and in-charge afro turned Oprah-style coif. Her curves and her confidence. And perhaps the quality that I undoubtedly inherited from her, her sass. Yes, indeed! I grew up hearing all of these beautiful stories about my mother

but it wasn't until I became a mother myself that I was able to see that beauty, even if it was laced with pain and remorse.

I'd like to believe that I was the only hope that my mother had. A second chance at life. But sadly, her constant battle with drugs, alcohol and the dust covered skeletons hanging in her closet pushed her farther and farther away from the very thing that may have saved her life, long before death ever came for her. A victim of the crack epidemic, amongst other things, my mother lived a life that my imagination just isn't quite mature enough to handle yet. Yes, I am a survivor of my own trials and tribulations but she... she was the original. And interestingly enough, I'm more grateful to her than I ever knew I would be because without her speckled past, I simply would not be here.

And well, here I am, the same shy little girl with the big bottle glasses reading quietly in the back pew of the old Coleman Temple on Wadsworth. The same little girl who broke free from the bars of 2808 Webber Street. The same little girl who shed more tears than anyone ever knew because the battles behind those bars always felt like more than she could bear.

And the same little girl who had a dream that one day she would touch the greener grass that people talked about because she knew that more had to be in store for her. She made it. I made it.

But my evolution, which may not be much different from yours, has been a journey that most certainly did not happen overnight. For I have spent the last three decades of my life fighting for my place in this world, running from my past while unbeknownst to me, preparing to face it all over again.

If you've found yourself moved by my story thus far, I encourage you to stay tuned for more in the days ahead. Until next time...

These days, Crystal lives a passion-filled life, telling rich stories of love and obstacles overcome. One such story has served as the basis for her first upcoming feature film, *Lock the Door*. This psychological thriller tells the story of Lauren, a young, Black mother who loses herself after the birth of her second child. Inspired by Crystal's own experience with postpartum depression, *Lock the Door* explores the painful and foreign thoughts and feelings that many of us encounter and ultimately overcome when we find ourselves tasked with raising a child. Please visit <https://bit.ly/3y6j97I> to learn more about this project and to find out how you can be a part of it.



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***In the day of prosperity  
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**(Eccl. 7:14)**



By **PASTOR RODRICK A. SMITH**  
ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST  
CHURCH

The days of our lives are not identical. Some days are better than others, and some days are worse. We may experience love, peace, and happiness today, while hatred, chaos, and sadness await us on tomorrow. As children of God we must learn how to adjust and adapt to the good as well as the bad. It is necessary for the children of God to experience prosperity and adversity. Prosperity, in this sense, speaks of that which is good, pleasant, lovely, and delightful. Adversity is the exact opposite, because it refers to that which is bad and unpleasant. Adversity in one's life can and will cause pain and unhappiness. We all experience the highs of being fortunate, and the lows that accompany misfortune. We should rejoice and be glad and thankful during times of peacefulness, and happiness. And during seasons of adversity we must remain thankful while also considering the ways of God. He has sovereignly made the day of prosperity as well as the day of adversity. The patriarch Job said to his wife, "Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" Job was in constant consideration of the ways of God. God can be trusted; He knows exactly what He is doing, and why.

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RHONDA ALEXIA WEBB

## Profile: Rhonda Alexia Webb, Kids Rule Now, Inc.

"When I came to Saginaw from Detroit in 2001, I had been a licensed cosmetologist, makeup artist, and salon owner for 27 years.

Growing up, my mom had a great impact in my life even as an entrepreneur. I was thinking today about how sometimes parents inadvertently extinguish the flame of entrepreneurship and hope in their children and they don't realize they're doing it. When I was a very young teen, my dream was to be a makeup artist in Hollywood. I would tell anybody who'd listen, 'I want to be a makeup artist in Hollywood', and my mom never quenched or extinguished that dream.

She never said anything like 'Well, you know, that might be a little bit too much' or 'You need to go to college and get a degree'. It was none of that. Now she didn't

actually say, 'That's wonderful!' but at the same time, she didn't quench it, and I had the liberty to continue to talk about it. My mom has just always been a supporter. And that served as the basis really for me wanting to go into cosmetology because I felt that a makeup artist could get a lot more accomplished as a licensed cosmetologist.

My mom worked at my middle school as a paraprofessional, and this particular day, I just jazzed myself up. I had on some lip gloss, probably had on dangly earrings and maybe a wig--I was wearing wigs in junior high. When I got home, my mom was waiting for me and sitting on the couch as I walked in the door. She looked at me and she said 'I know you didn't go to school looking like that'. I took it as a compliment. I absolutely did! But that just served

as another example of how she never disallowed--she was always a supportive mom to the outrageous dreams and habits that I had that led me really to where I am now.

But my grandmother wanted all of her grandchildren to go to college, and even though I wanted to go to beauty school, because I had done well academically I said, 'Well, I'll go to college because that's what you do'.

I went for a year, came home one day and said 'Mom, I want to drop out of college and go to beauty school'. And she said 'Okay!'. Now my grandmother on the other hand, she was not a happy camper. Even some of my friends from school who I had gone to high school with and then onto college, they didn't get it either.

But the only person I needed to approve of my decision was my mom. I lived with my grandmother being upset, my friends...to be honest, I never saw them again because our paths just went in such different directions and I never got off the path. Everyone has struggles and challenges, but I just stuck with it--I never got off the path.

When I graduated from beauty school, I worked at JC Penney's in Southfield, Michigan in their beauty salon. One of my co-workers came up to me one day and said, 'I'm thinking about opening up my own salon, would you like to come?' I didn't even think about it. Just like, 'Oh, yeah, yeah!' And I became an independent cosmetologist from that point throughout the rest of my career. And I didn't take into effect that I had to get my own customers, I had to pay to be there, I have to buy my own supplies, I just didn't think about it. I just jumped at the opportunity. And it turned out very successful. It was challenging. Slow days, days without making anything at all, losing money.

But again, it was a path that I had to take because I was never comfortable just being still. And that's how I've always been; always looking ahead for something different, something better."

*Article courtesy of City of Saginaw Government*

**+ COMMUNITY**


DR. DONALD BACHAND

## President Bachand announces plan to retire from SVSU

SAGINAW – Saginaw Valley State University President Don Bachand announced his intent to retire from SVSU in December of 2022, concluding more than 40 years of service to the university.

“When I started here in 1978 as one of the founding professors for the criminal justice program, it was because I wanted to teach, mentor and inspire young people,” Bachand said. “I have continued to find motivation to serve our students each and every day, even as my roles have changed.”

Bachand became SVSU’s fourth president in 2014, building upon several prior roles within the university. Arriving as a faculty member, Bachand enjoyed a distinguished teaching career, winning SVSU’s Landee Award for Teaching Excellence in 1987. He moved into academic administration in 1996 as dean of the College of Arts and Behavioral Sciences. Bachand served in that role for nearly 10 years before being named vice president for academic affairs in 2006 and adding the responsibilities of provost in 2010.

Under Bachand’s leadership, SVSU has significantly grown private financial support from donors, increased retention and graduation rates for students, and elevated SVSU’s standing as a community-engaged university.

Vicki Rupp, chair of the SVSU Board of Control, expressed appreciation for Bachand’s dedication throughout his presidency, and especially for his leadership

during the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“He stepped up immediately and demonstrated exceptional leadership, putting together a wonderful team to navigate incredibly complex and rapidly changing conditions,” Rupp said. “The Board and I are proud that SVSU has successfully maintained university operations while prioritizing very high levels of health and safety on campus. The university also responded to public health needs in our community by hosting numerous COVID-19 vaccination events, administering nearly 50,000 doses.”

In February of 2020, SVSU dedicated a 38,500-square-foot building addition that is home to the Scott L. Carmona College of Business. SVSU raised more than \$15 million in private gifts and received nearly \$10 million in capital outlay funding from the State of Michigan for the \$25.4 million project.

“As an alumna of SVSU and a retired Dow executive, I am acutely aware of the critical role SVSU plays in preparing business professionals for our region and our state,” Rupp said. “The fundraising campaign was a terrific success, and the outstanding facility will benefit SVSU and our community for generations to come. SVSU’s role in building the talent pipeline for our region and our state never has been more important than it is today.”

Drawing upon his experience as a first-

generation college student, Bachand secured private funding to ease the financial burden on students and families. The number of private scholarships awarded to students has more than doubled, from 729 in the 2013-14 academic year to more than 1,700 this year. In April of this year, SVSU also announced the receipt of the largest single gift in university history, \$6 million from the Thompson Family Foundation to support scholarships for students from working families. During Bachand’s presidency, the value of SVSU’s endowment has grown from \$76 million to \$111 million.

Upon becoming president, Bachand emphasized the need to increase retention and graduation rates for SVSU students. The university’s retention rate rose from 70% in 2014 to 77.4% in 2020. To continue this progress, SVSU is one of only eight institutions in the nation selected in 2019 to participate in the Higher Learning Commission’s Student Success Academy.

SVSU introduced several new academic programs during Bachand’s presidency in areas of rising community needs and job market demand, including a Master of Social Work program in 2017, bachelor’s and master’s degree programs for public health, and a bachelor’s degree in rehabilitation medicine in 2018. SVSU created a post-graduate certificate program for psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners in 2019; the program already has received more than \$5 million in federal grants to prepare nurse practitioners to respond to substance use disorders and mental health needs in underserved communities. These programs have grown rapidly and combined have more than 300 students enrolled.

Bachand expanded SVSU’s international relationships, opening a campus of Ming Chuan University, based in Taiwan, on SVSU’s main campus in 2014. At the time, it was the only collaboration in Michigan where an Asian university had a physical campus in the state; Ming Chuan continues to operate programs in SVSU’s Gilbertson Hall. In addition, Bachand and his wife Liana supported construction of the Royal Seed Home clinic in Ghana, West Africa, that opened in December 2020. Nursing students and faculty in SVSU’s College of Health & Human Services will have opportunities for study abroad

**CONTINUES ON PG 23, BACHAND**

## Continued from pg 22, Bachand

experiences in global health at the clinic in the coming years.

In 2015, SVSU earned the distinction of receiving the Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, marking SVSU as a university that is exceptionally engaged with the communities it serves. Less than 10 percent of U.S. colleges and universities have achieved this designation.

"We have seen the impact of our students and alumni in businesses and organizations across our region for many years, but our community's pandemic response really shined a spotlight on so many of them," Bachand said. "Every day, it seemed, we would hear the story of a doctor or nurse, a teacher or police officer, an engineer or social worker who were answering the call to serve others."

SVSU also has been nationally recognized for its commitment to employees,

military-affiliated students and others. SVSU was the only public university in Michigan to be named a Great College to Work For in 2019, 2020, and 2021; it has earned the honor for six consecutive years. The university also has been recognized as a "Best for Vets" college by Military Times for seven consecutive years.

"I am proud of the work we have done on behalf of our students, our faculty and staff, our alumni, and our community," Bachand said. "The awards and honors are welcome affirmations of what we have achieved together, but I value the personal evaluations too. I know our students are receiving an education that will prepare them for meaningful lives and rewarding careers; I hear it from my niece and nephew who are currently attending. I look forward to celebrating with our graduates again this fall."

"My proudest moments at SVSU, as a professor or as president, have been seeing

students complete their degrees and graduate. I attended college while working for the Detroit Police Department. I have never forgotten the opportunities my degree afforded me, and what that moment meant for me and my family. I have enjoyed sharing that moment with thousands of SVSU alumni families over the years."

Rupp said the Board will conduct a national search to select SVSU's fifth president, and the Board will share more information soon on next steps.

"As a Board, we value Don's ongoing leadership as he concludes an extraordinary career with the university," Rupp said. "He has built many trusted relationships, and he has pledged to remain engaged with the university after he retires from the presidency. We deeply appreciate Don's devotion to SVSU and we will be working hand in hand with him to ensure a smooth and successful transition."

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**IN MY HUMBLE OPINION**

# The nuclear family is the foundation of society



**By KEN H. SIMMONS, II**  
 MANAGING DIRECTOR, KENZO  
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There are some who believe the nuclear family, meaning two married parents and their children, became the dominant family structure because of the 1st industrial revolution (IR), which started in the middle of the 18th century, and others who believe that the 1st IR was made possible by the nuclear family structure. This belief is supported by the fact that the nuclear family was dominant in Britain from the 13th century, meaning 500 years before the 1st IR. The truth is the nuclear family structure was ordained by God and is meant to be the foundation of our society.

The term nuclear family dates back to 1913 when pioneer anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski of Poland stated, "that the nuclear family had to be universal because it filled a basic biological need—caring for and protecting infants and young children", according to Encyclopedia.com. Nearly forty years later, American anthropologist George P. Murdock elaborated on the idea of the universal and essential nature of the nuclear family. He studied over 200 different societies and concluded that the nuclear family was a universal feature of all human societies. Murdock proposed that there were 'four essential functions' of a nuclear family: 1) Stable satisfaction of the sex drive – within monogamous relationships, which prevents sexual jealousy; 2) The biological reproduction of the next generation – without which society cannot continue; 3) Socialization of the young – teaching basic norms and values; and 4) Meeting its members economic needs – producing food and shelter for example", as listed in [revisesociology.com's article, "The Functionalism Perspective on the Family"](#).

A 2014 study by Pew Research Center

found that 46% of U.S. children under the age of 18 were, "living in a home with two married heterosexual parents in their first marriage." This was a huge change from 1960 when 73% of children were living in nuclear families, and in 1980 it was 61%. This steady decline along with an article in 2020 by acclaimed editorialist, David Brooks entitled, "The Nuclear Family Was a Mistake" might make you think that the nuclear family is disintegrating. Brooks argues, "that the nuclear family has been crumbling in slow motion for decades, and many of our other problems—with education, mental health, addiction, the quality of the labor force—stem from that crumbling." He believes that the nuclear family paradigm of the '50s and '60s has been left behind, and that extended families and what political scientist Daniel Burns calls "forged families" (single adults, single parents, and others coming together to support one another and children) will fill the vacuum created by the breakdown of the nuclear family.

Brooks realizes that the decline of the nuclear family has contributed to serious problems in society, and I agree. However, I do not agree that other forms of family can or will replace the nuclear family and effectively repair the social decay. There are always exceptions and exceptional individuals that overcome the challenges, and one such person is former President Barack Obama. He was raised by his single mother and grandparents and despite that, along with the challenges of being mixed race, he went on to achieve phenomenal success as we all know. Nevertheless, he recognizes the foundational importance of the nuclear family. In his 2008 Father's Day speech at the Apostolic Church of God in Chicago, then Senator Obama gave stats on children growing up without a father; that they are five times more likely to live in poverty and become criminals, nine times more likely to drop out of school, and twenty times more likely to be incarcerated. He went on to say that many single mothers "are doing a heroic job, but they need support. They need another parent. Their children need another parent. That's what keeps their foundation strong. It's what keeps the foundation of our country strong."

As noted sociologist W. Bradford Wilcox and his co-author, Hal Boyd wrote in their 2020 article, "The Nuclear Family Is Still Indispensable", the search for alternate family forms, like Brooks advocates, is flawed. They say there is evidence that the nuclear family is recovering, and a family headed by two

loving married parents is still the most stable and safest environment for raising children. Wilcox and Boyd further state, "Today, the divorce rate is down, having fallen by more than 30 percent since peaking around 1980,... out-of-wedlock births are now dipping as well...[and] Since 2014, the share of kids in intact families has begun to climb, reversing a decades-long trend in the opposite direction." This is very good news because the benefits of a nuclear family are many, but I will touch on just three for now.

Stability is one advantage, as children born into a marriage tend to have more stability in relationships later in life than children born into cohabitation. Committed spouses model a loving, caring, and supportive relationship for their children. Health is another benefit, as research suggests children in families with married biological parents have better social, emotional, and physical health than other children. Consistency in caretaking is a third benefit, because children who have both stability and consistency in their lives are more likely to exhibit positive behavior, earn good grades, and become more involved in extracurricular and community activities.

Now that we have a bit of history on the subject and heard what men have said about it, let's hear what God says. The Bible, of course, was written long before the 1st IR and the 13th century, and in the first book God says after creating Adam, 'it is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him' (Genesis 2:18 NKJV). The scripture goes on to describe how God created the first woman, Eve, who was the first wife, and the chapter draws to an end with, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24 NKJV). After creating Adam and Eve God blessed them and said, 'Be fruitful and multiply...' (Genesis 1:28 NKJV). So, from the first man and first woman we see that God ordained marriage, proclaimed that the couple should be separate from the broader family network, and that they should have their own children. This is the definition of a nuclear family.

Some may call for the end of the nuclear family, but we cannot easily dismiss the God-ordained family unit without tampering with the foundational building block of both society and the church. Instead, we must reaffirm the nuclear family as the first society and then use it to build more positive societies at large.

# Social Security: Answers from the experts

**By VONDA VAN TIL**

SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
SPECIALIST

You may need Social Security when you least expect it and we're here to make sure our information is always accessible to you. Whether you're planning for your retirement years in advance or thinking about applying today, you probably have questions.

Our Frequently Asked Questions web page at faq.ssa.gov has answers to your questions about our programs and services. We feature our most-asked questions at the top of the page to help you find answers to the most common questions quickly, like:

- What should I do if I receive a call from someone claiming to be a Social Security employee?

- How do I change or correct my name on my Social Security number card?
- How do I apply for a new or replacement Social Security number card?
- How can I get a Social Security Statement that shows a record of my earnings and an estimate of my future benefits?

You can also browse by topics like:

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Thank you!**

**+ COMMUNITY**


COURTESY PHOTO

## Twice as nice: 'Our Town' promotion doubles gift card value at Genesee County restaurants

FLINT — With the holiday shopping season underway, Consumers Energy and the Flint & Genesee Chamber are partnering once again on the "Our Town" Gift Card Match Program. Through the promotion, shoppers can double their gift card purchases at 28 area restaurants and food-based businesses for a limited time.

"We're excited to bring back this program during such a popular time of year for consumer spending," said Andy Younger, executive director of the Flint & Genesee Chamber, a division of Flint & Genesee Group. "This is a great way for shoppers to stretch their dollars while also supporting the outstanding locally owned businesses in our area during the holiday season."

This is the third time the Chamber has participated in the "Our Town" initiative, which will operate the same as before. A customer who buys a \$10 gift card or gift certificate at a participating business will receive a second \$10 gift card at no cost to them. The maximum amount eligible to be doubled for one customer is \$50.

The program is supported by a \$30,000 donation from Consumers Energy, which is partnering with other chambers and downtown organizations to offer similar initiatives throughout the state.

"Consumers Energy is excited to again support Michigan's small businesses and communities we serve this holiday season," said Lauren Youngdahl Snyder,

Consumers Energy's vice president of customer experience. "'Our Town' made an impact across Michigan last year, and we look forward to seeing the program's dollars and shoppers give a boost to shops and restaurants in their hometowns."

The Flint & Genesee promotion begins Nov. 29 and will run at each location until the donated funds are depleted. Unless noted otherwise, community members can take advantage of the program by visiting one of the following Chamber member locations and asking to purchase a gift card through the Our Town program.

- 501 Bar and Grill
- B-Dogs
- Blackstone's Smokehouse
- Blondie's Food & Spirits, INC (SOLD OUT)
- Churchill's Food & Spirits (SOLD OUT)
- The Coffee Beanery, Ltd. (Miller Road location only)
- Cork On Saginaw (SOLD OUT)
- Fenton Winery & Brewery
- Fireside Coffee Co.
- Flint Crepe Company
- Flint Farmers' Market (SOLD OUT)
- Great Harvest Bread Company
- Hoffman's Deco Deli & Cafe
- Italia Gardens, Inc. (SOLD OUT)
- Luigi's & El Toro Sports Bar
- LaVilla Family Dining & Pizzeria
- Little Caesars Pizza (Genesee County locations only)
- Pesto's
- Redwood Steakhouse (SOLD OUT)
- Sagano Japanese Bistro & Steak House (Fenton and Flint locations only)
- Sauce Italian American Kitchen
- Semi-Sweets LLC
- Shermans Lounge
- Soriano's Mexican Kitchen
- Starlite Diner, Coney Island and Catering
- Steady Eddy's at the Market
- Sweets by Suzanne Marie (Call 248-515-9091 to purchase gift card)
- Tenacity Brewing (SOLD OUT)

To learn more about the gift card match program, visit [flintandgenesee.org/ourtown](http://flintandgenesee.org/ourtown).

Bavarian Inn Lodge & Restaurant

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A Benefit for EMMAUS HOUSE of Saginaw

**KENNY ROGERS & DOTTIE WEST TRIBUTE**

**Dec 4, 2021  
8:00pm**

**Bronner Performing Arts Theater,  
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**Featuring: Bill Federspiel, Shirley Pratt,  
Edgar Struble and Members of the  
KENNY ROGERS GROUP**

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## = + HEALTH =



COURTESY PHOTO

# Expansion at Ascension St. Mary's Emergency Care Center complete

SAGINAW – Just over two years ago, a groundbreaking was held at Ascension St. Mary's Hospital to expand its emergency department. With construction and renovation now complete, the facility has been transformed into a modern-day emergency care and Level II trauma center. To recognize the milestone, Ascension St. Mary's Hospital was honored to have the Most Reverend Robert D. Gruss from the Diocese of Saginaw participate in the dedication and blessing.

The \$17.6 million expansion included the construction of a 12,600-square foot building that was added to the front of the hospital. Enhancements and renovations to existing space now provide 24 treatment rooms and two state-of-the-art trauma rooms. The new building also improves access for ambulances and the public.

"We have dreamt of this for years, and

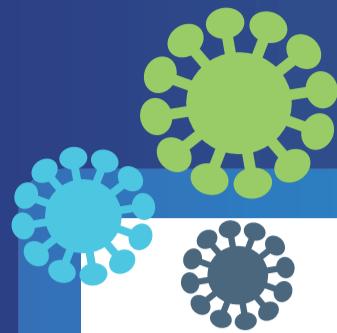
now, seeing the new emergency care center come to fruition is so rewarding," said Stephanie Duggan, MD, Regional President & CEO, Ascension Michigan Northern Ministries. "When Ascension announced its commitment to our northern hospitals in May 2018, and provided an initial \$50 million investment, this dream started to become reality. The expanded medical facility will provide an increase in capacity, enhance the flow of patient care and improve access."

Focus on patient care guided the building design and site development including access for ambulances and the public. Significant excavation work occurred to elevate the grade to build a covered ambulance entry that can accommodate multiple vehicles. The new facility also provides an airport style drop-off/pick up and continuous drop-off canopy for inclement

weather.

"Ascension's recent announcement of an additional \$125 million investment for Ascension Michigan's northern health ministries is evidence of their continued commitment to the communities we are privileged to serve. It is a validation of what we have been working towards," said Duggan. "It's all about patients, they are at the center of everything we do. It's also a testament to our front line caregivers and medical providers who continue to fulfill our Mission of caring for all. We will continue to be here for generations to come."

Ascension St. Mary's also has a free-standing emergency care center located in Saginaw Township, at 4599 Towne Centre Blvd., at the corner of Towne Centre and Schust. It is open 24 hours a day, seven day a week.



## Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

[www.GreatLakesBayHealthCenters.org](http://www.GreatLakesBayHealthCenters.org)

# 118,000 LIVES

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers has touched more than 118,000 LIVES during the COVID-19 crisis – in patient care and community outreach with testing and vaccines.



**55,884 COVID-19 TESTS ADMINISTERED IN 2020-2021 (AS OF JUNE 3, 2021)**

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers (GLBHC) began offering community COVID-19 testing in March 2020 outside centers in Saginaw, and expanded to Bay City and Bad Axe. During the summer and fall, we partnered with churches and other community partners to bring testing to neighborhoods with “popup” events. We shifted testing to drive-thru access and do not require a doctor’s note or symptoms. Staff supported this effort on every level, including making calls to share test results. GLBHC added free Influenza community clinics through the fall of 2020. Volunteers have supported testing and vaccines.



**15,091 COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES\* ADMINISTERED IN 2021 (AS OF JUNE 3, 2021)**

The Moderna vaccine was first made available to GLBHC staff in January 2021. Through the winter, staff worked with local health departments to administer vaccines to school professionals. The centers started receiving direct shipments of vaccines in March 2021, and began offering appointments to patients. GLBHC also began planning pop-up events at churches and other locations to access hard-to-reach populations. By April, the vaccine team had set up drive-thru vaccine clinics in Saginaw and Bay City and weekly clinics at the UAW Hall in Saginaw. Soon the public could access the vaccines without an appointment. Outreach continues into the summer, with young adults and teens becoming a focus.

\*individuals each receive two doses

### TOTAL GLBHC PATIENTS SERVED IN 2020:



**50,270 PATIENTS**

### RECEIVING MEDICAL, DENTAL, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE AND OTHER VISITS

The COVID-19 shutdowns required centers to limit in-person visits in March-May 2020, but we never closed. Within two weeks, GLBHC had telehealth visits operational to stay in touch with patients. Before 2020, there were no virtual visits offered.

**218,852 TOTAL VISITS IN 2020**

154,258  
IN CLINIC  
64,594  
VIRTUAL

### DENTAL CARE

GLBHC dental centers were some of the only dental clinics open during quarantine to emergency care for patients experiencing pain or infection.

EMERGENCY	7,797	>	9,190	VISITS
TOTAL	15,786	>	37,397	VISITS

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

COVID increased stress and demand for behavioral health services in 2020. Staff reached out to schools and saw increased referrals for children and teens.

**10,894 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES PATIENTS**

18,881  
IN CLINIC VISITS  
23,943  
VIRTUAL VISITS

**319 SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT PATIENTS**

1,971  
IN CLINIC VISITS  
1,758  
VIRTUAL VISITS

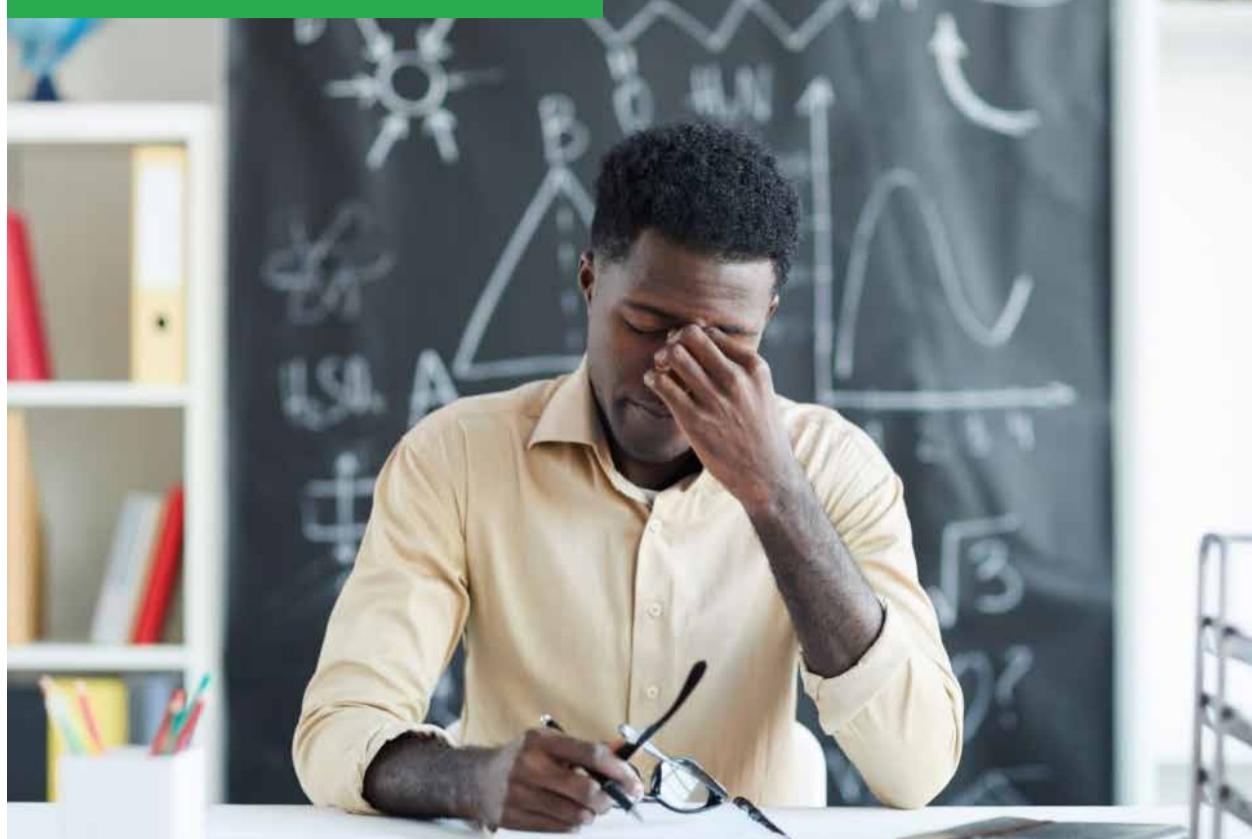
**16,953 PATIENTS 12 & OLDER SCREENED FOR DEPRESSION**

of these patients who screened positive for depression and had a follow-up plan documented

### CHRONIC HEALTH MONITORING = BETTER OUTCOMES

During quarantine, GLBHC used grant funds to provide at-home monitoring kits to patients with COVID symptoms. The kits included blood pressure monitors and pulse oximeters to track oxygen levels. Telehealth visits were a lifeline for care management nurses to keep in touch with patients with chronic health conditions. Pharmacy staff made medication deliveries. A new Respiratory Clinic allowed staff to safely care for patients with COVID symptoms in person.

<b>5,030 DIABETES PATIENTS</b>	3,278	<b>11,707 HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE PATIENTS</b>
patients with A1C levels under control		6,968

**+ HEALTH**


COURTESY PHOTO

## 5 Positive choices needed to sustain a healthy life balance

By DR. BRUCE A. JOHNSON

**D**o you think about your life and what it takes to keep yourself well-balanced and healthy? What I've observed, as a mindset coach is the average person gets caught up with life and many responsibilities held, without thinking about if there is an imbalance in one area or another. Typically, it isn't until a time of crisis, such as a health concern or other triggering event, when someone will stop and take stock of their life.

The traditional thinking about balance is related to a work and life balance, balancing family, friends, hobbies, and whatever is important with a person's career. Yet I've found balance to sustain a healthy life involves something much more important, and it all starts with mindset maintenance. If you think of the mind being in balance, there would be a neutral state of mind, without excess negative or positive feelings. But the mind has thoughts flowing through it every second of the day, which means the mind can be in a negative or positive state at any time.

An imbalanced state occurs if the mind remains in a negative state for an extend-

ed period of time. For example, if a person continues to worry, live in fear, or focus on doubts, then this negativity will create an unhealthy mindset. This can be countered with positive feelings, such as happiness, to help restore a more balanced state. It isn't possible for someone to live in a pure positive state of mind at all times, as that would be living in denial of basic human emotions. But you also cannot survive by being overwhelmed by negativity for long either. To have balance overall, you need more positive than negative emotions, and this is done through your point of focus and making conscious choices.

### Developing Your Point of Focus

Your point of focus matters for the overall health and well-being you experience. When you think of the possibility of having negative and positive thoughts to choose from, then you understand it is possible to develop supportive habits. How is that possible? If you think about something long enough, it becomes a practiced habit. The challenge for you is becoming aware of what you are thinking, and deciding to not let circumstances control what

you are thinking, rather you being in control and focusing upon thoughts that help you feel good or uplifted when needed.

What's interesting about the development of a habit of thought is once it is affirmed long enough, or thought about on a constant basis, it becomes a belief. This is why it can be challenging to change the thinking of someone who has developed negative pattern of thoughts about themselves for a long period of time, and why their life is likely unbalanced, this negative mindset has become a belief. It will take more than thinking a couple of positive thoughts to make changes, and instead, it will take consistent (and reinforced) patterns of new beliefs established, based upon new-found ways of thinking in a positive manner. This goal is met with one positive choice at a time.

### 5 Positive Choices Needed to Sustain a Healthy Life Balance

You can sustain a healthy life balance, if you are making conscious, positive choices to support your well-being. This means you are becoming proactively involved in what you are thinking, with regards to your state of mind, instead of reactive, or waiting until there is a triggering event and you must make changes. What you don't want is to discover you have health issues and then decide you could have, or should have, been paying attention to how or what you were thinking. Or your career has become so demanding, you have ignored other important aspects of your life and now a breaking point has been reached. There are other possible triggering events as well, including those which are personal in nature to you, involving your family and those close to you. You can begin to develop a positive point of focus with any or all of these five choices.

#### Choice #1: Choose to pay attention to your thought patterns.

It's easy to allow a day to go by, without consideration of how or what you are thinking. Then more and more time goes along, until suddenly you find yourself in a mental rut, controlled by one (or a few)

**CONTINUES ON PG 31, HEALTHY LIFE BALANCE**

## Continued from pg 30, healthy life balance

dominant negative thought patterns. The longer you allow those patterns of thought to go on, the more likely those thoughts will become part of your belief system, and this will make it much more challenging to change. You may not understand or even know how to acknowledge what the dominant thoughts are, and if so, just make it a point to have a check-in with yourself at the end of the day to determine what you thought most about. Was it positive or negative based? This can help you self-correct as needed, or at least begin to make changes to your self-talk.

### **Choice #2: Choose to pay attention to the words you use about yourself.**

The words you use are also clues to your state of mind and well-being, and help set the stage for your life balance. Take for example a person who is always stating something negative about themselves, especially as related to their appearance, or their inability to complete a task. While it may be done in jest, or as an off-handed joke, the more it is stated, the more it is an indicator of how the person truly feels about themselves. This language, even when used in a self-deprecating mode, still can be harmful to the overall mental well-being of the person. A healthier mindset, and approach to living, is to acknowledge areas of development and then ask for guidance, assistance, and tips for improvement. In other words, a positive mindset seeks knowledge and the betterment of self, not to demean one's self.

### **Choice #3: Choose your work based upon a sense of meaning and fulfillment.**

This is a lesson I've learned through time and I wish to share with anyone who would like to learn it now as well. I understand there are many who work to "pay the bills" and "make ends meet", yet there can still be fulfillment found in any job, regardless of the reason why you are working. It's all about the attitude of why you chose the job, and the mindset you choose when you are working as you complete the role you've been assigned. I do not believe there is anyone who works a job and is better than or less than anyone else.

Every person has an ability to shine and live their full potential through any job chosen. What makes a job unique is the person and their state of mind. My students know this to be true based upon their interactions with me. It doesn't matter if I am ever recognized by my manager for the work I've done. What matters is that I find meaning through my interactions with students. When I observe developmental progress and learning, then I have found fulfillment. This is how I want you to establish your mindset as well, from a positive perspective.

### **Choice #4: Choose to prioritize what matters in your life.**

While traditional thinking about a work and life balance dictates a certain language about how much time is to be spent with your career and family, I believe this is a personal decision. You should always be able to choose what matters most to you. There are always going to be circumstances in which you are going to have to weigh your options, and make choices based upon your needs, and this is understandable. Just be certain you understand your priorities well enough to make an informed decision. Your needs may intersect with the needs of your spouse or significant other, along with your family, and if so, their healthy life balance may also depend upon decisions you make. This is why prioritization becomes an important step to take, and one to keep from a balanced mindset perspective.

### **Choice #5: Choose to make your health and well-being something that deserves your attention.**

When I've written about a healthy life balance, the healthy aspect is very important to your well-being. Again, I believe this is something personal, with regards as to how health is maintained. I don't believe in dictating mandates as to what should or shouldn't be done, with regards to eating and exercise, as this is beyond the scope of my specialty; however, what I can tell you is that it can be a conscious choice you make to think about being healthy in some regards.

What I can share is the little choices

you make now do add up in the long-term. For example, I decided to change how I eat and within the course of approximately one and a half years I lost almost 90 pounds. It wasn't due to exercise, because of other health issues, just a result of food choices made. How you sustain a healthy balance is up to you, just make it a conscious choice and perhaps you'll avoid something more serious later in life, especially if you have made routine visits to your doctor part of your life balance plan. Whatever you decide to do, keep it in mind and be proactive.

### **Your Mindset, Your Results**

The choices you make have a direct impact on your healthy life balance. If you are making choices that create a healthy life balance, you are more likely to feel good about yourself, which should always be your goal. There are always two choices as to the types of thoughts you can focus upon at any time, and they are positive or negative. If you are proactive in what you choose to think about, and how you address circumstances, then you can keep yourself focused on a healthy or positive frame of mind. Should you practice this long enough, you can create a healthy mindset habit.

While any day may not start out as hoped for or go according to plan, or you find yourself facing challenges not yet experienced, there's always one step you can always take: Change your mindset. This isn't about making general affirmations, rather it's about making a mindset shift away from negativity, towards something more positively focused. You always have an ability to choose and think a better feeling thought, and turn your attention to something that is affirming in nature to your well-being. While you may not be thinking about a balanced life now, the more proactive you become in maintaining your mindset, the less likely you'll find yourself having to be reactive later when triggering events occur. With the right choices made, a strong mindset can help lead to a healthy life balance.

# "I WOULDN'T WORK ANYWHERE ELSE."

Rosalind Williams  
*Registered Nurse*



## Join the Covenant HealthCare family.

When talking with Covenant HealthCare employees, one word always comes up: family. The close teamwork and respect among our people are what keep Covenant employees here, year after year. They love working for the region's leading hospital, providing extraordinary care and working with the area's finest healthcare providers. Join us and become a part of our family.

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[CovenantHealthCare.com/Careers](http://CovenantHealthCare.com/Careers)



## The COVID-19 vaccine will help us get beyond this pandemic.

There are so many things Cindita and Frazier missed in the last year: celebrating big holidays, going to movies, being with friends and family. They hunkered down in the house, life just stopped. They saw firsthand how COVID took away strong, vibrant lives. Which is why they believed it was so important to get vaccinated to get back to normal.

The vaccines have been tested for safety and are trusted by doctors.

Find your vaccine at [Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine](http://Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine). Call 211, or text your zip code to 438829.



Spread Hope  
NOT COVID

**WHY DID WE GET VACCINATED?**

**"BECAUSE WE'RE READY TO GET BACK TO NORMAL."**

**FRAZIER & CINDITA C. OF CANTON, MICHIGAN**

## = + EDUCATION =



EDUARDO SUNIGA

# Delta College names new academic dean

UNIVERSITY CENTER – Delta College has named Eduardo Suniga its new dean of Career Education and Learning Partnerships. He will begin his role December 6.

Suniga has more than 25 years of community college experience. Most recently, he served as program director for Computer Information Technologies at Lansing Community College. He has held several positions at LCC, including e-learning facilitator, Perkins grant administrator, adjunct instructor, department chair for the Business Media and Information Technologies Division and interim assistant dean of Program Quality Management. He has also taught at Baker College.

“Eduardo impressed us with his entrepreneurial spirit and experience in developing new and creative programs in the areas of cybersecurity and networking,” said Reva Curry, vice president of Instruction and Learning Services. “Supporting

our community through meeting workforce needs has never been more critical, especially as the region tackles employee and skill shortages. I look forward to his insight and contributions to our community as he works with faculty and staff.”

Suniga received an associate’s degree in computer information systems from Davenport University, a bachelor’s degree in organizational development and a master’s degree in organizational management from Spring Arbor University, and a master’s degree in higher education administration from Southern New Hampshire University.

His background includes a focus on program development and implementation. At LCC, he helped create the Michigan Advanced Technician Training Program for Networking and Cybersecurity and the Digital Innovation Institute, which won a Michigan Excellence in Technology Award. He also developed a program for veterans

working in military IT to transition to civilian IT careers and helped establish the college’s Center for Cybersecurity Education.

Suniga said he has aspired to be an academic dean, a role that would allow him to support both faculty and students and their success.

“During the interview process at Delta, I was pleased to meet people who are like minded, passionate about education and well rounded, and I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to be part of that,” said Suniga. “I look forward to continuing the important work to enhance programs, help students and faculty excel, and make the Great Lakes Bay Region community shine.”

Suniga will oversee the Health and Wellness and Business and Technology divisions, as well as lead the review of existing programs and work with faculty to develop new ones to serve the needs of the community.

**+ EDUCATION**


COURTESY PHOTO

(SPONSORED)

## Nominations encouraged for Michigan Lottery's Excellence in Education Awards to honor outstanding educators

**MICHIGAN** – Parents, students, school staff members, and others are encouraged to nominate outstanding public-school educators for the Michigan Lottery's 2021-22 Excellence in Education awards.

All public-school employees may be nominated for the awards, which recognize educators who go "above and beyond" to make a difference in the lives of children. To nominate a public-school educator, go to <http://bit.ly/ExcellenceInEducation>.

The Michigan Lottery established the Excellence in Education awards in 2014 to recognize outstanding public-school educators across the state during the school year.

One outstanding educator will be selected each week and will receive a \$1,500 cash prize plus a \$500 grant to their classroom, school or school district. One of the weekly award winners will be selected to receive the Lottery's Educator of the Year award and will receive a \$10,000 cash prize.

Each winner also will receive a plaque

and be featured in a news segment on the Lottery's media partner stations: WXYZ-TV in Detroit, FOX 17 in Grand Rapids, FOX 47 in Lansing, and WNEM-TV, Saginaw.

The winner of the 2021 Educator of the Year award was Janice Smith. She is a school social worker at Fisher Magnet Lower Academy, which is part of the Detroit Public Schools Community District.

More than 800 educators were nominated during the seventh year of the educational awards program and 34, including Smith, were selected to win a weekly award.

Previous winners of the Educator of the Year award:

- **2020 – Megan Sidge**, an Autism Spectrum Disorder teacher at Hickory Woods Elementary, which is part of the Walled Lake Consolidated Schools.
- **2019 – Stewart Kieliszewski**, an Earth science, biology, mechatronics, and media teacher

for eighth through 12 graders at the Ubly Community Schools.

- **2018 – Kerri Moccio**, a literacy intervention specialist at Bedford Elementary School in Dearborn Heights
- **2017 – Linda Holzwarth**, a social studies teacher at Portage West Middle School in Portage
- **2016 – Daniel Carr**, a Spanish and sports marketing teacher at Waverly High School in Lansing
- **2015 – Michael Craig**, a special education teacher at the Charles Drew Transition Center in Detroit

Excellence in Education award nominees are evaluated on: Excellence, Dedication, Inspiration, Leadership and Effectiveness

**Excellence  
in Education**



+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

# College Visits



By CRAIG DOUGLAS  
RETIRED EDUCATOR

Now is a great time of the year to plan a college campus visit. This is true for high school students of all ages; the younger the student, the more time to compare.

With the COVID 19 pandemic, safety has to be taken into consideration. To prepare for this article, I went to the web and found a great resource, [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com)

They offer fourteen tips, and for this segment I will highlight these three.

## 1) Start planning early.

**Recommended:** Junior year or sooner, after doing some online research. Suggested times: “down time” like holiday and spring breaks. Also, college recruitment “days” that bring larger groups to campus for tours and informational sessions. Often this is on a Saturday and well-advertised on college websites ahead of time.

**2) Know what to expect for in-person visits. What are the safety protocols? (Example: are masks suggested or required) Will there be information from financial aid? Various programs? Will you be visiting classrooms? Dorms?**

**Find out ahead of time, what you can expect to learn.**

## 3) Establish a budget for the college visit.

**Factor in obvious costs such as food and gasoline. Also consider costs in the region and whether or not an overnight stay will be informative to get a “feel” for the region. Out of state will mean more travel costs, as well.**

Choosing a college is a big decision, and the more online research that can be done to better plan to visit campus, the better. We cannot let COVID 19 deter us from planning for our futures, and visiting college campuses can be done safely with plenty of options for every family.

Resource: <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/slideshows/10-tips-for-an-effective-college-visit>



## 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.



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

***Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman***

### Saginaw ISD Head Start

Claytor Administrative Building

3200 Perkins Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
Phone 989.752.2193  
Fax 989.921.7146

#### Office Hours

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

For additional information concerning Saginaw ISD Head Start visit:  
[www.saginawheadstart.org](http://www.saginawheadstart.org)

Source: [www.saginawheadstart.org](http://www.saginawheadstart.org)

***"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***

**SAGINAW ISD**  
HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START

**FREE PRE-SCHOOL**  
Enrollments for 0 to 5 year olds  
Call: **752-2193** or  
Visit the Claytor Head Start  
Building at:  
3200 Perkins  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
**REGISTER NOW!**

Saginaw County Free Pre-School Partnership

## = + BUSINESS



COURTESY PHOTOS

# More than subs and spuds at new South Side shop

By MIKE THOMPSON

Nobody told Steve Hartwell that Saginaw's South Side Business District is supposed to be dead, so when he saw that a vacant structure on 2903 South Washington at Hess was for sale at an "unbelievably cheap" price, he made the purchase to build upon the family's donut shop in Flint.

"That's the beauty of being supposedly ignorant. We see potential that others don't see," he says, with a chuckle.

His business venture with his wife of 15 years, L'Oreal, goes by two names. By morning it's Sugar Shack Donuts. When lunchtime and then dinner hour roll arrive, we have a transition to Steve's Subs.

Neighborhood reaction is a mix of surprise that that someone would open an eatery in surroundings that others have written off, and thank-yous that the Hartwells are willing to take the chance.

"Many of the people tell us, they have had no place where they could go and get something to eat," Hartwell says.

## A totally new career

He was an insurance broker until he decided to open a sub takeout within his parents' Dawn Donuts shop in Flint, at 3405 Clio Road. His Saginaw store brings in the baked goods from Buick City, fresh-made each morning.

Breakfast sandwiches, including steak-egg-and-cheese bagels, also are on the morning menu. Then come the subs, including Philly steak and Philly chicken, among eight choices.

"Everyone else has been opening soul food places," he says, referring to Crud-up's, Baldwin's, and most lately Tia's and Mama Kay's. "We needed to do something different."

And it's a different sort of sub shop. Where else can patrons opt instead for 14 varieties of stuffed potatoes, each advertised as a meal in itself? Some of the choices feature the same combinations from inside the sandwiches, while others feature sour cream and steamed veggies not found in a sub.

Steve says he incorporates the same

principles as so-called loaded french fries, except a baked potato offers a superior and heartier base that would sag under the weight of all the stuffed goodies.

## Subs with an unusual 'bun'

If the spuds are not enough, a third main choice is to wrap sub goodies, not in the usual flour tortilla but as an egg roll.

"In Flint we call these 'woodles,' but Saginaw may not yet be hip to that term," he says.

Steven and L'Oreal, parents of five children, hoped to open in Saginaw earlier this year, but Hartwell says he had difficulty assembling and keeping a crew during the months before unemployment checks expired with their \$300 weekly federal bonuses. He said in mid-November that he expects new crew members to remain more loyal, allowing consistent daily operations.

The menu and more information can be found at [steves-subs.com](http://steves-subs.com) or on the Steve's Subs page on Facebook.

**+ BUSINESS**

# Isabella Bank Corporation announces fourth quarter 2021 dividend

Isabella Bank Corporation (OTCQX:ISBA) today announced its Board of Directors declared a fourth-quarter cash dividend of \$0.27 per common share at its regular meeting on November 23, 2021. The dividend will be payable December 17, 2021, to shareholders of record as of December 14, 2021. Based on ISBA's closing stock price of \$27.10 per share as of November 23, 2021, the annualized cash dividend yield is 3.99%.

"Our \$0.27 fourth quarter cash dividend is a reflection of our unwavering commitment to increase shareholder value," said Jae A. Evans, President and Chief Executive Officer. "Our strong financial results coupled with our successful initiatives implemented to enhance performance metrics have resulted in the recent appreciation in the value of our stock."

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*Isabella Bank Corporation (OTCQX: ISBA) is the parent holding company of Isabella Bank, a state chartered bank headquartered in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. Isabella Bank was established in 1903 and has been committed to serving the local banking needs of its customers and communities for 118 years. The Bank offers personal and commercial lending and deposit products, as well as investment, trust and estate planning services through Isabella Wealth. The Bank has locations throughout seven Mid-Michigan counties: Clare, Gratiot, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland, Montcalm, and Saginaw.*

For more information about Isabella Bank Corporation, visit the Invest in Us link at [www.isabellabank.com](http://www.isabellabank.com).



COURTESY PHOTO

## Attend a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) pre-certification briefing

Interest in becoming a certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)? Attending our Pre-Certification Briefing is your first step to becoming certified.

To participate in the Pre-Certification Briefing, a company must first meet the fundamental requirements of certification. These are:

- Legally registered as a for-profit entity in the State of Michigan
- An ethnic minority owner(s) with at least 51% of ownership
- Must be controlled, owned and managed by an ethnic-minority.

The two-hour Pre-Certification Briefing will provide information about the Council, the certification process and a step-by-step review of the application and its required documentation.

Before registering for a Pre-Certification Briefing, please adhere to the following:

- Only one attendee per company „

The attendee must be the ethnic-minority owner.

- Please register to attend either in-person or via web conference. „ Do NOT register for both in-person and the web conference. Decide which is better for your schedule. Space is limited.
- NOTE: You should only attend via web conference if you are not located in the Southeast Michigan area. Attendees who attend in-person tend to complete their application faster and with fewer revisions, compared to people who attend via web conference.
- Attendees must be registered prior to attending the event. Attendees that are not registered will not be allowed admission into the Pre-Certification Briefing.
- Please arrive on-time. The Briefing will begin promptly at its designated time.

## = + FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES =

# Grant funding 2022 - Part 1

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Grant funding is the backbone for so many nonprofit organizations. To help you strengthen this aspect of your fundraising we reached out for guidance to Dana Textoris, Managing Director at Grants Plus. We asked her about how foundations and corporations are changing their grantmaking and their responses to calls for equity and increased funding for Black-led nonprofits.

### How have the events of 2020 and 2021 changed the way that foundations and corporations approach grantmaking and investments in nonprofits?

For years many nonprofit leaders have aspired to change the terms of the relationships with funders — to gain more flexibility, less restriction, more trust. During the pandemic, we saw more funders make a shift in that direction. For example, the Center for Effective Philanthropy (CEP) surveyed nonprofits and found that 70% say funders have relaxed their reporting requirements. The good news is that CEP has found that many funders plan to keep it that way.

### What have you witnessed in terms of changes in how foundations are soliciting proposals? Have you seen an increase in unrestricted grants?

At the start of the pandemic, we saw many foundations allow nonprofit grantees to use their existing grant funds however was most needed. Since then, we keep hearing that foundations are demonstrating more willingness to make general operating support (GOS) grants. However, we're not convinced yet — we submit hundreds of grant proposals every year for our clients, and haven't seen enough GOS giving to believe it's the new normal.

Our advice is not to wait. Changes in grant making are happening because nonprofit leaders are being more direct and honest about what their organizations need. If your current funders won't make GOS grants, have a courageous conversation to ask why and explain why this would be powerful for your organization.

### Have you seen foundations investing in economic development and education in new ways?

Many educational organizations are addressing new challenges as students return to in-person learning since the pandemic shut-down. These institutions are in need of training for teachers and social emotional programs for students as they recover from the fallout of such a prolonged and in many ways traumatic experience outside the classroom. Funders seem to show an increased willingness to support the mental health needs of students.

Schools and educational organizations broadly need support for "recovery" and getting back on track in school. This includes funding to hire more teachers and staff, as well as retaining their current workforce—especially crucial during a time of profound employment and hiring difficulties. One of our clients, a youth after-school program, has been talking with their funders about a need to increase salaries for part-time program staff in order to remain competitive and keep them on board. Another client is facilitating more workforce development classes than ever, but keeping them small to maintain social distancing, meaning higher costs for additional staff and PPE supplies. We are encouraging our clients to have proactive conversations with their funders about retention challenges and other real obstacles—we are optimistic, but have yet to see how many funders will step up to fund in new areas of need.

### Have you witnessed a sustained (to date) impact in how foundations are funding equity work across organizations?

Following the murder of George Floyd, there was great energy and attention from funders to invest in organizations confronting racial injustice.

Many private and corporate funders across the country launched "racial justice rapid response funds" similar to the COVID relief funds that sprung up at the start of the pandemic. Unfortunately the data is disappointing on how this intention was born out. In August, The Washington Post released a report that showed that of nearly \$50 billion pledged by the nation's largest corporate philanthropies, only \$4.2 billion of that was actually made in grants. The rest was made as loans and investments that may benefit the companies that made them.

This isn't to say that many foundations haven't followed through on their promises. Here in Cleveland where I am based, for example, The Cleveland Foundation is beginning a second round of grants in 2022 from its Cleveland Black Futures Fund, to support Black-led and Black-serving organizations.

### Have you witnessed an increase in giving to Black-led and Black-serving nonprofit organizations and institutions?

Grants from Donor Advised Funds (DAF) are on the rise—in fact, this funding grew 27% in 2020 as compared to 2019, according to the National Philanthropic Trust. Organizations that ignore the trend in giving from grants do so at their own peril! DAF giving is incredibly dynamic. A new report on DAFs from The Giving Institute shows that the health and racial crises of 2020 influenced DAF donors to increase funding to specific organizations: in the past year, DAF grants to public social benefit organizations doubled and they quadrupled to racial justice organizations and Historically Black Colleges and Universities.



Copyright 2021 – Mel and Pearl Shaw

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

# = + CHURCH DIRECTORY

**B**

**Bethel AME Church**  
Rev. Dennis Laffoon  
535 Cathay St.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-7011



**Greater Renaissance**  
Pastor Cedric R. Cheatham  
1535 S. Warren Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-1455  
260-515-6456



**New Covenant Christian Center**  
Pastor Ron Frierson  
2395 S. Outer Drive  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-8485



**Second Baptist Church**  
Pastor-Elect Marcelle T. Smith  
1770 W. Youngs Ditch Rd.  
Bay City, MI 48708  
989-893-8631



**Bethlehem Temple Church of the Apostolic Faith**  
District Elder Curtis E. Johnson, Pastor  
3521 Webber St  
Saginaw, Michigan 48601  
989-755-8381



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



**Greater Williams Temple**  
608 E Remington St  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-5291



**New Hope Missionary Baptist Church**  
Rev. Dr. Willie F. Casey  
1721 Tuscola Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-753-7600



**St. John Ev. Lutheran Church**  
Pastor Carl Ballard  
915 Federal Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
989-754-0489  
stjohnlutheranelcasaginaw.weebly.com

**C**

**Christ Disciples Baptist Church**  
Founder Pastor Eddie Benson  
Pastor Genevieve Benson  
3317 Lapeer Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-2444

**Christ Fellowship Baptist Church**  
Rev. Robert Davis, Jr.  
818 N. Washington Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-4435  
PastorD818@gmail.com



**Christ Image Community Church**  
5501 Gratiot Rd  
Saginaw, MI 48638  
(989) 759-9161  
christimage.us

**F**

**Faith Harvest Church**  
Bishop Ronald E. Chipp  
1734 N. Mason  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-799-4200  
faithharvestministry.org  
office@faithharvestministry.org



**Faith Ministries Church**  
Dr. Anthony Revis  
3420 E Ashman St.  
Midland, MI 48642  
989-837-7777  
faithministrieschurch.org



**Glimpse Of Hope Ministries**  
Pastor Leslie D Lewis  
2211 S. Outer Dr.  
Saginaw Michigan 48601  
989-755-9237  
g.ministries@aol.com



**Grace Chapel Church**  
Pastor James Nelson  
2202 Janes Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-3212



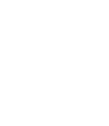
**Jacob's Ladder**  
Bishop Elect Dempsey Allen  
1926 Fairfield Street  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-799-6601



**New Life Baptist Ministries**  
Dr. Craig Tatum  
1401 Janes Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-753-1151  
newlifelcm.com



**Transforming Life Ministries**  
Pastor William Brown  
523 Hayden  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-9573



**Life in Christ Ministries**  
Pastor Dennis Cotton, Sr.  
2915 S. Washington Road  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-401-4465  
LifeInChristMinistries07@gmail.com



**New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church**  
Pastor Alfred "AJ" Harris Jr.  
3610 Russel St.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-0801



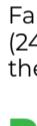
**True Vine Baptist Church**  
Pastor Paul E. Broaddus  
2930 Janes Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-0751

**M**

**Messiah Missionary Baptist Church**  
Pastor Otis Washington  
2615 Williamson Road  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-777-2636  
Fax: 989-777-2640  
messiahmbc@att.net  
messiahsag.org



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



**New Way Ministries**  
Pastor Dwight & Princess Dobbins  
29200 Shiawassee St.  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336  
(248) 987-2434  
thenewwayministry.org



**Prince of Peace Baptist Church**  
Pastor Robert C. Corley Jr.  
825 North 24th Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-2841



**Resurrection Life Ministries Full Gospel Baptist Church**  
Pastor Carolyn L. Wilkins  
2320 Sheridan Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-395-3142



**Victorious Belivers Ministries Church**  
Pastor Chris V. Pryor  
624 S. Outer Dr.  
Saginaw, MI  
989-755-7692

**N**

**New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry**  
Pastor Roy & Evelyn Baldwin  
2609 E. Genesee  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-777-8272  
Pastorbaldwin@charter.net



**Saginaw Valley Community Church**  
Pastor Richard Sayad  
3660 Hermansau  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
989-752-4769



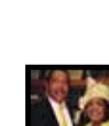
**Saint Paul Baptist Church**  
Rev. Dr., Vincent D. McMillon  
120 North 15 St.  
Saginaw, MI. 48601  
stpaul2@yahoo.com  
Facebook: St Paul MBC Family Connection



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

**G**

**New Birth Missionary Baptist**  
Pastor Larry D. Camel  
3121 Sheridan  
Saginaw, Michigan  
989-327-1755



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

## = + SPORTS =



COURTESY PHOTO

# Dow GLBI to increase tournament purse to \$2.5 million in 2022

MIDLAND – The Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational (Dow GLBI) announced today that the LPGA team event will increase the tournament purse to \$2.5 million in 2022. The raise amounts to nearly 10 percent more than the 2021 Dow GLBI purse. Scheduled for July 10 – 16, the 2022 Dow GLBI will award the winning team with \$607,620 (\$303,810 for each champion). The Dow GLBI continues to be one of the highest paying tournaments on the LPGA Tour outside of the majors.

"This purse increase truly represents Dow's commitment to driving inclusion, diversity, and equity as an organization and proud supporter of the LPGA," said Dow GLBI Executive Director Chris Chandler. "It's remarkable what we've been able to accomplish in the two short years of this

event, and we're looking forward to continuing to help advance the game of women's golf in the years ahead."

The 2021 Dow GLBI welcomed fans back to the Midland Country Club for an event unlike any other on the LPGA Tour. The 72-hole, stroke-play tournament features two-player teams competing in both foursomes and four-ball. Sisters Ariya and Moriya Jutanugarn secured the 2021 Dow GLBI title after shooting 24 under par.

While the LPGA tournament is at the heart of the week-long event, the Dow GLBI features several programs including the First Tee Junior Clinic, the Special Olympics 3-Hole Challenge, free access for Veterans, and leadership programming focused on inclusion, diversity, equity, and sustainability. The Dow GLBI also con-

tinued a variety of charity initiatives benefiting nonprofits in the Great Lakes Bay Region. More than \$1 million in charitable giving has been awarded since the tournament's inception in 2019.

"As one of the premier events on the LPGA Tour, we are continuing to identify ways we can cultivate the Dow GLBI in the years ahead," said Dow GLBI Tournament Director Wendy Traschen. "We are grateful to have Dow's support. They give us a platform to bring this incredible LPGA event to the Great Lakes Bay Region."

For more information about the Dow GLBI, visit [DowGLBI.com](http://DowGLBI.com). Additional details regarding the 2022 tournament will be announced in the coming months.

**+ SPORTS**

# Loons announce front office additions, promotions, and updates

MIDLAND – The Great Lakes Loons are pleased to announce the addition of four full-time members to the front office staff, the promotion of three current staff members to full-time status, and role updates for two current staff members. The seven total full-time additions to the front office come on the heels of a successful 2021 season that saw 124,806 fans come through the gates of Dow Diamond. The increase in staff size represents positive momentum towards the 2022 season and the team's recovery from the canceled 2020 season.

Brandon Loker has been named Director of Corporate Partnerships for the Loons. In his role, he oversees all sales and activation of corporate partnerships for the team. A native of Mount Vernon, Illinois, Loker has over ten years of sports sales experience, including working for the Miami Heat of the NBA, University of Miami Hurricanes, and Florida Panthers of the NHL. "Brandon is a phenomenal salesperson whose track record and resume speak for themselves", stated Tyler Kring, Assistant General Manager of Business Development. "His experience at the major league level, professionalism, attention to detail, and desire to put the client first will deliver great results for our corporate partners for many seasons to come."

Lauren Ouellette joins the team as the Retail and Business Manager for the Loons after holding various seasonal jobs with the team since 2014. In her role, she manages the Loon Loft retail shop, including ordering merchandise, keeping inventory, executing orders, and staging the store. An Essexville native, Ouellette holds a bachelor's and master's degree in communication from Central Michigan University. "Lauren has been an integral part of our gameday staff for years and we're excited to have her join us year-round", stated Tiffany Wardynski, Vice President of Baseball Operations and Gameday Experience. "Her passion for the Loons and creating memorable, positive experiences for our fans makes her the perfect fit for running our retail operation."

Stephanie Tithof has been named Food and Beverage Coordinator for the Loons. In her role, she provides wedding and event

planning services for customers of Dow Diamond's private event sales, coordinates catering orders for suite and venue clients during Loons games, and handles accounts payable and human resource functions for the food and beverage department. A native of Carson City, Nevada, Tithof worked for three years at Walt Disney World and Sea World before joining the Loons and holds a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University. "Stephanie brings a wealth of knowledge and a detail-oriented view to our private events business," stated Eric Ramseyer, Chief Operating Officer. "We know that every bride-to-be and corporate events planner will enjoy working with Stephanie immensely on creating their perfect day at the ballpark."

The last addition, Travis Webb joins the front office as a Ticket Account Executive. A native of Sanford and a Central Michigan University graduate, Webb will focus on the sale of ticket memberships and group outings, while servicing existing ticket membership holders. "We're excited to have Travis on board as he brings a drive and hunger to our sales team, wanting to sell out every game at Dow Diamond," stated Sam PeLong, Director of Ticket Operations. "Our season ticket holders will enjoy working with Travis on all their needs while they are at the ballpark as he strives to make sure every fan has a pleasant and memorable time at the ballpark."

Previously in seasonal roles, Elizabeth Getzinger (Creative Services and Content Coordinator), Jimmy Metiva (Video Production Manager), and Jeff Ross (Head Groundskeeper) have all been promoted to year-round, full-time members of the front office.

Additionally, the Loons are excited to announce the promotion of Ivy Schaaf as the Assistant Director of Ticket Sales for the team. In her role, Schaaf will now focus on selling comprehensive corporate hospitality packages for the Loons, ESPN 100.9 FM, and Dow Diamond private event rentals. Additionally, she will assist in the budgeting for the ticket department and the training of seasonal ticket staff. "We're very excited to promote Ivy to the Assistant Director of Ticket Sales", stated PeLong.

"Since joining the team in 2019, she has provided exceptional sales results and customer service to our fans. We're excited to have her help mold that culture into our seasonal staff and create memorable events for our corporate clients here at the ballpark."

Lastly, Cameron Bloch has been named Director of Entertainment and Community Outreach. Bloch joined the Loons in 2019 as the Promotions Manager, overseeing the Fun Flock and In-game entertainment for the team. In his new role, Cameron will continue these duties as well as focus on the Loons philanthropic efforts in the Great Lakes Bay Region, including donations, community sponsorships, and staff volunteer events. "Cameron has a heart of gold and has a deep passion for giving back to the community and leaving it a better place than he found it," stated Kring. "It's vitally important that the Loons support the community in the same light that the community supports the Loons. There's no one better on our staff than Cameron to spearhead these efforts."

The Loons are not done staffing up for the 2022 season. Currently, the team is looking for two enthusiastic, sales-driven individuals to fill Account Executive roles in the ticket office. Interested individuals may review the job posting on TeamWork Online or LinkedIn. Gameday staff positions will be posted in early spring, before Opening Day on April 8th.

"We're extremely excited to make these hires and promotions, permanently growing our front office family for the 2022 season and beyond," stated Chris Mundhenk, President and General Manager. This is a momentous step in the team's recovery from the 2020 canceled season and one that would not be possible without the support of our fans and the Great Lakes Bay Region we received last summer. One of the founding goals of the Loons was to provide jobs to the people of the region, to spur economic prosperity. Today, we are fulfilling that goal in a big way and we look forward to welcoming many more individuals to the Loons family over the coming weeks and months."

# Spirit acquire Justin O'Donnell from Sting

SAGINAW — Saginaw Spirit General Manager Dave Drinkill announced Tuesday (Nov. 30) the team has completed a trade acquiring right wing Justin O'Donnell from the Sarnia Sting in exchange for Saginaw's seventh round pick in 2022.

"As an organization, we want to welcome Justin and his family to Saginaw," said the Spirit sixth-year, GM. "As a staff, we are excited to work with Justin and get him in our lineup this weekend. He is a player we have followed since his draft year and we looking forward to seeing what he can do for our group with a fresh start here in Saginaw."

O'Donnell, 18, was selected by the Sting in the second round, 35th overall, in the 2019 Ontario Hockey League Priority

Selection Draft. The 6-foot-2, 202-pound winger has two goals and ten assists for 12 points in 63 career OHL games.

The Oakville, Ontario native was nearly a point-per-game player at the U-16 level, playing for the Toronto Marlboros in the Greater Toronto Hockey League. He scored 17 goals and 14 assists for 31 points in 32 games during the 2018-19 season.

O'Donnell also represented Team Ontario at the 2019 Canada Winter Games, scoring two goals and two assists, helping Ontario to a silver medal finish.

O'Donnell joined the team Tuesday and is expected to be in the lineup Thursday when the Spirit face the Flint Firebirds at 7:05 p.m. from The Dow Event Center. O'Donnell will wear jersey no. 88 for the Spirit.



# Keno Davis named Head Coach and Assistant General Manager of Flint United

FLINT — On November 17, 2021, Keno Emlen Davis was named head coach and Assistant General Manager of the Flint United, a professional basketball team and members of The Basketball League (TBL).

Davis served as an undergraduate assistant coach at the University of Iowa under his father from 1991–1995. After graduating, he served as an assistant coach at the University of Southern Indiana from 1995–1997 and at Southeast Missouri State University from 1997–2003. He rejoined his father as an assistant coach after the elder Davis was named head coach at Drake University in April 2003. When his father retired in 2007, Keno Davis became the team's head coach, and led the Bulldogs to a 28–5 record and a berth in the 2008 NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Tournament. Following the season, Davis was named the College Basketball Coach of the Year by 6 organizations including the Associated Press and U.S. Basketball Writers Association. Davis left Drake University to join the Big East Conference as the head coach of Providence College in April 2008. After the 2010–2011 season Davis joined the Big Ten Network as an analyst for the 2011-2012 college basketball season.

Davis was introduced by Central Michigan University as the Chippewas' 20th head men's basketball coach on April 3, 2012. Just four players would be on CMU's roster from the previous season (all of which would be reserves for Davis). One of the youngest teams in the country, the Chippewas found a way to win in double figures each season though only acquiring a 21-41 overall record.

Davis replaced Charlie Bell who was named as the team's inau-



# MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 23



FINALISTS IN THE SIMS PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION WERE, LEFT TO RIGHT: JORDAN KRYSCYNKI, FINALIST; HOPE KUENKER, FINALIST; MIKAYLA HOOSE, FINALIST; EVANGELINE CRUZ, 1ST PLACE; NYSIR MINNEY-GRATZ, 3RD PLACE; CLAIRE HARRIS, 2ND PLACE.

## Runner-up in 2020 displays determination to win SVSU public speaking contest

Saginaw Valley State University student Evangeline Cruz placed second in the 2020 Sims Public Speaking Contest. She learned from experience and returned to win the 2021 competition with a presentation about discrimination against transgender athletes.

Cruz received a cash prize of \$400 for claiming top honors in the 32nd annual contest. The communication major from Detroit participates on SVSU's competitive speaking team. She chose her topic, "The ban on trans athletes," because she is a member of the transgender community.

"I have firsthand experience and witness the discrimination and agendas attacking members of my community," she said.

Five other finalists in the also were recognized. Claire Harris, a communication major from Delton, Michigan, won 2nd place and a \$250 award for her presentation, "Harmful Messages in Children's Literature." Nysir Minney-Gratz, a communication major from Easton, Pennsylvania, was the 3rd place winner with "Becoming a Mentor." He received a

\$150 cash prize.

Finalists in the competition, each earning a \$75 prize, were:

- **Mikayla Hoose**, a history major from Frankenmuth, who presented "Missing Indigenous Women."
- **Jordan Kryscynski**, a psychology from Armada, who presented "Gender Dysphoria Within the Transgender & Non-Binary Community."
- **Hope Kuenker**, a criminal justice major from Bay City, whose presentation was "Admissibility of Re-victimization in the Courtroom."

The Sims Public Speaking Competition was established by Lawrence (Larry) and Linda Sims to allow students to hone their oral communication skills. Students write and present a five- to eight-minute persuasive speech on a topic of their choice.

"This year's Sims competitors brought forth timely, relevant topics and displayed a

strong demonstration of preparation," said Linda Sims. "We endowed the competition decades ago to encourage SVSU students to find their 'voice' and hone their public speaking skills. The importance of communication and our commitment to community service have underscored this action."

Amy Pierce, associate professor of communication at SVSU, and Ryan Rigda, a lecturer of communication, organize the competition, which consists of three rounds. Fifteen students competed in the first round.

"I have been involved with the Sims Competition my entire tenure at SVSU, and each year I am amazed at the talent of the students in the final round," Pierce said. "There is nothing more valuable than being able to stand up in front of an audience and advocate for something important to you. These are skills we use every day, and they are the same skills that contribute to civic discourse and policy change. I am so proud of our students for choosing challenging topics that make us think about the world we live in and how we can make it a better place."

Judges for the competition's final round were:

- **Donald Bachand**, president of SVSU
- **Deborah Huntley**, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs at SVSU
- **Marc Peretz**, dean of SVSU's College of Arts and Behavioral Sciences at SVSU
- **Marcia Moore**, associate professor of communication at Delta College
- **LaToya Peoples**, associate director of Career Services at SVSU

The Sims Public Speaking Competition began in 1981. It is co-sponsored by SVSU's Department of Communication and is open to all SVSU students. The competition is endowed by Larry and Linda Sims, long-time donors to the university. Linda Sims served as executive director for communications and external affairs at SVSU, retiring in 2019. She is also a former chair of SVSU's Board of Control. Prior to joining SVSU, she served as executive director of community services at Consumers Energy. Larry is the retired president and CEO of the United Way of Saginaw County.

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## PICS OF THE WEEK

On November 20, crowds gathered on a chilly Saturday morning to attend the annual Saginaw Pride Christmas parade.



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**Whatever your dreams, whatever your goals, your professors and friends at SVSU will fly with you every step of the way.**

Since age 11, India Pernell has had a passion for expressing herself through writing. Yet, when she first enrolled in college, choosing a major proved to be elusive for the Oak Park native. "I was 'major hopping' until it finally occurred to me that I always enjoyed writing and that I was good at it." Now a published author, Pernell has her sights on a career in grant writing, publishing or the film industry. In fact, she has nearly completed writing a movie script. **Her confidence is nurtured by her positive attitude and accomplishments at SVSU.**



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