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BUSINESS




**FRANKLIN
ROBBED IN
LONDON AGAINST
WHYTE**


SPORTS, PG 50



COURTESY PHOTO

- 

Change Your Habits, Change Your Life
COMMUNITY, PG 12
- 

Gov. Whitmer announces historic selection of Kyra Harris Bolden as next Michigan Supreme Court Justice
POLITICS, PG 34
- 

Determination leads student to victory at SVSU public speaking contest
EDUCATION, PG 45

Are you experiencing blurred vision? Great Lakes Bay Health Centers eyecare services can help with a comprehensive eye exam

Why you should know the difference between a vision screening and comprehensive eye exam: Dr. Derek Williams, Great Lakes Bay Health Centers Optometrist explains.

Comprehensive eye exams play a critical role in your overall health, detecting potential debilitating conditions early. A licensed optometrist at Great Lakes Bay Health

Centers shares why you need to know the difference between a vision screening and comprehensive exam.

Even the most health-conscious individuals often overlook care to an integral

**CONTINUES ON PG 2,
GLBHC EYECARE**

THE MICHIGAN BANNER IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



FEATURED STORY

SANTA CLAUS WAS REAL

COMMUNITY, PG 18



Cover Story, GLBHC Eyecare

organ in their daily life: the eyes. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 93 million adults in the country are at high risk for serious vision loss, but only half visited an eye doctor in the last 12 months. Great Lakes Bay Health Centers would like to invite you to schedule an appointment for your comprehensive eye exam.

As you schedule regular doctor and dentist appointments, the fact you are reading this sentence doesn't permit ignoring a visit to an eye care professional. Dr. Derek Williams, an optometrist with Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, said people frequently don't realize they're experiencing a detrimental eye condition.

"A lot of eye conditions can cause permanent blindness, and most don't have any symptoms at all," he said. "The sooner we get patients in and examine for these conditions, the better health outcomes they can have in the future."

Regular eye exams detect diseases like diabetes and hypertension early, which can thwart irreversible blindness through proper treatment. For diabetes patients, which is the leading cause of sight loss in the country, 90 percent of the disease's associated blindness is preventable. Similarly with glaucoma, 50 percent of people are unaware they are afflicted until vision loss affects their everyday life.

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers — which provides quality healthcare for everyone — currently operates its eye care clinic at their Janes Street community health center in Saginaw. They open their second clinic on Jan. 1, 2023 at the organization's new Old Town community health center, located at 700 Court St. in Saginaw.

As Great Lakes Bay Health Centers accepts new patients to its eye clinic, Dr. Williams shared why comprehensive eye exams are critical to your overall health. A common misconception people have is a vision screening sufficiently exams their eyes for serious conditions.

"Many people have difficulty understanding the difference between a vision screener and comprehensive exam," he said. "Those vision screenings just detect if you are far off the normative data. Certain conditions and vision disruptions can be missed. When you come here, we're do-

ing the full ocular health exam as well as a vision check."

As a licensed optometrist, Dr. Williams assesses patients' eye health through a series of tests — visual acuity, retinoscopy, refraction, pupil dilation, etc. — in a comprehensive exam. Even for those with perfect vision, a comprehensive exam can reveal potential issues that threaten your sight in the future.

The American Optometric Association recommends pediatric patients to have their first eye exam between six months and one year of age. After that, another exam is encouraged between ages 3 and 5, and then once a year between the ages of 6 and 17. Into adulthood, the examination interval should be once every two years and then annually after the age of 65.

Dr. Williams said a regularly scheduled comprehensive eye exam is vital in detecting debilitating conditions early, especially with the increased prevalence of screens in our everyday lives. An optometrist can examine for "computer eyes," a common condition that afflicts people who stare at screens for more than three hours a day.

"Screens cause fatigue of the eyes and leads to a high presence of myopia, which is near-sightedness," he said. "It can cause focusing issues in general. A lot of children

go through school struggling with eyesight and they don't know what a normal, healthy visual system is until we get them in here to dilate their eyes and figure out a prescription."

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers is accepting new eyecare patients even if you are receiving health care services elsewhere. Great Lakes Bay Health Centers welcomes everyone, regardless of insurance coverage and ability to pay.

The organization provides non-discriminatory care that's sensitive to the needs of the community. This includes a sliding scale based on income, so prices of glasses are adjusted based on a patient's financial status. Patients can also receive an eye exam elsewhere but still use Great Lakes Bay Health Centers' services to fulfill a prescription and order glasses.

"Our new location will also have an optical and lens edging lab to make lenses in-house instead of sending out to external labs," said Dr. Williams. "This keeps the cost low to patients and reduces wait time to receive glasses."

Be proactive with your health and call 989-907-2790 to schedule a comprehensive eye exam. Learn more about Great Lakes Bay Health Centers' eye services at greatlakesbayhealthcenters.org.



COURTESY PHOTO

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MISSION

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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2 weeks before each publication date of the 1st and 16th of each month

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HAPPY
Holidays

- FROM -

JEROME BUCKLEY
(PUBLISHER, MICHIGAN BANNER)

&

THE MICHIGAN BANNER STAFF

IN THIS ISSUE ▶

Youth Banner	4 - 5
Latino Banner	LB 1 - LB 4
Community	11
Faith Based	28
Politics	34
Business & Money	36
Health	40
Education	42
Sports	50

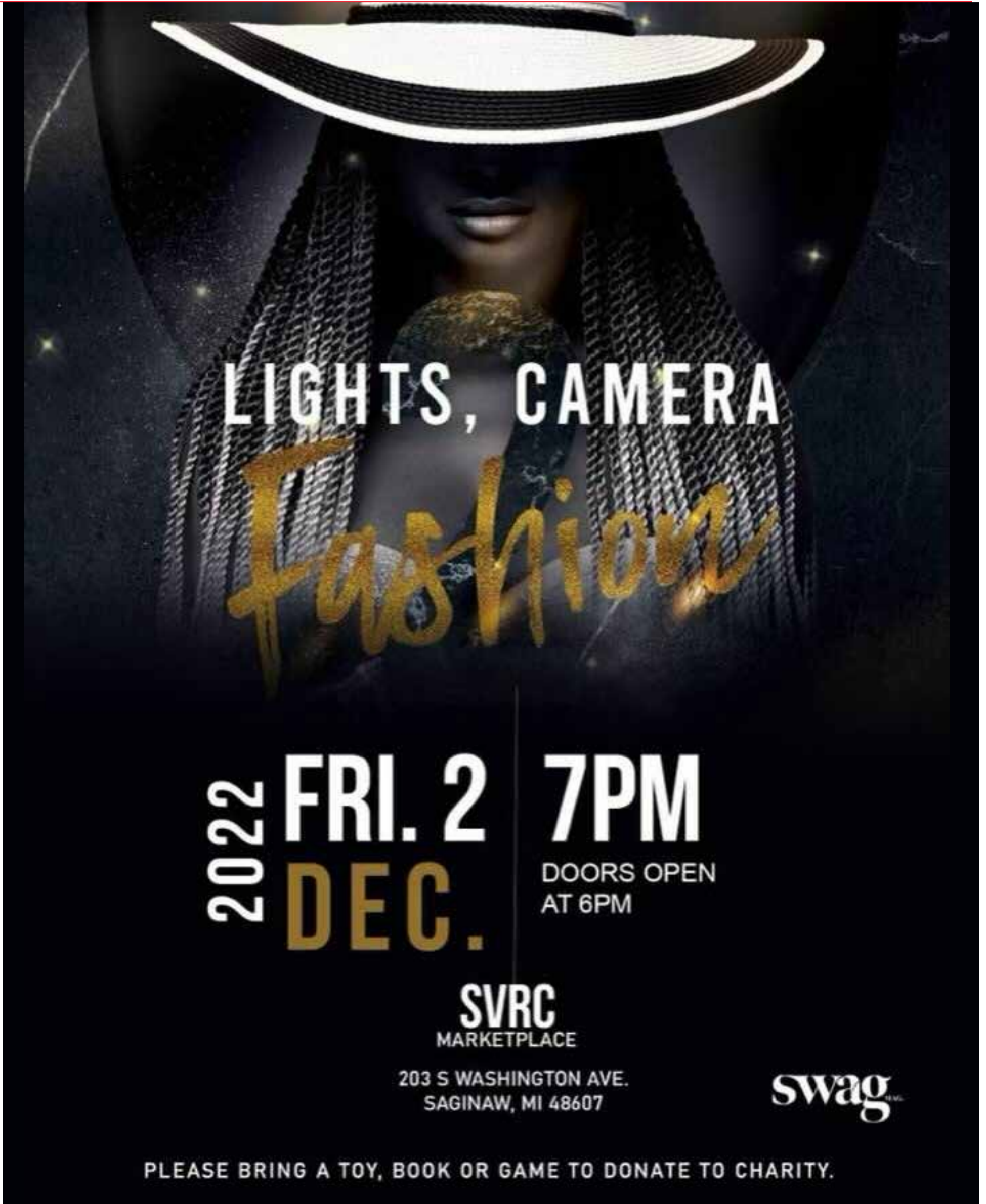
MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 4 • NUMBER 23



Seen on the Scene: Saginaw County Youth Ambassadors pictured with President Joe Biden after his speech at SK Siltron in Bay City on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022.





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Latino Banner

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Dear Sponsors,

Thank you for all of your support over the past five years, it was through your donations that made the holiday season special for over 684 local children. On December 8, 2022, 30 families will be selected for the Christmas With Angels 6th annual event. Our goal, this year, is to raise \$15,000 with 100% of the donations being gifted to the families, bringing the gift of Christmas to children in need in the Great Lakes Bay region. Please help continue this tradition by donating to Christmas With Angels. The event is on December 17, at La Unión Cívica Mexicana.



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DOUGLASS WITH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM NEWPORT NEWS VIRGINIA PARTICIPATING IN THE JUNETEENTH DEBATE FOR THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES.

“It is easier to build strong children than repair broken men.” ~ Frederick Douglass

The words of Frederick Douglass are as true and potent in 2022 as they were in the 19th century. Even as the debate over Critical Race Theory rages on in school districts across the country, while books are being banded in certain classrooms and libraries, one voice is still loud and clear. And the rhetoric and the reason of Douglass is beyond reproach and still begs the attention of both sides of the isle.

Over the past 8 years Nathan M. Richardson has studied and captures the physical, spiritual and intellectual essence of the former slave, writer, orator and abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Mr. Richardson's first person interpretation has reached hundreds of audiences nationally and internationally and demonstrates what education meant to the freedom and success of Frederick Douglass. If a picture speaks a thousand words, let these images of children across the country interacting with Mr. Richardson as Douglass compel you to rethink what you thought possible in the education of our children.

The message from Frederick Douglass

on education is relevant and impactful to young students because he is sharing his own struggle of what it was like to learn in a hostile environment. Douglass speaks on how at an early age he would take his education and future into his own hands and barter for words from other children and buy his own school books. Douglass also speaks on how the ability to read and write makes a person unfit for physical or mental bondage to anyone or anything. To the modern audience of students, Douglass quotes Mark Twain and tells them; “Don't let your schooling get in the way of your education.” - and they get it. At every assembly Douglass asks the students to repeat after him, “RESPECT YOUR POTENTIAL! RESPECT YOUR POTENTIAL!” - and they get it.

A short list of the classrooms that have enjoyed visits from Frederick Douglass (Nathan Richardson) this year are; the Cultural Roots Homeschool Cooperative in Richmond, Va., middle school students in South Boston and Floyd, Virginia, high school students in Newport News and Virginia Beach, Va., Pasquotank High

School in North Carolina, internationally to students at Colegio Jorge Washington in Cartagena, Columbia and college students at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Va., Tri City Community College in Cleveland, OH and Rochester University in NY.

Among the many things Frederick Douglass accomplished in his lifetime, he would publish his own newspaper - The North Star (1847-1851). Douglass understood that while the American press at large would too often focus on the failings of the black community, the black press would be the platform to educate the public of our accomplishments in spite of those failures. Douglass knew the black press then and now would provide the social, economic and political road map (the Underground Railroad) to becoming fully enfranchised in American Democracy.

Story and photography by Spiritual Concepts Publishing - www.scpublishing.com

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Change Your Habits, Change Your Life



COURTESY PHOTO

By **HASANI ALI**

Your character is a summary of your habits. Everything that you do on a routine basis or how you respond to certain situations make up exactly who you are.

My therapist told me something I carry with myself to this day.

“How you do anything is how you do everything.”

Probably one of the most profound statements I’ve ever heard—mainly because it’s true. And we know exactly what that means.

If you’re the type of person that would give a haphazard effort in keeping your house clean, then more likely you’ll give the same effort at your job or even with your relationships.

Depending on who you are, that may not bother you. I’m not the person to judge if you are content with your current life situation.

However, some of you may be tired of your current situation and may be looking for a change.

If you’re looking to have more money in your bank account or getting into shape, then it’s time to have a self-assessment and really take a look at your current situation.

When I was in the mortgage industry as an underwriter, one part of my job was analyzing a borrower’s bank statements. It was to search for suspicious activity (money laundering, illegal gifts, etc.) and to also look for any type of debt that was not reported on the credit report.

However, I learned something about people the more I examined more and more bank statements each day.

Humans are creatures of habit.

Looking at two months (or more) of bank statements, I typically saw the same patterns. Now, you would normally see expensive going out for bills, credit card debt and other living expenses. However, it’s the other side that really caught my atten-

tion. People ordering from their favorite restaurants, monthly subscriptions (Amazon mainly) and many miniscule purchases that lead to leisure or some kinds of pleasure.

What does that have to do with a person’s daily habits? Everything!

If I examine your bank statements and I notice that you have charges coming from a spa the same day as pay day, then I know it’s a way that you treat yourself after a two-week pay period.

If I were to see charges for takeout and other restaurants everyday rather than seeing the occasional trip to the grocery store, then it’s safe to assume that the person does not cook very often.

When it comes to changing habits, it can be a very daunting task.

**CONTINUES ON PG 13,
CHANGE**

Continued from pg 12, Change

Understand what habits need to be removed in order to replace them with habits to achieve the goals at hand.

For many people, one habit that can easily be added to the regimen is simply waking up early. Like the typical person, many of us wake up at the very last minute to get our day started. Usually meaning that everyone is in a rush to get cleaned, dressed and out the door.

Let's say your day starts at 6 o'clock in the morning, hypothetically. If you need extra time to work out, read a book or work on your side business, then why not start your day at 4:30 a.m.? Sure, you may lose a couple hours of sleep, but what's more important to you?

Not a morning person? Check out your options and see where you can add more valuable time to your day.

For those who are parents, it's an absolute challenge to find time for yourself in the evening hours as parenting time usually picks up after work. By the time the child(ren) gets to bed, then it's time for the adults to go to bed as soon – with maybe an hour of downtime prior to.

What do people usually do in the evening? Eat and watch television.

Why use that time to be idle when a chapter of a book can be read or a mile can be walked on the treadmill?

When it comes to habits one of the major problems that people have is poor time management. Though we have 24 hours in a day to get a lot of things done, it's imperative to look at the math to see how much you really have to get things done.

We're going to throw out a number as a rough estimate.

Between eight hours of sleep and 10 hours of work (two extra hours for the commute) already puts you at 18 hours of your day already spent.

What will you do with the remaining six hours?

Can you find an activity to be active along with your children? How about sacrificing an hour of sleep to knock out that business plan?

Whatever your goals are, a simple change of habits can transform you into a completely different person.

For those who spend too much money on frivolous items.

Are you spending out of boredom? Do you need those extra pair of shoes? Where can that extra money be allotted to? Hope-

fully all those bills are paid.

Even when it comes to dreaded weight loss.

Putting the fork down after 7 p.m. gives your body enough time to digest all of the food from the day. In fact, drinking more water will help curb that appetite and will not trigger those hunger pains throughout the night as much.

Take a deep look at yourself in your current situation and then peep into the future into what you could be like months down the line.

The only difference between the two points in time is the journey in the middle.

We're all creatures of habits. And our habits are a summary of who we are as people. It's okay to create better habits to become better people – whether we become healthier, happier, wealthier, stronger or faster.

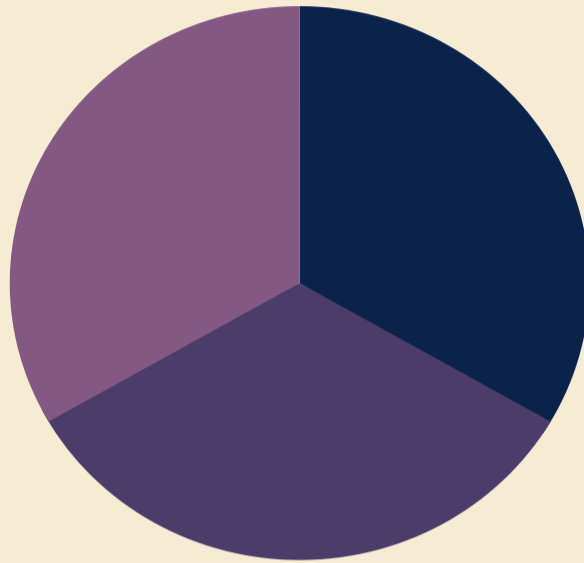
This is the perfect time to think about this while we're all beginning to make sure New Year's Resolutions for 2023. You have 31 days to think about it! Don't be harsh on yourself – have an honest conversation about what needs to change in your life and how you can come out a better person because of it.



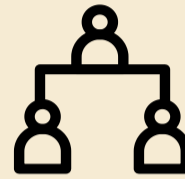
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MI Tri-Share CHILD CARE

State of Michigan
33.3%



Employer
33.3%



Cost of child care is shared

Employee
33.3%

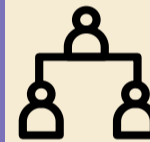


The MI Tri-Share Pilot (Tri-Share) is an innovative public/private partnership that shares the cost of child care equally between employers, employees, and the state of Michigan.

Overview

- **Tri-Share aims to:** (1) make child care affordable and accessible for working parents; (2) help employers retain and attract employees; and (3) help child care providers secure slots.
- Facilitator Hubs coordinate and administer the program in three regions currently representing the **Great Lakes Bay region, Northwest lower peninsula and Muskegon County.**
- Hubs serve as a **central liaison to facilitate connections** between employers, employees and providers.
- Eligible employees are those who are **Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE)** to alleviate one financial burden and remove a barrier to work.

Benefits



For employers, Tri-Share hopes to aid employers recruit and retain talent, and remove barriers to employment



For working parents, this will reduce the out-of-pocket cost of child care, and alleviate the burden of finding child care



For providers, this pilot will secure slots for reliable payments of child care, as well as help with recruitment.

For more information, visit-
<https://www.michigan.gov/mwc>



Don't be just an option, become the option

By HASANI ALI

Many of us don't like to hear this, but life is a competition in various forms. Because of competition, everybody has a choice.

From our employers to our potential mates, everybody wants the best option that they can possibly obtain.

So why not become the best person in any situation?

One thing that playing football taught me about life is that being the best not only opens a lot of doors, but allows the opportunity to get away with things as well.

I was on the 2008-2009 Central Michigan University football team that went 11-2 and was ranked no. 23 in the country – the schools highest ranking.

We had some of the school's most legendary players such as quarterback Dan LeFevour, linebacker Nick Bellore, defensive back Josh Gordy, linebacker Frank Zombo, safety Jahleel Addae and of course, wide receiver Antonio Brown.

As a walk-on, I noticed how when Brown climbed the ranks as one of the top receivers in the country, I saw the preferential treatment he got amongst the team.

It wasn't by much, but still enough to notice.

Brown could spend extra time in the treatment room before getting to practice. The coaches were not monitoring his workouts in the weight room. As long as he was busy, they didn't care.

Now granted, that man worked hard! I will not take that away from him by any means. I'll just never forget how he was working on his sprint form with weights in his hands on squat day.

But that taught me something.

When you're the most vital piece of a puzzle, you're treated differently. And not just different, but better.

How does that apply to life?

The most qualified people (in most cases) earn those high-figure salaries. The funniest comics are always given the biggest opportunities to grace a stage. The most attractive people have their selection when it comes to dating prospects.

Have you ever seen your competition in real time?

Did you see who got hired over you? Or

what about the woman that your crush picked over you? Who was truly the better option? Not what you feel like you deserve, but was the actual option.

One problem that a lot of people have is the thought of competing for what they want.

Becoming the best option in any area of life puts you ahead of your competition. There's less reason to hope and even less to bribe when you can walk into a situation knowing that you're the best choice.

This is something that companies and business owners alike completely understand – these entities are in competition for your dollar!

They understand that providing a lack-luster product or service is not going to have people banging on their door (physically or virtually) to spend their hard-earned money.

This is a beautiful concept for the consumer as the ability to have choice is what makes companies have to fine-tune their business models to ensure guaranteed customer satisfaction.

There was a time where companies had a monopoly on a particular product or service.

Because there was a lack of competition during these times, these companies did not have to worry about customers leaving. In result, customers were treated any kind of way and customer service was not a priority.

They were able to get away with this as there wasn't another entity that could provide the same service or product, whether for a cheaper price or with more friendlier customer services representatives.

Now that most industries have competition, everyone must compete for the consumer dollar and is not easily earned.

When it comes to dating, the most attractive people have endless options when it comes to potential mates.

Everybody has different tastes when it comes to the opposite sex, but in general, most attractive people are generally the same.

From being in tip-top shape, to stylish dress and even a plain symmetrical face, these types of people tend to attract people from all walks of life.

In many cases, they don't have to put their best foot forward as everyone else is going overboard to win their heart.

Their amount of attractiveness tends to have some value when it comes to finding love. This doesn't necessarily mean they're great

people. However, those with options may not have to try as hard or even have to act fast as they have plenty of options coming in daily.

When you become that option, I mean the top option, the environment crumbles at your feet.

The irony about celebrities and famous people is that the more well-known they are, the more free stuff they get when they travel about.

From Snoop Dogg to famous YouTubers, the stories are endless when it comes to receiving free dinners and gifts from a particular business.

Why? Because their presence somehow equals value.

Which makes it more ironic is that you would think that the restaurant or whatever store owner would be working hard to earn their money.

However, the fact that a famous person walked into their store brings more intrinsic value than an actual purchase.

Now, this isn't a message saying to become famous.

What this is conveying is that the best options get the best choices. The best students get their choice of the best colleges and the most valuable employees at major companies can negotiate their salaries and work conditions.

Become that person.

There's no more need to complain. Know exactly what you want and work to become that front runner. Make other people earn your love or earn your dollar – heck even earn your time if that's a currency that you can offer.

Life is about relationships and exchange.

You don't always have to be at the shorter end of the stick with negotiations. There's no need to be in the "in" crowd, hoping to see that somebody will see your worth.

If you stick out like a sore thumb, opportunities will come to you.

When the money and credit score is right, offers come with better deals for cars and homes. When it's clear that you have a healthy lifestyle, you have better options of terms and conditions for your health insurance and life insurance policies.

It may take that time to build that value.

However, I would rather you take the time to become the option for every opportunity than rather settling for mediocre options.

The choice is yours.



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What's for Thanksgiving, Della?

By Dolores Grant-Fall, former Neighborhood House cook

The Jamaicans call it "ital," but we Guyanese call it "shine rice." Many travelers to the Caribbean love to buy this from the street vendors.

This is a side dish that can really stand out as a special part of your holiday dinner.

Shine Rice

Ingredients

- 3 cups of rice
- 1 cup of chicken stock
- Fresh-squeezed coconut milk, or 1 can.
- Green onions, celery, Fresh garlic, hot pepper, cubes, butter, fresh shrimp. (Optional: bacon, fresh basil, fresh thyme, carrots, fresh parsley, herbs. Chop as you wish.)



Instructions

In a sauce pot, melt butter, add cut up carrots and herbs. Stir for about 2 minutes, then add rice coconut milk, shrimp, optional chicken stock and bouillon cubes, and salt to taste. Simmer for a few minutes and stir to prevent sticking or burning, remove from stove, cover and place in oven for about 30 to 45 minutes at 350 degrees. Enjoy with any meat of your choice or a garden salad.

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IN MY HUMBLE OPINION

Santa Claus Was Real



COURTESY PHOTO



By **KEN H. SIMMONS, II**
MANAGING DIRECTOR, KENZO
PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Last week, my daughter, Jade (age 7 and last born), was so excited about putting the Christmas tree up. She and her mom, Sanele, decorated the whole tree with the exception of the star on top, which was saved for "Daddy". Jade has been writing her list to Santa Claus for a couple of weeks now, and her anticipation and excitement about Christmas reminded me of my childhood around this time of year. My father, God rest his soul, used to always put a mystery gift, usually huge, under the tree on Christmas eve. He would do it af-

ter I had fallen asleep so that I would not detect it in the days leading to the big day. He knew that I inspected gifts as they were placed under the tree to see who they were for and who they were from. On Christmas morning, I would find the new mystery gift and ask my father where it came from and who it was for. He would claim ignorance and say, "maybe it's from Santa Claus". That would send my level of anticipation and excitement over the moon. The mystery gift would always be the last present opened. My father would say something like, "if it's from Santa Claus, it must be for you". I would open it and invariably it would be something from my list that I really wanted and I would be so happy. This practice reinforced my belief in Santa Claus as a child. As an adult, I discovered that Santa Claus was real.

At some point during my childhood, maybe around the age of 9 or 10, I came to understand through friends, relatives, school, and/or church that Santa Claus was a myth and that all of the presents un-

der the Christmas tree were purchased by family and friends, even the mystery gift. If you celebrated Christmas as a child, this is probably similar to your experience and we were told that believing in Santa was for kids and not big boys and girls. A 2019 survey of over 4,500 Americans conducted by HouseMethod.com found, "Overall, the average age in the United States for no longer believing in Santa Claus is 8.4 years old." The oldest average age was in Mississippi of 10.2 years old, and the youngest average age in the nation was 7.4 years in the state of Oregon. In Michigan, the average was 8.3 years old. Of course, not everyone believes in Santa Claus, and two states, New Mexico and Vermont had the highest level of people that never believed in Santa at all at 10% according to the survey.

**CONTINUES ON PG 19,
SANTA CLAUS**

Continued from pg 18, Santa Claus

Although Santa Claus is meant to symbolize hope, joy, generosity, and good things in general, he has seen his fair share of haters over the years. The Communist Party abolished the celebration of Christmas and “gift bringers” (proto-Santas) in 1922 when the Soviet Union was formed. University of Manitoba historian Gerry Bowler and author of *Santa Claus: A Biography* is quoted in a National Geographic article saying, “In places like the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Austria, and Latin America, they all have very strong anti-Santa movements because they are trying to preserve their native Christmas gift bringers and customs, and protect them from the North American Santa”.

What is the North American Santa and how did he originate? In an article entitled, “The Invention of Santa Claus: From Thomas Nast to Coca-Cola” I found his origin. After a group of Dutch Calvinists, who were fleeing religious persecution in the 17th century, arrived in the New World they introduced Sinterklaas to their new homeland, the future New York. His Dutch name was revised and Americanized into Santa Claus and by the time of the American Revolution, Santa Claus became a symbol of American resistance against the British occupying forces.

In 1809, one of the most famous American authors of the nineteenth century, Washington Irving published *A History of New York*, which was comically told by Irving’s pen name Dietrich Knickerbocker a make-believe historian. In the book, Knickerbocker (Irving) recounts the odyssey of a Dutch crew sailing from Amsterdam to America with Santa Claus protecting them as the ship’s figurehead. Santa would appear to the sailors in their dreams and tell them to settle and build a city on the island of Manna-hata (Manhattan). For their compliance, Santa Claus promised to visit them every year on his airborne sleigh, slipping down the chimneys of this newly founded city to deliver gifts to the children. The book helped popularize the character of Santa Claus and gave him an unprecedented profile.

After Irving’s book, a myriad of American artists were inspired by the character, and the most famous among them was Thomas Nast. He was a German-born

caricaturist and godfather of the American cartoon. He created the symbols of the Democratic donkey and the Republican elephant and popularized the figure of Uncle Sam. Nast’s Santa Claus started off in 1862 on the cover of *Harper’s Weekly* as a peddler wearing the colors of the American flag, handing out gifts to Unionist soldiers (anti-slavery Yankees). He became the hero of the Unionists and President Lincoln referred to Santa Claus as “his best recruiting agent!”, according to the *Invention of Santa Claus* article referenced earlier. By 1886, Nast had created more than thirty Santa Claus drawings for *Harper’s Weekly* and in the evolution, Santa gained weight, grew a long beard, wore fur, and had his peddler’s bag over his shoulder. Around the same time, Santa moved off the streets of New York to the North Pole, a region wrapped in mystery. This cliché was further developed by the man who introduced Christmas cards to the United States in 1875, Louis Prang who depicted Santa in a snowy and icy setting, wearing a big red coat with a hood lined with white fur, boots, and a cloth bag for toys. In 1931, an Atlanta-based company called, Coca-Cola decided to broaden its market to children, using Prang’s Christmas cards as inspiration, commissioning Swedish-born illustrator, Haddon Sundblom to depict a big-bellied, smiling Santa Claus with reddish cheeks, an elf-like look, and dressed in red with white trim.

Coca-Cola’s version of Santa Claus became an icon for this fantastical character, but the character is believed to descend from Saint Nicholas of Myra who was an early Greek Christian priest. According to celebratingholidays.com, Nicholas was born late in the 3rd century to wealthy Christian parents in the harbor city Patara, part of modern-day Turkey. His parents were devout believers who had prayed for many years for a child, and when he was finally born, they devoted Nicholas to God. Unfortunately, a plague struck his hometown when he was still a young boy, and both of his parents died. Nicholas drew closer to God following this tragedy, and he became sensitive to the suffering of others. He inherited his family’s fortune and used it to honor God by giving it to the poor and needy. When he was only in his early 20s, he had already developed such

a reputation in his region that he was chosen as Archbishop of Myra, another harbor city southeast of Patara.

One of the young bishop’s most famous acts of generosity is when he saved three young girls from a life of prostitution by secretly tossing three purses of gold through an open window in their house under the cover of night. Their indebted father was able to afford dowries and marry his daughters off.

Bishop Nicholas also developed a reputation for being a miracle worker in his lifetime. His most amazing miracle was resurrecting three boys who had been murdered by an innkeeper who dismembered the bodies and put them in barrels. This phenomenon, along with many different miracles during his lifetime and thereafter, led him to become the patron saint of not only schoolchildren but sailors, prisoners, unmarried people, and more.

Nicholas was neither fat nor jolly but was a wiry, fiery, and defiant defender of church doctrine. He spent years in prison for his beliefs during the Great Persecution before the Roman emperor, Constantine ended Christian persecution in 313.

Though the modern Santa Claus has devolved into a secularized figure surrounded by fantasy and consumerism, his image can serve to remind us of the real St. Nicholas, a man who devoted his life to serving God and inspiring others to do the same. In addition, the idea of giving gifts in Santa’s name, as my dear ‘ole dad used to, is a useful practice. Essentially, giving gifts in Santa’s name is giving them anonymously. Secret generosity is consistent with how St. Nicholas gave gifts, and more importantly, it follows Jesus’ instruction about giving; “But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.” (Matthew 6:3-4)



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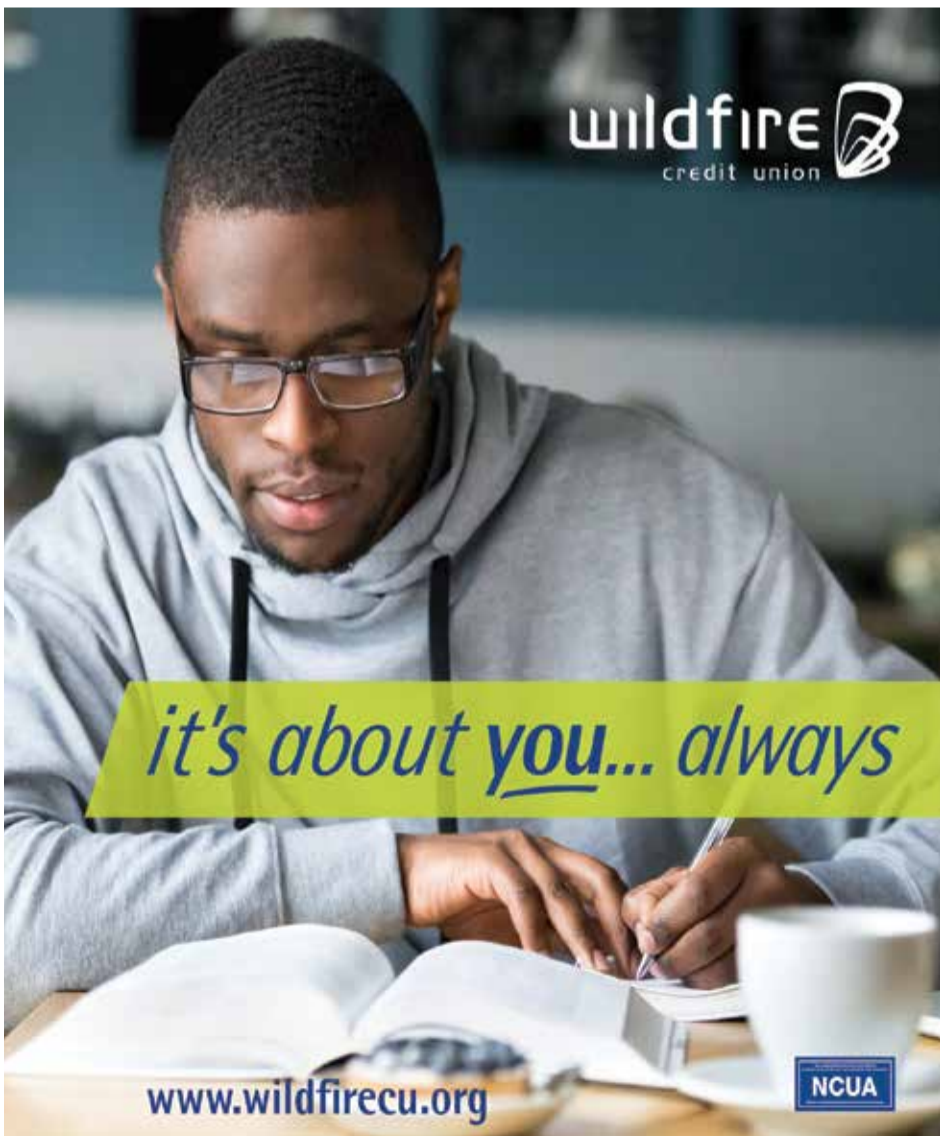
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Multicultural Academic Student Services seeks to promote a campus community that fosters the holistic development of multicultural students by providing support for their academic goals, while expressing genuine care for their personal development and well-being, advocating on their behalf and encouraging the full use of all university resources.

The office maintains strong relationships with students, parents, alumni, faculty/staff as well as the community, while building support for the successful matriculation and retention of students.

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+ COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

Make magical holiday memories in Flint & Genesee

Dazzling Christmas lights lining main streets. Exceptional boutiques with gifts perfect for the holidays. Locally owned coffee shops offering holiday drinks and a place to warm up. Winter festivals meant for making holiday memories that will last a lifetime.

That's what you'll find in Flint and Genesee County, Michigan. With multiple events and festivals, Flint & Genesee is a perfect place for a weekend away this season. And Explore Flint & Genesee is a great resource to use when booking your next trip.

In Flint & Genesee, a local favorite gem is Christmas at Crossroads. Beginning the day after Thanksgiving, the event runs Friday-Sunday from 4-9 p.m. During the holidays, Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad displays thousands of sparkling lights. The village also has fun and unique activities for the whole family.

The areas surrounding Flint also host a variety of holiday festivals in December. Events include:

- Flushing Candlewalk – This is one of Flushing, Michigan's most heartwarming events. The 30-year-old festival has thousands of glowing candles down Main Street. The event also has chestnuts roasting on an open fire. December 1
- Linden's Holiday Happening Frosty Parade & Fireworks – Enjoy this family-fun event in downtown Linden, Michigan. The event has train rides through Linden's historic downtown and tours of the Linden Mills Museum. It also has carriage rides, a holiday parade and a fireworks display. December 2
- Christmas on Main – In Davison, Michigan, Christmas on Main is an annual event with activities for the whole family. Activities include a lighted parade and visits with Santa. December 2
- Fenton Jinglefest – Jingle all the

way down to Fenton, Michigan to celebrate the holidays. There is something for everyone at Jinglefest. Activities include a holiday parade, carolers, a Jinglejog 5K and a fireworks display. December 3

- 37th Annual Holiday Walk – Held at the world-class Flint Cultural Center in Flint, Michigan, Holiday Walk has events and activities at nine spots on the cultural center's campus. Places include Applewood Estate, Flint Public Library, Flint Institute of Arts, Sloan Museum of Discovery and Whiting Auditorium. December 6

Make your visit a weekend trip! Stay at one of Flint & Genesee's cozy hotels. Save time and book directly through the Explore Flint & Genesee website.

For information on holiday events in Flint & Genesee, visit ExploreFlintandGenesee.org.

LIGHT UP THE SEASON

with Holiday Instant



Put some play in your holiday

Fun to give and great to get, they add more than a little sparkle to your gift giving. Everyone loves to scratch and play for a chance to win up to \$500,000 instantly. This year, give the gift of instant holiday fun with Holiday Instant.

Make the holiday season even brighter with \$6,000,000 Jackpot - a new \$50 Instant Game on sale December 6. With over \$300 million in total prizes it's sure to light up the season.



Overall odds of winning Tinsel Town: 1 in 4.54. Overall odds of winning Merry Money X12: 1 in 4.55. Overall odds of winning Cashing Through the Snow: 1 in 4.11. Overall odds of winning The Perfect Gift: 1 in 3.77. Overall odds of winning \$6,000,000 Jackpot: 1 in 3.10. Knowing your limits is always the best bet. Call the Michigan Problem Gambling Helpline for confidential help at 1-800-270-7117.



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



COURTESY PHOTO

Parents, students, school staff members, and others are encouraged to nominate outstanding public-school educators for the Michigan Lottery's 2022-23 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 <https://www.michiganlottery.com/excellence-in-education>.

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 2022 Educator of the Year award was Spencer Vanderheide. He is a high school teacher with Kenowa Hills High School, which is part of Kenowa Hills Public Schools.

Hundreds of educators were nominated during the eighth year of the educational awards program and 34, including Vanderheide, were selected to win a weekly award.

Previous winners of the Educator of the Year award:

- 2021 – Janice Smith, a school social worker at Fisher Magnet Lower Academy in Detroit

- 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 Uby 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 – Their work consistently helps students and/or their schools or school districts advance to higher levels of academic achievement.
- Dedication – They consistently go above and beyond expectations to help students succeed.
- Inspiration – Their work inspires others around them to exceed expectations either academically or professionally.
- Leadership – They demonstrate clear leadership skills in their positions with their school or school districts.
- Effectiveness – The nominee's work has clear and positive results on the educational advancement of students within the school or school district.

+ FAITH BASED

SPONSORED CONTENT



MINISTRY WITHOUT WALLS - 3783 MANNION RD, SAGINAW, MI 48603

Join us at Ministry Without Walls

By **PASTOR JOHN DUNN**
MINISTRY WITHOUT WALLS

Ministry Without Walls recently returned to our building at 3783 Mannion Road with a new vision. The last couple of years, the direction of the world, and the pandemic starting with Covid have all certainly become eye openers. After seeking God for His direction and His will, we are expanding our vision. Today, we clearly understand that the Church is our community.

The assignment that God has given to us is to “Break Down Walls”, bringing both spiritual and those who work in the community together.

Our vision is for Ministry Without Walls to be:

- A place where the Spirit, Soul and Body becomes whole
- A place where resources are available to those in need
- A place where church, volunteers

and community professionals work together to accomplish the will of God.

- A place where love flows, and judgement is absent
- A place where privacy is protected
- A place where safety is a priority
- A place where the whole person is important

Our ongoing teaching and seminars will include:

- Outreach
- Growing Spiritually
- Mental Health
- Healthy Living
- Finding Purpose
- Money Matters
- Entrepreneurship
- Boys to Men
- Women of Wisdom
- Discipleship

We understand that the mission field is not a country far away. It is around the corner, down the street, in our community. We also know that the vision given to us will not be easy to accomplish. We know that we can not do it alone. It will take a “village”.

We are committing our resources, time, talents, people, and our connections to tear down the “walls of the church”.

If our vision is connecting with you on some level and it appeals to you and sounds like something you might want to be a part of, we invite you to join us at 11:00 on Sundays to meet us personally so we can answer any questions you might have.

God bless You, come experience for yourself, Join us!!

Pastor, John Dunn
Ministry Without Walls
3783 Mannion Road
Saginaw, MI 48603

MICHIGAN BANNER
SERMONETTE SERIESBy MINISTER CAROLYN CARTER
TOWNSEL

It is in Ecclesiastes that we find the wisest king to have ever lived observing, scrutinizing, and then realizing that there has to be more to life than what he was experiencing. During Solomon's reflection he dwells on his numerous accomplishments and gives a particular enumeration of his actions, deeds, and issues as he places them on trial. After much soul-searching, Solomon reaches a verdict and ascertains the recognition that pursuing and fulfilling his hopes and expectations, were in reality, vanity and became vexation to his spirit. All of his accomplished works including the labor that it took for him to do it had profited him nothing. ***"For what will it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul"*** (Mark 8:36 KJV), and ultimately Solomon understood that life without purpose is time without meaning.

While some navigate through life by what feels right, and others move forward by being logical, Solomon purposed to fulfill his hopes and expectations according to what he wanted to do. However, the Bible declares that life is not to be lived

Know your purpose

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven"

Ecclesiastes 3:1 KJV

randomly, haphazardly, or accidentally. Therefore, we were born for a purpose and are meant to live with and on purpose – intentionally. The Bible commences with God, and man's purpose begins there as well. What is purpose? Dr. Myles Munroe defines Purpose as, "The original intent or reason for the existence of a thing." "Men therefore need a God given identity if they are to fulfill their true purpose. We must learn what God originally intended for them. To do this, we must go back and rediscover the Creator's original plan for both men and women."

It has been substantiated through scientific data that the average life span of a man is approximately 74 years. If you take those 74 years and break them down into segments of time, it would equate to being:

- 887.999 months of a purposed life given by God
- 3 Thousand 861.135 weeks to discover purpose assigned by God
- 27 Thousand 10 days of opportunities provided by God to fulfill purpose
- 38 Million, 8 Hundred 94 thousand, 800 minutes of reaching ones God appointed destiny.

In 74 years a man has had 2 Billion, 22 Million, 508 Thousand, 400 heartbeats that has been afforded to him, the opportunity to represent a life created with purpose to fulfill his God given destiny.

Therefore, we were born for a purpose and are meant to live with and on purpose.

God, the creator and sovereign planner, has proclaimed purposes for His creation, and for the believer, meaning and purpose are wrapped up in Jesus. As believers we must come to the same understanding as Solomon – God has created all things according to His purpose – not ours. ***"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails"*** (Proverbs 19:21 NIV). Although all things that are purposed in our lives are not always pleasant, they become lessons that teach us. Remember, it is in the valley where we grow, not the mountain top. Romans 8:28 states, ***"And we know that all things work together for good of those, who love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose"*** (KJV).

Solomon asserts in Ecclesiastes 3:1, ***"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven"*** (KJV). There is an established time, when everything shall come into being. God knows when all seasons, (which includes our seasons) begin and when they end. Attached to every purpose is time. Time allows you to fulfill that purpose. As a child of God it is critical that you know who you are (Identity), know why you are (Purpose), and know where you are going (Destiny), because if unknown, you will abort purpose and kill destiny. Again, quoting my Spiritual Father, the late Dr. Myles Munroe, "Not knowing your purpose allows one to live and die never knowing why they lived".

+ FAITH BASED

6 Ways to worship God even in the storm

It's easy to worship God when He's blessing our lives, when things are going right, and when we're all smiles. But when the bottom falls through and the storm hits, it appears to be a different story.

Whether your storm is a diagnosis that confirmed your fears, the spiritual rebellion of someone you love, a physical or financial disaster you can't see a way out of, or just something you never anticipated would happen, God is still in control. Scripture tells us He is good and cannot act apart from His nature. So, you can grow—and flourish—in the storm if you choose to worship God through it.

Here are six ways to worship God—even in the storm:

1. Focus on Who God is, not on what He is or isn't doing.

When we focus on the facts of Who God is, worship flows. He is compassionate, faithful, good, and upright (Psalm 25:6-8). He is just and “there is no malice in Him” (Psalm 92:15). He is gentle toward those He loves (Psalm 18:35, Matthew 11:29). Notice how those characteristics of God have nothing to do with our circumstances? That means regardless of what you think God is doing or not doing, He can be trusted. And He is worthy of worship.

Your feelings and fears can crowd out the facts of God's Word, but focus on the facts (of Who God is), not your feelings. Focus on the facts of God's Word that tell you He will never leave you nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5), and His mercies are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23). When we choose to keep our eyes on Who God is, we become less consumed with our plight and whether or not God is meeting our expectations. When we know He is trustworthy (another fact from God's Word), we can say like Job: “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him” (Job 13:15 NKJV). Perhaps your paraphrase can be: “Though I'm in the storm, yet I will worship Him.”

2. Praise Him for the opportunity to become more like His Son.

We know from Romans 8:28, “God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are

called according to His purpose.” We like to quote that one, believing it's God's promise that “everything will turn out alright in the end.” Yet the “good” that God causes to come about from “all things” (even our suffering), is clarified so beautifully in the following verse: “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...” (verse 29). There it is! God allows us to endure suffering so that, through our surrender (and worship!), He can mold us and refine us into the perfect image of His Son.

God wants our eternal good, more than our earthly or temporal good. And our eternal good is whatever makes us more like Jesus. We don't become more like Jesus through sunshine and happiness. We get to know Him as we, like the Psalmist David, “walk through the valley of the shadow of death” and “fear no evil” because “Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4). We become more like Jesus as we deny ourselves, take up our cross daily (the cross is a symbol of suffering), and follow Him” (Luke 9:23). If you find yourself in a storm, worship Him as the only One who can ultimately still the storm, but also as the Only One who can make you more like His Son through it!

3. Sing to Him daily.

This one's a little more difficult when you're in pain, emotionally or spiritually. Yet Scripture exhorts: “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Another way of saying that is “In everything, sing.”

Anyone can praise God when life is going great, but it takes true surrender and it is pure worship to sing to Him when you're suffering, to praise Him in your pain, and to lift up His name when you're feeling loaded down. You can worship God even in the storm when you choose to—in all things—sing.

4. Proclaim His goodness to others.

There's something about verbalizing the goodness of God that cements it in our heads and hearts. Even if you aren't necessarily seeing it yet in your circumstances,

tell others of the way He's watching out for you, guiding you, providing for you, and calming your heart. As you speak of His love and faithfulness to others, that praise brings you into His presence, where there is “fullness of joy” (Psalm 16:11).

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This one's a little more difficult when you're in pain, emotionally or spiritually. Yet Scripture exhorts: “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in

**CONTINUES ON PG 31,
WORSHIP**

+ FAITH BASED

Continued from pg 30, Worship

Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Another way of saying that is "In everything, sing."

Anyone can praise God when life is going great, but it takes true surrender and it is pure worship to sing to Him when you're suffering, to praise Him in your pain, and to lift up His name when you're feeling loaded down. You can worship God even in the storm when you choose to—in all things—sing.

4. Proclaim His goodness to others.

There's something about verbalizing the goodness of God that cements it in our heads and hearts. Even if you aren't necessarily seeing it yet in your circumstances, tell others of the way He's watching out for you, guiding you, providing for you, and calming your heart. As you speak of His love and faithfulness to others, that praise brings you into His presence, where there is "fullness of joy" (Psalm 16:11).

Testify of His goodness in hand-written letters or emails to family and friends, and in your social media posts. (But don't write eternally long posts that elaborate on your trials and end with a quip like "God is good, all the time." Proclaim more of God's goodness than your grievances. As you do that, you are showing others – believers and unbelievers alike—that, once again, you worship God because of WHO He is, not because of what He has or has not done for you.

5. Look for new blessings each morning.

In Lamentations 3, the prophet Jeremiah writes of his misery in the first 20 verses. Then he recalls what keeps him worshipping and waiting upon God for his deliverance:

The Lord's acts of mercy indeed do not end,
For His compassions do not fail.
They are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.
"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"Therefore I wait for Him."
The Lord is good to those who await Him,
To the person who seeks Him" (verses 22-25).

Scripture promises the mercies of God never come to an end; they are new every morning. Watch for them. Anticipate them. And praise God for them whether you actually see them or not. Did the sun rise? Did the birds sing? Does air continue to flow through your lungs? Does your heart continue to beat? There is always something to be grateful for and therefore a myriad of reasons to worship Him. As you worship—and anticipate His refreshment of your heart—you will find all you need. Jeremiah 29:13 promises: "you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."

6. Praise Him for the 'secret treasure' of knowing Him better.

Job, who endured the biggest storm any of us will ever face (apart from what our Savior endured on the cross), came out of his intense suffering with a much deeper, more intimate knowledge of the sovereignty of God. His testimony (before God restored his health and possessions) was: "I know that You can do all things, and that no plan is impossible for You" (Job 42:2). Yet the true treasure of Job's suffering was not the restoration (and multiplication) of all the possessions he had before, but the intimate knowledge he gained of his God, as evidenced by his words in verse 5: "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You."

Job had heard of God from his forefathers. (There was no written record of God and His story during Job's day). But after Job's suffering, he had experienced God intimately, and seen Him in a sense. That is something that rarely happens unless when we've walked with Him through the darkness of a storm. Perhaps that intimate knowledge of Him is the secret treasure God was referring to when He told the prophet Isaiah: "I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden wealth of secret places, so that you may know that it is I, The Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name" (Isaiah 45:3). Praise and worship Him, in the midst of your storm, for the treasured privilege to know Him in a way that few others do.

This article was originally published on crosswalk.com by Cindi McMenamin and has been reprinted with permission

When Peace Stands Still

By Doniqua Sovia

It's as if, the world freezes in time, a time of happiness, peace, love, and hope. Kindness is shared, so willingly and as freely as the snowflakes falling from the sky. The warmth of fires in fireplaces, that are decorated with tinsel, and wrapped in clear, or colored lights that subtly twinkle, making it seem like Christmas magic is winking at you.

The aroma of gingerbread, and peppermint make their grand entrance as the sound of Christmas carols dance through halls and into the streets giving the season a sound. The hustle and bustle of people coming to and fro, the Salvation Army bell resounding at the entrance of stores all around. The wooshing sound of sleds followed by shrills of children as they race down a hill, in a effort to run back up as fast as they can to capture the thrill once more.

Yes, the world is frozen in time, and it's as if, but for a moment, the night is calm, all is bright, and peace is felt on Christmas Day, and long into the night.

+ CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Bethlehem Temple Church of the Apostolic Faith
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Greater Williams Temple

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Jacob's Ladder
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Life in Christ Ministries
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Messiah Missionary Baptist Church
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Ministry Without Walls
Pastor, John Dunn
3783 Mannion Road
Saginaw, MI 48603



Mt. Olive Baptist Church
Pastor Marvin T. Smith
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New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry
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New Birth Missionary Baptist
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989-327-1755



New Covenant Christian Center
Pastor Ron Frierson
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Saginaw, MI 48601
989-752-8485



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



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

New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

Pastor Alfred "AJ" Harris Jr.
3610 Russel St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-0801

P

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

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Radiant Church of God
Pastor Adolfo & Erlinda Martinez
708 W Genesee Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-401-2134
www.radiantchurchofgod.org



Resurrection Life Ministries Full Gospel Baptist Church
Pastor Carolyn L. Wilkins
2320 Sheridan Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48601
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Saint Paul Baptist Church
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Second Baptist Church
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True Vine Baptist Church
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United Missionary Baptist Church
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Saginaw, MI 48601
Church: 989-759-9411
Pastor 810.223.2987

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Victorious Belivers Ministries Church
Pastor Chris V. Pryor
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Saginaw, MI
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W



World Outreach Campus of Greater Coleman Temple Ministries
Supt. H.J. Coleman Jr.
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Saginaw, MI 48602
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Z



Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor Rodrick Smith
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+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

Teachable moment for our youth

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

It's a joyous time to give and receive – and to teach! With our holiday giving we have a moment to teach our children the power and value of our local and national nonprofits.

As we prepare gifts for our friends and family members we reflect on our relationships and how we value the people in our lives. We may not see a family member on a regular basis, but that doesn't mean we don't care about them. A gift, card, text, email or phone call is a way to reach across the miles to let them know we care. We can plan visits together for

the end of the year, or the year that's coming. The same can be true for how we reach out to the nonprofits we believe in.

We recently wrote about this being the time to reach out and let the nonprofits we believe in know that we care. It is also the time to think about introducing the younger people in our lives to these nonprofits. It doesn't matter how old you are – there are always people younger than you! And that means there are people we can share our beliefs with. Think about it this way: you can craft a personal invitation to a younger person in your life, inviting them to join you for a few hours (or a day) volunteering with a nonprofit you support. It could also be a nonprofit you would like to get to know better; one that is aligned with your values. This happens all the time during the last months of the year when families volunteer together to serve meals to those who are hungry, or distribute socks, gloves, and sanitary items to those who are living without a place to call home. You can extend this giving by inviting the younger people in your life to join you in volunteering at a nonprofit during the first few months of the year.

As a society we invest in exposing young people to careers in science, technology, arts, engineering, and mathematics. We want them to experience different forms of music; visit neighboring cities; and attend city council meetings. We want them to participate in a team sport. But sometimes we forget to expose the next generation to the power of local and national nonprofits, the role they play in our individual and collective lives, and the job opportunities available in the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors. The gift of an introduction to a nonprofit can propel a young person into a life of service and/or giving.

For nonprofits, now is the time to plan for how to welcome young people as volunteers within your organization. Consider a weekend breakfast or luncheon for girls, boys, teens, and young adults that shares the work of your nonprofit, its impact, and ways that they can become involved. Follow that with workshops, and orientation or training sessions throughout the year. Roll out the carpet for the next generation. They are worth it.



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

+ POLITICS



COURTESY PHOTO

Gov. Whitmer announces historic selection of Kyra Harris Bolden as next Michigan Supreme Court Justice

LANSING, Mich. — On November 22, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced that she will appoint Kyra Harris Bolden to the Michigan Supreme Court in January 2023 to succeed Justice Bridget Mary McCormack. Bolden will be the first Black woman to serve on the high court and is the governor's first appointment to the supreme court.

"Today, I am honored to announce that I will be appointing Kyra Harris Bolden to the Michigan Supreme Court," said Governor Whitmer. "A state representative from Southfield, former law clerk and litigator, Kyra is passionate about the law and will be the first Black woman ever to

serve on the Michigan Supreme Court. She will bring a unique perspective to our high court as a Black woman—and as a new, working mom—that has too long been left out. Kyra is committed to fighting for justice for generations, and I know she will serve Michigan admirably, building a brighter future for her newborn daughter and all our kids."

"I am incredibly honored to be chosen by Governor Whitmer for this appointment to the Michigan Supreme Court," said Kyra Harris Bolden. "I will ensure equal access to justice, apply the law without fear or favor, and treat all who come before our state's highest court with dig-

nity and respect. I also know that this moment – becoming the first Black woman to serve on the Michigan Supreme Court – would not be possible without leaders like Judges Shelia Johnson, Debra Nance, Deborah Thomas, Cynthia Stephens, and Denise Langford Morris. These are the Black women who blazed the path that I seek to follow. I hope that my voice on the Court will inspire future generations to pursue their dreams. I am humbled by this honor, and I am ready to get to work on behalf of all Michiganders."

**CONTINUES ON PG 35,
BOLDEN**

Continued from pg 34, Bolden

Kyra Harris Bolden currently serves as a State Representative for Michigan's 35th House District. First elected in November 2018, Bolden began her service to the State of Michigan in January 2019 and was re-elected to a second term in 2020. As a member of the Michigan House of Representatives, she serves as the Assistant Democratic Leader and as a member of the House Judiciary and Insurance Committees. She has focused her work on criminal justice reform, crafting and passing bipartisan legislation to protect survivors of sexual violence. Bolden has successfully passed pieces of critical bipartisan legislation into law, including the "Medically Frail" prison reform package, the revision of the Wrongful Imprisonment Compensation Act, and the "Address Confidentiality for Survivors of Domestic Violence" package. She is also co-chair of the Legislative Attorney's Caucus and chair of the House

Democratic Caucus Diversity, Equity, and Including Committee.

Prior to her election to the House of Representatives, Bolden was a civil litigation attorney with Lewis & Munday, P.C. in Detroit. She also worked as a staff attorney for Judge John A. Murphy in the 3rd Circuit Court of Wayne County and as a court-appointed criminal defense attorney for the 46th District Court of Southfield. Early in her legal career, Bolden worked as a law clerk for the Law Office of Liss and Shapero, the Detroit Public Schools Office of Labor Relations, and for McLemore Law of Detroit.

Bolden earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, and she holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Grand Valley State University. She is a member of the Wolverine Bar Association, D. Augustus

Straker Bar Association, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, and Black Women Lawyers Association of Michigan. Outside of her public service duties, Bolden continues to contribute to her community through her membership in the City of Southfield Total Living Commission, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and National Congress of Black Women – Oakland County Chapter. Kyra lives in her hometown of Southfield with her husband, Dr. Greg Bolden, and their newborn, Emerson Portia Bolden.

Once appointed, Rep. Bolden will serve a partial term expiring at twelve o'clock noon on January 1, 2025. If she wishes to complete the remainder of Justice Bridget Mary McCormack's term, which expires on January 1, 2029, she will be required to run for re-election in November 2024.

State Rep Amos O'Neal appointed to Democratic Caucus Chair

On November 16, Speaker-elect of the Michigan House of Representatives Joe Tate (D-Detroit) announced the members of the House of Representatives leadership team. In this announcement, Tate named state Rep. Amos O'Neal (D-Saginaw) as Democratic Caucus chair. Previously, O'Neal served as vice chair of the Democratic Caucus and will transition to his new position in the upcoming 102nd Legislature. In response, Rep. O'Neal issued the following statement:

"I am beyond grateful for this opportunity. It feels as if it was only yesterday I began this journey in the House. With a lot of hard work and dedication, Democrats made change happen with the help and guidance of our leadership. Despite many obstacles, we found paths to success — it wasn't easy, but we did it. That's why I am so humbled — being named Democratic Caucus chair, I become an even greater part of the pursuit to uplift Democratic values. The upcoming legislative session is a new journey for all of us — new districts, new members, new leadership and new opportunities. I am committed to my responsibilities and duties toward a better future for Michigan — I can't wait to get started."



AMOS O'NEAL

+ BUSINESS & MONEY



COURTESY PHOTO

Major indoor water park expansion planned at Bavarian Inn Lodge

A major expansion of the Bavarian Inn Lodge, one of Frankenmuth's major attractions, is planned to begin soon as the Lodge seeks to dramatically expand its water park amenities and Family Entertainment offerings.

A groundbreaking ceremony is planned to take place on Tuesday, December 13 at 10 a.m., for the \$80 million project. When completed, the new amenities will make the Bavarian Inn Lodge Michigan's largest indoor water park and family entertainment center, at more than 140,000 square feet of family fun.

The new expansion will open to guests in the spring of 2024, with some of the new family fun center areas opening in late fall of 2023. The General Contractor for the expansion is R.C. Hendrick & Son, Inc., who have built all previous six phases of the Lodge.

"We are truly raising the bar on fun at the Lodge, creating unique attractions and new types of experiences within our resort," said Michael Keller Zehnder, President of the Bavarian Inn Lodge. "This expansion will help us to advance our goal of creating fun and enjoyable experiences

for all ages. We are reimagining family fun and see this as an exciting project for all of Frankenmuth."

The current Family Fun Center will remain in operation throughout the project, said Zehnder, with no disruptions to the Lodge's conference and banquet center, guest rooms and all of the hotel amenities already in place, including current family water slides, pools and restaurants. More exciting details will be released throughout the stages of construction.



people helping people
one smile at a time

Every year Frankenmuth Credit Union employees volunteer their spare time and most important their support to needful families in our community. We call it Hope Pocket. It's a simple gift of friendship, an act of kindness, a pledge of devotion.

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+ BUSINESS & MONEY

Ashley Outlet store coming to Saginaw

Denno's & Associates is pleased to announce the expansion of the global Ashley brand in Saginaw, MI.

They are currently in the process of transforming two vacant suites in the Bay Valley Shopping Plaza on Tittabawassee Rd. into a Dual Concept Ashley + Ashley Outlet.

They are excited to share 75,000 square feet of inspiring home furnishings & upbeat shopping experiences with the Great Lakes Bay Region.

The new location is scheduled to open in Q1 of 2023.

If you or someone you know is interested in an exciting new career opportunity, they are currently hiring for all positions. To apply, please send resumes to mdupuisafhs@gmail.com.

For additional updates follow the Ashley brand on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ashleysaginawmi



MyMichigan named to Forbes “America’s Best Employers By State” list

MIDLAND, Mich. – MyMichigan Health has been named to Forbes Magazine “America’s Best Employers By State” list. In conjunction with research firm Statista, Forbes conducted an anonymous survey of 70,000 Americans who work for companies of 500+ employees. MyMichigan Health came in second in Michigan and 31st overall out of 1,382 employers across the country, 262 of which were hospitals and health systems. This is the first time the Midland-based health system has been named to the list.

“We are honored that Forbes included us on this list of best employers,” said Greg Rogers, president and CEO, MyMichigan Health. “The work environment has certainly changed in the last three years, particularly the health care industry. While some employees transitioned to remote work, others spent long hours on the front lines caring for patients or ensuring that their care environment is safe and comfortable. No matter how we pivoted, our employees have remained dedicated to serving our patients with excellence, teamwork, integrity and accountability. That is most definitely a commitment to which we all are proud.”

Statista’s survey was anonymous, allowing participants to openly share their opinions. Respondents were asked, on a scale of zero to 10, how likely they’d be to recommend their employer to others. In addition, participants were also asked to rate their employers on criteria including safety of the work environment, competitiveness of compensation, advancement opportunities and openness to telecommuting. In addition, the survey asked respondents to identify other employers they would recommend.

“To be recognized as a Forbes best employer clearly demonstrates the workplace we have created and passionately maintain and grow here at MyMichigan Health,” said Julie Ward, senior vice president and chief human resources officer, MyMichigan Health. “We work hard each and every day to ensure our system remains the first and best choice, not just for our patients and the many communities we serve, but also for our very own employees.”

MyMichigan Health, a non-profit health system headquartered in Midland, Michigan, is a leader in providing award-winning, high-quality care to the 25-county region it serves. With Medical Centers

in Alma, Alpena, Clare, Gladwin, Midland, Mt. Pleasant, Sault Ste. Marie and West Branch, MyMichigan also has affiliations with Medical Centers in St. Ignace and Mackinac Island. MyMichigan Health provides a full continuum of care across a wide array of settings, including urgent care centers, home health, virtual care, as well as medical offices in more than 30 specialties and subspecialties including cardiology, family medicine, hematology/oncology, neurosciences, orthopedics, pediatrics, vascular surgery, and more. MyMichigan Health demonstrates its commitment to the future of medicine by partnering with leading institutions to offer medical education programs that train medical students, physicians, nurse practitioner and physician assistant students, nursing students and other clinical experts for our region. Its more than 10,000 employees, volunteers, health care providers and other personnel work together to create healthy communities through solutions designed to meet the ever-changing needs of the 981,000 residents in the health system’s 25-county service area.

How to survive the end of the year as a Great Lakes Bay Region business owner

The fourth quarter is wrapping up, which means it's time to start thinking about next year. Now is the time to review this year's goals, outline next year's goals, finalize your holiday marketing plans, check your inventory, and review your accounting. You should also prepare for tax season and update your website and social media profiles. The following are some tips from the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce to help you end the year right.

This Year's Goals

As the year comes to a close, it's important to take a step back and review your business goals. This will help you to assess what's been working well and identify any areas that need improvement. Here are some key questions to ask yourself:

- Did you achieve your sales targets? If not, why not?
- What new products or services were successful? What didn't work so well?
- How effective was your marketing? Did you reach your target audience?
- Did you control costs as effectively as you hoped? Are there areas where you can save money in the future?
- How happy are your customers? What feedback have you received?

Answering these questions honestly will give you a good idea of where your business is at and what you need to work on in the coming year. With this information, you can set realistic goals that will help your business thrive.

Holiday Marketing Plans

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to finalize your holiday marketing plans. What promotions are you running? How are you reaching your target audience? What are your objectives? Answer-

ing these questions will help you create a successful holiday marketing campaign.

Inventory Assessment

It's also important to check your inventory during fourth quarter planning. Do you have enough products or services to meet customer demand? If not, how can you increase production? On the other hand, if you have too much inventory, how can you reduce costs? Reviewing your inventory will help you make informed decisions about production and pricing.

Accounting Review

Fourth quarter planning is not complete without a review of your accounting. This is the time to reconcile your books, assess your financial situation, and make sure everything is in order. Reviewing your accounting will help you make sound decisions about spending and saving in the coming year.

Tax Season Preparation

Tax season is just around the corner, so now is the time to start preparing. Gather all of the necessary documents and forms, update your records, and make sure you have everything in order. The better prepared you are, the easier tax season will be. One way to make your life significantly easier is to take pictures of all your receipts. By using a free PDF converter to change them into PDFs, you can simplify the process even further. That will save



COURTESY PHOTO

you from having to dig through mountains of easily misplaced paperwork to find what you need.

Digital Presence Updates

Finally, don't forget to update your website and social media profiles during fourth quarter planning. This is a good time to freshen up your seasonal content, add new photos or videos, and make sure all of your contact information is up-to-date. Keeping your website and social media profiles up-to-date will help you stay connected with customers and attract new ones.

Fourth quarter planning is an important part of running a successful small business. By reviewing this year's goals, outlining next year's goals, finalizing holiday marketing plans, checking your inventory, reviewing your accounting, preparing for tax season, and updating your website and social media profiles, you can set yourself up for success in the coming year. So get started today!

Access even more great resources to help your business grow and thrive in our community by joining the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

+ HEALTH

MDHHS enhances work with providers to meet behavioral health needs of children in foster care, juvenile justice systems

LANSING, Mich. – Children in the state foster care and juvenile justice systems experiencing a behavioral health crisis will have expanded access to services under a new effort by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

MDHHS is asking congregate care providers to submit plans for placement in their facilities to address the needs of youth who must access mental health stabilization programs – meaning services to stabilize and treat youth dealing with serious mental health concerns, like suicidal thoughts.

“This is an important step forward to ensure that children in the foster care and juvenile justice systems who need mental health stabilization have a place to go to be treated,” said Demetrius Starling, executive director of the department’s Children’s Services Agency. “To do that, we are asking our child-caring institutions to provide the behavioral health treatment youth need before they transition to homes with their parents, relatives or foster families.”

The department has issued a statewide request for proposals for new child-caring institution contracts and will begin implementing the new contracts in summer 2023.

MDHHS has contracts with 31 child-caring institutions to provide 800 beds, however, due to nationwide staffing shortages and other factors, these facilities provide fewer than 500 beds. The changes are expected to improve access to behavioral health services that youth in care need.

“Members of the Michigan Federation for Children and Families believe a strong partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is critical in expanding and providing equitable access to the full array of behavioral health services that best serve young people and their families,” said Janet Reynolds Snyder, executive director of the statewide association of private nonprofit community-based child and family-serving organizations that partner with MDHHS.

The idea of the new contract model is to encourage greater innovation in caring for the unique needs of children in the state’s foster

care and juvenile justice systems.

This effort is part of a multi-faceted approach by MDHHS to address a national need for expanded behavioral health services for youth. The demand is coupled with a nationwide staffing shortage that makes it difficult to provide needed services, which MDHHS is also addressing.

MDHHS contracts with child-caring institutions to provide specialized treatment to youth in foster care or the juvenile justice system. In recent years it has been challenging in Michigan and nationally to find foster care and juvenile justice placements – especially residential therapeutic treatment beds.

“As a family court judge, I am encouraged that the department has recognized the greatest unmet health need of children and teens in the foster care system is their mental and behavioral health and is addressing the issue,” said Marquette County Probate Court Judge Cheryl L. Hill. “The new contracting model should allow for targeted results to meet the individual mental health needs of the youth and hopefully allow courts to reunify families sooner. While there are other issues to tackle in the overall child welfare system, this is a good step in the right direction to solving the crisis in care issues we face.”

MDHHS has already taken action to address the challenge, including bipartisan support of legislation signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to:

- Increase rates paid to the facilities.
- Increase funding for specialized programs.
- Put in place temporary wage increases for staff working in the facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Issue lump sum payment awards to help offset pandemic-related expenses and lost revenue.

MDHHS also has:

- Restructured the department to ensure behavioral health services are

supported across community-based, residential and school locations, as well as other settings. The changes will benefit people of all ages, with addressing the needs of children and their families a top priority. This includes creation of the Bureau of Children’s Coordinated Health Policy and Supports.

- Created a Health Care and Human Services Workforce Steering Committee that is involved in multiple efforts to recruit more behavioral health workers to address shortages.
- Created the Division of Child Safety and Program Compliance to assist and provide additional oversight of contracted agencies providing congregate care or place children in foster care homes or facilities.

To earn state contracts, facilities must demonstrate through the request for proposal process that they can meet the specialized needs of children.

Other goals of the new process are to clearly define expectations and increase contract oversight effectiveness

To ensure contracted facilities are included in this reform, the department solicited input through provider surveys, in addition to hosting focus groups to hear from providers on the proposed reforms. The department used this feedback to help refine goals for reform.

Agencies that would like to submit a proposal should go to the “Child Caring Institution – Therapeutic Short-Term Treatment Program” Bid Number 230000000402 at www.michigan.gov/SIGMAVSS after registering on that website. For assistance with registration or navigating the site, contact the Office of Financial Management at 517-284-0540 or 888-734-9749 and press “1” on the automated menu, or email SIGMA-Vendor@michigan.gov. Vendors who intend to submit a proposal and have questions should contact the solicitation manager, Mary Ostrowski, at 517-249-0438 or ostrowskim@michigan.gov.



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Mini-Mester registration is Nov. 29-Dec. 23.

For more information, call 810.762.0200 or visit: minimester.mcc.edu to get started.



COURTESY PHOTO

MCC introduces the Mott Mini-Mester

Mott Community College is offering a three-week term between its fall 2022 and winter 2023 semesters for current and guest students who want to accelerate their education during the holiday season.

The Mott Mini-Mester will offer 20 classes – comprising a variety of the general education courses in humanities, math and social sciences – from Dec. 22 to Jan. 11. Courses will be taught entirely online,

providing convenience for local and non-local students.

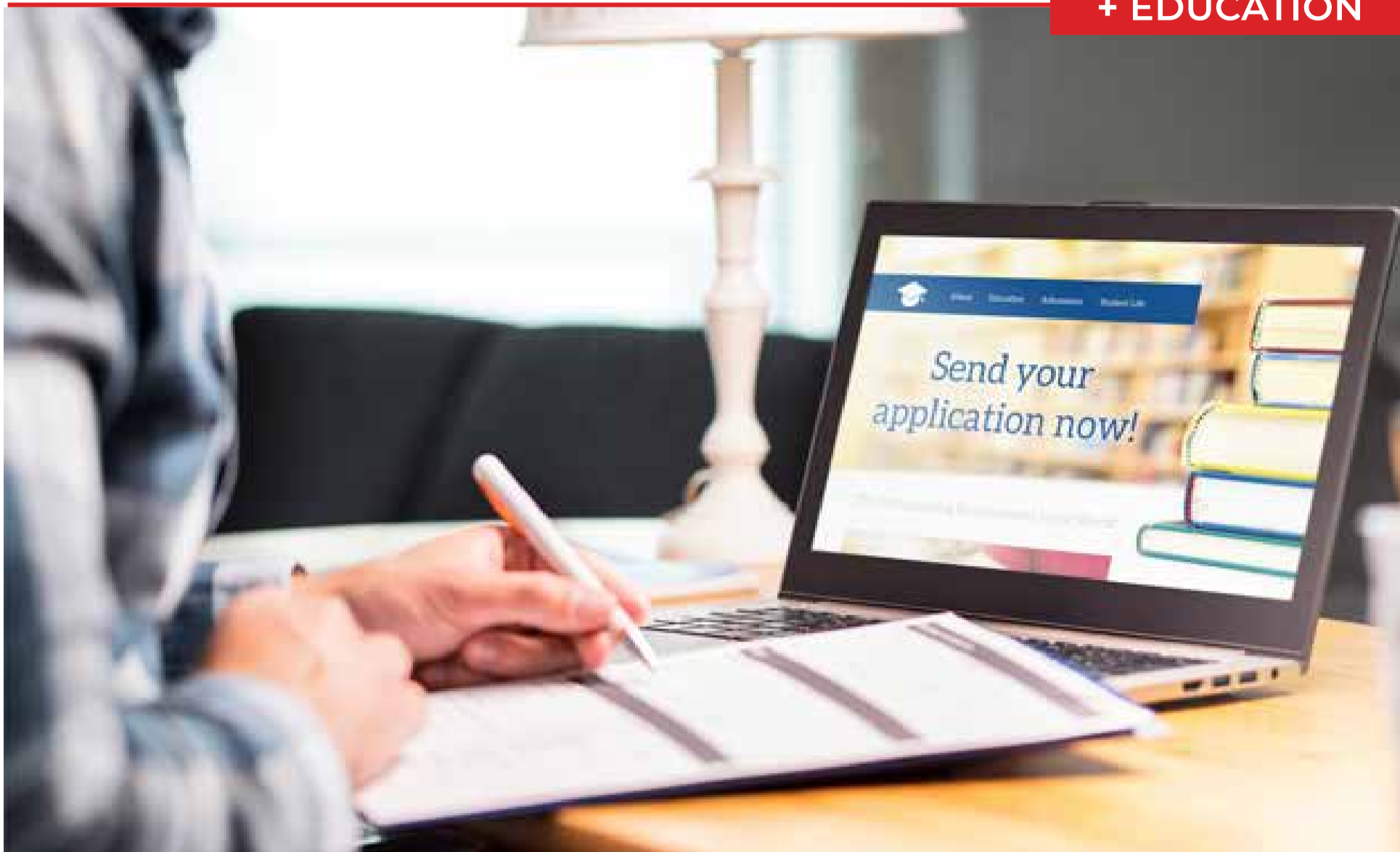
The Mott Mini-Mester is ideal for students who are driven to succeed and want to earn credits in just three weeks, whether they want to get ahead with their degree or certificate program or are seeking credit recovery. However, students are limited to one course during the Mini-Mester.

Registration opens today, Nov. 29,

and runs until Dec. 23. Transcripts will be available after the final grades are posted for the intersession.

Current MCC students may use their financial aid for courses taken during the Mott Mini-Mester.

To learn more or to apply, visit minimester.mcc.edu, beginning on Nov. 29. For additional questions, call (810) 762-0200 or email at admissions@mcc.edu.



COURTESY PHOTO

Scholarship Application Tips



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

Previously we have touched upon scholarship applications and the need to be a student's BEST work. Recently I learned that the Saginaw Community Foundation (SCF) has published a series of six helpful videos on YouTube to assist students and their parents in applying for scholarships.

The videos are aimed at the more substantial areas of the SCF scholarship application process and are applicable to components of the application. For example,

Part 1 gives an overview of the online application that, once completed, automatically places the student's application for consideration of all SCF scholarships (more than 235 in total, with 91 of them aiming to help students in Career & Technical Education (CTE)).

The application process needs to reflect accurate and complete information. This is especially true for completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), a relatively complicated form that is essential for establishing a financial need. There is a video that offers help with FAFSA.

These six videos are step-by-step and can be accessed and reviewed on the Internet repeatedly as the application process proceeds. These are invaluable resources that I would expect students, parents, and even teachers to find helpful. They are current and reflect recent improvements in rules, including FAFSA.

I would like to re-emphasize that one application will vault the student into consideration for more than 200 SCF scholarships, many of which are geared to CTE. The videos are short, timely, and informational.

Best wishes to all students as they navigate the scholarship processes.

By the way, the SCF deadline to apply is February 10, 2023. That sounds like a long time from now, but trust me, it will pass quickly. The sooner one applies, the better!

Resources:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKz7_qqZkUg&t=515s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXxsA_7JzpU

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Determination leads student to victory at SVSU public speaking contest

In 2021, Nimnan Wuyep prepared intensely to compete in the Sims Public Speaking Competition at Saginaw Valley State University, but days before the annual event, illness derailed his plans. When the SVSU international studies and communication major from Nigeria fell ill a few weeks before this year's competition, he refused to let it keep him down. Despite a lingering cough that forced him from the auditorium a few times, Wuyep came out on top with a speech about the mental health of nursing students.

"This year, I was sick two weeks before the competition, but I wasn't going to let it stop me," Wuyep said. "After the first round, I felt pretty confident, but I got more nervous as the competition progressed."

About his win, Wuyep said, "I was ecstatic. I wasn't expecting it. My goal was to get to the final round."

Wuyep was one of 33 SVSU students who entered in this year's contest, coincidentally, the 33rd event. After two preliminary rounds, six finalists presented their five- to eight-minute persuasive speeches to a panel of five judges.

For his first-place win, Wuyep received a \$400 cash prize. Ella Yantz, of Bay City, earned second-place honors and \$250 for her presentation, "Sink or Swim: Michigan Water Safety Crisis." Third place, and a \$150 prize, went to Emily Bruce, a psychology major from Trenton, who presented "Childhood Cancer and the Funding Crisis."

The other three finalists each received a \$75 cash prize:

- Josie Koenigsknecht, a communications major from Fowler, presented "Career Readiness Course Before Graduation."
- Harold Rodriguez, a pre-health professions major from Havana, Cuba, presented "Impact of the Latino Community in the State of Michigan."
- Nikki Rooseboom, a teacher education major from Plainwell, present-



FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: EMILY BRUCE, A PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR FROM TRENTON; ELLA YANTZ, OF BAY CITY; NIMNAN WUYEP, AN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND COMMUNICATION MAJOR FROM JOS, NIGERIA.

BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: JOSIE KOENIGSKNECHT, A COMMUNICATIONS MAJOR FROM FOWLER; HAROLD RODRIGUEZ, A PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS MAJOR FROM HAVANA, CUBA; NIKKI ROOSEBOOM, A TEACHER EDUCATION MAJOR FROM PLAINWELL.

ed "Disappearing Daycares."

All six finalists were also presented with a plaque.

Wuyep's speech, which addressed the stress and depression of nursing students, was not the only presentation focused on mental health. He said he chose the topic because he has friends in SVSU's nursing program.

"I had a lot of nursing friends that joke about depression," Wuyep said. "I had always wanted to talk about college mental health but found that focusing on the nursing department would give me more leverage."

Judges for the competition's final round were:

- Donald Bachand, president of SVSU.
- Deborah Huntley, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs at SVSU.
- Betsey Diegel, special assistant to the provost at SVSU.
- Marcia Moore, associate professor of communication at Delta College.
- Angela Pohl, interim athletic director at SVSU.

Linda Sims, who established the com-

petition with her husband, Larry, moderated the program.

"In its 33-year history, it was refreshing to see 33 students compete this year, back to pre-pandemic levels," said Sims. "We continue to be impressed by the diversity of students and topics they address."

Amy Pierce, SVSU associate professor of communication, and Ryan Rigda, SVSU lecturer of communication, coordinated the event.

"I am proud to be a part of this longstanding and well-respected tradition at SVSU," Pierce said. "While the generous prize money is a motivating factor for some students, what excites me the most about this competition is that students compete to be agents for change. Each year, after the final round, I am energized and hopeful knowing these students will be our future leaders, and for this reason I am honored to be a part of this valuable opportunity."

The Sims Public Speaking Competition was established 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, longtime supporters of the university.

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

SPONSORED CONTENT

Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) initial information for potential community partners

What is GSRP?

GSRP is Michigan's state funded Pre-K program. It serves children who meet income and/or other criteria in the year before they are eligible for Kindergarten. All classrooms use an approved research-based curriculum and comprehensive child assessment tool. Each classroom has a lead and associate teacher who meet credentials specified in the State School Aid Act. Parents are involved in the program in multiple ways. The program operates in part and school-day options. More can be learned about program requirements at: www.michigan.gov/gsrp.

Who can be a GSRP provider?

GSRP is provided in sites licensed as child care centers. They may have either a regular license or a provisional license as a new or relocated center. Those with one of these types of provisional license

must agree to submit a Self-Assessment Survey in the Great Start to Quality (GSQ) system as soon as the regular license is issued. Centers with licenses that have been modified to provisional status are not eligible. All centers that have eligible licenses must also have at least a three star rating in GSQ.

Would I have to meet all program requirements to be chosen as a GSRP provider?

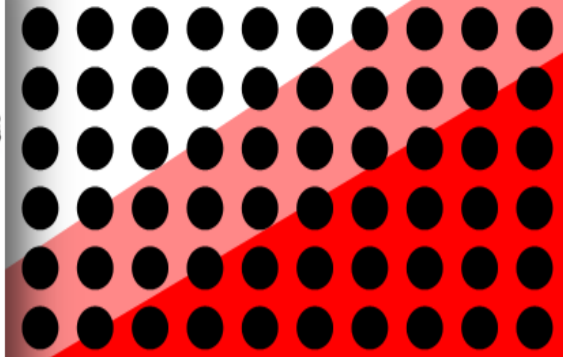
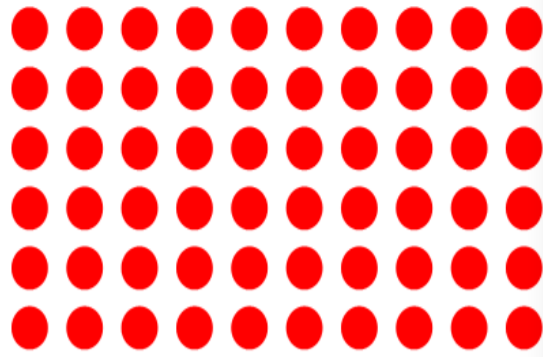
No, but if funded, you will be expected to hire qualified staff and have staff trained in the curriculum and assessment tools. You will have to operate in compliance with child care licensing rules and GSRP statute, policies and procedures. You would also have the support of a Saginaw Intermediate School District Early Childhood Specialist to implement a program that meets requirements.

Are there any other criteria and what do I have to do to apply?

Once additional funds are identified, you will receive an application to be completed.

If I want my center to be considered in the future what can I do?

Complete the GSQ Self-Assessment Survey to be star rated. Take advantage of all opportunities and support that the local GSQ Resource Center has to offer (contact Julie Bash at bashj@sisd.cc). Join the Great Start Collaborative (contact Julie Kozan at jkozan@sisd.cc). Let your SISD Early Childhood Contact, Ericka M. Taylor (etaylor@sisd.cc) know of your ongoing interest. There may be professional development that you can take part in as you prep for next year's application process.



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Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) initial information for potential community partners

GUIDELINES

What are the guiding principles for the MI Tri-Share Child Care pilot program?

The following principles will consistently be used in decision making around the implementation of the MI Tri-Share pilot program:

- Choice of provider(s) will be made by the employee.
- Limit the burden to employers and providers in determining employee eligibility by requiring hubs to determine eligibility.
- Help ALICE population (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) eliminate barriers to employment.

Who is responsible to pay for child care using the MI Tri-Share Child Care pilot model?

The MI Tri-Share Child Care Program, in its pilot phase, is an innovative approach to increasing access to high quality, affordable child care for working families, with the cost of child care shared by an employer, the employee and the State of Michigan. In all cases, child care costs must be divided equally between the employer, employee and the State.

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY

1. What are the employee eligibility requirements?

Employee eligibility will be determined based on the employee's family size and household income. Employees must have a household income between 186%-285% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Employees must not be eligible for the Development and Care Program (commonly referred to as child care subsidy). Once an employee is deemed eligible, they are eligible for the entire year of the pilot.

2. How is eligibility determined?

Hubs will gather income data and determine final eligibility of employee.

3. Are employees eligible if they have seasonal work?

Seasonal income is considered contractual income if it is income meant to cover the other six months when not working. In this instance, you would take the income for six months and determine monthly income based on the year.

4. What is the process for determining which employees are eligible for child care slots?

Employers have flexibility in deciding which

family will receive a child care slot. Possible ways to make this determination include:

- First come, first serve process
- Employee lottery/random selection
- Employee needs (i.e., closest to 186% FPL)
- Each family receives one child care slot/
Family receives multiple child care slots

5. How many child care slots are employees eligible for?

Employers have flexibility in deciding how many child care slots should be offered to participating employees and their families. Possible ways to make this determination include:

- Each participating family receives one slots
- Participating families receive multiple slots based on how many children need care
- Participating families receive one or multiple slots based on greatest need

6. Can child care providers and employees outside the designated regions participate in the Tri-Share program?

Eligible employees may reside outside the designated region of the hub.

7. Do employees choose their own child care provider?

Employees are encouraged to select a licensed child care provider that meets their needs, this includes an existing child care provider (so long as they are currently licensed). Employees may utilize before and after care for schoolagers, summer care for schoolagers, and part-time and full-time child care for their children.

8. Can children be placed at multiple child care providers, if the employer has more than one child care spot given to their family?

Families do not have to have the same provider for all children to participate in the Tri-Share program. Family choice of care is a guiding principle in this pilot.

9. Are there additional responsibilities of the employees enrolled in the MI Tri-Share program?

Eligible employees must complete a survey providing information around their children and child care. The information gathered through this survey will be used in informing future policies related to the work of this pilot. Personal information (like names or child names) will not be shared with any person outside the work of the project. Employees also must sign and follow any type of MOU or contract put forth by the participating hub.

CHILD CARE PROVIDER INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY

1. Is there flexibility for providers to increase rates based on their participation in the program?

No, child care providers will not increase rates for families because they are participating in the MI Tri-Share pilot. This does not include when child care rates for all families increase (based on annual tuition increase, cost of living, etc.).

2. Can child care providers outside the designated regions participate in the MI Tri-Share program?

Eligible child care providers may reside outside the designated region of the hub.

3. What type of child care facilities are eligible to participate in the pilot?

All participating child care providers must be licensed by the state of Michigan. Before and after school care, summer care, and part or full time care are acceptable forms of child care for this pilot.

4. Can a child care provider who offers free child care to staff (as part of a benefit package) participate as an employer in this pilot?

In all cases, the cost of child care must be divided equally between the employer, employee and the State of Michigan. If an employee does not contribute to the costs of child care, then the employer (in this case the child care provider) would not be eligible to participate in the pilot.

EMPLOYER INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY

1. Are there additional responsibilities of employers when they are enrolled in the MI Tri Share program?

Employees must sign and adhere to any type of MOU or contract put forth by the participating hub. Employers will be asked to participate in data collection processes implemented by the evaluation team. These may include, but are not limited to, focus groups, surveys, interviews etc. Employers should be willing to actively participate in gathering this information, to the best of their ability.

2. Can tax deductions be used by participating employers?

There may be possible deductions for employers, please always consult with your tax professional/advisor if you have questions related to tax deductions.



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.

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

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

“Head Start 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

**“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**


+ SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTO

Franklin robbed in London against Whyte

By **HASANI ALI**

There's an old adage in boxing, "never leave the fight up to the judges."

Mainly because you never know how that decision is going to go. Unfortunately, that's what happened to Jermaine Franklin when Wembley Arena was in an uproar when Franklin's hand was not raised in victory.

Franklin sat at the post-fight con-

ference in his black vest, left eye slightly puffed up, with a somber look on his face. It was a look of disbelief, not necessarily shock, but a poised look while trying to digest the injustice that took place at Wembley arena.

Though boxing is an entertaining sport, it's still a business.

American and European boxing fans alike witnessed it after seeing Dillian Whyte's hand raised in victory in a majority decision over Jermaine "989

Assassin" Franklin.

Franklin now sits at 21-1 with 14 KOs.

Two judges scored the fight 116-112 in Whyte's favor and one judge had the fight as a draw, 115-115. Whyte (29-3, 19 KOs) is now the front runner as Anthony Joshua's next opponent, which would be a rematch as these two have squared off before.

**CONTINUES ON PG 51,
FRANKLIN**

Continued from pg 50, Franklin

Joshua scored a knockout victory against Whyte back in December of 2015.

His fight was considered a comeback fight against Franklin after losing two of his last three bouts, including being knocked out by Tyson Fury earlier this year.

As he was looking to make his final comeback towards the latter end of his career, he was gifted a win in his own backyard in order for him to prepare for Joshua and eventually another shot at the heavyweight championship.

Franklin spoke with a DAZN reporter directly after the fight and his sentiments were quite clear.

“I feel like I got robbed, I feel I’ve done enough to get the decision,” Franklin said. “I felt like I won earlier rounds. I just felt I got robbed on the decision.”

The English crowd cheered in agreement as his voice blared on the microphone.

“I had a seven-week camp, I’ve done what I could. I’m down for a rematch if they give it to me, but I felt like I won, I felt like I got robbed on the decision.”

The reporter asked Franklin if it was his best performance and if he felt like he silenced any critics. He fired back immediately.

“I proved a lot of people wrong. I prove people wrong everyday, that’s what we do,” Franklin said. “A lot of people look and they judge but they don’t have the heart to step in here and fight.”

Franklin may have to put his rematch with Whyte on his Christmas list as Whyte does not have to grant him a rematch. In their contract, there was a clause for a rematch if Franklin had defeated Whyte.

Franklin’s promoter Dmitry Salita believes that his fighter won, but definitely deserves a rematch.

“If Whyte is a true fighter and not just a businessman, he would give him (Franklin) a rematch,” Salita said. “Everyone knows that Franklin beat Whyte convincingly.”

Though Whyte is set for a rematch with Joshua, according to Boxing-News24.com, Franklin still may have an opportunity at Joshua early next year.

Whyte’s promoter Eddie Hearn said that the fight was close, but Whyte “won” the last three rounds. He considered him the winner as those were the championship rounds.

Now here’s the backlash for that statement.

Let’s say that was true, that Whyte did win the last three rounds. Even though he was hurt in the 10th round by Franklin, we’ll go with the narrative.

What Hearn is missing is the other nine rounds of the fight.

Commentators, fans and other journalists all saw the fight as everyone else saw it. Though Whyte came alive in the later rounds, he was still outmatched by Franklin.

For every punch, Franklin came back with a counter. Showing blazing speed and a solid defense, Franklin displayed a surprising performance as this was his introduction to primetime boxing.

It was a deserving win, but money was a winner on Nov. 26th as Franklin had to fight Whyte in his own backyard and overcome the bias of the judges.

According to WorldBoxingNews.net, Franklin landed 23 more body punches and 27 more jabs than Whyte. However, because Whyte landed six more power punches that were more on target, he was granted the victory.

Franklin let it be known that politics definitely played a part in the decision in the post-fight conference.

“We all know that there’s politics in boxing and they weren’t on my side tonight,” Franklin said. “It was a (expletive) decision.”

As many tried to shut down the conspiracy, the fans and spectators were right on the money.

Whyte is a big money draw for Hearn and Europe has many dominant heavyweights in the division, including all of the champions: Tyson Fury (WBC), Oleksandr Usyk (WBA, WBO and IBF) and Daniel Dubois (WBA “Regular” Heavyweight Champion) – according to ESPN.

Keeping the supremacy in Europe, who wouldn’t be shocked if a few palms were greased before Whyte’s fight with Franklin.

Now, to give Dillian Whyte credit—the man is an excellent fighter.

He has been on the national stage for the past decade, competing amongst the most elite fighters in the world. Would have been great if he would have been a world champion. Unfortunately, he could not get past Joshua or Fury when he had opportunities at the belt.

Saving his career with this decision was not the right move.

Whyte had his pro debut in May of 2011. He’s at the end of his rope. Yes, he does have something to prove as he wants to be champion. However, he’s had two shots at the belt and were not successful. Why not give the up-and-coming fighter a chance to grace the elite stage for a title and a decent payday?

Whyte has had his fair share of paydays.

Everyone would love to see a rematch between Franklin and Whyte. Agreeing with Salita, if Whyte was a true fighter, he would grant that rematch and show that he could defeat Franklin convincingly.

+ SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTO

Michigan football is the real deal

By HASANI ALI

The Wolverines have answered the call in an emphatic way.

Coach Harbaugh and the boys spanked the Buckeyes at the Horseshoe, their second consecutive win at that.

Ohio State did show some inconsistency prior to this rivalry game and it was finally exposed by Michigan.

Coach Ryan Day and the Buckeyes struggled to defeat Northwestern 21-7 early November. The Wildcats are easily the worst team in the Big Ten, now sitting at 1-11. However, they held Ohio State scoreless in the first quarter, taking a 7-0 lead. The Buckeyes did not score until nearly halftime.

Michigan is No. 2 in the AP poll after beating then-No. 3 Ohio State in Columbus on Saturday, 45-23, to win the Big Ten West. The Wolverines are 12-0 and will try to repeat as Big Ten champs.

The Wolverines punished Iowa in last year's championship game at Lucas Stadium, 42-3.

Michigan is a 16-point favorite over Purdue, which clinched the Big Ten West with Saturday's win at Indiana. The Boilermakers are 8-4 overall and 6-3 in the Big Ten. They will arrive in Indianapolis on a three-game win streak, but the West has never won the championship game. It is Purdue's first appearance in the title game. The last contest between Purdue and Michigan was back in 2017.

Coach Jim Harbaugh is feeling optimistic about his team and the program, but does not want to take Purdue lightly as the Boilermakers are hungry for the upset.

"I know how dangerous a team like that can be," Harbaugh said. "I would imagine that is the same feelings that Purdue is having — same feelings we're

having. It inspires your team and invigorates it and the preparation, the plans, the practices. They're just easy, they flow. Everybody is just so into it. So, I know that's the kind of position they're in, the kind of position we're in, and makes both teams very dangerous."

Some of the early chatter surrounding the Big Ten football championship is that it will be a boring game. Don't tell that to fans trying to buy tickets.

The Big Ten has sold out Saturday's game between Michigan and Purdue.

With the Wolverines in the championship for the second straight year, perhaps there's less demand from their fans, especially since Michigan is a big favorite.

Harbaugh has to prepare for the up-

**CONTINUES ON PG 53,
MICHIGAN FOOTBALL**

Continued from pg 52, Michigan football

coming game, but wants the program to bask in the moment of the program's accomplishments.

"What it means is, it's just a great thrill," Harbaugh said. "A great thrill of winning, a great thrill of being able to go for a championship. There's a time to live. There's a time to die. But there's never a time to reject the moment. That our players get to go through that. That they get the benefits of being in that moment and having that opportunity. That's what means so much. Also that my wife, my kids, the players I coach, the families of the players that we coach — their sisters, their brothers, their parents, their grandparents — that everybody gets to have the excitement of going for a championship. To be a champion, there's few accolades better in the United States of America."

According to ClickOnDetroit.com, Michigan will be returning to the College Football Playoff next month, no matter what happens against Purdue in the Big Ten Championship Game.

The game is still important. Not only do the Wolverines want to win a second-straight Big Ten title, they also want to win 13 games for the first time in program history and position themselves for success in a semifinal game.

But in terms of finishing in the CFP committee's top four, Saturday is about "where," not "if." Michigan will be one of the playoff teams whether it wins, loses, or gets blown out by three touchdowns.

Michigan, Georgia, and TCU are the only undefeated teams left in the nation. After another Saturday of college football carnage, only two one-loss teams remain: USC and Ohio State.

If the Wolverines were to lose to Purdue, they would finish the season 12-1. Even in the worst-case scenario of Georgia, TCU, and USC all winning their conference titles, Michigan could only fall to No. 4.

Meanwhile, this is Purdue's first-

ever trip to the Big Ten championship game. Michigan won the last matchup between these two teams — 28-10 in 2017 in West Lafayette — and leads the all-time series 45-14. Purdue's last win against Michigan came in 2009, a 38-36 victory in Ann Arbor.

The Wolverines' stellar season shows championship qualities, and the stats are definitely here to back up those claims.

Michigan averages 40 points per game compared to their opponents' 13 points. This would come from their dual threat on the ground and through the air. There's a major difference between the amount of rushing first downs (162) that the Wolverines had during the season compared to their opponents (57).

The running attack has been a force to be reckoned with, led by junior Heisman candidate Blake Corum and sophomore Donovan Edwards. These two mainly make up the total rushing yards of the Michigan offense, 3,100 while their opponents totaled just over 1,300 yards.

Total passing touchdowns show a similar dominance with 19 as Michigan's opponents only have a total of nine.

One major component of the Michigan offense is the ability to convert on the crucial downs. The Wolverines converted 47 percent of their 3rd down attempts while maintaining a high percentage of 88 while going for it on 4th down — converting 15 of 17 attempts.

Out of 60 attempts in the redzone, Michigan has converted 56 of them, either with a touchdown or field goal. It's safe to say that whenever the blue boys make it to the redzone, they're bound to score.

There's nothing to refute here.

Michigan football is a playoff contender this year. The only concern is whether they have enough in their arsenal to defeat Georgia.

The Bulldogs defeated Michigan convincingly, 34-11 in the Orange Bowl last year on the way to become national champions.



COURTESY PHOTO



PIC OF THE WEEK

Bishop Larry D. Camel, Pastor Hurley J. Coleman II and Pastor Robert Davis are pictured at SK Siltron in Bay City on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022 where President Joe Biden spoke to a crowd of roughly 550.





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*Brittany Saunders is ready to pay it forward. The Chicago native enrolled at SVSU with ambitions to pursue a teaching career. Brittany was encouraged and invigorated by other passionate educators who worked closely with her to ensure she would accomplish her goals. And she is. Even before she was set to graduate, Brittany could boast a résumé with a paid internship in a school district along with K-12 classroom experience. **Now she can't wait to begin a professional career, inspiring students with the same kind of one-on-one attention she received from her professors at SVSU.***



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