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PIC OF THE WEEK
Saginaw County Commissioners are sworn in a swearing in ceremony

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POLITICS



GOVERNOR WHITMER SIGNS EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE AFFIRMING REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOMS

POLITICS, PG 35




COURTESY PHOTOS



SVSU President Donald Bachand to preside over his final commencement

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Saginaw Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi celebrates 50 years of service

COMMUNITY, PG 11



Saginaw invests \$10 million in youth development

COMMUNITY, PG 23

10th Circuit Court Judge Brittany Dicken Sworn into Office

Brittany A. Dicken was sworn in Wednesday night after winning the seat in the Tenth Circuit Court over opponent Megan Cottington-Heath in November. During the ceremony, Judge James T. Borchard administered the oath of office.

Dicken was an attorney for Friend of the Court, as well as a Circuit Court Referee before running for the seat. She will replace the retiring Judge Borchard on the bench, presiding over family law cases in Saginaw County.

FEATURED STORY

LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS TIPS

COMMUNITY, PG 12



THE MICHIGAN BANNER IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:





COURTESY PHOTO

SVSU President Donald Bachand to preside over his final commencement

When he addresses Saginaw Valley State University's latest graduates on Friday, Dec. 16, it will be one of Don Bachand's last official acts as president of the university he has served for more than 40 years, the last eight as president.

"I have attended dozens of commencement exercises in my years at SVSU, and I have felt honored to be at each one," Bachand said, "but these last ceremonies will hold special meaning for me."

Bachand will retire from the presidency on Dec. 31.

SVSU will hold two commencement ceremonies. Graduates from the colleges of Arts & Behavioral Sciences, Education, and Science, Engineering & Technology will be recognized in a noon celebration. Graduates of the Crystal M. Lange College of Health & Human Services and the Scott L. Carmona College of Business will be recognized at a 4:30 p.m. ceremony. Both events will take place at SVSU's Ryder Center and will be livestreamed.

More than 500 students are expected to complete degree requirements, and 450 have registered to participate in one of the two ceremonies.

"It hasn't really sunk in yet for me," said Walker Wenzel, a communication major from Saginaw. Maybe it will feel real after graduation."

In graduating from SVSU, Wenzel will follow in the footsteps of his parents, Keith and Kristen Wenzel, who graduated in

1990 and 1993 respectively, and his grandmother Mary Nelson, a two-time graduate of SVSU (1977 and 1986).

Wenzel said graduation is bittersweet, in part because he hadn't become involved on campus until the past year.

"Soon after I transferred to SVSU from Delta, the COVID pandemic hit," he said. "I hadn't really planted my roots yet or formed any new connections, and I wanted to change my major. Suddenly, because of COVID, I didn't know what to do."

Wenzel persevered and decided on a communication major. While he was busy learning in the classroom, he also gained practical experience working part-time for the Great Lakes Loons, the Saginaw Spirit, Saginaw Mosquito Control and as a student intern with SVSU's Office of University Communications. Wenzel said these experiences, coupled with classroom learning, have prepared him well. In fact, he is ready for the next step, having secured a full-time position with Amigo Mobility International in Bridgeport following graduation.

Like Wenzel, other SVSU graduates are building careers in high-demand fields in the Great Lakes Bay Region, throughout the state and beyond. According to a survey conducted by SVSU's Office of Career Services, at least 94% of graduates from 2019, 2020 and 2021 are employed or continuing their education.

"At SVSU, our goal is to prepare stu-

dents for success after graduation," said Teresa George, director of Career Services. "Whether our graduates enter the workforce or continue their education, we want them to be ready," George said. "With degree programs that align with Michigan's high-demand, high-wage careers, SVSU offers pathways to success for our students and provides employers with a strong talent pool."

In addition to recognizing SVSU's graduates, the university will confer honorary Doctor of Laws degrees upon state senators Ken Horn of Frankenmuth and Jim Stamas of Midland, who are completing their terms in the Legislature.

Sen. Horn, who represents Michigan's 32nd State Senate District, will receive his honorary degree during the noon graduation ceremony. Over his 30-year political career, Horn has been a strong advocate for higher education and the strengthening of Michigan's workforce talent pipeline. He was instrumental in securing state funding for SVSU's Scott L. Carmona College of Business and for the university's Brown Hall renovation project.

Sen. Stamas represents the state's 36th Senate District. In his 25-year political career, Stamas has consistently advocated for higher education. He has provided leadership on proposals to build Bachand Hall and the Scott L. Carmona College of Business and to renovate Wickes Hall and Brown Hall. He has also advocated for increasing available funding for scholarships to boost the talent pipeline in the education and health care workforce.

"Commencement is not an end, but a beginning," Bachand said. "One of the greatest honors of serving this university is seeing our students embark on their next beginning."

"SVSU students have consistently demonstrated their dedication, enthusiasm and determination to make their workplaces and communities better. I feel incredibly privileged to have played a role in the educational journey of so many bright, caring, committed people."

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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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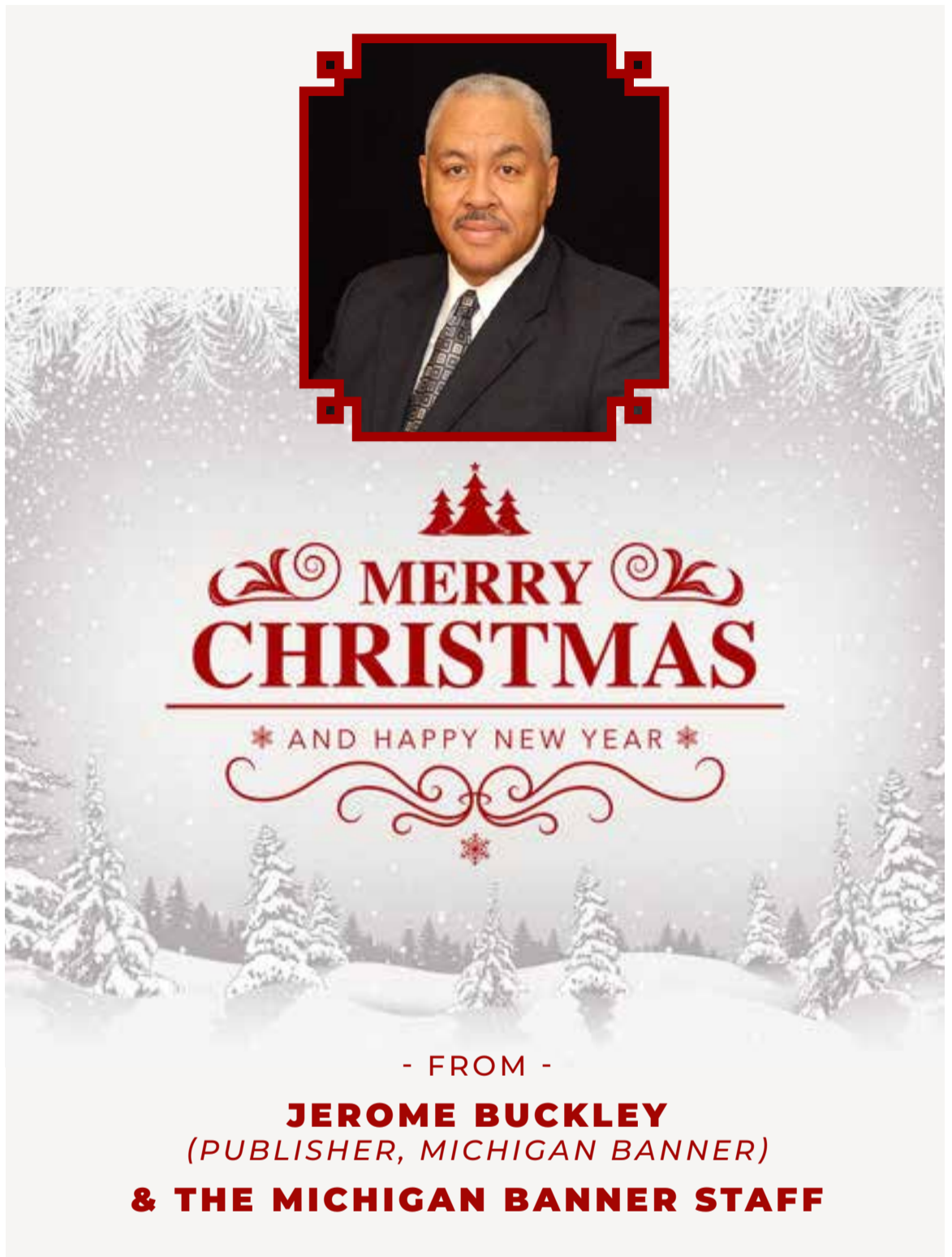
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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 4 • NUMBER 24

SUCCESS

By **DONIQUA SOVIA**

Success is a goal that has been reached by billions for centuries. It is the opposite of failure, and can be put in the same category as the word destination. For, when you make it to success, you've made it to your destination, but you haven't made it to the end of your life. So, with that being said: keep striving for more.

Success is not determined by your environment, and success has NO color. Every person born has a 100% chance at success. Either you take it or you leave it. It's all about your attitude.

Honesty is the best pathway to success. Lying, cheating, nor sneaking will get you successful. It may for a minute, but which would you rather have: Success lost, and foolishness the cause, or Success gained, cause you went the 'honest' way?

With success comes sacrifice, sometimes ridicule, and disrespect; don't entertain it, for if you entertain a clown, you become a part of the circus. A good way

to stop success in its tracks, is to be jealous. Never be jealous.

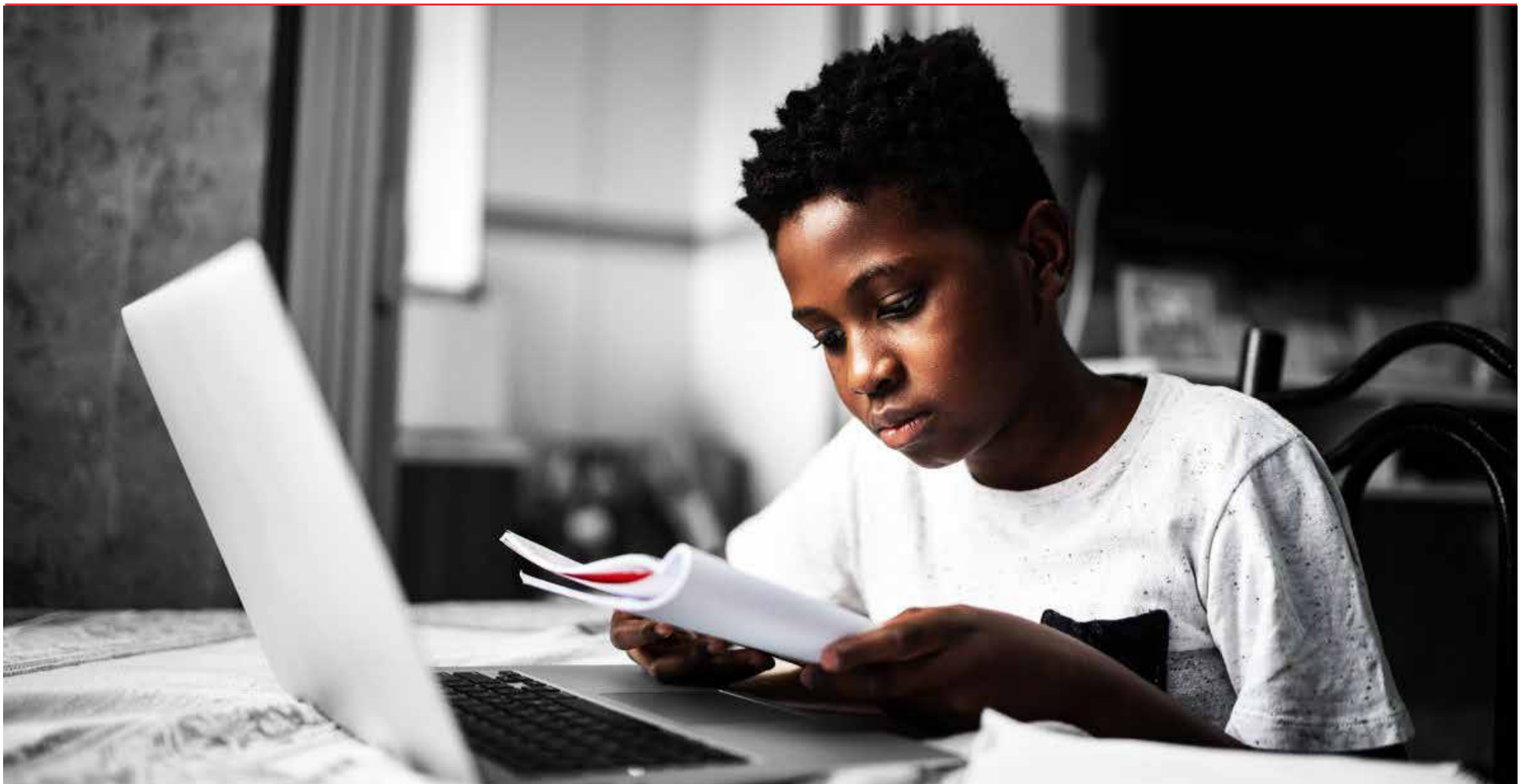
Why be jealous when you can learn? Learn from those who came before you, and maybe those who come after you. The world changes, new ideas are formed, and nothing stays the same, so get it while it's available.

But most of all, above anything and everything you do, be sure to Keep God First. Because the ONLY way you can obtain success and keep it, is to remember Philippians 4:13:

I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me.

If you separate the word IMPOSSIBLE, you get I'M POSSIBLE, and you are possible of succeeding.





COURTESY PHOTO

Unfinished Learning

By JULIAN MORRIS

What started as an extra week of Spring Break in March 2020 quickly became a cancellation of the rest of the school year. I was in seventh grade when in-person learning shut down. When I returned to the classroom, I was a freshman in high school.

Academic normalcy is still out of reach for many kids, teachers, and parents nearly three years after the first wave of pandemic-related school closures. Schools have been dealing with significant staff shortages, high absenteeism rates, quarantines, and rolling school closures in addition to an increase in COVID-19 cases during the past two years. Additionally, there are still mental health issues among children and teachers, higher rates of violence and misbehavior, and worries about lost instructional time.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant overall negative effect on kids' academic achievement. In comparison to peers in the same grade in fall 2019, the average math test scores in grades 3–8 in fall 2021 were 0.2–0.27 SDs lower, and the average reading test scores were 0.09–0.18 SDs lower (Brown Center Chalkboard). That is a big drop.

What's more alarming is that, especially during the 2020–21 school year, the test-score gaps between pupils in low-poverty and high-poverty elementary schools widened by

around 20% in math (equivalent to 0.20 SDs) and 15% in reading (0.13 SDs). Additionally, achievement generally declined more between fall 2020 and 2021 than it did between fall 2019 and 2020 (both generally and differently by school poverty), suggesting that disruptions to learning have continued to negatively affect students well past the initial blows following the spring 2020 school closures.

The reading proficiency results in Michigan were among the lowest in recent memory. But how much merit can we really give those scores? The third graders who were tested at the time were only in the first grade at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Low scores were to be expected, so it should be no surprise that these numbers are low. No state was spared by the Covid-19 pandemic, which destroyed decades of academic improvement for American youngsters.

Math test results nationwide experienced their biggest drops ever. Scores in reading fell to 1992 levels. Nearly four out of ten eighth graders struggled to understand fundamental math ideas. No state's average test results showed a discernible improvement, and other states hardly moved from where they were. Kids falling behind is not really alarming. The pandemic drastically changed everyone's way of life and made millions of people spend several months or longer learning at home. The publicly available data demonstrate how bad

those failures were and how challenging it will be for schools to assist students in catching up.

These figures are concerning and may even be disheartening, especially in light of the valiant efforts made by students and teachers to study and teach under extremely challenging times. I don't believe that these test-score declines mean that we should give up on kids or consider them to be part of a "lost generation." There is a lot we don't know about students' ability to be resilient in such situations and what a schedule for recovery will entail because the majority of us have never experienced a pandemic. Furthermore, I am not implying that teachers are to blame for the achievement declines between 2020 and 2021; rather, I am pointing out that educators already had challenging jobs before the pandemic and now have enormous new problems, many of which are beyond their control.

In the end, there is a lot of work to be done, and parents, teachers, and kids face substantial obstacles. But it is not insurmountable. Our education system has needed change for years, and now is the time to put all those years of research on new and innovative teaching methods to use. No more band-aid solutions. Transformational changes that will last a generation are required. America's children are counting on it. I'm counting on it.

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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE



Congratulations to Monica Reyes and Alberto Jimenez for being the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan's 2022 Hispanic Heritage Month Award Recipients!

LB pg 2

Christmas with Angels 

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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LATINO BANNER SPONSORED BY GREAT LAKES BAY HEALTH CENTERS & TEAM ONE CREDIT UNION



Congratulations to Monica Reyes and Alberto Jimenez for being the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan's 2022 Hispanic Heritage Month Award Recipients!



Monica Reyes is with the Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute and was reappointed by Governor Whitmer to the Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan. She is also retired from Saginaw Valley State University Former Director of Disability Services and Director of Continuing Education and Professional Development. And now devotes most of her free time to Advocacy and Community Service. Monica is married to her partner, friend, and biggest supporter Lupe, they have 3 children, 11 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. She came from a typical Latino family, with 11 brothers and sisters and over 140 nephews, nieces, great-nephews, and great-nieces and that is just on her side of the family...she was brought up in a very Mexican family, living and making things work in an all-Anglo community, which brought many challenges but her parents worked hard to help the family navigate life, which allowed us to keep our Latino culture and values.



Alberto Jimenez is a resident of Saginaw, Michigan. He was always drawn to the Cinco De Mayo Parade to watch the beautiful floats that each new generation created for the community. He learned about float making in Carrollton High School, where he constructed floats for the Homecoming parade. In 2010 his involvement with La Union Civica Mexicana contributed 6 artistic projects to influence the parade line-up. Then Alberto moved on to the Mexican American Council to help provide the great lakes bay region youth to the Arts. In 2019 he received a grant to provide a cultural arts program for the youth. Currently Alberto Jimenez strongly supports the Arts at the Mexican American Council. In Partnership with the SVSU Marshall Fredricks Museum in 2020 the team was able to provide the youth with an art program once a month.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Saginaw Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi celebrates 50 years of service

"This past Saturday (December 3), we celebrated our 50th year of service to the Saginaw Community. A big thanks for the hard work by brothers Dr. Tim Walker, Michael Rhoden, and Sidney Diggs IV. Close to 280 people left with smiles and a warm sense of community. There were brothers from all over the State of Michigan, family, friends, and our beautiful Silhouettes.

50 years of commitment and service would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication from so many, but we must thank our Charter Members: George Little, Dillard Harris, Dr. Franklin Gary, Dr. William Byas, Al Vinson, John Gibson, Jr, Reggie Banks, Dr. Vernal Cambridge Sr., George Carter Sr., and George Carter Jr. We sit on the shoulders of their dreams and dedication, and we look forward to many more years of service from our current and future brotherhood.

As the Historian/Reporter of this amazing chapter, I left Saturday night feeling proud of being a brother of the Saginaw Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc. And I know, I was not the only one who felt this way!"

- Jonathan B. Glenn

+ COMMUNITY

Last minute Christmas tips



COURTESY PHOTO

By **HASANI ALI**

Are you struggling to get your Christmas shopping done? Well, good news! You still have 15 days left to knock out everything on your list!

Many of us find this time quite stressful while simultaneously trying to spread joy and cheer during the holidays.

Well, let's take a load off from you.

According to www.ramseysolutions.com, there are 16 helpful tips that will help you get creative with your financial budget and help you save money during the Christmas season.

Let's make it through the holidays in one piece! Check out these helpful tips in order to help you get through these festive times without gray hair.

1. Develop a gift-giving philosophy – Normally, our first suggestion in every instance of life is to budget. And we'll get there. But before you budget, our very first Christmas tip is this: You've got to create your Christmas gift-giving philosophy.

What does giving mean to you? Is it about finding the perfect presents? Do you hope to impress others with how much you

spend on them? Or do you feel obligated to buy for people? These motivations (and others like them) can really shape how you view the season.

Be honest with yourself and think about why you're buying presents before you think about how you're going to pay for them all.

2. Budget – Now, the way you become the hero of the holidays is by budgeting. That's right—if you want to stay on Santa's nice list, set a limit for how much you're going to spend and stick to it. Use our Christmas Present Planner as a guide, and download your free EveryDollar budget to help.

3. Track your spending – So, lots of people spend like crazy throughout December and never check in on their budget. They just think, I'll worry about it in January. Future you has some advice here: Don't. Do. That. Track your expenses as you go so you don't end up overspending and ruining this month's and next month's budget.

And you know what makes that easier, right? The premium features of EveryDollar. You'll connect your budget to your bank account so transactions stream

straight in. You just have to drag and drop them into the right budget line. It's simple and it gives you more time to do the things that really matter to you, like whipping up a batch of figgy pudding.

Hmm? Upgrading your budget sounds like the perfect present to give that special someone on your list—you!

4. Rein in other spending – According to our State of Personal Finance, American families plan to spend \$1,300 on Christmas this year.

First of all, you don't have to spend that much. We want you to know and own that truth. Don't spend outside of your comfort zone this season or any season.

But what about the money you do need for Christmas? If you've been shopping all year or stashing cash into your Christmas sinking fund, you might be set. But if not, you'll have to find that money somewhere else. The first step here is to move money around in your budget—spending less on some categories in December to make up for the extra Christmas celebrations.

**CONTINUES ON PG 13,
CHRISTMAS TIPS**

Continued from pg 12, Christmas tips

5. Choose time over money – There’s an old saying that goes, “It’s the thought that counts.” For some people, the thought of spending time together really is better than the joy of a physical gift. You can save money this year by being intentional about being together—in whatever way you can, whether that’s in person or virtually. This year, value experiences over accessories and conversations over clutter.

6. Shop early – Don’t wait for Black Friday to start Christmas shopping—look for sales all year long. Grab that stuffed Sasquatch on clearance in July for your bigfoot-loving nephew. When you’re mindful of your list throughout the year, you’ll spread out both the spending and the stress (and maybe even get rid of the stress altogether).

If you missed the chance to jump on the early shopping train this year, remember it in January when you’re budgeting for the next Christmas season!

7. Give fewer gifts – As you’re in the spirit of trimming the tree, trim down that Christmas list while you’re at it. Of course, you do have a bit of holiday-induced obligation to deal with. You can’t pass around gifts at family Christmas and be like, “Uh, sorry, Cousin Scott . . . You’re the only person I couldn’t find anything for.”

But not everyone needs a gift—this year, send your tidings of comfort and joy to some people on your list through a thoughtful card.

And if you want to save even more money, have a kind chat with your family members. Are you all giving just to give? Do you all want to cut back? A clear conversation about skipping presents this year for a shared meal (if you’re able) and stocking stuffers instead could be just the thing both your family and your finances need.

8. Resist retail marketing – Friends. Americans spent \$886.7 billion on the holidays last year.¹ That’s a lot.

Don’t let yourself get wrapped up in all the sales and spending. You may think these retailers are posting deals from the goodness of their hearts to help you—but their real goal is to get in on a part of that \$886 billion holiday “magic.” Stick with

your budget—and shop wisely.

9. Use old gift cards – Think about all the money you have left on old gift cards, as well as the cards you’ll never use because they’re to places you never shop, eat or visit. Consider the partial cards as discounts and use them to buy presents. Regift (which is not a dirty word, as we’ll explain later) the other cards to people who’ll appreciate them. Don’t let those little pieces of plastic go to waste this Christmas!

10. Order online early – Ordering online means shopping from the convenience of your very own couch as you roast chestnuts on an open fire. That’s the kind of multitasking we’re all about. Cross-check the price on that plush puppy across multiple stores without ever putting on real pants.

But make sure you do this early enough to get the cheapest online shipping options—and remember shipping is taking way longer this year. The last thing you need is a budget ruined by all those additional rush order costs. (Prancer doesn’t deliver in a day without a hefty fee, after all.)

11. Combine your orders – Speaking of shipping, plenty of stores offer it free of charge if you spend a minimum amount. So, do that! If you see the perfect superhero-themed sweatshirt you know your dad would love, but you’re below the minimum amount for free shipping, keep shopping inside that store. Is there anything for your brother or cousin on that same website? Don’t buy just to buy—but be thoughtful and combine orders to lower shipping costs.

Also, here’s a quick Christmas tip: Check out that ship-to-store option. A lot of retailers offer this free and don’t even require a minimum order. You’ll have to brave the cold to grab the gift, but if you ship several things to the store together, you’ll just need to bundle up in your hat and gloves once.

12. Live by the list – There’s a reason Santa checked his list twice, and it’s not because he’s absent-minded. When we go off the list, we overspend. Now, if you realize you forgot a friend, of course you add them in! But once you’ve got your philoso-

phy and budget set, don’t get swept up in the Christmas spirit and start buying every snowflake-themed item you find for every person you’ve ever met.

13. Say no to random gift exchanges – Here’s a hot Christmas tip: Put an end to the white elephant or junk-for-junk gift exchanges at your work, small group or book club. Christmas is expensive enough without these social pressures. Be kind, but just say no (thank you).

14. Go in on a group gift – A bigger, more expensive gift doesn’t have to be off the table just because you’re on a budget this year. Just go in on it with someone else. Get all your siblings to chip in and buy one big gift for your parents. Ask teammates to go in for a nice gift card for the coach. Email all the parents in your kids’ class to donate small items for a gift basket for the teacher.

They say sharing is caring, after all. And sharing the cost of one big present is a great way to give well—while still caring for your budget.

15. Regift – Regifting has a bad reputation, but it’s time to move away from that. Maybe you should say you’re working in the “present relocation program.” It isn’t catchy—we’ll work on the title while you work on the concept.

Seriously, it’s okay to regift! But there are ground rules. You don’t want to hand Dad the motivational poster your great-aunt gave you. Mostly because she’s his aunt too.

But the brand-new slow cooker your well-meaning in-laws gave you when you already have two could easily be regifted to your newlywed bestie. Be smart, but there’s nothing wrong with this kind of thrifty regifting. It saves money and keeps a gift from going unused.

16. Make presents – If you want to give something personal, memorable and one of a kind, make it! Seriously. Pinterest has a ton of ideas and instructions. If you aren’t super crafty, try baking a sweet treat, putting together a gift basket of someone’s favorite things, or whipping up some DIY sugar scrubs. Nothing says Happy Christmas like something homemade.

THE MICHIGAN BANNER NEWS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AT&T



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+ COMMUNITY



SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY MOOT COURT PARTICIPANTS MADE A STRONG SHOWING AT A TOURNAMENT HOSTED BY THE UNIVERSITY. TWO OF SVSU'S TEAMS QUALIFIED FOR THE NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION THAT WILL BE HELD IN JANUARY IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA. LEFT TO RIGHT: ETHAN DAY, OF LINWOOD, A MAY 2022 GRADUATE OF SVSU CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN A POST-BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM; DIVA PATEL, A CELL BIOLOGY, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES MAJOR FROM KAWKAWLIN; GARRETT POWELL, A POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR FROM CHESANING; NIKOLAS BAKER, A POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR FROM STANDISH.

SVSU moot court teams make strong showing at home tournament

Hours of preparation propelled Saginaw Valley State University students to strong showings in a moot court regional tournament hosted by the university on December 2 and 3. SVSU hosted 30 teams from around the country for the event, one of 16 regional tournaments at which students compete to qualify for the American Moot Court Association's national tournament in January.

Julie Keil, SVSU associate professor of political science and a moot court adviser, said the competition at this tournament was fierce, and included teams from Yale, Duke University, University of Chicago, Loyola University, and others.

Two SVSU teams finished the tournament in the top 3, earning spots at the national tournament. The team of Ethan Day, of Linwood, and Diva Patel, from Kawkawlin, placed 2nd in the tournament. Day completed a degree in professional and technical writing from SVSU and remains enrolled in a post-baccalaureate program. Patel is a cell biology, molecular biology and biomedical sciences major. Political science majors Nikolas Baker, of Standish, and Garrett Powell, of Chesaning, finished in 3rd place.

These students will join four other SVSU students who qualified for the national tournament at earlier competitions: Ethan Rose, a political science major from Ypsilanti, and Abigail (Abi) Walk, a management major from Saginaw, and political science majors Kennedy Kreger, of Battle Creek, and Jeffrey Ramsey, of Greenwood.

Of the 10 SVSU teams – each consisting of two students – that participated in the competition, six advanced to the second day of competition, with five of the pairs placing in the top 16.

“This is SVSU's best showing in its history,” Keil said. “The success of the teams was based on their qualities of intelligence and hard work, but also the number of hours they and all of the coaches put into preparation.”

Amy Hendrickson, associate professor of law and co-adviser of SVSU's moot court program, and Kevin Lorentz II, assistant professor of political science, helped coach the students alongside Keil.

In addition to Day, Patel, Baker and Powell, other teams included:

- B Browne, a political science major

from Midland, and Toni Gjerka, a pre-law major from Sterling Heights, who placed 7th.

- Karson Bagelmann, a pre-law major from Antelope, California, and Alec Leppke, a political science major from Bay City, who finished in the top 16.
- Nikolas Corriveau, a Great Lakes Bay Early College student from Saginaw and Symone Guy, a political science major from Flint.
- Velencia Gonzalez, a criminal justice major from Saginaw and Jacob Spencer, a political science major from Canada.
- Patrice Henderson, a criminal justice major from Saginaw and Madison Hutchison, a criminal justice major from Saginaw.
- Emmy Martin, a political science major from Tawas City, and Blake Woerner, a communication major from Owosso.
- Antony Souss, a criminal justice major from Marine City and Mackenzie Victory, a political science major from Chesterfield, finished in the top 16.
- Larkin West, a history major from Saginaw and Camden Williams, a political science major from Jenison.

Bagelmann, Day and Patel also won the Top 10 Orator's Awards.

Participants in moot court act as attorneys in a simulated argument in front of the Supreme Court. Competitions are judged on the quality and clarity of the students' arguments, their public speaking skills and knowledge of the law and the case.

SVSU's moot court program has qualified for the national tournament nearly every year it has competed since the program's inception in 2010. In 2020, SVSU's moot court was ranked No. 16 in the nation. Around 120 colleges and universities field undergraduate moot court programs, and in all, some 500 moot court teams will compete in 2022, representing those schools.

For more information about the American Moot Court Association, go to amc mootcourt.org.



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SSI: 50 years of financial security

By **HILLARY HATCH**
SOCIAL SECURITY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program helps support many American families. As we celebrate 50 years of SSI, it is a great time to briefly share the history of SSI and information on how to apply.

On October 30, 1972, President Nixon signed SSI into law. In January 1974, we began paying SSI to people who met the eligibility requirements.

Fifty years later, SSI remains a lifeline program for millions of people and households with limited income and resources. SSI also helps children and adults under age 65 who have a disability or are blind and who have income and resources below specific financial limits. People age 65 and

older without disabilities—who meet the financial qualifications—may also receive SSI payments.

You can let us know that you want to apply for SSI online at www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/start.html. This process only takes about five to ten minutes, and no documentation is required to start. We will need the following basic information about you or the person you're helping:

- The name, date of birth, Social Security number, mailing address, and phone number of the person who is interested in applying for SSI. (Providing an email address is optional.)
- If helping another person, we need your name and phone number. (Providing an email address is optional.)

Once you provide this information and

answer a few questions, we will schedule an appointment to help you apply for SSI. We will send a confirmation with the appointment date and time by mail and email (if provided). In some cases, we may call you to schedule the appointment.

If you're unable to begin the process online, you may schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. local time, Monday through Friday. You may also contact your local Social Security office. You can find the phone number for your local office on our website.

Once your SSI application is submitted, you can check the status online by creating a personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. SSI will continue to support families for many years to come.



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What's for Thanksgiving, Della?

By Dolores Grant-Fall, former Neighborhood House cook

At almost any Caribbean home on Christmas morning, including in my home country of Guyana, you will be offered a bowl of this dish, with freshly baked bread and hot chocolate tea.

Garlic Pork

Ingredients

- 5 pounds of pork loins, cut like stew beef size
- One fresh hot habanero pepper
- One tablespoon of sugar
- One and a half cups of vinegar
- One teaspoon of cinnamon powder
- (You can measure the garlic and pepper yourself. We believe in lots of it, especially the garlic.)



Instructions

It's best to wash your pork loins after you cut them up and pile them into a bowl with the vinegar. Add the powder ingredients, then pan-fry until tender.

Do this on Christmas morning, and the children will gain memories forever. If pork isn't for you, this works with chicken as well.

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IN MY HUMBLE OPINION



COURTESY PHOTO

2023 looks bright for tech-driven businesses in media



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

2022 has been a tough year for many industries and the general outlook is one of uncertainty as central banks raise interest rates and the war in Ukraine continues. Nevertheless, there is an encouraging picture in the midst of the fog. Nigel Green, CEO, and founder of deVere Group, one of the world's largest independent financial

advisory and fintech organizations, outlined "some key market, macro and policy shifts that will provide a significantly more positive outlook for investors in 2023." He made this statement last month in an article entitled, "4 reasons why 2023 could be a great year", published by The Motley Fool. In addition to Green's expert opinion, I also assert that 2023 looks bright for tech-driven businesses in media.

Part of Green's positive outlook included peaking inflation. When inflation starts to come down from its highs, we, the consumers, will have more money to spend, and interest rate hikes will slow down before the central banks stop them altogether. Another positive that Green points out is increased digitalization. To turbocharge profits, companies are continuing to rapidly digitalize their operations. Investments

in technology, according to Green, "help increase efficiency, increase productivity, lower operational costs, improve customer experience, improve competitive advantage, and improve speed and outcomes of decision-making."

In this gadget-loving era, one could easily forget that change is actually driven by people. It's our enterprise, our needs, and our desires that fuel change, and not simply a result of a new invention. In order for businesses to thrive in today's ever-changing technology-driven world, digital transformation is key. It involves both digitization (making analog information digital) and digitalization (moving existing

**CONTINUES ON PG 21,
TECH**

Continued from pg 20, Tech

processes into digital technologies).

Deloitte recently conducted research on how a CEO's leadership in digital transformation can make a critical difference in making the changes successfully. There are five levels of digital transformation: 1) incremental digitization, 2) advanced digitization including new digital platforms, 3) digitalization to reach new markets, 4) digitalization to produce new products/services, and 5) digitalization to create new business models. These five levels build incrementally and CEOs can use them to help set the organizational goals and assess its readiness for change. Deloitte's research revealed three truths for leaders. "Truth 1 – Your role as leader is crucial to any digital ambition, no matter the scale. Truth 2 – As the digital vision gets more ambitious, you must get more involved, especially if your company isn't ready to change. Truth 3 – Digitally-savvy companies still need leadership to lead on strategy, innovation and growth."

Digital transformation will help businesses succeed in 2023, and for tech-driven companies in the media industry, the future is even brighter. Pricewaterhouse Cooper's (PWC) Global Entertainment & Media Outlook 2022-2026 report provides "greater clarity about the overall trends of the market and the forces driving growth, and a better understanding of the fault lines and fractures that are altering the entertainment and media industry" (E&M).

After the contraction of 2020, the E&M industry bounced back in 2021 to resume its growth trajectory with revenues rising an impressive 10.4%. PwC forecasts that "by 2026, the global E&M industry will approach US\$3 [trillion] in revenues." One thing that was clear from the report, the massive E&M industry is growing more rapidly than the global economy as a whole. More people around the world are spending more of their time, attention and money on the industry, and enjoying the increasingly immersive E&M experiences that are available to them.

Other macro trends from the report identify internet advertising as the sole driver of advertising's recovery, and music, radio and podcasts being significant contributors to the industry's growth among others. The report states, "Internet adver-

tising is now the world's dominant advertising format, and its dynamic growth is wielding increasing impact on the overall media advertising space as advertisers and consumers shift both spending and attention toward online channels." The global internet advertising market is largely dominated by US-based tech giants, and the US will maintain its position as the single-largest individual market over the forecast period.

Digital music streaming also brings good news as subscriptions attract consumers around the world and the music sector is forecast to reach nearly \$46 billion in revenues by 2026. The largest market in the world for music remains North America with 42.9% of the revenue at the end of the forecast period, and "Latin America is expected to be the fastest growing major region, albeit from a much smaller revenue base." The podcast audience will continue growing globally, increasing from just under 900 million in 2019 to more than 1.5 billion people in 2026. Accordingly, podcast revenues will rise to over \$3 billion in 2025 before reaching \$3.3 billion in 2026.

Two other segments in the media sector worth noting from PwC's report are consumer magazines and newspapers. In 2026, digital advertising will overtake its print counterparts, generating nearly two-thirds of the revenues.

With continual growth in the use of digital devices (i.e. smartphones, computers, smart TVs, etc.), Americans now spend an average of 13 hours plus per day interacting with some form of media. "Companies with a strong foothold in digital media keep expanding their consumer engagement, while legacy businesses heavily reliant on older media formats are struggling", according to "Investing in Media Stocks" published in July by The Motley Fool. The article goes on to out-

line several attributes that qualify a media company as a good investment, and I will highlight four of them.

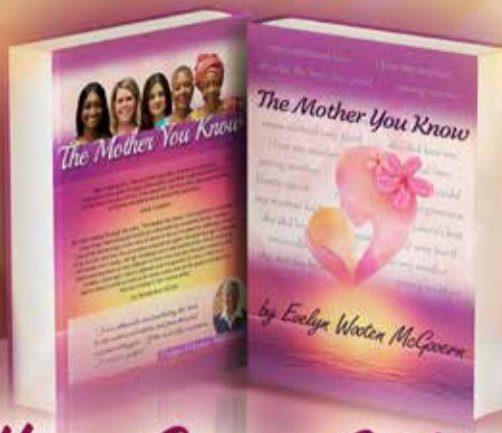
It mentions differentiated content, including unique intellectual property and working with well-known personalities. Scale is important, as larger media companies have more negotiating power with distributors and marketers, and cross-promotional opportunities can be created among the content properties. Diversification and technology are the last two I will highlight. "The best media companies are diversified across formats, distribution methods, audience demographics, and geographies." Owning the technology to support direct-to-consumer (DTC) distribution at scale can boost profit margins considerably given that the bulk of media consumption is via DTC services.

Times of great uncertainty and change can actually present the perfect environments to be aggressive and to think and act boldly about the future. By proactively assessing and projecting change into the future, businesses can take advantage of the competitive edge of that kind of strategic thinking. 2023 will be the year of spotting the gaps, the weaknesses, the eyes-off-the-ball instances that will be fertile ground for investments that will return significant value over the long term. So, the new year not only looks bright for tech-driven businesses in media, it could actually be the best year to date with a future that will continue to shine.



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Saginaw invests \$10 million in youth development

The Saginaw City Council set aside \$10 million for youth development in the city during a special meeting on Monday.

The money comes from the City's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, and is being set aside for capital improvements on community centers, after-school programs, and other initiatives.

The council did not choose specific projects to be funded during the meeting, instead opting to have a smaller committee pick out projects to be prioritized.

"There's been discussion and conversation about matrices and how to determine who gets that [funding]," said Council Member Reggie Williams, who proposed the allocation. "It should not take that long, and I say that simply because we do already have historical entities in this



COURTESY PHOTO

community."

Williams will join Council Member Monique Lamar-Silvia and newly-elected Council Member Priscilla Garcia, along with members of city staff and other advisors to put together a list of projects to be brought before city council in January.

Williams says he'll be prioritizing organizations that are willing to collaborate with others on youth development initiatives.

After 6 months, the City will review those investments to make sure that the ARPA funds are being spent properly, and, if necessary, reallocate them.

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Show love to your holiday workers

By HASANI ALI

This should be common sense, but we're going to address this as a solid reminder to extend your kindness to those around you during the holidays.

Who are those people you ask?

The everyday people that are working around the clock to make sure that your needs are being met.

You know, from the retail workers, delivery drivers, fitness instructors and health professionals – these people have extended their schedules to make sure that we're able to navigate smoothly throughout the holidays.

These are everyday people, just like you and I.

Some are mandated to work overtime to fulfill orders for companies, others are working extra hours to make sure that their families have a pleasant holiday. Not to mention some of them may have to work on Christmas Day or the week of Hanukkah or Kwanzaa (depending on whatever holiday you choose to celebrate).

They deserve to be just as joyful as we are.

According to the Wall Street Journal, there are several ways that we can extend our gratitude to our service providers by tipping – who, when and how to tip these everyday workers to help them along the way through this holiday season.

We all want to enjoy a happy and relaxing holiday season. And being confident about when and how to tip people that help you run your life year-round can go a long way toward heading off unnecessary stress.

This year decisions around tipping require extra attention. Inflation means that expectations around the amount of anticipated tips you'll give have likely ratcheted up. And that may hold true even if your salary hasn't changed. Still, say experts, if you take a thoughtful approach, there's no reason to feel awkward.

"The key here is to express your sincerity and thankfulness," says Elaine Swann, founder of the Carlsbad, Calif. "Show that gratitude in the best way that you're able

to."

To help you get it right—and feel relaxed about the process—we talked to experts about who you should tip, as well as when, and, of course, how much. If you've felt your tipping game hasn't been strong in years past, this year may offer a chance at a reset—whether this means you're tipping more or less.

Who to Tip – Focus on the people who make your life more pleasant all year long, according to experts. "The people who make us look better, make our lives easier," says Patricia Napier-Fitzpatrick, founder of the Etiquette School of New York. "Now's our chance to show our gratitude for what they do for us." This doesn't include professionals like doctors, accountants, dentists and veterinarians.

How to Tip – Crisp bills in an envelope with "Thank You" written on the outside is a classic way to tip. You can even include a card or brief handwritten note if you think it would be appreciated. Try to find a private moment without a lot of people watching—and make sure you look the recipient in the eye and express your gratitude for the work they've done. "It should be straightforward," says Swann. "Be very clear about the fact that you're giving for the holiday season because they've gone above and beyond."

If you normally pay this person via app, it's fine to tip them that way. Just be sure to include a thank you note in the memo that lets them know this is an extra holiday thank you.

When to Tip – There is nothing wrong with starting early. In general, any time after the start of November is appropriate and, let's face it, if you were the recipient of a tip, you'd probably want the money as soon as possible. If you haven't started tipping yet, there is still plenty of time—but you should aim to get it done in the next two weeks.

"Don't wait until Christmas Eve," says Napier-Fitzpatrick. "A lot of these service people are relying on this money to buy their holiday gifts."

How much to tip – The cost of living varies greatly across the U. S.—and so do lifestyles. That makes it difficult to say precisely how much the typical American

should tip. But the following amounts, based on consultations with experts, can serve as a starting point.

As a reminder, these people are working around the clock to make sure that everyone is having a joyful time during the holidays.

Your delivery drivers are out in the cold making sure that your packages get to your door on time. Your yoga instructor is keeping their schedules open to keep their clients active. Let's not forget about your barber or hairdresser that are keeping their doors open to make sure you look spiffy at the holiday dinner.

These people are providing extended services and they should be complimented for the work that they put in. Whether you decide to tip or actually provide a gift, a small token of appreciation can go a long way for these everyday people providing a service for you.

Even your servers at restaurants are still working while your family enjoys dinner or you're watching the football games shown on the television set.

I'm sure a little extra generosity will help them provide for their families and make their holidays a bit more special as well.

In a tight crunch this holiday season?

Stories have been surfacing across the internet of how people are showing their joyful spirit by leaving candy, beverages and even gift cards for their favorite service workers.

One Saginaw woman makes sure that she puts out full-size candy bars and Gatorade outside for the delivery drivers and mailmen that come to her door to show her appreciation.

"I'm sure that they get hungry and thirsty out there while making all those runs," Terilynn Schoen said. "The least I could do is give them a little nourishment while they're out and about. I mean, they do come to my house everyday delivering something."

As the holidays are swiftly approaching, be thoughtful to those around you. It shows humility and gives a true lesson in giving.

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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.

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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

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- 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

+ FAITH BASED

MICHIGAN BANNER
SERMONETTE SERIESBy MINISTER CAROLYN CARTER
TOWNSEL

For sure, the Christmas season introduces the season of hustle and bustle. There are Christmas plays to attend and parties to enjoy. Trees to top, Christmas songs to sing, spending time with family, and gifts to buy. When Christmas makes its arrival, we will unwrap and open up the abundance of presents and experience our momentary emotion of glee. All of this is good; however, we must remember the greatest gift given at Christmas is from God.

We all want to give a great gift but what makes for a great gift? To give a great gift, consideration must be given to the recipient of this special gift. What do they need not want? We have been told, having food and raiment is to be content and life within this world is sufficient. But there is more to it than that, there must first be a relationship with God, and if that relationship is absent God has been offended and man is the offender. Although, man is the offender, isn't it wonderful to know the offended provides the avenue of reconciliation?

The So Loved of God

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”

John 3:16 KJV

We find this reconciliation extended in John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* This verse disciplines us to comprehend that God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be born on earth, so that He could repair the broken relationship between man and God. Why? We are all sinners, and the Bible declares the consequences of sin is death, eternal separation from God. Again, asking why? Because God is love. As a result, God presented us with the most precious gift, that made a way for our reconciliation – Jesus Christ. 1 John 4:7-10 expresses, *“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love”* (KJV).

John 3:16, also directs us to discern the object of God's love as it conveys, *“For God so loved the world.”* Meaning that God loves us and His love is personal and intentional. Therefore, it is imperative to know that God is not concerned with our age, race, ethnicity, or social status. No matter who you are, what you have done, or where you have been God loves you. Jeremiah 31:3 says, *“The Lord has appeared of old unto me, saying: Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore, with lovingkindness have I drawn you”* (KJV).

John proclaims the sacrifice of God's

love – *“For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son.”* This prompts the question, what is the sacrifice of God's love? Christ lived a perfect, blameless life, and gave the perfect and ultimate sacrifice for our sin, His life He died in our place. Romans announces in 5:8, *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

In addition to John setting forth God's love, the object of God's love, the sacrifice of God's love, he furnishes the recipient of the gift of God's love. John asserts, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* Consequently, the recipient is the “Whosoever” and “Whosoever” is any man, woman, boy, or girl who confesses and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ they shall be saved.

Yes, the season of Christmas brings the hustle and the bustle. We love and enjoy receiving the great gifts of jewelry, clothing, cars, etc. Yes, we have been the offender of God and yes, we are so grateful for the greatest and most precious gift given at Christmas – Jesus Christ, the Son of God who was given to us, “The So Loved of God.”

“Merry Christmas to All”

GETHSAMENE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH:

Welcomes

PASTOR-ELECT

Rev. Benjamin Smith

Sunday, December 25, 2022
11:00 a.m. - Worship Experience



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+ FAITH BASED

Trinity Church
2023
New Year Revival

Guest Speaker
Apostle Patrick Payton

Guest Speaker
Pastor Elvin Owens

DECEMBER 30th @ 6PM
5:30PM Intercessory Prayer

Musical Performances
* Minister Sterling Brooks
* Pastor Victor Adams

Host
Pastor Duane Thomas
Trinity Church

Trinity Church
216 South 2nd Avenue
Saginaw, Mi 48601
For more info: (517)883-3819

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

B



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



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



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

C

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

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



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

F



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



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

G



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

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

Greater Williams Temple

608 E Remington St
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-755-5291

H



Holy Communion Gospel Center
Pastor Charlene Washington
1245 E. Genesee
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-752-3993

J



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

L

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

M

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



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



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

N



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



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



New Covenant Christian Center
Pastor Ron Frierson
2395 S. Outer Drive
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

R

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
989-395-3142

S



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



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

T



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



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

U



United Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Cedric Nickson
4290 Lamson Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
Church: 989-759-9411
Pastor 810.223.2987

V



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

W



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

Z



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

+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

Ruby Bright: a national beacon of light

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Leadership is pivotal to nonprofit success, and Ruby Bright exemplifies the best of inclusive leadership – a person focused on her goals, not public acclaim. As the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis, Bright is a nationally recognized leader who heads a transformational women-powered organization that is fighting poverty and changing lives for generations of women and their children. We salute Bright as she prepares to retire after 22 years of leading WFGM. Today WFGM plays a major role as a backbone organization, investing \$1.5 million in 34 organizations in 2022 alone. Ruby is always at the table for the community and for major stakeholders. She is a visionary who focuses on team building – believing that the power of “we” is so much stronger than the power of “me.” She has brought together private funders to leverage public dollars and change the lives of Memphis women, and the City itself.

Bright demonstrates the utmost skill in bringing out the best in others, encouraging people to share their specific talents as part of a collective move towards justice. She builds partnerships and collaborations at every turn and encourages others to do the same. Ruby is excellent at building and sustaining relationships across racial, gender, and class lines, a must-have skill if one is to advance social change in a southern American city. She never forgets her past, her roots, and who she is as a powerful, spiritual person. She is humble and accessible; a mother, wife, grandmother, and more. Her warmth and sensitivity are something you can feel.

Ruby is an intuitive, a great judge of people, a risk taker, a fighter, and a woman who is in tune with the community. She is politically astute, and everything she does is first class. She is deeply connected to her board, working closely with a cross section of women leaders to advance the lives of women and their children. Together they have created a strong culture of philanthropy that moves the foundation forward.

If you want a prototype for a nonprofit leader, you need to see Ruby in action. On an annual basis she creates a sense of urgency, excitement, engagement, and a fresh appeal. She is in the 1% club – one of the best nonprofit leaders. Bright is well-known and respected locally and nationally. She centers the lived experience of poor women and girls as the focus of her work. As a mentor she brings out the best in the next generation, opening the door for others. She brings people of diverse backgrounds to the table and keeps them at the table over time and through challenging conversations and decisions. She is an exemplar who places women and girls first and is always aware that as a Black woman from Mississippi hers



RUBY BRIGHT

is a nontraditional voice, an historically silenced voice, and a voice – that when combined with others – can call forth action that acknowledges the essential human dignity of every woman, man, and child.



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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

Saginaw State Rep. Amos O'Neal introduces Good Time Bills with Rep. Julie M. Rogers

LANSING, Mich. — State Reps. Amos O'Neal (D-Saginaw) and Julie M. Rogers (D-Kalamazoo) introduced a bill package focused on reestablishing the good time credit system in the Michigan Department of Corrections. Michigan ranks number one in the country for longest sentences served by those incarcerated. These bills create an incentive for incarcerated Michiganders to earn time off their sentence with good behavior.

“Michigan is one of only six states that lack a good time policy in the incarceration system,” O'Neal said. “These bills are fundamental for relieving Michigan's over-

populated prison systems and supporting incarcerated individuals' integration back into society. It is important to carry out justice, but it is also important to reward progress. The good time bills do just that.”

These bills award 30 days of good behavior with the opportunity to earn 30 days off their sentence. These credits would provide critical relief to Michigan's overcrowded prisons, creating a safer environment both for corrections officers and those who are incarcerated. Due to the combination of Michigan's 100% Truth in Sentencing law and the lack of any sentencing credits, incarcerated individuals

in Michigan serve on average 6.5 years. Michigan continues to exceed other states' spending at 18.3% of the state's general fund budget on corrections compared to the national average of 5.8%.

“This legislation can make a positive impact not only on the atmosphere and safety of our prison systems, but also on those who are incarcerated,” Rogers said. “These bills provide those individuals something to look forward to and work toward so they may discover the power of redemption. It grants new opportunities, not only to those in the systems, but to their families and their futures, as well.”

+ POLITICS



COURTESY PHOTO

Governor Whitmer signs executive directive affirming reproductive freedoms

LANSING, Mich. – On December 14, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed an executive directive instructing State of Michigan departments and agencies to review aspects of reproductive rights that fall within their jurisdiction and identify ways they can protect and increase protections for the fundamental right to reproductive healthcare under the Michigan Constitution. The governor is taking this action in advance of reproductive freedom being enshrined in the Michigan Constitution on December 24th following the passage of Proposal 3.

“In November, Michiganders of every background made history and sent a clear message: that a woman must be able to make her own healthcare decisions without the interference of politicians in Lansing,” said Governor Whitmer. “Today, my administration is taking the first step to support and protect this fundamental right for every Michigander. I will contin-

ue to use every tool in my toolbox to defend Michiganders’ reproductive freedom, and work with anyone to build a thriving, competitive Michigan we can be proud to pass on to future generations.”

At the signing, the governor was joined by representatives from ACLU Michigan, Michigan Voices, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan, reproductive health care providers, and women who participated in roundtable discussions the governor held on abortion access with women of all political backgrounds.

Executive Directive

Governor Whitmer’s Executive Directive instructs all State of Michigan departments and agencies to review aspects of reproductive rights that fall within their jurisdiction and identify and assess their operations to both ensure that they pro-

vide the maximum protection possible for reproductive freedom and that they identify opportunities to proactively increase protections for reproductive freedom.

Departments and agencies must also identify any laws, regulations, or policies within their jurisdiction that conflict with the constitutional right to reproductive freedom, work with the Attorney General to address these conflicts, and ensure that their public-facing material is up to date and complies with the recent constitutional amendment.

Additionally, departments and agencies with enforcement responsibilities must continue to decline to cooperate or assist any authority in any investigation or proceeding against an individual for obtaining, providing, or assisting another to obtain or provide reproductive health care.

+ HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

SVSU and Alpena Community College form new partnership to grow the nursing talent pipeline

Alpena Community College and Saginaw Valley State University will collaborate to expand nursing education opportunities and grow the talent pool of nurses in Northern Michigan through a partnership supported by a grant from the State of Michigan.

Alpena Community College has selected SVSU as its partner university and ACC will receive a \$2 million grant to administer a program in collaboration with SVSU for nurses to complete their bachelor's degrees. Under the agreement, students who complete an Associate Degree of Nursing (ADN) at ACC can earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from SVSU's fully accredited program.

"For many years Michigan community colleges serving rural areas, such as ACC, attempted unsuccessfully to win legislative authorization to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree to support easier and more affordable access for local nurses to obtain their BSN," said ACC President Dr. Don MacMaster. "The historic bi-partisan compromise included in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget goes further to address this challenge than ever before. We're delighted to partner with Saginaw

Valley State University to work together to bring a BSN credential to the Alpena campus. We thank Governor Whitmer, Senator Stamas, and all those who supported this solution to a critical Northeast Michigan health care workforce issue. We expect our first cohort of BSN students to begin in fall 2023."

By empowering students in ACC's associate degree program to work concurrently toward a bachelor's degree from SVSU, the partnership will streamline the pathway to a bachelor's degree in nursing.

"The ACC/SVSU partnership allows our well-prepared Associate Degree Nursing students the ability to seamlessly transition into a highly recognized BSN program for degree advancement," said ACC Director of Nursing Kelli Leask. "This collaborative partnership supports the national nursing shortage initiatives and recognizes our commitment to excellence in nursing practice and education."

According to ACC Vice President of Instruction Steven Fosgard, "The selection of SVSU as our BSN partner came down to three factors: The quality of education and the student support mechanisms that SVSU offers to their BSN students; the

flexibility of programming offered for our students and community partners; and the opportunities that an ACC/SVSU partnership provides for our graduates and community."

"We enter this new partnership with Alpena Community College with great enthusiasm," said Marcia Ditmyer, dean of SVSU's Crystal M. Lange College of Health and Human Services. "ACC offers an excellent associate degree nursing education and plays a vital role in preparing nurses to serve healthcare providers in northeast Michigan."

"Through this partnership, we can continue to improve safe, high-quality health care services for future generations."

SVSU and ACC are among many Michigan institutions participating in this program to expand nursing education opportunities throughout the state. Under the \$56 million initiative, which is included in the fiscal year 2023 state budget, community colleges can receive funding to partner with a four-year college or university. This collaboration will include input from local employers and workforce development agencies. The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity will administer the grant.

Stacey Klump, SVSU's RN to BSN program coordinator, said attainment of the bachelor's degree offers registered nurses a comprehensive, holistic professional education focusing on best practice, community health, leadership and process improvement as it relates to patient safety and quality care.

"We are committed to serving ACC's ADN student nurse population to assure they have an opportunity to seek a successful completion of their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree," Klump said. "Through this partnership, students will be receiving their BSN from SVSU's fully accredited and community-minded program, while having the ability to maximize transfer credits to SVSU at ACC."

Health care providers such as MyMichigan Health recognize a growing need for highly prepared nurses.



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A team of physiatrists with specialized training and experience in rehabilitative care have joined Dr. Sohail Jilani, medical director of the Mary Free Bed at Covenant HealthCare Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Program.

Our inpatient program now serves children and adults with complex conditions, such as brain injuries, multiple trauma and spinal cord injuries. Outpatient services include follow-up care for former inpatients as well as treatment for common diagnoses, including back pain and disorders of muscles, tendons and bones.

For more information and referrals, please call 989.583.2720 (Outpatient Practice) or 989.583.2817 (Inpatient Rehabilitation).



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+ EDUCATION



2022-2023 GERSTACKER FELLOWS: THE 16TH COHORT OF THE GERSTACKER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM HAS BEGUN A YEARLONG LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM. THE 10 MEMBERS OF THE 2022-23 COHORT ARE (FRONT ROW LEFT TO RIGHT) ALYSSA REIMOLD, ROYAL OAK SCHOOLS; LISA TRAN, SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS; RITA VAN STAVEREN, OXFORD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS; CHRISTINA PRETZER, BULLOCK CREEK SCHOOLS; ALLISON VANDRIESSCHE, BAY CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS; (BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT) SARA TEPASTTE, OTTAWA AREA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT; LAURIE RICHARDS, SHEPERD PUBLIC SCHOOLS; NATHAN AQUALINA, LINDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS; KEVIN SUMMEY, SAGINAW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT; JESSICA BRUNSSELL, MIDLAND COUNTY ESA. (TIM INMAN, SVSU)

SVSU selects K-12 educators for Gerstacker leadership program

The 16th cohort of K-12 education leaders committed to professional growth have joined the Saginaw Valley State University 2023 Gerstacker Fellowship program.

As part of the initiative, 10 school leaders from across Michigan will participate in concentrated leadership training over a one-year period. As an extension of their study, the group will travel to Finland and Germany in the spring. Previous cohorts have traveled to China, South Korea, Poland, Japan, Taiwan, Finland and Germany.

During the international travel experience, participants visit educational institutions, to learn about global educational systems and different cultures. Last year's

group traveled to Germany. The group visited K-12 schools in Neundettelsau and Gunzenhausen, Hochschule Ansbach, Heidelberg University, and numerous cultural sites. This year's group will travel to Finland and Germany.

The program was established in 2005 with a \$1.5 million endowment from the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation of Midland. Participants, known as Gerstacker Fellows, meet monthly.

Experts in the field instruct the group on subjects such as leadership practices, organizational leadership, communication, cognitive coaching, finance and education, all with a global perspective.

“The Gerstacker Fellowship now includes over 170 people who have participated in the training,” said Mary Anne Ackerman, executive in residence at SVSU and co-director of the Gerstacker Program. “Together they focus on implementing best leadership practices to create school-based change and provide top-notch academic opportunities for our children.”

Those selected to participate in the 2023 program are as follows:

- Nathan Aquilina, director of human resources, Linden Community Schools.
- Jessica Brunsell, special education director, Midland County ESA (educational service agency).
- Christina Pretzer, teacher and nature coach, Bullock Creek Schools.
- Alyssa Reimold, high school assistant principal, Royal Oak Schools.
- Laurie Richards, elementary principal, Sheperd Public Schools.
- Kevin Summey, Great Lakes Early College coordinator, Saginaw Intermediate School District.
- Sara TePastte, literacy coach, Ottawa Area Intermediate School District.
- Lisa Tran, assistant superintendent, elementary education, Saginaw Public Schools.
- Allison VanDriessche, middle school assistant principal, Bay City Public Schools.
- Rita van Staveren, International Baccalaureate® coordinator, Oxford Community Schools.

For more information about the Gerstacker Fellowship at SVSU, visit <https://www.svsu.edu/collegeofeducation/gerstackerfellowshipprogram/>.



COURTESY PHOTO

Revisiting the Michigan Learning Channel (MLC)



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

December is a great time to consider the resource called “Michigan Learning Channel” (MLC). The MLC was developed by Michigan Public Broadcasting System (PBS) during the pandemic due to Internet access being limited in certain parts of Michigan. Now MLC remains active and is evolving into a useful educational resource for students, parents, and educators.

Designed to build student interest, MLC materials are age-appropriate and helped to narrow learning gaps created by the pandemic. “Old school” over-the-air technology is offered by PBS to students in reading, math, science, and social studies on their television stations as well as on-line.

“Over-the-air” is indeed, “old school,” because it aligns with antennas and cable receivers. Just like the 1960s, the TV set is turned “on” and the channels are selected. Conveniently, MLC airs over Delta College, CMU, and other PBS stations that are widely accessible in our area with a schedule of programs, free of charge.

At the same time, MLC is found online on the web at www.michiganlearning.org for basically two sets of audiences.

One is at home. Parents can log on and access age-appropriate materials on a variety of subjects such as math, science, social studies, and language arts. Books and materials can be downloaded for learners of all ages. Very impressive!

The other is at school. Educators can log on and access curriculum for use during the school year, including winter and summer breaks. These tools can be reviewed and sent online or used on site for classes. Again, cost-free and helpful, MLC is offered on demand.

These are great resources for students, especially with the holiday break coming up. What better way to spend some time learning more about a subject than to read

and review concepts on the MLC.

Here is an example I discovered that MLC offers for high school students.

Found in a series called “Great Lakes Wildlife,” I sampled a 26- minute episode that featured the “northern madtom,” a small, poisonous fish that is rarely seen because it lives on the river bed. (Did you know we have a poisonous fish?) Filmed by a husband-and-wife team from the Department of Public Resources, it fueled a curiosity for knowing more about the Great Lakes. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JAeuA31qYE8>

This is an example of how the MLC is working to keep students engaged during the school year and how it is supporting the work of teachers and parents beyond the pandemic. I hope it is a resource that readers will explore.

Resources:

<https://www.michiganlearning.org/lesson/sustainable-building-short/>

<https://www.michiganlearning.org/schedule/#page=schedule&day=20221206&provider=Broadcast>

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COURTESY PHOTO

Application open for Delta College scholarships

Delta College is currently accepting scholarship applications from future and current students for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Nearly 200 scholarships supplied by the Delta College Foundation are available, with many of them including multiple recipients. Last year, \$781,670 was awarded to 690 students.

“The scholarship I received from Delta helped me tremendously,” Adam Coenis said. “Delta’s tuition is already low, but the scholarship helped keep the bills down even more.”

Any Delta student can apply for a scholarship, which can help with the cost of tuition and other costs and it’s a gift, so students don’t have to pay it back. Most scholarships are worth \$1,000. Notification will be in April, 2023.

The scholarship application includes essays, which are scored anonymously by scholarship raters. Judging criteria includes word count, spelling and grammar, and demonstration of knowledge and emotional connection. The deadline to apply is February 1, 2023.

Every year, the Delta College Foundation supports hundreds of students through the generosity of donors who provide funding for the scholarships. See a list of all scholarships.

Individuals considering attending Delta fall semester 2023 are also encouraged to apply for a scholarship.

How to apply

1. Go to delta.edu/scholarships
2. Click on ‘Apply for a Scholarship’ on the left side of page

3. Click on ‘How do I apply’
4. Log into the AcademicWorks scholarship application link
5. Use Delta log-in to sign in

Before applying for a scholarship, applicants must be accepted at Delta College and have a student account. All scholarships must be used while at Delta College (with the exception of the Nickless Transfer Scholarship) and may not be transferred to another college or 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

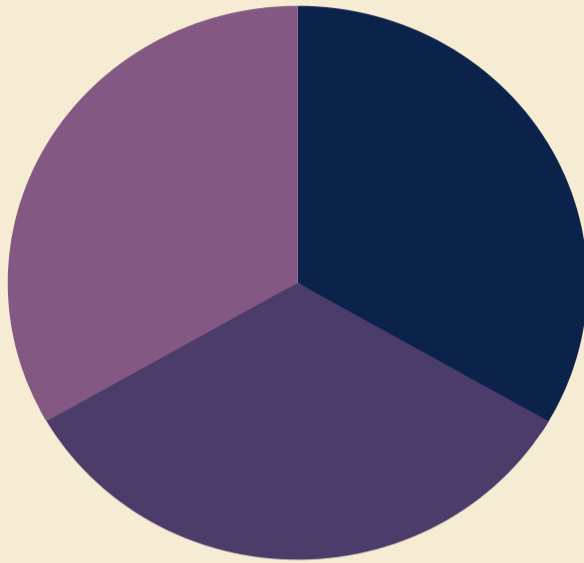
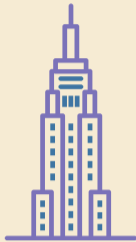
“Head Start graduates are more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to need special education, repeat a grade, or commit crimes in adolescence.”

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

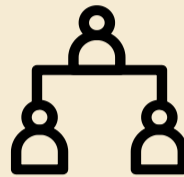
“Our mission is to provide high quality services, developing school readiness and family empowerment for prenatal to age five children and families by working in partnership with parents and the community.”
-Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

MI Tri-Share CHILD CARE

State of Michigan
33.3%



Employer
33.3%



Cost of child
care is
shared

Employee
33.3%

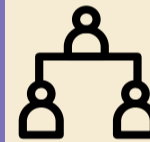


The MI Tri-Share Pilot (Tri-Share) is an innovative public/private partnership that shares the cost of child care equally between employers, employees, and the state of Michigan.

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>





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+ SPORTS

Special Olympics Michigan's award-winning 3-Hole Challenge to return to 2023 Dow GLBI schedule

MIDLAND, Mich. – Tournament officials announced that the Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational's Special Olympics 3-Hole Challenge program will be returning to the 2023 tournament. Scheduled for Friday, July 21, this annual event will welcome twelve Special Olympics athletes from Michigan's Great Lakes Bay Region. Athletes will compete in a three-hole, three-person scramble on holes 16, 17, and 18 at Midland Country Club. The Dow GLBI and the Special Olympics Michigan have teamed up for the Special Olympics 3-Hole Challenge since 2019.

"The Dow GLBI remains committed to furthering opportunities and introducing individuals of all skills and capabilities to the game of golf," said Dow GLBI Tournament Director Wendy Traschen. "We are proud to work alongside the Special Olympics Michigan to host this program. It truly is a great event, and we invite all spectators to come cheer on the Special Olympics athletes this July."

In addition to competition, athletes get a chance to take part in a variety of activities. At the 2022 Dow GLBI, TaylorMade partnered with the Dow GLBI to provide giveaways, branded Staff Bags and signage highlighting the three holes. TaylorMade also provided the athletes with dozens of golf balls and TaylorMade branded breakfast golf balls.

"TaylorMade Golf was honored to partner this year with Dow for the Special Olympics 3-Hole Challenge during the Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational," said TaylorMade Executive Vice President of Global Sales Brian Coffman. "Dow has a history of supporting the Midland community and we viewed this as a great chance to join forces in support of the game of golf. The partic-



COURTESY PHOTO

ipants had a great time getting an opportunity to play and we enjoyed being there in support."

Following competition, Special Olympics athletes got the chance to meet Dow Ambassador, Corey Pavin. Pavin offered tips to the players and spent time taking pictures with them. Athletes were then given the chance to sign hats and watch the third round of the Dow GLBI with their families in the Diamond Club hospitality area on 18th green. Additional enhancements for the 2023 Special Olympics 3-Hole Challenge will be announced at a later date.

"My favorite part of participating was how Dow and the LPGA made me feel like an important part of the whole tournament," said Adam White, Special Olympics Michigan Athlete. "I felt included and was grateful for how Dow, the Dow GLBI and everyone there welcomed me that day."

Most recently, the Dow GLBI's Special Olympics 3-Hole Challenge program was awarded with the LPGA's Gold Driver Award for Picture Perfect Moment. This Gold Driver Award is given annually during the LPGA's Tourna-

ment Partners End-of-Year Dinner at the CME Group Tour Championship in Naples, FL. Gold Driver Awards are voted on by a panel of three independent judges representing the LPGA Tour.

"It was an honor to be recognized by the LPGA for the Special Olympics 3-Hole Challenge," said Traschen. "We were excited to share this win with the Special Olympics Michigan and all of the athletes who have competed since 2019."

The Dow GLBI's Special Olympics 3-Hole Challenge is one of the many events that provide athletes a platform to compete and showcase skills at a professional level. Special Olympics Michigan provides year-round sports and health programs for nearly 24,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Athletes participate in several competitions throughout the year including 6 state-level competitions, 4 district basketball tournaments, and more than 700 local and regional competitions statewide. Details regarding the 2023 Special Olympics schedule will be available soon.

The 2023 Dow GLBI will take place July 17 - 22, at Midland Country Club. To stay up to date on the latest tournament news, follow @DowGLBI on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter or online at www.DowGLBI.com.



PICS OF THE WEEK

Saginaw County Commissioners are sworn in a swearing in ceremony held at the Saginaw County Court House.





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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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