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SPORTS

FIRED UP? THAT'S COACH SEALS, THE SAME AS WHEN HE WAS A TROJAN

SPORTS, PG 41



JOE MADISON

The Michigan Banner and The Rising of the Phoenix will host virtual event with Sirius XM Talk Radio Host Joe Madison

SAGINAW – All communities are invited to a free virtual networking event Friday, January 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., hosted by The Michigan Banner

newspaper, the Rising of the Phoenix organization and endorsed by the Michigan Publisher's Auxiliary. "Together, we have common issues and can aid one another, whether it's crime, unclean water, blight, or a diminished economy due to the pandemic," said Rev. Hurley J. Coleman, Jr., Pastor World Outreach Campus Church, and steering committee member.

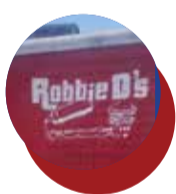
The event will allow attendees to network with residents from various communities. This is the first in a series of monthly networking meetings. The Rising of the Phoenix goal is to continue the conversation, share resources, information, and exchange ideas. Joe Madison will speak on community collaborations, bringing people from all communities together. He will filter questions during the Q & A. "We are fortunate to not only offer this as a free event, thanks to the generosity of our sponsor, Delta College," said Jerome Buckley, "but we are equally as fortunate to have as our keynote speaker, Mr. Joe Madison, The Black Eagle, who is a national, radio talk show host on Sirius XM Urban View."

The program will feature a distinguished panel of program participants as follows:

- **Dr. Michael Gavin**, President, Delta College
- **Linda Holoman**, Retired Program Director, Soul Issues, Delta College

- **Loyce Seals-Brown**, Director of Employment Development, Delta College
- **Rev. P. David Saunders**, Pastor Emeritus Bethel A.M.E. Church Saginaw MI
- **Rev. Hurley J. Coleman, Jr.**, Pastor World Outreach Campus Church, Saginaw MI
- **Rev. Christopher V. Pryor**, Pastor Victorious Believers Ministries COGIC, Saginaw MI
- **Julian Morris**, CEO, S.W.A.G. (Students with a gift) magazine
- **Mr. Terry Pruitt**, President, N.A.A.C.P. Saginaw Branch
- **State Rep. Amos O'Neal**, (D-Saginaw)
- **Dr. Angela Guy-Lee**, Instructor, Sociology, Delta College
- **Dr. Kimberly Klein**, Professor, Political Science, Delta College
- **Dr. Ray Lacina**, Professor, English, Delta College
- **Dr. Lisa Lawrason**, Professor, Political Science, Delta College
- **Nikita Murry**, Ph.D. Director Diversity Education, Central Michigan University

The event will be streamed live on YouTube at the start of the program. To connect, follow link <https://youtu.be/HTqkxkZWa7vM>. You may email any questions for Mr. Madison's Q & A segment to publisher020@gmail.com. Additional information may be found on The Michigan Banner's Facebook page, @TheNewMichiganBanner.



Come rain, sleet or snow, the food vendor (ex-mailman) delivers

LATINO BANNER, COVER



Councilman voted down on hero pay for private sector COVID-era labor

COMMUNITY, PG 14



Construction slowdown doesn't delay Saginaw school naming plans

EDUCATION, PG 33

FEATURED STORY

ARPA/ESSER OVERTAKES COVID AND CRIME ATOP SAGINAW'S 2021 HEADLINES

COMMUNITY, PG 11



MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Next Level Leaders in 2022

As we move into a new year, and hopefully avoid the age-old trap of setting soon to be forgotten resolutions, taking stock of what is happening around us is essential. Taking stock with the intention of helping to build safe and healthy communities will require a new level of leadership – next level leaders. These next level folk have already set their sights on challenges we are currently facing and are seeking solutions needed to effect positive change. These leaders aren't focused on titles, fame, or even personal gain (i.e., enriching themselves at the expense of others). They know their strengths, they recognize the value of teamwork and enlist the support of like-minded leaders as needed, and they are laser focused on getting the job done. They are creative thinkers – visionaries who may be young or a bit more mature – leaders are not limited to a particular age group.



The late Dr. Myles Monroe defined leadership as, 'the capacity to influence others through inspiration, motivated by a passion, generated by a vision, produced by a conviction, and ignited by a purpose'. Dr. Monroe was a Pastor, author of many books, world renowned speaker and I think most importantly, a man of great character. He taught and trained leaders all over the world to be individuals of character using both Biblical and secular principles. I have followed his teachings for decades and continue to read his books and listen to his recordings on a regular basis. Dr. Monroe is but one of countless educators who provide insight into the growth and development of great leaders. Next level leaders are also men and women of character and integrity. They will be unrelenting in their efforts to enhance their own leadership skills but also to mentor a next generation of leaders who will diligently strive to seek knowledge in their area of expertise (be informed) then stand for what they know to be true.

Next level leadership requires the ability to know your lane, to stay in it but to remain alert – don't miss your exit ramp. During a recent vacation to California, I found myself in a city much larger than Saginaw. I was in a rented vehicle in which even as an excellent driver I found myself unfamiliar with various settings and gadgets. I was in the wrong lane and traveling at a high rate of speed (to keep up with the ebb and flow of traffic) which caused me to miss the exit - three times. My family member who was from the area and familiar with the very rapid pace of commuters at rush hour finally warned me that another missed exit would result in the revocation of my driving privileges for the remainder of the trip! I quickly regained my focus and found my way to our destination. Next level leaders will know their destination – their goal or end game. They will know the right lane to use – the tools needed to accomplish the goals. They will know when to slow down or increase their pace – timing is critical to success, and they will know when to exit – most things worth fighting for won't be accomplished overnight. Next level leaders will take time to regroup, recharge and regain focus as needed.

Next level leaders – we have work to do. The Michigan Banner staff, each a leader in their own right has begun the process of making 2022 a stellar year for the Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond. We have a renewed commitment to our promise (not a resolution) to provide you with positive, current, and factual news.

Happy New Year, from The Michigan Banner!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome Buckley".

Jerome Buckley
Publisher, Michigan Banner

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MISSION

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

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

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H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

2022

FROM
**THE MICHIGAN
BANNER**

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WORKING TOGETHER. SHARING THE DREAM.

A Regional MLK Celebration!



Wednesday, January 19, 2022 • 7 p.m.
in the SVSU Malcolm Field Theatre

“Our lives begin to end
the day we become silent
about things that matter.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Pre-recorded fireside chat Dr. Condoleezza Rice, 66th Secretary of State



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

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

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

This event will be held at SVSU and will feature:

- A pre-recorded fireside chat between Dr. Condoleezza Rice and Dr. Mamie T. Thorns
- Presentation of the MLK Scholarship Awards
- Presentation of the Regional Drum Major Awards.

Register at svsu.edu/mlk

Online registration is required for attending virtually or in-person.

Face masks are required for all in-person attendees.

For more information, please visit svsu.edu/mlk or contact the Office of Diversity Programs at (989) 964-4068.

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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE



COURTESY PHOTO

Seen on the Scene: Christmas with Angels

LB PG 5



ROBERT DELGADO

Come rain, sleet or snow, the food vendor (ex-mailman) delivers

By MIKE THOMPSON

Saginaw's Robert Delgado no longer will bring your mail to your front door.

He has stepped down from nearly a decade with the Postal Service to devote his full energy to his beloved Robbie D's food truck.

Now he is free full-time to deliver an array of burgers, along with beef and chicken cheesesteaks, wing-dings, sausages, even his own one-of-a-kind buffalo catfish.

He's the type of short-order cook who we might find on "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives," charismatic and popular with patrons, if only Guy Fieri might pay a visit to this up-and-down small town along I-75.

"When you love to cook," Rob says, "it shows in the food that you share with others."

CONTINUES ON LB PG 2,
ROBBIE D'S

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



Continued from LB Cover, Robbie D's

He is one of three children born to Robert and Grace Delgado and a 2008 graduate of Arthur Hill High School. He launched his food venture at the May 2018 Cinco de Mayo parade, prior to when food trucks became popular in Saginaw during the past two years. His debut was burgers only, under a 10-by-10-foot tent.

Family, friends and curious onlookers spotted Robbie D's among vendors on a sunny spring post-parade afternoon at downtown's Huntington Park.

"It went so well that my cousin volunteered to head out to Gordon's for more hamburger meat and more buns," he said, referring to Jay Garcia, manager of the Saginaw Boxing Club, featured in The Latino Banner last Aug. 16.

Delgado thinks as he speaks, adding: "I can't even remember whether I paid Jay. All I know is that my family members have been there to support me, and they all have made a difference. I couldn't do this without them."

Menu expands beyond burgers

He eventually advanced a full-scale vehicle with kitchen facilities to expand far

beyond hamburgers, and now he has attained an upgrade, putting the familiar red truck up for sale.

Half of his enterprise is catering family special events, and half is setting up shop, most often at the Advanced Auto Parts store on Bay at Davenport, backed by streams of word-of-mouth on social media.

Unlike most of his vendor peers, he is maintaining operations through the winter months.

"I don't worry so much about staying warm myself," he notes. "I'm more concerned with keeping the food hot for my customers. They can place their orders, go back to the warmth of their cars, and we will bring it out to them."

Voc ed becomes food truck ed

Delgado's inspiration took root during his junior and senior high school years, when he split his time between Arthur Hill and voc-ed at the Saginaw Career Complex.

He first signed up for a media communications class, but found it "boring" and randomly switched to culinary arts, a

subject area in which pupils have achieved regional and even national honors in restaurant-style food prep competitions. He felt such enthusiasm that he has stayed in touch with instructor Julie Ivan, who invites him to volunteer on occasion as a classroom assistant.

"I fell in love with cooking," says Rob, who started with pastries and cheesecakes but turned down an immediate job with a local bake shop, choosing instead the security of the USPS. But now, single with only an 11-year-old son to help support, he will continue to pursue the food truck gamble.

He may have dropped out of media studies at the Career Complex but his menu, online on Facebook, reflects flashes of public relations acumen. He describes various items with such attractive phrasings as "cooked to perfection" and "savory" and "everyone's favorite."

As for his own favorite, Robbie D either has none, possesses a huge appetite or is taking marketing to the max.

"I like everything," he declares.



FACEBOOK.COM/ROBBIE-DS-172575796906972

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LATINO BANNER
SERMONETTE SERIES

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'"

Matthew 1:23



By **PASTOR AUGUSTINE DELGADO**
NEW BEGINNINGS
MINISTRIES

A King Stepped Down

As we are in the heart of the Christmas season, let us take a few minutes and reflect on the goodness of God.

We may be down at times, but not out for the count. Pockets may be light but never empty. We may be sick or healthy, on a mountain or in a valley, but one thing we should always keep in mind is, God is always with us.

We shall be blessed in the city and blessed in the field and blessed going out and blessed coming back in. It's all possible because "A King Stepped Down From His Throne."

*Save
the Date*

10th Annual
PREMIOS K?ONDA!

Saturday, March 5, 2022

at Horizons Conference Center
6200 State Street
Saginaw, MI 48603

Seen on the Scene:

On Saturday, December 18, "Christmas with Angels" hosted their annual Christmas giveaway event at the Union Civica Mexicana.



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+ COMMUNITY

2021 SAGINAW YEAR IN REVIEW



SAGINAW RIVER

ARPA/ESSER overtakes COVID and crime atop Saginaw's 2021 headlines

By MIKE THOMPSON

Two of Saginaw's top local news stories of 2021, covid and guns, were not really new at all.

Response to the covid pandemic and to all of the hardship actually took its first deep roots through the bulk of 2020, and the meetings and marches over gun violence tragically have been transpiring for years.

The main new development, and thus the No. 1 Saginaw story of 2021, was the gradual revelation that mid-Michigan governing units and schools are in line for well more than a combined \$100 million in federal funds, in the name of combating covid-era poverty and promoting economic renewal.

City schools will reap \$65 million, City Hall \$52 million and county government \$37 million, with smaller but still-substantial sums going to suburbs and small towns. Funds for ARPA, American Recovery Plan Act, and ESSER, Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief, were

put in place near the start of 2021 and have no relation to the current ongoing debates over "infrastructure" and "Build Back Better."

Local governing units will use funding shares to bolster their own hard-pressed budgets. More than 20 third-party nonprofits, ranging for example from First Ward Center to Great Lakes Bay Health to Child and Family Services, are seeking financial support.

Leaders who carry final say-so over how ARPA and ESSER funds will be discharged, for which specific purposes, have proceeded with caution. Some local activists have pushed for more urgency. The pace of proceedings took an uptick during the year's closing months, and final decisions are due at some point in 2022.

Speaking of urgency, concerns regarding killings reached a peak in mid-summer before returning to the usual level, which still stands as unacceptable. The main August outbreak was between individuals and families who were acquainted with one another. Overall rates of violent crime actually were somewhat reduced, although

of course this is no solace to those who lost loved ones.

Meanwhile, a new Saginaw Citizens/Police Advisory Commission gathered only twice, and the main decision made by volunteer appointees was an agreement that they only need to meet every two months, instead of every month.

The Michigan Banner's reporting on ARPA/ESSER began on June 1, ahead of other local media, and has continued in each biweekly edition, which are archived on our print edition website. A panel discussion on the relentless gunplay was published Aug. 16

Following is a review of other top stories, with MB archive dates in parentheses.

*** **

A group of nine past childhood regulars announced they had obtained Neighborhood House, the popular South Side community center that had been closed by Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, now Samaritas, on account of lack of funds. (Feb. 1) They mapped plans to preserve and renew the facility, and later received a \$25,000 grant from the Saginaw Community Foundation.

*** **

Saginaw School District leaders revealed plans for building projects after voter approval of a \$99.95 million bond issue as part of the November 2020 presidential election. The main highlight is a unified high school, to be built at the existing SASA site. Later in the year, discussions began on choosing a name, along with sports team colors and a mascot. Meanwhile, school officials revealed that covid troubles would delay construction, pushing back the scheduled opening to September 2024, a one-year delay.

**CONTINUES ON PG 12,
2021 HEADLINES**

+ COMMUNITY

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Amazon submitted blueprints for a distribution center in Buena Vista Township's northern business section near the M-81 highway, employing more than 100 with wages starting at \$15 an hour. (Feb. 1). Later in the year, BV received a \$200,000 USDA grant to establish a farmers market in the rear of the old Buena Vista High School. Volunteers cleaned the site, which has been closed since the 2014 state shutdown of BV schools.

*** **



LILLIE WILLIAMS, HURLEY J. COLEMAN III

participants, including Jimmie Truss, who earned a measure of local appreciation and fame for his volunteer efforts to mount his riding mower for ongoing care of vacant lots. Jimmie still encourages neighbors to "adopt a lot" among more than 2,000 tax-reverted properties in Saginaw, many of them overgrown. Later, near the end of June, One Street/One City completed its 10th annual campaign in the area near Saginaw High School. (June 16)

*** **



LUME (3446 STATE ST, SAGINAW, MI)

Longtime Saginaw County CAC director Lillie Williams retired, succeeded by Hurley J. Coleman III, who had been serving in his father's church while selling automobiles at Garber Buick. Coleman vowed to maintain Community Action Committee traditions while also exploring fresh new ways to deliver anti-poverty services. (April 16) Meanwhile, Deputy Director Mary McMath received tributes for her 40th anniversary, having gained experience in virtually all phases of CAC operations.

*** **

Saginaw water shutoffs for unpaid bills resumed (July 1, July 16) after a one-year waiver during COVID times, but protests caused city leaders to stop the shutoffs. Instead, water customers in hardship were steered to local agencies for aid, mainly from the Saginaw CAC and from First Ward Community Center. Differences of opinion emerged between low-income residents, as those who were working asserted that others receiving unemployment comp should not receive additional aid for water/sewer charges.

*** **

Early in the year, City Hall received 15 applications for newly legal marijuana stores. (March 16, July 1). A few minor protests surfaced, but none was sustained. By year's end, the only two to have opened were Lume, 3446 State at Court, and Premier, 910 East Genesee near Janes, Legalized communities across the state received less tax revenue, with \$4,000 annual registration fees, than optimists had predicted.

*** **

Daveon Thompson, 23, remained jailed after two hung juries when prosecutors charged him in the January 2018 murder of Anthony Parham. The Michigan Banner convened a panel of law enforcement leaders who tackled the topic of "double jeopardy" in multiple trials. (April 1) Thompson later was convicted by a unanimous jury in his third trial.

*** **



OJIBWAY ISLAND ENTRANCE

Saginaw NAACP leaders (April 1, April 16) protested a group of 39 Republican proposals for voting reform, asserting that these are Trump-connected schemes to restrict ethnic minority participation. Proposals still are lingering, with a GOP-controlled Legislature unable to overcome veto pledges by Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

*** **

A major renovation of Garber Tennis Courts was ready to get started (April 26, Aug. 1), with courts also for the newly popular game of pickleball. Organizers hope for a return to the mid-to-late 1900s, when participation was large enough for regular instructional classes and tournaments.

*** **

Some confusion existed when Ojibway Island was permanently closed to motor vehicles, based on misconduct by a small portion of visitors that was deemed unsafe. (July 16, Aug. 1) This resulted not from a City Council vote,

Mayor Brenda Moore organized a citywide cleanup (May 1) as her first major initiative, drawing more than 100

CONTINUES ON PG 13,
2021 HEADLINES

+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 12, 2021 Headlines

but from a decision by City Manager Tim Morales as responsible for "day to day" operations under the 1936 City Charter. As a result, council members were absolved from going on the record in the crunch for a controversial topic.

*** **



SAGINAW AFRICAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL

The 53rd annual Saginaw African Cultural Festival, among the nation's longest-standing events of its kind, resumed partially at Morley School Park after a covid hiatus in 2020. (Aug. 1) Supporters rallied with a unity march across the Morley grounds and across the I-675 overpass to Wadsworth Street.

*** **

Leaders of FACTS, the Food Access Collaborative Team of Saginaw, were organized (Aug. 1) with hopes of establishing a co-op at a northeast "food desert" location, possibly the vacant Civitan Center, which would be convenient both for neighbors and for delivery trucks exiting I-675. Low-income residents would quality for subsidies and for stretch-a-buck meal prep lessons.

*** **

The Saginaw NAACP's 50th anniversary Freedom Fund dinner and celebration was presented to audiences both in-person and online with keynoter Ron Busby, president of the U.S. Black Chamber. Honorees were Odail Thorns and his spouse, Mamie, along with Monica Reyes. In a new category, Young

Professionals, an added 11 tributes were issued. (Aug. 16, Sept. 16).

*** **



SAGINAW COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Residents of the former county fairgrounds area protested overgrowth and abandonment of the site, along with the huge eyesore that resulted in the former Saginaw Manufacturing plant a half mile north on East Genesee. Solutions may prove difficult because the Saginaw Housing Commission owns the fairgrounds, on account of a misguided deal 20 years ago, and the Saginaw County Land Bank has possession of the old GM location. Neighbors are requesting ARPA funds for cleanup and renewal. (Sept. 1).

*** **

City Councilman Reggie Williams caused a stir when he asserted that he joins local leaders in "meeting after meeting with great ideas, but we don't seem to make any of it happen." In a Michigan Banner survey, some of his peers agreed while others responded that accomplishments are either overlooked or are taken for granted. (Sept. 16)

*** **

The Consortium of Homeless Assistance Providers explored the prospects of converting the vacant Houghton Elementary building into low-income housing, but when leaders of the Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Association asked for an information meet-

ing, Chairman Dan Streeter of the Saginaw City Rescue Mission canceled both the public hearing and the exploratory plan. He said that without the support of Houghton area residents, the consortium would look elsewhere. (Oct. 1, Oct. 16)

*** **

The 2-year-old Youth Development Corp., a job training and placement program established in the spirit of the former OIC, received a \$500,000 state grant on top of an earlier \$1.5 million allocation from the U.S. Department of Labor. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer presented the Lansing funds in tight quarters at the YDC downtown headquarters at 126 South Weadock. (Nov. 1)

*** **

Another state grant, this time \$4.5 million, will begin a 20-year, \$50 million long-term project to replace all of Saginaw's older lead-based water pipes. Saginaw's needs are related to old age but the water from Lake Huron still is rated as safe to consume, unlike Flint where the poisoning problems were mainly caused by improper treatment. (Nov. 1)

*** **

Don Bachand retired as Saginaw Valley State University's president, following the footsteps earlier in the year of Jean Goodnow at Delta College. Goodnow's successor is Michael Gavin, who was an East Coast community college administrator. The SVSU board will pursue Bachand's replacement with two new Whitmer-appointed replacements, Carl "Mac" Williams and Vanessa Guerra. (Dec. 1)

*** **

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation at Covenant Health Care was dedicated on the main campus, three stories with 60 beds near the former site of North Intermediate School, reflecting an ongoing commitment to maintain a presence within the city limits. (Dec. 16)

+ COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

Saginaw council rejects pay boosts for private sector COVID-era workers

By MIKE THOMPSON

So-called "premium" or "hero" pay supplements for private sector workers who encounter health risks during the COVID pandemic will not receive consideration from the Saginaw City Council.

Members voted 6-3 on Dec. 20 to reject the idea, based in main part on City Manager Tim Morales asserting that such an attempt "would not be an allowable use" of federal anti-poverty funds under ARPA, the American Recovery Plan Act.

The three "no" votes came from the newest members elected in November 2020. Monique Lamar Silvia and George Copeland said they simply desired more information, leaving Michael Flores as the main dissenter and continuing his year-long clashes with Morales and the longer-serving council members.

The concept of premium pay is that service workers who frequently interact with the public should receive extra wages

to help compensate for their sacrifices and their exposures to covid. With the Dec. 20 vote, the council may consider premium pay only for its own municipal employees, such as police officers and firefighters.

Flores read from a laundry list of occupations, such as health care workers and K-12 teachers, that Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has identified as "essential" during covid times.

Morales answered that no matter what Whitmer may have said in general, ARPA rules prevent wage subsidies for private employers. After the meeting, he told The Banner that in response to the concerns that Flores first raised at the Dec. 6 meet, he double-checked with the U.S. Department of Treasury, along with financial advisors Plante & Moran, and received the same not-allowed response. He added that a separate state program, not related to ARPA, potentially may add up to \$2.35 an hour to medical workers' wages.

Flores continued to insist that if Whitmer said "essential," then those private

personnel should be considered eligible.

At this point, he received flak from some of the veteran council members.

Mayor Brenda Moore repeatedly called for "a point of order" to silence Flores, even though this specific stricture is considered invalid under Robert's Rules for conducting meetings unless a speaker is breaking rules.

Members Annie Boensch and Reggie Williams suggested that Flores is engaged in a conflict of interest because he is employed by Service Employees International Union, which represents Hoyt Nursing Care nurse aides and support staff who repeatedly have asked the council for premium pay. Flores responded that he has he personally would not reap financial gain, and that his proposal would equally benefit non-union support staff at other city-based care facilities. Two of them are Samaritas and Luther Manor, both located within the Davenport-and-State corridor.

"Our day jobs don't belong here (at the council table)," Williams admonished.

Differences between Flores and council veterans first became public early in 2021, when he said he suspected that some members secretly were communicating on their cell phones during issue discussions and votes. Members were vehement in their denials, with Boensch answering that Flores was entering a "silly season." Other conflicts have ranged from issues that range from police conduct to the closing of Ojibway Island to vehicle traffic.

As a backdrop, Flores is the second Latino elected to the City Council in Saginaw's history, following the footsteps of Dan Soza Jr., and Morales is the first Latino city manager in 86 years under the 1936 City Charter.

In related business, members voted 7-2 to form a temporary advisory panel for spending the \$52 million from ARPA, overlooking the nearly identical role of the 47-year-old Human Planning Commission to monitoring federal block grant budgets, annually in the \$3 million range. Flores and Silvia were the opponents. Mayor Moore now is responsible for submitting between 10 and 15 nominees, each subject to council approval. Anyone interested in applying may contact the city clerk's office, 759-1475.

Saginaw Promise

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For Details: Visit www.saginawpromise.org or telephone the Saginaw Promise (989)-755-0545

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What did Africa want me to know?



By CRYSTAL GREEN

I had the honor of visiting Accra, Ghana this year, which came with feelings and thoughts that I have found myself struggling to process nearly everyday since. How could I feel at home in a place I had never even seen before? Yet how could I simultaneously feel so disconnected from this whole other world that was filled with people who non verbally answered every question about the origins of my existence? And perhaps more importantly, what did Africa want me to know?

On one end of the city, independent salespersons of sorts sold everyday goods in makeshift street shops or curvy queens made deals with busy drivers just hoping to quench their thirst. But on the other end of the city, sun-kissed villagers made land and water work for them, kept goats as friends and feasts alike,

while showing every pearly white tooth in their mouth as the sun constantly caressed their beautiful brown skin.

As an American, I could have easily judged those villagers. I could have easily compared them to the city hustlers and to have shown preference to the latter simply because life looked easier for them. More comfortable, perhaps. But I didn't. I watched. And from the backseat of a small car, I observed and allowed their actions to teach me what I believe Africa wanted me to know: to slow down... to just live... before precious moments become memories I only wish I could recall. Because life... will be there... until it isn't.

I returned to America feeling incredibly conflicted however, I began to see myself, my life and those I share space with in a whole new light. Since my return, I've practiced compassion and understanding where a decade ago I would have lost complete control. I've accepted my upbringing and have grown empathy for those who have once wronged me. I've gained confidence in myself as a filmmaker and storyteller and the career possibilities that lie ahead. And most importantly, I've learned that things are always exactly as they should be, regardless of how the moments make you feel.

At the end of every day, despite my progress, I must always face my truth— that I am still just the little sheltered Eli girl from the mysterious house on Webber. That some days it's easier to remind myself how far I've come than others. And that life doesn't lie, despite the emotional implications of it all. But these days, that truth comes with a badge of honor. Because I know exactly who I am. And I'm more than okay with that.

May the year ahead bring an abundance of peace and joy to us all. Thank you for sharing space with me.

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

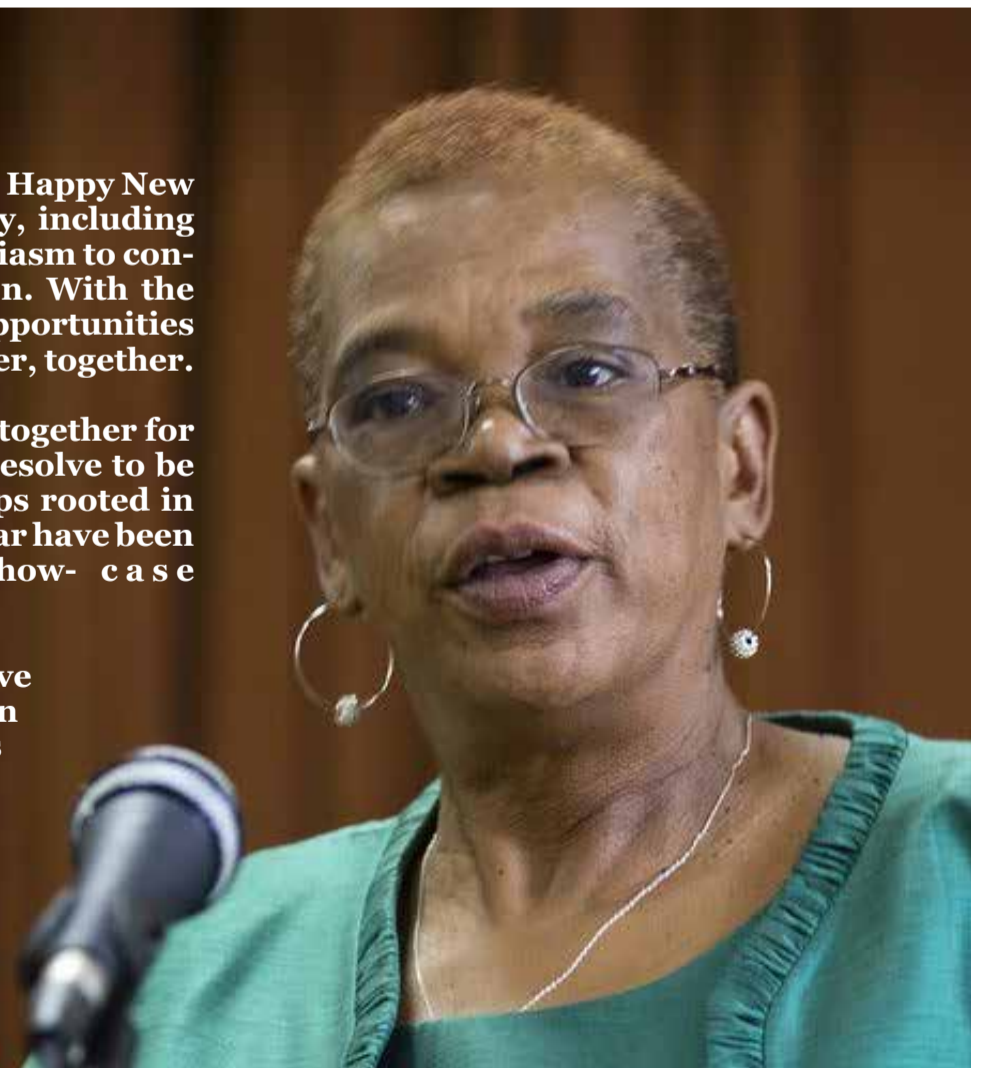
Greetings Saginaw,

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This was a challenging year for our community, including myself. I am looking forward to 2022 with such enthusiasm to continue moving our beloved Saginaw into a new season. With the help of our citizens, the Council can further develop opportunities that will change and enhance Saginaw to grow, stronger, together.

In creating a better city, we all must continue to work together for the good of all. As we approach the new year, let us resolve to be better citizens and better neighbors with relationships rooted in generosity and kindness. The challenges of this past year have been difficult, but it presented us with an opportunity to show- c a s e the very best of our community

What makes Saginaw so unique and special is the love we show one another, and enduring our determination take OUR city back. During this holiday season, let's reflect on the past, embrace the present and cast our eyes to the future of a vibrant and even stronger Saginaw.

**Yours in service,
Mayor Brenda F. Moore**



Mosher promoted to Midland Fire Department Chief

MIDLAND – The City of Midland is pleased to announce that Joshua Mosher has been promoted to chief of the Midland Fire Department (MFD) effective January 1, 2022. He succeeds Chief Chris Coughlin, who will retire effective December 31, 2021.

Mosher joined the Midland Fire Department as fire marshal in 2012 and was promoted to his current role, assistant fire chief of training and safety, in 2017. During his tenure with the City, he has led the Firehouse Software Committee, assisted with implementing and training on the department's 'I Am Responding' call back system, and was instrumental in the implementation of MFD's Subject Matter Expert and Acting Fire Inspector programs. Mosher's career accolades include being named Fire Inspector of the Year by the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society in 2015, Saginaw Township Fire Department's Firefighter of the Year in 2011, and Thomas Township Fire Department's Firefighter of the Year in 2002; and receiving the American Red Cross Celebration of Everyday Heroes Firefighter Award in 2003.

In addition to his accomplishments, Mosher brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. He holds an as-



JOSHUA MOSHER

sociate's degree in fire science from Delta College and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Northwood University. He also holds the following certifi-

cations: State of Michigan Fire Inspector, Emergency Medical Technician – Basic (EMT-B), Fire Fighter II, Fire Officer I, II, & III, and Fire Service Instructor; the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Incident Management System/Incident Management System for Fire Service; and is certified as a fire plan examiner and fire inspector through the National Fire Protection Association.

"Josh's extensive experience and vast knowledge as a first responder, coupled with his passion to serve the Midland community, make him the perfect candidate for this position," said City Manager Brad Kaye. "The Midland Fire Department is in very capable hands under his leadership and we look forward to his continued success in this new role."

For more information on the Midland Fire Department, please visit www.cityofmidlandmi.gov/fire or follow Midland Fire Department – Midland, MI on Facebook and @midlandfdmi on Instagram.

City of Saginaw receives distinguished budget presentation award

SAGINAW – The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) is pleased to announce that the City of Saginaw has received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021. The GFOA has presented this award to the City of Saginaw's Office of Management and Budget. This is the 14th year in a row that the City of Saginaw's Office of Management and Budget has received this honor.

In order to receive the budget award, the City must achieve the highest principles of governmental budgeting. These guidelines are designed to assess how well a City's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four

categories, and the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

"Our intent is to create a budget that is easily understood, one that reflects the city's commitment to transparency and accountability. The budget document is the venue in which this can be demonstrated. I believe the budget document allows the community to hold us, the City, accountable for the plans and policies we put into place. I am excited and honored that the City has earned this award for fourteen consecutive years. We will continue to work on producing a superior document, and hopefully continue to receive this award for many years to come" – Yolanda M. Jones, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

There are over 1,000 recipients in the

Budget Awards Program. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

The Government Finance Officers Association is a major professional association servicing the needs of more than 18,000 appointed and elected local, state, and provincial-level government officials and other finance practitioners. It provides top quality publications, training programs, services, and products designed to enhance the skills and performance of those responsible for government finance policy and management.

For additional information concerning this press release, please call Yolanda M. Jones, Director of the Office of Management & Budget at 989-759-1784.

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FRONT ROW KNEELING LEFT TO RIGHT: VALERIE MORRIS, FOSTER CARE SUPERVISOR, NAUTICA JACKSON, LICENSING SPECIALIST, PENNY BONNER, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, MARLEY CHASE, ADOPTION SPECIALIST, ANGELA SPENCER, LICENSING SPECIALIST.
TOP ROW STANDING LEFT TO RIGHT: ANGELIA GILDNER, FOSTER CARE SPECIALIST, ADRIA MOORE, ADOPTION SPECIALIST, DEBORAH PETTWAY, DIRECTOR CHILD WELFARE, AUGUST ZECH, ADOPTION SUPERVISOR, MITCHELL HARRIS, MELANIE HARRIS.

A young family's mission of giving back at Christmas....



By **CYNTHIA WEST-EDWARDS**

Celebrating Christmas means spending time with family, exchanging gifts, and seeing the joy and smiles on children's faces when they tear into those boxes of neatly wrapped presents on Christmas morning.

But for many children, this is not the case.

There are not the neatly wrapped presents filled with toys for them to open. According to the Children's Defense Fund, "More than 1.5 million children enrolled in public schools experienced homelessness during the 2018-2019 school year." Additional statistics show that, "A child is removed from their home and placed in foster care every two minutes." In 2019, there were over 420,000 children in foster care nationally, of whom 41 percent were under the age of six. According to the State of Michigan's website, as of October 2021, there were over 10,000 children living in some sort of foster care.

These are staggering numbers, and you might ask yourself, what can the average person do to help? You might throw up your hands and say, there's nothing I can do, the numbers are too great. But, for one young couple, they decided to take this on and help families each year, at Christmas, one child at a time. Mitchell and Melanie Harris have only been married seven short years, with a bright, rambunctious six-year-old son, Joshua. They both grew up in Flint, attended Northern High School, and went their separate ways; Mitchell obtaining his degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga., and Melanie obtaining hers from Hampton University in Hampton, Va.

Now married and raising their family in Northern Virginia, they have been using their resources to give back to the community in which they live. However, this year, Mitchell decided to give back within the community where he grew up, the Flint community. At first, he didn't know where to start. However, in his research, he found out about Catholic Charities and their foster care and adoption program run by Deborah Pettway, Director of Child Welfare. He along with his wife, Melanie, decided to expand their giving in a big way.

Catholic Charities has 75 children in their program. To tackle this more effec-

tively, the Harris' instilled the help of over 30 family, friends, and coworkers, to assist in this initiative. Each person was assigned between 2 - 3 children to purchase gifts. Through their collaborative efforts, no child was left without and together, they distributed over \$3200 worth of gifts, including toys and clothing to the organization.

As if this wasn't enough, Mitchell had the idea to coordinate the gift-giving as an acknowledgement of his birthday. Knowing that Christmas was close at hand, he requested no gifts for himself, but to give to the children's program instead. Mitchell said, "In seeking organizations to assist, I researched Catholic Charities, because Deborah Pettway is my cousin and I wanted to provide a little background information to my network of contributors." He went on to say, "This is just the initial step to hopefully giving over the course of the year to assist Catholic Charities and possibly other organizations with children in foster care." Melanie said, "This was so rewarding, to have our network of contributors give from their hearts." She added, it was uncertain how these children would spend Christmas, but now we know that 75 children will wake up with smiles on their faces on Christmas morning."

It is evident that the Harris' are not only compassionate individuals, but they have the community at heart and are making a difference.

If you would like to aid Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties in their efforts, please contact Deborah Pettway, Director of Child Welfare at (810) 232-3418 Ext. 321 or dpettway@ccsgc.org.

Cynthia West-Edwards is a free-lance journalist and marketing manager for The Michigan Banner. As the former Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration, her column "Social Security Issues" appeared in multiple local newspapers across the state of Michigan, including The Michigan Banner. Following a 37-year career with the agency, she retired in 2013. When she's not working with The Banner, she is actively involved with her sorority, Flint Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and spending time with her grandchildren.



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*Let the words of
my mouth and the
meditation of my
heart be acceptable
in Your sight, O
Lord, my rock and
my redeemer*

(Psalms 11:3)



By PASTOR RODRICK A. SMITH
ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH

Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me. This is not true because words can be hurtful. Not only that, but perceptions are often based on what someone has said. Opinions are formed as a result of something articulated. Lives, homes, friendships, marriages, and churches have been torn apart because of words that were spoken. Our children's thinking is shaped by what they constantly hear. So words do matter, and we should be careful what we say and how we say it. David is concerned about his speech in general, which includes his casual conversations. As king he is concerned about his decrees and judicial decisions which affect so many. But he is also concerned about the thoughts, ponderings, and meditations of his heart. This is important because man's words and workings originate in the heart, which is the seat of the mind, emotions, and will. His main concern is that God would be pleased with both; his talk and his thoughts. This is because God was his Rock and Redeemer. God is the One who brings stability, security, safety, and sanity into our lives. And Christ is the One who paid the price of our redemption. Man's meditations and mouthings matter.

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The Case in the Courtroom

By Doniqua Sovia



Count on them to start the drama, then look around to see who caused it, we're all looking at you the culprit, so don't act like the victim and own it.

I'd say it's rather typical, for you to act hypocritical, and your way of doing it is diabolical, but we're on to your schemes.

You told us to be ourselves, cause if we were the same, it'd be boring, but when we're ourselves, you begin the mutilating. You shame us from head to toe, and tell us how to act like you, when it's simply not so, and should we challenge your ways, you tell us we're demented and should stay at a certain place.

But the truth is your warped, it's a lose, lose situation, and you are the cause. You airbrush people and their way of thinking, then present it to others as if it were the real thing.

You photoshop, constantly crop, and remove what makes us unique, and form a whole Army made to obliterate the meek. You act as if you are a friend, who instill confidence and is loyal to the end, but when something happens that you see is out of order, you immediately turn into the foe and drag us down with your cancel culture.

I think it's a bit insane, how you want us to play your game claiming we have everything to gain, but it's really like the movie Jigsaw, where we obey but still suffer pain. How is it, you have no one to represent your case?

Our evidence goes beyond circumstantial, we know the glove is yours, it's just shrunken due to all the tears and blood shed you've caused. Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, all I ask you is this;

Would you like to be represented by something with no real substance? It doesn't matter how well society comes in here all dressed up, because the truth of the matter is they're murders of others mental health.

They're slanders of those names, that have come to fame, and built something out of nothing and make it their aim, to tear through the fabrics of each and every being to the point where they obey each thing they are reading.

I've come in here to defend you all, despite beliefs, creed or color, and with that I rest my case, and have no further questions or statements your honor.

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Erin Patrice to receive 2022 Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major Award

Erin Patrice, community leader and founder of The Breaking Bread Village, was voted to receive the Midland MLK Drum Major Award.

Erin will receive her award on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 7:00pm during the 13th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Celebration. The event take place both in-person with limited seating in the Malcolm Field Theatre at Saginaw Valley State University and online.

The MLK Committee members from Saginaw, Bay and Midland counties submit nominations to SVSU and one award-ee is selected from each county and given an MLK Drum Major Award.

The MLK Drum Major for Service Award is in honor of people who are unsung heroes who perform extraordinary or ordinary everyday acts of service with reliability and commitment, but who seldom

receive recognition. Further, their work exemplifies one or more of Dr. King's values or beliefs.

Erin was an easy choice.

Erin Patrice, a Midland resident, has spent her adult life advocating for children, adults, and families through community work, speaking engagements, and personal connections. She sits on the Midland County Housing Commission, is a member of the Midland Area Cultural Awareness Coalition, and sits on several boards that allows her to advocate for seniors and children. Many of the contributions she's made to the Tri-City area you'd never know unless someone else shares it. One of her many passions is to help people be seen and heard which led her to start The Breaking Bread Village. It was originally based on the idea that "It takes a village," and was intentionally created as a

safe space, free of judgement. The intention is for everyone to feel confident that their ideas and perspectives will be heard. Erin is committed to listening first, with empathy, love, and consideration. She believes that when people feel they have no voice; love, creativity and hope can take a back seat to indifference, malice, and disdain. So she strives to create bonds and relationships that allow people to form bridges; that they all can walk across to get to a common goal motivated by peace.

In addition to the presentation of the regional Drum Major Awards, the event will feature Keynote Speaker Dr. Condoleezza Rice (66th Secretary of State).

To learn more about the SVSU MLK Regional Celebration and to reserve your seat, visit <https://www.svsu.edu/mlk/>

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COURTESY PHOTO

Mott Community College will host 43rd annual tribute event honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. virtually

FLINT – “America’s Pandemic . . . Distrust, Hatred & Racism” is the theme for the 43rd Annual Citywide Tribute event in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022, at 6 p.m. This year’s event will be a virtual event via Zoom. Pre-registration is required to attend. Individual admission is \$25, event sponsorship is \$300 (admits 10). Register at www.mcceventsonline.com.

The event is sponsored by Mott Community College, Hamilton Community Health, the Flint Jewish Federation, Baker College, Kettering University and the University of Michigan-Flint.

The keynote address will be given by Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel. A former criminal prosecutor and civil

rights attorney, Nessel’s core initiatives have been fashioned in the image of her promise to Michigan’s residents – to give the Department of Attorney General back to the

people that it serves. Since taking office, she has been a champion of protecting the Great Lakes. She has also joined the battle to combat the largest public health crisis in the nation, prescription drug addiction, and to stem the tide of Michigan’s biggest environmental crisis in decades, PFAS contamination. As the State’s Chief Law Enforcement Officer, Nessel launched Michigan’s Elder Abuse Task Force, in partnership with the Michigan Supreme Court, to stop the rise of crime against one of the state’s most vulnerable populations.

“We are thrilled to have a speaker of Ms. Nessel’s caliber provide the keynote address this year,” said Lennetta Coney, President of the Foundation for Mott Community College (FMCC). “Her work to ensure the basic rights and protections for all Michigan residents makes her uniquely qualified to speak to the social issues raised during this pandemic,” she added.

All proceeds from the event support the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship for eligible students attending Baker College, Kettering University, Mott Community College, and the University of Michigan-Flint. For more information call 810-762-0425.

Social Security benefits increase in 2022

By **VONDA VAN TIL**
SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SPECIALIST

Approximately 70 million Americans will see a 5.9% increase in their Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments in 2022. Federal benefit rates increase when the cost-of-living rises, as measured by the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index (CPI- W).

The CPI-W rises when inflation increases, leading to a higher cost-of-living. This change means prices for goods and services, on average, are a little more expensive, so the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) helps to offset these costs.

We will mail COLA notices throughout the month of December to retirement, survivors, and disability beneficiaries,

SSI recipients, and representative payees. But, if you want to know your new benefit amount sooner, you can securely obtain your Social Security COLA notice online using the Message Center in your my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. You can access this information in early December prior to the mailed notice.


If you prefer to access your COLA notice online and not receive the mailed notice, you can log in to your personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to opt out of a mailed COLA notice and any other notices that are available online by updating your Preferences in the Message Center. Did you know you can receive a text or email alert when there is a new message waiting for you? That way, you always know when we have something important for you – like your COLA notice. If you don't have

an account yet, you must create one by November 17, 2021, to receive the 2022 COLA notice online.

January 2022 marks other changes that will happen based on the increase in the national average wage index. For example, the maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll tax in 2022 will be higher. The retirement earnings test exempt amount will also change in 2022 and you can view that at www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2022.pdf

Be among the first to know! Sign up for or log in to your personal my Social Security account today. Choose email or text under "Message Center Preferences" to receive courtesy notifications.

You can find more information about the 2022 COLA at www.ssa.gov/cola.



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Since 2012, the Saginaw Promise has awarded \$1,072,000 in postsecondary education scholarships to 609 students...its goal is for every graduating student to earn a program certificate or degree.

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Donate to the Saginaw Promise today!
Thank you!

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JASON APPLGATE

Saginaw County educator wins Excellence in Education Award from the Michigan Lottery

LANSING – A Saginaw County educator known for creating a culture of inclusion and excellence for his students has been honored with an Excellence in Education award from the Michigan Lottery.

The award winner, Jason Applegate, is a sixth through 12 grade theater teacher at Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy. The school is part of the Saginaw School District.

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

Winners of the weekly award receive a plaque, a \$1,500 cash prize, and a \$500 grant to their classroom, school, or school district. One of the weekly winners will be selected as the Educator of the Year and will receive a \$10,000 cash prize.

Each winner also is 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 in Saginaw. The news segment featuring Applegate will air this evening.

Applegate said the opportunity to change young lives led him to a career in education.

"I was attracted to education because

of the opportunity to change young lives. Whether it's helping a student understand their character's motivation or understand more about themselves and who they want to become as young adults, there is nothing like knowing that you have made a difference in someone's life."

Applegate said his favorite activities to do with his students are ones that focus on social and emotional well-being.

"Starting last year and carrying into this year, my students and I have really focused on social and emotional well-being. We celebrate Affirmation Day by writing positive messages on the glass doors and sidewalks, handing out nametags with positive labels, and posting sticky notes with uplifting statements on students' lockers. We also have a social emotional board where students can check in every day with how they are feeling currently, and they can share why if they choose."

Applegate's wife nominated him for the award. The nomination cited his passion and leadership along with the culture of inclusion and excellence he has created in for his students.

"Mr. Applegate has created a culture of inclusion and excellence for his students. His class is a safe space for students who may not fit in elsewhere and functions

more like a family room than a classroom. While his curriculum has always been dynamic, this past year has given him many challenges as he attempted to teach theater during a pandemic. He creatively swapped his performance-based curriculum for something more friendly to a virtual platform, while still keeping his students engaged.

In addition to his classroom duties, Mr. Applegate spends much of his time outside the classroom helping students put on shows for the public. This means late nights and weekends holding rehearsals, hanging lights, designing, and building sets, and taking his students on trips to see live theater or perform at state-wide conferences/festivals. While this all keeps plate full, he also has taken on being SASA's 'Affirmation', cheerleader by leading affirmation days where he uplifts students throughout the school with positive words and actions. He is devoted, passionate, kind, and is a great leader for his students."

Applegate earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado and two master's degrees from Marygrove College. He has been an educator for 18 years, the last seven in his current position.

Outstanding public-school educators may be nominated for an Excellence in Education award at <http://bit.ly/ExcellenceInEducation> or through the websites of the Lottery's media partner stations.

Excellence in Education award nominees are evaluated on the following criteria:

- **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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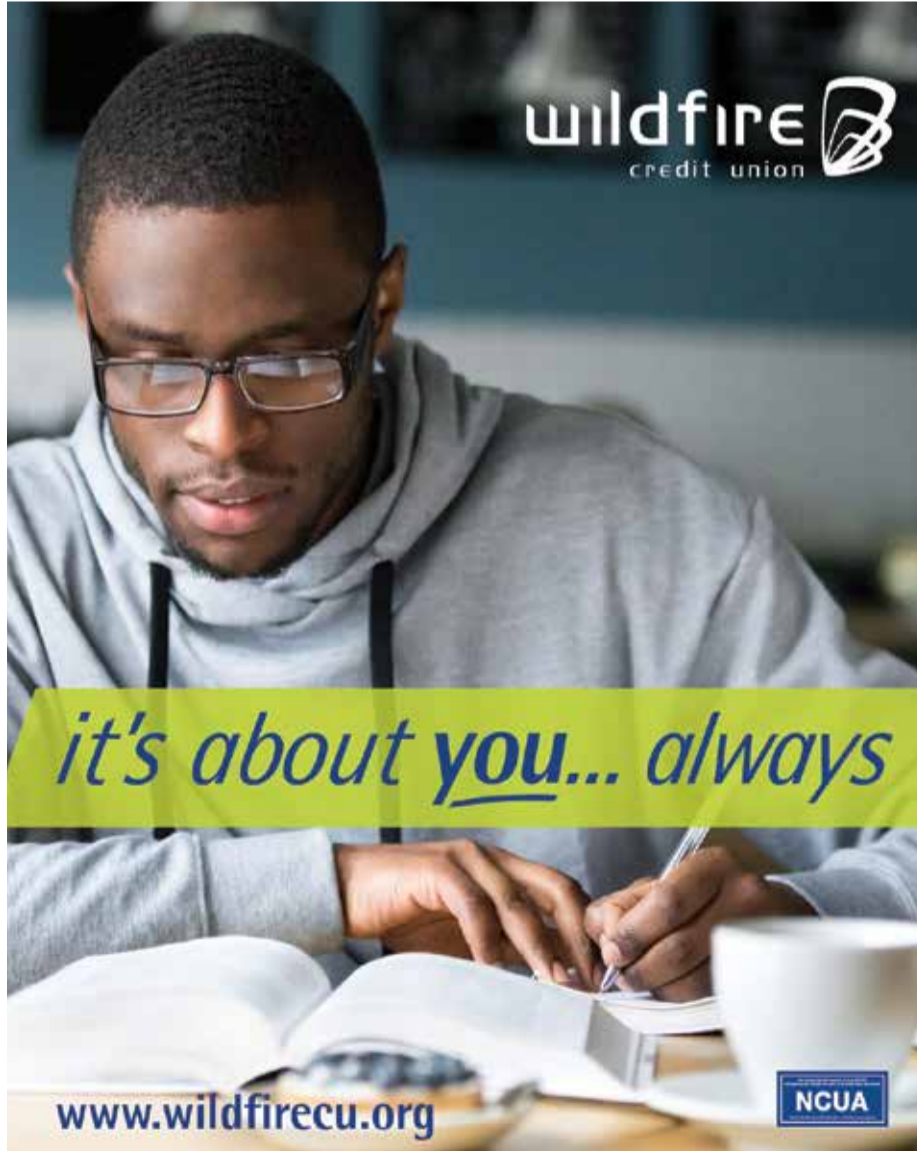
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I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. A special thanks for all of the support I have received from the community through the years.

Sincerely,
Sheldon Matthews
County Commissioner 4th District.



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+ HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

State of Michigan secures additional federal team to assist Mercy Health Muskegon with staffing

Teams at Beaumont Hospital - Dearborn, Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids and Covenant HealthCare in Saginaw extended for an additional 30 days

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced that the federal government has granted Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's request for additional staffing assistance at a fourth Michigan hospital, Mercy Health Muskegon. Under the agreement, the federal government will send a 17-person medical team to support Mercy Health's doctors and nurses as they treat COVID-19 and other patients.

"As the Omicron variant quickly becomes the dominant strain of COVID-19 across the United States, I am grateful to our federal partners for their continued support that is providing much-needed relief to Michigan's hospitals and health care personnel," said Governor Whitmer. "Michigan's health care heroes have been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic for over 18 months, and I am again

asking Michiganders to take steps to help reduce the strain on our hospital systems. First, get vaccinated and if you are eligible, get your booster, to help keep you out of the hospital. If you plan on traveling for the holidays or attending an indoor gathering, please get tested beforehand and stay home if you're sick. Take these actions to keep yourself and your loved ones safe."

"We continue to be grateful that our federal partners are supporting the dedicated health care staff in our state as they work to care for Michiganders during this latest surge of COVID-19," said Elizabeth Hertel, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services director. "The pandemic continues to take a tremendous toll on our health care workers and we are pleading with all Michiganders to do their part to support our state's health care workers by getting vaccinated, wearing a

mask in public indoor settings regardless of vaccination status, social distancing and staying home and getting tested regularly."

The additional staffing team will include registered nurses, a doctor and other health care workers. The team will begin treating patients Dec. 30 and provide support for the next 30 days. They will assist with providing monoclonal antibody treatment in addition to other support duties. Three additional teams were announced earlier this month and have begun providing support at Beaumont Hospital - Dearborn, Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids and Covenant HealthCare in Saginaw. MDHHS was notified by our federal partners that these three teams will be extended for another 30 days.

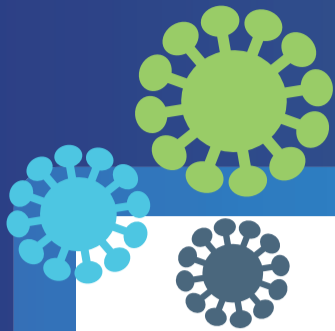
"We are very grateful for the additional support from the state and federal levels to provide essential support for our care staff as they are in the midst of this fourth surge in Michigan," said Gary Allore, president of Mercy Health Muskegon. "COVID-19 has put our frontline staff under the most extreme conditions, but their unwavering commitment to the safety and health of all members of our community holds true. We need everyone's collective help to emerge out of this pandemic together."

Michiganders are being asked to carefully consider where they seek health care. A primary care office, virtual visit or urgent care may be the best choice as hospital and emergency departments are experiencing high demand. However, for emergency conditions such as stroke symptoms, chest pain, difficulty breathing, significant injury or uncontrolled bleeding, Michiganders should still seek emergency care.

The federal staffing teams come as Michigan hospitals strain due to a spike in COVID-19 patients, the vast majority of whom are unvaccinated. In October, unvaccinated people had 4.3 times the risk of testing positive for COVID-19 and 13.2 times the risk of dying from COVID-19 than people who were fully vaccinated.

From Jan. 3 - Dec. 15, 2021, people who were unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated represented: 85.1% of COVID-19 cases, 88.1% of hospitalizations and 85.5% of deaths.

As of Dec. 20, 3,944 Michiganders are hospitalized for COVID-19.

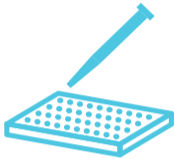




Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

www.GreatLakesBayHealthCenters.org

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



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

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



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

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

TOTAL GLBHC PATIENTS SERVED IN 2020:



50,270 PATIENTS

RECEIVING MEDICAL, DENTAL, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE AND OTHER VISITS

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



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

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



DENTAL CARE

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



CHRONIC HEALTH MONITORING = BETTER OUTCOMES

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



+ HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

MDHHS urges Michiganders to choose right place of care, get vaccinated to alleviate burden on health care systems

LANSING – In order to take every measure necessary to relieve the burden on our state's health care systems, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is reminding Michiganders to choose the right place of care for medical needs.

Michigan's health care systems continue to be overburdened with COVID-19 patients, a majority of which are unvaccinated. From Jan. 15 - Dec. 3, 85.1% of COVID-19 cases, 88.1% of hospitalizations and 85.5% of deaths were among individuals who were not fully vaccinated. Hospitalizations for COVID-19 continue to be mostly preventable by receiving one of the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.

"We all need to do our part to get vaccinated and boosted to keep ourselves, our families and our neighbors safe," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MDHHS chief medical executive. "In addition to getting vaccinated, it is important to maintain your routine medical care so that any potential

illness gets detected early and can be much more manageable. We urge Michiganders to continue seeking medical care but avoid emergency departments unless they have a life-threatening condition. If you don't have a primary care provider, now is a great time to find one through contact with your local health care system."

Illnesses can be treated at a variety of care settings depending on the severity of symptoms. Michiganders with life-threatening emergencies should always seek care by calling 911 or visiting the nearest emergency department.

Call a health care provider (like your local physician's office) for a virtual or in-person appointment or visit an urgent care provider for ailments such as:

- Cold or flu
- Sprains
- Rashes or minor burns
- Ear pain
- Animal or insect bites

- Allergies
- A COVID-19 test.

Call 911 or visit an emergency department for:

- Life-threatening medical conditions or emergencies such as a heart attack or stroke
- Choking
- Head injuries
- Severe burns
- Severe chest pain or pressure
- Broken bones
- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Severe respiratory distress.

If you have minor symptoms like sniffles or a cough you should get tested for COVID-19. To receive a flu or COVID-19 vaccine, visit a pharmacy or immunization clinic or [VaccineFinder.org](https://www.vaccinefinder.org) to find a location near you.

+ HEALTH

MDHHS, Food Bank continue Flint mobile pantries during January

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) will continue to provide nutritious food by the truckload to Flint residents throughout January. MDHHS has provided the Flint mobile food pantries since February 2016 in partnership with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan in Flint.

"As we move into the new year, ensuring that families have access to nutritious food remains a top priority of my administration," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "I applaud MDHHS and our partners from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan for putting Michiganders first and continuing to provide this valuable resource to the people of Flint. Together, we can help families thrive and continue building on our economic momentum into 2022."

January's mobile food pantry distribution will have plenty of delicious, vitamin-rich produce and proteins, including apples, potatoes, oranges, and carrots.

January dates for distributions are:

Bethel United Methodist Church, 1309 Ballenger Hwy.

Monday, Jan. 3, at 10 a.m.
Monday, Jan. 10, at 10 a.m.
Monday, Jan. 24, at 10 a.m.
Monday, Jan. 31, at 10 a.m.

Asbury United Methodist Church, 1653 Davison Road.

Tuesday, Jan. 4, at 10 a.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 11, at 10 a.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 18, at 10 a.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 25, at 10 a.m.

Greater Holy Temple, 6702 N. Dort Hwy.

Thursday, Jan. 6, at 10 a.m.
Thursday, Jan. 13, at 10 a.m.
Thursday, Jan. 20, at 10 a.m.
Thursday, Jan. 27, at 10 a.m.

South Flint Food Kitchen (conducted by End Times church), 3410 Fenton Road

Friday, Jan. 7, at 11 a.m.
Friday, Jan. 14, at 11 a.m.
Friday, Jan. 21, at 11 a.m.
Friday, Jan. 28, at 11 a.m.

American Muslim Community Services, 4800 S. Saginaw St.

Saturday, Jan. 8, at 9 a.m.

Flint residents can also pick up free nutritional food at the three Flint Help Center locations:

Bethel United Methodist Church, 1309 N. Ballenger Highway, open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays - except for on Jan. 17 due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day; Asbury United Methodist Church, 1653 Davison Road, open Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; and Greater Holy Temple, 6702 N. Dort Highway, open Thursdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Information about additional food distributions will be announced as they are scheduled. To check food distribution schedules, visit the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan website at FBEM.org and find the updated schedule on the Mobile Pantry Distribution page, or call 810-239-4441.

"I WOULDN'T WORK ANYWHERE ELSE."

Rosalind Williams
Registered Nurse



Join the Covenant HealthCare family.

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

Apply at CovenantHealthCare.com/Careers



Happy Holidays



During the holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have supported us through these unprecedented times. It is in this spirit that we say thank you and send best wishes for the holidays and a prosperous New Year.

Veronica | Nancy | Lisa | Sam | Steve | Eugene | Patty

+ EDUCATION



SAGINAW HIGH SCHOOL

Construction slowdown doesn't delay Saginaw school naming plans

By MIKE THOMPSON

Never-ending COVID virus troubles are causing construction delays for Saginaw's new unified high school, but district leaders are pushing ahead with selecting a name, school colors and a mascot.

A masked, social-distanced audience of more than 50 gathered for a Dec. 21 update at the former Ricker Annex, now the Saginaw Success Academy.

The hoped-for grand opening of the Saginaw High and Arthur Hill combo previously had been set for September 2023, as indicated in the 2020 campaign for a \$99.95 million bond issue, but now the target is moved back a full year to September 2024.

An early front-runner for the naming is "Saginaw United High School," based on the name for the football team which has merged athletes from The High and The Hill ahead of schedule. Team colors were gold, honoring both schools, along with blue for Arthur Hill and black for Saginaw High.

Homeowners and tenants, through their rents, will pay hundreds of dollars annually for:

- The five-story, state-of-the-art high school at the existing Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy site on North Niagara near the foot of the Genesee Bridge.
- A SASA move to a portion of a renovated Arthur Hill.
- A new Handley Elementary, also on AHHS turf, to allow closure

of the 110-year-old former South Intermediate.

- Restoration of an East Side middle school in a portion of Saginaw High.
- As-needed upkeep at Thompson Middle and nine remaining elementary schools.

Under state school financing reforms that started with 1994's Proposal A, local districts no longer may seek millages for operating goals such as more teachers or updated textbooks. The lone option for any property tax increase is building construction and maintenance.

Superintendent Ramont Roberts said steps for a high school name must move ahead so that architects can incorporate the title into their drawings.

An initial survey already in online at spsd.net. In addition to suggesting titles, parents and residents may choose from an array of potential school color combinations.

Rod Green, an advisor from the Michigan Association of School Boards, said initial student surveys indicate a desire to incorporate "Saginaw" into the name, but a cool reaction to connecting with a president or with any local luminary.

Some of the Dec. 21 participants asked whether mascots or colors should come first, because either would influence the other. Roberts and Green responded that this question, among others, is to be determined.

Another public session at Ricker is set for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, with a March timetable for final decisions.

Keep 'Saginaw High?'

After the Dec. 21 meeting as reported on this page, the following petition was launched on social media:

"The School Board of the Saginaw Public School District in Saginaw, MI is building a new school within the city and is also moving another school from its existing campus to the campus of a currently operating school. The Board and the Superintendent of the district, refuses to hear the voices of the people of the community of Saginaw as it relates to naming the two high schools that are in the city of Saginaw. The school board and its superintendent want to give the new school building a new name, and eradicate the over 125 year legacy of the two schools that have been in the city, Saginaw High School and Arthur Hill High School. This petition is to demand that the school board and the superintendent, name the new school that is getting built in the city of Saginaw, Saginaw High School and continue the mascot name TROJANS for the school, AND demand that the school board RE-NAME the Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy that is moving to the campus of Arthur Hill High School, Arthur Hill Arts & Sciences Academy AND keep the school mascot name the Lumberjacks. Each school should also retain their school colors."

+ EDUCATION



SWEDISH TOMTE FIGURES

Holidays around the world



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

Thank you to Mrs. Vincent, 1st grade teacher at Washington Elementary School, who gave me the idea for today's article.

Two weeks ago I visited her classroom where, to my amazement, she "took" her students to see how the holidays are celebrated in Sweden with a mystical creature they call, Tomte.

It is vaguely similar to our "elf on a shelf," a short creature who is referenced during the holidays in Sweden. Children watch for Tomte, and on Christmas Eve leave a bowl of porridge out for the Tomte.

This made me think about other na-

tions and their customs, and how learning about them helps children think about children in other countries and their celebrations.

When we shrink the world like this, it allows all of us to learn about things we have in common. I remember having an exchange student stay with us when I was in 6th grade. His name was Jorge, and he was from Mexico. He shared stories of what his family did to celebrate Christmas, the tamales they ate Christmas Eve, and customs like breaking the piñata.

My wife, Joan, shares a story from her youth when her family hosted a guest, Yauns, from Poland during the holidays. At Christmas dinner, Yauns repeatedly passed the food by without taking any for himself. Viewing this, Joan asked him if he didn't like the food; his reply, it was custom in Poland to pass the dish twice before taking any, out of respect for others at the table.

During this holiday vacation, parents can take their children on "virtual trips" to other countries to explore how they spent the holiday season.

What customs do they have?
When do they celebrate?

What is the weather like there, and how does it impact their celebrations?

How far away are these places from where we live, in miles or kilometers? If we were to fly there, how long would it take us?

These and other questions may surface, expanding young minds and helping bring the family closer as the exploration of new customs raises more questions.

Thank you, Mrs. Vincent, for the great idea of looking at places near and far.

Happy Holidays to all; best wishes for a very Happy New Year!

Resources:

<https://www.sweden.org.za/tomte.html>

<https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/video/tv-show/pledge-spe/european-christmas-pledge-special>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/12/31/world/gallery/2021-new-year-celebrations/index.html>



COURTESY PHOTO

MCC to participate in study of workforce training as a path to good jobs

FLINT – Mott Community College has been named one of six community colleges to participate in New America's second New Models for Career Preparation cohort. MCC was chosen because of its status as a workforce development innovator through the MCC Workforce and Economic Development Division (WED).

With support from the Lumina Foundation, the Center on Education and Labor at New America (CELNA) has launched the New Models for Career Preparation Project, a multi-year research and storytelling effort, to better understand the design, financing, and strategy principles that go into creating high-quality non-degree programs at community colleges that lead to quality jobs and careers.

The first cohort studied program-level attributes that make non-degree workforce programs effective and exemplary. The MCC cohort will focus on institutional-level attributes that make non-degree workforce development successful.

“We are excited to have been chosen as one of six community college workforce innovators nationwide, recognized for innovation in non-credit programming,” said Robert Matthews, Associate Vice President for MCC WED, “and we look forward to contributing to the understanding of how to create a high quality non-degree training program that leads to good paying jobs and careers.”

According to New America, as the labor market slowly recovers from the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic, evidence is growing that it is undergoing a profound and unequitable shift. The overall unemployment rate is dropping, but it is increasing for Black workers. Employers complain of labor shortages but long-term unemployment remains high. Community colleges will be particularly important by providing high-quality, responsive workforce training helping people adjust to this new labor market, and empowering them

to access high-quality jobs.

The new cohort of New Models for Career Preparation grantees includes:

- County College of Morris
- Des Moines Area Community College
- Lone Star College
- Mott Community College
- Sacramento City College
- Tidewater Community College

For more information about the New America New Models for Career Preparation Project visit <https://www.newamerica.org/education-policy/edcentral/what-makes-a-community-college-excel-at-workforce-development/>

For more information about MCC's Workforce and Economic Development Division, visit <https://www.mcc.edu/wfed/index.shtml> or call 810-232-2555.



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

“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

+ BUSINESS



TERRY AND VALARIE REED

Reeds fill needs where the rubber meets the road

By MIKE THOMPSON

Terry and Valarie Reed opened Community Auto and Tire in 2018 on East Genesee near the old fairgrounds, two years before the covid pandemic first hit, but their humble advice still rings true for an increasing number of people who are aiming to launch their own enterprises nowadays:

1. Save some of your own money, even if you seek financing from sources such as banks or the SEDC, Saginaw Economic Development Corp.
2. Make sure you feel passion that will inspire you to do the hard work even on the most difficult days.
3. Perform advance research to make sure there is a need, a.k.a. a market, for your products and services.
4. Consult with peers who possess

experience and knowledge.

5. Always keep your eyes and ears open. See and listen.

The fifth point was vital when the couple purchased a former service garage at 2604 East Genesee. Their original intent was to sell used cars, but that changed when the Reeds listened and learned.

"But before we could even get started, people kept coming by and asking if they could buy the tires that had been left over," Terry explains. "We saw a need that we did not expect to see, and so now we are meeting that need."

Terry Reed and the former Valarie Banks graduated together from Saginaw High School in 1986, which explains why they repainted the three-bay shop in the Trojan school colors of black and gold.

Opportunity knocks

They decided to go into business in 2017 when Terry took retirement from his

long-time career as a prominent local auto salesman, and while the growth of their six children allowed more time.

"We didn't plan ahead for years, or anything like that," he says. "We simply decided to take the plunge."

Similar to most family-owned enterprises, they went through some tough times at the start, even with their well-known and respected status within Saginaw, honorably paying employees out of their own pockets.

They felt they finally had found solid footing by 2019. Then, a year later, the pandemic struck.

Community Auto and Tire closed for a few months, following the leads of other small enterprises, but the shutdown didn't last.

"Customers continued to come in," Terry explains. "We learned that we are one of the 'essential' services."

Not just for money

Car tires? Essential? Yes indeed. And for many folks, new ones do not fit within personal or family budgets.

The Reeds are a source for brand-name new rubber, but most patrons opt for tires that are used, still with decent tread, especially when winter brings slick roadways. And even at the bargain used prices, some customers only can afford only one at a time.

That's where Terry and Valarie put the "community" in Community Tire into full effect. They are in business to make money, like anyone else, but they still are activists in an array of local social causes and issues, and this extends into how they conduct their enterprise. Payment plans are available even for the most modest of purchases. And if a customer encounters a flat on the road, for example, they offer roadside assistance.

"That is unique, one of our ways to set ourselves apart," Terry says. "We eliminate the need for a high-cost wrecker service."

He adds, "I attended Loomis Elementary, then Webber, then Saginaw High, and our location is right in the middle of the three. It's like coming full circle."

+ BUSINESS

New Business Alert:

Twannie and Georgette Gray are the owners of **Gee'Ques** a new restaurant slated to open in early 2022 in Old Town Saginaw. Their business was selected by the DDA to apply for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Match on Main program and were awarded \$25,000 to assist in the renovations of their building. This is the first time a Saginaw business has received this grant and funds will be used to help speed up their development and allow the owners to invest more into their business.



FACEBOOK



COURTESY PHOTO

Lake Michigan Credit Union acquires pilot bank

LAKE MICHIGAN – Lake Michigan Credit Union (LMCU) is pleased to announce its acquisition of Tampa's Pilot Bank. This acquisition represents a number of positive developments for the members of both LMCU and Pilot Bank.

Already the largest credit union and mortgage lender in Michigan, LMCU has had a growing presence in Florida since 2015 and expanding into the Tampa/St. Petersburg market is a natural progression. The credit union now has 19 branches throughout Southwest Florida, including the six new branches from the acquisition of Pilot Bank.

LMCU President and CEO, Sandy Jelinski, looks forward to what the acquisition of Pilot Bank means for serving the Tampa Bay area and beyond, "This is an exciting opportunity for our collective members and our staff, because we'll be able to serve even more members by providing outstanding value and exceptional service. The Pilot Tampa and St. Petersburg branches expand our service coverage in Florida without any overlap, so it is a great fit. The team at Pilot Bank is a pleasure to work with and I am confident

that together we will quickly become a key player in the Tampa Bay market."

Roy Hellwege, chairman and CEO of Pilot Bank, will serve as the president of LMCU's Central Florida region. "Joining LMCU is very exciting because Pilot, like LMCU, has always been focused on doing what is right for our customers and members," Roy said. "Additionally, LMCU shares a lot of the same beliefs and values about community service that we cultivated at Pilot, so I know this partnership will greatly benefit our members and local communities in new ways."

Lake Michigan Credit Union (LMCU) is the largest credit union in Michigan. Employing a staff of over 1,550 and serving over 520,000 members, LMCU's assets exceed \$11.5 billion, with a mortgage servicing portfolio of over \$13 billion. LMCU has 65 convenient branch locations overall, including 19 in southwest Florida. LMCU members have access to over 55,000 All-point ATMs worldwide. LMCU provides a full range of financial services, from high interest-bearing checking accounts to personal loans, mortgages, investments, and commercial banking.

+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

Sales VS. development

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Some say development is to the nonprofit sector what sales is to the private sector. We say, “not really.” There are similarities, and distinct differences. Development (aka fundraising) is not just about revenue: it is about building philanthropic relationships. Yes – nonprofits are dependent on the funds raised through philanthropic relationships, but the focus of the work cannot be “get the money.” The focus is the relationship between donors and the nonprofit.

Sometimes this can be confusing, especially for executive directors – and board members – who want to know “where’s the money?” First, let us set the stage: you can’t simply hire someone and expect them to raise money for you. They can raise money with the CEO and board members, but the development professional who comes with a magic-wand-rolodex is a unicorn. These individuals are very rare and are traditionally found in political fundraising and not within the nonprofit sector.

So what’s a nonprofit to do? Here are some things that distinguish fundraising from sales. Understanding the difference can help position your nonprofit for fundraising success. Let’s start with this cornerstone concept: Fundraising is not a transaction – it is about building long-term relationships. And it includes the work of building the leadership, capacity, and infrastructure a nonprofit needs to

successfully ask individuals or institutions for financial support.

You can’t measure development performance by counting dollars raised. Someone can make a one-time gift that exceeds your organization’s annual budget. But that’s not a fundraising success. That is good fortune. That gift could be a bequest that is the result of an individual’s engagement with your nonprofit decades ago. Or it could be the result of a “search” by a major philanthropist who wants to invest in organizations such as yours. In both cases there is “money in the door” but this is not necessarily the result of your staff’s work.

Setting “quotas” or “goals” that are not tied to the number and giving-capacity of your current and prospective donors is just pulling numbers out of the air. The same with creating goals by deciding “let’s go for 20% above last year.” That doesn’t work. You have to account for donor attrition (those who make a gift one year but not the next), and you have to have a pool of prospective donors who have the financial capacity to give that additional 20%.



COURTESY PHOTO

A nonprofit fundraiser may spend a lot of time identifying potential donors and finding out who is the right person to ask them for a gift. Or they may spend time keeping current donors up to date so that when a board member asks for their annual gift the donor is poised to give. Nonprofit fundraisers solicit gifts, but they do so much more. Importantly they build teams of volunteers who can ask their peers to give. They equip them with the information they need. They create a positive “buzz” around your nonprofit that encourages giving. None of this is measured using the metric, “how much did you personally raise?”



Copyright 2021 – Mel and Pearl Shaw

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

+ 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

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



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



New Birth Missionary Baptist
Pastor Larry D. Camel
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

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

P

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

R



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

S



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



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



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

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

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

+ SPORTS

Fired up? That's Coach Seals, the same as when he was a Trojan



EUGENE SEALS

By MIKE THOMPSON

Eugene Seals Jr. never hesitated to show his feelings while he developed into a Class A all-state basketball standout at Saginaw High School, Class of 2000.

While he inherited his father's height and then some at 6-foot-6, some of his top-level opponents were even taller, especially when he advanced to college ball at Miami of Ohio. His reputation to fight for every rebound and loose ball, along with scoring his share of points, was well-deserved.

He earned his way into his recent induction into the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame, joining such luminaries as Ernie Thompson from the Trojans' Class of 1962 and others who have followed.

Today, as a youth coach and trainer, he tempers his temperament.

But not entirely.

"I'm still intense out there," Seals says. "Let's say, 'intense teaching,' also in the teaching mode at all times."

He adds, "When I started in coaching, I was almost too intense. I learned that I can't expect the kids to do what I did."

A home at Heritage High

Eugene is beginning his second season at Heritage High, leading a girls program with a tradition of two recent state championships. A previous stint was at Bridgeport High during the middle of the past decade, launching the turnaround for a boys squad that previously had struggled.

These are supplements to his career work as director of Pride Academy 21, named not for the year but for his first childhood uniform number. He expanded his father's original concept by including girls along with boys, ages 7 to 18, for regular training schedules along with more concentrated camp experiences.

Eugene says his coaching inspiration arrived when he volunteered to help with b-ball instructional clinics, both in his Ohio college town of Oxford and back home at Saginaw High.

His coaches were local legends Marshall Thomas at Saginaw High and Charlie Coles, who advanced from The High to close his career at Miami of Ohio. Coach Coles passed away eight years ago, at age 71.

Still, Seals equally salutes his first AAU youth coach, Reggie Robinson.

"Looking back," he says, "I think of Reggie as giving all of us the proper instruction, in relation to our individual talents and skills. That's what I strive to do in my own coaching and training."

For his part, Robinson recalls his protégé as an inexperienced, gangly 9-year-old who was playing for his first team.

"He was rough around the edges, to say the least," Reggie notes. "And so I asked him to come to practice a half-hour early, so that we could work one-to-one together. Instead, he would show up an hour ahead, and so I had to move up my schedule so that he wouldn't beat me there. He constantly improved, on a daily basis, and now the rest is history."

Coach Coles, with the student-athletes huddled in dorms, demonstrated an off-the-court "family approach" that was his previous trademark with the Trojans.

As for Coach Thomas, Eugene shares a favorite story.

He notes: "We were in the team huddle for a timeout, and I was sipping water from a cup. Coach knocked it out of my hand, and he succeeded in making me mad. Then he told me, 'Take that anger that you feel now,

and use it against the other team.'"

Coach Thomas adds: "In my 32 years of coaching at Saginaw High. Eugene Seals and Anthony Roberson were by far the most advanced freshmen as far as fundamentals were concerned. Thus each was able to not only make the varsity, but to start as freshmen."

Making adjustments

Seals doesn't hesitate to take a similar strong approach with young males, but he is a softer touch with the girls, if only slightly.

"Most every boy thinks he's a sure shot to go on to the NBA, but with the girls, it's generally the opposite," Coach Seals explains. "They need to have the confidence to believe in themselves, and to know that I believe in them."

In that spirit, he provides regular upbeat updates for the Heritage girls on his Facebook page.

Eugene's love for basketball was so great that when he couldn't quite make the grade in the 2004 NBA rookie development summer league, he embarked on six years of overseas pro hoops in nations ranging from Spain to Macedonia to Mexico.

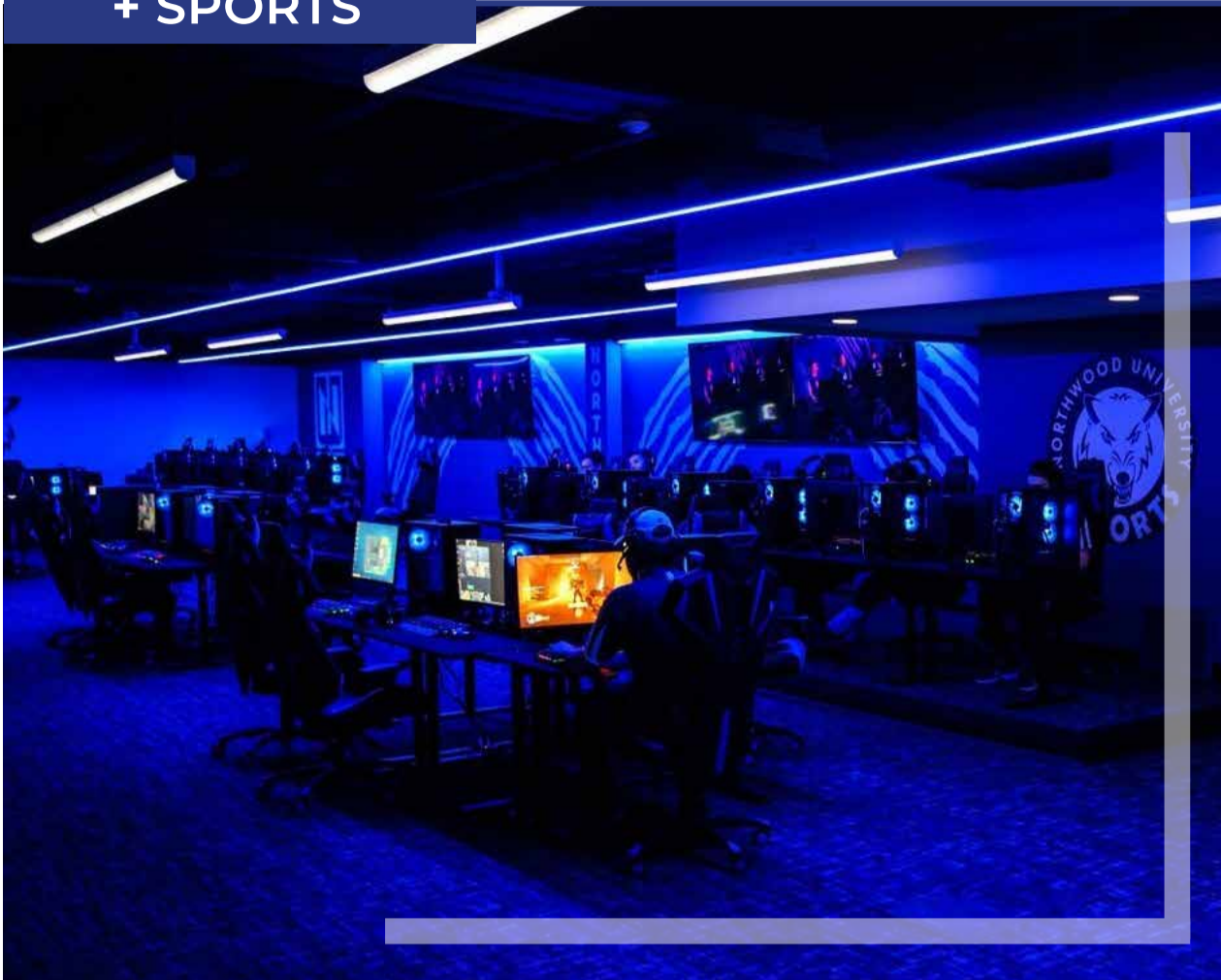
As the son of a retired physician and of a former education specialist (Joyce Seals, city school board trustee and former mayor), he adopted a rigorous curriculum at Miami of Ohio, with double majors in health and in sports organization to go with double minors in kinesiology and in communications.

Still, he's sticking with his Pride Academy and with his coaching. His bride is the former Lauren Terry, a former Arthur Hill High cheerleader who endures his teases and boasts about how Saginaw High dominated at the time. Their children are Elle, 10, and Noah, 9.

Readers may be surprised to learn that the all-time favorite player for Eugene Seals, Mister Intensity, is Grant Hill, s former Piston and current TV commentator whose style was and is more like Mister Smooth.

"If you watch the tapes, in spite of his reputation, Grant Hill would go as hard as anybody," he explains, with a self-modest chuckle. "I still go hard myself, but now I have the ability to keep it in check, for effect."

+ SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTO

Northwood Esports wins back-to-back Rocket League national championships

MIDLAND – Northwood University’s globally ranked esports team began the year with a mission: To defend its Collegiate Rocket League national championship.

Mission accomplished.

The Timberwolves defeated Bay State College 4-2 Thursday night in the final round of the double elimination tournament. Northwood reached the final with a 4-1 victory over UNLV the night before.

“The team fought hard all season long,” said Northwood coach Cody Elsen. “What a way to end the year for Northwood Esports. We got revenge on Bay State who was our only loss of the year previously. I am very proud of everyone including the unsung heroes which is our student managers.”

Representing Northwood in the match are sophomore Aaron Cadiz from New

Jersey, freshman Hunter Woitas from Arizona, and freshman Tristian Correll from South Carolina.

In Rocket League play, players control customized cars in a high-powered arcade-style soccer game.

Collegiate Rocket League, also known as CRL, is funded by Psyonix for collegiate esports players in North America. The competition began in summer 2017 with the Collegiate Rocket League - Summer Series.

In 2020, Northwood brought home the national championship with a 4-1 victory over Akron University.

Northwood’s matches were watched online LIVE by more than 50,000 esports fans nationwide and globally. The event totaled over 500,000 views over the two days.

The Collegiate Rocket League national championship is the latest in a string of titles won by the Northwood esports team

this year. The Timberwolves also finished first in:

- **Collegiate Overwatch Fall National Championship** – a true national championship over more than 500 teams, with a Final Four consisting of Northwood, Illinois State University, UC Irvine, and Bay State College
- **Collegiate Valorant UGC Fall Champions** – with a Final Four consisting of Northwood, University of Missouri, Carleton, and University of Central Florida
- **Collegiate NACE/CSL Overwatch National Champions** – a mid-major championship with a Final Four consisting of Northwood, Bay State, Harrisburg, Boise State, and UT Dallas
- **Collegiate NACE/CSL Rocket League National Champions** – a mid-major championship with a Final Four consisting of Northwood, Bay State, Stockton, and Akron
- **Collegiate NECC Overwatch Champions** – with a Final Four consisting Northwood, Bay State, Converse, and Winthrop
- **Collegiate NECC Rocket League Champions** – with a Final Four consisting of Northwood, Indiana, Bay State, and St. Clair
- **Collegiate PlayVS Overwatch Fall National Champions** – with a Final Four consisting of Northwood, Bay State, SCAD, and University of Utah

The esports program at Northwood is open to all levels of players, from those new to competitive gaming to established professional gamers. The goal of the esports program is to give gamers the chance to play competitively and obtain a business or STEM-related degree from Northwood University.

Northwood also offers a BBA in Esports Management that attracts students from across the country and around the world. This program provides the elite communication skills, fluid team building skills, leadership and strategic/critical thinking to in any career field. To learn more about Northwood Esports, visit www.esports.northwood.edu.

+ SPORTS

Seen on the Scene: On Thursday, December 23, Claressa Shields gave away \$4,000 worth of toys at her Christmas giveaway event held at AT Fitness, 2189 Coldwater Road, in Mt. Morris Township



COURTESY PHOTO

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 4 • NUMBER 1

Money Management Tips for Teens: Credit Rating



COURTESY PHOTO

As young people not yet using credit, the factors that affect your credit worthiness are different than those for people who have been using credit for a number of years. This is largely due to the fact that you do not have a credit report for lenders to rely on when you first ask to borrow money.

There are some things you can do in preparation for the first time you ask to borrow money:

- Have a bank account that you use regularly. Deposit your pay cheque and show that you can spend it responsibly.
- Have a second bank account for savings. Contribute regularly to this account, e.g. every time you get paid.
- If you drive, pay your parking tickets and driving fines in full and on time.
- Develop a realistic budget for your

day to day spending, as well as a longer term plan, e.g. how to fund post-secondary education. This shows that you have good money management habits and are likely to honour future commitments.

Many young people look forward to having their first credit card. The right time to apply for one is when you can afford to pay back the money you borrow with your credit card. Some things to keep in mind:

- The limit on your credit card is not free, extra money for you to have. When you make a purchase with your credit card, you are agreeing to pay that money back. The longer it takes to pay it back, the more it will cost you.
- Only apply for credit that you need. One credit card, with a very reasonable limit based on your

income, is all you need to establish a credit rating. Pay the card off in full every month.

- You need to consent for someone to check your credit report. Monitor how often you allow inquiries on your credit report and keep inquiries to a minimum. Potential employers and landlords will want to see if you are responsible with your money, as will the people processing your student loan applications.

Cell phones on contract, gym memberships and ICBC monthly car insurance are all forms of credit. Paying all of your bills on time is crucial for a good credit rating.

Do not co-sign for a friend to get credit. If they don't pay, you will have to pay the bill for them.

Online application opens Dec. 1, 2021

apply for Scholarships

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649 AWARDS 396 STUDENTS

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Since awarding our first \$500 scholarship in 1987, the Saginaw Community Foundation has awarded college scholarships to area students totaling more than \$7 million, thanks to our generous donors. Each year, over 300 college-bound or career and technical education students benefit from our scholarship awards.

Our single application process makes it easy to potentially qualify for one or more of our 235+ scholarships. **Applications will begin being accepted Dec. 1, 2021 and must be submitted by Feb. 15, 2022.** Visit saginawfoundation.org/site/scholarships/ for more information or call (989) 755-0545.



Saginaw

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PIC OF THE WEEK

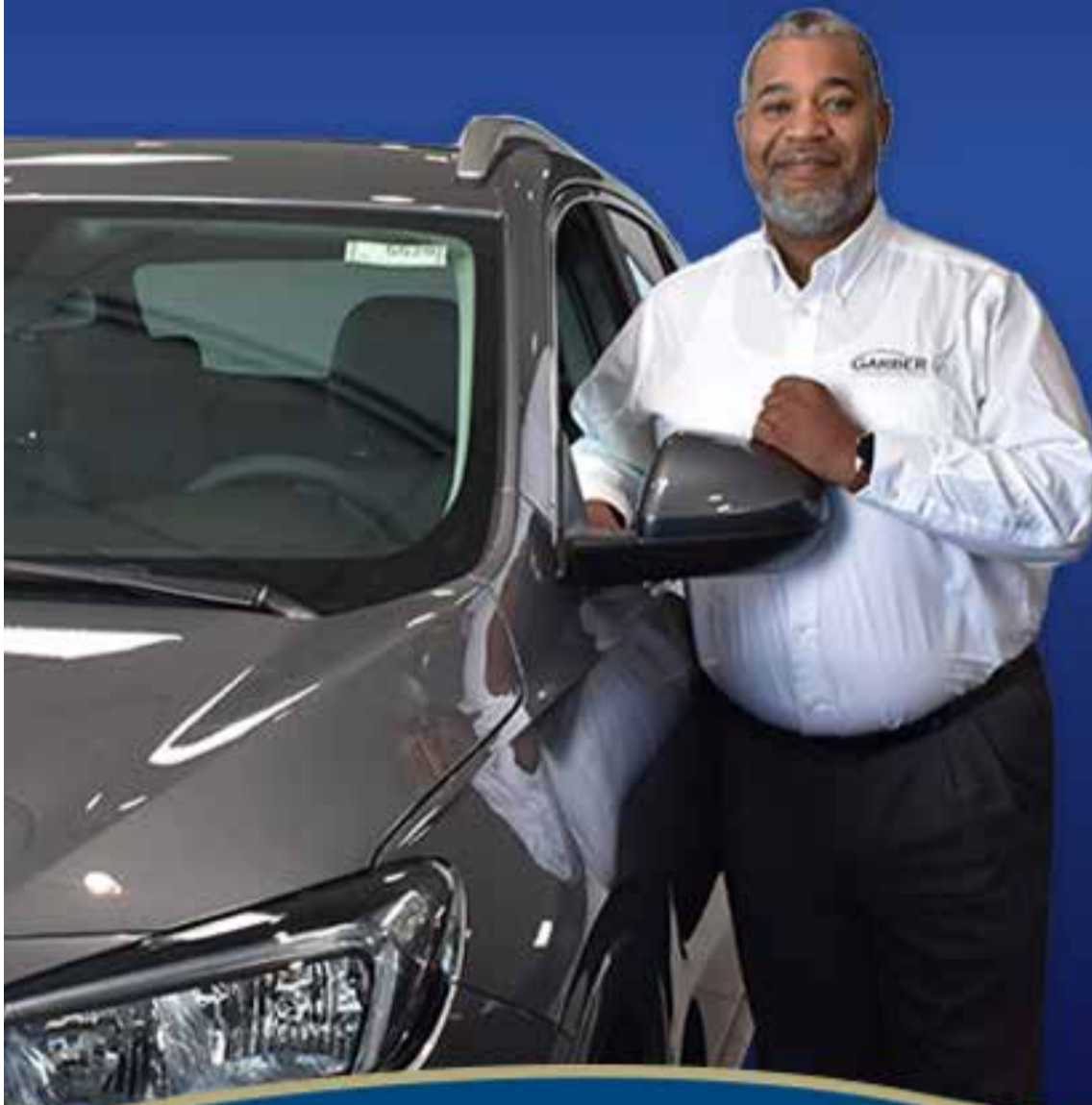
On Wednesday, December 22, Saginaw Mayor Brenda Moore helped distribute gifts to local families at Santa's Workshop Christmas giveaway.



FACEBOOK.COM

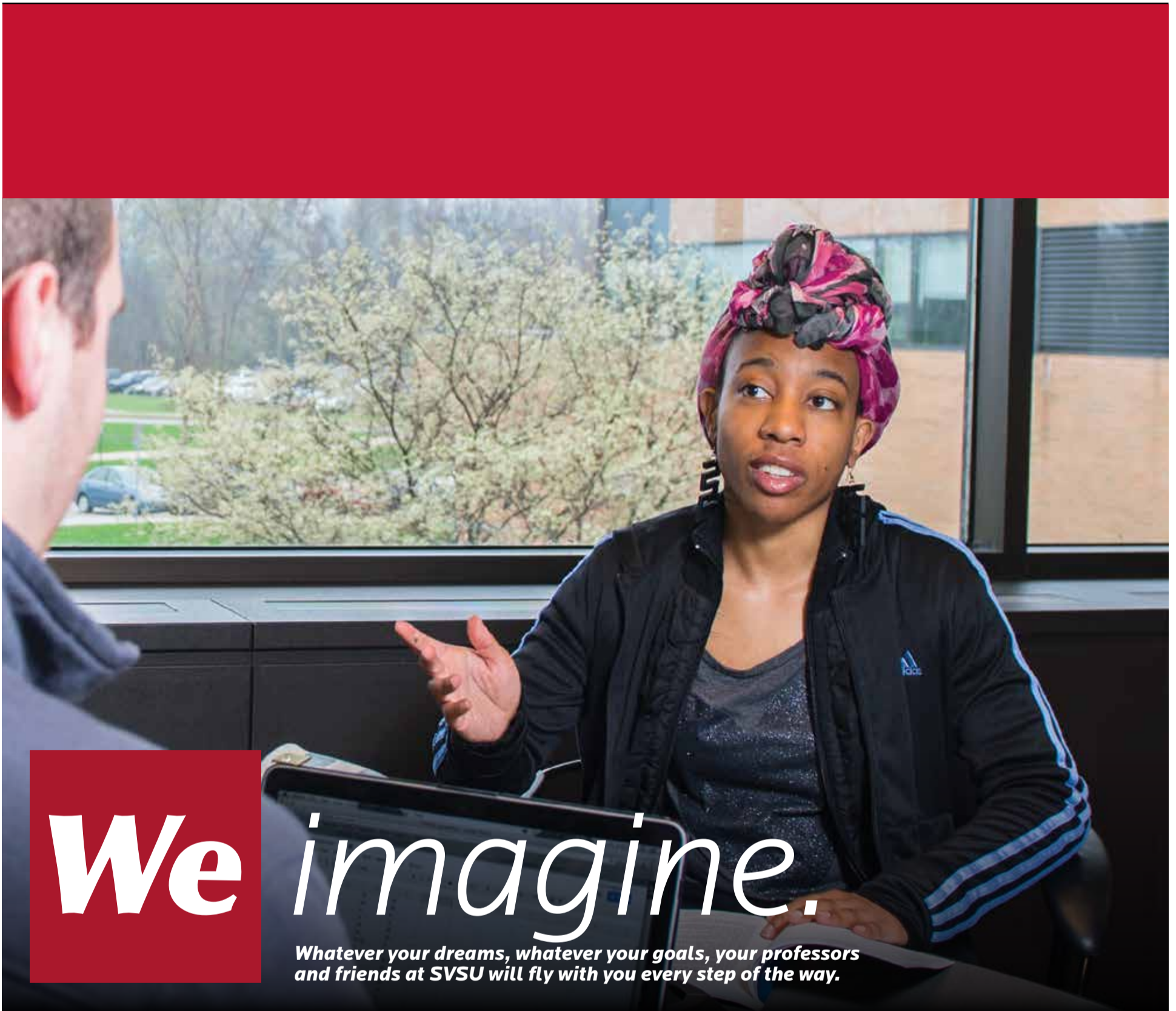
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We

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

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



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