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FRANKLIN'S BOUT AGAINST JOSHUA BRINGS TITLE HOPES, CHANGES IN BOXING

SPORTS, PG 47

Remembering Betty Jones Midland's African American pioneer



BETTY JONES

Dr. Betty B. Jones, wife, mother, grandmother and friend died peacefully at home with family by her side on March 28, 2023. She was born on May 4, 1935 in Columbia, SC to William A. Brown and Minnie M. Brown. She was raised in Columbia and graduated from C.A. Johnson High School in 1952. She graduated from Hampton Institute (University). Betty's first job post-undergrad was as a high school English teacher for one-year

Warrick High School in Warrick, VA. She moved to Stamford, CT., and worked as a teenage Program Director at the YWCA in Greenwich, CT.

In 1959 she married S. Preston Jones and moved to Washington, D.C. She worked as a

**CONTINUES ON PG 2,
BETTY JONES**



John Quiñones visits the Great Lakes Bay area

LB, PG 2



SVSU to host climate change and civic engagement experts for lecture and fireside chat

COMMUNITY, PG 13

FEATURED STORY

Local AKA Chapter celebrates moms, students, and 61 years of service

COMMUNITY, PG 13



THE MICHIGAN BANNER IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



Cover Story, Betty Jones

Program Director for Campfire Girls and as a Social Worker. She received a Master's Degree in Social Work from The Catholic University in 1965. She had two children, Allen and Anthony. She moved to Midland, MI in 1968 and worked as a School Social Worker in the Bay City Public Schools. She earned a Master's degree in Sociology and she received a Ph.D. in the joint program of Social Work and Social Sciences in 1981 from the University of Michigan.

She started teaching at Delta College in 1977 and was promoted to Academic Dean in 1984 and then to VP of Instruction and Learning Services in 1994. In 1984, while at Delta she helped to introduce a joint program with the Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology. The program was established in Nakuru, Kenya in 1987. As a result of the innovative programs introduced at Rift Valley Institute they named their library "The Dr. Betty B. Jones Library and Media Center" in 2003.

While at Delta, she was awarded the Community College Teacher of the Year by the Michigan Sociological Association (1983). She was also awarded the Don Laughner Award for Creative Change (1991) and the ECAPS Award for Outstanding Leadership (2001). At her retirement in 2001, the S. Preston and Dr. Betty B. Jones International Scholarship Endowment was established at Delta College to support student experiences in International study and to honor Dr. Jones's legacy in Global/International Education. To date, this scholarship has funded 13 Delta students for International service learning in five countries, including two teams of student nurses on assignment in Kenya and other counties. Other awards



BETTY JONES PICTURED WITH DR. DONALD BACHAND

include Bay City NAACP Human Relations Award (1975); South Carolina Black Hall of Fame Honoree (1998); Girl Scouts Woman of Distinction, Mitten Bay Region (1999); Land Award for Excellence in Institutional Leadership (2005); Drum Major Award, Bay region, MLK Celebration (2015); Saginaw NAACP Heroine Award (2016). YWCA Lifetime Achievement Award (2019), ATHENA Award of Midland Business Alliance (2021), AFP Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year (2022).

Since retirement from Delta College in 2001, Dr. Jones has devoted her time towards her passions in her life – twin granddaughters Alyssa and Arianna Jones, travel, collecting art, reading and writing. Her books – "Stories of My People": A Celebration of the African American Community in Midland, MI (1994) "Gifts From My Mother" (2013), We Are Family: Discovering Our Stories (2016), and "Pass It On" Sharing Our Story Telling Our Truth (2022).

Betty was a founding member of the Midland Black

Coalition. She was Chair of the Midland/Gladwin Community Mental Health Board. She served as a volunteer consultant with Midland Public Schools. She was a co-leader and advisor of the King/Parks/Chavez Initiative between Saginaw Valley State University and Delta College. She served on the Midland County "Say Yes to Youth Task Force". She was a member of the team for the Midland Team for the All-American City. In addition, Betty served as a member of the Adopt a Village in Guatemala organization. Served as a Resource Consultant for the Northwood University Creativity Center. Served on the State of Michigan Medicare Beneficiary Advisory Committee.

She has been a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for over 65 years and is a charter member of the Mu Alpha Omega Chapter in Midland, Michigan; a member of the Noon Rotary Club and the Midland County Historical Society of the MCFTA. She is also a member of St. John's Episcopal Church.

Betty Jones is survived by her husband of 64 years S. Preston Jones, her two sons, Allen Preston Jones and Anthony Paul Jones, and her two granddaughters, Alyssa Sundria Jones, and Arianna Jazmine Jones. Her brother, William A. Brown of Virginia Beach, VA, and nephews Shaun Brown, Michael Brown, Tim Brown, and a host of other beloved relatives and friends also survive her.



BETTY JONES PICTURED WITH FELLOW AWARD RECIPIENTS AT THE 2019 WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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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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JUNE 8, 2023 ♦ HORIZONS CONFERENCE CENTER

IN THIS ISSUE ▶

- Youth Banner 4 - 5
- Latino Banner LB 1 - LB 4
- Community 13
- Faith Based 26
- Health 32
- Education 34
- Sports 44

MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

To err is human – to forgive divine

If you interact with other humans, you have been on the receiving end of hurt. You have also been the cause of someone else's hurt as well. Each situation is unique, however, the severity and possible frequency of the offense (there are repeat offenders) will impact the length of time one needs to fully recover from hurt. With recovery comes freedom. Anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela was often quoted saying variations of the phrase, 'Resentment is like drinking poison and then waiting for it to kill your enemy.' This simply means that one has accepted, whether consciously or not, his or her own slow, sometimes painful, and deliberate demise. It means that after being hurt, choosing to harbor hatred or resentment is a self-inflicted wound that can only be healed by choosing to let go.

'To Err Is Human (people make mistakes) – To Forgive Divine (we really can let go of the resulting resentment).' We will always make mistakes – it is a natural part of the human experience. We cannot get through life without needing to apologize for our actions and to forgive others for theirs. If we are sincere and focused, we won't continuously be one of the repeat offenders mentioned above. If, however, one is consistently careless or intentionally hurtful, apologies become meaningless, and forgiveness must be from a distance. If you are in a position to deal with a repeat offender, be mindful of the need to maintain your own safety and well-being. My Grandmother used to say about people who were then called busybodies and troublemakers, 'Handle that one with a long handled spoon.' And if we fell for the same treatment again and again, 'You should have seen that one coming - you'll learn sooner or later.'

Seeking and granting forgiveness is learned and mastered through life experiences. It requires thoughtfulness and practice. Some apologies are so poorly given that it may feel that saying nothing at all would be a better option. What do I do when I have been offended and nothing is said? How do I find peace in those instances when nothing, not even a thinly veiled apology, is offered at all? Waiting for an apology that never comes can lead to bitterness and resentment – you know, the poison that makes us sick. This is when we give ourselves the gift of forgiveness. I choose to let go because I need to move on. The key though, is to go beyond lip service to others i.e. saying to any and everyone who will listen, 'I had to just let it go'. This is an indication that there may still be unresolved hurt and a need to focus on self-healing in spite of the fact that there has been no expression of remorse or acknowledgment of wrongdoing. If the hurt is serious, this is challenging but absolutely achievable. Mandela also said, 'Forgiveness liberates the soul, it removes fear. That's why it is such a powerful weapon.' With or without sincere expressions of regret, forgiveness liberates you – the offended.

While we are on the journey of mastering the quality of forgiving others, we must be mindful of the need to forgive ourselves. Resentment and unforgiveness are like a venom we nurture and carry around inside us waiting for an opportunity to dump it on someone else (or keep inside to punish ourselves). The harmful and potentially long-lasting effects of unforgiveness whether directed towards others or inwards towards self, can be mitigated if we practice daily to let it go. We make a conscious decision to improve our health and literally prolong our lives. If we are to enrich our own lives and enhance the level of peace and comfort for next generations, we practice the 'divine' act of forgiving self and others. Some with the long-handled spoon, others up close and personal. With it comes peace of mind, freedom from bitterness, and the ability to move forward without fear.



Jerome Buckley
Publisher, Michigan Banner



MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 5 • NUMBER 7



EMBRACE THE BLOCK

By DONIQUA SOVIA

I've been experiencing writers block. It's times like these that back in the early days of me writing, I used to get frustrated and think that as a writer I was to always have the right words to say. But sometimes no words are the best thing.

You can learn a lot in silence, if you actually stop and listen. There are times when God will allow something not to work out, as a means to get your attention in the hopes that you'll listen. I learned to embrace those moments and let God speak to me, and give me the right words to say. Writer's Block became a sign that I've said enough, and now it's time for God to speak. I encourage you to embrace the block, and follow what and where God is leading you.





COURTESY PHOTO

Flint & Genesee Education & Talent is accepting applications for the 2023 summer Youth Initiative program

Email correspondence has been sent out to TeenQuest graduates ages 14-19 in grades 9-12 who are eligible to apply for Summer Youth Initiative (SYI). With a job fair set for May 6 at Genesee Career Institute, the division of the Flint & Genesee Group is encouraging teens to consider applying to work this summer.

“SYI is the next step in our kindergarten-to-career continuum,” says James Avery, director of Talent Development for Flint & Genesee Education & Talent. “Getting a summer job during high school doesn’t just provide extra money for students, it gives them a great experience they can carry with them long after.”

A summer job helps students learn important life skills such as teamwork and communication. It also is a great way to make connections with business professionals that may be able to help students in the future.

“We have 25 excellent employers on board looking to hire students this summer,” says Avery. “Our for-profit and non-profit partners are looking for candidates with a variety of experiences from office

and retail to warehouse and assembly, childcare and library assistant to recreation and food service.”

Employers participating in SYI this year include:

- Asbury Community Development Corporation
- Beecher Community School District
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flint & Genesee County
- Boys & Girls Club of Greater Flint
- Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee Counties
- Centre of Lily Med Spa
- Developing Respectful Education Minds with Sports (DREAMS)
- Flint Children’s Museum
- Flint Freedom Schools Collaborative
- Flint Fresh
- Flint Institute of Music
- Flint Public Library
- Flint River Watershed Coalition (FRWC)
- Food Bank of Eastern Michigan
- Genesee County Community Action Resource Department
- Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission
- Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan
- Hand of Hope – FLM
- International Academy of Flint
- Mara Technologies USA
- Motherly Intercessions, Inc.
- Mott Community College
- The Chosen Few Arts Council
- Voice For Children Advocacy Center

For more information on SYI, visit [EducateFlintandGenesee.org/Summer-Youth-Initiative/](https://www.educateflintandgenesee.org/Summer-Youth-Initiative/).

Seen on the Scene: On March 23, students at Saginaw High School were inducted into the National Honor Society.



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At AT&T, we're dedicated to bringing connectivity to millions of unconnected Americans. To achieve this goal, AT&T is investing \$2 billion from 2021-2024 to help address the digital divide.

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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE



Seen on the Scene: John Quiñones

LB pg 2

City of Saginaw declares March 31 as 'Cesar Chavez Day' in Saginaw



GIL GUEVARA & MIGUEL GUZMAN

Cesar Chavez Day is a U.S. federal commemorative holiday, proclaimed by President Barack Obama in 2014. The holiday celebrates the birth and legacy of the civil rights and labor movement activist Cesar Chavez on March 31 every year.

On March 20, the City of Saginaw issued a proclamation declaring March 31, 2023, as "Cesar Chavez Day" in the city of Saginaw. The proclamation was presented to the American GI Forum of Saginaw during a city council meeting.



CESAR CHAVEZ

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



Seen on the Scene: On March 29, ABC News veteran John Quiñones spoke at Delta College. The event entitled, "What Would You Do? Words of wisdom about doing the right thing," focused on Quiñones' odds-defying journey from migrant farm work to broadcast journalism, the power of education, championing the Latino American Dream, and thought-provoking perspectives on human nature and ethical behavior. Quiñones also stopped by Gilly's Bistro in Bay City for a private reception.



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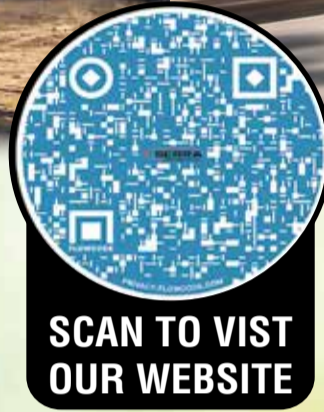


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ANNIE BOENSCH

Local AKA Chapter celebrates moms, students, and 61 years of service

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter is set to celebrate a huge milestone with our upcoming 39th Annual “Hats Off To Mom” Scholarship Program. Themed “Soaring to Greater Heights of Community Service and Sisterhood,” the chapter is proud of its legacy rooted in sisterhood, scholarship and service.

“For sixty-one years Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter has been an impactful influence in Saginaw since our inception and chartering at the Bancroft Hotel on February 10, 1962,” says Kimberly Horne, President of Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter. “We strive to be a continuous source of dedication to our community through

volunteering by helping those in need, positioning youth for success through scholarships, mentoring and education, political involvement, promoting women’s health and nutrition and building our economic wealth. We are also a source of professional and leadership development for our members, some of whom will be attending our International Leadership Seminar in Chicago, Illinois.”

On May 6 at 11:00 a.m., it will be that dedication to the Saginaw community that takes center stage with this year’s “Hats Off To Mom” celebration. The chapter is pleased to host our annual signature event in person after three years of virtual events due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It

will be held at the Horizons Conference Center, 6200 State Street; we have lots in store for participants. Highlights include the awarding of college scholarships to Saginaw-area high school students, women entrepreneurs, musical performances and an interactive hat show and vendor showcase.

The chapter will present the “Mother of The Year” award to Dr. Peggy Hall, author and former educator and administrator in the Saginaw Public School System. Eta Upsilon Omega will also celebrate Mrs. Stacy Davis Diggs who will receive

**CONTINUES ON PG 14,
AKA**

+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 13, AKA



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®
Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter



Soaring to Greater Heights of Community Service and Scholarship

39th Annual

Hats Off to Mom

Scholarship Luncheon



Guest Speaker:
Senator Sylvia Santana
DISTRICT 2-Michigan Senate

Tickets: \$50.00

Saturday, May 6, 2023
11:00 am

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the prestigious “Soror of The Year” award. Proceeds from ticket and souvenir book advertisement sales will benefit the chapter’s continuous efforts to provide scholarships to deserving students and to give back to the community through service projects.

In all, this program is another jewel in Eta Upsilon Omega’s crown of sisterhood, scholarship, and service.

“Our history illustrates we are women who lead as we were the first African American Greek Letter organization established in Saginaw, Michigan, following the unprecedented path pioneered by our illustrious national founders in 1908,” Horne continues. “We proudly stand on the shoulders of our charter members, many of whom were the first women of color to attain positions in their professions in the city of Saginaw. Our charter members are: Frances Elnora Moton Carter*, Jacqueline M. Porterfield*, Willett K.G. Johnson*, Della Vaughn Smith*, Margaret Griffin Brown*, Lola A. Lothery Shelby*, Nancy Haithco-Price*, Bernadine Tivis Carter*, Helen Joan Banks Turpin*, Mildred Cambridge*, Marie Waldon Claytor* and Eva Wyche (*Deceased). Our commitment to improving the lives of others is demonstrated as Eta Upsilon Omega has significantly impacted the Saginaw Community, contributing over \$200,000 in scholarships and community service programs. Our endeavor is to continue this legacy in 2023 and beyond. I am appreciative of having the privilege to serve as the President of this outstanding, thriving sisterhood with leaders who make a difference in the community to provide service to all mankind.”

Tickets are \$50. Attendees can purchase tickets from any member of Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter. For questions, please contact us at AKA1908HYOmega@gmail.com.



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Neil C. Juhnke Named Michigan Sugar Company President and CEO

Michigan Sugar Company today named Neil C. Juhnke of Lake Park, Minnesota, its next President and CEO.

A native of North Dakota, Juhnke comes to Michigan Sugar to continue a career in the agribusiness sector that stretches back to 1990. He replaces retiring President and CEO Mark S. Flegenheimer who led Michigan Sugar the past two and a half decades.

“My family and I are incredibly excited for the opportunity that lies ahead,” said Juhnke, who began his career at American Crystal Sugar Company in Moorhead, Minnesota, and spent 15 years there working his way up to become Ag Operations Manager, where he was responsible for the harvest, storage, and transportation of the company’s sugarbeet crop and served on the company’s Executive Operating Committee. “I am very much looking forward to returning to my roots and working alongside Michigan Sugar Company’s world-class grower-owners and its talent-



NEIL C. JUHNKE

ed workforce.”

Juhnke earned his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering in 1990 from North Dakota State University and in 2002 completed the Essentials of Management Program at The Wharton School at

the University of Pennsylvania.

After leaving American Crystal in 2005, Juhnke was instrumental in the founding and development of Northstar Agri Industries, where he led the development and construction of a successful canola processing and refining plant near Hallock, Minnesota. Juhnke later became President and Chief Operating Officer, overseeing the processing of more than 400,000 tons of canola seed annually into canola oil and canola meal.

More recently, Juhnke served as Vice President of Manufacturing and Operations for Fargo, North Dakota-based Red River Commodities Inc., a food processing company, with four divisions – including the well-known SunButter LLC – and seven factories spread across Kansas, North Dakota, and Texas. During his time there, Juhnke led a strategic operations initiative, improving the company’s safety, capital deployment, plant maintenance, and production management processes.

Saginaw begins phase II of ARPA Home Rehabilitation Program

The City of Saginaw is preparing to launch Phase II-Roofs of the ARPA Home Rehabilitation Program, which utilizes ARPA funds to provide home rehabilitation assistance on owner-occupied dwellings in the City of Saginaw. In September 2022, City Council approved \$3.8 million in ARPA funding for this program, which will be rolled out in various phases to include improvements to furnaces, roofs, and windows to qualified applicants.

Phase I-Furnaces was launched in December 2022. Over 400 applications were accepted at the two open application events held in City Council Chambers. After careful review of each application, city staff began the inspection and installation process. To date, the City of Saginaw has completed the installation of furnaces in over 48 homes and has begun the inspection and installation process on an additional 157 homes. We anticipate spending \$1 million of the allocation on Phase 1-Furnaces.

The City of Saginaw is committed to ensuring all regulations of ARPA are closely followed as we work through this process. We are grateful for our dedicated staff who have made the review of applications and the installation process possible.

A formal presentation on Phase II-Roofs of the ARPA Home Rehabilitation Program will be presented at the April 3 City Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 1315 S. Washington Avenue, Room 205. Yolanda M. Bland, Director of the Office of Management and Budget/Community Services, will provide an update on Phase I-Furnace installations and also explain the important details of Phase II-Roofs. Citizens are encouraged to watch the presentation to learn more about Phase II of the program, including how to apply, application dates and qualifications for the program.

Tim Morales, City Manager, commented on the ARPA Home Rehabilitation pro-

gram.

“It’s exciting to be able to provide this assistance for our residents. The program is designed to assist those residents with the greatest need, and we are seeing the impact of this program in our community. When Phase I is complete, over 200 homes in the City of Saginaw will have received new furnaces. We anticipate that Phase II-Roofs will have a similar impact for city residents who qualify for the program. I encourage citizens to watch the April 3 meeting to learn more about the program and how to apply.”

The April 3 City Council meeting will be broadcast on SGTV, Channel 191, and streamed live on the City’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/CityofSaginawMI.

For all questions on the ARPA Home Rehabilitation Program, please email ARPAService@saginaw-mi.com or call (989) 577-0184.



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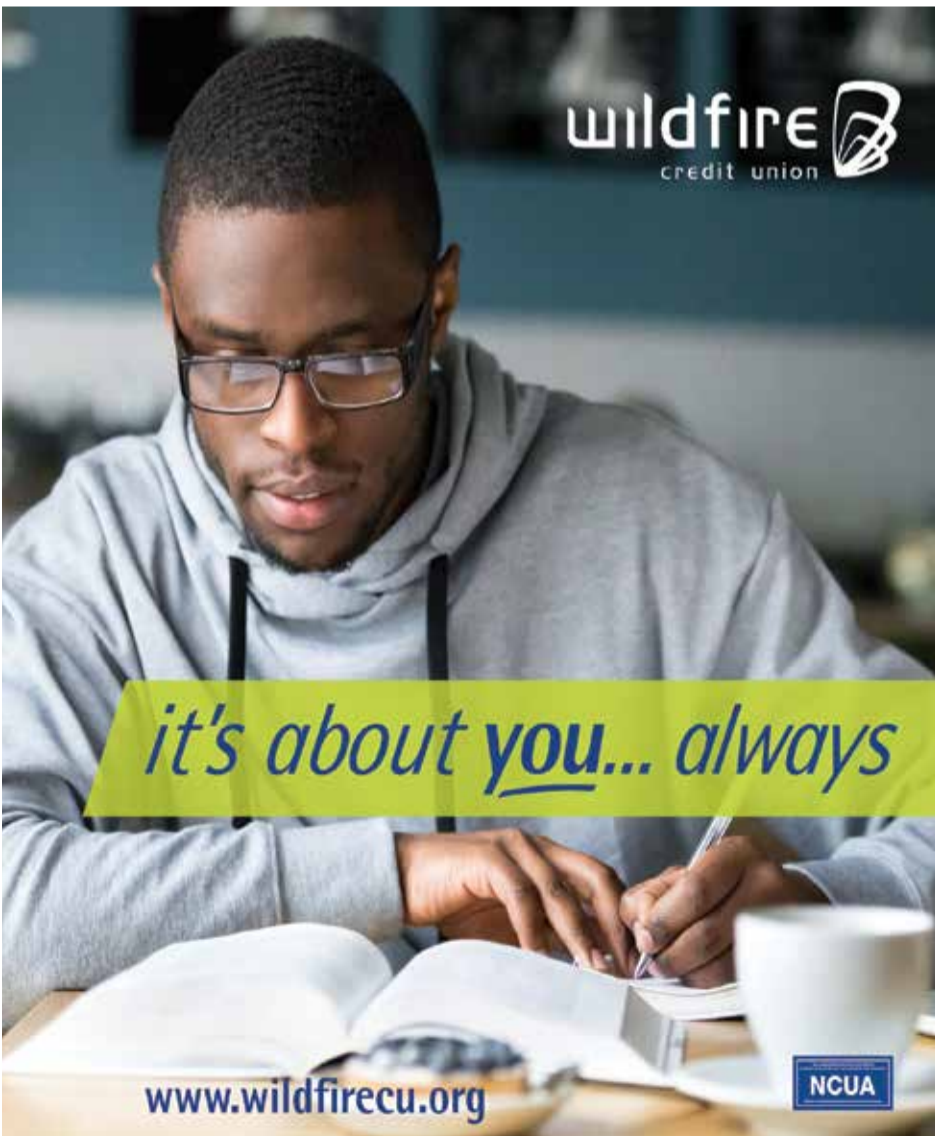
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What's for snacking, Della?

BY DOLORESE FALL-GRANT

Beans for dessert? Try this recipe, and then go toot your own horn!

Black Beans Rum Cake

Ingredients

- 2 cans of black beans
- 1 cup of raisins
- 1 and 1/2 cups brown sugar
- Half pound (two sticks) of soft butter
- Half pound of cake flour
- Half teaspoon baking powder
- Half cup of mixed citrus peel
- Half pound of mixed nuts
- Half teaspoon apiece of cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, and allspice
- 1 cup brown rum
- 5 eggs beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon of essence



Instructions

- In a food processor combine black beans, mix peels, nuts and raisins and set aside.
- Cream butter and sugar.
- Add beaten eggs and the grind ingredients to the butter and sugar, add flour and spices and baking powder.
- Bake in oven at 350 degrees for 45 minutes to one hour.

Enjoy with coffee. Nuts are optional, also you can add holiday cherries whole to the batter.

+ COMMUNITY

Saginaw Community Foundation grants \$231,725 in latest grant cycle

Between Jan. 12 – Mar. 10, 2023, Saginaw Community Foundation (SCF) granted \$231,725, supporting 22 programs and projects via its designated, donor advised and competitive grant processes.

“Every person who has supported the foundation – whether through donations, volunteering or advocacy – has assisted us in giving much needed support to the programs and projects helping to make our community a better place,” said Reneé Johnston, president and CEO of the foundation. “We strive to grant funds to support programs that will make a difference in our community and beyond.”

Grants awarded during recent cycles were funded via SCF Unrestricted Funds, the YWCA Fund for Women & Children, as well as various designated and donor advised funds.

Currently, SCF manages 28 unrestricted funds, 78 designated funds and 62 donor advised funds.

Organizations interested in applying for a grant through SCF can learn more at saginawfoundation.org/site/grants, or contact Kendra Kempf, program officer, by email at kendra@saginawfoundation.org. Remaining application deadlines for SCF’s competitive grants in 2023 are May 1, Aug. 1, and Nov. 1.

The following SCF funds provided designated and donor advised (non-competitive) grants, Jan. 12 – Mar. 10, 2023:

Circle Michigan Fund – \$225

- Corpus Christi Catholic School – Travel Grant

Dow CommunityGives – \$1,000

- Freeland Community Schools – Freeland Middle School Robotics Team

Flegenheimer Family Foundation Fund – \$35,000

- Benzie County Central Schools – \$5,000
- COGNITION Science and Discovery

Center – \$5,000

- The Diaper Alliance – \$5,000
- Frankfort–Elberta Area Schools – \$5,000
- Friends of Garber Courts (SCF) – \$10,000
- Friends of The Garden Theater – \$5,000

HAP Healthy Initiatives Fund – \$1,500

- Child Abuse and Neglect Council Great Lakes Bay Region

Nexteer Community Improvement Fund – \$6,500

- Bay County Active Assailant Task Force – \$1,500
- PartnerShift Network – office equipment and assistance with Success Coaching Program – \$5,000

Nexteer Education Fund – \$1,500

- Great Lakes Bay FIRST – Travel expenses for Freeland Middle School Robotics Team to attend World Championships

Stevens Family Fund – \$5,000

- First Presbyterian Church – Ecumenical Food Pantry

The following organizations received grants to support programs/projects via various competitive grants available through SCF:

American Chemical Society – \$2,500 (\$1,500 from the YWCA Fund for Women & Children; \$1,000 from the Saginaw County Child Development Fund)

- STEAM Accessibility for Saginaw Youth

Great Mural Project (SCF) – \$5,000**(\$4,244 from the SCF Unrestricted Fund; \$756 from the Saginaw Community Arts Fund)**

- The Great Mural Project

Handley Foundation (SCF) – \$75,000 (\$70,000 from the Healthy Communities Fund; \$5,000 from the YWCA Fund for Women & Children)

- Handley Hills

Heart of the City – \$2,000 (from the SCF Unrestricted Fund)

- Ecstatic about STEM – Create the Future

Hemlock Public Schools – \$1,500 (from the YWCA Fund for Women & Children)

- The STEM Labs at The Lockwood STEM Center

Mission in the City – \$50,000 (Healthy Communities Fund)

- Project Park Improvement (Welcome Center)

New Beginnings Enrichment Center – \$5,000 (\$3,965 from the SCF Unrestricted Fund; \$1,035 from the Neighborhood Revitalization Fund)

- One Week, One Street

Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority – \$10,000 (\$5,152 from the Mental Health Fund; \$4,848 from the Carl Werth, Sr. & Ruth Werth Memorial Fund)

- Clinical Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

TempleArts – \$15,000 (from the SCF Unrestricted Fund)

- The Temple Theatre Stage Rejuvenation Project

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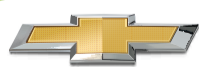
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+ COMMUNITY

SVSU to host climate change and civic engagement experts for lecture and fireside chat

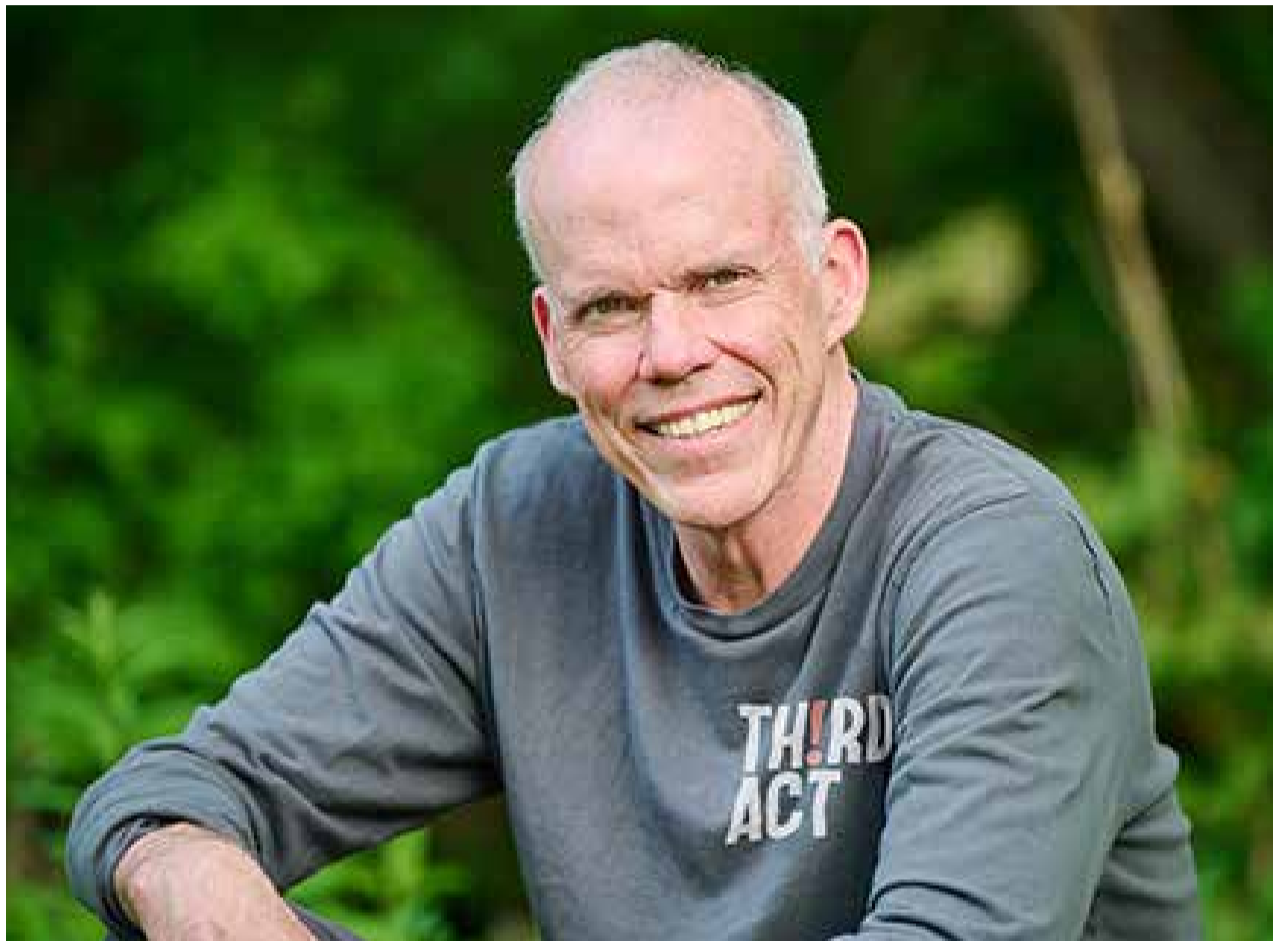
Saginaw Valley State University will host climate control advocates Bill McKibben and Angela Ardis for an informative presentation on the impact of climate change and the steps ordinary people can take to alleviate it.

“Diversity Brings Strength to Climate Action” will include a lecture by McKibben and Ardis, followed by a fireside chat facilitated by SVSU student Emma Abedrabo, an environmental science major from Saginaw and president of SVSU’s Climate Stick Club student organization, and Pat Race, an environmentalist from Bay City and developer of the climate stick. The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Tuesday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m. in SVSU’s Curtiss Hall banquet rooms.

“This program is a way for us to help spread climate change awareness to the public,” Abedrabo said. “It is impossible to fix a problem if you are not aware of the problem in the first place, and harder yet if we are not a united front. We hope that this program will inspire everyone to use our differences as leverage to unite against our common enemy of climate change.”

A pioneer in advocating for climate control, McKibben’s 1989 book “The End of Nature” is considered the first book about climate change designed for a general audience. It has been published in 24 languages. McKibben founded Third Act to organize people over the age of 60 for action on climate and justice. He also helped found 350.org, the first global grassroots climate campaign, which has organized protests for climate action on every continent.

McKibben serves as the Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College in Vermont, and as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has won the Gandhi Peace Prize, as well as honorary degrees from 20 colleges and universities. McKibben was awarded the Right Livelihood Award, sometimes called the alternative Nobel, in the Swedish Parliament. Foreign Policy named him to its inaugu-



BILL MCKIBBEN

ral list of the world’s 100 most important global thinkers.

Ardis, a Michigan native, is the Michigan State director for NextGen America, the leader in youth voting and civic engagement in the United States. In the 2022 midterm elections, Angela led a team that contacted more than 10,000 young voters in the two months leading up to the election and worked on campuses across the state.

The Climate Stick Club at SVSU is a registered student organization that is dedicated to end the burning of carbon through education and advocacy. It takes its name and mission from the Climate Stick Project, established by Bay City environmentalist Pat Race, who also created the climate stick as a teaching tool to illustrate the impact of burning carbon.

The “Diversity Brings Strength for Climate Action” program is supported by the Dow Visiting Scholars and Artists series at SVSU, which was established by the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation to

enrich our region’s cultural and intellectual opportunities. The program is sponsored by SVSU’s Office of Diversity Programs, Academic Affairs and College of Science, Engineering and Technology.



ANGELA ARDIS



Multicultural Academic Student Services (MASS) is a comprehensive office, which provides academic, personal, social and cultural support to students. To empower and retain students, the office provides culturally relevant services through academic achievement, scholarship, cultural celebrations, mentoring, and diversity education which promotes the successful transition, persistence, achievement and graduation of students.



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

Join us at Ministry Without Walls

By **PASTOR JOHN DUNN**
MINISTRY WITHOUT WALLS

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

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

Our vision is for Ministry Without Walls to be:

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

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

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

Our ongoing teaching and seminars will include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MICHIGAN BANNER
SERMONETTE SERIES

By MINISTER CAROLYN CARTER
TOWNSEL

Without a doubt, sooner or later we will find ourselves in a waiting room. The “waiting room” is normally not held in high esteem, in fact it is considered one of the most dreaded places to be. The purpose for waiting rooms is for people who are waiting to be seen by someone, or waiting for something, or waiting for some type of service to be rendered. Regardless of what waiting room we find ourselves in, waiting is one of the most difficult things for us to do.

Attached to the waiting are the postures and attitudes; The pacer who constantly walks back and forth, the clock or watch watcher who lets out a deep sigh every time he or she looks at the time, the one who looks annoyed when someone else’s name is called before theirs, and finally there is the waiter who asks the receptionist how much longer will it be?

In our text we find the Israelites in God’s waiting room. During their years of exile in Babylon, it brought tremendous difficulties that caused them to become weary and tired. Their mindset became darkened by doubt and despairing thoughts. However, in the midst of being exhausted and burdened from the circumstances of their

In God’s Waiting Room

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint”

Isa.40:31KJV

life, they were the first to receive the promise of Isaiah 40:31, **“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”**

Just as the Israelites were in God’s waiting room, many of us find ourselves in His waiting room. God’s waiting room is a place of waiting for God’s intervention in a situation or condition. It is a period between God’s promise and our fulfillment. One of the key exhortations of the Bible is the call to **“wait on the Lord.”** Although God promises special blessings for those who wait, it is challenging because as a part of fallen humanity, we are so disposed to take matters in our own hands and to follow our own plans. The Hebrew term wait means to hope for, to anticipate. Consequently, while in God’s waiting room we are to do so in hopeful expectation and submitting to the Lord’s will. As Believers our postures and attitudes should consist of praying, waiting patiently, reading and studying His word, and ultimately knowing and trusting that He has worked it out for our good and we are waiting for God to manifest and reveal.

It is critical that we understand there is only one way to get this great promise, **“But they that wait upon the Lord**

shall renew their strength.” Not, those who work for the Lord, but those who wait for Him. In God’s waiting room we admit that we do not have the strength we need and acknowledge that we need the strength only he can give.

I once read how God strengthens us during our times of waiting and it read like this; Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching before it arrives? The eagle will fly to a high spot and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wing will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it. The eagle does not escape the storm, it simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that brings the storm. In our time of waiting, it is God who will strengthen us, His power will lift us up above the dark clouds so we can ride the winds of the storm that enter our lives. **“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not faint.”** These words are enriching and affirm that it is indeed a blessing to those that “wait upon the Lord.”

Blessings To All

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+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

Turning 30 turned her into a philanthropist

Part one of an interview with Tiffany Futch

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

“Veronica Rowell changed my perspective on philanthropy when she said that you can call yourself a philanthropist if you’ve ever spent one dollar at a thrift store. When she explained how that dollar can cycle through a community, a light bulb went off for me. My goal is to cycle as many dollars (whether my own or to inspire others to) as I can through my local community for the greater good.”

This is the story of how the women of her community helped Tiffany Futch grow into a Black woman philanthropist and fundraiser. “No one would ever have made me believe at age 29 that fundraising was a thing that I would do; let alone love. Naturally, I’m very introverted so I was afraid of rejection or just being awkward at asking for money.” Tiffany shares her story to inspire you.

“My philanthropic journey began about six months before my 30th birthday. I was having angst that I hadn’t accomplished enough and frantically began to list out 30 things I wanted to do by my 30th birthday. One was “Be a check writer”. A few Google searches later, I realized the correct name for it was philanthropy. A deeper dive into the search results landed me at the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis’ annual grantee awards event. As fate would have it, I ran into Shante Avante who I’d met when I was in college working for the Boys & Girls Club. She immediately plugged me into WFGM’s Young Women



TIFFANY FUTCH

Philanthropist group which allowed me to volunteer at events and network. Eventually, I moved onto boards at the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center, CHOICES: Memphis Center for Reproductive Health and SisterReach where I participated in a number of fundraisers ranging from house parties to capital campaigns. Looking back, it didn’t take long for me to find my footing.

I started with giving \$25 a quarter which I’ve snowballed into larger annual gifts.”

As with all of us, Tiffany was encouraged along the way. “The many women I met through WFGM who were open to sharing. A decade later, I still have the notes that I feverishly scribbled at events. Each one was a like a crash course in philanthropy. A number of the ladies I met in WFGM’s Young Women Philanthropist group continue to inspire me through their board service, creation of non-profits, and advocacy work. My time on the board of CHOICES gave me the opportunity to work alongside fearless women. They just took on every challenge with a confidence and dedication that was awe-inspiring.”

Tiffany’s philanthropy actually began with volunteering. “I would make time for volunteering whenever possible through my sorority and as an activity with a group of friends in my 20s. I loved seeing the faces of people we served. I always walked away wanting to do more and to help more people. Once I was plugged into WFGM, I began to better understand how I could do more with the collective power of women who shared that same desire.”



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

+ HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

MDHHS recognizes benefits of having a family physician during Family Medicine Week

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), along with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians and the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians recognized March 19-25 as Family Medicine Week in Michigan.

Family medicine is a medical specialty practiced by family physicians. These physicians undergo extensive training to provide comprehensive care for people of all ages.

“Visiting your family physician for regular check-ups and to keep up-to-date on immunizations can help you stay healthy and prevent illness,” said

Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive. “Having a family doctor helps build a lasting relationship with someone who knows you and your family’s medical history and can treat a variety of medical conditions. We recommend all Michigan residents get a family physician or other primary care provider and keep up with routine medical visits.”

Family Medicine Week highlights family physicians’ dedication to providing comprehensive, coordinated primary care to residents across the state to protect and improve health and wellness and reduce costs to the health care system. Research shows that adults

and children with a family physician as their regular source of care have lower annual costs of care, visit the doctor less, are prescribed fewer medications and report less difficulty accessing care.

Family physicians are key partners in Michigan adults and children getting vaccinated against the seasonal flu, COVID-19 and other vaccine-preventable diseases that cause illness and death.

To learn more about Michigan Academy of Family Physicians, visit MAFP.com. To learn more about Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians, visit MAOFP.org.



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

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+ EDUCATION

Observations regarding scholarship applications



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

Recently I reviewed 25 scholarship applications for the Saginaw Community Foundation. I urge any interested readers to investigate being a reviewer next year. Great process. Highly organized. Efficient.

While it is fresh in my mind, I would like to share some observations from this year and offer suggestions for parents and grandparents to share with children at home. It may help inform students before they become scholarship applicants themselves.

While I am just one reviewer, I must say I was favorably impressed by the group I reviewed. Among the strongest takeaways are these:

- The breadth of extracurricular involvement. I value students who not only played multiple sports but also joined organizations like student council, NHS, debate / forensics. These same students may have played in the band or sang in the choir, too, and might have had time to be in 1 or 2



COURTESY PHOTO

school plays. I tried to imagine how busy students must be who take on such a wide range of activities; it is impressive and with each activity, probably helped students get ready for the world of higher education.

As a reviewer, the more involvement, the higher the rating I gave.

- The type of jobs worked. Many students worked in the service sector (restaurant /food service, especially), and some also worked in the field they wanted to enter. For example, a nursing student might work part time in a senior living facility.

The more unique the jobs, the higher rating from me.

- The type and amount of community service. Many students volunteered a significant number of hours in

multiple ways. A student might volunteer at their church... and with NHS...and with local service clubs.....accumulating 100 or more hours of community service. Impressive!

The larger the number of hours of community service and the longer the community service was sustained, the higher I rated the application.

For parents and grandparents at home, these examples provide ways to expand and strengthen competitive scholarships applications to be submitted by your sons/daughters or grandchildren. Plus, the essay components need to be strong, truthful, and in the student's voice. All of these elements make for stronger scholarship applications.

Resource:

<https://www.saginawfoundation.org/site>



SVSU After Dark

APRIL 14 5PM-8PM

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING EXPLORING A UNIVERSITY IN YOUR BACKYARD!

5PM  *All-You-Care-to-Eat Dinner*

The evening will start with an optional dinner in our main dining facility.

6PM  *Admissions Presentation*

SVSU Admissions will present on the top reasons why students choose to join the Cardinal Family. From academics and cost, to housing and student life, our presentation will highlight all the important info you need to consider when choosing a college.

 *Campus Tour*

Explore all that SVSU's campus has to offer. Tours are led by current students who are experts in all things SVSU. Tour academic buildings, housing, the fitness center and so much more!

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Saginaw Promise... An Investment in Postsecondary Education to Change a Community and Lives

To impact the future of a community, its economy, quality of life and the lives of its students through postsecondary education, could be an overwhelming task, but with support from individuals, foundations, organizational and corporate donors, the Saginaw Promise is working to eliminate barriers to postsecondary education through information and scholarships. The Saginaw Promise's mission is to affect Saginaw's economy and quality of life by promoting and supporting a culture of postsecondary education for all of its graduating students through information, programming and awarding of "last dollar" scholarships as a means to retain and grow Saginaw's population to support current businesses and attract new businesses with a well-trained and educated workforce. Saginaw Promise believes in the power of postsecondary education to be a "change agent", one that will impact the future of Saginaw and the lives of its

students. Positive change in Saginaw will benefit surrounding communities and the entire Great Lakes Bay Region.

Since first forming, the Saginaw Promise has seen high school graduation rates increase, drop-out rates decrease, FAFSA completion grow and Saginaw Promise scholars earn program certificates and degrees! Since 2012, the Saginaw Promise has awarded \$1,182,799 in scholarships to 662 students.

Saginaw Promise Scholarship Overview:

- The Saginaw Promise Scholarship is for students who live in and graduate from a high school in the Saginaw Promise Zone.
- "Saginaw Promise Zone" is made

up the cities of Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Kochville and that area of Buena Vista that is designated to the Saginaw Public School District.

- Students are required to complete the online Saginaw Community Foundation application and attachments. The Online scholarship application will open November 1, 2023 and must be completed by February 10, 2024.
- Students must complete FAFSA.
- When completing the scholarship application--Students must check off Saginaw Promise and answer two questions regarding years of school attendance and residency in the Promise Zone.
- Parental Income is not considered.
- GPA is not considered (Students must maintain standards of institution they enroll with).
- Saginaw Promise Scholarship is available up to two years (two semesters per academic year)
- Student must complete application within two years of high school graduation and will have up to six years to use their scholarship following high school graduation.

To support the work of the Saginaw Promise with a donation or to learn more about the organization visit www.saginaw-promise.org or telephone (989) 755-0545.



+ EDUCATION



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Despite staffing challenges, Saginaw Intermediate School District's Early Childhood Department continues to provide students and families across the Great Lakes Bay Region with a variety of resources!

Despite staffing challenges, Saginaw Intermediate School District's Early Childhood Department continues to provide students and families across the Great Lakes Bay Region with a variety of resources!

The Saginaw ISD Early Childhood Services Department provides an array of resources for children and families throughout Saginaw County including home visits, preschool programming, and community support. Programs are designed to strengthen families by providing high-quality learning environ-

ments and support for their children while sharing access to essential family resources. Our programs include the following:

- Birth-5
- Early On
- Great Start Collaborative
- Great Start Readiness Program
- Great Start to Quality Eastern Resource Center
- Healthy Families America

- Head Start/Early Head Start
- Michigan Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Program (MI-APPP)
- Michigan Tri Share Child Care Program

Our largest programs encompass our preschool programming. The Early Head Start (EHS) program serves 156 students

**CONTINUES ON PG 39,
SISD**

Continued from pg 38, SISD

in 6 classrooms and several homes while our Head Start (HS) program serves 859 students in 51 classrooms and 17 sites. Our Great Start to Readiness Program (GSRP) serves over 1,100 students across Saginaw county in local school districts, community based organizations and charter schools. These programs are essential to providing our youngest, most vulnerable learners the experiences they need to build a firm foundation for future academic success. It's impossible to do this alone and we value our partners at the local, state and federal level helping us in our pursuit for funding, support and legislative advocacy for high quality services.

Despite staffing challenges, SISD continues to keep the provision of these services at the forefront of what we do. These challenges are not prevalent just in our county, but across the state of Michigan. Research shows that the early foundational years of a child's life are of the greatest importance due to (but not limited to) the following:

- There are 700 to 1,000 new neural connections forming every second in a child's brain,
- Genetics in addition to life experiences help shape the developing brain,
- The foundation is key for future cognitive abilities, and
- Vocabulary at age 3 can predict 3rd grade reading achievement.

Implementation of high quality programs depends on a quality workforce. Providers locally and across the state know all too well the challenges we have and continue to experience being able to recruit and retain highly qualified staff. We are in need of individuals with a passion to provide much needed services to our students and families across Saginaw County. We encourage you to review the Saginaw ISD current preschool openings at www.sisd.cc and select "Join Our Team!" at the top right corner of the

page to see all of our openings for the following positions:

- Head Start Lead Teacher
- Head Start Associate Teacher
- Program Service Aide
- Home Visitor
- Early Head Start Lead Teacher
- Family Service Advocate
- Program Support Secretary

The credentials required for these positions range from a high school diploma to advanced degrees and certifications. Below you will find a list of our sites as well as our partner sites providing EHS, HS and GSRP services. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Ericka Taylor at (989) 399-7423 or by email at etaylor@sisd.cc. Please, join our team in providing much needed services to the children and families within Saginaw County!

Early Head Start/Head Start Locations

- Adams Avenue
- Arrowwood Elementary
- Birch Run (North Elementary)
- Birch Run Annex
- Brucker
- Brunkow
- Building Blocks Child Care & Preschool Center
- Chesaning
- Claytor
- Hemmeter
- Jerome
- Kinder Kare Center
- Merrill
- Murphy Farm
- Saginaw Career Complex
- St. Peter & Paul
- Valley

Great Start to Readiness Program Locations

- Birch Run Area Preschool
- Bridgeport-Spaulding Preschool
- Building Blocks Childcare & Preschool Center
- Carrollton Early Childhood Center
- Chesaning Union Schools Latchkey and Preschool
- EduPlay Discovery Center
- Francis Reh Public School Academy
- Hemlock Child Development Programs
- Merrill Community Child Development Center
- Michigan Child Care Centers, Inc.
- Roaring Lions Learning Center
- Saginaw Preparatory Academy
- Saginaw Public Schools
 - Arthur Eddy Academy
 - Henry Doerr Early Childhood
 - Herig PreK & B/ATB
 - Kempton PreK & B/ATB
 - Jessie Loomis Preschool
 - Merrill Park PreK
 - Rouse PreK
 - Stone Preschool
 - Zilwaukee Prek & B/ATB
- St Charles Children's Center
- Wee Care Christian Children's Center

⁴Head Start Program Information report (2019-2020); Kids Count Data Book (Michigan, 2021); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics (2020); Great Start Readiness Program State Evaluation Annual Report (2019-2020).

+ EDUCATION

Delta College endorsed as community college innovation leader



Delta College, a founding member of the League for Innovation in the Community College (League), was reaffirmed in its longstanding leadership position. The League is a nonprofit organization with the mission

of cultivating transformational innovation across colleges.

"I'm very pleased that we were approved to continue this great tradition," Dr. Gavin said. "This validates Delta's long history of excellence, and our presence on this board of directors keeps us at the forefront of community college leadership."

In 1968, when Donald J. Carlyon was

president, Delta College became one of the League's founding members and has held a seat on the board of directors ever since. And, Delta is the only remaining original founding member on the League's board.

When an institution changes leadership and hires a new president, it must go through a reaffirmation process to remain on the board. Delta began the process when Dr. Michael Gavin joined Delta as its fifth president in August 2021.

In January, as step one in the process, Delta submitted an innovation report which contained samples of recent innovative projects and programs. The next phase was a five-hour virtual site visit on February 28, where 16 Delta College faculty and staff members, plus President Emeritus Carlyon for one of the segments,

presented information highlighting projects that assist students in pursuing their goals and ultimately fuel the Great Lakes Bay Region's economy.

On March 10, the League board voted to reaffirm Delta College as a leader in the national efforts of community colleges.

By Ashley Terrell, Writer



Is Your Child A Future

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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

“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.”

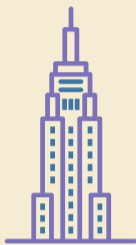
Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org

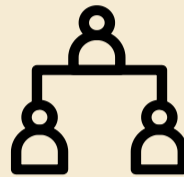
“Our mission is to provide high quality services, developing school readiness and family empowerment for prenatal to age five children and families by working in partnership with parents and the community.”
-Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

MI Tri-Share CHILD CARE

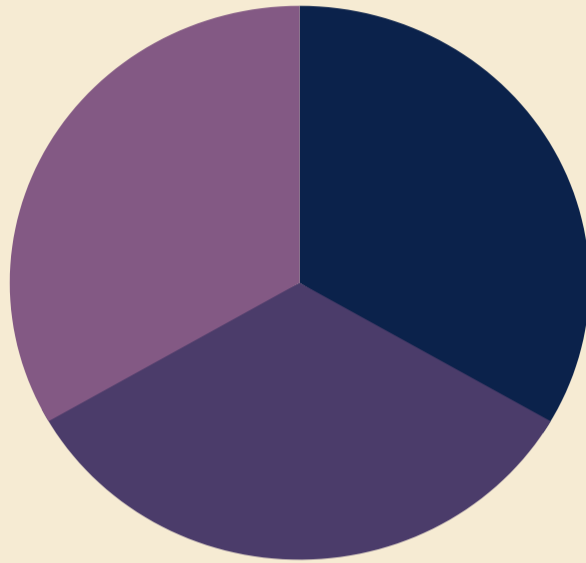
State of Michigan
33.3%



Employer
33.3%



Cost of child
care is
shared



Employee
33.3%

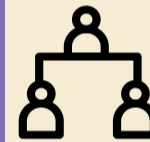


The MI Tri-Share Pilot (Tri-Share) is an innovative public/private partnership that shares the cost of child care equally between employers, employees, and the state of Michigan.

Overview

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

Benefits



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



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



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

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





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5-6 PM**



+ SPORTS

Trojans made history, despite falling short

By HASANI ALI

Saginaw High made its final mark on the school's program prior to its merger with Arthur Hill next year.

Saginaw United would have been the perfect theme going into the state semi-final game against Ferndale.

That will be the name of the new school, following into the 2023-2024 fall season as Saginaw High School and Arthur Hill High School will be combined.

The Trojans had a monstrous tournament run and state championship looked promising.

Unfortunately, Ferndale was trying to make their third consecutive trip a special one with one win away from the state championship.

Saginaw fell to the Eagles, 65-60 at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.

Only eight boys basketball teams have the opportunity to finish their season at the Breslin Center each year, and while Ferndale was fortunate to be among that group in 2021 and 2022, the Eagles wanted more than just an appearance this time around.

"I think this year they were way more locked in when we got here," Ferndale coach Juan Rickman said. "The first time we made it was during COVID, and we were playing Grand Rapids CC right around the corner from their school... Then last year was their first experience at the Breslin, and I thought we had a lot of emotion and spent a lot of time trying to keep Jason (Drake) under control emotionally, and we weren't able to be our best. I thought this year, they knew what to expect, they executed, and it was just business as usual. It was just another game for us, only on a bigger court."

Saginaw jumped out early to a quick 5-0 lead. However, Ferndale was able to hold the Trojans to three points over the final six minutes of the first quarter to take a 12-8 lead into the second.

The Eagles went on a 10-2 run to build a 26-18 lead and would maintain that momentum throughout the first half.

Ferndale had a breathable 32-24 lead going into halftime.

A steal and subsequent two-handed slam on Ferndale's first possession of the third quarter gave the Eagles their first double-digit



COURTESY PHOTO

lead of the game.

However, the Trojans heard the battle cry and began to take over the game.

Senior Javarie Holliday helped Saginaw respond with a 22-8 run, with 15 of those points coming from Holliday.

He finished with a team high of 20 points.

A strong third-quarter team leading up to the semifinals, Saginaw's spurt out of the locker room turned a double-digit deficit into a 46-44 lead heading into the fourth.

"I have a veteran group, and they understand that last year we used to struggle in the third quarter," Saginaw coach Julian Taylor said. "The guys I had returning, they understood what it took. We need that energy in the third quarter to get us going, and that would usually be the game right there, that third-quarter run, but Ferndale withheld it, battled back and persevered."

According to Mlive.com, three consecutive layups from Saginaw's D'Quan Lowe Patman gave Saginaw a 52-49 lead early in the fourth, but the senior forward fouled out on the following possession and headed to the bench with 4:20 left.

Holliday picked up his fourth foul less than a minute later, but stepped up on the offensive end with a corner 3 that put the Trojans ahead 55-51 with 3:20 left.

However, Ferndale answered with an 8-0 run sparked by frenetic full-court pressure and a highlight reel block by Caleb Renfroe, who pinned a D'Laurence Clark layup attempt to the backboard to preserve a two-point lead.

Renfroe came back down the court and converted a reverse layup to make it a 61-55 game with 1:07 left.

After turning Saginaw over for the third time in the last three minutes, Ferndale forced the Trojans to foul, and Cameron Reed and Renfroe combined to make 6 of 8 free throws in the final minute to seal the win.

Renfroe led Ferndale with 20 points, four rebounds and a block, while drawing multiple charges on the defensive end.

"Those are the things that we always talk about, the intangibles and valuing small, and both of these guys (Renfroe and Reed) epitomize that," Rickman said. "Taking charges, starting loose balls, and they did a good job down the stretch when we needed a bucket."

Reed and Christopher Williams each added 12 points and three assists, with Williams also grabbing 11 rebounds. Jayden Hardiman rounded out Ferndale's double-digit scorers with 10 points and six rebounds.

In addition to Holliday's 20 points, Saginaw's Brandon McCune scored 17 points off the bench and kept the Trojans close in the first half by draining 4 of 6 from beyond the arc.

"Brandon shot the ball well," Taylor said. "He's our shooter. He's been a little streaky, but he hit his stride these last couple games when we really needed him. He's a pure shooter, and his brother, Tommy, played for me, and he's been part of the program since he was young. He understood what it would take, and he's been on varsity since his freshman year, so he just had to trust the process, and when his number was called, he was ready."

The only Division 2 semifinalist to finish the season out of the Associated Press state rankings, Saginaw wraps up its season at 21-7 and with its first final four berth since winning a Class A state title in 2013.

"I'm proud of this team," Taylor said. "We battled through adversity all season. If you would've asked me toward the end of the regular season if we would've been here, I probably would've said 'No,' but the guys fought hard and pulled together."

Borderline Chaos: Thomas commutes to Columbus to coach women's football team

By HASANI ALI

An average football fan would question the lunacy of Keith Thomas if they were to find out that he was traveling three hours one way to coach the Columbus Chaos.

However, he will tell you that his mission is the same as any other coach.

"I just want to win a national championship," he said. "That was the mission when I was coaching in Detroit, and it doesn't stop just because I'm coaching in another state.

The former head coach of the Detroit Dark Angels, now the Venom, parted ways with the organization after an owners meeting coming off a loss against Nevada in the national championship in Canton, Ohio.

The coaching staff wanted to go in a different direction despite the success the program was having and Thomas saw a valid reason to make an exit after being with the organization since 2011.

"My vision stayed the same," Thomas said. "When I took over the team in 2017, we had continuous winning seasons and went to the national championship in two consecutive seasons. But apparently they wanted to try something different and I'm not going to stay in a place where I'm not wanted."

When the news broke that Thomas was no longer the head coach for Detroit, the league called him immediately with an opportunity to start fresh.

"The owner of the league, Lisa King, told me that Columbus was getting a new team and wanted to see if I wanted to take the job," Thomas said. "I said yes with no hesitation. In this league, you make connections and you become valuable to other people. When people see the value in you and how you can be valuable to others, they make a way for you."

The Chaos was formed after the folding of Detroit's well-known rival, the Columbus Comets.

In its inaugural season last year, Columbus had a rough 1-6 finish, but was still able to make the playoffs.

"It was a wild season, especially with the players still getting used to me and making the trip back and forth to Columbus," Thomas said. "The crazier thing about it was that most of the teams in the playoffs, all of the teams involved had a losing record. Both sides consisted of 1-6 and 2-5 teams.



COURTESY PHOTO

Because of the location of certain teams, many have a mixture between Div. I, Div. II and Div. III teams. Many of the Div.2 teams were stuck with more Div. I teams on their schedule rather Div. II and Div. III.

Thomas has a lot more fire coming into this season.

With more time to prepare and the team buying into the program, Thomas is confident that his team has a feasible shot of the national championship in Canton.

"We have a solid core of veterans that returned from last year," he said. "Our coaching staff was able to sit them down and actually teach football, from the terminology to how to line up on defense."

Thomas, a defensive-minded coach is excited to see how his defense is coming together, looking to shut down his old team in Detroit in the first game of the season on April 22.

"Last year, if I would've asked the defensive line to move to a three technique, they would have looked at me like deer in headlight," Thomas said jokingly. "But now, we trust each other to the point where I can make an adjustment on defense and everybody knows where to go and what to do.

The former Eastern Michigan walk-is enjoying his new gig as the head coach of the Chaos, but it does come with some light conflict.

As a die-hard Michigan fan, Thomas received an opportunity to have this team practice at The Shoe, the stadium for the Ohio State

University Buckeyes.

It was still an opportunity that couldn't be passed up.

"One of the players on the team attends the university," he said. "It was a great opportunity as she was granted permission and she had the keys. Though I'll forever be a Wolverine, it was still cool to have that experience with my team on a cold night."

Thomas finds innovative ways to communicate with the team during the week so he doesn't have to make constant trips during the week.

In fact, once he's done with primary job during the day, his laptop turns into a digital chalkboard at night while having chalk talk with his players.

"We spend a lot of time on Zoom calls," Thomas said. "I make videos for them to keep them motivated and we watch film. You have to study this game just like you would do anything else. I give these ladies the same experience as if they were any type of football program—from high school to the pros."

An avid football lover and the defensive back coach at Troy High School, Thomas wants to build those same moments for his players that he experienced playing the game of football.

"I'm simply giving my players what was given to me," he said. "That's how our players get better. "I go to clinics to learn from the best coaches around the state. Imagine going into a football coaching clinic and amongst the top coaches, there's 20 state championships between them all. I'm not trying to be the smartest guy in the room, I just want to win. Creating a culture that my team can buy into will help us win."

When asked about his commute to Columbus, Ohio, Thomas found it amusing that the team name fit the situation just perfectly.

"Everything was chaotic in the beginning," he said with a smile. "But now that we have tamed the Chaos within our team and now that we're stable, we can unleash that Chaos on every opponent.

For those that have family and friends in the Columbus area that would like to join the staff or ladies that would like to try out for the team, Keith Thomas can be reached at 248-413-5236 or kthom039@gmail.com.

+ SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTO

Grand Blanc falls short at State Semi-Finals

By HASANI ALI

The RJ Taylor era has come to an end for the Bobcats, but not in the way that they imagined.

Ahead 54-51, with 9.1 seconds left in the Division 1 state semifinals against Detroit Cass Tech, the Technicians had a secret weapon that finally rose to the occasion to not only help send the game into overtime, but secure the win for Cass Tech.

That weapon was sophomore guard Darius Acuff.

Freshman Corey Sadler advanced the ball past halfcourt and dished the ball to Acuff at the top of the arc. After one dribble, Acuff went up for a 3-point shot to tie the game.

“I knew it was going in because it was going straight up the middle,” Acuff said. “I knew it was either going to be all net or off the backboard. Once I got open, I called for the ball. When I got it, I knew I was going to shoot and that it was going to go in.”

The momentum sunk for the Bobcats

as the basket went in and the Cass Tech crowd erupted as the game went into overtime.

The shot was the catalyst for Cass Tech to secure the win in overtime, 62-56, to advance to the state championship game for the first time in 49 years.

In overtime, Acuff added four more points to finish with a game-high 19 points as the Technicians outscored the Bobcats, 8-2, in the final frame.

Despite not having a lead for the final 6:44 of regulation, getting out-rebounded 41-29 and shooting just 60 percent from the free-throw line, the Technicians were able to claw their way to victory.

According to Mlive.com, Cass Tech has never won a state title as its lone appearance in 1974 ended in a 60-56 overtime loss to Bloomfield Hills Brother Rice. Before his time at Cass Tech, Hall coached a now-closed Detroit Rogers to three consecutive championships from 2003-05.

Grand Blanc turned the ball over three times to open overtime before it scored its lone bucket, allowing Sadler to split a

pair of free-throws and hit a layup to open overtime. The Bobcats missed their final five shots of overtime as the Cass Tech zone swarmed and trapped.

“They’re a very active team,” said Grand Blanc coach Tory Jackson. “Something we’ve talked about. We’ve been on the road with that team a few times (in) a few different showcases... so it’s not like we haven’t seen them before. We just didn’t handle the pressure. One of our keys on our offensive gameplan in our scouting report was limiting turnovers. Look up and we had 18 turnovers. You can’t beat great teams like that with 18 turnovers. We just didn’t handle the pressure like we were supposed to, like men.

“At times when we did, we went up... Then, we relaxed. We couldn’t stay consistent with it and that was the frustrating part.”

Grand Blanc was led by 16 points and 10 rebounds from senior Tae Boyd while senior RJ Taylor added nine points and six rebounds. Junior Bryce O’Mara had eight points and eight rebounds for the Bobcats as well.

For the third consecutive season, Grand Blanc ended its season at the Breslin Center. The Bobcats won it all in 2021 and finished runner-up to Warren De La Salle last year.

Taylor was a crucial part of all three trips to East Lansing for the Bobcats.

“It’s definitely not the way we wanted to go out,” Taylor said. “Looking back at it, it’s been a journey. I think a lot of people would trade their careers and what they’ve done for what we’ve done and the standard we’ve set in this program. Grand Blanc is going to be good every single year just because the standard we’ve helped set. It’s just, when you create a good culture like that, good things happen. But like I said, it didn’t go out the way we wanted to.

One win away from its state title, Hall is glad he can rely on a number of players to step up. He just never imagined his return trip to the Breslin would be spearheaded by a sophomore and a freshman.

“No, I wouldn’t have imagined it would have unfolded that way, but I’m grateful that it did,” Hall said.

Franklin's bout against Joshua brings title hopes, changes in boxing

By HASANI ALI

Jermaine Franklin has more at stake than usual in today's fight against heavyweight title contender Anthony Joshua at the O2 Arena.

The 989 Assassin is looking to continue his championship pursuit as he looks to avenge his first loss that he suffered against Dillian Whyte back in November.

Whyte defeated Franklin by a majority controversial decision, with the judges scoring the fight 115-115, 116-112 and 116-112 in the Brit's favour.

"I definitely won that fight," Franklin said. "But I was definitely fighting in his own back yard and I feel as if they wanted to prepare Whyte for a rematch with Joshua."

Joshua defeated Whyte via knockout back in 2015.

The crowd reacted with boos after the decision was made that Whyte won the fight. Franklin was a bit surprised when he received the phone call regarding the fight against Joshua.

"I knew that we were in the running for the fight," Franklin said. "So when we got the call, it was just business as usual and it was time to get to work."

Joshua will be returning after taking a 2-year hiatus from boxing. He lost his rematch against Oleksandr Usek, the current WBA, WBO and IBF heavyweight champion.

This fight is pivotal for several reasons, a potential shakeup in the boxing world, inside and outside of the ring.

Team Franklin filed a lawsuit last week against its promoter Dmitry Salitas over the percentage the company are entitled to 'when they're not acting as a promoter, co-promoter or involved in a purse bid.'

The hostile conditions of his contract shed a light on how Franklin amongst other boxers are being taken advantage of for profit.

According to The Daily Mail, the law-



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suit states that the current agreement has allowed Salita promotions to 'take whatever amount it desires, while ignoring any negotiations proffered by Franklin's team including his legal advisor.'

Franklin says he needs this intervention, or 'he will continue to be subjected to this 'take it or leave it' boxing industry tactic or risk the unreasonable withholding of lucrative, career changing boxing opportunities.'

The lawsuit also outlined the series of events that lead up to Franklin's fight with Dillian Whyte in November 2022.

According to the suit, Salita sent Franklin a bout agreement claiming that all it needed was the American heavyweight's signature to make the fight happen.

Believing his signature on the bout agreement confirmed the fight, Franklin began calling Whyte out on social media urging him to sign his bout agreement.

However, Franklin later learned that Salita never confirmed the Whyte fight for Franklin - according to the suit.

Instead, Salita was said to be in negotiations for a fight between Whyte and Otto Wallin, another boxer he promotes.

To add insult to injury, Franklin was reportedly asked by Otto's manager to

spar with the Swedish boxer ahead of his fight with Whyte.

As Franklin is exposing the dark nature of the boxing business, this may shed a light on the predatory practices that leaves boxers disadvantaged and left in financial constraints as other people are involved in the matter, making under-the-table deals that are cutting into the pockets of the boxer.

One of the major gripes that is being challenged when it comes to the business of boxing is that the promoter and manager gets paid before the boxers does. Often times, the promoters appear to be rivals, but behind closed doors they're usually working together to maximize the profits at the expense of the boxer.

If Jermaine Franklin wins this case against Salita, this could be a ground-shaking moment in boxing.

As he is looking to have the Muhammad Ali Act revised, Franklin wants to become a promoter himself where he wants to treat the boxers fairly and actually pay them their fair share.

Two astounding wins can possibly make Franklin one of the most iconic names in boxing.

+ SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTO

Gideon Boxing Gym fights in Pontiac, prepping for Golden Gloves

By HASANI ALI

Golden Gloves are about a month away and the Gideon Boxing Club is doing whatever needed to prepare.

Finishing their pre-tournament tour in Pontiac today, the exact time Jermaine Franklin is set to take on British foe Anthony Joshua at the O2 Arena in London.

Thirteen-year-old Emir Marshall (4-2) is fighting at 100 pounds, taking on Pontiac's own Roberto Esquivel, sitting undefeated at 2-0.

Undefeated Javon Kimball (5-0) is also thirteen years old and is fighting at 110 pounds, fighting Holton Bruce out of Kayo Boxing Gym.

Nineteen-year-old Tyrone Welch (12-3) is fighting at 147 pounds, taking on Chris Deluca (8-2) from Pontiac.

Coach Joe Mendez has his fighters zoned in as they prepare for the tournament and believes this fight will help them tweak any final flaws before Golden Gloves.

"I'm very confident in them and in our training," he said. "Our training is strict. They're talented, but I'm on their butts to keep them disciplined."

Mendez, founder of Gideon Boxing Gym three years ago during the pandemic, wants to bring the same intensity and structure as you would see in other sports.

"The culture of boxing is so much different than any other sport," he said. "Like football and basketball, your minutes training are broken down by the minutes, and that's what we do hear. We know that every minute counts."

When all of the gyms shut down due to COVID-19, Mendez turned his garage into a makeshift gym to help other fighters train and stay in shape.

As the restriction did not subside, Mendez found a home in the boiler room of his uncle's Tae Kwon Do studio on Hamilton Street.

From there, people caught wind of the new gym and the word caught on quickly.

"It just blew up from there," he said.

"More and more people kept calling and so we had to find a bigger space for us to train."

Having much experience as an American boxer in the amateurs and studying the sport from all aspects, Mendez wanted to shake up the typical training in an American boxing gym.

"We do a lot training that is outside of the typical American training regime," he said. "American boxers are typically strong and are typically looking for a knockout. We like the Cuban and Puerto Rican styles of boxing which allows us to get more creative on offense and defense."

Mendez is actually considering hiring a Puerto Rican dance instructor to help the fighters with their movement once a week.

"In America, we force our fighter to go in there and bang it out, rather than fight in their own rhythm," he said.

After the fight in Pontiac, the fighters have little time to rest as they have to tighten up before the tournament.

"It's going to take a lot of sparring in order for them to really get far in the tournament," Mendez said. "We travel to spar to get different looks so when they see it in the tournament, they won't panic."

Mendez created nine makeshift boxing rings in his gym, giving everyone an equal amount of sparring time so that each fighter has enough time to focus on their specific fighting goals.

"A lot of boxing gyms around the world in the United Kingdom and Russia have the same tactic to get all of their fighters sparring," he said. "Cuba has the most Olympic gold medals and they don't have a lot of equipment. We don't do this to get popular, we do this to create the best fighters."

Gideon Boxing Gym now trains in the gymnasium of Zion Lutheran Church on Hancock Street, the former gym of the Ultimate Boxing Gym, home of heavyweights Jermaine Franklin and WBC USNBC Heavyweight Champion Robert Simms.

"It's imperative to build their confidence. If you can stay in a boxing gym, it really changes your character for the better. The discipline, structure and order tends to play out in their everyday life."

+ SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTO

Flint Beecher wins 10th state title, most in the state

By HASANI ALI

The Buccaneers is one of the most successful basketball programs in the state of Michigan, hands down.

From the decorated teams over the years, Flint Beecher has always been a powerhouse around the state and the small school has enough championship caliber as a Div. 1 school.

Which team knows this while trying to build their own championship program?

It would be Traverse City St. Francis of course. A program that is stable and is trying to make its mark by winning a state title for the school.

The issue is that when they do make it to the finals, they've been running into the same problem.

The Gladiators are familiar with the Bucs program as they faced off in the state finals back in 2012 where Beecher won, 74-60.

It was the program's seventh title at the time. In fact, Flint Beecher has won 5 state titles in a six-year time span.

The Bucs made their 14th appearance in the finals, tied for most in state history.

History tends to repeat itself and did just that when the Bucs came out on top again 64-50 at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.

It was the Bucs' 10th overall championship, more than any other team in MHSAA history except for River Rouge, which has won 14. Beecher's last championship was in 2021.

"I can't be any more proud of my guys," said head coach and former player Marquise Gray. "They worked so hard and deserve every bit of this."

Senior Robert Lee had a double-double for Beecher, scoring 29 points while grabbing 11 rebounds in the final game of his brilliant career. He led both teams in points and rebounds, scoring 18 points in the second half.

The Bucs jumped out in front early by scoring the first eight points of the game. However, Beecher ended up trailing 17-15 after the first quarter.

Traverse City St. Francis held the

lead 30-27 at halftime before Beecher took control in the third quarter.

Both teams shot equally at half, Traverse City St. Francis went 12-of-22 shooting (54.5 percent) while Beecher went 50 percent, going 12-of-24.

The Gladiators had a slight advantage on the boards, leading the Bucs at half, 12-10.

Beecher failed to connect from behind the arc in the first half, going 0-of-4, while the Gladiators were able to 3-of-5.

The Bucs went on a 10-4 run in the third quarter to keep the Gladiators at bay.

A crucial 9-0 run helped give the Bucs a 47-37 lead heading to the fourth quarter. The Gladiators pulled the lead within five before Beecher began to pull away with a breathable 13-point lead with 2:08 left.

The Gladiators struggled with 16 turnovers. Beecher only had seven turnovers.

Jaylen Townsend added nine points for Beecher and Kevin Tiggs had eight.

Wyatt Nausadis led Traverse City St. Francis with 20 points. John Hagelstein added 12 points and Joey Donahue had eight rebounds.

Beecher finished with a 25-4 record and was ranked no. 3 in the state. TCSF finished 23-5 and ranked no. 9 from the state.



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PICS OF THE WEEK

On Mar. 29 a press conference was held at the Dow Event Center to announce Saginaw as the host for the 2024 Memorial Cup hockey tournament.





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



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