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**HOLIDAY
SUPERSTARS**

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ANNOUNCES
HOLIDAY
SUPERSTARS**

COMMUNITY, PG 28

Karen S. Carter delivers commencement address to SVSU graduating class



KAREN CARTER

ing & Technology; and the Scott L. Carmona College of Business. The second ceremony, at 2:30 p.m., celebrates graduates from the College of Education and the Crystal M. Lange College of Health & Human Services.

Both ceremonies will be held in O'Neill Arena in SVSU's Ryder Center and will be livestreamed.

Carter, who has spent her entire career at Dow, was named president of P&SP in November 2022. With annual sales exceeding \$29 billion, the business unit is widely recognized as the world's largest materials supplier of polyethylene resins and functional polymers used in a wide variety of applications.

Since joining Dow in 1993, Carter has served in a progression of roles. Prior to being named president of P&SP, Carter served four years as Dow's chief human resources officer and chief inclu-

sion officer, successfully institutionalizing inclusion and diversity as key drivers for long-term growth.

Carter has been widely recognized for her innovative leadership, including being named to the EMpower 100 Senior Executives Role Model List supported by Yahoo! Finance in 2020, 2021, 2022, and by YouTube in 2023. Most recently, she was inducted into the Kansas African American Museum Trailblazer Hall of Fame.

Carter completed a bachelor's degree in marketing from Howard University and a master's degree in international business from DePaul University.

Karen S. Carter, president of Dow's Packaging & Specialty Plastics (P&SP) business operating segment, has been selected to address Saginaw Valley State University's graduating class during two commencement ceremonies on Saturday, Dec. 16.

Nearly 500 SVSU students who are completing degrees have expressed their intent to participate in the commencement ceremonies.

The first of the two ceremonies will begin at 10 a.m., recognizing graduates from SVSU's College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences; College of Science, Engineer-



La Unión Cívica Mexicana host 13th Annual Tamale Taste-Off

LATINO BANNER, COVER STORY



Family Affair: Forrest follow's in her parent's footsteps at Detroit Mercy

SPORTS, PG 46

THE MICHIGAN BANNER IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:





TIS' THE SEASON

History points to a number of infamous battles fought on soil far away from the homeland of the combatants. Some for just causes and others in unspeakable acts of aggression. With treacherous waters or dense woodlands behind them and enemies before them, it would make sense to attempt as hasty a retreat as possible – return to their vessels and make every effort to escape the dangers they were facing. There were no exits, off ramps or side roads available to evade the risks of battle. There are variations of the phrase, 'Burn the ships' recorded in history books and literature. The term was used by leaders commanding justifiably fearful troops fighting seemingly unsurmountable odds turning the tide and experiencing victory when they realized there was no turning back. We have entered into the holiday season which demands joyful words of expression, lots of cheer, gift giving (which requires shopping i.e., often exhausting limited resources), and of course, spending time with family and others who may not support our efforts to focus on our mental health and well-being. While it may seem a daunting task to achieve what lies ahead, this may be the time to dismantle (burn) vessels which cause us to remain in or return to unhealthy or non-productive habits.

'Tis the Season' may appear a bit misleading for an article leading with stories of battles and burned ships. It is, however, a very meaningful and fitting analogy for how families and individuals might very well close out the year of 2023 and move into a new year, 2024 carrying minimal baggage. This baggage might be filled with anger and resentment, unforgiveness, hurt, self-defeating thoughts or behaviors, the list could go on and on. The pressures of the holiday season, right down to competing in the ugly sweater contests in the workplace, can be the source of anxiety and/or depression. We tend to engage in the same behaviors year after year promising ourselves that next year we will do it differently, more responsibly, and with more conservative spending. We then retreat into that which is familiar (habits of old) – lather, rinse, repeat. It is time to burn the ships and move forward into the peaceful days ahead that are the natural and very positive outcome of self-discipline and stick-to-itiveness. Promise yourself and those you trust for accountability that it will be different this year so that you won't turn back into habits of old that have proven to be setbacks and cause angst in the home, relationships, and your own journey to healthy living or recovery. Even if your story is that attempts to change course before have led right back to where you started, it's time to try again. In the words of the brilliant mathematician Albert Einstein, 'Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.'

Leaving ships in the harbor, available for a hasty retreat makes transition difficult. People who count on you, often to your own detriment, are led to believe that you have not fully committed to change. If you are not committed, they won't be either. This pertains to unhealthy intimate connections as well as other imbalanced and unhealthy ties. Burned ships leave no pathway for them to impact you or for you in moments of uncertainty to return to the past. We deserve so much better than just getting by. Instead, we must repeatedly pledge to ourselves that we will try again and again until we find the place of accomplishment that gives us peace. We then become stronger, making every day a bit better than the day before.

There will of course be obstacles. Setbacks are to be expected. Remember that slow progress is far better than no progress at all. C.S. Lewis said, 'There are far, far, better things ahead than anything we leave behind.' Keep going. Repetition is critical to success. Repeatedly leave old habits behind until they no longer pose a threat to plans for a successful future. Past mistakes, putting trust in those who abused it, lack of knowledge, poor decisions – we've all been there. Still, we deserve all the good things life has to offer. In this last month of the year, let's burn the ships and move forward. There are remarkable things in store for those who stay on course.



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MISSION

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

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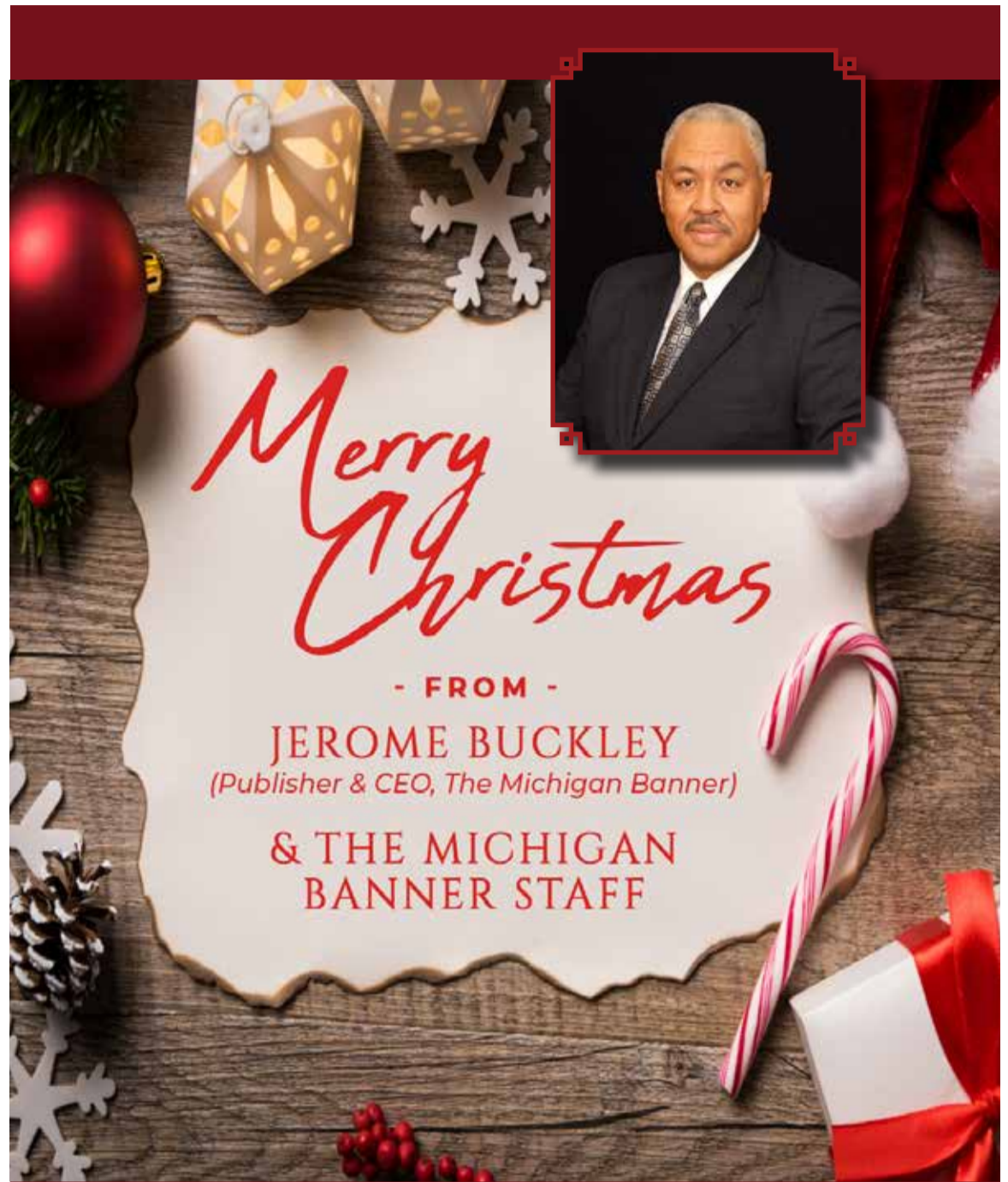
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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 5 • NUMBER 23



THE LEAST LIKELY

By DONIQUA SOVIA

The least likely of women. The least likely of men.

The least likely of location, is where a miracle began. The place of birth wasn't fit for a King, but He wasn't hear to fit into anything. He was here to shake the world, and pave a way for all to be saved.

He yearned for knowledge at such a young age, He performed his first miracle at a wedding which resembles a new change. He taught all who would listen, and His followers his lead they did take. He was moved with compassion, time and time again.

He casted out demons, broke bread with the heathens, educated the Pharisees and offered kindness to the enemies. He healed all diseases, from leprosy to the blind. He loved on the children and pushed boundaries all the time. He taught love, and compassion, He lived in prayer and fasting, He said "I am the answer" and indeed He was.

He's the epitome of strength, and He's mercy personified, He's the way, the truth, and the ultimate light. He makes ways when there seems not to be one, and He's the gift from God; His one and only Son.

The least likely of women. The least likely of men.

The least likely of location, is where a miracle began. The place of birth wasn't fit for a King, but He wasn't hear to fit into anything. He was here to make the world shake, and pave a way for all to be saved.



Easy ways for teens & college kids to give back over the winter break



COURTESY PHOTO

There are numerous ways for teens to give back during the holidays or winter break. Here are some ideas:

Volunteer at a Local Charity:

Many organizations, such as food banks, shelters, and community centers, welcome volunteers during the holiday season. Teens can donate their time to help those in need.

Organize a Donation Drive:

Teens can coordinate a donation drive at their school or in their community to collect items like canned goods, warm clothing, blankets, or toys for those less fortunate.

Visit a Nursing Home or Hospital:

Spend time with elderly residents in nursing homes or patients in hospitals who may not have family around during

the holidays. Activities like reading, playing games, or simply providing companionship can make a significant impact.

Bake and Share Treats:

Baking cookies or other treats and sharing them with neighbors, local fire stations, police departments, or community service workers is a thoughtful way to spread holiday cheer.

Tutor or Mentor Peers:

Offer to tutor classmates or younger students during the break. Sharing academic skills and knowledge can be a valuable contribution.

Write Letters to Soldiers or Hospitalized Children:

Organizations like Operation Gratitude facilitate sending letters to deployed

troops, and programs like Cards for Hospitalized Kids allow teens to create uplifting cards for children in hospitals.

Assist at a Animal Shelter:

Local animal shelters often need extra help during busy seasons. Teens can volunteer to walk dogs, clean kennels, or assist with adoption events.

Participate in a Community Clean-Up:

Organize or join a community clean-up event to improve local parks, streets, or public spaces. This not only contributes to the community's well-being but also promotes environmental responsibility.

Create Care Packages for the Homeless:

Assemble care packages with essential items like socks, toiletries, non-perishable snacks, and water. Distribute these packages to homeless individuals or through local shelters.

Organize a Fundraiser:

Plan and execute a fundraiser for a cause you care about. This could involve hosting a charity event, selling handmade crafts, or organizing a sponsored activity.

Participate in a Holiday Gift Drive:

Many organizations run gift drives during the holidays to provide presents for families in need. Teens can contribute by donating gifts or helping organize and distribute them.

Environmental Projects:

Get involved in environmental initiatives, such as tree planting, cleaning up local parks, or participating in conservation efforts.

Remember, the key is to find something that aligns with your interests and passions. Giving back during the holidays is a rewarding experience that not only benefits others but also provides a sense of fulfillment and gratitude.

STEM Staycation Dec. 21st - Jan. 2nd

Learn more at www.stempipeline.com

How it works:

1. Check out the STEM Pipeline Calendar



2. Visit any number of the STEM Passport locations below



3. Post a pic and tag us!

(post must be public)



Prizes

1st Place: A complimentary overnight hotel stay in the Great Lakes Bay Region Community of your choosing; Bay City, Birch Run, Chesaning, Frankenmuth, Midland or Saginaw

2nd Place: Two STEM activity kits contributed by STEM @ SVSU

3rd Place: One STEM activity kit contributed by STEM @ SVSU



Michigan Youth Challenge Academy Class #49 to graduate on December 16



COURTESY PHOTO

LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan Youth Challenge Academy (MYCA) will hold a graduation ceremony for 103 cadets of class #49 at 10 a.m. on Dec. 16, 2023, at the W.K. Kellogg Auditorium at 50 Van Buren St. W, Battle Creek, MI 49017. Doors will open at 9 a.m. and the ceremony is open to the public.

The graduating class consists of cadets from across the state, hailing from 35 different counties: Allegan, Bay, Branch, Calhoun, Cheboygan, Clare, Clinton, Crawford, Eaton, Genesee, Grand Traverse, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Lenawee, Macomb, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oakland, Ottawa, Saginaw, Shiawassee, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Van Buren, Washtenaw and Wayne.

The voluntary academy is a cost-free alternative education program which offers at-risk youth the opportunity to change their future. As part of the curriculum, cadets participate in drill and ceremony formations, meet physical fitness standards, perform community service and receive classroom instruction.

Of the 103 anticipated graduates in this cycle, 87 are earning their high school diploma while the remaining cadets will earn their General Education Development certificate or continue their academic pursuits towards earning their high school diploma. Over the past 22 weeks, cadets have performed more than 5,777 hours of community service to help individuals and organizations in the Battle Creek area.

Class #50 will begin on Jan. 14, 2024

and the MYCA is encouraging interested cadets and families to submit their application as quickly as possible here: Admissions Process. For more information:

- Area codes 231, 269, 517, 616 and 906 - contact Joan Miller at 269-968-1368
- Area codes 248, 313, 586, 734, 810 and 989 - contact Frank Vasquez at 269-968-1397

Graduates of the MYCA are eligible for the Michigan Job Challenge Program, an extension program of the MYCA, which teaches workplace essentials, provides opportunities to learn a skilled trade and assists with job placement. Visit Michigan Job Challenge Program for more information.

THE MICHIGAN BANNER NEWS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AT&T



Our commitment to help bridge the digital divide

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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At AT&T, we're dedicated to doing our part to connect America.



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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

La Unión Cívica Mexicana host 13th Annual Tamale Taste-Off

A vibrant poster for the Tamale Taste-Off event. At the top, it says "TAMALETASTE-OFF" in large, bold letters. Below that, several tamales are shown on a wooden plate, decorated with colorful streamers. A colorful piñata is also visible. The text "10 am to 3 pm" is prominently displayed. Below that, it says "With authentic tamale makers: sample different vendor's tamales and purchase your favorites just in time for Christmas." The date "Sunday December 17, 2023" is written in a large, stylized font. The location "Nouvel Catholic Central Gymnasium, 2555 Wieneke Rd., Saginaw, MI" is listed. The Jolt Credit Union logo is at the bottom right, with "Event Sponsor" written below it. A circular logo for "Unidad Igualdad y Progreso - Union Civica Mexicana" is at the bottom left.

COURTESY PHOTO

La Unión Cívica Mexicana is excited to present the popular Tamale Taste-Off on Sunday, on December 17, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Nouvel Catholic High School Gymnasium at 2555 Wieneke Rd, Saginaw, MI 48603. Tamales during the

holiday season are a treat, and area tamale enthusiast need to look no further than the Unión Cívica's festive event to sample some great tamales.

The standard tamale consists of a pork filling mixed with a tasty chile (red or

green) sauce wrapped in a cornhusk filled with dough (called masa), but chicken fillings is also a favorite. La Unión Cívica Mexicana is hosting this event to showcase our area's great tamale experts.

"It's nice to see that this event is growing and that there is even vendors from outside of Saginaw," said Unión Cívica President Angela Blanco. "We are displaying a great tradition that originated with the great Aztec and Mayan cultures and want to educate the community on what is a good tamal."

Eight tamale vendors participating this year include: Saginaw's T & T Authentic Mexican Cuisine, Cruz Kitchen, The Whole Enchilada, The Union Civica and few individual tamale culinary experts in the community: Bertha's Tamales, Dee Garcia Tamales, and Oh, Que Tamales from Midland, as well as Los Tamales de Mi Mama from Bay City.

The non-profit group is so excited that this annual culinary event has lasted this long and draws more and more interest with new vendors from Flint, Bay City and Saginaw. We will have a "Best Tamale Award" by celebrity judges and "People's Choice Award" this year.

Patrons of the event can have a sample of each vendor's tamales, purchase a half or a full dozen if they choose, and vote for the best tasting tamales. "If you're looking for good tamales for your Holiday season, this is the place to buy them," said Blanco. The entry fee is \$10. Several "Bazaar vendors" will have tables with representatives from, Chula's Mexican Imports, Que Sabroso and Cobb King to name a few, so come hungry. Jolt Credit Union is the event sponsor for the 13th Annual Tamale Taste-Off.

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



Seen on the Scene: Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute's 14th annual graduation



2023 Graduates with DrGeorge Grant President of SVSU and Dr Michael Gavin, President of Delta College



2023 Graduates with DrGeorge Grant President of SVSU and Dr Michael Gavin, President of Delta College



Graduates Naomi Orozco Heredia and Catalina Rangel Geiger



Graduate Solon Grey and Kyle McCree, Director of Consumers Energy Community Affairs



Dr Elsa Olvera and Monica Hernandez both from Delta College



Dr Roberto Garcia of SVSU and Selena Garcia



Guadalupe and Monica Reyes



Entertainment was provided by El Ballet Folklorico Estudiantil & Mariachi



Hispanic Latino Commissioners Consuela Lopez and Aurora Saucedo, Lisa Metropoulos 2023 Graduate and Monica Reyes Executive Director GLBHLI



Graduate Reynier Urdaneta Moreno and family



Graduate Miguel Torres and Alumni James Hernandez, Director of Financial Aide Services at Delta College



Saginaw County Undersheriff (and GLBHLI Alumni) Miguel Gomez and daughter Dallas McGregor 2023 graduate



Monica Reyes, Executive Director of GLBHLI, Inez Soza, Alumni and Emcee, Dr Pamela Pugh, MI Board of Education

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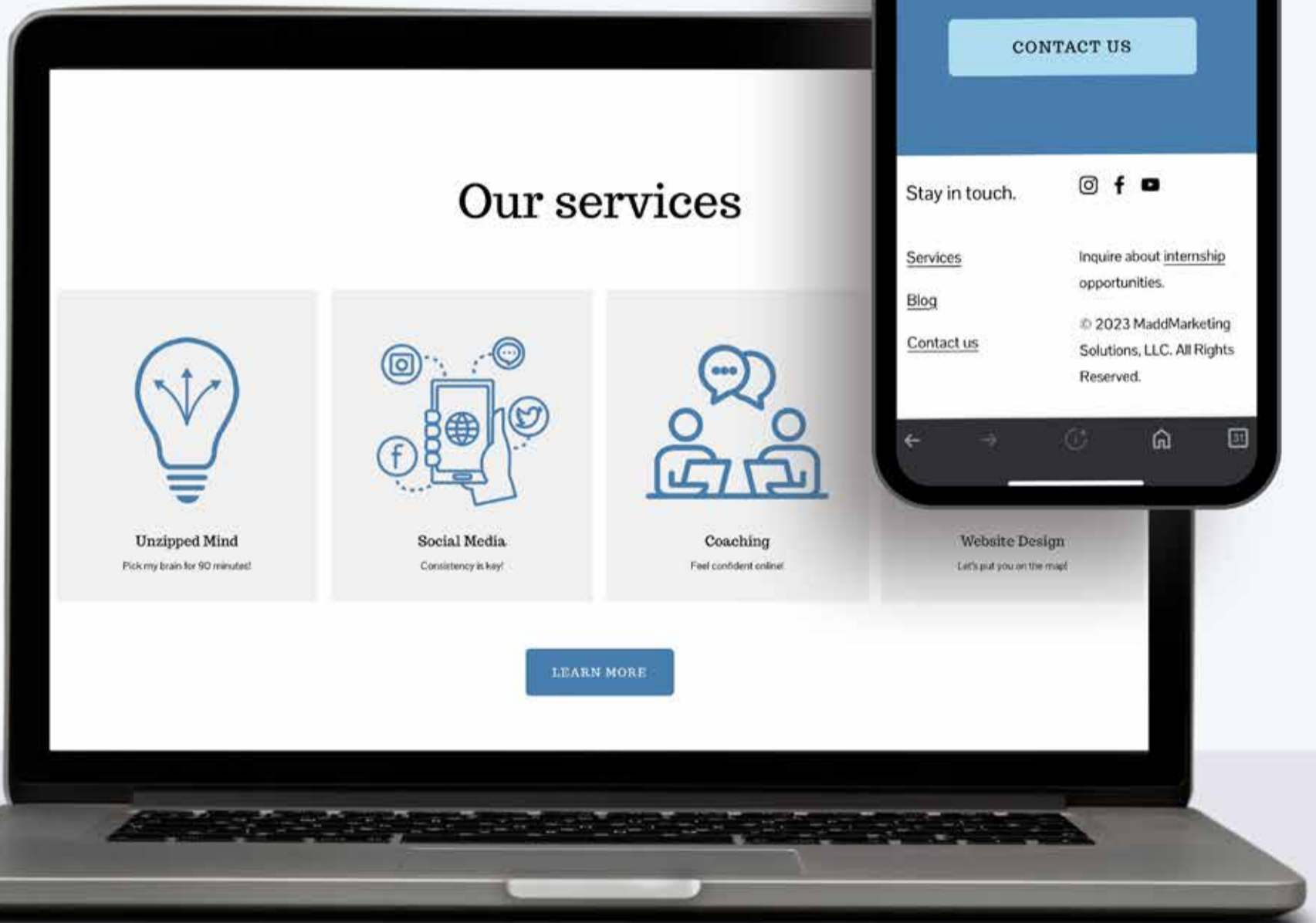
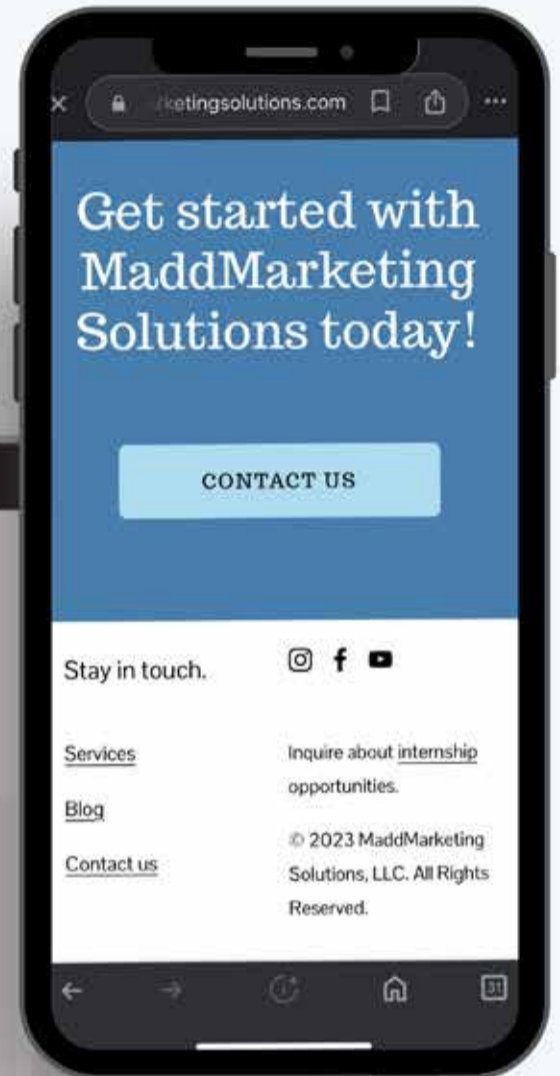
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Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership is Recruiting for 2024

The GLBHLi is tailored for individuals seeking to cultivate skills and relationships essential for effective leadership. It offers a comprehensive program that readies and empowers future visionary leaders, fostering positive impacts on both their personal lives and the communities they serve.

Emphasizing personal development, cultural awareness, leadership growth, and community engagement, the program facilitates a transformative journey. Participants gain valuable skills and actively contribute to community welfare through volunteering activities integrated into the curriculum. This hands-on experience enhances their leadership capabilities. Moreover, the program enables participants to form a network of professional colleagues and regional relationships. It is a crucial support system as individuals progress in their careers and pursue life goals.

Structured as a year-long initiative with classes running from April to December, most of the program is conducted online via Zoom or on-demand. Additionally, five in-person courses in various regions provide unique opportunities for direct interaction. Seize the chance to elevate your future and earn a leadership certification by reviewing the attached agenda and submitting your application today.

APPLY TODAY
Deadline is January 10, 2023
Registration Fees waved for first 10 Applicants
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SCAN ME for Application

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Auto sales consultant
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For an appointment



+ COMMUNITY

Holy Cross Services receives \$1 million to support mid-Michigan youth



COURTESY PHOTO

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) announced \$1.57 million of the \$15 million MI Impact Grant program was awarded to Holy Cross Services. The grant, made available to Michigan's large nonprofits who provide programming to lift people out of poverty, will allow the nonprofit to expand their services for young adults who are transitioning out of the child welfare system or foster care.

"No one should have to choose between paying rent and putting food on the table for their families," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "The MI Impact Grant will provide several of Michigan's largest nonprofits with the resources they need to continue making a meaningful and tangible impact in their communities. We remain committed to uplifting individuals living in poverty and ensure every Michigander has access to the support they need to 'make it' in Michigan."

Holy Cross Services was among 10 large nonprofits receiving one-time grant funds

of up to \$2 million to create or expand programming that lifts Michiganders out of poverty. The grant program prioritized partnerships with larger nonprofits that share the state's commitment to providing services that help lift Michigan residents out of poverty and above the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) threshold.

"These funds will allow 10 large nonprofits to uplift the communities they serve and strengthen Michigan's nonprofit ecosystem," said LEO Director Susan Corbin. "We are proud to deliver on our mission to close equity gaps and remove barriers to economic prosperity."


Holy Cross Services provides health-care services, case management, access to basic needs and mental health counseling to youth across the state, primarily in mid-Michigan. With the MI Impact Grant, the nonprofit will expand their programs to support teens and young adults ages 14-26 in transition from the child welfare system or foster care.

"As an organization deeply committed to serving our community, we are thrilled to be part of the MI Impact Grant initiative," said Holy Cross Services President and CEO, Ryan Kunzelman. "This generous support signifies more than just funding; it symbolizes hope and opportunity for the youth in Mid-Michigan. These funds will enable us to extend our services, providing essential support to teens and young adults transitioning from the child welfare system or foster care. By nurturing their potential, we aim to equip them with the tools and guidance necessary for building successful futures. We're truly grateful for this opportunity to make a lasting impact on the lives of these young people."

The MI Impact Grant program, aimed at addressing disparities that affect Michiganders' abilities to afford necessities such as housing, child care, food, health care and transportation, plans to lift 100,000 families out of working poverty during the next five years.

The funding is supported through the American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) with a goal to build a strong, resilient and equitable recovery by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity. \$50 million in funding is being provided to support nonprofits who have been negatively impacted due to the pandemic. The funding will be distributed through two separate programs, with a \$35 million relief fund made available to smaller nonprofits earlier this year. Nonprofits were eligible to receive either the MI Nonprofit Relief Fund or the MI Impact Grant, not both.

The grant program also supports recommendations of the Michigan Poverty Task Force, whose goal is to address the disparities that affect Michiganders' abilities to afford necessities. To learn more about their work and view a full list of grant awardees, visit the Michigan Poverty Task Force's nonprofit webpage.



Adopt A Family

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15 /16 pantsM



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Size 10 shoe
38/40 pants

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Boys
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size 10 shoe
12/14 pants

Age 11
medlum shirt
size 9 shoe
10 /12 pants

Girl
Age four
4T shirt
size 12 shoe
4T pants


TIME TO HAVE A CONVERSATION

"Surviving the Season"



MARCIA JONES
Delta College
Educational
Opportunity Center
(EOC) Advisor and
GriefShare facilitator



**KRISTIE M.
WOLBERT**
Executive Director of Clinical
Services and Programs for Saginaw
County Community Mental Health
Authority (SCCMHA)



KEVIN FISCHER
Executive Director of the National
Alliance on Mental Illness of
Michigan and Founder and Director
of The Dominique Fischer Memorial
Foundation

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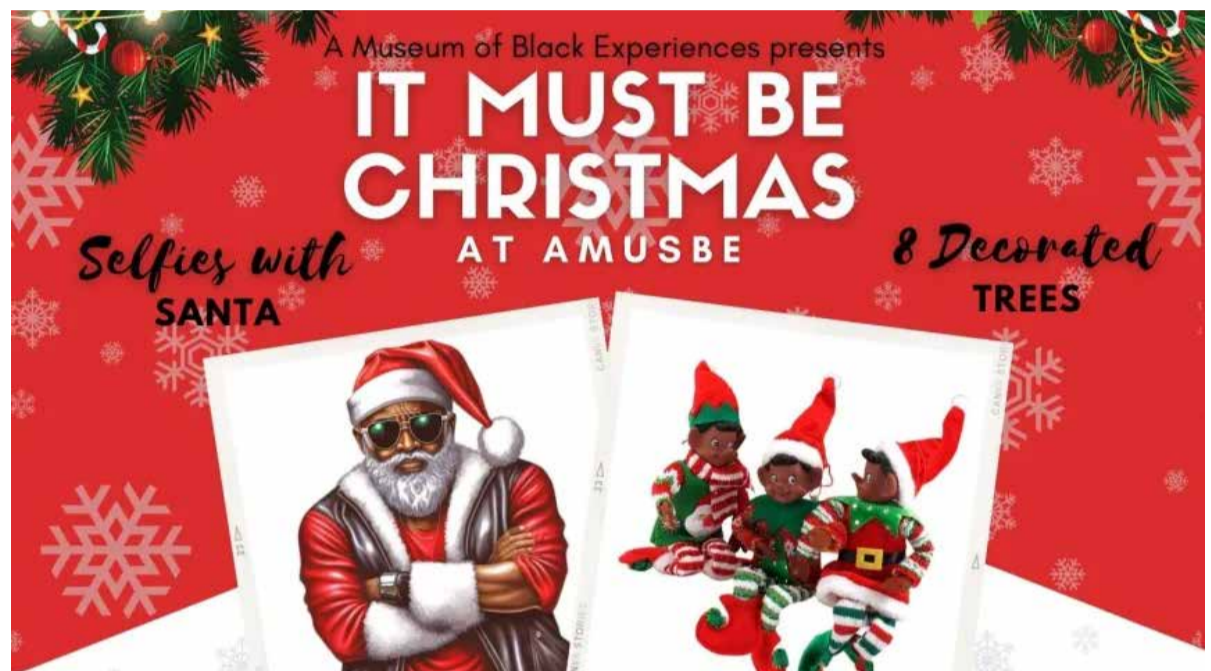
Make adjustments, not excuses



By **FELESIA M. HARREL**
DOCTORAL STUDENT IN
EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP &
INNOVATION, PURDUE UNIVERSITY

The road to collegiate sports does not begin in high school, it begins during the elementary years. As an educator, and former coach, that is something that I have always communicated to my student-athletes. That is why having those conversations early on with my grandson, Adoko, is extremely important to me. Adoko is a middle school student-athlete. He recently shared his grades with me and I noticed that he had a “C” in one of his classes. We had a conversation about the importance of maintaining a “B” or better in all of his classes, and the importance of maintaining a balance between academics and sports. In short, the same energy he puts into being a standout athlete must be the same energy he puts into being a standout student. I also shared that in order to truly be prepared to play collegiate sports, he must develop good habits and discipline prior to starting high school. In response to our conversation, he stayed after school the following week and requested help from his teacher to improve that grade. By the end of the week, he communicated with me that the “C” he had improved to a “B”. Adoko took the initiative to request help without me telling him to do so. That was amazing to witness because he was intrinsically motivated to make things better for himself. He gets it now! It is my hope that as I share my insight on how to develop strong, resilient, and academically solid traditional students and student-athletes, the trend will gain momentum.

A Museum of Black Experiences will host holiday festivities in Saginaw



A Museum of Black Experiences (AMusBE) is inviting families from across Mid-Michigan to celebrate the holiday season at their new building Saginaw.

“It Must Be Christmas at AMusBE” will offer the public an early glimpse inside Saginaw’s newest cultural landmark. Volunteers are currently working to transform the historic manor into a “winter wonderland.” In addition to special Christmas and Kwanzaa exhibits, local organizations have sponsored and decorated holiday trees throughout the museum.

“Our exhibits will illustrate Christmas and gift-giving during the times of slavery and the Reconstruction,” Kevin Jones, AMusBE’s founder, said. “We’re also sharing more about the history of Kwanzaa and how it has been historically celebrated.”

The festivities planned for Dec. 15-17 and Dec. 22-23 will include performances by local entertainers as well as carol karaoke with holiday classics. Families can take photographs with Santa and their elves, and participate in a silent auction fundraiser benefiting the museum. Prizes will include locally donated art, concert tickets, and a guided “Blac-

tiquing” experience with Jones.

Museum’s Public Hours for It Must Be Christmas at AMusBE:

- Dec 15, 2023: 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Dec 16, 2023: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Dec 17, 2023: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Dec 22, 2023: 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- Dec 23, 2023: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

While there is no charge to attend, AMusBE suggests a donation of \$25 per family. However, donations in any amount will be graciously accepted, and no one will be turned away. Proceeds will be invested in further improvements to the property, including a new parking lot.

“We want our guests to have a festive time while learning more about Black experiences, especially during Christmas,” Jones said. “Guests will get a flavor of what the museum will offer when we open on Juneteenth, pending necessary repairs and renovations.”

AMusBE plans to formally open its doors on Juneteenth of 2024. The museum is located at 1243 S. Jefferson Avenue in Saginaw. For more information about AMusBE visit <https://www.amusbe.com>.



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+ COMMUNITY

Seen on the Scene: Saginaw Public school presents the family and community district wide event holiday musical jubilee Saturday, December 9, 2023






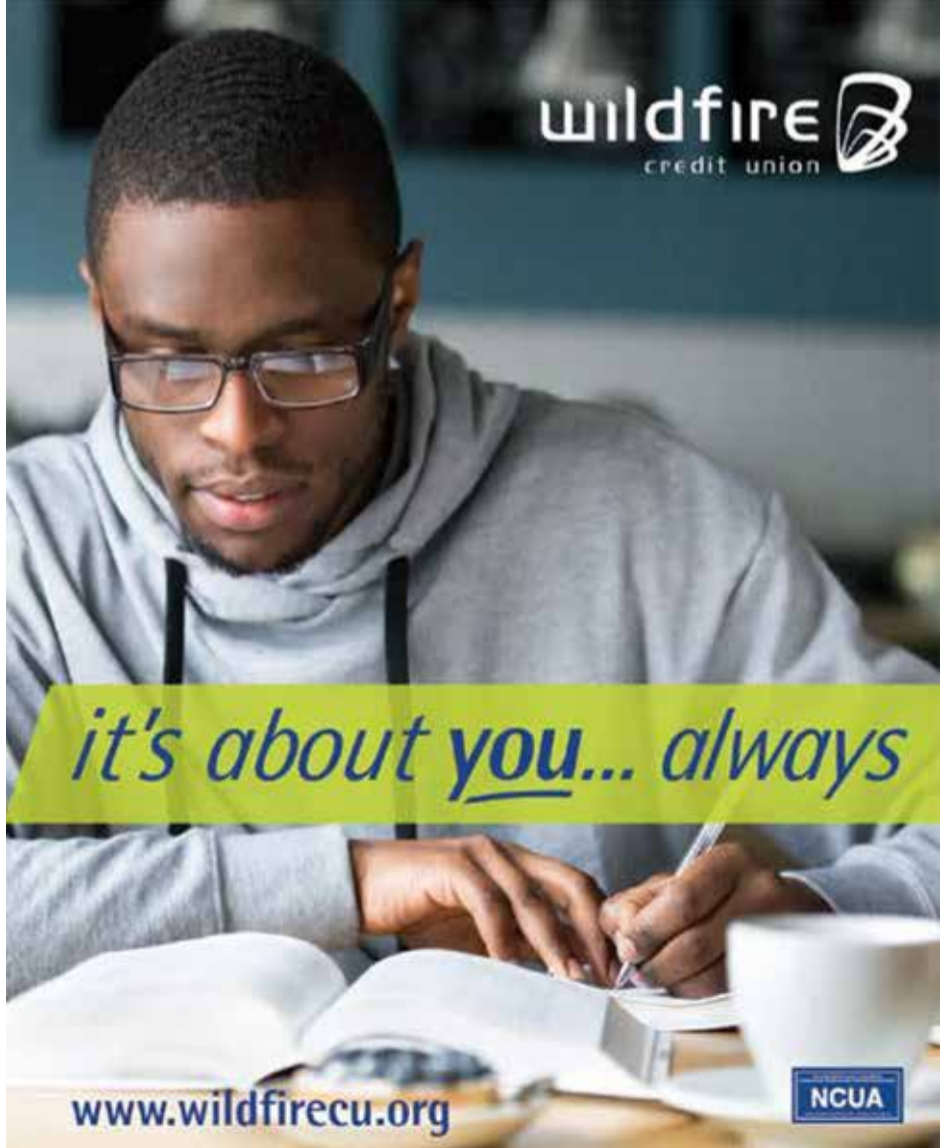
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New real estate show will showcase real estate in the Great Lakes Bay region



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TV HOST | REALTOR

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Emmy-nominated and Telly Award winning TV show

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COURTESY PHOTO

The American Dream is proud to announce the release of the newest show in the Great Lakes Bay Region, MI. The 30 minute commercial-free show, "Selling the Great Lakes Bay Region" will air locally on cable and be available on multiple streaming devices. - Announcement to come soon.

The show is a nationally syndicated program that airs on national networks of CNBC, Bloomberg TV, the Travel Channel and other cable outlets. Streaming on Amazon Fire, Apple TV, and Roku, with significant viewership on social media.

The American Dream TV and production team have been nominated for an EMMY, and become nationally recognized as a real show sharing the real stories of our neighborhoods, and featuring the best real estate experts.

Each show highlights a cast of elite realtors in each market chosen for their expertise in real estate, reputation, and recognition from their peers and consumers. The executive show producer, Craig Sewing, Inman News Nominee for "Most Influential in Real Estate," hand picks the best of each market to be positioned as the host, and voice for the trends of the real estate market.

The show can be watched on a variety of channels, and is generating millions of views on social media, proudly claiming "positive media," niched around real estate, lifestyles, and culture.

Follow the show: facebook.com/theamerican-dreamtv



SVSU STUDENTS PERFORM A SCENE FROM "BURNING BLUEBEARD" DURING A DRESS REHEARSAL

SVSU's 'Burning Bluebeard' production to be part of closing ceremony of Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival

On January, 19 Saginaw Valley State University theatre students will reprise their roles as theater designers, performers and technicians when they present their production of "Burning Bluebeard" during the closing ceremony of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) Region 3. The performance will be held at the Capitol Theatre in Flint on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 7:30 p.m. This is the first time SVSU will present a performance at the regional festival.

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival showcases the finest in university theater, involving 18,000 students annually from colleges and universities throughout the United States. SVSU has participated in the KCACTF since 2004.

"SVSU's production was one of five selected for the festival," said David Rzeszutek, SVSU professor of theatre and director of SVSU's production of "Burning Bluebeard." "Given the chance to share their work in front of theatrical peers

from multiple states is a great honor for our students, and it will reinforce and support their education. This is a prestigious opportunity that we are all looking forward to in January."

Rzeszutek said there will be some challenges to mounting the production in a different space. Nonetheless, he's looking forward to the challenge.

"I'm really excited for this opportunity to work in such a beautiful theater and for our students to interact with union stagehands," Rzeszutek said.

The KCACTF Region 3 is one of eight regional festivals that, along with the national festival in Washington, D.C., celebrate artistic excellence and recognize students through awards and scholarships. Region 3 includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and Western Ohio. Hosted by the University of Michigan - Flint, the festival will run from Wednesday, Jan. 10 - Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024.

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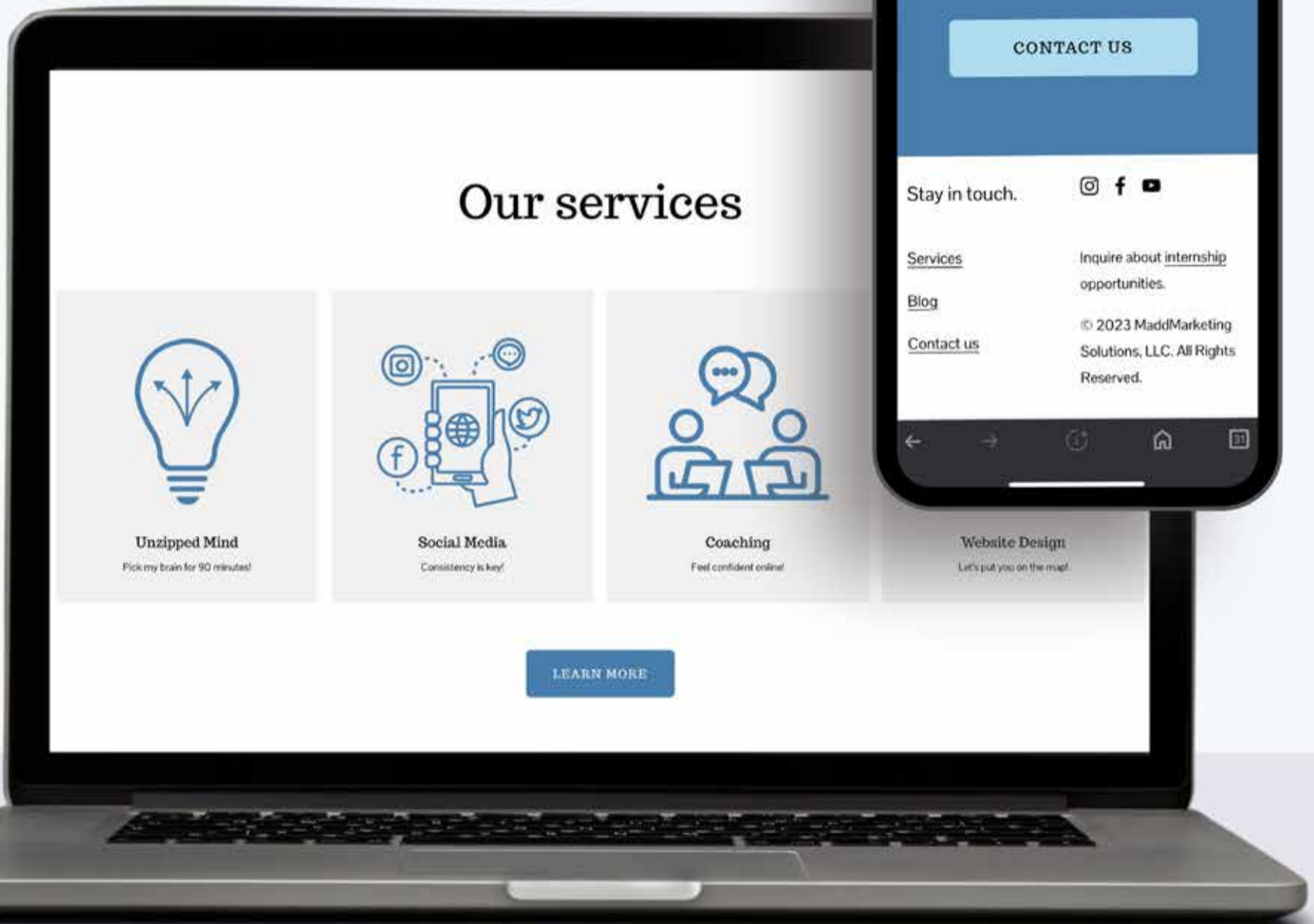
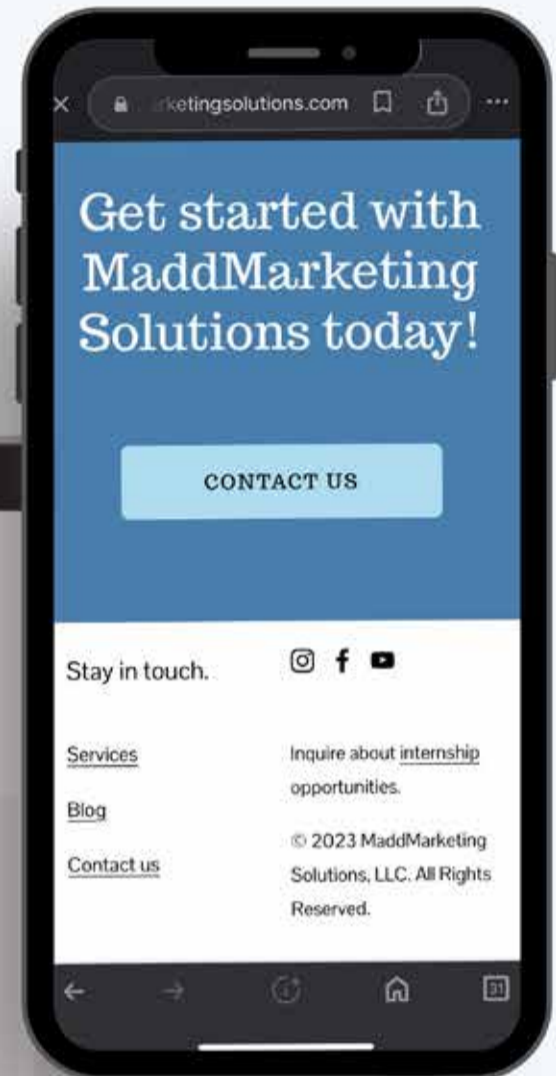
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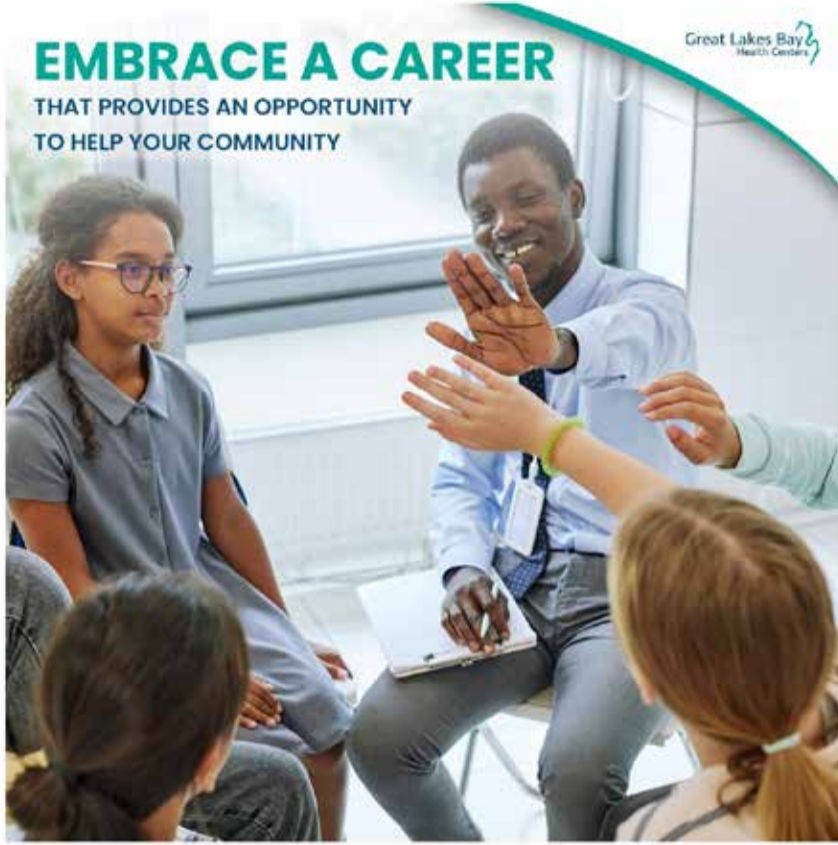


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A Christmas story

Luke 2:1-20

By Alga Jones

**Tw'as The night before Christmas and all through the house
There is a story that we all should want to talk about**

**It's a story of a baby – born lowly and placed in swaddling clothes
A baby who would change the world the one we should all know**

**Born in a city in a place called Bethlehem
There lying in a manger was the great I am**

**It was a story that came down from Heaven - a story of perfection
A story that came to save the world and send us into a new direction**

**A direction that only could be given by Christ our King
And as we sing our Christmas Carols let Heaven and Earth still ring**

**And as we hang the stockings and put our ornaments up on the trees
We need to tell the world how this baby came to be**

**Mary was with child and the Shepherds were out in the field
And all of a sudden God spoke down and caused Mary's womb to yield**

**Right then and right there her womb responded to the life giver
And on that cold winter night Mary bared down and delivered**

**The stars were shining brightly in the North sky that night
To announce to a dying world that this little baby boy would be the light**

**The light that would shine for all the world to see
A baby boy that would be talked about throughout eternity**

**And don't ever believe that this story is a myth
God had shined down upon us to give us a special gift**

**For unto you is born this day in the city of David one who was spoken of before
A super natural wonderful gift He is Christ the Lord**

**Our Savior was born in a manger because there was no room in the inn
And glory in the highest peace on Earth and good will to all men**

**And as the night comes to a close and you bow your heads to pray
Remember the glorious night that led up to this day**

**That the greatest story ever written is still as powerful as before
Because that night a son was given your angels watching over you The Lord**

**And the story continues on until this day and God has never forgotten about us
And I pray that you accept his gift his son Christ Jesus**

**And have a blessed Merry Christmas and a Great Happy New Year
And I hope that this Season wraps you up with love and good cheer.**

+ COMMUNITY

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

The Michigan Lottery is celebrating 10 years of recognizing outstanding educators with the 2023-24 Excellence in Education awards. During the program's 10 years, the Michigan Lottery has recognized more than 300 public-school educators across Michigan and highlighted the impact they have in their respective communities.

Nominations are currently open, and parents, students, school staff members, and others are encouraged to nominate outstanding public-school educators for awards. All public-school employees may be nominated for the awards, which recognize educators who go "above and beyond" to make a difference in the lives of children. To nominate a public-school educator, go to <https://www.michigan-lottery.com/excellenceineducation>.

"Public-school educators play a critical role in our students' lives by serving as role models, offering encouragement and motivation, and teaching critical skills that prepare Michigan's students for future success," said Acting Lottery Commissioner, Jessica Weare. "The Lottery's Excellence in Education awards shine a light on dedicated educators who go above and beyond for their students and inspire them to reach their full potential."

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

One outstanding educator will be selected each week and will receive a \$2,000 cash prize. At the end of the school year, one of these weekly award winners will be selected to receive the Lottery's Educator of the Year award and will receive a \$10,000 cash prize.

Winners of the weekly award are 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, WNEM-TV in Saginaw, and WWTW-TV in Traverse City.

The winner of the 2023 Educator of the Year award was Kathryn Kluzak, a kindergarten teacher at Robert L. Green Elementary in East Lansing.

Hundreds of educators were nominated during the 2022-23 school year, which was the ninth year of the Excellence in Education awards program. Thirty-four of these nominees, including Kluzak, were selected to win a weekly award.

Previous winners of the Educator of the Year award:

2022 – Spencer Vanderheide, a high school teacher with Kenowa Hills High School in Grand Rapids.

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

2020 – Megan Sidge, an Autism Spectrum Disorder teacher at Hickory Woods Elementary in Walled Lake.

2019 – Stewart Kieliszewski, an Earth science, biology, mechatronics, and media teacher for eighth through 12 graders at the Ubly Community Schools.

2018 – Kerri Moccio, a first-grade literacy intervention specialist at Bedford Elementary School in Dearborn Heights.

2017 – Linda Holzwarth, a social studies teacher at Portage West Middle

School in Portage. 2016 – Daniel Carr, a Spanish and sports marketing teacher at Waverly High School in Lansing. 2015 – Michael Craig, a special education teacher at the Charles Drew Transition Center in Detroit.

Excellence In Education award nominees should demonstrate the following qualities:

- 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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Overall odds of winning A Partridge in a Pear Tree: 1 in 4.61, Overall odds of winning 'Tis the Season: 1 in 4.50, Overall odds of winning Peppermint Payout: 1 in 4.11, Overall odds of winning Holiday Wishes: 1 in 3.61, Overall odds of winning 500X Money Maker: 1 in 3.43, Knowing your limits is always the best bet, Call the Michigan Problem Gambling Helpline for confidential help at 1-800-270-7117.



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COURTESY PHOTO

Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra announces Holiday Superstars

The Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra presents Holiday Superstars with special guest vocalists Todd Michael Hall, Sharrie Williams, and Amy Petty. Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra continues our 20-year tradition of Holiday Pops by bringing together three of our most prolific local guest vocalists in one unforgettable holiday celebration. Join us at the Temple Theatre as Maestro Fouad Fakhouri conducts your Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra along with guest vocalists Todd Michael Hall, Amy Petty, and Sharrie Williams in a celebration of Saginaw's own Holiday Superstars. The concert will be on Tuesday, December 12, 2023. Doors to the Temple Theater open at 7:00 pm, and the concert starts at 8:00 pm. Tickets are available through the Temple Theater Box Office by calling (877) 754-7469 or by going to templetheater.com.

Sharrie Williams has written and produced four exceptional CDs to date. She

was nominated three times by the Blues Foundation for Traditional Female Artist and Soul Blues Female Artist of the Year. She won JAZZed Magazine's World Music Artist of the Year. Her concerts span the world from Europe to the Middle East, from Africa to the USA. Her powerful voice is the perfect vehicle for her hard-drivin' blues, her vocal dexterity infuses her music with lyrical shades of jazz, and the sweet tenderness within her musical range is invoked by subjects containing deeply personal events and feelings. Her concerts leave a lasting impression of an intimate encounter with a talented storyteller and leaves one in eager anticipation for her next performance. She truly is Saginaw's own "Princess of Rockin' Gospel Blues".

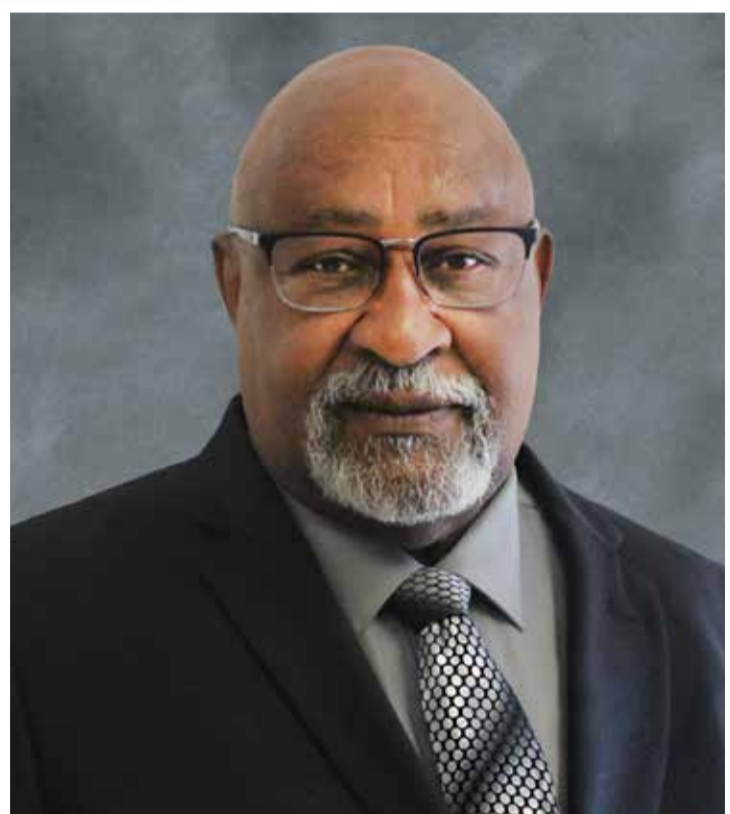
Todd Michael Hall is an American musician born on September 27, 1969, in Saginaw, MI. He is best known as the lead singer for New York-based band Riot V, a position he has held since 2013, mak-

ing him their fifth official singer. Todd has also sung in many other metal bands including Reverence, Jack Starr's Burning Starr, Entice, and Harlet. He was a contestant on Season 18 of The Voice. He has released several albums, including Virgin Wings (EP, 1987) and Land of the Dead (2011). Todd and Riot V are on schedule to release their 17th album soon, their first since 2018.

Amy Petty is a singer-songwriter originally from Royal Oak, MI. She has released several albums, including House of Doors (2006), Arm in Arm (2010), and The Darkness of Birds (2019). Her music has been described as "powerful and seductive" and has been compared to Eva Cassidy and Jonatha Brooke. Amy has performed live on various platforms, including Behind the Mic with Pam Rossi. She was signed to a St. Louis-based label where she released two albums before deciding to move back to Michigan to be closer to her family.

+ FAITH BASED

SPONSORED CONTENT



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

Join us at Ministry Without Walls

By **PASTOR JOHN DUNN**
MINISTRY WITHOUT WALLS

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

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

Our vision is for Ministry Without Walls to be:

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

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

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

Our ongoing teaching and seminars will include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

+ FAITH BASED

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The Inn Could Not Hold Him, But The Manger Did

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn

Luke 2:6-7

By **MINISTER CAROLYN CARTER TOWNSEL**

It is unbelievable that we are now in the Christmas season. It is during this season that I enjoy Christmas dinner, fellowshiping with family and friends, and exchanging of gifts. Although, I enjoy all of the previous mentioned, my deepest affection and affinity comes from hearing the story of the birth of Jesus and knowing I have received the greatest gift of all – Jesus.

Leading up to, our verses of Scripture, Joseph and Mary have begun their journey from Galilee to fulfill the decree given by Caesar Augustus to register in their hometown Bethlehem to pay their taxes. Scholars' state the trip was approximately 90 miles from Galilee to Bethlehem, took 7-10 days, covering 2 and half miles a day, while traveling 6 hours per day. This lengthy journey was also difficult and treacherous due to rocky terrains, uneven slopes, going up, and downhill. In addition to that, Mary was pregnant and in her third trimester.

Although, Mary's condition was dire and delicate, she did not fret or falter, because she knew she and Joseph were

in the will of God. When you are in the will of God, you can be sure; ***"No weapon formed against you can prosper."*** When you are in the will of God, ***"He will never leave you nor forsake you."*** The safest place for us, as believers, is to be in the will of God.

When Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem, because of the influx of people registering to pay their taxes, they discovered there was no room for them at the inn. However, they found accommodations in a stable. A stable that provides shelter for animals and is unclean, unkempt, and dirty. Shortly after going to the stable, Mary went into labor and the magnificent birth of Jesus took place. The Bible said, she "wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger."

How could this be? Jesus the ***"King of Kings and Lord of Lords"*** be born in a stable and laid in a manger. This happened because God is Sovereign; therefore, because God is Sovereign, Jesus born in a stable and laid in a manger was not by accident. It is a major spiritual symbol.

When you look at the word manger, it derives from the Latin word "mandu-

care" which means, "to eat." A manger is a feeding trough that holds hay for larger farm animals like cattle, donkeys, and horses. Farmers were responsible for providing their mangers with food at all times so the animals would not go hungry. At any given time, the cattle could go to the manger and chomp away, chewing and unhurriedly re-chew their cud.

Animals go to the manger for physical food, but with Jesus, lying on the hay in a manger is a spiritual analogy that believers can go to Jesus for spiritual food. Jesus has an immeasurable storehouse of spiritual nourishment, and we can go to Him at any time and never go hungry. Jesus wants us to eat His word, by studying, meditating, obeying, and applying it to our daily lives. Not only that, baby Jesus in the manger, in the feeding trough is the Bread of Life, ***"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh"*** (John 6:51).

Merry Christmas & Blessings To All

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+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

Dreaming of major gifts?

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Now is a time for fantasizing about major gifts. After all, it's a major holiday season full of gift giving and receiving. There's Chanukah, Christmas, and Kwanza and some celebrate all three! But for those working in nonprofit organizations major gifts are on their minds all the time. Receiving one is cause for celebration, especially when it is unexpected. These gifts give more than the giver can imagine and they – along with all other gifts – are at the heart of changing lives and warming hearts.

Nonprofits depend on gifts to carry out their mission. But what exactly is a major gift? Simply put, it's a gift that represents a significant contribution to your organization. It could be \$1,000 or \$10,000, or \$10 million and more. While some major gifts are made without first consulting the

nonprofit, it is more common for donors and nonprofit leaders to discuss the organization's plans and the impact a major gift could make. This means those within nonprofits have to be comfortable talking about money. And, we have to know who we are talking with and whether or not it is appropriate to have a major gift discussion.

Here are some tips on how to do this. These were shared in a webinar entitled Major Gifts: How to Get them and What to Do Next moderated by Nexus Marketing. The panelists were Katharine Earhart, Partner and Co-Founder at Fairlight Advisors; Marcy Heim, president of Marcy Heim Consulting; and our own Pearl Shaw. We share these to help your organization begin – or grow – its work in identifying and working with prospective major donors.

First, look at who is closest to your organization, including your volunteers and consistent donors. Listen closely to what your current major donors and board members say about themselves and those who have the combined interest and financial ability to make a major gift. People will share information with you about their

own giving capacity and who they believe can support your organization when you speak with them one-on-one in a relaxed situation. Remember, your current and consistent donors believe in your work. Talk to them – individually, and at small, curated events. Ask them why they give and who they believe would benefit from giving to your nonprofit.

When you receive a major gift – or any gift – say thank you. Say it quickly. Say it personally. Have a board member call to say thank you. Make sure the executive director or CEO calls. Send an official thank you letter with a receipt. Make personal contact at an appropriate pace to keep them apprised of your organization's work, or to ask for guidance or suggestions. While there is technology to help identify potential major donors, it can never take the place of personal relationships and personal commitments that are often at the core of major gifts. Develop relationships with those who you believe can open doors to those who believe in the work of your nonprofit. Finally, treat all your donors as major donors. Every gift makes a difference.



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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.

+ EDUCATION



Consider certification programs



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

We think of “going to college” as a four-year experience, and in many cases, it is. It was for me and many others. There are many reasons having a degree from an accredited college or university matters. It is necessary in many fields and opens doors in the future for further advancement and study.

Today employment situations are shifting, creating partnerships with business to accelerate training in certifications instead of degrees. Earning a certification may be a pathway for some who think that college is not for them.

Advantages of seeking a certification include the following:

- Time saved- a certification program is often a matter of weeks rather than semesters, reducing time and allowing employment sooner;
- Focused – a certification program is often narrow in content, targeting skills needed for employment.
- Tuition reimbursement is a possibility- in some shortage areas businesses will contribute to tuition costs in exchange for coming to work for them.

The primary disadvantage is the result is a certificate, not a degree; courses are not as much for “credit” but are aimed at training for specific skills.

I pulled some examples from Delta College’s website. These are among over 100 programs they offer that lead to a creden-

tial or certificate, and these types of programs are found at many other community colleges.

Web design – a certification that trains students all aspects of building websites;

Computer aided drafting – this certification trains students to be able to use a computer to do basic drafting.

Heating and cooling – the training leads to work with heating and cooling units.

There are 140 programs at Delta some are for credit and lead to an Associates Degree, while many others are certificates.

Again, Delta College is not the only community college to offer certifications. This is becoming more commonplace due to labor shortages.

Resources:

<https://www.delta.edu/academics/degrees-certificates.html>

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

SVSU Board approves housing and dining rates for the 2024-25 academic year

The Saginaw Valley State University Board of Control approved the auxiliary fund budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year, including housing and dining rates for students, during the Board's regular meeting Friday, Dec. 15.

SVSU provides a variety of housing and dining options for students; the average increase for the upcoming year is 5.5%. Even during a period of high inflation, SVSU had held increases below 2.5% for the prior four fiscal years. The university continues to earn the "best dorms" ranking of all public universities in the United States in the annual survey by the website Niche.

For the 2024-25 academic year, an incoming freshman who resides in a Living Center facility will pay \$11,750 for housing and meals. Students who choose individual

bedrooms will pay more, depending on their selection.

The Board also approved spending up to \$5.275 million to make needed improvements to SVSU residential facilities: University Village phase II, Great Lakes Dorms D & E in the First Year Suites, and Merry Jo Brandimore House.

In addition, the Board passed a resolution to grant undergraduate and graduate degrees. More than 500 students are completing degrees at the conclusion of the fall semester.

The Board also granted an honorary degree to Karen S. Carter, president of Dow's Packaging & Specialty Plastics business operating segment. She will deliver the commencement address on Saturday, Dec. 16.

In other action, the Board:

- Approved a lease of land for a cellular tower on campus
- Granted sabbaticals for the 2024-25 academic year to 11 SVSU faculty members:
- Warren Fincher, sociology
- Daniel Gates, English
- Mark Geisler, social work
- Blake Johnson, art
- Jeff Koperski, philosophy
- Grace McClurkin, mathematical sciences
- Lucy Mercier, social work
- David Nichols, philosophy
- Evelyn Ravuri, geography
- Kathleen Schachman, nursing
- William Vautaw, mathematical sciences

SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DECEMBER 2023



Amazing Kid: Braylen Podleski (6th Gr)
Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy
Nominated by: Mr. Doud

Braylen brings a positive attitude to class every day. He is willing to work in collaboration with any student keeping an upbeat attitude displaying an example of integrity. He remains focused on the tasks at efforts. He shows responsibility by being prepared for class and ready to learn.

BRAYLEN IS A SASA DRAGON!

DECEMBER 2023



Amazing Kid: Jayceen Allen (12th grade)
Saginaw High School
Nominated by: Ms. Trisha Baker

Jayceen is a pleasure to have in class. She is hard working, polite, helpful, and focused on success. She shows Trojan Pride every day with her positive attitude, respect, integrity, dependability, and efficiency.

JAYCEEN IS AMAZING!

DECEMBER 2023




Amazing Kid: Jayden Wilson (2nd Gr)
Jessie Rouse Elementary
Nominated by: Mrs. Jenn Mallory- Second Grade Teacher

Everyday, Jayden comes in ready to learn. He sets a great example for all of his classmates. He works very hard on his school work. He is always willing to help his classmates and his teacher. He is respectful and kind to all!

THANK YOU JAYDEN FOR BEING A SECOND GRADE SUPERSTAR!

December 2023



Difference Maker: Ms. Lynne George,
SPSD Guest Principal

Nominated by: Mrs. Tina Muñoz, Zilwaukee School Principal

Ms. George's commitment to SPSP as a Guest Principal has been unwavering. Year after year, she answers the call whenever there is a need for administrative coverage at a school. We cannot thank Ms. George enough for her time, commitment, and most importantly, her "heart" work spent working with our students, collaborating with staff, and meeting parents and school volunteers.

Thank you, Ms. George, for LEADING the way and MAKING A DIFFERENCE at Zilwaukee School!

DECEMBER 2023



SPSD DIFFERENCE MAKER

Difference Maker: Ms. Trisha Baker
SAGINAW HIGH SCHOOL
Nominated by: Mr. Michael Hight

Ms. Baker is always thinking of the kids first! She is the first to volunteer and she makes sure students have what they need to be successful everyday.

MS. BAKER IS THE OG SHS DIFFERENCE MAKER!

DECEMBER 2023




SPSD DIFFERENCE MAKER

Difference Maker: Ms. Savannah Nash
Chester Miller Elementary School
Nominated By: Mrs. Jeanine Kowalski- Principal

I am writing to nominate Ms. Savannah Nash as a true DIFFERENCE MAKER in the field of behavioral intervention and education. As the principal of Chester Miller, I have had the privilege of working closely with Ms. Nash, and I am confident in stating that she possesses exceptional qualities and dedication that make her well deserving. Savannah has consistently demonstrated a remarkable commitment to our students and their well-being. She embodies the following qualities: Compassion and Patience: She consistently displays an abundance of compassion and patience when working with our students. She creates a safe and nurturing environment where every child feels valued and supported. Unwavering Dedication: Ms. Nash has a keen eye for detail and a deep understanding of behavioral cues. She excels in assessing and identifying the needs of each student, allowing for tailored intervention strategies that lead to remarkable progress. Adaptability: Savannah is highly adaptable and responsive to the evolving needs of our students. She takes an innovative approach to addressing the diverse challenges presented in the classroom, finding unique solutions that promote student growth. Ms. Nash is an extraordinary individual whose dedication, compassion, and outstanding skills have had a profound and lasting impact on the lives of our students and the entire school community. She is a true difference maker in the field of behavioral intervention and education.

Student & Staff Recognition for Making SPSP an Exceptional Place!

SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS
wishes you
Merry & Bright
Holiday Season



Artwork Credit: Norah Amo, 8th Grade,
Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy



HAPPY
HOLIDAYS



THE POWER OF THE PROMISE DEPENDS ON ALL OF US!

Support the Saginaw Promise with a
gift to its 2023 Community Campaign!

The Power and ability of the Saginaw Promise to affect
change through postsecondary education, depends on
community partners, donors, sponsors and volunteers.

Since 2012, the Saginaw Promise has awarded
\$1,227,714 in scholarships to **695** scholars.



The Saginaw Promise asks you to invest in Saginaw and its students with a gift
of support to the Saginaw Promise today! The Saginaw Promise is working to
provide the opportunity for and to eliminate barriers to postsecondary education to
impact the future of Saginaw, its economy and the lives of its students. **Please join
us as a community partner with your gift of support!**

To donate visit:

<https://form.jotform.com/221173527315147>

or visit the Saginaw Promise website
or contact our office at **(989)755-0545**.

Thank You

It takes a village...all of us to care for our community and our children....

Saginaw Promise

| www.saginawpromise.org

| (989) 755-0545





COURTESY PHOTO

Saginaw Promise... a scholarship to impact the future of Saginaw and its students!

Education is something that will last a lifetime and will open doors to life and career opportunities! The Saginaw Promise is working to affect Saginaw's future, its economy and quality of life by eliminating barriers to postsecondary education with information and a scholarship for students who live in the Saginaw Promise Zone.

- Scholarships may be used at technical/trade Schools, community colleges or universities to earn a program certificate or degree.
- Scholarships are available up to two years.
- Parental income or GPA are not considered. (Students must maintain the standards of the institution they enroll with.

- Students who complete the application have up to six years from high school graduation to use their scholarship.
- Visit www.saginawpromise for organizational and scholarship information and details or telephone the Saginaw Promise at (989) 755-0545.

Eligible Students:

Students must live in and graduate from a high school in the Saginaw Promise Zone (which consists of the cities of Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Kochville and that part of Buena Vista designated to the Saginaw Public School District) and students must meet the residency and school attendance requirements to apply

How to Apply?

- Complete the online Saginaw Community Foundation "Scholarship Application"—check off the Saginaw Promise and complete FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid-- when it becomes available online.
- Scholarship application deadline is February 9, 2024

Note: If you or know of someone who has completed the scholarship application and has used some or none of their Saginaw Promise scholarship, the student has up to six years from high school graduation to apply to use their Saginaw Promise scholarship. Telephone the Saginaw Promise office at (989) 755-0545 to determine your scholarship status.

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

SPONSORED CONTENT

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).

SAY HELLO TO

FREE TUITION.

Get Free Tuition through Michigan's Reconnect Scholarship Program
Delta College, in partnership with Michigan Reconnect, is offering free in-district tuition to qualifying Michigan residents who want to earn an associate degree or certificate.

Do you qualify?

- Michigan resident for 1 year or more
- At least 25 years of age
- U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Hold a high school diploma or GED
- Do not currently hold a college or university degree
- Students must enroll for 12 credits per year

Newly expanded
to those 21-24
for a limited time!

*Other costs apply. Students outside Bay, Midland and Saginaw counties (Delta's service district) can receive the scholarship but will be responsible for the difference between in-district and out-of-district tuition and fees.

Apply today! | delta.edu/reconnect | 989-686-9093



SPSD WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

ARTHUR HILL HIGH SCHOOL

SAGINAW HIGH SCHOOL

SAGINAW ARTS & SCIENCES ACADEMY

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Dec 5	Detroit Prep	H	6:00
Dec 8	Traverse City Central	A	7:00
Dec 12	Frankenmuth	A	7:00
Dec 15	Grand Haven	H	7:00
Dec 27	Cass Tech Christmas Tour	A	TBD
Jan 3	Dow	H	7:00
Jan 5	Flowers Catholic	A	7:00
Jan 9	Grand Blanc	H	7:00
Jan 12	Davison	H	7:00
Jan 16	Carman Ainsworth	A	7:00
Jan 20	Wayne (Indiana)	A	2:30
Jan 23	Bay City Western	A	7:00
Jan 26	Midland High	H	7:00
Jan 30	Lapeer	A	7:00
Feb 2	Heritage	H	7:00
Feb 13	Mount Pleasant	A	7:00
Feb 15	Saginaw High	A	6:30
Feb 16	SHS @ Dow Ev Ctr	H	7:00
Feb 20	Bay City Central	A	7:00
TBD	DISTRICTS	TBD	TBD

COACH: ANTHONY DAVIS

BOYS JV BASKETBALL

Dec 5	Detroit Prep	H	4:30
Dec 8	Traverse City Central	A	5:30
Dec 12	Frankenmuth	A	5:30
Dec 15	Grand Haven	H	5:30
Dec 27	Cass Tech Christmas Tour	A	TBD
Jan 3	Dow	H	5:30
Jan 5	Flowers Catholic	A	6:30
Jan 9	Grand Blanc	H	5:30
Jan 12	Davison	H	5:30
Jan 16	Carman Ainsworth	A	5:30
Jan 20	Wayne (Indiana)	A	1:30
Jan 23	Bay City Western	A	5:30
Jan 26	Midland High	H	5:30
Jan 30	Lapeer	A	5:30
Feb 2	Heritage	H	5:30
Feb 13	Mount Pleasant	A	5:30
Feb 15	Saginaw High	A	5:30
Feb 20	Bay City Central	A	5:30

COACH: MARK OATES

BOYS FRESHMAN BASKETBALL

Dec 1	Hannamack	H	4:00
Dec 5	Traverse City Central	A	5:30
Dec 12	Frankenmuth	A	5:30
Dec 15	Grand Haven	H	4:00
Dec 27	Cass Tech Christmas Tour	A	TBD
Jan 3	Dow	H	4:00
Jan 5	Flowers Catholic	A	4:00
Jan 9	Grand Blanc	H	4:00
Jan 12	Davison	H	4:00
Jan 16	Carman Ainsworth	A	4:00
Jan 20	Wayne (Indiana)	A	1:00
Jan 23	Bay City Western	A	4:00
Jan 26	Midland High	H	4:00
Jan 30	Lapeer	A	4:00
Feb 2	Heritage	H	4:00
Feb 13	Mount Pleasant	A	4:00
Feb 15	Saginaw High	A	4:00
Feb 20	Bay City Central	A	4:00

COACH: ANTONYO DAVIS

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Dec 05	Flint Community	A	7:00
Dec 07	Davison	H	7:00
Dec 09	Grand Ledge HS**	A	7:00
Dec 15	Det King	H	7:00
Dec 16	East Kentwood	H	4:00
Dec 21	Warren Fitzgerald	H	7:00
Dec 27	Det Cass Tech Tour	A	4:15
Dec 28	PH Northern **	A	5:15
Jan 09	BC Western	H	7:00
Jan 12	Grand Blanc	A	7:00
Jan 16	Midland	A	7:00
Jan 19	Powers Catholic	H	7:00
Jan 23	Heritage	H	7:00
Jan 26	BC Central	A	7:00
Jan 27	Romulus	A	5:00
Feb 02	Mt Pleasant	H	7:00
Feb 06	Midland Dow	A	7:00
Feb 10	Davison Tour	A	TBD
Feb 13	Lapeer	A	7:00
Feb 16	Arthur Hill	H	7:00
Feb 23	Carman Ainsworth	H	7:00

COACH: JULIAN TAYLOR

BOYS JV BASKETBALL

Dec 05	Flint Community	A	5:30
Dec 07	Davison	H	5:30
Dec 15	Det King	H	5:30
Dec 16	E Kentwood	H	2:30
Dec 21	Warren Fitzgerald	H	5:30
Jan 09	BC Western	H	5:30
Jan 12	Grand Blanc	A	5:30
Jan 16	Midland	A	5:30
Jan 19	Powers Catholic	H	5:30
Jan 23	Heritage	H	5:30
Jan 26	BC Central	A	5:30
Jan 27	Romulus	A	3:30
Feb 02	Mt Pleasant	H	5:30
Feb 06	Midland Dow	A	5:30
Feb 13	Lapeer	A	5:30
Feb 16	Arthur Hill	H	5:30
Feb 23	Carman Ainsworth	H	5:30

COACH: BRIAN TENNANT

BOYS FRESHMAN BASKETBALL

Dec 05	Flint Community	A	4:00
Dec 07	Davison	H	4:00
Dec 15	Det King	H	4:00
Dec 16	E Kentwood	H	1:00
Jan 09	BC Western	H	4:00
Jan 12	Grand Blanc	A	4:00
Jan 16	Midland	A	4:00
Jan 19	Powers Catholic	H	4:00
Jan 23	Heritage	H	4:00
Jan 26	BC Central	A	4:00
Jan 27	Romulus	A	2:00
Feb 02	Mt Pleasant	H	4:00
Feb 06	Midland Dow	A	4:00
Feb 13	Lapeer	A	4:00
Feb 16	Arthur Hill	H	4:00
Feb 23	Carman Ainsworth	H	4:00

COACH: BRIAN TENNANT

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Dec 5	Caseville	A	7:30
Dec 6	St. Louis	A	7:30
Dec 13	Charlton Heston	A	7:30
Dec 15	Owensville	H	7:30
Dec 16	Audrey-Sims	A	6:00
Dec 21	Akron-Fairgrove	Jr	7:30
Jan 3	Burton Atherton	H	7:30
Jan 9	Calvary Baptist Acad	H	7:30
Jan 11	BC All Saints	A	7:30
Jan 16	Beekmantown	A	7:30
Jan 17	Charlton Heston Acad	H	7:30
Jan 23	Castville	H	7:30
Jan 25	Kinde North Huron	H	7:30
Jan 31	Montrose	H	7:30
Feb 4	New Lothrop	H	7:30
Feb 9	Piscataway	H	7:30
Feb 13	Audrey-Sims	H	7:30
Feb 20	Montrose	A	7:30
Feb 22	Calvary Baptist Acad	A	7:30

COACH: JAMMAL HESLER

DRAGONS

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Dec 5	Caseville	A	6:00
Dec 6	St. Louis	A	6:00
Dec 13	Charlton Heston	A	6:00
Dec 15	Owensville	H	6:00
Dec 16	Audrey-Sims	A	7:30
Dec 21	Akron-Fairgrove	H	6:00
Jan 3	Burton Atherton	H	6:00
Jan 5	Flint Southwestern	H	7:00
Jan 9	Calvary Baptist Acad	H	6:00
Jan 11	BC All Saints	A	6:00
Jan 16	Beekmantown	A	6:00
Jan 17	Charlton Heston Acad	H	6:00
Jan 19	Vassar	A	6:00
Jan 23	Caseville	H	6:00
Jan 25	Kinde North Huron	H	6:00
Jan 31	Montrose	H	6:00
Feb 2	Isle	A	6:00
Feb 5	Piscataway	H	6:00
Feb 13	Audrey-Sims	H	6:00
Feb 15	Flint Madison Acad	H	6:00
Feb 20	Montrose	A	6:00
Feb 22	Calvary Baptist Acad	A	6:00
Districts			TBD

COACH: BRIAN TENNANT

BOYS JV BASKETBALL

Dec 5	Caseville	A	4:30
Dec 13	Charlton Heston	A	4:30
Dec 21	Akron-Fairgrove	H	4:30
Jan 3	Burton Atherton	H	4:30
Jan 5	Flint Southwestern	H	5:30
Jan 9	Calvary Baptist Acad	H	4:30
Jan 11	BC All Saints	A	4:30
Jan 16	Beekmantown	A	4:30
Jan 17	Charlton Heston Acad	H	4:30
Jan 19	Vassar	A	4:30
Jan 23	Caseville	H	4:30
Jan 25	Kinde North Huron	H	4:30
Jan 31	Montrose	H	4:30
Feb 4	New Lothrop	H	4:30
Feb 9	Piscataway	H	4:30
Feb 13	Audrey-Sims	H	4:30
Feb 20	Montrose	A	4:30
Feb 22	Calvary Baptist Acad	A	4:30

COACH: BRIAN TENNANT

SAGINAW UNITED

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Dec 13	DeWitt	A	6:30
Dec 15	Chesaning	A	6:30
Dec 19	Clio @ SHS	H	6:30
Dec 21	Mt Pleasant @ AHHS	H	7:00
Jan 2	Dow	A	7:00
Jan 5	Powers Catholic @ SHS	H	7:00
Jan 9	Grand Blanc	A	7:00
Jan 12	Davison	A	7:00
Jan 23	BC Western @ AHHS	H	7:00
Jan 26	Midland High	A	7:00
Jan 30	Lapeer @ SHS	H	7:00
Feb 2	Heritage	A	7:00
Feb 5	Reese	A	7:30
Feb 16	Carman Ainsworth @ Dow Ev Ctr	H	6:00
Feb 19	Traverse City Central	A	7:00
Feb 26	BC Central @ SHS	H	7:00
Feb 27	Carrollton @ AHHS	H	7:00
Feb 28	Bay City Western	A	7:00
TBD	DISTRICTS	TBD	TBD

COACH: EUGENE SEALS

GIRLS JV BASKETBALL

Dec 13	DeWitt	A	5:00
Dec 15	Chesaning	A	5:00
Dec 19	Clio @ SHS	H	5:00
Dec 21	Mt Pleasant @ AHHS	H	5:30
Jan 3	Dow	A	5:30
Jan 5	Powers Catholic @ SHS	H	5:30
Jan 9	Grand Blanc	A	5:30
Jan 12	Davison	A	5:30
Jan 23	BC Western @ AHHS	H	5:30
Jan 26	Midland High	A	5:30
Jan 30	Lapeer @ SHS	H	5:30
Feb 2	Heritage	A	5:30
Feb 5	Reese	A	6:00
Feb 15	Carman Ainsworth @ AHHS	H	4:30
Feb 19	Traverse City Central	A	5:30
Feb 20	BC Central @ SHS	H	5:30
Feb 27	Carrollton @ AHHS	H	5:30
Feb 28	Bay City Western	A	5:30

COACH: MONIQUE TURNER

GIRLS FRESHMAN BASKETBALL

Dec 21	Mt Pleasant @ AHHS	H	4:00
Jan 3	Dow	A	4:00
Jan 5	Powers Catholic @ SHS	H	4:00
Jan 9	Grand Blanc	A	4:00
Jan 12	Davison	A	4:00
Jan 23	BC Western @ AHHS	H	4:00
Jan 26	Midland High	A	4:00
Jan 30	Lapeer @ SHS	H	4:00
Feb 2	Heritage	A	4:00
Feb 19	Traverse City Central	A	5:30
Feb 20	Bay City Central @ SHS	H	4:00
Feb 29	Bay City Western	A	4:00
TBD	DISTRICTS	TBD	TBD

COACH: ERIC BRADDOCK

COMPETITIVE CHEER

Jan 6	Midland	A	TBA
Jan 13	Perry	A	TBA
Jan 18	Owosso	A	TBA
Jan 20	Monroe	A	TBA
Jan 27	Powers	A	TBA
Feb 3	Shepard	A	TBA
Feb 9	Montabella	A	TBA

COACH: FREEDOM LEE

WRESTLING

Dec 7	Frankenmuth	A	6pm
Dec 9	E Jackson Tour	A	TBA
Dec 22	Lapeer Tour	A	TBA
Jan 4	Powers Catholic	H	6pm
Jan 6	Saginaw County	A	TBA
Jan 10	Lapeer/Davison	H	6pm
Jan 13	SSC Invite (Girls)	A	TBA
Jan 17	Carman Ainsworth	A	6pm
Jan 20	Mt. Morris (Girls)	A	TBA
Jan 27	SVL Tournament	A	TBA
Feb 2	Midland High (Girls)	A	TBA
Feb 7	Team Districts	H	TBA
Feb 10	Individual Districts	A	TBA

COACH: ANGEL RODRIGUEZ

BOWLING

Dec 3	Lansing	A	11:00
Dec 10	Bay City Central	A	11:00
Dec 16	Dow	A	6:00
Jan 5	Mt. Pleasant	A	5:30
Jan 6	Davison	H	6:30
Jan 12	Lapeer (Boys)	A	10:00
Jan 13	Davison (Girls)	A	10:00
Jan 16	Grand Blanc	A	5:30
Jan 19	Midland High	A	5:30
Jan 20	Bay City Western	A	1:00
Jan 22	Flint Powers	A	5:30
Jan 27	Lapeer (Girls)	A	10:00
Jan 27	Lapeer (Boys)	A	10:00
Jan 30	Carman Ainsworth	A	5:30
Feb 1	Bay City Central	A	5:30
Feb 3	Heritage	A	1:00
Feb 13	Grand Blanc	A	5:30
Feb 17	Bay City Western	A	1:30
Feb 23	MSAA Team Regional	TBA	TBA
Feb 24	MSAA Ind. Regional	TBA	TBA
Mar 1	MSAA Team Finals	TBA	TBA
Mar 2	MSAA Ind. Finals	TBA	TBA

COACH: PHIL VERDUSCO

SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS FINAL SHOWDOWN

IAA

VS



CELEBRATION RECEPTION

**SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS EXCITED TO INVITE
PAST BOYS & GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL PLAYERS
TO A CELEBRATION RECEPTION - BEFORE THE GAME**

FEBRUARY 16, 2024-

[HTTPS://WWW.SPSD.NET/ARTICLE/1360022](https://www.spsd.net/article/1360022)





Saginaw Intermediate School District (ISD) is an educational service agency that provides effective and innovative leadership, services, resources, and programs throughout Saginaw County school districts since 1962. Saginaw ISD's **Early Childhood Services** department offers an array of support for children and families, including home visitation, preschool programs, and community resources.



Scan the QR code to learn more about Saginaw ISD's Early Childhood programs and family services. You may also contact Executive Director Dr. Ericka Taylor at etaylor@sisd.cc.



SAGINAW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

3933 Barnard Road, Saginaw, MI 48603
(989) 399-7473 | www.sisd.cc





About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

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

MI Tri-Share
CHILD CARE

SAGINAW ISD
SERVE • INNOVATE • EMPOWER

MWC
MICHIGAN WOMEN'S
COMMISSION



The MI Tri-Share Child Care Program (Tri-Share) is an innovative approach to increasing access to high-quality, affordable child care for working families, with the cost of child care shared by an employer, the employee, and the State of Michigan.

Current Partners

- Au Gres-Sims Schools
- Bay Arenac ISD
- Children's Discovery Academy
- Gratiot Isabella RESD
- Hemlock SemiConductor
- Ready, Set, Grow
- Saginaw ISD Head Start
- Vantage Plastics

Current Childcare Providers

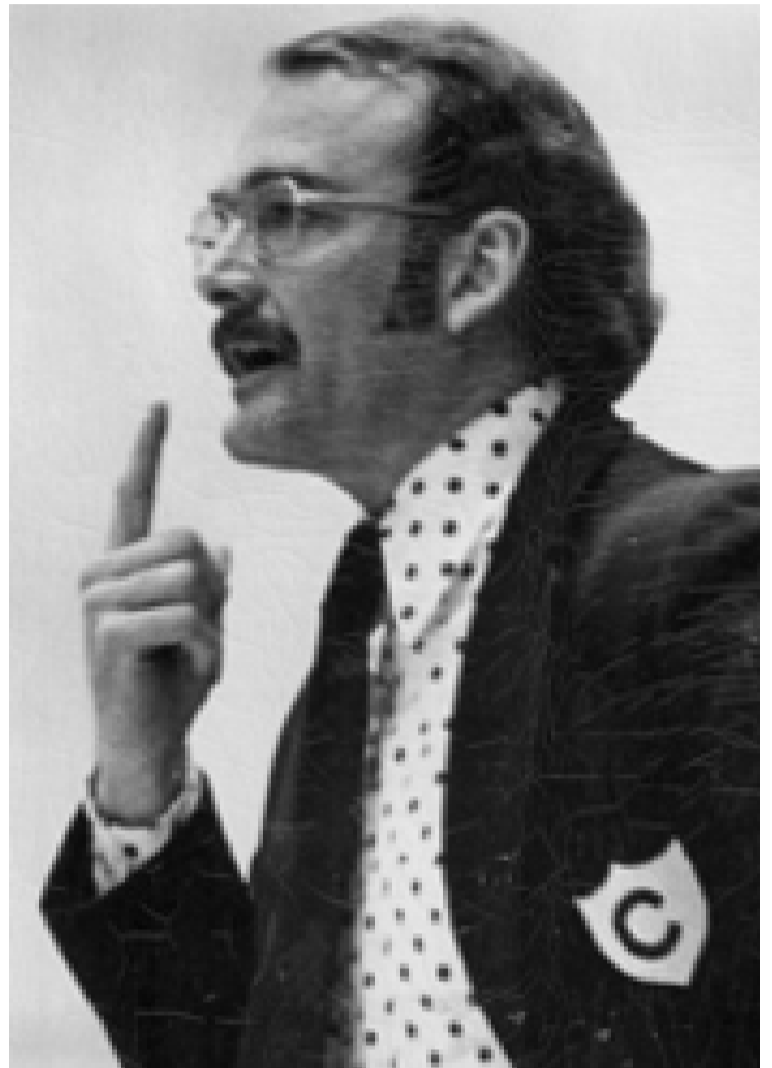
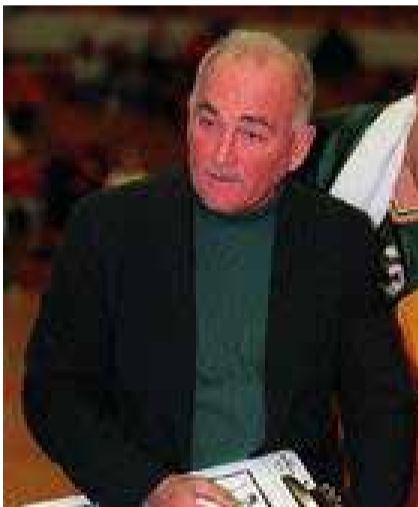
- ABC Day Care
- Best Friend Preschool, LLC
- Bright Beginnings
- Children's Discovery Academy at Carrie Knause
- Christ the King - Little Knights Preschool
- Grace Christian School
- Janas Full House
- Jolene Adams
- Kinder Kare
- Lil' Sprouts
- Little Explorers Learning Center
- Little Saints
- Play, Learn, Grow (Lil' Sprouts)
- Ready Set Grow
- Swan Valley Learning Center
- The Little Red Wagon Daycare, LLC
- Trinity Lutheran Church/School
- W.R. Bush Day Care

SIGNING UP AS AN EMPLOYER:

Saginaw ISD is one of several hubs. If you are interested in signing up as an employer, please contact Dr. Ericka Taylor at etaylor@sisd.cc.



+ SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTOS

Carrollton High School hosts basketball court dedication rescheduled for December 19

On Tuesday, December 19, 2023, before the boys' varsity basketball game (approximately 6:30 pm), Carrollton Public Schools will dedicate the Carrollton High School basketball court as the "Coach Ron Vondette Basketball Court at Carrollton High School." The dedication of the court honors the legacy of Mr. Ron Vondette, who served as the Boys Varsity Basketball Coach at Carrollton High School from 1965-1994, accumulating a 425-164 record, with 20 league championships, 7 district titles, 4 regional titles, and a runner-up finish in the 1969-70 state championship game.

In addition to remarks and the reveal of the sign before the game, a reception will be held in the cafeteria starting at half time for former Carrollton High School

basketball players who would like to visit with Coach Vondette.

WHO

- Tiffany Peterson, Superintendent of Carrollton Public Schools
- Jeff Boensch, Vice President of Carrollton Public Schools Board of Education Ed Boell, Principal of Carrollton High School
- Jacob Premo, Athletic & Transportation Director of Carrollton Public Schools Ken Hyde, Director of Facilities at Carrollton Public Schools
- Lindsay Bryce, Director of Family and Community Engagement at Carrollton Public Schools Jack Tany, Saginaw County Commissioner (District 2) and Past President Emeritus of the

Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame

- George Kubiak, Former Carrollton All-State player

WHAT

Coach Ron Vondette Basketball Court at Carrollton High School Dedication

WHEN

Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at halftime of the boys' varsity basketball game against Frankenmuth High School (approximately 7:30 pm)

WHERE

Carrollton High School
3211 Carla Dr.
Saginaw, MI 48604

+ SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTO

Family Affair: Forrest follow's in her parent's footsteps at Detroit Mercy

By HASANI ALI

Family Affair: Forrest Follow's in Her Parent's Footsteps at Detroit Mercy

By Hasani Ali

Freshman Kamari Forrest knew that the University of Detroit Mercy was home for her when she was recruited by her coach, Kate Achter.

The two were aligned with the same mission – to rebuild the Titan program.

“Coach and my parents were a big reason why I decided to come to Mercy,” Forrest said. “I have a pretty good relationship with my (college) coach from my high school career and we connected really fast. We clicked and had the same goal of rebuilding a program and I was all for it.”

The Saginaw native is the daughter of Keshawn and Ryvon Covile, both former players at Detroit Mercy.

Keshawn played for the Titans from 2006-2008 – her professional career took her to France. Ryvon played from 2003-2007 and is currently the assistant coach for the Delta College men's team.

“As a mother, I am extremely proud of Kamari,” Keshawn said. “Words cannot express the joy I feel watching her on and off the court. It's surreal sometimes and I just want to pinch myself just to make sure I'm not dreaming.”

The decided factor was almost a no-brainer for Forrest. Her interest in Psychology was a plus, but she knew that she belonged in Detroit.

“My parents were comfortable with me coming here since they were on the campus at one point so it was definitely a good transition,” said Forrest. “It's pretty nice to keep the tradition going and be a part of a program that my family is already familiar with.”

Forrest is one of three freshmen on the team – working steadily to earn minutes with the rest of the team.

She played a significant amount of time during the team's 105 – 44 loss to Michigan State University, where she also scored her first bucket of her college career.

“It was exciting to get into the game and contribute,” Forrest said. “The team was very disappointed in the loss, but I did score my first bucket and the team was very excited for me. Everyone just told me to keep working at my craft.”

Her minutes have decreased since that game back in November, but the 5-foot-10 guard is quite optimistic for her opportunity and is willing to do what it takes for her team to win.

“I understand the goal and my position in it,” she said. “If I'm not fit for the current gameplan, then I don't mind the best players being on the court and I will cheer them on. When my time does come to get on the court, I know that I will have to play my role in order to make the team better.”

In the meantime, Forrest is finding other ways to contribute to the team.

“As of now, just being a good teammate and supporting the other players,” she said. “I try to go my hardest at practice to get my team ready for the next game. We battle and that's a good thing as we're all working towards the same goal. It's not an option to not be competitive at practice. The upperclassmen will get on you if you are slacking.”

Along with the familiar face of her parents, there's another Saginaw native that helped Forrest feel welcomed.

Assistant coach Juanita Cochran, a former player at Detroit Mercy, was able to connect with Forrest quite easily with the two being from the same city.

“Coach (Cochran) took me under her wing and showed me the ropes,” Forrest said. “That connection has definitely helped me out a lot during my transition there.”

Detroit Mercy (7-4 overall, 2-0 Horizon League) will return back to action on Dec. 18, traveling to Louisville, Kentucky to take on Bellarmine University.

+ SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTO

Cardinals fall 71-56 to Northern Michigan, split in conference play

By HASANI ALI

Saginaw Valley State University took an unexpected turn with a disappointing 71-56 loss to Northern Michigan University last Saturday afternoon.

The Cardinals (6-3, 1-1 GLIAC) had their six-game winning streak snapped by the Wildcats (7-5, 2-0 GLIAC) and now split in conference play with a 1-1 record.

The Cardinal's head coach knows that there is some work to do with the continuity of the team, but working to make sure the right pieces are in the right place.

"We're still trying to put all the pieces together," said head coach Randy Baruth during a postgame interview after a 91-38 win over Adrian College. "We haven't been able to use Curtis Jackson like we should be and we have so many playmakers out on the court at once so we're just trying to get our spacing and get our rhythm down."

Senior Tre Garret and junior Toodles Seal led the four SVSU players with double-digit points, as the pair each scored 14.

The pair was also a couple rebounds away from a double-double.

Maurice Barnett scored 12 points off the bench while Freddie McIntosh added 10 points to the cause on the afternoon.

The Wildcats hit back-to-back shots from behind the arc to jump out to a quick 6-0 lead in the opening four minutes of play.

Garrett responded with a 3-pointer of his own to put SVSU on the board and cut the deficit in half.

Northern Michigan were hanging on to a slight lead by a thread until a three-point jumper sparked an 8-0 run that increased their advantage to 17-7 with 11:24 on the clock in the opening half.

Seal drained a 3-pointer to cut the lead to single digits with just under nine minutes to go in the half. He then followed that up with a jumper to cut things to six and ignite a 9-0 run that had the Cardinals within a basket of knotting it up (21-19).

NMU extended their lead to eight, but SVSU wasn't going to go away easily, trimming the lead to 35-31 as the teams entered the locker room for the break.

McIntosh hit a pull-up jumper that

started a 6-0 run with Seal and Garrett adding baskets to tie the game at 37 in the opening minutes of the second half.

The game began to become out of reach with two free throws and a 5-0 run by the Wildcats, recapturing the lead and beginning to pull away, 44-37.

SVSU were never able to recover from the deficit as the shots were not falling late in the second half.

Despite not winning the game, SVSU did take away some wins from the game on the stat sheet. The Cardinals did win the rebound battle with 37, one-upping NMU and outscored the Wildcats in points off turnovers and second-chance points, 14-13 in both categories.

The Cardinals will have a chance to regroup before seeing Div. 1 action at the Hinkle Fieldhouse in Indianapolis on Friday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. for an exhibition game against Butler (8-2).

SVSU will return to regular-season play on Tuesday, December 19 when Hillsdale comes to O'Neill Arena for a 1:00 p.m. non-conference clash.



Frenemies: Childhood friends Stevenson and Lawson square off in conference play

By HASANI ALI

Davison guard Greg Lawson described the against Saginaw High as “fun,” despite losing to the Trojans, 78-70.

“It was nice to come to my hometown and battle it out against my friends,” he said. “I’ve been playing against TJ (Stevenson) and the other guys since we were little kids. We also played AAU together for a few years. We know each other on the court very well, which made the game quite competitive.”

Both Lawson and Stevenson led the way with 24 points for both teams. Stevenson also had 10 assists.

The action was loaded from the very beginning.

As expected, Lawson scored the first bucket of the game with a pull-up jumper. Stevenson immediately responded with a floater.

On the ensuing drive, Lawson drained a 3-pointer to extend the Cardinal lead.

He was heard saying to his defender, “this my city.”

Amarion Blythe landed a monstrous dunk on the Cardinals next possession, though it didn’t count as he had traveled. But it definitely kept the crowd on its toes.

The Trojans were ahead 17-16 at the end of the first quarter.

Brandon McCune showed up for the Trojans in the second quarter. Having a slow start, he quickly got hot and sank four 3-pointers by the half, giving the Trojans a 37-28 lead.

McCune finished the game with 20 pointers.

The Cardinals started off strong in the beginning of the 3rd quarter until Stevenson went down with leg cramps.

His absence quickly affected the Cardinal offense as their 11-point lead quickly diminished to three.

The Trojans quickly took advantage and capitalized on the absence of Davison’s primary scorer and defender.

Saginaw was holding on by a thread, 54-51 going into the fourth quarter.

Lawson scored at the top of the quarter and rallied his team to take a quick 56-54 lead. However, the momentum was all Trojans throughout the final minutes of the game.

Saginaw outscored Davison 24-14 in the final quarter.

Senior Jayden Osteen stepped up in a major way for the Trojans – grabbing 13 rebounds which led to many second-chance points.

He also finished with 10 points and 4 blocks.

Senior Fransco Lee, Jr. and Junior Torrion Burt were two major players missing in the action in tonight’s game as they had to sit out due to eligibility reasons.

The investigation is the legitimacy of their transfer paperwork from Bridgeport High School. There appeared to be questions about their transfer paperwork from Bridgeport High School despite already playing two games.

Lee Jr. was quite disappointed in the ruling that he and Burt had to sit. Yet, he was confident that the Trojans could pull off the win without him.

“It hurt not being able to play with my team today,” he said. “But we knew that they were going to have our backs and we weren’t concerned about the chatter with us being out tonight. They fought hard and came out on top. We will be playing very soon. Our goal is March so we need to get it in gear now.”

+ SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTO

EMU's Brian Dooley receives 2023 Disney Spirit Award

By HASANI ALI

A selfless act can go a long way.

For Eastern Michigan's offensive lineman Brian Dooley, donating his full ride football scholarship to another player has earned him the 2023 Disney Spirit Award.

The kind gesture was simply to help another teammate in need as walk-on Zack Conti was working multiple jobs and donating plasma to pay for college while still playing for the football team.

Conti was also attending to his mother, who has been fighting polycystic kidney disease and needs a transplant.

Walking onto the team in 2019, the Trenton native still had a dream to play

college football and was willing to exhaust all options to get onto the field.

The viral moment caught national attention as Dooley stood up during a team meeting and proclaimed that he was giving up his scholarship to give to another player.

As Conti's name was announced, the team erupted in disbelief. The team surrounded Conti as he hugged Dooley.

"Football is something I really love, so ever since I got to school, I've had to do whatever it takes to stay here and stay in a good position with academics and football and everything," Conti said.

"At Walt Disney World we love the amazing stories that come out of college

football every year," said Adam Ball, vice president of ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. "And we also love the challenge of trying to find one, like Brian Dooley's, that embodies the indomitable spirit that is at the core of this very special award."

The Disney Spirit Award has been presented every year by Walt Disney World Resort since 1996 to the most inspirational figures in college football. The award was created to honor people like Dooley who demonstrate an indomitable spirit and a willingness to help others.

Dooley, whose mother is a nurse and father is a truck driver, is in his final season at Eastern Michigan. He and his family are now paying for college themselves.

Dooley said the decision to donate his scholarship was an easy one and he hopes it inspires others to help out in their communities.

"I think it's just the beginning. If people see what I've done they might take it to a whole new level," said Dooley. "I wish I could do more. To me it wasn't that big of a deal what I did. I was just doing it for one of my brothers. So, hopefully I can do a lot more now."

According to EMUEagles.com, Dooley, a graduate student majoring in criminal justice, has routinely found ways to lift others around him.

As a team captain, he has let his teammates take his place during the pregame coin toss, giving them the chance to represent the team. Off the field, he has performed more than 100 hours of community service, including reading to young students, building and refurbishing parks and participating in EMU's "Victory Day," an event supporting those with cognitive and physical impairments.

Dooley is the 28th recipient of the Disney Spirit Award and the first from Eastern Michigan University. He will be presented with the trophy during the "Home Depot College Football Awards" on ESPN on Friday, Dec. 8 (7-9 p.m. ET).



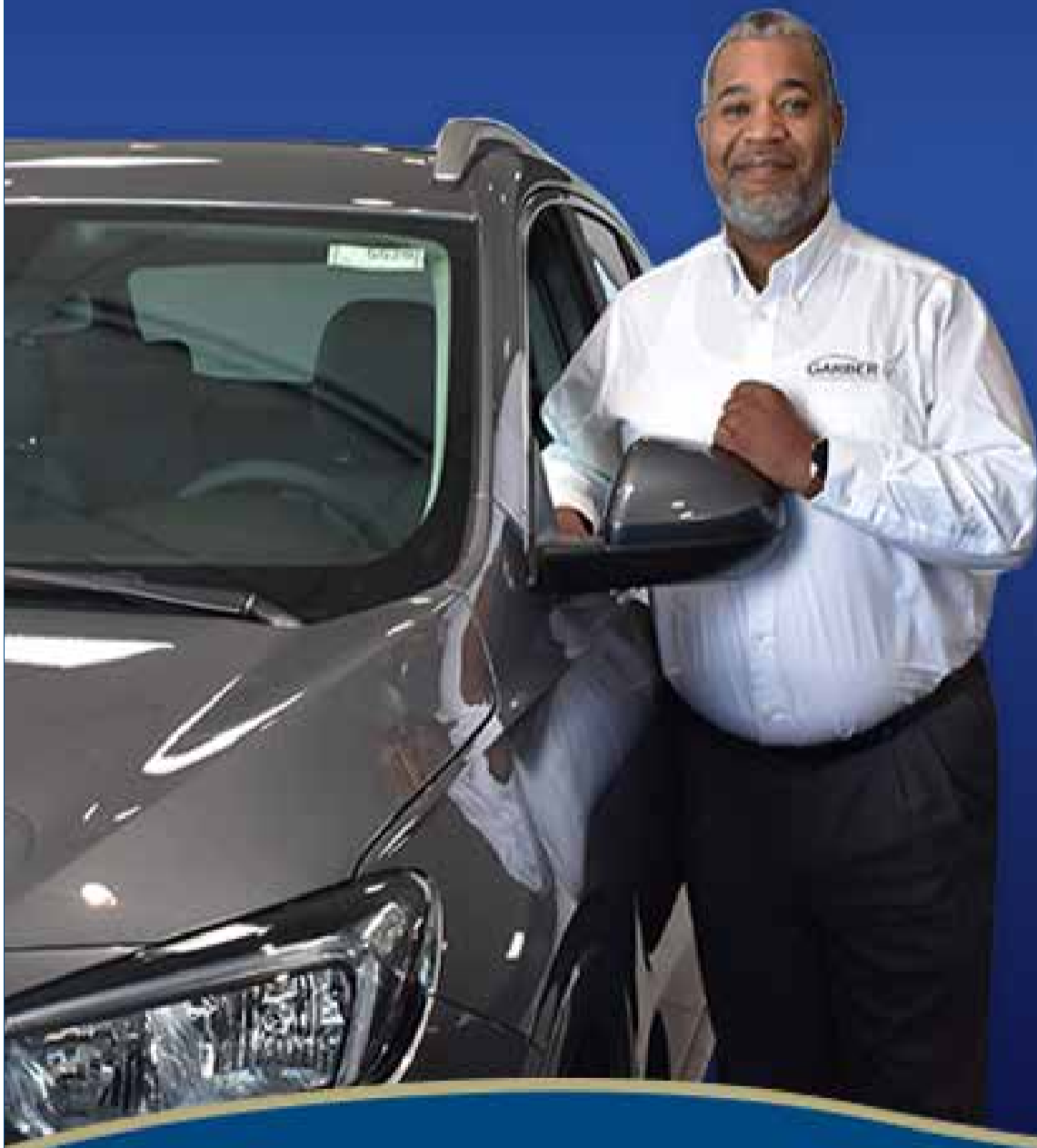
PIC OF THE WEEK

E.A.T. recently announced that they have been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Midland Area Community Foundation. This grant will fund their 2024 "We Train, We E.A.T." basketball and strength & conditioning camps for the youth from rural areas of Midland County at the Greater North Midland Community Center in conjunction with the Coleman Family Center.



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We

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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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