



The Michigan Banner

Leading in Diversity for over 20 years



PICS OF THE WEEK
Bethel Church at Michigan North District AME Church Conference

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY (MAY 14)

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COMMUNITY



**WILDFIRE'S
MCGEE RETIRES,
SCHABEL NEW
CHIEF MARKETING
OFFICER**

COMMUNITY, PG 12

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




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

“For sixty-one years Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter has been an impactful influence in Saginaw since our inception and chartering at the Bancroft Hotel on February 10,


1962,” says Kimberly Horne, President of Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter. “We strive to be a continuous source of dedication to our community through volunteering by helping those in need, positioning youth for success through scholarships, mentoring and education, political involvement, promoting women’s health and nutrition and building our economic wealth. We are also a source of professional and leadership de-

**CONTINUES ON PG 2,
ETA UPSILON OMEGA CHAPTER**



**Yeo & Yeo
celebrates 100
years of helping
businesses
thrive**

COMMUNITY, PG 13



**Gamma Kappa
Chapter of Phi
Delta Kappa,
Inc. celebrates
100 years**

COMMUNITY, PG 20

FEATURED STORY

The History of Cinco de Mayo

LB, COVER STORY

THE MICHIGAN BANNER IS A
PROUD MEMBER OF:



**SAGINAW COUNTY
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**



Cover Story, Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®
Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter

**Soaring to Greater Heights
of Community Service and
Scholarship**

39th Annual
Hats Off to Mom
Scholarship Luncheon

Guest Speaker:
Senator Sylvia Santana
DISTRICT 2-Michigan Senate

Tickets: \$50.00

**Saturday, May 6, 2023
11:00 am**

**Horizons Conference
Center**
6200 State Street
Saginaw, Michigan 48603

Donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 6853 Saginaw, MI 48608
Proceeds fund our scholarship and community service programs.
Contact AKA1908HYOmega@gmail.com for any questions.

velopment for our members, some of whom will be attending our International Leadership Seminar in Chicago, Illinois.”

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

6200 State Street; we have lots in store for participants. Senator Sylvia Santana of District-2 of the Michigan Senate will deliver this year’s keynote address. Senator Santana represents Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, and parts of Allen Park and Detroit. Additional highlights include the awarding of college scholarships to Saginaw-area high school students, women entrepreneurs, musical performances and an interactive hat show and vendor showcase.

The chapter will present the “Mother of The Year” award to Dr. Peggy Hall, author and former educator and administrator in the Saginaw Public School System. Eta Upsilon Omega will also celebrate Mrs. Stacy Davis Diggs who will receive the prestigious “Soror of The Year” award. Proceeds from ticket and souvenir book advertisement sales will benefit the chapter’s continuous efforts to provide scholarships to deserving students and to give back to the community through service projects.

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

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

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

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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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DEADLINES

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

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Mailed or e-mailed
Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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- FROM -
THE MICHIGAN BANNER

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MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Saving local treasures



I can remember a time when there was a corner store in the neighborhood that sold everything from penny candy to meat by the pound to tools for use in home repairs. Yes, those items and much, much more are now available in the giant chain stores but there was a sense of community in those smaller more family-oriented businesses. There were pharmacies and hardware stores which responded to families facing hardship after layoffs or fires. They do not, however, provide the convenience of next day delivery to your door – for a small fee, of course from Amazon or other on-line retail services. So, over time, the old Mom and Pop stores and small businesses are rapidly becoming a thing of the past. Younger generations will not recall patronizing small businesses where they knew not just your name but your parents as well – incentive to always be on your best behavior. On the South side of Saginaw, a couple of these businesses have stood the test of time. Quik Stop and In and Out Party Stores still stand for yet another generation of families needing to drop in for an item or two. These types of local businesses, staples in the community, are especially important to families facing challenges with transportation.

There are many other benefits to sustaining local businesses. They support the community (schools, roads, public safety, and transportation, etc.) with taxes – nothing political here but they are never offered reduced taxes to remain in a community. They often help to sponsor youth recreation activities, critical to the healthy growth and development of children but have become almost non-existent in cities throughout the country. And perhaps most importantly, they work and often live in the community so maintain relationships and keep a watchful eye on the surrounding areas.

A recent blog on www.retailsalespro.com/blog/momandpopstores-closing/ states that an estimated 70,000 small businesses have closed permanently over the past several months. They simply cannot compete with the chains and on-line services. It is both natural and necessary to seek the best price, location, and delivery options for goods and services. We can, however, make an intentional effort to support and in many instances help to save the local businesses providing a service in our communities. For instance, whenever possible, we can take the extra time and steps required to park and go inside (your Fitbit will thank you for the extra steps). There is another side benefit to these interactions – we actually get to practice the slowly fading art of socialization, albeit briefly, with other human beings! Pay the reasonable ticket price! Asking for astronomical discounts to 'help us out' is not feasible for smaller businesses to continue to thrive. Remember, if ten customers receive those enormous 'discounts' in one month, an employee's hours may need to be drastically reduced. That's how business works. Imagine going into Walmart asking for half off just because. It would give the staff lunchroom fodder for a day or two.

Over the years, I have witnessed conversations where the friends of local business owners say things like, 'I know him, I can get that for you for half that price.' So, not only do we use the friendship card for ourselves, but we also attempt to extend that privilege to strangers. And another small business bites the dust. Still reeling in the financial aftermath of a global pandemic, many Mom and Pop businesses are struggling to keep their heads above water. We can be a lifeline of support. Let's not wait for the November observance of Small Business Saturday. Let's be intentional on a day-to-day basis. Take the time to stop, shop, and pay for it (no haggling – remember the Walmart example above). It will help to sustain small businesses and keep our communities safe and thriving. The Michigan Banner and all businesses in the Great Lakes Bay Region appreciate your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome Buckley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerome Buckley
Publisher, Michigan Banner

THE MICHIGAN BANNER



5th Annual



HEART OF THE CITY
COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET



JUNE 8, 2023



HORIZONS CONFERENCE CENTER

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 5 • NUMBER 9



WHEN IT ALL STOPS

By **DONIQUA SOVIA**

There comes a time, when all the advice you were given, all the aide you got, all the people that helped you get to where you needed to be, are going to stop, let go of your hand and tell you that this is as far they can go with you.

The advice that you were given, that if it pertained to the situation you used it and if it didn't you shelved it for later, is going to need to be un-shelved because later has become now. The aide that you got, hopefully you were paying attention, because it'll be handy to now use those skills that you saw them do over and over again.

It is in that moment, when it all stops that despite whatever feelings maybe coursing through your body and running through your mind, that the real you, shows up. Your true colors are revealed, and whatever information you've had locked in your mind spills out.

I can't say don't be afraid, but if you are in fact afraid, embrace it and whatever it is you have been wanting and longing, to do, do it scared. Do it scared. But don't NOT do it all. Failure ain't nothing but a wrong turn based on a dead end decision, but the best part about dead ends, is you can turn around.

Now is your time. You have all you need to make it to your destination of success.





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

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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



COURTESY PHOTO

The history of Cinco De Mayo

Cinco de Mayo, or the fifth of May, is a holiday that celebrates the date of the Mexican army's May 5, 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War. The day, which falls on Tuesday, May 5 in 2020, is also known as Battle of Puebla Day. While it is a relatively minor holiday in Mexico, in the United States, Cinco de Mayo has evolved into a commemoration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in areas with large Mexican-American populations.

Cinco de Mayo is not Mexican Independence Day, a popular misconception. Instead, it commemorates a single battle. In 1861, Benito Juárez—a lawyer and member of the indigenous Zapotec tribe—was elected president of Mexico. At the time, the country was in financial ruin after years of internal strife, and the new president was forced to default on debt payments to European governments.

In response, France, Britain and Spain sent naval forces to Veracruz, Mexico, de-

manding repayment. Britain and Spain negotiated with Mexico and withdrew their forces.

France, however, ruled by Napoleon III, decided to use the opportunity to carve an empire out of Mexican territory. Late in 1861, a well-armed French fleet stormed Veracruz, landing a large force of troops and driving President Juárez and his government into retreat.

The Battle of Puebla

Certain that success would come swiftly, 6,000 French troops under General Charles Latrille de Lorencez set out to attack Puebla de Los Angeles, a small town in east-central Mexico. From his new headquarters in the north, Juárez rounded up a ragtag force of 2,000 loyal men—many of them either indigenous Mexicans or of mixed ancestry— and sent them to Puebla.

The vastly outnumbered and poorly supplied Mexicans, led by Texas-born General Ignacio Zaragoza, fortified the town and prepared for the French assault. On May 5, 1862, Lorencez gathered his army—supported by heavy artillery—before the city of Puebla and led an assault.

Cinco de Mayo in Mexico

Within Mexico, Cinco de Mayo is primarily observed in the state of Puebla, where Zaragoza's unlikely victory occurred, although other parts of the country also take part in the celebration.

Traditions include military parades, recreations of the Battle of Puebla and other festive events. For many Mexicans, however, May 5 is a day like any other: It is not a federal holiday, so offices, banks and stores remain open.

Why Do We celebrate Cinco de Mayo in the United States?

In the United States, Cinco de Mayo is widely interpreted as a celebration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in areas with substantial Mexican-American populations.

Chicano activists raised awareness of the holiday in the 1960s, in part because they identified with the victory of indigenous Mexicans (such as Juárez) over European invaders during the Battle of Puebla.

Today, revelers mark the occasion with parades, parties, mariachi music, Mexican folk dancing and traditional foods such as tacos and mole poblano. Some of the largest festivals are held in Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston.

Information provided by history.com

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



LA UNION CIVICA MEXICANA PRESENTS

The 44th Annual

Saginaw

Stefani Montiel



with

Eddie Gonzalez

CINCO DE MAYO

- ◆ FOOD TRUCKS
- ◆ INFLATABLE PLAYLAND

MAY 6, 2023

10 AM - 6 PM

Jolt Event Credit Union Event Park

- ◆ GRUPO DEZEO
- ◆ DJ JESSE SANCHEZ
- ◆ BALLET FOLKLORICO DE DETROIT
- ◆ INTERNATIONAL WRESTLERS

\$5.00 COVER
10 AND OVER
KIDS FREE

PARADE: LINES UP AT HOYT PARK, BEGINS AT 10:30 AM AND HEADS NORTH ON WASHINGTON AVE

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Wildfire's McGee retires, Schabel new Chief Marketing Officer



WILDFIRE'S MCGEE

After 18 years with Wildfire Credit Union and almost 40 years in the financial industry, Linda McGee, Chief Marketing Officer is retiring.

McGee has been active in the credit union industry, and a long time champion of the Great Lakes Bay Region through her involvement in the community. She has served on numerous non-profit boards

and committees over her career.

McGee commented: "The last 18 years have been the best of my career. I absolutely loved my time at Wildfire Credit Union, and leaving is certainly bittersweet. Building on the success of the credit union, and being a part of so many organizations in our region has certainly been the highlight. I am looking forward to this exciting

new chapter, but will definitely miss the people I worked with at the credit union and in the community."

Stepping into the position of Chief Marketing Officer is Tricia Schabel. Tricia comes to Wildfire with over 16 years of financial institution marketing in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Schabel has her Bachelor's Degree from Central Michigan University, and her Master's Degree from Saginaw Valley State University. She is also a graduate of the Graduate School of Banking, the ABA's Banking and Marketing Management School, and a Certified Financial Marketing Professional through the ABA.

In the community, Schabel is board member of the Bay Area YMCA, board member for the Garber Athletic Association and a CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocate through the Child and Neglect (CAN) Council.

Schabel commented: "Linda and her team created a great brand presence in the Great Lakes Bay Region for Wildfire Credit Union, and I am looking forward to taking the reins from her, building on what she cultivated over the years."



TRICIA SCHABEL

Yeo & Yeo celebrates 100 years of helping businesses thrive



COURTESY PHOTO

Yeo & Yeo, a leading accounting, technology, medical billing, wealth management, and advisory firm, is excited to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2023. The company was founded in 1923 by James J. Yeo and his son, W.L. Yeo, and later joined by a third generation, Lloyd Yeo. The Yeo family shaped the firm's reputation for integrity and personalized service,

steadily growing from a small accounting partnership to a family of companies with more than 225 employees in nine locations across Michigan.

Yeo & Yeo has established itself as a trusted partner for organizations and individuals seeking to achieve their specific goals on their unique paths. Driven by a vibrant, people-first culture, the firm is

dedicated to solving challenges through its four distinct but connected businesses: Yeo & Yeo CPAs & Advisors, Yeo & Yeo Technology, Yeo & Yeo Medical Billing & Consulting, and Yeo & Yeo Wealth Management.

Yeo & Yeo's lasting success is driven by a team of welcoming, empathetic, and knowledgeable advisors acting as powerful extensions of the businesses they serve. As Dave Youngstrom, the CEO of Yeo & Yeo, explains, "We don't just provide a service; we provide a relationship. Our clients are truly our friends. We're in it together."

Youngstrom is marking the centennial celebration as a moment to reflect, but is mainly focused on the years ahead. "Milestones are a wonderful time to assess and move forward with renewed energy and enthusiasm. We're at a time of business disruption and opportunity, and it's our mission to prepare our clients so they can thrive in their own ways. We're so grateful for their trust in us."

Yeo & Yeo's commitment to relationships and connections has been a key to its success. Through the Yeo & Yeo Foundation, team members have given their time and talent and have donated more than \$340,000 to over 170 nonprofit organizations across Michigan.

Looking ahead, Yeo & Yeo is well positioned to continue its legacy of business success partnerships for the next 100 years. The company is committed to investing in technology and innovation to stay ahead of the curve and provide the best possible service to its clients. As Youngstrom notes, "Our goal is to always be at the forefront, providing our clients with the resources they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world. Walking alongside them every step of the way."

For more information about Yeo & Yeo's 100th celebration and to see a full timeline, video tributes, and more, visit yeoandyeo.com/about-us.

+ COMMUNITY

IN MY HUMBLE OPINION



COURTESY PHOTO

Michigan is the place to be



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

Michigan has always been near and dear to my heart because my second cousin and his family lived in Ann Arbor for decades. I came to love the University of Michigan's brand and the Wolverine mascot. Both my cousin and his wife had very successful careers at U of M in academia

and community healthcare. Growing up I proudly wore different branded apparel that were gifts from my family. The funny thing about it, as I look back on those times, is that I can't remember ever visiting Michigan as a child because I would normally see these cousins in Pennsylvania or Washington D.C. at my great aunt's or grandmother's house. So, my affinity for and fond memories of Michigan are through remote experiences, or virtually, and God is so good that he has brought my virtual relationship with the great state of Michigan back through the Michigan Banner.

Interestingly enough, I did spend some time in Michigan as an adult in preparation for my move to South Africa. I had to complete an intense and accelerated

month-long training program at Herman Miller, headquartered in Zeeland. The architectural company that my late father and I opened in Johannesburg required me to be a certified Herman Miller designer. Michigan has played a significant role in my life both personally and professionally. Twenty-eight years ago, it helped define a new chapter for me, and now it is positioned to do that again for thousands of people across the country. In this season, Michigan is the place to be.

Derived from the Native American word Michigama, meaning great or large lake, Michigan actually has more than 11,000 lakes including the four Great

**CONTINUES ON PG 15,
MICHIGAN**

Continued from pg 14, Michigan

Lakes: Superior, Huron, Erie, and Michigan. Prior to the arrival of the first French and British colonizers in the 17th and 18th centuries, Michigan's residents were the tribal groups of Ojibwa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi Native Americans. In the early 1800s, great waves of immigration began to flow into Michigan as large numbers of New Englanders relocated to the southern counties. Admitted to the Union in 1837, the new state attracted immigrants to its lumber, mining, and automobile industries, and at least 40 national and ethnic groups arrived in sizeable numbers during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Many African-Americans and people of Asian, Near Eastern or Hispanic origin have made Michigan their home in more recent migrations. There are so many ethnic groups in the state that Detroit alone hosts weekly ethnic festivals from May through September each year. The state's total population is just over 10 million according to the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau report. These facts and figures are courtesy of The Library of Michigan, unless noted otherwise.

Michigan provides a unique mix of spectacular natural beauty, world-class cultural resources, vibrant cities, and diverse recreational opportunities all combined with growth potential that make it an ideal place to live and work. Few other states offer the geographical diversity and range of activities for people seeking an active lifestyle. The state's two peninsulas are surrounded by four Great Lakes, boasting the longest freshwater shoreline in the country. There are ample opportunities to enjoy recreational activities like golf, boating, fishing, hiking, skiing, and more. Michigan is also home to the highly regarded Detroit Institute of Arts, four major-league sports teams, over 100 wineries, and is becoming famous for its craft beer. In addition, there are a variety of award-winning communities like Ann Arbor, Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Petoskey, and the educational system is excellent (K-12 and tertiary) with more than 2,000 PhDs granted every year (nearly twice the national average).

Liveability overall is a key consideration for many executives and entrepreneurs and Michigan provides a high quality of life that is unmatched by most other

states. The cost of living is also 10% below the national average, and it is the fourth most affordable state in the country. A recent survey by Forbes Insights & Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) found that "45% of executives believe livability of a city or region - including access to cultural institutions and walkability - is key to maintaining a strong talent pool."

Michigan is undergoing a major broadband expansion by investing millions in high-speed internet access to provide connectivity to more residents, homes, and small businesses across the state. Goals have been set by the state to provide 100% high-speed internet access and a 95% adoption rate by households over the next five years. Governor Gretchen Whitmer "believes every family and business in Michigan deserves access to a reliable, affordable high-speed internet connection that meets their needs", as per the Governor's 14 June 2022 press release.

From an industrial point of view, Michigan's three major industries are manufacturing, tourism and agriculture. The total civilian labor force is 4.9 million people (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). With all of the Big Three automakers, General Motors (GM), Chrysler, and Ford, having begun in Michigan in the first quarter of the 20th century, the state is known as the nation's automotive capital. 17% of total U.S. vehicle production and 11% of North American vehicle production happens in Michigan, and it is home to multiple autonomous vehicle testing sites, including drone testing.

On 02 July 2020, Governor Whitmer announced the formal launch of the Office of Future Mobility and Electrification (OFME), and Trevor Pawl was appointed as the state's first Chief Mobility Officer. This coupled with university investment in autonomous vehicle testing sites demonstrates that Michigan institutions are building on the existing auto industry ecosystem to create an epicenter of mobility technology. This year, three major corporate investments will position Michigan as a leader in the electric vehicle (EV) industry. GM is making its largest investment in history with \$7 billion for a factory to build full-size EV pickups and a battery

cell plant. LG Energy Solutions is investing \$1.7 billion to expand its capacity to produce EV battery components, and the Ford Motor Company announced its plans to invest \$2 billion to increase EV manufacturing and secure its existing internal combustion engine vehicle operations.

In the new era of flexible work locations, Michigan has emerged as a place that can support workers and companies navigating new workforce realities. According to the MEDC website, "Talent is seeking to work from places that maximize work-life balance, and increasingly finding that balance in Michigan." Ranked as the No. 2 Remote-Ready City in the U.S. by Livability, Grand Rapids is noted for its "tons of resources and programs to help you develop leadership skills, learn a new skill set or simply take the next step in your career." The millions being invested in broadband infrastructure projects will help make remote work and telecommuting an option from every corner of the state. The commute-free lifestyle of remote work combined with Michigan's affordable cost of living, infrastructure development, geographical diversity, and range of activities frees up remote workers to enjoy more of what makes us happy: flexibility, connectivity, and peace of mind.

Michigan has all of the assets needed to be a leading state for attracting key projects and investments. So far this year, projected private investments have reached nearly \$12 billion from more than 30 companies. With a growing economy, high quality of life, low cost of living, and thousands of jobs being created, the future is bright. I have been working virtually in Michigan from Johannesburg for more than a year, and now Michigan is the ideal location for those working virtually with the rest of the country and the world. It is also ideal for those seeking a higher quality of life, and the combination of what I have been able to mention here along with many other positives is why Michigan is the place to be in my humble opinion. God willing, I will be visiting again very soon and I will let you know when I'm on my way.

+ COMMUNITY

STARS to host open house on site concepts including Potter Street Station

STARS invites the public to view and give feedback on the preliminary results of their site feasibility study. The open house event will take place on May 1st from 9AM to 6PM at the Dow Events Center Atrium. Topics covered will include potential expansion locations, site plans, and results of STARS' latest community survey. STARS encourages both residents and community stakeholders to attend and join in these next steps.



STARS
OPEN HOUSE

STARS is hosting an open house for any current or past STARS user, County resident, or local employers. Come share your opinion and thoughts on potential locations of the future STARS bus station.

WHEN - May 1, 2023
9 am to 6 pm.

WHERE - DOW Event Center Atrium, 303 Johnson Street, Saginaw.

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Michigan Medicaid members: Federal changes could affect your program benefits and coverage.

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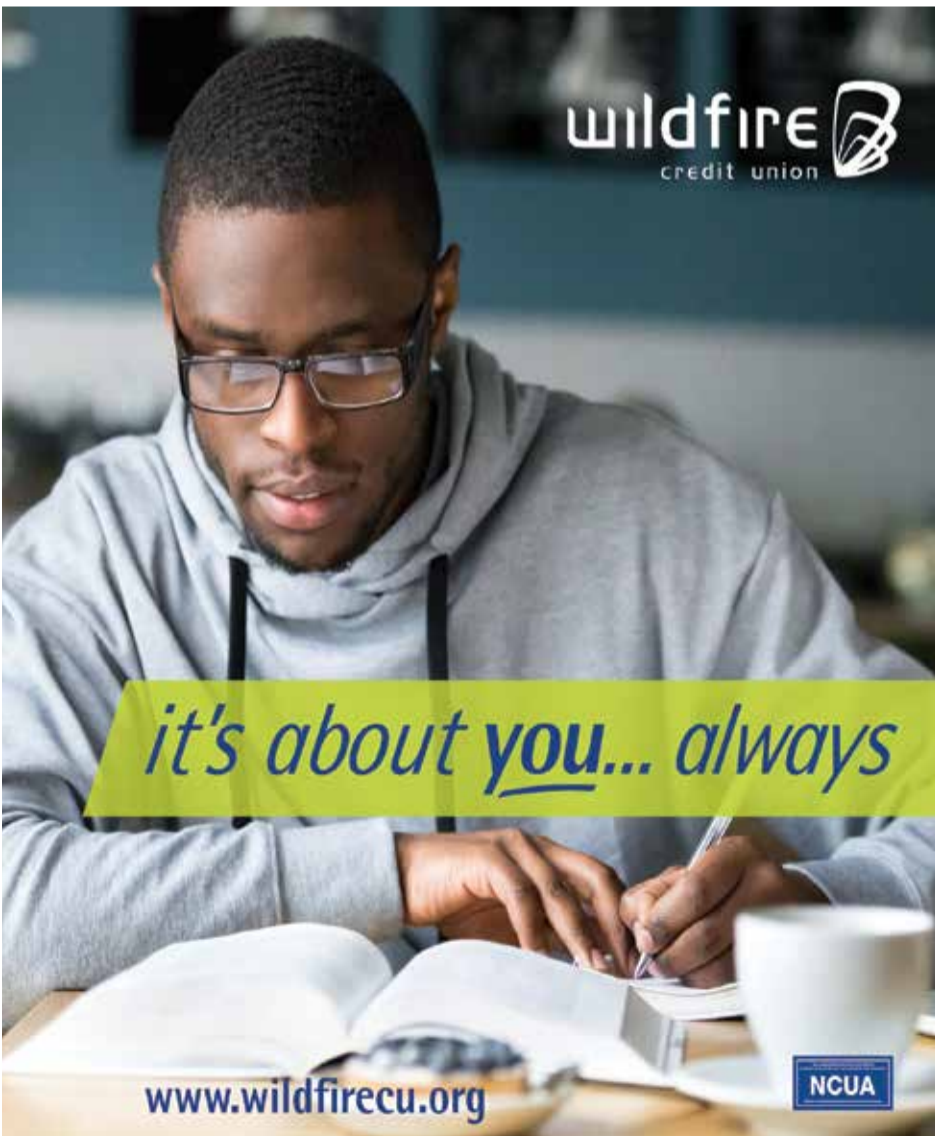
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Your loved one doesn't have to die alone



PAMELA HALMON

By HASANI ALI

When it comes to death, it's a moment in time that can be very difficult for everyone involved. From the actual deceased to their family members by their side, it can definitely bring a lot of sadness and heart-break.

Most people are familiar with a chaplain or clergy, the religious representative that comforts the dying during the transition.

However, there's another viable option that families can use to ensure comfort of a loved one during their time of transition.

Introducing Pamela Halmon, the death doula. She is a midwife to the dying, helping you transition over while supporting the family.

As a rare occupation, she knew that this would be an opportunity of a lifetime and could be very rewarding.

"Just being there for friends and family members for those transitioning is highly rewarding," Halmon said. "I knew in my

heart that I could do this and serve many more families."

Though she's passionate about her career path, she does advise that the practice is not for the faint-hearted.

"You have to have the heart in order to do this type of work," she said. "It's taxing because there's a lot of pain, especially watching the family members grieve while their loved one transitions to the other side. If you have the heart for it, then this is what you're being called to do."

Halmon has been in the industry for 10 years and was just recently certified by the state of Michigan.

"My husband is the reason why I'm certified," she said. "I kept talking about getting certified and one day he came home with the paperwork and the information needed to get certified."

Since her husband has encouraged her to get certified, she knows that he's all the way invested.

"Now I can put him to work," Halmon said jokingly.

The industry is quite small. In fact, there's an estimate of only 800 end-of-life doulas in the United States.

"Knowing that I was there to support the family," she said. "The last function of a dying person to go is their hearing. It's amazing to see those smiles of those transitioning because I gave them those encouraging words and support during that time. I tell them that it's going to be okay and they can go to the other side comfortably. That's the beautiful part."

"All they could say was wow," she said. "They knew that I was deep into this and I knew what I was doing."

As her business grows, Halmon does plan to train and hire more doulas to expand this service throughout the state.

"Yes, we're going to expand by necessity," Halmon said. "We need more people comforting families and my job is going to be training them up to send them out."

The Saginaw High graduate started her professional career by attending beauty school at Glamour Beauty Academy in White Bear Lake, Minn.

As she was getting routed in her career, Halmon noticed that people were coming to her for comfort when they found out that a family member is dying.

Her defining moment as a death doula was cemented when she ended up caring for her niece that transitioned.

"She was 34 at the time and had cancer," Halmon said. "My father and her brother moved her to Arizona because they thought that she would be getting treatment from a top-notch facility and that didn't seem to be the case. She ended up dying there and I was fortunate enough to move there and be there by her side throughout the entire transition. That's when I knew that this was my professional calling."

Hence the birth of her company, Never Die Alone.

For more information about her services, she can be reached at 989-332-9358 or Pamhalmon61@gmail.com

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Soup today, Della?

BY DOLORESE FALL-GRANT

We still have some chilly days remaining in early spring...

Split Pea Soup

Ingredients

- 1 cup split peas
- 1 cup cut shredded smoked turkey, or whatever meat you desire
- 2 medium-size potatoes
- 1 chopped onions
- 1 celery stick
- 1 large carrot
- 3 cloves of garlic
- 1 chicken bullion cube
- 1 tablespoon butter (1/8 of a stick)
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- Pepper and hot pepper to taste

Instructions

In sauce pan wash and drain peas.

Add the peas to boiling water and cook with chopped onions and carrot until peas are tender.

Add all other ingredients to pot and cook/ Stir occasionally.

If too thick add more water and cook until peas melt.



+ COMMUNITY



GAMMA KAPPA MEMBERS FROM L-R: DEMONA REED, CAROLYN CURRIE, THELMA RUFFIN, YVETTE WOFFORD, MYRTIS BRAZIL, RUTH KEMPER, BETTY NASH, GLORIA STRODE-WILSON, OLIVIA WILLIAMS, JACINTA CARTER, DR. LILLIAN JONES-THOMAS, TANIA BASTON, GLENDA RICHARDSON-VAUGHN, FRONT CENTER: WILMER MCZEE

Gamma Kappa Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. celebrates 100 years

Gamma Kappa Chapter of National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Incorporated delegates, along with 117 chapters in five regions across the United States, will celebrate 100 years of dedication, commitment, and service to the Field of Education in Florida from July 18-20, 2023. WE are still **STANDING**, still **SERVING**, and still **STRONG**!

OUR HISTORY: National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Incorporated (NSPDK), is a non-profit, educational sorority founded by eight educators desiring to establish a sisterhood among teachers and promote the highest ideals of the teaching profession.

NSPDK was the idea of Gladys Merritt Ross, who, on Good Friday, March 30, 1923, convened a group of young teachers from Jersey City Normal School in Jersey City, New Jersey to discuss the idea of forming a sorority.

Eight members of those present concurred, and Newark attorney, J. Mercer Burrell, Incorporated the new organization on May 23, 1923—which is now recognized as the official Founders Day. Because the original members were all minors, their parents or guardians, Dr. G.E. Cannon, Mr. J.L. Merritt, Mrs. Lottie Cooper, and Mrs. Estelle Morris became trustees.

The eight founders are Gladys Merritt Ross (Mother Founder), Julia Asbury Barnes, Ella Wells Butler, Marguerite Gross, Florence Steele Hunt, Edna McConnell, Gladys Cannon Nunery and Mildred Morris Williams.

This organization will be celebrating 100 years, with over 5,000 members and affiliates in more than one hundred chapters across the country, encouraging, stimulating, guiding, mentoring, and instilling confidence in students on their journey to adulthood.

Chapters of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. are in five regions of the country: Eastern, Southeast, Midwest, Southwest, and Far West.

Gamma Kappa Chapter, one of twenty chapters in the Midwest Region was chartered in Saginaw, Michigan in 1965 with the help of Gamma Delta Chapter of Flint, Michigan. The late Soror Jessie Muldrew was one of the key people that helped Gamma Kappa Chapter organize.

Original charter members of Gamma Kappa Chapter were Maude Burton, Catherine Burton Kimbrough, Flossie Stroud, Sarah Moton, Lucille Doster, Jane McGee, Agatha Marsh, Maudrey Gibson, E. Zipporah Thompson, Ruby Wofford, Oena McCray, Annie Casey, Beulah Foote, Jewel Hall, Eva Wyche.

**CONTINUES ON PG 21,
GAMMA KAPPA**

+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 20, Gamma Kappa

The three-point program – Y.E.S., which stands for Youth, Education, and Service, is the foundation of the organization. As a national educators’ sorority, we have accepted the challenge and responsibility of molding and shaping the lives of youth in various communities throughout the world. We have dedicated our professional services to carrying the torch of enlightenment everywhere.

The Youth component consists of:

- Xinos, a guidance group for female youth in grades 9 through 12.
- Kudos, a guidance group for male youth in grades 9 through 12.
- Kappa Omicron Tau (KOT), a college guidance group for young females and males pursuing an educational career.



XINOS, A GUIDANCE GROUP FOR FEMALE YOUTH IN GRADES 9 THROUGH 12

Education and Service component consists of:

- Mentoring programs for high school girls and boys, scholarships for high school graduates majoring in Teacher Education, doctoral scholarships for teacher advancement, financial contributions for Sickle Cell Research at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN and the Maternal Waiting Home in Zambia, Africa are but a few of the major programs supported each year.



KUDOS, A GUIDANCE GROUP FOR MALE YOUTH IN GRADES 9 THROUGH 12

Affiliate groups are:

- Anthropos which consists of the husbands, relatives and significant male others who constitute the Men in Our Lives.
- Hub Parents are the mothers, fathers, and other relatives and associates of the Xinos and Kudos who assist sorority members with the supervision and implementation of youth activities.

Former Gamma Kappa Basilei: Mrs. Eugenia Aldridge, Oena McCray, Ruth Kemper, Thelma Ruffin, Carolyn Currie, Olivia Williams, Dr. Lillian Jones-Thomas, Demona Reed.

Individuals interested in affiliating with this organization should contact our local chapter president, Ms. Janice Anderson, or our Dean of Pledges, Ms. Carolyn Currie.



MS. JANICE ANDERSON, PRESIDENT
GAMMA KAPPA CHAPTER

**NSPDK 100TH ANNIVERSARY
CONCLAVE 2023**

**Hosted by Eastern Region
Omni Orlando Resort
July 18-20, 2023 in ChampionsGate, FL
(Kissimmee)**

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Saginaw
Team Up to Clean Up

Saturday, May 13, 2023
8:00am - 1:00pm

Bring your family, church group, business crew, or community group out to help clean up our city! A light breakfast and lunch will be provided, as well as gloves and trashbags. T-shirts will be provided to the first 150 volunteers.

Meet-up in front of City Hall
May 13th, 8:00am
1315 S. Washington Ave.

To Volunteer:
Please sign up by
Monday, May 8 at
saginaw-mi.com/cleanup

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Tuesday, May 16 - 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Tickets can be purchased on Sundays during Coffee Hour, at the Church office,
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Adults \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door

Children ages 4-10 \$5

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Vegetarian spaghetti,
Garlic bread,
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DINE IN OR TAKE OUT**



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+ COMMUNITY

Kevin James' The Irregardless Tour, second show added

A 5pm performance on September 30, 2023, has been added to Kevin James' The Irregardless Tour at the Temple Theatre.

Kevin James began his career as a stand-up on the Long Island comedy scene. After being discovered at the 1996 Montreal Comedy Festival, he signed a network development deal to create his own sitcom.

The King of Queens, which premiered in 1998, ran for nine seasons on CBS with James starring and executive producing, and it garnered him an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series. The show concluded its run in 2007 but continues to air daily in syndication across the country and around the world. James also starred in, and executive produced The Crew, a sitcom set in the world of NASCAR and is currently developing a single camera comedy (both for Netflix).

James brought his stand-up act to TV with Sweat the Small Stuff, a one-hour special for Comedy Central. Kevin James and Ray Romano executive produced and starred in the HBO Sports Special Making the Cut: The Road to Pebble Beach; a documentary about the Pebble Beach Pro Am Golf Tournament that was nominated for a Sports Emmy. His second comedy special Never Don't Give Up premiered on Netflix to critical acclaim.

James was the producer, co-writer, and star of the hit comedies Paul Blart: Mall Cop 1 & 2, Zookeeper, and Here Comes The Boom. James made his feature film debut in Columbia Pictures' Hitch starring opposite Will Smith, and starred alongside Adam Sandler in Pixels, Grown Ups, Grown Ups 2, I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry, and Hubie Halloween. He starred in the feature True Memoirs of an International Assassin for Netflix, the independent action thriller Becky, and starred in and produced Home Team for Netflix.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://templetheatre.com/event/kevinjames2023>.

KEVIN JAMES

THE IRREGARDLESS TOUR

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30

THE TEMPLE THEATRE

TICKETS ON SALE FRIDAY 10AM | [TEMPLETHEATRE.COM](https://templetheatre.com)

[KEVINJAMES.COM](https://kevinjames.com)

Saginaw Promise Golf Outing



THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023
SAGINAW COUNTRY CLUB
(4465 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw MI 48638)



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES - REGISTRATION

Proceeds to Benefit Saginaw Promise Programming & Scholarships

EVENT SPONSOR **\$2,000**

- Foursome with carts
- Sponsor name displayed at event and recognized at dinner
- Opportunity to welcome & address golfers prior to "shot gun start"
- Opportunity to host a golf activity on course or display table near registration
- Name listed on Saginaw Promise website
- Hole Sponsorship

DINNER SPONSOR **\$1,500**

- Foursome with carts
- Sponsor name displayed & recognized at dinner
- Opportunity to welcome and address golfers at dinner
- Opportunity to host a display table at dinner
- Name listed on Saginaw Promise Website

LUNCH AT TURN SPONSOR **\$900**

- Foursome with carts
- Sponsor name displayed at "Lunch at the Turn" and recognized at dinner
- Opportunity to host golf activity or display table
- Name listed on Saginaw Promise website

CART SPONSOR **\$650**

- Sponsor name on golf carts and listed on the Saginaw Promise website

DRIVING RANGE SPONSOR **\$400**

- Name displayed at event and announced at dinner

HOLE SPONSORS **\$250**

- Sponsor name and or/company logo on hole and listed on the Saginaw Promise website
- Recognized at dinner

PRIZE DONATIONS WELCOME

All prize donations will be recognized at the event and listed on the Saginaw Promise website.

Sponsors: Please email your company logo to DSanchez@SaginawPromise.org.
EPS or hi-res JPG preferred.

REGISTRATION 8:45 - 9:45 AM • SHOTGUN START 10:00 AM
Four Person Scramble - Includes: 18 Holes with Cart, Driving Range, Hot Dog & Chips at the Turn, Barbecue Buffet Dinner and Awards Presentation

GOLF PER PERSON - \$165

GOLF FOURSOME TEAM - \$660

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Business: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Total Amount for **Golfing** \$ _____

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I would like to make a **Donation** \$ _____

I would like to **Donate a Prize** Yes No

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Player #1 _____

Player #2 _____

Player #3 _____

Player #4 _____

Make Check Payable:
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and indicate Saginaw Promise on the Memo Line

*Saginaw Community Foundation is the fiscal agent for Saginaw Promise

For Questions:
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To pay using your charge card, complete this section or telephone Deborah Sanchez (988-755-0545) to process payment.

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Deadlines ▶ Sponsors: Respond by August 9, 2023 Golfers: Sign up before August 10, 2023

+ COMMUNITY

SVSU renews elite accreditation for business programs

Saginaw Valley State University has earned a renewal of its accreditation by AACSB International, the leading accrediting body for collegiate schools of business. The external stamp of approval confirms SVSU's Carmona College of Business among the top business programs worldwide.

"SVSU business students receive an education that is truly world class, as evidenced by our continued accreditation," said George Grant Jr., SVSU president. "This also validates the investment of private donors who generously contributed more than \$15 million to support construction of a new home for our Carmona College of Business. I would like to compliment all our colleagues who continue to uphold the high standards necessary to maintain this distinction."

In February 2020, SVSU dedicated a \$25.4 million, 38,500-square-foot building addition for the Scott L. Carmona College of Business.

Achieving accreditation is a process of rigorous internal focus, engagement with an AACSB-assigned mentor, and peer-reviewed evaluation. During this multiyear

path, schools focus on developing and implementing a plan to align with AACSB's accreditation standards. These standards require excellence in areas relating to strategic management and innovation; student, faculty, and staff as active participants; learning and teaching; and academic and professional engagement.

"The renewal of AACSB accreditation, the most prestigious accreditation available to business colleges, affirms the exceptional quality of our programs, our curriculum and our faculty," said Deborah Huntley, SVSU provost and vice president for academic affairs.

"Worldwide, only 6% of universities offering business programs receive this accreditation. I am very proud that our students receive an education that meets the highest professional standards in the world. I would like to recognize the dedication of all those associated with the Carmona College of Business, and especially Jayati Ghosh for her outstanding leadership as dean."

SVSU is among 36 business schools worldwide who extended their global accreditation in business in April 2023.

SVSU received an extension for 6 years, the maximum granted by AACSB.

"We are pleased to maintain the prestigious AACSB accreditation," said Jayati Ghosh, dean of SVSU's Carmona College of Business. "It demonstrates our commitment to excellence in teaching, research, curriculum, and preparing students for successful careers and leadership positions in business. I want to congratulate the faculty, staff, students, advisory board members, and alumni for their commitment to continuous improvement."

For more than a century, AACSB accreditation has been synonymous with the highest standards in business education. Today, a total of 981 institutions across 60 countries and territories have earned AACSB accreditation in business.



SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY

Mecosta County officials celebrate state approval to bring good-paying jobs to the area

Mecosta County officials released statements celebrating final state approval for a transformational investment by the global battery company Gotion, which has chosen to build a new electric vehicle battery component manufacturing facility in Mecosta County.

"This is a pivotal moment for Mecosta County residents, small businesses, and communities," said Karen Hahn, Mecosta County Register of Deeds. "Final state approval for Gotion's investment will bring economic vibrancy, electric vehicle battery component supply chains, and good-paying jobs to right here in Mecosta County. Thanks to our strong partnership with

state officials, we are ready to build a bright future for Mecosta County residents."

"State approval of Gotion's transformative \$2.3 billion investment demonstrates Mecosta County is a great place to invest," said Jerrilynn Strong, Chair of the Mecosta County Board of Commissioners. "As 'The Gateway to the North,' we are more than just a great place to enjoy Michigan's outdoors. We will be the epicenter of the future of American manufacturing, building thriving communities and creating good-paying, American jobs you can raise a family on. Let's keep investing in Mecosta County families, small businesses, and residents."

Gotion is investing \$2.3 billion to build an electric vehicle battery component manufacturing facility, which will grow economic opportunity in Mecosta County and create over 2,300 good-paying, high-skilled jobs.

Mecosta County is "the County for Every Season." Whether exploring numerous trails for hiking, biking, snowshoeing and snowmobiling, plus abundant land and over 100 lakes for hunting and fishing, Mecosta County is a great place to live, work, and play. Mecosta County is also home to numerous festivals, events, breweries, wineries, unique hometown main streets, and more.

+ COMMUNITY



LASHANTA GREEN

LaShanta Green of Dow Credit Union recognized nationally as an emerging marketing professional

Dow Credit Union Director of Marketing and Community Relations LaShanta Green has been recognized as an emerging marketing professional by the Credit Union National Association.

The annual Rising Star award recognizes and honors an emerging marketing or business development professional in the credit union industry. To receive this award, the recipient must demonstrate ongoing and exceptional growth and contribute positively to the future of the credit union industry.

“I am honored to be acknowledged by my colleagues and industry peers for this esteemed award,” Green said. “The opportunities I’ve earned to lead impactful initiatives at Dow Credit Union and in this

industry have allowed me to align my ‘why’ with my work.”

In her role, Green oversees Dow Credit Union’s marketing department, leads strategic initiatives and community engagement and outreach efforts. She also creates marketing plans to increase membership and meet the credit union’s strategic goals and objectives.

Recently, her work in facilitating and implementing Dow Credit Union’s re-brand and strategic storytelling also won Credit Union National Association awards for creativity and effectiveness. In her role she oversees branding, community partnerships, product marketing, campaigns, external communications and the website.

Green joined Dow Credit Union in

June 2021, bringing 15 years of experience in leading and implementing strategic plans, projects, programming and community outreach initiatives. A Texas native, she now resides in Midland.

A community advocate, she helped found an aid and assistance organization, Resident Responders, in 2017 to help mitigate the impact of Hurricane Harvey’s on Houston residents. Green is also 2022 graduate of Leadership Midland and serves on Midland’s Communities of Excellence advisory committee. As an active member of the CUNA Marketing and Business Development Executive Committee, she serves as a thought leader sharing insights with industry peers.

MAY 6
2023

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James Owens
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+ 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

MICHIGAN BANNER
SERMONETTE SERIES

By MINISTER CAROLYN CARTER
TOWNSEL

Apostle Paul states in 2 Corinthians 5:17, ***“Therefore, if any man be in Christ he is a new creature, old things are passed away, behold all things become new.”*** Paul is humbly saying, when a person becomes connected to the saving and cleansing power of Jesus Christ, something has to change. In essence you cannot have an authentic encounter with Christ and remain the same. The moment you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you are saved by the power of Jesus, and you belong to Him, and then the process of transformation begins.

Unfortunately, part of the process of being changed or transformed from the old man to the new man comes with pain. This is pain that not a soul wants to experience but is of necessity in order for us to be conformed to the likeness of Christ. However, 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 without a doubt distinctly postulates this truth; ***“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.”*** As Christians, Paul is reminding us as part of our mortal probation, we

Knocked Down But Not Knocked Out

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 KJV

will pass through the waters of afflictions, confront fiery pain, and encounter bitter disappointments but irrespective of what we might have to suffer or bear for Christ’s sake quitting is not an option.

Although, the people of God will face all types of trouble and difficult situations in life, we are victorious not in or by us, but because the power of God sustains us. Our greatest resource we possess is the presence and power of God residing within each Believer. Scripture validates this truth in 1 Corinthians 3:16, ***“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you.”***

The various states in this passage of Scripture, that the Believer may find themselves in commences with, **“Trouble”** which means to be pressed, squeezed, oppressed, hedged in, and pressured. **“Distressed”** means to be kept in a narrow, cramped space, to be crushed. **“On every sided”** means in every imaginable way and place and occasion. **“Perplexed”** means to be at a loss, to be doubting, not knowing, questioning, wondering which way to go, what to do, what to say – unable to find an answer. **“Despair”** means to be hopeless, to have no confidence or assurance. To be without any sense of security. **“Cast down”** means to be smitten down, struck down, or knocked down. **“Destroyed”** means to perish, to die, to strike out.

Regardless of what state you may fine

yourself in, whether it feels as though you are pressured and troubled beyond what you can bear, or possibly the situation is one that is so puzzling that you are almost become frustrated and you are facing the threat of despair, or perhaps it’s one of persecution where you are being opposed and the opposition is hot and severe – whatever it is, remember Our God, your God never forsakes, abandons, or deserts His servant(s), His presence and His power are always with us.

William Barclay once stated, “The supreme characteristic of the Christian is not that he does not fall, but every time he falls he rises again. It is not that he is never beaten, but he is never ultimately defeated. He may lose a battle, but he knows that in the end he can never lose the campaign.”

In all of the challenges, straining, toiling, hardships we may face or are facing God will use it to grow, strengthen, empower us, change and transformed us. Therefore, do not lose heart, even though the struggle is real and difficult at times, remember, our outward man is perishing, yet our inward man is being renewed day by day. God’s goal for every Believer is to make us into the image of Christ.

So, you may be struck down, but you will never strike out, you may be knocked down, but you will never be knocked out!

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Faith Ministries Church
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G



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H



Holy Communion Gospel Center
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J



Jacob's Ladder
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Saginaw, MI 48602
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L

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

M

Messiah Missionary Baptist Church
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Fax: 989-777-2640
messiahmbc@att.net
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N



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P

Prince of Peace Baptist Church

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R

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S



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Saginaw, MI. 48601
stpaul2@yahoo.com
Facebook: St Paul MBC Family Connection



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T



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U



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Church: 989-759-9411
Pastor 810.223.2987

V



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W



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Z



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+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

Shaping our future as a landscape architect

An interview with landscape architect John Jackson III

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Shaping our future as a landscape architect “I believe that all monuments have their place; I also believe that the story they tell should be factual and not slanted in their true role in history. We as people should remember that not all monuments celebrate the good, many monuments tell a story that are painful to some; however all monuments should provoke thought and tell the truth, so we as people will remember!”

These are the words of John Jackson III, a landscape architect for over thirty-eight years, commenting on the movement to remove confederate statues. As the owner of one of only a few Black landscape architect firms he has deep insights into the development of monuments, parks, plazas, walkways, and historic monuments. He is part of a movement creating a public counter-narrative to monuments that honor the confederacy. He and his team at JPA Inc. are well versed in the design of large-scale planning, planting, themed developments, museums and cultural projects that bring African American history and aspirations to life.

He is being more than modest when he says “I believe that the work that we have done as it relates to African American culturally significant projects is one of our core competencies. We have worked on projects all over the United States and have won many honors and awards for our work.” JPA Inc. has worked on the Historic Campus Entry to Tougaloo College (a former Slave Plantation that is now an institution of higher learning) in Mississippi; I AM A MAN Plaza in Memphis, TN; the Harlem District Streetscape in Albany, GA; the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site in Alabama; Henry “Hank” Aaron Park in Mobile, AL; the Magic Johnson Sports Facility in Holly Springs, MS; and the site design for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta, GA.

It hasn’t been an easy journey. Jackson shares. “I started in Landscape Architecture, in 1983 there were very few African-American Landscape Architects in practice. I was the second African-American to graduate from the Landscape Architecture Program at Mississippi State Univer-

sity since the program began in 1964. As it relates to barriers, coming out of school, no one wanted to hire me, some clients did not want to hire us, many doors for certain types of projects were closed to us.” But he is encouraging and welcoming towards those who are new to the field or considering such a career path. “Do not let the lack of African-Americans in this field of Landscape Architecture deter you from becoming one. I believe that being a minority amongst a majority is a clear advantage, especially if you know what you are doing. In order to be noticed you must stand out, being an African-American in Landscape Architecture gives you that advantage.”

Landscape architect isn’t always the first career path that a person considers. But the work is influential and lasting. It’s an opportunity to tell the truth and shape the future for generations to come. Join us in saluting John Jackson III and the team at JPA Inc.

You can reach JPA Inc. at 901-207-5231.



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

+ HEALTH

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH



Speaking out against stigma



By **WARDENE TALLEY**
PROJECT DIRECTOR, SAGINAW
COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH AUTHORITY

Mental illness can be treated. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ‘Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It helps to determine how we manage stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices. It is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.’ It is essential to our overall health. Literally millions of adults and children across America experience mental health challenges which include anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder. With proper, professional interventions, even the most severe mental health challenges can be treated. Unfortunately, because of the many extensive misconceptions surrounding people experiencing mental health challenges, those in need of treatment and their families tend to suffer in silence instead of seeking support for their condition. **May is Mental Health Awareness Month.** Awareness of an issue is a first step to improving the understanding of the condition and may result in an increased likelihood of individuals and families seeking treatment.

Stigma is the act of viewing someone in a negative way because of a negative attitude or belief against the individual or group with a particular characteristic considered to be negative. Many of the beliefs are false and cause significant barriers to individuals in need of help. Still, holding stigma in our minds and with our actions towards or against people with mental illness is quite common. With the stigma comes shame, humiliation, and discrimination. The one in five Americans living with a mental health condition are our family, friends, classmates, coworkers, and neighbors. It is almost a certainty that you know or love someone facing

the stigma associated with their diagnosis.

After decades of observing Mental Health Awareness Month, listening to people share stories of their very unique journey navigating the barriers typically present for some of the most vulnerable among us, participating in workplace activities, and making a mental note to be better, still the stigma looms as a constant reminder that there is work to be done. Common outcomes of the stigmatization include reluctance to seek treatment, they may be relegated to a place of shame or pity, they may experience fewer opportunities of growth or promotion in the workplace, meaningful relationships or friendships are difficult to find or maintain, bullying for children and violence/harassment for adults, and a sense of hopelessness which may manifest in self-injurious behaviors.

Speaking out against the stigma has actual life or death consequences. The cost of silence is devastating. Over 50% of the alarming 48,183 known suicides completed in the U.S. in 2021 were individuals with mental health challenges. That was one death every 11 minutes! In that same year, 12.3 million adults seriously considered suicide, 3.5 million adults made a plan, and 1.7 million made the attempt (graph below).

Clearly there is much to be done but what can I do? What can we do?

- **Seek professional help.** If you or someone you know needs assistance, encourage them to seek help. Knowing and understanding the diagnosis and the best course of treatment can enhance the quality of life for the individual and their circle of support. You are a google search away from a better understanding of behaviors which interfere with daily functioning and possibly preventing the achievement of goals and dreams. If it is your child, the school is a great place to start the journey of addressing

mental health and behavioral challenges with professional support.

- **Speak up and speak out against stigma.** If it is you – do not suffer in silence. If it is someone you care about – do not allow them to suffer in silence. Self-isolation or alienation by others can have serious outcomes. Normalize the need for seeking mental treatment just as readily as one would seek treatment for any physical or medical condition.
- **Watch your words.** We now know and understand the power of language in our everyday interactions personally, professionally and in our homes. Using or condoning the use of negative labels perpetuates the stigma mentality. Challenge yourself and other offenders to be better.
- **Be intentional about self-care.** Take care of you. If you have the responsibility of providing full-time care for, or are in frequent contact with someone whose behavior is extremely challenging, establish and maintain healthy boundaries. Understand the difference (without guilt) between safety/healthy boundaries vs alienation of those in our care.

Pat Smith, a Michigan suicide prevention coordinator in the Department of Health and Human Services, said most of the work in lowering the suicide rate (associated with untreated mental health challenges) is “upstream,” or preventative measures. “It’s up to us as a society to make sure mental health services are being done. The most important thing is that there is always hope.”

If you are in crisis, call 800-273-8255 or text “TALK” to 741741.

In 2021:

48,183 people
died by suicide in
the United States.

That is 1 death
every 11 minutes.

- ➔ 12.3 million adults seriously thought about suicide
- ➔ 3.5 million adults made a plan
- ➔ 1.7 million adults attempted suicide



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



MaryFreeBedatCovenant.com
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+ HEALTH

Healthy Heart event brings free screenings to Saginaw

Ascension St. Mary's will be hosting a Healthy Heart event on Saturday, May 6, at Ascension St. Mary's – Riverfront, 1015 S. Washington Avenue in Saginaw.

Nearly half of all U.S. adults have some type of cardiovascular disease according to the American Heart Association, such as coronary heart disease, heart failure, stroke or high blood pressure.

The Healthy Heart event is a day devoted to heart disease screening and prevention. Participants will have access to no-cost heart screenings with on-the-spot results and one-on-one conversations with a doctor to review their individual situation. Events will take place beginning at 7 a.m. and participants should arrive by 11 a.m. to receive a screening that includes:

- **Electrocardiogram (EKG):** Measures the heartbeat's electrical activity. Electrodes with adhesive pads are attached to the skin of the chest, arms and legs.
- **Blood pressure screening:** Measures the pressure the blood is exerting against artery walls. A blood pressure cuff is used.
- **Body Mass Index (BMI) reading:** A calculation to identify whether an adult is at a healthy weight.
- **Blood glucose test (no fasting required):** Measures blood sugar levels which may help to determine diabetes. A finger prick is required and a glucometer is used.
- **Heart and stroke risk assessment:** May determine the likelihood of

developing heart disease, heart attack or stroke in the future. A questionnaire is used.

A physician will review test results with participants on-site and discuss risk factors as well as recommendations for improving heart health. There will also be an area with health displays about heart-related topics including stroke risks and more.

All are welcome and no registration is required. Individuals need to arrive by 11 a.m. to receive the screening.

If additional screenings, tests or treatments are needed outside of the no-cost screenings (for example, should you be having a medical crisis and treatment is necessary) that treatment is not considered part of the free screenings.

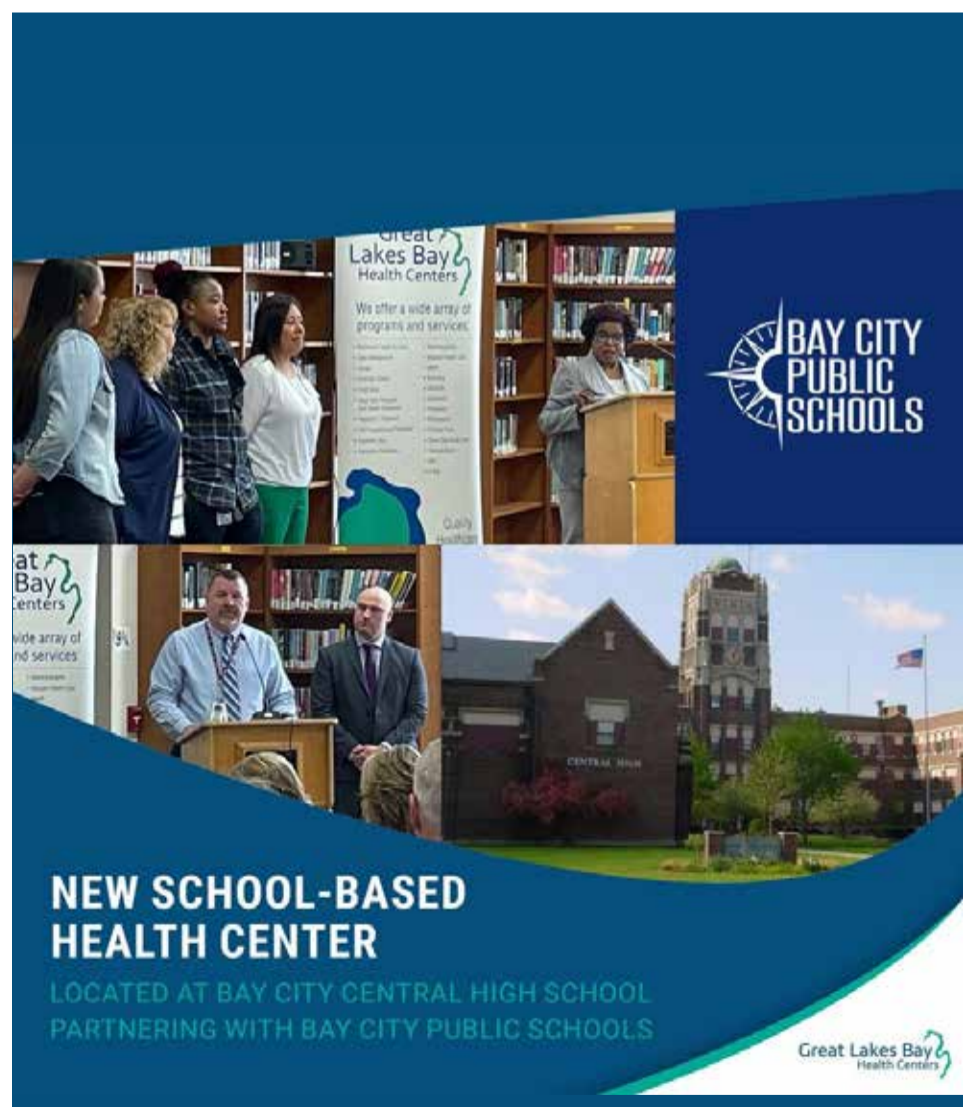


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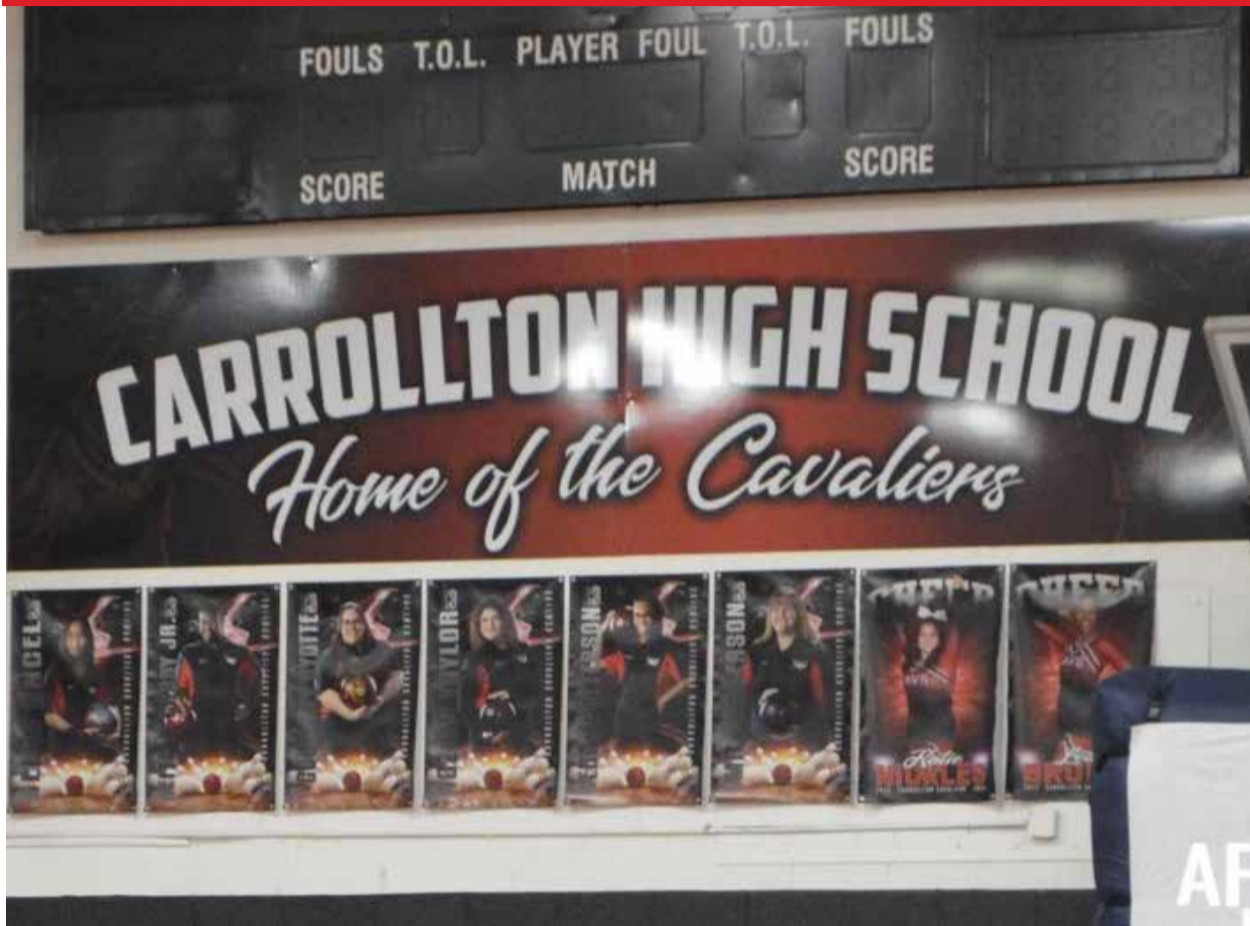


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+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

Carrollton Jamboree May 13th



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

When three community organizations collaborate to bring three events to one date, Saturday, May 13th, you create a Jamboree!!!

Carrollton High School, 1235 Maple Ridge Road, Saginaw 48604 is the location scheduled for the first two events.

Walk/Run/Bike for the Blind 5k

The Carrollton Lions Club has held a 5k road race for 21 years with pro-

ceeds going to support Leader Dogs for the Blind. Originally it was a walk/run, and in the interest of involving more families, bicycles were added eight years ago. This year's event will be on at 9 a.m. In place of a registration fee, donations are accepted that go to Leader Dogs.

Leader Dogs for the Blind benefit individuals who have lost their sight by allowing them to live independently with the assistance of a trained and skilled Leader Dog.

Buddy Walk Fundraiser

A second organization that has been a fixture in the Great Lakes Bay Region for more than a decade is the Michigan Great Lakes Buddy walk. "Buddy walk" for short, is a group of dedicated volunteers that support children and their families who are impacted by

Down's Syndrome. The local "buddy walk" organization is affiliated with the National Down Syndrome Society. Each year "buddy walk" has a "walk" to generate funds; this past year it was an October event.

This year in addition to the traditional walk, "Buddy walk" is having an event at 10:30 a.m. on the football field. The event promises to offer games, music, food, and more for all ages. Proceeds will go to one of several beneficiaries including Camp Fish Tails, Above the Wake, and Special Olympics area 22.

Again, this is family friendly and a great place to go after the 5k concludes.

Carrollton Lions Club Cornhole Tournament

Finally, the Carrollton Lions club is hosting a Cornhole tournament at 1 p.m., at Heck's Bar, 555 Shattuck Road, Saginaw 48604. Cornhole is one of the fastest growing games in the region, and the Carrollton Lions club hosts two tournaments each year for the past three years. Proceeds from the tournament go to the Annual Food Drive held in Carrollton around the holidays in December.

Three organizations. Three events. One day- May 13th One community! The Carrollton Jamboree promises to be a community showcase.

For more information, visit the web at carrolltonlionsclub.com

Resources:

<https://www.leaderdog.org/>

<http://www.migreatbuddywalk.com/>

<https://ndss.org/national-buddy-walk-program>



COURTESY PHOTO

Ignite your college career with the Delta College SPARK Program

SPARK is a 5-week college prep program to boost your English and math skills...and it's free!

The SPARK Program helps 2023 high school graduates by providing them with the knowledge they need to be successful in college. It will boost skills in English and mathematics, explore college resources, complete your FAFSA (financial aid) application, gain student success skills, explore career options, go on field trips, and more.

Only 25 students will be accepted into Delta's SPARK program, which runs from June 19-July 27 (with the week of the 4th of July off), Monday through Thursday from 8:30am to 3pm on Delta College's main campus.

Plus, students in this program will receive:

- Gas cards to use toward transportation costs
- Free loaner calculators and laptops available throughout program
- Classroom supplies – backpack, notebook, pens, pencils and more
- Free breakfast and lunch each day
- College skill-building activities

Melissa Haswell, SPARK Program coordinator and associate dean of the science and mathematics division, said the program receives funding from the State of Michigan and is administered by the

Michigan Community College Association. The effort is in support of community colleges' mission to assist recent high school graduates who may have experienced interruptions to in-person learning or would like to learn more about academic and career opportunities in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

With limited seats available, apply now through the Delta SPARK form. The application will remain open until all seats are filled.

For more information, contact Sherry Lefevre at sherrylefevre@delta.edu or 989-686-9245.

+ EDUCATION



DR. E. MALCOLM FIELD AND AVRIL ROUNDTREE

SVSU honors community supporters, outstanding faculty and staff

Saginaw Valley State University honored two longtime supporters as well as outstanding faculty and staff during the university's 32nd All-University Awards Banquet Friday, April 21.

Approximately 300 faculty, staff and honorees attended the banquet, which was the first for SVSU President George Grant Jr., who lauded the dedication of the SVSU community.

The Distinguished Service Medalion, SVSU's most prestigious award for a community member, was awarded to two longtime supporters of the university and Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, respectively: Dr. E. Malcolm Field and Avril Roundtree.

Dr. E. Malcolm Field, a nationally renowned neurosurgeon from Saginaw, has been a loyal supporter of Saginaw Valley State University for 30 years, generously sharing his knowledge, expertise

and financial resources to fund scholarships, academic positions, facilities, and programs to benefit SVSU students and the community at large. Of note, at SVSU Dr. Field and his wife, Lois, established the James O'Neill Annual Lecture Series and the Field/Spicer Fellowship in Science and Engineering. They also recently created an endowment to expand and enhance the newly renamed Roberts-Gilbertson Fellowship Program, which prepares outstanding SVSU students for the challenges of local and global leadership.

Since relocating from County Mead, Ireland, to Pigeon, Michigan, more than a dozen years ago, Avril Roundtree has been an avid supporter of the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum. Not only does she provide financial support to the Museum, she also lends her expertise as secretary of the Museum's board of advisors, bringing her business sense

and passion for art to the board. An artist in her own right, Roundtree is a master quilt-maker and accomplished chef. She has donated several of her creations and her culinary skills as coveted auction items at the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum's Saints and Sinners fundraising gala.

Several SVSU faculty and staff members also received recognition for outstanding achievement and dedicated service.

Warren Fincher, professor of sociology, was the winner of the 2023 Franc A. Landee Teaching Excellence Award. Established in 1971, this is SVSU's longest-standing award and honors faculty members who are recognized for consistently demonstrating their knowledge of subject matter, exercising fairness and integrity, motivating students to excel, offering counsel and advice, and maintaining high standards for academic achievement.

Fincher joined SVSU's faculty in 2012. Since then, he has consistently demonstrated a commitment to education and a dedication to students, which earned him the House Family Award for Teacher Impact in 2018. At SVSU, Fincher conducts a Community Research Lab with students to address community needs. He has served as a faculty advisor and organized trips to professional meetings and led a study abroad program in India. Fincher completed his Ph.D. in sociology at the University Texas at Austin.

Khandaker Abir Rahman, an associate professor of computer science and information systems, was presented with the Earl Warrick Award for Excellence in Research. This award was established in 1988 in honor of Dr. Warrick, a researcher for the Dow Corning Corporation and one-time interim dean of SVSU's College of Science, Engineering & Technology. The honoree is a faculty member whose scholarly activity over an extended period of time has been of the highest quality.

**CONTINUES ON PG 41,
SVSU**

Continued from pg 40, SVSU

Since joining SVSU's faculty in 2013, Rahman been active in research as well as in teaching. His research interests include detecting and mitigating cyber-behavioral anomalies, behavioral biometrics, machine learning, knowledge discovery from data, image processing and human activity detection from video. In 2016, Rahman and his undergraduate student research assistants filed a request with the U.S. Patent Office for technology that would allow consumers to unlock their smartphones using a series of physical movements. Rahman has served as an advisor of the SVSU club that competes in the International Collegiate Programming Contest and has advised SVSU's Bangladeshi Student Association and the Saginaw Valley Cricket Club. He earned a Ph.D. in computational analysis and modeling from Louisiana Tech University.

Kenneth Jolly, a professor of history at SVSU, was recognized with the House Family Award for Teacher Impact. This award recognizes teaching faculty in SVSU's College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences, College of Education and Carmona College of Business who have had a profound impact on their students. Established in 1990, this award is funded by the family of Dr. Robert House.

Jolly joined the SVSU faculty in 2004, quickly gaining a reputation among students as an outstanding educator. He teaches courses in African American history, Africana studies, Black liberation movements, the African diaspora and U.S. history. Jolly was instrumental in creating SVSU's academic programs in Black studies. He has authored two books and has published articles and reviews in several academic journals, and he has presented his work at numerous academic conferences. At SVSU Jolly the Franc A. Landee Teaching Excellence Award in 2009, the Roosevelt Ruffin Diversity Award in 2007 and the Terry Ishihara Award for Outstanding Co-Curricular Involvement in 2006. He has been honored with Michigan Campus Compact's Community Service-Learning Award and by SVSU's Abler's Club as a

faculty member who advocates for students with disabilities. Jolly completed his Ph.D. at the University of Missouri.

Rosina Hassoun, associate professor of sociology, received the Ruben Daniels Community Service Award. This award represents the university's highest recognition of employee community involvement. Named for the late Ruben Daniels, a Saginaw community leader, it was first given in 1993.

The Roosevelt Ruffin Diversity Award was presented to Veronika Drake, associate professor of English. The award created in 2005 to recognize SVSU individuals or groups who have demonstrated diversity leadership and creativity. It is named for the late Dr. Ruffin, who served as SVSU's director of Multicultural Programs and Affirmative Action.

Sara Beth Keough, professor of geography, was recognized with the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Research Award. This award honors SVSU faculty who made a significant and/or long-standing contribution to the advancement of research or practice in the field of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Danilo Sirias, professor of management, received the Global Diversity Award, which recognizes the extension of SVU's impact from the Great Lakes Bay Region to the global community. It represents the university's highest acknowledgement of global leadership and service by SVSU faculty, staff, student groups and other individuals associated with the campus community.

Two SVSU employees were presented with the Outstanding Performance Award, which recognizes exemplary work that consistently exceeds goals and job expectations in quantity, quality, customer service, teamwork and leadership within the department, division and university. Bruce Hart, a lab technician in the Department of Chemistry, was the administrative/professional recipient. Kelly Nitschmann, a financial services representative, was the support staff honoree.

The Terry Ishihara Award for Out-

standing Co-curricular Involvement was presented to Rajani Muraleedharan-Sreekumaridevi, professor of electrical and computer engineering, and Kathleen Chantaca-Kubczak, administrative secretary in the Office of Student Life. Named in honor of Dr. Ishihara, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering and technology (1980-1994, the award recognizes one SVSU faculty member and one staff member for contributions to student life and the university through co-curricular activities.

Catherine Macomber, associate professor of social work, was recognized with the Award for Empowering Learning in Community Engagement. This award recognizes a full-time faculty member, staff member or team of SVSU employees for their innovation and leadership through community engagement.

The Excellence in Online Teaching Award was presented to Ranjana Dutta, professor of psychology. The award was established in 2020 to recognize a faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in online/hybrid teaching by creatively and effectively using appropriate technologies and best practices to design and teach online and/or hybrid courses at SVSU.

Bethany Eicher, a testing proctor for the Office of Adjunct Faculty & Academic Support Programs, was recognized with the Mary H. Anderson Adjunct Faculty Award. This honor is presented to an adjunct faculty member who shares both academic expertise and professional experience with students. The award is named for Mary H. Anderson, herself a dedicated SVSU adjunct faculty member.

For more information on the All-University Awards, including past recipients, visit <https://www.svsu.edu/awards/all-universityawards/>.

+ 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 43, SISD

Continued from pg 42, 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).

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Saginaw Public Schools

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

PLEASE FILL OUT ONE FORM FOR EACH STUDENT IN FAMILY

Please use this form for:

- 1. INTENT TO RETURN:** Student returning for the 2023-24 School Year to SPSD
- 2. EXPRESS ENROLLMENT:** New incoming Kindergarten/PreK Students or older students new to SPSD

After submitting, your child's school will contact you for further information or instructions.



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



MULTICULTURAL ACADEMIC STUDENT SERVICES

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Celebrate • Educate • Advocate • Activate

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

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

Simply put.....MASS is your home away from home.

**“Coming together is a beginning.
Working together is progress.
Growing together is success!”**



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@mass_cmu

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Learn more about the Multicultural Academic Student Services office today!

Multicultural Academic Student Services (MASS)
103 E Preston St., Suite 112
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859
Phone: 989.774.3945
Fax: 989.774.1376
Email: mass@cmich.edu

CMU is an AA/EO institution, providing equal opportunity to all persons, including minorities, females, veterans and individuals with disabilities (see cmich.edu/ocrie).

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+ EDUCATION

SVSU renews elite accreditation for business programs

Saginaw Valley State University has earned a renewal of its accreditation by AACSB International, the leading accrediting body for collegiate schools of business. The external stamp of approval confirms SVSU's Carmona College of Business among the top business programs worldwide.

"SVSU business students receive an education that is truly world class, as evidenced by our continued accreditation," said George Grant Jr., SVSU president. "This also validates the investment of private donors who generously contributed more than \$15 million to support construction of a new home for our Carmona College of Business. I would like to compliment all our colleagues who continue to uphold the high standards necessary to maintain this distinction."

In February 2020, SVSU dedicated a \$25.4 million, 38,500-square-foot building addition for the Scott L. Carmona College of Business.

Achieving accreditation is a process of rigorous internal focus, engagement with an

AACSB-assigned mentor, and peer-reviewed evaluation. During this multiyear path, schools focus on developing and implementing a plan to align with AACSB's accreditation standards. These standards require excellence in areas relating to strategic management and innovation; student, faculty, and staff as active participants; learning and teaching; and academic and professional engagement.

"The renewal of AACSB accreditation, the most prestigious accreditation available to business colleges, affirms the exceptional quality of our programs, our curriculum and our faculty," said Deborah Huntley, SVSU provost and vice president for academic affairs.

"Worldwide, only 6% of universities offering business programs receive this accreditation. I am very proud that our students receive an education that meets the highest professional standards in the world. I would like to recognize the dedication of all those associated with the Carmona College of Business, and especially Jayati Ghosh for her outstanding lead-

ership as dean."


SVSU is among 36 business schools worldwide who extended their global accreditation in business in April 2023. SVSU received an extension for 6 years, the maximum granted by AACSB.


"We are pleased to maintain the prestigious AACSB accreditation," said Jayati Ghosh, dean of SVSU's Carmona College of Business. "It demonstrates our commitment to excellence in teaching, research, curriculum, and preparing students for successful careers and leadership positions in business. I want to congratulate the faculty, staff, students, advisory board members, and alumni for their commitment to continuous improvement."

For more than a century, AACSB accreditation has been synonymous with the highest standards in business education. Today, a total of 981 institutions across 60 countries and territories have earned AACSB accreditation in business.


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Kids
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OUR KIDS, OUR COMMUNITY
AND OUR FUTURE!



About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

Office Hours

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

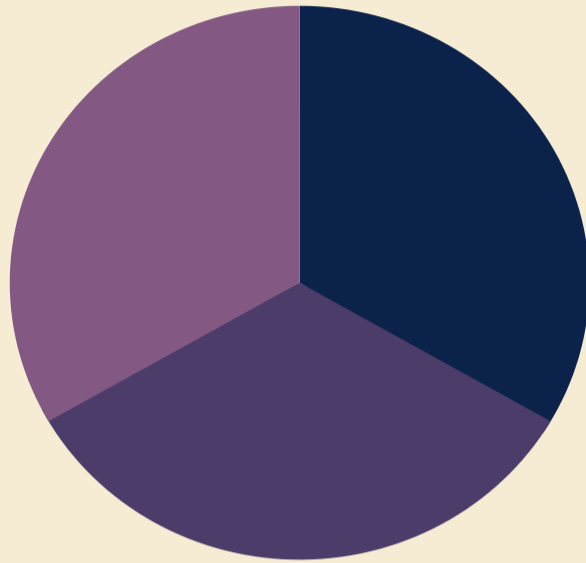
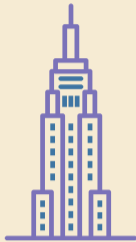
“Head Start graduates are more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to need special education, repeat a grade, or commit crimes in adolescence.”

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

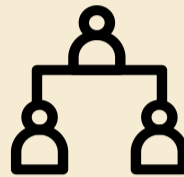
**“Our mission is to provide high quality services, developing school readiness and family empowerment for prenatal to age five children and families by working in partnership with parents and the community.”
-Saginaw ISD HE/EHS**

MI Tri-Share CHILD CARE

State of Michigan
33.3%



Employer
33.3%



Cost of child care is shared

Employee
33.3%

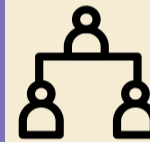


The MI Tri-Share Pilot (Tri-Share) is an innovative public/private partnership that shares the cost of child care equally between employers, employees, and the state of Michigan.

Overview

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

Benefits



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



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



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

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





Saginaw Public Schools

will be accepting enrollment applications

March 13 through August 25th, 2023

Applications for enrollment can be obtained from the building you want your child to attend.

A detailed list of openings for the 2023-24 school year are available at all Saginaw Public Schools and at www.spsd.net

For more information call 989.399.6500



+ SPORTS



LEW NICHOLS III

CMU's Nichols III drafted by Packers in 7th round

By **HASANI ALI**

Green Bay may have lost Aaron Rodgers to the Jets, but the Packers picked up some versatile offensive weapons in the 2023 NFL Draft.

One of those was college football's leading rusher in 2021, Lew Nichols III, who went as the 18th pick in Round 7, 235th overall.

According to MLive.com, he 5-foot-11, 222-pound Detroit native battled through injuries during his fourth and final season at CMU, finishing with 616 yards and six touchdowns on 176 carries in nine games, while catching 21 passes for 128 yards.

During his redshirt freshman season in 2021, Nichols landed on the national radar by rushing for an NCAA-best 1,848 yards and 16 touchdowns in 341 carries, while also catching 40 passes for 338 yards and two scores, which added up to Mid-American Conference Offensive Player of the Year honors and a fourth team All-American nod from college football analyst Phil Steele.

After redshirting his true freshman season in 2019, Nichols emerged as a prom-

ising young runner during the pandemic shortened 2020 campaign, when he received MAC Freshman of the Year honors by rushing for 508 yards and four touchdowns on 78 carries, while making 10 receptions for 109 yards and another score.

According to cmuchippewas.com, in 32 career games, Nichols rushed for 3,061 yards and 26 touchdowns on 614 carries and caught 71 passes for 575 yards and three touchdowns. He scored a total of 29 touchdowns (26 rushing, three receiving).

Nichols' career-long run was a 68-yarder and career-long reception was a 58-yarder. He totaled 3,636 all-purpose yards and concluded his career ranked No. 6 on Central Michigan's all-time career rushing yardage chart with 3,061 yards.

With his CMU career in the books, Nichols III ranked No. 2 on the CMU season rushing list (1,848 yards in 2021) and season rushing attempts (341 in 2021), tied at No. 4 for season rushing touchdowns (16 in 2021) and season touchdowns scored (18 in 2021), and No. 6 on season points scored list (108 in 2021).

Nichols is the third CMU player selected in the last two drafts and the first Chip-

pewa running back to hear his name called since Donnie Riley went to the Phoenix Cardinals in Round 12 of the 1990 draft.

Prior to his time in Mount Pleasant, Nichols was a three-year starter at Cass Tech High School and played on the Technicians' 2016 state title squad, before rushing for 1,078 yards and 23 touchdowns on 84 carries as a senior.

In Green Bay, Nichols joins an offense that will have a new look with Jordan Love directing the offense. He'll be part of a backfield that features a strong one-two punch of Aaron Jones and A.J. Dillon, both of whom have compiled 1,000-yard seasons in their careers.

With the NFC North being completely wide open, the Packers will have to find a way to dominate over Minnesota, Detroit and Chicago. Green Bay finished the season 8-9, ranked third in the division.

Chicago ended the season 3-14.

If Nichols can find a way to contribute to the Green Bay offense, then we may be looking at a three-headed monster in the backfield.



JAKE WITT

Northern Michigan's Witt drafted to Colts in 7th round

By HASANI ALI

The athletic ability that the two-sport athlete showed at the CMU Pro Day back in March gave him a clear ticket to the NFL Draft.

That came true for Jake Witt after the Indianapolis Colts selected the Northern Michigan University offensive tackle with the 19th pick in Round 7, 236th overall.

He is the NMU's first player drafted into the NFL since linebacker Mark Maddox went to the Buffalo Bills in the ninth round of the 1991 draft.

Witt is a native of Bruce Crossing, a small town located in Michigan Upper Peninsula with a community totaling only 184 people.

Standing at 6-foot-7 and 302-pounds, the power forward converted into a lineman has an ideal frame that would make him a perfect fit for the modern-day left tackle spot. Witt is a relative newcomer to football, particularly in the trenches. That did not stop the Colts from selecting him as they have seen enough talent that he

could bring some stability to the offensive line.

Witt was a basketball standout at Ewen-Trout Creek High School. He made his prep gridiron debut as a junior and immediately emerged as a star receiver, twice earning first team all-state honors and finishing his career with 99 catches for 2,308 yards and 35 touchdowns in two seasons.

Despite all of the offers to play college football, he opted to play college basketball at Michigan Tech.

Witt decided to transfer to Northern Michigan after averaging 6.4 points and 4.9 rebounds in 26 games his freshman season. He spent his sophomore year as a student, but the pull toward athletics drew him to the Wildcats football program, where he walked on as a tight end.

The COVID-19 pandemic canceled Witt's first season at NMU, but after a two-year hiatus, he returned to the gridiron in 2021 and caught six passes for 79 yards in 10 games.

Witt bulked up and moved to left tackle for the 2022 season, finishing the year

with second team all-conference honors in his first season along the offensive line.

The long and lean prospect started attracting NFL attention at Central Michigan's football pro day in March, where he displayed the athleticism that made him a good basketball player and could make him an NFL offensive tackle.

Though he didn't receive an invitation to the 2023 NFL Combine, Witt's 40-yard dash time of 4.89 seconds, his 37-inch vertical leap and his 10-foot, 3-inch broad jump at CMU's pro day would have ranked first among linemen at the combine. His results in the three-cone drill (7.44 seconds) and the 20-yard shuttle (4.62 seconds) would have been in the top 10 at the combine, though his bench press number (22 reps of 225 pounds) would have been near the bottom of the pack.

Witt only has one full season of experience as an offensive lineman. May take some work, but there's no doubt that he has the capacity to make an impact in Indianapolis.

+ SPORTS



KEITH THOMAS

Bittersweet homecoming

By HASANI ALI

Keith Thomas has it etched into his mind the atmosphere walking into his first game as head coach of the Columbus Chaos against his former team, the Detroit Venom (formally known as the Detroit Dark Angels) last year.

As he was marching with his new team onto the field at Detroit Renaissance High School, the tension was already high enough.

What made the tension intensify is the black shirt that a Venom coach was wearing that was labeled, “KT’s Nightmare” on the back.

Thomas was fueled at the sight of the shirt while all the coaches were laughing as they saw his reaction to the shirt.

What made it worse was that the coach that had on the shirt was the coach that asked Thomas to take over the program as he was unable to continue as coach and owner.

“It was purely disrespectful,” Thomas

said. “It was a slap in the face to me, my team and my family. It was beyond disgusting and the coach only joined the team to spite me. It didn’t make any sense.”

Thomas ended up falling short to the Venom last year, losing 21-6.

“We had them within reach,” Thomas said as he was reminiscing on his first season with the new team. “We made two big mistakes and it cost us two touchdowns and the game.”

The Chaos ended up 1-5 last season, but still made the playoffs while the Venom ironically went 4-2 and missed the playoffs.

“It’s about the strength of schedule,” Thomas said. “We made the playoffs because we played two Div. I teams and that really made our ratings strong as a Div. II team while Detroit only won against Div. II and III teams while being in Div. I.”

This season was a bit different.

The two matched up in Detroit, but as the first game of the season. Even though the game was very limited on scoring as

Columbus slid by Detroit, 6-0, Thomas was highly satisfied with the victory.

Thomas insists that he was happy with the way that his team performed despite being such a young team.

“Both teams have rookie quarterbacks,” he said. “We both have young talent. The advantage that we have is that we were able to add to our core group while they lost a lot of their players. Honestly, the lead would have been much larger if we would’ve had an experienced quarterback.”

After the Chaos put the first points on the board in the first half, Thomas knew that his old team didn’t have much to respond with as their star player was playing on both sides of the ball.

“I love Clarissa Tullis,” he said, “One of the most hardest working players in the country. Has accomplished everything that you can in this sport. It is very difficult for her to produce when you have her playing running back and safety. We just had to shut her down as much I hated to watch her play every single down.”

Being two years removed from parting with the old organization, his separation is something that Thomas thinks about daily. He was asked to take over the team and change the program. Once he made two successful championship runs, the coaching staff believed that the team could find somebody better to finish the job.

“Like I said before, I just wanted to bring a championship back to Detroit,” he said. “When I took over the team, we were a losing program. We changed the culture. We changed the mindset and we saw the results. The other coaches really thought that they could coast and have the same results with everything that I put in place. Now that I’m gone, we see what the program has become now that I’m gone.”

The Chaos are now sitting at 2-0 after a 14-0 victory against the Grand Rapids Tidal Waves.



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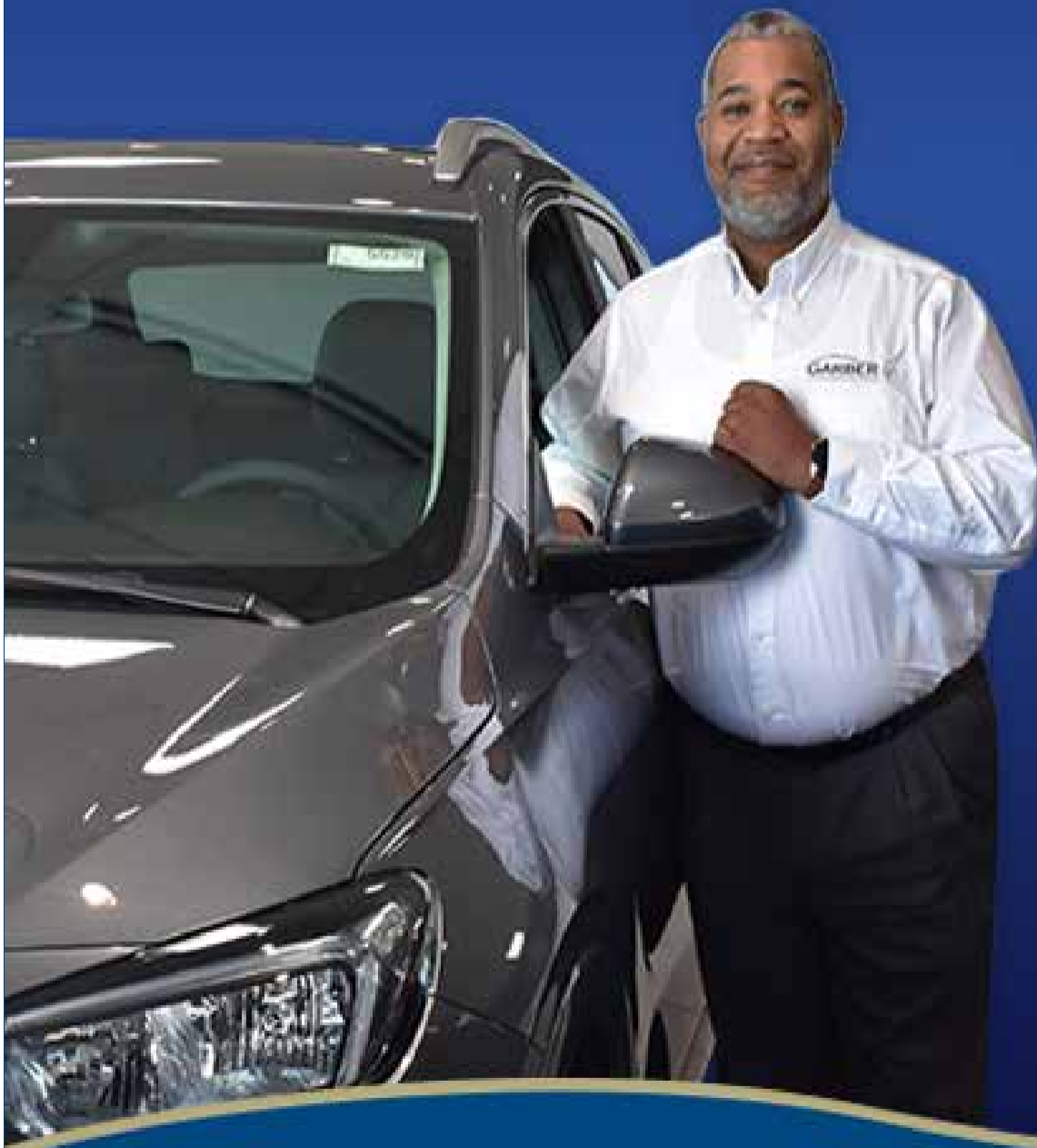
PICS OF THE WEEK

At the Michigan North District AME Church Conference, Dr. Roslyn McQueen was appointed as Chief Science Officer and Odail Thorns was named Steward of the Year for his work as Steward Pro-Tempore at Bethel.



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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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