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PICS OF THE WEEK
28th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Event

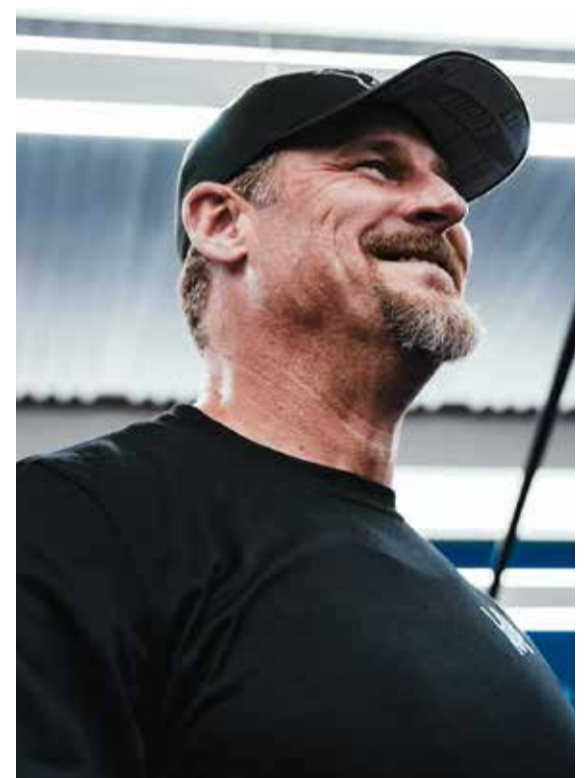
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Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

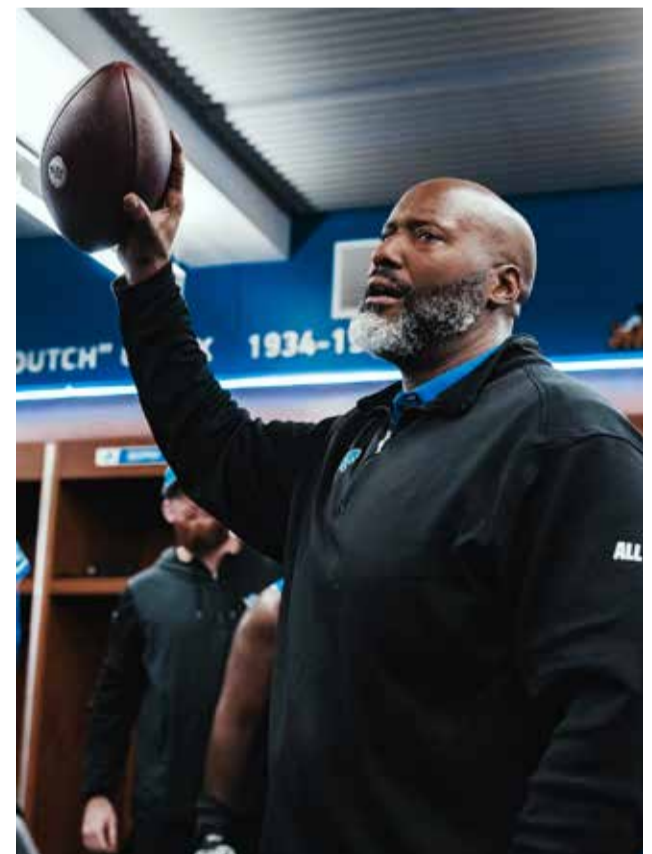


Detroit Lions win first playoff game in 32 years



JIMMY BELL JR. – THE BIG DAWG ON CAMPUS

SPORTS, PG 44



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WORKING TOGETHER. SHARING THE DREAM.

An MLK Celebration!



“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”
Martin Luther King, Jr.

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
Wednesday, January 17, 2024 • 7 p.m.
in the SVSU Malcolm Field Theatre

Melissa Harris-Perry Keynote Speaker



Professor Melissa Harris-Perry is the Maya Angelou Presidential Chair at Wake Forest University. She is author of the award-winning Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought, and Sister Citizen: Shame, Stereotypes, and Black Women in America. Professor Harris-Perry is founder and president of the Anna Julia Cooper Center whose mission is to advance justice through intersectional scholarship and action.

- This event will feature:**
- Keynote Speaker
Melissa Harris-Perry
 - Presentation of the
MLK Scholarship
Awards
 - Presentation of the
Regional Drum Major
Awards

She served as the final host and managing editor of The Takeaway, a daily, national public radio program and podcast which aired on over 300 public radio stations across the country. From 2012-2016, she hosted the groundbreaking television show “Melissa Harris-Perry” on weekend mornings on MSNBC and was awarded the Hillman Prize for broadcast journalism. She served as editor-at-large for Elle.com and continues to serve as contributing editor for The Nation.

Register at svsu.edu/mlk

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

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MISSION

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

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

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Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

—MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 6 • NUMBER 2



HOLD ON

By DONIQUA SOVIA

When it's getting hard, and things are seeming to just fall apart, and nothing you're doing is working, though you're working hard; Just see it through.

When the rain begins to pour, and no hope is coming to your door, and nothing but doubt occupies your mind once more; just see it through.

When fear is as crippling as a terrible disease, and no matter what you can't find peace, and the thoughts in your mind are like raging seas, and you feel like you're on the verge of falling into a heap, just go ahead and take to your knees, because; He will see you through.

All fear will vanish into the air, and peace that passes understanding will be there, and the rain will stop and the thoughts of doubt will cease, and what was torn apart will come back in one piece, because He has seen you through.

So hold on, don't you give up quite yet, the final battle isn't quite won yet, but you're on the horizon for a victorious win, so keep holding on.



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SATURDAY

JAN. 27th

AGES 13 - 17

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OWNER: SNAPT PHOTOGRAPHY

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Be Authentic like Dr. King

By MB STAFF

Authenticity is the courage to be yourself. One might wonder, who else can I be if not myself? The answer is simple. I must make and stand behind choices that may go against the grain. I must choose what is right based upon my informed knowledge of right and wrong. I cannot be a part of the loudest crowd today and a part of the silent, bury my head in the sand group tomorrow. I can not recognize injustice but go along with the crowd for the sake of the comfort that comes with belonging to a group. This gets a little tricky when we recognize that a sense of belonging is an innate characteristic of our humanity. Tricky, yes but true authenticity enables us, indeed demands that we speak truth when it may not be the popular choice to make. Authenticity requires courage. An individual who embodied the characteristics of authenticity is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. King was authentically consistent in his actions, quite public, and vocal regarding his belief in equality for all humankind. He was unwavering in his support of individuals and groups in need of a voice to represent their concerns. He did not check the controversial boxes that continue to cause strife, division, and unjust treatment. Those boxes include but are certainly not limited to race, religion, gender, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, level of education, the list can go on and on. In providing that voice Dr. King faced extreme danger for himself, his family and those who served alongside him. James Baldwin stated, 'Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced.' Dr King faced danger so extreme that it ultimately resulted in his being assassinated. But through his writings, powerful messages, and well-conceived strategies for challenging the unjust status quo, he left a legacy of strength and courage that we still strive to achieve. Today, as we honor that legacy, let's remember a few of his quotes that remind us of the need for authentic leaders to stand up and be counted. Most of us won't do so on a world stage. But all of us can do so in our little neck of the woods, often in small seemingly insignificant ways that

really matter to individuals we may never meet:

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

It is always the right time to do the right thing.

The SILENCE of the good people is more DANGEROUS than the BRUTALITY of the bad people

Vanity asks, is it popular? Politics asks, will it work? But conscience and morality ask, is it right?

Use me, God. Show me how to take who I am, who I want to be, and what I can do, and use it for a purpose greater than myself.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Authenticity is choosing day after day to make honest, morally sound choices, even those choices that seem insignifi-

cant understanding that layers of poor decisions that seem not to matter tend to add up to a lack of honesty. Authenticity is choosing to risk the approval of others, even if outnumbered, criticized, or ridiculed when my choices can have influence in the well-being of others. Authenticity is choosing to lean into me – the real, genuine, individual me who hasn't yet given up on the belief that we have the capacity to change course and heal what is ailing in humankind today. These are characteristics of imperfect individuals who, like Dr. King, choose to embrace morally sound principles and stand firm in the face of opposition to ensure justice and equality for all. The quote, 'Accept your past without regret, manage your present with confidence, and face your future without fear.' is attributed to an unknown writer. It will take time, but we can change course, stem the tide of divisiveness, and create peaceful communities for future generations to come. As we enjoy the gift of an extended weekend, take time today to review a message written or speech delivered by Dr. King decades ago but equally relevant in the world today.



JAN. 27TH
11AM-2PM

SOUNDS BY
DJ WOO BEATS

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12 & UP**

**GIVEAWAYS
& REFRESHMENTS**

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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

Seen on the Scene: Jimmy E. Greene, Memorial Cup Special Events Sales Director, presents at LLEAD's January meeting



COURTESY PHOTO

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





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COOK-DEWITT AUDITORIUM
ALLENDALE, MICHIGAN

7 P.M. SATURDAY, JANUARY 20
SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
MALCOLM FIELD THEATRE
UNIVERSITY CENTER, MICHIGAN

2 P.M. SUNDAY, JANUARY 21
WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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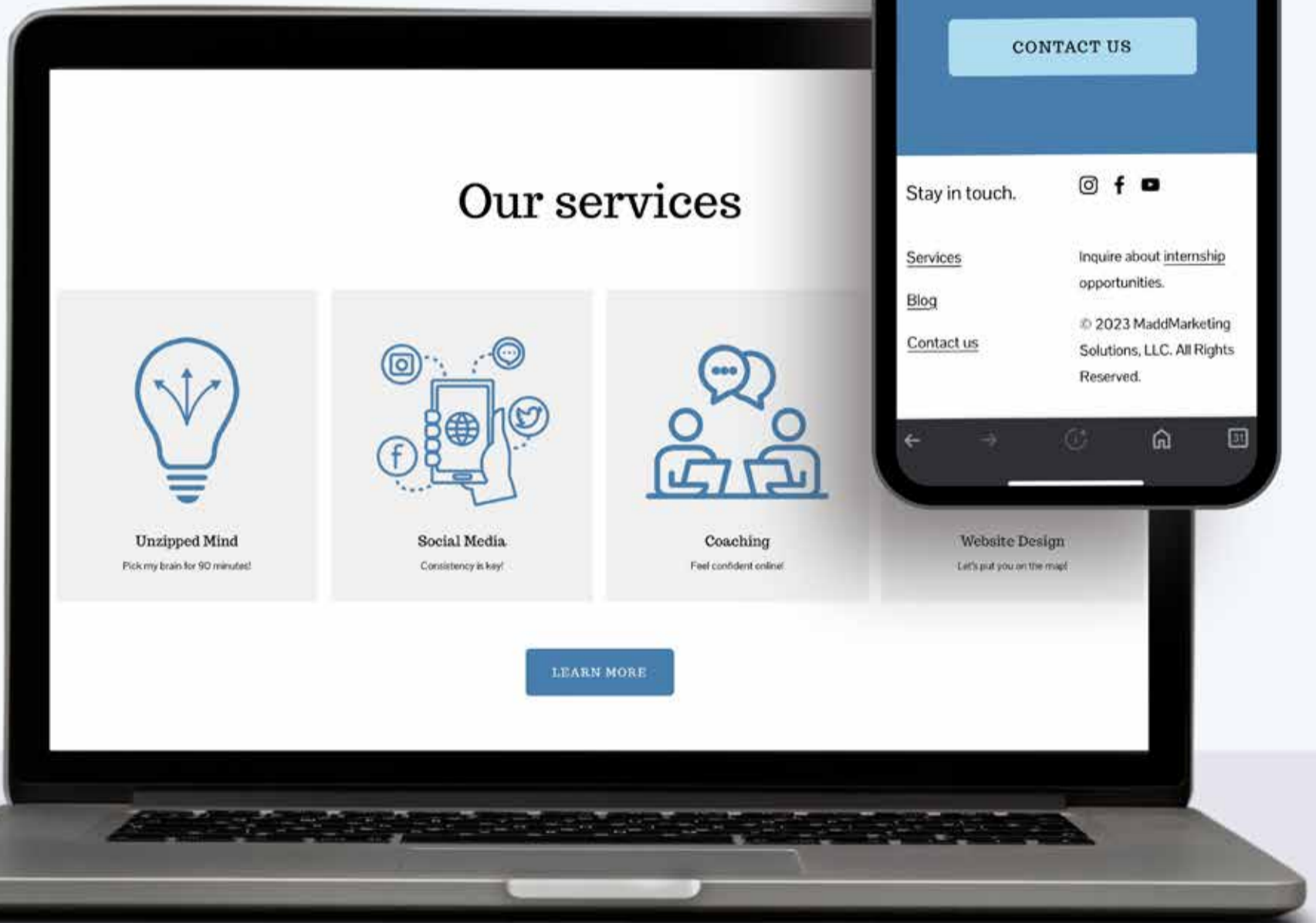
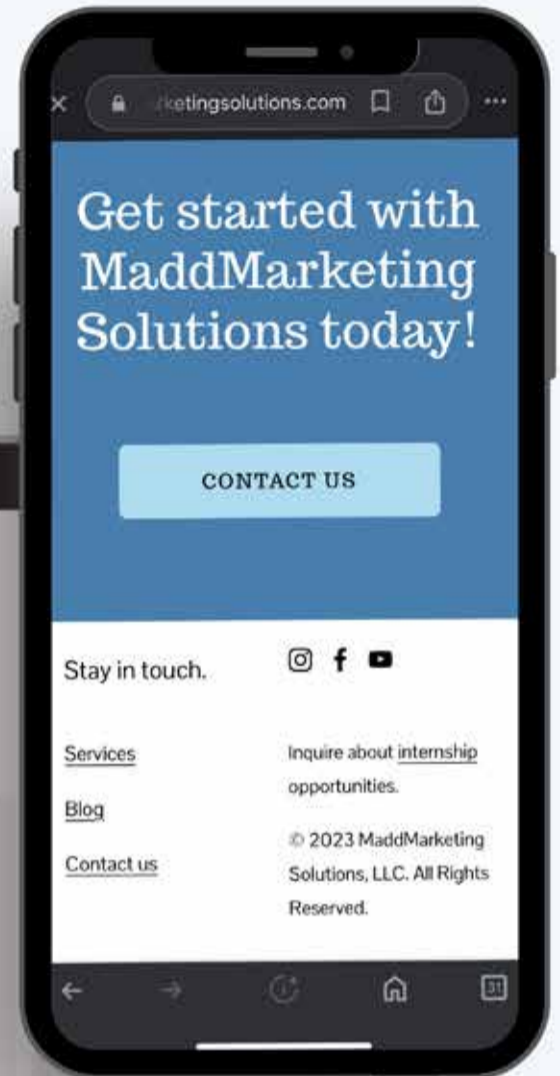
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Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership is Recruiting for 2024

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

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

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

APPLY TODAY
Deadline is January 10, 2023
Registration Fees waved for first 10 Applicants
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For an appointment



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FROM L TO R: MOIRA BRANIGAN OF BAY CITY, ANITA JENKINS OF MIDLAND AND JOYCE SEALS OF SAGINAW

Women with service mindset to be honored with Drum Major Award

Three women who have dedicated themselves to advancing equality and community service will be honored with the Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major Award for Community Service. Moira Branigan of Bay City, Anita Jenkins of Midland and Joyce Seals of Saginaw will be honored during the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Celebration, which will be held Wednesday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. at Saginaw Valley State University.

Branigan is the executive director of the YWCA Great Lakes Bay Region, which offers mission-oriented programs to eliminate racism, empower women and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity. In 2020, she began the InterACT Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program, which was inspired by similar programs at other YWCAs throughout the country. During her career, Branigan has worked in both the for-profit and nonprofit sectors, fulfilling roles in program development and management, nonprofit operations and outreach. She is a certified IDI (Intercultural Development Inventory®) qualified administrator and has a certificate in di-

versity, equity and inclusion from Cornell University. In 2022, she was appointed to the Bay City Human Relations Committee.

Jenkins has spent 47 years in the Midland community as a dedicated community volunteer, activist and faithful philanthropist. Jenkins worked for many years as a tax attorney for Dow, where she was encouraged to join a variety of boards and committees. Anita is one of the founders of the local chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and was instrumental in helping to establish the chapter's endowed scholarship at the Midland Area Community Foundation. She and her husband, James, have given generously to help others in the community and region. She generously shares her wealth of information on financial literacy by recommending books and encouraging others to not only be financially solvent but also to financially support the local needs of others.

Seals has dedicated much of her life to education and community service. During her career, Seals held positions with the State of Michigan, serving as an educational analyst supervising the King-Chavez-

Parks College Program, Title IX coordinator, and ombudsman for post-secondary education and athletics. She also served as a classroom teacher. Seals has volunteered her time and talents to a number of organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America, Saginaw County Youth Protection Council, Ezekiel Project and Good Neighbors Mission. She also served on the Saginaw city council for 12 years and was the city's second Black female mayor. She currently chairs the Saginaw Promise scholarship program and sits on the Saginaw Public Schools Board of Education.

The Drum Major Community Service Award was created by the Great Lakes Bay Regional MLK Celebration event committee. Honorees are selected from Bay, Midland and Saginaw counties. For more information and a list of past honorees, visit <https://www.svsu.edu/mlk/drummajoraward/>.

For more information or to register for the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Celebration, visit <https://www.svsu.edu/mlk/>.

+ COMMUNITY

Dorian Rouse-Phelps receives 2024 Spirit of MLK Award

Dorian Rouse-Phelps, Delta College’s Downtown Saginaw Center coordinator, is the 2024 recipient of the College’s Spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr. Award.

This award is sponsored by Delta’s Black Faculty and Staff Association. Members annually select a Delta College employee whose service to the institution and community exemplifies the spirit of Dr. King’s work and values.

Rouse-Phelps received the award on January 15 at the 28th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Luncheon, that took place at The Dow Event Center in Saginaw.

Dorian began working at Delta College as a receptionist in Counseling, Advising and Career Services in 2012. Later that same year, she moved into the role of Possible Dream and youth programs coordinator. In 2019, she began her current position at the Downtown Saginaw Center.

“Dorian has taken an active role in the Saginaw Academy of Excellence (SAE) since it began serving students from the city of Saginaw in 2022,” said Dr. Angela Guy-Lee, assistant professor of sociology. “Dorian’s care and wrap-around support



DORIAN ROUSE-PHELPS

of all of Delta’s students, especially the SAE students, exemplify a dedication to service that aligns with the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King.”

Dorian is actively engaged in the community through a variety of Delta College committees and organizations dedicated to fostering positive change.

“Dr. King taught us that life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’” Dorian said. “In my own way, I try to do my part. Giving of myself honors our great leaders, honors people and honors our communities. It brings me joy.”

Dorian is an active member and former officer of Delta’s Black Faculty and Staff Association, a member of Delta’s Out of the Cubicle Committee, co-chair of Delta’s CIBE Community, Alumni, Supporter and Engagement subcommittee, a founding committee member of Delta’s Women’s Inclusive Network, a co-advisor to Delta’s Black Student Union and a facilitator for the Saginaw Academy of Excellence.

In the wider community, she serves on the Saginaw African Cultural Committee and the Saginaw Public Schools Bond Advocacy Committee. She is also a Board Trustee to the Downtown Saginaw Association, the Historical Society of Saginaw County and the Saginaw Food Club and Kitchen.

Delta College Black Faculty and Staff Association present:

2024 Spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award

Presented to a Delta College individual who exemplifies Dr. King’s work at the college and in the community.



Dorian Rouse-Phelps

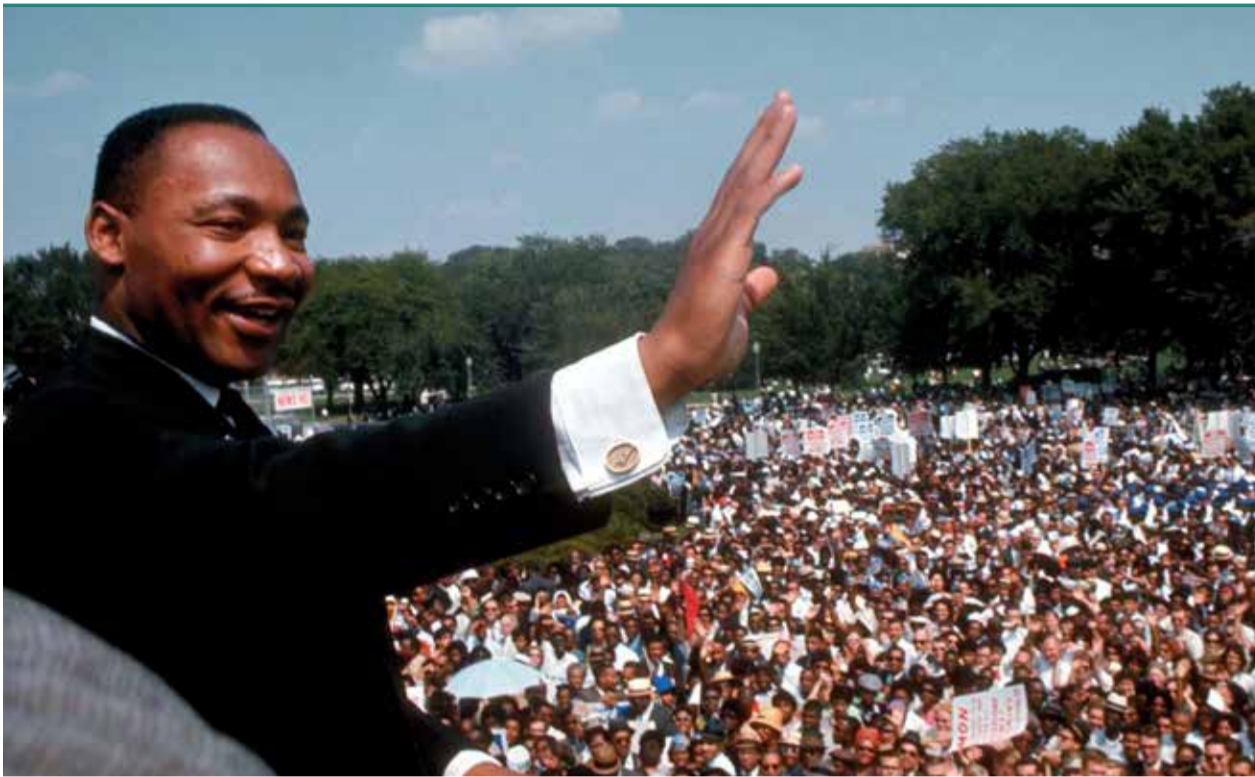
Purpose is her compass.

As Delta’s Downtown Saginaw Center Coordinator, Dorian aims to know each student she works with in order to understand their needs – promoting their empowerment, self-advocacy and resilience. Her unwavering support of all students exemplifies her dedication to service.

Beyond Delta, Dorian is actively engaged in the community through a variety of organizations committed to fostering positive change.



+ COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

12 ways to continue Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream

By MB STAFF

Continuing Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream involves promoting and advocating for equality, justice, and civil rights for all individuals. Here are some ways you can contribute to the ongoing realization of his dream:

1. Promote Equality:

- Advocate for equal rights and opportunities for all, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, or socioeconomic status.
- Challenge discriminatory practices and policies in your community and workplace.

2. Educate Yourself and Others:

- Learn about the history of civil rights movements and the struggles for equality.
- Share your knowledge with others, promoting understanding and empathy.

3. Foster Inclusivity:

- Create an inclusive and welcoming environment in your community,

workplace, and social circles.

- Support initiatives that aim to increase diversity and representation.

4. Advocate for Justice:

- Speak out against injustice and systemic inequalities.
- Support organizations and movements that work towards justice and equality.

5. Practice Nonviolent Activism:

- Engage in peaceful protests, demonstrations, and advocacy to address social issues.
- Use your voice to raise awareness about injustices without resorting to violence.

6. Encourage Dialogue:

- Foster open and respectful conversations about racial and social issues.
- Encourage others to share their perspectives and experiences.

7. Support Community Initiatives:

- Get involved in local organizations and initiatives that aim to address inequality and promote justice.
- Volunteer your time and resources to support community development.

8. Vote and Participate in Democracy:

- Exercise your right to vote and encourage others to do the same.
- Stay informed about political issues and support candidates who advocate for equality.

9. Promote Economic Equality:

- Support businesses and initiatives that prioritize fair wages, diversity, and equal opportunities.
- Advocate for economic policies that reduce income inequality.

10. Teach the Next Generation:

- Educate children and young people about the principles of equality and justice.
- Encourage critical thinking and empathy to foster a more inclusive future.

11. Challenge Discrimination:

- Speak up against discriminatory behavior and language.
- Support anti-discrimination policies and practices in your workplace and community.

12. Cultivate Empathy:

- Strive to understand and empathize with the experiences of others.
- Be open-minded and receptive to different perspectives and backgrounds.

Remember that change is a collective effort, and small actions can contribute to a more just and equitable society. By embodying these principles in your daily life, you can play a part in continuing Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream.



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The rise of AI



By **JASMINE BUCKLEY**
ELA TEACHER

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been a topic of interest for years, but recent years have seen a significant surge in its development and integration into various industries. The rise of AI can be attributed to advancements in computing power, data storage, and machine learning algorithms.

One of the primary drivers of the AI boom is the availability of vast amounts of data. With the internet and connected devices, we generate an unprecedented amount of data daily. This data serves as the foundation for AI systems to learn and improve.

Another factor contributing to the rise of AI is the development of deep learning algorithms. These algorithms enable AI systems to learn and improve on their own by analyzing patterns in data, allowing for more accurate predictions and decision-making.

The applications of AI are diverse and far-reaching. Natural Language Processing (NLP) has enabled chatbots and virtual assistants to understand and respond to human language. Computer vision has enabled self-driving cars and surveillance systems to recognize objects and make decisions. AI is also being used in healthcare to diagnose diseases and develop personalized treatment plans.

The rise of AI has also led to significant investments from venture capitalists and companies. Startups focused on AI have seen massive funding, and established companies are acquiring AI startups to integrate their technology.

However, the rise of AI also raises concerns about job displacement, privacy, and ethics. As AI systems become more advanced, there is a risk that they will replace human workers, leading to unemployment. Though this concern may be valid, there is no doubt that AI has been extremely beneficial.

In conclusion, the rise of AI is a significant technological advancement with far-reaching implications. While it has the potential to revolutionize industries and improve lives, it is crucial to address the concerns surrounding its development and integration. By doing so, we can ensure that AI benefits humanity while minimizing its risks.

Presidential Primary election information for Saginaw residents



COURTESY PHOTO

SAGINAW, Mich.- The Saginaw County Clerk's Office is seeking to increase voter education by sharing the following information regarding the upcoming February 27th Presidential Primary. The Presidential Primary is an election which takes place once every four years. While there is no political party registration requirement in Michigan Election Law, the February Presidential Primary Election does require voters to select the political party primary they wish to participate in before being issued a ballot. The ballot given to voters will only have candidates of the specific political party that corresponds to the voter's choice. Voters who do not wish to cast a vote in the Presidential Primary for either political party, but still want to vote in any local special elections, have the option of selecting a ballot containing only the local contests. It's important to note that in accordance with Michigan law, who you vote for will remain confidential, but the selection of either the democratic or republican ballot is public information.

We also want voters to know that this is the first election in which voters will have the opportunity to utilize their constitutional right to nine (9) days of early in-person voting. Early voting will take place at the Saginaw County Early Vote Center located at 618 Cass St. Saginaw, MI, 48602, adjacent to the courthouse. The Center will open Saturday, February 17th and be available through Sunday, February 25th from 9am to 5pm, and from 11am to 7pm on the Wednesday before the election. The Early Vote Center allows voters to insert their ballot into a tabulator prior to Election Day, however no results will be tabulated or released prior to 8pm on Election Day.

Finally, voters should know they can now bring their completed absentee ballot to their polling location or the Early Vote Center to be tabulated. The voter will need to check in at their polling place or the Early Vote Center and once verified, may approach the tabulator to insert their absentee ballot. This is a new law in Michigan which provides voters the chance to review their absentee ballot at their leisure at home, yet still have the opportunity to run their ballot through a tabulator.

More information on Saginaw County specific elections can be found at www.SaginawCountyVotes.com. All Michigan voters can also visit www.Michigan.gov/vote to check their registration status, find their polling location, and preview or track your absentee ballot.

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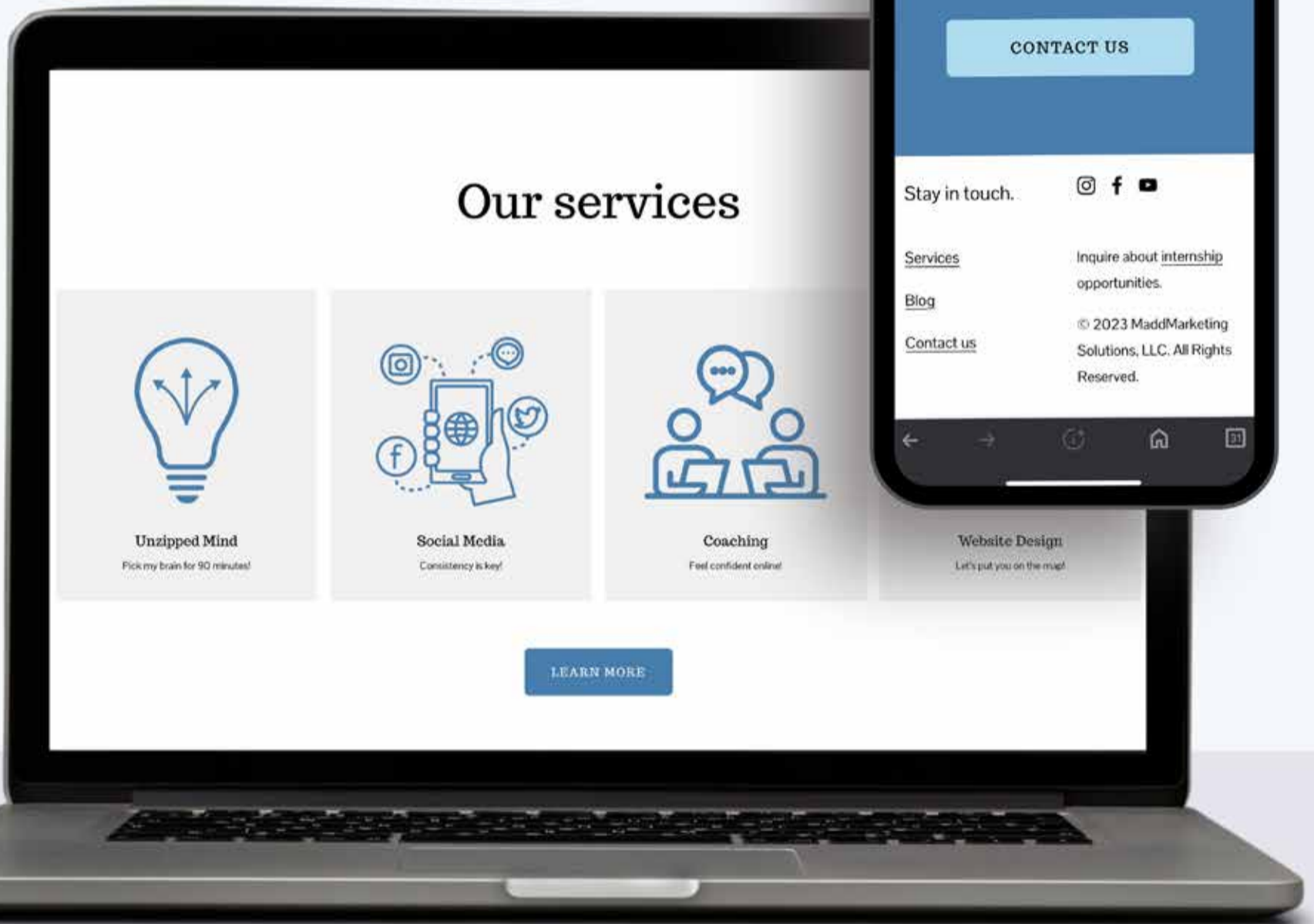
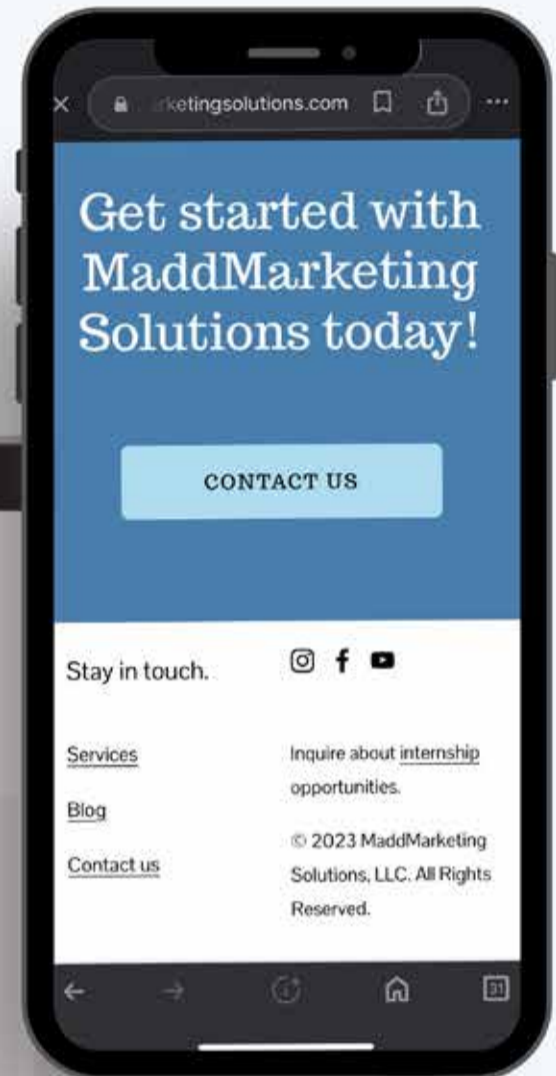
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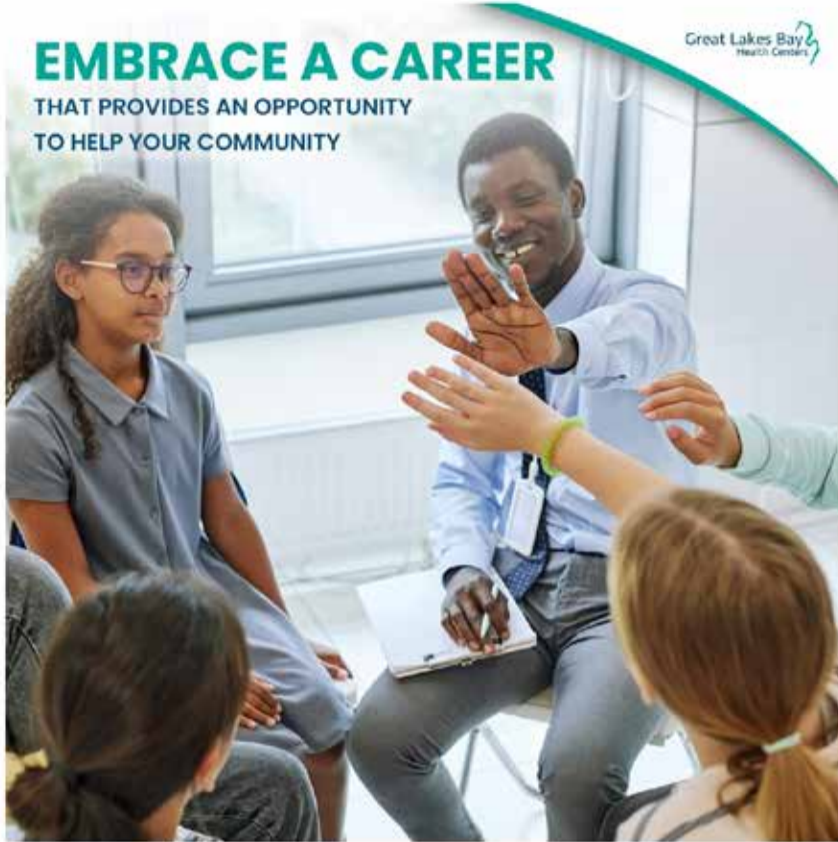
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Building a more inclusive and equitable Saginaw County

Saginaw, Mich. – A transformative vision is taking shape in Saginaw County, one that is set to transform the very fabric of our community. Led by a coalition of passionate community leaders from education, business, healthcare, and community non-profit, the Community Engagement and Inclusion Council (CEIC) is poised to create a brighter, more inclusive, and equitable future for all in our county.

From grassroots conversations to impactful action, 2021 marked the genesis of a movement in Saginaw County. Community leaders, driven by a collective ambition for progress, spearheaded the creation of a robust diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and justice (DEIBJ) vision and strategic plan. This strategic plan provides a roadmap that promises to propel Saginaw County toward a future where diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and justice are cornerstones, not aspirations.

“Our community leaders are already hard at work, developing concrete action

plans, engaging with community stakeholders, and seeking partnerships to make this vision a reality. The path ahead will not be easy, but together, we will build a Saginaw County where everyone can thrive, regardless of their background or circumstances,” said Dr. Mamie Thorns, Associate Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer for Diversity Equity and Inclusion at Saginaw Valley State University and CEIC steering team member.

As the CEIC embarks on the next phase of its journey, its commitment to creating lasting positive change in Saginaw County remains steadfast. Building on the foundation of their shared vision, they are now turning their attention to concrete actions that will bring this vision to life. In the coming months, they will engage in extensive community dialogues, provide learning opportunities, conduct research, and prepare for Saginaw’s first community DEIBJ-focused seminar. The CEIC will share news and information on upcoming

events through the Saginaw Community Foundation’s social media channels.

The Community Engagement and Inclusion Council will unveil its vision and strategy to the community at a press conference on Thurs., Jan. 18, at 10 A.M. at the Saginaw Community Foundation, 1 Tuscola St., Saginaw, Mich., 48607.

About the Community Engagement and Inclusion Council

The Community Engagement and Inclusion Council (CEIC) is a collaborative effort led by community leaders dedicated to creating a more inclusive and equitable future for Saginaw County. The work is guided by its vision with intentions of addressing systemic issues, promoting diversity, ensuring equity, fostering inclusion, building a sense of belonging, and championing justice for all people of Saginaw County.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Great Lakes Bay Region announces new CEO

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Great Lakes Bay Region has named Lynn Pavlawk as the organization’s next chief executive officer following a unanimous vote by its board of directors.

“I am honored and excited to bring my passion to work with me each day as a leader for this excellent organization,” Pavlawk said. “My goal is to continue to lead this organization forward by developing strong partnerships and extending outreach to all youths in our communities.”

As CEO, Pavlawk will oversee the organization’s strategic direction, resource development, brand reputation, talent recruitment, and stakeholder relationships. Furthermore, she will ensure the delivery of quality programming across the organization’s six clubs in Saginaw and Bay Counties, which collectively serve 798 young people.

“With 30 years of proven experience leading strategic initiatives to drive growth, improve performance, and achieve success, we believe Lynn is the right person to



LYNN M. PAVLAWK

lead the clubs in our region,” Board President Ty Mier said.

Before joining the Boys & Girls Club of the Great Lakes Bay Region, Pavlawk honed her leadership expertise while in management roles with Mobex Global, Nexteer Automotive, General Motors, and Delphi. Most recently, Pavlawk served as the general manager of operations for Bay City Bridge Partners, where she spearheaded foundational infrastructure im-

provements for the community.

“Throughout my career, I have found that success is predicated on clear communication,” Pavlawk said. “In the next twelve months, we will focus on building relationships with our families, partners, and patrons that are not transactional, but transformational.”

According to Pavlawk, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Great Lakes Bay Region is positioned to experience exceptional growth in 2024. In the coming months, she plans to invite more young people than ever to “join the club,” multiplying the organization’s impact in both rural and urban communities. With scholarship opportunities available, she also pledged that cost will “never be a barrier to participation in our programs.”

“Any family seeking positive programs for young people should explore the opportunities at our clubs,” Pavlawk said. “We provide an unparalleled experience and a safe place for children to learn, play, and grow.”



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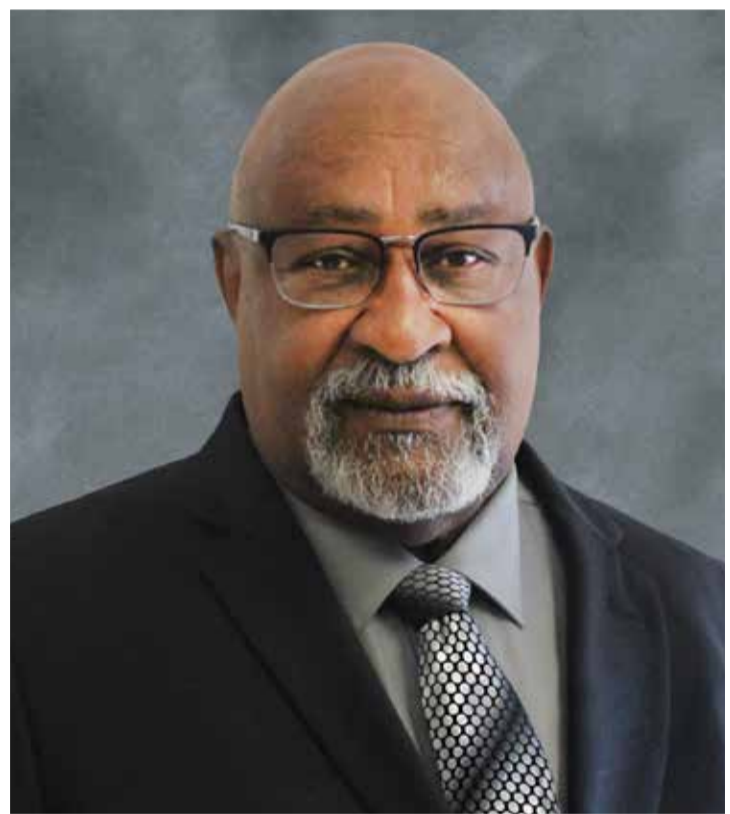
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+ FAITH BASED

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

Join us at Ministry Without Walls

By **PASTOR JOHN DUNN**
MINISTRY WITHOUT WALLS

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

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

Our vision is for Ministry Without Walls to be:

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

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

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

Our ongoing teaching and seminars will include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

+ FAITH BASED

MICHIGAN BANNER
SERMONETTE SERIES

By MINISTER CAROLYN CARTER
TOWNSEL

As we enter into this new year moving forward, we must remember we cannot do so looking backwards. We cannot travel on what we call the road of life without hitting bumps. Bumps of disappointments, hardships, unhealthy and unwise decisions, storms, and often times tragedies. If we are not careful these bumps have the potential to cause us to get stuck, gazing back into the past, and leaving us unable to move forward.

If you are looking back to understand, what you have learned from past mistakes and how not to repeat them, that is a healthy choice. But to look back at your past mistakes and relive your failures will bring heartache, sadness, and anxiety. Dwelling on the past can also sabotage your relationships, lower your self-esteem, and leave you unproductive. You cannot undo your past, but you can do something about your present.

There are somethings that comes with life and beyond your control. But those ungodly, unhealthy, and unwise decisions you made - Admit to them.

Stop Looking Back

"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, "Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead"

Philippians 3:13

Once you do that, without placing blame on anything or anyone else, you confess it, and be forgiven by God, and forgive yourself.

Apostle Paul said it this way, "***Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead***" (Philippians 3:13 NKJV).

As Christians God has promised a new life to anyone who believes in Jesus. Putting the past behind you is life-changing and God will help and strengthen you every step of the way. It

won't be easy, but God is always present.

I have made mistakes, we all have, and I suspect we will make a few more, but here's the good news, when we are in Christ, the old is gone, the new has come, and we are new. It does not mean we lose all memory of bumps of disappointments, hardships, unhealthy and unwise decisions, storms, and often times tragedies but it does mean we are no longer bound by our past. We are free of it therefore, stop "Looking Back and Move Forward."

Blessing To All...

+ FAITH BASED

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., rooted in faith

By MB STAFF

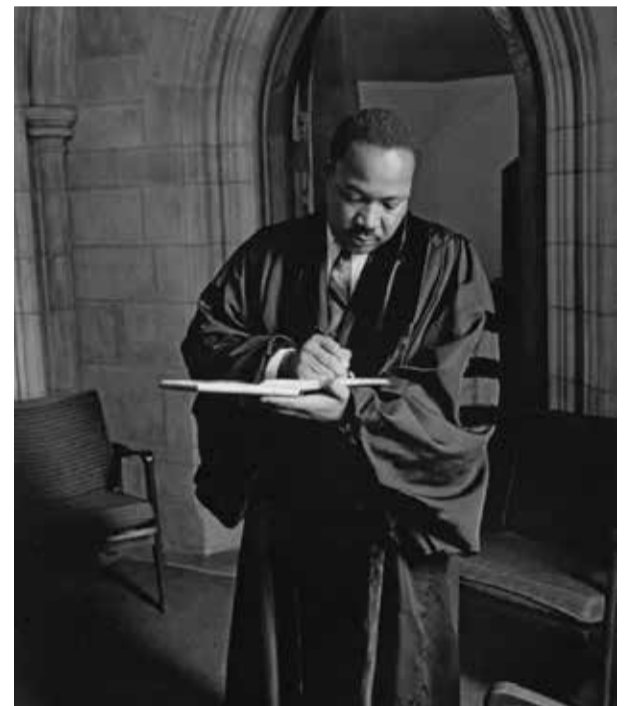
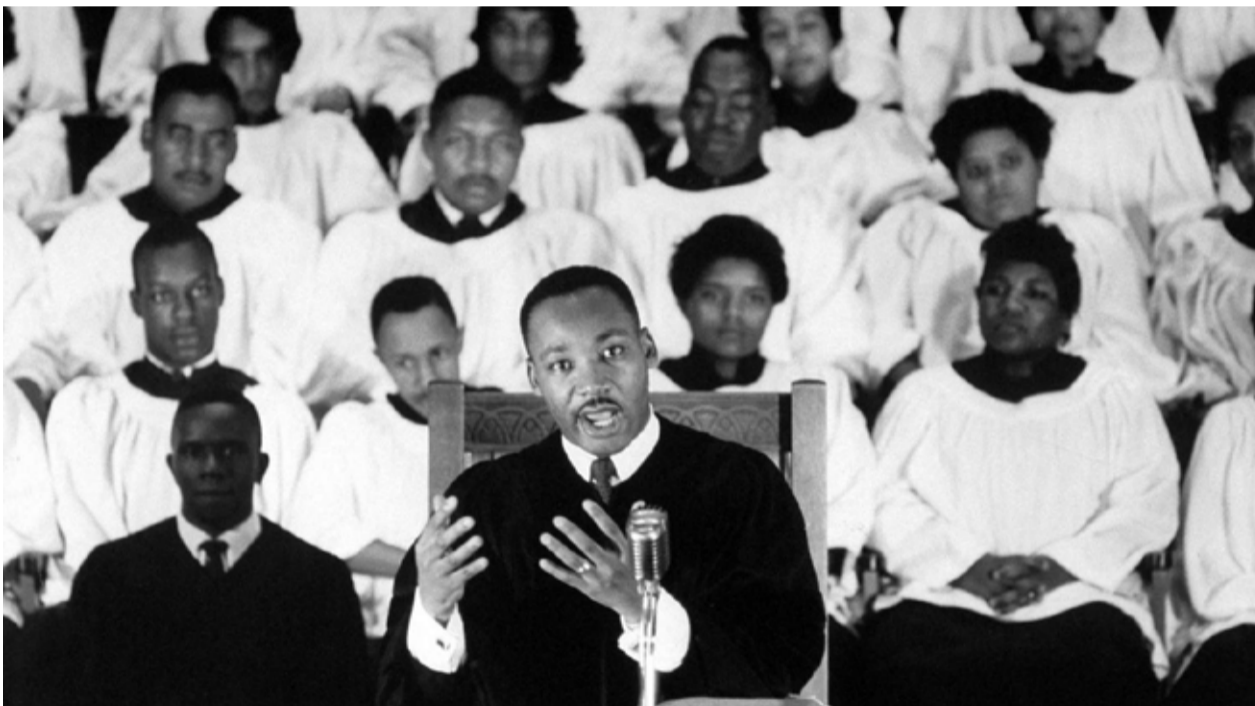
Martin Luther King Jr. was a prominent leader in the American civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s. His commitment to justice and equality was deeply rooted in his Christian faith. King was the pastor of Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church from 1954 until 1960, the site where he began his Civil Rights activism. His understanding of social justice was heavily influenced by his interpretation of Christian teachings.

King believed in the principles of love, nonviolence, and equality as espoused in the teachings of Jesus Christ. He often drew upon biblical references to advocate for civil rights, equality, and the end of racial segregation. The Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Birmingham campaign, and the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom are some of the key events where King's leadership was evident.

His famous "I Have a Dream" speech, delivered during the March on Washington in 1963, drew on themes of freedom

and equality rooted in both the American dream and biblical principles. King's commitment to nonviolent resistance was also influenced by his Christian beliefs, particularly the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, whom he saw as a model for social change.

Martin Luther King Jr. integrated his religious convictions with his dedication to justice, freedom, and equality, making him a man of God who sought to bring about positive social change through nonviolent means.



COURTESY PHOTO

+ CHURCH DIRECTORY

A



Agape Faith Bible Training Center

Rev. Dr. Joseph Rodriguez
8121 Dixie Highway
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B



Bethel AME Church

Rev. Dennis Laffoon
535 Cathay St.
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989-755-7011



Bethlehem Temple Church of the Apostolic Faith

District Elder Curtis E. Johnson, Pastor
3521 Webber St
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989-755-8381



Bread of Life Harvest Center

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3726 Fortune Blvd.
Saginaw, MI 48603
989-790-7933

C

Christ Disciples Baptist Church

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

Christ Fellowship Baptist Church

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



Christ Image Community Church

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

F



Faith Harvest Church

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



Faith Ministries Church

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

G



Glimpse Of Hope Ministries

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



Glory House Ministries

Pastor Jim House
3660 Hermansau Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48603
(989) 752-4769

Grace Chapel Church

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

Greater Williams Temple

608 E Remington St
Saginaw, MI 48601
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H



Holy Communion Gospel Center

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Saginaw, MI 48607
989-752-3993

J

Jacob's Ladder

Pastor Dennis Barlow
1926 Fairfield Street
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989-799-6601

L

Life in Christ Ministries

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

M

Messiah Missionary Baptist Church

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



Ministry Without Walls

Pastor, John Dunn
3783 Mannion Road
Saginaw, MI 48603



Mt. Olive Baptist Church

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

N



New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry

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



New Beginnings Ministries

Pastor Augustine Delgado
701 Hess Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48601
newlife3881@gmail.com



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3121 Sheridan
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989-327-1755



New Covenant Christian Center

Pastor Ron Frierson
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989-752-8485



New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Willie F. Casey
1721 Tuscola Street
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New Life Baptist Ministries

Dr. Craig Tatum
1401 Janes Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-1151
newlifelcm.com

New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

Pastor Alfred "AJ" Harris Jr.
3610 Russel St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-0801

P

Prince of Peace Baptist Church

Pastor Robert C. Corley Jr.
825 North 24th Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-2841

R

Radiant Church of God

Pastor Adolfo & Erlinda Martinez
708 W Genesee Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-401-2134
www.radiantchurchofgod.org



Resurrection Life Ministries Full Gospel Baptist Church

Pastor Carolyn L. Wilkins
2320 Sheridan Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-395-3142

S



Saint Paul Baptist Church

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



Second Baptist Church

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

T



Transforming Life Ministries

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



True Vine Baptist Church

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

U



United Missionary Baptist Church

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

V



Victorious Belivers Ministries Church

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

W



World Outreach Campus of Greater Coleman Temple Ministries

Supt. H.J. Coleman Jr.
2405 Bay Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-752-7957

Z



Zion Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Rodrick Smith
721 Johnson
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-754-9621

+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

Not too fast

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Are you ready for the new year? Are you charged up and ready to go? Is this the year when everything will be different, in a good way? Are you busy making lists and thinking about how quickly you can accomplish those things that often take a year – or years – to manifest? Do you believe you can make it all happen all at once, if only you approach things the “right way?” If this is you, we have three words of unsolicited advice: not too fast.

We know this isn't what you want to hear, but we're offering it up anyway. You can't do everything at once and we don't want you to get lost in a flurry of starting 100 projects only to find your-

self tired, stretched too thin, resentful, and – alas – unaccomplished! We suggest the “no shortcuts” method instead of the “everything now” program.

Our suggestions begin with words of confession: we too wish we could accomplish everything we want to accomplish, and that we could do so now. But when we look at the 24 hours before us, or the 365 days that glimmer with possibility, we realize there's only so much one can do. So we take that realization and shape it into our maxim: do it well. Don't do it all, just do it well. If you want to do it all, then build a team. but remember, building a team is an activity in itself that takes time and energy. It's worth it, but like everything else it doesn't happen overnight.

So, before you go to sleep tonight write a list of everything you want to accomplish in the coming year. Put it under your pillow and read it again when you rise. Cross out those things you know you won't take on. Keep it real. Think about what you can accomplish. Consider those things you want to do,

but don't have time to do. Contemplate how you can lay the ground work for their success in the future. Make those longer term goals part of your regular activities. Its like the promises we make to eat right and exercise. If we drink carrot juice for a month and go to the gym each day at 5am we'll end up tired with an orange colored hue to our skin and a desire to binge watch and binge eat. Let's go instead with introducing a little bit of something new into our lives instead of a total reinvention.

In terms of fundraising, we recommend a single *overarching* theme for your work, and within that to focus on one aspect of fundraising such as on-line giving or major gifts fundraising. You'll have to simultaneously keep multiple aspects of fundraising going, but focus on growing one aspect. You can't drop everything to take on something new. We know that consistent focus builds muscles and contributes to fundraising success. Let's not try to do it all at once, let's focus on what we can do well.



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

+ EDUCATION



Poverty and Achievement

COURTESY PHOTO



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

There are many theories why students in poverty might have lower test scores. Barriers exist in homes with economic challenges (examples include access to technology and books).

Books build reading interest and skills. Dinner conversations build vocabulary and thinking skills, and it is challenging to have these conversations if the parent(s) are working a second shift somewhere to make ends meet. We know reading is fundamental, and reading is built upon vocabulary. The simple equation is that vocabulary fuels learning, and in homes suffering with poverty's challenges, vocabulary tends to lag.

So the question becomes, how do we help students in poverty catch up? In education, we refer to this as "closing the achievement gap."

There are many strategies that help close-the-gap, but there are a couple of overarching themes that are worth thinking about.

1st, the relationship between the child and his/her teacher is critical for a student in poverty. The teacher makes the difference! The way the teacher connects with the student helps build confidence in overcoming some of the vocabulary deficits that are inherent. Slowly the student catches on to learning new words. Figuring out how to pronounce them. Use them in sentences. Drilling down and understand them. As new words are acquired, more new ones are grasped.

The teacher makes the difference.

2nd, parents & grandparents can step up, as well. Best strategies are simple ones, including reading to (and with) the child every day. Bedtime is perfect for this. Read a paragraph to the child, have

him/her read the next one. With support and patience, the child can read more and more to the parent & grandparent.

Obtaining a library card, and visiting the library with the child every week (or every other week). Avoid being rushed; explore the wide range of reading materials. Show an interest in what the child is interested in reading. Be super-supportive of the choices the child makes.

Look at educational television options, especially PBS and cable channels (if available) geared to learning about geography, history, and cultures are other simple options.

The bottom line is this: A child in poverty can be lifted with support, patience, and love. Therefore, the relationships in the child's world are critical.

Resources:

<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1230212.pdf>



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+ EDUCATION

Enhancing inner city education



By **JASMINE BUCKLEY**
ELA TEACHER

Inner city schools, or schools in the central area of a city, typically serve a diverse population of students. These students often come from urban homes and impoverished backgrounds. Educators in these schools are often faced with an entirely different set of challenges than their suburban school counterparts. The students in these schools also face different challenges than their suburban counterparts, and require a specialized education that caters to their particular needs. Thankfully there are many resources that were created with this population in mind.

Boosting Graduation

The Hechinger Report noted that there was a significant difference in the percentage of students that graduated in inner city schools opposed to suburban schools and this phenomenon remained consistent in each state observed.

With this fact, many urban school reforms focus on implementing programs that encourage higher graduation rates. Ways that this can be made possible include ensuring equal access to funding. Success in school systems directly correlates to the amount of money and resources available to the school. "If we can find more money, we can find more success."

Another impacting factor would be transportation. The simple question of "Are these kids able to get to school?" According to the Economic Policy Institute, bus driver employment has yet to recover from the shortage that occurred during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. A survey from HopSkipDrive, a ride service for children, showed that 92% of school leaders in all 50 states expressed a shortage in bus driv-



COURTESY PHOTO

ers creating transportation issues in their school systems. This is why programs, such as HopSkipDrive have been created in our new climate to make transportation more accessible. This program operates as a ride-share mechanism much like Uber, or Lyft. Increasing transportation is a key component in boosting overall graduation rates in inner city schools.

Academic Success

Due to the socioeconomic statuses of inner city schools, academic success is often impacted by environmental factors. Many educational reforms focus on offering an array of resources that increase academic performance. In the year 2020,

a tutoring program with urban schooling in mind was developed and named RITE. RITE stands for Remote Integrated Tutoring Education, which is a program where high school students can tutor elementary school students. The high school tutors are trained by the program on public health, and other tutoring practices, and are guided as they tutor elementary grades. This has shown to be a powerful way to increase academic success in K-12 grades.

Though inner city schools face a special hardship opposed to any other school demographic, the resources that are available can make all the difference. Once the issues at hand are addressed and analyzed, there can be change implemented for the better.

+ EDUCATION



FROM L TO R: RON BACON AND HEATHER GALLEGOS

Two alumni appointed to SVSU Board of Control

Saginaw Valley State University welcomes two new members to its governing board. Today, Thursday, Jan. 4, Gov. Whitmer announced the appointments of Ron Bacon, of East Lansing, and Heather Gallegos, of Essexville, to the SVSU Board of Control. Their terms begin today and expire July 21, 2031. They replace Bhushan Kulkarni and Vicki Rupp, whose terms expired in July.

“Ron and Heather have strong track records of service to their communities and understanding of their alma mater, and we are pleased to see they have accepted this important role,” said George Grant Jr, SVSU president. “We thank Gov. Whitmer and her appointments office for these thoughtful additions to our board.”

Bacon has worked in the biotechnology industry for more than 20 years and is currently employed by Genentech as an

area manager. During his career, he has worked in sales and case management for several medical firms, including Syneos Health, The Medicines Company, Baxter and Pfizer. Bacon completed bachelor’s and master’s degrees at SVSU. He recently completed his term as the elected mayor of East Lansing. Bacon currently serves as a commissioner on the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan; in addition, he is a past board member of the East Lansing Educational Foundation and has 20 years of youth football coaching experience.

Gallegos has held a number of roles for Dow during more than 20 years with the company; she currently serves as director of communications and community affairs for North America North at Dow. She completed a bachelor’s degree at SVSU. Extensively involved in Michigan’s Great

Lakes Bay Region, Gallegos is the immediate past chair of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, the current chair of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance, and the vice chair of the Delta College Foundation. She also serves on the boards of McLaren Health Care, the Midland Business Alliance, Saginaw Club and TempleArts.

The SVSU Board of Control is composed of eight members who are appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the Michigan Senate. Members serve eight-year terms.



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STATE UNIVERSITY



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provide the opportunity for and to eliminate barriers to postsecondary education to
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To donate visit:
<https://form.jotform.com/221173527315147>
or visit the Saginaw Promise website
or contact our office at **(989)755-0545.**

Thank You

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

Saginaw Promise | www.saginawpromise.org | (989) 755-0545





COURTESY PHOTO

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

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

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

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

Eligible Students:

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

How to Apply?

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

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

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

SPONSORED CONTENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONTINUES ON PG 37, SISD

Continued from pg 36, SISD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Early Head Start/Head Start Locations

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

Great Start to Readiness Program Locations

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

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

SAY HELLO TO

FREE TUITION.

Get Free Tuition through Michigan's Reconnect Scholarship Program

Delta College, in partnership with Michigan Reconnect, is offering free in-district tuition to qualifying Michigan residents who want to earn an associate degree or certificate.

Do you qualify?

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

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

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

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



Saginaw Public Schools

Birth - Five/Early On Play Groups

WEDNESDAYS (11:00 AM - 12:30 PM)

<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
10, 17, 24, 31	7, 14, 21, 28	6, 13, 20
<u>April</u>		<u>May</u>
3, 10, 17, 24		1, 8

for children aged birth-5 not yet in school

**For More Info, Call
KELLY SHAY
989.399.6859**

HENRY DOERR ECC
3270 Perkins St., 48601

SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CELEBRATES

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION MONTH JANUARY 2024



CHARLES H. COLEMAN
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT & DEDICATION THE SPSD COMMUNITY



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



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



SAGINAW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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





About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

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

MI Tri-Share
CHILD CARE

SAGINAW ISD
SERVE • INNOVATE • EMPOWER

MWC
MICHIGAN WOMEN'S
COMMISSION



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

Current Partners

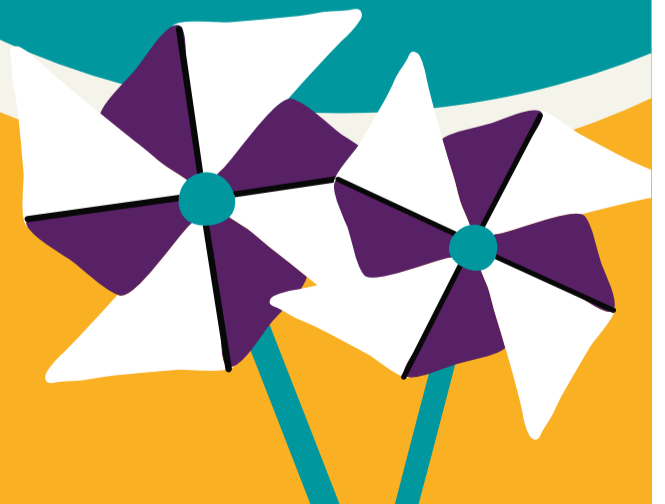
- Au Gres-Sims Schools
- Bay Arenac ISD
- Children's Discovery Academy
- Gratiot Isabella RESD
- Hemlock SemiConductor
- Ready, Set, Grow
- Saginaw ISD Head Start
- Vantage Plastics

Current Childcare Providers

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

SIGNING UP AS AN EMPLOYER:

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





COURTESY PHOTOS

Baldwin gives Arthur Hill final wrestling championship at 2024 County meet

By HASANI ALI

Arthur Hill High School will be no longer after this year and junior Michael Baldwin knew that he had one more shot to make history for the school one last time.

That moment was not wasted at all.

Baldwin steamrolled through the 165-pound weight class at the 2024 Saginaw County Wrestling Invitational, claiming a County title and the Upper Weight Most Valuable Wrestler honor.

“This is the last County title in Arthur Hill history ... that was a goal to be part of that history,” Baldwin said. “Plus, I was a runner-up last year and so was my brother (Lionel), so I’m the first one from our family to win a County title.”

Birch Run was victorious as a team at the meet, winning its seventh consecutive County team championship with 244.5 points to beat Frankenmuth, though the Eagles posted its best County finish in history with 197 points. Swan Valley finished third at 163.

Baldwin, standing with a 7-2 record,

did not register a pin – he actually didn’t want to. Instead, he executed a simple plan to rack up two points for each take down – taking down his opponent, allowing them to escape and stand up, only to take them down once again.

He earned a 26-11 win over Frankenmuth’s Owen Tucker in the championship match, registering 12 takedowns and giving up 11 escapes.

“My goal was to get as many points as possible,” Baldwin said. “If I think there’s an easy pin without much resistance, I’ll get it. But I know what I can do and what I’m doing. I’m going for points. It could backfire on me if they pin me, but I make sure that doesn’t happen. Plus, I also think it becomes frustrating for the other wrestler.”

Baldwin’s strategy worked, winning three matches on technical falls with scores of 23-8, 22-6 and 26-11.

Michael’s goal is to join his brother, Lionel, at the University of Michigan after he graduates from Saginaw United next year – as he plans to wrestle at the collegiate level.

Lionel, ranked no. 3 in Div. I, was the first Lumberjack in ten years to make it to states last year, competed at the tournament at Ford Field and won one bout.

“I want to go for the gold ... wrestle Greco or freestyle,” Michael said. “I like that better. It’s kind of what I was doing here. Wrestle. Get up. Wrestle. Get up.”

As a sophomore, Baldwin was 38-7, qualifying for the individual state meet at 165 pounds. He was 1-2 in the state meet.

“This year will be a different story at states,” he said. “I’m hitting my stride at the perfect time and it’s only going to get better from here.”

Valley Lutheran’s Timothy Plamondon earned Lower Weight Most Valuable Wrestler, beating Braden Bila from St. Charles, 6-1, in the championship match. Plamondon improved to 15-1 with three wins Saturday.

Andrew Archibald from Michigan Lutheran Seminary, who finished third at 175 pounds, was named the winner of the Paul Sipiala Award, while Seminary’s Josh Wakefield was named the Saginaw County Coach of the Year.

+ SPORTS

Jimmy Bell Jr. – The big dawg on campus

By HASANI ALI

The NBA has definitely changed over the years.

Being more a fast-paced, run-and-gun type of league, there's not too many roles for the traditional big man to fill.

Those like Steven Adams from Memphis and Andre Drummond from Chicago are rare players in the NBA, anchoring on defense and scoring inside the post.

Meaning, there's still room for conventional big men in the NBA. Saginaw's own Jimmy Bell Jr. is campaigning in his final year at Mississippi State to earn his stake as a prominent post player.

"(Steven) Adams and (Andre) Drummond are the type of players where their production comes from the defensive side of the ball – anchoring with blocks and rebounds," Bell said. "That's my job here at MSU. I've improved on my scoring since I've been here, but defense is my main job and that will be my niche in the pros."

Bell transferred to Mississippi State as a graduate student.

"When I entered the transfer portal, they were one of the first teams to contact me," he said. "I actually went to visit University of Central Florida first, but MSU fits more of how I play the game and I felt more at home with their program."

As a rebounding prodigy (ranked no. 11 nationally) at West Virginia University, Bell gained plenty of experience and enjoyed his time in Morgantown.

"I loved my time at WVU," he said. "I gained a lot of experience there and I still talk to the coaches and fans out there. I just took another opportunity to play elsewhere that fit more of my playing style and to pursue my Master's degree."

The irony peeked its head when Bell was asked about his time at Saint Louis University during the 2020-21 season when he faced Mississippi State during the round of 16 during the NIT tournament.

At first, he stated that the game had no influence on his decision to transfer there. Upon reflection and a little laughter, he took it back and said that it had a small influence on his decision to transfer.

"They had a different coach at the time when we played them, but many of the players remembered me from that game," Bell said in a chuckle. "Once they noticed that I was in the transfer portal, they immediately began recruiting me and it did play a small role when I chose to play for MSU."

Now playing in the Southeastern Confer-



JIMMY BELL JR.

ence (SEC), Bell is still getting adjusted to the style of play amongst the conference, but he did notice a slight difference between the athletes of the SEC and his former conference, the Big 12.

"I'm still kind of fresh in conference play, but the SEC has longer, taller athletes that are much more athletic," he said. "The Big 12 has much more skilled players, but they had some nice big guys as well."

Bell's best game of the season so far was against Rutgers back in December – 17 points, 7-of-8 from the free throw line, 18 rebounds, three blocks, three steals and two assists.

His motivation was almost 900 miles away, knowing that his friends, family and fans were getting a chance to see him on national television.

"Going into that game, we just knew that we needed to win that game," Bell said. "Clifford Omoruyi was my assignment and he's the 6-foot-11 big man from Nigeria. Really needed to be physical with him and do what we needed to do to win. Especially with my family watching me on national TV, that really had me motivated to play my best game to go into the Christmas Break with the win."

Bell is making a strong case for his NBA draft stock as one of the nation's best rebounders and defensive anchors.

However, he does have a backup plan to remain involved in the game of basketball if

his professional career is cut short.

"I am declaring for the NBA draft after this season," Bell said. "If I don't make it, I still want to be involved in sports, whether it's coaching or being an agent. I'm still working that out as of right now, but I want to focus on making a statement this season."

Saginaw has a growing number of athletes that are transferring to prep schools in order to prepare them for the collegiate level – Bell being one of them.

He was recruited while playing AAU by Bella Vista College Prep School in Scottsdale, Ariz. After his coach and long-time mentor Greg McMath was wrongfully dismissed as the head coach at Arthur Hill High School, Bell knew that he had to do what was best for his career.

"It took a toll on me once they let go of Coach McMath," he said. "I had to look at my options and once I realized that the competition was much better outside of Michigan that it was the best decision for my career if I wasn't going to be coached by McMath."

During his time at Bella Vista, the school helped him really transform his physique and put him in prime condition to be able to compete at the Div. I level as a basketball player.

"They really helped me improve my game," Bell said. "They really helped me in my training as far as nutrition and physical activity. From going hiking to other training methods that I've never done before, it put me in such peak condition."

Ironically, the 6-foot-10, 280-pound big man was a two-sport athlete. As a starting offensive tackle, Bell had more Div. 1 offers for football than he had for basketball.

He received official offers from MAC (Mid-American Conference) schools such as Ball State, Central Michigan, Western Michigan and Eastern Michigan. As the bigger schools started to peak interest, Bell received an offer from Notre Dame, which he was leaning towards committing before making the official transition to focusing towards basketball.

Bell also was being recruited by the University of Michigan, Michigan State, Alabama and Ohio State.

"It was one of the hardest decisions I've ever made in my life," he said. "It was the best choice for me and I don't regret it one bit. As a taller athlete, I have a better chance of staying healthy as I'm not being attacked at the knees as much."

Though basketball is his primary focus,

**CONTINUES ON PG 45,
BELL JR.**

Continued from pg 44, Bell Jr.

football still hasn't left his mind.

After his last season at WVU, Bell did participate in the spring football practice for the Mountaineers. Putting on the pads once again is an idea that he has flirted with from time to time as his collegiate basketball career is coming to a close.

"Technically, I have another year of eligibility left for football," he said jokingly. "It's always been in the back of my mind, but that's the furthest that the idea has reached as far as actually acting on it."

Looking to accomplish as much as he can

during his final season, he's using his expertise as a veteran to guide the Bulldogs to be SEC season champions.

"I'm just focusing on being the veteran on the team and to play my game," Bell said. "Not worry about too many mistakes and focus on winning each game. That will translate into us winning the SEC conference and make it into the tournament."

As a Saginaw native, Bell reaches back and is in constant communication with the younger ball players in the city. Knowing that he has other players emulating his playing style and

admiring his accomplishments, he knows that he's paving a way for those coming behind him.

"I actually talk to a lot of the young athletes in Saginaw and I always tell them to be coachable if you want to play college ball," he said. "You have to play harder than your opponents and your own teammates. The little things will add up and your value as a player will go up. Everything will come with it, the glitz and glamor, once you've earned it."

No love in boxing

By HASANI ALI

Coach and trainer Joe Mendez needed an effective plan to make sure that his fighters at Gideon Boxing Gym were getting the necessary development needed as they transition into tournament season.

Remembering that Saginaw was a central location, Mendez began organization with the coaches from Flint, Lansing, Detroit and Grand Rapids, Holland and Bay City.

"It made perfect sense to have all of the coaches bring their fighters here to train," he said. "Our coaches have full-time jobs outside of the gym so many of us don't have the luxury to drive two hours during the week to get some work. Saginaw is about an hour drive for most teams so it was a feasible arrangement for everyone."

With the fourth meetup between the seven teams, Mendez likes to call the gathering, "No Love Sparring."

The concept is to have seven rings competing all at one time – the main ring in the middle and several made with ropes across the gymnasium.

"Normally when you travel to other gyms to get work, you have to wait for hours for your guys to get work as there's only one ring," Mendez said. "Other gyms around the world don't need a ring to get sparring in, they make rings around the gym and the fighters get it in. Now each fighter can get at least six rounds of work in an hour or less."

The "No Love" concept of the event is that each ring is a warzone as if they were in a real competition.

"Sparring is the best way to get better as a fighter," he said. "They can't develop if they're not getting that in-ring experience—having those punches thrown at you in real time at 100 percent and how to make adjustments on the fly."



COURTESY PHOTO

The coaches around the state are truly enjoying the sessions held at the gym as they can ensure their fighters are getting enough development while still coaching other fighters during the session.

Usually when other gyms host a sparring session, the hosting gym makes the rules. However, this unique form of training gives the coaches an opportunity to train at their own pace while working with the host gym to execute all agendas.

"Working with six fighters, it's hard to pack six guys and drive to Detroit or Grand Rapids to get some work in," he said. "Having different teams come to my gym helps out the coaches and gives the fighters as many looks as possible from different gyms."

As boxing is a dwindling sport in Michigan, many of the athletes don't have the accessibility to train with their state foes prior to competition. Sparring with statewide talent develops these fighters for personal development and a chance to improve on different techniques

prior to combat.

"I care about the development of my fighters," Mendez said. "The fighters get a chance to see the different fighting styles that their opponents have along with their mentalities. If one fighter has a weak spot for defending off the back foot or how to keep composure after taking a big hit, they will have time to make those adjustments before the state tournament."

Though this is a breath of fresh air for the boxing community, the concept isn't new. When Saginaw had a bigger population, the boxers didn't have to travel in order to get experience from other fighters.

"There was one point in time where there were five boxing gyms in the city," Mendez said. "Though you could travel to different cities, you could get all of the work and experience that you needed in-house."

Gideon Boxing Gym has two upcoming fights next month – Feb. 10 in Grand Rapids and Feb. 17 in Bay City

+ SPORTS

Lady Lakers undefeated, ranked nationally

By HASANI ALI

The Lady Lakers are showing more ruthless aggression during the 2023-24 campaign.

Mid Michigan College has kept the momentum from the season and steamrolled everyone in its path as the team is currently sitting at the top of the MCCA conference at 13-0, ranked no. 15 nationally in the NJCAA.

“I didn’t necessarily expect to be unbeaten, but I knew we’d be good this season,” said second-year MMC coach Lance Maney during his interview with The Morning Sun. “We have more speed this year and play at a faster tempo.”

The Lady Lakers had a historic season previously, going 28-6 overall and 13-1 in conference play and claiming the conference crown. Mid Michigan College advanced to the “Sweet 16” in the NCJAA National Championships, but fell short in a heart-breaking loss to the national runner-ups in Richard Bland 88-85.

“I think last year’s success helped us set a really high standard for how we approach things this season,” said head coach Lance Maney. “The returning players enjoyed the success and want more, and the players we recruited want to be a part of a successful program so they’ve come in ready to go and collectively we set a high standard for our team.”

All five starters from the previous season graduated from the school and went on to play ball at four-year universities. Despite losing many of the top-tier talent, coach Maney had no problem finding the weaponry needed in order to keep the team competitive.

“I think we’re a little more versatile this season,” he said. “We definitely press a good amount and want to set an up-tempo tone on both sides of the ball, dictating the tempo is important to us. We have a lot of weapons and players that can score. We have 6 players that scored 1000 points in high school. Also our uptempo pace helps & that we share the ball.”

Similar to last year’s team, the contribution is balanced across the board – seven players contributing six points or more per start. The team as a collective averages 77 points per game while allowing oppo-

nents to score 58.

Sophomore forward Terre’ya Moore is the top returner as she averages nine points and eight rebounds per game.

Freshman guard Chloe Watson also averages 12 points, six boards and four assists while freshman guard Rachel Resio averages 17 points and four assists.

To date the Lakers have already defeated 15th-ranked Schoolcraft (77-69) and have wins over St. Clair (78-67), Lakeland (77-71) and Lansing Community College (72-63) which have all garnered votes in the top-25 poll.

On Jan. 10, Mid Michigan College coasted through Kalamazoo Valley Community College, 78-46. The Lady Lakers were ahead 42-20 at half and held the Cougars to only 13 points per quarter in the second half.

Watson led the way for the Lady Lakers with 18 points while Moore and freshman Rachel Resio both added 13 points.

“I’m really proud of our team’s ability to find ways to win,” Maney said. “The goal moving forward is that we continue to build more consistency that comes with experience— so that we’re playing 40 minutes every night to the standard that we’ve set.”

Mid Michigan College will be on the road on Jan. 13 to take on North Central Michigan College (1-11). Tip-off is at 1 p.m. football still hasn’t left his mind.

After his last season at WVU, Bell did participate in the spring football practice for the Mountaineers. Putting on the pads once again is an idea that he has flirted with from time to time as his collegiate basketball career is coming to a close.

“Technically, I have another year of eligibility left for football,” he said jokingly.



LADY LAKERS

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+ SPORTS



KARIM MCCUNE

McCune commits, enrolls early to Fresno State

By HASANI ALI

Karim McCune decided to have a change of heart and wanted to take his talents to the Mountain West Conference.

Originally committed to UNLV, the Saginaw native and the Saginaw United standout committed and enrolled to Fresno State University last month.

He also had an offer from San Jose State University.

“The moment I signed to UNLV, I received a long text message from Coach Pat, the offensive coordinator at Fresno State,” McCune said. “He said that he really wanted me to join his program and that I would be a great fit there. It was somewhere that I actually wanted to play and Fresno State has a history of producing receivers that go to the NFL so it was a no-brainer.”

McCune had a stellar sophomore cam-

paign at Monterey Peninsula College, totaling 35 receptions for 887 yards for 14 touchdowns – averaging 25 yards per catch.

The Lobos (8-3, 6-0 Golden Coast Conference), fell short to Foothill College 35-22 in the American Division bowl game.

McCune’s freshman year was impressive as well, catching 26 passes for 565 yards for eight touchdowns – averaging 21.7 yards per catch.

He also earned Player of the Game honors during the 2022 NCFC Grizzly Bowl. McCune scored two touchdowns, which helped Monterey Peninsula College defeat College of the Redwoods in that game, 42-21.

The Lobos finished with a 7-4 overall record last season.

The 5-foot-11, 170 pound wide receiver also earned recognition with All-State

honors in Region 2.

Originally a basketball star, McCune found a better opportunity on the gridiron rather than on the court at the collegiate level.

“Basketball and football kind of goes hand-in-hand for me,” he said during his media interview while signing his letter of intent. “I just applied my skill set to the football field and just had to make adjustments as football is more of a physical sport.”

McCune was originally signed to play basketball at Macomb Community College in the Detroit area, but some heavy consideration gave him motivation to change direction.

Understanding that his chances of making it to the NBA as an undersized guard, he took a chance on himself and made the move to California.

“I didn’t want to go to California as the opportunity at the JUCO didn’t come with a scholarship,” McCune said. “But it was the only opportunity in football that I had so I knew that if I went over and did what I had to do that big things would come out of it and it paid off.”

The opportunity paid off big time as his experience in California was quite challenging.

“I’m not going to lie, it was very hard getting adjusted over there,” McCune said. “I was living with seven other guys in a two-bedroom apartment. I had to cover my own tuition along with room and board so it was so much to juggle at once. Not to mention my daughter was born out there so I really had to knuckle down and focus on what I needed to do in order to get to the next level of my career.”

McCune was a part of the inaugural Saginaw United football team, where Saginaw High and Arthur Hill (city rivals) combined to have one football team.

As the team went 1-9 their initial season, McCune had many struggles adjusting to the game as a first-year varsity football player.

“I had to use my natural ability at first because I didn’t have the skill,” he said. “Honestly, I knew that game, but I didn’t know it all the way through. My coach helped me out as much as he could – getting me used to being aware of where I am on the field and really helping develop my craft.”

+ SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTO

Hail to the perfect season!

By HASANI ALI

The maize and blue has silenced all critics!

In one of the most controversial seasons that the NCAA has seen, the University of Michigan has finally redeemed themselves, capping off an immaculate season with a 34-13 victory over the University of Washington at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas.

The Wolverines has brought home their 10th national title back to Ann Arbor – the first time since 1997.

Being outmatched outright, the Huskies didn't have enough in the trick bag to make a comeback in the second half.

Washington was only trailing 17-10 at halftime.

The Wolverines were only held to six points between the second and third quarter as it seemed like the Husky defense finally adjusted to Michigan's unbalanced formation.

Washington's head coach Kalen DeBoer and his staff were quick to make adjustments after the Wolverines took a quick 14-3 lead in the first quarter.

"We were expected to have Michigan

hit us with their hardest punch early on," he said midgame during an ESPN interview. "Our defense just has to account for every player on the field. "We know that Michigan is a run-heavy team, so if another offensive lineman is added to the lineup, then we should anticipate a run play coming."

Michael Penix Jr. threw his second interception late in the fourth quarter, which diminished any chance of a comeback in the second half.

Washington was scoreless in the fourth quarter.

The Heisman runner-up finished the game, completing 27-of-51 passes for 255 yards along with two touchdowns and two interceptions.

The Huskies' rushing attack was ineffective as junior running back Dillon Johnson was plagued with an ankle injury early in the first half.

"It just got harder on me," he said. "First play of the game, got a high ankle sprain on my left foot, my left ankle, so I had to fight through that too. I don't know what else to say."

Johnson also suffered an injury on the same ankle during the semi-final game

versus Texas.

"Just a lot of rehabbing," Johnson said. "I felt like I was fine, but then I injured the same ankle the first play of the game. That's about it."

Michigan's offense was clicking on all cylinders during the game.

Quarterback J.J. McCarthy went 10-of-18 passing for 140 yards. Senior running back Blake Corum had a field day – rushed for 134 yards on 21 carries and two touchdowns during his final hoorah as a Wolverine.

Junior running back Donovan Edwards had six carries for 104 yards and two touchdowns.

"We came back as a team, we came back as brothers, this is what we came back for, we came back to get a natty, we came back to win for Michigan, and we did it," Corum said during the postgame interview. "I am just so blessed and so speechless, I am just trying to take everything in."

Corum turned down the opportunity to go to the NFL to increase his draft stock by staying for this senior season.

The Wolverines returned to the college playoffs after being upset by TCU 51-45 last season.

+ SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTO

Former BV Star counting lucky clovers after upset win over Brother Rice

By HASANI ALI

Former Buena Vista standout and Notre Dame star Tory Jackson had a sigh of relief as he finally saw his work pay from the beginning of his coaching career at Detroit Catholic Central High School.

The Shamrocks pulled off a 55-53 upset against no. 2 Birmingham Brother Rice last week in conference play last week.

"It was more than just a win," Jackson said. "It was a statement win for our program. We've had a strong non-conference schedule and now we're getting into the action in the Catholic League. We can run with any of these teams, some of the tough-

est in the state. We just need to believe in ourselves."

Catholic Central, now 7-3 (1-2 in conference play), has built enough confidence for the players to know that they can compete with some of the best talent in the state.

"These guys are playing with a purpose and for each other," Jackson said. "The attitudes are definitely changing. They are beginning to realize that they're better than some of these other athletes that are on scholarship. So now they're working to get those same opportunities."

The Shamrocks were holding onto a slim seven-point lead against the nation-

ally ranked Warriors with less than seven minutes remaining left in the game.

A comeback was inevitable with a loaded lineup with some college bound talent – Mr. Basketball hopeful Warren Marshall, an Oakland University signee, to Williams, the five-star son of Detroit Pistons coach Monty Williams, guard David Williams, power forward Luke Salkowski, Notre Dame baseball commit Chase Van Ameyde and recent transfer Trevor Smith, a 6-foot-8 sophomore who already has Division I college interest.

While Brother Rice's Elijah Williams stood at the foul line, Jackson took the opportunity to use the brief intermission to give words of encouragement to his point guard, Uchenna Amene.

"He's our alpha, man," Jackson said. "I was telling him, 'You're the best guard in the Catholic League. Just calm down. We're going to get it. We're going to win this game. But we've got to play through you.' We just needed trust."

As predicted, Brother Rice came back with vengeance.

The Warriors outscored The Shamrocks 17-10 in a five-minute run, which included seven points from Williams coming from the foul line.

A pair of free throws knotted the game at 53 with one minute remaining in the game. Jackson took a timeout and had to think fast on how to put together the final basket for the win.

"When we got the ball back, I was trying to figure out what we were going to do," he said. "I didn't want to give it to a shooter. I wanted to give it to Uchenna and just let him rock out. And that's what happened. We found the matchup that we wanted, and he attacked it like a man."

At the top of the key with 12.2 seconds remaining in the game, Amene received a screen to drive to the basket and managed to score off of a scoop layup with his right hand.

Brother Rice did manage to take a last-second shot from half court, but rimmed out.



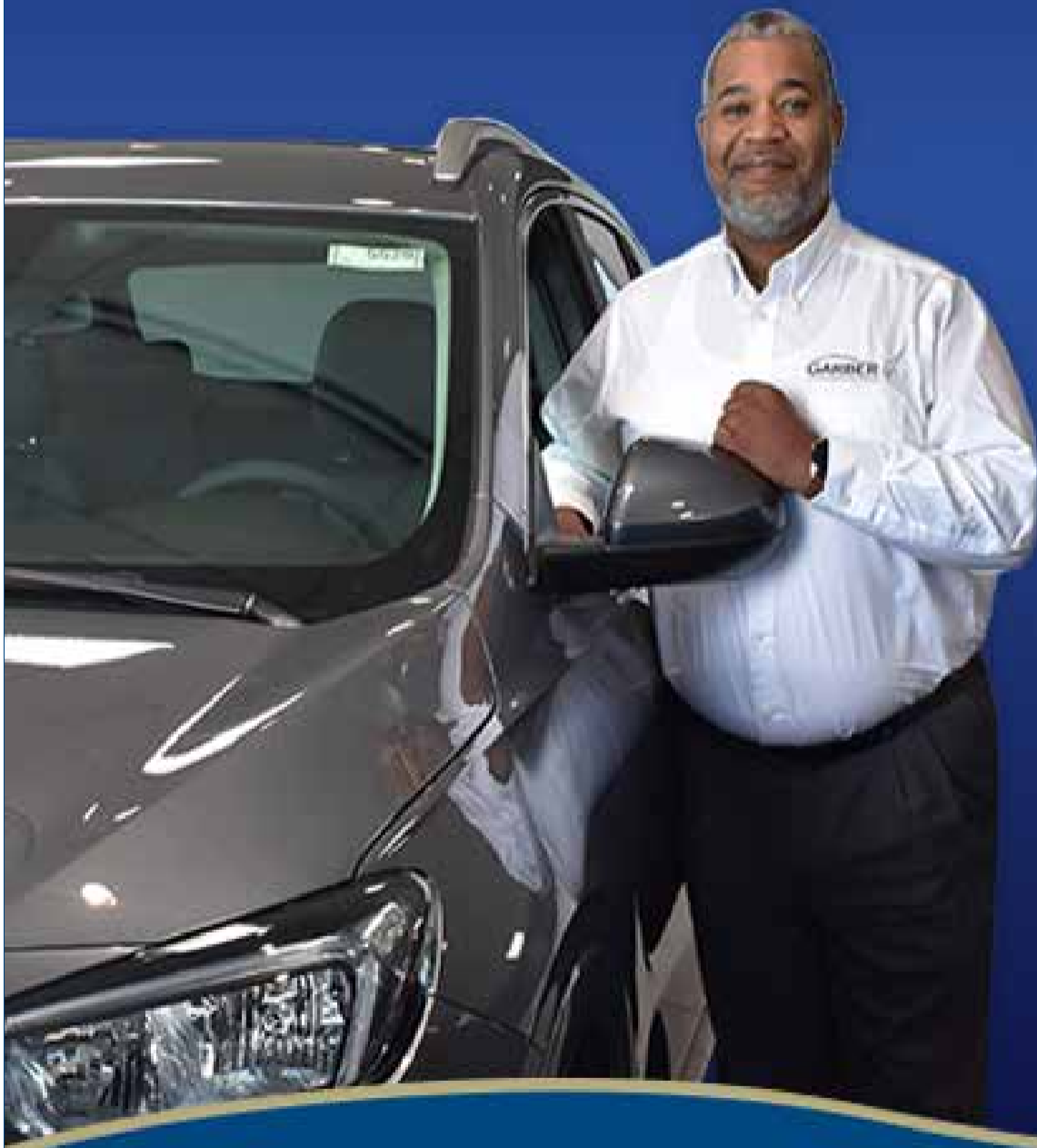
PICS OF THE WEEK

The 28th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Celebration took place on Monday, Jan 15 and featured a unity march and luncheon with keynote speaker Delta College alumnus Bob Johnson. Dorian Rouse-Phelps, Delta College's Downtown Saginaw Center coordinator, received the 2024 recipient of the College's Spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr. Award.



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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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