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PICS OF THE WEEK
First Ward hosts the 30th Annual "Taste of Soul" Luncheon

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH


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REMEMBERING
MARY ANNE ACKERMAN
COMMUNITY, PG 16

REMEMBERING
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ERIC MAYS



SEPT 16, 1958 - FEB 24, 2024

Michigan Strategic Fund approves grants for new Corning manufacturing facility, over 1,100 jobs in Michigan

Company selects Saginaw County to build out domestic supply chain for solar energy components



CORNING INCORPORATED

LANSING – Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced Corning Incorporated has chosen Michigan for a new manufacturing facility dedicated to the creation of U.S.-made solar components with support from the Michigan Strategic Fund. This investment will help meet a sharp rise in demand for solar power that the current domestic solar supply chain cannot meet while creating good-paying jobs that put Michigan on track to achieve a greener, more sustainable future.

“Corning has a long, proud history in Michigan, and today they are expanding their footprint here with a new manufac-

turing facility creating over 1,100 good-paying jobs,” said Governor Whitmer. “With an investment of up to \$900 million in Saginaw County, Corning chose Michigan for this facility because of our talent pool and commitment to being the best state to build an American-made clean energy future. Together, we will continue charging towards our 100% clean energy by 2040, bring the solar supply chain home, and create middle-class, family-sustaining jobs for Michiganders. Let’s keep compet-

**CONTINUES ON PG 2,
CORNING INCORPORATED**

THE MICHIGAN BANNER IS A
PROUD MEMBER OF:



Cover Story, Corning Incorporated

ing for and winning these projects.”

To grow this domestic supply, Corning, on behalf of its wholly owned subsidiary, Solar Technology, LLC, plans to build a new manufacturing facility in Richland Township in Saginaw County with an investment of up to \$900 million. The project is expected to create over 1,100 jobs, with starting wages expected to exceed the median wage for the region. Additionally, employees will receive a comprehensive benefits package.

Corning chose Michigan for the project over competing sites in the Midwest and Northeast because of its talent pool and commitment to onshore critical clean energy supply chains.

To support the project, the Michigan Strategic Fund today approved:

- A \$68 million performance-based Critical Industries Program (CIP) grant through the Strategic Outreach and Reserve Fund (SOAR).
- A 15-Year State Essential Services Assessment Exemption valued at \$12.3 million.
- A \$29 million Strategic Site Readiness Program (SSRP) grant to Thomas Township for public infrastructure, road improvements and related expenses.

“We are grateful to Corning Corporation and its partners for this vote of confidence in Team Michigan. The MEDC is proud to support companies like Corning who prove you can ‘Make it in Michigan’ regardless of whether you are a small company just starting out, have called Michigan home for a long time, or are entirely new to our great state,” said MEDC CEO and MSF Board President Quentin Messer, Jr. “By onshoring our clean energy supply chain through projects like this, Michigan continues to assert its dominance in an industry that is vital not only to our energy independence but also to our climate security. Corning has a long history of innovation and civic engagement. We are excited to welcome the company to Michigan to author the next chapters in its storied history right here in the Saginaw region moving forward.”

The proposed facility will build on Corning’s deep global business expertise

and world-leading capabilities in materials science.

“We are grateful for the strong leadership, collaboration and support from Governor Whitmer, the Michigan Legislature and the State of Michigan,” said Scott Forster, Corning division vice president and program executive, Solar. “These approved incentives helped confirm Michigan as the natural choice for this new endeavor. The planned facility will create thousands of local jobs and advance the goal of expanding access to U.S. renewable energy solutions.”

Richland Township anticipates approval of a property tax abatement in support of the project. Further, it is anticipated the influx of jobs will result in spin-off investments and redevelopment opportunities, including over \$5.6 billion in new personal income generated over 20 years by the direct, indirect, and induced jobs from the project.

“We are thrilled to work with such a great company and to have an investment and job creation project of this magnitude coming to Saginaw County and the Great Lakes Bay Region”, said JoAnn Crary, President of Saginaw Future Inc. “This has been an excellent partnership between Corning, the MEDC, local government entities and Saginaw Future. We are pleased the MSF Board voted to support this incredible development and look forward to seeking legislative approval.”

A 2023 Clean Jobs America Report stated that clean energy businesses in Michigan added more than 5,400 workers in 2022 and now employ 123,983 Michiganders. Michigan now leads the Midwest in number of clean energy workers. According to the World Resource Institute, by the year 2040, the state could create 41,000 new jobs as it advances electric vehicle manufacturing and with the build-out of renewable energy, like solar and wind.

Michigan offers a broad range of high-tech talent, ranking first in the country for our concentration of engineering talent and commercial and industrial designers, and ranking in the top 10 nationally for our semiconductor workforce, STEM degree completions and our tech talent pipeline. Michigan is also home to over a fifth of the nation’s manufacturing workforce, including diverse and knowledgeable skilled tradesmen and tradeswomen.

Local and partner voices in support of the project:

“Michigan has always been a beacon of manufacturing greatness, and I am thrilled to see that tradition continue with Corning’s investment in Saginaw County,” said Sen. Kevin Daley (R-Lum). “This project will result in the creation of many quality jobs and give a tremendous boost to our community.”

“I am proud and excited to support the new Corning Solar Technology manufacturing facility in Richland Township,” said Rep. Graham Filler (R-Duplain Township). “Over 1,000 new jobs, hundreds of millions of dollars of investment, and advancements in technology and manufacturing are true blessings for the township, Saginaw County, and the State of Michigan.”

“Opportunities happen when we invest in a better future. We recently passed the Michigan Jobs, Michigan Energy bill package and it is already paying off. This announcement for my community will spur over \$900 million in investments and over 1,000 jobs in just one new energy facility – imagine what lies ahead. We are committed to moving toward more environmentally friendly modes of energy, and we are just getting started,” Rep. Amos O’Neal (D-Saginaw).

“This tremendous win for mid-Michigan families and our local economy is no coincidence. 1,100 high-paying jobs are coming here because Corning sees Michigan’s commitment to growing clean energy and our region’s success in advanced manufacturing,” said Sen. Kristen McDonald Rivet (D-Bay City). “It’s a massive investment, and I’m elated for the positive impact it will have on our families now and for decades to come.”

“We’re privileged to help usher in jobs and investment by providing businesses the competitive energy solutions they need to grow and thrive,” said Brian Rich, Consumers Energy’s Senior Vice President and Chief Customer Officer and a member of the MEDC’s Executive Committee. “We’re proud to partner with Corning and the MEDC to help power Corning’s progress and success with innovative energy solutions.”

MICHIGAN BANNER

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MISSION

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

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DEADLINES

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

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Mailed or e-mailed
Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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Happy Women's History Month!

- From The Michigan Banner -



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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 6 • NUMBER 5



YOU'RE CALLED

By DONIQUA SOVIA

Quitting visits the minds of the defeated.

It leaves what seems like no options, but to abandon what's not working. Though you try, to come up with a solution, you find yourself back at the same location.

But never once consider, that your work has no meaning. You're called, by the One who made your very being. He will help you in times of unknowing, when you're unsure what to do. He'll give you the words to say when they seem to have escaped you.

God has a way of qualifying the called. You need no special training to do what He wants, at all. Just simple obedience, even when you're second guessing, and a trip of a lifetime you will be riding. So, do it; write the book, start the business, get to speaking, give those speeches, no matter what it is, just know you're called, and the only qualification is to say "Yes" to it all.





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Visit and follow us on Facebook at *First Ward Youth Employment*

Empowering teen girls: Celebrating Women's History Month

CELEBRATING
WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH



By MB STAFF

Women's History Month provides a unique opportunity for teen girls to celebrate the achievements, resilience, and contributions of women throughout history. It serves as a reminder of the countless trailblazers who have paved the way for gender equality and inspired future generations. Here are a few creative and empowering ways in which teen girls can commemorate Women's History Month and amplify the voices of women past and present:

Educate and Learn

One of the most impactful ways for teen girls to celebrate Women's History Month is by educating themselves about the remarkable women who have shaped history. They can explore books, documentaries, and online resources that highlight the achievements and struggles of women from diverse backgrounds and fields. By learning about the experiences of women pioneers, activists, scientists, artists, and

leaders, teen girls gain a deeper appreciation for the complexities of gender equality and the importance of representation.

Host a Women's History Month Event

Teen girls can organize or participate in events to celebrate Women's History Month within their communities or schools. This could include panel discussions, film screenings, art exhibits, or performances that showcase the achievements and contributions of women. By creating spaces for dialogue and reflection, teen girls can raise awareness about women's history and inspire others to become advocates for gender equality.

Amplify Women's Voices

Teen girls can use their platforms and voices to amplify the stories and achievements of women, both locally and globally. This could involve sharing articles, artwork, or social media posts that highlight women's accomplishments and contribu-

tions. Additionally, teen girls can engage in advocacy efforts to support women's rights and address issues such as gender-based violence, discrimination, and unequal representation in leadership.

Honor Women in Their Lives

Women's History Month is an opportunity for teen girls to honor and celebrate the women who have influenced and inspired them personally. This could include mothers, grandmothers, sisters, teachers, mentors, or friends who have supported and encouraged them on their journey. Teen girls can express their gratitude through letters, artwork, or acts of kindness, acknowledging the invaluable role that these women play in shaping their lives and aspirations.

Reflect and Take Action

Women's History Month is not only a time for celebration but also a call to action for teen girls to reflect on the progress that has been made and the work that remains to be done. They can use this month as an opportunity to set goals, make commitments, and take concrete steps towards creating a more equitable and inclusive society. Whether it's volunteering, fundraising, or advocating for policy change, teen girls have the power to make a difference in the fight for gender equality.

Women's History Month empowers teen girls to celebrate the achievements, resilience, and contributions of women past and present. By educating themselves, hosting events, amplifying women's voices, honoring women in their lives, and taking action, teen girls can play a vital role in advancing the cause of gender equality. As they commemorate Women's History Month, teen girls inspire hope, ignite change, and continue the legacy of women who have dared to dream and defy the odds.



H.I.R.E. WORK READINESS PROGRAM

First Ward’s H.I.R.E. Work Readiness and Summer Youth Employment Program is designed to focus on three areas: Outdoor recreation, Job skill development, and Employment encounters with links to the local Natural Resource Based Industry. The program is intended to respond to the social, educational, and economic problems faced by youth lacking occupational training and employment skills such as low self-esteem, underachievement, and poverty.

We are looking forward to working with you this year!

Please apply in person with Ms. Wendy Traylor, Workforce Development Coordinator, at First Ward Community Center or call 989.753.0411 ext. 14 for more information.

Follow us on Facebook at First Ward Summer Youth Employment

First Ward
 Community Center

1410 N. 12th St.
 Saginaw, MI 48601

Phone: 989.753.0411
 E-mail: wtraylor@firstward.us

THE MICHIGAN BANNER NEWS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AT&T



Our commitment to help bridge the digital divide

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



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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

Davenport University to host hundreds of Michigan Latino students this spring



COURTESY PHOTO

Leaders at Davenport University and the nonprofit Advocates for Latino Student Advancement in Michigan Education (Alsame) announced the spring 2024 conference will be held at Davenport's Grand Rapids campus.

More than 200 students will gather at Davenport's Lettinga Campus for the one-day conference on May 3. Alsame is committed to Latino students and parents and sponsors college fairs all over the state to assist Latino students in their desire for a college degree. High school students across the state are encouraged to attend, but seats are limited. More details will be shared by Alsame with high school counselors and the community soon.

Students who attend will hear from Latino leaders and learn all about attending college. Topics will include getting into college, how to pay for it, mental health,

and the overall experience of campus life.

"This annual conference is an amazing resource for Latino high school students who want to pursue a post-secondary education," said Salvador Lopez, co-chair of the Alsame board. "We appreciate Davenport hosting all the participants this year. Students will love being on the college's campus in Grand Rapids, and we're excited to be planning the 2024 conference."

Davenport President Richard J. Pappas said hosting the Alsame conference this spring is a perfect fit for the university, which is poised to announce a new bilingual program called Casa Latina. The university will begin enrolling students for the program that will begin fall 2024. Pappas said the university will meet students where they are.

"Our goal with Casa Latina is to increase the number of Latinos who have

earned college degrees," said Pappas. "Hosting hundreds of high school students for the Alsame Conference this spring will give them great exposure to Davenport and let them know college is indeed possible for them. We're excited about both programs."

Spearheading Davenport's involvement with Alsame is Carlos Sanchez, the executive director of Casa Latina.

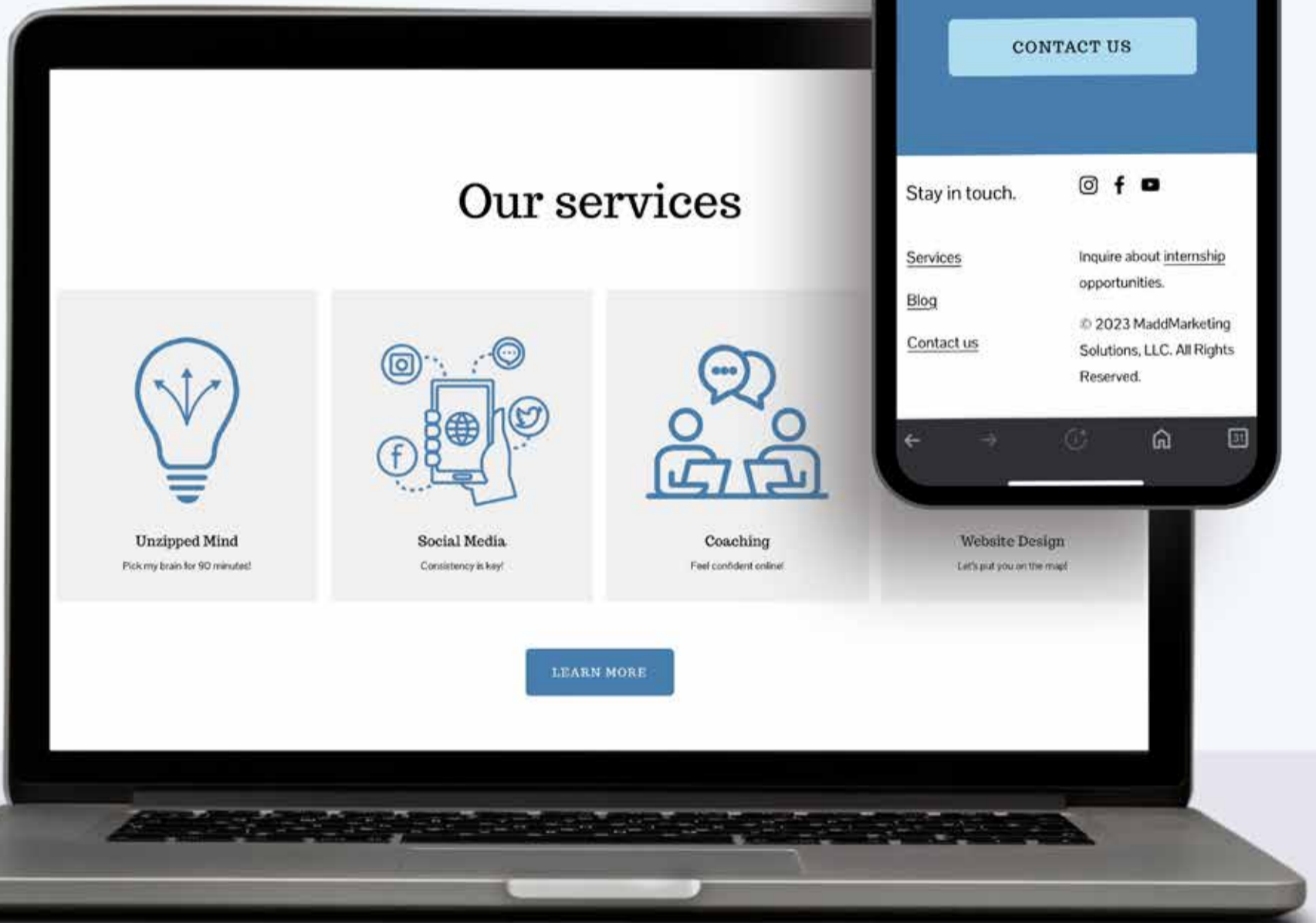
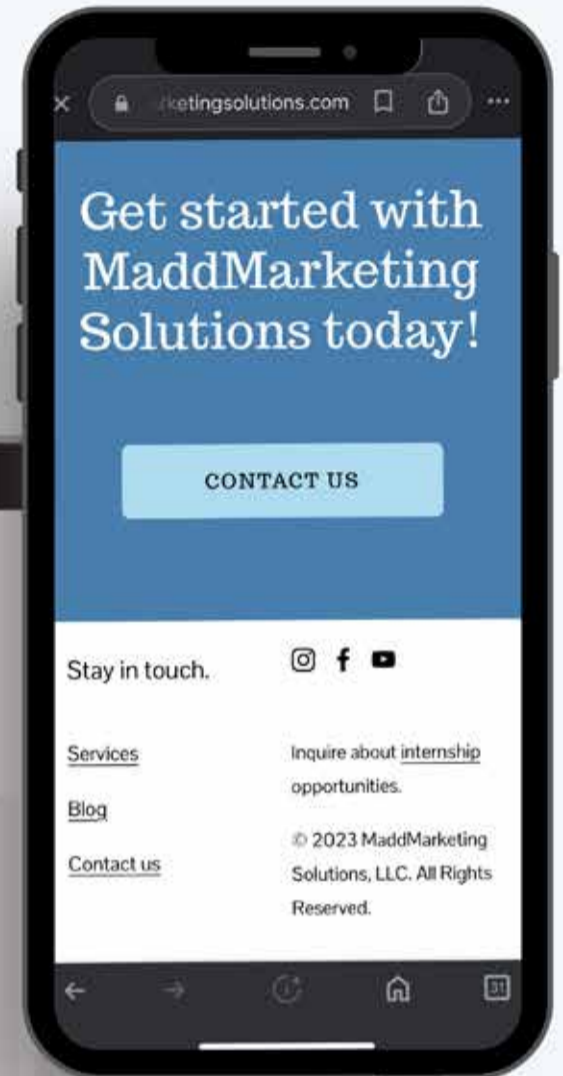
"We know that only about 20% of Latinos have earned a bachelor's degree by the time they hit 30 years old," said Sanchez. "Alsame works to improve that number, and Davenport is honored to be involved with the group and the students they serve. You will soon be hearing more about our new program Casa Latina, which will be unique in how it supports bilingual students on their way to a degree."

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CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Latinas Making History: Trailblazers, Visionaries, and Change-Makers

By MB STAFF

Latinas have made significant contributions to various fields, leaving an indelible mark on history through their resilience, leadership, and innovation. Despite facing systemic barriers and intersecting forms of discrimination, Latinas have risen to prominence as trailblazers, visionaries, and change-makers. Here are just a few Latinas who have shaped history across diverse spheres of influence.

Latinas have played pivotal roles in shaping political landscapes, advocating for social justice, and championing the rights of marginalized communities. **Dolores Huerta**, co-founder of the United Farm Workers union, emerged as a leading figure in the labor movement, fighting tirelessly for the rights of farmworkers and immigrant workers. Sonia Sotomayor made history as the first Latina Supreme Court Justice, bringing a wealth of experience and perspective to the highest court in the land. Additionally, **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**, the youngest woman ever elected to Congress, has become a powerful voice for progressive policies and equitable representation in government.

Latinas have made profound contributions to arts, literature, and cultural expression, enriching the fabric of society with their creativity and storytelling. **Frida Kahlo**, renowned Mexican artist, challenged societal norms and explored themes of identity, pain, and resilience through her iconic paintings. **Gloria Estefan**, Grammy-winning musician and songwriter, broke barriers in the music industry, fusing Latin rhythms with pop sensibilities and becoming an international sensation. **Sandra Cisneros**, acclaimed author of "The House on Mango Street," illuminated the experiences of Latina women and girls, forging a path for diverse voices in literature.

Latinas have excelled in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), driving innovation and breaking stereotypes in male-dominated fields. **Ellen Ochoa**, the first Latina astronaut, shattered the glass ceiling at NASA, logging



DOLORES HUERTA

over 1,000 hours in space and inspiring future generations of scientists and explorers. **Dr. Haydée Rodríguez**, a leading neuroscientist, has conducted groundbreaking research on Alzheimer's disease and neurodegenerative disorders, advancing our understanding of the human brain. Furthermore, **Dr. Julieta Fierro**, an astrophysicist and science communicator, has made significant contributions to astronomy education and outreach, making complex scientific concepts accessible to diverse audiences.

Latinas have been at the forefront of social justice movements, advocating for equity, inclusion, and human rights on local, national, and global scales. **Sylvia Rivera**, a transgender Latina activist, co-founded the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activists Alliance, paving the way for LGBTQ+ rights and visibility. Dolores Huerta continued her activism beyond the

labor movement, championing women's rights, environmental justice, and immigrant rights through her organization, the Dolores Huerta Foundation. Additionally, **Cecilia Muñoz**, former Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, worked tirelessly to shape policies that uplifted immigrant communities and promoted economic opportunity for all.

Latinas have left an indelible imprint on history through their leadership, resilience, and unwavering commitment to progress. From political trailblazers and cultural icons to STEM pioneers and social justice advocates, Latinas have shattered barriers, defied expectations, and paved the way for future generations. Their stories inspire us to continue the fight for equity, justice, and inclusion, ensuring that Latinas' contributions are recognized, celebrated, and woven into the fabric of history.



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COURTESY PHOTO

The importance of Women's History Month

By MB STAFF

Women's History Month is a time dedicated to honoring and recognizing the invaluable contributions of women throughout history. It serves as a poignant reminder of the struggles, achievements, and enduring resilience of women across diverse cultures, generations, and societies.

Recognition of Women's Contribution

Women have played integral roles in shaping the course of history, yet their contributions have often been overshadowed or omitted from mainstream narratives. Women's History Month provides a platform to acknowledge and celebrate the myriad achievements of women in every field imaginable – from science, literature, and politics to art, activism, and beyond. By highlighting these achievements, we honor the resilience, creativity, and determination of women who have paved the way for progress and change.

Preserving Herstory

Women's History Month is a crucial opportunity to preserve and amplify the stories of women whose voices have been marginalized or silenced throughout history. By reclaiming and documenting these narratives, we ensure that future generations have a more complete

understanding of the diverse experiences and perspectives of women. This process of "her-story" preservation not only validates women's contributions but also challenges dominant historical narratives that have traditionally centered on male achievements.

Inspiring Empowerment

One of the most significant impacts of Women's History Month is its ability to inspire empowerment and activism among women and girls worldwide. By showcasing the achievements of trailblazing women who have defied societal expectations and shattered glass ceilings, Women's History Month provides role models and mentors for aspiring leaders. These stories of resilience and determination serve as a source of inspiration, encouraging women to pursue their passions, advocate for their rights, and effect positive change in their communities.

Promoting Gender Equality

Women's History Month serves as a catalyst for conversations about gender equality and social justice. By raising awareness of the systemic barriers and inequalities that women have faced throughout history, we can mobilize efforts to dismantle these structures and create a more equitable society. Moreover, Women's History Month underscores the im-

portance of intersectionality, recognizing that gender equality cannot be achieved without addressing the intersecting forms of discrimination based on race, class, sexuality, and other identities.

Celebrating Diversity

Women's History Month celebrates the rich diversity of women's experiences, identities, and achievements. It is an opportunity to recognize the contributions of women from all backgrounds – including women of color, LGBTQ+ women, indigenous women, immigrant women, and women with disabilities. By centering these diverse voices, Women's History Month fosters inclusivity and solidarity among women, amplifying their collective strength and resilience.

Women's History Month is not only a time to celebrate the achievements of women but also a call to action for gender equality and social justice. By recognizing women's contributions, preserving their stories, inspiring empowerment, promoting equality, and celebrating diversity, Women's History Month reaffirms the importance of honoring women's past, present, and future. It is a testament to the enduring legacy of women's resilience, creativity, and unwavering commitment to progress.

+ COMMUNITY

REMEMBERING
MARY ANNE ACKERMAN

Mary Anne Ackerman led a life of service. As a third-term mayor in Frankenmuth and leader in numerous civic organizations, her energy and commitment were second to none. In addition, her devotion to the education of students from pre-school through college defined her life-long career.

Mary Anne, born May 8, 1957, died February 24, 2024, at Covenant Hospital in Saginaw after a short intense battle with cancer. She was 66. Born in Reese, Michigan to Lionel and Elaine Ackerman, she was the oldest of six children. After graduating high school, she attended Delta College and then earned a bachelor's degree in education from Michigan State University, later completing a master's degree in school administration at Saginaw Valley State University.

She married Harry Zells on October 30, 1982, in Reese, Michigan.

Her teaching career took her through the educational ranks, first teaching and then becoming principal of Millington

Glaza Elementary. She moved on to work as the principal at Frankenmuth's Lorenz List Elementary (1995-2005). Subsequently she was named Assistant Superintendent of the Frankenmuth School District (2005-2006), and finally Superintendent (2006-2016).

After her retirement from the local schools, she used her educational expertise in her role as Executive in Residence and Co-Director of the Gerstacker Fellowship Program at Saginaw Valley State University, a leadership development opportunity for select teachers and administrators throughout the State of Michigan. She also was a member of the Board of Directors of the SVSU Foundation.

After serving on the Frankenmuth City Council, she was elected mayor for three terms starting in 2019 and her role in the community expanded exponentially. She was an active participant in various government committees and city-wide initiatives including the Sister City Exchange program with Gunzenhausen, Germany.

Her civic involvement also included President of the Frankenmuth Historical Association, President of Noon Rotary, where she was honored by being named a Paul Harris Fellow, as well as representing city council on the board of the Frankenmuth Wickson District Library. As a passionate gardener, she enjoyed being a member of the Beautification Committee.

Her husband, Harry Zells, survives her as well as two children, Zachary (Jenny) Zells, Emily Zells, and three grandchildren; Quentin Park, Briggs Zehnder, and Graham Ackerman.

Mary Anne is survived by her five siblings, Susan (Wes) Cypher, Theresa (Greg) Sahr, Louise (Shane) Hunt, Charlene (Mark) Hagen, and John (Amy) Ackerman as well as beloved nieces, nephews, and godchildren.

Mary Anne's story ends with her own words. "All of us should listen with respect and genuine interest to everyone's story."

Mary Anne requested that those who want to make memorial donations consider these non-profit organizations: Frankenmuth City Beautification, Special Kids in Action, and the Frankenmuth Wickson District Library.

According to Mary Anne's wishes, a memorial service will take place Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, 958 E. Tuscola St. Seating will start at the church at 10:00 a.m. due to the expected large attendance. Greeting the family will take place after the service.



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THE MOTHER YOU KNOW *Contest*



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- 📌 **Community Mother You Know**
- 📌 **Foster Mother You Know**
- 📌 **Church Mother You Know**
- 📌 **Stepmother You Know**
- 📌 **God Mother You Know**
- 📌 **A Mother's Reflection**

Winners will be eligible for various monetary prizes ranging from \$500 to \$50 or other prizes. All contestants will be acknowledged with a certificate of participation.

Note: Essays will be reviewed using a blind review process.

Submit NOMINATION

Submit your essay by **Friday, March 22, 2024** by visiting <https://forms.gle/Shp5bV8XN8qD9YLZ6> or using the QR Code:



Winners will be recognized at an Awards Brunch event on
Date: Saturday, May 4, 2024
Location: 1000 Tuscola St.
Time: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For More information:
Call (989) 737- 9286 or
Email ewmtoday@aol.com.

Essay QUESTIONS

In 500 words or less, use the following questions to inspire your essay

(Please include the Award Category in your submission)

- How did your mother impact your life?
- What's your best memory of your mother?
- Describe a lesson your mother taught you?
- How does a mother's love affect her children?
- How does becoming a mother change your life?
- What does a mother learn from the loss of a child?
- What inspiring story about motherhood (in any form) do you want to share that others need to hear?
- What impact do surrogate mothers have (e.g. grandmother, community mother, foster mother, church mother, stepmother, god mother, etc.) when they step in for absent mothers of mothers in need?
- Write a poem that celebrates your mother or a prominent mother figure you know.



SPONSORED BY:



Evelyn McGovern



+ COMMUNITY



Women

By MB STAFF

In the month of March, we gather 'round,
To celebrate women so profound.
Their stories woven through time's embrace,
Their strength and courage, we now embrace.

From ancient times to modern days,
Women have walked in countless ways.
They've fought for rights, for freedoms won,
Their battles fought, their victories spun.

In every field, they've left their mark,
From science labs to theaters dark.
In boardrooms, classrooms, fields of art,
They've shown the world their boundless heart.

Rosa Parks on a bus did sit,
Refusing to yield, refusing to quit.
Marie Curie, with her discoveries bright,
Lit up the world with her scientific light.

Frida Kahlo, with her vibrant brush,
Captured pain, passion, in every lush
Brushstroke, telling tales of her soul,
A legacy that continues to unfold.

Malala Yousafzai, with her unwavering voice,
Stood up for education, made a powerful choice.
Greta Thunberg, with her climate cries,
Inspires millions under azure skies.

So let us honor these women bold,
Their stories told, their truths extolled.
For in Women's History Month, we see,
The power, the grace, the legacy.

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1984 **40** 2024

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+ COMMUNITY



VICTORIOUS BELIEVERS MINISTRIES

Gov. Whitmer announces \$64M in grants awarded to Michigan community centers

Lansing, Mich.—The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity announced \$64 million in Community Center Grant funds for 100 Michigan municipalities and organizations to expand programming or work on capital projects to serve 1.6 million Michiganders. The grant program builds on Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's 'Make it in Michigan' strategy to win projects, invest in people and revitalize places.

"Community centers anchor thriving communities across Michigan, offering Michiganders places to gather, connect, learn, and access resources," said Gov. Whitmer. "This funding for community centers will help us deliver on our 'Make it in Michigan' vision to revitalize cities and towns across Michigan by making them more attractive places to live, work, and invest."

The grantees provide a diverse set of services including after-school programming, workforce development, recreational activities, supporting older adults and more. Grants will be awarded to 69 nonprofit agencies, 22 local government agencies and nine schools/universities all

across the state.

The grants support the governor's goal of lifting 100,000 families out of working poverty during the next five years and follows the recommendations of the Michigan Poverty Task Force to address the disparities that affect Michiganders' abilities to afford necessities such as housing, childcare, food, health care and transportation.

The American Rescue Plan Act provided \$60 million in grant funds which was appropriated by the State Legislature. In response to the resounding interest from applicants, the legislature also added \$4 million through the FY24 Supplemental Budget Bill, recognizing the need to provide funding to connect communities and provide resources to serve residents.

"Reinvesting in both rural and urban communities that have been historically underfunded remains a core priority of the House Majority," said House Appropriations Chair state Rep. Angela Witmer (Delta Township). "This grant program is one of many examples in this year's budget reflecting that commitment by dedicating much-needed resources for local govern-

ments and nonprofits that provide essential services to support healthy communities."

There were nearly 1,000 applications requesting over \$1 billion in funding. Organizations in 43 Michigan counties received funding that will serve a total of 80 counties across the state.

The Michigan Community Service Commission, the state's lead agency on volunteerism, administered the grant process.

"It was a very competitive process, and we received many great applications that went through a thorough review procedure," said Michigan Community Service Commission Executive Director Ginna Holmes. "The investment in Michigan neighborhoods will continue to improve the lives of residents across the state, ensuring more Michiganders have an equal opportunity to prosperity."

Local organization, VBM Community Outreach, Inc., received \$1,300,000. The organization is under the church, Victorious Believers Ministries, located at 624 S. Outer Dr. in Buena Vista Charter Township.

+ COMMUNITY

Saginaw Art Jamboree supports local artists, creatives, and nonprofits in Great Lakes Bay Region

By **ABBIE PEDROTTE**

In September 2022, Jocelyn Gonzales, Max Gilbert, Emilie Brenay, and Nicole Anton organized and executed their first Art Jamboree at the Lee Mansion in Saginaw. All four organizers had previously participated in The Saginaw Showdown as vendors.

“We really felt embraced and welcomed within the community,” says Nicole Anton. “We knew that [Saginaw] needed more events like this.”

When the Jamboree founders learned they could rent the Lee Mansion, they moved forward with their first show. They focused on fostering support for local artists while also helping local organizations and making a difference in their community. This all started with the Lee and has grown into outreach spanning multiple local organizations since that first show.



organized by Nicole Anton and Cassandra Anton along with help from vendors.

The Art Jamboree’s support of local artists helps these creatives gain confidence, build a clientele, and network with other creative minds in the Great Lake Bay Region. Anton says that the Jamboree would not be possible without their vendors, who put in the work to spread the word about events and create incredible pieces to showcase.

Nicole Anton put it best: “It gives them a reason to continue pursuing their passions and help bring light into a dark world.”

Bringing light and support to the community doesn’t stop with the artists themselves. The Art Jamboree has supported countless local organizations, non-profits, and more. They have even held a food drive by asking those shopping at the Jamboree to bring non-perishable food items to donate. Items collected went to the Saginaw Food Pantry. Proceeds from shows and donors have also gone to The Lee Mansion restoration project, The Great Mural Project, The Lawn Chair Film Festival, Great Lakes Pride, and more.

At the Jamboree, you’ll find art prints, paintings, stickers, jewelry, body-care products, candles, baked goods, and more. Upcoming Jamborees are being held in the second-floor ballroom of the SVRC Marketplace in Saginaw on March 9th, April 13th, and May 11th.



The Lee Mansion is a prominent feature of the city of Saginaw, lovingly referred to as the “cat lady mansion” after previous owner Rosemary Degresero. Degresero gained local celebrity for her pet Leopard, Chichu, who lived with her in the Mansion. The last few years have seen an increased interest in restoring the historic and iconic Saginaw landmark, and the Jamboree’s hosts felt called to get involved with the restoration effort.

“The whole idea of the Art Jamboree was to give artists a place to sell their handmade artwork,” says Anton, adding that they wanted to ensure artists didn’t have to compete with the non-handmade goods often found at other craft shows. The items for sale at Art Jamborees are as unique as the people who make them, and nothing shown there can be bought in a catalog.

Along the way, they’ve picked up a few more hosts, Madison Walker and Emily Eschenweck. Today, Jamboree events are

SAGINAW ART JAMBOREE

COURTESY PHOTO (NICOLE ANTON) NICOLE ANTON

+ COMMUNITY

Cream Cheese Pound Cake



By **VALINDA CROSBY**

Cream Cheese Pound Cake is one of my most requested cake. After trying so many different recipes, the one that I am sharing today is an all-time favorite. I am so happy to share it with you today. Please follow this recipe exactly as given; I learned this the hard way!

- 1 (8) package of cream cheese soften
- 1 1/2 cups (3 sticks) of soften butter
- 3 cups of sugar
- 6 large eggs
- 3 cups of all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon of salt
- 2 Tablespoons of lemon extract

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Use a stand mixer with the flat paddle attachment.

Mix together soften butter and soften cream cheese, add sugar. Mix until fluffy.

Add eggs one at a time, blending after each one.

Sift salt and flour together in a separate pan. Slowly add to the butter and cream cheese mixture, adding a little at a time, beating until all ingredients are combined.

Add the lemon extracts, blending in slowly mixing well.

Spray Bundt pan with a nonstick flour spray. Place in the center of preheated oven and cook for 1 hour and 30 minutes. Remove from the oven. Stick a toothpick in the cake, if it comes out clean let it cool in the pan for 15 minutes. If toothpick does not come out clean, leave cake in the pan for an additional 20 minutes

After cake has cooled, remove and place on a wire rack or a cake plate.



Lemon Glaze

Mix 2 cups of confectioner sugar and 1/4 cup of fresh lemon juice, if you do not have fresh juice you can substitute with lemon extract in a small bowl. Whisk together until smooth. Drizzle on the cake. Enjoy!

Please, follow me on my YouTube channel @Valindacrosby4716 for more of my recipes.

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+ FAITH BASED

SPONSORED CONTENT



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

Join us at Ministry Without Walls

By **PASTOR JOHN DUNN**
MINISTRY WITHOUT WALLS

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

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

Our vision is for Ministry Without Walls to be:

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

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

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

Our ongoing teaching and seminars will include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

+ FAITH BASED

MICHIGAN BANNER
SERMONETTE SERIES

By MINISTER CAROLYN CARTER
TOWNSEL

The Passion Translation puts it this way, ***“This I know the favor that brings promotion and power doesn’t come from anywhere on earth, for no one exalts a person but God, the true judge of all. He alone determines where favor rests. He anoints one for greatness and brings another down to his knees.”***

This profound and powerful passage of Scripture allows us to recognize that God is sovereignly and intricately in our lives more than we can truly comprehend.

It is in error that many give credit to their promotions in life because of their academic accomplishments, work performance, personality type, seniority on the job, who they know and who they are connected to – their hook up. Yes, thank God for academic accomplishments and everything else in between, but they are not the source of promotion, and all these things must take a back seat when it comes to the Mighty Promoting Hand of the Lord. God can take a man that is without any educational achievements, un-degreed, and promote him to a position another is well qualified. Why? Because it is God who

I Grant Promotion

“For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another”

Psalm 75: 6-7 KJV



grants promotion. As Christians, regardless of what we have, or have accomplished - we are to always give God the praise and honor for all things! God has said, ***“It is I that lifts one up and sits another aside.”*** When God stands a man up no one can sit him down, and when God sits, a man down no one can stand him up!

God sees you and He knows where He has placed you. Therefore, run your God given race and keep your eyes on Him and only Him. As you continue to Love the Lord your God with all your heart, continue to look to the hills which cometh your help, continue to be obedient to His Word, continue to work while it is still day, continue to seek His face, continue to treat ev-

erybody right regardless of how they treat you, and remain humble. It is imperative that we all do what He has called us to do. For in due season, in God’s timing promotion will come.

My beloved, God is always seeking to promote His children to greater works and growing investments in His Kingdom. God will open doors for His children to prosper and allow His favor to rest upon them. It is good news, knowing that God is constantly and consistently at work preparing promotion on the Believers behalf.

Therefore, be ready for your promotion, for He has spoken – I Grant Promotion!

Blessings To All...

+ CHURCH DIRECTORY

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+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

Building your fundraising team for 2024

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Some of us have a tendency to do it alone. There's a sense of triumph that accompanies the phrase "I did that." But doing it alone can also be a lonely and unsuccessful path. That is especially true in fundraising. Here's our anti-dote to the fundraising blues: build a team.

If you're an executive director or CEO seeking to grow your organization eight types of people should be represented on your fundraising team. The first is you. That's right – you have to be part of the team. Are you committed to raising funds for your organization or are you expecting someone else to do it? Will you – and

can you – provide the leadership and the vision? The next person you need is your board chair. Do you have a relationship with the chair of the board? Do they understand what you are trying to do? Do you understand their vision and why they are willing to lead the board? Do the two of you have a shared commitment to the nonprofit and its goals? Consider your board chair your primary ally and take time to strengthen this important relationship with open lines of communication and timely sharing of information.

In terms of engaging staff, engage your right-hand person. At a large organization that could be the chief of staff, in a smaller nonprofit it could be an assistant or program leader. What's most important is that this person serves as your "ambassador" across the organization. You will also need a major donor on your team, someone who is willing to reach out to others who could make a major gift. Add a community stakeholder to help engage the community and address the political and social implications of your fundraising. Don't forget to include your family on your team. They need to understand the long hours you may end up working: they should believe

in what you are trying to do and give you moral support.

Back to your staff, your team requires the involvement of the CFO or other person who handles the money. This person brings deep knowledge of the organization's financial position, projections, and cash flow management. They will play an important role in creating realistic budgets and in sharing requested financial information with donors. Consider your CFO as the person who keeps you honest: they will tug at your sleeve when you try to "spend a dollar twice." Finally, a communications expert will help you educate and motivate people, especially those who could make or influence a gift. Consistent marketing and communications increase people's awareness of your nonprofit and its impact. Remember, it is hard for people to give when they don't know you.

We always recommend adding a ninth member to the team when possible. That member is a fundraising consultant who can share the ins and outs of fundraising. You'll want someone you trust, who understands your culture, and who can guide you. We hope you'll ask us to be part of your team!

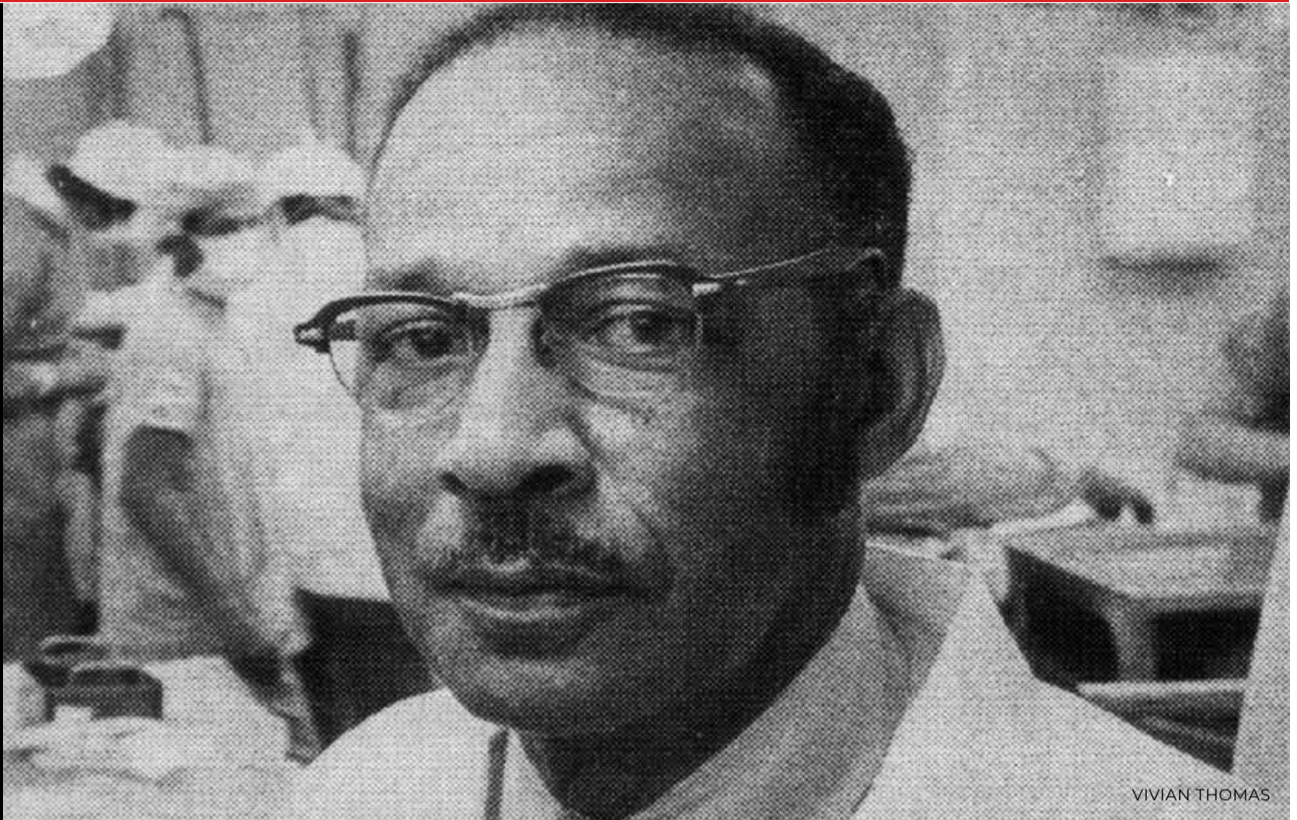


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Mel and Pearl Shaw are authors of four books on fundraising available on Amazon.com. For help growing your fundraising visit www.saadandshaw.com or call (901) 522-8727.

+ EDUCATION

A Black History 365 Feature: Mr. Vivian Thomas



VIVIAN THOMAS



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

Celebrating Black history throughout the year is a way to honor those who have come before us. Today's article features a brilliant and skillful medical supervisor, Mr. Vivian Thomas.

Born in 1910, Vivian was an African American male who wanted to study medicine. His goal to attend college was never reached, primarily due to the Great Depression and a constant lack of resources. For example, when he had saved some funds for college, the bank that held them folded; he lost all his savings.

During high school, Thomas worked along side his father in carpentry. The simple act of watching his father and assisting him in building became a career pathway for him in medicine.

At Vanderbilt University Thomas worked as a research assistant to Dr. Al-

fred Balock, working primarily on animals to perfect surgical procedures to be used on human beings. It is hard to imagine how primitive medicine was back in the 1930s when the partnership between Dr. Balock and Thomas was forged. Balock often allowed Thomas to "operate" on animals to discover new life-saving surgeries. In the role of assistant, Thomas performed much like a graduate assistant based upon his skill and knowledge he gained in the laboratory, not in college coursework.

Absent the opportunity to study medicine, Thomas did the only thing he could do to learn about medicine: He kept researching with Balock. Balock was offered a promotion at John Hopkins University in 1941, leaving Vanderbilt, and he took Thomas with him.

Together they perfected many surgical advances. Much of their work was in how to treat patients going into shock, and later this led to groundbreaking work on how to treat babies born with the defect, "Blue Baby Syndrome." Simply put, when babies were born with an inability to carry oxygen properly through the heart, their features were blue due to the lack of oxygen and was always fatal.

Imagine the anguish of seeing a baby literally starving for oxygen and passing away.

Balock and Thomas perfected a surgery that operated on the heart to correct the structural deficiency causing peril. They basically were able to increase blood flow to the baby's lungs and correct the lack of oxygen. Such surgery was unheard of and led to many more advances. This could not have happened without the work of the assistant, Vivian Thomas.

In that era, the city of Baltimore was racially divided, creating hardship for Thomas and his family.

The irony is clear: A brilliant researcher was not only handicapped by a lack of college but also victim of the times of extreme racism.

Thomas was recognized for his skill by John Hopkins University when he was awarded an honorary doctorate in 1976. It was recognition long overdue.

He passed away in 1985 with a most unusual legacy of being an innovative and practical researcher with no college training.

Resource:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vivien_Thomas

+ EDUCATION

JAKOB BRILL

Saginaw Career Complex's
2024 Alumni of the Year

JAKOB BRILL

Saginaw ISD celebrates SCC 2024 Alumni of the Year

SAGINAW, MI - The Saginaw Intermediate School District (ISD) is honored to celebrate Jakob Brill as the 2024 Alumni of the Year for the Saginaw Career Complex (SCC). Sean Connors, SCC's Automotive Repair & Finishing Instructor, nominated Brill, a 2020 Birch Run High School graduate known for his passion for automobiles. Brill now contributes his expertise as an auto body repair/paint technician at Serra Chevrolet in Saginaw.

"The automotive industry is a fast-growing industry and provides many high-demand occupations. To know that young people in our community can take advantage and excel by being a part of career and technical education and have experiences with local employers before their high school graduation is so important. It gives them a head start in their career path," stated Jenny Geno, Saginaw ISD's Executive Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE). She regards Brill as an exemplary figure in demonstrating the impact of CTE education.

Brill's academic journey was split between SCC and Birch Run High School, where he also engaged in the Horticulture program. His after-school hours were dedicated to working as an auto body helper. Reflecting on his experiences, Brill said, "I enjoyed gaining knowledge from the program's hands-on learning and my mentorship with Mr. Connors." His participation in SkillsUSA competitions instilled in him values such as integrity and community service, which he continues to uphold.

Brill's supervisor at Serra Chevrolet, Ashley Kazmerski, praised his work ethic and attention to detail, stating, "Jake is a really great person and employee. He has a skill for the fine detail in things. He's always willing to take on a new task and try new things. You can just tell that he truly loves what he does."

Brill's commitment extends beyond his professional duties; he has been actively involved with SCC's Auto Body Collision Repair and Finishing program as a volunteer, judge for SkillsUSA competitions, and

an advisory board member. His instructor, Connors, expressed gratitude for Brill's contributions: "Jakob has helped me tremendously with my program and has always provided a helping hand. Whenever I call Jakob, he always has the same response, 'What time do you need me there.' I truly can't thank him enough."

John Pitts, a mentor with over 43 years at Serra Chevrolet, commended Brill's independence and work ethic: "Jake has a great work ethic, makes decisions on his own, and pays attention to detail. We're happy to have someone his age that works this hard - he's one in a million."

Through Brill's story, the Saginaw ISD and SCC highlight the tangible benefits of career and technical education, underscoring the importance of community and industry partnerships in fostering the next generation of skilled professionals. Brill will be honored at the CTE Alumni Award Luncheon hosted by SCC on February 20, 2024.

SVSU, Memorial Healthcare partner to increase educational opportunities for Memorial employees

Saginaw Valley State University continues to strengthen the talent pool in Michigan and has established a partnership with Owosso-based Memorial Healthcare that will provide higher education opportunities to employees of the hospital.

Through this partnership, Memorial Healthcare employees may be eligible for reduced tuition rates when they enroll in undergraduate, graduate or certificate programs at SVSU. To further assist employees advancing their education, Memorial Healthcare offers tuition reimbursement to qualifying employees.

“SVSU is pleased to expand our partnerships with leading health care systems to include Memorial Healthcare, the largest employer in Shiawassee County,” said George Grant Jr, president of the university. “Together, we can support a well-prepared workforce that will have a positive impact on the hospital and the community.”

Memorial Healthcare, an independent, community nonprofit hospital, was founded in Owosso and remains the only hospital in Shiawassee County, serving a population of approximately 68,000. The hospital has broadened its service area, adding sites in Bay, Clinton, Ingham, Livingston, and Saginaw counties.

“We are pleased to announce our



SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

transformative partnership with SVSU, a significant step forward in enhancing educational opportunities for our dedicated Memorial Healthcare employees. This collaboration underscores our unwavering commitment to fostering our workforce’s personal and professional growth and development. By joining forces with SVSU, we are opening new avenues for learning and growth,” said Brian L. Long, president and CEO of Memorial Healthcare.

Through its partnership with Memorial Healthcare, SVSU expects to expand and strengthen its ties to the healthcare community, building relationships that enhance the caliber of patient care and services.

Additional details about application procedures and tuition benefits will be shared with Memorial Healthcare employees through internal communication channels.

Delta College reaffirmed by Achieving the Dream as a 2024 Leader College

Delta College has been designated a Leader College by Achieving the Dream (ATD), a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing community colleges as hubs of equity and economic mobility in their communities.

“Delta College is committed to increasing completion rates for all students,” said Michael Gavin, president of Delta College. “Recertifying our Leader College designation provides us with the opportunity to continue improving student success and

equity, not just at Delta, but on college campuses across the nation.”

Leader Colleges play an important role in accelerating the adoption of effective practices across higher education. Leader Colleges develop innovative ways to work with other colleges to share knowledge and facilitate an exchange of ideas about evidence-based reform strategies.

Delta College has been part of the ATD Network since 2010.





THE POWER OF THE PROMISE DEPENDS ON ALL OF US!

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The Power and ability of the Saginaw Promise to affect
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Since 2012, the Saginaw Promise has awarded
\$1,227,714 in scholarships to **695** scholars.



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of support to the Saginaw Promise today! The Saginaw Promise is working to
provide the opportunity for and to eliminate barriers to postsecondary education to
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Thank You

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

Saginaw Promise

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+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

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).

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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.

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www.mitalent.org
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SPSD Contact Information
Tiffany L. Pruitt
Executive Director of Human Resources & Labor Relations
LaShanda Sanders
Executive HR Specialist
(989) 399- 6602 or HR@spsd.net



Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! is an Equal Opportunity/Employer Program. Auxiliary aide services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Michigan Relay Services dial 711. Supported by the State of Michigan. A proud partner of the American Job Center Network.

SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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- Loomis 399-4750
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- Chester Miller 399-4850
- Rouse 399-5000
- Stone 399-5100
- Zilwaukee 399-5200

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Mrs. Bolden will call you to schedule testing



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

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Saginaw County Free Pre-School Partnership

+ SPORTS

Charles "C.A.C." Smith brought the sweet science to Saginaw

By HASANI ALI

Saginaw has produced some of the best legends and upcoming names in boxing.

Jermaine Franklin and Robert Simms have made waves in the heavyweight division – Franklin fighting on the biggest stage in pro boxing when he fought a 12-rounder against Anthony Joshua and Simms won the USNBC heavyweight championship against Kenzie Morrison in a classic upset.

These two are coached and trained by the legendary duo former boxer Lorenzo Reynolds and his father Jessie Addison.

Bantamweight Ernesto Garza III had an astonishing amateur career while winning numerous tournaments and had an impressive 10-3 professional record before his career abruptly ended.

Super Welterweights Matthew Rodriguez Jr. and Morris James Young are up-and-coming phenoms that have been working the west coast scene and Mexico.

These guys are paving the way for future fighters, but one man paved a way for them by bringing the sweet science to Saginaw.

The man that was credited for bringing boxing to Saginaw was Charles "C.A.C." Smith.

The Macon, Ga., native was born into slavery and moved to the north with his mother around 1865.

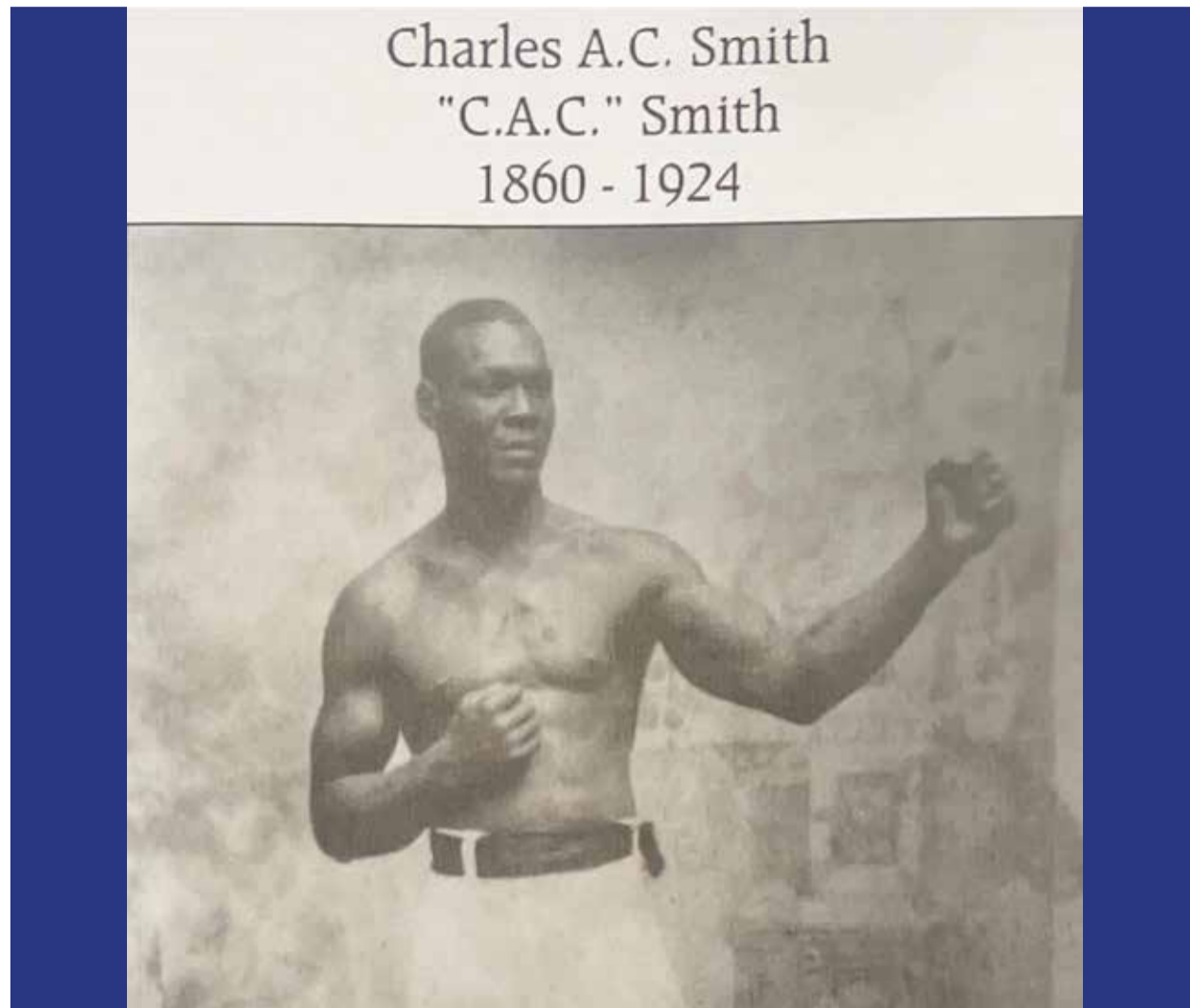
The nearly 6-foot brawler started boxing as a teenager. According to the Saginaw Sports Hall of Fame, his amateur career was an estimated total of 250 bouts.

Smith had a barber shop near North Washington and Franklin St. He also owned a boxing gym next to his barber shop where he could train before or after work.

He lived in the Saginaw area for 20 years.

Proper footwork and counter punching are what he emphasized during his training regimen.

Nicknamed, "The Black Thunderbolt," Smith was a power puncher and considered the left jab to be a boxer's most im-



CHARLES "C.A.C." SMITH

portant strength.

Smith was drawn to East Saginaw as it was a hot bed for boxing. He was able to fight, train and instruct other fighters as many of the athletes wanted a piece of the action.

Smith was able to train other boxers when he was not fighting, but only if they were able to strictly follow his directions.

According to the unofficial records books online (www.cyberboxingzone.com), Smith defeated most of the local fighters in the area.

Though his opponents had heavy hands, Smith had the advantage due to knowing how to move around the ring after throwing punches and his footwork kept him agile.

He also gained leverage by knowing how to fight to the weak side – hence why he was lethal at counterpunching, setting his feet and gaining enough power and le-

verage for delivering his punches.

Smith was credited for training some of Saginaw's early legends – Billy Lavigne, Bobby and Joe Cherry, Pete Major, Ollie Freeman, Otto Swartz and George "Kid" Lavigne worked out with him to "fine tune" his footwork and combinations.

C.A.C.'s boxing talents and teaching reached down to the second generation of Saginaw boxers. Eddy Shaltraw, George Johnson, Bartley Densmore, Dick Richardson, Jack Beatty, and Billy St. Mary.

Every Saginaw boxer has heard the old adage that many boxing trainers use to this day, "every punch is a step, every step is a punch."

Every move, every footstep, every punch or jab, had a method. Each fighter would have left better than when they arrived after training with the great C.A.C. Smith.

Saginaw Heritage wins SVL title, Reynolds earns coach of the year honors



HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

By HASANI ALI

It was only four years ago when head coach Steven Reynolds walked around the gymnasium with his new team at Heritage when they noticed the only Saginaw Valley League conference title banner in the corner.

He told his players that it was time to add another banner to decorate that corner of the gym.

“It was an overwhelming feeling to go back four years ago and looking up there and seeing only one banner in the corner,” he said. “These young men really put in a lot of hard work and effort in order to make it happen.”

The Hawks (18-5, overall, 10-1 Saginaw Valley League) secured their second SVL title in school history, cruising past Flint Powers Catholic, 80-40.

With Heritage gaining steam, winning the last 11 of 12 games to end the regular season, Reynolds is getting his team prepared for district play.

“We highlighted how well we’ve done through the regular season and now it’s just getting everybody locked in for the postseason as it’s a brand-new season,” he said. “We’re taking it one game at a time

as each team comes with a different challenge.”

Being his fourth rodeo in district play, Reynolds is looking to tweak his game plan to have his players focus mentally on the little things as they prepare for their first game in the district tournament.

“One aspect is keying on the mental part of the game,” he said. “It’s a long season so we have to keep reminding them to stay focused on their goals and taking care of themselves and making sure that they’re healthy.”

Upon winning the SVL title, Reynolds also earned Coach of the Year honors.

He was taken aback by the feat, but wanted to acknowledge that it was a group effort by everyone involved in the program.

“I’m still new to coaching at the varsity level so I was quite surprised when I was awarded coach of the year,” Reynolds said. “It’s not a me thing, but a we thing. I have an outstanding staff that has been working around the clock to make sure that we’re prepared each night. The boys have really bought into the program and exceeded expectations. It’s honestly very difficult for me to take all the credit as we did everything as a unit.”

Senior Tyler Ode is also a finalist for

Michigan’s Mr. Basketball.

Reynolds coached the Toledo-bound forward when he was a freshman. He commented on how Ode has had such a major impact on the program.

“He’s definitely a scholar athlete,” he said. “From the way he conducts himself on and off the court, to the mentorship that he provides the younger players at all levels of the programs. He’s one of those guys that you need to have on your team.”

The team’s confidence was shaken when Miami of Ohio-bound Braylon Isom went down with a knee injury after the Hawks won their first six games.

After losing back-to-back games to Warren De La Salle and Grand Blanc, the troops rallied together to go on a nine-game winning streak.

“It was a tough blow when Braylon went down,” Reynolds said. “He’s such a dynamic player, but the bond and brotherhood between those guys didn’t want to disappoint him so they knew that they had to carry on for him until he got back. It was definitely motivation for those guys. We simply had to go back to the drawing board in order to re-establish ourselves and come up with a different game plan to make it work when we got on the court.”

Playing in one of the toughest conferences in Michigan, Reynolds knew early on that his team would have to have agile footwork to be able to defend some of the best talent in the state.

“We knew that we were going to have some tough challenges defensively as we’re playing in a tough league,” he said. “We were going to have to be solid defensively. Our mindset from day one was getting better each day every time we took the court.”

In hopes that Heritage has a lot of ball to play, Reynolds can’t thank the city enough for supporting the school.

“The entire city of Saginaw has been rallying behind Heritage and people have been coming out and showing their support in the crowd.”

After the first-round bye, Heritage came out blazing with a convincing victory over Linden, 85-46. The Hawks will take on Flint Carman-Ainsworth in the district championship.

+ SPORTS

Red Hawks steal 3OT win, secure conference playoff spot for third time



RED HAWKS

By HASANI ALI

Red Hawks Steal 3OT Win, Secured Conference Playoff Spot for Third Time
By Hasani Ali

Lake Michigan College left Plymouth, Ind., with a sly grin last Saturday night. Like a thief in the night, the Red Hawks left conference foe Ancilla University empty handed after escaping with a 99-92 win in triple overtime.

“I kept telling the guys that we have to put them away,” said head coach Rickey Hampton. “We were aware of the playoff implications and we needed to find a way to secure that playoff spot.

With the Chargers down 88-87 in 2OT, they had the ability to put the game away with three free throws with one second remaining in the game.

The Saginaw native was furious, contesting the foul as the referees explained that his defender did not give the shooter a place to land after the three-point attempt.

Having two timeouts remaining in the quarter after the first made free throw, Hampton used an extra layer of defense to make sure that the game went into a third

overtime.

“It made sense to ice him out,” he said. “After the first bucket, I called a timeout. As both teams lined up for the second free throw, I waited until the referee was about to give the shooter the ball for another attempt before I called the last timeout. It definitely made a difference. You can tell that the confidence wasn’t as strong as when he made the first attempt.”

As planned, the Chargers missed both free throws and sent the game into the final overtime of the night.

During the free throw attempts, Hampton had a huddle with freshman guard, Kanden Davis. He told the young guard that the game can go on for the entire night as long as they came out with the win. Davis responded emphatically.

“I don’t want to be here all night,” he responded. “I’m exhausted. We’re going to take them out in the next quarter.”

Davis led the Red Hawk offense with 26 points. Skylar Samuel followed with 19 points. Jailen Campbell and Da’Marion Morris both chipped in 14 points apiece while Zahyem Bradwell contributed 11 points.

The Red Hawks (9-14, 4-7 MCCA) will be heading back to the conference playoffs for the third time in a row.

They will have to travel for the first round to take on Glen Oaks Community College (17-9 overall, 8-3 MCCA). A win against the Vikings could be a ticket for the Red Hawks to return to the regional tournament, also for the third consecutive year.

“We’ll have to do our best to put the pressure on Glenn Oaks and make them commit mental mistakes,” he said. “They’re very quick, athletic and can score at will. Their offense will have to be limited so we can reduce those attempts.

Prior to Hampton’s arrival for the 2021-2022 season, Lake Michigan stood at the bottom of the conference with a 1-30 record and a 2-29 record the season prior to that.

“We’re working on building a championship program with no excuses,” Hampton said. “I bring in the guys that want to compete and win. Those who don’t have that mentality eventually weed themselves out and just make room for the players that have the competitive edge that we need.”

+ SPORTS



MOIRA JOINER

Lady Spartans set 3-point season record en route of Rutgers, 93-57

By HASANI ALI

Former Saginaw Heritage standout Moira Joiner started the frenzy when she drained her first 12 points from behind the 3-point line.

The graduate student made nearly half of Michigan State's 3-pointers in last Saturday's contest.

And the graduate student's success was part of a strong outside shooting game that helped the Michigan State women's bas-

ketball team roll to a victory over Rutgers.

The Spartans sank 14 (of 33 attempts) 3-pointers last Saturday, scoring a convincing 93-57 win over Rutgers at Breslin Center that extended their win streak to three.

MSU was able to break the old season record of 252 3-pointers set in the 2016-17 season with their success with the long ball – Spartans made 255 3-pointers as a Feb. 24

"We have a lot of kids who are very capable of making 3's," MSU coach Robyn

Fralick said. "We think it creates space and there's just a lot of elements that go with it. We're proud of our kids. You still have got to make them. It's one thing to shoot them, but you've got to make them.

Going 42 percent from behind the arc and 55 percent from the field, Fralick is proud of her players and how they've been able to perform leading up to the postseason.

"It's an important shot to what we do," she said. "We've had a lot of kids really step up. I'm proud because if you look at the numbers, there's a lot of kids across the board that are all just shooting the ball better now. I give them credit for that because they spend a lot of time in the gym to become better shooters."

Going 8-of-11 from the field and 6-of-9 buckets from 3-point land, Joiner had a team-high of 22 points. She also has three rebounds, four assists and a steal.

Sophomore Abbey Kimball followed with 12 points, all from behind the arc. Graduate student Julia Ayrault each finished with 17 points to help the Spartans (20-7, 10-6) move into a tie for fourth in the Big Ten standings with Nebraska.

Since the 2015-16 season, MSU has finally reached double figures in conference wins. It is also the first time the Spartans reached 20 wins in a season for the first time since 2018-19.

"Anybody can win on any day," Joiner said. "I always say that, especially in the Big Ten. It's just a milestone. Us vets, Tory, Julia and me, I think we've really tried to build something here and we've had obvious help along the way, but I think it's a really big sigh of relief (to accomplish that). The work is not done yet but, wow, that is a great milestone to hit."

Kimball was in agreement with Joiner, wanting the Spartans to remain and not worry about the postseason possibility of a NCAA tournament berth.

"We're taking it one game at a time because I think the next two games are important, especially for the double-bye for the Big Ten tournament, which is first," Kimball said. "Obviously we want to win that. That's like our next mindset."

+ SPORTS

Girls basketball college showcase camp at Siena Heights University on March 17

By HASANI ALI

Calling all female high school ballers!

Are you looking to take your game to the collegiate level, but currently limited on offers? Can your talent contribute to a Div. II or Div. III program?

You have two weeks to lace up and showcase your skills in front of some of the collegiate coaches around the state looking for players!

According to women.collegebasketballprospects.com, the College Coaches Showcase Camp is designed for girls' high school basketball players who are focused on becoming athletes at the next level and want to be evaluated while working directly with current college basketball coaches.

The camp will feature a high level of instruction and feedback provided by the coaches. There will also be a discussion for prospective student-athletes and their family regarding the recruiting process and NCAA rules.

The camp is open to all girls high school basketball players and is restricted in enrollment. The player-to-coach ratio will not exceed 8:1. These camps are in compliance with all NCAA rules.

Featured colleges that will be in attendance at the camp will be Albion College, Cedarville University, Siena Heights University, Tiffin University, University of Michigan, Dearborn.

Players should expect constructive feedback from all coaches attending the camp in efforts to elevate their game.

Feedback will derive from game fundamentals – shooting, dribbling, ball handling, passing and rebounding.

These athletes will be able to meet the college coaches and have their abilities assessed.

The sessions will also include an in-person discussion about the NCAA recruiting process, rules and regulations.

Cost for one session (morning or afternoon) is \$185. Players can attend both sessions for \$285.

These spots are limited and are expected to be filled quickly so registration and admission will be on a first-come-first-served basis.



SIENA HEIGHTS

Parents are also welcomed to participate at the showcase camp. They are invited to speak with the coaches to discuss the recruiting process and all options for their student athlete as the answers will be guided by the NCAA guidelines.

The camp will be hosted at the Siena Heights University Fieldhouse, located at E. Siena Heights Drive, Adrian, Mich., 49221.

If a player cannot attend the camp on March 17, then there will be another camp on March 23 in Franklin, Ind., and March 24 in Westerville, Ohio.

For more information, visit women.collegebasketballprospects.com.

The itinerary for the camp is listed below:

TENTATIVE CAMP SCHEDULE

Morning Session

- 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- 7:30 AM - Morning Session Check-In Begins
- 8:00 AM - Dynamic & Static Warm-Up
- 8:20 AM - Individual Concepts and Skill Work

- 9:30 AM - Team Concepts and Controlled Competitions
- 11:00 AM - Final Player/Coach Feedback & Discussion for Prospective Student-Athletes
- 12:00 PM - Morning Session Dismissed

Afternoon Session

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
(Players attending both sessions only need to check-in once)

- 10:30 AM - Afternoon Session Check-in Begins
- 11:00 AM - Discussion for Prospective Student-Athletes
- 12:00 PM - Dynamic & Static Warm-Up
- 12:20 PM - Individual Concepts and Skill Work
- 1:30 PM - Team Concepts and Controlled Competitions
- 3:00 PM - Final Player/Coach Feedback & Afternoon Session Dismissed

+ SPORTS



CLARESSA SHIELDS

Sheilds secure second MMA victory, making history in Saudi Arabia

By HASANI ALI

Undisputed and undefeated boxer Claressa Shields won her second fight in MMA over Kelsey De Santis in Riyadh via split decision.

History was made in Saudi Arabia with the country's first professional MMA bout featuring two women.

Shields, a three-weight world champion in boxing, was visibly emotional when she was confirmed the winner.

"There were days in camp where I was literally in tears," she said. "I didn't want to go back because it was so hard."

Shields' confidence as a MMA fighter has definitely risen as she took to social media regarding her opponents attempt to make her tap out.

"If I had the opportunity to break someone's arm, I'd do it, especially if they didn't tap," she said mockingly on X. My opponent said she don't break the arms of white belts (with a laughing emoji). Like ma'am, we are in a MMA fight. Do what you gotta do. She tried with all her might, and couldn't.

The MMA bout came into fruition after British fighter Ramla Ali and the Dominican Republic's Crystal Garcia Nova became the first two female boxers to compete in a pro fight in the country.

Shields was featured on the undercard for Professional Fighter's League, competing in a champion versus champion contest – taking on the best of Bellator.

Though women's rights are still a battle in Saudi Arabia, many female athletes are

making big strides as to fighting on the big stage in the country.

Natalya and Lacey Evans got in the squared circle back in 2019 at the WWE's Crown Jewel event, making major headlines as many suspected that the females were in peril going over to compete.

In fact, the result was quite the opposite.

Shields competed in her first MMA bout since 2021. The two-division champion was beaten in her second MMA fight, though winning her first bout in June 2021 by the referee stopping the fight.

The Flint native started the fight off strongly, but De Santis started to pick at "T-Rex" with her novice abilities in the octagon.

She did her best to keep Shields on the ground, but the standing attack was enough to give Shields the split decision via the judges at ringside.

"It was such a hard camp. It's not easy what I'm trying to do," she said during the post-fight interview. "I've been so respectful of the sport and I put in a lot of work."

Like former UFC champion Holly Holms, Shields is amongst the elite group of boxers that crossed over to MMA after a successful boxing career.

The 28-year-old is undefeated in 14 pro fights since her debut in November 2016. Her last boxing match was back in June 2023, defeating Marciela Cornejo via unanimous decision.

Shields is the current reigning IBF, WBA, WBC and WBO middleweight champion. No official plans have been made yet regarding her next fight in the ring – if she plans on returning.

During the Summer Olympics in London, the young 17-year-old made world history by winning the gold medal in the middleweight division – defeated Russian veteran Nadezda Torlopova, 19-12.

+ SPORTS

Lady Lakers avenge loss to Bay College with crushing win, 90-55

By HASANI ALI

Revenge is a dish best served cold. Yet, Mid Michigan College was scorching hot from tip-off in a revenge game against Bay College.

In fact, the team went 49 percent from the floor.

It was a tale of two different teams when the Lady Lakers hosted the Norse on Tuesday night.

The 18th-ranked Lakers toppled over 16th ranked Bay College, 90-55.

Head coach Lance Maney admitted during the postgame interview that the team had this game on the radar for three after taking their first loss of the season.

“To be transparent, since we lost to them three weeks ago, they’ve been our focus without having to say that they were our focus,” he said. “I addressed what we had to do better in leading up to this game and the results showed it on the floor tonight.”

With the Lakers showing improvement over the last three weeks, Maney is looking forward to how the team uses the momentum going into the postseason.

“It was the most anticipated game for me as a coach,” he said. “We had to wait three weeks to prove that we have the ability to push through adversity and that we can bounce back. I’m just excited about how they responded. We definitely look like a team that can make some noise in the upcoming national tournament.”

On Feb. 3, the Lady Lakers suffered their first loss of the season to Bay College, 73-66.

Mid Michigan College jumped out to an early 26-16 lead in the first quarter and did not let up.

The Norse were kept at bay by not being able to score no more than 16 points after the first quarter.

Coasting into halftime with a 49-31 lead, the Lady Lakers put the game out of reach.

Bay College struggled putting points on the board, going 38 percent from the



LADY LAKERS

floor and 26 percent from beyond the arc.

Freshman Rachel Resio acknowledged her fellow freshman Chloe Watson for her ball management offensively.

“Chloe handled the ball so well tonight, said Rachel Resio. “She had so many assists. Overall, everyone stepped today and it was such a team effort. We knew that we had the ability to do it, we just had to put the work on the floor.”

Watson and Resio finished the game with 11 points apiece. Watson also had seven assists and five steals while Resio also had five assists.

Caitlyn Walter led the way offensively for the Lady Lakers with 19 points and three steals.

The Lady Lakers were well rounded offensively – 9-of-11 players that scored in the game finished with more than two points.

Ashlee Burchette was the leading scorer in the scoring attack for Bay College, finishing the game with 21 points and eight rebounds. Siena Lingle followed with 11 points and four rebounds.

The Lady Lakers improved to 25-1 overall via the victory and moved to 12-1 in conference action.

They can clinch a second-straight MCCA conference crown with a win over North Central Michigan College on Thursday night at 5:30 p.m. at Alma College.

Holmes tops Harrington in 2nd round TKO to retain USAB Super Welterweight title

By HASANI ALI

Andreal Holmes proved that he was the real deal coming into Detroit.

To those opponents in the super welterweight and junior middleweight division, “The Bossman” showed that his punching power can and will put any contender on the floor.

He did just that with a second-round TKO to Detroit contender Marlon Harrington last Tuesday night at the Wayne State University Fieldhouse in Detroit, Mich.

Holmes remains perfect (15-0, 6 KOs) and retained his USAB super welterweight belt.

In the first round, Harrington came out strong as if the battle was going to go the distance. The hometown hero gave 25 punches before Holmes threw one.

The 29-year-old remained poised and calm – slowly timing his attacks and waiting to find the weakness in Harrington.

As the end of the first round dawned, Holmes began to pick up the pace slightly, but still remained patient offensively – using his quick feet to avoid Harrington’s fury of punches and staying out of the corner.

Just as the bell rang for the end of the first round, little did anybody know that it was the beginning of the end.

The fight escalated quickly in the middle of the second round when the southpaw landed a left cross to the head that sent Harrington straight to the canvas.

He beat the count, but was dropped moments later by a counter right hook to the head.

Harrington beat the count again, but his spaghetti legs were barely keeping him standing. He fought on instinct, but a fury of punches from Holmes sent him down for the final time before referee Ansel Stewart had seen enough with 1:25 remaining in the round.

“My trainer cussed me out during training camp and I appreciate that,” Holmes said during the post-fight interview. “He told me I had the power, but I was not setting up the shots for it. I used the jab, found the range, and when I found the range, that was that.”

The southpaw is already set to take on his next opponent when asked about his future fight plans.

“Anybody who’s in front of me, I’ll fight them all,” Holmes said. “This is my time. I don’t feel I’ve done enough to call out anyone in particular. I’m right there though.”

Holmes, who is promoted by Lou DiBella and managed by David McWater, had not fought since a technical, split-decision victory over Wendy Toussaint last June. On February 17, Holmes defeated Ismael Villareal by split-decision as well.

Harrington, who resides in Detroit, falls to 10-2, 9 KOs. The 31-year-old had won his previous two fights since losing by unanimous decision to Marquis Taylor in October 2022.

His trainer, Julio Hernandez, was heartbroken for his fighter after such a devastating loss. He took to social media to voice out his thoughts after the fight.

“The pain I felt watching my fighter/son go out on his shield was excruciating and no one but another coach can relate,” he posted on Facebook. “At the end of the day, we’re going to brush ourselves off and get back to what we love, boxing.”



ANDREAL HOLMES



PICS OF THE WEEK

On February 23, First Ward Community Service held their The 30th Annual "Taste of Soul" Luncheon.



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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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