



The Michigan Banner

Leading in Diversity for over 20 years




PICS OF THE WEEK
Michael Baldwin places 3rd at MHSAA division I wrestling state finals

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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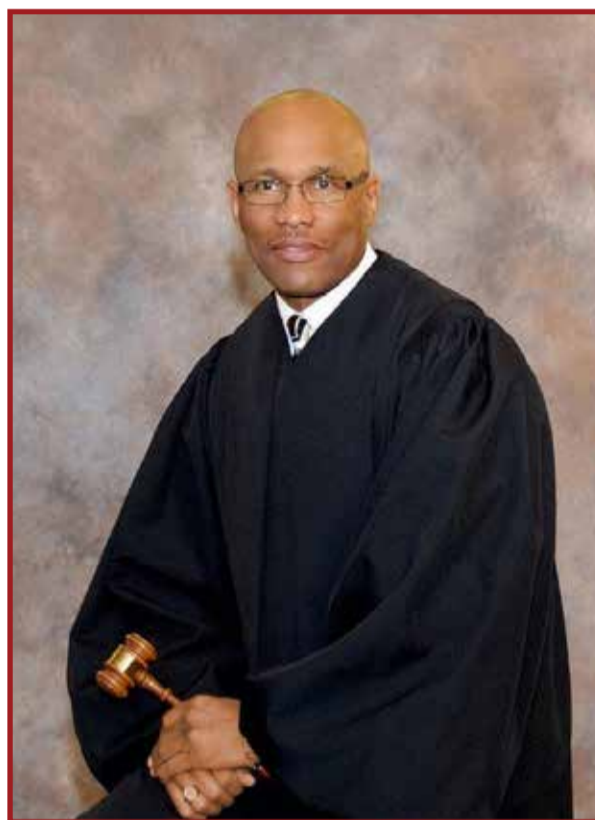
FEATURED



SAGINAW OFFICER NAMED 2024 MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS OFFICER OF THE YEAR

COMMUNITY, PG 17

Residents have the opportunity to resolve some misdemeanor cases without penalty



JUDGE TERRY CLARK

demeanor cases, traffic tickets, and civil infractions that are past due without any additional penalties during this amnesty period.

During the amnesty period, the Judges will waive bench warrant costs and late fees for those who qualify once the original amount is paid in full. Mandatory State Fees and Secretary of State

Clearance Card Fees will not be waived. During the amnesty period, people will still be arrested on outstanding warrants for failure to pay fines and costs that have been assessed.

“My message to those with outstanding warrants is simple: voluntarily come in on your own to avoid the risk of being arrested,” said Chief District Court Judge Terry L. Clark. “Our goal is to give people a chance and an incentive, other than arrest, to come in and resolve their outstanding legal issues that may be a barrier to them getting a driver’s license or a better job.”

To find out your balances and the types of payments that are accepted, you may contact the Court’s Criminal Division at (989) 790-5385 or the Traffic Division at (989) 790-5390. Personal checks are not accepted. If you have a bench warrant, you must appear in person.



WOMEN'S HISTORY HIGHLIGHT
ROSE M. BEANE, PHD

EDUCATION, PG 40

FEATURED STORY

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® - Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter 40th Annual Hats off to Mom Scholarship Gala

COMMUNITY, PG 15



THE MICHIGAN BANNER IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:
SAGINAW COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The 'SHERO' Next Door

By MB STAFF

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary very simply defines 'shero' as 'a woman regarded as a hero.' The term allows us to credit the awesomeness of women's contributions to the world in which we live. Women's History Month allows us the opportunity to pause, recognize, and celebrate the sheros in our lives who are not only willing to go the extra mile but bring us along with them to the next level. We are very often unwilling participants in the process of change so must be brought along kicking and screaming. True sheros then take a step back and watch us shine as if we had singlehandedly overcome obstacles to our success.

The 2024 Women's History Month theme is, 'Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.' It recognizes women throughout the country who demonstrate an understanding of the importance of striving to completely eliminate bias and discrimination from our lives and institutions if we are to have a positive future. More and more, women are recognizing the need and exercising the right to speak up on behalf of themselves, their community, and others whose voices are less likely to be heard. Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women.' (Maya Angelo) They are setting the example and the stage for young women to be present and accounted for. Sheroes are supporting young women in their efforts to share new perspectives and different points of view. They are learning to stand firm in their convictions but to choose their battles wisely.

While Women's History Month provides wonderful opportunities to acknowledge and celebrate many of the contributions made by women throughout history, it also encourages us to recognize the impact of the selfless acts of the 'shero next door'. These are the women whose names won't appear on a marquee, whose bedtime song soothes a child with a temperature but won't make it to the billboard top ten, whose 9 to 5 job won't make her family millionaires but will keep the lights on and food in the fridge, or who may not have earned a degree but lends a listening



ear or a shoulder to cry on when loved ones are in need of comfort or support. These are the sheroes who maintain stability and safety in their homes and communities. Consider for a moment how different the world would be without the contributions of these behind-the-scenes sheroes. In the words of Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman in Congress, 'Tremendous amounts of talent are lost to our society because that talent wears a skirt.'

Let Women's History Month 2024 be the year that we receive all women into the tent – there really is room for all. We need the ideas and discoveries that are locked inside of those whose voices aren't yet confident enough or loud enough to discern. We need the input of women who represent and can speak to the entire gamut of challenges we face in society today. Diversity, equity, and inclusion goes far beyond the typical perception of race and gender. For example, a very young woman, Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett was one of the two top scientists credited with creating one of the most effective vaccines in the fight to curtail the rapid and deadly spread of the COVID 19 virus. She has spoken of the impact of the sheroes in her life who modeled confidence and intelligence. Michele Obama said, 'I am an example of what is possible when girls from the very beginning of their lives are loved and nurtured by the people around them. I was surrounded by ex-

traordinary women in my life who taught me about quiet strength and dignity.' In science, politics, education, religion, and every sector affecting our lives, there are courageous sheroes present and accounted for, challenging the status quo, and more importantly, setting the stage for the next generation.

Who are the women in your life, home, or community whom you will honor? First, place yourself at the top of the list. You are currently a shero to someone or a shero in the making. Lean into it and be the absolute best that you can be. This month can be the beginning of a deep dive into the history of a woman (or women) who have influenced you personally or the world around you. Spend a bit of time studying women's issues to determine your passion, how to develop it and how best to use it when the time is right. Perhaps you have the resources to support a woman's non-profit or a women's owned business. You might also let a shero in your life know how her presence is appreciated. Lastly, consider, strongly consider revamping your social media presence. Remember, if you can't say something nice..... Let Women's History Month 2024 be the period that you look back on and say with pride, 'I chose to celebrate my sisters or say nothing at all – that was my shero act of service.'

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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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As we enter into the second half of Women's History Month, we at The Michigan Banner extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the remarkable women who have shaped history, broken barriers, and inspired generations.

Thank you for your strength, resilience, and unwavering determination in the face of adversity. Thank you for your leadership, your compassion, and your tireless efforts to create a better world for us all.



Your contributions, both big and small, have paved the way for progress and equality. You are the architects of change, the champions of justice, and the voices of hope in our society.

Today, and every day, we honor and celebrate you, dear women, for your invaluable role in shaping our past, our present, and our future.

With deepest appreciation,

Jerome Buckley
CEO & Publisher,
The Michigan/Latino Banner

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 6 • NUMBER 6



AN ODE TO WOMEN FROM THE LITTLE GIRL WITHIN

In history's pages, I often find,
Women of courage, of heart, and of mind.
Though their stories are from times of old,
Their spirits shine bright, forever bold.

Harriet Tubman, brave and true,
Led slaves to freedom, through and through.
With grit and determination, she paved the way,
For justice and freedom to dawn a new day.

Rosa Parks, with quiet defiance,
Sat firm against unjust compliance.
Her courage sparked a movement grand,
For equality across the land.

Amelia Earhart, soaring high,
Through skies where dreams and ambitions lie.
Her wings of courage, her spirit free,
Inspire me to reach for the highest degree.

Marie Curie, with intellect rare,
Unveiled the mysteries of elements fair.
Her quest for knowledge, her passion untamed,
In science and discovery, her legacy remains.

From Cleopatra's rule to Joan of Arc's might,
To Malala's fight for girls' right to light,
These women of history, bold and grand,
Inspire me to reach for the stars, hand in hand.

Though I may be small, with dreams so wide,
Their stories fill me with hope and pride.
For in their footsteps, I find my way,
To make a difference, come what may.

So here's to the women who've come before,
Their legacies live on forevermore.
Their courage, their strength, their undying flame,
Inspire me to do the same.



MCC to host the Consumers Energy Summer Youth Energy Academy

Mott Community College received a \$24,000 grant to host the Consumers Energy Summer Youth Energy Academy June 24 through Aug. 2. The Energy Academy is designed to stimulate interest in energy-related careers in 10 high school students, 10th through 12th grades, with a focus on women and minority populations.

The Energy Academy will run for six weeks, Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and will expose students to

electric and gas job roles, offer lessons in essential skill building, mentoring by Consumer Energy employees, energy career exploration, and assistance completing job and/or college and financial aid applications where appropriate.

Each student will be paid a stipend at key points in the program and receive support services, including pre-employability skills training, transportation, and any needed equipment or uniforms.

For more information, or to sign up for the program, contact Daphne Epps, Director of Youth Services for Workforce and Economic Development at MCC, at daphne.epps@mcc.edu or call 810-762-2512.



COURTESY PHOTO

Empowering teens: What teen girls can learn from successful women

CELEBRATING
WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

By MB STAFF

In today's world, where opportunities for women continue to expand, it's essential for teenage girls to seek inspiration from successful women across various fields. These women serve as beacons of empowerment, resilience, and achievement, offering invaluable lessons for the next generation. By examining their journeys, teen girls can glean wisdom that nurtures personal growth, ambition, and self-belief. Here are some key lessons that teen girls can learn from successful women:

Dream Big

Successful women often dared to dream beyond societal expectations and limitations. From entrepreneurs breaking into male-dominated industries to leaders challenging systemic barriers, these women demonstrate the power of audacious dreams. Teen girls can learn that their aspirations have no bounds, and by daring to dream big, they can carve out their own paths to success.

Persistence and Resilience

Behind every success story lies a journey marked by challenges, setbacks, and failures. Successful women exhibit unwavering persistence and resilience in the face of adversity. They teach teen girls that failure is not an endpoint but a stepping stone towards growth and achievement. By embracing resilience, teen girls can navigate obstacles with grace and emerge stronger from every setback.

Self-Confidence and Self-Worth

Confidence is key to success, and successful women exude self-assurance in their abilities and worth. They teach teen girls to embrace their unique strengths, celebrate their achievements, and assert themselves in various spheres of life. By cultivating self-confidence, teen girls can shatter self-doubt and thrive in their personal and professional endeavors.



COURTESY PHOTO

Embracing Authenticity

Authenticity lies at the heart of success, as genuine passion and purpose propel women towards their goals. Successful women encourage teen girls to embrace their authentic selves, honoring their values, passions, and identities. By staying true to who they are, teen girls can find fulfillment and success aligned with their true essence.

Empowering Others

Many successful women are advocates for empowerment and equality, using their platforms to uplift and support other women. They emphasize the importance of solidarity, mentorship, and creating opportunities for others to succeed. Teen girls can learn the significance of lifting each other up, fostering a community of support and collaboration that amplifies everyone's voices.

Continuous Learning and Growth

Learning is a lifelong journey, and successful women embody a growth mindset, constantly seeking knowledge, skills, and experiences to evolve personally and

professionally. They inspire teen girls to embrace curiosity, pursue education, and embrace challenges as opportunities for growth. By prioritizing continuous learning, teen girls can adapt to a rapidly changing world and thrive in diverse environments.

Balancing Priorities

Balancing career aspirations, personal life, and well-being is a challenge faced by many successful women. They demonstrate the importance of setting boundaries, prioritizing self-care, and finding harmony amidst competing demands. Teen girls can learn the art of balance, recognizing that success encompasses holistic well-being and fulfillment across various facets of life.

The journeys of successful women offer invaluable lessons for teen girls, empowering them to dream boldly, persevere resiliently, and embrace their authentic selves. By internalizing these lessons, teen girls can cultivate the confidence, resilience, and determination needed to navigate their paths with purpose and passion, shaping a future where their voices and contributions are celebrated and valued.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Delta College Agricultural Technology student becomes first in county to win National award



NOAH KOTH

Michigan is one of the most agriculturally diverse states. If you're a farmer, it's beneficial to have a specialization.

Noah Koth's 1,100-acre specialty crop family farm, located in Huron County, produces sugar beets and black turtle beans. His involvement in tending those valuable crops earned him recognition from the National FFA Organization. Koth became the first National FFA award finalist for the North Huron FFA Chapter and the first winner in all of Huron County.

Koth is a fourth-generation farmer and a student in Delta College's Agricultural

Technology program. He chose Delta's program because it allowed him to take some classes offered by Michigan State University (MSU) while staying close to home. Remaining within a commutable distance was important so he could continue to help his family during the busy fall harvest season while simultaneously earning his associate's degree.

"I really liked my Wellness in Technical Trades class," said Koth. "I learned things like CPR and general first aid training, among other things, that I can bring back [to the farm] to help make it a safer

environment for everybody." Koth is completing his second year at Delta and plans to graduate this April. He's excited to get back to work full time and implement what he has learned.

"The farming community is like no other. Everybody helps each other out whenever they can. It's amazing to be a part of something like that. This degree will not only allow me to continue the legacy of my family's farm, but contribute to the success of many other farms around the community."

THE MICHIGAN BANNER NEWS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AT&T



Our commitment to help bridge the digital divide

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

From 2018-2020, we expanded coverage and improved connectivity in more communities by investing more than \$1.4 billion in our wireless and wireline networks in Michigan.

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



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Latino Banner

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April, 5, 2024



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7:00 PM Reception



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Dress Code

Graduates:
Cap and Gown

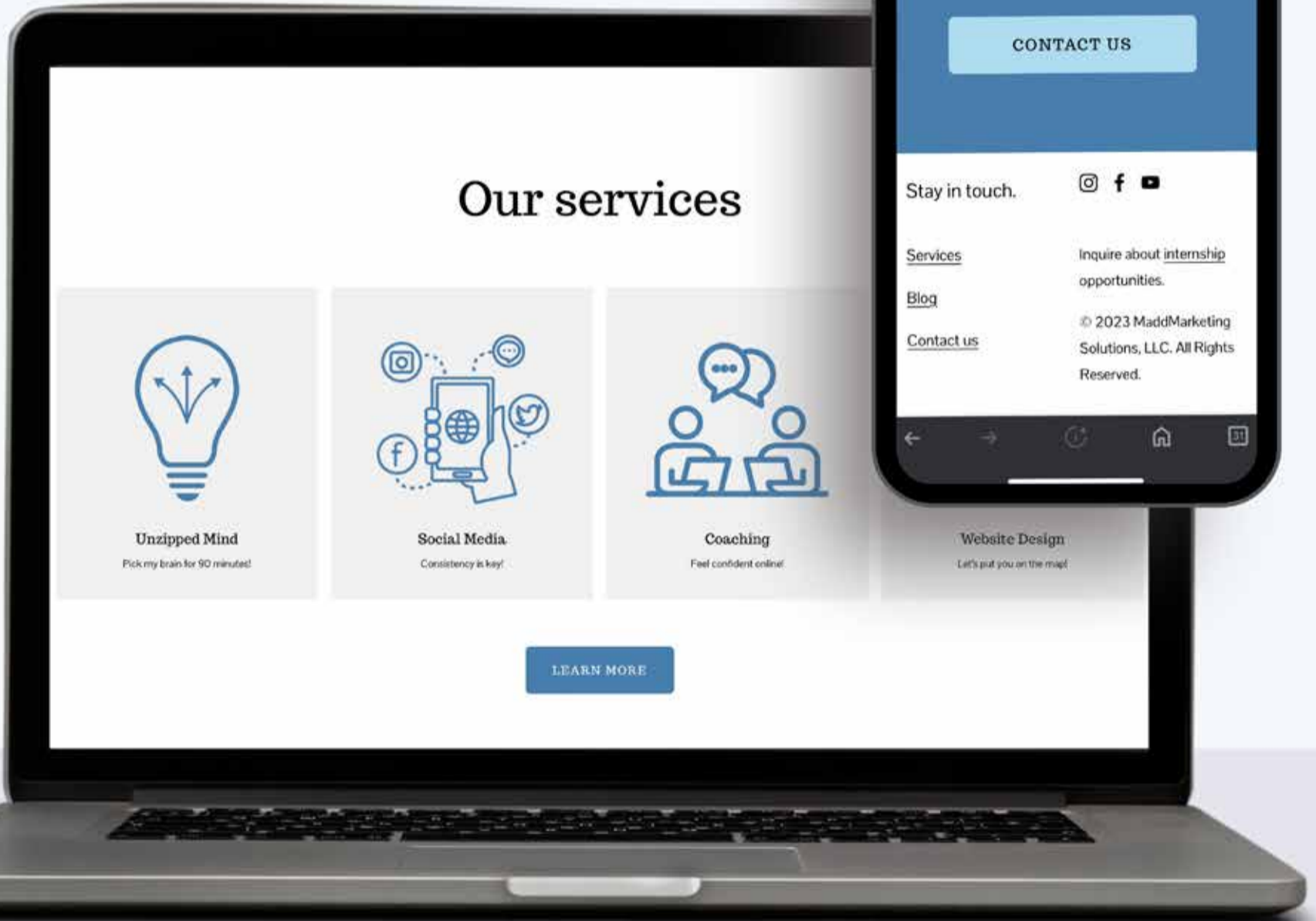
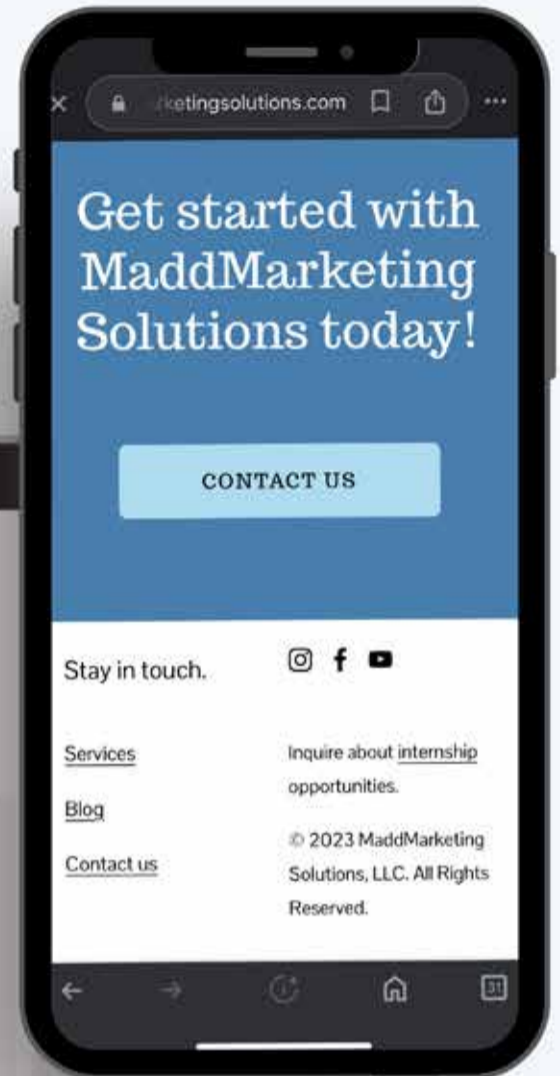
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CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Sonia Sotomayor: A trailblazer in justice and inspiration

By MB STAFF

In the annals of American history, Sonia Sotomayor stands as a beacon of justice, resilience, and inspiration. Born on June 25, 1954, in the Bronx, New York City, Sotomayor rose from humble beginnings to become the first Latina Supreme Court Justice in the United States. Her journey is a testament to the transformative power of perseverance, intellect, and unwavering dedication to the principles of equality and justice.

Sotomayor's early life was marked by adversity and challenges. Raised in a housing project in the Bronx by her Puerto Rican immigrant parents, she navigated the complexities of poverty, familial struggles, and health issues. Despite these obstacles, Sotomayor displayed remarkable determination and intellect from a young age. Encouraged by her mother's unwavering support and belief in education, she excelled academically, earning scholarships to attend Princeton University and later Yale Law School.

Sotomayor's legal career was characterized by a steadfast commitment to public service and advocacy for marginalized communities. After graduating from Yale Law School in 1979, she embarked on a path of legal excellence, serving as an Assistant District Attorney in New York City and later as a litigator in private practice. In 1992, she was appointed as a federal district judge by President George H.W. Bush, becoming the first Latina to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Throughout her tenure as a judge, Sotomayor earned a reputation for her keen intellect, empathy, and dedication to upholding the rule of law. Her landmark decisions reflected a deep understanding of the human condition and a commitment to fairness and justice. In 2009, President Barack Obama nominated her to the Supreme Court, citing her exceptional legal acumen and life experience as assets that would enrich the highest court in the land.

Sotomayor's confirmation as the first Latina Supreme Court Justice marked a



SONIA SOTOMAYOR

historic milestone in American jurisprudence. Since assuming her role on the bench, she has emerged as a staunch defender of civil rights, social justice, and the rights of the marginalized. Her opinions and dissents have challenged prevailing legal norms and underscored the importance of diversity and representation in the judiciary.

Beyond her judicial duties, Sotomayor has become an iconic figure and role model for countless individuals, particularly young people from underprivileged backgrounds. Her memoir, "My Beloved World," offers a poignant account of her journey from the Bronx to the Supreme Court, inspiring readers with her resilience, humility, and unwavering commitment to justice.

Sotomayor's legacy extends far beyond her legal accomplishments; it embodies

the enduring promise of the American Dream and the limitless potential of individuals to overcome adversity and make a difference. As the first Latina Supreme Court Justice, she has shattered barriers, opened doors, and paved the way for future generations of diverse leaders in the legal profession and beyond.

Sonia Sotomayor's life and career epitomize the ideals of justice, equality, and opportunity. From her humble beginnings in the Bronx to her historic appointment to the Supreme Court, she has remained steadfast in her commitment to serving others and upholding the principles enshrined in the Constitution. Her legacy will endure as a testament to the transformative power of resilience, intellect, and unwavering dedication to the pursuit of justice for all.

Participate in the 45th Annual Cinco de Mayo Parade



COURTESY PHOTO

La Union Civica Mexicana of Saginaw is inviting you to participate in the 45th Annual Cinco De Mayo Parade Celebration on Saturday May 4, 2024. Participation is open to all schools, groups of all ages, organizations, businesses, and individuals. This year's theme is "Unidos Nos Elevamos" - "United We Soar"

Organizers expect over 100 entrants, making the Saginaw Cinco de Mayo Parade the largest Hispanic parade in the state of Michigan. The event commemorates the famous May 5, 1852 Battle at Puebla in Mexico in which a small army of Mexicans led by Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza defeated

much larger French invading forces sent by Napoleon III, but also the positive contributions of local Hispanics in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

A cash prize will be awarded to the Best Overall Float and will be announced at the Jolt Event Pavilion Park the day of the event. All fees are non refundable if canceled for any reason.

All float applications and fees must be turned in before Friday, April 24, 2024. A \$20 late fee will be added after the 24th.

For more information please call 682-241-7224 or email ljrmigente@gmail.com or unioncivicamexicana@gmail.com.



CELEBRATING
WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

WOMEN'S HISTORY HIGHLIGHT Christiana Malacara



Christiana Malacara is a Saginaw native. She began her formal education at Delta College then, transferred to the Gwen Frostic School of Arts at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo where she graduated and lived before returning to the Great Lakes Bay region. Christiana has a passion for developing the community, growth in mindset, and education for all people. Christiana is a news reporter for WSGW, Alpha Media. In addition to her on-air career, she is also in front of the camera as the Producer and Host of PBS Delta Broadcasting of Somos Hispanos. Together with her husband, they own and operate a

marketing consulting company providing services to small business owners in the region. Outside of work, she is the Chairwoman for a local non-profit organization, LLEAD Saginaw, and sits on the board for MI ALMA- a state-wide education organization. Both groups focus on the empowerment of the Latino population. Christiana is also a very active member of the YPN Steering Committee through the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce. She is a mother of two and enjoys taking her family to experience art, music, zoos, and sporting events across the state.

12th Annual REMIOSS PREGONDA!

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MARCH 23rd 2024**

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SOCIAL HOUR - 5 P.M.
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 EL BARON JED WALKER <i>Newcomer Award</i>	 JESSE SANCHEZ JR <i>All Time Achievement Award</i>	 MONICA REYES <i>Education & Culture Award</i>
 VERONICA FLORES <i>Appreciation Award</i>	 JESSICA AND ROBERT MEDINA <i>Appreciation Award</i>	 YVONNE Y GRUPO FUEGO <i>Dance Featuring</i>

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It's never too late to improve your relationship with your child. Don't underestimate the great need that children feel – at all ages – for close relationships with parents and other supportive adults as well as the need for guidance, approval, and support.

Date: Saturday, April 13th, 2024
Time: 12:00pm-1:00pm Registration & Lunch
1:15pm-3:15pm TETO Workshop
3:15pm-3:30pm Prize Drawing
Location: Great Lakes Bay Health Center's Administrative Building
501 Lapeer Ave, Saginaw, MI 48607
Hosted by: Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

Register to reserve a spot!
vgrundas@glbhealth.org or lpleasant@glbhealth.org


Talk Early & Talk Often® is a program of Parent Action for Healthy Kids, Inc. All Rights Reserved. This Talk Early & Talk Often workshop was made possible by Grant Number 2023MPREP from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Its contents are solely the responsibility of Parent Action for Healthy Kids and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.






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COURTESY PHOTO

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® - Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter 40th Annual Hats off to Mom Scholarship Gala



Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® will host our 40th Annual Hats Off to Mom Scholarship Gala, “40 Years Soaring for Hats off to Mom”, on Saturday, May 4,

2024, at 6:00 p.m. Our gala will be held at the Horizons Conference Center, 6200 State Street in Saginaw, Michigan. This is an opportunity to continue our service to all mankind through extraordinary programs and the awarding of scholarships to deserving students in the Saginaw community. Over the past 62 years, Eta Upsilon Omega has significantly impacted the Saginaw Community, contributing nearly \$250,000 in scholarships and community service programs. Our endeavor is to continue this legacy in 2024.

This event will feature special segments including:

- Presentation of scholarships to local high school students
- Mrs. Mattie L. Thompson will receive the “Mother of The Year” award

- Eta Upsilon Omega will also celebrate Mrs. Ceciell Reed, who will receive the “Soror of The Year” award
- Vendor Showcase & Women Entrepreneurs
- Melodious sounds of Montique Affair Entertainment of Flint, MI
- Saginaw’s Own, DJ Eric Smith

To help us meet our goal, we extend the opportunity to sponsor and/or purchase ad space in our souvenir program book. The deadline for ads and sponsors is April 15, 2024. Proceeds will benefit students through scholarships, and community service organizations. Tickets are \$65. Donations can be made and tickets can be purchased on EventBrite.com.

Call Mrs. Lisa Reed at 989-443-3382 for information.



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+ COMMUNITY



MARVIN SANDERS

Saginaw Officer named 2024 Michigan Department of Corrections Officer of the Year

Marvin Sanders, a Corrections Officer at Saginaw Correctional Facility, has been named the 2024 Michigan Department of Corrections Officer of the Year.

“The selection of Marvin Sanders as Corrections Officer of the Year is a reflection of not only his efforts as an officer, but also his impact on his facility as a trainer and mentor,” said Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington. “Marvin’s colleagues at the Saginaw Correctional Facility view him as someone who models the technical elements of being a highly effective officer while being a consistently positive and engaging presence. I am proud to commend Officer Sanders on behalf of the entire MDOC for his well-deserved selection as officer of the year.”

Officer Sanders has been an MDOC Corrections Officer for 24 years. Whether administering NARCAN, performing CPR, or engaging in effective communication to deescalate volatile situations, he routinely exhibits exemplary heroism. His

peers recognize his deep understanding of policy and procedure and his dedication to mentorship and continued learning. He is widely regarded as an honest and objective leader who recognizes humanity in every individual.

Marvin has demonstrated versatility by undertaking various roles such as Resident Unit Officer, facility trainer, weapons trainer, front desk officer, control center officer, and he is currently the bid health-care officer. Officer Sanders readily accepts additional duties and is committed to the seamless functioning of his team.

The Michigan Correctional Officers’ Training Council, comprised of representatives from the MDOC, Michigan Corrections Organization, law enforcement, and higher education, chose Officer Sanders for the honor from a pool of five finalists.

Cary Johnson, Vice President at Michigan Corrections Organization and a member of the Officer of the Year selection committee said, “Any of the five candidates today could have been the winner and can

come to JCF and work with me any time! The professionalism and values of the Officers I met today let me know that we continue to have the highest of standards. The hardest part was choosing one. Officer Sander’s work within the community and his facility are so impressive. I am so happy for him and SRF.”

As a departmental trainer, Marvin fosters innovation and creativity by delving deep into subject matter; breaking down content into digestible steps and ensuring that students grasp the underlying rationale.

Officer Sanders is a volunteer firefighter for the Bridgeport Fire Department, a part-time deputy for the Midland County Sheriff’s Department, a member of the Bridgeport Gun Club and participates in Shop with a Hero events. He is currently enrolled in courses at Delta College.

“Take what’s given to you and make the best of it,” Officer Sanders said. “Strive for your goals, work hard, and don’t take what you already have for granted.”

**DO YOU KNOW A MOM WHO DESERVES TO BE CELEBRATED?
NOMINATE A MOTHER YOU KNOW OR YOURSELF TODAY**



THE MOTHER YOU KNOW Contest



Award CATEGORIES

- 📌 Mother You Know
- 📌 Grandmother You Know
- 📌 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.



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Perception

By JASMINE BUCKLEY



*"Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one."
- Albert Einstein*

The power of perception, a force so profound, shapes our reality like a masterful sculptor's hand.

It weaves a tapestry of meaning, from threads of sight and sound, forming beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors that shape our lives. Our perspectives, like prisms, refract and reflect, coloring our experiences with shades of thought and affect. Though two people witness the same scene, they may see it differently. One may see tragedy, the other, a minor inconvenience.

A young girl lived in a small village surrounded by a beautiful forest. She had always been told that the forest was a scary and dangerous place full of ferocious beasts. She had never ventured in, and her perception of the forest was one of fear and avoidance.

One day, a wise old man came to the village and asked her to guide him through the forest. She was hesitant, but the old man assured her that he would keep her safe. As they walked through the forest, the young girl saw the same trees, rocks, and animals that she had always seen before. But the old man pointed out the beauty in each thing they encountered - the intricate patterns on a leaf, the gentle song of a bird, the vibrant colors of a wildflower.

She began to see the forest in a new light. She realized that her perception of the forest had been shaped by the fears and warnings of others. But now, she saw the beauty and wonder that had been there all along. From that day forward, her perception of the forest was transformed, and she spent many happy days exploring its wonders.

Perception is the process of interpreting and organizing sensory information from the world around us. It is a crucial aspect of human cognition, as it enables us to make sense of our environment, form opinions, and navigate our daily lives. However, the power of perception extends far beyond just processing sensory information. Our perceptions shape our beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors, and ultimately, our very reality.

The undeniable power of perception in relationships is apparent as it drives our ability to approach others with warmth or skepticism. It is what drives our biases but also our empathy. Though our thoughts and beliefs shape our reality, please find peace in knowing we, as human beings, have the ability to shift and shape perception like a master sculptor all on our own. Harnessing the power that you have and crafting a new reality is truly our greatest super power.

Examination of how our perspectives can influence our experiences, relationships, and even our physical well-being is crucial! There are many complexities of perception, and it is important to cultivate awareness on how cultural, social, and personal factors can shape our perceptions, and how these perceptions, in turn, shape our world.

A Mother's Love

By MB STAFF

**In fields of gold, her love did sow,
A mother's tender touch, aglow.
Through whispered lullabies she'd weave,
A haven where my dreams could breathe.**

**In every tear, a guiding light,
Her warmth embracing darkest night.
With gentle hands, she'd wipe away
The fears that hid in shadows' sway.**

**Her laughter danced like petals fair,
A melody beyond compare.
In her embrace, I found my song,
A love enduring, ever strong.**

**Through stormy seas and skies of gray,
She anchored me along the way.
With wisdom's grace, she'd gently steer,
Through trials, troubles, year by year.**

**In her eyes, I saw the stars,
Guiding me past earthly bars.
With every heartbeat, I could trace
Her love, a boundless, endless grace.**

**Oh, mother dear, your legacy,
A testament to constancy.
In every breath, your spirit gleams,
Forever woven in my dreams.**

**So let this ode, my heart's decree,
Proclaim your love eternally.
For in your arms, I'll ever find
The purest love, so deep, so kind.**

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"Celebrating the Beauty & Wisdom of Women Over 50" portraits by Kathy Morley now on display at Andersen Enrichment Center

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"Celebrating the Beauty & Wisdom of Women Over 50" Portraits by Kathy Morley features a collection professional portraits accompanied by their personal words of wisdom. This exhibition is on display now through May 3, 2024 at the Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust, across from Ojibway Island in Saginaw. Hours are from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Award-winning photographer and portrait artist Kathy Morley opened her Midland, MI studio, Morley Portraiture in 2004. She is best known in the community for capturing the spirit and personality of her subjects in a timeless way. Kathy has photographed thousands of clients including three of Dow Chemical's Presidents and their families, and an image selected for a postage stamp for the country of Greece.

Morley says, "My most important work



CELEBRATING THE BEAUTY & WISDOM OF WOMEN OVER 50/
PORTRAITS BY KATHY MORLEY

to date has been photographing women over age 50. When I started this project, I thought many women like me, had very few images of themselves, and this was an opportunity to change that. Through my lens, women can see themselves as not only beautiful but so much more. It's my passion to help women feel empowered and to embrace the woman they've become. These portraits are a reminder that

they do matter and that they are beautiful....and of course, WISE!"

The Morley exhibition is the first of a two part photography series, Focus on Women, at Andersen Enrichment Center. Women Behind the Lens will open May 8, 2024 and feature the work of five women who are making photography their life's work or use photography as a means of expressing their creativity.

Art @ the Andersen is made possible with the support of the Maxwell K. Pribil Memorial Trust, Jury Foundation, Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation, and the Michigan Arts & Culture Council. This project has been established by the Saginaw Arts & Enrichment Commission to give artists in the Great Lakes Bay Region an opportunity to exhibit and sell their work. For more information call the Saginaw Arts & Enrichment Commission at 989.759.1362.

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1:15pm-3:15pm TETO Workshop
3:15pm-3:30pm Prize Drawing
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501 Lapeer Ave, Saginaw, MI 48607
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Register to reserve a spot!
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+ COMMUNITY

Award-winning voice impacting lives far and near

By HASANI ALI

With a passion for students and a vision to help the city of Saginaw grow, Jenny Geno has an eye for local talent and wants to keep the talent within the city.

As the Executive Director of Career and Technical Education at the Saginaw Intermediate School District, the Bay City native has been a helping hand in assisting students and young adults in finding their career paths through hands-on training and a plethora of job opportunities.

Geno has over 20 years of CTE experience.

Her passion began at an early age as a co-op student teacher as a sophomore at Bay City Central High School.

"I felt like I was drawn to it," Geno said. "Never thought that I would have become a teacher, but I began to love it more and more as I began to connect with the students."

The idea of teaching became a second thought as she began her college career as a journalism major at Michigan State University.

Yet, it was something that she couldn't get away from as she changed her major to Education with a specialty in Cognitive Disorders.

After graduation, Geno began her teaching career in Bangor Township as a preschool teacher.

Having experience in the classroom gave the confirmation that she needed to know that her career was in the education field.

"It was definitely the students," Geno said. "As I worked with them and saw how I could bring out the potential in them, I knew that education is where I needed to be."

During her six-year tenure, Geno went back to school to obtain her master's degree at Saginaw Valley State University in Education with a focus in Behavioral Disorders.

While at SVSU, Geno was a Gerstacker Fellow in 2016 and a 2020 graduate of the Henry Marsh Institute for Public Policy.

She later went on to teach middle school at Midland Public Schools for three years.

With not enough career development as a teacher, it was time to transition into another role that would be more meaningful for Geno.

Her transition to Saginaw was the perfect opportunity though it was unexpected.

Geno was assisting Saginaw Intermediate School District Superintendent Kathy Stewart with a grant to extend more student participation at the Saginaw Career Complex, located at 2012 Weiss St.

The largest grant awarded in the state of Michigan of \$6 million dollars was granted back in November 2018.

According to MLive.com, SCC had around 430 Saginaw County students attending from Birch Run, Bridgeport, Carrollton, Chesaning, Frankenmuth, Freeland, Hemlock, Merrill, Saginaw, Saginaw Township, St. Charles, Swan Valley and multiple charter and parochial schools.

Geno took pride in being able to bring business into the classroom when she was hired on as the Executive Director of CTE.

"It was such a great feeling," she said. "We're giving these students a chance to apply their skills and inevitably see their future."

She noted that she had high reverence for Stewart, stating that she was the person that she wanted to be when she grew up.

Providing the funding for SCC was only the beginning for Geno.

Thinking progressively, she secured funding for the facility and the faculty members, but perhaps the students can have a lucrative opportunity as well.

Wanting students to be paid while honing their crafts, Geno brought in the right people in order to register for the first teaching apprenticeship in the state of

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JENNY GENO HILL

Michigan.

"It was definitely a passion of mine," she said. "Now those students can get paid while earning their credentials."

Geno wanted to focus on keeping the talent local and building an existing pipeline for local businesses to recruit from.

Having the honor and privilege to serve the community of Saginaw, the effort was quite reflective in the awards that she has won over the past few years.

Geno was awarded the Manufacturing Talent Champion Award in 2021 from the Michigan Manufacturer's Association.

She was also awarded the Michigan CTE Administrator of the Year Award in 2022 from the Michigan Association of Career and Technical Education, the Region 1 Association of Career and Technical Education Administrator of the Year Award in May of 2022 and the national ACTE Administrator of the Year Award in November, 2022.

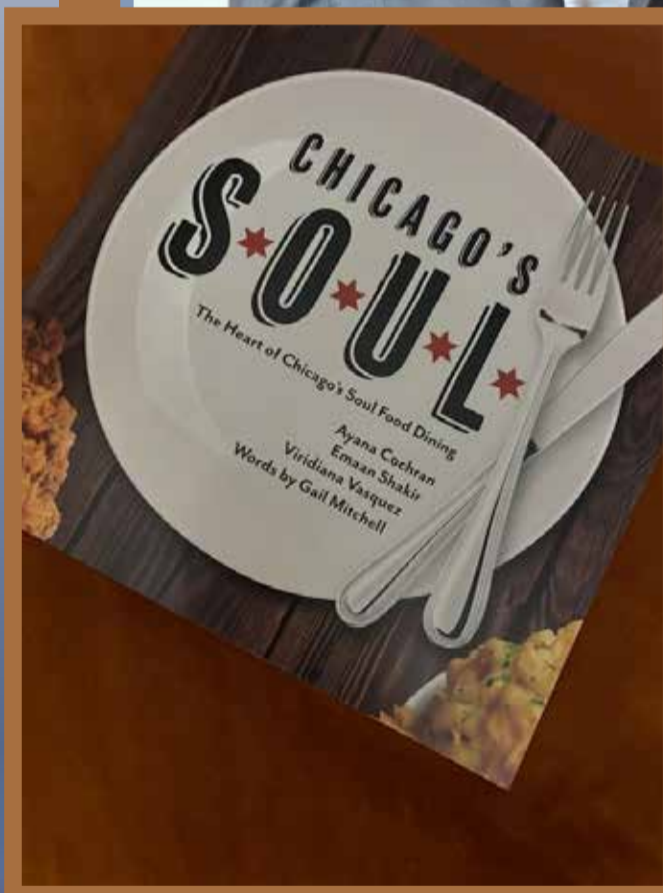
+ COMMUNITY

Chicago's Soul



Marshall Carter, hospitality management instructor of Washburne Culinary and Hospitality Institute at Kennedy-King College says that soul food is American food "When I think of soul food I obviously think about the roots of where the food comes from, the African diaspora to be specifically--slaves who were brought to the United States and who invariably built this country. The term "soul food" itself indicates food being cooked from the soul. It was sustenance out of meager ingredients, and for me, when I hear people talk about soul food, I think of its deliciousness, but what I also think about is what it must have taken for the individuals who created the different dishes that make soul food what it is, what things they had to do to make something oftentimes unpalatable, palatable for everyone."

Marshall Carter is Saginaw native and graduate of Buena Vista High School.



+ COMMUNITY

The unpaved path to leadership and service

By HASANI ALI

Torri Lee didn't necessarily have a particular purpose or passion when she decided to move back to Buena Vista Township from Charlotte N.C., yet she made one firm decision.

"I moved closer to home to be closer to my mother and the rest of my family," she said. "It was ironic for me because when I moved to Detroit to attend Wayne State University, I vowed to myself that I was never going to return to Saginaw."

The Saginaw native's decision came with a declaration after an internal dialogue with herself before resigning as a Finance Manager.

"I told myself that if I came back to the city, then I was going to serve a purpose," she said. "I remember having that monologue with myself, it was clear as day."

Since she moved back in October 2010, Lee has hit the ground running without skipping a beat.

Though it was unexpected, the idea of serving a purpose landed her a position as an Executive Director at Restoration Community Outreach, a male shelter, located 1205 Norman St.

From 2011-2017, Lee found joy in uplifting, supporting and nurturing men during their time of difficulty.

"It was extremely fulfilling," she said. "Just being able to help the men obtain more stability in their lives brought a lot of joy in my heart."

To help expand the outreach, Lee was a major hand in doubling the housing programs when the shelter only had four upon her arrival – including veterans and families.

Nearly \$800,000 dollars was secured through several funding sources thanks to her efforts. The men at the shelter did for her what she was hired to do for them.

"They made an impact on me as well as I never thought that I would be in that type of position," she Lee said. "A lot of those men came to us broken and it was such an honor to help them get back on their feet and help them turn their lives around."

In 2017, Lee received a tip from the former manager of Buena Vista Township that his position was going to be available



TORRI LEE

as he was securing another position.

The municipality was changing gears as they needed more oversight when it comes to the daily operations of the township.

Having a master's degree in business administration and experience with finance and leadership, Lee was the perfect candidate to be hired as Buena Vista's first superintendent.

"I heard about the opportunity from the former manager as he was leaving," she said. "I had to go back and do something for the community. It was my home. I grew up there. I received an education from there. It was a no brainer."

She was hired in July 2017.

As she got accustomed to her new role in leadership, it was a challenge for her to work both jobs for four months until the shelter was able to hire someone else.

"It was challenging because I was coming into something new and still had to make sure that the shelter operated smoothly so it was a lot."

"Saginaw County in general is declining in population," she said. "We don't have a school system nor a grocery store. But we're going to focus on the positive and show that the area has a lot of potential for growth. Millions of dollars are being invested in Buena Vista behind the scenes. For a lot of residents, if they can't see it or touch it, then they may not see the

changes happening."

Since then, Lee has been slowly, but surely restoring the township where people will want to come visit.

The slogan for 2024 was declared, "Restored. Refocused. Renewed."

In fact, one of the bigger projects that is underway is the demolition that has begun for the burned down hotel that was known as the Welcome Inn, formerly located at 3425 E. Holland Rd.

The hotel burned down last January.

"We're so proud to be moving forward and getting rid of that eye sore that has been bothersome in the community over the past year," Lee said.

Though one less business is occupying the city, many businesses are in the works to occupy the township.

Biggby Coffee is set to open next week, located at 3743 E. Holland Rd.

Lee has been applying more pressure by hosting more town hall meetings than ever before to keep the residents informed on all of the township updates.

Though the progress is moving expeditiously, Lee urges residents to remain patient. The tangibles may not be visible to the eye, but the momentum is picking up speed behind the scenes.

"It's a lot of pressure but it makes me feel good," she said. "It's a high priority for me to make sure that the township is operating at the highest level. My mother still lives in the same house that we grew up in and we just want to keep the community a special place for those that live in it."

Lee wants to encourage those with uncertain paths to keep walking as it will show up eventually.

"There's so many different paths to serving your purpose," she said. "I can't define what that path looks like because you never know how it will appear. If you have a passion, then follow it and let the work speak for itself."

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Sisterhood in the Black community - A powerful force for empowerment and unity

By CH'NEL SKELTON

Sisterhood is an essential aspect of the black community. Black women have always stood powerfully together through the toughest of times and this bond is an unwavering force in helping us conquer various challenges. The black community has a history of oppression and marginalization, which has created an unshakable sense of unity among black women. Sisterhood provides a robust and secure space for black women to share their experiences, fiercely support each other, and unapologetically uplift one another.

In the black community, sisterhood is firmly rooted in shared experiences, such as deep-rooted racism, sexism, and discrimination. Black women often face unique challenges that require a unique approach to problem-solving. It is a sisterhood that allows black women to come together and share their stories, experiences, and knowledge. Through this collective sisterhood, we provide each other with the strength and resources needed to navigate these challenges, with our heads held high. Several places like this exist within sororities, social clubs, sports teams, community coalitions, and social activist groups just to name a few. Black female unity is strong enough to propel us through the health gaps in our culture.

Health disparities are a significant issue in the black community, and sisterhood can play a vital role in addressing them. Black women are often disproportionately affected by health disparities due to systemic racism and discrimination. Sisterhood can provide a support system for black women to navigate the healthcare system and advocate for their health needs. Sisterhood can also help black women create a culture of health within their communities, promoting healthy behaviors and practices that can improve overall health outcomes. Ultimately, sisterhood can help black women address health disparities. In addition to health and wellness factors we face another inequality unlike any other ethnic group, which regards to wealth.

Black women are more likely to be in low-wage jobs, face pay discrimination,



COURTESY PHOTO

and have limited access to resources that can help them build wealth. This can create long-term implications for their financial stability and well-being. However, sisterhood can play a crucial role in addressing the wealth gap. By coming together, black women can share resources and knowledge on how to build wealth and create financial stability. Maintaining a powerful union can also provide support and encouragement to take risks and pursue entrepreneurship, which can be a powerful tool for building wealth. Moreover, through sisterhood, black women can advocate for policies and systems that address the root causes of the wealth gap. This can include

advocating for fair pay, access to affordable housing, and access to quality education and training, among other things. Overall, sisterhood can help black women navigate and overcome the challenges posed by the wealth gap, enabling them to build wealth, achieve financial stability,

and create a better future for themselves and their families.

Sisterhood is a powerful source of empowerment. Black women have been historically undervalued and underrepresented, and sisterhood provides an unwavering platform for us to amplify our voices and advocate for ourselves and our community. Sisterhood inspires us to achieve our goals and strive for success with the assurance that we have a ferociously strong support system behind us.

Sisterhood is a non-negotiable aspect of the black community. It provides an unbreakable space for black women to share their experiences, fiercely support each other, and unapologetically uplift one another. Sisterhood is a formidable source of empowerment that allows us to amplify our voices, advocate for ourselves and our community, and fearlessly conquer all that comes our way.

+ COMMUNITY

Award-winning voice impacting lives far and near

By HASANI ALI

It wouldn't be farfetched at all to say that Vicki Hill learned the importance of caring for others at a young age.

In fact, she moved to Saginaw from Benton Harbor as her mother moved her and her sibling to the other side of the state to help out a relative.

Since then, Hill has dedicated her life to being a servant to others and enriching the community to impact the lives of many.

Serving nearly 30 years as a Branch Manager at Jolt Credit Union in Bay City and a Gospel Announcer at Kiss 107.1 WTLZ, Hill found joy in anybody that she was able to help.

"Anytime that I can help anyone is when I am fulfilled," she said. "My mission and purpose is to serve without seeking acknowledgement in return. I'm here to be a servant wherever I am called."

On a monthly basis, Hill raised funds for the needy and addressed groups at youth conferences, schools, and mentors.

Keeping her focus on youth, Hill led the "Warm A Child for Winter" project which provided coats for over 800 underprivileged children.

She was the person to call when a Saginaw resident approached her about a family in need. Touched by the story, Hill sprang into action immediately.

In 2008, Hill was the leading voice behind a major fundraiser for a baby girl that was born with her organs outside of her body.

"That was my most rewarding thing ever," she said. "When I serve, it's never about me, it's about the community. It doesn't matter if I ever get paid or receive an award. My love for the people and helping them is my reward."

Hill is set to work her 23rd year at Gospel Fest in Saginaw, which typically brings out approximately 5,000 people from all walks of life to safely honor God as a collective.

The festival will consist of gospel music, games, food, contests, health screenings and local charities.

Her team has worked with dealerships in the city to give away vehicles to deserv-



VICKI HILL

ing individuals and families.

Impacting lives near and far, the lady spreading the gospel over the airways was awarded for her noble service.

At the 25th Annual Gospel Music Awards in Nashville, Tenn., she was awarded with the Stellar Reach Award for her service as a Gospel Announcer at Kiss 107.1.

Known as the Gospel Lady, Hill was taken aback by the reaction she received when she was announced as the winner of the award in front of a huge crowd at the Grand O'le Opry.

"I was shocked to say the least," she said. "It was amazing, felt like I was somebody at that moment. Photographers were running to the stage to take photos of me. People were coming up to and congratulating me for winning the award and it was something that I've never felt before."

Though her service is not for her own fulfillment, Hill wants to celebrate the accomplishments of women who have im-

acted lives across the country.

"Women's history month is huge because this is the month women are actually seen for what they do and have done," she said. "Whether it's for what they do in the workforce or how they contribute to the household, it's about time that we are recognized for our efforts."

She wants to encourage women to keep opening doors for more women to be exposed to any industry that a woman chooses.

"Women are making strides in our society and in the world every single day," Hill said. "There's nothing that a woman can't do once she puts her mind to it."

Hill harps for all future leaders to follow the passion dear to their heart as they never know whose lives it will impact.

"Follow your dreams and follow your heart," she said. "Look for your purpose and when you find it, walk towards it. Everything else will come with it."

A strong voice and a warm heart for homeless women and children

By HASANI ALI

Life can sometimes be funny when it comes full circle.

As for Lisa Coleman, she never knew that a real estate deal was an entry way into her passion and divine life assignment.

Back in 2009, Coleman sold a building as a realtor to a ministry looking to provide shelter for homeless women and children.

H.I.S. Restoration Ministries, located at 1501 Weiss Street in Saginaw, began its ministry in 1998 but finally secured funding to actually provide adequate housing for those in need.

The business transaction evolved into Coleman volunteering at the shelter and becoming a member on the advisory board.

As a foster child herself, the Lake Fenton native believed that God had put this shelter in her heart to become a servant as she could relate to the ladies in similar situations.

“God gave me a passion and compassion for women and children,” Coleman said. “You can’t help the child if you can’t help the mother.”

Being raised by a teenage mother, Coleman saw the difference that positive influence makes on an individual.

“My mother had me at 16 years old,” she said. “If someone would have been there for my mother, then perhaps her life would have been a little bit different. My life would have been different as well.”

Coleman had been in the real estate industry for the last 20 years. Little did she know that her life was about to change when she was called to another position of leadership.

She worked with Pastor Ann Fowler, the founder and owner of H.I.S. Ministries since the building was purchased.

In awe of her character and her determination to help women in difficult situations, Coleman admired the woman that eventually asked her to step in to take over.

In 2017, Fowler was set to retire, but knew that Coleman would be the perfect fit to be the CEO and the Executive Director of the ministry.

She wasted no time carrying on the mission. Though she didn’t receive education for this line of work, Coleman went the extra mile to earn her certification through Elijah House Ministry Training.

Being in a position that is unpaid, Coleman had a support system at home that al-



LISA COLEMAN

lowed her to carry out her duties full time.

Her husband Sammie is able to provide for her while she served in this role and walked away from the real estate industry.

In fact, her husband is the reason why she landed in Saginaw.

Prior to getting married in 2005, Lisa met Sammie while she worked at a title company. Sammie was purchasing properties, and she was doing the paperwork.

She moved to Saginaw three months prior to getting married and has been a Saginaw resident for the last 19 years.

“Saginaw is my home,” she said with a smile. “I didn’t know anyone here except for my husband, but I absolutely love the city of Saginaw and have built so many lasting relationships.”

In addition to Sammie providing for Lisa, he also has an indirect hand in assisting with the shelter.

“He’s the type of spouse that will get his hands dirty during his down time,” Lisa said. “He never has a problem assisting me with whatever needs to get done.”

With attending a church as a requirement, Sammie would even help the ladies attend church by offering rides.

Coleman was fortunate enough to have never been homeless, nor having to go through pregnancy alone.

Yet, she still wanted to use her difficult journey as a foster child as a way to be a tes-

timony to the ladies that were going through a difficult time.

“I want the ladies to look at me from the other side of the tough time,” she said. “I am proof that they can work through it and not to define themselves by their current circumstances. Many of the ladies come into the shelter with trash bags. I don’t want them to ever feel like they are trash.”

Coleman looks at every woman as a part of their family. In fact, she is the ideal mother figure to the women at the shelter.

A woman at the shelter named a baby after Coleman. Baby Lisa is now three years old and has moved out of the state with her mother.

Coleman was also there for many of the births of these children, getting active from cutting the cords to naming a child.

She really wanted to make sure these mothers had everything they needed before transitioning towards their next journey in life.

From helping women with vehicle ownership and housing, Coleman has pointed many ladies in the right direction to help the ladies get what they need to make their lives easier.

Wanting the mothers to become healthy advocates for their children, Coleman has also helped mothers with cooking and parental classes.

The ministry has touched the lives of many women and children. Yet, Coleman is still hoping that the volunteer circumstance will be able to change in the near future.

“I am looking forward to having a full-time staff one day,” she said, chuckling. “Even when I decide to step down from my position, I want the next person to come along and get paid for their efforts.”

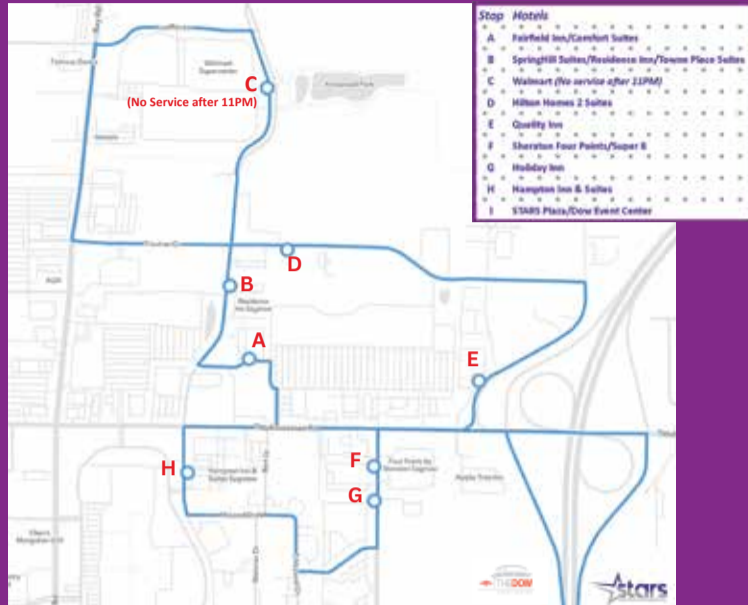
Coleman believes her servitude to the shelter is a form of healing of her childhood wounds.

She wants women who are struggling in the surrounding areas to know that they don’t have to do this alone.

“My true purpose is to bring hope to women that may feel hopeless,” she said. “They just need to know that they can do this and we are here to help.”

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- S3 Castle Museum/Hoyt Library/Rally's
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- S4 Historic Lee Mansion/7-Eleven
- S5 Post Office/City Hall
- S6 Hoyt Park/Children's Zoo/Mexican American Council/Japanese Cultural Center/Ojibway Island/Montague Inn
YMCA/Splash Pad/Skate Park/Garber Tennis & Pickleball
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- S9 Subway/Gee'Ques BBQ/Hamilton St. Pub/The Stable Outdoor Outfitters/Audiogazing/China City/Princing's Pharmacy/Salon & Beauty Suites/Designers 3
- S10 Retro Rocks/Jake's Old City Grill/Robbie D's/Woody O'Brien's/ Jimmy John's/West Side Drugs/Bauer's Jewelry/Haunted Saginaw Shoppe & Museum/Old Town Saginaw Art Park/ Neon Park
- S11 Oracle Brewing/Pasong's Café/Fralia's/Artisan Urban Bistro/ Red Eye Coffee & Tea/Bread Gal/ Mac's Bar/Steamers Pub/ Wub Clothing/Liquid Lounge/Park Asia/Save-A-Lot/Listening Room/West Side Party Shoppe
- S12 Saginaw Art Museum & Rose Garden/Panda House
- S14 Bliss Park/McDonald's/Taco Bell/Burger King/The Work Wear Store
- S15 Bringer Inn/Tim Horton's/Family Dollar/Happy's Pizza/ New Bond Inn
- S16 Mid-Michigan Children's Museum/Da Smoking Ribs/Krispy Krunchy Chicken
- S17 Burbon & Co./SVRC Marketplace

- STARS Plaza
- Dow Event Center
- Parking
- Court Street Theatre

Representation matters for Michigan's 8th Congressional District candidate

By HASANI ALI

For the first time in 70 years, there has been no black representative serving in Congress, which could lead to some dire consequences.

Saginaw native Pam Pugh saw this as a major problem.

Growing up in a home where her parents were active participants in politics, Pugh has declared her candidacy for Michigan's 8th Congressional District.

For Women's History Month, the Saginaw High graduate is contributing to the history books by stepping up to represent all people if elected in Congress.

"Representation matters," she said. "No matter what seat I have taken, I have shown up as black woman."

With the double representation, she wants to ring the alarm about the importance of voters knowing what's on the ballot thoroughly before voting during the election season.

"It's important to have laser focus on our voters rights and other rights that are on the ballot," Pugh said. "Those rights are in danger and everyone must be heavily informed as these laws will eventually affect the lives of our children down the line."

Pugh wants fair treatment for all American citizens, emphasizing that government should provide equal representation and treatment regardless of the connections a particular group may have.

"I am here to make sure that the government is working for all people," she said. "This is regardless of their income, where they live or who they know."

Her outreach is not limited to the state of Michigan.

Pugh collaborated with a small delegation to assess the condition and treatment of Hurricane Katrina survivors back in 2005.

The community outreach is a direct correlation and reflection of the way her parents served in politics in Saginaw County.

Her mother Carolyn was a paraprofessional for the Saginaw County School District, helping professional women enter the workforce by taking care of their children during the 1970's.



PAMELA PUGH

She revered her mother as a giving person who taught her to serve the community and to love people through service.

Because of what she was taught, Pugh, similar to her mother, became a mother figure to many of the young Saginaw residents.

"I dedicated my life experience to children's issues," she said. "I think it's a major contribution as far as making our community safer for children."

Her father John worked behind the scenes to help get people elected throughout Saginaw County.

The retired Economics professor and administrator at Delta College was a key player while managing Reverend Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign in Saginaw.

Pam Pugh was involved as a young teenager during that campaign.

As a teenager, she would come home from school to assemble "Run Jesse Run" buttons to distribute throughout the community.

Since then, Jackson's influence on her family and others to participate in large numbers to attend every Democratic Na-

tional Convention.

Her parents encouraged her to attend the DNC at the age of 17.

From then on, her personal connection with Jackson and politics embedded in her mind propelled Pugh into action to serve in many critical political movements around the country – especially as a two-time elected official.

Pugh protested as a college student for more black faculty and staff at Florida A&M University. She led the way by making the one phone call she could make to bring awareness to the protest.

"My friends were impressed that I could call Rev. Jesse Jackson on the phone," she said.

Pugh's connection to Jackson was so strong, his presence was heavily felt when she was on the front lines of addressing the Flint water crisis.

Her contribution to the community and her love for people will forever be a factor in her choice to be involved in politics.

She also has been president of the Michigan State Board of Education since 2015.

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+ COMMUNITY

Cornbread Dressing



By **VALINDA CROSBY**

God blessed my husband and I to start a family tradition at Thanksgiving. The tradition calls for our family simply to sit down together at the table to break bread and fellowship with each other. Each person at the table has to share what they are thankful to God for.

I enjoy preparing this dish for the family, because it is a family favorite! It is my hope, that you and your family will enjoy it as much as mines - May God bless and keep you.

- 1 lb. of Chicken (I use both white & dark meat)
- 1 cup of diced celery
- 1 cup of diced onion
- 1 cup of diced green pepper
(YOU ALSO CAN USE SEASON BLEND)
- 32 ounces of Chicken Broth
- 1/2 cup Butter (1 Stick)
- 3-10.5 ounce cans of cream of chicken soup
- 1 box of stove top stuffing
- Salt, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder.

Preheat oven at 350*. While the oven is preheating, boil chicken in a large pot for approximately 30 minutes. Once fully, cooked remove from the pot and debone.

Cook cornbread by using the recipe on the back of your cornmeal bag.

Sauté celery, onion, and green bell peppers in 2 tsp of butter for approximately 5 minutes or until vegetables are soft.

In a large bowl, crumble cornbread and add box of stovetop stuffing. Add the broth



you cooked chicken in, cream of chicken, sauté vegetables and seasoning - Salt, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, and deboned chicken. Mix well. If your mixture is not moist, enough add your chicken broth 1 cup at a time until you reach your desired consistency. Remember everything is already cooked. Transfer the mixture to an oven safe dish (Aluminum pan or casserole dish). Cook until dressing is brown and the middle is firm.

Serve with cranberry sauce (Optional)

For more recipes, please follow me on my YouTube Channel @ValindaCrosby4716.

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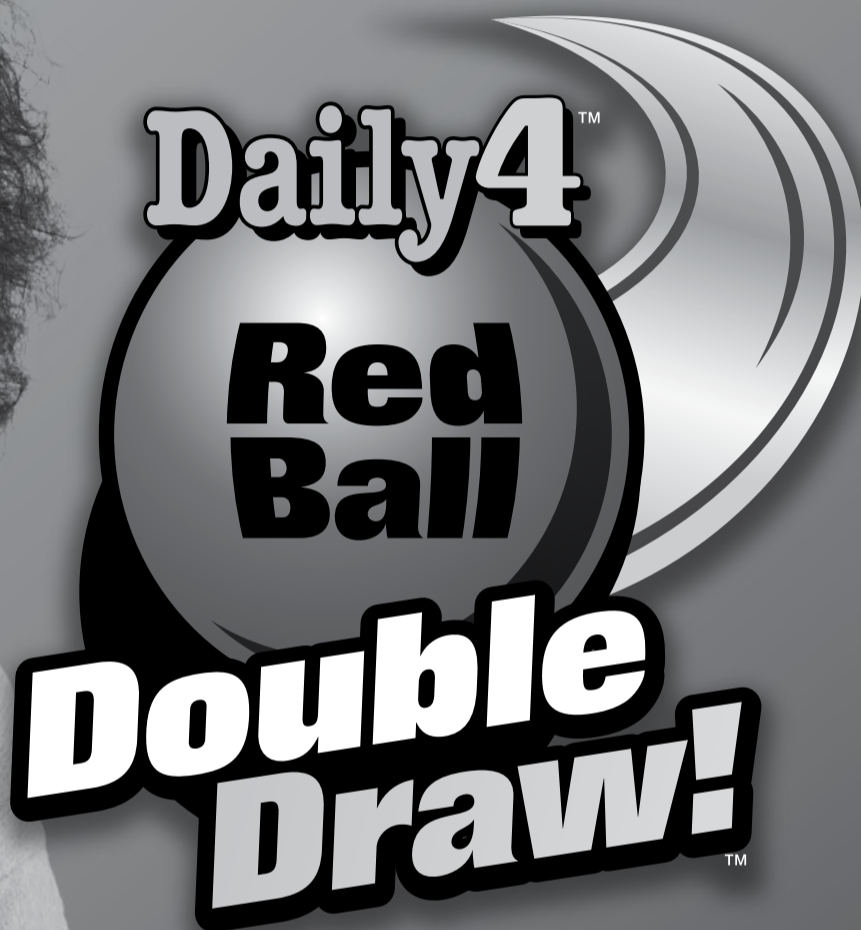
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+ FAITH BASED

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

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+ FAITH BASED

SERMONETTE SERIES

By MINISTER CAROLYN CARTER
TOWNSEL

Proverbs 3:5-6 is one of those Scriptures that as Christians we are familiar with and can recite it without any thought. It can become like quoting the Pledge of Allegiance but rarely considering whether or not one is allegiant to that pledge. For the most part, if we are honest, it is easy to trust God in the good times of life, but often times when all hell breaks loose; it becomes a struggle to trust Him.

To ***“Trust in the Lord”*** is to place your security in Him. When it comes to trusting the Lord, it means you believe in His word, His truth, His reliability, His ability, and His strength. Therefore, not only do you trust Him when things are under control, but also when they appear to be out of control. As Christians, we must actively choose to trust God. It does not matter how grave the situation is, or whether we understand the whys of the condition, we are to trust God even when we cannot see or track Him. This is not just a choice in our head or lip service, but actions within our life.

To ***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart”*** defines the degree and magnitude in which one is trusting in God. The term ***“heart”*** signifies who you are and it

When You Cannot See or Track the Lord – Trust Him

*“Trust in the Lord with
all thine heart; and
lean not unto thine own
understanding. In all thy
ways acknowledge him and
he shall direct thy paths”*

Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV



is the center of your being. It is the place where the issues of life flow. In essence, ***“Trusting in the Lord with all your heart,”*** means that you have completely placed your hope in Christ alone. Nothing else and no one else. You are trusting God with everything you are and everything you have. Consequently, trusting God’s sovereignty to this extent is to overcome anxieties, fears, and or worries.

“And lean not unto thine own understanding” this is challenging and difficult for many and presents the temptation to resort back to our old way of living – leaning on our own understanding. To lean does not consist of just reclining against, but relying on something for support to stay upright. As Christians, we are leaning on the strong arms of God. Therefore, it is crucial not to rely on ourselves, we are to let go of what we think we know and lean on God and let Him take the lead on what He absolutely, positively, unquestionably, and undeniably knows.

“In all your ways acknowledge

Him” not some ways but always with all our ways. In order to accomplish this we must proclaim Him as Lord over our life, grant Him total access to sit on the throne of our hearts, and affirm His trustworthiness. When we as Believers do this, the Lord can begin to govern our walk.

“And He will direct your paths.” He will begin to establish our steps and lead us where He needs us.

Beloved, God will guide you in and out of every situation, He will provide you with everything you need to go through life – but you have to trust Him. God cannot lead you where you will not follow. If we are not careful with the familiarity of Scripture, they can become words known and recited without life and truth being received - therefore, missing the power behind the Word. ***“When You Cannot See or Track the Lord – Trust Him.”*** Trust Him to lead you better than you can lead yourself.

Blessings,
Carolyn

+ CHURCH DIRECTORY

A



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Rev. Dr. Joseph Rodriguez
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Rev. Dennis Laffoon
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989-755-7011



Bethlehem Temple Church of the Apostolic Faith
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3521 Webber St
Saginaw, Michigan 48601
989-755-8381



Bread of Life Harvest Center
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3726 Fortune Blvd.
Saginaw, MI 48603
989-790-7933

C

Christ Disciples Baptist Church
Founder Pastor Eddie Benson
Pastor Genevieve Benson
3317 Lapeer Street
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989-754-2444

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



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

F



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



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

G



Glimpse Of Hope Ministries
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2211 S. Outer Dr.
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g.ministries@aol.com



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LifeInChristMinistries07@gmail.com

M

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



Ministry Without Walls
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Saginaw, MI 48603



Mt. Olive Baptist Church
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N



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989-777-8272
Pastorbaldwin@charter.net



New Beginnings Ministries
Pastor Augustine Delgado
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Saginaw, MI 48601
newlife3881@gmail.com



New Birth Missionary Baptist
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3121 Sheridan
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New Covenant Christian Center
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Prince of Peace Baptist Church
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Pastor Adolfo & Erlinda Martinez
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www.radiantchurchofgod.org



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Saginaw, MI 48601
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S



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



Second Baptist Church
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Bay City, MI 48708
989-893-8631

T



Transforming Life Ministries
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Church: 989-759-9411
Pastor 810.223.2987

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World Outreach Campus of Greater Coleman Temple Ministries
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Pastor Rodrick Smith
721 Johnson
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+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

Building your fundraising team for 2024

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Sometimes you feel like everything is falling into place when it comes to fundraising. People understand your organization's mission and cause and are providing the financial support your nonprofit needs. Sometimes you might feel despondent or even angry about a lack of progress. You're doing everything right, but not seeing results. Such is life – sometimes you're up, sometimes you're down. We offer suggestions for what you can do when you feel nothing is going your way. We believe there's always something you can do to advance your fundraising.

Here are 12 suggestions to consider: find one to try today and save the others for another day. First, know your fundraising priorities and how much you need to

raise. Knowing one without the other isn't very helpful, and planning to do what you can with what you get is not a proactive solution. Second, know the impact your organization will make when fundraising goals are met. Knowing what your destination looks like can motivate how you communicate, and which actions you take. Third, know where you are today. Do this by reviewing fundraising progress reports. Fourth, share those progress reports with your team, both staff and volunteers. The fifth action you can take is to meet with prospective major donors to share information about your nonprofit, encourage their support, and, at the right time, ask for financial support. Notice that this is number five and not number one: get grounded in your work, vision, and team before you start talking with people. Actions one-through-four are your warmup program.

Here are seven more actions – these can become part of who you are as a leader and can change the culture of your nonprofit. Number six - create a climate of openness, accountability, and transparency. These are to fundraising what water is to a fish – you cannot function without them. Suggestion number eight pays long-term dividends:

communicate regularly with your board chair and board members. This can jump start you out of a slump. Have something good to share and a question to ask. Getting ideas and suggestions – along with engagement – from your board can recharge what is possible. Here's number eight – increase your energy by reaching out to current donors to express your gratitude and share an update. You don't need a special occasion – just reach out. Number nine, reach out to your staff as well. Say "thank you" and say it often. Number ten takes things a step farther: host an awareness and appreciation event to inform and thank supporters. When you're feeling optimistic try our eleventh suggestion: host a "How well am I doing" session where staff and volunteers can share their feedback and suggestions. Finally, you can always take to social media and share a story or two about the impact your nonprofit makes. What's most important is to do something. Take action when you feel confident and take action when you don't. There's always something you can do.



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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



RISE Academy – An educational game changer

RISE EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTER



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

RISE as an educational game changer. It is an organization that provides customized opportunities for young learners in the Great Lakes Bay Region. Its founder and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Trevor Szafranski, is a certified teacher with extensive classroom experience in Swan Val-

ley School District.

RISE as an educational game changer for many reasons; I offer the following three at the very top of a long list.

First, it is “state of the art.” If something is new and effective, likely RISE has it. Trevor told me on a recent visit, “We want RISE to be the cool place for kids to be.” The evidence of students’ enthusiasm for learning was ever present. Upon arrival, after a full school day, students signed in and dove into lessons designed for them by RISE personnel.

Second, RISE is “flexible.” When a parent has a request, RISE makes it happen. Schedules are accommodated, and student’s needs are met. Generally students attend RISE when school is not in session

- before and after school and during vacation times. This solves who-is-watching-the-children challenges for parents, all the while students are receiving opportunities for educational enrichment.

Finally, RISE is for all learners. Fast learners. Average learners, Slow learners. The way RISE ignites learners’ curiosity captures all abilities and learning styles. Growth is the operative word; how much students are moving forward in their learning is of highest importance at RISE.

It is easy to schedule a tour. Call Mr. Szafranski or one of the members at the RISE team (989 799 1274 Freeland or 989-294-4507 Midland).

For more information visit <https://www.r1seup.com>.

+ EDUCATION

WOMEN'S HISTORY HIGHLIGHT
Rose M. Beane, PhDCELEBRATING
WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

Rose M. Beane, PhD | CMCS returned to the Saginaw Michigan from Denver Colorado in 2022. Currently, she served as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer at Delta College Downtown Saginaw Center with the Trio: Educational Opportunity Center Program. Dr. Beane's background is in educational administration and leadership with experiences in Pre-K to K-12 public schools, junior college, community college, and university levels. She received a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Adult & Continuing Education, majoring in Adult Learning and Administration, a Master of Education in Administration & Supervision (Secondary) with Administrative Certification, a second Master of Arts in Psychology with a specialization in Executive Coaching and a Bachelor of Science in Business Education with Vocational Certification. Rose's personal brand is "The Bean Factor" which represents her mission and passion to "influence,

add-value & equip" students and the 10,000+ people she will meet, coach, mentor, and support in her lifetime. Dr. Beane completed the 33rd Academic Management Institute's (AMI) program (2018 – 2019) for cultivating leaders among the women in higher education in Colorado and Wyoming. Dr. Beane attained the Certified Masters of Career Services credential (CMCS) from NCDA Credentialing Commission (January 2019). She received the "Excellence in Service to Students Award" and an Honorary Membership for the National Society of Leadership and Success (December 2019) and was awarded the Community College of Denver Auraria's Outstanding Colorado Community College Educator (2020).

She retired from the Community College of Denver with a transferrable skill-set gleaned from experiences as: Director of Career & Transfer Director, Career & Placement Director; Coordinator of Assessment & Testing; Director of Trio's McNair Scholar's Program; Compensatory Education & Grants Director; Learning & Disability Center Director [Peer & Professional Tutoring, Trio Student Support



ROSE M. BEANE

Services, Special Populations, & Disability Services]; Coordinator of Diversity Programs; Assistant Professor for Business Education; Adjunct Instructor for Educational Leadership; and an Educational & Performance Coach & Consultant.

Dr. Beane is an inaugural Gerstacker Fellow at Saginaw Valley State University after a yearlong study, visited China and Japan to study their school systems and participated in a symposium on the implications for American school systems and higher education.

Rose was selected for the inaugural Col-

orado Governor's Coaching Corps, sponsored by Skillful | Markle Initiative. As a member of an Action Team, she participated in an eight (8) month action research project entitled, 'Leveraging Digital Tools to expand the reach of Career Services, which culminated with the recommendation for the 'Career Coaches' Digital Tool Playbook' presented to policymakers on June 28, 2018.

Rose is married to Joe Beane, Jr. a union of 44 years with one son Joseph Lee Beane who resides in Denver with his wife Cayla.

SVSU professor to discuss moral psychology, political disagreement and relevance of George Orwell

It has been nearly 75 years since the publication of George Orwell's "Nineteen Eighty-Four," yet that dystopian novel, and other works by Orwell, remain relevant today. A lecture by Peter Rose-Barry, Finkbeiner Endowed Professor of Ethics at Saginaw Valley State University, will offer insights into why this is so.

In his presentation, "Why Orwell Still Matters: What We Can Learn from Reading George Orwell Today," Rose-Barry will discuss themes of power, propaganda and surveillance and how moral psychology informs social and political disagreement. The lecture, part of the Albert J. Beutler Forums on Ethics & Practice, will be held Wednesday, March 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall at SVSU. It is free and open to the public.

Rose-Barry, who joined SVSU's faculty

in 2005, has published several papers on ethics and social and political philosophy. He has also authored three books, including "George Orwell: The Ethics of Equality," published by Oxford University Press. He completed a Ph.D. at the University of Florida, a master's degree at Bowling Green State University, and a bachelor's degree and master's degree at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The Albert J. Beutler Forums for Ethics and Practice examine contemporary issues related to ethical practice and behavior. The forum series was established to honor Dr. Albert J. Beutler's distinguished career in higher education, concluding with his service to SVSU as executive director of the SVSU Foundation until his retirement in 1995.



GEORGE ORWELL

SVSU lecture to address innovation, accessibility and entertainment in graphic design



BRIAN BIRD

Brian Bird will share perspectives from his work with major companies, including Disney, Google and Universal Studios

A graphic designer who has worked with Disney, Google, Universal studios and other well-known corporations will share his perspectives on the industry during a public lecture at Saginaw Valley State

University. Brian Bird will present "Design Fusion: Blending Graphics and Entertainment" on Thursday, March 21, at 6 p.m. in the Curtiss Hall Seminar Rooms D and E. This lecture will be of particular interest to individuals working in the field of graphic design or to those who are interested in the graphic design discipline. There is no charge to attend the lecture.

In his presentation, Bird will share insights

into the unique challenges facing the entertainment design industry. He will discuss the creation of ADA-accessible graphics using diverse materials, as well as the management of projects with a global perspective. Attendees will gain a clear understanding of the balance between innovation and execution in environmental graphic design.

In addition to the public lecture, Bird will address SVSU students in graphic design, management and marketing classes, and he will visit with SVSU's Cardinal Solutions, an interdisciplinary team of SVSU faculty and students providing marketing solutions to local businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Bird holds a Bachelor of Arts in graphics and packaging from ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena and an associate degree in graphic design and illustration from Brigham Young University-Idaho. Bird is currently the head of branding graphic design at the live-experience engineering and production company TAIT. TAIT has worked with clients such as Taylor Swift, Cirque du Soleil, Beyoncé and NASA.

This lecture is made possible by the Dow Visiting Scholars & Artists Program at SVSU, which brings scholars and artists to campus to expand and enrich SVSU's curricular offerings for students and cultural experiences for people of the region.

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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 45,
SISD**

Continued from pg 44, 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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Executive HR Specialist
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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
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Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start
Program Director

About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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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.

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org

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

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

***“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***

+ SPORTS

Mid Michigan College win back-to-back state titles, earns national tournament bid

By HASANI ALI

The feeling of being a state champion was so nice, they had to do it twice.

Mid Michigan College has secured its second consecutive MCCA state title in program history, topping the Skippers of St. Clair County Community College, 60-41 on March 2 at Mott College in Flint.

The Lady Lakers held the Skippers to shooting only 26 percent from the floor and 27 percent from the three-point line.

St. Clair Community College was also held to a season low of 41 points while committing 16 turnovers.

Head coach Lance Maney made a simple statement on social media immediately after the win.

“Back-to-back state champs,” he said emphatically on Facebook. “Blessed to coach this group and we’re not done yet.”

Sitting at 25-1 with a 12-1 conference record, the Lady Lakers still had to secure a win in a makeup game against Northern Central Michigan College to clinch the Northern Conference by way of tiebreaker over the Bay College Norse despite their even conference record.

Mid Michigan College had no problem rolling past the Timberwolves, 84-34 on Feb. 29 to secure themselves a spot in the state championship game on Saturday.

St. Clair Community College earned a rematch with the Lady Lakers after securing a convincing win over Southwestern Michigan College, 80-66.

The non-conferences foes met earlier in the year in November at Morey Court in Mount Pleasant. Mid Michigan College held its ground against the Skippers, 78-67.

Little did these teams know that they would face off for a second time in the state championship four months later.

The Skippers (24-4 overall, 10-2 MCCA) jumped out to an early lead with three quick buckets for a quick 6-0 lead.

Freshman Chloe Watson kicked off a 7-0 with a bucket and freshman Rachel Resio sank a 3-pointer with 1:09 remain-



LADY LAKERS

ing in the first quarter.

Sophomore Caitlyn Walter finished the run with a jump shot to give the Lady Lakers a slim 12-11 lead with less than a minute remaining.

Walter finished the quarter with another bucket, this time from three, holding onto that slim 15-14 lead going into the second quarter.

Both teams traded leads throughout the second quarter until Watson drained a 3-ball with 7:22 remaining in the half – and the rest was all Mid Michigan College.

The Lady Lakers took a 28-21 lead in the half and never looked back.

St. Clair Community College had no answer for the Lady Lakers. The Skippers rallied to cut the lead within six going into the fourth, Resio dropped the nail in the coffin with a 3-pointer with 8:20 left in the game.

Resio led the team in scoring with 19 points, knocking down five 3-pointers. She also had nine rebounds, three steals, two assists and two blocks.

Watson followed with 14 points, going 5-of-11 shooting, knocking down three triples. She also had eight rebounds and five assists.

Mid Michigan College followed with a 62-55 District A championship win over Hocking College last Saturday at Mott Community College.

Watson led the way for the Lady Lakers, finishing with 18 points while knocking down three triples and eight rebounds.

Resio followed with 15 points, going 7-of-8 from the charity stripe.

The NJCAA Selection Show is on Tuesday, March 12 at 3 p.m. to see how the Lady Lakers are seeded in the national tournament and their first opponent.

Kelly eyes Saginaw's first kickboxing title

By HASANI ALI

On April 19, Michigan will host its first sanctioned kickboxing show at the Motor City Casino in Detroit.

Saginaw's own Teymaan Kelly is seeking another first for the city of Saginaw – becoming the first kickboxing champion.

The 26-year-old will be taking on Ben Phillips of the Stars and Strikes Gym (3-3) for the BXB kickboxing middleweight championship.

Kelly (1-0) earned this championship opportunity after coming up victorious via decision over his opponent from the same gym as Phillips last November in Detroit.

"I wasn't too surprised as I knew that I was dominant," he said. "I was training intensely leading up to this fight, especially knowing that I was not going to have the home advantage since the fight was in Detroit and that's their backyard so I did what was needed to win."

Promoter Carlos Llinas was impressed with Kelly's performance and gave him the title shot against Phillips.

"The promoter knows that I like to fight and that I would take on anyone so I said yes," he said. "I fought on his last show and he wanted me back so he called me up to take this fight."

Having 15 amateur fights in boxing has helped Kelly transition into the kickboxing world.

Originally a boxer, Kelly's amateur career was placed on hold due to Covid-19. Not wanting to wait for the opportunity to fight again, the Arthur Hill graduate decided to try kickboxing and other combat sports at 10th Planet Jiu Jitsu, located 7755 Gratiot Road in Saginaw.

"Boxing wasn't moving as fast as I would have liked," he said. "There was an opportunity to start training at the gym where I am now, so I took it."

Kelly does plan on returning to boxing but wants to explore the world of kickboxing and how he could make a splash in the business.

The 6-foot-3 former basketball player has a long reach and used that to his



TEYMAAN KELLY

advantage as a boxer so he figured that he could use that same advantage in any other combat sport.

"I feel like I can compete in any area of combat sports," he said. "I like to test myself and push beyond my limits. Being versatile by competing in all types of combat sports will help me create a legacy for myself for being able to take on any opponent in any arena."

Kelly has an aggressive style as a fighter but loves to stay in the pocket. As a taller fighter, he has the ability to strike opponents from a far distance without

receiving a quick counterpunch in return without him seeing it coming first.

"I feel like most fighters in kickboxing are aggressive," Kelly said. "You must have some sort of aggression in order to survive out here. It's the best way to not become an open target."

Preparing for his fight, Kelly is definitely relying on his boxing tactics as he doesn't know much about the champion leading up to the fight.

"Boxing helped my ability to read my opponents' offense as I could see it when they telegraph their punches," he said. "I know that he's been kickboxing for most of his life," he said. "But my scheme is going to stay the same and just make sure that I take him out as

quickly as I can."

As a young fighter, the 185-pounder is still trying to find his niche in the combat world.

He plans on going back and forth between boxing, kickboxing and other combat sports until it clicks which sports that he would thrive in and to take seriously.

In the meantime, a championship belt would be a significant indicator that he belongs.

"It would mean a lot to me," he said. "It would open a lot of doors and bring more excitement to the sports for the city."

+ SPORTS

Saginaw United Girls secure first playoff win in school history

By HASANI ALI

Hanging on by the talons, Saginaw United can now enjoy making history for the new program.

The Phoenix rallied a comeback in the second half to secure a 49-46 win over Flint Carman-Ainsworth in the first round of Div. I district play at Heritage.

Head coach Eugene Seals knew that it wasn't easy, but it was going to be a solid chore to ensure the victory.

"We kind of grinded it out," he said. "Anything that could go wrong went wrong, but we were able to pull it out. We had 18 turnovers. We could never pull away because we kept turning the ball over."

In its inaugural season, Saginaw United can mark both a winning season and a playoff win as two accomplishments in the record books.

"I told the girls that you will be in the history books at least for a year," Seals said. "They will forever be known as the first team in school history and until another team wins a district championship, they have set the standard."

The Cavaliers led 31-29 at halftime, but United came back in the third to take a 41-40 lead into the fourth quarter.

Seals stated that the lackluster defense was a major reason for Carman Ainsworth staying ahead in the game and why it was so difficult to make a turnaround.

"They were hitting corner threes all day, and we just kept giving it to them ... letting them shoot it," Seals said. "Once we took away the corner 3, it slowed them down."

Raegan Byrd led the Phoenix with 22 points – two of those points came from a pair of free throws in the final seconds to give United a three-point lead.

Byrd sank both free throws, increasing Saginaw's lead to three, coming from a foul while driving to the basket after an offensive rebound coming from Hibbler.

She went 13-of-15 from the charity stripe in the win.

Seals admitted that the game came down to the wire which was essentially a nailbiter.

"They still had the ball with three seconds and took a running 3-pointer," he said. "It went off the backboard, hit the rim and bounced out. We had to hold our breath."

Hibbler finished with nine points and



SAGINAW UNITED GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

11 rebounds, while Ivy Woods added seven points and three steals. Destiny Clark pulled down 10 rebounds.

Taking to social media, Hibbler humbly expressed her gratitude of the grind and how the gritty attitude helped Saginaw United secure the win.

"I worked so hard, for every moment that I had in that game," she said on Facebook. "Dedication to the game is what I love the most."

The Saginaw Valley League honorable mention has several pending offers, including a recent full-ride offer to Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

She has yet to decide on a school.

The two teams met a month prior at the Dow Event Center in Saginaw. Saginaw United won that encounter, 48-43 – being the pregame before the final season showdown between Saginaw High and Arthur Hill.

Saginaw United, 13-9 overall, had an opportunity to keep the momentum swinging with another win to keep the district title within the city with Heritage occupying that other spot.

Unfortunately, these dreams were cut short.

The Phoenix unfortunately fell short in a heartbreaking loss to Flushing 34-29 in the district semifinal match up at Heritage High School.

Seals wasn't content with the overall turnout of the inaugural season, but he's satisfied with the effort that the girls put in when the expectations for the season were

quite low.

"With this being the first year, you have to do what you see as good and capitalize on it," he said. "We weren't expected to be good at all. We had one of the toughest schedules in the state. The girls took that as a challenge and we came away with 13 wins."

Saginaw United had one of the toughest schedules in the state, playing nine of the top 25 teams in the state. Seals purposely scheduled those teams to gear up the players for fierce competition come tournament time.

He didn't want the team cruising with an easy schedule during the regular season and falling apart during tournament time when it got more competitive.

"I scheduled those games on purpose so that we would be forced to gel together," he said. "We really didn't start clicking until the final six games of the season."

Losing a handful of seniors, Seals is going back to the drawing board to orchestrate an intense offseason so Saginaw United can be more of a conference contender next season.

"A lot of summer time work, the offseason is going to be big for us," he said. "We don't have the luxury of having the feeder system like most schools have so we have to build it. We're going to be very young over the next couple of years, but still will be pretty good."

Heritage will be taking on the Raiders in the district finals after defeating Bay City Central 64-34 in its semifinal game.

Hibbler receives full offer to Schoolcraft College, juggling several offers

By HASANI ALI

March 4 is a day that Saginaw United senior Monica Hibbler will remember for the rest of her life.

After securing a 49-46 nail-biting win over Flint Carman-Ainsworth in the first round of district play, she receives some other exciting news that would change her basketball trajectory.

Schoolcraft College offered Hibbler a full ride scholarship to come play for the Ocelots after a stellar performance with nine points and 11 rebounds.

Hibbler was beyond excited about receiving the offer as it aligned with her game plan – gain experience at a junior college level before enrolling into a four-year university.

She was also the first player to be offered a full ride scholarship from Schoolcraft College on site.

“I’m an excited person as is,” she said jokingly. “I was surprised that I actually earned my first offer since I work so hard and I was just happy to bring a smile to my mom’s face.”

Playing for the Ocelots is indeed her top choice as to where she will be playing next season, but she’s still accepting offers from other schools.

Many other Jucos are interested in Hibbler, such as Bryant & Stratton College, Trinity Christian College, Kansas Christian College, Leslie University (Boston), Mott Community College, Kennedy-King College (Chicago), Southwestern Michigan College.

Hibbler made her official visit to Schoolcraft this past Monday. They’ve become her top choice with their style of play and the way she interacts with the coaches.

What also gave Hibbler an inclination to choose Schoolcraft was a blast from the past – a former teammate from Saginaw High School.

Freshman Sharon Smith gave her some insight as to why she should choose Schoolcraft.

“She told me that it’s a good school to play for and the coaches push you to work hard while they create opportunities for you,” Hibbler said. “I’m just looking for my



MONICA HIBBLER

best opportunity and I would love to play with her again.”

Current teammate and Arthur Hill senior Raegan Byrd was also being scouted by Schoolcraft. The senior had 22 points in the win over the Cavaliers last week.

Hibbler would be even more enticed if Byrd decided to play for the Ocelots as well.

“I think we would be the ultimate duo,” she said. “I work well with her as she has a great basketball IQ. She’s not a selfish player and she knows how to work the court so I would be excited to play with her again,”

As she’s working towards deciding where to play next season, she’s looking to improve her game during the offseason so she would be prepared to play at whatever school she chooses.

“I think I excel most with my competitive mindset,” she said. “It’s a different style of ball at the college level so you have to put it in your mind to work hard on your game while juggling your academics.”

She will be making a decision during

the first week of April.

Hibbler noted that she’s taking a trip to Texas with her cousin Kamai Forrest, freshman forward at Detroit Mercy, for offseason training.

“I know that I’ll have to work on staying rooted in my fundamentals, get in better shape and improve my footwork, she said.”

As Hibbler is moving forward with her basketball career, she still gets emotional when thinking about the heartbreaking 34-29 loss to Flushing High School during the district semifinals last week at Heritage High School.

“It was very devastating,” she said. “It felt like a family member has passed away. I was already in tears on the court with a few minutes left in the game. It hurt because I completely changed myself as a baller for my senior season. I’ve never been this productive with scoring so many points and grabbing so many rebounds. I felt like we could’ve done so much more, but we fell short.”



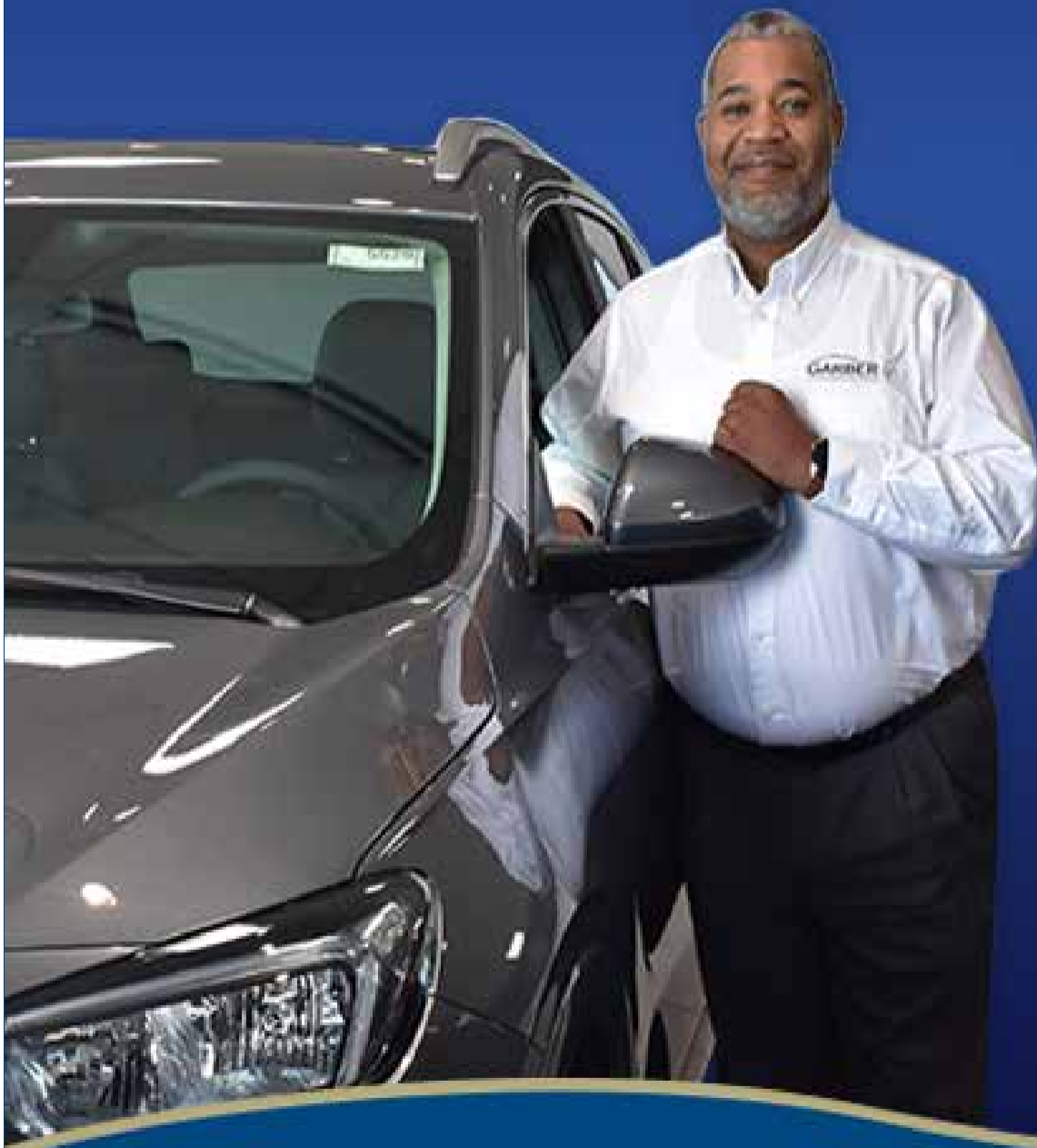
PICS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to Arthur Hill's Michael Baldwin who placed third at the MHSAA division I wrestling state finals earlier this month!



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empower.

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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