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PICS OF THE WEEK
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**2024 HEART OF THE CITY
IMPACT TURNAROUND
AWARD VERONICA HORN**

COMMUNITY, PG 22

Saginaw United High School names head boys' basketball coach



JULIAN TAYLOR

Saginaw Public Schools recently announced former Saginaw High boys' basketball head coach Julian Taylor will be the new head coach for Saginaw United boys' varsity basketball.

"My goal is to have these kids playing at a high level, you know, having them play-

ing hard against each other, have them competing in practice every day and focus on defense," Taylor said.

Taylor spent 13 seasons coaching at Saginaw High and helped lead Saginaw High to a state championship in 2012.



**A CANDID
CONVERSATION TO
OPEN MINDS AND
DOORS**

COMMUNITY, PG 13

FEATURED STORY

Saginaw to host Memorial Cup for the first time in 104 years

SPORTS, PG 50



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City Council, are a community-wide day of service where residents, neighborhood groups, local community organizations and businesses can come together to help beautify the city. The citywide event is an effort to clean up litter and debris in various locations throughout the City.

The 2024 Team Up to Clean Up events are extremely important as the City prepares for the 2024 Canadian Hockey League’s Memorial Cup Event coming to Saginaw from May 24- June 2, 2024. The 10-day CHL championship tournament is expected to bring thousands of hockey fans and spectators from all over the world to the Saginaw area. Saginaw will be in the international spotlight, and the City wants to do all we can to be ready for this international attention.

The events will begin at 9 am on Saturday, May 11 and Friday, May 17. All volunteers will meet at City Hall for the kickoff. Volunteers will then break up into groups and head out to selected areas of the city to begin the cleanup. Volunteers will return to City Hall between 12-12:30 p.m. for the wrap-up and lunch. Through funding and supplies received from various sponsors, the City will provide volunteers with gloves and trash bags to assist with the litter clean up. Businesses and organizations interested in supporting the event through sponsorship can contact the City Manager’s office at (989) 759-1401.

Mayor Brenda Moore, who helped plan and organize the event, stressed the importance of this initiative, “We have such a beautiful city, and we all need to take greater pride and responsibility for our neighborhoods. We need to be proud of the fact that the City of Saginaw was selected to host the Memorial Cup Event coming to downtown Saginaw in May. We need to get busy and get ready! I invite all residents, community groups, and local business owners to support this event by signing up to volunteer or sponsor. Together, we can make a huge difference in our city.”

Team Up to Clean Up!

The City of Saginaw is seeking volunteers and sponsors to assist with the 2024 Team Up to Clean Up events. This year the City is planning TWO Clean Up events, one on Saturday, May 11 from 9 am to 1pm at key locations throughout the city

and again on Friday, May 17 from 9 am to 1pm in our downtown area to assist our businesses with clean up in the downtown area.

The 2024 Team Up to Clean Up events, hosted by the Inspections Division and



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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

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IN THIS ISSUE ▶

Youth Banner 4 - 6

Latino Banner LB 1 - LB 5

Community 13

Faith Based 30

Education 36

Sports 46

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 6 • NUMBER 8



START EMPTY



By DONIQUA SOVIA

A few weeks ago, I was pretty frustrated at the fact that I was struggling to come up with material for an article or a poem. I was definitely out of character these last few months and was trying to figure out how to get myself back to my regular schedule so, to speak.

I'd write something and delete it, write again, and delete it, or spend a whole ten minutes just staring at the cursor as it blinked off and on, with no movement forward followed by letters. Each time I wrote something; I wanted it to be perfect.

I knew how I wanted to come off to the audience, and what tone I wanted to use and what imagery I wanted to give but yet here I was, with all these expectations and no topic at hand. Then, I decided to pray. It was a last ditch effort on my end, and a few days later, I heard God say to me;

"Start Empty" Gee, such a profound thing to say God. I thought to myself. But He continued; "Starting Empty, makes room for me. If you start with all these things and forget me, you'll keep coming up blank." It all made sense. So, I encourage you, start empty and see what God can do.



PAY ATTENTION



DALTON JAY PULLIAM

By **DALTON JAY PULLIAM**

According to a report by Juvenile Law Center, the foster care to prison pipeline is a trend that pushes young people into prison. In this case it pushes them from the child welfare system into the Juvenile and Adult justice systems. The report states that more than 90% of youth in foster care with five or more moves will become involved in the Juvenile justice system. Another study found that by age 17 over half of youth in foster care experienced an arrest, conviction, or over night stay in a correctional facility. It's imperative that we pay attention to what's going on in this system and what's happening to the kids that are currently or will be coming through the system. Being someone that has been through the foster care system, it hurts me to know that I'm a fraction of the statistics that I've mentioned. I wouldn't be me if I didn't speak up, bring awareness and shine a light on how our system is designed for us to fail. I sit and think of ways I could help the youth that are going through the foster care system to see the light at the end of the tunnel no matter male or female. It is my duty to get them to understand that their are people out here that want to help them change their circumstances, because they know what they're going through and can relate to them.

In the same article published by the Juvenile Law Center, it is important to note that the foster care-to-prison pipeline particularly affects youth of color, LGBTQ- identified youth, and young people with mental illness. All of whom are already more likely to be in foster care thus even more likely to be pushed into the justice systems. Black

children are twice as likely to be placed in foster care than White kids. This coincides with the New Jim Crow Law that was put in place of slavery. Another system that was designed for black people to fail. The foster care to prison pipeline is so severe that one quarter of foster care alumni will become involved with the criminal justice system within two years of leaving foster care.

The purpose of this article is to bring awareness to the foster care system, the kids going through it and feel that they feel like they have nobody. Pay Attention is the title of this article because after coming to prison and having nothing but time to think about my actions and where my behavior stemmed from I think back to my childhood. After reading the report by the Juvenile Law Center I feel that what's being said is true. You don't have to take my word just look at the numbers for yourself and tell me what you think.

I went into the foster care system from 1998 where I would stay with my foster parents until 2000 before I would be placed back with my mother until 2004 to 2011, I would then get adopted by my auntie and guess what? Two years (2013) after leaving foster care I would be in the justice system at the age of 16 getting charged as an adult for the crime I am currently locked up for. I'm not saying that I was placed in bad foster care homes but I do believe the lack of attention and guidance played a major role in my actions and behavior. You can read more about my lack of attention and guidance in my book *The Humble Me*.

In the meantime I'm actively working with a collective group of like minded individuals that have been through the system to come up with an approach that will not only bring awareness to this particular issue but also put the plan into action to change these statistics. It's imperative that we let the youth, including at-risk youth know that we see them and that we care about their well being and their future. Being a foster care child I can tell you now that if you ask anybody that has been through the system, what is it that they wish they had more of? 9 times out of 10 they're going to say attention and for someone to care about them and what they were going through. Secondly they would say they wish they had the resources to help them when it was time to leave their foster care that would put them in a good position to be successful in life.

To Lovers:



By **AMINA FRINK**

**We met in
kindergarten,
An innocent crush,
playdates every
weekend.
Soon we went to
middle school;
Our crush, a bit more
serious.
Holding hands, and
dates to the Carnival,
A childish romance,
and soon it grew.
It grew like a flower,
blossoming from a
bud;
Now we are in college,
and we've been
together for years.
From an innocent
crush, to a dedicated
relationship,
From friends to
lovers, what we now
are;
A bond so deep, no
argument could tear it
apart.**

First day back

By SEWLEE GOV

It was a gloomy rainy morning when I woke up to my alarm. I groaned as I sat up and rubbed my eyes. I grabbed my uniform from the pile of clothes on my chair. I walked down the hall to the bathroom to start my routine. I frowned as I looked at my reflection. I stared at my eye bags, the scars on my skin, my skin, and the cursed black splotch on the right side of my face. I was cursed with that disgusting black splotch when I was born, it kept getting worse. Less of those terrible memories and more getting ready. I built up the courage to brush my teeth. I looked at my teeth in disgust. The braces and the yellow tint my teeth had. I wanted to scream, to shout, and pull out my hair. I put on my uniform then start to brush my hair. My hair is still messy, it ends above my shoulder. The right half of my hair was the natural color, a very dark brown that looked black, it would look pretty brown in the sun. The left half was a light purple, similar to periwinkle. I went back to my room and grabbed my backpack decorated with pins. I sighed and took the pins off. Somebody might take them or they might fall off.

Eventually, my mom dropped me off at school. I hate this place, I'm glad this is my last year here. Surrounded by people I hate and people that probably hate me. I sighed and looked for my teacher. I felt better after finding out I had one of my favorite teachers as my homeroom teacher. Though, only one of my friends is in this class. I sighed as we entered the classroom and all the seats were filled up. I had to sit next to one of my old friends that drifted away. I looked around and there were two other girls that drifted away from me. After some time we all got our schedule and grew closer. Lately, I have been feeling less depressed. Maybe this year won't be that bad, but I don't want to get my hopes up.

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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

What we can all learn from Cinco de Mayo



COURTESY PHOTO

By MB STAFF

Cinco de Mayo, celebrated on May 5th, commemorates the Mexican victory over the French forces at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. While often mistaken for Mexico's Independence Day (which is actually celebrated on September 16th), Cinco de Mayo holds significance as a symbol of resilience, unity, and cultural pride. Here are some key lessons we can learn from Cinco de Mayo:

Resilience in the Face of Adversity

The Battle of Puebla was a remarkable display of resilience by the Mexican army, which was significantly outnumbered and outgunned by the French forces. Despite facing overwhelming odds, the Mexican troops under General Ignacio Zaragoza

fought bravely and emerged victorious. Cinco de Mayo reminds us of the power of resilience in overcoming challenges and adversity.

Unity and Solidarity

Cinco de Mayo serves as a reminder of the importance of unity and solidarity in times of crisis. The victory at the Battle of Puebla was made possible by the collective efforts of Mexican soldiers from diverse backgrounds who came together to defend their country. This spirit of unity continues to resonate, emphasizing the strength found in standing together as a community, regardless of differences.

Cultural Pride and Heritage

Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of Mexican culture and heritage, both within

Mexico and among Mexican communities around the world. It provides an opportunity for people to honor and showcase the rich traditions, music, dance, and cuisine of Mexico. Embracing and celebrating cultural diversity fosters understanding, appreciation, and respect for different backgrounds and traditions.

Historical Significance and Education

Cinco de Mayo offers an opportunity for historical reflection and education. By commemorating the Battle of Puebla, people can learn about significant events in Mexican history and their broader implications. Understanding the historical context of Cinco de Mayo helps to dispel myths and misconceptions surrounding the holiday and promotes a deeper appreciation of its significance.

Celebration of Triumph Over Tyranny

Cinco de Mayo represents a victory of a smaller, less-equipped force over a larger, more powerful adversary. This triumph over tyranny and oppression resonates beyond the specific historical event, serving as a symbol of hope and inspiration for those facing struggles against injustice and oppression today. It reminds us of the importance of fighting for freedom, equality, and justice.

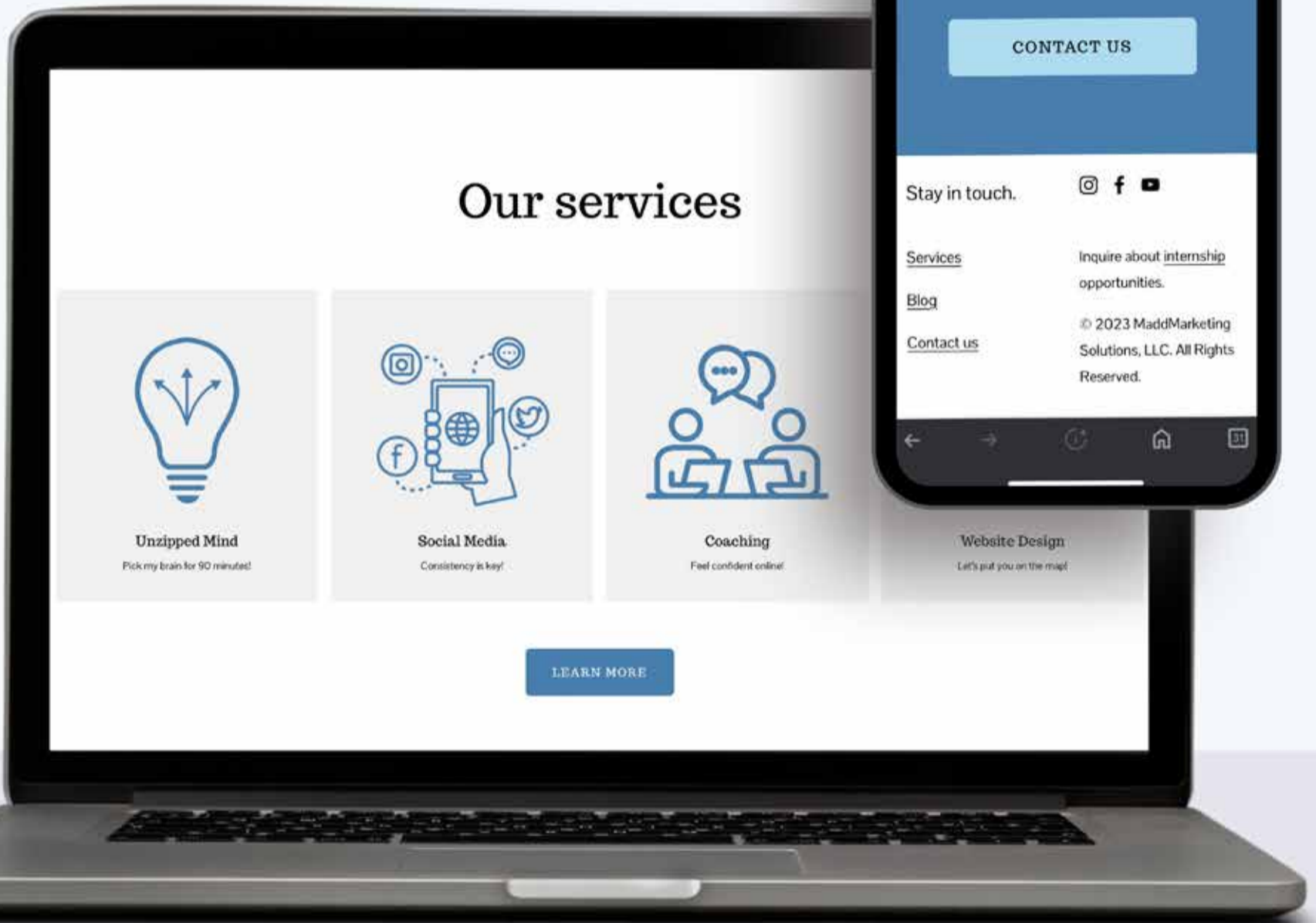
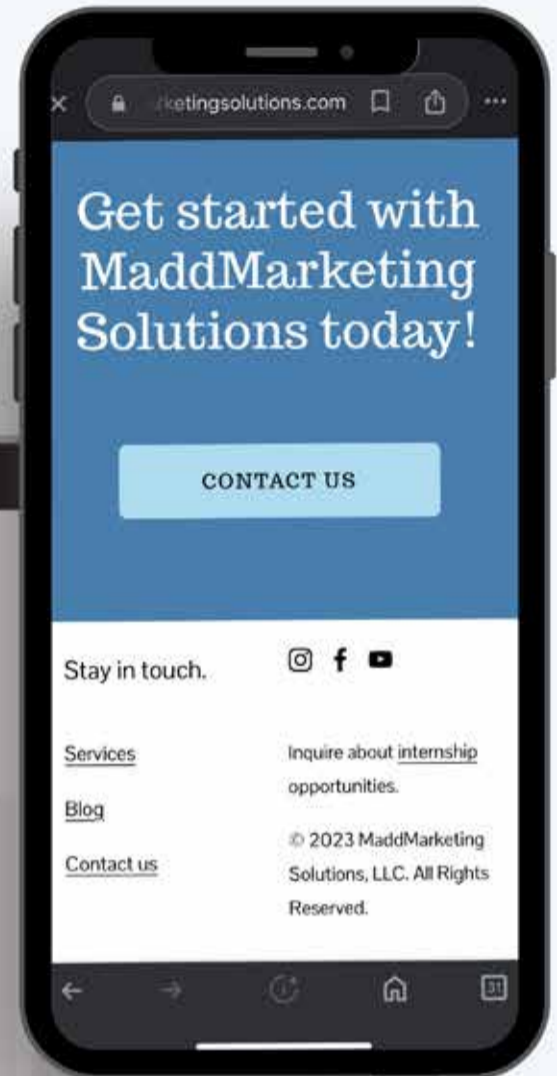
In essence, Cinco de Mayo offers valuable lessons in resilience, unity, cultural pride, historical awareness, and the celebration of triumph over adversity. By embracing these lessons, we can foster greater understanding, solidarity, and appreciation for the diverse tapestry of human experiences.

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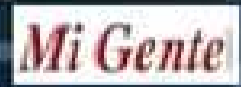
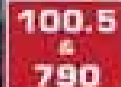
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+ COMMUNITY

A candid conversation to open minds and doors

By HASANI ALI

In a world where conversations are intended solely for clicks and views, a Midland couple decided to do something different in order to spark some true conversation.

Erin Patrice and Midwest Moe initiated this idea during the Covid-19 pandemic. With many major events occurring from the presidential election to the mistreatment of George Floyd, it seems as if nobody had a healthy outlet to express their thoughts since everyone was required to stay at home during the quarantine.

“It seemed like people were imploding with everything that was going on around us,” Patrice said. “It was time to provide an outlet where people can express their thoughts in the most intimate manner.”

As a naturally curious person, Patrice and her husband originated the perfect platform where people can discuss a variety of topics – from abortion to gun reform.

Hence the name of the non-profit organization and YouTube channel, The Breaking Bread Village.

“We now have a space where people can express themselves and feel like they can be heard,” she said. “We’re actually getting people together that wouldn’t normally have these types of conversations in the same room.”

The couple noticed a pattern amongst people where they would refuse to listen to people with opposing views.

However, bringing these conversations to an open forum has served the tri-city area favorably.

“This project has served us great since the beginning,” Midwest Moe said. “We’re surprised at the rate that it has grown.”

Married for 10 years, the two lovebirds have always been able to carry on intimate conversations. In fact, it was the chemistry that brought these two together in a romantic interest.

“We were actually friends for four years before there was any romantic in-



ERIN PATRICE AND MIDWEST MOE

terest,” Midwest Moe said. “The conversations were intimate and the topics were endless.”

The Detroit native actually relocated to the Midland area to get closer to Patrice, which eventually led to them tying the knot.

The Breaking Bread Village expanded from Midland to Bay City and recently had an organic conversation at Central Michigan University.

As the conversation has gained more popularity, other entities have reached out to help continue the mission.

Patrice and Midwest Moe have officially partnered with the Bay Area Community Foundation and Midland Area Cultural Awareness Coalition.

The two created an environment similar to a family having conversation at

the dinner table. Even when some topics come with healthy tension, the main objective is to work together to have a discussion rather than an argument.

“We don’t agree on everything, but we do an excellent job of working together and getting the job done, no matter what’s put in front of us.”

Midwest Moe was quite surprised as to how many people made connections with other guests though their opinions may have been different on certain topics.

“You wouldn’t believe the type of connections that have been made between the guests of the show,” he said. “They would continue the conversation at their own dinner tables and establish connections that they never would’ve had prior to showing up to the conversation.”

One of the most profound episodes came from the “Who We Are” series that was taped at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library Auditorium in Midland, located at 1710 W. St. Andrews Road.

One woman fully believed that a person can be healthy while eating anything that they want. A man who had a strict diet strongly opposed her views and it was one of the few times that the conversation slightly elevated in volume.

“The conversation got a little bit louder,” Patrice said with a chuckle. “It’s a reflection of real life. But at the end of the conversation, they stayed after the show and continued to chat with one another. It was astounding.”

The introduction to the “Including You” series, which will be filmed in Bay City will begin on May 14.

Patrice and Midwest Moe chuckled as they agreed that they were still building their project as they’re flying it.

As more people become guests on the show, Patrice encourages those to come with an open mind and an open heart.

“I always tell people to come on and be a guest on the show,” she said. “We don’t need you to be an expert, but just express your truest thoughts.”



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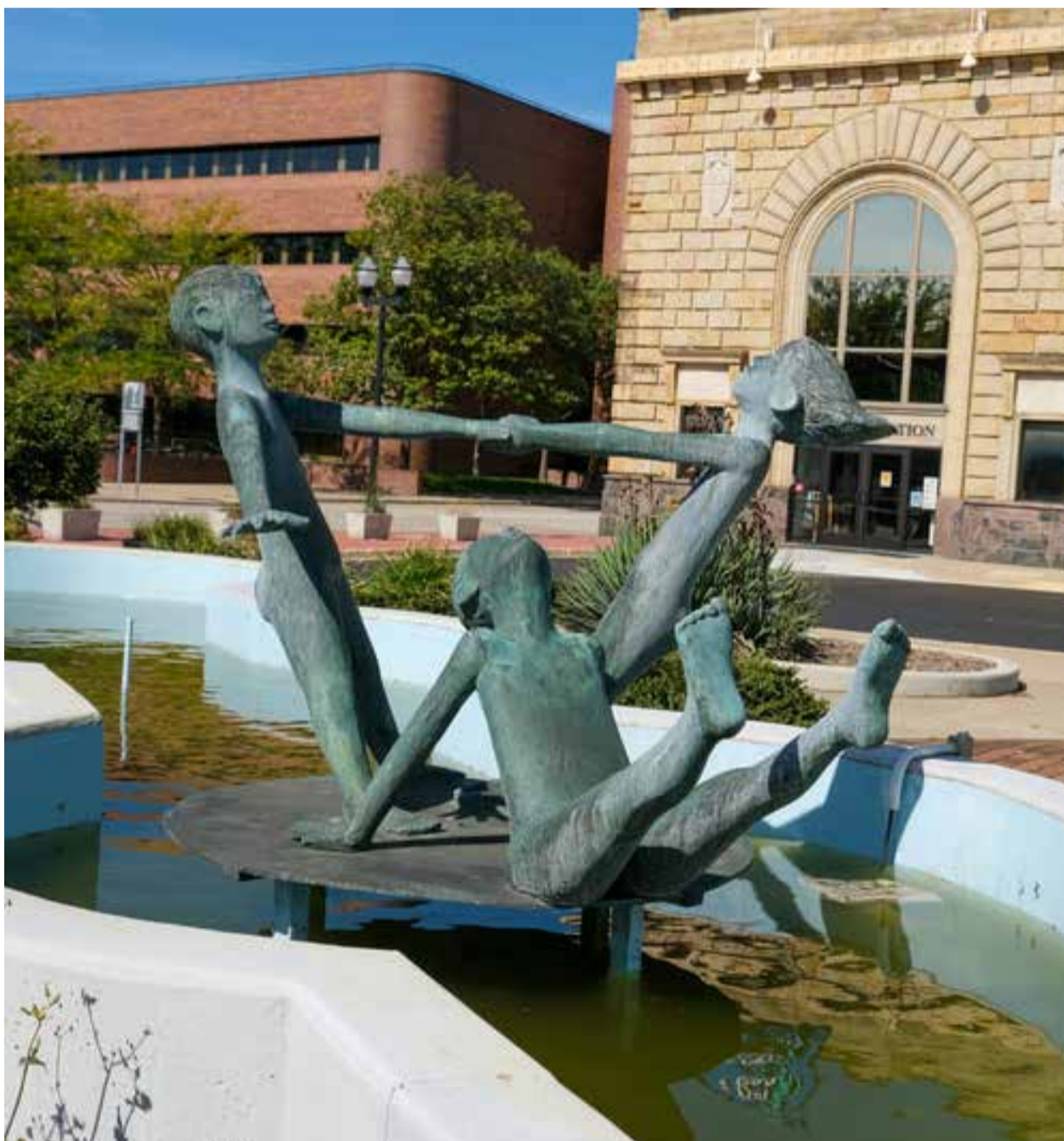
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Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum receives grant from Midland Area Community Foundation for public art installations



COURTESY PHOTO

The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, located on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University, has received a grant award of \$12,000 from the Midland Area Community Foundation (MACF) for the support of three temporary public art installations in Midland County as part of the 2024 Great Lakes Bay Public Art Passport Exhibition.

The installations align with one of MACF key focus areas, “Building Our Livelihood,” as it relates to enhancing the local infrastructure and driving economic devel-

opment. According to Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum’s Director Megan McAdow, “Public art has been a key tool in promoting sustainable tourism, attracting visitors, and promoting local businesses. It can also transform an area into a more vibrant and inclusive community.” McAdow continued, “The installation of three art pieces in Midland is just the beginning as additional art installations are being planned for both Saginaw and Bay counties, creating one large tri-county public art exhibition.”

Artists from the Great Lakes states of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Minnesota were invited to submit artwork for consideration in the 2024 Great Lakes Bay Public Art Passport Exhibition. Artists had until April 6 to apply with the selected artists receiving a \$3,000 stipend.

Organized by the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, the Public Art Passport initiative provides opportunities for residents of and visitors to Michigan’s Great Lakes Bay Region to engage with public art and connect with community. The Public Art Passport website serves as a virtual hub that brings together public art sculptures and murals from across the region into one online space. “Public art can play a pivotal role in fostering thriving communities,” observed McAdow.

Working with community partners in Bay, Midland, and Saginaw counties, Public Art Passport will also serve residents and tourists by highlighting art-related programs and events, including art fairs and festivals, throughout the 2024 summer. The 2024 Public Art Passport schedule will be announced in the coming months and will include a kick-off event, drop-in activities, community art projects and more.

Public Art Passport Credits: Public Art Passport is supported in part by the Midland Area Community Foundation, the Jury Foundation, and the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum.

The Midland Area Community Foundation exists to cultivate the power of giving within our community, support long-term transformation, and help ensure all residents thrive.

The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum is located on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University, 7400 Bay Road, University Center, Michigan. Museum hours are Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (989) 964-7125 or visit the Museum’s website at www.marshallfredericks.org.

+ COMMUNITY



Pit & Balcony Community Theatre presents Andrew Lipppa's Wild Party

Pit & Balcony's will close its 92nd main-stage season with Andrew Lipppa's Wild Party, a modern jazz musical which featured Saginaw native Brian d'Arcy James in its off-Broadway debut in 2000.

Wild Party takes place in one night at the Manhattan apartment of lovers, Queenie and Burrs who decide to throw the party-to-end-all-parties. Audiences are introduced to an array of guests including a Mr. Black who catches Queenie's

eye. Soon, the three find themselves in a whirling love triangle with a violent end. The musical, set in the Jazz Era updates classic jazz sounds with pop motifs and instruments, giving theatre-goers a unique and delightful experience.

"Wild Party is just that," says Amy Spadafore, Managing Director of Pit & Balcony. "It's a wild party. There's so much energy and passion in the script and score, you really feel like you're at this 'party-

to-end-all-parties' when you're watching the show. It's a really fun note to close this ambitious season on."

Pit & Balcony's cast is made up of fourteen community members. Amber Hadley, Spencer Beyerlein, Rhiannon Evans-Hall, and Colton Jordon are at the center of this party. The remaining cast includes Steven Axtell, Elizabeth Reinhardt, Lauren Hanson, Trashan Donald, Wendy Yaworski, Justin Russell, Matthew Howe, Steven Cantu, Andrew Ferguson, and Bre Sklar. Wild Party is directed by Pit & Balcony veteran, Todd Thomas.

"Wild Party is unlike any musical of which I am aware," Thomas says. "Although set in the 1920's, the consequences of an unwavering pursuit of self-pleasure and attention and the resulting boredom when we aren't entertained are not that different now, 100 years later. I think au-

dience members will love the music and be entirely immersed in the characters and story of this show."

Performances of Wild Party run May 10-12 & 17-19. Friday and Saturday showings will begin at 7:30pm and Sunday's performances will begin at 3:00pm. This show contains mature content including adult language and situations and depictions of physical and sexual assault.

Wild Party is proudly presented in partnership with Green Acres Golf Course.

Tickets and more information can be found at www.PitAndBalconyTheatre.com or by calling (989)754-6587.

+ COMMUNITY



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You Don't Know How Far I've Come



By **JASMINE BUCKLEY**

You don't know how far I've come,
From the shadows of self-doubt, where I once resided,
Where every mirror reflection was a critique,
And every whisper was a cruel, crushing verdict.

I used to hide behind a mask of fear,
Afraid to show my true self, year after year,
But I've learned to let go, to break the mold,
To embrace my flaws and love myself bold.

When you see me post a picture for instagram,
Posing cute, mouthing words to a song, hopping on snap and spam,
You don't know the battles I've fought to get here,
The late nights, the tears, the fears, the doubts, the scars, the peer pressure.

I've faced the darkness, the demons in my head,
The voices that told me I'd never be enough, that I'd always be dead,
But I've found my strength, my resilience, my voice,
I've learned to stand tall, to make some noise.

I'm no longer held back by my insecurities,
I'm breaking free from the chains of my anxieties,
I'm learning to love myself, flaws and all,
I'm finding my worth, I'm standing tall.

When you see me in the student center and you say what's good,
You're staring right at the little engine that could,
I can, I can, I can love myself, though it's still a work in progress, A journey through the darkness, to find my own happiness.

Self-love is a mystery, intriguing yet misunderstood,
A path I've had to navigate, with every step, I've had to prove, That I am worthy, deserving, and enough,
That my scars are a part of me, but they don't define my worth.
A sunflower grows only toward the light of the sun,
Well, only when the shitty weather is done,
So, I am a sunflower who learned to bloom on her own,
In the darkness, I found my light, my strength, my home.
I've found my tribe, my support system too,
People who uplift me, who see me through,
I've learned to ask for help, to not be afraid,
To be vulnerable, to show my true shade.

I am no longer afraid to be alone,
To stand in my silence, to face my unknown,
I've learned to embrace my flaws, my quirks, my weird, To love myself, not in spite of them, but because of them, I'm freed.

I'm still a work in progress, I'm still learning every day, But I know
I'm enough, I'm worthy, I'm on my way,
I won't let anyone or anything bring me down,
I'll keep rising up, I'll wear my crown.

You don't know how far I've come,
But I do, and that's all that matters,
I've found my voice, my courage, my way,
And I won't let anyone or anything take that away.



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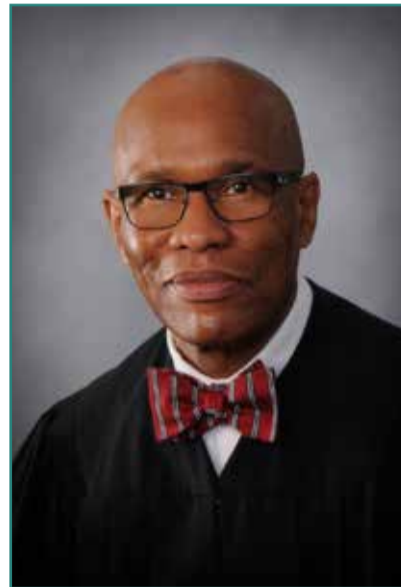
Chief Judge appointments make Saginaw County history

The Michigan Supreme Court earlier this year appointed a trio of Saginaw County Judges as chief judges of their respective courts for the two-year period commencing January 1, 2024. The new chief judges of the Saginaw County Courts are:

Honorable Julie A. Gafkay, 10th Circuit Court. Judge Gafkay is the first female to serve in the history of Saginaw County as Chief Judge of the Circuit Court.

Honorable Terry L. Clark, 70th District Court. Judge Clark is Saginaw County's first Black judge and longest serving judge. And he is the first Black judge to ever serve as Chief Judge of any trial court in the county's history.

Honorable Patrick J. McGraw, Saginaw County Probate Court. Judge McGraw has been on the bench for 24 years. He has served as the chief judge for all the Saginaw County trial courts when the courts operated under a single chief judge system. He had previously served as chief



FROM L TO R - JULIE A. GAFKAY, TERRY L. CLARK, PATRICK J. MCGRAW

probate judge, prior to his most recent appointment.

Chief judges are the chief executive officers of their courts. They are responsible for financial and personnel management, coordinating workload, and managing re-

lations with county or city funding units, other justice agencies, and the public. They also are responsible for ensuring that the Supreme Court's administrative policies are carried out within their jurisdictions.

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+ COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

Ascension St. Mary's Healthy Heart event brings no-cost screening to Saginaw region

Ascension St. Mary's is hosting a free heart screening on Saturday, April 27, at Ascension St. Mary's - Riverfront, 1015 S. Washington Avenue in Saginaw. Nearly half of all U.S. adults have some type of cardiovascular disease according to the American Heart Association, such as coronary heart disease, heart failure, stroke or high blood pressure.

The Healthy Heart event is a day devoted to heart disease screening and prevention. Participants will have access to no-cost heart screenings with on-the-spot results and one-on-one conversations with a doctor to review their individual situation. Registration begins at 7 a.m. and ends at 11 a.m. in order to receive a screening that includes:

- **Electrocardiogram (EKG):** Measures the heartbeat's electrical

activity. Electrodes with adhesive pads are attached to the skin of the chest, arms and legs.

- **Blood pressure screening:** A blood pressure cuff measures the pressure the blood is exerting against artery walls.
- **Body Mass Index (BMI) reading:** A calculation to identify whether an adult is at a healthy weight.
- **Cholesterol test (no fasting required):** Measures fat-like substance found that can build up between artery walls, making it harder for blood to circulate. Reduced blood flow can lead to stroke or heart attack. A finger prick is required.
- **Heart and stroke risk assessment:** May determine the likelihood of developing heart disease, heart

attack or stroke in the future. A questionnaire is used.

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

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

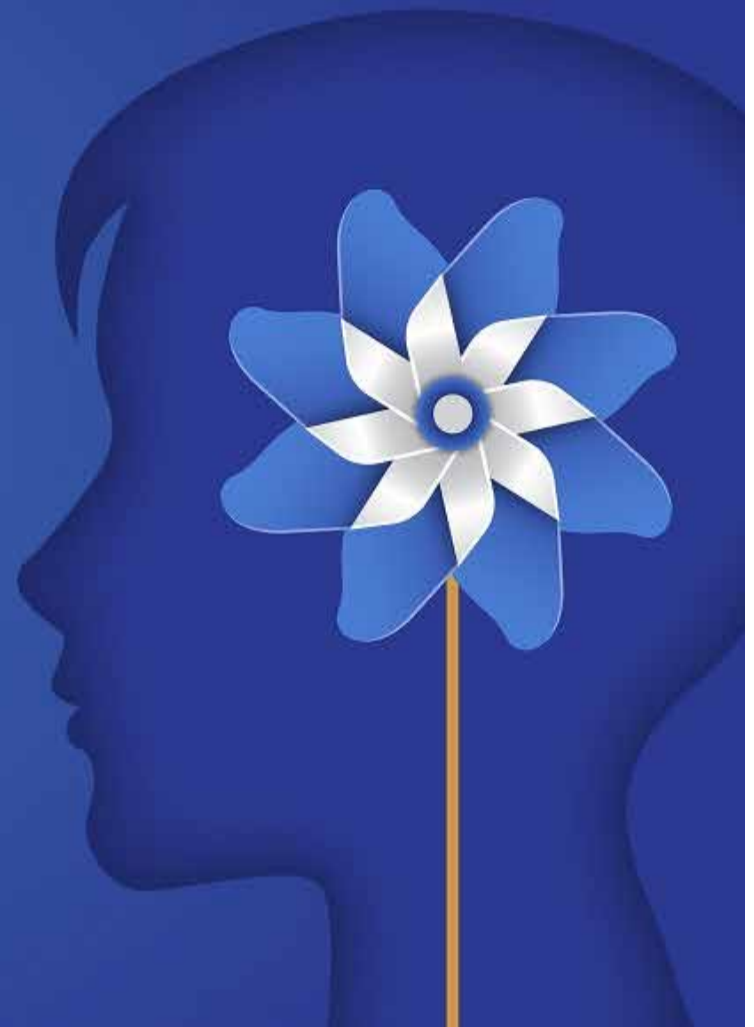
If additional screenings, tests or treatments are needed outside of the no-cost screenings (for example, should you be having a medical crisis and treatment is necessary) that treatment is not considered part of the free screenings.

APRIL

National

CHILD ABUSE

PREVENTION MONTH



COURTESY PHOTO

April has been Child Abuse Prevention Month



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

Child abuse is an uncomfortable subject for obvious reasons. However, child abuse exists and, sadly, can occur without others knowing or seeing it.

April has been a month designated to highlight how we can help prevent child abuse by being more aware, educated, and informed. The source for this essay is the Child Abuse and Neglect Council (CAN) webpage, <https://cancouncil.org/>.

I urge you to visit the webpage to learn more about child abuse and how to guard against it.

The effort to prevent child abuse is not limited to the month of April; it is a 24/7 effort for all of us, every month of the year.

Here are three points that can be made from "Child Abuse Prevention Month" information.

1. We are advised to stay connected with CAN Council and efforts to prevent child abuse. Notice the pinwheels that have been displayed throughout the community the past four weeks. The pinwheel symbolizes the need for an awareness that children should be safe and cared for.
2. We should speak up if we suspect a child is being abused mentally or physically. Any suspected abuse

should be reported to Michigan Children's Protective Services (CPS) at 1-855-444-3911.

3. Let the professionals investigate the situation to see if there are concerns. We might consider volunteering. The CAN Council can always use volunteers in a variety of roles, including but not limited to advocacy and fundraising.

It takes all of us to be informed and aware. If we suspect a child is being abused, we need to act on it.

If we all respond in this way, child abuse could be reduced.

Resource:

<https://cancouncil.org/event/capm/>

+ COMMUNITY

2024 HEART OF THE CITY // IMPACT TURNAROUND AWARD VERONICA HORN

"Thursday, April 11 marked the 161st Annual Meeting of the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce and my final one before retiring after over 22 years.

We celebrated our volunteers and those in the community that have helped make Saginaw County such an exceptional place to live, work and raise a family.

As Bob Van Deventer and I took a quick walk across 25 years, we talked about the legacy families that have made Saginaw County Strong; maybe not by name, but in my heart, you were in my comments.

What I we didn't have time for was to recognize the team that works tirelessly to make the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce the strong organization it has grown to be.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to our board, but our staff at the Chamber.

Lisa Wilks Dobbins, Nancy Werner Stevenson, Becky Suhr, Patty Sapak, Sam Tany and Eugene Fookie Seals are just amazing in their own way!

The connection? There is a love for our community and one another.

I would also like to thank my husband, who has supported the Chamber and me every step of the way. Together, we have made our life in Saginaw County and will continue to work to make Saginaw County the envy of Michigan!

God Bless you all. Thank you for the opportunity I've had to meet so many of you and call you friends."

- Veronica Horn,
Saginaw Chamber of Commerce President



+ COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

MDHHS expands Early Childhood Courts Program to Saginaw County

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is expanding the Early Childhood Courts program to Saginaw County. Often referred to as Baby Court, Michigan's Early Childhood Courts provide services to biological parents so that, whenever possible, they can be the permanent caregivers for their children who have been in foster care.

"Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority, together with our local partners, is excited to be chosen as one of the expansion sites for the development of an Early Childhood Court at our Family Division of the 10th Circuit Court," said Sandra Lindsey, Saginaw Community Mental Health Authority CEO. "Ultimately our goal is to reunite families and to support them by ensuring the safety and developmental needs of their young children as the focus of our collective interventions."

MDHHS received a grant from the fed-

eral Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to provide funding for three counties to support the implementation of Early Childhood Court Programs. In addition to Saginaw County, services will also expand to St. Clair County. Wayne County, which has had a Baby Court since 2008, became a part of the program in January 2023.

"MDHHS is committed to keeping kids safe while expanding access to behavioral health supports," said MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel. "Early Childhood Court Programs help us address the needs of parents and their young children, so they can build strong families and stay together."

Community and health disparities can be a contributing factor to families living in crisis and unstable environments. Michigan's Early Childhood Courts seek to understand the disparities and needs of

families living in poverty and the connection to child welfare removals. Maltreated children are at particular risk for poor outcomes and need coordinated services across systems to support their physical and emotional well-being. Children age 3 and under are over-represented in Michigan's child welfare system, with 27% as victims of child abuse or neglect when only 14% of Michigan's population is made up of children in that age group.

The Early Childhood Courts program is for young children, birth to age 3, and their families if the children are at risk of entering foster care due to abuse or neglect or are already in foster care and could be reunified safely if the family receives services. With individualized services and community resources to meet families' unique needs, many children are safely reunified with their biological parents or caregivers.

+ COMMUNITY

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



COURTESY PHOTO

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

“For sixty-one years Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter has been an impactful influence in Saginaw since our inception and chartering at the Bancroft Hotel on February 10, 1962,” says Kimberly Horne, President of Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter. “We strive to be a continuous source of dedication to our community through volunteering by helping those in need, positioning youth for success through scholarships, mentoring and education, political involvement, promoting women’s health and nutrition and building our economic wealth. We are also a source of professional and leadership development for our members, some of whom will be attending our International Leadership Seminar in Chicago, Illinois.”

On May 6 at 11:00 a.m., it will be that dedication to the Saginaw community that takes center stage with this year’s “Hats off to Mom” celebration. The chapter will host the signature event in person after three

years of virtual events due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be held at the Horizons Conference Center, 6200 State Street. Senator Sylvia Santana of District-2 of the Michigan Senate will deliver this year’s keynote address. Senator Santana represents Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, and parts of Allen Park and Detroit. Additional highlights include the awarding of college scholarships to Saginaw-area high school students, women entrepreneurs, musical performances and an interactive hat show and vendor showcase.

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

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

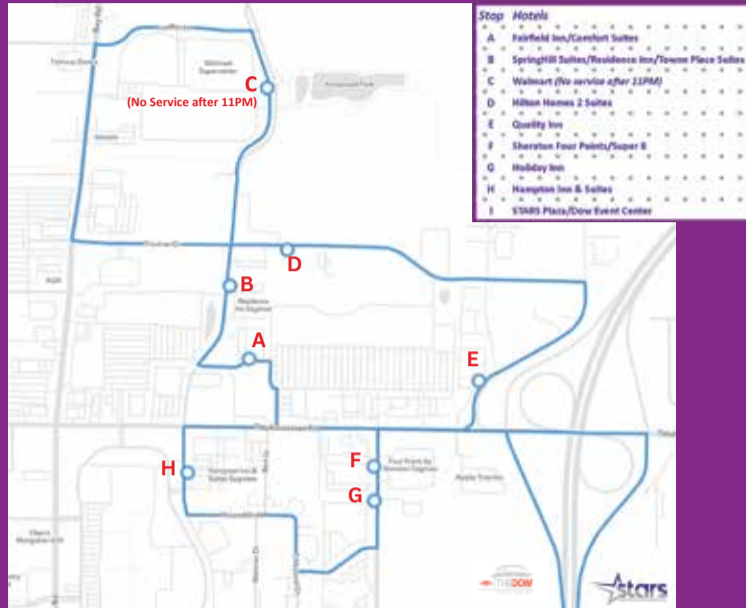
“Our history illustrates we are women who lead as we were the first African American Greek Letter organization established in Saginaw, Michigan, following the un-

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

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

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- 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
- S7 Courts/Anderson Enrichment Center & Memorial Gardens/Crayola Park/ Boys & Girls Club
McDonald's/Old Town Junction/Rally's/Huron Fish Co./Scottish Inn/Sports Page Lounge/Bootlegger Party Store/Dollar General/Shine Bright Silo Mural
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- S9 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
- S10 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
- S11 Saginaw Art Museum & Rose Garden/Panda House
- S12 Bliss Park/McDonald's/Taco Bell/Burger King/The Work Wear Store
- S13 Bringer Inn/Tim Horton's/Family Dollar/Happy's Pizza/New Bond Inn
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Pepper Steak



By VALINDA CROSBY

Cooking has always been my safe space and one of the many ways I bless others. Every dish is prepared with love and joy.

Ingredients

- 1 lb Beef Round Steak
- 1 Lg Onion
- Red, Orange, and Green Bell Pepper
- 2 Tbsp Olive Oil
- 4 Tbsp Butter
- 1 16 oz Can of Tomato Sauce

- 1 Tsp Salt (more if needed)
- 1 Tsp Black Pepper (more if needed)
- 1 Tsp Garlic (more if needed)
- 1 Tsp Onion Powder (more if need)

The first step is to slice your steak, onion, and peppers.

Next add 1 tbsp of butter and 1 tbsp of olive oil to a large skillet. Thirdly add your steak to the skillet and cook the steak until it is no longer pink. After the steak is done add your onions, peppers and seasonings. I usually season with salt, pepper, onion powder, and garlic powder. After your seasonings have been added cook for 10 minutes. Next add your tomato sauce and allow the



dish to simmer on low for 10 minutes with the lid on(or until the steak is tender). Once the the steak is tender add more seasoning if needed. Finally serve with rice and enjoy!!!

Please check me out on my YouTube channel @Valinda Crosby4716.



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Please note that individuals with more than 3 felony offenses will not be eligible for expungement through the petition process, unless they fall within the "One Bad Night" exception under the law. Additionally, the following offenses **CANNOT** be expunged:

- DUI-2nd or Felony DUI-3RD
- Any Traffic offenses causing injury or death.
- CSC 4th Degree if committed on or after January 12, 2015.
- Any offense punishable by Life.
- Felony Domestic Violence if the individual has a prior misdemeanor domestic violence conviction.
- Out-of-State Convictions
- Any Traffic Offenses committed by a person with a CDL license while operating a commercial vehicle.
- Criminal Sexual Conduct (CSC) 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Degree.
- Individuals with pending criminal cases will also not be eligible for expungement of any of their convictions.
- Federal Convictions

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

Join us at Ministry Without Walls

By **PASTOR JOHN DUNN**
MINISTRY WITHOUT WALLS

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

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

Our vision is for Ministry Without Walls to be:

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

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

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

Our ongoing teaching and seminars will include:

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

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

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

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

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

+ FAITH BASED



COURTESY PHOTO

Patience Pays



By **DONIQUA SOVIA**

I recall going through a process of learning the true definition of patience, as I began to turn my life around. I thought patience was just waiting your turn in line, or at a doctors appointment, and nothing more.

But it is more. I used to get angry fast, and had a lot of resentment from the past, and patient was the last word that could describe me. However, as time went on I would learn that patience is not always having the last word. It's waiting for your chance to speak, and doing so in a graceful manner.

Patience is exchanging words of negativity, for words of life. Patience is accepting that somethings are a process and sticking them out anyway. It's being slow to anger, and sometimes walking away.

God is patience. In 2nd Corinthians 13, we are given a thorough description of what love is and one of the characteristics of love is patience. So, when we are patient we are displaying love; The God kind of love. Be patient, it'll payoff really well.

Tickets \$45

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By MINISTER CAROLYN
CARTER TOWNSEL

Apostle Paul unequivocally shares with the Ephesians that they are “God’s Masterpiece.” As God’s masterpiece, the Ephesians identity and value came from God and not from man. This penetrating truth is our truth as well. Far too often the created try to evaluate and assess the worth and value of God’s masterpiece. Man’s evaluating process regarding another man’s worth considers education, job, finances, and status. However, Paul clearly expresses, **“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”** Furthermore, being God’s Masterpiece He intentionally planned and purposed what He wants us to do with our lives and sanctifies and fits us for His service.

John 3:16 articulates the Believer’s authentic value, **“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”** (KJV). God sent his son Jesus to die on the

You Are Valued Beyond Measure

“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago”

Ephesians 2:10 NLT

cross so that you could be saved and have everlasting life. God loved and valued you so much that He gave His only Son as the ultimate sacrifice. The term sacrifice suggests that you give what you have for the sake or the benefit of another – Jesus gave His Life so that you could have life eternally.

In addition, you must not allow deception in, by reasoning that your mistakes define your value. God knew who you were before He formed you in your mother’s womb. Therefore, God Himself is not defining your value by your faults. Apostle Paul says it this way, **“But God demonstrated his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”** (Romans 5:8).

It is imperative as a Believer that you believe, embrace and walk in these truths, truly understanding that no

man is qualified to put a price on you, and your worth undeniably has no attachment to the thoughts, beliefs, or words spoken by another man, unless he is declaring God’s word concerning you. If you as a Christian, find yourself equating your value by what others feel, think, believe, or speak you will live beneath the will, purpose, and potential that God has called you too.

My Beloved, you are God’s Masterpiece – unique and one of a kind. All of God’s creation is of value, yet nothing in creation parallels to His creating work of humanity. You are a masterpiece created in the image of God with purpose, so live your life with the absolute revelatory knowledge that **“You Are Valued Beyond Measure.”**

Blessings to All,
Carolyn

+ CHURCH DIRECTORY

A



Agape Faith Bible Training Center

Rev. Dr. Joseph Rodriguez
8121 Dixie Highway
Birch Run, MI 48415
(989) 777-3200 Ext. 20

B



Bethel AME Church

Rev. Dennis Laffoon
535 Cathay St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-755-7011



Bethlehem Temple Church of the Apostolic Faith

District Elder Curtis E. Johnson, Pastor
3521 Webber St
Saginaw, Michigan 48601
989-755-8381



Bread of Life Harvest Center

Senior Pastor Rodney J. McTaggart
3726 Fortune Blvd.
Saginaw, MI 48603
989-790-7933

C

Christ Disciples Baptist Church

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

Christ Fellowship Baptist Church

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



Christ Image Community Church

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

F



Faith Harvest Church

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



Faith Ministries Church

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

G



Glimpse Of Hope Ministries

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



Glory House Ministries

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

Grace Chapel Church

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

Greater Williams Temple

608 E Remington St
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-755-5291

H



Holy Communion Gospel Center

Pastor Charlene Washington
1245 E. Genesee
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-752-3993

J

Jacob's Ladder

Pastor Dennis Barlow
1926 Fairfield Street
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-799-6601

L

Life in Christ Ministries

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

M

Messiah Missionary Baptist Church

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



Ministry Without Walls

Pastor, John Dunn
3783 Mannion Road
Saginaw, MI 48603



Mt. Olive Baptist Church

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

N



New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry

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



New Beginnings Ministries

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



New Birth Missionary Baptist

Bishop Larry D. Camel
3121 Sheridan
Saginaw, Michigan
989-327-1755



New Covenant Christian Center

Pastor Ron Frierson
2395 S. Outer Drive
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-752-8485



New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Willie F. Casey
1721 Tuscola Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-7600



New Life Baptist Ministries

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

New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

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

P

Prince of Peace Baptist Church

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

R

Radiant Church of God

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



Resurrection Life Ministries Full Gospel Baptist Church

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

S



Saint Paul Baptist Church

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



Second Baptist Church

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

T



Transforming Life Ministries

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



True Vine Baptist Church

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

U



United Missionary Baptist Church

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

V



Victorious Belivers Ministries Church

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

W



World Outreach Campus of Greater Coleman Temple Ministries

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

Z



Zion Missionary Baptist Church

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

+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

How much did you raise?

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

A column for nonprofit professionals and hiring managers

Is fundraising a team sport or a solo effort? We call it a team sport when we want to engage volunteers and stakeholders in the important work of securing funds for our nonprofits. But when it comes to claiming success, we say “I did it.”

The amount of funds raised is used as a “quick-and-easy” way to determine who is a successful fundraiser. Managers and executives use it when evaluating the work of development staff, potential hires, and board members. Those who contract with fundraising counsel ask a variation on the question, “How much have you raised for your clients?”

It feels good to say, “I raised \$2 million for our local parks,” or “I raised \$30,000 for scholarships.” And, people are impressed by these claims, “He must be a really good fundraiser to have raised all that money.” But rarely is this the case. And

when one person claims the fundraising success, it can be disempowering to the rest of the team. Yes, we said it, and we always say it: fundraising is a team effort. No one person does it all. A person can have the title of Chief Development Officer, or Development Director, but their ability to secure gifts is dependent upon the work of many people, including those who may no longer be employed by the nonprofit, or serving on its board.

Here’s what we mean. First, today’s giving is often influenced by a nonprofit’s history of relationships, funding, board leadership, strategic directions, and acceptance. These are built over time, and they impact how a fundraising professional is perceived and the extent to which donors or funders are willing to interact with them. The organization’s financial, social, and political positioning also impacts current-day fundraising. Second, the above factors influence the circle of current and prospective donors/funders and how they want to be involved. When a fundraising professional is working with a portfolio of well-established and closely connected donors they will – in most in-

stances – be more successful in their fundraising. Third, an organization’s brand and market position impact the extent to which fundraising professionals have to educate a prospective donor or funder on the nonprofit’s work. These are all factors that influence fundraising success. As one major gift officer for a well-established nonprofit shared, “All I did was go around and collect checks.” This is so different from a fundraising professional who has to identify potential donors/funders, cultivate their interest, and appropriately solicit their support. There is no comparison.

Finally and most importantly, when one person claims fundraising success, it renders the work of everyone else on the team invisible and of no perceived value. That includes the board members who have opened doors and made introductions, donors who have introduced the organization to their peers and encouraged them to give, the grant writers, the annual fund managers, the marketing team, the fundraising volunteers, the data management person.... and don’t forget the executive director! Fundraising is a team sport – no one person can do it all.



Copyright 2022 – Mel and Pearl Shaw

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



COURTESY PHOTO

Saginaw Township Schools seeks applications for school board vacancy

Saginaw Township Community Schools Board of Education member, Anthony J. Duncan, announced that he will be stepping down from the Board of Education before the end of his term (2026), due to relocation.

In compliance with Michigan School Code of 1976 and Saginaw Township Community Schools Board of Education policy 1170, the District is seeking to fill the open seat on the board within 30 days after the vacancy occurs.

The District must provide public notification of the vacancy and request for interested persons to apply for consideration of

appointment along with holding a public meeting. The public meeting is a time for selected candidates to respond to questions from members of the board. An appointment requires a majority vote of the remaining school board members.

The application for trustee is available (beginning April 10, 2024), on the home page of the District's web site at www.stcs.org. Questions regarding the online application or vacancy procedures should be directed to Jamie Kraatz, Superintendent. Applications will be received until 4:00 p.m. on April 24, 2024 by mail or drop off to the district's Board Office. Screening of the applications will be held on April 24,

2024, and all interested parties are encouraged to have the evening of April 24, 2024, available for interview purposes.

At a special meeting of the Board of Education on May 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., the board plans to conduct interviews and reach its decision and appoint a new trustee. The newlyappointed trustee will be sworn in and begin board service at the May 13, 2024 board meeting. The appointment is effective through the 2024 election and the seat expires on December 31, 2026. In the event a vacancy is not filled within thirty (30) days after it occurs, the intermediate school district's board shall fill the vacancy by appointment.

+ EDUCATION



STUDENTS MAKE CALLS TO PROSPECTIVE DONORS DURING THE OPPOR2NITY DAYS CAMPAIGN.

ployment – than their counterparts without a college degree. (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics) Furthermore, a report by Gallup and the Lumina Foundation shows that college-educated individuals are more civically active than those without a college degree.

While most SVSU students receive some form of financial assistance, including scholarships, grants, loans and work-study, these funding sources are not always enough, and students face financial shortfalls. In addition to making college more affordable, scholarship support can enable students to spend more time on classroom work and field-based learning, as well as enriching

extracurricular activities. Many academic scholarships at SVSU include a community service requirement, providing benefits to people outside of the institution.

This year, 12 entities pledged more than \$46,000 to match donations made during the campaign. They are: Bavarian Inn, Braun Kendrick, Covenant Healthcare, International Fragrance and Flavors, Glastender, Jessica Bentoski Pediatric Dental Specialist, Roberto and Serena Garcia, the Saginaw Spirit Charitable Foundation, Spence Brothers, Tri-Star Trust Bank, the SVSU Foundation board of directors, and staff from the SVSU Foundation and SVSU Office of General Counsel.

The SVSU Foundation held its first day of giving in 2016. Since then, giving day campaigns have raised nearly \$600,000 to fund scholarships and programs, a student emergency fund, the Cardinal Food Pantry, Cardinal Closet, athletics programs and other

SVSU raises \$129,000 for student retention, completion

Over two days, Saginaw Valley State University alumni, community supporters and organizations demonstrated their support of Saginaw Valley State University students, contributing \$129,040 to help students stay in college or return after a break to complete their degrees.

The SVSU Foundation held a two-day fundraising campaign, Oppor2nity Days, from March 19-20. The Foundation's goal was to raise \$90,000 to support students facing critical financial shortfalls caused by emergencies, exhausted scholarship eligibility, overwhelming life circumstances and other situations.

"We are so grateful for the support of our alumni and friends," said Ellen E. Crane, SVSU general counsel and interim executive director of the SVSU Foundation. "Despite working one or more jobs

and receiving other forms of assistance, many SVSU students face financial shortfalls and unforeseen circumstances that threaten their ability to stay in college. Everyone who contributed to this campaign is making a difference for our students."

In the United States, 1 million college students drop out each year. Many of them cite personal issues or financial concerns. When students don't earn their college degrees, they often earn less than their counterparts who finished college. Students who leave college also default on their loans at higher rates than college graduates.

Degree completion is not only beneficial to college students, it also is good for the communities where graduates live and work. College graduates typically earn more – and experience less unem-

CMU journalism professor awarded a 2024 President's Award

Journalism Professor Alice A. Tait, Ph.D., received the CMU 2024 President's Award for Outstanding Research and Creative Activity. This award can only be won once in a professor's career at CMU and celebrates the success a senior faculty member has had throughout their time here.

Tait joined CMU as a faculty member in 1986 and has made many contributions to the mass media field, specifically regarding diversity and people of color. Throughout her career, she has produced 18 journal articles, 16 papers and four books. Additionally, she is a well-respected expert in the field and is a highly sought panelist and research evaluator.

Tait's other recognitions include the 2020 Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award, 2015 Lionel C. Barrow Jr. Award for Distinguished Achievement in Diversity Research and Education, and a fellow for the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (a position designed to mentor people of color and women in advanced leadership skills in the academy).

About her area of study, Tait says, "I experienced discrimination and came to see how African American societal contributions were rendered invisible in the media. I experienced how media portrayal of our activities were often one-sided, incomplete and even false. After taking a course in mass media effects, I understood how media images of African Americans, and other racially and ethnically diverse groups, influenced their perceptions of themselves and how those perceptions impacted their ability to live in this society. I realized then that journalism and mass communication education provided my way of tackling media injustice and the sense of discrimination I felt as an African American."

Her early research focused on Profiles in Black, a program produced and directed from 1969-1979 by the Gilbert A. Maddox and aired and sponsored by then WWJ-TV (Detroit), specifically to counteract negative images of Detroiters and African-Americans.



ALICE A. TAIT

In collaboration with Guy T. Meiss, Tait created a three-volume series: Ethnic Media in America: Building System of Their Own, Ethnic Media in America: Taking Control, and Ethnic Media in America: Images, Audiences and Transforming Forces. The series draws on the qualitative and quantitative research of scholars in the fields of journalism and mass communications, speech communication, media, film and ethnic studies, history, sociology, economics, business, law and regulations.

On her career, Tait says, "I have tried to introduce students and consumers to rel-

evant findings of mass media theory and help them develop the analytical skills that allow them to change how they view mass media, understand how mediated images impact their lives, how they influence their perceptions of others and themselves, and how to use that knowledge to change media institutions and society. My aim was to be transformative, sowing seeds of understanding and change."

This story is brought to you by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies and is written by Hadlee Rinn.

Coming fall of 2024!



POWER OF A
PROMISE
Fundraiser

Will be held at the **new**
Saginaw United High School!



Please join us as we honor the past
and embrace the future!

*Evening event, Dinner, Entertainment, Auction, Keynote Speaker,
Scholar highlights & Program Updates
--Tours will be available --*

Event details, ticket and sponsorship opportunity information will be
posted on the Saginaw Promise website and promoted by late spring.

**Event proceeds to support Saginaw Promise scholarships and programming
to invest in Saginaw's future and that of Saginaw's students!*

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

Saginaw Promise...Don't Leave Money on the Table...Complete FAFSA Today!

The more money a student has, the more apt students are to complete their educational goals. To that end, the Saginaw Promise requires students complete the Saginaw Community Foundation online Scholarship Application and FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to be reviewed for additional funding opportunities when applying for a Saginaw Promise Scholarship.

According to a Bridge article dated April 1, 2024, FAFSA submissions in Michigan are down 12,700 from last school year. **Very Important...don't leave money on the table, complete FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Stu-**

dent Aid). Applicants need to complete the FAFSA application to apply for federal student aid such as federal grants, work-study funds and loans. On December 31, 2023, FAFSA introduced a new application intended to simplify FAFSA enrollment, but the rollout has not been smooth; leaving families and students frustrated with process and technology issues. Don't despair—instead consider what FAFSA will offer in funding for you or your student for postsecondary education and try again! FAFSA is required for many state and university scholarships. For instance, the new MI Achievement scholarship requires FAFSA and the Saginaw Promise

cannot send out scholarship checks until scholars have completed FAFSA. **Don't delay...complete FAFSA today!**

Since 2012, the Saginaw Promise has provided \$1,317,714 in scholarships to 728 scholars! The Saginaw Promise is working to affect Saginaw's future, its economy and quality of life by providing opportunities for and eliminating barriers to post-secondary education. For more information about the Saginaw Promise or its scholarship, telephone (989) 755-0545 or dsanchez@saginawpromise.org.

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CONTINUES ON PG 41,
SISD**

Continued from pg 40, SISD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Early Head Start/Head Start Locations:

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

Great Start to Readiness Program Locations:

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

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

SAY HELLO TO

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

Do you qualify?

- Michigan resident for 1 year or more
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- Do not currently hold a college or university degree
- Students must enroll for 12 credits per year

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

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

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



WILD about Pre-K

Saginaw Public Schools

Free Breakfast & Lunch

16 Students Per Classroom

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Child Must Be 4 By December 1

Items Needed For Enrollment

- Child's Birth Certificate
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- Health Insurance Card
- Proof of Income
- Proof of Residency
- Photo ID

To Complete Registration

→ Appointment Required ←

Call (989) 399-6750 or visit michiganpreschool.org

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989.399.6500



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- Relocated to a Beautiful New Building September 5, 2023
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- Testing has started for the 24-25 School Year!
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989.399.4250



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APPLY NOW



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**GIFTED &
TALENTED
CAMPUS
FALL
2024**

LOCATED ON THE SITE OF THE
CURRENT
ARTHUR HILL HS



About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

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

+ SPORTS

Delta College names Kirkland as new men's basketball head coach

By HASANI ALI

Looking to make some drastic improvements in the program, Delta College has found a new head coach.

As of April 8, Ramon Kirkland has been appointed as the new Head Men's Basketball Coach. Kirkland has an expansive 15-year coaching career and provides a wealth of expertise that could bring a winning culture to Delta College.

"I am honored to return home and have the opportunity to lead the Men's Basketball program at Delta College," Kirkland said. "I am eager to work alongside the talented student-athletes, coaching staff, and administration to build a program that embodies integrity, hard work, and success. Together, we will strive for greatness both on the court and in the classroom."

The Pioneers went 10-14 overall (4-10 MCCA) last season, struggling against some of the top teams in the conference.

On a positive note, three Delta College players received MCCA men's basketball honors.

"We are extremely proud of these young men as they battled through adversity all season," said Director of Athletics Andrew Wingard. "They continued to fight and push forward and that is what it means to be a Pioneer."

Sophomore Jamahl Trice earned MCCA Second Team All-Northern Conference honors, averaging 20 points a game with four assists and three rebounds.

Freshman Brendon Schlink and Sophomore Lewis Covile both earned MCCA All-Northern Conference honorable mentions.

Prior to arriving, the Detroit native completed a one-year stint as an assistant head coach at Los Angeles Valley College. The Monarch struggled, finishing with a 6-19 record overall (2-12 Western State Conference).

He also served as a Youth Development Coach for the Los Angeles Clippers for five years.



RAMON KIRKLAND

During his time as an assistant head coach at Moorpark College for the 2022-2023 season, the Raiders went 17-12 overall (9-3 Western State Conference).

Moorpark College finished the season strong, winning seven of the last nine games heading into the postseason before falling short to Saddleback College, 81-68 in the first round of the CCCAA Regional tournament.

The Pioneer family is excited to have the leadership of the Detroit native. His proven track record of excellence on and off the court will give the program a drastic turnaround to achieve athletically and academically.

"We are thrilled to welcome Ramon Kirkland to the Delta College family," said Shelly Raube, Dean of Student Success. "His passion for the game, coupled with his dedication to player development and academic success, align perfectly with our

values here at Delta College. We have full confidence in Coach Ramon's ability to lead our Men's Basketball program to new heights."

Prior to joining Delta College, Coach Ramon has demonstrated his coaching prowess at various levels, including Moorpark College (CA), Western Oregon University and most recently Los Angeles Valley College. His impressive resume and commitment to excellence make him an invaluable addition to the Delta College athletic community.

Ramon Kirkland holds a Masters in Sports Administration from Central Michigan University, is a member of the Rising Coaches Association and is deeply passionate about not only developing successful athletes but also nurturing well-rounded individuals prepared for life beyond the basketball court.

Wolverines hire Boynton Jr. as assistant coach

By HASANI ALI

As the University of Michigan is entering a new era in basketball, head coach Dusty May is already bringing some key pieces to the program.

In effort to complete his first coaching staff at Michigan, May has hired former Oklahoma State head coach Mike Boynton Jr to be an assistant.

He was released last month after serving five seasons as the Cowboys' head coach. Oklahoma State went 119-109 and only made the NCAA tournament once in 2021.

Cade Cunningham was the freshman leading the show for OSU that was the no. 1 overall NBA draft pick by the Detroit Pistons.

The former Cowboy went to social media to make his announcement on April 12 regarding the hiring.

"The time has arrived. Here. We. Go... Onward and upward. #GoBlue," Boynton Jr., posted on X.

Boynton Jr., will be joining the ranks of Akeem Miskdeen, who was previously an assistant at Georgia, and Justin Joyner, the former assistant from Saint Mary's.

Boynton, 42, has an extensive coaching career – working at Furman, Coastal Carolina, Wofford, South Carolina and Stephen F. Austin before moving to Oklahoma State in 2016.

He was a former player at South Carolina where he averaged 10 points per game while shooting 40 percent from the field during his senior season back in 2004.

According to MGoBlue.com, Boynton is known as an exceptional recruiter. In addition to landing Cunningham, the top prospect in his class, Boynton pulled in the country's 10th-ranked class last year, a group that included two top-50 recruits.

Oklahoma State unfortunately went 12-20 this season and finished tied for last in the 14-team Big 12 at 4-14.

Per 247Sports, Oklahoma State had just one committed prospect for this year's class: Jeremiah Johnson, a 6-foot-3 point guard from Phoenix ranked No. 162 in the site's composite.

The Cowboys had a three-year stretch under Boynton where they ranked 17th,



MIKE BOYNTON JR.

fourth, and 12th in adjusted deficiency per kenpom.com.

Oklahoma State was ineligible for the postseason in 2022 due to recruiting violations by a former assistant coach.

Boynton and Underwood, who is still at Illinois, worked together at South Carolina. When Underwood got his first head-coaching job at Stephen F. Austin in 2013, he took Boynton with him, and they moved to Stillwater together a few years later.

May, hired last month to replace Julian Howard, who had a disappointing season by finishing 8-24 overall, 3-17 in the Big Ten.

The Wolverines ended the season with a nine-game losing streak, including two

losses to interstate rival, Michigan State.

May said his Michigan staff would be a mix of diverse characters with familiar faces, indicating some of the rest of the staff could be former Owls. May still needs to hire a director of basketball operations and video coordinator, among other positions.

He made this comment during his introductory conference once he was hired by the Wolverines regarding his new staff.

"We need well-rounded teachers, first and foremost, that are going to put the players first. They're going to be great teammates amongst themselves.

The 2024-2025 schedule has not been yet released.

+ SPORTS



MARQUISE GRAY

Marquise Gray resigns after three seasons at Beecher

By HASANI ALI

Flint Beecher head coach Marquise Gray has resigned from the boys basketball program after three seasons.

He sat down with ABC 12 News to comment on his recent decision to resign.

"I've always said that, you know, I owe a debt of gratitude to my community and to the people from there, but they don't get to hold me hostage forever," Gray said during the interview. "And so for me and my family, the best decision was for me to step away and explore my options. And, you know, that's what I plan to do."

Marquise led the Bucs to the state championship last season against Traverse City St. Francis, winning their seventh state title since 2012.

He admits the decision to leave was difficult.

"I'm just grateful and thankful that I had the opportunity to be a part of and give back and do the things we did in my tenure at Beecher," Gray said.

During his tenure at Beecher, Gray had

an all-time record of 56-24 while winning two Genesee Area Conference titles, three regional championships and played in two state semifinals.

The former Michigan State Spartan believes that he made the best decision for himself and his family.

"It's an extremely difficult decision, and every difficult decision still has to be made," Gray said. "At the end of the day, it's about putting me and my family in the best position possible to be successful."

This past season, Beecher had to forfeit nine games due to playing an ineligible player. Gray denies that the situation involving an ineligible player had a significant influence on his resignation.

"It didn't have anything to do with my decision at all," he said. "But I want to make it clear that the situation did have an impact on the program. My job is to make sure that this program is left in good hands and still in good condition, just like how Mike Williams left the program for me in such great condition."

With much of the talent leaving the city

of Flint, more of the suburban schools are inheriting the talent and have an adequate chance to compete.

Gray didn't seem too worried about Beecher being able to compete amongst the growing talent across the Flint area.

"Talent is everywhere," he said during an ABC 12 News interview. "You have to develop and cultivate the talent. You must give them a chance to compete at the highest level."

The Flint native did confirm that he had some coaching offers, but would not disclose what those plans were.

The 6-foot-9 giant made an impact at Michigan State. Under head coach Tom Izzo, Gray ranked second on the team in rebounding with 5.5 rebounds per game and fourth in scoring with 6.8 points per game during the 2008-2009 season.

Gray also led the Spartans in field-goal percentage (.578) among players with at least 50 field goal attempts.

He scored his career high of 19 points against Loyola (Md.) and scored in double figures in 10 games.

Spirit fall to Soo Greyhounds, series tied 1-1

By HASANI ALI

The Saginaw Spirit was looking to take a commanding 2-0 lead after a dominating 4-0 win against the Soo Greyhounds on Saturday night.

After goalie Andrew Oke was taken out of the game after being checked in the face by center Bryce McConnell-Barker, that game plan went quickly south.

Despite goals coming from Zayne Parekh and Nic Sima, the Greyhounds answered emphatically against Saginaw, 5-2 in game 2 of the second round of the playoffs at the Dow Event Center in Saginaw.

Saginaw Spirit head coach Chris Lazary was not pleased with his team's effort in game 2.

"I don't think we looked good at all tonight," he said during a postgame interview. "They played a really good game against us. They were making good decisions at the line and they had the better legs. I didn't think our transition game was good until the third (period). We had a slight push, but then Soo had a bad goal

on our end which I didn't like. We ended up chasing the lead the rest of the way."

Sault Ste. Marie and Saginaw are now tied in the series, 1-1.

The Greyhounds struck first at 4:45 into the first period. Julian Fantino wide open in the slot where the slick winger placed a perfect shot past the glove of Andrew Oke for his first of the OHL Playoffs, setting a 1-0 Greyhounds lead.

Saginaw wasted no time responding following a penalty by the Soo's Justin Cloutier for slashing.

Parekh skated in and let loose a wrist shot just above the left circle slipping past the screened Charlie Schenkel and into the net for the d-man's second of the OHL Playoff and tying the game at one.

After a quick pass to Jordan D'Intino, the Greyhounds' winger split the defense and placed a left-handed wrist shot past Oke for his third of the OHL Playoffs.

At 8:32 into the second period, goaltender Oke was taken out of the game after being checked and suffering an upper body injury. He was replaced by Nolan Lalonde.

Prior to exiting the game, Oke was able to stop 9 of 11 shots. Lalonde stopped 7 of 10 shots for the Spirit.

Owen Allard took a shot past Lalonde to give the Greyhounds a 3-1 lead heading into the third period.

Saginaw was able to cut the lead to one as Rodwin Dionicio slashed towards the net and found Sima for the goal, his third of the playoffs.

The game was within reach until Jordan D'Intino scored two back-to-back goals to complete his hat trick and to ice the game for the Greyhounds.

The final goal came with an assist from Kirill Kudryavtsev.

Both teams scored one power-play goal, with Saginaw outshooting the Soo, 27-21.

Game 3 will take place at the GFL Memorial Gardens on Monday, April 15th with a 7:07 start time. The Spirit will return home for game 5 on April 19 at 7:05 p.m. at the Dow Event Center.



SAGINAW SPIRIT

+ SPORTS

Saginaw legend Preston Murphy helped lead Alabama to Final Four

By HASANI ALI

The city of Saginaw had the privilege to see some of the city's current hoop stars on the main stage of March Madness.

Saginaw Heritage standout Moira Joiner helped Michigan State go toe-to-toe with North Carolina before losing in a close contest, 59-56 in the first round.

Arthur Hill standout Jimmy Bell saw action in the first round in the men's tournament as the Bulldogs fell to Michigan State, 69-51.

Grand Blanc standout and Saginaw native Ty Rodgers not only earned Big Ten championship hardware as a sophomore, but helped Illinois advance to the Elite Eight before falling to the national champs in UConn, 77-52.

Not only did we have players showcasing their talents at the big dance, the city of Saginaw had a legendary player who served as a coach in the Final Four.

Former Nouvel Catholic Central standout Preston Murphy is currently serving as a special assistant coach to Nate Oats and the University of Alabama program.

"I have known Preston for a long time," Oats said in a statement when Murphy was hired. "I am always impressed with his energy, his humility and his basketball acumen. His insight, experience and ability to connect with student-athletes will be a significant advantage for us."

The Crimson Tide (25-12 overall, 13-5 SEC) had an impressive regular season run, wrapped up in a four-way tie for second place in the SEC.

Alabama battled their way to the Final Four before losing to UConn, 86-72.

Senior Mark Sears led the way for the Crimson Tide with 24 points. Senior Grant Nelson followed with 19 points in the contest. Senior Aaron Estrada added 13 points.

Ironically, Murphy was trying to help Alabama avoid the same fate when he lost in the Elite Eight as a junior at the University of Rhode Island in 1998.

"Just understanding what's at stake and the opportunity that lies in front of us," Murphy told The Tuscaloosa News on Friday prior to the game. "I feel very



PRESTON MURPHY

blessed and fortunate and I thank God for having another opportunity to go to the Final Four."

Back in 1998, Murphy and the no. 8 Rams were ahead 71-65 over no. 3 seed Stanford with less than a minute remaining in the game. They could not hold on to the right lead as the Cardinals were able to squeak past Rhode Island, 79-77 at the Kiel Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

"This was actually a lesson Stanford taught us, just to fight to the end," Murphy said, reflecting back on the game. "They

could have easily folded then and given up, and we would have been able to walk through to the Final Four. To their credit, they didn't. They fought, they got steals, they fouled, we missed free throws, they played and persevered."

In 2002, Murphy went on to play for the Los Angeles Clippers in the Southern California Summer Pro League and had one season with the Magic Johnson All-Stars.

He also played professionally for three seasons in Belgium and Holland.

Saginaw High standout Roberson hosting basketball camp in Florida

By HASANI ALI

Former NBA player and Florida Gator standout Anthony Roberson is still active with basketball despite no longer being a professional player.

Instead, the Saginaw native is taking the opportunity to train young athletes to elevate their game to the next level.

The former Chicago Bulls guard was last seen training Carrollton's Rahmaan Kelley Jr., as he and his father took a trip down to Florida for a private training session.

Rahmaan Kelley Sr., took to social media to show his son working out with "Peep" while shooting jump shots off the pass.

"I told y'all this was a business trip," Kelley Sr. said. "We came to Florida to get better and open doors. Salute to the Saginaw High Legend Anthony Roberson for working him out. RJ had dead legs from workouts and no sleep in 24 hours, but he pushed through. More work to do. More doors to open! Good to see you, Peep!"

Roberson is hosting Skill Sessions at Spruce Creek High School, located in Port Orange, FL. The middle school ballers begin at 6:30 p.m. and the high schoolers begin at 7:45 p.m.

Sessions begin at \$40 with multiple packages available.

Roberson had an exceptional career at Florida from 2002 – 2005. He was a two-time AP All-American and First Team All-SEC.

He also earned SEC Freshman of the Year accolades.

As the first player from Michigan to ever suit up as a Gator, Roberson averaged 18 points and set a school record with 99 three-pointers in one season and only needed three more to become Florida's all-time leader in the category.

Boston Celtics forward and nominee for NBA Teammate of the Year Al Harford became the next Michigan native to suit up for the University of Florida.

With a lightning quick first step, Roberson was a fearless competitor that could distribute the ball or drive in the lane.



ANTHONY ROBERSON

He was never afraid to put up the big shot, which also helped him become a member of the All-SEC tournament team.

Roberson helped the Gators get to the SEC finals after a 35-point showcase against Vanderbilt in the semifinals, the best performance by a Gator since 1982.

He is the leading returning scorer and three-point shooter in the SEC.

Roberson played with four teams in the NBA – Chicago, New York, Golden State and Memphis. He also had a professional career in Europe for a few seasons.

During the 2008-2009 season with the Knicks, Roberson's last season, he played in 23 games while averaging 4.7 points

while going 38 percent from the field and 34 percent from behind the arc.

His best season in the NBA was during the 2006-2007 season with the Golden State Warriors. Averaged 11 minutes in 20 games while averaging 5.6 points and a rebound per game while shooting 42 percent from the field.

Roberson was signed by the Memphis Grizzlies as a free agent in 2005.

If you know any ball players in Florida that would benefit from the training, you can contact Coach Roberson at 470-496-3115 or send an email to TeamRoberson-Training@gmail.com.

+ SPORTS

SVSU to host basketball camp for high school seniors, JUCO players



COURTESY PHOTO

By **HASANI ALI**

The road to playing college basketball is not always linear.

Sometimes a player gets overlooked, has no visibility due to a losing program or falls victim to sports politics.

Other times, some athletes just need the opportunity to showcase their skills in front of the right coaches.

Saginaw Valley State University is providing that opportunity for many ball players in the surrounding areas that want to compete at the next level.

The Cardinals and head coach Randy Baruth are hosting a Late Availables Camp on Sunday, April 28 at 1 p.m., at SVSU Ryder Center.

This camp is available for unsigned high school seniors, junior college freshman and sophomores. Camp admission is \$60.

SVSU does have scholarships available for deserving players along with preferred walk-on opportunities.

The Cardinals had four seniors on the team this past season and may lose a few

more to the transfer portal.

As the official roster is not yet set in stone, the Cardinals will definitely have some roster spots to fill.

SVSU went 13-14 overall and 6-12 in the GLIAC this past season, shooting an average of 48 percent from the field.

The Cardinals ended the season with a five-game losing streak, including a 75-74 nail-biting buzzer beater against Wayne State University on Senior Day.

Due to their less than stellar record, the Cardinals missed the GLIAC tournament.

Every athlete loves when a second opportunity arises. However, being noticed at a camp or showcase is far from an easy feat.

Personal trainer Isaiah Carter can attest to the difficulty of being recruited by a college coach at a camp though it is a possibility.

“It really depends on the needs of the team,” he said. “Some teams may already have their stars and may be looking for role players. Some coaches are looking for a particular type of player. You can have athletic ability out of this world and can score at will, but you could be useless to a

program that plays a certain type of basketball.”

Carter has trained hundreds of athletes in the Midland area over the last ten years, helping many of them reach the next level in their basketball career.

Having experience in training athletes over the years and having several connections to other schools, Carter was willing to give advice to any ball player that is looking to get noticed at a camp or showcase.

“Everybody (for the most part) that’s going to be at the camp has some talent,” he said. “What’s going to make a ball player stand out is doing the little things during camp. Emotional intelligence, remaining calm under pressure. A positive attitude and do what you’re asked with no pushback. Touching the line when doing a sprint drill. These coaches need to know that you’re coachable so they can develop you into the college player they need you to be for their program.”

For more information or to register, please visit www.svsumensbasketball-camps.total.camps.com.

Coach Baruth can also be reached at RSBaruth@svsu.edu or 989-964-7314.

Saginaw to host Memorial Cup for the first time in 104 years

By HASANI ALI

Lookout Detroit! The city of Saginaw may be the new Hockey Town during the late spring.

For the first time in its 104-year history, Saginaw will be hosting the Memorial Cup, a tournament between the three leagues within the Canadian Hockey League.

The CHL has been named the world's largest development league with 52 Canadiens teams and eight American teams participating.

Saginaw is the first Michigan city to host the tournament, first American city to host the tournament since 1998 when it was last hosted in Spokane, Wash.

Starting on May 24, the champions from the Ontario Hockey League, Western Hockey League and Quebec Maritimes Junior Hockey League will compete in a tournament for the Memorial Cup, which has been around since 1919.

It was first awarded in remembrance of the soldiers who died serving Canada during World War I. Then it was rededicated to the memory of all fallen Canadian Military personnel in 2010.

As of April 10, the Saginaw Spirit are facing off against the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds in the second round of the OHL playoffs.

Jimmy Greene, Director for Special Events for the Memorial Cup, acknowledged the monumental event coming to Saginaw, perhaps as one of the biggest events to have ever hit the city.

"It's the biggest event that has ever hit Saginaw and we will make it to be the best thing to have ever hit Saginaw," he said.

Amongst Greene and his team, it took a lot of grit and will to bring the event to the city, particularly with all the requirements needed to be considered.

"On paper, Saginaw would've never been considered to host the Memorial Cup," Greene said. "We literally had to get the entire region engaged to make it happen. Because of lodging needs and other accommodations, we had to partner with Frankenmuth, Birch Run and Saginaw Township."

Greene knew the importance of getting the hockey fans engaged with a sense of urgency.



MEMORIAL CUP

"It was important to educate the community on the importance of the memorial cup and what it represents," he said.

CHL president Dan Mackenzie is excited to bring the Memorial Cup to the city of Saginaw. He understands the economic growth that it brings to each city while hockey fans are able to enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"Traditionally this championship event can be expected to bring between 20 to 30 million dollars in economic activity to the region," he said during a MLive interview. "My hope is that the great legacy of the memorial cup in Saginaw will inspire the future generation of hockey players from the great state of Michigan to want to chase their dream of competing for a memorial cup because they saw one of their heroes like Michael Misa do it."

The Saginaw Spirit does have a rare opportunity on the line – to be the first team to host the tournament and win it since 1983.

Portland was the first U.S. team to both host and win the cup in the same season.

Along with the tournament hype, Spirit fans can also get excited about the upcom-

ing upgrades coming to the Dow Event Center.

Spirit President and Managing Partner Craig "Goose" Goslin spoke with Saginaw County Controller Robert Belleman to confirm that the event center and surrounding area will be seeing more than \$5 million invested to meet quality standards set by the CHL and seen in other arenas around the league.

Goslin is impressed with the Dow Event Center but can use a handful of improvements.

"Saginaw is both honored and prepared," Goslin said during a MLive interview. "We respect and understand the significance that the Memorial Cup has in Canadian culture and we plan to illustrate this respect and honor throughout the event."

The city of Saginaw is almost making immediate renovations to Hoyt Park, Jolt Credit Union Event Park and a constructed plaza (coming soon), elevators to access the arena suite and theater areas, additional and improved locker/dressing rooms and increasing the number of box suites to 15, up from nine.



PICS OF THE WEEK

In 2023 the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce welcomed 93 new Members, launched the Momentum program for minority and women-owned businesses, and hosted 276 events! And that's just a few of our accomplishments which were celebrated at this year's Annual Meeting. At the meeting, we also recognized six of our volunteers who made a positive impact on the Chamber and Saginaw County Young Professionals Network -YPN.



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*Brittany Saunders is ready to pay it forward. The Chicago native enrolled at SVSU with ambitions to pursue a teaching career. Brittany was encouraged and invigorated by other passionate educators who worked closely with her to ensure she would accomplish her goals. And she is. Even before she was set to graduate, Brittany could boast a résumé with a paid internship in a school district along with K-12 classroom experience. **Now she can't wait to begin a professional career, inspiring students with the same kind of one-on-one attention she received from her professors at SVSU.***



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