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FEATURED STORY

LLEAD Saginaw and MI Hispanic Chamber of Commerce hosts successful *Tercer Jueves* networking event

LATINO BANNER, PG 3



Saginaw's Home of Hockey History offers family fun for Memorial Cup



CASTLE MUSEUM

Within a short five-minute walk from the Dow Event Center, the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History holds the keys to Saginaw's hockey past. During the Memorial Cup competition in Saginaw from May 24 through June 2, the museum, located at 500 Federal Avenue, will be showcasing a refreshed version of their Home Ice exhibit covering the building of the Saginaw Civic Center and the hockey legacy started by the Saginaw Gears through today's Spirit. Beyond the exhibit, there will also be special opportunities for families to get involved in hockey fun, includ-

ing the Spicer Slide & Glide sock skating rink, a Mugshots with the Mascots selfie station, and pop-up STEM hockey activities with SVSU Physics.

Thanks to a generous donation from Spicer Group, the museum is able to provide an indoor, slippery-surfaced, sock skating rink for people of all ages—the Spicer Slide & Glide. According to Castle Museum Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Vannette, "Our amazing partnerships around Saginaw County have made it possible to not only showcase our impressive museum during the Memorial Cup, but

also highlight Saginaw's dedicated organizations and businesses who helped to make this possible." SVSU Physics Department will also be on hand throughout the event to provide STEM activities for families focused on hockey.

For a full list of events and times, guests may visit castlemuseum.org or follow our social media outlets @TheCastleMuseum. Museum admission for all Saginaw County residents is FREE. For those visiting from elsewhere, admission is just \$5 per family. All events are at no additional cost to visitors.

MICHIGAN BANNER

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MISSION

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

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 6 • NUMBER 9



SMOKE & MIRRORS



By DONIQUA SOVIA

In the haze, of the phase on the search for validation. Fog in the form of enticement hangs thick obscuring vision. It subtly clears but for a minute, and you see a reflection, you'd be willing to accept, but it's a costly illusion. But you don't see that, though it's subtly clear. You've been tricked, by smoke and mirrors.

You're the perfect size, standing there looking like a size two, but if you turn around it disappears and you're faced with a different view. You've adopted the ideology that to hold a place in society, you gotta be a certain size. But the smoke and mirrors that's left your mind seared, will soon leave you to your demise, but the accountability has no stability and they'll rule it as a suicide.

Campaigns, and flyers, with faces of magicians, or conmen for hire, are displayed as entertainment, and your eyes they do please, but can you accurately tell me the forest from the trees? Oh that's right the fog is too heavy, you claim it's the weather, but what if I told you it's a smoke machine?

You want to be Vogue? Madonna said strike a pose, we call it the mannequin challenge, take note that you're acting like a object that's inanimate, slowly being objectified, but you can't see that. Perhaps it's the lighting that's blinding and causing you to shun away as attempt to persevere the vision you still have yet.

Mirror, Mirror on the wall, all is good until you fall. But if you fall down and break, a shattered view is what I'll partake.

Mirror mirror on the floor, you've beheld my face and many more, and when the smoke clears is when I shall see the perfection was an illusion, and the forest are the trees.



No one has the right to bully anyone



COURTESY PHOTO

By EL WOOD BUCKLEY

Bullying has been around since the beginning of time. I first thought that this topic would be uninteresting however; I had a change of heart. As a young child, growing up, I personally was being bullied. According to www.stopbullying.gov bullying is an unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repetitious or has the potential to be repetitive over time. The children who are involved in bullying and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems.

The National Library of medicine states the consequences of, "being bullied makes young people incredibly insecure: When you're being bullied, you can feel constantly insecure and on guard. Even if you're not actively being bullied, you're aware it could start anytime. It has a big mental and emotional impact—you feel unaccepted, isolated, angry, and withdrawn. You're always wondering how you can do better and how you can escape a bully's notice. You're also

stunted because of the constant tension and because maybe you forego making certain friendships or miss out on taking certain chances that could actually help your development."

The National Center for Educational Statistics says, "One out of every five students report being bullied. Of those students who reported being bullied 13% were made fun of, called names, or insulted, 13% were the subject of rumors, 5% were pushed, shoved, tripped, or spit on, and 5% were excluded from activities on purpose. The reasons for being bullied reported most often by students include physical appearance, race/ethnicity, gender, disability, religion, and sexual orientation.

These statistics are bad, sad, and alarming, but it does not stop there. "Students who experience bullying are at an increased risk of depression, anxiety, sleep difficulties, and thoughts of suicide, attempted suicide, and suicide. A little over 14% of students in high school consider suicide and approximately 7% of them attempt suicide. Students that are bullied are around 2 to 9 times more

likely to consider suicide than non-victims. A study in Britain found that at least half of suicides among young people are related to bullying." Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that "suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the United States."

During the times I was being bullied I felt hurt, anger, helplessness, and I was guarded because of the offenses. Even though I had these feelings, I knew I had to stand up for myself and stop the bullying. I did and it soon stopped. I am thankful I had the love and support of my family, a teacher, and a counselor that helped me.

The average age for bullying is 12 – 18 years old. If you know of someone who is being bullied there is help. There are several resources you can use; you can tell your family, notify an adult you trust at school, and or call the Stop Bullying Now Hotline at 1800 -273-8255. No one has the right to bully anyone and it can be stopped. Believe me I lived it, and I know it can be stopped!





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Latino Banner

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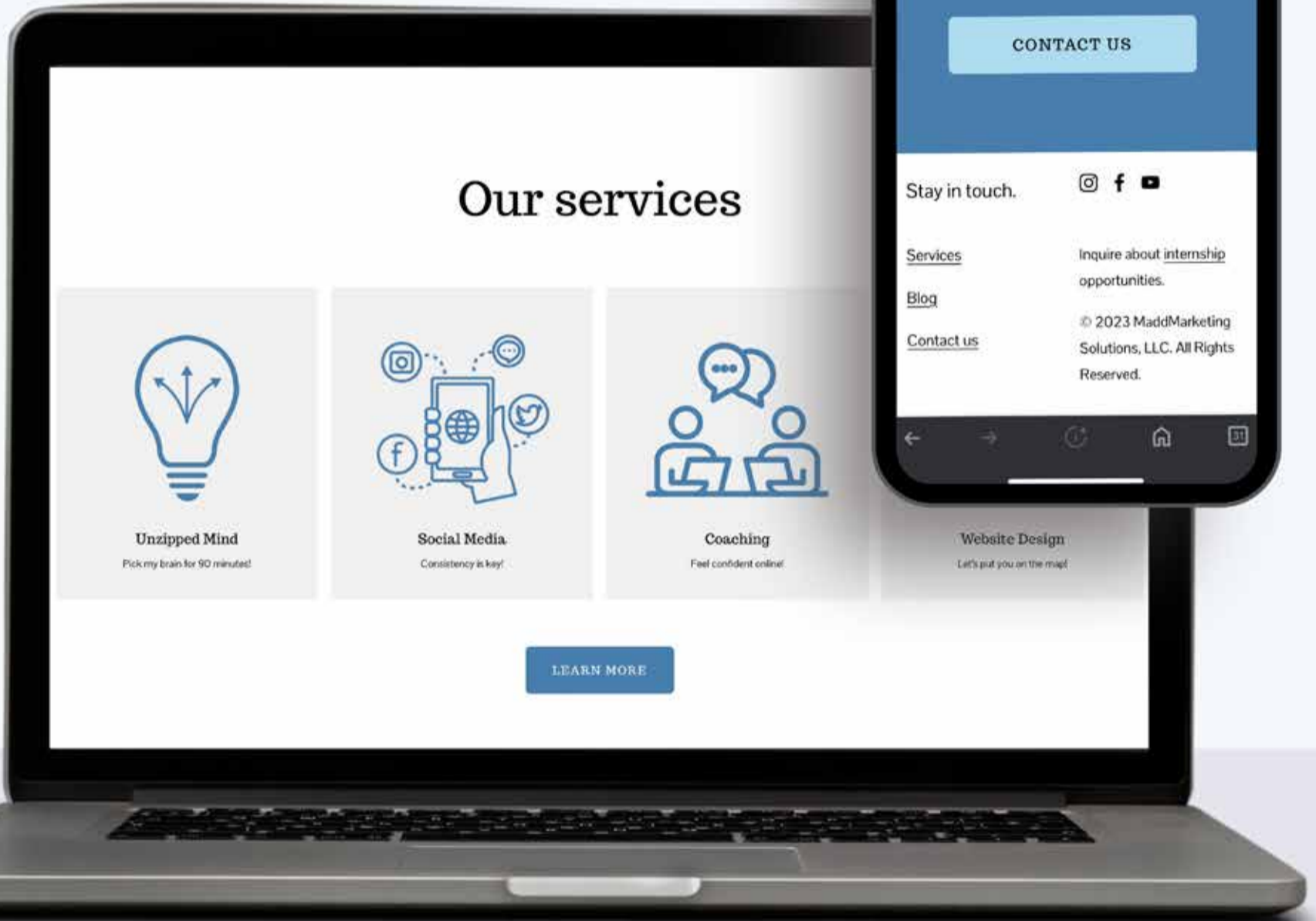
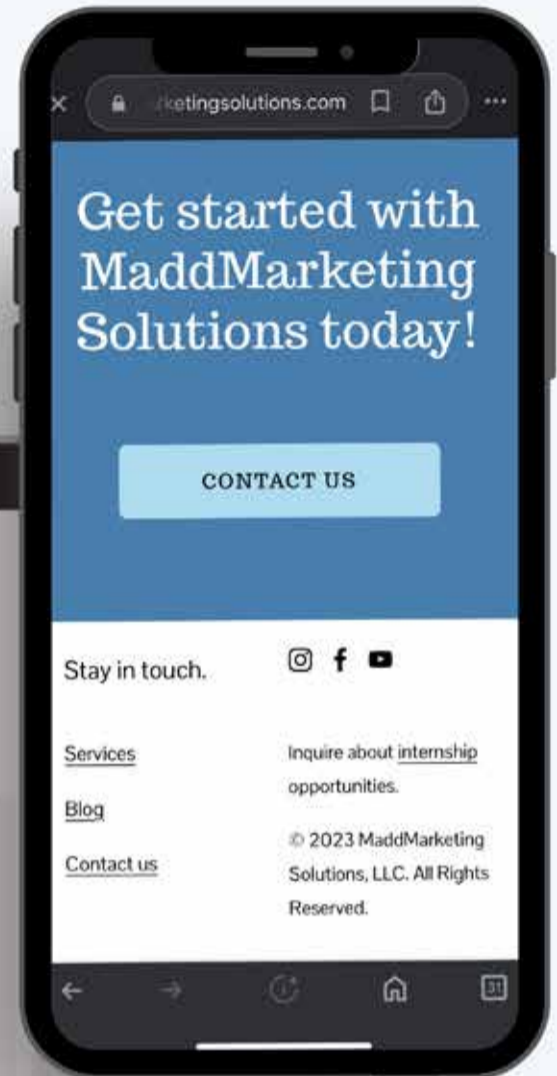
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LLEAD Saginaw and MI Hispanic Chamber of Commerce hosts successful *Tercer Jueves* networking event



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COURTESY PHOTOS



COURTESY PHOTOS



VICE CHAIR, ANGELO KAPP CHAIRWOMAN CHRISTIANA MALACARA

By **ABBIE PEDROTTE**

The Spanish phrase *tercer jueves* translates to *third Thursday*. To the Latino Leaders for the Enhancement of Advocacy and Development (LLEAD) and the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (MHCC), *Tercer Jueves* is more than just a phrase, though. These organizations are dedicated to uplifting Hispanic communities in Michigan through countless channels, including support for Hispanic business owners.

On Thursday, April 18th, 2024, the *third Thursday* of April, a *Tercer Jueves* event was held at the Saginaw Art Museum. Various entrepreneurs, business owners, and city officials were in attendance, including Priscilla Garcia, the first Latino member of the Saginaw City Council, Saginaw Mayor Brenda Moore, and Michigan

Department of Education President Pamela Pugh. Also in attendance was Mark Moreno, executive director of MHCC, who said that the organization's goal is to “continue to grow relationships and support hispanic businesses in the Saginaw region.”

Attendees had the opportunity to hear from Mexican visual artist and owner of Corpus Art, Inc., Elton Monroy Duran, who discussed his latest ongoing project on Bagley Street in Detroit. Duran is a member of the MHCC and says he appreciates their support. The trailer for a film being produced about Duran’s murals and unique *alebrijes* was shown. The trailer highlighted the Hispanic community’s contribution to Michigan’s auto industry and was received with a round of applause.

LLEAD’s Saginaw Chapter, who partnered with MHCC and various sponsors

to organize the *Tercer Jueves* networking event, attended and spoke about the outreach and advocacy they have done since the current executive board took over. LLEAD Saginaw Chairwoman Christiana Malacara highlighted the organization of committees within LLEAD and the various ways they have utilized their members’ strengths to work toward their mission, describing LLEAD as being “member-driven.”

LLEAD Treasurer Ramon Teneyuque summed up the supportive, bright energy in the room, saying “I love to see people who look like me being educated and involved. Seeing someone who looks like you... you know you can grow and achieve what they have.”

For information on how to get involved with LLEAD Saginaw Chapter, visit LLEAD.org or find them on Facebook.



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The unseen struggle: Life as a Mexican immigrant in America (La vida de un mexicano en Estados Unidos)

By **FELIPE L. ORTÍZ, MED**, MEXICAN IMMIGRANT, PUBLIC SPEAKER

As the United States proudly declares itself a nation of immigrants, the reality for many Mexican-born individuals living in America is far from welcoming. From the moment they cross the border, they embark on a journey filled with challenges, uncertainties, and hardships. Their stories often go untold, their struggles unnoticed, and their contributions unappreciated. For many Mexican immigrants, the American Dream becomes a constant struggle to survive. Undocumented individuals live in fear of deportation, separated from their families and loved ones. The threat of ICE raids and strict immigration policies looms over them, making everyday life a daunting task. Simple errands, like grocery shopping or taking children to school, become risky endeavors. The constant fear of being detained and deported weighs heavily on their minds, causing anxiety and stress.

Even for those with legal status, the transition to American life can be overwhelming. Language barriers and cultural differences create significant obstacles. Spanish-speaking individuals often find themselves isolated, unable to communicate effectively or access essential services. Cultural nuances and customs, taken for granted in Mexico, are lost in translation, leading to misunderstandings and feelings of disconnection. The lack of cultural understanding and support can lead to feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Mexican immigrants frequently face exploitation in the workforce, accepting low-wage jobs with long hours and minimal benefits. They become the backbone of industries like agriculture, construction, and service sectors, yet their contributions are often overlooked. The American economy relies heavily on their labor, but they are rarely afforded the same rights and protections as their native-born counterparts. The economic struggles are compounded by the lack of job security, limited access to healthcare, and the constant fear of deportation. The emotional toll of immigration cannot be overstated. Families are torn apart by borders, leaving behind loved ones and support systems. Children grow up with the constant fear of losing a parent to deportation. The trauma of separation and the uncertainty of

reunification weigh heavily on their mental health and well-being. The impact of family separation can be long-lasting, leading to anxiety, depression, and PTSD.

Mexican immigrants in the workplace face a multitude of challenges that hinder their ability to succeed and thrive. They are often subjected to low wages and minimal benefits, forcing them to work long hours in hazardous conditions just to make ends meet. Additionally, they face limited access to healthcare and social services, making it difficult for them to receive proper care and support. Discrimination and xenophobia are also prevalent, leading to a hostile work environment and a lack of job security and protections.

Furthermore, Mexican immigrants face significant barriers to career advancement and growth. Language barriers and communication difficulties can lead to misunderstandings and mistakes, while cultural differences and misunderstandings can result in conflicts and miscommunication.

Moreover, they are often denied opportunities for promotion and career development, perpetuating a cycle of inequality and marginalization. To address these issues, it is essential to create a more inclusive and equitable work environment that values and supports the contributions of Mexican immigrants.

Rising Above (Superar)

The experiences of Mexican-born immigrants in America are a testament to their strength and resilience. Their stories deserve to be heard, their struggles acknowledged, and their contributions celebrated. As a nation, we must recognize the humanity and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their birthplace or immigration status. By embracing inclusivity and compassion, we can create a more just and equitable society for all. We must work to address the systemic issues and challenges faced by Mexican immigrants, including language barriers, cultural differences, employment and economic struggles, family separation, and discrimination. By doing so, we can build a more inclusive and welcoming society for all. Despite the numerous obstacles they face, Mexican-born immigrants have consistently demonstrated an extraordinary ability to rise above adversity and thrive in

their new home. Through sheer determination and resilience, they have managed to not only overcome the challenges of immigration but also make significant contributions to American society. They bring with them a wealth of vibrant cultural traditions, an entrepreneurial spirit that drives innovation and progress, and a strong work ethic that has earned them a reputation as some of the hardest-working individuals in the country.

Mexican immigrants have a remarkable talent for starting businesses, creating jobs, and enriching their communities through art, music, and cuisine. From family-owned restaurants and bakeries to successful tech startups and community organizations, their entrepreneurial spirit has led to the creation of countless businesses and initiatives that benefit entire communities. Moreover, their cultural contributions have greatly enriched American society, with vibrant festivals, traditional music and dance, and delicious cuisine that have become an integral part of the country's cultural fabric.

Their contributions are evident in the many successful Mexican-American businesses, cultural events, and community organizations that have become an integral part of American society. From the vibrant murals and street art that adorn city walls to the mouth-watering aromas of traditional Mexican cuisine wafting from family-owned restaurants, the impact of Mexican immigrants on American culture is undeniable. Moreover, their community organizations and advocacy groups have played a crucial role in promoting social justice, supporting education and healthcare initiatives, and empowering marginalized communities.

Through their unwavering resilience, determination, and creativity, Mexican immigrants have proven that they are not only capable of overcoming adversity but also of rising above it to achieve greatness. Their contributions to American society are a testament to the power of the human spirit and a reminder that even in the face of challenge and hardship, anything is possible with hard work, determination, and a willingness to rise above.

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Children and adolescents were already facing a behavioral health crisis before the COVID-19 pandemic began – and the pandemic has dramatically accelerated that crisis. Stigma often prevents children and adolescents from getting the help they need. What you say matters in helping youth feel safe, understood and willing to seek care.

IF YOU HEAR THIS ...

- ▶ What do kids have to be depressed or anxious about? I bet they're faking it, or just not trying to cope with stressful situations.
- ▶ Kids today don't know how to behave — they're aggressive and disrespectful. Kids wouldn't act this way if they were disciplined.
- ▶ These kids aren't mentally ill; they just haven't been parented right.
- ▶ Why do these insane kids have to come here for treatment? I work here to help kids with real illnesses like cancer or heart disease.
- ▶ That kid doesn't need medication. They just need to be more motivated to act right.

[THESE WORDS PROPAGATE STIGMA
AND DON'T RECOGNIZE
A YOUTH'S VALUE.]

CONSIDER RESPONDING WITH...

- Mental illness doesn't discriminate by age. In fact, 75% of all behavioral health disorders begin by age 24.
- Children and adolescents' misbehaviors are often caused by fear or unmet needs. Asking a child how you can help can go a long way in improving behaviors.
- Mental illness in youth is more common than you think. According to the Academy of Pediatrics, one in five of all children have an identified mental health condition each year.
- Behavioral health disorders are medical problems, just like heart disease or cancer. Using demeaning slang only exacerbates the stigma of seeking treatment.
- Medications, often combined with psychotherapy, can play an impactful role in treating behavioral health disorders, just like medications can impact cancer or diabetes.

[THESE WORDS SHOW COMPASSION
AND COMBAT STIGMA.]

Thank you to Vanderbilt Behavioral Health and the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt for developing talking points on this topic.



April 2023




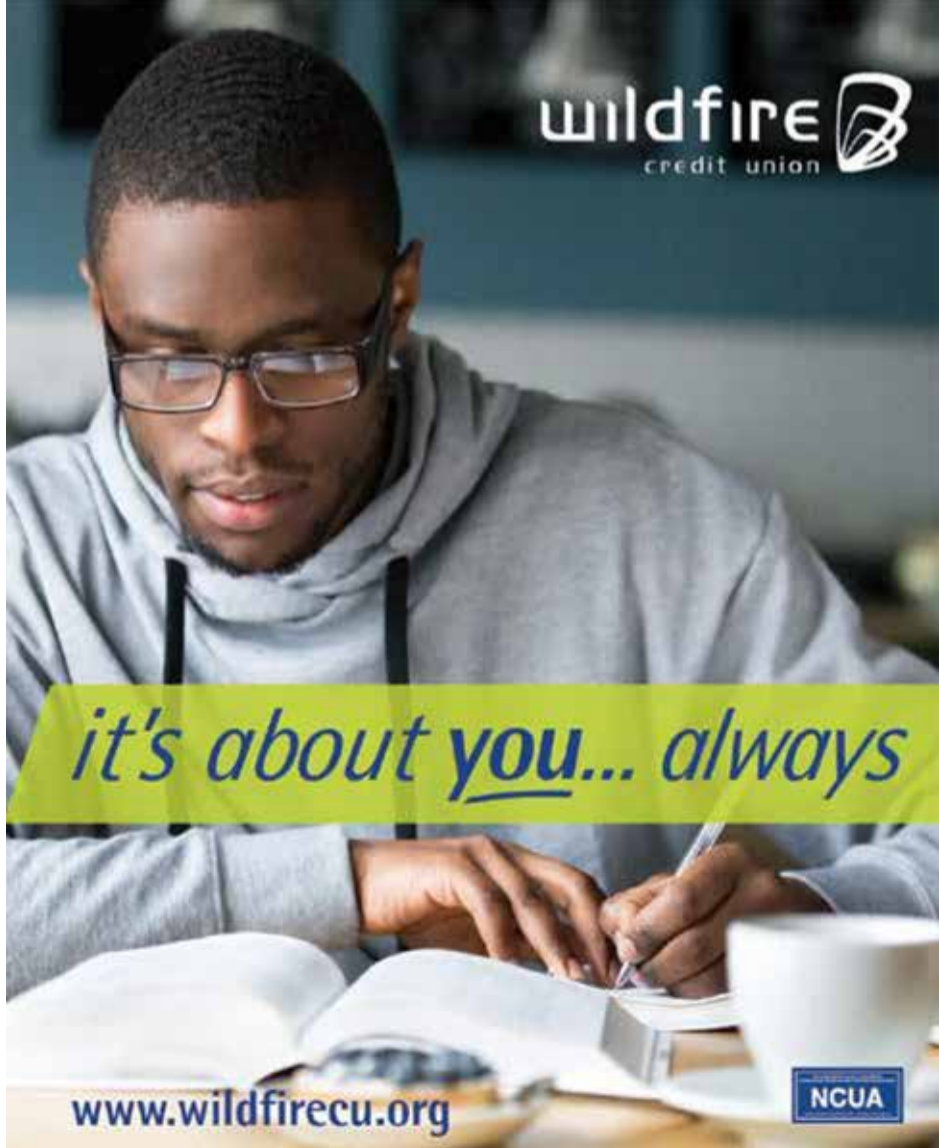
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Unlocking your productivity: The art of balance and joy



By AZANA JONES

Life can sometimes feel like a wild roller coaster speeding through a crowded theme park, with obligations pulling us in all directions. From the moment we wake up to the minute we crawl back into bed, the demands of work, health, relationships, and personal growth can overwhelm even the most organized among us. But as overwhelming as it may seem, there are solutions to navigating this busy life. The key to tackling this journey is not just about doing more—it's about finding balance and joy in our daily routines.

Imagine waking up refreshed, fully aware of what the day holds, and feeling empowered to tackle it head-on. How can you achieve this state of being? I've discovered that it all comes down to five key principles that can transform your productivity game.

One key principle to enhance productivity is embracing the power of routine. Routines are the unsung heroes of productivity. They provide structure and predictability in an otherwise chaotic world. By establishing and sticking to good routines, you can optimize your daily activities and conserve mental energy for more important decisions. It is more common now than ever that people are beginning to ex-

perience decision fatigue, a phenomenon where the more decisions a person makes over the course of a day, the more physically, mentally and emotionally depleted they become. This is often a reason many of us feel so drained by the end of the day. One effective routine to consider is cultivating a calming but productive morning routine. Starting your day with a consistent routine—such as meditation, stretching, or a healthy breakfast—can set a positive tone and boost productivity. Similarly, winding down with an evening routine, like reading or journaling, can signal to your brain that it's time to relax and recharge. Research shows that routines not only enhance productivity but also contribute to overall well-being. They create a sense of order and control, reducing stress and anxiety. Ultimately, routines can reinforce positive habits, making it easier to stay on track with your goals.

The second key principle emphasizes preparing today to ensure a better tomorrow. Preparation isn't just about getting things done; it's about setting yourself up for success. Taking proactive steps today can significantly impact your productivity tomorrow. Consider implementing small habits like meal prepping, laying out your clothes, or reviewing your schedule before bed. One powerful preparation tactic is prioritizing tasks. Identify the most important items on your to-do list and tackle them first. This strategy, known as "eating the frog," helps you overcome procrastination and maintain momentum throughout the day. By investing time in preparation, you'll experience fewer distractions and setbacks. This proactive

approach fosters a sense of control over your day, enabling you to navigate challenges with confidence and efficiency.

The third key principle advocates for decluttering your space to declutter your mind. Our physical environment greatly influences our mental state. Cluttered spaces can lead to feelings of overwhelm and hinder productivity. Take charge of your surroundings by decluttering and organiz-

ing your workspace, home, and digital devices. Start with small, manageable tasks like clearing your desk or organizing your inbox. Marie Kondo's "spark joy" method can be particularly effective in deciding what to keep and what to discard. In this method, your feelings are the standard for decision making. To determine this when tidying, the key is to pick up each object one at a time, and ask yourself quietly, "Does this spark joy?" Pay attention to how your body responds. This allows you to not feel guilty when getting rid of clutter that is stopping your productivity. Streamlining your environment not only reduces visual distractions but also promotes mental clarity and focus. Studies have shown that a tidy environment can enhance creativity and problem-solving abilities. A clutter-free space allows your brain to process information more effectively, leading to improved productivity and decision-making.

The fourth key principle underscores the importance of prioritizing your well-being. In the midst of busy schedules, it's easy to neglect self-care. However, prioritizing your well-being is essential for sustained productivity and overall happiness. Identify two or three non-negotiables that contribute most to your health and vitality. For example, prioritize regular exercise, adequate sleep, and healthy nutrition. Incorporating these habits into your daily routine can boost energy levels, reduce stress, and improve cognitive function. Additionally, make time for activities that nourish your soul, such as meditation, hobbies, or spending time in nature. Research confirms the profound impact of wellness on productivity. Employees who prioritize self-care are more focused, engaged, and resilient. By investing in your health, you'll not only perform better in your work/school life, but you will also enjoy a more balanced and fulfilling life.

The fifth key principle highlights the value of harnessing the magic of lists. Lists are powerful tools for organization and motivation. They help clarify goals, track progress, and prioritize tasks. Experiment with different types of lists—daily to-do lists, project outlines, or long-term goals—

**CONTINUES ON PG 17,
PRODUCTIVITY**

+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 16, Productivity

to find what works best for you. When creating lists, be specific and realistic about your objectives. Break down larger tasks into smaller, manageable steps to avoid feeling overwhelmed. As you check off items on your list, celebrate your accomplishments and adjust your priorities as needed. The act of list-making promotes mindfulness and accountability. It encourages intentional action and minimizes the risk of forgetting important tasks. By incorporating lists into your routine, you'll enhance productivity and cultivate a sense of accomplishments.

It's natural to feel guilty or conflicted when prioritizing what's best for yourself, but maximizing our limited time is crucial. Self-care and pursuing meaningful goals are essential for long-term well-being and productivity, ultimately benefiting both ourselves and those around us within the constraints of daily life.

Incorporating these five key principles—routine, preparation, decluttering, wellness, and lists—into your daily life can transform your approach to productivity and well-being. By embracing balance and weaving these principles into your routines, you'll unlock a newfound sense of accomplishment and joy. Remember, productivity is not about doing more; it's about doing what matters most with intention and purpose. Start implementing these principles today and watch as each day becomes a masterpiece of productivity and fulfillment.

Gaming is good for children

By LAYLAH SUMLER

Have you ever wondered if gaming isn't as bad as everyone says? Well, I'm here to say that it's not. Gaming is a way for kids to unwind after a long day at school, practice or aftercare.

Gaming is a social media platform that kids can use to interact with other friends that may live far away, that they don't see all the time or that they may see every day but they just want to play a game with them.

Though people will read this article that's in support of gaming, I know that some people will still have their doubts about gaming and will still say that it just rots our brains. After all, a few purposes of parents and guardians is to raise their children in the right way and to keep them safe for as long as they can. That being said, that also includes letting them have some fun and letting them unwind after a long day. Kids have long, hard, sad, and angering days as well. Gaming is a way to expel the anger and other emotions that they are feeling without hurting themselves or anyone around them.

I know what you're thinking. What if playing video games messes with their grade? Here's a question to that. What if gaming helps improve their grades? The thing is, with all the stress that school applies to students, gaming could be exactly what they need to destress, reset and refocus. Though I'm saying gaming is good, I know that it has its downsides. Some kids do take advantage of what their parents give them, stay up later than they are supposed to and play things they shouldn't, it's not the same for all kids. For example, I am a child. I like to play video games and I'm a straight "A" student. I have also achieved Proficient and Advanced scores on the PSSA tests for the last three years. Gaming is a multitude of things to children of all ages. From being a way to communicate with others, to a stress reliever, and as a means of a coping mechanism for the many changes we go through in life.

Though most parents and guardians will still have their doubts about letting their child or children game because of grades, behavior and knowing that there are dangers in the gaming world, know that it's still not all bad. Parents can monitor their kids on their gaming systems, control what games they're on and what they're doing while on to keep their kids safe. Having a set time to be on the system can go a long way as well. Just know that gaming is one of the many ways that kids use to connect with the world, and work through different emotions.

In conclusion, gaming is in many ways good for children. It acts as a way to help cope with life and the way that it is constantly changing, whether it's for better or for worse. It also is a way that kids of this generation use to socialize and spend time with each other, especially ones that are far away. Gaming is also a way that kids use to expel feelings that come with life and different things that go on. This is why I believe that gaming is good for kids and how it can help them.

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Spend an evening with Yo-Yo Ma at the Temple Theatre

Saginaw, MI - The Temple Theatre in Saginaw's city center will welcome cellist Yo-Yo Ma on October 2, 2024 for An Evening With Y-Yo Ma: Reflections in Words and Music. Tickets for this go on sale May 3, 2024 at 10am

Join cellist Yo-Yo Ma for an evening of music and words. In this one night-only performance, Ma performs a special selection of his favorite pieces and shares stories about a life dedicated to music.

Yo-Yo Ma's multi-faceted career is testament to his belief in culture's power to generate trust and understanding. Whether performing new or familiar works for cello, bringing communities together to explore culture's role in society, or engaging unexpected musical forms, Yo-Yo strives to foster connections that stimulate the imagination and reinforce our humanity.

Most recently, Yo-Yo began Our Common Nature, a cultural journey to cele-



YO-YO MA

brate the ways that nature can reunite us in pursuit of a shared future. Our Common Nature follows the Bach Project, a 36-community, six-continent tour of J. S. Bach's cello suites paired with local cultural programming. Both endeavors reflect Yo-Yo's lifelong commitment to stretching the boundaries of genre and tradition to understand how music helps us to imagine and build a stronger society.

Yo-Yo Ma was born in 1955 to Chinese parents living in Paris, where he began studying the cello with his father at age four. When he was seven, he moved with his family to New York City, where he continued his cello studies before pursuing a liberal arts education.

Yo-Yo has recorded more than 120 albums, is the winner of 19 Grammy Awards, and has performed for nine American presidents, most recently on the occasion of President Biden's inauguration. He has received numerous awards, including the National Medal of the Arts, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Birgit Nilsson Prize. He has been a UN Messenger of Peace since 2006, and was recognized as one of TIME magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2020.

Tickets for this performance can be purchased at www.templetheatre.com and the Temple Theatre box office.

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- A Mother's Reflection

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Submit your essay by **Thursday, May 9, 2024** by visiting <https://forms.gle/Shp5bV8XN8qD9YLZ6> or using the QR Code:

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Essay QUESTIONS

In at least 500 words, use the following questions to inspire your essay
(Please include the Award Category in your submission)

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

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A Call to Wisdom



By JASMINE BUCKLEY

In a world of masks and disguise,
Where love and hate entwine like a compromise,
Everybody yearns to be seen and understood,
To be heard and loved, to be freed from the flood.

God is love, pure and true,
A beacon of light, shining through,
The devil is hate, a master of deceit,
A chameleon, changing form to manipulate and defeat.

With a silver tongue and a charming grin,
Hate disguises itself as love within,
A wolf in sheep's clothing, it creeps and hides,
Waiting to strike, with a heart full of pride.

But wisdom is knowing, it's understanding the game,
That when we learn and see things for ourselves,
it's not tamed, Information sticks,
like a seed that's sown,
And knowledge grows, like a tree that's grown.

So let us seek, with hearts open wide,
To see beyond the disguise, to the truth inside,
Let us learn, and grow, and know what's real,
And never let hate, in its many forms, conceal.

For everybody wants to feel seen and loved,
To be accepted, and sent from above,
So let us spread love, like a wildfire's flame,
And banish hate, with its many names.

Let us be wise, and see with our own eyes,
The truth that's hidden, behind the disguise,
Let us learn, and grow, and know what's true,
And never let hate, in its many forms, deceive us anew.

For God is love, and love is the key,
To unlock the chains, of humanity,
So let us love, with all our might,
And shine like stars, in the dark of night.

And when hate comes, in its many forms,
Let us stand strong, and never conform,
Let us be wise, and see with our own eyes,
And never let hate, in its many disguises, rise.

In the mirror's reflection, we see our face,
A soul searching for a sacred space,
A place to belong, to be heard and seen,
To be loved and accepted, without a screen.

But hate creeps in, like a thief in the night,
Stealing our joy, and our sense of right,
It whispers lies, and fuels our fears,
And makes us doubt, through all our tears.

So let us rise, and let love shine the light,
On the path to wisdom, and the truth in sight,
Let us learn to see, with our own eyes,
And never let hate, in its many disguises, surprise.

For love is the answer, to every test,
The key to unlock, the very best,
It's the fire that burns, in every heart,
The love that we share, sets us apart.

In a world of hate, let us be the light,
The love that shines bright, in the dark of night,
Let us be the hope, in a world gone astray,
The love that guides, on a brand new day.

So let us love, with all our might,
And shine like stars, in the dark of night,
And when hate comes, in its many forms,
Let us stand strong, and never conform.

Let us be wise, and see with our own eyes,
The truth that's hidden, behind the disguise,
Let us learn, and grow, and know what's true,
And never let hate, in its many forms, deceive us anew.

For love is the power, that sets us free,
The love that we share, is the key,
To unlock the chains, of humanity,
And set our souls, wild and carefree.

So let us love, with all our might,
And shine like stars, in the dark of night,
And when hate comes, in its many forms,
Let us stand strong, and never conform.

Let us be wise, and see with our own eyes,
The truth that's hidden, behind the disguise,
Let us learn, and grow, and know what's true,
And never let hate, in its many forms, deceive us anew.

For love is the answer, to every test,
The key to unlock, the very best,
It's the fire that burns, in every heart,
The love that we share, sets us apart.

In a world of hate, let us be the light,
The love that shines bright, in the dark of night,
Let us be the hope, in a world gone astray,
The love that guides, on a brand new day.

And when the darkness, tries to take its toll,
Let us rise up, and let love take control,
Let us be the love, that we want to see,
And set our world, wild and carefree.

So let us love, with all our might,
And shine like stars, in the dark of night,
And when hate comes, in its many forms,
Let us stand strong, and never conform.

Let us be wise, and see with our own eyes,
The truth that's hidden, behind the disguise.

For hate is a master, of deception and guile,
It wears many faces, and hides in plain sight,
It creeps into our hearts, with a subtle smile,
And whispers lies that make us feel right.

It's the voice that tells us, we're not enough,
That we're too different, and don't belong,
It's the hand that holds us, in a grip so tough,
And makes us believe we're not strong.

But we are strong, and we are brave,
We are the light, that hate cannot enslave,
We are the love, that shines like a beacon bright,
And guides us through the darkest of nights.

So let us stand, and never give in,
Let us be wise, and see hate for what it is
within, Let us be the love, that conquers all
fear, And never let hate, in its many disguises,
appear.

For hate is a shadow, that follows us everywhere,
It's the echo of fear, that we can't bear,
But love is the light, that shines like the sun,
And chases the shadows, until they are done.

So let us love, with all our might,
And shine like the stars, on a clear and bright
night, And when hate comes, in its many
forms, Let us stand strong, and never conform.

Let us be wise, and see with our own eyes,
The truth that's hidden, behind the disguise,
Let us be the love, that sets us free,
And never let hate, in its many disguises, rise.

The love that we share, is the key,
To unlock the chains, of humanity,
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To unlock the chains, of humanity,
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To unlock the chains, of humanity

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Nexteer activates new 25-acre solar field in Saginaw



KYLE KUZMA PICTURED WITH FEMALE INMATES IN FLINT

Nexteer Automotive announced that it has finalized installation of more than 17,000 solar panels at its USA Operations site in Saginaw, Mich. and officially turned on the solar field to start providing renewable energy to its site.

Nexteer's Saginaw solar field, which was established in partnership with NorthStar Clean Energy, will reduce the Saginaw site's operational costs through a renewable energy source with a fraction of the emissions compared to traditional sources.

"Nexteer is thrilled to celebrate Earth Week by officially powering on our new Saginaw solar field and begin using renewable energy to reduce our carbon footprint and improve our site's operational costs," said Jill Dralle, Vice President and USA Chief Operating Officer (COO), Nexteer Automotive. "The investment and activation of our Saginaw solar field generates positive impacts both inside and outside

Nexteer – marking an important proof point of our commitment to sustainability and to the future of our USA Operations site in Saginaw. I'm very proud of the teamwork and dedication between Nexteer and NorthStar Clean Energy that turned this solar field vision into reality."

"Nexteer is on the frontier of the clean energy transformation, and we're proud to help bring the company's sustainability goals to life," said Brian Hartmann, President of NorthStar Clean Energy. "Nexteer's Saginaw solar field is a great example of how smart companies can make choices that are good for the planet and for their bottom line."

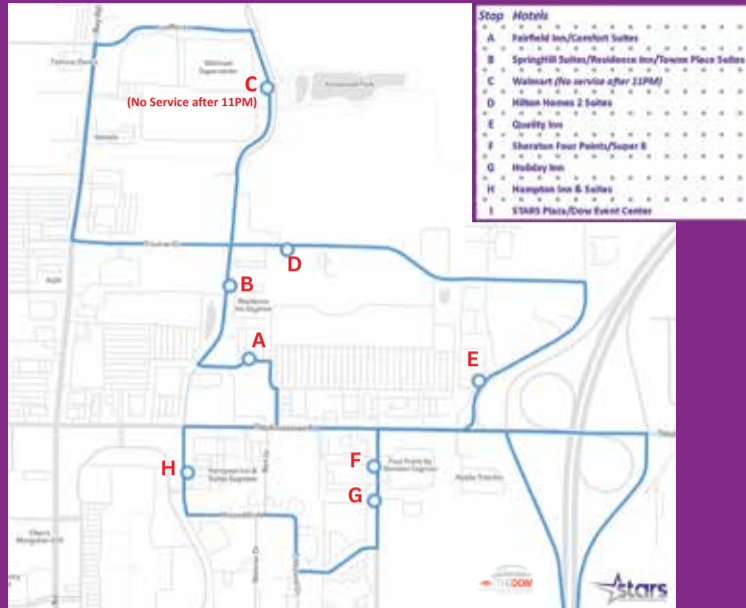
Benefits of Nexteer's Saginaw Solar Field Nexteer's Saginaw solar field include:

- Lowering greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by an estimated 7,000 metric tons annually, which is equivalent to saving about 780,000 gallons of gasoline per year

- Preparing Nexteer for growing expectations of its OEM customers for a sustainable supply chain, as well as other key stakeholders such as employees, recruits, regulators, investors, communities, etc.
- Supporting progress toward global clean energy transition via enablers such as renewables, energy efficiency and electrification – as well as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as #7 Affordable and Clean Energy; #9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; and #13 Climate Action

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Chicken Salad



By **VALINDA CROSBY**



COURTESY PHOTO

It is a delight to share this simple but delicious Chicken Salad recipe.

Ingredients

- 1 Cup of boiled chicken
- 2 Cups of seedless grapes
- 1/2 cup of dried cranberries
- 1 Cup of mayo
- 1 Cup of toasted pecans

- Debone and put boiled chicken in a bowl (White or dark meat – I use both)

- Toast pecans in an oven safe pan at 350 for 3 to 4 minute or until you can smell them (Let them cool)
- Slice grapes into half and add to chicken
- Add 1/2 cup of cranberries and your cool pecans
- Season with black pepper
- Add mayo and mix well
- Let Chicken Salad chill

As you enjoy your Chicken Salad on a sandwich or with crackers – remember it is important to listen to what God’s word says, but it is also important to obey His word (James 1:22).

Please check me out on my YouTube channel @Valinda Crosby4716



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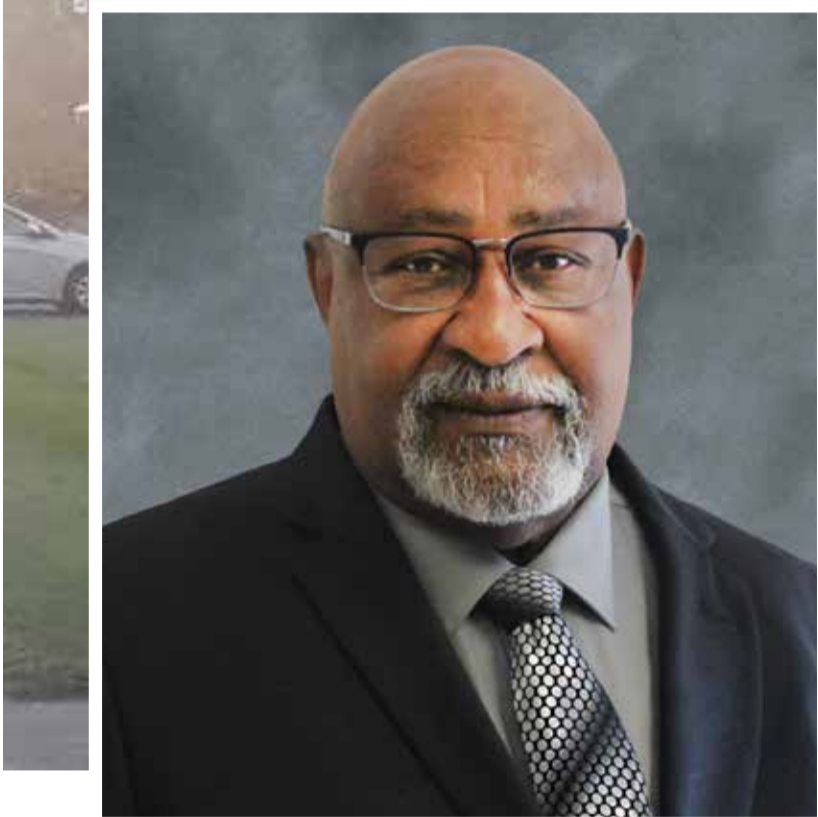
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MINISTRY WITHOUT WALLS - 3783 MANNION RD, SAGINAW, MI 48603

Join us at Ministry Without Walls

By **PASTOR JOHN DUNN**
MINISTRY WITHOUT WALLS

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

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

Our vision is for Ministry Without Walls to be:

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

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

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

Our ongoing teaching and seminars will include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

+ FAITH BASED

Exonerate yourself



By **DONIQUA SOVIA**

I've always been interested in law. At one point I was on the path to becoming a Police Officer, with the aim to become a Cold Case Detective. While that never came to be, my fascination for it never faltered.

I'd watch shows like the First 48, Forensic Files, Dateline, Cold Cases, and things of that nature, just soaking up any knowledge I could. Out of all the different types of cases, exonerations fascinated me the most. I was in awe at the compassion one held to fight for the innocence of another person, even if it was 20 years later. I watched many of those cases.

But the exonerations that got me hooked were the ones of those that were on death row. Imagine all the feelings one must have when the gavel hits after the words "Not Guilty" are spoken. This means that that person gets to walk free. Free from the charges that held them down, and pinned them to the word death.

What are your charges? What has you allowing Satan to hold you on death row? Jesus represented your case before the judge we know as God and said "Not Guilty." You're free! You're no longer on death row! You've been exonerated! So, walk in your freedom. For, man, child, teen, woman; Thou Art Loosed! ec

Grace Emmanuel Hosts 2nd Annual Legacy of Grace Mother's Day Concert, May 10

Gospel Icons including Vanessa Bell Armstrong returning to perform this year



Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church will host its 2nd Annual Legacy of Grace Mother's Day Concert on Friday, May 10, 2024, at 6 p.m. This year's gospel concert includes gospel icons Vanessa Bell Armstrong, The Legendary Elder Rudolph Stanfield and the Voices of Grace Emmanuel, The Canton Spirituals, Bishop Neil Roberson, the Shelby 5 and Flint's own Antwain Alexander.

"We are excited to bring gospel icons back to the city of Flint this year," said Dr. Rabon L. Turner, Senior

Pastor of Grace Emmanuel. "Grace Emmanuel wants to provide area families an opportunity to see top-notch talent and we want everyone to make this special event part of their Mother's Day memories this year absolutely free."

This year, in addition to the powerful line up of performers, Grace Emmanuel has also included area youth interest groups from local sororities and fraternities including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. "We want to ensure that concert attendees from across the state have an opportunity to see some of the wonderful things that our youth are doing in the city of Flint. And, we are hoping to inspire our young people to come out and support their friends who have a chance to share the stage with legendary gospel performers from across the country," added Dr. Turner, Senior Pastor of Grace Emmanuel.

Doors will open at 5 p.m. with the concert beginning promptly at 6 p.m. Parking is available at the church. For additional information about Grace Emmanuel, visit the church's social media pages on Facebook and YouTube or visit the church website at www.graceemmanuelbaptistchurch.org

Grace Emmanuel was founded in May 1966 by the late Rev. Lindell L. Brady. For nearly 60 years, the church has been a pillar of the community that was recently recognized for its significant outreach efforts to serve area residents by the Flint and Genesee Regional Chamber. Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church has a legacy of actively supporting Genesee County residents as a 211 agency, a food distribution site, and emergency basic needs provider.

+ FAITH BASED

SERMONETTE SERIES



By **MINISTER CAROLYN CARTER TOWNSEL**

The Book of Proverbs like Psalms has multiple individuals as authors of its various sections. However, the first chapters of Proverbs were written by King Solomon, Son of David, King of Israel, and the wisest man who ever lived. In chapter 4 of Proverbs, Solomon presents Divine principles, words of wisdom, and instructions that if applied men will live godly, purposed, and effective lives. However, one must remember as the King offers his river of words they are flowing from a heart of love - these are the words of a father to his son, from a teacher to his student.

King Solomon is positioning the apprentice, his son to possess wisdom for living. Therefore, he instructs him to pursue wisdom, to be devoted and faithful, love God and his neighbor. He shares with his son to become committed, persistent, obedient, and disci-

plined. He provides instruction regarding wisdom, character, astuteness, and sound judgement. But above all else, guard your heart.

The Hebrew term “guard” is to protect. As Christians, Solomon is instructing us to guard our heart – How then do we guard the heart? By listening, reading, meditating on, and living the Word of God. Proverbs 4:21 tells us, **“Let them not depart from thine eyes, Keep them in the midst of your heart. For they are life unto those who find them, and health to all their flesh”** (ASV). It is the Word of God that we must use to guard our hearts, for it is our fortress and defense.

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for “heart” is lev or levav and is used more than 800 times, but more than 200 times dealing with the mind, thought life, will, and feelings that motivates and molds us – As a result our heart is the control center of our lives. Consequently, Believers must truly under-

stand the value of their heart and know it is the entrance, the doorway through which things get in and out of the heart. For that reason, it is crucial that we keep the Word of God in the midst of our hearts, because then it is Psalm 119:11 that becomes our weapon to the ungodly and unrighteous thoughts, actions, and feelings by believing and saying, **“Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you”** (NKJV).

King Solomon makes it vividly clear that the heart is the source of everything we do – regardless of what we do, say, or think it flows from the heart. Therefore, if the heart is poison, the flow becomes toxic. God’s will for your life is established in 3 John 1:2, **“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in good health even as thy soul prospereth”** (KJV). The only way to do this is to “Guard Your Heart.”

Guard your heart

*“Above all else,
guard your heart,
for everything you
do flows from it”*

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)



+ 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

Mini Campaigns: Campaign within a Campaign

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

What do you do when you have multiple priorities that you are raising money for? We suggest a campaign within a campaign, otherwise known as a “mini-campaign.” Here’s the real-life story of Valerie R. Harris, Director of Choirs at Miles College, with how she raised over \$100,000 for the choir to perform at Carnegie Hall in NYC while the college itself is busy raising \$25 million to complete its \$125 million campaign.

“This was my first fundraiser. In all my years of being in music, I have never had to raise this kind of money. It wasn’t easy. I learned a lot about people and how they will contribute if they think there is a good cause. They were excited about our going to Carnegie Hall and wanted to be a part of it.” That’s Harris in her own words.

While she hadn’t had such a large fundraising goal before, she had no problem asking for money, especially from those who heard the choir perform. They were sold. But she also had to reach out to those who wouldn’t have an opportunity to experience the choir. To reach those people she used a “mini-case.” She created a four-color deck that she would send by email or U.S. mail, allowing people to “see the choir.”

“I sent out letters to churches – we asked churches to sponsor a student at \$2,500. It went okay. It was surprising to see the response. Other contributions came from individuals, sororities, and fraternities – I was pleasantly surprised.” But that confidence wasn’t there at the beginning. “I was overwhelmed and anxious. I asked the Lord to help me. Once I saw how much money it was going to take, I had to be very determined that we were going to



VALARIE R. HARRIS

get there. I had never done this before. I stepped out on faith, and we did it. Jefferson County gave money, senators and politicians gave great money.”

And she didn’t do it alone. “Everyone

was a part of it – the advancement office was instrumental in helping us, the president, the provost. They were rooting for us and asking people for us.” And she used the most powerful fundraising tool available to her: the Miles College Choir. Harris shared, “We would go out and perform and ask for money.... We did a lot of performances – almost every week, sometimes two-to-three times a week. People would ask us to come and sing. We would say ‘yes’ and ask them to sponsor a student for \$2,500.”

Valerie R. Harris embarked on her first fundraising campaign and met her goal. And it wasn’t a small goal either. She used the tools: prayer, the choir, and the professionals on campus. She wasn’t afraid to ask, and people weren’t timid in giving. As the Miles College Choir heads to Carnegie Hall, Harris offers guidance and support to others, “Before you start, get a plan and then work your plan. Get with someone who knows fundraising – present your plan to them, make sure you have covered all your bases, and then go forth from there.” Harris and her choir did it, and you can too!



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

+ EDUCATION

SVSU recognizes stand-out educators



IN THE GROUP PHOTO, WINNERS OF THE 2024 HEROES IN EDUCATION AWARD ARE, LEFT TO RIGHT: SARAH SCHOMAKER, BANGOR WEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; ROB BAKER, FRANKENMUTH HIGH SCHOOL; CRYSTAL STOMACK, CROSWELL-LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL; ERIN MARTIN, BULLOCK CREEK HIGH SCHOOL; GREG CRIDER, MIDLAND COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY; JENNIFER MOELLER, HEMMETER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

In a continuing commitment to support K-12 education and educators, Saginaw Valley State University honored six education professionals for their outstanding performance and commitment to students. Hosted by SVSU's College of Education, the Heroes in Education dinner and award ceremony was held Thursday, April 18 at SVSU.

James Tarr, dean of SVSU's College of Education, said more than 50 nominations were submitted. Selection of the winners was based on four criteria:

- **Impact** — What impact does the nominee make on students' lives, the school, school district, community and/or teaching profession?
- **Inspiration** — How does the nominee inspire others?
- **Innovation** — How does the nominee innovate in their work or in the profession?
- **Involvement** — How is the nominee involved in their school, district, community, the profession?

"I am proud of this year's recipients of the Heroes in Education Award," said James Tarr, dean of SVSU's College of Education. "Teachers, principals and support staff invest emotionally and tirelessly in their students' success, celebrating their achievements and supporting them through struggles, embodying the essence of dedication and influence in their communities. In short, they inspire hope and resilience, building the foundation for future generations to thrive."

Winners of the 2024 Heroes in Education Award are:

Rob Baker, Frankenmuth High School

Baker has worked at Frankenmuth High School for 22 years and currently teaches conceptual physics, AP physics I, calculus, engineering and drone aviation. After earning his Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University, he served in the U.S. Navy as an E-2C pilot and had deployments on the U.S.S. Saratoga and U.S.S. America. After his military service, he worked at Dow in Midland as an electrical engineer, production engineer and R&D engineer. Rob earned both his teacher certification and a Master of Arts in Teaching at SVSU.

Greg Crider, Midland County Educational Service Agency

Crider began his career as a social studies teacher in San Diego, California. Upon relocating to Midland, joined the Midland County Educational Service agency as a substitute teacher and paraprofessional for students with significant behavioral disorders. These experiences inspired Crider to continue his education at SVSU, where he earned a special education endorsement in learning disorders, a Master of Arts in Teaching in learning and behavioral disorders and supervisor approval. Crider currently serves as the director of special education with the Midland County Educational Service Agency.

Erin Martin, Bullock Creek High School

Martin has taught physics and AP calculus at Bullock Creek High School for 25 years. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in physics with a minor in mathematics education and a Master of Arts in Teaching degree in natural science-secondary education from SVSU. Throughout her career, Martin has been awarded over \$25,000 in grants

for technology and equipment such as a 3D printer, video monitors for the hallway, and solar panels for the high school. She and students in her honors physics class established the school's first recycling program in 2023.

Jennifer Moeller, Hemmeter Elementary School

Moeller joined Saginaw Township Community Schools after earning her Bachelor of Arts in elementary education from SVSU, where she later pursued a Master of Arts in Teaching in early childhood education. Moeller has received Saginaw Township's Benevolent Leader of Creativity and Knowledge award. She recently was awarded funding for a "story walk" at Hemmeter Elementary School.

Sarah Schomaker, Bangor West Elementary

Schomaker was recently appointed principal of Bangor West Elementary, providing her an opportunity to work alongside staff and support all grade levels. Prior to assuming the role of principal, Schomaker spent 11 years teaching second and third grades. She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from SVSU and recently earned her master's degree in literacy education.

Crystal Stomack, Croswell-Lexington High School

Stomack teaches art and ceramics at Croswell-Lexington High School and serves as the student council advisor and electives chairperson. Stomack began her teaching career in Arizona, where she taught art and ceramics for 10 years before returning to Michigan to teach at Croswell-Lexington. She earned a B.A. in secondary visual arts education from SVSU and holds a Master of Arts in e-learning from Northcentral University and an M.A. in art education from the Art of Education University.

+ EDUCATION

Op-Ed: Why D.E.I. must never DIE: Navigating the Changing Landscape of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

By **AZHA J. BLACKWOOD**

As I reflect on my journey of over 30 years working in diversity on college and university campuses, spanning from the North, South, East and West, I am reminded of the many interactions, introductions to college, graduations, and success stories of individuals I

have met, the barriers they overcame, and the victories they (and their families) celebrated. It has been a journey, one driven by passion, dedication, and a strong belief in how diversity, fairness, inclusivity, and belonging can make a real difference for some who were never invited to have a seat at the table.

Yet, as of July 1, 2023, the landscape has shifted dramatically, with DEI teachings, programs, majors, offices, and employees deemed illegal in many state colleges and universities. In fact, “since the start of 2023, at least 59 bills that would roll back diversity efforts at colleges, like hiring statements and mandatory trainings, have been introduced in more than two dozen states and Congress”, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education. The rollbacks provide a clear reminder of the ongoing challenges we face in our pursuit of fairness and justice in states such as, but not limited to, Florida, Texas, North Dakota, and Utah.

What is DEI?

Diversity is not simply a matter of representation; it is the celebration. Diversity is the lifeblood of innovation, progress, and resilience. It includes all the different people, their stories, and their points of view in our communities, schools, and workplaces. Embracing diversity means recognizing and valuing the worth and dignity of every individual, irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status. In a world that is becoming increasingly interconnected and interdependent, diversity is not merely a moral imperative; it is a strategic necessity. Organizations that prioritize diversity are better equipped to navigate complex challenges, adapt to changing environments, and seize opportunities for growth and innovation. Embracing diversity is a strategic advantage.

Equity is the promise of fairness, justice, and opportunity for all. It demands that we dismantle systems of oppression and discrimination that perpetuate inequality and

marginalization. Achieving equity requires intentional and proactive efforts to address historical injustices and systemic barriers that have deprived certain groups of access to resources, power, education, and representation. It requires us to confront privilege and redistribute it in ways that promote equal opportunity. Equity is not merely about leveling the playing field; it is about restructuring the game. Equity attempts to ensure that everyone has a chance to thrive and succeed.

Inclusion is the art of creating spaces where everyone feels valued, respected, and empowered to contribute their talents and perspectives to the conversation. It goes beyond mere representation to foster a sense of belonging and acceptance. Inclusive environments welcome and celebrate differences, cultivate empathy, and promote collaboration across lines of difference. Inclusive environments and spaces enhance critical thinking and communication, encourage intergroup dialogue, and requires us to challenge our biases and reduce microaggressive behaviors. Inclusivity allows us to bring our whole selves to the table without fear of judgment or discrimination.

The Backlash

So why is something so great that brings us all together, so feared? According to billionaire Elon Musk, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives are a form of discrimination and must end. In his December 15, 2023 X (formerly known as Twitter) tweet he stated, “DEI must DIE. The point was to end discrimination, not replace it with a different discrimination.”

He is not alone in his thinking. Other critics believe that DEI unfairly affects white men and puts them at a disadvantage; a disadvantage that has been historically directed to women, people of color and the LGBTQ+ community for many years.

In 2022, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed Florida House Bill 7/Senate Bill 148, also known as the “Stop WOKE Act,” which limits topics Florida employers (universities included) can discuss at DEI trainings and seminars. In 2024, the Florida Board of Education passed regulations limiting the use of public funds for DEI programs, activities, and policies in the public college system.

Other states like Texas, Utah and North Dakota, followed Florida’s footsteps, passing similar bills which resulted in limitations of

teaching history and social justice courses to the closings of several diversity offices, multicultural spaces and employee layoffs- that which disproportionately affected mostly women and people of color.

While states are making (and continuing to make) these changes, students are now, more than ever, reconsidering their state school choices. Many students indicate that offices, staff, and programs such as these are essential for their success. These offices and employees serve as a student’s home away from home, family, cheerleader, coach, mentor, counselor, listening ear, encourager and more- helping to increase retention and graduation rates for marginalized communities. Now, in these schools, that experience will change. Some schools have eliminated multicultural/afinity graduation ceremonies that celebrate and honor students within an inclusive space, with a strong focus on student success and community support. Celebrations such as these allowed unlimited family members and community support to celebrate in the success of their first, second and even third generation students.

A Journey of Resilience and Empowerment

However, in the face of challenges or shifting priorities, as well as the resurgence of hate crimes, the persistence of systemic inequities, and the dissolve of civil rights, we must remind ourselves why DEI MUST NEVER DIE. While the landscape may have changed, the

commitment to DEI should remain unwavering. There may no longer be the official titles or designated offices, but the work needs to continue—perhaps now more than ever. We must empower employers, students, faculty, and staff to become agents of change, mobilizing them to continue to advocate for their rights and the rights of others. In other words, we must VOTE.

DEI work is not a destination, but a journey—a journey that requires courage, perseverance, and humility. It is a journey that demands that we confront our own biases, interrogate our own privileges, and challenge the status quo. It is a journey that requires us to listen to the voices of those who have been marginalized and oppressed, and to amplify their stories, and experiences. It is a journey that will contribute to the success of our colleges/universities, employers, community, and our world.

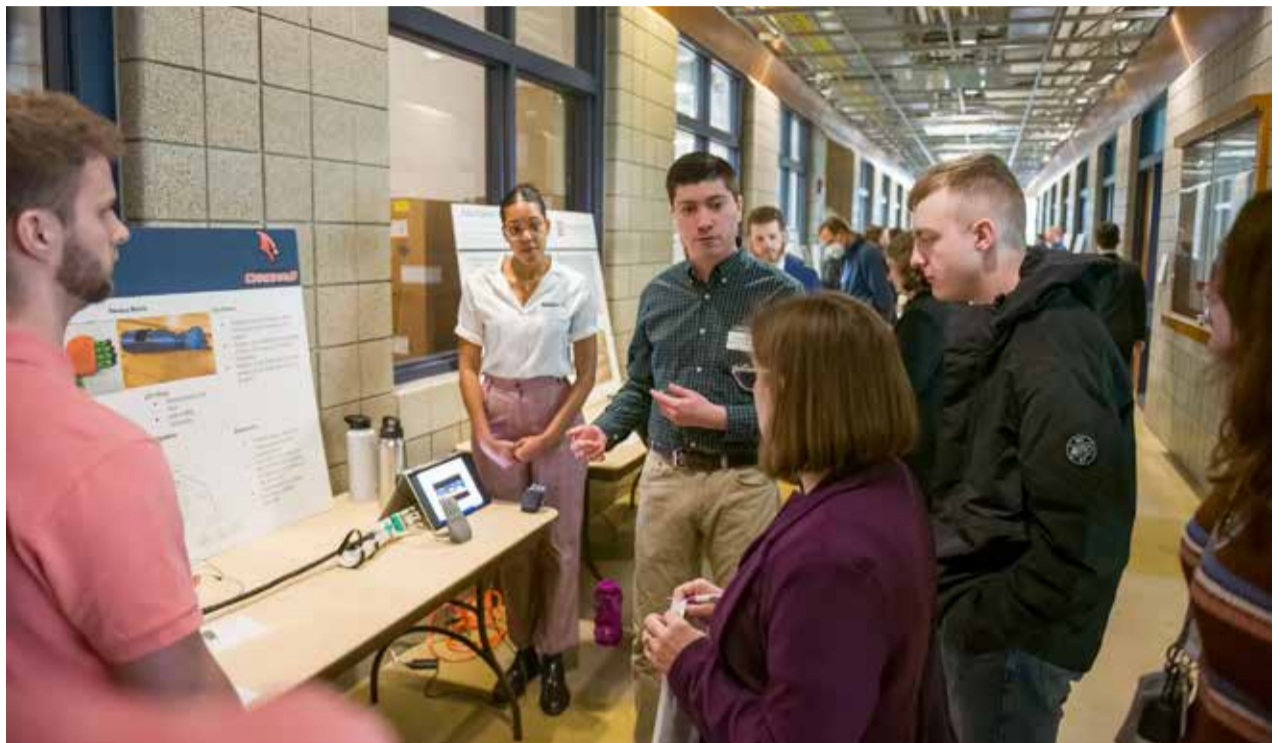
SVSU students to present research in two showcase events

Saginaw Valley State University students will cap off the academic year with two events designed to recognize and celebrate their work. On Friday, April 26, SVSU will host the SE&T Symposium and the SVSU Student Showcase. Both events are open to the public, and there is no charge to attend.

The annual SE&T Symposium features the work of students and faculty in SVSU's College of Science, Engineering & Technology. Students will present original work, including research and design projects and special course work, through both poster sessions and oral presentations. Faculty are invited to present their research through posters or oral presentations. Faculty are also invited to organize a special session such as a panel discussion or workshop.

This year's Symposium features over 120 students and their faculty advisors. It takes place in Pioneer Hall beginning at 8:30 a.m. and running until 3:00 p.m.

Poster sessions run from 10:00 a.m. until noon, featuring undergraduate research projects, class projects and senior capstone projects. Oral presentations begin at 1:00 p.m. and last until 3:00 p.m.



COURTESY PHOTO

The SVSU Student Showcase will be held in SVSU's Curtiss Hall, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Students from all five SVSU college will present scholarly projects they have worked on throughout the academic year. This year's showcase will feature 39 poster presentations, 14 oral

presentations and five performances.

The SE&T Symposium and SVSU Student Showcase are proud Cardinal traditions that recognize student achievements, inspire innovation and promote collaboration.

Apprenticeship opportunities



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

There are worker shortages in many sectors of our economy. Out of need to find workers, businesses will create internships. Some of these are paid internships; others are apprenticeships.

Apprenticeships have advantages that include these:

- A wage is earned while being trained;
- Jobs duties are exposed to workers



COURTESY PHOTO

- that may or may not be a match;
- For students, college debt may be reduced or even eliminated;
- Career pathways may open for all who have the right skill set and desire for the work.

There are many ways to learn about apprenticeships. Certainly many high school guidance counselors have contacts for apprenticeships, but so too is the Internet

rich with information.

One great resource is the Community College website. Delta College has an extensive page devoted to apprenticeships, for example.

Another resource is, <https://miapprenticeship.org/> References State of Michigan registered apprenticeships that exists and could be in the student's interest area.

If this article helps one reader find a career opportunity, it is well worth it. Best wishes to all who read this; be encouraged to share the information with others.

Resources:

<https://www.delta.edu/workforce-strategies/apprenticeships.html>

<https://miapprenticeship.org/>

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

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SISD**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Early Head Start/Head Start Locations:

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

Great Start to Readiness Program Locations:

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

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

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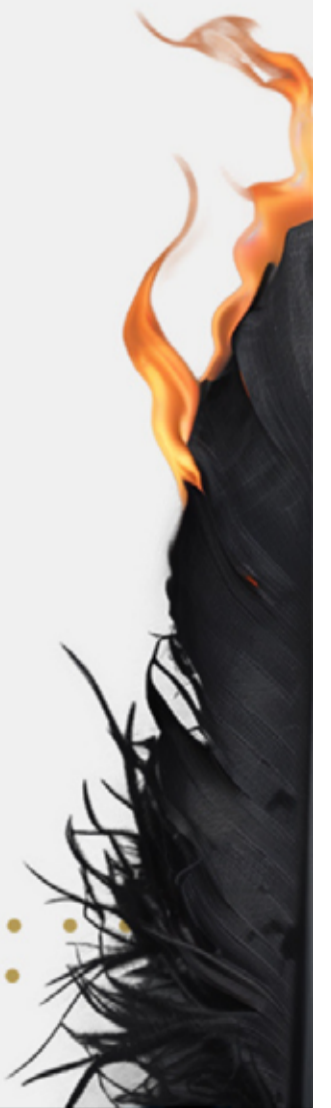


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About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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



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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org

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



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+ SPORTS

Hibbler commits to Schoolcraft College

By HASANI ALI

Monica Hibbler has officially become an Ocelot.

From the moment she received the offer from the school, she knew that it was the place that she was going to call home.

“It felt like home,” Hibbler said. “I needed a place and coach who believed in me and was interested in me to where they knew and wanted to make me a good source for the team. Coach Shay showed me something many other coaches didn’t and that was her belief and how much she believed in me from the start.”

She chose Schoolcraft over Kennedy King College and Jackson College. Her major will be Criminal Justice.

Schoolcraft College offered Hibbler a full ride scholarship to come play for the Ocelots after an exceptional performance with nine points and 11 rebounds during a playoff run with Saginaw United.

The Phoenix secured their first playoff win in school history versus Flint Carman-Ainsworth back in March.

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

Hibbler will be joining teammate and former Saginaw High Trojan Sharon Smith next season. She gave Hibbler some insight during her visit to the school.

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

Hibbler’s mother Terri Reed is excited for Hibbler’s transition and how well she will adjust to collegiate ball.

“I’m overly excited that Monica is going to Schoolcraft,” she said. “I feel the team and coach are the perfect fit for Monica and she’ll continue to grow as an individual and team player. I feel Coach Shay came with the best opportunity for her and sees Monica’s potential and will make sure she gains the skills needed to take her game to the next level.”

She was also impressed with the school



MONICA HIBBLER

off the court.

“I like that Schoolcraft is not only focused on the court but academics as well,” Reed said. “They have all around services for their students and that’s important for our kids because at times they can get lost in the game and fall off academically. They give my daughter no choice but to stay on top of her ball game and academic game. I couldn’t be happier with the decision Monica had made for herself.”

With the objective of becoming a Div. 1 athlete and prepping for summer training, Hibbler is staying busy during the offsea-

son by participating in open gym at Delta College and training in the weight room.

Hibbler is looking to become a versatile ball player in order to contribute to the program.

“I think I will do well in the program honestly,” she said. “I have a few things to work on with my foot work for sure but once I get that down and knowing schedules so I can find time to work on my own, I’ll be good to go. I believe I will succeed within this program and that it will get me a step closer to becoming a Div. 1 athlete.”

Detroit native Jackson selected by LA Sparks no. 4 overall

By HASANI ALI

Detroit has been trending in sports media lately – for great reasons.

The 2024 NFL Draft has just concluded with the city obliterating the NFL attendance record for the draft with 775,000 people in attendance over the three days.

Another reason is Rickea Jackson.

The Detroit native was selected no. 4 overall by the Los Angeles Sparks in the WNBA Draft, the second-highest draft pick coming out of Tennessee since Diamond DeShields was picked no. 3 overall by the Chicago Sky.

This is also the fourth year in a row where a Lady Volunteer was picked in the first round of the draft for the first time in program history.

Since the legendary Patt Summit retired from coaching, Jackson has become the second top-5 pick in program history, 10th overall in program history.

Jackson joins another Lady Vol Rae Burrell in Los Angeles. Burrell was originally drafted by the Sparks in 2022 and signed a two-year deal with the organization in February.

Jackson played some of the best basketball of her career this past season, despite missing eight games due to an injury. She had a monstrous performance against South Carolina on the road, scoring 29 points, eight rebounds and three blocks. She also nearly clocked a triple-double against the Gamecocks in the SEC Tournament with 22 points, nine rebounds, eight assists.

Jackson had 33 points and 10 rebounds against NC State in her last game at Tennessee.

The three-time state champion and Mick McCabe Miss Basketball winner had her best all-around seasons with the Lady Vols and helped lead them to the NCAA Sweet 16 in 2022-23. Jackson led Tennessee in scoring both seasons and averaged 20.2 points, 8.2 rebounds and 2.3 assists this season. That went up to 25 points, 10 rebounds and 3.2 assists against ranked opponents.

According to the Knoxville News Sentinel, she averaged career bests in rebounding (8.2) and assists (2.3) this season and



RICKEA JACKSON

increased her consistency from 3-point range. Jackson shot her highest percentage (33.8%) in a season where she took more than 50 3-pointers.

Jackson transferred to Tennessee after spending the first three seasons of her career at Mississippi State. Jackson was an All-SEC First Team selection the last two seasons and was an SEC All-Tournament Team selection three times in her career. She was a four-time WBCA All-America honorable mention and drew All-America honorable mentions from the USBWA and Associated Press the last two seasons. Jackson has been a top-five finalist for the Cheryl Miller Award twice.

She leaves Tennessee ranked sixth all-time in career scoring. Her 2,261 career

points only trail Cindy Brogdon, Chamique Holdsclaw, Jill Rankin, Bridgette Gordon and Patricia Roberts – she's the eighth Lady Vol to eclipse 2,000 career points. Jackson scored 1,176 points in 60 games with the Lady Vols, and that alone ranks 34th in the program's all-time scoring list.

Jackson scored in double figures in 53 of her 60 games at Tennessee. She scored 20 or more points in 48 games – 29 of those were at Tennessee, which ranks No. 5 all-time in program history.

Jackson strung together the second-longest streak of games with 20-plus points in her first season with the Lady Vols. She logged eight straight games scoring 20 or more points, which only trails Holdsclaw's record of nine consecutive games.

+ SPORTS



JERMAINE FRANKLIN

Franklin returns to ring May 23rd at Wayne State against Vargas

By HASANI ALI

Jermaine Franklin has to make a statement next month if he wants to remain in the title contention race.

The no. 9-ranked heavyweight by the WBO is continuing his heavyweight title campaign with a 10-round bout at Wayne State University against Devin Vargas.

His mission is simple – to show up as a brand new fighter since his last fight 10 months ago and prove that he’s a frontrunner for a heavyweight title shot.

“I want to show the world the new Jermaine,” said Franklin during a Ring TV interview. “I have some new smoke to show boxing fans. I learned so much after the Joshua fight. I must trust myself and my skills. My team told me, ‘If you want the belt, you have to go for it.’ You will see a new Jermaine. I promise that.”

Franklin (22-2, 14 KOs) is coming off a victory in a dominating 10-round bout against Issac Munoz of Mexico back in July.

He was able to end his two-fight skid,

losing a controversial fight to Dillian Whyte and Anthony Joshua.

Oleksandr Usyk will be taking on Tyson Fury on May 18 in an undisputed world heavyweight title fight in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The two will be looking to unify the WBA, IBF, WBO and WBC belts.

Joseph Parker is the first in line for a mandatory title shot after the winner of Usyk and Fury.

Looking to capitalize on the heavyweight hype after the championship fight, Franklin is looking to keep the Michigan fight hype going as he’s participating in the third series of Big Time Boxing at Wayne State University.

“I’m so hyped to fight in front of my family and friends. I get a chance to come home and give my family a welcome-home knockout. I have been to some great places to fight, but nothing comes close to fighting at home in front of family.”

Vargas (22-10, 9 KOs), who resides in Sylvania, Ohio, lost to unbeaten Deontae Pettigrew by one-sided decision in his last fight on July 7. The loss to Pettigrew was a

rematch that took place three months after Vargas lost the first fight.

The 42-year-old was a 2004 U.S. Olympian and has lost six of his last eight fights and has not won a fight since 2020.

Dmitriy Salita, President of Salita Promotions, assembled the best talent to bring forth a premier show to kick off the late spring.

“This is what the Big Time Boxing series is all about,” he said during a Ring TV interview. “Each man is hungry to make a statement of his own, especially Jermaine, who is one of America’s top-ranked heavyweights. I want to thank DAZN for giving all the fighters a worldwide platform to show out for Detroit. And I thank the Detroit boxing community for coming out to support their favorite hometown fighters.”

The co-promotion will be televised by DAZN, including Joshua James Pagan (9-0, 4 KOs) facing off against Roger Hilley (13-0, 8 Kos) with the junior welterweight NABF title on the line.

Spirit's Parekh awarded Max Kaminsky Trophy as OHL Defenceman of the Year

Toronto, Ont. – The Ontario Hockey League today announced that draft eligible Saginaw Spirit defenceman Zayne Parekh is the 2023-24 recipient of the Max Kaminsky Trophy awarded to the League's Defenceman of the Year as voted by OHL General Managers.

Parekh led OHL blueliners with 33 goals and 96 points, both Spirit single season franchise records at the position. He follows John Slaney (Cornwall, 1989-90) as just the second defenceman in OHL history to score more than 30 goals in his first season of NHL Draft eligibility. Parekh is the first Saginaw Spirit player to ever win the OHL Defenceman of the Year Award.

"I am very honoured to be recognized for this award, there's so much talent in this league and I'm extremely grateful to be selected," said Parekh.

"I'd like to thank my family, agent and the people within my support group that have helped me so much this year. I especially want to thank the Saginaw Spirit organization, the fans, ownership, staff, and especially the players. Without the group around me, I wouldn't have had the same success I had throughout the year.

"I'd like to extend a big thank you to my Head Coach Chris Lazary and my General Manager Dave Drinkill for helping develop me into the player I've become and for always having belief and trust in me."

Parekh was named OHL Defenceman of the Month for both November and March. His six game-winning goals paced OHL blueliners. He also scored a pair of hat-tricks during the regular season, with the first coming on Nov. 8th in a 6-2 win over Flint and another as part of a five-point effort in an 11-3 win over Windsor on Jan. 10th.

"As an organization, we couldn't be prouder of Zayne for winning such a prestigious award," said Spirit General Manager Dave Drinkill. "Since coming into our league last year as a young 16-year-old, he has worked extremely hard in all aspects of his game, on and off the ice. It is very rewarding to know that the rest of the league recognized this as well, and supported him to receive this award after a tremendous season here in Saginaw."



ZAYNE PAREKH

"What Zayne accomplished this season as a second-year defenceman was simply remarkable," Drinkill added. "Each game he found a way to make an impact, helping our team achieve new club records, while setting team and league individual records for a defenceman along the way."

An 18-year-old from Nobleton, Ont., Parekh joined the Spirit as a first round (19th overall) pick in the 2022 OHL Priority Selection from the Markham Majors U16 program. After setting a new OHL record with 21 goals as a 16-year-old defenceman in 2022-23, he closed out his 2023-24 campaign with career totals that include 54 goals, 79 assists and 133 points over 116 regular season games, registering a plus/minus of plus-42. He enters the 2024 NHL Draft this summer as the highest-ranked OHL skater on Central Scouting's Final Rankings, coming in at fifth in North America.

The Max Kaminsky Trophy is awarded each year to the Most Outstanding Defenceman as selected by OHL General Managers. All 20 clubs submitted a nominee but were not permitted to vote for their own player.

The award is named in recognition of Max Kaminsky, who enjoyed a 10-year professional playing career that included four years in the NHL with Ottawa, Boston

and Montreal. After he retired from playing, Kaminsky enjoyed a 15-year coaching career that was capped by winning the Memorial Cup with the St. Catharines Teepees in 1960.

Parekh led the way in this year's award voting process, followed by Calgary Flames prospect Hunter Brzustewicz of the Kitchener Rangers as runner-up.

Parekh follows a former Spirit rear-guard in Pavel Mintyukov of the Ottawa 67's who was last year's recipient. Other prominent names to have won the OHL Defenceman of the Year Award include Dougie Hamilton (Niagara 2012), two-time recipients Ryan Ellis (Windsor 2009 & 2011) and Bryan Berard (Detroit 1995 & 1996), Drew Doughty (Guelph 2008) as well as Chris Pronger (Peterborough 1993).

Parekh will be the OHL's nominee for the Canadian Hockey League Defenceman of the Year Award, presented at the CHL Awards Ceremony that will be held that the 2024 Memorial Cup presented by Dow from May 24th to June 2nd in Saginaw, Michigan. He'll be formally presented with the Max Kaminsky Trophy at the OHL's Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, June 12th at the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto.

+ SPORTS

MSU's center Samac drafted by Ravens in round 7

By HASANI ALI

Michigan State center Nick Samac was selected in the seventh round (no. 228 overall) of the NFL Draft by the Baltimore Ravens on April 27.

Samac is the first Spartan center to be selected in the NFL Draft since Brian Allen was a fourth-round pick by the Los Angeles Rams in 2018.

The Ohio native played in 49 career games for the Spartans, including 32 starts at center (four in 2019, six in 2020, 12 in 2022, 10 in 2023).

According to MSUSpartans.com, Samac played nearly 2,500 snaps (2,427) at center during his five-year Spartan career and was a three-time Academic All-Big Ten selection and two-time honorable mention All-Big Ten choice (2022, 2023).

He graduated in December 2022 with a bachelor's degree in communication.

Samac played in 11 games as a fifth-year graduate senior in 2023, including 10 starts, but suffered a season-ending injury on Nov. 18 vs. Indiana that forced him to miss a majority of on-field NFL Draft prep in the offseason.

He still earned an invite to the East-West Shrine Bowl and the NFL Combine and was able to talk with NFL personnel throughout the draft process, leading him to getting drafted by the Ravens.

"I'm blessed to be a part of an amazing organization and prove to everybody that this was a great pick," said Samac. "It's definitely been a journey throughout my last year, just been doing everything to get back right, and I'll be on a good path. I'm kind of speechless.

Though the selection was late in the draft, it was still a testament to Samac that he deserved a spot in the NFL.

"I've always prided myself on being the best I can be every single day and never changing who I am...(Baltimore) has a great o-line and a great team, and I'm excited to be a part of that group, fit in, and get to work."

Samac watched the draft with his family over the weekend.

"It's been a long weekend waiting to hear my name called, so when that call came in, you're never really 100 percent sure of what's going to happen, and it was



NICK SAMAC

getting close to the end," Samac said. "So when I got that phone call and I was told the news, I started to get a little shaky and a little emotional. Anytime I'm in a moment like that, my dad touches my shoulder and my back, and I instantly break down, so it was a great moment to be right next to my mom (Tammy) and dad (Joe) during that experience. Speechless like I said...I'm still trying to take it all in."

The former Spartan was in tears less than a minute when he picked up the phone and answered the call from Raven General Manager Eric DeCosta.

As a sign of relief and somewhat disbelief, Samac buried his face into his hands as he was receiving the news that he was being drafted in the seventh round.

"I'm going to hand the phone over to coach Harbough, don't get offended that his last name is Harbough," DeCosta said jokingly."

Samac was elated when he heard the words that not only cemented his accolades at Michigan State, but gave promise to what his future would hold in Baltimore.

"We love you as a football player and we love you as a person," Harbough said to Samac over the phone. "You're going to be playing with some great guys up front and we want you to snap the ball to Lamar Jackson."

As a fourth-year senior in 2022, Samac started all 12 games at center and picked up honorable mention All-Big Ten accolades by the coaches and media. He split time at center with Matt Allen on MSU's 11-2 team in 2021 that won the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl and finished No. 9 in the AP Poll under former coach Mel Tucker.

Since the common NFL Draft era began in 1967, MSU has had a player selected in 57 of the 58 drafts.

WMU's defensive end Kneeland selected by Cowboys in round 2

By HASANI ALI

Western Michigan's Marshawn Kneeland went high on the draft board last weekend – selected no. 56 overall in the second round of the NFL Draft.

Kneeland was the 53rd player in Bronco history to be selected in the NFL Draft—first ever to be selected by the Cowboys.

Owner Jerry Jones was quick to announce the selection once he received the phone from executive Will McClay.

“Well, the first thing we're going to do is put a star on that helmet,” he said. “We're excited to have you here in Dallas as a Cowboy.”

Kneeland is the first Bronco ever to be selected in the draft by the Cowboys.

The Grand Rapids, Mich., native played 38 career games with the Broncos, making 82 tackles, 13 sacks, 28 tackles for loss, and three forced fumbles.

He also had some action on the offensive side of the ball – punching in a one-yard touchdown at the beginning of the season against Saint Francis.

He was named Second Team All-MAC this past season after causing so much chaos in the Mid-American conference with 57 total tackles, 4.5 sacks and 7.5 tackles for loss. Kneeland also had eight QB hurries and two forced fumbles.

After a stellar performance against Eastern Michigan, Kneeland was named the MAC Defensive Player of the Week. In that game versus the Eagles, he had a career high of 11 tackles, four tackles for loss, three sacks, one safety and a forced fumble that led to a defensive touchdown.

The former Bronco recorded nine tackles and forced fumble against Miami (OH) back in mid-October.

Kneeland was invited to the Reece's Senior Bowl and turned head of the scouts before doing the same at the 2024 NFL Combine in Indianapolis.

He went to social media to express his gratitude for those that supported him throughout his journey.

“From 2 star to 2nd round, thank you everyone for the love and support,” he said on X. “We're just getting started.”

Kneeland will be joining MAC foe Cooper Rush, the backup quarterback for the Cowboys who just signed a two-year deal



MARSHAWN KNEELAND

for \$6 million.

The six-year veteran graduated from Central Michigan University.

Dallas (12-5) clinched the NFC East this past season, including a controversial win against the Detroit Lions.

The Cowboys fell out of the Super Bowl race early in the playoffs, losing 48-32 to Green Bay.

New England running back Ezekiel Elliot has officially made his return to Dallas, reuniting for a one-year \$3 million deal.

Elliot was drafted by the Cowboys in 2016.

Western Michigan has now had six student-athletes drafted since 2021, and four years straight for the longest current streak in the Mid-American Conference.

According to WMUBroncos.com, Kneeland is the ninth Bronco to be selected in the second round, joining recent selections Skyy Moore (Kansas City, '22) and D'Wayne Eskridge (Seattle, '21). He also marks the second-straight year that a member of the Bronco defense has been drafted, with linebacker Zaire Barnes going in the sixth round of the 2023 NFL Draft to the New York Jets.

+ SPORTS

Michigan lands 7-footer Goldin from FAU



VLADISLAV GOLDIN

By HASANI ALI

It was a matter of time before Michigan's new coach Dusty May was going to reach back for some of his former players after bringing some of his old staff to Ann Arbor.

Florida Atlantic's big man Vladislav Goldin will reunite with his former coach at Michigan after starting for the past three seasons for Dusty May – the Russian began his basketball career at Texas Tech as a freshman, ironically where his now teammate Nimari Burnett also started.

An assistant at Michigan reposted the report that was done by ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski.

Goldin, standing at 7-foot-1, 240 pounds, started all 34 games as a senior. He led Florida Atlantic on the boards with 6.9 rebounds per game and was the second leading scorer with 15.7 points.

The center entered the portal on April 1. There's no surprise that Goldin ended up back with May at Michigan, as the experts predicted.

Prior to Goldin entering the transfer portal, the big man had declared for the NBA draft, but later rescinded his interest. He was not a coveted draft prospect, which could have been the reason why he withdrew his name from the NBA draft.

The former Owl-turned-Wolverine shot 67 percent from the floor last season -- without taking a single 3-pointer -- and added 1.6 blocks per game and was named to the American Athletic Conference's second team.

Goldin had two impressive games against Big Ten teams last season, scoring 19 points, nine rebounds and four blocks in a loss to Northwestern in the first round of the NCAA tournament and 23-point game in a loss to Illinois earlier in the season.

Being a key piece of the Owl's core in the 2022-2023 season, FAU was able to make a surprising run to the Final Four before losing to San Diego State, which went on to lose to UConn in the national championship.

He's not the only 7-footer that Michigan has acquired from the transfer portal.

Goldin will be joining Yale Transfer Danny Wolf.

Goldin is the eighth addition to the Michigan roster this offseason.

According to MLive.com, Michigan added another fifth-year player, guard Rubin Jones from North Texas, part of a flurry of activity over a five-day period earlier this month in which guards Tre Donaldson (Auburn), Justin Phippen (high school), Lorenzo Cason (high school), Roddy Gayle (Ohio State), forward Sam Walters (Alabama), and Wolf committed to the Wolverines.

Returners Will Tschetter (forward) and George Washington III (guard) announced they will stay in Ann Arbor, while high school guard Durrall Brooks remains signed, meaning at least 11 of the team's 13 scholarships are accounted for. Burnett and Jace Howard have not yet announced their intentions, though Howard had previously said he planned to stay for a fifth season.

Detroit breaks NFL record for draft attendance



NFL DRAFT

By **HASANI ALI**

Last weekend was something that the city of Detroit has never seen before.

Almost 1 million football crazed fans took over downtown from all walks of life. Fans from different teams sported their jerseys, showing support for their favorite team and their prospective draft picks which began on Friday night.

Bay City resident Josh Clark is a die-hard Colts fan and knew that the NFL Draft in Detroit was a once-in-a-lifetime chance to support his team in person rather than watching it on TV.

"I drove down from Bay City and the I-75 South was immediately packed around 7 a.m.," he said. "It didn't matter to me because I was going to cheer my team on."

The Colts ended up selecting defensive end Laiatu Latu (UCLA) with the 15th overall pick in the first round of the draft.

A historic weekend for Michigan and the motor city, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer made a special announcement ahead of the Lions' fourth-round selection on Saturday.

Whitmer announced that the 2024 NFL draft had broken the draft attendance

record with 700,000 fans and counting. In 2019, Nashville set the previous record after drawing 600,000 fans over a three-day span.

The final tally was more than 775,000 fans attending the three-day draft, the first major NFL event that Detroit has hosted since Super Bowl XL in 2006.

"We have shown the world what the Motor City is about," Whitmer said.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell announced on Thursday that Detroit set the Say 1 record with more than 275,000 fans in attendance and drew 550,000 in two days before setting the event record.

Terrence Parsons, father of Dallas Cowboy wideout Micah Parsons, watched the draft from La Casa Cigars and Lounge, located at 1502 Randolph Street, Suite 100.

He drove seven hours from Pittsburgh, Penn., to meet up with his friends to enjoy the festivities.

"We do this every single year," he said. "We come from all across the country to talk football and enjoy a nice cigar while we watch the picks."

Players from the team started off the event being accompanied by Calvin Johnson, Barry Sanders and rap legend Eminem. It was a scene that wide receiver

Amon-Ra St. Brown had never seen before.

"I play football games. I've been in front of 100,000 people, whatever, 90,000. But there was like, I was telling someone earlier, 'It's like I was at a Travis Scott concert,'" he said during an ESPN interview. "I was looking up to look away. It was crazy. But there were so many people. It was awesome to see the fans, the city, all coming together.

"I just feel like everything's happening all at once at the right time for this city, for the fans. It's just amazing to be a part of it."

Lions general manager Brad Holmes praised the local fanbase to start the news conference after the draft – calling them "the best fans in the world."

He feels like the NFL world got to a reflection of the motor city and how it represents itself on the grand stage.

"Great for our city, great for our franchise," Holmes said. "That's something to be said. You get 700,000 fans at one draft host city, that's about as impressive as it gets. So, I just really want to thank the fans, just want to really thank the league and the sports commission and just everybody that played a part in this. I'm just really, really excited about this."



Hey Batter Batter!

WHO:

All Saginaw County
BOYS & GIRLS

Age 5-6 (T-ball)

Age 7-8 (Coach Pitch)

Division teams:

10U (hybrid) & 13U

WHEN:

10 Game Season

July 9th - Aug 8th. 2024

Tuesday & Thursday
Evenings

WHERE:

Hoyt Park

1574 S. Washington Ave
Saginaw, MI



REGISTRATION:

www.hoytparkyouthbaseball.com



COST:

\$25 per player

Plus \$3 transaction fee

Registration Deadline:

June 28, 2024

NEED A TEAM?

T-Ball & Coach Pitch teams will be formed by the League. Division Players needing a team may sign up and will be placed on the waitlist.

Division Teams (10U & 13U) require a team sponsor fee in addition to the individual player fee. Please have sponsor send the \$300 fee wrote out to:

Friends of Hoyt Park

and mail to:

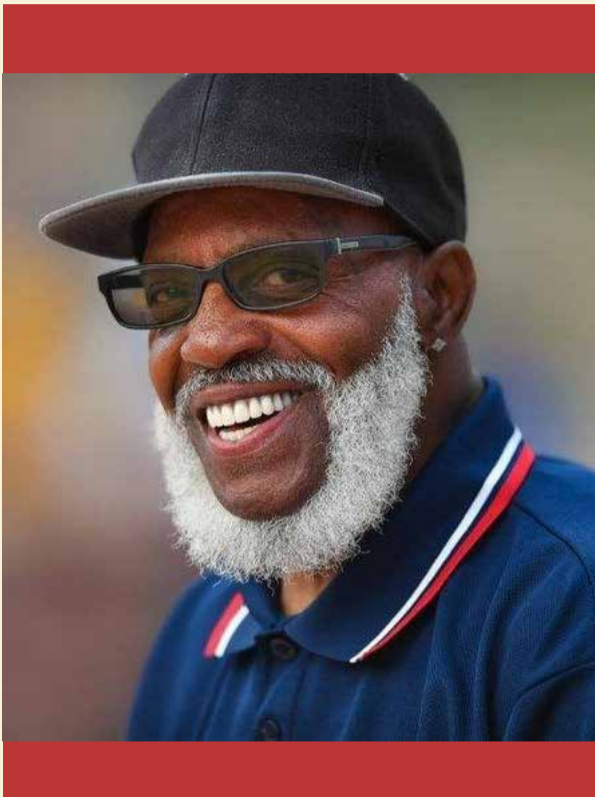
Saginaw County Parks
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Questions? 989-790-5283



+ SPORTS

My tribute to Alga Smith



My tribute to Alga Smith. Rest in heaven. We became best of friends-like a brother. He was one of the main reasons Hoyt Park was brought back and continued to be so beautifully maintained. He also was one of our nest umpires. He and his great smile and attitude will be greatly missed. Alga made everyone around him feel better. His last days he kept asking for assurance that Hoyt Park was going to continue to be alright.



Truly a Hoyt Park Angel.
Larry Breathauer

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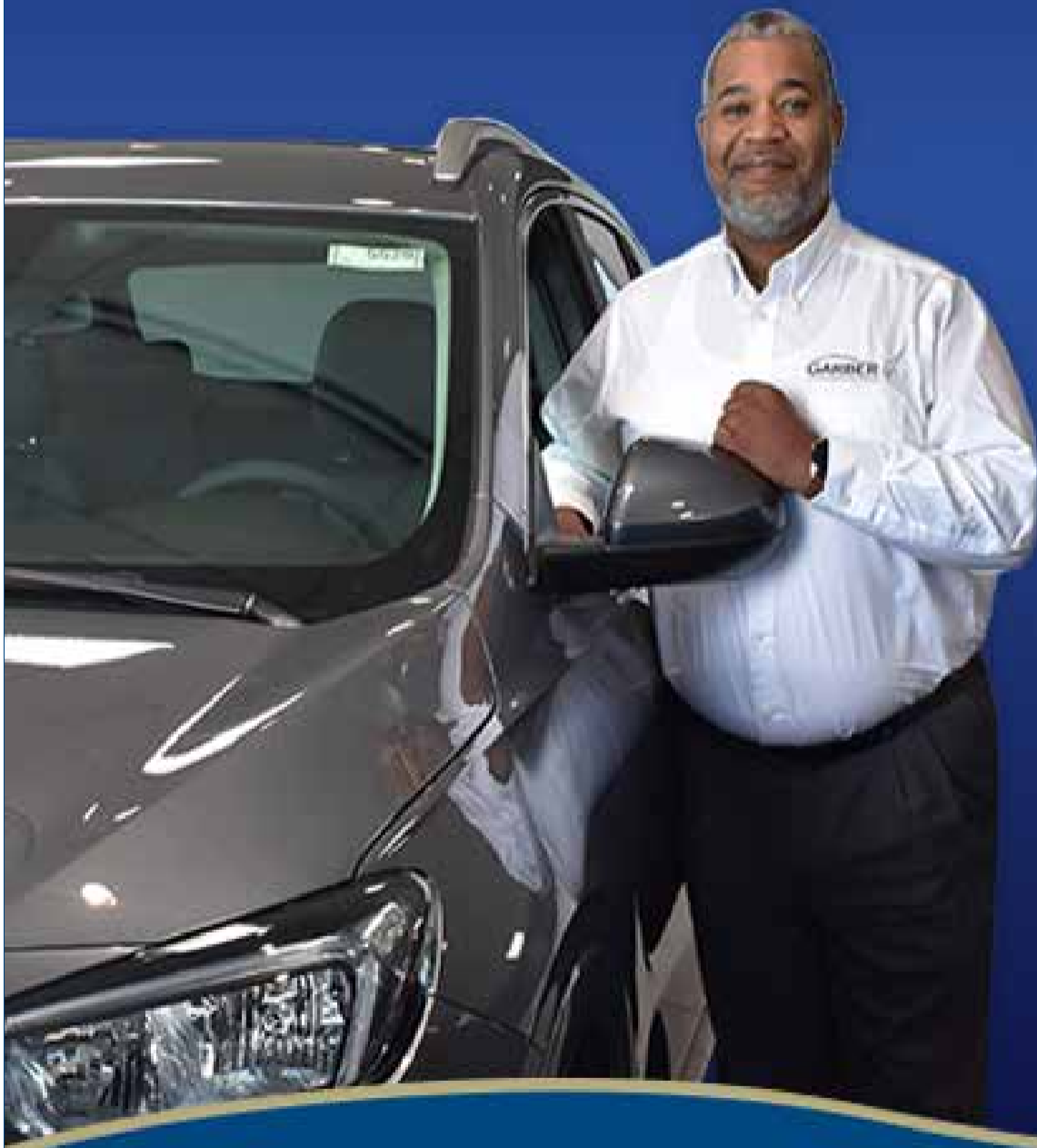
PICS OF THE WEEK

Saginaw Athletic Club supporting youth sports including soccer, pickleball and tennis.



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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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