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A note from the editor-in-chief



By Lauren Rice Editor-in-chief

appy Thanksgiving! I think. Well, except for the Native American populations around the country, the people around the rest of the world who don't celebrate this questionable holiday and, of course, turkeys.

It's a strange celebration. For some people, it is still a commemoration of European settlers having their first successful harvest on new land. For others, it's less about the history, and more about the opportunity to spend time with family and gorge yourself.

STAFF

EDITORIAL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Lauren Rice **MANAGING EDITOR**

Masha Smahliuk

News Editor Courtney Boyd

SPORTS EDITORS Kaia Zimmerman Sydney Neal

VISUAL EDITORS Jo Kenoshmeg Ella Miller

For some it might be easy to forget that November isn't just the autumnal month surrounding Thanksgiving, it's Native American Heritage Month. And the day after Thanksgiving- known colloquially as "Black Friday," (to round out the stereotypical U.S. cultural experience of overeating and capitalism) is actually Native American Heritage Day.

These are often forgotten because they were never taught in the first place. When I was in grade school, I definitely wasn't learning that shortly after Thanksgiving the Pequot Tribe was massacred by settlers, or that English colonizers stole food and robbed Wampanoag graves to survive their first winter.

Instead of the day of celebration that it is for some Americans, Thanksgiving is a National Day of Mourning for Native Americans and their allies.

PODCAST EDITOR

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

ADVERTISING

ADVERTISING MANAGER

ASSISTANT ADVERTISING

Renae King

Kailey Hill

Zoey Lawrence Brittany Stevens

Olivia Garcia

MANAGER Paige Toms

Every tribe and individual is entitled to their own perspective on the day, but this day of mourning was organized by the United American Indians of New England in 1970, according to Native Hope.

The point I'm trying to make is that the traditional American Thanksgiving is only part of the story. The rest is not one I am entitled to tell. Instead, I'll encourage you to do what I'll be doing leading up to and during the Thanksgiving break at the end of the month: educating myself, having conversations and keeping my mind open to new ideas.

In whatever form it comes, from our office family to yours, please enjoy the break. If we learn to be better neighbors while we're at it, this will be a break well-spent.

NATIONAL ACCOUNT MANAGER Rachel Kidder

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA **Regan Foster**

Assistant director OF STUDENT MEDIA Kathy Simon

Central Michigan Life, the independent voice of Central Michigan University, is edited and published by students of Central Michigan University the second Thursday of the month during the fall and spring semesters. The newspaper's online edition, cm-life.com, contains all of the material published in print, and is updated on an as-needed basis. Central Michigan Life serves the CMU and Mount Pleasant communities, and is under the jurisdiction of the independent Student Media Board of Directors. Regan Foster serves as Director of Student Media at CMU and is the adviser to the newspaper. Articles and opinions do not necessarily reflect the position or opinions of Central Michigan University. Central Michigan Life is a member of the Associated Press, the Michigan Press Association, the Michigan Collegiate Press Association, the Associated Collegiate Press, College Newspaper Business & Advertising Managers Association, the Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce, Central Michigan Home Builders Association, Mount Pleasant Housing Association and the Mount Pleasant Downtown Business Association. The newspaper's online provider is SN Works. Central Michigan Life is distributed throughout the campus and at numerous locations throughout Mount Pleasant. Non-university subscriptions are 25 cents each. Digital copies of photographs published in Central Michigan Life are available upon request at specified costs.

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On the cover: Ms. Margo poses for a portrait on Friday, Nov. 8, in The Bone Reader - Indian Spirit Store. (Audrey Konitsney | CM-Life)

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Silence speaks

In the past, the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School was a dark place. Now, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is planning what's next for those buildings.

Letters to you

Dreams do come true

certainly far from home.

How far can a smile go?

Reactions to the recent federal election vary. No matter who was elected, the work was going to continue. Our editors talk about how to move forward.

Or, they do if you're Simone Potgieter. She wanted to

travel the world, and this field hockey defensive back is



For this defensive lineman, pretty far. Read how Jason Williams is a light for the people around him.



Test your smarts!

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NEWS

Campus commemorations

November is Native American Heritage month, and multiple events are scheduled for Central Michigan University's campus to put efforts into cultural exposure and education. The following are some of the programs planned for this month:

Cocoa, Crafts and Beading 1-3 p.m. Bovee U.C. Room 108



Two-Spirit Talking Circle 5-7 p.m., Bovee U.C. Room 108



5-7:30 p.m., The Eatery at The Towers

For more information and events, scan the QR code





Audrey Konitsky | Staff photographer

Margo Anna Victoria Rhell Sanchez Seraté Smith Tindall Smith Greenbird Jablonowski, also known as Walking Wolf Eyes or 'Ms. Margo' poses for a portrait on Friday, Nov. 8, in The Bone Reader - Indian Spirit Store in Macomb County.

Sharing her visions

For Indigenous seer Ms. Margo, a descendant of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, once-in-a-century gift is a beautiful blessing

By Courtney Boyd News editor

Calming music echoed around the lime green and turquoise room. A mixture of earthy, herbal scents filled the air, rising to meet the handmade dreamcatchers dangling from the ceiling and wrapping around the back corner of the space, where various soaps, oils, paintings and dolls made of grass could be found.

A small table sat next to the window, with beaver pelts and a drawstring bag of animal bones on it. Sitting at the far end of the table was the building's owner: Margo Anna Victoria Rhell Sanchez Seraté Smith Tindall Smith Greenbird Jablonowski, also known as Walking Wolf Eyes. But she said people just call her "Ms. Margo."

Ms. Margo is a 58-year-old Indigenous seer who currently lives near Romeo. She's half Chippewa, a quarter Ottawa and a quarter Mayan/Atzec. She said only four clairvoyants, or people gifted to see events from people's past and future, are chosen for her clan every 100 years, and her parents knew when she was born it was between her or her twin sister, Marlene.

"I have lighter skin and lighter eyes," she said. "My twin has very dark hair, darker skin, darker eyes. ... So that's how they knew it was one of us."

Ms. Margo said she's had the gift of seeing visions as long as she can remember. She said she remembers how it felt to be born, and has early memories of being bathed in the sink next to her sister. She also said she remembers her grandmother, Viola Smith, or "Granny Smith," would whisper messages into her ear as an infant.

Ms. Margo grew up in Ferndale, with her father, Melvil Smith of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and her mother, Esther, who is Mexican and Atzec. She said she grew up with both indigenous and Catholic teachings, and that influenced her to view religion differently.

"My mother and father were very open minded to all religions and spirituality," she said. "My father used to tell the story about Chief Red. ... When white people came to Chief Red and said 'You must believe this book' ... at the time, he said 'You have Protestant, Catholics, Baptists, and you all fight. We just believe.

"So I think it's just believing in what you feel is true. (Being) honest, kind, caring, wise, loving... And how even though we go through tragedy, hurt, pain, sorrow, depression, we can have hope and emerge back up. So to me, it's all the same religion."

Ms. Margo said this viewpoint shapes her practices today, and that she understands others may judge her and what she does, but her religious viewpoints make it not affect her as deeply.

'Overwhelming and beautiful'

Today, Ms. Margo said she offers psychic readings, such as messages from past people or predictions for the future, online through her website. She said when she does readings, she doesn't even need divination tools and can just close her eyes and see the visions she needs to based on the questions the clients ask her.

"I just close my eyes and trust myself, trust God," she said. "And I don't remember all of what I say.

It's almost like going in a little trance, which is good because at times ... it gets really heavy. So I'm glad that God does not have me remember it all or carry it on my heart. Sometimes it takes a little while to kind of release that heavy energy (after a session).'



Audrey Konitsky | Staff photographer

Ms. Margo makes and sells traditional prayer dolls, such as the one seen in this picture, as well as dream catchers, protective oils, soaps and more. She said she has made fewer dolls after COVID-19 due to supply shortages.

She said questions about love and money are the most common, but she has many moments with clients that have stuck with her.

For example, she did a reading for a female client where she saw a woman and started to taste butter pecan ice cream (which, she noted, is a flavor she doesn't like).

After Ms. Margo told the client what she saw and tasted, the woman broke down crying.

"She goes, 'That was my partner, she died. That was the last thing she ate,'" Ms. Margo said. "I got goosebumps, I freaked myself out. When things like that happen, it is overwhelming and beautiful'

Ms. Margo said she does have some divination tools at her disposable, such as animal bones like bird talons and whale teeth, but she doesn't necessarily need them. She said these tools were passed down to her, but didn't come directly from her family members.

"They all represent or mean something, depending on how it's laid, and what it's laid next to," she said. "Some have been stolen or taken from me, or lost. Some people toss them up in the air like it's confetti."

Sharing her gifts

On her website, Ms. Margo sells protection oil made from sage and chamomile, as well as goat milk soap with other herbs included in it. She also sells various handmade items such as dreamcatchers, drums, prayer dolls and paintings.

Audrey Konitsky | Staff photographer

Ms.Margo works with her husband to make traditional Indigenous drums. The materials for the drums are acquired through trade.

Out of all of those items, she said the protection oil is a best seller, and she said it was actually created because of one of her nephews.

"He had bad asthma and we couldn't smudge around him," she said. "He would get an asthma attack. I had a dream and vision to have sage oil and chamomile because I thought chamomile would help calm and relax him. I bought those two and put Vitamin E oil in it too so you can wear it and always be protected. He grew out of the asthma, but now I still sell the crap out of it."

While her indigenous heritage shows up in craft and work, Ms. Margo said it also has shaped her as a person. She said growing up, her family was discriminated against in the city, and only in recent years she's seen people start to respect indigenous culture and want to learn more about it.

"It's not something I tell people every single day," she

said. "(But) It's a great honor. It's really honoring your ancestors in your heart. When you say honor, you're not just honoring who you are today, you're honoring the past and the future."

Ms. Margo said at her house, she hosts drum circles both for adults and for children. She said the family and community aspects are very important to her.

"Back in the day, you would never call anybody," she said. "You would just drive by and knock on the front door and visit people. They don't do that nowadays. I have two people and they're both natives that will do that still.

"That friendliness, that respect, the spontaneity, regardless of what that other person might be doing in their own home and everything. ... They're there to visit the person, not the home."

Ms. Margo plans to be in Mount Pleasant for a Psychic and Holistic Expo happening from 9 a.m to 6 p.m on Nov. 16 and 17 at the Morey Courts Recreation Center. She said she will have her own booth and will be selling the same items from her online shop.

Those interested in attending and meeting her in person can purchase tickets on Eventbrite.

LISTEN U SCAN THE QR CODE TO HEAR A "PAST DEADLINE" PODCAST ABOUT THIS STORY



05

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe aims to renovate parts of industrial school

By Blace Carpenter Staff reporter

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe (SCIT) is looking into a five to 10-year plan to renovate and restore the remaining buildings of the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School (MIIBS) in the hopes of opening the campus to the public and honoring those affected by its dreadful history.

Christian Nakarado is the architect behind the school's restoration. He said that some of the buildings on Crawford Road just north of Pickard Road may remain closed after the project's completion.

"The phrase we keep using is 'we want the silence inside these buildings to speak for themselves," Nakarado said. "That probably means that we don't renovate for the reuse of any of the buildings except for the workshop. We want to encourage people who might visit the site to engage in a quiet reflection."

He said the school's workshop will be turned into a community center where the visitors can attend events.

"There is definitely a plan to open up the workshop building for a more consistent presence on the site every day of the week," Nakarado said. "There are a couple of different tribal programs that we're thinking might go in there: ... the tribal language program, perhaps parts of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office's activities.

"What we planned for on the ground floor of that building is kind of multi-purpose community space that could serve all kinds of different functions.

A space to heal

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and Chairwoman of the MIIBS Committee Marcella Hadden meets monthly with her team to discuss updates on th school.

She said there is a lot of work that will be done to the campus in the coming years. The first on her to-do list is to remove toxic materials from the buildings.



Courtesy image | Ziibiwing Center

Students at the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School stand in line on the campus grounds in this circa-1910 photo.

"The buildings are contaminated but we are restoring them right now," Hadden said. "We did get a grant from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law ... to get rid of all the lead and asbestos."

She said other plans for this project include a potential memorial garden and ensuring that the buildings' structural integrity is safe for visitors.

"It's going to encompass culture, language, healing and arts," Hadden said.

Currently, the campus is closed to the public.

The dark history of MIIBS

The creation of Native American boarding schools can be traced to United States Army Officer Richard Henry Pratt, who socially experimented on Apache prisoners of war at Fort Marion, Florida, after the Red River War. He forced the Apache men to cut their hair, learn English and dress in traditional military uniforms.

In 1879, he opened Carlisle Indian Industrial School and used the same method of assimilation on Native American children. In 1891, the U.S. Congress funded the creation of boarding schools for native children across the country, according to the Ziibiwing Center.

The MIIBS opened its doors on June 30, 1893. 'Kill the Indian and save the man' was Richard Pratt's model," Hadden said. "That's how it started."

For over four decades, children were taken from their homes and sent to the MIIBS, where they were

forced to learn English, convert to Christianity and stripped of their traditions. Many lost contact with their families, according to Hadden.

She said students had schedules designed similarly to those of officers in the military.

"The children were up at 5 a.m, they had very little free time and then they were taught writing and reading," Hadden said. "The schools were run by churches, the Catholics, Methodists, but they were run in a military form."

In 1928, the U.S. government released the Meriam Report, which found that disease was running rampant through the schools and that students were extremely malnourished.

The MIIBS continued operating for another six years, and officially closed on June 6, 1934.

According to Hadden and research from the Ziibiwing Center, 220 students died during their time in the school.

"Think about that in today's society," Hadden said. "Could you imagine just one child passing away in a boarding school today?"

Every June 6, the Tribe opens the school campus for the "Honoring, Healing and Remembering" event, where members honor the students who passed and those who were affected by the abuse caused by the industrial school.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

- The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

RESOURCES

If you or someone you know is struggling with their mental health, feel free to reach out to the Central Michigan University Counseling Center.

Appointments can be set up by calling the office at 989-774-3381 or stopping by the office at Foust Hall 102.

YOUR TURN

We welcome letters to the editor and guest columns. All submissions columns must include a name, address, organization university affiliation (if any) and phone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be printed. *Central Michigan Life* reserves the right to edit all letters and columns for style, length, libel, redundancy, clarity, civility and accuracy. Letters should be no more than 450 words in length. Longer guest columns must remain under 750 words. CM Life reserves the right to print any original content as a letter or guest column. Submission does not guarantee publication.

Our views on the future

Members of the editorial board share their thoughts in open letters to the community



By Lauren Rice She/her

Dear reader,

Thank you for picking up this paper, or clicking on this article. Did you notice that it's free? Every day, *Central Michigan Life* is producing news stories, features, photos, podcasts and more. It's available to you for free, because we want it to be accessible.

This is hard work, and we're not adding this onto our busy college-student schedules for shits and giggles. We do it because journalism is an essential public service.

Whether this is your first or 50th time picking up one of our papers or reading an article on



By Masha Smahliuk She/her

Dear American people,

When you elected Donald Trump for your President, you have spoke, and every part of the world has heard you.

I respect your decision. President-elect Trump is the choice of the American people, and no one, outside of Americans, has the right to judge it.

Yet, this decision speaks for itself. And as a person from another country, I see these two our website, it should be clear that we know our community. We care about it, too.

Our job as the paper of record for Central Michigan University and Mount Pleasant is to keep you informed a job we take seriously.

With the recent re-election of Donald Trump to the Oval Office, it has become clear to journalists around the country that our jobs are going to become less safe and more difficult. Trump, through public statements that are consistently negative and frequently violent towards journalists, has eroded trust in this sacred institution.

Members of this 105-year-old news organization have received threatening emails, been ignored and severely underestimated. During this election cycle, our First Amendment rights were questioned, and it's not the first time.

But we're still here. And we are not afraid.

important messages that you

sent to the rest of the world:

The first one is about the

desire for isolation. Trump's

a border closure promise to

a threat of stopping loans for

NATO allies- his foreign policy

resembles those of isolationists.

The second message is that

world democracy is under

threat. The United States is a

the rest of the world follows.

But last week the U.S. showed

that a democratic country can

80 charges and a friend of the

After receiving these two

messages, the rest of the world

continues to watch America and

And next, I hope that Amer-

be ruled by a felon with over

world's dictators.

wonder: What is next?

great model of democracy that

stance on world relationships

and cooperation is clear. From

bing to
norenot yield in our public service to
anything or anyone except our
guiding principles of fairness,
accuracy and accountability.
We are a resource to our

readers. If you have a story to tell or an injustice to shine light on, let us know.

The role we've adopted is the

mantle every honorable news

organization has taken up for

voiceless; the final check and

branches of government.

centuries. We are a voice for the

Fourth Estate alongside the Ex-

ecutive, Legislative and Judicial

Our promise to you is this:

will be transparent; and we will

We will tell you the truth; we

If you're feeling afraid for your rights after this election, please know that there are still people who care for you and want to protect you. Many of them work in this newsroom. *Lauren Rice is* Central Michigan Life's *Editor-in-Chief*.

ican people show kindness, open-mindedness and empathy to save the world's democracy.

No matter what the next four years bring, I hope that we all stay humans, open to understanding other people's experiences and lending a helping hand to those who are in need. I hope that you use your critical thinking and think for yourself.

Even when Trump is the leader of this country, it doesn't mean that there is space for hate, racism, sexism or any other discrimination. You, American people, can continue to be the example of those who spread kindness, love and freedom of spirit, as you always do. The world needs you.

Managing Editor Masha Smahliuk is an international student from Ukraine.



By Kaia Zimmerman She/her

Dear LGBTQ+ youth,

After it was announced that former President Donald Trump would be the next president, I know that fear was felt throughout the community.

Trump has made it clear that he will not protect our rights, and in reality will take them away. He has continuously spread false narratives about the community, specifically trans people.

I feel scared as a lesbian woman in this country, and I know that I am not alone in that feeling. After he secured the presidency, it felt like there were so many things that were out of our control, including our own basic human rights. However, the one thing we can control is the ability to keep fighting and to keep our voices heard.

As a newsroom that has many members of the LGBTQ+ community, we feel this too. While we are tasked with providing election coverage, we feel this at the human level because these decisions also impact our livelihood.

Now, more than ever, is the time to make our voices heard. For people who can't use their voices due to an unsafe environment or who aren't out yet, we will make sure to keep this administration accountable for its actions. I promise to continue to fight for you, so one day you can live authentically as yourself.

While I don't know your specific situation, I know what it is like for the people who say they love you to actively vote against you. It is a reality that is far too common for many queer and trans people.

But you are not alone, and there is a community of people who will fight for you. Do not give up because the fight is far from over, and your light is needed in this world.

Kaia Zimmerman is Central Michigan Life's Sports Editor.

BEDROOMS



By Sydney Neal She/her

To my little sister,

As I sat in my bed and watched the results of the election in the late hours of Tuesday, Nov. 5, my heart sank to my stomach. It became very clear that the next four years of my life would be lived in fear. But my fear wasn't what I was worried about — it was you.

As your big sister, it's always my job to protect you and now I may not have that power anymore.

We live in a world where people are blinded by propaganda and selfishness so much that they don't recognize those who will be affected. You and I are affected. With our rights on the line, I want you to remember a few things: No one can steal your light. I know you are worried about your education. I want to reassure you that no one can take away your story even if things change. As an African American female, your history is important to promote change. You are the future.

No one can steal your joy. Despite all the feelings you may be feeling, I want to stress the fact that everything will be okay. No matter where you are and who you are surrounded by no one can take away the happiness you have worked to build. Not even Donald Trump.

No one can steal your voice. Although you are usually physically quiet, your voice is still strong. No matter what rights may be at stake, you still have a voice. Don't let this push you into the background.

As you transition into your college journey next fall, I want you to always remember how much you are worth. As your big sister, I will be here every step of the way and you will not be alone in this journey. All of this is temporary and is just the beginning.

Sydney Neal is Central Michigan Life's *Assistant Sports Editor*.

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09 Opinion

How are you feeling after the election?



Keeghan Garrison-Hazel Freshman

"There are no guard rails. Either it's gonna be really good or really bad."



Lindsey Arntson Freshman

"He (Donald Trump) has these plans, but they're going to backfire. (It will) make it harder for teachers to teach social issues



Charlie Gilson Freshman

"Despite everything, I feel hopeful about this country, and I'm trying to stay optimistic."



Anna Brummel Senior

"I was a little shocked. We want to make sure everyone's comfortable ... just making sure both sides are OK."



SPORTS

Upcoming sporting events

Want to support your local CMU teams? Here are some upcoming home games as winter sports start action.

Wrestling v. Indiana 7 p.m., McGuirk Arena

N 17

• Women's Basketball v. Bradley 1 p.m., McGuirk Arena

Se 19

• Football v. Western Michigan TBD, Kelly/Shorts Stadium

E 20

Men's Basketball v. Central State 7 p.m., McGuirk Arena



Women's Basketball v. Oakland 1 p.m., McGuirk Arena

A Dream TICHIGA rue **By David Powell** Sports reporter

hen Simone Potgieter was growing up in South Africa, she dreamed of traveling the world. However, she knew that there was only one way that she could make that happen: field hockey.

Fast forward and Potgieter is living that dream as she plays field hockey for Central Michigan University as a defensive back.

As a senior, Potgieter has now officially completed three seasons with the Chippewas, making her presence felt on the defensive side of the field. Potgieter's time playing field hockey in America has led to her growth as both an athlete and a person, all while giving her the chance to live out her dream of traveling to new places.

Field hockey beginnings

Potgieter discovered her love for the game of field hockey when she started playing the sport at the young age of four.

"My mom and my dad (were) kind of like, try everything and then (we'll) decide what you want to do," Potgieter said. "And I just fell in love with field hockey when I started playing when I was really young."

Potgieter continued to play field hockey, but it wasn't until high school that she started seriously considering playing in the United States.

"If you told myself, when I was younger, like if you were gonna see all these states, I would have not believed you at all," she said.

When Potgieter first arrived in America, the transition wasn't easy. Not only was it difficult for her to be so far away from home, it was also hard to adjust to life in a different country with a different way of life.

"My first year in the States was hard," Potgieter said. "I was very homesick....I cried basically every day, missed my family... not being able to speak in my language kind of, and the food (is) different, like trying to figure out where to get medicine... It was definitely a big adjustment."

Coming to CMU

After playing her freshman year at La Salle University, Potgieter decided to transfer. Central Michigan caught her eye because of the team chemistry and family-like culture on the team.

"I chose Central Michigan because... when I talked to the coaching staff, it kind of gave me new hope in a sense of trying to find family," Potgieter said. "I chose Central Michigan as well because when I came on my visit here, I fell in love with the girls."

Since joining the Chippewa squad, Potgieter has become extremely close to her teammates, leading to relationships that run deeper than being on a field.

"I never had a group of best friends like this," Potgieter said. "Yes, field hockey, I'm gonna miss it, but it's more so the girls that made field hockey so special."

Head coach Jennifer Johnstone said that Potgieter has become more confident in her play and made a difference on defense for the Chippewas. In addition, she praised Potgieter for willing to put it all out on the line for her team.

"She is the type of player that would sacrifice her body and put her body on the line for a team, which is so rare in this day and age," Johnstone said. "So, I mean, she will do everything she can for her team and they are definitely always first." Johnstone said she was glad Central Michigan became a home away from home for Potgieter.

"She's just always been a ray of sunshine, a really positive kid," Johnstone said. "She's just a great teammate. And I think for me to know that when she came to Central, she hadn't had the greatest experience prior to coming and was so homesick and didn't have a great experience.

"And for us to be able to change that and... for her to look at this team and think it's part of her family and to sort of have that support being an international (student) is just so special."

Family Impact

Potgieter's family has played an important role in her field hockey career in America.

"My mom and dad (have) played a huge role in my career," Potgieter said. "I can't ever thank them enough. I hope to one day... be that parent for my kids if they decide to play a sport or anything."

Potgieter's mom, Rika Potgieter, has been at the forefront of her daughter's mind recently as she battles colon cancer back in South Africa. Rika has been a part of Simone's field hockey career since the start.

"We've coached together," Simone said. "She's been my coach. She has taught me (the) majority of (the) field hockey that I know... so she definitely had a huge impact on my field hockey career."

Along with sending support from halfway across the world through encouragement and care packages, Rika also helps Simone improve her skills, even when that requires staying up until 3 a.m. to watch and critique her games.

The CMU field hockey team has rallied behind Simone and her mom as they go through this tough situation. The team has worn blue warm-up shirts with Rika's name on them and dedicated a game in October to colon cancer awareness and to Rika.

"I didn't wanna tell anyone, and then, when they ended up finding out, this is the most support I have felt from everyone from the media, staff, from my coaches, from my teammates," Simone said. "Like this is the most support I have ever gotten, and it has helped me grow not just as a field hockey player but as a person as well."

Finding worth

As Simone has grown both on and off the field, she has made sure to

keep her faith as a Christian in the forefront of her life. Her faith was something she relied on as she was getting acclimated to life in a new country. During her collegiate athletic career, Simone has remained connected with her faith as she attributes her skills on the field to God.

"Every day I just remind myself just to do it for God and to play for him because he was the one that... gave me this talent to be able to play field hockey," Simone said.

Simone said she reminds herself that her identity is not found in field hockey, but in what God thinks of her.

"Something I've really been struggling with my entire life was not putting my worth in field hockey," Simone said. "My identity would kind of depend on how I did (in) practice or what my coaches thought of me instead of what God thought of me... I needed to find my identity through him and not through how I do in field hockey."

Simone believes that the game of field hockey has taught her a faith-based lesson.

"Something that field hockey has definitely taught me is to just keep on trusting," she said. "You don't always know why things are happening, but just to keep on trusting."

What's Next?

During her career with CMU, Simone has played in and started 50 total games for the team.

After Simone graduates from CMU with her degree, she plans to become a secondary education science teacher in America. Not only does Simone plan on

staying, but she also wants to bring her parents over from South Africa.

"I absolutely fell in love with this country," Simone said. "I love my parents. I want them to move here one day. When

I have a lot of money with my teacher's salary, I'll bring them over."

As she prepares to leave CMU, Simone wanted to leave her field hockey team with a word of advice. Advice that echoes her journey in America so far.

"Just remember to get back up because... you are going to get knocked down," she said. "There (are)

gonna be days it's going to be hard and there (are) gonna to be times where you wanna give up, but you need to play for that little girl who fell in love with the sport, for that little girl that put so much effort into actually

getting there."

'You'd be surprised how far a smile can go' Family and football: CMU's Jason Williams strives to shine light

By Kaia Zimmerman Sports Editor

With time running down in the first half of Central Michigan football's matchup against Eastern Michigan, defensive lineman Jonah Pace sacked the Eagles quarterback leading to a fumble. In that moment, senior defensive lineman Jason Williams picked up the ball and ran it back 67 yards to give the Chippewas the lead.

It marked Williams' first career touchdown and was a play that he dreamed of.

"That's a lineman's dream to get a scoop and score," Williams said. "And I saw an open field. I couldn't not do it, you know. So, it was great... I watch the video and smile all the time."

The scoop and score touchdown has highlighted the breakout season for Williams. Through 10 games, Williams has the second most sacks on the team with 3.5, has 6.5 tackles for a loss and 37 total tackles.

Not only has he made an impact on the field, but his personality and smile shines bright, being labeled as 'Mr.Personality' on the team.

"He's got such an infectious personality and great smile anyway," head coach Jim McElwain said. "And then you add that with the way he is playing, he's playing at a really high level right now. (He) has become a guy that we all can rely on, and that speaks a lot to who he is."

Williams said he feels it is important to continue to spread positivity because he wants to be that light for everybody around him.

"Mentally... (I'm) just trying to keep myself locked in so I can be the best light for everybody else," Williams said. "Because, you never know what somebody else is going through... You never know who's having a bad day.

"And you'll be surprised how far a smile can go. Sometimes, somebody just needs a hug."

Keeping his trust in God and protecting his joy is what Williams credits for being able to stay in a positive mindset.

"The joy that I have, the world didn't give it, the world can't take it away," Williams said. "I won't let somebody else affect my day. If I have a bad day, it's because of something I did or something that happened that pertains to me. I just try to keep myself centered with

everything I

got going on."

Journey to CMU

Growing up in Florida, Williams started football when he was 6 years old due to his parents, who wanted him to have as many experiences as possible. Along with playing a sport, he also was doing something music related and was active in his church.

"I was always playing football or basketball... or playing piano or something and then singing in a choir at church," Williams said.

As he dove deeper in the sport throughout his childhood, his dream became clear: making it to the National Football League.

"I had a lot of family members that were athletes," Williams said. "And I always just wanted to get where they were or further."

When it was time to make a decision on where to play, Williams chose CMU because he thought it would give him the best opportunity to reach his goal.

"Even though it is far from home, I figured coming to Central would be putting myself in the best position to make it to the next level," Williams said.

The transition from Florida to Mount Pleasant was hard for Williams at first, especially having to adjust

to the cold conditions in the winter.

"Back then, I didn't know about black ice," Williams said. "So, I'm just walking regular, thinking everything is cool, and I'm slipping and falling. It took a while, but I got the hang of it... I had,www three (winter coats)."

Along with the weather, being away from home also taught him how to keep himself accountable and the importance of building relationships.

"Relationships are everything," Williams said. "It's always important to build that good relationship with the people around you because you never know when you might need some help or when somebody else might need help." As he has continued his football career, Williams said his family members have taught him many lessons including remembering "your why".

"Best thing they say is keep the main thing the main thing," he said. "Always remember your 'why,' remember your reason for doing everything because that's really what gets you through the long days, the early mornings, the body aches, the class, the training room, the (long) schedule that you've got to go through.

"Just remember why you're doing it in the first place is what's got me this far."

Family comes first

For Williams, his why is his family. He credits his family for not only who is as a football player but as a person.

"I mean how many sacrifices they made, the things they've done to get me in the position I am in right now, the least I can do is give it my all," Williams said. "Without my family, I wouldn't be the person I am today. They've taught me everything. Literally everything... I can't even think about, where I would



be, (and) what I would do if it wasn't for my family. They've sacrificed so much and showed me the rights and the wrongs... My family's my everything."

Even though they are far away, Williams said he still feels the support from his family.

"Sometimes I come back in the locker room, I look at my phone, and I already got a thousand notifications from all my family members," Williams said. "I can almost cry every time I see it because... being so far from home, you miss all the little small family gatherings.

"Every time I get to get a little bit of a glimpse of family, it always means the most to me."

What's next?

This season, Williams has emerged as a leader and has already surpassed his "sack and tackles for a loss" totals from the season before. Williams credits the defensive line coach, who helped him attack this season differently than before.

"He was like, 'well, let's change your perspective a little bit," Williams said. "Instead of trying to make every play, let's beat every block... Just give yourself something that's measurable, something that you can hold yourself accountable for."

The Chippewas have struggled in conference play this season, losing four-straight games. However, as a leader Williams believes in the team and their capabilities.

"I know we have the players, and everything we need to be the team that we know we can be," Williams said. "So, it's really just trying to get things moving and shake off the losses, shake off the bumps and bruises. Remind people... who they are."

After his career at CMU comes to an end, Williams said he doesn't know what the future holds. Whether he will continue playing football or head into the workforce, Williams said he is excited to see what comes next.

"I've never really been anything outside of football," Williams said. "So, if I get to continue on with football, then you know I'm thankful to God for that, but if not then I'm just excited to see where life takes me."





Jasmine Brookins | Staff photographer Central Michigan University junior defensive lineman Jason Williams shows his natural character, being one of the most cheerful players on the team, on Friday, Nov. 8, at Kelly/Shorts Stadium.



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Life through our lens



Mary Nowosacki | Staff photographer

A goat sticks its head out of the gate towards visitors on Sunday, Nov. 10, at Papa's Pumpkin Patch. The popular destination held 'Pumpkin Palooza' that day, an event in which kids could do crafts and play games inside, as well as smash pumpkins and pet animals outside. All proceeds benefitted the Humane Animal Treatment Society.



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