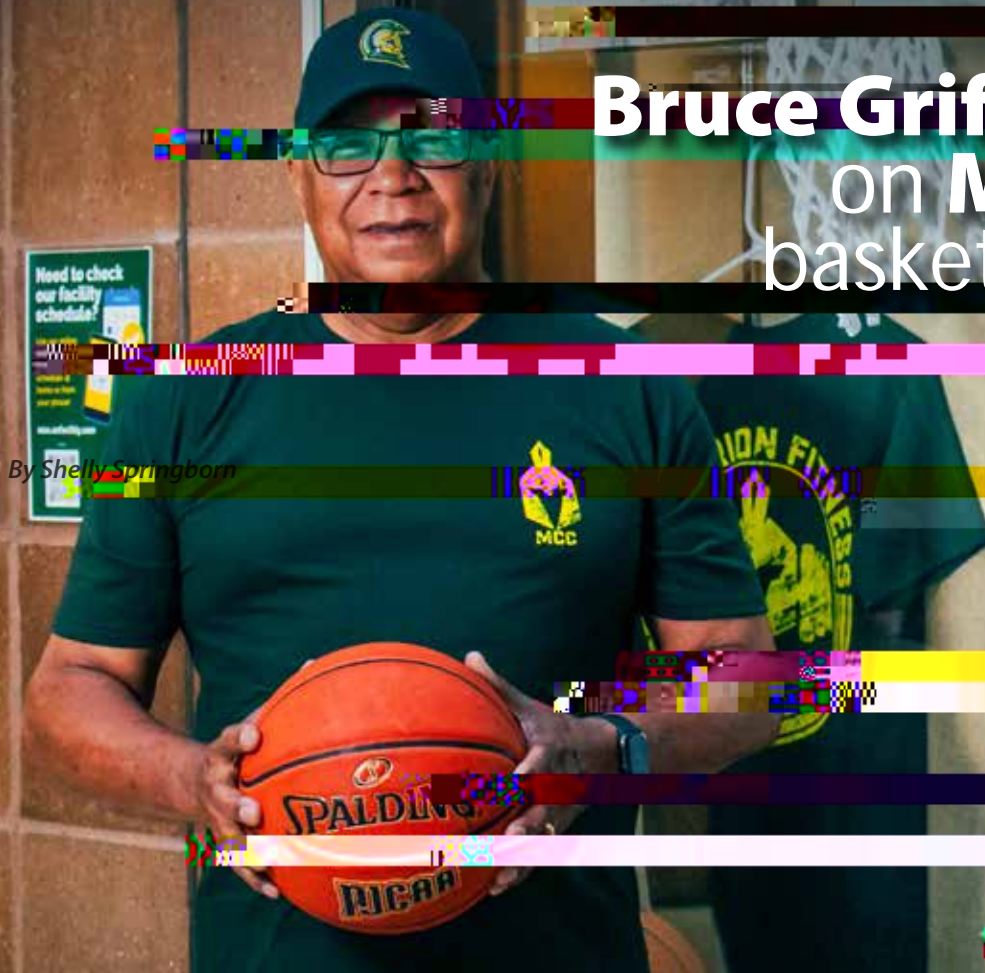


Bruce Griffin played on MCC's first basketball team

By Shelly Springborn



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Athletics is about more than playing a game. It's an opportunity to build life skills.

Bruce Griffin, of Byron Center, played on Montcalm Community College's first basketball team from 1966 to 1968. He said the skills he learned on the court served him throughout his career and continue to support his work in retirement.

"Being on a team, you learn a lot about people," Griffin said.

Griffin came to MCC in fall 1966, after playing high school basketball in Grand Rapids. After trying out for and making it onto MCC's basketball team, Griffin moved to Greenville, renting a room from Marjorie and Jim Blinn, both art teachers at Greenville High School.

He has fond memories of his college basketball career.

"We didn't have a gym at the college, so we played at Central Montcalm High School," he said.

Griffin said he enjoys visiting the area with his wife, Doris, and reminiscing.

"I loved that little hamburger place on the corner," he said of what is now Cross Roads Diner on the corner of M-66 and Sidney Road. And when we drive by Central Montcalm High School, it brings back memories.

"Our team played Lansing Community College, Ferris, Muskegon, Grand Rapids Junior College – about 18 or 19 games per season," he said.

"I don't remember many of my teammates," he added.

