

Celebrating Black History Month Celebrating 12 years of Positive News!

THE MICHIGAN BANNER

Leading in Diversity

“Empowering Communities and Changing Lives”



Making a Positive Difference
P 3



Congratulations!
PLB1



Accepting the Challenge
P 16



Continuing to Influence...
P 26



Serving Together!
P 27

Selma — 50 Miles



Leola Wilson

**By Leola Wilson, President
NAACP, Saginaw Branch**

Saginaw - It was fifteen years ago, when three generations of my family made the drive to Panama City, Florida, to spend Thanksgiving with my son, Bryan, wife Terry, and their son, Andrew. Bryan at that time was an active officer in the air force and stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base.

We stopped in Montgomery, Alabama for breakfast and as we were leaving, I noticed a sign, Selma, 50 miles. The strong history person, I am, as also our driver, my daughter Rhonda, immediately said, “Let’s do it.”

We were heading to Selma, a city we only knew of because we had read about it in Ebony, Jet, and listened to others talk about the march, at NAACP Conventions and Freedom Fund Dinners.

Telling the others what happened on that Bloody Sunday as peaceful demonstrators marched from Selma to Montgomery to demand their voting rights, Rhonda and I begin to cry.

As we verbally retraced the steps of history on our destination to the infamous Edmund Pettus Bridge, Rhonda further explained why it was important to take this opportunity. Everyone in the car had only lived in Michigan, born in Saginaw or Detroit. Arriving in Selma, we knew we had to also walk the main street.

When we returned to our vehicle, two police officers were parked next to us and were returning to their car also. We asked for directions to the highway to Florida, and

they asked where we were from, and talked for a few minutes. What stood out about the two officers, in addition to their being friendly and talkative, one was Black and one was White.

It is important that every man, woman, and child, no matter what their ethnicity is, go to see the movie “Selma.”

The movie, “Selma”, will help you understand why the journey Dr. King traveled was so important. You will understand why Rosa Parks did what she did. The reason Emmett Till’s mother made the agonizing decision she made. To understand why the Saginaw Negro Community, decided to organize the NAACP Branch on July 13, 1919 at Bethel AME Church.

The NAACP Charter, Saginaw Branch, was granted on August 25, 1919. The first President was Rev. Peter S. Marks, of Bethel AME Church.

The purpose was to give the families a chance to meet with each other and discuss their problems in Saginaw, as the NAACP would help them to have a better community.

This is why the Saginaw Branch continues in the fight for equal justice. There must be fairness and equality in every aspect of our community; housing, education, employment, voting requirements, healthcare, all civic engagement.

The 106th anniversary of the founding of the NAACP was February 12, 2015, and the foundation of the organization included men and women of both races.

We find the NAACP’s need still exist today, and we continue to grasp the importance of equality and fairness.

We owe it to our National and Local Founders to continue the Fight for Equality.



March to Selma on March 7, 1965

Community

The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Incorporated, Gamma Kappa Chapter Honors Community Leaders



Dr. Mamie T. Thorns
Saginaw Valley State University



Gil Johnson
President, Saginaw Valley
Ford Lincoln



Sandra Lindsey
CEO, SCCMHA



Wardene Talley
Project Director, Saginaw
MAX System of Care



Robert Van Deventer
President/CEO Saginaw
County Chamber of Commerce

Submitted by **Dr. Lillian Jones Thomas**,
President, National Sorority of
Phi Delta Kappa, Incorporated,
Gamma Kappa Chapter



The sorority's two youth groups—The Xinos and Kudos—special presentation saluting the honorees.
Photo Credit: The Michigan Banner

Saginaw - The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Incorporated, Gamma Kappa Chapter recently hosted 175 guests at its Ninth Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, January 31, 2015 at the Horizons Conference Center.

The honorees represent hope for the disenfranchised, the voice of those who cannot speak for themselves, and leaders of business and industry that bring people together in unity to work for the common good. Their work in the community represents love, longsuffering, generosity, and excellence.

The Theme of the MLK Prayer Breakfast was: Renewing the Spirit of Empowerment.

The guest speaker was Dr. Mamie T. Thorns, Special Assistant to the President for Diversity Programs at Saginaw Valley State University.

Dr. Thorns is responsible for providing leadership and coordination of SVSU's programs related to Diversity, equal opportunity and affirmative action. She serves as the primary advisor to the

President and the campus community on matters related to maintaining and enhancing a diverse and dynamic campus environment.

The 2015 Community Award Recipients "Renewing the Spirit of Empowerment" honorees were:

Mr. Gilbert Johnson, President of Saginaw Valley Ford Lincoln. Saginaw Valley Ford Lincoln is one of about 47 dealerships within the United States that boasts African American ownership.

Mr. Johnson has been recognized as a member of the Black Enterprise Top 100 on numerous occasions and is presently a member of the advisory council of the College of Business Management at Saginaw Valley State University.

Mrs. Sandra Lindsey, Chief Executive Officer of the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority since June, 2000.

She has spent 30 plus years working with or on behalf of persons with mental illness, developmental disabilities or substance use disorders and their families.

Mrs. Lindsey has most recently been asked to assist Central Michigan's Medical School plan for the establishment of a psychiatric residency program at the new Central Michigan University Medical School.

Mrs. Wardene Bonds Talley, Project Director of Saginaw MAX System of Care for the past 4 years.



**National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Incorporated,
Gamma Kappa Chapter Prayer Breakfast Guests.**
Photo Credit: The Michigan Banner



Jerome Buckley, Owner/Publisher, The Michigan Banner Newspaper, Wardene Talley, Community Award Recipient, Gil Johnson, Community Award Recipient, Sandra Lindsey, Community Award Recipient, Mitchell Nickleberry, Owner/Publisher, WORD UP Community Magazine
Photo Credit: The Michigan Banner

This is a 9 million dollar Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) funded grant initiative. The initiative was recently awarded an additional 4 million dollars to continue the phenomenal work that began 5 years ago.

Ms. Talley is committed to the growth and development of this community and the improvement of the life circumstance of children and youth with mental health and behavior challenges.

Mr. Robert Van Deventer, IOM, President/CEO Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce since August, 2003.

He has been a member of the Great Lakes Bay Regional (GLBR) business community since 1974 and worked in all three communities in the region (Bay, Midland, Saginaw) prior to his position as President/CEO of the Saginaw County Chamber.

He has served as a community volunteer and as a committee and/or board member for many non-profit organizations throughout the region.

The Michigan Banner

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9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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Mission:

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

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Deadlines:

2 weeks before each publication date of the 1st and 16th of each month

Submission Procedure:

Mailed or e-mailed

Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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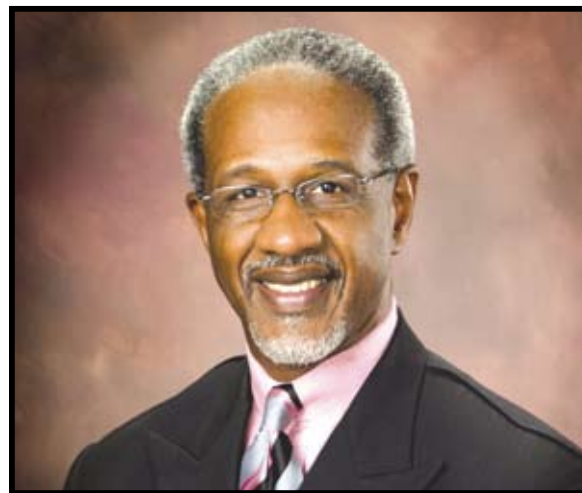
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Reaching the Goal to Serve the Community



Rev. Dr. Marvin Timothy Smith

Saginaw - When Dr. Marvin T. Smith, pastor of Mt. Olive Institutional Missionary Baptist Church in Saginaw, challenged his congregation to “leave the building,” he was continuing the church’s history of serving the community.

In 1932, a small group of people organized a club known as the Busy Bees. It was out of this group that Mt. Olive Baptist Church was formed in 1933 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur M. Gills.

As the congregation grew and more space was needed, the church, located at 1114 N. Sixth in Saginaw, was built in 1941.

Fire completely destroyed the building in 1944 and it was re-built at the same location. Since then, the church has undergone a number of physical changes in order to meet a growing congregation and community needs.

Today, the 20,700 square foot facility houses a barrier free annex, the J. P. Wilson Fellowship Hall, on the ground level; an enlarged nave, updated technology for streamed coverage of services, two kitchens, a variety of classrooms, and recently added additional parking space.

Mrs. Sharon Floyd, whose father, the late J.P. Wilson pastored the church from 1958 to 1990, remembered Mt. Olive as key to the spiritual and social fabric of the Saginaw community.

“Many of the social clubs and institutions of that day, like the NAACP, used the facility, because it was different,” she said. “The church was the central focus of many families.”

She recalled, for example, being part of

church-sponsored oratorical contests that took her and other youth to national competitions.

“Church was something that everybody could belong to,” she said.

Mt. Olive must continue to practice biblical giving in every sense of the word, Smith argues.

That means giving through evangelism, fellowship, worship, ministry and discipleship.

“The goal is for every household, flock and ministry to participate throughout the year in making a positive difference in a life outside the walls of Mt. Olive,” he said.

Mt. Olive community projects include volunteering at Saginaw’s East Side Soup Kitchen, ministering to residents at the nearby Restoration Recovery facility, providing Thanksgiving dinner to homeless shelter residents, and participating in local CROP and breast cancer walks.

The church also provides caps and gloves to Jessie Rouse Elementary School students, donates goods to the military, and supports the Saginaw Covenant Hospital’s Neo Natal Unit. And in a more recent development, Smith now delivers a live prayer message to the public on Thursdays at 6:30 a.m.

In addition:

- Mt. Olive has seen its congregation grow to nearly 1,600 and ministries double since Smith and his family joined the church in 1998.

- The church now has two Sunday morning worship services.

- Attendance to two mid-day bible studies – one on Tuesdays at noon and the other on Wednesday evenings has increased.

- Support staff has grown from two to fourteen.

- Four different praise teams now perform at the church and in the community.

- The church has opened its doors to more programs and activities – especially for youth.

“The community does not exist for the church,” Smith said. “The church exists for the community. We should not keep our gifts to ourselves.”

Mt. Olive has been blessed to serve the community, and it will continue to do so in as many ways as God calls upon it to do, said Smith.

“As always, we must remember: ‘To whom much is given, much is required.’ As the needs of the community surface, we have a responsibility to address and/or alleviate those needs. We are required to obey God more.”

In This Issue

Community	Page 2
The Latino Banner	LB 1 - LB 4
Business	Page 9
Health	Page 19
Praise Connections	Page 27

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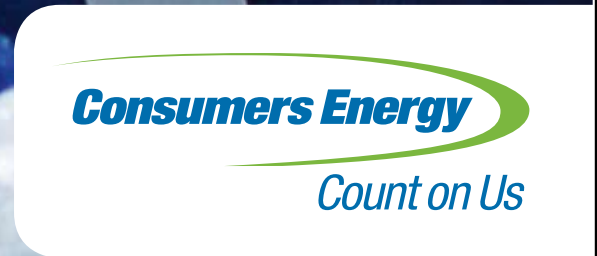
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6	\$63,940
7	\$72,060
8	\$80,180

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THE LATINO BANNER

Líder en la diversidad

Vamos Adelante

Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute Celebrates Graduating Class of 2015

University Center, MI - The sixth annual Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute graduation ceremony recently took place at Saginaw Valley State University, 7400 Bay.

Matt Felan, CEO of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance, was the keynote speaker.

The institute was established in 2009, and is a nonprofit organization that provides a forum for Hispanics to develop leadership skills, network and collaborate with individuals from all walks of life, with the specific goal of developing and fostering future community leaders.

The program was built upon César Chávez' famous observation: "We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and

prosperity for our community. Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."

"This year's Leadership class is a talented, energetic and diverse group of individuals who will continue to make a positive impact on this community for years to come," said GLBHLI Director, Monica B. Reyes.

Participants in the institute, called ambassadors, met once a month, focusing on themes that would advance ethical, diverse and collaborative leadership, and were required to complete 40 hours of community service with a United Way-affiliated organization. In the end, several went beyond these requirements.

In addition, the ambassadors participated in leadership development sessions with some of the region's most influential leaders.

The 2015 graduates are Tony Olgine, Kelly Miceli, Sabrina Costilla, Catalina Soto, Tony Garcia, Aiden Carrillo, James Hernandez, Salina Urivez, Veronica Strudgeon, Michele Reynolds, Marina Jimenez, Alyssa Hesse, Michelle Luna, Melinda Moreno, Sonia Severin, Karli Mayer, Raquel LeDesma, and Steven Serrano.

For more information concerning the GLBHLI program, contact Monica B. Reyes at mbreyes@svsu.edu.



Bishop Joseph Cistone



Left-Right: Jerome Buckley, Publisher, The Michigan Banner/The Latino Banner, Adam Gonzalez, GLBHLI Daniel G. Soza Jr. Alumni Leadership Award Recipient, Donald Bachand, President, Saginaw Valley State University. Photo Carmen Stricker



GLBHLI Director Monica Reyes, GLBHLI Alumni Elvis Machul
GLBHLI Founders Board Jimmy Greene



Daniel Soza Jr. family presenting the first "Daniel Soza Leadership Alumni Award"
Photos: Louie Garcia of MWTR.com

Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute Graduation...



GLBHLI Founders Board Member, Dana Tell of Team One Credit Union,
GLBHLI Board Member, Louie Garcia of MWTR.com



Keynote speaker; Matt Felan, CEO/President Great Lakes
Bay Regional Alliance

Photos: Louie Garcia of MWTR.com



GLBHLI Board Member Rosa Morales

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We encourage readers to send letters, story ideas, comments and questions.

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Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute Graduation...



GLBHLI Board Member Gilbert Guevara, Senator Ken Horn, GLBHLI Board Member Bobby Deleon.



Daniel Soza III, and "Daniel Soza Jr. Leadership Alumni Award recipient," GLBHLI Alumni, Adam Gonzalez.



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Photos: Louie Garcia of MWTR.com

Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute Graduation!



Graduates; Left back row: Tony Olgine, Kelly Miceli, Sabrina Costilla, Catalina Soto, Tony Garcia, Aiden Carrillo, James Hernandez, Salina Urivez, Left front row: Veronica Strudgeon, Michele Reynolds, Marina Jimenez, Alyssa Hesse, Michelle Luna, Melinda Moreno, Sonia Severin, Karli Mayer, Missing: Raquel LeDesma, Steven Serrano.



Frank Medel of MidwestTejanoRadio.com with Veronica Strudgeon, recipient of the Guadalupe Gomez Leadership Award.



GLBHLI Board Member Leona Flores

Intersection of Business & Wealth

The Upcoming Vote That May Change Your Internet Life



By Lynette Holloway

WA - Net neutrality. Open Internet. Broadband service providers. These are all buzz words that have been bandied about in the media in recent months in the widening debate about the changing Internet and how to make it available to all Americans, including communities of color.

There is good reason for the chatter. It comes ahead of a U.S. Federal Communications Commission vote on Feb. 26 on rules designed to treat all website traffic equally and prevent Internet Service Providers from blocking traffic for competitive reasons or prioritizing traffic from those who pay more.

Where President Obama stands on the issue: Ahead of the vote, President Obama has forwarded an "Open Internet" plan based on the idea that "We cannot allow Internet service providers (ISPs) to restrict the best access or to pick winners and losers in the online marketplace for services and ideas."

Toward that end, he has called on the FCC "to reclassify consumer broadband service under Title II of the Telecommunications Act" minus some "rate regulation and other provisions less relevant to broadband services."

A strong proponent of net neutrality since his first presidential campaign, he is urging the FCC to adopt a measure that also follows four steps, according to the White House:

No blocking: If a consumer requests access to a website or service, and the content is legal, providers should not be allowed to block it.

No throttling: Providers should not be able to intentionally slow down some content or speed up others — through a process often called "throttling"—based on the type of service or provider preferences.

Increased transparency: The connection between consumers and service providers — the so-called "last mile" — is not the only place some sites might get special treatment. So, he's

asking the FCC to apply net neutrality rules to points of interconnection between the provider and the rest of the Internet.

No paid prioritization: Simply put: No service should be stuck in a "slow lane" because it does not pay a fee. That kind of gatekeeping would undermine the level playing field essential to the Internet's growth, the White House says.

Critics and supporters of the White House plan: The president's plan has met with general opposition from congressional Republicans. They are proposing their own legislative version of the Open Internet which would rely on existing antitrust law and avoid reclassifying broadband as, essentially, a public utility.

Others opposing that approach include some civil rights groups who, focused on closing the digital racial divide, argue that the FCC should instead use Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which requires the agency to ensure that broadband service is available to "all Americans."

The National Urban League is circulating a petition in support of that approach (which has been running in advertisements on NewsOne).

However, other civil rights groups, such as ColorOfChange.org, argue that if the FCC doesn't regulate the Internet like a public utility "wealthy corporations will dominate the Internet by paying to prioritize their content online, and the voices of everyday folks could be drowned out or rendered practically invisible."

Why the FCC is voting on this issue now: All of this is coming to a head now because nearly a year ago, a federal court struck down two rules from an order the FCC adopted in 2010, known as the Open Internet Order.

The rules barred broadband providers from blocking legal content, applications and services, and prohibited non-mobile broadband providers from unreasonably discriminating against legal Internet traffic.

The commission argues that it wants to ensure that broadband providers do not give certain Internet traffic or businesses preferred treatment in ways that harm consumers or the economy.

As a result, FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler has hashed out a new set of rules that he says will protect consumers and the economy while following the legal guidelines mapped out by the court.

To that end, officials have been conducting a series of hearings to seek public input on the changes. So far feedback on the rules has generated nearly 4 million public comments.

Exactly how the new rules will look is unclear, but U.S. News notes that Wheeler hinted during a recent talk that the final version of the proposed rules would include enforcement like the commission uses in the telecom industry.

What all of the terms being bandied about mean:

The DailyDot provides a list of terms you need to know ahead of the vote:

Net neutrality: When all data are treated equally in transit across a network such as the Internet. Under these circumstances, network administrators cannot block or hinder certain content or application.

Open Internet: Another term commonly used for net neutrality.

Internet service providers (ISPs): Companies that control the "last mile" of the network, or the actual wires and other infrastructure responsible for bringing the Internet to people's homes, businesses, and mobile devices.

Broadband providers: Another term for high-speed ISPs.

Communications Act of 1934: Federal law that established the FCC as the regulatory body for communications. The law includes several sets of rules that communications companies must follow, depending on how they are categorized.

Title II: If reclassified as companies that provide a Telecommunications Service, ISPs could be regulated by the FCC under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934, which includes more than 100 pages of "common carrier" rules the commission could enforce on the companies.

Section 706: Two-paragraph clause in the Telecommunications Act of 1996. If the FCC uses Section 706 as the legal authority in attempt to reestablish net neutrality, it would allow the commission to regulate ISPs in attempt to "promote competition in the local telecommunications market" and "remove barriers to infrastructure investment."

Telecommunications Act of 1996: The first major update to U.S. communication law since the Communications Act of 1934. The Telecommunications Act attempts to address the technologies that developed in the more than 60 years between laws. The law addressed the Internet, but does not address net neutrality.

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STARTING A BUSINESS: Free Business Start-up Seminar

Wednesday, February 18
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This seminar is designed for individuals who are considering self-employment, or are at the beginning stages of starting a business. Registration is encouraged, online at www.SBDCMichigan.org, or by phone at 989-686-9597.

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Prepare Yourself for the Tax Season



Vonda VanTil

By Vonda VanTil, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Grand Rapids - As you prepare to meet the April 15 deadline to file your taxes, here are some Social Security tax tips to help you.

If you changed your name due to marriage or divorce, or made another legal name change, make sure you change your name on your Social Security records and with your employer.

Changing your name on all of your records will avoid a "mismatch" with our records (which could delay your tax return) and improper recording of your earnings.

To learn more about your Social Security number and changing your name, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

You will need Social Security numbers for your children if you want to claim them as dependents on your tax return.

In most cases, parents request a Social Security number for their newborn child at the hospital when applying for a birth certificate.

If you didn't apply for a number for your child then, you can apply at your local Social Security office or by mail. Claiming your dependents will maximize your tax refund or minimize any amount you owe.

To learn more, read our online publication, Social Security Numbers For Children, available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

If you receive Social Security benefits, you need to pay federal taxes on some of your benefits if your total income, including Social Security and all of your other taxable income, is \$25,000 or more, and you file federal taxes as an individual.

Married couples filing joint returns need to pay federal taxes on income of \$32,000 or more.

To learn more about taxes and your Social Security benefits, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/taxes.htm.

Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp St NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov

Century 21 Signature Realty Grows Commercial Market Presence through Merger with Brandle Morford

Saginaw - CENTURY 21 Signature Realty recently announced a merger with Brandle Morford Associates located in Saginaw.

The company will continue to operate under the CENTURY 21 Signature Realty

name and specialize in Commercial property sales. CENTURY 21 Signature Realty will remain at 5580 State St. Ste. 4, Saginaw, MI 48603.

"As respected and innovated real estate brokerage companies in their own right, the

coming together of these companies means a heightened level of service for area buyers, sellers and owners," said Kenneth Kujawa, broker/owner of CENTURY 21 Signature Realty.

Know Your Numbers Financial Workshop

University Center, MI - The Michigan Small Business Development Center Great Lakes Bay Region is pleased to offer a free financial tools workshop at Delta College, Feb. 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Know Your Numbers is a state wide program, sponsored by Fifth Third Bank, designed to help the non-financial business owner/manager understand financial statements to achieve Fiscal Fitness, and improve the ability to access the capital businesses need for growth.

The five key topics include:

- Identifying problems using your balance sheet and income statement
- Providing ways to increase your company's cash flow
- Using breakeven analysis to improve decision-making

- Planning the working capital to support your growth

- How to keep your lender on your side
"Recently I attended a seminar called Know Your Numbers that was held by our local SBDC Great Lakes Bay Region.

In a word...Wow! I have been to numerous seminars that tell you what you should do to improve your business, but very rarely have I attended one that actually gave you the tools and told you how to go about it. This seminar is a must for all small business owners." Kathie Fuce-Hobohm - SPACE, Inc.

Pre-registration is required by calling 989-686-9597 or register online at www.SBDCMichigan.org (search topic is Finance and Accounting).

Reasonable arrangements for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance.

The Great Lakes Bay Region Small Business Development Center, SBDC, is located at Delta College. This federally funded and locally supported program serves Arenac, Bay, Midland and Saginaw counties.

Certified consultants work with individuals to assess and assist in the planning and implementation of small business activities through free counseling, training and research services.



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Binational Meet the Buyer Event Seeks Buyers, Sellers, & Quick Pitch Presenters

Port Huron - The first Binational Meet the Buyer event will be held Wednesday, April 22 at the DoubleTree Hilton in Port Huron, Michigan, from 10:30 AM -3:30PM.

This event provides a unique opportunity for buyers in Ontario and Michigan to diversify their supply base, discover new products, and initiate cross-border contacts.

Sellers are invited to pitch products or services face-to-face with decision makers and learn about trade resources that can help businesses grow through exporting goods and services.

Export Development Canada and the U.S.

Export Assistance Center staff will be available to provide export counseling assistance.

The event will begin with a one-hour registration and opportunities for networking.

Suppliers and buyers can meet face-to-face and develop valuable new business contacts.

Buyers are invited to meet potential new suppliers located along Hwy. 402 in southwest Ontario and the I-69 International Trade Corridor in Michigan connected by the Blue Water Bridge.

In a Quick-Pitch session, up to eight companies will have five minutes each to pitch their products, services, or company related to these topics:

- Business Products/Services
 - Technology Use/Advancements
 - Advancement of Ecology/Sustainability Practices
 - Strategic Endeavors Related to Community/Economic development
- To apply for the Quick Pitch, visit www.meetthebuyer.weebly.com
- The fee for sellers is \$15 per attendee. There's no fee for buyers, and a short-list of their purchasing needs is requested in advance of the event. Both buyers and sellers can register at www.meetthebuyer.weebly.com

Karen L. Lawrence-Webster, CPA

Her Story is our History

Submitted by The Michigan Banner Staff

Saginaw- African American history is about much more than chronicling a series of firsts.” This African American observance recognizes Karen Lynn Lawrence-Webster as not only being the first in her field of endeavor here in Saginaw, it also highlights her history of advocacy.

Karen was born in Saginaw, Michigan to Pauline Surlis Lawrence and the late David G. Lawrence, Sr. She is the youngest sister to Shirley Lawrence-Avery, Glendorah Surlis Lawrence and David G. Lawrence, Jr. She has been married to Michael Webster for 22 years and they have two sons, Micah Lawrence Webster and Daniel Aaron Webster.

As a child, Karen wanted to follow in the footsteps of her family members. She wanted to advocate for workers like her father did as the bargaining chair for UAW Local 455; help students achieve like her mom did as a pre-K teacher; have the sewing talents of her sister Shirley; the speed typing talents of her sister Glendorah; and taking it to the basketball hoop

like her brother David, Jr.

Obtaining her Certified Public Accountants (CPA) license was truly a footstep that her cousin Sheila Lawrence Terry planted for her to follow. But her cherished hero was her uncle, James Lawrence, who never passed up a good debate.

Fast forward to 1994, Karen not only did something her family had never done, she did something no one in Saginaw could claim. She was hired as the first African-American treasurer and finance director for the City of Saginaw.

This history is worth noting because since that historical achievement, Karen has achieved many other firsts by living her motto of “always willing to help.”

In 2009, she became the first African American District Manager for the Saginaw Office of AXA Advisors, LLC, an international financial services company that has over 150 years of history.

She is the first black female to hold a CPA license and a broker dealer license (Series 7 licensed).

SEE P 28, Her Story...



Karen L. Lawrence-Webster, CPA





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*Loans currently financed with Wanigas Credit Union are not eligible for this offer. Offer cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer Valid on Mortgage amounts greater than \$50,000. Excludes Home Equity and Non-conventional Mortgages. Offer Expires March 31, 2015.



MEDC Pure Michigan Business Connect Webinar!

MEDC will present a partner briefing webinar on February 18, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

The featured speaker will be Jacob Schroeder, Director, Pure Michigan Business Connect.

Jacob will provide an overview of Pure Michigan Business Connect (PMBC), a multi-billion dollar public/private initiative developed by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) that connects buyers to suppliers of Michigan goods and services.

Access information for all sessions:

From your computer: www.connectmeeting.att.com

Meeting number: 8888582144

Access code: 8149385

Log in as a “participant”

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Education

SVSU Names Jim Dwyer Executive Director of Alumni Relations

University Center, MI - Saginaw Valley State University has appointed Jim Dwyer to the newly created position of executive director of alumni relations.

“As we seek to advance SVSU’s reputation and draw upon those relationships that can help us recruit bright students, our alumni must be engaged with the university and serving as our ambassadors to a much greater extent and in innovative ways,” said SVSU President Donald Bachand.

“For thousands of our graduates, Jim was their first point of contact here. His ability to relate to people and his extraordinary enthusiasm for SVSU – the same traits that made him so effective recruiting students – will serve him well in this new assignment, one that is critical to our long-term success.”

In his new role, Dwyer will report directly to Bachand. Dwyer had been serving most recently as associate provost for enrollment management.

He also previously served as director of international programs and a remarkable 22 years as director of admissions. Dwyer completed bachelor’s and master’s degrees at SVSU.

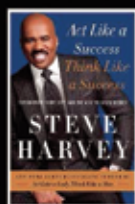
“After 35 years in enrollment management, I am eager for this new challenge,” Dwyer said. “I can’t wait to get started. I know so many alumni who are so supportive of SVSU. My job now is to get them more engaged in terms of returning to campus, connecting with our current students, helping us recruit new students, and simply showing their Red Pride.”

Dwyer is expected to officially begin his new duties sometime in February.



James Dwyer

Public Libraries of Saginaw celebrate African-American History Month



A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture

Thursday, February 19 ♦ 6:00 p.m.
Hoyt Library ♦ 505 Janes

Local panelists will engage the audience as they discuss New York Times bestselling author, Steve Harvey’s book entitled; *“Act Like a Success, Think Like a Success: Discovering your Gift and the Way to Life’s Riches.”* Topics under discussion will include; embracing your gift, maximizing your gift, creating your legacy, and more.

LOCAL PANELISTS

Jimmy E. Greene • Kevin N. Gregory
Dr. Pamela Pugh Smith • Mary C. Currie



PANEL MODERATOR
Desmon Daniel, Ph.D.

Certificates of Achievement:

Gil Johnson, President, Saginaw Valley Ford Lincoln and SVAALTI (Saginaw Valley African-American Leadership Training Institute)

Special Tributes: Carl Williams and Stacey Erwin Oakes, Esquire

Copies of the book are available for check out.

Women of Colors Presents

Teaching Kids to Sew
5-Week Sewing Project

Date: Tuesday, March 3 – March 31, 2015

Location: SVRC Industries/Learn to Earn Academy

1000 Tuscola Street

Time: 6 PM – 7:30 PM

Free for ages 6-18

Supplies included

Space is limited

For more information, please call 989.737.9286



EST. 1993





Sabrina Beeman-Jackson
Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early
Head Start Program Director

About Saginaw ISD HS/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 of your questions and make every effort to ensure you are 100% satisfied.

"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 Head Start
Claytor Administrative Building
3200 Perkins Street * Saginaw MI 48601
989.752.2193 * 989.921.7146 Fax

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
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: Closed

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org

NHSA Annual Head Start Conference

HEAD START | 1965-2015



NHSA's Annual Head Start Conference and Expo is the largest national event devoted to the Head Start and Early Head Start community. This year more than 5,000 executive directors, directors, administrators, managers, teachers, policy council members, and parents from every state will gather in Washington, D.C. March 29 - April 2, 2015. Visit www.nhsa.org for conference details and registration.

FAMU Awarded \$6 Million in Grants from the U.S. Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Agency

Fla. – Recently, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) President Elmira Mangum, Ph.D., announced that the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Agency (NNSA) has awarded the University two grants totaling \$6 million over three years.

The grants will support the Consortium on Materials and Energy Studies (CMES) and Consortium for Research on the Science and Engineering of Signatures (ROSES).

The principal investigators for the grants are FAMU Associate Vice President for Research Charles A. Weatherford, Ph.D., and Assistant Dean of the College of Science and Technology Lewis E. Johnson, Ph.D., respectively.

As the lead university on both grants, FAMU will provide leadership for the Consortia’s research efforts, including the investigation, characterization, and improvement of novel energy materials science and engineering.

In addition to the faculty and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) majors participating in the Consortia, FAMU will provide leadership to 13 participating historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and four Department of Energy laboratories.

These laboratories include: the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and the Y-12 National Security Complex.

The Consortia will also serve to provide solutions to the improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that have emerged in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations throughout the world, as an unanticipated and deadly threat to U.S. and Allied military forces.

“Although these weapons are typically not technologically advanced, they have become one of the greatest threats to our peaceful forces, both military and civilian. Moreover, the potential biological, chemical or radiological threats that may occur against a military or civilian population are an eminent concern to our nation,” Johnson said.

Johnson explained that the grants will support research that will address these national security issues and is a partnership of academic and national laboratories for developing and expanding the pipeline of individuals trained in radiological, elemental, and isotopic analysis of the signatures that denote energetic materials, nuclear materials, and biochemical toxins and pathogens.

According to Weatherford, other research goals include: facilitating the fabrication of novel materials for energy applications, studying alternative confinement schemes for nuclear fusion, and exploring the dynamics of high-temperature plasmas and their interactions with antimatter and laser fields.

The Consortia will utilize a multi-disciplinary approach to achieving the primary research focus of coupling fields to matter.

President Mangum underscored the significance of the grants and research objectives.

“Congratulations to our research team for this remarkable achievement,” Mangum said. “Their work, coupled with the work of our students, fellow HBCUs, and laboratories, will provide invaluable insight and solutions that will not only further our research mission, but will also help support our nation’s security programs. This is another example of FAMU’s resilient impact on the national research community.”



President Elmira Mangum

Dow Chemical Donates iPads to Daycare for Special Needs Children

Midland - The Dow Chemical Company has always been an active supporter in the community, and their recent support came in the form of iPads that no longer met business specifications for use at A Place for Grace, a day care facility for children with special needs located at 4790 Gratiot Road, in Saginaw.

Jenny Dumont, Founder and CEO of A Place for Grace Child Care, was thrilled to receive the iPads “This donation was such an amazing gift to receive. The kids here really

love being able to spend time working the iPads on apps that engage their senses.

Each child is unique in what their capabilities are, so we load apps that strengthen those areas, build confidence and give them a feeling of self-satisfaction that can foster other self-developments,” says Ms. Dumont.

The iPads were pre-loaded by Dow with many apps designed for autistic and cognitively impaired children.

The iPads were delivered in early December and according to Ms. Dumont the kids are

really loving them. She states, “It is easy to work with the kids when they have something to touch and respond to them, they don’t even realize they are working on skills when they are just having fun. It is a win-win for the kids and the caregivers! We are so appreciative and grateful to Dow’s support of our facility.”

Contact Jenny Dumont to inquire how you can help the community of special needs children. Visit www.aplaceforgracechildcare.org or call (989) 607-1741 to register your child.

Health

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1-866-MIBLOOD

Letter to Editor:

Michigan Blood's Marrow Program would like to thank the community for supporting recent bone marrow registry drives for Derrick Nash, a Central Michigan University student athlete from Saginaw battling acute lymphoblastic leukemia. The response from Saginaw and CMU was overwhelming. More than 500 people joined the registry in honor of Derrick's fight. We are encouraged that Derrick is preparing for a transplant designated for the end of February.

Michigan Blood is now asking the community to step forward in another way - by helping to diversify the blood supply in honor of Derrick. During cancer treatment, Derrick has received numerous lifesaving blood transfusions. For patients in need of regular blood transfusions, the best match may come from a donor of the same ethnic background. It is vital that the blood supply reflect the diversity of the community. For African-Americans in particular, less than two percent donate blood.

Michigan Blood is hosting the **Do It For Derrick Diversity Blood Drive** Saturday, February 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the YMCA of Saginaw. Michigan Blood will donate \$10 to the Derrick Nash Fund for every person who attempts to donate. Any healthy person 17 or older (or 16 with parental consent) who weighs at least 110 pounds may be eligible to give blood every 56 days. Individuals can schedule appointments by visiting www.miblood.org or calling 1-866-MIBLOOD.

Tamar Chipp
Community Relations, Michigan Blood



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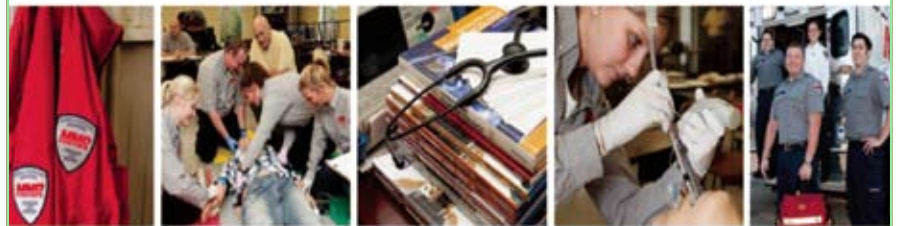


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Emergency Medical Technician Course Coming January 2015



Course Fee: \$840.00 plus books
More details and registration available at
www.mobilemedical.org



Do it for Derrick Diversity Drive

Give Blood

Saturday, February 21

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

YMCA of Saginaw

1915 Fordney – In the Small Gym

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED

1-866-MIBLOOD (642-5663)

or online at miblood.org



Help save patients like Derrick and Michigan Blood will donate \$10 to the Derrick Nash Fund for every person who attempts to donate.

A student athlete at CMU, Derrick has received numerous lifesaving blood transfusions during his battle with leukemia. The need for blood donors from diverse backgrounds is vital. The best match for patients in need of regular blood transfusions may come from a donor of the same ethnic background.

FOR APPOINTMENT: miblood.org or 1-866-MIBLOOD (642-5663)

1400 W. Genesee Saginaw, Michigan (989) 753-3475 www.themichiganbanner.com



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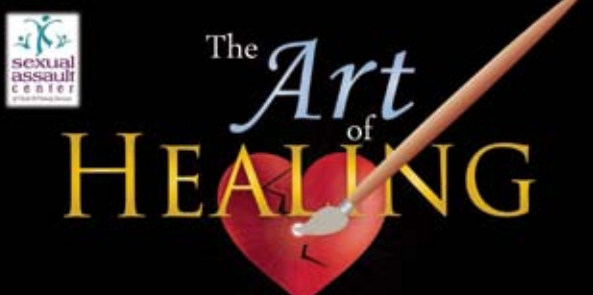
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The Art of HEALING

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Have you experienced a trauma in your life related to sexual assault? Have you wanted an outlet or a way to express your experience to the world and where it can even be done anonymously? The Art of Healing is all about helping people cope and have an outlet to express their experience and help raise awareness in the month of April. We want artists of any level to submit artwork that captures their journey or opposition of sexual assault.

Who Can Submit Art?

- Survivors
- Family Members of Survivors
- Friends of Survivors
- People who oppose Sexual Assault

(Artwork can be submitted anonymously)

What Forms of Art?

- Paintings
- Drawings
- Photography
- Writings
- Textiles
- Sculptures
- Anything you can create!

For more information on how to get involved, or if you want to submit art, stop in to Child and Family Services:
2806 Davenport Ave, Saginaw, MI 48602

Questions?
Contact Chris Sowatsky at Child and Family Services with any questions!
Email: csowatsky@cfi-saginaw.org

Care About Your Indoor Air

G.A. - No level of secondhand smoke (SHS) exposure is safe. SHS exposure occurs when nonsmokers breathe in smoke exhaled by smokers or from burning tobacco products.

It kills more than 400 infants and 41,000 adult nonsmokers* every year. Exposure to SHS among US nonsmokers has declined, but progress has not been the same for everyone.

SHS exposure is more common among children ages 3 to 11 years, African Americans, people living below the poverty level, and those who rent housing.

State and city officials can help protect children and adult nonsmokers from SHS in the places they live, visit, and work by using proven methods to eliminate smoking in:

Indoor areas of all public places such as restaurants, bars, casinos, and other private worksites.

Multiunit housing such as apartments, condominiums, and government funded housing.

For additional information concerning secondhand smoke (SHS), visit <http://www.cdc.gov/>

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/>

Healthy Chili

By Mayo Clinic Staff
Serves 8

Ingredients

1 pound extra-lean ground beef
1/2 cup chopped onion
2 large tomatoes (or 2 cups canned, unsalted tomatoes)
4 cups canned kidney beans, rinsed and drained
1 cup chopped celery
1 teaspoon sugar
1 1/2 tablespoons chili powder or to taste
Water, as desired
2 tablespoons cornmeal
Jalapeno peppers, seeded and chopped, as desired

Directions

In a soup pot, add the ground beef and onion. Over medium heat sauté until the meat is browned and the onion is translucent. Drain well.

Add the tomatoes, kidney beans, celery, sugar and chili powder to the ground beef mixture. Cover and cook for 10 minutes, stirring frequently. Uncover and add water to desired consistency. Stir in cornmeal. Cook for at least 10 minutes more to allow the flavors to blend.

Ladle into warmed bowls and garnish with jalapeno peppers, if desired. Serve immediately.



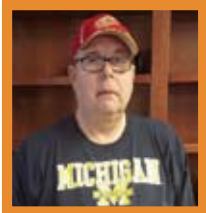
Nutritional analysis per serving

Total fat 8 g
Calories 254
Protein 20 g
Cholesterol 40 mg
Total carbohydrate 27 g
Dietary fiber 10 g
Monounsaturated fat 3 g
Saturated fat 3 g
Sodium 348 mg

<http://www.mayoclinic.org/>



What is your advice for staying active and mentally healthy during these cold winter months?



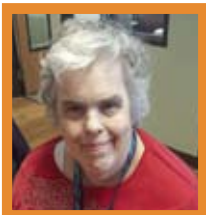
"My advice is to exercise when you can and eat healthy. I like to go to Center Courts and walk around the track personally."

Mike Schuster, Saginaw Resident



"My best advice is to try to exercise and hang out with friends. Join a gym, take a yoga class, stay moving."

Katherine Vedrode, Saginaw Resident



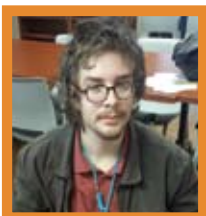
"My advice is to find somewhere you can get some exercise, and go out and spend time with friends. Do what you have to do to stay positive."

Laura Haskin, Saginaw Resident



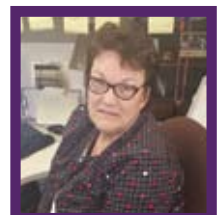
"My advice is to stay physically healthy and that will keep you mentally healthy. I enjoy eating salads, veggies, going to the gym, and walking."

Bessie Sidney, Saginaw Resident



"My advice is to do things that make you happy and keep you positive. Personally I like to play video games, get exercise, and I participate in a line dancing class."

Kirk McClure, Saginaw Resident



"As a nurse, I think it's important for people to stay hydrated during the dry winter months, and keep physically active as much as possible."

Pamella Weisenberger, Registered Nurse

Saginaw MAX At-A-Glance



Saginaw MAX System of Care is a partnership of all of the youth and family-serving agencies that can provide the necessary care to youth with complex emotional and behavioral issues (sometimes referred to as Serious Emotional Disturbance or SED). It was designed to provide a tightly coordinated structure of care and eliminate gaps in service delivery.

221 YOUTH ENROLLED

To date, 221 youth and families have been enrolled into Saginaw MAX System of Care since the initiative began accepting referrals in 2011.

Better School Performance 75%

Seventy five percent of youth and families reported a maintained or improved school performance after twelve months of System of Care support.

23% Decreased Bullying

After twelve months of System of Care support, 23% of youth and families reported a decrease of bullying or threatening behaviors.

Decrease in "Acting Out Behaviors" 25%

Following twelve months of support from System of Care, 24% of youth and families reported a decrease in "acting out behaviors" such as difficulties with relationships and rule breaking as well as displays of irritability and belligerence.

CORE PRINCIPLES

- All planning and service delivery is family-driven and youth-guided.
- Agencies and programs are equally able to serve all people who need service, regardless of racial, ethnic, language or cultural differences.
- Public and private agencies are all working together for the benefit of the youth and his or her family.
- All care is designed for the individual, and evidence and scientific based - meaning its application is rooted in solid research and is based on proven results.

TARGET POPULATIONS

Saginaw MAX is designed to help young people with complex emotional and behavioral challenges and their families. You may be eligible for participation if you or your child:

- is six to 17 years of age
- has emotional or behavioral issues that interfere with or limit the child's role or functioning in the family, school or community activities
- is receiving mental health services and one or more of the following:
 - special education
 - juvenile justice
 - child protective services (voluntary or involuntary)

WHAT IS SED?

Mental illness in youth, or as you may hear it called, Serious Emotional Disturbance, is a diagnosable mental, behavioral or emotional disorder affecting someone under the age of 18. It must:

- exist or have existed within the past year
- exist or have existed long enough to meet the American Psychiatric Association's diagnostic criteria
- have resulted in functional impairment that interferes with or limits the child's role or functioning in family, school or community activities

Black History Month

Who inspires you?

Stacy Erwin Oakes - Inspiring Many to Follow their Dreams

Submitted by The Michigan Banner Staff

Saginaw – When future generations read the history of Michigan, the name of Stacy Erwin Oakes will be recognized as not only the first woman, but the first black woman to serve the area in the Michigan Legislature.

Oakes, the daughter of Maggie Erwin and the late James Erwin, is the youngest girl of six sisters and six brothers. A lifelong Saginaw resident and a Saginaw product of the Saginaw Public School District, she attended Houghton Elementary, Arthur Eddy Junior High, and Saginaw High School where she graduated from in 1991.

After graduation, she continued her education earning a degree from Detroit College of Law at Michigan State University, as well as, a teaching certificate.

Oakes worked within the Saginaw Public School system at Central Middle and Saginaw High Schools as a teacher while coaching girls' basketball.

Ultimately, she would work several jobs before serving as state representative, including a corrections officer at Saginaw Correctional Facility, a policy

analyst in Lansing, and assistant attorney general for the Michigan Attorney General's office.

Oakes is also a real estate developer and owns Erwin Properties LLC., a senior estates development in Buena Vista Township.

During her time in office, there were several accomplishments, including House Bill 4186 sponsored by Oakes before leaving office. House Bill 4186 is now Public Act 463, signed by Gov. Snyder in January 2015.

Public Act 463 expands the current rules for expunging a criminal record from people under the age of 21 to all offenders.

The new law allows people with one felony conviction and two misdemeanor charges to petition to clear their records five years after the individual completes his or her sentence.

Oakes and her husband, attorney Michael Oakes, have two children, Michael II, and Kingston. They worship at New Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Saginaw.



Stacy Erwin Oakes

Making the Call

By Glendorah Lawrence

Saginaw - Christina Jones is a lifelong resident of Saginaw, Michigan. She recently celebrated her 80th birthday! However, Christina does not let age define her.

On any given day, you can find her volunteering in the community, enjoying her past-time of bowling, getting her hands dirty in her flower gardens and driving around her community to see what improvements can be made.

When she comes across an issue, she makes the call to the appropriate officials to make it right. She encourages all residents to get involved and when you see something that can make the City better, MAKE THE CALL.

Christina is one of the founders of the Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Task Force, Inc., and its first president.

She has served on many boards and committees including Habitat for Humanity; Vision 20/20 Wrap Around Committee for Mental Health; Neighborhood Renewal Services board member; Saginaw Human Service Collaborative Body; planning committee member for "My Place" Member Family-to-Family Initiative for Dept. of Human Services; MSU Extension Program council member; and Leadership Saginaw Alumni Association.

In addition to her involvement with other organizations, she has received the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, "Woman of the Year Award",

many letters of Commendation; the Dorothy Richardson National Award for Community Service, and the Annual Christina Jones Community Service Award.

A dedicated community supporter, Christina's involvement highlights include:

- 1992 playground equipment acquisition project
- 1994 Community Cleanup Project
- 1994 Michigan State Housing Development

Authority (MSHDA) Grant – Secured an MSHDA grant for the purpose of remodeling a home in the community

- 1998 The Dow Chemical Grant – Received a grant for community beautification

- 2001 Community Builders Program – Used the funds to complete a community project. Bricks were sold to patrons and the theme of the project was "Rebuilding Our Community One Brick At A Time"

- 2012 NAACP Outstanding Leadership in Community Engagement

She was married to the late Fredrick Jones for 60 years and the mother of six children: Patricia Qualls, Frederick, Denise, Charles, Angenella and Stephanie Jones. She is the grandmother to 16 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and 1 great, great-grandchild.

Jones is a member of Bethel AME Church, Pastor P. David Saunders, in Saginaw.



Christina Jones

Remembering the Passionate Entrepreneur

Flint - M.D. Day, a leader and innovator in the hair care community throughout Michigan and across the nation died recently in Flint, MI.

With over forty successful years in the hair care supply market, his business expanded from his very first location as Day's Beauty and Barber Supply (on the corner of Mary and Wood Street) to the many following locations of Day's Hair Care Center throughout Michigan, Georgia, and Mississippi.

He was the first African American to lease a beauty and barber supply store at the Fort Saginaw Mall, and his hair care line was sought after by many.

Even though he only had a second grade education, Day was a leader within his family and his community. His passion and determination will be remembered by multiple generations.



M. D. Day
June 12, 1932 - January 24, 2015

Civil Rights History 2015

Black civil rights protesters credited with reinvigorating the 1960s U.S. sit-in movement were absolved by a South Carolina court recently of the convictions lodged against them 54 years ago after they dared to sit at a segregated lunch counter.

The men, known as the 'Friendship Nine' knew they would be arrested when they took seats at the popular McCrory's five-and-dime store lunch counter in Rock Hill on Jan. 31, 1961.

"We cannot rewrite history, but we can

right history," said Judge John C. Hayes III, a nephew of the judge who presided over the men's trials.

A Community Leader Continues to Influence the Great Lakes Bay Region

Saginaw - Roosevelt Ruffin was born in Saginaw in 1938. In 1957, he toured North Africa, Germany, Italy, and Spain as an entertainer.

He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Michigan State University and completed his Ph.D. in Spanish at the University of Michigan. Dr. Ruffin taught Spanish and American History at Walter French Junior High School in Lansing.

In Saginaw, he served as principal of North Middle School, Assistant Principal of Arthur Eddy Junior High School, and was a Professor at Wayne State University. Dr. Ruffin served as a visiting professor at SVSU in 1988-89, and returned in 1991 as the Director of Multicultural Programs and Affirmative Action.

Active in his community, Dr. Ruffin was a Saginaw City Councilman, a member of the Tri-City (now MBS) Airport Commission, and was appointed by then-Governor Blanchard to the Agricultural Labor Commission.

He served on the Board of Directors for the Education Employees Credit Union of Saginaw, the advisory boards for the Saginaw YMCA and for St. Mary's Hospital, and the allocation

committee of the United Way. He was a member of Rotary International and the Michigan Council for the Humanities.

Dr. Ruffin enjoyed music and acting, and performed locally with Pit & Balcony Theatre in a production of Driving Miss Daisy in 1991.

A health center was dedicated in his honor, the Roosevelt Ruffin Health Center, at the corner of Gallagher and Washington in Saginaw.

Dr. Ruffin passed away in 1994, at the age of 56, after a battle with cancer.

The Dr. Roosevelt Ruffin Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund was established by Dr. Ruffin's family, friends, and colleagues in 1996, and is intended to assist students from Saginaw pursuing degrees at SVSU.

To be eligible, new or returning students must be enrolled full-time, be residents of Saginaw County, demonstrate financial need (FAFSA), scholastic performance, community involvement, character, leadership potential, and an interest in the humanities.

Preference may be given to graduates of Saginaw High School or the City of Saginaw Adult GED program. This scholarship is managed

and awarded by the SVSU Foundation.

The award is \$1,200 and the deadline to apply is April 1, 2015.

To apply for the scholarship visit:
<https://svsu.academicworks.com>.

Source: <http://www.svsu.edu/>



Dr. Roosevelt Ruffin

Praise Connections & Life

Living the Passion to Serve Together



Julian and Ericka Taylor

Saginaw - A lifelong resident of Saginaw, Coach Julian Taylor, is familiar with the neighborhoods that his players live in. Taylor has also as a youth experienced some of the daily situations they are now facing.

“My role as coach gives me the opportunity to be a mentor and teach my players how to be positive, family oriented men,” said Coach Taylor. “I know what it’s like to grow up without a father and the struggle that goes along with it, but I also know that you can be successful despite what you’re going through.”

With a passion to serve God, his family, that includes his wife, Ericka, and their four children, and the community, Taylor has remained in the community where he grew up, and is now enjoying his role as Varsity Boys Basketball Coach at Saginaw High School where he was a graduate of the class of 1991.

“I’m still here in Saginaw because of my family, but mainly because I feel God wants us here,” Taylor explained. “We’ve thought about leaving, but He hasn’t given us that direction at this time. “I am grateful to be able to help others and give back to the same community that gave me so much to help me become the man I am today.”

After graduating from Saginaw High School, he would not immediately attend college, but worked at several jobs, and left the area to attend Wiley College in Marshall, Texas. When he returned home, he attended Saginaw Valley State University where he played basketball and graduated with a degree in Criminal Justice.

In addition to his role as coach, Taylor is also employed at Nexteer Automotive.

“Your situation and/or past experience does not have to define whether or not



Julian

you’re successful,” said Taylor. “Trust God, live for Him and he will take care of the rest!”

A graduate of Buena Vista High School in 1991 and Michigan State University, Ericka graduated with a Bachelor degree in Education with minors in Math and Psychology.

She eventually returned to school and graduated with a Masters degree in Education Leadership from Saginaw Valley State University, and is presently a doctoral candidate at Western Michigan University working on her dissertation.

Taylor has worked in the Saginaw Public School district since August of 1996 and is also an adjunct professor in the College of Education at SVSU.

SEE P 28, Passion...



Jaiyah

FROM P 27, Passion...

"I started my career as a teacher and I am currently the principal of Loomis Math, Science and Technology Academy," said Taylor. "I look at my job as an assignment from God. "I'm here to make a difference in the lives of my children and give them



Jaxsen

the best academic experience possible."

Julian and Ericka married the first time in 1999 and had their oldest son, Julian. However, two years later, their marriage ended in divorce.

"Through that divorce, we both grew stronger in God and eventually developed a true friendship," said the couple.

"Our marriage is truly based on God and our love for each other strengthens each and every day. It is truly the foundation for raising our children. We take the team approach to everything and we support each other 100 percent."

The Taylors were divorced for 8 years, but their faith in God and each other continued to grow, and they remarried in 2009. They are now the committed parents of four children, Julian, 15, Jaiyah, 9, Jaymond, 4, and Jaxsen, 1.

"Not only are we grateful for our marriage

and everything we've endured. But, we also know that we serve as an example to others who may be going through, or have gone through the same situation," said the Taylors. "At one point, we thought reconciliation was impossible, however, God can and will do the impossible if you trust and believe in him!"



Jaymond

FROM P 14, Her Story...

As a professional, she is now in a position to help many people, young and old achieve their financial goals as a financial consultant for AXA Advisors. She is living her dream of helping others.

Karen pledged Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Delta Beta Chapter (Eastern Michigan University) in 1984 and is a Diamond Life Member.

As the social action chair for the Saginaw Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Karen has led the charge for several community forums to empower the public and encourage "Calls to Action".

Some of the town hall meetings that she has led are: 'Remembering Trayvon Martin'; 'Youth Empowerment Summit'; 'Before and After Milton Hall' and in 2015 she will lead an effort regarding 'Teacher Efficacy - Teachers Believing = Students Achieving'.

She serves as the treasurer of the Center for Civil Justice, assistant treasurer for the Saginaw African Cultural Festival, trustee for Delta College since 1998, and Sunday School Teacher at New Covenant Christian Center.

Karen is a Junior Achievement volunteer and chooses to share this financial educational program with the students at Saginaw High School. Her work should continue to serve as an example

and encouragement to the youth of this community. Karen is a leader of her generation.

One very unique and selfless thing Karen did for her 50th birthday party in 2014 was to ask her guests, in lieu of presents to please consider gifting to the following organizations: City of Saginaw Public School's Saginaw Promise, Delta Sigma Theta's Scholarship Fund and New Covenant's Kids Camp for at-risk youth. Over \$5,000 was generated to allow youth of Saginaw to further their education and experience life skills with the summer camp.

Karen's story is Saginaw's history, future and its legacy!

"Morning Manna with Pastor K"

*Inspirational messages posted every morning at 6:00AM on Facebook.

Like my page on Facebook and receive daily alerts when Fresh Manna is posted: www.Facebook.com/Morning Manna with Pastor K



Pastor Kareem J. Bowen



The Potter's Touch Ministries

All are Welcome to Easter Preparation Services

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
 Pastor Connie Sassanella
 915 Federal Avenue
 Saginaw, MI 48604
 989.754.0489



February 18, 2015 (Ash Wednesday) Worship 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.
 February 25, 2015 Wednesday Worship 7 p.m.
 March 4, 11, 18, 25, 2015 Wednesdays Worship 7 p.m.
 April 2, 2015 (Maundy Thursday) Worship 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.
 April 3, 2015 (Good Friday) Worship 12 pm & 7 pm
 April 5, 2015 (Easter) Worship 9:30 am

FAITH BASED DIRECTORY

Saginaw

Bethel AME Church
Pastor P. David Saunders
535 Cathay St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
(989) 755-7011

Bread of Life Harvest Center
Senior Pastor Rodney J. McTaggart
3726 Fortune Blvd.
Saginaw, MI 48603
(989) 790-7933

Christ Disciples Baptist Church
Founder Pastor Eddie Benson
Pastor Genevieve Benson
3317 Lapeer Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
(989) 754-2444

Christ Fellowship MBC
Pastor Robert Davis
818 N. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
(989) 754-4435

Corinthian Baptist Church
Pastor Roy L. Manning
104 S. 10th St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
(989) 754-1820

Faith Harvest Church
Bishop Ronald E. Chipp
Faith Harvest Church
1734 N. Mason
Saginaw, MI 48602
(989) 799-4200
Website: www.faithharvestministry.org
E-mail: office@faithharvestministry.org

Grace Chapel Church
Pastor James Nelson
2202 Janes Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989.755.3212

Greater Williams Temple
Bishop H.J. Williams
608 Remington
Saginaw, MI 48601
(989) 755-5291

Jacob's Ladder
Pastor Dempsey Allen
1926 Fairfield Street
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-799-6601

Life In Christ Ministries
Pastor Dennis Cotton, Sr.
2915 S. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-752-2837
LifeInChristMinistries07@gmail.com

Messiah Missionary Baptist Church
2615 Williamson Road
Saginaw, MI 48601
Pastor Otis Washington
Phone: 989-777-2636
Fax: 989-777-2640
Email: Messiahmbc@att.net
Website: www.Messiahsag.org

Mt. Olive Baptist Church
Pastor Marvin T. Smith
1114 N. 6th Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
(989) 752-8064

New Beginnings Life Changing
Ministries
Pastor Otis Dickens
2312 S. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
(989) 755-3650

New Birth Missionary Baptist
Pastor Larry D. Camel
1418 S. Warren
Saginaw, MI 48601
(989) 755-6604

New Covenant Christian Center
Pastor Ron Frierson
523 Hayden
Saginaw, MI
752-8485

New Life Baptist Church
Pastor Rufus Bradley
1401 Janes St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
(989) 753-1151

New Mt Calvary Baptist Church
Pastor Robert E. Donald
3610 Russell St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989.754.0801

Ninth Street Community Church
Pastor William L. Scott, Jr.
Assistant Pastor Rex Jones
1118 N. 9th Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-752-7366

Prince of Peace Baptist Church
825 North 24th Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989.754.2841
Pastor Robert B. Corley, Jr.

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
Pastor Connie Sassanella
915 Federal Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607
Phone: 989-754-0489
Worship: 9:30 AM
stjohnlutheranelcasaginaw.weebly.com

St. Paul Baptist
Pastor Vincent D. McMillon
120 N. 15th St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
(989) 752-5023

Saginaw Valley Community
Pastor Richard Sayad
3660 Hermansau
Saginaw, MI 48603
(989) 752-4769

St. Lukes CME Church
1121 Tuscola
Saginaw, MI 48607
(989) 755-0351

The Potters Touch Ministries
Pastor Kareem J. Bowen
1402 North 6th Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989.755.9406
[Facebook.com/The Potters Touch](https://www.facebook.com/ThePottersTouch)

Transforming Life Ministries
Pastor William Brown
3024 South Washington Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48601-4353
(989) 754-9573

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

Victorious Believers Ministries Church
Rev. Christopher V. Pryor
624 S. Outer Dr.
Saginaw, MI
(989) 755-7692

Wolverine Baptist State Convention
615 S. Jefferson Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48607

World Outreach Campus of
Greater Coleman Temple Ministries
Supt. H.J. Coleman Jr.
2405 Bay Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48602
(989) 752-7957

Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor Rodrick Smith
721 Johnson
Saginaw, MI 48607
(989) 754-9621



Obituaries and Memorials

To Celebrate a Life

Call 989.753.3475, or email themichiganbanner@gmail.com

The “Carnegie Hall or Bust” Fundraiser

Part 1

By Mel and Pearl Shaw
Saad & Shaw Comprehensive Fund
Development Services



Mel and Pearl Shaw

We were recently caught off guard when Dr. Todd Robinson, a FUNdraising Good Times! reader, shared with us that he raised over \$75,000 using information from this column.

We had to learn more so we could share his story with you and inspire you to achieve your fundraising goals. We asked Robinson a few questions and with this two-part series we share his story with you.

But first, a little background. Dr. Robinson is the son of Earnestine Rodgers Robinson, the renowned, barrier-breaking, classical composer.

She has created her third oratorio “Exodus” which will have its world premiere at Carnegie Hall in New York City on February 16. An oratorio is a large-scale musical work for orchestra and voices, usually based on scripture such as Handel’s Messiah.

The Exodus premiere will include 200 choir members from across the country. And so the fundraising question arose: how will the choir members afford the travel and accommodations that accompany this great honor?

“This started out as a “one-time” project. We needed to raise funds to underwrite the costs of bringing together a 200-member adult and children chorus from around the country for a performance at Carnegie Hall,” said Dr. Robinson.

The members of the choir were recruited from schools, churches and community choirs. Since the recruitment was primarily “grassroots” in nature (and not an established symphonic choir), all those participating would be responsible for covering all of their costs without the benefit of corporate sponsorship.

This meant that everyone would pay a required fee to the Carnegie Hall production company, plus airline travel and the expensive cost of living charges of Manhattan (taxis, food, hotel, etc.). Of course, there were other costs outside of the chorus that we needed to cover.”

“Being ‘grassroots’ in nature, we knew that many choir members were dealing with modest budgets,” Robinson continued. “As a result, the dream of performing on the famed stage would be out of reach for most, especially the children.

However, we wanted a multi-cultural choir with members with diverse, varied backgrounds. Therefore, it was our mission

that we wanted to make this incredible opportunity a reality for every person who wanted to participate no matter their financial standing.”

The Robinson’s made a pledge to raise the \$140,000 to \$170,000 needed to make the dream a reality. This became both their mission and their challenge. And then Robinson recalled a FUNdraising Good Times! column that included a discussion of fundraising and creativity.

Next week: More about Dr. Robinson and how he raised \$75,000 plus without starting a nonprofit.

For more information about the life and work of Earnestine Rodgers Robinson, visit www.earnestinerobinson.com

Mel and Pearl Shaw position nonprofits, colleges and universities for fundraising success. For help with your fundraising, visit www.saadandshaw.com or call (901) 522-8727.

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Earnestine Rodgers Robinson, Classical Composer

How to Become a Homeowner



Saginaw - Habitat for Humanity offers a homeownership opportunity to families unable to obtain conventional house financing – generally those whose income is 30 to 60 percent of the area's median income.

Families are selected based on:

- Level of need
- Willingness to perform 'sweat equity hours'
- Ability to pay the no-profit loan

In most cases, prospective Habitat families make a down payment and contribute 250 to 400 hours of 'sweat equity' on the construction of their home. Mortgage payments are kept affordable because of the donated of materials and volunteer labor.

What is sweat equity?

Sweat equity is an exciting cornerstone to the Habitat ministry designed to meet three important goals:

- Partnership – Sweat equity provides meaningful interaction between partner families, affiliate representatives and Habitat volunteers

- Pride in homeownership – Investing in sweat equity hours in their own homes helps families in the construction phase begin the transition to homeownership.

- Development of skills and knowledge – On the building site, partner family members gain a real understanding of the construction of their home and of the maintenance issues they will face in occupancy.

Habitat for Humanity follows a non-discriminatory policy of family selection.

Application requirements:

Applicants for a Habitat home must satisfy certain requirements in order to qualify for a Habitat home through their local Habitat affiliate. One of the requirements is that the applicant meets income and credit requirements. These limits are used to qualify families using the median income for that county.

To see if you meet the HUD income requirements in your county, please visit: <http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/il.html>

The application process usually takes three to six months. The sweat equity requirements generally takes three to six months. From the date of orientation to the time of house closing, the entire process generally takes about a year.

How to Apply for a Habitat for Humanity House:

If your family, or a family you know, is in need of decent, affordable housing, please contact Saginaw Habitat for Humanity, or call the Habitat for Humanity affiliate closest to you. Their contact information may be found at:

<http://www.habitatmichigan.org/affiliates>

The Habitat affiliate will explain the application process and provide information on the availability, size and cost of Habitat homes in your area.

Habitat for Humanity follows a non-discriminatory policy of family selection. Neither race nor religion is a factor in choosing partner families.

Source: <http://www.sshfh.org/>

NON PROFIT DIRECTORY

A. Philip Randolph Institute
P.O. Box 1107
Saginaw, MI 48606

American Red Cross
1232 N. Michigan
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-754-8181

CAN Council Saginaw County
1311 N. Michigan Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48602
(989) 752-7226 / fax (989) 752-2777
www.cancouncil.org

Circle of Love
1809 Durand Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-754-2377

Emmaus House of Saginaw
733 S. 15th Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-755-7538

THE EZEKIEL PROJECT
ezekielprojectnow@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 3470
Saginaw, MI 48605-3470
Phone: 989-755-1620
Fax: 989-755-4038

First Ward Community Center
1410 N. 12th Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-0411

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan
5470 Davis Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48604
989-799-9565

Good Neighbors Mission
1318 Cherry Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-399-9918

Health Delivery, Inc.
501 Lapeer Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-759-6400

Houghton-Jones Task Force
1708 Johnson Street
Saginaw, MI
989-752-1660

Lighthouse Outreach Center
808 Janes Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-928-9096

Mobile Medical Response
834 S. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989.758.2900

Michigan Banner Outreach
1400 W. Genesee
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-714-2240

Pit and Balcony Theatre
805 N. Hamilton
Saginaw, MI 48602
www.pitandbalconytheatre.com
989-754-6587
pitandbalconytheatre@yahoo.com

Public Libraries of Saginaw
Butman-Fish, Hoyt,
Wickes & Zauel Libraries
505 Janes Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-755-0904
www.saginawlibrary.org

Restoration Community Outreach
1205 Norman
Saginaw, MI 48601
(989) 753-1886 / fax (989) 753-2880
Email: rcosag@yahoo.com

Saginaw County Business
& Education Partnership
1213 South Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989.399.0016

Saginaw County Community Action
Agency, Inc. (CAC)
2824 Perkins Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-7741

SVRC Industries, Inc.
919 Veterans Memorial Parkway
Saginaw MI, 48601
Telephone: 989-752-6176

The Saginaw Community Foundation
1 Tuscola, Suite 100
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-755-0545

Women of Colors
P.O. Box 5525
Saginaw, MI 48603
989-399-9275 or 989-737-9286

OPEN TABLE[®]

FROM POVERTY TO COMMUNITY.[™]

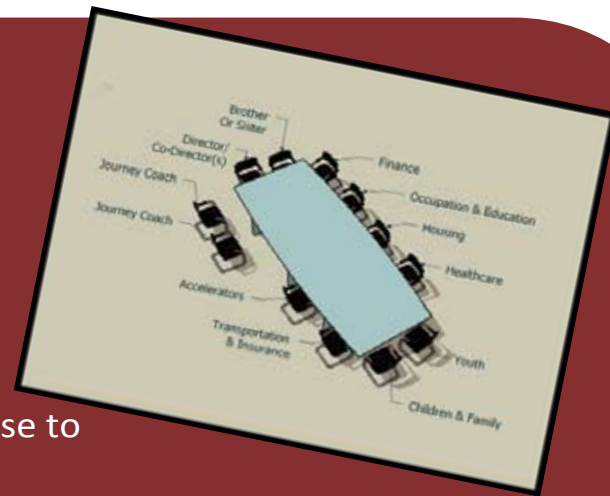
As a Pastor, have you ever wished that there was some way that you and your congregation could wrap your arms around a person to help them achieve the journey from the pit of poverty to the pinnacle of independence?

Do you have a longing to work with like-minded people in an effort that will unify the church community toward missional ministries?

Would you be willing, or interested, in being one of the Pastors in our community that took a chance on a missional assignment that could positively affect your church and your community, one life at a time?

If this is you, **Open Table** is a place for you!

Open Table is an organization which has proven to be effective in helping many to climb out of poverty and to find wholeness and community. Open Table trains congregations and their members, through the Open Table Model, to form communities - called Tables – that transform their vocational and life experiences into tools our Brothers and Sisters in poverty can use to develop and implement plans that create change.



Saginaw MAX System of Care and Open Table are now partnering together to bring this model to Saginaw with the support and coordination of Pastor Hurley Coleman of World Outreach Campus Church. Leaders from Open Table will be in Saginaw February to 16th through the 22nd to kick off this initiative in our community. Please contact Pastor Coleman at (989) 525-3670 if you are interested in learning more or would like to become involved in the Open Table initiative in Saginaw County.

“Every great undertaking needs a leader that can communicate a big idea in perceivable tasks. Our community will need a voice of compassion to attract others with compassion. That is what Jon Katov, the founder of Open Table, did for me and what I hope to do for others.” – Pastor Hurley Coleman

“Saginaw MAX System of Care is proud to be partnering with the faith community to now bring Open Table to our county. This is an incredible opportunity for the churches of Saginaw to come alongside of many and help them move from poverty to wholeness and into community with others.” - Pastor Terry Kuhns

For more information on Open Table’s mission, vision, and the Open Table movement across the nation, visit www.theopentable.org.





1901 Court Street • Saginaw, MI 48602
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Ahmad Ervin

Barber:
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\$75 • Ages 5 & 6 • April 25 - June 6

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Celebrating Saginaw's Cultures-Building Unity through Diversity

Saginaw - The Saginaw Arts & Enrichment Commission presents the Celebrating Saginaw's Cultures: Building Unity through Diversity Student Art Exhibit award winners, as part of Art @ the Andersen.

The exhibit will run through March 6, 2015 at the Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust Drive, Saginaw and will be open for viewing from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Award winners were selected from the multi-cultural art exhibition of more than 125 pieces showcasing the talent of Saginaw Public

School students, grades 6 – 12, who worked on creating a piece of artwork for the exhibit and competition over a multi-week period.

For more information call the Saginaw Arts & Enrichment Commission at 989.759.1363.

Award Winners:

Antonio Vargas, Thompson Middle School: Best of Middle School

Alaina Curry, SASA Middle School: Best of Middle School – SASA

Delilah Mora, Arthur Hill High School: Best of High School

Bella Dean, SASA High School: Best of High School - SASA

Sierra Vargas-Deberry, Thompson Middle School: Japanese Cultural Center and Tea House Community Award

Santiago Tillman, Arthur Hill: Mi Gente Community Award

Rowan Meddaugh, SASA Middle School: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Community Award

Drew Eaddy, SASA High School: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Community Award

Rachel Veihl, SASA Middle School: Saginaw Arts and Enrichment Commission Community Award

Jamie Cook, SASA High School: Saginaw Arts and Enrichment Commission Community Award

Other works on display by:

J'Diamond Lee, Thompson Middle School

Joseph Bertrand, Thompson Middle School

Angie Xu, SASA Middle School

Lizzy Collins, SASA Middle School

Emma Derdowski, SASA Middle School

Essence Jeffries, Arthur Hill High School

Brayden Andreasen, SASA High School



Drew Eaddy, SASA High School: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Community Award



Emma Derdowski, SASA Middle School

Oh, Freedom!



A Musical Journey Through African American History

starring

Grammy Award-Winner Patti Austin
& 75 of Detroit's Finest Voices

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2015 at 7 PM
Detroit Opera House

1526 Broadway Street, Detroit, MI 48226

Pit and Balcony Theatre Announces Auditions for the Musical Next to Normal

Saginaw – Auditions for the musical Next to Normal will be Tuesday, February 24, at 6 p.m. and Wednesday, February 25, at 5 p.m. at Pit and Balcony Theatre, 805 N. Hamilton, Saginaw. The director is Laura Brigham from MCFTA.

Parts Available:

4 men to play ages 17-45

2 women to play ages 16-20 and 35-45

Be prepared with 32 measures from a musical theatre song and bring sheet music in the correct key. An accompanist will be provided. For further information visit www.pitandbalcony.com

Next to Normal is a contemporary musical that explores how one suburban household copes with crisis.



Sundays @ 6:00am

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Stay Involved



with host
Joyce Harvin

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●●●●●	\$25,000/Year for Life ¹³
●●●●●+	\$5,000 ⁹
●●●●●	\$200
●●●●●+	\$150
●●●●●	\$20
●●●●●+	\$25
●●●●●	\$3
●●●●●+	\$6
●●●●●	\$4

Overall odds of winning: 1 : 8

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TOP PRIZE

\$1,000

A DAY FOR LIFE!

SECOND PRIZE

\$25,000

A YEAR FOR LIFE!



**Drawings Monday
& Thursday**



¹²If two or more persons win the Top Prize, the prize is shared equally among winning persons.
¹³\$1,000/Day for Life and \$25,000/Year for Life winners will receive their prize payments for lifetime or 20 years, whichever is greater, unless within 60 days from the date they claim their prize, they request the cash option method of payment.
⁹2nd and 3rd level prizes may be reduced if there are multiple winners in accordance with the game rules.
Odds of winning: \$3: 1 in 15; \$4: 1 in 33; \$6: 1 in 50; \$20: 1 in 201; \$25: 1 in 250; \$150: 1 in 3,414; \$200: 1 in 8,433; \$5,000: 1 in 143,356; \$25,000/Year for Life: 1 in 1,813,028; \$1,000/Day for Life: 1 in 30,821,472.
Overall odds: 1 in 8. If you bet more than you can afford to lose, you've got a problem. Call 1-800-270-7117 for confidential help.



i am *a runner* *and go-getter*

For Lauren Little, it's all about making connections. The rhetoric and professional writing major spends her summers volunteering and works during the school year giving tours as a Club Red ambassador and an Orientation Leader. "A student's mom came up to me years after she took a campus tour, and she wanted to say hi," Lauren said. "That's the kind of connection I want to make."

Lauren hopes to go on to pursue a master's degree in Chicago and eventually to run her own public relations firm. Waking every day at 5:30 a.m., Lauren organizes her life around running, but ask her, and she'll tell you that learning is the top priority. "Education is my all, and SVSU is truly home for me; it makes it that much easier for me to love what I do every day. I simply love everything it has to offer — the campus life and all the opportunities for growth."



Prospective or transfer students can check out SVSU by taking a campus tour and meeting with an admissions representative. Call (989) 964-4200 or email admissions@svsu.edu.

Visit us online at svsu.edu

