



# The Michigan Banner

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**PICS OF THE WEEK**  
Saginaw United Groudbreaking  
PG 50

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**COMMUNITY**



**LOCAL REACTIONS TO SUPREME COURT NOMINEE**

COMMUNITY, PG 19

## Saginaw Future Inc. celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Luncheon



QUENTIN L. MESSER

naw Future. These projects represent significant growth in manufacturing and service industries in communities throughout Saginaw County. In addition to the Economic Excellence Awards, SPACE Inc. was selected as the Saginaw Future Procurement Technical Assistance Center Contractor of the Year.

"Despite lingering COVID, supply chain shortages and sometimes endless Zoom calls, I think we can all say that 2021 was a year of challenges that brought us great opportunities," said 2020-2021 Saginaw Future Chairman Mark Thompson.

The Featured Speaker was Quentin L. Messer, Jr., CEO and President of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, who gave a vision for future economic growth for the entire State of Michigan..

"Saginaw Future works collaboratively with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and we were really excited to host CEO Quentin Messer," said Saginaw Future Inc. President JoAnn Crary. "I can't think of a better way to celebrate Saginaw than with an incredible message from Quentin and recognizing 38 projects and the government contractor of the year."



See page 2 for event photos...



**Home-build pupil aims to run her own company**

LATINO BANNER, COVER



**What's up with the new YDC? Check out their new house**

COMMUNITY, PG 17



**SVSU's chief diversity officer receives national award**

EDUCATION, PG 39



**MDHHS forms committees surrounding health disparities in Medicaid services**

HEALTH, PG 32

On March 25, Saginaw Future Inc. (SFI) celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Luncheon and another year of economic development in Saginaw County at Horizons Conference Center. The event was attended by more than 400 business and community leaders.

Saginaw Future honored 38 developments announced in 2021 valued at nearly \$278 million. More than 2,100 Jobs were created and retained through projects and small business grants administered by Sagi-

**FEATURED STORY**

## FUTURE OF FIRST WARD: 'GREEN ZONE' OR SMALL INDUSTRY?

COMMUNITY, PG 13



# Seen on the Scene: Saginaw Future's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Luncheon held on (March 25)



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**MISSION**

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

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

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THE MICHIGAN BANNER

20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY Celebration

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COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET

“IT’S A NEW DAY”

6.9.22

SAVE THE DATE!

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# MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 4 • NUMBER 7



COURTESY PHOTO

By **DONIQUA SOVIA**

Leaving is possible. Too many times we look at all the heartache and pain we're going to experience once we leave and it deters us from making the step we need to make. The risk of staying is more prone to death than the risk of leaving.

You are not a slave. You are not a punching bag. You are not stupid. You are not ugly. Yes, someone will want you. No, you are not crazy. Yes, you are worth so much more. No, you didn't deserve it. You

never deserved it.

I used to be in the same situation. I went through abuse for a year in a half. I was broken down to nothing, and my self esteem I once had soaring, was now dirt on the ground. I was thrown down steps, backhanded in the face, pulled around and thrown by my jacket, called names, thrown across the room, choked, and always was on edge for the next "episode" that would unfold. I lived in anxiety and fear.

Until one day I thought to myself; Is this worth it? It wasn't. If I stayed I was gonna die one way or another. I packed up

what I could and left. I wish I could say I never looked or went back....I did. It was worse than the last time. I then got out, and while I cried countless days and nights for what could've been and what I wanted to be, the truth was; It never was.

If you can take the risk of staying, then it's in you to take the risk of leaving. The more you return, the worse it gets, and one day there will be no escaping. I understand you love that person, but you MUST love yourself more, and if that's been hard for you, I assure you it's possible. The best decision, at times, is the hardest decision.



BROOKE OLESON

## Meet Brooke Oleson: FIRST Scholarship Recipient

An extracurricular experience in high school led to a scholarship and career preparation skills.

Brooke Oleson, an elementary education major from St. Joseph, Michigan, first heard about Saginaw Valley State University after her brother and father came to SVSU for the FIRST State Robotics Competition in 2018.

Brooke attended a Cardinal College Day and an admissions representative told her that FIRST scholarship opportunities were available, which sealed the deal. She received the 2019 FIRST Robotics Scholarship to attend SVSU and quickly became involved with a number of registered student organizations.

"I have been president and treasurer of an organization dedicated to female empowerment and multicultural education,

treasurer for the gender-inclusive service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, a tour guide for SVSU Admissions and one of the orientation coordinators for SVSU's Orientation Programs."

experiences showed her that it is important to rely on the people around you just as much as they rely on you.

"SVSU does a lot to make sure their students are growing professionally in a safe environment to fail and grow."

Brooke is using the skills she learned during her FIRST experience in her classroom fieldwork.

"Being able to communicate with people at various levels was essential with FIRST. Using fancy language to show off how much you knew didn't benefit anyone—just like in education. Being able to use language with my students that they will

understand is essential for them to learn."

"The skill of time management is something all FIRST Robotics students know. Only having six weeks to prepare for a competition is not a lot of time, but we made it work every year. Preparing lessons and making sure those lessons are the appropriate time length is vital for teaching. I don't get more time than my allotted class time, so time management is huge."

Brooke is excited to volunteer at the FIRST in Michigan state finals this year at SVSU.

She has started her classroom fieldwork and is excited to start student teaching. Oleson expects to graduate in May 2023.

"I love every second I am on campus and the opportunities that SVSU provides me. No matter where I go, I feel like I belong at SVSU."

**THE MICHIGAN BANNER NEWS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AT&T**



# Our commitment to help bridge the digital divide

At AT&T, we're dedicated to bringing connectivity to millions of unconnected Americans. To achieve this goal, AT&T is investing \$2 billion from 2021-2024 to help address the digital divide.

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# Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE



## Cinco De Mayo Parade returns to Saginaw

LB PG 4



AALIYAH VILLEGAS

## Home-build pupil aims to run her own company

By MIKE THOMPSON

**A**aliyah Villegas aims to build a career in construction management by helping to build the first home for Saginaw's Youth Development Corp., YDC.

Work near Burt and Fourteenth streets began in the dead of winter and is slated to conclude this spring. (See story on Page 17)

Villegas is in her fourth year work-

ing in quality control for Capital Granite in Bridgeport, a prime source for household renovation projects, especially kitchens and bathrooms. She is expanding her knowledge as the YDC home-build moves from basic carpentry to such tasks as installing cabinets and wiring and drywall.

CONTINUES ON LB PG 2,  
AALIYAH VILLEGAS

LATINO BANNER SPONSORED BY GREAT LAKES BAY HEALTH CENTERS & TEAM ONE CREDIT UNION



## Continued from LB Cover, Aaliyah Villegas

"My goal is to learn all of the trades," she says, "so that I can own my own company within the next three to five years, to renovate older houses and then rent them out."

She dismisses skeptics who insist abandoned urban-core properties are "too far gone" for rehab, but she acknowledges she will have to pick and choose any investments with care. She says a key lesson she already has learned is to look first at a home's foundation

Many of the 60 enrollees at YDC, ages 16 to 24, have dropped out of school, and some have gone through encounters with the police and law enforcement.

Aaliyah, 23, has endured neither. The

main challenge for the 2016 Carrollton High School graduate is that she is a mother to a pair of children, 8-year-old Tristan and 6-year-old Kaleb.

"They motivate me, and I'm doing this for them," she says. "I want them to know that they can do different things in life."

She completed her freshman year as a standout 5-foot-5 point guard for Carrollton's girls basketball team, a community with a strong tradition in the sport. Then came Tristan, but she returned to play during her junior year. After Kaleb was born, she could have quit for her senior year, but she became an assistant coach instead, a volunteer activity that she has continued.

"I love basketball and I have a pas-

sion, and this allows me to help to teach the younger girls," Aaliyah explains.

She is several years older than most of her student peers, regarded as a leader and a role model on the home-build crew, which is guided by licensed professionals.

Villegas was seeking work in a sales capacity when she applied at Capital Granite in 2018, but soon she found herself helping to measure and cut everything from countertops to cupboards. While at Carrollton High, she had not anticipated any sort of career in building trades. Now that she has taken the first step, she is aiming for the top.

"At the YDC, they give us second chances," Aaliyah asserts, "but we also have to put ourselves out there and make the effort."



### Mentors Needed in Lansing!

Seeking mentors (preferably male Spanish-speakers) for youth in refugee foster care.

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**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**6<sup>TH</sup> Annual Hispanic/Latino Statewide Graduation Ceremony**

Friday, April 22, 2022 6PM-8PM

Lansing Center

333 E Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48933

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

Registration Link: <https://forms.leo.state.mi.us/ogm/hlcom-college-graduation-submission/>

**Registration closes Friday, April 1, 2022**

**Parents, Community Members, Faculty and Staff must also register.**





La Unión Cívica Mexicana of Saginaw presents the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Cinco de Mayo Parade and Festival Saturday, May 7, 2022, at Huntington Event Park. This year's theme is "The Return of the Cinco de Mayo – In Memory/En Memoria" remembering all those we lost to this pandemic. Organizers expect over 100 entrants, making the Saginaw Cinco de Mayo Parade the largest Hispanic parade in the state of Michigan. The event commemorates the famous May 5, 1852 Battle at Puebla in Mexico in which a small army of Mexicans led by Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza defeated much larger French invading forces sent by Napoleon III, but also the positive contributions of local Hispanics in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

#### PARADE

The parade begins at 10:30 a.m. Its staging area is on Fordney Street across from Ojibway Island. The parade then heads over the Court Street Bridge and turns north on North Michigan Ave., then east onto Genesee ending at Saginaw Arts and Science Academy (SASA) back parking area. Restaurants, civic associations, youth groups, marching bands and low rider vehicles will participate.

#### FESTIVAL AT HUNTINGTON EVENT PARK

The festival at Ojibway runs from 12:00 p.m. to 5 p.m. The public is invited to sample tasty Mexican food from vendors and enjoy the live music and folkloric dancers. Activities for the children include an Inflatable Play Land area with six inflatables rides.

For event information and to signup to participate visit [www.saginawunioncivica.com/cinco-de-mayo.html](http://www.saginawunioncivica.com/cinco-de-mayo.html)



LATINO BANNER  
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*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

John 3:16



By PASTOR AUGUSTINE DELGADO  
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**Please note: As of March 19, 2022, Great Lakes Bay Health Centers COVID-19 drive-thru testing locations will be closed.**

You can find a COVID-19 testing site at [michigan.gov/coronavirus](http://michigan.gov/coronavirus), by calling the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136 - press 2 for help finding a test site or by contacting your local health department.

**COVID-19 Vaccine / Booster**

All Great Lakes Bay Health Centers primary care sites offer the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine or booster. No appointment necessary.

The Pfizer vaccine / booster is available for ages 5 years and older at:

- Roosevelt S. Ruffin, 229 Gallagher Rd, Saginaw, MI 48601
- Janes Street, 1522 Janes Ave, Saginaw, MI 48601
- Bayside, 3884 Monitor Rd. Bay City, MI 48706.

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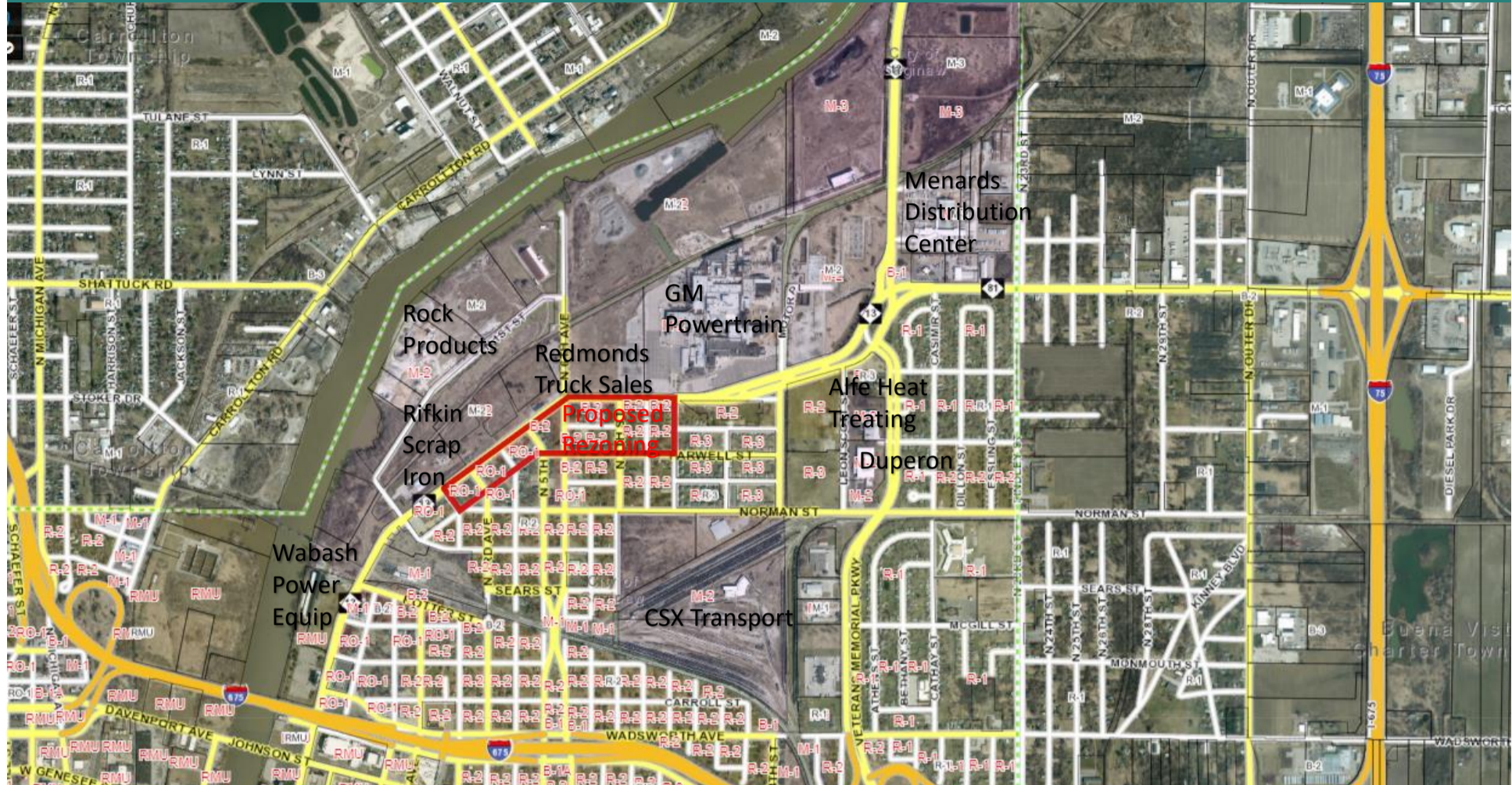
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# + COMMUNITY



MAP OF NORTH EAST SAGINAW

## Future of First Ward: 'Green Zone' or small industry?

By MIKE THOMPSON

A proposed Saginaw zoning change would allow small or "light" industrial manufacturers to locate on North Washington Avenue from Second Street (now named for Roosevelt Austin) up to Tenth Street, near First Ward Community Center.

An opponent is Margaret Culpepper, whose home is near Washington at the zone's border. She plans to attend a resident meeting that Pastor Kareem Bowen will host at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 1, at The Potter's Touch Ministries, 1402 North Sixth.

City officials, including Manager Tim Morales and Urban Planner Robert Gollin, have pledged that remaining homeowners and churches would not face pressures to

move, and that fences and hedges would buffer any new development from becoming an eyesore.

Nothing new is on the horizon, but all concerned are thinking about the future outlook.

"I still don't want something like that across the street," says Culpepper, a retired HealthSource Saginaw food service employee.

She paints a larger picture. Rifkin Scrap Metal has moved between the river and Washington, she notes, and the state has raised the speed limit to a highway-like 50 mph.

"We already have that junkyard right here nearby," she says, "and we can barely pull our cars out onto Washington (from the numbered side streets). Not even Bay Road is this bad. And now they want to

add manufacturing?"

Members of the City Planning Commission have recommended the change, which would extend basically from near the Potter Station railroad tracks to First Ward Center, all along a strip of blocks between Washington and Farwell. On a map, the new zone would be narrow, but the impact could reach all the way inward toward the railroad yard, along Norman, Kirk and Sears streets.

### From 'green' to 'industrial?'

The First Ward is home to countless memories and to several hundred neighbors, many elders, who remain.

**CONTINUES ON PG 14,  
SAGINAW ZONING**

**+ COMMUNITY****Continued from pg 13, Saginaw Zoning**

During calendar 2005, Marvin Hare was Saginaw County treasurer and he organized the Saginaw County Land Bank Authority, based on a model from current Congressman Dan Kildee, back when Kildee was treasurer of Genesee County. A prime goal has been to keep tax-reverted abandoned properties out of the hands of private speculators, to promote land uses for the public benefit.

"It's pretty decimated out there" in the First Ward, Hare said at the time in a Saginaw News interview. "We want to let it grow back into trees (as a potential urban industrial park)."

At that point, "Green Zone" became part of the planning vocabulary.

The only notable development initiative was a decade ago, when an ill-fated GlobalWatt solar cell venture on Norman Street near Fourteenth faded quickly, on land where Daniels Heights public housing had been razed. This leaves the question of whether any industry would choose to locate or relocate in the First Ward, and therefore whether the zoning will make any difference.

Following are a complete statement from Robert Gollin and his city planning staff, followed by the counter-petition that Bowen and Bulls are circulating:

**City Hall Perspective**

Gollin wrote: "The rezoning of the N. Washington/Farwell corridor to M-1, Light Industrial, is the best use of these properties for the following reasons:

" (1) The proximity and accessibility to I-75 to, as well as other light industrial development seen in BV Twp around I-75 and M-81 (E Washington) makes it an attractive area for this type of development.

" (2) The ability to assemble properties for smaller light industrial properties allows the City to attract new businesses to the area, creating jobs and tax base.

" (3) Any new development on these properties would require the Planning Commission and staff to review their

proposed site plans. Any portion of the site abutting residential areas requires some sort of screening such as a fence or dense vegetation.

" (4) Of the 133 parcels within the area being considered: 103 are vacant, 69 parcels are owned by the County Land Bank, 12 parcels have residences (8 owner-occupied, 4 rental), 3 parcels have churches, and 6 contain commercial businesses. Those uses would be able to continue as is. Any plan for expansion could be brought before the Board of Appeals on Zoning.

" (5) The Green Reserve Opportunity Area, described in the 2011 Master Plan, suggests few to no residences in the short term. It proposes that the area return to a 'natural state.' The Parks and Recreation plan adopted by City Council January 24, does not include this type of development.

" (6) The Light Industrial Warehouse (M-1) zoning district is described in the 2011 Master Plan as: "Intended to permit certain industries which are of a light manufacturing, warehousing, and wholesale character, and because of their relatively lower intensity of industrial activity, these uses can be integrated with nearby areas, such as commercial and residential."

" (7) The 2011 Master Plan calls for re-focus on the Urban Core of the City. Likewise, the River Corridor Master Plan calls for relocating incompatible type uses out of the riverfront and locate these in areas more suitable for this type of use. The proposed area to be rezoned, would represent areas that these types of use may be more suited."

**Protesters' Petition**

Bowen and Bulls say a preferred planning goal would seek to attract affordable housing. Their petition states:

"In Saginaw, we're dealing with a rezoning issue on M-13, the Washington corridor, specifically the north end of town. The area affected has been designated as

the 'Green Zone' for a number of years, which means that the residents couldn't get any loans to upgrade their property, couldn't acquire lots adjacent to expand, dwindling city services, so on & so forth. This caused the area to become desolate & unkept. Well, NOW the city wants to rezone it from green, skip over any R-1 or R-2 residential, and go to M-1 light industrial. Horribly problematic.

"A campaign has been waged by a community collective that includes The Ezekiel Project, Community Alliance for the People, First Ward, and Potters Touch Ministries to inform the community affected, which is largely unaware of what's happening, and to also demand that city council reconsider this action. This area has been historically underserved and polluted by multiple industries. More industrial activity would only further harm it. We ask that you sign this petition and spread the word in support of our community and encourage our city's elected officials to vote no to this action."

**A resident's view**

The First Ward now resembles a wooded campground of sorts, with houses and mowed adjacent lots scattered like cottages in an overgrown wilderness. The neighborhood has become quiet, with one of the city's lowest crime rates.

Margaret Culpepper says garbage pickup and street plowing have remained on schedule, in spite of the petition's claims. Several council members in the past had suggested stopping services as part of the "Green Zone" strategy, but they did not follow through.

Culpepper expresses mixed feelings regarding all the changes she has seen during the decades after she attended Potter School with her childhood siblings and friends, especially the transformation to more peaceful surroundings.

Does she still like her neighborhood?

"In a way, yes, and in a way, no," she explains, "but they shouldn't forget that there still are people living here."

+ COMMUNITY



# What's Miss Della cooking today?

By Dolores Grant-Fall, former Neighborhood House cook

They also are known as chickpeas. Garbanzos beans are heart healthy, filling and rich in protein, so why not create yet another kind of tacos?

## Garbanzo Bean Tacos

### Ingredients

- 1 regular can garbanzo beans
- 4 flour tortillas, warmed
- 1 tbsp. curry powder
- 1 tsp. cumin spice
- 1 tsp. sea salt
- 1 small onion chopped fine

- 1 stock green onion cut small
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. pepper flakes
- Celery, cilantro, parsley, rainbow peppers, lettuce and tomatoes



### Instructions

Heat the oil in a skillet. Add onion, garlic, curry powder, cumin, and green onions for only 10 seconds. Open and drain the garbanzo beans. Add to skillet for heating. Stir, add salt and pepper to taste. Place the bean mixture on tortillas. Add salad fillings and parsley. Roll and eat. If you enjoy cheese, you could put some on. It basically looks like a soft shell taco or burrito.

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+ COMMUNITY

MICHIGAN BANNER  
SERMONETTE SERIES

*They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.*

*Psalms 82:5*



By **PASTOR RODRICK A. SMITH**  
ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST  
CHURCH

Prior to the destruction of Sodom, Abraham asked the Lord, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" Just as the evil men of Sodom were struck with blindness before their judgment, the corrupt judges and rulers of the earth have been blinded by Satan, and the day and hour of their judgment is marked on the calendar of Almighty God. Injustice has a way of throwing the whole of society out of balance. It spreads like cancer and has the potential to affect every area and institution of civilization. This is why Dr. M. L. King said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Corrupt men who lack understanding and the knowledge of the Holy One are like termites eating away at every sound societal structure established by God. But as my late mother-in-law would say, "God isn't sleep, and He's not dead." The psalmist closes this song with, "Arise, O God, judge the earth!" We witness systemic injustices, and inequalities on a daily basis. The prevalence of evil and wickedness from the courtroom to the boardroom can cause one to become angry and discouraged. But there is a Judge who will right every wrong, in His own time and in His own way. Perform your civic duties and trust God.

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## + COMMUNITY

# What's up with the new YDC? Check out their new house

By MIKE THOMPSON

Leaders of Saginaw's second-year Youth Development Corp. are aiming to establish their own community imprint. Their initial big signal is a home being built near Burt and Fourteenth streets, with construction pros guiding voc-ed students in the project.

But to help residents understand what's happening with YDC, housed in a former downtown auto parts store across from the local Social Security office, some comparisons are in order.

First, the mission of serving residents who dropped out or fell short in traditional schools is similar to the former OIC, which dissolved two decades ago.

Second, the home-build is somewhat akin to the former Blitzes conducted by Saginaw Habitat for Humanity, which now is combined with Shiawassee with a transitioned focus on repairing houses and operating the ReStore with recycled household goods, appliances and furniture.



CONSTRUCTION MANAGER PAUL BOONE AND STUDENT AALIYAH VILLEGAS

If plans work out, Director Eric Eggleston and his volunteer board aim to eventually expand to as many as 14 new houses near

Fourteenth Street. A most modest short-term goal is for five.

Saginaw-based trade unions and Home Depot are teaming with 14 students (there's that number again) to wrap up the initial 1,250-square-foot home later this spring, with an application process for potential first-time buyers still in the works. Financing features include zero down and no closing costs, along with conversion of Section 8 rental vouchers for home-buyer assistance.

Modern amenities will include solar heating panels and charge outlets for electric vehicles.

## 'For real,' director pledges

"We're here and we're not playing. We are getting it done," says Eggleston, who



MODEL HOUSE DRAWING

prefers concise explanations of projects that are anything but simple.

He adds, "We're changing the whole community," referring to what many residents would consider to be the Pat and Mike's Pharmacy neighborhood, a few blocks east of the Janes Street Clinic (Academic Health Center) and the New Life Baptist Ministries' Mission in the City neighborhood revitalization effort.

In that spirit, plans call for forming a neighborhood association among the new homeowners.

Skyrocketing lumber prices are an increasing challenge, but YDC intends to press ahead.

Eggleston got the ball rolling during the past decade when he volunteered to assist U.S. Rep. Dale Kildee with a series of community forums. In the process, his research led to a Department of Labor startup grant for \$1.5 million. Next, state Rep. Amos O'Neal helped to attain an added \$500,000, which Gov. Gretchen Whitmer presented last fall.

Teamwork was reflected among the local leaders who welcomed Whitmer, including Kildee aide Jake Bennett, Mayor Brenda Moore, Police Chief Robert Ruth, Sheriff William Federspiel, City Councilman Reggie Williams and Saginaw Future's Delena Spates Allen (former city school board trustee), joined by the NAACP's Carl Williams (former councilman and state rep) and the Mexican American Council's Bobby Deleon, along with labor union leaders representing skilled trades.

City Councilman Michael Balls, now mayor pro-tem, often speaks of a need for mentors, such as his longtime role with Big Brothers/Big Sisters. He is a Youth Development board member. Another attendee was Gary Loster, Saginaw's turn-of-the-millennium mayor and now YDC's board chairman.

Loster formerly served on the OIC board,

and he explains a key difference.

"The OIC would train students in the skills to meet the job requirements, but the connections were not always in place," he says. "Here at YDC, we work directly with the employers and with the apprenticeship programs."

## Sixty so far



YDC FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR ERIC EGGLESTON

Eggleston again chooses few words to describe the hardships faced by many students. He simply states, "From when we started, two of our students have been murdered and four others have been shot." So far in Saginaw, even with those tragedies, 60 applicants have signed up.


A cornerstone is not simply the classes offered, but "wraparound" support services such as child care, counseling and transportation. Expungement of minor criminal records also is available. An added incentive is that enrollees receive \$11 an hour for their classroom time, with potential to gain up to 47 Delta College class credit hours, the equivalent of three full time semesters.

The former auto parts store on South Weadock is remodeled into sections for hands-on work experience. An "E" is a failing grade in school, but the five "E's" at Saginaw's YDC are equity, education, experience, employment and empowerment. Eggleston says, "We try to place them in a situation where they do not land in harm's way."

For information, visit Youth Development Corp.'s Facebook page or the website, ydcusa.com. The phone number is (989) 401-1166.

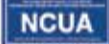
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## + COMMUNITY

# Local reactions to Supreme Court nominee

At The Michigan Banner, we endeavored to ask several Saginaw judges and attorneys for their viewpoints regarding the Hon. Ketanji Brown Jackson being nominated for the U.S. Supreme Court, with focus on the Senate hearings. Following are the pair of responses we received.



KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

## JULIE GAFKAY



Judge Brown Jackson endured more than 23 hours of questioning before the Senate Judiciary Committee. If confirmed, she will become the first African American woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as being the first former public defender. She is well-qualified and suited for the high Court. She currently sits as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. She is a graduate of Harvard Law School and was the editor of the Harvard Law Review.

During the Senate confirmation hearings, instead of her impressive background being explored, she was questioned by several senators about critical race theory. Republican Sen. Marsha Blackburn asked if Judge Brown Jackson's "hidden agenda" was to incorporate critical race theory into our legal system. Another day, Republican Sen. Ted Cruz raised the topic again and asked her if CRT was "an accurate way of viewing society and the world we live in?"

Judge Brown Jackson, while understandably shaken by the barrage of questions on race, handled the inquiries with grace, saying in response to Cruz: "Senator, my understanding is that critical race theory is – it is an academic theory that is about the ways in which race interacts with various institutions. It doesn't end up in my work as a judge. It's never something that I've studied or relied

on, and it wouldn't be something that I would rely on if I was on the Supreme Court."

While Judge Brown Jackson responded to the questions on critical race theory, she should never have been asked. Hopefully, this well-deserving jurist will be confirmed, as she should be.

## JANEY LAMAR



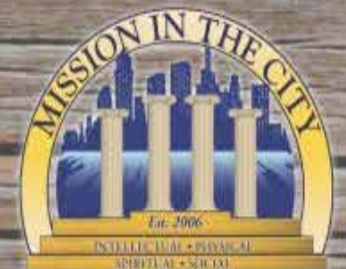
Judge Brown Jackson was a clerk for the Supreme Court, she was a public defender, she served on the sentencing commission, and she served as a District judge and Court of Appeals judge. Her career distinctions make her immensely qualified to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Judge Brown Jackson's confirmation hearing consisted of the questions the Senate thought appropriate to confirm her. There will always be an argument over what's fair and what's relevant during these hearings.

Regardless of the questions, she answered them thoughtfully and with a good temperament. I commend President Biden for this historical nomination.

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HOYT PUBLIC LIBRARY OF SAGINAW

## 'Twilight Zone' at Hoyt Library

By MIKE THOMPSON

Unless you were born before 1863, Saginaw's Hoyt Library contains at least one newspaper from the precise date that you entered the world.

No, not a newsprint copy. Microfilm.

The New York Times, back to 1863. The Saginaw Daily Enterprise, 1869 and forward.

A one-month spool is about the size of a donut. They are jam-packed in drawers behind the information desk, where devoted and friendly staffers will help you get set up on one of the reading machines.

Hoyt, Butman-Fish, Zauel, Wickes and Claytor in the Saginaw system -- along with libraries elsewhere -- offer numerous programs and services that are worth exploring so that we may in time select our favorites.

My own fave is the Hoyt-only old and historic newspapers. Microfilm is not high tech, with operation fundamentals that basically have been the same through the years, but microfilm might as well be New Age. For example, to look back at a Saginaw News and see an exact version from October 24, 1955, is quite remarkable.

### How to get started

Why pick 10/24/55? Well, this so happens to be my personal date of birth, and my first suggestion for enjoyment and enrichment is to get started where it all began.

You'll be drawn not only to the news stories but to the advertisements, which made newspapers highly profitable during the halcyon days.

On the same date that I was butt-naked hollering in the arms of Lillian Pettet Thompson, with Wally Thompson supportive at her bedside, here's what was recorded on the pages of that 26-page, seven-cent Monday edition:

- General Motors' worldwide employment had reached a peak of 631,958.
- Wickes Corp. had recalled 175 local workers.
- Even while the economy seemed to be humming, an editorial opined, "There is a need for the clergy to become better acquainted with the vocational needs of their flocks."
- An editorial cartoon lamented "rising newsprint costs," with a pair of executives slipping and sliding atop a humongous roll.
- A drunken pedestrian was injured when struck by a car on Johnson near North Washington, while a block away 2,200 folks packed the Saginaw Auditorium for a Boston Symphony Orchestra fall concert.
- A pair of drive-in theaters, the Bel-Air on Janes Road and the Twilite on State Street, were getting ready to close for the season.
- Catholic high schools played football on Sundays and results were reported the following

Monday, along with the fifth loss in a row for the Detroit Lions.

- The A & P at East Genesee and Cherry, one of more than a dozen local markets, advertised Eight O'Clock Coffee for 59 cents a pound and ground beef for 25 cents, along with Halloween "five-cent" candy bars at two dozen for 89 cents. A can of peas was a dime as was a loaf of bread.

### Old times in perspective

Keep in mind that a dime back then was equivalent to a dollar nowadays. That's why an "automatic electric" clothes dryer from the downtown Gately's shop, at \$229.95, actually was far more costly during the Eisenhower years. But have no fear, payment plans started at \$2.50 per week.

This was 1955, of course. News specifically from the Black and Latino communities was virtually nonexistent, and the clothing store display-ad sketches of men and women models were entirely Caucasian. A lone sign of ethnic equality on 10/24/55 was that the obituary for Nelson Porterfield, 67, of Bethel AME Church, residence on 11th Street near Lapeer, was posted first at the top of the page, not at the bottom.

My reason for sharing all this is to inform readers who still may not be aware that all this history is available at Hoyt Library. I may not have known if I had been in a profession other than news reporting.

While performing research, it was easy to get caught up scrolling entire newspapers, beyond pinpointing the needed factoid and getting back to work. Nowadays, in semi-retirement, exploring may occupy an entire afternoon. This is true especially on hot summer days, with Hoyt now comfortably air conditioned.

We may begin with our birthdays but then pick historic events. Maybe Brown v. Board of Ed on May 17, 1954, or the Kennedy assassination on Nov. 22, 1963. What did The Saginaw News (or The New York Times) have to say? Options are endless.

And so I encourage anyone and everyone to check out the microfilm archives at Hoyt Library. Try it, you might like it.

## Mark Mixx Feat. Tha Street Jazz Cartel

**Mark Mixx:** A native Detroit native that grew up listening to music and because of his infatuation with music he knew at an early age that one day he would embark on a musical career. During his early years while Mark was still in elementary school in 1984 he joined the band where he took up the art of playing drums and percussion, which carried over to middle and high school after graduation Mark added the piano.

**Producer, Arranger & Musician:** Mark Mixx has produced, arranged and played on Musical projects over the past twenty three (28) years.

**Tha Street Jazz Cartel:** In 2009 Mark Mixx decided to produce a Jazz CD on his independent record label (Isis Style Music). He assembled some talented Detroit musician to collaborate and play on the



“Street Jazz Project, Johnny Barnes (trumpet), Steve Cooley (trumpet), Eddie Taylor (trumpet), Ike Phippen (keys), Shane Mckeever (keys), Jeff Canady (drums), Antonio Johnson (drums), Deblone Jackson (flute), Marty Montgomery (sax), Don Whyte (sax), Charles Jones (trombone), Stephen "Stevy" Current (bass), Tony Parker (bass), Derrick Bartel (guitar), Randal Wilson (guitar), Athony Booker (guitar) and Mark Mixx (percussion and keys). “Tha Street Jazz Cartel. The Street Jazz Cartel has (4) album release out Now on All digital platforms. In 2021 Mark Mixx feat. Tha Street Jazz Cartel released their new singles from their (5th) album entitled "V" with a collaboration with James Gibbs III (trumpet) "Rydn & Chillaxin" along with "Ziggy's Groove". These releases will Put you in the mind of Riding on a "Hot Sunny Day"!

The Street Jazz CD is currently getting radio airplay in Detroit and other parts of the country plus overseas.

Mark Mixx and Tha Street Jazz Cartel has performed with the world renowned Michael Franks, Alex Bugnon, Marion Meadows, Mindi Abair, Dave Koz, Gearld Albright, Richard Elliott, Nelson Rangell, and Will Downing. Also Tha Street Jazz Cartel Has performed for the Rev. Jesse Jackson for The Rainbow Push Coalition for charity and many more also with a few live television appearances.

+ COMMUNITY

# Ask the Dentist

## with Jack W. Nash, DDS



### Dear Dr. Nash, will diabetes affect my oral health?

Dear Reader:

It is estimated that up to 20 million people have diabetes but only two-thirds of these individuals are diagnosed, In the United States the African American diabetes rate is very high as well as very undiagnosed. Studies have shown that diabetics are more susceptible to the development of oral infections and periodontal (gum) disease than those who do not have diabetes. Oral infections tend to be more severe in diabetic patients than non-diabetic patients. And, diabetics who do not have good control over their blood sugar levels tend to have more oral health problems. These infections occur more often after puberty and in aging patients.

#### How are gums and diabetes related?

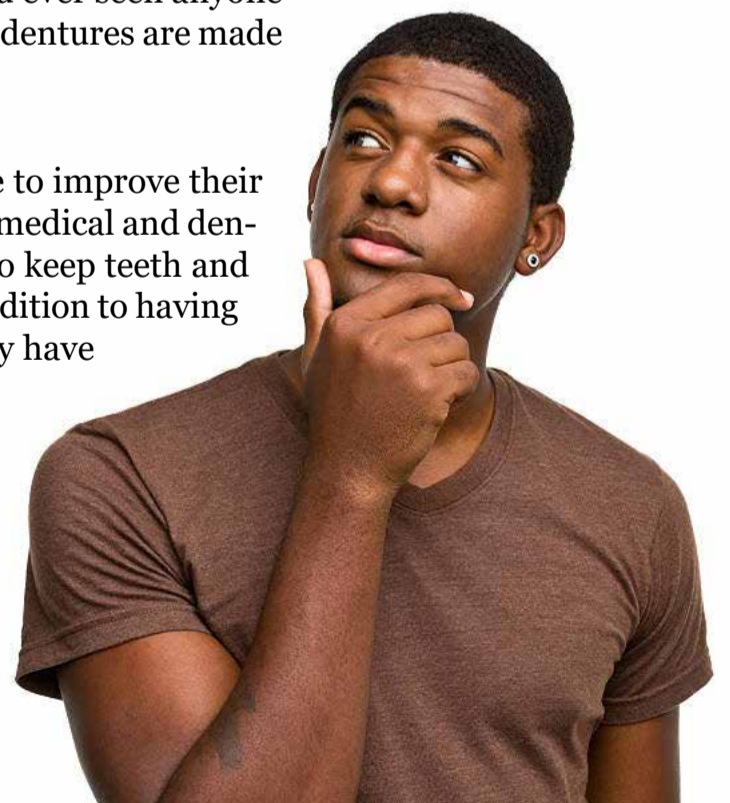
Because diabetes reduces the body's resistance to infection, the gums are at risk for gingivitis, an inflammation usually caused by the presence of bacteria in plaque. Plaque is the sticky film that accumulates on teeth both above and below the gum line. Without regular dental check-ups, gum disease may result if gingivitis is left untreated. It also can cause inflammation and destruction of tissues surrounding and supporting teeth, gums, bone and fibers that hold the gums to the teeth.

#### How can I stay healthy?

Make sure to take extra good care of your mouth and have dental infections treated immediately. Diabetics who receive good dental care and have good insulin control typically have a better chance at avoiding gum disease and will keep their natural teeth much longer. Some people assume dentures replace natural teeth but have you ever seen anyone win a running race with replaced legs. Dentures are not made to replace teeth, dentures are made for people with no teeth and there is a big difference.

Diet and exercise may be the most important changes that diabetics can make to improve their quality of life and their oral health. Diabetic patients should be sure both their medical and dental care providers are aware of their medical history and periodontal status. To keep teeth and gums strong, diabetic patients should be aware of their blood sugar levels in addition to having their triglycerides and cholesterol levels checked on a regular basis. These may have a direct correlation on your chances of avoiding gum disease.

Jack W. Nash, DDS



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# SVSU to host percussionist Johnathan Scales for performance

Saginaw Valley State University will host power trio Jonathan Scales and his Fourchestra for a concert Saturday, April 2, at 7:30 pm in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall as part of the Rhea Miller Concert Series.

Scales is recognized for his innovative style on an instrument often associated with tropical islands. Accompanied by the other members of his power trio, Scales challenges expectations and opens eyes (and ears) to the possibilities of music. In his hands, the sound of the steel pan is radically expanded to mimic the role of horns, piano, vibraphone or marimba due to his stunning, virtuosic technique.

Scales represented the United States through the Department of State as a musical ambassador in a four-week concert tour of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Indonesia in early 2017. He also performed at an NPR Tiny Desk Concert in 2020.

The Rhea Miller Concert Series is made possible by a generous gift from Rhea E. Miller, a longtime friend of SVSU. Her gift, administered by the Miller Trust for Music Education, has provided the university with the opportunity to offer outstanding performances by nationally and internationally acclaimed musical artists at no cost to the audience



JONATHAN SCALES

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For more information, call (989) 964-4159 or email [music@svsu.edu](mailto:music@svsu.edu).

## Evensong will honor the life of Mr. Sabourin, long time music educator and organist in the Great Lakes Bay Region

BAY CITY – Trinity Episcopal Church, Center at Grant, Bay City will celebrate the life and work of Robert Sabourin (1951-2021) with an Evensong on Sunday, April 10th at 4pm.

Evensong is a long-standing tradition in the Anglican and Episcopalian faith where much of the service is sung. Music will include "The Song of God", an original anthem commissioned in Bob's memory by Trinity, composed by Robert Powell; Malcolm Archer's "And I Saw a New Heaven," and "Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in C Major" by C. V. Stanford. Hymns will include "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven" by Goss; "My Song is Love Unknown" by Ireland; and "Glory to Thee, My God, This Night" by Tallis.

Mr. Sabourin and his wife Emilee are beloved members of the Trinity community. Robert (Bob) was the organist and choirmaster at Trinity from 2007 until his resignation in 2018 when his health took an unfortunate turn. Bob had served as organist in several other area churches prior to arriving at Trinity including First Congregational, Messiah Lutheran and First Presbyterian Church, all in Bay City; and Memorial Presbyterian Church, Midland.

He taught in area schools as a choir director for over 30 years, most notably at Midland High and was formerly director of the Saginaw Choral Society and the Bay Chorale. He was also a proud member of the American Guild of Organists. Bob was a highly regarded and respected musician and Trinity is proud to offer this memorial Evensong in his name.

Trinity's senior choir will be joined by singers from Exultate Deo, a chamber choir established by Mr. Sabourin. Music will be led by Trinity's choir director Rayechel Berger and accompanied by organists Jim Gladstone and Patrick Winningham. Prelude and postlude pieces will be offered by organist Nicholas Schmelter including "Vor deinen Thron tret' ich, BWV 668" by J. S. Bach and "Elegy" by T. Frederick H. Candlyn. Reverend Sue Rich will lead the service.

All are welcome and admission is free. A reception will be held following the ser-



ROBERT SABOURIN

vice. Masks are optional.

Handicap access and parking are available in the lot off 5th street on the west side of the building. The service will be live-streamed via Trinity's Facebook and YouTube platforms. For direct links, please visit [www.trinityepiscopalbaycity.org](http://www.trinityepiscopalbaycity.org)

## + COMMUNITY

## IN MY HUMBLE OPINION



COURTESY PHOTO

# April Fools' Day is every day



By **KEN H. SIMMONS, II**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR, KENZO  
PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The exact origins of April Fools' Day, which is celebrated on the 1st of April each year, remain a mystery, but it has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures. Traditions on the day include playing practical jokes or tricks on others, and saying "April Fools!" at the end to let the person or group know they were the subject of an April Fools' Day hoax. In my humble opinion, every day is April

Fools' Day due to the prevalence of disinformation, propaganda, and fake news.

Some historians have linked April Fools' Day to the ancient Roman festival Hilaria (Latin for joyful or cheerful and linked to the English word hilarious), which was celebrated at the end of March by cult followers of the great goddess Cybele. The festival involved people dressing up in disguises and mocking fellow citizens and even magistrates, and was said to be inspired by the Egyptian legend of Isis, Osiris and Seth.

Another theory historians have is that April Fools' Day started in 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, which the Council of Trent called for in 1563. In the Julian Calendar, like the Hindu calendar, the new year began with the spring equinox around April 1st. People who continued to celebrate the new year during the last week of March through April 1st, be-

cause they were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1st, became the butt of jokes and hoaxes and were called "April fools". According to History.com, "These pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as 'poisson d'avril' (April fish), said to symbolize a young, easily caught fish and a gullible person."

Media and major brands have ensured that April Fools' Day is embraced and has a long life despite the exact history being shrouded in mystery. The origin of fake news is also a bit difficult to pin point, but its use throughout history has been uncovered with time. One of the first records of fake news occurred in the 13th century B.C. when Egyptian pharaoh Ramesses II,

**CONTINUES ON PG 27,  
APRIL FOOLS'**

+ COMMUNITY

# Continued from pg 26, April Fools'

also known as Rameses the Great, spread lies and propaganda portraying the Battle of Kadesh as a stunning victory for the Egyptians. He depicted scenes of himself thrashing his foes during the battle on the walls of nearly all his temples. However, the treaty between the Egyptians and the Hittites reveals that the battle was actually a stalemate according to historians.

There is even evidence of fake news in the Bible. In approximately A.D. 33, when the soldiers guarding Jesus' tomb after he was crucified came to report to the chief priests what they witnessed at the tomb, the priests paid the soldiers to lie. "When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept'" (Matthew 28:12-13 NKJV).

From my research, the term "fake news" was first used in the late 19th century, and not coined by President Donald Trump in 2017 as he would like us to think. Some media publications used the term to boast about their own journalistic standards and attack those of their rivals. One example comes from 1896 when a writer at one San Jose, California newspaper lambasted the publisher of another newspaper stating, "It is his habit to indulge in fake news. ... [H]e will make up news when he fails to find it", as per an article by The Christian Science Monitor entitled, "Surprisingly old words that seem contemporary".

In the 21st century, both the impact of fake news and the use of the term has become widespread. This is due to the increasing openness, access, and prevalence of the Internet, especially via social media. The universe of "fake news" is much bigger than simply false news stories. The term has evolved in recent years to become rather generic and inclusive, encompassing things that may have been considered separate categories at one time. Fake news can be divided into two types, misinformation and disinformation. According to University of Michigan Library, "Misinformation is false or inaccurate information that is mistakenly or inadvertently created or spread; the intent is not to deceive. Disinformation is false information that is deliberately created and spread 'in order to influence public opinion or obscure the truth' ". So, disinformation is knowingly

spreading misinformation.

Here are four ways that fake news can fool you, as identified by neuroscientist Daniel J. Levitin PhD in 2016. 1) "Lies are tucked in among truths". An effective technique is to have several verifiable facts and then add one or two statements that are untrue, which then tend to be accepted by default. 2) "Websites masquerade under misleading names". Two examples mentioned are one from a 2014 congressional election in Florida where the local GOP office created a website with the name of their Democratic opponent, which fooled people into donating money to the Republican candidate when they thought they were contributing to their own candidate. Another example was a white supremacist, neo-Nazi hate group that created a website using Martin Luther King's name to defame the civil rights icon. In 2022, we call that clickbait. 3) "Numbers are given without context". The example given is about the safety of air travel using an unsubstantiated statement, "More people died in plane crashes in 2014 than in 1960." The statistic is correct, but uses a less relevant statistical factor, time, because there were

so many more flights in 2014 than 1960. 4) "Claims rest on false sources". Many times, unscrupulous writers count on the fact that most people don't bother reading footnotes or tracking down citations to verify the information.

While April Fools' Day is only celebrated once a year on the 1st of April, fake news is trying to fool us one way or another everyday. I was even a victim of it earlier this week when I hastily shared a post from Facebook that I thought was legitimate to a small group of friends. Fortunately, a couple of my friends called me out and said it was "fake news" before I shared with anyone else. While it is almost impossible to prevent fake news, we can, however, strive to prevent its spread like my friends did with me. Before sharing, commenting, or liking content on social media or the Internet, check it for blatant spelling and grammatical errors, and fact-check the information. If you have any doubts, rather opt out.



COURTESY PHOTO

## + COMMUNITY

## Frankenmuth Credit Union featured in Bloomberg TV's "World's Greatest!..."

Frankenmuth Credit Union is ecstatic to announce the next episode of "World's Greatest!...", which airs on Bloomberg TV, will feature Frankenmuth Credit Union as one of the World's Greatest Credit Unions!

Film crews visited FCU back in December to conduct interviews with FCU's CEO Vickie Schmitzer and Business Services Officer Mike Bender. The film crew gathered footage inside the Frankenmuth Main Branch along with scenic shots around town capturing Frankenmuth in full Christmas spirit. The final product will premiere on Saturday, March 26th at 3:30pm and again on Saturday, April 2nd at 3:30pm. We hope you will tune in and see why Frankenmuth Credit Union is one of the World's Greatest!

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"Frankenmuth Credit Union is very blessed to have received this prestigious recognition from World's Greatest. FCU takes great pride in serving our wonderful communities and we are excited for the opportunity to share what makes our credit union special with a national audience," stated Vickie Schmitzer – CEO of Frankenmuth Credit Union.

Frankenmuth Credit Union was organized in 1964 by the employees of the Carling Brewery and Star of the West Milling Company to serve the brewers and millers of the Frankenmuth area. FCU now proudly serves the entire state of Michigan - with over 60,000 members and branch locations in Shiawassee, Saginaw, Tuscola, Genesee, Bay, and Huron counties. Frankenmuth Credit Union spotlights financial services for consumers and businesses, as



FRANKENMUTH CREDIT UNION STAFF FILMING WITH BLOOMBERG TV CREW.

well as insurance, trust, and investment solutions.

## O'Neal introduces bills to end life sentences without parole for minors

On March 17, state Reps. Amos O'Neal (D-Saginaw), David LaGrand (D-Grand Rapids), Bronna Kahle (R-Adrian) and Tenisha Yancey (D-Harper Woods) introduced four bills banning life sentences without parole for individuals under the age of 18. They would also provide a minimum sentence of 10 years, provide a maximum sentence of 60 years and allow for parole review after 10 years.

"Juvenile' is really a legal term for 'child,'" O'Neal said. "We are introducing these bipartisan bills to make sure that we give children the chance at redemption. We all agree that criminals need to pay for their crimes, but locking up a child for the rest of their life with no chance for parole is simply immoral."

The legislation reflects changing popular attitudes toward criminal justice policies and greater awareness of the developmental differences between children and adults with respect to judgment, impulse control and susceptibility to peer pressure.



COURTESY PHOTO

State Sens. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor), Michael MacDonald (R-Macomb Township), Sylvia Santana (D-Detroit) and Curt

VanderWall (R-Ludington) introduced corresponding bills in the Senate in January.



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## + COMMUNITY

## Saginaw Neurologist Raising Funds for Ukrainian Victims

SAGINAW – Saginaw physician / author / philanthropist Debasish Mridha and his wife Chinu Mridha have organized the MIIPH Ukrainian Relief Fund to generate financial support for refugees from Ukraine.

The Mridhas, who attended college in Kiev, Ukraine, before emigrating to the United States, founded the Mridha Foundation after Dr. Mridha established his Saginaw, Mich. neurology practice, Michigan Advanced Neurology Center (MANC). More recently, in 2021, they founded Mridha International Institute of Peace & Happiness (MIIPH), an organization dedicated to peace, nonviolence, and education.

The MIIPH Ukrainian Relief Fund, launched March 21, will continue raising funds for one month. Monies collected will be funneled to the USA for UNHCR relief efforts spearheaded by the United Nations, which is dedicated to aggregating interna-



DR. DEBASISH MRIDHA

tional support for victims of the war currently happening in Ukraine.

Anyone interested in donating to the MIIPH Ukrainian Relief Fund can do at

[www.miiph.org](https://www.miiph.org) or by visiting <https://un-refugees-ukraine.funraise.org/fundraiser/miiph>.

MIIPH is an organization of the Mridha Foundation, a nonprofit created by the Mridhas in 2001 to support educational institutions and philanthropies in Saginaw and beyond. In addition to leading his neurology practice and the Foundation, Dr. Mridha has published five books of his writings. His quotes are widely circulated through social media and various online sites.

"We are strongly committed to a peaceful resolution for the people of Ukraine and for promoting the goodwill of all nations and the right for everyone to live in peace," says Dr. Mridha. "I started the Institute because there will always be a need to make more peace in the world, especially right now."

## SVSU and partners creating Saginaw Chapbook Project Community invited to contribute to poetry collection

SAGINAW – Saginaw Valley State University, in partnership with the Friends of Theodore Roethke and the Kalamazoo Book Arts Center, is providing people in the Saginaw area an opportunity to contribute their poetry to a special collection through the Saginaw Chapbook Project. This initiative is made possible through a \$13,750 Community Partners Grant awarded by the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (formerly the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs). Sherrin Frances, SVSU professor of English, applied for the grant and is spearheading the project.

Frances explained that the project was conceived following a poetry slam at an open house at the Theodore Roethke Museum in August of 2021.

"Several of us were struck by how much the poets were touching on themes of isolation and loneliness and very COVID-related things," she said. "We decided that we could put a series together that gives people an outlet for that.

"The Saginaw Chapbook Project is grounded in the idea that creative writing can positively impact mental health. The grant will help us provide a creative writing outlet for adults living in the Saginaw area – and possibly across the state – with the opportunity to document their mood, reflecting the mood of Saginaw, during the COVID pandemic."

The project consists of four major components:

- A virtual speaker series, hosted by the Friends of Theodore Roethke, featuring artists and writers from around the U.S.
- A series of virtual poetry writing workshops with professional facilitators
- Creation of a chapbook featuring poetry written by workshop participants
- A bookmaking workshop by the Kalamazoo Book Arts Center on

the SVSU campus

In addition to the bookmaking workshop at SVSU, participants will have the opportunity to visit the center in Kalamazoo to help make handmade paper and run the letterpress printer for pages that will be included in the final product.

The chapbook project will culminate in mid-May with a celebration and book launch for participants, friends and family.

All events are free and open to the public.

Anyone who participates in the poetry writing workshops is invited to submit their poetry to the chapbook. For more information, visit <https://friendsofroethke.org/chapbook>.



## Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® commemorates 60 years of service in Saginaw

SAGINAW – Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® will host our virtual 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Hats Off to Mom Scholarship & 60th Founders Day Celebration “Excellence & Elegance In The Emerald City”, on Saturday, May 7, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. This is an opportunity to continue our service to all mankind through extraordinary programs and the awarding of scholarships to deserving students in the Saginaw community. Over the past 60 years, Eta Upsilon Omega has significantly impacted the Saginaw Community, contributing over \$200,000 in scholarships and community service programs. Our endeavor is to continue this legacy by awarding \$24,000 in 2022.

The program will feature special segments including:

- Special tribute to Eta Upsilon Omega’s 60 years of service in the Saginaw community
- Presentation of scholarships to local high school students
- “Mother of the Year” Community Leader Award
- AKA Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter’s “Soror of the Year” Award
- Virtual Hat Show & Vendor Showcase
- Our speaker is Mrs. Carrie J. Clark, Great Lakes Regional Director of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated is the first Black Greek-Letter organization established in America and was founded on January 15, 1908 at Howard University. Alpha Kappa Alpha’s mission is to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, to promote unity and friendship among college women, to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature, to maintain a progressive interest in college life, and to be of “Service to All Mankind.” The sorority has flourished into a globally-impactful organization of over 300,000 college-trained members, bound by the bonds of sister-

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**MRS. CARRIE J. CLARK**  
Great Lakes Regional Director

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MAY 7, 2022  
11:00AM**

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COURTESY PHOTO

hood and empowered by a commitment to servant-leadership that is both domestic and international in its scope.

The Eta Upsilon Omega graduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. was chartered on February 10, 1962 in Saginaw, Michigan by twelve distinguished Sorors of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. This group of women has been a dynamic influence in Saginaw since its inception and strives to be a continuous source of dedication to our community

through volunteering with a concentration in helping our youth, education, health and financial awareness and those in need. With over ninety-five members strong, over the past 60 years, Eta Upsilon Omega has significantly impacted the Saginaw Community, contributing over \$200,000 in scholarships and community service programs. Many of our scholarship recipients have become successful attorneys, doctors, engineers, educators, scientists, corporate leaders and entrepreneurs.

# + HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

## MDHHS forms advisory committees to seek advice on health disparities in Medicaid's home and community-based services

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is seeking advice on ways to improve health equity in home and community-based services.

The department is forming advisory committees with dollars from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund.

"MDHHS wants to hear from stakeholders as the department works to continue to improve healthy equity," said Kate Massey. "Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just chance to be healthy. That happens when every person can attain their full health potential. This means that who you are or where you live will not stop you from being healthy. Health inequities can make it harder to find health care, shorten a life, lower quality of life, and contribute to higher rates of disease, disability and death."

These committees will examine what causes health inequities for people who

need services and will suggest changes so it is easier for everyone to get those needed services.

Advisory committees will provide a way for people to share ideas on health equity in the following MDHHS Medicaid programs - Home Help, MI Choice, Home Health, MI Health Link and Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly programs. People receiving services from these programs are invited to apply, along with family members, guardians, advocates and community partners who are familiar with the programs.

There will be a statewide advisory committee as well as separate county-specific committees for people who work or live in the counties of Chippewa, Grand Traverse, Kalamazoo and Wayne. The goal is to increase the use of home and community-based services by removing barriers to equitable access.

The Statewide Health Equity Advisory

Committee will:

- Review county data to learn how the findings affect statewide access.
- Look for gaps in data.
- Decide if the project should include more counties.
- Propose a statewide plan to address health inequities.
- Make suggestions to the county advisory teams.
- Review MDHHS messages about home and community-based services.

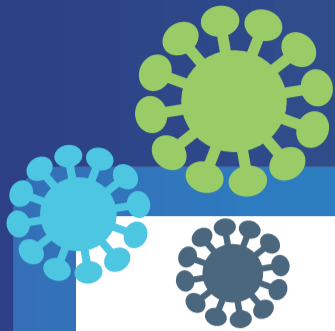
County Health Equity Advisory Committees will:


- Review county data to learn how the findings affect access.
- Look for gaps in data.
- Review messages and surveys to send to people to get more data.
- Identify how MDHHS can get information about the public's knowledge of services.
- Identify how to get information about the public's experiences with services.
- Identify people who can help gather data on health equity.
- Make suggestions on county-level ideas to improve health equity.

MDHHS would like the advisory committees to include a diverse group with people who receive services and others who are familiar with the home and community-based services. Those who want to be considered for the Statewide or County Health Equity Advisory Committees can submit an application via email to [MDHHS-HASA-HCBSHealthEquity@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-HASA-HCBSHealthEquity@michigan.gov) or by completing an online application.

Applications must be received by April 30. Questions about applications or the Health Equity Advisory Committees can be emailed to [MDHHS-HASA-HCBSHealthEquity@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-HASA-HCBSHealthEquity@michigan.gov).







**Great Lakes Bay Health Centers**

www.GreatLakesBayHealthCenters.org

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers has touched more than **118,000 LIVES** during the COVID-19 crisis – in patient care and community outreach with testing and vaccines.



**55,884**  
COVID-19 TESTS  
ADMINISTERED  
IN 2020-2021 (AS OF JUNE 3, 2021)

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers (GLBHC) began offering community COVID-19 testing in March 2020 outside centers in Saginaw, and expanded to Bay City and Bad Axe. During the summer and fall, we partnered with churches and other community partners to bring testing to neighborhoods with “popup” events. We shifted testing to drive-thru access and do not require a doctor’s note or symptoms. Staff supported this effort on every level, including making calls to share test results. GLBHC added free Influenza community clinics through the fall of 2020. Volunteers have supported testing and vaccines.



**15,091**  
COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES\*  
ADMINISTERED  
IN 2021 (AS OF JUNE 3, 2021)

The Moderna vaccine was first made available to GLBHC staff in January 2021. Through the winter, staff worked with local health departments to administer vaccines to school professionals. The centers started receiving direct shipments of vaccines in March 2021, and began offering appointments to patients. GLBHC also began planning pop-up events at churches and other locations to access hard-to-reach populations. By April, the vaccine team had set up drive-thru vaccine clinics in Saginaw and Bay City and weekly clinics at the UAW Hall in Saginaw. Soon the public could access the vaccines without an appointment. Outreach continues into the summer, with young adults and teens becoming a focus.  
*\*individuals each receive two doses*

**TOTAL GLBHC PATIENTS SERVED IN 2020:**



**50,270 PATIENTS**

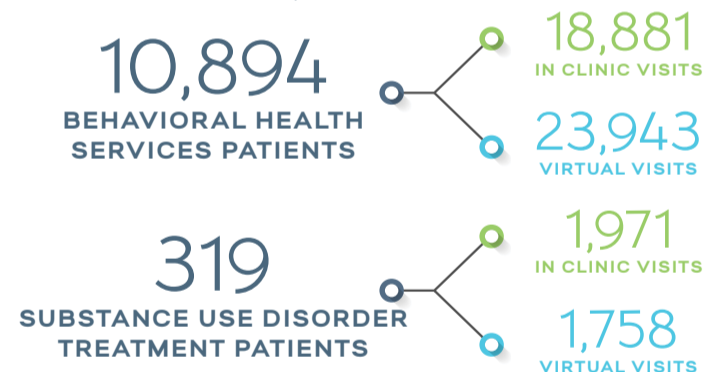
RECEIVING MEDICAL, DENTAL, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE AND OTHER VISITS

The COVID-19 shutdowns required centers to limit in-person visits in March-May 2020, but we never closed. Within two weeks, GLBHC had telehealth visits operational to stay in touch with patients. Before 2020, there were no virtual visits offered.



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

COVID increased stress and demand for behavioral health services in 2020. Staff reached out to schools and saw increased referrals for children and teens.



**16,953** PATIENTS 12 & OLDER SCREENED FOR DEPRESSION  
**8,730** of these patients who screened positive for depression and had a follow-up plan documented

**DENTAL CARE**

GLBHC dental centers were some of the only dental clinics open during quarantine to emergency care for patients experiencing pain or infection.



**CHRONIC HEALTH MONITORING = BETTER OUTCOMES**

During quarantine, GLBHC used grant funds to provide at-home monitoring kits to patients with COVID symptoms. The kits included blood pressure monitors and pulse oximeters to track oxygen levels. Telehealth visits were a lifeline for care management nurses to keep in touch with patients with chronic health conditions. Pharmacy staff made medication deliveries. A new Respiratory Clinic allowed staff to safely care for patients with COVID symptoms in person.





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Our inpatient program now serves children and adults with complex conditions, such as brain injuries, multiple trauma and spinal cord injuries. Outpatient services include follow-up care for former inpatients as well as treatment for common diagnoses, including back pain and disorders of muscles, tendons and bones.

*For more information and referrals, please call 989.583.2720 (Outpatient Practice) or 989.583.2817 (Inpatient Rehabilitation).*



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## ≡ + EDUCATION ≡

# Dr. Mamie Thorns, SVSU's chief diversity officer receives national award

Mamie T. Thorns, associate vice president and chief diversity officer for diversity, equity and inclusion at Saginaw Valley State University has been honored with the 2022 Dr. Frank Hale, Jr. Award from the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education.

Thorns received the award for her contributions to advancing the understanding of diversity, equity and inclusive excellence in higher education.

“Under Dr. Thorns’ persistent watch at our institution, we work to achieve institutional inclusive excellence and this mantra has become part of the SVSU culture,” said SVSU President Donald J. Bachand.

Thorns joined SVSU in 2002 and has over 30 years of administrative experience in higher education. In her current role, she leads SVSU’s programs related to diversity, equal opportunity and Title IX. She serves as a primary advisor to SVSU’s president and leads a community-based advisory council that focuses on matters related to maintaining and enhancing a diverse and dynamic campus environment. Thorns chairs SVSU’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council, which advises and implements innovative programs for the campus and the Great Lakes Bay Region.

In nominating her for the award, Bachand highlighted Thorns’ leadership in several areas. SVSU has:

- Established measurable goals for the recruitment of Black, Hispanic and other students of color.
- Secured funding for and completed an Inclusive Excellence study for SVSU. Study results will be used for university strategic planning in 2022.
- Opened the SVSU Multicultural Student Center in fall of 2021.
- Developed an academic major in Black studies.



MAMIE THORNS

Updated the university’s Inclusion Advocate program and hiring practices.

Thorns accepted the award at the association’s annual conference in San Diego on March 18.

Named in memory of a former vice provost for minority affairs and professor

at The Ohio State University, the Dr. Frank Hale Jr. Award is presented to an individual who has made substantial contributions to diversity and inclusive excellence in higher education, exercised innovative and courageous leadership, demonstrated a robust record of consistent service for inclusive excellence.

## + EDUCATION



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SPONSORED CONTENT

## Saginaw Promise: Investing in Postsecondary Education... An Agent for Change!

What is the Saginaw Promise? The Saginaw Promise is an economic initiative investing in Saginaw and its students through postsecondary education to affect change in Saginaw's economy and quality of life by promoting postsecondary education and offering a scholarship to students who live in and graduate from a high school in the Saginaw Promise Zone, (which include the cities of Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Kochville and that area of Buena Vista designated to the Saginaw Public School District).

Since 2012, the Saginaw Promise has awarded \$1,072,000 in scholarships to 609 students and during that time, graduation rates have increased, dropout rates have decreased and FAFSA completion has grown! The Saginaw Promise's objective is to affect positive change in Saginaw through postsecondary education. The organization's goal is to provide a scholarship to assist every graduating student to earn a program certificate or degree.

Education is an institutional cornerstone for a community, its economy and quality of life. The Saginaw Promise believes in the strength of postsecondary education and its ability to be a "change agent", one that will affect poverty, unemployment and household income rates. The following statistics compare

how the city of Saginaw compares with Saginaw County and the State of Michigan.

- **Percentage of residents living in poverty;** City of Saginaw **34.6%**, Saginaw County 15.9% and Michigan 12.6% (US Census Bureau Quick Facts-July 1, 2020).
- **The median household income** in the City of Saginaw is **\$30,845**, Saginaw County is \$49,565 and Michigan is \$59,234 (US Census Bureau Quick Facts-July 1, 2020).
- **Attainment of a bachelor degree or higher** in the City of Saginaw is **12.9%**, Saginaw County is 22.1% and the State of Michigan is 30.0% (US Census Bureau Quick Facts-July 1, 2020).

Investment in Education will pay dividends for the future of Saginaw and its students.

The Saginaw Promise, with support from its community partners and donors, believe in the power of postsecondary education to change a community and the lives of its students.

**How to apply:** To apply for the Saginaw Promise scholarship and other

scholarships, students are required to complete the online Saginaw Community Foundation scholarship application, using the link <https://goapply.akoyago.com/SAGINAW>. The Saginaw Promise scholarship is renewable up to two years and must be applied for annually (the online application opens November 1st and the submission deadline is February 15th). Students are also required to complete FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>. Students who complete the application and are awarded the scholarship will have up to six years from high school graduation to use the scholarship. Students who have questions regarding whether they are still able to use their Saginaw Promise scholarship, should contact the Saginaw Promise office.

For organization/scholarship information or to donate, visit [www.saginawpromise.org](http://www.saginawpromise.org), telephone (989) 755-0545 or email Deborah Sanchez (Director) at [dsanchez@saginawpromise.org](mailto:dsanchez@saginawpromise.org).

### A Saginaw Promise Scholar expressed her appreciation:

*"The statement on the front of this card (Excellence in Education) has great significance to why I am writing this letter. Excellence is the quality of being outstanding or "extremely good", relative to any given comparison. Through the Saginaw Promise Scholarship, I believe I can personally achieve excellence through education... Thank you again for this scholarship, it will go to excellent use."*

*kindest regards...  
Nicholas*



**Saginaw Promise... Changing a community and lives through Postsecondary Education!**

*The Saginaw Promise is an economic initiative that believes in the power of education to be a change agent.*

Since 2012, the Saginaw Promise has awarded **\$1,072,000** in scholarships to **609** students!

**The Class of 2022 will be the 11<sup>th</sup> year of Saginaw Promise scholars!!!**

## *Why do I support the Saginaw Promise?*



**"An Investment in knowledge pays the best interest."  
Benjamin Franklin**

**"I support Mr. Franklin's statement about the value of education, which is why I support the mission, work and investment of the Saginaw Promise to make a difference in the city of Saginaw and the lives of its students through promotion and support for postsecondary education."**

**David Gamez,**  
*Retired Health Professional/Saginaw Promise Vice-Chair*

**"I support the Saginaw Promise because every student should have the opportunity to succeed by learning a marketable skill to better themselves and their community...and the Saginaw Promise "all inclusive" Scholarship can help make this happen ...one student at a time!"**

**Laura B. Yockey,**  
*Senior Vice President, Business Lending Manager,  
1<sup>st</sup> State Bank/Saginaw Promise Trustee*



*Positive impact in Saginaw, will impact surrounding communities and the entire Great Lakes Bay Region.*

[www.saginawpromise.org](http://www.saginawpromise.org) | 1 Tuscola St., Suite 100, Saginaw, MI 48607 | (989) 755-0545



## + EDUCATION



BLUE LAKES FINE ARTS CAMP

## Summer Camps in Michigan



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**  
RETIRED EDUCATOR

It is an understatement that the past two summers have been rough for kids. Many summer camps were closed or operated virtually. Those that were held in-person were reduced or adjusted.

The summer of 2022 might inch back towards normalcy with vaccinations available for kids and reduced numbers of COVID 19 cases. For once there is optimism!

Camps are wonderful opportunities for kids to grow and learn. They help to teach responsibility and trust. They help students cope with feelings of homesickness and separation. They give children opportunities to interact with other children from different towns, regions, and backgrounds with distinct cultures and lifestyles.

For example, where else can a kid from the city meet someone who lives on a farm?

Finding camps that are available, affordable,

and reputable can be achieved a number of ways. Word-of-mouth is always a good first step; talking with other parents about camp experiences other children have had is a good way of acquiring first-hand knowledge.

Look at the region where you live; proximity can ease costs and make the connections easier. Two examples in the Great Lakes Bay Region are the Hartley Nature Center and Camp Timbers.

Hartley Nature Center is 300 acres near St. Charles and is a beautiful educational site. Most programs are connected with local public and private schools which have information about opportunities that include day visits as well as overnight. <https://www.sisd.cc/o/saginaw-isd/page/hartley-outdoor-education-center--2>

Camp Timbers is 300 acres, as well, located near West Branch and is another beautiful site that can house as many as 180 campers. Programming is described on the web and is supported by the YMCA of Saginaw. <https://saginawymca.org/camp-timbers/>

Options out of the region are plentiful, as well. I found a website, [summercampshub.com](https://summercampshub.com/), that boasts of the “best Michigan summer camps.” Here are a couple of many examples they cite.

Camp Carvela is near Traverse City in Frankfort and is focused upon “experiential learning” with core values that include “collaboration and unplugged connections.”

<https://www.campcarvela.com/>

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp is another one sited. Located on 1600 acres in the Manistee Forest on the west side of the lower peninsula (Twin Lakes), it is what the name implies, an experience in fine arts. Music, dance, art, and drama are emphasized.

<https://www.michigan.org/property/blue-lake-fine-arts-camp>

In addition, there are sports camps available for children of all ages. Sports are a part of my background. When I was coaching varsity basketball at Big Rapids High School, we ran day camps in our gym for students, and I worked at camps hosted by Ferris State and CMU. We attended team camps at Northwood and UM. It was great fun for athletes and coaches.

Here are some ideas for parents and grandparents to consider regarding sport camps. I should emphasize there are offerings for ALL sports imaginable. Team sports, individual sports, and “e-sports” are all options.

Look local: Most high schools will offer sport camps in their communities. These are typically overseen by coaches and are low-cost for student-athletes of all ages. Well-supervised, too. It is a great way to build skills, meet their future coaches, and build relationships. Often these are open to students of all ages and may run a week or two in length.

Think college: Athletic camps are a great way to view “college life” early. It used to be common for student-athletes to arrive on Monday and stay on campus in a dorm the entire week, experiencing what it is like to be away from home and meet students from out of the region.

With the pandemic, things have shifted. In many cases camps have cut back on overnight options. This means parents drive student-athletes in as a commuter or perhaps getting a hotel room near campus for the week. Some are requiring vaccinations. Therefore, check with university webpages for updates as summer nears. Being on campus is a valuable experience nevertheless.

Whether nearby or not, for a day, an overnight, a week or two, camps provide unique growing opportunities for children of all ages. Now is a terrific time to explore what is out there for kids in the coming months.

### Resources:

<https://www.sisd.cc/o/saginaw-isd/page/hartley-outdoor-education-center--2>

<https://saginawymca.org/camp-timbers/>

<https://summercampshub.com/best-michigan-summer-camps/>

<https://camps.mgoblue.com/>

<https://sportcamps.msu.edu/>

<https://www.cmich.edu/offices-departments/finance-administrative-services/auxiliary-services/events-and-conference-services/camps-and-conferences>

<https://www.svsuathleticscamps.com/>

<https://www.localhost.gg/camps/>

# Schools of Choice

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## Saginaw Public Schools

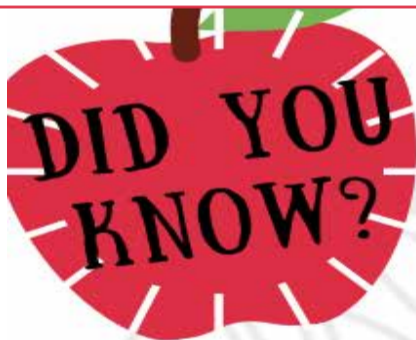
will be accepting enrollment applications

March 14 through September 2, 2022

Applications for enrollment can be obtained from the building you want your child to attend.

A detailed list of openings for the 2022-23 school year are available at all Saginaw Public Schools and at [www.spsd.net](http://www.spsd.net)

For more information call 989.399.6500



## Saginaw Public Schools HAS 3 OPTIONS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL!



**Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy**  
1903 N. Niagara St., 48602 989.399-5500  
Grades 6-8 *Testing Required*



**Thompson Middle School**  
3021 Court St., 48602 989.399.5600  
Grades 7-8



**Zilwaukee School**  
500 W. Johnson St., 48604 989.399.5200  
Grades 6-8



## + EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

## SPONSORED CONTENT

## Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) initial information for potential community partners

### What is GSRP?

GSRP is Michigan's state funded Pre-K program. It serves children who meet income and/or other criteria in the year before they are eligible for Kindergarten. All classrooms use an approved research-based curriculum and comprehensive child assessment tool. Each classroom has a lead and associate teacher who meet credentials specified in the State School Aid Act. Parents are involved in the program in multiple ways. The program operates in part and school-day options. More can be learned about program requirements at: [www.michigan.gov/gsrp](http://www.michigan.gov/gsrp).

### Who can be a GSRP provider?

GSRP is provided in sites licensed as child care centers. They may have either a regular license or a provisional license as a new or relocated center. Those with one of these types of provisional license

must agree to submit a Self-Assessment Survey in the Great Start to Quality (GSQ) system as soon as the regular license is issued. Centers with licenses that have been modified to provisional status are not eligible. All centers that have eligible licenses must also have at least a three star rating in GSQ.

### Would I have to meet all program requirements to be chosen as a GSRP provider?

No, but if funded, you will be expected to hire qualified staff and have staff trained in the curriculum and assessment tools. You will have to operate in compliance with child care licensing rules and GSRP statute, policies and procedures. You would also have the support of a Saginaw Intermediate School District Early Childhood Specialist to implement a program that meets requirements.

### Are there any other criteria and what do I have to do to apply?

Once additional funds are identified, you will receive an application to be completed.

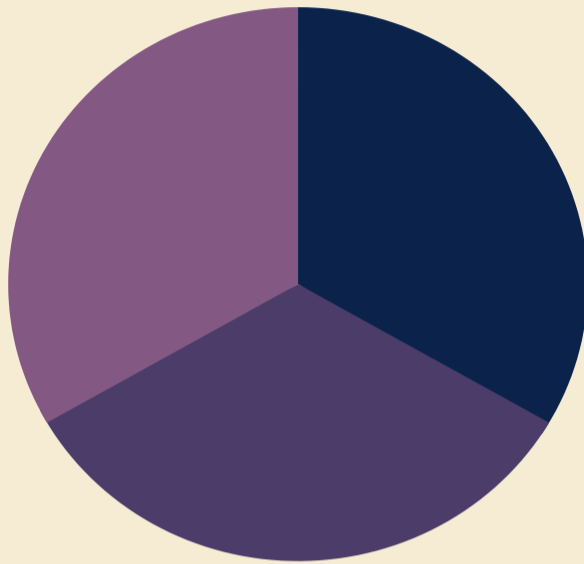
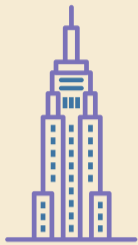
### If I want my center to be considered in the future what can I do?

Complete the GSQ Self-Assessment Survey to be star rated. Take advantage of all opportunities and support that the local GSQ Resource Center has to offer (contact Julie Bash at [bashj@sisd.cc](mailto:bashj@sisd.cc)). Join the Great Start Collaborative (contact Julie Kozan at [jkozan@sisd.cc](mailto:jkozan@sisd.cc)). Let your SISD Early Childhood Contact, Ericka M. Taylor ([etaylor@sisd.cc](mailto:etaylor@sisd.cc)) know of your ongoing interest. There may be professional development that you can take part in as you prep for next year's application process.

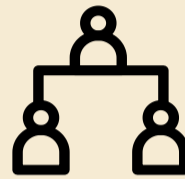


# MI Tri-Share CHILD CARE

State of Michigan  
33.3%



Employer  
33.3%



Cost of child  
care is  
shared

Employee  
33.3%



*The MI Tri-Share Pilot (Tri-Share) is an innovative public/private partnership that shares the cost of child care equally between employers, employees, and the state of Michigan.*

## Overview

- **Tri-Share aims to:** (1) make child care affordable and accessible for working parents; (2) help employers retain and attract employees; and (3) help child care providers secure slots.
- Facilitator Hubs coordinate and administer the program in three regions currently representing the **Great Lakes Bay region, Northwest lower peninsula and Muskegon County.**
- Hubs serve as a **central liaison to facilitate connections** between employers, employees and providers.
- Eligible employees are those who are **Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE)** to alleviate one financial burden and remove a barrier to work.

## Benefits



**For employers,** Tri-Share hopes to aid employers recruit and retain talent, and remove barriers to employment



**For working parents,** this will reduce the out-of-pocket cost of child care, and alleviate the burden of finding child care



**For providers,** this pilot will secure slots for reliable payments of child care, as well as help with recruitment.

**For more information, visit-**  
<https://www.michigan.gov/mwc>



**+ EDUCATION**

SPONSORED CONTENT

# Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) initial information for potential community partners

## GUIDELINES

### What are the guiding principles for the MI Tri-Share Child Care pilot program?

The following principles will consistently be used in decision making around the implementation of the MI Tri-Share pilot program:

- Choice of provider(s) will be made by the employee.
- Limit the burden to employers and providers in determining employee eligibility by requiring hubs to determine eligibility.
- Help ALICE population (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) eliminate barriers to employment.

### Who is responsible to pay for child care using the MI Tri-Share Child Care pilot model?

The MI Tri-Share Child Care Program, in its pilot phase, is an innovative approach to increasing access to high quality, affordable child care for working families, with the cost of child care shared by an employer, the employee and the State of Michigan. In all cases, child care costs must be divided equally between the employer, employee and the State.

## EMPLOYEE INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY

### 1. What are the employee eligibility requirements?

Employee eligibility will be determined based on the employee's family size and household income. Employees must have a household income between 186%-285% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Employees must not be eligible for the Development and Care Program (commonly referred to as child care subsidy). Once an employee is deemed eligible, they are eligible for the entire year of the pilot.

### 2. How is eligibility determined?

Hubs will gather income data and determine final eligibility of employee.

### 3. Are employees eligible if they have seasonal work?

Seasonal income is considered contractual income if it is income meant to cover the other six months when not working. In this instance, you would take the income for six months and determine monthly income based on the year.

### 4. What is the process for determining which employees are eligible for child care slots?

Employers have flexibility in deciding which

family will receive a child care slot. Possible ways to make this determination include:

- First come, first serve process
- Employee lottery/random selection
- Employee needs (i.e., closest to 186% FPL)
- Each family receives one child care slot/  
Family receives multiple child care slots

### 5. How many child care slots are employees eligible for?

Employers have flexibility in deciding how many child care slots should be offered to participating employees and their families. Possible ways to make this determination include:

- Each participating family receives one slots
- Participating families receive multiple slots based on how many children need care
- Participating families receive one or multiple slots based on greatest need

### 6. Can child care providers and employees outside the designated regions participate in the Tri-Share program?

Eligible employees may reside outside the designated region of the hub.

### 7. Do employees choose their own child care provider?

Employees are encouraged to select a licensed child care provider that meets their needs, this includes an existing child care provider (so long as they are currently licensed). Employees may utilize before and after care for schoolagers, summer care for schoolagers, and part-time and full-time child care for their children.

### 8. Can children be placed at multiple child care providers, if the employer has more than one child care spot given to their family?

Families do not have to have the same provider for all children to participate in the Tri-Share program. Family choice of care is a guiding principle in this pilot.

### 9. Are there additional responsibilities of the employees enrolled in the MI Tri-Share program?

Eligible employees must complete a survey providing information around their children and child care. The information gathered through this survey will be used in informing future policies related to the work of this pilot. Personal information (like names or child names) will not be shared with any person outside the work of the project. Employees also must sign and follow any type of MOU or contract put forth by the participating hub.

## CHILD CARE PROVIDER INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY

### 1. Is there flexibility for providers to increase rates based on their participation in the program?

No, child care providers will not increase rates for families because they are participating in the MI Tri-Share pilot. This does not include when child care rates for all families increase (based on annual tuition increase, cost of living, etc.).

### 2. Can child care providers outside the designated regions participate in the MI Tri-Share program?

Eligible child care providers may reside outside the designated region of the hub.

### 3. What type of child care facilities are eligible to participate in the pilot?

All participating child care providers must be licensed by the state of Michigan. Before and after school care, summer care, and part or full time care are acceptable forms of child care for this pilot.

### 4. Can a child care provider who offers free child care to staff (as part of a benefit package) participate as an employer in this pilot?

In all cases, the cost of child care must be divided equally between the employer, employee and the State of Michigan. If an employee does not contribute to the costs of child care, then the employer (in this case the child care provider) would not be eligible to participate in the pilot.

## EMPLOYER INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY

### 1. Are there additional responsibilities of employers when they are enrolled in the MI Tri Share program?

Employees must sign and adhere to any type of MOU or contract put forth by the participating hub. Employers will be asked to participate in data collection processes implemented by the evaluation team. These may include, but are not limited to, focus groups, surveys, interviews etc. Employers should be willing to actively participate in gathering this information, to the best of their ability.

### 2. Can tax deductions be used by participating employers?

There may be possible deductions for employers, please always consult with your tax professional/advisor if you have questions related to tax deductions.



**About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS**

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

For additional information concerning Saginaw ISD Head Start visit: [www.saginawheadstart.org](http://www.saginawheadstart.org)

Source: [www.saginawheadstart.org](http://www.saginawheadstart.org)



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

**Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman**

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

## + BUSINESS

# CMS Energy to Combat Climate Change by Achieving Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Entire Natural Gas System by 2050

JACKSON – CMS Energy and its primary business, Consumers Energy, today pledged to protect the planet by achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions from the company's entire natural gas production and delivery system – including customers and suppliers – by 2050.

Achieving net zero emissions means eliminating the impact of emissions traced to the burning of natural gas by customers and greenhouse gas emissions caused by natural gas suppliers who produce and transport natural gas to Consumers Energy's system.

"Natural gas is safe and affordable and now it can be even more clean," President and CEO Garrick Rochow said. "We're making historic, industry-leading changes to protect our planet. This commitment is another step in leading the clean energy transformation for Michigan."

As a next step on our path to net zero by 2050, the company will partner with customers to reduce their emissions by 20 percent by 2030.

CMS Energy is already implementing industry-leading plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These include:

- Modernizing its natural gas system to achieve net zero methane emissions from its operations by 2030.
- Ending coal use and boosting renewable energy fuel sources to achieve net zero carbon emissions from its electric operations by 2040.
- Pledging to power 1 million electric vehicles in the communities it serves by 2030.

Pursuing a net zero goal for all emission sources, including those from customers

and suppliers, aligns the company's efforts with Michigan's Healthy Climate Plan to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 as well as the recommendations of the Paris Agreement to limit global warming.

CMS Energy is executing and exploring a variety of pathways to support customers and suppliers who want to reduce their emissions.

**Carbon offsets:** The company recently received regulatory approval for a new program for residential and business customers who want to voluntarily offset carbon emissions from their natural gas use by investing in projects that help Michigan forests reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

**Renewable natural gas, or RNG:** Produced from organic wastes and other renewable sources, RNG is interchangeable with conventional natural gas and a key technology available to reduce methane emissions. The company recently announced an agreement with Swisslane Farms in west Michigan to build a biogas digester facility that, with regulatory ap-

proval, will convert agricultural waste into RNG.

**Energy efficiency:** Providing customers with the power to reduce energy waste and lower bills through a variety of energy efficiency and demand response programs. Since 2009, we've helped customers save about \$4 billion and prevented the emission of almost 19 million tons of carbon dioxide.

**Emerging technologies:** Potential solutions include using hydrogen to produce energy, capturing and permanently storing carbon emissions from natural gas combustion and using hybrid natural gas and electric heat pump systems to heat homes and businesses.

The company is also modernizing its natural gas operations with a 10-year Natural Gas Delivery Plan to ensure the continued delivery of safe, reliable, affordable and clean natural gas. The plan includes accelerated infrastructure replacement, innovative leak detection and key process changes to eliminate, avoid and minimize methane emissions.





# Benihana to open new locations in Saginaw and Midland



COURTESY PHOTO

Benihana Inc., the nation's leading owner and operator of Japanese teppanyaki and sushi restaurants, today announced it signed agreements to open five new Benihana restaurants and one RA Sushi restaurant. Two of the five locations are right here in the Great Lakes Bay area.

Two new franchised Benihana restaurants are planned for Midland and Saginaw, Michigan. Genji Inc. will transition Genji Midland located at 2929 S. Saginaw Road in Midland and Genji Saginaw located at 3870 Bay Road in Saginaw to Benihana restaurants. Both Benihana restaurants are expected to open in the fall of 2022. Benihana Midland will be over 6,800 square feet with 12 Teppanyaki tables and Benihana Saginaw will be over 9,100 square feet with 16 Teppanyaki tables.

## Flint & Genesee Group's annual meeting highlights successes, eyes growth in 2022

FLINT - The Flint & Genesee Group reported on how it reimagined, reinvented and reset in 2021 to create a stronger, more inclusive economy for Flint and Genesee County.

The annual meeting, held before more than 300 attendees at Flint's Capitol Theatre, also spotlighted the Group's broad-based efforts to help the business community meet its workforce needs related to pandemic-related challenges, such as the Great Resignation, and the out-migration occurring in the region.

"Our environment continued to be unpredictable last year, with the pandemic impacting how we work, the needs of our members and clients, and our staff," said Group CEO Tim Herman. "But amid the uncertainties, we continued to grow and expand our capabilities to serve our customers and deliver value.

Flint-native Kevin Conroy, CEO and president of Exact Sciences, delivered the meeting's keynote address. He stressed the importance of early cancer screening and how his company is addressing the need head-on by introducing and commercializing innovative methods of cancer detection. Exact Sciences manufactures the noninvasive colorectal cancer screening test Cologuard®. Conroy, born and raised in Flint, also recalled his years of growing up in Flint and Genesee County.

The organization completed a major rebranding that includes four divisions – Flint & Genesee Economic, Flint & Genesee Chamber, Flint & Genesee Education & Talent, Explore Flint & Genesee – with the Group as the parent organization. The divisions are charged with executing the Group's mission to advance economic and community growth. Additionally, the Group sharpened its focus on diversity, equity and inclusion within the workplace, including expanding its governing structure to include Board seats for representatives from each of the divisions' advisory committees. The advisory committees are comprised of industry and community professionals who can provide insights that inform division strategies.

"We now have a DEI Committee that includes me, members of my executive team and other leaders," said Herman. "This group drives the work that ensures our decision-making reflects diversity of all types and leads to an inclusive culture within our workplace."

Following are 2021 accomplishments that summarize the work of the Group's divisions in the areas of economic development; business advocacy and professional development; talent and education; and tourism:

### Economic Development

- Supported nearly \$123 million in private investment
- 7 investment projects helped to create 773 new jobs
- Talent Connection Services helped connect job seekers with 603 job opportunities
- Launched the Small Business Help Desk to strengthen the support system for small businesses
- 422 meetings with business owners and entrepreneurs
- 3,377 PTAC contacts awarded, valued at more than \$82.5 million

### Business Advocacy

- Nearly \$250,000 in revenue generated by 40+ Chamber member businesses through the Consumers Energy-sponsored Our Town Gift Card Match Program
- 615 participants in 23 professional development workshops; 114 employers represented
- 72 new Chamber members
- 9 participants in the seventh cohort of Lead Now Flint & Genesee leadership development program.

A full copy of the Group's Annual Report is available online at [annualreport.flintandgenesee.org/](http://annualreport.flintandgenesee.org/).

# + CHURCH DIRECTORY

## B



**Bethel AME Church**  
Rev. Dennis Laffoon  
535 Cathay St.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-7011



**Bethlehem Temple Church of the Apostolic Faith**  
District Elder Curtis E. Johnson, Pastor  
3521 Webber St  
Saginaw, Michigan 48601  
989-755-8381



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

## C

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

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



**Christ Image Community Church**  
5501 Gratiot Rd  
Saginaw, MI 48638  
(989) 759-9161  
christimage.us

## F



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



**Faith Ministries Church**  
Dr. Anthony Revis  
3420 E. Ashman St.  
Midland, MI 48642  
989-837-7777  
faithministrieschurch.org

## G



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

**Grace Chapel Church**  
Pastor James Nelson  
2202 Janes Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-3212

**Greater Williams Temple**  
608 E Remington St  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-5291

## J



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

## L

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

## M

**Messiah Missionary Baptist Church**  
Pastor Otis Washington  
2615 Williamson Road  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-777-2636  
Fax: 989-777-2640  
messiahmbc@att.net  
messiahmsg.org



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

## N



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

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



**New Birth Missionary Baptist**  
Pastor Larry D. Camel  
3121 Sheridan  
Saginaw, Michigan  
989-327-1755



**New Covenant Christian Center**  
Pastor Ron Frierson  
2395 S. Outer Drive  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-8485



**New Hope Missionary Baptist Church**  
Rev. Dr. Willie F. Casey  
1721 Tuscola Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-753-7600



**New Life Baptist Ministries**  
Dr. Craig Tatum  
1401 Janes Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-753-1151  
newlifelcm.com

**New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church**

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

## P

**Prince of Peace Baptist Church**

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

## R



**Resurrection Life Ministries Full Gospel Baptist Church**  
Pastor Carolyn L. Wilkins  
2320 Sheridan Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-395-3142

## S



**Saginaw Valley Community Church**  
Pastor Richard Sayad  
3660 Hermansau  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
989-752-4769



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



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

## T



**Transforming Life Ministries**  
Pastor William Brown  
523 Hayden  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-9573



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

## U



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

## V



**Victorious Belivers Ministries Church**  
Pastor Chris V. Pryor  
624 S. Outer Dr.  
Saginaw, MI  
989-755-7692

## W



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

## Z



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

## + FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

# Talking about your talking points

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

*Will you provide me with key talking points I can use when talking with current or potential donors?" How do you answer this question? Are you prepared with updated talking points or do you expect staff, board members, and volunteer solicitors to know what to say without your guidance? Where would they get that information? Would it be the same from person to person without your involvement?*

We start with a reminder that fundraising is 90% preparation and 10% solicitation. That means preparing talking points is part of the "preparation" – it is not an added task, and certainly shouldn't be viewed as a burden. Think of this work as core to fundraising, and critical for ensuring that board members, volunteer fundraisers, and new staff have what they need to solicit financial support. But what should those talk-

ing points include? Here are our suggestions for how to create a talking points guide that is clear, concise, compelling, and truthful.

**Be clear about your goals and priorities.** Share how much you need to raise. Be sure to include a paragraph or bullet points that clearly communicate how you will use the funds raised. If this is your annual fundraising, make that clear. If this is a special campaign, share the anticipated campaign duration. Communicate your priorities, the rationale for these, and the anticipated impact. Make it easy for others to share what will be different as a result of your fundraising. The impact could be economic, social, health, and/or another measure.

**Include the basics** such as your annual organizational budget; mission, goals, and values; the number of people served; ways to give; and your tax id number. Remember to brag a little. Prepare a list of accomplishments and honors that communicate how your organization is both qualified and recognized for its work. Share funds raised to date, along

with the percentage of the goal achieved. Update quarterly and more often, such as when you receive a major gift.

Your talking points should be as simple or as complex as your organization and its fundraising. What's most important is that people need to be able to make the case for giving to your non-profit in their own words. They will use your talking points as an input to the story they tell. Each story will reflect what each solicitor feels is most important about your organization from their perspective, and from what they know about the person(s) they are talking to. While every story will be different, the facts at the core of each story need to be the same. You and your storytellers need to be consistent and honest in your message and your talking points are what ground you. Finally, you can share your talking points on your website, via email, in a simple "two-pager," through a deck, or in a video. Whichever medium you choose, be sure you keep the content up to date. Remember: your talking points can help get people talking and giving!



Copyright 2021 – Mel and Pearl Shaw

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


 + SPORTS

# Change basketball's rules

COURTESY PHOTO

By MIKE THOMPSON

**B**asketball is a favorite sport, but it could be so much better. Rules need more than tweaking. Major reforms are in order.

How many times do we see a great game roll nip-and-tuck into the stretch run, but then the final minute on the time clock requires a half-hour on the wrist-watch to complete?

### Solutions would be simple:

- Each team receives two timeouts total, and that's it. In hockey, the coaches only get one stoppage for the entire game.
- A foul in the final two minutes is two shots AND keep the ball. Stop rewarding intentional fouls.
- Finally, play up to a minimum score. First team to 100 wins in the pros, 80 in college, 60 in high school. Take the time clock out of all the stalling that ruins close games at the end..

This trio of reforms would leave time-

consuming video replays as the lone remaining show-stoppers. Those should be decided by crews in a studio, or at least in a press box, not on the floor by game officials peering onto tiny portable screens.

My other suggested changes do not address close games grinding to a time-clock snail's pace and so they are not essential, but they still would result in improvements:

It's totally ridiculous that in the NBA, teams can advance the ball to midcourt by simply calling timeout. On the other hand, colleges should adopt the pro standard of "continuation" on a drive to the bucket, instead of rewarding a foul by taking away the points.

There also are too many foul shots, but I haven't come up with a good solution to that one yet. The NBA is off to a good start this season by not allowing guys like James Harden to create contact and then go to the charity stripe, at least not as often. Maybe when players are whistled for fouls, send them to a penalty box and force their teams to play 5-on-4 for a minute.

Am not suggesting a seat belt rule, but coaches need to sit down. Be a teacher during practice and with game film. When it's game time, let the players play.

And on a final note, some tips for the TV analysts:

- Quit always saying a player "wanted it more" when they win a rebound or a loose ball. Sometimes the Spaulding simply bounces in their direction.
- Quit saying it's a great shot after someone sinks a three-pointer, but it's poor shot selection after the same player misses.
- Quit claiming a team is showing "more intensity" when, or because, they are making shots. That's accuracy, not intensity.

(Nowadays, too many three-pointers? That's a separate issue that we pursued last season. See The Michigan Banner's online archives for July 16, 2021, [www.michiganbanner.org/printissues/2021/july-16-2021.pdf](http://www.michiganbanner.org/printissues/2021/july-16-2021.pdf).)



+ SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTO

# Dow GLBI announces Suzann Pettersen as host of tournament qualifier

MIDLAND – The Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational (Dow GLBI) announced today that they will be teaming up with Dow Sustainability Ambassador and 2023 European Solheim Cup Team Captain Suzann Pettersen to host the Suzann Pettersen Qualifier presented by Frankenmuth Insurance. Scheduled for June 7-8, 2022, registration is now open for the amateur qualifier event at The Fortress Golf Course in Frankenmuth, Michigan. The winner of the qualifier will receive an exemption for themselves and an amateur playing partner of their choosing for the 2022 Dow GLBI at Midland Country Club from July 10-16.

“Suzann is a trailblazer in the world of golf, and we are grateful to have her a part of our qualifier,” said Dow GLBI Executive Director Chris Chandler. “By hosting the Suzann Pettersen Qualifier presented by Frankenmuth Insurance, we are furthering our mission — creating a unique LPGA Tour event that positively impacts people’s lives.”

Eligible participants include all amateur female golfers. To qualify, each player’s United States Golf Association (USGA) Handicap Index cannot exceed



SUZANN PETERSEN

a 4.0. Those interested in competing in the Suzann Pettersen Qualifier presented by Frankenmuth Insurance must register online by May 24 at: [www.zehnders.com/ticketing/event/qualifier](http://www.zehnders.com/ticketing/event/qualifier).

The \$175 per player entry fee includes the Monday, June 6 practice round, two competitive rounds on June 7 and 8, a welcome reception meal for a player and one guest hosted by Pettersen as well as

breakfast and lunch on both days of competition. Pre-tournament range balls and a registration gift bag are also included.

“As Dow’s Sustainability Ambassador, I have witnessed the incredible impact that the Dow GLBI has had on the Great Lakes Bay Region and the world of golf,” said Pettersen. “I’m honored to play a part in an event that gives female amateur golfers a unique chance to tee it up alongside the world’s best LPGA players.”

The 36-hole tournament will kick off on June 7 where players will compete in a single stroke play format. After completion of play on June 8, the player with the lowest score will receive an exemption into the 2022 Dow GLBI.

“After hosting last year’s qualifier, we are excited to work alongside the Dow GLBI again for this one-of-a kind experience,” said Nick Shelton, Director of Golf, The Fortress. “The tournament has become a staple in our community, and we are proud to play a part in its success.”

To learn more about the Suzann Pettersen Qualifier presented by Frankenmuth Insurance, visit [www.DowGLBI.com](http://www.DowGLBI.com).



## PICS OF THE WEEK

On March 24, The Saginaw Public Schools held a groundbreaking at the site of the current SASA high school. Construction of the Saginaw United High School will now begin at this site - home of the Phoenix!



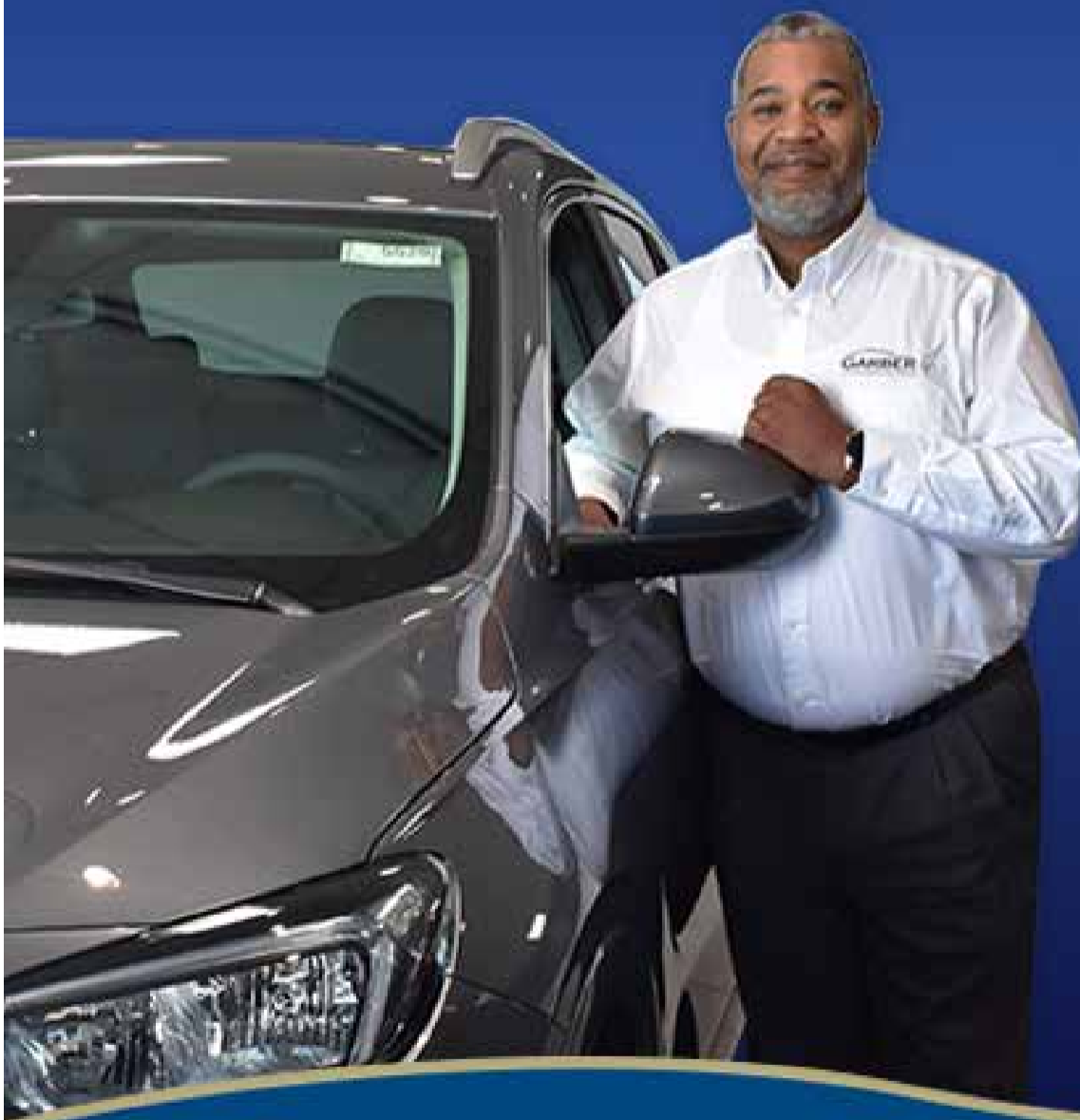
COURTESY PHOTOS

The Great Lakes Bay Region Does Better With

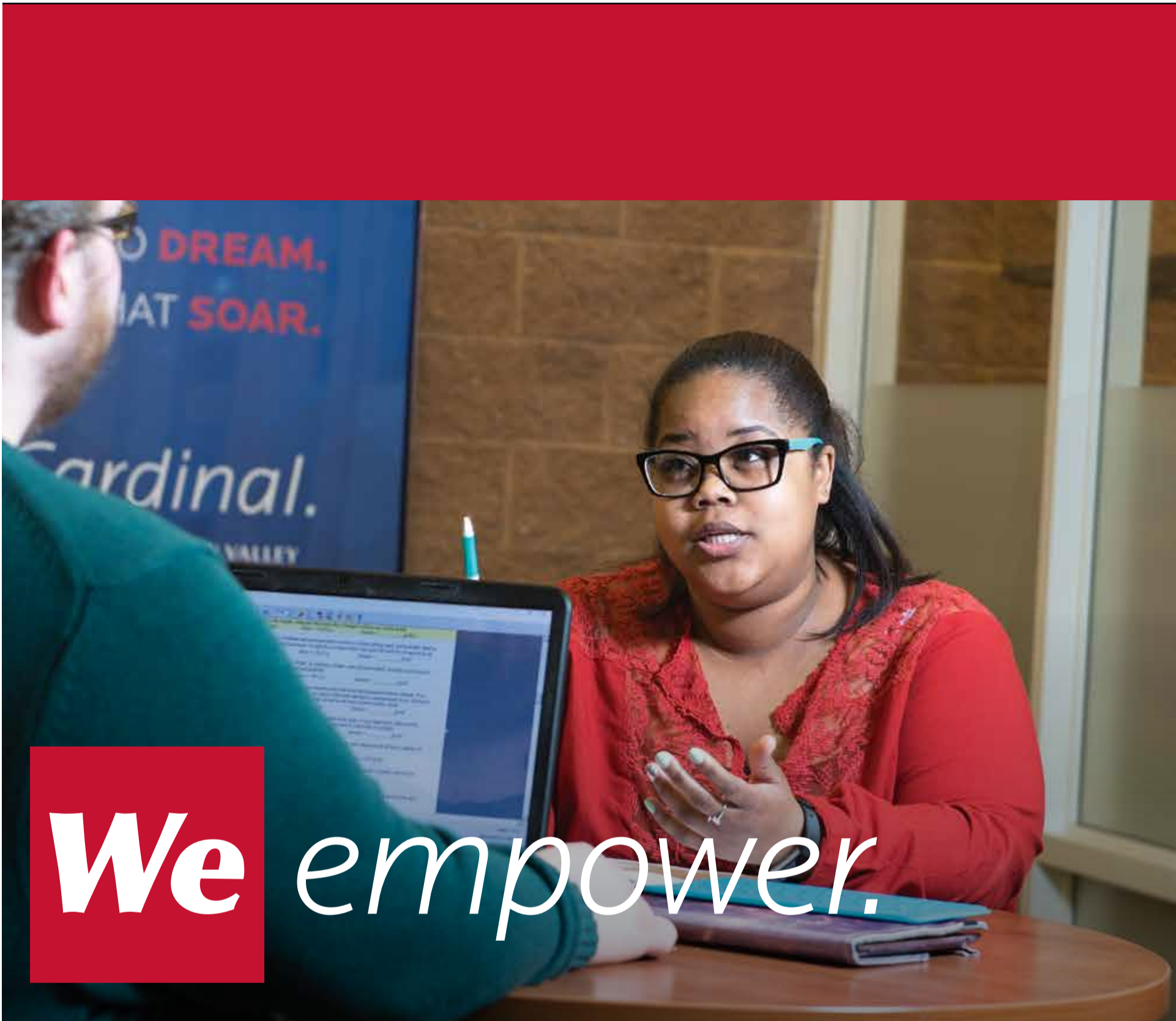
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*empower.*

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



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