



# The Michigan Banner

Leading in Diversity for 20 years




**PICS OF THE WEEK**  
saginaw chamber  
Chairwoman's Ball  
PG 54

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM >>> MICHIGANBANNER.ORG/SUPPORTUS

**SPORTS**



**42 IN '62: ERNIE THOMPSON AND SAGINAW HIGH'S UNDEFEATED STATE CHAMPS**

SPORTS, PG 50

## SVSU to host Black language scholar April Baker-Bell



APRIL BAKER-BELL

Scholars and Artists Series. It is free and open to the public.

An international leader in conversations on Black language education, her research examines the intersections of Black language and literacies, anti-Black racism and antiracist teaching practices. She authored the award-winning book “Linguistic Justice: Black Language, Literacy, Identity, and Pedagogy.”

The book provides ethnographic snapshots of how Black students navigate and negotiate their linguistic and racial identities across multiple contexts. By highlighting the counterstories of Black students, Baker-Bell demonstrates how traditional approaches to language education do not account for the emotional harm, internalized linguistic racism, or consequences these approaches have on Black students’ sense of self and identity.

In 2020, Baker-Bell was honored by the National Council of Teachers of English with the George Orwell Award for Distinguished Contribution to Honesty and Clarity in Public Language. She was also honored with the Michigan State University Community Engagement Scholarship award in 2021.

The Dow Visiting Scholars and Artists Series was established through an endowment from The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation to enrich the region’s cultural and intellectual opportunities.

SAGINAW – Saginaw Valley State University will welcome a thought leader and published author on how language usage can negatively impact Black students. April Baker-Bell, associate professor of language, literacy, and English education at Michigan State University, will speak Wednesday, March 23 at 7 p.m. in SVSU’s Rhea Miller Recital Hall as part of the Dow Visiting



### Undersheriff recalls personal experience

LATINO BANNER, COVER



### Seeing Selma: What about voting rights?

COMMUNITY, PG 13



### The best medicine for a happy life

COMMUNITY, PG 28



### 'Phoenix' will fly as Saginaw United High School's mascot

EDUCATION, PG 39

#### FEATURED STORY

### As Women's History Month continues, The Michigan Banner features female pastors who represent progress in achieving faith-based diversity

START ON COMMUNITY, PG 17





# Sheriff Federspiel's Kenny Rogers & Dottie West tribute band looking for 2022 host venues

In September of 2021, Saginaw County Sheriff William Federspiel set out to raise money for the Emmaus House of Saginaw. The Emmaus House is a Christian-based organization that helps women realize their full potential through housing, training, and prayers. This organization is proven to greatly reduce recidivism. (For more about the Emmaus House visit: [www.emmaushousesaginaw.com](http://www.emmaushousesaginaw.com))

Sheriff Federspiel, along with local artist Shirley Pratt, performed two concerts in Frankenmuth, MI on Dec. 4, 2021, to more than 750 people. The duo was backed up on stage by members of the Kenny Rogers Group. These musicians have played with Kenny Rogers for decades.

Steve Glassmeyer, keyboards/mandolin, has been with the Kenny Rogers Band since 1975. Chuck Jacobs, bass guitarist, has been with the Kenny Rogers Band since 1979. Randy Dorman, guitarist, has been with the Kenny Rogers Band since 1977. Brian Franklin, guitarist, has been with the Kenny Rogers Band since 2001. Gene Sisk, keyboardist, was the musical director/keyboardist for Eddie Rabbitt for 12 ½ years before joining Kenny Rogers in 1996. Edgar Struble, keyboardist/musical director, played with the Kenny Rogers Band from 1976-1991. For the past 20 years he has been the musical director for the Academy of Country Music awards show.

Also joining the band on stage was Roger Tarczon, drummer, who played with the David Crosby band and is currently a member of the duo Carrie & Roger in Manistee, MI and Tim Rowley, Michigan Hall of Fame steel guitar player, from Pinconning, MI.

Federspiel performed as Kenny Rogers, while Pratt performed as Dottie West. Each concert was 90 minutes long, featuring more than 23 top ten hits. The two concerts generated a record amount of \$26,313 for the Emmaus House.

Another set of concerts are currently being planned for later in 2022. If you're interested in hosting an event featuring the tribute band, call (989) 860-6657 or email [kenny-dottie.tribute@gmail.com](mailto:kenny-dottie.tribute@gmail.com).



COURTESY PHOTO



**MICHIGAN BANNER**

301 E Genesee Ave, Suite 201B  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
989.992.2600  
publisher022@gmail.com

**CEO/COO**

Jerome Buckley  
publisher022@gmail.com

**PUBLISHER**

Jerome Buckley

**EDITOR EMERITUS**

Rae Lynn Buckley

**THE LATINO BANNER**

**PUBLISHER**

Jerome Buckley  
thelatinobanner@gmail.com

**OMBUDSMAN**

Elaine Gregory McKenzie

**MARKETING MANAGER**

Cynthia West-Edwards  
publisher020@gmail.com

**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.

**DISCLAIMER**

The Michigan Banner and its staff are not responsible and will not be held liable for any mistakes, error, misspellings and false advertisements in part or whole that may be placed within its publication. Articles, information or comments printed in the newspaper are not necessarily the views or beliefs of The Michigan Banner newspaper. The Michigan Banner reserves the right to edit, change, or delete any information, or refuse to print any information, article or advertisement which is believed to be inconsistent with or conflicts with the mission of the newspaper.

**DEADLINES**

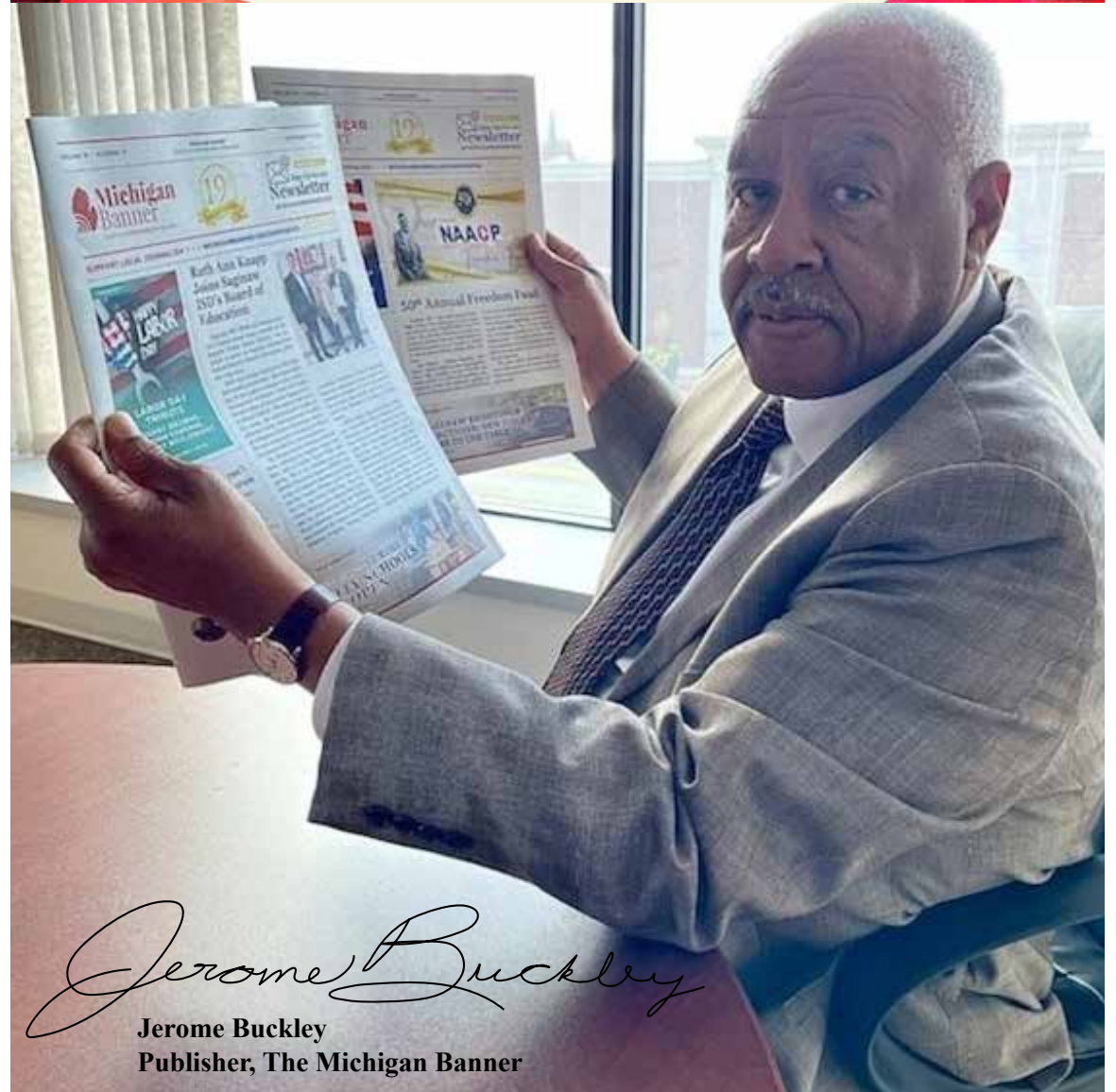
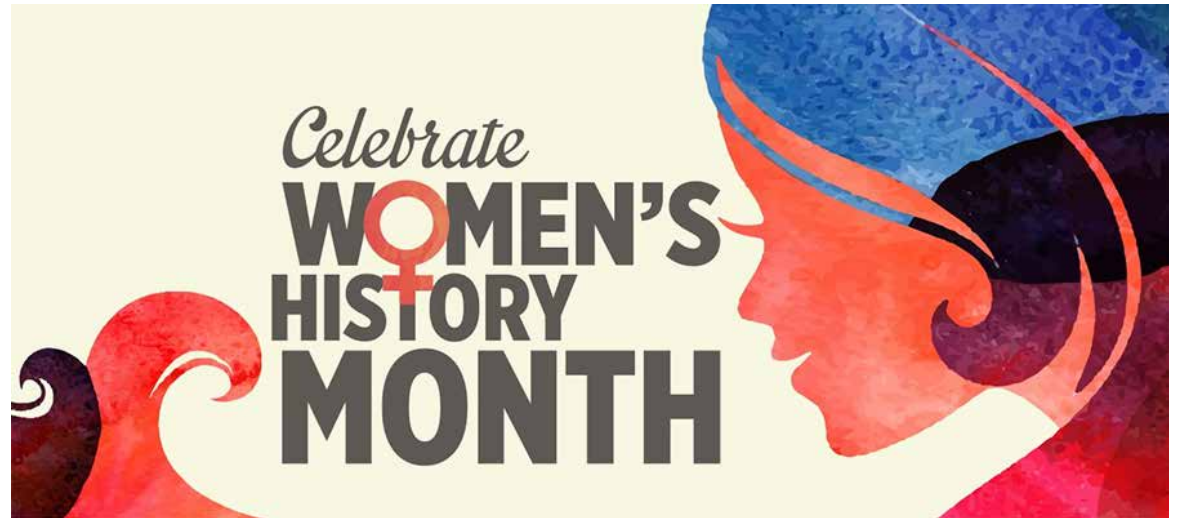
2 weeks before each publication date of the 1st and 16th of each month

**SUBMISSION PROCEDURE**

Mailed or e-mailed  
Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

**CONNECT WITH THE MICHIGAN BANNER ONLINE!**

www.michiganbanner.org  
Facebook.com/TheNewMichiganBanner  
Twitter.com/MichiganBanner



*Jerome Buckley*

**Jerome Buckley**  
Publisher, The Michigan Banner

**IN THIS ISSUE ▶**

<b>Youth Banner</b> .....	4 - 5
<b>Latino Banner</b> .....	LB 1 - LB 5
<b>Community</b> .....	13
<b>Health</b> .....	34
<b>Education</b> .....	39
<b>Business &amp; Wealth</b> .....	46
<b>Sports</b> .....	50

# MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 4 • NUMBER 6



COURTESY PHOTO

## The decision to serve

By **DONIQUA SOVIA**

I can't say that the gung-ho feeling I felt to join the Marines when I was 7 years old is still the same today because it's not. It's seventeen years later, and at 24 I'm more nervous than anything.

It's war time. War is anything but a joke. The freedoms and rights are at stake in a greater measure than they've ever been before, and to sit here idle while liberty is at stake, to me, is a slap in the face of those who've gone before me.

I haven't the slightest of idea as to what war really is in all of its terror and horror. All I've got are WWII stories from those who can tell you what a true X-rated horror film in real time is, but still while the comprehension is in full

swing, the understanding isn't there.

I can't say I know in depth what's in store for me, or on a greater note what's in store for this country. But what I do know is the ability to serve is one thing, but the ability to serve when danger is staring you right in your face, is nothing but the definition of a calling.

Lord willing, I'll be able to look back on this time, and remember the moment I made the decision to serve, and not just at a time when little to nothing was going on, but rather at a time when the tension and anxiety of a Third World War beginning was on the rise.

I don't know what I'm getting into. But the decision to serve, to me, is the smartest (some may say dumbest) decision I have ever made.







MARCH 25, 2022 | 7:30PM

COURTESY PHOTO

# Scooby-Doo! And the Lost City of Gold comes to the Temple Theatre

One of the most beloved international franchises of all time, Scooby-Doo and his meddling, mystery-solving friends will embark on a new adventure to solve a brand new mystery brought to life with cutting-edge technology, original music, puppetry, magic, singing, dance, interactive video, aerial arts, acrobatics, and video mapping.

In Scooby-Doo! and The Lost City of Gold, fans of music, discovery, and gh-gh-ghosts! won't need a passport to travel with Scooby-Doo, Shaggy, Daphne, Fred, and Velma to Alta Luz, a fictitious South American town where ghostly sightings of La Dama de Oro (The Lady In Gold) threaten to scare attendees away from the annual music festival and Incan sun god celebration. Through dialogue, dance, song, and amazing landscapes, audiences will join the journey as the Gang takes the Mystery Machine on its first flight to a land of ancient civilizations, legends, and culture. As they sniff for clues (and snacks), a trail of extinct purple irises leads them through

a veritable Nazca lines labyrinth of mystery as the Gang meets friends...or foes?... Miguel the groundskeeper, Luis the lama, botanist Professor Falcone, the Pachacuties, and Ayar Manco (the 13th Century

founder of the Incan civilization). Zoinks!  
Tickets start at \$29 and can be purchased at [www.templetheatre.com/event/scoobydoo2022](http://www.templetheatre.com/event/scoobydoo2022).



COURTESY PHOTO

**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.

From 2018-2020, we expanded coverage and improved connectivity in more communities by investing more than \$1.4 billion in our wireless and wireline networks in Michigan.

At AT&T, we're dedicated to doing our part to connect America.



© 2022 AT&T Intellectual Property. AT&T and Globe logo are registered trademarks and service marks of AT&T Intellectual Property and /or AT&T affiliated companies. All other marks are the property of their respective owners.



# Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA  
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE



**Pioneering  
Latinas  
who've made  
history**

**LB PG 4**



UNDERSHERIFF GOMEZ

## Undersheriff recalls personal experience

By MIKE THOMPSON

"I got pulled over a lot as a teenager, taken out of my car a lot," says Michael Gomez. "In certain parts of town, like Saginaw Township, people didn't want us around and the police would follow us."

These are the words of one of Saginaw County's 17,000 Latino residents, but they carry added weight.

Mike Gomez today is the county undersheriff, the highest-ranking Mexican

American in local law enforcement.

He speaks about his own youth during the late 1980s and early 90s, and he believes attitudes and community relations are much improved here in 2022.

"I had always wanted to be a police officer for as long as I can remember, since I was 5 years old," he says. "Then as I grew older and experienced these encounters, I

**CONTINUES ON LB PG 2,  
UNDERSHERIFF**

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





## Continued from LB Cover, Undersheriff

didn't like it, and I realized the only way to change it would be from the inside, I wanted to be a police officer to help change things."

He rose through the ranks to a point where he was a leader in deputy training, which has continued since he became undersheriff in 2019. He expresses pride to be part of the Sheriff's Department, adding that reform in outlooks is an ongoing process.

He tells new recruits that respect is earned.

"Sometimes," he cautions, "we can be our worst enemy."

### Law breaker, law enforcer

Gomez notes that his own conduct as a teen was in need of reform. His father, Victor Gomez, was a migrant worker from Mission, Texas, who found work at the Malleable Iron Plant and labored there for 43 years.

Victor and the bride he met in Saginaw, Guadalupe, were so concerned that when their son was 12 years old, they moved from the Emerson Elementary neighborhood down highway M-13 to rural Albee Township, where in 1987 he graduated from Chesaning High School.

Still, teenagers being teenagers, he managed to find his way back to Saginaw to hang out with friends and cousins, including some who were involved in what he describes as a "criminal element" of gang-banging and general trouble-making.

Somehow, Gomez stayed on the straight-and-narrow enough to find work at a local gas station, earning money to enroll first at Saginaw Valley State University and then in the Delta College police training academy.

His first law enforcement employment was as a guard at the county jail. Despite feelings of being looked down upon by the regular deputies, he worked his way through the ranks into the position he holds today.

### Give and earn respect

With a strong marriage and four children, Gomez easily could take comfort as he heads for his final career chapters. Instead, he continues to tackle challenges, such as nationwide protests that followed



UNDERSHERIFF GOMAZ AND SAGINAW COUNTY SHERIFF WILLIAM FEDERSPIEL

the 2020 police slaying of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

This reminded him of viewing the Rodney King police brutality videos three decades earlier, while he was studying at Delta College, prior to being hired at the Saginaw County Sheriff's Office.

"To me, (the George Floyd case) really hurt," he says. "The conduct of the officers was unacceptable, and the reactions showed that people were becoming really fed up. But maybe this had to happen, to open our eyes to the fact that our behavior

is being watched. Some of the reactions -- defund the police, no cash bail -- are not the proper responses, but when people are still not trusting of the police, this needs to be addressed."

He has served as a Sheriff's Department liaison to community groups, such as Saginaw Citizens for Equality and Justice, Women of Colors, and Bridge the Gap.

"As a police officer, I treat everyone with respect," Gomez says. "I call everybody 'sir' and 'ma'am.' I'm proud to serve my community."





**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.**





# 5 Pioneering Latinas who've made history

*What started off as a day to highlight women's contributions to history on February 29, 1909 has evolved into a month-long event. Since 1987, March has designated Women's History Month in the United States. Here are five Latinas who made important contributions to United States history.*

## 1. Sylvia Rivera

Sylvia Rivera, a mixed race Venezuelan-Puerto Rican trans woman, was a pioneering LGBT activist who fought tirelessly for trans rights, often credited as the person to "put the 't' in LGBT activism". Together with Marsha P. Johnson (who allegedly threw the first



brick in the Stonewall riots), Rivera created the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) organization, which provided a home for trans people living on the streets in 1970s New York. A tireless advocate for LGBT people, ethnic minorities, and the homeless, Rivera dedicated her life to helping others. Sylvia's Place and the Sylvia Rivera Law Project were both named in her honor and still work for the safety and rights of LGBT people to this day.

## 2. Ana Mendieta

Ana Mendieta became a refugee at the age of 12, fleeing the regime change in her native Cuba for Dubuque, Iowa. This sense of displacement and loss would later be visible in Mendieta's incredible artworks. Most of her 200 artworks use the earth as their medium — drawing on native forms of knowledge, spiritualism, and magic, as well as being profoundly feminist in their approach and subject matter. Often overlooked in the art history books in favor of her husband, Carl Andre, who was controversially cleared of Mendieta's murder in 1985, Ana Mendieta is only now getting the recognition she deserves in the art world.



## 3. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen has had a career of firsts: she was the first Latina to serve in the Florida house; the first Latina in the Florida senate; the first Latina to serve in the US House of Representatives; the first Latina and the first Cuban-American in Congress; and the first woman to ever be chair of a regular stand-



ing committee of the House. A true political pioneer in every sense, the Republican representative announced her retirement this year after forty-years of service to her constituents and local community.

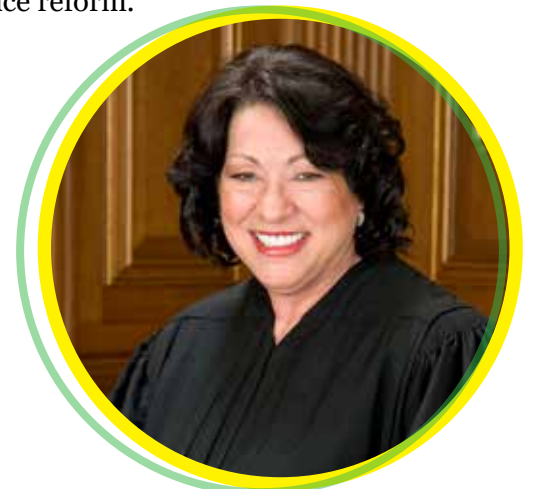
## 4. Julia de Burgos

Julia Constanza Burgos García was born in 1914 in Carolina, Puerto Rico. A successful published poet in her native Puerto Rico, de Burgos struggled to get the recognition she deserved after moving to the U.S. in the 1930s. Her poems spoke of the beauty of her native country, and celebrated her identity as an immigrant black Latina — all things that were outside of the mainstream in early 20th-century poetry circles. Way ahead of their time, de Burgos' scintillating poems center on themes of feminism and social justice, setting the stage for many Latino writers to come.



## 5. Sonia Sotomayor

"There are uses to adversity, and they don't reveal themselves until tested", says Sonia Sotomayor, "whether it's serious illness, financial hardship, or the simple constraint of parents who speak limited English, difficulty can tap unexpected strengths." Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor is herself testament to these words. Raised in a single parent household in the Bronx, Sotomayor went on to graduate summa cum laude from Princeton, go to Yale Law School, and from there become, first a U.S. District Court Judge, and then a Supreme Court Justice. Indeed, Sotomayor became the first Latina Supreme Court Justice in U.S. history. During her time in the Supreme Court, Sotomayor has worked tirelessly to be a voice for women and ethnic minorities in criminal justice reform.





LATINO BANNER  
SERMONETTE SERIES

*"A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones"*

*Proverbs 17:22*



By PASTOR AUGUSTINE DELGADO  
NEW BEGINNINGS MINISTRIES

### Laugh a Little

As we face trying times physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. it's difficult to foresee that better days are coming.

But they are.

When you feel like you have hit rock bottom, look up. When you feel like you're dying, rise up. And when you feel like crying, dig deep down and find your laughter. Find your joy and your peace.

Remember the simplest blessings are sometimes the best blessings. Don't forget to smile. Better days are coming.

**Seen on the Scene: K? Onda founder Miguel Torres and partner Kristina Salcedo received special recognition from Bill Urbanski of Mcdonald Cadillac GMC at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Premios K?Onda Awards on March 4, 2022.**





**Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute**

- Certificated Leadership Program
- One class per month, 8 am - 5 pm
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Networking Opportunities
- Ages 21 - 55

## NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS





# community BOARD

Submit your **announcements** and **events** at [michiganbanner.org](http://michiganbanner.org)

*A name you know,  
like and trust to help your family.*

**ELVIS MACHUL**  
BUSINESS MANAGER / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER  
**(989) 393-9258**



**4.9% APR\***

**on Balance Transfers for  
the LIFE of the Balance!**

Transfer higher rate credit cards to a Team One Visa Credit Card and get 4.9% APR\* for the LIFE of the Balance! Save money each month and pay off your debt sooner!

**Contact Team One today** to transfer your higher rate balances to a Team One Visa Credit Card!



888.283.3261 | [talk2us@teamonecu.org](mailto:talk2us@teamonecu.org) | [TeamOneCU.org](http://TeamOneCU.org)

\*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. 4.9% APR is valid until the entire balance is paid in full and only applies for balances transferred from another financial institution. A balance transfer rate of \$10 or 2% of each transfer, whichever is greater, will apply. If you are 60 days delinquent and receiving a promotional balance transfer rate, this rate may automatically revert to the originally disclosed rate. APR for purchases will remain at the originally disclosed rate. See Team One for additional details.

Great Lakes Bay  
Health Centers  
Quality Healthcare for Everyone



**We Welcome You Back!**

*Stay Healthy!*

**Schedule your Delayed Care Now!**

[GreatLakesBayHealth.org](http://GreatLakesBayHealth.org)

**COVID-19 & FLU VACCINES  
AVAILABLE**



## + COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

# Seeing Selma: What about voting rights?

By MIKE THOMPSON

Glendorah Lawrence has devoted special attention to U.S. Senate blockage, so far, of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

Her parents, David and Pauline Lawrence, had come to Saginaw from Alabama's Lowndes County, home of Selma's "Bloody Sunday" in March 1965 that nearly left Lewis for dead at the foot of the Pettus Bridge, followed by the 50-mile march to Montgomery that sparked federal approval of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Glen joined her sister, Karen Lawrence-Webster, in 2015 for a 50th anniversary pilgrimage to Selma that featured President Obama among the luminaries.

At that point, voting rollbacks already had started with a 2013 Supreme Court ruling that removed former Confederate states from special attention for enforcement, based on their racist past practices that had included registration barriers such as poll taxes and jelly bean jar counts. "Section 5" removal has been followed in various states with Donald Trump-inspired cutbacks in balloting locations, vote-by-mail and other provisions.

The John Lewis Act recently failed, 50-48, with opposition from Democrats Joe Manchin and Krysten Sinema, along with all Republicans from Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on down. That story has been blotted mainly by reports of blocked social needs funding, the pandemic, and the insurrection of January 6, 2021. And now the Russian/Putin invasion of Ukraine has taken center stage.

Civil rights activist Joe Madison, hosted in Saginaw by Delta College and by The Michigan Banner, has given up on a four-month solid foods hunger strike.

"There has been no followup in Washington," laments Glen, who recently stepped down from longtime service as office manager for the Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Association. "(The John Lewis Act) doesn't even come up in the news anymore."

### To see for themselves

When Glendorah and Karen revisited Selma seven years ago, they observed historical markers, including at the spot where Lewis had been beaten. They also visited

the family farm from which their parents had fled in 1953, after David Lawrence (future UAW Local 455 leader) clashed with a white neighbor over cow ownership, leading to immediate race-based death threats.

"As we were driving down to Selma, I was thinking of the family history," Glen says. "My parents had never really talked about it very much. They had just wanted to leave all of that behind. But when we observed the bridge, and started walking over to the other side toward Montgomery and all of that history, it really hit home."

Today she fears that some of the gains are being lost, with more laws and policies adopted that will disenfranchise ALL voters.

"The individual states have been up to a lot of shenanigans," she says, "and a new federal law would stop them from becoming out of hand."

Glendorah adds, "It was disappointing that during the State of the Union address that we didn't hear more than three or four words. I realize President Biden and his team cannot cover all the issues in one speech, but he and his administration should also recognize the history."

### Voting rights closer to home

In the state-by-state challenges that she describes, Michigan is near the top of the list, with 39 Republican proposals to restrict and discourage voting.

Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has vowed vetoes, and so advocates of those 39 bills have mounted petition drives under a misleading title of "Secure MI Votes." Civic leaders, starting with Dem State Rep. Amos O'Neal, are urging residents not to sign.

O'Neal says "more fair" voting access should be a basic right that ideally would not face opposition. Even though they will be outvoted by the opposition, he has joined fellow Democrats with seven bills aimed at least to slow down GOP momentum. They are H.B. 5513 to H.B. 5519.

An in-depth analysis is available in Michigan Banner online archives from last year, April 16 and Sept. 16. More info on the petitions is contained in this year's Jan. 16 issue. See [michiganbanner.org/print](http://michiganbanner.org/print)

## + COMMUNITY

## SPOTLIGHT // Dr. Carolyn Carter

CELEBRATING  
WOMEN'S  
HISTORY MONTH

Saginaw native, Dr. Carolyn Carter Townsel is an anointed, called out and set apart woman of God equipped for the work of the ministry. She is a licensed and ordained Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Dr. Townsel has been working for the Kingdom of God, teaching, preaching and living the Word of God for over 20 years.

Dr. Townsel is the founder and President of Trinity Theological Seminary, which is dedicated to educating, equipping, and empowering the Saints of God, to build the Kingdom of God. She is also, the Executive Director of Excell Learning Center.

Dr. Townsel received her Doctoral Degree in Theology, New Foundation Theological Seminary, Terry, Ms., Biblical and Theological Studies Degree, The Kings University, Southlake, Texas, and a Certificate of Leadership Development, under the tutelage of the late Dr. Myles Munroe, Bahama Faith Ministries International, Naussau, Bahamas. She has studied at Oxford University, London, England and is currently pursuing her Master of Divinity Degree.

She is a member of Pleasant Grove M.B. Church, Bentonia, Ms. where she serves as an Associate Pastor, under the leadership of Charles I. Bradley.

Dr. Carolyn Carter Townsel has been united in holy matrimony for 33 years to Dr. Charles W. Townsel. They have six (6) children and seven (7) grandchildren.



+ COMMUNITY



# What's Miss Della cooking today?

By Dolores Grant-Fall, former Neighborhood House cook

We should support our favorite restaurants, but we do not always have to order out to enjoy our favorites. In this example, you can make Oriental fried rice in your own kitchen.

## Fried Rice made simple

### Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cup instant rice, cooked
- 1 cup mixed veggies
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1/2 cup chopped bell pepper
- 3 gloves garlic
- 4 tbsp. cooking oil
- 1 tbsp. Gravy Master
- 1 tbsp. soy sauce
- 2 cooked eggs
- Cilantro, parsley, pepper,
- salt to taste



### Instructions

- Saute vegetables for 5 minutes
  - Add remaining ingredients
- With a few good stirs, you have a perfect side dish. Garnish with fresh green onion.

# CALL LEON WASHINGTON TODAY! AND DRIVE A BETTER CAR!

**\*TO QUALIFY YOU MUST CONTACT LEON WASHINGTON  
FOR AN APPOINTMENT PRIOR TO PURCHASE.**



**www.McDonaldAuto.com**  
**5155 State Street • Saginaw**  
**(989) 790-5155**



**McDONALD GMC Cadillac**  
5155 State Street • Saginaw, MI 48603  
www.McDonaldAuto.com

**(989) 790-5155** **Leon Washington**  
(989) 213-1972 cell Sales & Leasing Consultant  
(989) 791-6547 fax leonw@mcdonaldauto.com



+ 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.

Thank You.

#TOCUCares  
in Michigan

Cash Back Checking Programs!

Save to Win! Save money, enter to win cash.

FREE Mobile Banking & Online Banking.

888.288.3261 • TeamOneCU.org • #TOCU4Good

Louise McKinnie  
Master Hairstylist/Owner

Tues.-Fri. 10-6  
Sat. 9-4

Reflections of "U" Too  
Salon, Barber Shop, Nails & Boutique  
Poochie's Enterprises Inc.

2103 Sheridan Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
(989) 753-4600  
louloumck@aol.com

Specialist in Healthy Hair



+ COMMUNITY

CELEBRATING  
WOMEN'S  
HISTORY MONTH

FEMALE PASTORS

# Pastor Charlene Washington: To sing keeps a congregation going

Charlene Washington realizes that husband Otis devoted his final years to preparing her for the pastor's role at Saginaw's Holy Communion Gospel Center.

When he passed away in 2018, she was ready.

She recalls, "Otis told our congregation in 1993, 'One day I may not be here. But I will train you all as if you would speak to millions.'

"Church services became training grounds for us. My husband was a General, and we were his soldiers. Otis' thoughts were that everyone has value for the Kingdom and God wanted 'Power in the Pews.' We were all prepared to Go for Jesus.

"Otis was a News reporter for WNEM TV-5, and I am sure the same skills needed for journalism added ability for reporting the Good News of the Gospel."

Pastor Charlene started to study for the

ministry in 1988, while she was concluding her 24 years as owner and operator of The Masters Touch, a beauty salon near the church in the 1200 block of East Genesee.

"At first, I didn't want to teach or preach because of fear of messing God's assignment up. I asked the Lord to let me just sing. I was never afraid to sing. I was lead singer in an R&B band as a teenager in Florence, Alabama, my birthplace.

"Otis validated the call upon my life, and after years of teaching, I was ordained in 1995."

She concludes, "We have had an opportunity to move our Ministry to another building, but we are staying in place, renovating and decorating. I believe the Lord is pleased."



PASTOR CHARLENE WASHINGTON

*As **Women's History Month** continues, The Michigan Banner features female pastors who represent progress in achieving faith-based diversity.*

*Read more stories...*

**Pastor Carolyn Wilkins: A woman is capable to guide a church**  
*pg 19*

**Pastor Joyce Redfearn: Church really becomes family**  
*pg 23*

**Pastor Genevieve Benson: Carry on husband's popular legacy**  
*pg 21*

**Pastor Sue Hand: Ministry includes hospital chaplain**  
*pg 25*



**Shop** [www.kashmonkey.com](http://www.kashmonkey.com) **KASH** CEO Erin Crawford

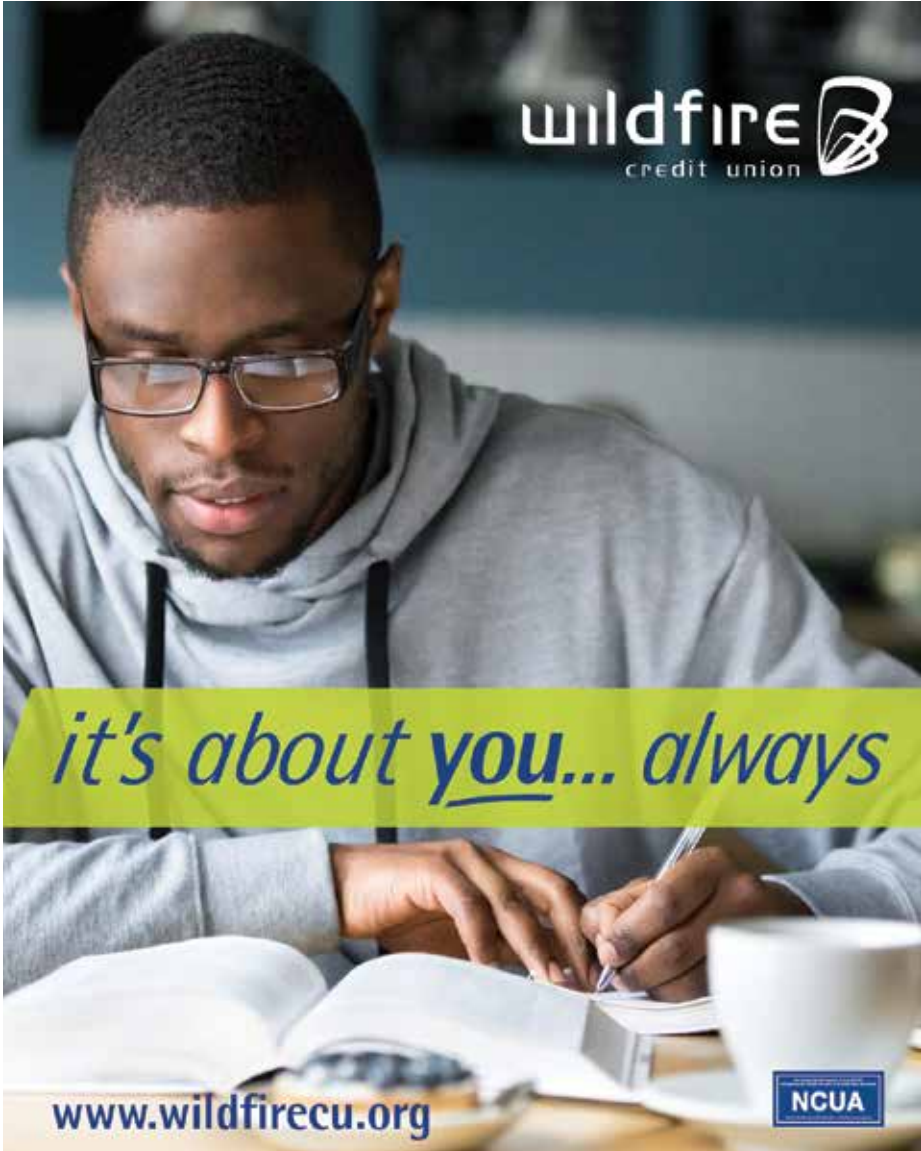
**Email Me** [kashhmonkey@gmail.com](mailto:kashhmonkey@gmail.com)

**Text Me** 989-256-5132

**CONNECT WITH ME**

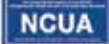
 kash monkey

 kashmonkey **Monkey**

**wildfire**  
credit union

*it's about you... always*

[www.wildfirecu.org](http://www.wildfirecu.org) 



**Twins Cleaning SERVICES**

Quality Cleaning at Reasonable Rates

For More Information Contact Catherine at 989-574-5430

## Bavarian Inn Lodge & Restaurant

# JOIN OUR TEAM!




Looking for a part time job or career? Stop by the Human Resource office or visit [BavarianInn.com/Jobs](http://BavarianInn.com/Jobs) for more info.

Tuition Reimbursement Program up to \$10,000 • Fast \$\$\$ Referral Program 401K & Company Match • Dental /Vision/Medical • Free Lunch and more!

**ENTRY LEVEL WAGES STARTING AT \$12-14!  
PLUS \$1 MORE AN HOUR ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS!**

Retail Clerks	Servers	Housekeepers
Front Desk	Hosts/Hostesses	Bartenders
Reservations	Cooking Positions	Fun Center





## FEMALE PASTORS

## + COMMUNITY

CELEBRATING  
WOMEN'S  
HISTORY MONTH

## Pastor Carolyn Wilkins: A woman is capable to guide a church

Carolyn Wilkins was a loyal church congregant, even functioning in leadership roles, before she became founding pastor in 2002 of Saginaw's Resurrection Life Ministries.

She branched out on her own because she did not feel fully included.

"Ever since I was 9 years old, it became evident to me, as a young woman, that I had been called to do more as a Christian," she says, "but it was not acceptable for a woman to become a preacher. The reason I never started along that path, at that time, was because of the ridicule I would have received, from men and also from women."

She would plead her case for gender equality, but she was rejected by the traditionalists.

"I was hurt by it, but I went on," she recalls.

Pastor Wilkins launched Resurrection Life from a conference room at a local motel. When that arrangement failed to work out, prayer and fate placed her in contact with leaders of Sheridan Avenue Methodist Church. In their faith's

tradition of acceptance, she was invited to use the facilities without requiring that she adhere to Methodist liturgy. Eventually, the building was sold to Resurrection Life.

"I was just so happy that it was done," she says.

A 20th anniversary open house event is entitled, "Women's History Month Celebration: Believing Bigger and Better," set for 2 p.m. Sunday, March 27, at the church, 2320 Sheridan. The keynote speaker is Ernestine Rimmer of Word of Faith International Ministries, a longtime volunteer with the City Rescue Mission women's emergency shelter and with female inmates at the county jail.

Pastor Wilkins chooses not to say "discrimination" regarding her experiences. She prefers to express "acceptance" as a goal and a desire, and she says progress has been achieved but challenges continue.



PASTOR CAROLYN WILKINS

"Why wouldn't I preach?" she asks. "I had passion and commitment, and followed my savior."

## United Way of Southeastern Michigan accepting nominations for Volunteer Honor Roll

United Way for Southeastern Michigan's mission is to mobilize the caring power of Southeastern Michigan to improve communities and individual lives in measurable and lasting ways. Encouraging and facilitating volunteerism is a key piece of this mission. Volunteers are critical in allowing United Way and its partners to serve our community. To recognize the contributions of local volunteers, United Way is soliciting nominations for Southeastern Michigan's Volunteer Honor Roll. Those being nominated should exhibit a

dedication to serving others and supporting the missions of local organizations that work to improve our community.

Nominations will be reviewed by United Way staff and an external committee of community partners. Select nominees will be recognized on United Way for Southeastern Michigan's Volunteer Honor Roll. Those being recognized will be notified in late March. A public announcement will take place during National Volunteer Week, April 17-23.

To be eligible, nominees must volun-

teer their time in service of a community need in Macomb, Oakland and/or Wayne County. Nominees may volunteer with a nonprofit organization, school, faith-based organization, grassroots organization, block club, or municipality, or act in direct service of others. Nominees need not volunteer with United Way or a United Way partner organization.

Nominations will be accepted through 11:59 p.m. on March 25 at [unitedwaysem.org](http://unitedwaysem.org).



WOMEN OF COLORS PRESENTS

# HOW I OVERCAME

INSPIRATIONAL STORIES SHARED BY A  
PANEL OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS

MARCH 25, 2022 @ 7:00PM  
**FORUM WILL BE  
LIVE STREAMED**



CO-HOST EVELYN MCGOVERN



CO-HOST VICKI HILL

PANELISTS



**LORI ZIOLKOWSKI, MBA**  
Associate Professor of  
Management, Delta College



**SHENA  
JOHNSON**  
Advocate  
Aurora  
Health



**BETH URECHE, CPRC, CHW**  
Program Manager,  
Ten16 Recovery Network



**BRANDI  
JACKSON**  
Entrepreneur

**LIVESTREAM VIA: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WOMENOFCOLORS](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WOMENOFCOLORS), WTLZ KISS  
107.1 FM, WSGW 790 & 105 FM, THE MOOSE 94.5 FM & WGER 106.3 FM**





+ COMMUNITY

CELEBRATING  
WOMEN'S  
HISTORY MONTH

FEMALE PASTORS

# Pastor Genevieve Benson: Carry on husband's popular legacy

Genevieve Benson always knew that husband Eddie Benson was a salesman, rooted in his years owning and operating Al's Market, neighbor to the Rib Shack.

When he opted to form Christ Disciples Miracle Center on Lapeer Avenue in Buena Vista, saving souls over selling snacks, she was right by his side.

And when Eddie died in 2014, she vowed she would not let him down.

"I had never thought of serving as pastor. I had always thought simply about being his assistant," Genevieve says.

"Then he passed away, and I realized he was gone, and it was time for me to step up."

She was hesitant and cautious, but she felt the charismatic former "Mister Little Debbie" still by her side.

"We had always worked together," she says, "but now he was teaching me at another level. He was grooming me to take that position."

Still, some of the challenges of 2022 could not have been envisioned during 2014, especially economic hardship from the pandemic. Also, overall church membership has fallen and megachurch celebrity ministers hold more sway.

Pastor Genevieve Benson concludes, "The main challenge is not always a loss



PASTOR GENEVIEVE BENSON

of members, but also many of those who stay no longer are able to contribute as they once did."

She concludes, "I have learned that I cannot always compare myself to Eddie. Instead of always asking, 'What would

he do?' I have to move ahead."

As his Evans-Browne memorial tribute states, "give others second chances" remains a prime mission for Christ Disciples.





The Class was developed by Terry Duperon; an entrepreneur, inventor, author and speaker who has taught over 1000 students through Duperon Education.

Each one of us was born with the ability to create, and The Class will help you rediscover who that person is and how to unfold a world of endless opportunities and possibilities. Whether you want to create a product, a business, a book or a life you love, the how-to will always show itself.

The Class, as it exists today, takes us through the skills and practices to bring something into the future that hasn't been done before. As Terry says, "never be the one who limits you".

The Class is for anyone looking for the next step. People walk out with more of themselves than when they entered and leave with the tools to create, lead and fulfill their dreams.

# THE CLASS

UPCOMING CLASS SERIES

March 8th, 15th, 22nd

5:30-8:30 pm

SIGN UP TODAY  
cseitz@duperon.com  
LIMITED CLASS SIZE





+ COMMUNITY

CELEBRATING  
WOMEN'S  
HISTORY MONTH

FEMALE PASTORS

# Pastor Joyce Redfearn: Church really becomes family

When E. Joyce Braddock was growing up and joining her family at St. Luke Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, she never dreamed she one day would serve as pastor.

She sang gospel hymns and accompanied herself on the piano, eventually becoming minister of music.

"But I had no idea that I would become involved in the preaching ministry," she says.

Instead, she dreamed of becoming a doctor or going into business. Either would have been a bold step for a female during the 1970s and 1980s, but neither was as extreme as enlisting in the clergy, which was almost entirely a male province.

When she finally took the big step near the turn of the millennium, it was out-of-town as pastor of Lansing's Mask Memorial CME Church. Meanwhile, her brother Charles Braddock was completing his remarkable career by serving as St. Luke's pastor, after years as a city police officer, First Ward Community

Center director, and state parole board officer.

And when Charles died suddenly in 2013 at age 55, Joyce accepted a CME bishop's appointment to come back home and follow in his footsteps at St. Luke's.

"There never was any question, within myself, that I would accept," Pastor Redfearn says today, upon reflection.

For the congregation, Charles' passion for civic involvement has remained in place, because Joyce also is a community-oriented person. She is treasurer of the Church of Saginaw Ministerial Alliance, a group that is both non-denominational and ethnically diverse, best known locally for activities related to the National Day of Prayer.

She also is chairwoman of the Saginaw Sickle Cell Support Group in honor and memory of a daughter, Tanjanika Taylor, who passed away with the blood disorder four years ago, at age 31.

"Helping people is what the ministry is all about," Pastor Redfearn concludes.



PASTOR JOYCE REDFEARN

## Discover the biomes of the world with exhibit at Midland Center for the Arts

MIDLAND – In a new exhibit at the Midland Center for the Arts, Biomes of the World, several of the major biomes including aquatic, forests, grasslands, desert and tundra are explored.

Each biome will include information on the plants, animals and the unique characteristics that make these biomes different from each other. There will be live animal ambassadors in some of the biomes for visitors to learn more about the different species that make these biomes their home.

This exhibit is in partnership with Chippewa Nature Center and sponsored by Three Rivers Corporation and QRP.

COURTESY PHOTO



## + OBITUARIES

## Remembering Myrna Wright

**M**yrna Wright, 58, of Scottsdale, AZ, transitioned on 02/28/2022, surrounded with love from her children after a long and valiant fight with cancer. Myrna, born on September 8th, 1963 to Ples Sr. and Ludora Wyatt in Flint, MI, immediately brought joy into the world. She was known for her keen fashion sense, her incredible singing voice, and most importantly her passion for Christ.

Myrna was a dedicated mom to both of her children, raising them to be God fearing, strong, and caring individuals. Family came first and was above all else to Myrna, a value she instilled in all those around her. The hole left by her absence is impossible to fill. Myrna was predeceased by both of her parents, Ples Sr. and Ludora Wyatt. She is survived by her children, Rodney Jones and Dymond Jones. There will be no service per her request, however a small memorial will be planned for a later date.



## Remembering Mrs. Idella "Della" Meanes

**M**rs. Idella Meanes was born in Birmingham, Alabama on December 21, 1940 to Albert and Rebecca (Wyatt) Orum. She passed on March 9, 2022 at the age of 81 years.

She and George Meanes were joined in Holy Matrimony in 1967 sharing 54 loving years. Idella was a faithful member of Bethel A.M.E. Church Saginaw for a number of years. She was a licensed cosmetologist for over 60 years. Idella was known as one of the best hairdressers and cooks in Saginaw. She always insisted that her customers ate her home cooked meals while they waited to get the latest hairstyle. She loved shopping for beautiful items, and wearing beautiful clothes.

She leaves to cherish her memory three children, Anthony of Birmingham, Edmund Dwight (Merry) of Saginaw and Rukishe Lynn Meanes of Saginaw; grandchildren, KeAirra Orum; great-grandchildren, Kevin Monsibais and Ariana Orum; siblings, Johnnie Mae McCord, her beloved sister who she talked with all the time, Percy Orum (Gina), Reginald Davis, Victoria McCants, Alvin Orum, Ann Elizabeth McLitus, Jennifer Morris, Timothy Orum and Willie Orum; god-daughter, Wendy Smiley; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Mrs. Meanes was preceded in death by her devoted husband George Meanes; grandsons, Antonio and Kevin Orum and her parents, Albert and Rebecca Orum.





## FEMALE PASTORS

## + COMMUNITY

CELEBRATING  
WOMEN'S  
HISTORY MONTH

## Pastor Sue Hand: Ministry includes hospital chaplain

"Violence is a public health issue," preaches Sue Hand, and a focal point of her ministry is to reach out to victims while aiming to prevent incidents, some that escalate into tragedy.

Her dual role in Saginaw is as chaplain for Ascension St. Mary's Hospital and as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church on Court Street, about a half-mile from the courthouse.

While some pastors are becoming more "community oriented," so are chaplains, says Hand, who previously completed her one-year chaplain residency at Covenant Medical Center.

Through her St. Mary's position, she has taken a lead to organize S-LIVE, Saginaw Life Is Valuable Everyday, a coalition of clergy and agency service providers who are both aiming to promote public awareness and to support victims in recovery. Sue says the pandemic has reduced the ability for personal outreach, but that the group is prepared for

more intensive outreach.

"Entire families are affected," she explains. "Our main purpose is to walk with families and with people, to listen and to hear their needs, and to help act upon them."

The former Sue Moore grew up in Bad Axe and considered the Roman Catholic sisterhood. When she encountered Dave Hand, she says, "I met my boyfriend and I met my husband. We married when we were 19."

She converted to the Lutheran faith so that she could wed and raise a family, which consists of three adult children and six grandchildren. Dave is retiring this month after a 34-year career with Dow Chemical Co.

"There has been a lot of violence in the city," Pastor Hand says. "Through S-LIVE, we want to go to different areas to help heal the city by praying."



PASTOR SUE HAND

## Social Security online, your first and best place to start

By **VONDA VAN TIL**  
SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

More than likely you do not have to visit a Social Security office to do business with us. You might not have to call, either. Our online services webpage at [www.ssa.gov/onlineservices](http://www.ssa.gov/onlineservices) provides you a wide variety of self-service options you can use on your phone, tablet, or computer. You can even apply for retirement, disability, or Medicare online.

You can get the most out of your online experience if you have a personal my Social Security account. With it, you can:

- Get your Social Security Statement instantly.
- Request a replacement Social

Security card, in nearly all states and the District of Columbia.

- Appeal a decision we made on your claim.
- Find out if you qualify for benefits.

Already receiving benefits? If so, you can use your personal my Social Security account to:

- Get your benefit verification letter for Social Security, Medicare, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) instantly.
- Check your information and benefit amount.
- Change your address and telephone number.
- Start or change your direct deposit.
- Request a replacement Medicare

card.

- Get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S instantly for tax season.
- Report your wages if you work and receive disability benefits or SSI.

Create or sign in to your personal my Social Security account today at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) to take advantage of these easy-to-use features.

Please share our online services page with family and friends who need this important information!

*Vonda Van Til is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at [vonda.vantil@ssa.gov](mailto:vonda.vantil@ssa.gov).*

## + COMMUNITY

## IN MY HUMBLE OPINION



COURTESY PHOTO

The theme for IWD 2022 was #Break-TheBias with a call to action for everyone to break the bias in our communities, workplaces, schools, colleges, and universities to create a world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. History.com published a list of remarkable accomplishments by trail-blazing women in American history, and here is a sample of those that helped break the bias toward men in fields like science, politics, business, sports, literature, and art.

- **1848** - First women's-rights convention meets in Seneca Falls, New York.
- **1869** - Wyoming Territory is first to grant women the vote.
- **1910** - Julia Morgan becomes the first woman licensed to practice architecture in California. She is most famous for building the "Hearst Castle".
- **1921** - Edith Wharton is the first woman to win a Pulitzer Prize.
- **1928** - Amelia Earhart is the first woman to pilot an airplane across the Atlantic.
- **1943** - The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League becomes the first professional baseball league for female players.
- **1972** - Katharine Graham becomes the first woman to become a Fortune 500 CEO.
- **1981** - Sandra Day O'Connor becomes the first female Supreme Court Justice.
- **1987** - Aretha Franklin becomes the first woman elected to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.
- **1997** - Madeleine Albright becomes the first female Secretary of State.
- **2010** - Kathryn Bigelow becomes the first woman to win an Oscar for Best Director.
- **2016** - Hillary Clinton becomes first female presidential nominee of a major party.
- **2021** - Kamala Harris becomes

# March is Bittersweet



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

The beginning of the year is always a busy time in my family with birthdays from January to March. We celebrate our two daughters and our twin boys in January. My birthday is in February, and our oldest son's birthday is in March. We also celebrate my late mother's life with her birthday on the 8th of March and her passing on the 30th, which makes March bittersweet.

The 8th of March is also International Women's Day (IWD) and March is Women's History Month. Unfortunately, celebrating them is also bittersweet because of the injustices and violence that are still so prevalent against women in the United States and internationally.

International Women's Day is exactly that, a day. However, the issues it highlights exist every day. If we took all the positive actions on that day and multiplied them across the other 364 days, how much

more of an impact could we have in a year? In chaos theory there is something called "The Butterfly Effect" and the Oxford Languages Dictionary defines it as, "the phenomenon whereby a minute localized change in a complex system can have large effects elsewhere."

Celebrating International Women's Day in 2020, leading international auditing and professional services group Deloitte had an internal initiative called #BeTheButterfly encouraging all its 334,800 employees, at the time, to be the change. A statement on its website read, "Simply thinking about the language we use, offering support to a co-worker, or a simple act of solidarity towards a woman or girl in their daily lives are small acts that can have a big impact in ways we might not even realize. The Butterfly Effect shows the compounding impact of small changes."

Women's History Month is a national celebration that recognizes the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history in a variety of fields. It started as "Women's History Week" on 07 March 1982 by way of a proclamation by President Reagan. In 1987, Congress passed a law that designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month." Every President thereafter has issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month."

**CONTINUES ON PG 27,  
MARCH**



## + COMMUNITY

## Continued from pg 26, March

first female, first Black and first South-Asian vice president in U.S. history.

- **2022** - Maya Angelou is the First Black Woman to appear on the U.S. Quarter. (not part of History.com list, published in 2021)

The achievements above are certainly remarkable, however they stand in stark contrast to the overwhelming statistics of violence and discrimination against women. In 2021, UN Women published “Facts and Figures” about the prevalence of violence against women and girls, and “Globally, an estimated 736 million women—almost one in three—have been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both at least once in their life (women aged 15 and older)”. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has increased risk factors for violence against women and girls, is not reflected in these

numbers. The document goes on to report that service-use data in different countries has shown a significant increase in reported cases of domestic violence to helplines, women’s shelters and the police, linked to COVID-19. “Calls to helplines have increased five-fold in some countries”, and UN Women confirms violence against women as a “shadow pandemic”.

Violence against women and girls is preventable, according to UN News as reported in November 2021. Comprehensive strategies are needed to resolve root causes, transform harmful social norms, provide better services for survivors, and end impunity. Evidence shows that strong and autonomous women's rights movements are critical to preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls.

Research tells us 63% of Americans believe there will always be gender discrimination in the US, as reported by The New York Post in March 2020. The study asked 2,000 Americans (1,000 women and 1,000

men) about their opinions on gender inequality and found 50% of the women reported facing gender discrimination nearly every day, and 72% of the men agreed that women still face gender discrimination nearly every day. Approximately 75% of all respondents agreed that women's empowerment is a critical aspect of achieving gender equality.

Deloitte’s initiative using the Butterfly Effect recommends additional actions to promote gender equality, including challenging gender roles at work, asking women's opinions in meetings, and supporting women-owned businesses. I am passionate about women and women’s empowerment, because my wife is an entrepreneur and the majority of my close relatives are female. I have three sisters and out of twelve first cousins only two are male. We must celebrate women and their achievements while doing much more to eliminate violence against women and girls, and gender inequality.

## SPOTLIGHT // TaTanesha Dillard

CELEBRATING  
WOMEN'S  
HISTORY MONTH

**TaTanesha** is a 40 year old Medical Assistant, Abuse Awareness Advocate, Mother of 4 and A member of New Birth Missionary Baptist Cathedral under the leadership of Bishop Larry Camel where she serves on the Praise Team, The Director of The Media Ministry. She is an entrepreneur with multi small businesses as well as being a community liaison.

On December 27th 2021 God blessed Ta-Tanesha with the opportunity to become the Store Manager for the Newly built Dollar General located 3111 Sheridan Ave. Saginaw Michigan

She played a huge part in opening the store, when she walked in the building there was just concrete floor and in 4 days her team built every shelve and fixture in the facility as well as stocked the store, and opened the doors on January 18th 2022. The store has a full grocery section as well as a huge selection of home decor.

She has provided jobs for the community as well as having the literacy program assisting our youth in the community help with reading ,donations of food for food giveaways and will be partnering with Bishop Camel to help service the community.

As a valued community leader in Saginaw, MI she believes that the community has the right to shop in a safe, secure, clean, organized, stocked ,supportive and friendly environment, and Dollar general will be the foundation of a sustainable and prosperous society.

## + COMMUNITY



DR. DEBASISH MRIDHA

# The best medicine for a happy life

*Through his medical practice, charitable activities, and philosophical writings, Saginaw neurologist Debasish Mridha is creating a proprietary prescription for peace and happiness*

By **JESSICA DAWSON**

This past Valentine's Day, perhaps you were looking for inspiration in honor of your special someone, aiming to add profound depth to your own sentiments via Cupid's mighty pen. If you went online and googled "best quotes on love" and followed the link to GoodReads, WiseSayings, or practically any other quote site listed, eventually the name Debasish Mridha would have appeared.

"The secret of joy is to give love without seeking it."

Scroll past William Shakespeare, Mahatma Gandhi, and Marilyn Monroe, and

there he is again, dispensing more pearls of wisdom.

"Happiness is the fragrance in the garden of love."

Click to the next page, breeze past Albert Einstein, Mother Theresa, and Kahlil Gibran, and Mridha's name eventually pops up beneath another quote.

"Always love your enemies. It will destroy them forever."

Whatever the angle, the Good Doctor's perspective is both deep and whimsical; the glasses through which he views the world are tinted with perpetual love and kindness.

If you missed Valentine's Day, not to

worry: Mridha's musings on babies can aptly represent Mother's Day, the changing of the seasons, or life in general ("In the garden of humanity every baby is a fresh new flower who can smile, laugh, giggle, dance, love and sing with Mother Earth").

Mridha has published five books of poems and verse (three in English and two in his native Bengali language), all while presiding over his neurology practice, Michigan Advanced Neurology Center (MANC), which he launched in 1999.

In fact, the focus of his next book, to be published in 2022, will be babies, motherhood, and parenting. Following the format of his two most recent publications, "Verses of Happiness" (2017) and "Verses of Peace" (2019), the new book, "Sweet Babies, Sweet Thoughts," will pair Mridha's quotable thoughts with illustrations intended to appeal to readers of every age.

Mridha says he believes that his distinct way of expressing his thoughts is an amalgamation of personal life experience and his persistence in thinking deeply about what makes life such a breathtakingly beautiful, poetic experience at its core.

Persistence is a quality that has served Mridha well throughout his life.

## Humble Beginnings

Born in Bangladesh in 1964, Mridha was 6 years old when the Bangladesh War broke out; his family would spend the next three years in a refugee camp, enduring conditions that opened his eyes to the harshness that can exist in the world.

"I decided back then that if I ever had enough for myself, whatever else I had I would give to those less fortunate," he recalls.

As Mridha progressed through school, he rose to the top of his class, earning a full academic scholarship to attend Kiev Medical Institute in Ukraine. As a student, he also won the heart of his future wife, Chinu, who had read some of his poetic writings in a school publication. He followed an opportunity to complete his residency and fellowship in neurology in the United States, at Wayne State University.

Drawn to Michigan's charm as well as its opportunity, the Mridhas chose Sagi-

**CONTINUES ON PG 29,  
DR. DEBASISH MRIDHA**



## + COMMUNITY

## Continued from pg 28, Dr. Debasish Mridha



MRIDHA PEACE WALK

naw for the next chapter of their lives. Mridha rose to prominence in his profession; in 2012 he was named Physician of the Year in Michigan. During this time, however, he always remained a student of philosophy and its influential writers and thinkers. Whether historical or contemporary, from Socrates and Descartes to Deepak Chopra and Wayne Dyer, Mridha absorbed a broad swath of philosophical teachings and incorporated them into his own philosophy.

“I think how I process the world, through my past experiences and worldview, and the way I express my thoughts in English achieves a simplicity that is relatable on many levels,” says Mridha.

In 2010, following a vision that his words could have an impact in the public arena, Mridha ran as the Democratic Candidate for the 32nd District (covering Saginaw and Genesee counties). Although his candidacy was unsuccessful (he lost to Republican Incumbent Roger Khan), Mridha garnered more than 41% of the vote, a top showing that year for a freshman candidate for office. He also used the experience to become more comfortable with public speaking.

### Building a Legacy

As his practice became more successful, the Mridhas formed Himaloy, Inc., a property management company, and bought their first property, the Ziebart Auto Detailing on Euclid Avenue in Bay City, in 2006.

“I got some advice very early on that investing in property is much more reliable than the stock market,” he says.

Later that same year, Mridha purchased a piece of history, the Montague Inn, an ornate Saginaw bed-and-breakfast property built in 1929. While the Inn accepts reservations throughout the year and hosts special events as well, Mridha sees the site as the eventual permanent home for the Mridha Foundation, a nonprofit that the Mridhas formed in 2001. The grounds are decorated with marble sculptures and monuments etched with some of Mridha’s quotes.

In 2019, Himaloy purchased a building in Warren that became the Shiv Mandir Temple of Joy, a worship and cultural center for the Hindu community in the area. Dr. Mridha regularly attends and speaks at special events held at the temple.

Another measure of the legacy Mridha is building is the number of scholarships and awards that he has initiated: American Brain Foundation, American Medical Association Foundation (AMAF), Michigan State Medical Society, Saginaw County Medical Society, Saginaw Community Foundation, Saginaw Valley State University, and Central Michigan University are the most notable. In addition, he has served on the Michigan State Medical Society’s Board of Trustees since 2009.

Still, in spite of all these activities, whenever he has a free moment, Mridha can be found behind his desk, writing a poem or speech to recite at a special occasion or just a simple verse that shines fresh light on a familiar thought.

In 2021, seeking to create a physical extension of his dedication to promoting peace and happiness in the world, he formed the Mridha International Institute of Peace & Happiness. Launched on International Peace Day (September 21), the Institute will launch its free online platform with courses teaching principles related to conflict resolution, inner peace, and community involvement. Inaugural Governing Board members include SVSU President Donald Bachand and Dow Foundation President Jenee Velasquez.

“Our vision is to hold an annual conference with speakers and panelists who hold varied perspectives unified by their commitment to peace, nonviolence, and creating a better world for everyone.”



TEACHER AWARD



+ COMMUNITY

# SPOTLIGHT // Carlean Gill

First African-American woman thoroughbred horse breeder in Saginaw

CELEBRATING  
**WOMEN'S**  
HISTORY MONTH



In the early 1990s Carlean pursued horse breeding and racing, based on a farm out on East Road, in Saginaw. She would eventually travel the national horse racing circuit.



**RUN NIKI RUN** Hazel Park April 30, 1979 Purse \$4500  
AL Coy Up S A G Stable Owner James Jackson Trainer  
Debra's Stream 2nd Six Furlongs 1:21-3 Trach Fast Les Bluff 3rd  
37.60 15.20 6.20

Photo by Laurie Wilson



"Dead Heat"  
**DINE** Hazel Park May 9, 1982 Purse \$6000  
Bernie Maxwell Jockey S A G Stable Owner J. J. Sirkin Trainer  
H. for 1st Winsome Waif Six Furlongs Trach Fast Kim Lucky Legs 3rd  
60 8.80 4.80 :24- :48-1 1:14-4 Photo by L. Wilson





## + COMMUNITY



FROM L TO R: ISA FAIRLEY, ERIN BAINES, MADISON MONTGOMERY, FANTA KABA, MYA MORRIS, OLIVIA MARTIN

# Black Girls Truly Do Rock

By **OLIVIA MARTIN**

The Black Girls Rock Committee at Central Michigan University put on an amazing show and made an unforgettable experience for their annual Black Girls Rock award show. These women apart of this committee made the magic happen on their predominantly white institution. Every year, three organizations, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Phenomenal Brown Girl, and Pinky Promise teams up to create an amazing award show dedicated to all of the Black and Brown women on their campus that exemplifies hard work and brings the community together.

In the year of 2020, the award show was halted due to the global pandemic. In 2021, the award show was virtual therefore; the anticipation of the show being face to face was highly expected. The committee members, Madison Montgomery, Olivia Martin, Mya Morris, Erin Baines, Fanta Kaba, and Isa Fairley had a goal of

making this years show, face-to-face also while considering the guidelines of the Coronavirus SARS-CoV2.

The committee started planning for the show, “Black Girls Rock: 50 Shades of Melanin,” at the beginning of this year. The committee knew it was going to be a lot of hard work in store but they were ready to uplift the Black women on their campus and show off Black excellence. The committee also wanted to show their white counterparts just exactly what the Black community on their campus has to offer.

There is always a beginning story of how something came to be, and these women, put their best foot forward when it came to planning out the show. Committee chair, Madison Montgomery discusses what it was like planning for the show and what it was like seeing all of their hard work pay off.

“We stayed up countless nights, sending out emails to nominees, sending out emails to faculty, trying to come up with

different ways to elevate the show, and make it a classy event to really shine light on Black women and to even shine light on Black people. To come together and to see each other shine and be beautiful and to spread around that Black girl and that Black boy magic was the ultimate goal,” Montgomery stated. “We put in the work, we kept our head down, we steadfast, and we got to emailing. It took a lot of hard work and dedication and I don’t think it came easy; we had plenty of obstacles but we didn’t get discouraged. We kept going and we had each other to lean on then we had the show we had, and I think it was pretty damn good.”

The committee was able to come together, create something beautiful, and execute everything that they intended too,

**CONTINUES ON PG 32,  
BLACK GIRLS ROCK**



## + COMMUNITY

## Continued from pg 31, Black Girls Rock



COURTESY PHOTO

Montgomery discusses what it felt like to have their hard work being showed to the entire campus to see.

“There was some unsureness, there was nervousness, there was a lot of emotion because, to me, Black Girls rock meant so much to me and I felt like the campus really, really needed it not only because it was the first time since the pandemic, but to gather to see each other in a positive light was a great feeling,” Montgomery explained. “You know, it’s really easy for us to gather and party, it is really easy for us to gather when there is something wrong. So to come together and gather for a positive situation was an amazing thing.”

The Black Girls Rock Committee has spent endless hours staying up planning for this event. They have sent out countless emails, created many graphics, planned out many meetings for the nominees and performers, and they had to network with many people on and off campus to create something so beautiful for the Black community on their cam-

pus to have. The committee members had meetings for the event every other week and during those meetings, they discussed their dreams and plans of the event thus, “Black Girls Rock: 50 Shades of Melanin,” was created. The theme of the event was “Planet H.E.R.” The name was created to showcase just how stellar all of the Black women on Central Michigan University’s campus are.

Committee member, Mya Morris discusses what being apart of the committee meant to her considering she is one of the youngest members on the committee this year. Morris also discusses what the show meant to her and the Black community.

“I really appreciate having Black Girls Rock on campus because it highlights the Black women on campus and although we are a minority, we do a lot on campus and we deserve to be celebrated,” Morris exclaimed. “The event holds a special place in my heart and it’s nice to see us as a community together which is rare. Also, being on the committee was a great experience. I had a great time getting to know everybody and getting closer with other committee members, and learning how to put on an event this first time. Just learning the ins and outs was a great experience and I hope this it is something I could have a higher position in next year because I would love to keep the tradition going.”

The annual Black Girls Rock award show is a special event to all of the Black men and women on Central’s campus. Having this show reminded them just how special they are and having everyone come out and support made this event surreal for a lot of the committee members.

The planning for the event was very meticulous. Each category represented a planet and a description was provided that described the nominee that was nominat-

ed in their category. Their were 10 categories, Uranus (Emerging Leader), Neptune (Creative Expression), Moon (Humanitarian), Sun (S.T.E.M.), Mercury (Scholar of the Year), Mars (Athlete of the Year), Venus (Best Dressed), Jupiter (Business Woman of the Year), Saturn (Faculty of the Year), and lastly, Pluto (All Around Woman). Each planet represented just how out of this world these women truly are.

Current committee members that left their stamp on Central and are graduating in the spring are Madison Montgomery and Olivia Martin. Montgomery wanted to leave her committee with her biggest piece of advice before passing the torch.

“Make sure that you all are having your eyes set on a goal and that you all are sticking together and working together because regardless if you all have all the time in the world or you all are on a crunch, what y’all need is to be unified, to be able to push for the agenda that we’re trying to push for because if we don’t have a good foundation, Black Girls Rock doesn’t have a good foundation,” Montgomery explained. “We’re a big part of the Black community here of Central Michigan’s campus and it especially shows that the turnout and the positive reviews that we’ve got from Black Girls Rock so, continued to inspire people. We first have to be the change that we want to see and make sure that we’re sticking together and, that love will be contagious.”



COURTESY PHOTO



## + COMMUNITY

## SPOTLIGHT // Pastor Doshia Graham

CELEBRATING  
WOMEN'S  
HISTORY MONTH

In the midst of a Pandemic, she

is redefining what it means to have faith. From March 04, 2020, to January 19, 2022, affectionately known as "Pastor D." has had 9 surgeries. This has been an unexpected journey, but what she has learned, only in the darkness is where you will find the light, and after you find the light, you will land in your "God Given Place" Pastor D with her down to earth personality is a motivator, speaker, visionary, and entrepreneur.

Her desire is to travel through- out the world. To bring revival to nations, to catch souls alive. To teach people how to break up with their past, maximize their present, to welcome their future... through having a deeper relationship with God.

After excepting her call 26 years ago under Bishop Robert Shackelford. He told her that the call that is on her life will cost her, her life and so it would be so. Counseling, training, teaching mentoring people from all social and economic backgrounds.

At age 25 is where Doshia learned about true "Servanthood." As her spiritual mother (Pastor Jessica Ingram Oak Grove AME- Asst. Pastor) armorbearer she served faithfully. One day Pastor Jessica looked at Doshia and said to her: One day you will be in this same position I am in right now. And always remember in order for you to be a good leader you have to be a "Great Follower" that is the highest calling ever. Those words are what Pastor D. lives by daily.

Under the tutelage of the late Mother Demmings (International Gospel Center) Pastor D. Studied and trained in Spiritual Warfare and Deliverance. Not only does she have the gift of the prophetic...but she also holds the office of a Prophet.

Alongside her husband Senior Pastor Jerome L. Graham, whom she has been married to for 14 1/2 years. they are the founder's and pastors of ZIM (Zogreo International Ministries) for 7 1/2 years located in Warren MI. With their blended family they have 7 children and 15 grandchildren whom they love deeply.



## + HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

# MDHHS issues requests for proposals for expanding, enhancing emotional health program expansion

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to expand the number of sites offering the Expanding, Enhancing Emotional Health program.

The purpose of the Expanding, Enhancing Emotional Health Expansion Program RFP is to support comprehensive mental health services to children and adolescents in a school-based location by a licensed mental health professional. Expanding, Enhancing Emotional Health is a program model of the Child and Adolescent Health Center Program

This RFP is open to public and non-

profit entities such as local health departments, community health centers, community mental health agencies, Federally Qualified Health Centers, non-profit hospitals/health systems, school districts, federally recognized tribes and other health care or social services organizations qualified to provide mental health care to the school age population.

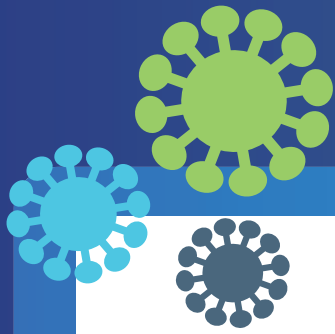
The four-month award begins on June 1, 2022, and ends Sept. 30, 2022, with the total available amount being \$1.5 million with a maximum of \$110,000 per successful applicant. Successful applicants will be invited to apply for annual renewals based on availability of funds and acceptable

performance.

Grant applications for the Expanding, Enhancing Emotional Health Expansion Program RFP must be submitted electronically through the EGrAMS program by 3 p.m. on April 15.

For more information or to apply, visit the EGrAMS website and select "About EGrAMS" link in the left panel to access the "Competitive Application Instructions" training manual. The complete RFP can be accessed under the 'Current Grants' section under the "Public Health Administration" link and selecting the "E3E-2022" grant program.



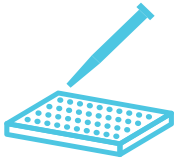




**Great Lakes Bay Health Centers**


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**

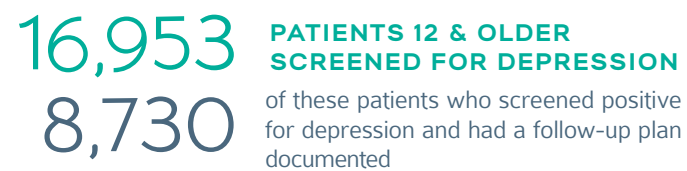
RECEIVING MEDICAL, DENTAL, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE AND OTHER VISITS

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.



**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.





# Community Conversation



**March 17th, 2021  
6pm  
Facebook Live**

**Join  
State Representative  
Amos O'Neal for a  
legislative update.**

## Special Guests



**Dr. Brenda Coughlin  
Great Lakes Bay  
Health Centers**

**Chris Harrington  
Saginaw Health Dept.**



**Dr. Delicia Pruitt  
Saginaw County  
Health Dept.**



**Kevin Birchmeier  
Covenant HealthCare**



## MyMichigan Health CEO Diane Postler-Slattry, husband die in plane crash in Florida

MIDLAND – MyMichigan Health president and CEO Diane Postler-Slattry, Ph.D., and her husband, Don, died Tuesday night following a plane crash in north-west Florida.

Officials with the Midland-based health system, formerly MidMichigan Health, announced the news Wednesday.

“This is a great tragedy for our health system,” said Greg Rogers, executive vice president and chief operating officer of MyMichigan Health, in a statement. “Diane was a strong, passionate and inspirational leader and was beloved by her family, friends and colleagues. We ask that you keep her family and friends in your thoughts and prayers, and that you respect their privacy during this difficult time.”

“She was a visionary and under her leadership we greatly expanded our health system, including affiliations with our Medical Centers in Alpena, West Branch and most recently Sault St. Marie,” Rogers said in a statement. “As a nurse herself,

she was committed to patient care and the highest level of safety and patient satisfaction. In fact, the comfort for patients and their families was of utmost importance to her ensuring any new facility had a warm, homelike setting including her favorite feature—a cozy fireplace.”

Brian Peters, CEO of the Michigan Health & Hospital Association, issued a statement saying, “We are devastated by the loss of MyMichigan Health President and CEO Diane Postler-Slattry and her husband, Don. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their family and friends as they absorb this extraordinary loss. We are also sending our condolences to the MyMichigan Health team members in all the communities they serve.”

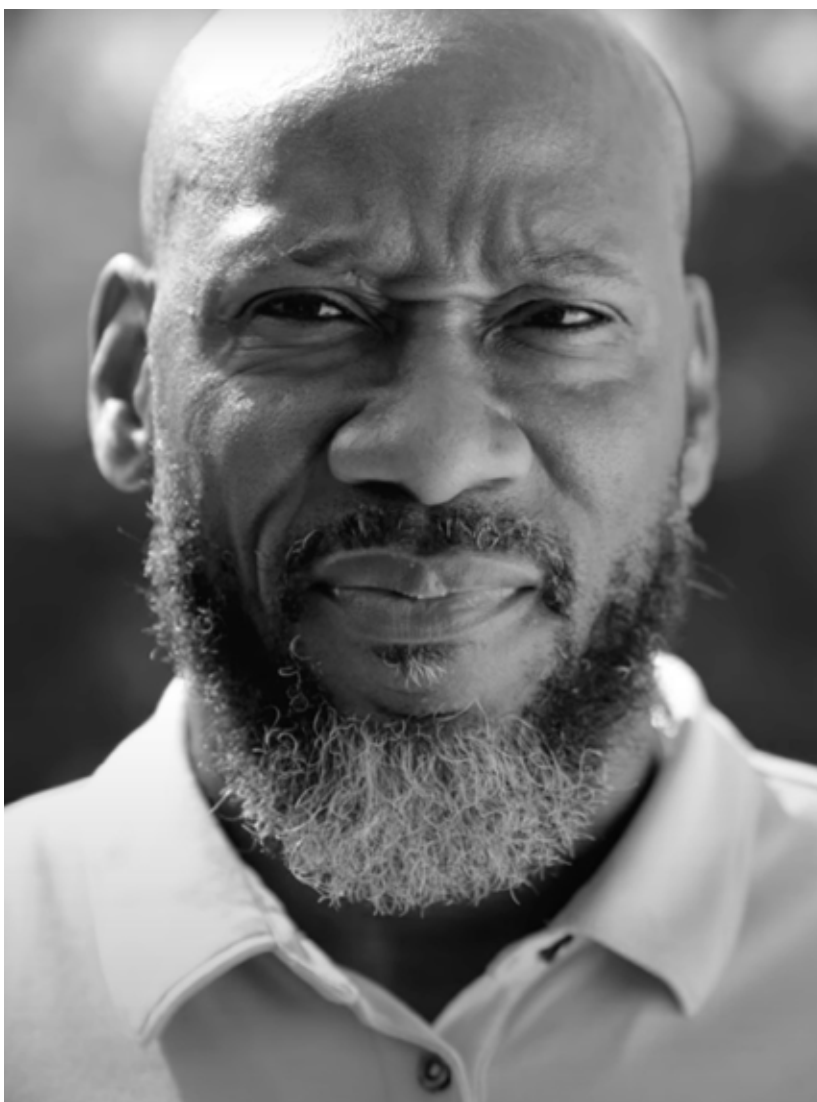
Postler-Slattry became president and CEO of MyMichigan Health on Jan. 14, 2013, which brought her and her husband to Michigan. Prior to that, she served as president and chief operating officer of Aspirus Wausau Hospital and senior vice

president of quality and extended services for the Aspirus system, according to MyMichigan Health's statement.

Postler-Slattry held a Ph.D. in education administration from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, as well as a Master of Science in nursing/nursing administration and Bachelor of Science in nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

The healthcare executive was active in many professional and civic organizations and was a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, according to the health system. During her career, she was the recipient of numerous awards including Woman of Vision, Athena, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire President's Award; State of Wisconsin Nurse Leader of the Year; and State of Wisconsin Champion in Women's Health.

The couple is survived by three children and five grandchildren.



“I ALSO WAS HESITANT...  
THEN I DID THE RESEARCH.”

DR. JOHN DUCKWORTH, PASTOR, GETHSEMANE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Research shows COVID vaccines are safe. Get the facts, then get vaccinated.**

Like many in his community and congregation, Dr. Duckworth questioned the COVID vaccines at first. Would they be safe? Could they be trusted? But he didn't rely on rumors or social media for answers. He spoke to people who had received the vaccine. He looked to medical experts. And then he got vaccinated to protect himself and others.

The vaccines have been tested for safety and are trusted by doctors. But it's okay to have questions. Do your homework and get answers, like Dr. Duckworth.

To find your vaccine: Visit [Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine](https://Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine), call 211, or text your zip code to 438829.







# Expert rehabilitation is CLOSE AT HAND.



IAN GONZALES, MD



BABATUNDE BABALOLA, MD



KEVIN ORLOSKI, MD



MARGARET SNOW, MD



JENNIFER WEEKES, MD



M. SOHAIL JILANI, MD

A team of physiatrists with specialized training and experience in rehabilitative care have joined Dr. Sohail Jilani, medical director of the Mary Free Bed at Covenant HealthCare Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Program.

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).*



MaryFreeBedatCovenant.com  
700 Cooper, Suite 1100, Saginaw, MI 48602  
GPS Address: 1100 Cooper, Saginaw, MI 48602

**+ EDUCATION**

# 'Phoenix' will fly as Saginaw United High School's mascot

By MIKE THOMPSON

The permanent choice of "Saginaw United" for the merged Arthur Hill and Saginaw High, set to open in September 2024, comes as no surprise after a unanimous Board of Education vote on March 9. After all, this already has been the moniker for a combined Saginaw United football team of Lumberjacks and Trojans.

But the nickname of "Phoenix" causes a need for some explaining.

Webster's Dictionary defines a phoenix as "a legendary bird that lived 500 years, burned itself to ashes, and rose to live for another period."

Sports fans will learn that the Saginaw United High School Phoenix will not be "the Phoenixes," because Greek mythology refers only to one singular feathered hero. In contrast, more traditional names are for actual feathered flocks like Eagles and Hawks and Falcons.

Furthermore, there will be no need for "Lady Phoenix" ID's because the bird's gender is not identified in the lore.

An internet probe shows that only 19 other U.S. high schools compete as "Phoenix." Michigan's lone entry is Detroit Renaissance.

### Students speak up

Superintendent Ramont Ramonts said the unusual choice gained momentum during a three-month community survey, especially among students themselves.

The logo is a work-in-progress that will be subject to tweaking for improvements, he said.

School colors will be silver and black, a combo popular in national sports, again mostly among younger people. (Think of Raiders' football.) Saginaw United uniforms have been blue for Arthur Hill and gold for Saginaw High, but Roberts has aired the board's desire for a fresh outlook.

Along those same lines, some Arthur

Hill alumni and patrons on social media have expressed displeasure that a portion of Saginaw High will be repurposed as Saginaw Middle School, keeping the Trojans nickname and black-and-gold colors. Meanwhile, Thompson Middle will maintain Willie Thompson's name with no comparable renaming to Arthur Hill Middle, leaving Lumberjacks out in the cold.

Some residents earlier proposed renaming the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy for Arthur Hill, but this idea was not discussed in the final plan. SASA will relocate to a portion of Arthur Hill in 2024 to make room for Saginaw United along the riverfront. School colors for SASA are burgundy and navy blue, and the mascot is a dragon.

The city district's infrastructure upgrade comes from voter approval of a \$99.95 million bond issue, which will cost hundreds of dollars annually for most homeowners and will also include a new Handley Elementary on Arthur Hill property, along with upkeep of other buildings.

Under state law, districts no longer may levy extra property taxes for more teachers and staffing. Saginaw school leaders say the new and upgraded buildings will help with curriculum improvements and a more positive atmosphere.

Original plans called for a September 2023 completion of the various projects, but pandemic problems have caused the one-year rollback to 2024.

**Saginaw Public Schools**

**Announcing the Names for the New High School & Middle School**



**New High School**  
Name: Saginaw United High School  
Colors: Black & Silver  
Mascot: The Phoenix



**New Middle School**  
Name: Saginaw Middle School  
Colors: Black & Gold  
Mascot: The Trojans



**+ EDUCATION**

COURTESY PHOTO

## What is the Saginaw Promise?

### An organization that promotes postsecondary education and offers a scholarship to change a community and lives

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 Saginaw. The Saginaw Promise is working to grow and nurture a culture of postsecondary education among Saginaw's students through information, programming and a "last dollar" scholarship. The organization's objective is to affect positive change in Saginaw through a "residence based" scholarship; a benefit for families who live in Saginaw. The organization's goal is to provide a scholarship to assist every graduating student toward earning a program certificate or degree. Since 2012, the Saginaw Promise has awarded \$1,072,000 in scholarships to 609 students!

The Saginaw Promise was formed in 2009 and is governed by 11 Board Trustees with one staff (Director), all of whom, strongly believe in the power of postsecondary education to be the "change agent" for Saginaw. While supporting higher education, the Saginaw

Promise scholarship (an incentive and benefit) is also intended to stabilize and grow Saginaw's population, attract new businesses and affect the overall economic environment in Saginaw, which will also produce positive impact to surrounding communities and the entire Great Lakes Bay Region.

#### **A College Scholarship for Students who live and Graduate in Saginaw!**

Saginaw is one of 13 communities in Michigan designated a "Promise Zone" through the Michigan Promise Zone Authority Act, enacted in 2009 by then Governor, Jennifer Granholm, with bipartisan support. (Note: the Michigan legislature voted in 2017 to expand Promise Zones to 15). Program and operational funding are raised annually through outreach conducted with individuals, organizations, corporations, sponsorships, foundations and special events.

The Saginaw Promise scholarship may be used at community colleges, universities and technical trade schools in the State of Michigan for tuition and mandatory fees only and is renewable up to two years. Students are able to use their

Saginaw Promise scholarship up to six years following their high school graduation.

Who's eligible? The Saginaw Promise scholarship benefits students who live in and graduate from a high school in the Saginaw Promise Zone (which consists of the cities of Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Kochville and that area of Buena Vista designated to the Saginaw Public School District). How to apply: Students must complete the online Saginaw Community Foundation scholarship application, using the link <https://goapply.akoyago.com/SAGINAW>. The 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). The Saginaw Promise also requires students to complete FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>.

**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:**

*"Thank you so much for awarding me with the Saginaw Promise Zone Scholarship. It means so much to me to know that there are people out there who are devoted to the education of kids from Saginaw and ultimately our city's future ... It means so much to me and I know it means a lot to my fellow Saginaw graduates."*

*B. (Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy graduate)*





## 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!

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



"I made the decision to support the Saginaw Promise over ten years ago. The Saginaw Promise gives "our" graduates of the Saginaw Public School District, and the City of Saginaw, financial assistance to reach their academic goals. The Executive Director of the Saginaw Promise, and its Board Members are knowledgeable and caring individuals, who work hard to ensure the youth in our community have that extra support that may make the difference in being able to attain their post-secondary educational goals or not."

**Marshall Thomas,**  
*Retired Teacher and Coach*

"Over ten years ago, I made the decision that the Saginaw Promise was not only a good investment for our community but for our students; in both cases---they're worth it."

**Ruth Ann Knapp,**  
*Retired SPSD teacher & Trustee of Saginaw Public School District and the Saginaw Intermediate School District*

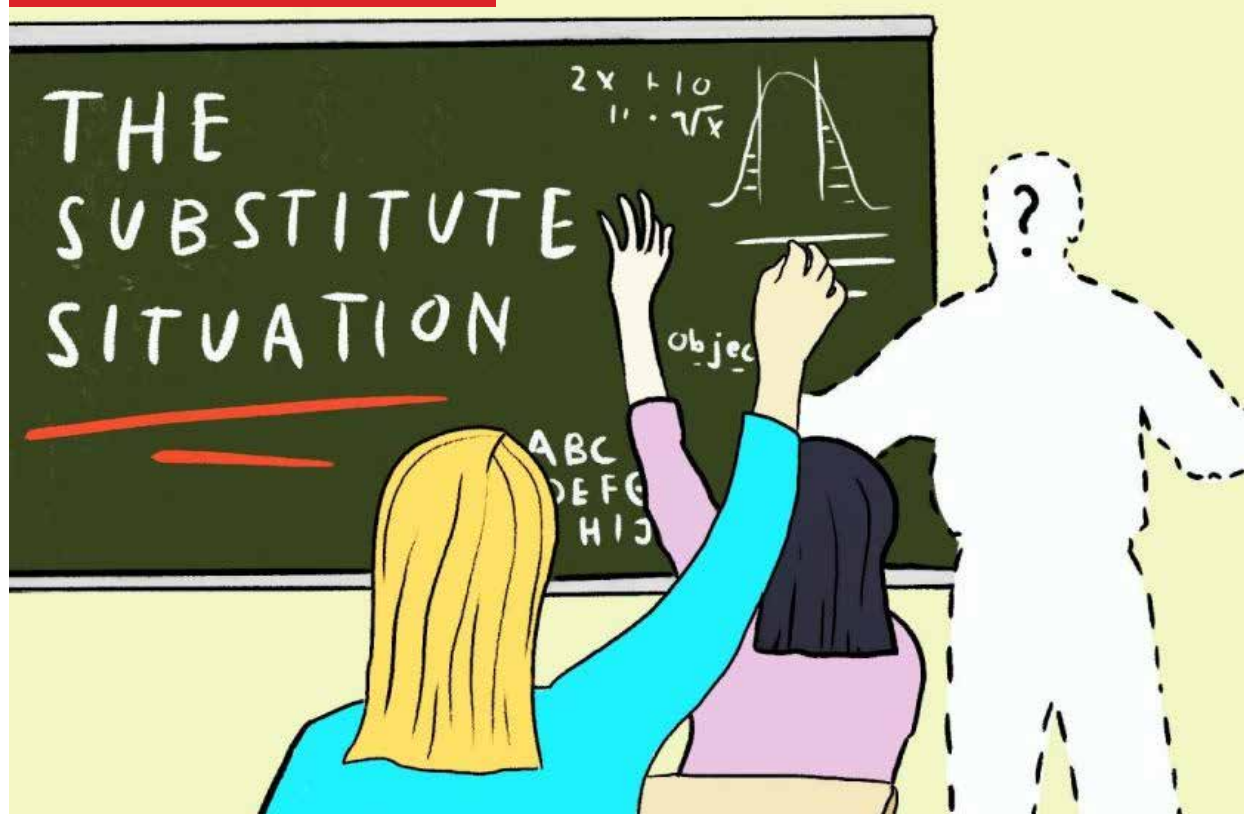


[www.saginawpromise.org](http://www.saginawpromise.org) | 1 Tuscola St., Suite 100, Saginaw, MI 48607 | (989) 755-0545





## + EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

## Now is the time to consider: Substitute Teaching



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**  
RETIRED EDUCATOR

Revisiting the topic, Teacher Shortages, let's examine a specific shortage in education that many readers could fulfill: Substitute Teaching.

The challenges of being a "sub" are real! Imagine driving up to a school building for the first time; trying to find a place to park...locating the entrance...signing in... being shown your classroom-for-the-day... and being left to figure out how to spend the day.

Talk about an adrenaline rush!

It is well-worth it! The satisfaction of meeting students where they are at, in

"their classroom," and stepping in to keep the educational process moving in a time of need.....that is real, too! Once the ebb and flow of the day is learned, a deep and indescribable sense of accomplishment is felt.

The requirements to "sub" have dramatically changed in the last three years due to a shortage of substitutes. Here are the basics.

Candidates must...

- Pass a criminal background check;
- Have 60 credits or more of accredited college coursework;
- Apply for an appropriate permit.

Exception: For this year, if a district employee in a noncertified area is asked to sub, they can do so, provided they have a HS diploma. Quick example: Let's say the principal is short a substitute teacher and asks a paraprofessional to take someone's class for a day. Before, that could only happen if the "para-pro" had 60 or more credit hours; for this school year, that requirement is waived.

How is it best to become a substitute

teacher? I recommend interested persons reach out to their local Intermediate School District (ISD) or local school district. Find out who is used to get substitutes and ask how to connect. For example, one such service used by many schools, WillSub, is available for online application. It is automated, and candidates can select schools, grade levels, and many other specifics. They can even express preferences of what days of the week to sub.

This really works well for college students. Let's say a student can set up their schedule to take classes in-person on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Conceivably, that student could substitute teach on Tuesdays & Thursdays and could sign up as such.

The need for substitute teachers is growing, and as I said, the rewards in doing so are many. Plus, the rate of pay has increased in many schools to \$100/ day or more. One progressive district, Hemlock, has additional pay incentives for substitutes who work 10 or more days the previous month.

All of these efforts are due to the shortages the field of education is experiencing in finding substitute teachers.

I would encourage anyone who is thinking about substitute teaching to give it a try. Your rewards are many, and the need is great.

Resources:

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Permit\\_Overview\\_529841\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Permit_Overview_529841_7.pdf)

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/New\\_Substitute\\_Teaching\\_Legal\\_Requirements\\_745665\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/New_Substitute_Teaching_Legal_Requirements_745665_7.pdf)

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

<https://www.wsgw.com/hemlock-school-district-offering-incentives-to-substitute-teachers/>

[https://us.jobrapido.com/substitute-teacher-jobs-in-michigan?r=auto&utm\\_agid=1302921494759303&utm\\_kwid=kwd-81432717919221:aud-806553731:loc-190&ext=&int=4103&phy=52998&mt=e&dev=c&network=o&mssclid=6d3df24f3ce716f1f3a193b2587fd59d&utm\\_source=bing&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=TX\\_A25-B3\\_Other%20Teachers%20and%20Instructors&utm\\_term=substitute%20teacher%20work%20michigan&utm\\_content=A25-B3-C09900-D00\\_Teacher%20and%20Instructor\\_GEO\\_Michigan\\_EXACT](https://us.jobrapido.com/substitute-teacher-jobs-in-michigan?r=auto&utm_agid=1302921494759303&utm_kwid=kwd-81432717919221:aud-806553731:loc-190&ext=&int=4103&phy=52998&mt=e&dev=c&network=o&mssclid=6d3df24f3ce716f1f3a193b2587fd59d&utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=TX_A25-B3_Other%20Teachers%20and%20Instructors&utm_term=substitute%20teacher%20work%20michigan&utm_content=A25-B3-C09900-D00_Teacher%20and%20Instructor_GEO_Michigan_EXACT)



# SAGINAW ARTS & SCIENCES ACADEMY

*Moving Futures Beyond*

**TUITION FREE** 6-12 Magnet School

**MICHIGAN-RENOUNDED, AWARD-WINNING, GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAM**

- + Rated #3 by U.S. News and World Report
- + 2019 National Blue Ribbon Award Winner
- + 2021 Graduating Class Amassed over 8.1 million dollars in Scholarships
- + Ranked in the 90th percentile according to U.S. News and World Report
- + Ranked number 47 out of 1,147 in the state of Michigan
- + New Electives for 2021-22 School Year
- + M.S. and H.S. Golf team for 2021-22 School Year
- + Transportation available in Midland, Bay City and Saginaw Township

**APPLY NOW!**

**CURRENTLY SCHEDULING TESTING**

**Call Today!**

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!**

Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy

989.399.5500 1903 N. Niagara St. Saginaw, MI 48602 www.spsd.net

# SUNSHINE WEEK

*Open government is good government.*

**MARCH 13-19, 2022**

Join us for CMU Sunshine Week 2022! A week filled with discussions, presentations, and workshops about the importance of open and transparent government!

The purpose of the week is to highlight the fact that government functions best when it operates in the open.

**Sponsored By:**

- Central Michigan Life
- Mary Ellen Brandell Volunteer Center
- Central Civics
- University Libraries
- Department of Journalism
- Society of Professional Journalists
- College of Arts and Media

Follow Us @CMUSunshine2022



## + EDUCATION

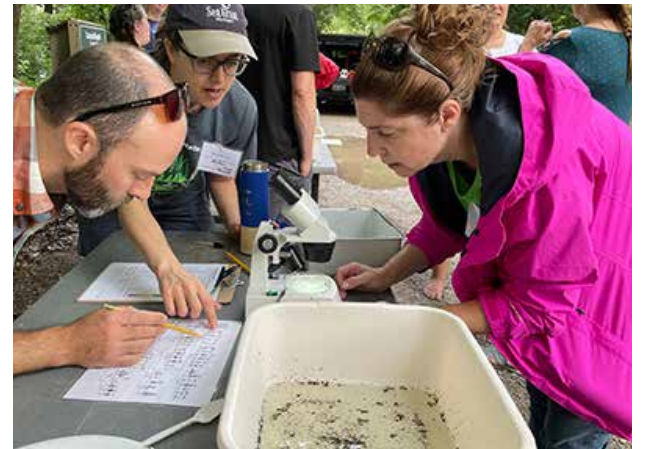
## The Dow Innovation Teacher Fellowship is currently accepting applications

UNIVERSITY CENTER – This program supports K-12 teachers across content areas in designing and engaging students in a place-based sustainability-focused unit. Benefits for teacher fellows include a \$2000 stipend, mini-grant opportunities, high-quality professional development, curriculum design support and connections to community partners.

K-12 school teachers of all disciplines working in Arenac, Bay, Gratiot, Isabella,

Midland, and Saginaw counties are eligible to apply. Applications are due April 3, 2022. To learn more about this opportunity, visit [ditfellows.org](http://ditfellows.org).

The Dow Innovation Teacher Fellowship is led by the University of Michigan School of Education's Center for Education Design, Evaluation, and Research (CEDER) in partnership with Dow and Delta College.



COURTESY PHOTO

## Northwood President and First Lady donate \$100,000 to create a scholarship for women with a strong entrepreneurial spirit

MIDLAND – On International Women's Day, Northwood University announced the Kelly Ann MEEK Scholarship for women leaders and entrepreneurs at Northwood University.

Northwood University President Kent MacDonald and First Lady Mary-Ellen MacPhee have donated \$100,000 to Northwood University to create the scholarship in honor of Kelly's outstanding contribution to business and her belief that women business leaders can make a community more socially and economically prosperous.

Kelly is the youngest sister of President MacDonald. She and her husband, Paul, opened a family-owned craft brewing company nearly 15 years ago in Canada's capital of Ottawa, Ontario. The brewing company, called Kichesippi Beer Company, is a staple in the National Capital area and one of the most well-known companies in the region. Since Kichesippi's early days, Kelly and Paul believed their business was meant to make a profit and to positively impact the community.

When Kichesippi Beer Company first opened, the company quickly developed a reputation for having the best beer in the region. With this product's success, Kelly and Paul also believed their business had the responsibility to help make people



KELLY MEEK

happier and the community more vibrant. Since its inception, Kichesippi Beer Company has supported various community charities, including juvenile diabetes, a disease impacting their son, Alexander, since an early age. Over the years, the couple has gone on to support a wide variety

of non-profit organizations.

Kelly is a Scottish name that means Warrior. Two years ago, on International Women's Day, Kichesippi launched a craft beer called Warrior Woman to honor Kelly. Northwood University First Lady Mary-Ellen MacPhee said the name Warrior Woman was a perfect way to describe Kelly because "she was a warrior, always willing to take on any challenge that stood in her way!"

Northwood University is home to thousands of entrepreneurs and leaders. First Lady Mary-Ellen MacPhee shared, "Kelly epitomized a timeless set of values known at Northwood University as The Northwood Idea, and she served as a role model for all women entrepreneurs."

"Kelly was passionate about private business, and she believed it was important to give back whenever she could," said President MacDonald. "My sister would be proud to know this scholarship at Northwood University will help the next generation of women business leaders."

Kelly MEEK passed away on April 8, 2019. She was an inspiration to all women who dare to dream.





Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start  
Program Director

**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)

**“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



COURTESY PHOTO

# Deadlines for employers fast approaching for summer youth initiative job fair

FLINT – Are you an employer seeking to fill summer job openings? Or are you a TeenQuest graduate who would like to earn up to \$12/hour during summer break? Good news: There’s still time to get your proposals and applications in for the Summer Youth Initiative (SYI) Job Fair, which will be held April 30.

Employer proposals are due March 18, and student applications are due by March 31.

“The Summer Youth Initiative Job Fair helps connect local employers with high school students who have graduated from the TeenQuest pre-employment and leadership training program,” said James Avery, director of talent development at Flint & Genesee Education & Talent, a division of Flint & Genesee Group. “Every year, hundreds of Genesee County teens are hired because of this event. For many of our students, this is where they land their

first job.”

Teens who participate in SYI have completed 40 hours of hands-on training covering resume writing, interviewing and business etiquette. According to Avery, they understand the importance of communicating effectively, being on time and working as part of a team – the kinds of things that define a quality employee.

Even better, SYI is a cost-effective option for area employers. Participating for-profit businesses are eligible to receive a 50-50 salary match for employees hired through Summer Youth Initiative. Nonprofits and schools are eligible to have up to 100 percent of costs subsidized.

Past SYI employers have included schools, summer day camps, urban gardening and community beautification projects, general office settings, retail and food service.

Businesses and nonprofits interested

in participating in SYI can request a private meeting and review of their draft proposal by contacting Dawn Bye at 810-600-1413 or [dbye@flintandgenesee.org](mailto:dbye@flintandgenesee.org). Proposals are due by 5 p.m. March 18. For more information, or to download the RFP application, [click here](#).

Students interested in participating in the job fair should apply by March 31 at [www.flintandgenesee.org/syi](http://www.flintandgenesee.org/syi). The program is open to TeenQuest graduates who live in Genesee County and are ages 14-19 in grades 9-12.

“If you’re a teen who hasn’t yet gone through TeenQuest, stay tuned for details about our summer and fall schedule,” Avery said. “That way, you’ll be ahead of the game for our 2023 job fair!”

To learn more about Flint & Genesee Education & Talent, visit [flintandgenesee.org](http://flintandgenesee.org).



## + BUSINESS

## Jason Acosta named as Team One Credit Union President



COURTESY PHOTO

SAGINAW – Jason Acosta has been selected as the new President of Team One Credit Union based in Saginaw, MI. Jason will replace Gerald Hutto who is retiring in 2022 after serving as President/CEO for 12 years.

Jason comes to Team One with more than 17 years of experience in the financial services industry, with the majority of that working within the Credit Union movement. Previously, Jason had served as the Senior Vice President of Operations at 4Front Credit Union in Traverse City since 2017. Jason considers himself fortunate to have gained over 10 years of first hand perspectives prior to that in front-line, branch management and member experience positions.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased that Jason will become the fourth

President in Team One Credit Union's history," states Rebecca Sanchez, Chairperson of the Team One Board of Directors. "Jason demonstrates the leadership qualities and outlook that are aligned with the vision and culture of the Credit Union, and we are confident that Jason's contributions and talents will advance Team One's goals."

When asked about his new position Jason had this to say: "I am grateful, humbled and excited to begin working with Team One's management team to continue developing the member-centric strategies they utilize to keep on a continued path to success."

Jason is a 2019 graduate of the CUNA Management School and he holds the Certified Credit Union Executive (CCUE) designation.

## Jolt Credit Union to Open New Branch in Midland

MIDLAND – Jolt Credit Union is excited to announce their newest location in Midland, Michigan!

"For years, members and nonmembers have asked us to open a Jolt Credit Union branch in Midland. Done! This location aligns with our strategic plan to meet our members where they need us, and it gives us an opportunity to welcome new members," said Alan Watson, President and CEO of Jolt Credit Union. "We look forward to partnering with local organizations to make an impact in the Midland Community."

Jolt has purchased the former Chemical Bank branch at 2106 N. Saginaw Rd. Renovations to match Jolt's fresh and exciting brand will start soon. The target for opening is the first quarter of 2023.

## SVSU will feature over 150 employers at employment and networking fair

SAGINAW – Saginaw Valley State University will host its Spring University-Wide Employment and Networking Fair on Friday, March 25 from noon to 3 p.m. in SVSU's Curtiss Hall banquet room. This is the university's largest employment fair of the academic year, and the event is free and open to the public.

According to James Dwyer, SVSU's executive director of Career Services, more than 150 employers will attend the fair to

seek part-time and full-time employees as well as students to fill co-op and internship positions. SVSU students of all majors can benefit from attending the career fair.

"Over 150 employers will be representing all industries," Dwyer said. "This is a great opportunity to explore internships, part time jobs and post-graduation careers."

Visit the SVSU Career Services website to register for the Spring University-Wide



COURTESY PHOTO

Employment and Networking Fair and to view a list of employers. Professional attire is required for attendees.



# + 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

# Fabulous Female Fundraisers

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

*Black women fundraisers are organizing and supporting each other through Fabulous Female Fundraisers, aka F3. This group is on a mission to connect, support, engage, and empower women of color in fundraising, and to foster personal and professional growth. We reached out to founder Christal Cherry to learn more.*

**Saad&Shaw: What makes Fabulous Female Fundraisers unique?**

**Christal Cherry:** Our network is unique because it is small and cozy enough for us to know one another. An intentionally small network allows members to feel comfortable to share and be vulnerable. F3 is not only a professional network but a support system for professional women of color in the nonprofit sector. We are rich in human capital. Our members bring experience in frontline fundraising, planned giving, alumni affairs, corporate relations, board governance, event planning, grant writing, donor stewardship, major gifts, prospect research, strategic planning, and consulting. We serve as sisters, colleagues, mentors, and friends with one another.

**Saad&Shaw: Please share two highlights the group has**

**experienced in their journey together.**

**Christal Cherry:** Every year F3 becomes a pop-up giving circle where we discuss our values, passions, and interests. Once we come to a consensus, we choose a nonprofit led by a woman of color that serves persons of color to support financially. Last year our collective giving surpassed \$2,000. Together we learned the power of pooling our funds to give back and support our community. It was a powerful experience. Our "F3 Unplugged Fall Retreat" is an opportunity for members to leave their daily lives and convene in person to unplug. While together there are community meals, talks around the firepit, hikes, shopping, journaling, meditating, gift giving, and other events like wine tastings.

**Saad&Shaw: What have you personally learned through facilitating this group?**

**Christal Cherry:** I have learned that women of color need a space to just be – without judgment or piercing eyes. Our members are strong and resilient but ours is a brave space to be vulnerable and uncertain. It is also a space to educate, nourish and empower. I love bringing women

of color together to uplift and encourage them. This feeds my soul.

**Saad&Shaw: What is your vision for the future of the organization?**

**Christal Cherry:** My vision for F3 is that it continues, even when I am no longer involved, to support women of color in the nonprofit sector. I hope that it will continue to fill the gaps caused by loneliness, dismissal, and marginalization that we sometimes experience and encounter. F3 can be the sacred space for recharging and learning how to be our best selves in our careers and as a woman of color.

**Saad&Shaw: How can women join?**

**Christal Cherry:** We are committed to keeping our membership at 50 people. Once we max out for the calendar year, those interested will be put on the waiting list for the next calendar year. Membership applications are available on our website at [www.fabfemalefundraisers.com](http://www.fabfemalefundraisers.com).

*You can support F3 and help it grow: reach out to [fabfemalefundraisers@gmail.com](mailto:fabfemalefundraisers@gmail.com).*

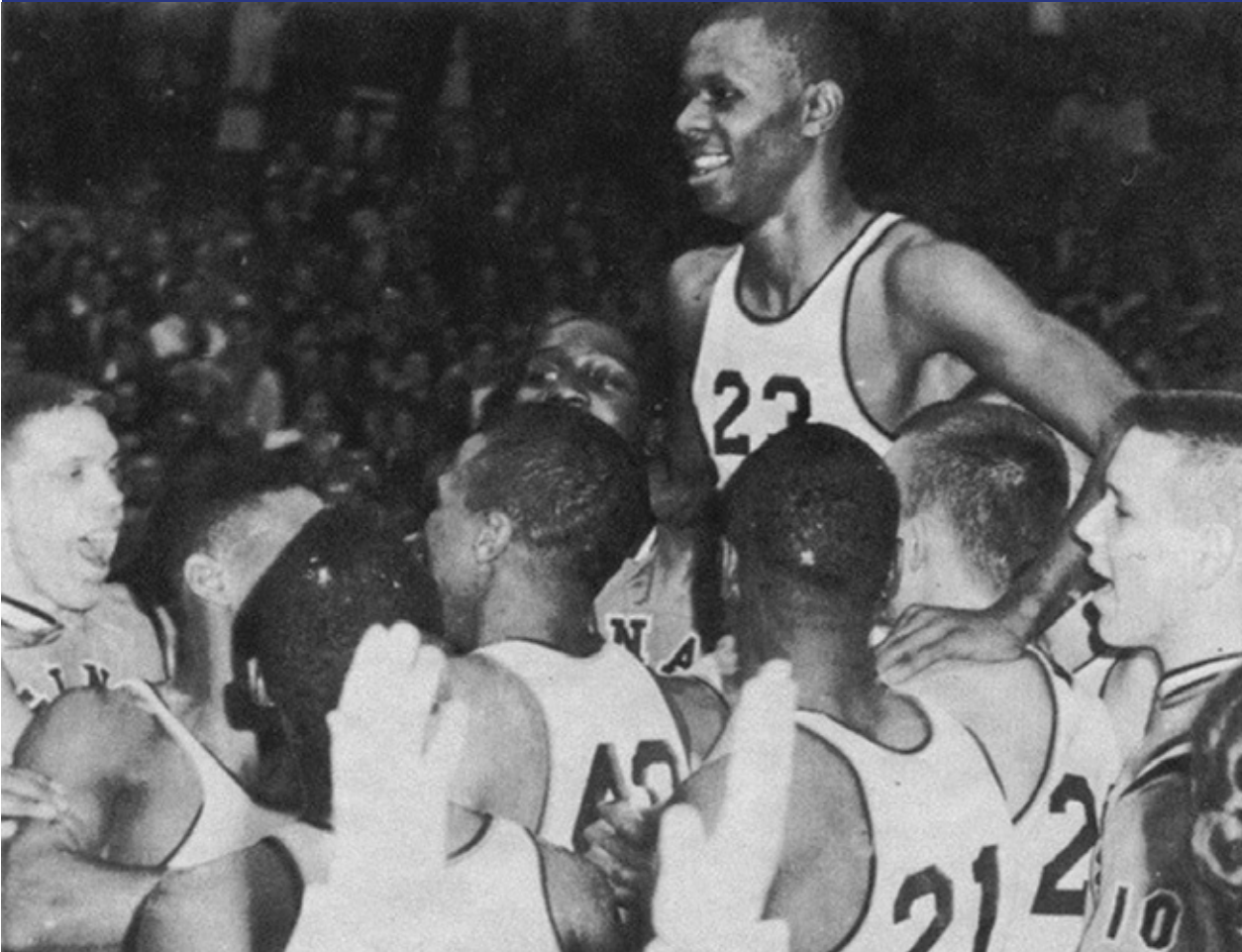


Copyright 2021 – Mel and Pearl Shaw

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**



SAGINAW'S ERNIE THOMPSON RECEIVES CONGRATULATIONS AFTER SCORING 42 POINTS AGAINST BENTON HARBOR IN THE 1962 CLASS A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME. (SAGINAW NEWS FILE)

## 42 in '62: Ernie Thompson and Saginaw High's undefeated state champs

By MIKE THOMPSON

Sixty years ago this month, Ernest (Ernie) Thompson scored a state-record 42 points to lead unbeaten Saginaw High School to the Class A state championship.

He's not one to speak of himself or his stats, but he quietly adds, "And also 26 rebounds. Someone has to rebound the ball. Actually, I enjoyed rebounding more than scoring points. I wasn't conscious of any scoring record, I simply had openings and so I took them. The main motivation, as always, was to win the game."

He now is 78, residing in the Detroit area with his bride of 50 years, Sylvia.

Teammates included Lovell Humes, Woody Kellum, Bob Speer, Clarence Jackson, Brian Best, Tom Humes, Bruce

LaBreche, Gary Scharich, Richard Williams, Forest Benaway, John Andros, Ron Wayer, Frank Scott. Through the years, all have pointed to Ernie Thompson as the one with amazing talent and fortitude who took them on his shoulders all the way to the crowning Trojan triumph, 69-58 over Benton Harbor at Michigan State's ancient Jenison Fieldhouse.

"It was a lot of fun," recalls Thompson, the team's anchor at center, who went on to a four-year career at Bradley University. "It was a lot of work, but we had a lot of fun. Everyone knew their roles and did their jobs."

He was popular among teammates for his good nature. They did not feel jealous over his star status. Rather, they realized they were part of something special.

### A different era

Saginaw High has won six state hoops titles -- 1942, 1962, 1996, 2007, 2008, 2012 -- with runnerup finishes in 1941, 1973, 1976 and 1990.

But 1962 stands alone. Saginaw was at its peak of 100,000 residents. Most of the outlying communities had not yet formed their own high schools, and so Saginaw High and Arthur Hill seemed more like colleges. Also, prep sports were far more prominent during an era far in advance of ESPN.

Radio stations WSGW and WSAM both carried the live East Lansing play-by-play across all of Saginaw County and beyond, from Freeland to Frankenmuth. The Saginaw News published a banner headline, "Hail To Champion Trojans," with multiple feature stories and pages full of 8-by-10 action photos. (See Hoyt Library microfilm reel for March 1962.)

Ernie Thompson became the toast of the town, even more legendary because only a chosen few saw his Jenison showcase with their own eyes. Folks heard and read that long-time Coach Larry Laeding gushed that the 6-foot-3 senior was "as great of a player as I have ever seen," and then their imaginations went to work.

Laeding was an early fast break advocate, perfect for the one-loss team in 1961 and then the unbeaten champs (22-0) in '62.

When Thompson faced rival centers, he often was shorter in stature. This was by more than a half-foot when he would square off against Arthur Hill's rising 6-foot-10 sophomore, Craig Dill. His weapons in these David versus Goliath matchups involved a combo of leaping ability, speed and smarts. Think of Dr. J. Think of Draymond Green.

His offensive arsenal featured running hooks, half-hooks and pre-Kareem sky hooks, along with 15-foot pop jumpers and his favorite rebound layups. When foes would retreat and try to build a wall, he would draw them back out by sinking a 20-foot push shot from the top of the

**CONTINUES ON PG 51,  
THOMPSON**



**+ SPORTS**

**Continued from pg 50, Thompson**

key. This was six decades ago. No three-pointers, but the top Trojan was ahead of his time in running the floor and leaping not only to rebound, but to block shots.

He could dunk easily with his sky-high 48-inch vertical leap, but dunks or "stuffs," as they were known back then, were rare. Another SHS legend, Marshall Thomas, said Thompson's most crowd-pleasing features were not dunks, but well-timed leaping blocks.

"His first jump against a taller guy might be 50-50," says Thomas, who was a Webber Middle School ninth-grader at the time, "but Ernie would be quicker on the second jump, and that's what would make the difference."

**First Willie, and afterward Tony**

He showed flair a decade before his nephew, Tony Smith, achieved a 1970s spotlight. His older brother, Willie Thompson, had been a late 1950s star athlete.

As local media reported, Ernie "saved his best" for the tournament run.

The Trojans opened district action against another unbeaten squad, Alpena High, and dominated, 65-44. Along the way they defeated a solid Arthur Hill team, 56-44. Their only close game was a 65-63 nail-biter over Muskegon High in the state quarterfinals.

Their semifinal victory was 69-59 over Detroit Pershing, with Thompson (26 points, 19 boards) outdueling 6-foot-9 Mel Daniels, who became a future pro all-star with the Indiana Pacers.

In the finals, Thompson could

well have scored even more. He was so gifted and determined that few fans realized he was coping with a case of shin

splints. Through three periods he racked up 38 points but then became "visibly tired," adding only four in the fourth before missing an uncharacteristic five straight free throws. But by that time, the result no longer was in doubt.

"We played really well. We came with our A-game," Ernie Thompson summarizes.

His 42-point record eventually was broken, but not to worry. He still has those 26 rebounds.

And 2022 marks both a 60th anniversary and a 20th. In 2002, he was an original inductee into the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame, housed for public viewing at the downtown Castle Museum. The entire team was added to the Hall in 2008. Ernie also is enshrined at Bradley University with more than 1,000 career points.

Sports Hall Director Jack Tany notes that many of the Trojans were three-sport athletes.

Tany tells the tale: "Ernie was also an outstanding baseball player. As the story goes, a scout from the Baltimore Orioles came to the front door of his parents' home, and Ernie was running out the back door because he liked basketball over baseball."

Larry Laeding, who passed away in 1993, was named 1962's statewide Coach of the Year, one of his numerous honors. He served 41 years with Saginaw schools as a chemistry teacher, coach and finally as athletic director. He also coached the 1942 SHS champs.



SAGINAW HIGH BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM CELEBRATE

**Trojans win district, ready for 2022-23**

By MIKE THOMPSON

In boys basketball, Saginaw High School finished with a 15-7 record and a district championship.

Not bad, considering the Trojans started with 4 wins and 6 losses.

Then they surprised even their most loyal fans with an 11-game win streak, prior to falling in the regionals to Flint Hamady on a buzzer-beating shot, 56-53.

Coach Julian Taylor, in his 11th season, said an earlier defeat, oddly enough, was a sign of progress.

In mid-January, Saginaw High fell to Arthur Hill, 59-54.

"We really played well against Arthur Hill, even though we lost," Taylor says. "So we really built upon that loss and turned it around."

The Trojans next nipped Detroit Western in double overtime, 87-86, to begin their late-season push. They avenged the Hillites, 73-64, five weeks later.

Graduating seniors on the squad are Karim McCune, Darvian Mitchell, Isaiah Paige, Terrance Burt, Cedric Gibbs and Iansan Simpson.

Coach Taylor is optimistic because a solid group of underclassmen will return. Juniors include Javari Holiday, Taelor Lowery, Daron Sherman, D'Quan Lowe-Pittman, Shydale Beachum, D'Laurance Clark and Taylor Burton. Brandon McCune made the varsity as a sophomore and Torrion Stevenson as a freshman.

He adds, "This was one of the most emotional seasons I ever coached! I also can say I'm very proud of my squad and how they persevered through the ups and downs of having a very tough schedule. They became one of the hottest teams in the city and state! We took a tough 'L' tonight but I hope and pray that the nine returning players learned you have to come ready to play every night and every possession! I want to thank all my seniors who put in the hard work this season, you guys have no reason to hang your heads. Y'all made us all proud!"



1962 SAGINAW HIGH STATE CHAMPS



+ SPORTS



# Congratulations to Delta College's MCCAAC post season award winners!

Pioneer Athletics Presents

## 2022 MCCAAC EASTERN CONFERENCE WOMEN'S POST-SEASON AWARDS

### All-Defensive Team

*Paige Sanders*

Pioneer Athletics Presents

## 2022 MCCAAC EASTERN CONFERENCE MEN'S POST-SEASON AWARDS

### ALL-REGION FIRST TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

*Jackarus Smith*

### ALL-MCCAAC

Pioneer Athletics Presents

## 2022 MCCAAC EASTERN CONFERENCE WOMEN'S POST-SEASON AWARDS

*Trinity Black-Raines*

*Paige Sanders*

*Nia Boston*

*Karleigh McBride*

SECOND TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

THIRD TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

HONORABLE MENTION ALL-CONFERENCE

Pioneer Athletics Presents

## 2022 MCCAAC EASTERN CONFERENCE WOMEN'S POST-SEASON AWARDS

### PRECIOUS FIELDS FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

### ALL-REGION ALL-MCCAAC

*First Team All-Conference*

*All-Freshman Team*

Pioneer Athletics Presents

## 2022 MCCAAC EASTERN CONFERENCE MEN'S POST-SEASON AWARDS

*Jeremiah Tarver*

*Jermaine Lawrence*  
All-Freshman Team

Third Team All-Conference

Honorable Mention All-Conference



## FORMER LOONS TO LEAD THE TEAM INTO THE 15<sup>TH</sup> SEASON



LOONS MANAGER AUSTIN CHUBB AND PITCHING COACH ELIAN HERRERA

# Loons announce 2022 coaching staff

## A mix of new and familiar faces to lead this year's team

MIDLAND – The Great Lakes Loons, in conjunction with the Los Angeles Dodgers, are pleased to announce the Loons 2022 coaching staff.

Previously announced in January, Austin Chubb will return as the Great Lakes Loons manager during the 2022 season. Chubb has served as a coach in the Dodgers organization since 2016. In 2022, he led Great Lakes to a record-breaking year that saw the Loons hit 187 home runs, and lead the team to a 63-57 record.

Chubb, 32, played college ball at Florida Southern and was drafted in the 21st round of the 2012 draft by the Washington Nationals. The Lake Mary, Florida native appeared in a total of 91 minor league games, including 1 with the Loons in 2015, making him the first Loons alum to man-

age the club. The former catcher was part of the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes 2015 championship team that was managed by former Loons skipper Bill Haselman (2014).

The Loons 2022 coaching staff includes hitting coach Dylan Nasiatka (third year with the Dodgers), pitching coach David Anderson (third year with the Dodgers), bench coach Elian Herrera (fourth year with the Dodgers), and assistant pitching coach TBA.

Nasiatka, 32, served as the hitting coach with the Dodgers Low-A Affiliate Rancho Cucamonga Quakes in 2021.

Anderson, 27, served as the pitching coach for the Dodgers Arizona League team last season.

Herrera, who played for the Loons in

parts of the 2007 and 2009 seasons, returns for his second season in Great Lakes. Herrera also played in parts of four Major League seasons from 2012-15, including two seasons with the Dodgers in 2011-12.

The support staff for the Loons includes Ethan Quarles (Performance Coach), Griffin Boyte (Athletic Trainer), back for his second season with the Loons, and Dagin Renck (Video Associate).

The coaching staff and Loons will make their 2022 debut on Friday, April 8, against the West Michigan Whitecaps. Come join us for Opening Day and Feast Friday presented by Isabella Bank. Tickets are available at [Loons.com](http://Loons.com) or by calling the ticket office at 989-837-BALL.





## PICS OF THE WEEK

On March 12, the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce hosted the *Journey to Wonderland* Chairman's Ball. The event honored Team One Credit Union, recipient of the Corporate Community Service Award and 2020-21 Board Chair Heather Gallegos.



COURTESY PHOTOS





**We**

*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.**



**SAGINAW VALLEY**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

#WeCardinal

[svsu.edu/opportunity](https://svsu.edu/opportunity)



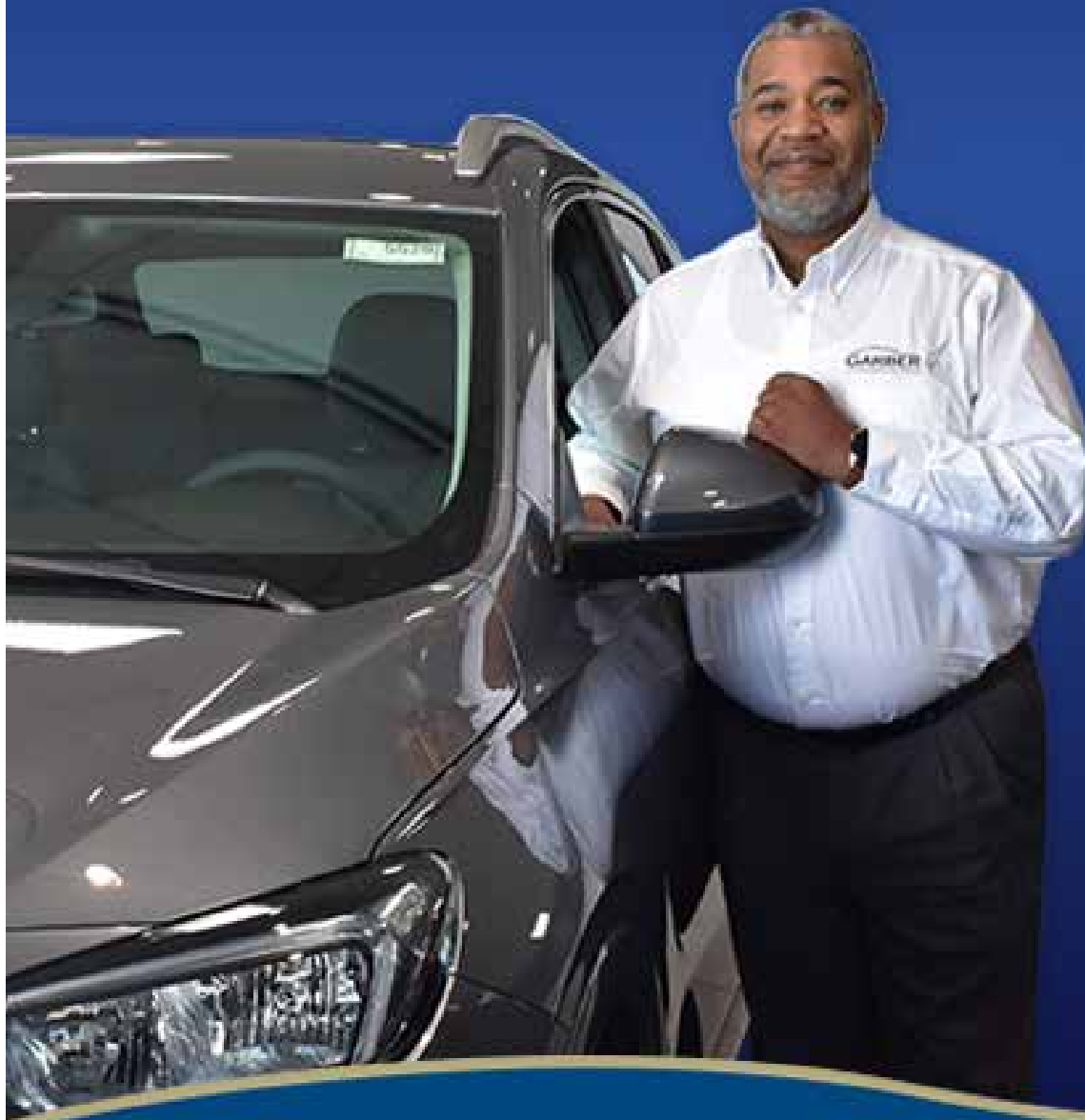
7400 Bay Road • University Center, MI 48710 • (800) 968-9500 • [admissions@svsu.edu](mailto:admissions@svsu.edu)





The Great Lakes Bay Region Does Better With

**GARBER**  
BUICK SAGINAW



“When you want a great car or truck come see **The Wright Guy** for the job!”

**John Wright**  
[jwright@garberbuick.com](mailto:jwright@garberbuick.com)  
989-497-4444, ext. 1615  
[GarberBuick.com](http://GarberBuick.com)