



The Michigan Banner

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PICS OF THE WEEK
Mr. Louis Booker is honored for his community service
PG 50

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY (MAY 8) SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM >>> MICHIGANBANNER.ORG/SUPPORTUS

SPORTS



SAGINAW COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTS CLASS OF 2022

SPORTS, PG 57



HEALTHFORMATION 4U PRESENTS
Sunday MAY 8TH
5TH ANNUAL Smooth JAZZ-N-R&B BENEFIT CONCERT
MUSICAL GUESTS
MARK MIXX
// FEATURING THA STREET JAZZ CARTEL // D'LANA COKLEY
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TICKETS \$40 IN ADVANCE \$45 AT THE DOOR
CASH BAR

DOORS OPEN @ 3PM
BUFFET START @ 4PM
SHOW START @ 6PM

THIS EVENT WILL BENEFIT THE SICKLE CELL DISEASE ASSOCIATION. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (989) 272-1772

COURTESY PHOTO



Saginaw's Cinco de Mayo Parade is back

LATINO BANNER, COVER



Midland Symphony Orchestra celebrates 50th anniversary

COMMUNITY, PG 17



Career center teens become hometown Ambassadors

COMMUNITY, PG 26



Saginaw educator blends psychology with schools

EDUCATION, PG 39

Healthformation 4U will host 5th annual benefit concert

On Sunday, May 8, Healthformation 4U will host the 5th annual smooth jazz and R&B benefit concert to raise awareness of Sickle Cell Disease. The concert, which will be held at the Dow Event Center, will feature Mark Mixx and Tha Street Jazz Cartel.

Mark Mixx, a Detroit native, has produced, arranged and played on Musical projects over the past 28 years. Mark Mixx and Tha Street Jazz Cartel has performed with the world renowned Michael Franks, Alex

Bugnon, Marion Meadows, Mindi Abair, Dave Koz, Gearld Albright, Richard Elliott, Nelson Rangell, and Will Downing.

Healthformation 4U is a 501-c3 non profit organization that supports the Saginaw Chapter of the Michigan Sickle Cell Disease Association.

Tickets for the event are \$40. For more information about the benefit concert or to purchase tickets, call 989-272-1772.

FEATURED STORY

CHILDHOOD LESSON IN RACISM 1959: 'NO VACANCY' FOR BLACKS, NOT EVEN 'UP NORTH'

COMMUNITY, PG 13



Local AKA Chapter celebrates moms, students, and 60 years of service

By PAIGE BOYD

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter is set to celebrate a huge milestone with our upcoming 38th Annual “Hats Off To Mom” Scholarship Program. With the theme “Excellence and Elegance in the Emerald City,” the program also serves as the public celebration of the 60th anniversary of our chartering in Saginaw, a legacy rooted in sisterhood and service.

“With over ninety members strong, Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter has been an impactful influence in Saginaw since our inception and chartering at the Bancroft Hotel on February 10, 1962,” says Kimberly Horne, President of Eta Upsilon

Omega Chapter. “We strive to be a continuous source of dedication to our community through volunteering by helping those in need, positioning youth for success through scholarships, mentoring and education, political involvement, promoting women’s health and nutrition and providing financial literacy. We are also a source of professional and leadership development for our members.”

On May 7 at 11:00 a.m., it will be that dedication to the Saginaw community that takes center stage with this year’s “Hats Off To Mom” celebration. Set to be held virtually as part of Eta Upsilon Omega’s ongoing precautions amid a rise in COVID-19 cases, the chapter has a lot in store for participants. Mrs. Carrie J. Clark, Great Lakes Regional Director of

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, will deliver this year’s keynote address. Other highlights will include an interactive hat show and vendor showcase, musical performances, and the awarding of college scholarships to Saginaw-area high school students.

The chapter is also set to present the “Mother Of The Year” Community Leader award to First Lady Shirley J. Camel of New Birth Missionary Baptist Cathedral. Eta Upsilon Omega will also celebrate one of our own, with Mrs. Angeliqe Miller-Burrell receiving the prestigious “Soror of The Year” award. Finally, participants will be dazzled by the kickoff of a designer purse raffle, featuring the chance to win hot-ticket purses from African American purse designers including Teflar, Tori Soudan and Tote &

Carry as well as Louis Vuitton, and others. All proceeds from the raffle and ticket sales will benefit the chapter’s continuous efforts to give back to the community through local scholarships and community service projects.

In all, this program is set to be another jewel in Eta Upsilon Omega’s crown of sisterhood, scholarship, and service.

“Our history illustrates we are women who lead as we were the first African American Greek Letter organization established in Saginaw, Michigan, following the unprecedented path pioneered by our illustrious national founders in 1908,” Horne continues. “We proudly stand on the shoulders of our charter members, many of whom were the first women of color to attain positions in their professions in the city of Saginaw. Our commitment to improving the lives of others is demonstrated as Eta Upsilon Omega has significantly impacted the Saginaw Community, contributing over \$200,000 in scholarships and community service programs. Our endeavor is to continue this legacy in 2022 and beyond. I am appreciative of having the privilege to serve as the President of this outstanding, thriving sisterhood with leaders who make a difference in the community to provide service to all mankind.”

Tickets are \$60. Attendees can purchase tickets on the “events” page of the chapter website, www.akahyo1908.wildapricot.org.



KIMBERLY HORNE, PRESIDENT OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA, ETA UPSILON OMEGA

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®
Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter

Celebrating 60 Years of Service in Saginaw, Michigan

EXCELLENCE & ELEGANCE
In The Emerald City
38th ANNUAL VIRTUAL
Hats off to Mom

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

GUEST SPEAKER:
MRS. CARRIE J. CLARK
Great Lakes Regional Director

SCAN TO REGISTER & PAY

Saturday MAY 7, 2022 11:00AM

Hat Show, Vendor Showcase and Launch of Designer Purse Raffle
EVENT TICKET PRICE \$60
Hats are recommended

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MICHIGAN BANNER

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MISSION

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

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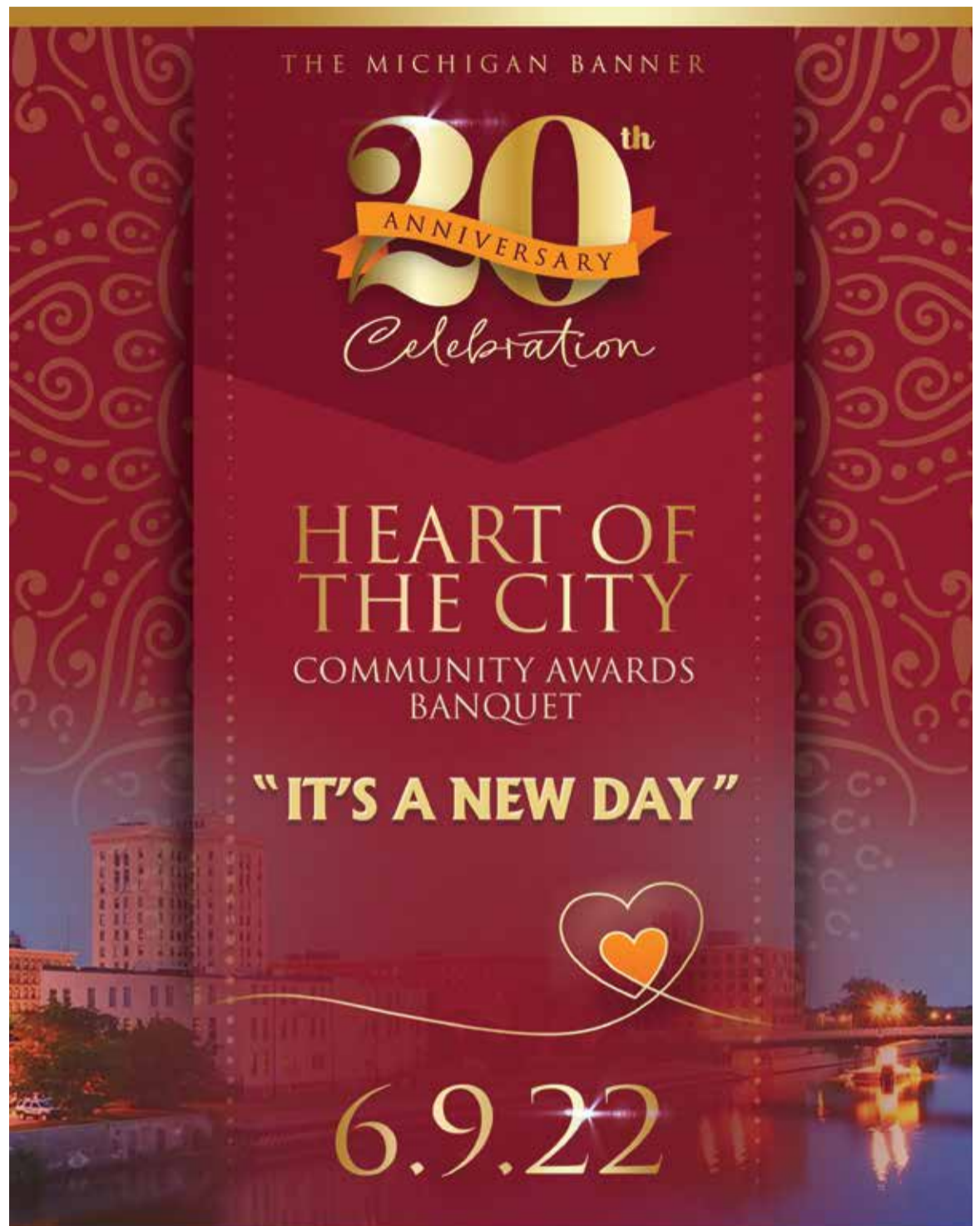
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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 4 • NUMBER 9



Saginaw Spirit select 15 year old **Michael Misa** with first overall pick in 2022 OHL Priority Selection

COURTESY PHOTO

The Saginaw Spirit, in partnership with the Ontario Hockey League, announced Thursday the hockey club has selected Michael Misa of the Mississauga Senators Under-16 team as the first overall pick in the 2022 OHL Priority Selection.

“On behalf of the entire Saginaw Spirit organization, we are thrilled to welcome a player of Michael’s caliber to our franchise,” said Spirit General Manager Dave Drinkill. “He joins a very select group of players granted exceptional status and we recognize his talents by making Michael our first overall pick in the 2022 OHL Priority Selection Draft. Michael is an elite hockey player, with high-end skills, ability and high hockey IQ to match. He is also a very dedicated, humble, young man with great character, from a great family, and a well-rounded individual, on and off the ice.”

Misa, 15, is just one of six players in the history of the Ontario Hockey League to be granted “exceptional status” by the Ontario Hockey Federation and Hockey

Canada for clearance to participate in the league a year early. The other five players were John Tavares, Aaron Ekblad, Connor McDavid, Sean Day, and current Kingston Frontenac, Shane Wright. Tavares, Ekblad, and McDavid all went on to be first overall picks in the National Hockey League draft, while Shane Wright is projected to be the number one pick in this year’s NHL Draft taking place in early July.

“It is an honor to be selected by the Saginaw Spirit with the first overall pick in the Ontario Hockey League Priority Selection,” said Misa. “I am grateful to Spirit owner Dick Garber, President & Managing Partner Craig Goslin, and the entire ownership group. GM Dave Drinkill and his scouting staff, and Head Coach Chris Lazary for putting their trust in me as their first overall pick. I also want to thank Spirit fans everywhere for welcoming me and my family to the organization. I am committed to this team, this city, and these fans. There is lots of hard work and development ahead. I am looking forward to the future and contributing to the organiza-

tion on and off the ice.”

The Oakville, Ontario native had a magical season, leading the Mississauga Senators U-16 to the OHL Cup. In 55 total games, Misa had 93 points (37 goals, 56 assists) in 55 games, averaging 1.7 points per game, and boasted a +/- rating of plus-79. His 20 points in the 2022 OHL Cup broke a previous record held by Edmonton Oilers superstar and fellow exceptional status player, Connor McDavid. That performance made Misa the most valuable player of the tournament.

Misa’s selection by Saginaw at first overall is the first time the hockey club has picked first overall since the Spirit took defenseman Patrick McNeill with the first overall pick back in 2003.

Michael’s older brother Luke was selected ninth overall by the Mississauga Steelheads in the 2021 OHL Priority Selection.

Misa will wear No. 77 for the Spirit during the 2022-23 season.



Dare to be different



By **DONIQUA SOVIA**

I would say coming in a close second place, with the first ultimate risk being giving of one's life, would be being different. Being different takes a lot of guts these days. With everyone wanting validation, and a sense of belonging to the point where they will intentionally change their self just in the hopes of fitting in somewhere, or in some group is in and if it's self it own crisis.

To be different, is a responsibility, at times it's a task, other times it's an honor. It is so many things. It could be viewed as a life or death decision in the aspect of, not necessarily a physical component but one of an emotional and mental component.

Meaning, once you fully embrace being different, and you make the ultimate decision to do so, then you free yourself of other people's opinion's, and backlash, so that mental and emotional toll that would take place, doesn't because you've already made up your mind as to how you are going to be.

One of the benefits of making this ultimate decision is the freedom that comes with it. You don't have to worry about, fitting in in any aspect or form. You wear what you want, you speak how you feel, you stand up for what you feel is right, without having the anxiety of misstepping any lines pertaining to society's nonsensical propaganda.

You, among others, though they be few, are in a league of your own. You're the real McCoys. You're the Joan of Arc's. The next generation of world changers. Those who made history, didn't make it because of who they were, but rather because they truly believed that what they thought was right, and they acted upon it. You too, can do the same. Dare to be Different.

Seen on the Scene:
Congratulations to Brianna Watkins who recently returned from Atlanta, Georgia after competing at DECA's International Career Development Conference! Brianna earned top honors in the Start-Up Business Plan event at the State Competition back in March which qualified her to go to the international conference this past week.



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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

Saginaw's Cinco de Mayo Parade is back

By MIKE THOMPSON

Saginaw's 43rd annual Cinco de Mayo Parade and Festival, revived by Union Civica Mexicana after missing the past two years under a pandemic hiatus, will follow a revised route on Saturday, May 7. The reason for the change is spring roadwork and bridge projects.

Up to 100 float crews, marching bands, model cars and youth groups will commence at Hoyt Park at 10:30 a.m. and head along South Washington Avenue toward downtown, followed by daylong music, food and craft vendor sales, children's activities and more at TheDow Event Center's renamed Jolt Credit Union outdoor park and bandshell. General admission is \$5, or \$2 for children ages 4 to 9, with no charge for toddlers ages 3 and younger.

Later, at 7 p.m., admission is \$30 for a party at The Vault, 110 Florence, the remodeled UAW Local 455 Hall near the former Malleable Iron Plant location. Live music will be organized by T&T Productions, along with a cash bar and kitchen food sales.

Grammy-winning Tejano artist Michael Saldago is the headliner at both the park and the evening venues, in his third festival appearance. Bobby Balderrama is the parade grand marshal and Frank Medel is deejay for festivities. Ballet Folklorio will perform at the park, with Texas Latino and Yvonne y Fuego featured at The Vault.

A poster to promote the event says: "We encourage everyone to celebrate with

us. Cinco de Mayo is a staple event in Saginaw, just like the Bavarian Festival, the Greek Festival, Kwanzaa, and even the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Bay City. They are diverse celebrations that help make our region so great."

A parade theme, "In Memory/En Memoria," will embrace families that have coped with COVID-related hardships, including the passing of loved ones, during the 26 months since COVID-19 first



The history of Cinco de Mayo

LB PG 3



MICHAEL SALGADO

emerged in Saginaw. Participants are encouraged to honor the theme in decorating their floats and vehicles.

An entry deadline is extended into this week. Fees are in the \$50 to \$80 range for businesses, elected officials, car clubs, bands, and school and youth groups. Non-profit organizations may take part for no charge. E-mail tinarivera035@gmail.com or call her, (989) 293-0329.

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PARADE: LINES UP AT HOYT PARK, BEGINS AT 10:30 AM AND HEADS NORTH ON WASHINGTON AVE.



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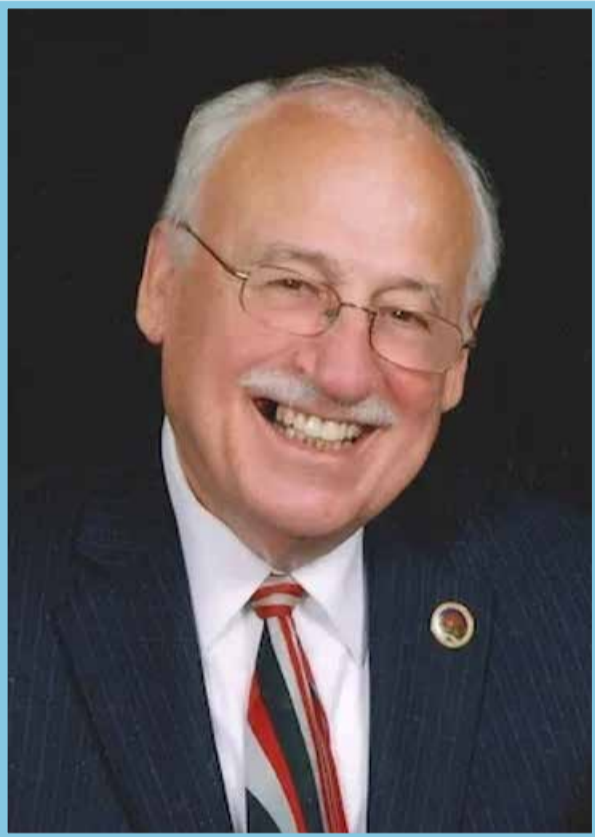


AFTER PARTY: The Vault with SALGADO, Texas Latino and Yvonne y Fuego

Legacies live on for Latino leaders

By **MIKE THOMPSON**

Mid-Michigan communities paid tribute to a pair of Latino leaders who passed away in April.



TONY BEVEVIDES

Tony Bevevides, Lansing's first Mexican-American mayor, was 84 when he died on April 10 with his family by his side. He was born in San Vicente in 1937 and immigrated during 1952 when his parents, Jesus and Marie Benevidas, moved with their three children. to the Lansing area.

"Tony's parents set high expectations for their children, reinforcing these expectations with personal attributes of honesty, respect, personal pride, community participation and commitment," his obitu-

ary states. "Tony stood by these principals always."

Saginaw's Gilberto Guevara stated: "Mr. Benavides was always at the forefront of speaking to advance Latino issues. It was always pleasant to be in his presence, with his greets and a big smile. My prayers and condolences to his family.

Benevides graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in public administration and management. He began his career as the executive director at Cristo Rey Community Center for 33 years, serving the needs of Hispanics and the greater Lansing community. He went on to serve as Lansing's Third Ward Councilman for 22 years and in 2003 his member peers appointed him mayor, a role in which he promoted social services and civil rights.

He also sat on multiple boards and commissions for many organizations, including Sparrow Hospital, National Conference of Catholic Charities, United Way, and Hospice of Lansing.

Maria Gonzalez

April 22 marked the passing of Maria Estefana (Steph) Gonzales, 75, a longtime Saginaw education advocate and the wife of Ramiro Gonzalez, the former Bridgeport school superintendent.

She was the 1964 valedictorian at St. Joseph High School, following with a bachelor's degree from Aquinas College and a master's degree in education from Saginaw Valley State University. She taught at Buena Vista High School, and later joined her husband in helping to establish Benito Juarez Academy and the Saginaw chapter

of LULAC, League of United Latin American Citizens. She also was a Sacred Heart Elementary school board member, and assisted in developing the Nouvel Catholic Central High School curriculum.



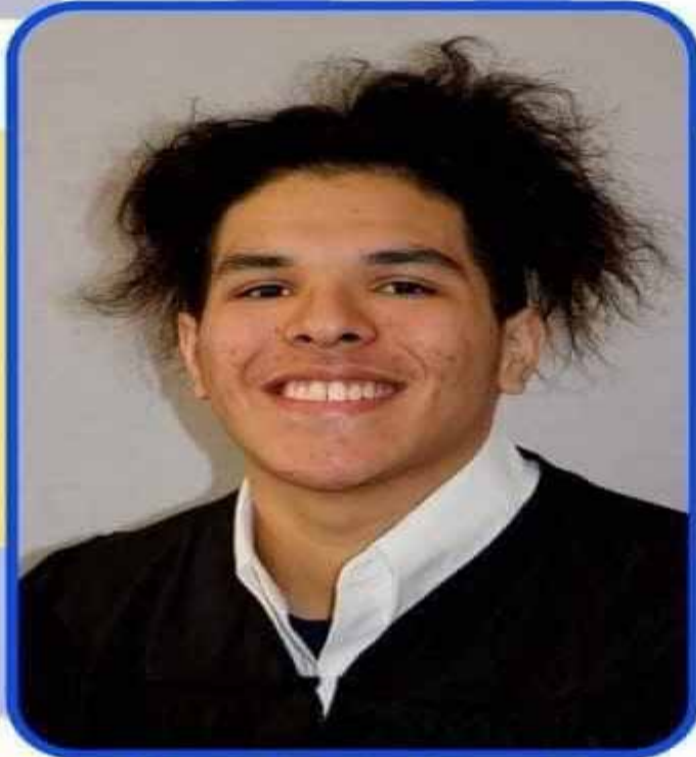
MARIA GONZALEZ

Her obituary states, in part, "Maria loved learning about all cultures but was especially proud of her Mexican roots. She loved attending local Mexican dances and enjoyed traveling to Mexico. Maria was passionate about sharing Mexican customs and traditions with her children. She was proud to be fluent in English, Spanish and French, and was quick to switch languages when she traveled. Above all, Maria loved spending time with her family, especially her children and grandchildren."

Her memorial service was at St. Joseph Catholic Church, where she was a lifelong member.



CONGRATULATIONS ARTHUR HILL HIGH SCHOOL



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Isaac Garcia
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LATINO BANNER
SERMONETTE SERIES

"As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem."

Isaiah 66:13



By PASTOR AUGUSTINE DELGADO
NEW BEGINNINGS MINISTRIES

A Mother's Love

The sweetest thing in life is a loving mother, one that will make your school lunch as a child or attend your Little League game, watching from the bleachers.

Or, as you transition into adulthood and you need an extra prayer for that job interview, or the pressures of life seem to be taking you under, you may simply have her shoulder to lean on. Always remember, one of the sweetest things in life is the love of a mother.

They are truly a gift from God. I know mine is.

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

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

COVID-19 Vaccine / Booster

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

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

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

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+ COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

Childhood lesson in racism

1959: 'No Vacancy' for Blacks, not even 'up north'



By **JACK W. NASH**

Whenever there is a “No Vacancy” sign on display at a roadside motel, memories flicker. Sometimes the thoughts pass quickly, but other times they stick and haunt. That’s because “No Vacancy” is a direct symbol of my first significant childhood memory of racism.

This was August 1959. My father announced to the family that we would take a summer vacation “up north.” I was 8 years old that summer. This was my first-ever vacation and I was excited. We would be going up north to see my grandmother. I had never been to northern Michigan, and I was looking forward to the big day.

I was getting ready to enter third grade at Saginaw’s old Jesse Loomis School near the fairgrounds, and my younger brother Peter would be going into first grade. This vacation up north was a big outing for

us. My friends from school always talked about up north and how exciting it was to experience “the great Michigan outdoors!” My mother packed a shoe-box lunch and we all piled into the car for the long ride, with my father at the wheel. The plan was to drive up, spend some time with my grandmother and return the same day.

My grandmother, Carrie Nash, worked for a very wealthy family and would travel north every year to work at their spacious summer house on one of the beautiful lakes in northern Michigan. She would join the family at the beginning of July and stay until September.

She was responsible for taking care of the home, cooking for the family and doing other domestic chores like cleaning and laundry. The summer house was not like any cabin or cottage. It was a big old home and there were additional buildings, including another cottage behind the main one for overflow guests.

Our 'up north' story unfolds

As a young child I remember Grandma Nash’s annual summer departures at the Pere Marquette Depot on West Genesee

Street. She would board the train and always go to the back and wave to us good-bye.

My grandmother was a very proper and well-respected lady. She was an amazing cook and pastry chef. Her lemon squares were the best and now, every time I see lemon squares, I am reminded of my grandmother. I was hoping as we traveled the four hours north that I would get a chance to have some of her lemon squares.

My mother, Marion, was pregnant in 1959 with my soon-to-be brother, Geoffrey. As we neared our destination along the newly built I-75, she became gravely ill. My father, Jack, had been a medic in WWII and knew my mother was in serious trouble.

As soon as we had reached Cheboygan near the bridge and the family’s cottage, we immediately drove to the hospital emergency room, where she was promptly admitted. We certainly had not planned on this happening, and our plan for a day trip turned into a whole different experience. Now we had to find a place to stay while

**CONTINUES ON PG 14,
NO VACANCY**

+ COMMUNITY**Continued from pg 13, No Vacancy**

my mother was hospitalized. My father would not leave his wife alone in a strange city.

As my father drove from one motel to the next, it became clear that there were no overnight rooms for a Black father with his two sons. The "Vacancy" signs would always flip to "No Vacancy" as he would approach the motel office.

I was too young at the time to understand that there was no place available to us. The signs would flip on, and we would head off for the next possible place, hoping to find a room. From Cheboygan to Mackinaw City, there was no place available.

I did not know about Jim Crow laws but in 1959, northern Michigan was no different than the deep South. There was no place for a black family to stay. I felt in my heart, for the first time, the reality of discrimination. As I watched my father go from place to place, I was beginning to understand.

Crisis in Cheboygan

My father knew what was happening. Having served in a segregated army, he had experienced doors slamming everywhere. He knew what I did not yet know; that being black brought many challenges as well as slammed doors.

Later in life, while attending my younger brother's wedding brunch at the Princeton University Student Union, my father told me about his experience there in 1942. Dressed in his decorated U.S. Army uniform, he had attempted to go in. The doors were quickly slammed in his face. No blacks allowed!

Back to that night 63 years ago up north, my father called my Grandma Carrie and told her about his fruitless search for a place to stay. She was beyond furious. She went to the cottage owner and explained what had happened. She had worked for this family for years and they were sympathetic to what was happening, and he also expressed his outrage over the racial bias. He made some calls, pulled some strings, and lined up accommodations at the main hotel in Cheboygan.

Still, even with my grandmother's employer's efforts, we were relegated to the rear service entrance and stairs and forbidden to be in the hotel lobby. We were told to stay out of view. The hotel management wanted none of their guests to see two young black boys roaming around in the spacious hotel which was for whites only.

My father had to be enraged because now he was forced to sneak into a hotel after he had risked his life for this country in WWII and in Korea. He had seen racism throughout his entire life and had wanted better for his children. He did not show his anger outwardly or act out at the hotel, but I know it must have been killing him inside.

The summer house had a guest cottage. I do not know if someone was staying there or not, but it was not offered to us.

To learn from my elders

My parents were not naïve and thus not surprised by any of this. They had planned a same-day excursion, sunrise to sundown, fully aware that outright oppression was prevalent not only in the Deep South but in Saginaw as well as up north. Mom was hospitalized for nearly a week. She had developed gestational diabetes and was stuck in a hospital in a town that did not accept blacks.

My father must have been miserable. Stuck with two young boys, his wife in a hospital, I am sure it was rough on him. Restaurants were not available to us. My father would pick up food from their side door and bring it back to the hotel. On some days, he would pack us a picnic to eat. I do not know how he survived, but he did. After four years in the segregated Army, he sadly knew the drill.

I had not experienced the racism my parents had. At eight, I was quickly learning, and putting the pieces together. "No Vacancy." I was gathering what it all meant. I am not sure my brother Peter knew what was going on, but I was learning.

There were moments on that trip that were brighter, but still now damaged with

ethnic awareness. My father took us boys to the public beach at Mackinaw City and taught us how to herd minnows into little sand traps. I befriended a boy about my age, and we asked our parents if we could go swimming. As the two of us were getting ready to head out, my father pulled me aside and told me not to go into deep water. I thought it was strange because I knew how to swim, after having taken some lessons. I found out he was afraid the older boys might have tried to drown me. Later, my mother told me that the Emmett Till murder had always lurked in my father's mind. Knowing he had we boys, he was worried that one look at a young white girl might just result in the same 1955 fate as Emmett Till. I listened to my father and did not go to the deep water.

Thursday night was the "helps" night off for Grandma Carrie and other domestics at the resort. She wanted to ease things for my father, and she offered to take us to Mackinaw City to the movies, so my father could visit with my mother. We were excited to go. She was taking us to see South Pacific and it was on the big screen. I had never been to a real movie in a theatre so big and extravagant.

Once again, racial prejudice stared me in the eyes. It was a gorgeous night in Northern Michigan, so most of the locals and tourists were out enjoying the great outdoors, not venturing into a movie theatre. As we walked into the theater we were allowed to go through the front door and buy snacks. We were then ushered in to sit in the back row of the near-empty theatre. Our black faces were not allowed to sit up front.

Up North, back to Saginaw

For better or worse, after the lessons from this mini vacation, my racism radar became more finely tuned.

Peter and I were the only black kids enrolled at that time at Jesse Loomis. Some American Indian children arrived

**CONTINUES ON PG 15,
NO VACANCY**

Continued from pg 14, No Vacancy

for opening day that following September, within weeks of our experiences up north, and they were treated badly. They were roughed up while being pelted with pea gravel on the playground, thrown by children too young to know about racism but old enough to know these children were different from them. We never saw them again after that day.

A few years later, another black child enrolled and to my disbelief, police cars were outside the school to prevent any neighborhood uprisings with the new student. The historic Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education ruling had struck down the separate-but-equal laws on the books but that was only on paper. In the minds of many in 1959, little white children should not share schools with little black children.

When I told my best friend about my experience in Northern Michigan, he became excited and he spoke to me about my coming to visit his family's cottage the next summer in Tawas. When the time arrived, there was another kid in the car going to Tawas. Not me. His father had heard of the plans and decided that it was not appropriate. Up north was not the place for a black child, even if it was his son's best friend. All I saw was "No Vacancy" flashing in my mind.

People may ask why I have waited until now to share these memories from childhood. The main reason is that while oral accounts have their place, history needs to be written down. My grandfather Weston Nash and my grandmother Carrie never had that chance. Neither did my parents. This is for them.

(Dr. Jack W. Nash, D.D.S. is a long-respected dentist with offices across South Washington Avenue from City Hall. He graduated from Saginaw High School in 1969 and from University of Michigan Dental School in 1977. Among his many civic activities, he volunteers for service on both the City Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. However, audiences are far larger when he performs on bass guitar with peer local musical "cats." Spouse Janet Nash is retired as principal of the Saginaw Arts and Sciences, SASA, and in 2020 she won election to the Board of Education.)

The Michigan Banner announces 2022 'Heart of the City' award recipients



On Thursday, June 9 at 6:00 pm, The Michigan Banner will host our 20th Year Anniversary Celebration and 4th Annual Heart of the City Awards Banquet at Horizon's Conference Center. The black tie event will pay tribute to local trailblazers and businesses who have made significant contributions to the Great Lakes Bay Region.

2022 Heart of the City AWARD RECIPIENTS

Heart of Gold Award

General David M. Hall

Outstanding Journalism Award

Art Lewis

Impact Turnaround Award

Dr. Delicia Pruitt

Dr. Ava Lewis

Angelia Williams

Christina Harrington

Outstanding Business Award

Linda McGee, Wildfire Credit Union

Outstanding Leadership Award

Deborah Huntley

Rising Business Award

Julian Morris, SWAG Magazine

Visionary Award

Pastor Kareem Bowen

Motivation Award

Mayor Brenda Fay Moore

Ministry of the Year Award

Reverend Hurley J. Coleman Jr.

Bishop Dempsey Allen

Rev. Dr. LaCreta M. Clark

Diversity Award

Bobby DeLeon

Outstanding Non-Profit Award

Camille Gerace Nitschky, Executive

Director of the Children's Grief

Center Great Lakes Bay Region

Humanitarian Award

Gilberto Guevara

Lynn Brummell-Presley

For more information or to purchase tickets visit
michiganbanner.org/hoc or call **Reneé Johnston (Saginaw
Community Foundation)** at **989-755-0545**

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Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid-servant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God

Psalms 123:2



By PASTOR RODRICK A. SMITH
ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH

Have you had more than enough scorn from the arrogant? Have you experienced more than enough contempt from the proud? Being on the receiving end of continued verbal assaults from those who practice self-exaltation can wear on you and try your patience. However, the children of God must remember that God resists (is opposed to) the proud but gives grace to the humble.

It is also good to remember that pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. The pride and arrogance of the wicked is always their undoing. This is another reason the children of God should carry all their concerns to Him in prayer. When God is the object of your faith you depend on Him for your every need. He is the sovereign ruler of the universe and is enthroned in the heavens. He cares for the sparrows and surely cares for His children. The eyes of the Lord's children should always look to Him in faith. Looking upward to God in faith will bring grace, mercy, and favor. Keep looking!

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50th Anniversary
Celebration
MAY 14 / 8 PM

Midland Symphony Orchestra celebrates 50th anniversary celebration with Joshua Henry

On May 14, at 8:00 pm, the Midland Symphony Orchestra will celebrate 50 years at the Midland Center for the Arts with an amazing evening, featuring Tony-nominee Joshua Henry and a few fun surprises within a program of popular music. During this very special evening they will commemorate the first MSO concert at the Center held on May 1, 1971.

"50 Years is an incredible milestone for any organization, and after this past year of cancelled events and large gatherings, we are absolutely thrilled to be welcoming not only our loyal subscribers and donors into the Center for this performance, but also the public with a limited number of seats available for purchase," said Terri Trotter, Midland Center's President & CEO.

The orchestra is made up of more than 70 of the best professional musicians across the State of Michigan who have joined together to provide the Great Lakes

Bay Region with symphonic music featuring renowned guest artists, family programs and special events.

Past guest performers include Itzhak Perlman, Sarah Chang, Dave Brubeck, Sharon Isbin, Edgar Meyer, Measha Brueggergosman, Time for Three, the Grand Rapids Ballet Company, and many more who have contributed to the unique and challenging repertoire which defines the MSO.

For their 50th anniversary, they will have the honor of performing with Joshua Henry, a Canadian-American actor.

Prior to starring in *Carousel*, Joshua Henry most recently appeared as Aaron Burr in the Chicago company of *Hamilton*. He made his stage debut as Judas in *Godspell* at the Paper Mill Playhouse, followed by his Broadway debut in *In the Heights*. After playing Favorite Son in *American Idiot*, he gave Tony-nominated performances in *The Scottsboro Boys* and *Violet*. He

also appeared in the Broadway revival of *Porgy and Bess* and *Bring It On the Musical*. On film, Henry is remembered as Jennifer Hudson's fiancé in *Sex and the City*.



JOSHUA HENRY

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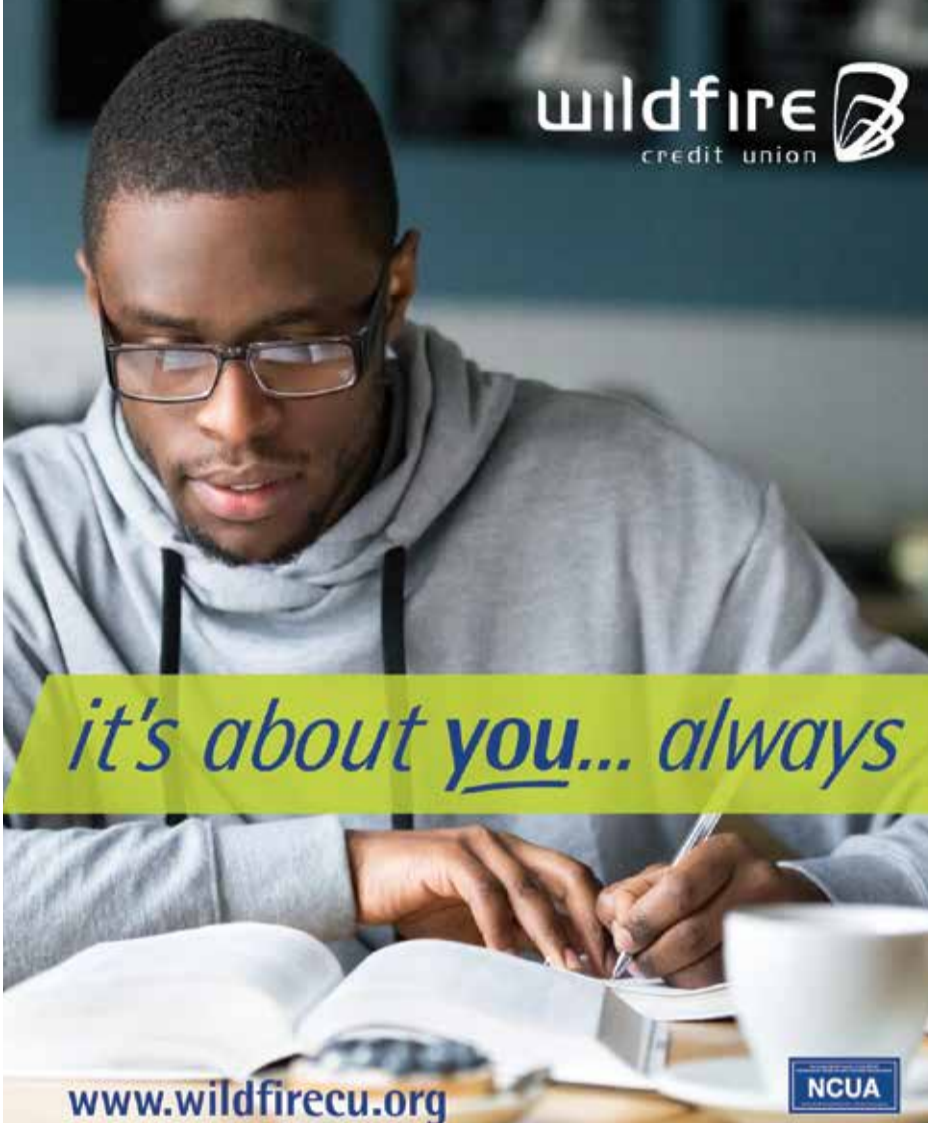
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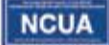
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MAP OF NORTH EAST SAGINAW AREA

Council delays action on First Ward 'light industrial' zoning

By MIKE THOMPSON

A City Council vote on rezoning the First Ward's North Washington Avenue corridor to allow "light industrial" uses is postponed until at least the end of summer.

This isn't the first time the governing body has decided to avert an immediate decision, but in this case the effect is longer-term and delay will make less immediate impact.

The prior two instances were on tighter timelines. First, a council majority placed Ojibway Island's fate in the hands of City Manager Tim Morales, who last summer cited safety concerns in closing the park to motorists. More recently, creation of an ARPA Advisory Committee has for now temporarily cooled the hot seats in deciding how to spend an historic, one-time \$52 million in the name of anti-poverty pandemic relief.

In contrast, the First Ward's dilemma is historic and slow-paced. Blight and white flight abandonment began in the 1920s, a century ago, with the arrival of trainloads of prospective black labor, many for the auto plants. By the 1970s a stream of thought took root that the First Ward had

become a drain on newfound federal urban aid, "too far gone," and that the funds would be better invested in neighborhoods deemed still possible to preserve.

After the millennium's turn, this outlook took deeper roots. "Green Zone" joined the lexicon with plans to allow forests to return.

Brenda Moore raised protests during her first 2013 campaign to win a council seat. When her peers appointed her mayor in fall 2020, her concerns carried more weight. Planners persuaded the mayor and a majority of other members that an infusion of light industry, including small parts-makers and warehouses, could light a long-latent candle along North Washington Avenue between North Third and North Tenth streets.

The border on the other side of North Washington is Farwell, creating a narrow strip for rezoning. However, impact could spread deeper into the First Ward's side streets.

City planners have reported a population drop of 78 percent during the past four decades. Protesters counter that green zone restrictions on home improvement permits and purchases of adjacent lots are part of the cause.

No proposals for First Ward economic development are on the table, which reduces any push for immediate action on zoning. As one reason for seeking the postponements, council members said they wish to wait and see what will occur with ARPA funding decisions later this coming summer and fall.

Meetings in May that possibly will move closer to budget decisions are:

- ARPA Advisory Committee, 5 p.m. May 12 and 19 at City Hall (Other sessions may be slated at neighborhood sites, but a listing was not made available in time for The Banner's May 1 online publication.)
- City Council, 6:30 p.m., May 9 and 23
- County Board of Commissioners, 5 p.m. May 17
- School Board, 5:30 p.m. May 18
- City/School/County Liaison, 5:30 p.m. May 19 at school board host site.

For updates, check saginaw-mi.com, spsd.net or saginawcounty.com.

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THE FERRY STREET SCHOOL, BUILT IN 1867 TO EDUCATE LOCAL AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDREN, CONTINUES TO SERVE THE NEIGHBORHOOD AS THE FERRY STREET RESOURCE CENTER TODAY (PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MICHIGAN STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE)

\$50,000 grant will be used to document one of Michigan's oldest African American neighborhoods

The Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the Michigan Strategic Fund has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Historic Preservation Fund's Underrepresented Community Grant program administered by the National Park Service (NPS), the Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced today.

The grant funds will hire a preservation consultant to complete a survey and National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Ferry Street District in Niles, established around 1846, less than 10 years after Michigan achieved statehood.

"The African American community in Niles is among the oldest in the state. The neighborhood continues to be a home and gathering place for this community, anchored by two churches, a masonic lodge and the Ferry Street School," said Michigan's State Historic Preservation Officer Mark A. Rodman. "This cultural history will resonate as part of the National Register nomination, which in turn will enable other benefits such as access to the

new State Historic Preservation Tax Credit program."

The Ferry Street neighborhood consists of an eight-block area of approximately 30 resources.

The neighborhood was the site of Michigan's first African American Freemason Society lodge (Harrison Lodge No. 6) founded in 1857.

Today, it includes the Ferry Street School, a one-room schoolhouse constructed in 1867 for African American children, the Prince Hall Masonic Lodge building, and is home to two church congregations, the Second Baptist Church (today the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church), founded at the corner of Sixth and Ferry Streets in 1849, and the Franklin AME Church on Sycamore Street established in 1888. Houses fill the surrounding blocks just to the northeast of downtown.

The Ferry Street District was home to a number of African American families that made significant contributions to Michigan's history. Photographs of some of the

homes in the district were included in the Michigan Manual of Freedmen's Progress published in 1915 as part of a national exhibition to showcase the accomplishments of African Americans.

One of Ferry Street's most notable residents was Lottie Wilson, the first African American graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, whose childhood home still stands in the district. A newspaper report from the period states that her father used their living room as a gallery to display her paintings. In 1902 Wilson's painting of Abraham Lincoln and Sojourner Truth was chosen by President Theodore Roosevelt to hang in the White House. Lottie Wilson was also a suffragette who challenged the White-dominated movement by asking them to take up the cause of African American women and the discrimination they faced in public accommodations.

Other significant residents included Reverend John William Hackley, a former slave who settled there in 1848, and Isaac Burdine, an activist and educator.

The Niles History Center, under the leadership of Director Christina Arseneau, has been working to document oral histories of families that lived in the neighborhood and recently held an exhibit related to the neighborhood's history.

"The Ferry Street area is rich in history and remains an active neighborhood with a church and resource center. The city's Master Plan emphasizes history as a tool for revitalization," said Niles History Director Christina H. Arseneau. "Documenting the untold stories here will contribute to pride of place for local residents and enhance placemaking efforts throughout the city of Niles."

Niles is a Michigan Main Street Community and also participates in the Certified Local Government program, in partnership with the Michigan SHPO and National Park Service. Once listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Ferry Street Historic District will join nearly 2,000 other National Register-designated places in Michigan.

**CONTINUES ON PG 21,
AFRICAN AMERICAN
NEIGHBORHOOD**

Continued from pg 20, African American neighborhood

The National Register is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. National Register properties have significance in the history of their community, state, or the nation. Once listed in the National Register, properties are eligible for certain state and federal grants and incentives, among other things. The listing is honorary and is used to recognize and celebrate how the past plays a role in the future.

“There are endless American stories yet to be recognized on a national stage like the National Register of Historic Places. The Underrepresented Community Grant program provides our state, Tribal, and Certified Local Government partners the means to identify and nominate their most significant places and stories for the benefit of all,” said National Park Service Director Chuck Sams.

This funding is the latest in a series of competitive National Park Service grants awarded to the Michigan SHPO and partners to better document and tell African American stories across the state. The Underrepresented Community Grant program specifically works toward diversifying the nominations submitted to the National Register of Historic Places. Previous awards have largely focused on identifying and documenting sites of significance in the 20th Century Civil Rights movement. Eight National Register nominations and three survey projects are completed or underway based on the Civil Rights theme. The Ferry Street nomination will be the first targeted toward an earlier period of African American history in the state.

In 2020, the Michigan SHPO was awarded a \$30,000 Underrepresented Community Grant to document and nominate two sites significant to the 20th Century African American Civil Rights movement in Detroit to the National Register of Historic Places. One of the sites, the Sojourner Truth Homes, will have its National Register nomination heard before the State Historic Preservation Review Board on May 20. This is the last step for a nomination before it is sent to the National Park Service for listing. The other site, the Orsel & Minnie McGhee House, will have its nomination go before the Review Board in September following the same process.

Focused on the historic preservation of culturally or archaeologically significant sites throughout the state, Michigan's State Historic Preservation Office's main function is to provide technical assistance to local communities and property owners in their efforts to identify, evaluate, designate, interpret and celebrate Michigan's historic above- and below-ground resources. SHPO also administers an incentives program that includes federal tax credits and pass-through grants available to certified local governments.

Something about Mother



By **JOYCE CADE-HITCHYE**
AUTHOR, POET, VETERAN, MICHIGANDER

A soothing sigh
can defy,
any pain to cause affliction.

A solemn stare
makes you beware,
that caution is best when you proceed.

One disclosure of your full name
puts even future titans in strain,
as you are made aware of who is in
command.

One flowing tear
has you racing near,
because the Queen can never be
melancholy.

The strength that you wield
with your heart being your shield,
can never be measured.

Everyday
in every way
You have taught us a lesson,
about what in our life has truly been a
blessing.

+ COMMUNITY

City cleanup set for May 14

By MIKE THOMPSON

Saginaw's second annual "Team Up to Clean Up" is seeking volunteers to gather at City Hall beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 14.

Mayor Brenda Moore and organizers are hoping an ease in covid restrictions, combined with increased public awareness, will help build upon last year's inaugural turnout of nearly 100 residents.

Workers will fan out to an array of sites on both sides of the river, equipped with t-shirts, work gloves and garbage bags provided by a Saginaw Community Foundation grant. They will return at 11 a.m. for a picnic lunch donated by Woody's Hot Dogs.

The city is pockmarked by more than 2,000 abandoned lots that range from totally overgrown to neatly trimmed. The Team Up to Clean Up intent is for pickup of litter and trash that is splayed mostly along abandoned properties and busy roadways, in projects that people of all ages are able to take part.

Work crews are assigned to more major needs for cutting and clearing. One question remains how much ARPA money the City Council eventually will reserve for major mowing and dead-tree-and brush removal, from among a record-setting \$52 million in federal aid.

Another issue remains illegal dumping in isolated areas. City officials say hidden video cameras are in place at the worst trouble spots, leading to arrests seeking penalties of up to \$500 or 90 days in jail. A hot line for citizens to file reports and evidence is (989) 759-1530.

Anyone who wishes to register their groups for May 14 activities may phone 759-1540 or file via inspections@saginaw-mi.com. These also are contacts for donors of cash or cleanup equipment.



Saginaw
Team Up to Clean Up

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022
8 AM - 12 PM

Bring your family, church group or community group out to help clean up our City! A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. Proper work attire and work gloves are recommended.

CITY HALL
1315 S. WASHINGTON AVE.

Please RSVP by Friday, May 6
inspections@saginaw-mi.com
or 989.759.1540

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Sheilda Braddock

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Ask the Dentist

with Jack W. Nash, DDS



Dear Dr. Nash,

I recently had my teeth extracted and now have an upper and lower full denture. I was plagued with tooth aches, gum disease and probably a case of just plain bad teeth. When I was younger, my dentist used to say that my teeth were soft and I had more decay than most people. I tried to do everything I could to save my teeth but they were doomed. I really hate the fact that I had to have my teeth extracted because I know that dentures are not nearly as desirable as real teeth, but I really had no choice with the trouble I have had with my teeth. I would never suggest anyone get dentures unless they absolutely have to. My question to you is since I do not have any teeth anymore, does that mean I do not have to go to the dentist anymore?

Dear Reader:


Very good question, my friend. Many people think that just because they have had their teeth extracted and dentures made they never have to go to the dentist again -- but this is not the case. People with their own teeth should see the dentist at least twice a year, and people with no teeth and/or dentures should see the dentist once a year. Just because someone does not have their own teeth does not mean that they should not have a checkup once a year to screen them for oral cancer, gum infections, bone loss, tongue infections or other oral disease. A dental team can pick up a lot of information about someone's health not only from the teeth but also the tissue inside of the mouth. I highly recommend that someone with dentures have the dentures checked for the fit at least once a year. An ill fitting denture can cause irritation to the soft tissue, gums, supporting tissue and possibly the tongue that may require surgery to correct. So it is in your best interest to have an oral exam once a year and have an X-ray taken of the bone supporting your dentures about once every 5 years. The reason you need the X-ray of the bone supporting the denture is to make sure no cysts, cancer or abnormal bone growth is hidden in the bone. You can not find abnormal bone in the mouth without the aid of an x-ray.

So my friend, I highly suggest that you have a soft tissue exam and oral cancer screening done once a year and have a x-ray of all the bone supporting your denture done at least every 5 years. The x-ray that I suggest is a panoramic x-ray that will show all the bones that support your denture. Your mouth is the gateway to your body and if your mouth is not healthy it will affect your overall health. Remember your health is really your wealth.

With Respect,

JACK W. NASH, DDS





Author of the Month Spotlight Open Submissions

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The Women of Colors Network is an opportunity for individuals to share, educate, inspire, and empower through streaming content via Prime Video, Apple TV, and Roku.

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Monique Ella Rose

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Downtown Saginaw Center Programs of Study

Many of the courses for these programs will be available at the center. For increased schedule flexibility, some may be taken at main campus or online.

- Associate of Arts – Transfer program
- Criminal Justice – Loss Prevention Specialist
- Fire Science Technology – Associate in Applied Science
- Health Foundations – Advanced Certificate
- Michigan Transfer Agreement
- Office Professions – Office Skills Core – Certificate of Achievement
- Sterile Processing Technician – Advanced Certificate
- Youth Services – Certificate of Achievement



Downtown Saginaw Center
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Great Lakes Bay Health Centers announces new Chief Growth & Development Officer

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers (GLBHC) is pleased to announce that Jeff Larsen, a veteran community engagement, marketing, and communications specialist for the non-profit field, will become the new Chief Growth & Development Officer. In this role Larsen will oversee marketing, communications, and future development for GLBHC. He joins the Executive Leadership Team and will work closely with the President & CEO Dr. Brenda Coughlin. "We are excited to have Jeff join us! With his experience and energy, we will be able to change many more lives in our communities for the better because we care" said Coughlin.

Jeff comes to Great Lakes Bay Health Centers from the American Cancer Society



JEFF LARSEN

where he worked as the Sr. Community Development Manager. He earned a Masters Degree in Secondary Education and a Bachelors Degree with a major in Com-

munications and minor in management from Saginaw Valley State University. "I'm thrilled to be joining the team at Great Lakes Bay Health Centers. Making sure everyone has access to a fullness of quality care is a passion of mine. I can't wait to help open even more doors to public health close to home" said Larsen.

Jeff is eager to help continue our mission to provide excellent health care to individuals and communities, especially those who are underserved, uninsured or underinsured. The services provided are sensitive to the needs of the community, are not based on ability to pay and are offered without regard to criteria such as race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Do you qualify for Social Security spouse's benefits?

BY VONDA VAN TIL

SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SPECIALIST

Social Security benefits are a crucial part of millions of Americans' retirement income. If you don't have enough Social Security credits to qualify for benefits on your own record, you may be able to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

- To qualify for spouse's benefits, you must be one of the following:
- 62 years of age or older.

Any age and have in your care a child younger than age 16, or who has a disability and is entitled to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

If you wait until you reach full retirement age to receive benefits, your full spouse's benefit could be up to one-half the amount your spouse is entitled to receive at their full retirement age. If you choose to receive your spouse's benefits before you reach full retirement age, you will get a permanently reduced benefit.

You will also get your full spouse's benefit if you are under full retirement age, but care for a child and one of the following applies:

- The child is younger than age 16.
- The child has a disability and is entitled to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

If you're eligible to receive retirement benefits on your own record, we will pay that amount first. If your benefits as a spouse are higher than your own retirement benefits, you will get a combination of benefits that equal the higher spouse benefit.

For example, Sandy qualifies for a retirement benefit of \$1,000 and a spouse's benefit of \$1,250. At her full retirement

age, she will receive her own \$1,000 retirement benefit. We will add \$250 from her spouse's benefit, for a total of \$1,250.

Want to apply for either your or your spouse's benefits? Are you at least 61 years and nine months old? If you answered yes to both, visit www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement to get started today.

Are you divorced from a marriage that lasted at least 10 years? You may be able to get benefits on your former spouse's record. You can find out more by visiting www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html.



COURTESY PHOTO

+ COMMUNITY



PHIL EICH AND YOUTH AMBASSADORS AT SAGINAW ISD STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

'It's up to you, Sag-inaw, Sag-inaw!'

Career center teens become hometown Ambassadors

By MIKE THOMPSON

Imagine you are a high schooler in Saginaw, and many of your teenage peers are expressing desires to "get out of here" ASAP, before their adult lives take hold. Maybe you have felt those same feelings now and then.



AIDAN KELLEY, ST. CHARLES

Then you learn of a new opportunity via the Saginaw County Youth Ambassador Program, overseen at the Saginaw Career Complex through the Intermediate School District, SISD, and the

Chamber of Commerce's PartnerShift outreach with local schools and businesses.

"Our experience helps us know our county better and teaches us how to tell our story with confidence," says Youth Ambassador Aidan Kelley of St. Charles.



KENNEDY SUTHERLAND, FRANKENMUTH

Frankenmuth's Youth Ambassador Kennedy Sutherland adds, "The first year of training focused

on communication and leadership development to prepare us to get the message across to our peers."

This is a three-year leadership development program that students apply for with the endorsement of their local districts. Up to two students per district may be selected.

Year one includes self-awareness, leadership development, social responsibility, and effective communication skills, including Dale Carnegie training.

The second year is a "junior leadership Saginaw" experience, helping students to learn about their home community.

Year three is the "ambassador year," whereby students will take on a leadership role in making use of all they have learned to help promote Saginaw County to their peers as a great place to live, work, and play.

Twenty-four students have taken up this commitment as the first Youth Ambassador Cohort, and they haven't backed down in the face of occasional skepticism, even sarcasm.

**CONTINUES ON PG 27,
HOMETOWN AMBASSADORS**

Continued from pg 26, Hometown Ambassadors

Diverse perspectives

All 12 of Saginaw County's local school districts have student participation -- Birch Run, Bridgeport, Carrollton, Chesaning, Frankenmuth, Freeland, Hemlock, Merrill, Saginaw City, Saginaw Township, St. Charles and Swan Valley.

Students in the Youth Ambassador Program meet monthly to develop their leadership skills and knowledge of Saginaw County. Whether meeting at the Saginaw ISD, the Saginaw Career Complex (formerly COC, Career Opportunities Center, a successor to what old-timers may recall as the old Arthur Hill Tech), or often offsite at various Saginaw service organizations, public services, businesses, and points of interest

It's never easy when the message so often must combat stereotypes and negative exaggerations regarding Rust Belt, abandoned neighborhoods, perceptions of nothing to do, no jobs, no culture, and crime.

That's why the SISD's Jenny Geno, executive director of career and technical education, and Tina Bacigalupo, career counselor consultant and program coordinator, have made sure the enrollees received plenty of prep time for their roles in the first-time venture.

Some students are the products of Saginaw-born parents or even grandparents, which makes them somewhat more attached with a stronger desire to remain. All say they have learned so much more about Saginaw County and its local history with field trips to an array of locations, with assistance from Saginaw ISD Coordinator of Business Partnerships, Ann Marie Batkoski

Sites have included Hoyt Library, the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History, SVRC Marketplace, the Dow Event Center, Pit and Balcony, SVSU's Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Museum, the Saginaw County Courthouse and Jail, MMR, the Saginaw Police Department, United Way of Saginaw County, the READ Association, Saginaw's Eastside Soup Kitchen, the Youth Protection Council, Local 85 Training Center, Saginaw Valley State University, Saginaw's Downtown Delta

College Campus and Firefighters Training Center.

Local businesses that have enlisted are Amigo Mobility, Star of the West, and the Bavarian Inn. Students also attended a high-adventure leadership and team-building day at the GASC Base Camp in Genesee County.

"Connecting the Youth Ambassadors with community mentors from the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce's Young Professional's Network is an essential part of the vision," Geno says, offering thanks to mentors Steve Hensley (Saginaw County Chamber), Zach Moulton (RWS Financial Group), Mitch Piper (Braun Kendrick), Kyle Dewees (Valley Lutheran High School), Julie Tacktor (Cumulus Media), and Amy Pitts (Gohm Insurance Restoration).

Program partners are also influential mentors to the Youth Ambassadors, including Wendy Groll (Dale Carnegie), Jordan Thieme (Amigo Mobility), Samantha Jones (Partnershift Network), Dennis Barlow (Saginaw ISD), Ann Marie Batkoski (Saginaw ISD), Susan Moody (Wildfire Credit Union), Veronica Horn (Saginaw County Chamber), and Phil Eich (Founder of Storyville Social -- Full Steam Media), as well as the many inspirational community and business leaders who've graciously hosted the students this year.

Shy? A Dale Carnegie outlook

Each student received a startup scholarship for a three-day Dale Carnegie Teen Program, which offers "the opportunity to learn and develop sought-after leadership skills through a unique, comprehensive program designed to prepare them for promoting community services and the many benefits of living in Saginaw."

"My confidence has grown tremendously," Aidan says, referring to the public speaking emphasis for which Dale Carnegie training is best known.

After two years with new countywide classmates, heading for the climactic third, Kennedy explains, "We have really grown individually and as a team - we've become more like brothers and sisters."

The Youth Ambassadors will meet with mentors throughout the summer as they prepare their Saginaw County promotional campaign in Fall 2022.

Bacigalupo shared, "We are so very proud of this first cohort of Youth Ambassadors as they have already begun making a difference for their peers in Saginaw County. They are using their voices to advocate for more mental health education and mental health resource accessibility in schools. They are truly passionate about helping others live their best life - right here in Saginaw County!"

Following is a list of the first Cohort of Saginaw County Youth Ambassadors, currently high school juniors, who refer to themselves as Team FIBO, "First In and Best Out."

- Kennedy Aldrich and Owen Quinnan, Birch Run High School
- A'yanna Trice, Bridgeport High School
- Courtney Ayotte and Kennedy Campos, Carrollton High School
- Bryn Mahoney and Emily Smith, Chesaning High School
- Mia Fahrenbruch and Kennedy Sutherland, Frankenmuth High School
- Jonathan Leiter and Alexis Ritter, Freeland High School
- Kahl Mallek and Luke Premo, Hemlock High School
- Mason Ordway, Merrill High School
- Aidan Kelley and Laina Harger, St. Charles High School
- Tornarus Johnson, Saginaw High School
- Lionel Baldwin, Saginaw Arthur Hill High School
- Demiyah Barlow, Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy
- Zori Rasco and ChristGiles Yarn, Saginaw Township Heritage High School
- Jackson Beery and Matthew McKim, Swan Valley High School

+ COMMUNITY



PICTURED FROM L TO R: CHRISTOPHER BURTLEY AND KEVIN T. JONES

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appoints local leaders to Boards and Commissions

On April 26, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced appointments to the following Boards and Commissions; Michigan Cherry Committee, Michigan Tree Fruit Commission, Black Leadership Advisory Council, Michigan Citizen-Community Emergency Response Coordinating Council, and the Chair of the Commission on Community Action and Economic Opportunity.

Among the appointments to the Black Leadership Advisory Council include the following local leaders:

Christopher Burtley, of Flint, an attorney with Barnes and Thornburg, LLP. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from Michigan State University's

James Madison College and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Michigan Law School. Mr. Burtley is reappointed to represent Black leadership in law as a member between the ages of 18 through 35 for a term commencing April 26, 2022, and expiring December 31, 2024.

Kevin T. Jones, of Saginaw, the founder of Blactiquing, a black art, and black history museum exhibit. He's also a senior associate and lead ambassador and community evaluation for Morino Ventures. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan, a Master of Education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and a Master of Public Health from the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Jones

is appointed to represent Black leadership in arts and culture for a term commencing April 26, 2022, and expiring December 31, 2023. He succeeds Rochelle Riley.

The Black Leadership Advisory Council was created by Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-163 as an advisory body in the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. The Council acts in an advisory capacity to the governor and develops, reviews, and recommends policies and actions designed to eradicate and prevent discrimination and racial inequity in Michigan.

These appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



STARS continue mask requirement on buses

Mask requirements have not changed on STARS vehicles despite a Florida judge recently overturning US government mask mandate for transportation set by the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Biden administration.

"Thought the mask order has been struck down, CDC still recommends masks on transit, so STARS will keep mask requirements for the time being. We are determining when it is appropriate to lift masking requirements by looking at the information that comes out over the next two weeks, including test rates for COVID in the Saginaw area and the safety of our front line workers," says STARS Executive Director Glenn Steffens. "I hope to see a different trend after this Easter weekend than we've seen after other holidays. So far things look promising, but we are being very cautious."



Minigrants Available For Art Projects

The Saginaw Arts and Enrichment Commission, Region 5 administrator for the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC) regional regranting program is providing minigrant funding for arts projects and professional development in Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw counties.

The program provides funding to registered non-profit organizations, schools, municipalities and artists in the eight county East Central Michigan Region. The purpose of these grants is to encourage, initiate and facilitate an enriched artistic, cultural and creative environment in Mid-Michigan. Art project minigrants can be up to \$4,000 while professional development grants can be up to \$1,500.

Minigrant applications can be found online at ArtSaginaw.org. Applications must be submitted by August 3.

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IN MY HUMBLE OPINION



COURTESY PHOTO

Climate change is inevitable



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

When I got the inspiration for this article, I thought because there was an ice age on Earth and the great flood in the time of Noah, that climate change was certainly inevitable, as it has happened before. After doing my research, that thought still holds true, but the extent to which the climate has changed in the last two centuries and is changing now is unprecedented. In the

past two weeks in South Africa, there were days of incredibly heavy rains in KwaZulu-Natal Province that resulted in massive flooding and more than 400 deaths.

As I am sure you know, an ice age is a period of very cold global temperatures, during which time glaciers cover large parts of the world. What you might not know is that an ice age is not uniformly cold. There are usually alternating colder and warmer epochs during the overall ice age period. The colder epochs are called glacial or stadials, and the warmer epochs are called interglacials or interstadials. The glacial epochs last longer than the interglacial epochs, and an ice age can last for hundreds of millions of years resulting in glacial expansion. We can thank biologist and geologist Jean Rodolphe Agassiz, and astronomer, civil engineer, climatologist, geophysicist, and mathematician Milutin Milanković for their work, which

helped scientists to later determine that Earth's changing orbit and shifting tectonic plates drive the ebb and flow of ice ages. There have been five ice ages in Earth's history. They began approximately 2.4 million years ago and lasted until 11,500 years ago. Today, we are in a warm interglacial period.

One of the most famous stories from the Bible is found in the book of Genesis, and of course that is the story of Noah and the Ark, which some think is a myth. About 10 years ago, acclaimed underwater archaeologist, Robert Ballard found what he believes to be proof that the biblical flood was actually based on real events. Ballard did a television interview in 2012 with Christiane Amanpour for ABC News. He talked about what he and his team found 400 feet

**CONTINUES ON PG 31,
CLIMATE CHANGE**

Continued from pg 30, climate change

below the surface of the Black Sea. According to abcnews.go.com, who reported on the interview, "He said some 12,000 years ago, much of the world was covered in ice. The water from the melting glaciers began to rush toward the world's oceans, Ballard said, causing floods all around the world." Ballard and his team proved that a catastrophic event of this nature did happen when they unearthed an ancient shoreline in the Black Sea, and carbon dated shells they found. The timeline they established for the cataclysmic flood was around 5,000 B.C., and some experts believe this was around the time when Noah's great flood occurred.

Now, I am sure you can agree with my initial premise about the inevitability of climate change because it has happened not once, not twice, but many times in the past. However, the extent of change we are experiencing in our lifetimes is without comparison. A graph that I came across, which was published by The Guardian in an article entitled, "Major climate changes inevitable and irreversible - IPCC's starkest warning yet", shows the change in global surface temperature relative to 1850-1900 (just after the first industrial revolution). It uses the temperature during the time-frame mentioned as base zero, and it shows the temperature fluctuating above (0.5°C max.) and below (-0.25°C min.) the baseline for about 120 years. Then after 1970, the graph shoots up at nearly a 60-degree angle reaching a global surface temperature of approximately 1.2°C above the baseline in 2020 (+/- 50 years). While this increase seems minor when it comes to daily temperature changes, it is catastrophic when scaled at the level of the global climate. Some of the consequences include melting polar ice caps and glaciers, rise in sea levels, tropical storms, extreme heatwaves, wildfires, severe floods, mass human population displacement, withering droughts, decreased population of vertebrate animal species, reduction in fish/fishing in the seas, loss of coral reefs, loss of plants, loss of insects, and reduced crop outputs. This sharp increase in global warming is clearly due to human activity and more specifically the industrial revolutions, and excessive use and reliance on fossil fuels resulting in extremely high CO2 emissions.

On 12 December 2015 during the United Nations Climate Change Conference, 196 countries signed the Paris Agreement, which is a legally binding treaty on climate change at COP 21 (21st annual session of the Conference of the Parties) in Paris. The primary goal is to limit global warming to preferably 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels by mid-century, if not sooner. Last year, the UN Secretary General, António Guterres held a High-level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE), and the goal was to accelerate and scale up action to achieve universal access to clean, affordable energy by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050.

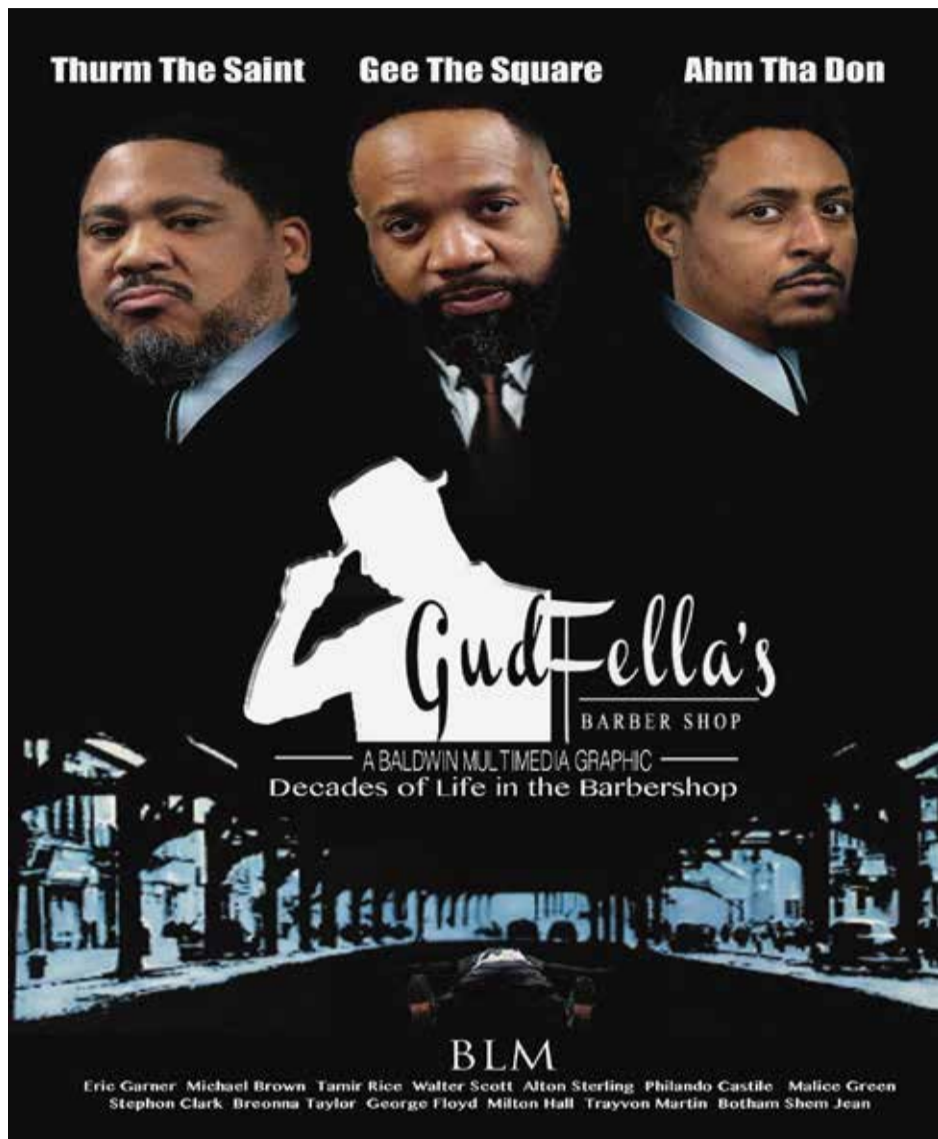
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was created by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988, has 195 members, and the main objective is to provide governments with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies. It also generates regular reports assessing the science related to climate change. The 2022 Report on Climate Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability came out with six big findings: "1. Climate impacts are already more widespread and severe than expected. 2. We are locked into even worse impacts from climate change in the near-term. 3. Risks will escalate quickly with higher temperatures, often causing irreversible impacts of climate change. 4.

Inequity, conflict and development challenges heighten vulnerability to climate risks. 5. Adaptation is crucial. Feasible solutions already exist, but more support must reach vulnerable communities. 6. But some impacts of climate change are already too severe to adapt to. The world needs urgent action now to address losses and damages."

By its nature, the precise details and fallout of what is really a climate crisis cannot be fully predicted. However, we know enough for broad strokes. The long-term prognosis for human civilization is grim, but hopeful. The crises we will face do not generally pose an existential threat to human civilization on Earth. It cannot be denied that the risks of the current climate change, which includes a range of unpredictable nonlinear effects, could radically and quickly change the face of the Earth and our ability to sustain our contemporary civilization. Modern humans survived many rapid climatological upheavals in the millennia immediately leading up to the beginning of the Holocene, Younger Dryas, Meltwater Pulses 1A and 1B glacial conditions; not to mention the desertification of the once-green Sahara. All of which changed the face of the Earth in ways observable in a single human lifetime, and by the grace of God humankind continued to thrive.



COURTESY PHOTO



ANNOUNCEMENTS



DDA reps needed in Buena Vista

Buena Vista Township is recruiting representatives of commercial businesses, small or large, to fill vacancies on the Downtown Development Authority, which oversees captured tax-increment property taxes to promote local economic development.

Potential applicants may call the BV Township Clerk's Office, (989) 754-6536, or Supervisor Christina Dillard Jackson, (989) 214-1466.

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What's for dinner today, Della?

By Dolores Grant-Fall, former Neighborhood House cook

I hope you have gained faith from my first few recipes, because this one may seem strange. It's a cake with "ground macaroni." Huh? If you wish to suggest that I'm off my rocker, for real I'm rising out of my chair in my combat with cancer, finding new life that includes some new recipes.

You will not need a big name brand of macaroni so much as a grinder. If you possess a fancy food processor, great. But one of those smaller NutriBullet machines also will do the job.

Social media will show loads of pictures of desserts made with cooked macaroni, but mine with dry pasta ground into the flour is rare, and we can't even find a photo. And it's not so goofy, because macaroni is made of flour.

Yankee Doodle Dandy Dessert Cake

Ingredients

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 regular one-pound box of macaroni | 2 tsp essence |
| 1 1/2 cup of sugar | Pinch of salt |
| 1 cup sifted all-purpose flour. | 1/2 pkg of yeast (optional if you desire a lighter, higher-rising cake) |
| 1 tbsp baking powder | 3 eggs |
| 1 tsp cinnamon powder | 1 can coconut milk |
| 1 tsp freshly grated nutmeg | 1 cup of cherry preserves |
| 2 tsp freshly grated orange zest | 1 cup raisins |

Instructions

Grind the macaroni into powder. Add and sift all other dry ingredients. Beat eggs with essence and coconut milk mix well, add the fruit and mix your batter. Bake at 375 degrees for 35 to 45 minutes or until golden brown. Cool and enjoy your original Yankee Doodle Cake. If there are little ones with you, maybe sing, "Stuck a feather in his cap and called it ma-ca-ro-ni." This was part of my first patriotic song after I immigrated from Guyana, singing to my babies in this new land.

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Mental health Awareness Month POWER OF A SMILE



COURTESY PHOTO

By MB STAFF

Smile!! May is Mental Health Awareness Month. In searching for free or low-cost ways to demonstrate concern and provide care for individuals navigating the challenges often associated with a severe mental illness to share in this article, smiling is on many lists of things to do to be supportive. A genuine smile speaks a lot about your character. World renowned author and motivational speaker, Dale Carnegie said, “The expression one wears on one’s face is far more important than the clothes one wears on one’s back.” Smiles are free – they cost nothing to share, and they are mutually beneficial. This means that both the giver and the recipient receive benefits from the exchange.

Smiling helps our bodies release hormones that provide numerous health benefits. Serotonin helps us feel relaxed and happy. It is a neurotransmitter that is responsible for mood, appetite, sleep, and sexual function. It is widely referred to as the ‘happiness hormone’ because it affects mood. Dopamine is a medication form of a natural substance which works by improving the pumping strength of the heart and

improves blood flow to the kidneys. Endorphins are the body’s natural painkillers. They relieve pain and create a general feeling of well-being. Isn’t it amazing that the human body produces these hormones naturally but even more incredible is the scientifically proven fact that smiling aids in the production and release of them?

Smiles speak a universal language. They cross language and cultural barriers. They welcome new students at the beginning of a school year, they can help to relieve the anxiety of individuals in crisis, they welcome strangers into almost any setting providing a sense of belonging, and again, they provide health benefits to the giver. They are also contagious! Think about the infectious smile and laughter of a baby or small child. It can change the mood and calm the atmosphere of an entire roomful of ‘disagreeable’ people. Medical and mental health professionals will find engagement occurs sooner and with more ease with a heartfelt smile.

In a 2021 Life Guides article on, ‘The Power of A Smile: 10 Surprising Benefits and Tips To Smile More’, the writer explains each of ten potential benefits of smiling in detail. The list includes smiling,

stress relief, positivity, mood elevation, pain relief, lower blood pressure, boosts to the immune system, longer life, a more attractive look and feeling, and lastly, regular, and genuine smiling suggests success. Smiles are free, provide the natural release of life enhancing hormones, offer comfort and relief to individuals in need and deliver varying degrees of the ten benefits listed above. That is a rather good return on investment.

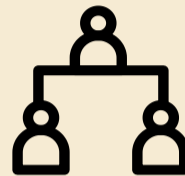
Here is a smiling exercise from Vietnamese meditation teacher Thich Nhat Hanh that might boost your mood and encourage the development of a habit of smiling: As you breathe in, say to yourself: Breathing in, I calm body and mind. Then, as you breathe out, think: Breathing out, I smile. (John Amodeo) May is Mental Health Awareness Month. With limited time and resources, it may be challenging for many of us to participate in the activities and events planned in our community this year. All of us, however, can make a difference with the gift of a simple, genuine smile.

MI Tri-Share CHILD CARE

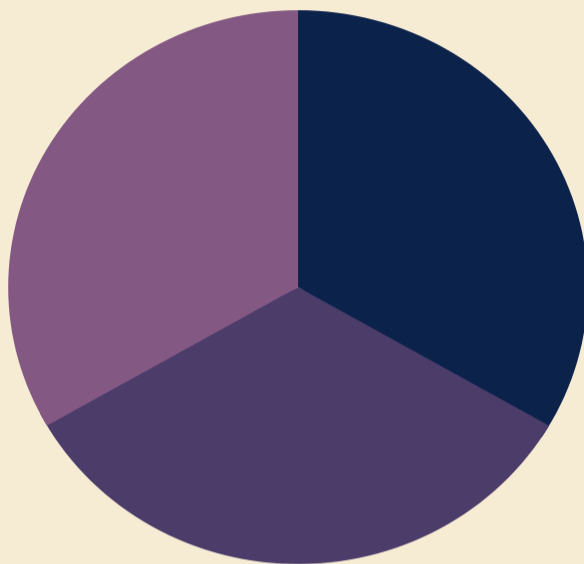
State of Michigan
33.3%



Employer
33.3%



Cost of child
care is
shared



Employee
33.3%

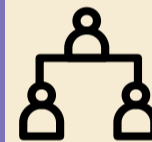


The MI Tri-Share Pilot (Tri-Share) is an innovative public/private partnership that shares the cost of child care equally between employers, employees, and the state of Michigan.

Overview

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

Benefits



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



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



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

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




 + HEALTH

MDHHS reminds Michigan residents to test get vaccinated and boosted as COVID-19 cases expected to rise through May

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is reminding Michiganders to participate in best practices to reduce risks of COVID-19 and prevent spread at spring gatherings including proms, graduations, and other holidays and to make sure they are up-to-date on vaccines.

The BA.2 subvariant of Omicron is expected to continue causing a rise in COVID-19 cases in the upcoming weeks; southeast Michigan is already seeing an increase in cases. The increase is not unexpected as the BA.2 subvariant of Omicron has shown to be more transmissible.

"While we wish we could avoid these types of increases in cases, the good news is we have excellent, effective tools to travel safely and gather with loved ones and prevent severe outcomes from COVID-19," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MDHHS chief medical executive. "We encourage Michigan residents to make a COVID-19 plan: have masks and over-the-counter tests on hand, speak to your physician ahead of time to find out if you qualify for treatments if you are infected and make sure you are up-to-date on vaccines. We recommend Michiganders test if they have symptoms or if they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, and stay home if they are ill."

While cases may increase, hospitalizations and mortality are not expected to rise significantly, given levels of vaccination, boosters and immunity from the recent Omicron spike. Michigan's residents are encouraged to be aware of the increased transmission as they go about their daily lives and make personal decisions on masking and other strategies to protect themselves from COVID-19. Michigan remains in the post-surge recovery phase; however, public health officials continue to monitor the situation closely and will notify the public if anything changes.

In addition to testing before and after travel, MDHHS encourages residents to test ahead of group celebrations and gatherings, especially when events may include family and friends who have increased vulnerability to COVID-19 infection. A feature on the COVID-19 test finder lists wait times for many testing sites across the state, and many options exist for free at-home testing.

Free over-the-counter tests remain available to households through federal, MI Backpack Home Testing, many Michigan libraries and Rockefeller programs. Continued testing supports early identification of cases in Michigan's communities and helps limit spread of the virus. If you test positive for COVID-19 isolate immediately, avoid travel and gatherings and seek medical care if needed.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers travel tips - including recommendations of when and where to mask and best practices to avoid illness when traveling.

MDHHS continues to recommend the use of layered mitigation strategies for Michiganders:

- Get vaccinated against COVID-19. Michiganders should get up to date on their COVID-19 vaccine. Learn more about vaccines and when you're up to date at Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine.
- Learn about therapeutics. Individuals are encouraged to talk to their doctor about whether they meet eligibility criteria and should get antibody or antiviral treatment if they test positive for COVID-19. Learn more about COVID-19 Therapeutics.
- Isolate and quarantine if needed. Staying away from others when

you are sick or were recently exposed to COVID-19 are important tools to preventing further spread of the virus. Learn more about what happens when you have or are exposed to COVID-19

- Get tested if you are exposed or have symptoms. Anyone with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 should get tested regardless of vaccination status or prior infection. If you get tested because you have symptoms or were potentially exposed to the virus, you should stay away from others while you wait for the test result. Find a test site at Michigan.gov/COVIDTest.
- Take additional steps to protect yourself and others. Protect yourself from COVID-19 by understanding levels of risk, practicing good hygiene and hand washing, staying home when sick and staying up to date with vaccinations. Know your risk; know that others may have a risk different from yours. Respect the choice. For additional guidance on mitigation strategies see [How to Protect Yourself and Others](#).
- Get a free mask. Free KN95 masks are being distributed by community organizations, including local MDHHS offices, health departments and Area Agency on Aging offices. Residents who want masks can obtain masks from partner agencies across the state. Michiganders are asked to refer to partner websites or social media sites to find out about mask availability as opposed to calling sites.

For more information on COVID-19, visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus.

+ HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

May is 'Mental Health Awareness Month'

Mental Health Awareness Month has been observed in the United States during the month of May since 1949. The month is typically filled with local, state, and national events intended to raise awareness about the impact of the challenges children, youth, and families with severe mental illness diagnosis face on a daily basis, to educate communities on the need to support efforts to minimize the challenges and barriers, and to remove the stigma (negative attitudes and misconceptions) associated with even discussing the issue. Each year, the Mental Health America (MHA) organization establishes a theme which unites communities nation-wide to focus on a common goal.

The 2022 theme is, 'LONELINESS'

On the heels of a raging pandemic which forced the population into an unexpected shut down, loneliness has had a massive impact on our physical and mental

health alike. The isolation and seclusion posed greater levels of concern for individuals who may already have needed enhanced supports. Mental health awareness can potentially help millions of people in the United States who are impacted by issues associated with a diagnosis. Studies find that as many as one in five adults have had or currently have symptoms of a mental illness. This means that most of us have at least one family member, friend, colleague, church member and/or neighbor in need of support.

Individuals with severe mental health diagnosis face higher rates of poverty, homelessness, incarceration, untreated medical/physical conditions (i.e., sickness/disease), isolation from family/community, and substance use disorders. Behaviors are often criminalized, resulting in individuals with mental health challenges receiving punishment instead of much needed treatment. For example, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

reports that people with serious mental illness have an increased risk for chronic disease, that 18% of U.S. adults with mental illness also have a substance use disorder, that 37% of incarcerated people in state and federal prison have a diagnosed mental condition and an alarming 70% of youth in the juvenile justice system have at least one mental health condition. (Data from CDC, NIMH, and other related sources. Find citations for this resource at mami.org/mhstats). The suicide and disparity in mortality rates for individuals with mental illness is also cause for concern.

This year, we can be more intentional in our efforts to support children and youth with mental illness. 1. TAKE CARE OF YOU: This may include seeking professional treatment if needed, taking time to rest (including adequate sleep and time for mindfulness); spending time with positive, supportive family/friends; and finding time for adequate exercise (at one's own pace - may be a simple walk around the building leading up to a walk around the block). 2. CHECK IN: A text or phone call speaks volumes to someone experiencing or feeling the impact of loneliness or isolation. Balance personal well-being and supporting others in need of a bit of time or other means of support. 3. NO STIGMA: Education is critical! Information more about mental illness is a simple click away. Resources are free and available online, in public libraries, and through community trainings and seminars. Normalize the need to seek treatment, take medications and receive necessary treatment by being an informed advocate for individuals in need of assistance. The more we know, the less likely we are to judge or miss opportunities to keep our families, schools, and communities safe.

Persons with mental illness can be treated, can be cured, and can live healthy, productive lives. For more information, please visit the following web sites:

Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA): www.sccmha.org National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI): www.nami.org

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service (SAMHSA): www.samhsa.gov



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KEVIN ORLOSKI, MD



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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).



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+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

Saginaw educator blends psychology with schools

At Reese High School two decades ago, teenager Jenna Perez imagined a career in child psychology.

She switched to child education, but she didn't forget.

Today, 36-year old Jenna O'Driscoll is a national honoree for her service as a second-grade teacher at Jessie Loomis Elementary, promoted last year as principal at Saginaw's Merrill Park Elementary.

"We teach the whole child," she says, always addressing social and emotional needs, along with academics, including language arts, social studies and STEM, which stands for science, technology, engineering and math.

She joins 60 U.S.A. educators honored via the Milken Education Foundation.

She elaborates, "Educating the whole child means thinking about each student as a human being in full, and not limiting the scope of education to academics only. A whole child education focuses on social-emotional aspects along with academics, and prioritizes the full scope of a child's developmental needs as a way to advance educational equity and ensure that every child reaches their fullest potential. This is especially important coming out of a pandemic."



JENNA O'DRISCOLL AND HER HUSBAND TERRY

Prestigious? How about a \$25,000 cash award?

Typical of her outreach, she aims to share the prize.

Jenna says, down-to-earth, "I got the award working with children at an at-risk school, and now I have a chance to give some back. I just haven't decided how yet."

Her trademark approach will include suggestions from peers, parents and even her students, followed by purposeful action.

In a year filled with big developments, news of the honor arrives after recently learning she is expecting a first child this fall with her husband, Terence O'Driscoll, in Bridgeport. He's a machinist with Mers-

en USA in Bay City.

"October 30, the day before Halloween," she jokes.

She grew up in Indiantown, a small part of Saginaw along the M-81 route to Reese, the daughter of Danny and Marie Perez, a sister of Michael Perez, all who still live in Saginaw. Her father is a retired autoworker and her mother is employed at Michigan Works.

Jenna was an honor student at St. Elizabeth Catholic School through eighth grade, and her Reese High graduation was in 2003.

She continued with an associate's degree from Delta College and then achieved her bachelor's and master's from Saginaw Valley State University.

"Throughout my college years, I worked as a waitress, a bartender, a DJ and a substitute teacher," she says. "I had equal access to scholarships, but still have a hefty loan to pay off."

One part of the prize she can't "give back" is her late-June invitation to Los Angeles to not only accept her honor at a dinner, but to take part in a Milken Foundation annual conference that explores and proposes concepts for school improvement. The program is in its 40th year with lifetime opportunities to stay connected.

Jenna says she will take part as a representative of "all the wonderful teachers this could have been for."



JENNA O'DRISCOLL AND HER PARENTS ON HER WEDDING DAY

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

SPONSORED CONTENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Saginaw Promise Scholar expressed his appreciation:

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

*kindest regards...
Nicholas*



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

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

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

The Class of 2022 will be the 11th year of Saginaw Promise scholars!!!

Why do I support the Saginaw Promise?



"I support the Saginaw Promise because I believe everyone who wants to attend college should have the chance. The Promise funds, along with other resources, provides the students of the Saginaw Public School District that opportunity."

Michael Colby,
*President -Isabella Bank
Saginaw Promise Trustee*

"I support the Saginaw Promise so that no Saginaw child is limited by funding in his/her pursuit of a college education."

Dr. Stephanie Duggan,
*Regional President, Ascension Northern Ministries Ascension St. Mary's, Ascension Standish and Ascension St. Joseph
Saginaw Promise Trustee*



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

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



+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

READ Association of Saginaw County receives \$25,000 Match on Main grant

READ Association of Saginaw County was one of 19 organizations to receive the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)'s Match on Main Grant.

MEDC's Match on Main (MoM) program provides funding to communities that participate as a select and master level community in the Michigan Main Street program or are a Certified Redevelopment Ready community. The communities, who receive the grant funding from the MEDC, in turn award grants of up to \$25,000 to eligible businesses seeking support.

"Michigan's unique downtowns are the heart of our communities, and with today's Match on Main grants, we are helping small businesses in both peninsulas by investing in bustling commercial districts for people to visit, shop, and dine in, attracting more talent and new investments," said Governor Whitmer. "These grants will help our cities and towns continue to grow and thrive, building on our ongoing economic momentum. Currently, Michi-

gan's unemployment rate is 4.4% and we have experienced 11 straight months of job growth, adding 174,000 jobs year over year in March. We will keep our foot on the gas to grow our economy, create more jobs, and invest in small businesses."

Grants may be used by the business for eligible expenses that support technical assistance, interior building renovations, permanent or semi-permanent activation of an outdoor space, permanent or semi-permanent business infrastructure related to COVID-19 recovery efforts, and other working capital needs such as marketing needs and inventory expenses. Additional needs identified by the business and supported by the local community are also considered.

The READ Association of Saginaw County is a local initiative started in 1966 in response to a high correlation between juvenile delinquency, poverty and illiteracy. READ's mission is to help students improve their reading skills and discover

the joy of reading. Primary goals are to motivate children to want to read and to enhance their confidence and self-esteem so that they can read at their respective grade level.

READ is governed by a 15 member Board of Directors and is funded by the United Way of Saginaw County, local foundations, individual contributions and business partners.

"Thriving small businesses are the cornerstone of what makes Michigan's downtowns unique and authentic while helping to create economic opportunity across the state," said MEDC Senior Vice President of Community Development Michele Wildman. "With the support of the Match on Main program, we can help local businesses grow and create jobs, while further developing vibrant and attractive places where people want to live, work, visit and play."

+ EDUCATION

MCAN launches Michigan Echo Scholarship

Michigan College Access Network is proud to announce the Michigan Equity, Courage, Hope and Opportunity Scholarship (MI ECHO), a tuition-free pathway for students who are not eligible for federal financial aid to pursue an associate degree or certificate. It is designed to serve DACA recipients, Temporary Protected Status immigrants, Special Immigrant Juveniles, and other populations who are excluded from most traditional financial aid opportunities.

The scholarship application opened today, and eligible individuals can apply via online : form or paper application. Inspired by the Futures for Frontliners program, this scholarship is for individuals who currently live in Michigan, worked an essential job during the COVID 19 pandemic and have not previously earned an associate or baccalaureate degree. Full.i eligibility requirements and application



COURTESY PHOTO

ECHO to mirror that opportunity for workers who served in essential roles throughout the pandemic, but who are unable to access federal financial aid," said Ryan Fe-wins-Bliss, MCAN executive director. "MI ECHO honors the hard work of these individuals while investing in our workforce and moving us closer to our state's Sixty by 30 goal."

The MI ECHO Scholarship is funded by private donors and philanthropic organizations. Applications may be submitted through Dec. 31, 2022, but funds are limited, so interested individuals are encouraged to apply as early as they are able. We encourage you to share this information with anyone in your networks that works with the populations the scholarship is intending to serve. If you have questions, please contact Ana Manzano, scholarship director, at info@michiganecho.org.

information is available at michiganecho.org:

"We were excited to see how Gov. Whitmer's Futures for Frontliners program changed the i. conversation around community college and brought in so many Michiganders who are eager to improve their economic opportunities through postsecondary education. We designed MI

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- + 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
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Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy

SAGINAW
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

AUGUST 2, 2022 SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE ELECTION



The August 2, 2022 Special Education Election affects all students in all Saginaw County public school districts and public school academies.



1. When is the election?

The election will be held in every local school district served by the Saginaw Intermediate School District on Tuesday, August 2, 2022. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available after June 23rd, and can be cast through Election Day.

2. What is on the ballot?

Registered voters residing in school districts served by Saginaw ISD will vote on a 10-year Special Education Millage Proposal that calls for a 1.5583 mill tax increase.

3. What is the primary purpose of the election?

Special education services that are required by law have not been fully funded by the State of Michigan. Hence, this year Saginaw ISD will be forced to make-up the \$8.1 million special education funding shortages by invoicing local school districts for unfunded special education services. Local school districts will pay the \$8.1 million from their general operating budgets, reducing the amount of revenue available to pay for programs and services provided to all 26,140 students in Saginaw County.

The Special Education Millage Proposal will greatly reduce the special education funding shortages, providing Saginaw County's twelve local school districts and six public school academies with annual relief to their operating budgets.

4. What school districts are served by Saginaw ISD and are affected by this election?

This election will affect Saginaw County's twelve school districts and six Public School Academies listed below:

School Districts

- Birch Run Area Schools
- Bridgeport-Spaulling Community Schools
- Carrollton Public Schools
- Chesaning Union Schools
- Frankenmuth School District
- Freeland Community School District
- Hemlock Public Schools
- Merrill Community Schools
- Saginaw City School District
- Saginaw Township Community Schools
- St. Charles Community Schools
- Swan Valley School District

Public School Academies

- Covenant Academy
- Francis Reh
- International Academy
- North Saginaw Charter
- Saginaw Prep Academy
- Saginaw STEM Academy of Excellence

Registered voters who live in Saginaw County can vote on the Special Education Millage Proposal by absentee ballot after June 23rd, or at the polls on August 2nd.



5. How much money will each local school district receive if the Special Education Millage Proposal is approved by voters?

The approximate amount of revenue that will be returned to local school district and public school academy operating budgets is based on the number of special education students residing in the school district.

SCHOOL DISTRICT	APPROXIMATE REVENUE EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL RECEIVE
Birch Run Area Schools	\$ 323,000
Bridgeport-Spaulling Community Schools	\$ 484,000
Carrollton Public Schools	\$ 546,000
Chesaning Union Schools	\$ 497,000
Frankenmuth School District	\$ 283,000
Freeland Community School District	\$ 467,000
Hemlock Public Schools	\$ 323,000
Merrill Community Schools	\$ 237,000
Saginaw City School District	\$1,100,000
Saginaw Township Community Schools	\$1,300,000
St. Charles Community Schools	\$ 210,000
Swan Valley School District	\$ 516,000
LOCAL ACADEMIES	
Covenant Academy	\$ -0-
Francis Reh	\$ 13,000
International Academy	\$ 48,000
North Saginaw Charter	\$ 92,000
Saginaw Prep Academy	\$ 44,000
Saginaw STEM Academy of Excellence	\$ 76,000

6. How will the revenue from the Special Education Millage Proposal be used?

Each local school district will determine how the revenue returned to its general operating budget will be used. All districts are committed to using the revenue to enhance educational programs and services for all of their students.

Revenue from this election will benefit 26,140 students served by local school districts and public school academies in Saginaw County.

7. How much revenue from this election will go to local school districts and public school academies?

If voters approve the Special Education Millage Proposal, all revenue will be distributed to Saginaw County's twelve local school districts and six public school academies.

8. How much revenue from this election will go to Saginaw ISD?

None, all revenue will be pro-rata to Saginaw County's twelve local school districts and six public school academies.

9. How are the revenue distributions to local districts determined?

The distribution of millage revenue to local school districts is consistent with the special education funding priorities jointly established by local school district superintendents and Saginaw ISD in 2017.

The distribution formula is part of Saginaw ISD's Special Education Plan approved by local school district superintendents and submitted to and approved by the Michigan Department of Education.

10. What will the Special Education Millage Proposal cost?

The 1.5583 mill proposal will cost the average Saginaw County homeowner (living in a \$100,000 home) \$6.49 per month or about 21 cents per day. Some Saginaw County homeowners will pay more, but most will pay less.

To calculate your exact cost, multiply the assessed value of your home by 0.0015583. The assessed value of your home is a maximum of one-half its market value. So, if you live in a home with a \$100,000 market value, the maximum assessed value will be one-half that... or \$50,000. Multiply \$50,000 by 0.0015583 to get your annual cost (\$50,000 X 0.0015583 = \$77.92 per year)... or about 21 cents per day.

11. Will homeowner property values be affected if voters approve the Special Education Millage Proposal?

Research indicates that real estate values tend to be higher in communities with school districts that offer students a quality educational program. Voter approval of the Special Education Millage Proposal will enhance educational programs in all local school districts and are likely to reflect positively on homeowner property values and each local school district's reputation.



12. What special education programs/services are provided for students in Saginaw County?

Michigan law requires school districts to provide special education services to individuals with disabilities from birth through age 26 or upon graduation from high school. Students are eligible for services under one of 13 disability areas, including...

- Autism
- Deaf-Blindness
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Early Childhood Developmental Delay
- Emotional Impairment
- Cognitive Impairment
- Severe Multiple Impairment
- Physical Impairment
- Otherwise Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Speech and Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment

The Saginaw ISD Special Education Department in combination with providers in our local districts, provides programs and services that support the academic and functional achievement of over 4,600 students with disabilities. These students comprise approximately 15 percent of Saginaw County's student population.

Over 370 special education staff members from the Saginaw ISD serve students across all twelve local school districts, six public school academies, and numerous parochial schools. These individuals provide a variety of supports and services to meet students' individual academic needs. In order to support the diverse needs of our students, Saginaw ISD also operates four center-based programs which service low-incidence disabilities. These programs include the Millet Learning Center, Transitions Center School, Saginaw Therapeutic Education Program, and Early On.

In addition, Saginaw ISD provides county-wide special education transportation services to ensure equitable access to a variety of special education programs across Saginaw County.

13. A YES vote typically means that a voter supports a proposal. Is that the case in this election?

Yes. Voters who support the Special Education Millage Proposal should vote YES. Voters who oppose it should vote NO.



14. What will happen if voters do not approve the August 2nd Special Education Millage Proposal?

Saginaw ISD will be required to continue invoicing its twelve local school districts and six public school academies over eight million dollars annually for unfunded special education costs. This will negatively affect educational funding for all students in all Saginaw County public schools.



15. Who can vote in this election?

Saginaw County residents who are 18 years of age or older and are registered to vote can vote in this election.



16. Where can I get information about voting (such as how to register, where to vote, and absentee voting)?

Go to the Michigan Voter Information website (www.michigan.gov/vote) or call the Clerk's Office where you reside.

17. Do I need to update my voter registration?

Registered voters need to update their voter registration if they have changed their name or address since the last time they voted. You can do this at any Secretary of State Office or at the Clerk's Office where you reside.

18. Can registered voters vote by absentee ballot?

Yes. Any registered voter can request an absentee voter application from their local clerk or online at www.michigan.gov/vote. After June 23rd, absentee ballots will be mailed to registered voters who have submitted an absentee voter application. Absentee ballots can be cast through 8 p.m. on Election Day, August 2nd.

19. How will the August 2nd ballot be worded?

The exact ballot wording appears below:

**SAGINAW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE PROPOSAL**

This proposal will increase the levy by the intermediate school district of special education millage previously approved by the electors.

Shall the 1.9417 mills limitation (\$1.9417 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) on the annual property tax previously approved by the electors of Saginaw Intermediate School District, Michigan, for the education of students with a disability be increased by 1.5583 mills (\$1.5583 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years, 2022 to 2031, inclusive; the estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2022 is approximately \$8,638,119 from local property taxes authorized herein?

YES
NO

For more information:

- Go to www.sisd.cc and click on *Special Education Millage Election*
- Contact Erin Senkowski, Executive Director of Special Education (phone 989/249-8708 | email senkowskie@sisd.cc)
- Contact David Krantz, Director of Special Education (phone 989/249-8754 | email dkrantz@sisd.cc)
- Contact your local school district superintendent for additional details

Share your thoughts about Saginaw ISD's Special Education Millage Election.

Scan the QR code or visit www.research.net/r/SISDmillage



**SPECIAL EDUCATION
MILLAGE ELECTION
AUGUST 2, 2022**

...an election to benefit Saginaw County's twelve public school districts and six public school academies.

What is on the ballot?

A 10-year Special Education Millage Proposal that calls for a 1.5583 mill tax increase. If approved by voters, most Saginaw County voters will pay 21¢ per day or less.

Why is this on the ballot?

Special education services that are required by law have not been fully funded. This year Saginaw ISD will be forced to make up the \$8.1 million shortage by invoicing local school districts and public school academies for unfunded special education services. They will pay for the \$8.1 million shortage from their general operating budgets, reducing the amount of revenue available to pay for programs and services provided to all 25,653 students in Saginaw County.

Will all twelve school districts and six public school academies in Saginaw County benefit if this special education millage is approved?

Yes. Students in all twelve school districts and six public school academies in Saginaw County will benefit if this millage is approved. Revenue from this millage will be used to pay for services mandated for special education services in Birch Run Area Schools, Bridgeport-Spaulding Community Schools, Carrollton Public Schools, Chesaning Union Schools, Frankenmuth School District, Freeland Community School District, Hemlock Public Schools, Merrill Community Schools, Saginaw City School District, Saginaw Township Community Schools, St. Charles Community Schools, and Swan Valley School District. In addition, revenue will be available to Saginaw County's six public school academies.

Share your thoughts about the millage proposal with us!
www.research.net/r/SISDmillage



**MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
SAGINAW ISD'S SPECIAL
EDUCATION ELECTION**

What if this millage is not approved?

Over \$8 million will not be available to support the education of the 25,653 students in Saginaw County's twelve public school districts and six public school academies. Public school districts and academies will continue to fund the special education funding shortage out of their general fund.

Why is this a Saginaw Intermediate School District millage proposal?

Saginaw ISD is the only educational entity in Saginaw County that can place this proposal on the ballot.

Saginaw ISD has placed this proposal on the ballot on behalf of the twelve local school districts and six public school academies that it serves. Saginaw ISD is committed to using the increase of revenue to directly support special education services.

Who can vote in this election?

Registered voters residing in Saginaw County's twelve school districts can vote in this election at the polls on August 2nd or by absentee ballot from June 23rd through Election Day.

To register to vote, locate your voting precinct, or apply for an absentee ballot, go to www.michigan.gov/vote or call your local Clerk's Office.

Where can I get more information or ask questions about the election?

- Go to www.sisd.org and click on Special Education Millage Election
- Call or email Erin Senkowski, Saginaw ISD's Executive Director of Special Education (phone 989/249-8708 | email senkowskie@sisd.cc) or David Krantz, Saginaw ISD's Director of Special Education (phone 989/249-8754 | email dkrantz@sisd.cc)
- You may also contact your local school district superintendent for additional details



Tips for high school students' resumes



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

What should resumes be like for a high school student? Building a resume' for a high school student the first time can pose a challenge, especially having been in a pandemic where we were in a "virtual" format for much of the past two years.

I went to the website, indeed.com, for direction and now offer three tips for consideration.

Tip #1. Include basic contact information....and be sure it is accurate.

No typos are allowed.....make sure abbreviations are kept to a minimum. Be sure to have a decent email address (example: avoid something embarrassing, such as, "party247@yahoo.com")

Tip #2. Insert a career goal.

Simply state the road you expect to travel. "Sharing where you want to go" will tell prospective employers a lot about your stability, maturity, and ability to think ahead.

Tip #3. Highlight involvement and service.

What clubs do you belong to? What teams have you joined? Athletics builds character and places students in varying degrees of problem-solving, so be sure to highlight any athletic involvement you have had. Reveal your work ethic in what you cite! Were you honored for your hustle? Most improved? Include any honors or recognitions you have earned!

Be accurate and include only the most recent and most important ones (example: if you had perfect attendance in middle school, that is great but not relevant to a high school student's resume')

Career and hiring fairs are readily available in the coming weeks. Now is a great time to prepare your resume' and to put it into good use. Best wishes to all high school students as they prepare to work this summer.

Resource:

<https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/resumes-cover-letters/high-school-resume-tips>



+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

SPONSORED CONTENT

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

What is GSRP?

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

Who can be a GSRP provider?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Schools of Choice

Offering Academic Excellence, Gifted and Talented Education, Pre-Kindergarten Programs and Career and Technical Education



Saginaw Public Schools

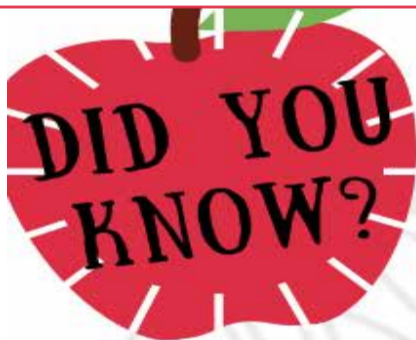
will be accepting enrollment applications

March 14 through September 2, 2022

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

A detailed list of openings for the 2022-23 school year are available at all Saginaw Public Schools and at www.spsd.net

For more information call 989.399.6500



Saginaw Public Schools HAS 3 OPTIONS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL!



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



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



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



+ EDUCATION

SPONSORED CONTENT

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

GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

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

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY

1. What are the employee eligibility requirements?

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

2. How is eligibility determined?

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

3. Are employees eligible if they have seasonal work?

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

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

Employers have flexibility in deciding which

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. Do employees choose their own child care provider?

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

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

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

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

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

CHILD CARE PROVIDER INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EMPLOYER INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY

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

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

2. Can tax deductions be used by participating employers?

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



About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

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

+ BUSINESS



Flint & Genesee
BUSINESS
BRIDGE



COURTESY PHOTO

‘Flint & Genesee Business Bridge’ an online directory of minority-owned small businesses

Increasing the exposure and market access for Genesee County’s minority-owned small businesses is a key component of a resilient and vibrant local business community. That’s where the Flint & Genesee Business Bridge comes into play.

The Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance and I’m Building Something Consulting, LLC have partnered to create the online directory of Black, Indigenous and people of color-owned businesses in the area that will serve the interests of prospective vendors and clients/consumers alike. The project is funded with a \$95,000 grant from the Ruth Mott Foundation.

“We know that people are interested in doing more business with minority-owned businesses but don’t always know where to look,” said Ebonie Gipson, project consultant and owner of I’m Building Something Consulting. “This is truly a collaborative effort.

“The Flint & Genesee Business Bridge is place for businesses to be seen and found.”

Gipson and Tracy Joseph, Economic Alliance business support manager, are currently reaching out to minority-owned businesses to encourage their participation in the online directory. Listing a business on the Flint & Genesee Business Bridge is free and a great way to grow connections.

“The Business Bridge also allows a business owner to connect with contracting leads and engage with other businesses through networking events and trainings,” said Tyler Rossmassler, Economic Alliance executive director.

Businesses may register proactively at developflintandgenesee.org/business-bridge/.

“Small businesses are the building blocks of our neighborhoods and we heard residents when they told us support for small businesses is a priority,” said Raquel Thueme, president of the Ruth Mott Foundation. “The Flint & Genesee Business Bridge will help Black, Indigenous, and people of color-owned businesses get the resources and connections they need to thrive.”

Recruiting businesses is phase one of the initiative. Phase two entails promoting the availability of the online directory as a resource for purchasing directors and consumers.

Business Bridge also will dovetail with the Michigan Economic Development Corp.’s StartUp Space, an online community of small business support organizations, service providers, localized resources and the makers, dreamers and do’ers that make up the state’s entrepreneurial

ecosystem. The tool will help emerging entrepreneurs and small businesses owners find relevant, local resources that can support business growth.

Business Bridge is part of the Economic Alliance’s expanded entrepreneurial support system, which includes bolstering target marketing or “shop local” initiatives. It also is designed to help improve the long-term sustainability of small businesses.

The 2021 Genesee County Small Business Analysis, conducted by the Economic Alliance, found that 83 percent of minority-owned businesses in Genesee County are less than 15 years old. Over half of these companies are in their first five years of business. According to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 50 percent of small businesses nationally fail within their first five years.

In Genesee County, 67 percent of minority-owned business cease operations before their sixth year of business, making immediate support for new businesses especially critical. A strong foundation of resources, training, funding and support are needed for business owners in their first few years of operation to increase the number of businesses that are building long-term opportunity and wealth in the region.

Rehmann Announces Stacie Kwaiser as CEO-Elect



Rehmann announced the appointment of Stacie Kwaiser as the firm's CEO-Elect. Kwaiser has been at the firm for over 25 years, most recently in the position of COO. She will succeed current CEO Randy Rupp on January 1, 2023.

"I have been honored to lead Rehmann and am very proud of all that we've accomplished the last seven years," Rupp said. "Stacie has been my partner through it all and I am thrilled she'll now have the chance to build her own legacy. Rehmann is in great hands, and I can't wait to see how the firm continues to grow and thrive under her leadership."

During her tenure at Rehmann, Kwais-

er has served as a regional audit department lead, assurance executive committee member and regional managing principal. Additionally, she has served on Rehmann's Woman's Initiative Council (WIN) and currently holds a position on the firm's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion advisory council.

"Under Randy's leadership, Rehmann has been recognized by clients and associates for our ceaseless commitment to both," Kwaiser said. "I'm excited to become the next CEO of Rehmann at a time when we are stronger than ever."

This transition follows the news of several accolades awarded to Rehmann this year alone, including being named a West Michigan Best and Brightest Brilliance winner, a ClearlyRated Best of Accounting 5 Year Diamond Award winner, and many others. In addition, Rehmann recently formalized positions that will support Kwais-

er's vision, including a director of innovation, and a role dedicated to associate retention and engagement.

Looking ahead, Kwaiser aims to build on Rehmann's 80-year history by advancing the execution of the firm's long-term strategic plan.

"I hope to transform the associate and client experience by focusing on innovation, training and technology," Kwaiser said. "We must attract more talent to our profession. Adapting our company culture to meet the needs of the future will enhance the associate experience, which will translate to a more engaged client base."

"Our vision is to empower our clients by elevating their experiences and making it easier for them to do business with us in the fast-paced, rapid-changing environment we are living in," Kwaiser said.



+ 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

H



Holy Communion Gospel Center
Pastor Charlene Washington
1245 E. Genesee
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-752-3993

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

Special events – all you need to know

An interview with Toni Brown – Part Two

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Knowing that special events can be the lifeblood for a nonprofit, we asked a few questions of Toni Brown, principal and CEO of The Brown Wynn Agency, a firm with a long history of producing first class special events. We asked her a series of questions, and we share her responses with you.

Brown starts this conversation with what she likes most about the business, and what makes an event special. “One of the reasons I enjoy my work as a Special Events Producer, is because every assignment is different. This allows me to strategically plan, be creative, and contribute ideas that help clients achieve their marketing, public relations, and fundraising goals. The top three things that make an event special are hosting an event in a unique, unusual, or unexpected venue piques interest; creating a theme and adding impressive décor ups the ‘wow’ factor for guest; and a great menu, music, and entertainment are always expected!”

She also shared what should people consider before hiring a special events

manager, and what her expectations are of her clients. “Working with a special events manager or team is a partnership. Prior to bringing a person onboard, it is imperative to determine if everyone is open to collaborating on the project. It can be very difficult for people to share or relinquish control of an event that they have managed in the past. On the client side, my expectation is that everyone on their team understands the mission, purpose, and goal of the event. I also expect that they have established a sufficient budget to support the proposed event, and that we all agree on a list of realistic expectations and outcomes. Additionally, they should be open to making changes and discussing new ideas.

In terms of a “lead time” or planning time for a special event, Brown recommends eight to 12 months planning time, noting that “clients sometimes underestimate the amount of lead time needed to create a comprehensive action plan for a successful outcome.” We also asked about compensation standards and goals for attendance, anticipated revenue, anticipated costs, and event programming.

Brown shared, “The Brown Wynn Agency charges a flat fee based on the full scope of work, length of the assignment and staffing needs. We work closely with clients to determine attendance, revenue, and programing goals. Our initial discussions and consultations with organizations are normally about budget, and the financial resources they designate to produce a new or established event. The estimated cost analysis and approved budget are key in determining the event programming, attendance capacity, and revenue projections.”

Brown recommends events management as a career. “My best advice to anyone considering a career in special events management, is to invest time in volunteering for various types of events such as galas, fundraisers, fashion shows, parades, conferences in their city. Volunteering is a hands-on opportunity to experience the major components of the job: planning, setup, management, execution, and breakdown. This is an effective way to determine if special events is a feasible career path.”



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

≡ + SPORTS ≡

Seen on the Scene: On April 23, 2022, Cabrera recorded his 3,000th career hit against Antonio Senzatela of the Colorado Rockies, an opposite-field single in the bottom of the first inning. He became the 33rd player in MLB history to join the 3,000 hit club, and the seventh player in MLB history to record 500 home runs and 3,000 hits, joining Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, Albert Pujols, Eddie Murray, Rafael Palmeiro, and Alex Rodriguez.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame (SCSHOF) inducts class of 2022

On Thursday, April 26, the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame (SCSHOF) inducted its class of 2022. Clifton Ryan, the Director of the SCSHOF Board and a 2017 induction class member, emceed the evening which took place at the Castle Museum in Saginaw.

Class inductees for the interscholastic and professional category include:

- Charles Rogers (posthumously) – Saginaw High School, Michigan State University, NFL
- Ron Rummel (posthumously) – Arthur Hill High School, Central Michigan University
- LaMarr Woodley – Saginaw High School, University of Michigan, NFL
- Nicole Bade-Weirauch – Frankenmuth High School basketball-volleyball, Michigan State University rowing

Inductees for the coach category includes Coach Mike Boyd for Nouvel Catholic Central High School football. Max Fisher, the late Associate Executive Director of the Saginaw YMCA, will be inducted into the Contributor category. John Decker, from Arthur Hill High School and the University of Nebraska, will be inducted into the Veterans category.

To complete the induction class for the Team category, the St. Charles High School football teams from 1961 to 1965 will be inducted for their five years of consecutive league championships.



PICTURED FROM L TO R - NICOLE BADE-WEIRAUCH AND LAMARR WOODLEY

Carlos McMath rejoins men's basketball coaching staff

The Northwood University men's basketball program has announced the return of Carlos McMath as an assistant coach.

He spent the 2020-21 season at Northwood before leaving to become the head coach at Schoolcraft Community College for the 21-22 season.

"I am very fortunate to have Carlos rejoin our staff this season," said Head Coach Lonnie Griffin. "His success as a head coach will bring an immeasurable amount of experience to not only myself but our players."

He will serve as the program's recruiting coordinator as well as lead the social media efforts of men's basketball. McMath will also assist in leadership development, player mental development and program self-scouting.

McMath spent six seasons as the head coach at Delta College. In 2018, he guided the Pioneers to the national tournament



CARLOS MCMATH

for the first time since 1989, leading the team to the final four. The team set school records for most wins in a season (23), highest national ranking (No. 11) and won

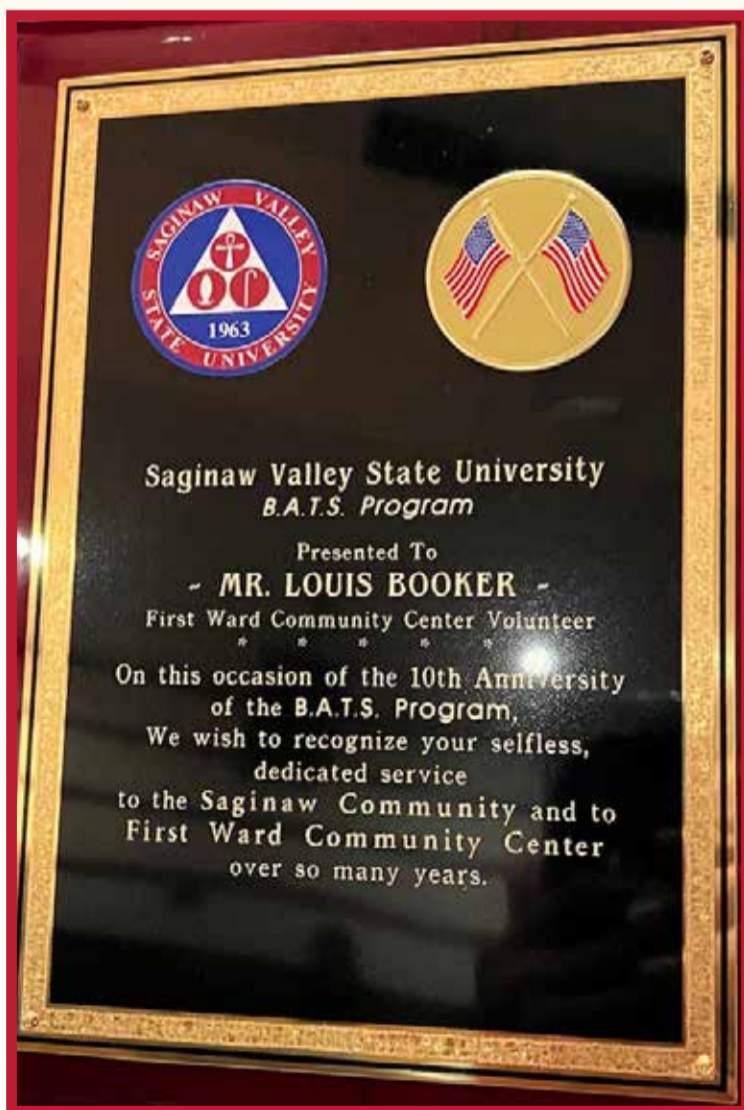
its first District 10 Championship. McMath was named the District 10 and Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan Coach of the Year for his efforts. His record as coach of the Pioneers was 75-67.

McMath graduated from Arthur Hill High School in 2005. After high school, he enrolled at Wayne State university where he played football and was a member of the nationally ranked Wayne State Forensic team where he competed at regional and nation tournaments. While competing on the debate team, McMath became interested in law. After graduating from WSU with a BA in Communications with a focus on Rhetorical analyst in 2010. McMath enrolled at Thomas M. Cooley Law School. McMath graduated from Michigan State University College of Law 2013 with a Juris Doctorate.



PICS OF THE WEEK

On April 21, Mr. Louis Booker was honored for his community service during a program for SVSU's B.A.T.S. Program. SVSU is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the unique research initiative designed to involve students from different academic disciplines in identifying collaborative solutions to community challenges in Saginaw and other urban settings. The 2022 B.A.T.S. Project – Business, Art, Theatre and Social Work Reinvent Urban Communities – is designed to foster creative thinking and problem solving through a community and leadership development project.



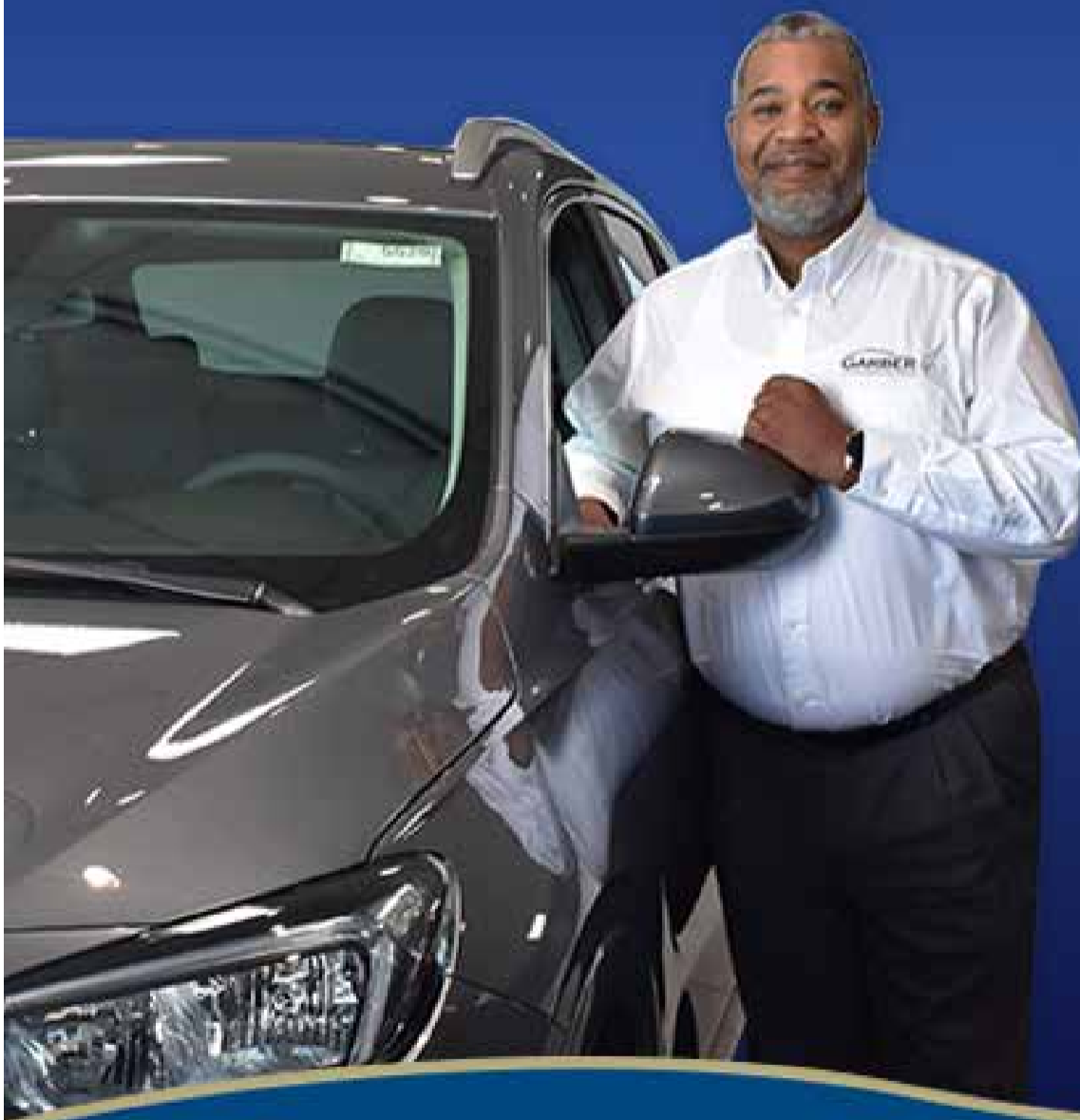
COURTESY PHOTOS

The Great Lakes Bay Region Does Better With

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



John Wright
jwright@garberbuick.com
989-497-4444, ext. 1615
GarberBuick.com



We

imagine.

Whatever your dreams, whatever your goals, your professors and friends at SVSU will fly with you every step of the way.

Kevin Finley admits that hard work and persistence has helped him achieve many of his goals. *"In life, you need the support of others to become successful. SVSU has a strong community focus that I really appreciate. I signed up for many high-profile positions as an SVSU student — from working as a resident assistant and a campus tour guide to being an orientation leader. Through these experiences I learned how much I enjoyed helping other students become acclimated at SVSU." A 2017 SVSU grad, Kevin is now working as an accountant for The Dow Chemical Company.*



**SAGINAW VALLEY
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svsu.edu/opportunity



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