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PICS OF THE WEEK
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SPORTS



HOW LAKERS HIRING OF DARVIN HAM INSTANTLY MADE ME A FAN

SPORTS, PG 46



GETTY IMAGES

Retirement will have to wait *Serena Williams advances to third round of U.S. Open*

Tennis legend Serena Williams announced her retirement in a Vogue article published last month but she will have to put that on hold as she continues her magical U.S. Open run.

In an intense, emotional performance Wednesday, Serena Williams defeated the world's second-ranked player, Anett Kontaveit 7-6 (4), 2-6, 6-2 to advance to the third round of the U.S. Open.

"There's still a little left in me," she said on the court after the match. "I love a challenge, I love rising to the challenge."

Williams will face the unseeded Ajla Tomljanovic of Australia in the third round on Friday.

When asked about the upcoming match she said, "I'm looking at it as a bonus, I don't have anything to prove. I don't have anything to win. I don't have anything to lose. I haven't played like this since 1998. I really enjoy just coming out and enjoying it and it's been a long time since I've been able to do that."

This year's U.S. Open is just another chapter in the book of Serena whose career spans over 27 years. And regardless of how this chapter ends, the story of Serena Williams will always read as one of the greatest tennis players of all time.



Vincent Evans to keynote 51th Annual Freedom Fund Celebration

COMMUNITY, PG 11



Good enough ain't good enough for Saginaw award-winning producer & songwriter

COMMUNITY, PG 14



Literary scholar, professor selected for 2023 Roethke Poetry Award

EDUCATION, PG 35



Remembering our loved ones

MB, PG 49

FEATURED STORY

THE VILLAGE IS NEEDED - THE RISE OF OPIOID USE

COMMUNITY, PG 12



MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Finding Balance

With the hustle and bustle surrounding the annual back to school activities, a recent conversation left me feeling exhausted. An individual spoke in a very calm and matter of fact tone of 'gearing up' to complete several very necessary tasks/assignments. The list included: back to school shopping for three school aged children enrolled in three different schools, bringing those same three little ones along as she participated in two events planned to distribute school supplies to families in need which would require double duty as she would have to supervise hers as well, a rapidly approaching audit to end the fiscal year at her place of employment, and finding time to have her vehicle serviced and complete other duties surrounding the annual family end of summer road trip. Day to day responsibilities aren't mentioned in the list above. I heard structure and organizational skills in everything she said but still wondered where she would find the time. But finding time isn't the only concern. Human beings require time to rest and replenish on a regular basis. Our minds and bodies require balance.



I work hard. There is always one more thing to squeeze in before calling it a day. Finding balance requires a level of planning and commitment which can easily become an addition to the list of things to do. Balance is defined as an even distribution of weight enabling someone or something to remain upright and steady; and to keep or put something in a steady position so that it does not fall. Remain upright and do not fall. Overextending without adequate rest and relaxation can and usually does result in stress and anxiety. Now, there is no room for error which may result in additional stress and ... the cycle has begun. We literally walk a tightrope using a broken balance pole to maintain stability. Walking the tightrope can be a daunting task for an untrained or unskilled individual. One must carefully consider all the options and risks in order to successfully reach the other side. One must also communicate and delegate whenever possible while maintaining a fair amount of the load. Carefully carving out time to do absolutely nothing can be a difficult and angst inducing task but is one which must be put into practice with some regularity.

Finding and maintaining balance is critical in all aspects of life. There is work/home balance, family/self-care balance, nutrition/fun-food balance, and others. We can find ourselves back on the tightrope trying to please or do right by everyone involved in our day-to-day life while gradually, sometimes without even recognizing that we are going through the motions and not experiencing fulfillment. Proper balance equals control and enhanced appreciation of the little things: It's not too late to start – 'no' is a complete sentence and with practice you will find that it provides much needed 'me' time. Stretch yourself – you decide the frequency and do one thing to support your choice to establish a more balanced life. Start small – a two-week vacation without the family and/or adequate resources (for before or after the trip) will ultimately result in more stress than before. Seek professional support as needed. Having an objective listener can provide the motivation and encouragement needed to take the next step in whatever you choose to do. Leave the tightrope for those skilled in balancing with a pole.

Jerome Buckley
Publisher, 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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DEADLINES

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

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Mailed or e-mailed
Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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**51ST SAGINAW BRANCH
NAACP**

2022 Freedom Fund Celebration
"This Is Power!"

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022
Doors Open 5:30pm / Program 6:00pm

HORIZON'S CONFERENCE CENTER
Saginaw, Mi

Keynote Speaker
Vincent Evans
Executive Director
Congressional Black Caucus

SAGINAW BRANCH NAACP
P.O. BOX 2446 SAGINAW MI 48605 989.752-0614

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
<https://sites.google.com/view/saginaw-naacp-freedom-fund-cel/home>

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 4 • NUMBER 16



COURTESY PHOTO

TeenQuest prepares students to thrive in 2022-2023 school year, beyond

High school students looking to get a leg up on the new school year can sign up for the first session of TeenQuest, which will kick off next month at multiple sites in Genesee County. The program, which prepares young people for the 21st-century workplace, covers a variety of skills that can help set them up for success this fall semester.

“By teaching students about goal setting and having a positive mental attitude, TeenQuest helps prepare them to take advantage of the potential a new school year brings,” said James Avery, director of talent development at Flint & Genesee Education & Talent, which administers TeenQuest and is a division of Flint & Genesee Group. “We give them the tools they need to pursue whatever it is they envision for themselves, be it academic success, an afterschool job or extracurricular activity.”

TeenQuest’s first session will be held

Sept. 12 to Oct. 13, Mondays through Thursdays, at the following locations and times:

- Bendle High School, 3-5 p.m.
- International Academy of Flint, 4-6 p.m.
- Kearsley High School, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- Southwestern High School, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

The goal of the five-week program is to help students develop the skills needed to secure and keep a job. Hands-on activities promote key soft skills including communication, taking initiative and conflict resolution. Participants also learn how to write resumes, prepare for interviews and excel in the workplace.

Once they successfully complete the program, TeenQuest graduates will be

invited to interview with local employers at the Summer Youth Initiative (SYI) Job Fair, which will be held in April 2023. In 2022, nearly 200 students secured summer jobs with SYI employers including Davison Township Parks and Recreation, Elle Jae Essentials and Mott Community College.

Students do not need to attend the host schools to participate in TeenQuest. The program is open to all teenagers, ages 14-19 in grades 9-12, who attend school in Genesee County (e.g., public, private, charter, alternative and home school).

For students who are unable to attend this first session, there will be three more opportunities to participate in TeenQuest before the SYI job fair. Dates include:

- **Session 2: Oct. 24-Nov. 23**
 - Beecher High School
 - Carman-Ainsworth High School
 - Linden High School
 - Virtual
- **Session 3: Jan. 9-Feb. 9**
 - Bentley High School
 - Davison High School
 - Grand Blanc High School
 - Hamady High School
- **Session 4: Feb. 21-March 23**
 - Accelerated Learning Academy
 - Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Flint
 - Carman-Ainsworth High School
 - Madison Academy
 - Swartz Creek High School

Registration for the first session ends Sept. 14. For more information, or to enroll, visit www.flintandgenesee.org/teenquest or call (810) 600-1413.



PRESENTS
STEM SATURDAY

FORCE & MOTION

PARTICIPANTS WILL:

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- Design, build and test their own cars that they race in a competition! It is a thrilling, hands-on learning experience!

FREE FOR ALL K-12 STUDENTS

WHEN: Saturday, September 24th, 2022
TIME: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm


WHERE:
Thompson Middle School
3021 Court Street
Saginaw, MI 48602




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I Still Stand (Ret. Officer poem)



By Doniqua Sovia

Though the roads be hollow, and
the sights bring sorrow, and people
scream “die now”...I still stand.
Though my heart be shredded, of
the memories embedded, and the
emotions that were held back....I still
stand.

I still stand, though with crutches I
need aid, and I still stand though that
car wreck took my leg, and I stand
with my cane in my hand, because
my strength within isn't dead.

I stand for the good, I stand for the
Oath, I stand for the badge, though
in a few places it's broke. I stand
because the line, though thin, still
must be walked, and I'll drop dead
before any criminal can come make
this line corrupt.

I'm not as nimble as I used to be,
definitely not as quick, but I tell ya
I refuse to take anyone's nonsense.
I stand for the children who didn't
make it home. I stand for the Officer
gunned down, due to the uniform.

You may wonder why after all these
years, why I still smile, despite my
fears and the answer is simple, lend
me your ear;

I smile because I did my job, I helped
when I could and to me that means
a lot, and while I may no longer
work in the field, the reason I stand
is because; I refuse to kneel. So, to
all you rookies; Go get em kid, make
us old timers proud, and come and
stand by us and take our place when
we decide to lay down.

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Our commitment to help bridge the digital divide

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

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

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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE



IT'S HAPPENING



FLOR DE TOLOACHE



SEPTEMBER 17 2022



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★

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Michigan State Capitol • Lansing, MI
September 21, 2022 • 9:00 AM-3:30 PM

Come to the Capitol. Have your voice heard. Meet with
your State Representatives and Senators.



HISPANIC/LATINO
COMMISSION
OF MICHIGAN



MICHIGAN
Latino
Legislative Caucus






FIESTA DE INICIO MES DE LA HERENCIA HISPANA 2022

SEPTIEMBRE 17 12 - 4 PM
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- Bailes tradicionales de América Latina
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- Música por el DJ Rudo
- Canciones Clásicas Latinoamericanas por Daniela Peña acompañada por el pianista Pablo Valladares
- Tacos mexicanos
- Alfajores peruanos
- Churros brasileños
- Arepas colombianas
- Actividades de arte para niños y adultos (Caritas Pintadas. Cidra y Canvas. Caricaturista y más)
- Información comunitaria
- Rifa de computadoras
- Tarjetas de regalo

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LATINO BANNER
SERMONETTE SERIES



By **MICAELA DELGADO**
NEW BEGINNINGS
MINISTRIES

“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

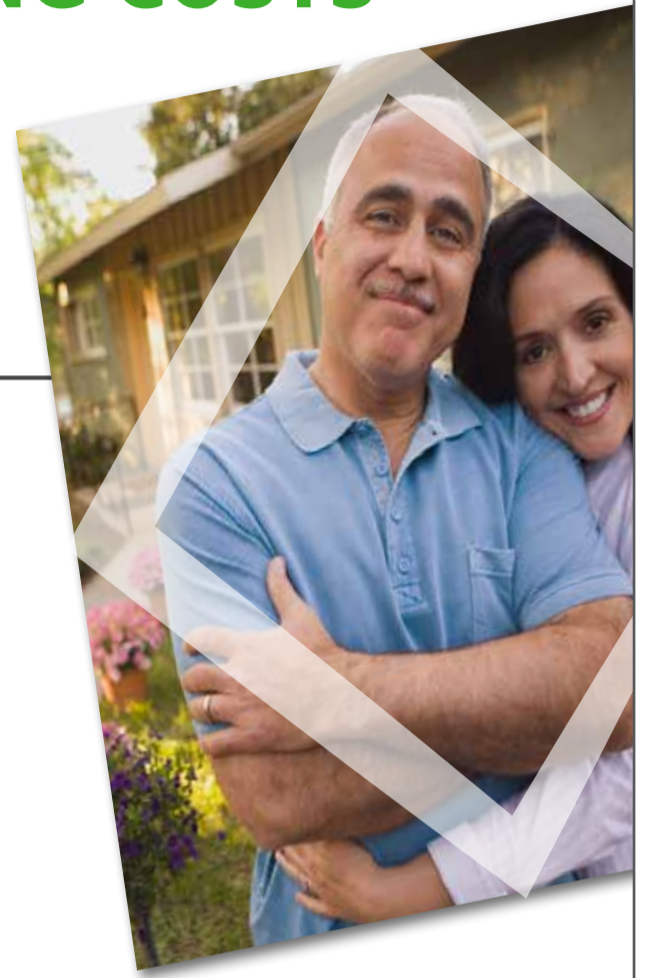
- Matthew 6:34

Our summer chapter is approaching a near end. While it was a very well-needed break from all things concerning work and school, it’s almost time to get back into the swing of things.

Speaking from a personal place, both Fall and Winter always tend to be stressful, where my days are filled with tasks needing to be done while also needing to find time for both myself and my family.

So before we dive headfirst into the rest of the year, let’s enjoy the remainder of the Summer that we do have. Remember that tomorrow is never promised, so enjoy the present. Of course, you can never go wrong with preparation, but sometimes it’s better to just stop and smell the roses.

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*Rate = Prime Rate (Prime Rate was 3.50% APR (Annual Percentage Rate) as of 3/22/2022). \$100 non-refundable application fee. However, If getting a mortgage and HELOC at the same time, \$100 application fee is waived. \$50 annual fee, \$300 early closing fee if the Home Equity Line of Credit is closed within 36 months.



31st ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Monday, August 22, 2022 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Indianwood Golf and Country Club | 1081 Indianwood Rd, Lake Orion, MI

Agenda:

- Registration 8:30 am - 9:30 am
- Continental Breakfast & Practice Range 8:30 - 10:00 am
- Shotgun 10:00 am
- Networking Reception 3:00 - 6:00 pm
- Putt Off 5:00 pm
- Event Concludes 6:00 pm

For more registration information please contact
Dina F. Wagner at 248-639-7725 or email at dlatom@mhcc.org

community BOARD

Submit your **announcements** and **events** at michiganbanner.org

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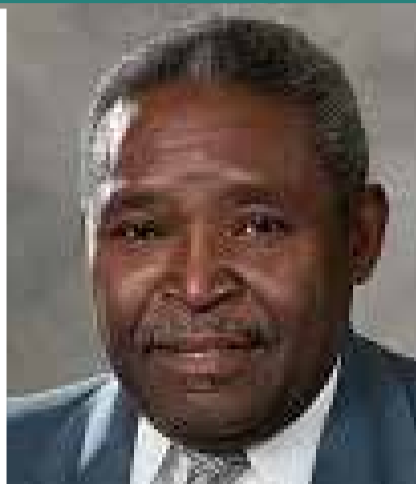
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+ COMMUNITY



PICTURED: VINCENT EVANS, JOHN PUGH, MINISTER DR. EUGENE SEALS SR., WOMEN OF COLORS

Vincent Evans to keynote 51th Annual Freedom Fund Celebration

Event will honor John Pugh, Minister Dr. Eugene Seals, and Women of Colors

The NAACP Saginaw Branch is pleased to announce the 51th Annual Freedom Fund Celebration will be presented on Sunday, September 25, 2022 at 6:00pm. Last year's sold out civil rights dinner is back in-person and streaming virtually. The celebration will take place at the Horizons Conference Center, 6200 State Street in Saginaw. Doors will open at 6:00pm.

“Under the banner, This Is Power, we are renewed with collective energy and excited about our momentum as we gear up for the general election and focus on voter education and GOTV,” Saginaw NAACP Branch Freedom Fund Committee Chair Canika Owen-Robinson said, "We are excited to be able to gather with such a di-

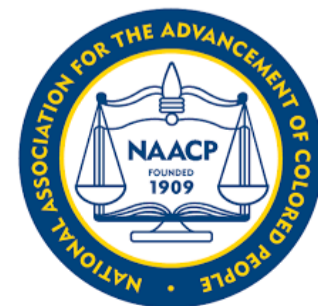
verse crowd and we are going to make this year a memorable dining experience.”

It is an honor to announce that our keynote speaker is Florida native, Vincent Evans, the executive director of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) for the 117th Congress. Vincent joined the CBC from the White House, where he served as Deputy Director of Public Engagement & Intergovernmental Affairs in the Office of the Vice President Kamala Harris. Prior to that, he served as the southern political director for the Biden presidential campaign, and is accredited to securing the South Carolina Democratic primary win.

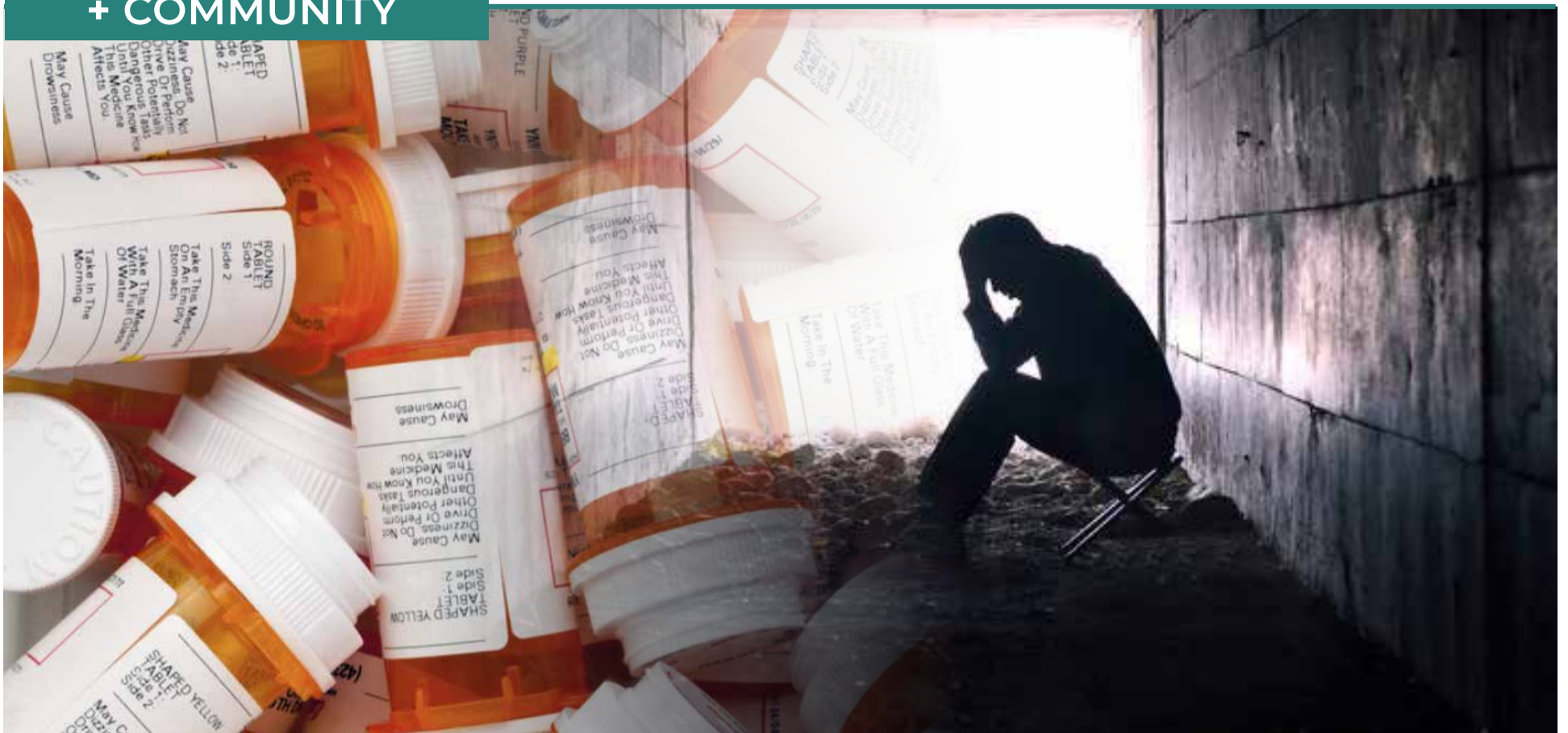
As always, our celebration will honor Saginaw Heroes: well known and deserv-

ing Saginaw youth mentor and community activist John Pugh, Physician, Minister Dr. Eugene Seals Sr., and Woman of Colors non-profit organization. We will also recognize Young Professionals, Students excelling in STEM, and local entertainment.

This event is the primary fundraiser for the Saginaw Branch that supports scholarships for local high school students and community programs, including, financial workshops, and voter registration and education efforts.



+ COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

The village is needed

The rise of opioid use

By **WARDENE B. TALLEY**

The age-old idiom, 'It Takes a Village' is a call for entire communities – villages – to come together on behalf of a concern facing its future. The village may come together to celebrate milestones or to sound the alarm. Collaboration within the village is critical to the success of overcoming obstacles, defeating adversaries, and achieving overall success. Challenging ventures typically require the ideas or creative thinking and participation of diverse individuals or groups committed to the same cause. We are now facing a challenge which has reached epidemic proportions and is calling for the village to intercede. Opioid overdoses are claiming the lives of people without regard to age, race, ethnicity, income, or education standing at alarming rates. A collaborative approach to addressing this crisis will be necessary if we are to save families from experiencing the negative consequences which oc-

cur when a loved one is lost to the use or abuse of substances.

Opioid overdoses have skyrocketed since the late 1990's, becoming one of the worst drug epidemics in modern American history. Surpassing automobile accidents or firearm-related homicides, there were over 47,000 deaths resulting from opioid overdoses in the United States in 2017. Many of those overdose deaths were from heroin and black-market fentanyl, which continue to surge in popularity. The Official website of the U.S. Health (www.hrsa.gov/opioids) reports that an unprecedented average of 116 people die each day from opioid-related overdoses.

What we Know

We know that knowledge is power. Over time, children exposed to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) are more likely to engage in risky behaviors and experience health conditions and diseases in-

cluding smoking, alcoholism, unintended pregnancies, illicit drug use, depression, suicide attempts, COPD, heart, and liver disease. The more ACE's an individual is exposed to, the higher the risk for adverse health outcomes. Note that use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs are all on the list of risks children and youth faced when exposed to high doses of ACE's. Children with mental health and behavioral challenges face even greater risks when the mental health diagnosis is coupled with ACE's. In an extensive 2016 study in the state of California it was discovered that individuals with four or more ACE's were:

3X more likely to be current smokers;
4X more likely to have a depressive disorder;
2X more likely to have asthma;
2X more likely to be obese;
4X more likely to have COPD;
and 3X more likely to have a stroke.

**CONTINUES ON PG 13,
OPIOID USE**

Continued from pg 12, opioid use

These numbers are specific to California but bear out in communities nationwide. For example: In the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Key findings in the Opioid Epidemic: Addiction Statistics declared the epidemic a public health emergency with 136 deaths per day and climbing. Key findings included: 50,000 people die every year from opioid overdose; over 10 million people misuse opioids in a year; and opioids are a factor in at least 7 out of every 10 overdose deaths.

What we can do

Education is key. Educating individuals (parents, guardians, caregivers, systems, and community partners i.e., the village) to the very harmful and lasting ramifications of allowing continued or prolonged exposure to ACE's can begin the journey of creating a safer and healthier environment in which children can thrive. Training families and community partners to understand and identify children in need of support or intervention is a process already underway but in need of resources to target the children and communities identified as most vulnerable to ACE'S.

Where we begin

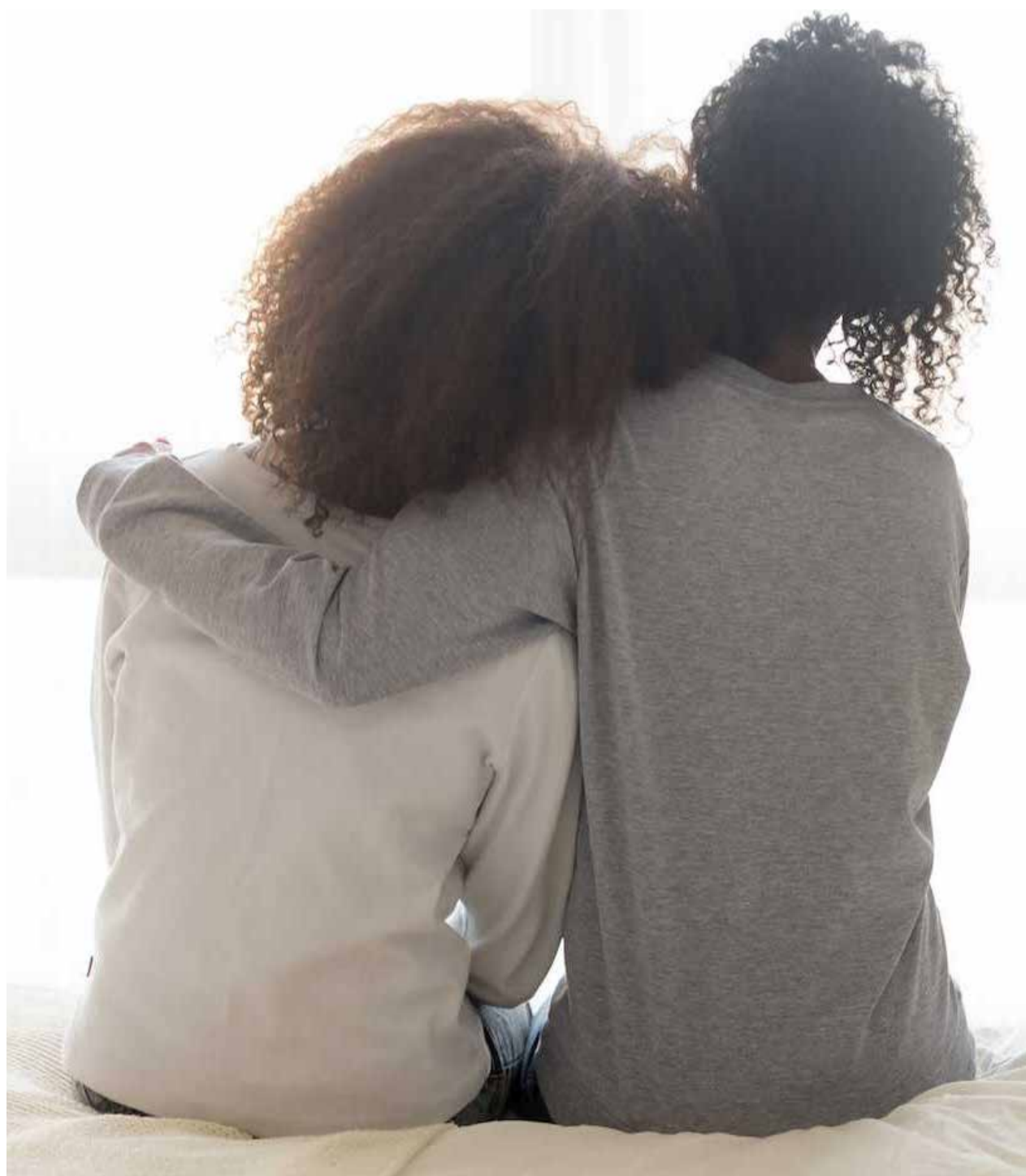
The process has begun. Faith and community-based organizations in partnership with local school districts have come together to launch a county-wide initiative designed to educate communities on the harmful effects of prolonged exposure to ACE's, to the current opioid crisis wreaking havoc on communities nationwide and to resources available to combat the dangerous effects of both. To achieve that goal, STRIVE, a substance abuse prevention organization has launched a series of community events which include partnering with local schools and ministries. STRIVE founder, Inez Williams participated in the Victorious Believers Ministries (Pastor C. V. Pryor) annual Family Conference whose focus this year was Family Mental Health and Stability. The almost full week of services and activities culminated in a Satur-

day Back-to-School festival at which backpacks and age/grade appropriate school supplies were distributed to the hundreds of families in attendance. Village leaders participating in this event included Mayor Brenda Moore and Saginaw Public Schools Superintendent Ramont Roberts who joined Pastor Pryor in a dunk tank to the absolute delight of the children in attendance. Information and presentations on the harmful effects of substance use/abuse and how to seek help were integral components of this family focused event as well.

STRIVE has partnered with Bishop

Larry Camel and the New Birth Missionary Cathedral family to host two additional events: On September 24th, an Opioid Misuse and Abuse Informational event will take place at Borchard Park (100 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw 48602) and again on October 15th at New Birth (3121 Sheridan Ave. Saginaw 48601). Both events will begin at 10:00am and run until 1:00pm. Food, games, and lots of raffle items will be given away.

The village has spoken and agrees. Our children, families and community are worth the effort. Striving to achieve a drug-free community one child at a time.



+ COMMUNITY



RUSHDEE WILLIAMS

Good enough ain't good enough for Saginaw award-winning producer & songwriter

By HASANI ALI

From platinum records to Billboard awards to collaborating with some of the hottest names in the music industry, RushDee Williams never sees himself in a place of contentment.

“Good enough ain’t good enough,” Williams said. “I can’t see myself in a position where I can take my foot off the break as I always have to keep going.”

Williams, 35, is the founder of BeGe-

nus Records. The producer and songwriter has collaborated with big-time artists such as Fabolous, Lil Wayne, Rick Ross, 50 Cent and Nipsey Hussle.

The Saginaw native has always been a fan of music. His father, Herbert Williams Jr., was a singer and played saxophone. His grandmother was a choir director at their church.

When he heard of all the stories of his father traveling to perform as a young boy, Williams decided to take a liking to sweet

melodies.

“Funny story is that I used to think that I could sing,” Williams said. “I would walk around the house singing.”

However, his father gave him a harsh critique on RushDee’s new passion. “My dad broke the news to me that I couldn’t sing,” he said hysterically.

Instead, Williams decided to go another route as matured. Accompanied by his childhood friend, Niderris Johnson, they would write raps and compare lyrics daily to get their sound just right. One conversation specifically that the two had made Williams convinced that his career in music was fate.

“I was talking to Niderris one day and he said we could be as big as Snoop Dogg,” Williams said. “I told him that we couldn’t and he said that was going to. He wasn’t going to leave me behind. So we embarked on the journey.”

Williams said that everything happened so fast. His first big break is when Fabolous reached out to him for an emergency assignment to rewrite a sample.

“It actually happened overnight,” Williams said. He needed it done quickly so he paid me twice the amount of my normal service fee. I got it done in 30 minutes.”

Not only did he get to collaborate with one of the favorite childhood rappers, he was also able to get someone else involved in the project.

What I’m really proud of is that I was able to help somebody from Saginaw get on the map. LeDarius “Yo Dubb” Wilson helped me right the sample.

With no connections to the music industry, Williams had to figure out how to get his brand out there and stand out amongst the competitors all trying to make it. It was a way for him to learn how to “get it out of the mud.”

“I didn’t have a big cousin in the industry or anyone to go to for an upper hand,” Williams said. “I had to do this on my own. Some people had help and still didn’t make it big.”

Going forward, Williams kept pushing through to produce music for other artists

**CONTINUES ON PG 15,
RUSHDEE**

+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 14, RushDee

and eventually dove into the film industry.

He was the only person to produce a soundtrack with Bruce Willis for the movie, "Hard Kill," which was released back in 2020. Impressed with Williams, Willis has assured that they will be working on several projects in the future.

"Willis was the American badass when I was growing up," Williams said. "I had to make sure that he remembered my work."

Everything seemed to be on the up-and-up for Williams, but he has his challenges running a record label as well.

Being an entrepreneur in a large market never puts Williams at ease. At times, he has to find the strength in order to keep going.

"I feel like giving up every day," Williams said. "I get tired like everyone else."

One of the biggest lessons that Williams learned was working with Nipsey Hussle. He knew that his work ethic had to be above the rest if he wanted to make a name for himself in the music industry.

"I learned to always give 150 percent from Nipsey Hussle," Williams said. "We worked every day right before he passed and I got tired. He expected so much of me. Honestly, he wasn't even the biggest project at the time, but he was pushing the pace and I had to keep up. It became uncomfortable as I was only giving 100%."

That eventually translated into his personal life.

With the sudden passing of Kiera Sanders, 32, Williams had to endure the heartache of losing the mother of his children. As a father of five, it was a different arena when it came to grief and comforting the children during a tough time.

"I had to make some tough decisions," Williams said. "I consulted my parents on how to handle the situation, but I knew that I had what was right in order to make sure that the children were able to process everything. Losing a parent is one thing, but losing a parent at such a young age is another."

Sanders was highly respected in the Saginaw community as she was an owner of a hair salon.

Knowing each other at 17 years old,

the two were the best of friends and made solid commitment to raise the children the best way possible despite the relationship not working out favorably.

"If you don't get on the horse, then you're denying yourself peace," Williams said. "The commitment to the children is always first and foremost, so she always trusted me that I would do the best for them."

One of those objectives for the children was to move them out of Saginaw. Now living in Cobb County, GA, Williams has a peace of mind that his children can experience more out of Michigan.

Williams wanted to prove a point.

Without a high school diploma and no connections, Williams is living proof that someone from Saginaw can make it. Once he decided that music was his passion, the grit and non-stop work ethic brought his record label to new heights.

He didn't know how he was going to make it at first, but he just knew that he was going to make it.

"Once I got rid of my distractions, I saw myself making it," Williams said. "I didn't see it at first as I had so many distractions around me. I know it's easier said than done but you can really do it if you want it badly enough."

As Williams is in the infant stages of his 13-week course of understanding the music industry, he wanted to provide a resource so other inspiring people from Saginaw can pursue the same dream. The virtual school would tackle all subjects from music production to marketing. His objective is to pave a way for other upcoming artists and producers.

"There's a young kid right now telling their parents that they want to become the next big thing in the music industry," Williams said. "Who am I or anyone else to deny him that dream? That's why I tell people to collaborate with their peers as much as possible. You never know how much that collaboration can help the both of you."

Reneé Johnston Joins Isabella Bank East Region Board

RENEÉ JOHNSTON

Jerome Schwind, President of Isabella Bank, announced the appointment of Reneé Johnston to the East Region Advisory Board.

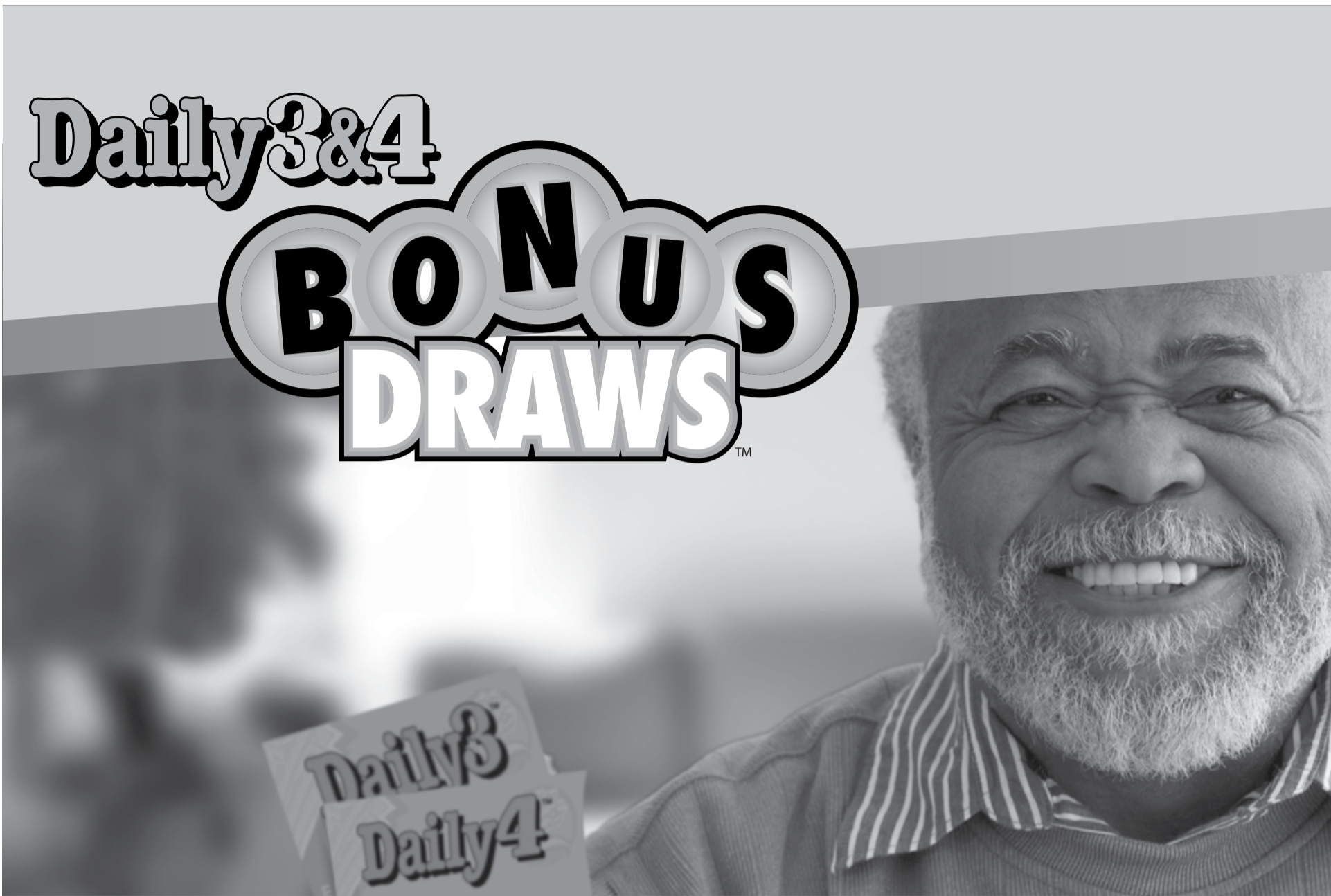
"The East Region board is a diverse group of individuals who know Midland, Saginaw, Freeland, and the surrounding areas. It includes experts with proven leadership that extends into community action. Reneé's longtime community involvement and business connections across the region position her to be a strong asset to the advisory board and a tremendous voice for area residents," stated Schwind.

Reneé earned her Bachelor's degree in History and Pre-Law from Alma College and her Juris Doctorate from Valparaiso University School of Law. After graduating from law school, she began a nearly decade long career with Delphi Corporation in Saginaw and Troy. During her tenure with Delphi, Renee held positions in Lean Manufacturing, Manufacturing Management, and Human Resource Administration.

Since 2004, Reneé has been President and CEO of the Saginaw Community Foundation, a non-profit organization whose mission is to enrich the quality of life for the individuals of Saginaw County. The foundation exercises philanthropic leadership and acts as a catalyst in identifying community needs and opportunities.

The East Region Advisory Board provides guidance on Isabella Bank initiatives in the region, reports on local business opportunities and advocates for the bank within communities.

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+ COMMUNITY

What parents are telling their children during the pandemic



By AESHA LAVIOLETTE

Parents are buckling down on how their children go about their daily lives. They are more conscious of spreading germs and getting sick. Parents are more prepared than they have ever been, explaining to their children the need to protect themselves from bodily fluids. This includes keeping their distance from others, covering their mouths, wearing a mask, learning the symptoms of Covid 19 and how to protect themselves. Parents are also deciding on whether or not to give their children the

Covid 19 vaccine.

Parents have to decide if they want their children to go back to school physically or virtually. There are a variety of factors to be considered when making this decision. While most parents have made the decision and are comfortable enough to send their children back to school, others feel like they are putting their children at risk if they allow them to go back to school. They want to keep them safe and away from crowds. This is because of the fear of contracting the virus including other sicknesses and spreading it to the rest of the family. It is easier for kids to spread germs and get sick in school as opposed to staying at home.

Children are getting sick and it is not being talked about enough. The pandemic has, however, brought about many changes that result in a cleaner environment. The pandemic has forced schools

and businesses everywhere with cleaner protocols which results in healthier communities. Educating ourselves and each other is an effective way for us to protect ourselves from getting sick. The pandemic has sparked families to have deeper discussions about health care and protection from getting sick.



COURTESY PHOTO

September is Library Card Sign-up Month at Public Libraries of Saginaw

This September the Public Libraries of Saginaw is joining the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries nationwide for Library Card Sign-Up Month, a time to remind parents, caregivers and students that a library card is the first step towards academic achievement and life-long learning.

Patrons signing up for a new card in September will receive a free gift. There will also be opportunities for all library visitors to enter a daily drawing good for one free item from the library's book sale.

The winner of each day's drawing at each library branch will receive a coupon good for one item from the library's ongoing book sale display, or at any of the following Fall Book Sales:

- The Friends of Butman-Fish Library, 1716 Hancock St. in Saginaw, October 5-8.
- The Friends of Zauel Library, 3100 N. Center Rd. in Saginaw Township, October 19-22.
- Hoyt Library, 505 Janes Ave. in

Saginaw, November 3-5.

The coupons expire at the close of Hoyt Library's sale.

For more information about residency requirements and what to bring with you to sign up for a library card, stop by or call any library branch or visit www.saginawlibrary.org/borrow/get-library-card online.

A library card opens a world of infinite possibilities through resources and services that give students the tools to succeed in school and beyond. From STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) programs and family storytimes, to makerspaces and homework help, the Public Libraries of Saginaw transforms lives through education.

Libraries play an important role in the education and development of children. Studies show that children who are read to in the home and who use the library perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning.

Since 1987, Library Card Sign-up Month has been held each September to mark the beginning of the school year.

During the month, the ALA and libraries unite in a national effort to ensure every child signs up for their own library card.

Tony Award-winning performer, actress, singer-songwriter, and philanthropist Idina Menzel and her sister, author and educator Cara Mentzel, have been named honorary chairs of Library Card Sign-Up Month. This September, Idina and Cara will join the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries nationwide to sing the praises of a library card. Also in September, the sisters' debut picture book, *Loud Mouse*, about a little mouse named Dee who loves to sing very loudly, will be released by Disney Hyperion.

As honorary chairs, Idina and Cara will remind everyone that one of the best places to find your voice is at the library. And during Library Card Sign-Up Month, they want you to explore all the library has to offer, like new children's books, access to technology, and educational programming. "It's a little card that goes a loud way. Let your imagination sing at the library," says Idina. Cara adds, "The library is where your imagination sings. Get your library card and 'check it out' today."

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COURTESY PHOTO

Saginaw Choral Society Presents “Opera at the Museum”

On Thursday, September 8, 2022, experience some of the world’s most acclaimed arias in the majestic grandeur of the Saginaw Art Museum. This continued series explores the unique marriage between visual art and music. Attendees will experience an evening of musical reflection as they stroll through the beautiful galleries and gardens of the Saginaw Art Museum. The event will showcase the wonderful voices of Saginaw Choral Society members Erin Whitfield and Rachelle Austin-Fergin.

The soloists will be accompanied by pianists Catherine McMichael and Collin Whitfield with a special appearance by Saginaw Choral Society’s Artistic Director and Conductor, Jeremiah Kra-niak. The performance will feature arias from some of the world’s greatest and most beloved operas. Attendees are encouraged to wander through the museum and garden at their leisure, stopping to listen to short recitals performed in the main gallery and garden from 6:00-8:00 PM. Complimentary hospitality begins at 5:30 PM along with a cash bar.

Ticket options: \$30 complimentary hospitality with cash bar.

Tickets can be purchased in advance online at www.saginawchoralsociety.com, or calling 989-753-1812. Tickets will also be available at the door.

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On the Saudi bus - Part 3 & 4



By JOAN L. WASHINGTON

Culture Shock

I was relieved and grateful to finally make it safe and sound into The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Just the thought of saying “Kingdom,” was surrealistic. It sounded like a magic phrase. Who would have believed a Black girl from Detroit, Michigan could be in Saudi Arabia of all places? It all seemed rather outlandish and a tinge on the imaginary side at first. But the magic dust quickly faded, and gave way to a bizarre discovery I soon would make in the following weeks.

Some perceived my presence as an interesting novelty, because my eyes were not blue, and my hair not blonde, I wasn’t considered an authentic real American citizen. But in fact an African, that learned how to speak English exceptionally well. This information was so absurd and so brutally ludicrous... I couldn’t even get mad; as a matter of fact, it gave me a brilliant idea to use this misinformation to my advantage. So, I pretended to be a South African nurse, named “Lindeyway Wakinee” that worked at the Saad Hospital. I spent three years in South Africa, so my accent impersonation was uncanny. Occasionally, when I ventured out on my own, I used my South African persona to shield my true American identity. Amazingly enough, the taxi drivers frequently asked “Are you from Africa?” And I would answer in my most authentic accent, “Yes, I am from South Africa!”

And to my surprise, it worked like a charm. I learned so much during my clandestine adventures from a hotchpotch of real people trying to make a living in KSA. They were 2.5 million migrant guest workers and day labors in Saudi Arabia. They came from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Philippines to drive taxis and do others types of work. The details of their life’s were sometimes teased out in zesty niblets, and other times in meaty chunks, as they freely

“spilled the tea” about what really happens in The Kingdom “after dark.” And how they could find anything...and I mean ANYTHING you wanted for a price of course. On the lighter side, I got firsthand “scoop de jour” on their nominee’s for the best and worst foreign cultures and which gave the most generous tips.

Erica and I, along with the majority of the teaching and administrative staff people on the flight were at the Oryx Compound, including Kim. It was exquisitely spacious, much more than I ever expected. It would be my home away from home for the next three years. I looked forward to personalizing the furnished three bed room and four bathroom villa. The kitchen was fully-modernized, with an open living and dining room floorplan. The tall windows made the entire living space picturesque and inviting.

It was a Wednesday, which marks the end of the work week in (like our Friday) the Middle East when we arrived in Al Khobar. The next day Thursday, which is like our Saturday, they scheduled our first shopping trip at the “Giant Mall.” It’s actually pronounced “G-aunt” so we could get food and other essential items for the house.

It resembled a classy, upscale Walgreen’s or Target, the biggest difference was it had a lot of fancy over-the-top stuff. This would be my first shopping trip and first real interaction with Saudi people.

All the women were outfitted in their black abaya’s and hijab’s that covered their hair. The men could wear anything, they wanted, including shorts, which annoyed me in the beginning. This would be a very interesting maiden shopping trip and believe me it didn’t disappoint. The store was massive. I didn’t know what to expect. It had everything you could find in the states, and things you couldn’t find. We came in as a group, but quickly fell off into pairs and then meandering lazy singles.

I found myself in the produce section. Everything looked so nice and fresh, so I packaged my basket full of a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables and moved to the next aisle. As I turned to go down the aisle there were a cluster of women dressed in black from head to toe. Their faces were covered in black veils and they donned long black gloves. We stood face to face momentarily, until one of them hurried towards me

with her arms waving in front of her. This woman was hissing at me, shooing me out of her path, like I was an enormous infectious fly! What did I do? I moved out of her way of course! The rest of the “Giant” shopping experience was a blur after that. I managed to compose myself and get most everything on my shopping list. I felt good and couldn’t wait to get home and cook for the first time.

When I finally reached the checkout counter at the front of the store, things really got interesting. I stood waiting in line, but these men kept running in front of me. First one... then two... then three, until a man watching the whole scene unfold stepped out from somewhere behind me and took total control. This magnificent hunk could have been a movie star; the Saudi version of Iron Man.

This superhero stood about 6 feet 6 inches tall. He was immaculate in his striking white thobe and traditional headdress. His gold-rimmed glasses sparkled and danced against the bright lights. The look in his eyes could have melted steel. He stared down at me with his hands at his side for a few seconds; with a stoic, authoritative voice he asked me “Are you an American?” I looked up at him blankly and replied “Yes!”

Everything happened so fast, like a choreographed dance. I didn’t know what to think. Suddenly, he grabbed my basket and swung it into the middle of the aisle. With lighting speed without saying a word, he pointed a loaded finger at the guilty trio that cut in front of me moments earlier. They looked utterly dumbfounded as the mysterious and handsome Saudi, gated forward and flung their baskets one by one aside, and motioned for each of them to exit the line, not go to the end of the line, but MOVE! He in fact banished the naughty bunch from the store. With absolute authority, the man then pushed my basket to the front of the line and directed me to follow. And I did. No one dared to breathe or challenge his clout. My mind was moving so fast I froze momentarily. And if things couldn’t get any worse, the produce I got should have been paid in the produce section, in the back of the store.

CONTINUES ON PG 21,
SAUDI BUS

Continued from pg 20, Saudi bus

The cashier and I both eyed the Saudi man now standing directly behind me. We sought his approval to move forward. When I picked up a melon and glanced back at him, his head shook “no” to all the produce. I promptly placed the fruit and vegetables on the counter. The cashier scooped them all up without missing a beat and kept that line moving. I do believe the veiled shooing woman in black, and the mysterious gallant Saudi man, in bedazzling white was a sign. A precursor of the Yin and Yang that signified the complexity of change and balance that God had in store for me in KSA.

Orientation Week

I believed in my heart of hearts that my invitation to come and teach in Saudi Arabia was a divine blessing. I took this assignment willingly, with a high degree of self-confidence, great expectations and seriousness. I was honored and humbled as I committed myself to exhibiting the highest standards of excellence in performing my collegiate duties to the best of my abilities, and I naively expected the same degree of commitment, gravity, and social etiquette would also apply to my American colleagues, as well as other global staff members. I was not only representing the Washington family legacy, but what good old fashion American dignity and pride looks and acts like.

Orientation day finally arrived. It was about 50 people in the newly built auditorium. The air was electric with positive energy. It was everything I hoped it would be. The orientation was impressive. It strategically hit every bullet point. The Rector of the PMU had finished his presentation and it was now time for the new staff members to introduce themselves, before we commenced with our week long, intensive, group training session. The Rector asked us to talk about our work and educational backgrounds and why we came to the university. I was all smiles inside, because this was what I was waiting for. The “round robin” was in full swing. I listened intently, and was very impressed with the quality of people in the auditorium. My goal was to partner with those teachers that I thought I could learn the most from and enhance my own teaching style. When it finally came time for me to speak, I stood up and presented in the exact same format as my new

colleagues did before me.

I leveled-up by telling them I was from the USA, Detroit, Michigan. My background was in education, training and capacity building. I had worked at Wayne County Community College, as a professor, facilitating English as a Second Language (ESL), English as a Foreign Language (EFL), English as a Specific Purpose (ESP) and teaching Speech Communications and Business English to international students.

I mentioned my experience as Student Success Director – at Belmont Technical College, in Ohio; My English Language Fellow Status, in South Africa, working for The Department of Education and Cultural Affairs with The State Department, and worked as an Weapon Systems – Inventory and Supply Chain Management Specialist for the US Army Tank Automotive Command. When I mention my BA in English; Masters of Science and Technical Management and Masters of Education in Reading and Language Arts... all the air suddenly got sucked out of the auditorium and you could see the eyeballs rolling.

I pretended not to notice the unprovoked reaction; it mainly came from some of the elderly Caucasian females sitting together in the front of the auditorium. Immediately after our sharing session ended, Dr. Issa, the Rector worked his way around the room and gave me a warm PMU welcome! Later, I asked Erica, her opinion on why this happened to me specifically and no one else?

Her response was “Because YOU... A Black woman said it.”

On The Saudi Bus

It was “Game on” after this. I was deliberate in selecting my alliances. Notably, they all selected me rather naturally, on our 45 minute morning ride on the Saudi bus each and every day. Obama’s run for president of the United States was in full rear. No topic of conversation was off limits on the Saudi bus.

I settled on sitting at the back of the bus, so I had a clear view of everyone and everything that went on. Dr. Magdy, (Big Mack) a sophisticated and composed gentle giant, originally from Egypt, but settled in California for the past 20 years joined me, as well as Jason from Australia; He was hands

down, insanely hilarious with the most vivacious personality at PMU. Jason possessed excellent people and negotiation skills and kept me well-informed. Dr. Elma was Africans. She was authentic, opinionated and stubbornly South African. Either she liked you or she didn’t. There was no in-between with Elma.

The youngest member of the PMU teaching staff was Hibo. Her mother was Somali and her father Saudi. She was ingenious, confident, techno savvy and modest, which somehow intimidated the elderly flock of Caucasian women from America and Canada. They perched on the edge of their seats, from the front of the bus, to listen and scoff at our lively conversations.

And there were others that operated in stealth mode and never uttered a word on the bus to anyone.

Every day I made sure I brought something good to eat onboard the bus to share with Jason, Big Mack, Elma or anyone that was in need of a delicious and healthy snack.

I heard rumors about how some “Saudi Princesses” ruled the classroom and constantly got teachers fired. The teachers from Egypt, Pakistan and Africa – fell victim to student “bullying” and feared their own students. So, they simply passed them with “As” In high school in order to keep their jobs.

I was mentally and physical prepared when I entered my classroom for the first time. I stood in front of the classroom. I was totally ignored. I got curiously stares and smirks as they causally strolled into the classroom with sunglasses on and kissed and hugged each other, happily chatted away.

Class started at 8:00 a.m., at 8: 15 a.m., I locked the door.

At first, most of the Saudi girls had the misimpression I was from Egypt or Africa. The truth be told, most, if not all, had no idea how to be accountable or how to study or how to even be a serious student. They had no idea how to value and appreciate their education.

However that was about to change today!

To be continued...

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COURTESY PHOTO

Nominations encouraged for Michigan Lottery's Excellence in Education Awards to honor outstanding educators

Parents, students, school staff members, and others are encouraged to nominate outstanding public-school educators for the Michigan Lottery's 2022-23 Excellence in Education awards.

All public-school employees may be nominated for the awards, which recognize educators who go "above and beyond" to make a difference in the lives of children. To nominate a public-school educator, go to <https://www.michiganlottery.com/excellence-in-education>.

The Michigan Lottery established the Excellence in Education awards in 2014 to recognize outstanding public-school educators across the state during the school year.

One outstanding educator will be selected each week and will receive a \$1,500 cash prize plus a \$500 grant to their classroom, school or school district. One of the

weekly award winners will be selected to receive the Lottery's Educator of the Year award and will receive a \$10,000 cash prize.

Each winner also will receive a plaque and be featured in a news segment on the Lottery's media partner stations: WXYZ-TV in Detroit, FOX 17 in Grand Rapids, FOX 47 in Lansing, and WNEM-TV, Saginaw.

The winner of the 2022 Educator of the Year award was Spencer Vanderheide. He is a high school teacher with Kenowa Hills High School, which is part of Kenowa Hills Public Schools.

Hundreds of educators were nominated during the eighth year of the educational awards program and 34, including Vanderheide, were selected to win a weekly award.

Previous winners of the Educator of the Year award:

- 2021 – Janice Smith, a school social worker at Fisher Magnet Lower Academy in Detroit
- 2020 – Megan Sidge, an Autism Spectrum Disorder teacher at Hickory Woods Elementary, which is part of the Walled Lake Consolidated Schools.
- 2019 – Stewart Kieliszewski, an Earth science, biology, mechatronics, and media teacher for eighth through 12 graders at the Ubyly Community Schools.
- 2018 – Kerri Moccio, a literacy intervention specialist at Bedford Elementary School in Dearborn Heights
- 2017 – Linda Holzwarth, a social studies teacher at Portage West Middle School in Portage
- 2016 – Daniel Carr, a Spanish and sports marketing teacher at Waverly High School in Lansing
- 2015 – Michael Craig, a special education teacher at the Charles Drew Transition Center in Detroit

Excellence in Education award nominees are evaluated on:

- Excellence – Their work consistently helps students and/or their schools or school districts advance to higher levels of academic achievement.
- Dedication – They consistently go above and beyond expectations to help students succeed.
- Inspiration – Their work inspires others around them to exceed expectations either academically or professionally.
- Leadership – They demonstrate clear leadership skills in their positions with their school or school districts.
- Effectiveness – The nominee's work has clear and positive results on the educational advancement of students within the school or school district.



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PETE KADENS IS COMING TO SAGINAW!

Kadens, an entrepreneur, philanthropist and millionaire will visit Saginaw to share how his vision and work for education is eliminating barriers to higher education, which is a powerful economic investment to change communities and lives.



The Saginaw Promise welcomes **Pete Kadens**, as featured on the **CBS 60 Minutes program**, to Saginaw to share his powerful message and what “Hope Chicago” is doing to impact the lives of **30,000 Chicago students** and their parents through postsecondary education; the singular most important economic investment and driving force to changing lives and communities.

“POWER OF A PROMISE”
Luncheon fundraiser

Thursday, October 27, 2022
Horizons Conference Center

Doors open at 11 AM/
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Pete Kadens, keynote Speaker

Proceeds from this event will benefit Saginaw Promise programming and scholarships.

For questions or information contact
Deborah Sanchez at the Saginaw Promise at
dsanchez@saginawpromise.org or at (989) 755-0545.

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City of Saginaw Government Spotlight: Dante Davis, Saginaw STEM



DANTE DAVIS

“I grew up here in Saginaw, went to Saginaw High School, and graduated in 1993. After that, I went up to Michigan Technological University to pursue a mechanical engineering degree, and then began working in the automotive industry for the big three here in Michigan.

After about 12 years, I moved to Los Angeles and got a job with SpaceX.

I was blown away by just walking into the SpaceX building. To be building a rocket was mind blowing to me. It's intense—everything has to be right because if it isn't, the rocket can blow up in one second. My role in that process was to make sure that if we told the government or NASA we were building 'Rocket A' with certain parts, I had to check those parts and make sure they were all correct to the latest revision. If they weren't, I had to confirm who authorized them not to be. There's a lot of boxes to be checked when you're doing that type of work.

Elon came to work one day and out of the blue said, 'We need to have landing legs on the rocket, so we can land it back here and reuse it.'

Then six months later, we started testing out the landing legs. A year later, we nailed it and landed the rocket back here

and started reusing it. So, just having that thought process and the futuristic vision is what inspired me working with Elon both at SpaceX and Tesla.

Seeing all those successful SpaceX missions, I was just ecstatic. Those were proud moments and just life changing, really. It was something bigger than myself that I was a part of and helped to accomplish.

But I really wanted to put my years of automotive experience to work...and Tesla was right next door.

I prayed and prayed about it...and then I got a job at Tesla. I worked on the Model X, which is the SUV with the doors that go up like a Lamborghini. Those doors were having issues with intersecting when I got there so my role was to fix that issue.

When we got it fixed, I got an email from Elon Musk, which was pretty cool! He said how much my contribution to that resolve that issue meant and how happy he was to have me there. I still have that email!

The interesting part about working there was Elon doesn't have a huge office. He had a cubicle, right by us and was very accessible. The only thing he had was a table in the cafeteria that no one else could eat at. It's not labeled. You just know that's

Elon's table. He's awesome, approachable and obviously very, very bright and smart.

I worked at Tesla for about two years and it was an awesome experience, both jobs were unbelievable experiences. They inspired me to start thinking about how I was going to inspire someone else in the world? What was I going to do to create something bigger than myself?

With that in mind, in 2019 I created Saginaw STEM hoping to give back to my hometown community by helping younger kids get into STEM careers. I wanted to help kids here in Saginaw get some of those same opportunities that I had, like meeting Elon Musk.

I've had an awesome life just based on my love of cars. It all started out from some advice from my guidance counselor at Saginaw High back in 1993. He said 'Hey, you got all A's in math and science. You should be an engineer.'

I said, 'What's an engineer?' At that point, I thought that's just the guy on the train that does the choo-choo thing. He showed me a list of all the different disciplines in engineering and their respective salaries. So, based on my love of cars, those respective salaries, and my grades in math and science, I said, 'Hey, if I pick this one, can I work on designing cars for a living?'

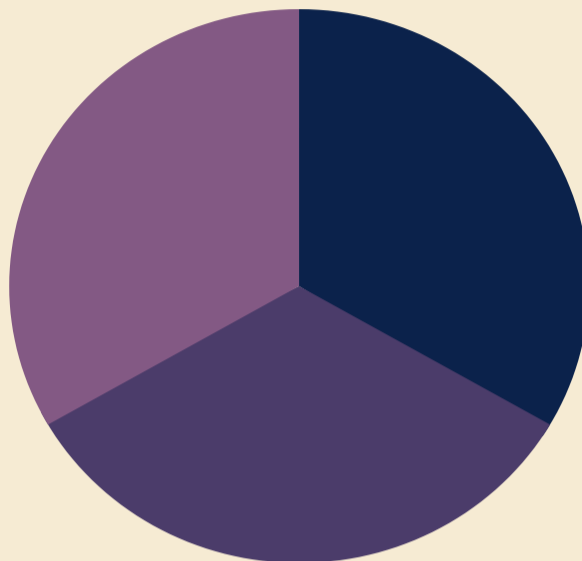
He said yes, so I picked mechanical engineering. I looked up all the engineering schools, and Michigan Tech was one of the top in the country. So, I got some scholarships, got recruited for football and I went up to Michigan Tech to get my mechanical engineering degree.

One of the teachers that inspired me was Mrs. Maggie Mack. She was a teacher at Saginaw High, though she is retired now. She's still the inspiration in my life. I still keep in touch with her and she's aware of what we're doing with Saginaw STEM and she's proud.”

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Employee
33.3%

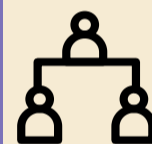


The MI Tri-Share Pilot (Tri-Share) is an innovative public/private partnership that shares the cost of child care equally between employers, employees, and the state of Michigan.

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



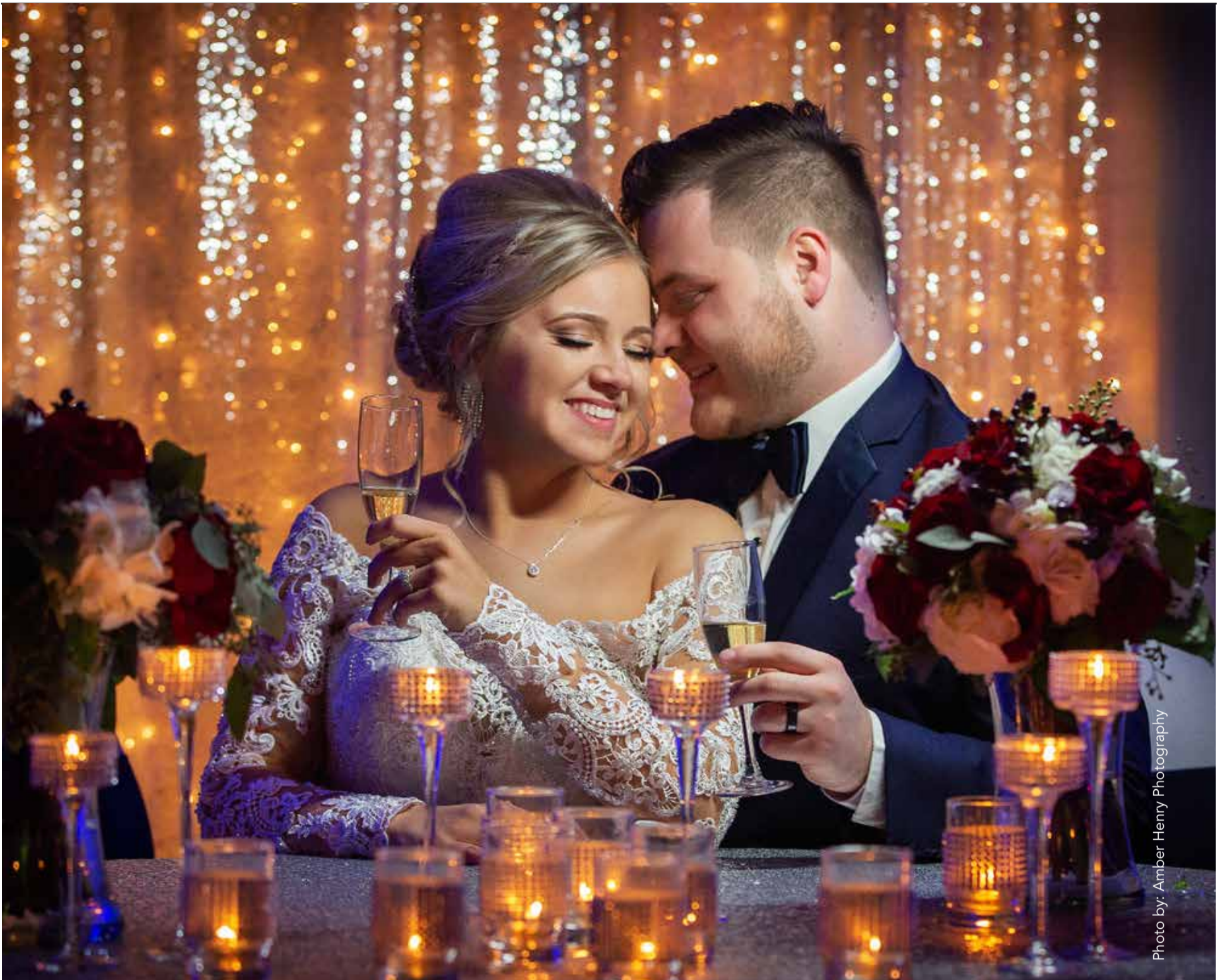
For working parents, this will reduce the out-of-pocket cost of child care, and alleviate the burden of finding child care



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>





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+ COMMUNITY



What's for dessert, Della?

By Dolores Grant-Fall, former Neighborhood House cook

Young people of today don't know what to do with leftover spaghetti pasta, even when their children are hungry. There are so many choices that be done, like making it into a pudding, salad, or putting it into soups. and many other things. Today I will make a fresh pasta salad with my leftover spaghetti.



Pasta Salad

Ingredients

- 1 bag of rainbow peppers, cut small
- 1 red onion, cut small
- 1 cup spinach
- 1 cucumber, slice into cubes
- 2 cups diced pepper jack cheese
- 1 pack red cherry tomatoes cut in halves
- 2 celery sticks, sliced thin
- 3 stock green onions or shallots, sliced
- About 1 pound left over spaghetti
- 1 16-ounce bottle, fancy Italian dressing
- Half cup fresh basil, garlic and fine leaf thyme
- Black pepper to taste
- 1 1/2 cps, grated parmesan cheese.
- 6 boiled eggs, optional
- 2 tablespoon smokey paprika for garnishing

Instructions

In a large bowl, mix spaghetti and all cut vegetables. Add Italian dressings and cheese, stir well, add salt if you so desire. Slice eggs, lay on salad and sprinkle paprika on top.

Enjoy with your favorite garden salad and whatever meat you like, or eat by itself. This is a great salad for any occasion.



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+ COMMUNITY

The Public Libraries of Saginaw launches new initiative to close the talk gap: LENA Start improves school readiness for infants and toddlers

LENA and the Public Libraries of Saginaw are pleased to announce an initiative to improve kindergarten readiness by encouraging families to talk more with their children. LENA Start features classes for caregivers that employ LENA "talk pedometer" technology to measure how much parents are talking with their children and how much children are responding.

The program will launch at Butman-Fish Library, 1716 Hancock Street in Saginaw, with an informational orientation session on September 24 at 2 p.m.

Interactive talk - specifically back-and-forth conversation - has been proven to be a key factor in healthy early brain development. Yet most families don't know how much they're talking to or with their children. During LENA Start, families use LENA's patented "talk pedometer" technology to measure their child's language environment.

Over the course of the 10 weekly sessions, families will explore this data in the form of personalized, actionable feedback reports, discussing research-based strategies with their peers to increase the quality and quantity of talk at home. These practices increase the amount of interactive talk children experience, supporting healthy brain development during the critical early years when babies' brains

are building more than one million neural connections every second.

The Public Libraries of Saginaw is partnering with the Bay County Library System to offer LENA Start. BCLS received generous grants from Hemlock Semiconductor Community and Regional Empowerment (CARE) Grant Program and the Bay Area Community Foundation to run the program.

This initiative is one of many LENA Start sites launching around the country this year. Since its introduction in 2015, LENA Start has been implemented by school districts, hospitals, library systems, and social service organizations. Results from initial implementations show a 73 percent graduation rate, with improvements in key areas:

- Nearly 70 percent of families are having more conversations with their babies

- Families reported reading 69 percent more with their babies than before
- Children's language scores are growing almost twice as fast as comparison groups

"The LENA Start model is laser-focused on simple, practical ways to help parents improve talk with their babies," said Dr. Stephen Hannon, president of LENA.

Interested caregivers can contact the Butman-Fish Library's Children's Department at (989) 799-9160 or register for the LENA Start Orientation online at www.saginawlibrary.org/event/lena-orientation.

The free 10-week LENA Start class will begin October 10 and run Mondays (except for October 31) at Butman-Fish at 5:30 p.m. A weekly meal and on-site childcare are included with registration in the 10-week class.



PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF SAGINAW

11th Annual Driathlon returns to Bay County on September 18

The Bay City Morning Rotary is excited to announce that the 11th Annual Bay City Morning Rotary Driathlon will be held on Sunday, September 18, 2022. The Driathlon is a fun spin on the traditional triathlon with a 5K kayak/canoe paddle in place of the swim, followed by a 20K bicycle ride and then a 5K run. Registration is available at Active.com, <https://www.active.com/bay-city-mi/triathlon/races/driathlon2022>.

For those familiar with the Driathlon, you can expect the same great race, but with the added bonus of our return venue from last year. The paddle will take place

on the Kawkawlin River with a launch from Castaways, while the bike and run will take competitors through Bangor Township, passing by the Bay City State Park and more.

Participants can register individually or as a relay team. Canoes or kayaks are provided if needed. For more details, visit <https://baycitymorningrotary.org/driathlon>. The field is limited to 200 teams, and the event is expected to sell out. Register prior to race day to take advantage of early bird pricing.



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Saginaw Area Meetings

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For More Information Contact Evelyn McGovern

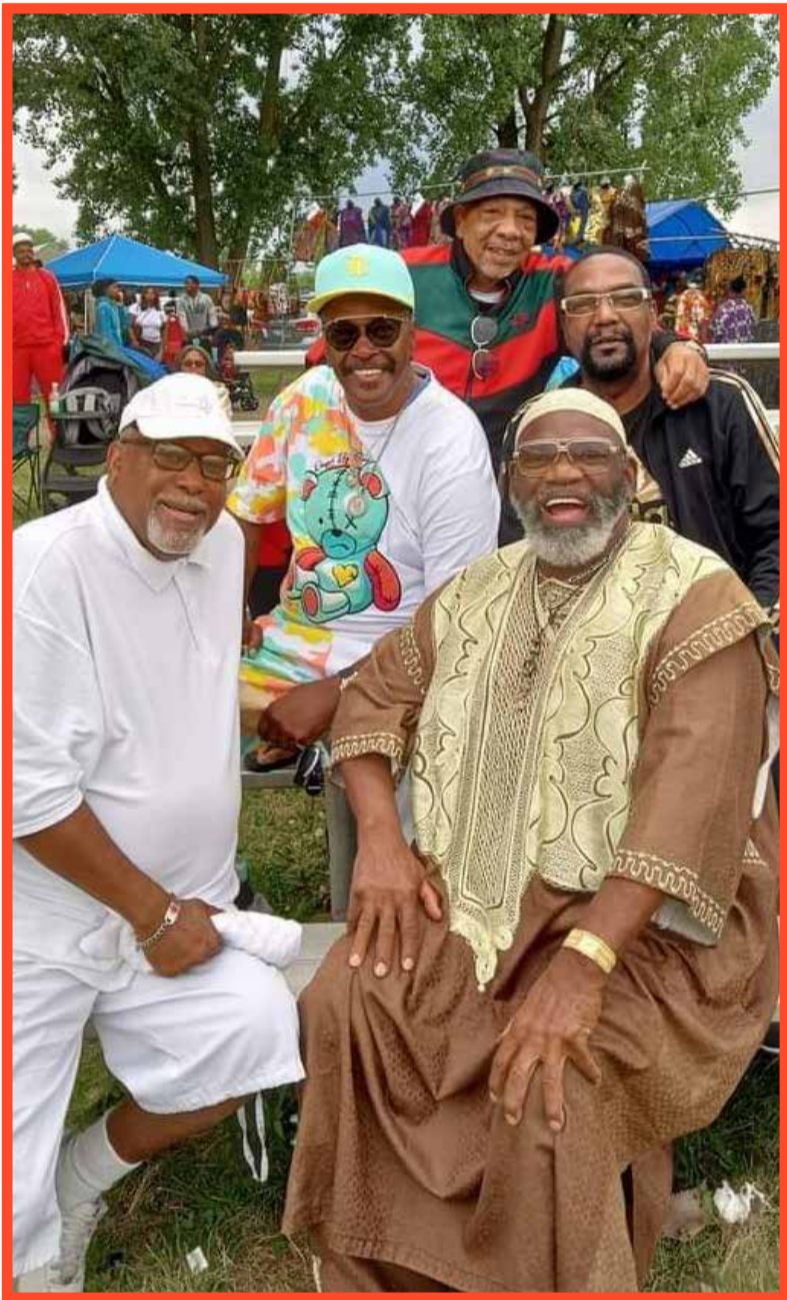
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www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org/strongertogether

Offering a recovery plan for bringing help, healing, and hope to families impacted by addiction

+ COMMUNITY

Seen on the Scene: Steve Barker & Sheilda Braddock attend Saginaw African Cultural festival



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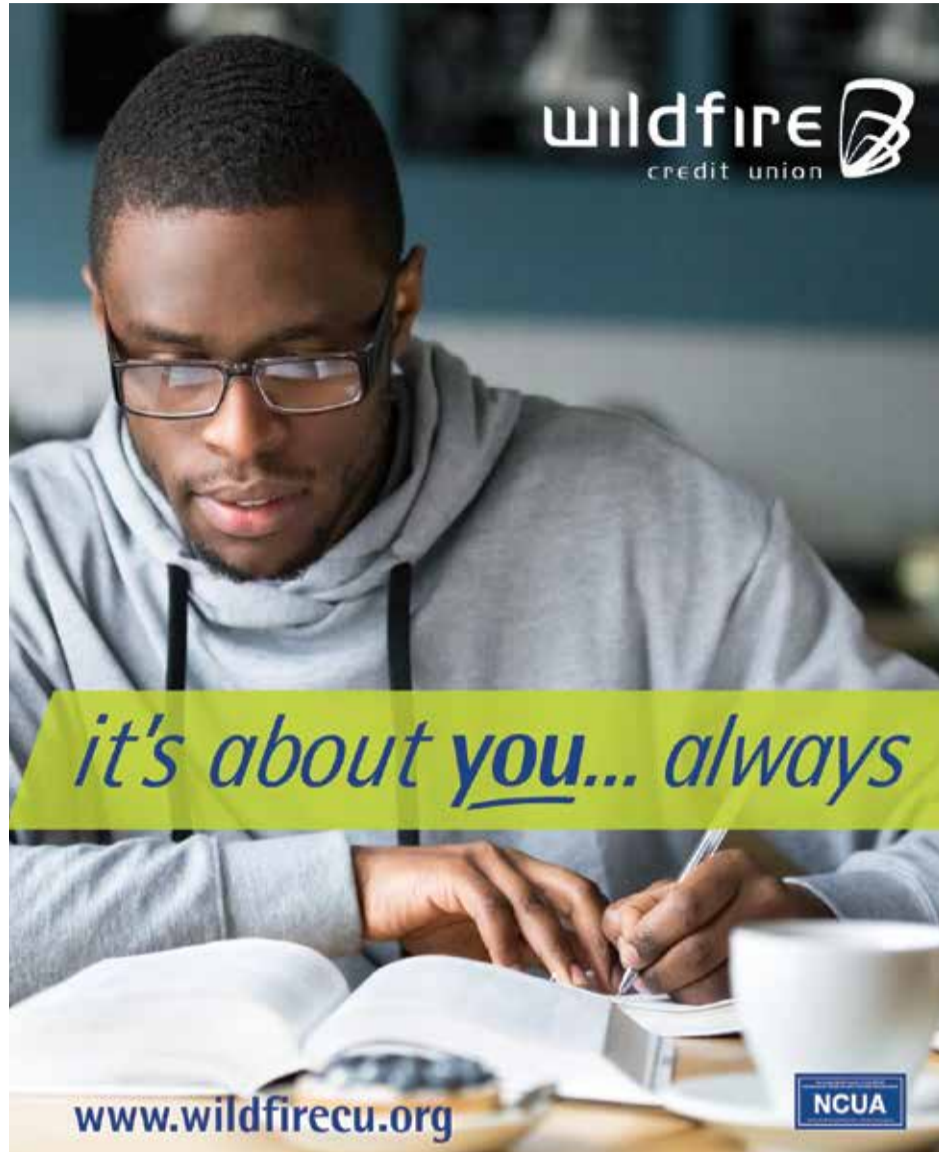
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+ HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

SVSU business professor receives grant to improve mental health delivery

A Saginaw Valley State University professor is working to positively impact mental health care for patients by studying how addressing bottlenecks can help reduce wait times at mental health facilities. Danilo Sirias, a professor of management in SVSU's Carmona College of Business, has been awarded a two-year, \$245,000 grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund for his project, which he will pursue in conjunction with two clinics that provide mental health services in the Great Lakes Bay Region, Child & Family Services of Saginaw and Family & Children's Services of Mid-Michigan.

"Access to mental and behavioral health services has become more constrained. Through this project, we intend to demonstrate how clinics can adjust their care delivery models to improve access," Sirias said. "I'm grateful to the Michigan Health Endowment Fund for choosing my project. This type of funding makes it pos-

sible to pursue research projects that can benefit the wider community."

Sirias's project involves the design, testing and implementation of a care delivery model. In addition, Sirias will use the experience gained to develop an online course that will be available – at no cost – to mental health professionals in Michigan.

"Child and Family Service of Saginaw County is thrilled to participate in Dr. Sirias's project aimed at providing direction beneficial to the effective and prompt delivery of mental health services," said Jill Hogenson, the organization's president/CEO. "Our agency's 150-year history of responding and serving the needs of children, families and adults in the Great Lakes Region positions us well to benefit by the changes that assist our reach and mission of 'Building Better Lives' within our community."

In exploratory conversations with men-

tal health care providers in the Great Lakes Bay Region, Sirias found that long waiting times to see a counselor are negatively impacting access to help. Sirias's proposed innovative delivery care model consists of creating operational mechanisms, or "buffers," to ensure that clinicians are able to devote ample time to the tasks that only they can do.

The proposed care delivery model is based on Sirias's research related to performance improvement in health care systems, which he has addressed in his book "Smash the Bottleneck: Fixing Patient Flow for Better Care (and a Better Bottom Line)," which he co-authored with Christopher Strear.

Sirias's care delivery model provides a structure that enables clinics to operate efficiently. SVSU will provide training and coaching to behavioral health clinic staff so they can effectively apply the model. SVSU will share success stories with other clinics so they can also implement the model.

Sirias joined the SVSU management faculty in 2001. He holds a Ph.D. in business administration and a master's in industrial and systems engineering from the University of Memphis, as well as a bachelor's in industrial engineering from the National University of Engineering in his home country of Nicaragua. Sirias has published peer-reviewed research in several journals and is the author of the books "Bridging the Boomer Xer Gap," (with Hank Karp and Connie Fuller), "Success . . . an Adventure" and "Problem Solving Maps." His strategies for teaching math are used in several countries around the world.

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund works to improve the health and wellness of Michigan residents and reduce the cost of health care, with a special focus on children and seniors. More information can be found at mihealthfund.org.

SVSU is one of 18 organizations that have received behavioral health grants from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund in 2022.

MDHHS provides update on state E. Coli investigation

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is issuing an updated public health alert regarding additional illnesses of shiga toxin producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) across the state associated with the multi-state outbreak.

Michigan currently has 43 confirmed *E. coli* O157 cases matched with the outbreak strain. The illness onset dates range from late July through early August. Outbreak cases have been reported from 18 jurisdictions including the counties of Allegan, Branch, Clinton, Genesee, Gratiot, Jackson, Kent, Macomb, Midland, Monroe, Muskegon, Oakland, Ogemaw, Ottawa, Saginaw, Washtenaw, and Wayne and the City of Detroit. The age range of those affected are 6 to 94 years old. Among the Michigan outbreak cases with available information to date, 56% have been hospitalized. Four cases of hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), a severe complication that occurs in some people diagnosed with STEC infection, have been identified.

“We are reminding residents in Michigan to seek medical attention if they experience symptoms of *E. coli* illness such as severe stomach cramps, diarrhea, vomiting or other gastrointestinal distress,” said Dr. Alexis Travis, senior deputy director of public health administration at MDHHS. “Additionally, we urge residents to take proper precautions when handling food and practice safe food preparation.”

More than 55% of the Michigan outbreak cases reported consumption of food items at Wendy’s restaurant locations. While a specific food item has not yet been identified as the source of illnesses, investigations are ongoing and focusing on sandwiches topped with romaine lettuce. Currently there is not a recommendation to avoid eating at Wendy’s while the restaurant works with local public health departments to remove potentially implicated products.

MDHHS is working closely with local health departments, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to determine the source of the illnesses. The ongoing investigation includes the association with Wendy’s locations but may be broader than a single restaurant chain depending

on the distribution of food products. MDHHS anticipates similar messaging from the CDC relative to the broader investigation that includes Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania matched cases.

At this time, MDHHS is recommending people experiencing symptoms of *E. coli* infection should consult a health care provider as soon as possible and discuss if testing is recommended. Health care providers should contact their local health department to report suspected or confirmed STEC cases.

Symptoms vary for each person, but often include:

- Severe stomach cramps.
- Diarrhea – often bloody.
- Vomiting.
- Fever.

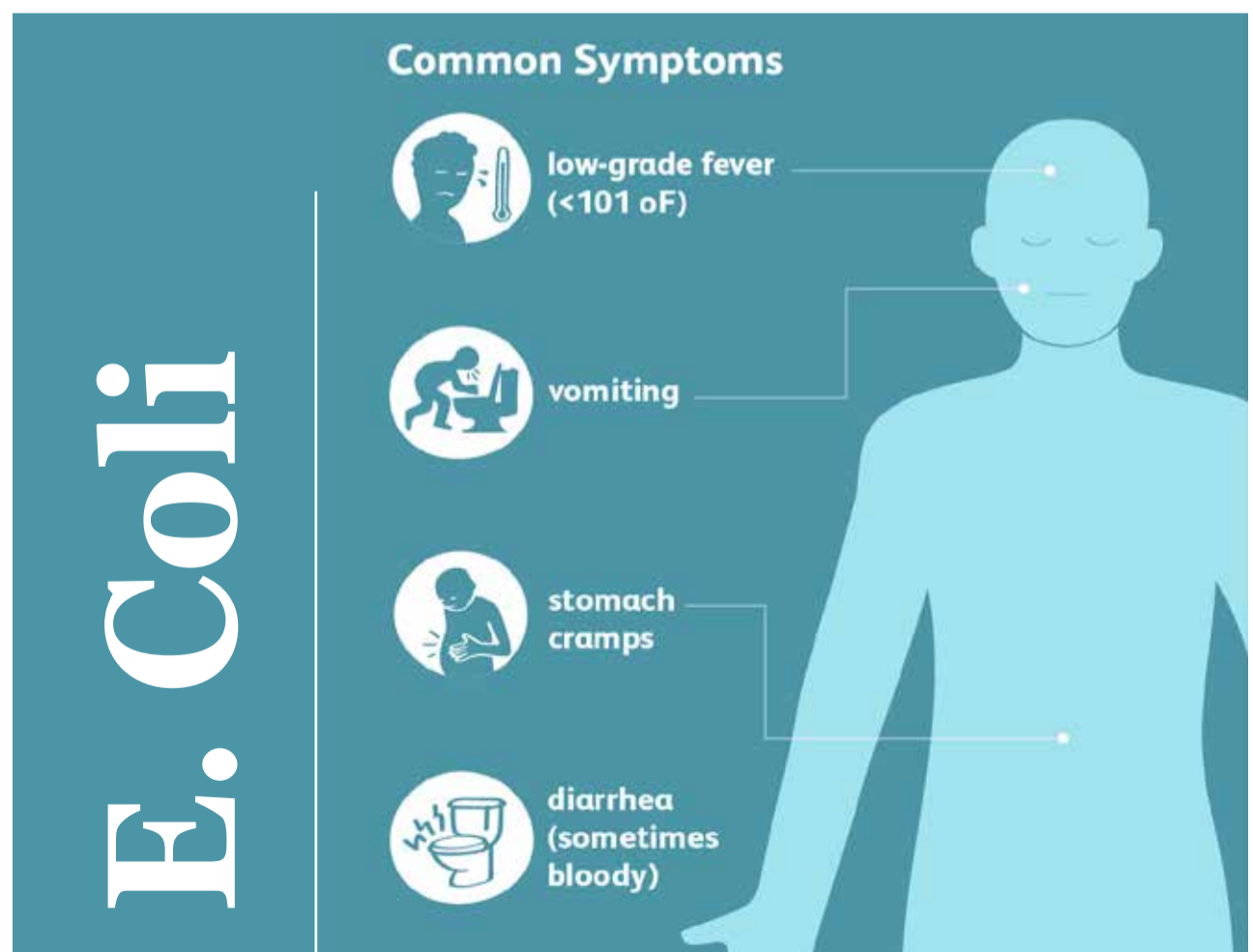
Symptoms of *E. coli* infection usually appear three to four days after the expo-

sure but may appear in as short as one day or as long as 10 days. Symptoms often improve within five to seven days. Some infections are very mild, but others can be severe or even life-threatening. Younger children and older adults may be more likely to experience severe illness.

Approximately 5% to 10% of people diagnosed with this infection develop HUS, which typically appears seven days after symptoms begin, often when diarrhea is improving. Symptoms of hemolytic uremic syndrome can include decreased frequency of urination, feeling very tired and losing color in cheeks and inside the lower eyelids.

Prevention of *E. coli* is often directly connected to proper hand hygiene and food handling practices

For additional information on *E. coli*, visit the USDA website on protection from foodborne illness or the CDC website on prevention. Find food safety information on the MDARD website.



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+ EDUCATION

Literary scholar, professor selected for 2023 Roethke Poetry Award

A literary scholar and professor with ties to Michigan has been selected as the winner of the 2023 Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize from Saginaw Valley State University.

A trio of judges selected Patricia Jabbeh Wesley, a professor of English, creative writing and African literature at Penn State University-Altoona, for her collection "Praise Song for My Children: New and Selected Poems" (Autumn House Press 2020). She is invited to the SVSU campus in March to accept the award, which includes a \$10,000 cash prize, during the triennial Theodore Roethke Poetry & Arts Festival.

"Wesley's powerful rhythms are derived both from and deftly combine her Grebo poetry tradition with the Western poetry tradition," said Pamela Uschuk, one of this year's judges. "Always, there is a profound spirituality and humanity as well as a ferocity of being in this world as evinced by her fearless activism. Not only do her poems display an incredibly large range, but they are beautifully crafted and intellectually brilliant."

The other judges were T.R. Hummer and Octavio Quintanilla.

A literary scholar and professor, Wesley immigrated to the United States from Liberia, West Africa, during that country's first civil war. Her experiences in Liberia helped shape her writing, which explores themes of motherhood, home and displacement, among others. She has authored several collections of poetry, and her work has been extensively reviewed and widely recognized.

Wesley holds a Ph.D. from Western Michigan University, a master's degree from Indiana University and a bachelor's degree from the University of Liberia.

When notified of the award, Wesley said, "It will be my honor to come home to a state that gave our family sanctuary as refugees of war during the civil war years in our original home country of Liberia, West Africa. Michigan is really my home

in America; my poetry sings of Michigan still."

Theodore Roethke (1908-1963) is widely regarded as one of the greatest American poets of the 20th century. Born and raised in Saginaw, Roethke graduated from Arthur Hill High School, then entered the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He earned a Bachelor of Arts (magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa) and a Master of Arts degree from U-M and pursued graduate studies at Harvard University.

Roethke won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1954 for his book "The Waking," and was twice awarded the annual National Book Award for Poetry. Roethke taught English at several universities, including Michigan State University, Lafayette College (Pennsylvania), Pennsylvania State University, Bennington College (Vermont), and the University of Washington.

The Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize has been offered since 1968 on a triennial basis. The Prize is given for a book published in the previous three years that has made an important contribution to American poetry. The recipient must be a living American poet, and by tradition judges are selected by the Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the United States. The prize is awarded without regard to number of publications, age, gender, place of residence, style or type of poetry, or choice of subject matter; this award is not for total achievement, but for an individual book.

The judges considered many noteworthy collections of poetry. Wesley was among nine finalists for the award. The other finalists were:

- Lorna Dee Cervantes, "April On Olympus," Marsh Hawk Press 2021
- Dorothy Chan, "Revenge of the Asian Woman," Diode Edition 2019
- Linda Hogan, "A History of Kindness," Torrey House Press 2021
- Roger Reeves, "Best Barbarian," WW Norton 2022
- CT Salazar, "Headless John the Baptist Hitchhiking," Acre Books 2022
- Sean Singer, "Today in the Taxi," Tupelo Press 2022
- Michael Torres, "An Incomplete List of Names," Beacon Press 2020
- Michael Wasson, "Swallowed Light," Copper Canyon Press 2022

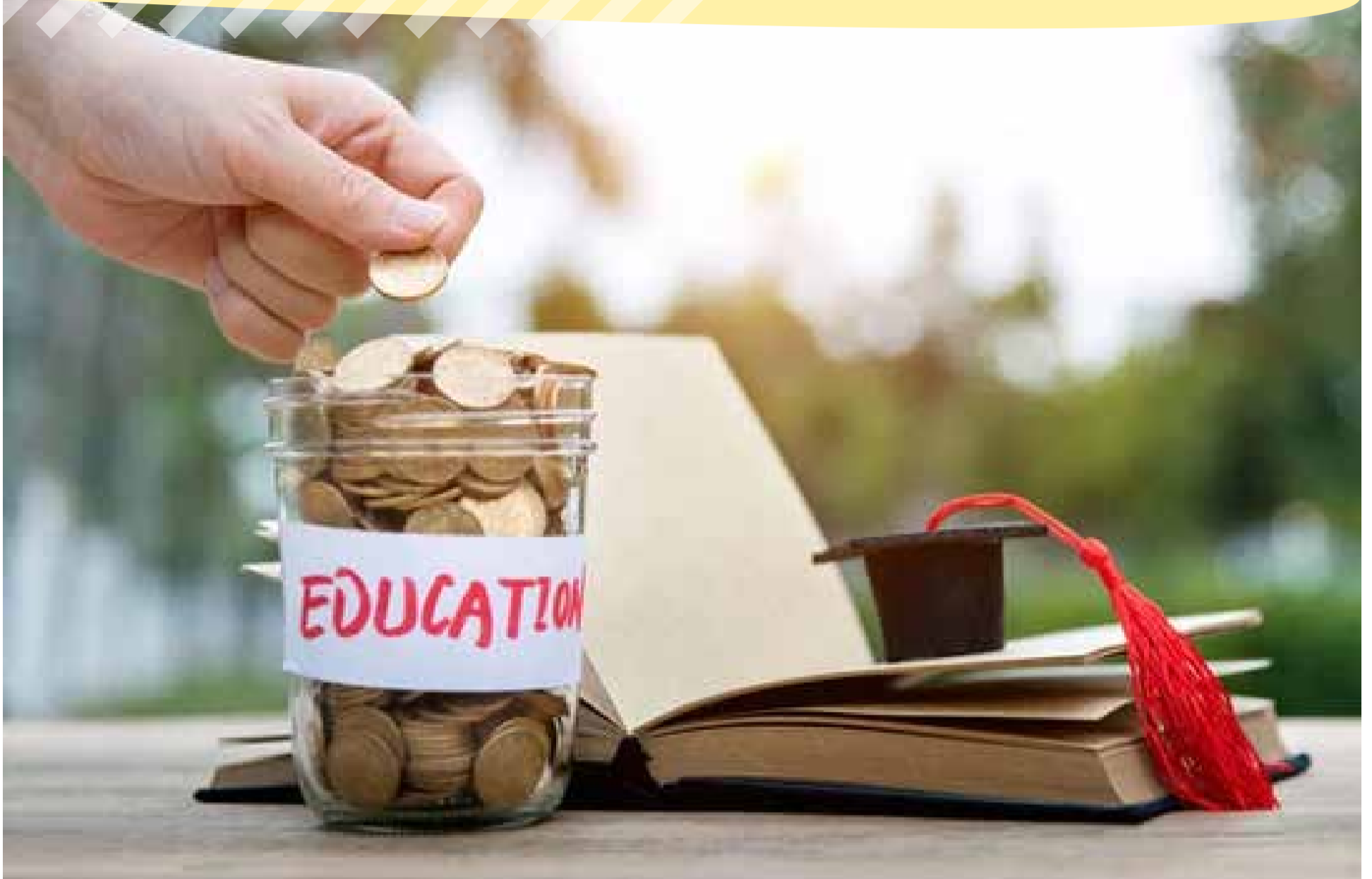
The dates for the six-day Theodore Roethke Poetry & Arts Festival are Friday, March 17, 2023, to Wednesday, March 22, 2023. The Roethke Poetry Prize Award Ceremony will be the evening of Tuesday, March 21, 2023.



PATRICIA JABBEH WESLEY

+ EDUCATION

IN MY HUMBLE OPINION



COURTESY PHOTO

School fees must fall



BY KEN H. SIMMONS, II
MANAGING DIRECTOR, KENZO
PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Several years ago, here in South Africa a national movement labeled "Fees Must Fall", which was a protest against high student fees, was started and led by university students from around the country.

Despite the government's attempt to provide free university education for poor and working-class students beginning in 2018, peaceful student protests continued as recently as 2021.

Seeing President Biden's announcement last week that the Federal government would forgive student loans for millions of Americans made me think of South Africa's student-led movement that eventually garnered serious political support. Inspired by the title of South Africa's movement, my humble opinion about education in America is that school fees must fall.

In South Africa, protests for free and fair education helped shape the country's

history as well as its constitution. In 1976, Black South African school children protested against the Bantu education system, which was a schooling system created by the apartheid government to limit the growth and the futures of young Black people. The system sought to keep Black people in lower-paying jobs and limit their access to tertiary education.

Nearly thirty years after the first democratic elections in 1994, South Africa is still trying to level the playing field after the divisions of apartheid, and one area that it continues to struggle with is providing citi-

**CONTINUES ON PG 37,
SCHOOL FEES**

Continued from pg 36, school fees

zens with affordable education. While the Bantu education system was abolished, the education that is available for all citizens today, specifically tertiary education, costs a lot more than lower-income households can afford and it most certainly is not free.

In the United States, student life has been a flash-point of campus activism for centuries. The first class of students of Harvard College, only two years after its founding, protested against President Nathaniel Eaton for his leadership. They specifically objected to a form of discipline Eaton practiced, which was beating students, and in 1639 the students successfully pushed Eaton out in a court case, according to "A History of College Protests: Student Activism in College" published by Best Colleges. More serious issues like discrimination and equity have also been successfully tackled by student activists.

A perfect example is the civil rights movement when college students protested against segregation and marched for civil rights. Four black students from North Carolina A&T State University held a sit-in at a "whites only" lunch counter in 1960, which inspired thousands of students to join the civil rights movement, as detailed in Harvard Ed. Magazine's 2018 article, "Student Activism 2.0".

In the past decade, college students have been more active than ever before in the U.S. successfully fighting against tuition increases and for more equitable campus policies, as reported by The Atlantic in "The Renaissance of Student Activism". In the wake of the #BlackLivesMatter movement, student activists fought for equity and nondiscrimination policies. In 2015, black students at the University of Missouri protested against the administration's failure to stop racial hostility on campus and advocated to create an inclusive environment for students of color.

President Joe Biden's campaign in 2020 included a controversial promise to provide student debt relief to millions of Americans, and on Wednesday, 24 August 2022, he held a press conference and honored that commitment. The Washington Post reported that President Biden, using the authority Congress granted to the Department of Education, will forgive \$10,000 in outstanding Federal Student

Loans for low-income borrowers making less than \$125,000 annually, and \$20,000 for low-income families that also received a Pell Grant. Some advocates argued Pell Grants were a reasonably good way to reach borrowers of color, as a disproportionate number of Pell Grant recipients attend minority-serving and historically Black institutions.

The interest-free payment pause initiative that went into effect in March 2020 under the Trump administration was extended again and will now end on 31 December 2022. The consequence of resuming student loan payments and providing targeted relief at the same time is approximately \$50 billion which will start coming back into the Treasury due to the resumption of debt. At last week's press conference, President Biden added, "We're proposing to make what's called an income-driven repayment plan, simple and fair. And here's how, no one with an undergraduate loan today or in the future, whether for community college or a 4-year college will have to pay more than 5% of their discretionary income to repay their loan." After 20 years of payments, if the loan hasn't already been settled your obligation will be fulfilled and no more payments will be required. Borrowers of less than \$12,000 as the original balance, usually from community colleges, will be done paying after 10 years if not before.

While debt relief is a bold move and greatly needed, the fact remains that the U.S. spends more per student on colleges and universities than almost any other country. Forbes reported on the latest statistics released by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 2019, and according to the report, "American universities spend \$30,165 per full-time equivalent student, nearly twice the rich-world average of \$15,556". Only one country spends more per student, and that country is Luxembourg where tuition is nevertheless free for students, thanks to government outlays.

There are about 38 other countries, from Argentina to Uruguay, that have made college and/or university tuition free for their citizens. In these systems, higher education is available to most students at little or no cost regardless of limiting fac-

tors such as income level or social status. Most of these countries are developed nations and many are democratic socialist states where the government also provides other essential services such as universal or single-payer health care.

The offer of free or minimal-cost tuition is further extended to international students in a number of countries as well. This enables students from the United States and other countries with high college tuition costs to study abroad while also obtaining their education with minimal cost.

As with most things in life, there are pros and cons to consider with tuition-free higher education, and here are some of them according to College Raptor. Pros: reduces student debt; improves college graduation rates; more freedom for students to choose a major they enjoy; allows more people access to college. Cons: increases taxes; college might not be taken seriously; college education could decrease in quality; more people would go to college.

For South Africa, ensuring access to affordable quality education is important as youth will grow to contribute to the economy, create future employment opportunities, and help bring poverty to an end in the country. The leaders of the future are the students that are being educated now, and the success of that future relies on the quality of education these students receive.

After more than a year of debates, protests, meetings, and deliberations, President Biden fulfilled a campaign promise to cancel some of the federal student debt held by approximately 43 million Americans, and roughly 20 million of them could have their debt settled completely. This policy will deliver the single largest discharge of education debt ever and is one of the most significant changes to American higher education in decades. It is a new cornerstone of the president's economic legacy. This is most definitely a step in the right direction, but in my humble opinion school fees must fall altogether.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Student-Athletes: Tips for Success and Safety



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

With school sports in full swing, I thought it would be appropriate to reflect upon how to make the experience go well for student athletes. We want participation to be enthusiastic, with successful and safe practices. The fall season goes quickly; how can student athletes maximize their experiences?

High school coaches and athletic directors take great precautions, and the web is full of great resources. Here are a few of

the suggestions I have found.

1. Make “warm up” and “cool down” routine practices. These routines help prepare muscles for the stress and strain of competition and performance. It is also a good way to mentally review the successes and challenges of the event.
2. Get plenty of rest. Rest allows the body to recover and renew. Sleep cannot be “skipped” or shortened without risk of having wellness negatively impacted.
3. Avoid the temptation to ignore pain. Get to know the difference between normal fatigue & aches versus the pain of injury. Persistent pain can reveal a stress fracture or serious muscle pull
4. Keep up with academics when school resumes. Make “study time” as important as “practice time.”

Student athletes who seek balance between performance and academics are most respected and have the brightest futures. Best wishes to all athletes as fall sports continue into full swing!

Resources:

<https://www.beaumont.org/health-wellness/blogs/injury-prevention-tips-for-high-school-athletes>

<https://www.acefitness.org/certifiednewsarticle/2388/six-essential-keys-to-helping-high-school-athletes-maximize-their-potential/#:~:text=Have%20the%20athlete%20start%20with%20a%20foot%20on,without%20stopping%20%28covering%20a%20total%20of%20300%20yards%29.>

+ 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?

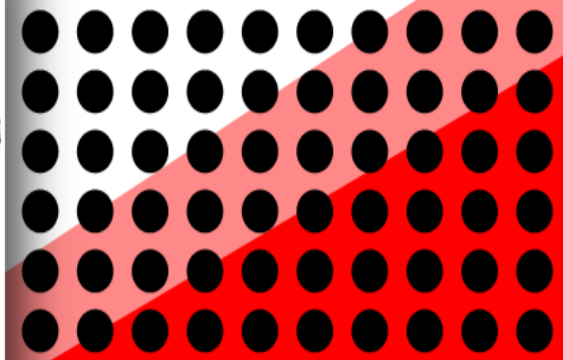
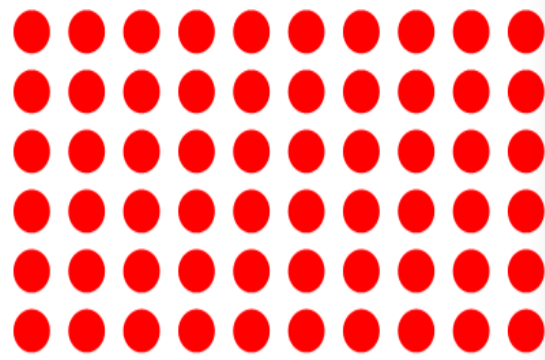
No, but if funded, you will be expected to hire qualified staff and have staff trained in the curriculum and assessment tools. You will have to operate in compliance with child care licensing rules and GSRP statute, policies and procedures. You would also have the support of a Saginaw Intermediate School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



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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

+ 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 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



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

Where does a nonprofit turn for help? *Part one of a two-part series*

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Who do nonprofits turn to when they need help? The answer: regional and state nonprofit associations. Here's a look behind the scenes with Dr. Kevin Dean, executive director of one such association, Momentum Nonprofit Partners. Supporting more than 900 nonprofits in Memphis and the Mid-South, MNP provides training and technical assistance, sector research, public policy support, and networking opportunities. "Our work changes every day," shared Dean. "One moment we might be fighting a bill in the state legislature that negatively impacts nonprofits, and the next we might be sitting in a coffee shop providing counsel to an executive director with a complicated human resources issue. We want to meet nonprofits where they are and make sure they have what they need. Our goal is to create a sector that has an equal seat at the table and has leaders who are armed with the skills they need to effectively run a high-impact nonprofit."

We asked Dean about the challenges facing nonprofits and his response was far-ranging. "Nonprofits are being hit from all sides at the moment, and it's not a fun time to be a leader. We are all still dealing with the aftermath of the pandemic. Fundraising seems like a moving target more than ever. Donor engagement was difficult through the pandemic, but now donors are nervous about an impending recession. The Great Resignation has created workforce shortages all over America, and it isn't just your local restaurant or grocery store suffering shortages. Nonprofits have been hit hard, too. Burnout is also very real, and many leaders are struggling to keep their staff afloat—and keep themselves above water, too. With the world seemingly changing daily, it's no wonder burnout is happening everywhere. This does, however, provide a great opportunity for organizations to rethink their work, benefits packages, organizational culture, and strategic plans. Sometimes we need a 'reboot.' This is a great time to rethink everything with a fresh pair of post-COVID eyes."

In terms of rethinking, we also want-

ed to know how MNP brings value to the community as a convener and technical assistance provider. Dean shared two examples. "We help nonprofits be better. Nonprofit administration is naturally a messy gig. While there are many best practices to draw from, there's no prescriptive way to run a nonprofit organization. It's complex and nuanced, and nonprofits need support in finding the best ways to manage their organizations. We share the newest national data and best practices so local nonprofits can benefit from what's working in other areas." His second example is about advocacy. Dean sees MNP as a unified voice for the nonprofit sector. "We were able to advocate for the Community CARES program, which provided \$150 million in CARES Act funds to nonprofits. We were also able to provide valuable research about compensation in our area that helped leaders pay their staff more equitably...and some of those leaders got raises, too. Without the work we do, it would be very difficult for the sector to have a voice and advocate for itself."



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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



COURTESY PHOTO

How Lakers hiring of Darvin Ham instantly made me a fan

By HASANI ALI

Throughout my years as a basketball fan, I was never a Los Angeles Laker fan. The gold home uniforms were the only things enticing about the team. They're considered to be America's team, similar to the Cowboys in the NFL. The organization has a rich history – prominent all-star players, many championships and a unique arena where all the celebrities would congregate to watch them play.

What's not to like?

Growing up in the 90's, I was able to

witness the transition from the Magic Johnson era, to the Kobe and Shaq era. Both joined the team in 1996 – Kobe was traded from Charlotte during the draft and Shaq was acquired from a trade with Orlando. We all know the story. That team reigned terror in that western conference and in the NBA itself. Three championship rings with the duo. Many appearances during all-star weekend throughout the year. And guess what? I simply could not take the bait.

I even had to turn up my nose when they formed my first witness of a “super

team” by acquiring Gary Payton from Seattle and Karl Malone from Utah.

Did I have any favorite Laker moments you ask? Of course. When they were beat in the NBA finals by my Detroit Pistons back in 2004. Chauncey Billings led the backcourt and Ben Wallace was a defensive powerhouse. What made it even more memorable? The Pistons won that series, 4-1. Granted, later come to find out that Kobe and Shaq were fighting at the time due to some personal reasons. However, it doesn't matter as the record books don't keep backstories.

Didn't blink an eye when LeBron James came over to the Lakers back in 2018. After watching superstar after superstar join the team over the years, it was inevitable that King James would add Los Angeles to another one of his destination stops after winning a championship in Cleveland. In all honesty, it made sense. He had to think about another part of his legacy where he needed to build – an excellent environment for his two sons, Bryce and Bronny. And think about it, who wouldn't want to live in LA?

Let's face it. Los Angeles is the perfect market to lure any type of athlete. Sunny skies, championship culture and stars galore filling the seats at any given regular season game. Who wouldn't sign up for that?!

Despite having a few slumps, the Lakers are still a relevant team. The last championship that the Lakers won was back in 2020 during the pandemic. All eyes are centered on LeBron James and friends as to see how they will make it back to the finals.

And I think April 11th was the date where I instantly bought into Laker Nation with the hiring of Saginaw native, Darvin Ham as head coach.

Yes, this is completely bias.

Ham was a member of that Detroit Pistons championship team back in 2004. He came from “blue-collar” basketball, which

**CONTINUES ON PG 47,
DARVIN HAM**

Continued from pg 46, Darvin Ham

means the hustle is unmatched and the attitude is gritty.

Sounds familiar? May just be a Michigan thing.

You saw his work ethic as an assistant coach with the Milwaukee Bucks. He is highly respected amongst the players as he knew how to be stern, but loving at the same time. He helped the Bucks win the NBA championship last season. Even the Bucks' head coach couldn't help but to sing his praises after acquiring him as an assistant.

"Darvin is just an incredible man," Mike Budenholzer said in 2020. "I think his genuineness, his care, his love for almost anybody that he comes across, but especially those of us that have been lucky enough to be around him for a season or seven seasons."

If you don't know Ham's tragic story about his time growing up in Saginaw, he definitely let the world know during his iconic interview after being hired as the Lakers coach back in April. The media took an instant liking to him after he expressed his resilience after such a tragic experience.

"I was shot in the face by accident on April 5, 1988 at the age of fourteen," Ham said. "You go through something like that, it's going to do one of two things. It's going to make you fearful or fearless. It made me fearless. I don't feel no pressure."

Budenholzer even had to attest how Ham is able to connect with the players in Milwaukee. The passion for the game is why he gets the respect in the locker room amongst the players.

"He's got just a deep ability to connect

and love and care and yet has this incredible toughness where nobody would mess with Darvin Ham," Budenholzer said. "So it's like this big ol' lovable bear that you never would want to poke. And, he's thoughtful, the guys respect him, they believe in him. He speaks from the heart. He's seen a lot. He's been through a lot, and so I think all of us lean on Darvin."

You can't help but to cheer on one of your own from your city. From Kenyon Martin to Draymond Green, every one of these players have been living proof that you can make it from your hometown.

And for Ham to make it Los Angeles from Saginaw is a monumental statement. I may not be buying any gold jerseys, but I'll definitely be tuned in.

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MAIN EVENTS

Thursday, September 8
6 p.m.

- Rhea Miller Recital Hall at SVSU
- Film: "Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Historically Black Colleges and Universities"
- Discussion: HBCUs & social justice

Friday, September 9
7 p.m.

- Malcolm Field Theatre at SVSU
- Step show performance

Saturday, September 10
1 p.m.

- Harvey Randall Wickes Memorial Stadium at SVSU
- Kickoff: Cardinals vs. Bulldogs
- Halftime: Bowie State University Symphony of Soul Marching Band will perform

Thursday, Friday and Saturday will include the following events:
 HBCU historical exhibit in SVSU's Zahnow Library; youth-focused, hands-on STEM activities; and tailgating activities. Sponsor information will also be available at various locations across campus.



REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES....



MR. AZOLA "ZOLO" RICHARD WILLIAMS



Our beloved brother, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle and friend, made his transition on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at the age of 74 years. Mr. Azola Richard Williams was born on May 18, 1948 in Saginaw, Michigan to the late Rev. James Williams and Geneva Pratt-Williams.

He was a longtime resident of Saginaw, Michigan. He was a good provider and loyal husband to Patricia (Moore) Williams for 45 years. He was a faithful, devoted member of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church where he served on the Board of Deacons and was Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He also enjoyed serving on the Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Board for many years. He was a lifetime member of A Philip Randolph and First Ward Community Center Old Timers.

He leaves to cherish precious memories, four daughters, Tolerance Moore (Tolly), Azolarie Hinton both of Saginaw, Connie (Kenyatta) Hampton of Louisville, MS and Veronica Seward, Long Beach, CA; one son, Leonard Moore of Saginaw; grandchildren, Markell Bradshaw, Dylan Moore, Todd Hinton (Kayla) and Pasha Riggins, all of Saginaw, Davarious Mims, Kentereas Howard, Kentoreya Curry, Diamond Howard and Dasmond Howard all of Louisville, Mississippi, Arleshia Williams, DeAndrea Key, and Amaris Key all of Houston, TX, Kayla Seward and Kailieyah Seward both of Long Beach, CA; seven great-grandchildren and one special great-grandchild, Kelayah Bradshaw; three brothers, James (Geraldine) Williams, Jr., Bishop McKinley (Karen) Williams, and Felix Williams all of Saginaw; two sisters, Twana and Felicha Williams both of Saginaw; two special nephews, Derrick Taylor and Jason Moore both of Saginaw; god-daughters, Angela Riley, December Whitfield and Natalie Woods, sisters-in-law, Freddie Williams, Brenda Williams, Beverly and Alice Hunt, Ann Jackson, Diane Austin Jackson, Linda and Elaine Jackson Brooks, Tangela Broaden of New Orleans, LA and JoAnne Broaden of Saginaw; brothers-in-law, Samie Jackson, Jr. and Larry Jackson, many other relatives and good friends.

Mr. Azola Williams was preceded in death by his loving wife, Patricia Williams; a daughter, Shalan Willams-Key; parents, James and Geneva Williams; siblings, Rose Taylor, Johnnie Willams and Esther Smith; mother-in-law, Evelyn Moore; father-in-law, Samie Jackson, Sr.; sisters-in-law, Rosie Green, Florine Jackson, Dorothy Moore and Shirley Hunt; brothers-in-law, Jasper and Henry Green and Leon Williams.

Funeral service will take place at 11:00 a.m. Friday, September 2, 2022, at Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, 810 Cathay Street, Saginaw, MI 48601. Pastor Blake Strozier will officiate. Interment will take place in Great Lakes National Cemetery, G-4200 Belford Rd., Holly, MI 48442. Friends may call at the funeral home on Thursday from 2:00 until 6:00 p.m.



ERNESTINE BOTHUEL-WALKER

Ms. Ernestine Bothuel-Walker passed away on Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at her residence in Saginaw, Michigan. Age 81 years.

She was a true soldier and sister to the community.



PICS OF THE WEEK

Victorious Believers Ministries hosted their 10th Annual Victorious Life Family Conference held on August 24-28.



Pictured from L to R: Pastor Chris Pryor; Hannah Rousseau; Wardene B. Talley; Jenny Geno; Inez Williams



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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 compus 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.



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