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

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

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 5 • NUMBER 15



MY ADVICE?

By DONIQUA SOVIA

Call used, but not bruised, put in a position to choose, and this time it isn't a lose, lose situation. But rather a gain in information, to a much greater degree than just that of satisfaction. It costs only a fraction, and the fact is you get to choose what portion of the fraction you're willing to lose. But here's the thing;

You won't lose what you think. You won't be without for long, if you process and apply what's been given to you for free, because most the time people take a dime and turn it into three-hundred ninety three, and you see they cheat themselves when they throw advice on the shelf, eventually throwing it out.

Be a leader. Be a teacher, but always be a student, seek knowledge not approval, don't speak it just do it and you'll see that they see you and there'll be nothing left to prove, yet they'll still screw you over, play you for dumb, and remind you where you came from, like you were supposed to stay there, but pay them no mind, because compensation isn't just currency, it's also time, and you can't waste it because it has no income, but you dictate the outcome of the inflow just so you know.

Be open. Let your mind be clear. Forget what you heard, even your eyes have ears and read people and rooms, and can sense what's the best and what may bring doom, so listen, when I tell you....never settle for a fool, cause he'll part with his money and then come and find you.

Have passion. But don't let them pass you, meaning don't let them say anything and think it'll pass through your ears and you'll vibe with what they say, because a clown is a person in a costume at the end of the day, and every cowboy knows that anything goes unless you hold the Ace of Spades. Be kind. Be patient. But don't let them pace and vent, because what you say circumvents and they'll lie on you about what'd they do if they held the position that you're in, but be kind.

Relationships....they all have a port...you always gotta unload and you never know what's rotten and what's good until you unpack and search through boxes that have been stacked for months at a time, and some people will lie about the cargo they carry when you're holding the sheet, that has all the products and the weight that varies....let them go.

I could go on and on, give you advice nonstop about the things I've learned, the wisdom I've gained and what not, but then there'd be no adventure for you. No experience gained, you'd just know what to do, because you never been in a situation where you didn't have a clue and THAT my friend is where the gold is found in you.





Seen on the Scene: Saginaw students attend National **NAACP ACT-SO competition in Baltimore; Julian** Morris wins Bronze in Entrepreneurship category



FROM L TO R: AVA MENDOZA, CANIKA PUGH (BACK), JULIAN MORRIS, AMAREAH BRYANT, JOHN PUGH, CAMILLE CULPEPPER, MICAH DUNN, LIONEL BALDWIN







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LatinoBanner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE







COURTESY PHOTO

Seen on the scene: On July 14, the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan held a public commission meeting in Lansing. The commission officially welcomed two new commissioners: Vanessa Guerra and Elias Gutierrez. During the meeting, Deputy Director Ben Cabanaw, provided a report for Office of Global Michigan. Theresa Rosado, Director of Casa de Rosado Galeria and Cultural Center, made a public comment.

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Judge José A. Cabranes to be presented with the nation's highest judicial award at the Supreme Court of the United States

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh will present the Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award, the highest honor bestowed upon an Article III federal judge in the United States of America, to the Honorable José A. Cabranes of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit on September 26, 2023, at the Supreme Court of the United States, the Dwight D. Opperman Foundation announced today.

"Judge José Cabranes is a legend in the law," Justice Kavanaugh said. "He has devoted his career to defending the rule of law, ensuring equal justice, and enhancing American education. He has worked hard to mentor young lawyers and serve others in need. He is a superb judge and extraordinary scholar. As a federal judge for the past 44 years, he has preserved the Constitution and protected individual liberty. He is well known for his brilliance, judgment, and wit."

Justice Kavanaugh added, "With my fellow selection committee members Judge Britt Grant and Judge Christopher Cooper, I am honored to recognize and thank one of America's greatest judges, José Cabranes."

Nominated by the Honorable Debra A. Livingston, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, she said, "Judge Cabranes has been the epitome of what a federal judge ought to be -- a brilliant scholar, a wise jurist, and a generous colleague. He has made extraordinary contributions across multiple fields, each of which has strengthened the federal judiciary immeasurably."

"The breadth and depth of Judge Cabranes' impact on the courts specifically, and our nation generally, is hard to capture," reiterated Julie Opperman, Chairman of the Dwight D. Opperman Foundation. But his contributions on several fronts bear particular emphasis. First, central to Judge Cabranes' career has been his work to broaden the representation of Puerto Ricans, and more generally of the Hispanic community, both on the bench



JUDGE JOSÉ A. CABRANES

and the bar. Second, Judge Cabranes has had a profound impact on higher education through his long-standing role in university governance and his unwavering commitment to academic freedom and free speech on campus.

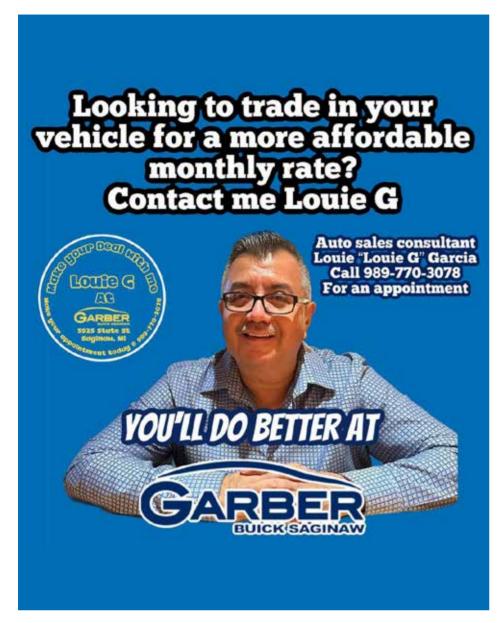
Judge Cabranes has made extraordinary contributions in the areas of national security and international law. His interest in these areas spans decades, dating back to his days earning a Master's in International Law at the University of Cambridge, and his publication of "Citizenship and the American Empire." Further, Judge Cabranes has had an enduring impact on criminal sentencing which has caused practitioners of both the defense and prosecution sides to describe him as the fairest sentencing judge they had ever appeared before.

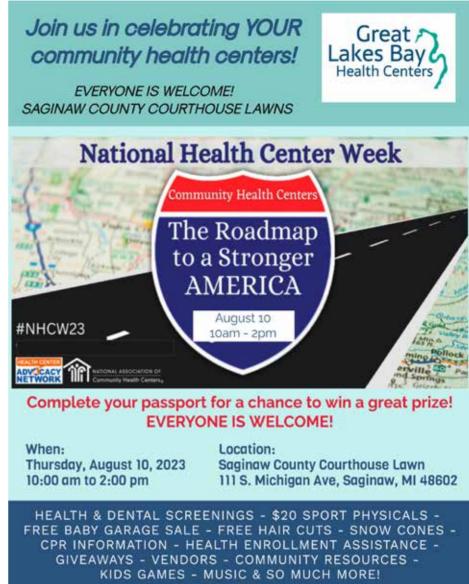
Judge Cabranes' impact on the courts and the law will be felt for decades to come through the many lawyers and judges whom he has mentored. With typical humility, he said, "I am deeply grateful to Justice Kavanaugh and his colleagues on the Devitt Award committee, Circuit Judge Britt Grant and District Judge Christopher Cooper. It is an honor to receive this Award, established by the late Dwight D. Opperman."

Dwight D. Opperman, "The most iconic figure in the American judiciary for half a century," as noted by Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, established the Devitt Award 39 years ago to "Honor the unsung heroes of the American judiciary," as he repeatedly stated. Each year, the Chief Justice welcomes the Devitt Award honoree and 100 invited guests to the Supreme Court of the United States to thank and to celebrate a giant in our nation's judiciary.

Judge Cabranes stated, "The colleagues with whom I have been privileged to serve for more than four decades are models of the judicial craft. In their name, as well as my own, I express gratitude and reaffirm our commitment to the principle that animates our work -- equal justice under law."







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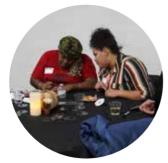


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COURTESY PHOTO

Saginaw Art Museum and Saginaw Intermediate School District team up to bring art to over 26,000 students

The Saginaw Art Museum, in cooperation with the Saginaw Intermediate School District (ISD), will be developing the Arts for All program with a special focus on enriching students' lives through free memberships, youth programming, and field trips to the museum.

Through the initiative, students from all 12 public school districts, five public school academies, and 22 non-public schools in Saginaw County and their accompanying guests will gain admittance to the museum at no cost. When students come to the museum, they will indicate the school and grade they are from and be issued a unique Arts for All Membership Card that will be good for the duration of their K-12 education.

"We are excited to continue to remove barriers to participation in visits to the Saginaw Art Museum. Our vision is

to spark the development of lifelong art lovers. We want to see students grow up with a richer appreciation for the value art brings to the community and beyond. The Saginaw ISD's reach with school districts makes it an ideal partner for helping make this program happen," says Mike Kolleth, President and CEO of the museum.

Saginaw ISD Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Collier adds, "The Saginaw Intermediate School District is consistently looking for ways to add value to the lives of the students, educators, and other stakeholders we serve throughout our community. This collaboration with the Saginaw Art Museum presents an incredible opportunity to introduce and instill a love of art for more than 26,000 students and their families."

Throughout the summer and into the school year, drop-in and more structured art activities will be accessible at the mu-

seum both in the gallery spaces and in the museum's garden.

In addition to the program's membership and art activity portions, the Saginaw Art Museum is looking forward to welcoming field trips back to the museum in the fall with various targeted focus areas, including Social Emotional Learning and English Language Arts.

The Arts for All program is made possible through the generous support of the Dow Company Foundation, The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, The Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, Hemlock Semiconductor, the William F. McNally Family Foundation, the Margaret Jane Stoker Charitable Trust administered by Huntington Bank and the Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation.



+ COMMUNITY

STARS to host job fair featuring programs accessible by STARS routes

After a successful event in June, STARS and several of its community partners will be hosting a job and education fair on Tuesday, August 1st, from 10AM to 3PM at the STARS Plaza (615 Johnson Street). All residents seeking employment or education opportunities are encouraged to stop in and apply.

In addition to STARS hiring, the fair will include Francis Reh Academy, Hemlock Semiconductor, Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, Saginaw County CAC, Saginaw Covenant Academy, Walmart (Brockway location) and Youth Protection Council. Candidates will be invited to fill out job applications on-site and even have possible on-site interviews.

"We are thankful to be welcoming organizations offer employment and educational opportunities along our routes to connect with our riders. There are incredible options out there right now and we are thankful to partner with them to get the word out," said Kim Davis, STARS Deputy Director and Chief Human Resources Officer.





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+ COMMUNITY

City of Saginaw awarded \$38.6 million to assist with pension retirement system

The City of Saginaw has been awarded \$38,678,237 in funding from the State of Michigan Department of Treasury Protecting MI Pension Grant Program. The grant funding will be applied toward the City's underfunded pension retirement system.

The Michigan Department of Treasury appropriated \$750 million to establish the pension principal payment grant program as part of their Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget for qualified municipal retirement systems with a funded ratio below 60%, as defined in the Protecting Local Government Retirement and Benefits Act, Public Act 202 of 2017. The City of Saginaw is currently funded at a 49.1% ratio and submitted a grant request for \$38,678,237 in June 2023 for the Municipal Employees Retirement System. The grant award amount was validated using the City of Saginaw's retirement assets and liabilities



COURTESY PHOTO

as reported in their most recent Retirement System Annual Report (Form 5572) as of December 31, 2021.

Many municipalities throughout the state have been hindered by the need to

fund their pension plans. In recent years, the City has been diligent in contributing a significant portion of its budget to this fund.

City Manager Tim Morales commented on the significance of the grant award, "The impact of growing pension payments has drastically affected the City's ability to provide valuable services to our citizens. The Protecting MI Pension Grant Program will significantly improve the financial stability for the City and provide an overall benefit to our operations. We are very grateful that the State of Michigan has awarded this funding to the City."

For more information concerning the City of Saginaw's governmental accounting and financial reporting, please contact the City Manager's Office at 989-759-1403.

Recognizing the needs of people on the Autism Spectrum and their families

By HILLARY HATCH, SOCIAL **SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST**

Social Security is committed to reducing barriers and ensuring people who are eligible for our benefits receive them. We provide income security for the diverse populations we serve. This includes people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families.

Many parents and caretakers of children with disabilities lose work hours and income because of their children's care Supplemental Security Income (SSI) provides monthly financial support to low-income families with children who have developmental and behavioral disabilities. These include ASD – and physical impairments. For more information on SSI, please visit www.ssa.gov/ssi.

People with ASD may have questions about how ASD affects their employment options. They may also see their ASD as



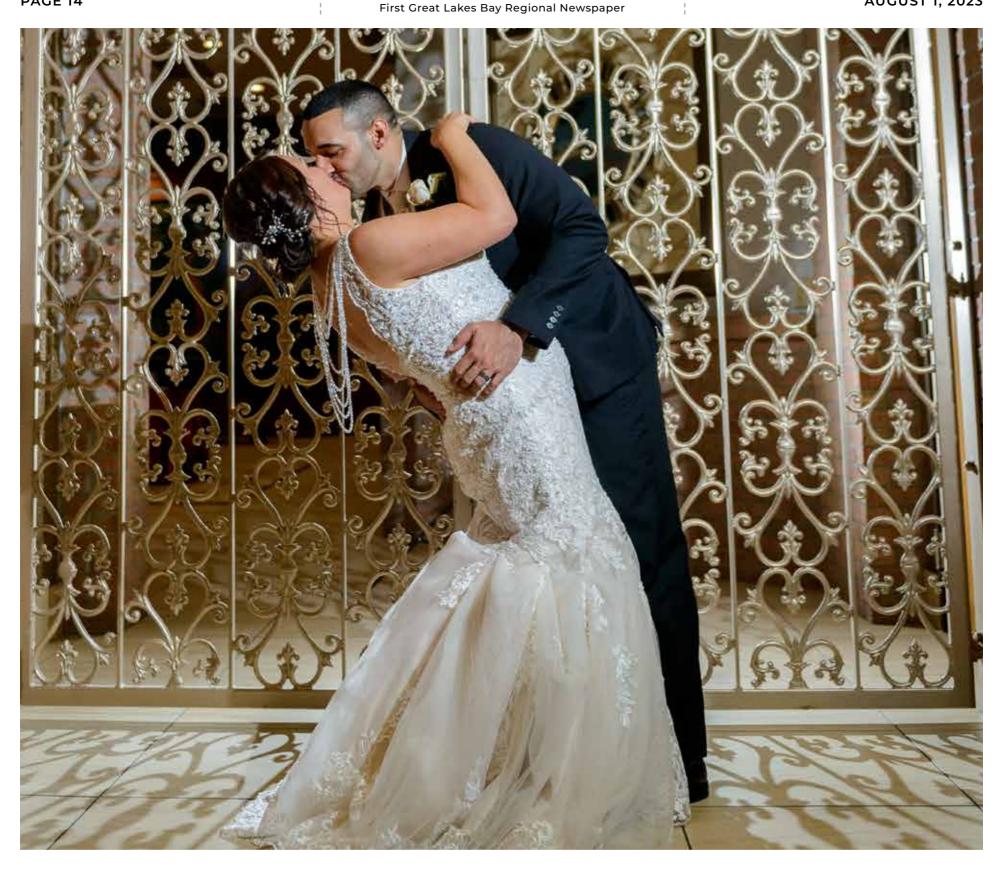
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a barrier to employment. Employers have started to recognize that many people with ASD can bring a variety of skills and strengths to the workplace. Our Ticket to Work (Ticket) Program supports career development for people ages 18 through 64 who receive Social Security and want to work. The Ticket Program helps get vocational rehabilitation, training, job referrals, and other employment support

services. For more information about this program please read www.ssa.gov/pubs/ EN-05-10061.pdf.

We recognize the need to support, understand, accept, include, and empower those on the autism spectrum. Please share this information with friends and family and help us spread the word on social media!



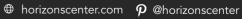


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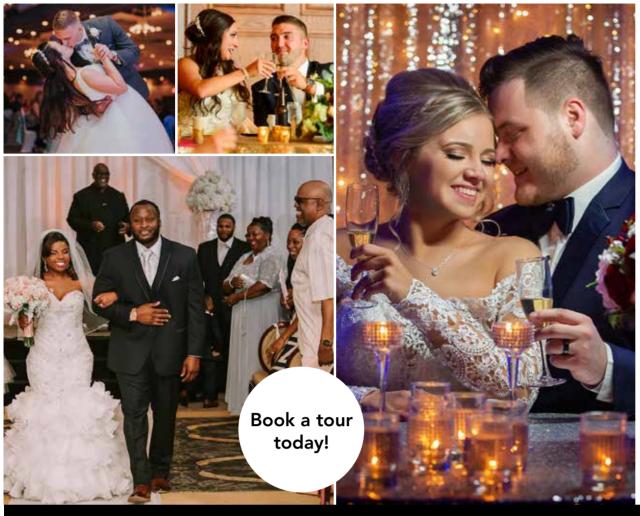


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The elderly should be cherished



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

A few weeks ago, I was introduced to an elderly gentleman regarding some potential business. He is European but has lived in South Africa for fifty years. He is a shrewd businessman and a very good host. I have met with him twice. The first time was with my wife and the friend that introduced us, and the second meeting at his house was just the two of us. We discussed business initially, and then he offered me something to drink and we started talking about our lives. As we were getting to know each other better, Mr. X, as I will call him, confided in me that he was just waiting to die. I thought he was joking at first, but he was dead serious (no pun intended). He is in his early 80s but looks 10 years younger, and I asked him why he felt that way. He said that he had done everything there was to do in life, and I told him that he was still strong, looking good, and God still had work for him to do here. Eventually, during our conversation, he laughed and said maybe God was keeping him to meet me.

This experience reminded me of times with my parents, my aunts, my uncles, and my grandparents, all of whom are deceased for many years, and elderly people in general. My afternoon with Mr. X was so relaxing, educational, and enjoyable that he

even said we could have sat and talked the whole night. My dear father used to say, "getting older is better than the alternative", and I think he is right. The elderly should be cherished in my humble opinion.

Let's take a brief look at aging and how senior citizens have been treated throughout history. Aging results from the impact of the accumulation of a wide variety of molecular and cellular damage over time at a biological level. "This leads to a gradual decrease in physical and mental capacity, a growing risk of disease and ultimately death. These changes are neither linear nor consistent, and they are only

CONTINUES ON PG 17, ELDERLY



+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 16, elderly

loosely associated with a person's age in years" according to the World Health Organization (WHO), "Ageing and health" published 01 October 2022. Beyond the biological changes, life transitions like retirement, relocation to more appropriate accommodation, and the death of loved ones, friends, and peers are often associated with aging.

From a historical perspective, old age has some surprising and often sad facts associated with it. Before the 20th century, life expectancy was usually below 60 years or so, and the type of longevity we are seeing today was never expected. Sociologically speaking, there has always been some ambivalence about old age. It could be regarded as a source of wisdom and prestige, or as a source of suffering and stage of decrepitude. According to an article entitled, "The Role of Senior Citizens Throughout History" by Stannah on 27 September 2017, "In ancient times, the category 'old' was applied not according to age, but to the loss of ability to perform useful tasks." In classical Greek and Roman cultures, beauty and strength were valued above all, and old age was seen as a stage of decline. During the Medieval and Renaissance periods, "Old age was often depicted as a cruel or weak stage of life. They could be 'respected or despised, honored or put to death' depending on the circumstances." In Eastern culture, with the influence of Confucianism, there was more of a collectivist approach with more value given to family, the elderly, and traditional hierarchies of age.

In Africa culture and traditions are held in high esteem and passed down from generation to generation. Respect for an African is profound. It is shown in the way you speak, eat, refer to someone, or respond to questions. Foremost in the area of respect is respect for elders. According to Motivation. Africa in its article, "Respect is from Africa", "It is believed that the very foundation of African culture is based on the past and present, our ancestors and our living elders, thus they are the connection to this foundation and must be accorded the respect due to them." In most cases, the extended family is dominated by the senior generation.

Throughout the centuries, due to many

improvements in healthcare and technology, life expectancy is now approximately 79 years for men and 83 years for women. Unfortunately, the cultural status of seniors has declined in modern Western cultures. The elderly often find themselves displaced due to financial constraints or an inability to live independently. Many are forced to move to retirement communities, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes.

Ageism is discrimination on the grounds of a person's age and is one form of social prejudice that people from all social backgrounds experience. We live in a world where youth is valued over old age and where old people are often mistreated and negatively stereotyped. Major social institutions are largely behind these negative attitudes toward the elderly, particularly the mass media. Western culture is well known for its focus on youth, self-reliance, and individualism.

America is obsessed with youth. Youth and beauty are glorified across all forms of media and we are influenced from a very young age to believe that "new things" are the best and old things are worthless. People are preoccupied with trying to look much younger than they are. Cultural stereotypes often portray the elderly as frail, feeble, financially distressed, and not contributing to society. If society in America continues to move further in the direction of secularism, materialism, and individualism, we can expect to see these negative attitudes and perceptions toward the elderly, and aging in general, continue.

In my life, I have been fortunate to spend quality time with some exceptional elderly people. One of the most notable is Nelson Mandela. I had the rare privilege of being invited to his house in Houghton, Johannesburg while he was serving his country and people as the first Black president of the Republic of South Africa. The invitation was not because of me or anything I did. My girlfriend at the time was a beauty queen and people's favorite in the Miss South Africa beauty pageant, and I was her plus one. Mr. Mandela's presence was larger than life; his energy was palpable and his unique tenor voice was mesmerizing. We enjoyed tea and engaged in conversation with President Mandela for

what seemed like an eternity but was really not more than an hour. I will always cherish those memories and that exceptional statesman and humanitarian, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

Last week, I called Mr. X to check on him and he was in good spirits. He told me that his teenage son (last born) was home from boarding school for a mid-term break and they were enjoying time together. I told him that I was in the process of finishing this article, which was inspired by our meeting and my last visit with him. He was pleasantly surprised and jokingly said, "I hope you didn't say anything bad about me", and I said, "absolutely not, I would never do that". He thanked me for the call. I wished him more good times with his boy and said I would stay in touch.

When it comes to quality time with my parents, I have been doubly blessed. After moving to South Africa in 1995, my father retired from his position as a professor of architecture and joined me a couple of years later. He thoroughly enjoyed his life in his new home and always told me he never intended to go back. And indeed, he did not but went from his African home to his heavenly home in 2010. I was with him all the way and I will cherish those years for the rest of my life. My mother came to South Africa for the funeral and I convinced her to stay with me. We spent unforgettable quality time together for five years, which made up for the broken home that we experienced as mother and child so many years ago before she went peacefully in her sleep in 2015. God is good. "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you." - Exodus 20:12.

I could go on and on about other exceptional elders and relatives, but that is for another day. I remember telling one of my cousins after the passing of a relative, "now we are the elders", and I pray that society, and more importantly my offspring, will cherish me in my old age. I am a young 57, so they have many. many more years to practice, God willing.



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AUGUST 1, 2023

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- Opportunity to welcome and address golfers at
- Opportunity to host a display table at dinner
- Name listed on Saginaw Promise Website

LUNCH AT TURN SPONSOR

\$900

- Foursome with carts
- Sponsor name displayed at "Lunch at the Turn" and recognized at dinner
- Opportunity to host golf activity or display table
- Name listed on Saginaw Promise website

\$650

- Sponsor name on golf carts and listed on the Saginaw Promise website
- **DRIVING RANGE SPONSOR**

\$400

Name displayed at event and announced at dinner

HOLE SPONSORS

\$250

- Sponsor name and or/company logo on hole and listed on the Saginaw Promise
- Recognized at dinner

PRIZE DONATIONS WELCOME

All prize donations will be recognized at the event and listed on the Saginaw Promise website.

Sponsors: Please email your company logo to DSanchez@SaginawPromise.org.

EPS or hi-res JPG preferred.

Player #4

REGISTRATION 8:45 - 9:45 AM • SHOTGUN START 10:00 AM

Four Person Scramble - Includes: 18 Holes with Cart, Driving Range, Hot Dog & Chips at the Turn, Barbecue Buffet Dinner and Awards Presentation

GOLF PER PERSON - \$165

		DCO	NAE .	TEAL	_	\$660

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____ Business: _____ Address: _____ City: ____ State: ____ Zip: ___

Total Amount for **Golfing** Total Amount for Sponsorship

I would like to make a **Donation**

I would like to **Donate a Prize**

Total Amount ENCLOSED

Deadlines

Yes ☐ No Team Name _____ Player #1 _____

Player #2 _____ Player #3

Make Check Payable: Saginaw Community Foundation, 1 Tuscola St. Suite 100, Saginaw, MI 48607 and indicate Saginaw Promise on the Memo Line

*Saginaw Community Foundation is the fiscal agent for Saginaw Promise

For Questions: Please contact Deborah Sanchez at (989) 755-0545 or email DSanchez@SaginawPromise.org

To pay using your charge card, complete this section or telephone Deborah Sanchez (988-755-0545) to process payment.

Charge My: Exp: Card #: Signature: Security Code:

Amount Paying:

Golfers: Sign up before August 10, 2023



Sponsors: Respond by August 9, 2023



HEMLOCK SEMICONDUCTOR EMPLOYEES ATTEND 2022 SAGINAW PROMISE "SWINGING FOR THE PROMISE" GOLF EVENT

MICHIGANBANNER.ORG

Saginaw Promise hosts "Swinging for the Promise" golf event at the Saginaw Country Club in August

Enjoy a great day of golf and fun this summer on a beautiful course! The Saginaw Promise hosts its annual "Swinging for the Promise" golf event, on Thursday, August 17, 2023 at the Saginaw Country Club; shotgun start at 10 AM. "Swinging for the Promise provides a wonderful opportunity to enjoy 18 holes of golf, a lot of fun, while supporting a great cause!", stated Mark Johnston, Golf Event Chairman.

Team registration is \$660 and individual registration is \$165, which includes Four Person Scramble, Driving Range, 18 Holes with Cart,

grilled "Lunch at the Turn", Barbecue Buffet Dinner, Door Prizes, Awards and Trophy Presentation; other event surprises to be announced.

Sponsorships and promotional opportunities are available! To sponsor, register your golf team or for questions, contact Deborah Sanchez at (989)755-0545 or by email at dsanchez@saginawpromise.org.

"Swinging for the Promise" not only provides a great day for golf, but will raise funds to impact Saginaw's future and that of its students through postsecondary education. Saginaw Promise believes in producing economic and community change in Saginaw and affecting the lives of its students by providing the opportunity for and eliminating barriers to postsecondary education. Since 2012, the Saginaw Promise has awarded \$1,182,799 in scholarships to 662 scholars; 2023 marks its twelfth class of Saginaw Promise scholars. To learn more about "Swinging for the Promise", available sponsorships, the Saginaw Promise and its scholarship, visit www.saginawpromise.org.



First Great Lakes Bay Regional Newspaper

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES....



Joyce Barlow "Bay Bay" December 15, 1953 - July 21, 2023



Joyce Evlyn (Murdock) Barlow, affectionately known as "Bay Bay" by her childhood friends and family, transitioned on July 21, 2023, surrounded by her husband Mitchell, her daughters Jaynaya and Bridgett, and her grandchildren Anisa and Julian.

Joyce was born December 15, 1953, in Benton Harbor, MI. She was the only daughter of Julius C. Murdock and Dorothy L. Murdock. As a young girl, she moved to Saginaw, MI, where she attended Houghton Elementary School and Central Junior High. Joyce was a graduate of Saginaw High Class of

1972. She received her bachelor's degree from Saginaw Valley State University and her master's degree in social work from Michigan State University. She was a proud Spartan. Joyce married her devoted husband, Mitchell, in 1978 and raised two beautiful, accomplished daughters together.

Joyce accepted Christ at an early age. She was a lifelong member of Bethel AME Church. She held various positions throughout her many years of membership such as assistant Girl Scout troop leader, security, class leader, and was a member of Stewardess Board #2.

She became a member of the Saginaw Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. on April 1, 1995.

Joyce was an avid fisher. She enjoyed fishing every chance she had. She also enjoyed traveling to the casino, watching movies, playing cards, and traveling. The highlights of her days were talking to and spending time with her best friend Cheryl Short, who was by her side loving and supporting her to the very end.

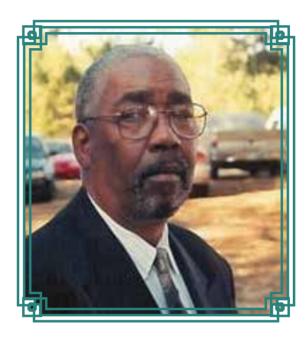
Joyce was a hard worker and had a strong maternal instinct at a very early age. Joyce loved loving on people. Throughout the years she touched so many lives. She was a giver and constantly gave of herself, her time, and resources. She truly enhanced the lives of all those who met her.

She worked at American Cleaners and later began her career with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services where she met Mitchell. She began as a secretary and later held various supervisory positions within the Child Welfare System in the Foster Care and Children's Protective Services Units in Saginaw and Flint. She retired in 2009 after over 30 years of service.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her husband Mitchell, daughters Jaynaya and Bridgett; grandchildren, Anisa and Julian; brother, Julius C. Murdock Jr.; sisters-in-law Belinda Barlow-Poole and Marilyn Murdock; her best friend, Cheryl Short; special niece, Quinrissa Murdock and her life partner David Goode; special cousins, James (Buddy) Murdock, Ricky Murdock, Jerome Buckley, and Laura (Anne) Valentine; many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and sorority sisters.

Joyce was preceded in death by her parents Julius C. and Dorothy L. Murdock; brothers, William, Frederick (Marilyn), Jerome, James (Patricia) Murdock, and her grandparents, Verna Ford and Leon Haynes.

Mr. Samuel Arthur Buckley November 3, 1948 - July 16, 2023



Mr. Samuel Arthur Buckley passed away on July 16, 2023. He was born on November 3, 1948 in Jackson, Mississippi the son of Rev. Marcus B. and Myrtis Buckley.

Samuel was raised in Saginaw, Michigan where he attended Saginaw High School and proudly graduated with the "Class of 1967". After completing his education, he embarked on a successful career at Saginaw Steering Gear Div. General Motors Corp., and was a member of UAW Local 699 dedicating three decades of his life to the com-

pany. His commitment and hard work led to a fulfilling career, he retired in 1996 leaving behind a legacy of hard work and dedication.

Mr. Buckley's faith played an essential role in his life. He was a devoted member of United Missionary Baptist Church where he served as a faithful deacon under the leadership of Pastor Ernest Brown. His spiritual journey brought him peace, strength and a sense of community. He enjoyed watching TV, especially sports; basketball and football being his favorites.

Samuel exchanged vows with Angelisa (Harvey) Stewart. Their union was blessed with two children, Marcus Damone and Dionne Buckley. He was preceded in death by his beloved daughter who now rests in eternal peace.

Mr. Samuel Arthur Buckley leaves to cherish his memory one son, Marcus Damon Buckley; three grandsons, Domonique Moultrie, Demetrius Ford and Martez Buckley; one granddaughter, Danielle Ford; two great-grandsons, Bryson Buckley and Mackiah Price; one brother, George (Joann) Buckley, Jackson, MS; three sisters, Dorothy Buckley, Jackson, MS, Celestine Buckley and Sarah Jarrett, both of Saginaw, MI; special nephew, Lawrence Buckley; longtime special friend, Shirley Robertson; many other nephews, nieces, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Samuel was also preceded in death by his parents, Rev. Marcus B. and Myrtis Buckley; a sister and brother-in-law, Vonnie and Coy Gentry; one grandson, Marcus Devon Buckley.

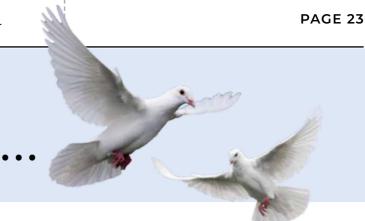
The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all those who have expressed their love, support and prayers during this difficult time. Special thanks to Covenant HealthCare-Cooper and Harrison ICU's and Dr. Chaku. A heartwarming thanks to family members who took part in caretaking for Samuel: Sarah Jarrett, Lawrence Buckley, Khatrita Santos and Celestine Buckley.

As we gather to bid farewell to Samuel Arthur Buckley, let us remember the love, strength and resilience he embodied. His legacy will forever inspire us to cherish our loved ones and embrace the bonds of family and friendship. embrace the bonds of family and friendship.



First Great Lakes Bay Regional Newspaper

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES....



Mother Geraldine Anderson July 19, 1914 - July 19, 2023



Geraldine Anderson was affectionately known as "Mother Anderson and Aunt Geraldine." One hundred and nine years of earthly life are now completed with the words of God, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." Eternity began on July 19, 2023.

Born July 19, 1914, in Kansas City, Kansas, and raised there until her late 20's, Geraldine's childhood dream was to become a nun. At age 14, she gave her life to the Lord and began her journey of devotion to help young women live a life of holiness for the Lord. She spent her entire

life serving the Lord as a devoted member and a servant to the Church of God in Christ ministries. She moved to Saginaw in 1941; and became a founding member of the Harris Temple Church of God in Christ in Vassar, Michigan. Later, a church was constructed at 1800 Farwell St. (12th & Farwell) Saginaw, Michigan, and was led under the direction of Mable and Willie T. Harris. She enjoyed her service to the Lord through her associations with other affiliated church ministries.

Mother Anderson spent several years of employment in various industries. She was a dietician at St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw, a well-known in-home hairdresser, a laborer for General Motors Grey Iron Plant and a production worker for Vlasic Pickle Manufacturing.

She is known as the "poster child" of the Northeast Michigan Jurisdiction as she was born in the same year the Church of God in Christ was established. Her prominence as an outstanding leader, spiritual teacher and wise counselor gave her the stature of a virtuous woman.

Mother Anderson received many certificates of recognition and appointments including but not limited to:

- Certificate of Recognition State Recording Secretary of the YWCC -1966, 1977
- Certificate of Recognition State President of the YWCC Upper District- 1975-1976
- Certificate of Recognition Assistant District Missionary to Peace District- 1978-1999
- Certificate of Recognition District Missionary Women's Dept. of Northeast Michigan 1984-2014
- Certificate of Appointment Women's Department of Northeast Michigan Member of Executive Board 1997-2000
- Certificate of Appointment Women's Department of Northeast Michigan Assistant Chairperson 1997-2013
- Certificate of Appointment Northeast Jurisdiction of the State of Michigan Prayer Intercessors 1997-2001

- Certificate of Appointment Northeast Michigan Jurisdiction Department of Women - Vice-Chairperson, 1998
- Certificate of Appointment Northeast Jurisdiction of the State of Michigan Office of Mission Board - 2008
- Certificate of Appointment Peace District District Missionary of the Women's Dept. of the Northeast District- 1997- 2013
- Certificate of Appreciation Northeast Michigan (Historic First)
 Jurisdiction Women's Department 2015
- Certificate of Appointment Honorary Assistant Supervisor -Missions Board 2015
- Certificate of Appointment Honorary Supervisor Northeast District
 2013 2019

Mother Anderson never met a person or a good time she didn't like. Picnics, cookouts, dining out, fishing, and playing with children were all fun activities. She loved to travel to conventions, spend time with the saints, and riding to just about any place she could get a good cup of coffee, a Honeybun and some candy. She enjoyed joking expressions and sharing unforgettable bits of wisdom that we all will remember forever.

Aunt Geraldine was married to Eddie Morgan until his death in 1965. She later married Reverend James Anderson in 1975 until his death in 1983. She will be remembered as a spirit-filled servant, a powerful singer and a godly woman.

Highly respected and favored in her many roles of life, Mother Anderson is one of only 30 women who have been nationally recognized by the national body of the Church of God in Christ. She was a soloist like no other. No venue was too large for her microphone-less voice. She could project a sound that was carried on the wings of angels from one corner of a room to the other. She sang unto the Lord; and you felt her conviction to HIM.

Mother Anderson never gave herself any credit for even the smallest thought. She would simply say, "This is what the Lord put on my mind." There could never be any doubt that she lived by her faith in the Lord to provide her every need. From thought to the promise of Glory, it was all done by the Lord.

She leaves behind stepdaughters, Darlene and JoAnn Anderson; grand-daughter, Michelle Breamsy, goddaughter, Geraldine Walker; many nieces and nephews; many, many generations of loved ones and friends. She will be remembered as "Mother Morgan," "Mother Anderson," "Aunt Gerl," "Grandma," and "friend," but most of all...God's saint.

Geraldine Anderson was preceded in death by her parents, Esther Hill and Jerry Barnes; brothers, Leon, Carl, Robert, Calvin and Sterling; sisters,

Hattie, Deloris, Velma and Barbara; adopted daughter, Jacqueline Reshard; and husbands, Eddie Morgan and Reverend James Anderson.

Each of us shall remember her during her lifespan of seven generations and seasons in which she touched our individual lives. She had already lived a lifetime before many of us ever met her. Yet, God granted her the resilience and mindset to move in the lives of each new generation. We will be forever grateful for the memories shared over the lifetime she selflessly and thankfully shared with us.

God loaned unto us this precious saint. Only to GOD be the glory!















Everyone you meet shifts your life at least One DEGREE



We look forward to seeing you September 19, 2023 5:30-7:00 pm

CMURC 2nd Floor SVRC Marketplace 203 S Washington Ave. Saginaw, MI 48607

For more information www.duperoneducation.com

The One Degree Club is for people who want to make a difference. We are up to something...

we connect we inspire we champion each other ... on our journey towards our dreams.















+ FAITH BASED





MINISTRY WITHOUT WALLS - 3783 MANNION RD, SAGINAW, MI 48603

Join us at Ministry Without Walls

By PASTOR JOHN DUNN

MINISTRY WITHOUT WALLS

Ministry Without Walls recently returned to our building at 3783 Mannion Road with a new vision. The last couple of years, the direction of the world, and the pandemic starting with Covid have all certainly become eye openers. After seeking God for His direction and His will, we are expanding our vision. Today, we clearly understand that the Church is our community.

The assignment that God has given to us is to "Break Down Walls", bringing both spiritual and those who work in the community together.

Our vision is for Ministry Without Walls to be:

- A place where the Spirit, Soul and Body becomes whole
- A place where resources are available to those in need
- A place where church, volunteers

and community professionals work together to accomplish the will of God.

- A place where love flows, and judgement is absent
- · A place where privacy is protected
- A place where safety is a priority
- A place where the whole person is important

Our ongoing teaching and seminars will include:

- Outreach
- Growing Spiritually
- Mental Health
- Healthy Living
- Finding Purpose
- Money Matters
- Entrepreneurship
- Boys to Men
- Women of Wisdom
- Discipleship

We understand that the mission field is not a country far away. It is around the corner, down the street, in our community. We also know that the vision given to us will not be easy to accomplish. We know that we can not do it alone. It will take a "village".

We are committing our resources, time, talents, people, and our connections to tear down the "walls of the church".

If our vision is connecting with you on some level and it appeals to you and sounds like something you might want to be a part of, we invite you to join us at 11:00 on Sundays to meet us personally so we can answer any questions you might have.

God bless You, come experience for yourself, Join us!!

Pastor, John Dunn Ministry Without Walls 3783 Mannion Road Saginaw, MI 48603



+ FAITH BASED



ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

721 Johnson St., Saginaw, Michigan 48607 **CELEBRATES ITS**

ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY

Theme: "The Power of Women Praying and Praising God through Adversity"

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 1:26; 2 Samuel 22:33; Psalm 34:1

Sunday, August 27, 2023 Sunday Church School: 9:00 A.M. Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 A.M.



Phone: (989) 754-9621 Website: www.zmbc-Saginaw.org





Sis. Rhonda Farrell-Butler Women's Day Program Chairperson



Sis. Lillian Jones-Thomas, Ed.D. Skipworth/Murphy Circle **President**



MICHIGAN BANNER SERMONETTE SERIES



By MINISTER CAROLYN CARTER TOWNSEL

One of the most difficult parts of the Christian life is the fact that becoming a disciple of Christ does not make us immune to life's trials and tribulations. In being witnessed to regarding Christ, I was distinctively told, "You will not have to worry about troubles or problems." Therefore, when I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, I rejoiced all that day and night – Hallelujah, Thank You Jesus, Amen, because I knew I would not have any more heartaches or pain. But to my surprise and dismay on the very next day - All hell broke loose!

Being a babe in Christ, I thought I was exempt from all trials and tribulations. I was a prime example of a spiritual babe drinking spiritual milk. However, I began to study the Word, and as time progressed, I read 1 Peter 1:6-7 and he states, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptation. That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory

+ FAITH BASED

Why Trials and Tribulations

"And not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character: and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us"

Romans 5:3-5 (NIV)

at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (KJV). These verses indicate that the process is comprised with the use of gold that is tried by fire. The analogy that I once read is liken unto smelting. Smelting is when a miner would take an ore (rock that contains a precious metal) and heat it. The extreme heat causes the gold to melt and that which is not gold (dross) would rise to the surface and scraped off. Comparing this process to us as believers it is crystal clear that our trials and tribulations has a twofold result. First, the focus of the trials process is not only to get rid of the bad stuff in us, but to expose the spiritual gold that is within us - that God has already worked into us. Second, the trial's process is not about changing us into something we are not – but about revealing what we already are. It is imperative that we grasp and understand this process, because if we do not, we can easily view our trials and tribulations as a method of battering and punishment(s).

Apostle Paul verifies these trials de-

velop godly character, "And not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character: and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us" (Romans 5:3-5 NIV).

Although, it is inevitable that we will have trials and tribulations, it is Peter who solidifies we will be put on display as confirmation to the reality of the work God has done and is still doing in us, and at the end of the day, we will find ourselves able to rejoice in the midst of our various trials and tribulations. Oh! by the way, those that told me, "You will not have to worry about troubles or problems" were right, not because I do not have them, but because I give them to Jesus, and guess what... I am still saying – Hallelujah, Thank You Jesus, Amen

Blessings To All...



MICHIGAN BANNER

First Great Lakes Bay Regional Newspaper

= + CHURCH DIRECTORY





Rev. Dennis Laffoon 535 Cathay St.

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



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





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





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





Holy Communion Gospel Center

Pastor Charlene Washington 1245 E. Genesee Saginaw, MI 48607 989-752-3993





Jacob's Ladder

Bishop Dempsey Allen 1926 Fairfield Street Saginaw, MI 48602 989-799-6601



Life in Christ Ministries

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



Messiah Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Otis Washington 2615 Williamson Road Saginaw, MI 48601 989-777-2636 Fax: 989-777-2640 messiahmbc@att.net messiahsag.org



Ministry Without Walls

Pastor, John Dunn 3783 Mannion Road Saginaw, MI 48603



Mt. Olive Baptist Church

Pastor Marvin T. Smith 1114 N. 6th Street Saginaw, MI 48601 989-752-8064





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



Prince of Peace Baptist Church

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



Radiant Church of God

Pastor Adolfo & Erlinda Martinez 708 W Genesee Ave. Saginaw, MI 48602 989-401-2134 www.radiantchurchofgod.org



Resurrection Life Ministries Full Gospel Baptist Church

Pastor Carolyn L. Wilkins 2320 Sheridan Avenue Saginaw, MI 48601 989-395-3142





Saint Paul Baptist Church

Rev, Dr., Vincent D. McMillon 120 North 15 St. Saginaw, Ml. 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



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Transforming Life MinistriesPastor 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



6

United Missionary Baptist Church

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



Victorious Belivers Ministries Church

Pastor Chris V. Pryor 624 S. Outer Dr. Saginaw, MI 989-755-7692





World Outreach Campus of Greater Coleman Temple Ministries

Supt. H.J. Coleman Jr. 2405 Bay Rd. Saginaw, MI 48602 989-752-7957





Zion Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Rodrick Smith 721 Johnson Saginaw, MI 48607 989-754-9621



= + FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES =

Business Community: Givers or Takers

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Right now, for the most part, businesses sit in the judgement seat making decisions about which nonprofits they will support and why. Organizations and institutions come before business leaders and committees seeking financial support. These nonprofits commit a lot of time to developing presentations and grant applications that make the case for why they are "worthy" of investment. Most don't get funded, and they end up feeling as if they are at the mercy of businesses for their survival.

Nonprofits can change this dynamic by changing the narrative, and communicating which businesses are providing support, and which are not. They can be loud in saying who benefits from their community without giving back. They can highlight the businesses who are part of the solution and make clear who is taking but not giving, especially in "minority" communities.

In the not-so-distant past it was Black churches and organizing groups who raised

the clarion cry. They let it be known who was benefitting from Black consumers and not giving back. Activists called out businesses who were seen as "takers" and at the same time identified those who were committed to the neighborhoods they operated in. They highlighted the disparities in services across a community and across racial and economic lines. The past few years have seen a resurgence in public anger at the lack of investment in primarily Black and Hispanic neighborhoods. For the most part philanthropy has been called to task, and many foundations have responded. Many large, national corporations with departments committed to grant making and community engagement also responded. Most did so publicly. They wanted consumers and residents to know they were putting money into disenfranchised and underinvested communities and organizations. They did not want to be "called out" for being part of the problem.

Now it is time for those of us in leadership in local and regional businesses to respond, if we haven't already done so. We need to answer questions before they are asked. For example, how are you giving back? And

how are you giving to Black-led and Blackserving nonprofits? How are you saying thank you for the work nonprofits do to help sustain the communities where you operate? Do your staff and management serve on boards and local advisory councils? Are employees encouraged to volunteer as a group or as individuals? Are you providing pre-employment training through local nonprofits and committing to hire locally? Are you making consistent annual gifts or grants, and extra gifts to special campaigns? What about sponsoring or underwriting event expenses? Are you providing loaned employees for both shortterm and long-term support in the areas of communications and marketing, human resources, budgeting, emergency planning, and more?

We need to proactively become part of the solution before we are called out by those who knock on our doors and don't receive a response. You may not think you are part of the problem, but others may - and they just may be your customers, employees, competitors, or your board members.



Copyright 2022 - Mel and Pearl Shaw

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



+ HEALTH

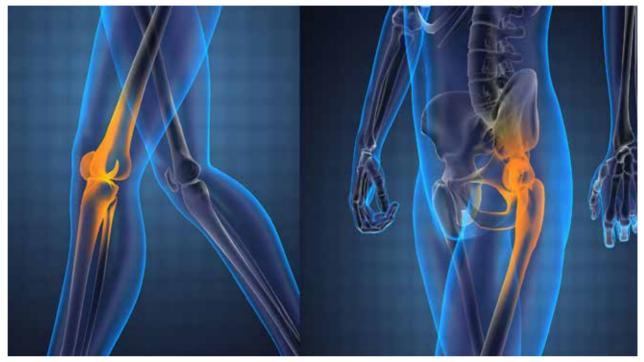
Ascension St. Mary's Hospital awarded dual certifications from The Joint Commission in advanced total hip and knee replacement and hip fracture

Ascension St. Mary's Hospital has earned The Joint Commission Gold Seal of Approval for certification in Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement and Hip Fracture by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards. The Gold Seal is a symbol of quality that reflects a healthcare organization's commitment to providing safe and quality patient care. Ascension St. Mary's Hospital is the only facility in Michigan with the dual certifications in advanced total hip and knee replacement as well as hip fracture repair.

Ascension St. Mary's Hospital underwent two separate surveys in May 2023. During the three-day evaluation process, a highly experienced Joint Commission reviewer evaluated patient outcomes and compliance with the specific standards for total hip and knee replacement as well as hip fracture repair. The reviewer also conducted onsite observations and interviews.

The certification in advanced total hip and knee replacement, offered in collaboration with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, focuses on the pre-surgical orthopedic consultation, complexity of cases, hospitalization, rehabilitation activities and follow-up visits with the orthopedic surgeon. Ascension St. Mary's Hospital hip fracture certification recognizes its focus on providing optimal care for individuals requiring hip fracture repair including patient education, and preparing patients and their caregivers for discharge.

"Achieving certification from The Joint Commission for our work with patients undergoing hip fracture as well as total hip and knee replacements is a reflection of our team's expertise, dedication and commitment to high quality care," said Tarek Taha, MD, PhD, Medical Director of Orthopedics, Ascension St. Mary's Hospital, and fellowship trained orthopedic trauma and total joint surgeon. "At Ascension St.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mary's Hospital, we have strived to create a high achieving orthopedic program, and these two distinctions demonstrate that this is a truly exceptional medical facility for patients to receive specialized orthopedic care that is personalized based on their needs."

"I am incredibly proud of the exceptional work our orthopedic team has accomplished to achieve these certifications," said Stephanie Duggan, MD, FACEP, FAAPL, CPE, President & CEO, North Region, Ascension Michigan. "Recognition at this level reinforces that Ascension St. Mary's Hospital is providing safe, high quality care to our patients. The orthopedic team of highly trained physicians, nurses, clinical staff and therapists are committed to carry out our Mission of providing compassionate care to the people we are privileged to

The Joint Commission is an independent regulatory organization that sets standards for

healthcare programs in the United States through core and advanced disease-specific certifications. These certifications are benchmarks for excellence in patient care and surgical outcomes.

"Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement Certification recognizes health-care organizations committed to fostering continuous improvement in patient safety and quality of care," says Deborah Ryan, MS, RN, interim executive vice president, Accreditation and Certification Operations, The Joint Commission. "We commend Ascension St. Mary's Hospital for using certification to reduce variation in its clinical processes and to strengthen its program structure and management framework for orthopedic patients."





+ HEALTH

Medicaid beneficiaries will continue to have an extra month to submit eligibility renewal paperwork

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced today that Medicaid beneficiaries with upcoming deadlines for returning renewal forms will have an extra month to submit paperwork to avoid loss of health care coverage due to not responding. This timeline will continue monthly going forward through May 2024 and does include individuals with a Monday, July 31 deadline.

"MDHHS is taking proactive steps to ensure that Medicaid recipients have as much time as possible to submit their renewal paperwork," said MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel. "Our goal is to preserve health benefits for all qualifying residents and will continue to use every option available to achieve that outcome."

Today's action is the latest effort by MDHHS to preserve Medicaid and Healthy Michigan Plan eligibility for residents as requirements for annual renewals have resumed following the COVID-19 pandemic. MDHHS will work with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to delay procedural terminations for future months to ensure beneficiaries have adequate time to complete and submit renewal paperwork.

Previously, the department gave Medicaid beneficiaries who had been asked to return forms by June 30 another month, with a new deadline of Monday, July 31 before they would be disqualified for not responding. That approach was successful with approximately 15,000 additional renewals in July and, as a result, MDHHS decided to apply that strategy going forward to this first year of eligibility renewals after the pandemic.

Additional MDHHS efforts to help

Michiganders keep their coverage are possible as a result of the CMS approving new flexibilities and strategies to state officials to lessen the impact of the resumption of Medicaid renewals.

MDHHS advises families to return any renewal paperwork they receive from the department even if they believe they are no longer eligible for Medicaid. Some members of a household can obtain health care coverage even when others are not eligible. For example, a child may be eligible for MiChild, even if their parent is not eligible for other Medicaid programs. Or some Michiganders may have income that is over the income limit for one program and will still be able to obtain health care benefits through another program.



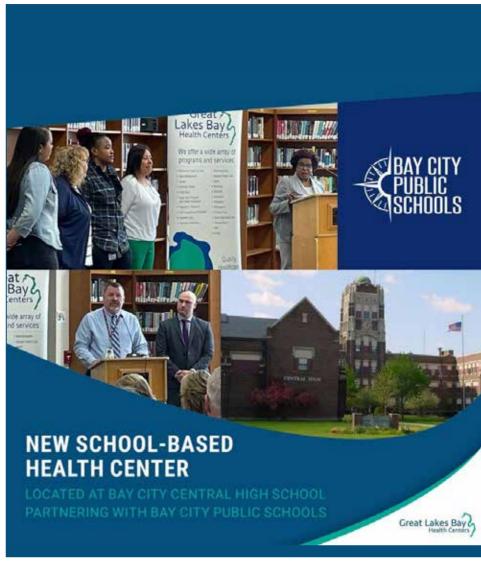




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= + EDUCATION ==

SVSU receives grant to help SVSU Midland County students launch businesses

Starting a business can be an exciting — but often daunting — undertaking. With a generous grant from the Midland Area Community Foundation, Saginaw Valley State University is positioned to help four Midland County SVSU students launch businesses in the next year. The SVSU Student Entrepreneurs project will provide vital resources and tailored support to help students successfully establish their startups.

"Thanks to the \$40,000 grant from the Midland Area Community Foundation, we will provide seed funding, tailored support, and infrastructure to help four SVSU student entrepreneurs launch their businesses in Midland County. This support enables our student entrepreneurs to navigate Michigan's diverse business environment, foster innovation, and shape a brighter future for all," said Mohamed Adel, associate director of the Dow Entrepreneurship Institute at SVSU.

Through the Student Entrepreneurs, operated as part of the Dow Entrepreneur Institute within SVSU's Carmona College of Business, students will find assistance with a variety of business startup challenges, including:

- · Identifying a business problem
- Developing a prototype solution
- Identifying angel clients
- Preparing the resources needed to continue creating the startup

The SVSU Student Entrepreneurs project will coordinate resources and provide labs for students to work on their projects, regardless of their field of study.

Unlike startup competitions that reward just one individual or entity, the Student Entrepreneurs project will offer the same resources to each of the student businesses with the aim of positioning them all to succeed.

Each student entrepreneur can earn up to \$10,000 based on the documented achievement of five specific milestones:

- 1. Building the business model canvas (BMC) and incorporating the business. This includes the value proposition, customer components block, resources components block, revenue structure and cost structure. Funding earned: \$1,500.
- 2. Validating the product/service. The purpose is to work on developing detailed blueprints of the product/service they want to offer and building a clear cost structure for the product/service. Funding earned: \$5,000.
- 3. Building the marketing plan. This includes delivering a detailed marketing plan that includes situational analysis, target marketing, positioning, competitive analysis, marketing mix, and control measures. Funding earned: \$2,000.
- 4. Building the financial model. This includes 3-5 year financial projections, assumptions, sensitivity analysis, and valuation. Funding earned: \$1,000.
- 5. Building the business plan. To raise funds from investors, students will build a business plan that includes a detailed description of the company, industry analysis, market analysis, marketing and sales strategy, operations plan, financial plan, and the company's management structure and staffing needs. Funding earned: \$500. Adel explained that the project's broader purpose is to help strengthen the local economy.

"Entrepreneurial activity is a vital indicator of economic strength. Small businesses create jobs and opportunities for all citizens and improve the overall qual-

ity of life," Adel said. "Entrepreneurs play a crucial role in helping the Great Lakes Bay Region navigate a shifting and often uncertain economy. It is essential to assist college student entrepreneurs who are just starting their careers. College campuses are ideal environments for entrepreneurism as they provide resources, collaborative opportunities, and a platform for incubating and developing innovative ideas."

SVSU's Student Entrepreneurs is modeled on a program at Ohio University's Innovation Center that supported 249 jobs generating an estimated \$18 million in employee compensation and \$49.7 million in economic output in Athens County in 2021. Over the last seven years, the business incubator's job creation numbers have increased 78%, and employee compensation generated from its client companies is up 211%"

For SVSU, a conservative projection is that 10 student businesses (the total project scope) will create 200 jobs over five years and generate \$10 million in economic activity over the same period. Entrepreneurial success or failure is difficult to predict, but it is also true that communities that prioritize strategic investments in start-up businesses tend to enjoy higher rates of growth.

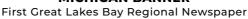
Student entrepreneurs are now being recruited for the program. SVSU students from Midland County who are interested in participating can find more information or apply for the program here:

https://svsu.infoready4.com/#compet itionDetail/1910377.

The Midland Area Community Foundation exists to cultivate the power of giving within our community, support long-term transformation, and help ensure all residents thrive.

The project aligns with the Midland Area Community Foundation's Building Our Livelihood focus area.







SPSD ORIENTATIONS

HANDLEY*, ARTHUR EDDY, HERIG, KEMPTON, LOOMIS, MERRILL PARK, CHESTER MILLER, ROUSE, STONE, ZILWAUKEE

- Thursday, August 17 (10AM or 3PM)
- Thursday, August 24 (6PM)

*HANLDLEY'S ORIENTATION HELD AT OLD BUILDING-224 N ELM ST.

- Wednesday, August 16 (4:30-5:30PM)
- Thursday, August 17 (12-1:30PM)

BEING HELD AT THOMPSON MIDDLE DUE TO CONSTRUCTION

- 10th-12th Gr: Tuesday, August 15 (10AM)
- 9th Gr: Tuesday, August 15 (5PM)
- Make-Up: Thursday, August 17 (5pm)

- - Tuesday, August 22 (10AM)

INAW ARTS & SCIENCES ACADEMY

- Returning Student-Monday, August 21 (5PM)
- Returning Student-Tuesday, August 22 (5PM)
- 6th Grade Ice Breaker-Wednesday, August 23 (5pm)
- New Students/Make Up-Wednesday, August 23 (6:30 PM)

- Wednesday, August 16 (10AM or 4PM)
- Thursday, August 17 (10AM or 4PM)

SAGINAW CAREER COMPLEX

Wednesday, August 23 (4-5 PM OR 6-7PM)

SURVIVING BUILDING RESILIENCE IN A CHALLENGING WORLD BY DR. RAMONT M. ROBERTS SUPERINTENDENT OF SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Ramont Roberts is the Superintendent of Saginaw Public Schools in Saginaw, Michigan. He prides himself on being an urban educational leader. Dr. Roberts is committed to the continued quest of finding ways to help others live a life of purpose.

This book offers a comprehensive exploration of the factors that influence resilience. Resilience is defined as the ability to withstand adversity and bounce back from difficult life experiences. By examining these influential factors, the book aims to provide valuable insight and actionable strategies to replicate and promote resilience.

Individuals interested in understanding and supporting the resilience of urban, at-risk, high-achieving students would benefit from buying this book. By examining factors in both the home and school environments, the book offers valuable insights that practitioners, policy makers, and parents can utilize to replicate successful strategies and create an environment that fosters and sustains resilience in these students.









By CRAIG DOUGLAS RETIRED EDUCATOR

As the start of the 2023-24 school year approaches, many news reports cover "back to school." In this essay I want to focus upon getting ready to go off to college.

Many times the focus is on the dorm room. Looking for sheets and pillows. Microwaves and flat screens. All of these and other accommodations are important (and predictable) topics. I wanted to go deeper, so I dug into the Internet.

There are many great suggestions I found on the web. Here are three I particularly liked.

1. Get check-ups done.

What better time to get an annual physical? It is a good time to make sure all vaccinations are updated. It is also an opportunity to see the dentist and eye doctor, too, while the student is at home and likely covered by parents' insurances.

2. Track down important documents.

Students may be asked to show social security or other documents at some point. An inquiry at Orientation may help guide what could be asked by the university or potential local employers. For any study-abroad programming, an updated passport is essential.

3. Your phone may need to be updated.

Great tip here.....again, at orientation, students may want to inquire about what cell

phone attributes are required for various Aps the university uses for communications. Students may need to establish a "university" email, as well, for communications.

There are many more tips beyond these, especially on preparing to make the move to campus and, of course, for setting up the dorm room.

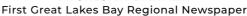
Best wishes to all back-to-campus students who are a few days or weeks away from starting a new and exciting journey.

Resources:

https://people.com/heading-back-to-college-tips-pros-want-you-to-know-7564955

https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2019/p0808-nine-health-hacks-for-school.html







COURTESY PHOTO

SPONSORED CONTENT

Despite staffing challenges, Saginaw Intermediate School District's Early Childhood Department continues to provide students and families across the Great Lakes Bay Region with a variety of resources!

Despite staffing challenges, Saginaw Intermediate School District's Early Childhood Department continues to provide students and families across the Great Lakes Bay Region with a variety of resources!

The Saginaw ISD Early Childhood Services Department provides an array of resources for children and families throughout Saginaw County including home visits, preschool programming, and community support. Programs are designed to strengthen families by providing high-quality learning environments and support for their children while sharing access to essential family resources. Our programs include the following:

- Birth-5
- Early On
- Great Start Collaborative
- Great Start Readiness Program
- Great Start to Quality Eastern Resource Center
- Healthy Families America

- Head Start/Early Head Start
- Michigan Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Program (MI-APPP)
- Michigan Tri Share Child Care Program

Our largest programs encompass our preschool programming. The Early Head Start (EHS) program serves 156 students

CONTINUES ON PG 37, SISD



+ EDUCATION

Continued from pg 36, SISD

in 6 classrooms and several homes while our Head Start (HS) program serves 859 students in 51 classrooms and 17 sites. Our Great Start to Readiness Program (GSRP) serves over 1,100 students across Saginaw county in local school districts, community based organizations and charter schools. These programs are essential to providing our youngest, most vulnerable learners the experiences they need to build a firm foundation for future academic success. It's impossible to do this alone and we value our partners at the local, state and federal level helping us in our pursuit for funding, support and legislative advocacy for high quality services.

Despite staffing challenges, SISD continues to keep the provision of these services at the forefront of what we do. These challenges are not prevalent just in our county, but across the state of Michigan. Research shows that the early foundational years of a child's life are of the greatest importance due to (but not limited to) the following:

- There are 700 to 1,000 new neural connections forming every second in a child's brain,
- Genetics in addition to life experiences help shape the developing brain,
- The foundation is key for future cognitive abilities, and
- Vocabulary at age 3 can predict 3rd grade reading achievement.

Implementation of high quality programs depends on a quality workforce. Providers locally and across the state know all too well the challenges we have and continue to experience being able to recruit and retain highly qualified staff. We are in need of individuals with a passion to provide much needed services to our students and families across Saginaw County. We encourage you to review the Saginaw ISD current preschool openings at www.sisd.cc and select "Join Our Team!" at the top right corner of the

page to see all of our openings for the following positions:

- Head Start Lead Teacher
- · Head Start Associate Teacher
- Program Service Aide
- Home Visitor
- Early Head Start Lead Teacher
- Family Service Advocate
- Program Support Secretary

The credentials required for these positions range from a high school diploma to advanced degrees and certifications. Below you will find a list of our sites as well as our partner sites providing EHS, HS and GSRP services. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Ericka Taylor at (989) 399-7423 or by email at etaylor@sisd.cc. Please, join our team in providing much needed services to the children and families within Saginaw County!

Early Head Start/Head Start Locations

- Adams Avenue
- Arrowwood Elementary
- Birch Run (North Elementary)
- Birch Run Annex
- Brucker
- Brunkow
- Building Blocks Child Care & Preschool Center
- Chesaning
- Claytor
- Hemmeter
- Jerome
- Kinder Kare Center
- Merrill
- Murphy Farm
- Saginaw Career Complex
- St. Peter & Paul
- Valley

Great Start to Readiness Program Locations

- Birch Run Area Preschool
- Bridgeport-Spaulding Preschool
- Building Blocks Childcare & Preschool Center
- Carrollton Early Childhood Center
- Chesaning Union Schools Latchkey and Preschool
- EduPlay Discovery Center
- Francis Reh Public School Academy
- Hemlock Child Development Programs
- Merrill Community Child Development Center
- Michigan Child Care Centers, Inc.
- Roaring Lions Learning Center
- Saginaw Preparatory Academy
- Saginaw Public Schools
 - Arthur Eddy Academy
 - Henry Doerr Early Childhood
 - Herig PreK & B/ATB
 - Kempton PreK & B/ATB
 - Jessie Loomis Preschool
 - Merrill Park PreK
 - Rouse PreK
 - Stone Preschool
 - Zilwaukee Prek & B/ATB
- St Charles Children's Center
- Wee Care Christian Children's Center

¹Head Start Program Information report (2019-2020); Kids Count Data Book (Michigan, 2021); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics (2020); Great Start Readiness Program State Evaluation Annual Report (2019-2020).









First Great Lakes Bay Regional Newspaper

GRADES K-5



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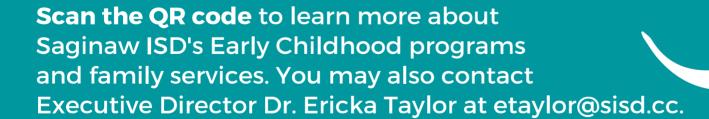
- Relocating August 2024 to the Extensively Renovated Arthur Hill HS Creating a Gifted & Talented Campus
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Saginaw Intermediate School District (ISD) is an educational service agency that provides effective and innovative leadership, services, resources, and programs throughout Saginaw County school districts since 1962. Saginaw ISD's Early Childhood Services department offers an array of support for children and families, including home visitation, preschool programs, and community resources.





3933 Barnard Road, Saginaw, MI 48603 (989) 399-7473 | www.sisd.cc







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









+ EDUCATION

Dr. Michael Gavin appointed Chair of MCCA Student Success Committee

Dr. Michael Gavin, president of Delta College, has been appointed Chairperson of the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) Student Success Committee.

"I look forward to working with thought leaders to increase equitable student completion and ensure that Michigan remains on the cutting edge of student success," Gavin said.

The committee provides strategic direction to the MCCA on matters that impact the Michigan Center for Student Success in addition to student success efforts at the MCCA's 31 member institutions, fundraising and makes recommendations to the MCCA Board of Directors.

Brandy Johnson, president of the Michigan Community College Association, noted President Gavin as an "instrumental" presence that embodies the mission and vision of strengthening student success in higher education.

"The Michigan Community College Association's newly adopted mission is to be the unified voice for Michigan's community colleges, empowering members to lead in student success, talent development, and community vitality," Johnson said.



DR. MICHAEL GAVIN

"Gavin's leadership will be instrumental in shaping the future of our student success agenda at the MCCA."

Erica Orians, vice president and executive director of the Michigan Center for Student Success, echoed her excitement to work alongside Gavin.

"I am delighted to work with President Gavin and the entire Student Success Committee to support our collaborative efforts to improve equitable student outcomes," Orians said.

Fall registration at Delta open, semester starts August 26

As the fall semester at Delta College approaches on August 26, new and current students can plan now by registering for classes.

With in-person, online and blended classes available in most of our 140-plus programs, there is a schedule that will work for you this fall.

Delta makes it easy!

- At \$127 per contact hour (indistrict), you can take classes without breaking the bank.
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- Tutoring and writing support is free
- Learn from top-notch faculty in state-of-the-art facilities to obtain the tools for success.
- Transfer credits from (or to) Delta seamlessly. Check your course equivalencies at org.

Students have options!

- Take accelerated or 15-week classes on campus or online.
- Classes start in August and October.
- Flexible scheduling with day, evening and weekend class options.
- Hurry! Registration is open now.

Today is the perfect time to apply and get your hands on a rewarding career. Have questions about admission, official transcripts, prerequisites, or transferring credits? For more information, contact the Admissions office at admissions@delta. edu or 989-686-9093.





= + SPORTS

Saginaw Spirit Charitable Foundation raises nearly \$500,000 during 2022-2023

After the conclusion of their 21st season, the Saginaw Spirit Charitable Foundation raised \$497,695 to benefit local nonprofits across Saginaw County and the Great Lakes Bay Region. Through postgame jersey auctions, fundraising tickets, 50/50 sales and more, the Saginaw Spirit Charitable Foundation worked all season to benefit numerous local organizations.

"This is another great example of why I call Saginaw, 'Sagin-awesome," said Spirit president and managing partner Craig Goslin. "The people of the Great Lakes Bay Region are the Saginaw Spirit. It's the strong spirit of the community that makes these major charitable initiatives successful. All successful projects take good people to make them happen. In the Great Lakes Bay Region, we have awesome people that have a great narrative on the charity they represent. The Saginaw Spirit Charitable Foundation is honored to partner with each of them."

On March 11th, Hockey for the Homeless night raised \$77,000 for the Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan and the new Samaritan Youth Shelter. Of that total, \$29,782 was raised when the Spirit auctioned off their Video Game themed specialty jerseys. The difference was raised by fundraising tickets, a pregame broomball tournament, telethon and the help of numerous sponsors. Since the first Hockey for the Homeless night, the Saginaw Spirit Charitable Foundation and the Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan have raised more than \$477,000 for homeless and atrisk youth in the community.

"This is an amazing partnership that could only happen through the tremendous efforts of Saginaw Spirit staff and the passion of its leadership to better our community," said Dan Streeter, CEO for the Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan. "The funds raised will help provide a safety net of care for at-risk homeless youth in the Great Lakes Bay area."

The Spirit hosted their 15th annual Shocks and Saves charity game on January



THE SAGINAW SPIRIT POSE AT THE 11TH ANNUAL HOCKEY FOR THE HOMELESS NIGHT WHERE THEY RAISED OVER \$77,000 FOR THE RESCUE MINISTRIES OF MID-MICHIGAN AND THE GOOD SAMARITAN RESCUE MISSION OF BAY CITY.

28th in conjunction with Central Michigan University and the Pulse 3 Endowment. From that night, \$18,799 were raised to promote heart health awareness and add more automated external defibrillators (AED's) to the community.

From their six jersey auctions alone, the Saginaw Spirit Charitable Foundation raised more than \$125,000 throughout the 2022-2023 season. The highest grossing jersey auction came during the aforementioned Hockey for the Homeless night, with the light blue Video Game jerseys going for a total of \$29,782.

Additionally, the Saginaw Spirit Chari-

table Foundation made \$53,710 worth of in-kind donations to various community organizations during the regular season. The foundation also accumulated \$176,375 from its 50/50 drawings during the regular season and six home playoff games.

As the summer comes to a close, the Spirit prepare for their preseason opener on September 2nd in Erie. The regular season begins in Kitchener on September 29th. Saginaw hosts Sarnia the following night at 7:05 for the team's 2023 home opener. Single game tickets go on sale August 14th.





COURTESY PHOTO

Sixth-Annual Vehicle City Gridiron Classic hosted at Kettering University's Historic Atwood Stadium

Eight high school teams match up once again to kick off the 2023 football season

Kettering University's Atwood Stadium will host the sixth-annual Flint & Genesee Vehicle City Gridiron Classic to kick off the 2023 high school football season with two days of doubleheaders, beginning on Aug. 24.

This year's games will feature matchups between intra-county rivals as well as Genesee County schools taking on visiting schools from neighboring communities including state champion for the past two years Warren De La Salle.

Thursday, Aug. 24 4 p.m. – Clio vs. Mt. Morris 7:30 p.m. – Warren De La Salle Collegiate vs. Davison

Friday, Aug. 25

4 p.m. – Harper Woods Chandler Park Academy vs. Hamady

7:30 p.m. – Kearsley vs. Carman-Ainsworth

Tickets are \$8 at the gate. Tickets also will be available for purchase online at GOFan.co for \$9 (including processing fee) beginning two weeks before the event. Stadium parking is \$5.

"Kettering's Atwood Stadium is a great venue with a rich history of hosting talented young athletes in our community while also welcoming generations of excited fans for great night-game experiences," said Dr. Robert K. McMahan, President of Kettering University. "We are pleased to honor the spirit of athletic competition in our community and usher in the fall football season by hosting the 6th annual Vehicle City Gridiron Classic in this historic stadium."

"The Vehicle City Sports Committee is once again excited to host eight high schools who will kick off the football season at historic Atwood Stadium in our sixth-annual Vehicle City Gridiron Classic," said Judge Duncan Beagle, president of the Vehicle City Sports Committee.

"We are grateful to be able to kick off the high school football season once more at one of the finest sports fields in the state of Michigan – the Historic Atwood Stadium," said Tim Herman, CEO of the Flint & Genesee Group. "Not only is it a great way to celebrate our community, but the event will draw hundreds of visitors who will experience all of the fantastic things happening in Flint & Genesee."



AUGUST 1, 2023

+ SPORTS



DAN SKUTA

Former Flint NFL standout helps high school players avoid concussions

By HASANI ALI

Dan Skuta has had a colorful career in the NFL in eight seasons with four different teams – Bengals, Bears, 49ers and Jaguars.

During his entire football career, which started at Carman-Ainsworth, Skuta lost track of the number of concussions he suffered.

Shockingly enough, a neurologist in California told him the number could have been in the hundreds – which could be detrimental to his mental and psychological health.

Knowing that he could've had dozens

of concussions through his 112 games in the NFL, Skuta decided to take action and help high school ball players from avoiding that same fate.

"It was no one's fault," he said. "They (told) you to hit pretty hard and disregard your body. I think now people are pretty savvy with what's going on with the head and impact."

The former Flint standout knows that high school football is still prevalent within the city. To ensure that these players have a healthy high school career and beyond, Skuta made an investment that would ease the fears of many parents whose children participate in the sport.

"I wanted to try to do everything I can

do to help protect and give it to kids in Flint where maybe the schools don't have as much money to buy these for the team."

Skuta's plan is to give the Guardian Cap to players at four local schools – Beecher, Carman-Ainsworth Flint and Hamady.

So what is a Guardian Cap?

Well, Skuta said it's a foam cap that is about an inch thick and fits over a football helmet to lessen the impact when two players collide.

According to Guardian Cap's website, the NFL issued a mandate in March that they must be used in all practices and games this season.

Skuta's non-profit foundation was able to purchase Guardian Caps at a discounted price since he's a former NFL player but he could obviously use some help financing the project.

Skuta, 37, signed with Cincinnati as a free agent in 2009 after playing collegiately at Grand Valley State University.

His career was quite decorative as a Laker, earning first-team All-American honors by Daktronics and Associated Press. Skuta was a Gene Upshaw award finalist. He was named GLIAC Player of the Week (10/13) and recorded the most sacks in school history.

Skuta was also named a 2008 preseason All-American by Sporting News College Football Preview.

Though he spent his collegiate career as a defensive linemen, he made the adjustment to become an outside linebacker due to his athleticism and upward mobility to get to the football.

He spent four seasons with the Bengals before playing with San Francisco for two seasons and Jacksonville for two more years.

His best season was with San Francisco back in 2014, where he played in 14 games and recorded 33 tackles and three forced fumbles.

In fact, Skuta scored his first touchdown in the NFL when he recovered a forced fumble and ran 48 yards for the score against Jacksonville.

He is now retired and lives on his 700-acre ranch in Texas.



+ SPORTS

Michigan softball team looking to repeat **Junior League Championship**

By HASANI ALI

For any softball player, what's better than a dream of winning a league championship?

Winning back-to-back championships of course!

For the West Michigan All-Star Team, this goal is within reach as they look to put their championship on the line in quest for a second title. These 13 and 14-year old players are from Hudsonville and Jenison, traveling as far as the Philippines to compete are looking to mark their stamp as they climb each division.

Before they can defend their title, the West Michigan All-Star Team will be looking to conquer the 10-team world series Central Region tournament next week.

Some fresh faces have given the organization a new look – a new coaching staff and nine new players give this year's version of the Central squad different depths of talent, but returners Callie Naber, Kaelyn Berens and Kylee Fox have helped keep the team focused and confident.

"All three are very mature and very good leaders," head coach Shawn Veenstra said of the trio. "They've been awesome with our girls in helping them understand what this is all about. Obviously, they were there last year, and they've been excellent as far as leadership and adapting to their roles."

According to MLive.com, as rookies at the Junior Softball level, Naber, Berens and Fox played supporting roles behind stars such as Makenzie Cammenga and Morgan Macek, who led their Hudsonville Unity Christian and Jenison high school teams to the state quarterfinals this spring.

With Naber and Berens serving as the team's top-two pitchers and Fox as the starting shortstop, these veteran returners are leading the charge for this team. They are looking to take the team as far as they could possibly go.

"They've been very consistent throwing strikes and getting ahead in the count and



WEST MICHIGAN ALL-STAR TEAM

attacking the hitters, and then our defense is just making plays behind them and has been an integral part," Veenstra said of Naber and Berens. "I think we've outscored teams 139-13, and of those 13 runs, I believe six or seven of them are earned runs, so they've just dominated hitters in this tournament to this point."

Offensively, Maraya VanOverloop leads the team with two home runs, while Leah Veenstra, Josie McDuffee and Naber all have one dinger in what has been a balanced batting order.

"It's been a total team effort and has been very contagious in our dugout," Shawn Veenstra said. "We build off of each other, and there really hasn't been one player that stands out above the rest.

"Our first game in the regional tournament, we scored one run in the first inning, then didn't score for two innings, but all of a sudden, we get one hit, and one hit turns into eight straight hits, and before you know it, we're up 8-0, and it's just from the girls building off one another."

In the Junior Softball World Series' first 20 years, only two teams – Naples, Fla., and Maunabo, Puerto Rico - have captured consecutive championships, which means the Hudsonville/Georgetown group can join some elite company with another title.

"The level of softball in our community, with the two little leagues together, has so much talent," Veenstra said. "I knew we had an opportunity to make a run, knowing that we had the two pitchers that we have, and then the newer kids that joined, either from the Majors (11 and 12-yearolds) or who decided to play again when they were 14. Some didn't play last year because they didn't make the all-star team, but are playing this year, and the girls we have are just very talented and are good leaders, as well."



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COURTESY PHOTO

Sanderson earns offer from Michigan

By HASANI ALI

One of the state's best basketball players as an underclassmen has earned an offer from Michigan

Saline's all-state guard Jonathan Sanderson announced the offer from the Wolverines via Twitter on Sunday.

Sanderson, son of Michigan's men's basketball strength and conditioning coach Jon Sanderson, finished his freshman year with the Hornets with second team Associated Press all-state honors after averaging 19.3 points, six rebounds, four assists and 1.5 steals. He also shot 91% from the free-throw line and 46% from the 3-point line.

The six-foot-2 and soon-to-be sophomore also has offers from Iowa, Illinois, Eastern Michigan, Marshall, Ohio and Duquesne.

Besides the bias as his head coach, Mark Marek is a clear believer that Sanderson was hands down the best freshmen, perhaps the best player in the state.

"In my opinion, I think he's the best freshman in the state," Marek he said following a game in which Sanderson scored 39 points to beat Chelsea. "I'll argue that point until I'm blue in the face."

And Sanderson's confidence in himself matches his skillset and the belief from his team.

"He's right," Sanderson said of Marek's comments. "I think I outwork everyone, and I just give love to my teammates. They think that and I do, too."

Sanderson hasn't looked like a freshman this year and he said it's because he is comfortable handling the pressure he faces as the leader of a varsity team at 15-years-old.

"I just try to be aggressive and be myself," he said. "If I'm going to go out there and not be myself, then why play? I just gotta be myself."

It's clear from the opening game of the season that Sanderson is more than capable of performing at the varsity level.

According to MLive.com, Sanderson debuted with a 20-point performance for the Hornets against Salem and hasn't let up with multiple double-digit scoring performances, though none have been bigger than Tuesday night's.

"I see this in practice every day," Marek said. "It's not a shock to me because he does this in practice all the time.

"I know he's a freshman, but he loves the game. He works so hard at it. He lifts weights and on the off days when I tell him to rest, he's still getting shots up. He loves the game and puts so much work into it and I'm glad it's showing on the court."

What has also helped Sanderson have such an immediate impact is his competitive nature and desire to follow in his parents' footsteps.

Though Sanderson has already wowed, Marek said he knows this is just the tip of the iceberg for his young and talented star player.

"He's got so much room to grow, and I can't wait to see him in 3-4 years," Marek said. "I've never seen a freshman like this and I'm glad he's on my team."

There won't be any surprises when Sanderson is mentioned as a candidate for Michigan's Mr. Basketball next season.

Though he's earned an offer from the university where his father works, more scholarships are to come over the next three seasons.



+ SPORTS

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New free throw rule coming to high school basketball

High school basketball games, like most basketball games, are the most fun towards the end.

When one or both teams are in foul trouble, the outcome is highly unpredictable as to who will come out as the winner.

It could result in a comeback win, a close game while keeping the opponent at bay or even sending the game into overtime.

Many Michigan basketball games have turned into instant classics due to foul trouble and the famous one-and-one free throw policy once a team went over five fouls and two free throws once a team hits ten fouls.

Sadly, that is being changed forever.

According to MLive.com, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) announced rules changes to high school basketball on Monday which include doing away with the bonus and going to a double bonus. Free throws would also now be determined by how many fouls a team had picked up each quarter, not each half.

Previously, after a team was called for its seventh, eight and ninth fouls each half, its opponent would shoot a one-and-one, shooting one free throw with a chance at a second if the first one fell. The tenth foul each half, as well as any shooting foul no matter how many a team had been called for, would draw a double bonus, automatically two free throws.

Changes adopted Monday would do away with the one-and-one. Now, with the fifth foul of each quarter, teams would shoot two free throws.

"I'm not exactly sure how it will impact the game, but it will be interesting to say the least," said former Valley Lutheran boys head coach Randy Rogers. "The game is forever changing so we will have to adjust to the times."

Rogers also pointed out the fact that the new rule may be necessary in order for coaches to emphasize defense to their players. "When you think about it, you won't be able to waste any fouls because they will add up quick," he said. "This simply means that the coaches will have to really harp on the defense drills in practice to get their players shuffling their feet, not reaching and making wise decisions when it comes to playing great defense. We all know that free throws add up and what coach wants to give up any points."

The NFHS Basketball Rules Committee approved the change at a meeting in Indianapolis last month, with the NFHS Board of Directors adopting the change Monday.

The Michigan High School Athletic As-

sociation follows NFHS playing rules. The change will be in effect for the 2023-24 season.

In a statement released by the NFHS on Monday, Director of Sports and liaison to the Basketball Rules Committee Lindsey Atkinson said "the rules committee studied data that showed higher injury rates on rebounding situations and saw this as an opportunity to reduce opportunities for rough play during rebounds. Additionally, resetting the fouls each quarter will improve game flow and allow teams to adjust their play by not carrying foul totals to quarters two and four."



COURTESY PHOTO





PICS OF THE WEEK

Students from Saginaw's Sister City Tokushima, Japan visit Saginaw City Council.









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



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