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COMMUNITY, PG 22



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COMMUNITY, PG 25



Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education honors Saginaw ISD leader

EDUCATION, PG 43

THE MICHIGAN BANNER IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



FEATURED STORY

Saginaw High School of '93 reunion

COMMUNITY, PG 11 & 14





HEART OF THE CITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER BACK 2 SCHOOL RODEO EVENT

Organization Spotlight: Heart of the City Development Center

By **CHERIE LONG**

FOUNDER/PRESIDENT OF HEART OF THE CITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

After raising a daughter with special needs, I recognized a gap in services and opportunities available to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

So I founded Heart of the City Development Center to help meet the social and educational needs of my adult daughter, I'Lexsis Travis, and others like her.

"She is 24, and the ISD school system ages out at 26. ...I started wondering, 'OK, what is she going to do when she turns 26? I wanted to create a program that was modeled off of the ISD program and work with the school systems to make the transition into my program, so I created Heart of the City Development Center. This program would give an opportunity beyond their secondary education Monday through Friday to help maintain their critical learning skills. It aims to create a safe space for adults with disabilities to learn, grow and engage.

"As regular-education individuals, we have several options after graduation: we can go to college; we can go to the military. They don't have a lot of options, so I want



COURTESY PHOTO

to create an option for them to continue gaining those critical learning skills.

With support from sponsors, I organize a series of free social events that take place monthly and I'm currently working to begin offering educational programming by this coming January with a focus on critical skills, such as kitchen safety, money management, how to use public transportation, adaptive Physical ed., how to call for help if needed, computer skills classes,

positive communication and interview skills. These are things we take for grant-

ed, but with these individuals, if they don't use these skills every day, they will forget them.

My social events are accessible to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities of all ages as well as those who do not have a disability. All events are listed on our Facebook page [heartofthecitydevelopmentcenter](https://www.facebook.com/heartofthecitydevelopmentcenter) for those interested in attending. We are also always in need of sponsors/donations and anyone can make them at www.heartofthecity989.com or by mailing to P.O. Box 76, Bridgeport MI, 48722 or contact us at heartofthecity9809@gmail.com

Other last event was a "Back 2 School Rodeo and BBQ" for all individuals k- 26, which includes those individuals with disabilities enrolled in school and their families. We had a live country band and line dancers.

"I want people to know supporting (adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities) is supporting the community. I just want people to open not just their hearts but their eyes to the need of these individuals to be included in society as community members." This is not just the right thing to do but their Right to be included. Heart of the City will continue to advocate for inclusion of all community members.

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MISSION

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

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DEADLINES

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

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JULY 28	<p>Fiesta Grande FEATURING: • LOS "G" NOTES • AZTECAS</p>	<p>SPONSORED BY:</p>
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AUG 11	<p>Rollin' on the River FEATURING: • LAURIE AND THE LEFTIES • BAYOU COUNTY</p>	<p>SPONSORED BY:</p>
AUG 18	<p>Motown Music Fest FEATURING: • SOUL STREET • PHASE 5</p>	<p>SPONSORED BY:</p>

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 5 • NUMBER 16



WHEN AND IF

By DONIQUA SOVIA

If at first you haven't a clue, as to where you should go, or what you should do, and you spend most your days wishing you knew, just ask God. If trials come, as they will and they do, and your own strength can't seem to get you through and you've tried everything but nothing will do, just rely on God.

If victory finds its way to you, and you don't understand how you made it through, don't forget to thank God for bringing you through, when at times you hadn't a clue. When the road is dark, and the road seems long, and you're by yourself, know you're not alone, because He hears you when you pray, be it day or be it night, and He'll be your fire to warm you, in the coldness of your plight.

Never underestimate his ability, to fight the enemy, and show you your worth and crown you with dignity, because you're a King and a Queen and destined for greatness due to His Highness having high merited royalty. So, when things look good and are going your way, and when things look bad while you're in the fray, no matter what, remember His name, and He will get you through.



Seen on the Scene: Youth attendees at the Saginaw African Cultural Festival on August 11-13



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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

La Unión Cívica Mexicana presents the 2nd Annual Saginaw Taco Fest

La Unión Cívica Mexicana of Saginaw presents the 2nd annual Saginaw Taco Fest on Saturday, August 19, 2023, at the Saginaw Township Soccer Complex, 4033 McCarty Rd., in Saginaw, Michigan from 11 am to 6 p.m. We have moved it to a new location where Party On McCarty is celebrated.

If you love Tacos, this is the place to celebrate and be happy! We have 10 Taco-Trucks bringing some of the best Mexican cuisine in the area and throughout Michigan.

Vendors participating are T&T Authentic Mexican Cuisine, Cob King, Mr. Patito Man, Manny's Barbecue, Wonder Burger, Big Pete's Tacos, and the Love Shack from Saginaw, along with Gordo and Flaco Tacos of Flint, MI, and Torta Express and Tacos El Rodeo from Detroit Southwest. Grupo Vicio of Detroit will provide entertainment throughout the day, along with Bouncy houses and DJ music by DJ Jesse Sanchez. A stage and tents with seating will also be provided, but guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, too.

This is a great event for The Great Lakes Bay Region to Celebrate great Mexican foods that are leading the way in the food truck industry locally. We want to share the fraternity of Food Trucks with the masses all in one spot on August 19

PURPOSE

The long-time civic organization at 2715 Wadsworth in Saginaw is presenting this event again as a fundraiser to upgrade their grounds and parking lot. We are uniting with our great culinary experts in the area to bring this to fruition for the community.

The Cívica organization will seek

grants and sponsors and ask for donations to make what they're calling the "Cívica Parking Lot Upgrade" a reality. Plans include expanded parking, new outside lights, and fencing on the east side of the building.

"It will be a laborious, arduous task, but we have to do this. We can do this! It's time," Rodarte said. "We need the community's support."

HISTORY

There were 11 founders who wanted basic civil rights for their people, and they established the Unión Cívica Mexicana in 1945. The growing number of migrant workers — immigrants who came to the area and then stayed due to employment at the GM grey iron plant — justified a need for a civic organization. This year the group celebrated its 78th anniversary.

PLEASE JOIN US

According to Cívica leaders, for more than 30 years, the parking lot has not had new pavement or a complete upgrade. That's half of its entire existence! This summer, the Cívica hall has been utilized every weekend for rentals and has weekly sales of patitos. All walks have come to the Cívica

for these deep-fried tacos. And they come from near and far. And a lot of people are using the hall for their parties, funeral luncheons, and seasonal events.

Admission is \$5, with children under 10 free.



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SAGINAW HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF '93 PICTURED IN 1993 (LEFT) AND 2023 (RIGHT)

Saginaw High School class reunion '93

By HASANI ALI

Tammy Davis had mixed emotions as she walked through the doors of her high school for her class reunion.

She instantly remembered where her old lockers were, the friends that she had made and all the memories that come with the building located at 3100 Webber St.

It was instantly a sad moment for her because as of next year, the school will be no more.

“When we heard the news about the school, we quickly put together a committee in order to organize for a class reunion,” she said. “It was something that we could all use.”

With a graduating class of 270 students in 1993, the excitement around the announcement created quite the buzz around the city.

The committee quickly grew to 13 people as the momentum gave a promising turnout for the event.

As time continued, the momentum began to slow down and the interest started to decline more and more.

“Everyone was excited at first, but then it died down,” Davis said. “Many didn’t think that we were going to pull it off, but

we were going to make it happen. I’m the type of person to see things through.”

The leadership even began to lose faith in the event. Nine people dropped out of the committee and left the entire event to be planned by four people.

Davis mentioned that the class had a 10-year reunion so she wasn’t sure what the negativity was about.

Time was running out and the pressure was being put on to have the event. Davis, a grandmother of eight, spent relentless time finding classmates and sending invitations. She even created a group on Facebook in order to get a hold of everyone online and asked fellow classmates to find everyone.

Taking away from her family time, she would hear one of her grandchildren say, “Granny, are you working on your class reunion thing again? When are you going to spend time with us?”

To her belief, they got 125 people to sign up and show up to the event. Davis was pleased that the reunion had such a big turnout. It turned into a relief for many of the people that attended.

“In these times, it seems like people are going through a lot,” she said. “We lost 30 classmates in 30 years so we wanted to

make sure that this happened because we many people may not be able to get this opportunity again.”

A classmate even hugged her in the gymnasium, showing that her hard work paid off to make the event happen.

“My soul needed this (reunion), people have no idea what I have been going through,” a classmate said to her as they were embracing each other at the reunion. “It’s just such a pleasure to see you.”

Most of the time wasn’t spent discussing the present, instead everybody wanted to go back to simpler times, the times that they spent as students at Saginaw High.

From special guest comedians to musical talents, many special moments were made at the reunion that were unforgettable.

“We partied like it was the ‘90’s,” Davis said. “Everyone had such a good time. So many people that we haven’t seen in years. Some were at the 10-year reunion, but some we’ve not seen since we graduated. It was a pleasant surprise.”

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SHS CLASS OF '93**

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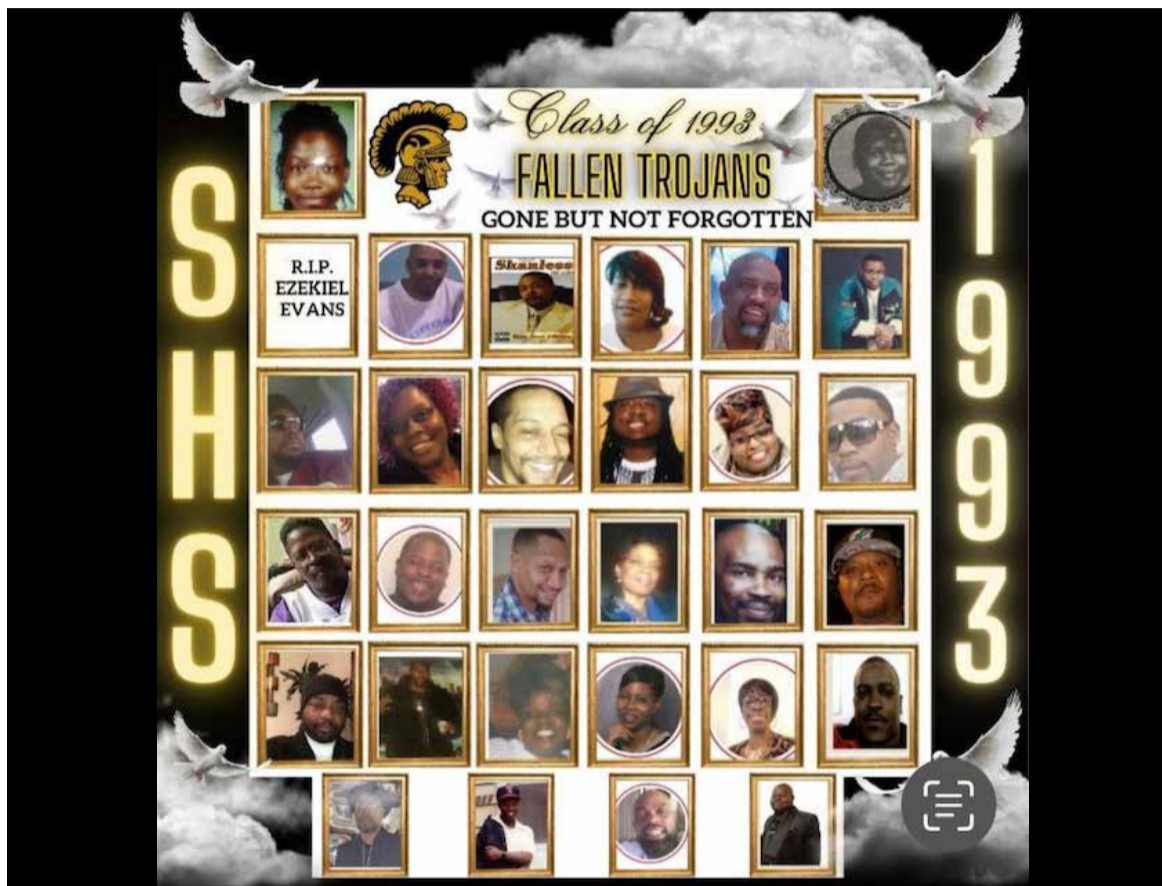
Continued from pg 11, SHS class of '93

Knowing that Saginaw High School was going to be shut down, Davis was quite indifferent about the decision. She will always remember the school that brought on such fond memories.

“I didn’t really have an opinion of the schools merging because eventually I knew it was going to happen,” she said. “It has been the talk of the town for years. Not sure why people wanted it to happen, but the moment never stopped so I knew that it was going to transpire at some point.”

People who didn’t show up actually ended up calling Davis to see if there was going to be another event.

“I received so many phone calls after the reunion asking if it was too late to sign up for the next event,” she said. “In my mind, the reunion was already over at that point, but if people want to do another event, then we will definitely get something planned.”



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Financial Plus Credit Union awarded 'Credit Union of the Year' by Michigan Certified Development Corporation

Financial Plus Credit Union has been named Michigan Certified Development Corporation's (MCDC) 2022 Credit Union of the Year. This award celebrates the credit union's commitment to fostering economic growth and supporting local businesses through the effective implementation of the Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 Loan Program.

As a Certified Development Company (CDC) authorized by the SBA in 1982, MCDC plays a vital role in facilitating small business financing. This accolade further solidifies Financial Plus Credit Union's unwavering dedication to empowering entrepreneurs and driving economic prosperity.

"We're honored MCDC selected Financial Plus for Credit Union of the Year," said Nathan Adams, Director of Business Services at Financial Plus Credit Union. "This

recognition reflects our deep-rooted commitment to the communities we serve and the success of local businesses. I'm proud of the hard work our team gives everyday with originating, underwriting, documentation and coordinating all of the information for the SBA process, all the while providing our members with a powerful solution that helps them invest in their businesses."

Through the SBA 504 Loan Program, Financial Plus Credit Union has demonstrated unparalleled expertise in providing long-term, fixed-rate financing options for small businesses. By offering favorable terms and competitive rates, the credit union has supported countless enterprises in acquiring major fixed assets, such as real estate and equipment. As a result, local businesses have been able to expand their operations, create new jobs, and make significant contributions to the economic landscape of Michigan.



Social Security expands outreach and access for SSI

By HILLARY HATCH, SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Social Security has expanded its outreach to people in critical need of financial help who may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). SSI provides monthly payments to adults age 65 and older or to other adults – and children – with a disability or blindness who have limited income and financial resources. SSI helps pay for basic needs like rent, food, clothing, and medicine.

We identified underserved communities in rural and urban areas across the country. We focused on areas with the greatest decline in SSI applications since the pandemic. Our outreach efforts targeted areas where a majority of people are living at or below the federal poverty threshold.

People who receive SSI may qualify for other financial help, including Supplemen-



COURTESY PHOTO

tal Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps), Medicaid, and discounted internet service through the Federal Trade Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program. Social Security beneficiaries may also be eligible for SSI.

People with limited income and financial resources and internet access can visit

www.ssa.gov/ssi to learn more about SSI eligibility and request an appointment to apply for benefits. People without access to the internet can call our National 800 Number at 1-800-772-1213 to speak with a representative.

Please share this information with your friends and family to spread the word about SSI.

+ COMMUNITY

Saginaw High class of '93 committee reflects on reunion festivities



Ms. Tammy Davis & The Saginaw High School Class of 1993 Reunion Committee really showed the Alumni an extraordinary time August 4-6th. Ms. Davis felt inspired when asked to coordinate such a tremendous event. Initially Davis wasn't sure how she could pull this off but felt compelled & something in her spirit to execute an EPIC reunion. With the help of Roeshon Young-Brown, Cynthia Washington & Monica Ramsey it was truly a Warm & Loving 30 Year Reunion to Remember.

Friday evening kicked off the Meet & Greet/ Game Night with a 90's theme. About a hundred former classmates united at Buena Vista's Marketplace for an evening of food, drinks, pictures, reminiscing, dancing, & laughter.

Saturday evening was a Night of Elegance, it was called "The Extravaganza" Ms. Davis referred to as "her baby" she put a lot of hard work and dedication to make this event as beautiful & memorable as possible. From the décor to the food, the attire, Davis, and the ladies made sure the venue was phenomenal. When the guests arrived at Legendary Event Center dressed in black with a pop of color, they were amazed and so was the committee because everyone looked stunning! "As adults, we had never been in the same place all dressed up for an elegant night. Yes, this was definitely by far, A NIGHT TO REMEMBER" says Rosheon Young-Brown.

Elder Edward Coleman took the stage

to bring us a few encouraging words. Afterwards, Cynthia Washington & Tyiesha Jones honored (The Fallen Trojans) "It was an emotional roller coaster, but well worth the tears" says Washington.

Ahmad Clemons was the host for this glorious occasion. He has such an extraordinary character & demeanor about himself, we knew he would have us laughing all night, along with comedians, Joseph Polk, and Dick Dickerson. Our classmate Quincy Winters gave an excellent performance when he graced the stage with a few of his songs. This night was all that I hoped it would be and more, says Davis.

Sunday afternoon plans changed from Haithco park to SVRC due to the rain. "One thing about it we didn't have a chance to panic or think of a backup plan", says Monica Ramsey, there were so many people looking forward to our last day/night together, we made a few phone calls and just like that we were routed to SVRC Marketplace. Two of our classmates grilled at their homes and brought food & drinks to SVRC. Shortly after, the Trojans met at Saginaw High School for a photo shoot in the gymnasium. "That was a wonderful feeling! We were able to walk the same halls from 30 years ago with the same friends we grew up with. We couldn't help but to reminisce about our experiences at The High" said Burton. If you missed this, you missed out on something Extravagant!!!!

Sunday evening: Mr. Tobias Young opened his doors at Legends Party Hall for us to say our goodbyes and just like our 1993 Graduation Song; It was the end of the road & so hard to say goodbye. "The one thing that I was proud of is, we had men from all walks of life, from every side of town Uniting, Fellowshiping, and setting aside differences they had in the past. They shook hands with each other, hugged and took pictures together. This weekend truly brought Unity, Love and Respect throughout our class & community.

Everyone and I do mean every single person has expressed how they enjoyed themselves the entire weekend. They have expressed so much kindness and gratitude for us coordinating this 30 Year Class Reunion. So, we say you all are so very welcome, and we are grateful, elated and overjoyed that we were able to give you this reset, this cleansing because it truly rejuvenated our souls.

Until next time SHS C/O 93 Trojans, take care & We Love You All!!!!

Your SHS Reunion Committee
Tammy Davis,
Roeshon Young-Brown
Cynthia Washington
Monica Ramsey

**FOR MORE PICTURES,
CONTINUE TO PG 15**

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Continued from pg 14, SHS class of '93 pictures





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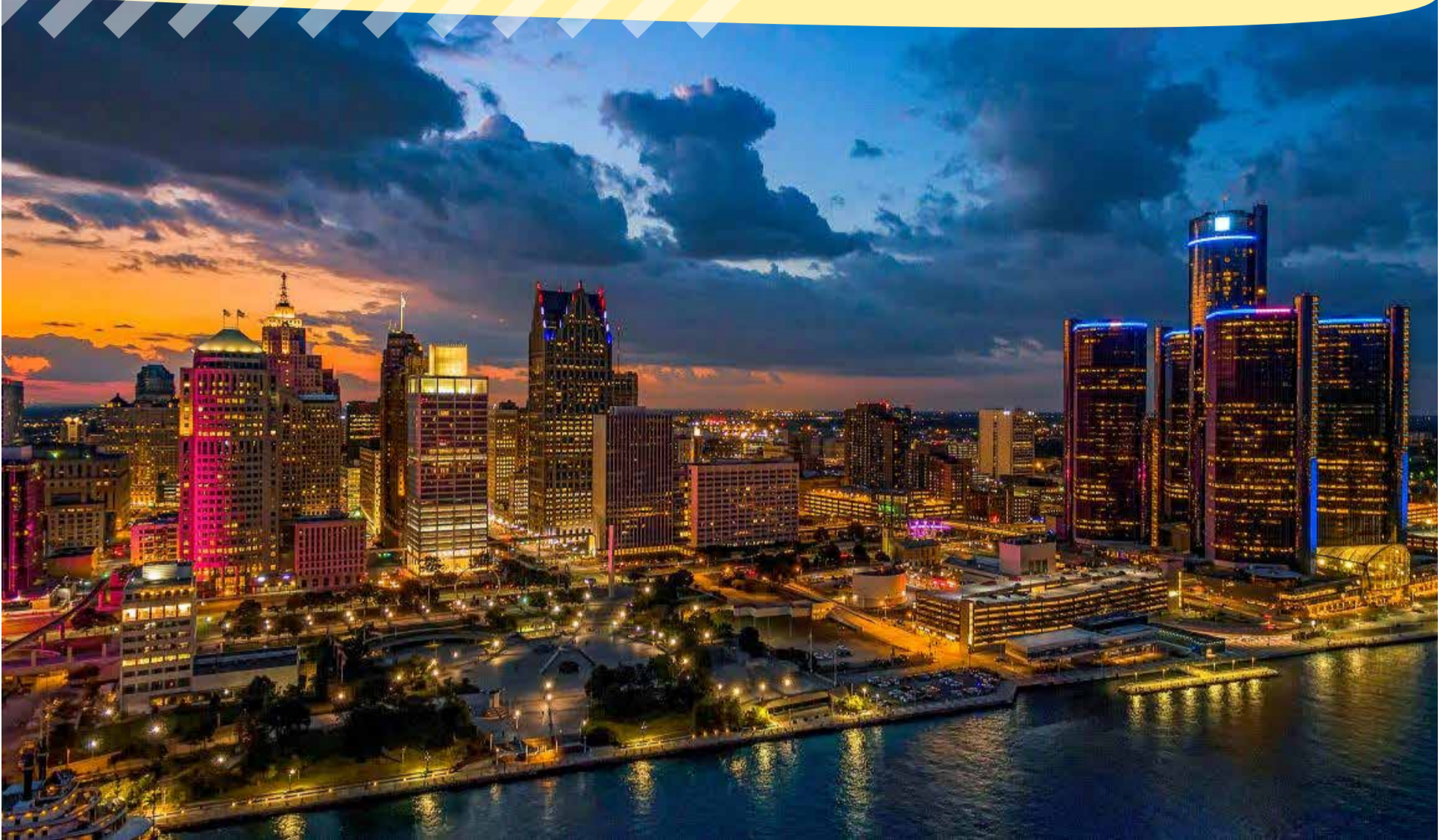
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+ COMMUNITY

IN MY HUMBLE OPINION



COURTESY PHOTO

Michigan is the place to be



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

Michigan has always been near and dear to my heart because my second cousin and his family lived in Ann Arbor for decades. I came to love the University of Michigan's brand and the Wolverine mascot. Both my cousin and his wife had very successful careers at U of M in academia and community healthcare. Growing up I proudly wore different branded apparel

that were gifts from my family. The funny thing about it, as I look back on those times, is that I can't remember ever visiting Michigan as a child because I would normally see these cousins in Pennsylvania or Washington D.C. at my great aunt's or grandmother's house. So, my affinity for and fond memories of Michigan are through remote experiences, or virtually, and God is so good that he has brought my virtual relationship with the great state of Michigan back through the Michigan Banner.

Interestingly enough, I did spend some time in Michigan as an adult in preparation for my move to South Africa. I had to complete an intense and accelerated month-long training program at Herman Miller, headquartered in Zeeland. The architectural company that my late father and I opened in Johannesburg required

me to be a certified Herman Miller designer. Michigan has played a significant role in my life both personally and professionally. Twenty-eight years ago, it helped define a new chapter for me, and now it is positioned to do that again for thousands of people across the country. In this season, Michigan is the place to be.

Derived from the Native American word Michigama, meaning great or large lake, Michigan actually has more than 11,000 lakes including the four Great Lakes: Superior, Huron, Erie, and Michigan. Prior to the arrival of the first French and British colonizers in the 17th and 18th centuries, Michigan's residents were the

**CONTINUES ON PG 19,
MICHIGAN**

Continued from pg 18, Michigan

tribal groups of Ojibwa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi Native Americans. In the early 1800s, great waves of immigration began to flow into Michigan as large numbers of New Englanders relocated to the southern counties. Admitted to the Union in 1837, the new state attracted immigrants to its lumber, mining, and automobile industries, and at least 40 national and ethnic groups arrived in sizeable numbers during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Many African-Americans and people of Asian, Near Eastern or Hispanic origin have made Michigan their home in more recent migrations. There are so many ethnic groups in the state that Detroit alone hosts weekly ethnic festivals from May through September each year. The state's total population is just over 10 million according to the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau report. These facts and figures are courtesy of The Library of Michigan, unless noted otherwise.

Michigan provides a unique mix of spectacular natural beauty, world-class cultural resources, vibrant cities, and diverse recreational opportunities all combined with growth potential that make it an ideal place to live and work. Few other states offer the geographical diversity and range of activities for people seeking an active lifestyle. The state's two peninsulas are surrounded by four Great Lakes, boasting the longest freshwater shoreline in the country. There are ample opportunities to enjoy recreational activities like golf, boating, fishing, hiking, skiing, and more. Michigan is also home to the highly regarded Detroit Institute of Arts, four major-league sports teams, over 100 wineries, and is becoming famous for its craft beer. In addition, there are a variety of award-winning communities like Ann Arbor, Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Petoskey, and the educational system is excellent (K-12 and tertiary) with more than 2,000 PhDs granted every year (nearly twice the national average).

Liveability overall is a key consideration for many executives and entrepreneurs and Michigan provides a high quality of life that is unmatched by most other states. The cost of living is also 10% below the national average, and it is the fourth most affordable state in the country. A recent survey by Forbes Insights & Michi-

gan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) found that "45% of executives believe livability of a city or region - including access to cultural institutions and walkability - is key to maintaining a strong talent pool."

Michigan is undergoing a major broadband expansion by investing millions in high-speed internet access to provide connectivity to more residents, homes, and small businesses across the state. Goals have been set by the state to provide 100% high-speed internet access and a 95% adoption rate by households over the next five years. Governor Gretchen Whitmer "believes every family and business in Michigan deserves access to a reliable, affordable high-speed internet connection that meets their needs", as per the Governor's 14 June 2022 press release.

From an industrial point of view, Michigan's three major industries are manufacturing, tourism and agriculture. The total civilian labor force is 4.9 million people (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). With all of the Big Three automakers, General Motors (GM), Chrysler, and Ford, having begun in Michigan in the first quarter of the 20th century, the state is known as the nation's automotive capital. 17% of total U.S. vehicle production and 11% of North American vehicle production happens in Michigan, and it is home to multiple autonomous vehicle testing sites, including drone testing.

On 02 July 2020, Governor Whitmer announced the formal launch of the Office of Future Mobility and Electrification (OFME), and Trevor Pawl was appointed as the state's first Chief Mobility Officer. This coupled with university investment in autonomous vehicle testing sites demonstrates that Michigan institutions are building on the existing auto industry ecosystem to create an epicenter of mobility technology. This year, three major corporate investments will position Michigan as a leader in the electric vehicle (EV) industry. GM is making its largest investment in history with \$7 billion for a factory to build full-size EV pickups and a battery cell plant. LG Energy Solutions is investing \$1.7 billion to expand its capacity to produce EV battery components, and the Ford Motor Company announced its plans

to invest \$2 billion to increase EV manufacturing and secure its existing internal combustion engine vehicle operations.

In the new era of flexible work locations, Michigan has emerged as a place that can support workers and companies navigating new workforce realities. According to the MEDC website, "Talent is seeking to work from places that maximize work-life balance, and increasingly finding that balance in Michigan." Ranked as the No. 2 Remote-Ready City in the U.S. by Livability, Grand Rapids is noted for its "tons of resources and programs to help you develop leadership skills, learn a new skill set or simply take the next step in your career." The millions being invested in broadband infrastructure projects will help make remote work and telecommuting an option from every corner of the state. The commute-free lifestyle of remote work combined with Michigan's affordable cost of living, infrastructure development, geographical diversity, and range of activities frees up remote workers to enjoy more of what makes us happy: flexibility, connectivity, and peace of mind.

Michigan has all of the assets needed to be a leading state for attracting key projects and investments. So far this year, projected private investments have reached nearly \$12 billion from more than 30 companies. With a growing economy, high quality of life, low cost of living, and thousands of jobs being created, the future is bright. I have been working virtually in Michigan from Johannesburg for more than a year, and now Michigan is the ideal location for those working virtually with the rest of the country and the world. It is also ideal for those seeking a higher quality of life, and the combination of what I have been able to mention here along with many other positives is why Michigan is the place to be in my humble opinion. God willing, I will be visiting again very soon and I will let you know when I'm on my way.



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+ COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

Financial Plus Credit Union launches free billboard contest for minority-owned businesses

Minority-owned business owners have the chance to win free billboard advertisements through Financial Plus Credit Union's Minority Business Spotlight Project.

The project will award two small minority-owned businesses free billboard advertising, design included, for four weeks. Eligible small businesses are invited to participate in the initiative by submitting their entries to Financial Plus now through September 8, 2023.

Eligibility requirements:

- Must be 18+ and a current Michigan resident to apply
- Business must be located in Michigan and in operation for 1+ year(s)

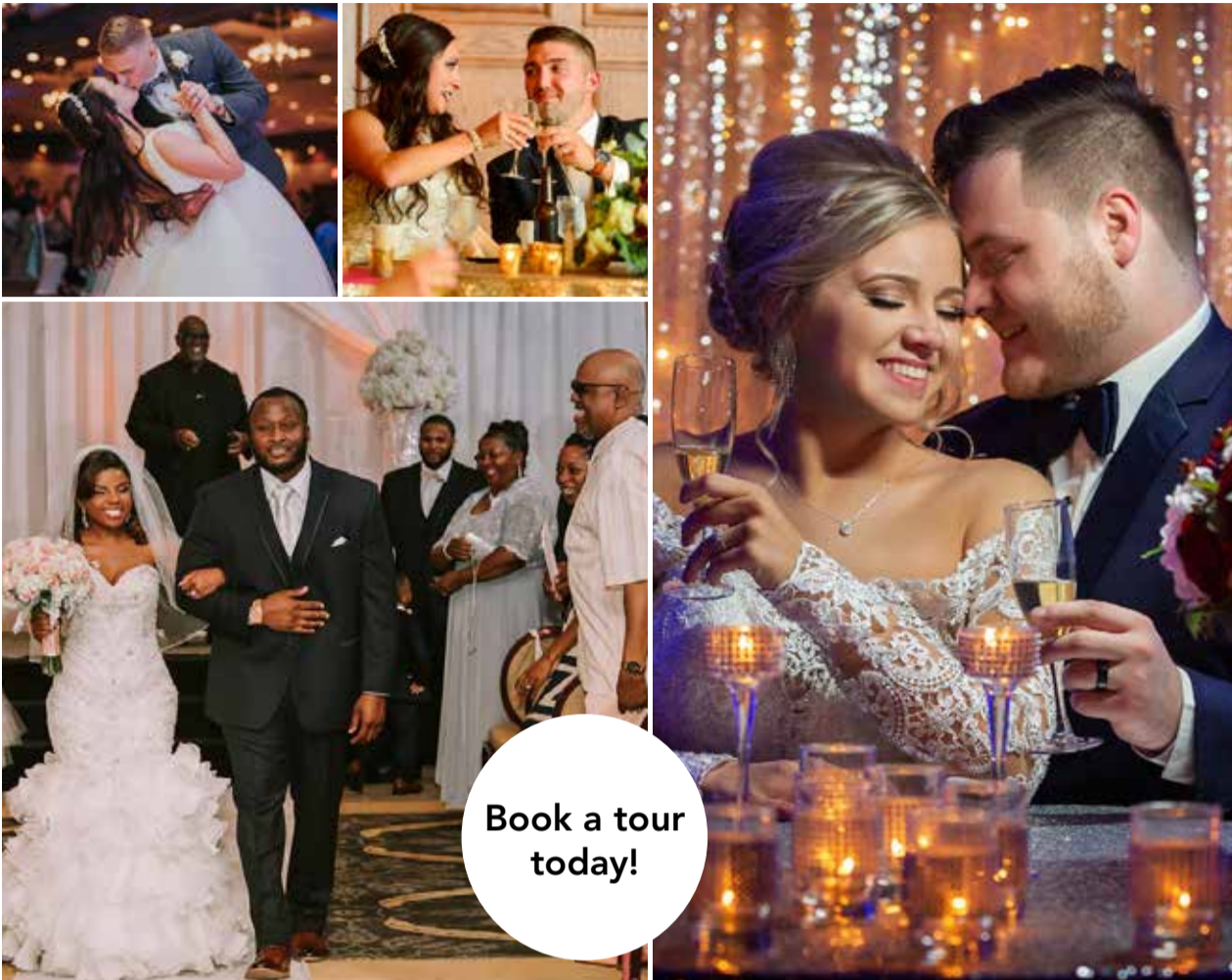
- Business must be at least 51% minority owned, managed, and controlled
- Business must have less than 50 employees to be considered a small business
- Business must provide Articles of Incorporation from Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) of Michigan if selected as a winner

"This initiative is designed to increase exposure for local minority-owned small businesses in Michigan, fostering a sense of support within the community," said Allen Williams, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Business Partner at Financial Plus. "The project reflects Financial Plus's unwavering commitment to promoting di-

versity, equity, and the growth of local minority businesses."

The Billboards of Inclusion' Project will undergo a thorough selection process, carried out by a committee from Financial Plus that will select two deserving recipients. They will carefully review each entry to verify eligibility requirements, Application Package completion, and essay content. To apply for Billboards of Inclusion: Minority Business Spotlight Project and view official contest rules, please visit: www.myfpcu.com/billboards-of-inclusion.

For more information on the Billboards of Inclusion: Minority Business Spotlight Project, please contact Allen Williams at (810) 244-6141.



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MDHHS
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+ COMMUNITY

THE BENEFITS OF FREEDOM

“The very design of the system of slavery was to deny enslaved people the benefits of freedom. The result being that anything the slave learned and or produced was for the benefit of the slave master and that system.

Freedom is the only human right that offers a benefit. To claim otherwise is to take away the benefits of freedom from the Creator and give the credit for those unalienable rights to the oppressor. Any assertion as to the benefits of slavery is clearly in contrast to the Preamble and our Declaration of Independence.”

**~ Nathan M. Richardson;
Poet, Author and Frederick
Douglass Historian**

Ken Horn named to Governor Whitmer's Growing Michigan Together Council

The Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance would like to announce that Ken Horn, executive vice president of Strategic Development, has been selected to serve on Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Growing Michigan Together Council.

The Council is comprised of four working committees focused on several factors of the state's growth plan and Horn will serve on the workgroup focused on Jobs, Talent, and the Economy.

"The diverse workgroup members of the Growing Michigan Together Council will be instrumental in our effort to grow our economy and population while protecting our natural resources," said Governor Whitmer. "These members represent a range of professions, communities, and perspectives—all of which are essential to developing a comprehensive strategy for growth. I look forward to hearing from the council and its workgroups later this year. Let's get to work!"

Horn joined the Alliance this past spring to focus on the key aspects needed for population growth within the Great Lakes Bay Region. An advocate for growth and development, Horn previously served as the chair of the Senate Economic Development Committee, where he advocated for Michigan's economic development efforts and personally championed Project 1MP, a concept for growing Michigan by one million people in under a decade.

Horn is now working to apply that effort to the Great Lakes Bay Region through Operation 40K, an effort that is scaled down to the region's population with a target of growing by 40,000 people by the year 2040. Through this effort, Horn is advocating for sustainable evolution and growth of the region while drawing on support from education and workforce readiness, community development efforts, employment opportunities, underscoring many of the quality-of-life aspects of the region and more.

"I'm honored to join the Growing Michigan Together Council and focus on how jobs, talent development and people will fuel Michigan's population goals," said



KEN HORN

Horn. "It's also incredibly valuable to have the Great Lakes Bay Region gain a seat at the table in this important effort and help shine a light on the region's future. I'm looking forward to sharing what the region has to offer in terms of supporting Michigan's population goals and working with partners from across the state to bring ideas back to our region."

"With the profound importance of this issue, I am excited to finally have the Jobs, Talent and Economy workgroup populated, especially with thoughtful leaders like Ken Horn. I had the good fortune of working with Ken when I was on staff in the legislature, where he proved himself to be collaborative in approach, driven by practical solutions, and passionate about addressing complex economic development issues," said Marty Fittante, CEO of InvestUP and co-chair of the Jobs, Talent and Economy workgroup. "I look forward to working with this group to find meaningful, impactful solutions to what I be-

lieve is the most important issue spanning the state."

In addition to the workgroups, this fall, the Growing Michigan Together team will launch an ambitious public engagement plan with events across the state. The tour will include regional forums designed to discuss local challenges and growth opportunities in communities across the state. Additionally, many events will focus on collecting additional input from young people—at work, on campus, and online. Events in community spaces, workplaces, and on digital social media platforms will seek to include a broad range of perspectives. The tour will also meet college students on campus, convening both traditional students and adult learners with stops at universities, colleges, and community colleges. Engagements include move-ins, on-campus listening events, homecomings, high schools, and other youth-focused events across the state.



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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
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Department of Women
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Sunday, August 27, 2023
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Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 A.M.



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This is a season where all that can go wrong, will go wrong. It is a season comprised of various and continuous storms. When you go through the storms that encompasses angry skies, howling and blowing winds, battering and raging waters that crashes over you, with the feeling as though you are drowning without a lifeline in sight, alone, and unable to withstand the evil day(s) Just Hold On! Take the time to inhale deeply and exhale slowly in the midst of it all and then stop, look, and listen - you will see, and remember one of God's greatest attributes, His faithfulness and hear Him say; ***"I will never leave you, nor forsake you."***

God's promise in Hebrews 13:5 to be faithful is also in numerous books within the Old and New Testaments. God's faithfulness signifies He will never violate His character, but He will bring to pass in our lives that which will work together for our good and fulfill His purpose. Psalms 33:4 declares, ***"For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does"*** (NLT). Therefore, we can count on Him being faithful, and that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

Trust Him– The Forever Faithful One

"For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you"

Hebrews 13:5b (NKJV)

"For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you," is one verse, yet powerful and liberating. The term "leave" within this verse is derived from the Greek is "aniémi" and means to let go, relax, desist from, send back, loosen, or give up. In addition to, the word "forsake" is egkataleipó and its meaning is to abandon, to desert, or to leave behind. When you combine and understand the meaning of these two words and place them in their rightful position in your life, liberation comes, and you will see why you should be encouraged that God will never leave you or forsake you.

God is promising regardless of what is happening in your life, irrespective of how challenging, demanding, painful, or agonizing it may be He will never let you go, loosen His hold on you, give up on you, or desist from being around you. He is also confirming that He will never leave you behind, abandon you, or desert you. If this does not give you a greater understanding of God's faithfulness and commitment or bring peace to you, I do not know what will.

Now, whatever you are going through look up, get up and praise God as you move forward - Psalms 103:2 states, ***"Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits."*** Is there a better benefit to remember and be thankful for than the fact that God will never leave you or forsake you? Knowing that your faithful God is always with you and He will continue to be with you. In being with you He is doing mighty and glorious things on your behalf, in your life, because He is a forever faithful God. He will give you the strength and power that you need to get through whatever storm(s) you are going through.

His great promise, ***"For He Himself has said, I will never leave you, nor forsake you,"*** is a promise you can trust and without hesitation should cause gratitude to spring up in your heart. Go ahead and ***"Trust Him – The Forever Faithful One"***.

Blessings to All.....

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+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

Black philanthropy month 24/7

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

February is Black history month and August is Black Philanthropy Month. We now have two months where the spotlight is – ideally – on the Black experience. February celebrates the rich diversity of who we are and our visions for the future. August is about how we give and contribute. There was – and still is – a way of looking at Black people and the Black community as being in need of investments by others. We are seen as the recipients of philanthropy, but until recently we weren't widely celebrated as donors, let alone as philanthropists. But that's why we have Black Philanthropy Month: to change the narrative.

But the needs of our community are year-round. And, as a community of philanthropists – with a history of giving our time, talents, and treasure – we have the opportunity to step up and make all 12 months more meaningful and impactful. Here are a few suggestions:

First, give back and give Black. Identifi-

fy those organizations in your community – and nationally – who are Black-led and focused on improving the lives of Black people. Elevate and be consistent in your giving and engagement. Both are important – your time and your treasure. In terms of your treasure, “automate” your giving. Instead of giving when someone asks, or when a need is made known, identify the organizations important to you and set up a monthly contribution online so you don't have to revisit your decision each month. Consider several organizations, set them up, and then focus on the giving of your time and talents. Whatever it is that you do everyday for work, that is your professional expertise, and we know its needed by others. Approach the organizations you are financially supporting, and “double your gift” with an offer of your expertise. Or share your talents and give of your expertise to another organization.

Take a moment to boast as well! Not about yourself, but about the nonprofits you support. Tell your friends and family. Post on social media. Invite others to give

their talents, time or treasure. Be proud. And be proud of the nonprofit sector in general. Encourage our young people to pursue careers in nonprofit management, research, fundraising, advocacy, and service delivery. There are so many different types of nonprofits with so many different types of jobs. But they're not always brought to the attention of our youth.

Here are a few more ways to live into our philanthropy. Make your involvement a family affair engaging all generations. Stop being so critical and be more supportive of the work of nonprofits: focus on being part of the solution. If you have the resources and connections, appropriately solicit individuals wealth, influence and power. Take a moment to include a nonprofit in your estate planning, or simply update the beneficiaries on an investment account to include a percentage to an organization that makes a difference in the Black community. And, as your salary – or business revenue – increases, make sure to increase your giving. Give Black – there's no better investment.



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




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+ EDUCATION

Back to School checklist

By MB STAFF

The break is almost over. In fact, classes have resumed in many schools across the country. Heading back to the classroom after the summer break can be an exciting time for both caregivers and students. While I have no data to support this notion, I will share that it is rumored that many teachers actually forget the last few stress-filled weeks leading into the summer break and begin the year with an air of excitement as well. Checklists, informing caregivers of the age and grade appropriate supplies needed for their young learners to have a successful year have been floating around local stores and malls for a few weeks now. You may notice an increase in the numbers of caregivers and children debating whether the name brand of an item matters when there is a comparable product for a fraction of the cost. Listed below is a checklist of back-to-school supplies critical to student success, needed in every household, but not found on the lists provided by the school.

- Be sure that your student resumes the schedule practiced during the school year which provides an adequate amount of sleep. The extended schedule allowed during the summer months often does not allow students' minds to focus on academics or their bodies to perform during recess (lower ed), gym classes (middle and high schoolers), or the running to catch the bus before and after school. Well rested students typically perform at a higher level than those in need of a nap.
- Remember that while a little anxiety when starting something new such as going from elementary school to middle school or from middle to high school is to be expected, watch for what may appear to be a sense of foreboding in the student who is experiencing a level of apprehension or fear



that requires intervention. Fears and worries diminish greatly when one is well rested and well nourished. Seek professional help/support when needed. Whenever possible, alleviate student anxiety with a tour of his or her new surroundings. A feeling of familiarity with one's environment can help to minimize the very natural fear that comes with uncertainty. For younger students, a bus ride on the route to school pointing out landmarks along the way is recommended. For older students, don't miss orientations designed to familiarize students with their schedule(s), teachers and the buildings they will be attending.

- Eating as healthy a diet as possible and sitting together for meals as frequently as caregiver's work schedules will allow will help your student to focus and retain information needed to perform to the best of his or her ability.
- Limit screen time! Television and game time are at your discretion and can be an excellent incentive for students to complete homework assignments from school or chores in the home.
- Establish a means of contact with

teachers or other staff to receive reports on student successes and/or challenges as frequently as possible or allowed. Waiting for the end of a marking period is a sure sign that a student with even minor academic or behavioral concerns will fall further behind in classes. Proactively setting up a system designed for student success can minimize the challenges and enhance the rate of student success.

Getting reconnected with peers, learning new schedules and teachers, deciding to try out for a team or other extra-curricular activities can be both exciting and overwhelming at the same time. In addition to the checklist above, caregivers can also be observant and listen. Sometimes without a solution, we listen. Knowing that there is a caring adult who is concerned and listens is very important to support a feeling of security and resilience in students who struggle to stay afloat.

It's back to school time. The Michigan Banner will be reporting on student achievements this year. We look forward to getting to know you and sharing some of the successes experienced throughout the school year. For some of you, there are just a few days left. Enjoy them and have a great year.



SPSD ORIENTATIONS

Elementary

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

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

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

Thompson Middle

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

Arthur Hill HS

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)

Saginaw High

- Tuesday, August 15 (10AM & 5PM)
- Tuesday, August 22 (10AM)

SASA

SAGINAW 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)

Success Academy

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

SCC

SAGINAW CAREER COMPLEX

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

THRIVING NOT 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.

PURCHASING
INFORMATION



Back-to-school tips for high school students



COURTESY PHOTO



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>

+ EDUCATION



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 environ-

ments 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**

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

⁴Head 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).

ATTENTION: PARENTS OF 4 YEAR OLDS!!

WILD about Pre-K

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- Free Breakfast & Lunch
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- High Scope Curriculum
- Child Must Be 4 By December 1

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- Child's Birth Certificate
- Up-to-Date Shot Record
- Health Appraisal/Physical
- Health Insurance Card
- Proof of Income
- Proof of Residency
- Photo ID

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PROGRAMS AVAILABLE:

(availability depends on building in some instances)

- Leader In Me
- AVID
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- Robotics
- K-12 Gifted/Talented Programs
- Elementary Athletics

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SAGINAW, MI 48602
989.399.5500



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.



Scan the QR code to learn more about Saginaw ISD's Early Childhood programs and family services. You may also contact Executive Director Dr. Ericka Taylor at etaylor@sisd.cc.



SAGINAW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

MI Tri-Share
CHILD CARE

SAGINAW ISD
SERVE • INNOVATE • EMPOWER

MWC
MICHIGAN WOMEN'S
COMMISSION



The MI Tri-Share Child Care Program (Tri-Share) is an innovative approach to increasing access to high-quality, affordable child care for working families, with the cost of child care shared by an employer, the employee, and the State of Michigan.

Current Partners

- Au Gres-Sims Schools
- Bay Arenac ISD
- Children's Discovery Academy
- Gratiot Isabella RESD
- Hemlock SemiConductor
- Ready, Set, Grow
- Saginaw ISD Head Start
- Vantage Plastics

Current Childcare Providers

- ABC Day Care
- Best Friend Preschool, LLC
- Bright Beginnings
- Children's Discovery Academy at Carrie Knause
- Christ the King - Little Knights Preschool
- Grace Christian School
- Janas Full House
- Jolene Adams
- Kinder Kare
- Lil' Sprouts
- Little Explorers Learning Center
- Little Saints
- Play, Learn, Grow (Lil' Sprouts)
- Ready Set Grow
- Swan Valley Learning Center
- The Little Red Wagon Daycare, LLC
- Trinity Lutheran Church/School
- W.R. Bush Day Care

SIGNING UP AS AN EMPLOYER:

Saginaw ISD is one of several hubs. If you are interested in signing up as an employer, please contact Dr. Ericka Taylor at etaylor@sisd.cc.



Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education honors Saginaw ISD leader

Saginaw Intermediate School District (ISD) is thrilled to announce that our Executive Director of Special Education, Erin Senkowski, has been honored with the Marvin Beekman Award from the Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education (MAASE). This recognition is the highest of the MAASE honors, awarded annually to a standout special education administrator in the state.

"On behalf of Saginaw ISD, I congratulate Erin Senkowski on this fantastic recognition of leadership achievement. Erin's vision, dedication, and relentless pursuit of excellence in special education resonate throughout our county. This award is a testament to her pivotal role in shaping a brighter, more inclusive future to increase opportunities and outcomes for the students we serve," said Dr. Jeffrey Collier, Superintendent of Saginaw ISD.

Ms. Senkowski was presented with the award at MAASE's annual conference on August 8, 2023, in Traverse City, Michigan. MAASE and Saginaw ISD coordinated to surprise Erin with her family in attendance. The criteria for the Beekman Award speaks to the impactful work of its recipients. Nominees must have demonstrated significant contributions on behalf of special education, exhibited integrity in their daily work, had involvement in both the community and educational arenas and made contributions to special education with statewide significance. The award recognizes those who have proven themselves visionaries in the field and made significant contributions to MAASE.

"Receiving the Marvin Beekman Award is a humbling testament to the importance of believing that what seems impossible is always within our reach. To be recognized by my fellow special education administrators for the work to improve educational opportunities for students with disabilities only exemplifies the importance of being a voice for those who need it most. The Beekman is a powerful reminder that our students and educators can continue to thrive through our work as advocates, barrier-busters, and leaders. Thank you to the Saginaw ISD Leadership and Board of



ERIN SEDROWSKI

Education for trusting me with the opportunity to lead an outstanding department of individuals who continue to strive to improve outcomes for our students with disabilities and beyond," expressed Ms. Senkowski.

Saginaw ISD would like to express its immense gratitude to Erin for her significant contributions to the field of special education and her unwavering commitment to the students and community she serves.

ABOUT ERIN E. SENKOWSKI, Ed.S.

Erin Senkowski serves as the Executive Director of Special Education for the Saginaw Intermediate School District. During her 19 years in education, she has served a variety of roles that support the advancement of students with exceptionalities across the educational setting.

Erin has spent her entire career serving students and families in the Great Lakes Bay Region. Prior to her work in Saginaw County, she served as a teacher for students with Autism and Emotional Impairments for the Midland County ESA. In 2005, she continued her teaching career with Saginaw Township Community Schools as a special education teacher for

six years. She assumed her first leadership role in 2011 with the Saginaw ISD, where she served as the Special Education Supervisor assigned to the Freeland Community School District and Saginaw ISD Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program. In 2014, she was promoted to the Assistant Director of Special Education for the Saginaw ISD and then again promoted to the Executive Director of Special Education in August of 2016. She has also served as adjunct faculty at Central Michigan University in the Special Education Department.

Ms. Senkowski holds a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Master of Arts in Special Education from Central Michigan University and an Education Specialist Degree from Saginaw Valley State University. She holds teaching certifications in K-12 Special Education, Elementary Education, and English. She also holds a school administrative certification and full approval as a Director of Special Education in the State of Michigan. She is currently pursuing her Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership from Western Michigan University.

Erin's focus on providing high-quality, equitable educational experiences for all students, especially children with disabilities, runs deep. She continually works to advocate for the needs of students with disabilities by promoting partnerships across the region and state. She is actively involved on various state and national level committees, currently serving as the co-chair of the Legislative Advocacy Committee for the Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education (MAASE), where she works closely to provide input on pending legislation and policy impact on students and educators across the state. Locally, Erin serves on the Saginaw United Way Board of Directors.

Erin enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, and being outdoors. She and her husband Gary, who is also an educator, are the proud parents of three children Owen, Adelyn, and Eli.

+ SPORTS

Seals hired as Saginaw United Girls varsity basketball coach

By HASANI ALI

Eugene Seals was not looking to coach basketball anytime soon after he resigned as the girls coach at Heritage High School.

Well in his case, sometimes the right mission is waiting for you right back where you started.

The former Bridgeport boys basketball coach and Heritage girls coach was named the new head coach for the Saginaw United girls basketball team this season, the first as a combined team of Arthur Hill and Saginaw High players.

The boys basketball programs will remain separate until the new school opens for the 2024-25 school year.

“The most challenging part will be the fact that the student athletes are at two separate schools,” Seals said. “Next year, we’re going to be at the new school, so this is only for one year.

“But we want to make sure that the seniors that are playing will have a full season, a good season. We don’t want this season to just be one where we’re preparing to play next year. That’s not fair to those players. I would never do that to my own child, so I’m not going to do that to other people’s children.”

According to MLive.com, Seals, who starred at Saginaw High and Miami (Ohio), was 42-22 in three seasons at Bridgeport and 16-16 in two seasons at Heritage, including the Covid-interrupted 2020-21 season.

Last season, Arthur Hill was 11-11 under Jamar Hibler, while Saginaw High was 10-12 under Annette Babers.

“I’ve seen the two teams play,” Seals said. “One of the easiest things is that you had talent that was split up between two programs, but now you’re bringing all that talent into one program.

“The hard part is getting them to mesh, getting them to bond as a team. That’s our focus. Become one. We have to become



EUGENE SEALS

one team. We have to become united.”

Seals, a member of the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame, has coached and worked with area basketball players as owner of Pride Basketball.

In fact, he had some success working with the local talent around the area.

“Last year, my AAU team won a national championship ... this year we lost in the national semifinals,” Seals said. “We had players from Arthur Hill, Saginaw High, Flint Carman-Ainsworth. I know the teams and the players we’re going to face. It’s not like I need to learn who my opponents are. We need to make sure my team is ready to compete with those teams.”

Carman-Ainsworth is the defending Saginaw Valley League champion, defeating Grand Blanc then Midland Dow for the title.

“I feel more supported here, and that makes you more comfortable,” Seals said. “When you get the support, you’re allowed to push someone to greatness. Kids will always take the easy route if you allow them. I was not encouraged to demand greatness. I was encouraged to allow mediocrity. Here, they want the girls to be pushed.”

With Seals working with a brand-new program, he’s looking to build a solid foundation from the bottom up. He’s looking to bring a winning culture to Saginaw United early.

“That’s so important. If you don’t have a feeder system, you won’t be successful in the future. I don’t care how talented we are now, if you don’t have a feeder system, you won’t be able to sustain it.”

The first official practice for Michigan high school teams is Monday, Nov. 20, with the first games Monday, Dec. 4.

EMU football player gives away scholarship to help teammate

When I walked on to the Central Michigan University football team back in 2008, I realized very quickly how much this next level of competition was all about business—a cut-throat business that was only concerned about its bottom line.

Throughout my college career, I've watched players come and go. Some players didn't like the environment of a small college town, others were kicked off the team due to not being focused enough to produce on the field.

Now thinking about it, I've seen coaches purposely make a player's time miserable at the school for the intention of making him quit, only to secure more space for new talent.

These were players on scholarships. Imagine what the walk-on players had to go through.

Being an extra body on the roster could be quite daunting. From being a practice dummy to hauling practice equipment on and off the field made your job a challenge on top of trying to earn some playing time.

Most walk-on players never see the field, but it never stops players from trying.

On the flipside, many of football's greatest players were walk-ons at one point that proved themselves to be prime-time players.

From J.J. Watt to Antonio Brown, many of these legends worked their way from the top and became elite.

A walk-on player truly has to prove their worth.

Zack Conti just happens to be next one in line to earn his stripes. Rather than the university gifting him a scholarship, it was given to him by another teammate.

What makes his story so unique, he was a productive player on and off the field.

"Zack Conti has had to pay his way to school for four years. And in the fall, the guy was selling his plasma to be able to pay the bills," Head Coach Chris Creighton told the Eastern Michigan University football team during a meeting on Aug. 3.



ZACK CONTI

Unfortunately, the team couldn't give out any more scholarships. But financial help was still coming Conti's way.

The head coach explains to the players that the NCAA allows the team to provide 85 scholarships each year, and they've given them all out. Creighton asked for an 86th scholarship, but the schools refused.

"Until Brian Dooley comes into my office," Creighton said. "And he says, 'Coach, that guy has earned it. And I've talked this over with my family. And if there's a way to make this happen, I am willing to give up my scholarship as a gift to Zack Conti.' I've never heard, I've never seen anything like that ever before."

According to CBS Sports, Dooley walked over to Creighton and handed him an envelope that held his scholarship. The team broke out in cheers.

"It feels like all of my hard work is finally being rewarded," he said.

The senior paid his way through school by working and donating plasma, which usually pays \$50 to \$100 a session.

Dooley said Conti earned the scholarship and explained his motivation for helping his teammate.

"I did it because I've seen Conti grow over the years. Seeing him walk away from something that he loves did not sit well with me," he said. "He works hard and gets extra work with me all the time. In my eyes, he earned it 100%. Giving up my scholarship so he can stay and play means everything. I'm proud of what he has become and cannot wait to see what he does on the field."

+ SPORTS



WWE SUMMERSLAM

WWE Summerslam in Detroit: An honest review

By HASANI ALI

World Wrestling Entertainment has one of the hottest storylines running with Roman Reigns as “the Tribal Chief.”

The Universal champion has reigned (no pun intended) supreme over the WWE universe for over 1,000 days and did not look like he was going to be stopped any time soon...until his cousin Jey Uso stepped to the plate.

Since WrestleMania, tension has been building between the two. It has caused an up-and-down rift between Jey and his brother Jimmy and even introduced another brother into the mix being called up WWE’s third brand NXT, Solo Sikoa.

Jimmy had mixed feelings about who to side with when it came to his family. It was either acknowledge Roman Reigns as the Tribal Chief and rule the WWE with his cousin, or stand up to his evil, conniving ways and tear down the tribe with his brother, Jey.

Everything was all set for a final showdown between cousins. More than 50,000

in attendance at Ford Field was ready to see Roman Reigns dethroned.

Summerslam was one the biggest pay-per-view events to hit the city of Detroit since Hell in the Cell back in Oct. 8, 2017.

Before I spoil the result, let’s start with the best highlights of the event.

Cody Rhodes actually beats Brock Lesnar: Anybody and everybody that watches WWE knows that Lesnar is the guy in Vince McMahon’s eyes. The part-time wrestler would disappear after major pay-per-view events and would be missing for months at a time just to be put back into major title matches without building any tension or credibility with the crowd leading towards the event. Rhodes has been on a roll since returning from AEW. He’s on a quick road to becoming champion, but he was expected to lose to Lesnar.

Surprise Title Change: Every major event needs a surprise. The Triple Threat match between Bianca Belair, Charlotte Flair and Asuka was already an epic performance within itself. Many expected for Belair to regain the Women’s World Title,

but the surprise that nobody was banking on was Iyo Sky cashing in on her Money In The Bank opportunity as she was the winner earlier this year. A MITB winner can challenge any current champion at any given time and directly after a triple threat was the perfect time. Definitely adding some volume to the women’s division.

Now for the sour moments of Summerslam:

Logan Paul In General: The WWE typically does a fantastic job of bringing A-list celebrities onto the roster to bring on another fan base and increase the ratings—I have no problem with that. The issue at hand is that the WWE is usually high-level talent as jobbers, which is a blow to one’s career. Paul defeated Ricochet, a sensational high-flyer that was supposed to be a promising talent when he was called up to the WWE main roster. If Paul was an actual athlete, I could see the match being more believable. When Shaq faced Big Show at WrestleMania 32, it made sense because they were both larger than life. I’m not believing that a YouTuber can actually compete in a WWE ring.

Jimmy Betrays Jey, Roman Reigns Retains Title: It was shocking, jaw-dropping and heart-breaking for some. The story was set up for Jey to win the WWE championship. Reigns’ three-year term as champion was finally about to end. What made it worse was that Jey was seconds away from actually winning the title when his brother came down to the ring to interrupt the three count. Usually, these stories are meant for WrestleMania, but Summerslam is usually the next biggest event of the year of the wrestling world. But the creative team decided to go a different approach with this one. Fans love to see the babyface finally get over on a heel at a big event. Didn’t happen this time unfortunately. With only one title exchange throughout the entire show, it would be assumed that this would have been the major title change that was going to happen. However, the storyline continues, but definitely left a climactic ending to this event.

Franklin avidly speaks out against Whyte and steroid use

By HASANI ALI

British Boxer Dillian Whyte has ruined his career by stooping to an all-time low by failing a drug test, a week before his rematch with Anthony Joshua.

Robert Helenius took the fight on a four-day notice this past weekend, in which he was knocked out in the seventh round at the O2 Arena in London.

Joshua (26-3, 23 KOs) is set to take on Deontay Wilder next in a mega fight.

Ironically, Helenius was the last opponent for Deontay Wilder prior to his alleged fight with Andy Ruiz. According to ESPN, the deal has been officially called off.

Whyte (29-3, 19 KOs) was currently sitting in the top 10 of the heavyweight division (no.7) with a fair chance of getting a shot of a heavyweight title shot.

That opportunity is no more. He was quickly replaced by Filip Hrgovic, who has entered into the ten 10 for the first time in his career.

Usually, a fighter is only removed from the rankings if they have not competed in the last 12 months and do not have a fight scheduled, according to ESPN.com. They would not receive a ranking until they fight again.

Any fighter who tests positive for performance enhancing substance will also be removed from the rankings and will be eligible to re-enter the rankings after his next bout.

Seems like fair rule in hindsight.

However, it's a tough break for Whyte because his situation is not favorable and the action was a complete sabotage to his career.

Whyte is on his last legs as a boxer, pending retirement depending on his chances to earn a title shot. Because of his failed drug test, Whyte will have to start nearly over to prove himself as a worth contender and no promoter is going to deal with an older fighter that needs to



DILLIAN WHYTE VS JERMAINE FRANKLIN

start over.

Though Whyte's removal didn't necessarily shake up the heavyweight division, it still has impacted many involved—in his past or future.

After the news has broken out about the failed drug test, heavyweight contender Jermaine Franklin received several phone calls to address the matter.

"He was probably using them (PEDs) when he fought me," he said. "I am disgusted with him and any fighter that decides to use PEDs in this sport. Many fighters put their life on the line for this sport. We don't play boxing over here."

Franklin received his first loss to Whyte back in November of 2022. Whyte's victory was by a split decision at the O2 Arena

in London in which Joshua was in attendance, searching for his comeback opponent after a two-year hiatus.

The crowd booted in disbelief as many people had Franklin as the dominant winner in the fight.

Many speculated that Whyte had the advantage being at home and that Eddie Hearn and his promotion team were setting up for a rematch vs. Joshua.

Due to the pressure of the crowd and the critics, Franklin (22-2, 18 KOs) was awarded the fight against Joshua earlier this year in May, in which he lost by decision.

Whyte loss back to Joshua via knockout back in 2012.

+ SPORTS



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.

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."



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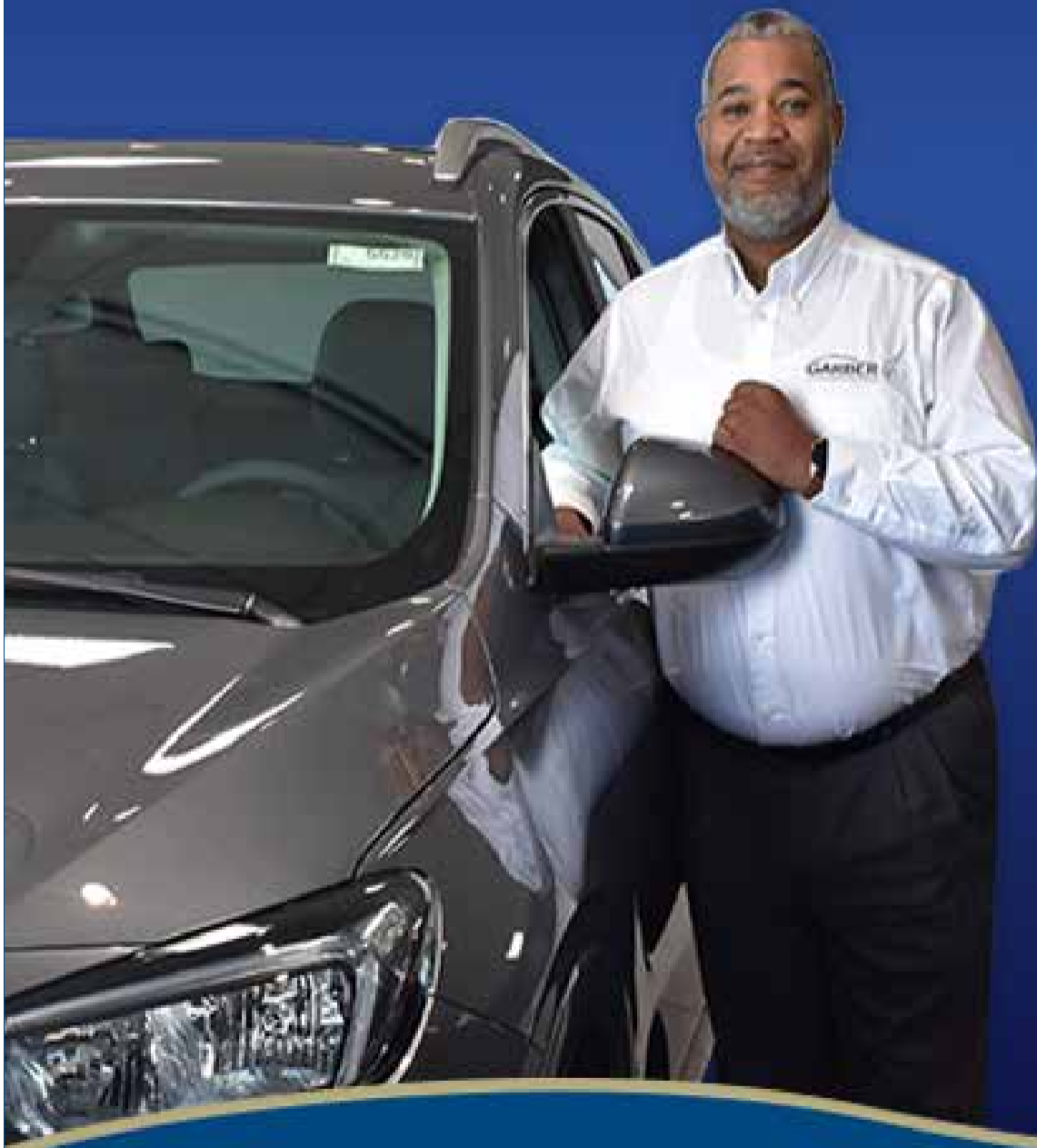


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