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CELEBRATING MLK JR DAY

COMMUNITY



**CELEBRATED GOSPEL ARTIST MARVIN WINANS TO PERFORM AT SVSU FOR MLK REGIONAL CELEBRATION**

FAITH BASED, PG 32

## Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Iota Chi Lambda Chapter 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Virtual Unity Celebration



TOP L TO R: DANTE DAVIS, EVELYN MCGOVERN, BOTTOM L TO R: JOSEPH HERNANDEZ, GEORGE COPELAND. NOT PICTURED: JULIUS BOARDEN JR.

Iota Chi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. in partnership with Delta College Black Faculty and Staff is hosting the 27th Annual Martin Luther King Jr Unity Celebration on Monday January 16, 2023 at The Dow Event Center at 11:00 a.m. The theme for this year’s celebration is “Are You Settling ....?”

Our keynote speaker for this Celebration is Mr. Jacob Brown. Jacob is a former professional athlete turned entrepreneur, motivational speaker, and writer. He is also the Co-Founder of Varlo, a cycling and triathlon apparel brand. Jacob is mostly known for his LinkedIn persona, where he has grown a following under his #FailForward motivational posts, coaching, and inspirational videos. Jacob now travels globally speaking to corporations, colleges, and sports teams about how to take failure and turn it into fuel.

He is a family man – a husband of one and a father of four, a native of Saginaw and graduate of Bridgeport High School.

Historically, Iota Chi Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha presents its community service awards to individuals and organizations for their service to our community. This year the Fraternity’s highest community awards, the Dr. MLK Jr Community Service Award will be awarded to **Mr. Dante Davis** and Saginaw STEM and Dr. MLK Jr Unity Award will be awarded to **Evelyn McGovern** and the Women of Colors community group. The Delta College Black Faculty and Staff Association “Spirit of Dr. King Award” will be awarded to Professor **Joseph Hernandez**, **Julius Boarden Jr.** will receive the Iota Chi Lambda chapter’s James “Pete” Gaddis Service Award and the Merit Award will be awarded to **George Copeland**.



**ABC News veteran John Quiñones to speak at Delta**

LATINO BANNER, COVER



**Legislator, civil rights activist Bakari Sellers to give keynote address at MLK Jr. Regional Celebration**

COMMUNITY, PG 12



**McCune: Saginaw’s comeback kid**

SPORTS, PG 48

FEATURED STORY

## Community leaders honored with Drum Major Award

COMMUNITY, PG 11



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

## Line It Up

It can absolutely boggle the mind to read or hear about some of the resolutions people make each year. Many of them are repeat resolutions having been made year after year, over and over again but with the sincere intent to follow through this time – again. Ranging from the relatively simple I'm going to start reading for thirty minutes every day to the more intense plans to lose 50 pounds before swimwear season, the majority of these declarations of life change are forgotten rather quickly. Let's be honest – some of us have already decided to try again next year. This is in part due to the fact that while the countdown is fun (if you're still awake – we're not getting any younger) no magic occurs at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve. Lifestyle and behavior changes typically require planning and commitment. We must line things up if we are to succeed.



To 'line things up' is to organize or put in position for success. The phrase line-up is most often associated with Law Enforcement or sports. However, lining up aspects of one's life (work, home and/or community) is most commonly used to describe the process of planning and preparation. The line-up must be well thought out and realistic. For example, chances are very slim, even if using one of the many weight loss fads currently on the market that we will experience the desired outcome without a practical and achievable plan in place (seriously, I saw one that I can drink before bed, requires no exercise, no change in eating habits and will melt away 60 pounds as I sleep in just one month). If it seems too good to be true and requires no effort or investment, it probably won't result in any lasting success. Investments are not always a matter of dollars and cents. An investment can also be your time, your planning, using or lending your skillset, or putting in the labor necessary to complete a task or project.

The old saying, 'If you fail to plan, you plan to fail' speaks of the necessity to make arrangements or line things up. Even the smallest of tasks run smoothly and are more likely to achieve desired results with a realistic goal in mind and proper planning. I have permission to share the plans of a friend whom I think might just be successful in achieving his goal/resolution this year. He decided to devote more time to one of his favorite activities – reading. For health reasons and upon the advice of a physician, he learned that he needs to relax more – slow down. He lined up the following: purchased three of the books he wanted to read last month and placed a few others on his Christmas want list. He was a pretty decent fellow last year and received all of his requests. With a little help from family and friends he created a reading nook near a window with his favorite chair, a small bookshelf, and a table. As a family, they established that space for his protected time and have vowed to honor an imaginary 'Do Not Disturb' sign when he is reading. He established his goal, developed the strategy, began preparation well in advance (with buy-in from the family and within the family budget), then launched. He lined things up to enhance the likelihood of success. We're only two weeks into the New Year but his appears to be a healthy and much needed lifestyle change.

Successful line-ups require planning. Watch and study people who are doing what you would like to do. TED Talks, podcasts, and even Do It Yourself (DIY) videos may be a good place to start. It may be necessary to step outside your comfort zone and try something new (new but realistic – climbing Mt Everest is not the starting place for a new hiker). Delve into information or the history of your interest. A very reasonable goal is to research, plan and save this year for the activity you would like to launch next year. Since we receive inspiration from the experiences of others (successes and losses), learn all that is available about your favorites. Whenever possible, have a teammate, family member or partner with whom to share the experience/activity, however do not let the absence of another person deter your movement or decision-making. Be bold. Be brave. Be successful. Line things up for a successful and Happy New Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome Buckley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerome Buckley  
Publisher, Michigan Banner



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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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## WORKING TOGETHER. SHARING THE DREAM.

A Regional MLK Celebration!

**Wednesday, January 18, 2023 • 7 pm**  
in the SVSU Malcolm Field Theatre

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

### An Evening with Bakari Sellers

Two-time NY Times best-selling author, civil rights activist, attorney, entrepreneur, legislator, and overall prolific voice of the culture, Bakari Sellers continues to build upon the strong legacy he inherited as the son of Gwendolyn Sellers and civil rights leader Cleveland Sellers. While his dad helped shape movements working alongside Stokely Carmichael, Bayard Rustin, and Malcolm X, Bakari has come into his own helping to write the blueprint for today's movements with the likes of Rep. James Clyburn, Attorney Benjamin Crump, and President Barack Obama.

Bakari forged his own path from very early on. He entered Morehouse College at the age of 16. He went on to become a graduate of the University of South Carolina Law School and became the youngest legislator in the South Carolina state legislature at 22. In penning both his memoir *My Vanishing Country* and a children's book entitled "Who Are Your People?," Bakari pays homage to the working-class values that encouraged him to "dream with his eyes wide open" and that are the predicate for his persistent fight for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the US and abroad.

A CNN analyst, Bakari also brings an ability to elevate discourse such that people always feel one step closer to a solution or resolution after he speaks. He combines these and many other talents in his new podcast, *The Bakari Sellers Podcast* which airs two times a week on the Ringer Podcast Network. Sellers has also been an attorney with the Strom Law Firm, L.L.C. in Columbia, South Carolina since 2007, where he heads up the firm's Strategic Communication and Public Affairs team and the DEI Consulting practice.

He is married to Dr. Ellen Rucker-Sellers and they are the proud parents of three children.

**This event will feature:**

- Keynote Speaker  
**Bakari Sellers**
- Presentation of the  
**MLK Scholarship Awards**
- Presentation of the  
**Regional Drum Major Awards**

**Register at**  
[svsu.edu/mlk](https://svsu.edu/mlk)

For more information, please visit [svsu.edu/mlk](https://svsu.edu/mlk) or contact the Office of Diversity Programs at (989) 964-4068.

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# MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 5 • NUMBER 2



## THE BEAUTY OF NIGHT

By DONIQUA SOVIA

All is silent, the place is dark. The stars are shining, the moon is out. The crickets are chirping, in exchange for the birds. The gentle breeze of the wind can occasionally be heard.

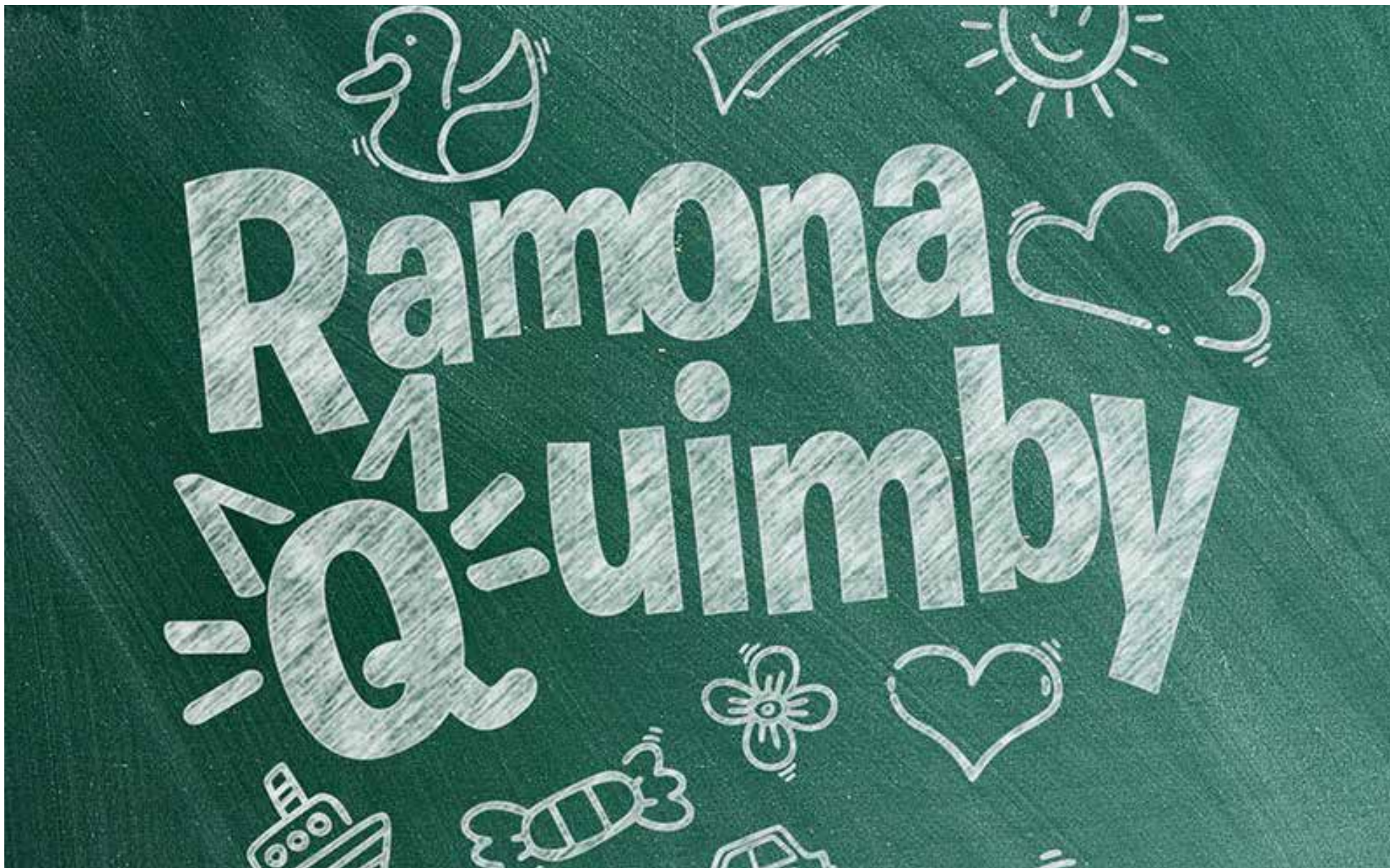
The hustle and bustle of the day, has come to an end, and all that's left is a time to reflect. Animals of the night scurry around, going across the street back into the ground. The temperature drops cooling everything down, and prompting a sweater to keep the cold out. The beauty of the night, is in the silence it holds, when no more distractions can interrupt you, and you have time to be alone.

The Big Dipper can be found if you look towards the sky, and where there's the big one, the little one resides, along with other constellations that wow our eyes. The moon is shining though not always full, and to see what shape it's in each night, can excite us all.

So take the night in, in all the beauty it has, for the beauty of the night will soon pass.



# Pit & Balcony Community Theatre presents Ramona Quimby



COURTESY PHOTO

Pit & Balcony's 91st season continues on January 27th with Ramona Quimby which will run two weekends through February 5th.

Adapted from Beverly Cleary's series of books, Ramona Quimby is a collection of vignettes that many fans of the books will find familiar. Narrated by Ramona's older sister, Beezus, this production takes audiences through a whole year with the Quimbys as they navigate the joys and trials of regular small-town American life. Though the source material spans the 1950's to the 1980's, the characters' experiences are as relevant today.

Pit & Balcony's production features a cast of nineteen, including a youth ensemble for many of whom this is their first

production, and two father-daughter duos. The titular character is played Heritage High School student and correspondent for SWAG Magazine, Karleigh Anderson.

"Ramona Quimby was my idol growing up," says Amy Spadafore, director of the production and Pit & Balcony's Managing Director. "She is brash and bold and has this huge imagination. She is guided by her heart and isn't afraid to be exactly who she is at all times even if it gets her into some trouble. I think we can all learn from Ramona Quimby and I'm so excited to be presenting this nostalgic piece to our audiences."

In addition to the regularly scheduled run, the community theatre will also present a free daytime performance to over

270 area elementary and middle school students.

"The school show is the best show," says Spadafore. "Young people are so uninhibited and respond big and honestly to what they're seeing on stage. It's thrilling to watch local youth engage with art, often for the first time, in our house."

Performances of Ramona Quimby run January 27-29 and February 3-5. Friday and Saturday showings will begin at 7:30pm and Sunday's performances will begin at 3:00pm.

Ticket information, including youth and group pricing, can be found on Pit & Balcony's website, [www.PitAndBalconyTheatre.com](http://www.PitAndBalconyTheatre.com) or by calling the box office at (989)754-6587.



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# Latino Banner

**LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD**

**VAMOS ADELANTE**



## Joseph Hernandez to receive 2023 Spirit of MLK Award

LB pg 3



JOHN QUIÑONES

## ABC News veteran John Quiñones to speak at Delta

John Quiñones, ABC News veteran and the creator and host of What Would You Do? will speak in the Delta College Pioneer Gym on Wednesday, February 22 from 6 to 7:30pm, as a part of the President's Speaker Series.

The event entitled, "What Would You Do? Words of wisdom about doing the right thing," will focus on Quiñones' odds-defying journey from migrant farm work to broadcast journalism, the power of education, championing the Latino American Dream, and thought-provoking perspectives on human nature and ethical behavior.

The Emmy Award-winning journalist, who has connected with audiences for more than 30 years at ABC News, the anchor desk at 20/20 and Primetime, has broken barriers in his life and career with the mantra of "never taking no for an answer."

Quiñones is the host and creator of What Would You Do?, the hidden camera ethical dilemma show that examines how people behave in a situation that requires them to either act or ignore it when directly faced with situations of racism, violence, hate crimes or other hot button cultural issues. Over the span of 15 seasons, he has become "the face of doing the right thing" to millions of fans and has embraced the role through his keynote presentations and books.

In addition to his achievements and accolades, he was recently recognized with honorary doctorate degrees from David & Elkins College in West Virginia and Utah Valley University.

The presentation is free and open to the community. For more information or for disability-related accommodations, contact David Baskind at 989-686-9374 or Kim Klein at 989-686-9192.

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# Joseph Hernandez to receive 2023 Spirit of MLK Award



JOSEPH HERNANDEZ

Joseph Hernandez, associate professor in mathematics, has been named the 2023 recipient of the Spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for his passion for helping others.

The Saginaw native has used the lessons from his past to help mentor and encourage young people by helping them to envision their own dreams for success. Hernandez will receive the award January 16 at the 27th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Luncheon, taking place at The Dow Event Center in Saginaw.

“I try to do what God wants me to do and I think that’s mostly it for my life,” Hernandez said. “Then watching what Martin Luther King Jr. did, that’s what it was about for him. I just want to make a difference wherever I can like he did. It is an honor to be recognized for this.”

Hernandez uses his past life experiences as both testimony and education in order to encourage and ensure a sense of belonging for his students and members of the community. Those experiences led to his decision to attend Delta College for a

fresh start. By fate, he met Ray Gutierrez and Monica Hernandez, who were both instrumental in Hernandez’s evolution in and outside the classroom through their dedicated support.

As a student, his love for mathematics blossomed. After graduating from Delta College, he attended the University of Michigan-Flint where he earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and later earned a master’s in mathematics from Central Michigan University. Returning to Delta College in 2010 as a professor, he has since inspired his students to enjoy the subject through his genuine approach.

He is a participant of Delta College’s Society of Hispanic Leaders (SOHL) and the Possible Dream Program, co-chaired the Men of Delta program, and volunteered with the Math Olympics. In the community, he volunteers as an assistant chaplain where he holds bi-weekly church services at the Saginaw County Jail and Saginaw County Correctional Facility in Freeland. He also serves as a board member of the Well of Saginaw Men’s Shelter, a

program with the mission to combat male homelessness.

The award is presented by the Delta College Black Faculty and Staff Association and the Saginaw chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha – of which the late MLK was a member. Each year, BFSA members select an employee whose dedicated service to the college and their community demonstrates the spirit of MLK’s humanitarian work and values.

## Past Award Recipients

- .....
- 2022** – Lula Woodard
- 2021** – Beth Kelch
- 2020** – Carlos McMath
- 2019** – John Neal
- 2018** – Veronica Bond
- 2017** – Monica Hernandez-Alaniz
- 2016** – Rosemary Reeves
- 2015** – Dr. Linda Holoman
- 2014** – Dr. Charissa Urbano
- 2013** – Carl Ruth
- 2012** – Beverly Westbrook
- 2011** – Mary Beth Looby
- 2010** – Dr. Jean Goodnow
- 2009** – William E. Ketchum, Jr.
- 2008** – Teresa Stitt
- 2007** – Katrina Nichols
- 2006** – Joan Sabourin
- 2005** – Jack Crowell
- 2004** – Neville Britto
- 2003** – John Pugh

# COMMUNITY BOARD

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Delta College Black Faculty and Staff Association present:

## 2023 Spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award

Presented to a Delta College individual who exemplifies Dr. King's work at the college and in the community.

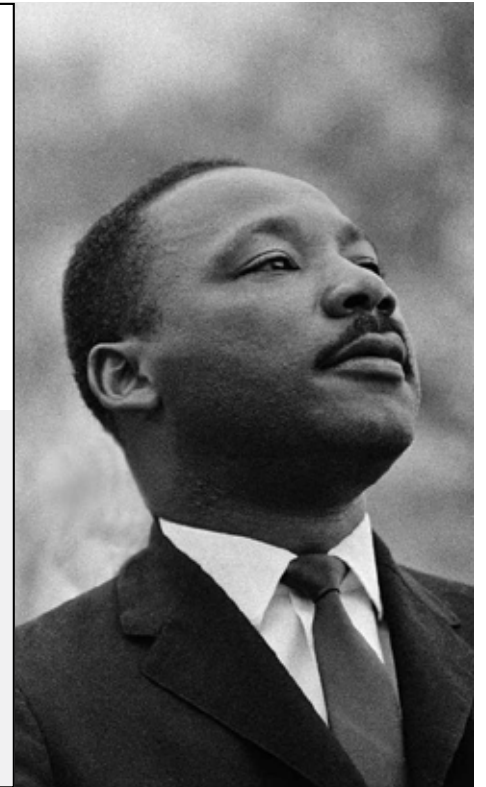


### Joseph Hernandez

*Showing the way by example.*

As an associate professor of mathematics, Joe has used his experiences and position to mentor young people, helping them to see their own vision of success. He is open and transparent about his past and is purposeful about going above and beyond to help students succeed.

Serving through Delta College and beyond with church outreach activities, Joe's vision and habit of empowerment extends to the wider community.



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FROM L TO R: SMALLWOOD HOLOMAN JR., PASTOR PHILLIP JOHNSON, ANGELIA WILLIAMS

# Community leaders honored with Drum Major Award

Three leaders in the Great Lakes Bay Region will be honored for their commitment to bettering their communities. Smallwood Holoman Jr. of Midland, Pastor Phillip Johnson of Bay City, and Angelia Williams of Saginaw will receive the Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Community Service Award during the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Celebration, which will be held Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. at Saginaw Valley State University.

Now in its eighth year, the Drum Major for Community Service Award honors people in the Great Lakes Bay Region who perform everyday acts of service with reliability and commitment, but who seldom receive recognition and whose work exemplifies one or more of Dr. King's values or beliefs.

Holoman, Johnson and Williams will each receive a \$1,000 award for a charitable organization of their choice.

Holoman, a retired scientist and director for Dow, is a longtime community volunteer serving national, state and local organizations. His community service activities are wide ranging, with particular focus on organizations that serve the youth and elderly in our communities,

including the Michigan 4H Foundation, Midland County Council on Aging (Senior Services), Great Lakes Bay Boys & Girls Club, Saginaw County Youth Protection Council, and many others.

"I'm humbled to be recognized as an honoree of the MLK Jr. Drum Major award because of its association with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., my civil rights hero," Holoman said. "The work I do in the Great Lakes Bay region is driven by my personal mantra of being a servant and making a positive difference in the lives of God's people!"

Johnson serves as the lead pastor at Apostolic Life Church of Bay City, a thriving, multiethnic, multigenerational congregation, where he prioritizes ministry efforts that are designed to reach the disadvantaged within our region. Johnson has extended his community-focused ministry by serving as the Bay County Sheriff's Office's lead chaplain in the Bay County jail and as chaplain in the Bay County Juvenile Detention Center. In 2019, Johnson was selected to serve as chaplain for the Bay City's public safety officers, including the police force and fire departments.

"I feel a great sense of pride coupled with a sense of responsibility and contin-

ued duty," Johnson said of receiving the Drum Major Award. "I am both honored and humbled to be recognized for the important work we do within our community, serving the marginalized and the oft overlooked."

Johnson said he finds motivation in the words of Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't need a college degree to serve, you don't need to make your subject agree with your verb to serve. All you need is a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love."

Williams is the senior vice president of Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, a federally qualified health center. A registered nurse and adult nurse practitioner with a health care career spanning 41 years, Williams has demonstrated compassion for those who are underserved and sometimes neglected by the health care system. Williams joined GLBHC in 2012, providing administrative oversight of all HIV Prevention and Medical Services, as well as the day-to-day operations of the school-based health centers. Before that, she spent 10 years as the program coordinator and nurse practitioner for two school-based health centers in Miami, Florida.

Williams is a member of the NAACP, the National Black Nurses Association and the National School-Based Health Alliance. She has received numerous prestigious community and leadership awards at the local, state and national levels for her demonstrated leadership commitment to serving others.

The Drum Major Community Service Award was created by the Great Lakes Bay Regional MLK Celebration event committee. Honorees are selected from Bay, Midland and Saginaw counties. For more information and a list of past honorees, visit <https://www.svsu.edu/mlk/drummajoraward/>.

To register for the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Celebration, visit <https://www.svsu.edu/mlk/>.

## + COMMUNITY



BAKARI SELLERS

# Legislator, civil rights activist Bakari Sellers to give keynote address at MLK Jr. Regional Celebration

Political analyst, activist and former South Carolina representative Bakari Sellers will deliver the keynote address for the 14th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Celebration at Saginaw Valley State University on Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. The event is a collaboration of SVSU, Delta

College and the Bay Area, Midland Area and Saginaw community foundations. It is free and open to the public, but registration is requested.

Sellers' address will be presented in a "fireside chat" format, with John Kaczynski, SVSU's executive director of govern-

mental and community affairs, moderating the discussion.

Born into an activist family, Sellers has carried on the legacy of his father, civil rights leader Cleveland Sellers, a powerful voice for equality, especially in the 1960s and early 1970s. Bakari Sellers has helped shape contemporary civil rights initiatives with U.S. Rep. James Clyburn, attorney Benjamin Crump and former President Barack Obama.

In 2006, at age 22, Sellers unseated a 26-year incumbent congressman to become the youngest member of the South Carolina State Legislature and the youngest African American elected official in the United States. In 2014, he won the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor in South Carolina.

Sellers joined the Strom Law Firm, L.L.C. in Columbia, South Carolina, in 2007 and currently leads the firm's strategic communication and public affairs team and the diversity, equity and inclusion consulting practice. He also is a political analyst with CNN and hosts a twice-a-week podcast on the Ringer Podcast Network.

Sellers is the author of two books, the New York Times best-selling "My Vanishing Country" and a children's book, "Who Are Your People?" He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College and a law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

In addition to the keynote address by Sellers, the Jan. 18 program will include the presentation of regional scholarship awards by the Bay Area, Midland Area and Saginaw community foundations to regional high school seniors who have embodied Martin Luther King Jr.'s ideals. The 15 scholarship recipients will read "The Negro and the American Dream," excerpted from King's address at the Annual Freedom Mass Meeting of the North Carolina State Conference of Branches of the NAACP on Sept. 25, 1960.

Officials also will announce the winners of the Drum Major Awards, which recognize members of the Great Lakes Bay Region who advance King's vision through their community involvement.



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# WHO WILL FILL HIS SHOES?



**JOAN L. WASHINGTON**

They say men like him are rare and far between...  
Like the vast deep roar of the mighty oceans  
To the sweet quiet rush of the streams...

NOW WHO WILL FILL HIS SHOES?

They say that a good man is hard to find,  
And that in due time all things must pass  
And all wounds will heal....

But yet, YOU and I must keep in mind  
He was more than just a good MAN  
But a man of G R E A T faith and virtue  
A man worthy of the times, with a voice  
So thunderous it may have reached the lofty  
Peaks of the mountain tops...indeed he traveled  
There many times....

NOW WHO WILL FILL HIS SHOES?

He was a man that knew love, and loved like no other...  
Not just the loving of a wife, a sister, a husband or a Brother....

He was a monumental lover of mankind,  
Of people he had never even met...  
For this reason People loved him  
And YES, some believed he was heaven sent!

NOW WHO WILL FILL HIS SHOES?

He was a man of the holy order,  
That preached his sermons well,  
A man redeemed in the brotherhood of righteousness  
That walked through streets of HELL!

NOW WHO WILL FILL HIS SHOES?

Can you fill those shoes?  
The anguish, the depression...he must have felt  
Locked away in old jails...

The utter loneliness, frustration, humiliation,  
The desperation!  
NO... not me pal!

And those short bittersweet moments of victory  
He marched singing "We Shall Overcome!"  
But I've often wondered did he realize...  
The battle had only just begun!

Black, White, Red, Yellow...  
It made no difference...don't you see?  
This man's love was genuine....  
He stood for YOU and for ME!

NOW WHO WILL FILL HIS SHOES?  
A man destined to journey down many a bleak,  
Lonely country road--I'm sure they met him  
by and by....

The somber moments of solitude that ebbed  
At his flank, the tears that edged his eyes...  
Did he ever want to throw it all away...and just  
Hang his head and cry?

NOW WHO WILL FILL HIS SHOES?

And OH! What a JOY did he bring...  
Like a welcome wayfarer on a maiden  
Voyage...

He did not stagger, nor did he stumble  
Through dim or dabbled light  
But this light was brilliant for ALL to see!

Nor did he come withered and abashed like some dour child  
He must not have heard the clang of the death knell?  
INSTEAD...he heard FREEDOM RING!

NOW WHO WILL FILL HIS SHOES?

He must have come to us adorned in the colors of FAITH!  
He was wrapped in the loin cloth of HOPE!  
Cradled in the arms of WISDOM!  
And saved by the mercy of GRACE!

NOW WHO? WHO? WHO WILL FILL HIS SHOES..?

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**African American Advisory Committee Meeting**  
 January 20, 2023  
 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM EST

Join us for the Flint & Genesee Chamber's African American Advisory Committee (AAAC)! The Committee has been energized with new leadership and a refined mission to support the growth and success of Black-owned businesses in Genesee County. Business owners and professionals are welcome to participate in AAAC activities.

The AAAC serves as the liaison between the region's growing African American business community and the Chamber. AAAC members partner with the Chamber to support the advancement and development of African American businesses.

Please join the AAAC the third Friday of each month for informational and networking meetings. Locations may vary from month-to-month to highlight different businesses in the area, and a virtual option will be offered when possible. Meeting agendas will focus on connecting people to needed resources, engaging with community leaders, and networking.

Questions or ideas? Email [aaac@flintandgenesee.org](mailto:aaac@flintandgenesee.org)





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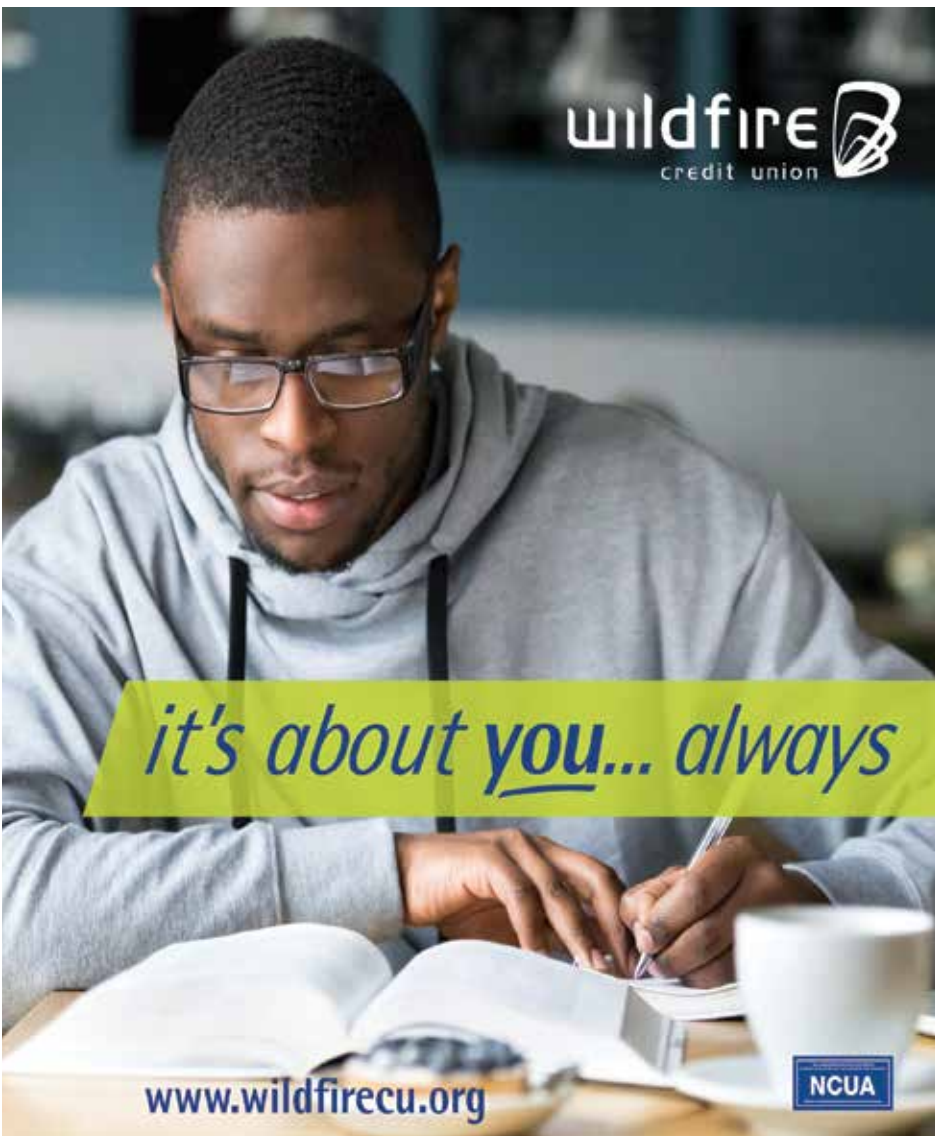
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# Yeo & Yeo Unveils a New Brand Experience

Yeo & Yeo, a business success partner serving organizations throughout Michigan, announces a new brand experience to mark its 100th anniversary. The transformation includes all of Yeo & Yeo’s companies: CPAs & Advisors, Technology, Medical Billing & Consulting, and Wealth Management.

“As we look forward to the next century, it is important for us to embrace our partnership approach, our client stories, and our unique spirit, and capture them in our brand,” stated Kimberlee Dahl, Yeo & Yeo’s Director of Marketing. “We saw it as more than a new look and feel — we wanted to celebrate our dynamic culture, our diverse services, and our focus on possibilities for our clients.”

The company embarked upon a journey that included team members, clients,

and community partners. They uncovered some authentic truths: The company was known for its services, but truly driven by empathy, possibility, agility, and enthusiasm, and was defined by the success of clients and communities. The brand was fully updated to reflect the firm’s true nature.

“We are our stories, and the more stories we captured, the more we realized who we truly are: Business Success Partners helping organizations and individuals thrive on their unique journeys,” said Dave Youngstrom, President & CEO of Yeo & Yeo. “We unearthed a very human company that is relationship- and connection-based, with a spirit of serving.”



Over the next several months, the new brand will be introduced in everything from the website to signage to documents and beyond. But more importantly, it will be embraced in the spirit of the organization in everyday interactions.

“This is a celebration of our work, and a new vision to live up to,” said Youngstrom. “We’re excited to do so — one client, one day, one experience at a time.”

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DATE	EVENT	TIME
Saturday, January 28	<b>Promote Your Favorite Team</b> <i>wear your team colors!</i>	12:00 - 4:00pm
	<b>Night Skate</b> <i>sponsored by Jolt Credit Union &amp; KISS 107.1</i>	4:00 - 7:00 pm
Saturday, February 4	<b>Skate with the Mascots &amp; SVSU Hockey Team</b> <i>sponsored by Jolt Credit Union &amp; 102.5 WIOG, Dow &amp; 96.1 WHNN</i>	12:00 - 4:00 pm
	<b>Broom Ball</b> <i>sponsored by Saginaw County Parks</i>	12:00 - 2:00 pm
Saturday, February 11	<b>Skate &amp; Sledding</b> <b>9th Annual Outhouse Race</b> <i>sponsored by Positive Results In Downtown &amp; 97.3 JOE FM</i>	12:00 - 4:00 pm

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For more information contact Positive Results Downtown at (989) 753-9168, Friends of Hoyt Park Facebook Page or Larry at (989) 284-0945  
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# What's for Dinner, Della?

BY DOLORESE FALL-GRANT

For this recipe and others, ground sausage may be subbed. Or turkey. Or either may be mixed 50-50 with hamburger. You make the call!

## Chili grits pie

### Ingredients

- One pound ground beef
- One cup of grits, mixed with four cups of water
- Two cups of shredded cheese, your choice
- One can mild chili beans
- One can pureed tomatoes
- Chili powder, onion powder, garlic powder, paprika, salt and pepper the taste
- Celery, parsley green onions and rainbow peppers. cut into fine chunks



### Instructions

Mix chili with brown ground beef, add all other ingredients. Cook 15 to 20 minutes and set aside. Prepare grits with a little salt for about 10 minutes without lumps, aside for about five minutes. In a medium glass dish, make layers with chili mix, cheese, and grits. Repeat this process similar to making lasagna. Sprinkle with remaining cheese, cover and bake at 375 degrees for half an hour.

Serve for either breakfast or lunch. Or make it a dinner with your favorite salad and a piece of garlic bread.

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\*\*\$50 annual fee, \$300 early closing fee if the HELOC is closed within 36 months. See Team One for details.

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## IN MY HUMBLE OPINION



COURTESY PHOTO

# Challenges make you great



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

Instinctively, most people try to avoid problems and challenges. We all want life to be easy and smooth all the time, but life is not like that. Therefore, at some point, we will all be confronted with challenges and have to deal with them either because we are forced to or we have taken more proactive steps to manage them. Either way, challenges make you great when you overcome them.

This article is as much for me as it is for you. I am currently dealing with some big challenges both personally and professionally, and I am putting some of the tips and strategies presented below to use. But

before I focus on my efforts to overcome, let's look at some benefits of facing challenges and examples set by a couple of iconic figures in history.

Whatever you want to build or achieve that is significant will come with its share of challenges. Even everyday life has its challenges at times and if they are persistent, they can be draining and potentially break you emotionally and psychologically. The first thing you should do is change your perspective and stop seeing challenges as problems; see them as opportunities to learn something new about yourself and your abilities. Sometimes you will succeed and other times you might fail, but even a momentary victory or setback can be the foundation for future growth and development.

Four benefits of facing challenges, from an article with the same title and published by [resultsempowerment.com](http://resultsempowerment.com), are as follows:

- “Challenges Call for Creativity” – Some of the best ideas are devised when the pains of a challenge are being felt. You should tap into

your creativity to think of ways to overcome them.

- “Challenges Make You Stronger” – To build strength physically, you have to apply some resistance to your muscles. Challenges also produce resistance that will develop inner fortitude, and as you overcome them you develop mental and emotional strength and stamina.
- “Challenges Keep You Humble”; or at least they should. – Challenges can remind you that you make mistakes, you have limitations, you don't know everything, you are fragile, and that you are human. “The appropriate challenge can protect (or cure) you from becoming prideful.”
- “Challenges Amplify Your Achievements” – Reaching a goal after overcoming

**CONTINUES ON PG 21,  
CHALLENGES**



## Continued from pg 20, challenges

multiple challenges makes you have a greater appreciation for the achievement. If the accomplishment was less challenging, it would not feel as valuable. Certain goals are considered phenomenal because of the challenges you must overcome to achieve them. "In fact, most significant goals bring their share of challenges; hence, few people can reach them."

At this time of the year, I cannot think of facing and overcoming challenges without thinking about the achievements and ultimate sacrifice of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He faced so many obstacles and threats while on his mission for civil rights and equality, including being arrested for protesting more than twenty-seven times, receiving hundreds of threatening phone calls and letters, having his home bombed and set on fire, being stabbed, and numerous other violent attacks, insults, and persecution.

Despite all of this, Dr. King never stopped advancing the civil rights movement through nonviolence and civil disobedience. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through nonviolent resistance in October of 1964. Earlier that year, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act into law, and following the violent attacks on King and his peaceful protestors during the Selma to Montgomery march, President Johnson was forced to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The challenges that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. faced helped to make him the man he became, and the man that we celebrate today. Unfortunately, Dr. King did not live to continue his hard work and dedication nor see it come to fruition, as he was tragically assassinated in 1968. In his words, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of convenience and comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. Nothing worthwhile is easy. Your ability to overcome unfavorable situations will provide you with the time to demonstrate your true strength and determination for success. Always set your standards high,

your greatest achievements lie within the infinite feats you achieve in your life."

Another person that overcame enormous challenges for civil rights and racial equality is Nelson Mandela. As I started the previous sentence, I wanted to say "great person", which he no doubt was, but I only know him as great because he faced and overcame great challenges. So, did the challenges make him great, or was the greatness always there? I believe the greatness was there as potential but was only realized by confronting the challenges.

Mandela admired King as a freedom fighter for justice and equality, and he even borrowed one of Dr. King's most famous lines – "free at last" – when he spoke of his pride in the people of South Africa, according to NBC Washington.

Like King, Mandela's road to change was paved with incredible challenges, but he never gave up the fight. Opposed to the policies of his country's white minority government, Mandela, or Madiba as he was affectionately known, led a non-violent action against apartheid in South Africa around the same time Dr. King was opposing U.S. government policies in the 1960s. Mandela and his family also suffered violent attacks and persecution for his beliefs and actions, and in 1964 he was sentenced to life in prison and sent to Robben Island.

Mandela's passion for the cause of a free and non-racial South Africa was bigger than the bitterness and pain that he, his family, and Black people experienced. After nearly three decades, and through unprecedented negotiations, Nelson Mandela was released from prison 27 years after being incarcerated. In 1993, Nelson Mandela and President FW de Klerk, his former adversary, were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Mandela went on to become South Africa's first ever Black president in the country's first fully democratic elections in 1994. Mandela's philosophy in life is summed up in his statement, "The greatest glory in living lies not in never failing, but in rising every time we fall."

The legacies of these two iconic leaders live on in the hearts and minds of the nations they came from and a global commu-

nity that finds inspiration and hope from the ways they lived and led their causes. My efforts to overcome the challenges I am facing are inspired by my belief in another iconic figure in history, Jesus Christ. One of the first things I do when facing a challenge is pray. I believe whole heartedly in the power of prayer because I have seen it work in my life and know that it has worked for family, friends, and so many others. The Bible tells us to "pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thess. 5:17-18). Prayer is a direct form of communication between yourself and God, and doesn't always have to take the form of bowed head, closed eyes, and folded hands. Although that form of praying is very important, to pray without ceasing I also have conversations, petitions, and praises to God throughout the day.

The second part of that verse is about maintaining an attitude of gratitude. During these challenging times, I remind myself to be grateful for what I do have, for what is going well, and for the challenges I have overcome in the past. This helps me reframe how I define the challenge and brings me a bit of joy in the moment. It makes me think about Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

Another thing I do to navigate through challenges is read my Bible. As it says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path" (Ps 119:105). I find truth in the Word always helpful, no matter what I am going through. Inevitably, the answers I need are there waiting to be uncovered. I get strength from the Word and encouraged by the knowledge that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).

God put greatness inside of every single person and some of the challenges we face are there to bring that greatness out. Don't avoid your challenges, face them head on with an attitude of gratitude, and strive to overcome them; greatness won't be far behind.

**+ COMMUNITY**

# Reasons why your New Year's resolutions fail

By HASANI ALI

It is now January 16<sup>th</sup>, midway through the first month of the New Year! Did you cave in yet? Did you give up on your resolutions? Are you still fighting to kick those habits?

No worries! We may have some reasons as to why you may be failing at achieving your New Year's Resolutions.

It's still super early in the year so everyone still has time to reset themselves or get more precise with their goals as they embark on the journey.

Mind you, there's still 350 days left in the year. You can make plenty of changes as long as you prepare properly and have a clear idea of what exactly you're trying to accomplish this year.

To find some helpful hints for your New Year's Resolutions, we went over to [Lithub.org](https://lithub.com/) and found some insight on how to keep your promise for the remainder of 2023.

Daniel Wallen gave us 10 reasons why your New Year's Resolutions are failing:

**1. You're Treating a Marathon Like a Sprint** - Slow and steady habit change might not be sexy, but it's a lot more effective than the "I want it ALL and I want it NOW!" mentality. Small changes stick better because they aren't intimidating (if you do it right, you'll barely even notice them!).

**2. You Put the Cart Before the Horse** - "Supplementing" a crappy diet is stupid, so don't even think about it. Focus on the actions that produce the overwhelming amount of results. If it's not important, don't worry about it.

"Supplementing" a crappy diet is stupid, so don't even think about it. Focus on the actions that produce the overwhelming amount of results. If it's not important, don't worry about it.

**3. You Don't Believe in Yourself** - A failure to act can cripple you before you leave the starting line. If you've tried (and failed) to set a New Year's resolution (or

several) in the past, I know it might be hard to believe in yourself. Doubt is a nagging voice in your head that will resist personal growth with every ounce of its being. The only way to defeat doubt is to believe in yourself. Who cares if you've failed a time or two? This year, you can try again (but better this time).

**4. Too Much Thinking, Not Enough Doing** - The best self-help book in the world can't save you if you fail to take action. Yes, seek inspiration and knowledge, but only as much as you can realistically apply to your life. If you can put just one thing you learn from every book or article you read into practice, you'll be on the fast track to success.

**5. You're in Too Much of a Hurry** - If it was quick-and-easy, everybody would do it, so it's in your best interest to exercise your patience muscles.

**6. You Don't Enjoy the Process** - Is it any wonder people struggle with their weight when they see eating as a chore and exercise as a dreadful bore? The best fitness plan is one that causes the least interruption to your daily life. The goal isn't to add stress to your life, but rather to remove it.

The best of us couldn't bring ourselves to do something we hate consistently, so make getting in shape fun, however you've gotta do it.

That could be participating in a sport you love, exercising with a good friend or two, joining a group exercise class so you can meet new people, or giving yourself one "free day" per week where you forget about your training plan and exercise in any way you please.

**7. You're Trying Too Hard** - Unless you want to experience some nasty cravings, don't deprive your body of pleasure. The more you tell yourself you can't have food, the more you're going to want it.

As long as you're making positive choices 80-90% of the time, don't sweat the occasional indulgence.

**8. You Don't Track Your Progress** - Keeping a written record of your training progress will help you sustain an "I CAN do this" attitude. All you need is a notebook and a pen.

For every workout, record what exercises you do, the number of repetitions performed, and how much weight you used if applicable. Your goal? Do better next time.

Improving your best performance on a regular basis offers positive feedback that will encourage you to keep going.

**9. You Have No Social Support** - It can be hard to stay motivated when you feel alone. The good news? You're not alone: far from it. Post a status on Facebook asking your friends if anybody would like to be your gym or accountability buddy.

If you know a co-worker who shares your goal, try to coordinate your lunch time and go out together so you'll be more likely to make positive decisions.

Join a support group of like-minded folks on Facebook, LinkedIn, or elsewhere on the internet. Strength in numbers is powerful, so use it to your advantage.

**10. Figures are Not in Your Favor** - As per Statistic Brain Research Institute, only 8% of the people who make new year's resolutions can stick to it. Success and failures are a part of life, but would you really be encouraged by these figures?

Let's say you are a very positive person, and you decide to make a New Year resolution! What would happen if you fall into the segment of that 92% of the people who failed? Moreover, what would happen if this happens every year with your smart goals or resolutions?

Another study done on 2000 Americans in 2020 was published in the People says that these people only managed to keep their resolutions for a maximum of 36 days.

This is not what one aims for when making a New Year's Resolution!

With these figures, doesn't it feel like making a New Year's Resolution is just setting yourself up for failure?



**+ COMMUNITY**

# Saginaw Hoodie Awards winners

The Saginaw Hoodie Awards were presented by Golden Girl, Inc. and is an event in recognition of Saginaw and the great leaders, businesses, and talent within, celebrating-encouraging-honoring them while they are still active. Demonstrating appreciation towards them for their contributions in the community. The event also sponsored "Hoodies for the Homeless" whereby hoodies were collected for distribution to homeless youth and families. Distribution will begin January 2023 and end February 2023 (if you would like to contribute see contact information below).

The Mission of Golden Girls Inc. is making positive contributions towards females becoming the healthiest version of themselves, physically and mentally. Our primary focus is supporting and inspiring females of all ages to make healthier choices in regards to the foods they consume. We believe food choices impact mental health and development. Therefore, we support and aspire to engage females with nutritional knowledge

and life skill development.

Although next year's event will not have the same voting system and competitive fun, this year's event did! And we would like to publicly acknowledge who those individuals were:

The winners of this year's categories are as follows:

**Best Realtor**  
Briana Murphy

**Best Hair Stylist**  
Shatara Liddell

**Best Barbershop/Barber**  
Thread 128

**Best Male Entrepreneur**  
Alvin "Bugg" Pratt

**Best Female Entrepreneur**  
Shondral Swayzer

**Best Clothing Brand/Store**  
House Of She

**Best Makeup**  
Takeisha Price

**Best Nail Tech**  
Margarita Luna

**Best Barbecue/Food**  
M & D Catering

**Best Coach**  
Precious Pringle

**Best Pastor**  
Taurus Simpson

**Best Community Leader**  
Bishop Camel "Best Community Leader"

For more information and how to be involved in next year's event i.e., volunteerism, sponsorship opportunities, collaborative efforts, etc. contact Corey Pritchett at 989-443-0985 or [saginawhoodieawards@gmail.com](mailto:saginawhoodieawards@gmail.com)

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**Multicultural Academic Student Services (MASS)** is a comprehensive office, which provides academic, personal, social and cultural support to students. To empower and retain students, the office provides culturally relevant services through academic achievement, scholarship, cultural celebrations, mentoring, and diversity education which promotes the successful transition, persistence, achievement and graduation of students.

Multicultural Academic Student Services seeks to promote a campus community that fosters the holistic development of multicultural students by providing support for their academic goals, while expressing genuine care for their personal development and well-being, advocating on their behalf and encouraging the full use of all university resources.

The office maintains strong relationships with students, parents, alumni, faculty/staff as well as the community, while building support for the successful matriculation and retention of students.

Simply put.....MASS is your home away from home.



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# THE BIRD'S EYE VIEW



By **JEROME BUCKLEY, II**  
WRITER/COLUMNIST

We made it!! The past few years have been the most difficult that any of us may have ever seen in our lifetime. Yet, the resiliency of the human spirit once again displayed the awesome power of its Creator by extinguishing the darkness through its brilliance. Now more than ever before we should practice clothing ourselves with a spirit of humility. We should be eating better, exercising, praying and/or meditating. Take the time to become aware of things or habits that distract you from becoming the best version of yourself. Replace these negatives with something new that is edi-

fyng to your mind, body, and soul. Write a book, start journaling, join a bowling league just do something that is outside of your old routine, edifies your total being and brings glory to your Creator.

SELF HELP

Time is of the essence... why I write, I don't know.

Maybe it's just to pass the time away,  
Maybe it helps to keep my emotions intact,  
Or maybe just to get some things off my mind after the fact.

All I know is that I feel good as my whole being opens,  
and my hearts proceeds to bleed its song.

With my paper, absorbing blow after blow,  
as my pen applies the balm.

It helps me....

It helps me get through my day...  
It helps me with my kids....  
It helps me with my spouse.  
It helps me deal with work,  
and it helps me deal with me.

Something in the way my words spread relief through the battlefield of my mind,

While ideas coincide and thoughts collide,  
It provides me with just enough solace to make it through....

To finish the job.  
To strive for perfection.  
Only to reach excellence in the process...  
For that I am just plain thankful!

From the entire staff of TMB Global, Have a Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year!

## New: self-attestation of sex marker in Social Security records

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

Effective October 2022, you can self-select your sex on your Social Security number (SSN) record.

“The Social Security Administration’s Equity Action Plan includes a commitment to decrease administrative burdens and ensure people who identify as gender diverse or transgender have options in the Social Security Number card application process,” said Acting Commissioner of Social Security, Kिलolo Kijakazi. “This new policy allows people to self-select their sex in our records without needing to provide documentation of their sex designation.”

You need to apply for a replacement SSN card to update your sex marker in our records. You still need to show a current document to prove your identity, but you no longer need to provide medical or legal

documentation of your sex designation.

We will accept your self-identified sex designation of either male or female, even if it is different from the sex designation shown on identity documents. Identity documents include a passport, a state-issued driver’s license, and an identity card. SSN cards do not include sex markers. Currently, our record systems are unable to include a non-binary or unspecified sex designation. We are exploring possible future policy and systems updates to support an “X” sex designation for the SSN card application process.

Please share this information with your friends and loved ones who may need it – and share it on social media.

*Hillary Hatch is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at hillary.hatch@ssa.gov*



COURTESY PHOTO



NATIONAL SORORITY OF PHI DELTA KAPPA, INC  
GAMMA KAPPA CHAPTER

**STRONG ROOTS  
STRONG FUTURE**

REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
VIRTUAL SCHOLARSHIP PRAYER BREAKFAST



**10:00 A.M.**

**GUEST SPEAKER  
CONGRESSMAN DAN KILDEE**

**28  
JAN  
2023**

**WAYS TO DONATE:**

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**VIA ZOOM  
MEETING ID:  
296 196 5940  
PASSWORD: MLK23**





## + COMMUNITY

# The Grand Council

## Based on Actually Events



By **JOAN L. WASHINGTON**

On the corner of Warren and Van Dyke in Detroit, sits a vacant lot. It's nothing much to see at first glimpse. At second glance, you notice a mismatched assortment of tired chairs with exposed coils and missing cushions grouped in a circle beneath the majestic slow elegance of an enormous weeping willow tree. I was close enough to see a curious collection of large tree branches straddling the chairs. Angry shards of broken glass snaked and split in every direction, like a thorny alien necklace. The sun hit it just

right turning it into a mad, but spectacular dance of a thousand hues that winked and glistened in the lazy morning sunlight.

In the midst of this kingdom stood a lanky, dark man; it was difficult to guess his age. He was clad in a raggedy black coat. His face, scarred, peppered in grey whiskers that wrapped tightly around dry lips. A tuft of kinky matted hair bulged from under his faded red cap. In one hand gripped a brown paper bag, in the other hand was a stunning lacquer stick with a glossy brass handle. He stood facing east, with his head uplifted as if waiting for a sign from heaven - Then, from the opposite direction advanced a tribe of street people, parading in their "Sunday best" marching towards the man with the beautiful black stick just grinning.

They all wore winter hats, coat and mismatched gloves in the middle of summer. Encircling the cluster of chairs they sat down in dramatic fashion like street royalty. Other members of this unknown tribe leaned against trees and waited for court to commence.

I suppose to the cars that fled pass this scene, and people stoically marching on foot, this was just a group of homeless bums, refugees of society that poked their fingers in the eyes of the working class. But I saw something far greater.

The tall thin man apparently was well-respected, and important to these people. To them, he was their leader, their king of some sort. To him, these people were his

grand council, ready to discuss the issues of the day and solve world problems.

I watched this drama unfold from the comfort of my car, while waiting for a long slow train to drag by. I had an urge get out of my car and spy on them. Just hang around and take my place among the grand council members and listen to what they had to say, if just for a moment.

It was funny because that impulse was so strong. Like the rest of them I wondered when their chief would turn around. I wondered what he was thinking. Who he was or better yet...who did he used to be?

Finally he turned with cartoonist animation and a wide grin that made everybody laugh including me. He then began to do a sacred tribal dance around the only unoccupied chair with that beautiful lacquer his stick uplifted to heaven. The grand council was now in session.

The railroad gates painfully creaked and rattled high overhead signaling me to make my departure. I quickly averted my eyes away from the dance and glossy stick... away to elsewhere. I shifted into drive and moved towards the freeway ramp. I was content for the moment. Passing through sun and shade, passing people waiting on the bus...passing through time and taking a little bit for myself—it was going to be a great day.

The high would be a sunny 80 degrees!

## Pit & Balcony Community Theatre Presents Ramona Quimby

Pit & Balcony's 91st season continues on January 27th with Ramona Quimby which will run two weekends through February 5th.

Adapted from Beverly Cleary's series of books, Ramona Quimby is a collection of vignettes that many fans of the books will find familiar. Narrated by Ramona's older sister, Beezus, this production takes audiences through a whole year with the Quimbys as they navigate the joys and trials of regular small-town American life. Though the source material spans the 1950's to the 1980's, the characters' experiences are as relevant today.

Pit & Balcony's production features a cast of nineteen, including a youth ensemble for many of whom this is their first production,

and two father-daughter duos. The titular character is played Heritage High School student and correspondent for SWAG Magazine, Karleigh Anderson.

"Ramona Quimby was my idol growing up," says Amy Spadafore, director of the production and Pit & Balcony's Managing Director. "She is brash and bold and has this huge imagination. She is guided by her heart and isn't afraid to be exactly who she is at all times even if it gets her into some trouble. I think we can all learn from Ramona Quimby and I'm so excited to be presenting this nostalgic piece to our audiences."

In addition to the regularly scheduled run, the community theatre will also present a free

daytime performance to over 270 area elementary and middle school students.

"The school show is the best show," says Spadafore. "Young people are so uninhibited and respond big and honestly to what they're seeing on stage. It's thrilling to watch local youth engage with art, often for the first time, in our house."

Performances of Ramona Quimby run January 27-29 and February 3-5. Friday and Saturday showings will begin at 7:30pm and Sunday's performances will begin at 3:00pm.

Ticket information, including youth and group pricing, can be found on Pit & Balcony's website, [www.PitAndBalconyTheatre.com](http://www.PitAndBalconyTheatre.com) or by calling the box office at (989)754-6587.

## + COMMUNITY

# Grant opportunity for the 2023-2024 Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program



COURTESY PHOTO

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to announce the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) grant program opportunity. The purpose of the 21st CCLC grant program is to create community learning centers for those times when school is not in session. Programs must provide students with academic enrichment opportunities as well as additional activities designed to complement their regular academic program. These funds will be awarded through a competitive grant process to local education agencies (LEAs), both traditional public school districts and public school academies (PSAs), community-based organizations (CBOs), Indian tribe or tribal organization (as such

terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)), faith-based organizations (FBOs), and other public or private entities, or a consortium of these entities, to provide comprehensive community learning center services. The 21st CCLC grant program aligns with Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan (SEP) and supports multiple SEP Goals.

To determine if your organization qualifies for the grant program and to better understand all existing, new, and revised aspects of the process, it is strongly suggested that potential applicants participate in the application information webinar on February 2, 2023, from 10:30 a.m.–

noon. You may register for the webinar at: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_zhgMkWCiR\\_Kg8769mZXEWA](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zhgMkWCiR_Kg8769mZXEWA).

A notice of intent to apply for a grant is required, and the intent to apply form must be submitted no later than February 23, 2023, to allow time for MDE staff to provide login and access information to the online application. The intent to apply form and corresponding link will become available for interested organizations to access on the 21st CCLC webpage no later than February 3, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Please send any questions about this announcement to Stacy Ann Sipes, Out-of-School Time Specialist, at [sipess1@Michigan.gov](mailto:sipess1@Michigan.gov).

## Vote now for the official Delta College mascot

Last fall students, alumni, faculty and staff submitted more than 250 ideas for a new Delta College mascot. The mascot committee narrowed that list to nine. In December, a representative group of student and staff delegates rated the semifinalists. The committee used those ratings to identify the top four mascot suggestions.

This is where you come in. Vote for your favorite of the final four mascots, keeping the following criteria in mind when selecting.

### Mascot Selection Criteria

- Easy to recognize, understand and pronounce
- Positively represents the image and values of the college
- Reflects Michigan identity (preferred)
- Must be unique and not duplicate an area high school or university mascot

- Can be imagined as a costumed character at athletic events and other college activities

Please cast your vote by January 24 and direct any questions to [marketing@delta.edu](mailto:marketing@delta.edu).





# + POLITICS

*102<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Committee Assignments*

**Chair: House Appropriations Corrections Subcommittee**  
**Majority Vice Chair: Appropriations**

**Member:**  
**Department of Health and Human Services**  
**Joint Capital Outlay**  
**General Government**  
**Labor**

**State Representative**  
**Amos O'Neal**

COURTESY PHOTO

## O'Neal on Committee Assignments, Named Chair of Corrections Appropriations Subcommittee

LANSING, Mich., Jan. 15, 2023 — Speaker Joe Tate (D-Detroit) announced last week the members of the Michigan House of Representatives' standing committees, subcommittees and appropriations subcommittees. State Rep. Amos O'Neal (D-Saginaw) has been named House Appropriations Corrections Subcommittee chair, Appropriations Committee vice chair, a member of the Department of Health and Human Services, Joint Capital Outlay, and General Government Appropriation subcommittees, and a member of the Labor Committee.

"I am honored to take on greater responsibility in my committee leadership positions," O'Neal said. "As vice chair of the Appropriations Committee and chair of the Corrections Subcommittee, I am in a unique position. My committee assignments reflect my lifelong experience in business and the time I've spent in my community. With a prison in Saginaw, I

have many constituents who put on a uniform and go to work as correctional officers. As chair, I will make sure we provide the funds Michigan's correctional facilities require to keep Michiganders safe and secure. I can't wait to get started and to contribute through this legislative process as a member of several wonderful committees."

State Rep. Amos O'Neal is serving his first term representing the 95th House District, which includes the cities of Saginaw and Zilwaukee, as well as Bridgeport, Buena Vista, Carrollton, James, Kochville, Spaulding and Zilwaukee townships in Saginaw County. He is a long-time activist for his community and served for 4 years on the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners and 13 years on the Saginaw City Council, including serving as Mayor pro tem.

O'Neal graduated from Northwood University with a degree in Business Ad-

ministration after graduating from Saginaw High School. He has also graduated from the Leadership Development Institute at Saginaw Valley State University and the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce Leadership Saginaw Program.

During his time in local government, O'Neal went above and beyond to serve on various boards and committees throughout Saginaw County, including serving as Chair of the Saginaw County Commission's Committee on Health and Human Services, and serving on the Michigan Works! Operations Board and the HIV/AIDS Task Force. He was recognized for his work by receiving the Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award from the Boy Scouts and the President's Award from the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce.

O'Neal raised his three daughters in Saginaw with his late wife Sherry, who was a public school teacher.

# + FAITH BASED

SPONSORED CONTENT



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

MICHIGAN BANNER  
SERMONETTE SERIES

# Forgive So You Can Be Forgiven

*“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*

**Matthew 6:14 -15 NKJV**

By **MINISTER CAROLYN CARTER**  
**TOWNSEL**

Throughout our lifetime there have been numerous occasions where we have without a doubt, misused, abused, and or done someone wrong and we greatly wanted to be forgiven. Often the person that we need forgiveness from is ourselves. On the flip side of that is the fact that someone who misused, abused, or have done us wrong and stands in need of our forgiveness. Without any strings attached as Christians, we must genuinely offer it unconditionally. Is it easy? No, but it is doable.

In the beginning of verse 14, we find the term “for” which connects these verses to the Lord’s Prayer, where Jesus explains in Matthew 6:12, **“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors”** consequently forgiveness is conditional. It is God’s character

of love and justice that will not grant Him to indulge in sin and provide a permit to the passions of a man’s unforgiving spirit. He can only forgive where mercy and compassion of forgiveness can be found.

In these verses of Scriptures, there is the promise to forgive and be forgiven (v14). The Greek word for “trespass” is paraptoma meaning to stumble; to fall; to slip; to blunder; to deviate from righteousness and truth. As Believers there is none among us who keep God’s commandments perfectly, Romans 3:23 declares, **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”** Therefore, we all stumble, fall, slip, and blunder therefore needing God’s forgiveness. Just as there is a promise, there is a warning, the refusal to forgive other people and be unforgiven (v.15). The Christian that holds unforgiveness in his or her heart but prays for forgiveness is a hypocrite. He or she is asking God to

forgive them from their sins and are unwilling to forgive the sins of others. The warning is severe, to walk in the spirit of unforgiveness opens the door, for Satan to have the legal right to pester and harass. Feelings against others is like a cancer that cause inward disturbances, that can manifest physical, mental torment, and emotional conditions.

Remember that God commands us to forgive, and He only commands the best. To forgive is a gift you give yourself, when you refuse to forgive others, it does not hurt them it hurts you. So, you must make a conscience decision to forgive. The benefits of forgiveness include blessings, freedom, physical and mental health. It also starts us on the road to healing and living in the present. Beloved, be quick to **“Forgive So You Can Be Forgiven.”**

## + FAITH BASED



MARVIN WINANS

## Celebrated gospel artist Marvin Winans to perform at SVSU for MLK Regional Celebration

Well-known Detroit pastor and gospel artist Marvin L. Winans will perform at the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Celebration at Saginaw Valley State University on Wednesday, Jan. 18. The event begins at 7 p.m.

Winans, along with three of his brothers — Ronald, Carvin (Marvin's twin) and Michael — rose to prominence in the gospel music community. Performing as The Winans, the brothers released 19 albums between 1981 and 2008. In 2007, Marvin Winans released his first solo recording, "Alone But Not Alone."

Winans is scheduled to perform two musical selections during the celebration.

In addition to his musical pursuits, Winans serves as pastor of Perfecting Church, which he founded in 1989. In 1997, he established the Marvin L. Winans Academy of Performing Arts, a metro-Detroit Michigan public school academy serving students from kindergarten through 8th grade. The Winans Academy is authorized by SVSU.

The MLK Jr. Regional Celebration will also feature a keynote address by Bakari Sellers, a well-known political analyst, activist, author and former South Carolina state representative. The event also includes a presentation of scholarships to 15 students from regional high schools and the announcement of the winners of the Drum Major for Community Service Awards. The MLK Jr. Regional Celebration is free and open to the public, but registration is requested. For more information and to register, visit [svsu.edu/mlk](http://svsu.edu/mlk).

## A Letter To My Father



By **THEARSE DENISE VAUGHN**

Dear Father,

There are so many things that I need to say. Unfortunately, some words never seem to surface and refuse to see the light of day. How can I speak of such acts of violence against my soul? Sometimes my air is painful and my heart weeps red tears of sorrow. Dad, please forgive me, please deliver me, and set my heart free.

I often wondered when I would make it to the best parts of my life and wished with all the life in me to be where you are. I was often told the way of the transgressor is hard and my way has been hard. My Father what is life without you? There is no hope without you and my heart cannot live without you! You are my only comfort, my refuge, my protector, and hope for a brighter tomorrow.

You said, "You formed me in my mother's womb and know all about me>" My beginning is not the womb that birthed me, but the hands that created. Understanding this fact and truth centers me. You are my foundation, and I shall say with all my soul I choose love over hate, I choose life over death, I choose healing over sickness, I choose peace over chaos, and I choose forgiveness over bitterness.

All of these choices are easier said than done.

You said in Job 14:1, "Man that is born of a woman is of a few days and full of trouble." Father, honestly, I am struggling in life, with life, and for life. You told me to be strong and courageous, you told me when I am weak you are strong, you told me not to let my heart be troubled, you said, "No weapon formed against me shall prosper," and yes, I believe your word is true.

Away in a corner I write to you, far from people, and there I am safe. With you I have nothing to prove or any expectations to fulfill, with you my kindness and love is not trampled, with you I do not have to be tough, think tough, or feel tough. Father with you I do not have to wonder, I am free to just be me. You are my safe space, my breath is easy, and I am protected. Father, I love you and need you in every way each and every day.

Your Beloved Daughter



# Saginaw Valley Congress of Christian Education



Pastor Roosevelt  
& Nurame Austin

## 1st Annual

## Roosevelt & Nurame Austin



Pastor Vincent McMillon

St. Paul MBC  
Congress President



Pastor Rodrick Smith

Zion MBC  
Speaker for 1st Lecture

Thursday - January 26, 2023  
Zion MBC • 6:00pm  
721 Johnson St. • Saginaw, MI 48601



Pastor Craig Tatum

New Life MBC  
Speaker for 2nd Lecture

Thursday - February 16, 2023  
New Life MBC • 6:00pm  
1401 Janes Ave. • Saginaw, MI 48601

## Lectures

Theme:

“Christian Education: Our Hope,  
Our Health, Our Heritage!”



Pastor A.J. Harris

New Mt. Calvary MBC  
SVCCE Host Church  
and Host Pastor  
March 12th & March 13th



Pastor Marcelle Smith

The Historic Second  
Baptist Church Bay City, MI  
Speaker for 3rd Lecture

Sunday - March 12, 2023  
New Mt. Calvary MBC • 4:00pm  
3610 Russell St. • Saginaw, MI 48601





# + CHURCH DIRECTORY

## B



**Bethel AME Church**  
Rev. Dennis Laffoon  
535 Cathay St.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-7011



**Bethlehem Temple Church of the Apostolic Faith**  
District Elder Curtis E. Johnson, Pastor  
3521 Webber St  
Saginaw, Michigan 48601  
989-755-8381



**Bread of Life Harvest Center**  
Senior Pastor Rodney J. McTaggart  
3726 Fortune Blvd.  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
989-790-7933

## C

**Christ Disciples Baptist Church**  
Founder Pastor Eddie Benson  
Pastor Genevieve Benson  
3317 Lapeer Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-2444

**Christ Fellowship Baptist Church**  
Rev. Robert Davis, Jr.  
818 N. Washington Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-4435  
PastorD818@gmail.com



**Christ Image Community Church**  
5501 Gratiot Rd  
Saginaw, MI 48638  
(989) 759-9161  
christimage.us

## F



**Faith Harvest Church**  
Bishop Ronald E. Chipp  
1734 N. Mason  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-799-4200  
faithharvestministry.org  
office@faithharvestministry.org



**Faith Ministries Church**  
Dr. Anthony Revis  
3420 E Ashman St.  
Midland, MI 48642  
989-837-7777  
faithministrieschurch.org

## G



**Glimpse Of Hope Ministries**  
Pastor Leslie D Lewis  
2211 S. Outer Dr.  
Saginaw Michigan 48601  
989-755-9237  
g.ministries@aol.com

**Grace Chapel Church**  
Pastor James Nelson  
2202 Janes Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-3212

**Greater Williams Temple**  
608 E Remington St  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-5291

## H



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

## J



**Jacob's Ladder**  
Bishop Dempsey Allen  
1926 Fairfield Street  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-799-6601

## L

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

## M

**Messiah Missionary Baptist Church**  
Pastor Otis Washington  
2615 Williamson Road  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-777-2636  
Fax: 989-777-2640  
messiahmbc@att.net  
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

## N



**New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry**  
Pastor Roy & Evelyn Baldwin  
2609 E. Genesee  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-777-8272  
Pastorbaldwin@charter.net



**New Birth Missionary Baptist**  
Pastor Larry D. Camel  
3121 Sheridan  
Saginaw, Michigan  
989-327-1755



**New Covenant Christian Center**  
Pastor Ron Frierson  
2395 S. Outer Drive  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-8485



**New Hope Missionary Baptist Church**  
Rev. Dr. Willie F. Casey  
1721 Tuscola Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-753-7600



**New Life Baptist Ministries**  
Dr. Craig Tatum  
1401 Janes Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-753-1151  
newlifelcm.com

## New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

Pastor Alfred "AJ" Harris Jr.  
3610 Russel St.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-0801

## P

### Prince of Peace Baptist Church

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

## R

### 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

## S



**Saint Paul Baptist Church**  
Rev. Dr. Vincent D. McMillon  
120 North 15 St.  
Saginaw, MI. 48601  
stpaul2@yahoo.com  
Facebook: St Paul MBC Family Connection



**Second Baptist Church**  
Pastor-Elect Marcelle T. Smith  
1770 W. Youngs Ditch Rd.  
Bay City, MI 48708  
989-893-8631

## T



**Transforming Life Ministries**  
Pastor William Brown  
523 Hayden  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-9573



**True Vine Baptist Church**  
Pastor Paul E. Broaddus  
2930 Janes Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-0751

## U



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

## V



**Victorious Belivers Ministries Church**  
Pastor Chris V. Pryor  
624 S. Outer Dr.  
Saginaw, MI  
989-755-7692

## W



**World Outreach Campus of Greater Coleman Temple Ministries**  
Supt. H.J. Coleman Jr.  
2405 Bay Rd.  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-752-7957

## Z



**Zion Missionary Baptist Church**  
Pastor Rodrick Smith  
721 Johnson  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
989-754-9621



# + FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

## Game-changers for 2023

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

*As more foundations and granting agencies look holistically at how they work with their grantees they are giving more than money. Support from a funder can now include technical assistance such as training sessions, technology, time to work with a specific consultant, invitations to conferences or meetings, opportunities to collaborate with other grantees, and more. Sometimes this support is in addition to funding, and sometimes it is instead of funding. Sometimes nonfinancial support is well received by nonprofits. Other times, there is a less than enthusiastic response.*

The difference in how nonfinancial support is received can tie back to the past relationship between a funder and grantees and/or it can be related to the larger environment nonprofits are operating in.

Here's how we see it. In some communities government and philanthropic funders are seen as gatekeepers and kingmakers who decide which organizations – and causes – are worthy of investment. While unspoken, there may be a feeling amongst nonprofits that these funders ask for a lot and offer little. An offer of nonfinancial technical assistance can be perceived as “another hoop to jump through” instead of an opportunity to partner and/or provide access to resources. In other communities – or for organizations within the same community – nonfinancial technical assistance is quickly embraced. It is seen as an opportunity to gain needed resources or information and to strengthen relationships. It is seen as an “added bonus” or a first step in a future potential funding relationship. Responses are nuanced and often influenced by a funder's history, reputation, and the extent to which actual funding – and not “just resources” are available.

We believe that the more that nonprofits and government and philanthropic funders can work together the stronger a community can become. We support the expansion of nonfinancial support by agencies and foundations. We don't see this as a substitute for financial support,

but as a complement. It takes money, resources, expertise, and relationships to create change. Money alone is not enough.

Here are our recommendations for how nonprofits can demonstrate they have “skin in the game” and are committed to growth via nonfinancial technical support. First, evaluate the nonfinancial offer before accepting to ensure you have the bandwidth to follow through with the offered support. Make sure it aligns with your organization's vision and that you bring your heart to the project. Consider the longer-term impact of the offered assistance and the value of building relationships. If you accept, engage the right people from your team and be sure to engage (or at least inform) board members and key administrators. Keep your word. Follow up and follow through and put to use the guidance, technology, or recommendations offered. Of course you don't want to blindly accept what is offered, but you must continuously evaluate and then implement in a timely manner. Don't make excuses. Report the results of trainings or the implementation of new processes. Remember: everything free is not free, and it takes more than money to succeed. Here's to your success!



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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](http://www.saadandshaw.com) or call (901) 522-8727.

## + HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

# The Beginning

By **MONIQUE JOHNSON**

During the summer of 2011, I noticed my feet had swollen to three times their normal size. I had no idea why but one of my friends thought it might be heart disease. One of her relatives struggled with heart disease and swelling of extremities was a main symptom. She suggested I squeeze lemon in my water. While helpful, that suggestion didn't resolve the problem. In the meantime, I completely lost my appetite but gained twenty pounds in less than a month. Lastly, I woke up every morning rushing to the restroom to vomit. Unfortunately, I wasn't pregnant but I was scared. I summoned enough strength and courage to see my doctor. The diagnosis was stage three renal disease and fear became a constant companion.

I'm a diabetic and by the time, my renal symptoms surfaced I'd been going to the same doctor's office for twenty years. Later, I learned that office was used to

break in new doctors and I was now seeing my third physician. Though the doctors changed my medical records remained with the office, so they'd documented my A1C as 14+ for twenty years. For those who are unaware, normal A1C is between five and seven. At that juncture, my physician should've recommended an Endocrinologist which is a diabetes specialist. Instead, she predicted I would lose my kidneys and continued with, "I hope you don't get a transplant". To say she was not helpful is a gross understatement and fear began to strangle me.

In 2014, I was admitted to an emergency room with a 709-blood sugar, a blood 180/100 and a heart rate of 120. Normal numbers would've been a blood sugar of no more than 150, a blood pressure of 120/80 and heart rate no greater than 100. I was admitted to ICU. My blood sugar slowly responded to insulin shots but I had to remain in the hospital for a week. Naturally, a kidney specialist which is a Nephrologist was called in to consult on my kidney func-

tion. She was an exceptional doctor but despite my telling her that I'd been treated in California for kidney disease, she refused to pick up where the previous Nephrologist left off. Her thought was we should wait for the blood work to come back. We did and my Hemoglobin was so low my body couldn't function which explained why I was so tired. I needed to report back to emergency and be admitted for a blood transfusion. This was the beginning of a long, complicated, harrowing journey with kidney disease.

Fear is the enemy of progress, productivity and empowerment as it relates to kidney disease. My journey was fraught with disappointment and challenges wrapped in trials and swathed in obstacles. One of the most important things I learned was information is power. If you or someone you love is diagnosed as end stage renal, please seek information. The more you know about what to expect the more you loosen the strangleholds of fear.





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## + EDUCATION

## Celebrating Leadership



## Honoring School Board Recognition Month

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**Laurasue Holcomb**  
3 Years of Service  
Secretary

**Ruth Ann Knapp**  
2 Years of Service  
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Thank you for your service and dedication to Saginaw ISD!

COURTESY PHOTO

## Saginaw Intermediate School District Honors School Board members for recognition month

Saginaw Intermediate School District (Saginaw ISD) is joining 537 local and 56 intermediate school districts across Michigan to celebrate January as School Board Recognition Month. We are incredibly proud to have a dedicated board with a combined 79 years of service.

“In another year full of dynamic celebrations and challenges for public education, our school board members provided servant leadership that facilitated educational opportunities for the students throughout Saginaw County,” said Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Collier. “Celebrating School Board Recognition Month is one of the special ways to ex-

press appreciation to our leaders.”

School board members represent the views and priorities of their community in the complex system of maintaining and running an intermediate school district. They also reinforce the principle of local control over public education, which is an important, highly valued aspect of education in Michigan.

The Saginaw ISD board members will be recognized in various ways during the entire month, including social media stories and first-person recognition at the January 9th regularly scheduled board meeting.

The individuals dedicated to Saginaw

ISD and our community have the following years of service:

- **President Ruth A. Coppens**, 34 years
- **Vice President Dr. Katherine Ellison**, 2 years
- **Treasurer Joseph W. Powe**, 38 years
- **Secretary Laurasue Holcomb**, 3 years
- **Trustee Ruth Ann Knapp**, 2 years





COURTESY PHOTO

# A Day of Service



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**  
RETIRED EDUCATOR

In 1983 Congress made Martin Luther King, Jr. Day a “National Holiday,” a result of a push by a number of political, sport, and entertainment leaders. When the law took effect in 1986, many governmental and financial institutions closed in observance. Soon some schools followed suit, and today many schools in the area will not hold classes on January 16th in observance.

The day is not intended to be a “day off,” however. Instead, January 16th is designated “a day of service.”

Dr. King was a servant leader, meaning

that he served others beyond himself. For “a day of service,” what are some examples for us? I will offer a couple of suggestions that could be implemented almost any day, not just January 16th. These are selected with students in mind, but really ANY of us can and should roll up our sleeves and serve.

## In-person examples:

- High school or middle school students might tutor after school.
- Elementary students might offer to help a teacher at lunch or after school with recycling materials.
- Parent and community volunteers could serve as a chaperone on a field trip or help out in the lunchroom or playground.

## Virtual examples:

- Students in most grades could write a letter or send a card to deployed service members through Soldiers’

angels. <https://soldiersangels.org/covid-response/covidvirtuallsupport/>

- Similarly, students could write a letter or send a card to senior citizens in isolation. <https://www.letters-againstisolation.com/>

These examples are just a “tip of the iceberg” of the many ways students may “give back” in service, honoring the name and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rather than a “day off,” let us make it a “day of service.”

## Sources:

<https://nationaltoday.com/martin-luther-king-jr-day/>

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/mlk-day-2023-celebrate-honor-dr-martin-luther-king-jr/ar-AA15TH8r>

<https://www.teachforamerica.org/one-day/ideas-and-solutions/19-resources-and-ideas-to-celebrate-the-mlk-day-of-service>



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COURTESY PHOTO

# Saginaw Promise: Don't leave Scholarship Dollars on the Table

The Saginaw Promise is investing in the future of Saginaw and the lives of its students by working to eliminate barriers to higher education with information and a “place based” scholarship. Since 2012, the organization has awarded \$1,182,799 in scholarships to 662 Students. While supporting higher education, the scholarship is a benefit for residents, intended to stabilize and grow Saginaw’s population, attract new businesses, affect the overall economic environment in Saginaw; with impact and benefit for surrounding communities and the entire Great Lakes Bay Region. The Saginaw Promise scholarship benefits students who reside in and graduate from a high school in the Saginaw Promise Zone (which consist of the cities of Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Kochville and that area of Buena Vista designated to the Saginaw Public School District). The organization has been working to affect change in Saginaw and the lives of its students with

a goal for all of Saginaw’s graduating students to earn a program certificate or degree.

Who is eligible? High school graduates who meet residency, school attendance requirements and complete the online Saginaw Community Foundation application and FAFSA. Also eligible are students who have used only 1 year of their Saginaw Promise Scholarship (the Saginaw Promise scholarship is available up to two years) and students who have applied but have not used their Saginaw Promise scholarship (students have up to six years from high school graduation to use their Saginaw Promise scholarship).

How to apply for the Saginaw Promise scholarship? Students must complete the online Saginaw Community Foundation scholarship application at [saginaw-foundation.org](http://saginaw-foundation.org); remember to check off the Saginaw Promise scholarship on the

application and to answer the two associated questions about residency and school attendance. The deadline to complete the online application is February 10, 2023. (Note: The Saginaw Promise scholarship is renewable up to two years and must be applied for annually.) Students must also complete FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>.

For information/details about the Saginaw Promise, its scholarship or to donate, visit [www.saginawpromise.org](http://www.saginawpromise.org) or telephone the Saginaw Promise at (989)755-0545.





+ EDUCATION



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# 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 43, SISD**



## Continued from pg 42, 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](http://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](mailto: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

<sup>4</sup>Head 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).



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**About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS**

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

For additional information concerning Saginaw ISD Head Start visit: [www.saginawheadstart.org](http://www.saginawheadstart.org)

Source: [www.saginawheadstart.org](http://www.saginawheadstart.org)



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

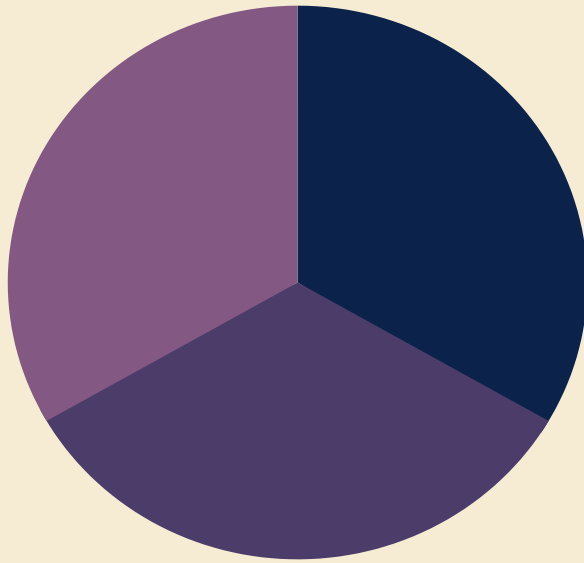
**“Head Start graduates are more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to need special education, repeat a grade, or commit crimes in adolescence.”**

**Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman**

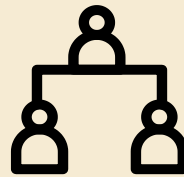
**“Our mission is to provide high quality services, developing school readiness and family empowerment for prenatal to age five children and families by working in partnership with parents and the community.”**  
**-Saginaw ISD HE/EHS**

# MI Tri-Share CHILD CARE

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Cost of child  
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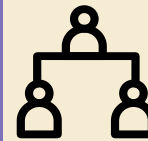


*The MI Tri-Share Pilot (Tri-Share) is an innovative public/private partnership that shares the cost of child care equally between employers, employees, and the state of Michigan.*

## Overview

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

## Benefits



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



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



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

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







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## + SPORTS



KARIM MCCUNE

## McCune: Saginaw's comeback kid

By HASANI ALI

Everyone deserves a second chance. Anybody has the opportunity to take a situation and turn it around and make it for the better.

That's exactly what happened with 19-year-old Karim McCune. The Saginaw Native struggled early in his academic career at Saginaw High School, but now he's maintaining a 4.0 GPA as a football standout at Monterey Peninsula College in Monterey, Calif.

"I really didn't have a great academic

career due not having the guidance I needed to move forward academically," he said. "Everyone else was applying for scholarships and I was left out because my GPA was not good enough."

McCune didn't want other students to feel left out either. He took action and decided to open up his own non-profit organization called, The Karim McCune II Foundation, started back in November of 2022.

"This is an opportunity to give scholarships to students with struggling GPA's," he said. "There are students that want to continue their education after high school,

but they may not have the necessary grades to qualify for certain scholarships."

Not only will the non-profit assist students in obtaining scholarships, but McCune always wants to host free football camps and mentoring classes to help with life skills.

"I know a bunch of students that were in my situation, and I know that they need the help," he said. "I got into college and the least I could do is give the same opportunity back to those students who want to continue their education."

McCune has a success story, just like many athletes at the college level. He wants other students to look at what he was able to accomplish and possibly follow in his footsteps with the right tools.

"Just because you started off rough, doesn't mean that you can't change your situation, just have to keep pushing," he said. "It can get better if you want it to get better. That's with anything from academics to sports. The past doesn't have to define you."

The point guard turned wide receiver had a commitment to Macomb Community College, but his love for football had him seek for other opportunities elsewhere.

"I was committed to go play ball in Detroit (Macomb Community College), but I really wanted to play football," McCune said. "I was sending film to all of the coaches to display my skill set as a football player and the coach from Monterey reached out to me to come on out. It was a good opportunity for me."

It was a sudden change for the former Saginaw High standout. For somebody that played basketball all of his life, it would be something about the gridiron that he could not turn away from.

"Basketball was my first love," McCune said. "I just started playing football my junior year and I fell in love with it. I want to make it to the NFL."

He noted that the odds are slim when it comes to making it to the NBA as a 5'11

**CONTINUES ON PG 49,  
MCCUNE**



## Continued from pg 48, McCune



KARIM MCCUNE

point guard. Football has more opportunities as far as leagues, such as the NFL, CLF and XFL. McCune always had it in the back of my mind to try out football, but he

figured that he would just stick to basketball instead.

Because of COVID-19, his athletic season was on hiatus for his sophomore year.

During the downtime, some of McCune's friends from the football team convinced him to put on the cleats and step onto the field.

"It was weird putting those pads on for the first time," he said. "As a basketball player, I had to get into the mindset that football is way more physical, but it was something that I wanted to do. I always played around, playing catch as such, so now I can actually get into it."

McCune was a part of the inaugural Saginaw United football team, where Saginaw High and Arthur Hill (classic rivals) combined to have one football team.

As the team went 1-9 their initial season, McCune had many struggles adjusting to the

game as a first-year varsity football player.

"I had to use my natural ability at first because I didn't have the skill," he said. "Honestly, I knew that game, but I didn't know it all the way through. My coach helped me out as much as he could – getting me used to being aware of where I am on the field and really helping develop my craft."

Rivals tend to bring lots of tension when two teams occupy the same space. With the two high schools merging together for football, McCune acknowledged how awkward the chemistry was amongst the team during the initial season.

"It was kind of weird at first because we're rivals," he said. "Quite rocky at first to say the least, we had to get to know each other and it got better as the season went on. We already knew that it was going to be a rough season. We haven't played with each other before and had to build that chemistry, from the players to the coaches. It took a lot for us to gel together, but we wanted to win so we decided to work together and build the team."

Senior year was a bit better for McCune, though the team finished 0-9. He was awarded second-team All-Conference and Dream Team Honorable Mention.

When McCune got to college, his academic and sports career made a complete turnaround.

As a freshman, he finished the season with 9 catches for 322 yards, 6 touchdowns while averaging 40 yards per catch.

The MVP of the Grizzly Bowl secured two touchdowns in the Monterey's bowl win against College of the Redwoods, 42-21.

The Lobos finished with a 7-4 overall record.

Because of his stellar performance, McCune has some soft interests from UNLV, Drake, Missouri State and Nevada.

"I do plan on going Div. I after graduating here from Monterey," he said. "I'll wait until to see all of the schools that want me to come play for them and I will make a decision once I have all of my options."



KARIM MCCUNE



## + SPORTS



TORY JACKSON

## Jackson enjoying success at Grand Blanc

By HASANI ALI

Grand Blanc's new head coach may have never won a Saginaw Valley League championship, but he definitely knows the level of competition in the SVL.

With his Bobcats currently sitting at 4-2 (2-0 SVL), Grand Blanc is definitely in the running as a contender for the league title.

Tory Jackson, who played at Saginaw Buena Vista and Notre Dame, replaced Mike Thomas back in May after the latter resigned to accept the same position at East Kentwood.

Jackson was one of 19 candidates for the Grand Blanc job. The original field was narrowed to seven and then two before Jackson was hired.

"As a player and a coach, I'm impressed with what he's done," said Grand Blanc athletic director Jerrod Dohm. "The people I've talked to ... everyone has great things to say about him. I'm excited.

"One of the things that came across to us throughout the interview process is his energy and excitement and enthusiasm. Not just about basketball but about working with young men and developing young men on and off the court."

At Buena Vista, Jackson led the Knights to a pair of state championships. He averaged 24.9 points in 101 career games and is the fifth-leading scorer in MHSAA history with 2,518 points from 2003-06.

Earning his accolades at a small Class C school did not deter his name from being known around Saginaw County as one of the best ballers in the early 2000's.

Jackson's only regret as a player is knowing that he had the capability to do more in order to sharpen up his game.

"The only thing I regret in my playing career was not taking the game seriously enough during my prime," he said. "I am passionate about the game more than ever now because I would never want any player that I know to feel that level of regret that I felt."

Due to some unfortunate events, Jackson lost a pep in his step for the game of basketball and a couple tragic events caused him to go on hiatus from the sports, which eventually led to him retiring. Though his love for the game never ceased, he said that it was the right decision to walk away as a player.

"It wasn't too difficult to retire," Jackson said. "I had lost my passion after my parents passed and lost focus. I came back and played pro for a couple years but just had lost my drive. I still loved the game but lost my drive. Mentally I was out of it but I remember finding myself training someone and it felt so natural to coach them up during that training. Showing them all of the tricks and knowledge of the game that I've picked up over the years."

According to MLive.com, Jackson began his coaching career at Buena Vista, spending one season there before the school closed in 2013.

Jackson knew that he had a knack for coaching and knew eventually that he would end up on that path.

"I got into coaching naturally, I feel like," he said. "I was a point guard as a player so I had to know my job and the job of the other 4 players honestly. I could get a bucket but I naturally was a leader and loved orchestrating the offense. Making things easier for my teammates."

Having connections to Notre Dame, one would think that Jackson would have started his coaching career at the college level. However, his closeness with the community here in Michigan brought him right back to where he started.

"I was close to the youth in the community because I was still playing so I found myself coaching them on the court often

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JACKSON**







## + SPORTS



KARIM MCCUNE

# Georgia: The New SEC Powerhouse

By HASANI ALI

We all know the saying that every dog has its day.

Well, for the University of Georgia, the Dawgs have now had two of those days—claiming supremacy over the Southeastern Conference in football.

Now winning the national championship back-to-back, Georgia has made its stake as a prime contender for the national championship for years to come. After annihilating TCU, 65-7, most football experts and fans alike are expecting the coach Kirby Smart and his Dawgs to win the national championship for a 3-peat.

The game was more than one-sided—Georgia was bigger, faster, stronger, quicker and tougher. No matter how many sub-

stitutions were made amongst the second and (some) third string players, the score just kept piling on. We were hoping to see a close game from TCU, but they were simply outmatched by the Dawgs.

This is fantastic for SEC fans! Why are other football fans in disgust?

Ever since 2006, the SEC has begun a long reign after the University of Florida won the national championship in convincing fashion against the Ohio State Buckeyes.

Moving forward, five SEC teams made 13 appearances in the national championship in the past 17 years.

With Georgia being the latest addition to SEC supremacy, will we ever see equal competition amongst the over conferences?

We will have to see what the next season brings. In the meantime, let's go to [www.saturdaydownsouth.com](http://www.saturdaydownsouth.com) and examine how Georgia has taken over college football and has put other football programs on notice.

Confetti flew everywhere while fans belted out "We are the Champions" and the locker room was filled with celebratory cigar smoke and rap music. Every single Georgia player knows the words to "Fan-eto" by Chief Keef and "No Flockin" by Kodak Black.

But what was different about Georgia's memorably lopsided 65-7 victory over TCU in the College Football Playoff national

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GEORGIA**



## Continued from pg 52, Georgia

championship at SoFi Stadium on Monday night was the fact that this win put the Bulldogs in extremely rare company. They are now just the seventh program to repeat as outright national champions since the AP poll began in 1936.

Of course, the last team to do it was Alabama in 2011 and 2012, and Georgia coach Kirby Smart was Nick Saban's defensive coordinator at the time.

So now the question must be asked: Is Georgia the new Alabama?

"We don't want to compare ourselves to anybody else," cornerback Kelee Ringo said. "We're starting our own thing over here, and we want to continue to build on that."

"Nah, we're Georgia," added right tackle Warren McClendon. "We don't want to be like Bama. We're Georgia."

That's fair. But when Smart was hired by his alma mater in December 2015, he began building Georgia in his image, an identity that he developed and honed while working for Saban for 11 years at LSU, with the Miami Dolphins, and then at Alabama, where he helped the program win four national championships as a faithful assistant.

Over the past seven years, Smart has turned the Bulldogs into a team that's physically imposing and stingy on defense, with a relentless must-win attitude. Before kickoff, he said on the TV broadcast, "We're gonna hunt tonight." It sounded kind of like those Alabama teams that strived to make their opponents quit before the game even starts.

While Georgia wants to distinguish itself from its SEC rival, it is basically the next iteration of the Crimson Tide as the new measuring stick in the conference and the sport. The torch has been passed.

Georgia showed no mercy against TCU on Monday night in so many ways. Smart said after the game that he instructed his scout team defense to become the Horned Frogs defense as they prepared to face them this week.

"We said we're going to do it better than they do it," Smart said. "You're going to watch tape, sit in here, learn how to do it. We had guys be their guys and do their

defense exactly right. Until the last day we were walking in there, they were giving an unbelievable look. That set our offense up for success."

This helped Heisman finalist quarterback Stetson Bennett have his way from the start, running for a 21-yard touchdown on the opening drive and finishing with a glowing stat line of completing 18 of 25 passes for 304 yards with four touchdowns, and no sacks or interceptions.

Bennett, whose Hollywood story has been told fondly over the past two seasons, led the offense to pile up 589 total yards while averaging 8.2 yards per play. The Bulldogs scored 65 points on 72 plays and established the run early without push-back, racking up 254 yards to the Frogs' 36.

Meanwhile, Georgia's defense held TCU to nine first downs (UGA's offense had 32) and 188 total yards. Defensive back Javon Bullard had a fumble recovery and back-to-back interceptions in the first half that were completely deflating.

By the end of the night, TCU was ready for the game to be over. Most purple-clad fans missed the fourth quarter entirely, fleeing SoFi Stadium.

This meant they luckily avoided watching Jalon Walker, a 6-foot-2, 225-pound freshman linebacker, sack Max Duggan for a loss of 10 yards. And they didn't see the play that followed, which was when Georgia's fourth-string running back Branson Robinson scored the game's final touchdown.

Meanwhile, Georgia fans sitting in the plush field-level suites clinked wine glasses and said cheers with seven minutes technically still left to play.

"It's hard to put into words," McClendon said of winning his second title. "I never thought we would be in this position. You know, during recruiting, Coach Smart told me we were going to win championships and I just thought he was giving the same old recruiting pitch everybody else does.

"But he stuck to his word."

For the past 20 years, there's been an overwhelming sense that until Saban retires, no other program would be able to

reach this level of consistent excellence.

But Smart learned from the best, and he is actually ahead of where his mentor once was. Smart won his first national championship at 46 years old, becoming the first Saban disciple to beat the boss himself as Georgia took down Alabama one year ago. When Saban was the same age, he was coming off a 6-6 season at Michigan State.

Now 47, Smart just won his second straight title; Saban didn't win his second until he was 57. And Smart is having success during an unprecedented era of NIL and the transfer portal. He still has a ways to go to catch Saban's seven titles, but he's young and should be around college football for a long time.

One of the most astonishing details about this Georgia title is the fact that a record 15 players from last year's team were selected in the 2022 NFL Draft. The Bulldogs still managed to go undefeated and win it all again after filling those holes.

"I had four national championships at Alabama, I don't think we had but one that was undefeated, and that one was really special," Smart said. "Sometimes it takes a loss to galvanize, put your team in a spot to win. It did last year. And it didn't take that [this year]. I always tell guys, do you have to take a loss to learn? Why? And this team is special because they didn't have a flaw.

"There are some parts of me that think, if the team last year played this year's team, last year's team probably had more talent on it. But this year's team was different. They just had this eye of the tiger; they weren't going to lose."

Gone are the days of fans holding up "We Want Bama" signs and preseason predictions assuming Alabama will win it all. Smart is building this thing to last.

And so even if Georgia doesn't want to compare itself to Alabama, how does it feel about the word dynasty?

"The start of one, 100%," Ringo said. "You could definitely say it's the start of one."





## PIC OF THE WEEK

The Saginaw NAACP Youth Council presented the 2023 Jubilee Day Recognition Award to Dr. Pamela Pugh, George Copeland and Bridgeport Trustee Brandell Adams.







**We** empower.

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



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