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**PICS OF THE WEEK**  
Mable Jean Freeman's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration!

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COMMUNITY



**DELTA COLLEGE NAMES NEW DEAN OF TRANSFER PROGRAMS**

EDUCATION, PG 36

## Saginaw Community Foundation awards Saginaw STEM \$25,000 Community Improvement Initiative grant



**SVSU Department of Nursing celebrates contributions of nursing professionals**

HEALTH, PG 32



**Dawkins back in the game**

SPORTS, PG 46

**FEATURED STORY**

## 2023 Heart of the City Award Banquet in pictures

COMMUNITY, PG 12



THE MICHIGAN BANNER IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



## MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

**Thank You, Thank You!**

**Thank you – Gracias - Muchas gracias - Merci - Grazie - Molte grazie –  
Danke – Dankeschon – Bedankt – Hvala – Tak – Mahalo – Shurkan**

There – I said it in at least ten different languages and still, it does not begin to express my gratitude to everyone who supported The Michigan Banner 5th Annual Heart of the City Community Awards Banquet. I cannot thank you enough. From the moment that Mistresses of Ceremony Vicki Hill and Yvonne Daniels took the stage until Pastor Charles Coleman Sr closed with a heartfelt benediction (and every single moment in between), it was truly an event to remember. Saginaw, you came out in full force, and I am humbled by the outpouring of friendship and affection demonstrated throughout the evening. Pulitzer Prize winning American novelist and poet Alice Walker once said, 'Thank you is the best prayer that anyone could say. I say that one a lot. It expresses extreme gratitude, humility, and understanding.' I have spent the past several days feeling extreme gratitude.

"No one who achieves success does so without acknowledging the help of others." – English mathematician and philosopher Alfred North Whitehead. This event requires the support of so many volunteers, organizations and of course, the staff. The work that takes place behind the scenes, the meetings, the planning, the very necessary courageous conversations held by the formidable planning committee to make decisions - all decisions - right down to the font of the printed program is insurmountable. Committees are formed, leaders assigned, and they move forward with The Michigan Banner vision of recognizing the people who do so much to maintain this vibrant and healthy community that we call home. I cannot begin to list names, for it is an absolute certainty that I will forget someone. You all know who you are, and you know that there are not enough words to express my appreciation. The planning process begins months in advance and does not end until the lights go out at the Horizons Conference Center. The calls I have received regarding the very welcoming and professional hospitality of the Horizons staff are a testament to the quality of service available here in the Great Lakes Region. Throughout the planning process they are always willing to go above and beyond to ensure that this event is truly a night to remember. They did not disappoint.

The attendees were so actively involved and supportive of the awards recipients, the entertainment was spectacular, and Saginaw's own Dr. Lawrence Crawford remains one of the most prolific speakers of our time. I am still overwhelmed at the demonstration of our ability to honor one another in such a heartfelt and meaningful way. In the words of the late John F. Kennedy, 'As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.' I plan to do just that. Thank you, Saginaw, and the entire Great Lakes Bay Region, for all you do. The planning for 2024 is already underway.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome Buckley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Jerome" and "Buckley" being significantly larger and more stylized.

Jerome Buckley  
Publisher, Michigan Banner

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**MISSION**

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

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**DEADLINES**

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

**SUBMISSION PROCEDURE**

Mailed or e-mailed  
Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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**SAGINAW JUNETEENTH EVENTS  
COMMUNITY, PG 10**

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# MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 5 • NUMBER 12



## INTO THE ABYSS

By DONIQUA SOVIA

When the warm turns to cold, and you find yourself, looking into the unknown, and you can't see anything except the darkness it shows. Just take a step.

When you've taken a step, and fear surrounds, and uncertainty lurks in the shadows abound, and you feel like death has you surrounded, just hold to the faith.

When you hold to the faith, though it be small, it will take you great lengths, more than your imagination can unfold because obedience is crucial, no matter the fear, because the abyss isn't as dark when Jesus is near.



# SEEN ON THE SCENE

## Rae Lynn Tinsley-Buckley Scholarship Recipients at the 2023 Heart of the City Award Banquet



ALEXXANDRIA  
BRADDOCK



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**THE MICHIGAN BANNER NEWS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AT&T**



# Our commitment to help bridge the digital divide

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

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# Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA  
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

## Delta College partners with SVSU and LLEAD (Latino Leaders for the Enhancement of Advocacy and Development MI) for FAFSA Workshop

The first step in applying for financial assistance is to complete the

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Renewal Application. This form determines your eligibility for grants, scholarships, work-study, student and parent loans. The FAFSA is also required for all State of Michigan financial aid programs including the new MI Achievement Scholarship, Tuition Incentive Program (TIP), & Michigan Reconnect. In partnership with Latino Leaders for the Enhancement of Advocacy and Development (LLEAD), Delta College & SVSU staff will be on-hand to help students and/or their families learn about and complete the FAFSA form for free.

### What to bring to the workshop:

- FSA ID (if you have one already)
- Social Security Number(s)
- Alien registration or Permanent Resident Card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
- Current marital status and date of marriage/separation/divorce, if applicable
- 2021 Federal Tax Documents and all 2021 W2's
- If Parents are living together but not married, you will need to report combined income information.
- 2021 untaxed income records, such as:
  - Child Support – Received/Paid, Pensions, Annuities,

## NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE THIS FALL?

Attend a FAFSA Workshop

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28 4-6 PM**



319 East Genesee Avenue  
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In partnership with:



Veterans Benefits records

- Current bank account information/statements
- Other asset information if applicable

NOTE: Information is needed for both student/parent (if student 24 years of age or younger)

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email [monicahernandez@delta.edu](mailto:monicahernandez@delta.edu).

Registration is encouraged: <https://forms.gle/ifibvccV7exm2yU46>

More detailed FAFSA info can be found at the following sites:

Delta College: <https://www.delta.edu/costs-financial-aid/fafsa.html>

SVSU: <https://www.svsu.edu/.../applyforfina.../completingthefafsa/>

LATINO BANNER SPONSORED BY GREAT LAKES BAY HEALTH CENTERS & TEAM ONE CREDIT UNION





**10**  
YEAR ANNIVERSARY  
**SMALL BUSINESS EXPO 2023**

*Vendors Wanted*  
To secure your place as a vendor at the Small Business Expo 2023, register at [www.saginaw-mi.com/sedc-register](http://www.saginaw-mi.com/sedc-register)  
Standard Vendors: \$75  
Food Truck Vendors: \$100

**AUGUST 31**  
**4 PM - 8 PM**  
SVRC OUTDOOR MARKETPLACE  
(203 S Washington Ave, Saginaw, MI)

Join the **2023 SEDC Small Business Expo** as we celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> year with food trucks, small businesses, live entertainment, giveaways and more!



**32ND ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**

**Monday, August 21st, 2023**  
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# + COMMUNITY

## Celebrate Juneteenth in Saginaw!

**COSBE INC PRESENTS** *Come & Join Us for the Day of Freedom & Enjoy Lots of Activities*

# JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

**SATURDAY JUNE 17**

PARADE @ 11:00AM - HOYT PARK  
ROUTE DOWN WASHINGTON AVE  
FESTIVAL @ 12:00PM  
MORLEY PLAZA DOWNTOWN  
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**ACTIVITIES**  
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SAGINAW ART MUSEUM

# ART ENCOUNTERS

### JUNETEENTH EVENT

Join us as we celebrate emancipation and embracing diversity in cooperation with the *Public Libraries of Saginaw.*

📍 1126 North Michigan Ave Saginaw, Michigan 48602 📅 Saturday, June 17th 2023 | 1pm-4pm

**Art Encounter Leader:**  
Ce'Erica Allen | *FRSH*  
Marketing Branding & Design

**REGISTER ONLINE** [www.saginawartmuseum.org](http://www.saginawartmuseum.org)

**3rd Annual Juneteenth Festival**  
Hosted By Shantaria & Regg Smith / Tarsha Works/Anthony Stephens

Bounce House  
June 17 & 18  
DANCE  
MUSIC  
SHOPPING  
Food

Location : 1315 N. 5th Street  
Saginaw MI. 48601  
Time :1pm to 6:30pm

Vendors :\$75 (One Day)  
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## + COMMUNITY

# #TeamUp for the Great Lakes Bay region nonprofit partners announced for the 2023 Dow GLBI

The Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational (GLBI) announced today the 36 nonprofits that will be participating in the 2023 #TeamUp for the Great Lakes Bay Region charitable program. More than 100 nonprofits in the Great Lakes Bay Region applied for this opportunity. Seven charities were selected from four of the region's counties – Saginaw, Bay, Midland, and Isabella – and eight regional nonprofits were also selected.

The following 501(c)(3) nonprofits were selected based on their organization's impact to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education; sustainability; diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I); community resiliency; and/or innovation.

Each of the 36 nonprofits will be paired randomly with two of the 72 teams competing in the 2023 LPGA event. A total of \$237,000 will be donated through this program with each selected nonprofit guaranteed to receive at least one \$4,500 grant. There will be additional grant opportunities available to each organization. At the conclusion of the final round, each of the top 10 teams will receive a \$5,000 contribution and the first-place team will earn an additional \$11,000. Selected nonprofit organizations will also have the opportunity to earn bonus funds during the Dow GLBI.

Tournament staff will continue to #TeamUp with the Midland Area Community Foundation, Bay Area Community Foundation, Saginaw Community Foundation and the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation as well as the Dow Great Lakes Bay Region Grant Team to manage the program.

"We are so grateful to have the continued support of the Dow Great Lakes Bay Region Grant Team and the community foundations," said Wendy Traschen, Tournament Director for the Dow GLBI. "Working together has allowed us to build a charitable giveback program that we are proud to have a part of our event. It is incredibly rewarding to see the lasting impact #TeamUp for the Dow GLBR has had in the communities that we live and work in. We look forward to working alongside our selected nonprofits leading up to the



COURTESY PHOTO

Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational. "

For more information, please visit [www.dowglbi.com/community-impact](http://www.dowglbi.com/community-impact).

## Midland County

- Cleveland Manor (DE&I)
- The Bridge Food Center (Innovation)
- Family & Children's Services (Community Resiliency)
- Safe & Sound Child Advocacy Center (Community Resiliency)
- The Breaking Bread Village (DE&I)
- Little Forks Conservancy (Sustainability)
- West Midland Family Center (Community Resiliency)

## Saginaw County

- Major Chords for Minors (Community Resiliency)
- Saginaw Community Food Club and Kitchen (Community Resiliency)
- Women of Colors (STEM)
- Partnership Center (DE&I)
- Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity (DE&I)
- One Week, One Street (Community Resiliency)
- PartnerShift Network (Community Resiliency)

## Bay County

- State Theatre of Bay City/Bay County (Community Resiliency)
- Do-All, Inc. (DE&I)
- Bay Area Women's Center (Community Resiliency)
- Bay County Habitat for Humanity (Sustainability)
- Dow Bay Area Family YMCA (DE&I)
- Bay Veterans Foundation (Innovation)
- Boys & Girls Clubs of the Great Lakes Bay Region (DE&I)

## Isabella County

- Isabella Community Soup Kitchen (Sustainability)
- The Care Store (Sustainability)
- HopeWell Ranch (DE&I)
- Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum (STEM)
- R.I.S.E. Advocacy, Inc. (Community Resiliency)
- Friends of Isabella Seniors (Community Resiliency)
- United Way of Isabella and Gratiot Counties (Community Resiliency)

## Regional

- Mid-Michigan Children's Museum (STEM)
- Camp Fish Tales (Sustainability)
- Midland Local Section of the American Chemical Society (STEM)
- CMURC (DE&I)
- Special Olympics Michigan (DE&I)
- Girls on the Run Great Lakes Bay (DE&I)
- Hidden Harvest (Community Resiliency)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Great Lakes Bay Region (Community Resiliency)

+ COMMUNITY

Seen on the Scene: 2023 Heart of the City Awards Banquet

HEART OF GOLD AWARD



Family of Henry & Ruth Marsh



Family of Frank Medel Jr.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS AWARD



Juliana Stricker



Yolanda Irvin

LIFETIME LEADERSHIP AWARD



Bernadette Benkert Bingham



Carlean Gill

DIVERSITY AWARD



Freddie Hodges



Larry Preston

VISIONARY AWARD



Dr. Ramont Roberts



Janet Nash

RISING BUSINESS AWARD



Rhonda Webb



Letisha R. Randle

MOTIVATION AWARD



Coach Julian Taylor



Coach Marshall Thomas

MINISTRY OF THE YEAR AWARD



Rev. Dr. Eugene Seals



Pastor John Dunn

Seen on the Scene: 2023 Heart of the City Awards Banquet

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OUTSTANDING JOURNALISM AWARD



Paul Chaffee



Ken Frierson



Dorothy Nickleberry



Sandra Lindsey

OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD



Dr. Elsa Olvera



Dr. Joseph Ofori-Dankwa



Vanessa Guerra

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



Eugene Seals Jr

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



Tim Morales

HUMANITARIAN AWARD



Elvis Machul



Otis Ray



Marlana Cork

HUMANITARIAN AWARD



Louis Garcia



Representative Amos O'Neal



Dr. Linda Holoman



Ralph Martin



Honorable Gary Loster

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Seen on the Scene: 2023 Heart of the City Awards Banquet



Seen on the Scene: **2023 Heart of the City Awards Banquet**

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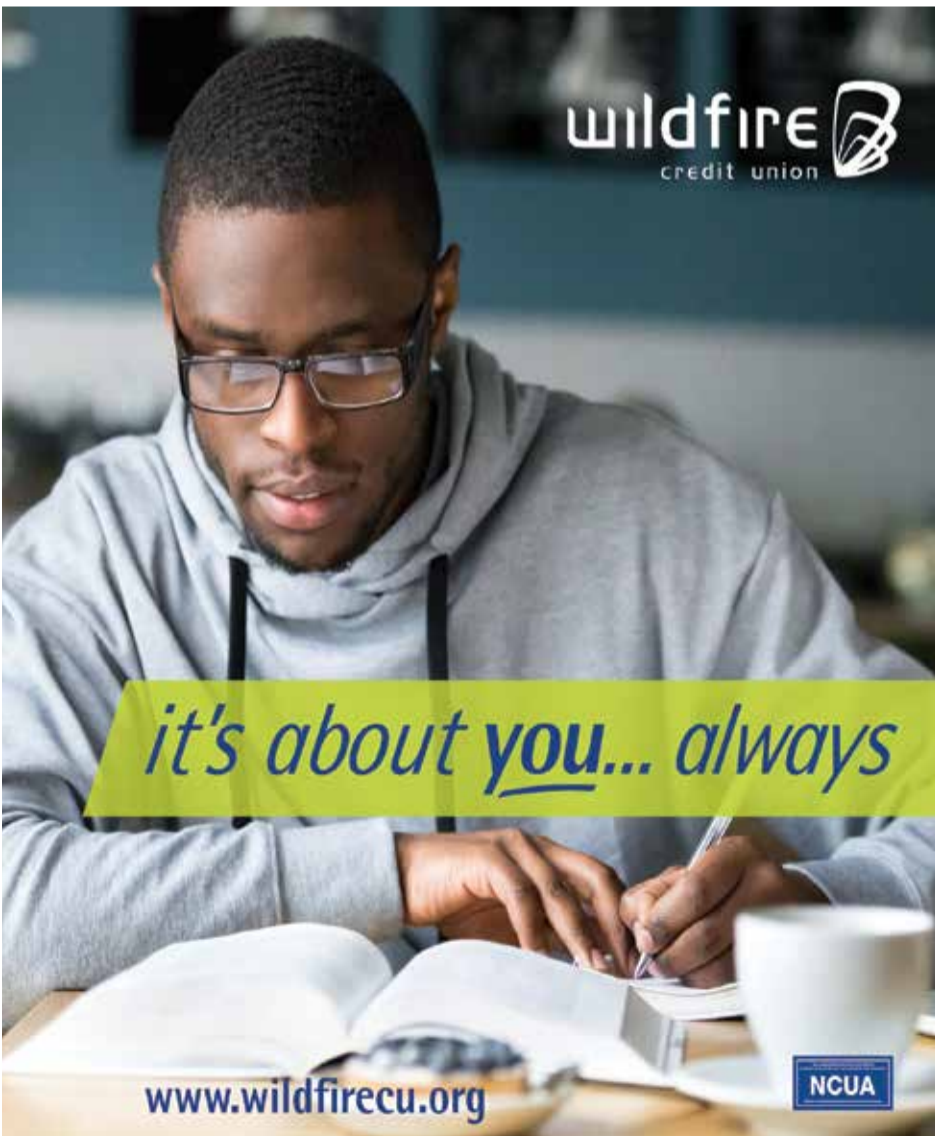
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We're Searching for 3 Positions!! 1 VIP Executive Director - 40hrs a Week! 2 VIP Case Managers Part-time 20hrs a Week!! If Anyone is Interested Please Contact Bishop Larry Camel 989-798-6405 or Email LDCWIN@aol.com

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## + COMMUNITY

## Michigan Lottery: For Fun. For Schools!

Every time you play the lottery, it's a win for Michigan. Each purchase benefits K-12 education, gives a lift to local businesses, and supports companies that employ Michigan residents. For every \$1 spent on Lottery, 61 cents goes to prizes, 28 cents goes to the School Aid Fund, 9 cents goes to retailer and vendor commissions, and 2 cents is used for Lottery operations.

Since it began in 1972, the Lottery has contributed more than \$27 billion to support public education in Michigan, with more than \$6 billion of that coming in the last four years. Fiscal Year 2022 marked the Lottery's fourth straight contribution of more than \$1 billion to support public education.

Almost 11,000 businesses throughout Michigan earn commissions on the sale of Lottery products as licensed retailers. Lottery sales provide a year-round reve-

nue stream for small and large businesses alike. In the last decade, more than \$2.4 billion in sales commissions and bonuses have been paid to these businesses.

In addition to contributing to the School Aid Fund, the Lottery recognizes outstanding educators with the Excellence in Education awards. The Michigan Lottery established the Excellence in Education awards in 2014 to recognize outstanding public-school educators across the state during the school year.

One outstanding educator is selected each week and receives a \$1,500 cash prize plus a \$500 grant to their classroom, school or school district. One of the weekly award winners will be selected to receive the Lottery's Educator of the Year award and will receive a \$10,000 cash prize.

Each winner also will receive a plaque and be featured in a news segment on the Lottery's media partner stations: WXYZ-

TV in Detroit, FOX 17 in Grand Rapids, FOX 47 in Lansing, and WNEM-TV, Saginaw.

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

We recognize the challenges facing educators today, and the Lottery is proud to support Michigan public schools and the important work they do. In 2023, we look forward to another successful year and support for public schools across the state.



For fun. For schools.

## Child & Family services receives \$10,000 HSC Cares grant

Child and Family Services received a \$10,000 grant from the Saginaw Community Foundation for the Sexual Assault Center/Crisis Services Project.

"The HSC Cares Grant was requested for Child and Family Service's Sexual Assault Center, who provides free counseling and advocacy services to all victims and families who have experienced the unimaginable trauma of sexual assault," said Jill Hogenson, President/CEO. "We are passionate regarding an ongoing need to address and respond to sexual assault which can have lasting, harmful effects upon victims, their family, friends and community."

Child and Family Services' Sexual Assault Center has served the community since 1984 and is the only center in Saginaw providing FREE comprehensive services exclusively for survivors and their loved ones healing from the trauma of sexual violence. In addition to counseling services, the Sexual Assault Center pro-

vides crisis services, including a 24-hour crisis line, forensic nurse examinations, victim advocacy, support and resources.

"The current need within our Sexual Assault Center revolves around funds related to ongoing training for forensic nurse support, back-up call support and medical oversight. All these areas allow us to maintain compassionate care deliv-

ery to victims and their families, meeting them from the time of assault and assisting them through the recovery and healing process" Hogenson said.

The Saginaw Community Foundation awards grants to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, local units of government and religious institutions.



# Pit & Balcony Community Theatre After Dark presents Sunday on the Rocks

Pit & Balcony's 91st season closes out June 22-24th with the After Dark production of Sunday on the Rocks by Theresa Rebeck.

In this black-box style production, the audience will be seated right on stage with the actors. This story follows four housemates, as they navigate through trying times and tough decisions over a nice glass of scotch on a mid-October morning. From pangs of a pregnant conscience to the feelings of helplessness in the surrounding chaos of everyday life, the audience will find the themes of this 30-year-old script to prove relevant.

"It's wild that a script written 30 years ago is so relevant today," says Amy Spadafore, Pit & Balcony's Managing Director. "I mean, you could just change a couple of words in the entire 92 pages, and you wouldn't know it wasn't written in the last four years. Which is both kind of incredible and kind of sad."

Pit & Balcony began the After Dark productions in 2016, with the intention of producing theatre that is politically or socially applicable. This script, not shying away from women's issues that are just as prevalent today as they were when it was written, fits well within the Pit & Balcony cannon.

"It's always been difficult for me to find a script that represents all the facets of what it means to be a woman. This one did it for me," says Katie Short, production director. "[...] these characters are [...] strong, funny, fiercely loyal, protective, and stand up for what they believe in (even if they're standing alone)." The cast features four local talents. Annie Gower and Managing Director, Amy Spadafore, are returning to the Pit & Balcony Stage, and Zoey Schwab and the director of the production, Katie Short, are making their Pit & Balcony stage debuts.

Performances of Sunday on the Rocks

run June 22-24. All performances will begin at 8:30pm. This production includes potentially offensive language, violence, and adult situations.

Ticket information can be found at [www.PitAndBalconyTheatre.com](http://www.PitAndBalconyTheatre.com) or by calling (989)754-6587.



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+ COMMUNITY

IN MY HUMBLE OPINION



COURTESY PHOTO

# Narcissism gives rise to violence



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

The other day, my wife and I were scrolling through YouTube and saw something mentioning one of her friends from the modeling industry. Naturally, it caught our attention so we stopped to check it out.

It was an interview her friend did about a devastating and abusive relationship she had, which happened during a time when my wife lost total contact with her friend. Within the first several minutes of the interview, she mentioned that she figured out that the guy she was dating and then became engaged to was a narcissist. My wife and I have been encountering this term more and more in conversations with friends and interactions with people. So, it peaked my interest and I decided to investigate further.

The term narcissism comes from the mythical Greek character Narcissus, who was the son of the river god Cephissus and the nymph Liriope. According to Greek

literature, Liriope was told by a blind seer that Narcissus would have a long life, provided he never recognized himself. There was one issue that complicated that prophecy, Narcissus was distinguished for his extraordinary good looks and he fell in love with his own image reflected in still water. The handsome young man stared at his reflection in a pool of spring water until he eventually died and in his place a flower sprouted up that bears his name to this day. The moral of the story is that excessive pride leads to bad things. As you might know, pride or vanity is one of the

**CONTINUES ON PG 21,  
NARCISSISM**

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seven deadly sins, and in my humble opinion narcissism gives rise to violence.

In simple terms, narcissism is defined as “entitled self-importance.” In 1914, the famed father of psychoanalysis, Dr. Sigmund Freud wrote a paper introducing the concept of ‘narcissism’. He defined it as, “adoration one accords themselves in light of them being an object of sexual desire. He views narcissism as some sort of neurosis”, according to [sigmundfreud.net/on-narcissism.jsp](http://sigmundfreud.net/on-narcissism.jsp). He does however go on to suggest that all humans have some level of narcissism throughout their development. In the extreme, it can lead to narcissistic personality disorder (NPD), which the Mayo Clinic defines as, “a mental condition in which people have an inflated sense of their own importance, a deep need for excessive attention and admiration, troubled relationships, and a lack of empathy for others. But behind this mask of extreme confidence lies a fragile self-esteem that's vulnerable to the slightest criticism.”

In a recent research brief published in 2021 by Brad Bushman, Professor of Communication and Psychology, and Sophie Kjaervik, PhD Student in Communication, both from The Ohio State University they reviewed 437 studies of narcissism and aggression involving a total of over 123,000 participants and found narcissism was related to a 21% increase in aggression and an 18% increase in violence. They used a technique called “meta-analytic review” for their study, which combined data from multiple studies investigating the same topic to develop a conclusion that is statistically stronger because of the increased number of participants. “A meta-analytic review can reveal patterns that aren't obvious in any one study. It is like looking at the entire forest rather than at the individual trees.”

Their study found that individuals high in narcissism are especially aggressive when provoked, and are even aggressive when not provoked. Participants in the study with high levels of narcissism showed high levels of verbal aggression, physical aggression, spreading gossip, bullying others, and also displacing aggression against innocent bystanders. They attacked in both a hotheaded and cold-blooded manner. Narcissism was related

to aggression in males and females of all ages from both Western and Eastern countries.

Narcissism, unfortunately, is on the rise and social media might be a contributing factor. Recent research found people who posted large numbers of selfies on social media developed a 25% rise in narcissistic traits over a four-month period. A survey in 2019 by smartphone company, Honor found that 85% of people are taking more pictures of themselves than ever before. In recent years, social media has largely evolved from keeping in touch with others to flaunting for attention. People high in narcissism tend to be bad relationship partners, and they also tend to discriminate against others and to be low in empathy.

Other research being done, which the study revealed, was how people become narcissistic in the first place. One study found that when parents overvalue, overestimate, and overpraise their child's qualities, their child tends to become more narcissistic over time. These parents think their children are more special and entitled than other children. The study also found that if parents want their child to have healthy self-esteem instead of unhealthy narcissism, they should give unconditional warmth and love to their child.

Bushman and Kjaervik's study not only

looked at the link between narcissism and aggression at the individual level, but also the link that exists at the group level. Research found that, “collective narcissism” – or “my group is superior to your group” – is related to intergroup aggression, especially when one's in-group (“us”) is threatened by an out-group (“them”).

Getting back to the catalyst for this article, which was the interview that I watched about my wife's friend, devastatingly abusive is actually a mild way to describe what she experienced. Her fiancé not only abused her verbally and physically (suffering broken bones), he allegedly murdered her mother and chopped her body into pieces, and hired hitmen to try to kill her as well. He was eventually caught and arrested for killing another young woman in an unrelated incident. I will echo here what the interviewer said, this guy was an abuser and not just a narcissist, but in my opinion his NPD led to his abuse and violent crimes.

People who think they are superior seem to have no reservations about attacking others whom they regard as inferior. Perhaps, narcissism is also playing a role in the current Russian war on Ukraine. I pray for the people of Ukraine and all those who are affected at this time. Please let peace be restored in the name of Jesus.



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## STARS rides to wellness expands Saturday service

Starting Saturday, June 17, STARS Rides to Wellness will extend Saturday hours to 7AM to 4PM.

Rides to Wellness offers direct, personal, and reliable transportation for partner organizations and individuals across Saginaw County with service to Bay and Midland Counties and beyond. This service uses smaller vehicles and highly trained staff.

For more information, visit our website: <https://saginaw-stars.com/rides-to-wellness/>



COURTESY PHOTO

## Ladybird Deed Clinic announced to help low-income homeowners

Legal Services of Eastern Michigan (LSEM) is pleased to announce an upcoming Ladybird Deed Clinic, an event aimed at helping low-income homeowners prepare ladybird deeds. The clinic is being organized in partnership with the Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Michigan, the Saginaw County Register of Deeds, the City of Saginaw CDBG Division, the Saginaw Community Action Center, The Neighb Community Center, and the Saginaw County Bar Pro Bono Committee.

The clinic is set for August 10, 2023 and will be held at The Neighb Community Center (formerly known as The Neighborhood House) located at 3145 Russell St, Saginaw, MI 48601.

Prior to the clinic, LSEM will also be holding an Ask a Lawyer event on ladybird deeds and general estate planning at 4:00 p.m. at The Neighb on June 29, 2023. Qualified attendees of this informational session will receive priority registration for the clinic.

A ladybird deed, also known as an enhanced life estate deed, is a type of real estate transfer used in estate plan-

ning. During their lifetime, a ladybird deed grants the homeowner maximum flexibility to do what they want with their property, including rights to sell, gift, mortgage, lease, or do anything else with it. However, if the home has not been transferred before the homeowner's death, the ladybird deed ensures that the property automatically transfers to their designated beneficiary without having to go through the probate court.

"LSEM regularly receives calls looking for help to probate an estate to save a family home. Though the home is often the deceased's only asset, the estate process can get very complicated. More often than not, those difficulties could have been avoided with a simple ladybird deed," says Amy Meilink, LSEM's Directing Attorney in Saginaw.

Ladybird deeds are one of the best tools available for preserving generational wealth. Since many low-income homeowners die without a will, probating their home in court could mean losing it to creditors or having the home's title divvied into fractional shares amongst extended family members. As a

result, some families avoid the probate process entirely and the home eventually ends up being lost to tax or mortgage foreclosure.

While a ladybird deed does not create a full estate plan — and is not a one-size fit all solution — for many low-income homeowners, this estate planning tool is enough to ensure that their family home continues to stay within, and benefits, their family after they pass away.

Pre-registration is required to participate in the clinic. Registration can be done online using the following link <https://bit.ly/LadyBirdDeedInterestForm> or over the phone by calling LSEM at 1-800-322-4512 ext. 7.

Ladybird deeds will be prepared at no cost for all clinic participants. Furthermore, the first 50 registrants will also have their \$30 recording fee paid. Space is limited, so those who are interested are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

## + COMMUNITY



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

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

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

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

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

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

"Swinging for the Promise" not only provides a great day for golf, but will raise funds to impact Saginaw's future and that of its students

through postsecondary education. Saginaw Promise believes in producing economic and community change in Saginaw and affecting the lives of its students by providing the opportunity for and eliminating barriers to postsecondary education. Since 2012, the Saginaw Promise has awarded \$1,182,799 in scholarships to 662 scholars; 2023 marks its twelfth class of Saginaw Promise scholars. To learn more about "Swinging for the Promise", available sponsorships, the Saginaw Promise and its scholarship, visit [www.saginawpromise.org](http://www.saginawpromise.org).



# Saginaw Promise Golf Outing



THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023  
**SAGINAW COUNTRY CLUB**  
(4465 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw MI 48638)



## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES - REGISTRATION

Proceeds to Benefit Saginaw Promise Programming & Scholarships

**EVENT SPONSOR** **\$2,000**

- Foursome with carts
- Sponsor name displayed at event and recognized at dinner
- Opportunity to welcome & address golfers prior to "shot gun start"
- Opportunity to host a golf activity on course or display table near registration
- Name listed on Saginaw Promise website
- Hole Sponsorship

**DINNER SPONSOR** **\$1,500**

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- Sponsor name displayed & recognized at dinner
- Opportunity to welcome and address golfers at dinner
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- Name listed on Saginaw Promise Website

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- Opportunity to host golf activity or display table
- Name listed on Saginaw Promise website

**CART SPONSOR** **\$650**

- Sponsor name on golf carts and listed on the Saginaw Promise website

**DRIVING RANGE SPONSOR** **\$400**

- Name displayed at event and announced at dinner

**HOLE SPONSORS** **\$250**

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

### PRIZE DONATIONS WELCOME

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

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

EPS or hi-res JPG preferred.

**REGISTRATION 8:45 - 9:45 AM • SHOTGUN START 10:00 AM**  
**Four Person Scramble** - Includes: 18 Holes with Cart, Driving Range, Hot Dog & Chips at the Turn, Barbecue Buffet Dinner and Awards Presentation

**GOLF PER PERSON - \$165**

**GOLF FOURSOME TEAM - \$660**

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Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount for **Golfing** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount for **Sponsorship** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a **Donation** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to **Donate a Prize**  Yes  No

Total Amount **ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

Player #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Player #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Player #3 \_\_\_\_\_

Player #4 \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Check Payable:**

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

\*Saginaw Community Foundation is the fiscal agent for Saginaw Promise

**For Questions:**

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

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

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Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Deadlines** ▶ Sponsors: Respond by August 9, 2023 Golfers: Sign up before August 10, 2023



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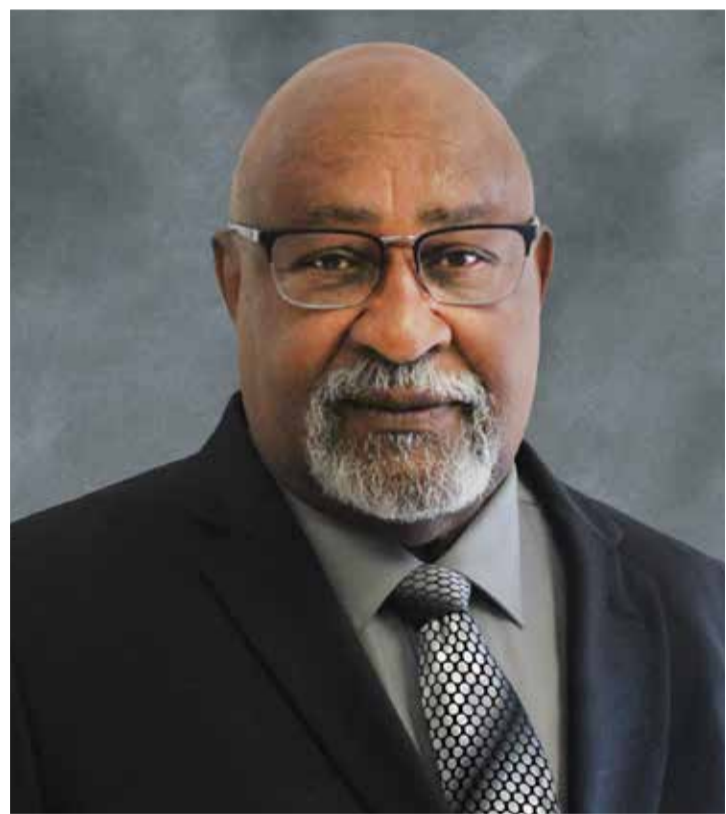
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+ FAITH BASED

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

By **MINISTER CAROLYN CARTER TOWNSEL**

As a child attending Sunday School, you more than likely heard this Scripture or better yet, memorized it. Although, this verse is not well known, as the Golden rule, "Do unto to others, as you would have them do unto you," it is close. For the most part in many churches, this Scripture was used during tithes and offerings. Yes, Luke 6:38 applies to all things connected to sowing and reaping, after all it is one of the Laws of Reciprocity... You get what you give. You reap what you sow. However, if we examine the context of this passage, commencing with verse 36 to 42 Jesus is clearly talking about mercy, judging, condemning, and forgiving.

Jesus is saying, "be merciful... don't judge... don't condemn... forgive." Then he drops the verb "give." Does Jesus suddenly deviate from what He is speaking about and changes the subject to money or material things? Absolutely not, Jesus is teaching His disciples to "give" forgiveness and an uncondemning attitude in the same amount we desire to be forgiven. He continues and expounds

# Give and It Shall Be Given Unto You

*Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again*

**Luke 6:38 KJV**

on the truth, that the attitudes and characteristics we spread abroad in our life will return to us in like measure. Mercy will reciprocate mercy and judgement will be carried out on those that judge. Forgiveness will be given to those who pardon others, while condemnation will be meted out on those who criticize and condemn. As Christians we are to be as merciful as God is to us while judging, condemning, and forgiving others in the same way we desire to be judged, condemned, and forgiven by God.

As Believers, we must be careful and understand when Jesus says give and it will be given unto you, he is not saying that if you give to your enemies, they will give back to you. On the contrary, we are in no way, shape, or form to expect them to return our generosity (6:35). But God will give it back and more. Jesus was teaching His disciples then, and He is teaching us today that we will certainly be repaid. Therefore, be faithful for the reward is sure to come. It is easier to be merciful, non-judgmental, non-condemning, and forgiving toward our loved ones and friends. But to extend that same grace to our enemies becomes a different story. However, being faithful in our obedience to our Lord and Savior, we are

to emulate his mercy and grace that He gave to His enemies. Whether it be loved ones, friends, or foes we are instructed in Scripture to give the mercy of God and He expects us, His people, to do just that. Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we earn; we make a life by what we give."

Can we pause just for a moment and think about the time when we were enemies of the cross God gave to us. Apostle Paul validates this truth when he states, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Therefore Beloved, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again"

As we "give" God sees our hearts, and if we are giving with a loving and sincere heart – He is faithful to repay us completely, fully, and abundantly...

Blessings To All

+ FAITH BASED

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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**  
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2202 Janes Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-3212

**Greater Williams Temple**  
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Saginaw, MI 48601  
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## H



**Holy Communion Gospel Center**  
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Saginaw, MI 48607  
989-752-3993

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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**  
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**New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry**  
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Pastorbaldwin@charter.net



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## R

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www.radiantchurchofgod.org



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Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-395-3142

## S



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120 North 15 St.  
Saginaw, MI. 48601  
stpaul2@yahoo.com  
Facebook: St Paul MBC Family Connection



**Second Baptist Church**  
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Bay City, MI 48708  
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523 Hayden  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-9573



**True Vine Baptist Church**  
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2930 Janes Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-0751

## U



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

## V



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

## W



**World Outreach Campus of Greater Coleman Temple Ministries**  
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Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-752-7957

## Z



**Zion Missionary Baptist Church**  
Pastor Rodrick Smith  
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Saginaw, MI 48607  
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## + FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

# Skills-based volunteerism

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

*Do you have a current understanding of what it means to recruit and manage volunteers for your nonprofit organization or institution? Are you looking for warm bodies who will do what you tell them to do when you tell them to do it? If your answer is “yes,” you just might be out of step with the times and losing out on valuable resources that can help your organization grow.*

Sometimes we do things based on how we have done them in the past. We may not even know why we do things the way we do, but if they appear to be working, we usually don't question the situation. We focus instead on things that are “more important.” We rely on the axiom “if it ain't broke don't fix it.” But what if things are broken and we don't know it? Sometimes

we blame others for our problems, when it turns out – upon examination – that we are the problem. This may just be the case with engaging volunteers in the life of a nonprofit organization.

When working with our clients we recommend engaging volunteers for the purpose of meeting specific goals. Often, we are met with responses such as “we really don't have time for that;” or “we've tried working with volunteers, but it just doesn't work;” or “we really need to get this done: we don't have time to recruit volunteers.” We understand. But if you are not prepared to invest time in preparing to work with volunteers you won't gain the benefits. And you will be missing out on a lot as volunteers are at the heart of nonprofit organizations and the larger social sector.

Knowing how to meaningfully engage volunteers can transform your organization or institution. But it takes time. It's a process that includes assessing the current status of your organization, how your leadership operates, and how you engage volunteers. That being said, there is a robust tool to help you. It is called Capacity Commons, a project of Common Impact. Ca-

capacity Commons focuses on “skills based volunteerism” and has tools to help you assess your readiness to engage skills based volunteers, as well as how to define a project and recruit volunteers.

Here's what Capacity Commons has to say: “Skills-based volunteerism aligns individuals' service activities with the tasks or issues they are most qualified to address, thereby exponentially increasing the value of volunteers' time and potential impact.” This is where individuals volunteer their skills to help a nonprofit – or other social sector organization – reach a defined goal. This can include projects as complicated as implementing a new human resources policy, to strategic planning, to technology implementation. You don't have to figure everything out on your own: they provide an extensive, invaluable, interactive guide.

We encourage you to restructure how you think about the work of your social sector organization. It's time we all update our thinking and our actions and embrace skills-based volunteerism. It will help our organizations and the volunteers we depend on.



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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

# SVSU Department of Nursing celebrates contributions of nursing professionals



2023 CARLEEN K. MOORE NURSING EXCELLENCE AWARDS WERE FORMALLY HONORED DURING A RECEPTION AT SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY THURSDAY, JUNE 8.

In a tribute to the dedication, compassion and expertise of nurses, Saginaw Valley State University's Department of Nursing hosted the Carleen K. Moore Nursing Excellence Awards today at SVSU. The 12th annual celebration luncheon showcased the invaluable impact nurses have on patient care, highlighting exceptional individuals whose tireless efforts improve the lives of those they serve.

"It is an honor to recognize nurses in our community," said Andrea Frederick, SVSU professor of nursing. "Nurses are vital to the delivery of health care to patients throughout the community. Our honorees represent nursing excellence and embody the qualities that make the nursing profession so important. They deserve to be applauded for their work."

Established through the generous support of Terry and his wife, Carleen Moore, R.N., the nursing awards recognize the outstanding achievements of nurses across specialties, including critical care, pediatrics, mental health, education, long-term care and more.

The winners of this year's awards were nominated by colleagues and healthcare leaders and selected through a rigorous evaluation process. Eight nurses were honored in three categories:

### ACUTE CARE NURSING

- **Kalie Taylor, registered nurse, certified surgical technical and certified surgical first assist at McLaren Bay Region in Bay City** - A certified perioperative nurse, Taylor also holds trauma nurse core certification. She was nominated by Yvette Bradley, manager of patient services at McLaren Bay Region, who said that Taylor was instrumental in the establishment of the McLaren Bay Region vascular hybrid program.
- **Melanie Goidosik, surgical nurse at Ascension St. Mary's Towne Centre Surgery Center, Saginaw** - Nominated by Trisha Slough, nurse manager, Goidosik was described as a true patient advocate in the pediatric intensive care unit who treats patients and families with sensitivity and compassion. Goidosik also is involved in community advocacy, including hosting a soup kitchen.
- **Lauren Guentert, staff nurse, surgical ICU/neuro trauma**

**ICU staff nurse at MyMichigan Health in Midland, SICU/NTICU staff nurse (surgical ICU, neuro trauma ICU)** - Guentert is respected for her attention to patient needs and comfort. She was nominated by Joe Wilson, her manager, who shared a patient comment: "Lauren always made embarrassing situations positive and uplifting. She provided physical care but also provided me with much needed emotional support."

### COMMUNITY NURSING

- **Summer Bates, lead palliative care nurse practitioner for Covenant HealthCare** - Bates is a passionate believer in patient-centric care. Summer was nominated by Katie Parkhurst the Hospice and Palliative Care Manager for Covenant HealthCare, who praised Bates' passion for compassionate care and her efforts to explain and promote the value of palliative care to the community. Bates is a member of the Center to Advance Palliative Care, Michigan Oncology Quality Consortium, Michigan Health Information Network, Hospice and Palliative Credentialing Center, and Sigma Theta Tau. She has achieved Advanced Certification for Hospice and Palliative Nursing (ACHPN).
- **Sandra Johnson, administrative director of Covenant HealthCare-Cancer Care Center** - Johnson was nominated by Adam Tompa, Vice President, Service Lines Covenant HealthCare, who shared that Johnson's unwavering dedication, expertise and leadership played a pivotal role in the development and renovation of the Covenant Regional Thumb Network Cancer Center in Marlette. This project will make it easier for 173 patients in the Thumb Region to receive daily radiation treatments closer to home.

**CONTINUES ON PG 33, SVSU**



## Continued from pg 32, SVSU

## NURSING EDUCATION

- **Kristine Schaub, nursing professional development specialist at MyMichigan Health** - Schaub has made a positive impact on the quality of patient care through her dedication to research and share information on bedside nursing. Schaub serves as co-lead for the MyMichigan Health Research Council and has presented her work at the 2023 Sigma Conference on ideas to promote healthy work environments and the implications for nurse leaders. Schaub was nominated by Rachel Peltier, clinical education manager at MyMichigan Health. Schaub is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, Academy of Medical/Surgical Nurses, the Association for Nursing Professional Development, and the American Nurses Association.
- **Jeanette Lambert, nurse manager at Ascension St. Mary's of Saginaw** - Lambert has been tireless

in the pursuit of strategies to decrease hospital acquired infections and to promote the best patient centered care possible, developing and implementing a variety of strategies to impact the quality of care at all organizations in Ascension Michigan. Lambert is a member of the American Association for Nursing Leadership and is preparing for the nurse manager leadership credentialing exam. She was nominated by Mary Jo Stephen, director of patient care and Shane Hunt, vice president of nursing.

- **Julie O'Neil, department educator at Covenant HealthCare** - O'Neil has been a nurse in Covenant's Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for over 20 years and has been in the role of department educator for the past two years. She also co-leads the Covenant Family Support Group. O'Neil's nominator, Jena Bargon, the RNICU nurse manager, stressed her dedication to patients, their families and the nurses she works with. She is

passionate about providing knowledge and inspiring others to excel.

Speakers and presenters included Tami Pobocik, SVSU Nursing Department chair; Tammy Terrell, chief nursing officer at MyMichigan Health; Shane Hunt, vice president for nursing for Ascension St. Mary's, Standish and St. Joseph's Hospitals; and Andrea Frederick, SVSU professor of nursing.

Carleen K. Moore worked as a licensed practical nurse for almost 15 years before returning to nursing school to become a registered nurse. She then worked in the critical care units at Midland Medical Center before retiring from full-time nursing in 2001. The Moores believe in the importance of recognizing and encouraging nurses who demonstrate excellence in their field, and promoting the reputation of Saginaw Valley State University and the SVSU Nursing Program.



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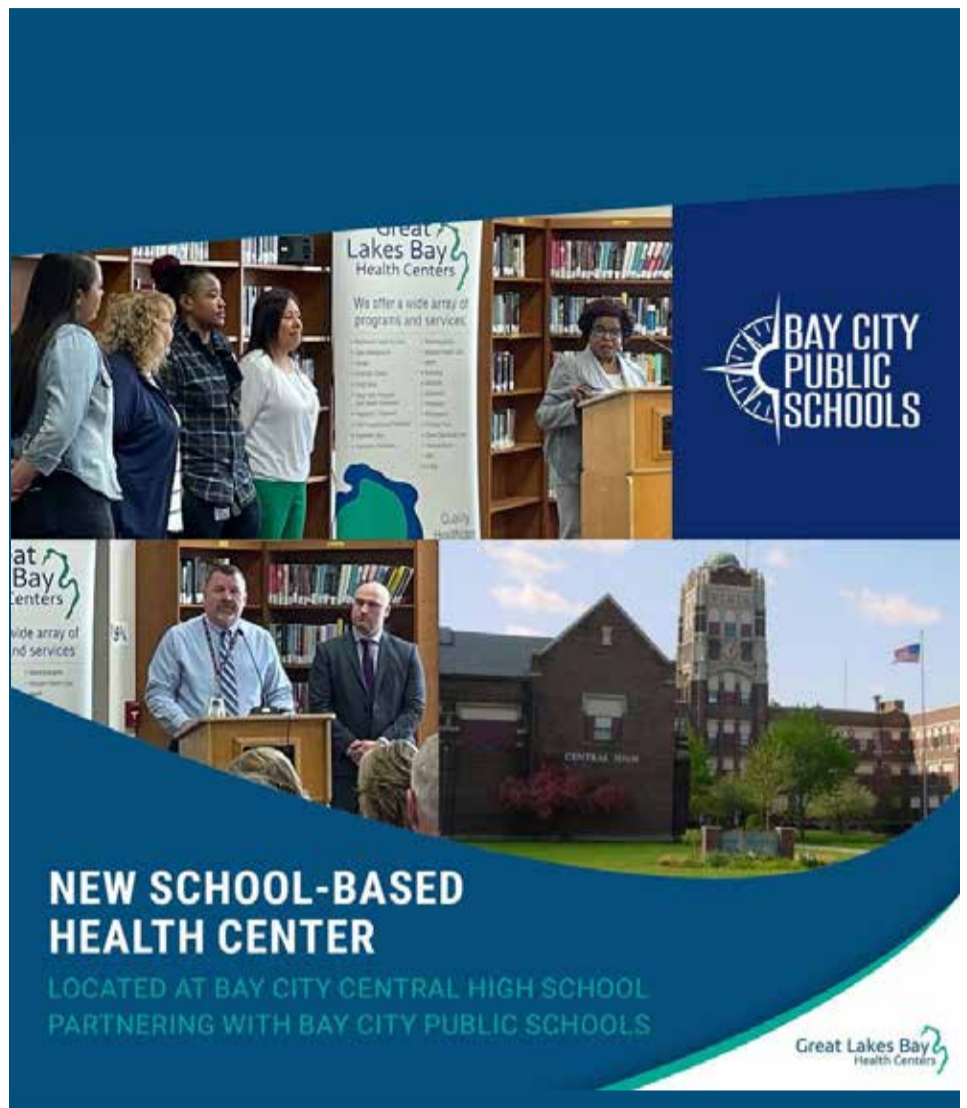


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*For more information and referrals, please call 989.583.2720 (Outpatient Practice) or 989.583.2817 (Inpatient Rehabilitation).*



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GPS Address: 1100 Cooper, Saginaw, MI 48602

## + EDUCATION

# Delta College names new dean of transfer programs

Delta College's leadership team has announced the appointment of Dr. David Hopkins as the dean of Transfer Programs and Online Learning. He began his role on June 5.

Dr. Hopkins will oversee the Associate Deans, Faculty and Staff in the Divisions of Arts and Letters, Science and Mathematics, Social Sciences and the eLearning department.

“At Midland College, Dr. Hopkins championed support for faculty across disciplines and instructional modalities,” said Dr. Reva Curry, vice president of Instruction and Learning Services. “We look forward to his leadership at Delta College, where he will work with faculty and staff to strengthen transfer programs and online learning for our students. His skills and experience make him a perfect fit for Delta College.”

Dr. Hopkins was a Delta College student, earning a Bachelor of Arts in History from Michigan State University and a Master of Arts and Ph.D. in History at Wayne State University.



DR. DAVID HOPKINS

While at Midland College, Dr. Hopkins served as the History Dual Credit Liaison, History Department Chair, and later, Interim Dean of the Social/Behav-

ioral Sciences and Business Division in Midland, Texas. He chaired Midland's Quality Enhancement Plan and coordinated the Henry Foundation Endowment Financial Management and Relationships program. His professional activities include leadership roles in the Texas Community College Teachers' Association and the ETS/College Board.

Hopkins, a Bay City native, says returning to begin this role has “now come full circle,” as he credited Delta where he discovered his life and career goals.

“I am looking forward to making Delta the best choice for students in the Great Lakes Bay Region,” Hopkins said. “While potential students have many options for higher education, I want them to think about Delta College first as a place to discover what they want to do regarding a career. I want them to know they have a great college right in their backyard with top-notch programs and faculty.”

## Free Vehicle Safety Inspections at Delta College

Delta College's General Motors Automotive Service Education Program (GM-ASEP) students will offer free vehicle safety inspections to students and the local community.

The inspections will occur every Wednesday from July 12 to August 9 from 1pm-3pm at the main campus in room M115. Please allow approximately 15-20 minutes for the inspection.

This inspection includes:

- Checking under-hood fluids
- Tire pressure and condition
- Suspension and steering compo-

nents

- Wiper blades and battery condition
- Scan systems for codes
- directions

Delta College is located at 1961 Delta Road, University City, MI. Please drive around to the far north garage door on the service drive on east campus road of the main campus (M-Wing area). View map of main campus.

The sole purpose of this program is to support academic learning opportunities for Delta College students while identifying potential safety issues for vehicle

owners. This program cannot fully evaluate a vehicle's quality, safety, or condition or any of its components. Delta College specifically disclaims any liability for any loss or damage arising from or in connection with the ownership or operation of any vehicle or for any damage or defects found or not found during this inspection. Nothing will be removed from the vehicle or serviced - this is strictly a visual inspection. The participants will be advised to visit a licensed repair facility if any repairs or services are recommended.

For more information, please contact Wallace "Jay" Minard at wallaceminard@delta.edu.



COURTESY PHOTO

## Artificial intelligence & education



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**  
RETIRED EDUCATOR

Recently news reports declared that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a threat and could lead to the end of humanity.

Please take a moment for it to sink in. Human extinction.

What role does education play?

I have thought about this a lot the past few weeks. I talked with other educators and have looked at articles on the Internet and viewed an interview with Henry Kissinger on the topic. I am certainly not an expert on this deep question, but I have

learned quite a bit and it turns out that education can (and should) play a big role.

Let's back up a step and look at what AI is and where it fits in education. "AI" is a growing part in Computer Science. "AI" touches upon coding and programming computers.

There are examples of how "AI" is around us already. Smart phones that we carry around has elements of "AI." Have you spoken with Siri on your phone? That is just one example.

There are ethical questions associated with "AI." What are "right" ways to use "AI" and what are "wrong" ways? Such philosophical questions naturally lend itself to looking at laws and governance. All are part of the broad field of education. All point to the need for educators to come to grips with the impact of "AI."

For teachers and administrators, it is a call to action to become informed. We need to think about how "AI" applies to each subject and grade level of teaching.

There are some seminars offered on the subject; one is August 9th by the nonprofit organization I work for. Information about it is on the web, <https://excellenceined.org/event/leveraging-ai/>

My goal is to remain concerned and become more informed about "AI." I urge your readers to join me, as well.

### Resources

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/henry-kissinger-at-100-artificial-intelligence-global-tensions-and-addressing-his-critics/>

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/experts-are-warning-ai-could-lead-to-human-extinction-are-we-taking-it-seriously-enough/ar-AA1bUC1l>

<https://www.computerworld.com/article/2906336/what-is-artificial-intelligence.html>

## + EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

## SPONSORED CONTENT

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

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

The Saginaw ISD Early Childhood Services Department provides an array of resources for children and families throughout Saginaw County including home visits, preschool programming, and community support. Programs are designed to strengthen families by providing high-quality learning environ-

ments and support for their children while sharing access to essential family resources. Our programs include the following:

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

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

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

**CONTINUES ON PG 39,  
SISD**

## Continued from pg 38, 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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- U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Hold a high school diploma or GED
- Do not currently hold a college or university degree
- Students must enroll in at least six-credit hours in a semester and be enrolled in a least two semesters per year

\*Other costs apply. Students outside Bay, Midland and Saginaw counties (Delta's service district) can receive the scholarship but will be responsible for the difference between in-district and out-of-district tuition and fees.

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**Saginaw Intermediate School District (ISD)** is an educational service agency that provides effective and innovative leadership, services, resources, and programs throughout Saginaw County school districts since 1962. Saginaw ISD's **Early Childhood Services** department offers an array of support for children and families, including home visitation, preschool programs, and community resources.



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



# SAGINAW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

3933 Barnard Road, Saginaw, MI 48603  
(989) 399-7473 | [www.sisd.cc](http://www.sisd.cc)





**About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS**

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Current Partners**

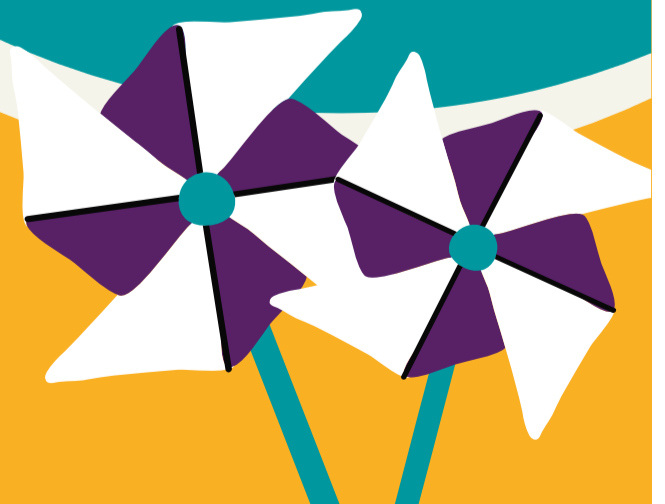
- Au Gres-Sims Schools
- Bay Arenac ISD
- Children's Discovery Academy
- Gratiot Isabella RESD
- Hemlock SemiConductor
- Ready, Set, Grow
- Saginaw ISD Head Start
- Vantage Plastics

**Current Childcare Providers**

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

**SIGNING UP AS AN EMPLOYER:**

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



**SUPER SPSD STATS**

Saginaw Public Schools

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**IN SCHOLARSHIPS**  
**(SO FAR!)**



## + SPORTS

# Dawkins back in the game

By HASANI ALI

Coach Lou Dawkins couldn't stay away from the game very long.

Even with his recent move to Muskogee, Okla., he found his way back on the court coaching varsity basketball at Muskogee High School.

"Honestly, I missed basketball," he said. "After my transition from Cleveland State back in 2018, we had so much going on. It was a no-brainer. We moved back to Oklahoma as my wife's father needed extra care and she asked me to move."

Before taking the job at the high school, Dawkins was hired at the elementary school as the Athletic Director. He was shocked to see that there weren't any sports programs at the elementary level.

"I was completely shocked," he said. "Coming from Saginaw, our athletes were competing by the time that they could walk. We instilled the killer instinct and the will to compete early so starting this new program was really a journey."

His initial year in his new role, Dawkins initiated flag football, basketball, cheerleading and soccer. He received participation from 300 students from six different schools.

"I took flyers to the six schools, had small assemblies and introduced myself," he said. "I used the same system that we had back in Saginaw. Everything was volunteer based. We had high schoolers officiating the games for all sports."

This past school year, nearly 1,500 students participated.

Parents got involved quickly once they noticed the passion that Dawkins had for developing sports in the community. It was something new to the community and they bought in immediately.

"People noticed my passion from the sidelines and these weren't even my kids," he said. "What people will never be able to say that Coach Dawkins was lazy."

One challenge that Dawkins did have integrating the new program was setting a high standard for competition. Many parents were not used to the high level of competition and immediately became concerned.



COACH LOU DAWKINS

"Before I came here, every athlete receives a participation award," he said. "I didn't even know what that was. When you got beat, you didn't win anything. You went home. I had

parents making complaints to the school board about me because I wouldn't give their children a participation trophy."

Dawkins pushed back on the complaints, in which the school board agreed that competition sets a standard for those that participate.

"We need these young students to understand that life is about competition and having that killer instinct," Dawkins said. "Sports prepare people for life. Rewards are for the winners."

Coming from a winning tradition at Saginaw High School, one would understand the high level of expectations that Dawkins would have for the new sports program.

Because of his high expectations, he had to leave the elementary program to become the head coach at Muskogee High School.

Dawkins had a different challenge ahead, but it was one that he wasn't quite used to.

"Last year was the most losses I've ever had in a single season in my coaching career," he said. "I knew that Oklahoma was a football state, but I didn't know how serious it was. We start basketball around October, but I wouldn't get my team until two weeks until the season started as the football team went to the state semi-finals. We went 0-15 simply because we didn't have enough time to prepare."

As the varsity coach at Saginaw High School, Dawkins had a legendary 210-9 record with back-to-back state titles between 2007 and 2008.

He was coaching during an era where Saginaw County was producing dozens of Div. I athletes in various sports.

"From 1996 to 2011, Saginaw has easily produced at least 100 Div. I athletes that went on to play at the collegiate level," Dawkins said. "The caliber of play was totally at a different level at that time."

After the 2009 season, Dawkins stepped down as head coach at Saginaw High School. Still mourning the death of his son, Dorian, took a toll on Dawkins and definitely affected his performance as a coach.

"I was a walking zombie," he said. "We had just lost to Bay City Western in tournament play. I remember staying in the locker room and I cried for about 45 minutes. I knew that I had to take some time to regroup and get myself together."

Because Dawkins was well connected and respected throughout his tenure at Saginaw High, he was able to elevate and transition to the collegiate level as an assistant coach at Northern Illinois University.

"I got on the phone with Tom Izzo from Michigan State," he said. "I asked him to put in a word for me for coaching gigs and he told me to meet him in his office the next morning. It was a cold winter and we were in the middle of an ice storm. I asked my wife of what I should do about my situation. She encouraged me to make the drive if I wanted to become a head coach. I started driving at 6:30 a.m. that morning and made it to his office by 9 a.m., going 40 miles per hour the entire way."

The rest of the history was Dawkins. Though he made it to the next level, it was a role that he had to adjust to as he was longer the head honcho.

"Adjusting as a college coach was shocking," he said. "When you're the head coach of a program, you are the voice. It was different as an assistant. You must have an eye for talent and bring them to the head coach."

Ironically, Dawkins was the reason Bay City Western standout Matt Castillo and Kenny Kaminski from Medina, Ohio ended up playing for Izzo at Michigan State.

"I know a ball player when I see one," he said. "These guys played on my AAU team and I knew that they could play at the next level so I made sure that I called Izzo to come get them."

## + SPORTS



GOLDEN KNIGHTS

## Golden Knights wins first Stanley Cup

By HASANI ALI

It took six seasons, but the newest team in the NHL are now Stanley Cup champions. The Las Vegas Golden Knights routed the Florida Panthers, 9-3 in Game 5 of the Stanley Cup Finals.

The chances of making a comeback without Matthew Tkachuk were pretty slim for Florida and it showed as the team completely ran out of gas.

The Panthers came out with a strong push in the first period, but Vegas netminder Adin Hill made some key stops that allowed his team to seize the momentum. Mark Stone scored a shorthanded goal 11:52 into the game, and defenseman Nic Hague doubled the lead a few minutes later. The Golden Knights were off and running.

Defenseman Aaron Ekblad scored

early in the second period for the Panthers to make it a one-goal game, but that was the closest it was going to get from any dreams of forcing a game six. After Ekblad's goal for Florida, the Golden Knights slaughtered Florida goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky execution style. The last 10 minutes of the second period consisted of four goals to take a 6-1 lead going into the third.

Stone and Jack Eichel put on a clinical performance for their last show of the season. Eichel was rewarded with three assists and finished the playoffs with 20, which led the league. He was all over the ice making plays.

Stone sealed his Stanley Cup fate with three goals. His hat trick was the first in a Stanley Cup Final since Colorado Avalanche legend Petr Forsber pulled it off in Game 2 of the 1996 Stanley Cup Final,

which was ironically also against the Panthers.

The Golden Knights were a part of the 2017 NHL Expansion Draft and they set themselves up for success quite early on in the franchise. It took small pieces to add on over time, but the initial changes that have been made turned this franchise into a championship culture.

Simply getting an edge and taking advantage of that edge are two different things. Vegas did everything in its power to win in the franchise's early years, and it succeeded in that mission.

What did Vegas do to capitalize early on? The organization made the most of the new expansion draft rules. This gave the tools needed to field a talented team

that went to the Stanley Cup Final in its inaugural season.

Was that enough for Vegas? Absolutely not. It was time to go back into the bag and pull out some more tricks to help this team improve. The Golden Knights made some bold moves after the 2017-18 season and it is apparent that the moves have paid off.

From the original inaugural team, only six players from that original team were on the roster that were the Stanley Cup winners on June 13.

The moves required to acquire Jack Eichel, Mark Stone, and Alex Pietrangelo were all splashy moves, and they all worked out for Vegas.

Best believe that they will be in the hunt for a repeat in the following season.

## + SPORTS

# USFL Playoff Picture for the Michigan Panthers

By HASANI ALI

Currently sitting at 3-6 with one game remaining in the regular season, the Michigan Panthers still may have an opportunity to make the playoffs.

According to CBS Sports, the Week 10 games in the division pit the Maulers vs. Generals and the Stars vs. Panthers. If the Stars win, they'll be the No. 1 seed with the Maulers-Generals winner the No. 2 seed. A Stars loss makes things very interesting: The Stars, Panthers and Maulers-Generals winner would finish in a three-way tie for first at 4-6, meaning tiebreakers would decide the top two seeds as well as who's out of the playoffs.

The Panthers have dropped their second consecutive game, losing 19-7 to the Pittsburgh Maulers during the week nine contest. Chris Blewitt had four field goals in the contest for the Maulers.

Quarterback Josh Love connected with tight end Cole Hikutini for a 12-yard touchdown and Michigan's only score with 12:22 remaining in the third quarter.

Love finished the game, completing 19-of-33 passes for 195 yards and four interceptions.

Michigan is now 0-2 against Pittsburgh in the regular season.

"We didn't play a complete game as a football team," said head coach Mike Nolan in a postgame press conference. "We need to do a better job of that."

Nolan was asked about his hopes in his team still being in the playoff race and he wants his team to do their part and let the cards fall where they may.

"I think we have a bunch of guys that are ready to go balls to the wall," he said. "We have the talent to do it, we just need to execute."

Later in the press conference, the team's weaknesses were questioned and Nolan addressed the teams needs going into the final game of the season with playoff hopes on the line.

"Sometimes, our defense carries us, sometimes it's our offense. In all, our team just needs to stick together, especially since we're still in the playoff run."

The Panthers will be facing the Philadelphia Stars, the leaders in the North Division sitting at 4-5.

Michigan was off to a good start, pulling off a convincing victory against the Stars, 24-10 back on April 23.

This gives the Panthers a hope to be a contender in the playoffs and a potential chance to knock Philadelphia out of the playoff race depending on the results of the other divisional games.

To give further insight on the closeness of this playoff race going into the final week, the only team that has solidified their spot in the playoffs is the defending champs, Birmingham Stallions, sitting at 7-2 in the South Division.

The New Orleans Breakers are sitting directly under at 6-3 with a chance to secure a spot in the playoffs and a chance to tie for the division title with a win and a Birmingham loss.

A tie for third will be settled by the Houston Gamblers and the Memphis Showboats, both sitting at 5-4.

# Nuggets secure first NBA title

By HASANI ALI

The Nuggets have added the cherry on top to an epic playoff run with their first NBA title after a 94-89 victory over the Miami Heat in five games.

MVP Nikola Jokic came to the rescue for his team after a jittery start to the game, finishing with 28 points and 16 rebounds.

Denver struggles early on in the game, missing 20 of their 22 3 pointers. They missed seven of their first 13 free throws.

Eventually, the Nuggets were able to take a late seven-point lead, only to see Miami's Jimmy Butler go off—scoring eight straight points to give the Heat a one-point lead with 2:45 left.

According to CBS Sports, Jokic became the first player in history to lead the league in points (600), rebounds (269) and assists (190) in a single postseason. Not surprisingly, he won the Bill Russell trophy as the NBA Finals MVP - an award that certainly has more meaning to him than the two overall MVPs he won in 2021 and '22 and the one that escaped him this year.

"We are not in it for ourselves, we are in it for the guy next to us," Jokic said. "And that's why this (means) even more."

A gruesome grind was the best way to describe Denver's clincher.

A pair of free throws were made by Butler with less than two minutes remaining to help Miami regain a one-point lead. Then, Bruce Brown got an offensive rebound and tip-in to give the Nuggets an edge they wouldn't give up.

With 15 seconds left and trailing by three points, Butler put up a three-pointer for the tie, but missed it. Brown and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope made two free throws each down the stretch to clinch the title for Denver.

Butler finished with 21 points.

"Those last three or four minutes felt like a scene out of a movie," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Two teams in the center of the ring throwing haymaker after haymaker, and it's not necessarily shot making. It's the efforts."

Denver is the home of the Larry O'Brien

Trophy for the first time in the franchise's 47 years in the league.

"The fans in this town are unbelievable," said team owner Stan Kroenke, who also owns the Colorado Avalanche, the team that won its third Stanley Cup last year. "It means a lot to us to get this done."

As Spoelstra promised, the Heat were gritty and tenacious. Ironically, the Heat went cold when it came to shooting. Miami shot 34 percent from the floor and 25 percent from 3-point territory. Before Butler got hot, he was 2 for 13 for eight points. Bam Adebayo finished with 20 points.

The Heat, who survived a loss in the play-in tournament and became only the second No. 8 seed to make the finals, insisted they weren't into consolation prizes.

They played like they expected to win, and for a while during this game, which was settled as much by players diving onto the floor as sweet-looking jump shots, it looked like they would.

The Nuggets, who came in shooting 37.6% from 3 for the series, shot 18% in this one. They committed 14 turnovers.



# Chaos in the playoffs

By HASANI ALI

Around this time last season, the Columbus Chaos made it to the playoffs with a 1-5 record. Columbus skated by the Baltimore Nighthawks in the final game of the regular season to earn its first win of the season and a playoff spot.

“Based on the Massey ratings, the entire Div. II playoffs consisted of teams with losing records,” said head coach Keith Thomas. “Because many of the teams had to play teams in Div. I and Div. III, the elite eight consisted of teams that were 1-5 and 2-4.”

Ironically, the Chaos were put out of the playoffs by Baltimore, the same team that gave Columbus its first win of the season last year.

Fast forward to this season, the Chaos made a complete turnaround with a convincing 4-2 record, sitting at no.1 in the National Conference. They will be facing Baltimore again in the first round in the playoffs, sitting at the no. 4 seed with a 4-2 record.

With the Atlanta Rage sitting at the no. 2 seed with a 4-2 record, the New York Wolves have the best record in the National Conference at 6-0, earning the no. 3 seed.

Oklahoma City Lady Force sits undefeated with the no. 1 seed in the American Conference.

The Chaos finished their season with a 27-0 win over the Capital City Savages of Lansing. Thomas knew that this game was pivotal going into the playoffs.

“Securing that no. 1 seed was more important than anything,” he said. “Now we have home field advantage in the first round of the playoffs. We don’t have to worry about travel and the other expenses that come with it. We can focus on football and execute our gameplan.”

The Nighthawks snuck past Columbus 8-6, back in May.

Going scoreless for nearly ten quarters, Thomas knew that a drastic change had to



COLUMBUS CHAOS

happen in order to get some points on the board for the offense.

“We needed to become more of a threat on offense,” he said. “Our defense has been completely solid all year and we really needed to figure something out so we can keep our defense off the field as much as possible. I told my offense coordinator to take some of my players on defense and put them where you need them. If we can’t put points on the board, then we’re in some serious trouble.”

Columbus’ defense allowed an average of 11.3 points per game, ranked fifth in Div. II.

Being the only Div. II team to defeat a Div. I team with a 6-0 victory over Detroit in week 1, the Chaos are a favorite in the playoff run to make it to the national championship at the Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton, Ohio.

Oklahoma City looks highly uncontest-

ed during its playoff run. The Lady Force ended their undefeated regular season with a 84-0 beatdown against their in-state rival, the Oklahoma City Rage.

Thomas is looking to get creative during the postseason on defense to ensure that Columbus looks completely different in the playoffs. With the constant study of Baltimore and the frequent additions on offense, the Chaos should be on their way to the Conference championship, the first since the team’s inception in 2022 if they make it.

“We should know our opponents better than they know themselves,” Thomas said. “We should know all of their tendencies and our defense should be able to know Baltimore’s every move. We stay improving on offense and put points on the board, then we can pull away with the win. We’re going to be a completely different team facing them again.”



## PICS OF THE WEEK

# Mable Jean Freeman's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration!

**Pictured: Amy Bartels Roe, Director of Mustard Seed, DeAnna Burton, daughter, Mable Freeman, Danny Evans and Derrell Martin, sons**





**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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