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FEATURED




SVSU INSTALLS PRESIDENT GEORGE GRANT JR. IN ICONIC CEREMONY

PAGE 2

Saginaw Promise welcomes Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian as “Keynote Speaker” for its “Power of a Promise” Fundraiser in November!



ADD THIS EVENT TO YOUR CALENDAR!



DR. NATASHA BAGDASARIAN IS COMING TO SAGINAW!

The Saginaw Promise is honored to welcome **Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian**, as “keynote speaker” for their 2023 “Power of a Promise” Fundraiser Luncheon! **Since 2021, Dr. Bagdasarian has served as Chief Medical Executive. In this role, Dr. Bagdasarian provides overall medical guidance for the State of Michigan.**

Dr. Bagdasarian is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases and is a Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America. She will speak on her role, national trends, S.T.E.M. Education, impact of Pandemic on the medical community, shortages and the importance of building a pipeline of medical professions in Michigan and Saginaw.

SAGINAW PROMISE “POWER OF A PROMISE” Fundraiser Luncheon

Horizons Conference Center
Tuesday, November 7, 2023
(Doors Open at 11 AM)
Program starts at 11:30 AM


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

Click here to view Media Kit

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

fessions in Michigan and Saginaw. The event will also showcase organizational outcomes, community partners, Saginaw Promise scholars, musical entertainment and a delicious luncheon meal. “Power of a Promise” proceeds will benefit Saginaw Promise programming and Scholarships.

When “hope” is present, dreams and goals flourish. Since 2012, the Saginaw Promise has awarded \$1,227,714 in scholarships to 695 students to assist them to earn a program certificate or degree! Since its formation, the Saginaw Promise has seen high school graduation rates increase, drop-out rates decrease, FAFSA completion grow and Saginaw Promise scholars earn program certificates and degrees! The Saginaw Promise believes in the power of postsecondary



Samuel J. Shaheen, MD, to be honored with the Spirit of St. Vincent Award at Ascension St. Mary’s Foundation Cornette Ball

COMMUNITY, PG 13

The Saginaw Promise is pleased to welcome Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian as “keynote speaker” for its annual “Power of a Promise” Luncheon Fundraiser on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at Horizons Conference Center (doors open at 11 AM with program starting at 11:30 AM). As Chief Medical Executive, Dr. Bagdasarian provides overall medical guidance for the State of Michigan. She will speak on her role, national trends, S.T.E.M. education, impact of the Pandemic on the medical community, shortages and the importance of building a pipeline of medical pro-

education to be a “change agent” to affect the future of Saginaw, its economy and quality of life for its families and students, which will also benefit surrounding communities and the entire Great Lakes Bay Region.

Sponsorships and promotional opportunities are available! For tickets, sponsorships and recognition opportunities visit www.saginawpromise.org or for questions contact Deborah Sanchez by email dsanchez@saginawpromise.org or by phone (989)755-0545.

THE MICHIGAN BANNER IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:





GEORGE GRANT JR. WAS INSTALLED AS THE FIFTH PRESIDENT OF SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY DURING AN INVESTITURE CEREMONY ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

SVSU Installs President George Grant Jr. in iconic ceremony

George Grant Jr. was formally installed as the fifth president of Saginaw Valley State University during an investiture ceremony today, Tuesday, September 26, at 10:30 a.m. in the Malcom Field Theatre for Performing Arts. Grant assumed the office of president on Jan. 1.

Investiture, one of the oldest traditions in academia, is a formal ceremony that confers the authority of high office. It typically is held during or at the conclusion of the new president's first year in office. SVSU is the youngest of Michigan's public universities, having been founded in 1963; it began as a private college, Saginaw Valley College.

"I am honored to serve as SVSU's fifth president," said Grant. "SVSU's mission, strategic plan and commitment to community engagement align with my values. I look forward to building on the relationships that have been established through the university's 60 years and continuing to work with faculty, staff, students and the community to make the university the best institution it can be."

Brandon Haskett, SVSU professor of

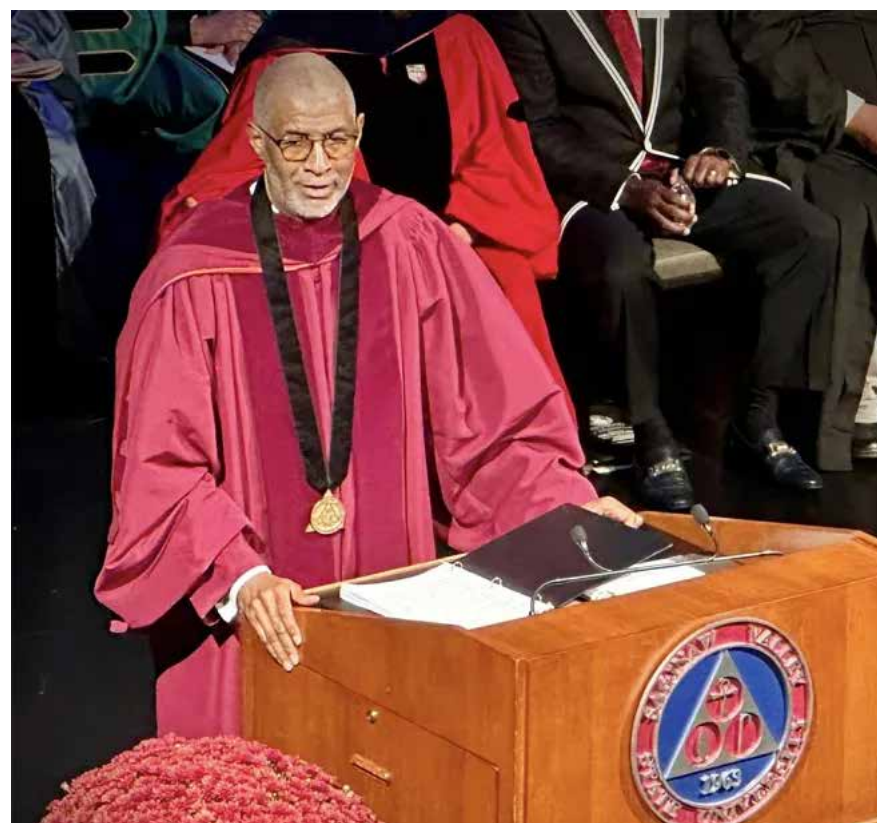
music and president of SVSU's Faculty Association, served as the grand marshal and delivered closing remarks. Master of ceremonies was Deborah Huntley, provost and vice president of academic affairs.

Following the invocation by Christopher V. Pryor, pastor of Victorious Believers Ministries in Saginaw, salutations were offered by Haskett; Kathleen Chantaca-Kubczak, SVSU Support Staff Association president; Austin Urlaub, SVSU Student Association President; and Nic Taylor, executive director of SVSU Alumni Relations.

Raj M Wiener, chair of SVSU's Board of Control, delivered remarks and presented the presidential medallion, followed by President Grant

addressing the assembled guests.

More information and a link to view the ceremony can be found at svsu.edu/investiture.



GEORGE GRANT JR.'S SPEAKS DURING HIS INVESTITURE CEREMONY

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MISSION

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

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DEADLINES

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

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Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 5 • NUMBER 19



WIN THE WAR THROUGH PRAYER

By DONIQUA SOVIA

War. The Bible speaks of such things happening, and such things being rumored to happen. Those who have fought in one, seldom speak of the horrors that it brings, and often display a sense of irritability when one displays an eagerness to be apart of one.

I hear about it all the time. How we got to prepare for war, it's even in the articles I read and I must admit it causes worry, anxiety, depression, despair, and I'm left searching my soul each time I hear what is happening and how we're "one step closer."

Then I'm reminded of a few verses;

"God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind."

2 Timothy 1:7.

So do not Fear, for I am with You; do not be dismayed, for I am Your God. I Will Strengthen You and Help You; I Will Uphold You with My Righteous Right Hand.

Isaiah 41:10

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

Worry is mentally doubting what God already said. No matter the negativity; Pray. No matter how dark the cloak of depression is; Pray. No matter how high the news you got made your anxiety go; Pray. Prayer is the power that turns the ship from the iceberg and onto peaceful waters. Whatever war is going on in your life; Pray.



Seen on the Scene: On Saturday, September 23, Saginaw STEM hosted, STEM Saturday, "Chemistry and Nanoscience", at the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy in Saginaw, MI. They engaged over 150 students, professionals, community leaders, parents, and volunteers from 33 different schools, and 53 first time students. Students learned how chemistry impacts their daily lives, the difference between endothermic and exothermic chemical reactions and had the opportunity to build a chemical clock. The next STEM Saturday will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2023 at Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy, from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



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 relocates “Monumento a la Raza” to Sculpture Walk



MAYAN MONUMENTO A LA RAZA, 1989 BY DAVID TORREZ

Delta College has relocated “Monumento a la Raza,” created by former art student David Torrez, a pioneer of Chicano art in the Midwest, as part of its Hispanic Heritage Month 2023 celebration.

Initially installed in the college’s courtyard, the concrete “stelae” – an upright inscribed concrete slab – was relocated to the east side of the main campus near the entrance of J Wing for open display.

On September 20, 1989, in celebra-

tion of Hispanic Heritage Month, Torrez, a Saginaw native, presented Delta College with the hand-carved 5-foot-tall Mayan monolith in tribute to his Mexican heritage. This statue is covered in carved images of maize, warrior kings, eagles, serpent boats, musical instruments and seashells with dates engraved on the side.

“As far as I know, the work is a one-of-a-kind anywhere. The stelae itself dates back thousands of years. It was used as a historical marker in front of Mayan temples, recording every 10 to

20 years of history,” Torrez told The Saginaw News at the time.

Dr. John E. Vargas, D.O., his family and members of the Hispanic community commissioned the stelae that Conce (Sam) and Carmen Olvera dedicated in memory of their son Luis.

Lisa Sebbe, the oldest of Torrez’s three children, recalled watching her father carve “Monumento a la Raza,” which translates to “Monument to the Race,” out of Styrofoam, rubber molding and cement.

“As a kid, I remember him talking through his process, explaining that he did deeper cuts because he needed to make the concrete show,” Sebbe said.

Mary Ellen Torrez, sister of the artist and former Delta College staff member present during the installation ceremony, credited the muse of his lifelong creative expression as their father.

“Our parents moved here from Mexico, but our dad instilled in us a lot about our culture,” she said. “David loved the ancient history of Mexico and the Mayans. He dedicated most of his drawings or murals to that.”

“Monumento a la Raza” is now part of the Delta Sculpture Walk, a free outdoor collection of works showcasing multiple styles and media by various artists. Visitors and students can enjoy the works of art around campus 365 days a year.

For more information, visit delta.edu/sculpturewalk.

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TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

Save the date! 4th Annual Dia de Los Muertos Celebration



Dia De Los Muertos

NOV. 4-NOV. 11, 2023
AT THE SAGINAW ART MUSEUM

Save the Date! The Saginaw Art Museum will be hosting the third annual Dia de Los Muertos celebration from November 4 2023- November 11, 2023! Details will be forthcoming including information about the program that is sure to include family ofrendas like in years past.

SCHEDULE

November 4, 2023 - Opening Day celebration Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Ofrenda displays, children's activities courtesy of Creative 360 and Children's Grief Center, Food available from Maria's Mexican Restaurant

November 8-11, 2023 - Ofrenda displays open, Noon-5pm

Interested in hosting an Ofrenda? Apply at <https://saginawartmuseum.app.neoncrm.com/event.jsp?event=1653&>.

To learn more about this event, visit <https://www.saginawartmuseum.org/event/diadelosmuertos2023>.

El Día de los Muertos is not, as is commonly thought, a Mexican version of Halloween, though the two holidays do share some traditions, including costumes and parades. On the Day of the Dead, it's believed that the border between the spirit world and the real world dissolve. During this brief period, the souls of the dead awaken and return to the living world to feast, drink, dance and play music with their loved ones. In turn, the living family members treat the deceased as honored guests in their celebrations, and leave the deceased's favorite foods and other offerings at gravesites or on the ofrendas built in their homes. Ofrendas can be decorated with candles, bright marigolds called cempasuchil and red cock's combs alongside food like stacks of tortillas and fruit.

The most prominent symbols related to the Day of the Dead are calacas (skeletons) and calaveras (skulls). In the early 20th century, the printer and cartoonist José Guadalupe Posada incorporated skeletal figures in his art mocking politicians

and commenting on revolutionary politics. His most well-known work, La Calavera Catrina, or Elegant Skull, features a female skeleton adorned with makeup and dressed in fancy clothes. The 1910 etching was intended as a statement about Mexicans adopting European fashions over their own heritage and traditions. La Calavera Catrina was then adopted as one of the most recognizable Day of the Dead icons.

During contemporary Day of the Dead festivities, people commonly wear skull masks and eat sugar candy molded into the shape of skulls. The pan de ánimas of All Souls Day rituals in Spain is reflected in pan de muerto, the traditional sweet baked good of Day of the Dead celebrations today. Other food and drink associated with the holiday, but consumed year-round as well, include spicy dark chocolate and the corn-based drink called atole. You can wish someone a happy Day of the Dead by saying, "Feliz día de los Muertos."

Seen on the Scene: 3rd Annual Fiesta K?Onda!

The third annual festival took place September 14 - 17 at the SVRC Marketplace outdoor pavilion and included live music, vendors and cultural activities



NOBO

NO BOUNDARIES

Be True To You

NOBO JOINS KIDPOSIUM
OCTOBER 21, 2023 | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY – CURTISS HALL

What does it take to be true to yourself?

Duperon Education's NOBO is partnering with Kids Rule Now's KIDposium to offer dreamers of all ages a day like no other. We are offering two events in one location! Duperon Education is excited to announce a thought-provoking, interactive experience you will not want to miss!

NOBO and KIDposium will be at Saginaw Valley State University on October 21 for a day of entrepreneurial spirit and finding your truth through personal exploration and development. The cost is \$50 and includes lunch.

Have you wanted to do something but felt that the odds were against you?

We invite you to join us for a day of entrepreneurial sprit and being true to yourself!

Cindy, Andrea, & Michelle

YOUR TRUTH



FREEDOM



BUSINESS VENTURE



LEISURE



TRAVEL

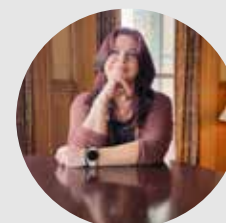
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SAGINAW, MI

+ COMMUNITY



SAMUEL J. SHAHEEN, MD

Samuel J. Shaheen, MD, to be honored with the Spirit of St. Vincent Award at Ascension St. Mary's Foundation Cornette Ball

Ascension St. Mary's Foundation is pleased to announce Samuel J. Shaheen, MD, FACS, as the 2023 recipient of the prestigious Spirit of St. Vincent Award, presented annually to a highly respected physician who has rendered long and noteworthy service to the Great Lakes Bay community. Dr. Shaheen will be celebrated at the 29th Annual Cornette Ball on Saturday, Nov. 18, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The

gala will be at Horizons Conference Center, 6200 State Street, in Saginaw.

Dr. Shaheen serves as president and chief executive officer of Central Michigan University (CMU) Medical Education Partners, based in Saginaw. CMU Medical Education Partners is an organization that involves a collaboration between CMU and Saginaw's two hospitals – Ascension St. Mary's and Covenant HealthCare. He

also serves as Professor & Interim Chair, Surgical Discipline, CMU College of Medicine. In addition, Dr. Shaheen is President of Shaheen Development, a family-owned, community-based real estate development company that has enriched communities throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond by creating places for living, working, leisure and healthcare.

“Dr. Shaheen is very deserving of the Spirit of St. Vincent Award,” says Stephanie Duggan, MD, FACEP, FAAPL, CPE, Regional President & CEO, North Region, Ascension Michigan. “Ascension St. Mary's Hospital has a legacy of being a center of excellence for healthcare, and Dr. Shaheen has contributed to that, both as a surgeon and an administrator. The dedication and compassion he has for people and our communities is nothing short of exceptional. As a surgeon, he focuses on what is best for the patient and achieving the best outcomes. It is a privilege to know him as a physician colleague, friend and member of the Ascension St. Mary's Hospital family.”

“Dr. Shaheen is a visionary and advocate for Saginaw,” said Steven McLean, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Ascension St. Mary's Hospital, and 2021 Spirit of St. Vincent award honoree. “I've worked alongside him for years. Not only is he dedicated and caring to patients, but he is also passionate about the community. He developed the Saginaw riverfront medical corridor on Washington Avenue nearly two decades ago, and is now working with community leaders to develop a medical diamond in Saginaw to benefit generations to come.”

The Cornette Ball is one of the grandest black-tie galas in the Great Lakes Bay region. The festive evening includes a cocktail hour, five-course gourmet meal, silent auction and live music by Detroit's Intrigue.

For sponsorship information or details about attending the Cornette Ball, please visit www.Ascension.org/CB or contact Tammy Weighman at tamera.weighman@ascension.org or (989) 284-3773

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Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance, Saginaw Future Inc. partner with Global Detroit for immigration survey



The Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance has joined with Saginaw Future Inc. and the Midland Business Alliance in partnering with Global Detroit for an immigration survey.

Understanding immigration and using it to the region's benefit will be the topic for a half-conference in May 2024.

Global Detroit is seeking input from the business community in Michigan. This survey, if you haven't seen or taken part in it yet, comes with some benefits for your members.

All survey respondents will be entitled to:

1. One free hour of consulting with Global Detroit on hiring international student talent; AND
2. One entry into the prize drawing. They are offering four chances to win. One GRAND WINNER will receive a \$200 gift card, while three additional PRIZE WINNERS will

each receive \$100 gift cards. The gift cards either can be a Visa gift card, Amazon gift card or a travel voucher of equal value towards a flight to get that vacation jump started!

More than one staff member from the same company can submit a survey and qualify for the prizes, however, the free hour of consulting is limited to one hour per company. They are specifically looking for surveys from staff who touch on various aspects of hiring, talent acquisition, and staffing strategies.

Isabella Bank expands into Bay County with loan, wealth office

Isabella Bank, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Isabella Bank Corporation (OTCQX:ISBA), is expanding into Bay County with this month's opening of a loan and wealth office at 723 Washington Ave., near its intersection with Center Avenue in downtown Bay City.

The office will provide mortgage and commercial lending services as well as financial planning services and estate administration.

"Isabella Bank is responding to loyal and future customers who live or work in Bay County and have asked us to expand our presence locally," Chief Executive Officer Jae A. Evans said. "This is an exciting step. We're a strong, stable and growing community bank — the bank with a 120-year history of commitment to this region's residents and businesses."

With the new office, Isabella Bank has 31 locations in eight counties.

East Region President Michael Colby said customer relationships are a priority, no matter the method of interaction. While a growing number of customers bank online, many still want to meet in person when applying for a loan.

"Customers want to talk with an expert, in person, for something as significant as a home or business loan," Colby said.

"They'll receive personalized support, and decisions about their loans will be made locally, not out of state."

Personal wealth services assist customers in planning, building and managing their financial futures, including estate, financial and retirement plans, Senior Vice President Randy Dickinson said.

"Isabella Wealth's financial professionals help customers identify their financial goals — from buying a new home, sending their children to college, to retiring. We then create and monitor a plan with the customer so they can achieve their objectives," he said.

In addition to financial services, many clients turn to Isabella Wealth for estate administration services.

"Our clients gain peace of mind from the personal relationship they build with one of our experienced, independent fiduciaries," Dickinson said. "They like having someone they can visit and get advice from — who they trust to handle their financial affairs if they become incapacitated or



when they pass away. This is the full-service, personalized care you'll find at Isabella Bank."

Commercial Lender Jesse Kendall, who has more than 10 years of banking experience in the tri-cities area, will manage the Bay City office and work directly with loan customers.

Wealth team members include Senior Trust Officers Daniel McKune and JoAnna Keenan, and Financial Advisor Beth DeLeeuw. All have ties to Bay County and the Great Lakes Bay region.

The Bay City office can be reached at 989-316-2550.

+ COMMUNITY



DOW CREDIT UNION BRANCH LOCATED AT 5420 GRATIOT ROAD

Dow Credit Union opens new branch in Saginaw

Dow Credit Union has announced the grand opening celebration of its new branch in Saginaw scheduled for September 25-29, 2023.

Spurred by growth in the Saginaw region, this is the first branch to open outside of the credit union's Midland headquarters. It will feature a team of experienced employees who will offer a full range of services, including account creation, loan origination and more.

Located at 5420 Gratiot Road, the 3,600-square-foot branch will be led by Member Experience Manager Emily Migut. The Saginaw branch will be open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To celebrate the grand opening, Dow Credit Union will be offering a certificate of deposit special.

"Our strong digital banking services have enabled us to serve many Saginaw members through the years, but this new location will enable even greater involvement in the region as we continue to reach and serve the community", said Dow Credit Union President and CEO Michael Goad. "Our team looks forward to building new relationships in the greater Saginaw community and providing valuable in-person

services to our growing Saginaw member base."

In her new role, Migut will oversee daily operations, manage the Saginaw team and ensure members receive outstanding care. She has spent nine years as a branch banking professional in the Great Lakes Bay region.

"I'm honored to lead the team at our new branch, connect with members and support the community not only through our remarkable financial products and services, but through our community investment and volunteerism," Migut said. "The skills I acquired in my previous roles have prepared me for this exciting new leadership opportunity at Dow Credit Union where I'm delighted to support its growth, member satisfaction and community relations."

The Saginaw branch will offer members many of the same services as its Midland headquarters, including:

- Account creation and maintenance
- Mortgages
- Car loans
- Cash transactions

- Debit and credit card instant printing
- Notary services
- Signature guarantee
- Safety deposit boxes
- Onsite ATM
- Drive-thru transactions
- Certificates of deposit
- Health savings accounts

All members can access their accounts with 24/7 online banking.

"Our success as a credit union comes from putting our members first – ensuring they have the tools and knowledge to make the best decisions for themselves, their families and communities," Goad added. "This new office will enable us to better deliver that success to our growing membership in Saginaw."

To become a Dow Credit Union member, visit dowcreditunion.org/join.

Join the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce for a ribbon cutting at this new location on Friday, October 19, 2023.

+ COMMUNITY



ASCENSION ST. MARY'S MOBILE BREAST SCREENING CENTER

Ascension St. Mary's Mobile Breast Cancer Screening Center serves regional communities

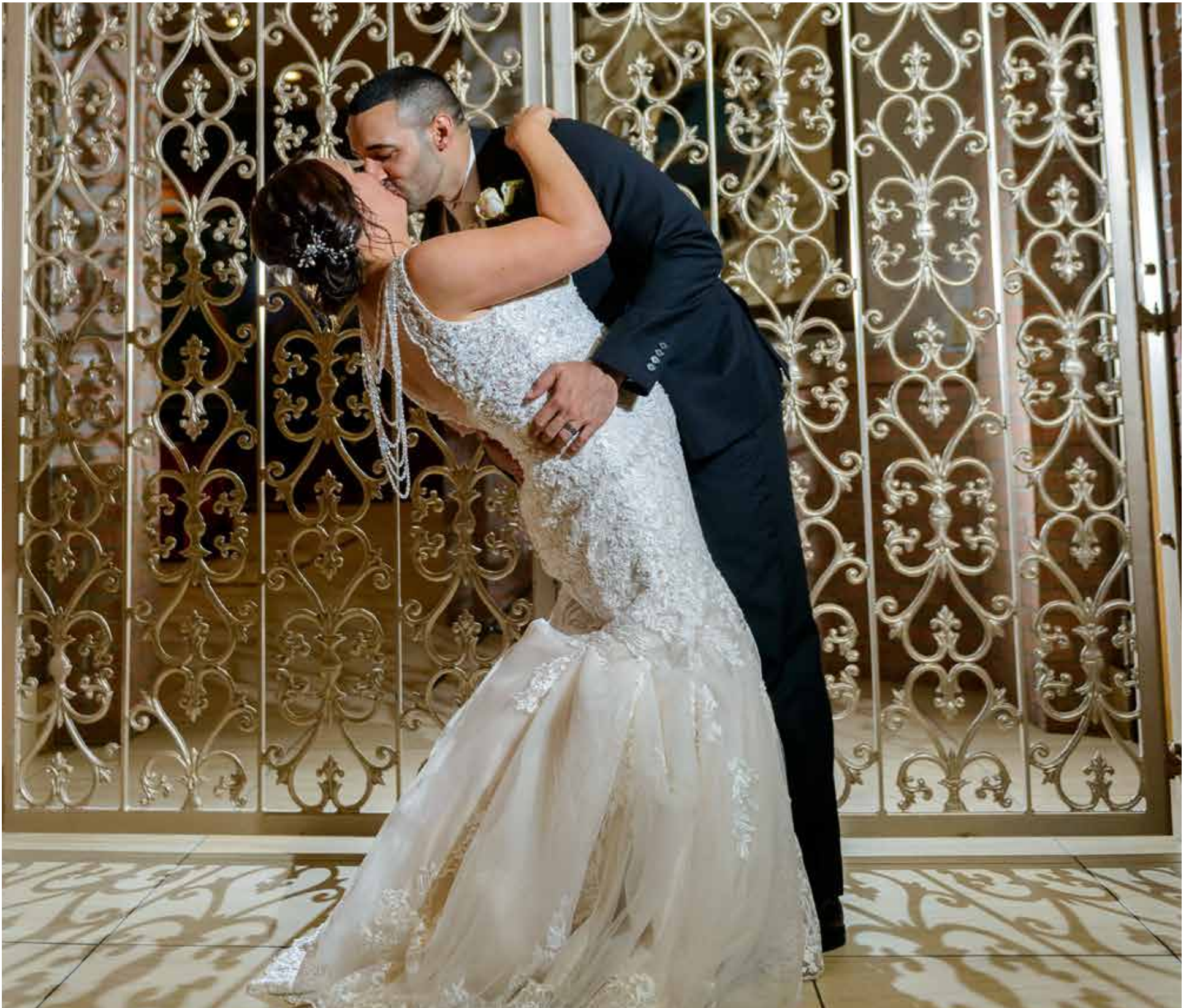
Ascension St. Mary's mobile breast screening center is pleased to announce their monthly route schedule which provides state-of-the-art 3D mammography services to the following communities: Birch Run, Chesaning, Frankenmuth, Oscoda and Vassar. The mobile mammography bus will be at these Ascension Michigan locations on the following days each month:

- First and Third Monday | Ascension St. Mary's Health Center – Chesaning, 1600 Brady Street, Chesaning, MI 48616 | 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- First Tuesday | Ascension St. Mary's Health Center – Vassar, 1212 W. Saginaw Road, Vassar, MI 48768 | 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Second and Fourth Monday | Ascension St. Mary's – Frankenmuth, 1027 W. Genesee Street, Frankenmuth, MI 48734 | 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Second, Third and Fourth Tuesday | Ascension St. Joseph Hospital Oscoda Health Park, 5939 N. Huron Road, Oscoda, MI 48750 | 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Every Thursday | Ascension St. Mary's Health Center – Birch Run, 9900 Birch Run Road, Birch Run, MI 48415 | 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The 45-foot breast screening center on wheels provides advanced mammography services to aid in the early detection of breast cancer and save lives. A registra-

tion area is at the front of the mobile center, with private dressing rooms that lead to the center's advanced 3D tomosynthesis mammography equipment and technology. The images are transferred daily from the mobile mammogram system to Ascension St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw where they will be read by a team of highly-skilled radiologists.

Annual mammography screenings are recommended beginning at age 40. If there is a family history of breast cancer, talk with a physician about having a breast screening earlier. A physician order is needed for mammograms. For more information or to schedule a screening appointment with the mobile mammography center, call the central scheduling department at (800) 605-9141.



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+ COMMUNITY



McLaren Health Care, Saginaw Valley State University partnership provides opportunities, discounted tuition for employees

McLaren Health Care, the three-state, fully integrated health care system, has announced a partnership with Saginaw Valley State University that will provide all qualified employees wishing to further their education with a 30 percent discount on tuition and all associated fees for in-person and online courses through the university, located less than 10 miles from McLaren Bay Region hospital in Bay City.

All McLaren Health Care employees throughout Michigan — regardless of job classification — are eligible for all undergraduate, graduate, and certification courses offered through the award-winning university, effective with the beginning of the 2023 fall semester.

“As an employer of choice, one of the aims of our organization is to support our

team and foster ambitions to advance their careers and their decision to further their education,” said Kimberly Keaton Williams, McLaren Health Care Vice President of Talent Acquisition & Development and Chief Diversity Officer. “With this very generous offer and mutually beneficial partnership with Saginaw Valley State University, McLaren staff will have access to a broad spectrum of course offerings. We’re grateful for this partnership and proud to offer it through our system.”

McLaren Bay Region is one of Bay County’s largest employers, serving and providing for the health care needs of many individuals in SVSU’s home community. McLaren has more than 19,000 employees throughout Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana.

“We are committed to partnering with

employers throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region to help them prepare their current employees and recruit future employees,” said George Grant Jr., SVSU president. “We are grateful for this agreement with McLaren and the increased educational opportunities it provides, not only for those working in the health professions, but in any role within the health system, as a more educated workforce ultimately leads to better patient care.”

Seeing the benefit it offers its team, McLaren Health Care has supported and fostered initiatives that assist employees in furthering their education. In 2022, several McLaren subsidiary hospitals introduced a tuition repayment assistance program, which has already provided more than \$1.7 million in loan relief.



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NOBO and KIDposium will be at Saginaw Valley State University on October 21 for a day of entrepreneurial spirit and finding your truth through personal exploration and development. The cost is \$50 and includes lunch.

Have you wanted to do something but felt that the odds were against you?

We invite you to join us for a day of entrepreneurial sprit and being true to yourself!

Cindy, Andrea, & Michelle

YOUR TRUTH



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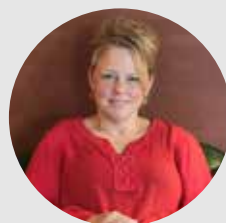


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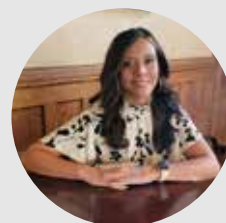


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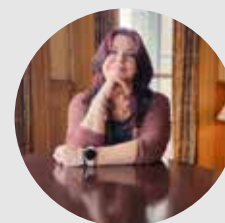
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SAGINAW, MI

+ COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

New resource hub to benefit Michigan communities via \$1M in federal grant funds

The Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity (LEO) and the Michigan Municipal League (MML), announced they have partnered to create the Michigan Local Capacity Enhancement Program through a \$1 million grant under the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Under the new program, the League will provide local communities with a robust online resource hub (MI-FundingHub.org) and technical assistance to support them in understanding, seeking and successfully deploying new grant funds for economic growth, infrastructure and other community projects.

“LEO is excited to partner with the League on this local capacity program and to develop the much-needed MI Funding Hub,” said LEO Director Susan Corbin. “Michigan Communities of all sizes will

have the opportunity to gain knowledge on how to successfully deploy new grant opportunities that will directly impact on their community’s and help their residents thrive.”

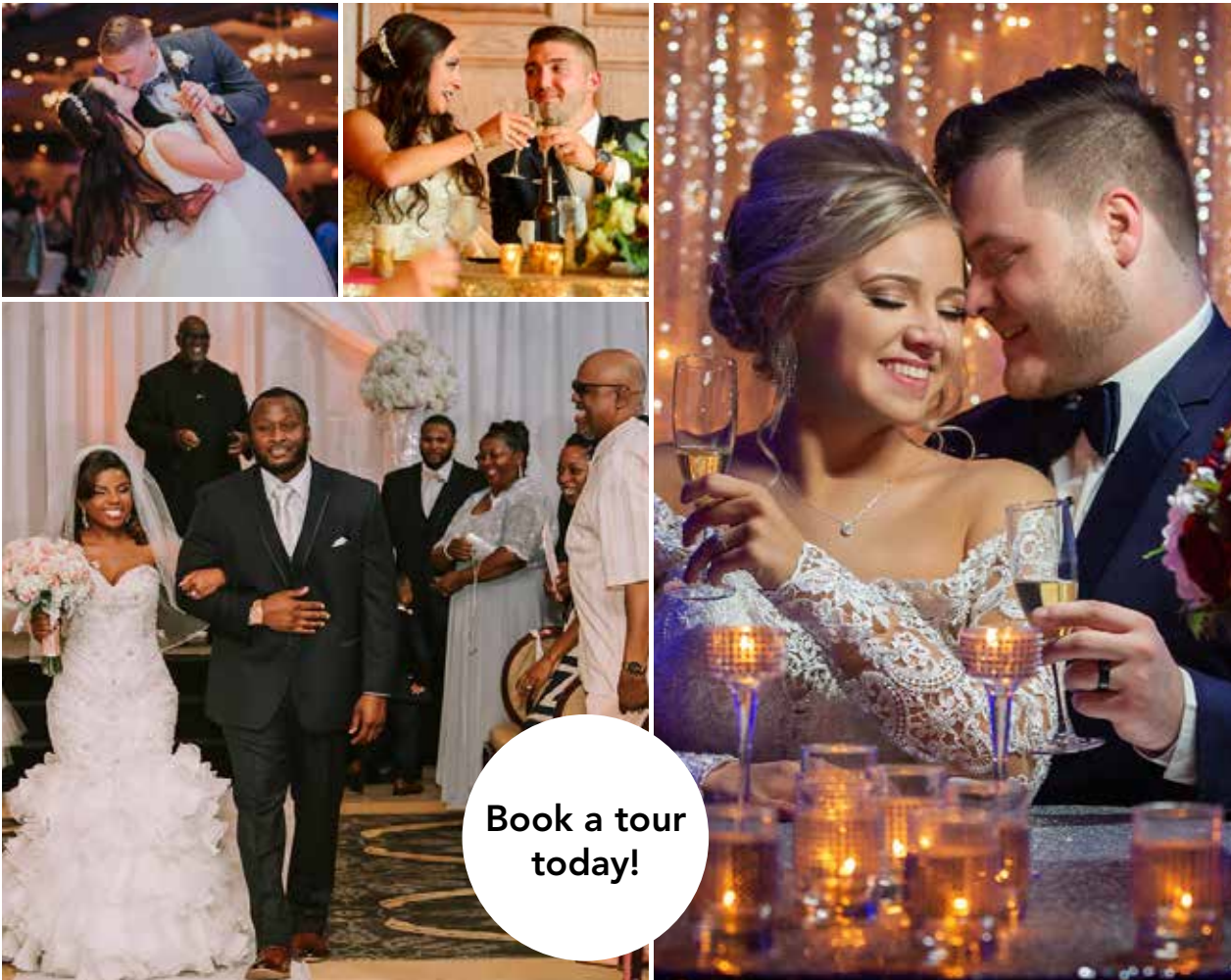
With billions in available funding for local units of government through programs like ARPA, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act there is a significant need for communities to track funding opportunities as they become available. For many communities across Michigan, especially those small and medium-sized, navigating this process and developing projects and programs that meet their current and future needs exceeds their capacity.

“Here in Saginaw, we’ve relied on the League to help us decide how to invest our

ARPA funding,” said Brenda F. Moore, Saginaw Mayor. “This partnership between with the League and the state will ensure that we can continue to depend on this assistance moving forward. It’s great news for Michigan’s communities and cities like Saginaw.”

The league will act as the project lead for this initiative and oversee the project timeline, budget, strategic partnership management and continuous improvement activities. Technical assistance for communities is available now, and the online funding and resource hub is projected to be completed in January 2024.

To learn more about this program or get technical assistance in navigating funding opportunities, visit MIFundingHub.org.



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+ COMMUNITY

Saginaw, one of three Michigan VA locations to pilot voter registration sites

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the office of the Michigan Secretary of State announced the signing of an interagency agreement to designate the Saginaw VA Medical Center, the Detroit VA Medical Center, and the Detroit Regional Office as voter registration sites. This agreement will empower VA to provide voter registration information and assistance to Veterans and eligible dependents at these three facilities.

“I’m proud today to announce this historic partnership between the state of Michigan and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure we expand opportunities for all veterans and their families to play an active role in our democracy,” said Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. “This partnership will break down many barriers that keep veterans from participating in our democratic process and will provide the information and tools they need to fully exercise their voting rights in every election.”

Through this partnership, VA is working to make it easier for Michigan Veterans to exercise their fundamental right to vote, as part of implementing Executive Order



COURTESY PHOTO

14019, “Promoting Access to Voting.” This joint effort will “expand citizens’ opportunities to register to vote and to obtain information about, and participate in, the electoral process to make voting more accessible to all Americans.”

The official designation of VA as a voter

registration site will come through an executive order by Governor Whitmer in the coming weeks.

To learn more about VA’s efforts to provide voter registration assistance to Veterans, visit <https://www.va.gov/initiatives/vote>.

I-675 bridge repairs continuing through Oct. 6

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is continuing to detour northbound M-13 (Washington Avenue) at I-675 in the city of Saginaw to repair the I-675 overpass following a high-load hit. Repairs are anticipated to be completed by Friday, Oct.

The bridge was damaged last month after an MDOT excavator failed to properly assess the height of equipment being hauled through the corridor and hit the overpass.



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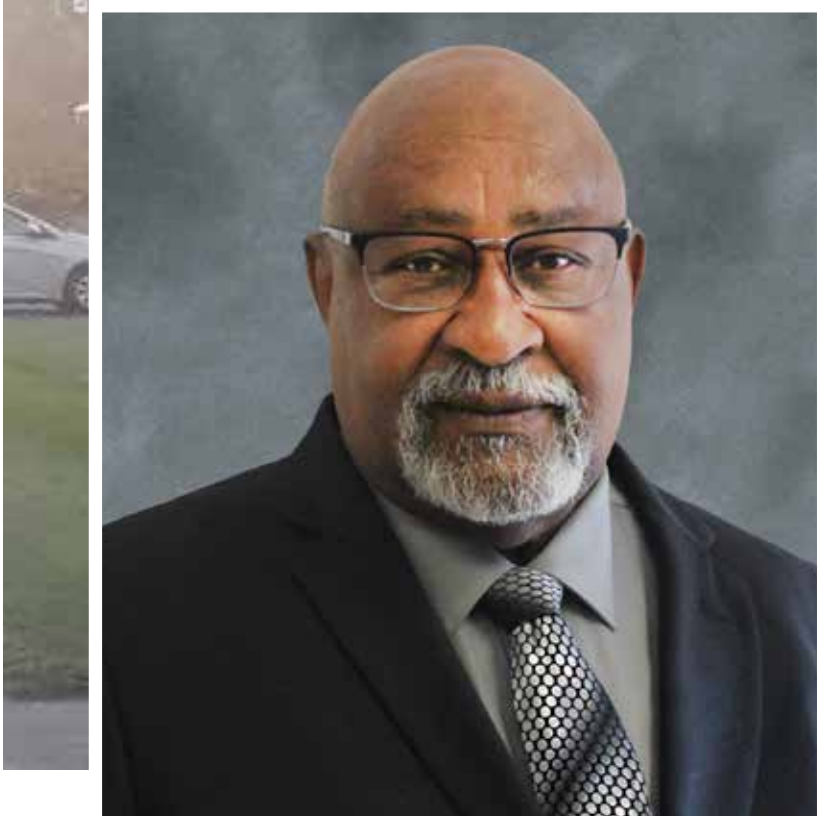
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+ FAITH BASED

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



MEN OF BETHEL AME CHURCH

Present STATE OF THE RACE SUMMIT

Saturday, October 28, 2023, 10:00 A.M.
Bethel AME Church
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Panel Discussion focusing on the State of Education in the African American Community, challenges, and solutions. Our children deserve an opportunity to achieve their full potential. Come hear how we can give them that opportunity. Panel will include:



Dr. Michael H. Gavin, President
Delta College



Dr. George Grant, Jr., President
Saginaw Valley State University



Dr. Pamela L. Pugh, President
State Board of Education



Dr. Ramont Roberts, Superintendent
Saginaw Public School District



Dr. Gwendolyn Thompson-McMillon, Professor
Oakland University

Hon. M.T. Thompson, Jr., Program Chairperson
Mr. Ralph Martin, President, Men of Bethel
Dr. Dennis Laffoon, Pastor, Bethel AME Church

+ FAITH BASED

MICHIGAN BANNER
SERMONETTE SERIES

By MINISTER CAROLYN
CARTER TOWNSEL

The world in which we live in it's filled with hostility, indifference, thoughtlessness, and meanness. However, as Christian's apostle Paul admonishes us to clothe ourselves, and the clothes that he refers to and specifically names are on the other end of the clothing rack - **"Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."** To clothe ourselves with anything other than this signifies the absence of God.

It is God who produces the fruit of The Spirit in our lives (2 Corinthians 6:1-13), and kindness made the list. Therefore, true kindness is Spirit produce (Galatians 5 22). It's a supernatural result of love- God's love. When God's Spirit begins to develop love in the Christian's heart, treating others with kindness, compassion, and forgiveness follows. One can be assured, once the foundational fruit of love- God's love, is flowing through ones life, not only kindness but also

gentleness, forbearance, goodness and all other attributes of the fruit of the Spirit will follow.

But let's be real, far too many times Christians function the way the world does. Unfortunately, the very ones who have been assigned to make Jesus known by their love for each other (John 13:35) can be hostile, indifferent, thoughtless, and that should not be. As believers when we show kindness we reflect our God who is compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, and patient. Because God has shown great kindness to us, we should naturally long to share his compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience with others. And as we go forth wearing and sharing our costly attire even when our enemies do not deserve, want, or appreciate it we are representing God greatly and radiantly.

God himself is kind in this way. His kindness is meant to lead people to repentance (Romans 2:4). Which implies they have not yet turned to him, and are still His enemies. Therefore, as we imitate God's kindness by lov-

Kindness changes everything

"Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

Colossians 3:12

ing our enemies, Jesus said in Luke 6:35," **Love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil."**

Kindness is so powerful it can change a frown to a smile, hopelessness to hopefulness, I can't to I can, it can even help turn pain to joy, and on and on and on.

Now my beloved, apostle Paul's narrative should make us wonder how we are doing. Are we kind toward those around us, regardless of whether we feel they deserve, want, or appreciate our kindness. If not and we know we can and must do better- Go to the other end of the clothes rack, change your clothes, and put on compassion, humility, gentleness, patience and please do not forget kindness- Because kindness changes everything!

Blessings To All.....

+ CHURCH DIRECTORY

A



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PastorD818@gmail.com



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Faith Ministries Church
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LifeInChristMinistries07@gmail.com

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Messiah Missionary Baptist Church
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messiahmbc@att.net
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Ministry Without Walls
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3783 Mannion Road
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New Beginnings Ministries
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Prince of Peace Baptist Church
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Saint Paul Baptist Church
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Second Baptist Church
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World Outreach Campus of Greater Coleman Temple Ministries
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Z



Zion Missionary Baptist Church
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+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

Are funders accountable?

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Consider starting a community conversation that uncovers who receives money from who and for what. Questions could include: What has been your history with local philanthropists and foundations? How do you rate them? In terms of the overall general community, do you know who is funded and at what levels? What about within the Black community? Have you been invited to apply for a grant? If yes, what was the process like? Accessible? Complicated? Have ever reached out to a funder or philanthropist? Has anyone reached out to you? Have you been funded? What was your experience Do you know how funding decisions are made in regard to projects in the Black community? Do you believe philanthropists and funders are transparent and accountable to the Black community?

Other questions can focus on funding recommendations. These can include: Based on the needs and strengths of the

Black community, what do you believe should be funded? Do you believe the mission, vision, and goals of local philanthropists and funders meet the needs of the Black community? How can philanthropists and funders increase the positive impact they make on the Black community? What criteria would you suggest for determining which Black-led organizations should be funded? For example, can the value of Black people as artists, researchers, athletes, technologists, and musicians be as worthy of investment as “poverty fighting” programs? Are we only seen for our deficits or are strengths equally worthy of giving to?

There are also hard questions that can be asked. For example, Can non-Black funders and philanthropists have the sensitivity and know-how to make critical decisions regarding funding Black-led nonprofits? How would you offset what those who are not Black cannot see?

Nonprofits are coming together to talk about how they are funded, by whom, and importantly what they believe are the needs of the Black community. They are moving from informal conversations

on the grapevine, to public conversations with the goal of seeing more money granted to Black-led nonprofits. Within some communities, funders and philanthropists are coming together to discuss equity in funding. They are creating guidelines for themselves that can lead to more equitable funding. Whether you are involved as a nonprofit leader or as a philanthropist or funder you can work with others to increase funding, transparency and accountability. The next step is yours! Learn more about Black Philanthropy Month at www.blackphilanthropymonth.com.



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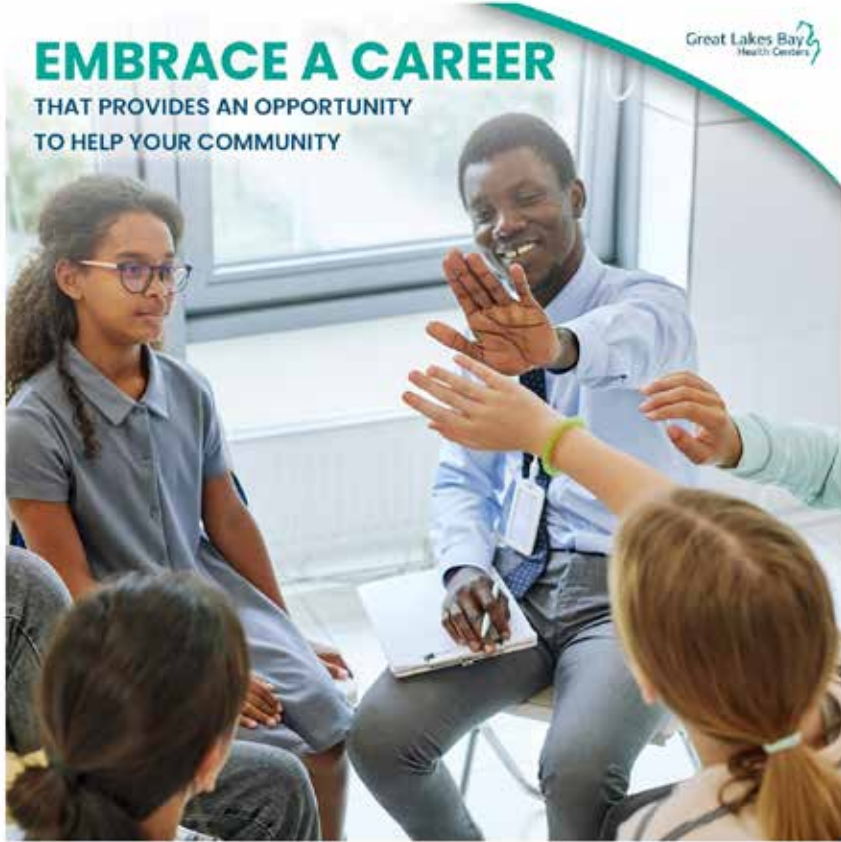
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+ EDUCATION



GEORGE GRANT JR. WAS INSTALLED AS THE FIFTH PRESIDENT OF SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY DURING AN INVESTITURE CEREMONY ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

SVSU installs President George Grant Jr. in formal ceremony

George Grant Jr. was formally installed as the fifth president of Saginaw Valley State University during an investiture ceremony today, Tuesday, September 26, at 10:30 a.m. in the Malcom Field Theatre for Performing Arts. Grant assumed the office of president on Jan. 1.

Investiture, one of the oldest traditions in academia, is a formal ceremony that confers the authority of high office. It typically is held during or at the conclusion of the new president's first year in office. SVSU is the youngest of Michigan's public universities, having been founded in 1963; it began as a private college, Saginaw Valley College.

"I am honored to serve as SVSU's fifth president," said Grant. "SVSU's mission, strategic plan and commitment to community engagement align with my values. I look forward to building on the relationships that have been established through the university's 60 years and continuing to work with faculty, staff, students and the community to make the university the best institution it can be."

Brandon Haskett, SVSU professor of

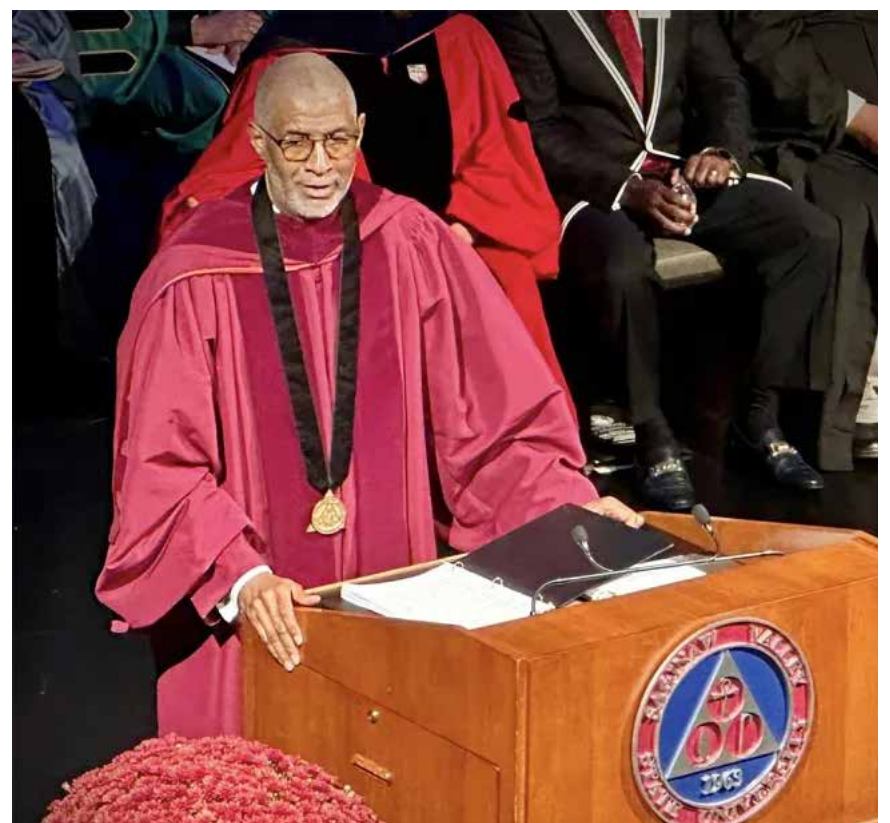
music and president of SVSU's Faculty Association, served as the grand marshal and delivered closing remarks. Master of ceremonies was Deborah Huntley, provost and vice president of academic affairs.

Following the invocation by Christopher V. Pryor, pastor of Victorious Believers Ministries in Saginaw, salutations were offered by Haskett; Kathleen Chantaca-Kubczak, SVSU Support Staff Association president; Austin Urlaub, SVSU Student Association President; and Nic Taylor, executive director of SVSU Alumni Relations.

Raj M Wiener, chair of SVSU's Board of Control, delivered remarks and presented the presidential medallion, followed by President Grant

addressing the assembled guests.

More information and a link to view the ceremony can be found at svsu.edu/investiture.



GEORGE GRANT JR.'S SPEAKS DURING HIS INVESTITURE CEREMONY

SVSU advanced-degree nursing students don white coats in iconic ceremony

Saginaw Valley State University recently celebrated the advancement of nurses taking their final steps to becoming primary care family nurse practitioners. On August 28, 27 SVSU Primary Care Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) students received white coats and recited the white coat pledge, signifying their advancement into clinical work. The white coat ceremony reaffirms the science and healthcare community's support of the educational process that prepares future health providers for practice.

"These advanced practice nurses have taken steps to further their educations to fill crucial health care roles in the communities where they live and work," said Averetta Lewis, SVSU professor of nursing and coordinator of the FNP program. "By pursuing their master's degree, doctorate degree or post-graduate certificate in the FNP program, they are demonstrating their commitment to providing excellent patient care throughout Michigan."

The FNP students live and work in communities throughout Michigan. SVSU's hybrid program, combining online courses with less-frequent face-to-face classes, enables them to pursue their advanced degree while maintaining their commitments to work and family.

The White Coat Ceremony was initiated in 1993 at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons by Arnold P. Gold, M.D., who was a professor and pediatric neurologist. Dr. Gold, a passionate advocate for humanistic healthcare, believed that the oath taken by new physicians at the end of medical school came too late. Through the nonprofit organization that he and his wife, Dr. Sandra Gold, started the Arnold P. Gold Foundation has expanded the White Coat Ceremony around the globe.

In 2014, recognizing the vital role nurses play in the healthcare team, the Gold Foundation partnered with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to adopt a White Coat Ceremony for Nursing. More than 360 schools of nursing now participate, and the number continues to grow.



SVSU FAMILY PRACTICE NURSING STUDENTS POSE WITH FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS IN THEIR NEWLY ACQUIRED WHITE COATS.

Twenty-six of the 27 students in SVSU's Primary Care Family Nurse Practitioner Program are pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing. They are listed below with their city of residence:

1. Trisha Ameel, Sandusky
2. Jane Ballard, Cass City
3. Grace Barrientes, Saginaw
4. Andrea Boehm, Bridgeport
5. Caitlyn Crouse, Freeland
6. Alycia Dzierwa, Williamsburg
7. Courney Graves, New Hudson
8. Leana Hall, Mio
9. Ashley Hawthorne, Caseville
10. Emily Hotchkiss, Birch Run
11. Glenda Lambert, Saginaw
12. Sadie Milbrath, Walker
13. Bilye Morrow, Midland
14. Kelsey Nelson, Munger
15. Megan Ohmer, Highland
16. Kotryna Paalksnyte, Rockford
17. Katie Powell, Rosebush
18. Lauren Quinnell, Freeland
19. Corby Reif, Saginaw
20. Brittny Schwab, Bay City
21. Maria Shemit, Sterling
22. Karensa Stein, Freeland
23. Kaitlyn Tolonen, Highland
24. Rachel Webb, Holly
25. Mckenzie Wilkinson, Bay City
26. Kersten Wood, Brown City

Brenna Spencer-Castanon, of Grayling, is earning a post-graduate certificate.

Saginaw Valley State University's family nurse practitioner program was developed by Sachiko Claus, who taught at SVSU for 29 years. Claus served as the lead faculty for the FNP program between 1995 and 2009. She passed away in August of this year.

SVSU has long been respected for its Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, and the university brings the same caliber of instruction to its graduate programs. SVSU's Master of Science in Nursing program is the most affordable master's program in Michigan and is also the state's only family nurse practitioner program with a rural health focus. In addition to the MSN and certificate programs, SVSU offers a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, designed for nurses who work full-time, which can be completed in as little as three years.

LIMITED OPENINGS AVAILABLE

WILD about Pre-K
Saginaw Public Schools

- Free Breakfast & Lunch
- 16 Students Per Classroom
- State Certified Staff
- Field Trips
- High Scope Curriculum
- Child Must Be 4 By December 1

Items Needed For Enrollment

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

To Complete Registration
→ Appointment Required ←
Call (989) 399-6750 or visit
michiganpreschool.org

Register Now

ATTENTION PARENTS OF
4-YEAR OLDS:
THERE IS STILL TIME TO
REGISTER YOUR CHILD
FOR PREK! LIMITED
OPENINGS AVAILABLE!
CALL MS. THOMAS
TODAY TO START THE
ENROLLMENT PROCESS!
989.399.6750

GRADES K-5



HANDLEY ELEMENTARY
PROGRAM FOR THE CREATIVE &
ACADEMICALLY TALENTED-PCAT

- Relocated to a New Building September 5, 2023
- Expanded Programming: Foreign Language, Music, Dance, 2D & 3D Art, Coding, Robotics & Much More!

1300 PASSOLT ST.
SAGINAW, MI 48602
989.399.4250

SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS'
GIFTED & TALENTED
PROGRAM



IS
EXPANDING!
SPOTS ARE LIMITED,
CALL TODAY TO
SCHEDULE TESTING

GRADES 6-12



SAGINAW ARTS & SCIENCES ACADEMY
SASA

- Relocating August 2024 to the Extensively Renovated Arthur Hill HS Creating a Gifted & Talented Campus
- Expanded Programming: New Theatre & Dance Studio, Music, Labs, Pool, & Much More!

1903 N. NIAGARA ST.
SAGINAW, MI 48602
989.399.5500



Chronic Absenteeism from School



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

For today’s segment I would like to highlight Psychologist Lisa Damour and her work surrounding Chronic Absenteeism from school. This came to me on WNEM TV 5 during a segment which aired on CBS news on September 20th.

It is an excellent time to look at this emerging national crisis. As Dr. Damour explains, students who are chronically absent are twice the number that existed just three years ago, before the pandemic.

I repeat: This is a national phenomenon. Just what is the definition of Chronic Absences and what causes them to happen?

A student is deemed to be chronically absent if they miss 10% (or more) days of school in a school year for any reason. In most Michigan schools, that is 18 or 19 absences in a school year. By the month, this would be 2 absences each month, or roughly one day every couple of weeks.

Looking at this from a “real world” view, that is a lot of time being away from school.

What causes Chronic Absences to pile up?

According to Damour, anxiety is a leading cause. Students are anxious about school and want to stay away as a result. This is a slippery slope, as she explains. When students stay home, it makes going back to school that much harder. The student gets behind in school work, feel lost (more anxiety!), and grades suffer.

What can be done to combat Chronic Absences?

I will offer three suggestions from my own experiences.

1st, parents and teachers need to roll up their sleeves and find out what is going on.

Find out what may be causing the anxiety and address it together.

2nd, create a plan together to work things out. Communicate with each other on a regular basis to monitor what may be working or not working. Form a united team that is determined to support the student.

Finally, consider getting some outside help from a guidance counselor, coach, or mentor. The voice of a third person who can support the teacher and parent may be the key to convince the student that being away from school is not a solution; instead, being away from school compounds the challenges and makes things worse.

I applaud CBS for highlighting this national problem, amplified by fallout from the pandemic. I firmly believe that together, parents and schools can address this on a case-by-case basis.

Resource: <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/psychologist-lisa-damour-breaks-down-rise-of-student-absenteeism-at-schools-across-us/>

+ 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 and select "Join Our Team!" at the top right corner of the

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

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

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

Early Head Start/Head Start Locations

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

Great Start to Readiness Program Locations

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

⁴Head Start Program Information report (2019-2020); Kids Count Data Book (Michigan, 2021); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics (2020); Great Start Readiness Program State Evaluation Annual Report (2019-2020).

SPSD FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES



SAGINAW UNITED

BOYS VARSITY FOOTBALL

Aug 24	SUMMIT ACADEMY	A	7:00
Aug 31	MIDLAND DOW	H	7:00
Sept 8	LAPEER	H	7:00
Sept 15	POWERS CATHOLIC	A	7:00
Sept 22	DAVISON	A	7:00
Sept 29	BAY CITY WESTERN	H	7:00
Oct 6	GRAND BLANC	H	7:00
Oct 13	CARMAN AINSWORTH	A	7:00
Oct 20	HERITAGE	A	7:00

COACH LEE ARTHUR

BOYS JV FOOTBALL

Sept 14	POWERS CATHOLIC	H	6:00
Sept 21	DAVISON	H	6:00
Sept 28	BC WESTERN	A	6:00
Oct 5	GRAND BLANC	A	6:00
Oct 12	CARMAN AINSWORTH	H	6:00
Oct 19	HERITAGE	H	6:00

COACH JOE MERCER

BOYS SOCCER

Aug 23	CARMAN AINSWORTH	H	4:30
Aug 30	MOUNT PLEASANT	H	4:30
Sept 6	MIDLAND DOW	A	6:45
Sept 11	BAY CITY WESTERN	H	4:30
Sept 13	BAY CITY CENTRAL	A	4:30
Sept 18	GRAND BLANC	H	5:00
Sept 21	DAVISON	A	5:00
Sept 25	LAPEER	A	6:45
Oct 2	POWERS CATHOLIC	A	4:30
Oct 4	HERITAGE	A	6:45
Oct 9	MIDLAND	H	6:45
TBD	DISTRICTS	TBD	TBD

COACH ROBERT CLARK

CROSS COUNTRY

Sept 12	Mt Pleasant	A
Sept 26	Midland Dow	A
Oct 12	Delta College	A

COACH ANGEL RODRIGUEZ



SAGINAW ARTS & SCIENCES ACADEMY

CINDY TENNANT
SASA Athletic Director

VARSIY VOLEYBALL

Aug 22	AKRON-FAIRGROVE	A	7:00
Aug 29	AUGRES-SIMS	A	7:30
Sept 7	CHARLTON HESTON ACAD	A	7:00
Sept 14	AUGRES-SIMS	H	7:00
Sept 19	SAGINAW UNITED	H	7:00
Sept 21	MONTRÖSE	A	7:30
Sept 25	CARROLLTON	A	7:00
Sept 28	CASEVILLE	H	7:00
Oct 3	SAGINAW UNITED (JSHS)	A	7:00
Oct 5	MONTRÖSE	H	7:00
Oct 13	CHARLTON HESTON ACAD	H	7:00+
Oct 16	CARROLLTON	H	7:00
Oct 19	WHITTEMORE-PRESCOTT	H	7:00
Oct 24	MD CALVARY BAPTIST	A	7:00
Oct 26	CASEVILLE	A	7:00

COACH ASHLEY BANGERT

GIRLS JV VOLEYBALL

Aug 22	AKRON-FAIRGROVE	A	6:00
Aug 29	AUGRES-SIMS	A	6:00
Sept 7	CHARLTON HESTON ACAD	A	5:30
Sept 11	ST. LOUIS	A	JV TBD
Sept 14	AUGRES-SIMS	A	5:30
Sept 19	SAGINAW UNITED	A	5:30
Sept 21	MONTRÖSE	A	5:00
Sept 25	CARROLLTON	A	5:30
Sept 28	CASEVILLE	A	5:30
Oct 3	SAGINAW UNITED	A	5:00
Oct 5	MONTRÖSE	H	5:30
Oct 13	CHARLTON HESTON ACAD	H	5:30+
Oct 16	CARROLLTON	H	5:30
Oct 19	WHITTEMORE-PRESCOTT	H	5:30*
Oct 24	MD CALVARY BAPTIST	A	5:30
Oct 26	CASEVILLE	A	5:30 TBD

COACH ASHLEY BANGERT

JV FOOTBALL

Aug 17	SCRIMMAGE	A	5:00
Aug 23	HARBOR BEACH	H	6:00
Aug 30	HEMLOCK	A	6:00
Sept 7	CARROLLTON	A	6:00
Sept 14	NOUVEL	A	6:00
Sept 21	MCH LUTH SEMINARY	H	6:00
Sept 28	ITHACA	H	6:00
Oct 5	ST. LOUIS	H	6:00
Oct 12	IN ACADEMY OF FLINT	H	6:00
Oct 19	Pinconning	A	6:00

CROSS COUNTRY

Aug 29	CARROLLTON/IMERMAN PARK
Sept 9	NORTHWOOD INV FISCHER TRLS
Sept 30	2023 SHEPHERD BLUEJAY INV
Oct 3	BIRCH RUN FALL INV TAYMOUTH PK
Oct 14	FREELAND FALCON INVITE
Oct 21	MHSAA LP DIVISION 3 FINALS
Oct 21	SAGINAW COUNTY INVITE

COACH JOHN BARNES



DR. RAMONT ROBERTS
Superintendent of Schools

DR. MIT FOLEY
Assistant Superintendent

CORKY THOMPSON
District Athletic Director

KASYDRA GOODE-TIBBS
AHS Principal

RACHEL REID
SASA Principal

ERIC GORDON
SHS Principal



**ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE:
CHANGES CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.MHSAA.COM (USE QR CODE)**

SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NOW ENROLLING EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS

989.399.6539

www.spsd.net



PROGRAMS AVAILABLE:
(availability depends on building in some instances)

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

**2023
333 GRADUTES
EARNED
\$21,982,920
IN SCHOLARSHIPS**



**CHECK OUT THE
SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FACEBOOK PAGE**



NEW STUDENTS



RETURNING STUDENTS



SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JOIN THE RISE

(Opening August 2024)



#phoenixrising

CHANGING THE SKYLINE OF DOWNTOWN

#spsdinspiresgreatness

BOND2020 UPDATE



OPENING FALL 2023

Handley Elementary School

Program for the Creative & Academically Talented (PCAT)
1300 Passolt St., Saginaw 48602
Located at the Current Arthur Hill Campus



OPENING FALL 2024

Saginaw United High School

1903 N. Niagara St., Saginaw 48601
Located at the Current SASA Campus

Saginaw Middle School

3100 Webber St., Saginaw 48601
Located at the Current Saginaw High School

Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy

3115 Mackinaw., Saginaw 48602
Located at the Current Arthur Hill Campus
Creating a Gifted/Talented Campus

2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOOL	TOTAL
ARTHUR HILL HIGH SCHOOL	\$7372262
SAGINAW ARTS & SCIENCES ACADEMY	\$13,000,000
SAGINAW HIGH SCHOOL	\$4406668
TOTAL FOR ALL THREE HIGH SCHOOLS	\$24,762,920

2023 GRADUATION RATE*

CLASS OF 2022	DISTRICT	ARTHUR HILL	SAGINAW HIGH	SAGINAW ARTS
GRADUATION RATE	93.46%	93.19%	97.07%	95.74%
DROP OUT RATE	10.76%	5.24%	6.90%	4.26%

*National Graduation Rate is 80% while the National Drop Out Rate is 7.65%

SECONDARY ACHIEVEMENTS

AT A GLANCE	21-22 SCHOOL YEAR	22-23 SCHOOL YEAR
STUDENTS EARNING INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION	421	652
STUDENTS THAT ARE IN INTERNSHIPS	235	452
STUDENTS IN DUAL ENROLLMENT	22	61
STUDENTS THAT HAVE COMPLETED CAREER PATHWAYS THROUGH XELLO	333	539

NOW ENROLLING EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS



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



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



SAGINAW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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





About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

Office Hours

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

For additional information concerning Saginaw ISD Head Start visit: www.saginawheadstart.org

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

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

MI Tri-Share
CHILD CARE

SAGINAW ISD
SERVE • INNOVATE • EMPOWER

MWC
MICHIGAN WOMEN'S
COMMISSION



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

Current Partners

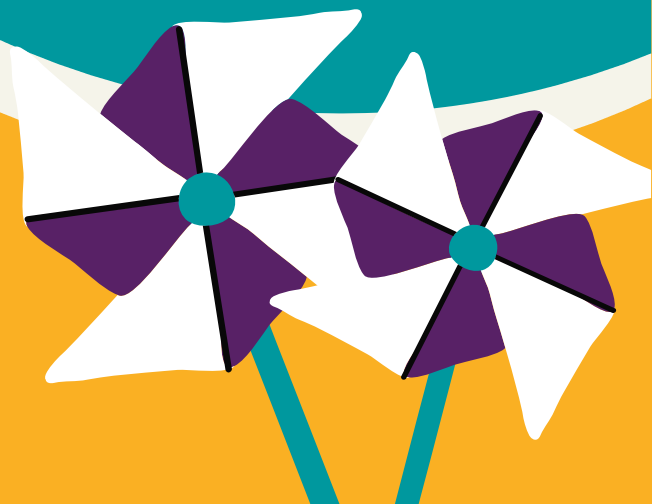
- Au Gres-Sims Schools
- Bay Arenac ISD
- Children's Discovery Academy
- Gratiot Isabella RESD
- Hemlock SemiConductor
- Ready, Set, Grow
- Saginaw ISD Head Start
- Vantage Plastics

Current Childcare Providers

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

SIGNING UP AS AN EMPLOYER:

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



+ SPORTS



DOW WAS ANNOUNCED AS PRESENTING SPONSOR OF THE 2024 MEMORIAL CUP AT A SEPTEMBER 28 PRESS CONFERENCE

Dow announced as the 2024 Memorial Cup presenting sponsor

The Canadian Hockey League (CHL), in collaboration with the Western Hockey League (WHL), Ontario Hockey League (OHL), and Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL), is thrilled to announce that Dow will serve as the presenting sponsor of the 104th Memorial Cup, which will take place next spring in Saginaw, Michigan, from May 23 to June 2, 2024. The new partnership was officially launched today at the Dow Event Center, the home of the OHL's Saginaw Spirit, where the logo for the 2024 Memorial Cup presented by Dow was also unveiled.

As a long-time partner of the Spirit and with strong ties to Michigan's Great Lakes Bay Region, Dow will help usher in some CHL history by serving as the presenting sponsor for the first Memorial Cup ever held in the State of Michigan. Moreover, the 2024 Memorial Cup presented by Dow will mark the first time that the CHL's championship event has been held in the United States in 26 years, and the very first time that it will take place in an American OHL city.

"On behalf of the Canadian Hockey League and our member leagues, it is my pleasure to welcome Dow as the presenting sponsor of the 2024 Memorial Cup," said

Dan Mackenzie, President of the CHL. "We are elated to have the support of Dow in bringing to life this historic Memorial Cup in the State of Michigan. There's no doubt that their partnership with our championship event will help us elevate the experience that our fans will get to enjoy in Saginaw next spring."

"Dow has proudly called the Great Lakes Bay Region home for over 125 years," added Heather Gallegos, Director of Community Relations at Dow. "As a longstanding member of this community, we are committed to supporting events like the Memorial Cup that foster a sense of togetherness and promote healthy competition. We understand the importance of community and the value of nurturing relationships. We are excited to join hands with the CHL, Saginaw Spirit, athletes, and fans alike to create an unforgettable experience for all."

"The opportunity for Dow to be affiliated with such a historic and important hockey event like the Memorial Cup is an honor," stated Carlos Padilla II, Dow Head of Global Sports Partnerships. "We are so proud to align ourselves with both the Saginaw Spirit and the CHL to deliver this historic Memorial Cup in

Michigan's Great Lakes Bay Region, which will welcome thousands of fans to the Dow Event Center and see millions of viewers tune in to watch the tournament over the course of its two-week run."

"As the host of a major international event in the 2024 Memorial Cup presented by Dow, the Saginaw Spirit are grateful for Dow's support as the presenting sponsor. Their leadership consistently proves their commitment to making the entire Great Lakes Bay Region a better place for residents and visitors alike," said Craig Goslin, President and Managing Partner of the Saginaw Spirit. "The 2024 Memorial Cup presented by Dow will bring visitors from all parts of Canada, the USA, and other countries to honor the soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice and to celebrate the elite talent of the CHL's student-athletes. This event will be epic, and to have Dow as its presenting sponsor brings us the ability to make it world-class."

Awarded to the best team in junior hockey, the Memorial Cup is one of the most coveted trophies in the sport and it has shaped the way junior hockey is played in North America. First awarded in 1919, in remembrance of the many soldiers who paid the supreme sacrifice for Canada in the First World War, the Memorial Cup was rededicated to the memory of all fallen Canadian Military Personnel in 2010.

As hosts, the Saginaw Spirit will be one of four teams to participate in the 2024 Memorial Cup presented by Dow alongside the playoff champion from each of the OHL, QMJHL, and WHL. All games will be played at the Dow Event Center and ticket sales for the 2024 Memorial Cup presented by Dow will be available for purchase to the public starting on Wednesday, October 11.

The most recent Memorial Cup took place in Kamloops and saw the Québec Remparts defeat the Seattle Thunderbirds 5-0 in the final to win the CHL's top prize last June. With their victory, the QMJHL has now won four straight Memorial Cup titles, the most of any league in the CHL since the tournament switched over to a round-robin format in 1972.

+ SPORTS



FRANK ZOMBO

Stevenson Standout inducted to CMU Hall of Fame

By HASANI ALI

A former Stevenson High School football standout is being inducted this year into the Central Michigan University Athletics Hall of Fame.

Frank Zombo, who graduated from Stevenson High School in 2005, played for the Chippewas from 2006-2009.

He later played professional football as a linebacker for the Green Bay Packers and the Kansas City Chiefs. He was part of the Packers team that won the Super Bowl XLV in 2011.

“Zombo was a freak of an athlete,” said former defensive teammate Daniel Jackson. “He was an absolute monster and he

would find a way to get to the ball every time.”

Jackson remembered Zombo’s epic game against Northern Illinois University where he recorded his first pick-six as a senior.

“When I saw that ball go into Zombo’s hands, I knew he was headed for the end-zone,” said Jackson. “That man was running like a freight train and the crowd went bonkers.”

He earned First Team All-MAC honors in 2008 and 2009 while helping CMU win three MAC Championships, a pair of bowl victories and four bowl game appearances.

Zombo was also 4-0 against Western Michigan.

He played nine seasons in the National Football League, three with the Green Bay Packers and six with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Also won a Super Bowl in 2011 with the Green Bay Packers, while recording a sack and five tackles in the game.

Three more Chippewas appeared in that game, including teammate Josh Gordy and Cullen Jenkins for the Packers while standout wide receiver Antonio Brown was the opposing foe with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

“It was a wild experience,” said former defensive back Josh Gordy. “Imagine that you were playing with these guys in college a couple years ago and now we’re seeing them in different uniforms and on a bigger stage. It was something I’ve never experienced before.”

Zombo finished his NFL career with 196 tackles, 12.5 sacks and 15.0 tackles-for-loss. He posted nine sacks in 2008, which ranks fifth in CMU single-season history and ranks third all-time in CMU history in sacks (25.5) and sixth all-time in tackles-for-loss (39).

In his four-year, 55-game career, he totaled 181 tackles (79 solo), 39.0 tackles for loss for 193 yards, 25.5 sacks for 165 yards, forced two fumbles and recovered four fumbles.

He finished with season-bests of 9.0 sacks and 10.0 tackles for loss as a junior in 2008—totaled a single-season best 62 tackles, 7.5 sacks and 10.5 tackles for loss as a sophomore in 2007.

Zombo was named a CoSIDA Academic All-District IV second team honoree in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

“I hated lining up against Zombo,” said former teammate David Blackburn jokingly, who played tight end for the university. “Every time they called a play, I was hoping to get out on a route so I wouldn’t have to worry about hitting Zombo. I could just go about and be on my way.”

The 2023 class will be inducted into the hall of fame on Friday and honored at CMU’s football game the following day against Eastern Michigan on Saturday.

Tullis enjoying role as Detroit Cody's first female JV head coach, Varsity staff

By HASANI ALI

Head coach of the Detroit Venom women's football team Darnell Bryce has worked with many talented football players over the years at Detroit Cody High School.

Yet, he's never come across such an athlete as Women's Football Alliance's two-time offensive MVP Clarissa Tullis.

"I've worked with 'Riss' defensively over the past five years and nobody, male or female, has the work ethic like she has," he said. "I've watched her get bigger and stronger throughout the years and became a leader right in front of my eyes. She went from dominating on defense to doing the same thing on offense."

Her former head coach noted how special Tullis was when it came to having her on his team.

"You can't teach heart," said Keith Thomas, former head coach of the Detroit Dark Angels (prior to team changing name to Venom). "She's easily the heart of the team. Riss gives her heart to the game of football. That's why she has earned all the accolades that she has. Every team wants her on their roster and I don't blame them."

It only made sense for Bryce to hire Tullis as the head JV football coach once he earned the varsity head coach position at Detroit Cody High School.

Tullis, who's taking a year hiatus from football to recover from injuries, still needed to surround herself with the sport. Coming off of a rough 1-5 season in Detroit's debut in Div. I and representing Team USA in the women's football international games, Tullis wasted no time finding a way to put her football knowledge to good use.

She finished the 2023 season as the third-leading rusher in the WFA with 81 carries for 466 yards and one touchdown. Injuries took a toll on her performance as she usually averages over 1,500 rushing yards a season.

Tullis began volunteering with off-season workouts at the high school with the running backs.



CLARISSA TULLIS (MIDDLE)

Players were slow to warm up to Tullis, but that quickly turned around as they realized that she is well seasoned in the game.

"It took them a minute to buy in," she said. "They didn't believe that I knew football because I was a female. I showed them my highlight reel. I showed them that I was a player in pads just like them. Once they saw that I had true experience on the gridiron, it was a matter of time for them to buy into the game plan."

Tullis is currently sitting at 1-1 as the JV coach. The team recently lost in a 16-14 nail-biter to Detroit Denby.

She didn't think that she was ready for the responsibility, but Bryce instilled confidence in her as she was perfect for the job.

"I honestly just wanted to be a position's coach," she said. "I didn't think that

I was ready to do all the planning for the offense and defense. Though I have a coordinator on both sides, I still have the final decision on everything and it's a lot. I'm new to this, but I am up for the challenge and it will keep me excited about the game as I'm healing from my injuries."

Bryce has even asked Tullis to join the varsity staff this season to coach defensive backs and running backs.

"I understand what my coaches go through now," she said. "From evaluating talent to placement on the field, it's amazing how so much preparation goes into the game from the coach's perspective compared to executing as a player."

Tullis is uncertain about her next career move once she's been cleared to play, but she does plan to start training to prepare for the 2024 season.

+ SPORTS



PONTIAC PHAROHS

Basketball tryouts for Pontiac Pharaohs begin Oct. 21

By HASANI ALI

Teams from The Basketball League are hosting tryouts all over the country and now it's Michigan's turn to find the best hoop talent for their professional league.

The first round of tryouts begin Oct. 21, followed by another session on Nov. 11 and a final one on Jan. 20, 2024.

Registration begins at \$100 for one tryout, \$180 for two tryouts and \$250 for three tryouts. Cost is \$120 if a player is paying at the door for each.

The team moved from Lansing last year after sitting out the 2023 season. It will be the TBL's 50th team to join the league along with the Jacksonville 95ers.

"We are thrilled to have the Pharaohs back next season", Magley told TBL News' Brad Smith. "They were very competitive in their first season and I have no doubt that the city of Pontiac will love what they bring to the community off the court."

TBL CEO and owner Evelyn Magley was not available for comment. She was named Hope Magazine's Top 25 as she is the only female owner of a men's basket-

ball league.

Pontiac will be able to participate in TBL's upcoming 2023 free agency period and the 2023 draft, allowing the Pharaohs to add talent ahead of the 2024 season.

So far, Pontiac has already named Scott Newman as head coach and vice president of basketball operations, while partnering with the Pontiac school district to play all home games in Pontiac High School Gymnasium.

This partnership will allow Pontiac's youth to interact with the Pharaohs' pro players on a regular basis, providing access to internship opportunities throughout the season, and creating a fun, affordable experience that everyone can be a part of and enjoy.

Pontiac will begin their second season in the TBL after debuting in the 2022 season. For reference, the Pharaohs finished with a 15-9 regular-season record, +139 point differential, and third in the Upper Midwest division, but were swept by Glass City in the first round of the playoffs.

With a season-average of 113.2 PPG (9th in TBL) on 46.5% shooting from the

field (24th in TBL), 34.3% from three-point range (20th in TBL), and nine different Pharaohs averaging 10.0+ PPG, Lansing's success was largely attributed to their stout offense.

The team is owned by entrepreneur Chris Jackson. Scott Newman was announced as the team's head coach. Previously he served as the assistant coach of Windsor Express.

Due to the aforementioned absence from the TBL for the 2023 season, Pontiac's roster will be much different than their roster in 2022.

According to TBL News, Jackson and Davis both signed with the Windsor Express of the National Basketball League of Canada (NBLC), with Jackson winning the NBLC's Sixth Man Award and being named to All-NBLC First Team, while Davis made the All-NBLC second team. In addition, Muldrow, Jones, and Brundidge all didn't play in the TBL this past season, meaning Pontiac may begin the 2024 TBL season without their five leading scorers from the 2022 season.

Belleville's Underwood visits Coach Prime, University of Colorado

By HASANI ALI

With rumors of Colorado's starting quarterback Shedeur Sanders entering the NFL draft after this season, head coach Deion Sanders may have his replacement coming in hot.

The No. 1 2025 quarterback recruit in the country visited the University of Colorado two weeks ago to watch the Buffaloes take on their in-state rivals at Colorado State.

Five-star junior Bryce Underwood was originally planning to visit USC at the end of the month, but decided to take a trip to Boulder instead.

"It was a last-minute decision," Underwood's father Jaquan confirmed regarding the change in plans.

Ironically, the no. 5 Trojans will be in town to face the Buffaloes next week, but Underwood and the Tigers will be enjoying their homecoming game that same week.

Underwood recalled it as quite the experience getting to watch Coach Prime and his staff operate on game day and soak in the environment at Folsom Field. His family also said that the trip was worth it.

"It was very exciting to have my first conversation with him (Coach Prime)," Underwood told 247Sports. "It was good to have my first conversation with him and it went well. Just him letting me know he wanted me there and to lead them to a National Championship was exciting to hear."

Colorado was able to squeak past Colorado State, 43-35 in double overtime. Though it was a thrilling game to watch and silencing head coach Jay Norvell's pre-game trash talk was probably satisfying to Coach Prime, the Buffaloes dropped down a spot to no. 19 in the AP rankings.

Standout two-way athlete Travis Hunter went down in the first half and later left the game with a lacerated liver.

He's expected to be missing out of action for three weeks.

Mr. Underwood made pleasant com-



BRYCE UNDERWOOD PICTURED WITH DEION SANDERS

ments about how he likes the offense and how Shedeur spreads the ball around.

"They're definitely in the picture which is a great thing," Jaquan said.

"We were able to talk to (Coach) Prime. Everybody pitches they want Bryce to take the keys to their offense. They think he's a guy to back up or be mentored by Shedeur. Just having that opportunity and Prime is a legend. When I was a kid, I wanted to be like Prime. I played corner. Having that guy on the other end talking to my son, it was surreal. We really like Colorado."

Underwood also really likes schools like Alabama, LSU, Michigan and Oregon with dozens of offers from several Div. I schools. He'll be returning to Baton Rouge, La., when LSU hosts Auburn.

The two-time state champion finished his sophomore campaign completing 65% of his passes for 2,751 yards and 37 touch-

downs with another 642 yards rushing and eight touchdowns. The march to another ring included playoff victories over Saline, Catholic Central, Cass Tech and Caledonia in the finale, all prominent programs. In Underwood's ninth-grade campaign he threw for nearly 3,000 yards and 39 touchdowns to just four interceptions.

The 6-foot-2, 185-pound junior may be the perfect fit for the Colorado offense in case Shedeur decides to declare for the 2024 NFL draft. If he does decide to stay, it would be a perfect mentorship for him as he would get acclimated to Big 12 play and build Colorado to a national championship contender.

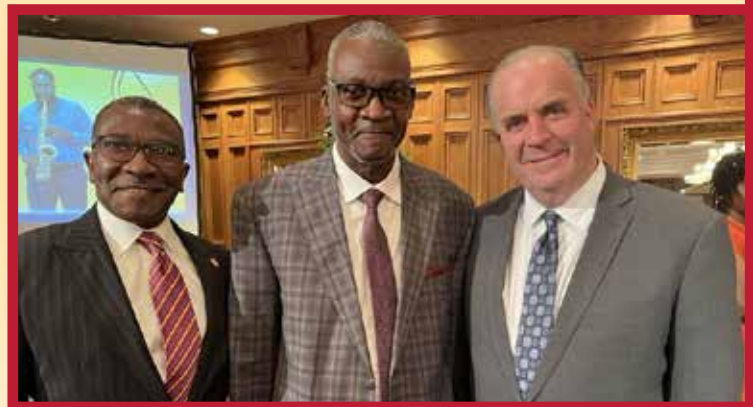
The Buffaloes are in their final season in the Pac-12 and will be an official Big 12 member starting next season.

Colorado just suffered its first loss of the season at the hands of Oregon, 42-6.



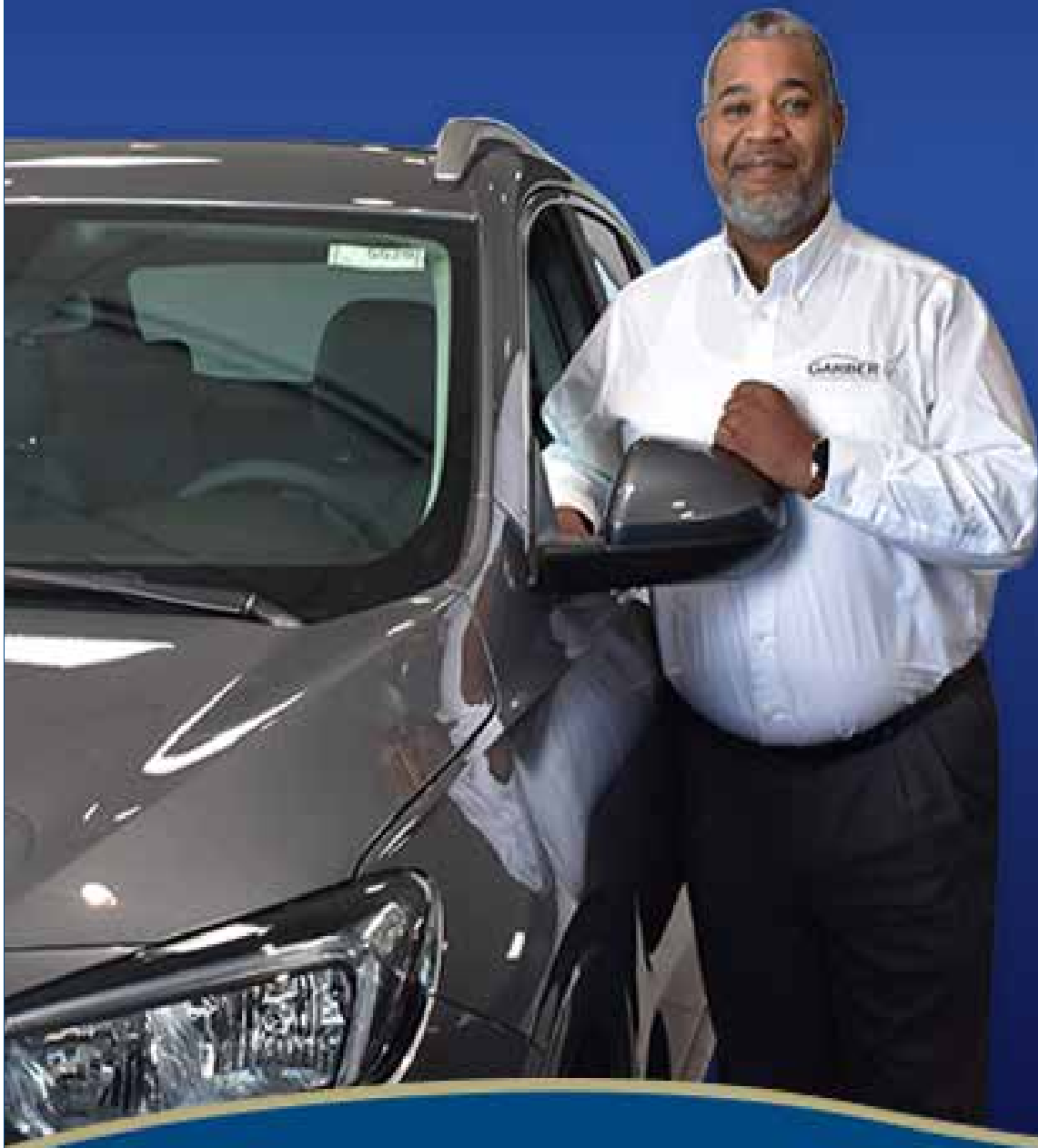
PICS OF THE WEEK

Saginaw NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet held on Sunday, September 24, 2023 at Horizons Conference Center



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