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PIC OF THE WEEK
Dr. Reverend Eugene O. Seals & Co-Pastor/First Lady Joyce J. Seals 19th Anniversary

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FEATURED



FOR SICKLE CELL AWARENESS, ONE DAD CAN AND WILL

COMMUNITY, PG 16

2023 YWCA Great Lakes Bay Region Women of Achievement Awards



Congratulations to Ellen Crane, Jane Fitzpatrick, Pat Franklin-Lindsey, Jenny Geno, Jennifer Marar, Anesha Stanley and Ann Coburn-Collins!



Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan awards \$13,000 in Latinx student scholarships and honors local leaders

LATINO BANNER, COVER STORY

FEATURED STORY

Saginaw Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, celebrates 55 years of sisterhood

COMMUNITY, PG 24



THE MICHIGAN BANNER IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



Seen on the Scene: YWCA 2023 Women of Achievement Awards



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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

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Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 5 • NUMBER 20



IF YOU'D TURN AROUND

By DONIQUA SOVIA

You're focused on what used to be, claiming it's recovery, but if you turned around you'd see, a bigger plan, that's set to be. You're visiting every single time, you fell through the cracks of relapse, with your brain on rewind, but if you'd turn around you'd find, there's something greater that lies beyond.

When focus is shifted, your mind follows suit, and where your mind is, your intentions are too, and where your intentions lie will show, whether you grow or stay in the fray. Recovery is a beautiful thing, because that means something is healing. Healing takes time, as it should, but don't give up when times aren't good.

If you'd turn around, and see the other side, you'd be amazed at the beauty of life. No need to get down, for you haven't missed out, you just took a journey, but now you're in reroute. It just means different scenery, but the destination is the same you see, because we all have different paths we seek, and that's the beauty of recovery.



DARE TO DREAM

is here!

We are all born with the ability to imagine and we want to give our youth an opportunity to share those amazing and creative ideas. If you are between the ages of 12-17 years old, and you want to take the next step with your idea, Dare to Dream is for you!

Duperon Education is partnering with Kids Rule Now with an exciting program that creates an opportunity for our local youth to share their dream, get entrepreneurial coaching, and the chance to win a \$1,000 cash prize to help them with the next step towards their dream!

For more information and updates, be sure to follow us on Facebook and watch our website.

- October 2 Applications open
- October 20 Applications closed
- October 23 Top 5 dreamers announced
- November 4 Top 5 KRN Boss Factor coaching
- November 9 Top 5 share dream, winner announced



www.duperoneducation.com



SON: "Daddy, may I ask you a question?"

DAD: "Yeah sure, what is it?"

SON: "Daddy, how much do you make an hour?"

DAD: "That's none of your business. Why do you ask such a thing?"

SON: "I just want to know. Please tell me, how much do you make an hour?"

DAD: "If you must know, I make \$100 an hour."

SON: "Oh! (With his head down). Daddy, may I please borrow \$50?"

The father was furious.

DAD: "If the only reason you asked that is so you can borrow some money to buy a silly toy or some other nonsense, then you march yourself straight to your room and go to bed. Think about why you are being so selfish. I work hard every day for such this childish behavior."

The little boy quietly went to his room and shut the door.

The man sat down and started to get even angrier about the little boy's questions. How dare he ask such questions only to get some money?

After about an hour or so, the man had calmed down, and started to think.

Maybe there was something he really needed to buy with that \$50 and he really didn't ask for money very often. The man went to the door of the little boy's room and opened the door.

DAD: "Are you asleep son?"

SON: "No daddy, I'm awake."

DAD: "I've been thinking, maybe I was too hard on you earlier. It's been a long day and I took out my aggravation on you. Here's the \$50 you asked for."

The little boy sat straight up, smiling.

SON: "Oh, thank you daddy!"

Then, reaching under his pillow he pulled out some crumpled up bills. The man saw that the boy already had money, started to get angry again. The little boy slowly counted out his money, and then looked up at his father.

DAD: "Why do you want more money if you already have some?"

SON: "Because I didn't have enough, but now I do. Daddy, I have \$100 now. Can I buy an hour of your time? Please come home early tomorrow. I want to play with you."

The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little son, and he begged for his forgiveness.

It's just a short reminder to all of you working so hard in life. We should not let time slip through our fingers without having spent some time with those who really matter to us, those close to our hearts.



Youth HARVEST FESTIVAL



Saturday, 28
October 2023



Noon- 5PM

523 Hayden St. Saginaw, MI 48601

Admission is free!
An adult must accompany all children.

Play games and win prizes!
Don't forget to wear your COSTUME!

This year, we've made our Bible Scenes
Interactive Games:

- David and Goliath
- Peter Walking on Water
- Daniel in the Lions Den

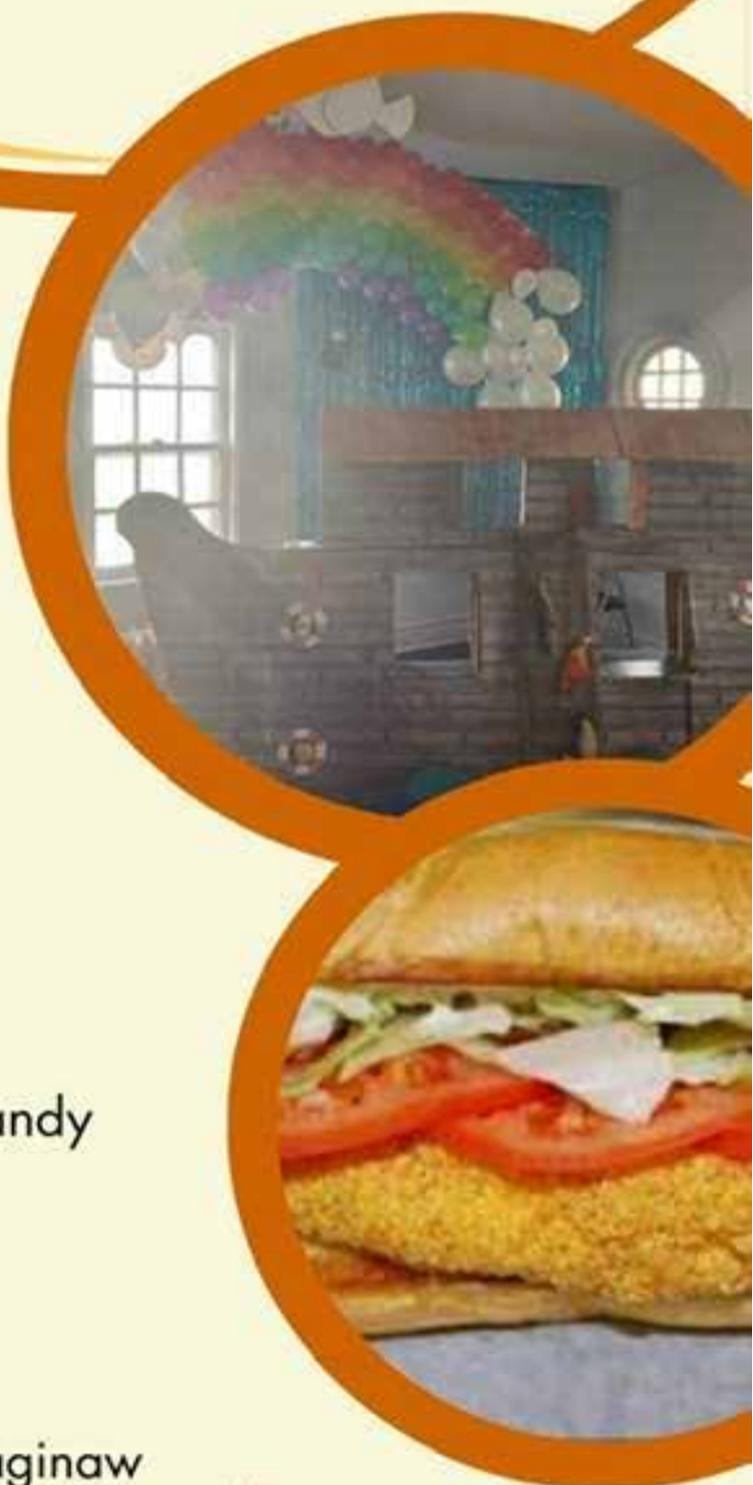
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THE MICHIGAN BANNER NEWS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AT&T



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.

From 2018-2020, we expanded coverage and improved connectivity in more communities by investing more than \$1.4 billion in our wireless and wireline networks in Michigan.

At AT&T, we're dedicated to doing our part to connect America.



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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan awards \$13,000 in Latinx student scholarships and honors local leaders



COURTESY PHOTO

The Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan (HLCOM) held their annual Hispanic Heritage Event where they awarded thirteen students with \$1,000 scholarships and honored six Latinx leaders for their contributions.

“The Commission is proud to convene our communities to celebrate ambitious Latinx leaders and students, and provide scholarships that ease the financial burden Hispanic and Latinx students may face amid their pursuit of higher education,” Office of Global Michigan Director Poppy Hernandez said. “By collaborating with and uplifting esteemed community

members like those awarded this evening, our work continues to make Michigan a welcoming state. Global Michigan is committed to empowering and engaging the immigrant, refugee and international community as we make Michigan the home for opportunity.”

To further career development and increase the enrollment of Latinx people in postsecondary education and training programs, the commission awarded \$1,000 each to 13 students through their Nuestro Futuro Scholarship. Recipients of the scholarship are students currently enrolled in a Michigan-based high school,

college, university or other recognized higher education institution who plan on utilizing the funds for postsecondary education.

Scholarship recipients from across the state include:

- Alejandra Padilla Miguel of Detroit, Michigan, Studying at Michigan State University
- Alexis Robles Vazquez of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Studying at Grand Valley State University
- Carlos Panuco of Holland, Michigan, Studying at Michigan State University
- Jada Linstrom of Norton Shores, Michigan, Studying at Muskegon Community College
- Lizbeth Zavala of Southwest Detroit, Michigan, Studying at Wayne State University
- Nighthdelyn Martinez of Detroit, Michigan, Studying at University of Michigan
- Ruberto Mosqueda of Midland, Michigan, Studying at Mid-Michigan Community College
- Emilio Albaranque of Argentina/East Lansing, Michigan, Studying at Michigan State University
- Enrique Cazares of Parlier, California, Studying at Michigan State University
- Gabriella Olivarez of Saginaw, Michigan, Studying at Delta

**CONTINUES ON LB PG 2,
HISPANIC HERITAGE EVENT**

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



LB Cover Story, Hispanic Heritage event

College

- Samantha Rodriguez of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Studying at Central Michigan University
- Tania Sofia Ruiz Sierra of Mexico/Novi, Michigan, Studying at University of Michigan
- Tomas Tello of Flint, Michigan, Studying at Michigan State University

The Nuestro Futuro Scholarship submissions opened in the spring and closed on July 4. Committee selections were made based on the student's submitted essay, grade point average, letters of recommendation and community service experience. Each of these students will receive \$1,000 in scholarship funding to support their educational attainment goals.

"The Commission's top priority is the advancement of educational and economic opportunity for our Latinx communities," said HLCOM Commission Chair Jesse Bernal. "We are proud to invest in the bright future of the scholarship recipients and hope those who joined us left the celebration with a renewed sense of pride for our culture and communities."

Each spring, the commission collects nominations for Latinx leaders to be recognized at the annual fall event. The following committee-selected leaders were honored for their contributions to the state in the areas of art, education, military service, community service, lifetime achievement and heroism:

- Educator of the Year Award: Celeny Quintino of Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Unsung Hero Award: Abby Teasley of Grand Haven, Michigan
- Arts in the Community Award: Mary Puentes Luevanos of Southwest Detroit
- Veteran of the Year Award: Jose Manuel Estrada of Lansing, Michigan
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Gilberto "Gil" Guevara of Saginaw, Michigan
- Community Service Award: Danieal "Dano" Oropeza of Pharr, Texas/Kalamazoo, Michigan

"Since its establishment in 1975, the Commission has been charged with hon-

oring Latinx Michiganders and their contributions across the state," said Bernal. "Every single individual recognized during our event is well-deserving of the prestigious award they received for their outstanding commitment to service in their community and beyond."

The event included a vibrant display of artwork by Detroit and Dominican Artist Odette Duke and a diverse Latinx dance performance by Reflejos Latinos of Ann Arbor, which took guests on a tour of various parts of Latin America through dance. Event sponsors included: Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Ford Motor Co., Grand Valley State University, Western Michigan University, MI Latinx Coalition, HBN Building Services and Comcast.

HLCOM strives to market the state's career development services to Latinx Michiganders, encourage initiatives to reduce the high school dropout rates of Hispanic youth and facilitate efforts to increase the enrollment of Hispanics in postsecondary education and training programs. Learn more about the Commission and their work at michigan.gov/HLCOM.



COURTESY PHOTO

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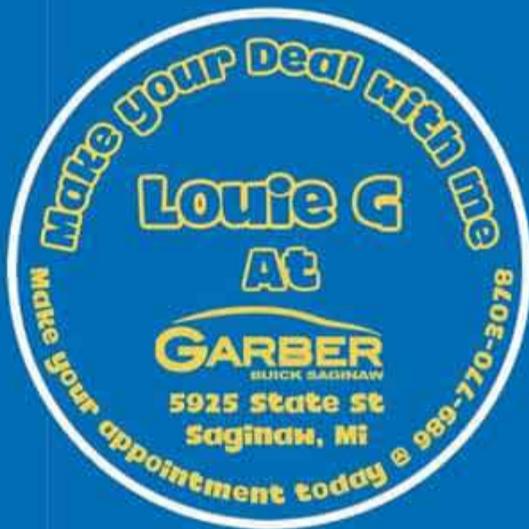
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Louie "Louie G" Garcia
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For an appointment



Seen on the Scene: LLEAD Saginaw Chapter

LLEAD Saginaw Chapter attends "Hip Hop is 50: A Look at the Socio-political climate and Evolution of Hip Hop" lecture at SVSU



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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Cindy Seitz



Andrea Sanchez



Michelle Kirchoff



Terry Duperon



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SAGINAW, MI

+ COMMUNITY



JAMES HARRISON

For sickle cell awareness, one dad can and will

By HASANI ALI

Saginaw native James Harrison will admit to you that he's not a fan of running. Yet, he's been training for a half marathon to raise awareness for Sickle Cell Anemia.

The Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon is a half marathon, which is 13.1 miles. Since the marathon is next year in April, Harrison has six months to prepare.

"I'm not a fan of running, but I'm starting to catch the runner's bug," Harrison said. "I'm really starting to get into the groove and my trainers said I should be

running 25 miles per week by the end of October. For me, it's about keeping a moderate pace."

His training regimen may be brutal, but Harrison thinks about his children every time he puts on his running shoes to do his road work.

"If their bodies are going through something, then I'm going to put my body through something. I'm going to finish this marathon."

While in training, Harrison thought about how fathers are the pillars of the

community and how they can do anything that they can set their mind to, especially when it comes to making the environment better for their families.

That's how he was able to come up with the hashtag, #onedadcan.

"When we look at the hashtag, I go back to how fathers are the true pillars of the community. A father can do anything that he can put his mind to once he decides."

When the idea sparked for Harrison to run a marathon for sickle cell anemia, everyone was not as quick to give him the green light.

In fact, his wife was the first person to question his call.

"If 'are you kidding me' was a look, then she definitely gave me that look," he said jokingly. But as we talked about it and the children got on board with it, I couldn't turn back. I had to be a man of my word."

Instead of asking people to donate money towards the cause, Harrison is asking for people to spread awareness and donate blood from now until the race coming up next year in April.

Harrison is confident that with his network and family, he will be able to reach the goal of 10,000 blood donors by the start of the race.

"Sometimes you can't wait on the medical field, you have to get in there and start making some changes yourself," he said.

Along with raising awareness for sickle cell, Harrison wants to end the dark relationship that African Americans have with the medical field.

According to Harrison, less than three percent of African Americans donate blood.

"We're starting to have these conversations with people and telling folks that it's okay to donate blood," he said. "Whenever a person donates blood, it impacts three people."

This campaign is in honor of his two adult children, James II (28), and Jaleece

**CONTINUES ON PG 16,
JAMES HARRISON**

+ COMMUNITY**Continued from pg 15, James Harrison**

(23). Raising two children that were diagnosed with sickle cell at birth, Harrison and his wife had to find a way to care for their children while navigating how to get them through their day-to-day life.

“We had to figure out how to maneuver through all the challenges and how to give them a proper support system as we learned more about the disease.”

Fortunately, the family had immediate support surrounding them during their child-raising years.

“Taking a village to raise a child(ren) is a real thing, not just a proverb,” Harrison said. “We had people step up in so many ways to help us in raising our children. We had our families, our church families and my fraternity brothers to bounce ideas off of.”

Due to the children needing immediate care, the family decided that Harrison would work while his wife, MeShawn, stayed at home to care for the children.

“It was sporadic and unpredictable for the most part,” he said. “We were able to catch on to the patterns as time went on.”

The Harrison family now lives in Tennessee.

The children are on their own and living sufficient lives. James II is employed as a security guard at the Nashville airport while Jaleece is a teacher in the Knoxville County School District.

The Buena Vista graduate ('88) is a Human Resources Manager at Arconic Inc., in Alcoa, Tenn. He's also a board member of the Medic Regional Blood Center for the past year and a half.

An incident last year with his children was the deciding factor for Harrison to do this marathon.

“My children were having a pain crisis,” he said. “One was in the hospital in Knoxville and the other in the hospital in Nashville. Such attacks are caused when the blood cells actually clump together because of their abnormal shape.”

Looking back on the situation and after 29 years of marriage, the couple realized that they never had the discussion about both of them carrying the sickle cell trait and how it could have impacted their fam-

ily.

“My grandmother (Curley Mae Harrison) had sickle cell,” Harrison said. “When she passed away at 84, she was the oldest person in Michigan living with sickle cell at the time. It's definitely something people should discuss when they're dating and I'm looking to raise more awareness about having that conversation.”

Though his children are now adults, they still need support with their condition. Harrison is asking for people to become advocates for all people who have the condition so that nobody goes unnoticed.

“When a child is hurting, everyone's hearts tend to bleed,” he said. But when it comes to adults, people aren't so quick to come to their aid. We're looking to erase all those stigmas and make sure that all people with sickle cell have the proper resources for their condition. We need to become advocates for those who can't advocate for themselves.”

For more information and how you can help, please visit www.medicblood.org/onedadcan.

Mustard Seed Shelter holds Fall Fundraiser at SVRC Marketplace

The seventh annual “Sowing Seeds of Hope” fall fundraiser benefiting Saginaw's Mustard Seed Shelter will take place on Thursday, November 2, 6-10 p.m. at the SVRC Marketplace ballroom located at 203 S. Washington Ave. in downtown Saginaw.

Tickets are \$60 and include a “strolling meal” prepared by SVRC vendors and other downtown businesses, plus musical entertainment by Count 'N' Change. There will be a cash bar and attendees will also be able to participate in a variety of raffles for a chance to win items and experiences donated by local businesses and supporters.

To order tickets or inquire about sponsorships, email amyroe@themustardseedshelter.org or call (989) 295-8392. Download the sponsor letter and form at themustardseedshelter.org/ssoh

“The life-saving work we do at Mustard Seed Shelter is made possible only because

of our generous community and events like this that help us raise critical operational funds,” said Amy Bartels Roe, executive director. “This is now our fourth year in a row at the SVRC Marketplace, which is a really terrific location in the heart of Saginaw. We have plenty of space for our guests to enjoy delicious local food, socialize, dance, peruse and bid on great raffle prizes – and learn about the work we do at Mustard Seed. This year, we're also going to have a special ‘fund the need’ appeal to raise \$25,000 toward a fire escape, security cameras, and other safety and security features for our home.”

The evening's program will also include a presentation of awards to recognize volunteers and others who have gone above and beyond to support the work of Mustard Seed. The five awards are the Leona Sullivan Cultivating Spirit Award, Beautiful Bouquet Award, Growing Side-by-Side Award, Growth Through Giving Corpo-

rate Sponsor Award, and The Mustard Seed Seedling of the Year.

“Mustard Seed Shelter

is truly a community organization – a living, breathing collaboration between so many facets of our great Saginaw community,” said Bartels Roe. “We felt it was important to bring this recognition element to our event because these individuals, groups, businesses and fellow nonprofits are key to sowing seeds of hope year-round – coming together to support and build up those among us in need of love and compassion.

“As always, we are looking forward to a fantastic evening of celebrating, sharing inspiring stories and sowing seeds of hope together!”



+ COMMUNITY

Men of Bethel AME Church present 'State of the Race' Summit



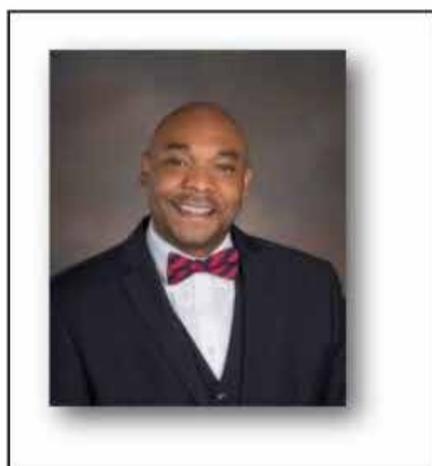
Dr. Michael H. Gavin, President
Delta College



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

Saginaw Mich.- The Hon. M.T. Thompson, Jr. and Men Of Bethel AME Church are pleased to invite everyone who is interested in understanding and addressing the unique problems faced by African American students to their State Of The Race Summit. It will focus on the state of education in the African American Community.

WHERE AND WHEN

Bethel AME Church, 535 Cathay Street,
Saginaw, Michigan
Saturday, October 28, 2023, at 10:00 A.M.

WHY

In his commentary entitled “Understanding Saginaw’s Gun Violence” Retired Judge M.T. Thompson, Jr. asserts that the proliferation of gun violence, gang activity, drug use, crime and other destructive behavior are all fueled by a our education system, the elimination of affirmative action, the reduction of blue collar jobs, inadequate health care and the criminal justice system. This panel discussion will be limited to just one of these factors, education.

WHAT

The panel of experts will discuss the educational challenges students of color face, solutions to those challenges, and how to take advantage of the opportunities that do exist. The Panel will include:

- Dr. Michael H. Gavin, President Delta College
- Dr. George Grant, Jr., President

Saginaw Valley State University

- Dr. Pamela L. Pugh, President Michigan State Board of Education
- Dr. Ramont Roberts, Superintendent Saginaw Public School District
- Dr. Gwendolyn Thompson-McMillon, Professor Oakland University

It is Thompson’s hope that this deliberative-dialogue style event will provide a way for community members of diverse views and experiences to seek a shared understanding of the educational problems African Americans face and search common ground for solutions.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Hon. M.T. Thompson, Jr. at (989) 798-6738 or malikthompson0513@gmail.com.

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American people every day.

To better serve you, we have prioritized our online customer experience. Our website SSA.gov makes it easier for you to find what you need. More than 180 million people visit our website every year. Whether providing service in person or online, our goal is help you understand what you may qualify for and transition you to an application process.

We have also worked to make sure our programs, particularly Supplemental Security Income (SSI), remains accessible to the people who need it most. Last year, we launched an online tool that allows you or

your representative to request an appointment to file for SSI and protect your filing date. A Social Security employee will then schedule a full interview. Find more information about SSI at www.ssa.gov/ssi/.

We remain committed to helping maintain the well-being and protection of the people we serve. We strive to ensure that every person who is eligible for or receives benefits gets them timely and accurately. That is how we help you secure today and tomorrow.

Please share this information with your friends and loved ones who may need it.

Residents can share their input on Saginaw's food and grocery challenges in new survey

Last September, Saginaw City Council adopted the motion to allocate \$2 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to address Saginaw's Food Insecurity/Food Desert challenges in the City of Saginaw. The goals of the funding are to reduce food insecurity, increase food access, and support healthy eating behaviors for people in the City of Saginaw. Several food retail ideas have been proposed, including a food co-op, a food club, or a for-profit grocery store. The Food Access Survey will allow the community to become involved in the decision-making around a particular grocery model. Specifically, the survey will ask residents which grocery model they would like in the city, what challenges residents face when shopping for food, and what they do now to get food for themselves and their family.

The City of Saginaw would like residents to provide their input on grocery retail options and food access in the City of Saginaw. The City, in partnership with Public Policy Associates, a research and consulting firm, has released the Saginaw Food Access Survey to ask residents their opinions on grocery retail options and food access in the city. The Food Access Survey will be used by Saginaw City Council as they plan, make decisions, and take action to increase food access in the City. Residents that complete the survey will

have a chance to win a \$50 gift card.

Mayor Pro Tem Annie Boensch commented on the value of the survey, "Saginaw City Council is working hard to address the key issues that negatively affect our city and improve the health and quality of life for our citizens. We realize there is a great need to increase access to healthy food for city residents. For any grocery store model to be sustainable in the long run, it needs to have the support of and meet the needs of the community. The Food Access Survey allows residents to provide their input and help us make the best decision as we develop this grocery retail model for our city."

The City will be hosting a special Neighborhood Association Action Group (NAAG) Meeting on Tuesday, October 17 at 12pm at City Hall Council Chambers, Room 205, to discuss the survey. Anna Colby, Project Manager for Public Policy Associates, will attend the meeting to hear from residents and assist with the survey. Additional community meetings will be held throughout October and November to receive input from residents.

To participate in the

survey, visit https://www.research.net/r/SaginawFoodSurvey_City. The survey is available in English and in Spanish. Paper copies of the survey are available at City Hall, City Manager's Office, 1315 S. Washington Avenue Room 203. Citizens needing access to a public computer or assistance with the survey can visit any branch of the Public Libraries of Saginaw, Saginaw Community Action Center, Houghton Jones Neighborhood Association or the Neighb for additional assistance.

For more information on the Food Study Survey or upcoming community meetings, please visit the City of Saginaw website at www.saginaw-mi.com or contact the City Manager's Office at (989) 759-1401.





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+ COMMUNITY

Federal grant will enable SVSU to train more social workers for rural and underserved communities



ANDRE KEMP, A MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENT AT SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY, WORKS WITH A CLIENT AT HOLY CROSS CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN 2017

With support from a two-year, \$1.06 million federal grant, Saginaw Valley State University will prepare more master's-level social workers to treat children, adolescents and young adults in rural communities in Michigan. The grant was awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration under the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training – Children, Adolescents, and Young Adult Program for Professionals (BHWET-CAY). Catherine Macomber, SVSU professor of social work, applied for the grant and will serve as the project director.

The purpose of the grant is to expand access to mental health care for young people. SVSU will use the grant funds to support a new project, “YouthWISE: Youth Work in Social Work Education – Growing Behavioral Health in Rural Michigan for Children, Adolescents and Young Adults.”

Under this project, SVSU's Master of Social Work program will increase the numbers, diversity and skill of MSW graduates employed in rural and underserved settings in the Great Lakes Bay Region as well as the northeast lower peninsula and thumb areas.

“I am very excited to receive this grant funding to support our goal to increase the number of social work practitioners trained to serve Michigan's rural underserved populations, and to increase the diversity of the social work workforce in Michigan,” said Macomber. “This grant will also bring resources to our community partners, both current and future, to assist them in recruiting and retaining SVSU graduates who will come prepared



CATHERINE MACOMBER

to jump right into the workforce with an in-depth understanding of the needs of rural and underserved communities.”

YouthWISE will formalize and expand efforts to grow behavioral health services to rural and underserved areas in Michigan. Students in SVSU's Department of Social Work and Youth Services have been completing field work in these communities since the MSW program was introduced in 2017. To accomplish this work, the project will:

Establish more training opportunities for MSW students in community-based settings serving children, adolescents and young adults, prioritizing settings in underserved and rural communities.

Increase the number of clinical supervisors for behavioral health professional trainees working with children, adolescents and young adults.

Enhancing training opportunities for new and existing SVSU faculty and clinical supervisors focused on the behavioral health needs of children, adolescents and young adults.

Help connect SVSU graduates with employment opportunities.

“This grant and the important work it will support reflects the vision and mission of our college by engaging our MSW students in experiential learning and preparing a diverse community of professionals,” said Marcia Mastracci Ditmyer, dean of SVSU's College of Health & Human Service. “We are excited to lead this work and I am proud of Dr. Macomber and the social work program for their dedication to this project. I look forward to the great work these students will do, using their SVSU social work education to expand and improve behavioral health services throughout Michigan.”



Next Food Giveaway Dates:
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Friday, October 20th
Friday, December 22nd

10 AM – 12 PM at the Saginaw YMCA
Partnership with Impact Saginaw and Food Bank of Eastern Michigan

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+ COMMUNITY

Seen on the Scene: Saginaw Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, celebrates 55 years of sisterhood at their Sneaker Soirée-Ball on Friday, Oct. 14





**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. Natasha Bagdasarian,
MD, MPH, FIDSA**
Chief Medical Executive 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.

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Media Kit



SAGINAW PROMISE
“POWER OF A PROMISE”
Fundraiser Luncheon

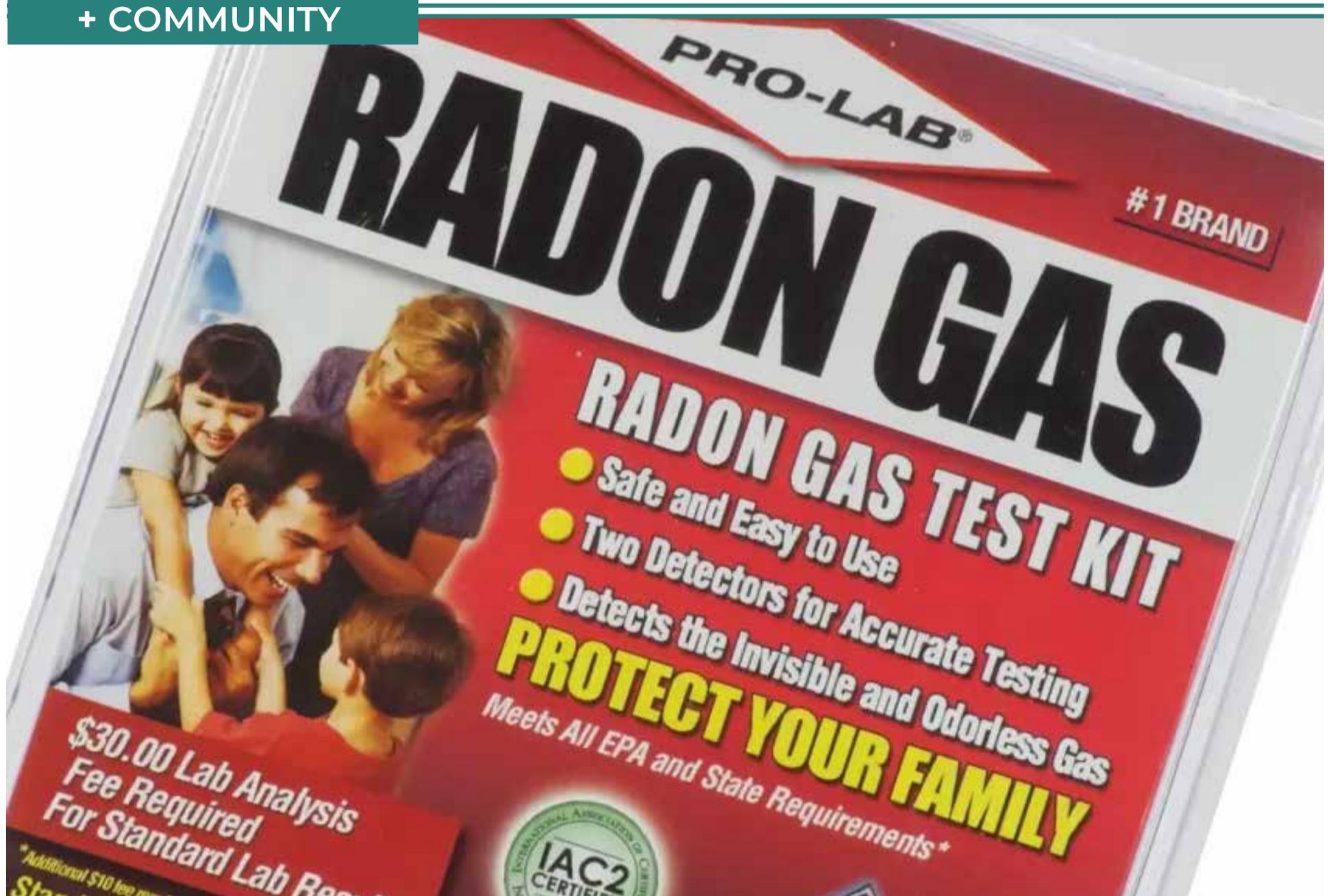
Horizons Conference Center
Tuesday, November 7, 2023
(Doors Open at 11 AM)

Program starts at 11:30 AM

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

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

+ COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

Free radon test kits available at Saginaw County Health Department

The Saginaw County Health Department (SCHD) is distributing free radon test kits through October 31 and encouraging area residents to test their homes before the upcoming heating season.

Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, according to EPA estimates. It is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year. The only way to know if your home has an elevated radon level is to test it.

“Taking action to reduce your exposure to this tasteless, odorless, colorless, radioactive gas is important,” says Chris Klawuhn, RS, MSA, director of Environmental Health Services at SCHD. “Get a kit and, if elevated radon levels are detected,

confirm measurements with additional testing and then take action to reduce the levels in your home.”

Testing is easy and inexpensive, Klawuhn says. The DIY test kits distributed by the health department are normally available for \$10, including postage back to an out-of-state lab, as well as fees for analysis and reporting back to homeowners. Free kits are available through this month in Room 101 at SCHD, 1600 N. Michigan Avenue in Saginaw. They are also available at the Rehmann Health Center in Chesaning by calling (989) 845-3911.

Radon occurs naturally in soil and rock, but being a gas, it can move upward through the soil and enter buildings

through cracks and openings in the foundation floor or walls. Typical entry points include floor/wall joints, sump openings, crawlspaces, cracks in the floor, and other penetrations caused by plumbing, wiring, or ductwork. Outdoors, it is diluted by the atmosphere. But indoors, it tends to be more concentrated and can accumulate to unhealthy levels.

“Because radon is invisible and can’t be smelled, it’s easy to ignore. It doesn’t cause headaches, nausea, fatigue, skin rashes, or other warning symptoms, yet extended exposure to elevated levels may increase your risk of lung cancer, a generally fatal disease,” Klawuhn explains.



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+ COMMUNITY

Dow Credit Union's Saginaw branch reports \$3.4 million in deposits after grand opening week

Dow Credit Union's first branch in Saginaw County reported a cumulative \$3.4 million in deposits after its Grand Opening Week from Sept. 25-29, dramatically outpacing already high expectations.

"Our grand opening festivities brought out so many different people," Ryan Carter, a specialist with their community outreach team, said. "We got to hear from existing members thrilled to have a location closer to home, and people meeting us for the first time were excited to learn how easy it is to become a member."

Offering the same products available at the credit union's Midland headquarters, the team at 5420 Gratiot Road began welcoming new members a month ago during the facility's soft opening.

Chief Financial Officer Sanjay Ahluwalia believes many in the community identified the credit union as their best option to maximize earnings. As of September, the award-winning institution's high-yield

savings account carries annual percentage yields (APY) up to seven times the national savings average's APY, according to NerdWallet.¹ Furthermore, Dow Credit Union's certificate of deposit (CD)² rates ranked among the best in the nation, earning recent accolades from Business Insider, Investopedia, and The Wall Street Journal.³

"As a credit union, we are member-owned, and as such we can return value directly to our members, rather than to Wall Street shareholders," Ahluwalia said. "We have developed a loyal member base over many years that has in turn created a very efficient cost structure for us. This means we can provide our members with better rates than they would find elsewhere."

In addition to favorable rates, branch manager Emily Migut believes the credit union's Member Giveback program on eligible products was instrumental in recent successes. For decades, Dow Credit Union has marked the end of the fiscal year by returning a board-approved percentage of

annual earnings to members through rebates and

rewards. Though never guaranteed, the board has approved a giveback every year since 1980, awarding \$14 million to members in 2022 alone.⁴

The Great Lakes Bay Region-based credit union presently serves over 80,000 members and boasts assets of over \$2.1 billion. Though originally established for Dow employees, membership in the institution is now accessible to everyone through different membership options.

"Just like any new home, we want to share our home with you," CEO Michael Goad said. "We invite you to come in, see our new branch, and meet our team. Let us show you what Dow Credit Union can do for you and your family."



Shirley Jo Finney, theater director and 'Wilma' star, dies at 74

Shirley Jo Finney was an award-winning international director of theater, television and films. She wore her director's hat in some of the most respected regional theater houses across the country including The McCarter Theatre, The Pasadena Playhouse, The Goodman Theater, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, The Cleveland Play house, The Fountain Theater, LA Theater Works, The Crossroads Theater Company, Actors Theater of Louisville Humana Festival, the Sundance Theater Workshop, The Mark Taper Forum, Kennedy Center For The Performing Arts and the State Theater Opera House in Pretoria, South Africa.

More recently, Miss Finney presented an Online Streaming production of Emmett Till that was critically acclaimed for its directing and editing. She also directed and developed the critically acclaimed world premiere of Citizen: An American Lyric by the award-winning Pen poet Claudia Rankin. The 2020 Zoom production



SHIRLEY JO FINNEY

was single out in the New York Times.

Other works include Facing Our Truth The Trayvon Martin Project at the Kirk Douglas theater The Lark Foundations Rolling Premier of the The Road Weeps by Marcus Gardley at The Los Angeles Theatre Center, Tarell Alvin McCraney's Brother/Sisters Plays, at the Fountain Theater, Lisa B Thompson's Single Black Female at the Crossroads Theater, Dominique Morisseau's Detroit 67 at the Penumbra Theater. She also helmed the International all

South African Opera Winnie based on the life of political icon Winnie Mandela.

Miss Finney was the recipient of the The LA Drama Critic's Milton Katsleas Distinguished Career Award, the SDCF's 2017 Denham Fellowship award for her production of Run Away Home by Jerney Kamps,,The Los Stage Alliance Ovation Award, The Los Angeles Drama Critics Award The NAACP and the Santa Barbara Independent awards for her directing work.

She was honored with the UCLA Department of Stage Film and Television Distinguished Alumni Award. The Black Alumni Associations Dr. Beverly Robinson Award for Excellence in the Arts.

She was an alumnus of the American Film Institute Director Workshop for Women and held an MFA degree from UCLA. She was also a member of the Society of Stage Directors and choreographers, the Directors Guild and The Screen Actors Guild.



TIME TO HAVE A CONVERSATION

**FRIDAY
SEPT. 29
7 PM
START**

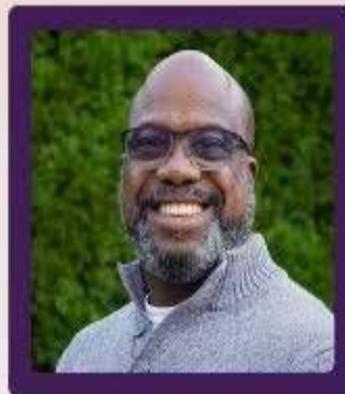
— *Protecting Our Youth* —



CRYSTAL SANDERS
Host



VICKI HILL
Co-Host,
Women of Colors
Vice-Chairman



ALAND STAMPS
Founder of
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DR. KAI ANDERSON, M.D
Assistant Professor of
Psychiatry at Central
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SHAWN SCHUTT
Violence
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Join WOC for a virtual event intended to educate and bring awareness to the realities of youth in the foster care system. Panelists will share their professional and personal experiences and perspectives.



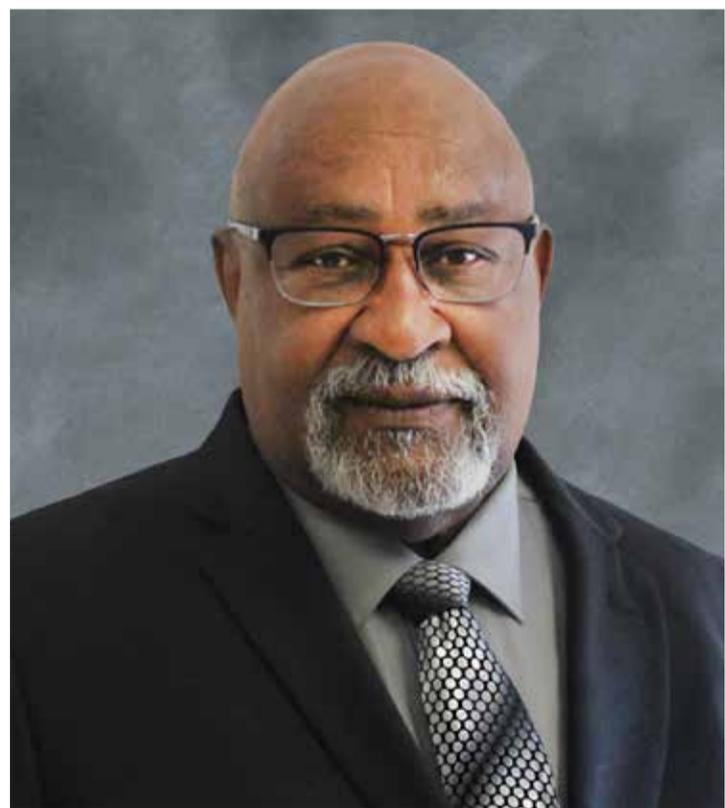
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MINISTRY WITHOUT WALLS - 3783 MANNION RD, SAGINAW, MI 48603

Join us at Ministry Without Walls

By **PASTOR JOHN DUNN**
MINISTRY WITHOUT WALLS

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

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

Our vision is for Ministry Without Walls to be:

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

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

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

Our ongoing teaching and seminars will include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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+ FAITH BASED

MICHIGAN BANNER
SERMONETTE SERIES

By **MINISTER CAROLYN
CARTER TOWNSEL**

How many of you know what a GPS is? GPS stands for Global Positioning System. This utility is comprised of a network of satellites and receiving devices, providing users with positioning, navigation, and timing services. The GPS System has over 900 million users, with approximately 78 million vehicles having the system. Due to the high usage of the GPS, it has become common, standard, and expected – therefore, it has become a norm. Just in case the cars are older and did not come equipped with a GPS, no worries, today's cell phones are set with a GPS system or with a GPS application.

This Global Positioning System comes with bells and whistles. It has multiple appealing features that includes; you putting in the address of the place where you would like to go, provides you with turn-by-turn directions, helps you to find your way, if you get lost, and if you should make

a wrong turn, the GPS will adjust the directions to get you back on the right track by rerouting. Amazing, but wait that is not all it does it warns you of speed traps, obstacles or accidents up ahead, it provides the fastest routes, it tells you how fast, you are going, and how far you are from your destination and what time you will arrive.

Although, the GPS system appears to deliver complete and up to date instructions to its users, there is a down side. At times, the GPS cannot receive a clear satellite signal due to cloudy days, storms, interference, low power or obstacles that may be in the way. Sometimes when near tall buildings or mountains the signal is confused, disconnected, broken, or interrupted.

However, there's a GPS System that continuously provide Christians with complete and accurate up to date information without losing signals due to severe weather, disconnections because of tall buildings, or interruptions caused by high mountains. This GPS System cannot,

will not, and shall not ever fail – it is God's "GPS" System. That guide is the Holy Spirit. Our spiritual GPS informs us where we are standing in the eyes of God, when we are traveling in the wrong direction, our spiritual GPS does rerouting. In the same manner, when we make a mistake or do sin, the Holy Spirit tells us we are not on the right path, and He helps us to get back on track to move towards our destiny.

As we travel on life's highways, there will times when we do not know what to do, or which way to turn, but God has given us a spiritual GPS to lead, guide, and direct us. He will lead and guide us at every life turn and in every unknown situation. This is His promise to us: ***"The LORD says, 'I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you'"*** (Psalm 32:8 NLT).

Beloved, we can trust God's "GPS" System

Blessings To All.....

God's "GPS" System

"I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you"

Colossians 3:12

+ CHURCH DIRECTORY

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PastorD818@gmail.com



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F



Faith Harvest Church

Bishop Ronald E. Chipp
1734 N. Mason
Saginaw, MI 48602
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faithharvestministry.org
office@faithharvestministry.org



Faith Ministries Church

Rev. Dr. Anthony Revis
3420 E Ashman St.
Midland, MI 48642
989-837-7777
faithministrieschurch.org

G



Glimpse Of Hope Ministries

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Saginaw Michigan 48601
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g.ministries@aol.com



Glory House Ministries

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Grace Chapel Church

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Greater Williams Temple

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Holy Communion Gospel Center

Pastor Charlene Washington
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J

Jacob's Ladder

Pastor Dennis Barlow
1926 Fairfield Street
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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

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

N



New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry

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



New Beginnings Ministries

Pastor Augustine Delgado
701 Hess Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48601
newlife3881@gmail.com



New Birth Missionary Baptist

Bishop Larry D. Camel
3121 Sheridan
Saginaw, Michigan
989-327-1755



New Covenant Christian Center

Pastor Ron Frierson
2395 S. Outer Drive
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-752-8485



New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Willie F. Casey
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New Life Baptist Ministries

Dr. Craig Tatum
1401 Janes Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-1151
newlifelcm.com

New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

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

P

Prince of Peace Baptist Church

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

R

Radiant Church of God

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



Resurrection Life Ministries Full Gospel Baptist Church

Pastor Carolyn L. Wilkins
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Saginaw, MI 48601
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S



Saint Paul Baptist Church

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



Second Baptist Church

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

T



Transforming Life Ministries

Pastor William Brown
523 Hayden
Saginaw, MI 48601
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True Vine Baptist Church

Pastor Paul E. Broaddus
2930 Janes Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-752-0751

U



United Missionary Baptist Church

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

V



Victorious Belivers Ministries Church

Pastor Chris V. Pryor
624 S. Outer Dr.
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W



World Outreach Campus of Greater Coleman Temple Ministries

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

Z



Zion Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Rodrick Smith
721 Johnson
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989-754-9621

+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

New rules for America's nonprofits

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

We need some new rules for America's nonprofits! There are over 1.8 million nonprofits in the U.S. who contributed \$1.4 trillion to the economy in 2022, according to the Independent Sector. That's a lot of money put to use helping, employing, educating, healing, and advocating. We've learned that both major political parties have agreed to establish a National Secretary of Nonprofits. No matter who wins the 2024 presidential election, there will be a win for all nonprofits. We've received copies of the details associated with this new cabinet office, and in order to help nonprofit leaders prepare for 2025 we have grouped the official recommendations into three categories. As we expected, the majority of recommendations address fundraising and board leadership.

Fundraising.

The "yearend" campaign will be replaced with "new year beginning" campaigns. Related to this, Giving Tuesday campaigns will be replaced with Every

Day but Saturday Giving campaigns. Due to inflation, no gifts under \$10 will be accepted. Silent auctions that don't make money will be eliminated. Golf tournaments will be barred from having a silent auction at the end: Golf only, please. In terms of major donors, none can receive more than one award per month. Keynote speakers at dinner or breakfast events are allocated no more than 10 minutes for their remarks. Planning for special events must begin a year in advance – sign in on the National Secretary of Nonprofits website. This site can calculate costs and revenue: no event can proceed if associated costs are more than 70% of anticipated revenue. Chicken will be barred from gala dinner menus for a minimum of three years, with a possible renewal of the ban. Finally, organizations using the same marketing materials two years in a row will be fined.

Board Members.

Those who sleep during board meetings will be fined \$1,000 per sleeping incident. Multiple sleeping incidents during the same meeting will be fined another

\$1,000 up to \$3,000 per meeting. Board members who participate via Zoom and do not show their face will be asked to create the agenda for and run the next board meeting. Staff participating in Zoom board meetings will receive hazardous pay. In accordance with the new Healthy Food Only campaign, board members will no longer be reimbursed for fast-food as part of travel expenses. Those who do not make an annual gift can no longer receive free lunches, dinners or event tickets. Signed board commitment forms will have to be notarized, and there will be term limits for all board members, except those who give \$25,000 or more annually.

Staff leadership and Operations.

No meetings of any kind can begin with excuses and apologies. Any remaining voicemail systems must be disabled and phones need to be answered by humans. All CEOs will remain on probation until they present a fundraising plan for board approval. The fine print notes that "CEO" includes executive directors, college presidents, and university chancellors.



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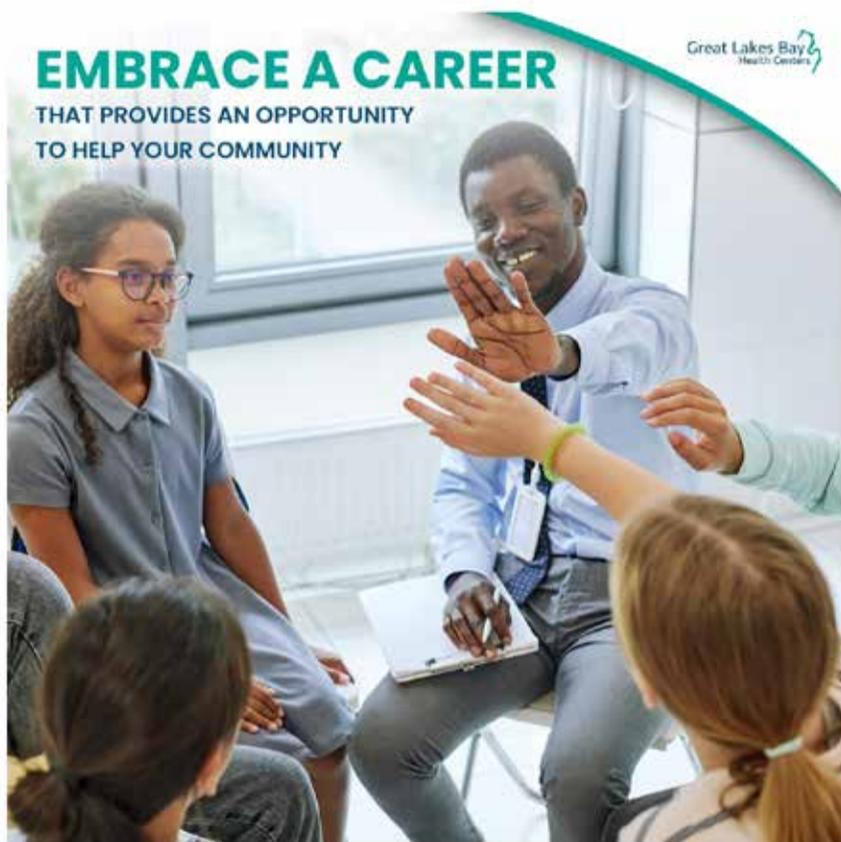
Mel and Pearl Shaw are authors of four books on fundraising available on Amazon.com. For help growing your fundraising visit www.saadandshaw.com or call (901) 522-8727.




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Would you like to help make your community a better place? Make a difference in hundreds of lives? If so, Great Lakes Bay Health Centers is looking for you! We are looking for passionate people dedicated to practicing thoughtful and thorough medical care in the Great Lakes Bay region.
Apply @ <https://greatlakesbayhealthcenters.org/careers>



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Regina Chenevert
Respiratory Therapist

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When talking with Covenant HealthCare employees, one word always comes up: family. The close teamwork and respect among our people are what keep Covenant employees here, year after year. They love working for the region's leading hospital, providing extraordinary care and working with the area's finest healthcare providers. Join us and become a part of our family.

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+ EDUCATION



KEN FETTIG (SVSU)

Ken Fettig joins SVSU as new vice president of enrollment management

Saginaw Valley State University has concluded a national search for vice president of enrollment management by selecting Ken Fettig to serve in the role.

Fettig comes to SVSU from Fairmont State University in West Virginia, where he served as vice president for enrollment management, student success, institutional effectiveness and strategic operations. Following several years of declines, Fairmont State increased first year enrollment by 7.5% and first-year student occupancy in on-campus housing by 15% in 2022.

“Ken has shown the ability to lead an enrollment team and achieve enrollment growth,” said George Grant Jr, SVSU president. “These are challenging times for regional public universities; however, I have been impressed by the dedication of our faculty and staff and the strength of our programs, since becoming president in January.

“Ken had a broad scope of responsibility at Fairmont State and worked effectively

with the community there. I am confident that he will work collaboratively on and off campus to deliver results for SVSU.”

At SVSU, Fettig will oversee undergraduate, graduate and international admissions, as well as the offices of financial aid, institutional research and the registrar.

“I am thrilled to be joining the Cardinal family and look forward to advancing and amplifying the incredible work that is happening at Saginaw Valley State University,” Fettig said. “SVSU degrees and credentials have the power to transform lives. My passion for higher education is fueled by a desire to ensure that this transformational opportunity is accessible to prospective students and remains attainable for our current students. I know I am joining a community at SVSU that shares that same passion and drive.”

While at Fairmont State, Fettig implemented a new high school counselor and administrator training

conference, establishing relationships with K-12 educators by connecting them with university faculty and leaders, superintendents and state higher education leaders.

“I look forward to partnering with the SVSU community and the Great Lakes Bay Region in work that is inspiring and innovative – work that will be anchored in our local communities while expanding our footprint across the state and abroad.”

Prior to Fairmont State, Fettig worked for the University of Arizona Global Campus for 13 years, departing as a senior director where he led more than 90 professional staff across three states. He also served three years as an assistant coordinator of international programs at Michigan State University.

Fettig completed a bachelor’s degree at Michigan State and an M.B.A. at the University of Arizona Global Campus. He will begin his duties at SVSU on Monday, Oct. 16.

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. Brittany 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.

Congratulations!



CONGRATS!
ARSHEN BALDWIN
ARTHUR HILL HIGH SCHOOL
MTSS SPECIALIST



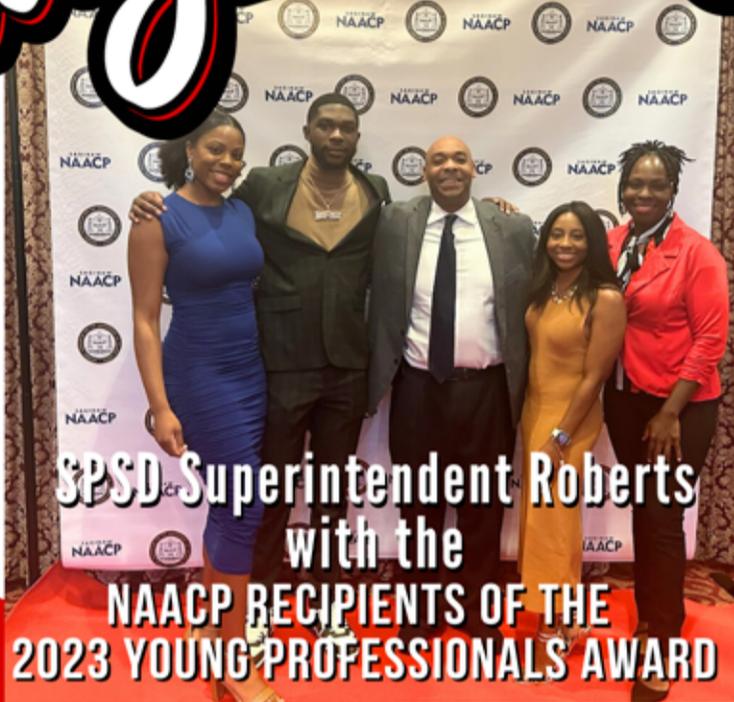
Congratulations
JENNIFER L. SMITH
ARTHUR HILL HIGH SCHOOL
ELA TEACHER



Congrats!
NICHOLAS HERD
ARTHUR HILL HIGH SCHOOL
LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE



CONGRATS
EDDIE THIGPEN III
JESSIE HOUSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
4TH GRADE TEACHER



SPSD Superintendent Roberts with the NAACP RECIPIENTS OF THE 2023 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS AWARD

Pictured: Indigo Dudley (Saginaw United Volley Ball & Track Coach), Eddie Thigpen III (Rouse Teacher), Supt. Roberts, Jennifer Smith (AHHS Teacher) & Arshen Baldwin (AHHS MTSS Specialist)

Congratulations!



to the
Saginaw Public Schools' Staff Selected for the 2023 Michigan Teach for America Fellowships

Early Career Educator Fellowship

- Abigail Massung
- Kennedy Danforth
- Kimberly Newman
- Jennifer Smith
- Katelynn Jacob

Aspiring Leaders

- Trisha Baker
- Julie Kolobaric
- Debra Wyatt-McCain
- Dana Heyl
- Crystal Luckyado
- Arshen Baldwin
- Peggy Connors
- Veta Taylor
- Leticia Whitehead

Systems Leader

- Rachel Reid

National Board Certification

- Rebecca (Becky) Wilkins
- Jared Morningstar
- Jan M. Jeske
- Lori Hall
- Sarah Walsh
- Lisa Ewald
- Christine Dine
- James V. Rhoden



Teach For America

Michigan expands free tuition program to ages 21-24 to attend Delta College

For a limited time, the Michigan Reconnect program, a tuition-free community college scholarship program, is expanding the qualifying age limit from 25 and older to include those 21 to 24. This opens the opportunity for up to 350,000 Michiganders without a college degree to earn an associate's degree or skills certificate at Delta College through one-time funding.

To be eligible, Michigan residents, including already enrolled community college students or potential students, must be at least 21 and not older than 24 between October 1, 2023, and December 31, 2024, and have not already completed a college degree.

Delta College is one of the 31 Michigan community colleges in partnership with the State of Michigan to offer free in-district tuition to residents with a high

school diploma who are eligible to pursue a postsecondary education.

"The expansion of the Michigan Reconnect program to this age bracket helps fill a significant need in the funding gap many Delta College students face. This is an amazing opportunity for students to get started or get back on track with completing a degree to help fill the local talent pipeline," said Jason Premo, Delta's associate dean of enrollment management. "Because this expansion is only available for a limited time, we stress that students take advantage of this opportunity and apply before the application process closes."

Apply for Reconnect

Visit michigan.gov/reconnect to apply by November 15, 2024. Apply and enroll at

Delta College by the 2024 fall semester.

If you'd like to learn more about the scholarship, Delta College is offering virtual Michigan Reconnect information sessions. To register, visit delta.edu/enrollmentevents.

Reconnect Info Sessions:

- Monday, October 16, 5pm
- Friday, October 27, 12pm
- Monday, November 13, 5pm
- Wednesday, November 29, 12pm

For more information on Michigan Reconnect, visit delta.edu/reconnect.



Saginaw Township Community Schools names new superintendent

At the Thursday, October 5th, 2023 board meeting, the Saginaw Township Community Schools Board of Education chose internal candidate Jamie Kraatz for the position of Superintendent.

Jamie Kraatz has been the Director of Learning, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment at Saginaw Township Community Schools since 2019. She was selected from a pool of three finalists who participated in two Board of Education interviews, staff and community meet and greets, and an all-day district tour.

"Her excellent performance in her current role, her demonstration of excellence to the district and her proven ability to take the district to the next level is why we chose Mrs. Kraatz," said Board of Education President Arik Smith.

Mrs. Kraatz resides in Saginaw Township with her husband and three sons, one who graduated from the township's Heritage High School and one who will in 2025.

Mrs. Kraatz is slated to take over as Superintendent on January 1st, 2024, provided successful negotiation of a contract and a satisfactory background check. Current Superintendent Bruce Martin announced his retirement in June.

The Saginaw Township Community Schools (STCS) is comprised of eight elementary, middle and high schools within Saginaw Township, Michigan, and serves nearly 4,600 students. The mission of the district is to educate, guide and challenge all students to develop lifelong learning skills necessary to successfully contribute and compete in a rapidly changing global society.



JAMIE KRAATZ

+ 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 41,
SISD**

Continued from pg 40, 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

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|---|-------|
| 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 | MONTROSE | 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 | MONTROSE | 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 VOLLEYBALL

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------|---|----------|
| 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 | MONTROSE | A | 5:00 |
| Sept 25 | CARROLLTON | A | 5:30 |
| Sept 28 | CASEVILLE | A | 5:30 |
| Oct 3 | SAGINAW UNITED | A | 5:00 |
| Oct 5 | MONTROSE | 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 | MICH 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



Student: Koda Lamont Jones (7th Gr)
ZILWAUKEE SCHOOL

Nominated By: Mrs. Stacy Metiva, Administrative Assistant

Koda is a very pleasant young man. He always greets me by my name when he comes in to school. He puts his backpack behind the counter and always asks each time if he can pick it up. He addresses me everyday before he leaves. Telling me to have a good night or a good weekend. I have spoken to a few of his teachers and they too say what a great student he is.

KODA IS JUST A JOY TO HAVE HERE AT ZILWAUKEE SCHOOL!!



Difference Maker: Ms. Ashley Bangert
Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy

Nominated by: Mrs. Cindy Tennant, S.A.S.A. Athletic Director

Ashley is the SASA Varsity Volleyball Coach and is doing an Awesome Job. She goes above and beyond in her coaching responsibilities. She develops and fosters relationships with her team and holds them to a higher standard.

THANK YOU, COACH BANGERT FOR BEING AN AMAZING DIFFERENCE MAKER!

CELEBRATES STUDENTS & STUDENTS

Student & Staff Recognition for Making SPSP an Exceptional Place!

SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

OUTSTANDING PRINCIPALS LEAD 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

HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START

FREE PRE-SCHOOL
Enrollments for 0 to 5 year olds
Call: **752-2193** or
Visit the Claytor Head Start Building at:
3200 Perkins
Saginaw, MI 48601
REGISTER NOW!
Saginaw County Free Pre-School Partnership

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

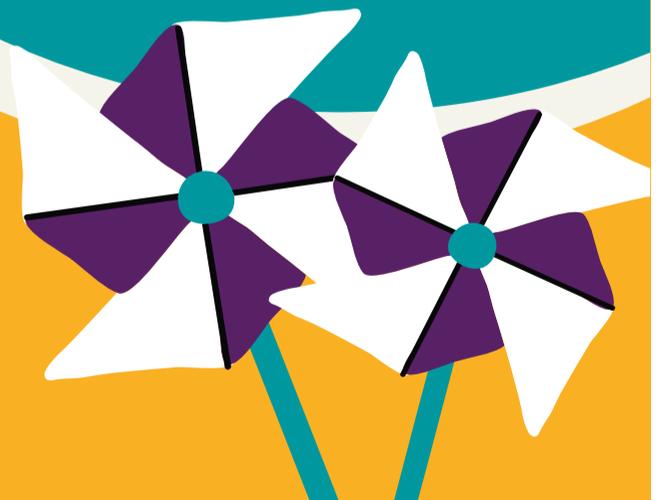
- Au Gres-Sims Schools
- Bay Arenac ISD
- Children's Discovery Academy
- Gratiot Isabella RESD
- Hemlock SemiConductor
- Ready, Set, Grow
- Saginaw ISD Head Start
- Vantage Plastics

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

Simms back in action against Moore Nov. 4

By HASANI ALI

It's been almost a year since Robert Simms captured the WBC US heavyweight championship against McKenzie Morrison, son of the late legend Tommy Morrison.

Simms was supposed to return back into the ring in February, but was out due to an ankle injury.

Ironically for him, his suggested opponent, Oscar Rivas, was also injured around the same time. The fight was supposed to be for the bridgerweight title.

"I really wanted that fight to happen," Simms said. "It would have been the fight to really put me on the map and would have become a world champion (for the second time) on the national stage."

Simms had issues staying healthy two years ago prior to fighting Morrison. He broke his leg after falling off an elevated porch at an apartment complex where the cement structure suddenly collapsed.

A title is involved in his next fight on the national stage, but he will be defending his title rather than obtaining a second one.

"Sizzle" Simms will be heading out to Tahoe Blue Event Center in Nevada on Nov. 4 to take on upcoming heavyweight Brandon Moore on the Efe Ajagba vs. Joe Goodall undercard.

Moore (13-0) has a seven-inch height difference against Simms (12-3-1) and the giant is already the resounding favorite to win the eight-round bout.

Not surprised, Simms is preparing for Moore just like any other fighter.

"Of course he's the favorite," Simms said jokingly. "He's much bigger than me and he has the undefeated record. To a regular boxing fan, he would be the obvious choice. But remember, (McKenzie) Morrison was the favorite against me too."

Being a smaller heavyweight, Simms knows that the opponent's coaches assume that he can't take a hit since he's a smaller fighter.

Yet, the part that they forget to mention is they have to catch Simms before they can land a punch.

"I can't take a punishment if I'm not getting hit," Simms said with a smile. "Being shifty defensively is what I use to my advantage when I'm fighting a bigger opponent. I get them frustrated late into the fight and they begin to swing out of desperation. By then, they are tired and I proceed to just pick them apart from top to bottom."

Head trainer Jessie Addison has trained Simms for similar fights so the preparation hasn't changed, but the intensity has increased.

"Most of his sparring partners that are heavyweights are bigger than him," he said.

"So it's just another day in the office for us. We take every fight very seriously and we want to put this guy down as quickly as we can. He's a newer heavyweight and undefeated so it's time to knock him off of his horse while we continue to climb the boxing ranks."

Simms is currently ranked no. 12 in the heavyweight division in the country, no. 54 worldwide. He has won six of the last eight bouts, with one loss and one no contest.

"It's time to make a splash in boxing," Simms said. "I know that I have a few good years left in the tank, but I need to make a name for myself now."



ROBERT SIMMS (LEFT) RECEIVES 2023 SAGINAW NAACP YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD

+ SPORTS



GREG LAWSON III (LEFT)

Lawson III receives visits from Michigan

By HASANI ALI

One of Saginaw's top basketball players has received visits from assistant coaches from the University of Michigan and Michigan State University.

Greg "G3" Lawson III took to Twitter recently with pictures from Jay Thompson from U of M and Thomas Kelley from MSU.

"Thank you for taking the time to visit me today," both tweets read.

His father, Greg Lawson II took to Facebook after he had spoken to Michi-

gan's head coach Juwan Howard.

"Coach Howard said that once he gets back healthy, he will be out to watch G3 personally," he posted online.

Both programs are looking to find solid guards from the 2025 class. Lawson III has been a promising showcase on the court and would make a solid piece to either program.

A shifty, agile guard that can navigate through the defense with precise shooting has many colleges working on getting Lawson III to sign with their school.

Michigan State, who finished 23-13 last

season, will be losing two senior guards and a graduate student after this season – A.J. Hoggard, Davis Smith and Steven Izzo.

Michigan, who finished 19-15 last season, will lose three graduate students after the season—Tray Jackson, Jaelin Llewellyn, Nimari Burnett.

Both teams finished in the middle of the pack in Big Ten play. Wisconsin and Illinois both finished as 15-5 to be co-champions of the season.

According to 24/7 Sports, he also has offers from DePaul, Louisville, Florida State Arkansas and Arizona State.

The 6-foot-2, 180-pound junior guard is a standout at Davison High School. Until basketball season starts, Lawson III is busy manning the gridiron as a defensive back for the Cardinals.

Davison is currently ranked 8-0, first in Div. I. Rockford, Lake Orion and Belleville are trailing, but still in the hunt.

According to ABC 12, Lawson III is the grandson of former Saginaw Arthur Hill coach Greg McMath, who won 282 games with the Lumberjacks and a state title back in 2006. His father, Greg Lawson played at Arthur Hill.

"I feel like I had a passion growing up because I watched my granddad coach at Arthur Hill," Lawson III said. "He had a lot of great players like Maurice Jones, Eric Davis, Brian Bowen."

When his father and grandfather joined Davison head coach Mike Williams' coaching staff, G3's high school decision was made: He would be a Cardinal.

"He was special in the fourth grade," Williams said. "I've been fortunate. I've been around a lot of kids that have played at the next level and the first time I saw him play, you kind of know it right away."

Last season, Lawson III was awarded Michigan's athlete of the week during the first week of December. He led the Cardinals with 28 points in a win over River Rouge.

"His poise, his feel for the game, his strength," Grand Blanc head coach and Saginaw native Tory Jackson said. "A lot of that stands out for his age and for his size. The kid's growing. He's starting to knock down the perimeter shot a lot more and that's going to help set him apart."

+ SPORTS



MUSKEGON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

Muskegon high school is Michigan's most winningest program

By HASANI ALI

The Big Reds are big time when it comes to Michigan high school football.

With an impressive all-time record of 897-288-43, Muskegon High School is the winningest football program in the state.

Last season, their Div. III state title dreams were stopped short with a devastating 56-27 loss to Detroit Martin Luther King at Ford Field.

King's head coach Tyrone Spencer knew what he was up against last season, knowing that the victory was a huge mark for the program.

"Maybe it's the ride, I don't know, but at the end of the day I'm just glad that we're able to get it done," Spencer told the Detroit Free Press in the post conference after the game. "That's the winningest program in the state, so if you can beat them, it's great for our program."

Muskegon has King's number when it comes to the rivalry, having the 6-2 edge overall. Yet, King's two big wins over the Big Reds came with state titles at Ford Field.

The Big Reds have six state titles, the

last one coming from the 2017 season.

Under head coach Dave Taylor, the Big Reds are currently sitting at 6-2 during their 2023 campaign.

With two back-to-back losses to Rockford and De La Salle at the beginning of the season, Muskegon is now on a six-game winning streak.

Ranked seventh in the nation with all-time wins, the Big Reds are just two games behind Mt. Carmel High School (PA) who are also 6-2 for the season.

Valdosta High School (GA) has the most wins across the country—sitting with a record of 948-264-34 all-time. The Wildcats are currently 6-2 for the 2023 season.

The remaining schools on the list comprises of high schools from the south and midwest—hence the argument that why it translates to the Big Ten and the SEC (Southeastern Conference) are the most dominant college football conferences of all time.

Michigan is the most winningest football program in college history.

Muskegon not only has the hardware as proof of their elite program, but also the players that have made it to the high lev-

el of competition— three notable players have come out of the program that made it to the NFL.

Wide receiver Ronald Johnson ('07) played at the University of Southern California and was drafted in the sixth round by the San Francisco 49ers in the 2011 draft.

Defensive tackle Terrance Taylor was a standout at Michigan. He was drafted in the fourth round by the Indianapolis Colts in the 2009 draft.

Quarterback Earl Morrall was a star athlete in football and baseball at Michigan State University. He was drafted in the first round by the 49ers in the 1956 draft.

Muskegon has three players on 24/7 Sports top 100 recruiting list from the 2024 class in Michigan. Miguel Botello is a 6-foot-4, 300-pound lineman, ranked in the top 50, has received an offer from Eastern Michigan University.

Destin Piggee is a 5-foot-6, 150 pound athlete that has two offers from Alabama State University and Ferris State University. M'Khi Guy is 5-foot-6, 140 quarterback that has an offer from Wayne State University.



PIC OF THE WEEK

Happy 19th Pastor & Wife Anniversary Celebration to Dr. Reverend Eugene O. Seals & Co-Pastor/First Lady Joyce J. Seals! Not only is she my childhood friend, Joyce, Eugene and I are the Class of "67" at The High! Congratulations you two!





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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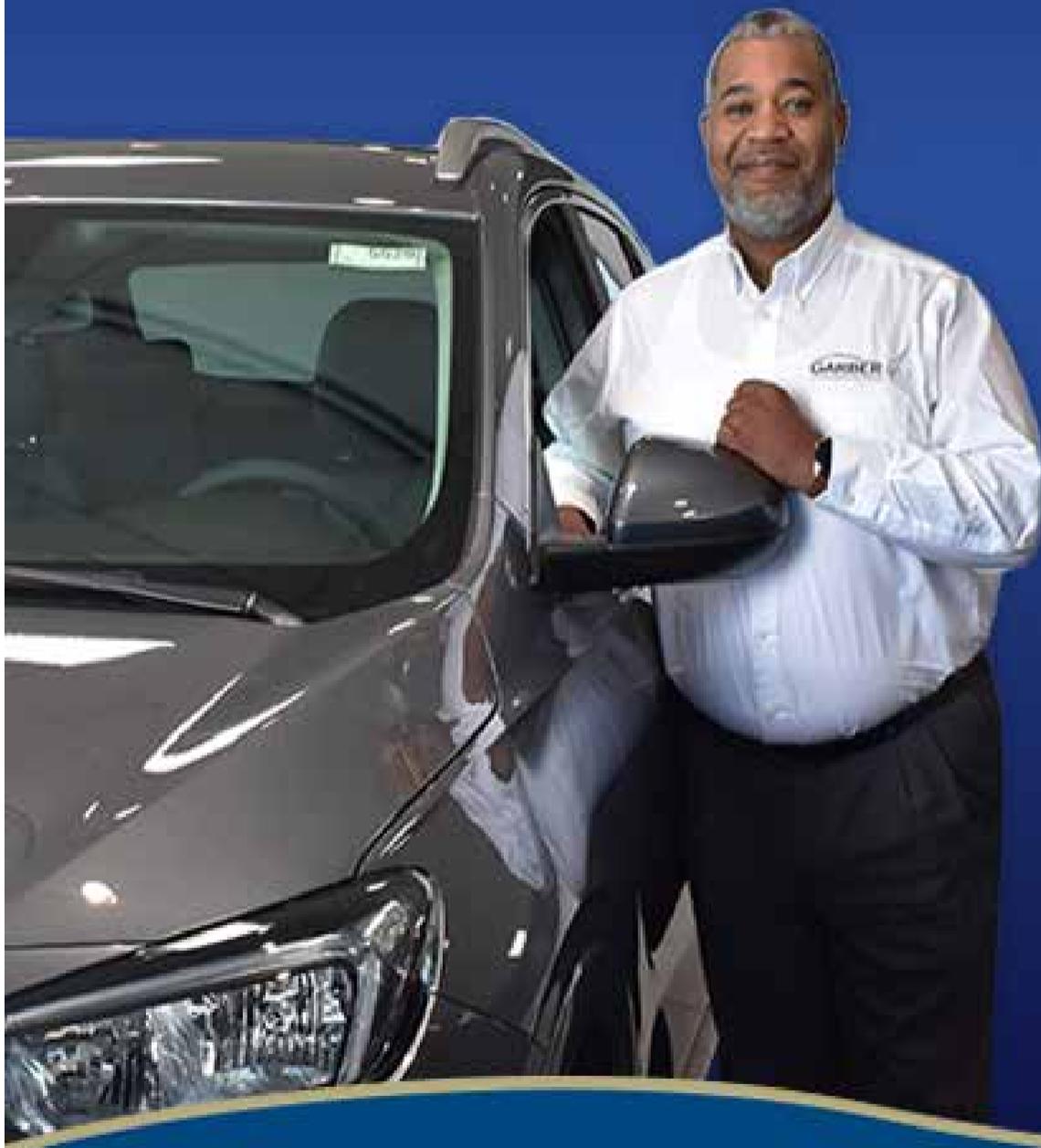


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