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**SPORTS**



**SAGINAW HOSTS  
THIRD ANNUAL  
ROUNDBALL  
CLASSIC**

SPORTS, PG 45

## Saginaw duo brings mentorship, athletic training to elite athletes



KEYON REED AND WENDELL JOHNSON

By HASANI ALI

Saginaw High School graduates Keyon Reed ('94) and Wendell Johnson ('95) were both elite basketball players under the guidance of head coach Marshall Thomas in the '90s.

Both reaching the collegiate level in sports, they both wanted to give back to the city of the Saginaw to give the keys needed in order to get their game to the next level.

**CONTINUES ON PG 2,  
ATHLETIC TRAINING**



**Covenant HealthCare announces Covenant Children's Hospital; honoring the past, present and future of medical care for children**

COMMUNITY, PG 24

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FEATURED STORY

## Hosanna Lifeskills Center mental health awareness event

COMMUNITY, PG 13



## Cover Story, Athletic training

“We wanted to show how these athletes how hard they needed to work in order to become that elite athlete,” Johnson said. “Though our background is in basketball, we’re expanding our company to include other sports, such as football, baseball and volleyball. We’re looking to breed elite athletes in all sports.”

On a national scale, the state of Michigan is a bit behind when it comes to developing athletes, hence Reed and Johnson looking to fill that void to make Michigan a competitive market for collegiate talent.

“For example, Michigan doesn’t have a running shot clock compared to many other states that have one,” Reed said. “It changes the pace of the game drastically. Schools with lesser talent wouldn’t have the advantage to run extended plays and milking the clock before getting a shot off. The shot clock gets the high schoolers prepared for college as they have a shot clock at the collegiate level.”

Reed, a former guard at Cameron University in Lawton, Okla., resigned with the acronym E.A.T. (Equal Access to Training) when Johnson brought it up to him

when they wanted to make a true company out of their services.

“Many of the players around here, like many, are playing with raw talent,” Reed said. “Give them a proper footwork and basic fundamentals and they can really become elite ball players.”

They began training youth, teenagers and collegiate students around 2012.

The sessions began at the YMCA, then migrated to Center Courts after a few years of training and the number of athletic clientele increased.

On top of the athletic training, Reed and Johnson provide mentorship to the athletes. Understanding that these adults are going through a trying time as they’re maturing into adulthood, the duo provides an open door to athletes so they can have a space to address any issues at home or at school.

The pandemic in 2020 slowed down operations due to no contact, but the company quickly took off once the restrictions were lifted.

Johnson, a former forward at Delta

College, handles the business side of the operations.

Because of the ability to obtain grants for the business, much of the outreach to the local athletes is free. However, sometimes the lack of participation makes it a challenge for the coaches to help the athletes mold their talents to their full potential.

“Though Saginaw is a basketball city, there’s not a lot of dedication to the craft anymore,” Reed said. “We have AAU teams and we practice twice a week. How can you develop a team strategy if you have some players coming one night and then missing the next night? We’re working on getting full collaboration between the players and parents so we can make sure everybody is getting use of our services.”

Any coach wants the best out of his players. Yet, the coaches job is to bring the potential out of the players, rather than bringing out the desire to get better.

“I can’t want it for you,” Reed said. “Once a player decides that they want to get better, they did their job. Now they come to me and I do my part.”



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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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# NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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# MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 5 • NUMBER 18



## WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

By DONIQUA SOVIA

Leaders are often dismissed by the younger generation for lack of consistency in their actions. One cannot tell a person to do something and solely think that their authority within a leadership position should render one to obey them. Especially if that leader is not leading them by example through following through with the actions themselves.

It all starts with communication. Older leaders must realize that one size does not fit all, and younger people must realize that old information isn't always outdated information, and that advice given by older leaders has passed the "tried and true" threshold many times and should at least be given some thought.

Oftentimes young people are not wanting to go through the process to be able to gain the position, due to society telling us that we don't need to and we can take all these "short cuts." What the older leaders from different generations must do, is first and foremost is; Listen and Learn. Young people have many ideas, many dreams, and the use of technology to help create those into reality.

But, us young people also need an example, and someone who is consistent in what they say, is open minded about what's new, and whose actions are what render authority, respect, and obedience and not just the title of the position of a leader, because at the end of the day just because someone is leading doesn't mean you should follow them. Give us young people someone worth following.





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# Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA  
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

## Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce hires Erandi Yunuhen Arredondo as Bilingual Program Manager for the Adelante Michigan program

### Erandi Yunuhen Arredondo

Bilingual  
Program Manager  
for the Adelante  
Michigan program



The Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce recently announced Erandi Yunuhen Arredondo as Bilingual Program Manager.

Erandi Yunuhen Arredondo, originally from Mexico City, has 12 years of sales and business development experience, opening new markets, building strong customer relationships, and driving solutions through business pro-

cesses to meet customer needs.

She has worked for several international telecommunications companies and businesses in the broadcasting industry, including TV AZTECA and TELEVISA.

Arredondo holds a BS in Electronics Engineering and Communications and an MBA from Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), with an emphasis in Marketing.

She is part of a non-profit program called DHL GoTrade GBSN Fellowship Program paired with SMEs in LATAM to foster cross-border trade and access to the global market where she provides mentoring and coaching business activities.

MHCC is confident her experience and dedication will positively impact the Michigan based Hispanic/Latino community!

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# Delta College celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



COURTESY PHOTO

Delta College is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 - October 15 with special themed events to recognize the incredible contributions, influence and history of the Hispanic and Latino community.

On Monday, September 18 at 11am, the Hispanic Heritage Month Kick-Off event will occur in the lower west student lounge on the main campus and the student commons at the Downtown Saginaw and Midland Centers. Enjoy delicious food and receive information on upcoming events, including a trivia night, Tejano music celebration, discussion panel and more.

Additional events planned for the month include:

## Virtual Hispanic Heritage Trivia

**Tuesday, September 19 at 12pm, Zoom** [www.delta.edu/HHMtrivia](http://www.delta.edu/HHMtrivia): Please join the student and civic engagement department for Hispanic Heritage Month Trivia. We will be awarding various prizes.

## Celebrating Historical Hispanic and Latino Figures

Every day, Friday, September 15 –

## Sunday, October 15

Main Campus, Downtown Saginaw and Downtown Midland Centers: Come view famous Hispanic and Latino figures who have changed the course of history. We will have information on the main campus in the lower west student lounge and at the Downtown Saginaw and Midland Centers in the student commons.

## High School Visit Workshop at the Downtown Saginaw Center

**Thursday, September 28 at 8:30am**

Downtown Saginaw Center: High school students will have the opportunity to visit the Downtown Saginaw Center to view the courses offered, such as skilled trades, nursing, dental assistants, and more. Students will be able to engage with current college students and faculty.

## Celebrating the Meaning Behind Hispanic Heritage Month

**Tuesday, October 3 at 11am**

Main Campus, Downtown Saginaw and Downtown Midland Centers: A presentation of historical information will be displayed to create awareness around the meaning behind the celebration

of Hispanic Heritage Month. We will have information on the main campus in the lower west student lounge and at the Downtown Saginaw and Midland locations in the student commons.

## Brown Bag Celebrating Historical Hispanic and Latino Figures

**Wednesday, October 4 at 12pm**

Main Campus and Downtown Saginaw Center: In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, Delta will show a movie about Dolores Huerta viewers call "energetic" and "exuberantly inspiring." Rebel, activist, feminist and mother, Dolores is an amazing force for social justice, and a hero to agricultural workers and many others. This documentary screening is in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, which will be followed with a question-and-answer period by Delta history professor Dr. Amy French.

## Celebrating "Tejano Music" Delta College Broadcasting

**Saturday, October 28 at 1:00pm – 3:30pm**

Main Campus – Broadcasting (A Wing): A presentation of historical will be displayed to create awareness around the genre of "Tejano Music." Come and meet Miguel Mendoza a.k.a. "Gueroman" who will broadcast live from Studio B in Delta College Public Media at main campus. Light snacks will be provided.

## Circle of Wisdom: Intergeneration Dialogue

**Tuesday, October 26 at 11am**

Downtown Saginaw Center: A discussion panelist of multi-generational community members explores the importance of Hispanic Heritage Month, by sharing their insights and experiences relating to the past, present and future. Our youth will share their perspectives on current issues occurring around them in our community and world.

For more information, please contact Monica Hernandez at [monicahernandez@delta.edu](mailto:monicahernandez@delta.edu) or Alison Ginter at [alisonginter@delta.edu](mailto:alisonginter@delta.edu).

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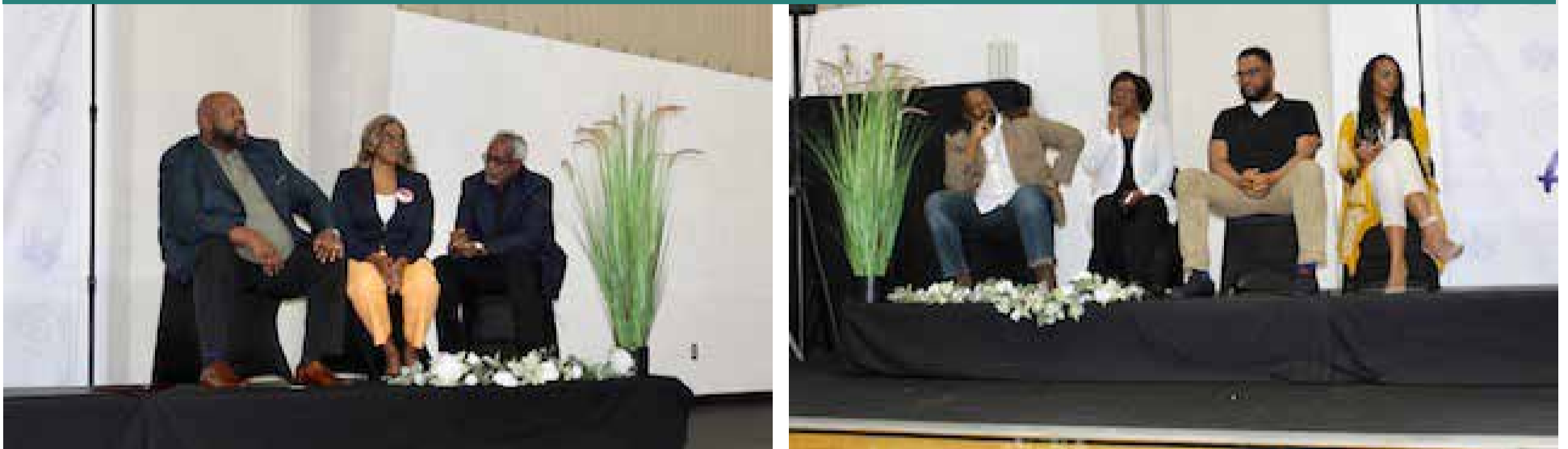
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## + COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTOS

# Hosanna Lifeskills Center mental health awareness event

By **ADRIAN GREEN,**  
**LMSW, CTRP, CAADC-DP**  
HOSANNA LIFESKILLS CENTER  
OWNER

Mental health has become an increasingly important topic in our community, as more people recognize the importance of taking care of their emotional well-being. To contribute to the ongoing conversation and promote awareness, Hosanna Lifeskills Center recently hosted a successful mental health awareness event. The 'Mental Health Awareness for the Black Community Symposium,' held on September 9th, 2023, at the Buena Vista Community Center in Saginaw MI achieved its goal of educating hundreds of people to the very critical need to seek professional help for themselves and the people they care about as early and as often as needed.

Keynote Speaker and renowned author, Pastor Marvin T. Smith delivered an inspiring message on "Mental Health Unawareness in an Age of Artificial Intelligence." He spoke about the importance of normalizing conversations around mental health. He shared his journey and provided valuable insights to emphasize the need for 'de' stigmatization and increased support for those struggling with mental health challenges in the Black community.

The panelists kicked off what is to become a series of discussions featuring mental health professionals, educators, activists, and individuals with lived expe-

riences. The topics covered a wide range of issues related to mental health, including stigma, coping strategies, access to treatment, inequality of care, socioeconomic and health disparities, and fostering a supportive community. The discussion also provided attendees with practical tools and techniques to support mental wellness.

To further educate and inform participants, various organizations and support groups set up vendor tables. Attendees had the opportunity to learn more about local mental health services, support groups, and educational resources available within their communities. The event created a platform for participants to connect and build relationships with likeminded individuals passionate about mental health and other related business ventures.

This mental health awareness event received tremendous support from the community. Local businesses, organizations, and community members participated as sponsors, donors, and volunteers, creating a collective effort to promote mental health awareness and reduce the stigma surrounding it. A special thanks to Joyce Seals, Roberta Jones, Torrie Lee, Tommie Bodiford, Molina Health Care, Rental City, and the Saginaw County Health Department. I'm also grateful to Dr. Marvin Smith, Dr. Desmond Daniels, Dr. Steve Logan, Dr. Pamela Pugh, Ashley Jones, Wardene Talley, Dr. Melvin McDowell, Twannie Gray, and Kareem Bowen for answering tough questions and sharing your

expertise.

While we celebrate the success of our recent event, we understand that mental health awareness is an ongoing effort. We encourage individuals to continue these conversations within their social circles, and promote acceptance and understanding, and support those who may be struggling with mental health challenges. This event provided a platform for open discussions, education, and support for those seeking to enhance their mental well-being. By bringing together experts, advocates, and individuals affected by mental health issues, we aim to reduce stigma, increase awareness, and foster a more compassionate and supportive community. We hope that this event will serve as a catalyst for further action and the conversation surrounding mental health continues with renewed vigor. Let's continue to break the silence and create a more inclusive and understanding approach to addressing mental health treatment in the Black community.

Hosanna Lifeskills Center has scheduled another mental health awareness event, Let's Talk About ACE's, to be held at the center on November 18th. This Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) Training will provide education about the history and lasting negative impact of trauma, abuse, and neglect during childhood. Seating is limited - register today by calling Hosanna Lifeskills Center at 989-401-1503 to reserve your seat.

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# Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority receive \$200,000 to provide crisis care

As part of the state's commitment to ensuring Michigan families have access to behavioral health resources when and where they need them, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is expanding access to mobile response teams to address crisis situations for young people.

Five Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSP) received more than \$900,000 in grants through the mobile response grant program, including Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) who received

\$200,000.

"This grant money will help vulnerable Michiganders across the state get access to the care they need and receive it quickly," said Governor Whitmer. "Mobile response teams are specially trained and provide a comprehensive array of mental health services when and where our young Michiganders need it."

SCCMHA's Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) was created to help youth experiencing a mental health crisis. MRSS provides mobile crisis response to all Saginaw County residents,

and support by phone to callers outside of the county. MRSS is comprised of a team of mental health professionals with experience working with a variety of populations

MDHHS awarded similar grants to 18 CMHSPs which started on Jan. 1, 2023. The five additional CMHSPs will be launched Oct. 1, 2023. In total, the state is providing over \$7.5 million in funding to support mobile crisis response in the 2023 and 2024 fiscal year budgets. CMHSPs can use grant funding to design services that are proactive and address crisis situations prior to further escalation.

# Saginaw's Neighborhood Association Action Group meeting will be held at the Castle Museum

The City of Saginaw will host its next Neighborhood Association Action Group (NAAG) meeting at the Castle Museum, 500 Federal Avenue, at 12:00pm on Tuesday, September 19.

The agenda for Tuesday's NAAG meeting will include a variety of beneficial topics including an update on the Saginaw Public School District from Dr. Mit Foley, SPSD Assistant Superintendent, and an update on Neighborhood Services from Cassi Zimmerman, Director of Planning and Economic Development. Another highlight of the September NAAG meeting will be the announcement of the grand prize winner for the 2023 "Best Kept Yard" Program. The grand prize winner has been chosen from the monthly neighborhood quadrant winners from June, July, and August. The grand prize winner will win a recognition certificate and a grand prize gift basket with prizes donated from local sponsors.

Cassi Zimmerman, Director of Planning and Economic Development, commented on the significance of the September NAAG meeting, "As we highlight this year's quadrant winners and select a grand prize winner for our Best Kept Yard program, we want to say 'thank

you' to all those residents that have gone above and beyond to take care of



CASTLE MUSEUM

their yard. Some of our nominees this year have truly transformed the look of their neighborhoods, and it means a lot when one neighbor recognizes another for their hard work and efforts. This recognition program has not only helped to build pride in our neighborhoods but also unity between neighbors."

The September NAAG meeting will also allow residents from area neighborhood groups to ask questions of many of our department heads, as we will have rep-

resentatives from several departments in attendance.

To learn more about your area Neighborhood Association Meeting, visit [https://www.saginaw-mi.com/residents/neighborhood\\_associations/index.php](https://www.saginaw-mi.com/residents/neighborhood_associations/index.php) For more information on the September 19, 2023 Neighborhood Association Action Group Meeting at the Castle Museum, please contact the City Manager's Office, (989) 759-1401.

## + COMMUNITY



CHIPPEWA NATURE CENTER

## Chippewa Nature Center to build nature education center

Since it was first established in 1966, Chippewa Nature Center (CNC) has seen tremendous growth. Nature Day Camp (NDC), Nature Preschool and school programs are among its most impactful programs on youth and their families throughout the region. To meet existing and growing demand for these programs, CNC plans to build the Nature Education Center (NEC). The NEC will primarily serve as the home for these youth-based programs. Groundbreaking for the Nature Education Center will take place in 2024, with completion in 2025.

Located near the Visitor Center and existing Nature Preschool building, the Nature Education Center will consist of multi-purpose indoor program space, two Nature Preschool classrooms, office space, a meeting room, accessible restrooms and food prep areas, an outdoor covered area for school and camp programs and lunches for up to 150 people, nature play areas and access to nearby trails and ponds.

Nature Day Camp, Nature Preschool and school programs have outgrown their current space, and a new program building

will play a critical role in growing CNC's service to the community. This building will grow the capacity to serve youth in each of these programs, while maintaining the high quality programming. The new facility will enhance opportunities for positive nature connections for youth throughout the region for years to come.

Nature Day Camp is CNC's longest running program. Through this program, CNC inspires children to build lifelong, meaningful relationships with the natural world. Since 1966, thousands of children have experienced the magic of catching frogs at the pond, creating a miniature homestead village in the woods or learning how to paddle on a river. Annually, more than 1200 campers ages 3-17 make new friends, gain confidence in outdoor skills and get dirty as they explore Chippewa Nature Center and beyond.

CNC's Nature Preschool was established in 2007. The program currently offers 140 3- and 4-year old children a high quality learning environment that meets their developmental needs while initiating them into a life-long, meaningful relation-

ship with the natural world. It provides discovery-based learning through play, sensory, gross and fine motor activities and creative expression, using the natural world as a catalyst for children's growth and development. The NEC will feature two preschool classrooms with direct access to outdoor play areas. Upon completion of the NEC, preschool classes will also continue to run in the two classrooms in the LEED Gold Certified Margaret Ann (Ranny) Riecker Nature Preschool Center.

CNC offers more than 30 authentic, place-based and curriculum-connected school programs, including half and full-day onsite field trips. For the 2022-23 school year, CNC hosted nearly 18,000 students from 43 school districts. School programs cover topics such as STEM and social studies, can provide a launching off-point for a unit or provide an immersive experience.

To date, CNC has raised \$4.2 million toward the \$5.2 million project, with support from The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, The Charles J. Strosacker Foundation and individual donors, as well as funding provided by CNC. "The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation has been a partner and supporter of CNC and its programs since its inception in 1966," notes Ruth Alden Doan, president and trustee. "We are proud to support the Nature Education Center project, which will greatly contribute to the quality of life in the Great Lakes Bay Region." Dennis Pilaske, CNC executive director adds, "CNC's first parcels of land were donated by The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation. Dorothy Dow Arbury (daughter of Herbert and Grace) was instrumental in securing that land, and provided incredible leadership as an original board member."

"CNC is committed to meeting the needs of the community while pursuing its mission to connect all people to nature through educational, recreational and cultural experiences, which is critical to the health and wellbeing of our community," Pilaske shares. "We are thrilled to provide this new resource to connect even more people to nature." More information about the Nature Education Center and opportunities to support the project are available at [www.chippewanaturecenter.org](http://www.chippewanaturecenter.org).



## + COMMUNITY



CRTN CANCER CARE CENTER

## CRTN Cancer Care Center hosting public open house 9/20 in Marlette at new Covenant cancer care center in the Thumb

CRTN Health (formerly known as Covenant Regional Thumb Network), is a collaborative of five independent Thumb hospitals and Covenant HealthCare in Saginaw. In February, the group announced the expansion of Covenant Medical Center's Cancer Care services through the opening of a new Covenant HealthCare cancer center on the campus of Marlette Regional Hospital called the CRTN Cancer Care Center.

With Covenant extending cancer care through the opening of the CRTN Cancer Care Center, much needed oncology services will be immediately available to patients living in Michigan's "Thumb."

"Covenant's CRTN Cancer Care Center is another great step toward making sure patients never have to leave the thumb for exceptional care. We are honored to be

working with the five other independent CRTN hospitals to continuously improve the quality of health in the communities we serve," states Angie McConnachie, Chief Executive Officer, United Healthcare Partners. The 16,260 square foot facility provides a full range of cancer care for patients including medical oncology, chemotherapy infusion and radiation oncology.

In February of 2023, the cancer care center started seeing medical oncology patients in the newly renovated center. The center is equipped with a state-of-the-art Elekta Versa HD linear accelerator to provide radiation oncology service for patients from throughout the Thumb.

"We are so honored to be working together to help patients challenged by cancer, and excited to be able to open such a beautiful facility in the Thumb that makes

it so convenient for patients to receive the care they need," stated Sandy Johnson, the director of the Covenant Cancer Care Center.

A team of oncology specialists from the Covenant Cancer Care Center provides care at the new facility.

All six independent hospitals, Deckerville Community Hospital, Harbor Beach Community Hospital, Hills & Dales Healthcare, Marlette Regional Hospital, Scheurer Health, assisted the Covenant HealthCare efforts to bring this extraordinary service to the Thumb.

A community-wide open house is scheduled Wednesday, September 20 from 4pm-7pm at 2780 Main St, Marlette, MI 48453. Public welcome.



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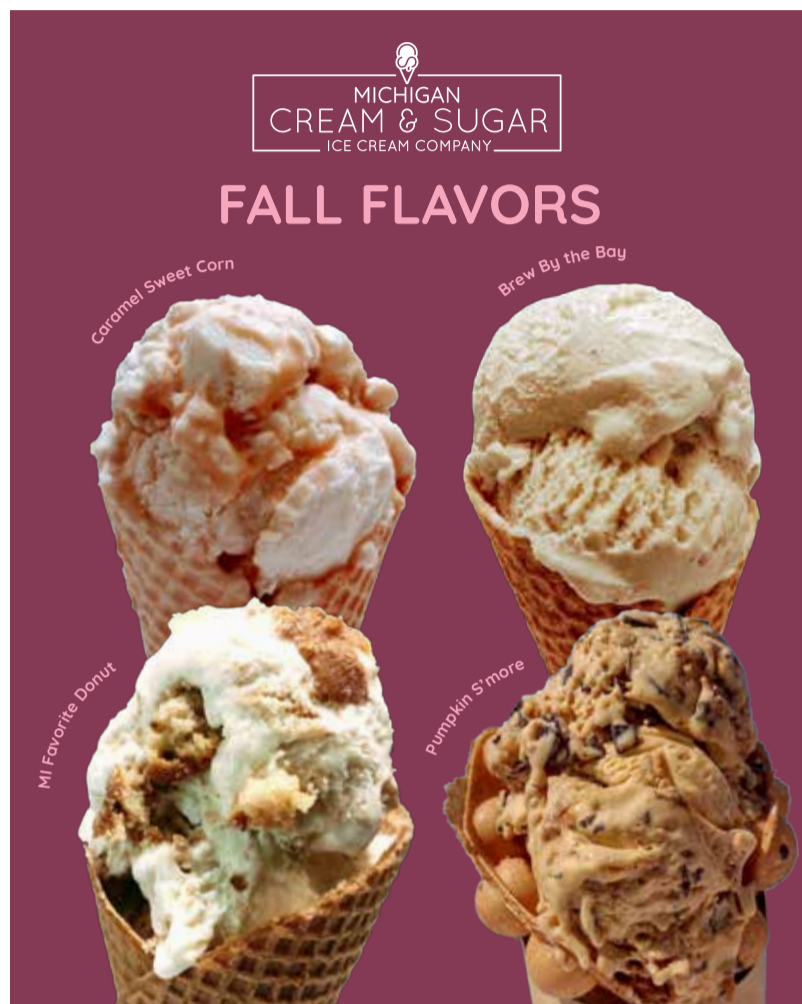
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# Bay City ice cream shop introduces new fall flavors



Ice cream season is still going strong at Michigan Cream & Sugar Ice Cream Company in Uptown Bay City, which has announced the latest flavors to join its fall lineup. Pumpkin S'more, Caramel Sweet Corn, MI Favorite Donut and Brew By the Bay are just a few examples of new flavors and returning fan favorites that highlight local partnerships and Michigan's agricultural diversity.

"It's been a summer to remember and we are not slowing down at all as we head into the fall," said Tim Mangan, Michigan Cream & Sugar's general manager and chief ice cream maker.

Michigan Cream & Sugar has been introducing at least one limited edition flavor a week since early March. Flavors rotate out as supplies last.

"We kicked off the fall season Labor Day weekend with Pumpkin S'more, which has been a tradition the past few years," Mangan said. "As with Campfire S'more, which we always bring back for Memorial Day weekend, we bake our graham cracker

crumble in house and we also oven-toast mini marshmallows to get just the right crispy-chewy-gooey result. The marshmallows actually puff up into tiny orange pumpkins, which is really cool. Then we mix it all into our spiced pumpkin custard-style ice cream along with dark chocolate shavings. This year, we are also offering a Pumpkin Pup Cup – that's just pumpkin, cream, milk and a little sugar."

Three brand-new flavors just released include:

- **MI Favorite Donut.** Cider donuts from Bayne's Apple Valley in Freeland are crumbled into a donut-infused ice cream base for a tasty traditional fall favorite – à la mode.

- **Brew By the Bay.** Locally roasted coffee beans from Live Oak Coffee House in Uptown Bay City are steeped in a creamy vanilla ice cream base for the ultimate cold brew experience marked by a bold espresso flavor.

- **Caramel Sweet Corn.** Decadent house-made caramel, freshly picked local sweet corn from Paul's Produce in Bay City and a sprinkle of sea salt combine to create this sweet, creamy and delicious invention.

Flavors scheduled to make their return this fall include:

- **The Real P. Stachio.** Toasted pistachios from St. Laurent Brothers in Bay City are blended into the ice cream base in this unexpectedly smooth and sophisticated take on pistachio ice cream.
- **Crème Brûlée.** Vanilla custard-

style ice cream with flakes of caramelized sugar add up to an especially sweet and elegant celebration of the Michigan cream and sugar that are part of every Michigan Cream & Sugar creation.

"We're putting the finishing touches on at least one additional new flavor and have plans to bring back a couple more fan favorites," said Mangan. "Michigan is the nation's second most agriculturally diverse state – plus we have so many great options locally for unique partnerships. Possibilities for new, innovative flavors are practically endless. And our scoopers have really embraced the challenge – and fun – of coming up with new flavors and naming them. New flavor combos are always being explored in our test kitchen!"

In addition to its rotating selection of seasonal and specialty flavors, Michigan Cream & Sugar has 12 signature flavors that are always available, such as Legendairy Vanilla, Udderly Buttery Pecan, Michigan Sugar Cookie and Mixed Berry Crisp. View the full current flavor list at [michigancreamsugar.com](http://michigancreamsugar.com).

## Fall Scooping Schedule

Michigan Cream & Sugar is located at 160 Uptown Drive in Bay City. Fall hours of operation are Tuesday-Thursday 2-9 p.m.; Friday 2-10 p.m.; Saturday 12-10 p.m. and Sunday 12-9 p.m.

Michigan Cream & Sugar Ice Cream Company is a collaboration of HORIZONS Conference Center, Michigan Sugar Company and the Michigan Milk Producers Association. Established in 2019, Cream and Sugar's scoop shop in Uptown Bay City serves up hand-crafted ice cream featuring the freshest and highest-quality locally sourced ingredients available – and every scoop of ice cream benefits Michigan farm families. For full menu, online ordering, catering information and more, visit [michigancreamsugar.com](http://michigancreamsugar.com).



“Our Kids’ World - Back To School Edition”  
**Saturday, September 30th**  
**Fashion Square Mall.**

This family-friendly event will have activities for all ages, vendors to check out and bounce houses to enjoy...just to name a few!

Please contact [nathan.yax@alphamediausa.com](mailto:nathan.yax@alphamediausa.com) if you or your organization would like to volunteer.

**Free Kids Event | Saturday September 30th**



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## + COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

## Covenant HealthCare announces Covenant Children's Hospital; honoring the past, present and future of medical care for children

Covenant HealthCare recently announced Covenant Children's Hospital, marking a milestone for the health care system and its commitment to pediatric care.

Dr. Michael Fiore, Pediatric Intensivist and Medical Director of the Covenant Pediatric Intensive Care Unit states, "This marks a significant moment for our region, a moment that underscores our collective commitment to the well-being of the most vital resource for the future of the Great Lakes Bay Region – our children."

Covenant has been providing and growing specialized services to women and children since its founding hospitals began in the late 1800s. Today, the care Covenant provides extends beyond children in Saginaw and the Great Lakes Bay Region, with families traveling from a 20-county region- including northeast Michigan and the Thumb. As a children's hospital, Covenant teams work collaboratively, not competitively, with health care providers locally and throughout the state, with a shared commitment to ensuring healthcare for all children, from prevention to critical care.

"We are proud to announce that Covenant HealthCare has been accepted into, and has joined, the Children's Hospital Association," shares Dr. Fiore. "This decision to align ourselves with the Children's Hospital Association is a testament to our unyielding dedication to the health of our youngest patients. The Association's Mission resonates deeply with our own values, as it centers on the belief that every child deserves access to the highest quality of healthcare."

"We know that when it comes to health care, kids are different," says Dr. Fiore. "Children need health care designed for their needs, acknowledging their physical, developmental, behavioral, and emotional differences. Health care that involves families in all stages of care and delivered by specially trained clinicians in environments designed just for kids."

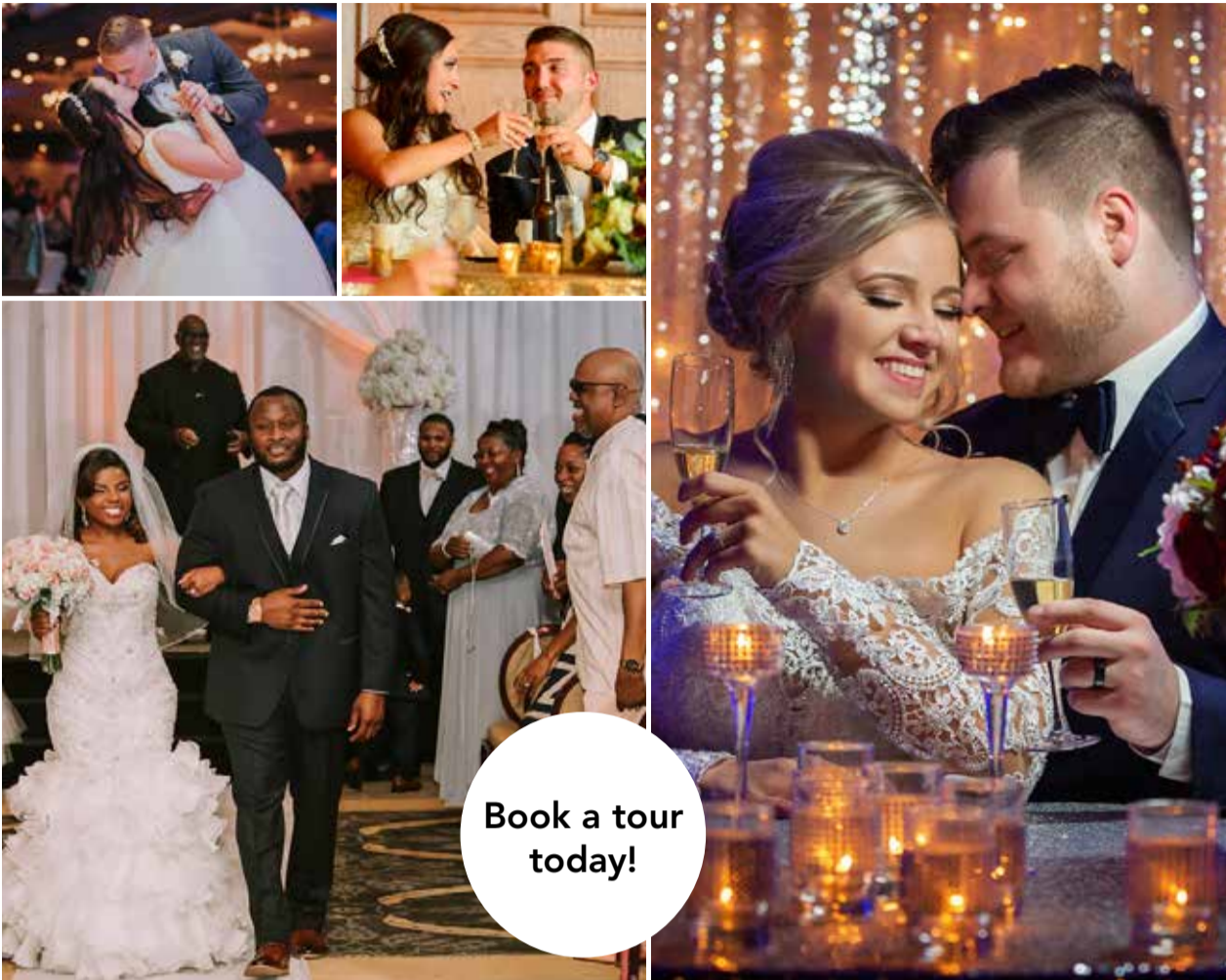
What is a Children's Hospital? Dr. Fiore explains, "A Children's Hospital is more than a building with colorful walls; rather it is an embodiment of the hearts and minds of all of us committed to the well-being of children. It is play therapy

offered by a child life specialist, preparing a toddler for surgery; it is the skill of a pediatric nurse, holding and comforting an infant through a difficult IV start; it is the fierce advocacy of a dedicated pediatric social worker, ensuring a child's best interests are always front and center. It is the skill of a resourceful respiratory therapist, understanding the varying needs of children from neonates to adolescents. It is the voice and ear of a compassionate physician, as they help a family navigate through a difficult medical journey. And it is a leadership team that acknowledges and supports the unique needs of providing healthcare to children. All of this, together, is what makes Covenant Children's Hospital."

Covenant Children's Hospital, now the 7th Michigan Hospital to join the Children's Hospital Association, is the northern most Children's Hospital in the state.

"Together, we are beginning a new era in children's healthcare, where not only will we provide extraordinary care for every generation, but now for future generations as well," states Dr. Fiore.





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## + COMMUNITY

## Mid-Michigan Children's Museum to host water, water everywhere gallery re-opening

Excitement is brewing at the Mid-Michigan Children's Museum in Saginaw as officials prepare to re-open a beloved gallery where kids can play while learning the force and fluidity of water. A ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony for the recently upgraded Water, Water Everywhere gallery takes place from 5-5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 14, at the museum, 315 W. Genesee Ave. The public is invited to attend.

The gallery was established when the museum opened in 2008. In the years since, hundreds of thousands of children have controlled the flow and direction of water by building with pipes, going fishing, and racing boats as fast as they could. Now kids can continue to experience all of those things with some new elements as well. A new fishing hole, a new window graphic, and even a new fish tank and fish



COURTESY PHOTO

are making a big splash in the Water, Water Everywhere Gallery. One of the most notable updates to the gallery is the new floor. The new design has a beautiful blue

color with a gritty texture to help prevent slips. The floor also addressed the ongoing drainage problem, so water can now flow properly to the drain holes.

This update would not have been possible without the generous support of the Saginaw Community Foundation, the Bay Area Community Foundation, The Jury Foundation, The Rehman Foundation, the Alice Turner Trust, Nexteer Automotive, the Yeo & Yeo Foundation, and other private donations.

Mid-Michigan Children's Museum officials worked with Morley Company, Stonhard, and Blue Thumb to complete the upgrades. Mid-Michigan Children's Museum President Ann Doyle said she could not be happier with how the upgraded gallery has come together.

## Saginaw Children's Zoo Needs Zoo Boo Volunteers



COURTESY PHOTO

The Saginaw Children's Zoo is looking for groups and individuals to join us in celebrating our 26th annual Zoo Boo, presented by Jolt Credit Union! We would like to offer you the opportunity to participate in giving back to the community while having a ghoulish time at our Halloween event.

Our 2023 Zoo Boo will be held for three weekends this year from 10AM – 5PM, Oc-

tober 14th and 15th, and 21st and 22nd and 28th and 29th. The volunteer shifts that we have each day are from 9:30AM - 1:30PM and 1:00PM - 5:00PM. You can also volunteer all day if you are interested.

We enjoy having volunteers help us put on this event! We ask that any volunteers ages 13-16 volunteer with an adult. All Zoo Boo volunteers are encouraged to wear merry-not-so-scary costumes. We will

have a variety of refreshments available, and each volunteer will have entrance to the event on the day they volunteer.

We need more than 400 volunteers, like you, to make our 26th annual Zoo Boo to be our best yet! To sign up, contact Madison Westendorf at 989-759-1408 ext 104 or [info@saginawzoo.com](mailto:info@saginawzoo.com) with the following information:

- First and Last Name and, if applicable, Organization Name
- Total number of people volunteering in your group
- Contact email and phone number
- Any dates and shifts you are interested in volunteering
- Are you under 18? Yes/No

We hope you can help us in creating a safe and fun Halloween adventure for the entire family and we look forward to hearing from you!

## Delta College board of trustee member, staff honored by NAACP



2023 YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS (LEFT TO RIGHT): BRANDELL ADAMS AND ARSHEN BALDWIN (DELTA COLLEGE)

The NAACP Saginaw Branch is recognizing two individuals from Delta College for their outstanding achievements and services to others.

Brandell Adams, second chance pell coordinator/student success advisor, and Arshen Baldwin, board of trustee member for Saginaw County and educator for Saginaw Public School District, are recipients of the 2023 Young Professionals Award. They are among a group of 13 successful young people in careers across the job spectrum who are receiving this award.

Adams and Baldwin will be presented the award during the NAACP 52nd Annual Freedom Fund Celebration: Thriving Together, which will be held on Sunday, September 24 at 5pm at the Horizons

Conference Center in Saginaw. Joe Tate, Michigan's Speaker of the House, will be the keynote speaker.

Adams says this award will further amplify Delta College's efforts to strengthen access for incarcerated students at the Saginaw Rehabilitation Facility to excellent education.

"I am elated to learn of my impending recognition. The focus on my work adds even more excitement to the role," Adams said. "Delta College provides access to a world-class education for our incarcerated students at the Saginaw Rehabilitation Facility. I am truly humbled and honored to be a part of this work and even more so to be recognized publicly."

Baldwin, who joined the board in 2021,

says she is "deeply grateful" for the honor and is motivated to impact her community further.

"Through my work as an educator and philanthropist in the Saginaw community, I have strived to make a positive impact," Baldwin said. "It is truly humbling for my efforts to be recognized with this distinguished honor from an organization as iconic as the NAACP. I am thankful for this acknowledgment and will continue promoting equity and opportunity in Saginaw."

To purchase tickets, visit Eventbrite. For more information, contact the NAACP Saginaw Branch office at 989-752-0614 or email [saginawnaacp@gmail.com](mailto:saginawnaacp@gmail.com).

# + FAITH BASED

SPONSORED CONTENT



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

## Join us at Ministry Without Walls

By **PASTOR JOHN DUNN**  
MINISTRY WITHOUT WALLS

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

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

Our vision is for Ministry Without Walls to be:

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

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

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

Our ongoing teaching and seminars will include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## + FAITH BASED

MICHIGAN BANNER  
SERMONETTE SERIES

By MINISTER CAROLYN CARTER  
TOWNSEL

I do not know about you, but there has been various situations where I needed wisdom on how to handle what was trying to handle me, and just did not know what to do. I had mixed feelings and thoughts regarding the problem - one minute I felt that I should do it this way and a few minutes later, I deemed it better to do it another way. Being utterly confused on what to do concerning any issue is no laughing matter. However, if the truth be told most of us have been in situations where we did not know what to do, but knew we had to do something.

In order to overcome and flourish in matters that require us to make wise choices, it is essential for Christians to have and implement God's wisdom. His wisdom is vital to every area of our lives, which includes our marriages, relationships, raising children, managing finances, dealing with conflict, countering difficult situations and people. Please, understand I am not speaking about knowing the Bible in and out. There are those who can quote the Bible beginning with Genesis and ending with Revelation, they can quote books, chapters, and verses, and they know biblical meaning of words in Greek and He-

brew. Yet, in all of their quoting, knowing, and reciting the Bible, they lack the wisdom of God.

As Believers, we must be careful not to confuse wisdom with knowledge. So, exactly what is wisdom? Let God be True ministries defines wisdom as, *"The power of right judgement – the ability to know what action pleases God and men in any situation. It is saying and doing the right thing every time. It is recognizing truth from error, no matter the efforts made to confuse or disguise them."* Knowledge on the other hand described by Oxford Dictionary as *facts, information, and skills acquired by a person through experience or education*. When comparing the two Sandra Carey once expressed, "Never mistake knowledge for wisdom. One helps you make a living; the other helps you make a life."

James 1:5 provides us with the remedy on how to attain wisdom when he states, **"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."** Consequently, not only does God confer wisdom, He grants it generously. He is not tightfisted or stingy in offering insight to those who genuinely ask how to make the best choices. Additionally, He gives wisdom without criticism

or finding fault. Solomon also conveys in Proverbs 8:11, the tremendous value God places on wisdom - **"Wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her."** According to Scripture, wisdom is more valuable than money, diamonds, career success or fame.

However, on the other end of the spectrum is to navigate life the world's way, and the world does not know God, and therefore lacks His wisdom. 1 Corinthians 3:18-19 validates this truth, **"Stop deceiving yourselves. If you think you are wise by this world's standards, you need to become a fool to be truly wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As the Scriptures say, 'He traps the wise in the snare of their own cleverness.'" (NLT).**

Worldly standards will place an individual in the state of confusion and instigate that person to travel in the wrong direction.

Beloved, of all the things we can pursue in life, let us pursue the principal thing. Of all the things we can live without, "wisdom" should not be one of them. Remember Solomon's words **"Above all and before all, do this: Get wisdom!"**

Blessings To All.....

## Wisdom Is the Principal Thing: Therefore Get Wisdom *Above all and before all, do this: Get wisdom!"*

Proverbs 4:7

# + CHURCH DIRECTORY

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## B



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## C

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Pastor Genevieve Benson  
3317 Lapeer Street  
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989-754-2444

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



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

## F



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



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

## G



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



**Glory House Ministries**  
Pastor Jim House  
3660 Hermansau Rd.  
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(989) 752-4769

**Grace Chapel Church**  
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**Greater Williams Temple**  
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Saginaw, MI 48601  
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## H



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989-752-3993

## J

**Jacob's Ladder**  
Pastor Dennis Barlow  
1926 Fairfield Street  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-799-6601

## L

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

## M

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



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



**Mt. Olive Baptist Church**  
Pastor Marvin T. Smith  
1114 N. 6th Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-8064

## N



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



**New 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**  
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Saginaw, MI 48601  
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**New Hope Missionary Baptist Church**  
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**New Life Baptist Ministries**  
Dr. Craig Tatum  
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Saginaw, MI 48601  
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**New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church**  
Pastor Alfred "AJ" Harris Jr.  
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Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-0801

## P

**Prince of Peace Baptist Church**  
Pastor Robert C. Corley Jr.  
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989-754-2841

## R

**Radiant Church of God**  
Pastor Adolfo & Erlinda Martinez  
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Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-401-2134  
www.radiantchurchofgod.org



**Resurrection Life Ministries Full Gospel Baptist Church**  
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2320 Sheridan Avenue  
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989-395-3142

## S



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



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

## T



**Transforming Life Ministries**  
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**True Vine Baptist Church**  
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989-752-0751

## U



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

## V



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

## W



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

## Z



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

## + FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

# Cultivation and solicitation start at the top

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

If you raise \$1 per person from one million people, you'll have \$1 million. If one million people give \$10, you'll have \$10 million. That's true – but what will it take to make that happen? Online giving in response to emergencies or political campaigns catch fire because they are fueled by massive publicity. Some of that publicity is unpaid wall-to-wall news coverage. Other forms of publicity are viral social media campaigns, massive direct mail campaigns, nationally televised fundraising specials and more. Unless you have technology, messaging, and access to nonstop media coverage your chances of raising big money through very small gifts are very limited. That's the bad news.

Here's the good news. You can focus on securing a much smaller number of gifts. The difference is that you will be asking for much larger sums of money. Established and well-funded organizations and institutions focus their fundraising in this way. We believe that emerging and developing organizations can do the same. This focus is referred to as "major gifts fundraising." It can save your nonprofit both time and resources, something that is so important when you don't have the time and resources you need to focus on both fundraising and programming/advocacy. Engaging in major gift fundraising means you and your board have to focus on pursuing decision makers who can not only provide funding, and who can do so within a relatively short time. Ideally, they will give "unrestricted" gifts and grants – funding that you can use to advance what you believe are the most important aspects of your work.

You may be thinking "but we don't know these people." Maybe you do. May-

be you don't. Maybe someone you know has relationships with the people who can help you. You'll have to figure out "who knows who." Here are five suggestions for your CEO, board chair, and senior development staff.

1. Engage your board. Ask them who they know, and who their friends/family/colleagues know.
2. Reach out to current donors and major supporters. Make personal contact. Let them know what you are trying to achieve. Ask if they can assist with funding or with an introduction to someone who can.
3. Talk with community stakeholders. Visit with volunteer leaders, city council members, state representatives, social and civic leaders, faith congregations and organizations. Ask if there are people they can introduce you to.
4. Engage social media Influencers. In addition to the influencers mentioned above, talk with social media influencers, especially

those within your community. Ask if they can promote your cause amongst their followers.

5. Host a series of VIP events to make the case and introduce your organization and its fundraising priorities. These can be hosted by board members, donors, or friends of your organization. Make the events short and fun and focus on meeting a few select people who could change the trajectory of your organization.

Bottom line: Keep it simple – build a short list of influencers and prospects. Focus on those who can open doors, provide funding, and introduce you to those who could serve as advisors. Ultimately will you need a well-orchestrated mix of communication and fundraising methods that engage multiple audiences who give a wide range of gifts throughout the year. But you have to start somewhere. We suggest starting at the top.



Copyright 2022 – Mel and Pearl Shaw

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

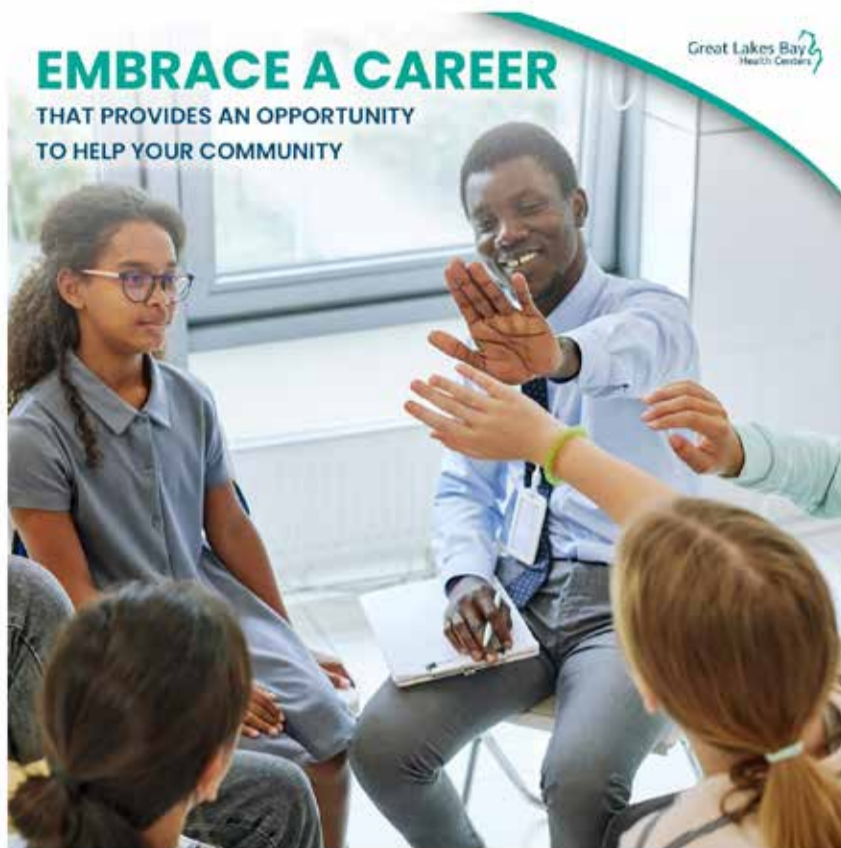





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TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

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*

**Join the family at Covenant HealthCare.**

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



HARTLEY OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

# Saginaw ISD's Hartley Outdoor Education Center wins CILC's Pinnacle Award

Saginaw Intermediate School District (ISD) is thrilled to announce that its program, Hartley Outdoor Education Center (OEC), has been recognized with the distinguished Pinnacle Award by the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC) for the 2022-2023 academic year. Hartley OEC received this award in five previous years, including 2013, 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2021.

The CILC, globally renowned for championing distance learning, grants this annual accolade to Content Providers who demonstrate an unparalleled commitment to offering virtual field trip experiences with notable educational value and engaging qualities. The Pinnacle Award serves as a beacon of excellence in virtual education, spotlighting institutions that stand out for their academic standards and ability to inspire learners from diverse backgrounds and locations.

"Our Hartley Naturalists have consistently demonstrated their unwavering pursuit to provide innovative, interactive,

and meaningful virtual education learning opportunities," said Dr. Jeffrey Collier, Superintendent of Saginaw ISD. "This recognition affirms our commitment to reducing barriers to access, bridging geographical divides, and providing increased equitable educational experiences directly to students."

Tami Moehring, Director of Member Relations at CILC, described the announcement of the coveted Pinnacle Award as "a time when the connections between Content Providers and Members are highlighted at their finest. Members get to see their feedback turned into recognition for the hard work, dedication, and unique talent for delivering amazing virtual field trips that inspire learning in groups of students from around the world."

As traditional learning adapts to technological advancements, Hartley OEC has introduced many virtual courses. Among these, "French Voyager" is one of our most popular immersive field trips that provides students with an experience to step

into the shoes of French voyageur Jean-Paul LeFranc. They accompany him on a journey from Montreal to the Grand Portage in Minnesota and back. Throughout the experience, students actively engage, learning about the roles within the canoe, the voyagers' unique attire, their dietary choices, and the overarching mission of the French voyagers. Thanks to such innovative courses, Hartley OEC is now recognized alongside prestigious institutions like the Denali Education Center, Buffalo Zoo, National Archives, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, and Zion National Park.

"Hartley OEC is humbled and honored to once again receive this prestigious recognition from CILC," said Eric Rutherford, Program Director. "Our goal has always been to make our unique classes accessible to as many learners as possible, regardless of their physical location. This acknowledgment fuels our passion and propels us to continually innovate and enhance our virtual learning experiences."



SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

## SVSU continues streak as 'Great College to Work For'

Saginaw Valley State University has been named a Great Colleges to Work For® for 2023, one of 72 institutions across the United States to earn this recognition. It is the eighth consecutive year the university has received this distinction.

SVSU was the only public university in Michigan named to the Great Colleges list this year. The university earned honors in four categories: Job Satisfaction & Support, Faculty Experience, Professional Development, and Shared Governance.

"I am pleased — but in no way surprised — to have joined an institution that continues to be honored as a great place to work," said George Grant Jr., SVSU president, who assumed the presidency on January 1.

"SVSU is a place where people come first. We will continue to prioritize effective and collaborative working relationships, supporting our outstanding faculty

and staff, and enhancing our outstanding campus environment."

The Great Colleges to Work For program was co-founded in 2008 as a partnership between The Chronicle of Higher Education and ModernThink, a strategic human capital consulting firm. The program was funded this year by ModernThink, which shared the results in The Chronicle of Higher Education.

"Once again, leaders at the institutions recognized in this year's Great Colleges to Work for program have demonstrated their collective commitment to the stewardship of their institutions' cultures," said Richard K. Boyer, principal and managing partner at ModernThink. "Their commitment to the well-being of their faculty and staff is second to none."

For the 2023 cycle, 194 institutions participated in the survey; 72 of those "achieved recognition as a "Great College

to Work For." The survey — distributed earlier this year to staff and faculty members online — examines individuals' evaluations of their respective institution.

SVSU — which employs more than 700 people full time — has made the list each of the eight years it applied. The list will be published on September 15 in a special insert of the "Chronicle of Higher Education." It is also included in a special section of the Great Colleges Program website.

The Great Colleges to Work For® program is one of the largest and most respected workplace recognition programs in the country. Now in its fourteenth year, it recognizes the colleges that get top ratings from their employees regarding workplace practices and policies. For more information visit [www.GreatCollegesProgram.com](http://www.GreatCollegesProgram.com).

# LIMITED OPENINGS AVAILABLE

## WILD about Pre-K

### Saginaw Public Schools

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

**Items Needed For Enrollment**

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

**To Complete Registration**

- Appointment Required ←

Call (989) 399-6750 or visit [michiganpreschool.org](http://michiganpreschool.org)

## Register Now

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

GRADES K-5



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

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SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS'  
**GIFTED & TALENTED**  
PROGRAM



IS **EXPANDING!**  
SPOTS ARE LIMITED.  
CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE TESTING

GRADES 6-12



**SAGINAW ARTS & SCIENCES ACADEMY**  
SASA

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- Expanded Programming: New Theatre & Dance Studio, Music, Labs, Pool, & Much More!

1903 N. NIAGARA ST.  
SAGINAW, MI 48602  
989.399.5500



# Back to School Highlights



**By CRAIG DOUGLAS**  
RETIRED EDUCATOR

We have seen “back to school” from several viewpoints since the start of the 2023-24 school year. The article highlights three key themes which have surfaced.

1st. parents are urged to take care of

themselves as the pace of getting back to school picks up. Events, meetings, games, and obligations need to be scheduled and planned for. In the process, parents need to care for themselves. Carve out time for rest and leisure activity to stay balanced.

2nd, students need to establish new routines quickly. When to go to bed, when to get up, bus to school or taking a ride with Mom or Dad....these and other factors create a “new normal” for the school year. Locker combinations, books, and homework all demand attention for time and focus. They roll into new routines and patterns. Parents and teachers can help support students as they navigate new

experiences.

3rd, if there are challenges or problems, address them now. Avoid “waiting” to see how things work out. Maybe a class schedule needs to be adjusted or changed. Contacting the guidance counselor reveals insight into such a move. The point is, dealing with it now, early in the school year, is the way to go. Communication lines open and more than one viewpoint can be obtained. Addressing it now is less drastic than at the end of a marking period or semester.

Best wishes to all students and parents as the school year begins.

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

SPONSORED CONTENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CONTINUES ON PG 39, SISD**

## Continued from pg 38, SISD

in 6 classrooms and several homes while our Head Start (HS) program serves 859 students in 51 classrooms and 17 sites. Our Great Start to Readiness Program (GSRP) serves over 1,100 students across Saginaw county in local school districts, community based organizations and charter schools. These programs are essential to providing our youngest, most vulnerable learners the experiences they need to build a firm foundation for future academic success. It's impossible to do this alone and we value our partners at the local, state and federal level helping us in our pursuit for funding, support and legislative advocacy for high quality services.

Despite staffing challenges, SISD continues to keep the provision of these services at the forefront of what we do. These challenges are not prevalent just in our county, but across the state of Michigan. Research shows that the early foundational years of a child's life are of the greatest importance due to (but not limited to) the following:

- There are 700 to 1,000 new neural connections forming every second in a child's brain,
- Genetics in addition to life experiences help shape the developing brain,
- The foundation is key for future cognitive abilities, and
- Vocabulary at age 3 can predict 3rd grade reading achievement.

Implementation of high quality programs depends on a quality workforce. Providers locally and across the state know all too well the challenges we have and continue to experience being able to recruit and retain highly qualified staff. We are in need of individuals with a passion to provide much needed services to our students and families across Saginaw County. We encourage you to review the Saginaw ISD current preschool openings at [www.sisd.cc](http://www.sisd.cc) and select "Join Our Team!" at the top right corner of the

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

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

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

### Early Head Start/Head Start Locations

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

### Great Start to Readiness Program Locations

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

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

**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	MONTRÖSE	A	7:30
Sept 25	CARROLLTON	A	7:00
Sept 28	CASEVILLE	H	7:00
Oct 3	SAGINAW UNITED (JSHS)	A	7:00
Oct 5	MONTRÖSE	H	7:00
Oct 13	CHARLTON HESTON ACAD	H	7:00+
Oct 16	CARROLLTON	H	7:00
Oct 19	WHITTEMORE-PRESCOTT	H	7:00
Oct 24	MID 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	MONTRÖSE	A	5:00
Sept 25	CARROLLTON	A	5:30
Sept 28	CASEVILLE	A	5:30
Oct 3	SAGINAW UNITED	A	5:00
Oct 5	MONTRÖSE	H	5:30
Oct 13	CHARLTON HESTON ACAD	H	5:30+
Oct 16	CARROLLTON	H	5:30
Oct 19	WHITTEMORE-PRESCOTT	H	5:30*
Oct 24	MID 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

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

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

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



**NEW STUDENTS**



**RETURNING STUDENTS**



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

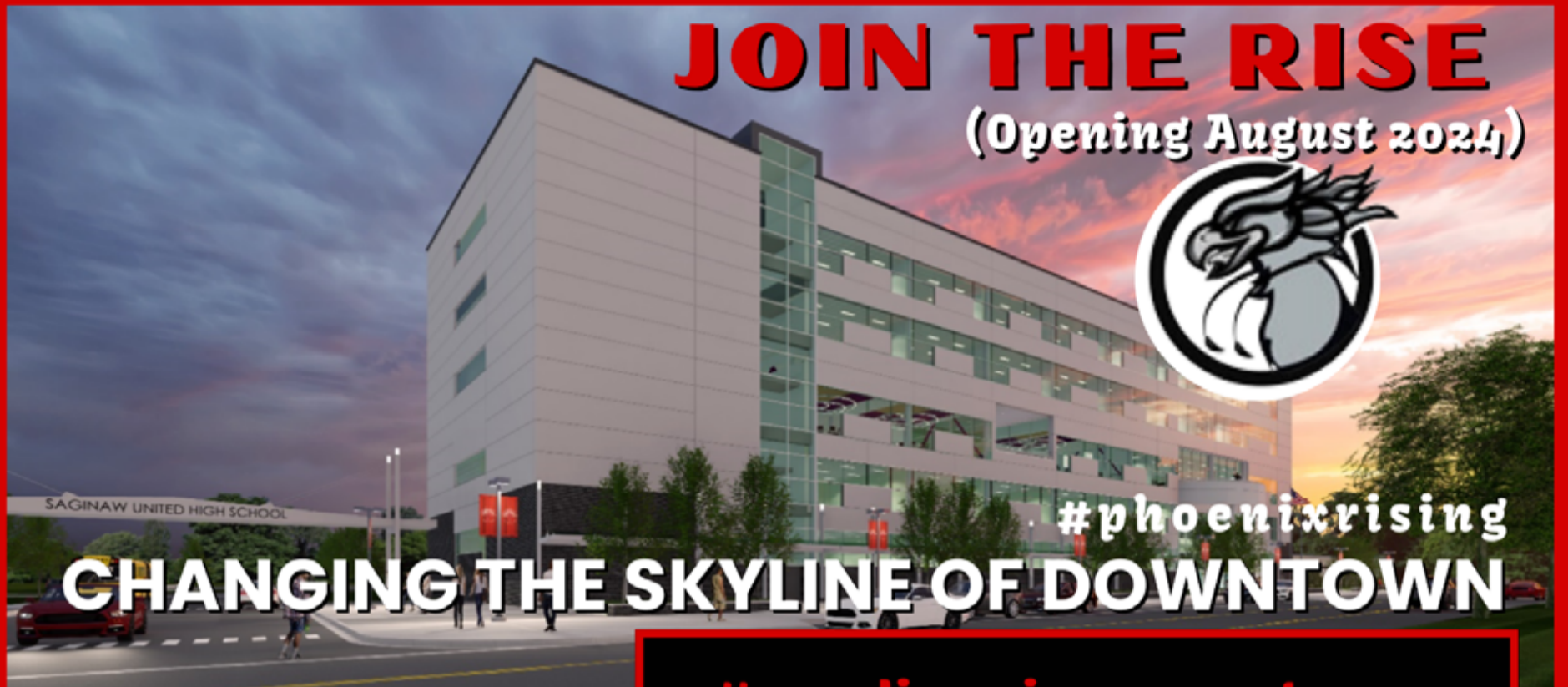




# SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## JOIN THE RISE

(Opening August 2024)



#phoenixrising

### CHANGING THE SKYLINE OF DOWNTOWN

#spsdinspiresgreatness

### BOND2020 UPDATE



#### OPENING FALL 2023

##### Handley Elementary School

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



#### OPENING FALL 2024

##### Saginaw United High School

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

##### Saginaw Middle School

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

##### Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy

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

### 2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

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

### 2023 GRADUATION RATE\*

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

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

### SECONDARY ACHIEVEMENTS

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

NOW ENROLLING EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS



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



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



# SAGINAW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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





**About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS**

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

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

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

**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](mailto:etaylor@sisd.cc).



## + SPORTS



3RD ANNUAL ROUNDBALL CLASSIC

# Saginaw hosts third annual roundball classic

By HASANI ALI

Not sure where you have heard the parable from, but the famous 1989 movie, “Field of Dreams,” is where you would hear the line, “if you build it, they will come.”

Pastor Lorenzo Sewell and Bishop Larry Camel knew what it would take to bring like-minded hearts together in order to bring positive events to the urban cities around the state.

Saginaw has recently hosted the third annual Urban Roundball Classic, a competitive three-on-three basketball tournament with cash prizes and the ability to instill the words of Jesus Christ at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, located at 3121 Sheridan Ave.

“At the end of the day, us black people are a great race and there’s this notion

that black people cannot work together,” Sewell said. “We wanted to crush that idea that cities like Flint, Detroit, Saginaw and Pontiac can’t work together when it comes to community outreach. We put together this tournament to put the best and brightest minds across the state to work and do whatever we can to help out the youth in our community.”

He is the pastor of 180 Church in Detroit, located at 13660 Stansbury Ave.

The first tournament took place in Detroit and followed to Flint the previous year. As the tournament started getting larger in participants, so did the community outreach. Sewell knew that it would take a commonality like sports to bring these cities together to spread the word and support local businesses at the same time.

“We wanted to build the right pond to

bring in our brothers and sisters to be in a competitive, yet safe environment,” he said. “Jesus said to be fishers to men so we travel across the state to bring a positive event to the city and be servers of Christ.”

Along with the tournament, the event also included a 3-point shooting and dunk contest. A cash prize of \$1,500 was awarded to the winners for the 18 years and older team and all the way down to \$300 for the winners of the elementary division.

“We want to teach financial literacy at a young age so that they know what options they have with money other than just spending it,” Sewell said. “The first time I ever handled money was when I was doing illegal activities, so we want to give the children a way to do things the right way and earn cash.”

Camel was elated to work with Sewell. If it meant keeping the youth off the street, then he was all in for the community effort of doing something positive.

“Judge Clark recommended me to Pastor Sewell and we collaborated for the Urban Roundball Classic last year,” he said. “It was a huge success so I suggested to him that we bring it to my city.”

“It’s a great opportunity for our African-American boys and girls to keep them occupied and keep them off the streets.”

Called to the ministry in 1992, Camel kept his faith as he ministered throughout the city. Now having his own church in the city, he wants to ramp up the community outreach to make sure he can impact as many lives as possible.

“Every spring we do a community outreach festival,” he said. “We have given away bicycles, toys, food and electronics. We have been doing this for years, but now we’re just adding on to what God has given me.”

Officer Jordan Bady stopped at the church while on duty to check out the scene and enjoyed the sights that he was seeing.

“As a Saginaw native and resident of the community, it’s refreshing to see something positive going on in the community and it is absolutely beautiful,” he said. “It shows that Saginaw is not lost and we’re still striving to do better.”

Bady has been on the police force for nine years in the city of Saginaw.

## + SPORTS



HUNTER HAIGHT

## NHL rookie camps to feature ten Saginaw Spirit players

The Saginaw Spirit announced today that forwards Hunter Haight, Matyas Sapovaliv, Joey Willis, T-Bone Codd, Nic Sima, Dean Loukus and Luke McNamara, defensemen Braden Haché and Roberto Mancini, and goaltender Andrew Oke will attend NHL rookie camps in the coming week.

Heading west, Haché, Oke, Codd, and Sapovaliv will converge in Las Vegas, Nevada from September 15th-18th in the Rookie Faceoff tournament.

Sapovaliv joins the Stanley Cup champion Golden Knights, who selected him 48th overall in the 2022 NHL Draft. Codd will don an Anaheim Ducks sweater this weekend, while Haché and Oke run with the Arizona Coyotes.

Hunter Haight returns to the Minnesota Wild to participate in the Tom Kurvers Prospect Showcase from September

15th-17th in St. Paul, Minnesota. The Wild selected Haight just before his now-teammate Sapovaliv with the 47th overall pick in 2022. The Strathroy, Ontario native piled up 51 points (18G, 33A) in 42 games with Saginaw last season.

After being selected 111th overall by the hosts of the 2023 NHL Entry Draft, Joey Willis will join the Nashville Predators from September 15th-18th at the Southeast Rookie Showcase. Willis heads to Estero, Florida after a rookie OHL campaign that saw him named to the league's first All-Rookie Team.

The Detroit Red Wings will participate in the NHL Prospect Tournament in Traverse City, Michigan from September 14th-17th. With them will be a pair of Spirit forwards: Nic Sima along with Calumet, Michigan native Dean Loukus. The duo skated with the Wings earlier this summer

at the team's development camp.

Loukus's fellow overager Roberto Mancini will once again join the Ottawa Senators, this time at the NHL Prospects Challenge in Buffalo, New York from September 15th-18th.

Rounding out the extensive list is third-year forward Luke McNamara, who joins the New York Rangers in Allentown, Pennsylvania on September 15th and 16th. McNamara makes his second appearance with the Rangers, his first coming at development camp in July.

As the summer draws to a close, the Spirit prepare for their regular season opener in Kitchener on September 29th. Tickets to Saginaw's home opener on September 30th against Sarnia are on sale now.

# Archie-Walker & McKenzie represented Michigan as Team USA defeated Costa Rica, 27-0

By HASANI ALI

Women's football is rapidly making its way around the world to become more popular amongst female athletes.

The next stop was San Jose, Costa Rica, the tropical paradise filled with exotic fruits and mystical waterfalls.

Team United, the best players of the Women's Football Alliance, cruised past Costa Rica 27-0 in an international exhibition.

Head Coach and WFA owner Jeff King believed that this was a good step in the right direction as far as getting more women involved in the sport of football.

"The movement is growing," he said. "More countries are expressing interest in the sport and our league is definitely working together to have more international teams so we can have more worldly competition.

Last year, the team competed in Columbia—again, winning in convincing fashion.

Defensive end and tight end Jessica McKenzie from the Detroit Venom enjoyed the trip and never wouldn't thought that playing semi-pro football would bring her to this position.

"I have been playing football for three years now and I can't believe the opportunities that have been offered to me," she said. "I was beyond excited when I was asked to play for Team United. This is also coming off of becoming an All-American in the WFA so this has been an exciting year for me. I would love to learn every position on both sides of the field, but I'm okay with sticking to what I'm good at."

Unfortunately, the Detroit Venom didn't have a successful regular season in its debut in the WFA Pro Division (Div. 1), falling to 1-5 this season, compared to the 4-2 record they produced in their inaugural season two years ago.

Due to a team rebuild, McKenzie, initially played as a tight end, stepped up on the defensive side of the ball and learned how to play on the defensive line.



COURTESY PHOTO

Flint's own Judea Archie-Walker earned All-American honors on the offensive line while playing for the Derby City Dynamite, last year's Div. II champions.

Her team was winless during the 2023 campaign, but Archie-Walker was a clear choice for Team United as she dominated the right side of the offensive line as a tackle.

She took the international game as a chance to go on vacation, but felt a bit disappointed that the other team wasn't much of a challenge for Team United.

"I completely understand that football is still in the works of becoming a global sport," Archie-Walker said. "We're bring-

ing the best players from our league and the best players from their country seems like they have been playing for only a year. Good thing I got to Costa Rica on a Monday even though the team didn't arrive until Thursday. I was able to explore the country and have much-deserved time to myself to relax and sleep in such a beautiful country."

Team United also had six players from Columbia that were also on the team. No explanation was given to the additional players.

When Team United arrived on Thursday, they practiced on Friday prior to suiting up on Saturday to play.

## + SPORTS



COCO GAUFF

## Coco Gauff, youngest player to win US Open since Serena Williams

By HASANI ALI

The Gauff family's move to Florida ultimately paid off.

Four years ago, the chances of winning the US Open looked awfully bleak for the young 15-year-old. In fact, the last time she played on Arthur Ashe Stadium left her in tears and devastated.

She only won three games against the defending champion Naomi Osaka in the third round of the US Open back in 2015.

It took only 65 minutes for Osaka to put Gauff out of the tournament and kill her hype coming from a star-making run at Wimbledon.

With the tears flowing down her face seconds after her defeat, Osaka came over to console the young contender and complimented her on her efforts.

"Osaka told me I did amazing and good luck, and then she asked if I could do the on-court interview with her," Gauff said during an interview. "I said no because I knew I was going to cry the whole time but

she encouraged me to do it. She did amazing, and I'm going to learn a lot from this match."

The moment went viral around the internet as Osaka, 21, told her that it was okay to cry and invited her to join her for the post-game interview in front of 23,000 fans. Mary Joe Fernandez from ESPN interviewed Gauff as her voice broke with emotion.

Four years after that fateful meeting, Gauff was in tears again on Ashe. But this time, it was tears of joy.

She defeated the soon-to-be world No. 1 and reigning Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, to win the first major of her career.

She struggled with Sabalenka's power in the opening set, but she found her rhythm and fought back for the victory.

When she knew that she had won, Gauff fell onto her back with her hands pressed against her face while she sobbed tears of joy. She was accompanied by her parents, which produced more tears.

Gauff commented that she has never seen her father cry before.

She then spoke to the crowd, again, with Fernandez. But this time, she was on the other side of the post-game interview as the victor.

"Oh my goodness, it means so much to me," Gauff said. "I feel like I'm a little bit in shock in this moment, but I realized God puts you through tribulations and trials and that makes this moment even sweeter than I could have imagined."

According to ESPN.com, Gauff is now the youngest American to win the US Open since Serena Williams in 1999 and the fourth teenage American in the Open era to win the home Slam. And she did so on the anniversary of both Arthur Ashe's breakthrough US Open victory in 1968 and Venus Williams' maiden title at the event in 2000.

It was a magical moment for the Gauff family. As a product of collegiate athletic parents and two younger brothers that helped her keep her competitive edge, it was clear that all of the work invested into Gauff paid off as she earned her first world title.



# MHSAA 'AD Connection Program' debuts with start of 2023-24 school year

A first-of-its-kind mentorship program is greeting more than 100 first-time high school athletic directors who are officially beginning their tenures at Michigan High School Athletic Association member schools with the start of the 2023-24 school year.

The "AD Connection Program" has matched those first-year high school athletic directors with one of eight mentors who have recently retired from the field and will now provide assistance as those new administrators transition to this essential role in school sports.

A total of 102 first-year high school athletic directors are beginning at MHSAA schools, meaning a new athletic administrator will be taking over at nearly 14 percent of the 750 member high schools across the state. Athletic director turnover at MHSAA high schools has reached 10 percent or more annually over the last few years, and it's hoped that this additional mentorship will support athletic directors adjusting to the high pace and responsibilities of the position for the first time.

The AD Connection Program will build on training received at the required in-service program all new athletic directors must attend each fall. There is also a strong connection to programming from the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA), the professional development organization for the state's athletic administrators.

"When you crystalize it, the AD Connection Program is an attempt for us to give a true year-long in-service to new athletic directors with people who have done it," said MHSAA Assistant Director Brad Bush, who is coordinating the program and joined the MHSAA staff in January after more than two decades as an athletic administrator at Chelsea High School. "This also connects new ADs with a larger professional group, and it will culminate in March at the annual MIAAA conference, where there will be several face-to-face meetings with all ADs.

"These mentors are meant to become

that first-year AD's go-to person."

Mentors will conduct frequent meetings with their cohorts. They also will meet monthly (or more) with each first-time athletic director individually via zoom, and at least once during the academic year face-to-face at the mentee's school.

The eight mentors, noting their most recent schools as an athletic director, are Chris Ervin (most recently at St. Johns), Brian Gordon (Royal Oak), Sean Jacques (Calumet), Tim Johnston (East Grand Rapids), Karen Leinaar (Frankfort), Scott Robertson (Grand Haven), Meg Seng (Ann Arbor Greenhills) and Wayne Welton (Chelsea). Leinaar also will serve as the AD Connection Program's liaison to the MIAAA, which she serves as executive director.

High school practices at MHSAA member schools may begin today, Monday



michigan high school  
athletic association

Aug. 7, for the nine fall sports for which the MHSAA sponsors a postseason tournament. The AD Connection Program was approved by the MHSAA Representative Council during its annual Winter Meeting on March 24.

The MHSAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation of voluntary membership by more than 1,500 public and private senior high schools and junior high/middle schools which exists to develop common rules for athletic eligibility and competition. No government funds or tax dollars support the MHSAA, which was the first such association nationally to not accept membership dues or tournament entry fees from schools. Member schools which enforce these rules are permitted to participate in MHSAA tournaments, which attract more than 1.3 million spectators each year.



# PICS OF THE WEEK

The Sankofa Project 2020, an organization dedicated to fostering international partnerships, is pleased to announce a successful Sister City visit to Amanokrom, Ghana, from July 6th to July 16th, 2023, reaffirming its unwavering commitment to the enduring relationship between Saginaw, Michigan and Amanokrom, Ghana.

Established in August 2018, the sister city relationship between Saginaw, Michigan and Amanokrom, Ghana has been a beacon of cross-cultural unity and cooperation. This visit, originally scheduled for July 2020 but postponed due to global challenges, marks a significant milestone in nurturing the bonds between these two vibrant communities.

The delegation, comprised of 26 distinguished individuals, including seven enthusiastic young representatives from the First Ward Community Center, as well as dedicated students from Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) and local community members, embarked on this journey with a shared mission: to strengthen ties, promote cultural exchange, and explore collaborative opportunities.

Throughout their stay, the delegation engaged in a series of meticulously planned activities aimed at fostering meaningful connections and enhancing mutual understanding. Official meetings, cultural events, and community interactions provided valuable opportunities to interact with local officials, community leaders, and residents. The delegation embraced the rich heritage, traditions, and development initiatives of Ghana, deepening their appreciation for this dynamic nation.

Under the leadership of Dr. Dawn Hinton, the visionary founder of The Sankofa Project 2020 and facilitator of the Sister City relationship with Amanokrom, the delegation conveyed official greetings from Saginaw, Michigan. Their visit, punctuated by the presentation of gifts from Chief Nana Osim Kwatia II, exemplifies the commitment to strengthening the friendship and collaboration between our communities.

The highlight of this remarkable journey will be the presentation of Chief Nana Osim Kwatia II's gifts to Amanokrom during the City Council meeting on Monday, September 11th at 6:30 pm. This symbolic gesture underscores the enduring nature of our Sister City relationship and the shared aspirations for a brighter future.



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*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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