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## SPECIAL "HEART OF THE CITY" EDITION




**FEATURED**







**We are fortunate: Embracing the power of this moment**  
MICHIGAN BANNER, PG 2




**Two local students will receive The Rae Lynn Tinsley-Buckley Scholarship at Heart of the City Awards Banquet**  
YOUTH BANNER, PG 7



**The 6th annual Heart of the City Awards will celebrate service and volunteerism in the Great Lakes Bay community**  
COMMUNITY, PG 13



**2024 heart of the city award recipients**  
COMMUNITY, PG 14-19



**The Church as the Heart of the City**  
FAITH BASED, PG 33

### JoAnn Crary, President of Saginaw Future, to deliver keynote address at 6<sup>th</sup> annual Heart of the City Awards Banquet

By MB STAFF

The Heart of the City Awards Banquet, a premier event celebrating service and volunteerism within the Great Lakes Bay Community, is honored to announce JoAnn Crary, President of Saginaw Future, as this year's keynote speaker. The event will take place on Thursday, June 6, 2024, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Horizons Conference Center in Saginaw.

JoAnn Crary is a distinguished leader known for her relentless commitment to economic development and community improvement. As President of Saginaw Future, a nonprofit economic development organization, Crary has played a pivotal role in transforming the economic landscape of Saginaw and the surrounding areas. Her leadership and vision have attracted significant investments, created jobs, and fostered a spirit of innovation and collaboration.

Crary's keynote address will align with this year's theme, "We Are Fortunate: Embracing the Power of this Moment." She is expected to share her insights on the importance of community engagement, the impact of collaborative efforts, and the ways in which individuals and organizations can seize opportunities to drive positive change.

"We are thrilled to have JoAnn Crary as our keynote speaker," said John Smith, Executive Director of The Michigan Banner. "Her expertise and dedication to community and economic development make her the perfect choice to inspire our attendees. We look forward to hearing her thoughts on how we can continue to build a stronger, more vibrant community together."



JOANN CRARY

Under Crary's leadership, Saginaw Future has garnered numerous awards and recognitions, reflecting her commitment to excellence and community service. Her ability to foster partnerships between public and private sectors has led to numerous successful projects, enhancing the quality of life in the Great Lakes Bay region.

The 6th Annual Heart of the City Awards Banquet will not only feature Crary's keynote address but will also celebrate the contributions of individuals and organizations dedicated to service and volunteerism. Attendees will enjoy a plated dinner, open bar, and live entertainment from jazz and blues musicians Mike Brush, Julie Malady, and Brenda Cameron.

Tickets for the event are available for \$100 per person. To purchase tickets and for additional information, please visit <https://michiganbanner.org/hoc/>.

THE MICHIGAN BANNER IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:





HEART OF THE CITY AWARDS

## We are fortunate: Embracing the power of this moment

By **JEROME BUCKLEY**  
PUBLISHER, THE MICHIGAN  
BANNER

As we prepare for our 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary and 6th annual Heart of the City awards banquet, I am reminded of the unique tapestry that makes up our city—a tapestry woven with threads of diverse cultures, shared experiences, and a collective journey towards a brighter future.

On June 6, we will come together to celebrate our community with this year's theme in mind: "We are fortunate: Embracing the power of this moment."

In a world that often seems overshadowed by challenges and uncertainties, it is vital to pause, take a deep breath, and recognize the incredible fortune we possess simply by being here in this moment, together.

Saginaw, with its storied past and dy-

namic present, exemplifies the power of community and the strength found in unity. We are fortunate to live in a city where the spirit of collaboration and support is not just an idea but a daily reality. From our growing downtown to hosting grand events like the Memorial Cup, from the dedicated educators shaping young minds to the tireless community leaders driving positive change, we are surrounded by countless reasons to feel blessed and hopeful.

Embracing the power of this moment means acknowledging the progress we have made, celebrating our collective achievements, and recognizing the potential within each of us to contribute to the ongoing story of Saginaw. It is about understanding that every challenge we face is an opportunity for growth, every setback a chance for a comeback, and every moment a precious gift to be cherished.

We are fortunate to witness the remarkable resilience of our neighbors, the kindness of strangers, and the unwavering commitment of those who work tirelessly to make Saginaw a better place. We are fortunate to have the power to shape our future, to make a difference, and to leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

As we embark on this journey together, let us embrace the power of this moment with open hearts and minds. Let us celebrate the beauty of our shared humanity and the strength found in our diversity. And let us move forward with gratitude, determination, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Thank you for being part of this incredible community. Together, we are fortunate, and together, we will continue to make Saginaw a shining beacon of hope and inspiration.

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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.

**DISCLAIMER**

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**DEADLINES**

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

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Mailed or e-mailed  
Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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THE MICHIGAN BANNER

22<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY

6<sup>th</sup> Annual

HEART OF THE CITY  
COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET

SAVE THE DATE!

JUNE 6, 2024 • HORIZONS CONFERENCE CENTER

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# MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 6 • NUMBER 11



## TOUGH ROAD



By DONIQUA SOVIA

You'll get trench foot, better take care of your feet good. Blisters burst, words hurt but you can't let it bother you none. It dawns on you rather hard, that not everyone can come with you and that's where feeling alone starts. Dictating, always renovating the mental state so it's liberated and I can think straight, and by that I mean my peace of mind must maintain the highest level so the gears won't grind. You are your own company, and I sometimes wonder if someone had told me just how hard this journey would be, would have I still said yes. There's a huge amount of stress, especially when you just begin, because you have no clue as to what, why and when you're supposed to move, and there's no one to ask as it's just you. So the conversations begin, within and you hone in your intuition and you become best friends because on this road, many have become dead. Many a downside, the gravel of people's opinions tend to get stuck in your mind. The shadows of their disdain lurk in the woods of the unkind. You hear their whispers in the wind as by your ears it blows by. Nevermind them. Matter of fact you must remain intact and don't try and silence them. But remember, when your feet start hurting and become sore. When your sitting at a crossroad like you've done before, your peace of mind is worth each step and many more, and soon all the traveling will become stories not many have heard.



# Women of Colors seeking girl youth mentors for summer STEM program

By MB STAFF

In an exciting initiative to foster interest and skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) among young students, Women of Colors is continuing its Summer STEM program in Saginaw, Michigan. The program is specifically seeking girl youth mentors to guide and inspire K-8 grade students, helping to bridge the gender gap in these critical fields.

STEM education is vital for preparing students for the future. It encourages problem-solving, creativity, and critical thinking—skills that are essential in nearly every profession. However, despite its importance, there remains a significant gender disparity in STEM fields. Women, particularly women of color, are underrepresented in STEM careers, which is why early intervention and mentorship are so crucial.

Women of Colors (WOC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the empowerment and advancement of minority communities. Through various programs and initiatives, WOC aims to promote education, health, and community engagement. Their year-long STEM program is one of their key initiatives, focusing on equipping young students with the knowledge and confidence to pursue STEM studies and careers.

## The Role of Youth Mentors

The Summer STEM program is not just about learning; it's about inspiring the next generation. This is where the role of youth mentors becomes indispensable. Girl youth mentors, ideally high school students with a passion for STEM, will have the opportunity to:

- **Serve as Role Models:** By sharing their own experiences and journeys in STEM, mentors can provide relatable and inspiring examples for younger students.
- **Facilitate Learning:** Mentors will assist in teaching STEM concepts through fun, hands-on activities and experiments, making learning interactive and engaging.



COURTESY PHOTO

- **Build Confidence:** Through encouragement and support, mentors can help young students build confidence in their abilities, fostering a positive attitude towards STEM subjects.
- **Promote Teamwork and Collaboration:** Mentors will guide students in group activities, teaching the value of teamwork and collaborative problem-solving.

## The Summer STEM Program

The Summer STEM program is designed to be both educational and enjoyable, with a curriculum that includes:

- **Hands-on Experiments:** Students will engage in experiments that demonstrate key STEM principles in an exciting and understandable way.
- **Interactive Workshops:** These sessions will cover various STEM topics, from coding and robotics to environmental science and

mathematics.

- **Field Trips:** To provide real-world context, students will visit local businesses, museums, and institutions that specialize in STEM fields.
- **Guest Speakers:** Professionals from STEM careers will share their stories and insights, offering students a glimpse into potential future paths.

## How to Get Involved

WOC is currently seeking enthusiastic girl youth mentors who are eager to make a difference. Interested candidates do not need to be knowledgeable in STEM but should have a strong interest in STEM subjects, a willingness to work with young students, and a commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion in education.

To apply, potential mentors can call Michelle McCoy at (989) 513-2768. Training and orientation sessions will be provided to ensure mentors are well-prepared to guide and inspire their mentees.




**Register Here.**

**BAY COUNTY STEM FEST** 

**JUNE 8TH 2024**  
**9:30am-12:30pm**

**EVENT LOCATION**  
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## Two local students will receive The Rae Lynn Tinsley-Buckley Scholarship at Heart of the City Awards Banquet



FROM R TO L: KARLEIGH ANDERSON AND PABLO RODRIGUEZ

By MB STAFF

Two local high school students, Karleigh Anderson and Pablo Rodriguez, have been selected as recipients of The Rae Lynn Tinsley-Buckley Scholarship. This prestigious award, which supports students in the Great Lakes Bay Region pursuing higher education, will be presented on June 6 at the Heart of the City Awards Banquet.

The Rae Lynn Tinsley-Buckley Scholarship commemorates the life and contributions of Rae Lynn Tinsley-Buckley, a revered figure in local journalism and community service. Rae Lynn was co-owner and editor of The Michigan Banner News, and she founded the Michigan Banner Outreach, reflecting her deep commitment to journalism and her community. Holding a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Saginaw Valley State University, she was also working towards a Master's degree in Journalism at the time of her passing. Her career included a significant tenure at State Farm Claims, culminating in a well-deserved retirement. Rae Lynn's enduring passion for local jour-

nalism and community involvement continues to inspire through this scholarship.

Karleigh Anderson, a 17-year-old junior at Heritage High School, is the daughter of Megan Anderson and Kenneth Crumpton. Enrolled in Advanced Placement classes, Karleigh excels academically while pursuing a variety of extracurricular activities. Her love for writing and journalism is evident in her role as a staff journalist for the digital magazine SWAG. In addition to her journalistic endeavors, Karleigh is also working on publishing her first book.

Karleigh's talents extend to the stage as well. She has performed at the local Pit and Balcony theater, starring in productions such as "The Giver" in 2019 and "Ramona Quimby" last year. Her impressive performance skills earned her a spot representing Saginaw, Michigan, in the 2022 NAACP ACT-SO competition in New Jersey.

Upon graduation, Karleigh aims to further her education at either The University of Southern Mississippi or Fisk University in Tennessee, with plans to major in Digital Journalism and minor in Entertainment Arts.

Pablo Rodriguez, a senior at Carrollton High School, is known for his artistic talents and academic dedication. Throughout his high school career, Pablo has been a vital part of the school's newspaper club, where he has displayed his prowess in various artistic mediums, including painting, drawing, and digital art.

In the fall, Pablo will take his creative talents to Saginaw Valley State University, where he plans to pursue a degree in Graphic Design. His excitement about this next chapter reflects his commitment to honing his artistic skills and exploring new avenues for creative expression.

The Heart of the City Awards Banquet on June 6 will not only celebrate the achievements of Karleigh Anderson and Pablo Rodriguez but also honor the enduring legacy of Rae Lynn Tinsley-Buckley. The scholarship named in her memory continues to support and encourage young talents in the Great Lakes Bay Region, ensuring that Rae Lynn's passion for journalism and community service lives on through the next generation of scholars.



# Latino Banner

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## PROGRAM/ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT

### LLEAD Saginaw Chapter



The Latino Leaders for the Enhancement of Advocacy and Development (LLEAD) is a Michigan 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded by concerned Latino and Latina community members to address concerns of advocacy, civic engagement, and awareness of issues relevant to Latinx communities in the state. In November 2013, Latinx leaders from Holland, Lansing, and Saginaw came together and began discussions to create a statewide Latino organization. LLEAD's goals for Latina/o advocacy and awareness-building identified the following needs:

- Access to health services
- Bias incidents\*
- Census, 2020
- Immigration
- Post-secondary degree retention rates
- The school drop-out rate among youth in K 12
- School-to-prison pipeline rate
- Teenage pregnancy rates
- Unemployment
- Unfair employment practices
- Unlawful discrimination

Creating a statewide Board of Directors enabled LLEAD to engage Latinx leaders from other parts of the state to help identify issues in other communities with Latinx populations. State Board members also gauge their community's interest in developing their local LLEAD chapters.

In 2013, the organization, guided by Bylaws, established local chapters in Holland, Saginaw, and Lansing.

#### LLEAD'S MISSION

"LLEAD brings together individuals (and other Latinx organizations) in Michigan to exchange ideas and move unified solutions forward to resolve civil and human rights, health, housing, education and employment disparities at the local and state level."

LLEADs mission is to bring Latinx individuals and other organizations in Michigan communities to exchange ideas on common issues. LLEADs goal is to move unified solutions forward in resolving local, state, and national challenges to our community. We provide a vehicle for chapters in communities to design, develop and advocate for solutions

to address societal challenges in coordination with and support by State LLEAD in the areas of:

- Civil and human rights
- Civic engagement
- Health disparities
- Education
- Employment
- Economic
- Housing
- Immigrant rights
- LGBTQ+ biases and rights
- Women and Gender rights and disparities

#### PURPOSE

"The purpose for LLEAD is to advocate for Latinx resident and immigrant communities in the state of Michigan providing a safe, discrimination and bias-free environment in health, education, employment and housing. It is a non-partisan organization whose purpose includes informing and educating Michigan citizens and public servants alike of the rights and responsibilities of their neighbors and constituents."

\*The purpose of LLEAD Chapters is to provide the vehicle whereby local communities can coordinate, design, develop and advocate for the creation of solutions to overcome their societal challenges in the areas of civil and human rights, health disparities, education, employment, economic, housing, immigrant rights, and civic engagement in conjunction with the support of the State Board of Directors of LLEAD.

#### HOW TO GET INVOLVED

There are various ways to get involved with LLEAD. Ask about starting a chapter in your community, attending a Crisis Response Training, volunteering at chapter or state events, or supporting the important work with your donation. If you are ready to join, become a LLEAD member visit <https://llead.org/>.

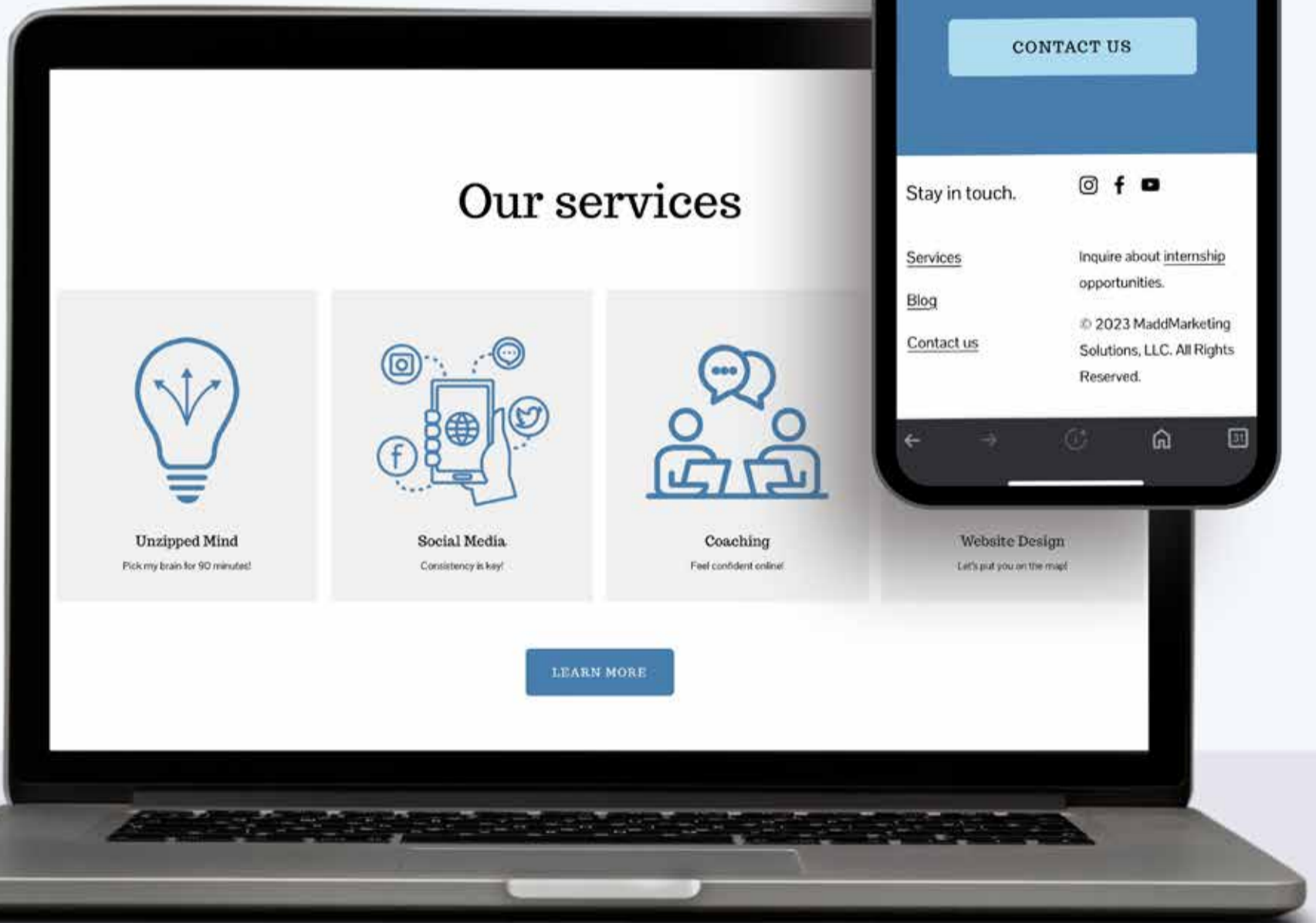
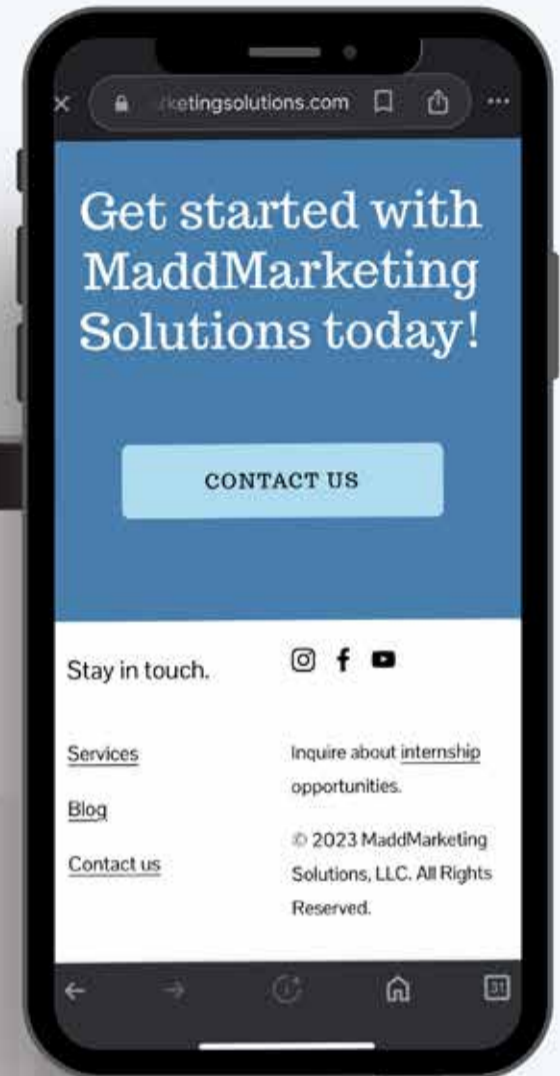






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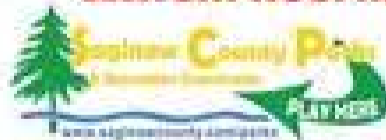
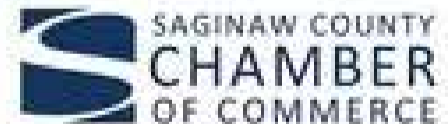
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## + COMMUNITY

# The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Heart of the City Awards will celebrate service and volunteerism in the Great Lakes Bay community



2023 HEART OF THE CITY AWARDS

The Michigan Banner is proud to announce the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Heart of the City awards banquet, an inspiring evening dedicated to honoring past, present, and future community members and organizations committed to service and volunteerism within the Great Lakes Bay Community. This year's event coincides with The Michigan Banner's 22nd anniversary, marking over two decades of community service and engagement.

The celebration will take place on Thursday, June 6, 2024, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Horizons Conference Center in Saginaw. Guests will enjoy a plated dinner and an open bar, accompanied by

captivating performances from renowned jazz and blues musicians Mike Brush, Julie Malady, and Brenda Cameron.

This year's theme, "We Are Fortunate: Embracing the Power of this Moment," emphasizes the importance of recognizing and seizing the opportunities to make a positive impact in our communities. The event will pay tribute to those whose dedication and hard work have made a significant difference in the Great Lakes Bay area.

"We are excited to celebrate the incredible contributions of our community members and organizations," said Jerome Buckley, CEO & Founder of The Michigan

Banner. "Their dedication and passion for service truly embody the spirit of the Heart of the City Awards and inspire us all to continue making a difference."

Tickets for the event are priced at \$100 per person and include an exquisite plated dinner, open bar, and an evening of outstanding entertainment. To purchase tickets and for more information, please visit <https://michiganbanner.org/hoc/>.

Join us for an unforgettable night of celebration, recognition, and inspiration as we honor those who have dedicated their time and efforts to enhancing the quality of life in our community.

+ COMMUNITY

AWARD  
RECIPIENTS



HEART OF GOLD AWARD



Former Bishop Marvin C. Pryor & Mrs. Ruth C. Pryor

HEART OF GOLD AWARD



Apostle James Glenn and Prophetess Leona Glenn

VISIONARY AWARD



Craig Goslin  
President and Managing Partner, Saginaw Spirit

LIFETIME LEADERSHIP AWARD



Pastor Charles H. Coleman, Sr.  
Pastor, New Faith Temple Church of God & SPSD Board President

LIFETIME LEADERSHIP AWARD



Undersheriff Miguel (Mike) Gomez

LIFETIME LEADERSHIP AWARD



Ruth Ann Knapp  
SPSD & SISD Board Member

+ COMMUNITY

AWARD  
RECIPIENTS



**IMPACT TURNAROUND  
AWARD**



**Veronica Horn**  
President & CEO, Saginaw  
County Chamber of  
Commerce

**HUMANITARIAN AWARD**



**Dr. Waheed Akbar**

**HUMANITARIAN AWARD**



**Pharrington Douglas**  
Co-founder, Urban Racquet  
Sports Foundation

**HUMANITARIAN AWARD**



**Ken LeCureux**  
Co-founder, Urban Racquet  
Sports Foundation

**OUTSTANDING  
JOURNALISM/PR AWARD**



**Yvonne Daniels**  
Content Director, Kiss 107.1  
WTLZ-FM - Saginaw

**OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP  
AWARD**



**Dr. David Lewis**  
Director of the School &  
University Partnerships School &  
University Partnerships, SVSU

**+ COMMUNITY**

AWARD  
RECIPIENTS



**OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP  
AWARD**



**Tiffany L. Pruitt**  
Executive Director of Human  
Resources & Labor Relations,  
SPSD

**OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP  
AWARD**



**Cindy Seitz**  
President, Duperon  
Education

**MOTIVATION AWARD**



**Monica Hernandez-Alaniz**  
Assistant Director of Downtown  
Saginaw, Delta College

**MOTIVATION AWARD**



**Carmen Stricker**  
Director of 4S KCP  
Program, SVSU

**OUTSTANDING BUSINESS  
AWARD**



**Brian Eggers**  
Owner, AKT Peerless  
Environmental Services

**OUTSTANDING BUSINESS  
AWARD**



**Silvia Garcia**  
Founder, Shapers Aveda  
Lifestyle



+ COMMUNITY

AWARD  
RECIPIENTS



**OUTSTANDING BUSINESS  
AWARD**



**Sal Hamd**  
Owner, Saginaw  
Alterations and Suits

**OUTSTANDING BUSINESS  
AWARD**



**Louise McKinnie**  
Owner Reflection of U Too  
Salon and Barbershop

**RISING BUSINESS AWARD**



**Kaylynn Martin**  
Owner, Kakes the Great

**MINISTRY OF THE YEAR  
AWARD**



**Rev. Dr. Dennis Laffoon**  
Bethel A.M.E. Church

**MINISTRY OF THE YEAR  
AWARD**



**Rev. Dr. Vincent McMillon**  
St. Paul Missionary Baptist  
Church

**MINISTRY OF THE YEAR  
AWARD**



**Imam Robert Beverly  
Shaheed**  
Islamic Center of Saginaw

+ COMMUNITY

AWARD  
RECIPIENTS



COMMUNITY SERVICE  
AWARD



**Dan Dralle**  
Executive Director of U.S.  
Government Affairs & Global  
CIP, Nexteer

COMMUNITY SERVICE  
AWARD



**Charles "Chuckie"  
Lawrence**

COMMUNITY SERVICE  
AWARD



**Terry and Valerie Reed**  
Community Auto and Tire

COMMUNITY SERVICE  
AWARD



**Miguel Torres and Kristina  
Salcedo**  
K?Onda!

DIVERSITY AWARD



**Pamela Ross McClain, Ph.D.**  
Chief Officer of Culture, Belonging,  
and Community Building,  
Delta College

DIVERSITY AWARD



**Andrea Sanchez**  
Executive Director, TLD  
Holdings

+ COMMUNITY

AWARD  
RECIPIENTS



**OUTSTANDING NON-PROFIT  
AWARD**



**Dante' D. Davis**  
Saginaw S.T.E.M.

**OUTSTANDING NON-PROFIT  
AWARD**



**Bishop T.D. Holden**  
T.D. Holden Jail and Prison  
Ministries, Inc.

**OUTSTANDING NON-PROFIT  
AWARD**



**Cherie Long**  
Heart of the City  
Development Center

**PIONEER/LEGACY AWARD**



**Faye Presley**  
House of Style

**PIONEER/LEGACY AWARD**



**Anita Richardson**  
MI Department of  
Transportation

**PIONEER/LEGACY AWARD**



**Greg Turner**  
Turner Printing

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



# Connecting the Great Lakes State to greater possibility

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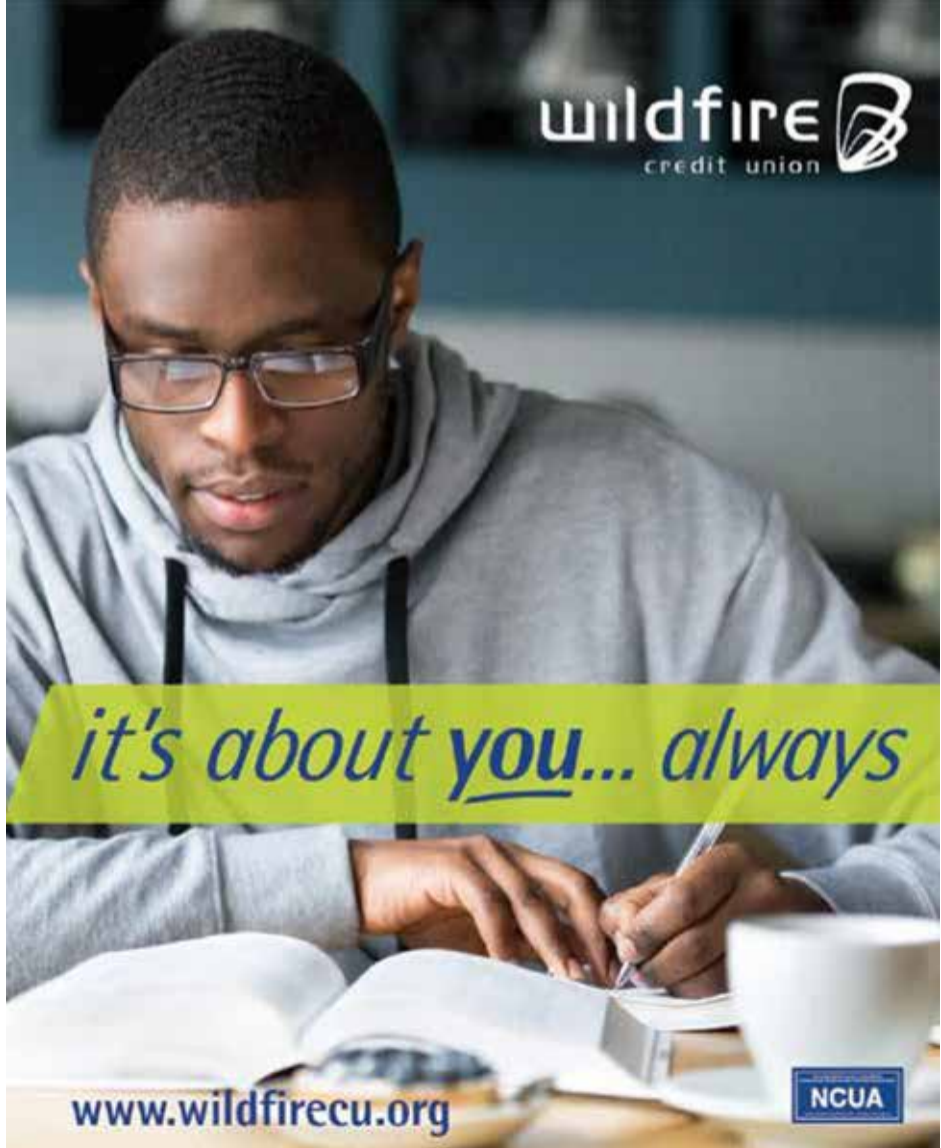
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+ COMMUNITY

# CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH IN THE GREAT LAKES BAY

As June approaches, the Great Lakes Bay region gears up to celebrate Juneteenth with an array of local events. This historic holiday, commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans, has grown in significance and scope, bringing communities together in reflection, education, and festivity. From Midland to Saginaw, Bay City to Mount Pleasant, a diverse lineup of activities is set to honor this pivotal moment in American history. Explore exciting events planned throughout the region, offering a perfect blend of history, culture, and community spirit!



**JUNETEENTH BLOCK PARTY**  
MIDLAND, MI

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June 16, 2024 | 2 - 5 PM

Creative 360 | 5501 Jefferson Ave, Midland MI

- \*Family-Friendly Activities
- \*Free Food & Entertainment
- \*Free & Open to the Public

Logos: Members First, Isabella Bank, Youth Action, Saginaw State University, Dow, The Breaking Bread Project, Wildfire, Daily News.



**Saginaw JUNETEENTH**  
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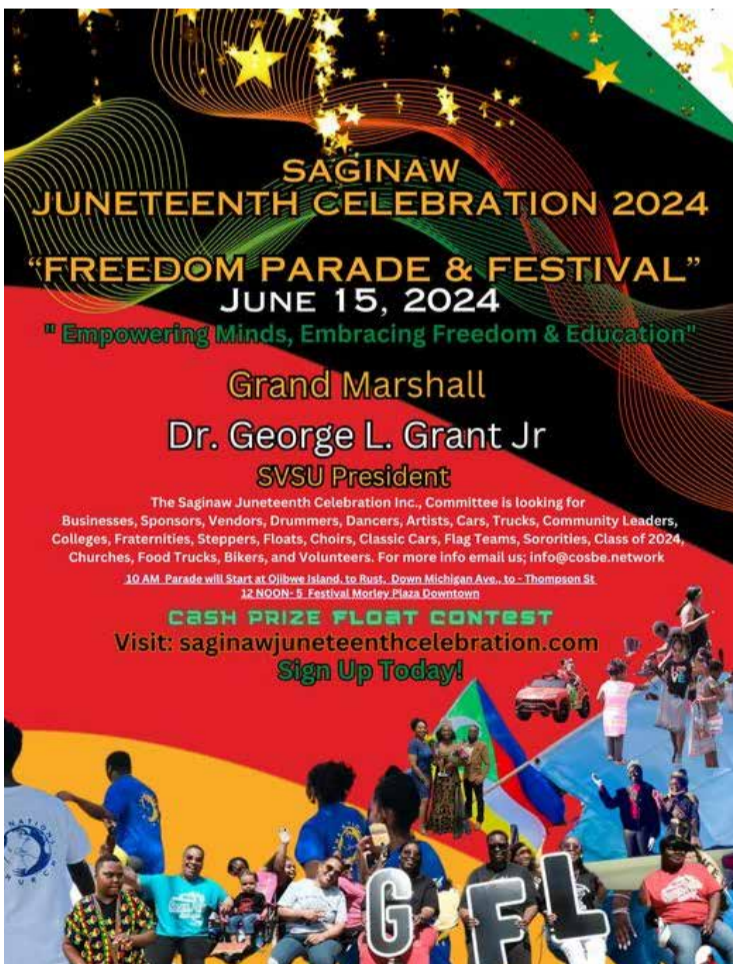


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JUNE 15, 2024

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SVSU President

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10 AM: Parade will Start at Ojibwe Island, to Rust, Down Michigan Ave., to -Thompson St.  
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12pm to 9:30pm  
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# No silence for gun violence:

## 2024 anti-murder campaign

COURTESY PHOTO

Greetings dear community and those abroad! The summer of 2024 is upon us as we are geared up and ready to relaunch our anti-murder campaign, “No Silence for Gun Violence” (NS4GV). NS4GV is supported by The Michigan Banner and developed/presented to the community via Does the Music Matter-Project 13 (DTMM-13). The campaign’s agenda is to enhance insight, increase understanding and cause “movement” in the people of Saginaw and those abroad. It is **“meant”** to motivate community members to **“move”** in one direction, towards one common goal, which is healing. DTMM-13 first began the campaign in July of 2023, servicing community youth with an opportunity to engage the campaign and share their perspectives of how murder and gun violence impacts their lives (hosted at Heavenly Realm Respite Services). In August of 2023, the NS4GV campaign invited many community leaders and servants from various sectors, to come and join them as CAC hosted their “Healing the Land” townhall conversation. The event was an attempt to engage others with an effort to collaborate and unite everyone together so we could fight against the public health issue of gun violence, on one accord while maximizing resources and outcomes.

NS4GV campaign members later joined the community cry “A call to action against gun violence” for a march through the city of Saginaw, West to the East side (organized by Jackie Jones); as well as joining the “Let the Youth Speak” forum organized by City Council Woman Lamar-Silvia. The NS4GV members also conducted a minor “door-to-door” canvassing survey, gathering data directly from various community members in regards to the impact of gun violence in their lives. Ending the campaign’s 2023 endeavors by joining RCO Men’s shelter for a fundraiser, male resources, food, fellowship and fun at New Life Baptist Ministries’ Mission in the City Park. This summer NS4GV is striving to continue the campaign with an endeavor of education, awareness, collaborations and creative approaches-to discourage murder, gun violence and factors associated with this public health issue.

Young people in the United States face alarming levels of gun-related deaths and injuries. According to data collected from Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, annually, nearly 4,000 children and teens (ages 0 to 19) are shot and killed, and 15,000 are shot and wounded and an estimated three million children witness a shooting each year. In Michigan alone, if

you are a black male between the ages of 15-34, homicide is the #1 cause of death; and for black females (15-34) homicide is the #2 cause of death. We will discuss this reality and its impact on “everyone” in more depth, in the articles to come, so stay tuned, all summer. Also, stay tuned and look forward to interviews, music (including a Youth Music Project), instructional youth presentations (NS4GV presents “Hood-Winked” a brief anti-murder educational training; to receive 2024 summer service contact information below); and an end of the summer collaborative effort with community partners for a celebration of peace in the park 3

You may join the campaign, by sharing this article and.... Continuing to follow The Michigan Banner (TMB) for additional information to come. For ways to be directly involved, suggestions and connections contact [cpritcheth@dtmm-project13.org](mailto:cpritcheth@dtmm-project13.org) or call 989-443-0985. To follow every aspect of the campaign subscribe to website [www.dtmm-project.13/nosilence](http://www.dtmm-project.13/nosilence).

**Yours in Service,  
C. M. Pritchett**

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+ COMMUNITY

# Tricia A. Keith to succeed Daniel J. Loepp as president and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan



TRICIA A. KEITH

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan’s Board of Directors today appointed Tricia A. Keith as president and CEO-Elect. Ms. Keith, 53, will succeed Daniel J. Loepp as president and CEO following his retirement on January 1, 2025.

She will become the company’s first female chief executive and only the third president and CEO to lead the Blue Cross enterprise in the last 40 years. Ms. Keith currently serves as executive vice presi-

dent, chief operating officer and president of Emerging Markets for BCBSM. She has been with the company, holding several senior executive roles, since 2006.

“After a six-month search, and thoughtful consideration of highly qualified candidates, the Board is proud to appoint Tricia Keith to serve as our company’s next president and CEO,” said Gregory A. Sudderth, chairman of the BCBSM Board. “No one is more ready to lead our great company into the future. Tricia Keith is a Michigan native, whose depth of knowledge and experience, her broad and accomplished track record of executive leadership, and abiding commitment to Blue Cross’ mission make her the clear choice to take our company forward in service to our members and communities.”

Daniel J. Loepp, president and CEO of Blue

Cross Blue Shield of Michigan until January 1, 2025, will retire as the longest-serving chief executive in the company’s history. Among his many achievements during his more than two decades of leadership at BCBSM, Mr. Loepp transformed the company from a large single-state health insurance plan to a diversified multi-company enterprise of national scale.

“Transformational is the word that best describes Dan Loepp’s legacy of leadership over more than 20 years,” Mr. Sudderth said. “We have had two great leaders in the last 40 years – and now we are adding a third. Dick Whitmer restored our company’s financial strength and integrity during a time of trouble. Dan Loepp transformed the company to succeed in this century. Now, Tricia Keith will provide the energy and vision to accelerate our success into the future.”

Re-Elect

# LISA CONEY

SAGINAW COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT 10

---

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Professional and Saginaw County Board appointments

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Over three decades of community engagement

★ READY TO SERVE ★

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT  
LISA CONEY

+ COMMUNITY

# Saginaw Promise hosts “Swinging for the Promise” golf event at the Saginaw Country Club!

Enjoy a great day of golf on a beautiful course this summer! The Saginaw Promise hosts its annual “Swinging for the Promise” golf event, on Thursday, August 15, 2024 at the Saginaw Country Club; shotgun start 10 AM. “Swinging for the Promise provides a wonderful opportunity to enjoy 18 holes of golf, a fun-filled day, while supporting a great cause!”, stated Mark Johnston, Golf Event Chairman.

Individual registration is \$165, Team registration is \$660, which includes Four Person Scramble, Driving Range, 18 Holes with Cart, grilled “Lunch at the Turn”, Barbecue Buffet Dinner, Door Prizes, Putting Contest, Awards and Trophy Presentation; with other activities to be announced.

Sponsorships and promotional opportunities are available! To learn more about Swinging for the Promise” Golf Event and sponsorships, visit [www.saginawpromise.org](http://www.saginawpromise.org). For questions, contact Deborah Sanchez at (989)755-0545 or email [dsanchez@saginawpromise.org](mailto:dsanchez@saginawpromise.org).

“Swinging for the Promise” proceeds will benefit Saginaw Promise programming and scholarships. Since 2012, the Saginaw Promise has awarded \$1,317,714 in scholarships to 728 scholars. The Saginaw Promise believes in the power of postsecondary education to be a change agent and is working to provide opportunities for and eliminate barriers to postsecondary education to benefit Saginaw’s future and the lives of its students.

**Saginaw Promise Golf Outing**  
**Swinging for the Promise**



**THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2024**  
**SAGINAW COUNTRY CLUB**  
 (4465 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw MI 48638)



Grab Your Golf Clubs for a Great Time!!!

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES - TEAM REGISTRATION FORM**  
 Proceeds to Benefit Saginaw Promise Programming & Scholarships

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>EVENT SPONSOR</b> <span style="float: right; background-color: #f4a460; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;"><b>\$2,000</b></span> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foursome with carts</li> <li>Sponsor name displayed at event and recognized at dinner</li> <li>Opportunity to welcome &amp; address golfers prior to “shotgun start”</li> <li>Opportunity to host a golf activity on course or display table near registration</li> <li>Name listed on Saginaw Promise website</li> <li>Hole Sponsorship</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>CART SPONSOR</b> <span style="float: right; background-color: #f4a460; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;"><b>\$650</b></span> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor name on golf carts and listed on the Saginaw Promise website</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>DINNER SPONSOR</b> <span style="float: right; background-color: #f4a460; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;"><b>\$1,500</b></span> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foursome with carts</li> <li>Sponsor name displayed &amp; recognized at dinner</li> <li>Opportunity to welcome and address golfers at dinner</li> <li>Opportunity to host a display table at dinner</li> <li>Name listed on Saginaw Promise Website</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>DRIVING RANGE SPONSOR</b> <span style="float: right; background-color: #f4a460; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;"><b>\$400</b></span> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name displayed at event and announced at dinner</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>LUNCH AT TURN SPONSOR</b> <span style="float: right; background-color: #f4a460; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;"><b>\$1,000</b></span> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foursome with carts</li> <li>Sponsor name displayed at “Lunch at the Turn” and recognized at dinner</li> <li>Opportunity to host golf activity or display table</li> <li>Name listed on Saginaw Promise website</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>HOLE SPONSORS</b> <span style="float: right; background-color: #f4a460; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;"><b>\$250</b></span> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor name and or/company logo on hole and listed on the Saginaw Promise website</li> <li>Recognized at dinner</li> </ul>

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

Sponsors: Please email your company logo to [DSanchez@saginawpromise.org](mailto:DSanchez@saginawpromise.org).  
 EPS or hi-res JPG preferred.

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

**GOLF PER PERSON - \$165**
 **GOLF FOURSOME TEAM - \$660**

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Total Amount for <b>Golfing</b> \$ _____	Team Name _____
Total Amount for <b>Sponsorship</b> \$ _____	Player #1 _____
I would like to make a <b>Donation</b> \$ _____	Player #2 _____
I would like to <b>Donate a Prize</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Player #3 _____
Total Amount <b>ENCLOSED</b> \$ _____	Player #4 _____

**Make Check Payable:**  
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\*Saginaw Community Foundation is the fiscal agent for Saginaw Promise

**For Questions:**  
 Please contact Deborah Sanchez at (989) 755-0545 or email [DSanchez@saginawpromise.org](mailto:DSanchez@saginawpromise.org)

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**Deadlines** ▶ **Sponsors:** Respond by August 7, 2024 **Golfers:** Sign up before August 9, 2024

## + COMMUNITY

# How Saginaw can leverage the success of the Memorial Cup



ARRIVAL OF THE CUP ON MAY 23

By MB STAFF

The excitement and energy brought by the Memorial Cup to Saginaw, Michigan, have left a lasting impression on the community. As the city reflects on the successful hosting of this prestigious event, it's crucial to consider how Saginaw can build on this momentum to ensure long-term benefits and continued growth. Here are several strategies that the community can adopt to capitalize on the Memorial Cup's success.

## Enhancing Youth and Amateur Sports Programs

The Memorial Cup has sparked increased interest in hockey and sports among local youth. Saginaw can build on this enthusiasm by investing in and expanding youth and amateur sports programs. By providing more opportunities for young athletes to participate in hockey and other sports, the city can foster a new generation of talent and enthusiasm. Partnerships with schools, local businesses, and sports organizations can help fund scholarships, training programs, and facility improvements.

## Promoting Saginaw as a Sports Tourism Destination

The successful hosting of the Memorial Cup has proven that Saginaw has the infrastructure and community support to handle major sporting events. The city can leverage this experience to attract other regional,

national, and even international sporting events. By actively marketing Saginaw as a prime location for sports tourism, the community can draw more visitors, boost local businesses, and enhance its reputation as a vibrant destination.

## Investing in Infrastructure and Community Projects

The infrastructure improvements made in preparation for the Memorial Cup should not be a one-time effort. Continued investment in sports facilities, public spaces, and transportation can ensure that Saginaw remains a top choice for future events. Additionally, engaging the community in new projects, such as parks, recreational centers, and cultural initiatives, can enhance the quality of life for residents and create a more attractive environment for visitors.

## Strengthening Community Partnerships

The Memorial Cup brought together various community stakeholders, including local government, businesses, and residents. Building on these partnerships is essential for future success. Regularly convening these groups to discuss community goals, upcoming events, and collaborative opportunities can maintain the momentum generated by the Memorial Cup. Joint initiatives can range from community festivals and cultural events to business development and urban renewal projects.

## Encouraging Local Business Involvement

Local businesses played a crucial role in supporting the Memorial Cup, and their involvement should continue beyond the event. Encouraging businesses to sponsor local sports teams, community events, and development projects can create a thriving local economy. Business owners can also collaborate to offer discounts, promotions, and special events that draw both residents and tourists, keeping the community engaged and vibrant.

## Fostering a Culture of Volunteerism

The success of the Memorial Cup was made possible by the many volunteers who dedicated their time and effort. Continuing to foster a culture of volunteerism in Saginaw can benefit future events and community projects. Establishing a volunteer network or organization dedicated to community service can ensure that there are always willing hands to support local initiatives, making Saginaw a model of civic engagement and community spirit.

## Celebrating Community Achievements

Regularly celebrating the achievements and milestones of the community can maintain the positive energy generated by the Memorial Cup. Annual events, awards, and recognition ceremonies for local athletes, volunteers, businesses, and community leaders can keep the spirit of the Memorial Cup alive. These celebrations can serve as reminders of what the community can achieve when it comes together with a shared purpose.

The Memorial Cup has left a mark on Saginaw, showcasing the community's potential and spirit. By building on the momentum of this event through enhanced youth programs, infrastructure investment, community partnerships, local business involvement, volunteerism, and regular celebrations, Saginaw can ensure lasting benefits and continued growth. The energy and excitement of the Memorial Cup can be transformed into a sustainable force that drives the community forward, making Saginaw an even more vibrant and thriving place to live, work, and visit.

## + COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

## Consumers Energy announces AgriEnergy Center in partnership with Spring Creek farms

Consumers Energy broke ground today on two renewable energy projects in partnership with Spring Creek Farms, launching the state's first AgriEnergy center. The dairy farm will host a renewable natural gas (RNG) biodigester and a 140-megawatt solar array, generating enough energy to power 25,000 homes.

"This first-of-its-kind project provides a blueprint not only for other farms, but for the entire state, on how to integrate the clean energy transformation into existing businesses," said David Hicks, vice president of clean energy development for Consumers Energy. "This project will produce meaningful solar output and significantly reduce emissions, while enabling a local institution to keep its doors open. This is truly a win for everyone."

Through its partnership with Consumers Energy, Spring Creek Farms is able to

stay operational while also reducing emissions and adding significant energy output to the grid. In addition, the development will supply tax revenue for the local community over the 30-plus-year lifetime of the project.

RNG technology captures methane released by decomposing organic wastes — like the manure from cows on dairy farms — and purifies it, making it safe for customer usage and better for the environment; in many cases RNG is considered carbon negative, as it captures and prevents more emissions than it emits. Consumers Energy announced earlier this year the expansion of its RNG program, which aims to significantly reduce emissions for the company and the state's farmers in the coming years.

"Renewable natural gas is a unique, cost-effective, and easily accessible way to reduce emissions while also providing the

affordable natural gas we know our customers need," said Holly Bowers, vice president of gas engineering and supply for Consumers Energy. "Farmers like Oesch family are truly leading the way in this piece of Michigan's clean energy transformation, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact the AgriEnergy center will have on their farm and the community."

Consumers Energy is Michigan's largest energy provider, providing natural gas and/or electricity to 6.8 million of the state's 10 million residents in all 68 Lower Peninsula counties. Consumers Energy's Clean Energy Plan calls for eliminating coal as an energy source by 2025, achieving net-zero carbon emissions and meeting 90 percent of customers' energy needs through clean sources, including wind and solar.

+ COMMUNITY

# Pineapple Pudding Pie



By **CLAUDINE CARTER HAYNES**

**This Pineapple Pudding Pie is sweet and simple.**

### Ingredients

- Lg.Box of Vanilla Instant Pudding
- 16 oz. of Sour Cream
- 20 oz. can of crushed pineapples

**Mix all the ingredients together and put into a 9in. Graham Cracker Crust. Top with Cool Whip and refrigerator overnight.**



COURTESY PHOTO

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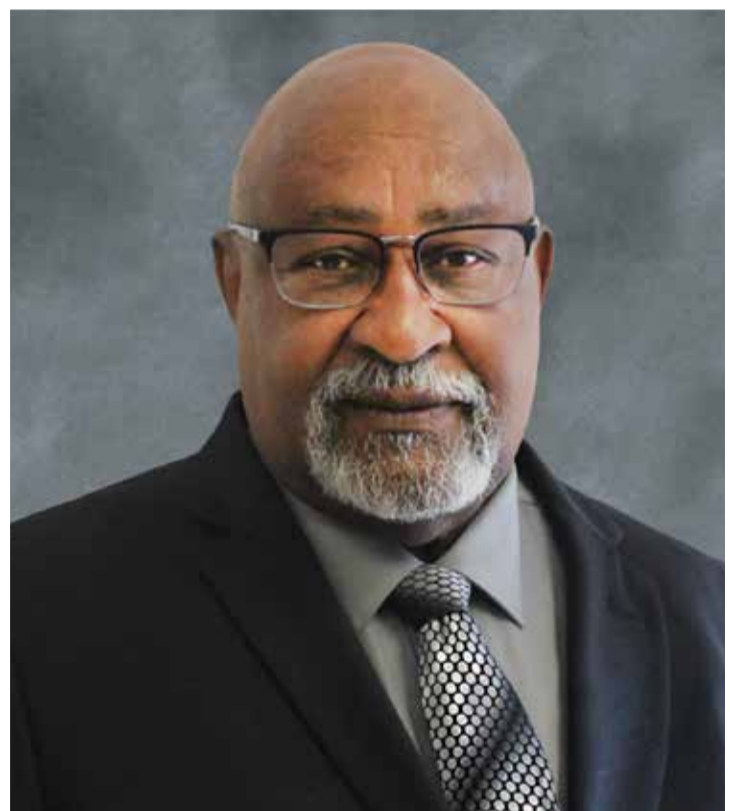
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# + FAITH BASED

SPONSORED CONTENT



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

## Join us at Ministry Without Walls

By **PASTOR JOHN DUNN**  
MINISTRY WITHOUT WALLS

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

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

Our vision is for Ministry Without Walls to be:

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

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

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

Our ongoing teaching and seminars will include:

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

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

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

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

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

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



# The Church as the Heart of the City



COURTESY PHOTO

By MB STAFF

In the heart of every thriving city lies a network of institutions that together form the backbone of community life. In Saginaw, as in many cities around the world, the church holds a unique and profound position within this network. Serving not only as a place of worship but also as a beacon of hope, charity, and community, the church stands as the heart of our city.

Historically, churches were among the first structures to be established in new communities, symbolizing a commitment to spiritual values and communal unity. In Saginaw, our churches are often located at central points within neighborhoods but these buildings are more than just places of worship; they are landmarks that embody the rich history and cultural heritage of our city.

The role of the church extends far beyond its spiritual mission. Churches in Saginaw provide essential social services that are crucial to the well-being of our community. They operate food banks, offer shelter and support to the homeless, and run programs for at-risk youth and struggling families. These services address immediate needs and foster long-term stability and resilience within the community.

Churches serve as gathering places where people from diverse backgrounds can come together, building bridges across divides and fostering a sense of unity and belonging. They host community meetings, social events, and educational programs, providing spaces where meaningful connections can be made and strengthened.

## The Call to Action

Despite the indispensable role that churches play in our community, there is always more that can be done. To the churches and church leaders of Saginaw, I extend a heartfelt call to action: let us renew our commitment to being the heart of this city. Here are a few ways I challenge you to amplify our impact:

- 1. Expand Community Outreach Programs:** Enhance existing programs and develop new initiatives to address the evolving needs of our community. Focus on areas such as mental health support, vocational training, and after-school programs for youth.
- 2. Strengthen Partnerships:**

Collaborate with other local organizations, schools, and businesses to maximize resources and broaden the reach of community services. Joint efforts can lead to innovative solutions for complex social issues.

- 3. Promote Inclusivity:** Ensure that church activities and services are accessible and welcoming to all, regardless of background or circumstance. Foster an environment of inclusivity where everyone feels valued and supported.
- 4. Advocate for Social Justice:** Use the church's platform to advocate for policies and practices that promote social justice and equity. Engage in dialogues and actions that address systemic issues such as poverty, discrimination, and environmental sustainability.
- 5. Encourage Volunteerism:** Mobilize congregants to actively participate in community service. Encourage a culture of volunteerism where members feel empowered to make a positive impact in Saginaw.

The church's role as the heart of Saginaw is both a legacy and a continuing responsibility. By expanding our outreach, strengthening partnerships, promoting inclusivity, advocating for social justice, and encouraging volunteerism, we can ensure that our churches remain vital, dynamic centers of community life.

*At this year's Heart of the City Award Banquet three pastors will receive the Ministry of the year award for their commitment to the betterment of the Great Lakes Bay region through ministry and community service: Rev. Dr. Dennis Laffoon (Bethel A.M.E. Church), Rev. Dr. Vincent McMillon (St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church), Imam Robert Beverly Shaheed (Islamic Center of Saginaw).*

## + FAITH BASED

## SERMONETTE SERIES

By MINISTER CAROLYN CARTER  
TOWNSEL

Adversities, challenges, and decisions are all part of life! There is no doubt; it is inevitable that during the course of our lives; we have made some decisions that resulted with either rewards of sweet savoring fruit or consequences of bitter tasting fruit. Often time, decisions come during a crossroad and while we examine all factors involved, pray, look at the risk and evaluate, and still we make the wrong decision. Then there are those times in our life, although beyond our control life just happens, bringing the good and the bad- sickness and tragedies. Yet, regardless of how those dismaying, depressing, and disturbing times happened, if we could turn back the hands of time and change some things we certainly would, but the reality is we cannot.

However, there is good news, towards the end of chapter 8 Apostle Paul shares with the church in Rome to hold onto the future hope in Christ despite their present struggles, because God is working all things together. As Paul addresses the suffering that they face, he is in essence addressing the suffering that

It may not be good but it  
will work out for your good

*"And we know that in  
all things God works for  
the good of those who  
love him, who have been  
called according to his  
purpose"*

Romans 8:28 NIV



we face when he states, ***"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose"*** (Romans 8:28 NIV). This Scripture is not implying that all things are good, but it is saying that all things will work out for our good.

Romans 8:28 promises that God works for our good ***"in all things"*** is reassuring. There are only two qualifiers for God to work all things together for our good. First, He works for ***"the good of those who love Him."*** If you love God, you can trust that He is working for your good. It is crucial that we do not automatically equate the term "good" to being happy or painless. To do so is to misunderstand the true essence of God's promise. The good end toward which God is moving is the glorification of His people, that comprises their conformity to the image of Christ and partaking of His divine nature and attributes—love, holiness, wisdom, kindness, patience, along with many more (2 Peter 1:3–8).

Second, He works for ***"those who have been called according to His purpose."*** This promise is not for everyone, it is specifically and limited to ***"those who***

***love God,"*** and ***"those who are called according to His purpose."*** To be sure, the Lord does good to all people, He sends the rain on the just and the unjust. Therefore, this promise is not regarding universal blessings or common grace benefits that God bestows upon all people, but it is for those who have placed their trust in Jesus Christ by way of salvation, and called to fulfill God's purposes - Christians.

Beloved, it is inevitable that life brings with it adversities, challenges, and decisions that we must make. Yet, irrespectively of each and every situation we might experience, even pain or suffering, God is working all things together for our good. There is no doubt, we do not always see or understand how He is doing this, but we can be certain that our sovereign and loving God is working for, in, and through even the worst things for our ultimate good and His ultimate glory. So, in the midst of all that you must endure, bear, and withstand, stay focused and remember, "It may not be good, but it will work out for your good."

Blessings to All,  
Carolyn

# + CHURCH DIRECTORY

## A



**Agape Faith Bible Training Center**  
Rev. Dr. Joseph Rodriguez  
8121 Dixie Highway  
Birch Run, MI 48415  
(989) 777-3200 Ext. 20

## B



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



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



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

## C

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

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



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

## F



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



**Faith Ministries Church**  
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.  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
(989) 752-4769

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

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

## H



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

## J

**Jacob's Ladder**  
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**  
Pastor Ron Frierson  
2395 S. Outer Drive  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-8485



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



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

**New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church**  
Pastor Alfred "AJ" Harris Jr.  
3610 Russel St.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-0801

## P

**Prince of Peace Baptist Church**  
Pastor Robert C. Corley Jr.  
825 North 24th Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-2841

## R

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



**Resurrection Life Ministries Full Gospel Baptist Church**  
Pastor Carolyn L. Wilkins  
2320 Sheridan Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-395-3142

## S



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



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

## T



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



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

## U



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

## V



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

## W



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

## Z



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

# + FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

## Nonprofit CEOs – Overcome the fear of asking

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

*Fundraising is known for its abundance of disappointments and few successes. Don't let that get you down. It's just a fact of life. And you can overcome it.*

Let's say you're a kid and you want a specific gift. What do you do? We recommend talking to those who just might give you a gift. Tell them what you want. Tell them why you want it, and how your life will be so wonderfully different once you have it. We hope you can conjure up the feelings that come with knowing you just might get what you want. Feel the feeling of knowing that people are going to come through for you.

You need this feeling when you are fundraising as a nonprofit director or CEO. You must believe that what you are asking for is important. You have to know and understand the mission, goals, values, and fundraising priorities of the organization you represent. You have to feel confident – you are not begging. And you cannot take rejection personally. If you have hesitancy, hire a consultant to coach you through the process of learning how to have a cultivation conversation, and – at the appropriate time – a solicitation conversation. Fundraising is a noble activity you engage in on behalf of the organization you lead. If you can't overcome your fear of asking you are doing a disservice to your nonprofit.



COURTESY PHOTO

Do your homework. Your ask or solicitation should be informed by knowledge of what your constituency wants, what their complaints are, and the ways in which they value you. You should have already tested and gotten proper feedback from stakeholders about your fundraising priorities. In terms of a specific ask, you need to do your personal homework to understand the prospective donor or funder you are approaching. Do you know what is important to them?

Get your house in order. Here's a basic tenet – you can't sell what you don't know. Just because your organization "needs money" doesn't mean you are ready to fundraise. You start with a written case for support that defines what you are raising money for, how much you need for specific initiatives, and what the impact will be when your fundraising is successful. You must practice, practice, practice your elevator speech. And you need a backup plan. If a prospective donor or funder says "no," you need another option to put on the table that aligns with their interests and capacity. Too often the search for funding blinds a solicitor from asking for other valuable resources such as engagement, in-kind resources, expertise, or introductions.

You may say to yourself, "Oh my gosh that is a lot of work! Why won't people just give us money? We need it." Ah, if only life was like that. Gifts that come like manna from heaven are few and far between. You have to prepare. And that includes building the capacity and infrastructure to properly cultivate, make the ask, and follow up. You can do it, it's all part of leadership!



Copyright 2024 – 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.

## + EDUCATION

# SVSU to offer first dual entry MSOT program in the state



SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STUDENTS USE A VIRTUAL REALITY HEADSET, WHICH IS USED FOR BOTH ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT WITH PATIENTS.

In a move to make it more convenient for people to attain a master's degree in occupational therapy, Saginaw Valley State University is expanding access to its Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program, enabling students to begin the program in either the fall semester or the winter semester. Previously, all MSOT students began the program during the spring term. SVSU is the first university in Michigan to offer two MSOT entry points.

"Occupational therapists are in high demand in Michigan and across the country," said Marcia Ditmyer, dean of SVSU's College of Health and Human Services. "We recognize that students may be ready to enter an MSOT program at different times of the year, so to meet the needs of students and help satisfy demand for occupational therapists, we have restructured our admission cycle to allow students to enter the program at two points during the year."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the field of occupational therapy is expected to grow 12% from 2022 to 2032 (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/occupational-therapists.htm>). In Michigan, demand for occupational therapists remains strong, with projected 10-year employment growth (2018-2028) of 7.9%.

To practice, occupational therapists typically must hold a master's degree, and all states require occupational therapists to be licensed. Saginaw Valley State University's MSOT program prepares students for a variety of practice settings, including hospitals, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation clinics, mental health facilities, schools and more.

SVSU's MSOT program offers three options for admission:

The 3+2 admit track is designed for college students who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree. In this track, students may be eligible to obtain a bachelor's de-

gree in rehabilitation medicine after completion of their first year in the MSOT program.

The bachelor's admit track is intended for adults who hold a bachelor's degree and intend to earn a master's degree so they can practice occupational therapy.

The freshman direct admit track is for high school students who will attend SVSU in pursuit of a career in occupational therapy. If selected, students automatically enter the MSOT program after completing prerequisite coursework at SVSU.

The application for SVSU's MSOT program with a winter 2025 start is now open through June 21. Accepted students may begin the program in the winter 2025 term. Applications will be reviewed throughout the cycle each semester.

For more information on SVSU's Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program, visit <https://www.svsu.edu/msot/>.

## + EDUCATION



HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL

## Saginaw Township's Heritage High School named a Jostens 2024 National Yearbook Program of Excellence

Jostens, the leading producer of yearbooks and student-created content, today announced that Saginaw Township Community School's Heritage High School yearbook program has achieved the Jostens National Yearbook Program of Excellence 2024 award at the Gold Level. The National Yearbook Program of Excellence recognizes engaging yearbooks that reflect a broad representation of the student body while helping students to develop 21st century skills such as communication, collaboration, and information and communication technologies (ICT) literacy.

The Heritage High School award-winning yearbook program is led by Editors Grace Polzin and Nia Rupp, and 16 yearbook staff members under the direction of Mrs. Lauren Seals, Heritage yearbook adviser.

"I am incredibly proud of this group. Many of my seniors this year have been with me all four years," said Mrs. Seals. "After winning Bronze in 2022 and Silver in 2023, they were determined to win Gold this year. The Seniors were excellent leaders, getting the new Yearbook staff members on board with the goal of achieving Gold. The work ethic, creativity, and determination of each of these students is commendable and I truly appreciate their dedication to creating a product that captured life long memories."

Jostens' National Yearbook Program of Excellence Awards are presented twice a year. The award was presented to the Heritage High School yearbook program for achieving defined criteria in between one and three of the following categories: creating an inclusive yearbook, generat-

ing school engagement, and successfully managing the yearbook creation process. "Jostens is proud to recognize those individuals who have created an exceptional yearbook for their school and community," said Tammy Whitaker, Jostens VP and COO Yearbook Division.

"These schools did an exceptional job on multiple levels, despite the challenges presented by this school year. Yearbooks are a critical part of capturing and telling a school's story, and Jostens is dedicated to supporting yearbook staff members as they do their important work." Founded in 1897, Jostens has produced school yearbooks for over 60 years. Jostens invests in state-of-the-art technology, best in class service, educational curriculum and award winning print manufacturing platforms to plan, design, build and produce yearbooks.

# Medicine and education - A chicken & egg analogy



COURTESY PHOTO



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**  
RETIRED EDUCATOR

We all are familiar with the paradox of which came first: the chicken or the egg. Why the chicken was first, right to produce the egg.

But the egg had to be first, for there to be a chicken.

Thus, the paradox.

Education and medicine are a similar paradox. Why, education had to come first to produce a body of knowledge for medical science to be “born” and developed, right?

But wait, there had to have been medicine for bodies of knowledge to develop and grow.

Thus, another paradox.

Chicken and egg set aside, education and medicine are closely tied. One fuels the other.

Recently I have had a glimpse into the world of medicine through the eyes of three people in need of accurate diagnosis and treatment. The following generalizations from these experiences I would offer for consideration.

There exists a need for more \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank with a role) Suggestions include nurses, practitioners, technicians, doctors of all specialties (especially anesthesiologists) Most of these roles require degrees, but not all. Some are certifications that can begin at the Saginaw Career Complex (or similar skill center) and Delta College.

The need to stay “current” with medical advances has never been greater. Technology advances at break-neck speed, and medical care providers must keep pace. Have you seen news reports about the use of AI in medicine? That is just one of a multitude of examples of technology rap-

idly entering all fields of medicine.

The future workforce for the medical field is dependent upon education. Whether it is in the classroom or conference room, education needs to be the driving force to keep the medical community informed of new techniques, tools, and approaches. Educators and medical providers need to work hand-in-hand in order for this to happen.

We are in a fascinating era, changes so rapid that news reports can barely keep up. For those readers with that “right” combination of aptitude and interest, the sky is the limit.

#### Resources:

<https://www.spsd.net/o/scc/page/about-scc>

<https://www.delta.edu/>

<https://aws.amazon.com/health/solutions/health-data-portfolio/?trk=7ff71961-d9fe-42b0-854b-6bb3dda61d46>

## + EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

## 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).

# Ditch the bill.



➔ Apply for MI Reconnect.

## Get Free Tuition through Michigan's Reconnect Scholarship Program

Delta College, in partnership with the state of Michigan, is offering free in-district tuition to qualifying Michigan residents who want to earn an associate degree or certificate.

### Do you qualify?

- Michigan resident for 1 year or more
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- Hold a high school diploma or GED
- Do not currently hold a college or university degree
- Students must enroll for 12 credits per year

Newly expanded to those 21-24 for a limited time!

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

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[delta.edu/reconnect](https://delta.edu/reconnect) | 989-686-9093




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SAGINAW, MI 48602  
989.399.4250



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- Testing for the 24-25 School Year Begins January 30th-apply today!

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SAGINAW, MI 48602  
989.399.5500



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**To Complete Registration**

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 989.399.6500



**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

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## + SPORTS

# Franklin makes easy work of Devin Vargas with sixth round TKO



JERMAINE FRANKLIN

By HASANI ALI

Jermaine Franklin promised a knock-out going into the fight and he delivered on that promise.

The fight was stopped at the end of the sixth round at the Wayne State Fieldhouse in Detroit, improving Franklin's record to 23-2 with 15 KOs.

"It was a great fight for me," Franklin said during the post-fight interview with DAZN. "I made the fight harder than it needed to be by being overly aggressive and taking too many power shots. We just need to get back to the drawing board and tweak the gameplan a bit so I can finish these fights a little bit sooner."

Franklin had quite a few stints where it

looked like the fight was going to end, but could not put Vargas away in the earlier rounds.

"Once I landed the first power punch, I got happy," he said with a grin. "I just needed to calm down and pick my shots wisely."

Though it took longer than he anticipated, Franklin was dominant throughout the entire fight. The 989 Assassin was poised in the opening round – quite patient and was very meticulous on where his shot landed.

A three-punch combo put Vargas in the corner and a body shot followed by an uppercut to the chin almost took him out, but the ropes caught his fall.

Franklin delivered a vicious right hand

to end the round.

Vargas came out pressing Franklin at the beginning of round two. The fight was taken to the inside. As the two were exchanging blows, Vargas was caught pulling on Franklin's ponytail.

The fight pretty much stayed in the middle of the ring.

Vargas stayed low in stance to cause confusion but Franklin stunned him with a body shot, followed by a hook to the head and two hooks to the body.

Vargas showed some life by landing a clean right hand to Franklin in the middle of the round.

That clean shot gave him some confidence and began pressing Franklin to smother his offensive attack. It forced Franklin to fight on the defense.

Franklin reacted by almost putting him on the mat with a series of blows to the body.

A clean hook to the head by Franklin to end the round.

A knock down finally came in the fourth round – a series of hooks sent Vargas down to a knee. Instead of going for the kill, Franklin remained patient and picked his shots until the round ended.

Heading into the sixth round, Vargas was visibly frustrated trying to slow down Franklin.

His only objective was to simply last until the end of the round. Vargas was seen leaning all of his weight on Franklin to slow him down, forcing him to counter from his back foot.

A right hook dropped him for the second time. He barely survived the 10 count, but barely hung on until the end of the sixth round.

Vargas' corner threw in the towel before the start of the seventh round.

The victory came after a 10-month hiatus, his second win since his two losses in London against Dillian Whyte and Anthony Joshua.

## + SPORTS



DETROIT VENOM

## Detroit Venom nips Derby City Dynamite, 8-0

By HASANI ALI

In a rather slow and action-less game, the Detroit Venom were able to come away with an 8-0 victory over Div. II foe, Derby City.

Though the offense couldn't get much rolling and Derby City's defense did what they could to lock down veteran running back Clarissa Tullis, penalties gave Detroit most of its yardage.

The only touchdown scored in the game came from a muffed punt that was downed at the 2-yard line with less than 30 seconds to go in the half.

Quarterback Kyla Wilson was able to punch it in with a sneak with three seconds left in the half. The extra point was missed, making the score 6-0 into halftime.

The game went into a 30-minute delay as Derby City's defensive back Brittany Fears received a phone call that her mother passed away during halftime.

She left the game to drive back to Louisville.

With that moment giving enough motivation to rally up the team, the stagnant Dynamite offense began to show some life.

The offense began to pick up steam with a small series of 5-yard runs to move

the team down the field to get into position to score.

On fourth and inches on the 50-yard line, Wilson pummeled her way to a 10-yard run on a QB sneak for Derby City first down with 12 minutes remaining.

Faced with another fourth and 10 near the goal line, Derby City attempted their first pass attempt of the night, trying to hit the receiver on the wheel route, but it was dropped.

On the ensuing drive, Tullis pulled off a 15-yard run for Detroit.

However, Detroit's offense went backwards with back-to-back penalties; wide receiver Destinee Russell was called for a false start and offensive guard Jessica Brooks was called for holding.

Russell made up for it on a pass play, catching the ball on a fly route from a tipped pass for a 20-yard gain.

Derby City caught a lucky break when Tullis fumbled the ball on second and short on their own 45-yard line.

With time running down in the fourth quarter, Derby City finally decides to open up their passing game.

Former quarterback, now wide receiver LaEssence Buckner caught a tipped pass on the first play of the series for a 15-yard

gain.

Momentum began picking up for the Dynamite until defensive back Kaci Cunningham came down with an interception with a little over eight minutes remaining in the game.

She also came down with her second one on Derby City's next drive as the Dynamite attempted a long ball to move the offensive up the field.

With Detroit's failed attempt to get down the field, Derby City had one final attempt to put some points on the board.

A bad snap sends the ball back 20 yards with 2:14 remaining in the game, giving the Dynamite another try on second and 30.

Quarterback Nikki Mills tried to hit her receiver on a back screen but fell short and ended up being tackled in the end zone for a safety, giving Detroit an 8-0 lead with 2:01 remaining in the game.

The Venom are now 3-1, sitting at no. 4 in the National Conference in Div. II. Derby still has a chance to squeeze into the playoff picture with a 1-2 record.

Detroit will have its last home game of the season against Grand Rapids on June 1 and will finish the season against the Cincinnati Cougars on June 8.

## + SPORTS



DETROIT SHOCK

## Pistons make push for WNBA expansion team

By HASANI ALI

If the WNBA were to consider expansion teams, Detroit should be the no. 1 city for consideration. From the fan base to the championships, the city has proved that they deserve a team in the city.

So why were they left out of the conversation when the WNBA brought up possible places to expand?

Either way, the Pistons are advocating to revive a franchise team to the Motor City. In fact, they have been meeting with the league to discuss an expansion opportunity, according to Crain's Detroit Business.

For a decade (1998-2008), the Detroit Shock was one of the more successful expansion teams in the WNBA – hosted by the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Detroit was one of six teams that have

won at least three WNBA championships – along the ranks of Los Angeles Sparks, Phoenix Mercury, Minnesota Lynx, Seattle Storm and the extinct Houston Comets who won the league's first four titles.

Despite the success, the team was losing money.

The owner Bill Davidson, the same owner of the Pistons at the time, sold the franchise to Tulsa, Oklahoma, renamed the Tulsa Shock. The team is now the Dallas Wings, when the team was sold again and moved to Texas in 2015.

"The Detroit Shock enjoyed success and won championships during their run in the 2000s and we celebrated the anniversary of their 2003 championship at a Pistons game last year," Pistons chief communication officer Kevin Grigg told Crain's in an email. "While nothing is imminent, the prospects of bringing a WNBA team back to Detroit is intriguing and we have

interest should they open another round of expansion. We will continue to engage in conversation with the WNBA going forward."

According to MLive.com, the WNBA will grow from 12 to 14 teams as part of the current expansion, with the addition of ball clubs such as the Golden State Valkyries and a team in Toronto that has yet to be named. By 2028, the league is looking to grow to 16 teams according to league commissioner Cathy Engelbert, with Denver, Nashville, Philadelphia, South Florida, and Portland being potential locations.

In a conversation with MLive last January, former Shock player and current New Orleans Pelicans vice president of basketball operations and team development Swin Cash said she thinks the city of Detroit would embrace a return of the franchise, especially with the move to the downtown area.

"Oh man! I think this city would love it," Cash said. "It would be nice to see a team come back here to Detroit...I mean, I tell you this much. The fans not only loved the Shock; the Shock loved the fans. There's so many common threads between women's basketball, men's basketball, the Shock, the Pistons. So, I love to see a WNBA team here."

The Shock were a part of the league's first expansion franchise in 1998, going on to win titles in 2003, 2006, and 2008. The first title win in 2003 was one of the most memorable moments in the franchise's history as the Shock defeated the Los Angeles Sparks, winning the series 2-1. Game 3, which took place at the now-defunct Palace of Auburn Hills in front of a sold-out crowd of 22,076 fans, a then-WNBA record.

If a WNBA team returns to Detroit, they will not be named the Detroit Shock.

MLive spoke with Ryan Reed of the Women's Basketball League (WBL), who stated that the trademark for the Detroit Shock was abandoned by the WNBA and that he purchased it last year. The Detroit Shock will now be a team in the WBL, which Reed describes as a women's basketball developmental league, similar to the NBA G League.



## Reese Olson earns first win as Tigers Beat Blue Jays, 2-1



REESE OLSON

By **HASANI ALI**

Reese Olson can finally call himself official with earning his first win of the season.

He has been one of the top pitchers in the league with 10 starts.

The Detroit Tigers were able to squeeze past the Toronto Bluejays, 2-1 last Saturday afternoon. Olson pitched into the seventh inning without allowing an earned run in front of 35,321 people at Comerica Park.

Detroit (27-28) have won three of four against the Blue Jays (23-28) with a 14-11 win in the final game of the series last Sunday.

Tigers right fielder Kerry Carpenter hit a two-run home run in the first inning against Jays starter Jose Berrios to account for all the Tigers' scoring.

Carpenter now has eight home runs this season up to date and has gone long in back-to-back days.

According to Mlive.com, Olson now has a 1.92 ERA, the second-best mark in the American League. He's behind only

the Royals' Seth Lugo (1.74 ERA), who has eight wins.

Until Saturday, Olson didn't have any. "Obviously, it's good to get a win," Olson said. "But I'm not worried about it. I'm just trying to do my job every time I go out there."

Olson throws right-handed but is especially tough on left-handed hitters. So the Jays stocked their lineup with righties on Saturday.

"I think Reese is growing into a really complete pitcher where he can attack inside and outside the strike zone with any of his four-pitch mix," said Tigers manager A.J. Hinch. "He can do a lot of things and give a lot of different looks and when you see the awkward takes and the head shake from the hitters...that's telling me that he's disrupting timing."

Olson escaped a bases-loaded jam in the fifth inning by striking out Jays designated hitter Justin Turner.

In the seventh, the Jays got an extra baserunner when Mark Canha muffed a catch at first base. Olson gave way to Alex Faedo, who gave up a double to score the one unearned run but then avoided fur-

ther damage.

Jason Foley, the Tigers' normal closer, pitched the eighth inning to match up against the middle of the Jays' order.

Then, knowing that the Jays' bench was loaded with left-handed hitters who would enter as pinch hitters in the ninth inning if Foley stayed in the game, Hinch decided to use Holton to face the string of righties at the bottom of the order.

It worked, although not without some tense moments after Isiah Kiner-Falefa's one-out double.

Foley pumped in some 90 mph cutters, his most effective pitch, a few ticks faster than he normally throws them.

"He was so amped up," Hinch said. "They're probably the hardest cutters he's thrown all year."

The Tigers have now won two in a row after a season-long five-game losing streak. Both wins have come wearing the City Connect "Motor City" uniforms.

Detroit, sitting fourth in the American League Central Division, will be heading to Boston (28-28) for a double header against the Red Sox. First pitch begins at 7:10 p.m.

## + SPORTS

# Western Michigan baseball wins MAC tournament championship



WESTERN MICHIGAN BASEBALL TEAM

**By HASANI ALI**

Sitting in second place of the MAC conference, it wasn't any surprise that the Broncos were going to be a top contender in the MAC tournament.

Western Michigan sealed its fate as a 10-3 win against Ball State in the championship game, giving the Broncos their second-ever conference title, and first since 2016.

As the winners of the tournament, WMU (32-21 overall, 19-11 in MAC) earns an automatic berth into the 2024 NCAA Division-I Tournament, with the schedule dropped on Monday at noon on ESPN2.

The Broncos are set to face no. 2 Kentucky on Friday, May 31.

WMU's dominant performance over the tournament weekend showed the reason why the Broncos were crowned conference champs. The pitching crew tossed a pair of shutouts, limited its opponents

to just three total runs and a measly .179 batting average, while also amassing 30 strikeouts to just three walks across three games.

Pitchers DJ Thompson, Joe Shapiro, Turner Doran and Luke Thelen only allowed 10 Ball State hits and allowed just three runs.

Shapiro had four strikeouts and three scoreless frames to earn the victory in relief.

A pair of three-run innings in the first and fourth allowed the offense to stack runs early in the game. Josh Swinehart's solo home run down the left field line put the nail in the coffin in the fourth inning.

According to MLive.com, Swinehart finished with three hits and two RBI, and Michael Maloney, Greg Budig, Brendan Harrity and Grady Mee notched RBI hits -- all summing to 15 WMU hits on the evening.

Western Michigan outscored its op-

ponents 29-3 over their three games in the tournament, including two victories over third-seeded Ball State (8-0, 10-3) and a shutout win over No. 1 seed Bowling Green (11-0).

WMU outfielder Dylan Nevar was honored as the MAC Tournament MVP, as the junior hit a sweltering .462 (6-for-13) with an on-base percentage of .588, driving in five runs and adding four runs scored.

Nevar was just one of five Broncos named to the All-Tournament team, which also included Sullivan, Swinehart, Brady Miller and Nolan Vlcek. Sullivan and Swinehart drove in four runs each, while

Miller and Vlcek each spun stellar seven-inning shutouts in WMU's first two victories of the tournament.

The Broncos' title-clinching and 32nd win of the season is the most since the program's 1993 team won 35 games -- and marks the 13th NCAA Tournament appearance in Broncos history.

Prior to entering the tournament, the Broncos won 2 of 3 games in three triple headers against Bowling Green, Northern Illinois and Central Michigan earlier in the month.

WMU had lost two consecutive triple headers against Ball State and Akron. The Broncos also split against Big Ten foes -- defeating Michigan 10-9 and losing to Michigan State 12-2.

Momentum started to gain steam as the Broncos went on an eight-game winning streak during the month of April.

# Delta names Cork as new baseball head coach

By HASANI ALI

For many coaches, it takes years of excellence and great networking opportunities for them to reach the next level in their coaching career.

For head coach Billy Cork, the opportunity fell into his lap.

After spending three seasons as an Assistant Coach for baseball at Delta College, the Saginaw High graduate will be taking over the program.

Cork will be entering his 19th year as a head coach, something that he has been doing for many years.

“One of the things that I’ve always wanted to do was to coach at the college level,” he said. “I’ve coached at all levels and the opportunity presented itself, so it was the moment to take it.”

Cork’s passion for the sport has led him to teach many players the game at an early age.

“It’s always been in my blood to be a coach,” he said. “I have been coaching the kids in the neighborhood since I was 15.”

Cork’s first head coaching job was at Bridgeport High School in 2005. After a six-year stint, he had a 10-year tenure at Birch Run High School.

While coaching the Panthers, they won four district championships and one regional championship.

Coach Cork is a four-time recipient of District Coach of the Year and one Regional Coach of the Year awards. His overall record while at Birch Run was 180-106-5 (.627) and he is second on Birch Run’s all-time victories’ list. Cork was inducted into the ABCA Century Club Membership for 200 wins.

The Pioneer wrapped up their season due to a 9-3 loss against Terra State in the Region XII Division III Baseball Championship game.

Despite having a less than favorable record, Cork assures that the program is moving in the right direction.

“We made strides this year,” he said. “We made it to the championship in the regionals. It may not have been as favorable as far as our record, but it’s an ongoing process and we have been improving each year.”

Cork missed 24 games last season due



BILLY CORK

to illness.

The former Trojan is morphing the program into a championship culture in which would be recognizable across the Midwest.

“The objective is to mirror and emulate the ways and other programs,” he said. “We’re developing a winning culture so that other programs can look at us and say that Delta can play ball. We don’t necessarily need anything, but creating this culture where players are expected to play smart and disciplined.”

Having transitioned into coaching young adults, he clearly understands the imperative of getting the athletes to buy in.

“There’s a major difference in skill level between the high schoolers and college, but the game is still the same,” he said. “I have to teach them differently and it’s up to them how they receive it and how they

buy into the program.”

Coaching a JUCO program, Cork has a limited amount of time to work with these athletes to not only make them champions, but to instill morals and principles that will last with them forever.

“Baseball is essentially secondary at the college level,” Cork said. “Baseball is what I’m teaching them on the surface, but it’s the life lessons that they will take with them for the rest of their lives. I only have the privilege to work with these guys for two years, so it’s my job to steer them in the right direction academically and even for those who have the opportunity to play at a university.”

The season just finished for the Pioneers and they will have a 3-month hiatus until they pick up the action August 12 for the fall season.

## + SPORTS

## Western Michigan baseball wins MAC tournament championship



CARLOS MCMATH

**By HASANI ALI**

Carlos McMath's philosophy is similar when it comes to life and basketball – every play is crucial.

It was his exact sentiment when he was named Eastern Michigan University's Men's Basketball Director of Operations.

The Eagles went 13-18 this past season.

McMath was the Associate Head Coach at Northwood University in Midland for the last two seasons, where he spent his second stint with Northwood. He was also the Head Coach at Schoolcraft Community College for the 2021-2022 season.

He went to social media to reflect on the news.

"Excited to start a new journey. Our household blessings are abundantly overflowing. Blessed to get my next play. Every play is crucial."

Though the Timberwolves didn't have the most favorable season, Northwood did have some key wins, including a 89-71 win over Ohio Dominican and a 100-91 win over Lake Erie back in February.

The Timberwolves almost had an epic upset against Eastern Michigan, but just fell short 67-64, back in December.

"Carlos is a very experienced coach

from Northwood, as well as Head Coach at Schoolcraft Community College," said EMU Head Coach Stan Heath. "He's well connected in the Saginaw area where there's been an abundance of talent over the years. He brings a great work ethic and is very knowledgeable and will do very well handling our operations."

Prior to coaching at Schoolcraft, McMath had his first rodeo at Northwood as an Assistant Coach during the 2020-2021 season.

The Arthur Hill graduate spent six seasons as Head Coach at Delta College. His tenured highlight was his team's national final four appearance back in 2018. It was the team's first appearance in the national tournament by 1989.

McMath was named District 10 and Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan Coach of the Year.

"I am excited to be joining a great university and coaching staff led by Coach Stan Heath," McMath said. "I look forward to contributing my time, talents, and gifts that are needed for us to be successful on and off the court."

McMath got his start in coaching at Detroit Osborn High School in 2008-2009 before serving Arthur Hill as an Assistant Coach from 2009-2015.

McMath, a 2005 graduate of Arthur Hill High School, graduated from Wayne State University in 2010 with a degree in Communications with a focus on Rhetorical Analysis. During his time at WSU, McMath was a football student-athlete, in addition to competing as a member of Wayne State's nationally-ranked forensic team.

McMath's education continued beyond Wayne State as he earned a Juris Doctorate from Michigan State University College of Law in 2013.

He was also a student-athlete as a defensive tackle for the Warriors. His career ended abruptly due to injury.

During his time at Arthur Hill, McMath earned three varsity letters for coach Fred Townsend and the Lumberjacks. He started every game of his high school career and was named a Saginaw News All-Area selection his last two years.

McMath also earned honorable mention All-League in 2002 and 2003, and Second Team All-League in 2004.

# Kelley back in ring action July 26

By HASANI ALI

Redemption usually takes time in the world of a fighter.

For beginner Teymaan Kelley, his redemption season may be coming a little early if he's about to take care of business.

Kelley (1-1) will be back in kickboxing action on July 26 at the Motor City Casino in Detroit. His opponent was Brad Roman of Muskegon, but he backed out.

The Saginaw native has a few offers for the title contention fight for the welterweight title (175 pounds), but nothing has been set in stone as yet.

Kelley lost in a split decision on April 19 to the current welterweight champion Ben Philips of Detroit.

The Saginaw native knows that a rematch is within reach as long as he has a strong campaign during the next few fights.

"He's still the champion, for now," he said. "But if he's a true champion, he will stay active and defend that title, as a champion should."

Having done many things correctly, Kelley had a few opportunities to close out the fight and become champion.

"When I had him hurt, I should have been more patient in picking my shots rather than gassing myself out to deliver a series of blows to put him on the ground," he said.

He took it as a learning experience and what to do for the next time these two square off.

"Learned that there's different techniques to close distance and he smothered me, which I wasn't prepared for," he said. "He also did a good job defending my attack from a distance. He kept me close and I had to fight from the inside."

Developing a better ring IQ, Kelley has a better gameplan coming into training camp at 10th Planet Jiu Jitsu, located at 7555 Gratiot Road in Saginaw. He came into training camp at 195 pounds but has two months to make weight.

With it being the summer months, it should be easier for Kelley to lose the weight while training.

"This (training camp) is more about maximizing technique rather than getting in shape," he said. "This camp is learning



TEYMAAN KELLEY

about winning the fights within the fights like getting into a dominant position and getting into distance to strike at the perfect time. I will get into shape in no time."

Suffering his first loss in his kickboxing career, it hasn't shaken up his confidence as he prepares for the next bout.

"I'm used to overcoming adversity," he said. "Taking a loss is only going to make me a better fighter."

Kelley expects Philips (3-3) is expected to be in attendance at the fight to see who will be his opponent for his next title defense.

He's aware that he will be scouted, but he intends on becoming an entirely different fighter than what Philips experienced

when they fought last month.

"I'll need to stay in Roman's face with the jab and get my punches off," Kelley said. "I can't wait to take an open shot so I need to stay on top of him, not giving him any room to breathe."

In the long run, the former amateur boxer sees a professional career in kickboxing and can see himself as a pioneer in the sport as kickboxing was finally introduced to Michigan last month.

"I really enjoy kickboxing and I'm looking to go professional as a fighter," Kelley said. "It looks like it will give me that opportunity so I'm taking it very seriously right now."



# PICS OF THE WEEK

Scenes from the 2024 Memorial Cup hosted at the Dow Event Center. The event started on May 24 and will continue through June 2.





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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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