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CLIPPERS**

COMMUNITY, PG 14

Former Lakers Coach Darvin Ham poised for success amidst adversity



DARVIN HAM

By MB STAFF

After two seasons with the Lakers, Darvin Ham was dismissed on May 3, 2024, after their first round playoff exit.

Some Laker fans may have found the last few seasons disappointing under Ham's leadership. Others may have been more optimistic with two playoff berths, a run to the 2023 Western Conference Finals and a championship win in the inaugural In-Season Tournament under his belt.

Based on his stats on the court you could debate on whether Ham's career has

been a successful one. Knowing his story, there is no question.

In the annals of basketball history, certain names stand out not just for their on-court abilities, but for the inspiring journeys they undertook to reach the pinnacle of success. One such name is Darvin Ham, whose path from the streets of Saginaw to the helm of the Los Angeles Lakers serves as a testament to the power of persever-

**CONTINUES ON PG 2,
DARVIN HAM**

**SVSU RECOGNIZES
STAND-OUT EDUCATORS**

EDUCATION, PG 33

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Drain family prepares to celebrate the 100th birthday of their matriarch, Mother Ethel Mae "Nana" Drain

LATINO BANNER, PG 3



Cover Story, Darvin Ham



DARVIN HAM

ance, resilience, and unwavering determination.

Born and raised in Saginaw, a city known for its industrial roots and gritty determination, Darvin Ham's journey to basketball stardom was far from easy. Growing up in a tough neighborhood, he faced numerous challenges and obstacles from an early age. But instead of succumbing to the pressures of his environment, Darvin turned to basketball as a means of escape and self-expression.

From the moment he stepped onto the court, Darvin's talent was undeniable. Standing at 6'7" with an imposing frame and explosive athleticism, he quickly made a name for himself as a dominant force on both ends of the floor. But it wasn't just his physical gifts that set him apart; it was his relentless work ethic and insatiable desire to succeed that truly made him stand out from the crowd.

Despite his undeniable talent, Darvin's journey to the NBA was anything but straightforward. After a standout career at Saginaw High School, he went on to play college basketball at Texas Tech University, where he continued to hone his skills and showcase his potential. But it was dur-

ing his time in the NBA Summer League that Darvin truly caught the eye of scouts and coaches alike.

In 1996, Darvin's dream became a reality when he was signed as an undrafted free agent by the Denver Nuggets. From there, he embarked on a journey that would take him to several teams across the NBA, including the Milwaukee Bucks, Atlanta Hawks, Washington Wizards, and Detroit Pistons. Along the way, he carved out a reputation as a fierce competitor and a consummate teammate, earning the respect and admiration of coaches and players alike.

But Darvin's journey was far from over. After hanging up his jersey as a player, he transitioned seamlessly into coaching, bringing the same passion and intensity to the sidelines that he had displayed on the court. His coaching career took him to various stops across the NBA, including assistant coaching positions with the Los Angeles Lakers, Atlanta Hawks, and Milwaukee Bucks.

And then, in a fitting culmination of his remarkable journey, Darvin Ham was named the head coach of the Los Angeles Lakers, one of the most storied franchises

in basketball history. It was a moment of triumph not just for Darvin, but for everyone who had supported him along the way – from his family and friends to his coaches and teammates.

And although Ham's next chapter has yet to be written, there is no doubt his legacy will extend far beyond the basketball court. He is a symbol of hope and inspiration for countless young athletes who dare to dream big and defy the odds. His journey from Saginaw, Michigan to the pinnacle of basketball success is a testament to the power of perseverance, resilience, and unwavering determination.

As we reflect on Darvin's remarkable journey, let us remember in the grand theater of life, success is often portrayed as a glittery trophy, reserved only for those who bask in the glory of victory. But what about those who endure defeat after defeat, their names etched in history not for their triumphs, but for their resilience in the face of adversity? It is in these moments of defeat that true greatness often reveals itself, for it is not the absence of failure that defines success, but rather the ability to rise above it.

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

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 6 • NUMBER 10



SOILED WITH PRIDE



By DONIQUA SOVIA

It was just about a day or so, or maybe a week ago, I don't know. I was walking past the memorial, and notice the flag was a bit tattered and soiled.

"I can't believe it" I said in disgust, then a voice behind me said "can't believe what?" I turned around and there he stood, a bit of an older man, but his balance was good.

I said "I can't believe the condition of that flag." He looked at me confused and said "what's wrong with that?" "Well," I said "it's tattered and torn, and in a few places a bit soiled."

"So were we." and his face turned grim. " that flag holds stories, that couldn't even be contained in a horror film, and to think they want to remove it and replace it with utter filth...I mean it has to stop, soldiers became faces filled with horrors and suffered from shell shock, and that was from the First World War.

Its taken slashes, and gashes, just like us, it's been beaten by winds, and still is standing up. Red is valor, Blue is Vigilance, and White stands for pure ol innocence, and if you think about it, that was taken...just like it was from us. Now, I don't know, what you've been taught, what lies you've bought, or what you think of America and what not, but I'll tell you somethin and I don't care who gives me crap, but I'll always be proud to be an American, and I'll be proud of that flag."

I just stood there, I mean what could I say, and before I could speak he turned and said "That flag has been through hell, so you can live in heaven, and those names on that wall, they were given, so you can remain livin. So, while you see a flag that's tattered, torn and soiled, I see a flag that represents my freedom." Then with that he walked away, and I'll never view the flag the way I did that day.



Naomi Osaka's impact on and off the court

ASIAN AMERICAN
NATIVE HAWAIIAN
PACIFIC ISLANDER
HERITAGE MONTH

By MB STAFF

Asian American (AA) and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) peoples have enriched the history of Michigan and continue to play a vital role in its future success. This month we celebrate the rich cultures, traditions and contributions of our AA and NHPI communities.

Naomi Osaka, a professional tennis player of Japanese and Haitian descent, has become one of the most influential athletes of her generation. Known for her powerful serve and competitive spirit, Osaka has achieved remarkable success on the court, winning multiple Grand Slam titles. However, her influence extends far beyond her athletic prowess. Osaka has used her platform to advocate for social justice, mental health awareness, and to break down racial and cultural barriers in sports. Her impact both on and off the tennis court highlights her as a trailblazer and role model for young athletes and advocates worldwide.

Dominance on the Tennis Court

Naomi Osaka burst onto the international tennis scene with her victory at the 2018 US Open, where she defeated the legendary Serena Williams. This win made her the first Japanese player to win a Grand Slam singles title. Osaka's aggressive playing style, characterized by a powerful serve and forehand, quickly established her as a formidable competitor. She went on to win three more Grand Slam titles: the 2019 Australian Open, the 2020 US Open, and the 2021 Australian Open. Her success on the court has not only earned her numerous accolades but also inspired a new generation of tennis play-



NAOMI OSAKA

ers, particularly young girls and athletes of color, who see themselves represented in her achievements.

Advocacy for Social Justice

Osaka's influence extends well beyond her athletic achievements. She has been a vocal advocate for social justice, using her visibility to highlight issues of racial inequality and police violence. During the 2020 US Open, she wore masks bearing the names of Black victims of police violence, such as Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, drawing global attention to the Black Lives Matter movement. Osaka's actions demonstrated her commitment to using her platform for advocacy, showing that athletes can play a significant role in societal issues. Her stance has encouraged other athletes to speak out and has contributed to a broader dialogue about race and justice in sports and society.

Championing Mental Health

In addition to her activism for social justice, Osaka has been a prominent advocate for mental health awareness. In 2021, she withdrew from the French Open, citing the need to prioritize her mental well-being. Her candid discussion about the pressures of professional sports and the importance of mental health resonated

widely, sparking conversations about the mental health challenges faced by athletes. Osaka's openness helped reduce the stigma around mental health issues and encouraged other athletes to seek help and speak openly about their struggles. Her advocacy has highlighted the importance of mental health support in the sports industry and beyond.

Breaking Racial and Cultural Barriers

Osaka's multicultural background has played a significant role in breaking down racial and cultural barriers in tennis. As a biracial athlete, she has navigated the complexities of identity and representation in a sport that has historically been dominated by white players. Osaka's success has brought greater visibility to athletes of diverse backgrounds and has challenged traditional notions of what a champion looks like. Her pride in her Japanese and Haitian heritage has also fostered greater cultural understanding and appreciation among her global fanbase. By embracing and celebrating her multicultural identity, Osaka has paved the way for greater diversity and inclusion in sports.

Naomi Osaka's impact on and off the tennis court is profound and multifaceted. As a dominant force in women's tennis, she has inspired countless young athletes with her skill and determination. Beyond her athletic achievements, Osaka has used her platform to advocate for social justice, mental health awareness, and cultural diversity. Her courage to speak out on important issues and her ability to navigate and celebrate her multicultural identity have made her a trailblazer in the world of sports and an influential role model. Naomi Osaka's legacy is not just defined by her victories on the court, but by her unwavering commitment to making a positive impact on society.




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Latino Banner

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LB pg 3

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PROGRAM/ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT

The Catholic Diocese of Saginaw: Office of Multicultural Ministry

The Office of Multicultural Ministry acts on behalf of the Bishop of Saginaw to promote full participation and integration of Hispanics in the life of the Church. In ongoing prayer, this office attentively listens to the Word of God, the Church teachings and the experiences of the Hispanic people in order to do the following:

- Serve as a resource to pastors and pastoral agents serving the Hispanic Catholic community through networking
- Serve as an instrument of spiritual, pastoral and human growth – especially in areas of social justice
- Identify resources, respond to the needs, promote the strengths, and overcome the weaknesses of Hispanic Ministry
- Foster commitment to, and create awareness, of the meaning of the Hispanic presence in the United States of America among diocesan offices, parishes, schools, other institutions and community in general, through an effective, direct or mediated communication, positive testimony and fraternal participation



Deacon Librado Gayton
Director of Multicultural Ministries

www.saginaw.org/multicultural-ministries

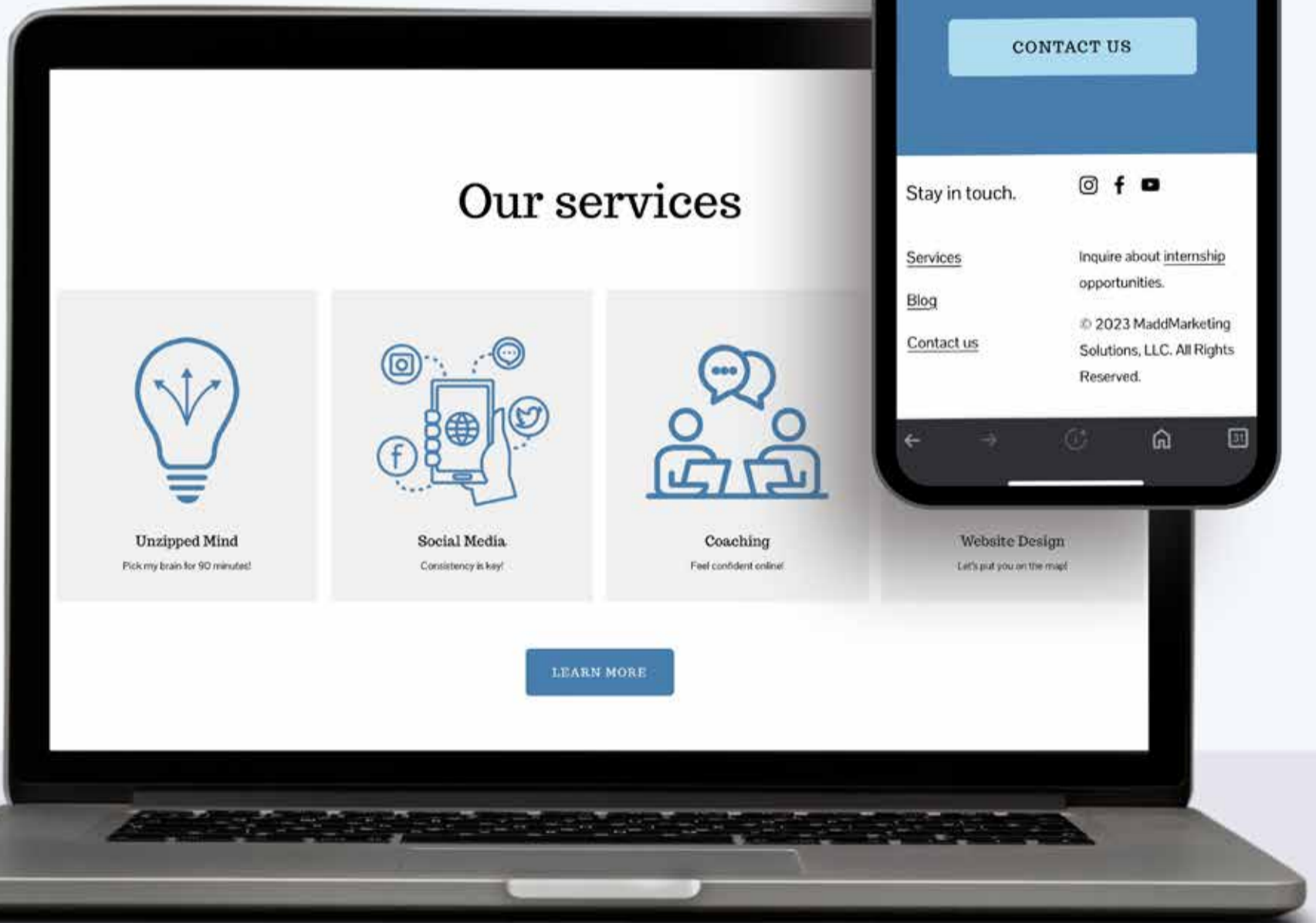
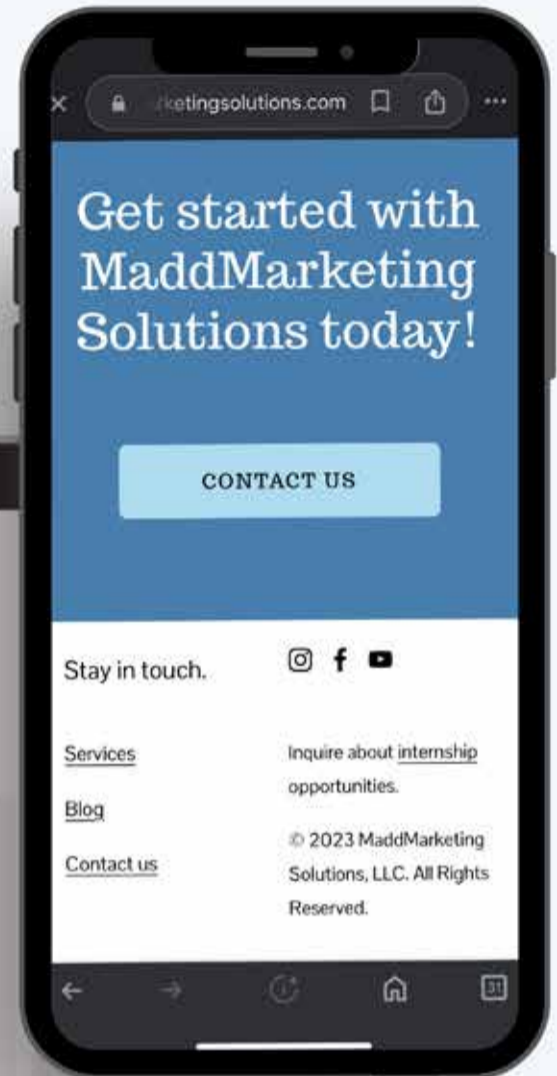
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- Represent the Diocese of Saginaw and serve as a liaison to regional and national offices for Hispanic Ministry
- Coordinate and evaluate the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry in parishes of the Diocese of Saginaw





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Congratulations!

Diego Olvera



Congratulations to Diego Olvera on his success in graduating with a Master's in Criminal Justice from Ferris State University! Go Bulldogs!! Diego previously earned a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice from Ferris and two Associate degrees from Delta College. Diego plans on pursuing a career in law enforcement, whereas he can protect and serve his community. He loves the outdoors with fishing and hunting as his year-round hobbies. We are very proud of your accomplishments, continue to strive towards your goals! Love Pablo & Elsa (parents), D'Angelo and D'Martino (siblings).

Carol McCoy



Congratulations to Carol McCoy, a Mount Pleasant native who graduated this Spring from Indiana Wesleyan University with a dual degree in Social Work and Honors Humanities. We love you and we are so incredibly proud of you Carol! Your talent and dedication will surely make a significant impact in this world.

Pablo Rodriguez



Congratulations to high school senior Pablo Rodriguez who will graduate from Carrollton High School. Pablo plans to attend Saginaw Valley State University where he will major in Graphic Design. Your friends and family are very proud of you and we know your passion for design, combined with the skills and knowledge you will gain, will give you a bright and successful future.

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+ COMMUNITY

Black Leaders Detroit's fourth annual 'Ride For Equity' will make stop in Saginaw

Black Leaders Detroit (BLD) recently announced the fourth annual Ride For Equity, a transformative event aimed at raising awareness and advocating for increased access to capital for entrepreneurs and nonprofit leaders of African descent in Detroit. The ride will take place from May 19 - May 25.

The Ride For Equity is a symbolic journey covering 377 miles from Detroit to Mackinac Island, spanning seven days of camaraderie, community building, and advocacy. Participants have the option to join us for the opening kickoff event, choose a specific day to ride, or embark on the entire 377-mile journey.

"Access to capital remains a critical barrier for many entrepreneurs and nonprofit leaders of African descent in our community," said Dwan Dandridge, CEO of Black Leaders Detroit. "The Ride For Equity is our way of shining a spotlight on this issue while rallying support and solidarity from the community."

En route to Mackinac Island, the Detroit based group will stop in Saginaw on May 20 at 5 pm to meet with black businesses in a forum to discuss challenges black entrepreneurs face. The discussion will take place in the CMURC office located in the SVRC building, 203 S. Washington.

The Ride For Equity represents a powerful opportunity for individuals and organizations to come together in support of economic empowerment for communities of African descent in Detroit and beyond. By raising awareness and fostering community connections, BLD aims to drive meaningful change and create a more inclusive and prosperous future for all. Registration for volunteers and the Ride For Equity is now open on the BLD website at: www.blackleadersdetroit.org.



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A RIDE FOR EQUITY EVENT



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Join BLD at the **CMURC Riverfront Saginaw** on **May 20th @ 5:00pm** for a forum focusing on building better relationships and increasing awareness concerning equity and inclusion.

Speak For Yourself is open to the community, please register here: bit.ly/BLD24SFY



blackleadersdetroit.org

+ COMMUNITY

Nearly 60 years of compassion behind the clippers

By HASANI ALI

Finding joy for what you do professionally is one thing, doing it for nearly 60 years is a different type of feat.

"It never seems like a job to me," she said. "My career has been able to take me to so many different places and it was certainly all a joy. I'm just a people person."

Faye Presley knew what she wanted to do as a high school student at Saginaw High after giving her grandfather a much-needed haircut.

She was taught by her mother, Doris Bothuel, a beautician in the city of Saginaw.

"From press and curls to perms, my mother taught me everything that I needed to know about taking care of someone's hair," Presley said. "However, that wasn't going to be my career, I wanted to cut hair for men."

She realized that they could relate to the men more while servicing them as clients, from the laughter and jokes to being trusted to talk about their most intimate moments in life.

Presley decided to attend Michigan Barber College in Detroit immediately after graduating from Saginaw High School with her mother covering the tuition.

She returned home upon graduation and wasted no time finding a place of her own to begin her journey as a licensed barber in 1967.

She even reimbursed her mother for the tuition and began showering with gifts for believing in her.

"I just wanted my mother to be proud of me," Presley said. "It was a pleasure to give back the love that she gave to me."

"My mother didn't like that at all," Presley said. "Not my profession, but the tradition was that you stayed home until you got married. I wanted to live my own life."

Though her mother disagreed with her decision, she supported her by supplying her apartment with appliances, pots and pans.

From that moment on in 1967, Presley was ready to impact lives, one haircut at a time.



One of her first customers that sat in her chair was John Falls, my father.

Presley, being nearly family, shared great moments together as



FAYE PRESLEY

his daughter (Danielle Falls) and her niece (Shanika Murray) are best friends and graduated from the same high school and college.

"I bet you don't remember because you were a little boy at the time," she started with a chuckle. "Your family and my family were in Lansing for a graduation party and we went to a restaurant and we had such a good time. I watched both of those little girls grow up."

Though servicing as a barber didn't seem like a job to her, one unique trait about her service was her ministry.

Her career has led her to several places over the city of Saginaw and she has touched so many people by introducing them to God.

"When I was working at the jail, I led some guys to the Lord, many of them with life sentences," she said. "I still have letters to this day with men telling me thank you for introducing them to God. They may never have a chance to be released from prison, but they told me that they felt free on the inside. It was so rewarding to see how many lives I have impacted over the years."

Presley gave them the same love and compassion as anyone else. She heavily believes in treating people how you wanted to be treated, despite their past.

Bothuel was severely injured in an auto accident and Presley had to care for her mother for 13 years before passing away in 2019.

She said that the customer really enjoyed her when she took her to the shop.

"I took my mother everywhere with me," she said. "They really enjoyed her conversa-

tion and it was always a pleasure to spend time with her even when I was working. Though she was nearly immobile, she still had her mind so we would even do puzzles to keep her mind stimulated."

After 57 years of service, Presley has no thoughts of slowing down.

Now at 76 years old, she's currently located at Shea Galleria, located at 1520 Genesee Ave. She stays active as she still wants to be a person on the go.

"I work out four times a week and I eat my fruits and vegetables," Presley said. "As I'm getting older, I'm keeping myself in optimal health by staying off any medications that I don't need."

As a recipient of the Heart of the City Award next month, she was caught off guard when the news was announced to her.

"I didn't know anything about it, I was completely caught off guard," she said. "Somebody called me and said congratulations and I had no idea what they were talking about. I was grateful once I learned what it was and it made me feel really good, but I'm just Ms. Faye, the woman who loves her job. If I were to pass away and if God asked me what would I want to do in my next life, I would choose to be a barber all over again."

Presley also wanted to give inspiring words from the wise as she knows that so many people are working jobs that they may not enjoy, but are depending on for a stable lifestyle.

"If you're in a job that you hate, find a passion and pursue it," she said. "It will grow you into your future. I'm not rich, but I'm happy with what I do. I could have \$1 million dollars in the bank and I wouldn't be happier than I already am."



+ COMMUNITY

Nominate a lawn for Saginaw’s 2024 Neighborhood Recognition Award Program

Does your lawn have what it takes to win the title of Saginaw’s “Best Kept Yard”? The city is getting ready for another successful Neighborhood Recognition Award program and will begin accepting nominations on Friday, May 10.

In its seventh year, the annual contest is intended to thank those residents and business owners who take pride in their properties and care about the look of their neighborhood. Residents, Neighborhood Groups, and City of Saginaw employees can nominate local homes and businesses for exceptional yard work and landscaping improvements. One award from each Neighborhood Quadrant will be selected for June, July, and August. Monthly winners will be notified by the City of Saginaw S.C.E.N.I.C. Division and will receive a recognition certificate and a yard sign to display in their yard. One grand prize winner will be chosen from the monthly winners and announced at the October Neighborhood Association Action Group meeting.

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Social Security delivers the most popular baby names in Michigan for 2023

By HILLARY HATCH



The Social Security Administration today announced the most popular baby names in Michigan for 2023. Noah and Charlotte topped the list.

The top five boys’ and girls’ names for 2023 in Michigan were:

Boys:

- 1) Noah
- 2) Oliver
- 3) Henry
- 4) Theodore
- 5) Liam

Girls:

- 1) Charlotte
- 2) Amelia
- 3) Olivia
- 4) Sophia
- 5) Emma

The agency announced last week that Olivia and Liam were the most popular baby names in the U.S. How does Michigan compare to the rest of the country? Check out Social Security’s website -- www.ssa.gov -- to see the top national baby names for 2023 and see where your name ranks now and over the past 100 years.

Social Security began compiling the baby names list in 1997, with names dating back to 1880. Each year, the list reveals the effect of pop-culture on naming trends. In addition to each state’s top baby names (and names for U.S. territories), Social Security’s website has a list of the 1,000 most popular boys’ and girls’ names for 2023 and the fastest rising girls’ and boys’ names.

“Social Security is here to help parents continue to provide for your families – by securing a Social Security number for your child, filing for benefits for yourself or your family members, and so much more. We will never stop working for you.” said Social Security Commissioner Martin O’Malley.

Social Security’s programs are particularly important for women, who made up 55 percent of adult Social Security beneficiaries in 2023. Women typically have longer life expectancies than men and earn less income over their lifetime due to the combined impact of the gender wage gap, caregiving responsibilities, overrepresentation in low-paid jobs, and more. Social Security also provides critical benefits to 2.6 million children, including nearly one million low-income children with disabilities who receive Supplemental Security Income benefits. People can visit www.ssa.gov to learn more about how Social Security’s expanded digital services make it easier than ever for women and children to access critical benefits and services.

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+ COMMUNITY

Rock out at the museum with two exciting Summer exhibitions

Get ready for an unforgettable artistic journey at the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, located on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University. The museum is thrilled to announce the opening of two special exhibitions that promise to captivate and inspire visitors of all ages. "Front Row Center: Icons of Rock, Blues, and Soul" and "Color Play: The Art of Nanci LaBret Einstein" opens Friday, May 17 and will run through Saturday, August 31, 2024.

"Front Row Center: Icons of Rock, Blues, and Soul" takes audiences on a musical odyssey through the golden eras of rock, blues, and soul. The iconic photographs of Larry Hulst capture the freewheeling energy of live music and the enduring visual spectacle of rock's greatest performers. From Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix to David Bowie and Lauryn Hill, "Front Row Center: Icons of Rock, Blues and Soul" brings together around 70 images of legendary musicians and singers across three genres and generations. The exhibition charts Hulst's extraordinary path through the pulsing heart of the most exciting live music of the last century, showcasing a unique visual anthology of rock, blues, and soul music from 1970–1999. These images, which have been featured on album art and in "Rolling Stone" magazine spreads, convey Hulst's lifelong passion for the magnetism, immediacy, and unpredictability of live music. With photos that also document the unforgettable voices of funk, punk, and beyond, "Front Row Center" grants viewers an all-access pass to some of the most memorable performances in popular music history.

Simultaneously, the museum will present "Color Play: The Art of Nanci LaBret Einstein," a vibrant exploration of color, form, and creativity. Experience the art of Nanci LaBret Einstein in this immersive exhibition that highlights the many



LARRY HULST, JIMI HENDRIX AT THE GOLDEN BEAR RACEWAY, CAL EXPO, APRIL 26, 1970, PHOTOGRAPH, COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

milieus and talents of the artist. In her intricately detailed freestanding and wall sculptures, Einstein works with recycled objects like beads, popsicle sticks, and other found objects. The exhibition also includes Einstein's gestural drawings and layered photo collages that evoke emotion while exploring form, weight, color, light, and texture.

"We're thrilled to present these two extraordinary exhibitions side by side," said Ashley Ross, Associate Director of Collections and Impact. Ross continued, "Visitors will be transported by the musical genius of the rock, blues, and soul icons, and then inspired by the vibrant color and energy of Nanci LaBret Einstein's art. It's a combination that promises to be both enlightening and exhilarating."

The "Front Row Center" and "Color Play" exhibitions will run concurrently from Friday, May 17 through August 31, 2024. A list of programs and events in conjunction with the new exhibitions can be found here: <https://marshallfredericks.org/calendar/>.

Exhibition Credits: "Front Row Center: Icons of Rock, Blues, and Soul" and "Color

Play: The Art of Nanci LaBret Einstein" are supported in part by the Michigan Arts & Culture Council.

"Front Row Center: Icons of Rock, Blues, and Soul" is organized and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C. International Arts & Artists (IA&A) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the arts internationally. Since 1995, IA&A has fulfilled its mission by providing programs and services to artists, arts institutions, cultural organizations, and the public—reaching over 2 million people. Visit www.artsandartists.org for more information.

The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum is located on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University, 7400 Bay Road, University Center, Michigan. Museum hours are Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (989) 964-7125 or visit the Museum's website at www.marshallfredericks.org.

Drain family prepares to celebrate the 100th birthday of their matriarch, Mother Ethel Mae "Nana" Drain

Mrs. Ethel M. Drain, widow of the late Reverend Johnnie Drain, Sr., and second oldest of 12 children (2 survive), was born June 3, 1924, in Selma, Alabama; relocating to Saginaw, Michigan in 1950. She is the proud mother of 10 (6 survive); grandmother of 18, great-grandmother of 50, and great-great-grandmother of 23.

Mother Drain's contributions to the Saginaw Valley Baptist District Association are numerous. Notably, she served 25 years as Second Vice-President of the Women's Auxiliary with 1st Vice-President, the late Agnes Johnson, under the tutelage of the late President, Dr. Willie Mae Merkerson.

Mrs. Drain has touched the lives of many and is affectionately known and revered as "Nana." She has dedicated her life to serving Christ and is a firm believer in the Word of God, often reciting Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." Mrs. Drain has been a faithful member of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church for 70.5 years, having served as a Sunday school teacher, Trustee, and Senior Choir member. In honor of 25 years of service as President of the Mission Department, the title President Emeritus was bestowed upon her at the end of her tenure. The Ethel M. Drain Award is presented in her honor once a year to a deserving, mission-minded Christian woman in her church.

Mother Drain is the recipient of numerous awards and certificates for faithful service to her church and community. Over the years, her community service included but was not limited to supporting the less fortunate by assisting with soup & sandwich and clothing giveaways and coordinating annual programs in support of the Saginaw County Juvenile Detention facility and HealthSource Saginaw. She is a former volunteer for the "Meals on Wheels" program. In 2006, Mrs. Drain was named "Mother of the Year" by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter. Mother Drain was active with Church Women United of Saginaw County, where she completed two years as Vice-President.

At the tender age of 99 (100 on June



MOTHER ETHEL MAE "NANA" DRAIN

3), Mother Drain continues to support the Saginaw Valley Baptist District Association, Wolverine State Baptist Convention, and the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. in person and via Zoom. She is a God-fearing woman whose gentle spirit

and loving kindness flow through the radiance of her smile and the warmth of her embrace. Not one to accept credit, Mother Drain gives God all the glory and recites her mantra, "May the Work I've Done Speak for Me!"

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+ COMMUNITY

Congressman Kildee announces new federal funding to ensure affordable housing in Mid-Michigan



SAGINAW HOUSING COMMISSION

FLINT—Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-08) today announced new federal funding to ensure affordable housing in mid-Michigan.

Three local housing commissions will receive over \$4 million, awarded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, to help revitalize and

modernize housing in Bay, Saginaw, and Genesee Counties, including through energy-efficient upgrades. The federal grants include:

- Flint Housing Commission, \$2,038,586
- Saginaw Housing Commission, \$1,668,721
- Bay City Housing Commission, \$717,571

“I’m proud to have secured this federal funding to help lower costs and ensure affordable housing for all mid-Michigan families,” said Congressman Kildee. “Everyone deserves access to a safe, affordable, and healthy home, and I thank the Flint, Saginaw, and Bay City Housing Commissions for the important work they do in our community.”

“The 2024 Capital Fund Grant fund we received will be applied to capital improvements to our public housing scattered site portfolio. For this program year, we plan to focus on roof and electric service panels replacements. We very much appreciate the continuing support Congress provides us for this program. It makes a huge difference in our ability to maintain good quality, safe homes for our residents,” said Karl Opheim Sr., Assistant Director of the Bay City Housing Commission.

“We appreciate Congressman Kildee’s continuous support for the program. These funds will allow us to continue upholding our commitment to providing Flint residents with quality and affordable homes,” said Geraldine Redmond, President of the Board of Commissioners of the Flint Housing Commission.

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- Pipe Fitter
- Plasterer
- Boilermaker
- Bricklayer
- Carpenter
- Cement Mason
- Construction Laborer

PEOPLE MATTER, WORDS MATTER™

ARE YOU USING **SUPPORTIVE LANGUAGE** THAT **MAKES A PERSON FEEL SAFE AND HEARD?**

Language matters in compassionate care, and that is not just limited to what you say in front of a patient. What you say behind closed doors to coworkers, friends and family can be the seed for stigma, and not recognizing cultural differences may lead people to distrust and avoid treatment.

After experiencing a traumatic event, many people struggle to share their experiences and reactions with others. When they do open up, it may result in several reactions for you, making it difficult to know how exactly to respond. What you say matters in helping the survivor feel safe and understood.

INSTEAD OF SAYING ...

- ▶ You need to move on. The past is the past.
- ▶ This is heavy. Let's talk about something else.
- ▶ There are other people who have been through worse than you.
- ▶ Your PTSD symptoms will never go away, so you should learn to live with them.
- ▶ Maybe it's not as bad as you are remembering it.
- ▶ Try to focus on the positive instead of the negative.

[THESE WORDS PERPETUATE STIGMA AND CAN BE DAMAGING TO THE PERSON DISCLOSING THEIR TRAUMA.]

CONSIDER SAYING ...

- It doesn't matter how long it's been since it happened. You deserve support now.
- Thank you for trusting me enough to share your story.
- I'm sorry you are struggling with what happened to you. I am here to help.
- Many people who seek treatment see an improvement in their symptoms.
- I am here to listen and support you.
- Your feelings and experiences are valid.

[THESE WORDS SHOW SUPPORT AND HELP THE PERSON WHO HAS EXPERIENCED TRAUMA TO FEEL SAFE WITH SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCES.]

When people share their experiences and feelings with someone — or even disclose their trauma — it can be an important part of the healing process. It is important to continue to practice self-care, so if listening causes you distress, please reach out to a trusted peer for additional support.

American Hospital Association
National Center for PTSD
April 2022

+ COMMUNITY



BLIPPI

Blippi to rock out in an all-new live band show with a special stop at the Temple Theatre

Global sensation Blippi to delight audiences in Saginaw in all-new live show, Blippi: Join the Band Tour, on December 1, 2024 Tickets on sale May 17, 2024 10am via templetheatre.com Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – Round Room Live and Moonbug Entertainment are proud to announce a new live show, Blippi: Join the Band Tour. The brand-new production features musicians playing LIVE on stage and promises to bring the vivacious, energetic, and educational antics of global sensation Blippi to stages across North America in a never-before-seen show, with a stop in Saginaw at the historic Temple Theatre on December 1, 2024.

Tickets for Blippi: Join the Band Tour will go on-sale this Friday, May 17th, with pre-sales beginning today (Tuesday, May 14th). For tickets and additional information, visit templetheatre.com/blippi2024 Join Blippi to make music in your hometown in the brand new live Blippi: Join the Band Tour! Blippi will be joined on-stage by Meekah along with their singing and dancing buddies and LIVE musicians. They'll explore what makes music, includ-

ing sounds, rhythms and instruments, with fan-favorite Blippi hits. So grab your drumsticks, tune up your guitar, and move those feet with Blippi and get ready for a musical performance that's fun for the whole family!

"We are turning it up to 11 with the Blippi: Join the Band Tour this Fall," said Stephen Shaw, Founder and Co President of Round Room Live. "Blippi is a rockstar for today's kids and has been delighting millions of children and families all over the world. A brand new show that amps up the excitement to an even higher volume with a live band onstage was the next logical step in continuing Blippi touring around the world." "Following the success of previous tours, Blippi: Join the Band Tour will bring families to their feet across the country to dance and sing along to their favorite Blippi hits as well as some brand new songs." Susan Vargo, Head of Global Experiences at Moonbug Entertainment added, "Parents and kids alike will share in making music the Blippi way, with curiosity and silliness center stage!" Blippi on Tour has traveled the globe multiple times

and has delighted millions of international fans throughout North America, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, with plans to visit many more new countries in 2024.

Blippi inspires curiosity in preschoolers around the world by creating content and experiences that are relatable, accessible and make learning fun. Blippi has become a worldwide sensation with more than one billion monthly views across platforms including Netflix, HBO Max, Cartoonito, Sky, Amazon and YouTube, and millions of fans around the world. The franchise has expanded rapidly since it was acquired by Moonbug Entertainment in 2020. Blippi is available in more than 20 languages, including ASL, and is distributed by more than 30 global broadcast and streaming partners. Blippi's buddies Meekah and Juca have spun off into their own shows and Blippi lives off the screen as well with sold-out live events, popular music tracks, and in demand toys available at all major retailers.

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Elizabeth Ann Atkins

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+ 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. For questions, contact Deborah Sanchez at (989)755-0545 or email 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)




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

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- Hole Sponsorship

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- Name listed on Saginaw Promise Website

LUNCH AT TURN SPONSOR **\$1,000**

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- Sponsor name displayed at “Lunch at the Turn” and recognized at dinner
- Opportunity to host golf activity or display table
- Name listed on Saginaw Promise website

CART SPONSOR **\$650**

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DRIVING RANGE SPONSOR **\$400**

- Name displayed at event and announced at dinner

HOLE SPONSORS **\$250**

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

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

Sponsors: Please email your company logo to DSanchez@SaginawPromise.org.
EPS or hi-res JPG preferred.

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

GOLF PER PERSON - \$165

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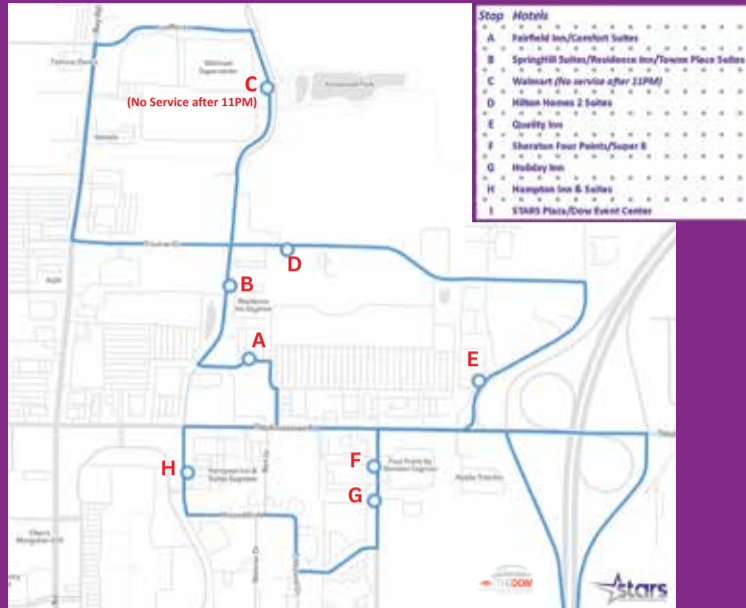
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- S3 Castle Museum/Hoyt Library/Rally's
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- S4 Historic Lee Mansion/7-Eleven
- S5 Post Office/City Hall
- S6 Hoyt Park/Children's Zoo/Mexican American Council/Japanese Cultural Center/Ojibway Island/Montague Inn
YMCA/Splash Pad/Skate Park/Garber Tennis & Pickleball
- S7 Courts/Anderson Enrichment Center & Memorial Gardens/Crayola Park/ Boys & Girls Club
McDonald's/Old Town Junction/Rally's/Huron Fish Co./ Scottish Inn/Sports Page Lounge/Bootlegger Party Store/ Dollar General/Shine Bright Silo Mural
- S8 Subway/Gee'Ques BBQ/Hamilton St. Pub/The Stable Outdoor Outfitters/Audiogazing/China City/Princing's Pharmacy/Salon & Beauty Suites/Designers 3
- S9 Retro Rocks/Jake's Old City Grill/Robbie D's/Woody O'Brien's/ Jimmy John's/West Side Drugs/Bauer's Jewelry/Haunted Saginaw Shoppe & Museum/Old Town Saginaw Art Park/ Neon Park
- S10 Oracle Brewing/Pasong's Café/Fralia's/Artisan Urban Bistro/ Red Eye Coffee & Tea/Bread Gal/ Mac's Bar/Steamers Pub/ Wub Clothing/Liquid Lounge/Park Asia/Save-A-Lot/Listening Room/West Side Party Shoppe
- S11 Saginaw Art Museum & Rose Garden/Panda House
- S12 Bliss Park/McDonald's/Taco Bell/Burger King/The Work Wear Store
- S13 Bringer Inn/Tim Horton's/Family Dollar/Happy's Pizza/ New Bond Inn
- S14 Mid-Michigan Children's Museum/Da Smoking Ribs/Krispy Krunchy Chicken
- S15 Burbon & Co./SVRC Marketplace

+ COMMUNITY

A purpose-driven passion of service

“A business owner, you have a responsibility for taking care of God’s business. When you take care of God’s business, he will take care of your personal business.”

That is the ideology that Community Auto and Tire business owner Terry Reed lives by as finds multiple ways to service his community.

Terry and his wife Valarie are people who never want the attention of servicing other people, they just understand the obligation that comes with being business owners.

He describes his unique and one-of-a-kind business model as being a “people chaser,” meaning that it’s more important to service people rather than go into business solely for the money.

After being a successful car salesman for 23 years, Reed needed another avenue to better service the city of Saginaw.

With a decorated career working for Ford and Labadie, Reed was inspired to have his own car lot. In fact, things started to align perfectly as every door began to open for him.

Ironically, his business plan was redirected to a service that tends to be a need in the city.

Reed purchased the building at 2604 E. Genesee Street back in 2017, which was formerly known as Extreme Tire Shop, owned by Toyo Rosas – who went on to follow his dream to own a restaurant.

He was assured that he would be able to make the former tire shop a small car lot so began doing the repairs to the building.

When it was time to purchase the licensing, he was told a different story.

With the new business coming to a complete halt, Reed noticed that loyal customers were still coming to the shop, requesting tires.

That’s when it hit him.

Reed called the former owner and asked him where was purchasing the tires from and invested his last \$240 in cash to invest in some used tires.

He was able to recoup the money he had invested within a day and a half.

“It was a no-brainer for me,” he said with a chuckle. “It had to have been divine intervention and thank God I listened.”

Now that the two now own a second location at 1411 Court Street with six full-time employees, the Reeds now put their



TERRY AND VALARIE REED

focus back on giving to the community in any way that they possibly can and changing the narrative of black-owned businesses in the city of Saginaw.

Community Auto and Tire donates 20 percent of their inventory monthly to people in need, simply because they know that they can.

“Some people may not have the money upfront and may really need to get to work,” he said. “Depending on the situation, I may give a customer a tire. I know that they’ll take care of us on the next visit because we took care of them.”

As recipients of the Heart of the City Award next month, Terry credits his wife for working behind the scenes of their business ventures.

He was caught off guard when he was notified that he would be receiving this award.

“At first, I wasn’t expecting it,” Reed said. “My wife and I don’t do things for acknowledgement, we do it because it’s the right thing to do. I don’t accept anything without my wife. I’m the face of it, but she does just as much for us in the background. I’m thankful that she is always by my side.”

“When you see a need, you try to fulfill it,” he said. “I know that people are watching us, so we do the right thing by expanding a need and hoping that others will follow suit and do the right thing in their own areas of business.”

Knowing each other since the 80’s and were high school sweethearts at Saginaw

High School, the two found a way to be purpose-driven after raising their children.

“It’s more so for us about giving back to the community,” Valarie said. “We take care of the city because the city takes care of us.”

Community Auto and Tire is going into its seventh year and is known notoriously for their annual Customer Appreciation Day – a day of service that may include toy drives, back to school giveaways, winter coat drives and free haircuts to young male students.

Since both are committed to fulfilling their obligations in business and community outreach, it has strengthened their marriage.

“I think we have serviced almost 400 students in the past seven years,” she said. “It’s more of a purpose driven thing. At first, the mission was to raise children, now it’s time to service the community and we can do that together.”

Outside of the auto industry, Reed has put on his community activist hat last April and became vice president of Healing, Engagement, Love and Presence (H.E.L.P.).

With 56 mentors in the surrounding area, H.E.L.P. has been able to host fishing trips and stem projects for the young students.

The organization is hosting the Black Man Summit on June 19, starting at Willie E. Thompson Middle School and finishing the day with a barbeque at Morley Plaza in downtown Saginaw.

The event begins at 5 p.m.

Reed understands the importance of legacy and the importance of leaving your community stamp. The name will last a lifetime because of all the people that you served.

“When you pass away, people remember you, briefly,” he said. “But when we go, I want people to remember us forever in the city.”

The gestures never have to be on the grand scale, but Valarie implies that any action is much better than taking no action at all.

“Everybody can’t do everything, but anybody can do something,” she said.

+ COMMUNITY

Cornbread Enchilada Pie



By **VALINDA CROSBY**

As you prepare this meal, remember to “accept yourself, love yourself and keep moving forward. If you want to fly, you have to give up what weighs you down.” Robert T. Bennett

INGREDIENTS

- 1 box corn muffin mix (I use Jiffy)
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup creamed corn
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 tsp chili powder

- 1 tsp cayenne
- 1/2 cup jalapeños, chopped and divided
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1/3 cup red enchilada sauce
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1/2 bunch cilantro, chopped for garnish

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Prepare cornbread base by combining corn muffin mix, sour cream, creamed corn, and one egg.
3. Pour into large cast iron skillet.
4. Bake for 20 minutes or until golden brown on top. Let cool in pan. In the meantime, prep enchilada base.
5. In a separate skillet, sauté onions over medium heat. Season with salt and pepper to taste. When translucent, add garlic. Cook until fragrant.
6. Add ground beef, stirring to break up the meat, and add
7. cumin, chili powder, salt, and cayenne.
8. Add the jalapeños and Cook for a few



COURTESY PHOTO

- minutes until soft.
- 9. Add 1/2 cup of the cheddar
- 10. Remove skillet from stovetop to drain excess fat.
- 11. Poke surface of cornbread base with the handle of a wooden spoon. Pour enchilada sauce over the cornbread, making sure to cover the entire surface.
- 12. Spread meat mixture over cornbread base. Top with leftover 1/2 cups of the cheeses. Bake for about 20 minutes. To brown the cheese for a crisper crust, broil for five minutes

Please check me out on my YouTube channel @ValindaCrosby4716



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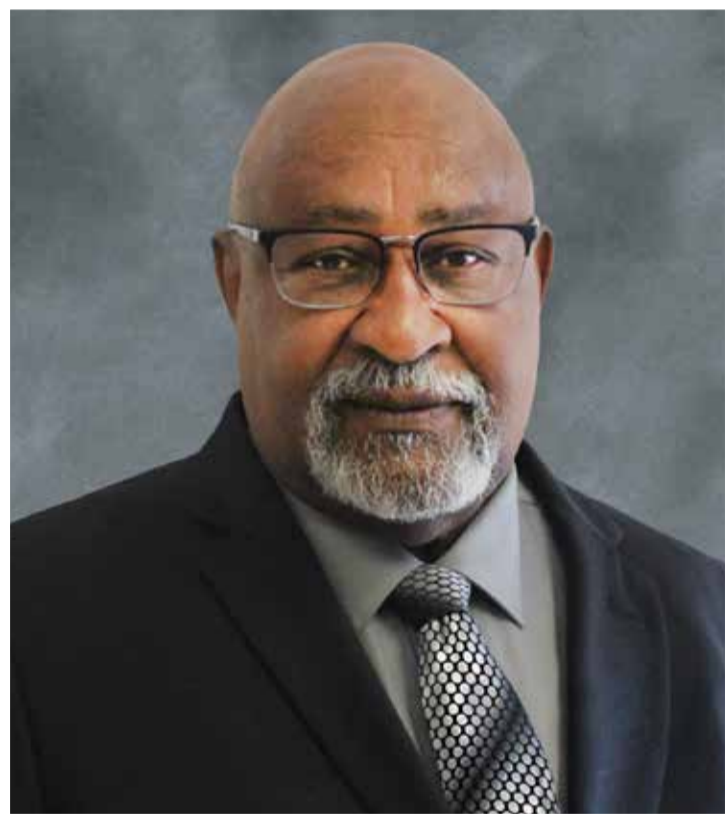
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MINISTRY WITHOUT WALLS - 3783 MANNION RD, SAGINAW, MI 48603

Join us at Ministry Without Walls

By **PASTOR JOHN DUNN**
MINISTRY WITHOUT WALLS

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

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

Our vision is for Ministry Without Walls to be:

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

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

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

Our ongoing teaching and seminars will include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

The power of simplicity



By **DONIQUA SOVIA**

I recall one day, sitting on my bed staring at a blank page in my journal for what seemed like a long time, but was really only a few minutes. I sat there in frustration. There I was; a writer, a poet, I was supposed to be good at putting words together so seamlessly and effortlessly and I had nothing. Not a thought, not an inspiration, not a line to get me started, no opinions, just air.

I started to write and each time got frustrated and would tear the page of my journal out and begin writing again. I did this a total of four or five times, before in a huff I yelled “WHY CAN’T I THINK OF ANYTHING GOOD TO WRITE?!” You see, I wanted this piece of writing to be profound, and make people think, and be deep and all that good stuff, but I had nothing.

I took a little break, and came back to stare at the journal again hoping something would pop into my mind. Nothing. So I decided to just write and whatever came out, that was it, I was done for the day. I wrote the poem; Rehearsals, and after I was done and re-read it to myself, I hated it. I didn’t think it captured what I was trying to convey, even though I didn’t know what I was trying to convey anyway.

Nonetheless, I kept it and decided to share it with some people in an app. It became a favorite. Many people wanted to hear it, and those who had heard it before wanted to hear it again. I was confused. Out of all the poems I’ve let these people hear, they want this one? It’s just too simple and lacks creativity. You see what I was doing was underestimating the power that lies in simplicity.

I’m reminded of the famous song The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power, by Andrae Crouch. After writing it, he felt it didn’t convey what he was trying to put out there and threw it away, someone convinced him to at least record it, and it went on to become one of the greatest songs in the Christian music world. Simplicity has power.

We’re so quick to want to sound smart, deep, profound, give a new perspective, when really if we put it in a simple way, more people will be apt to want hear more of what we say, because we make it easy to understand. No matter how simple it may seem to you, just remember that simplicity can be the key that opens the door to success.



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"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness"

Lamentations 3:22-23

By MINISTER CAROLYN
CARTER TOWNSEL

Jeremiah provides us with a God given promise that is awe-inspiring, soothing, and fulfilling. A promise that "believers" can take to the bank without hesitation at any time. It is with great joy to know that within this promise alone, we have four qualities that we can depend on. First, the ***"The steadfast Love of the Lord never ceases,"*** second, His mercies "never come to an end," third, the ***"Lord's mercies are new every morning,"*** and fourth, ***"great is His faithfulness."***

Churchofjesuschrist.org defines the word steadfast, "to be firmly fixed and not subject to change, to be firm, in belief and determination,

and to be loyal and faithful." In the original Hebrew steadfast is chesed (pronounced kheh'-sed) and it refers to God's devout loving-kindness, mercy, and faithfulness at the very core of His character and actions.

According to Gotquestions.org defines mercy as, "God being merciful basically means that when we deserve punishment, He doesn't punish us, and in fact blesses us instead. Mercy is the withholding of a just condemnation." In merging the definitions of steadfast and mercy, it is to be understood as believers, we can rest assured that God's love toward us is constant and unwavering, and because His love flows so deeply we are spared punishment(s) we well deserve.

Mercies conferred to us, cannot and will not transfer to our next day. Yesterday mercies are tailor-made to

cover the needs of that day. Respectively every morning we wake up, Christ our Lord is faithful to provide us, morning-by-morning inexhaustible and renewable mercies that will enable us to get through our today's pain, sin, troubles, and sufferings.

Beloved, All that we need, we have!

There is only one word that comes to my mind in knowing that, ***The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; The Lord's mercies are new every morning; and Great is His faithfulness;*** that word is – Amen (So be it).

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

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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

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Saginaw, MI 48607
989-752-3993

J

Jacob's Ladder

Pastor Dennis Barlow
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L

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Pastor Dennis Cotton, Sr.
2915 S. Washington Road
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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



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Pastor Roy & Evelyn Baldwin
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989-777-8272
Pastorbaldwin@charter.net



New Beginnings Ministries

Pastor Augustine Delgado
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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



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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

Every day is Mothers' Day

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

We hope you were well celebrated for Mothers' Day and that you enjoyed celebrating the mothers in your life! We get one day to officially sing the praises of those who mother us and our families. But we believe there are 365 days to celebrate the mothering role that women (and men) play in the nonprofit sector. Not only are mothers served by nonprofits across our country and around the globe, but they also lead these organizations. Many times they are the ones who birth them as well, pushing them into this world with force and determination.

Here's to the moms who are the backbone of the nonprofit sector. They are visible and invisible, in leadership roles, supporting roles, and everything in between.

Look around and see who is volunteering at your religious organization, feeding the hungry, working the homeless shelters, campaigning for politicians, donating their legal and medical skills, and more. Notice the mothers working high-powered jobs in the nonprofit sector as college presidents, CEOs of research institutions, and lead legal counsel for life-changing and policy-changing lawsuits. Take note of the mothers doing the hard work of nursing assistants in healthcare facilities, bathing those who cannot bathe themselves. Notice those mopping floors in schools and hospitals, serving food in cafeterias, crunching numbers in accounting offices, all the other invisible work that makes the nonprofit sector hum.

So let's say thank you. And show we mean it! Here are some suggestions for year-long celebrations of the mothers of the nonprofit sector. The first one is obvious. Identify an organization that reflects your mother's values – or those of a mom in your life. Make a financial contribution in their honor and make sure the organization sends her a note of acknowledgment. You can post on social media about

how you are honoring the mothers in your life and ask others to join you by making a similar financial gift. Here's another suggestion: volunteer for an organization in honor of your mom, or the mothers in your family and community. When you do this, you are honoring their legacy and memory and paying it forward. We can never make up for the history of contributions made by mothers over the decades and centuries. But we can continue their legacy by making just a little bit of time to make a difference.

We can also take time to care for those among us who are mothering their children and may need a helping hand. We can do that directly by offering to pick up groceries or take a child to the doctor when they are working. We can do that indirectly by giving to a foodbank or clinic. Finally, it's never too late to sit and talk with your mother about her priorities and how you can be a part of her legacy. Let her know you want to volunteer with a nonprofit and that you want it to be one that reflects her values and beliefs. Sit and listen – you could be amazed by what you hear.



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

+ EDUCATION

Delta College names new vice president of Student Empowerment and Success



SHELLY RAUBE

Delta College's leadership team announced the appointment of Shelly Raube as the new vice president of Student Empowerment and Success.

Growing up in Wisconsin, Raube, and her identical twin sister were basically attached at the hip. They did nearly everything together, and even wore matching clothes until after high school when it became less "socially acceptable." They continued to study together at Carthage College and earned their bachelor's degrees and after graduating from Illinois State University with their master's degrees, they moved across the pond to the Great Lakes Bay Region in 1999.

The twins found work together as athletic trainers before jointly starting a personal training business, fittingly called,

"Twin Peak Performance" — pun intended. But that business goes by another name now, because in 2008, Raube made one of the best and most difficult decisions of her life when she accepted a position at Delta College as an athletic trainer. Not without her sister's full support, Raube diverted from the path they had forged together and found her true calling in higher education.

How does one go from athletic trainer to vice president of Student Empowerment and Success? With passion, dedication, unparalleled leadership and more passion. "I always put the student first," said Raube. "I've always had that at the center of my work." During her tenure as the athletic director, Raube created a familial culture within the athletic department. Retention rates were high and student athletes ex-

celled — on the court and in the classroom.

Raube reflected on her 16 years at Delta and the many student resources she had a hand in bringing to campus, including more recent initiatives like Uwill and CREW, and she found overwhelming joy in the impact she has made with the help of her stellar teams. "It's exciting to put great teams together to make great things happen," she says.

She sees herself as a leader who listens to the students and truly hears their voices to then act as their advocate for impactful change. "That's why we're here. We're here to make sure our students can see themselves earning that degree. We're here to remove some of those barriers so they can walk across that graduation stage."

+ EDUCATION

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers hires new Education Director

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers is pleased to announce the appointment of Melissa Kohner, DO, as the new Education Director for the Michigan Doctors Improving Access to Care (MIDOCs) Family Medicine Residency Program. "I have been working with the MIDOCs program for several years and I am excited to take on a larger role in the program. I really love teaching and hope to continue growing the program and graduate fantastic family docs", said Kohner.

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers' own MIDOCs Family Medicine Residency Clinic opened in July of 2019 in partnership with CMU's Family Medicine Residency. With a wealth of experience and a passion for education, Dr. Kohner brings fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to our team. She has been an attending with the MIDOCs residency program for just under 3 years and has been on the Provider Leadership Committee since its inception.

Dr. Kohner received her Bachelor of Science degree at Valparaiso University in Biology with minors in History and Chemistry. She then went to Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine in Pikeville KY. Dr. Kohner completed her family medicine residency at McLaren Bay Region. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her dog, Maggie, watching the Food Network program with her wife, Carolyn, and trying to convince Carolyn to buy a boat and a lake house.

Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Norm Chapin, said "Dr. Kohner is an outstanding physician who is well-respected by her peers and the residents she has worked with. We are thrilled to elevate that opportunity for her to mentor many more promising residents."

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Kohner on her well-deserved appointment as Education Director. We are confident that she will continue to positively impact the MIDOCs Family Medicine Residency Program to improve the health outcomes for members in our community.

At Great Lakes Bay Health Centers we provide family medical care, pediatric care, pharmacy, women's care, x-ray, laboratory, behavioral health care, dental care, eye care, and much more. Over the years, GLBHC has provided medical education and has collaborated with many local agencies in the public and private sectors. Community Health Centers are not just healers, we are innovators who look beyond medical charts to address the factors that may cause poor health, such as poverty, homelessness, substance use, mental illness, access to nutritious food, and unemployment. We are a critical piece of health care systems and collaborate with hospitals, local and state governments, social, health and business organizations to improve health outcomes for people who are medically vulnerable.



MELISSA KOHNER, DO

+ EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

Reflections regarding Teacher Appreciation Week



By CRAIG DOUGLAS
RETIRED EDUCATOR

Teacher Appreciation Week occurred the week of May 6th. It was a way to reflect upon how important teachers are in our society.

Consider this simple question, Was there a teacher who went above and beyond the call of duty for you or a classmate?

Many of us would cite examples of teacher(s) who went “to bat” for us. It was Coach Shaw, my 8th grade basketball coach who took me under his wing when I was an uncoordinated kid who loved the game. It was Mrs. Childs, our English

teacher who volunteered to be our student council advisor. It was Mr. Pedersen, our coach in football and basketball. It was Mr. Gardiner who taught math. It was these and many others to motivated me to be a decent student with goals and aspirations.

What can to honor teachers beyond just one week of the year? How can we let them sense our respect and support?

There are many ways to consider; may I offer these four as conversation-starters.

1. Consider low-cost acts of kindness. Whether by email, text, or a traditional handwritten note, a simple message can go a long way to touch a teacher’s heart and let them know that you appreciate them.
2. Consider something for the teacher’s lounge for all to enjoy. Flowers, cookies, and submarine sandwiches are ways to generalize appreciation. Reading books can be relatively inexpensive and wonderful gifts to

classroom teachers.

3. Consider volunteering. Many times field trips and other activities cannot occur with adequate supervision. Volunteer chaperones are always appreciated.
4. Consider reaching out to elected officials at all levels in support of teachers. Many times in my career the government has disrespected teachers by legislation. During my career, for example, the retirement benefits for teachers were revamped and reduced three times. It bothered many and has fueled a shortage of candidates we are now seeing enter the profession. It is sad and was unnecessary.

I have never regretted the choice I made to become a teacher. The profession is a noble one, and I urge all of us to step up in support of teachers year-round, not just during a designated “week.”

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

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

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

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

Early Head Start/Head Start Locations:

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

Great Start to Readiness Program Locations:

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

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

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6. Proof of Income (3 Check stubs)
7. Driver's License or State ID

PLEASE CALL THE PRE-K OFFICE TO
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TO START THE PROCESS!

THANK YOU, MS. NINA THOMAS

*By Appointment
Only!*

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mearlychildhood.org



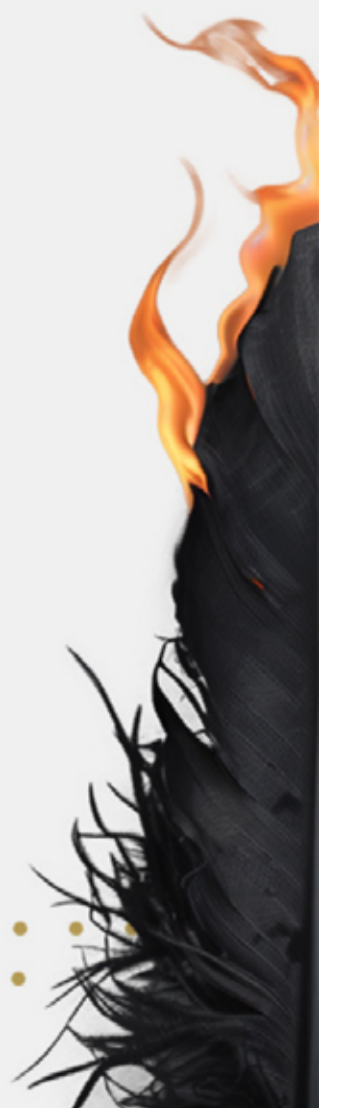


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Office Hours

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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+ SPORTS

A decorated coach with a bright NBA future

By HASANI ALI

Say what you want about Darvin Ham. Other than the opinions of LeBron James fans, Darvin Ham exceeded expectations and more in the two-year stint that he had with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Not only has he exceeded expectations in the NBA, but he is Saginaw's first coach that made it to the big stage and is decorated on multiple levels.

Ham was inducted into the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame back in 2014. Based on what he's done in the past 10 years, he may need to be re-inducted, if that's possible.

Having a tough spot to fill, Ham became the sixth coach of the Lakers in the last 13 years.

He had replaced Frank Vogel, who was fired by the Lakers exactly 18 months after winning the franchise's 17th championship in 2020.

Ham took on a 33-49 Lakers Team after the 2021-2022 season where they ranked no. 11 in the Western Conference and did not make the playoffs.

Coming fresh off a championship campaign with the Milwaukee Bucks over the Phoenix Suns in six games as an assistant, it made sense.

Ham was the perfect candidate to become the head coach for LA. He has won a championship as a player with the Detroit Pistons back in 2004 and a recent championship with the Bucks as an assistant coach.

He was a likable guy around the league and highly respected as a coach.

"So (expletive) excited," was the Tweet that LeBron James posted once he received the announcement of Ham becoming the head coach.

Everyone was excited with the hard grit that Ham presented when he was at the press conference being introduced as the head coach.

"I was born in Saginaw, Michigan," he said. "I was shot in the face by accident on April 5, 1988. You go through something like that, it's going to do one of two things. It's going to make you fearful or fearless.



DARVIN HAM

It made me fearless. I feel no pressure. It's basketball."

The ball club immediately made a complete 180-turnaround the following season with a 43-39 record, making the playoffs and ranked no. 7 in the conference and made it all the way to the Western Conference Finals where they lost the series to the eventual NBA champions in the Denver Nuggets.

Head coach Michael Malone praised the efforts of Ham and genuinely approves how he was able to quickly turn around the franchise despite all the immense pressure.

"I think Darvin Ham is a hell of a coach," he said during a postgame interview after beating the Lakers in the Western Conference Finals. "That's not an easy job. I think Darvin does it with class. He's a good man, good coach, and I wish him all the best. Hopefully, he'll be around there for a long time because he deserves to be."

This past season, Ham was the first head coach to win the NBA In-Season Tournament championship and went 47-35 (ranked no. 7 again) before losing to the Nuggets again in five games.

Ham and the Lakers unfortunately parted ways earlier this month.

"I don't think he deserved to be let go from being the head coach of the Lakers," ESPN analyst Skip Bayless said during an

episode of Undisputed. "It was not Darvin's fault that LeBron could not perform in the fourth quarter in that first-round series."

Best believe that many teams will be targeting Ham in order to join their coaching staff.

NBA rumors are immediately circulating that Ham may be joining Charles Lee in Charlotte, who just accepted the Hornets job, per the conclusion of the Boston Celtics' playoff run.

Lee and Ham worked under the tutelage of Mike Budenholzer at two separate organizations — Atlanta Hawks and Milwaukee Bucks — from 2014-2022.

Ham had a long tenure in the NBA as a player, went undrafted but played for the Denver Nuggets in 1996 and finished his career with the Pistons as an NBA champion.

He also competed in the dunk contest in 1997.

With a captivating dunk that shattered a rim during the NCAA tournament against North Carolina, it gave Texas Tech enough momentum to make it to their first Sweet 16 in school history.

Ham's son, Darvin Jr., is an assistant basketball coach for the NBA's G League team, the Cleveland Charge.

He is looking to follow in his father's footsteps and land a coaching job in the NBA in the near future.

SVSU softball wins third straight GLIAC tournament championship

By HASANI ALI

The Lady Cardinals at Saginaw Valley State University reign supreme yet again, achieving a 3-peat.

SVSU has won its third-straight Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Tournament Championship in spectacular fashion on Sunday on May 5.

The Cardinals walked into the contest, needing to sweep Grand Valley State University in a doubleheader in order to take home the gold.

After defeating the Lakers, the Cardinals won 7 of the last 10 games.

SVSU (34-20) did just that with a 7-1 win in the first game and a 2-1 victory in the second.

According to SVSUCardinals.com, the Cardinals capitalized on the opportunity of loaded bases, Milford senior Maddie Campagna smacked one down the field and brought home Reifschneider to give SVSU a 1-0 lead on a fielder's choice.

Chelsea freshman Mya Purdy hit a single, but managed to advanced to second base on the throw while Sabin scored to double the advantage in the first inning.

Kentwood pitcher Aalana Kimble (W, 7-7) was anointed to the mound for SVSU and went the distance to claim her seventh complete game of the season. Kimble allowed six hits and only one run while striking out three in the winning effort.

The Cardinals kept the momentum alive in the second as Alyssa Muench walked to lead off the inning. Reifschneider hit a single through the left side and Muench moved into scoring position at second base.

Kimble brought Natalie Savage, pinch running for Muench, home with a single and SVSU led 3-0. Moos hit a sacrifice fly to right field that allowed Reifschneider to add a fourth run to the scoreboard.

Sydney Herioux scored in the fourth inning off another sacrifice fly to right field from Moos and the score sat at 5-0 in favor of SVSU.

Purdy helped set up freshman Emma Helvie (Markle, Ind.) with an RBI with a single up the middle of the field and also moved to second base on a stolen base in the fifth inning.



DARVIN HAM

Marissa Beck was brought home by Sydnét Herioux brought Marissa Beck home on a groundout and the score moved to 7-0 going into the bottom of the fifth inning.

The Lakers' only score was based off three consecutive singles, but the Cardinal defense stiffened and forced a deciding game two.

Reifschneider continued her terrific season at the plate as she went 3-for-4 with two runs scored to help lead SVSU to the win. Kimble contributed two hits in her four appearances and Purdy finished 2-for-4 with a run and RBI. Moos had a team-high two RBI.

In game 2, Emily Depew (Sv 1) would get the start for the Cardinals in the winner-take-all game two. She pitched the first five innings of play and allowed five hits and one run while striking out six batters before being relieved by Kimble (W, 8-7) who earned the win after one inning of work.

The teams played through five score-

less innings before GVSU got a baserunner on third and hit a sacrifice fly to right field to gain the 1-0 lead in the bottom of the sixth.

Campagna walked to lead off the seventh and would score on Sabin's triple with one out to tie the game at one run apiece. Marissa Beck was put at third to pinch run for Sabin and made the game-winning play to steal home after the Laker's pitcher turned her back to the plate following a walk of Emma Helvie and the Cardinals took the 2-1 lead in the final frame.

Depew would re-enter in the bottom of the seventh and earned the save with a strikeout, her seventh of the game, to record the final out and secure the third-consecutive GLIAC Tournament Championship for SVSU.

Sabin registered two hits including her RBI triple that tied the game and set up the game-winning stolen base in the seventh. Reifschneider and Moos recorded a hit in the game as well.

+ SPORTS



SVSU BASEBALL

SVSU baseball secures GLIAC regular season championship

By HASANI ALI

Saginaw Valley State University secured the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) regular season championship after defeating the University of Wisconsin-Parkside 13-1 in game one of the final regular season series to earn the championship outright.

The game saw a rain delay for a little over an hour in the bottom half of the first inning, but it didn't stop the Cardinals (33-13 overall, 20-7 GLIAC) from marching forward with earning gold.

According to SVSUCardinals.com, senior pitcher Tyler McLaren (W, 5-4) started for the Cardinals and earned the win with 5.2 innings of work. The Freeland native struck out five Rangers and allowed five hits in five scoreless innings to get the win on the bump.

Matt Montroy, Chase Gruno, Carson Bassett, and Christopher Schmees all managed to get some time on the mound for SVSU.

Gruno registered his 62nd appearance

and took sole ownership of the career mark in that category with his 1.0 inning showing. Bassett had the most effective shift in relief as he only allowed a single hit and he retired three on strikes.

Hayden Jatczak got things going for the Cardinals with a single to left field to get on base early. Austin Schweiger then singled to left field to put runners on first and second. Both would move on a wild pitch and a walk by Reed Raymond would load the bases as the rain hammered down and begin the weather delay.

Coming out of the break, Jeff Reseigh walked to put the first run on the board for SVSU. Logan Welch then singled to left field to score Raymond and Schweiger and the score sat at 3-0 after one inning of play.

Senior Hayden Jatczak put a run on the board in the second with a single to right field that brought Connor McClennen home. McClennen also brought two more runs home in the bottom of the third with a two-out single up the middle that scored Jaccar Watkins and Welch.

Redshirt junior Austin Schweiger would hit a triple to right in the fourth in-

ning to bring in Colin Cornwell. Junior Reed Raymond would double to right center on the next play to score Schweiger and SVSU led 8-0 after four innings.

A run scored on a fielder's choice, a groundout in the bottom of the fifth inning, and pushed the advantage to 9-0. Reseigh and Watkins would both single in the sixth to bring a run home and SVSU built an 11-0 advantage.

The Rangers got a run across in the seventh inning on a bases-loaded groundout putting the score at 11-1.

The final two runs of the game came from Watkins on a single to center field that scored Reseigh and Cam Steeves.

Watkins had the hot bat in the afternoon as he went 3-for-5 with three RBI and a run scored to lead the Cardinals in scoring. Welch went 2-for-4 with two RBI and a run for his stat line. Jatczak had two hits in his five at-bats with two RBI and a run. Schweiger also finished with two hits and one run. Raymond was 2-for-5 with an RBI and two runs. Raymond was the only SVSU hitter with two doubles.

Detroit Venom cruises past Tidal Waves 55-0

By HASANI ALI

Since coming back down to Div. 2, the Detroit Venom has been searching for their identity.

Having high hopes to compete in the WFA Pro division (Div. 1), the Venom struggled heavily during the 2023 season, going 1-5 with an embarrassing 53-0 loss to the DC Divas.

The team has lost players in significant positions over the past two seasons and it has been a rebuild ever since. Luckily some new pieces have been added to the core to keep the run game strong.

Veteran guard Vanessa Romero and tackle Alisa Davis missed the season due to the birth of children and veteran wide receivers Erin Payton and Marcy Van Hartesveldt along with linebacker Sydney Blahnik went on to play with the Tennessee Trojans in the Women's National Football Conference (WNFC).

Center Leann Tuuk is now playing for the Grand Rapids Tidal Waves.

Veteran middle linebacker Diana Lenaway was pulled back into playing another season as last year was supposedly her last time suiting up.

Detroit is known for a primary offensive attack on the ground and head coach Andre Harlon needed to find a way to keep solid bodies on the offensive line.

"We've always struggled to keep a steady offensive line," said Tyra Goodin, who plays on both the offensive and defensive line. "In the past, we were fortunate enough to have as many veterans as we did so we can swap in and out wherever we needed to. I remember two seasons ago, we had a different starting lineup on the offensive line nearly every game."

The Venom may be searching for a new identity in Div. 2, but one thing that will always remain consistent is the rushing attack.

In fact, veteran running back Clarissa Tullis ran for nearly 200 yards on 20 carries and three touchdowns as the Venom had no problem taking care of the Grand Rapids Tidal Waves, 55-0 on May 11 at Northview High School.

She was so impactful offensively, Tullis did not play in the second half.

"Riss (Clarissa) is an absolute beast,"



DETROIT VENOM

said offensive coordinator Darnell Brice. "She runs the ball with violence and knows how to make a play out of nothing. Her vision is getting better every game and it's getting tougher and tougher to bring her down."

What made the game a bit more special for the Venom team was the return of the veteran kicker Sarah Monte.

The Livonia Stevenson graduate resigned for the 2024 season to take a break and enjoy more time in her personal life.

However, being absent for preseason practice and the first game was all it took for Monte to put her cleats back on and return to the field.

"I'm back!" She said emphatically in a Facebook post, with a new photo of her sitting casually on the bench with her new football uniform. "I miss you guys too

much."

Detroit is now 1-1 for the season, looking to make an immediate run now that the season is a third of the way over.

The Venom fell short on April 27 when they lost in a close game against the New York Wolves, the defending WFA Div. 2 champions, 20-14.

New York is now in the WFA Pro division. The Wolves got thumped by the Baltimore Nighthawks, 41-0 on May 11, now sitting at 1-1.

The Venom will be back in action May 18 when they take on their new rival Columbus Chaos, who beat them in an upset during the game of the season last year, 6-0.

Kickoff is at 8 p.m. at Mumford High School.

+ SPORTS**Michigan basketball offers scholarship to no. 1 player in 2025 class**By **HASANI ALI**

Michigan basketball has already secured two of the most sought-after players in the transfer portal in Vlad Goldin (Florida Atlantic) and Danny Wolf (Yale).

However, head coach Dusty May and staff already have their sights on 2025.

The bulk of the roster is already set for the 2024-2025 season, but the Wolverines are looking for key pieces that will carry the team in the future.

According to MLive.com, a few top high school prospects reported scholarship offers from Michigan on Tuesday, including the No. 1 overall player in the 2025 class.

A.J. Dybantsa, a 6-foot-9 small forward, is the consensus top prospect for next year: 247Sports, Rivals, On3, and ESPN all have him ranked No. 1.

Last year, after his freshman season, he was the Gatorade Player of the Year in Massachusetts. He subsequently transferred to Prolific Prep in Napa Valley, California, and in October reclassified from the 2026 class to 2025, meaning he will start his senior year in the fall.

“He has a slippery and smooth handle in the open floor that allows him to attack the basket downhill,” according to an On3 scouting report. “He is a bouncy athlete at the rim, finishing high above in transition. Dybantsa has a smooth jump shot and can create his own shots off the bounce. He has the length and upside to be very good when he is locked in on the defensive end.”

Dybantsa reportedly holds offers from a bevy of high-profile programs – Kansas, North Carolina, Connecticut, Alabama, and Auburn.

Kansas made it to the second round of the NCAA tournament before losing to Gonzaga, 89-68. North Carolina made it to the Sweet 16 before being edged out by Alabama, 89-87.

UConn is the reigning back-to-back NCAA national champions after defeating Purdue, 75-60. They defeated San Diego State, 76-59, the year before.

Alabama made it to the Final Four, before being stopped by the Huskies, 86-72.

With constant coaching changes and many players entering the draft portal, the ability to recruit has become quite the storm for all schools.



A.J. DYBANTSA

Dybantsa took a visit to USC before the coaching change and he’s still being pursued by John Calipari, who transitioned from Kentucky to Arkansas.

In a story published Tuesday morning, Dybantsa said he planned to take more visits in the fall before narrowing his options.

Michigan reportedly offered two more 2025 prospects on Tuesday: Shon Abaev and Braylon Mullins. Abaev is a 6-foot-7 small forward at Calvary Christian Academy in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the same program that produced former Wolverine Gregg Glenn III. Abaev is listed as the No. 59 player in the class according to the 247Sports composite ranking. He holds

offers from Oregon and Tennessee, among others.

Mullins, a 6-foot-5 guard ranked No. 100 in the composite, plays for Greenfield-Central in Greenfield, Indiana. His offer list includes Indiana, Iowa, and Notre Dame.

The next time college coaches can watch high school players compete in person is May 17-19.

Like most programs, Michigan does not yet have any players committed for 2025. Michigan’s previous coaching staff, led by Juwan Howard, had offered several players in the class, including several five-star recruits.

Spirit drops game 6, 4-2, season ends until Memorial Cup

By HASANI ALI

The Saginaw Spirit has been sent packing for the rest of the Ontario Hockey League playoffs after losing 4-2 in the Western Conference Finals to the London Knights on May 5 at the Dow Event Center.

Saginaw head coach Chris Lazary reacted to the loss during the postgame interview.

“Heartbreak for our players, staff,” he said. “For the guys inside the walls, this is not just a game of hockey for us, it’s our life.”

However, it’s an opportunity for much needed rest as the Spirit is preparing for the Memorial Cup in Saginaw, starting on May 24 at the Dow Event Center.

They will take on the winner of the Western Hockey League champion.

London advances to the OHL championship series against North Bay, which beat Oshawa in the Eastern Conference finals.

“We’re just trying to catch our breath right now and figure it out,” Lazary told MLive. “Take a little time away from the rink, get away from it mentally and from a body perspective. The job is not done. We accepted the responsibility to be Memorial Cup hosts.”

During the regular season, both Saginaw and London were 50-win teams. London earned the No. 1 seed by two points. The two teams were the best in the league as North Bay conquered the Eastern Conference with a record of 39-20-7-2.

The Knights took a commanding 3-1 lead in the series and the future looked bleak for the Spirit.

The Spirit showed some fight by forcing a Game 6 with a 4-2 win on May 3 to cut the series deficit to 3-2. However, it wasn’t enough for Saginaw to rally to force a game 7.

With a Saginaw turnover, London was able to capitalize and scored a short-handed goal by Easton Cowan with less than a minute in the first period, giving the Knights an early lead.

Joey Willis answered with 3:17 remaining in the second period for Saginaw, sending the game into the third period tied at 1-1.

Sam O’Reilly put one in the net which



SAGINAW SPIRIT

may have been the dagger in the Spirit’s season as there were less than two minutes remaining in the third period.

Yet, Jorian Donovan tied the game for Saginaw with assists from Calem Mangone and Braden Hache. But less than one minute later, Jackson Edwards scored the game-winner for a 3-2 lead.

The nail in the coffin actually came from Cowan, who scored on an empty-net goal with 37 seconds remaining in the game as Saginaw was trying to apply pressure on London’s goalie Nolan Lalonde.

“It’s hard to win in any sport ... our league, other leagues,” Lazary said. “You can be built to win, you can have all the right pieces, but if you don’t get the right bounces, if it doesn’t go your way, it’s hard to win. We hit the post with a chance to tie the game. If it goes in, it’s a different story.”

During the series, London outscored Saginaw, 21-17, but five of London’s goals came after the Spirit pulled their goalie. In non-empty net goals, Saginaw outscored

the Knights, 17-16.

“I’m shocked right now,” Hache said. “I really did believe we were coming back. To be honest, I’m just in shock right now. These are my brothers, lifelong friends. It’s the most fun we’ve ever had playing hockey.”

Michael Simpson stopped 33 of 35 shots for London in Sunday’s win, while Lalonde made 22 saves on 25 shots.

Though it was a disappointing series for Saginaw, they have another opportunity to bring home some hardware to the city of Saginaw.

“We’ll re-motivate to win the Memorial Cup when that time comes,” Lazary said. “Losing this isn’t going to provide motivation. It’s a loss.”

In fact, he’s quite confident that the Spirit will be able to regroup and come back as a strong unit for the tournament.

“We still want to walk out of here as Memorial Cup champions,” he said. “We’ve got to come back and reset ourselves. We still have something to play for.”

+ SPORTS

Michigan adds boys volleyball and girls field hockey for 2025-2026 school year



GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY

By HASANI ALI

For the first time since the 2004-2005 school year, Michigan will be adding two new high school sports

During its Spring Meeting in Gaylord on May 5, The Representative Council of the Michigan High School Athletic Association approved the addition of boys volleyball and girls field hockey to the lineup of MHSAA-sponsored tournament sports beginning in 2025-26 and reorganizing the winter championship calendar to end one week earlier.

Usually being one of the busier sessions around this time, the 19-member legislative body considered 28 committee proposals and examined a variety of eligibility rules, postseason tournaments and operational matters. These new rules and regulations will affect more than 1,500 Michigan schools across the state.

According to MHSAA.com, a year-long conversation about emerging sports at MHSAA member schools, the Council approved a Volleyball Committee recommendation to begin sponsorship of boys volleyball with the 2025-26 school year. The Council also voted to begin sponsorship of girls field hockey beginning with 2025-26.

According to the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association (MI-VCA), boys volleyball has concluded its seventh season and now has a total of 69 teams in 11 divisions across the state.

Its inaugural season was back in 2018 when it began with just four teams from the west side of the state – Allendale, Grand Rapids Christian, Grand Haven and Kalamazoo Christian.

The league tripled its size the next season with 12 teams, but came to halt in 2020 due to COVID-19.

Hudsonville secured the 2024 Div. 1 state title after defeating Grand Haven. Lowell did the same thing in the Div. 2 state championship with a victory over South Christian.

Girls field hockey will be played during the Fall season, and boys volleyball during the Spring season, with the 2024-25 school year to serve as a development period as the MHSAA works with the current governing organizations for those sports. These will be the first sports added to the MHSAA's tournament offerings since girls and boys lacrosse joined the lineup during the 2004-05 school year.

The 2024-25 school year will serve as a developmental year for both. These will be the first sports added to the MHSAA umbrella since 2004-2005 when lacrosse was added.

One change taking effect for the 2024-25 school year will be the addition of a team championship in girls wrestling – to be awarded to the team which scores the most points at the individual wrestling finals at Ford Field. This is how team cham-

pions were crowned in boys wrestling until 1987.

Starting with the 2025-26 school year, all winter sports seasons will end a bit earlier than normal. The final weekend in February will be the finals for team wrestling finals. The championships for hockey, gymnastics and individual wrestling will be the first week of March.

Boys basketball will conclude during the second week of March along with swimming and girls basketball will follow suit the next week.

Basketball teams will be able to open their practices five days earlier beginning that season.



BOYS VOLLEYBALL





COURTESY PHOTO

Enrollment for division 8 football schools capped by MHSAA

By HASANI ALI

The Michigan High School Athletic Association has made an adjustment that will impact smaller for the better that are participating in 11-man football.

Taking effect the following school year, schools can only have a maximum of 250 students for Division 8 football.

The schools were divided equally into eight divisions for 11-man football. Under the change, to take effect in the 2025 season, schools under 250 students can play 11-man football in Division 8 while any schools larger than that will be equally divided into divisions one through seven.

MHSAA stated in a press release last Thursday that with so many smaller schools opting in for 8-man football, an assurance of safety was implemented by the MHSAA Football Committee to protect smaller schools by allowing them to compete against other smaller schools.

With 62 teams competing in Division 8 during the 2024 season, the dividing line between Division 7 and 8 is 262 students.

If the rule were to go into effect today, nine Division 8 schools would be bumped up to Division 7 with nine other schools teetering the line.

According to MLive.com, Bently, Cassopolis, Centreville, Detroit Leadership, Detroit Loyola, Manistique, Sand Creek, Saugutuck and Springport are set to play in Division 8 this fall, but are currently over the 250-student line.

Pontiac A&T, Detroit Community, East Jackson, Farwell, Hesperia, Iron Mountain, Mancelona, Reese and Vassar are within five students of the cutoff line.

During the 2023 playoffs, 10 of the 32 Division 8 teams in the postseason had more than 250 students, including state runner-up Ottawa Lake Whiteford.

Uby won the state championship after defeating Whiteford, 21-6 in Division 8 and Jackson Lumen Christi secured a state title after defeating Menominee, 34-30.

This change officially came into negotiation at the Football Committee meeting back on Jan. 17.

For the schools that are electing to play 8-man football, the rules would be not too much different, the major difference would be the game clock timing if the possibly becomes finalized by the committee. There's discussions that could potentially change the 8-man timing rules to mirror the current sub-varsity rules and changing the possession timing rules to assist with

perceived long game times.

The MHSAA will not enforce any new protocol until they collect data and review it to confirm whether these games are going on too long.

As of now, the changes are still in discussion.

With the expansion of boys volleyball and girls field hockey starting for the 2025-2026 season, an interest in bringing girls flag football to the schools has been finally brought to the table.

The NFL has increased its interest in girls flag football over the last few years through financial support for local franchise-lead leagues and the committee wanted to take advantage of the momentum.

Though bringing the sport to high schools across the state would draw in much attention by female athletes, the committee's concern would be the drastic decline in the other girls sports (volleyball, soccer, track, softball, etc.)

MHSAA staff will continue to monitor progress and the interest of female athletes throughout the state.

+ SPORTS

Michigan's no. 2 offensive lineman of 2025 commits to Michigan



AVERY GACH

By HASANI ALI

The second-best lineman in the state of Michigan just committed to the best college football team in the land.

Junior offensive tackle from Wylie E. Groves Avery Gach is the first commit on the offensive line for newly head coach Sherrone Moore and the University of Michigan. The Wolverines sent many linemen to the NFL this offseason and needed to replenish the depth and start with a fresh core.

The best way to rebuild that group is securing the 6-foot-5, 290-pound Franklin native that is ranked within the top 15 of linemen in the nation – ranked no. 196 nationwide.

Gach declared his commitment to Michigan on May 3.

“They treated me well every time I went up on a visit,” Gach said after his announcement. “You know, it’s a family at-

mosphere. They treat my family very well. They just came off the National Championship, and you see how many NFL players they’re producing, especially O-Lineman. Their whole coaching staff is amazing. I really love Coach Moore and Coach Newsome. They treated me right through the whole entire process. It feels like home, and I’m going to win a National Championship at the University of Michigan.”

Gach had a plethora of Power 5 programs to choose from in every conference. Out of the 40-plus programs, the junior chose Michigan over his other top three – Michigan State, Wisconsin and Ohio State.

On top of the other Big Ten foes that Gach has turned down, he also received offers from SEC powerhouses such as Alabama, Florida, Florida State and Georgia.

He wanted to stay home and help the Wolverine defend their national title.

247Sports.com National Recruiting Analyst Allen Trieu breaks down the over-

all athletic makeup of the newly-committed Wolverine.

“He’s a high school offensive tackle who can be a swing guy at the next level,” he said. “A tenacious, physical player who goes to the whistle and finishes plays. Shows functional strength and pad level in addition to the pure willingness to want to move defenders off the ball, all making for a dominant run blocker. Still technically coming along in pass set and pass pro. Physicality shows up in his punch there also.”

Gach has started as a tackle on varsity since his freshman year.

Offensive line coach Mike Salter gives Michigan fans an idea of what to expect from the in-state product a couple years down the road.

“Avery has great size, he’s tall and he has worked hard when he comes to the weight room,” Salter said. “He’s strong, has great feet, moves well and I think that’s what colleges are looking at is his size and ability. As soon as he gets on the field, he flips a switch and goes right to wanting to be physical out there, blocking to the end of the whistle and finishing plays. Off the field, Avery is a great young man. Avery likes to finish plays and doesn’t believe the play is done until the whistle blows and he’s moved his guy off the line and knocked him off the ball. That’s something that’s in him. That’s his mindset. He wants to be physical, move guys and finish.”

Spartans add Cincinnati transfer Tyler Gillison, Mt. Pleasant standout Andrew Dennis from Illinois



TYLER GILLISON

By **HASANI ALI**

Michigan State is adding elite talent to its linebacker core, including its latest addition from the transfer portal in former Cincinnati player Tyler Gillison.

Gillison is the younger brother of former MSU tight end Trenton Gillison, who played in 27 career games for the Spartans from 2018-2021 with six starts (three in 2019, three in 2020) and had 18 career receptions for 201 yards.

The 6-foot-4, 240-pound tight end finished his football career at Tennessee State University.

Tyler saw action for one season as a Bearcat as an outside linebacker and defensive end. The three-star recruit finished the season with three tackles at West Virginia and two stops against Kansas.

He recorded 15 total tackles, 2.5 tackles for loss and one pass deflection during the 2023 season prior to entering the transfer portal. He will be joining first-year coach Johnathan Smith at Michigan State.

Gillison was a standout at Pickerington Central High School in Ohio prior to playing at Cincy. He was a three-star re-

cruit as part of the 2022 class, according to the On3.com Industry Rankings. Gillison was ranked no. 31 players out of Ohio, no. 113 defensive lineman nationwide and no. 1,029 overall.

Michigan State also secured solid talent on the offensive end.

On May 2, former Illinois signee Andrew Dennis committed to the Spartan program. The 6-foot-5, 290-pound 4-star prospect was a former standout at Mt. Pleasant High School. Dennis was ranked no. 226 overall during the 2024 cycle, according to the On3.com Industry Ranking.

He committed to Illinois on Nov. 27, 2023. Having a keen interest in playing for a Power 5 program and wanting to stay in the Big Ten, Dennis also visited Penn State and Clemson before making his commitment. Michigan State originally had the verbal commitment before he flipped to playing for the Fighting Illini.

“I have had a great relationship with the staff at Illinois for well over a year,” Andrew Dennis said during an interview with On3 when he committed to Illinois. “I had a lot of the questions that had already been answered going into the visit, so I was excited to meet the guys on the team

and see how I meshed with them. The style of play, the coaching, and the guys on the team made me realize that it was the right fit.”

Dennis committed to the team that saw him play for their school early on in his high school career.

“They were very respectful toward me during the whole process and they didn’t push me, they were always supportive,” he said. “They believed in me before any Power 5 program did. They’ve been there since the beginning.”

The Spartans were also able to pick up some talent from another Big Ten foe in Anthony Jones (Indiana) that was in the transfer portal. Running back Kay’Ron Lynch-Adams came over from UMass and cornerback Ed Woods from Arizona State is looking to add some defensive depth for the program.

Johnathan Smith is entering his first season as head coach for the Spartans after going 8-5 overall, 5-4 in the Pac-12’s final season as a conference.

He will be taking over for former coach Mel Tucker, who was fired by MSU for sexual misconduct allegations.



PICS OF THE WEEK

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers' May 7 Changing Lives Because You Care Fundraising Luncheon was a great success - thanks to you! You filled Horizons conference center in Saginaw Township with nearly 300 people and raised dollars and awareness for mobile medical, dental and transportation. You will help us to bring mobile vision to the region as well!





We empower.

Brittany Saunders is ready to pay it forward. The Chicago native enrolled at SVSU with ambitions to pursue a teaching career. Brittany was encouraged and invigorated by other passionate educators who worked closely with her to ensure she would accomplish her goals. And she is. Even before she was set to graduate, Brittany could boast a résumé with a paid internship in a school district along with K-12 classroom experience. **Now she can't wait to begin a professional career, inspiring students with the same kind of one-on-one attention she received from her professors at SVSU.**



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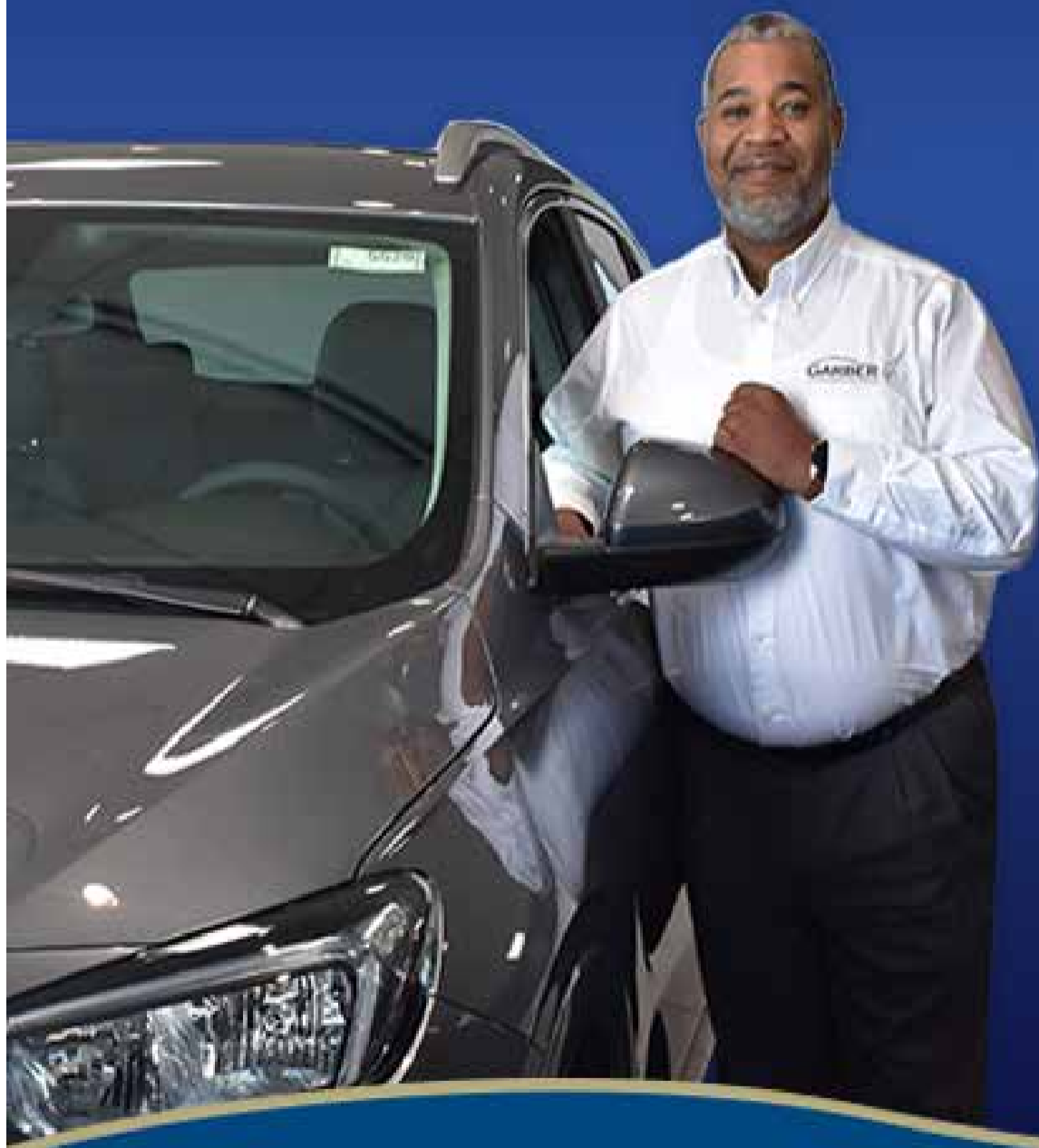


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