



The Michigan Banner

Celebrating Diversity, Empowering Communities



PICS OF THE WEEK
115th Delta Police Academy Graduation

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

MICHIGANBANNER.ORG/DONATE



REMEMBERING B.L. LITTLE

JAN. 21, 1926 - DEC. 11, 2024

It is with great sadness we announce the loss of our beloved Father and Patriarch Mr. B.L. Little.

He made his transition on December 11, 2024 in the comfort of his home.

He wasn't just an amazing Father, he was an incredible human being. His love, wisdom, and strength continue to guide us, and his memory is a source of comfort and inspiration.

Even though he is gone, his spirit lives on in those he touched, and his legacy will always be a part of us.

Today we are reminded of how blessed we were to have him for as long as we did.

"Say not in grief 'he is no more' but in thankfulness that he was"

The B.L. Little Family

Give back this holiday season by shopping and dining local



SVRC MARKETPLACE (FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

This holiday season, give back to the Great Lakes Bay Region and surrounding areas by shopping and dining local. Explore the SVRC Marketplace in Saginaw and the Flint Farmers' Market

for unique gifts, handmade goods, and specialty foods from local artisans. In Midland, check out boutiques downtown or the Midland Mall for one-of-a-kind finds. Consider purchasing gift cards to local restaurants across the region, such as those in Bay City's vibrant

downtown or family-owned spots throughout the area. Supporting these local businesses not only helps sustain the regional economy but also spreads holiday cheer by investing in the community we all love. Every dollar spent locally makes a difference!

FEATURED STORY

Karen S. Carter appointed C.O.O. at Dow

BUSINESS, PG 38



REFLECTING ON 2024

A year of growth, resilience, and community impact



As 2024 comes to a close, we find ourselves reflecting on a year filled with challenges, growth, and countless opportunities to serve our readers, partners, and community. This has been a year of incredible transformation for *The Michigan Banner* and the people we have the privilege to connect with every day.

When this publication was launched nearly 23 years ago, we envisioned a platform that not only reported news but also amplified voices, uplifted communities, and sparked meaningful conversations. As we prepare to enter our 23rd year, this milestone reaffirms our commitment to that mission. From amplifying

underrepresented voices and highlighting regional achievements to creating spaces for dialogue on important issues, *The Michigan Banner* has remained steadfast in its purpose: to empower communities, inspire action, and drive positive change.

This year, we've seen remarkable milestones within our organization. Our team has worked tirelessly to expand our digital footprint, ensuring that *The Michigan Banner* reaches readers wherever they are. We launched new initiatives which have allowed us to recap critical news and keep our audience informed 24/7. We've also enhanced our partnerships with local businesses, nonprofits, and community leaders, recognizing that collaboration is the cornerstone of progress.

For our readers, we are deeply grateful. Your engagement, feedback, and support drive everything we do. Each story we tell, each voice we highlight,

and each event we promote is a reflection of our community's vibrancy and resilience. You have inspired us to continue striving for excellence.

To our advertisers and sponsors, thank you for trusting *The Michigan Banner* to help share your stories, services, and events. Your support not only helps sustain this publication but also allows us to invest in storytelling that uplifts the Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond. Your partnership is invaluable, and we look forward to building even stronger relationships in the coming year.

This year has not been without its challenges. We've navigated the complexities of an ever-changing media landscape and a rapidly shifting economy. Through it all, we've leaned on our core values: integrity, innovation, and inclusivity. These principles have guided us in making decisions that keep *The Michigan Banner* a trusted and respected source of information.

As we look ahead

to 2025, we are excited about what's to come. We are committed to deepening our focus on issues that matter to our communities, from education and economic development to social justice and cultural enrichment. We will continue to highlight the achievements of individuals and organizations shaping the future of our region while tackling stories that challenge us to grow and improve as a society.

Our aspirations for *The Michigan Banner* are ambitious because we believe our readers, partners, and contributors deserve nothing less. Together, we can create an even brighter future for our publication and the communities we serve.

On behalf of the entire team at *The Michigan Banner*, we wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year. May 2025 bring renewed hope, continued growth, and countless opportunities for connection, understanding, and progress.

With gratitude and best wishes,

Jerome Buckley
Co-Owner/V.P. of Sales and Marketing

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MISSION

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

DISCLAIMER

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DEADLINES

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

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Mailed or e-mailed
Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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SATURDAY | 21 DEC | 11-2PM

HOYT PARK

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 6 • NUMBER 24



IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!



FILE PHOTO



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS

SAGINAW — The Saginaw Community Foundation (SCF) has opened 2024-25 scholarship applications. Now is the time to apply!

I was honored to serve as SCF board member years ago, and I can speak to the amazing growth the nonprofit has made. Many improvements come to mind; here are three for your consideration.

First, the application process is a “must see” for every college bound student. Applications are streamlined, accessible on the web for all. They can be found during the holiday break, on weekends, anytime! There is no excuse for not “finding time” to apply.

Second, a single application allows students to apply for more than 245 available scholarships. Once submitted, one application is matched with multiple scholarships for evaluation. SCF serves as a “search engine” of sorts, connecting the application with scholarships that would have gone unnoticed. The efficiency is amazing!

Third, capacity has grown and continues to evolve. SCF has expanded in the number of scholarships, for sure. In addition to high school seniors, scholarships

are available for undergraduate, graduate, non-traditional, and CTE students.

Want to learn a skilled trade? Want to earn a doctorate? The sky is the limit; apply to the SCF.

There is no guarantee, but one application could open doors that go beyond expectations. The window to apply is now until February 14, 2025.

What could be stopping you from applying if you are thinking of furthering your education?



PRESENTS

STEM SATURDAY

FORCE & MOTION

PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- Learn the principles of Force and Motion, including Newton's Laws of Motion, Drag, and Friction.
- Design, build and test their own cars that they race in a competition! It is a thrilling, hands-on learning experience!

FREE FOR ALL K-12 STUDENTS

WHEN: Saturday, January 25th, 2025

TIME: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

WHERE:

SVRC Marketplace Ballroom (2nd Floor)
203 S. Washington Street, Saginaw, MI 48607

Registration Link



<https://forms.gle/uaiPTgKmcwkj4QzK9>

POWERED BY



Saginaw student wins congressional app challenge

Diya Ramakrishnan recognized for innovative healthcare app



DIYA RAMAKRISHNAN (COURTESY PHOTO)

BY MICHELLE MCCOY

SAGINAW — Detecting early signs of cancer and other serious health conditions could now be just a tap away, thanks to Diya Ramakrishnan.

The Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy sophomore has taken a bold step into the future of healthcare with her innovative app, earning her the top spot in Michigan's Eighth District Congressional App Challenge. Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-08) proudly announced her achievement, highlighting her excep-

tional contribution to technology and medicine.

The Congressional App Challenge is an annual nationwide competition aimed at inspiring middle and high school students to design and submit original apps.

The initiative seeks to foster a deeper interest in coding and computer science while encouraging students to explore potential careers in the technology sector.

Ramakrishnan, was selected by a panel of independent judges for her app, "PolypDetect."

The app leverages a sophisti-

cated machine learning model to analyze colonoscopy images and videos, identifying abnormal tissue growths often associated with severe health conditions such as cancer and ulcerative colitis. A video demonstration of the app is available online.

"As a cancer survivor, I understand the importance of early detection," said Congressman Kildee.

"Apps like PolypDetect have the potential to save lives and mitigate health conditions for many people. I am truly inspired by the incredible talent in our district and appreciate all the

students who challenged themselves to find modern solutions to improve our community."

As part of her achievement, Ramakrishnan's name, app image, app title, and congressional district will be prominently displayed on a rotating electronic exhibit in the tunnel leading to the U.S. Capitol Building.

Her work will be featured alongside winning submissions from other districts across the country, highlighting the contributions of young innovators nationwide.



Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

PREMIOS K?ONDA!
MARCH 22ND 2025

Accepting Nominations

Categories:



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- LA ONDA
- OUTSTANDING MUSICAIN
- NEW COMER
- ALL TIME ACHIEVEMENT
- HOMAGE (IN MEMORY)

COMMUNITY LEADERS:

- BUSINESS
- EDUCATION
- FAITH
- LEGACY

SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS VIA
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SUBMIT BY DEC 31ST

THE LATINO BANNER IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY GREAT LAKES BAY HEALTH CENTERS

Seen on the Scene: Saginaw native Angelo Kapp, founder of Nuestra Cultura Multimedia Productions, was named the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year. Kapp was presented with the award at the chamber's 35th annual Gala Hispana on December 7.



ANGELO KAPP (FACEBOOK.COM/ANGELO.KAPP.9)



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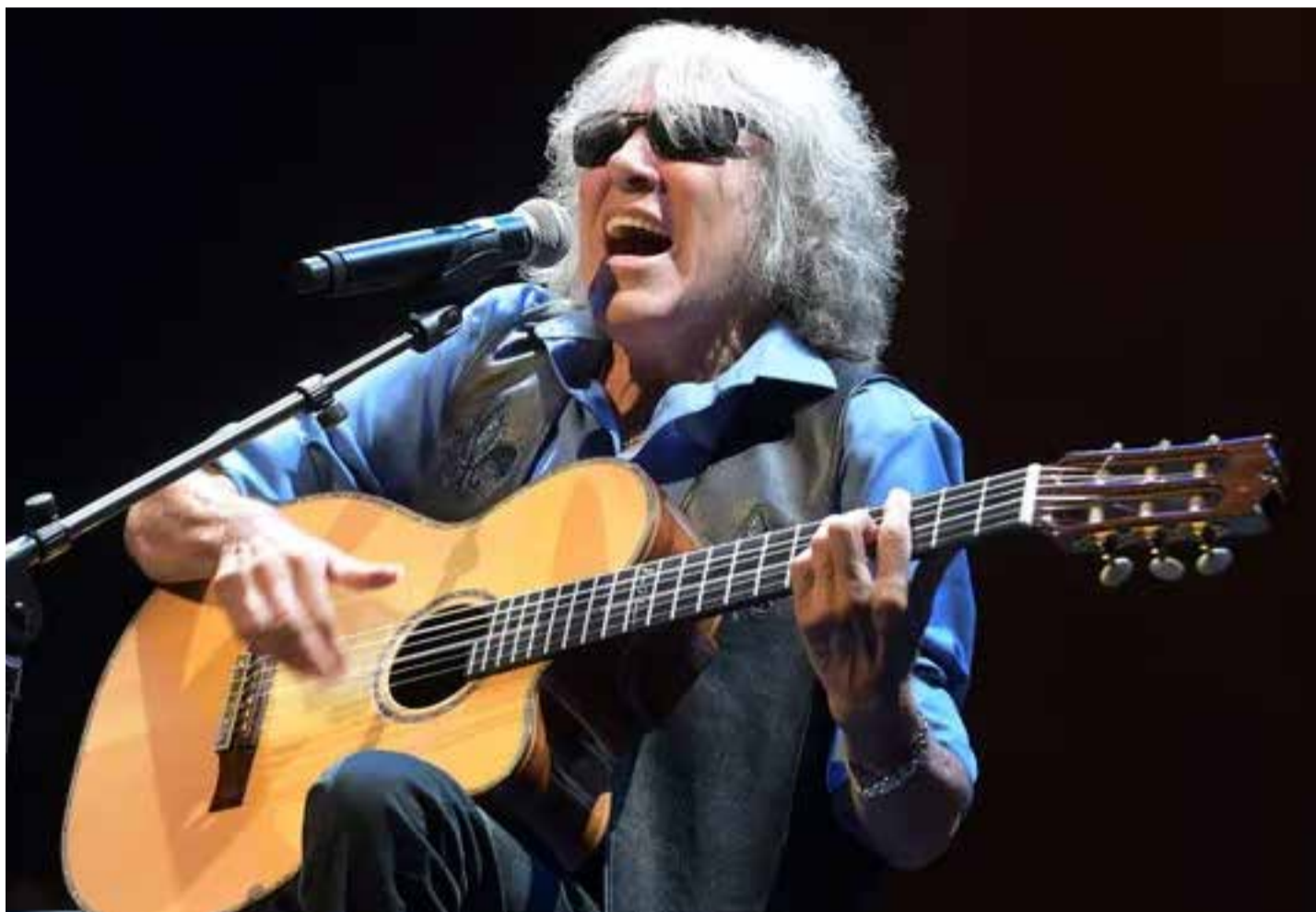
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Accepting New Patients

José Feliciano: The legendary voice behind "Feliz Navidad" and a global Christmas legacy



JOSÉ FELICIANO

BY MB STAFF

When the holiday season arrives, one song transcends borders, languages, and generations—*Feliz Navidad*. Its joyful melody and heartfelt simplicity have made it one of the most beloved Christmas songs in the world. At the heart of this timeless classic is legendary Puerto Rican musician José Feliciano, whose musical genius and cultural influence have left an indelible mark on the global celebration of Christmas.

Written and recorded in 1970, *Feliz Navidad* is a bilingual Christmas anthem with just 19 words. Its English-Spanish lyrics—"Feliz Navidad, Próspero año y felicidad... I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas"—embody a universal message of love, joy, and good will. Feliciano's ability to combine a tradition-

al Latin sound with a folk-pop rhythm made the song an instant hit.

"*Feliz Navidad* was born out of homesickness," Feliciano once shared. As a Puerto Rican living in the United States, he longed for the warmth of his island home and the traditions of Christmas in Latin America. The song became his way of connecting with his roots while reaching audiences worldwide.

Born in Lares in 1945, José Feliciano's story is one of resilience and unmatched talent. Blind since birth due to congenital glaucoma, Feliciano began playing the guitar at the age of nine. He honed his skills by listening to records and imitating styles across genres. His determination and passion for music soon paved the way for an extraordinary career. Feliciano's breakthrough came in the 1960s with his soulful, Latin-infused

renditions of popular songs. His cover of *Light My Fire* by The Doors earned him international fame and his first Grammy Award. By blending Latin, pop, folk, and rock influences, Feliciano shattered barriers for Latin artists in mainstream music.

His ability to cross cultural and linguistic boundaries made *Feliz Navidad* a phenomenon. Over five decades later, it remains a staple of holiday playlists worldwide, charting annually and introducing new generations to Feliciano's artistry. What makes *Feliz Navidad* so iconic is its simplicity and inclusivity. The song unites people from diverse backgrounds, bridging gaps between languages and cultures. Its upbeat energy inspires singalongs at family gatherings, church services, and festive events across the globe.

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) has

recognized *Feliz Navidad* as one of the top Christmas songs of all time. In 2020, Billboard ranked it among the greatest holiday hits, while streaming platforms like Spotify see millions of plays each year. But beyond its commercial success, *Feliz Navidad* represents something deeper: the power of music to bring people together. In a season defined by love, joy, and togetherness, José Feliciano's timeless classic continues to inspire connection and celebration.

José Feliciano's career spans over six decades, earning him nine Grammy Awards, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and worldwide acclaim. He is celebrated not only for *Feliz Navidad* but also for breaking barriers as a Latin artist in an era when such success was rare. In honoring Feliciano's contributions to music, artists from all over the world continue to cover his classic song, ensuring that its joyful message lives on. From small family gatherings to grand holiday concerts, *Feliz Navidad* remains an anthem of unity and joy.

More than 50 years after its release, *Feliz Navidad* is more than a song—it is a cherished part of Christmas tradition around the world. José Feliciano's heartfelt creation serves as a reminder of the universal joy of the holiday season, celebrating both cultural heritage and shared humanity. With a simple guitar, a soulful voice, and a message of love, Feliciano gave the world a timeless gift—one that continues to ring out each December, spreading holiday cheer from generation to generation. As Feliciano himself once said: "I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas, from the bottom of my heart."

IT MATTERS WHERE YOU BUY YOUR CAR



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Louie Garcia

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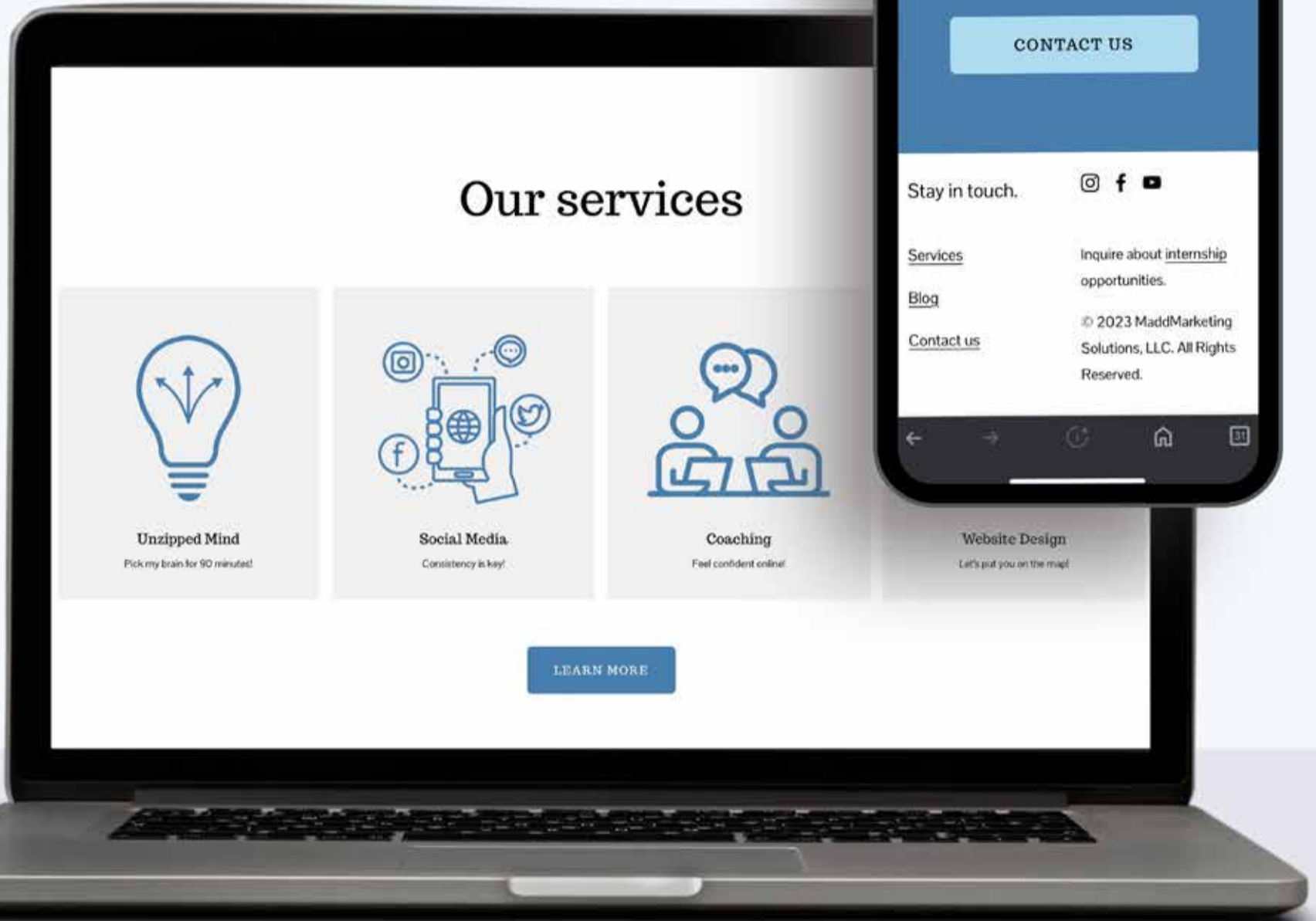
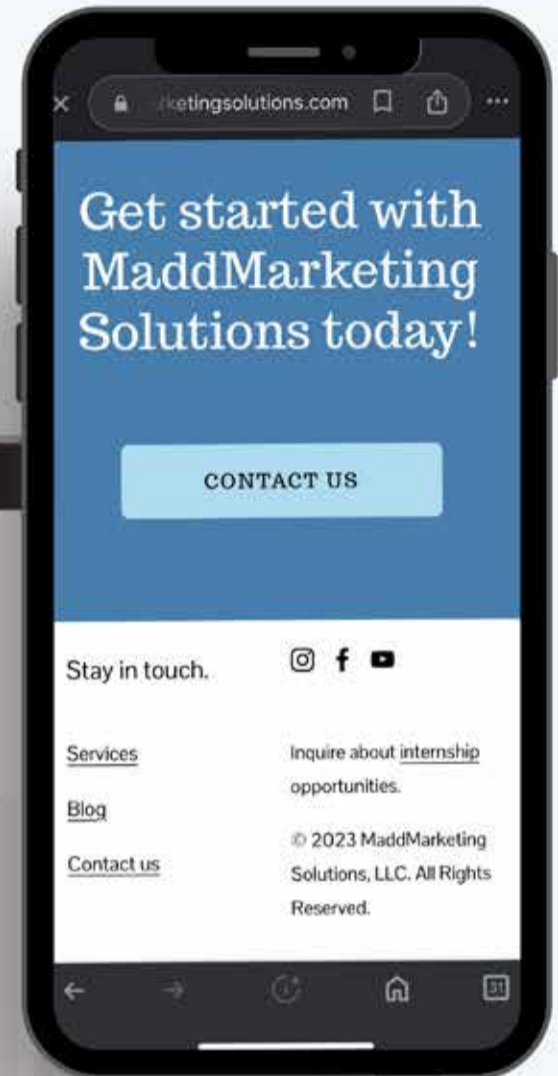
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COMMUNITY

Tax caps lead Saginaw's 2025 agenda

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW – A proposal to support state legislation to remove all local property tax limits, including the city's 45-year-old caps on both the rates and revenue, has received the City Council's backing.

They were surprised by Councilman Michael Balls' sudden motion on Dec. 9 to move forward, but they voted 8-0 in favor, with newcomer Carly Rose Hammond not in attendance.

They also indicated that if the state action fails, which is likely with Republicans re-taking control of the Legislature, they will place a repeal on the local ballot.

Residents approved the tax caps in 1979 as part of Ronald Reagan's national anti-government movement that led to his election to the U.S. presidency a year later. The City Charter amendment freezes the rate at 7.5 mills, but more importantly, revenue is iced at \$3.83 million, with no adjustment for inflation.

This has caused many tax-cap critics to inaccurately claim city government is forced to "live on a 1979 income," overlooking the fact that revenue comes from multiple sources other than property assessments. In fact, this year's general fund is \$45 million, compared to \$19 million in 1979.

The freeze's author, attorney Al Schmid, had been an unsuccessful council candidate himself, but citizens embraced the tax cut in following one of the era's most prominent local politicians, Dr. Walter C. Averill III. City Council members tried several times for a repeal during the 1980s but failed. They switched gears in 1989 and won support for a 50 percent hike in the income tax rate, which has remained in place



COUNCILMAN MICHAEL BALLS PROPOSES REMOVING LOCAL PROPERTY TAX LIMITS DURING THE SAGINAW CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 9. (THE MICHIGAN BANNER)

since then with no requirement for renewal referendums.

The city's revenue cap has pushed this year's rate down to 6.7 mills. The City Charter's maximum allowable rate was 10 mills prior to the 1979 referendum, which means a vote to remove the tax caps could lead to an increase up to 3.3 mills. In comparison, the latest school bond for Saginaw United High and other improvements is 6 mills and a new countywide roads levy is 2 mills.

The original 1964 city income tax rate was 1 percent for residents, 0.5 percent for non-residents who work in the city. The 1989 increase raised the shares to 1.5 and 0.75, among an array of ways that leaders through the years have avoided the most damaging impact. Other tax-cap-dodgers have been:

- A separate tax for rubbish pickup was 3 mills before higher-value property owners achieved a switch

to a flat fee that this year has reached a new annual peak of \$240.

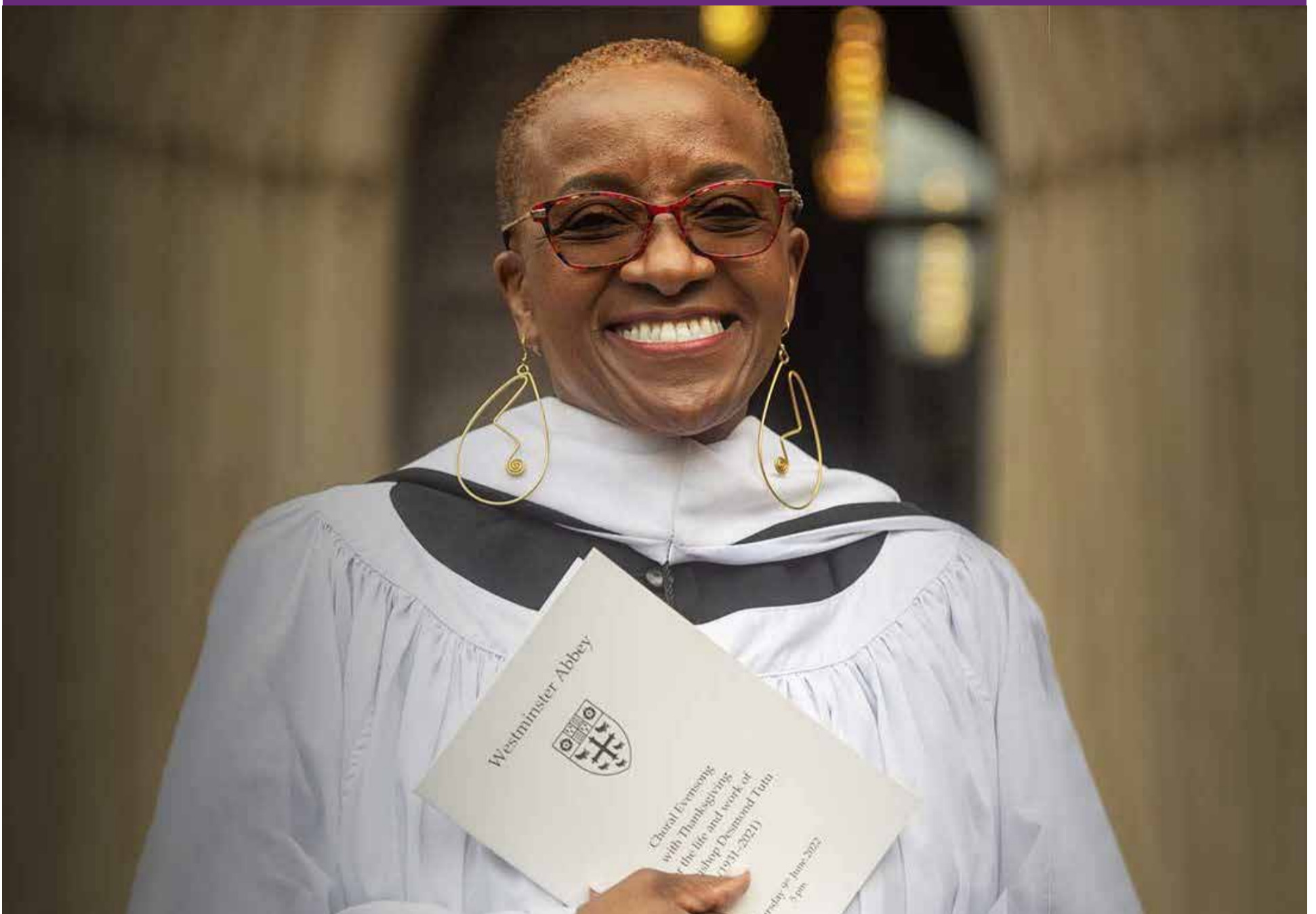
- A 7.5-mill special assessment to help avoid more cuts in police and fire, approved in 2005 and renewed in landslide votes, causing confusion and consternation on reasons for residents to reject rescinding the caps, while backing a special purpose millage for a larger sum of money.
- The Civic Center was removed from the city's general fund with a countywide tax of 0.45 mill.
- Transit was pulled from the budget with creation of STARS, Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services, which has unsuccessfully aimed to go countywide like the Civic Center, now The Dow, and thus must

rely on a city-only levy of 3.2 mills. A single 1 mill in the city limits raises only \$650,000 with the local demise of General Motors, while the same rate countywide produces \$6.5 million.

Behind the scenes, talk of trying to lift the property caps again, after a three-decade hiatus, returned while Floyd Kloc, the former city attorney, was Brenda Moore's mayoral predecessor. Kloc's view has been that the best chance to persuade voters will be if a cap-cut proposal is initiated by a citizens' advocate group, not from the City Council on high. This outlook has led to nothing being placed on the ballot until Balls' call to action.

More discussion is likely during the council's annual planning session at 9 a.m. on Jan. 31, a Friday.

COMMUNITY



REV. NONTOMBI NAOMI TUTU (COURTESY PHOTO)

Rev. Nontombi Naomi Tutu to headline SVSU's 2025 MLK celebration

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

SAGINAW — Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) is preparing to host its 2025 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, featuring Rev. Nontombi Naomi Tutu as the keynote speaker. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Malcolm Field Theatre, located in Curtiss Hall on the university's campus.

Rev. Tutu, a prominent race and gender justice activist, is widely known for her work ad-

vocating for human rights and addressing systemic inequality. Having grown up in apartheid South Africa, her experiences shaped her commitment to social justice. Over the years, she has built a reputation as a powerful and engaging speaker, delivering messages of unity and action to audiences around the globe.

The program will include the presentation of the MLK Scholarship Awards, recognizing students for their academic achievements and commitment to community service. The event will also feature the Region-

al Drum Major Awards, which honor individuals whose leadership and service reflect the values and vision of Dr. King.

The celebration is designed to bring together the SVSU community and the public to reflect on Dr. King's enduring legacy and to inspire continued efforts toward equity and inclusion. By hosting events that highlight influential voices like Rev. Tutu, the university fosters meaningful discussions and encourages positive change.

The event is open to the public, with accommodations avail-

able for those with disabilities. Individuals requiring assistance are directed to contact The Conference Center at SVSU at 989-964-4348 at least three days in advance. Further details about the celebration can be found at svsu.edu/mlk or by calling the Office of Diversity Programs at 989-964-4068.

SVSU's Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration is made possible through the support of regional sponsors and community partners, reflecting a shared commitment to honoring Dr. King's mission of justice and equality.

When 'jammies' outdoors are okay



PHOTO CREDIT: PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF SAGINAW

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Long before teens and some grownups began wearing pajamas to the store and for other outdoor doings, Zauel Library established the tradition of "holiday pajama story time" for toddlers who actually belong in their Doctor Dentons.

This season's version begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the township's governmental center at Shattuck and Center. Admissions are free of charge.

At 5:30 p.m. Dec. 17, a Tuesday, the downtown Hoyt headquarters branch will offer a beginning yoga class for adults and older youngsters.



Cookwear joins cookbooks That's only one example among the 'Library of Things'

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — You're hosting a party, and looking for new ideas for the smorgasbord. Maybe a fondue pot?

As a newbie, your question goes beyond cheese or chocolate. Would it be worth buying one?

It's time to head to your library, and not just for a "how-do-you-fondue" guidebook. You can take an actual fondue pot out the door, so long as you have signed up for your library card and promise to bring back the kitchen tool.

Looking for a new year's champagne theme? You also can head for the desk and check out a bubble-making machine. Wish to revisit some fave oldies tunes? There's a record-player for your not-compact vinyl discs.

The title of the new offerings is "Library of Things," not restricted to any endeavor in particular. What type of item do you need once, but never again? Is there an appliance, like the fondue pot, that makes you curious, but you wish to try one out before investing in a purchase? Other available cookware includes a pasta maker and a waffle iron.

Something to keep the kids occupied? Ask for a STEM kit in the children's section. There also is new-era exercise equipment to help prevent them (and us) from becoming total couch potatoes.

No, a Mr. Potato Head toy is not among the inventory. But it could be, if a patron offered such a suggestion. Virtually nothing is off the board, which is how a cat kit got in there, with a feline-featured puzzle and bingo and card game included.

Of course, someone could



MARIA MCCARVILLE

suggest that the options include motor vehicles, but lawn tractors would have to be kept outdoors and Library of Things aims at a more practical level. You can't get a bicycle, for example, but there is a kit of tools to repair a gently used one back in gear.

Maria McCarville, Public Libraries of Saginaw director, explained that the creative projects serve the public during tight post-covid times. Budget support includes federal ARPA funds of \$20,000 apiece from the City Council and the County Board, from the American Recovery Plan Act that launched President Biden's four years.

The see-through shoulder bags with red trim still may appear unusual on library shelves, even with board games among the books and videos with the encyclopedias, beyond the array of online items.

When a patron makes a transaction at Hoyt or Butman-Fish or Zauel or Wickes, the receipt may approach or enter triple digits. McCarville notes that other items to withdraw, from high-tech to coffee table books, also have price tags. Monitoring is mainly that if you keep a set beyond the generous due dates, you can't withdraw anything else.

As for the pasta makers and fondue pots, the returns so far have been both prompt and clean, but just in case, library staff performs wipedowns on the non-stick and encourages our potential Emeril Lagasses and Rachel Rays to do the same.

Suggestions for Library of Things may be offered via <https://www.saginawlibrary.org/about/contact-us>. The Board of Trustees meets every two months on the third Thursday, closing the year at 5 p.m. on Dec. 19 at Hoyt.



(FILE PHOTO)

COMMUNITY

Nominations encouraged for Michigan Lottery's Excellence in Education Awards to honor outstanding educators

LANSING – Parents, students, school staff members, and others are encouraged to nominate outstanding public-school educators for the Michigan Lottery's 2024-25 Excellence in Education awards.

All public-school employees may be nominated for the Excellence in Education awards, which recognize educators who go "above and beyond" to make a difference in the lives of children. To nominate a public school educator, go to <https://www.michiganlottery.com/excellence-in-education>.

"It is an honor to recognize the incredible work done by educators in communities across the state with the Excellence in Education awards," said Lottery Commissioner, Suzanna Shkreli. "Public educators play such an important role in the development of our children by teaching lifelong skills, being a constant and supportive presence in students' lives, and inspiring them to reach their full potential."

The Michigan Lottery established the Excellence in Education awards in 2014 to recognize outstanding public-school educators across the state during the school year.

One outstanding educator will be selected each week and will receive a \$2,000 cash prize. At the end of the school year, one of these weekly award winners will be selected to receive the Lottery's Educator of the Year award and will receive a \$10,000 cash prize.

Winners of the weekly award are featured in a news segment



COURTESY PHOTO

on the Lottery's media partner stations: WXYZ-TV in Detroit, FOX 17 in Grand Rapids, FOX 47 in Lansing, WNEM-TV in Saginaw, and WWTW-TV in Traverse City.

The winner of the 2024 Educator of the Year award was Samantha TwoCrow, the director of the Indigenous Education Program for Suttons Bay Public Schools.

Hundreds of educators were nominated during the 2023-24 school year, which was the 10th year of the Excellence in Education awards program. Thirty-four of these nominees, including TwoCrow, were selected to win a weekly award.

Previous winners of the Educator of the Year award:

2023 – Kathryn Kluzak, a kindergarten teacher with Robert L. Green Elementary in

East Lansing.

2022 – Spencer Vanderheide, a high school teacher with Kenowa Hills High School in Grand Rapids.

2021 – Janice Smith, a school social worker at Fisher Magnet Lower Academy in Detroit.

2020 – Megan Sidge, an Autism Spectrum Disorder teacher at Hickory Woods Elementary in Walled Lake.

2019 – Stewart Kieliszewski, an Earth science, biology, mechatronics, and media teacher for eighth through 12 graders at the Ugly Community Schools.

2018 – Kerri Moccio, a first-grade literacy intervention specialist at Bedford Elementary School in Dearborn Heights.

2017 – Linda Holzwarth, a social studies teacher at Portage West Middle School in Portage.

2016 – Daniel Carr, a Spanish and sports marketing teacher at Waverly High School in Lansing.

2015 – Michael Craig, a special education teacher at the Charles Drew Transition Center in

Detroit.

Excellence In Education award nominees should demonstrate the following qualities:

- Excellence – Their work consistently helps students and/or their schools or school districts advance to higher levels of academic achievement.
- Dedication – They consistently go above and beyond expectations to help students succeed.
- Inspiration – Their work inspires others around them to exceed expectations either academically or professionally.
- Leadership – They demonstrate clear leadership skills in their positions with their school or school districts.
- Effectiveness – The nominee's work has clear and positive results on the educational advancement of students within the school or school district.



Gift something Wonderful

Win up to **\$500,000** instantly!

\$10



\$5



\$2



\$1



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Fun to give and fun to get, it's easy to gift something wonderful with Holiday Instants from the Michigan Lottery. Everyone likes the chance to win up to **\$500,000**, with **\$63.5 million** in total prizes.

So, this year, give the gift that offers instant holiday fun for everyone. And don't forget to make the holidays even more wonderful by entering the Holiday Let's Play Giveaway!



Overall odds of winning Gift Tag Greetings: 1 in 4.66. Overall odds of winning Season's Greetings: 1 in 4.46. Overall odds of winning Make It Reindeer: 1 in 3.94. Overall odds of winning The Most Wonderful Time of the Year: 1 in 3.52. Knowing your limits is always the best bet. Call 1-800-GAMBLER for confidential help.



COMMUNITY

Artist Grant M. Brownlow presents "REMNANTS, REMNANTS, REMNANTS" at the Saginaw Art Museum

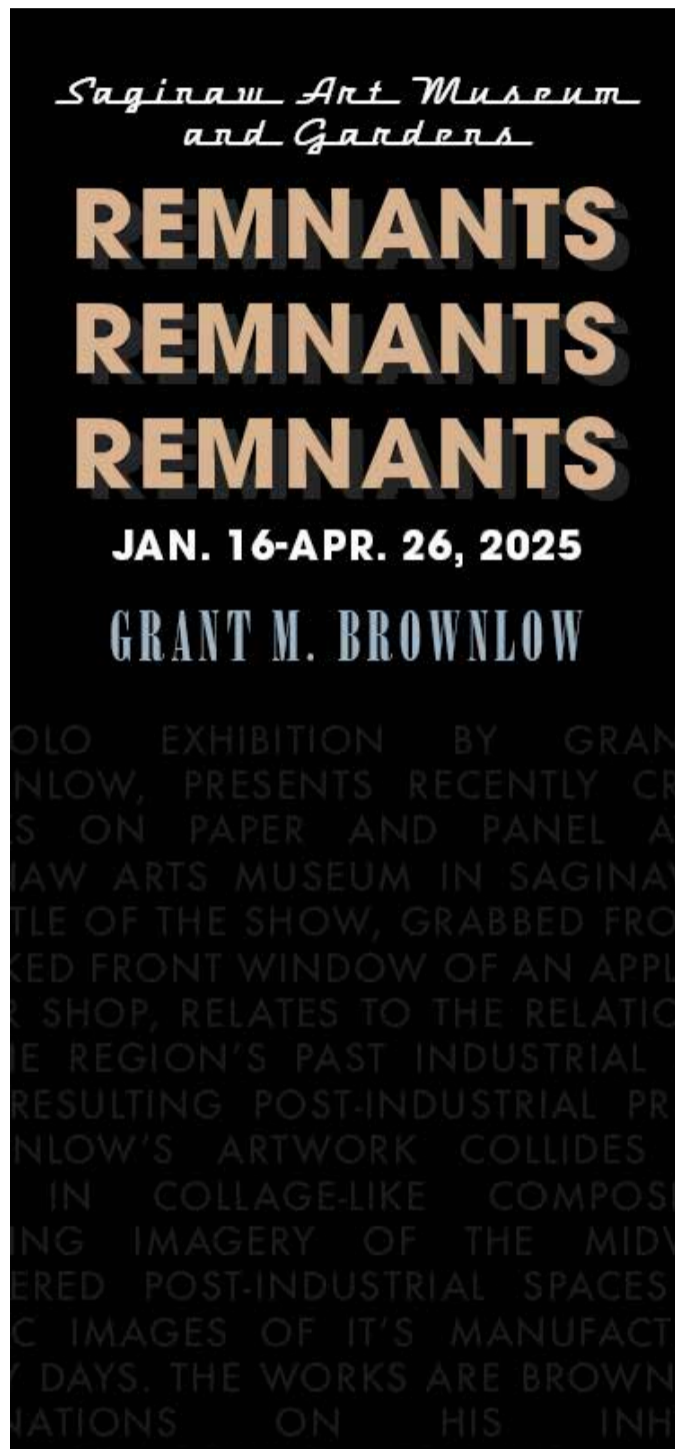
BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW – The Saginaw Art Museum & Gardens will soon host *REMNANTS, REMNANTS, REMNANTS*, an evocative new exhibition by Michigan-born artist Grant M. Brownlow. Running from January 16 through April 26, 2025, the exhibition delves into the Midwest's industrial past and its post-industrial present, portrayed through Brownlow's intricate and layered mixed media works.

The exhibition features recently created pieces on paper and panel, exploring the fractured legacy of the region's manufacturing history. The title, *REMNANTS, REMNANTS, REMNANTS*, takes inspiration from the cracked front window of a local appliance repair shop, symbolizing the stark contrast between the Rust Belt's former glory and its current state.

Brownlow's art juxtaposes imagery of scattered, decaying industrial sites with iconic elements of its manufacturing heyday, such as gleaming chrome bumpers and faded signage. His works are both a tribute to and a critique of the Midwest's transformation, layering elements like empty beer cans and old tires as metaphors for the passing of time and the lingering effects of industrial decline.

Growing up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Brownlow was immersed in the industrial landscape of the Midwest, frequenting racetracks, auto body shops, and plastics factories. These experiences deeply influenced his artistic lens, shaping a body of work that grapples with themes of class, identity, and the inherited challenges of life in a post-industrial world. A graduate of Albion College and Purdue University, where he earned his Mas-



GRANT M. BROWNLOW'S *REMNANTS, REMNANTS, REMNANTS* WILL BE ON VIEW FROM JANUARY 16 TO APRIL 26, 2025, AT THE SAGINAW ART MUSEUM. (COURTESY PHOTO)

ter of Fine Arts in 2024, Brownlow now works in Metro Detroit as the Studio Manager for the Sculpture Department at The Cranbrook Academy of Art.

His pieces reflect on the cultural and psychological impact of the Midwest's history, confronting how the past continues to shape its present. Through collage-like compositions, Brownlow invites viewers to explore

the collision of eras, blending imagery of industrial decay with elements that evoke the region's manufacturing prime.

The exhibition's opening celebration will take place on Thursday, January 16, 2025, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Visitors will also have an opportunity to hear from Brownlow directly during an Artist Talk scheduled for Saturday, February 1, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

Both events will be held at the Saginaw Art Museum and are open to the public.

For more information on the exhibition and accompanying events, visit the Saginaw Art Museum & Gardens website. This exhibition provides a compelling look at the intersection of history, identity, and artistic expression, capturing the complexities of the Midwest in transition.

Pot foes looking at booze also



T & M CONVENIENCE FOOD STORES LOCATED AT 3615 WEBBER ST, SAGINAW, MI 48601.

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Some skeptics have asked the city's anti-marijuana protesters, in effect, "What about all the party stores that peddle alcohol and tobacco?"

The response from the Saginaw County Prevention Coalition will be that both are problems, and if they can put a cap on the number of beer stores, in the same way as they seek a moratorium on any more pot shops, they would consider this a win-win.

Within the city limits are about a dozen dispensaries made possible by the 2018 opt in/opt out statewide cannabis legalization, along with roughly a hundred neighborhood stores that started to flourish after liquor's legalization ended national Prohibition in 1933.

Crime is a reason for the focus on blending the longtime legal with the new-era legit. A leading protester is Rev. Joyce Seals, co-pastor of New Christ Community

Church, former mayor and current school board trustee. In her role as coordinator of the county's Health Equity Council, she hears reports that increased violent street and social crimes often occur at or near the party stores. Members, with law enforcement assistance, have started the process of charting the day-by-day incident locations on "overlay" maps -- like poster boards with pins in the movies -- to reaffirm that their opposition is broad-based and rooted in facts as well as feelings.

With their time frame, they are aiming to compile their findings for a rally when the City Council meets on Feb. 10. This bypasses the annual planning session set for 9 a.m. on Jan. 31 and allows a single-issue focus during a regular business meeting.

In effect, a pair of "cap" issues are on the agenda for 2025. Removal of the property tax caps will dominate, now that the new City Council has taken a stand

that is outlined elsewhere on these pages. Caps on cannabis, and now possibly booze, would aim to restrict more storefronts from joining the local landscape.

The Prevention Coalition has enlisted support from the Equity Council and from the NAACP's Saginaw branch, and a goal is for protests to grow stronger and more consistent, rather than the sporadic opposition of recent years. Meanwhile, cannabis entrepreneurs have remained silent after gaining the go-ahead to operate from a previous City Council in calendar 2020.

Michigan's 500-plus local communities each has the option of allowing the marijuana stores. Detroit and almost all the mid-sized towns have opted in, gaining about \$60,000 per dispensary from shares of a 10 percent state excise tax on top of the 6 percent sales tax. A few smaller towns, like Vassar and Caro in the Thumb area and Beaverton to the north, also have included

themselves.

Marijuana-store moratoriums have become the latest strategy, and while the pot shops enforce age restrictions more strongly in general than the party stores, they also will be included in the crime location mapping. To control the count of liquor outlets will prove more problematic, Seals says, but it's worth a try.

Advocates of allowing the dispensaries, in addition to making points on freedom of choice, have argued that personal use of cannabis should not result in prison or jail time, which has led to mass incarceration of up to 500,000 individuals nationally.

Prevention Coalition members respond that marijuana use is on the rise, especially among teens and even children, creating a need for stronger oversight. The next planning session will be at 10 a.m. on Jan. 8, a Wednesday, at Success Academy, 1000 Tuscola.

COMMUNITY

Pit & Balcony to bring holiday magic with “Miracle on 34th Street”



MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET (PHOTO CREDIT: PIT & BALCONY COMMUNITY THEATRE)

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

SAGINAW – Pit & Balcony Community Theatre is set to enchant audiences this holiday season with its production of *Miracle on 34th Street*, running from December 20 to 22, 2024. Directed by Brady Katshor, this timeless adaptation of the beloved Twentieth Century Fox motion picture celebrates the power of belief, the spirit of generosity, and the enduring magic of Christmas.

The story follows Kris Kringle, an elderly man who unexpectedly steps into the role of Santa Claus at Macy's, bringing a renewed sense of goodwill to those around

him. However, Kris's authenticity is questioned by a skeptical Macy's vocational counselor, leading to a dramatic courtroom battle to determine whether he is truly Santa Claus. At the heart of the tale is Susan Walker, a young girl whose wavering belief in Santa could change everything.

The production boasts a stellar cast, with Tim Maughtew as Kris Kringle, Audreanna Symon as Doris Walker, Bill Alley as Fred Gayley, and Brynlee Quellet as Susan Walker. The ensemble also features Chris Ropp as Doctor Pierce, Ken Herr as Sawyer, and Karen Fenech as Shellhammer/Mara, alongside Ali Rosas as Mrs. Macy and Michelle Zoellner

as Judge Harper. Additional performances include Greg Allison as Bloomingdale, Shirley Symon as Finley, Dean Thomas as Elf Q, Paityn Gruesbeck as Megan/Janet, and Layla Villanova as the Dutch Girl.

Audiences can look forward to experiencing the vibrant energy of 1940s New York City brought to life by this talented cast and crew. Whether you're revisiting this holiday classic or discovering it for the first time, *Miracle on 34th Street* offers a heartwarming and unforgettable theater experience for all ages.

Performances will be held at Pit & Balcony Community Theatre, located at 805 N Hamilton

St, Saginaw, MI 48602. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 PM, with a matinee performance on Sunday at 3:00 PM.

This production is made possible through the support of Spence Brothers, the show's production partner. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at www.pitandbalconytheatre.com or by calling the box office at (989) 754-6587.

Don't miss the opportunity to celebrate the holiday season with this enchanting tale of belief and magic. *Miracle on 34th Street* promises to deliver joy, laughter, and a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.



MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET (PHOTO CREDIT: PIT & BALCONY COMMUNITY THEATRE)

Fifth/Sixth: Two-way to the south, still one-way north

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Television news reports indicate that the stretches of Fifth and Sixth will be restored to the historical two-way status of pre-railroad underpass times, but that is yet to be decided.

A City Council vote last fall eliminated the one-ways only south of I-675, with Fifth becom-

ing Thompson at East Genesee and Sixth making a Cherry street connection.

City staff proposed changing the entire streets but the council stopped it at the highway, keeping one-ways out to North Washington. Traffic engineers said they will return in future years and the council always can change, like with four new mem-

bers in office after Nov. 5. But for now the status is on hold.

Some residents near the underpass, which opened in 1976, aired concerns that with the wishbone design under the railroad tracks, two-way motorists would be heading toward one another instead of saying parallel.

Traffic counts have declined with the sharp decline in popula-

tion, but the main reason for the changes is the increased number of food trucks that are departing I-675 to both the East Side Soup Kitchen and the Hidden Harvest warehouse in the 20-year-old Hunger Solutions Center, both dealing with ever-increasing patron numbers. An expansion is due to begin next year, and two-way nearby improves access.

Winter is summer for young gardeners



PHOTO CREDIT: HOUGHTON-JONES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — The snow may be frightful, like the holiday tune says, but let it grow, let it grow, let it grow.

Even the winter white stuff won't stop Ceciel Reed and her team of Houghton-Jones volunteers from expanding their neighborhood youth farm stand gardens, mostly along the border with I-675, which ripped through the northeast section six decades ago.

Time for a year-in-review will occur during the association's annual wrapup at 5 p.m. Dec. 19, a Thursday, 1600 Johnson.

Ceciel enlisted with the venture near the millennium's turn, and the first thing she will mention, when asked, is that the groundwork is yearround, not

simply when the ground thaws.

Saleem Mannan says Reed showed him a path to the planning process, everything from budgets and grant partnerships to how to make use of the produce that is grown with teens in charge, everything from sweet corn to sage and other spices. Then come the decisions: when to plant, how to treat the soil, sun or shade, etc.

The showcase farm stand is at Johnson and Eleventh, site of the Christina Jones Resource Center, with a companion across Tuscola from the old Mershon Pool and park site. Land acquisition involves more property at the point where Fitzhugh becomes a service drive along the highway.

Ceciel grew up in the home of Ollie Barry, a diligent Saginaw gardener during his time

off from Grey Iron, while Saleem was reared with gooseberries on vines in his Detroit backyard. Both cite their childhood experiences as motivation to get today's kids involved.

Houghton-Jones members also take leadership in community cleanups, led by Gary Dawkins and involving Rob Brown's sum-

mer DNR youth crews through First Ward Community Center.

Lessons may range from comparing a garden tomato's taste to one from a store, to exploring the long-term outlook for food security in an uncertain world. New members and volunteers always are welcome, for this activity and an array of others.



PHOTO CREDIT: HOUGHTON-JONES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

COMMUNITY

LOOKING BACK ON
OUR COVER STORIES IN

2024

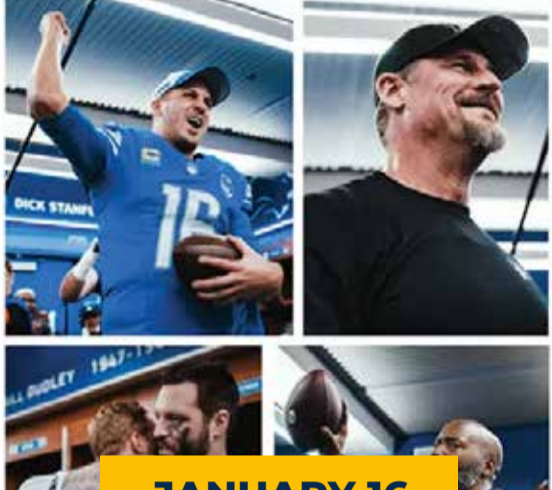
A Christmas of hope for homeless veterans in the Great Lakes Bay Region



JANUARY 1

A Christmas of hope for homeless veterans in the Great Lakes Bay Region

Detroit Lions win first playoff game in 32 years



JANUARY 16

Detroit Lions win first playoff game in 32 years

Saginaw Mayor Brenda F. Moore delivers State of the City address



FEBRUARY 1

Saginaw Mayor Brenda F. Moore delivers State of the City address

Remember The Trojans & The Lumberjacks



FEBRUARY 16

Remember The Trojans & The Lumberjacks

Michigan Strategic Fund approves grants for new Corning manufacturing facility, over 1,100 jobs in Michigan


Company selects Saginaw County to build out domestic supply chain for solar energy components



MARCH 1

Strategic Fund approves grants for Saginaw County manufacturing facility

Residents have the opportunity to resolve some misdemeanor cases without penalty



MARCH 16

Saginaw Residents can resolve misdemeanor cases without penalty

COMMUNITY

LOOKING BACK ON
OUR COVER STORIES IN

2024

A dance to remember, an experience to treasure



Lisa Hall emerges as first place winner, along with... "I dance because it brings me joy and... to my healthy... quality of life."

APRIL 1

Lisa Hall wins Champions of The Dance Floor competition

Saginaw United High School names head boys' basketball coach



Saginaw Public Schools recently announced former Saginaw High boys' basketball head coach Julian Taylor as the new head coach. Taylor, who has been coaching hard against each other, have them competing in practices every day and focus on the new head coach.

APRIL 16

Julian Taylor named Saginaw United High School boys basketball coach

Hats Off to Mom Evening Gala
40 Years Soaring for Hats Off to Mom

May 4, 2024
at 6:00PM

HORIZONS CONFERENCE CENTER
6200 State Street
Saginaw, Michigan 48603

Tickets: \$50.00

MAY 1

AKA Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter 'Hats Off to Moms'

Former Lakers Coach Darvin Ham poised for success amidst adversity



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 NBA Finals, and a championship. Ham's journey 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 NBA has been a testament to the power of perseverance.

MAY 16

Former Lakers Coach Darvin Ham poised for success amidst adversity

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

By MB STAFF
The Heart of the City Awards Banquet, a premier event celebrating service and volunteerism within the Great Lakes Bay Community, is honored to announce JoAnn Crary, President of Saginaw Future, as this year's keynote speaker. The event will take place on Thursday, June 6, 2024, from 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm at the Horizons Conference Center in Saginaw. JoAnn Crary is a distinguished leader known for her relentless commitment to economic development and community improvement. As President of Saginaw Future, a nonprofit economic development organization, Crary has played a pivotal role in transforming the economic landscape of Saginaw and the surrounding areas. Her leadership and vision have attracted significant investments, created jobs, and fostered a spirit of innovation and collaboration. Crary's keynote address will align with this year's theme, "We Are Fortunate: Embracing the Power of this Moment." She is expected to share her insights on the importance of community engagement, the impact of collaborative efforts, and the ways in which individuals and organizations can seize opportunities to drive positive change. "We are fortunate to have JoAnn Crary as our keynote speaker. Her dedication to service and her commitment to the community will inspire us all."



Under Crary's leadership, Saginaw Future has garnered numerous awards and recognitions, reflecting her commitment to excellence and community service. Her ability to foster partnerships between public and private sectors has led to numerous successful projects, enhancing the quality of life in the Great Lakes Bay region. The 6th Annual Heart of the City Awards Banquet will not only feature Crary's keynote address but will also celebrate the contributions of individuals and organizations who have made a difference in our community. We are excited to have her as our keynote speaker and look forward to a night of service and inspiration.

JUNE 1

JoAnn Crary to deliver keynote address at Heart of the City Awards Banquet

Dr. Waheed Akbar's unwavering dedication to Saginaw and beyond



JUNE 16

Dr. Waheed Akbar's unwavering dedication to Saginaw and beyond

COMMUNITY

LOOKING BACK ON
OUR COVER STORIES IN

2024

Eugene Seals, Jr. named new President/CEO of Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce



JULY 1

Eugene Seals, Jr. named new President/CEO of Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce

Jerome Buckley: A legacy of leadership and community service at The Michigan Banner



JULY 16

Jerome Buckley announces retirement from The Michigan Banner

by dedication, hard work, and an unwavering commitment to his community. Graduating from Saginaw High School in 1972, Jerome furthered his education at Davenport University, Grand Rapids Community College, and Northwood University. Jerome's professional path started at General Motors in 1972, where he worked until retiring in 1996. His roles at GM spanned various positions within the foundry, from iron melting to pouring. In the last three years of his tenure, he served as a Union Facilitator for team concept, passionately advocating for workers' rights and striving to improve workplace conditions. While working at GM, Jerome explored sales and entrepreneurship, serving as Sales and Store Manager at House of Styles Men's Clothing & Beauty Barber Supply in both Flint and Grand Rapids from 1982 to 1988, where he honed pivotal skills in sales and business management.

After 22 impactful years leading The Michigan Banner, Jerome Buckley has announced his retirement from the publication. Buckley's tenure was marked by a commitment to providing accurate and timely news to the community. His leadership and dedication to the paper's mission have been instrumental in its success. Buckley's departure is a significant loss to the Michigan Banner, but his legacy of service and leadership will continue to inspire.

MICHIGAN PRIMARY ELECTIONS: Essential Information

On Tuesday, August 6, voters across Michigan will head to the polls to make crucial decisions for November's general election and weigh in on millage proposals. The primary ballot will feature candidates from both the Democratic and Republican parties competing for Michigan's 13 congressional districts, the U.S. Senate seat currently held by retiring Senator Debbie Stabenow, 110 state House districts, and various local judicial races. The winners will move forward to the general election on November 5.



For more information on how you can make your voice informed,

AUGUST 1

Michigan Primary Elections: Essential Information



Delta College and Saginaw Valley State University forge new partnership to simplify degree pathways

BY MB STAFF
Delta College and Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) have announced a new partnership designed to streamline the process of earning a bachelor's degree. The partnership involves an operative agreement, signed on August 8 by Delta College President Michael Gavin and SVSU President George Grant Jr., designed to ensure a seamless transition for students. This initiative is part of Delta College's strategic "Way Forward," which focuses on providing a high-quality, affordable education to its students.

AUGUST 16

Delta College and Saginaw Valley State University forge new partnership



Positive Results Downtown Saginaw Executive Director Jeanne Conger to retire in 2025

BY MB STAFF
Jeanne Conger, Executive Director of Positive Results Downtown Saginaw, has announced her retirement in 2025. Conger has been instrumental in the development and growth of the organization, which focuses on revitalizing the downtown area and creating economic opportunities for residents.

SEPTEMBER 1

Positive Results Downtown Saginaw Executive Director Jeanne Conger retires

Saginaw NAACP 'Heroes' have made their marks for decades



BY MIKE THOMPSON
Dinner. "Thank you to all of my friends who have given support during these times of grieving," Darlean says. Others with NAACP "Hero" status for the banquet at Horizons Center, 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 22, are Positive Results Downtown Saginaw Executive Director Robert Carpenter and his wife, Julie. Robert Carpenter, who had taken the leap to Saginaw a few years earlier. This was during a time when the Michigan manufacturing towns were seen as economic strongholds, especially compared to down South. Julie, who introduced her husband to Saginaw, passed away last October. Robert Carpenter's leadership and dedication to the community have been a source of inspiration for many.

SEPTEMBER 16

Saginaw NAACP 'Heroes' have made their marks for decades

COMMUNITY

LOOKING BACK ON
OUR COVER STORIES IN

2024

State Rep. Amos O'Neal attends forum to strengthen U.S.-Canada relations



FROM LEFT: STATE REP. AMOS O'NEAL (D-SAGINAW), STATE SEN. ROGER VICTORY (R-HUDSONVILLE), MICHIGAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT STEVE BOUL, AND STATE REP. AMOS O'NEAL (D-SAGINAW) ATTEND THE BEYOND THE GORDIE HOWE BRIDGE: REMAGINING TRADE AND COMMERCE FOR A NEW AGE CONFERENCE ON SEPT. 27, 2024, AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY IN EAST LANSING.

BY MB STAFF

MICHIGAN — On Friday, Sept. 27, State Rep. Amos O'Neal (D-Saginaw) participated in a forum at Michigan State University's Henry Center for Executive Development focused on enhancing U.S.-Canada relations. The event, themed "Beyond the Gordie Howe Bridge: Remagining Trade and Commerce for a New Age," brought together

Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, Heather Groudin of the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority, and other influential figures addressed the forum, emphasizing the critical role the Gordie Howe International Bridge will play in strengthening trade between the two countries. "I thoroughly enjoyed the forum and found it to be an invaluable opportunity to learn from the experts in the field," O'Neal said.

State Sen. Roger Victory (R-Hudsonville), who also attended the forum, echoed O'Neal's sentiments. "Michigan and Canada share more than a border; we have a rich economic and cultural bond. Strengthening this partnership is crucial for the prosperity of both regions," Victory said. The event underscored the importance of continued dialogue and collaboration between Michigan and its northern neighbor.

OCTOBER 1

State Rep. Amos O'Neal attends forum to strengthen U.S.-Canada relations

YWCA celebrates local leaders at 2024 Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon



SIX YWCA WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS HONOREES (LEFT TO RIGHT): BROOKE BEER, DR. NIKITA MURRY, SUSAN BRASSEUR, MARLANA CORK, LINDSAY ZEEB, AND AMBERLYN HALE-VRADY.

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The YWCA Great Lakes Bay Region held its annual Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, October 15, at Saginaw Valley State University's Curtis Hall. The event honored six exceptional women who have made significant contributions to their communities, state, or nation.

Each award recipient was recognized for enhancing the social, cultural, economic, educational, or political well-being of the community, state, or nation. The six honorees of this year's awards have not only excelled in their respective fields but have also dedicated themselves to service and leadership.

The 2024 Women of Achievement honorees included Susan Brasseur for Lifetime Achievement, Dr. Nikita Murry for Arts & Education, Amberlyn Hale-Varadi for Business & Entrepreneurship, Marlane Cork for Civic & Nonprofit, Dr. Lindsay Zeeb for Healthcare, and Brooke Beer for Social Advocacy.

OCTOBER 16

YWCA celebrates leaders at 2024 Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon



NOVEMBER 1

VOTE
November 5, 2024

Donald Trump wins 47th Presidency Finding gratitude amid political divisions

BY MB STAFF

In a time of heightened political tensions, finding reasons to be thankful may seem like an uphill battle. Yet, gratitude remains a powerful tool for fostering resilience and unity, even in the most divisive moments. This spirit of gratitude is especially relevant as the nation processes the historic 2024 presidential election, which saw Donald J. Trump secure a second term as the 47th President of the United States. For some, this serves as a victory, for others, a profound disappointment. In both cases, there is an opportunity to reflect on the freedoms that enable such spirited civic engagement. As debates over policies and values dominate the national conversation, they do not define the full spectrum of human connection. Across political divides, many people aspire to more equitable and just societies. Gratitude can be found in the relationships that sustain us. Whether among family, friends, or neighbors, personal connections often transcend political differences. In these relationships, moments of kindness and multiple opportunities to cultivate empathy and understanding. Acts of community service, open dialogue, and intentional kindness can build bridges and understanding. In times of division, gratitude is a choice—and one that can illuminate a path toward connection. By practicing gratitude and thankfulness, we can foster a sense of unity and shared purpose.



PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP (FACE SMOOTHER)

NOVEMBER 16

Donald Trump wins 47th Presidency Finding gratitude amid political divisions

Saginaw ALPACT forum addresses crime and economic development



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEW BIRTH MICHIGAN BAPTIST CHURCH

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Saginaw Mayor Brenda Moore, fresh off her re-election, is committed to addressing the city's rising crime rates and economic challenges. She called for a collaborative approach to tackle the city's rising crime rates and economic challenges.

The ALPACT forum, held at New Birth Michigan Baptist Church, brought together community leaders, law enforcement, and business owners to discuss strategies for reducing crime and fostering economic growth. Moore emphasized the importance of partnership and shared responsibility in creating a safer and more prosperous Saginaw.

DECEMBER 1

Saginaw ALPACT forum addresses crime and economic development



HEALTH

MyMichigan Medical Center Saginaw offers groundbreaking prostate cancer treatment



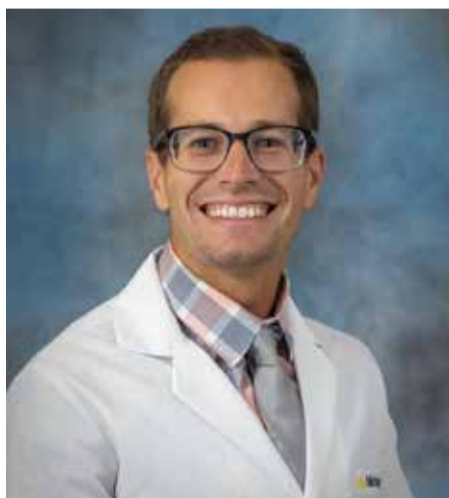
(FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — MyMichigan Medical Center Saginaw has achieved a major milestone by treating its first patient with Pluvicto®, an innovative therapy for advanced prostate cancer.

As the only medical center in the region offering this groundbreaking treatment, MyMichigan is solidifying its role as a leader in providing state-of-the-art cancer care locally.

Pluvicto is a radiopharmaceutical therapy designed specifically for patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC). The treatment works by targeting prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA)-positive cancer cells, delivering



NICHOLAS DAMICO, M.D., D.A.B.R.
(PHOTO CREDIT: MYMICHIGAN HEALTH)

radiation directly to tumors while minimizing damage to healthy tissue.

This approach offers patients a more targeted and effective option compared to tradition-

al therapies, giving new hope to those with advanced prostate cancer.

“We are incredibly excited to be the first Medical Center in the region to offer Pluvicto to our patients,” said Nicholas Damico, M.D., D.A.B.R., radiation oncologist at MyMichigan Medical Center Saginaw.

“This therapy opens a new chapter in cancer treatment, allowing us to provide cutting-edge care in Saginaw. Patients no longer need to travel long distances to receive this innovative therapy. We are proud to bring this life-changing treatment closer to home for our community.”

Pluvicto marks a significant advancement in cancer treatment, particularly for its precision in targeting cancer cells

while sparing healthy tissue.

“The ability to precisely target cancer cells while preserving healthy tissue is a game-changer for our patients,” added Dr. Damico. “Being able to offer this state-of-the-art treatment locally ensures that our patients receive the best care possible without the stress of traveling out of the region. This is a major step forward for our entire community.”

By introducing Pluvicto, MyMichigan Medical Center Saginaw continues its mission to expand access to leading-edge cancer care and improve quality of life for patients in the Saginaw region.

For more information about cancer care at MyMichigan Health, visit www.mymichigan.org/cancer.

HEALTH

Happy Holidays from Social Security



BY HILLARY HATCH
SOCIAL SECURITY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

LANSING — We hope your holidays are filled with joy and warmth. During this and every season, we want you to know that we are here to serve you. Did you know that our online services are available to help you do business with us in an easy, convenient, and secure way?

You can create a personal my

Social Security account online to:

- Apply for retirement, spouse, or disability benefits.
- Request a replacement Social Security card.
- Check your application or appeal status.
- Request a name change (in some cases you may have to visit your local office).

If you receive benefits, you can use your personal my Social Security account to:

- Change your address. (Social Security benefits only)
- Change your direct deposit information. (Social Security benefits



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

only)

- Instantly get proof of benefits.
- Print your SSA-1099.

If you do not receive Social Security benefits, you can use a personal my Social Security account to:

- Get personalized

retirement, spouse, or disability benefit estimates.

- Get your Social Security Statement.
- Get instant proof that you do not receive benefits.

You can use these services on the go or from the comfort of your home. Please visit www.ssa.gov/myaccount to view the services available to you.

If you cannot use our online services, you may be able to use our automated telephone services by calling 1-800-772-1213. Automated services are always available.

Have a safe, happy holiday season and know that we are here for you.

There are enough things out there going viral.

Get your COVID-19 and flu vaccines.

Help keep your immune system from going viral. Talk to your health care provider.

Michigan.gov/COVIDFluRSV

POLITICS

Detroit mayor Mike Duggan announces 2026 run for Michigan governor as an independent

BY MICHELLE MCCOY

DETROIT — In a surprising move that could reshape Michigan's political landscape, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan has announced his candidacy for governor in the 2026 election as an independent.

Duggan, who has served as Detroit's mayor since 2014, made the announcement during a press conference at the Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, emphasizing his commitment to bridging political divides and prioritizing pragmatic governance.

"I'm not running to be the Democrats' governor or the Republicans' governor," Duggan said. "I'm running to be your governor."

A legacy of leadership

Duggan made history in 2013 by becoming the first white mayor of Detroit, a majority-Black city, since the 1970s. His election signaled a shift in local politics, with voters prioritizing his track record and vision for the city over racial divides.

Under his leadership, Detroit experienced population stabilization, infrastructure improvements, and economic growth, including major investments in housing and small businesses.

However, Duggan's administration has not been without controversy, including debates over gentrification, water shutoffs, and equitable access to city services.

Still, his supporters point to his ability to bring together stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to tackle Detroit's most pressing challenges as a key strength.

A tight race

As Duggan prepares for his gubernatorial bid, he faces a competitive and uncertain political landscape. Early polling suggests significant name recognition in urban areas, but his success will likely depend on his ability to connect with voters in suburban and rural regions.

Potential contenders in the 2026 race include Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II, who has reportedly assembled a team to explore the



MIKE DUGGAN (PHOTO CREDIT: THE CITY OF DETROIT)

possibility of entering the race.

Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson, known for his widespread popularity and hands-on approach to community policing, is also viewed as a strong potential candidate.

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, a Michigan resident since 2022, is also rumored to be considering a run. Buttigieg's national profile and administrative experience could position him as a formidable challenger.

Duggan's decision to run as an independent introduces a distinctive dynamic to the race, as he could draw support from voters across the political spectrum.

Looking ahead

Duggan's announcement has sparked widespread discussion and speculation about what his campaign means for Michigan's political future. Whether his independent bid will resonate with voters remains to be seen, but one thing is clear: the 2026 governor's race is shaping up to be one of the most unpredictable in recent history.

Stay tuned to The Michigan Banner for ongoing coverage of the 2026 Michigan gubernatorial election.

POLITICS



FLINT CITY COUNCIL MEETING (FILE PHOTO)

Judge orders mediation to resolve Flint City Council's 3rd Ward stalemate

BY MB STAFF

FLINT — A judge has stepped in to resolve the Flint City Council's months-long deadlock over filling the 3rd Ward seat, vacant since Councilman Quincy Murphy's death in September. The stalemate prompted the Flint Ethics and Accountability Board (EAB) to file a legal complaint, which resulted in the court ordering mediation to break the impasse.

The court ruling, issued in December, marks a significant intervention after repeated attempts by the council to fill the vacancy failed. Soon-to-be-re-

tired Judge Celeste Bell has been appointed as special master to oversee the mediation, with meetings scheduled to begin the week of Jan. 6.

Councilmember Candice Mushatt expressed relief over the judge's decision, emphasizing the importance of restoring representation for the 3rd Ward.

"I think the judge ordered something that has to happen," Mushatt said. "Here we are in December, and the 3rd Ward has been without their own voice."

The council's efforts to appoint a new representative have been fraught with challenges, including failed quorum attempts and prolonged voting sessions.

Mushatt noted that mediation may offer a way forward where previous efforts have stalled.

Other council members, however, are less optimistic. Councilmember Tonya Burns has been vocal in her belief that the decision should ultimately rest with the voters. She pointed to the uncertified election results, which showed close support for candidates Beverley Biggs and Kerry Nelson, as an indicator of public sentiment.

"Will mediation solve this? I seriously don't know," Burns said. "It's clear we're at an impasse, and I think what we need to be looking for is to have a special election sooner than May.

Let the people choose."

The judge's ruling leaves open the possibility for the council to resolve the issue before Jan. 6, eliminating the need for mediation. However, given the history of delays and indecision, Mushatt and others see the court-ordered process as a necessary step.

The upcoming mediation sessions provide a crucial opportunity for Flint City Council to move past its divisions and restore leadership for the 3rd Ward. Whether through council agreement or a special election, residents are eager for a resolution to the months-long vacancy.

EDUCATION

SVSU board approves housing and dining rates for 2025-26 academic year



SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT HOUSING (PHOTO CREDIT: SVSU)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) Board of Control has approved housing and dining rates for the 2025-26 fiscal year as part of its regular meeting held on Friday, Dec. 13.

The new rates reflect an effort to simplify and standardize costs for students living on campus.

Starting in the 2025-26 academic year, incoming freshmen will pay \$12,500 for a room and meal plan, compared to the current year's range of \$11,750 to \$12,750.

Housing rates for upperclassmen will vary between \$6,500 and \$7,200, depending on the residential facility, a shift from the current range of \$5,700 to

\$8,100. Overall, the average weighted increase is 2.4%.

“This new rate structure provides increased simplicity with continued value for our students and families,” said Noel Hornbacher, SVSU’s vice president for Administration and Business Affairs. “Additionally, the average increase remains below the rate of inflation, while supporting enhanced safety features and maintaining our ‘best dorms’ ranking.”

The rates are part of a \$31.5 million auxiliary operations budget approved by the Board, which supports self-funded services including housing, dining, and conferencing.

Other Board Actions

In addition to approving housing and dining rates, the

Board took the following actions:

- **Degree Conferrals:**

The Board approved the conferral of undergraduate and graduate degrees. More than 530 students are set to complete their programs and are eligible to participate in commencement exercises on Saturday, Dec. 14.

- **Faculty Sabbaticals:** The Board approved sabbaticals for 11 faculty members across various disciplines:

- Pat Cavanaugh (English)
- Chris Giroux (English)
- Mark McCartney (Accounting)
- Hillary Mellema (Management/Marketing)

- Rhett Mohler (Geography)
- Betsy Pierce (Accounting)
- Tami Sivy (Chemistry)
- Melissa Teed (History)
- Gary Thompson (English)
- Norm Wika (Music)
- Tom Zerger (Mathematical Sciences)

- **Bylaw Amendments:** Amendments to the Board’s bylaws were approved.

- **Strategic Plan Framework:** The Board accepted the framework for SVSU’s 2025-2030 strategic plan.

EDUCATION



DELTA COLLEGE NURSING STUDENT (PHOTO CREDIT: DELTA COLLEGE)

Delta College and SVSU partner to provide scholarships and pathway for RN to BSN completion

BY MB STAFF

UNIVERSITY CENTER — Delta College is opening new doors for nursing graduates by offering up to \$7,000 in scholarships for ADN alumni pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) at Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU). The program provides a seamless pathway to advanced nursing education, aimed at strengthening the local healthcare workforce.

To date, 80 scholarships have been awarded, with 20 spots still available for eligible applicants.

Under a new transfer agreement between Delta College and SVSU, Delta ADN graduates who have successfully passed the NCLEX exam to become licensed Michigan Registered Nurses

(RNs) can enroll in SVSU's RN to BSN "3+1" completion program. This pathway allows students to transfer up to 93 credits from Delta toward their BSN, maximizing credit transfers and ensuring a seamless transition.

The program is designed with affordability and convenience in mind. By completing three years at Delta College before transferring to SVSU, students significantly reduce their educational expenses.

Additionally, BSN coursework is conveniently offered on Delta's campus, giving students access to faculty and resources from both institutions.

This partnership aligns with a State of Michigan initiative to increase access to BSN programs and support the development of

a highly trained nursing workforce. By offering an affordable and accessible pathway to a BSN degree, the program addresses a growing demand from local health systems for nurses with advanced training and expertise.

The collaboration also allows ADN graduates to transfer community college coursework that meets bachelor's degree requirements while gaining nursing expertise and training from faculty at both institutions.

Students benefit from a seamless transition, substantial cost savings, and the ability to complete coursework in a familiar setting.

According to Daisy McQuiston, professor and nursing program coordinator at Delta College, this initiative responds

directly to the needs of local healthcare systems and the community.

She expressed enthusiasm about leveraging the strengths of Delta and SVSU to provide more opportunities for ADN graduates to advance their education and careers while positively impacting the Great Lakes Bay Region.

For additional information about the RN to BSN program or to apply for the remaining scholarships, prospective students are encouraged to contact Delta College's Nursing Department at nursing@delta.edu.

This collaborative effort highlights the shared commitment of Delta College and SVSU to student success, workforce development, and improving healthcare access across the region.

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EDUCATION

University of Michigan to launch Institute for Civil Discourse amid DEI changes and controversy

BY MICHELLE MCCOY

ANN ARBOR — The University of Michigan has announced the creation of an Institute for Civil Discourse, an initiative designed to foster respectful dialogue across diverse political and ideological perspectives.

President Santa J. Ono revealed the project at the December Board of Regents meeting, emphasizing its role in promoting learning and democratic values.

“We learn by confronting different arguments and different perspectives. Michigan is the place to do this—to show our community and nation that civil discourse is not just possible, it is the very best way to learn and to solve problems. It is fundamental to our democracy,” Ono said.

The institute will operate independently, serving the university's Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint campuses. Plans include appointing an inaugural director, assembling an advisory board with diverse viewpoints, and securing funding from donors with various perspectives.

Recent updates to DEI policies

The announcement coincides with significant changes to the university's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies.

The university recently decided to eliminate the requirement for DEI statements from prospective faculty, a move based on recommendations from a faculty committee. While some faculty criticized the decision as incomplete, others viewed it as a step toward fostering diversity of thought.

Additionally, the university expanded the Go Blue Guarantee, a scholarship program for



SANTA J. ONO (PHOTO CREDIT: UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN)

in-state students, raising the income eligibility threshold from \$75,000 to \$125,000 annually. This change will make an additional 2,200 students eligible, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 10,000, according to Ono.

“We're so looking forward to the opportunities it will provide to students and families from

all across the state. Outstanding individuals who will find a University of Michigan education is within their grasp,” Ono said.

Regent Sarah Hubbard praised the updated policies, stating that they promote openness to people from all walks of life and align with the university's mission to encourage diverse perspectives.

Controversy over alleged anti-semitism

The university's DEI efforts have come under scrutiny following allegations of anti-Semitism against Rachel Dawson, a diversity administrator who oversaw multicultural initiatives. Dawson was fired after reportedly making controversial remarks about Jewish students during a conference in March.

According to a Freedom of Information request obtained by The New York Times, Dawson allegedly described Jewish students as “wealthy and privileged” and said they did not need support. She is also accused of claiming that the university was “controlled by wealthy Jews” and stating, “Jewish people have no genetic DNA that would connect them to the land of Israel.”

Dawson denies the accusations, but the comments have sparked widespread criticism and allegations of anti-Semitism. The university has yet to comment further on the situation.

Moving forward

By launching the Institute for Civil Discourse alongside changes to DEI policies, the University of Michigan is seeking to balance free expression, diversity, and inclusion. The institute is intended to provide a platform for constructive dialogue while programs like the Go Blue Guarantee expand access to education.

However, the controversy surrounding Dawson highlights the challenges universities face in addressing complex issues related to equity, representation, and free expression. As the university moves forward, the new institute aims to lead by example in fostering respectful engagement on difficult topics.

EDUCATION

Former Jerome Elementary undergoing renovations to become high quality, state of the art green STEM preschool model



COURTESY PHOTOS

SAGINAW – Jerome was established as a Kindergarten through 5th grade elementary school in 1976 by the Saginaw Public School District. In 2013, due to low student capacity as well as district wide financial challenges. Dr. Ericka Taylor was the principal assigned to Jerome that year and understood first hand why the school was being offlined, especially in consideration of the many structural needs of the building and grounds.

However, when Dr. Taylor

joined the Saginaw Intermediate School District in 2017 as the Director of Early Childhood, she was surprised to learn that Jerome was a preschool site that was being rented and utilized (in the very same condition) to provide early childhood services which include preschool classes, home visiting teachers and maternal infant support for the families of children birth through 5 years of age. This was an immediate reminder of the reasons why Jerome was originally offlined,

but it also spurred a deeper desire and vision to give our children and families in Saginaw County not only what they need, but what they deserve, which is the very best learning environment that we can possibly imagine and provide, despite their economic status and/or zip code!

A groundbreaking ceremony was held this past May and renovations are currently underway transforming the former Jerome elementary school into the new Jerome Preschool servicing students ages birth to 4 years old! These renovations will include a new roof, awning, heating/cooling system, parking lot and greenhouse. There will be designated space for onsite medical services for children and families, shared community space for partnerships with local colleges/universities, and community organizations. All classrooms and hallways will be updated with new lighting, paint and flooring. The former gymnasium will now be a multipurpose space for staff professional development oppor-

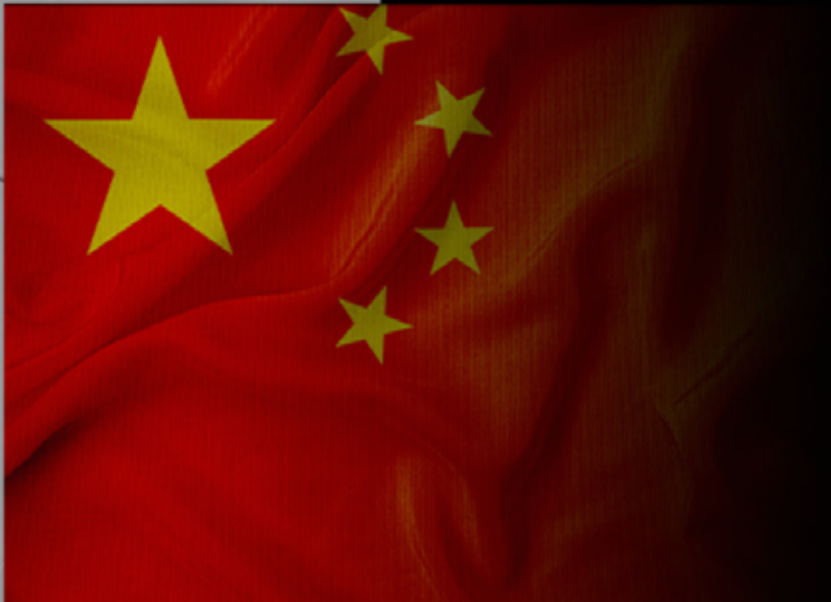
tunities as well as community activities and events.

These renovations will not only enhance and beautify the local community, but will also give our youngest learners the academic, social and emotional foundation they need and deserve to begin their K-12 endeavors and beyond by providing them with a high quality, state of the art building focused on Green STEM. Our vision is that this preschool site will provide an early childhood model that we can replicate not only in Saginaw, but across the state of Michigan and beyond.

A huge thank you to Saginaw ISD Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Collier for allowing us to dream big for the children and families in our community! We welcome any questions you may have to be sent to Dr. Ericka Taylor, Executive Director of Early Childhood, at etaylor@sisd.cc.

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About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

Office Hours

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

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

A flyer for Saginaw ISD Head Start & Early Head Start. It features the organization's logo at the top, which includes the American flag and the text 'SAGINAW ISD HEAD START EARLY HEAD START'. Below the logo, it says 'HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START'. The flyer includes a photo of three children and a photo of a child with colorful handprints. The text reads: 'FREE PRE-SCHOOL Enrollments for 0 to 5 year olds Call: 752-2193 or Visit the Claytor Head Start Building at: 3200 Perkins Saginaw, MI 48601 REGISTER NOW! Saginaw County Free Pre-School Partnership'.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Karen S. Carter appointed Chief Operating Officer at Dow

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND – Dow has announced Karen S. Carter as its new Chief Operating Officer, a role that reflects her more than three decades of leadership and innovation within the company. Formerly the President of Dow Packaging & Specialty Plastics, Carter will now oversee strategic and operational excellence across Dow's key business segments.

In her new role, Carter will manage Dow's three core business segments—Packaging & Specialty Plastics, Industrial Intermediates & Infrastructure, and Performance Materials & Coatings. She will also align the company's Integrated Supply Chain, Purchasing, Information Systems, and Commercial organizations under her leadership.

Carter will be based in Midland and report directly to Dow Chair and CEO Jim Fitterling. She will also join the company's Executive Committee, playing a pivotal role in shaping Dow's strategic direction.

"Karen is a proven leader with more than three decades of experience at Dow delivering strong business results," said Fitterling. "She has an excellent track record of operating discipline, maintaining close relationships with key partners and customers, and driving innovation across the organization. She has successfully led our largest business and played critical leadership roles in other essential business and functional teams within Dow, always with a focus on developing and maintaining high-performing teams."

Carter's career at Dow began in 1994 and has included leadership roles in operations, sales, marketing, and human resources. She most recently led the Packaging & Specialty Plastics



KAREN S. CARTER (PHOTO CREDIT: THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY)

division, which generated over \$23 billion in annual sales and became one of Dow's most profitable segments.

Under her leadership, the division introduced pioneering circular products such as REVOLoop™ Recycled Plastic Resins and expanded Dow's role in the circular economy through strategic acquisitions and partnerships. Her contributions have positioned Dow as a leader in sustainable innovation.

Before leading Packaging &

Specialty Plastics, Carter served as Dow's Chief Human Resources Officer and Chief Inclusion Officer. In these roles, she championed a culture of inclusivity, empowering employees to align their efforts with Dow's long-term strategies.

Carter's leadership experience extends globally, with roles spanning industries such as consumer electronics, construction, and engineering thermoplastics. Her expertise has been instrumental in driving business strat-

egies and fostering innovation across diverse markets.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Carter is deeply committed to her community. She serves on the boards of Southwire and the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Great Lakes Bay Region. She also chairs Michigan's Black Leadership Advisory Council's Business Leaders Committee and is a member of the Catalyst Board of Advisors and the Executive Leadership Council.

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BUSINESS + FINANCE

Flint & Genesee launches small business grant program



THE FLINT & GENESEE SMALL BUSINESS HUB GRANT PROGRAM OFFERS \$210,000 IN GRANTS TO SMALL BUSINESSES. (FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

FLINT — The Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance has introduced a new initiative to support small businesses throughout Genesee County. The Flint & Genesee Small Business Hub Grant Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Treasury and administered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), aims to strengthen the local economy by providing financial support to businesses at various stages of growth.

Applications for the program are now open, with a submission deadline of 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 3, 2025. The program will award \$210,000 in grants to eligible businesses, offering grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000, depending on the size and stage of

the business.

The grant program targets three categories of businesses:

Start-ups, defined as businesses operating for less than a year, can apply for grants of up to \$5,000.

Micro-businesses, which have been in operation for more than a year and employ fewer than 10 full-time staff, are eligible for up to \$10,000.

Small businesses with 10 or more full-time employees can apply for grants of up to \$15,000.

Businesses interested in applying must complete a two-step process. First, applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to determine eligibility. Once the LOI is approved, applicants can proceed to the full application.

The full application requires details such as a current business plan, proof of business registra-

tion, and a proposed budget for the use of funds. Applicants must meet specific eligibility criteria, including being located in Genesee County, being properly registered, and remaining in good standing.

Nonprofits, franchises, and businesses involved in bankruptcy proceedings are not eligible. Grantees will also participate in a four-week training program consisting of two virtual and two in-person sessions. The training is a mandatory requirement before funds are disbursed.

The grant funds can be used for a variety of business needs, including purchasing equipment, inventory, marketing services, and certifications. However, expenses must be new and cannot include alterations to building structures.

All expenditures must be

completed and documented by Sept. 12, 2025. To ensure accountability, grantees must upload receipts to the grant's online management system. Program staff will also conduct regular check-ins with recipients to track progress and compliance.

The Flint & Genesee Small Business Hub Grant Program is part of a broader effort to foster economic development across the region. By investing in local businesses, the program aims to create jobs, support entrepreneurs, and contribute to the area's long-term prosperity.

More information can be found on the grant program's website. For assistance with the application process, businesses can contact Terance Green at (810) 600-1407.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

On-the-spot interviews being held in Saginaw

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — First Class Healthcare Staffing is inviting job seekers to attend an on-the-spot hiring event on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at the Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! Saginaw Service Center, located at 312 E. Genesee Ave, Saginaw, MI 48607.

The event will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and offers opportunities for immediate interviews.

The company is looking to fill several positions, including caregivers and office assistants. Multiple openings are available for caregivers, with details and job codes listed on Pure Michigan Talent Connect. Specific opportunities include:

- **Caregiver** (Multiple

positions available)
Job Code: 231918181
Location: Saginaw, MI 48602

- **Office Assistant**
Job Code: 254693906
Location: Saginaw, MI 48602

This event provides an excellent opportunity for those seeking employment in the healthcare and administrative fields to meet with hiring representatives directly. Candidates should come prepared with resumes and any relevant credentials or certifications.

For more details, visit Pure Michigan Talent Connect or contact the Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! at 989-631-3073.



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10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Location:
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Saginaw Service Center
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On-the-spot Interviews for the following position:

- Caregiver (Multiple Positions Available)
- Office Assistant

Bring a resume to the event.

Additional documents that are helpful in the hiring process include: Driver's License/State Photo ID & Social Security Card/Birth Certificate.

At First Class Healthcare Staffing the mission statement is: **"Providing services for all your healthcare needs"**. When it comes to a loved one, you want them to have first class care. We assist members by providing 1:1 care, companionship, light housekeeping, medication assistance and reminders, meal prepping, safety supervision, assistance with daily ADLs (bathing, grooming, walking, toileting, transferring, dressing and undressing, AM/PM care) transition from hospital to home, and transportation services.

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FAITH IN FOCUS



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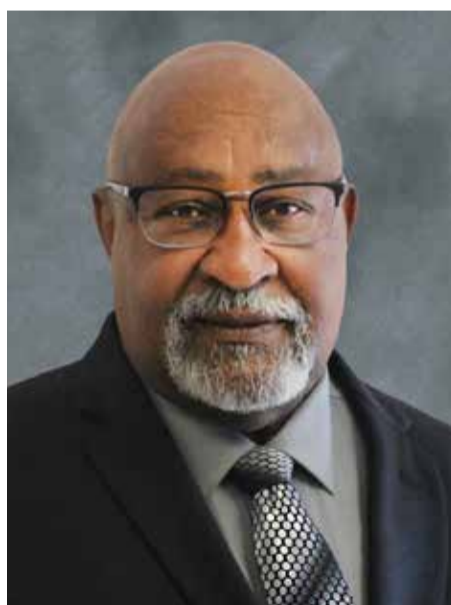
Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

BY PASTOR JOHN DUNN

Ministry Without Walls has recently returned to its location at 3783 Mannion Road with a renewed vision, shaped by recent global events and the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Seeking divine guidance, the organization has embraced a broader mission: to make the church an integral part of the community.

The new direction for Ministry Without Walls is centered around the theme of "Breaking Down Walls." This initiative aims to bridge gaps between spiritual life and community service, uniting church members, volunteers, and local professionals in a shared mission.

The organization's vision includes several key objectives:



PASTOR JOHN DUNN

- Creating a space where the spirit, soul, and body can achieve wholeness.
- Providing resources to those in need.
- Fostering collaboration

between the church, volunteers, and community professionals.

- Ensuring a welcoming environment where love prevails and judgment is absent.
- Maintaining privacy and prioritizing safety.
- Emphasizing the importance of the whole person.

Ministry Without Walls will continue to offer various teachings and seminars on topics such as outreach, spiritual growth, mental health, healthy living, finding purpose, financial management, entrepreneurship, and more. These programs are designed to address diverse needs and support personal development.

Recognizing that the mission field is close to home, not far

away, the organization is committed to a collaborative approach, knowing that achieving this vision will require the collective effort of many. Ministry Without Walls is dedicating its resources, talents, and connections to dismantle barriers and connect with the community more deeply.

Those interested in learning more or getting involved are encouraged to visit the church on Sundays at 11:00 AM. This offers an opportunity to meet Pastor John Dunn, ask questions, and experience the ministry's mission firsthand.

For more information, visit Ministry Without Walls at 3783 Mannion Road, Saginaw, MI 48603.

SPONSORED CONTENT

FAITH IN FOCUS

The spirit of Christmas: A celebration of faith, love, and redemption



(FILE PHOTO)

portunity to reflect on their faith and draw closer to God. Advent services, candlelight vigils, and carol singings bring communities together in worship and gratitude. For families, Christmas becomes a moment to nurture relationships, share blessings, and teach younger generations about the love of Christ.

A message of hope

The heart of Christmas lies in the hope it brings. The birth of Jesus represents God stepping into the world to bring light to the darkness and to offer peace to troubled hearts. This message resonates deeply in a world often burdened by conflict, division, and uncertainty.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

This verse underscores the reason for the season: the gift of eternal life through Christ’s sacrifice. It is a reminder that, no matter the challenges of the present, Christians are called to trust in God’s unchanging love and to share that hope with others.

A call to faith

As Christmas approaches, believers are reminded to not only celebrate but also to live out the essence of the holiday. Through acts of kindness, moments of worship, and a renewed commitment to faith, Christians honor the Savior who came to bring peace on earth and goodwill to all.

This Christmas, let the light of Christ shine brightly in your heart and home, carrying His message of love and redemption into the new year. May the true spirit of the season inspire us all to embrace faith, love, and the promise of hope everlasting.

BY MB STAFF

As the Christmas season unfolds, millions of Christians around the world pause to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, a moment that forever changed the course of history. For believers, Christmas is far more than festive lights, decorated trees, or the exchange of gifts; it is a time to reflect on the boundless love of God and the hope He brought into the world through His Son.

The story of Christmas begins in the humblest of settings—a manger in Bethlehem. The Gos-

pels recount the miraculous birth of Jesus, the Messiah, born to the Virgin Mary and heralded by angels to shepherds in the fields. For Christians, this event signifies God’s profound act of love and redemption.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

This prophecy, fulfilled on that first Christmas night, reminds Christians of God’s promise to redeem humanity, offering

salvation to all who believe.

The true gifts of Christmas

Christmas inspires believers to embrace the values Jesus taught—love, humility, and generosity. The season calls for selfless giving, a reflection of God’s gift of His Son to the world. Churches and faith-based organizations exemplify this spirit through acts of service: feeding the hungry, providing shelter for the homeless, and ensuring no one feels forgotten during this holy season.

Many Christians take this op-

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



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

C

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

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



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

F



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



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

G



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



Glory House Ministries
Pastor Jim House
3660 Hermansau Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48603
(989) 752-4769

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

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

H



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

J

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

L

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

M

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



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

N



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



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



New Birth Missionary Baptist
Bishop Larry D. Camel
3121 Sheridan
Saginaw, Michigan
989-327-1755



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



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



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

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

P

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

R



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

S



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



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

T



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



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

U



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

V



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

FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Now is the time to put your case to work



BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

You've got a case for support that you, your leadership team, board members, staff, volunteers, and students, clients or program participants believe in. It is clear, concise, and compelling. Maybe you've even transformed it into a short video. It is beautifully printed. Now what? As the executive director or CEO of a nonprofit it is time for you to start talking with people, sharing the case, asking stakeholders for feedback, and most importantly learning how current and potential donors and funders see themselves as part of the life of your organization.

The case for support is not a report on the status or health of your organization – it is a forward-looking document that you can use as a tool to share your vision. It should set you apart from other nonprofits in your region and help establish your uniqueness. As a fundraising document, it communicates your fundraising priorities with dollar amounts! It lets the reader know how much you need to raise and – most importantly – what the anticipated impact will be. The specificity of your case can help engage stakeholders from across the community and across the region. Because you have a menu of fundraising priorities, potential donors, board members, local leaders, and volunteers can see how your vision aligns with theirs.

The case for support is your



FILE PHOTO

calling card. Don't send it out in bulk and wait for checks to roll in. Take a printed copy with you to all your meetings with stakeholders, partners, and influencers. Share a copy in advance of phone calls or video conferences, and then talk about the case during your phone or video meetings. Your case takes the nonprofit's strategic plan and puts legs on it: when people read it, those who you want to surround you will be able to see that you know how much money you need (and when you need it by).

While the case needs to be engaging and visually appealing it is most important that it is seen as a key business document that communicates your institution's capabilities, expertise, directions, leadership, growth strategies, and partnerships. It is an invitation to engagement and invest-

ment. Now, that doesn't mean there is no storytelling – that too is an important component. You need to weave emotional connection into your business case – you want your readers to feel the importance of your work and impact. Yes, it must be financially accurate, but you need to make sure the reader feels the importance of what your numbers are conveying.

When the case is marked "draft" it invites supporters to

offer guidance on how your nonprofit can best meet its goals. And that's what you want: guidance and suggestions. Especially if you are a new executive director or CEO, you want the embrace of stakeholders who can help ensure your nonprofit has the resources it needs to move forward. In these uncertain times, it is more important than ever to get to work on creating and using your organization's case for support: make it a priority.



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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.



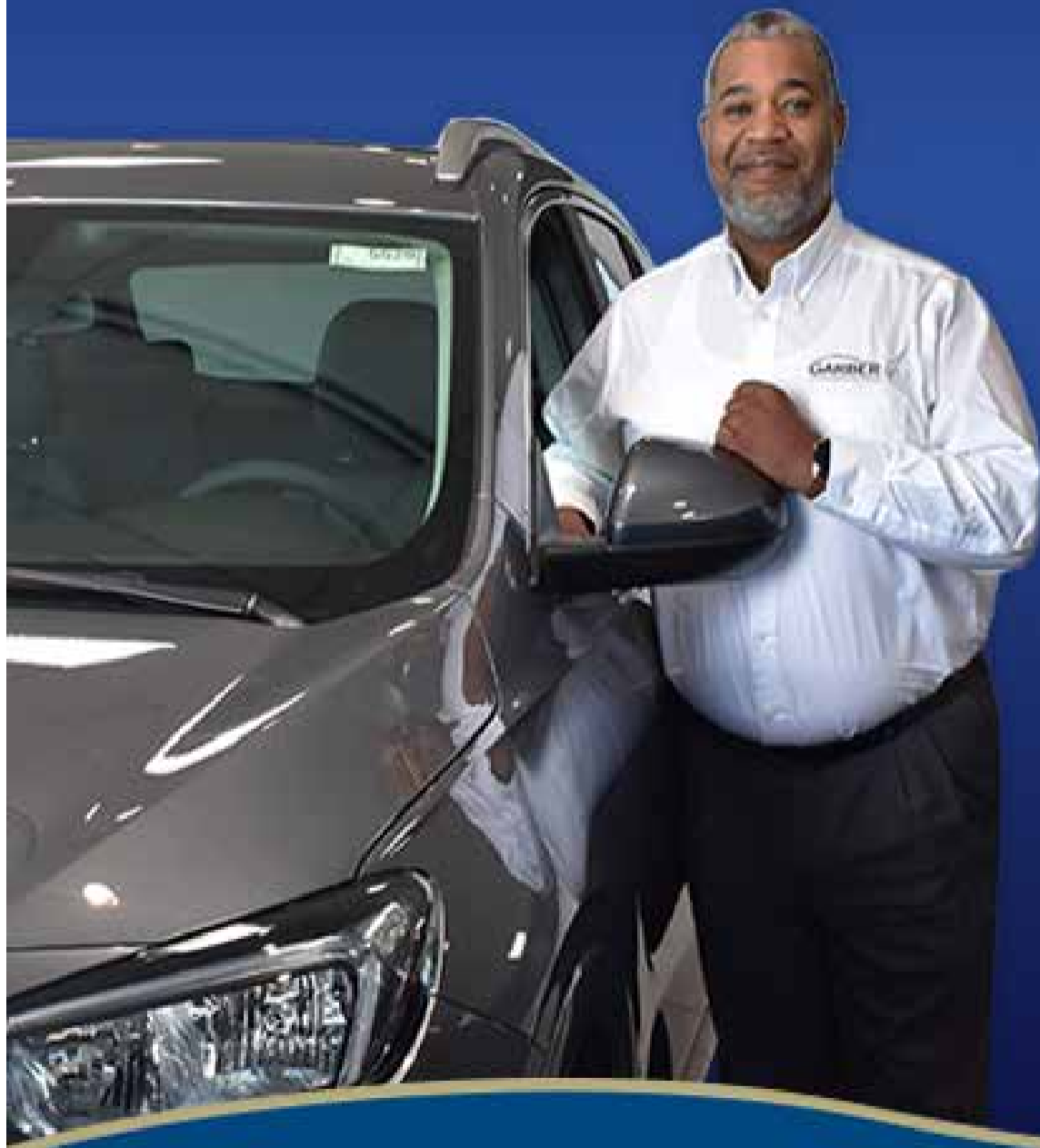
PICS OF THE WEEK

The 115th Delta Police Academy Graduation welcomed four new Saginaw Police Officers: Officer Joseph Coffey, Officer Rene Mejia, Officer Erick Morrisette, and Officer Christopher Thompson. Pictured with Chief Ruth, Deputy Chief Gerow, and their families, the officers will be formally sworn in at the City Council meeting on Monday, December 16.



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WORKING TOGETHER. SHARING THE DREAM.

MLK MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY CELEBRATION



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Nontombi Naomi Tutu
Race & Gender Justice Activist

Saginaw Valley State University
Wednesday, January 22, 2025
7:00 p.m. — Malcolm Field Theatre
Located in Curtiss Hall

This event will feature:

- Keynote Address — the Rev. Nontombi Naomi Tutu
- Presentation of the MLK Scholarship Awards
- Presentation of the Regional Drum Major Awards

For more information, please visit svsu.edu/mlk or contact the Office of Diversity Programs at **989-964-4068**

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

The challenges of growing up black and female in apartheid South Africa have been the foundation of the Rev. Nontombi Naomi Tutu's life as a motivational speaker and activist for human rights. Those experiences taught her that our whole human family loses when we accept situations of oppression, and how the teaching and preaching of hate and division injure us all.

She started her public speaking as a college student at Berea College in Kentucky in the 1970s when she was invited to speak at churches, community groups and colleges and universities about her experiences growing up in apartheid South Africa. She has since become a much sought-after speaker to a wide variety of business associations, professional conferences, elected officials and church and civic organizations.

The Rev. Tutu knew from the time she was young that she wanted to help change the lives of others and make a difference in the world. But she wanted to carve her own path. And that she has done.

Special thanks to our 2025 sponsors & Great Lakes Bay Region partners



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