



The Michigan Banner


Celebrating Diversity, Empowering Communities



PICS OF THE WEEK
Christina Jones Women's Tea Brunch

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Taking it to the streets, and also the airwaves
New Life pastor joins expanded community service at KISS-107

COMMUNITY, PG 13

Seen on the Scene: Pastor Travis Buckley celebrates first pastoral anniversary at Mt. Sinai Baptist Church on Sunday, March 30



COURTESY PHOTOS



Youth Explosion brings empowerment and inspiration to Saginaw on

YOUTH BANNER, COVER



Oralia Herrera named 2025 president of National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals

LATINO BANNER, COVER

FEATURED STORY

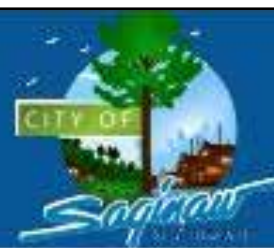
Trump opponents won't remain silent

COMMUNITY, PG 14





City of Saginaw Citywide Meeting



**Wednesday, April 9
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm**

Saginaw United High School
1st Floor Auditorium
1903 N Niagara
Saginaw, MI 48602

Discussion Topic: Zoning Ordinance Update



ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE

- UPDATE PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR ADOPTION
- REVIEW CHANGES WITHIN THE ZONING ORDINANCE
- NAVIGATION FOR CLEAR ZONING FORMAT
- OPEN DISCUSSION

Zoning helps organize how land is used to create safe, vibrant neighborhoods. It ensures a balance of housing, businesses, and public spaces while protecting property values, supporting infrastructure, and reducing environmental impacts.

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<https://engage.giffelswebster.com/saginaw>

Come share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns

Contact Information:

📞 989-759-1401 📧 citymanager@saginaw-mi.com

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

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 7 • NUMBER 7



Youth Explosion brings empowerment and inspiration to Saginaw on April 19

APR. 19TH
11AM-2PM

WOMEN OF COLORS PRESENTS

YOUR VOICE YOUR CHOICE

FREE EVENT FOR AGES 12 & UP

GIVEAWAYS & REFRESHMENTS

SOUNDS BY WOX BEATZ

HOST: CHRISTINA YARN

REAL LIFE SPEAKER: DR. TRELL "DONK" WEBB

ACTOR & SINGER: ALGEE SMITH

FEATURING A DANCE PERFORMANCE BY: YARN PRAISE MOVEMENT

ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE & MENTAL HEALTH

SINGER, AUTHOR & ADVOCATE: LONDEL COOK

ARTIST/PRODUCER: HBK BOOM

MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION: H.E.L.P. SAGINAW

THOMPSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
3021 COURT ST. SAGINAW, MI

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Women of Colors is inviting local youth to an afternoon of empowerment, music, and meaningful conversation at the “Your Voice, Your Choice” Youth Explosion on Saturday, April 19, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at

Thompson Middle School, 3021 Court Street in Saginaw.

The free event, designed for youth ages 12 and up, will tackle critical topics including gun violence and mental health, while offering encouragement and resources to help young people make positive life choices.

Headlining the event is Algee

Smith, an acclaimed actor and singer born in Saginaw. Smith rose to prominence portraying Ralph Tresvant in The New Edition Story and earned critical acclaim for his performance as Larry Reed in Kathryn Bigelow's film Detroit. He is also widely recognized for his role as Chris McKay in HBO's hit series Eu-

phoria. Beyond acting, Smith is an accomplished musician who released his debut EP Listen in 2017 and has appeared in films such as The Hate U Give, Judas and the Black Messiah, and Mother/Android.

Also taking the stage is Dr. Trell “Donk” Webb, a Baton Rouge native and inspirational Real Life Speaker. A survivor of both childhood trauma and a life-plus-90-year prison sentence for a crime he committed at age 15, Dr. Donk's life has been transformed through faith, redemption, and prayer. Now a youth and culture pastor in Atlanta, GA, he reaches thousands through his nonprofit Real Life World Wide Inc., his international online ministry DRLIM, and his daily prayer call, “Wake Up & Pray.” His mission is to show youth and adults alike that with God, there is power, hope, and peace.

The event will be hosted by Christina Yarn, with a dance performance by the Yarn Praise Movement and music by WOX Beatz. Featured guests include singer, author, and advocate Londel Cook; artist and producer HBK Boom; and representatives from mentorship organization H.E.L.P. Saginaw.


Attendees will enjoy giveaways, refreshments, and a welcoming environment to discuss life challenges and learn from inspiring role models.

The Youth Explosion is sponsored in part by Women of Colors, Saginaw CAC, MPHI, and BWell Saginaw.

For more information, contact Women of Colors at (989) 737-9286.



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Michigan Youth Challenge Academy opens admissions for summer 2025 cycle



STUDENTS FROM THE MICHIGAN YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY, CLASS OF 2024

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — The Michigan Youth Challenge Academy (MYCA) has officially opened admissions for its upcoming class, Cycle #53, which begins July 13, 2025. The program, a cost-free, voluntary alternative education option, is designed to help at-risk youth reshape their futures through structure, discipline, and opportunity.

Youth between the ages of 15½ and 18 who are at risk of not graduating high school are encouraged to apply. The MYCA program does not mandate participation—applicants must volunteer and cannot be compelled

to attend by a parent, guardian, or court system. No military service is required after completing the program.

Prospective cadets and their parent or guardian must attend a mandatory in-person information session as part of the admissions process. While walk-ins are welcome, MYCA encourages families to begin the application process prior to attending an information session. Upcoming dates and locations include:

- March 26 – Benton Harbor
- March 29 – Grand Rapids
- March 31 – Sturgis
- April 1 – Jackson

- April 2 – Detroit
- April 5 – Lansing
- April 7 – Battle Creek
- April 9 – Flint
- April 16 – Ypsilanti
- April 29 – Traverse City
- May 5 – Grandville
- May 10 – Ann Arbor
- May 12 – Battle Creek
- May 17 – Lansing
- May 19 – Grayling
- May 20 – Alpena
- May 21 – Sault Ste. Marie
- May 28 – Kalamazoo
- June 7 – Detroit

During the 22-week residential program, cadets participate in structured activities such as drill and ceremony, physical fit-

ness training, community service, and classroom instruction aimed at helping them earn their high school diploma or GED.

Graduates of the MYCA are also eligible to continue their progress through the Michigan Job Challenge Program—an extension that provides hands-on training in skilled trades, workplace readiness, and job placement support.

For more information or to begin the application process, visit the MYCA Admissions Process page. Questions can be directed to Jayme Ham at 269-968-1397, Joan Miller at 269-968-1368, or Yasser Quadri at 269-968-1048.



Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

Oralia Herrera named 2025 president of National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Century 21 Real Estate LLC and the broader real estate industry are celebrating a major milestone in Hispanic leadership as Oralia Herrera, Broker/Owner of CENTURY 21 TK Realty Inc., has been installed as the 2025 President of the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals.

Herrera's appointment, announced at NAHREP's annual Homeownership and Wealth Building Conference in Washington, D.C., marks a significant moment in the more than 20-year partnership between Century 21 and NAHREP, further strengthening the industry's commitment to advancing Hispanic homeownership.

A 35-year real estate veteran, Herrera began her involvement with NAHREP as a member of the Chicago chapter, later founding NAHREP Chicago North—now known as NAHREP DuPage. She has since served on the NAHREP National Board of Directors and has played a vital role in shaping the organization's vision.

"I am deeply honored and humbled to take on this new leadership role with NAHREP," Herrera said. "Having been part of this incredible organization for many years, I am excited to continue working alongside our members to advance opportunities for Hispanic professionals in the real estate industry. Together with industry-leading brands like CENTURY 21, we will con-



ORALIA HERRERA (PHOTO CREDIT: CENTURY 21 REAL ESTATE LLC)

tinue to break barriers and create a lasting impact in communities across the country."

Herrera follows in the foot-

steps of CENTURY 21 network colleagues who have also held national NAHREP leadership roles, including 2024 President Nora

Aguirre of CENTURY 21 Americana and 2026 President-Elect Edwin Acevedo of CENTURY 21 Lotus.

Championing Hispanic Homeownership

Herrera's appointment comes at a time when Hispanic homeownership is growing despite broader market challenges. According to NAHREP's 2024 State of Hispanic Homeownership Report, Hispanic households accounted for over one-third of total homeownership growth nationwide—the largest annual increase among any racial or ethnic group for the second consecutive year.

Century 21 Real Estate, part of Anywhere Real Estate Inc., continues to lead in Hispanic consumer brand awareness. Nearly 10 percent of its agent and broker network identifies as Spanish-speaking, and the brand offers in-language tools to meet the needs of Hispanic buyers, sellers, and investors.

"As NAHREP celebrates 25 years of leading the charge with the Hispanic community, the CENTURY 21 brand shares in its mission of advancing opportunities for Hispanics within the real estate market," said Mike Miedler, President and CEO of Century 21 Real Estate LLC. "We are thrilled to celebrate leaders like Oralia, Nora, and Edwin who reinforce the value great agents bring to the real estate journey."

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

Seen on the Scene: Members of the LLEAD Saginaw Chapter attended the 30th Annual Día de la Mujer Conference on March 22, at Michigan State University's Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. The conference, dedicated to empowering Latina women since 1992, featured workshops and forums on education, health, politics, community, family, history, culture, and personal development.



PHOTO CREDIT: LLEAD SAGINAW CHAPTER

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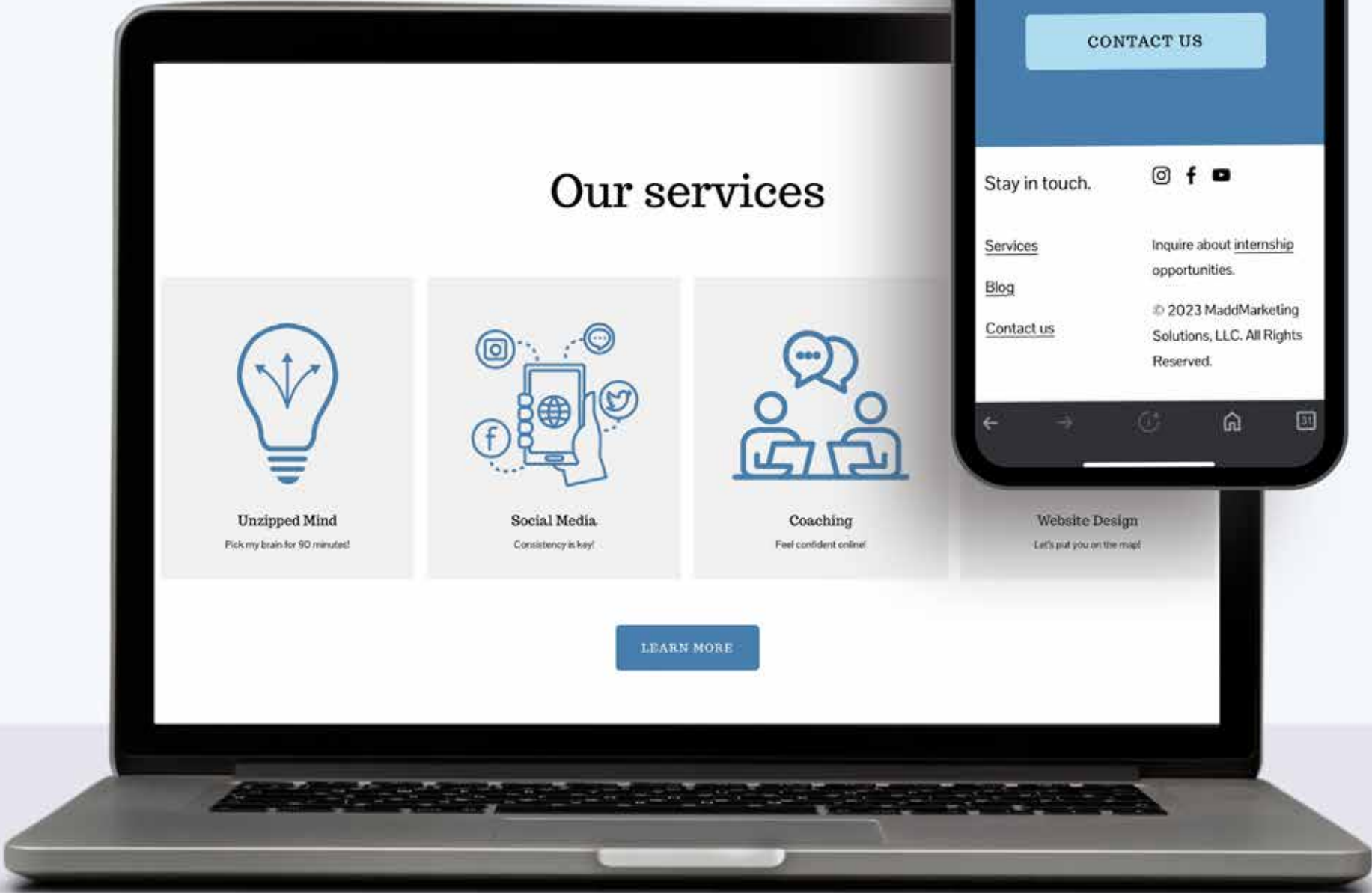
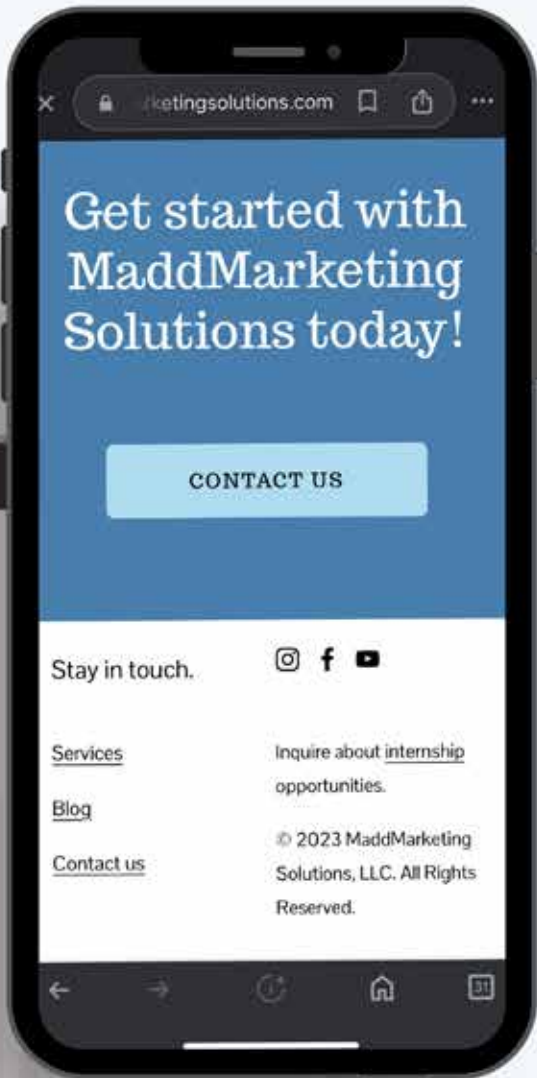
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COMMUNITY

Taking it to the streets, and also the airwaves

New Life pastor joins expanded community service at KISS-107



DR. CRAIG TATUM, PASTOR FOR NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH MINISTRIES

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — New Life Baptist Church Ministries and the Rev. Craig Tatum are going beyond their Mission in the City project to spread the word and take action on local concerns.

The multi-tasking pastor also chairs the 46-member Saginaw African American Pastors, and on KISS 107-FM he hosts SAAP's broadcast at 4 p.m. Sundays, "Transforming the Community: Voices of Faith."

Topics have ranged from issues that affect us all, like economics and law enforcement, to more personal encounters among families with ailing elders or first-time parents. Voices of Faith now kicks off a weekly trio, followed by Joyce Harvin's "Community Connections" at 5 p.m. Sundays and by Pastor Kareem Bowen's "Straight Talk" at 6 p.m.

Credit goes to Harvin, with the Saginaw NAACP's support, for battling out of a prior

6 a.m. slot that was imposed by prior, corporate ownership, and paving the way for both Bowen and now for Tatum. With Vicki Hill maintaining gospel lady status during the earlier church hours, KISS 107 has revived some of the civic spirit of the original W-3-SOUL.

Tatum's approach is low-key in guiding the interviews far more than airing his own thoughts. When he featured Saginaw County CAC Director Hurley Coleman III on March 30, we learned that:

- This is the 60th anniversary for CAC, among community action agencies formed in 1965 to carry out the federal government's War on Poverty.
- A \$600,000 local fundraiser, \$10,000 for each of those 60 years, will aim to conclude facility upgrades at the 2824 Perkins headquarters and

at the children's center at 1443 East Genesee. ARPA funds supported the work, but cost overruns skyrocketed, similar to Saginaw United High.

- Other federal funds have provided a walk-in 2,000-square-foot refrigeration unit for CAC's to take a larger role in food distribution.

The smooth effort as host, keeping the spotlight on the guests, may create an impression that Tatum brings broadcast experience, but this has been his debut. He explains that his work on Voices of Faith is similar to preparing for a Sunday service at New Life.

"Mainly I just try to follow where the guest is going, to keep the conversation on track," he explains.

Mission in the City's investments have served parishioners and the community at large. Families are invited to make use of: a regulation quarter-mile track, courts for basketball and pickleball, and the eye-catching giant chess board with full-scale pawns and castles and kings/queens..

Choices also include shuffleboard, horseshoes, cornhole, ping-pong, jump rope, hopscotch, and yoga. Games feature chess, checkers and Uno cards.

Tatum never dreamed he would return to his hometown, so close to his childhood neighborhood up near 14th and Janes. Before the turn of the millennium, he departed for Battle Creek — joined by wife Dawn and their sons, Trevel and Travon — for two decades as pastor of First Salem Missionary Baptist Church.

The road back to Saginaw

began with the 2018 death of his ministerial mentor, Rufus Bradley, founding pastor of New Life and originator of Mission in the City. During the middle 1990s, Tatum had served as a youth pastor and director of Christian education. This placed him years later at the top of the candidates' list, and at age 55 he accepted.

The two men shared a passion for reaching beyond the church walls. Bradley's outreach was rooted in the rural South, where as a child he preached to barnyard animals on an Arkansas farm. Tatum is urban North, with an SVSU masters in political science and criminal justice. His pre-Battle Creek experiences in Saginaw included county probation officer and Boysville treatment specialist. He was director of SVSU's Affirmative Action and Cultural Program, and also for the city schools' Project SUCCESS.

Upon his return six years ago, he resumed his activism as if he never had departed. Beyond Mission in the City, New Life has obtained other tax-reverted vacant lots for a community garden.

The Links Inc. sorority is the sponsor of "positivity benches" with peer counselors on site, and Narcan packages were distributed in the fight against opioids.

New Life congregants supervise Mission in the City Park, which bears Rufus Bradley's name, but Tatum also welcomes volunteers who may serve the community, especially the children, in any way. He was a track and field standout at Bridgeport High, class of 1980, and then earned All-American honors as a sprinter at Saginaw Valley State. He may be contacted through Facebook pages for New Life or for Mission in the City.

COMMUNITY

Trump opponents won't remain silent

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Anti-Trump protests are gaining momentum not only in mid-Michigan, but across the nation. A peak was reached Saturday, March 29, when more than 70 opponents gathered in chilly drizzle for an hour at Bay and Tittabawassee roads, near the now-vacant Sears Automotive and Fashion Square Mall.

Prior rallies in March were at the downtown Social Security office and then at the Veterans Hospital on Weiss street. A return to the medical center is slated for 3 p.m. April 14, and the group will be back at the mall at 1 p.m. on April 26. Before these, SVSU will be the location on April 9, 4 p.m., Bay and Pierce roads, with a "protect education" theme.

The events appear loosely organized, with no assigned leaders in charge at the scene. Social media and word of mouth have spread the days and times. Top local Democratic leaders were not present March 29, but a group self-named Forward Democrats has endorsed the efforts, and state Rep. Amos O'Neal is partnering at the Vet's Hospital rallies. Meanwhile, Trump remains steady in polls as he moves on a slash-spending path with Elon Musk, much focused on DEI, diversity/equity/inclusion, the new alphabet-soup jargon for civil rights.

Will the protests, both on the streets and at Republican town halls, make a difference? Long-time activist Tim Farkas of Midland isn't sure; he simply feels a need to express himself beyond lamenting the current state of affairs with family and friends.

Amid the handmade signs -- there were no handouts -- Farkas aimed to be creative. He used two sticks instead of one and folded his posterboard so that he could open and close it. The outside flap asked, "Who's Trump's fa-



AN ANTI-TRUMP PROTEST WAS HELD AT FASHION SQUARE MALL ON SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025.

vorite dictator?" Open the giant greeting card for the Farkas viewpoint: "Good Question: It's Trump."

How can he tell whether a car horn reflects a person's support or opposition?

"It depends on the number of fingers that they show," Farkas explained. Two fingers signify victory or peace, while the middle is another matter. Thumbs may go up or down.

The most notable threat to peace near Fashion Square Mall took place when the Trump-supporting operator of a 4-by-4, waiting at the traffic light, spun his wheels so hard in park gear that thick smoke spread through the crowd.

"Get a job," the driver shouted through his opened passenger window.

"Why don't YOU get a job?" was the response, with one woman noting that her 40-hour week had concluded the day before, a Friday.

A sampling of the signs:

Participants were mostly age 50-plus, the minimum for AARP, with some middle-aged mixed in. The five-member youth contingent described themselves

as "punk rockers" while they showed they were keeping tabs on current events with a sign that referenced Project 2025, the conservative plan that Trump carries out while denying connections.

Other posters stated:

- "Save Our Rights; Protect The Constitution"
- "Don't Panic; Organize"
- "Hands Off SS and Medicare"
- "Make America Sane Again"
- "Morons Are Governing Again"
- "Fire Musk"
- "Deport Musk"

Grievances were condensed: "Stop The Cuts. Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans, HHS, CDC, NIH, Education, Social Security."

The back of Tim Farkas' folding sign said, "What have you done today to save democracy?"

Standing Out

The only African-American participant was Connie Ofori-Dankwa of Midland, in opposition to what protesters view as rollbacks of DEI advances in the name of Make America Great

Again.

"As a gay woman, I am especially concerned with the threats against us," she said from her spot on the Tittabawassee Road side, less traveled but thus more open to the trucks of MAGA backers laying loud patches in counter protest..

Most black citizens have not been involved because they are not aware of the event schedules, in addition to the daily challenges that affect us all in different ways.

"You can see from the responses (from passing motorists of all colors) that we are reaching people," she said..

(Footnote: Yes, Connie's parents are SVSU's Professor Joseph Ofori-Dankwa and Saginaw's retired dentist, Dr. Juliana Quansah.)

More Actions

As Michigan Banner prepared to go online, new details arrived:

"We are excited to invite you to a Protest Sign Making get-together on Thursday at 7 p.m., April 3, at the SCDP Headquarters located at 413 Adams! If you're feeling unsure about what to write on your sign or how to craft one, don't worry--this event is the perfect opportunity for you to get creative and find your voice.

"By the end of the gathering, you'll be all set to join the nationwide protests happening on April 5th, whether you're headed to Washington D.C., Lansing, or right here in Saginaw from 1 to 3 p.m. that day, straightforward and heartfelt. There will be no speeches or bullhorns--just everyday Americans proudly expressing their First Amendment rights with their signs.

"Join us in front of Meijer at 8400 Gratiot Road in Thomas Township, and let's make our voices heard together."

COMMUNITY



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COMMUNITY

Butman-Fish offers free Friday films



THE FOX MOVIE

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Court Theater is closed and up for sale, but patrons of the nostalgic single-screen venue have an alternative.

In collaboration with Riverside Film Festival, nearby Butman-Fish Library at 1716 Hancock is offering a series of twice-a-month shows at 2 p.m. on Fridays. The feature for April 4 is The Fox (2022), the true story of a cub wounded during World War II and the bond formed with the rescuing soldier.

There won't be a popcorn machine or a soda pop fountain, but Butman-Fish's front conference room features a coffeemaker, and so any snacks are more in line with donuts than Doritos.

Upcoming among the Friday matinees are Pietry on April 25, Oasis on May 9; and Tuvala on May 23.

Admission is free of charge. For info, (989) 799-9160.

Fare hike included in STARS balanced budget



STARS BUS (FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Bus rides would be restored to pre-pandemic rates of \$1.50, or 75 cents for seniors/disabled, under a budget-balancing plan the STARS board is considering.

Still, this would produce a mere \$90,000 of \$800,000 in needed cost savings.

Other proposals are:

- Pursue \$313,000 from partnerships, following models from an array of routes beyond the city limits.
- Save \$202,000 by

cancelling fixed route service after 8 p.m., where ridership is most low.

- Boost fees for Rides to Wellness to \$25, up from the current \$20, to generate another \$195,000.

Leaders say action is needed because of rising costs and state funding cuts.

“Our commitment is to get people where they want to go. These service changes were made after careful consideration of the financial constraints facing STARS,” said Kathy Miller, chairwoman of the board for Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services, in a prepared statement.

Amy Bidwell, who last year took the helm from Glenn Steffens as director, added: “It is very important that we listen carefully to our riders and stakeholders to best understand how we can minimize negative affects while balancing our budget. We will achieve this through a combination of public hearings, meetings with existing stakeholder groups and one-to-one conversations.”

In the meantime, the public is encouraged to follow the STARS Facebook page for updates on schedules, route changes, and opportunities to give feedback.

COMMUNITY

Saginaw to host Juneteenth Festivities on June 21

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The 2025 Saginaw Juneteenth Celebration promises to be a vibrant and unifying event honoring African American heritage, resilience, and progress. Hosted by COSBE Inc. (Chamber of Black Successful Entrepreneurs), the annual Freedom Parade and Festival will take place on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at Morley Plaza, and this year's theme—"Faith, Family & Finance"—reflects the foundational pillars that strengthen both individuals and communities.

Juneteenth marks a pivotal moment in American history: June 19, 1865, when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to enforce the emancipation of enslaved African Americans—over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued. It has since become a national day of reflection, celebration, and commitment to justice and equity. In 2021, Juneteenth was officially recognized as a federal holiday.

"Juneteenth is more than a celebration—it's a call to action," said organizers. "This event reminds us of the enduring importance of education, financial literacy, and collective empowerment. We are building a future that honors the past while investing in the next generation of leaders."

This year's celebration will feature a special segment dedicated to recognizing local Black-owned businesses and entrepreneurs, reinforcing COSBE Inc.'s belief that entrepreneurship is a powerful driver of economic mobility and community development. The event will provide a public platform to showcase success stories, inspire young entrepreneurs, and encourage business collaboration and networking.

The Freedom Parade will

be led by Grand Marshal Pastor Chris V. Pryor, Senior Pastor of Victorious Believers Ministries COGIC. Known for his dynamic leadership, deep faith, and dedication to family and community, Pastor Pryor is a respected figure in Saginaw and a fitting representative of this year's theme.

Community participation is at the heart of the celebration. Organizers are calling on vendors, choirs, steppers, car clubs, dance groups, marching bands, nonprofits, and cultural organizations to take part in what promises to be a powerful community gathering. Beyond festivities, the

event also aims to engage people of all backgrounds in meaningful dialogue around equity, empowerment, and shared values.

To get involved or learn more, visit www.saginawjuneteenthcelebration.com or contact organizers at rhm@cosbe.network or (989) 906-4259.

JUNETEENTH EVENT FLYER

COMMUNITY

Saginaw AKA chapter celebrates moms, students, women entrepreneurs and 63 years of service

BY ETA UPSILON OMEGA
CHAPTER

SAGINAW — Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter is set to celebrate a huge milestone with our upcoming 41st Annual Hats Off to Mom Scholarship luncheon. The theme is “Standing on Business Nurturing Dreams & Securing Futures...One Hat at a Time.”

“For sixty-three years Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter has been an impactful influence in Saginaw since our inception and chartering at the Bancroft Hotel on February 10, 1962,” says Lisa Reed, President of Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter. “We strive to be a continuous source of dedication to our community through volunteering by helping those in need, positioning youth for success through scholarships, mentoring and education, political and social justice, promoting women’s health and nutrition and building our economic wealth. We are also a source of professional and leadership development for our members, some of whom will attend our Leadership Seminar in Anaheim, California, in July, 2025.”

On May 3, 2025 at 11:00 a.m., it will be that dedication to the Saginaw community that takes center stage with this year’s celebration. The chapter is pleased to host our annual signature event in a luncheon to commemorate forty-one-years of Hats Off to Mom. It will be held at the Horizons Conference Center, 6200 State Street. The chapter is proud of its legacy rooted in Sisterhood, Scholarship and Service. Highlights of the event include the awarding of college scholarships to Saginaw-area high school students, women entrepreneurs, and musical performances by



MEMBERS OF THE ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED® ETA UPSILON OMEGA CHAPTER (COURTESY PHOTO)

vocalist Ms. Aniya Gray and Mr. Micah Dunn, violist, both of Saginaw, Michigan.

Our 2025 “Mother of The Year” and Eta Upsilon Omega’s “Soror of The Year” prestigious award winners will be celebrated. A new award will be featured this year to honor a woman entrepreneur. Proceeds from sponsors, ticket and souvenir book advertisement sales will ensure the continuation of the chapter’s efforts to provide scholarships to deserving students and to give back to the community through service projects.

“Our history illustrates we are women who lead as we were the first African American Greek Letter organization established

in Saginaw, Michigan, following the unprecedented path pioneered by our illustrious national founders in 1908,” Reed continues. “We proudly stand on the shoulders of our charter members, many of whom were the first women of color to attain positions in their professions in the city of Saginaw. Our charter members (all deceased) are: Frances Elnora Moton Carter, Jacqueline M. Porterfield, Willett K.G. Johnson, Della Vaughn Smith, Margaret Griffin Brown, Lola A. Lothery Shelby, Nancy Haithco-Price, Bernadine Tivis Carter, Helen Joan Banks Turpin, Mildred Cambridge, Marie Waldon Claytor and Eva Wyche.”

Our commitment and impact

on improving the lives of others are demonstrated by our contributions of nearly \$250,000 in scholarships and community service programs. We endeavor to continue this legacy in 2025 and beyond. I am appreciative of the privilege to serve as President of this outstanding, thriving sisterhood, with leaders who make a difference in the community by providing service to all mankind.”

Tickets are \$65 and can be purchased, as well as souvenir book ads, by contacting any sorority member or online by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://akahyo1908.wildapricot.org/event-6092007>. For questions, please contact us at AKA-1908HYOmega@gmail.com.

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED[®]
ETA UPSILON OMEGA CHAPTER

HATS OFF TO MOM SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Save the Date

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025
11AM

Standing on Business

Nurturing Dreams & Securing Futures,
One Hat at a Time



COMMUNITY

Alden B. Dow–designed Arbury residence to open for public tours for first time



ALDEN B. DOW HOME & STUDIO (COURTESY PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND — For the first time in its 85-year history, the Dorothy Dow Arbury Residence—an architectural gem designed by Michigan's Architect Laureate Alden B. Dow, F.A.I.A.—will open its doors to the public for a single day of guided tours on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

Tucked away along the Chippewa River in Midland, the Mid-Century Modern home was designed by Dow for his sister, Dorothy Dow Arbury. Known for its integration with nature, elegant details, and use of Dow's patented unit block construction, the residence is a testament to the architect's visionary style and a deeply personal work tailored to his sister's tastes—including her well-known fondness for the

color pink.

"This is a rare and exciting opportunity to step inside a private home that represents a significant piece of Michigan's architectural heritage," said representatives from the Alden B. Dow Home & Studio, which is organizing the event. Proceeds from the tour will benefit the preservation and educational programming of the Home & Studio.

A Look Inside the Arbury Residence

Visitors will begin their journey along a mile-long wooded drive leading to the motor court. Inside, the home features distinct wings—one dedicated to bedrooms, the other unfolding into shared spaces such as the kitchen, dining room, and living room.

The primary bedroom is accented with built-in wooden cabinetry and a flowing ceiling de-

sign, while the dining room stuns with tall rose-colored mirrored walls and a grid of 36 mirrored ceiling panels illuminated at each corner.

The heart of the home is the living room, framed by two 30-foot-wide walls of glass that showcase panoramic views of the river and woods. The space accommodates large gatherings and includes a cozy sunken seating area built around a curved couch and fireplace.

A lower-level game room once featured vibrant murals, playful lighting, and multi-level flooring to encourage a wide range of activities. Additional basement spaces originally designed for household staff now serve as office and storage areas. A laundry room connects the residence to garages and the boiler room via an underground tunnel.

Reflecting its rural setting, the estate once supported agricultural activity, including the raising of Black Angus cattle and Shire horses. Barns added to the property remain today.

About Dorothy Dow Arbury

Dorothy, the youngest daughter of Herbert H. Dow and Grace Ball Dow, was known for her warmth and generosity. A strong supporter of the Midland community, she championed projects like the King's Daughters Home and the Chippewa Nature Center.

Despite modest interior updates, the Arbury family has preserved the architectural integrity of the home over two generations. Currently unfurnished and listed for sale, the home invites visitors to imagine modern life within its original layout. Historic photos placed throughout the tour offer glimpses into its vibrant past.

Tour Details

- Date: Saturday, April 26, 2025
- Tour duration: One hour
- Cost: \$40 per person
- Group size: Limited to 15 guests per tour
- Age limit: Guests must be 8 years or older
- Photography/Recording: Not permitted
- Parking: Off-site, with details provided upon registration

Pre-registration is required. Additional tour times may be added based on demand. For tickets and more information, visit abdow.org or contact (989) 839-2744.

This one-day-only event offers a rare opportunity to experience a secluded masterpiece of Mid-Century Modern architecture by one of Michigan's most celebrated designers.

COMMUNITY

Here are library books you can keep



COURTESY PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Libraries constantly are adding fresh, new books. So what happens to the tomes that are replaced, many in good or even like-new condition?

They are put up for sale for pennies on the dollar, affordable to begin at-homes libraries for yourself and/or for school-age children and grands.

Friends of Butman-Fish Library, a support group of volunteers, this month will launch their semi-annual Used Book Sale.

- April 9, 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Friends members get first dibs.
- April 10, 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., general sales, 90 percent off or more.
- April 11, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., more sales.
- April 12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., fill a plastic grocery bag for \$3.

A similar format is set for a Friends of Zauel Library from May 14-17.

I-675 utility work rescheduled to April 3–4

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Planned utility work on I-675 between N. Michigan Road and the north I-675/I-75 junction has been postponed due to forecasted inclement weather. Originally scheduled for April 2–3, the work has been rescheduled to begin Thursday, April 3, and continue through Friday, April 4.

The project will affect traffic near the communities of Saginaw and Zilwaukee, with temporary full closures and rolling slowdowns taking place in both directions of I-675 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. each day. Each closure is expected to last approximately 15 minutes.

Traffic control will be managed by the Michigan State Police, and motorists are advised to plan ahead and expect delays.



INTERSTATE 675 MICHIGAN (FILE PHOTO)

pect delays.

According to the Michigan Department of Transportation, the temporary closures are necessary to ensure the safety of both utility work-

ers and motorists as overhead utility lines are installed across the highway.

For updates on traffic and travel conditions, drivers can visit Michigan.gov/Drive.

Michigan unemployment benefits increase April 2

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — Starting Wednesday, April 2, expanded unemployment benefits will go into effect across Michigan, increasing weekly payments and extending the duration of support for job seekers.

The new law raises the maximum weekly benefit from \$362 to \$446—the first increase since 2002—and extends the maximum benefit period from 20 to 26 weeks. It also boosts the per-dependent

payment from \$6 to \$12.66, with further increases scheduled through 2027.

“This is about building a stronger, more resilient economy where every Michigander has the stability to recover, grow, and thrive,” said Susan Corbin, director of the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.

UIA Director Jason Palmer noted the added support will help families and stimulate local economies. The agency will retroactively review

claims filed between Jan. 1 and April 2 for increased benefit and dependent amounts. However, the 26-week maximum applies only to claims filed on or after April 2.

Claimants should monitor their MiWAM accounts and ensure their contact information is current. More information is available at Michigan.gov/UIA.



COMMUNITY

Fundraiser will benefit Potter Street Station

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Saginaw Depot Preservation Corporation (SDPC) is inviting the community to support the restoration of one of the city's most iconic landmarks during its third annual "Rise and Repair" fundraiser. The event will take place on Friday, May 10, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the historic Saginaw Club in downtown Saginaw.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the continued repair and preservation of the Potter Street Station, a treasured piece of local history currently under the care of SDPC. The organization has made substantial progress in the past year, particularly with ongoing roof repairs, and aims to complete those efforts with the help of community contributions.

"We've made significant progress this past year, most notably, ongoing roof repairs," said Glenn Steffens, president of the SDPC. "With your help, we can keep up this momentum and finish roof repairs this year. We survive on donations and volunteer efforts, including this fund-



POTTER STREET STATION (FILE PHOTO)

raiser. We look forward to a great turnout and an exciting event at the Saginaw Club, and thank our community for supporting our mission to restore the Potter Street Station."

Tickets are priced at \$35 for the general public and \$25 for SDPC members. A special combo

package, which includes an annual membership and an event ticket, is available for \$45. Tickets can be purchased through the Potter Street Station Facebook page, or in person at Oracle Brewery and The Junction in Old Town Saginaw, The Maple Grille on Gratiot, and the Antique Warehouse Loft

on Tittabawassee.

The SDPC encourages community members to join the effort to save and celebrate one of Saginaw's historic treasures. For additional information, contact Glenn Steffens at (734) 660-8805 or email steffens.glenn@potterstation.com.

Sign of spring: Yard waste pickup

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Curbside yard waste collection in the city begins the week of Monday, April 7, on regular pickup days.

Yard waste should be placed in cans between 20 and 35 gallons, or in paper yard waste bags, with a 50-pound weight limit. Cans should have a "yard waste" sticker on the front, available from the City Clerk's office in City Hall, or in the next-door Public Works Building across



YARD WASTE (FILE PHOTO)

Holland Avenue.

The public works parking lot is the location for second-Saturday monthly dropoffs of large

items, with crews assisting starting at 8 a.m. The next date is April 12. City dwellers need only show driver licenses, while non-

resident landlords are asked for proof of property ownership.

For brush, tree branches two to six inches around should be bundled and cut no more than four feet in length, wrapped in either twine or duct tape. One brush bundle per week is allowed.

See recyclemotion.org for information.

Suburbs, small towns and rural areas each will set their own rules, but they will adhere to similar schedules through the Mid-Michigan Waste Authority.

COMMUNITY

Mt. Pleasant seeks community input for 2050 Master Plan



MOUNT PLEASANT SIGN (FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

MOUNT PLEASANT — The City of Mt. Pleasant has begun the process of updating its 2050 Master Plan—a key long-term policy document guiding the city's development over the next 30 years. In compliance with Michigan's Public Act 33 of 2008, cities are required to review their master plans every five years to determine if updates are necessary.

The 2050 Master Plan addresses core components of city development, including land use, housing, transportation, public safety, economic development, and downtown revitalization. It

serves as a roadmap for answering vital questions such as: What should Mt. Pleasant look like in 2050? How can we get there? How do we prepare for future risks or challenges?

Proposed updates to the plan include:

- Integration of the Mission Street Improvement Plan, which focuses on corridor improvements, zoning updates, and targeted investments along Mission Street.
- Incorporation of findings from recent Parks & Recreation public outreach efforts.
- Reflection of completed

work from the Town Center redevelopment project.

City officials emphasize that public input is crucial to shaping a plan that truly reflects the community's needs and vision. Residents are encouraged to attend and share feedback at a series of upcoming public meetings:

- April 3 – Planning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall/Hybrid
- April 22 – Parks & Recreation Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall (in-person only)
- April 28 – City Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall/

Hybrid

Mt. Pleasant's master planning efforts have a long history of driving major projects and policy decisions. From the creation of the Town Center and new zoning ordinances in the 1960s, to expanding park accessibility and improving water quality in the late 1980s, each plan has played a vital role in shaping the city.

For more information on the 2050 Master Plan update, visit www.mt-pleasant.org/master-plan. To learn more about the Mission Street Improvement Plan, go to www.mt-pleasant.org/missionstreet.

COMMUNITY

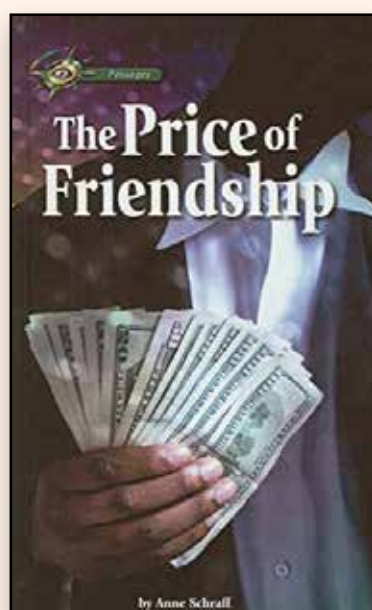
Catch the interests of older children

(As the Michigan Banner focuses on literacy, we will offer suggestions for children's books.)

If we seek to build a child's early love of reading, the first preschool and early elementary topics are basic. Alphabet, math, colors, shapes. Then they grow older. Some reading is required, like for civics and social studies, even for math. But will they enjoy books on their own time, especially a challenge as push-button tech takes over?

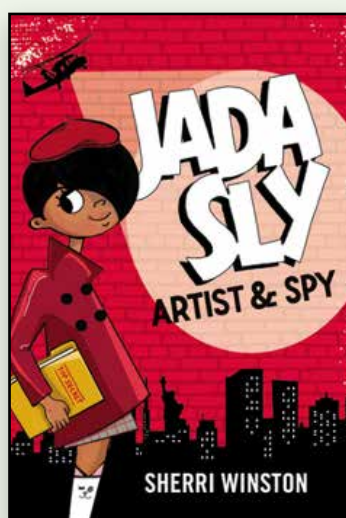
They're old enough as adolescents and teens to begin having voices and choices. The key is to offer options. This is when a visit to your local library or to Barnes & Noble can make all the difference.

The books need not be classics, popular, or expensive, so long as the youngster keeps turning the pages. Here are a trio among countless examples.



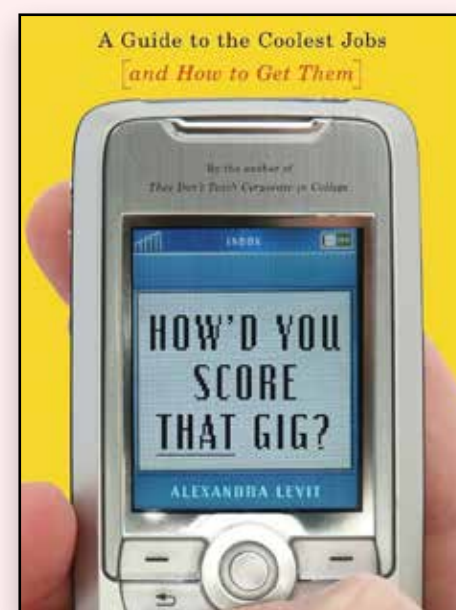
The Price of Friendship
Anne Schraff

Kirk faces all the challenges and choices in high school life. He keeps up with his studies but also enjoys the parties, where more popular peers show off the big money attained in dealing drugs. Then an overzealous teacher accuses him of cheating. So Kirk's big test is not scholastic, but sticking to the straight and narrow when life is not always fair. The story is more realistic than idealistic "just say no" messaging.



Jada Sly: Artist and Spy
Sherri Winston

Does she sound like an energetic, inspired 10-year old? That's the point. None of her peers think of Jada as a nerd as she pursues what may have become of her mother, officially presumed dead after an airplane disappears in the ocean fog. There's the magnet of action that begins with the opening pages and prevails the whole way through.



How'd You Score THAT Gig?
Alexandra Levit

Go beyond lecturing teens on the requirement to work all their adult lives. An "adventurer" might become an oceanographer or an outdoor tour guide, a "creator" could design video games, a "nurturer" may grow into a school teacher, and so on. Assess one's skills, personality and interests based on something more than standardized test scores.



There's nothing wrong with not finishing a book you don't like, for whatever reason, unless it's required for classwork and formal education. Just be sure to find and pick up a selection that is geared more to your interests, and also to your fun side.

To volunteer as a READ Association tutor, see their website or call (989) 755-8402.



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2ND
2025**

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OR

**Session #2
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Huntington Bank Community
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HEALTH

World Health Day 2025 to spotlight maternal health: Why pregnant women must prioritize their well-being



PREGNANT WOMAN (FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

As the world observes World Health Day on April 7, this year's campaign, "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures," draws urgent attention to the global need to improve maternal and newborn health. The World Health Organization (WHO) and its partners are launching a year-long initiative to reduce preventable deaths and encourage health systems to prioritize the long-term well-being of women and infants.

Each year, approximately 300,000 women die due to complications related to pregnancy

or childbirth. In addition, over 2 million babies die within their first month of life, and another 2 million are stillborn. These largely preventable losses equate to nearly one death every seven seconds. Despite advancements in health care, four out of five countries are not on track to meet global goals for maternal survival by 2030, and one in three is projected to miss targets for reducing newborn mortality.

Pregnant women are encouraged to prioritize their health throughout pregnancy, with timely prenatal care, good nutrition, and postnatal support identified as key factors in ensuring

both maternal and infant health. Health care systems are being urged to evolve to better address a full range of maternal health needs, including mental health care, chronic disease management, and access to family planning resources.

In Michigan's Great Lakes Bay Region, local health centers are actively working to align with these global goals. Medical providers and outreach programs are focusing on comprehensive care for women before, during, and after pregnancy. Mobile health clinics, expanded access to prenatal services, and community health education are helping

ensure that expectant mothers across the region receive the support they need.

The World Health Day 2025 campaign reinforces the message that healthy mothers and babies are the foundation of strong communities. By focusing on prevention and access to care, both globally and locally, the initiative aims to help every woman and baby survive and thrive.

For more information about maternal and newborn health, visit www.who.int. Local resources are available at greatlakesbay-healthcenters.org.

HEALTH

MyMichigan Medical Center Mt. Pleasant to host 2025 Community Health Fair

BY MB STAFF

MOUNT PLEASANT — Central Michigan University College of Medicine students, in partnership with MyMichigan Medical Center Mt. Pleasant, will host the 2025 Health Fair on Saturday, April 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The free, public event will take place at the Medical Center, located at 4851 E. Pickard Street, near Celebration Cinema.

The annual health fair aims to promote community wellness by offering access to health education, wellness resources, and information on available local services.

“Attendees will have access



MYMICHIGAN MEDICAL CENTER MT. PLEASANT (FILE PHOTO)

to a variety of health and lifestyle vendors, including primary care, mental health support, and specialty care providers,” said Sydney Zuke, community health supervisor at MyMichigan Health. “Representatives from local organizations will be available to share valuable health-related in-

formation and connect individuals with resources to improve their well-being.”

New to this year’s event is a Teddy Bear Clinic, a child-friendly initiative designed to help kids feel more comfortable around medical professionals through fun, interactive experiences.

The health fair will also include a Prescription Take-Back Program, offering a safe way for individuals to dispose of expired or unused prescription and over-the-counter medications.

A family-friendly event, the health fair will feature raffles, gift card giveaways, interactive activities, and free food giveaways. While no medical advice will be provided, the event will serve as a valuable opportunity for individuals and families to learn more about maintaining their health and well-being in an engaging and supportive environment.

For more information, visit www.mymichigan.org/cmuhealthfair.

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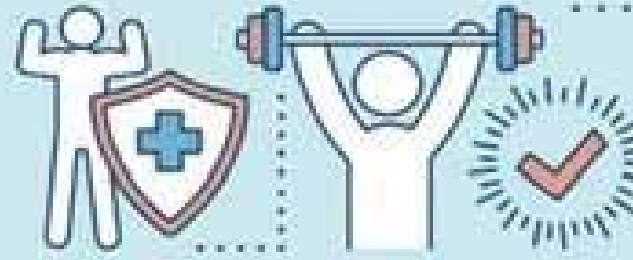
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SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025

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6200 State St., Saginaw, MI 48603

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EDUCATION

Saginaw ISD launches community feedback sessions to shape strategic vision



FILE PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Saginaw Intermediate School District (ISD) is inviting families, educators, community members, and stakeholders across Saginaw County to participate in a series of public feedback sessions aimed at shaping the district's long-term direction through a new initiative called the Strategic Compass.

Developed in partnership with the Saginaw ISD Board of Education, the Strategic Compass process serves as a guide for how the district will continue to evolve its services to meet the diverse and growing needs of the community. Unlike traditional school districts, Saginaw ISD functions as a service agency—supporting 12 local school

districts, four public school academies, and 22 non-public schools throughout the county.

“Our goal is to ensure that Saginaw ISD continues to provide gold-standard services that empower our schools and communities,” said Ruth Coppens, president of the Saginaw ISD Board of Education. “To do this, we need insight and perspectives from the people we serve. These feedback sessions will help shape our priorities and guide our work in the years to come.”

The Strategic Compass aims to reflect a shared vision rooted in continuous improvement, transparency, and servant leadership. Saginaw ISD Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Collier emphasized the importance of community involvement in this process.

“At Saginaw ISD, we believe

in leading forward—embracing challenges, fostering collaboration, and making data-driven decisions to enhance the support we provide,” said Collier. “This Strategic Compass will help us chart the direction of our services to ensure our priorities are aligned with the needs of our schools, educators, families, and partners.”

Public Feedback Sessions Scheduled

Saginaw ISD will host three in-person community sessions and one virtual session to gather input:

- April 1 – Hartley Outdoor Education Center, 12633 Beaver Road, St. Charles
- April 8 – Claytor Pre-school, 3200 Perkins Street, Saginaw
- April 16 – Unity Hall

(formerly Transitions PD Center), 3860 Fashion Square Blvd., Saginaw

- Virtual Session – April 16, 3:30–5:00 PM via Zoom

All in-person sessions will run from 6:00 to 7:30 PM.

In addition to these sessions, an online survey will be made available for individuals who prefer to provide input digitally. Details and ongoing updates can be found on the Saginaw ISD website.

Saginaw ISD encourages broad community participation as it continues its mission to serve, innovate, and empower through a shared commitment to educational excellence.

EDUCATION

What if Congress decides to close the US Department of Education



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUILDING (FILE PHOTO)



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS
RETIRED EDUCATOR

The President has ordered the closure of the US Department of Education. Now Congress will be asked to act, that is, to close it down.

What should we do to prepare?

1. Stay informed. It

will be a process, over the next several days or weeks. Monitor it closely, and if you wish to have your voice heard, contact your US Representative and our two U.S. Senators. Stay connected with your local schools and watch for their updates and advice.

2. Seek options that will help you.

For parents of school-age children, reach out to your school's principal, counselor, and teacher(s). They are already looking at accommodations. For example, in special education it may be that the Inter-

mediate School will help with issues that surface in following student IEPs.

3. Follow the money.

Just because the department may close, funding appropriated will not necessarily stop. It will be directed to another area or department, perhaps at the federal level but it could become more state or local. Remember it has been stated by the President that education should be turned back to the states.

So what will this look like? What will this mean? Will the funding for special education, as

one key example, be continued or will it be adjusted? Follow the money and gauge what the impact may be for your son or daughter (or grandson / granddaughter).

Bottom line: We are seeing unprecedented changes. We should stay informed and monitor decisions closely.

Resources:

https://www.djournal.com/news/national/what-might-happen-if-the-education-department-were-closed/collection_50cca2e5-9f72-5e58-a076-abf82f786077.html#1

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/what-happens-if-the-education-department-is-dissolved>

EDUCATION

Federal funding cut puts \$40M for Michigan schools at risk

BY MB STAFF

LANSGING — Michigan's top education leaders are sounding the alarm after a last-minute decision by the U.S. Department of Education to abruptly end reimbursement eligibility for pandemic-related federal funding—a move that could cost Michigan schools more than \$40 million.

On Friday, March 28, just after 5 p.m., state education agencies across the country received a notice from U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon announcing an immediate change to the reimbursement deadline for Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) and American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds. The new deadline was made retroactive to the same day and time the message was sent—Friday, March 28, at 5 p.m.—replacing the original deadline of March 28, 2026.

Districts across Michigan had previously received federal approval to delay reimbursement requests for critical infrastructure projects. These projects, aimed at improving air quality and health conditions in schools in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, included upgrades to HVAC systems, boilers, and windows. Twenty-seven districts statewide now stand to lose access to these funds despite having met the original criteria.

"This is unacceptable," said Dr. Michael F. Rice, State Superintendent of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). "Michigan's children stand to lose more than \$40 million. Twenty-seven districts across the state have preapproved financial obligations that met criteria set by the U.S. Department of Education for extending the districts'



FLINT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BUS (FILE PHOTO)

deadlines to request reimbursement of these funds. Instead, Secretary McMahon and the Trump Administration abruptly withdrew approval."

Dr. Rice emphasized that school districts acted in good faith based on guidance from the federal government. "A change in administrations should not void previous commitments," he added. "Without the promised March 2026 date for federal reimbursement requests, districts may be forced to reduce instructional expenditures for students, diminish savings, or both to honor these contracts."

Flint Community Schools is among the hardest hit, having requested \$15.6 million and already received \$14.2 million. The district still faces uncertainty about the remaining \$1.4 million. Statewide, MDE has already paid

out approximately \$24.2 million to qualifying districts. However, nearly \$17.8 million remains in jeopardy for projects not yet reimbursed, along with \$5 million in administrative costs that the state could lose if the decision stands.

State Board of Education President Dr. Pamela Pugh also voiced deep concern. "As a public health professional for many years, it is a particular affront to me that the U.S. Department of Education would walk back its commitment to projects that protect the health and safety of our students—including for schools in communities such as Flint, Pontiac, and Benton Harbor that were hit especially hard by COVID-19," said Dr. Pugh.

She also criticized the department's new process, which allows districts to reapply for re-

imbursement on an individual, project-specific basis under different criteria. "To cancel funding approval on no notice and to tell districts that they may apply for a second approval with different criteria has nothing to do with service to schoolchildren," she said.

MDE has indicated that it will work with affected districts to explore the newly suggested case-by-case application process, but both Dr. Rice and Dr. Pugh are urging federal officials, including U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg and other members of Michigan's congressional delegation, to demand that the Department of Education honor its previous commitments.

"Michigan students and communities deserve better than this," said Dr. Rice. "This decision must be reversed."

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EDUCATION

When hope is present, dreams and goals flourish

The Saginaw Promise believes in the power of postsecondary education to be a “change agent” to impact Saginaw’s future and that of its students

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Saginaw Promise is working to impact Saginaw’s future, its economy and quality of life by eliminating barriers to higher education through information, programming and a scholarship. Since 2012, the Saginaw Promise has awarded \$1,350,713 in scholarships to 745 students and has seen graduation rates increase, and dropout rates decrease. The Saginaw Promise provides information and resources to assist students and parents navigate and finance postsecondary education. To that end, the Saginaw Promise’s mission is to provide scholarships to assist Saginaw’s “high school graduates” to earn a program certificate or degree from a technical/trade school, community college or university. Since forming, the Saginaw Promise has seen graduation rates increase and dropout rates decrease.

The Saginaw Promise Scholarship is a benefit for students who reside in, attend schools and graduate from a high school within the Saginaw Promise Zone (which includes the cities of Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Kochville and that area of Buena Vista designated to the Saginaw Public School District). The scholarship also serves as an incentive to stabilize and grow Saginaw’s population to affect the overall economic environment for current businesses and attract new businesses with an educated workforce.

Students meeting the residency, school attendance and graduation requirements are re-



FILE PHOTO

quired to complete the Saginaw Community Foundation (SCF) Scholarship Application (online) and FAFSA to receive the scholarship. The Saginaw Promise scholarship is available up to two years and does not consider parental income or GPA; students must maintain the standards of the institution they enroll with. Scholars have up to six years from high school graduation to use their Saginaw Promise Scholarship. For more information, visit the Saginaw Promise website at www.saginawpromise.org or for questions telephone Deborah Sanchez at (989) 607-3428 or email dsanchez@saginawpromise.org.

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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 opportunities 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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Join us for the Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy Information Night and explore why SASA is Michigan's premier academy for gifted and talented students.

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Time: 5:30 PM

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About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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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

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BUSINESS + FINANCE

Flint & Genesee Group reflects on 2024 progress, sets sights on 2026 goals



FLINT & GENESEE GROUP 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

BY MB STAFF

FLINT — Flint & Genesee Group celebrated a year of strategic growth and collaboration during its annual meeting, Welcoming Opportunities, held at the historic FIM Capitol Theatre. The event highlighted the organization's 2024 achievements and provided a glimpse into its strategic direction leading into 2026.

"2024 was about opening doors in Flint & Genesee," said Tim Herman, CEO of the Flint & Genesee Group. "Our collective efforts were focused on attracting visitors, businesses, talent, and investors. Across the board, our message was consistent: This is a destination of opportunity, and all are welcome here."

The 2024 Annual Report out-

lines the results of coordinated initiatives that align with the Forward Together vision—a long-term goal to position Genesee County as one of Michigan's top five communities by 2040. The report showcases accomplishments across the Group's key divisions.

Boosting Tourism and Visibility

Explore Flint & Genesee, the tourism division, reported an estimated \$6.5 million in economic impact through increased visitation and event activity. The team secured bids for future events expected to generate over 8,600 hotel room nights and expanded its Certified Tourism Ambassador program to 300 members

with 80 new additions.

Strengthening the Business Community

The Flint & Genesee Chamber welcomed 114 new members in 2024, bringing total membership to 975. The Chamber also launched a redesigned website and introduced the Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Business Committee to foster inclusivity and entrepreneurship in underserved communities.

Driving Economic Investment

Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance played a key role in positioning Genesee County for \$1.6 billion in potential investment

by responding to 15 Requests for Proposals. Notably, it supported NanoGraf Corporation's expansion to the Flint Commerce Center, a move expected to bring 152 new jobs and add \$6.3 million to the county's annual payroll. The division also launched the Small Business Support Hub and provided one-on-one support to 221 local entrepreneurs.

Developing Talent for the Future

Flint & Genesee Education & Talent continued to invest in workforce development. Its TeenQuest program graduated 444 students, while 209 youth secured summer employment through the Summer Youth Initiative. More than 450 professionals participated in 21 career development workshops, and eight individuals completed the Leadership Flint & Genesee program. Additionally, the Make Your Move campaign drew 329 participants, with nine successfully relocating and finding employment in Genesee County.

Looking Ahead

As the Flint & Genesee Group advances toward 2026, it remains committed to aligning its efforts with the Forward Together vision. Upcoming plans include broader promotion of the region's assets, investment in infrastructure and systems that support economic growth, and continued internal capacity building to sustain long-term impact.

To view the full 2024 Annual Report and learn more about Flint & Genesee's progress and initiatives, visit AnnualReport.FlintandGenesee.org.

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FAITH IN FOCUS



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

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.

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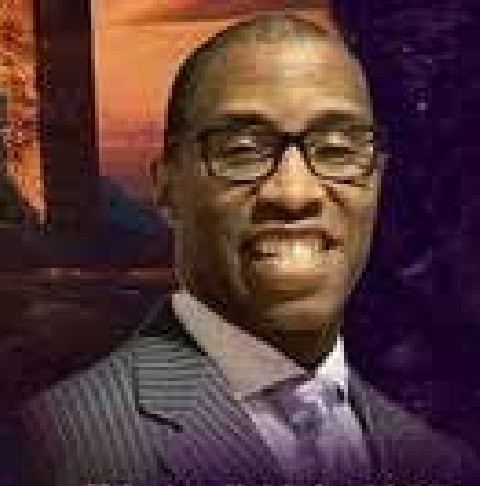
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Wed. April 16th, 2025
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Mt. Sinai Baptist Church



Thurs. April 17th, 2025
Pastor Charles Levy
Greater Renaissance MBC



Fri. April 18th, 2025
Pastor Craig Tatum
New Life Baptist Church

The following are the six churches

Shiloh MBC(Pastor Delwin Tatum), Mt. Zion MBC(Pastor Albert Haynes),
Greater Solid Rock MBC(Pastor Ernest Reed) Corinthian MBC(Pastor Roy Manning,
Mt. Moriah MBC(Pastor Johnny Edwards), Tabernacle MBC (Pastor Blake Strozier)

FAITH IN FOCUS

SERMONETTE SERIES

In God's Waiting Room

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint"

Isa.40:31KJV



BY DR. CAROLYN CARTER
TOWNSEL

Without a doubt, sooner or later we will find ourselves in a waiting room. The "waiting room" is normally not held in high esteem, in fact it is considered one of the most dreaded places to be. The purpose for waiting rooms is for people who are waiting to be seen by someone, or waiting for something, or waiting for some type of service to be rendered.

Regardless of what waiting room we find ourselves in, waiting is one of the most difficult things for us to do.

Attached to the waiting are the postures and attitudes; The pacer who constantly walks back and forth, the clock or watch watcher who lets out a deep sigh every time he or she looks at the time, the one who looks annoyed when someone else's name is called before theirs, and finally there is the waiter who asks the receptionist how much longer will it be?

In our text we find the Israelites in God's waiting room. During their years of exile in Babylon, it brought tremendous difficulties that caused them to become weary and tired. Their mindset became darken by doubt and despairing thoughts. However, in the midst of being exhausted and burdened from the circumstances of their life, they were the first to receive the promise of Isaiah 40:31, **"But they that wait**

upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Just as the Israelites were in God's waiting room, many of us find ourselves in His waiting room. God's waiting room is a place of waiting for God's intervention in a situation or condition. It is a period between God's promise and our fulfillment. One of the key exhortations of the Bible is the call to **"wait on the Lord."** Although God promises special blessings for those who wait, it is challenging because as a part of fallen humanity, we are so disposed to take matters in our own hands and to follow our own plans. The Hebrew term wait means to hope for, to anticipate. Consequently, while in God's waiting room we are to do so in hopeful expectation and submitting to the Lord's will. As Believers our postures and atti-


tudes should consist of praying, waiting patiently, reading and studying His word, and ultimately knowing and trusting that He has worked it out for our good and we are waiting for God to manifest and reveal.

It is critical that we understand there is only one way to get this great promise, **"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."** Not, those who work for the Lord, but those who wait for Him. In God's waiting room we admit that we do not have the strength we need and acknowledge that we need the strength only he can give.

I once read how God strengthens us during our times of waiting and it read like this; Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching before it arrives? The eagle will fly to a high spot and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wing will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it. The eagle does not escape the storm, it simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that brings the storm. In our time of waiting, it is God who will strengthen us, His power will lift us up above the dark clouds so we can ride the winds of the storm that enter our lives. **"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not faint."** These words are enriching and affirms that it is indeed a blessing to those that **"wait upon the Lord."**

Blessings To All


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




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




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Prophetess Linda J. Kemp Revis
3420 E Ashman St.
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faithministrieschurch.org




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




New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
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989-754-0801



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




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




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




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




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




Victorious Belivers Ministries Church
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Saginaw, MI
989-755-7692



Jacob's Ladder
Pastor Dennis Barlow
1926 Fairfield Street
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New Covenant Christian Center
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THEME: **"UNFINISHED BUSINESS"**
APRIL 11-12, 2025

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Official Day
SAT 4/12

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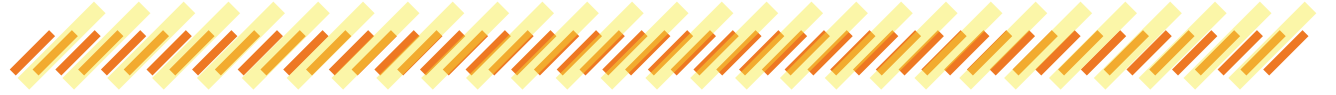
Women's Nite
FRI 4/11

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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Keep it simple



BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

In these times of whirlwind changes, we recommend an old school approach: keeping it simple. Be clear about what you are seeking to accomplish and why it is important. Make sure you have the capacity to do what you say you want to do, and make sure you can measure your work.

Take a moment to look closely at your organization or institution and how you understand and communicate its work. There may be a difference between what you are doing and what your website says you are doing! Or maybe there is a difference between what the day-to-day team knows as your priorities and what the board thinks the organization's priorities are. Has your nonprofit grown through "mission creep?" Do your activities tie to your mission, or have you been "chasing money" to stay afloat? Sometimes it's good to end up in a different place than intended. Other times that different place isn't where you want to be. In all cases, take a moment to get everyone focused and aligned: you'll be more successful.

Here are some things to consider: Can you clearly define the



FILE PHOTO

work of your nonprofit? Do you have to go on and on, providing examples and listing activities, or can you clearly and concisely communicate why you exist and what you seek to achieve? Is your work relevant? Does it meet a need or create new opportunities? Have you kept up with trends in the field? Are you engaging newcomers, young people, those who fell outside of your defined constituency in the past, but who need your services, research, or advocacy today? How is the quality of your work? Are you living up to your standards? How do your standards compare to others engaged in similar work? Are you thinking outside the box? Are there new ways you could approach – or even define – the issues you focus on? Are you doing the same things because you are good at them instead of doing what could be done? Is someone

going to enter your "market" with a new approach that you could be investing in now? What about how you measure your work? Are you using old models, such as the number of people served or are you exploring additional measures such as economic impact or environmental footprint? Do you have data to back up your story?

Here is an always critical question: how's your money? Does your budget keep growing without consideration of what you should be focused on? Are

you looking at your financials, not just for this quarter or year, but are you considering where your funding will come from two years from now? Are you capable of achieving your goals or do you need to invest in order to deliver on your promise? If you don't have the capacity you need, should you redefine your scope of work? Now more than ever it's important to be clear, focused, innovative, and collaborative. We need your contributions. God protect America.



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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

Christina Jones Women's Tea Brunch held on Saturday, March 15 at SVRC Marketplace in Saginaw.



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We empower.

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



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