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Positive Results Downtown Saginaw names Ann Marie Batkoski-Sullivan as new Executive Director

COMMUNITY, PG 16

Saginaw fire captain and Marine Corps veteran named grand marshal for 2025 Memorial Day parade

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Positive Results Downtown and PRIDE in Saginaw have announced that Captain Chedrick A. Greene of the Saginaw Fire Department will serve as Grand Marshal for the city's 2025 Memorial Day Parade, scheduled for Monday, May 26.

A distinguished public servant with an unwavering commitment to his country and community, Greene brings more than three decades of military and civic leadership to this year's role. A retired Sergeant Major (E-9) in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, Greene completed 30 years of honorable service and was deployed to over a dozen countries, including in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

His extensive list of military honors includes the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps



CHEDRICK A. GREENE

Commendation Medal with Combat Valor, Combat Action Ribbon, and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, among several other campaign and service recognitions.

In his current role as a

fire captain for the City of Saginaw, Greene oversees daily station operations, equipment maintenance, and personnel management.

CONTINUES ON PG. 2, GRAND MARSHAL



FWCC renews summer youth jobs

YOUTH BANNER, COVER



Saginaw to host 46th annual Cinco de Mayo parade and festival on May 3

LATINO BANNER, COVER

FEATURED STORY

Dow Credit Union expands statewide membership

COMMUNITY, PG 42



Cover story, Grand marshal

He also serves on the department's command staff, contributing to strategic planning and operational assessments, and acts as the department's community relations liaison. He was named Firefighter of the Year in 2017 and has received multiple life safety citations.

Beyond the firehouse, Greene continues his commitment to service in various civic roles. He works part-time as a district assistant for the Michigan State Senate (35th District) and holds leadership positions as president of the Saginaw County Veterans Memorial Plaza board and vice president of the Saginaw County Crime Stoppers board. He is also a member of the Saginaw County Exchange Club and a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

A Bridgeport High School graduate, Greene has served the City of Saginaw Fire Department for 25 years.

The Memorial Day Parade, sponsored by Positive Results Downtown, PRIDE in Saginaw, and the Saginaw County Veterans Memorial Plaza, will begin at 11 a.m. The 1.5-mile route starts at Federal and South Washington, continues down South Washington, and concludes at the Veterans Memorial Plaza at the top of Hoyt Park.

The community event will feature veteran groups, school bands, local organizations, and civic leaders honoring those who served—and especially those who gave their lives—for the nation's freedom. All veterans are welcome to participate, either by walking or riding in a patriotically decorated vehicle.



On April 16, 1895, the Detroit Free Press first referred to Detroit's baseball team as the "Tigers," marking the official debut of the name. The nickname appeared in an article written by Phil Reid, describing a game under manager Con Strouthers, who would later go on to sign baseball legend Ty Cobb.

Before adopting the Tigers moniker, the team was known as the "Creams," a nod to the owner's claim that they would be the "cream of the league." While a later manager, George Stallings, claimed the team's striped socks inspired the name, historical records confirm the "Tigers" title was already in use a year before his arrival.



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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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FROM THE MICHIGAN BANNER

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 7 • NUMBER 7



FWCC renews summer youth jobs

SAGINAW — Are you age 16 to 19, and looking for a summer job opportunity?

The First Ward Community Center’s Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is now accepting applications through April 30, at forms.gle/banGVs8N2dwc7VeP8

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After applications are reviewed, selected youth will be contacted directly for an in-person interview.

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Getting ready for college:

Considerations for high school seniors

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUILDING (FILE PHOTO)



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS
RETIRED EDUCATOR

As high school seniors prepare for the transition to college, it is essential to take thoughtful steps to ensure a smooth and successful start. Whether you have already committed to a school or are still deciding, here are some key areas to focus on in your final year of high school.

Campus visits: Know before you go

There is no substitute for being on campus. Visiting poten-

tial schools gives you a firsthand look at what life might be like as a student there. Whether you are attending an organized "visitation day" or planning a personal tour, each trip helps you better understand the campus layout, parking options, residence halls, dining choices, and more.

Also, consider the distance from home. Is the school a quick drive away or several states over? Talk with your family about how often you plan to visit home and what travel might look like throughout the year.

Combatting homesickness through involvement

Leaving home can bring a mix of excitement and anxiety—homesickness is a common experience for many new students. One of the best ways to manage it is to get involved on campus. Look into intramural sports, stu-

dent clubs, service organizations, or campus ministries. Finding your community early on can provide support, connection, and fun during those first few months.

Scholarships & Financial Aid: Do not leave money on the table

Now is the time to follow up on any remaining scholarship applications or financial aid opportunities. Even if your tuition is mostly covered, there may be smaller scholarships still available. Look into part-time jobs on or near campus too—many schools offer work-study positions in the dorms, libraries, or student centers.

For example, my daughter worked for a pizza delivery while attending CMU, offering her both income and valuable work experience.

Internships: Early experience pays off

Internships are a great way to get your foot in the door in your field of interest. While many internships are offered to upperclassmen, some companies create opportunities based on student interest and emerging needs. Reach out to potential employers early on and express your enthusiasm—it could open a door you did not expect.

Get your transcripts in order

As you approach graduation, make sure all your academic records are up to date. This includes your high school transcript and any college credits you have earned through dual enrollment. Ensure everything is officially documented and sent to your chosen college so there are no surprises when it is time to register for classes.

Build relationships on campus

Before you set foot on campus, identify at least two points of contact: someone in admissions and someone in academics. These individuals can help guide you through the transition and answer questions as they come up. Being known as a person—not just a student ID number—can make a huge difference. Building early relationships may also lead to opportunities later, from mentorship to recommendation letters.

Senior year is an exciting time, full of anticipation and possibility. Taking proactive steps now can ease the transition to college and set the stage for a strong start. For more tips, visit the worldwide web or better yet, talk to your counselor or a someone currently in college.

Planning ahead means you will be better prepared to make the most of your college experience—from your very first day on campus.

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Youth arts take center stage at Saginaw Art Museum's 2025 festival

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Creativity will be in full bloom this spring as the Saginaw Art Museum & Gardens hosts its annual Youth Arts Festival on May 30 and 31, 2025. The two-day celebration of young artistic talent promises a vibrant mix of film, music, and hands-on art experiences—all free and open to the public.

The event kicks off on Friday, May 30, with museum exploration and student film screenings from 4 to 7 p.m., offering visitors a chance to experience compelling stories told through the eyes of the next generation of filmmakers.

On Saturday, May 31, from noon to 4:30 p.m., the festival continues with art activities throughout the museum and live performances by several youth ensembles, including the Hemmeter Violin Club, Major Chords for Minors, Saginaw Bay Youth Orchestra, Saginaw Strings, and SHE GEMS. In addition to the creative performances, Maria's Food Truck will be on-site offering food and refreshments.

Presented under the banner Arts for All, the festival highlights inclusivity and encourages youth of all backgrounds to explore their creativity in a welcoming environment. From classical compositions to experimental short films, the event reflects a diverse range of artistic expression nurtured within the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Student filmmakers interested in showcasing their work can submit entries via the museum's website. Full event details and the entry form are available at saginawartmuseum.org/youthartsfestival2025.

The Youth Arts Festival is made possible through the support of sponsors including HSC, Shaheen Development, Tri-Star Trust, Covenant HealthCare, Jolt Credit Union, Isabella Bank, Morley, Dow, and funding from local foundations and the Michigan Arts & Culture Council.

As the community gathers to celebrate emerging talent, the Youth Arts Festival offers a joyful reminder of the power of art to inspire, connect, and uplift future generations.

sam
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YOUTH ARTS Festival

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YOUTH ARTS FESTIVAL EVENT FLYER



Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

Saginaw to host 46th annual Cinco de Mayo parade and festival on May 3

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The sights, sounds, and spirit of Mexican heritage will take center stage in downtown Saginaw on Saturday, May 3, as the community comes together for the 46th annual Cinco de Mayo parade and festival, hosted by La Unión Cívica Mexicana. This year's celebration is especially meaningful, marking the 80th anniversary of the historic organization that has championed Latino civic engagement and cultural preservation in Saginaw since 1945.

Parade and staging details

The celebration begins with the Cinco de Mayo Parade, kicking off at 10:30 a.m. from Hoyt Park and traveling north along Washington Avenue through the heart of downtown Saginaw. Parade staging will take place from 8:00 to 10 a.m., as floats, dancers, community groups, and marching bands prepare to showcase their heritage and creativity in front of thousands of attendees.

Festival at Jolt Credit Union Event Park

Following the parade, the festivities shift to Jolt Credit Union Event Park, where the Cinco de Mayo Festival will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For a \$5 cover, guests can enjoy a full afternoon of live Tejano and regional Mexican music, folkloric dance performances, food trucks, bounce houses, merchant vendors, and more.



CINCO DE MAYO EVENT FLYER

This year's entertainment line-up includes:

- **AJ Castillo** – Acclaimed Tejano artist known for his modern twist on accordion-driven cumbia
- **Conjunto Champz** – High-energy conjunto band
- **Grupo DeZed** – Fan-favorite with upbeat regional rhythms

- **Grupo Ilusión** – Local favorite bringing a mix of norteño and cumbia
- **Folkloric dancers** – Showcasing traditional Mexican cultural dances in colorful costumes

Special after-party event

The celebration doesn't end at the park. After the festival, attendees are invited to the official Cinco de Mayo After-Party, headlined by Los Estrellas de Oro at the Ascend Sportsbook & Lounge, located at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, 6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd. The evening event will offer music, dancing, and an opportunity for the community to continue the celebration into the night.

Honoring 80 years of community leadership

This year's event also pays tribute to the enduring impact of La Unión Cívica Mexicana, which has played a central role in promoting cultural pride, education, and civic involvement in the Saginaw area. Founded in 1945, the organization continues to serve as a unifying force and advocate for the Latino community.

The 2025 Cinco de Mayo celebration is made possible through the support of numerous community sponsors, including Téjano Sound Band, Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, Jolt Credit Union, Mi Gente, Consumers Energy, and Financial Plus Credit Union.

For additional details or updates, visit La Unión Cívica Mexicana's Facebook page.

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Beyond the fiesta



BY MB STAFF

While often associated in the U.S. with tacos, tequila, and vibrant parties, Cinco de Mayo carries a deeper historical significance that many overlook. Far from being Mexico’s Independence Day—an event celebrated on September 16—Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Battle of Puebla in 1862, when a smaller, ill-equipped Mexican force defeated the powerful French army.

Led by General Ignacio Zaragoza, the victory was both surprising and symbolic. At the time, France was considered one of the most dominant military powers in the world. The win boosted national morale and became a lasting symbol of resistance against foreign oppression.

Interestingly, Cinco de Mayo



CINCO DE MAYO

is not widely celebrated across Mexico. The most elaborate observances take place in the state of Puebla, where the battle occurred. There, the day is marked with reenactments, parades, and

civic ceremonies. In much of the rest of Mexico, May 5 is a regular day.

In contrast, the holiday gained popularity in the United States during the 1960s as part

of the Chicano civil rights movement. Mexican-American communities embraced it as a way to honor their heritage, celebrate cultural pride, and highlight the resilience of their ancestors. Over time, the day evolved into a broader celebration of Mexican culture, particularly in cities like Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston.

Today, Cinco de Mayo continues to offer an opportunity to reflect on themes of perseverance, identity, and unity. While enjoying the music, food, and festivities, it’s worth remembering that the day honors a powerful moment in history—one that speaks not only to military triumph, but to the enduring spirit of a people determined to defend their land and identity.



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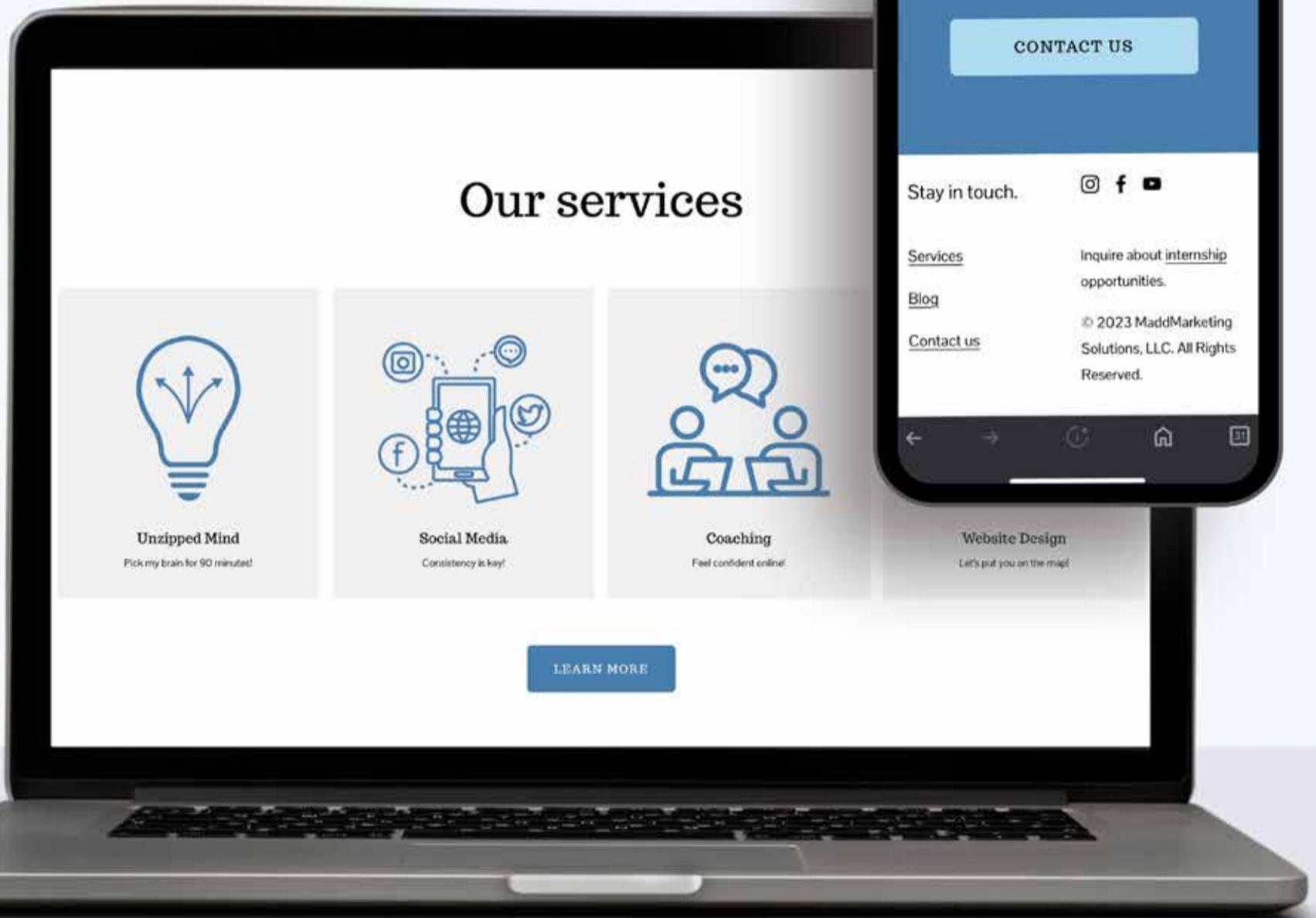
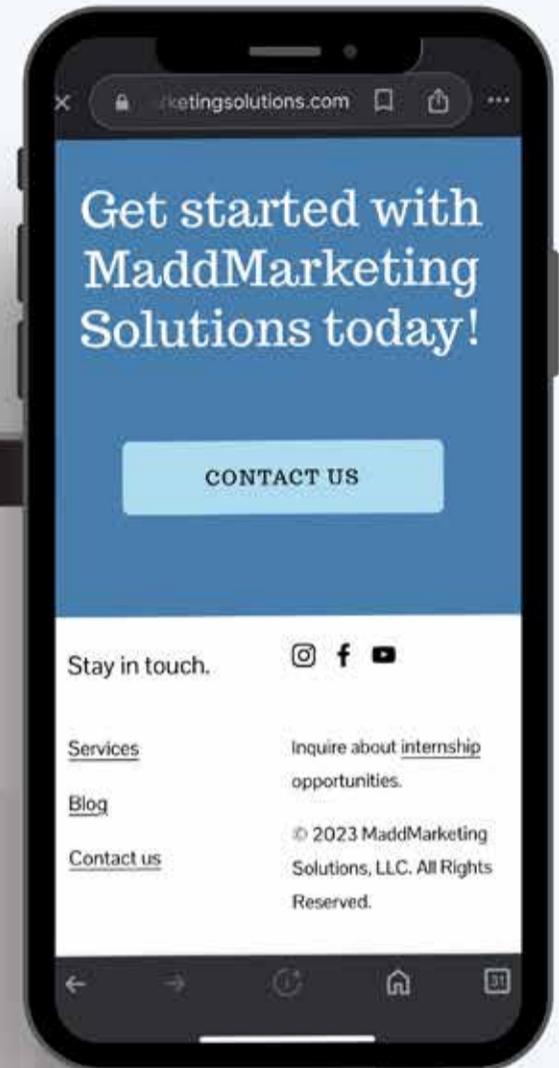
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COMMUNITY

Positive Results Downtown Saginaw names Ann Marie Batkoski-Sullivan as new Executive Director



ANN MARIE BATKOSKI-SULLIVAN

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Positive Results Downtown Saginaw has announced the appointment of Ann Marie Batkoski-Sullivan as its new Executive Director, effective April 14. The announcement comes as the organization celebrates its 50th anniversary, marking a significant transition in leadership and a renewed com-

mitment to the continued revitalization of downtown Saginaw.

Batkoski-Sullivan brings a strong background in community development, business engagement, and civic leadership. A longtime board member of Positive Results since May 2022, she most recently served as the Business Partnerships Coordinator at the Saginaw Intermediate School District, a role she held for six

years. Her deep ties to the region and broad civic involvement have made her a familiar figure among local nonprofits and community groups.

Her current and past affiliations include service on the Friends of Hoyt Park Board, the Saginaw County Building Authority, and the Downtown Saginaw Business Association. She is also a graduate of Leadership

Saginaw and the Institute for Leaders through the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance. Previously, Batkoski-Sullivan served on the board of Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity and co-chaired the YMCA's Strong Kids Campaign.

A Saginaw native, Batkoski-Sullivan holds a Bachelor of Science in Community Development from Central Michigan University and an Associate in Science from Delta College. Her community contributions have earned her several accolades, including the Max Fisher Spirit of the Y Award and the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce's Ambassador of the Year honor.

"As Positive Results celebrates its 50th Anniversary, I'm deeply honored to step into a role shaped by the incredible leadership of Jeanne Conger over the past 30 years, and Carol Lechel before her," said Batkoski-Sullivan. "Downtown Saginaw is full of promise, and I'm excited to build on its legacy by working alongside residents, businesses, and community partners to keep the momentum going and make our downtown a vibrant, welcoming destination for everyone."

Batkoski-Sullivan will work closely with outgoing Executive Director Jeanne Conger during a leadership transition period. Together, they will guide the organization through a series of major events, including the 50th Anniversary Fundraiser on May 2, the Memorial Day Parade on May 26, and the return of Friday Night Live in Morley Plaza starting July 11.

For more information about Positive Results Downtown Saginaw or to support its efforts, visit positiveresultsdowntown.org.

COMMUNITY

Flint & Genesee Chamber's African American Advisory Committee to host April meeting focused on business lending and capital access

STEVEN POWELL

Huntington Bank
BRANCH MANAGER

Meeting Location
MTA

**1405 S Dort Hwy,
Flint, MI 48503**



EVENT FLYER (PHOTO COURTESY OF FLINT AND GENESEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)

BY MB STAFF

FLINT — The African American Advisory Committee (AAAC) of the Flint & Genesee Chamber is inviting entrepreneurs, professionals, and community members to its upcoming April meeting, scheduled for Friday, April 25, from 9 to 10 a.m. The meeting will be held at the MTA Headquarters, located at 1401 S. Dort Highway in Flint.

This month's session will feature a presentation from Steven Powell, Branch Manager at Huntington Bank. Powell will lead a discussion focused on preparing

individuals and businesses to successfully approach lenders and access capital. With experience in financial services and a commitment to empowering small businesses, Powell will walk attendees through the essentials of understanding personal and business financial health, the lending process, and what banks typically evaluate during loan applications. The session will also offer tools to help assess financial readiness, an overview of different types of capital available, and practical steps business owners can take immediately to strengthen their position for funding and

long-term growth.

The AAAC serves as a vital link between the African American business community and the Flint & Genesee Chamber, supporting the development and success of Black-owned businesses throughout Genesee County. The group welcomes a broad range of participants, including business owners, professionals, community partners, and allies who are committed to advancing economic opportunity and equity.

Monthly AAAC meetings take place on the fourth Friday of each month from 9 to 10 a.m., with rotating locations to showcase

local businesses and supporting organizations. Meeting agendas typically include informative presentations, networking opportunities, and discussions with community leaders. A virtual option is offered when available to ensure accessibility for all.

To learn more or to submit questions and ideas, individuals can contact the AAAC by emailing aaac@flintandgenesee.org. The April meeting offers a valuable opportunity for new and established business owners to gain financial insight, connect with peers, and engage with a supportive professional network.

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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

'That's What She Said' to host May 1 event supporting new scholarship for young women

BY MB STAFF

BAY CITY — A powerful evening of storytelling, connection, and community impact is coming to the Great Lakes Bay Region as That's What She Said with Christiana Malacara hosts a special social event on Thursday, May 1, at the Bay City Country Club, located at 7255 3 Mile Road in Bay City.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for networking and refreshments, with the main program beginning at 6 p.m. Guests are encouraged to make a minimum \$15 donation, with all proceeds going directly to the That's What She Said Scholarship Fund, an initiative dedicated to supporting educational opportunities for young women pursuing careers in journalism, broadcasting, and related fields.

The event will mark the official launch of the scholarship and feature remarks from prominent community leaders, including Magen Samyn, President & CEO of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce; Kayla Pionk, Director of PR + Leisure Tourism at Go Great Lakes Bay; and Reneé

Johnston, President & CEO of the Saginaw Community Foundation. The evening will be emceed by Yvonne Daniels, station director and on-air personality for KISS 107.1.

Founded in June 2024, That's What She Said is a podcast-turned-movement dedicated to elevating women's voices throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region. Through honest, in-depth conversations with women from all walks of life—students, CEOs, entrepreneurs, and community leaders—the show has built a growing audience drawn to its authentic stories and mission of empowerment.

The scholarship, created in partnership with the Saginaw Community Foundation, will provide financial assistance to young women who embody the podcast's core values: empowerment, leadership, and community involvement. It represents the next phase in the podcast's mission to inspire and support the next generation of storytellers and changemakers.

The May 1 event is open to the community and welcomes attendees ages 10 and up. It will be a



THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID, RADIO SHOW WITH CHRISTIANA MALACARA

card-only event, with at-the-door registration available beginning at 5:30 p.m. Guests can also support the scholarship in advance by donating online at www.saginawfoundation.org/donate and selecting "That's What She Said

Scholarship."

For more information on That's What She Said, upcoming episodes, and the scholarship initiative, visit the podcast's official channels or follow Christiana Malacara on social media.

YWCA offers free virtual women's advancement workshops

BY MB STAFF

BAY CITY — The YWCA Great Lakes Bay Region is offering free virtual Women's Advancement Workshops this spring and summer to help women build financial and personal development skills.

Two workshop tracks are available:

Moving Ahead (financial

literacy: budgeting, credit, loans)

- Tuesdays, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. (April 22–May 20)
- Wednesdays, 1 p.m.–3 p.m. (June 11–July 9)

Pathways to Progress (goal-setting, resources, stability)

- Wednesdays, 1 p.m.–3 p.m. (April 23–May 21)
- Tuesdays, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. (June 10–July 8)

In addition to the knowledge and support gained through these workshops, graduates will receive a monetary award as a recognition of their commitment and achievement.

The program is part of the YWCA's broader mission to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. More sessions are expected

to be announced in mid-June.

To enroll or learn more, visit www.ywcaglbr.org/weep.

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Great Lakes Bay Region

COMMUNITY

Visiting Birch Park? You're on camera



BIRCH PARK APARTMENTS SIGN (FILE PHOTO)

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — A plan for management of Birch Park Apartments to install a more comprehensive security camera system is slated for the City Council's review at the next meeting, 6:30 p.m. on April 21.

The April 7 discussion begins at 1:36.40 on the YouTube videotape, with Councilwoman Monique Lamar Silvia expressing her concerns regarding violent crime in the complex, bordering the former county fairgrounds site. A detailed response follows from Chief Robert Ruth, who cites "cultural issues" with unwed mothers in some cases drawing a criminal element among males who attempt to settle scores with guns.

Part of the response is that while Birch Park is a sore spot, the highest crime rates during the past decade have shifted to Saginaw's west side, from the Mason-Woodbridge one-ways to the river.

Meanwhile, the council continues to delay on a proposal to freeze the number of marijuana dispensaries at the current total of 12. Members are seeking a legal opinion while advocates of the moratorium grow in impatience.

Meetings are telecast at saginaw-mi.com, on YouTube and on SGTV, Spectrum cable channel 191.

Saginaw Conservation District to host annual tree sale distribution on April 17



TREES BEING PACKAGED FOR TREE SALE (PHOTO COURTESY OF SAGINAW CONSERVATION DISTRICT)

BY MB STAFF

CHESANING — The Saginaw Conservation District will host its Annual Tree Sale Distribution on Thursday, April 17, at the Saginaw County Fairgrounds, continuing a long-standing community tradition that connects local residents with affordable, high-quality trees, shrubs, and native plants.

From 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., district staff and more than 40 volunteers will distribute over 300 pre-packed orders at the Dog Barn, located at 11350 Peet Road. The event brings together students, businesses, and conservation supporters for a hands-on experience that blends environmental

education with community engagement.

Each spring, the Saginaw Conservation District offers a wide selection of bareroot conifer, fruit, and deciduous trees, along with small fruit plants, specialty shrubs, and native seed mixes. Orders are placed online through the district's website in February and March, with April distribution timed to align with optimal planting conditions.

"The annual tree sale is more than a fundraiser—it's an opportunity to support conservation while helping residents plant for the future," said district organizers. "It encourages habitat restoration, sustainable gardening, and greater environmental awareness across the region."

In addition to fulfilling pre-orders, extra tree stock will be available for purchase on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the day. Volunteers will assist with setup, sorting, packing, and loading, offering a valuable learning opportunity for those interested in horticulture and natural resource management.

To learn more about the tree sale or to volunteer, visit www.SaginawCD.com/fall-tree-sale or email SaginawCD@gmail.com.

The Saginaw Conservation District's mission is "conserving and protecting natural resources through education, outreach and partnerships"—a goal reflected in the ongoing success of this annual initiative.

COMMUNITY

Saginaw County Animal Care & Control to celebrate grand opening of new surgical center

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Saginaw County Animal Care & Control Surgical Center is set to host its official grand opening on Tuesday, April 30 at 3 p.m. at its facility located at 5615 Bay Road, Saginaw, MI 48602. The event will mark a significant milestone for animal care services in the region, bringing expanded medical capabilities and a renewed focus on animal health and well-being.

Guests attending the grand opening will enjoy guided tours of the surgical center, led by members of the Animal Advisory Council. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held in partnership with the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce, followed by a community reception featuring drinks and dessert.

The new surgical center is expected to enhance the

care provided to shelter animals and facilitate improved spay/neuter services, emergency procedures, and preventative care — a vital step in supporting animal welfare in Saginaw County.

The event is made possible by the generous support of community partners, including the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce, Kochville Township, Magnus Box, Paws & Beyond K9 Training & Boarding Facility, and others.

In the spirit of giving, the center will be accepting on-site donations during the event. Requested items include dog and cat toys and treats, pet food, blankets, leashes, and harnesses.

For more information about Saginaw County Animal Care & Control or to get involved, visit Saginaw County's official website or contact the shelter directly.

Saginaw County Animal Care & Control Surgical Center

GRAND OPENING

April 30th * 3:00PM

- ✓ Surgical Center tours with the Animal Advisory Council
- ✓ Ribbon Cutting with Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ Reception with drinks & dessert

Thank you to our generous donors

SAGINAW COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | KOCHVILLE TOWNSHIP EST. 1855

Magnus Box | Paws & Beyond K9 Training & Boarding Facility

**5615 Bay Road
Saginaw, MI 48602**

**On-Site Donations Accepted:
Dog & Cat Toys & Treats, Pet Food,
Blankets, Leashes and Harness'**

EVENT FLYER (COURTESY OF SAGINAW COUNTY ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL SURGICAL CENTER)

YMCA of Saginaw to host Healthy Kids Day on April 26

Free Community Event Promotes Health, Activity, and Summer Readiness for Families

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The YMCA of Saginaw, in collaboration with Pride Academy, will host its annual Healthy Kids Day® on Saturday, April 26, 2025. The event runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the YMCA facility located at 1915 Fordney Street. Open to the public and free of charge, the day promises a wide variety of family-friendly activities designed to promote wellness and kick off a healthy, active summer.

A national initiative led by the YMCA, Healthy Kids Day® is dedicated to encouraging healthy habits in children and families through fun and educational experiences. With national sponsorship from Peanuts and local support from Covenant Health-Care, the event aims to inspire youth to stay active, curious, and connected during the summer months.

Highlights of the day include:

- Basketball and football clinics (pre-registration required)

- STEM-based learning activities
- Community vendor booths
- Interactive games and physical challenges in the Carpet Gym
- Information about YMCA summer camps and aquatic programs

“It’s essential for kids to stay physically and mentally active during the summer months,” said Cathy Arnett, Director of Youth Development at the YMCA of Saginaw. “At the Y, we’re

proud to support families with resources and programming that foster lifelong wellness. Healthy Kids Day offers a fun and accessible opportunity for the entire community to come together and explore ways to stay engaged throughout the summer.”

For more information, contact Cathy Arnett at (989) 753-7721 or event coordinator Valentina Gonzales at vgonzales@saginawymca.org. Additional details can be found at www.SaginawYMCA.org.

COMMUNITY

The Mother You Know[™] contest celebrates mothers in all forms

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — In celebration of the women who nurture, uplift, and shape our communities, the 2025 “Mother You Know” Contest invites the public to nominate a deserving mother for recognition and reflection through storytelling. The contest is now accepting entries, offering a platform for participants to share heartfelt essays that capture the essence of motherhood in all its forms.

Organized to honor the diverse roles mothers play, the contest welcomes nominations for biological mothers, grandmothers, foster mothers, godmothers, church mothers, community mothers, and stepmothers. Entrants may also nominate themselves. Whether it’s a story of love, loss, wisdom, or resilience, the goal is to recognize the profound impact that maternal figures have on individuals and communities alike.

Participants are encouraged to use creative prompts to inspire their submissions, such as reflecting on cherished memories, lessons learned, or the enduring strength of a mother’s love. Essayists can choose from a list of suggestions or craft their own narrative approach.

The total prize pool for the contest is \$1,000, and winners will be honored during a special Awards Brunch on Saturday, June 21, 2025.

The submission deadline is Monday, May 12, 2025. Entries may be submitted online at <https://forms.gle/tFG33Bsea5fax9fK6>.

For more information, call (989) 737-9286 or email ewmtoday@aol.com.

Sponsored by Evelyn McGovern and Women of Colors, the “Mother You Know” Contest offers a heartfelt opportunity for families and communities to pause and reflect on the powerful legacies and everyday devotion of mothers across generations.

DO YOU KNOW A MOM WHO DESERVES TO BE CELEBRATED?
NOMINATE A MOTHER YOU KNOW OR YOURSELF TODAY



THE MOTHER YOU KNOW Contest

Submit NOMINATION

Do you know a mother who deserves to be celebrated? Whether she is a biological mother, grandmother, community mother, foster mother, church mother, stepmother, godmother, or a mother reflecting on her own journey—this contest is an opportunity to recognize the profound impact of “mothers.”

GET INVOLVED!

- 👉 Nominate a Mother or Enter Yourself!
- 👉 Celebrate the women who have shaped our lives!
- 👉 Make your voice heard through storytelling!

TOTAL PRIZE POOL: \$1,000

Winners will be recognized at a special Awards Brunch on June 21.

HOW TO ENTER

Submit Online:

<https://forms.gle/tFG33Bsea5fax9fK6>
or using the QR Code:



Submit by Mail:

3057 Davenport Ave, Saginaw, MI 48602

Deadline:

Monday, May 12, 2025

Essay STARTERS

Use the prompts below to spark inspiration for your essay. You may choose one, combine multiple, or create your own unique approach to crafting your submission. Feel free to express your story in a way that feels most meaningful to you.

- ▶ The moment I truly understood my mother’s impact was when...
- ▶ One of my most cherished memories of my mother is...
- ▶ A lesson my mother taught me that continues to shape my life is...
- ▶ A mother’s love has the power to...
- ▶ Becoming a mother changed my life by...
- ▶ Through the loss of a child, a mother learns...
- ▶ An inspiring story of motherhood that others need to hear is...
- ▶ Surrogate mothers—such as grandmothers, community mothers, foster mothers, and godmothers—make a lasting impact when...
- ▶ If I could capture my mother’s love in a poem, it would say...

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call (989) 737-9286 or email ewmtoday@aol.com

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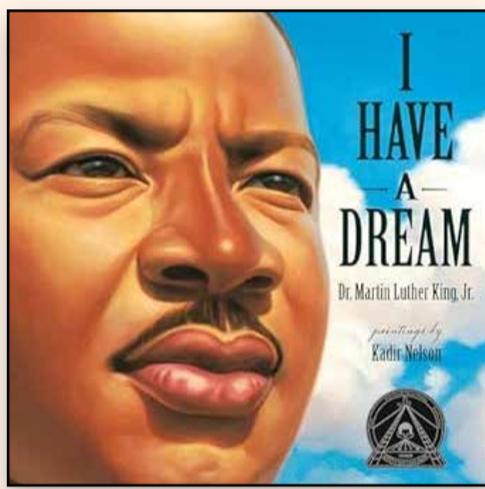
COMMUNITY

Teach civil rights through leaders' own words

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

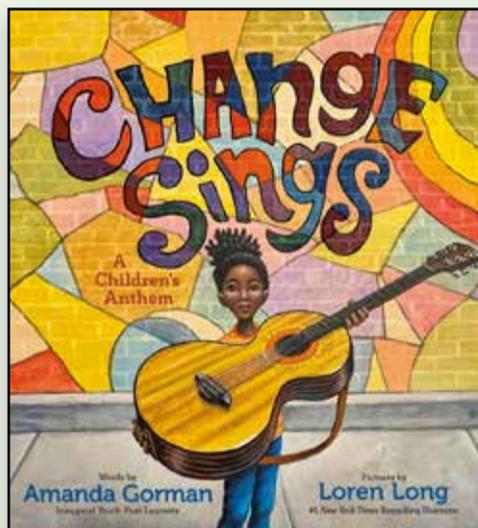
This is an era in which critics say "woke" educators are "indoctrinating" our children on civil rights and various social concerns. They're going to make that claim, regardless. Still, why not aim to mute them by delivering the unfiltered words of our leading justice seekers, past and present?

This can be accomplished in an array of ways, including books for youngsters. Here are three of many examples. Try these three, or ask a librarian for insight and suggestions.



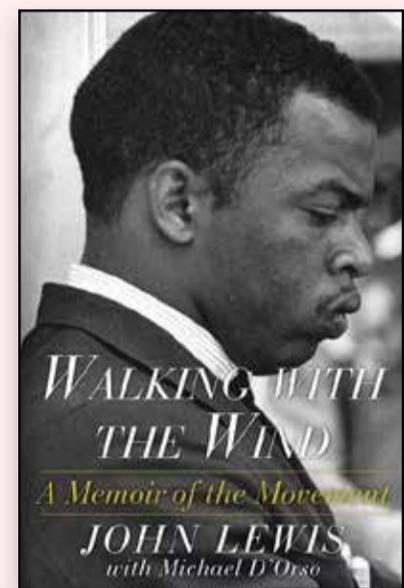
I Have a Dream, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Excerpts from MLK's legendary speech at the 1963 March on Washington are brilliantly illustrated with the paintings of the noted artist Kadir Nelson. And given that Dr. King spoke of more than his dream -- reparations, for example -- the entire text is included, along with a compact disc of the event. A 9-year-old or a 90-year-old both would appreciate this keepsake.



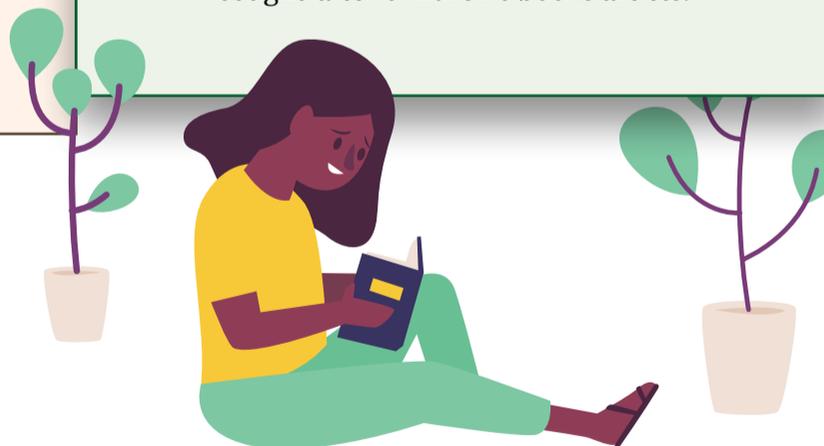
Change Sings: A Children's Anthem, Amanda Gorman

The author was a childhood poet laureate and was age 22 when she delivered "The Hill We Climb" at President Biden's 2021 inaugural. "I can hear change humming, in its loudest proudest song," she writes. "I don't fear change coming, and so I sing along." Her awareness shows in a reference to football's Colin Kaepernick: "I use my strengths and my smarts. Take a knee to make a stand." Illustrations are from Loren Long, among the most sought-after children's books artists.



Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement, John Lewis

The best, most thorough anthologies of civil rights action are from Juan Williams (*Eyes on the Prize*) and Taylor Branch (*The King Years*), but the John Lewis account is more likely to catch an older youngster's attention because it is an action-packed page-turner, from the lunch counter sit-ins to the Freedom Rides to the police beating he suffered on the Selma Bridge during Bloody Sunday.



All of these accounts speak to the deep scar of racial injustice on American history in a constructive way. If we can teach Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address" and FDR's "Fear Itself" and JFK's "Ask Not," why not these books and others?

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

COMMUNITY

Saginaw Arts & Enrichment Commission to host 35th Annual All Area Arts Awards on May 7



JEANNE CONGER, ONE OF THE 2025 ALL AREA ARTS AWARDS NOMINEES

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — For more than three decades, the All Area Arts Awards have recognized the individuals and organizations that help shape the cultural identity of Saginaw and the Great Lakes Bay Region. Now in its 35th year, the Saginaw Arts & Enrichment Commission will once again shine a spotlight on artistic achievement, civic leadership, and community support during a celebratory evening at The Red Room inside The Dow Event Center on Wednesday, May 7.

Open to the public, the event invites attendees to enjoy an evening of food, music, and recognition. Tickets are \$50 per person, with proceeds supporting the commission's mission to en-

hance arts and culture throughout the region. To reserve tickets or receive more information, call 989-759-1362, ext. 3.

The celebration will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a reception featuring danceable world music by Courtinuum, paired with a curated selection of sweet and savory fare. Guests will enjoy a mix of passable bites and build-your-own options before being called to celebration at 7 p.m. by the rhythmic energy of the Saginaw United High School Drumline. The awards presentation will follow, hosted by WNEM TV5's Chet Davis.

This year's event includes a special milestone: the presentation of the inaugural Scott J. Seeburger Young Artist Award, honoring rising talent and supporting the next generation of

creatives with a dedicated grant. The winner of this new award will be announced live during the ceremony.

2025 All Area Arts Awards Nominees:

- Pam and Paul Barrera
- Jeanne Conger
- Nyasha Clark-Young
- Mark DeWolf-Ott
- Arts for All – Saginaw Art Museum & Gardens
- Shine Bright Mural Project
- Christian Reer
- Rachel Reid
- Andrea Ondish
- Public Art Passport
- Ken Wuepper

These nominees represent a cross-section of artistic disciplines and civic efforts, from public art projects and education

to long-standing service in arts leadership.

The All Area Arts Awards are made possible with the support of ChoiceOne Bank, Garber Automotive, Ruth Ann Knapp, W.L. Case & Company, the K. Lucille & James Martineau Family Fund, MyMichigan Health, Thor & Joylynn Rasmussen, Team One Credit Union, and United Financial Credit Union. Additional support is provided by the Michigan Arts & Culture Council and the Maxwell K. Pribil Memorial Foundation.

With its blend of celebration, recognition, and community connection, the All Area Arts Awards continues to be a signature event that honors those who uplift the region's cultural landscape through creativity, collaboration, and dedication.

POLITICS

McDonald Rivet marks 100 days in office



CONGRESSWOMAN KRISTEN MCDONALD RIVET

BY MB STAFF

FLINT — Sunday, April 13 marked Congresswoman Kristen McDonald Rivet's (MI-08) 100th day in office. To recognize the milestone, she released a detailed report highlighting her legislative initiatives, community outreach, and efforts to deliver constituent services since taking office in January.

"My constituents sent me to Congress to work on an agenda centered around working people — lower costs, more high-wage jobs, safe communities, and world-class education for all of our kids," McDonald Rivet said. "100 days into my first term, I have been sorely disappointed by the consistent chaos and dynamics that put viral moments over serious work. Still, even amidst the dysfunction, I am steadfastly committed to bringing mid-Michigan's voice to the table and delivering for our hard-working families. We're off to a good start, but there's a lot more work to be done."

Constituent services and district outreach

McDonald Rivet opened a field office in Flint as her first official action, emphasizing accessibility for constituents. Since then, her office has returned more than \$4.5 million to residents by resolving issues with federal agencies such as the IRS, VA, Social Security Administration, and Department of Defense. Over 220 individual cases have been closed.

The congresswoman has hosted or attended 37 events across the district, including a telephone town hall with more than 6,500 participants, a Flint community conversation with Senator Elissa Slotkin, and "Front Porch Talks" in neighborhoods such as Saginaw. Her outreach has included discussions with union workers, educators, retirees, veterans, and business leaders.

Her staff has also participated in more than 80 additional community events to maintain open lines of communication with residents.

Legislative action focused on affordability, security, and family support

During her first 100 days, McDonald Rivet has sponsored or co-sponsored 51 pieces of legislation, 35 of which are bipartisan. These include:

- **Lowering Egg Prices Act** — Removes regulatory barriers to reduce waste and lower food costs.
- **Prescription Drug Transparency and Affordability Act** — Requires drug pricing disclosures and penalties to improve accountability and reduce costs.
- **FARMLAND Act** — Strengthens national security by requiring reviews of foreign land acquisitions.
- **Social Security Overpayment Relief Act** — Limits the timeframe for recouping Social Security overpayments caused by administrative errors.
- **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2025** — Provides increased funding for environmental conservation and clean-up.

- **American Family Act** — Expands the Child Tax Credit, offering up to \$4,320 per child under 6 and \$3,600 for children 6–17.
- **Susan Muffley Act of 2025** — Restores pensions for over 21,000 Delphi salaried retirees, including 5,800 in Michigan.

Defending access to local services

In early March, McDonald Rivet responded to a federal property disposal list that included the Saginaw Social Security office. The listing was quickly removed, but no explanation was provided. In a letter to the administration, she wrote: "This threatened closure would create barriers for my constituents, limiting their access to timely and easily accessible support for their benefits."

She later raised the issue during a congressional hearing on attacks against the Social Security system, calling attention to the importance of maintaining in-person services for vulnerable populations.

Challenging policy proposals with local consequences

McDonald Rivet has also opposed actions she believes would negatively impact Michigan families, including:

- **Head Start and education funding freezes** — In response to federal funding delays, she met with providers and held a press conference in Flint, pledging to defend early education programs.
- **Threats to eliminate the Department of Education** — She warned of possible impacts on after-school programs, classroom resources, and local tax burdens.

- **Proposed SNAP cuts** — She criticized a \$230 billion cut to food assistance programs during a committee hearing, calling attention to its potential effect on children and low-income families.
- **Tariff increases** — She joined colleagues in opposing broad tariffs that could raise consumer costs and threaten key industries.
- **Restrictions on reproductive health access** — She co-sponsored legislation and sent a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services opposing funding cuts to family planning services.

Committee and leadership roles

McDonald Rivet was appointed to two key House committees:

- **Agriculture** — Advocating for Michigan's rural communities and protecting programs like SNAP.
- **Transportation and infrastructure** — Addressing roads, bridges, public transit, and water systems.

She was also elected by her peers as Freshman Leadership Representative to the New Democrat Coalition, a centrist group committed to bipartisan policy-making. Her participation in caucuses and task forces includes the PFAS Task Force, Labor Caucus, Lead Caucus, Bipartisan Great Lakes Task Force, and Mamas' Caucus.

More information and a copy of the full 100-day report are available on Congresswoman McDonald Rivet's official website.

HEALTH

April marks National Minority Health Month



PREGNANT WOMAN (FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

Each April, communities across the nation observe National Minority Health Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about the health disparities that continue to impact racial and ethnic minority populations—and to promote actions that advance health equity for all.

First established in 1915 as National Negro Health Week by Dr. Booker T. Washington, the observance evolved into a national month of recognition in 2002 under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Today, it serves as a platform to highlight both the progress made and the persistent barriers many

communities face when it comes to accessing quality health care.

In 2025, the theme “Be the Source for Better Health” encourages individuals, health organizations, and policymakers to serve as trusted sources of accurate health information, while advocating for solutions that are culturally and linguistically responsive. From preventive screenings and chronic disease management to mental health care and maternal health services, National Minority Health Month aims to empower communities to take action toward better health outcomes.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Black, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native, and

Asian American communities continue to experience higher rates of diabetes, heart disease, infant mortality, and certain cancers compared to their white counterparts. These disparities are often linked to broader social determinants of health—including income, education, housing, food access, and systemic discrimination.

Local organizations, health centers, and advocacy groups often mark the month with educational events, mobile health clinics, free screenings, and community forums designed to connect residents with vital resources. The observance also provides a moment for health professionals and community leaders to re-evaluate policies, outreach strat-

egies, and funding priorities that could close the equity gap.

As the country continues to navigate both the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and longstanding issues in health care access, National Minority Health Month is a timely reminder that improving health outcomes for underserved populations is not just a medical challenge—it’s a matter of social justice.

For more information on local events or health resources during National Minority Health Month, residents are encouraged to visit minorityhealth.hhs.gov or contact regional health departments and community-based health organizations.

HEALTH

MyMichigan Health hosts annual cancer lecture with focus on breast cancer awareness and care

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND — As breast cancer continues to be one of the most prevalent cancers affecting women in the United States, MyMichigan Health is bringing the conversation to the forefront through its annual Elsa U. Pardee Foundation Memorial Cancer Lecture. This year's event, titled "Breaking Down Breast Cancer: Genetics, Screening, Surgery & Recovery," will take place on Tuesday, April 29, at 11:30 a.m. at MyMichigan Medical Center Midland, 4000 Wellness Drive.

This free lunch-and-learn event will feature a panel of medical professionals offering insight

into the breast cancer journey, from detection and diagnosis to treatment and recovery. The discussion aims to equip attendees with critical information on current screening technologies, surgical options, genetic risk factors, and rehabilitative care.

Panelists include:

- Christopher Garces, M.D., F.A.C.S., Breast Surgeon
- Lindsay Zeeb, M.D., Diagnostic Radiologist
- Rebecca MacFalda, M.S., C.G.C., Licensed Genetic Counselor
- Jennifer Root, P.T., D.P.T., C.L.T.-L.A.N.A.,

Oncologic Physical Therapist

Together, the panel will provide a comprehensive look at breast cancer care, exploring the value of genetic testing, the impact of early screening through mammography, personalized surgical strategies, and the physical therapy essential to post-treatment recovery. The discussion is designed to benefit not only those currently facing breast cancer but also their families, caregivers, and anyone interested in preventative care.

According to national statistics, one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime, most often after

age 50. However, early detection significantly improves treatment outcomes. Events like this one play an important role in increasing community awareness and promoting proactive health practices.

Supported by the Elsa U. Pardee Foundation, which has long played a key role in developing MyMichigan's Oncology Services program, the lecture reflects an ongoing commitment to accessible and education-based cancer care in the region.

Space is limited, and registration is required. Lunch is provided to registered participants. To sign up, visit mymichigan.org/pardee or call (989) 837-9090.

WE TAKE CARING
FOR KIDS
VERY SERIOUSLY

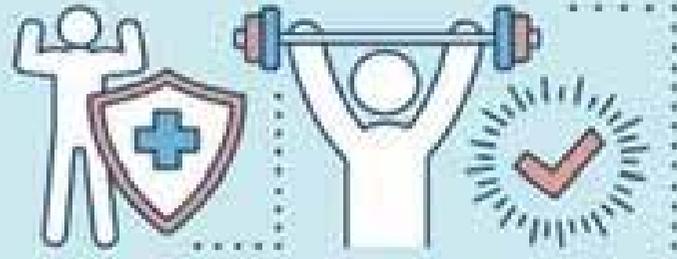
COVENANT
Children's
Hospital



How did Covenant HealthCare become the most preferred children's hospital? By making a serious commitment to your children's health, with:

- The region's only Pediatric Emergency Care Center
- The region's only Level III Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (RNICU)
- The region's only Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) north of Flint
- Our state-of-the-art Covenant Birth Center
- Inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services for children, including the Center for Autism, through Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation at Covenant HealthCare
- Our partnership with CMU College of Medicine Pediatric and Obstetrics & Gynecology Residency programs
- Specialty pediatric programs, including surgery, sleep medicine, diabetes, cardiology, and more
- Membership in the Children's Hospital Association

CovenantChildrensHospital.com



MAN UP FOR YOUR HEALTH

MEN'S HEALTH

THE ANNUAL **ALL MEN'S**
HEALTH

FAIR

SATURDAY,
JUNE 14, 2025

10AM - 2PM • HORIZONS CONFERENCE CENTER
6200 STATE ST., SAGINAW, MI 48603



THE ANNUAL **ALL MEN'S** **HEALTH FAIR**

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025 • 10AM - 2PM



HORIZONS 6200 State St.
Saginaw, MI 48603

Multiple FREE Health Screens Available!

PLUS:

Health & Wellness Activities

A Chance To Win An All Expense Paid Trip
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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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EDUCATION

Award-winning superintendent named co-director of Gerstacker Fellowship at SVSU



MATTHEW SCHMIDT (PHOTO COURTESY OF SVSU)

BY MB STAFF

UNIVERSITY CENTER — Saginaw Valley State University has appointed Dr. Matthew Schmidt, the 2025 Michigan Superintendent of the Year, as co-director of the Gerstacker Fellowship Program—an elite leadership initiative for educators across the state. Schmidt, who currently serves as superintendent of Bangor Township Schools, officially began his new role on April 1.

Schmidt will serve alongside Dr. James Tarr, dean of the College of Education at SVSU, to shape the program's strategic di-

rection, lead curriculum development, and coordinate domestic and international leadership experiences. Together, they will support the next cohort of Gerstacker fellows—educators identified for their leadership potential and dedication to improving K-12 education in Michigan.

“We are thrilled to have Dr. Matt Schmidt as co-director of the Gerstacker Fellowship Program,” said Tarr. “He brings a wealth of experience and is himself a product of the program. His insight and leadership will be instrumental in guiding this initiative to new heights.”

Schmidt completed the Gerstacker Fellowship in 2010 and

has since built an impressive career marked by student-centered innovation and community engagement. Under his leadership, Bangor Township Schools expanded career and technical education offerings, passed a \$33 million bond for facility upgrades, and implemented global education practices drawn from systems in China, Japan, Taiwan, Italy, and Finland.

A strong advocate for education both in and outside the classroom, Schmidt holds a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Michigan-Flint and an education specialist degree from SVSU. He also serves on the boards of the Bay Area Chamber

of Commerce and the Bay Area Community Foundation.

The Gerstacker Fellowship Program was launched in 2005 with support from the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation. Its mission is to develop high-impact educational leaders who are equipped to raise the quality of K-12 education across Michigan. Each year, the program selects a small cohort of accomplished teachers and administrators for a rigorous experience that includes seminars, community leadership engagement, and international study.

To learn more about the Gerstacker Fellowship Program, visit www.svsu.edu.

EDUCATION

Ease peer pressure, reduce conflict

Councilman suggests student school uniforms

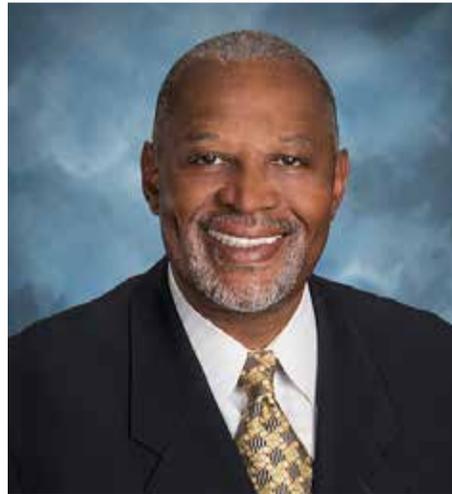
BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — A proposal for student uniforms in city schools comes not from a Board of Education trustee, but from a City Council member.

Michael Balls offered the suggestion during the council's April 7 session, and said he will take it to a liaison group of school, city and county officials for a meeting at 5:30 p.m. on April 17 at Board of Education headquarters, 550 Millard at South Warren.

Since his election in 2013, a top goal for Balls has been to keep children and teens on focused paths, as opposed to misbehavior and crime. He often speaks of his personal experiences as a mentor.

For school uniforms, he explained, "I know a lot of kids who 'don't have' and they feel like they



COUNCILMAN MICHAEL BALLS

are 'less than,' and I know kids who 'do have' and who feel they are 'better than' the other kids, and this causes a lot of conflict." His proposal begins at 42:38 on the YouTube meeting video.

A top challenge, of course, is that public schools cannot require uniforms in the same man-

ner as private religious parochials or, to a lesser extent, public charter academies

This marks the first time in more than a decade that the question of uniforms has been raised in Saginaw. During the 1980s and '90s, Salina Elementary under Carl Maple and then Morley under Charles McNair attempted voluntary dress codes. Longfellow, with Louis Skipper at the helm, ventured into both uniforms and same-sex classes.

All three, now closed, gained substantial parent support but not the clearcut backing that is needed, similar to the postmillennium scenario under Gerald Dawkins, superintendent most of the new century's first decade, for a districtwide attempt at elementary uniforms. The startup targets had been 80 percent participation, with research that in-

dicated nearly all others would follow at that point, but compliance fell short of the initial four-fifths standard.

Peer pressure for pricey attire at that time had taken root primarily with Michael Jordan and Spike Lee teaming for promotion of Nike tennis shoes, now known as athletic footwear. Other iconic items have included Guess jeans and "triple fat" nylon winter coats insulated with goose feathers. A few parents attempted to sew brand name logos onto department store jeans like Sears Toughskins.

A web search found basic black uni shoes in the \$15 range, with pants and skirts around \$10 apiece and tops a few dollars less. These would be pre-tariffs prices. Much of the clothing is in five-packs, assuming a family does laundry once a week.

State board opposes proposal to shift superintendent hiring power to Michigan governor

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — A proposed constitutional amendment that would transfer the power to hire Michigan's state superintendent from the State Board of Education to the governor has drawn formal opposition from the board itself. In a 7-0 vote, the board passed a resolution rejecting House Joint Resolution E, citing concerns over long-term stability, separation of powers, and the potential politicization of education policy.

The proposal, introduced by state lawmakers, would require a two-thirds majority in both chambers of the legislature be-

fore being placed on the ballot for voter approval. If passed, the amendment would appear on the November 2026 general election ballot, coinciding with Michigan's next gubernatorial election. The change would take effect January 1, 2027, aligning with the end of Governor Gretchen Whitmer's second and final term.

Supporters of the resolution argue that maintaining the current structure—where an independently elected board hires the superintendent—ensures a more education-focused and nonpartisan approach to statewide education leadership.

According to the board's resolution, one key concern is that

transferring the hiring authority to the governor could lead to frequent shifts in education policy based on the political priorities of each new administration. In contrast, board members, who serve staggered eight-year terms, offer longer-term continuity and are less influenced by short-term political cycles.

The board also expressed concern that placing the hiring process in the hands of a governor could result in education policies aimed more at short-term political gain rather than sustainable improvements for students and schools.

Under the Michigan Constitution of 1963, the State Board of

Education was intentionally designed as a separate, elected body to provide consistent oversight of public education policy. Board members argue that disrupting this structure would weaken public accountability and concentrate too much authority within the executive branch.

While the proposal remains under legislative consideration, the board's opposition signals a broader debate about the future of education governance in Michigan. If House Joint Resolution E advances, voters across the state will ultimately decide whether to reshape the balance of power in public education leadership.



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Kettering University and Lockwood STEM Center partner to expand STEM opportunities for students

BY MB STAFF

HEMLOCK — In a strategic move to enhance STEM education throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region, Kettering University and the Lockwood STEM Center have signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The partnership is designed to increase access, elevate learning experiences, and create career pathways for students in Lockwood-affiliated school districts including Hemlock, Merrill, Swan Valley, St. Charles, and Freeland.

“This partnership represents a significant step forward in providing our students with access to exceptional STEM education and career opportunities,” said Dr. Don Killingbeck, Hemlock Public School District Superintendent. “Kettering University’s renowned programs and our students’ passion for innovation create a powerful combination that will benefit both institutions and, most importantly, the future of our students.”

The formal agreement outlines a collaborative approach to academic programming, scholarships, and outreach that aligns with both institutions’ missions to foster innovation and support student success in high-demand fields.

Highlights of the partnership

- **Kettering University scholarship** - An annual \$25,000 renewable scholarship will be available for eligible first-year students from Lockwood-connected schools. Students must meet criteria related to academic performance, conduct, and enrollment.



LOCKWOOD STEM CENTER

Kettering will provide an annual list of applicants, and Lockwood will verify program participation.

- **STEM learning and outreach** - The institutions will co-host interactive panels, campus visits, and other STEM-focused activities to increase visibility and excitement around science and engineering careers.
- **Educational access and equity** - Lockwood will promote Kettering’s pre-college and recruitment programs and work with students to ensure equitable access to opportunities that align with their goals.
- **Future-focused innovation** - The

MOU includes a shared commitment to explore and develop new programs that keep pace with changing educational and industry landscapes.

Matt Wesener, President of the Hemlock Board of Education, expressed strong support for the collaboration. “The Board of Education is committed to fostering collaborations that empower our students to achieve their full potential. This MOU with Kettering University aligns perfectly with that vision, creating pathways for academic advancement and workforce readiness in high-demand fields. We are excited about the possibilities this partnership unlocks.”

Dana Lockwood, Student Champion and STEM Advocate,

emphasized the deeper purpose behind the initiative. “This collaboration is about more than just scholarships,” she said. “It’s about igniting a passion for STEM, connecting students with mentors and role models, and creating a community where innovation thrives. We believe this MOU will inspire the next generation of engineers, scientists, and problem-solvers.”

The partnership reflects a shared investment in preparing students for future careers through hands-on learning, academic support, and access to higher education. By combining resources and expertise, Kettering University and the Lockwood STEM Center aim to strengthen the region’s talent pipeline and inspire lifelong engagement in STEM fields.

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

“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

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Dow Credit Union expands statewide membership



DOW CREDIT UNION MIDLAND BRANCH

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND — In a move designed to promote greater financial inclusion and affordability, Dow Credit Union has announced two major changes: opening membership eligibility to all Michigan residents and eliminating non-sufficient funds (NSF) fees, effective Tuesday, April 1, 2025. The update comes as part of a broader effort by the credit union to make member-owned banking more accessible and equitable for individuals and families across the state.

Following Board approval, the credit union updated its charter to allow any Michigan resident to become a member. Pre-

viously, membership was limited by geographic or employment-based eligibility. Now, under the new statewide charter, joining is as simple as depositing \$5 into a Prime Savings Account. For those living outside of Michigan, membership is still available with a \$10 donation to the credit union's Multipliers for Good fund, which supports nonprofit grants and community initiatives.

"Financial well-being should be accessible to everyone—and this move ensures more people can experience the exceptional value Dow Credit Union provides," said Michael Goad, CEO of Dow Credit Union. "Our focus is on delivering value—not fees. We offer great rates, low costs, and a true sense of ownership that tra-

ditional banks can't match."

The elimination of NSF fees, which were previously charged when an account lacked the funds to cover a transaction, reflects a growing trend among financial institutions to reduce or remove penalties that disproportionately affect lower-income members. Dow Credit Union's decision aligns with its broader mission to create a transparent and supportive banking environment that places people before profit.

These changes build on the credit union's growing reputation for innovation and service. With more than 80,000 members nationwide, Dow Credit Union is the largest and fastest-growing credit union headquar-

tered in the Great Lakes Bay Region. Earlier this year, it was recognized as one of America's Best Regional Banks and Credit Unions for 2025 by Newsweek, an honor that followed the return of \$18.6 million to members in 2024 through its Member Give-back Program.

"This expansion reflects our deep commitment to improving the lives of our members, employees, and neighbors," Goad added. "Whether you're in Michigan or across the country, Dow Credit Union invites you to experience what banking can be when it puts people first."

For more information or to become a member, visit www.dowcreditunion.org.

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FAITH IN FOCUS



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

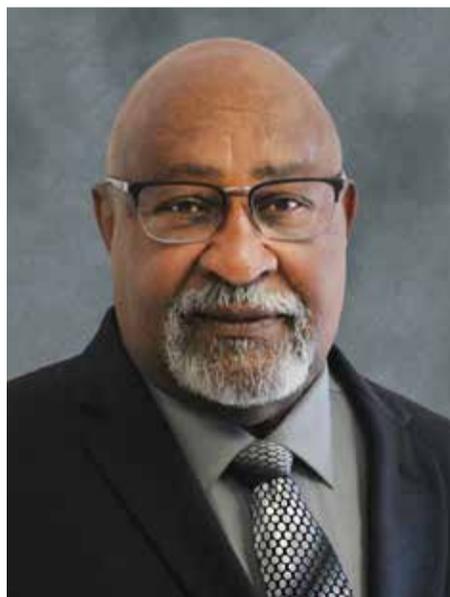
Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

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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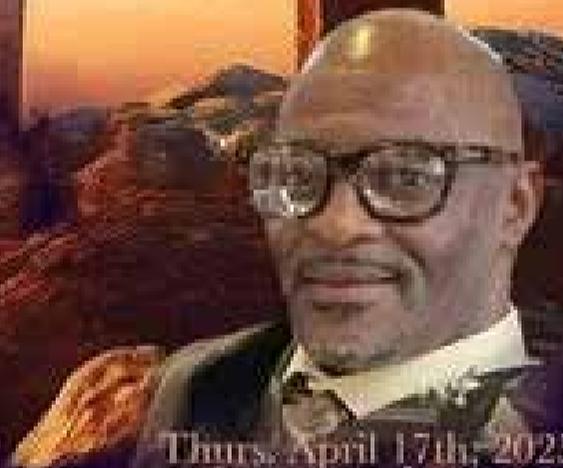
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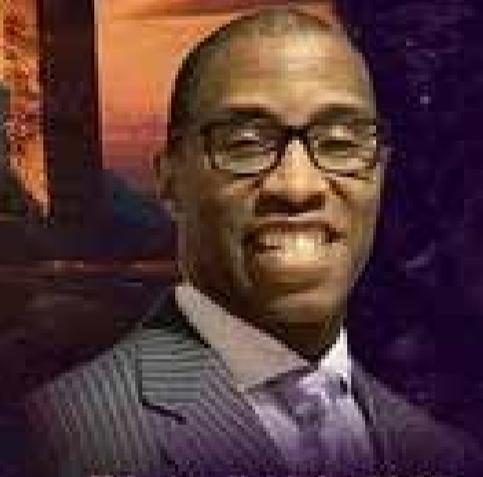
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Fri. April 18th, 2025
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FAITH IN FOCUS

SERMONETTE SERIES

Forgive So You Can Be Forgiven

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Matthew 6:14 -15 NKJV



BY MINISTER CAROLYN CARTER
TOWNSEL

Throughout our lifetime there have been numerous occasions where we have without a doubt, misused, abused, and or done someone wrong and we greatly wanted to be forgiven. Often the person that we need forgiveness from is ourselves. On the flip side of that is the fact that someone who misused, abused, or have done us wrong and stands in

need of our forgiveness. Without any strings attached as Christians, we must genuinely offer it unconditionally. Is it easy? No, but it is do-able.

In the beginning of verse 14, we find the term "for" which connects these verses to the Lord's Prayer, where Jesus explains in Matthew 6:12, **"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors"** consequently forgiveness is conditional. It is God's character of love and justice that will not grant Him to indulge in sin and provide a permit to the passions of a man's unforgiving spirit. He can only forgive where mercy and compassion of forgiveness can be found.

In these verses of Scriptures, there is the promise to forgive

and be forgiven (v14). The Greek word for "trespass" is paraptoma meaning to stumble; to fall; to slip; to blunder; to deviate from righteousness and truth. As Believers there is none among us who keep God's commandments perfectly, Romans 3:23 declares, **"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."** Therefore, we all stumble, fall, slip, and blunder therefore needing God's forgiveness. Just as there is a promise, there is a warning, the refusal to forgive other people and be unforgiven (v.15). The Christian that holds unforgiveness in his or her heart but prays for forgiveness is a hypocrite. He or she is asking God to forgive them from their sins and are unwilling to forgive the sins of others. The warning is severe,

to walk in the spirit of unforgiveness opens the door, for Satan to have the legal right to pester and harass. Feelings against others is like a cancer that cause inward disturbances, that can manifest physical, mental torment, and emotional conditions.

Remember that God commands us to forgive, and He only commands the best. To forgive is a gift you give yourself, when you refuse to forgive others, it does not hurt them it hurts you. So, you must make a conscience decision to forgive. The benefits of forgiveness include blessings, freedom, physical and mental health. It also starts us on the road to healing and living in the present. Beloved, be quick to **"Forgive So You Can Be Forgiven."**

CHURCH DIRECTORY



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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1401 Janes Ave.
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New Beginnings Ministries

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Saginaw, MI 48601
newlife3881@gmail.com



Saint Paul Baptist Church

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stpaul2@yahoo.com



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Bishop Larry D. Camel
3121 Sheridan
Saginaw, Michigan
989-327-1755



Victorious Belivers Ministries Church

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



Jacob's Ladder

Pastor Dennis Barlow
1926 Fairfield Street
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-799-6601



New Covenant Christian Center

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



Anointed Temple ministries

Bishop Tim D. Holden, Sr.
612 Millard St.
Saginaw, MI 48607
901 Melbourne
Detroit, MI 48211



List your church in The Michigan Banner Church Directory

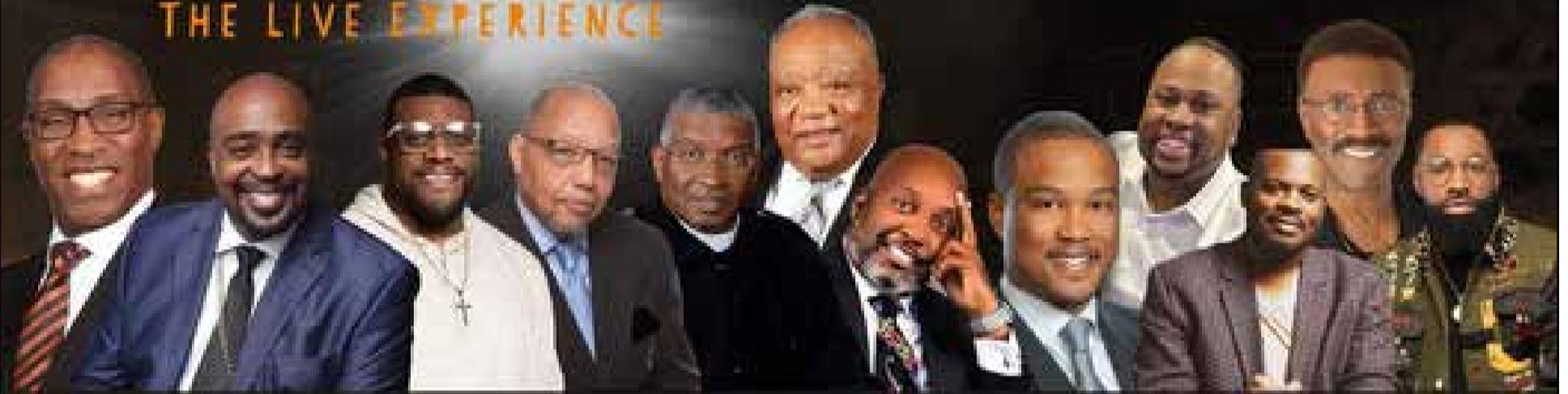
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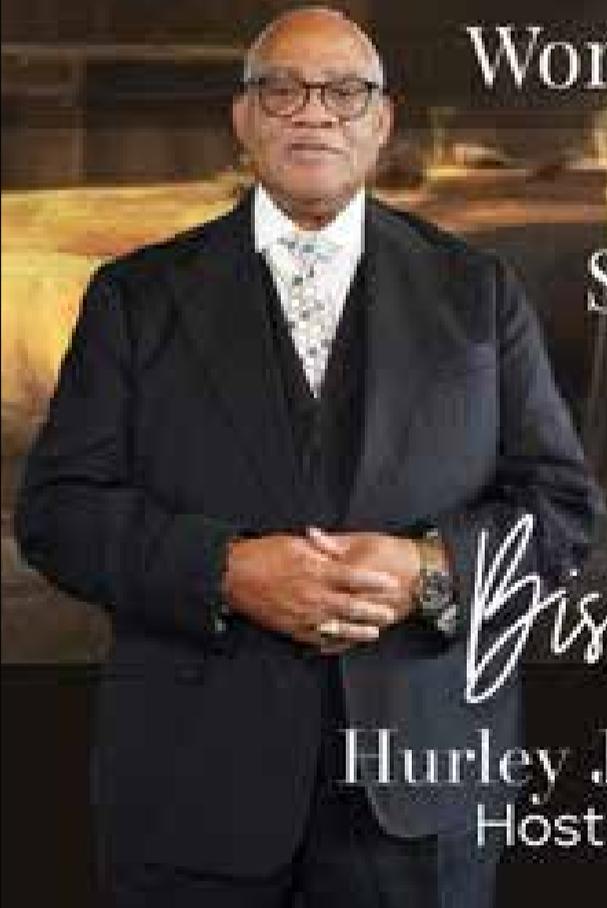
THE LIVE EXPERIENCE



THURSDAY APRIL 17, 2025

World Outreach Campus @7:00pm

2405 Bay Road
Saginaw, MI 48602



Bishop

Hurley J. Coleman Jr.
Host Pastor



FAITH IN FOCUS

More than eggs and lilies: Rediscovering the deeper meaning of Easter



CROSS (FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

As pastel baskets fill store shelves and front lawns bloom with colorful eggs, Easter arrives with its familiar charm—chocolate bunnies, sunrise brunches, and children racing through yards in search of hidden treasures. But behind the seasonal festivities lies a story far older, deeper, and more transformative than any modern tradition might suggest.

At its heart, Easter is a story of hope born from heartbreak, rooted in one of the most significant moments in Christian scripture: the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

According to the New Tes-

tament, Jesus of Nazareth was crucified by Roman authorities, buried in a borrowed tomb, and on the third day—what we now call Easter Sunday—he rose from the dead. For Christians, this event isn't just the end of a tragic story; it is the turning point of all history.

“He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.”

— Matthew 28:6

This verse, spoken by an angel at the empty tomb, is often read aloud during Easter services. It is a proclamation that death doesn't get the final word—that life, even in its most broken state,

can be restored.

While many associate Easter with spring's arrival and the promise of new life, the biblical narrative offers a much more profound perspective: resurrection after ruin, forgiveness in the face of failure, and victory over despair.

Churches across the Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond will gather for Good Friday services to reflect on the crucifixion, followed by joyful Easter celebrations on Sunday morning. Hymns will rise, lilies will bloom on sanctuaries' altars, and the message will echo across pulpits and pews: the tomb is empty.

But Easter isn't just a moment for believers to rejoice; it's an invitation for all to consider

what resurrection means today. In a world still marred by injustice, war, and division, Easter dares to suggest that light still breaks through darkness.

Some see it as a personal call to renewal. Others find strength in the communal hope that healing—no matter how unlikely—is always possible.

So while the egg hunts and dinners bring people together in joyful tradition, many will also pause this Sunday to reflect on a different kind of celebration: one not found in a basket or beneath a tree, but in an ancient promise made real through an empty grave.

And in that quiet, sacred truth, Easter lives on.

**NEW BIRTH BAPTIST
CHURCH CATHEDRAL
PRESENTS
GOOD FRIDAY**



**Bishop
Larry
Camel**

MY GOD, MY, GOD
WHY HAVE THOU FORSAKEN ME



**Rev. Steven
Gaddy**



**Rev. Sharlotte
Coleman**

TODAY YOU WILL
BE WITH ME IN PARADISE

**SEVEN LAST
WORDS**



**Rev. Sterling
Brooks**

FATHER, FORGIVE THEM

FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS
I COMMEND MY SPIRIT



**Rev. Regina
Lindsay**



**Evangelist
Alga
Jones**

WOMAN,
BEHOLD YOUR SON

I THIRST



**Evangelist
Donna O'Neal**



**Rev. Effie
Allen**

IT IS FINISHED

**And Jesus Gave Up The Ghost
And Said! It ils Finished!
3121 Sheridan Ave. Saginaw
Michigan, 48601**

**April 18, 2025
5:00pm**

FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Fundraising starts with the family



BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Part One of a two-part series

With family reunion season just around the corner, it's not too late to build a fundraising program into your reunion activities. Take time to build a family safety net, generational wealth, and a culture of philanthropy.



FILE PHOTO

As you create plans for your family reunion, we encourage you to include time to talk about the power of money. While some feel uncomfortable talking about money, we encourage you to talk about money proactively – for the good of individual families and the family as a whole. Consider inviting a financial counselor, an attorney, or a fundraising consultant to join you in a conversation that is designed for your family. There's so much that a family-centered consciousness of money and its power can bring to life.

In the past many of us had a culture of fundraising within our families. We didn't call it that, but it sure was evident. We helped siblings or nieces with their education; we made sure we had groceries, and that our neighbors did too. We pooled our resources to ensure that those under our

roof were cared for and that our extended family and neighbors were as well. We did it before and we can do it again. Yes, even though times may be "uncertain" or "tight." It starts with awareness and manifests with actions and behaviors. To help the younger family members, those of us who are older can share our experiences, and speak openly of how we have managed, and not managed our money. We can talk about saving, building that "six months of savings" promoted by financial advisors. We can ask – politely – how much younger folk spend on sneakers and eating out and suggest there might be another way. We can talk about supporting each other – and paying each other back – building trust and reciprocity in the process.

Older folks can also do more than talk. They can learn about preparing for the costs of health

care as they age, funerals, and burials. Are you going to let "other people" deal with these important issues? Can your daughter reduce her hours at work to care for you? Is that fair to her future financial health? Can family members ease the burden? And what do we know about what happens to our resources when we pass? Every state has a plan for you – but do you have a plan for what you want to happen? Who will get the money in your bank account, your retirement

savings? How long will it take for them to access it? Who will get your house if you own one? While it can be uncomfortable to consider, and harder to act, it's worth it! You can leave a legacy that can change the lives of the next generation.

We first have to learn to take care of ourselves, then our family and extended family. As we practice wise use of our resources, we can look at how we care for our community. And how we do so as a family. God protect America.



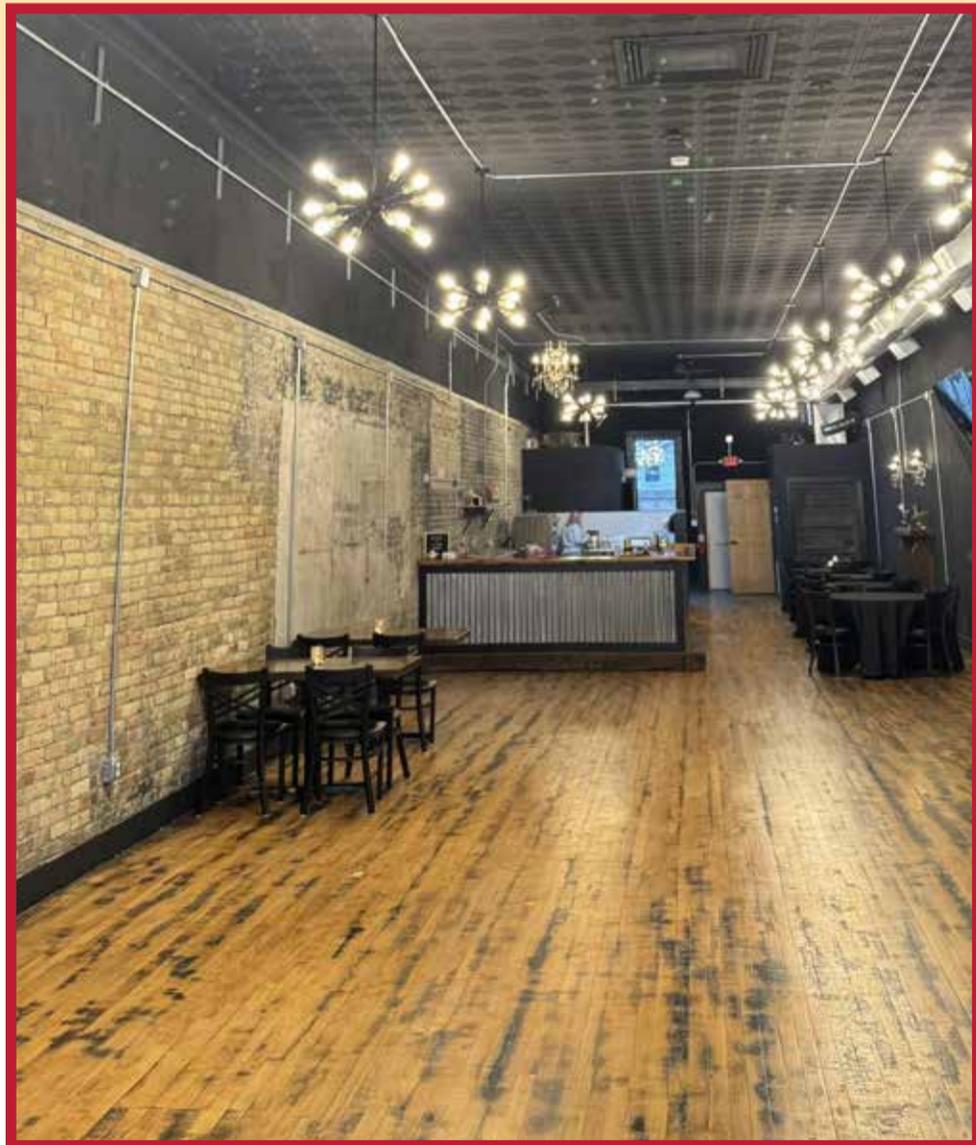
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Mel and Pearl Shaw are authors of four books on fundraising available on Amazon.com. For help growing your fundraising visit www.saadandshaw.com or call (901) 522-8727.



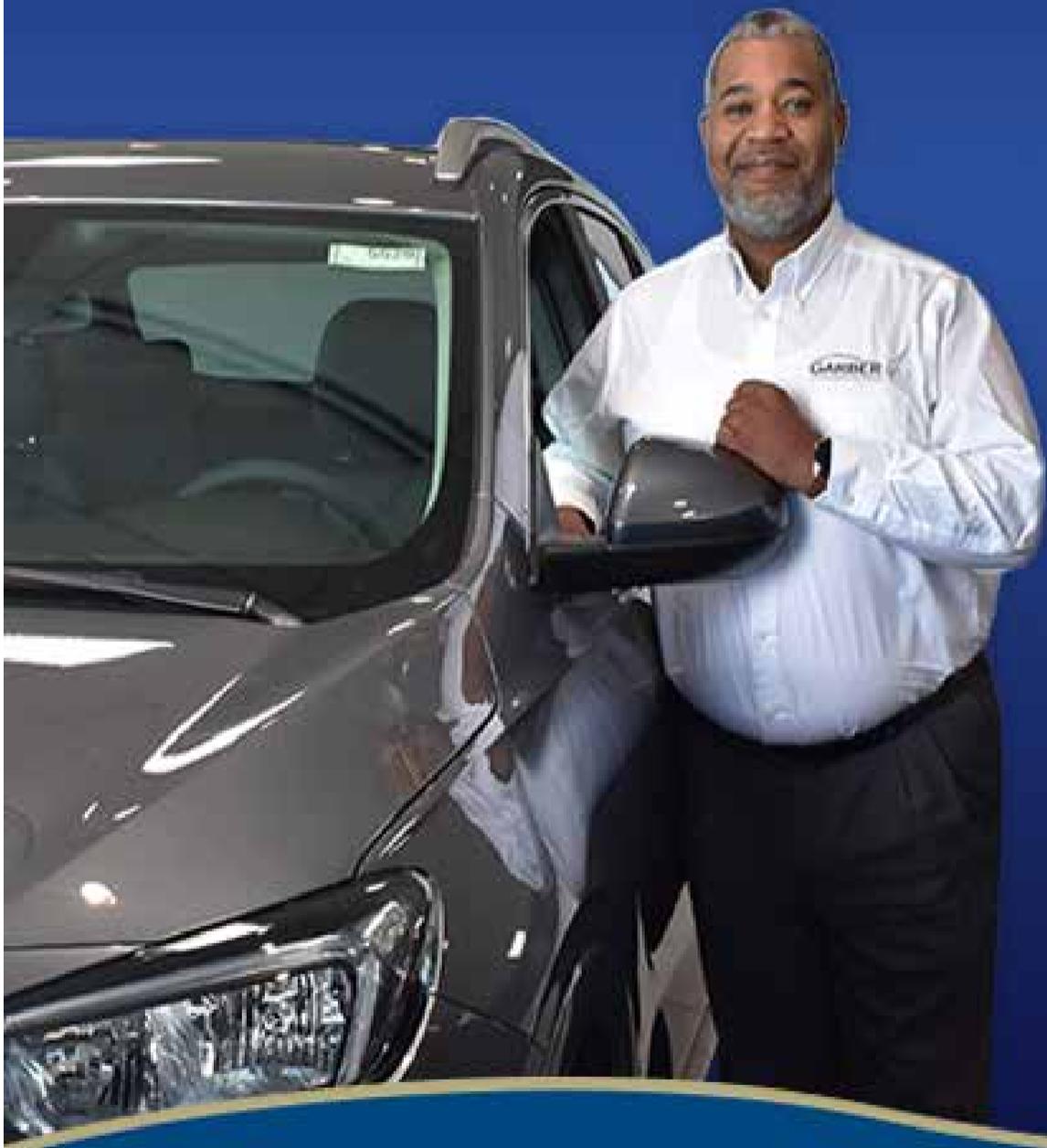
PICS OF THE WEEK

Old Town Wonder, a versatile event space in Historic Old Town Saginaw, held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, April 15. The unique rental venue is located at 122 S. Michigan Ave. 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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