



PICS OF THE WEEK
Students from Tokushima
High School visit Saginaw

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Uncertainty lingers over Saginaw's Medical Diamond Project

BUSINESS, PG 40

MBS Airport awarded \$4.6 million for final taxiway upgrades



THE VITITO FELLOWS VISITED DR. FRANK AMOAKOHENE, THE ASHANTI REGIONAL MINISTER OF GHANA. (PHOTO COURTESY OF SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY)

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

FREELAND — MBS International Airport will receive \$4.6 million in federal funding to complete the final phase of a major taxiway rehabilitation project, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced this week.

The grant, awarded through the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program, will fund the reconstruction of roughly

6,400 feet of Taxiway A, including new pavement, updated lighting and modernized signage to enhance safety and efficiency.

Congresswoman Kristen McDonald Rivet praised the investment, calling the improvements critical to both safety and the economic future of the Great Lakes Bay Region.

"Upgrading our airport infrastructure is key to supporting regional growth and ensuring passengers and carriers can rely on safe, modern facilities,"

McDonald Rivet said.

Airport Director James Canders said the project represents the final stage of the taxiway overhaul, which has been underway in phases for several years.

"This is the last piece of the puzzle," Canders said. "Completing this work will allow us to maintain safe, efficient operations well into the future."

Additional details about the project and the Airport Improvement Program are available at mbsairport.org.



SVSU rider earns national recognition in collegiate equestrian championship

YOUTH BANNER, COVER



Top musician at African Fest will take the stage twice

COMMUNITY, PG 14



Second Dem enlists in state Senate campaign

COMMUNITY, PG 26

Nate Bargatze shatters Dow Event Center attendance record

SAGINAW — Comedian Nate Bargatze has set a new milestone at the Dow Event Center, drawing the largest single-show audience in the venue's history.

Bargatze's arena debut in Saginaw sold 6,609 tickets, surpassing the previous record of 6,307 set by Michigan music icon Bob Seger in 2019.

"This was a milestone night for our team and the region," said Kevin Murphy, general manager of the Dow Event Center. "To see a comedian command that level of turnout speaks to Nate's impact and the community's enthusiasm for live entertainment."

Bargatze, who had previously performed in the center's theater, drew the record crowd as part of his 2025 "Big Dumb Eyes" World Tour, which has broken attendance records at major arenas across the country.

The show's success underscores the Dow Event Center's growing reputation as a top stop for major tours. In recent years, the Saginaw venue has hosted a string of sold-out performances, bolstering the region's profile as a destination for high-caliber live entertainment.

Event officials say they are looking forward to continuing that momentum with more marquee shows in the months ahead.



THIS DAY IN
MICHIGAN HISTORY

AUGUST 1, 1911

HARRIET QUIMBY

On August 1, 1911, Harriet Quimby of Kinderhook Township, Michigan, became the first woman in the United States to receive a pilot's license and in 1912 the first woman to fly solo across the English Channel.

MICHIGAN BANNER

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MISSION

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

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 7 • NUMBER 15



SVSU rider earns national recognition in collegiate equestrian championship

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

Morgan TerBush had only just met her horse when she guided it to a sixth-place finish at the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association National Championship in May, representing Saginaw Valley State University on the national stage.

The Clio native, a cell biology, molecular biology and biomedical sciences major, competed in the Beginner Western Horsemanship event against some of the top collegiate riders in the country. TerBush advanced to nationals following a standout season, highlighted by a second-place finish at the regional competition in Midland and a fourth-place result at the semi-finals in Galva, Ill.

"It felt amazing to represent SVSU at the national level, coming from a small university and making it that far and competing against these large universities from all over the country," TerBush said.

As part of the championship format, riders are assigned horses at random. "You never know what horse you are going to ride until the draw," she said.

TerBush began riding as a child and has been involved in equestrian for more than 10 years. She joined SVSU's club equestrian team as a sophomore transfer student.

"I am very thankful I did. I met the most welcoming and supportive team and coaches," she said. "My teammates are very encouraging and will push you to do your best."

For more on the SVSU equestrian team, visit svsu.edu/campusrecreation/clubsports/equestrian-stock.



MEGAN TERBUSH, OF CLIO, RAISES HER SIXTH-PLACE RIBBON FROM THE INTERCOLLEGIATE HORSE SHOWS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. (COURTESY OF SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY)

Hey Class of 2026: Your senior year is finally here!



FILE PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

DETROIT — Hey, seniors! Can you believe it? The last first day of high school is almost here. The hallways you've walked for three years will soon feel a little different. This is your year — the one filled with last firsts, countdowns to graduation, and all the memories you're about to make.

Senior year is like a playlist of mixed emotions. One track is pure excitement — pep rallies, football games under the lights, and finally being at the top of the school food chain. The next track is a little nostalgic — realizing this is the last homecoming, the last time you hang out in the cafeteria with your friends, the last time you're sprinting to beat the tardy bell.

Some of you are already

dreaming about what's next — college apps, scholarships, maybe even a gap year or jumping into a career. But here's the thing: don't rush through this year. Take a deep breath and live in the moment. Go to the games. Take the pictures. Decorate that senior parking spot. Start the TikTok trends that'll have underclassmen wishing they were you.

Sure, senior year has its stressful moments — college essays, ACT scores, figuring out what you're supposed to do with the rest of your life. But between the late-night study sessions and the endless "What's your plan after graduation?" questions, make sure you're laughing with your friends and making the memories you'll actually tell stories about one day.

To help you make the most of it, here's a Top 10 Things to Do

Before Graduation list:

1. Go to every big game — Football, basketball, soccer... show your school spirit.
2. Take a photo tour — Snap pictures in your favorite spots around school.
3. Join one last activity — A club, team, or event you've never tried.
4. Say yes to senior traditions — Spirit Week, homecoming, powderpuff, prom.
5. Write a thank-you note — To a teacher or staff member who inspired you.
6. Plan a senior sunrise/sunset — Watch the day begin or end with your class.
7. Make a time capsule —

A letter to yourself or keepsakes from senior year.

8. Go all out for your parking spot — Or at least pose in someone else's.
9. Create a senior playlist — Songs that will take you back years from now.
10. Soak up the moments — The little things matter more than you realize.

This is your victory lap, your highlight reel, your season finale. So walk through those doors with confidence, soak up every pep rally, and maybe even thank that teacher who believed in you when you didn't believe in yourself.

Because before you know it, you'll be tossing that cap in the air and realizing your high school story is officially a wrap — and the next adventure is waiting.



Parent Educational Program
PRESENTS



YOUTH

EMPOWERMENT ZONE

August 16, 2025

11AM - 2PM

Invite a Friend

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#Level Up #Gun Violence Prevention
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Register on Eventbrite



Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

Reset or retreat? Hispanic chamber tackles inclusion strategy amid changing DEI environment

BY MB STAFF

AUBURN HILLS — With diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs under increasing legal and political pressure, the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (MHCC) is inviting Latino business leaders and community stakeholders to a timely webinar.

Titled “Reset or Retreat? Reimagining the Business of Inclusion for 2025 and Beyond,” the event will be held at MHCC’s Auburn Hills office on Thursday, Aug. 14, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Featured speaker Robert L. Wilson, co-founder and chief strategy officer of Culture Shift Team, will discuss how organizations can adapt equitable practices while managing regulatory risk.

The session will address key themes such as adapting DEI strategies under scrutiny, balancing compliance with authentic inclusion, and maintaining momentum amid shifting political and legal pressures. Wilson’s insights are intended to help Michigan businesses navigate evolving workforce expectations and market demands.

Michigan’s Hispanic entrepreneurial community is experiencing rapid growth. Over the past five years, Hispanic self-employment in the state has surged by 43%, compared to just 8% growth among non-Hispanic businesses (Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce). The MHCC supports approximately 25,000 Hispanic-owned businesses statewide and nearly 500,000 Latino

MHCC Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce | Culture Shift Team

Reset or Retreat?

Reimagining the Business of Inclusion for 2025 and Beyond

With DEI programs facing federal and legal challenges, organizations are rethinking strategies amidst scrutiny and rollbacks. Evolving workforce expectations and market demands now ask: do we push forward or retreat?

Join Robert Lawrence Wilson of Culture Shift Team for insights and strategies to help leaders advance equity and belonging in today’s complex climate.

During this webinar we will explore:

- How organizations can adapt their strategies while mitigating legal risks.
- Ways to balance regulatory compliance with a genuine commitment to inclusion.
- Strategies for maintaining momentum in the face of shifting regulations and mounting political pressure.

Robert L. Wilson
Co-Founder and Chief Strategy Officer of Culture Shift Team

RESET OR RETREAT FLYER

consumers (Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce). Though Hispanic business ownership accounts for just over 3% of firms in Michigan, the sector plays an outsized role in economic vitality (Switch On Business).

National data also underscores the economic power of Hispanic entrepreneurship.

Across the U.S., Latino-owned businesses generate more than \$500 billion in revenue and employ over 3.4 million people overall (LLEAD, USHCC). The surge in start-ups—often by first-generation immigrants—is reshaping diverse service and food sector markets (Wall Street Journal).

“Reset or Retreat?” offers a unique opportunity for Hispanic business owners and community advocates to consider their DEI strategies in light of both opportunity and challenge. Attendance is free. More information is available through Laura Geftos at lgeftos@mhcc.org.

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



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Technology & Community Center

Summer Celebración

2 PM - 8 PM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2ND

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FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

2101 LEWIS ST. | FLINT, MI 48506

The poster features a vibrant tropical background with palm trees, a blue sky, and a sandy beach. At the bottom, there are illustrations of various Latin American musical instruments: a large djembe drum on the left, a bongo drum in the center, and a pair of conga drums on the right.

Grand Rapids Hispanic Festival brings three days of music, culture and community

BY MB STAFF

GRAND RAPIDS — The vibrant rhythms of Latin music and the flavors of Hispanic culture will fill Calder Plaza this weekend as the Grand Rapids Hispanic Festival returns Aug. 1-3, offering three days of entertainment, community activities and cultural celebration.

The annual festival, co-presented by the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan and Workforce, will feature free admission and a packed schedule of live performances, dance, and family-friendly activities.

Festivities kick off Friday at 6 p.m. with activities for all ages, followed by performances from Bengala, Grupo Fuerza de GR + ACS Girls from Las Creative Studio, and Yeison Landero. Rafael Kelly y Su Banda will close the first night with a performance from 10:15 to 11:45 p.m.

Saturday begins at noon with activities for families and a lineup of popular regional acts, including Money Mike, Jcpao & El BM, Famma D3, Cabildo, and Orquesta Ritmo Project. The evening will highlight performances by Siggno and Jaime y Los Chamacos, running until 11:45 p.m.

On Sunday, the festival continues with a celebration of traditional and contemporary Latin sounds, starting with Los Nuevos Cadetes de Linares at 1 p.m., followed by Mi Tumbao GR, Mexicuba, and Morro y Su Reunion, with music continuing until 6 p.m.

Organizers recommend that children under 10 not attend after 9 p.m. due to the size and energy of the late-night crowds.

The Grand Rapids Hispanic Festival has become a signature event for West Michigan's Latino community, drawing visitors from across the state to experience live music, authentic cuisine, and the cultural pride of Hispanic heritage.

For more information visit <https://hispanic-center.org/festival-hispano/>.

CO-PRESENTED BY
HISPANIC CENTER of Western Michigan | WORKFORCE

ENTRADA GRATIS | **FREE ADMISSION**

Grand Rapids Hispanic Festival

2025
AUGUST/AGOSTO 1-3
♀ CALDER PLAZA- GRAND RAPIDS, MI

FRIDAY VIERNES	SATURDAY SÁBADO	SUNDAY DOMINGO
6:00PM-7:00PM ACTIVITIES FOR ALL / ACTIVIDADES PARA TODOS	12:00PM-2:00PM ACTIVITIES FOR ALL / ACTIVIDADES PARA TODOS	1:00PM-2:30PM LOS NUEVOS CADETES DE LINARES
7:00PM-8:00PM BENGALA	2:00PM-3:00PM JCPACHO & EL BM	2:30PM-3:00PM MI TUMBAO GR
8:00PM-8:30PM GRUPO FUERZA DE GR + ACS GIRLS FROM ALAS CREATIVE STUDIO	3:30PM-4:30PM FAMMA D3.	3:00PM-4:00PM MEXICUBA
8:30PM-9:45PM YEISON LANDERO	5:00PM-6:00PM CABILDO	4:30PM-6:00PM MORRO Y SU REUNION
10:15PM-11:45PM RAFAEL KELLY Y SU BANDA	6:15PM-7:15PM ORQUESTA RITMO PROJECT	
	8:00PM-9:30PM SIGGNO	
	10:15PM-11:45PM JAIME Y LOS CHAMACOS	

NOT RECOMMENDED TO BRING CHILDREN UNDER 10 AFTER 9PM
NO SE RECOMIENDA TRAER A NIÑOS MENORES DE 10 AÑOS DESPUÉS DE LAS 9PM

RAFAEL KELLY Y SU BANDA | **JAIME Y LOS CHAMACOS** | **SIGGNO** | **MORRO Y SU REUNION** | **YEISON LANDERO**

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GRAND RAPIDS HISPANIC FESTIVAL FLYER

LATINO CAUCUS

Democratic Party of Saginaw

General Meeting



August 5th, 6:00-7:30 PM
413 Adams St Saginaw, MI 48602

Scan the code to RSVP
This event is open to all.
Refreshments will be provided

Let's unite our voices, push for progress, and stand strong for Latino representation in Saginaw!



Fiesta K?Onda! returns to downtown saginaw with three days of music, food and culture



5TH ANNUAL FIESTA K?ONDA! FLYER

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

SAGINAW — Morley Plaza will come alive with the sounds of Latin music, sizzling food, and vibrant cultural celebrations as the 5th Annual Fiesta K’Onda takes over downtown Saginaw Sept. 19-21.

The free three-day festival promises a full slate of live entertainment, family-friendly activities, and authentic Hispanic cuisine. Food and merchandise vendors, dance groups, contests, and a kids corner will provide something for everyone, making Fiesta K’Onda a major highlight of Saginaw’s fall events calendar.

Festivities kick off Fri-

day, Sept. 19, from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., featuring performances from artists including Mexicuba and Las Estrellas de Oro. Saturday’s events run from noon to 10 p.m., bringing a lineup of bands and DJs like Tropical Vibes, Los G-Versatiles, and Esto Suena La Cumbia to the stage.

On Sunday, Sept. 21, the celebration begins with a Unity Service from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by live music from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., featuring Conjunto Blindado and other regional favorites.

Fiesta K’Onda has become a showcase of Latino culture in the Great Lakes Bay Region, uniting the community with its mix of music, dance, and tradition.





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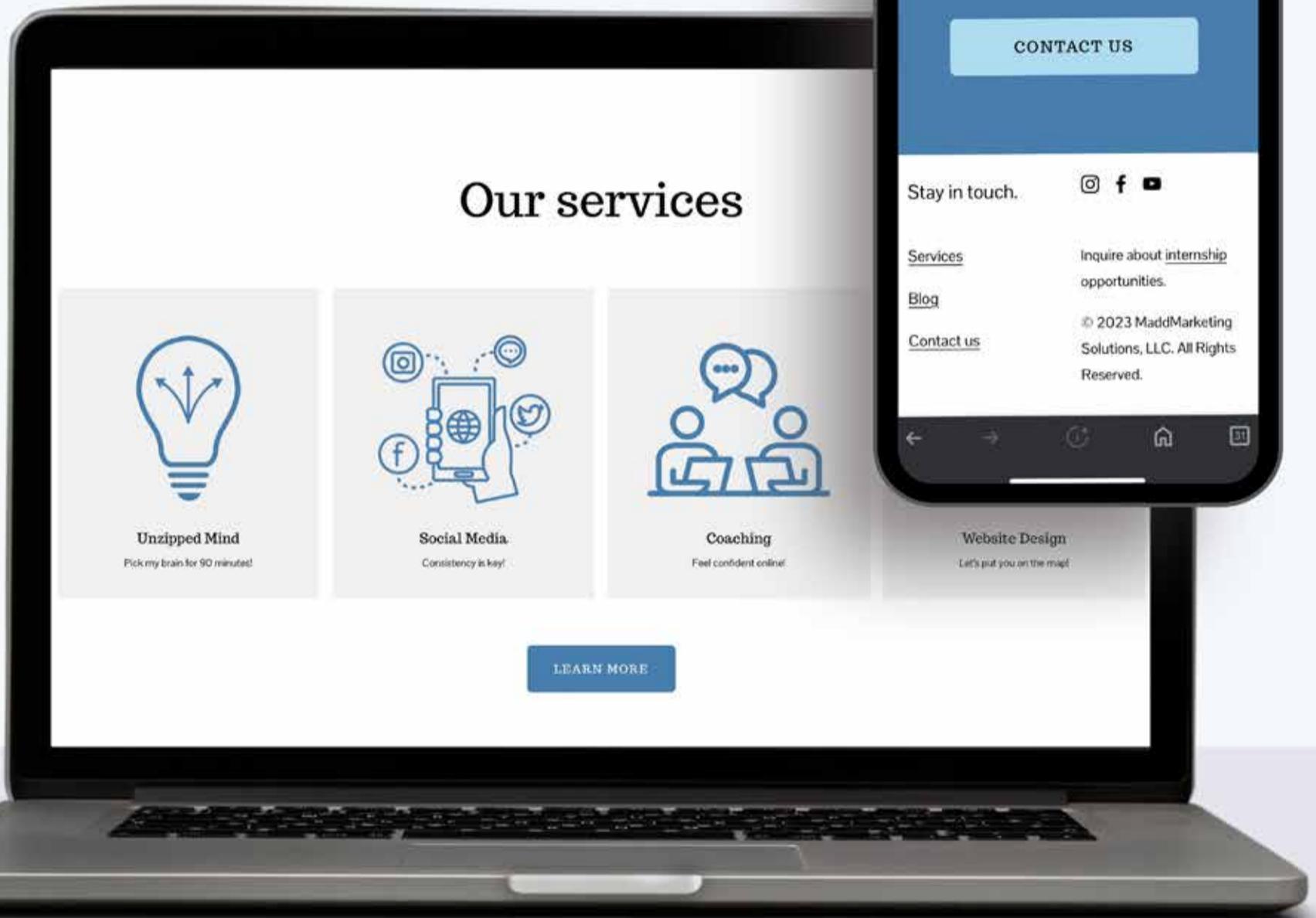
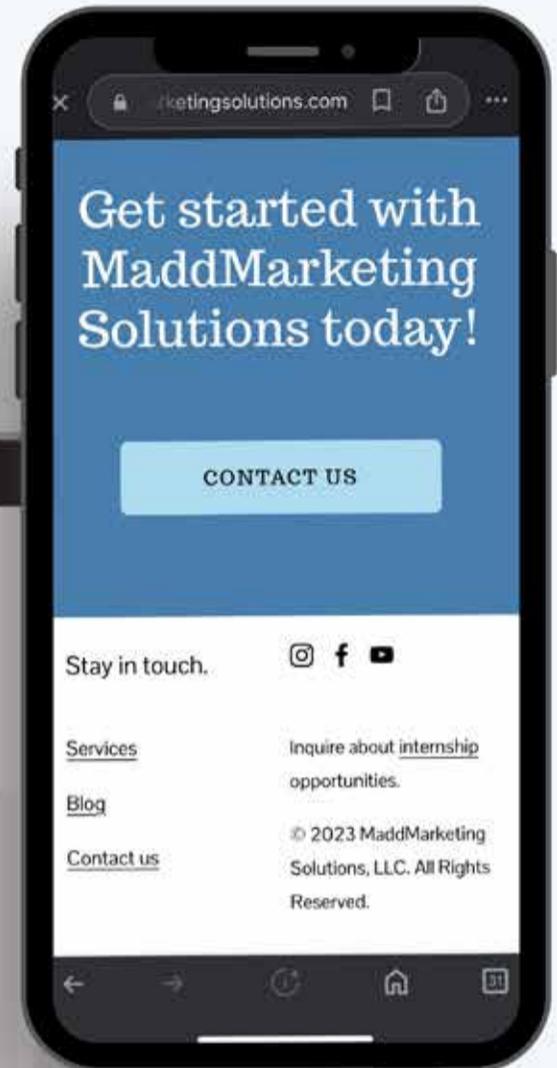


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COMMUNITY

Top musician at African Fest will take the stage twice

ANGIE STONE WITH BANDMATE MUSICIAN JAMES OWENS

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — James Owens will bring the spirit of Angie Stone back to the 57th annual African Cultural Festival.

She remains a festival legend after her 2018 performance, and she died early this year when her band's minivan was involved in a crash that followed a concert in Mobile, Ala. Owens often had performed with her on his trademark lead guitar, and he has assembled a group that will feature many of the featured pieces from Stone, a Grammy-winning R & B vocalist and producer.

The tribute is slated for 6 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 9, the middle day of the Aug; 8-10 event on the old Morley School grounds at 2601 Lapeer. On the ensuing Gospel Sunday, James will lead Chosen Sons and Daughters in another festival appearance,

so numerous that he has lost count. Other features of the family weekend will include dancing, poetry, topical discussions and an array of children's activities, both fun and educational.

He's the son of the Rev. Elvin Owens, longtime pastor of Grace Church of God in Christ, who passed away two years ago, and Earline Owens, who continues her evangelism. The couple wedded in 1958, and both would raise their vocal chords in unison in a sanctuary filled with music.

Anyone privileged to have experienced a James Owens performance might guess that he started his music lessons as a preschooler, but he was 14 years old before he picked up a guitar, and that was because his older brother, Elvin Jr., was departing for college, which created a vacancy among the Grace COGIC musicians. It was the younger

sibling's turn to fill in.

"At first it was hard for me, and I had to learn a few things," James says, "but growing up all around music, I kind of had an ear for it."

A local guitarist, Percy Williams, became his mentor, along with Derek Shelton, who introduced him to the jazz band at Saginaw High School, where James graduated in 1989. He followed up with studies at Boston's prestigious Berklee College of Music.

An ear for music, "kind of?" Owens speaks with his standard modestly. He took first place at the Saginaw School District's former Sonny Stitt Jazz Festival, and soon after in a national event in New York City, he captured the grand prize among 226 entrants.

Beyond the churches, Owens first became known locally with

blues vocalist Sharrie Williams, traveling for her engagements nationally, and on occasion overseas, visiting 20 nations in all. He also had an extended stay with Stephanie Mills. Touring with Angie Stone was the third major charm on his bracelet.

Among the more conservative religious clergy, secular music sometimes is frowned upon, but Owens says his parents always were supportive of his professional and artistic endeavors. Also, his gospel roots are reflected with his devotion to Chosen Sons and Daughters, and he has served the past 13 years as musical director for Flint's Macedonia Baptist Church.

Patrons normally pay concert ticket prices to enjoy James Owens on the performing stage, but African Cultural Festival activities all are free of charge, with sponsors that include the Saginaw Arts and Enrichment Commission. Cart rides are available for attendees who face challenges in walking.

His wife, Monique, accommodates his busy and unpredictable travel schedule. For example, his first connection with Angie Stone came in 2009 when her regular guitar player dropped out on the eve of a big show at Detroit's Fox Theater, and he filled in on 24-hour notice. Monique and James are parents to four children, now adults, and 33-year-old James Jr. has etched a music career of his own in Atlanta.

Out of town festival attendees make take I-675 to the Veterans Parkway exit, travel south a quarter mile to the deadend at Lapeer Street, and then turn left (east). Parking is available at both ends of the Morley School grounds.

Saginaw nonprofit offers self-compassion therapy group

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Child & Family Services of Saginaw is introducing a new therapy group designed to help individuals heal from trauma by fostering self-compassion. The four-week program, Healing Starts with Self-Compassion, begins Monday, Aug. 18, and is now accepting registrations.

The group will provide a safe, supportive environment for participants to explore techniques that build resilience, encourage mindfulness and promote inner healing. Sessions will focus on guiding participants to extend the same kindness to themselves that they often show to others, helping lay the groundwork for long-term emotional recovery.

“This group is about helping people reconnect with their self-worth and recognize that healing is possible — and that it begins within,” said Steph Kurin, the group’s facilitator.

Meetings will take place Mondays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Child & Family Services, 2838 Automotive Centre Road in Saginaw. The four sessions are scheduled for Aug. 18, Aug. 25, Sept. 8 and Sept. 15. Space is limited, and the registration deadline is Aug. 14. Interested participants can reserve a spot by calling Kurin at (989) 790-7500 ext. 240.

Child & Family Services has served the Great Lakes Bay Region since 1870, offering counseling, sexual assault support, and employee wellness programs. Its Sexual Assault Center, operating since 1984, remains the only facility in Saginaw dedicated solely to providing free, comprehensive services for survivors of sexual violence and their loved ones.

More information about the organization and its services is available at childandfamilysaginaw.org.

Self-Compassion Therapy Group

For adult (18+)
individuals affected by
trauma looking for
hope and healing.

~A safe space to practice
kindness toward yourself~

Topics include:
Mindfulness
Self-kindness
Self-appreciation
Resilience

Begins: Aug. 18, 2025

6:00-7:30 PM

Aug. 18th
Aug. 25th
Sept. 8th
Sept. 15th

This project is supported by a grant award administered by the Division of Victim Services of Michigan Department of Health & Human Services



Registration
deadline:

Aug 14, 2025

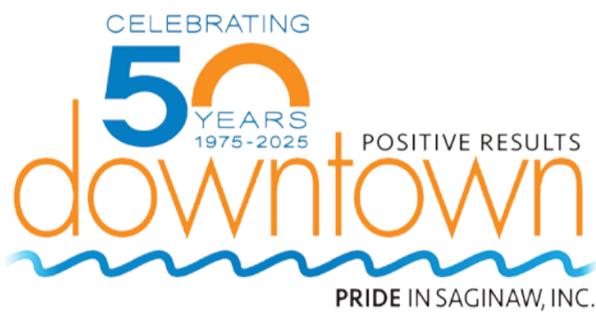
To register, call:

Steph Kurin

(989) 790-7500

ext. 240

sexual assault center
of child and family services of saginaw



5:30-9PM
FRIDAY NIGHTS
& MORLEY PLAZA

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PRESENTS

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AUG 08 That 70's Night

FEATURING: • SHAWN MCGINNIS - TOM PETTY TRIBUTE
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AUG 15 Motown Music Fest

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• PERSUASION BAND

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For more information contact Positive Results Downtown at (989) 753-9168 www.prideinsaginaw.com

COMMUNITY

ARPA review

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Chapter Two in a review of the city's \$52 million in federal ARPA spending begins at 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 13, a Wednesday, at the Saginaw County CAC, 2824 Perkins.

The first session in July drew about 30 residents. Because of time limits, only a portion made presen-

tations, which is the reason for the second meeting.

Presenters at the initial gathering covered the Medical Diamond, Hoyt Park, CAC itself, Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Association, the African Cultural Festival and the Hunger Solutions Center. The docket on Aug. 13 will include First Ward Community Center, The Neighb, Boys & Girls Club and others



Gospel Fest moves to Morley Plaza with free parking

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Gospel Fest is known for free admission, but free parking also is a major asset.

That will be especially important on Saturday, Aug. 2, from noon to 6 p.m.

Ojibway Island is undergoing an upgrade, which has forced a move to downtown's Morley Plaza, which also is the Friday Night Live site.

Organizer Vicki Hill was concerned about parking, but City Hall is making available the multi-level parking ramp, which includes an elevator for anyone who would face challenges in getting to the ground floor. The empty lot where McDonald's once had a franchise across from Dow Event Center also is being made available.

For info, contact the Gospel Lady at (989) 737-8179.



MORLEY PLAZA IN SAGINAW IS LOCATED AT 101 N. WASHINGTON AVENUE

Saturday
August 2nd, 2025

Gospel FEST

12PM - 6PM
LOCATION: MORLEY PLAZA
DOWNTOWN SAGINAW

Bishop NEAL Robertson

TYRONE Judah

JARELL Small's

LISA Page Brooks

FEATURED GUESTS
FAMILY CENTERED
FREE ADMISSION
VENDOR SPACE ARE AVAILABLE

Contact us @
(989) 737-8179 for information

COMMUNITY

Mother and daughter stem night returns to SVSU

BY MB STAFF

UNIVERSITY CENTER — Girls and their female mentors will have the chance to strengthen bonds and boost confidence through science and hands-on activities at the 2025 Mother & Daughter Event, hosted by Lead in partnership with STEM@SVSU.

The event is set for Tuesday, Sept. 9, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the Saginaw Valley State University campus. It invites girls ages 6-18 and the women who guide them—mothers, stepmothers, foster parents, aunts, grandmothers, and community mentors—for an evening of STEM-based projects and connection-building exercises.

Participants will engage in



LEAD: THE EVOLUTION OF SELF LOVE BEAUTY

interactive activities designed to improve communication, encourage creativity, and strengthen relationships. Lead will guide attendees through team challenges and confidence-building exercises, while STEM@SVSU

will host an activity introducing science, technology, engineering and math in a fun, accessible way.

"It was great to learn new activities to do with my daughters. We had a lot of fun and I learned

that they like fashion and creating new things," one mother said after last year's program. A youth participant from the 2024 event added, "I learned that being uncomfortable can help my confidence grow stronger."

Registration is \$25 per adult and \$15 per child through Aug. 31 and includes dinner, STEM projects, and a take-home activity. Scholarships are available for families. For details or to register, visit Lead's event page or email emily@leadconfidently.org.

Lead, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, focuses on "empowering people with practical tools to become their most confident selves" and continues to partner with community initiatives like this to inspire the next generation of leaders.

STARS board boosts bus fares

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — After two months of public feedback, Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services board members voted July 29 to approve fare increases that will take effect on Oct. 1. These changes aim to address persistent funding shortfalls and rising operational costs while preserving core transit access, STARS leaders say.

Fare increases include:

- Adults \$1.50, up from \$1.
- Seniors (60+) and riders with disabilities, 75 cents, up from 50 cents.
- LIFT Paratransit \$3, up from \$2.
- Rides to Wellness \$25 each way, up from \$20.

Unlimited 30-day passes will



SAGINAW TRANSIT AUTHORITY REGIONAL SERVICES (STARS)

remain the same at \$40 for general riders, \$20 for seniors and disabled.

The lone service cut places final weekday departures one hour sooner at 7 p.m., with buses back in the downtown garage by

8 p.m. Saturday hours will continue to conclude at 6 p.m.

STARS Director Amy Bidwell proposed the budget-balancing steps after she took the reins from Glenn Steffens last summer.

The final decision comes

after STARS held a public hearing and collected feedback through online surveys and written comments.

"We took every comment seriously and we carefully considered the impact on our riders," Bidwell said. "These adjustments are necessary to keep our system sustainable while preserving affordability for the majority of our riders, especially those who rely on us most."

The fare changes mark a return to pre-pandemic pricing and reflect a broader trend across Michigan, with transit agencies facing financial strain due to historically low state funding levels, even though Gov. Gretchen Whitmer had a Democrat-majority Legislature in 2023 and 2024.

Visit saginaw-stars.com or call (989) 907-4000 for more information and updated schedules.

Homeless panel finds no home with City Council

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — A proposal to create a commission to tackle homelessness was defeated July 28 on a 7-2 City Council vote.

Carly Hammond received support only from Monique Lamar Silva.



CARLY HAMMOND



HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT UNDER SAGINAW BRIDGE WAS CLEARED BY CITY EMPLOYEES ON FEB. 28.

Representatives of the long-standing but little-known Saginaw County Consortium of Homeless Assistance Providers, SC-CHAP, opposed the idea on the basis that a city commission would undermine and interfere with the programs they already offer.

Disagreement came from an independent provider, Pastor Chet Akins of the downtown Gideon Church (formerly St. John Lutheran), and Chuckie Lawrence, volunteer leader of Putting Others Before Ourselves. Both backed Hammond in asserting that a new advisory board would support and enhance SC-CHAP, not exist as a threat.

Hammond has been opposed by Mayor Brenda Moore, Pro-Tem Priscilla Garcia and their backers even before she was elected last November, when Reggie Williams came out of retirement to run against her as a write-in, an attempted stopgap that failed. Since then she has dominated time at the council table and has been defeated on all her major proposals, most notably a resolution critical of Pres-

ident Trump's ICE raids on suspected non-citizens. She lost on her homeless plan even after she offered to place a new commission on six months probation.

Her latest initiative took root when she objected to city code enforcement staff clearing out a homeless encampment that took root last winter beneath I-675 across from Riverview Plaza. She joined Atkins and Lawrence, known for his annual Hoyt Park kickball festival, to assist some of the displaced people in the spacious Gideon Center basement. At the same time, she criticized city staff's actions as insensitive, an accusation that was sharply resisted by Manager Tim Morales and by other council members.

Moore and Jacinta Seals expressed concerns that a new commission would compete with S-CHAP for federal and state funds. Hammond answered that the group would not seek funds for itself, only assisting others by showing local government support. This would be similar to the Human Planning Commission, which does not compete against

block grant agencies for money.

The origins of SC-CHAP go back to the 1980s, when George Pollitt, a former United Way outreach specialist, assembled an informal group named "emergency assistant providers" to encourage co-operation and collaboration. This led to creation of a Housing Task Force, with leaders including Bob Viera (former CAC), Mike Hanley (council, county board, state rep, county clerk), Ron Spess (Youth Protective Services, city school board) and Carolyn C.H. Butler (Good Neighbors Mission).

The last time S-CHAP was in the public spotlight was October 2021, when the consortium withdrew a plan to seek \$1.5 million in ARPA seed money to spark conversion of the vacant Houghton Elementary building into much-needed affordable housing, a story only reported in The Michigan Banner (see Oct. 1 and 16 issues that year). Rev. Willie Casey, at the time Houghton-Jones president, informed Dan Streeter of the Rescue Mission, then SC-CHAP chair, that some

residents might be concerned. SC-CHAP subsequently canceled a meeting with neighbors and scrapped the project, saying they would look for a neighborhood where residents were more supportive. No new target area has been publicly identified.

Council discussion and the July 28 vote begin at [1:50.00 on the YouTube video](#), although some mentions are made at points earlier in the meeting. Five public speakers on the topic begin at [0:10.30](#) on the tape, starting with foes from SC-CHAP: Audra Davis of United Way, Chris Brown from The Well of Saginaw and Jasmine Calhoun of Youth Protective Services. Atkins and Lawrence follow with their counterpoints.

In addition to Davis, Brown and Calhoun, the consortium board also includes the chairwoman, Amy Bartels-Roe of Mustard Seed, along with Hurley Coleman III of the Saginaw County CAC and Lesley Foxx of the Housing Commission. A City Hall delegate is Letecia Trevino, block grant coordinator.



GREATER FLINT ARTS COUNCIL
presents

43RD



JAZZWALK

In the clubs, downtown Flint
FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

- 6:00 – 8:00 PM Queens' Provisions
Erik McIntyre, Tito Villarreal
- 6:00 – 9:00 PM Cork on Saginaw
John Hill, Cliff Monear, Nick Calandro
- 6:00 – 9:00 PM Market Tap
The Affair Group

NEW WEEKEND
AUGUST 2-3, 2025 **FREE**
Riverbank Park, downtown Flint

- SATURDAY, AUGUST 2**
- 12:30 – 1:30 PM Rumprollers
 - 2:00 – 3:00 PM Mike Espy Band
 - 3:30 – 4:30 PM Cherisse Bradley
 - 5:00 – 6:00 PM Kill Bill
 - 6:30 – 7:00 PM Tapology
 - 7:30 – 9:00 PM **Ralphe Armstrong Trio**

- SUNDAY, AUGUST 3**
- 1:00 – 2:00 PM Gwen Pennyman-Hemphill
 - 2:30 – 3:30 PM Reichlin Small Group
 - 4:00 – 5:00 PM People's Jazz Band
 - 5:30 – 6:30 PM Leafar Village
 - 7:00 – 8:30 PM **496 West**



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COMMUNITY

Women of Colors to address childhood trauma at community forum

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

SAGINAW — Women of Colors is inviting the community to take part in a powerful conversation on breaking the generational impacts of childhood trauma with its upcoming event, *Breaking the Cycle: Healing Our Families from Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)*.

The forum will stream live on Thursday, July 31, at 7 p.m. and is part of a community-led public education campaign supported by the Michigan Public Health Institute. The event aims to raise awareness about ACEs—traumatic events during childhood that can have long-term effects on health and well-being—and to share strategies for healing and resilience.

Moderated by community researcher and equity advocate Dr. Pam Ross McClain, the discussion will feature leading voices in mental health, social work, and advocacy. Panelists include Dr. Kai Anderson, a psychiatrist and ACEs expert; Jimmy Greene, corporate executive and ACEs advocate; Terricina Jackson, author of *The Code of Silence: Dirty Little Family Secrets*; and Dana Simmons, MSW, a master social worker and trauma advocate.

Women of Colors, a local non-profit dedicated to community empowerment and education, continues to lead initiatives focused on mental health awareness and family support. By addressing the realities of ACEs and providing tools for intervention, the organization hopes to inspire families to foster environments of safety, stability, and growth.

The event will be livestreamed at [facebook.com/womenofcolors](https://www.facebook.com/womenofcolors) and broadcast on local radio stations including WTLZ KISS 107.1 FM, WSGW 790 & 105 FM, The Moose 94.5, and WGER 106.3 FM.

For more information about Women of Colors programs and initiatives, visit their official Facebook page.

Women of Colors Presents:

Breaking the Cycle: Healing Our Families from Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

A Community-Led ACEs Public Education Campaign
Supported by the Michigan Public Health Institute

Thursday, July 31st at 7:00 PM



Dr. Kai Anderson
*Psychiatrist &
ACEs Expert*



Jimmy Greene
*Corporate Executive
& ACEs Advocate*

Moderator:
Dr. Pam Ross McClain
*Community Researcher &
Equity Advocate*



Terricina Jackson
*Author: *The Code of
Silence: Dirty Little
Family Secrets**



Dana Simmons, MSW
*Master Social Worker
and Trauma
Advocate*



**LIVESTREAM VIA [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WOMENOFCOLORS](https://www.facebook.com/womenofcolors),
WTLZ KISS 107.1 FM, WSGW 790 & 105 FM, THE MOOSE 94.5, & WGER 106.3 FM**

We're Back

SEDC'S SMALL BUSINESS EXPO

This Year's Theme

SHOP
SMALL

D R E A M
B I G



SAGINAW

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

2025 Small Business Expo

"Shop Small, Dream Big"
Small Business Expo

REGISTER NOW

<https://www.saginaw-mi.com/sedc-expo>

THURSDAY / 28 AUGUST 2025

SVRC MARKETPLACE

FROM 4 PM - 8 PM



Food Trucks and Retail Vendors

Register now through August 8th for \$50

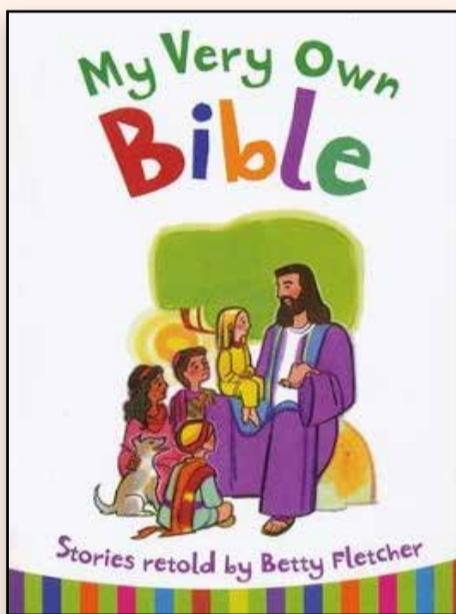
Children's Bibles: Which racial group?

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

To teach youngsters about ethnicity and racial justice, parents will bring their own outlooks, but most will agree that you don't address a 4-year-old the same as you would a 40-something.

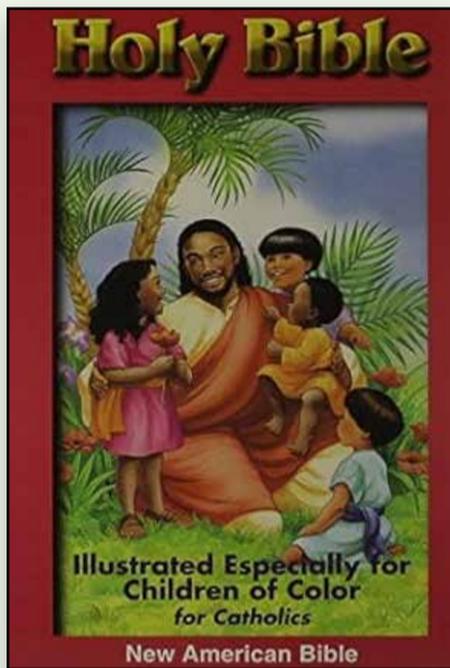
Children's authors sometimes tell stories with cartoon animals, which is a strategy to allow the little ones to retain innocence, at least for a while.

The first time many parents will encounter this issue comes with purchasing a children's Bible. Religious scholars inform us that Jesus was a man of color. How should He be portrayed in a book for your child? Some samples:



My Very Own Bible
Betty Fletcher

Christ is caramel-colored here, with a racially mixed group. This is typical of universal modern-day children's bibles. You would be hard-pressed to find a white-only version that is copyrighted after the turn of the millennium.



Holy Bible Illustrated for Children of Color
Nia Publishing

Nia means "purpose" as a Kwanzaa principle, so one might be surprised at the endorsement from the national Council of Catholic Bishops.



Nuevo Testamento
Tapa Rustica

Scholars do not describe Jesus as Spanish, but Latino pride is built with books like this one.



For another aspect, parents and caregivers are challenged with making sure not to overload young minds, and Bible stories might work better than an actual Bible. A child might find other eventual faith-based questions.

If you wish to volunteer as a tutor, contact your local school or the READ Association in the county where you reside.

COMMUNITY

SPONSORED CONTENT



Saginaw Promise News and Happenings...

Saginaw Promise Scholars Number 179 for 2025/26 Academic Year!



Saginaw Promise scholars number 179 for the 2025/26 academic year! "This is our largest group of scholars to date", stated Joyce Seals, Saginaw Promise Chairperson. If all 179 scholars complete enrollment, FAFSA and last three required forms, the

Saginaw Promise will award over \$700,000 dollars in scholarships for the 2025/26 academic year! Since 2012, the Saginaw Promise has awarded \$1,350,713 in scholarships. "The Saginaw Promise is working to impact Saginaw's future, its economy and the lives of its students by investing in postsecondary education", stated Joyce Seals. She further stated, "we are thrilled with this number, but now we must remind students and their parents that they need to complete the scholarship process, by enrolling in an institution and completing and returning the three forms by July 28, 2025". The forms will provide student's signed acceptance of the scholarship, will permit the Saginaw Promise staff to communicate directly with the financial aid office at their institutions, and will confirm where the student is enrolled, what other financial assistance will be received and where and when to send the Saginaw Promise scholarship. FAFSA completion is also a requirement for payment of the Saginaw Promise scholarship.

For questions or information, students or parents can telephone the Saginaw Promise office at (989) 607-3428.

Saginaw Promise hosts "Swinging for the Promise" Golf Event at the Saginaw Country Club in August!

Enjoy a great day of golf and fun this summer on a beautiful course! The Saginaw Promise hosts its annual "Swinging for the Promise" golf event, on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at the Saginaw Country Club; shotgun start at 10 AM. "Swinging for the Promise provides a wonderful opportunity to enjoy 18 holes of golf, a lot of fun, while raising funds to support programming and scholarships!", stated Mark Johnston, Golf Event Chairman.

Team registration is \$700 and (individual registration is \$175), which includes Four Person Scramble, Driving Range, 18 Holes with Cart, grilled "Lunch at the Turn", Barbecue Buffet Dinner, Door Prizes, Awards and Trophy Presentation. Sponsorships and promotional opportunities are available!

To sponsor, register a golf team or for questions, contact Deborah Sanchez at (989)607-3428 or by email at dsanchez@saginaw-promise.org.



Save the Date: Saginaw Promise to host its Annual "Power of the Promise" Event in October

Place this event on your calendar: The Saginaw Promise will host its annual "Power of a Promise" Luncheon Event on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at Horizons Conference Center; doors will open at 11 AM with the event starting at 11:30 AM. "Power of a Promise" will feature program outcomes, showcase scholars and this year's keynote speaker will feature a panel comprised of individuals to discuss the "Medical Diamond" and what opportunities it will bring to and provide for Saginaw. Panelists will include, Dr. Samuel Shaheen, M.D., President and CEO of CMU Medical Education Partners and Professor of Surgery at CMU College of Medicine Department of Surgery, Senator Ken Horn, Tim Morales, Saginaw City Manager, John Kaczynski, Saginaw Valley State University, Vice President for Governmental and Community Affairs and Dr. Ramont Roberts, Superintendent of the Saginaw Public School District. The panel will be moderated by Art Lewis, WSGW radio personality and talk show host. Ticket and Sponsorship information will soon be available.

New Saginaw Promise Program for High School Students and Parents

"Chat with the Saginaw Promise and Friends"
Thursday, July 31, 2025
Morley Building (behind the Temple Theater)
2nd floor Classroom
5:30 – 6:30 PM

Attendees have the opportunity to ask questions and to hear what's new with the Saginaw Promise scholarship and to hear from others regarding postsecondary education resources. The intent of this program is to assist students and parents navigate postsecondary education and to provide information where there are questions. This program is open to high school students and their parents and those who are entering postsecondary education. The Saginaw Promise plans to bring in experts on a monthly basis to speak on different areas of postsecondary education. Light refreshments and snacks will be available. Please call (989) 607-342 to RSVP attendance.

Saginaw Promise Golf Outing Swinging for the Promise

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025 SAGINAW COUNTRY CLUB (4465 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw MI 48638)

Grab Your Golf Clubs for a Great Time!!!



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

EVENT SPONSOR \$2,000

- Foursome with carts
- Sponsor name displayed at event and recognized at dinner
- Welcome & address golfers prior to "shot gun start"
- Host a golf activity on course or display table near registration
- Listed on Saginaw Promise website
- Hole Sponsorship signage

DINNER SPONSOR \$1,500

- Foursome with carts
- Sponsor name displayed & recognized at dinner
- Welcome and address golfers at dinner
- Opportunity to host a display table at dinner
- Listed on Saginaw Promise Website

LUNCH AT TURN SPONSOR \$1,000

- Foursome with carts
- Sponsor name displayed on "Lunch at the Turn" signage and recognized at dinner
- Opportunity to host golf activity or display table
- Listed on Saginaw Promise website

CART SPONSOR \$650

- Sponsor name on golf carts and listed on the Saginaw Promise website

DRIVING RANGE SPONSOR \$400

- Name displayed at event and announced at dinner

HOLE SPONSORS \$250

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

PRIZE DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED!

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

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

REGISTRATION 8:45 - 9:45 AM • SHOTGUN START 10:00 AM

Four Person Scramble - Includes: 18 Holes with Cart, Morning Coffee, Driving Range, Hot Dog & Chips at the Turn, Barbecue Buffet Dinner, 50/50 Drawing, Prize Drawings and Awards Presentation

GOLF PER PERSON - \$175

GOLF FOURSOME TEAM - \$700

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Business: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Total Amount for **Golfing** \$ _____

Total Amount for **Sponsorship** \$ _____

I would like to make a **Donation** \$ _____

I would like to **Donate a Prize** Yes No

Total Amount **ENCLOSED** \$ _____

Team Name _____

Player #1 _____

Player #2 _____

Player #3 _____

Player #4 _____

Make Check Payable:

Saginaw Community Foundation, 1 Tuscola St. Suite 200, Saginaw, MI 48607 and write Saginaw Promise on the Memo Line

*Saginaw Community Foundation is the fiscal agent for Saginaw Promise

For Questions:

Please contact Deborah Sanchez at (989) 607-3428 or email DSanchez@SaginawPromise.org

To pay using your charge card, complete this section or telephone Deborah Sanchez (989-607-3428) to process payment.

Charge My: DISCOVER MasterCard VISA Exp: ____/____

Card #: _____

Signature: _____ Security Code: _____

Amount Paying: _____

Deadlines

Sponsors: Respond by August 6, 2025

Golfers: Sign up before August 8, 2025

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Second Dem enlists in state Senate campaign



ON JULY 22, 2025, SUPPORTERS ATTENDED BRANDELL ADAMS' EVENT WHERE HE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED HIS CANDIDACY FOR STATE SENATE.

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Brandell Adams is joining Pamela Pugh in pursuit of the Democratic Party nomination to fill the 35th District open seat in the state Senate.

Kristen McDonald-Rivet, a Bay City Democrat, held the post for two years before she captured Dan Kildee's slot in Congress last fall, defeating Republican Paul Junge.

For the eight prior years, Ken Horn, a Republican from Frankenmuth, was our region's state senator, which shows the district can swing in either direction. That's why Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, with the Dems holding a razor-thin 19-18 edge in Lansing's upper chamber, is taking her time calling a special election.

A November ballot appears likely, unless Whitmer and state Democrats are willing to leave Saginaw without a state senator for two full years until the regular 2026 election,

Pugh's candidacy was announced in The Banner's most recent edition on July 16. She was elected to the state Board of Education in 2014 and re-elected in 2022, now serving as president of the K-12 oversight board. Her work career started with the

county health department, best known for her efforts to combat child lead poisoning. This background led to her role during the Flint water crisis as a top adviser to then-Mayor Karen Weaver. She competed for Debbie Stabenow's U.S. Senate seat last year but fell far short of Elissa Slotkin.

Adams was twice elected to the Bridgeport Township Board of Trustees starting in 2021. He resigned at the start of this year to focus on his new role as chairman of the Saginaw County Democratic Party, part of a reform movement among progressives who felt the campaign effort was weak for Kamala Harris, paving the way for Donald Trump to return to the presidency.

He was featured in The Banner on May 16, describing how his childhood in foster care influences his outlook in serving people in need. He describes economic inequality as the worst in 100 years, a reference to the Roaring 1920s that led to the Great Depression of the 1930s, and says Democrats must tackle these sorts of issues rather than being seen as simply anti-Trump. He is an account executive with Marriott Hotels, which allows him to work at home. His SVSU bachelor's degree is in psychology, and he is

studying online for a master's in public administration.,

A third potential candidate among the Democrats is Chedrick Greene, an Iraq War veteran and a Saginaw Fire Department captain with 25 years experience. His tenure in the Marine Corps Reserves lasted for 30 years. He says he is considering a run but honestly has not decided.

In The Banner, and April 16 report announced that as a tribute, he was named grand marshal of Saginaw's Memorial Day Parade,

On the Republican side, the lone candidate so far is Bay City's Chadwick Twillman, vice-president of The Mountain Movers Firm, a financial management company. One of his main platforms is critical of Whitmer's delay tactics for filling the seat, and he proposes legislation for a 60-day limit.

Saginaw formerly had its own state senate seat during the heyday of Democrat Jerry Hart. Gra-

tiot County was added, paving the way for the GOP's Roger Kahn to edge Carl Williams, a Democrat, in 2006. Williams was Saginaw's first black state rep and would have become first in the Senate

Gratiot now is dropped but portions of Midland and Bay counties are added, creating a district that is 75 percent white, 12 percent black and 8 percent Latino, Pugh, Adams and Greene all are African American, and any of them would need large counts of white votes in order to prevail where Mac Williams fell barely short.



ON JULY 22, 2025, SUPPORTERS ATTENDED BRANDELL ADAMS' EVENT WHERE HE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED HIS CANDIDACY FOR STATE SENATE.



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POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Private meet denied for Lamar-Silvia with City Council

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — It wasn't a moment of silence at the City Council's July 28 meeting. It lasted for more than a full minute.

That's how long Monique Lamar Silvia took in a fruitless search for proof of her contention that City Attorney Amy Lusk was incorrect in ruling that her request for a closed-to-the-public session to discuss "my personal legal issue" was not permitted under Michigan's Open Meetings Act. Other council members agreed and blocked the request.

The legal issue is Silvia's June conviction of forging three petition signatures last summer in a quest to help election candidate Eric Eggleston reach the 50 names required. Her own peti-



COUNCILWOMAN MONIQUE LAMAR SILVIA SPEAKS DURING THE SAGINAW CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JULY 28, 2025.

tions were not questioned and she regained her seat in November for a second four-year term, which now is up in the air. She has not spoken publicly on the

matter.

Eggleston didn't make the ballot. He had entered the spotlight in November 2021 when his Youth Development Corp. re-

ceived a high-profile \$500,000 state grant, pushed by Rep. Amos O'Neal and delivered personally by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to a packed house in YDC headquarters, a former downtown auto parts store across from the Social Security office. The council unanimously approved a \$1.3 million ARPA grant, but recanted after they learned that YDC was in trouble with federal officials regarding a prior grant,

The maximum jail sentences for Silvia and Eggleston are five years, but incarceration usually does not result from nominating petition signature fraud. The City Charter prohibits felons from Council membership, but City Attorney Amy Lusk says the convictions don't become official until sentencing, set for next month.

Crowded race emerges to succeed Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

SAGINAW — Michigan's 2026 race for governor is shaping up as one of the nation's most competitive, with a packed field of candidates from both major parties and an independent bid from Detroit's mayor threatening to shake up the contest.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat widely viewed as a potential 2028 presidential contender, is term-limited. The Democratic primary features Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson and Marni Sawicki, the former mayor of Cape Coral, Florida. If elected, Gilchrist would become Michigan's first Black governor.

Republicans are also fielding a crowded slate, including U.S. Rep. John James, state Senate Minority Leader Aric Nes-



GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER SPEAKS AT DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2024. (FILE PHOTO)

bitt, former House Speaker Tom Leonard, former Attorney General Mike Cox and Anthony Hud-

son, a truck driver who ran for Congress in 2024.

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan,

a Democrat, is mounting an independent campaign, adding a new layer of uncertainty to a race already drawing national attention.

Michigan has long been a swing state with razor-thin margins at the top of the ticket. Former President Joe Biden carried the state by 2.8 percentage points in 2020, while Donald Trump narrowly flipped it in 2024. That same year, Democrat Elissa Slotkin won a U.S. Senate seat by just 0.3 points.

The 2026 gubernatorial race is one of 36 contests nationwide. Five Democratic-led states that Trump won in 2024 — Arizona, Kansas, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — will hold governor's races, along with two Republican-led states carried by Kamala Harris: New Hampshire and Vermont.

HEALTH

Michigan health officials reaffirm COVID-19 vaccine guidance for pregnant women, children



FILE PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — Michigan health leaders are maintaining their recommendation for COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy and for everyone 6 months and older, citing strong evidence that the vaccine prevents severe illness and protects infants in the first months of life.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued the reminder after recent federal guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services suggested changes to vaccine rec-

ommendations for healthy children and pregnant individuals. Despite the federal update, state officials emphasized that the vaccine remains safe and effective.

“There is strong evidence that supports COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy and for pediatric patients,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, Michigan’s chief medical executive. “Recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that children under 6 months of age are at the highest risk for hospitalization, and that more than 40% of those hospitalized had no underlying conditions. The COVID-19 vaccine is the best way

to prevent complications of infection. We urge Michigan residents talk to their health care providers about getting vaccinated.”

Maternal vaccination can cut the risk of COVID-19-related hospitalization for infants by more than half in their first three months of life, according to state health officials. Data from the 2023–24 season also showed the vaccine reduced COVID-related emergency and urgent care visits for children by up to 70% in the two months following vaccination.

The COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States underwent extensive clinical trials and

regulatory review by the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. MDHHS reviews all federal guidance before providing recommendations to Michigan health providers and the public.

COVID-19 continues to cause hospitalizations and deaths, health leaders said, and staying up to date on vaccinations remains a key tool in protecting families. More information on vaccines and seasonal respiratory illnesses is available at michigan.gov/COVIDFluRSV.

HEALTH

Saginaw County Mental Health seeks public input on behavioral health needs

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) is asking residents to take part in a new survey aimed at identifying the community's most pressing behavioral health needs. The effort is part of the agency's work to maintain its federal and state certification as a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC).

As a CCBHC, SCCMHA provides a wide range of coordinated services, from mental health and substance use treatment to housing support, education, employment assistance and connections with first responders and

correctional systems. The certification also requires the agency to regularly evaluate the changing needs of the community to ensure timely access to care and improve the overall wellness of Saginaw County.

"As the needs of residents change, it is important to continuously identify those areas where we can better assist in both access to timely service at appropriate levels of care and treatment, and to improve the experience of care, as well as assist the overall wellness of the Saginaw community," the agency said in a statement.

The Community Needs Assessment Survey will be available

throughout August. Responses will help guide future programming and ensure that services remain in line with the public mental health system's mission in Michigan. Survey results will be published on the SCCMHA website at the end of September.

SCCMHA encourages residents, health-care providers and community partners to participate and share the survey with others to gather broad input. All responses are

anonymous.

Headquartered at 500 Hancock Street, SCCMHA offers comprehensive behavioral health and disability services, including screenings, evaluations and evidence-based treatments delivered both directly and through a network of contracted providers.



SAGINAW COUNTY
COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH AUTHORITY



**FOR EMERGENCY CARE
NO ONE BEATS
COVENANT**

Ordinary Hospital

- > A few sort-of-private rooms
- > Maybe they're board certified?
- > Trauma care
- > General emergency care
- > Standard technology for diagnosis & treatment
- > Second choice

VS

The Extraordinary Care of Covenant

- > 65 private rooms
- > 45 board-certified emergency physicians
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- > **First choice**

When seconds count, make Covenant HealthCare your first choice.
Learn more at CovenantHealthCare.com/ECC



SCCMHA looks for public help in Community Needs Assessment



Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority needs your help!

As part of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) project, we are required to submit information gathered from a written assessment of community mental health needs, aimed at emerging or changing factors that are consistent with the goals of the public mental health system.

Being a CCBHC, this means we must provide care coordination, with needs ranging from access to high-quality physical and behavioral health, employment, housing, corrections, education, or social services, all in the mission to help facilitate wellness and recovery.

The assessment must involve input from both the public and private providers, as well as school systems, justice systems and other key stakeholders and community partners.



SAGINAW COUNTY
COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH AUTHORITY

As needs change, it is important to continuously identify those areas where we can assist more in the community we serve.

To better understand those, we are asking you to assist us in identifying what those needs are.

Throughout August, please complete the survey by either following the link or scanning the QR code below. Your input will help us learn how SCCMHA can provide more assistance and reach out to impact those areas in better ways going forward.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCCMHAparters>



Let's work together to build Saginaw County and find ways to help those in need!

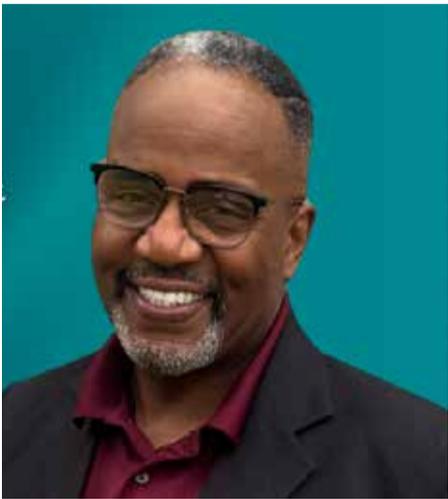
Be sure to share this survey with other people in your community so we can get more input from everyone!

*All survey responses are anonymous



EDUCATION

Ralph Martin brings decades of public service to Saginaw ISD Board



RALPH MARTIN

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

SAGINAW — Ralph Martin, a longtime public safety leader and community advocate, has officially joined the Saginaw Intermediate School District Board of Education as a trustee, following

his election during the district's biennial board vote on June 2, 2025. Martin was sworn in at the board's organizational meeting on July 24.

"I've always believed in the power of being a steady, positive presence for others, especially young people," Martin said. "In this new role, I look forward to supporting initiatives that uplift our students and ensure safe, inclusive learning environments across Saginaw County."

Martin retired as Fire Marshal for the City of Saginaw and now serves as a Fire Marshal Inspector for the Michigan Bureau of Fire Services, where he inspects school buildings across the state and advises on safety compliance. His expertise in fire safety and facility oversight will bolster the district's ongoing commitment to maintaining

secure, well-equipped learning spaces. Throughout his career, he has earned numerous accolades, including the American Red Cross Fire Hero Award and the Michigan Banner's Heart of the City Humanitarian Award.

Board President Dr. Katherine Ellison said Martin's extensive experience and leadership will enhance the board's work. "Ralph's broad experience and thoughtful leadership are an asset to our board," Ellison said. "His insight will further strengthen our commitment to putting students first in every decision we make."

Outside of his professional career, Martin has spent decades volunteering with local civic and nonprofit organizations, including the Public Libraries of Saginaw, the Saginaw Branch NAACP, the Saginaw HELPS

violence intervention program, and the Saginaw County READ initiative.

Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Collier praised Martin's appointment, calling him a natural fit for the district's mission. "We are pleased to welcome Mr. Martin to the Saginaw ISD Board," Collier said. "His dedication to public service, equity, and student well-being aligns closely with our mission to serve, innovate, and empower. His perspective will add tremendous value to our continued work on behalf of students, staff, and families."

With Martin joining the board, Saginaw ISD continues to focus on strengthening education and creating safe, supportive environments for students across the county.



RALPH MARTIN SWORN IN AS SAGINAW ISD TRUSTEE



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School of choice options for the coming school year: Public and parochial schools



FILE PHOTO



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS

A fundamental option that has existed about as long as education has been formalized remains in place still today. They are public and nonpublic options.

Michigan's public schools are funded and regulated by the Michigan Department of Educa-

tion and the State Legislature. They are of two basic types: traditional and academies (also called charter schools).

Traditional schools include those assigned to intermediate school districts with boundary lines established from one district to another. A parent's resident district is established by the boundaries. Examples of traditional schools include large districts (e.g. Saginaw Public) and smaller ones (e.g. Carrollton).

Public school academies (charter schools) are without boundaries; thus there are no "resident parents" like there are

in traditional schools, and they are approved by the State of Michigan by an application process that designates an "authorizer" be designated to provide oversight.

Nonpublic schools are often associated with a religion (e.g. Nouvel Catholic Central) or specific purpose (e.g. Detroit Country Day). They operate without governmental funding; often tuition is a cost borne by parents.

Advantages exist for each model. It becomes a family decision of what the better choice is for their child. Often word-of-mouth (reputation) and cite

visitations help parents become informed about determining the better fit. Websites and other communications are useful tools in gathering decision-making information for parents.

Homeschooling is also an option for parents who make that choice.

The time to decide may be now, especially if there has been a recent move to the area or if a child is entering school for the first time.

Resources:
<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/flexible-learning/options/schools-of-choice>

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Michigan schools compete for \$10M in literacy innovation grants



FILE PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — More than 100 school districts, charter schools and intermediate school districts across Michigan have applied for a share of \$10 million in state funding aimed at boosting student literacy through innovative teaching practices, the Michigan Department of Education announced.

The competitive Reading Excellence and Advancing District (READ) Innovation Grant will provide districts with startup funds to implement research-based literacy initiatives. The program, part of the 2025 State School Aid Act, is intended to im-

prove student reading proficiency and advance Michigan's statewide education goals.

"We appreciate the significant interest that local districts have in innovation in literacy," State Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice said. "The READ Innovation Grant supports Goal 2 of Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan, to improve early literacy achievement."

A total of 115 applications were submitted for the first round of funding. Proposals outlined literacy programs aligned with the science of reading, targeting both elementary and secondary education. At least 36 applicants will be selected to receive up to

\$187,500 each to launch their programs in the 2025-26 school year. Award notifications are expected in September.

Over the course of the three-year grant program, districts will compete in three phases. Six finalists will eventually be chosen for expanded funding of \$375,000 each in the second year, with two districts receiving \$500,000 each as top performers by the summer of 2027.

The \$10 million allocation under Section 35n of the State School Aid Act complements \$87 million in Section 35m funding approved earlier this year for research-based instructional materials. Sixty-four percent of Michi-

gan districts and ISDs applied for those funds, reflecting strong demand for literacy resources.

"Additional Section 35m funding from the state legislature this year would help more districts get an early start on implementation of this transformative new state literacy/dyslexia law," Rice said.

Dr. Delsa Chapman, deputy superintendent for assessment and school improvement, emphasized the importance of the grants for local districts. "Student achievement continues to be our focus," Chapman said. "We are excited about providing this set of vital resources to local districts."

MI Tri-Share CHILD CARE



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MI Tri-Share Program Eligibility 2025

Household Size	Minimum	Maximum Income	Household Size	Minimum	Maximum Income
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3 People	\$53,300	\$106,600	7 People	\$97,300	\$194,600
4 People	\$64,300	\$128,600	8 People	\$108,300	\$216,600
5 People	\$75,300	\$150,600	9 People	\$119,300	\$238,600

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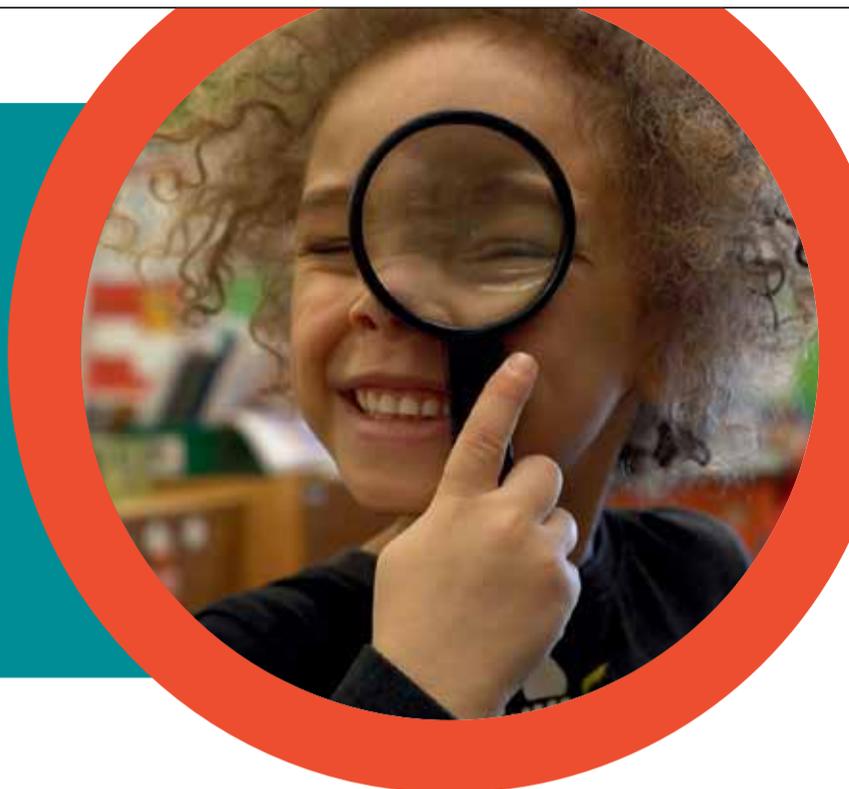
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Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start
Program Director

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.

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

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

Office Hours

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org

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

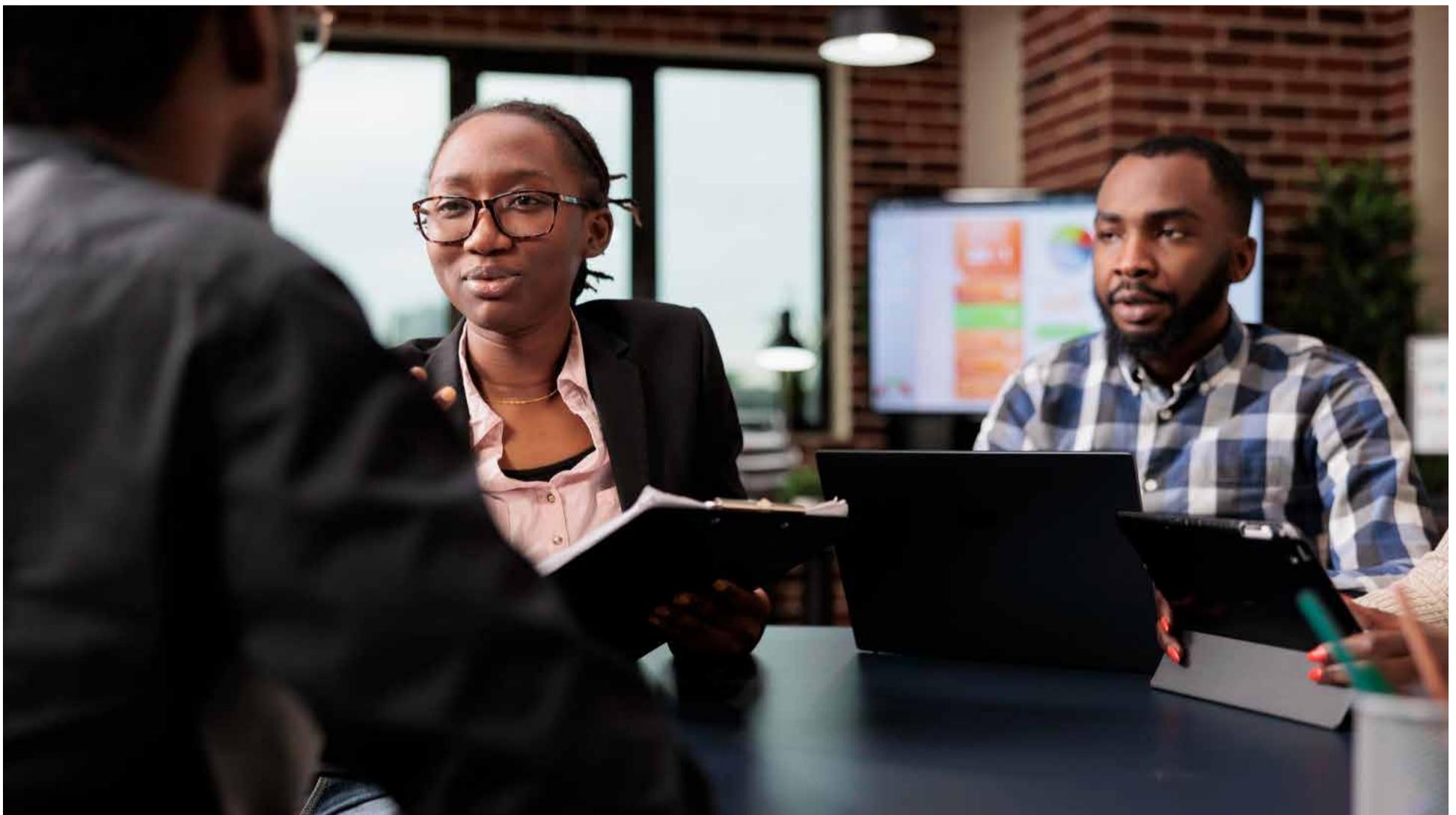
Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

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

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

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Applications open for 2026 Eastern Michigan Small Business Network cohort



FILE PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

Entrepreneurs across six eastern Michigan counties have until Aug. 11 to apply for the 2026 Eastern Michigan Small Business Network Cohort, a program designed to help startups stabilize and grow through mentoring, training and financial support.

Up to 40 businesses will be selected from Shiawassee, Lapeer, Tuscola, Huron, Sanilac and St. Clair counties, with a minimum of five companies from each county guaranteed a spot. Each selected business will receive up to \$7,000 in support ser-

vices along with access to coaching and professional mentoring over the course of a year.

“The ideal company for the cohort program is a relatively new startup, who is committed to their business — meaning it’s not a hobby,” said Dan Casey, CEO of the Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County. “They have begun the process of incorporation and writing a business plan. They must be in a position to commit the time needed to grow their business. We’re looking for companies that are going to add jobs to the communities where they are located.”

Applications are evaluat-

ed by a review board that includes a Small Business Development Center counselor, a Port Huron SmartZone counselor and a representative from Michigan Women Forward. Only one member of the review team is employed by the EDA. The board selects five businesses per county before sending recommendations to local county partners for final approval.

Accepted participants will work closely with business and technology counselors to create a custom one-year work plan, outlining current operations, growth goals and strategies for using available resources. Businesses

also gain access to 24 vetted service providers offering assistance in accounting, legal, marketing, consulting, translation and other specialized areas.

Participants must attend eight hands-on bootcamp sessions throughout the year to graduate from the program. Progress is tracked through Startup Space, a digital platform that helps entrepreneurs set goals, access resources and connect with other small business owners across the region.

Applications for the 2026 cohort are open through Sunday, Aug. 11, at www.easternmichigan-smallbusinessnetwork.com.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Uncertainty lingers over Saginaw's Medical Diamond Project

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Confusion continues over the planned Medical Diamond on South Washington, to the point where even WNEP and WJRT reporters incorrectly reported the total project cost at \$35 million.

This took place after the City Council voted unanimously July 28 to donate six riverfront parcels near the old farmer's market to Shaheen Development, bordering the family's four block current edifice that features MCVI, Michigan Cardiovascular Institute, along with Tri-City Urology, Garber Management and a Huntington Bank branch.

The land-purchase price is a nominal \$1 to demonstrate ownership deed paperwork.

Pete Shaheen, vice-president, noted that the \$35 million does not include the CMU College of Medicine plans. When the CMU board made their partnership official in December 2023, the total Medical Diamond price tag was billed at \$100 million, with 1,000 jobs created. This was not outlined on July 28, leading to the mis-reporting by novice TV journalists.

Clarity has been missing ever since the project received a combined \$10 million in ARPA funds, evenly split between the council and the county board. The initial billing focused on a mental health behavioral center, which indeed is budgeted for \$15 million of the \$35 million, with the remainder for retail and rental housing. It wasn't until later than the CMU involvement was revealed.

Pete Shaheen, echoing his brother Dr. Sam Shaheen from remarks to the council on Nov. 28, 2022, said the family should be trusted based on the track record not only with MCVI, but also with the Temple Theater, the Saginaw Commerce Tower (former Wickes Building) and the



PICTURE OF A MODEL OF THE PROPOSED MEDICAL DIAMOND IN DOWNTOWN SAGINAW

condos on the river's west bank.

At the same meeting, Sam Shaheen coined the term "Medical Diamond" with the two main hospitals on the east and west sides, downtown on top and central parks/Old Town at the bottom.

Speaking in support July 28 was Ken Horn, former state senator and now with the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance. He also chairs a Medical Diamond Steering Committee with Saginaw Future's Tom Miller Jr. His wife, Veronica, from the Chamber of Commerce lobbied for the Medical Diamond before she passed away in January.

Horn joined Pete Shaheen in saying the Medical Diamond was envisioned from the time the late Dr. Samuel Shaheen kicked off the MCVI construction near the turn of the millennium, with tax breaks on a formerly abandoned South Washington stretch between downtown and City Hall. The location now is being defined

as part of downtown, which formerly ended with Michigan Bell and the Goodyear automotive shop.

To hear the support from Ken Horn, Pastor Chris Pryor of Victorious Believers and Pete Shaheen, begin at the [23-minute mark](#).

Starting at 1:29:10 on the [YouTube meeting video](#), Councilwoman Carly Hammond orchestrates a 14-minute question-and-answer on details of Shaheen Development responsibilities in exchange for the land, including a provision to return the property if the Medical Diamond somehow fails to come to fruition. The vote follows. To view, [click here](#).

Hammond spoke as a citizen at the 2022 meeting, prior to Sam Shaheen, and expressed similar concerns. To view the scenario, [click here](#) starting at 3:50.

Other vacant land?

Prior to Hammond's election

last November, Monique Lamar Silvia was the lone council member to ask critical questions about the Medical Diamond, saying the \$5 million in ARPA funds should have included existing mental health agencies with smaller-size programs,

She refrained from criticism July 28, except for asking why homeowners who seek to obtain vacant side lots sometimes face obstacles, compared to the arrangement for Shaheen Development.

City Manager Tim Morales referred her question to the county land bank. Many city leaders have washed their hands of responsibility for abandoned, tax-reverted lots ever since the land bank was created two decades ago by former County Treasurer Marv Hare, based on a model from Dan Kildee, the recently-retired congressman, when Kildee was Genesee County treasurer.

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BUSINESS + FINANCE

Michigan earns top spot for automotive industry, climbs in national business rankings



GENERAL MOTORS FLINT ASSEMBLY

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — Michigan has secured its place as the nation's automotive leader once again, according to Business Facilities' 21st Annual Rankings Report. The state was named No. 1 for the automotive industry, maintaining its status at the forefront of car manufacturing and innovation.

The report evaluated states based on employment levels, recent job growth, relocation and expansion projects, and export activity. Michigan's strong performance in each area helped it retain its automotive crown.

Business Facilities also highlighted the state's momentum

in other key sectors. Michigan climbed to No. 3 nationally for both semiconductor jobs and overall manufacturing employment. The state continues to rank among the top 10 in life sciences (No. 6) and exports (No. 7), with \$61.5 billion in export value reported last year. For 2025, Michigan entered the top 10 for corporate tax climate for the first time, landing at No. 9.

"Team Michigan is honored by this continued recognition of the vision and collaboration underpinning our execution of our 'Make It in Michigan' economic development strategy," said Quentin L. Messer Jr., CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. "This evidence of success from our focus

on advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, and other key industries shows that companies of all sizes are investing in Michigan's greatest asset, her people, and choosing to make Michigan their home. Thanks to bipartisan support of economic development by the Michigan Legislature and Governor Whitmer's leadership, we celebrate these wins while remaining laser-focused on the mission: move Michigan to No. 1 overall."

The state also earned recognition for its workforce development efforts. Business Facilities ranked Michigan No. 9 for customized workforce training and highlighted the MEDC's Talent Action Team, which was named one of 2025's top 10 state-

wide Economic Development Organizations.

Michigan cities were recognized as well. Detroit was ranked No. 3 among mid-sized metro areas for tech talent and No. 9 as a large manufacturing hub. Grand Rapids/Kentwood earned the No. 2 spot among small manufacturing hubs.

These achievements follow another milestone earlier this summer, when CNBC ranked Michigan No. 6 on its annual "Top States for Business" list — the state's highest ranking since the list began. The jump from last year's No. 9 spot reflects Michigan's growing strength in people, places and projects that support its "Make It in Michigan" economic framework.

BUSINESS + FINANCE



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SPORTS

Claressa Shields electrifies Detroit in dominant title defense



CLARESSA SHIELDS DEFENDS HER UNDISPUTED HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP ON SATURDAY, JULY 27, AT LITTLE CAESARS ARENA. (MB PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

DETROIT — Claressa Shields returned to her home state in spectacular fashion, defending her undisputed heavyweight championship with a decisive victory over Lani Daniels on Saturday night at Little Caesars Arena.

The Flint native, widely known as “The GWOAT,” improved her perfect record to 17-0 with 3 knockouts, winning a unanimous decision over Daniels (11-3, 1 KO) of New Zealand. The judges scored the 10-round bout 100-90 and 99-91 twice, as Shields controlled the fight from start to finish.

“I just want to thank God,” Shields said after the win, her first defense of the undisputed

heavyweight title. “I was praying for a sold-out Little Caesars Arena since the first time I fought here. Many people from around the world came out, and I am truly grateful for that.”

Shields, 29, made history earlier this year by becoming the first woman to claim the undisputed heavyweight title and the first boxer — male or female — to achieve undisputed status in three divisions. On Saturday, she showcased why she is considered the face of women’s boxing.

She pressured Daniels from the opening bell, pushing her opponent against the ropes in the early rounds and firing punishing combinations to the head and body. Daniels, who spent the opening frames evading Shields’ power, found lim-

ited rhythm later but failed to mount a serious threat.

“Lani Daniels was a tough opponent,” Shields said. “I broke her down to the body and the head. I mixed it up out there. She is just very, very tough. I knew she would be tough by just watching her fight.”

The hometown crowd roared throughout the bout, adding to the energy of Shields’ dominant performance. “I’ve been all over the world to some of the biggest boxing shows, and there is nothing like a Detroit crowd,” she said. “They were chanting, ‘Whoop that Trick.’ This is definitely my house, and we blew the roof off. It was crazy.”

The night also featured a shutout win for Brooklyn heavyweight prospect Pryce Taylor (9-0, 6 KOs), who defeated Saginaw’s Robert Simms (12-5-1, 3 KOs) in an eight-round decision. In the evening’s final bout, Flint’s Leon Lawson (18-1, 11 KOs) stopped Ryan Wilczak (11-2, 6 KOs) of Scranton, Pa., with a fourth-round TKO.

Reflecting on her win, Shields said Daniels’ resilience kept her sharp. “Her head was moving a whole lot, but she headbutted me twice, and that was something I had to look out for,” Shields said. “I know she just wanted to survive the rounds. I feel like I beat her with my back against the ropes. I don’t mind fighting with my back to the ropes. I can throw from anywhere.”

With the dominant victory, Shields reaffirmed her place at the top of women’s boxing and gave Detroit a night to remember.

Saginaw’s Robert Simms falls in Detroit undercard bout



FROM LEFT (PRYCE TAYLOR, ROBERT SIMMS)

BY MB STAFF

DETROIT — Saginaw native Robert Simms faced a tough homecoming Saturday night, dropping a unanimous decision to heavyweight prospect Pryce Taylor on the undercard of Claressa Shields’ title defense at Little Caesars Arena.

Simms (12-5-1, 3 KOs) was back in the ring for the first time since November 2023, when he lost to Brandon Moore. The layoff showed, as Taylor (9-0, 6 KOs) controlled the pace from the opening bell, attacking the body and never letting Simms find his rhythm.

Taylor, fighting for the fourth time this year, earned an eight-round shutout on the judges’ scorecards. The Brooklyn fighter’s steady pressure and combinations left Simms on the defensive for much of the bout.

“I train for 12 rounds. Eight rounds were nothing,” Taylor said after the fight. “It was frustrating not being able to get him out of there. The end goal is to win, and I did what I had to do.”

Despite the loss, the 36-year-old Simms remains a familiar figure in Michigan’s boxing scene. Known for his toughness and willingness to face rising contenders, he has competed professionally for over a decade.

After the fight, Simms said he is unsure of his next move but suggested he might need to return to his normal weight before stepping into the ring again.

SPORTS

High school sports participation in Michigan reaches highest level since 2019



SAGINAW UNITED BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — Participation in Michigan high school sports reached its highest level in six years during the 2024-25 school year, even as overall student enrollment continued to decline.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association reported 275,684 athletes competed in MHSAA-sponsored tournament sports across 754 member schools, the highest figure since 2018-19. That total reflects a 1.9% increase — 5,020 more students — over the previous year, while statewide enrollment fell by 1.3%.

Boys participation rose to

161,329, up 1.9% from 2023-24 and the most since 2018-19. Girls participation increased 1.8% to 114,355, the highest mark since 2019-20. Students are counted once for each sport they play, meaning multi-sport athletes are included more than once.

Two sports set all-time records. Boys track and field reached 24,759 participants, a 3.7% jump that surpassed its previous high from 2005-06. Girls lacrosse grew to 3,970 participants, up 0.9%, setting a record for the second straight season.

Fifteen other sports saw increases. Girls tennis posted the largest percentage jump at 6.4% with 9,485 athletes, while wrestling — combining boys and

girls — grew 5.2% to 12,422 participants. Girls wrestling surged 24% to 1,505 athletes, continuing a rapid rise statewide. Boys cross country climbed 4.1% to 8,209, and girls track and field rose 4.5% to 18,108.

Football, the most popular sport for boys, added 3% to reach 36,210 athletes, its highest total since 2017-18. Girls volleyball, with 19,679 participants, re-

mained the top girls sport and hit its best mark since 2012-13.

While 11 sports experienced slight declines, girls basketball and boys hockey both dipped by less than 1%, faring better than the overall enrollment drop.

The MHSAA compiles participation data annually for submission to the National Federation of State High School Associations, which tracks national trends.



SPORTS

Saginaw Spirit add Saverio Posa as assistant, skill development coach

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Saginaw Spirit are turning to a familiar face in Michigan hockey to help guide their 2025-26 campaign. General Manager Dave Drinkill announced Thursday that Saverio Posa has joined the club as an assistant and skill development coach.

“I’m incredibly honored and excited to join the Saginaw Spirit as an assistant coach,” Posa said. “The Spirit organization has a great culture, passionate fans, and a strong tradition of excellence. I’m looking forward to contributing to the development of our players and helping the team in their continued success.”



SAVERIO POSA

Posa, 32, arrives after three seasons on the bench with the Flint Firebirds, where he transitioned from video duties to a focus on player skill development in 2023-24. His coaching experience also includes leading the Little Caesars women’s 19U AAA program.

A veteran of the Ontario

Hockey League, Posa played parts of four seasons as a defenseman with the Windsor Spitfires, earning a spot on the team’s 2010 Memorial Cup roster and wearing the captain’s “C” during the 2012-13 campaign. He finished his major junior career with the Guelph Storm after a trade deadline move, compiling 260 regular-season and playoff appearances and totaling 59 points.

Following junior hockey, Posa skated for the University of Windsor before turning pro. His career spanned 121 games in the ECHL with the Indy Fuel, Cincinnati Cyclones and Reading Royals, plus stints in Italy and France. He captured a President’s Cup with the SPHL’s Huntsville Havoc in 2019 and earned Sec-

ond All-Star Team honors while serving as a player-assistant coach the following season.

“As an organization, we’re thrilled to be adding Saverio to our staff today,” Drinkill said. “His ability to bring out the most in players and grow their games through his skill development background will help our team tremendously moving forward. With the addition of Kyle Makaric and now Saverio as assistant coaches, we are excited to get started with our group this season.”

The Spirit open training camp later this summer with Posa joining Makaric on the bench as part of Drinkill’s retooled coaching staff.



NEXT WEEK

VS LANSING LUGNUTS

<p>TUE. AUG. 5 7:05PM</p> <p>HOMETOWN HEROES</p> <p>PRESENTED BY miller</p>	<p>WED. AUG. 6 7:05PM</p> <p>PAWS AND CLAWS</p> <p>PRESENTED BY CS</p>	<p>THU. AUG. 7 7:05PM</p> <p>Los Pepinillos Picantes</p> <p>THE HOTTEST</p> <p>Thirsty THURSDAY</p> <p>PRESENTED BY JOHN P. SULLIVAN</p>
<p>FRI. AUG. 8 7:05PM</p> <p>GRIT NIGHT</p> <p>PENNA NT RACE BOYS</p> <p>FOODIE FRIDAY</p>	<p>SAT. AUG. 9 7:05PM</p> <p>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</p> <p>FIREWORKS LOONTACULAR</p> <p>PRESENTED BY FARM BUREAU INSURANCE</p>	<p>SUN. AUG. 10 1:05PM</p> <p>HAPPY B-DAY, LOU E!</p> <p>PRESENTED BY CS</p> <p>KIDS EAT FREE</p> <p>BEHOLD THE BAZER</p> <p>PRESENTED BY SERRA</p>

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FAITH IN FOCUS



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

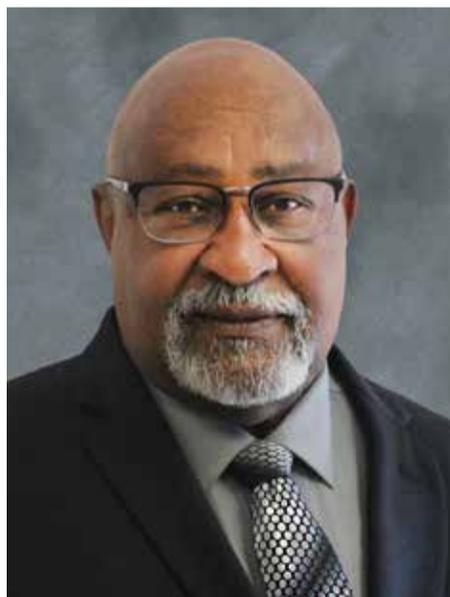
Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

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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God's blueprint for your future

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

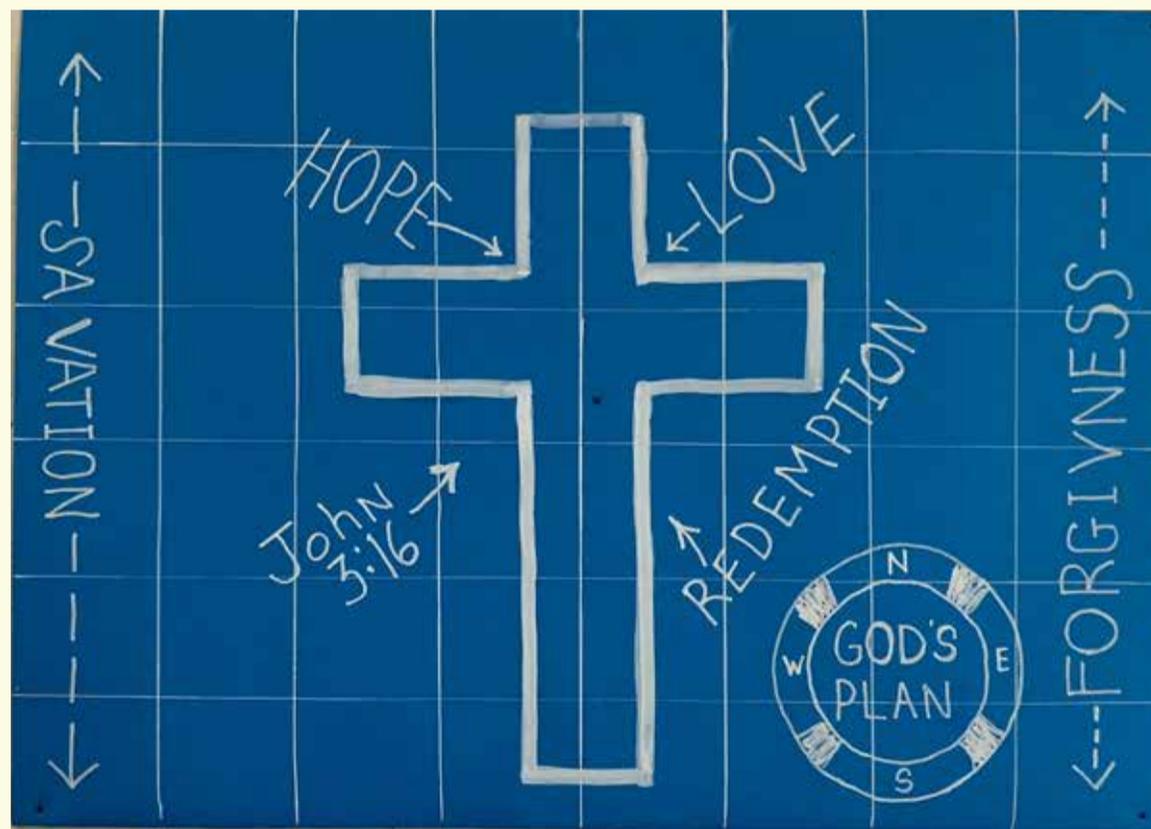


BY MINISTER CAROLYN
CARTER TOWNSEL

No matter what your past has looked like, your future is not a mystery to God. He already sees the path you're walking, even the parts that feel broken, delayed, or uncertain. This verse is a divine reminder that your life is not random. You are not wandering. God has a blueprint, and it's filled with purpose, promise, and hope.

You may not understand why some things had to fall apart, but trust that God's plans are not to punish you - they are to prepare you. Even in seasons of waiting, He is working behind the scenes, shaping your character, healing your heart, and setting up divine connections.

Hold on to hope! What lies ahead is greater than what's behind. God's plan will unfold, and they will be more beautiful than anything you could imagine. Therefore, you can thank God for having a plan for your life, trust His timing, and Your process. Even when you don't see the full picture, be mindful that He is working all things for your good.



So, Beloved, place your future in His hands with confidence, peace, and knowing - that God has a "Blueprint For Your Future."

Blessings To All,
Carolyn

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



New Life Baptist Ministries

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



Faith Ministries Church

Rev. Dr. Anthony Revis
Prophetess Linda J. Kemp Revis
3420 E Ashman St.
Midland, MI 48642
989-837-7777
faithministrieschurch.org



World Outreach Campus

Bishop Hurley J. Coleman Jr.
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989-752-2955
worldoutreachcampus.com



New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

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989-754-0801



Glory House Ministries

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



New Beginnings Ministries

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



Saint Paul Baptist Church

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



Holy Communion Gospel Center

Pastor Charlene Washington
1245 E. Genesee
Saginaw, MI 48607
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New Birth Missionary Baptist

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

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1926 Fairfield Street
Saginaw, MI 48602
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Anointed Temple ministries

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Saginaw, MI 48607
901 Melbourne
Detroit, MI 48211



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Pastor Rob Ashmall
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Bridgeport, MI 48722
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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

One Person Shop

BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Are you a one-person fundraising shop? Do you feel you have to do it all? Is the weight of the world on your shoulders?

Are you comparing your nonprofit to those with what appears to be more dedicated fundraising staff? Before agonizing, consider a new perspective and new action steps.

Whether your nonprofit is a new organization or a legacy institution, you may feel you are a one-person shop. As a startup, you may be the only staff person, so you are busy fundraising, building your board, defining programs, creating financial models, and more. As a legacy institution, you may find yourself leading a team of four or more, only to realize that you are the only one with experience in fundraising. Your team may actually be a database person, a communications person, an alumni manager, and a bookkeeper. The startup looks like one person is responsible for fundraising, but the legacy institution is in a similar place. How do you get out?

The key to changing your position from a one-person shop to a team effort lies in your ability to be a manager and to utilize the resources available to you now and in the future. We believe there are always resources available – it is a matter of engaging them on your behalf. Here are our suggestions for becoming a thriving one-person shop. First, know your organization inside and out.



FILE PHOTO

Know the core work and impact of your nonprofit, whether advocacy, direct service, education, arts, science, athletics, or health-care. Understand the operations and, most importantly, finances, projections, alternative scenarios, and cash flow. You want to be able to talk to anyone, anytime, on any aspect of the organization you are securing funds for.

Understand your market

Whether you are starting an organization or leading fundraising for an established institution, you need to know your market. That means talking to people. Yes, connect online, but get to know people in real life as well. Start with board members and current donors. Why are they engaged with your nonprofit? What are their skills and talents? How can they support (or lead) your fundraising? What can they share with you about local philanthro-

pists, foundations, and funding agencies, their priorities, and how they should be approached? How does your nonprofit align with local priorities?

Unleash your creativity and innovative tendencies.

Take what you are learning and apply it to how you can bring others together to raise funds. Who can help you secure the funding, relationships, capacity, technology, and leadership you need for your organization or institution to deliver on its vision?

How will you approach those who can assist? What would be your ask? Are you asking for money or engagement? How will you manage those who agree to support you?

Here's what we know – you may be a one-person shop, but you don't need to go it alone. Continuing on your own may lead to a lack of revenue, and – for good or bad – that may be the end of you being the one-person shop. Build and manage a team with shared accountability. Together, you can go far! God protect America.



Copyright 2025 – Mel and Pearl Shaw

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



PICS OF THE WEEK

This week, the City of Saginaw had the honor of welcoming students from Tokushima High School, its Sister City in Tokushima, Japan. Mayor Pro Tem Garcia, Councilman Ostash, and City Manager Morales greeted the students at the Castle Museum, where they participated in a Q&A session. The visiting students were enthusiastic and eager to learn about the cultural and historical aspects of Saginaw.



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



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