



SUPPORT *Local* JOURNALISM ▶▶▶

MICHIGANBANNER.ORG/DONATE



REMEMBERING OUR
LOVED ONES



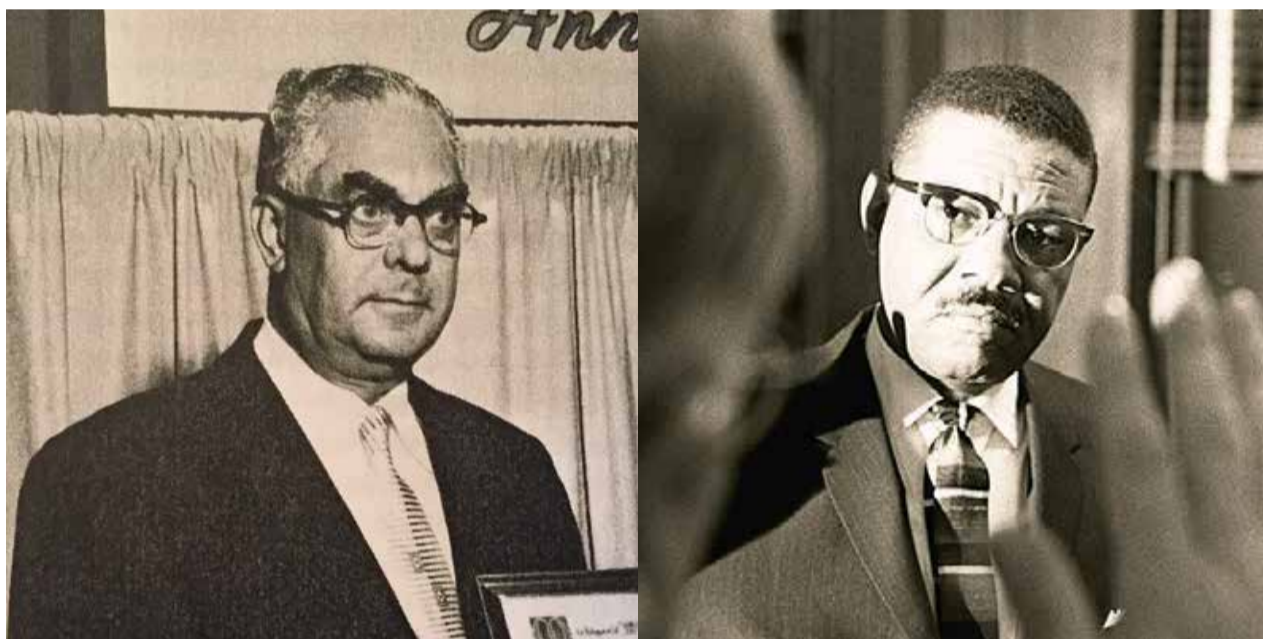
Saginaw mourns the
loss of Veronica Horn,
dedicated leader and
advocate

COMMUNITY, PG 16

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black migration and the bonds that helped
to shape the Great Lakes Bay Region

Dr. Archer A. Claytor and Henry G. Marsh



DR. ARCHER A. CLAYTOR AND HENRY G. MARSH

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Great Migration saw millions of Black Americans leave the South in search of better opportunities in the North, escaping the racial oppression and economic limitations that had defined life for generations. In Michigan, industrial cities like Saginaw, Flint,

and Detroit became destinations for Black families seeking stability and prosperity. Among those who played a pivotal role in shaping Saginaw's Black community were Dr. Archer A. Claytor and Henry G. Marsh, two men whose legacies remain woven into the city's history.

Their connection was more than professional—it

was deeply personal. Marsh's wife, Ruth Claytor, was the niece of Dr. Claytor, and it was through this family bond that Dr. Claytor convinced Marsh to move to Saginaw in 1954. The two men, though different in their professions, shared a vision of service and

CONTINUES ON PG 2,
CLAYTOR & MARSH



Pastor Jerome
L. Graham

Zogreo International
Ministries

MAY 9, 1960 -
JANUARY 22, 2025



Mr. Gordon
Roger Pierrie
Retired Detroit Police
Officer

FEBRUARY 9, 1950 -
JANUARY 7, 2025

FEATURED STORY

La Mision founder:
Heartbreak leads to
helping hand

LATINO BANNER, PG 4



Cover story, Claytor and Marsh



HENRY AND RUTH MARSH

leadership, one that would elevate Saginaw's Black community and create lasting change.

Dr. Archer A. Claytor, a revered physician and civic leader, had already established himself as a cornerstone of Saginaw's Black community when Marsh arrived. Born in 1893 in Virginia, he was the son of formerly enslaved parents who instilled in him the value of education. After earning his medical degree from Meharry Medical College, he came to Saginaw in 1936, where he dedicated his career to serving Black families who often lacked access to quality healthcare.

At a time when segregation and systemic barriers limited opportunities for Black professionals, Dr. Claytor transcended racial divides. He not only provided care to the underserved but also mentored young Black professionals, guiding them toward leadership roles that could strengthen the community. Among those he influenced was his niece's husband, Henry G. Marsh, an ambitious young attorney who had recently graduated from Wayne State University Law School.

Dr. Claytor saw in Marsh a man who could help lead Saginaw

through a period of transition and change. The city, like much of the country, was experiencing social and economic shifts that required strong Black leadership. It was a time when Black professionals were stepping into influential roles, breaking barriers, and challenging the status quo. With Dr. Claytor's encouragement, Marsh moved to Saginaw, quickly establishing himself as a respected attorney and community leader.

In 1961, just seven years after arriving in Saginaw, Marsh was elected to the Saginaw City Council. Six years later, he made history as the city's first Black mayor, one of the first Black mayors in the United States. His leadership during a time of racial and social change helped bridge divisions within the community. Under his tenure, Saginaw was designated a Model City, receiving federal funding for urban development, and was later named an All-American City.

The influence of Dr. Claytor and Henry Marsh extended beyond their own accomplishments. Both men worked to uplift

future generations, using their positions to advocate for equal opportunities in healthcare, education, housing, and politics. Dr. Claytor's leadership in the First Ward Community Center and the Saginaw Housing Commission helped ensure that Black families had access to essential resources. Meanwhile, Marsh's legal and political career paved the way for more Black leaders in Saginaw's government and civic institutions.

Their work left a lasting mark on the city. Dr. Claytor's name is honored through Claytor Park, a Buena Vista school, and a library branch, while Marsh's legacy is enshrined in the Henry Marsh Bridge on I-675 and the Henry Marsh Institute at Saginaw Valley State University.

As Saginaw reflects on its Black history, the story of Dr. Archer A. Claytor and Henry G. Marsh stands as a testament to the power of mentorship, migration, and leadership. Their bond helped shape the city, proving that when one generation uplifts the next, entire communities can thrive.



DR. ARCHER A. CLAYTOR AND WIFE, MARIE CLAYTOR

MICHIGAN BANNER

301 E Genesee Ave, Suite 201B
Saginaw, MI 48607
989.992.2600
publisher022@gmail.com

PUBLISHER

Michelle McCoy

VP SALES & MARKETING

Jerome Buckley

EDITOR EMERITUS

Rae Lynn Buckley

MISSION

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

DISCLAIMER

The Michigan Banner and its staff are not responsible and will not be held liable for any mistakes, error, misspellings and false advertisements in part or whole that may be placed within its publication. Articles, information or comments printed in the newspaper are not necessarily the views or beliefs of The Michigan Banner newspaper. The Michigan Banner reserves the right to edit, change, or delete any information, or refuse to print any information, article or advertisement which is believed to be inconsistent with or conflicts with the mission of the newspaper.

DEADLINES

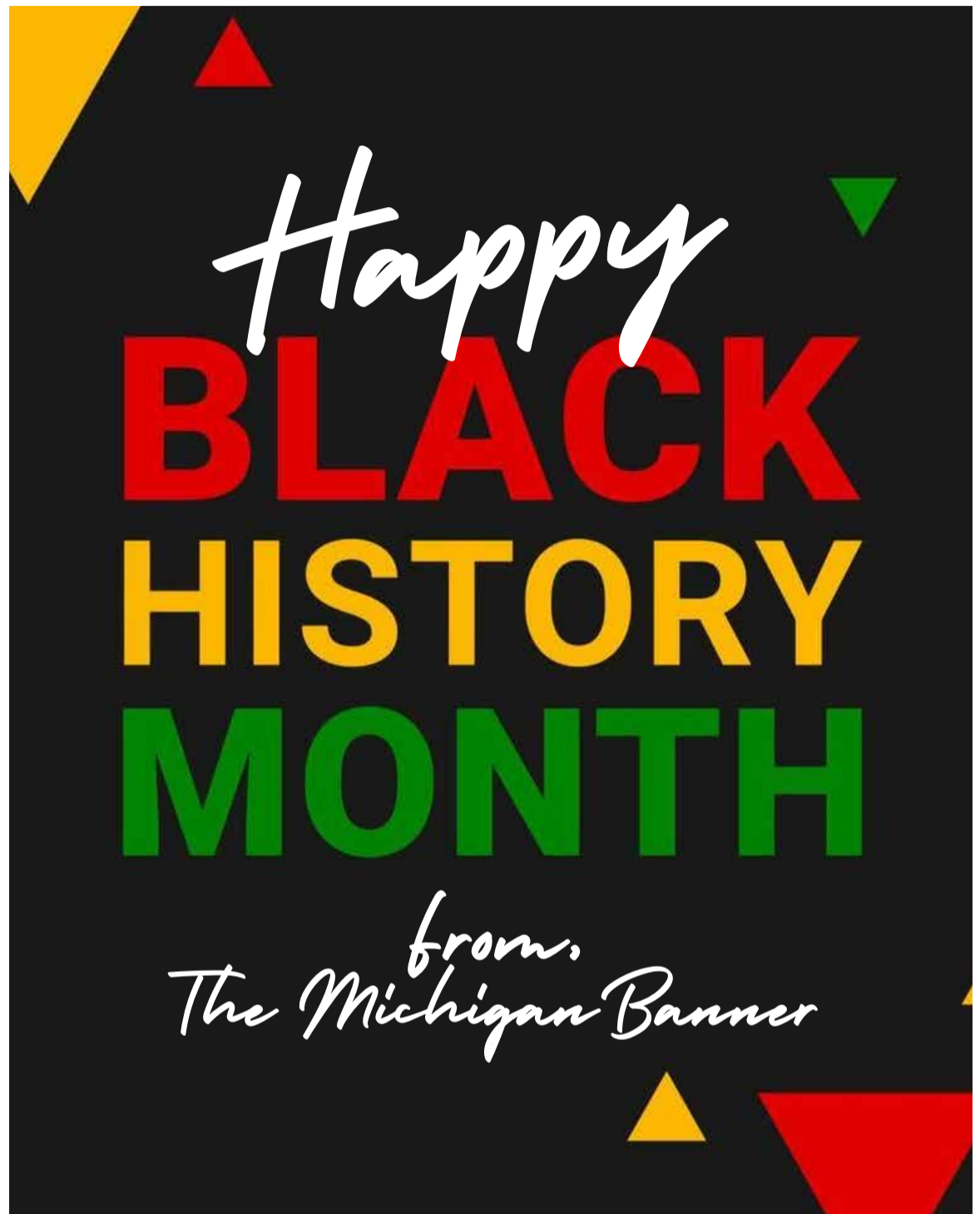
1 week before each publication date of the 1st and 16th of each month

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Mailed or e-mailed
Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

CONNECT WITH THE MICHIGAN BANNER ONLINE!

www.michiganbanner.org
Facebook.com/TheNewMichiganBanner
Twitter.com/MichiganBanner



from
The Michigan Banner

IN THIS ISSUE ▶

Youth Banner 4 - 6

Latino Banner LB 1 - LB 6

Community 13

Health 30

Politics 33

Education 38

Business 49

Faith 54

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 7 • NUMBER 3



How teens can celebrate and honor Black History Month

BY MB STAFF

Every February, Black History Month provides an opportunity to reflect on the achievements, struggles, and contributions of Black individuals throughout history. While the month is often associated with historical figures and past events, it is also a time to celebrate Black culture, amplify Black voices, and engage

in meaningful action. For teenagers, this is a chance to learn, participate, and create positive change in their communities.

Educate yourself and others

Understanding Black history goes beyond what is taught in school. Teens can explore books, documentaries, podcasts, and online resources that highlight both well-known and overlooked

Black historical figures. Books like "Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You" by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi or documentaries such as "13th" by Ava DuVernay provide insight into the history of systemic racism and the fight for justice.

Support Black-owned businesses

One powerful way to celebrate Black History Month is by supporting Black entrepreneurs. Teens can shop at Black-owned businesses, visit Black-owned restaurants, or highlight local businesses on social media. Small actions can make a big difference in promoting economic empowerment within Black communities.

Engage in community service

Giving back is a meaningful way to honor Black history. Volunteering at a local community center, mentoring younger students, or participating in Black-led nonprofit organizations are great ways to make an impact. Teens can also organize donation drives to support historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) or civil rights organizations.

Celebrate Black art and culture

Black history is also about celebrating Black creativity and cultural contributions. Teens can listen to Black musicians, explore Black artists, or watch films by Black filmmakers. Whether it's the jazz legends of the past or today's hip-hop innovators, music is a central part of Black culture. Watching movies like "Hidden

Figures," "Selma," or "Black Panther" can also provide a deeper appreciation for Black excellence in media.

Speak up and advocate for change

Teens have the power to influence change by raising awareness about racial justice and equality. They can use their voices on social media, start conversations in school, or attend events focused on racial equity. Writing letters to local representatives about policies that impact Black communities or joining diversity and inclusion groups at school are meaningful ways to make a difference.

Participate in local Black history events

Many communities host Black History Month events, including museum exhibits, panel discussions, and cultural celebrations. Attending these events is a great way to connect with local Black leaders, artists, and historians while gaining a deeper appreciation for Black history.

Make Black History Month a year-round effort

Celebrating Black history shouldn't stop at the end of February. The lessons learned and actions taken during the month should inspire ongoing commitment to learning, activism, and appreciation for Black culture throughout the year.

By taking initiative, teens can play an active role in honoring Black history, uplifting Black voices, and shaping a more inclusive future.

Local Boys & Girls Clubs launches esports league



KDEN O., 15, CHECKS OUT A NEW GAMING COMPUTER, PART OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS' UPCOMING ESPORTS LEAGUE LAUNCHING IN 2025. (COURTESY PHOTO | BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE GREAT LAKES BAY REGION)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Teens looking to sharpen their gaming skills while developing teamwork and digital literacy can look forward to a new esports league launching this year through the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Great Lakes Bay Region.

The program will introduce competitive gaming opportunities for teen members, supported by newly installed state-of-the-art computer labs across Saginaw and Bay counties. These digital literacy labs, made possible by contributions from Hemlock Semiconductor, the AT&T Foundation, and SC Johnson, will provide valuable resources for a range of educational and career-

focused initiatives.

The esports program will debut with a pilot at the Saginaw Teen Center's after-school program before expanding regionally this summer. Participants will first compete in Rocket League, a game that combines arcade-style soccer with fast-paced vehicular action, before moving on to other titles.

"Esports has exploded as an industry; it made more money last year than the NFL," said Samantha Oliver, program director. "We aren't just tapping into their love of video games. We're teaching them how to work with people — how to work as a team and collaborate."

In addition to esports, the new labs will support programs like Career Launch, equipping

teens with digital skills such as resume-building and software training to prepare them for an increasingly online job market.

"So many modern workplaces have become either partially or entirely digital spaces," Oliver said. "It has become normal for jobseekers to secure employment without ever meeting a hiring manager in-person. Therefore, it is imperative that we work to close the digital divide for our members in these critical

years."

For more information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Great Lakes Bay Region and its programs, visit boysandgirlsclub-sglbr.com or call 989-321-9648.



PROGRAM DIRECTOR SAM OLIVER SETS UP A DESKTOP STATION



SKILLED TRADES



APPRENTICESHIP

NIGHT

Tuesday, February 4, 2025
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

- Saginaw Career Complex
2102 Weiss Street
Saginaw, MI 48602



Are you interested in the skilled trades? Check out what opportunities are available to you in the following fields.

Meet with local unions, employers, and community partners who can get you connected and on the right path.

All ages are welcome!
This event is free and open to the public.



Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

Immigration crackdown may reach mid-Michigan



POLICE ICE (FILE PHOTO)

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Residents who lack U.S. citizenship papers may not be as widespread as in Saginaw, Texas, or other towns near the border, but they are here in mid-Michigan and they are at risk under President Trump's post-inaugural ICE raids, says a leading local expert.

Gilberto Guevara, who has overseen immigration services for 30 years through the Mexican American Council, says, most so-called "illegals" are seasonable summer farmworkers, but that some stay year-round, although a specific number is not known.

For example, Bay County's dairy industry is a full-year em-



GILBERTO GUEVARA

ployer, he notes.

Guevara turns to Telemundo and CNN to keep up with the latest development, but the picture

remains muddy because Trump is not consistent in his actions. The new/old president declared a Jan. 27 freeze embargo on an array of social safety net programs and services, only to pull back Jan. 29.

No prospect of a presidential reversal seems possible. Trump's attacks on immigration were a startup staple of his political emergence a decade ago, even falsely declaring President Obama to be undocumented.

Individuals especially at risk include the DREAMers, born in the U.S. to non-citizen parents, named for the proposed Development, Relief and Education Act for Alien Minors. When antis continued to block the legisla-

tion, Obama took executive action in 2012 with DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

President Biden promised eventual citizenship to young adults who reported their DACA status to the federal Department of Immigration Services, but now Trump aims to revoke DACA, something he promised he would not do in a videotaped Oval Office session in response to a direct inquiry from Nancy Pelosi, House speaker at the time.

Guevara, the first Latino to serve on the Saginaw Board of Education, pledges to provide immigration updates with as much clarity as possible during these uncertain times.

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

MAC children's library features book giveaways and tutoring

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW – Visitors to the grand opening of the Mexican American Council new children's library will witness piles of board games.

Aren't the kids supposed to be reading books? Indeed there are plenty of those as well, but games that range from Chutes and Ladders to Monopoly are educational as well.

The event, including sign-ups for free-of-charge tutoring after school hours and this coming summer, is from 10 a.m. to noon on Feb. 8, the Saturday of Super Bowl weekend, at the MAC Center, 1537 South Washington in the old Catholic bishop's mansion across from Hoyt Park.

Each child will receive the family's choice of either a workbook or storybook. Drawings will be conducted for the board games, carrying retail values up to \$40 for the brand known as "Cranium."

The learning center is named for the late Fr. Joseph Schabel in the front fireplace room. It is intended as a revolving library, with families taking books and board games to keep in their homes, with donations ongoing to maintain the stock on the shelves. Anyone who wishes to donate books, games or rec equipment may contact the Mexican American Council.

The Saginaw Mexican American Council presents

SUPERBOWL OF READING

BRING YOUR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

To the **MAG** Center

1537 S Washington Ave, Saginaw Michigan
Saturday February 8, 10am to noon

FREE OF CHARGE

- reading and writing
- math and science
- cultural arts
- tutoring
- bilingual available



PATIENTS WITH MEDICAID WELCOME!

PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTHCARE FOR EVERYONE

Our **Services**



ROUTINE CARE



SPECIALIZED SERVICES



**LAB TESTING &
SCREENING**



SUPPORT



989-921-5377
GreatLakesBayHealth.org
Accepting New Patients

La Mision founder: Heartbreak leads to helping hand

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Veronica Vela cannot bring her son back to life, but still she honors his spirit.

In 2011, after Jesse passed away at age 19, a mother known for kindness and giving was so deep in distress that she stopped her service employment as a Hospice aide.

“I couldn’t cope with seeing death anymore,” she reflects.

The hurt never goes away, but Veronica has bounced back to establish La Mision for social aid and emergency assistance.

She has enlisted Rudy Vela, the husband she found months beyond the tragedy. Their top teammates are Domingo E. Delgado and Marcus D. Hill. It’s all volunteer for the near future, but they dream of a day when some nonprofit 501(c)3 funds may come their way.

(An in-depth feature report is offered via Larry Rodarte's "Mi Gente on Air." Simply search for "Rodarte WSGW" for the YouTube video.)



RUDY AND VERONICA VELA, FOUNDERS OF LA MISION (COURTESY PHOTO)

La Mision started last October. More than 150 helpouts so far exceed one per day — everything from food to furniture to, lately, emergency space heaters and winter coats.

This builds upon years of looking out for those in need. Long ago, the newlyweds stocked a summer mini fridge for the neighborhood kids on their porch on the West Side, midway between the county courthouse and Covenant Health Care.

Rudy often was out in the yard or garage, during his breaks from his truck-driving assignments.

He says he would always be the first to help, but he was a homebody until Veronica came long. She brought him out to dances and other activities, along with the social work.

As a result of La Mision’s constant contact with people in

hardship, he says, “Now I look at the guy on the street corner a little bit differently.”

“Almost always as soon as we receive donated items, right away they’re gone,” says Veronica, now retired, who holds the fort while her truck-driver husband is on the road, while Domingo also is a traveler, finding time between his Flint work shifts at GM Truck and Bus Plant.

Her charitable ethics come from parents Rojelio and Jesu-sita Salazar, recently retired co-pastors of the former Community Church of God 7th Day at 2112 West Genesee.

“They always were helping the community,” she notes.

Delgado adds, “We already had busy lives, and so now we are just adding to them.”

Veronica updates La Mis-

ion’s Facebook page almost daily, stamping “Mission Accomplished” in red capital letters when a need is met.

In a recent example, she wrote: “Our next mission is with a young girl who left a bad situation. She is with another family, but they are on a fixed income. She is in need of clothing, anything a 14-year-old would like. Her clothes size is 12/13 girls. Today is her birthday, everyone give her a birthday blessing.”

One responding donor said her own girls had outgrown the needed size, and the match was made. The only thing missing on La Mision’s FB thank you was a link to the jazzy theme song for TV’s old Mission Impossible show.

Online thanks are given to donors, along with announcements

for other sources of aid, some obscure, like a mattress giveaway at the Ramada (formerly Davenport) Inn. They have paired with Community Church of God 7th Day, now at 502 Potter, with New Beginnings Ministries Outreach at 701 Hess, with Union Civica at 2715 Wadsworth and with the Mexican American Council, 1537 South Washington.

Someday the Velas and Delgado aim to find their own office and storage space, but for now they rely on local sources to help them give help. They also are in need of a box truck for transport of furniture and appliances, along with funds for gasoline.

Anyone who wishes to volunteer or donate may contact them via their Facebook page.

IT MATTERS WHERE YOU BUY YOUR CAR



5925 State St, Saginaw, MI 48603



Louie Garcia

(989) 770-3078

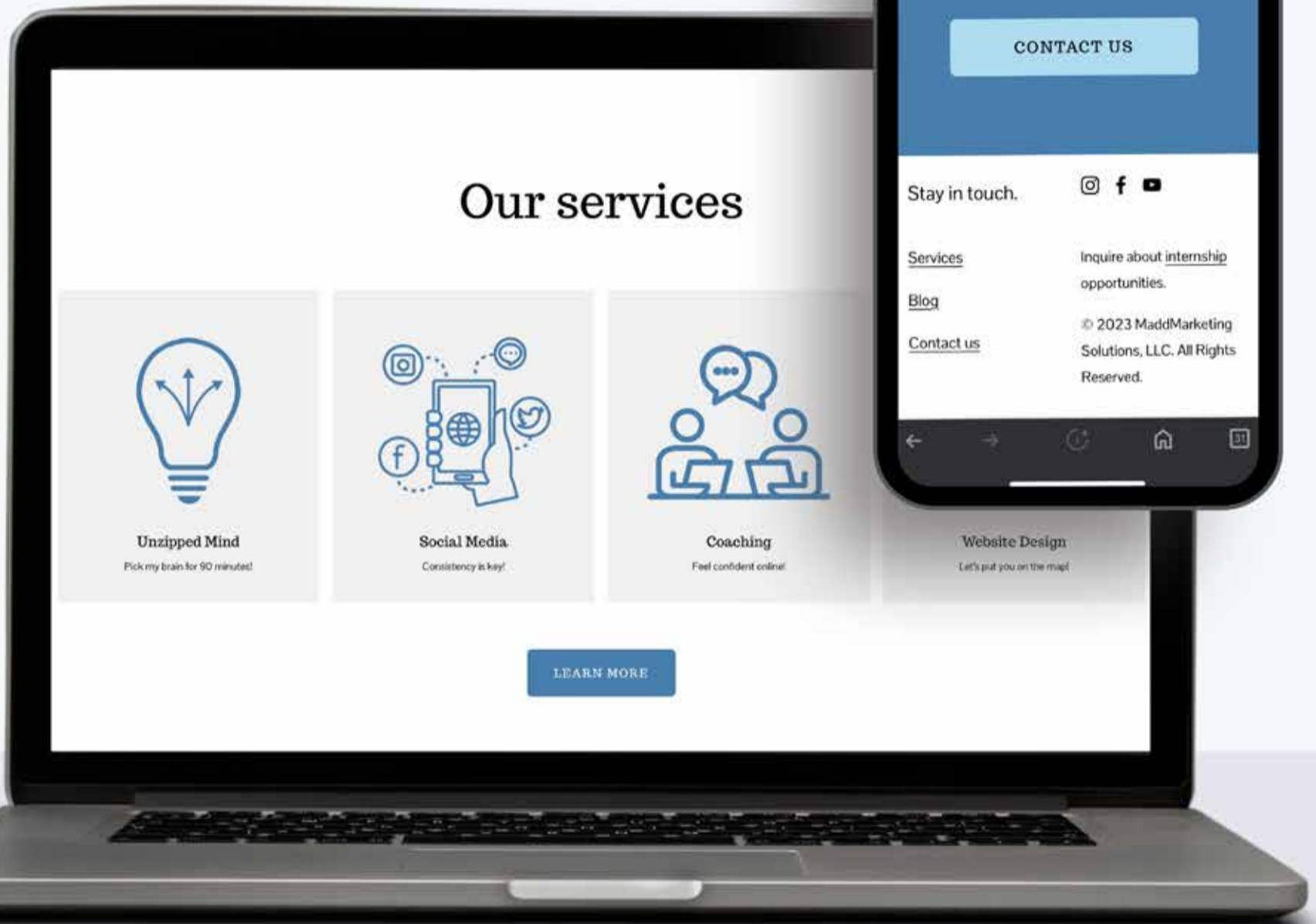
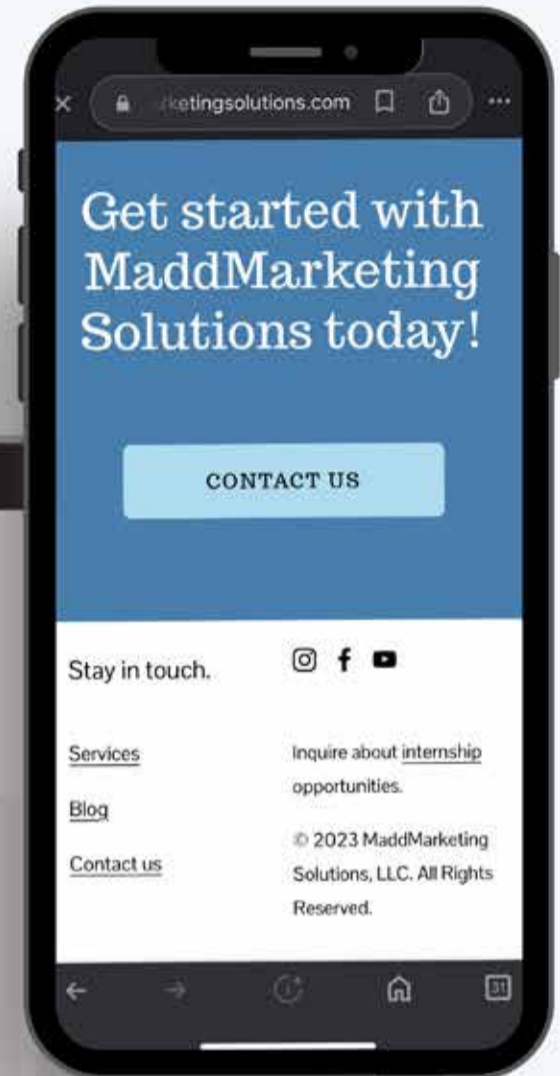
LGarcia@garberbuick.com

You'll Do Better At **GARBER**

www.garberbuick.com



MaddMarketing Solutions
@maddmkt



Schedule Your Free Consultation Today

www.maddmarketingsolutions.com

COMMUNITY



Blacks made history in community policing



FROM LEFT, CHARLES BRADDOCK AND RUBEN DANIELS (COURTESY PHOTO)

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Long before "community police officer" became a standard job title in law enforcement ranks, local Black history shows how this became common practice.

Cal Nicholson was employed as Saginaw's first Black police officer in 1934, not as some big sort of civil rights action, but to cope with the swelling minority

population in the First Ward of families that had come north for work in the automobile plants. At the time, North Sixth Street was where the newcomers socialized, not even welcome at that time across the railroad tracks on Potter Street. This was the community that Nicholson was assigned to patrol.

Ruben Daniels was hired as the second Black officer in 1947, a full 13 years later, reflecting the

snail's pace of integration, and he began a trend of community police officers becoming civic leaders after they retired from the force. He succeeded Edith Baillie as First Ward Center director and then became the first Black member of the Board of Education.

Soon to follow came Joe Stephens, eventual City Council member and the second Black mayor, later making news with allegations of police misconduct.

Later, Charles Braddock "graduated" the police ranks to become FWCC director, following Daniels footsteps, also serving as a state probation officer and as pastor of St. Luke's CME Church.

For further studies of Black History in Saginaw, first launched at Delta College during the 1970s under Willie Thompson, Lou Oates and John Pugh, readers may visit:

- The Saginaw NAACP branch website, which for its 100th anniversary in 2019 compiled a list of 100 prominent local Black individuals.
- Hoyt Library, for Dr. Roosevelt Ruffin's review from the final half of the 19th century, to Dr. Willie McKether covering the 20th century up through the 1960s. The Michigan Banner's archived Feb. 1, 2022 edition contains a report that features both of these.
- The Castle Museum of Saginaw County history will feature various displays through February.

If you have a personal Black history story to share, please email mwtsaginaw@yahoo.com.

COMMUNITY

Joyce Seals: Don't give up on saving Saginaw High

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — The sprawling building that formerly housed Saginaw High School, from 1955 to the opening of Saginaw United, still can be saved, says Joyce Seals, a Board of Education trustee and former mayor.

She aimed to "take to the woodshed" city and county leaders who backed away in 2022 from a three-way ARPA plan to convert the structure at 3100 Webber into a community center, but she drew no response when she delivered her lecture to a January "liaison" group of reps from the three main governing bodies.

The original SHS plan called for each unit to invest \$750,000 from federal anti-covid funds, with ARPA for the city and county and lesser-known ESSER from the school system. Also, funds for the middle school conversion in one wing would have come totally from the buildings millage, to avoid anyone saying the city and county were subsidizing the school district.

Seals said the result would have been a suburban-type fitness center, along with a "multi-purpose" one-stop wing for an array of service agencies scattered across communities.

At present, the newly formed Saginaw Middle School occupies only one of the four wings, not enough to save the local landmark. The old Arthur Hill High, built a decade prior to Saginaw High following World War II, is preserved as the new home of SASA, the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy, which relocated from the old riverfront Montgomery Ward site to make room for Saginaw United.

City Council members took longer than the County Board to disperse ARPA monies, but both excluded Saginaw High. To change their minds, they would



SAGINAW HIGH SCHOOL



JOYCE SEALS

have to tap into accumulated ARPA bank account interest for monies in reserve, such as \$5 million unspent apiece for the future downtown Medical Diamond, due for completion by the end of the decade. Thus far, both have followed their administrations in keeping several millions in accumulated interest for their general operations budgets, but the county has a new controller and the city has four new council members.

City leaders claimed School Superintendent Ramont Roberts failed to produce needed paperwork for the venture, Seals said, but the criticism was in error. Council members never have discussed the issue at the table.

Meanwhile, the county board's suburban and outlying members expressed feelings that too many of their ARPA dollars were going to the city, with a population that once was more than one-half of the county's but has dropped through the years to less than one-quarter. They also chopped money for the Saginaw County Community Action Center, with some mistaking that CAC is a city-only program. The city's delegation of commissioners were outnumbered and said little in response.

The City Council, Board of Ed and County Board oversee more than \$500 million in combined local spending, but the liaison panel gathers only four times per year. The next session is at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17.

City Hall and the courthouse

formerly took turns hosting, but the school board headquarters at 550 Millard has become the permanent site because the parking is far more convenient. Improved access at City Hall and the courthouse for the general public has not been discussed, however.

The Medical Diamond first was billed as a mental health center, with major emphasis on a need for more awareness, peaking with a dramatic play entitled "The Family Car" that packed the Temple Theater. Later the focus transformed into housing a Central Michigan University college of medicine, far larger in scope than the facility now on Bond and Cooper near the former North Intermediate School location. Projections are for 1,000 new jobs by 2029, along with increased commerce from the students. A construction start is not yet set.

Leader Sam Shaheen coined the name to represent a diamond shape with downtown on top, Covenant and MI Health (St. Mary's) on the sides, and the parks system at the base.

COMMUNITY

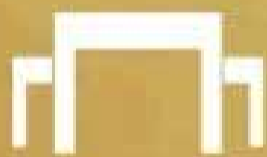
Black History Month



FREE PROGRAM FILM SCREENING

Black Art

IN THE ABSENCE OF LIGHT



MARSHALL M. FREDERICKS SCULPTURE MUSEUM



Transportation provided but not required. Bus departs at 12:00 noon from 200 S. Washington Street, Saginaw at noon. Registration is required. Transportation and refreshments included.

SCAN THE QR CODE OR CALL TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT



February 8, 2025

1:00 PM

**Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture
Museum & Rhea Miller Theater at SVSU**

Spend an enriching afternoon exploring the legacy of Black art. The bus will drop-off at the Rhea Miller Theater for the film screening of *Black Art in the Absence of Light*. Refreshments will be provided upon arrival. After the screening, visit the Museum for a deeper dive into the films inspiring themes, and experience the exhibition *Driskell & Friends: Creativity, Collaboration & Friendship*. The bus will depart from the Museum.

**FREE TRANSPORTATION
FREE FILM SCREENING
FREE REFRESHMENTS**



**MARSHALL M. FREDERICKS
SCULPTURE MUSEUM**

7400 Bay Road • Saginaw, MI 48710
Hours: Monday–Saturday • 11AM–5PM
www.MarshallFredericks.org
Phone: 989-964-7125 • Email: mfsm@svsu.edu

COMMUNITY

Saginaw mourns the loss of Veronica Horn, dedicated leader and advocate



VERONICA LYNN HORN, FORMER PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE SAGINAW COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (COURTESY PHOTO | SAGINAW COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW – Veronica Horn, a trailblazer in public service and a cornerstone of the Saginaw community, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 25, at the age of 70. Her husband, former State Senator Ken Horn, shared the news in a heartfelt Facebook post over the weekend.

“We knew it was coming. We fought so hard to avoid this day. But it is with great sadness I share news of the passing of my beautiful Veronica,” he wrote.

“Her battle with cancer was so valiant and public, as she shared with us her health updates, both positive and uplifting. In the end, though, while her faith was strong, her mind was clear, her heart was at peace, her body was exhausted from its internal and unrelenting combat with leukemia.”

Horn served as the President and CEO of the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce since August 1, 2018, succeeding Bob VanDeventer. In this role, she managed nearly 1,000 member organizations, leading initiatives that strengthened the local economy and promoted regional collaboration. Her ability to bring together diverse voices for the benefit of the community was widely admired and played a key role in shaping the future of Saginaw County.

Before assuming her leadership role at the Chamber, Horn held the position of Executive Vice President and Senior Director of Government Relations, focusing on political affairs, public relations, and economic development. Her professional career began in government, where she worked for U.S. Congressmen Bob Traxler and James A. Barcia.

During this time, she established district offices, trained staff, and handled pressing issues related to housing, healthcare, and veterans’ affairs. Later, she served as State Government Affairs Manager for Dow Corning and Hemlock Semiconductor, where she spearheaded projects such as the Downtown Saginaw Exit Ramp and the preservation of the former Saginaw Civic Center, now the Dow Event Center.

Horn earned her bachelor’s degree in political science from Concordia College in Wilmington, Delaware, and completed the Certified Chamber Executive Program at the University of Arizona. She was also a graduate of Michigan State University’s Institute for Public Policy and the Michigan Political Leadership Program.

Throughout her life, she remained dedicated to continuous learning and community ser-

vice, as evidenced by her involvement with organizations such as the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Board, the United Way, and Special Olympics. She was a founding member of the Henry Marsh Institute for Public Policy at Saginaw Valley State University, an initiative focused on fostering leadership in governance and policymaking.

Her contributions were widely recognized, earning her awards such as the Tom McDonald Leadership Legacy Award, the Economic Excellence Award in Saginaw County, and the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce President’s Award. In 2024, she was honored with The Michigan Banner’s Heart of the City Impact Turnaround Award for her exceptional leadership, dedication to community development, and efforts to create meaningful change in Saginaw County.

Veronica Horn will be remembered as a tireless advocate for her community, a mentor to many, and a champion of progress. Her legacy will live on in the countless lives she touched and the initiatives she championed. Horn’s dedication to her family, faith, and community will remain an inspiration to all who knew her, and her contributions to Saginaw County will be felt for generations to come.

A funeral mass will be held at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, 958 E. Tuscola St., Frankenmuth, on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at 11 a.m. The service will be live-streamed at www.btmuth.org.

More tributes will take place during the Chamber’s annual “State of the City and County” Percolator Club breakfast on the morning of Thursday, Feb. 6, at TheDow.

City staffers co-mingle with council on plans



2025 STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING (PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF SAGINAW)

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Jeff Kloplic is the city's technical service director, but during a segment of the Jan. 31 annual daylong planning session he may as well have been in leadership for arts, culture and recreation.

Saginaw no longer has a parks-and-rec director or even a department, but that's still one of the City Council's priority items, and so Kloplic filled the "administrator" void when elected officials and city staffers broke into discussion groups.

He teamed with first-year council members Eric Braddock and Jacinta Seals, and the trio agreed that they should return to the full group with an idea for



JEFF KLOPIC

Ojibway Island, closed to motor vehicles since 2021 on account of misconduct among patrons who abused the otherwise peaceful setting.

Kloplic noted that when he began his city employment near

the millennium's turn, fresh from Central Michigan University in his hometown of Mount Pleasant, Ojibway was host to numerous summer events, large and small. He would know. Early in his "tech guy" career he volunteered to step outside the box, assisting in development of the skate park and spray park south of the island, in the aftermath of the wave pool's failure.

Even prior to the vehicle ban, he noted, the bandshell and stage had fallen into disrepair, but with ARPA funds supporting rehab, Saginaw's historic riverside landmark is prepared to renew a busy schedule.

Braddock suggested that volunteers, including police reserves, could patrol the island on at least a few non-concert days,

and thus came a consensus. With events on some days and supervision on others, the council could declare Ojibway "reopened," if not for a full seven days a week.

This item will become part of the summary that will be submitted for consultant Nancy Ohle's final report.

The Ojibway revival was virtually the lone new aspect of the plan update, which blended a dozen staffers with the council. Other basics are that city leaders still wish to pursue an election to throw out 1979 property tax caps, still wish to pursue housing and economic development, and still aim to maintain public safety.

Council members are slated to receive their summaries in advance of their next session on Feb. 10.

COMMUNITY

Snowfest 2025 brings winter art and entertainment to Frankenmuth

BY MB STAFF

FRANKENMUTH — Zehnder's Snowfest is set to return for its 34th year, transforming Michigan's Little Bavaria into a dazzling winter destination. From Wednesday, Jan. 29 to Sunday, Feb. 2, the festival will feature a stunning display of snow and ice sculptures, family-friendly activities, and live entertainment, cementing its reputation as one of the Midwest's premier winter events.

This year's festival kicks off on Wednesday, with the highly anticipated world-class snow carving competitions and State of Michigan snow sculpting competitions. Teams of skilled artists will transform blocks of snow into intricate works of art, displayed at Zehnder's and Bavarian Inn parking lots.

On Thursday, young talent takes the spotlight during the children's snow sculpting competition at Frankenmuth River Place Shops, followed by the high school snow sculpting competition, where budding artists showcase their creativity.

Friday's highlight is the professional ice exhibition, led by award-winning sculptor Greg Butauski and his team. Visitors will marvel as they create a multi-block masterpiece inspired by an "Arcade Game" theme, a must-see event for all ages.

The festival winds down on Saturday, with the completion of the snow carving competitions, live musical performances, and the annual fireworks display, lighting up the sky at 6:45 p.m. On Sunday, visitors can enjoy viewing the completed snow and ice sculptures.

To ensure accessibility, free shuttle services will run from Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland and Birch Run Premium

Outlets, with additional parking available at The Fortress Golf Course and Frankenmuth River Place Shops.

For more information, visit www.zehnders.com/snowfest or call (844) 602-4873.

EVENT SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, January 29

- **10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.** Zehnder's warming tent open with food, refreshments, exhibit booths, and entertainment
- **10 a.m. – 4 p.m.** Pioneer Sugar's "All Things Chocolate" Baking Contest
- **11 a.m. – 3 p.m.** Live entertainment by The Halsey Old Timers
- **6 p.m.** State of Michigan snow sculpting begins in Bavarian Inn Restaurant's parking lot
- Throughout the day World-class snow carving continues with double and single block competitions in Zehnder's parking lot
- Throughout the day Children's snow sculpting at Frankenmuth River Place Shops

Thursday, January 30

- **9 a.m.** High school snow sculpting begins at Frankenmuth River Place Shops
- **10 a.m. – 3 p.m.** Zehnder's warming tent open with food, refreshments, and exhibit booths
- **Noon** Zehnder's Snowfest Lunch Show in Zehnder's Main Dining Room (sold out)
- **1 – 3 p.m.** Bingo at Zehnder's warming tent
- **Throughout the day** World-class snow carving continues in Zehnder's parking lot, with public voting beginning
- **Throughout the day** Children's snow sculpting

at Frankenmuth River Place Shops

- **Throughout the day** State of Michigan snow sculpting continues in Bavarian Inn Restaurant's parking lot

Friday, January 31

- **9 a.m. – 5 p.m.** High school snow sculpting continues at Frankenmuth River Place Shops
- **10 a.m. – 12 midnight** Zehnder's warming tent open with food, refreshments, exhibit booths, and entertainment
- **11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Live performance by The Swift Brothers
- **Noon – 6 p.m.** Zehnder's Snowfest information tent open
- **3 – 4:30 p.m.** U.S. 338th Army Band country concert
- **4 – 7 p.m.** Children's play area, petting zoo, pony rides (\$3), musical carousel ride, and collegiate alumni ice carving competition at Edwin L. Zehnder Park
- **6 p.m.** WKQC line dancing
- **8 p.m. – 12 a.m.** Shiatown live performance (\$5 cover charge after 6 p.m.; children 12 and under free)
- **Throughout the day** Professional ice exhibition featuring Greg Butauski, showcasing a multi-block "Arcade Game" theme in Zehnder's parking lot
- **Throughout the day** World-class snow carving continues in Zehnder's parking lot, with public voting
- **Throughout the day** State of Michigan snow sculpting continues in Bavarian Inn Restaurant's parking lot

Saturday, February 1

- **9 a.m. – 12 a.m.** Zehnder's warming tent open with food, refreshments, exhibit booths, and entertainment
- **9:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.** U.S.

338th Army Brass & Wind Ensemble performance

- **10 a.m. – 11 a.m.** U.S. 338th Army Band Patriotic Concert
- **10 a.m.** World-class snow carving (single, double block, and state snow sculpting) concludes
- **11 a.m. – 4 p.m.** Magician Joel Tacey performs three shows
- **11 a.m. – 3 p.m.** Collegiate alumni ice carving competition at Edwin L. Zehnder Park
- **11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.** Music by Stone Street Revival
- **11 a.m. – 5 p.m.** Children's play area, petting zoo, pony rides (\$3), and musical carousel rides near Toyberg
- **2 p.m.** Snow carving awards presented
- **4 – 5:30 p.m.** U.S. 338th Army Band Rock Concert
- **6:45 p.m.** Annual fireworks display
- **8 p.m. – 12 a.m.** The Rock Show live performance (\$5 cover charge after 6 p.m.; children 12 and under free)
- **10 a.m. – 5 p.m.** Zehnder's Snowfest information tent open

Sunday, February 2

- **10 a.m. – 5 p.m.** Zehnder's warming tent open with food, refreshments, exhibit booths, and entertainment
- **11 a.m. – 4 p.m.** Magician Joel Tacey performs three shows
- **12 – 3 p.m.** Zehnder's Snowfest information tent open
- **12 – 5 p.m.** Children's play area, petting zoo, pony rides (\$3), and musical carousel rides near Toyberg
- **1 – 5 p.m.** Live music by The Saucecats
- **Throughout the day** Completed ice and snow sculptures available for public viewing

COMMUNITY

Mustard Seed among aid programs at risk

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Similar to the scenario across the nation, leaders of social agencies are concerned about President Trump's attempts to freeze their federal funds. The following sample comes from Bill Hartl, retired SISD supervisor of special education who served on the board for Mustard Seed shelter at Sixth and Cherry:

"This is to share that what happens in Washington has real-life consequences in Saginaw, Michigan. The Mustard Seed was informed that funding for the Shelter Plus Care program has been stopped. This means that 37 households, impacting 70 individuals who were formerly homeless will soon be homeless again as the subsidy to pay a portion of their rent has been eliminated."

Hartl continues, "No rent subsidy, no home and thus they are back on the streets of Saginaw. These families are making good progress to achieve total independence. I'm writing / contacting Representative Kristin McDonald Rivet, and Senators Peters and Slotkin and sharing the real world impact of Mr Trump stopping funding which has already been appropriated by Congress, to support eliminating homelessness."

He concludes, "Congress is the Voice of the People and Mr. Trump has decided to overrule the wishes of the People."



**Emmaus House
2ND ANNUAL
VALENTINES
BENEFIT**

FEATURING:
Sheriff Bill Federspiel
and his all-star band
featuring the
Hollywood Horns

Saturday
FEBRUARY 15, 2025
Horizons Conference Center

Hor'duerves at 5:00 pm – Buffet Dinner at 6:15 pm
Music and Dancing 8:00 pm – 11:00 pm

TICKETS | \$75.00
TABLE OF 8 | \$600
PURCHASE A TABLE OF 8 BY JANUARY 15TH FOR \$550

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT EMMAUS HOUSE
733 S. 14TH ST.
or by Contacting an
Event Committee Member

NO REFUNDS
NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR

CASH BAR

DINNER Included

COMMUNITY

C E L E B R A T I N G

BLACK *History Month*

Art Exhibition

All Month | Downtown Saginaw Center

Hidden Figures Screening & Book Club Launch

Thursday, February 6 | 5:30pm | Main Campus – N007, Downtown Bay City, Downtown Saginaw

Human Library

Thursday, February 10 | 2-4pm | Main Campus – N007

Poetry Read-In

More Details Coming Soon - RSVP below

Black History Month Keynote

Friday, February 28 | 6–7:30pm | Main Campus – Pioneer Gym

For more information

Sydney Smith

989-686-9017 | sydneysmith@delta.edu

RSVP Here

<https://forms.office.com/r/L8h7YV0hCC>



Delta College

COMMUNITY

Fire amid ice: CAP forum warms up the issues

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Single-digit temps lingered outdoors but talks inside warmed up at times during a State of Black Saginaw forum organized through CAP, Community Alliance for the People.

On the MLK holiday, CAP founder Jeff Bulls outlined recent forward steps with an increase in local black business owners, school teachers and elected officials. One among the elected group, new City Councilman Eric Braddock, said “gradual change” is moving forward. He was joined by another first-termer, former CAP leader Carly Rose Hammond, along with re-elected Monique Lamar Sylvia.

But still, several participants described still-smoldering anger after Kamala Harris was nipped by Donald Trump in the national campaign. Some included double frustration because Saginaw’s own Pamela Pugh, state school board president, fell short in her bid to take the reins in Congress from the retired Dan Kildee in Congress. Bay City’s Kristen McDonald Rivet won the spot instead; Pugh attended the forum but opted to simply listen.

The first agenda topic was voting, followed by leadership and health. Nearly 100 concerned citizens who braved the cold were so intense on this topical trio that after two hours at the Saginaw County CAC headquarters they postponed the fourth — black dollars in the economy — until another day.

County Clerk Vanessa Guerra opened by showing data that reflected last November’s voter turnout below 50 percent in the city — lower than 40 in some black precincts — severely trailing the suburban, exurban and statewide counts in the two-thirds range and above.

Across the map, in a well-



COMMUNITY MEMBERS GATHER AT THE STATE OF BLACK SAGINAW FORUM, HELD ON JANUARY 15, 2025, AT SAGINAW COUNTY CAC. (COURTESY PHOTO)

established pattern, the stats showed older people outvoting the younger generation among all ethnic groups, in many cases doubling the percentage turnout. The main difference in Saginaw County was that elders in the ‘burbs outvoted those in the city, but the ensuing CAP discussion focused on the youth.

Admonitions of young people constantly on social media, skipping school and disrespecting parents, drew some approval. But there was bounceback led by one of the few young adults in the audience, RoShawnda Brown, a child care case manager with Saginaw Psychological Services.

Too many adults either fail to speak with school age children, or even worse, ask for young viewpoints and then ignore them, was the sentiment, echoed by Silvia, who in the past helped to manage the New Alternatives youth program in the Wolverine Baptist Center on Hoyt.

“Older people need to be more flexible” in their interactions, Brown summarized, studying to become a psychologist herself.

Another exchange took root when Georgie Wilson, retired Buena Vista school teacher and one of a handful of White people present, described his years of political activism as “light-skinned

black” in outlook, but lamented that black leadership in an array of worthy causes should do better in “organizing” for action and said the CAP forum could offer a turning point.

Charles Allen, defeated council candidate, heard this shortly after entering late and gradually raised his voice in sharp dissent that White people have no right to be critical of others after supporting Trump in the past three presidential elections.

While Wilson drew some handclaps, Allen drew a higher level of applause, even after he ripped an increase in Black men who backed Trump, along with how the City Council handled the record-setting \$52 million ARPA federal grant. The prior council, like the current, was black majority.

On leadership, one of the audience speakers was former mayor Gary Loster, whose four terms (1993 to 2001) now are being matched by re-appointed Brenda Moore. He continues to organize for top officials, present and past, elected and administrators, to serve as mentors for the upcoming age group, as a sort of leadership institute.

An example cited by County Commissioner Michael Webster is newcomer Amaya Bradley’s

victory to become the first Black trustee in Saginaw Township, and her poise in coping with a defeated candidate’s husband, new Commissioner Rich Spitzer, who in error found and posted suggestive Facebook photos of another person with a matching name. Spitzer apologized and joined a unanimous vote of censure.

For health care, Bulls opened with a bottom line that the average lifespan for black people is 71 years, five behind the U.S. population as a whole. There was discussion of some people with historic fears of seeking any medical attention, some with lack of schooling to read and comprehend the info they need.

Bishop Hurley Coleman Jr. delivered the closing after he shook hands with Hurley Coleman III, CAC’s director and forum host. He spoke of love for both his black heritage and for all people. He said that for anyone who wishes to get involved, “there is a connection with some group” that already is addressing the various issues, or at least has tried.

Upcoming Saginaw CAP activities, along with a forum video, will appear on their Facebook page.

COMMUNITY

Dr. Dawn Hinton named Associate Provost at Saginaw Valley State University



DR. DAWN HINTON, NEWLY APPOINTED ASSOCIATE PROVOST AT SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY. (COURTESY PHOTO | SVSU)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Dr. Dawn Hinton, a seasoned academic leader with nearly three decades of experience in higher education, has been appointed Associate Provost at Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU), the university announced Monday in a Facebook post.

Dr. Hinton has been a prominent figure at SVSU since 1997, where she began as an Assistant Professor of Sociology. Over the years, she has advanced to key leadership roles, including Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). Her career has been defined by her focus on student success, institution-

al innovation, and community engagement.

As Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Hinton led efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and implement student-centered programs. Among her accomplishments is the establishment of the Student Success Center, which aligns general education curriculum with institutional goals to enhance the student experience.

Dr. Hinton's tenure as Director of CETL was marked by significant achievements, including the introduction of Faculty Learning Communities that engaged over 50 faculty members in cross-disciplinary collaboration. She also expanded CETL's

mission, positioning it as a central resource for faculty development and pedagogical innovation. Under her leadership, CETL introduced Open Educational Resources across all General Education categories, reducing costs for students while enhancing academic accessibility.

Her dedication to DEI is reflected in initiatives such as the Sankofa Project, which connects underserved youth to global cultures, and her work in establishing a sister city partnership between Saginaw and Amanokrom, Ghana. Dr. Hinton has also been a driving force behind key grant-funded programs, including the MiLEAP Student Success Grant and TRIO programs, which support underserved student populations.

Dr. Hinton's work has earned her numerous accolades, including being named Michigan ACE Institutional Representative of the Year in 2023 and Great Lakes Bay Region Woman of the Year in 2020.

She holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in Sociology from Western Michigan University and a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Michigan-Flint. Throughout her career, she has taught a wide range of courses, including those focused on social inequality, urban sociology, and the experiences of Black women in America.

As Associate Provost, Dr. Hinton will play a pivotal role in advancing SVSU's mission of academic excellence and student success.

SAFE COMMUNITIES, STRONG FAMILIES WORKSHOP SERIES



This 8 week program is dedicated to empowering families and strengthening neighborhoods. Each session focuses on crucial topics such as gun safety, conflict resolution, mental health, financial literacy, and community engagement. Through interactive discussions and practical resources, this series equips participants with the tools to foster safer, more connected, and resilient communities.



Tuesdays Starting Feb. 4th 5 PM - 7 PM 1708 Johnson St. Saginaw, MI 48601
To sign up for each workshop, call 989-752-1660 or email info@houghtonjones.org

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:



FEB 4TH
5 PM

Understanding Gun Safety: Protecting Your Families - Explore practical tips for safe firearm storage and handling, along with strategies to educate families on preventing accidental injuries and misuse. **FREE Gun locks given to the first 25 people to sign up!**



FEB 11TH
5 PM

Recognizing the Signs: Preventing Violence Before It Starts - Learn to identify early warning signs of conflict and violence while discovering proactive steps to address and prevent escalation in your community. **Free Stress - Relief Kit to the first 25 people to sign up!**

FEB 18TH
5 PM

Youth Empowerment: Making Positive Choices - Equip young people with tools to make informed, healthy decisions, build confidence, and become leaders in fostering a culture of respect and responsibility. **Free Youth Gratitude Journal to the first 25 people to sign up.**



FEB 25TH
5 PM

Building Safer Communities: The Power of Collaboration - Discover how partnerships among neighbors, organizations, and local leaders can create safer environments through shared responsibility and trust. **Free guide on how to start your own neighborhood watch for all.**

MAR 4TH
5 PM

Grief, Healing, and Advocacy: Supporting Families Impacted by Violence - Find solace and strength through conversations on coping with loss, accessing resources for healing, and advocating for change to honor loved ones. **Free Self Care Kit to the first 25 people to sign up.**



MAR 11TH
5 PM

Engaging with Law Enforcement: Bridging the Gap - Foster open dialogue between communities and law enforcement to build understanding, trust, and partnerships that prioritize safety and justice. **Free Know Your Rights wallet card for all participants.**

MAR 18TH
5 PM

Media Literacy: The Impact on Violence Perception - Uncover how media shapes our views on violence and learn critical thinking skills to challenge harmful narratives and promote positive representation. **Free worksheets, fact checking tools, and recommended reading lists for all participants.**



MAR 25TH
5 PM

Celebrating Unity: Family Fun and Safety Day - Bring families together for a day of celebration, education, and connection featuring activities, safety demonstrations, and resources for a stronger community. **Free family activities, prizes, and information for all!**



COMMUNITY

MDOT to host open house on Midland County road projects



MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE M-30 BRIDGE OVER US-10 IN SANFORD. (MDOT)

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND — The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is inviting the public to an open house to discuss two significant infrastructure projects set to begin in Midland County this spring. The event will take place on Monday, Feb. 10, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Midland County Road Commission, located at 2334 N. Meridian Road in Sanford, Michigan.

The open house will provide community members, city representatives, local businesses, and interested residents an oppor-

tunity to learn more about the planned projects. MDOT staff and contractors will be present to answer questions and provide detailed information.

MDOT is investing \$7.3 million to replace the M-30 bridge over US-10 in Sanford. The new bridge will feature a 14-foot-wide separated nonmotorized path on the west side to accommodate future pathway connections. Improvements will also be made to the eastbound US-10 bridge approach over the Tittabawassee River. Construction is scheduled to begin in March and is expected to be completed by August 2025.

In addition, MDOT is allocating \$21.9 million to resurface and upgrade a 5.7-mile stretch of M-20 from M-30 to Currie Parkway west of Midland. The project will include resurfacing, shoulder widening, concrete curb and gutter work, joint repairs, storm sewer improvements, guardrail upgrades, and updated pavement markings. Work on this project is also slated to begin in March, with completion anticipated in November 2025.

MDOT encourages participation from all community members. Attendees requiring mobility, visual, hearing, written, or

other assistance for effective participation should contact Orlando Curry at 517-241-7462 or CurryO@Michigan.gov at least five business days prior to the meeting. Accommodation requests made after this timeframe will be considered to the extent possible.

This open house provides a forum for community members to engage with MDOT representatives and learn about the impact and timeline of these significant infrastructure investments. For more information, contact Caitlyn French at 989-573-1274 or visit the MDOT website.

2025 BRINGING BACK THE ICE AT HOYT PARK

Brought to you by:



FREE Open Skating, Hockey & Sledding!

\$2 skate rentals



<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Saturday, January 18	Night Skate sponsored by Kiss 107.1	4:00 - 7:00pm
Saturday, January 25	Open Skate	12:00 - 4:00 pm
	Skate with SVSU Hockey Team	1:00 - 3:00 pm
Saturday, February 1	Skate with the Mascots	12:00 - 4:00 pm
	Broom Ball sponsored by Saginaw County Parks, 102.5 WIOG, and 96.1 WHNN	1:00 - 3:00 pm
Saturday, February 8	School Skate Promote Your Favorite Team – Wear your team colors!	12:00 - 4:00 pm
Saturday, February 15	Skate & Sledding Decorative Sledding & Crazy Hat Contests	12:00 - 4:00 pm
	11th Annual Outhouse Race sponsored by Positive Results Downtown, PRIDE, and 97.3 JOE FM	1:00pm

Warming House Open!

FREE Hot Chocolate & Cookies



Race Starts at 1:00 pm



For more information contact Positive Results Downtown at (989) 753-9168, Friends of Hoyt Park Facebook Page or Larry at (989) 284-0945

Find and like our *Bringing Back the Ice* Facebook Page



COMMUNITY

“American Pickers” set to film in Michigan this March



AMERICAN PICKERS HOSTS WILL FILM IN MICHIGAN THIS MARCH (COURTESY | AMERICAN PICKERS)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The popular History Channel series American Pickers is heading back to Michigan in March to film episodes showcasing the state's unique history and hidden treasures. The show, a favorite among antique enthusiasts and history buffs, follows skilled “pickers” as they search for rare and valuable items across the United States.

American Pickers is known for uncovering extraordinary artifacts and sharing the fascinating stories behind them. With a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics, the pickers aim to give historically significant objects a new lease on life. Along the way, they meet individuals with remarkable collections and intriguing tales, highlighting the rich tapestry of America's past.

Producers are currently seeking leads from Michigan residents who have unique

items to sell and stories to share. They are particularly interested in privately held collections, emphasizing that they do not pick from stores, flea markets, museums, or public auction businesses.

If you or someone you know has antiques or collectibles that may capture the pickers' interest, you're encouraged to reach out. Submissions should include your name, contact information, location, and descriptions and photos of the items. You can contact the team via email at americanpickers@cineflix.com or by phone at (646) 493-2184. For more updates, follow the show on Facebook at @GotAPick.

This upcoming visit is a chance for Michiganders to showcase their treasures on a national platform while contributing to the ongoing storytelling that has made American Pickers a hit. Whether it's “rusty gold” or a piece of history waiting to be uncovered, the team is eager to explore what Michigan has to offer.

AMERICAN PICKERS

ALL YOUR FAVORITE TV HISTORY CHANNEL PICKERS

AMERICAN PICKERS ARE LOOKING FOR LARGE, RARE COLLECTIONS & THINGS THEY'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE. TELL US THE INTERESTING STORY BEHIND YOUR STUFF!

TO BE CONSIDERED, PLEASE CONTACT US AT:
AMERICANPICKERS@CINEFLIX.COM
 or leave a voicemail at (646) 493-2184
 or on facebook: @GotAPick

PLEASE LET US KNOW:

- YOUR NAME, TOWN & STATE
- PHONE NUMBER
- WHERE YOUR COLLECTION IS LOCATED
- A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR ITEMS

HISTORY
 cineflix



SCAN ME



STRONGER TOGETHER | SAGINAW

ADDICTION SUPPORT GROUP

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Stronger Together — a Face Addiction Now - formerly known as Families Against Narcotics support group, offering a healing space for those impacted by a loved one's addiction.

3057 DAVENPORT AVE.
SAGINAW, MI 48602

1ST AND 3RD
TUESSDAY OF
EVERY MONTH
AT 6:00PM



STRONGER@FACEADDICTIONNOW.ORG



CONNECT, FIND SUPPORT,
AND WORK ON YOUR
OWN RECOVERY.



FOR MORE INFORMATION: FACEADDICTIONNOW.ORG

COMMUNITY

Pit & Balcony Community Theatre brings enchanting romance to the stage with *Almost, Maine*

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Pit & Balcony Community Theatre will transport audiences to a whimsical winter landscape with its upcoming production of *Almost, Maine*, a play by John Cariani. Directed by Joshua Abram Lloyd, the production will run from February 14-16 and 21-23, 2025, at the theatre's historic location on Hamilton Street in Saginaw.

Set in a remote, mythical town near the Canadian border, *Almost, Maine* follows a series of intertwining love stories, unfolding beneath the glow of the northern lights. Through a mix of humor, romance, and magical realism, the play explores the unexpected ways people fall in and out of love on one fateful winter night. The show's unique structure presents a collection of vignettes, each offer-

ing a different perspective on relationships—some heartwarming, others bittersweet, and many laced with humor.

The production features a talented cast, including Lindsay McLaughlin, Kennedy Danner, Dan Kettler, and Matthew Howe, who will bring to life the play's quirky and endearing characters. With its blend of whimsy and sincerity, *Almost, Maine* has become one of the most-produced plays in the United States, earning praise for its relatable themes and imaginative storytelling.

Tickets for the production are available now through Pit & Balcony Community Theatre's website and box office. Performances will take place Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 3:00 PM.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.pitandbalconytheatre.com or call (989) 754-6587.



WOMEN EMPOWERING WOMEN

Saturday, 15 February 2025

The Neighb

3145 Russell St Saginaw, Mi

Women's Expo celebrates self-love and empowerment through a dynamic day of engaging activities, inspiring discussions, vendors, and community connection.

[REGISTER NOW](https://forms.gle/Q8iL12gzUbKY59cQ7) <https://forms.gle/Q8iL12gzUbKY59cQ7>

For More Information Email: Theneighb2021@gmail.com



COMMUNITY

After long-range planning, marijuana shops are a right-now issue



PREMIER CANNABIS, 910 E. GENESEE AVE., SAGINAW, MI.

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Former Mayor Joyce Seals viewed various protests from behind the City Council table, and so she knows how to organize. Her coalition is seeking a moratorium on any new marijuana dispensaries, beyond the dozen that opened after the 2020 council members voted to allow them under the state legalization option.

Their ultimate goal is for a temporary stoppage -- maybe six months or a year -- to provide evidence that Saginaw would be better off without any pot shops at all, falling in line with the suburbs and small towns that disallowed dispensaries in the first place, after a 2018 statewide referendum for legalization.

Activists also are exploring whether it would be possible to limit the number of neighborhood party stores that peddle beer and harder booze.

At the Feb. 10 City Council

meeting, supporters of the protest are aiming to overflow the chambers. The specific issue of cannabis was not on the agenda for the Jan. 31 annual all-day planning session, but this will be the initial 2025 main concern that members, including four newcomers, will face from an advocate group.

Some of the main points on Feb. 10 will be:

- Marijuana is viewed as a softer drug compared to heroin or cocaine or even alcohol, but many people are unaware of developmental brain damage beyond teenage and into the young adult years.
- Dispensaries, along with party stores, lead to higher crime rates and lower property values.
- Even if you're a legalization advocate, Saginaw has more than enough pot shops already.

Seals stepped down from the City Council in 2009, during the early stages of her fight against breast cancer. As her health returned, she won a seat on the Board of Education and has engaged in leadership with an array of community groups, mainly the Health Equity Council, formed during the covid years, and also the Saginaw County Prevention Coalition, which started as the Family Youth Initiative back before the turn of the millennium.

Those two groups are only the start of the former mayor's anti-drug alliances, which include the Saginaw NAACP, along with prominent business and clergy leaders. The school board is on board along with the Health Department, where Dr. Delicia Pruitt, her daughter, is medical director. Some supporters will send letters to city leaders, while others will sign up to speak on Feb. 10.

Of Michigan's 533 cities, townships and villages, about 100 have allowed the cannabis

stores. This includes most of the bigger and larger towns, even conservative Grand Rapids. Seals says Saginaw's model should be Detroit, also seeking a stoppage.

Three members of the current council were in office in 2020 and voted to allow the dispensaries, with excise taxes that add at least \$60,000 per pot shop to the city's \$45 million general operating budget. Mayor Brenda Moore and Bill Ostash have said a top reason for their votes in favor was to reform a system of excessive punishments and mass incarceration for personal marijuana use, racially out of proportion, while Michael Balls says he is reconsidering his decision.

Moore also has said applications for dispensaries, which require a \$4,000 filing fee, have slowed to a virtual standstill at City Hall, and so a moratorium may not make much of a difference one way or another.

-- Cannabis confusion --

On the lighter side, Seals and Inez Williams, the school district's family and community engagement specialist who gradually is stepping down as Prevention Coalition coordinator, both reported that they nearly ended up entering one of the pot shops.

Joyce thought Lume, Court and State in the old Second National branch, is the national company that sells perfumes and feminine products, while Inez imagined Dank on Holland Avenue in Buena Vista as a Chinese restaurant. BV is the only suburb or exurb in Saginaw County to join the city in allowing dispensaries.

Both women departed the parking lots promptly after they realized the realities.

HEALTH

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers to hold ribbon-cutting ceremonies for school-based health centers



Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

Bay City Central School-Based Health Center

GRAND OPENING

Ceremony

February 11, 2025 12:00pm - 2:00pm
1624 Columbus Ave, Bay City, MI 48708

The ceremony will feature remarks from local leaders, representatives, and School-Based Health Center staff. Guests will have the opportunity to tour the state-of-the-art facility, meet healthcare professionals, and learn more about the center's services and impact on the community. You will be welcomed at the main entrance of the school.

Please RSVP by February 4th to Mary Rivera at mrivera@glbhealth.org



Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

Saginaw United School-Based Health Center

GRAND OPENING

Ceremony

February 20, 2025 8:15am - 10:30am
1903 N. Niagara St. Saginaw, MI 48602

The ceremony will feature remarks from local leaders, representatives, and School-Based Health Center staff. Guests will have the opportunity to tour the state-of-the-art facility, meet healthcare professionals, and learn more about the center's services and impact on the community. You will be welcomed at the main entrance of the school.

Please RSVP by February 11th to Angelia Williams at awilliams@glbhealth.org

EVENT FLYERS (COURTESY)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Great Lakes Bay Health Centers (GLBHC) will host ribbon-cutting ceremonies at two School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) in Bay City and Saginaw this February, recognizing an important step in expanding healthcare access for students and the surrounding communities. The events align with National School-Based Health Awareness Month, which highlights the role of SBHCs in improving healthcare access for children and adolescents.

GLBHC School-Based Health Centers are designed to pro-

vide comprehensive, accessible healthcare services directly on school campuses, allowing students to receive essential medical care without disrupting their education. These centers offer primary care, mental health support, and preventive care, ensuring students have the resources needed to thrive both academically and physically.

“We are thrilled to continue our partnership with Bay City and Saginaw City Public School Districts by providing these services to bring healthcare closer to where our children learn and grow,” said Dr. Brenda Coughlin, President and CEO of Great Lakes

Bay Health Centers. “The health centers underscore our commitment to breaking down barriers to care and ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive academically and physically.”

The ceremonies will include remarks from local leaders, school officials, and SBHC staff, followed by facility tours where guests can meet healthcare professionals and learn more about the services offered.

Event Details:

- **Bay City Central High School**
Tuesday, February 11,

2025 | 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
1624 Columbus Ave., Bay City, MI 48708

- **Saginaw United High School**
Thursday, February 20, 2025 8:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
1903 N. Niagara St., Saginaw, MI 48602

The public is invited to attend and celebrate these new healthcare resources for students and families. To RSVP, contact Mary Rivera at mrivera@glbhealth.org.

HEALTH

One person, one record: Creating a seamless connection for all MyMichigan Health patients

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Patients of MyMichigan’s Medical Centers in Saginaw, Standish and Tawas will soon benefit from faster communication and more streamlined care through the implementation of a new electronic medical record. The Medical Centers and their affiliated provider offices and facilities will be moving to Epic, the world’s largest electronic medical records system, beginning February 1.

The project will update equipment, improve information sharing and integrate MyMichigan’s newly acquired facilities with the rest of the health system. It will

also enable each patient to have one comprehensive medical record shared across all MyMichigan Health-employed providers and facilities for more seamless and convenient care.

“Currently we are using two separate systems to care for our patients in the hospital versus outpatient settings, so this will significantly streamline the process for both our patients and our providers and staff,” stated Steven McLean, M.D., Emergency Department medical director and vice president of medical affairs, MyMichigan Medical Center Saginaw. “This has also been an opportunity to think differently about how we work, to design patient- and family-friendly

processes and to improve our internal productivity and satisfaction. Lastly, since Epic is used in many other facilities locally and nationally, it will help us coordinate better with those other organizations to care for our mutual patients, for example, with Covenant or the University of Michigan.”

Patients will have the opportunity to sign up for a MyChart portal account, which they will use for transactions such as self-scheduling, viewing medical records or test results, messaging their provider, requesting prescription refills, online bill pay and more. MyChart activation codes are offered to patients during key transactions such as

scheduling an appointment, registration, receiving an after-visit summary or receiving a billing statement, which ensures both secure and easy enrollment.

Those who would like to learn more about the MyChart portal may visit mymichigan.org/mychart.



MYMICHIGAN MEDICAL CENTER SAGINAW (COURTESY PHOTO)



NEXT GENERATION HEART TREATMENTS ARE HERE

Choose the most preferred health system for heart.

For generations, we have put our heart into saving and extending lives. And today Covenant HealthCare is leading the way with breakthrough, minimally invasive heart treatments. We’re finding new ways to treat AFib, structural heart problems, and vascular disease. People come from all over the state for our expertise. Trust your heart with the most trusted heart team. Choose extraordinary. Choose Covenant HealthCare.



CovenantHeart.com



HEALTH

Michigan Health officials urge vaccination amid rising respiratory illness cases



MAN GETTING A VACCINE (FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — Health officials in Michigan are urging residents to get vaccinated as cases of influenza, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) continue to rise across the state. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has reported an increase in respiratory illnesses, a trend expected to persist in the coming weeks as children return to school following the holiday break.

According to state and national data, the percentage of outpatient visits for flu-like symptoms reached 6.8% nationally and 4.5% in Michigan at the end of December, marking the highest levels observed this season. Health officials warn that Michigan's flu activity typically

lags a few weeks behind the national trend, suggesting a continued increase in cases.

Despite the rising numbers, vaccination rates remain low. As of December 28, approximately 2.5 million Michiganders have received a flu vaccine, well below the 4 million doses projected for this season. Only 11% of residents have received the latest COVID-19 vaccine, and 23.6% have been vaccinated against influenza.

Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MDHHS chief medical executive, emphasized the importance of immunization, stating, "With many respiratory viruses circulating and influenza cases rising, it is crucial for Michigan residents to get vaccinated to protect themselves and their families. COVID-19 and flu vaccines are effective at preventing serious outcomes, including hospitaliza-

tion and death. It is not too late to protect yourself and your family this season."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends annual flu vaccinations for everyone six months and older, with rare exceptions. While flu activity typically peaks in February, cases can continue into May, making vaccination an important preventative measure. Health officials note that it takes about two weeks for immunity to build after receiving the flu vaccine.

Certain groups, including young children, adults over 65, individuals with underlying medical conditions, and pregnant individuals, face a higher risk of severe complications from respiratory viruses. Officials emphasize the importance of vaccination for school-aged children and

college students, who currently have the lowest coverage rates.

Most vaccines are covered by health insurance under the Affordable Care Act, and no out-of-pocket costs apply for many individuals. Those with questions about coverage can contact the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) at 877-999-6442 or visit Michigan.gov/HealthInsurance.

Flu, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines are available at local health departments, pharmacies, and physician offices throughout the state. Residents can locate a vaccination site by using the Vaccine Finder tool. Additional information on respiratory illnesses and vaccination availability can be found at Michigan.gov/COVIDFluRSV, IVaccinate.org, and Michigan.gov/flufocus.

POLITICS

Congresswoman McDonald Rivet addresses federal funding freeze and its impact on Mid-Michigan



U.S. REP. KRISTEN MCDONALD RIVET (D-BAY CITY) SPEAKS AT A NEWS CONFERENCE HELD AT BUFFEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN FLINT ON FRIDAY, JAN. 31, 2025.

BY MICHELLE MCCOY

FLINT — Local non-profit and community service organizations joined the nationwide frenzy after President Trump announced a federal funding freeze on essential social programs earlier this week, raising concerns about the stability of critical services.

Implemented on Monday, the freeze temporarily suspended billions of dollars allocated to programs such as Head Start, child care, emergency response services, veterans' care, food assistance, and healthcare providers nationwide.

On Friday, Jan. 31, in a small classroom at Thelma Buffey El-

ementary School in Flint, Congresswoman Kristen McDonald Rivet held a press conference to address the freeze's implications for Mid-Michigan communities.

Congresswoman McDonald Rivet, who began her career with Head Start, emphasized the long-term benefits of early childhood education and the importance of sustained investment in these programs.

"Head Start holds a really special place in my heart. I worked for Head Start, started my career in Head Start, and it taught me a lot of really important lessons about how government should work, how policy should work, and how communities should work," she said.

The congresswoman further highlighted research demonstrating the economic and societal advantages of early childhood education. "What we know about early childhood in general is that it's an investment that pays dividends down the road. It is so well documented that Head Start and early childhood programs create a benefit for our economy."

For families and local organizations, the sudden halt in funding created immediate concern. Douglas Hibbs, principal of Thelma Buffey Elementary School and early childhood director for the Pumpkin Patch early childhood program, outlined the scope of those affected.

"We serve over 400 families

in our program, including over 50 families through Head Start," Hibbs said, emphasizing the importance of early education. "Ninety percent of brain development is completed by age five."

Melissa Ricketts, a Head Start employee and parent, shared the uncertainty facing both educators and families dependent on these programs.

"If our funding were to be cut off now, tomorrow, or even in the near future, that would leave me without a job and many children without care as well," she said. "We need to know what's going to happen to us. We need to know what's going to happen to our children."

Although the White House rescinded the funding freeze on Wednesday following court intervention, officials have signaled continued efforts to reduce spending in these areas. The uncertainty has left many community members concerned about the long-term stability of essential services.

McDonald Rivet acknowledged these fears. "Our office was bombarded with panic calls, still is, as the rhetoric continues to come out about cut, cut, cut, cut," she said. "And when people heard what that meant, which was cutting funding for our babies, cutting funding for meals for our seniors, the most vulnerable among us, people started to panic, and they still are."

"As your member of Congress, I will do everything in my power to fight any further attacks on our essential services that Mid-Michigan families really rely on," she said. "The line stops at killing funding for our most vulnerable people, particularly our babies and our seniors."

POLITICS

Michigan Legislative Black Caucus elects new leadership



REP. AMOS O'NEAL (D-SAGINAW) (COURTESY PHOTO | MICHIGAN HOUSE DEMOCRATS)

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — As Michigan undergoes significant political shifts and policy debates, the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus has elected a new leadership team. State Rep. Amos O'Neal (D-Saginaw) will serve as chair, leading the caucus in its mission to bridge the gap between policymakers and the communities they represent.

"I am blessed to be elected by my colleagues as chair of this caucus," O'Neal said. "This opportunity is a great responsibility, especially as our country is

undergoing divisive times. With the continued attacks on certain groups and diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, we must continue to fight for justice and for the better world we want to live in. We must continue to educate the people around us — to teach them how to celebrate differences and embrace diversity. As chair, I won't take this lightly and will continue to raise my voice addressing the systematic and blatant inequities."

Joining O'Neal in leadership roles are State Rep. Cynthia Neeley (D-Flint) as executive vice chair, State Sen. Sarah Anthony (D-Lansing) as first vice chair,

and State Rep. Kristian Grant (D-Grand Rapids) as second vice chair.

"This caucus seeks to bring equal opportunity," Neeley said. "We all are change makers; we wouldn't be at the Legislature if we weren't. We are uplifting the voices of our neighborhoods — and all of the people who make up those wonderfully diverse communities. The disparities in our systems, whether it's maternal health or our corrections, need more voices for change. We are speaking up for justice and your rights."

Additional elected officers include State Rep. Jimmie Wilson,

Jr. (D-Ypsilanti) as secretary, State Rep. Kimberly Edwards (D-Eastpointe) as treasurer, State Rep. Stephanie Young (D-Detroit) as chaplain, State Rep. Helena Scott (D-Detroit) as historian, and State Rep. Donavan McKinney (D-Detroit) as sergeant at arms.



POLITICS

Mt. Pleasant mayor resigns weeks after taking office



MAYOR BOOMER WINGARD (LEFT) AND VICE MAYOR MAUREEN EKE (RIGHT). (COURTESY PHOTOS)

BY MB STAFF

MOUNT PLEASANT — The City of Mt. Pleasant is undergoing a notable shift in leadership as Mayor Bryan Chapman steps down after holding the role for only a few weeks. Bryan Chapman's resignation was formally accepted by the Mount Pleasant City Commission during its meeting on Monday, Jan. 27.

"It is with mixed emotions that I announce my resignation from the City Commission, effective immediately," Chapman wrote in his resignation letter. "Serving this city, a place where I was born and raised, and that I hold so close to my heart has been one of the greatest honors of my life."

Former Vice Mayor Boomer Wingard has now assumed the role of Mayor, continuing his service to the community in a new capacity. During the meeting, the commission also elected Maureen Eke as the new Vice Mayor to fill the leadership gap created

by Chapman's departure.

Just weeks prior, Commissioner Amy Perschbacher concluded her tenure as mayor after three terms, passing the gavel to Bryan Chapman. Commissioner Wingard, who had nominated Chapman for the mayoral role, was subsequently elected Vice Mayor following a nomination by Chapman.

Chapman, a lifelong resident of Mt. Pleasant, has been deeply involved in the nonprofit sector for over a decade. He serves as the executive director of Clothing Inc. at the William and Janet Strickler Center on West High Street and is the co-owner of Pleasant Psychology. His commitment to public service began with his 2022 appointment to the City Commission to fill a vacancy, and he was elected to a full term in November 2023.

Following Chapman's resignation, the City Commission now faces the task of filling his vacant seat. The commission will appoint an individual to serve in the role until Election Day on Aug. 5.

Applications for the interim position are being accepted until Feb. 12 at 4:30 p.m.

Residents interested in applying can obtain application forms

at the City Manager's Office, located at 320 W. Broadway Street, or online at www.mt-pleasant.org/boardapplication. The Appointments Committee will review applications and present a recommendation to the full City Commission during its Feb. 24 meeting.

The process for electing a permanent representative to fill the vacancy is also underway. Nominating petitions for the position are now available at City Hall, in the City Clerk's Office, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Candidates must collect a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 80 certified signatures to qualify.

Petitions can be submitted beginning Monday, March 24, with a filing deadline of 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22. The elected representative will serve a term running from Aug. 5, 2025, to Dec. 31, 2026.

For additional details, residents can contact the City Clerk's Office at 320 W. Broadway Street or visit www.mt-pleasant.org.



BRYAN CHAPMAN (COURTESY PHOTO)

POLITICS



✦ Celebrating ✦ BLACK HISTORY MONTH

LOCAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN POLITICS

- **Henry G. Marsh** - 1st Black Elected to Saginaw City Council 1961 1963 and 1st Black Male to serve as Mayor of City of Saginaw (1967-1969)
- **Dr. Joy Hargrove** - 1st Black Female elected to Saginaw City Council 1979 1986
- **Wilmer Jones Ham** - 1st Black Female to serve as Mayor of City of Saginaw (2001-2005)
- **Harry W. Browne** - 1st Black Male elected Saginaw County Board Commissioners (1951)
- **Marie Davis** - 1st Black Female elected Saginaw County Board Commissioners (1968-1972, 1974-1990)
- **Al Holiday Male** - 1st Black to serve as Chair of County Board Commissioners (1989-1990)
- **Brigitte Braddock** - 1st Black Female to serve Chair of County Board of Commissioners (2009)
- **Carl Williams** - 1st Black elected to 95th MI State House of Representatives (2001-2007)
- **Terry L. Clark** - 1st Black Saginaw County District Court Judge (1990-Present)
- **Darnell Jackson** - 1st Black Saginaw County Circuit Court Judge (2006-Present)
- **Michael Finney** - 1st Black Interim City Manager City of Saginaw (1986-1987)
- **Preston Wiley** - 1st Black City Department Head, Model Cities Department (1974-1975)
- **James Golden** - 1st Black Chief of Police City of Saginaw (1996-2000)
- **Warren S. Hurt** - 1st Black Fireman & Fire Marshall City of Saginaw (1947-1977)
- **Cal Nicholson** - 1st Black Police Officer & Detective City of Saginaw (1934)
- **Lee Martin** - 1st Black County Department Head Mental Health
- **Ebony Rascoe** - 1st Black Female command officer Saginaw County Sheriff Dept. (2017-present)

DR. JOY LORRAINE HARGROVE

Dr. Joy Lorraine Hargrove made history as the first Black woman elected to the Saginaw City Council, leaving a lasting impact on both local governance and higher education. The youngest child and only daughter of Senie Lee Hargrove Sr. and Leonelle Goodwin Young Hargrove, she dedicated her life to education, public service, and community advocacy.



A graduate of Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia, Dr. Hargrove was an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She furthered her education by earning a Master's degree from Ohio State University and later obtained a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from the University of Michigan. While completing her doctoral studies in Ann Arbor, she also served as a psychology instructor at the university.

Dr. Hargrove's academic career brought her to Saginaw Valley State University, where she taught until her retirement. Her commitment to public service and civic engagement extended beyond the classroom, as she played a vital role in Saginaw's political and social landscape. In addition to serving on the Saginaw City Council, she was an active member of the Saginaw Mental Health Board, advocating for mental health awareness and community well-being.

A dedicated leader and trailblazer, Dr. Joy Lorraine Hargrove's contributions to education, politics, and public service continue to inspire future generations in Saginaw and beyond.



Sen. Gary Peters announces retirement, setting up high-stakes Michigan Senate race



SEN. GARY PETERS, D-MICH. (COURTESY PHOTO | U.S. SENATE)

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, MI — Michigan Senator Gary Peters, a Democrat who has served two terms in the U.S. Senate and previously led the Democratic Senate campaign efforts, has announced that he will not seek reelection in 2026. In a video shared on social media Tuesday and first reported by The Detroit News, Peters revealed his decision to step away, marking the end of his nearly two-decade-long congressional career and setting the stage for a highly contested battle for the open Senate seat.

“After three terms in the House and two terms in the Senate, I believe now is the time for

me to write a few more paragraphs in my current chapter and then turn over the reins,” Peters said in his announcement. “I will therefore not seek reelection in 2026.”

Peters, 66, has been a steady figure in Michigan politics, known for his moderate approach and ability to navigate bipartisan issues. First elected to the Senate in 2014 after serving three terms in the U.S. House, Peters chaired the Senate Homeland Security Committee from 2021 to 2025 and recently completed his tenure as chair of the Senate Democrats’ campaign arm.

The senator’s retirement sets up a significant political battle during the 2026 midterms, with Michigan already playing a piv-

otal role in national elections. Democrats will face the challenge of defending the seat without the advantage of an incumbent, a difficult task in a state that voted for former President Donald Trump in the 2024 election.

Possible candidates

The announcement has already prompted speculation about potential candidates for the open seat. Among the Democrats, former U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, who moved to Michigan after his 2020 presidential bid, is reportedly considering a run. Buttigieg had been weighing a gubernatorial campaign but may shift his focus to the Senate race.

Republicans, meanwhile, are eyeing the opportunity to flip the seat. U.S. Rep. John James, a two-time Senate candidate who narrowly lost to Peters in 2020, could be a strong contender. James, who currently represents a suburban Detroit district, hinted at optimism for the state’s future in a post on X (formerly Twitter) shortly after Peters’ announcement, saying, “Brighter days are ahead for Michigan!”

The National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC) has also signaled its intent to target the seat. “Gary Peters is reading the room,” NRSC Chair Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.) said in a statement. “Michigan is better off without him. We’re committed to giving them a fighter that will stand with President Trump to restore the economic prosperity and security of our country.”

2026 Gubernatorial race takes shape

Peters’ decision comes at a challenging time for Michigan Democrats, who are already

preparing for a competitive gubernatorial race in 2026. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who is term-limited, has confirmed she will not run for the Senate. Speaking on ABC’s “The View,” Whitmer said, “I’ve got two more years on my term. I’ve got a lot of things I want to get done as governor. What comes after that, I don’t know yet.”

The Democratic field is expected to be crowded, with candidates potentially split between the gubernatorial and Senate races. Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson has announced her campaign for governor, adding another high-profile name to the race. Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan has already launched his campaign as an independent, while Republican Senate Majority Leader Aric Nesbitt has declared his candidacy for the governorship.

A new chapter for Peters

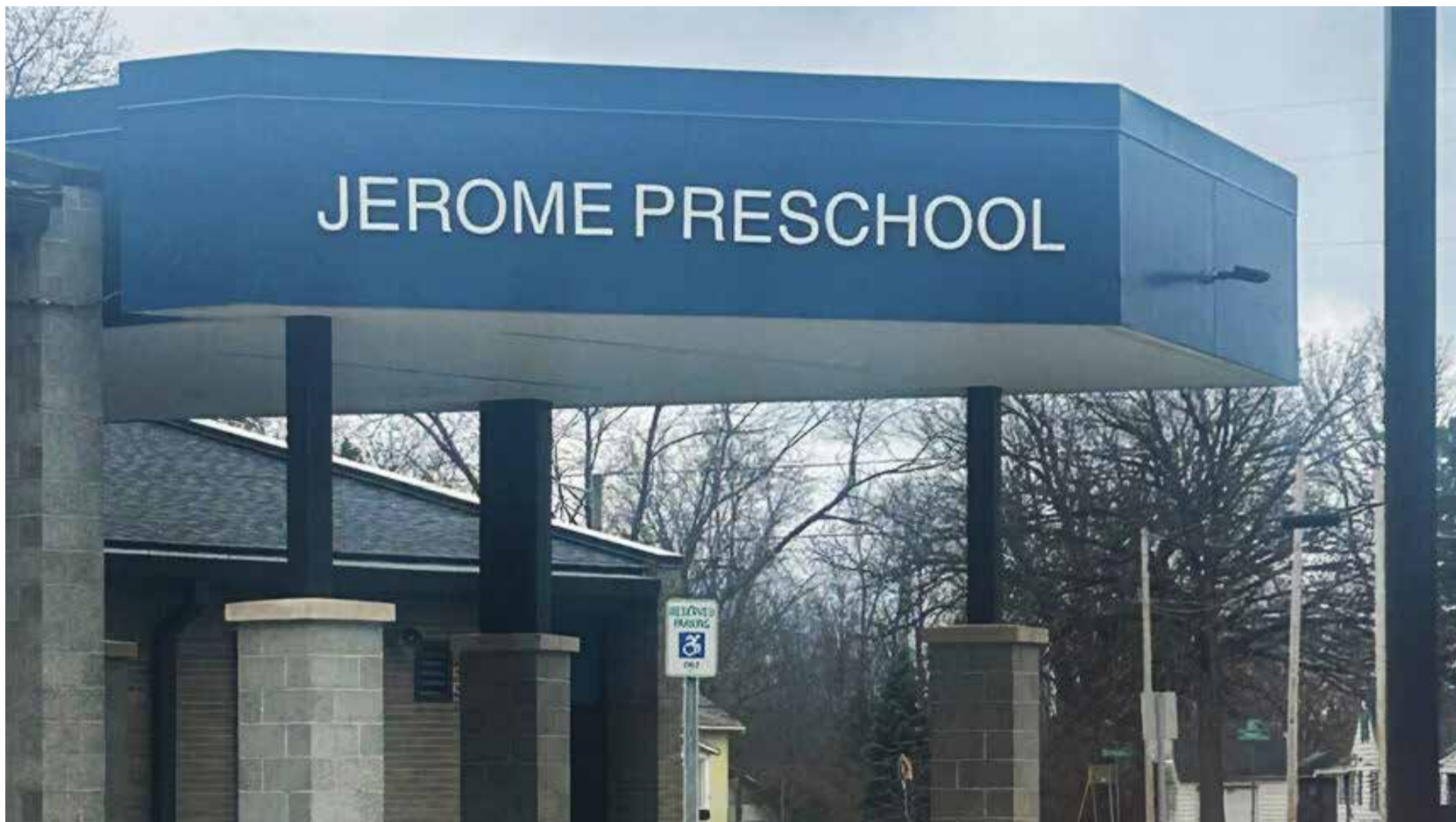
Peters’ legacy in the Senate includes leadership roles during critical periods, including his work on homeland security and his efforts to help Democrats navigate tight Senate races. He has emphasized the importance of passing the torch to the next generation of leaders.

“I always thought there would be a time that I would step aside and pass the reins for the next generation,” Peters told The Detroit News. “I also never saw service in Congress as something you do your whole life.”

As the political landscape in Michigan reshapes, the 2026 Senate race will undoubtedly attract national attention, with both parties viewing it as a crucial battleground in the fight for control of the Senate.

EDUCATION

Jerome Preschool in Saginaw will reopen in June



JEROME PRESCHOOL, LOCATED AT 1301 DIVISION ST. IN SAGINAW (COURTESY PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW – Saginaw Intermediate School District (ISD) will reopen the renovated Jerome Preschool for the 2025-2026 school year. Saginaw ISD acquired Jerome Elementary from the Saginaw Public School District in fall 2021 and held a groundbreaking ceremony last May.

The updated facility is designed to enhance early childhood education with modernized infrastructure and new learning resources. The renovation includes several key upgrades:

Structural enhancements: Improvements include roof repairs, upgraded lighting, a new

parking lot, and a modern HVAC system to provide a safe and efficient learning environment.

Sustainability features: The facility will incorporate a greenhouse, green walls, and hydroponic classroom systems to integrate environmental learning experiences.

Community engagement: The addition of a professional learning center, medical clinic partnership, and community garden aims to strengthen school and neighborhood collaboration.

The reopening will happen in phases. Full-year programs assigned to Jerome Preschool will commence in June, providing students with access to summer programming and allowing families and staff to acclimate to the

renovated space.

“We are thrilled about the reopening of Jerome Preschool and the opportunities it will provide for our students and families,” said Dr. Erin Senkowski, Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Programs at Saginaw ISD. “Our phased approach ensures a seamless transition, starting with full-year summer programs, while our state-of-the-art facility reflects our dedication to inspiring curiosity, fostering learning, and building stronger connections within our community.”

The renovation project is funded through the State of Michigan’s Pension Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) reimbursement program, ensuring that funding for programs such

as Head Start and the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) remains unaffected.

“As we approach the next chapter for Jerome Preschool, we are grateful for the collaborative efforts of our Early Childhood and Instructional Services departments and the unwavering support of the Saginaw ISD Board of Education,” said Dr. Jeffrey Collier, Superintendent of Saginaw ISD. “This project is not just about building renovations; it’s about building brighter futures for the Saginaw of tomorrow.”

Details on the project and recent updates can be found at www.sisd.cc/o/saginaw-isd/page/jerome-preschool.

EDUCATION

✦ Celebrating ✦
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

LOCAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN EDUCATION

- **Lady Margaret Haithco Groves** - 1st Black Teacher for the Saginaw Public Schools (1946)
- **Frances E. Carter** - 1st Black Principal in the Saginaw Public Schools (1965)
- **Adelaide Robinson** - 1st Black graduate from Saginaw High School (1898)
- **Ruben Daniels** - 1st Black Saginaw Board of Education Trustee (1967-1993) and 1st Black person to serve as President of the Saginaw Board of Education (1971 - 73)
- **Dr. Gerald D. Dawkins** - 1st Black Superintendent Saginaw Public Schools (2001-2008)
- **Charles Coles** - 1st Black Varsity Head Coach Saginaw Public Schools (1972-1982)
- **Jacqueline Creed Bowman** - 1st Black Homecoming Queen Saginaw High School (1965)
- **Marva McCray Gordon** - Homecoming Queen Buena Vista High School (1965)
- **Dr. Kayte Fearn** - 1st Black Principal Saginaw High School 1971
- **Pamela Stuckey** - 1st Black Homecoming Queen Arthur Hill High School (1985)
- **Nathaniel McClain** - 1st Black Principal Arthur Hill High School (2008)
- **Leola Wilson** - 1st Black Female to serve on Saginaw Intermediate School Board (1977-2019) and 1st Black Female to serve on SVSU Board of Trustees (2005-2013)
- **Sylvester Stephens** - 1st Black Male serve on Delta College Board of Trustee (1971-72)
- **Marcia Marsh Goffney** - 1st Black Female serve on Delta College Board of Trustees (1997-2001)
- **Wade McCree, Jr.** - 1st Black Male to serve on SVSU Board of Trustees (1966-67)
- **Lucille Turnstall** - 1st Black female faculty member at SVSU (1965-67)
- **Dr. Guy Lee, Jr.** - 1st Black male faculty, administrator & Dean at SVSU (1970-1995)
- **Paul Leek** - 1st Black to achieve tenure & Full Professor at Delta College (1970)
- **John A. Wagner** - 1st Black faculty member at Delta College (1961)
- **Joseph Powe** - 1st Black Male to serve on Saginaw Intermediate School Board (1985-2023)
- **Vivian Keys Brown** - 1st Black Female to serve as Superintendent Buena of Vista Schools (1996-2001)
- **Dr. James B. Smith** - 1st Black African American Superintendent in Saginaw County and 1st Black Male to serve as Superintendent of Buena Vista Schools (1978-1986)



After 38 years of service, Joseph W. Powe attended his final Saginaw ISD board meeting on June 12, 2023, commencing with a celebration of his years of service.



Ruben Daniels



Frances E. Carter

EDUCATION

Homework suggestions



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS

Today's topic is one that attracts opinions from students, parents, and teachers. Some people "love" homework; others believe homework is ineffective.

What considerations should parents give to their child's homework?

There are practical steps that can be taken to assist students of all ages and grade levels.

1. Create a space to do homework

Ideally the space should be well lit, comfortable, and quiet. It should have adequate supplies such as pencils & paper. Perhaps a laptop or other computer would be there, making it a "work station" of sorts.

2. Carve out time to do homework.

Depending upon the age of the student and their activities, this may be after school or after dinner. When I coached basketball, we had "study halls" if our practice was later in the day. Players might do homework on the bus if we had a road game.

In other words, the time needs to be carved out of the day and is personalized.

3. Have a game plan to assist.

There are times when homework becomes hard.

Parents who have ways to help students are ahead of the game. Sometimes it is a matter of sitting side-by-side for a few minutes. It may be looking at the textbook and extracting an example. It may be tempting to do "too much," taking the student off the hook. This is generally not a good idea; it is better to help the student grapple with the challenge and growing in patience and determination. There may be online resources to help, such as the Khan Academy. The school may have online resources, as well. They may have a 10–15-minute tutorial that may be of help.

Bottom line: Keep trying. Stay patient and be persistent. Seek help if help is needed.

Resources:

<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/parenting-translation/202309/is-homework-good-for-kids#:~:text=Research%20suggests%20that%20homework%20may%20be%20most%20beneficial,work%20may%20interfere%20with%20other%20areas%20of%20development.>



FILE PHOTO

MCC announces leadership transition to strengthen student and workforce success

BY MB STAFF



ROBERT MATTHEWS (MCC)

FLINT – Mott Community College (MCC) has announced a leadership transition aimed at enhancing student success and workforce development. Robert Matthews, a 27-year MCC administrator, has been appointed Vice President of Student, Academic & Workforce Success, overseeing a realigned division that integrates Student Success Services, Academic Affairs, and Workforce & Economic Development to better support students.

Matthews steps into the role following the departure of Jason Wilson, who resigned as Vice President of Student Academic Success on January 22 to pursue new opportunities.

"Mr. Matthews is a highly respected MCC leader, and he has the endorsement of myself and his departing colleague Jason Wilson," said MCC Interim President Shaunda Richardson-Snell. "I am confident that he will be highly successful in his new role and will continue to generate the respect of all those around him here at MCC and throughout the state and business communities."

Richardson-Snell also praised Wilson's contributions, stating, "Mr. Wilson has been an instrumental member of MCC's Executive Cabinet for the past six years and is highly respected by his peers and the higher education community. He has always put the needs of our students and faculty first."

Wilson reflected on his time at MCC, saying, "My departure sets the stage for another major step forward in securing that future, and I applaud Interim President Richardson-Snell's bold new direction, which signals every Mott student, faculty, and staff, regardless of credit or non-credit status, will receive the full benefit of the college's strategic vision, resources, and stewardship."

MCC's leadership transition comes as the college aligns its academic structure with evolving workforce demands. Research shows that within the next decade, 72% of U.S. jobs will require postsecondary education or training, with 18.5 million annual job openings. To address these shifts, MCC continues expanding its student support and career readiness initiatives.

With Michigan increasing investments in community college financial assistance programs, MCC's realignment ensures that all students—whether pursuing credit or non-credit programs—benefit from its strategic vision. As Matthews steps into his new role, MCC remains committed to preparing students for success in an evolving job market.



OUR
FUTURE

Providing innovative education and opportunities for every student to thrive.



At Saginaw Public Schools, we're shaping the leaders and innovators of tomorrow. Serving over 5,800 students across 17 schools, we offer cutting-edge programs, modern facilities, and a commitment to academic and extracurricular excellence.

From early childhood education to career and college readiness, we give every student the tools to succeed in the 21st century.

Your future starts here.
17 Schools | Over 5,800 Students | One Mission

www.spsd.net | 989.399.6500
Our Kids. Our Future. Our Community.

EDUCATION

CMU's 2025 Klymyshyn Symposium moves beyond awareness to action

BY MB STAFF

MOUNT PLEASANT — Raising awareness is just the beginning—taking action is the next step. That's the driving force behind the 2025 Klymyshyn Symposium on Inclusive Excellence and Social Justice, set for February 12-14 at Central Michigan University's Bovee University Center.

With this year's theme, "Growing from Awareness to Action," the symposium will highlight research, activism, and initiatives focused on equity, inclusion, belonging, and social justice. Faculty, staff, students, and community members will come together to engage in conversations aimed at creating real change.

"This event represents just a sample of the depth and breadth of our communities' commitment to embedding our values into our collective teaching, learning, advocacy, and service efforts," said Shawna Patterson-Stephens, vice president for inclusive excellence and belonging.

The event honors Dr. A. Ulana Klymyshyn, a former CMU administrator and educator who was instrumental in advancing multicultural education. As CMU's first administrator for the Office of Diversity Education and a cultural anthropology professor, Dr. Klymyshyn's work shaped efforts to foster inclusivity both on campus and in the broader community. She retired in 2015 with emerita status.

"Klymyshyn was pivotal in implementing what has now transitioned into an annual learning experience," said Patterson-Stephens. "As we celebrate our tenth anniversary, naming the symposium after Klymyshyn is an exciting way for us to honor her legacy

KLYMYSHYN SYMPOSIUM

ON INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

REGISTER HERE:
<https://forms.office.com/r/Z8CEdUfaeP>



GROWING FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
<p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">The Klymyshyn Symposium at Central Michigan University is an annual event that brings together community members for conversations about inclusivity and addressing social inequities.</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">FEBRUARY 12-14, 2025</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 5px 0;">Check-in begins at 8:30am each day, presentations begin at 9am.</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">FEBRUARY 12-13:</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Bovee University Center Rotunda</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 10px 0;">FEBRUARY 14:</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">French Auditorium, College of Education and Human Services</p>

2025 KLYMYSHYN SYMPOSIUM (COURTESY PHOTO)

here at CMU."

The symposium will feature presentations, panel discussions, and workshops, all designed to help participants move beyond awareness and into action. Ses-

sions will take place in the UC Rotunda, with closing events—including the Provost's Fireside Chat—held in the CEHS French Auditorium.

For more details, call 989-

774-7318 or visit CMU's symposium [webpage](#). The event is open to the public, but registration is required and can be completed online.

NOUVEL CATHOLIC CENTRAL

Proudly offering a Christian education to students in grades PreK3 through 12th



**Founded in faith with proven excellence
in academics, athletics and the arts**



SCHEDULE YOUR PERSONALIZED TOUR

Call: Kelly at (989) 399-2230

Email: Admissions@nouvelcatholic.org

Visit: NouvelCatholic.org/Explore

Tuition Assistance and Scholarship Opportunities Available

EDUCATION

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



COURTESY PHOTOS

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

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

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

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

professional development opportunities as well as community activities and events.

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

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

SPONSORED CONTENT





Your talent belongs at SASA

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

Date: February 25, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: 3115 Mackinaw St., Saginaw, MI 48602

What to Expect

- Tour our campus and state-of-the-art facilities.
- Learn about our award-winning concentrations: Math/Science, Visual Arts, Dance, Theatre, Language Arts/Global Studies, and Voice/Keyboard.
- Meet our exceptional faculty and hear from current students.
- Sign up for admissions testing onsite.

Discover Your Future



Take the first step toward your bright future.

- ▶ National Blue Ribbon School
- ▶ Ranked 4th in Michigan for SAT Scores
- ▶ \$9.8M in Scholarships Awarded to Class of 2023

Apply Today!



Visit www.spsd.net/sasa or call (989) 399-5500 for more information.
3115 Mackinaw St., Saginaw, MI 48602

EDUCATION

Don't leave scholarship dollars on the table

Application Deadline is Feb. 10, 2025... A scholarship for students who reside in and graduate from a high school in Saginaw



FILE PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Saginaw Promise is investing in the future of Saginaw and the lives of its students by working to eliminate barriers to higher education with information and a “place based” scholarship. Since 2012, the organization has awarded \$1,182,799 in scholarships to 662 Students. While supporting higher education, the scholarship is a benefit for residents, intended to stabilize and grow Saginaw’s population, attract new businesses, affect the overall economic environment in Saginaw; with impact and benefit for surrounding communities and the entire Great Lakes Bay Region. The Saginaw Promise scholarship benefits stu-

dents who reside in and graduate from a high school in the Saginaw Promise Zone (which consist of the cities of Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Kochville and that area of Buena Vista designated to the Saginaw Public School District). The organization has been working to affect change in Saginaw and the lives of its students with a goal for all of Saginaw’s graduating students to earn a program certificate or degree.

Who is eligible?

High school graduates who meet residency, school attendance requirements and complete the online Saginaw Community Foundation application and FAFSA. Also eligible are students who have used only 1

year of their Saginaw Promise Scholarship (the Saginaw Promise scholarship is available up to two years) and students who have applied but have not used their Saginaw Promise scholarship (students have up to six years from high school graduation to use their Saginaw Promise scholarship).

How to apply for the Saginaw Promise scholarship?

Students must complete the online Saginaw Community Foundation scholarship application at saginawfoundation.org; remember to check off the Saginaw Promise scholarship on the application and to answer the two associated questions about

residency and school attendance. The deadline to complete the online application is February 10, 2025.

Students must also complete FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>.

For information/details about the Saginaw Promise, its scholarship or to donate, visit www.saginawpromise.org or telephone the Saginaw Promise at (989)755-0545.

(Note: The Saginaw Promise scholarship is renewable up to two years and must be applied for annually.)



Frankenmuth teacher honored with national Milken Educator Award



FROM LEFT: E.F. RITTMUELLER MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL CHRISTINE FRY, MICHIGAN STATE SUPERINTENDENT DR. MICHAEL F. RICE, AWARD RECIPIENT LUKE KANINE, MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARDS SENIOR PROGRAM DIRECTOR GREG GALLAGHER, AND FRANKENMUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT GRANT HEGENAUER. (PHOTO COURTESY | MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION)

BY MB STAFF

FRANKENMUTH — A routine school assembly at E.F. Rittmueller Middle School turned into a career-defining moment for Luke Kanine, a Spanish and physical education teacher who also serves as a behavior interventionist. What was expected to be a visit from Michigan education leaders quickly transformed into a surprise recognition, as Kanine was honored with the prestigious Milken Educator Award—an accolade often referred to as the “Oscars of Teaching.”

In front of a cheering crowd of students, staff, and dignitaries, Milken Family Foundation Senior Program Director Greg Gallagher announced Kanine as

the only Michigan educator to receive the award in the 2024-25 season. Along with the national honor, Kanine was presented with a \$25,000 prize.

“Luke Kanine’s whole-child approach illustrates his care and commitment for everyone he encounters at E.F. Rittmueller and within the community,” said Gallagher. “Whether building Spanish language skills, helping people lead healthy lives, mentoring colleagues, or strengthening school culture, Luke loves this community, and it shows. We are proud to welcome him into the Milken Educator Network today.”

This marks a historic milestone for Frankenmuth School District, as Kanine becomes the

first teacher in its history to earn this distinction. He now joins an elite group of over 3,000 educators who have received the award in its nearly 40-year history. The Milken Educator Awards have provided more than \$75 million in individual prizes and invested over \$145 million in its national educator network.

State education leaders praised Kanine’s contributions to his students and the broader school community.

“Congratulations to Luke for his outstanding work with Frankenmuth students,” said Dr. Michael F. Rice, Michigan State Superintendent. “Encouraging children to set personal fitness goals, helping them learn a world language, and working to make

school an engaging, safe space, whether they are in physical education or Spanish class, is a significant contribution to his students. Thanks to Luke and all the proud Michigan educators in our classrooms.”

The Milken Educator Award seeks to recognize early- to mid-career educators who have demonstrated excellence in their field and show promise for future leadership in education. Recipients are selected through a confidential process and are unaware of their candidacy until the moment of recognition.

For Kanine, the honor not only celebrates his dedication to students but also reinforces the impact that passionate educators have in shaping young lives.



About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

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

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Dow announces layoffs amid cost-cutting efforts and market challenges



COURTESY PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND — Facing continued margin pressures and sluggish demand, chemical giant Dow Inc. announced Thursday it will lay off 1,500 employees as part of a \$1 billion cost-saving initiative. The company's decision to reduce its global workforce—primarily focusing on operations in Europe and Asia—comes as it navigates high input costs and weaker pricing, particularly in international markets.

Following the announcement, Dow's shares dropped 6.3% in morning trading, reflecting investor concerns over the

company's financial outlook. The chemical sector has been grappling with volatile energy prices, regulatory challenges, and fluctuating demand, especially in Europe, where tightening regulations have prompted companies to reconsider their business strategies.

Dow said it expects to save an additional \$300 million to \$500 million this year through expense reductions and operational efficiencies. Despite these cost-cutting measures, the company lowered its revenue forecast for the current quarter, expecting \$10.3 billion in sales, below analysts' projections of \$10.78 billion, according to data from LSEG.

Company executives noted that rising global feedstock and energy costs continue to outpace pricing adjustments, which could negatively impact earnings by \$100 million in the current quarter. During its post-earnings conference call, Dow leadership acknowledged the challenging market conditions but expressed optimism about demand growth in North America, particularly in the polyethylene sector, a crucial material used in packaging.

Dow's packaging and specialty plastics segment, which generates the largest share of company revenue, reported a 5.8% decline in net sales, falling to \$5.32 billion from the previous year.

While demand for packaging products remained steady, lower prices offset any gains.

On an adjusted basis, the company reported break-even earnings per share for the fourth quarter, missing Wall Street's expectations of 24 cents per share.

Despite the economic headwinds, Dow remains focused on strategic cost reductions and long-term growth opportunities in key markets. The company continues to monitor global economic conditions and adjust its operations to remain competitive in an evolving industry landscape.

THE MICHIGAN BANNER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AT&T



Connecting the Great Lakes State to greater possibility

We're investing in a brighter future for Michiganders so our communities are connected to the resources they need to live, learn, work and succeed.

Learn how we're helping to address the digital divide at attconnects.com/Michigan



© 2024 AT&T Intellectual Property. All rights reserved. AT&T, the Globe logo and other marks are trademarks and service marks of AT&T Intellectual Property and/or AT&T affiliated companies.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Michigan expands housing and economic development with major investments

BY MB STAFF

MICHIGAN — Governor Gretchen Whitmer has announced the approval of more than 850 new housing units, 700 jobs, and \$65 million in private investment to support economic growth and revitalization efforts in Pontiac, Lansing, and Detroit. The projects aim to increase affordable housing, create jobs, and revitalize downtown areas.

“We are supporting projects to build more than 850 units of housing across Michigan so we can keep expanding our housing supply and driving down costs for buyers and renters,” said Governor Whitmer. “These projects will create more than 700 good-paying jobs and drive more than \$65 million of private investment into Pontiac, Lansing, and Detroit, making each city a better place to live.”

The Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) Board approved these investments as part of the state’s Make it in Michigan framework, which prioritizes economic development and workforce housing expansion.

“Today’s actions by the MSF Board demonstrate our ongoing commitment to the Make it in Michigan economic framework supporting People, Places, and Projects of all sizes,” said Quentin L. Messer, Jr., CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and Chair of the MSF Board.

Pontiac’s downtown revitalization

Pontiac will receive a \$79.2 million Transformational Brownfield Plan (TBP), supporting \$105 million in mixed-use redevelopment. The plan includes:

- Exchange Flats, a nine-story building with 287

residential units.

- 91 North Saginaw (El Centro), redeveloped for hospitality and office space.
- 48 West Huron (Tech and Arts), featuring a food hall, event space, and offices.

“The Exchange Pontiac project is truly transformational for our community,” said Pontiac Mayor Tim Greimel.

Lansing’s major housing investment

Lansing will benefit from \$202.2 million to develop over 560 housing units and boost commercial space in key neighborhoods. Projects include:

- Tower on the Grand,

a 26-story mixed-use building with housing and retail.

- Washington Square, a 10-story redevelopment with 60 housing units.
- Capitol Tower, a six-story office and residential project.

“Lansing needs more housing options, and the New Vision Lansing project will change both the trajectory of our city and our skyline,” said Lansing Mayor Andy Schor.

Detroit’s Southwest housing development

Detroit will see a \$15.6 million investment to transform the Arthur Murray Building into 32 new housing units and 8,000

square feet of commercial space.

“The Michigan Community Revitalization Program loan is a vital tool in addressing the need for neighborhood-scale, attainable housing,” said Developer W. Emery Matthews.

Statewide commitment to growth and revitalization

Michigan continues to invest in housing, economic development, and urban revitalization to support growing workforce demands and community needs. These projects reflect a broader strategy to expand affordable housing, attract businesses, and create job opportunities while reinvigorating cities across the state.




RENDERING OF “CAPITOL TOWER” PORTION OF THE LANSING TBP

BUSINESS + FINANCE



Ebony Payns
Mental Health
Therapist, LMSW



313-228-6299
epayns7@gmail.com
18121 E. 8 mile Rd, STE 211
Eastpointe, MI 48021
(Virtual Therapy Available)




Your *dream wedding* destination.

Our creative team delights in making your vision come to life so you and your guests will experience an unforgettable day. Start planning your dream wedding today with HORIZONS.

HORIZONS
ART OF HOSPITALITY

HORIZONS Conference Center
6200 State Street | Saginaw, Michigan
(989) 799-4122
weddings@horizonscenter.com

horizonscenter.com | @horizonscenter
@HORIZONSconfctr | @horizonsweddings

BUSINESS + FINANCE



✦ Celebrating ✦
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

LOCAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN BUSINESS

- **Rosena Moton Ford** - 1st Black Registered Nurse (1946)
- **William Atwood** - 1st Black Business owner Real Estate & Sawmill (1861)
- **Ruben Daniels** - 1st Black to serve on Bank Board of Directors Michigan National (1974-1993)
- **Laval Perry** - 1st Black Owner of New Car Dealership All American Ford (1988)
- **Thornton H. Westbrook** - 1st Black Operated funeral home which later became Elsie Black's (1929)
- **Thelma Poston** - 1st Black Female to operate real estate firm in Saginaw (1973)
- **French Morgan** - 1st Black Attorney to practice law in Saginaw (1878)
- **Sam Jones** - 1st Black GM Plant Manager (1981-1994), GM Site Manager (1994-1995), GM Director of Manufacturing Asia Region (1996-1999)
- **Jim Ellis** - 1st Black MSU College All American & Professional Athlete (1951)
- **Lemuel Tucker** - One of the 1st Black television network reporters (1965)
- **Charles Dunn** - 1st Black foreman & supervisor U.S. Post Office (1948-1986)
- **Dorothy N. Allen** - 1st Black Director of Saginaw Co. Child Receiving Home (1979-1996)
- **Shirley Barry-Ward** - 1st Black cashier hired by A & P Grocery (1962)
- **Lavinia M. Saunders** - 1st Black Medical secretary at Veterans Administration Hospital (1953-55) and EEO Representative for State of Michigan & Ohio (1955)
- **Horace Davis** - Michigan's 1st black general manager of an all white Bay City Country Club (1969-1992)



Lemuel Tucker



Jim Ellis



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.

SPONSORED CONTENT

FAITH IN FOCUS

BHM

Bethel AME Church: Saginaw's 1st Black church

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

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — For over 150 years, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church has stood as a cornerstone of faith and community in Saginaw. Founded in 1867 by a small group of six devoted Christians, the church began as a humble gathering in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Allen Ford on North Fourth Street. From these modest beginnings, Bethel has grown into a thriving congregation, expanding its reach and facilities through visionary leadership and steadfast faith.

As Bethel's membership flourished, the church underwent multiple relocations to accommodate its growing congregation. The pivotal moment in its development came in 1954 when Rev. Isaiah Snelling was assigned as pastor by Bishop George W. Baber. Known for his vision and dedication, Rev. Snelling initiated plans for a new church building. Though he passed away shortly after the groundbreak-

ing in October 1966, his legacy of faith and determination laid the foundation for Bethel's future.

Following Rev. Snelling's passing, Rev. Harold C. Huggins was appointed in March 1967 by Bishop Joseph Gomez. Under his leadership, the church's expansion plans continued, culminating in a historic moment on July 2, 1967—during Bethel's Centennial Year—when the congregation moved into a new church building. This dedication service, led by Bishop Gomez, marked the realization of a long-held dream.

Bethel's physical and spiritual growth continued with Rev. Clarence G. Robinson, who arrived in 1980 and led further expansion efforts, breaking ground on Phase IV of the building project in June 1987. Under Rev. Delano L. Bowman, who took the pulpit in October 1988, Bethel completed its most significant expansion—the \$1.6 million educational center, which was dedicated on August 27, 1989, and officially recognized with a cornerstone-laying ceremony on July 1, 1990,

presided over by Bishop James Haskell Mayo.

Throughout its history, Bethel AME Church has remained committed to its mission of faith, service, and community engagement. In 1997, Rev. P. David Saunders was appointed to lead the church into the new millennium, emphasizing a message of love and compassion. After two decades of dedicated leadership, Rev. Saunders retired in 2017 at the 131st Session of the Michigan Annual Conference, marking the end of an era. In recognition of his service, the church established the P. David Saunders Endowment Fund to honor his contributions.

On September 3,

2017, Bishop John Franklin White assigned new leadership to Rev. Dr. Dennis E. Laffoon to continue guiding Bethel AME Church in its mission. With a history rooted in resilience and faith, Bethel remains a pillar of the Saginaw community, upholding the vision of its founders and the legacy of the many pastors who have shaped its journey.



BETHEL AME CHURCH (COURTESY PHOTO)

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



New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry

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



New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

3610 Russel St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-0801



Glory House Ministries

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



New Beginnings Ministries

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



Saint Paul Baptist Church

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



Holy Communion Gospel Center

Pastor Charlene Washington
1245 E. Genesee
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-752-3993



New Birth Missionary Baptist

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



Victorious Belivers Ministries Church

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



Jacob's Ladder

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



New Covenant Christian Center

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

YOUR LISTING HERE



List your church in The Michigan Banner Church Directory

Ensure your church is easily found by those seeking a place to worship, connect, and grow in faith.

CONTACT US AT (989) 249-3818 TO ADD YOUR CHURCH

FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Justifying your programs



BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Here's a hard question to ask: can you justify your programs? Very few want to ask this question, let alone answer it. Doing so means looking closely at what you are doing, how you are doing it, and what your community needs. It includes looking at who else is offering similar or complementary services – where are you competing and how can you collaborate? We're asking these questions so you can ask them of yourselves, your team members, your leadership (including your board), and those you serve or advocate for.

Sometimes programs persist over time even when they are not delivering the results they once did. There may have been budget cuts over the years that resulted in eliminating important elements of a program in order to keep offering it. Or perhaps demand increased without an increase in funding and you had to



FILE PHOTO

reduce the type or amount of services in order to be able to provide something to all who need access. The result: a lesser service for more people. In other cases, a program may not reach the number of people it used to. You may want to look at the geographic and demographic communities you serve. Have these shifted; and has your programming adjusted accordingly? Finally, are you offering programs because you have a history of offering them? What if these are not a priority for your constituency? What if your focus on what you have been doing keeps you from serving another group with a "greater" need.

Here are other things to consider: Are your programs making a difference in the life of your organization and community? Which programs are a "pet project" that you don't want to let go of? Or, that a donor wants you to continue? Could resources be used by another program – or for

another purpose – and put to a better use? Are you trying to keep pace with your peers without examining whether a program is right for your organization and constituency? Are your programs sustainable and can you afford to grow them? Look at each program to see where your funding is coming from. Are you getting support from one source or a variety of sources? How do funders and those who access your programs evaluate your work?

Sometimes nonprofits continue to offer programs that are not sustainable, subsidizing them with unrestricted revenue from other sources. Known

as "borrowing from Peter to pay Paul," an organization can find itself in a race to the bottom, stretching a dollar farther than it can go. The end result: underpaid staff, lack of infrastructure, inadequate technology, and low reserves. Take time to look at your programs and ask the difficult questions. It may be time to change. Maybe it's time to eliminate or combine programs or add new ones. There may be a larger or different need than the one we are focused on. It's time to evaluate how we use our resources and to affirm – or change – our programs. Our communities deserve our best!



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.



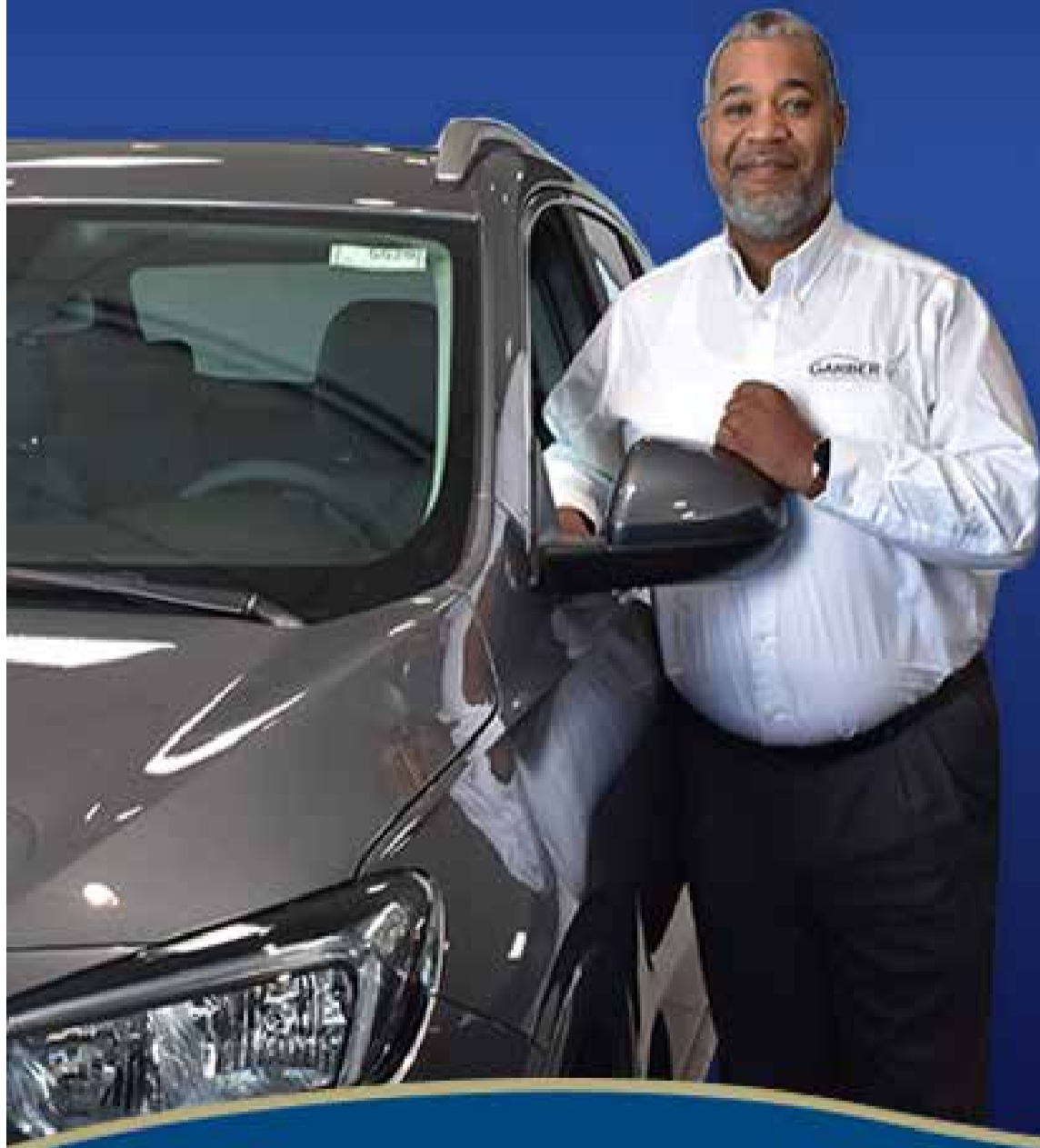
PICS OF THE WEEK

U.S. Rep. Kristen McDonald Rivet, D-Bay City, takes her oath of office during a swearing-in ceremony in Flint, on Jan. 27, 2025, as her husband, Bay City Commissioner Joseph Rivet, holds the Bible.



The Great Lakes Bay Region Does Better With

GARBER
BUICK SAGINAW



“When you want a great car or truck come see **The Wright Guy** for the job!”

John Wright
jwright@garberbuick.com
989-497-4444, ext. 1615
GarberBuick.com



We

empower.

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



SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY®

#WeCardinal

svsu.edu/opportunity



7400 Bay Road • University Center, MI 48710 • (800) 968-9500 • admissions@svsu.edu