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From Mi Gente to poetry, local writer makes her mark

LATINO BANNER, COVER

Jerome Buckley reflects on milestones ahead of 72nd Birthday

BY MB STAFF

As Saginaw gears up for its annual Fourth of July celebration, it was 72 years ago, on the night of July 4, 1953, that Helen M. Pierrie-Buckley felt her water break amid the city's dazzling fireworks display. Navigating through heavy crowds, she reached Saginaw General Hospital (now Covenant) and gave birth hours after midnight to twin boys, Jerome and Joel Buckley. Joel would pass 3 days later, but Jerome would go on to overcome adversity, co-found The Michigan Banner and devote his life to empowering his community.

On Friday, July 5, that son, community leader, father and driving force behind the 22-year-old news organization will turn 72.

A Saginaw High graduate, Buckley spent 25 years at General Motors, rising to union facilitator, before transitioning into sales management at House of Styles. In 1986, he opened Wonderland Barber & Beauty Supply, where he saw first-hand the importance of connecting local businesses with community members. Driven by that insight, he led



JEROME BUCKLEY SITS AT HIS DESK BENEATH A PORTRAIT OF HENRY G. MARSH, SAGINAW'S FIRST BLACK MAYOR.

the revival of The Saginaw Banner, which under his guidance relaunched as The Michigan Banner in 2002, adding The Latino Banner in 2012. Over the next 22 years, Buckley turned these publications into respected platforms for news, advocacy and community engagement throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region.

"From breathing new life into The Saginaw Banner to expanding into The Michigan Banner and The Latino Banner, my goal has always been to elevate the voices of

our communities," Buckley said. "Though my title has changed over the years, my passion for community storytelling and fostering unity is as strong as ever."

His words echo a lifetime of dedication, one that has not been without its trials. Reflecting on his upcoming birthday, Buckley said, "I've faced some health challenges recently, and to celebrate another year feels like a true blessing. I give all praise to my Lord and Savior for carrying me through these difficult times."

Fueled by gratitude and strengthened by his faith, he is already looking ahead to the next chapter for the Banner.

"The Banner has always been more than a newspaper; it's a community partner," he said. "We'll keep innovating through digital storytelling, outreach programs and partnerships that shine a light on underrepresented perspectives."

As Buckley approaches 72, he recognizes the village that has helped him reach this point in his life. "I'm profoundly thankful for my family, friends, partners and readers," he said. "The support—both personal and professional—has carried me through every chapter of my journey."



African Fest honors ex-cop who leads patrons to the gates

COMMUNITY, PG 15



Saginaw Township schools pursue \$169.2 million bond proposal

EDUCATION, PG 31

FEATURED STORY

Great Lakes Bay Region readies Fourth of July fireworks and festivities

COMMUNITY, PG 14



Saginaw County shelter earns Best Friends grant for lost-pet reunification

SAGINAW — Saginaw County Animal Care & Control has been awarded a \$1,000 grant from Best Friends Animal Society for its success reuniting lost pets with their owners. The grant recognizes the department's participation in Best Friends' May "Paws in the Field" challenge, a nationwide effort to boost return-to-home rates through community-based searches.

Since January, the shelter has admitted 984 animals, most strays without known owners. During the monthlong challenge, Officer Desi Bellon located and returned three dogs to their families without ever taking them into the facility, and the department reunited 23 pets in May—up from 11 a year earlier. Nationwide, more than 2,500 pets found their homes during the initiative.

"It breaks our hearts when a lost pet is sitting in a kennel, when we know someone in Saginaw County is looking for them and missing them," said Rachel Horton, director of Saginaw County Animal Care & Control. "With Best Friends' support, we can keep the return-to-home momentum going."

Whitney Bollinger, Best Friends' director of strategy and network operations, praised the shelter's "compassionate, community-based solutions" and said the grant will "power their return-to-home efforts going forward."

Saginaw County residents are encouraged to microchip and tag their pets to aid quick reunification. Adoption fees at the shelter are \$125 for dogs and \$50 for cats. More information is available at saginawcounty.com/departments/animal-care-control/.



**THIS DAY IN
MICHIGAN
HISTORY**

JULY 1, 1974

Colleen House, a Bay City native, made history on July 1, 1974, at age 22 when she became the youngest woman ever sworn into the Michigan House of Representatives. In 1986, she broke another barrier as the first woman to run for governor of Michigan, though she was defeated in the primary. In 1989, House went on to join President George H.W. Bush's administration as director of intergovernmental affairs at the U.S. Department of Commerce. She died on Christmas Eve, 2022, after a two-year battle with dementia.



COLLEEN HOUSE, 1986
(PHOTO CREDIT: MATT MENDELSON, KNIGHT RIDDER TRIBUNE)

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MISSION

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

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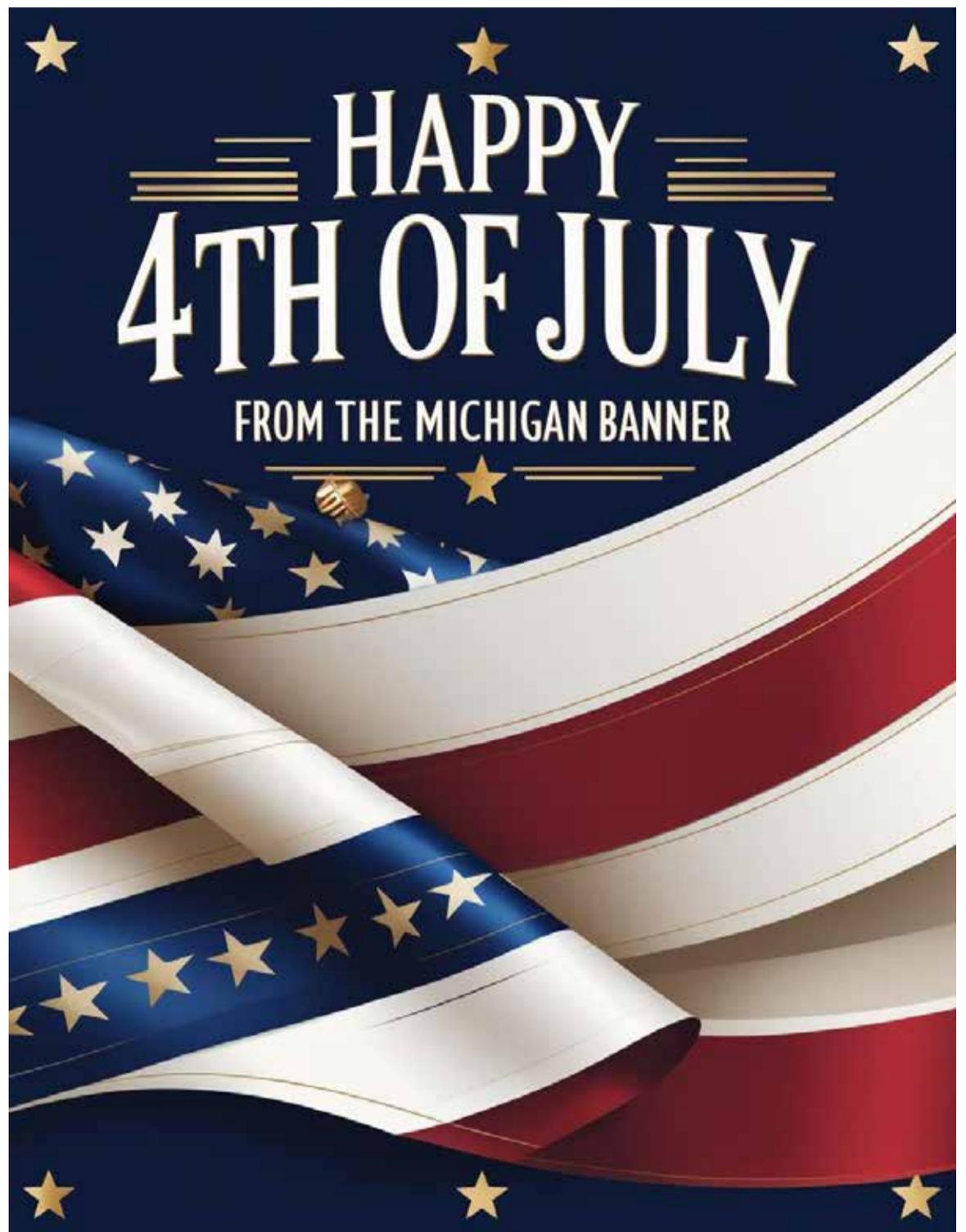
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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 7 • NUMBER 13



Flint Festival celebrates a decade of youth filmmaking



PREVIOUS FLINT YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL WINNERS POSE FOR A PICTURE. (PHOTO CREDIT: FLINT YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL)

BY MB STAFF

FLINT — The Flint Youth Film Festival will mark its 10th anniversary July 17–20 with a series of free events spotlighting student-produced films and industry workshops across multiple venues in downtown Flint.

The four-day festival opens Thursday, July 17, at 6 p.m. in the Flint Institute of Arts auditorium with an evening of short-film screenings by Michigan youth filmmakers. Friday, July 18, features a “Set the Scene: Makeup Artistry for Film & TV” workshop led by award-winning artist Myke Michaels from 5 to 6 p.m., followed by a second night of stu-

dent screenings at Mott Community College’s Regional Technology Center from 6 to 8 p.m.

On Saturday, July 19, the festival moves to Cinemark Flint West 14, 1591 S. Graham Road, for a special big-screen showcase of select entries, accompanied by a filmmaker “talk-back” session from 3 to 5 p.m. The closing day on Sunday, July 20, will be held at the Ferris Wheel, 615 Saginaw Street, from 2 to 5 p.m., when festival awards will be presented.

This year’s honorary hosts include actress Jessica Mikayla and actor-filmmaker Dusable Lewis. Colette Boyd, an anchor at Flint’s WMEN-TV, will serve as emcee for select events.

The festival is supported by

the Flint Institute of Arts, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, A.G. Bishop Charitable Trust and Mott Community College, among others. Free admission and swag bags will be available while sup-

plies last.

For a full festival schedule, filmmaker submission guidelines and ticket reservations, visit <https://flintyouthfilmfestival.com/>.



TROPHIES FROM THE FLINT YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL LINED UP FOR PRESENTATION AT THE CLOSING AWARDS CEREMONY. (PHOTO CREDIT: FLINT YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL)

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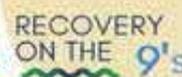
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For more info contact Shanell @ 989.332.9131



Saginaw ISD names sixth class of Youth Ambassadors

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Saginaw Intermediate School District, in partnership with the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce, Dale Carnegie Training and Partnership, has unveiled its sixth cohort of Youth Ambassadors: a select group of rising high-school sophomores chosen to serve as student leaders and community advocates over the next three years.

Each ambassador will attend a four-day Dale Carnegie Teen Program this summer to build professional skills in public speaking, teamwork and self-confidence. Over the course of the program, participants will also join workshops on self-awareness and design immersive experiences that spotlight Saginaw County's cultural diversity. In their senior year, the students will apply those skills in leadership roles, promoting community service and local engagement among their peers.

"The Youth Ambassador program invests in tomorrow's leaders today," said Kevin Summey of Saginaw ISD. "These students will gain the tools to showcase all that Saginaw County has to offer."

Selected from schools across the county, the 24 ambassadors represent Birch Run, Bridgeport, Chesaning Union, Frankenmuth, Freeland, Hemlock, Heritage, Merrill, Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy, Saginaw United, St. Charles and Swan Valley high schools.

The sixth cohort are as follows:

- Makayla Brown, Birch Run High School
- Ellie Schultz, Birch Run High School
- Charles Castell, Bridgeport High School
- Howie Ebenheoh,

- Chesaning Union High School
- Fiona Monroe, Chesaning Union High School
- Nolah Balbach, Frankenmuth High School
- Leah Hillborg, Frankenmuth High School
- Audrey Armstrong, Freeland High School
- Vanessa Pierre, Freeland High School
- Alexis Hagerty, Hemlock High School

- Isaiah Steinert, Hemlock High School
- John Duran, Heritage High School
- Lillian Fowler, Heritage High School
- Taylor Bethke, Merrill High School
- Hunter Wiley, Merrill High School
- Adam Aouadi, Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy
- Isha Dasgupta, Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy

- Lilly Polencia, Saginaw United High School
- Dean Simpson, Saginaw United High School
- Katie Fiting, St. Charles High School
- Ryden Kendall, St. Charles High School
- Theodore Cole, Swan Valley High School
- Emily Krantz, Swan Valley High School

For more information, contact Amanda Koch at AKoch@sisd.cc.



SIGN ON TEMPLE THEATRE MARQUEE WELCOMING SAGINAW YOUTH AMBASSADORS (PHOTO CREDIT: SAGINAW ISD)



Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

From Mi Gente to poetry, local writer makes her mark



OLIVIA MUNOZ

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Olivia Munoz has been writing books of verse, poetry and personal experience ever since she was in grade school. They stay with her as keepsakes, penned in old-time composition notebooks with black-and-white marbled cardboard covers.

In midlife, she has chosen to self-publish for the first time. Her work is, "These Women, They Carry Purses Full of Knives," a 2024 first-place winner with the Georgia-based Southern Collective Experience.

Southern Collective editors write, "Olivia Munoz presents a collection of poems that draw on the life histories, challenges and triumphs of the women in her collective world. Family lore is braided with working-class profiles to bring to life the vivid voices and memories of an exciting new author; a childhood in Mexico and the Midwest, party girls getting ready to go out, scenes at the kitchen table, and always secrets and saints. Munoz used language like a knife, both tool and weapon, unassuming until it becomes necessary."

One of the judges, author

Richard Blanco, adds, "The utterly original structure of Munoz' book creates a drawn-out sequence of vignettes that transfixes the reader."

The chapbook price is a modest \$10, but like numerous authors who debut a first book, Munoz isn't exactly lining her pockets, because she keeps giving them away to friends and acquaintances.

Not that Olivia is new to having her writing published. After her 1998 graduation from the former Arthur Hill High School, she studied journalism at CMU and

reported for the campus student newspaper. Then she returned home and became a contributing writer for Mi Gente magazine, in addition to landing an internship at The Saginaw News.

In search of an alternative avenue for self-expression, Munoz headed for the West Coast to get involved in worthy causes, such as community organizing for social justice. She recently has returned home to consider the next steps in her future.

To learn more about Olivia and her work, visit oliviamunoz.com.

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**JULY 17th,
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Dems ask Latinos to get involved

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — A survey being conducted by the Latino Caucus of the Saginaw County Democratic Party begins with three basic questions:

- How often do you vote?
- Have you ever spoken with your elected representatives?
- Do you feel your voice is heard?

Then comes the jackpot essay question: What would it take to motivate you to become more involved?

Responses are intended to help the Latino Caucus expand its membership and its activism. For added info, contact Angel Gomez, caucus chairman, (989) 860 1969.



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! ¡HAZ QUE TU VOZ SE ESCUCHE!

Take the Latino Voices in Politics Survey

Participa en la Encuesta: Voces Latinos en la Política

★ Help shape the future of our community! Your opinion matters. This short, anonymous survey asks about your needs, priorities, and experiences as a Latinos resident of Saginaw County.

★ ¡Ayuda a moldear el futuro de nuestra comunidad! Tu opinión importa. Esta encuesta anónima y breve pregunta sobre tus necesidades, prioridades y experiencias como residente Latinos del Condado de Saginaw.



✓ Survey Details

Detalles de la Encuesta:

Bilingual (English & Spanish) / Bilingüe (inglés y español)

Takes less than 10 minutes / Toma menos de 10 minutos

Open to all Latino residents of Saginaw County / Abierta a todos los residentes Latinos del condado de Saginaw

100% Anonymous / 100% Anónima

Organized by: Saginaw County
Democratic Party Latino Caucus
Contact: Angel Gomez
(989) 860-1969

👉 TAKE THE SURVEY
TOMA LA ENCUESTA:

<https://forms.gle/Q6J2ZCYGroSaPgSW7>

Scan the QR Code
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Latino Night with Lansing Lugnuts set for July 5 at Jackson Field

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — The Lansing Lugnuts will host their annual Latino Night celebration on Saturday, July 5, at Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave. Festivities begin with a free pregame festival and concert on the concourse at 3:30 p.m., followed by the ballgame at 6:30 p.m.

Tejano Sound Band will perform outside the stadium before the game and inside after postgame fireworks. Attendees can browse vendor booths, enjoy folklórico dance performances by GLA Ballet Folklórico, and hear Mariachi singer Gabriel Estrada III. Vocalist Amanda Cena will open the evening with the national anthem.

Latino Night aims to showcase Hispanic and Latino culture through music, dance and community engagement. Jackson Field will remain open after the fireworks display for additional entertainment and family activities. Admission to the pregame festival is free, and tickets for the Lugnuts game are available through the team's box office and official website.

For more information, please contact Sein Paul Benavides at 517-303-7001 or seinpaul65@gmail.com.



LATINO NIGHT
WITH THE LANSING LUGNUTS
SATURDAY JULY 5
JACKSON FIELD
505 E. MICHIGAN AVE. LANSING, MI

TEJANO SOUND BAND
WILL BE PERFORMING PREGAME 3:30-6:30PM, IN FRONT OF THE STADIUM, AND INSIDE AFTER THE FIREWORKS.

- VENDORS -
- POSTGAME FIREWORKS-
- FOLKLORICO DANCING-

PERFORMANCES BY: GLA BALLEF FOLKLORICO & MARIACHI SINGER GABRIEL ESTRADA III.
VOCALIST AMANDA CENA WILL SING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.

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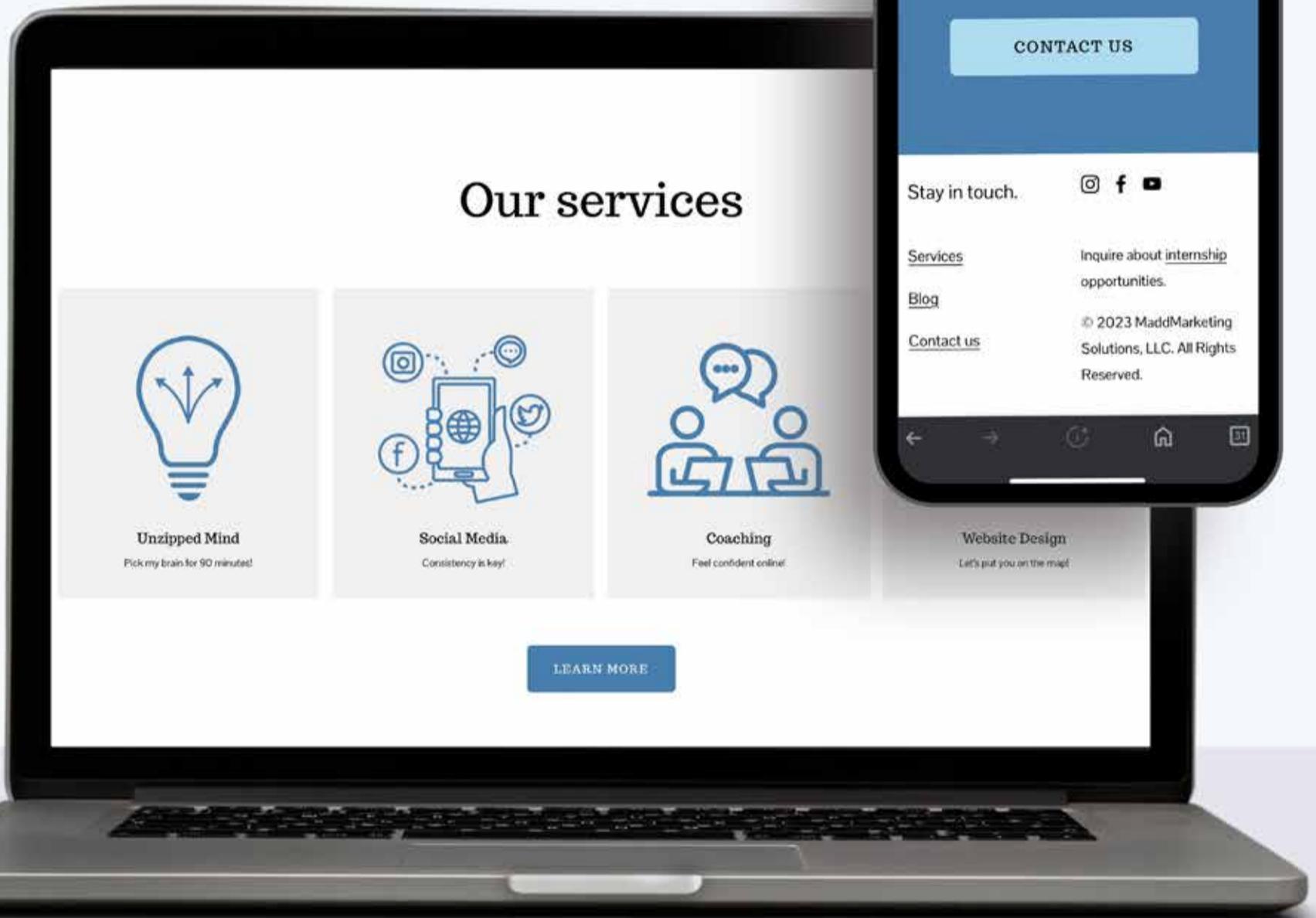
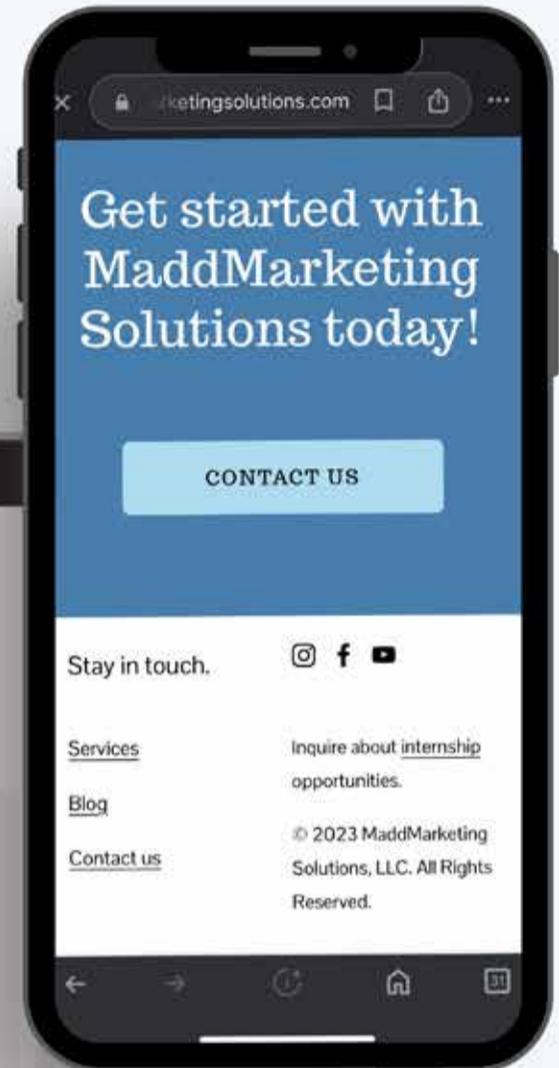


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COMMUNITY

Great Lakes Bay Region readies Fourth of July fireworks and festivities

BY MB STAFF

With mostly clear skies and warm summer nights forecast, communities across the Great Lakes Bay Region are gearing up for Independence Day celebrations. From waterfront spectacles in Bay City to family fun in Flint, here's a look at where to grab your lawn chair, light a sparkler and enjoy fireworks under the stars.

BAY CITY

The 63rd annual Bay City Fireworks Festival lights up Veterans Park and the Wenonah Park waterfront July 3–5. Each evening's grand finale launches at dusk (approximately 10:12 p.m.) from south of the Veterans Memorial Bridge, visible from any riverside spot. Days begin with the Skerbeck Family Carnival (admission \$2), while Wenonah Park hosts nightly live music (Saturday entry \$5) and food vendors. New this year is a centrally located beer tent featuring Three Bridges Distillery & Taproom. Saturday's display—backed by the festival's \$400,000 budget—promises an especially massive celebration. Full sched-



GREAT LAKES BAY RESIDENTS GEAR UP FOR LOCAL INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS DISPLAYS.

ules and performer lineups, including Sponge and Trapt, are online at baycityfireworksfestival.com.

MIDLAND

Downtown Midland's Fourth of July block party kicks off at 4 p.m. on State Street with local food trucks, a beer tent and bounce houses on the front lawn of Dow Diamond. The Chris Canas Band headlines the Commons Music Series at 6 p.m., followed by the Great Lakes Loons' 7:05 p.m. ballgame. Postgame, The Insiders: Tom Petty Tribute Band and Chicago's Bucket Boys perform on the field as fireworks fill the sky at roughly 10:06 p.m. from the St. Charles Softball Diamonds. Founders' Garden offers prime off-site viewing. Road closures on St. Charles and Tows-

ley streets begin at 6 a.m. July 4. Event maps and parking details are available at cityofmidlandmi.gov.

SAGINAW

Saginaw County's largest annual Independence Day event returns July 4 at the riverfront near Ojibway Island. Beginning around 10:05 p.m., approximately 150,000 spectators watch a \$150,000 fireworks display funded by community donations and year-round fundraising. Shoreline parks and bridges on both sides of the Saginaw River provide excellent vantage points. The Saginaw Area Fireworks committee coordinates volunteer and donation opportunities, while county law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel ensure a safe celebration. Learn more and

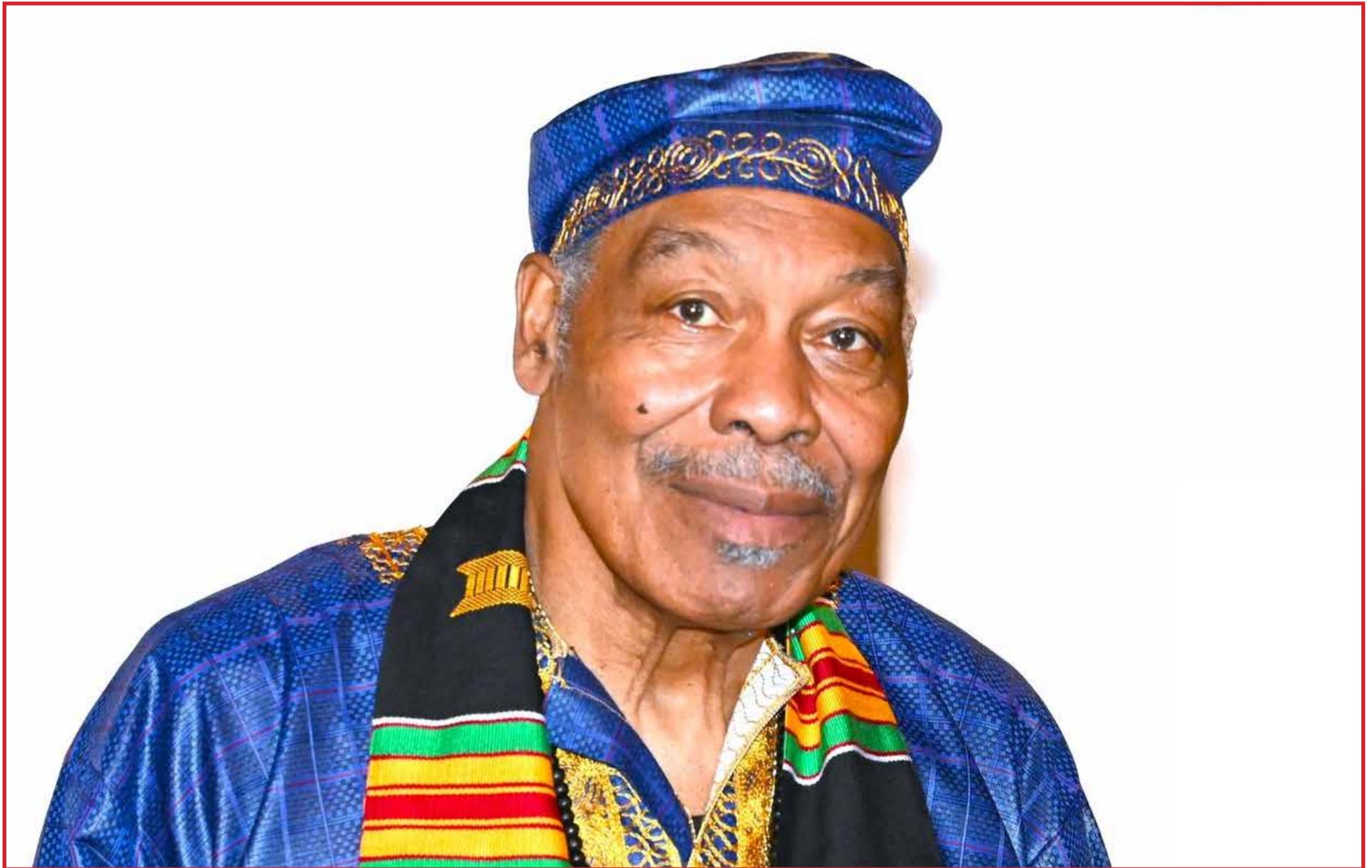
find viewing tips at saginawareafireworks.org.

FLINT

Flint's 10th Annual Water Festival and Fourth of July celebration moves to the Bricks downtown July 4, 7–10:30 p.m., at 125 E. Kearsley St. Free family activities include pickleball open play with Flint City Bucks players, a Soak City splash zone, and carnival midway games. Live music kicks off at 7 p.m. with DJ Brian Larkin, followed by performances from Alina Oliver, Cainaen McGee, BFF, Nosey Parker and Hustlers on the Move. Uptown Funk: A Bruno Mars Tribute Band closes the concert ahead of a fireworks finale over the city. Bring lawn chairs and blankets for this free, all-ages event. Details at <https://flintwaterfestival.com>.

COMMUNITY

African Fest honors ex-cop who leads patrons to the gates



ERNEST L. BRADLEY

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Visitors to this summer's African Cultural Festival will enter via the Ernest L. Bradley Parking Area.

On the weekend of Aug. 8-10, Ernie hopes his health continues to improve and that he will be able to make it to Morley School Park.

He has lost count of the number of years he has volunteered for the annual cornerstone of the regional arts scene, but it was back when the moniker was "Black Arts Festival" long prior to the turn of the century.

"It has always been a way to give back to the community,"

says the retired detective sergeant, a 1960 Saginaw High grad who was one of the first products of law enforcement training at the newly opened Delta College.

But his role has been far from simple, although parking has become a challenge in itself. Attendance has grown beyond 10,000 for the three-day extravaganza, but organizers have chosen to remain at the traditional neighborhood location.

He also teams with John Moton, the former Daniels Heights "robocop" who now operates MWN Investigations, to oversee the Morley grounds during a festival that emphasizes family, with no alcohol served on the grounds and no booze or

tobacco sponsorships, period. Bradley is no stranger to gunfire -- he was at Sixth and Lapeer during the 1967 disturbances -- but no such outbreak, or anything close, ever has transpired at the park.

The key is to identify any potential troublemakers in the

parking area and to stop them at the gates, Ernie explains.

Moton says, "Ernie starts with his own church, Bethel, and recruits in-house security (volunteers) from the various other churches. He is dedicated to the festival and always there when needed."



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4 PM - 7PM
Fundamentals of Running
Practice Drills on Essential Skills
Interactive Relays for the Whole Family



JUNE 12 / THUR
BASEBALL
4 PM - 7 PM
Fundamentals of throwing, catching, hitting, fielding and base running
Practice Drills on Essential Skills



JUNE 28 / SAT
SKATEBOARDING
10 AM - 1 PM
Fundamentals of Footing, Pushing and Stopping
Practice Balancing Techniques
Learn How to Fall Safely



AUGUST 08 / FRI
TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL
4 PM - 7 PM
Learn Tennis Court Layout and Scoring Rules
Fundamentals of Serving and Hitting
Interactive Games



AUGUST 22 / FRI
FREE PLAY
5:30 PM - 8 PM
Learn Games with No Equipment Needed Such as Red Rover, Tag, Hopscotch, Red Light Green Light, Ring Around the Rosie, Kick the Can, Etc.



REGISTER AT WWW.SAGINAW-MI.COM/PARKS

COMMUNITY

Leslie Jones to perform at Temple Theatre in Saginaw this fall

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Comedian and actor Leslie Jones will bring her stand-up show to the Temple Theatre at the Shaheen Performing Arts Center on Sept. 19, 2025. Tickets went on sale June 27 at 10 a.m. and are available at templetheatre.com.

A three-time Emmy nominee and recipient of MTV's Movie Award for her

role in Coming 2 America, Jones has also earned nominations from the Writers Guild and NAACP for her work on Saturday Night Live. She was named one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people and made history in January 2023 as The Daily Show's first guest host. Jones recently wrapped production on season two of the HBO Max series Our Flag Means Death and is developing an untitled Christmas comedy for Lionsgate. She also co-hosts The FCKRY podcast with comedian Lenny Marcus.

The Temple Theatre is part of TempleArts, a nonprofit organization serving Michigan's Great Lakes Bay region with performing and visual arts programming.



Movies Under the Stars returns to Saginaw for summer 2025

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Need a fun movie night out with the kids?

Communities First, Inc. will kick off its 12th annual Movies Under the Stars series this summer, offering free, family-friendly films and pre-movie festivities at Jolt Credit Union Event Park, 300 Johnson St.

The outdoor screening lineup begins July 25 with Disney-Pixar's Inside Out 2, followed by Toy Story on Aug. 15 and The Wild Robot on Aug. 29. Pre-movie parties start at 7 p.m., with films projected at dusk. Attendees can register at tinyurl.com/MUTSSaginaw2025.

"We're so excited to bring Movies Under the Stars back to downtown Saginaw—it's one of our favorite stops each summer," said Glenn Wilson, president and CEO of Communities First, Inc. "That's what this is all about—fostering community and creating spaces where everyone feels welcome."

The Aug. 29 gathering will include a complimentary resource fair featuring local service organizations; exhibitors may sign up at tinyurl.com/MUTSFair2025. Volunteers interested in assisting at any screening can register at tinyurl.com/MUTSVolunteer2025.

Communities First extends its Movies Under the Stars series to Flint and Detroit as part of its mission to provide accessible, low-cost entertainment. The Saginaw events are made possible by sponsors including the C.K. Eddy Family Memorial Fund and Impact Saginaw Credit Unions.

For weather-related updates and more information, visit www.facebook.com/communitiesfirstinc or www.communitiesfirstinc.org.



MOVIES UNDER THE STARS, A FREE OUTDOOR SUMMER FILM SERIES, IS HELD AT HUNTINGTON EVENT PARK IN DOWNTOWN SAGINAW. (PHOTO COURTESY OF GLEASON STUDIOS/COMMUNITIES FIRST, INC.)



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Lee Authur Jr.
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Hurley J. Coleman III
Developer & Manager



Hope Hardy
Project Unify Baby



Robert SILLZ Simms
Boxer



Eugene Seals Jr.
President & CEO



Dionte Jones
Security Officer



Patrice Boulware
Founder of Project Unify



Thomas McKinney
Brother of
Lawrence H. McKinney



Officer J. Bady
Police Officer



Subjects held for bail for The Project Unify Benefit Lock-Up Fundraiser
Saturday, August 23, 2025 12:00p.m . - 4:00 p.m.
Veteran-McKinney Park 920 S. 20th St. Saginaw, MI 48601

Smaller efforts help city parks and rec survive

BY MIKE THOMPSON

LANSING — Eight adolescents gathered at the Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Resource Center on June 26 for the first weekly session of the Boys 2 Men empowerment series, conducted by Gary Dawkins, Assigid Mersha and Ricky Flowers.

They varied in ages from 11 to 17, from about 110 pounds to 250-plus, as they took turns to stand and share what it means to be a man. Their audience was their peers and their mentors.

They were about as eager to speak-in-public as most adults would be in similar shoes. Some of the youngsters expressed themselves more freely, but all had their say.

"Be responsible. Be respectful, be mature."

They also showed some street smarts: "Do what you gotta do."

And their most intense answer was never to strike a female, no matter what.

Then Mersha and Dawkins asked how they would wish to spend the remaining half-hour before the lunch break. One called out "basketball" and another chimed in, "let's play ball."

Oh well, kids will be kids, especially when they are stuck in a basement while the summer sun is shining outdoors. They headed out for the hoop in the Houghton-Jones parking lot, newly blacktopped with federal ARPA funds. During their six full days of weekly training, they will learn that playing in the pros indeed is a worthy goal, but in case basketball doesn't work out, they need to have "second options" or "parachutes" as work-career alternatives.

Boys 2 Men is an example of summer youth activities that have expanded even with the budget-cut death of Saginaw City Recreation near the turn of the century.



FROM LEFT, RICKY FLOWERS, ASSIGID MERSHA AND GARY DAWKINS. (PHOTO CREDIT: HOUGHTON-JONES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION)

Dawkins, Mersha and Flowers are donating their experience and efforts. Mersha is a licensed social worker, Dawkins brings experience from Nexteer and his family's former car repair garage, and Flowers was a standout sprinter and overall scholar-athlete at Saginaw High and then as an MSU Spartan.

The tiniest of mini-grants, \$1,500 from ARPA, is supporting costs that range from classroom materials to field trip expenses, says Janell Harrell, Houghton-

Jones building and program manager. The youngsters were informed that if they complete the course this summer, stipends for helping out next year possibly may become available.

Volunteers have stepped forward to save and refurbish the Children's Zoo, Hoyt Park and Garber Tennis Courts, in the three main examples. Houghton-Jones, with its summer youth gardens, is a foremost neighborhood site, along with nearby Morley School Park and, on the West

Side, Deindorfer Woods adjacent to the Vet's Hospital, and Roeser Park in the Heritage Square area between Court and Mackinaw.

Dawkins explained to the class that the mentors are "seed planters," aiming to promote their personal growth and well-being, and he pledged to make daily personal calls to each, in order to check on their progress.

For more info, visit houghtonjones.org, check their Facebook page or call the office at (989) 752-1660.

COMMUNITY

Women of Colors to host meet-and-greet

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Women of Colors (WOC) will welcome the public to its permanent community center at 3057 Davenport St. for a free meet-and-greet on Thursday, July 17. Doors open at 5 p.m. for light refreshments and guided wellness activities, during which organizers will introduce visitors to the full range of programs now housed under one roof.

Partially funded through American Rescue Plan Act dollars, the new facility serves as home to the nonprofit's Prevention Team and Community Advocacy and Resilience Project Team, who will be in attendance. WOC also hosts youth mentoring sessions, STEM after-school programs and a variety of personal development workshops.

Since its founding, Women of Colors has partnered with schools, churches and neighborhood agencies to strengthen women's well-being and foster resilience throughout Saginaw. The move into the permanent headquarters has allowed the organization to deliver uninterrupted, year-round programming, marking a significant expansion of capacity and impact.

For more information about the meet-and-greet event, call (989) 737-9286.

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REFRESHMENTS & GUIDED WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

Meet Women of Colors' Members, Prevention Team, and Community Advocacy and Resilience Project Team.

Thursday, July 17th
3057 DAVENPORT, SAGINAW
Doors Open at 5:00PM



CAC survey: Why some questions are personal

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — When he filled out forms that requested his racial identity, smooth-talking Howard Sharper spoke with his pen.

"Human," he printed, next to the big "X" he drew across the entire section.

The one-time radio voice for Delta College's WUCM, local newscaster on the side, expressed the idealism that led to his long-time volunteer service on the city's Human Planning Commission. He passed away seven years ago.

And if you feel the same as Howard did, you may feel free to skip question No. 4 on a survey that Saginaw County CAC is conducting. You also will be asked age, income, marital status, gender identity. Choose to answer based on your wishes, but the stated and clear purpose of the prying is a quest to identify discrepancies and thus pursue social justice through corrective action.

Advocates need more than anecdotal stories in pursuit of finances. That's where the personal questions come into play. The security of responses is honored.

Also, your responses, compiled with others, may assist CAC to attain federal funds from the ever-shrinking War on Poverty.

Bottom line, a participant may speak out on close-to-the-heart concerns that range from housing to health care. Priority questions offer up to a dozen choices to rank.

Those are the sections that would have gained Howard Sharper's interest.

Take the survey here:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KVH97SR>



CITY WIDE MEETING

WED. JULY 9, 2025

05:30 – 06:30 PM

**SAGINAW COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER
2824 PERKINS STREET
SAGINAW, MI 48601**



Topics:
PROGRAM UPDATES FROM
ARPA SUBRECIPIENT ORGANIZATIONS

Come join us and learn more!
Contact Information:
989-759-1401
citymanager@saginaw-mi.com

COMMUNITY

What's next, Saginaw? We can do it!



JIMMY E. GREENE

BY JIMMY E. GREENE

SAGINAW — One year after the Saginaw Spirit's Miracle on Ice moment, winning the 2024 Memorial Cup for Saginaw, I should be elated when asked

about what it feels like on the anniversary of the championship. But instead I feel a bit disappointed when I separate my personal joy from the expectations from the city afterward, capturing the momentum that the championship brought the city. This is be-

cause I'm still seeking an answer to the question, what do we do for an encore?

I can't help but recall the incredible 14 days leading up to that championship night. It was a SAGINAW at its best. It was a SAGINAW CITY at its best. It was alive. It was vibrant. It was safe. From sunup to sundown, visitors from all across the state, from surrounding states, from Canada, walked and traveled to and from the Memorial Cup campus.

The Jolt Park was essentially open. There were people in and out of the Dow Event Center, and all of this without incident or vandalism. I remember three buses traveling all over the county lines, picking up people and dropping people off at hotels and bars in Old Town. The campus area around The Dow was beautiful, thanks to a donation in kind by Garpiel and all those improvements will continue to benefit the community for years to come.

No one said what we could not do, because we did it. No one doubted that the city and its combined efforts from communities and leaders alike could not do it, because we did it. No, I'm not talking about the Saginaw Spir-

it team, though. No one said we could do it, but we did do it, and we won it. I'm talking about the CITIZENS. That team. That team won too.

That team was doubted but it delivered. County Commissioners, City Council members, city management, business leaders — all made either a public or private vow that they would do what was necessary to deliver a city that no one could ever doubt would be able to pull off a massive event. Not for a day, not for a few days, but for two weeks.

But there is no more of a sparkling downtown, a place to eat. Old Town is still starving for the kind of late-night and weekend attention it richly deserves. It's as if we're all waiting for Friday Night Live at Morley Park to be our dose of a festive, bustling Saginaw. Why aren't we closing off Johnson? Using the Jolt Park? Shutting down Hamilton like Midland and Bay City do, so people can walk, eat, drink and be a community.

Jimmy E. Greene is the Saginaw Spirit's vice-president for marketing and community engagement.



ON JUNE 3, SAGINAW SPIRIT SOARED TO THEIR FIRST-EVER MEMORIAL CUP CHAMPIONSHIP.

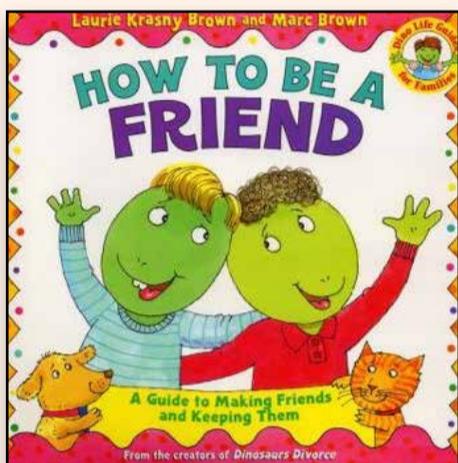
COMMUNITY

Reading, writing, 'rithmetic . . . and social issues

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

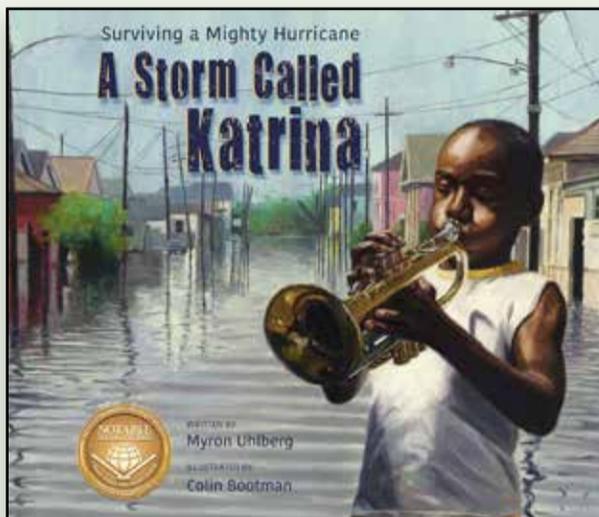
Parents and educators won't want to show a kindergartner some combat footage, for example, but even our youngest offspring are exposed to the same social concerns that affect all of us.

Various children's authors and artists tackle these topics in their own ways, Following are three examples:



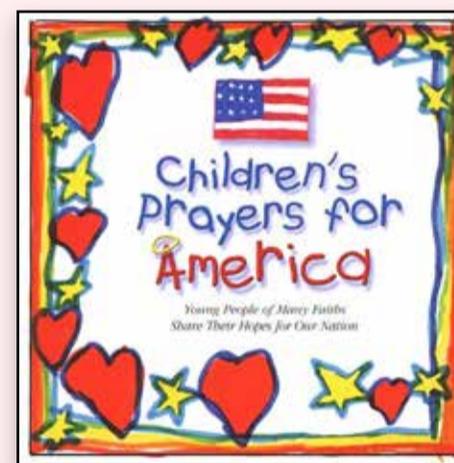
How to Be a Friend
Laurie Krasny Brown and
Marc Brown

"Black, brown, red, yellow, white, we all are the same within God's sight." And we all are shades of green in this primer for how to best get along. (The dog and cat both are yellow.) Nowadays we speak of bullying, but constant teasing and name-calling is uncool as well.



A Storm Called Katrina
Myron Uhlberg and Colin Bootman

Ten-year-old Louis Daniel barely has time to rescue his trumpet before the floodwaters force his family to flee to the Superdome. Separated from his parents and siblings, he reunites by standing on the 50-yard-line and playing his horn with all his might, loud enough for them to hear. A positive spin on a disaster without sugar-coating.



Children's Prayers for America
Karlynn Keyes Lee (Author), Karen
Brost (Author)

Letters and drawings from little ones were compiled following the World Trade Center terrorist attacks, and the statement, "This is the power of hope in its more humble form," could hold true in any troubled time.



In most fields of study, a child must lock into given facts. Two plus two always equal four. But with social issues, varying outlooks come into play. Reading is a foremost way for a youngster to see all sides before choosing their own path.

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

COMMUNITY

'Swinging for the Promise' golf outing returns Aug. 14 to boost Saginaw scholarship fund



SAGINAW PROMISE WILL HOST ITS ANNUAL "SWINGING FOR THE PROMISE" GOLF OUTING ON AUG. 14, 2025. (COURTESY OF SAGINAW PROMISE)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Saginaw Country Club will again trade quiet fairways for fundraising chatter Thursday, Aug. 14, when the annual "Swinging for the Promise" scramble tees off at 10 a.m. The day's green fees do more than cover 18 holes — each entry helps Saginaw Promise steer more local graduates toward college and skilled-trade training.

Individual golfers pay \$175, while four-person teams register for \$700. The price includes morning range access, coffee, a

cart for the round, a grilled "lunch at the turn," a post-event barbecue buffet, drawings for door prizes and trophies for the low scores. Businesses can still purchase hole signs or larger sponsorship packages, and organizers are accepting registrations at saginawpromise.org or by phone at 989-607-3428.

Proceeds fill the last-dollar gap for Saginaw Promise scholars — funds that kick in after federal, state and private aid to cover any remaining tuition and mandatory fees for up to two years at Michigan colleges, universities or approved technical programs.

Eligible students live in the City of Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Kochville Township or the slice of Buena Vista Township that belongs to Saginaw Public Schools. Since the first awards in 2012, the nonprofit has distributed more than \$1.35 million to 745 students, including a record 179 recipients this year.

Promise staff and volunteers also run FAFSA workshops, campus tours and parent seminars aimed at making higher education less intimidating and more accessible. Leaders say strengthening Saginaw's talent pipeline helps neighborhoods stabilize,

attracts employers and lifts the wider Great Lakes Bay Region. The golf outing, along with an autumn gala and year-round appeals, supplies most of the dollars that keep the scholarship fund growing.

Golfer and sponsor spots remain open until Aug. 1 or until the field is full. Additional information on the tournament, the scholarship program and volunteer opportunities is available at saginawpromise.org or by calling the Promise office at 989-907-3428.

SPONSORED CONTENT

Saginaw Promise Golf Outing Swinging for the Promise

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025 SAGINAW COUNTRY CLUB

(4465 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw MI 48638)

Grab Your Golf Clubs for a Great Time!!!



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES - TEAM REGISTRATION FORM

Proceeds to Benefit Saginaw Promise Programming & Scholarships

EVENT SPONSOR **\$2,000**

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

DINNER SPONSOR **\$1,500**

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

LUNCH AT TURN SPONSOR **\$1,000**

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

CART SPONSOR **\$650**

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

DRIVING RANGE SPONSOR **\$400**

- Name displayed at event and announced at dinner

HOLE SPONSORS **\$250**

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

PRIZE DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED!

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

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

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

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

GOLF PER PERSON - \$175

GOLF FOURSOME TEAM - \$700

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Business: _____

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

Email: _____

Total Amount for **Golfing** \$ _____

Total Amount for **Sponsorship** \$ _____

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

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

Total Amount **ENCLOSED** \$ _____

Team Name _____

Player #1 _____

Player #2 _____

Player #3 _____

Player #4 _____

Make Check Payable:

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

*Saginaw Community Foundation is the fiscal agent for Saginaw Promise

For Questions:

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

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

Charge My: DISCOVER MasterCard VISA Exp: ____/____

Card #: _____

Signature: _____ Security Code: _____

Amount Paying: _____

Deadlines ▶ Sponsors: Respond by August 6, 2025 Golfers: Sign up before August 8, 2025

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Saginaw council member, former candidate convicted in election-petition forgery



COUNCILWOMAN MONIQUE LAMAR-SILVIA (PHOTO CREDIT: CITY OF SAGINAW)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — On June 27, a Saginaw County jury found a city council member and a recent council candidate guilty on multiple felony counts stemming from forged signatures on a nominating petition, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel announced.

Jurors found 64-year-old Council Member Monique Lamar-Silvia and 53-year-old for-

mer candidate Eric Eggleston guilty of conspiring to commit a legal act in an illegal manner and election-law forgery. Each also faces additional felony and misdemeanor counts related to falsifying nominating-petition circulator information.

Prosecutors say Lamar-Silvia signed the names of Saginaw voters to a petition on July 23, 2024, to secure Eggleston's spot on the Nov. 2024 city-council ballot. Eggleston then certified himself

as the petition circulator before submitting the forms to the city clerk's office. Eggleston ultimately did not appear on the ballot.

"Forging signatures on nominating petitions undermines our democratic process," Nessel said in a statement. "These convictions serve as a strong reminder that no one is above the law."

Eggleston was convicted of one count of conspiracy to do a legal act in an illegal manner, one count of election-law forgery and

a misdemeanor for signing as a circulator when he was not one. Lamar-Silvia was found guilty of conspiracy, election-law forgery, signing a petition with multiple names and signing with a name other than her own. Felony convictions carry up to five years in prison; the misdemeanors are punishable by up to 93 days.

Sentencing is set for Aug. 20 before Judge Andre Borrello in 10th Circuit Court. Lamar-Silvia, free on bond, has not commented publicly.

Under state law, voters cannot initiate a recall effort against Lamar-Silvia until one year into her current term, which began last November. The governor retains power to remove elected officials convicted of felonies, though no Michigan governor has ever done so.

The Saginaw City Council meets next on Monday, July 14; it remains unclear whether Lamar-Silvia will attend.



ERIC EGGLESTON (FACEBOOK)

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Group launches petition to block utility and state contractor political donations



MICHIGAN STATE CAPITOL, 100 N CAPITOL AVE, LANSING, MI

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — A grassroots alliance of progressive groups will launch a signature-gathering campaign in July aimed at banning political contributions from utility monopolies and businesses holding more than \$250,000 in annual state contracts. If organizers collect roughly 357,000 valid voter signatures, the measure would qualify for the November 2026 ballot as a voter-initiated law.

Utility monopolies—companies granted exclusive rights to provide services such as electricity or natural gas within a defined territory—have no compe-

tion and can exert significant influence over state policy. The “Michiganders for Money Out of Politics” campaign targets contributions from major power providers, specifically Consumers Energy and DTE Energy, and from large contractors such as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, a frequent donor in state elections. The proposal would bar donations from utility-affiliated political action committees and from any business receiving more than \$250,000 in state contracts in a single year.

“This isn’t just another policy tweak,” said Sean McBrearty, Michigan director of Clean Water Action, one of the campaign backers. “It’s a line in the sand.

We want to stop corporations from buying off our democracy.”

Ken Whittaker of Michigan United added that entrenched corporate donations have stymied legislative fixes, including efforts to award larger customer rebates when utilities over-collect on rates. “The political will to fix this mess just isn’t there, but that’s by design,” he said.

Organizers plan an all-volunteer petition drive, foregoing paid circulators, and expect to unveil final ballot language once approved by the Michigan Board of State Canvassers. The proposed measure closely mirrors stalled legislation in the Republican-controlled Legislature and Democratic-led Senate.

Utility companies defended their record. Spokespersons for Consumers Energy and DTE Energy said their political action committees operate independently of rate-payer funds and comply with existing campaign-finance laws. DTE’s Ryan Lowry noted that under a 2023 rate-settlement agreement, the company publicly discloses all political donations of \$5,000 or more.

“These disclosures showcase DTE’s commitment to our customers and communities,” Lowry said in an emailed statement. “The political contributions the company makes are supported by the DTE voluntary employee PAC or DTE shareholders — not from customer revenue.”

HEALTH

MDHHS warns of carfentanil resurgence in Michigan's illicit drug supply



CARFENTANIL, A SYNTHETIC OPIOID IS REEMERGING IN THE UNREGULATED DRUG SUPPLY ACCORDING TO MICHIGAN HEALTH OFFICIALS.

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — Michigan health officials are urging residents to carry naloxone and exercise caution after detecting carfentanil—a powerful fentanyl derivative—in the state's unregulated drug supply.

Carfentanil, a synthetic opioid intended for large-animal veterinary use, is roughly 10,000 times stronger than morphine and 100 times stronger than fentanyl. It is not approved for human use. Between January and June, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services identified 11 overdose deaths involving carfentanil in Ingham, Livingston, Eaton, Genesee, Oakland

and Wayne counties. Ten of those cases also involved cocaine, and eight involved fentanyl.

“Carfentanil is an extremely potent and deadly drug,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MDHHS chief medical executive. “We’re urging people who use unregulated drugs—and their loved ones—to carry naloxone, an easy-to-administer nasal spray that can reverse opioid overdoses and save lives.”

Carfentanil first appeared in Michigan in 2016 and 2017, contributing to more than 200 deaths. Incidents then declined to fewer than five annual fatalities from 2018 through 2020 and dropped to zero in 2021 and 2022, before resurging with 14 confirmed deaths in late 2023.

State data show overall overdose fatalities fell by an estimated 34% from 2,931 in 2023 to a projected 1,927 in 2024. Health officials warn that carfentanil's extreme potency can cause rapid central nervous system depression and may require multiple naloxone doses to reverse an overdose. The drug is increasingly detected alongside stimulants such as methamphetamine and cocaine, often without users' knowledge.

MDHHS recommends that anyone at risk of witnessing or experiencing an opioid overdose:

- Carry naloxone, available free through MDHHS or at pharmacies without a prescription.

- Practice harm-reduction strategies, including using smaller amounts, not using alone and monitoring for breathing difficulties.
- Follow overdose-response steps: call 911, administer naloxone and, if trained, provide rescue breathing.

Agencies identifying carfentanil-involved overdoses or exposures since January 2025 should report details to MDHHS-MODASurveillance@Michigan.gov. For more on harm-reduction and syringe-service programs, visit the MDHHS website.

HEALTH

MyMichigan Health invites applications for Patient and Family Advisory Councils

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND — MyMichigan Health is now accepting applications for its Patient and Family Advisory Councils (PFACs), which unite patients, family members, health care professionals and staff to review and advise on organizational policies, procedures and practices.

“We value and strive for diversity in our Patient and Family Advisory Council membership and are seeking members who can provide their perspectives, opinions, and experiences in health care,” explains Michelle Brady, chief experience officer, MyMichigan Health.



PFACS BRING TOGETHER PATIENTS, FAMILIES AND HEALTH CARE STAFF TO ADVISE ON POLICIES AND PRACTICES.

Council members serve one-year terms, attend four to six meetings annually and partner with colleagues from varied backgrounds to identify opportunities for improving the pa-

tient and family experience. Applicants must complete an online form and demonstrate a commitment to positive collaboration and advocacy on behalf of fellow patients.

Those interested may apply at www.mymichigan.org/pfac. Selected participants will begin their terms later this summer.



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EDUCATION

Saginaw Township schools pursue \$169.2 million bond proposal



HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL, AT 3465 N. CENTER ROAD, SERVES AS THE PRIMARY HIGH SCHOOL FOR SAGINAW TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Saginaw Township Board of Education has approved an application to the Michigan Treasury Department for preliminary qualification of a \$169.2 million bond proposal, which would appear on the Nov. 4, 2025, ballot if approved.

The scaled-down plan follows the May 2023 rejection of a \$243 million bond request and reflects months of community feedback

and a comprehensive needs assessment across all eight district buildings. Voters would be asked to approve a 2.85-mill tax increase, costing roughly \$142 per year for a homeowner with a \$100,000 property valuation.

“This proposal is a direct response to the feedback we heard from families, educators and community members,” Superintendent Jamie Kraatz said. “This new proposal was developed to promote the strong edu-

cational foundation that our students and community deserve.” Kraatz noted that most of Saginaw Township’s schools are 60 years old and lack features such as fixed walls or doors between classrooms, creating safety concerns and learning distractions.

If approved, the bond would finance safety upgrades, infrastructure improvements and modern learning environments across the district’s elementary, middle and high schools. De-

tailed project breakdowns will be posted on the district website, and community forums and informational sessions are planned in the coming weeks to outline the benefits for current and future students.

Saginaw Township Community Schools officials emphasize that the proposal reflects a more focused, fiscally responsible approach, aligning scope and cost with taxpayer priorities while addressing urgent facility needs.



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Saginaw ISD is **NOW HIRING** for all Early Childhood Education positions!

- competitive wages
- tuition reimbursement
- reduced childcare*
- full benefits packages
- continued professional development



**For those that qualify through Tri-Share*

EDUCATION

SVSU breaks ground on student housing expansion

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Saginaw Valley State University broke ground Monday on four new apartment-style residence halls at its University Village complex, a project that will add housing for 96 students by August 2026.

The \$12.3 million development, funded through auxiliary fund reserves approved by the SVSU Board of Control, responds to what the university describes as “unprecedented demand” for on-campus living. The new buildings will each feature six townhouse-style units with four private bedrooms, mirroring the design of existing University Village accommodations.

“Students value on-campus living for exceptional safety, amenities and a rich campus experience,” said Noel Hornbacher, SVSU vice president for admin-



(LEFT TO RIGHT) BELLA SULLIVAN, SVSU STUDENT; J.J. BOEHM, VICE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS, SVSU; TRACE HENDRICK, R.C. HENDRICK & SON; RON PORTWINE, ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS, SVSU ; SHELLEY VANDUSEN, SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER, SVSU ; DAWN ISELER, DIRECTOR OF AUXILIARY OPERATIONS, SVSU; MARIE RABIDEAU, ASSOCIATE PROVOST FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS/DEAN OF STUDENTS, SVSU.

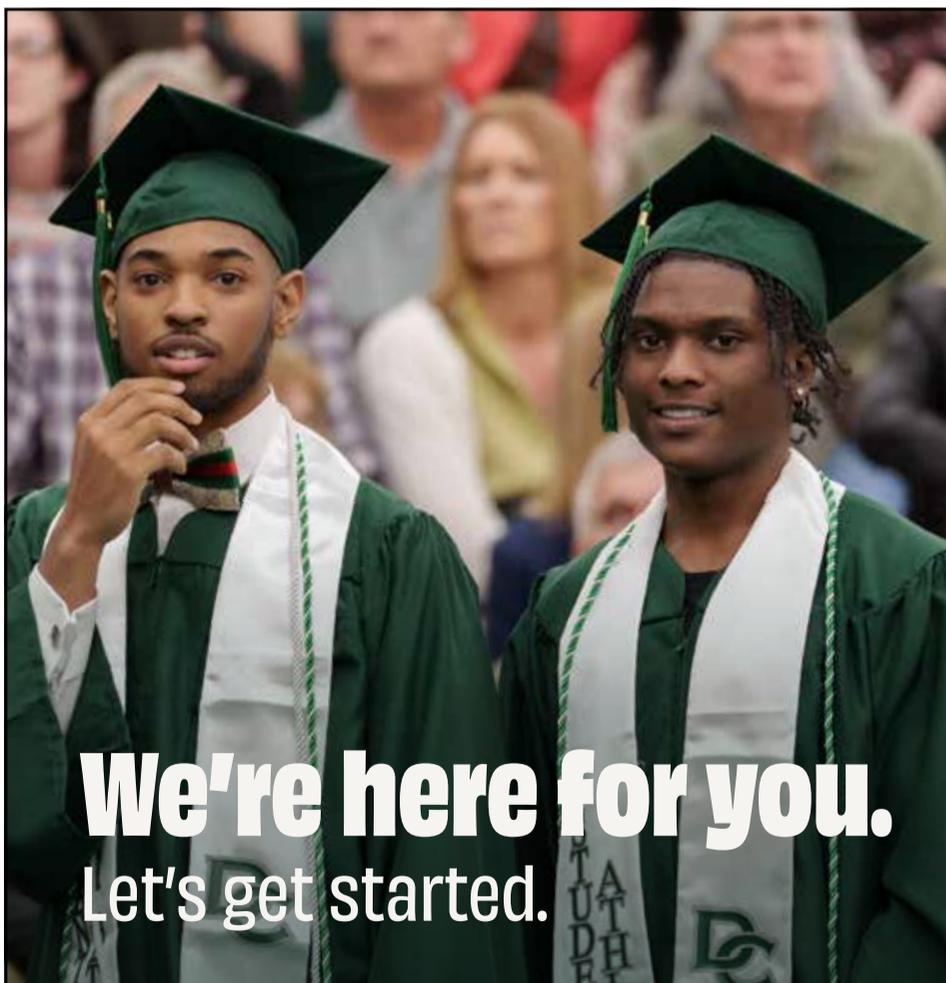
istration and business affairs. SVSU has ranked among the nation’s top public university dorms in Niche surveys for six consecutive years.

Toronto-based NORR is the

project architect, and RC Hendrick has been retained as construction manager. When complete, SVSU’s residential capacity for the 2025–26 academic year will rise to 2,581 students.

Editor’s note:

Each new building totals 7,400 square feet and consists of six 1,230-square-foot townhouses with four single-bedroom units.



We’re here for you.
Let’s get started.

Academics

Popular courses and programs offered year-round. Plus, tutoring is free.

Admissions

Dual enrolled high school students. Working adults. Veterans. Everyone is welcome.

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Professional advisors to help you with choosing a program and scheduling classes.

Clubs and Organization

Tons of opportunities, including El Camino.

Education Opportunity Center

Hub of support for eligible individuals who are interested in GED testing or taking college classes.

Financial Aid

Get help paying for college. If you’re 25 or older, you may be eligible for Michigan Reconnect, which covers in-district tuition and fees.

Transportation

Free bus route from STARS depot to Delta Main Campus, Monday-Thursday.

Take the first step to start this fall. Apply at delta.edu/apply



Downtown Saginaw Center
319 East Genesee Ave
989-752-7500 | saginawcenter@delta.edu



OUR
FUTURE

Providing innovative education and opportunities for every student to thrive.

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

EDUCATION

Public input sought in search for Michigan's next state superintendent

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — The State Board of Education has opened a public comment period as it conducts a national search to replace retiring State Superintendent Michael F. Rice. Residents may complete an online survey through 12 p.m. July 3, detailing the qualifications they believe the next superintendent should possess.

The survey and additional information about the search are available on the Michigan Department of Education's Superintendent Search [webpage](#). The stakeholder engagement process, led by national search firm Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA), also includes focus groups, interviews and public forums. HYA, chosen in May for its 38 years of experience, has assisted more than 1,600 school boards and state agencies in se-



THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS LAUNCHED A SEARCH FOR A NEW SUPERINTENDENT TO SUCCEED MICHAEL RICE, WHO WILL RETIRE THIS FALL. (PHOTO COURTESY OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN)

lecting senior leadership.

"The person we choose—with input from the public—will help shape the future of public education in Michigan by focusing on continued improvements," said State Board President Pamela Pugh in announcing the outreach effort. Rice, who has served since 2019, will retire Oct. 3.

A Leadership Profile Report

summarizing survey responses and engagement findings will be posted in mid-July. The board plans to post the superintendent position June 25, screen candidates in July, and select applicants for first-round interviews by Aug. 12. Public interviews are tentatively slated for the week of Aug. 18, with finalists announced by Aug. 26. A formal appoint-

ment is expected at the Sept. 9 board meeting, and the new superintendent would assume office Oct. 4.

The board represents interests of more than 1.4 million public school students across Michigan and aims to align the new superintendent's priorities with the state's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan.

The survey also can be accessed through this QR code:



Michigan Reconnect Scholarship re-visited



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS

A case can be made that the economy is uncertain now. Furthermore, the Legislature is in the budgetary process making what is available next year still to-be-determined.

For these reasons it is worthwhile to revisit the Michigan Reconnect Scholarship program which is geared to Michigan resi-

dents ages 25 or older who have never been to college. It is an unusual program that has paved the way to college for thousands of Michiganders who may have been limited in earning power and career mobility in their adult years due to a lack of a college degree or certification.

It is a three-step process to apply online. First, the FAFSA needs to be completed; FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It has been simplified and can be completed in a few minutes.

Second, Michigan Reconnect Scholarship needs to be completed online. It is a task that takes only a few minutes to do, as well.

Finally, an application must

be made to any of Michigan's community colleges, including tribal colleges.

That is it.

Once these steps are taken, applicants can take classes tuition-free. Consulting with an advisor will help guide students

into certification or Associate Degree programs that fit their knowledge, skills, abilities, and interests. I would urge anyone who may be considering going to college to look closely at this program. It can make a huge difference in the wage earning and career advancement opportunities which are ahead.



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Executive Director
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EMPLOYER REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

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MI Tri-Share Program Eligibility 2025

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

200% - 400% Federal Poverty Level - Effective May 1, 2025

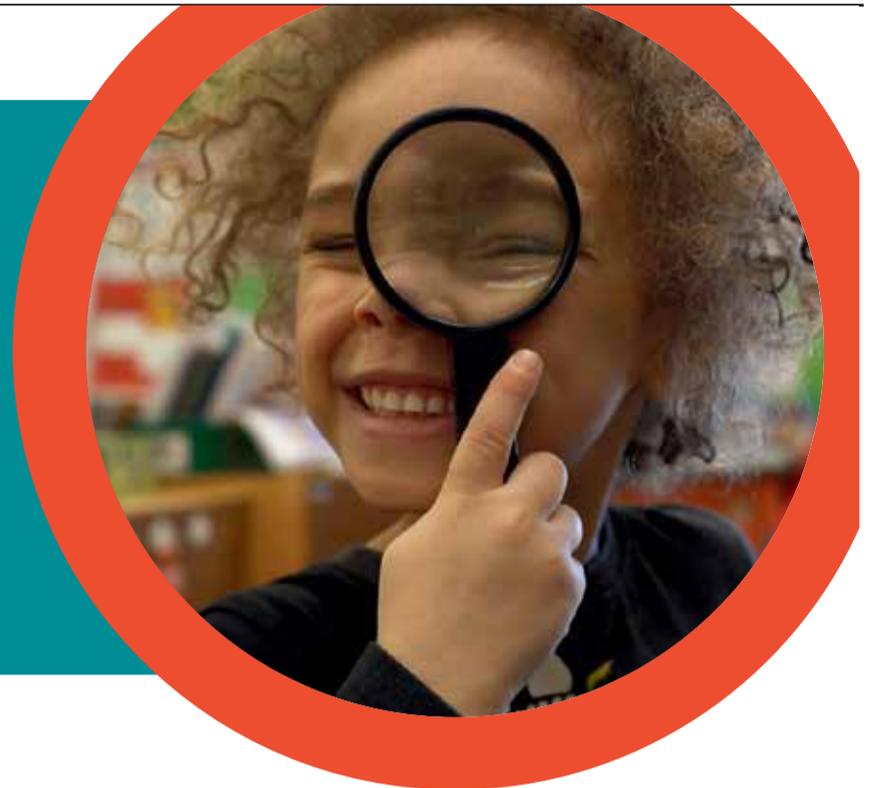
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**Administration for Children and Families: Children's Learning and Development Benefits from High-Quality Early Care and Education: A Summary of Evidence*



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About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

“Our mission is to provide high quality services, developing school readiness and family empowerment for prenatal to age five children and families by working in partnership with parents and the community.”
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BUSINESS + FINANCE

Michigan launches streamlined MiBusiness Registry Portal



MIBUSINESS REGISTRY PORTAL ENABLES BUSINESSES TO FILE, SEARCH, AND ORDER RECORDS ONLINE. (MB FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) on Monday unveiled the [MiBusiness Registry Portal](#), a revamped online platform designed to simplify business filings and record management across the state.

Replacing the previous system, the portal consolidates services—entity formation, an-

nual report and statement submissions, certificate requests and document searches—under a single MiLogin for Business account. Paper filings and telephone orders have been phased out, and users will receive mailed reminders if they have not opted in for email notifications.

LARA Director Marlon I. Brown said the new portal delivers “an improved experience for our business customers,” allowing organizations to file reports,

order certified documents and access records with greater ease. A built-in shopping cart feature enables multiple transactions in one payment, reducing processing time and administrative steps.

The system, developed in partnership with a vendor experienced in similar statewide roll-outs, also replaces the old CID-and-PIN access method with a secure MiLogin authentication. LARA officials anticipate that

the upgrade will enhance responsiveness to modern business needs and accelerate turnaround on filings.

Businesses can begin using the portal immediately at [Michigan.gov/LARA](#) by selecting “Start a Business, File Annual Reports or Lookup a Business.” Further information and updates are available at [Michigan.gov/corporations](#), and LARA continues to post news on its Facebook and LinkedIn pages.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Gardner White to open two new Mid-Michigan locations

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND — Gardner White, a Warren-based furniture and mattress retailer, will unveil two new Mid-Michigan outlets on July 1, expanding its state-wide footprint to 18 stores. The openings in Midland and Mount Pleasant follow recent launches in Cadillac and Gaylord.

The Midland store, branded Gardner White Mattress, will occupy the former Bedding Superstore at 6715 Eastman Ave. In Mount Pleasant, Gardner White Furniture will take over the ex-



THE GARDNER WHITE FURNITURE & MATTRESS STORE AT 2660 TITTABAWASSEE ROAD IN SAGINAW, MI.

Art Van Furniture and Big Sandy Superstore at 5260 E. Pickard St. Both outlets will carry the company's full assortment of sofas,

dining sets, bedroom suites and sleep systems.

"For over a century, our mission has been to bring com-

fort, style and value to homes of our neighbors," Gardner White CEO Rachel Stewart said. Stewart added that the new locations will deepen the company's ties to local communities and reinforce its position as a trusted Michigan home furnishings leader.

Founded in Warren 113 years ago, Gardner White already operates a Mid-Michigan showroom on Tittabawassee Road in Saginaw. The retailer's latest expansion aims to serve growing customer demand outside metropolitan Detroit and strengthen its presence across the Lower Peninsula.

Midland Center for the Arts secures full \$3 million match from Dow Company Foundation

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND — Midland Center for the Arts announced Tuesday that it has met a \$3 million matching challenge from the Dow Company Foundation, bringing the foundation's total contribution for the ongoing \$47 million capital campaign to \$8 million. The additional funding unlocks the second half of a previously pledged grant and bolsters the center's transformational renovation, including a reimagined Museum of Science & Art.

The challenge required the center to raise an equivalent amount in new philanthropic support from area foundations and businesses. With the match now complete, campaign leaders say they can accelerate exhibit design, accessibility upgrades and infrastructure improvements that will expand STEM-focused, rotating displays for families, students and regional visitors.

"This moment is a powerful



A CONCEPTUAL RENDERING OF THE NEW PROPOSED ART AND STEM CENTER INTERIOR AT MIDLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS. (PHOTO CREDIT: MIDLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS)

reflection of what happens when a community comes together," said Jenifer Acosta, chair of the Midland Center for the Arts board of directors. "We're incredibly proud to have earned the trust and support of so many organizations, foundations and community leaders."

Renovations are under way

alongside regular performances, pop-up exhibits and community programming. Planned enhancements include modernized galleries, upgraded public spaces and improved connectivity between art-making studios and educational areas. The center remains open throughout construction to ensure uninterrupted

ed visitor engagement.

"With the Dow Company Foundation challenge now fulfilled, we're moving full steam ahead," said Matt Travis, president and CEO of Midland Center for the Arts. "Renovations are in progress, programming continues and we're more committed than ever to delivering bold, inspiring experiences."

Bob Plishka, global director of strategic corporate partnerships and president of the Dow Company Foundation, noted that "access to science education is one of our key strategic priorities," and that this project will offer "hands-on learning for families across the region."

Since its founding in 1979, the Dow Company Foundation has invested in community development through strategic grants and partnerships. The Midland Center for the Arts capital campaign will continue to seek additional support through midland-center.org/campaign.

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SPORTS

Spirit captain Misa selected second overall by Sharks

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Michael Misa, captain of the Saginaw Spirit, was chosen second overall by the San Jose Sharks in the 2025 NHL draft Tuesday, becoming the highest-drafted player in Spirit history.

The 18-year-old forward dazzled this season in the Ontario Hockey League, tallying 62 goals and 134 points in 65 games. His 134 points led the league and earned him the Eddie Powers Memorial Trophy as the OHL's top scorer, while his 62 goals tied Patrick Kane's mark for most goals in a draft-eligible season. He also received the Red Tilson Trophy as the league's most valuable player, was named a First Team All-Star, and earned the CHL Top Scorer Award as the point leader across all three major junior leagues.

Misa's rise began in April 2022, when he was granted exceptional player status — one of just eight in OHL history — allowing him to enter the league a year early. Selected first overall by the Spirit in the OHL draft, he recorded two goals in his debut October 1, 2022, and finished that rookie campaign with a 1.24 points-per-game pace, the highest ever for an exceptional-status player. He capped the season with the Emms Family Award as OHL rookie of the year.

In his second season, Misa posted 29 goals and 46 assists in 67 games, helping lead Saginaw to the Western Conference Final. Although the Spirit fell to the London Knights, they still reached the Memorial Cup as hosts, ultimately defeating London in the final to capture the franchise's first title. Misa's three assists in a 4-3 comeback win over Drummondville earned him

THE FUTURE IS TEAL

ROUND: 1 | PICK: 2

2025 DRAFT

MICHAEL MISA

CENTER

HEIGHT: 6'1" | WEIGHT: 182

TEAM: SAGINAW | LEAGUE: OHL

MICHAEL MISA SELECTED SECOND OVERALL BY THE SAN JOSE SHARKS (PHOTO CREDIT: SAN JOSE SHARKS)

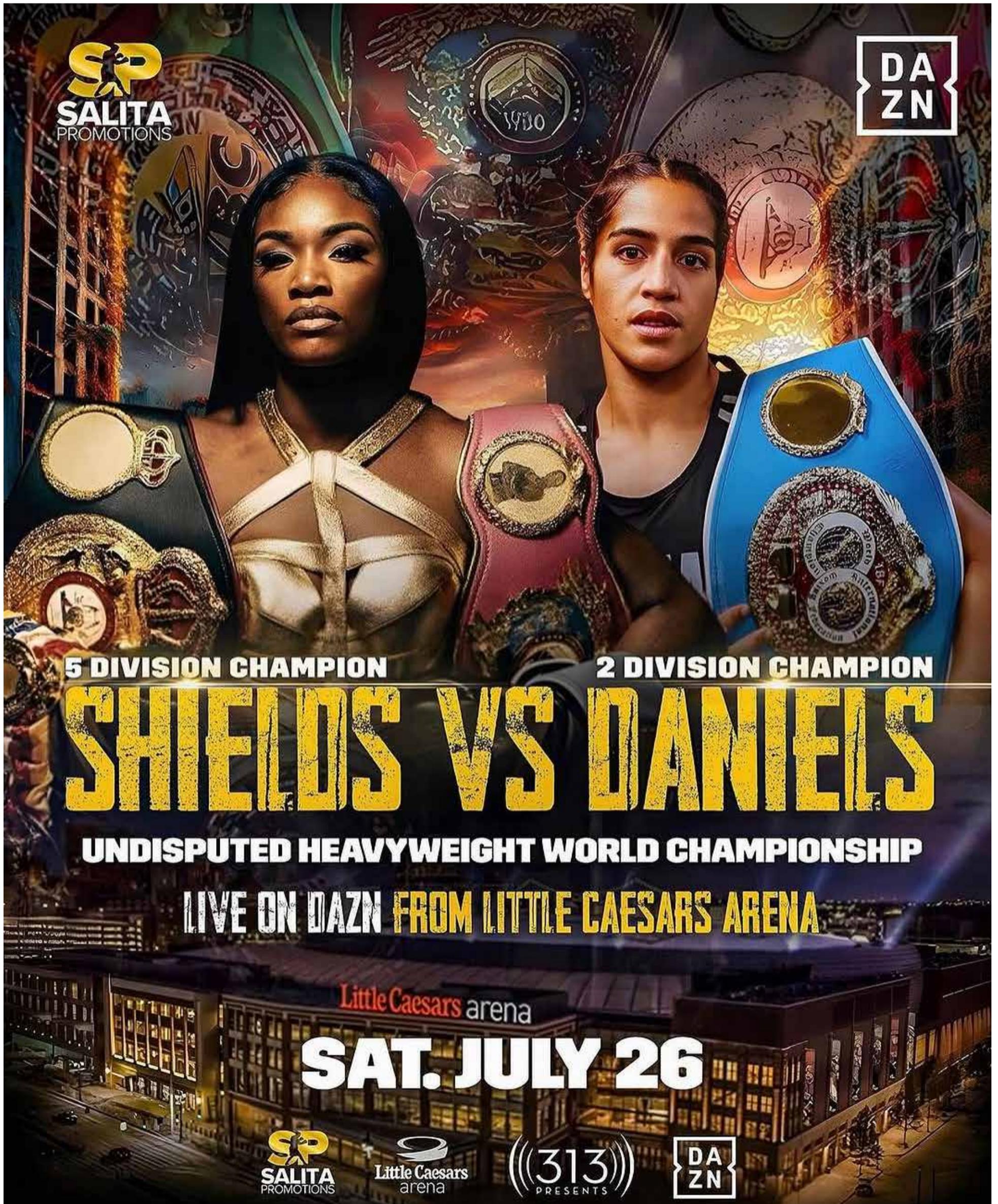
player-of-the-game honors in the round robin.

Named the Spirit's 26th captain in January 2025, Misa combined on-ice excellence with off-ice commitment, earning the NHL Central Scouting Bureau's

E.J. McGuire Award of Excellence for character, competitiveness and athleticism ahead of draft day.

Misa now heads to San Jose, where he is expected to join a young core that includes draft-

mate Macklin Celebrini and forward Will Smith. His selection marks a milestone for the Spirit and caps a junior career that saw him rewrite OHL records and lead his team to a national championship.



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SPORTS

Loons' De Paula, Hope to represent National League in Futures All-Star Game



JOSUE DE PAULA AND ZYHIR HOPE WILL PLAY IN THE ALL-STAR FUTURES GAME ON SATURDAY, JULY 12, AT 4 P.M. ET. (PHOTO COURTESY OF GREAT LAKES LOONS)

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND — Great Lakes Loons outfielders Josue De Paula and Zyhir Hope have been selected to play for the National

League in the 2025 All-Star Futures Game at Truist Park in Atlanta on Saturday, July 12, at 4 p.m. ET. Major League Baseball, in conjunction with MLB Pipeline and Baseball America, over-

saw the selection process.

De Paula, who turned 20 on May 24, has appeared in 123 games with the Loons and holds a .852 OPS through 71 of the team's 74 contests this season. The Brooklyn native leads the Midwest League with 59 walks and ranks second with 10 home runs and 28 runs batted in. Highlights include a multi-home run performance against the Dayton Dragons on May 10 during a rehab start by current major leaguer Wade Miley, as well as a grand slam at Dow Diamond on April 16.

Hope has taken the field in 72 games, the most on the roster, and is batting .297 with a .864 OPS, seven homers and a team-best 46 RBIs, tied for fourth in the league. The Chesapeake, Vir-

ginia, prospect recorded 19 RBIs in his first 58 at-bats, the fastest start to 19 RBIs in Loons history, and became the third player in franchise history to reach 20 RBIs in April.

This marks the fourth consecutive Futures Game appearance by a Loons player, following Diego Cartaya (2022), Dalton Rushing (2023) and Thayron Liranzo (2024). De Paula and Hope will patrol the outfield for a National League squad managed by 2018 Baseball Hall of Famer Chipper Jones.

Great Lakes opens a three-game road series at the West Michigan Whitecaps in Comstock Park on Tuesday, July 1, before returning to Midland on Independence Day to begin a nine-game homestand.

Tigers' Tarik Skubal makes franchise history, propels Tigers past Twins

BY MB STAFF

DETROIT — Detroit Tigers ace Tarik Skubal reaffirmed his status as one of baseball's premier pitchers Sunday, firing seven shutout innings with 13 strikeouts and one hit allowed in a 3-0 victory over the Minnesota Twins at Comerica Park.

Skubal, the reigning American League Cy Young Award winner, became the first pitcher in Tigers history to fan 13 batters while yielding no more than one hit in a single contest, according to MLB.com. The outing marked his 10th consecutive winning decision.

"I appreciate the expectations from the fanbase or from whoever is watching me play," Skubal said through The Detroit News. "But I just want to win. That's all that

matters to me. ... I want the fans to expect the best out of me because that's what I expect, too."

With the win, Skubal lowered his ERA to 2.15 and extended his major-league lead in strikeouts to 138, edging Boston's Garrett Crochet (135). The left-hander is squarely in position to become the first Tiger since Jack Morris to claim multiple AL Cy Young honors.

Detroit provided run support with solo homers from Riley Greene in the fourth inning and Kerry Carpenter in the sixth. Carpenter later added an RBI groundout for insurance.

The victory improved Detroit's record to 53-22, matching the franchise's best start through 75 games since 1984. Minnesota fell to 40-44.



TARIK SKUBAL

FAITH IN FOCUS



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

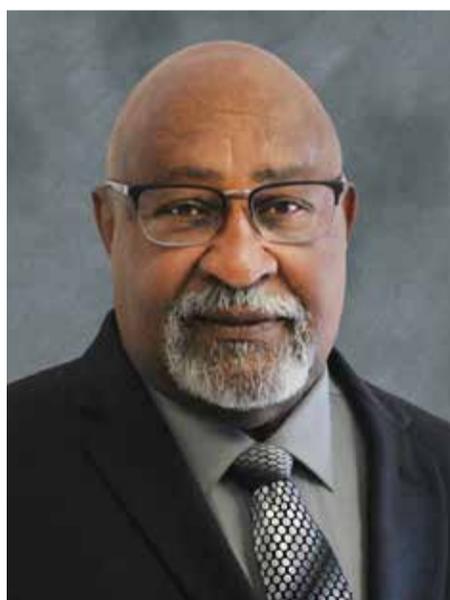
Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

BY PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

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

The organization's vision includes several key objectives:



PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

between the church, volunteers, and community professionals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness"

Lamentations 3:22-23 EVS



BY MINISTER CAROLYN
CARTER TOWNSEL

God's promise in Lamentations is one that we as Believers can take to the bank without any hesitation. This promise alone is powerbacked with four qualities that are steady, true, and absolutely dependable. The first quality is the "Love of the Lord that never ceases," second, His mercies "never come to an end," third, the Lord's mercies "are new every morning," and fourth, "great is His faithfulness."

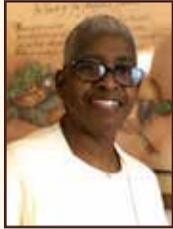
The Hebrew word often translated as "steadfast" in the context of God's love or faithfulness is *chesed*. It encompasses concepts such as loving-kindness, mercy, loyalty, and covenant faithfulness. This word is fundamental to understanding God's character and actions in the Old Testament. It describes God's enduring love, mercy, and faithfulness towards His people in the context of a covenant. It's not a fleeting emotion, but a steadfast, unwavering commitment. Therefore, as Christians we can rest assured that God's love towards you and I is constant and steadfast. His love flows into mercies that are inexhaustible and renewable. The reason we can depend on His Love and Mercy is because of God's great faithfulness.

Beloved, because the Lord's love never ceases, His mercies never come to an end, and they are new every morning, and great is His faithfulness - we can rejoice constantly and continuously. Why? Because we understand and know if we have nothing else; We have God's Love, His Mercies, and His Faithfulness therefore, we have all that we need.

Blessings to All,
Carolyn



CHURCH DIRECTORY



Christ Disciples Baptist Church

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



Ministry Without Walls

Pastor, John Dunn
3783 Mannion Road
Saginaw, MI 48603



New Life Baptist Ministries

Dr. Craig Tatum
1401 Janes Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-1151
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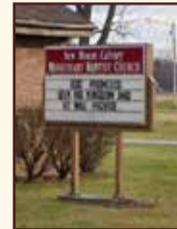
Faith Ministries Church

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

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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
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Anointed Temple ministries

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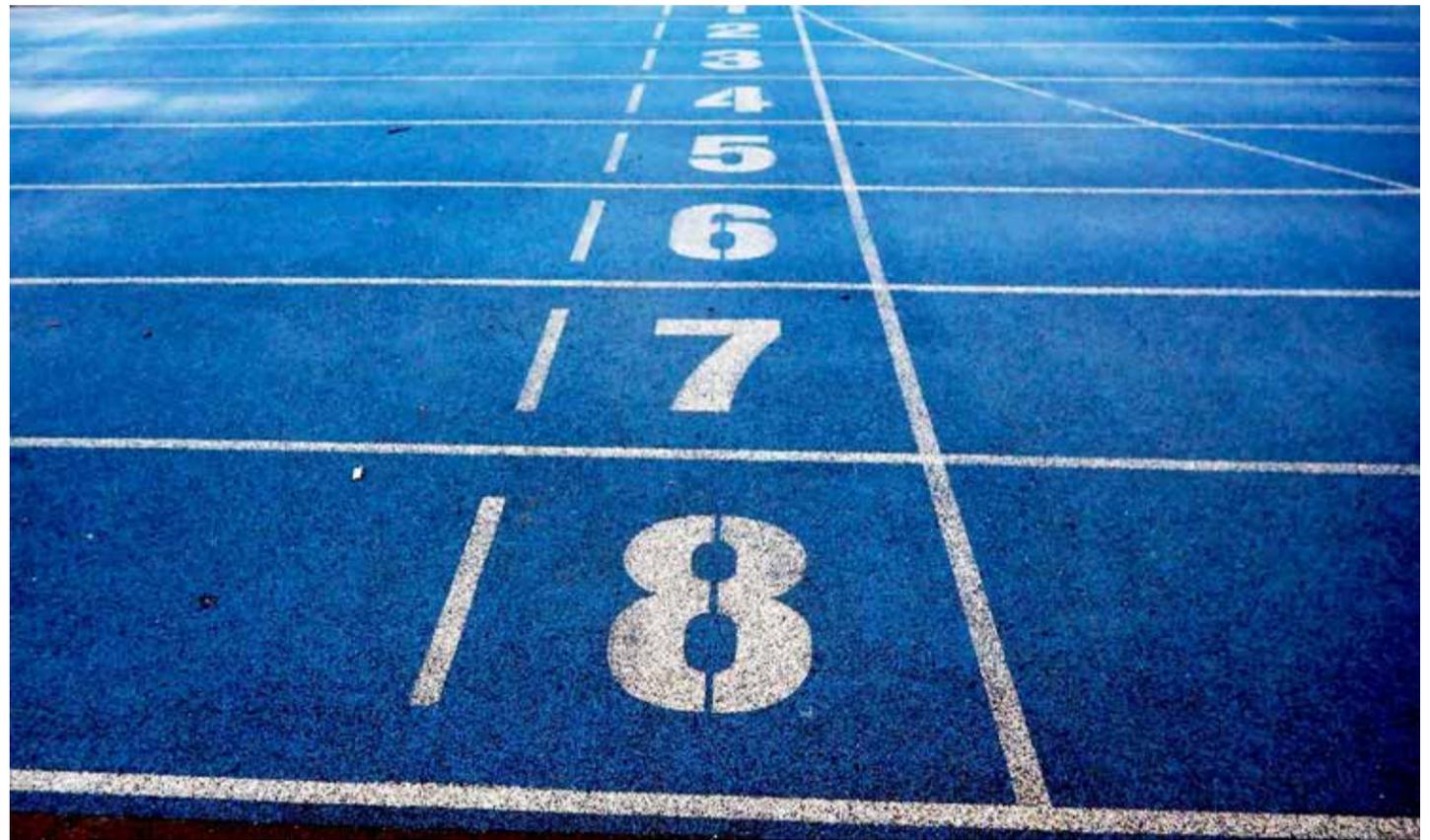


BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Can you bring your vision to life? The discipline of execution is what makes the difference between having a goal and reaching it. There comes a time when you have to stop talking about your vision and get to work. You have to stay focused: your efforts can't be intermittent.

Building and sustaining a nonprofit organization or institution with the ability to grow, change, lead, and respond to the environment requires consistent funding. And that requires discipline in fundraising. You will always be able to raise money; the question is, "Can you raise the money you need to sustain and thrive?" Moving beyond "making do" requires a focus on building meaningful partnerships and relationships. And that requires discipline. Here are a few examples of what lies behind the phrase "discipline of execution" as it relates to fundraising.

Your team works from a fundraising plan that coordinates the activities of staff, board members, and volunteers so that you are engaged with stakeholders from different sectors who can make a difference. Let's break this sentence down. First, you need a plan. Creating and working from a fundraising plan is no small feat. You'll need to define your fundraising goals, priorities, different potential revenue sources, potential fundraising



FILE PHOTO

volunteers, methods of fundraising, staffing and technology requirements, and timeframes and milestones. You will need to develop and continuously update a prioritized pool of potential donors and funders who have the potential to give three times your total fundraising goal collectively. You'll want a large pool of qualified donors because not everyone who you would like to give to will do so, or do so at the level you anticipate. You will want to manage these activities with a timeline and activity chart (or online project management tool) that details who will do what by when.

That timeline and activity chart requires that each person knows what they are responsible for and what the due dates are. They also have to be equipped with information, knowledge, and understanding about your organization and fundraising priorities. They need to know how

and when to engage others. They will need access to a case for support. You will need to keep everyone up-to-date on organizational developments and fundraising progress. You'll need a database or CRM system to track donor information and interactions, and you will need to use it to both record information and produce reports. You will need meetings that have agendas and minutes that are actionable and produced in a timely fashion. This is ongoing, disciplined work.

Organizations and institutions that are most successful at

fundraising have a CEO, board chair, and fundraising chairs who have primary responsibility for identifying, cultivating, soliciting, and stewarding major donors. This is relationship building, not transactional conversations. And these leaders need to be supported by fundraising professionals who can provide the support, data, strategy, and information required. Don't think about "getting by" with one or two people in "the back office." If you are building a sustainable organization, you need qualified staff. God protect America.



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



PICS OF THE WEEK

Jin Hee Im and Somi Lee of South Korea claimed their first LPGA Tour victories Sunday, sinking an eight-foot birdie on the opening playoff hole to edge Americans Lexi Thompson and Megan Khang at the 2025 Dow Championship.



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



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