



The Michigan Banner

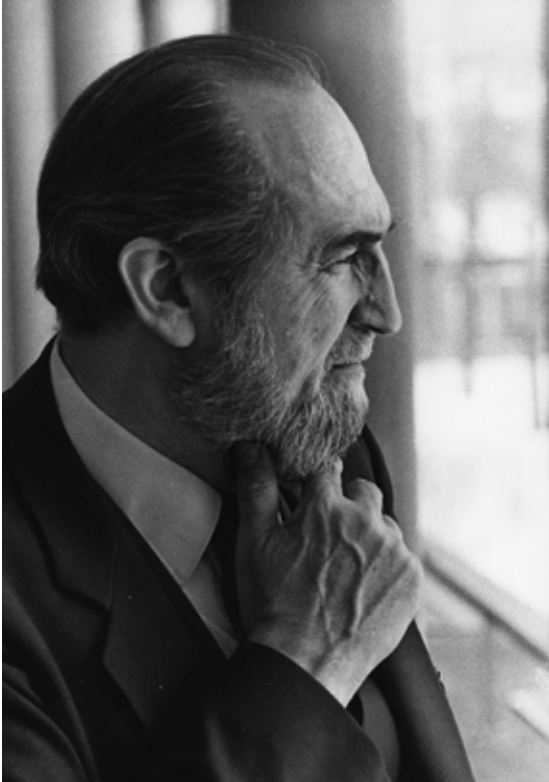
Celebrating Diversity, Empowering Communities



PIC OF THE WEEK
Celebrating 101 Years
Mrs. Ethel Mae "Nana" Drain

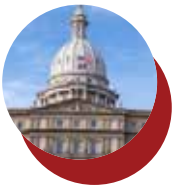
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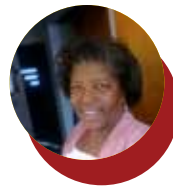
Don Carlyon, longtime Delta College president, dies at 100

EDUCATION, PG 35



Latino leaders to gather in Lansing for advocacy, equity, and representation

LATINO BANNER, COVER



Pride builds momentum for better housing

COMMUNITY, PG 15

Jennifer Boose returns to Saginaw to lead local DHHS


BY MB STAFF

Nearly a decade after helping shape Saginaw County's child welfare services from behind the scenes, Jennifer Boose is returning—this time as its top leader. On May 27, Boose officially stepped into her new role as Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) in Saginaw County.

Boose's career began in the private sector, working in child welfare programs before joining MDHHS in 1998 as a family independence specialist. She transitioned to child welfare in 1999 and has since served as a case manager, supervisor, and section manager, overseeing a range of programs, including the non-urban maltreatment-in-care unit.

Most recently, Boose directed Livingston County DHHS and in 2022 was selected to lead the Children's Services Agency's Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS).

Her return to Saginaw



JENNIFER BOOSE

marks a continuation of a career that already includes deep ties to the region. From 2012 to 2016, she served as a second-line manager, overseeing foster care, adult and children's protective services, and economic stability assistance. She also worked closely with local DHHS board members, court administrators, law enforce-


ment, and community mental health partners.

Boose holds a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Ferris State University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Michigan–Flint. She is also an adjunct professor at Baker College in Flint, where she teaches courses in social work and criminal justice.

FEATURED STORY

Juneteenth celebrations light up the Great Lakes Bay Region

COMMUNITY, PG 20



Shine Bright Saginaw Mural featured in Smithsonian Magazine




SHINE BRIGHT SAGINAW MURA

BY MB STAFF

The Shine Bright Saginaw mural, a colorful transformation of grain silos on Lyon Street, has been featured in Smithsonian Magazine’s “These 15 Mind-Bending Murals Turn the Mundane Into the Memorable.” The recognition highlights the mural’s impact on Saginaw’s cityscape and growing appreciation for public art nationwide.

Completed in 2024, the mural features bold geometry and vivid colors, turning industrial structures into a symbol of community pride.

“We are thrilled to see the Shine Bright Saginaw mural gain national recognition,” said Mark Flegenheimer, co-organizer of the Shine Bright Saginaw Project. “This acknowledgment underscores the collaborative efforts of local artists, residents, and supporters who have worked tirelessly to bring this vision to life.”



THIS DAY IN MICHIGAN HISTORY

JUNE 1, 2011

On June 1, 2011, Tom Gores became just the third owner in Detroit Pistons history—and remains the current owner today. Gores and his firm, Platinum Equity, purchased Palace Sports and Entertainment, the parent company of the Pistons, from Karen Davidson, the widow of longtime owner Bill Davidson. The acquisition included the team and its former home, The Palace of Auburn Hills, marking a new chapter in the franchise’s 70-year history.



MICHIGAN BANNER

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MISSION

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

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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

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 7 • NUMBER 11



Michigan Teen Conference returns to SVSU, empowering youth with experience in foster care



MICHIGAN TEEN CONFERENCE

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Hundreds of youth and professionals from across the state will gather at Saginaw Valley State University from June 23–25 for the 20th Annual Michigan Teen Conference (MTC), a three-day event designed to uplift, educate, and inspire young people with experience in foster care.

Geared toward teens and young adults between the ages of 14 and 23, the conference welcomes participants, their care-

givers, and agency caseworkers for a statewide opportunity to connect, plan for the future, and build lasting networks of support. This year's theme, "Take Charge," encourages attendees to embrace their personal power and leadership potential.

The highlight of the event will be a keynote from Jamarri "Sugar" Kane-White, a nationally recognized advocate for youth impacted by the child welfare system. After navigating 10 years in foster care before being adopted at age 19, Kane-White has become a compelling voice for

change. His keynote, titled "Forward Always," invites youth to become the torch lighting their own path.

Registration for the Michigan Teen Conference is \$200 per youth participant and \$120 for supportive adults (pod leaders), covering all meals, workshop materials, and evening activities. Overnight lodging is available at an additional cost. Registrations submitted after May 31, 2025, incur a \$25 late fee.

The event is an Approved Asset Training under the Michigan Youth Opportuni-

ties Initiative (MYOI), allowing participants to use Youth in Transition (YIT) funds through local MDHHS or private agency caseworkers to cover registration. Additional support and sponsorship opportunities are available for those who may not qualify for YIT.

For questions or sponsorship inquiries, contact Tanya Maki at tmaki@samaritas.org or Jennifer Stevens at jstev@samaritas.org. More information and registration details are available via the Whova app.

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Planet Fitness offers free summer gym passes to Michigan teens



PLANET FITNESS

BY MB STAFF

Michigan teens can stay active all summer long — for free — thanks to Planet Fitness’ annual High School Summer Pass program. From June 1 through August 31, high schoolers can sign up for complimentary access to one local Planet Fitness location, promoting wellness during a critical stage of growth and development.

“As the leader in fitness with locations throughout the U.S. and Canada, Planet Fitness is proud to continue to invest in today’s youth by providing free access to fitness during a critical time in their lives,” said Craig Benson, interim chief executive officer of Planet Fitness.

Teens ages 14 to 19 can register online at PlanetFitness.com/SummerPass or in person at their nearest club. Participants

ages 14 to 17 must have a parent or guardian’s consent to enroll, while those 18 or older may sign up independently.

Once registered, teens must download the Planet Fitness app and use a personalized QR code to check in at their designated location. A photo ID will be taken on their first visit to verify identity.

Although the pass is free, it grants access to only one Planet Fitness club — the one selected at registration — and cannot be used at multiple locations. Still, it includes perks like free fitness training from in-club certified trainers and youth-specific workouts through the Planet Fitness App.

With summer around the corner, the High School Summer Pass offers a healthy and empowering way for teens to stay active, build good habits, and make the most of their break.



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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

Latino leaders to gather in Lansing for advocacy, equity, and representation



COMMUNITY MEMBERS FROM FLINT AND STAFF FROM THE LATINX TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNITY CENTER POSE FOR A PHOTO WITH LT. GOVERNOR GARLIN GILCHRIST II DURING LATINO LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY IN LANSING, MI. (PHOTO CREDIT: LATINX TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNITY CENTER)

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — Latino leaders, advocates, and community members from across Michigan will gather in Lansing on Monday, June 10 at 9 a.m. for Latino Legislative Advocacy Day, a key opportunity to connect with state policymakers and uplift issues important to Michigan’s Hispanic and Latino communities.

Organized by the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan in partnership with Mi Poder, the event will be held at the Anderson House Office Building, Mackinac Room, located at 124 N Capitol Ave, Lansing, MI 48933.

Now in its 50th anniversary year, the Hispanic/Latino Commission continues to serve as a powerful voice for the state’s diverse Latino population, and this event reflects its ongoing mission to increase civic engagement, promote equity, and ensure representation at every level of government.

Latino Legislative Advocacy Day invites participants to meet with state legislators, share policy concerns, and advocate for issues such as education, economic opportunity, healthcare access, immigration, and more. It also fosters collaboration among Latino-serving organizations, providing space for collective vision-

ing and action.

Those planning to attend are encouraged to register in advance at bit.ly/LLAD2025 or contact the commission at hlcom@michigan.gov for more information.

With Latino communities among the fastest-growing in the state, this day serves as both a celebration of culture and a strategic push toward greater political inclusion and policy impact.



HISPANIC/LATINO
COMMISSION
OF MICHIGAN

LATINO LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY



JUNE 10 | 9 AM
LANSING

REGISTRATION:



Anderson House Office Building
Mackinac Room
124 N Capitol Ave, Lansing, MI 48933

[BIT.LY/LLAD2025](https://bit.ly/LLAD2025)

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Hispanic Center of Western Michigan expands regional impact with acquisition of Tri-Cities Puentes Initiative



HISPANIC CENTER OF WEST MICHIGAN

BY MB STAFF

GRAND RAPIDS — In a move that deepens its regional impact and unites two mission-driven organizations, the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan (HCWM) announced the acquisition of the Tri-Cities Puentes Initiative (TCPI) on May 27, 2025. The acquisition marks a significant milestone in HCWM's mission to expand support and empowerment services for Hispanic communities across West Michigan.

The acquisition includes all of TCPI's existing programs and assets, such as the Hispanic Heritage Fiesta in Grand Haven, the LEADeres Lakeshore leadership program, Lakeshore Latinas, and the Lupita Reyes Scholarship—each of which will now be managed and grown under HCWM's leadership. These initiatives have played a vital role in celebrating culture, fostering leadership,

and supporting education in the Grand Haven, Spring Lake, and Ferrysburg communities.

"This acquisition is a strategic move for us, and a significant milestone in the Hispanic Center's mission to empower the West Michigan Hispanic community and help individuals achieve equity, self-sufficiency, and personal prosperity," said Melissa Boughner, President of HCWM. "As a volunteer and former board member of Tri-Cities Puentes Initiative, I have witnessed firsthand the organization's impact, and we're dedicated to continuing and growing its efforts."

Founded in 2019 out of the vibrant Grand Haven Hispanic Heritage Fiesta, TCPI established itself as a vital bridge between Latin American cultures and Lakeshore communities. With this integration, HCWM—originally founded in 1978 to meet the growing needs of Hispanic families in Grand Rapids—extends its reach and strengthens its role

as a unifying resource for West Michigan.

"We are confident that the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan will be an excellent steward of Tri-Cities Puentes Initiative programs and assets," said Reyna Masko, Co-Chair of TCPI. "Their long-standing commitment to building up the Hispanic community aligns perfectly with our mission. We believe this transition will strengthen our shared efforts, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact this acquisition will have across the region."

Among the most anticipated events to continue under HCWM's leadership is the Grand Haven Hispanic Heritage Fiesta, a celebration known for its music, dance, food, and vibrant community presence. Signature TCPI programs like LEADeres Lakeshore, designed to nurture leadership skills within the Hispanic community, and Lakeshore Latinas, which empowers Hispanic

women through education and support, will now benefit from the larger infrastructure and resources that HCWM offers.

The Lupita Reyes Scholarship, which has opened doors for many Hispanic students in pursuit of higher education, will also be administered by HCWM, ensuring the scholarship's impact continues for generations to come.

This partnership signals more than organizational growth—it represents a deepened commitment to cultural celebration, leadership development, and educational advancement across West Michigan. HCWM's expanded reach is expected to enhance service delivery, community engagement, and long-term sustainability of these cherished programs.

For more information, visit hispanic-center.org or tcpuentes.org.



HISPANIC/LATINO COMMISSION OF MICHIGAN

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- ✓ All required documents and application materials must be turned in to be considered.

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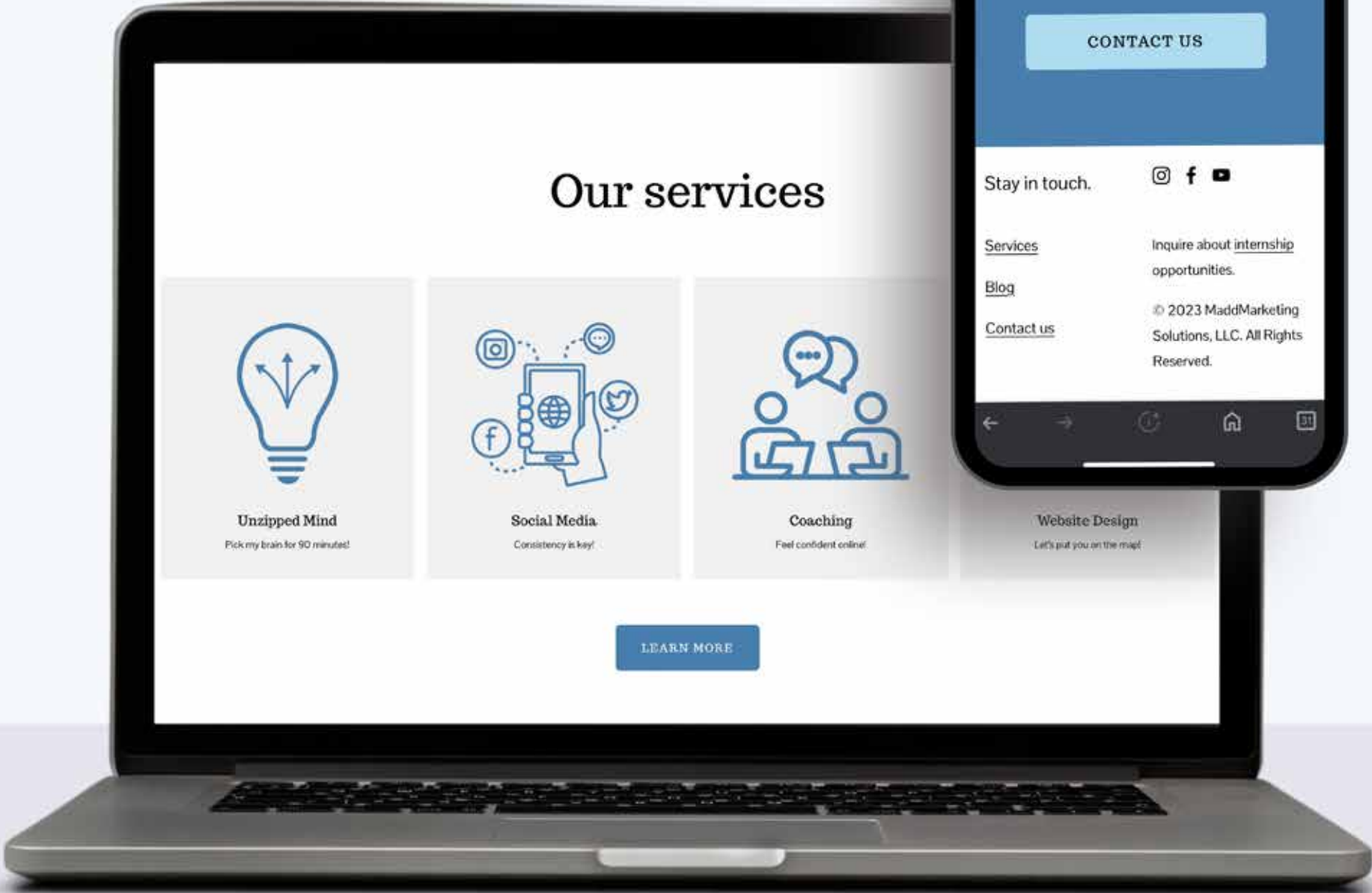
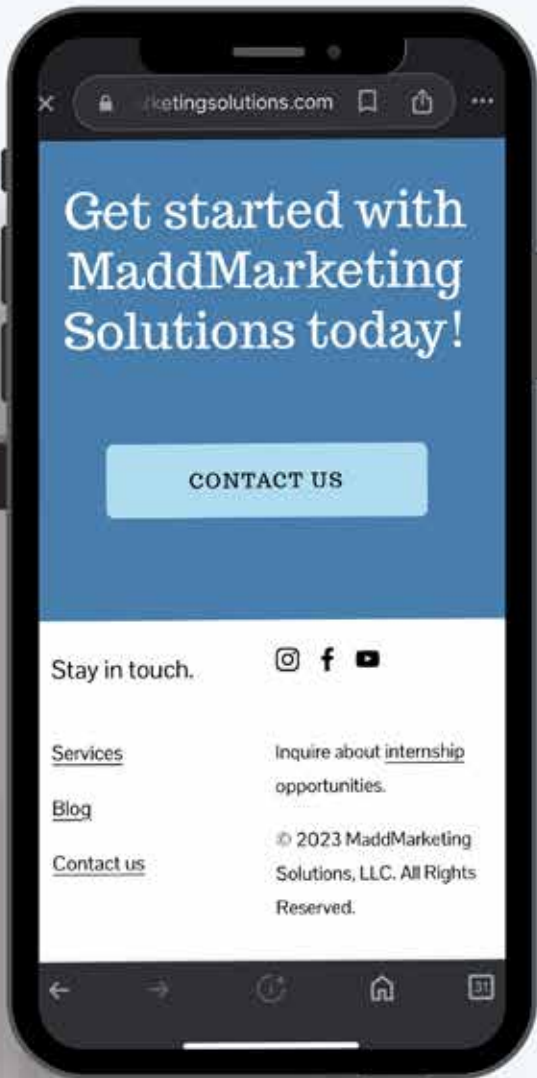
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COMMUNITY

Pride builds momentum for better housing



EVELYN MOTEN

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Evelyn Moten learned real estate under the wings of Thelma Poston and remains active into her senior years, offering insights into the city's lack of affordable housing and the resulting losses of population and tax base.

To the table, Moten brings knowledge of the blatant mortgage redlining that Poston fought against six decades ago. Soon after she started in 1986, she recalls the over-shift to easy home loans that often exploited first-time buyers.

Poston's era: No loans. Mo-

ten's time: Bad loans.

Is it even possible to reverse the tide that has reduced Saginaw's baby boom peak of 100,000 population to today's 42,000, with the result leading to thousands of vacant lots and substandard houses, the worst among them abandoned?

Moten doesn't speak in the expected terms like targeted financing or reasonable code enforcement or keeping property taxes in line. Instead, her focus is on respect and appreciation for the examples of quality housing that remain, even in the most hard-pressed neighborhoods.

"We need to educate people

before they buy, when they see the blight and then to also see the light," she says. "Have an eye for quality."

This reflects the influence of Thelma Poston, whose husband Carl, who was a law partner with Henry Marsh and who during the late 1960s joined Saginaw's first Black mayor on the City Council.

Thelma became a groundbreaking local minority-race Realtor because she perceived that her family had been victims of redlining, named for lines drawn on maps to indicate neighborhoods where Black homebuyers were not allowed.

One day during the 1980s,

Mrs. Poston knocked on the door of a rental near Fourth and Walnut where Evelyn and Buddy Moten, an autoworker, were starting their family of five children. Thelma indicated she was selling a house across the street, and the Motens jumped at the chance to become homeowners. Buddy, her hubby today of 57 years and counting, took such pride that neighborhood teens with grass-cutting jobs dreamed of lawns "just like Mr. Moten's."

Evelyn always was on the lookout for a second income, taking management and accounting classes at Delta College, at SVSU and at the former downtown Saginaw Business Institute. When she experienced how Thelma Poston made such a difference in her family's future, she decided real estate would be her calling as well. In addition to maintaining her own office, she has served housing-aid efforts that range from Saginaw's Habitat for Humanity to Flint's Mission of Peace, all while remaining active in leadership at Victorious Believers Ministries.

The health of the city's overall development can make a difference in people's housing choices, she says, citing the example of projects along South Washington, with a CMU College of Education in the offing for a new Medical Diamond on the riverfront. The key, she says, is to create momentum, a groundswell of change that makes moving into the city -- or staying -- a popular trend,

Still, she sees an uphill battle.

"It's almost like we need some sort of think tank," Moten says. "Something to show that we parents care about the families and the kids in our community."

COMMUNITY

Saginaw Libraries unveil packed lineup for 2025 Summer Reading Program

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — With summer just around the corner, Saginaw's public libraries are once again preparing to welcome readers of all ages to participate in the 2025 Summer Reading Program, running from June 2 through August 2. The annual initiative—free and open to all—blends education with entertainment through a wide range of reading incentives, hands-on workshops, live events, and community-based programs.

From toddlers to adults, the program offers tailored reading goals and age-appropriate prizes. Children birth to age 3 receive a book upon registration and another after completing early literacy activities. School-aged children entering preschool through sixth grade earn an additional book after reading 10 hours. Teens entering grades 7 through 12 earn a second book after logging 15 hours, while adults who read for 20 hours receive a final prize, subject to availability.

This year's schedule is packed with activities designed to foster curiosity and creativity—featuring everything from puppet shows and live animal encounters to Dungeons & Dragons one-shots, poetry readings, and business workshops. Notable events include a Michigan Notable Author visit from Brittany Rogers on June 24, "Nature's Night Life" with the Leslie Science & Nature Center on June 25, and a variety of art and science programs led by organizations like Sloan*Longway and Small House Farm.

The Summer Reading Program also offers off-site events at familiar community locations such as the Castle Museum, Imerman Memorial Park, and Haithco Recreation Area. These include a Summer Kickoff celebration on June 7, Puppets in the Park on July 2, and a Wrap-Up Carnival on August 4.

Participants can engage through four main library branches—Butman-Fish, Hoyt, Wickes, and Zauel—as well as at numerous community partner

sites. Alongside the reading program, weekly storytimes, themed book clubs, STEAM nights, and arts and crafts sessions fill the calendar, ensuring there is something for every age and interest.

Many programs are drop-in, while others require advance

registration due to limited space. The library reminds families that children under age 7 must be accompanied by a responsible adult or guardian at all times.

For a complete list of events and updates, visit www.saginawlibrary.org/events.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES
OF SAGINAW

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

June 2 – August 2, 2025

Summer Reading is FREE for ALL AGES!

- Pick up an age-appropriate reading record at Butman-Fish, Hoyt, Wickes or Zauel between June 2 and August 2, 2025.
- Log your time spent reading or listening to someone else read.
HINT: If you read together as a family, you can all count that time!
- Pick up prizes by 5 p.m. on August 2.
- Prizes are limited and subject to availability.



CHILDREN BIRTH TO AGE 3:

Receive a Book at Reading Record Pick-Up
Complete Activities and Receive Another Book!

CHILDREN ENTERING PRESCHOOL – 6TH GRADE:

Receive a Book at Reading Record Pick-Up
Read 10 Hours and Receive Another Book!

TEENS ENTERING 7TH – 12TH GRADES:

Receive a Book at Reading Record Pick-Up
Read 15 Hours and Receive Another Book!

ADULTS, 18 YEARS AND OLDER:

Read 20 Hours and Receive Final Prize!

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4 PM - 7 PM

Fundamentals of Running
Practice Drills on Essential Skills
Interactive Relays for the Whole Family

**REGISTER
NOW!**



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

STARS sets forum on rate restoration hike

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — In the face of rising costs and the lowest state transit funding levels in Michigan's modern history, the STARS Board of Directors has approved preliminary cost-saving measures to address the budget shortfall. These proposed changes are not yet final, and STARS is calling on riders and community members to participate in a public hearing and complete an online survey to help shape the final decisions.

The meeting is set for 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 10, at the downtown Rosa Parks Transit Opera-

tions Center for bus operations

Like many transit agencies across the state, Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services is navigating an unprecedented financial challenge. STARS must make tough decisions to be able to cover expenses.

Proposed service changes Include:

- Fare hikes boosted to \$1.50, up from \$1, or 75 cents for seniors and the disabled, up from the previous 50 cents. These increases restore the pre-covid charges from 2020.
- Close Wednesday evening service hours at 8 p.m.

instead of the existing 9 p.m.

STARS Director Amy Bidwell said, "Like our riders, we need to cut costs so we can cover our bills. We know these are difficult changes, and we're not making them lightly. That's why we're asking our riders and the public to give us feedback before anything is made final."

Persons not able to attend in person may send written comments to Jamie Forbes, director of external affairs, 615 Johnson, Saginaw, MI 48607, message the STARS facebook page, or email info@saginaw-stars.com.

To ensure broad input, Saginaw Transit has also launched an online survey, available at <https://form.jotform.com/251144722799161>. The survey will remain open until June 13th.

Input gathered through both the hearing and the survey will be reviewed by the STARS Board before any final decisions are made later this summer. Changes are anticipated to be effective in October.



North Washington's 50 mph too fast?

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Residents and leaders who believe North Washington's 50 mph speed limit is excessive from the edge of downtown into the First Ward will have a chance to speak for change.

SVRC Marketplace is the location for a Michigan Department of Transportation public hearing from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 4,

Washington Avenue is MDOT's M-13 trunkline along with the M-81 split that crosses Buena Vista's northern industrial section before heading for Reese and then Caro in the Thumb area. The hearing will cover plans for those two roadways.

No other thoroughfare in the city has a speed limit that exceeds 40 mph. The max was boosted to 50 mph on North Washington, with state officials citing lower traffic counts resulting from the demise of the First Ward, with a three-quarters loss in population, and the decline of General Motors' presence.



M-13 & N WASHINGTON AVE.

Still, remaining neighbors -- many of them elders -- encounter highway-type speeds when they make left turns from the numbered streets, especially from Second (Roosevelt Austin), Third and Fourth near North Washington's bend. Also affected are patrons of Word of Faith International Ministries south of the Potter railroad tracks and Christ Fellowship Baptist Church to the north.

The Chamber of Commerce, and the Saginaw Future eco-

nomic development agency, also are located in the former Wickes Building near the I-675 overpass, where the higher speed originates.

Farther along the route, motorists visiting First Ward Community Center have reported fears of being rear-ended when they turn into the parking lot.

Meanwhile, Buena Vista residents who remain displeased with the "roundabout" grid at the start of M-81 that passed over Interstate 75 also may speak at the

hearing.

Saginaw plans call for no roundabouts in the north section, but a possible M-46 project where Holland and Remington intersect with Sheridan and South Warren. Saginaw Township drivers also may one day see a change at State and Center,

Interested persons may contact Caitlyn French, MDOT spokeswoman, via frenchc4@michigan.gov, or by calling her at (989) 573-7274.

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Former Saginaw County District Judge

TAMARA TUCKER
Saginaw chapter of Parents of Murdered Children

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REFLECTIONS**



**YOUTH VOICES
& TESTIMONIES**



**COMMUNITY PRAYER
& REMEMBRANCE**



**CULTURAL
PERFORMANCES**



**SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025
9 AM - 10:30 AM**

Rita's Southern Soul Cafe
110 N Washington Ave, Saginaw, MI

Complimentary refreshments will be served.

FREE TO ATTEND, BUT SEATING IS LIMITED. CALL (989) 759-9116 TO RSVP TODAY!

COMMUNITY

Juneteenth celebrations light up the Great Lakes Bay Region

BY MB STAFF

Communities across the Great Lakes Bay Region are preparing to honor Juneteenth with a powerful lineup of parades, performances, cultural festivals, and family-friendly events. This year's commemorations reflect a growing commitment to not only celebrate emancipation, but also to promote unity, education, and Black liberation.

Flint: A month-long tribute to freedom

In Flint, the 53rd Annual Traditional Flint Juneteenth Celebration is already underway, stretching from May 31 through June 22, 2025. With over three weeks of free programming, the city continues its legacy as one of the longest-running Juneteenth observances in the state.

Highlights include:

- Historical War Stories (June 8 at The New McCree Theatre)
- Reparations Summit (June 11 at the Kennedy Center)
- Ujamaa Market (June 13 at North Flint Food Market)

The ever-popular Juneteenth Parade & Celebration (June 19) at University of Michigan-Flint

The celebration concludes with a Juneteenth Family Reunion on June 22 at Brennan Park—offering food, music, and meaningful reflection for all ages.



Bay City: Freedom on the waterfront

Bay City's Freedom Celebration returns on Saturday, June 21, from 12 to 8 p.m. at Wenonah Park, hosted by the NAACP Bay City Branch. This lakeside event features food vendors, music, poetry, dance, a fashion show, and even a prize for the best-dressed father.

The week kicks off with a Health & Wellness Fair on Wednesday, June 18, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Great Lakes Dream Center, offering free health screenings, food, and giveaways—underscoring the connection between liberation and community wellness.

Saginaw: Faith, family, and finance

Saginaw's Juneteenth Celebration promises an energizing day on Saturday, June 21 at Morley Plaza. This year's theme—

Faith, Family & Finance—is brought to life through a vibrant parade and festival. The event is set to include choirs, steppers, car clubs, cultural groups, marching bands, and more. Pastor Chris V. Pryor of Victorious Believers Ministries will serve as the 2025 Grand Marshal.

Organizers are calling on vendors, nonprofits, and performers to be part of what continues to be one of the city's most unifying events. Details can be found at saginawjuneteenthcelebration.com.

Midland: A Block Party for Emancipation

In Midland, the Juneteenth Block Party will take place on Sunday, June 15 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Creative 360 (5501 Jefferson



Ave.). The Emancipation Day celebration invites residents to enjoy free food, live music, and community activities designed to educate and uplift.

Supported by local partners including Dow, Midland Area Cultural Awareness Coalition, and Members First Credit Union, the event emphasizes inclusion and family unity in honor of freedom's legacy.

Across all four cities, these Juneteenth celebrations serve as a powerful reminder: while Juneteenth marks the end of slavery in 1865, its true significance lives on in the pursuit of equity, culture, and collective joy. The Great Lakes Bay Region is not only remembering history—it's building on it.

For full schedules and updates, visit the websites and social media platforms of each city's organizing committee.



53RD ANNUAL TRADITIONAL FLINT JUNETEENTH Celebrating 160 YEARS of BLACK LIBERATION

May 31 through June 22, 2025
FREE EVENTS IN FLINT & GENESEE COUNTY

Saturday, May 31, 2025

A Day At The Lake (Weekend One)

9 a.m.-4 p.m. @ Bethesda Temple Church
947 Leland St, Flint, MI

Sunday, June 1, 2025

Saints and Spirits

6-8 p.m. @ Metropolitan Church
930 E. Myrtle Ave, Flint, MI

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Protect yourself! Advanced planning

11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. @ Oak Business Center
2712 N. Saginaw St, Flint, MI

Friday, June 6, 2025

A Heritage and Legacy of the Flint Community

3-8 p.m. @ Brennan Center
1301 Pingree Ave, Flint, MI

Saturday, June 7, 2025

A Day At The Lake (Weekend Two)

8:30 a.m. @ Camp A.R.T.I.S @ Shay Lake
4574 Gifford Dr, Silverwood, MI

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Juneteenth Kickoff

1-5 p.m. @ Kearsley Park
1830 Kearsley Park Blvd, Flint, MI

Sunday, June 8, 2025

Ubuntu & Freedom: a Juneteenth Celebration at the URC

2-6 p.m. @ The Urban Renaissance Center
2505 N Chevrolet Ave, Flint, MI

Sunday, June 8, 2025

Historical War Stories

6-9 p.m. @ The New McCree Theater
4601 Clio Rd, Flint, MI

Monday, June 9, 2025

B.U.S.T./Healing Circle

6-8 p.m. @ Martin Luther King Peace Park
MLK & McClellan

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Reparations Summit

2-5 p.m. @ Kennedy Center / NEW Hasselbring
Senior Center - 1678 W. Pierson Rd, Flint, MI

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Community-Based Public Health Caucus

3-8 p.m. Via Zoom Link (VIRTUAL):
https://bit.ly/Traditional_Juneteenth

Friday, June 13, 2025

Ujamaa Market

4-7 p.m. @ North Flint Food Market
5402 N. Clio Rd, Flint, MI

Saturday, June 14, 2025

Harambee Breakfast

9:00 am-Noon @ Higher Quality of Life Ministries
Vision Center - 5601 N. Saginaw St, Flint, MI

Saturday, June 14, 2025

Dr. E Hill De Loney Scholarship Reception

4-7 p.m. @ Flint Development Center
4121 Martin Luther King Ave, Flint, MI

Sunday, June 15, 2025

Father's Day Backyard Barbecue

2-6 p.m. @ Memorial Park
1026 Church St, Flint, MI

Monday, June 16, 2025

Freedom School Youth Dinner

6-8:30 p.m. @ Sloan Museum of Discovery
1221 E. Kearsley St, Flint, MI

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Legacy & Literacy

6-9 p.m. @ Kennedy Center / NEW Hasselbring
Senior Center - 1678 W. Pierson Rd, Flint, MI

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Financial Literacy Justice

4-7 p.m. @ Flushing Professional Suites
G-3163 Flushing Rd, Flint, MI

Thursday, June 19, 2025

Juneteenth Celebration

FIRST HALF: Community Gathering & Parade
Noon-5 p.m. @ Max Brandon Park
3606 Dupont St, Flint, MI
(Parade Line Up 5 p.m. from Max Brandon Park)

SECOND HALF: Afrobeats Party

6-10 p.m. @ University of Michigan Community Park
Lawn on 5th & James P. Cole Blvd. behind the William
S. White building, Flint, MI

Friday, June 20, 2025

Black Lives Matter Flint Special

6-9 p.m. @ McCree Theatre
4601 Clio Rd, Flint, MI

Saturday, June 21, 2025

Juneteenth at the Flint Cultural Center

11 a.m.-4 p.m. @ Flint Cultural Center campus, East
Kearsley Street between Crapo and Walnut Streets,
Flint, MI

Sunday, June 22, 2025

Juneteenth Family Reunion

4-8 p.m. @ Brennan Park
1301 Pingree Ave, Flint, MI



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Mr. DeWaun E. Robinson, Chair
(313) 258-8967 | robinson.de.sr@gmail.com

IN MEMORY OF OUR FOUNDER

Dr. E Hill De Loney



Charles Stewart Mott
Department of Public Health
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



This program is sponsored by
the Greater Flint Arts Council
Parade of Festivals program
made possible by a generous
grant from the Charles Stewart
Mott Foundation.



MORE INFO & FULL EVENT DESCRIPTIONS at SloanLongway.org/Juneteenth

COMMUNITY

Free festival at the Y kicks off summer fun

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Community Days at the YMCA, the weekend of June 6-7, has evolved into a leading free event among the city's summer offerings.

"This is more than a festival — it's a movement, a chance for neighbors to lift each other up, celebrate what makes Saginaw strong, and support vital YMCA programs that serve youth, families, veterans, and more," says Doug Temple, director of operations.

It's free of charge, but Temple issues a modest request: "Just bring a non-perishable food item for the Y's Veteran Food Pantry, or school supplies to help fill backpacks for students this August."





COMMUNITY DAYS

June 6 & 7 • Riverfront Saginaw • YMCA

A FREE EVENT!

Bring a Non-perishable Food Item to Support the Veterans' Food Pantry.



Friday, June 6	Saturday, June 7
10a-12p: Drive-Thru Food Giveaway	12p-2p: Youth Triathlon Preregistration REQUIRED!
12p-3p: Classic Car Cruise-In Parking	3p-4p: Community Riverwalk at the Y Pavillion. All Ages!
4p-8p: Classic Car Cruise-In Event. Raffles, Food, Music.	4p-8p: Family Fun Zone Bouncles, Games, STEM.
4p-8p: Family Fun Zone Bouncles, Games, STEM.	4:30p-6:30p: Vendor Zone. Resources for ALL!
4:30p-6:30p: Vendor Zone. Resources for ALL!	4:30p-8:30p: FOOD TRUCK ALLEY. Mexican, American, BBQ, Slushies, More!
4:30p-8:30p: FOOD TRUCK ALLEY. Mexican, American, BBQ, Slushies, More!	5p-8p: Veterans VIP Experience RSVP for Free Meal & Seats
5p-8p: Veterans VIP Experience RSVP for Free Meal & Seats	5:30p-8p: Concert for A Cause LETTER BAND 90s - Now, Classic Rock!
5:30p-8p: Concert for A Cause SOUL STREET - Motown, Jazz, Blues, More!	8p- 11p: Pickleball After Dark! at Garber Courts
8p- 11p: Pickleball After Dark! at Garber Courts	8P - ?: Hamilton St. Afterglow Support Local Businesses!
8P - ?: Hamilton St. Afterglow Support Local Businesses!	



www.saginawymca.org/event/community-days

COMMUNITY

Applications open for leadership program in Genesee County



LEADERSHIP FLINT & GENESEE EVENT (PHOTO CREDIT: FLINT & GENESEE GROUP)

BY MB STAFF

FLINT — As eight more professionals prepare to graduate from the 2024–2025 cohort of Leadership Flint & Genesee, organizers are setting the stage for a new class of emerging leaders to step into the spotlight. Informational sessions for the highly regarded leadership development program begin in late May, with applications now open for the 2025–2026 cohort.

Facilitated by Flint & Genesee Education & Talent, the program has become a well-known launchpad for leadership in the region, cultivating hundreds of graduates who now hold prominent roles across Genesee County.

Among its alumni are Claudnyse Holloman, President of Voices for Children Child Advocacy Center, and Michael Czop, President of Domico Med-Device.

“We have seen leaders in both the for- and non-profit sectors learn and grow through our program,” says Brianna Mosier, executive director of Education & Talent, a division of the Flint & Genesee Group. “Leadership Flint & Genesee is an amazing program for those who are just taking on leadership or manager roles that have potential for significant growth.”

Designed for professionals eager to elevate their leadership skills, the nine-month program offers a blend of structured training and personalized mentorship.

From September through May, participants engage in monthly, day-long sessions and one-on-one coaching with experienced mentors, fostering both individual development and peer-to-peer learning.

A cornerstone of the program is the Leadership Effectiveness Analysis™ (LEA) assessment, which provides comprehensive feedback across six key leadership functions: team playing, creating a vision, developing followership, implementing the vision, following through, and achieving results. These insights guide participants through intentional growth over the course of the program.

To complete the program, applicants must have a minimum of

two years of professional experience, employer approval, a submitted application, and a commitment to attend at least 90% of program activities. Attending an information session is also required. A virtual session will be held on June 5 via Zoom.

Beyond personal development, Leadership Flint & Genesee emphasizes civic engagement. Each cohort collaborates on a community impact project—past initiatives have ranged from establishing community gardens and free libraries to creating marketing strategies and training programs for local nonprofits.

More information and registration details are available at EducateFlintandGenesee.org/LeadershipFG.

COMMUNITY

Future Bishop Marvin C. Pryor Impact Center aims to empower Saginaw youth



A RENDERING OF THE FUTURE BISHOP MARVIN C. PRYOR IMPACT CENTER, FORMERLY THE TRINITY-ST. JOHN COMMUNITY CENTER

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Excitement is building in Saginaw as families and community members rally behind the development of the Bishop Marvin C. Pryor Impact Center, an educational and enrichment hub envisioned to support children and youth across

the city. The project is being led by Pastor Chris Pryor, Senior Pastor of Victorious Believers Ministries and CEO of Victorious Community Development, who has spent more than a decade guided by prayer, planning, and purpose to bring the vision to life.

Inspired by Pastor Pryor's vision, Dan Streeter and the Board of Directors of the City Rescue

Mission donated the former Trinity-St. John Community Center to Victorious Community Development. Located at 346 South Ninth at Cherry, the site was gifted in belief that the new center will have a lasting, positive impact on Saginaw families.

A vision born 13 years ago to help children excel in reading and math is now closer than ever to becoming a reality.

On Monday, May 19, Pastor Pryor welcomed community members, partners, and local leaders into the vacant building for a Hard Hat Tour, offering a firsthand look at the transformation taking place and a glimpse into the future of the Impact Center. The event was marked by a special groundbreaking ceremony hosted by the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce, celebrating the shared commitment to education, youth development, and neighborhood revitalization. A second Hard Hat Tour was held

on Thursday, allowing for additional supporters and partners to see the progress unfolding inside the building.

The building is being repurposed with purpose and will soon be home to classrooms, community gathering spaces, and a renewed gymnasium, all designed to provide a safe, fun, and engaging environment for Saginaw's children. The center will also offer mentorship opportunities, creating a strong network of support to guide young people through critical stages of development.

Saginaw Chamber President and CEO Eugene Seals reflected on the former Trinity building's significance, recalling it as a place of safety, growth, and community that left a lasting impact on his childhood. Now, with its

**Continues on pg 25,
Impact Center**



REPRESENTATIVES FROM VICTORIOUS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, THE SAGINAW COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE SAGINAW COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, AND SPENCE BROTHERS TAKE PART IN THE GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE BISHOP MARVIN C. PRYOR IMPACT CENTER.

COMMUNITY

Continues from pg 24, Impact Center



rebirth as the Impact Center, it will once again stand as a foundation for growth and possibility for the next generation.

Named in honor of the late Bishop Marvin C. Pryor, founding pastor of Victorious Believers Ministries, who passed away 15 years ago, the center will carry forward his legacy of faith, service, and education. Bishop Pryor, a former principal of Flint Northern High School, and his wife, Evangelist Ruth Pryor, were both educators. Evangelist Pryor, a retired Flint elementary teacher, continues to support this mission with steadfast dedication and remains actively involved as a board member emeritus.

"We will repurpose this building to what it was designed for," said Pastor Pryor.

With \$1.3 million in state grant funding already secured, the project's total \$2.8 million cost will also be supported by local fundraising efforts. The goal is to open the facility by early 2026, with ongoing outreach to foundations, donors, and grant-makers who support its mission.

Dr. Willie McClure, a local physician and dedicated board member, spoke to the center's broader purpose. "We want to show young people the opportunities that are available to them," he said.

The center's motto, "Academics + Adventure = Impact," is more than a slogan, it's a promise. Plans include academic support combined with opportunities that expose children to experiences beyond their everyday world, such as college campuses, the arts, entrepreneurship, leadership training, and career pathways, empowering them to dream bigger and walk boldly into their future. These experiences are especially critical in communities where academic achievement has fallen behind.

Currently, only 39.6% of Michigan third graders read at grade level, the lowest percentage in a decade. Michigan ranks 43rd nationally in fourth-grade reading, and students in underserved communities like Saginaw often fall two to three grade levels behind. The Impact Center aims to close those gaps through targeted, innovative interventions.

As the 2026 opening approaches, the Bishop Marvin C. Pryor Impact Center will stand as a beacon of hope, a place where children will be educated, mentored, empowered, and inspired to lead.

For more information or to support this transformative project, visit govcd.org.



COMMUNITY MEMBERS, PARTNERS, AND LOCAL LEADERS GATHERED IN SUPPORT OF THE BISHOP MARVIN C. PRYOR IMPACT CENTER DURING THE GROUNDBREAKING AND HARD HAT TOUR ON MONDAY, MAY 19 AND THURSDAY, MAY 22.

COMMUNITY

Comic books? That's one smart child!

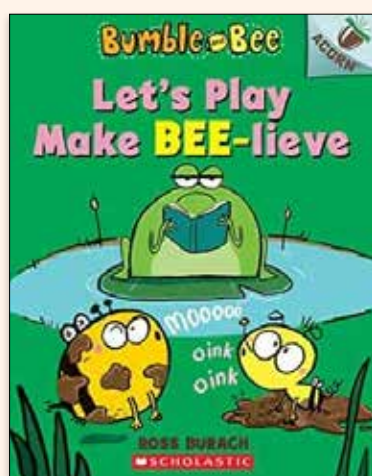
(As the Michigan Banner focuses on literacy, we will offer suggestions for children's books.)

Once upon a time, precocious kids were known for hiding dime-store Superman and Batman comics inside their boring bigger classroom texts, while the teacher preached on about report-card subjects.

This no longer may be true with today's Spiderman or Catwoman, but any texts that will ease a youngster away from the hand-helds -- at least for a while -- are all for the good.

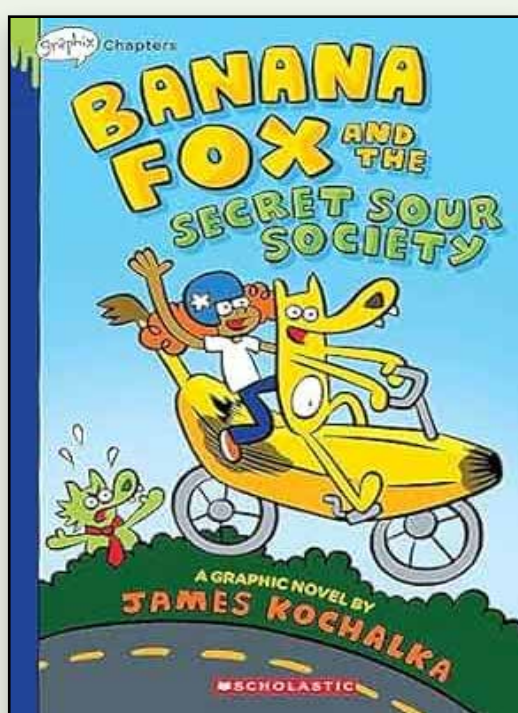
In fact, some "regular" books up to 100 pages and beyond are in comic book formats, and these are not radical renegades aimed at pampering the pupil with lowered expectations. A number of them existed back when the older scolders still were in school, and many bear the "Scholastic" label, a long-time standard among educators. The child still needs to read.

Among many options, here are a trio. All are parts of series formats, so if the young learner takes a special liking to one, there are more available.



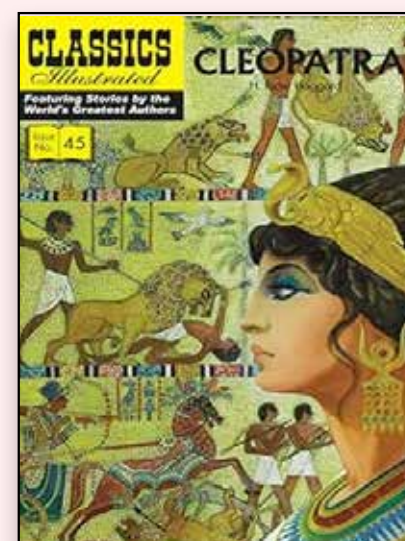
Bumble and Bee, Let's Play Make Believe, Scholastic

The stars of the show buzz around and wreak hilarious havoc with Froggie, a grouchy slouch who needs some encouragement to get interested in searching the pond for hidden treasure or in playing hide-and-seek. This is part of the "Acorn" category for pre-K through first grade, and there's even a back page for learning to draw the roundish Bumble character.



Banana Fox and the Secret Sour Society, Scholastic

What would you name a private-eye detective who slips more often than he solves in this 74-page novelette, which begins with Banana undercover as the street corner vendor at Smoothie Shack. "Graphic Chapters" presents not only mid-elementary story plots and language, but directions to "get drawn into reading," blending two types of artistry,



Cleopatra, Classics Illustrated

Like its 23 companions, this historical account of the ancient Egyptian queen does not purport to duplicate the full text. That would be about the size of an old Sears catalog. Instead, these slim paperbacks bill themselves as "your doorway to the classics," or study guides, in effect. They now are under the label of Acclaim Books.



If you wish to stick with the superheroes, Ollie's discount store is advertising five-packs of the Marvel label -- Spidey, Fantastic Four and the rest, vintage copies included -- for as little as five bucks.

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

COMMUNITY

BEYOND MICHIGAN – A WIDER VIEW OF PEOPLE, PLACES, AND POLICY

From the classroom to the calling: Kiera Scarbrough's legacy of education, faith, family, and purpose



KIERA SCARBROUGH

BY JASMINE BUCKLEY

SAGINAW — As a new educator witnessing an era where schools are facing educator burn-out, shrinking teacher pipelines, and calls for stronger representation in leadership- Kiera Scarbrough stood out to me as a beacon of light, and as a reminder of what is still possible. As my own career unfolds, I felt inspired to share her story!

Born in the heart of Philadelphia and raised in Delaware County, 29-year-old educator Kiera Scarbrough carries with her a generational torch- one lit

by a lineage of dedicated teachers before her. Coming from a long line of educators, she was raised with a deep respect for the power of education.

Though she initially explored anthropology, fascinated by cultures and the human experience, it was education that called her home. "I realized education wasn't just a profession in my family- It was something deeply rooted in who I am," she reflects.

Now certified in Special Education, Early Childhood Education, and Autism Support, she has taught across various age levels, but with time she also felt a

divine nudge to expand her impact. That desire led her to not only instruct students but also coach other teachers, helping them grow professionally while sustaining their passion for the work. Ultimately, this led to Kiera scoring an administration position as an Assistant Principal at a catholic school at only 29 years old.

Currently at a Catholic school, she credits her Catholic upbringing and faith in God as the foundation that grounds her. "The Word of God and the Bible help me navigate both the joys and the struggles," she said. "My par-

ents and grandparents instilled a belief in hard work and integrity which is something I carry with me daily."

She strongly believes that Catholic schools give students a greater chance at success, offering structure, faith-based guidance, and a values-driven education that equips them to thrive. Yet she acknowledges the challenges that come with any educational environment.

"The hardest part of my journey has been realizing that people are not all the same whether it is teachers, students, or parents. Keeping others motivated, especially when the world feels heavy isn't easy- but it's necessary."

Losing her grandparents while balancing her career was another deep personal hardship. "It is hard for them not to see all the impact I have made, but I carry their legacy with me every day."

At the heart of her mission is representation. She hopes that every child, especially Black children, grows up seeing someone who looks like them make a difference.

She closes with a message for Black women in education and beyond:

"Know your history. Do your best. Try your best. Stand in your truth. Know Black history- not just for others, but for yourself. Stand up for yourself in a professional way because some people will look down on you because of your gender and your skin. But don't shrink. You are necessary."

A daughter of legacy, a leader in Education, and a woman of deep faith- this educator's journey is only beginning, but her impact is already echoing through generations.



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

C.A.P. explores poverty under Trump



FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES DONALD TRUMP SPEAKING WITH ATTENDEES AT A "CHASE THE VOTE" RALLY AT DREAM CITY CHURCH IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA. (PHOTO CREDIT: GAGE SKIDMORE)

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — There was no talk of tariffs on May 19 when C.A.P., Community Action for the People, convened a review of the Trump Administration's first 100 days in office.

Nobody spoke of their 401-K plans or other forms of retirement income going haywire.

Instead of focusing on the middle-class impact, poverty issues took center stage.

Jeff Bulls, C.A.P.'s founding leader four years ago, outlined the agenda for an audience of 30 that gathered at the Perkins Street headquarters for the Saginaw County CAC, Community Action Center, where the local version of the federal War on

Poverty took root in 1965. His list included:

- Slashes in Medicaid, eroding much of the progress under the Affordable Care Act, a.k.a. Obamacare.
- Dismantling the Department of Education, established when Jimmy Carter was president during the late 1970s, which oversees special education and Title One aid for children of families with low incomes.
- Cutbacks in nutrition assistance, which affects not only families in need but the farmers who furnish the food.

- Reductions in oversight from the EPA, Environmental Protection Agency, over pollution that is more prevalent in poverty neighborhoods.

Bishop Hurley J. Coleman offered the opening prayer and an in-depth review during the middle of the session, which can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/gW5O-Hvt0I0?si=tfrcX7zspjuI8p76>. His son, Hurley III, is in his third year as CAC director and provided details of hundreds of dollars in federal aid at risk. For example, housing efforts range from keeping mortgages current, to helping with minor repairs, to avoiding utility shutoffs.

Bulls noted the hardship is

spread across the entire county -- and the whole nation -- in urban, suburban and rural settings.

"This doesn't just affect 48601," he said, in reference to the East Side's postal zip code.

Terry Pruitt, Saginaw NAACP branch president, emphasized a need to stay current even while Trump's actions, one after another, cause confusion regarding a social safety net mainly established in 1933, the peak of the Great Depression, during the first 100 days with Franklin Roosevelt in the White House. Pruitt, who was a young Model Cities worker during the '60s, is investing his experience and time not only to keep track of legislation, but to record Trump's independent executive orders, some that face court challenges.

Bishop Coleman said more service agency reps would have attended if not for fear that if they speak out, Trump's agents could threaten their federal monies for the War on Poverty or DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion).

While fighting to preserve funds, he asserted that the expansion of the political conservative wave will require activists and advocates to raise alternative sources of revenue. One example is Saginaw CAC seeking to raise \$600,000 on its 60th anniversary, or \$10,000 per year.

The elder Coleman summarized, at the close of the 70-minute forum, "We can't affect what happened (with Trump's 2024 election victory), but we can affect what will happen" in the future."

For C.A.P., the next topic is a "Know Your Rights" forum set for noon to 2 p.m. on June 28, a Saturday, at The Neighb center, teaming with the Saginaw Defenders Office, attorney Jeremy Tatum and social worker Maria Ramos.

POLITICS

McDonald Rivet pushes for federal support to improve water infrastructure in Mid-Michigan



CONGRESSWOMAN MCDONALD RIVET

BY MB STAFF

FLINT — In a sweeping effort to improve access to clean, safe drinking water, Congresswoman Kristen McDonald Rivet (MI-08) has announced a series of federal funding requests that aim to strengthen water infrastructure across several mid-Michigan communities. The proposals are part of her Community Project Funding Initiative and are being advanced for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2026 federal budget.

The projects focus on modernizing aging systems, replacing hazardous infrastructure, and enhancing emergency readiness. In addition to improving public health, the upgrades are also expected to support economic development by attracting investment, improving housing conditions, and reducing financial burdens on residents.

“Safe, reliable drinking water should be available to everyone, no matter where they live,” said Congresswoman McDonald Rivet. “I’m working with community leaders from across the dis-

trict to secure this funding so all mid-Michigan families, seniors, businesses, and healthcare facilities can access clean water.”

Proposed projects across the region

Among the funding requests is a proposal from the Charter Township of Fenton to install new water lines across Fenton Township, the City of Linden, and Mundy Township. The expanded infrastructure would serve homes, schools, and industrial properties while helping spur tens of millions in economic investment.

“This funding would allow us to install new water lines to safely deliver reliable drinking water to thousands of residents and four local schools,” said Vince Lorraine, Fenton Township Supervisor. “We’re very grateful to Congresswoman McDonald Rivet for her support for Fenton Township and our residents.”

In the City of Linden, leaders are seeking funds to improve water system reliability and com-

ply with the Safe Drinking Water Act, with a focus on supporting the Linden Community School District and senior residents on fixed incomes.

“This funding is essential to Linden’s water system, allowing us to retire outdated infrastructure and helping stabilize rates for seniors and residents on fixed incomes. Without this support, the financial burden would fall heavily on a small community already stretching every dollar,” said Ellen Glass, Linden City Manager. “We’re grateful to Congresswoman McDonald Rivet for championing this impactful project and advocating for communities like ours.”

Bangor Township is requesting support to replace lead and cast iron water lines, some of which date back to the 1940s. The project aims to protect residents from harmful chemicals while also creating jobs and encouraging new development.

“These funds would allow us to replace lead water lines and protect the people of beautiful Bangor Township from harmful chemicals. We also have a lot of cast iron lines that were installed in the 1940s that are in desperate need of replacement,” said Glenn Rowley, Bangor Township Supervisor. “We’re grateful to Congresswoman McDonald Rivet for her support of this indispensable project.”

The City of Midland is requesting funds to install an onsite emergency generator and switchgear at the Valley Drive Pump Station. The generator would ensure water delivery during power outages—a critical need given the area’s flood risk—and help maintain water supply to both residents and MyMichigan Medical Center Midland.

“A permanent backup generator would give Midland residents the peace of mind that our

water system will still be able to deliver reliable water services to the community in the case of an emergency,” said Brad Kaye, Midland City Manager. “Thank you Congresswoman McDonald Rivet for supporting this crucial project for our community.”

Buena Vista Charter Township is looking to upgrade its wastewater treatment system to ensure the safe return of treated water to the environment, reduce disease risk, and improve long-term sustainability.

“Buena Vista Charter Township is thankful to Representative McDonald Rivet for fighting for critical funding to ensure that clean water is delivered to Buena Vista families,” said Torrie L. Lee, Buena Vista Charter Township Superintendent. “With it, we can make the consequential upgrades to our community’s water treatment operations to improve water safety and efficiency, and ensure long-term sustainability.”

Broader legislative advocacy

Beyond these local projects, McDonald Rivet is also continuing her support for the Flint Registry, a key component of the city’s long-term recovery from its water crisis. She recently led a bipartisan coalition from Michigan’s Congressional delegation in urging federal budget leaders to preserve the Registry’s annual \$5 million allocation in the upcoming budget.

McDonald Rivet’s broader water advocacy includes active membership in the Lead Caucus, the Bipartisan Congressional PFAS Task Force, and the Bipartisan Great Lakes Task Force—platforms she uses to fight for clean water access, environmental justice, and stronger public health protections across Michigan and beyond.

POLITICS

DeVos family launches new organization to flip Michigan red

BY MB STAFF

MICHIGAN — A powerful new political force is taking shape in Michigan, as the influential DeVos family teams up with former Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel to form the Michigan Forward Network—a nonprofit organization determined to shift the state's political tide in the GOP's favor ahead of the critical 2026 election cycle.

With control of the Michigan House and Senate, the governor's office, and a U.S. Senate seat all up for grabs, the stakes are high. The Michigan Forward Network is positioning itself as a major player, pledging to direct its resources and influence toward reshaping the state's political future.

Ronna McDaniel, a Michigan native who previously led the state's Republican Party and later served as RNC chair from 2017 to 2024, has been tapped as CEO of the new organization. McDaniel, who recently made headlines after a brief and controversial media role, now returns to familiar territory with a clear mission: help Republicans reclaim lost ground in a state that has leaned blue in recent years.

"We need to make Michigan reliably red," McDaniel told The Wall Street Journal, pointing to neighboring Ohio as a model. Her immediate focus, she said, is winning back the Michigan Senate and supporting GOP momentum in state legislative races—an approach she believes will bolster Republican candidates at the top of the ticket in 2026.

At the heart of the Michigan Forward Network's launch is the DeVos family, long known for their deep involvement in state and national politics. The family has poured more than \$80

million into Michigan campaign contributions and political causes over the past two decades. Most recently, they contributed \$5 million to a super PAC supporting Congressman John James, a likely candidate for governor in 2026.

Dick DeVos, who will chair the new group's advisory board, expressed urgency about the direction of the state. "If you care about Michigan's future, you

cannot sit idly by and watch its decline," he said in a public statement. "The Michigan Forward Network is committed to delivering the leadership and policies we need to turn things around."

The organization will operate as a 501(c)(4), allowing it to advocate for policy and participate in political campaigns without disclosing its donors. This structure is expected to provide the DeVos-backed group with flex-

ibility and significant influence across the state's political and media landscape.

With the departure of Democratic Sen. Gary Peters and term limits ending Governor Gretchen Whitmer's tenure, 2026 will mark a rare political crossroads for Michigan. Republicans see the moment as an opportunity to reverse Democratic gains and reassert a conservative vision for the state's future.



RONNA MCDANIEL

HEALTH

Covenant HealthCare pioneers new minimally invasive cardiac treatment

BY MB STAFF

A new era in cardiac care has arrived in mid-Michigan. Covenant HealthCare has become the first hospital in the Great Lakes Bay Region to offer a cutting-edge procedure that helps patients with blocked arteries avoid repeat complications—without the long-term use of a stent.

The breakthrough procedure involves a drug-coated balloon catheter, a next-generation technology now being used by only a handful of hospitals in Michigan. Covenant's cardiology team joined that elite group in January, marking a major milestone in the region's cardiac care.

Performed by interventional cardiologist Dr. Manoj Sharma, the procedure delivers medication directly to the artery wall as the balloon expands to restore blood flow. Once the medicine is released, the balloon is removed, leaving no permanent implant behind.

"This is an exciting advancement in cardiac care," said Dr. Sharma, who led the first case. His patient went home the same day, highlighting the minimally invasive nature of the technique. "We are always looking for ways to expand minimally invasive treatment options to improve patient outcomes while reducing the risk of future complications."

This technology is especially promising for the roughly 10% of heart patients who experience restenosis, a condition in which arteries that were previously treated with stents become narrow again. Rather than adding more metal to an already stented area, the drug-coated balloon offers a clean solution: deliver the medicine, restore flow, and leave



COVENANT BECOMES FIRST IN REGION TO PERFORM A GROUNDBREAKING CARDIAC PROCEDURE USING A DRUG-COATED BALLOON CATHETER.

nothing behind.

Amanda Garrett, RN, BSN, MBA, who manages the Cath Lab, EP Lab, and Interventional Radiology at Covenant, emphasized the hospital's dedication to excellence and innovation.

"The specialists and staff in

our Cath Lab are highly trained and experienced," Garrett said. "Together, we are committed to delivering the best possible care for our patients through advanced technology and skilled teamwork."

As research continues, the

use of drug-coated balloon catheters may expand to treat smaller arteries and more complex cases. But for now, Covenant HealthCare's adoption of the technique reflects its role as a regional leader in high-quality, forward-thinking heart care.

HEALTH

MyMichigan Medical Center in Midland earns national recognition for excellence in blood clot care

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND — MyMichigan Medical Center Midland has been officially recognized by the National Blood Clot Alliance (NBCA) as the first hospital in the United States to earn designation as a Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) Center of Excellence™. The recognition highlights the hospital's leadership in proactive, multidisciplinary care for patients with venous thromboembolism (VTE).

The program sets a new national benchmark for excellence in managing blood clots by prioritizing early detection, evidence-based practices, and strong care coordination.

"We're proud of the work being done here in Midland to make DVT care more proactive, coordinated, and effective," said Dr. Jacob Frisbie, vascular surgeon and physician VTE champion. "This designation from NBCA validates our team's focus on making sure patients receive timely intervention, the right treatment, and the long-term support they need to recover and thrive."

"This recognition is a testament to what can happen when departments come together to create a unified approach to patient care," said Nadia Cottelit, B.S.N., R.N., V.T.E. coordinator. "We've improved communication, built meaningful care path-

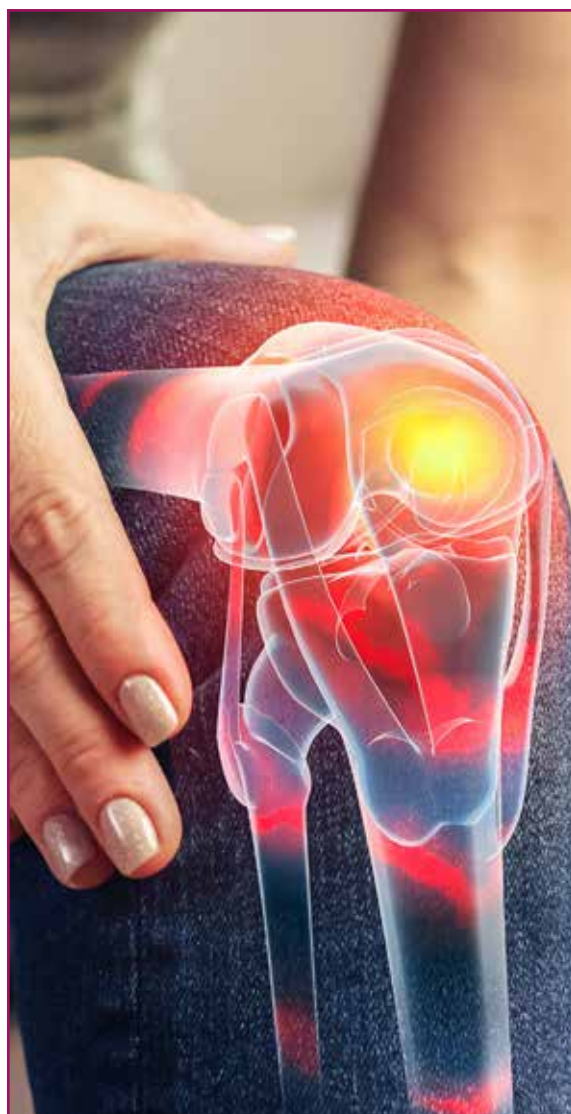
ways, and ultimately made a difference in patient outcomes."

The NBCA's DVT Center of Excellence program identifies hospitals that go beyond standard protocols, recognizing institutions that demonstrate innovation and leadership in clot-related care. As the inaugural center, MyMichigan Medical Center Midland will collaborate with other institutions nationwide to improve education, share best practices, and expand public awareness of VTE.

"MyMichigan Medical Cen-

ter Midland is a trailblazer," said Erin VanDyke, PA-C, Vice President of the Centers of Excellence Program at NBCA. "Their team has built a model that not only saves lives but also empowers patients and providers alike. As our very first DVT COE, they are helping us lay the foundation for a national movement to transform VTE care in community settings."

To learn more about the National Blood Clot Alliance and its VTE Centers of Excellence program, visit stoptheclot.org.



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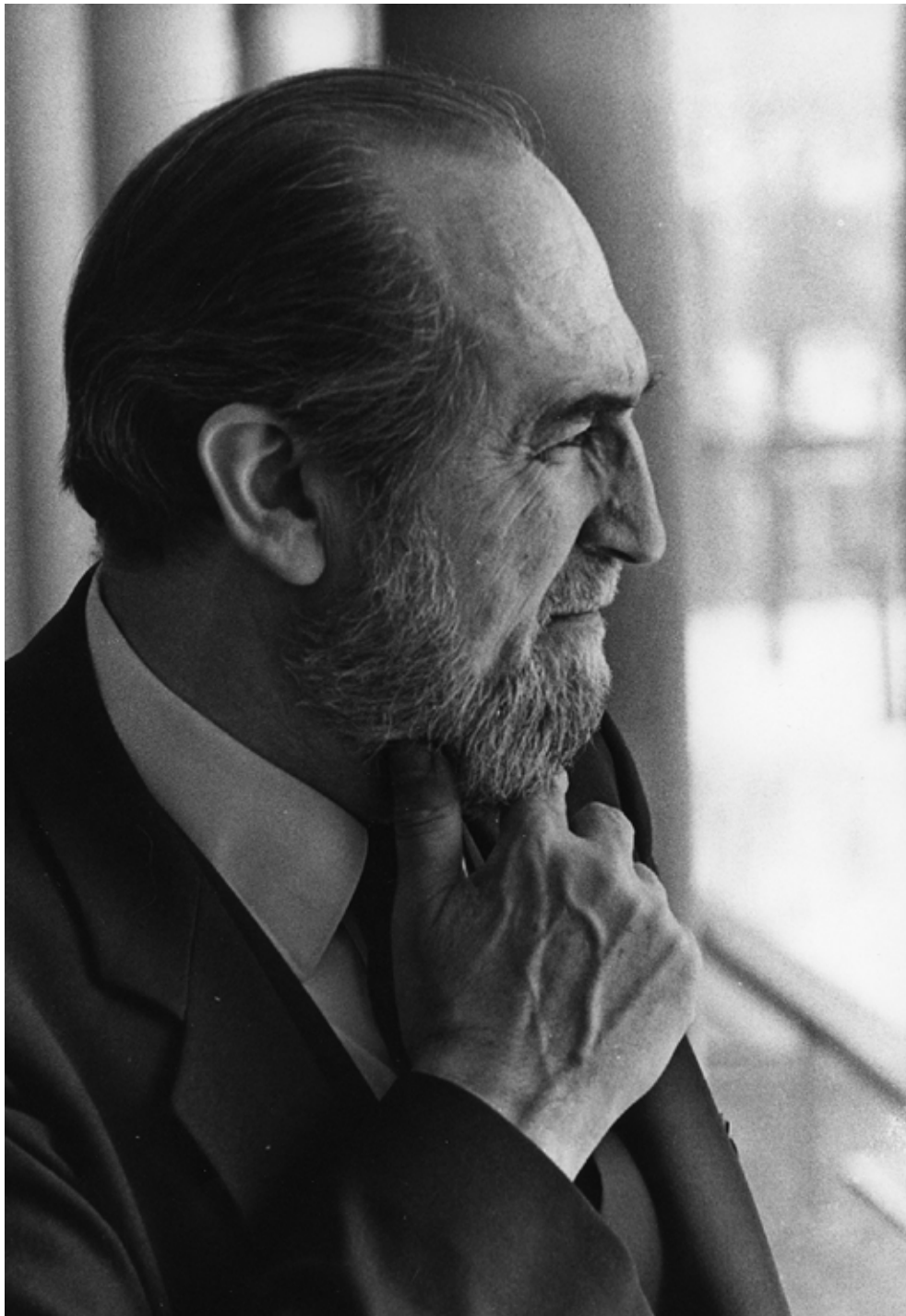
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EDUCATION

Don Carlyon, longtime Delta College president, dies at 100



DON CARLYON (PHOTO CREDIT: DELTA COLLEGE) OF SVSU

BY MB STAFF

UNIVERSITY CENTER — Donald James Carlyon, a trail-blazing educator, community leader, and World War II veteran who helped shape the foundation of Delta College and left a lasting imprint on the Great Lakes Bay Region, passed away peacefully on May 26, 2025—Memorial Day—at the age of 100.

Born on August 14, 1924, in Chambers, Nebraska, Carlyon's life was marked by devotion to public service, fearless leadership, and visionary thinking. The son of a Methodist minister, he served in the Merchant Marines during World War II—one of the war's most dangerous assignments—before returning to Nebraska, marrying his beloved wife Betty Hunley, and embarking on a career that would even-

tually lead him to Michigan.

In 1960, Carlyon made a pivotal move, relocating his young family to Michigan to become business manager—and the third employee—of a new college with no students yet: Delta College. Within a few short years, he was appointed president, a position he held for nearly three decades. From 1964 to his retirement in 1992, Carlyon led Delta through a period of extraordinary growth and national recognition, with enrollment swelling from 1,600 to more than 14,000 students.

Though he often quipped that he was “the most uneducated person at the college,” Carlyon's leadership style and commitment to innovation made him a respected voice in higher education. Under his guidance, Delta was celebrated for pioneering approaches in academic programming, technology use, and student services. The college became one of the 12 founding members of the League for Innovation in the Community College, and Carlyon later served as president of the League's board.

He valued community as much as academics. Carlyon worked to create a “Delta family,” where students, faculty, and staff felt supported and empowered. He encouraged professional development and built a campus culture rooted in service, excellence, and connection.

Carlyon's commitment extended far beyond Delta's campus. In retirement, he continued serving the community with vigor. He held leadership roles with the Saginaw General Hospital Foundation, Covenant HealthCare Foundation, Bay City

Rotary, State Theatre of Bay City, and Wirt Library Board, among many others. He led civic efforts such as the restoration of Battery Park, fundraising for the Alice and Jack Wirt Public Library, and the commissioning of a rare statue of Rotary International founder Paul Harris.

Known for his sharp wit and boundless energy, Carlyon was also a man of unique charm. He famously survived a lion bite at a ribbon-cutting ceremony and hosted hundreds annually at his farm, where guests could meet his llamas, sheep, Eskimo dogs, and miniature donkey named EZ.

He shared his remarkable journey with Betty, his wife of 72 years and partner in public service. Betty Carlyon passed away in 2018 and was remembered as an exceptional figure in her own right, the only person ever named an Honorary Lifetime Member of the League for Innovation.

In 2014, Donald Carlyon was awarded the Delta College Award of Distinction—one of only two individuals to ever receive the honor. Though quick to deflect praise, his legacy lives on in the thousands of students, educators, and community members whose lives he touched.

His favorite advice to students captured his life's philosophy: “Be careful what goals you set for yourself, for you may certainly attain them.”

Donald J. Carlyon leaves behind a century-long legacy of leadership, service, and unshakable dedication to building strong institutions and stronger communities.

EDUCATION

SVSU speech team claims back-to-back national title



RILEY ROMER, XSANDRIE GUIMBA, NIMNAN WUYEP, EMILY DRZEWICKI, HANNAH SCHALK. (PHOTO COURTESY OF SVSU)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — With a blend of seasoned talent, rising stars, and strategic coaching, Saginaw Valley State University's competitive speech team has once again proven itself on the national stage. For the second consecutive year, the team claimed first place in the limited entry President's Division 3 at the National Forensic Association's 2025 National Championship Tournament, held April 17–21 at Wayne State

University in Detroit.

Leading the way was Nimnan Wuyep, a recent graduate in communication and international studies from Jos, Nigeria, who delivered a history-making performance for SVSU. Wuyep advanced to the final rounds in both Poetry and Persuasion, placing fifth and sixth, respectively. He also reached the semifinals in Prose and Dramatic Interpretation and the quarterfinals in Extemporaneous Speaking. His overall performance earned him 12th place in Indi-

vidual Sweepstakes, the highest placement ever achieved by an SVSU student.

Among the newcomers, Emily Drzewicki, a first-year communication and sociology major from Bay City, made an impressive debut by securing third place in the Novice Final of Persuasion.

Sophomore Riley Romer, studying international studies and Spanish and hailing from Macomb, advanced to the octafinal round of Extemporaneous Speaking, further strengthening the team's standing.

Additional contributions came from Xsandrie Guimba, an exercise science major from Manila, Philippines, and Hannah Schalk, an elementary education major from Reese, whose performances added critical points toward the team's overall championship win.

The team is led by Ryan Rigda, lecturer of communication, and Amy Pierce, associate professor of communication. Under their guidance, SVSU's speech program continues to grow as a force in collegiate forensics.

EDUCATION

Ideas for keeping learning alive during the summer months



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS

As summer approaches and the school year winds down, it is a perfect time to think about how learning can continue outside the school year. Summer offers a unique opportunity to explore educational experiences that are both enriching and enjoyable—especially because they are easily accessible and affordable.

Across the Great Lakes Bay Region, and especially in the Saginaw area, there are several low-cost or no-cost options for students and families to keep academic skills sharp and curi-

osity alive. These programs support growth in key subject areas like reading, science, math, and more—while helping prevent any sort of "summer slide."

Here are three local resources that parents may want to consider:

1. Raising Readers Academy

Offered by the READ Association of Saginaw County, this program supports young readers and their families throughout the summer. Weekly sessions begin in July and provide engaging literacy activities that encourage a lifelong love of reading. Space is limited, so interested families should call 989-755-8402 to learn more or register.

2. Saginaw Public Libraries – “Color Our World” Summer Reading

Program

Starting in June, this vibrant reading initiative invites students to keep a reading log throughout the summer. All branches of the Saginaw Public Libraries participate, making it convenient for families across the area. This program not only promotes literacy but also fosters creativity and a love for books.

For more info visit the website at: <https://www.saginawlibrary.org/summer-reading-program>.

3. Michigan Learning Channel – Summer Learning Series

Through Michigan’s public broadcasting service, the Michigan Learning Channel offers educational lessons and activities for students of all ages. Weekly themed content covers a wide range of subjects, from science

to art, and is designed to keep learners engaged from home or on the go.

Explore the program here: <https://www.michiganlearning.org/summer-birds/>

These programs are examples of how summer learning doesn’t have to be expensive—or boring. Whether it is through community reading programs, televised lessons, or hands-on family activities, there are plenty of ways to keep young minds active during the warmer months.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to explore all opportunities and help their children turn summer into a season of curiosity, creativity, and continued growth.



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Transportation
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EDUCATION

When hope is present, dreams and goals flourish

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

BY MB STAFF

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

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

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



FILE PHOTO

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

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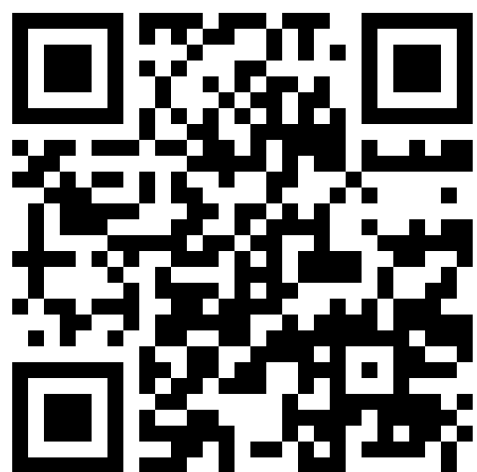
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EDUCATION

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



COURTESY PHOTOS

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

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

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

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

professional development opportunities as well as community activities and events.

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

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

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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.

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start
Program Director

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

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

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

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Michigan awards \$8.8 M to boost underserved entrepreneurs and businesses

BY MB STAFF

LANISING — In a bold move to strengthen Michigan's entrepreneurial ecosystem, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) has announced \$8.8 million in new grants aimed at empowering organizations that serve underrepresented small business owners and tech-based entrepreneurs across the state.

The announcement includes \$6.8 million through the Trusted Connector Grant program and an additional \$2 million from the Entrepreneur Support Grant, awarded to Detroit-based Dunamis Charge. Together, these funds are part of a growing effort to break down barriers for historically marginalized business communities—by backing the organizations that serve them best.

"We are invested in the success of Michigan's small businesses and are committed to doing everything we can to provide them with the resources they need for growth," said Amy Rencher, MEDC's Senior Vice President of Small Business & Talent. "Economic development draws on the power of community... and we are proud to serve alongside them."

Building Bridges Across Michigan

The Trusted Connector Grant program supports chambers of commerce, nonprofits, and membership-based organizations that act as vital connectors for small business owners—especially those from underserved communities. This year's 23 grantees range from regional economic developers to culturally specific

organizations like Black Wall Street Kalamazoo, the Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce, and the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

From Detroit to Kalamazoo, from Grand Rapids to Jackson, each recipient plays a unique role—whether it's helping entrepreneurs access capital, navigate new technologies, connect with mentors, or simply understand the resources available to them. Many of the grantees serve multi-county or statewide regions, reflecting MEDC's mission to extend equitable access to support far beyond Michigan's urban centers.

The grant program was highly competitive, drawing 44 applicants requesting \$15 million in total funding. Each grantee selected demonstrated a strong track record of delivering culturally competent technical assistance, organizing expert-led workshops, hosting inclusive networking events, and guiding entrepreneurs through growth strategies.

Among the largest awards was \$1 million granted to Black Tech Saturdays, an initiative focused on building digital and tech literacy within Detroit's Black business community. Other notable recipients include the Great Lakes Women's Business Council, Global Detroit, Oakland Thrive, and National Business League, all of which will use the funding to further their impact on Michigan's growing small business landscape.

Fueling the Future

The \$2 million Entrepreneur Support Grant, awarded to Dunamis Charge, reflects MEDC's

continued focus on advancing equity in innovation. As a Black- and woman-owned company developing EV charging infrastructure, Dunamis Charge represents the intersection of high-tech entrepreneurship and inclusive economic development—a space Michigan is working to lead nationally.

Collectively, these investments represent more than financial support—they are a signal of Michigan's commitment to inclusive growth and economic opportunity.

As Rencher noted, "We cannot do this work alone."

With these grants, the MEDC is not only reinforcing the foundation of Michigan's small business ecosystem—it's also helping ensure that the next generation of entrepreneurs, regardless of background, has a stronger path to thrive.

A complete list of the Trusted Connector Grant awardees announced by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) along with their regions and grant amounts are listed below:

- **Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce** – \$250,000
- **Middle Michigan Development Corporation** – \$310,848
- **Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP)** – \$250,000
- **Lakeshore Advantage** – \$300,000
- **Black Wall Street Kalamazoo** – \$300,000
- **Southwest Michigan First Corporation** – \$300,000
- **Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber Foundation** – \$250,000
- **Lean Rocket Lab** – \$250,000
- **Black Tech Saturdays** – \$1,000,000
- **ACCESS** – \$250,000
- **Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce** – \$250,000
- **Detroit Regional Chamber** – \$250,000
- **Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce** – \$250,000
- **Global Detroit** – \$250,000
- **Oakland Thrive** – \$250,000
- **Sisters Code** – \$250,000
- **Venture Catalysts** – \$250,000
- **MHHP Chamber of Commerce** – \$249,202
- **E. Warren Development Corp.** – \$180,000
- **Great Lakes Women's Business Council** – \$359,950
- **National Veteran Business Development Council** – \$300,000
- **Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** – \$250,000
- **National Business League** – \$250,000
- **Dunamis Charge (Entrepreneur Support Grant)** – \$2,000,000

BUSINESS + FINANCE

SEEN ON THE SCENE: Members First Credit Union opens new branch in Saginaw

On Wednesday, May 28, Members First Credit Union celebrated the grand opening of its new Saginaw branch at 4955 Bay Road with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, offering local residents a new option for their financial and banking needs.



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BUSINESS + FINANCE



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FAITH IN FOCUS



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

Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

BY PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

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

The organization's vision includes several key objectives:



PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

between the church, volunteers, and community professionals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPONSORED CONTENT

FAITH IN FOCUS

Gospel Fest returns to downtown Saginaw Aug. 2

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — As summer approaches, so does one of Saginaw's most uplifting traditions. On Saturday, Aug. 2, the heart of Downtown Saginaw will come alive with music, ministry, and community spirit as Gospel Fest 2025 takes over Morley Plaza from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m..

Founded more than 24 years ago, Gospel Fest was created with a mission to bridge generations, races, and religions through the power of gospel music. The event offers a safe, joyful space where the community can come together to celebrate unity and experience the Lord's word through the musical arts—from Grammy Award-winning performers to beloved local talent.

And this year's lineup is nothing short of soul-stirring. Hitting the stage are some of gospel music's most celebrated voices, including Norman Hutchins, the powerful vocals of Lisa Page Brooks, the energetic Jarell Smalls & Company, and the heartfelt ministry of Tyrone Judah. With many more surprise guests in store, Gospel Fest 2025 promises to be an unforgettable experience for the entire family.

Though traditionally held at Ojibway Island, this year's festival will take place at Morley Plaza due to construction. But the spirit of the event remains the same: free, family-friendly and filled with joy.

As always, Gospel Fest is open to the public, offering an inspiring atmosphere filled with music, faith, and fellowship. Vendor space is also available for those looking to share goods, services, or resources with the community.

For more information about this year's event or to become a vendor, contact (989) 737-8179.

Saturday
August 2nd, 2025

12PM - 6PM
LOCATION: MORLEY PLAZA
DOWNTOWN SAGINAW

NORMAN Hutchins

TYRONE Judah

JARELL Smalls

LISA Page Brooks

FEATURED GUESTS
FAMILY CENTERED
FREE ADMISSION
VENDOR SPACE ARE AVAILABLE

Contact us @
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FAITH IN FOCUS

SERMONETTE SERIES

Redeem the Time

"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is."

Ephesians 5:16-17



BY MINISTER CAROLYN
CARTER TOWNSEL

Growing up as a little girl, I remember the numerous conversations and warnings given to me by my father. The warning that is speaking to me today is "time." One day as I rode with my father, he shared with me to use my time wisely, because once it's gone, you cannot go back to regain, reclaim, retrieve it, or to undo that, that you did or to do what you should have done. When time is gone, it is gone, and then it is called lost or wasted time. He continued with saying, "Every man whether rich or poor has eighty-six thousand, and four hundred seconds, or one thousand four hundred and forty minutes and regardless of how you choose to break it down, it boils down to being 24 hours in a day." My father did not stop there. He carried on with great emphasis on these following words, "Every man has the same time in a day 24 hours, but not every man has the same time for his life – Carolyn, choose wisely how you use your time."

My father was definitely right, time is precious, and it does not come with a reset button or do-overs. This warning for me now has a life of its own, as I went through the corridors of time in my mind and realized how much of this priceless commodity I have lost and or wasted, I was saddened. There were many lost opportunities, wasted time on futile relationships, lost family relationships that I should have been building, but instead found it more important to work and or play. Watching hours of television, when I could and should have been studying, putting off today for tomorrow – procrastination, and the list could go on, on, and on. In all of that lost and wasted time, the one that took the greatest hit was my personal time with the Lord.

I am undeniably guilty of wasting time on frivolous pursuits, putting off overcoming or facing personal problems, neglecting my relationship with God, or to have

taken lightly my calling as His elect, relegating it to less than top priority. However, it is within Ephesians 5:16, that Paul reprimands the first century church to "redeem the time," and this same admonition needs to be heeded by myself and prayerfully by all Christians. I feel a great relief in knowing that as Paul presents this warning, it comes with a comma and not a period, meaning there is yet time to "redeem the time," in these last and evil days.


Redeem is a term derived from the Greek language meaning to buy up, ransom, or rescue from loss. It affords us as Christians the opportunity to rescue from loss the time that remains in our life. We can only redeem today, and plan to redeem tomorrow, for yesterday is gone. It is of the utmost importance to comprehend that time is a gift from God, and none of us knows how much time each of us has and to make choices that will influence eternity.

When God says we should be "redeeming the time," He wants us to live in sustained realization of that ticking clock and make good use of the time we have. Therefore, be careful how you live. Do not live like fools, but like those who are wise. Do not act thoughtlessly or recklessly but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Evaluate your plans and make sure they align with God's will and purpose, search for and employ wisdom, take every God given opportunity and use it for His glory. This responsibility solely belongs to each Believer to use wisely what God has given each of us – time.

Remember as my father explained to me – There are many things in life you can regain, reclaim, or retrieve but Time is not one of them. Therefore, it is within your authority to "Redeem the Time."


Blessings To All

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
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989-752-8485



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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Fund development manager or fundraiser?



BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

What's the difference between a fundraiser and a fund development manager? Is one better than the other? Knowing the difference can reduce some of the drama associated with fundraising.

If you are a nonprofit executive, you need to know the skill-set your organization needs and the difference between these two types of professionals. Be clear about expectations, and don't expect one person to do it all. If you are looking for work, know what type of professional you are and read the job description closely; you don't want to end up in a job from heck. Our definitions are highly exaggerated, but if you have experience fundraising, you should be able to identify one from the other.

The fundraiser is constantly on the hunt to secure a lead gift and to secure it as quickly as possible. The bigger the better! They usually work alone or with select individuals and are not known as team players. They love to be admired and acknowledged, and enjoy claiming credit and success instead of seeing success as a team effort. They may acknowledge a fundraising plan, but this rarely guides their work. You may recognize them by their short attention span and the frequency with which they are in a crisis or



FILE PHOTO

on the verge of securing a big gift. They work with a sense of urgency and don't want anything to get in their way. They usually go after what glitters and can be slow to reveal all the details associated with an anticipated gift. They are known to be busy identifying the next big donor, coming through in a crisis, and are not afraid to ask. They are known for "saving the day" by securing big gifts, but that doesn't mean they are management material. They need to be managed and simultaneously need a long leash!

The fund development manager is a radically different type of professional. This person works from a fundraising plan, promoting and supporting a team approach to fund development and fundraising. They are a manager of people and resources who can advance short-term and long-term goals simultaneously. They

use data to inform their decisions and strategies. They prioritize relationships and work with others from across the organization – and from outside it – to achieve organizational goals. They are quick to acknowledge the work of staff and volunteer leaders, giving both credit and acclaim. They monitor progress, success, and bumps in the road and are ready with backup plans to help ensure goals are met. They seek guidance and advice from others and are busy planning and advancing

strategies that are a year or two out in the future. They recognize people's strengths and challenges and manage people so they work to their strengths. They provide enthusiasm and motivation that keep the team engaged. They know the importance of cultivation and stewardship and stay in touch with current and prospective donors. This manager needs a team – don't ask them to do everything, they'll know you're only looking for short-term results. 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.



PIC OF THE WEEK

Celebrating 101 Years! Happy Birthday to Mrs. Ethel Mae "Nana" Drain, born June 3, 1924. With love and admiration, family and friends celebrate the incredible life and legacy of Mrs. Ethel Mae "Nana" Drain as she turns 101. Her strength, wisdom, and grace continue to inspire all who know her.





We empower.

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



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