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Harlem Poet LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs named SVSU's 2025 Roethke Poetry Prize winner

COMMUNITY, PG 15

Health Fair shows track record of disease detection

BY MIKE THOMPSON


SAGINAW — A smaller event, prior to the 14th annual Men's Health Fair on June 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Horizons Center, shows why people should attend, says Dwayne Parker, event coordinator with Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

The Kappas also organized a late-winter screening, specifically for prostate cancer. Among 52 attendees, blood tests revealed 11 men at risk with high levels of potentially cancerous PSA cells. All were steered to immediate treatment, including four who had lacked family physicians.

"Early detection is the answer," Parker said in a report to the Saginaw County Health Equity Council, one of the sponsors.

The free-of-charge Health Fair will offer up to a dozen various disease detection tests. Women also may take part and are asked to bring at least one reluctant male with them.

This year's Health Fair is moved to Horizons because of a scheduling conflict at Dow Event Center.



MEN'S HEALTH

THE ANNUAL ALL MEN'S **HEALTH FAIR** SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025
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Delta College to host health and wellness camp for high school students

YOUTH BANNER, COVER



Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 2025 Tercer Jueves Business Networking Series

LATINO BANNER, COVER

FEATURED STORY

State Police bring youth engagement events to Saginaw and Flint

COMMUNITY, PG 17





Memorial Day


May 26, 2025

As Memorial Day approaches, The Michigan Banner joins our community in solemn remembrance of the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation.

This day serves as a poignant reminder of the cost of freedom and the valor of those who have defended it.

We encourage everyone to take a moment to reflect on the courage and dedication of our fallen heroes. Attend a local ceremony, visit a memorial, or simply pause to honor their memory. Let us also extend our gratitude to the families who have lost loved ones in the line of duty; their strength and resilience are a testament to the enduring spirit of our nation.


*In unity and remembrance,
The Michigan Banner Staff*



THIS DAY IN MICHIGAN HISTORY

MAY 16, 2015

On May 16, 2015, Tigers first baseman Miguel Cabrera hit his 400th career home run during the first inning of a game against the St. Louis Cardinals. Facing a full count, Cabrera launched a fastball from left-hander Tyler Lyons over the centerfield fence—an estimated 428-foot shot. It marked his 10th home run of the season and made him only the second player to reach the 400-home-run milestone while wearing a Tigers uniform, following Darrell Evans in 1988. Cabrera would go on to hit his 500th home run on April 1, 2021, and finished his career in 2023 with 511 home runs, tying him for 25th on the all-time list.



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

PUBLISHER
Michelle McCoy

VP SALES & MARKETING
Jerome Buckley

EDITOR EMERITUS
Rae Lynn Buckley

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

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MONDAY, MAY 26, 2025
11:00AM

ALONG S. WASHINGTON FROM JANES TO THE SAGINAW COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA AT HOYT PARK.

SAGINAW COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 7 • NUMBER 10



Delta College to host health and wellness camp for high school students



STUDENTS ATTEND DELTA COLLEGE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CAMP (PHOTO CREDIT: DELTA COLLEGE) AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

BY MB STAFF

UNIVERSITY CENTER — Delta College will host its annual Camp Health and Wellness from June 10 thru 12, offering high school students a hands-on introduction to careers in the health sciences. The three-day camp, scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day on Delta's main campus, is open to students entering grades 9-12 in the fall of 2025.

Participants will engage in eight rotating sessions daily, led by local healthcare professionals and career center instructors.

The camp curriculum is designed to expose students to a variety of healthcare professions and provide practical training, including adult CPR certification and instruction in essential professional and employment skills.

Session topics cover a wide range of healthcare fields, including:

- Nursing (RN/LPN), Nurse Practitioner, Physician, and Physician Assistant
- Mental Health, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Language Pathology
- Radiography, Sonography, Respiratory Care, and Surgical Technology
- Physical Therapy, Athletic Training, and Personal Training
- Emergency Medical Services, Medical Assistance, and Phlebotomy
- Laboratory Science, Dental Hygiene, and Chiropractic Care
- Pharmacy, Dietetics, and Veterinary Medicine

Students interested in attending must complete the reg-

istration form and submit a \$30 non-refundable fee by May 30.

This year's camp is supported by several regional healthcare partners, including Ascension, Aspire Rural Health System, Covenant HealthCare, Delta College Foundation, Harbor Beach Community Hospital, HealthSource Saginaw, McKenzie Health System, and McLaren Bay Region.

For more information or to register, contact Kati Kocot at katipahssen@delta.edu or 989-686-9019, or Jeanne Woodbury at jeannewoodbury@delta.edu or 989-686-9075.

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Many Leaders.



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helping shape a brighter future for our community.

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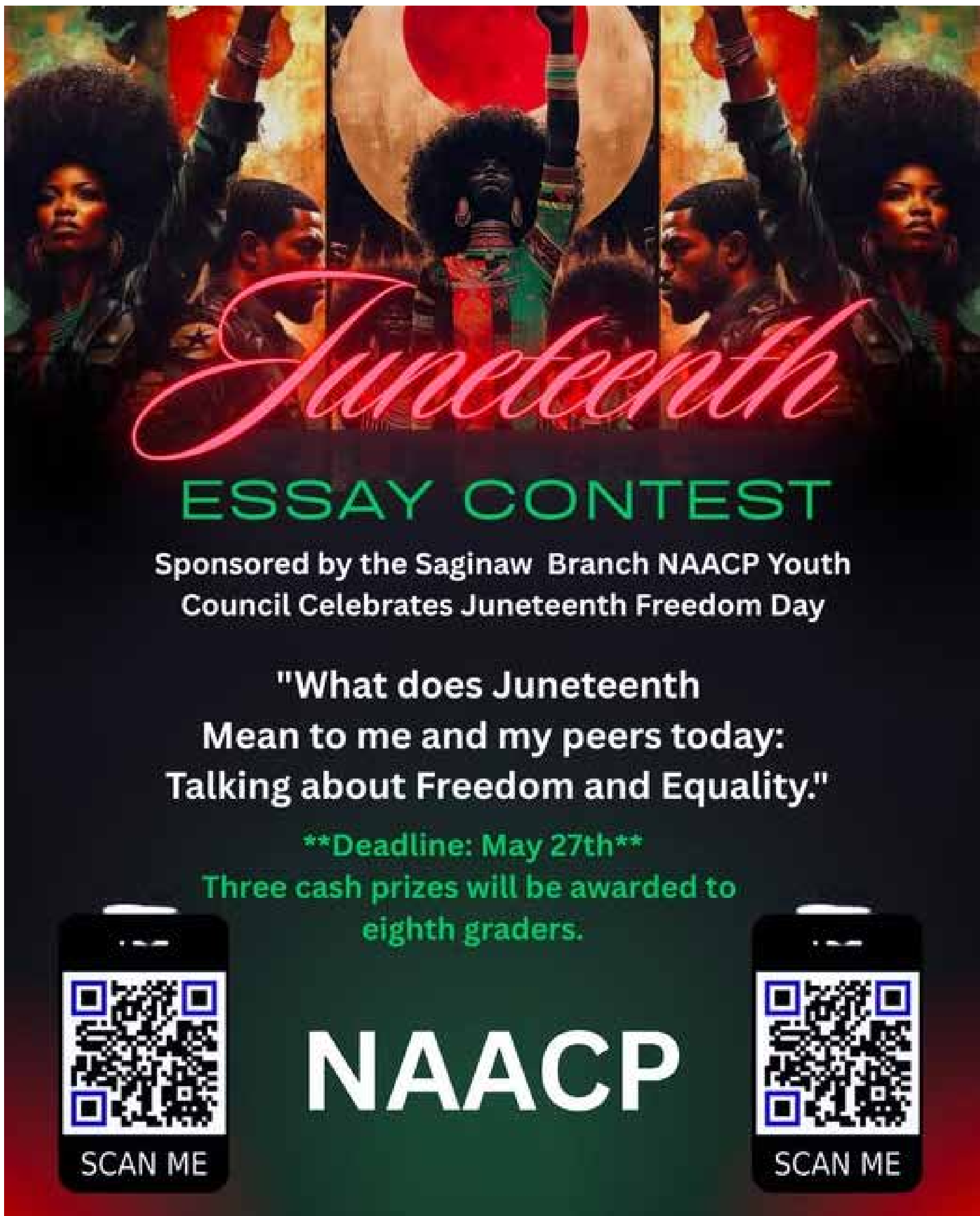
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Dr. Mamie T. Thorns
Vice President for Diversity Equity and Inclusion
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Juneteenth

ESSAY CONTEST

Sponsored by the Saginaw Branch NAACP Youth Council Celebrates Juneteenth Freedom Day

**"What does Juneteenth
Mean to me and my peers today:
Talking about Freedom and Equality."**

****Deadline: May 27th****

**Three cash prizes will be awarded to
eighth graders.**

NAACP

SCAN ME

SCAN ME

May is Mental Health Awareness Month—here's your teen guide to keeping it together (sort of)



FILE PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

It's May, which means flowers are blooming, finals are looming, and yes—it's officially Mental Health Awareness Month. While the term might sound like something you'd hear during morning announcements sandwiched between prom updates and lost earbuds, it's actually pretty important—especially for teens.

Let's be real: school, social media, family expectations, sports, jobs, and that mysterious thing called "a future" can all pile up like a week's worth of laun-

dry you've been totally about to fold. According to the CDC, more teens than ever are dealing with stress, anxiety, and depression—and no, it's not just because your group chat is being weird.

So what can you do to protect your peace? Here are a few actually helpful tips for keeping your mental health in check:

Real talk: Signs your brain might need a break

If you've been feeling off lately—like sleeping too much (or not at all), avoiding your friends, get-

ting snappy over nothing, or just feeling blah—you might be dealing with more than just a bad week. And guess what? That's normal. But it's also something to pay attention to.

Tips to keep it together (Even when you're not)

- 1. Talk to people who get it**
Whether it's your best friend, your favorite teacher, or even your dog (hey, no judgment), letting things out is healthier than bottling them up. And if you need more support,

school counselors and mental health hotlines are there for a reason.

2. Move your body, even just a little

You don't have to become a gym rat, but even a quick walk, a TikTok dance, or 10 jumping jacks between classes can work wonders for your brain.

3. Log off (yes, seriously)

Social media can be fun—but it can also be a black hole of comparison, FOMO, and doomscrolling. A break now and then = instant stress relief.

4. Sleep like you mean it

Pulling all-nighters may seem heroic, but your brain needs sleep to function. That math test will still be there in the morning—but your sanity might not.

5. Don't wait to ask for help

If things feel too heavy, reach out. You're not weak—you're smart for taking care of yourself. Resources like the Crisis Text Line (text HOME to 741741) or the Michigan Crisis and Access Line (MiCAL) are available 24/7.

Good vibes only? Nah—real vibes, please

Mental Health Awareness Month isn't about pretending everything's fine. It's about recognizing that your brain, like your phone, needs charging, attention, and the occasional reset.

So whether you're thriving, surviving, or somewhere in between, take a moment this May to check in with yourself—and remember: taking care of your mental health is a flex worth showing off.



Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 2025 Tercer Jueves Business Networking Series

BY MB STAFF

AUBURN HILLS — The Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (MHCC) has officially released the 2025 schedule for its Tercer Jueves business networking events, inviting professionals, entrepreneurs, and business leaders from across the state to

mark their calendars for four engaging opportunities to connect. Now a signature program of MHCC, the Tercer Jueves (Third Thursday) series brings together a diverse mix of industries and organizations in a relaxed, professional environment that fosters relationship building, business growth, and strategic collaboration.



BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT (FILE PHOTO)



MHCC 2025 TERCER JUEVES

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendar and don't miss our Tercer Jueves Business Networking Event, where you'll get to meet entrepreneurs and business leaders in a relaxed and fun environment. Join us!

Date	Event & Location	Sponsor
Jun 19th	Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights	LaSalle Construction
Jul 17th	M1 Concourse Pontiac	Stellantis
Sep 18th	WSU Detroit	Wayne State University
Oct 16th	Davenport University Grand Rapids	Davenport University

Connect people. Be a sponsor.
For more information contact Patricia Nava - pnava@mhcc.org
www.mhcc.org
*Dates/Times/Locations are subject to change

The 2025 lineup includes the following dates and venues

- June 19 – Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights (sponsored by LaSalle Construction)
- July 17 – M1 Concourse, Pontiac (sponsored by Stellantis)
- September 18 – Wayne State University, Detroit (sponsored by Wayne State University)
- October 16 – Davenport University, Grand Rapids (sponsored by Davenport University)

Each event will provide at-

tendees with the opportunity to meet and network with business professionals in different sectors, as well as explore key venues throughout Michigan. By rotating locations and sponsors, the series continues to showcase the economic and cultural diversity of the state's business ecosystem.

MHCC encourages early interest from those looking to participate or sponsor, with additional information and updates available at www.mhcc.org. Interested parties can also contact Patricia Nava at pnava@mhcc.org for sponsorship opportunities or event details.

Note: Dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

Latinx
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6-11
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www.latinxflint.org



Michigan Hispanic Chamber to host 15th annual supplier diversity event

BY MB STAFF

PLYMOUTH — Minority-owned businesses across Michigan will have a unique opportunity to connect directly with corporate buyers and supplier diversity professionals at the 15th Annual Supplier Diversity Matchmaker, hosted by the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (MHCC) on Thursday, June 12, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Saint John's Resort in Plymouth.

This annual event brings together Hispanic-, Minority-, Women-, and Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises (HBE, MBE, WBE, VBE) with purchasing professionals from across multiple industries, offering structured one-on-one matchmaking sessions aimed at fostering real procurement partnerships.

Designed as both a networking platform and a growth accelerator, the Matchmaker allows business owners to showcase their capabilities, exchange contact information, and explore contract opportunities with companies actively seeking diverse suppliers.

Participants can register as exhibitors or procurement representatives. Sponsorship opportunities are also available for organizations looking to support inclusive economic development and supplier diversity efforts.

Held at the elegant Saint John's Resort, this half-day event will feature exhibitor tables, corporate booths, and a full schedule of curated business meetings—making it a high-impact gathering for both emerging and established enterprises.

For more information or to register, contact Laura Geftos at lgeftos@mhcc.org, or scan the QR code on the event flyer to access registration links tailored to both exhibitors and corporate teams.

MHCC Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

— **15TH ANNUAL** —
SUPPLIER DIVERSITY
MATCHMAKER
— **HBE | MBE | WBE | VBE** —

Attention minority-owned businesses!
Looking to connect, showcase your products and services,
and engage one-on-one with purchasing and supplier diversity
professionals across multiple industries?
Join us!

REGISTER NOW!

Thursday,
June 12th, 2025

8:00 a.m - 1:00 p.m
Saint John's Resort
44045 Five Mile Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170

Sponsorships Opportunities
are available!

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For more information contact Laura Geftos: lgeftos@mhcc.org



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PRISCILLA GARCIA**

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TOPIC OF DISCUSSION

*Shaping our City's Future: A Town Hall
Meeting on the future of Saginaw*

TUESDAY

May 20, 2025



START AT

6:30PM - 8:00PM



SVRC BUILDING

203 S Washington Ave, Saginaw

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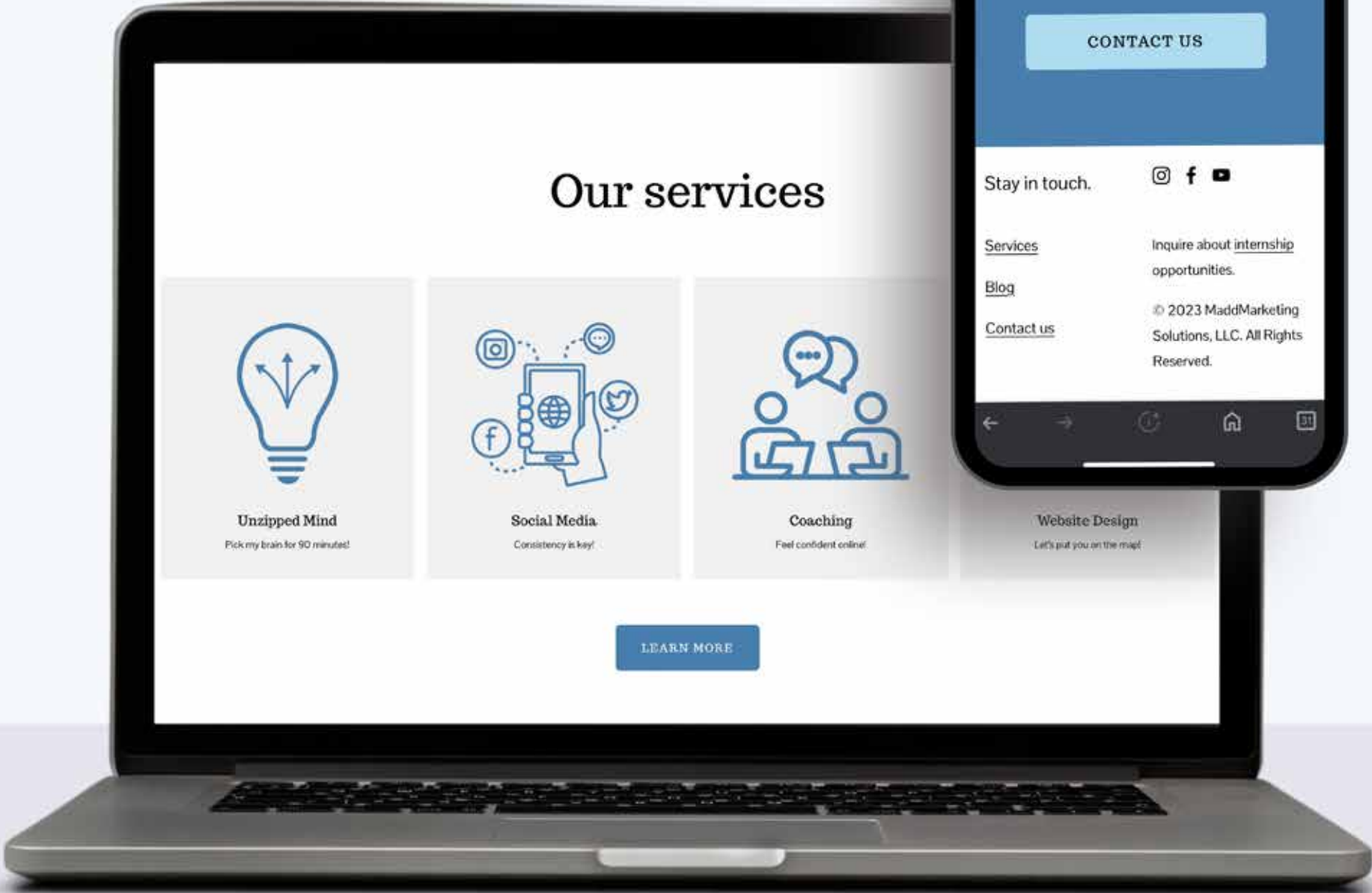
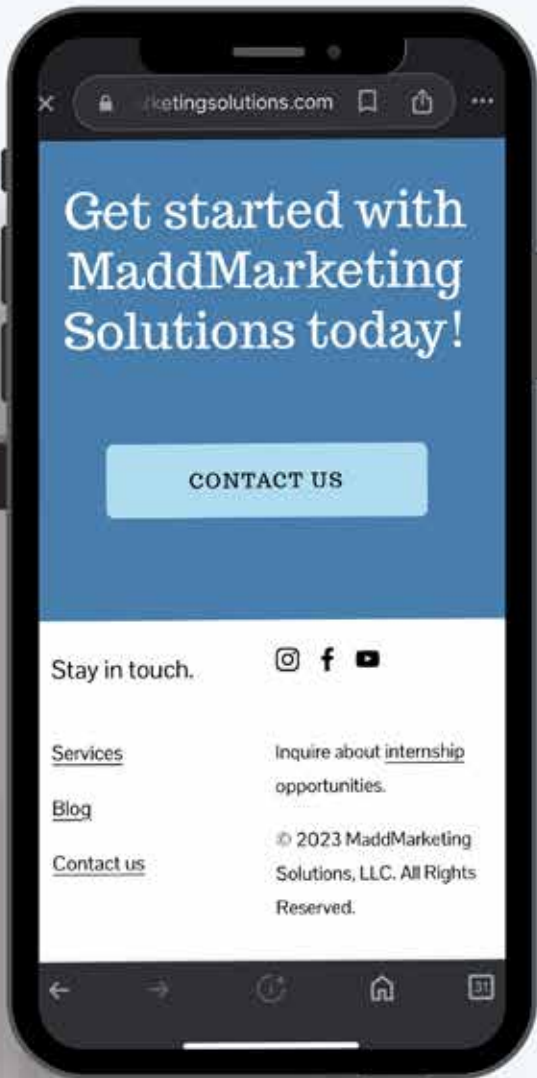
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COMMUNITY

Harlem Poet LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs named SVSU's 2025 Roethke Poetry Prize winner



LATASHA N. NEVADA DIGGS (PHOTO CREDIT: WILLY SOMMA)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs, an acclaimed interdisciplinary poet and sound artist from Harlem, has been named the 2025 recipient of the prestigious Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize. Her award-winning collection, *Village* (Coffee House Press, 2023), was selected by a panel of nationally recognized poets for its innovation,

musicality, and emotional depth.

The triennial prize, administered by Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU), includes a \$15,000 award and an invitation to accept the honor in person during the 2026 Theodore Roethke Poetry & Arts Festival. Diggs is scheduled to visit the SVSU campus in March 2026 for the award ceremony, which will take place on Tuesday, March 24.

"I am humbled by the news of receiving this award," Diggs

said. "To have my work voiced in the same breath, associated with the late Theodore Roethke is immense."

Diggs' *Village* stood out among a competitive field of entries. Judges Rigoberto González, Patricia Spears Jones, and Erika Meitner, all appointed by the Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress, praised the collection in their selection statement:

"Rooted in Harlem, *Village* by LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs, explodes with sonic energy and delivers a compelling chronicle of American despair and creativity. Diggs constructs an original, performance-rich text inhabited by multi-lingual characters, both kith and kin, who are flawed, complicated and caring. This book is a song to survival and persistence."

Known for blending poetry with performance and sound art, Diggs explores themes such as global inequality, displacement, and the legacy of migration. Her broader body of work includes the poetry collection *TwERK* (Belladonna, 2013), *In Search of Sugar Cane* (Dia Art Foundation, 2025), several chapbooks, and co-editing work on *Coon Bidness/SO4*, a journal of African American visual art and literature.

Her creative reach extends beyond the page—her work has been featured in major New York institutions including the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Museum of Modern Art. She is also the recipient of numerous accolades, including the 2020 C.D. Wright Award for Poetry and a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship.

Diggs holds a bachelor's de-

gree from New York University and earned an MFA in creative writing from California College of the Arts.

The Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize honors the legacy of Saginaw-born poet Theodore Roethke (1908–1963), one of the most celebrated American poets of the 20th century. Roethke won the Pulitzer Prize for *The Waking* in 1954 and twice received the National Book Award for Poetry. He taught at several institutions, including Michigan State University and the University of Washington.

Established in 1968, the Roethke Prize is awarded every three years to a living American poet for a book that has made a significant contribution to American poetry. The selection process is open to poets regardless of age, location, publication history, or subject matter. The prize is awarded for an individual book rather than lifetime achievement.

Diggs was one of four finalists for this year's prize. The other finalists included:

- Rick Barot, *Moving the Bones*, Milkweed Editions, 2024
- Robyn Schiff, *Information Desk*, Penguin, 2023
- m.s. Red Cherries, *mother*, Penguin, 2024

The 2026 Theodore Roethke Poetry & Arts Festival will take place from Friday, March 20 to Wednesday, March 25, featuring readings, discussions, and cultural events celebrating poetry and the arts.

For more information about the Roethke Poetry Prize and Festival, visit svsu.edu.

COMMUNITY

Debate over conference expenses overshadows budget review

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — For the main feature of their May 5 session, City Council members listened to management's presentation of the \$203 million overall budget for fiscal 2025-26, including \$45 million for the general fund, which is the focal point for the public service basics like police and fire.

The major discussion that evening, however, was regarding a proposed \$650 expense in this year's spending plan.

That's the sum Carly Hammond requested as reimbursement of her expenses to attend a multi-day conference on affordable housing.

After 20 minutes of back and forth, which may be viewed starting at 1:55 on the YouTube meeting video, Hammond prevailed on a 5-4 decision with support from Michael Balls, Monique Lamar Silvia, Eric Braddock and Heidi Wiggins. Opposed were Mayor Brenda Moore, Pro-Tem Priscilla Garcia, Bill Ostash and Jacinta Seals.

Hammond would have fallen short on a 4-4 tie if she had abstained based on conflict of interest, but nobody raised compensating oneself as an issue, and so the 5-4 vote prevailed.

She received the funds -- mostly \$500 for a pair of overnight hotel stays -- to take part in the Building Michigan Communities Conference, which was May 14-15 in Lansing, hosted by MSHDA, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

Opponents of the compensation noted that city administrators also would attend and report back, and that their own tax-funded council travels are restricted to events hosted by the National League of Cities and the Michigan Municipal League. Mayor Moore is the former MML board president.



SAGINAW CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MAY 5, 2025

Moore and Seals asserted that when they have taken part in other out-of-town workshops, they have dug into their own pockets to pay, while Garcia said she declined to attend last year's MSHDA confab at Mackinac Island because of the cost to taxpayers.

At one point, Garcia asserted, "I do go to MML, and the last time we went, Carly wasn't in all the sessions. I'm not sure what she was doing."

This drew a rebuke from Silvia, who concluded, "We really need to watch what we say, because some stuff is not necessary."

Hammond is one of four council newcomers along with Braddock, Seals and Wiggins. She has been cast as a gadfly even prior to her election last November, when Reggie Williams dropped his plans to step down, upon learning she was on the ballot. He instead challenged her as a rare write-in incumbent -- too late to place his name on the ballot -- with support from Moore, Garcia, and others in the leadership inner circle. Hammond pre-

vailed by a wide margin for a separate two-year term.

Williams is Buena Vista's police chief and a former Saginaw city officer. During the campaign, he told a forum audience that his main issue with Hammond was that she was anti-police, reflected in her leadership of a local protest march after the 2020 Minneapolis police slaying of George Floyd.

Hammond has lost several 8-1 votes since taking office, most notably on her proposal for Saginaw to take a stand against President Trump's immigration crackdown policies. Other members, including the quartet who backed her on the MSHDA conference comp, said protesting Trump could be counterproductive, "not worth it," and place their basic federal funding at risk for an array of needed purposes,

Few Budget Changes

Before the flap over conference travel expenses, Finance Director Yolanda Bland outlined a general fund that has increased 1.3 percent, with employee pay

raise set at 2 percent under labor agreements approved by the previous council. Her presentation begins at the meeting's 47-minute mark.

She said sharp increases in health insurance costs remain a major burden, with next year's 30 percent increase the highest in her 18 years of experience at City Hall.

Police at \$18 million and fire at \$10 million comprise 60 percent of the spending plan, following the patterns of recent years. Even so, the cops continue to rely on state police patrols and the southeast Hess Fire Station remains closed.

The budget document is available at saginaw-mi.com. Bland advises everyday citizens to focus on pages 31 to 59, which contain an overview that is readable in layman's terms.

In one new development, Public Services Director Phil Karwat said the \$240 trash fee will remain frozen for the fourth year in a row, but a \$10 increase is likely next year.

COMMUNITY

Basketball, beats, and building trust: State Police bring youth engagement events to Saginaw and Flint



INKSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATE IN BASKETBALL COPS EVENT

BY MB STAFF

LANSGING — Michigan State Police troopers are trading their cruisers for courts this summer as the Basketball Cop initiative returns for a second year, bringing youth-focused community engagement to 11 cities across the state—including Saginaw on June 12 and Flint on July 19.

The initiative, led by the Michigan State Police (MSP) in partnership with local law enforcement and community organizations, is designed to foster stronger relationships between officers and youth through basketball, food, music, and games. The events are free, family-friendly, and open to the public.

In Saginaw, the Basketball Cop event will take place Thursday, June 12, from 12 p.m. to 3

p.m. at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, located at 3121 Sheridan Avenue. Just over a month later, the MSP “Troopers on Tour” will arrive in Flint for another installment on Saturday, July 19, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at

230 W. 3rd Street.

Now in its second year, the initiative builds on the success of its 2024 launch, which saw over 950 participants and 400 youth engaged in just three cities. This year’s expansion includes

Saginaw, Flint, Lansing, Detroit, Highland Park, Muskegon Heights, and more, reflecting a growing effort to create informal spaces where positive interactions between police and young people can flourish.

Activities include pickup basketball games, cornhole, dancing, food trucks, and information about law enforcement careers—designed not only for fun but also as an opportunity to educate and inspire.

The events are supported by local police departments, faith-based groups, and civic leaders who see them as part of broader efforts to improve public safety through relationship-building and trust.

With an emphasis on mentorship, open dialogue, and positive visibility, Basketball Cop is part of the Michigan State Police’s long-term community engagement strategy aimed at early intervention and holistic support.

Community members in Saginaw and Flint are encouraged to attend and bring their families, with no registration required.

For more information about Basketball Cop events statewide, visit Michigan.gov/MSP.



COMMUNITY

Saginaw Conservation District Seeks Applicants for board vacancy

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Saginaw Conservation District is inviting qualified residents to apply for an open seat on its Board of Directors following the recent resignation of board member Nicholas A. Dague. The appointed individual will serve the remainder of Dague's term, which expires on March 21, 2027.

The Board of Directors plays a vital role in guiding the mission and operations of the district, which has served the Saginaw

community since 1947. Comprised of five members, the board helps oversee local conservation efforts and programs aimed at protecting and preserving natural resources throughout Saginaw County.

To be eligible, applicants must be registered voters and residents of Saginaw County. Interested individuals can access a detailed information packet outlining the responsibilities, qualifications, and selection process at www.SaginawCD.com or by contacting the district office.

Applications are being ac-

cepted through 4:30 p.m. on June 9, 2025. Completed submissions may be delivered in person to the district office at 178 N. Graham Rd., Saginaw, MI 48609, during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

For more information or to request an application packet, contact District Administrator Heather Hart at (989) 781-1720 ext. 5 or via email at Saginawcd@gmail.com.

The Saginaw Conservation District's mission is to conserve and protect natural resources



through education, outreach, and partnerships. To learn more about the district and its programs, visit SaginawCD.com.

AAFA-Michigan launches free asthma education program for Saginaw County residents

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America – Michigan Chapter (AAFA-MI) is currently seeking participants for its HEAL (Health Equity Advancement through Learning) asthma education program. This no-cost initiative aims to improve asthma management and reduce health disparities among adults in Saginaw County.

The HEAL program is designed to advance overall wellness by improving access to specialty care, assessing environmental factors in the home, and providing comprehensive asthma self-management education. A total of 30 individuals will be selected to participate.



MAN WITH ASTHMA (FILE PHOTO)

- Eligible participants must:
- Be 18 years or older
- Reside in Saginaw County
- Have a physician's diagnosis of asthma
- Have experienced healthcare inequities

Participants in the program will receive practical tools, educational resources, and supportive services to help manage asthma symptoms and improve daily quality of life. In addition, incentives such as wellness gifts and prizes will be offered throughout

the program.

Over the past two years, AAFA-MI has reported a 44% reduction in asthma emergencies among previous participants—highlighting the potential impact of consistent education and community-based support.

Those interested in joining the HEAL program can apply by visiting: <https://forms.gle/YE6iytPTFoN7eER6>

For more information about the program or AAFA-Michigan's broader initiatives, visit www.aafa.org.



POSITIVE RESULTS DOWNTOWN SAGINAW
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN DOWNTOWN!

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE CONCERT LINEUP

5:30 - 9:00 PM



50TH ANNIVERSARY BASH
PESKY KID
WONDERLOVE
JULY 11TH



DOWNTOWN HOEDOWN
CLAIM JUMPERS
WAYLON HANEL
JULY 18



FIESTA GRANDE
LOS AZTECAS
GRUPO VICIO
JULY 25



RIVERFRONT BLUES NIGHT
PRIDE AND JOY, JIM PAGEL BAND
SHARRIE WILLIAMS
AUGUST 1



THAT 70'S NIGHT
TOM PETTY TRIBUTE
DISCO DISCO
AUGUST 8



MOTOWN MUSIC FEST
CHARLES ALLEN
PERSUASION BAND
AUGUST 15

Contact us at 989-753-9168 or
annmarie@prideinsaginaw.org for more info.

2025 TITLE SPONSORS



COMMUNITY

Victorious Community Development invites public to preview future Bishop Marvin C. Pryor IMPACT Center

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Victorious Community Development (VCD) is inviting the public to a Hard Hat Tour of the future Bishop Marvin C. Pryor Impact Center, offering a first look at plans to transform the former Trinity Lutheran Church and School into a community-centered space focused on education, creativity, and opportunity.

The tours, scheduled for May 19 and May 22, will give attendees a chance to walk through the current structure before renovations begin. Though still in its early stages, the site represents a bold vision for revitalizing a historic property into a dynamic hub for youth and family development in Saginaw.

Plans for the Impact Center include creating a state-of-the-art facility where students will engage in academic enrichment, social-emotional learning, and hands-on experiences in areas like robotics, 3D printing, engineering, and the arts. The project also aims to address long-standing gaps in access to quality afterschool programming and personalized tutoring services in urban communities.

Once complete, the renovated space will offer certified educator support for homework, parent-teacher collaboration, and programs designed to encourage student engagement both inside and outside the classroom. The center is also expected to play a role in eliminating blight, promoting safety, and advancing broader community revitalization efforts.

The Bishop Marvin C. Pryor Impact Center is expected to open in January 2026. VCD's leadership believes the project will serve as a model for how educational investment can drive long-term change, build confidence, and uplift families across Saginaw.

Community members, partners, and prospective supporters are encouraged to attend one of the upcoming Hard Hat Tours to learn more about the project and how to get involved.

For more information or to RSVP, visit www.govcd.org.



See the Vision. Catch the Vision. Live the Vision.

Victorious Community Development cordially invites you to step inside the future! Join us for a

Hard Hat Tour

of the

Bishop Marvin C. Pryor Community Development Center –
a place dedicated to empowering families, restoring hope, and building a stronger Saginaw



This event will be held at:

**346 S. 9th Street
Saginaw, Michigan**



You may choose from one of the following dates:

Monday, May 19, 2025 * 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Thursday, May 22, 2025 * 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Light refreshments will be served

To RSVP, please send email with your name & date choice to:
info@govcd.org



COMMUNITY

Group support for personal memoir authors

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — You may have heard someone say, "I should write a book about my life story." Maybe you have expressed this yourself. But how often does it actually happen?

A gathering at Hoyt Library, May 21 at 2:30 p.m., could offer a starting point.

The monthly third-Wednesday meeting of Hoyt's Memoir Reading & Writing Club, always seeking new members, will explore "The Art of Memoir" by Mary Karr. Participation is free of charge.

Coordinator Jeff Easlick, a program assistant at Hoyt, says an example of facing what may seem an overwhelming endeavor could be to draft an essay on one specific life event, even if it took place years ago. This focuses the task on something specific, providing a building block to get started. Other advice will come forth during the meeting, slated to conclude within an hour and a half.

An advance reading of Karr's book would prove helpful but is not required. It's available via a catalog search entry at the top of saginawlibrary.org.

Easlick is a 1990 Hemlock High School grad who studied creative writing and performed graduate work at Penn State University. He organizes club members to share and critique one another's writing samples, in mutual support.

"We will discuss what makes a good or bad memoir and how to get started," he noted. "We will read published examples of book-length memoirs and personal essays; we will read non-fiction books on strategies for how to write; and we will workshop pieces of your own writing, getting feedback on your writing from the entire group."

The registration link is saginawlibrary.org/event/memoir-readingwriting-club-27366, or call (989) 755-0904, ext. 2 for the reference desk.



SAGINAW COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR THE PEOPLE

THE FIRST 100

A GLANCE AT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S FIRST 100 DAYS & ITS EFFECTS ON THE COMMUNITY

- POLICY CHANGES
- LOCAL IMPACT
- COMMUNITY VOICES
- WHAT COMES NEXT

**CAC
MAY 19
6-8PM**

GET INFORMED. GET INVOLVED.

Follow us for updates: @SaginawCAP

COMMUNITY

Midland to host national pickleball tournament as APP Tour makes first stop in Great Lakes Bay Region

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND — The Great Lakes Bay Region is preparing to welcome one of the fastest-growing sports in the country as the Association of Pickleball Players (APP) brings its national tour to Midland for the first time. The 2025 APP Great Lakes Open will be held August 13–17 at the Greater Midland Tennis Center, marking a major addition to the region's growing portfolio of high-profile sporting events.

The APP Great Lakes Open will feature top professional pickleball players from around the world competing for gold medals and \$100,000 in cash prizes. The five-day event will also be open to amateur players across a wide range of age groups and skill levels, from 3.0 to pro, with competition broadcast before a national television audience.

The Greater Midland Tennis Center, one of the Midwest's premier racquet sports facilities, recently expanded to include new pickleball courts—an investment that helped secure this national event. The venue already hosts renowned tournaments such as the Dow Tennis Classic and Dow Championship, and the APP Great Lakes Open adds another professional event to the city's growing reputation as a sports destination.

In addition to professional-level matches, the tournament presents unique opportunities for amateur players. Participants who medal at the event will earn an APP Passport, allowing early registration for the 2025 APP Tour Championships in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. As a USA Pickleball-designated “Golden Ticket” event, gold medal winners will also qualify for priority registration at the 2026 USA Pickleball



APP GREAT LAKES Open

REGISTER NOW!

AUG. 13-17
GREATER MIDLAND TENNIS CENTER, MICHIGAN

**TO REGISTER,
VISIT: THEAPP.GLOBAL**

2025 APP GREAT LAKES OPEN

National Championships.

Registration for both amateur and professional divisions is now open at theapp.global, with a deadline of August 3. Players are encouraged to register early due to limited availability.

Local officials anticipate a sig-

nificant economic impact from the event, which is expected to draw athletes, fans, and media to the region. The tournament underscores Midland's continued growth as a hub for sports tourism and highlights the potential of local investment in recreation-

al infrastructure.

More details, including ticket information and event schedules, will be released in the coming weeks. For updates, visit theapp.global or follow the APP on social media.

COMMUNITY

Pope Leo XIV's Creole heritage brings historical depth to church's leadership



PHOTO CREDIT: EDGAR BELTRÁN, THE PILLAR

BY MB STAFF

Pope Leo XIV has drawn worldwide attention not only for the future direction of the Catholic Church but also for the historical and cultural significance of his background. As more details emerge, scholars and observers are reflecting on his Creole heritage—a rarely acknowledged lineage in the papacy's history that links the new pope to the com-

plex story of race, migration, and identity in the United States.

Recent reports confirm that Pope Leo XIV's maternal grandparents were Black or mixed-race Creoles who migrated from New Orleans to Chicago in the early 20th century. Historical records and family research suggest the family had been free people of color before the Civil War, part of a distinctive Creole community in Louisiana that often occupied a unique position in America's

racial and cultural landscape.

"The family were free people of color prior to the Civil War. When they moved to Chicago between 1910 and 1912, they 'passed' into the white world," said Jari Honora, a historian at the Historic New Orleans Collection, in an interview with CNN.

Historical documents describe Pope Leo XIV's maternal grandfather, Joseph Martinez, as a Black cigarmaker from "Hayti"—a term sometimes used

to describe Haiti but also historically applied to people of Afro-Caribbean descent in general. Other records list his birthplace as Louisiana or the Dominican Republic, highlighting the ambiguous and often shifting racial classifications of the era.

The migration of Creole families from the South to northern cities like Chicago during the early 20th century was part of a broader movement shaped by racial hierarchies and the pursuit of economic and social stability. For many Creoles of mixed ancestry, navigating a world structured around rigid Black and white identities required complex decisions—sometimes including "passing" as white to gain access to employment, housing, and education.

In that context, Pope Leo XIV's roots tell a larger story—one that intersects with American history, diaspora identity, and the legacy of colonialism. His rise to the papacy offers a moment of reflection on how stories of race, heritage, and migration continue to shape global institutions in unexpected ways.

While the Vatican has not formally commented on the new pope's racial background, the revelation has sparked interest and conversation within religious, academic, and cultural communities. It marks a significant moment for representation, particularly for communities whose histories have often been omitted or simplified in traditional narratives.

Though the full implications of Pope Leo XIV's heritage may take time to unfold, his election serves as a reminder that the Catholic Church, long rooted in European tradition, continues to evolve—and that its leadership now reflects an increasingly global and interconnected world.

COMMUNITY

Begin kindergarten prep early

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

Whether or not a child has experienced Head Start or other structured preschool education, 15 minutes of daily "homework" through the summer can help them prepare for becoming big kids in kindergarten when September rolls around.

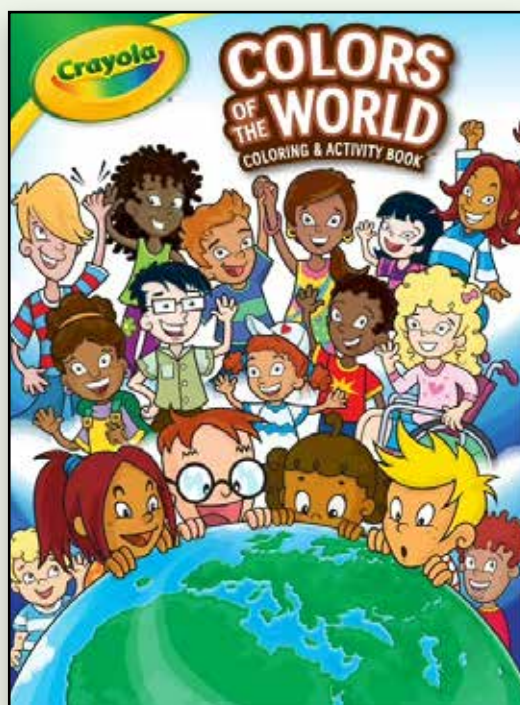
Something as simple as a coloring book and crayons is positive, but look a little harder to find workbooks and activity books that teach basics like numbers and the alphabet. Keep the schedule regular, not simply for prolonged rainy days.

Those first days of school will prove more positive if the youngster is prepared to keep up in the classroom.



School Zone Big Preschool Workbook

A-B-C's and 1-2-3's are highlighted on the cover, but colors and shapes also are featured. Lessons are blended, for example, a red fruit spelled a-p-p-l-e, and there are three of them, and their shape is round. An online curriculum is offered, along with flash cards and "start to read" book samples.



Crayola Colors of the World Coloring & Activity Book

Children are exposed to inclusive multiculturalism while visiting such sites as the pyramids in Egypt, an Aztec temple in Mexico, and Niagara Falls on the border with Canada. Among the challenges: Draw oneself hiking in the Amazon rainforest, or surfing on the Pacific Ocean waves along the beaches in Hawaii.



Ask Me Sticker Time!

A hardcover book with a coffee-table look may be the last place you expect to discover stickers, and a sticker book the last place you figure to find a "curriculum director." Youngsters will show creativity within a disciplined approach that leads to counting, colors, reading and all the basics.



You may not need to shop at a thrift store or attend a library sales. Simply check the deepest reaches of your attic, closet or garage. You never know what you may find.

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

COMMUNITY

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe hosts full lineup of Summer events



SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE POW WOW (FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

MOUNT PLEASANT – The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan is preparing to host a robust series of events this summer, centered on wellness, culture, community, and connection. From traditional healing clinics and youth engagement to community races, walks, and celebrations, the upcoming events reflect the Tribe's continued commitment to holistic health and cultural preservation.

Youth & Family Traditional Healing Clinic – May 20

The season begins with the Youth & Family Traditional Healing Clinic on Tuesday, May 20, from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1–3 p.m. at the Behavioral Health

building (2800 S. Shepherd Rd., Mt. Pleasant). Led by Joe Syrette, a recognized Traditional Healer, the clinic will offer teachings, traditional medicines, and spiritual guidance. Youth ages 10–24 will be prioritized, though families and community members are welcome. The clinic follows established protocols for respectful participation and is part of the Tribe's Native Connections initiative.

Wii-Niibin (It's Summer) Celebration – May 28

On Wednesday, May 28, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., the community is invited to the Wii-Niibin Celebration at Wii Maajikwad (2875 Gikendaaso Way, Mt. Pleasant). This free event will feature BBQ, photo booths, games, and door prizes. Hosted with support from

Project AWARE, the gathering celebrates the arrival of summer with joy, outdoor activities, and cultural pride.

33rd Annual Human Race – June 11

Health and fitness take the spotlight on Wednesday, June 11 during the 33rd Annual Human Race at the Seventh Generation Elijah Elk Cultural Center. Featuring a 5K run and 1-mile fun run/walk, registration runs from 5–6 p.m., with the race starting at 5:50 p.m. Handcrafted Cedar Eagle Feather awards will be given to top finishers, and all participants will receive a commemorative T-shirt and post-race dinner. Organized by Nim-kee Fitness, the event encourages healthy living and community unity.

Intertribal Open Golf Tournament – July 25

The Intertribal Open Golf Tournament returns on Friday, July 25 at Maple Creek Golf Course (8400 S. Genuine Rd., Shepherd). The three-person scramble tees off at 9:30 a.m., with registration open to Native American Tribal Members and their descendants. The event features door prizes, hot dogs, and hamburgers. Registration is \$50 per person and due by July 10 at 12 p.m. Lodging is available at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort. The tournament fosters intertribal connection through friendly competition and community engagement.

36th Annual Freedom Walk – July 26

The following day, on Saturday, July 26, the Tribe will host the 36th Annual Freedom Walk to honor individuals and families in recovery. The event begins with registration at 7:00 a.m., followed by an opening prayer at 7:30 a.m., an honoring ceremony at 8:00 a.m., and the walk at 9:00 a.m. The event location will be announced soon. Supported by organizations including Project AWARE, PEER 360, and Behavioral Health Services, the Freedom Walk emphasizes healing, reflection, and resilience.

Each event is open to the public and designed to celebrate culture, promote wellness, and strengthen the ties that bind community members together. For registration details or more information, visit www.sagchip.org or contact the event coordinators listed on each flyer.

COMMUNITY

Saginaw Juneteenth Freedom Parade and Festival will honor faith, family, and finance



2024 JUNETEENTH PARADE

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The streets of downtown Saginaw will come alive with energy, celebration, and community spirit as the city hosts its annual Juneteenth Freedom Parade and Festival on Saturday, June 21. The event, themed "Faith, Family, & Finance," will honor the history of Black liberation while highlighting cultural pride and community advancement.

The celebration kicks off with the Freedom Parade beginning at 11 a.m., starting at Hoyt Park and making its way along Washington Avenue, concluding at the historic Old Farmers Market at Morley Plaza. Parade participation is open to local groups and organizations for a \$35 entry fee, with line-up beginning at 9 a.m. Spectators are invited to attend

for free. Immediately following the parade, the festivities will continue at Morley Plaza from noon to 5 p.m., where the Freedom Festival will feature food, live entertainment, community programming, and activities for all ages. Vendor booths are available for \$125 (food) and \$75 (non-food), offering opportunities for local businesses, nonprofits, and artisans to showcase their work.

The day's events will include:

- Future Ballers Basketball Tournament presented by COSBE Inc. & Pride 21 (starting at noon)
- Helmet Giveaway by the Malcolm Fields Neurology Foundation
- Kid Zone Activities for families and children
- 50/50 Raffle from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Festival DJ Sounds

- beginning at 12 p.m.
- Welcome and Juneteenth History presentation by Pastor Kareem Bowen at 1 p.m.
- Community Spotlight at 1:15 p.m.
- Juneteenth Jubilee Performance at 2:30 p.m.
- Presentations at 3 p.m.
- Hustle Time community dance at 3:30 p.m.

This year's Grand Marshal and Juneteenth Honoree is Pastor Chris V. Pryor of Victorious Believers Ministries, recognized for his leadership in faith-based outreach and community development. Under his guidance, Victorious Community Development (VCD) has spearheaded major initiatives including affordable housing construction, the expansion of the Mel A. Pryor Pantry, and the upcoming open-

ing of the Bishop Marvin C. Pryor Community Center—a space dedicated to youth education and empowerment.

Pastor Pryor's commitment to uplifting the Saginaw community through collaborative partnerships and neighborhood revitalization reflects the event's broader themes of unity, resilience, and progress.

The Juneteenth Celebration in Saginaw continues to serve as a vibrant platform to honor the legacy of emancipation, while championing education, economic development, and cultural pride. Attendees are encouraged to bring their families, support local vendors, and take part in a day dedicated to community connection and historical reflection.

For additional event details or to register as a vendor or participant, visit: www.saginawjuneteenthcelebration.com.



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

Democrats must focus on issues, local leader says



BRANDELL ADAMS, CHAIR OF THE SAGINAW COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Brandell Adams, in his first year as chairman of the Saginaw County Democratic Party, says opposition to President Trump must go beyond protests.

He has taken part in some of the local rallies, which peaked recently with a gathering of 300 at the Meijer on Gratiot Road, but he asserts that these events are only a forerunner to an overall response.

"Ever since 2015, Democrats have been viewed as the anti-Trump party," he explains. "We have not succeeded in putting forth our own proposals as alternatives."

To accomplish this goal, Dems in Saginaw are preparing to knock on doors and engage

citizens on concerns that address their daily lives, Trump or no Trump. One example of many is action on a growing lack of affordable housing.

Adams, 35, is an accounting professional who first engaged in politics a decade ago as assistant treasurer and then chief treasurer for the Dems in Saginaw. After years in support of other candidates, he ran for office himself and won election in Bridgeport Township, where he served four years.

Through the years, like many progressive Democrats across the nation, he became disenchanted with the strategies set nationally and followed locally, which he views as overly cautious in representing ethnic minorities and alternative gender identities.

Still, with his finance background, he feels the best way to

gain voters -- to win over traditional Democrat-leaners who have strayed -- is to emphasize the effects on pocketbooks and purses.

"Over the past 100 years, there has been no level of economic inequality like we have today," Adams summarizes.

Different type of bio

Many activists were reared in political homes where the elders were role models in studying the issues and campaigning for candidates.

Adams, in contrast, grew up in foster care, which caused frequent changes in schools. He recalls serving on a student council at Saginaw's Loomis Elementary, but that was it for youthful "politics" until his eventual graduation from Bridgeport High School

in 2008.

He has achieved a bachelor's degree in psychology from Saginaw Valley State University, and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appointed him to the Michigan Board of Psychology after he became active with the local Democratic Party. He is studying online for a master's in municipal administration from Regent University, a private Christian college in Virginia Beach, Va.

He recently gave up his seat on the Bridgeport Township Board of Trustees to focus on his new leadership role. He works two full-time jobs -- salaried as an account executive for Marriott Hotels, and volunteering to chair the Saginaw Democrats.

Like many African-Americans in politics, starting with President Obama, Adams strives to represent his ethnicity without being typecast by his race. He describes himself as someone who aims "to work for solutions, rather than just complaining."

He says he understands why an array of national Black leaders, commentators and organizers have urged nonparticipation in the Trump protests, based on the premise that minority voters have provided numerous margins of victory for Democrats, going back to 1960, John Kennedy over Richard Nixon, all the way up to 2020, when Joe Biden needed Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina to win decisive Black votes against Trump.

His response: Don't join the protests if you do not feel inspired to do so, but do not totally drop out. As an alternative, pick specific concerns to work on and to advocate for. He is forming a Black Caucus in a quest to build participation.

Adams can be reached via his own Facebook page.

POLITICS

McDonald Rivet unveils federal public safety funding push during National Police Week



CONGRESSWOMAN MCDONALD RIVET HELD A NEWS CONFERENCE WITH SAGINAW DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF MATTHEW GEROW ON MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025.

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Congresswoman Kristen McDonald Rivet (MI-08) marked the start of National Police Week with a press conference alongside Saginaw Deputy Police Chief Matthew Gerow to announce a slate of federal funding requests and bipartisan legislative proposals aimed at supporting law enforcement agencies across mid-Michigan.

Standing before law enforcement officials and community leaders, McDonald Rivet outlined her efforts to secure targeted investments through the federal Community Project Funding Initiative. The proposals are part of her push to include public safety support in the Fiscal Year 2026 federal budget.

“Our men and women in uniform deserve the tools and resources they need to do their jobs effectively and safely,” McDonald Rivet said. “This initiative

reflects our shared commitment to public safety and to those who serve on the front lines.”

Among the requests highlighted was a proposal from the Saginaw Police Department to upgrade outdated equipment and invest in advanced crime-fighting technology.

“This technology and equipment will help ensure the safety of both our officers and the public,” said Deputy Chief Gerow. “We appreciate the Congresswoman’s efforts to prioritize innovative policing strategies that serve everyone who lives, works, and worships in Saginaw.”

The Bay County Sheriff’s Department is seeking funds to modernize its patrol vehicle fleet and acquire a specialized search-and-rescue trailer aimed at reducing emergency response times.

“With updated vehicles and dive team resources, we can respond more efficiently and effectively,” said Bay County Sheriff

Troy Cunningham. “We’re grateful for the Congresswoman’s support and her understanding of the real needs we face.”

The Michigan State Police request focuses on safety gear and technology upgrades designed to protect officers in the field.

“Every dollar would go directly toward essential tools that help us keep mid-Michigan residents safe,” said Colonel James F. Grady II, director of the Michigan State Police.

The Flushing Police Department is also requesting funds for new patrol vehicles, bulletproof vests, radios, and related safety gear.

“This funding would allow us to replace aging equipment and better protect the families we serve,” said Flushing Police Chief Steve Colosky.

In addition to the funding requests, McDonald Rivet voiced support for a package of bipartisan bills designed to strengthen public safety and officer sup-

port across the country. These include:

- The Invest to Protect Act of 2025, which would provide grants to small police departments to aid in recruitment, training, and retention.
- The Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act, expanding benefits for families of officers affected by service-related cancers.
- The HELPER Act, offering down payment-free home loans for first responders and educators.
- The Combating Organized Retail Crime Act, establishing a federal response to rising retail theft operations.
- The Protecting First Responders from Secondary Exposure Act, equipping departments with containment tools and training to manage exposure to dangerous narcotics.
- The HERO Act, focusing on mental health support and treatment for emergency personnel.

McDonald Rivet emphasized her long-standing record of public safety support, dating back to her tenure on the Bay City Commission and later as a Michigan State Senator. Her legislative career has included efforts to expand law enforcement training, fund local safety initiatives, and support community-based violence prevention programs. During her 2022 congressional campaign, she received endorsements from several law enforcement associations and officials, including the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police.

As National Police Week continues, McDonald Rivet said she remains committed to advancing measures that prioritize safety for both officers and the communities they serve.

POLITICS

Michigan leaders defend universal school meals as federal cuts loom



SCHOOL LUNCH (FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

LANSGING — As federal policymakers consider proposals that could dramatically scale back access to free and reduced-price meals in schools, Michigan education leaders are reinforcing the vital role that universal school meal programs play in supporting student health and academic performance.

During a recent State Board of Education meeting, officials from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and local school districts highlighted the impact of the Michigan School Meals initiative, which currently

ensures that every public school student in the state has access to one free breakfast and one free lunch each school day.

The renewed attention comes amid proposed federal changes that would narrow the criteria for meal eligibility, potentially disqualifying millions of students across the country. According to the Food Research & Action Center, such cuts could significantly reduce the reach of school nutrition programs nationwide.

“Nutrition and wellness education are essential to help build strong and healthy communities,” said Mandy Sosnowski, Director of Food and Nutrition Services at Utica Community Schools. “Be-

cause of Michigan School Meals, we were able to hire a registered dietitian that not only focuses on nutrition education in the classroom but also holds community wellness events.”

Sosnowski reported a notable increase in student participation since the state adopted universal school meals. Her district has seen a 63% rise in breakfast participation and a 69% increase in lunches served—a shift many attribute to the elimination of financial and social barriers for families.

The Michigan School Meals program leverages a combination of federal funding and state support to provide meals at no

cost to all public school students. Michigan is currently one of only eight states in the nation offering universal school meals, placing it among the leaders in student nutrition access.

Meals served through the program must meet the strict federal nutrition standards established by the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program, with a growing emphasis on local sourcing. Through initiatives like 10 Cents a Meal for Michigan’s Kids & Farms, schools receive additional grant funding to purchase Michigan-grown produce, supporting both student wellness and the state’s agricultural economy.

Beyond nourishment, advocates say the benefits of the program are far-reaching. It helps eliminate lunch shaming, reduces meal debt for families, and streamlines administrative tasks for school staff—making the system more equitable and efficient.

“Students who benefit from nutritious meals during the school year and the summer have a better opportunity to achieve and to perform well in school,” said State Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice. “The Michigan Department of Education’s food and nutrition efforts are a part of Goal 3 of Michigan’s Top 10 Strategic Education Plan, which focuses on strategies designed to improve the health, safety, and wellness of all learners.”

As federal debate continues, Michigan’s education and nutrition leaders are urging policymakers to recognize the long-term educational, social, and economic value of investing in school meal programs—and to preserve support for what many now view as a critical public service.

HEALTH

Covenant HealthCare unveils renovated SART suite to support survivors of sexual violence

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — In a significant step forward for trauma-informed care, Covenant HealthCare has completed a comprehensive remodel of its Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) suite. The redesigned space, made possible through community partnerships and grant funding, is now better equipped to support survivors of sexual violence with privacy, dignity, and comfort.

Located away from the hustle of main hospital corridors, the updated SART suite includes a private sitting room, an exam room, and a full bathroom with a shower, all connected by a quiet

hallway. The redesign was purposefully crafted to create a calm, healing environment for individuals in crisis.

“This space was created with survivors in mind,” said Allison Dakos, Crisis Services Coordinator at the Sexual Assault Center (SAC). “Every detail—from the furniture to the lighting—was chosen to reduce stress and offer a sense of safety. The environment now matches the compassionate care our team has always delivered.”

Renovation highlights include new flooring, fresh paint, updated furnishings, soft lighting, and welcoming décor. The transformation was made pos-



THE PRIVATE EXAM ROOM, PART OF COVENANT HEALTHCARE'S UPDATED SART SUITE (PHOTO COURTESY OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES OF SAGINAW)



THE NEWLY RENOVATED FAMILY ROOM IN COVENANT HEALTHCARE'S SART SUITE (PHOTO COURTESY OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES OF SAGINAW)

sible through the support of several local organizations and programs:

- Covenant HealthCare Foundation provided funding for new flooring
- Saginaw Community Foundation's HSC Cares Grant supplied paint and materials
- The Sexual Assault Center utilized VOCA grant dollars for furniture and décor
- Covenant staff handled painting and furniture assembly
- SAC and Michigan Forensic Examiner (MFE) staff led interior design and setup

Lindsey Bulgrien, CEO and Nursing Director of Michigan Forensic Examiners, emphasized the impact of the remodel. “This SART suite is one of the most frequently used in our region. Of-

fering an alternative to the traditional Emergency Department setting, it allows survivors to receive care in a more peaceful and supportive environment.”

The remodel reflects a shared commitment among healthcare providers, advocates, and community partners to center survivors in every step of the healing process.

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual violence, 24/7 support is available through the Saginaw Sexual Assault Hotline at (989) 790-9118. To learn more about the Sexual Assault Center or request a presentation about SART services, contact Allison Dakos at (989) 790-7500 or email adakos@sac-saginaw.org.

For more information about the Sexual Assault Center, visit childandfamilysaginaw.org. To learn about Michigan Forensic Examiners, visit michiganforensicexaminers.com.

HEALTH

Michigan prepares for rising summer temperatures with statewide heat safety measures

BY MB STAFF

LANSGING — With summer approaching and temperatures expected to rise across the state, Michigan health officials are encouraging residents to take precautions against heat-related illnesses.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has released seasonal guidance emphasizing the importance of hydration, limiting outdoor activity during peak heat hours, and monitoring at-risk individuals, including young children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing medical conditions.

Heat exhaustion and heat



FILE PHOTO

stroke are among the most common seasonal health concerns, especially during periods of prolonged high temperatures. Symptoms can include dizziness, nausea, muscle cramps, and con-

fusion. Health agencies recommend staying indoors during the hottest parts of the day, wearing lightweight clothing, and using fans or air conditioning when available.

To support public safety, many local agencies and non-profits across Michigan are activating cooling centers and distributing resources such as water and electric fans. Residents are also advised to stay informed of weather alerts and to avoid leaving children or pets unattended in vehicles.

Additional resources, including a list of statewide cooling centers and summer health tips, are available at michigan.gov/mdhhs.

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EDUCATION

The overlooked link between public education and mental health



MRS. DEBRA WYATT-MCCAIN

BY MB STAFF

As conversations around youth mental health grow louder nationwide, one institution remains at the center of both the challenge and the solution: public education.

Each day, more than 50 million students walk through the doors of America's public schools—not just to learn math, science, and literature, but to grow emotionally, socially, and psychologically. In many cases, schools are the first line of defense in recognizing mental health concerns. Yet, the support systems in place often face overwhelming demand, limited funding, and inconsistent access.

With Mental Health Awareness Month underway, educators, mental health professionals, and policymakers are taking a closer look at how America's public education system is—or isn't—meeting the growing mental health needs of students.

The classroom as a mental health setting

Public schools have long

served a dual purpose: academic instruction and social development. But as mental health issues among children and teens continue to rise—exacerbated by the pandemic, social media, and systemic stressors—schools have become de facto mental health providers for many families.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, nearly 70% of public schools reported an increase in students seeking mental health services in recent years. Yet less than half reported having sufficient staff to handle the demand.

Guidance counselors, school psychologists, and social workers are often tasked with supporting hundreds—sometimes thousands—of students. In some rural and low-income districts, these professionals are absent altogether, leaving teachers and administrators to manage emotional crises alongside academic instruction.

Why schools matter in mental health

Schools provide unique access to children and adolescents dur-

ing critical developmental years. Teachers often notice early warning signs: changes in behavior, declining academic performance, social withdrawal, or emotional outbursts. When schools have the tools and staff to intervene early, students are more likely to receive the help they need before problems escalate.

But when resources are limited, students can fall through the cracks. Without proper mental health support, students are more likely to miss school, struggle academically, or experience disciplinary actions that fail to address the root cause of their behavior.

Barriers to mental health in education

While some states have made progress by expanding school-based mental health programs, systemic challenges remain:

- **Funding Gaps:** Public schools often rely on local property taxes, resulting in vast disparities between wealthy and under-resourced districts. Mental health services are among the first to be cut when budgets tighten.
- **Workforce Shortages:** The national average ratio of school psychologists to students is roughly 1:1,100—more than double the recommended ratio of 1:500.
- **Stigma:** Even when services are available, some students avoid them due to fear of judgment or cultural misunderstandings around mental health.

Rethinking the role of education

Advocates argue that addressing mental health in public schools is not just beneficial—it's necessary. When students are emotionally well, they are more likely to attend school regularly, engage in learning, and build positive relationships.

Some districts are pioneering new models: integrating social-emotional learning into curricula, offering mental health screenings, and partnering with community health organizations to expand school-based clinics. Others are hiring additional counselors and creating quiet spaces or "wellness rooms" to help students decompress during the school day.

Looking ahead

Mental Health Awareness Month is an opportunity to ask deeper questions about what we expect from public education—and what it needs in return. Should schools be responsible for mental health? If so, are we giving them the funding, training, and support they need?

The intersection of mental health and education is complex, but one thing is clear: a student's ability to learn is directly connected to their emotional well-being. As public education continues to evolve, so too must its role in supporting the whole child—not just the test scores.

For many families, school is more than a place to learn—it's a lifeline. And in today's world, mental health is no longer a side issue. It's at the heart of what it means to educate.

EDUCATION

Safe social media: Recognizing and reducing the risks



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS

On May 1 & 2, 2025, I had the opportunity to attend a powerful and insightful set of talks at Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) by internationally acclaimed speaker Bailey Parnell. Her focus was the intersection of social media and mental health—an increasingly relevant topic in today's connected world.

Parnell's presentations were a part of the 3rd Annual International Peace Symposium sponsored by Mridha International Institute of Peace & Happiness (MIIPH). Parnell was not about demonizing social media. Instead, she offered a balanced perspective, helping her audience better understand the psychological impacts of constant connectivity. Among the many takeaways, three specific risks of social media stood out to me.

1. FOMO – The Fear of Missing Out

FOMO is the anxiety that we might be missing something important if we are not constantly plugged in. Whether it is tracking the latest sports scores, like my personal habit of checking the Detroit Tigers' game, or scrolling through viral videos, this fear can keep us glued to our screens longer than we realize. Recognizing this behavior is the first step in taking back control of our time.

2. Loneliness in a "Social" World

Despite the name, social media often contributes to feelings of loneliness. It is ironic—platforms designed to connect us can instead isolate us. Picture a family out at a restaurant where everyone, including the children, is absorbed in their phones instead of engaging in conversation. This scene is all too common, and it highlights how digital connection can sometimes replace genuine human interaction.

3. A Sedentary Lifestyle

Social media use often means long hours sitting on the couch, phone in hand. This sedentary behavior contributes to a lifestyle that lacks physical activity, which can affect both our physical and mental health. The so-called "couch potato" mindset is not just about laziness—it's about the habits that form when our screens take priority over movement.

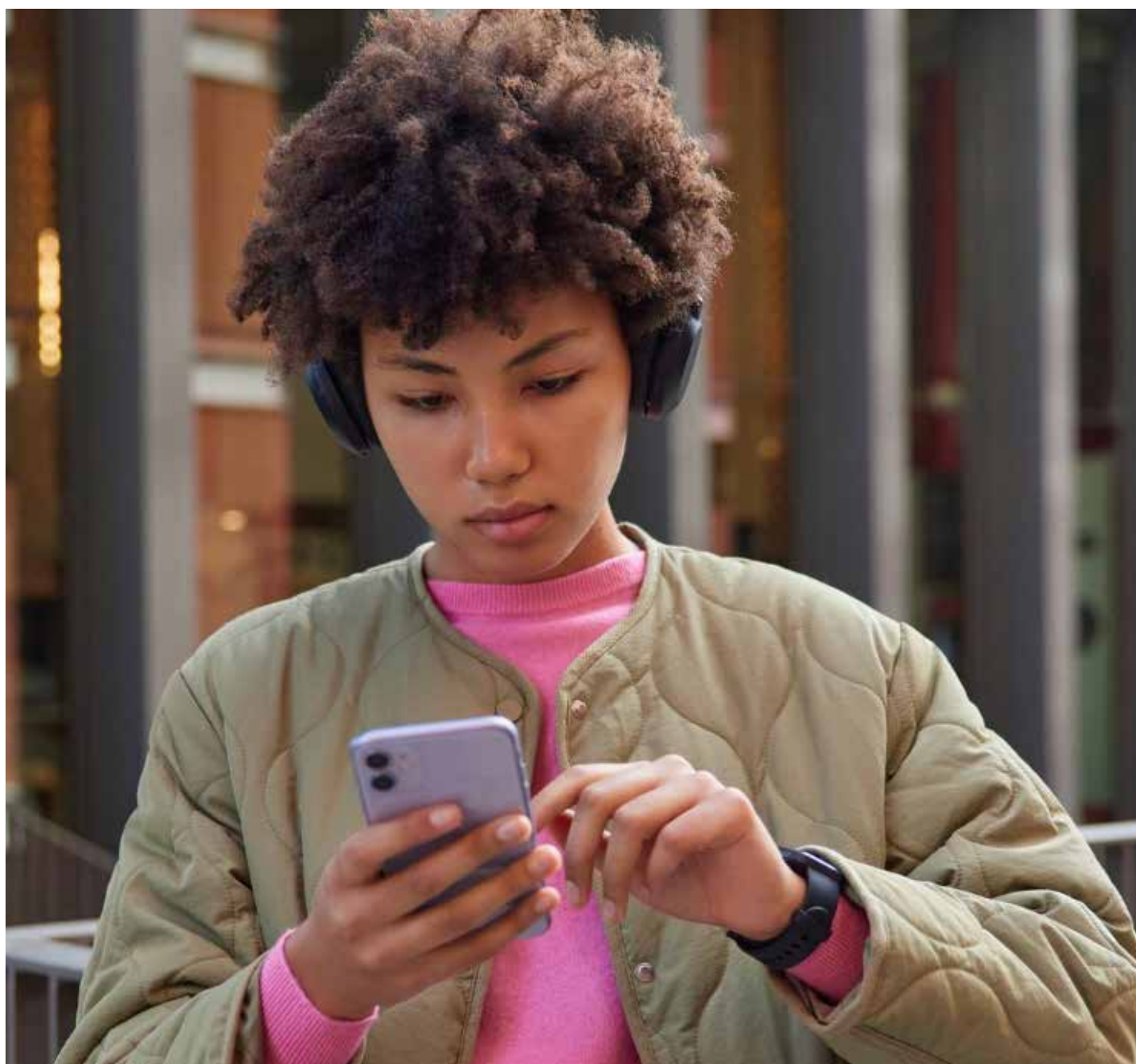
regular breaks from devices, or consciously making time for in-person interaction, we have the power to change our use social media.

What Can We Do?

The first and most important step is awareness—something Parnell emphasized in her time at SVSU. By identifying these risks, we can start to mitigate them. Whether it is setting time limits for screen use, scheduling

Bailey Parnell's message was clear: Social media is not inherently bad, but like anything, it needs to be used mindfully. With awareness and intention, we can enjoy the benefits of these platforms without letting them control us.

For more insights, visit Bailey Parnell's website at www.baileyparnell.com. For more information about MIIPH, visit their website at <https://miiph.org/>



TEEN ON PHONE (FILE PHOTO)

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EDUCATION

When hope is present, dreams and goals flourish

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

BY MB STAFF

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

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

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



FILE PHOTO

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

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EDUCATION

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



COURTESY PHOTOS

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

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

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

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

professional development opportunities as well as community activities and events.

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

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

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About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

Office Hours

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start
Program Director

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

**Joe Baca, former
Dem. California
Congressman**

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

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BUSINESS + FINANCE

Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance awards grants to 26 small businesses



GRANT RECIPIENTS FROM THE MOVING FLINT FORWARD PROGRAM GATHER TO CELEBRATE THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS (PHOTO COURTESY OF FLINT & GENESEE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE)

BY MB STAFF

FLINT — The Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance has announced the latest round of Moving Flint Forward grant recipients, providing financial support to 26 small businesses through a continued partnership with General Motors. The program, aimed at fostering business growth and sustainability in the Flint area, includes grants for both new and returning participants.

Thanks to a 2024 grant from General Motors, 16 new businesses and 10 alumni grantees will receive funds to support a range of business expenses—from marketing and equipment to property improvements and

workforce training. New businesses will receive \$10,000 each, while returning participants will receive \$5,000.

“We are grateful to be able to support 26 businesses located in Flint through the newest round of this program,” said Tyler Rossmassler, executive director of the Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance. “Thanks to General Motors, we can help these businesses continue to succeed in our region.”

One of the new grantees, Eric Patrick Thomas of EZ Awareness by Design, plans to use the funding to expand his business operations. The grant will help him invest in new equipment, purchase inventory in bulk, and increase marketing efforts.

“All of this will help us pro-

duce more sales and help us grow,” said Thomas. “Which is what we want with Moving Flint Forward. You don’t want to stay in an idle position; you want to keep moving forward.”

Thomas has been steadily working to strengthen his business. After missing out on a previous grant through the Economic Alliance’s Small Business Support Hub, he used the feedback provided to rework his business strategy. With guidance from Terance Green, a business support manager with the Hub, Thomas gained valuable mentorship and grant writing support.

“If you keep doing the same thing, you’ll get the same results,” Thomas said. “Working with Terance, he was able to mentor me. I am glad he was able to work with

me to develop my grant writing better.”

The 2025 Moving Flint Forward new grantees are:

- CKK Services, INC
- Eaton Media LLC
- Epic Technology Solutions LLC
- EZ Awareness by Design
- Happy Camper Ice Cream LLC
- John L Financial Services
- Leni Kei Photography
- Lord Laird’s, LLC
- Out of Line Collective
- Paul’s Pipe Shop and Pipe Hospital LLC
- PawPaws Pickles LLC
- Pop Mod Photo
- Queens’ Provisions
- Slice Pizza and Pies
- The N Look Hair Nail Salon
- Vaniawala Pediatrics PLLC

Alumni grantees for this round include:

- 448 Saginaw LLC
- 810 Comedy Improv
- Adams Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation LLC
- Elle Jae Essentials
- Harris Family Health
- I Love Pig, INC
- The Junk Pirates
- Suggs Sweet Treats
- Synergy Beauty Studio
- Tee’s Plentiful Salads

The Moving Flint Forward Small Business Grant Program continues to be a catalyst for local entrepreneurship and community revitalization. More information is available at DevelopFlintandGenesee.org/Moving-Flint-Forward.

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BUSINESS + FINANCE



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FAITH IN FOCUS



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

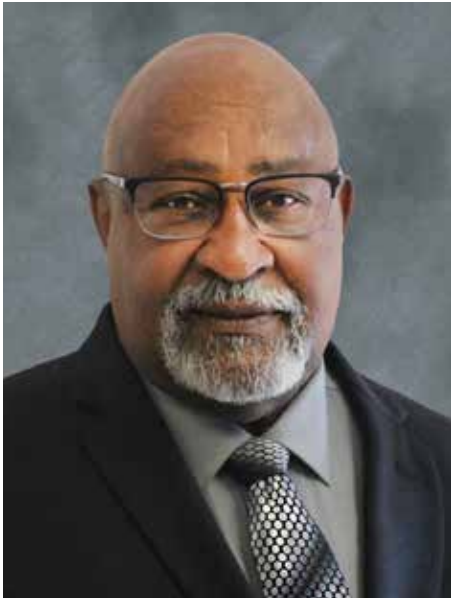
Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

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

Faith Ministries Church to host annual prayer breakfast featuring Prophetess Linda J. Kemp Revis

Faith Ministries Church
Prayer Breakfast

**Saturday
May 17, 2025
9:00 A.M.**

**NEW LOCATION:
Holiday Inn
810 Cinema Drive
Midland, Michigan 48642**

Tickets are \$40 Order Online:
www.faithministrieschurch.org
Phone: 989-837-7777

Prophetess Linda J. Kemp Revis, Speaker

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND — Faith Ministries Church invites the community to its annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, May 17, at 9 a.m., featuring guest speaker Prophetess Linda J. Kemp Revis. The event will be held at a new location this year: the Holiday Inn, 810 Cinema Drive in Midland.

The prayer breakfast is a signature event for the church, offering a space for fellowship, encouragement, and spiritual rejuvenation. Known for drawing

attendees from across the region, the gathering brings together community members in faith and purpose.

Prophetess Linda J. Kemp Revis is a respected spiritual leader whose teachings focus on empowerment, clarity, and purpose-driven living. Her message is expected to center on faith, resilience, and the power of collective prayer.

Tickets are available for \$40 and can be purchased online at www.faithministrieschurch.org. Attendees are encouraged to reserve early, as seating is lim-



REV. DR. ANTHONY REVIS AND PROPHETESS LINDA J. KEMP REVIS

ited. For more information, call 989-837-7777.

Faith Ministries Church continues to host events that emphasize spiritual growth and community connection. The Prayer

Breakfast is open to the public and welcomes individuals of all backgrounds who are seeking a moment of reflection and renewal.

FAITH IN FOCUS

SERMONETTE SERIES

Stop and Smell The Roses

BY MINISTER CAROLYN
CARTER TOWNSEL

*“Be still, and
know that I
am God”*

(Psalm 46:10)

Growing up my father constantly would say to me, “Stop and smell the Roses.” I didn’t quite understand it then, but I definitely understand it today. The expression is not just literal, it is an encouragement to stop and take the time to slow down and treasure the present moment. It is becoming conscious of taking the time to enjoy your surroundings, taking time for yourself, and experiencing the beauty of God’s creation(s) with a profound sense of gratitude and joy.

In slowing down we are able to behold the beauty that exists in our lives, along with our everyday blessings. These roses can be simply the joy of a loved one’s smile to the quiet exquisiteness of a sunrise and or a sunset, the kindness of a stranger, or the gentle coolness of a breeze.

In a world that values instantaneous and productivity, it is easy to rush through life without truly experiencing it. However, slowing down allows us to: Become present and engage in the moment with those we love, notice and appreciate the little joys that make life worth

living, and grant us to pause and breathe, thereby releasing tension that builds up in our lives.

Ultimately, “Be still, and know that I am God” is a call to quiet our minds and acknowledge God’s sovereignty in our lives. Being still in the midst of a chaotic world, helps us to connect deeply with God, to listen for His voice, and to find peace and beauty in His presence and His creation.

Beloved, it is vital to remember that life is not just about reaching your goals, but about enjoying the journey along the way. So, “stop and smell the roses,” appreciate the beauty around you, the blessings you’ve been given and the love offered to you. Let us intentionally rest in

God’s presence, find peace in the simple things, simply meaning, “Be Still and Know that I am God.”

Blessings to all,
Carolyn

CHURCH DIRECTORY



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



Ministry Without Walls
Pastor, John Dunn
3783 Mannion Road
Saginaw, MI 48603



New Life Baptist Ministries
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Saginaw, MI 48601
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989-837-7777
faithministrieschurch.org



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



New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
3610 Russel St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-0801



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



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



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



Holy Communion Gospel Center
Pastor Charlene Washington
1245 E. Genesee
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-752-3993



New Birth Missionary Baptist
Bishop Larry D. Camel
3121 Sheridan
Saginaw, Michigan
989-327-1755



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



Jacob's Ladder
Pastor Dennis Barlow
1926 Fairfield Street
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-799-6601



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



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



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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Where is your board?

BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Serving on a board is an honor and a responsibility. That is true whether you are on the board of an international corporation or a local nonprofit organization. You are responsible for governance, the financial health of the organization, and more. You may be treated well with board meetings that include lobster, snacks, and live music, but don't be fooled – being on a board is all about business. And being in a board leadership role is serious business.

We want to help you assess whether or not you are doing your job as a board leader. This refers to those who serve as the board chair, or chair of one of the board's committees, such as finance, development, nominating, programs, or audit. We want you to be in the best position to help advance the nonprofit organization or institution you are committed to. This is more important than ever.

First, as a board leader and member, you need to know the organization's or institution's mission, vision, and values inside out. You need to know the current strategic directions, fi-



FILE PHOTO

nancial position, and programming status. You can gain this information from the president, CEO, or executive director. You want to work closely with this individual to ensure you are aware of the current activities and that you are kept apprised of potential upcoming opportunities and/or challenges. But don't look for staff leadership to run the board. That is your role!

The board meeting should not be a time where members listen to reports from staff: those should be shared in advance. You want time for members to openly discuss important items, including the financial health of the organization or institution. Due to changes in the political and economic environment, reliable funding sources are becoming less reliable, and nonprofits are finding themselves in jeopardy – or soon to be so. Board leaders need to work closely with the nonprofit's development team,

finance team, and executive director to review current and projected financials and be aware of what is going on. When there are "problems," it will usually be the CEO or development/fundraising person who will take the fall. Don't let that happen.

Step up. Make sure each board member understands the fundraising goals, mission, and priorities and that each is committed, giving, soliciting, and engaged. As a board, all should be committed to giving and/or raising a percentage of the annual budget. As leaders, you need to ensure each member is capable of making the

case and is comfortable asking others for financial support. You need 100% board giving, and that giving should be at a level that is meaningful given their financial situation. The board should ensure that staff leadership has a succession plan in place as well as a temporary operating plan should there be an emergency or a sudden reduction in funding. Evaluate your work as a board and how you can support staff, either proactively or in case of an emergency. These are not normal times. God protect America.

Board resources: The Board Pro and BoardSource.



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



PICS OF THE WEEK

On May 12, Bavarian Blast Waterpark – Michigan's BIGGEST Indoor Waterpark & Family Fun Center held a grand opening and ribbon cutting event in Frankenmuth.



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We empower.

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



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