



The Michigan Banner

Celebrating Diversity, Empowering Communities



PICS OF THE WEEK
"We Love Saginaw Businesses"
trunk-or-treat event

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Original HPC member begins 51st year

COMMUNITY, PG 13



Legislator asked to explain immigration votes

LATINO BANNER, PG 2



Local researcher brings Black history to life

COMMUNITY, PG 18



Michigan to invest \$131M in opioid prevention and treatment

HEALTH, PG 23

Saginaw Community Foundation awards \$773K in local grants



FILE PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — The Saginaw Community Foundation distributed more than \$773,000 in grants between May 9 and Oct. 9, supporting 45 programs and projects through its designated, donor advised and competitive grant processes.

“Every person who has supported the foundation – whether through donations, volunteering or advocacy – has assisted us in giving much needed support to the programs and projects helping to make our community a better place,” said René Johnston, president and CEO of the foundation. “We strive to grant funds to support programs that will make a difference in our community and align with the charitable desires of our donors.”

SCF currently manages 32

unrestricted funds, 87 designated funds and 64 donor advised funds. Grants during this five-month period supported youth programs, community safety, arts and culture, social services, education and neighborhood initiatives.

Among the designated and donor advised grants were:

- **\$250,000 from the Bay/Saginaw Health Plan Donor Advised Fund** for SCF’s Rx Kids prenatal and infant cash prescription program.
- **\$11,000 through Dow communityGives**, providing \$1,000 awards to athletic teams, school

programs and youth organizations across the region.

- **\$25,000 from the Flegenheimer Family Fund** for groups including Emmaus House of Saginaw, Friends of Hoyt Park, Bay Area Soccer Association and others.
- **\$300,000 from the Carl H., Jr. and Sandra Werth Fund** for the Saginaw Intermediate School District College Advisor Fund.
- **\$4,721 from the Ederer Family Donor Advised Fund** to purchase protective gear for Thomas Township volunteer firefighters.
- **\$7,050 from the McQuillan Philanthropy Fund** for Mustard Seed Shelter, Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan and Underground Railroad.
- **\$4,364 from the NAIFA Fund** benefiting the CAN Council and The Diaper Alliance.

See SCF, Page 2

SCF, from cover

- **\$4,750 in SCF staff discretionary grants** supporting community events, veterans programming and youth travel.

Competitive grants also funded a range of community and educational projects, including:

- **CAN Council of the Great Lakes Bay Region** – \$10,000 for Parent Cafés.
- **Castle Museum of Saginaw County History** – \$14,590 for the “Building Community: First Ward” initiative.
- **Saginaw Choral Society** – \$10,000 for its 90th anniversary season.
- **Saginaw County Circuit Court** – \$20,000 to support the Saginaw Court Legal Self-Help Center.
- **TempleArts** – \$25,000 for stage equipment and technology modernization.
- **Victorious Community Development** – \$30,000 for the Bishop Marvin C. Pryor Impact Center.
- **Saginaw Valley State University** – \$12,000 for the 2026 Triennial Roethke Poetry and Arts Festival.

Organizations interested in applying for future grants can visit saginawfoundation.org/grants or contact Kendra Kempf, competitive grants program officer, at kendra@saginawfoundation.org. SCF's competitive grant deadlines fall on Feb. 1, June 1 and Oct. 1 each year.

Since 1984, the Saginaw Community Foundation has connected donor generosity with community needs, serving residents across Saginaw County through strategic grantmaking and nonprofit support.



**THIS DAY IN
MICHIGAN
HISTORY**

NOVEMBER 1, 1957

On November 1, 1957, the Mackinac Bridge opened to traffic.



Michigan Gov. G. Mennen Williams became the first paying customer to cross the span on its inaugural day. By linking the state's two peninsulas, the bridge ended the massive seasonal backups caused by hunters waiting for ferry transport and quieted discussions about the Upper Peninsula becoming its own state or joining Wisconsin.



MICHIGAN BANNER

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MISSION

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

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DEADLINES

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

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Mailed or e-mailed
Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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MESSAGE TO OUR READERS

The Michigan Banner staff would like to sincerely apologize for the delay of our November 1, 2025 issue. A key member of our team was directly affected by Hurricane Melissa, resulting in temporary disruptions to our production schedule.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this challenging time and our commitment to delivering reliable community news remains unchanged.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by the hurricane, especially the individuals and families in Jamaica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti and neighboring regions as they begin the difficult process of recovery.

Sincerely,
The Michigan Banner Staff

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 7 • NUMBER 21



Saginaw Youth Choir opens registration for second session of 2025–26 season



SAGINAW YOUTH CHOIR

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — The Saginaw Youth Choir has opened registration for Session 2 of its 2025–26 season, offering young singers an opportunity to develop musical skills, build friendships and perform in a structured choral program rooted in the school-year calendar.

Rehearsals take place Wednesdays from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. Each session of the program runs eight to ten weeks and concludes with a public performance showcasing the singers' work. Session 2 will rehearse from Jan. 7 to Feb. 25, with a concert scheduled for March 1.

Participants may enroll in one, two or all three sessions offered throughout the year. Tuition is \$60 per singer, and the program provides both family discounts and scholarships to ensure broader access.

Founded in 2018 under the Saginaw Choral Society, the Saginaw Youth Choir was established to provide a performance-based choral experience for young

people ages 8 to 16. The choir emphasizes both music literacy and character development, welcoming singers from public, private and home-based schools across the Great Lakes Bay Region.

The organization aims to create a safe, inclusive environment where children can connect with peers from diverse communities while developing confidence and lifelong skills through music.

The choir is led by Music Director Emerald Joiner-Christensen, a Saginaw native and graduate of Saginaw Valley State University. Joiner-Christensen teaches in local school districts, serves as SASA's voice and keyboard instructor, directs the SASA Steelers music program and offers private lessons in piano and voice. Her work with the youth choir, she says, is especially meaningful as she watches singers grow from strangers into close friends through shared musical experiences.

More information about the Saginaw Youth Choir, including registration details for Session 2 and future sessions, is available at saginawyouthchoir.com.

Saginaw Youth Choir

Season at a Glance

SESSION 1	Sparkle of the Season October 15 th – December 14 th Register now!
SESSION 2	Songs of the Sea January 7 th – March 1 st Registration opens December 3 rd
SESSION 3	Sing It Forward March 18 th – May 17 th Registration opens February 18 th
Important Info about Session 3 In order to participate in session 3, singers must have participated in session 1 or 2 this year OR participated during the 24-25 season.	
NEW End of Year Banquet May 2026 Details forthcoming!	

SAGINAWYOUTHCHOIR.COM

Trinity Church

YO - Youth Outreach

*Mentoring *Basketball *Devotionals *Fun

Trinity Church YO offers....

~ Role models who will mentor and encourage positive living .



~ Competitive Basketball Games

~ Word of God Devotionals

~ Safe Environment

~ Fellowship & Fun

*Ages 13 - Adults

*Boys & Girls

*Food Provided

*Free Event

Saturdays
3-5 P.M.

***New Location:

801 State St. Saginaw, Mi 48602 (Resurrection Church)
Former Ames UMC Church//Across from Stone School

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Pastor Duane Thomas (517) 883-3819



'I Can' mentorship program empowers youth through faith, family, and community

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

SAGINAW, Mich. — A new mentorship initiative aimed at empowering young people through faith, family, and community connection will take place Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025, from noon to 4 p.m. at the SVRC Marketplace's Press Room in downtown Saginaw.

The I Can Mentorship Program, hosted by Jimiya Jackson and sponsored by the Dr. Eugene and Joyce Seals Family Foundation, promises an afternoon of entertainment, girl talk, games, prizes, and light refreshments. The event will gather youth and mentors in an encouraging environment designed to promote confidence, leadership, and community engagement.

The Seals Family Foundation is rooted in decades of service and community investment. Dr. Eugene and Joyce Seals, parents of eight—Loyce, Michelle, Felicia, Delicia, Jacinta, Tracie, Eugene, and Mary—have devoted their careers to improving the lives of children and families while modeling Christian values. Their foundation reflects that lifelong commitment to helping others realize their full potential and continues a legacy of faith-driven service that spans generations.

Born and raised in Saginaw, Dr. Eugene Seals overcame humble beginnings and early skepticism from others to pursue his dream of becoming a physician. After earning his medical degree in 1990, he practiced medicine in his hometown for nearly 30 years, inspiring countless young people to pursue education and service.

Joyce Seals, originally from Mississippi, moved to Saginaw as a child and built a lifetime of leadership and public service in the community she came to love. She has worked in education, workforce development, and government—including as a member and mayor of the Saginaw City Council—and has operated a local summer day camp for more than two decades. The camp has provided thousands of children with meals, recreation, and academic support.

Together, the Seals family's influence continues through programs like I Can Mentorship, which embody their belief that empowerment starts with opportunity and example.

Those interested in attending the Nov. 8 event can RSVP through the Google Form linked on the official flyer.

**I CAN
MENTORSHIP
PROGRAM**

**NOVEMBER 8, 2025
12PM-4PM**

**ADDRESS:
SVRC MARKETPLACE (Press Room)
203 S Washington Ave
Saginaw, Michigan, 48607**

**ENTERTAINMENT, GIRL TALK, PRIZES, GAMES AND LIGHT
REFRESHMENTS**
Hosted By: Jimiya Jackson

Sponsored by: Dr. Eugene and Joyce Seals
Family Foundation & I Can Mentorship
Program

RSVP GOOGLE FORM ATTACHED TO FLYER

'I CAN' MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation names Miguel Rodriguez as new executive director

BY MB STAFF

DETROIT, Mich. — The Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation has appointed Miguel Rodriguez as its next executive director, announcing the leadership transition effective Nov. 10, 2025.

Rodriguez brings more than two decades of experience working in community-based organizations, with a professional background centered on social justice, youth development and community empowerment. His career includes serving as managing director at We The People MI, a statewide empowerment organization, and as senior director of impact and innovation at Youth-Build Global, a nonprofit focused on opportunities for young people.

According to DHDC's Board of Directors, Rodriguez's commitment to community transformation aligns with the organization's mission and its long-term vision for serving Detroit's Hispanic and Latino communities.

The board also expressed appreciation for Lex Zavala, recognizing his 22 years of dedication to the organization and his leadership throughout the transition process. DHDC officials noted that the decision to move into a new phase of leadership is tied to the organization's strategic direction and future goals.

"We thank the entire team for their commitment and professionalism during this change



MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ

process," the board said in its announcement.

The Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, founded to

reduce poverty, promote education and support community stability, continues to serve families across southwest Detroit through

programs focusing on youth development, workforce training, cultural engagement and community advocacy.

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

Legislator asked to explain immigration votes

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW, Mich. — Among local Democrats, the newly formed Latino Caucus continues to challenge U.S. Rep. Kristen McDonald Rivet.

The first-year congresswoman, successor to Dan Kildee, has voted with President Trump and Republicans six times on immigration issues, notes Angel Gomez, caucus chair. This includes a trio of occasions when she was among an isolated 5 percent of her Democrat peers.

Rivet last summer explained to caucus members that she opposes Trump's crackdown tactics but aims to strike a balance in prosecuting illegals in the same way as long-standing citizens. She was credited with taking time to visit in a conference at the Mexican American Council, but this time the caucus leaders are taking a stronger stand.

When Saginaw Dems gather at 7 p.m. on Nov. 13 at headquarters, 615 Adams, Gomez aims to introduce the following resolution. It will be the first-ever Latino caucus appeal to the general membership (Readers may note that the vote counts were compiled by our own research and are not part of the resolution.)

"Whereas the Saginaw County Democratic Party is committed to fairness, justice, due process, environmental protection, workers' rights, humane immigration policy, and respect for civil liberties; and

"Whereas Representative Kristen McDonald Rivet has cast multiple votes in the U.S. House of Representatives that conflict with those values, and

"Whereas the specific votes and their consequences include, but are not limited to:

- The Laken Riley Act (S.5 / passed in the House) — Voted Yea. Mandates detention of non-U.S.



CONGRESSWOMAN KRISTEN MCDONALD RIVET (MI-08)

nationals accused (but not convicted) of certain crimes and allows states to sue the federal government.
o Consequence: Expands mandatory detention, weakens due process, and risks over-incarceration of immigrants without adequate protections. (Rivet among 46 Dems in favor, 156 opposed.)

- House Resolution 488 — Voted Yea. Condemns antisemitism but includes expressions of gratitude to ICE and affirms federal-local enforcement coordination.
o Consequence: Offers political cover to ICE, criticized for civil-rights abuses; blurs immigration enforcement with civil safety, undermining calls for humane reform. (Rivet among 75 Dems in favor, 113 opposed.)
- Stop Illegal Entry Act (H.R. 3486) — Voted

Yea. Increases criminal penalties for unauthorized entry/reentry and felonies committed after illegal entry.
o Consequence: Criminalizes migration, increases burden on detention and court systems, and shifts policy toward punitive rather than restorative solutions. (Rivet among 11 Dems in favor, 197 opposed.)

- D.C. Federal Immigration Compliance Act (H.R. 2056) — Voted Yea. Requires the District of Columbia to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement. Consequence: Undermines local autonomy and sanctuary policies, increases the risk of deportations, and conflicts with efforts to build trust between immigrant communities and local governments. (Rivet among 11 Dems in favor, 194 opposed.)
- Repeal of EPA Waivers

for California Vehicle Emissions Standards (H.J.Res.89) — Voted Yea. Revokes California's authority to enforce stricter auto-emissions rules.
o Consequence: Weakens environmental safeguards, delays progress on clean-vehicle adoption, and undermines state-led climate leadership. (Rivet among 10 Dems in favor, 195 opposed.)

- Charlie Kirk Resolution (H.Res. 719) — Voted Yea. Resolution honoring the life and legacy of Charlie Kirk. Consequence: While condemning political violence is a broadly shared value, the resolution has been criticized for honoring a figure with a controversial record, potentially elevating viewpoints contradictory to Democratic values of inclusivity, LGBTQ+ rights, anti-bigotry, and civil rights. It risks conflating condemnation of violence with implicit endorsement of his broader public statements and actions. (Rivet among 58 Dems opposed, 95 in favor.)

"Therefore, be it resolved that the Saginaw County Democratic Party does hereby censure Representative Kristen McDonald Rivet for these votes, which are viewed as departures from the Party's foundational values and policy commitments.

"Be it further resolved that the Chair of the Saginaw County Democratic Party is directed to publicly communicate the Party's displeasure with these votes, including a formal statement to the media and to Party members affirming that such actions are unacceptable and inconsistent with our shared values, and urging accountability and reflection within the Party."



TERCER JUEVES EVENTS

Date	Event & Location	Sponsor
Thursday January 15th	Tercer Jueves Business Networking Event Barton Malow. 26500 American Dr. Southfield, MI 48034. 5:30 - 7:30PM	Barton Malow
Wednesday January 28th	Annual Membership Meeting MHCC office. 1700 Harmon Rd. Suite one Auburn hills, MI 48326. 5:30 - 7:30PM	MHCC
Thursday February 19th	Tercer Jueves Business Networking Event TBD 5:30 - 7:30PM	Detroit Pistons
Thursday April 16th	Tercer Jueves Business Networking Event 91 N Saginaw St, Pontiac, MI 48342. 5:30 - 7:30PM	Centro Multicultural La Familia
Thursday June 18th	Tercer Jueves Business Networking Event TBD 5:30 - 7:30PM	Yanfeng
Thursday July 16th	Tercer Jueves Business Networking Event TBD 5:30 - 7:30PM	General Motors
Thursday September 17th	Tercer Jueves Business Networking Event SMTAutomation. 14100 33 Mile Rd. Bruce Township, MI 48065. 5:30 - 7:30PM	SMTAutomation

Dates and locations are subject to change without notice.

State invests \$2M in redevelopment project in Flint's Latinx community



THE LATINX TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNITY CENTER ANNOUNCED A \$2 MILLION STATE INVESTMENT TO SUPPORT PRE-DEVELOPMENT WORK FOR THE KNOBLOCK REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN FLINT'S LATINX DISTRICT.

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — A long-standing commercial building on Flint's east side is slated for new life as state leaders commit \$2 million toward a redevelopment effort aimed at strengthening the Greater Flint Latinx District.

The former Knoblock Hardware building, located at 2116–2118 Lewis St., will undergo site preparation, design work and pre-construction planning as part of the first phase of the project. The Latinx Technology & Community Center announced the state investment, which will support the transformation of the historic structure into a mixed-use development.

Initial concept plans call for creating approximately 20 residential apartments, a ground-floor commercial and retail area, and a small business incubator designed to support emerging entrepreneurs.

Local leaders say the redevelopment of the Knoblock Hardware site is one of several initiatives intended to boost economic activity, expand housing options and enhance small business opportunities within Flint's Greater Latinx District. The project builds on ongoing efforts to revitalize corridors in neighborhoods that have historically lacked investment.

More details on the construction timeline and future occupancy plans are expected as pre-development work progresses.



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Louie Garcia

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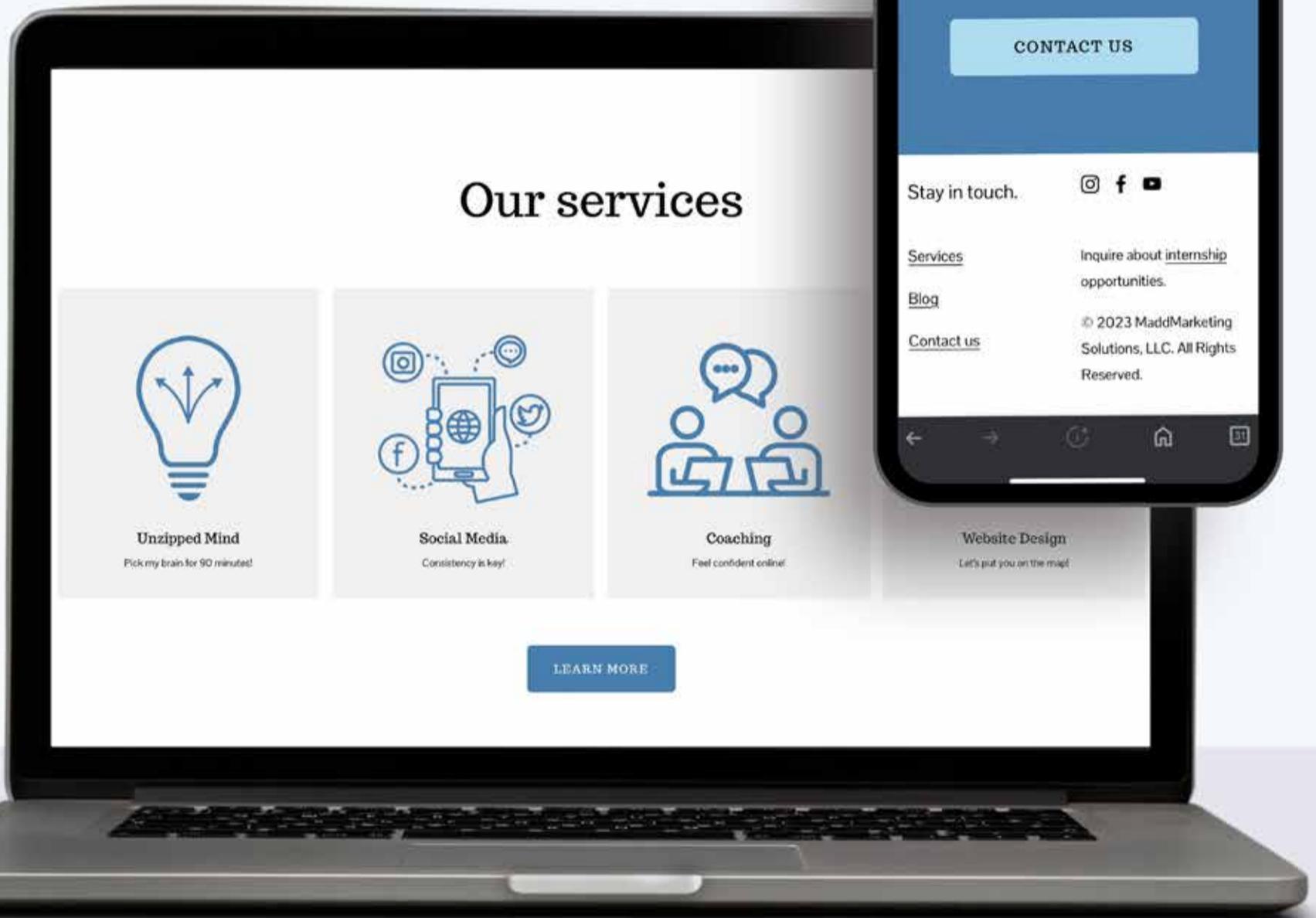
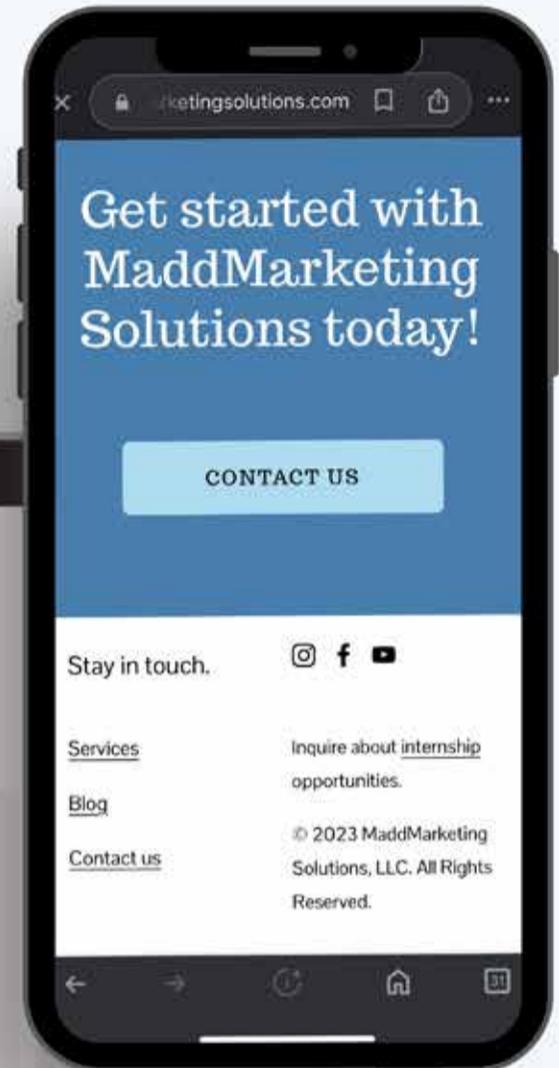
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COMMUNITY

Original HPC member begins 51st year

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW, Mich. — A year ago, Darlean Carpenter was showered with honors for her lifelong involvement in education, best known in town for her leadership in the Saginaw High School Parent Teacher Association. She achieved the statewide Older Adult Volunteer of the Year award and was saluted as a Saginaw NAACP hero.

But this fall, one of her most incredible accomplishments has gone unrecognized. On Oct. 20, the City Council re-appointed her to the Human Planning Commission, without any mention that this will be her 51st year. Darlean was not even aware of the action when we at Michigan Banner contacted her later in the week.

The HPC was formed in 1975 for the purpose of reviewing millions of dollars in proposals for federal Community Development Block Grant. Darlean represented the Morley Elementary neighborhood.

Darlean has been outspoken when she sees a need, but she is modestly quiet about her own honors, joking that maybe the "older" designation in the governor's award is not the most flattering term and that "elder volunteer" might work better. On the serious side, she only wishes that her husband, Robert Carpenter, could have lived to take part in the tributes. He passed away in December 2023, after 40-plus years in the Grey Iron Plant, sticking with his own hobbies, like bowling perfect 300 scores, while she was raising sand in Saginaw.

She was a youthful high school grad when she moved north from Brownsville, Tenn., population 9,300, to live with an elder sister at Third and Kirk in the city's



DARLEAN CARPENTER

First Ward. And wouldn't you know it? Among the first gentlemen she encountered was not a homegrown Saginawian, but a fellow Tennessean from Arlington, a smaller town only 30 miles from her own home. Soon, Robert and Darlean Carpenter were a Saginaw couple, and they found a home on South 21st where their future three children could walk to Morley School.

That's where Darlean's PTA involvement took root, partnering and sometimes clashing with the principal, Charles McNair, but always finding common ground in the end. When her three children advanced to Arthur Eddy Junior High, she took a top role in their PTA. Then came Saginaw High, where she stayed on board long after her own offspring had finished. Needless to say, she also became a state PTA leader.

At the same time, she devoted Wednesday evenings to service on the Human Planning Commission, assigned "to provide effective citizen participation in an advisory capacity ... to aid the City Council in solving the social and physical problems of the city."

With few if any citizens present, she rubbed elbows with the likes of Elsenia Porterfield, David Swilley, Ron Spess, Ardelia Carter, Bernice Rabideau and Howard Sharper, among others. Issues they explored and debated included funds for neighborhoods versus downtown, which areas would be best for anti-poverty investment, and were some neighborhoods "too far gone" for funds to make a difference.

Darlean outlasted them all and spoke out when the past City Council members in 2021-22 overlooked the HPC for advice

on spending the one-time ARPA allotment of \$52 million, which was 20 times the standard annual block grant. A special advisory group instead was formed, including various appointees who were seeking grants for their own favored projects. At no point did Darlean ever pursue any funds for her own interests.

Her other involvements have ranged from volunteering at Saginaw Community Hospital and at the county's Child Receiving Home. She chaperoned student trips to Lagos, Nigeria though the former Growth and Afrocentric Program and has served on the Saginaw NAACP's executive committee.

Would she do it all over again? Darlean's speech now is limited with her own health concerns, as she nods her head and simply whispers, "Yes, I would!"

COMMUNITY

Sexual Assault Center launches community survey



FILE PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — The Sexual Assault Center has launched a new Community Assessment Survey aimed at identifying needs, gaps and barriers that affect how survivors of sexual assault access essential services throughout the region.

The survey seeks input from survivors, service providers and community members to assess strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats within the local Sexual Assault Response System. Findings from the assessment will guide the development of a Community Change

Plan focused on strengthening crisis services and improving the center's delivery of support.

"We want to hear directly from those who know our system best — survivors, community advocates, and professionals who respond to sexual assault," said Annie Coker, director of the Sexual Assault Center. "Their experiences and perspectives will shape meaningful, data-driven improvements that ensure every survivor receives compassionate, effective, and accessible care."

The survey is designed to gather feedback from a wide range of voices to ensure future services reflect the diverse needs of all survivors. Participants may

skip any questions, and all responses are confidential.

Community members are encouraged to complete the survey by Nov. 20, 2025, at: <https://www.childandfamilysaginaw.org/community-survey/>.

The center is also encouraging agencies, organizations and individuals to share the survey broadly to help reach as many participants as possible.

"This is more than a survey," Coker added. "It's an opportunity for our community to come together to identify what's working — and what needs to change — so we can build a stronger, more supportive response for survivors of sexual assault."

A summary of the results will be shared publicly after the survey closes and will help shape strategic improvements for the Sexual Assault Center and its partner agencies.

Child & Family Services of Saginaw, the parent organization of the Sexual Assault Center, has served the Great Lakes Bay Region since 1870. Its Sexual Assault Center, established in 1984, remains the only dedicated resource in Saginaw providing free, comprehensive services to survivors of sexual violence and their loved ones. More information is available at childandfamilysaginaw.org.



Adoption Option Inc. Presents:



Date: Thursday, November 20, 2025

Sponsorship opportunities are still available!



Time: 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm



Location: The Great Hall
5121 Bay City Rd.
Midland, MI 48642



Contact: (989) 839-0534
JambalayaAndJazz@aoicw.org



Ticket Locations: Adoption Option
601 E. Wackerly Rd.
Midland, MI 48642
www.Adoptionoptioninc.org



Tickets: \$75 per person
-or-
\$140 for two!

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or to become a
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Featuring Local Jazz Band: DJAM Trio
Special Guest: Vocalist Gezelle Meyers



Featuring Local Restaurants!

Jambalaya and Jazz 2025
Honorary Chairs:
Paul and Kim White



Scan Here for
More Restaurants!



COMMUNITY

Saginaw YMCA to honor local heroes, veterans at annual appreciation and wellness event



SAGINAW YMCA HEROES APPRECIATION DAY

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — The Saginaw YMCA will once again honor local heroes with its Fifth Annual Heroes Appreciation Day and Veterans Health & Wellness Expo on Friday, Nov. 7, 2025, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the YMCA Field House, 1915 Fordney Street in Saginaw.

The community event, presented in partnership with Covenant HealthCare, offers a free breakfast prepared by The Pancake Man and celebrates veterans, first responders, medical professionals, police officers, firefighters, and lifeguards.

Following the breakfast, the Veterans Health & Wellness Expo will feature a variety of vendors providing services and resources for veterans and military personnel.

At noon, the day's festivities continue with a community dodgeball tournament. Each team must have five members, including at least two women. Games will last a maximum of eight minutes, and the winner will be determined by the number of active players remaining. The entry fee is \$50 per team.

Proceeds and donations from the day will benefit this year's nonprofit partner, Saginaw Area Fireworks. Freewill contributions to support the organization's community fireworks dis-

play are encouraged.

Community members can also nominate local heroes for recognition during the event.

For more information, contact Dan Weigl at 989-753-7721

ext. 205 regarding Heroes Appreciation Day, or Shannon Thurin at 989-753-7721 ext. 212 for Veterans Health & Wellness Expo registration.



THE SAGINAW YMCA
FIFTH ANNUAL HEROES APPRECIATION DAY
AND VETERANS HEALTH & WELLNESS EXPO


Date: Friday, November 7, 2025
Time: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Location: YMCA Field House
1915 Fordney Street, Saginaw, MI



 Know a local hero?
 Nominate them and tell us why!

Join us for a FREE breakfast from The Pancake Man as we honor our local heroes – Veterans, First Responders, Medical Professionals, Police, Firefighters, and Lifeguards.

The Veterans Health & Wellness Expo will feature a variety of vendors providing services and resources for veterans and military personnel.

The Dodgeball tournament starts at 12 PM after Heroes Appreciation Day!

- Teams will consist of 5 members with at least two females.
- The game lasts 8 minutes max.
- The winner will be the team with the most active players.
- \$50 Entry Fee

A freewill donation to this year's nonprofit partner The Saginaw Fireworks are appreciated.



 Sign your team up for the dodgeball tournament Vendor Registration For Tabling & Auction

SAGINAW YMCA HEROES APPRECIATION DAY

COMMUNITY

Council stays silent on key issues

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW, Mich. — Two main concerns that the City Council has discussed in the past, but abandoned recently, possibly could be revisited at the Nov. 3 meeting, even though they are not on the agenda.

The first topic is to seek removal of property tax limits that date back to 1979. The other is more current, involving an attack on artists who at 2025 summer's final days were painting a mural at the skate park near the old wave pool site.

The tax caps freeze the rate at 7.5 mills and revenue at \$3.8 million. Council members have changed course this year. Instead of a referendum for revocation,



THE "LAST-ISH SKATEPARK MURAL COMMUNITY PAINT," ORGANIZED BY COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR THE PEOPLE (CAP) AT FRANK N. ANDERSEN CELEBRATION PARK IN SAGINAW, WAS VANDALIZED SHORTLY AFTER ITS COMPLETION.

they say they now are counting on state Rep. Amos O'Neal to win support for Lansing legislation

that would circumvent local voters. However, with Republicans holding a majority in the House

of Representatives, the proposal has gotten nowhere.

At the skate park on Sept. 15, trespassers attacked three artists who were carrying out a council-approved contract to brighten the track, claiming the paint would make the surface too slippery. Arrests were carried out but no prosecutions occurred in the black-on-white incident. Council members unanimously pushed at their Sept. 22 meeting for more info, and then remained silent on both Oct. 6 and Oct. 20.

Council sessions continue every other Monday at 6:30 at Andersen Enrichment Center, while City Hall renovations are wrapping up.

Saginaw to kick off holiday season with two days of free community events

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Downtown Saginaw will usher in the 2025 holiday season with two days of free, family-friendly events on Nov. 21 and 22, featuring concerts, fireworks, a Christmas parade, open houses and activities across the city's historic districts.

The celebration begins Friday, Nov. 21, with Holidays in the Heart of the City, running from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Attractions span multiple venues and include live music, local shopping, food vendors and holiday displays.

The evening opens with a lighting ceremony at the Water Treatment Plant featuring Santa Claus and the Saginaw Youth Choir, with lights turning on at 6 p.m. From there, visitors can

enjoy musical performances, open houses, and special activities at First Presbyterian Church, the Montague Inn, the Mexican-American Council, Andersen Enrichment Center and several area churches.

The SVRC Marketplace will host a Maker's Market with shopping and refreshments, while additional events include a live Nativity at Nouvel Catholic Central High School, free admission to the Saginaw Children's Zoo, holiday craft tables, book giveaways and cookie contests. Carriage rides, Santa visits, and a holiday market at the Andersen Center are also planned.

The evening concludes with fireworks from Ojibway Island at 8:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Nov. 22, the festivities continue with the Annual Christmas Parade: "A Gold-

en Christmas," beginning at 11 a.m. The parade route will travel south on S. Washington Avenue from Johnson Street, then west on Ezra Rust Drive to Ojibway Island. Dan Streeter of Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan will serve as Grand Marshal.

The morning includes the Girls on the Run 5K "Reindeer Run," with registration beginning at 9 a.m. at the Saginaw YMCA. The Reindeer Run starts at 10:30 a.m., and the Girls on the Run 5K begins shortly after.

Following the parade, families can enjoy a variety of downtown activities, including crafts at Hoyt Library, cookie competitions at the Andersen Enrichment Center, the Saginaw Farmers' Market holiday market, historic house tours, and extended shopping hours in Old Town. Evening entertainment contin-

ues with a performance by the Saginaw Eddy Band at Temple Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

Both events are presented by Positive Results Downtown Saginaw with support from local foundations, businesses and community organizations.

A full schedule of events and locations is available on the Positive Results Downtown Saginaw website and social media pages.



COMMUNITY

Local researcher brings Black history to life



DR. WILLIE MCKETHER

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW, Mich. — From two big boxloads, down to 250 pages.

Dr. Willie McKether is aiming to condense his extensive stories of Black people moving north to Saginaw into a glossy keepsake book that readers may hold in their hands.

If someone is inspired to further explore his five years of academic research on the early 20th century, housed at Hoyt Library and wheeled on a cart to upstairs patrons, that's all for the good.

But McKether says it's time to bring his PhD to the people.

Two decades have passed beyond his Wayne State University doctorate degree, which led to a pair of main results:

- His hometown reaped his gift of at-length interviews with more than 100 Saginawians who arrived and resided in town between 1920 and 1960, in search of prosperity before and after World War II. Oral history became transcribed, but it's still in spoken word because he made eight-track videos of many of them.

- McKether advanced in his career, attaining vice-president status at the University of Toledo and then becoming a chancellor at Philadelphia's Thomas Jefferson University. He has returned to Toledo as a professor of anthropology, fulfilling a desire to return to the classroom as he approaches retirement age.

'Oral history' on the record

Black history always has been elusive because few documents exist, and so the first goal of the Saginaw project was to compile the stories and statistics of a 40-year period when Saginaw's African-American population exploded from about 300 to more than 16,000. McKether was diligent, expending far beyond the standard effort to achieve a PhD.

All along, he says he felt a need to produce a basic version for the local general public.

"Dissertations are not written in a way to be easily digestible," he notes. "How do I tell a narrative in a readable format, something that tells a story without seeming to be 'too academic?' I've always known I needed to do

something more with editing and indexing."

He adds, "My commitment to complete the manuscript grew amid national efforts to white-wash academic curricula that explore past prejudice against African Americans, with censorship encouraged by Donald Trump's MAGA campaign to 'Make America Great Again,' which is their way of saying, like back in the 1950s."

He views the entire scenario as "as an attempt to eliminate our history."

Saginaw High, SVSU startup

McKether studied at Saginaw Valley State and at Grand Valley before he headed for Wayne State. He's a 1979 Saginaw High grad who performed custodial jobs to help pay his way through college, along with serving as seasonal director of the city's former Summer Food Program.

The book will carry the title, "Broken Dreams and the Struggle for Equality: Lessons from the Black Migration to Saginaw, Michigan." McKether is hoping for a release by Brill Publishers in time for the holidays, but if not, holiday gift certificates will be available.

One example of broken dreams is stories of redlining, through which lenders drew maps with borders where they refused to make home mortgage loans in neighborhoods of

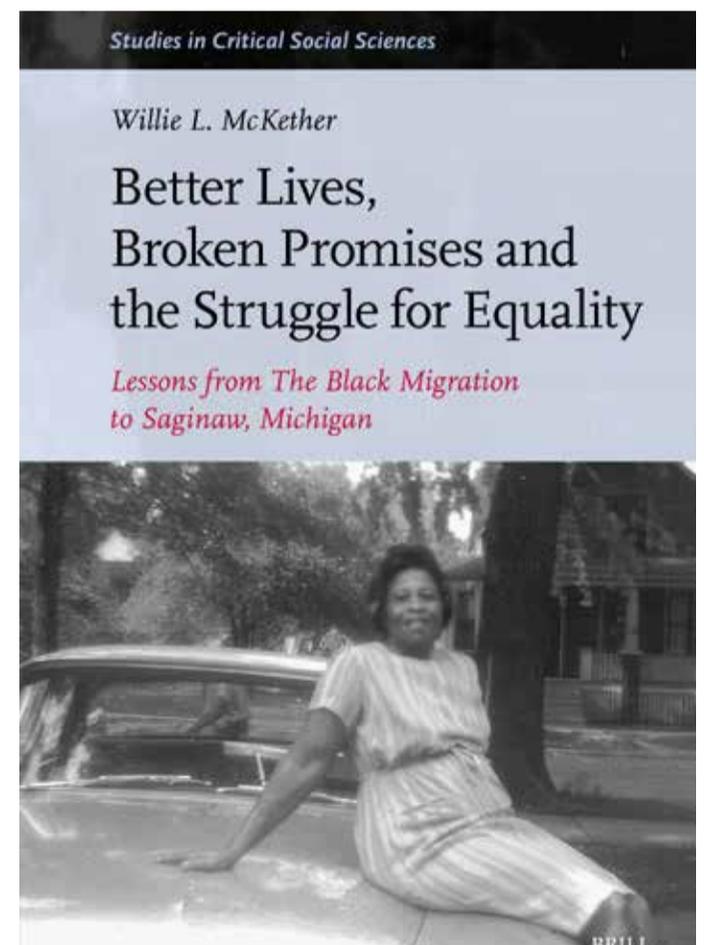
color. Old-timers also described being denied restaurant service well into the 1950s, and being disallowed from trying on clothes in department stores, showing that northern towns were not exempt from racism.

At the same time, with a balanced outlook, McKether chronicles how hard-working men and women could earn more money from a year in a manufacturing plant than in a lifetime under the extortion suffered within southern sharecropping.

The book cover shows his mother, Emma McKether, during some leisure time from her career as a teacher in Saginaw city schools. She was 86 when she passed away in 2008.

Readers who seek more info may contact McKether via his Facebook page.

Hoyt Library is also home to the late Dr. Roosevelt Ruffin's "Black Presence in Saginaw: 1855 to 1900."

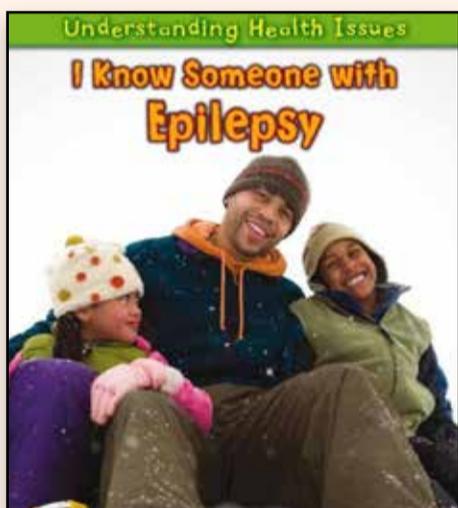


BETTER LIVES, BROKEN PROMISES AND THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY: LESSONS FROM THE BLACK MIGRATION TO SAGINAW, MICHIGAN BY DR. WILLIE L. MCKETHER, PUBLISHED BY BRILL.

How -- and why -- to offer a helping hand

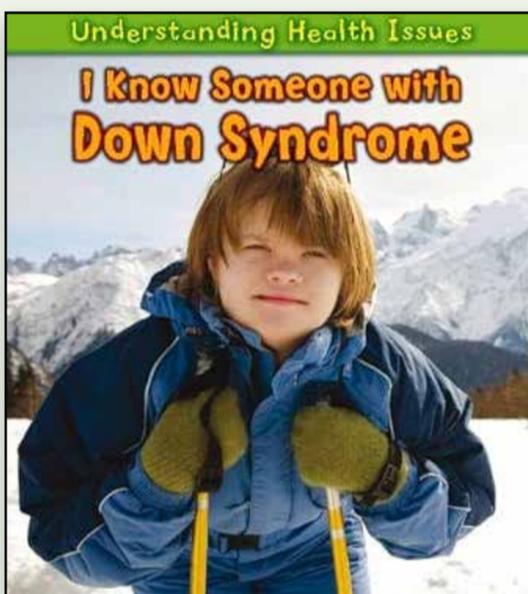
(As the Michigan Banner focuses on literacy, we will offer suggestions for children's books.)

We teach our children, don't tease or bully someone else because they are different. "Understanding Health Issues" is a series of compact 32-page illustrated early-elem books that explain the unique challenges faced by some of their peers. The list includes ADHD, allergies, asthma, autism, cancer, diabetes, down syndrome, dyslexia, eczema, epilepsy, hearing impairments, HIV-AIDS, obesity, visual impairments, wheelchair users. Grownups also may learn a thing or three. Chicago's Heinemann Library is the publisher.



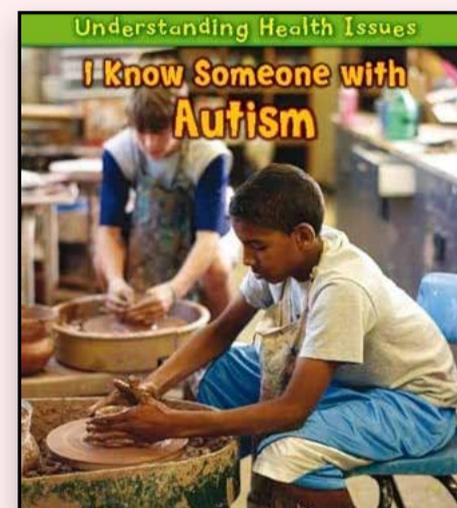
EPILEPSY
Vic Parker

Unlike other disorders, epilepsy is hidden until there is a seizure. We learn that the cause is within the brain. "It can affect the person's senses, behavior, feelings, or thoughts for a while." In addition to first calling for adult help, look for an identification bracelet or necklace. Some children grow out of epilepsy.



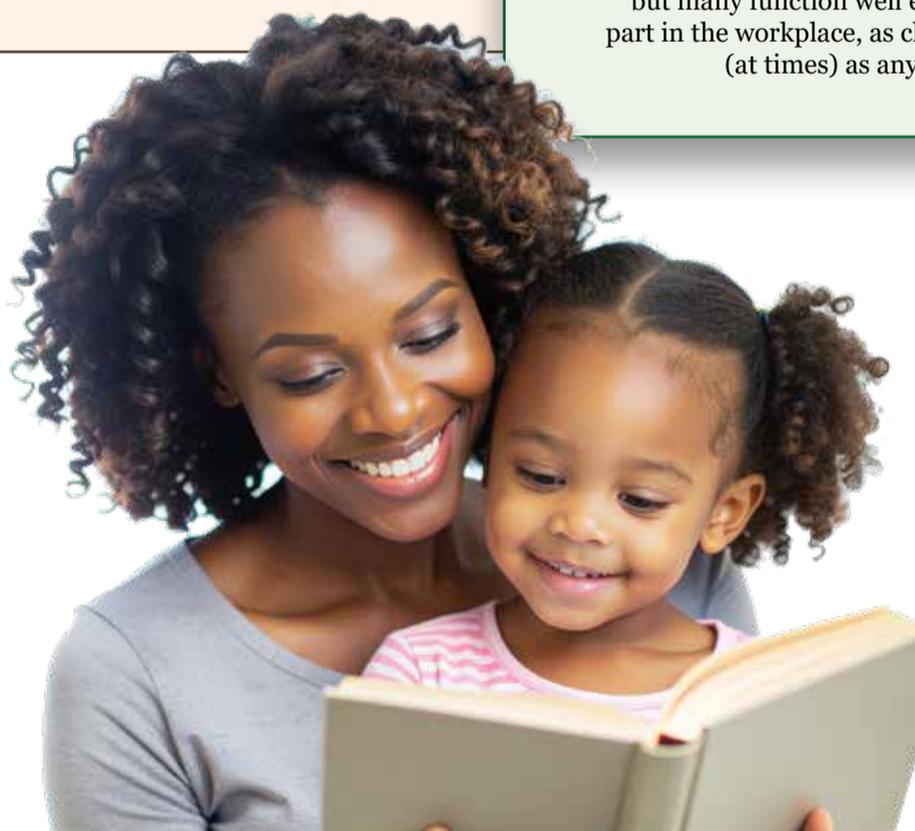
DOWN SYNDROME
Vic Parker

It's from birth and lifelong, not something you can catch from germs, "a medical condition that . . . affects people's bodies and their learning abilities, too." In the most serious cases, lifetime care is needed, but many function well enough to take part in the workplace, as cheery or grumpy (at times) as any of us.



AUTISM
Sue Barraclough

These books were researched and written before RFK Jr. came along, and so there is no direct response to nonsense about autism being caused by vaccinations for measles, et al. Besides, these are lessons for children in elementary school, and so the how-to-be-a-good-friend guidance is key.



None of the 15 books is addressed to sickle cell anemia, but at least we found a webpage presented near a fifth-grade level, to share with children. [Click here.](#)

To volunteer as a tutor, training is required. You can do it. Contact your neighborhood school or the READ Association in your local community.

COMMUNITY

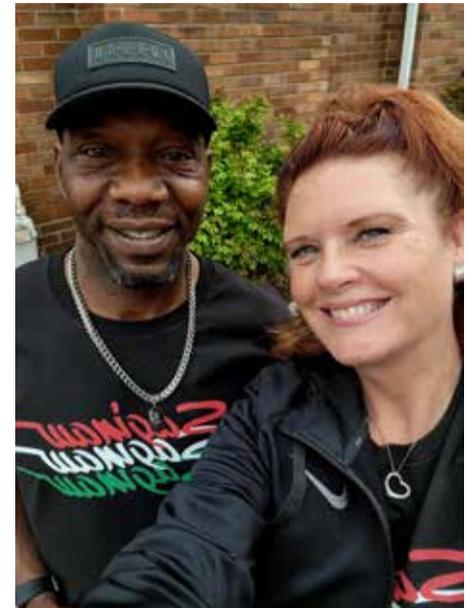
Daughter's gardening keeps mom's legacy alive



KATE WARNER'S HOME, WINNER OF THE SCENIC 2025 BEAUTIFICATION AWARD. (COURTESY PHOTO)

forts, "it makes you feel better," Warner said after an Oct. 21 ceremony at the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History. "There is something about pulling in the driveway and being greeted with beauty. My mom enjoyed when total strangers would stop by and chat with her about the yard. She truly loved gardening and the freedom of expression she got from it."

Warner continued, "Gardening and the yard have always been her joy and a way to express herself. We lived in that house for about nine years now and every year we've added more and more things. Unfortunately, she passed so she doesn't get to enjoy



KATE WARNER AND HER PARTNER, MARCEL CHOYCE (COURTESY PHOTO)

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW, Mich. — Last spring, a homeowner in the city's northwest area felt grief shortly after Mother's Day, when her own mom passed away.

But Kate Warner and her partner, Marcel Choyce, re-devoted themselves to home gardening, learned under the wing of Mary Weaver, the longtime Saginaw educator who was a master

gardener.

She is the 2025 Beautification Award winner, presented by SCENIC, the Saginaw Code Enforcement Neighborhood Improvement Cooperative

As a child, Kate viewed those garden times more as a chore, but she says she has learned to enjoy those hours in the fresh air, even if she's still not especially enthusiastic about pulling weeds.

"When you come home" and witness the results of your ef-



KATE WARNER'S MOTHER, MARY WEAVER

the award for her great work, but we will definitely accept it on her behalf and are proud to be part of Saginaw."

Kate has planned in tight confines with only 67 feet of frontage, barely more than half of the norm, especially for an 87-year-old brown-brick two-story home of 1,900 square feet. She highlights the sides of the front walkway, distinctive for its small brick steps at the sidewalk.

The location is on Herman-sau and Oak, across from the entrance to the former Bethle-

hem Lutheran Church. Saginaw's upper northwest tip is compressed, with a few homefronts along alleyways, and traditional phases of blight are ongoing in a zone that is a scant half-mile toward the river from the upper-scale Northmoor area along the Mason-Woodbridge one-ways.

City leaders, through SCENIC's connections with numerous neighborhood leaders, hope honors to good citizens like Kate Warner will provide sparks for others to follow the examples. Kate says a family kitty-corner is doing a good job, but when we drove past on the day of the honor, two yards to the immediate south had not been mowed in weeks.

Still, SCENIC is on track to keep plugging away in 2026. For info on how to get involved, [click here](#).

To view the 2025 finalists, including the Warner home in the bottom row, second from left, [click here](#).

Lead sponsors of the Saginaw Neighborhood Recognition Awards Program are Abele's Greenhouse, Self-Serve Lumber, Cooper Frame & Art, Miles Market, the Castle Museum and the Saginaw Community Foundation.



A FLORAL DISPLAY AT KATE WARNER'S HOME, WINNER OF THE 2025 BEAUTIFICATION AWARD. (COURTESY PHOTO)

HEALTH

MyMichigan Medical Center Saginaw earns elite orthopedic certification for second time



MYMICHIGAN MEDICAL CENTER SAGINAW

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — MyMichigan Medical Center Saginaw has again earned one of the highest distinctions in orthopedic care, securing the Joint Commission's Advanced Certification in Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement for a second consecutive review period.

The accomplishment places the hospital among only three in Michigan to hold the advanced certification and the sole facility in the Great Lakes Bay Region to achieve the honor.

"This achievement demonstrates MyMichigan's high standard of quality and safety for hip and knee replacement patients, covering the entire care process from consultation to rehabilita-

tion," said Michael Wahoviak, musculoskeletal service line director for MyMichigan Health. "It takes a dedicated team to prepare and sustain what's needed for a recognition such as this."

The certification follows a rigorous onsite review by the Joint Commission, the country's leading health care accreditation organization. The process evaluates hospitals on adherence to American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons-approved standards and on performance measures tied to outcomes, patient safety and clinical quality.

Hospital officials say the advanced designation underscores MyMichigan Saginaw's emphasis on standardized, evidence-based care designed to reduce risk and ensure consistency. The program covers the full patient experience

— beginning with the first consultation and continuing through surgery, inpatient and outpatient recovery, and long-term follow-up.

The recognition includes the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval, signaling that the hospital meets nationally recognized benchmarks for continuous improvement, performance monitoring and patient safety.

"We focus on superior outcomes and actively prioritize improving clinical processes to achieve better patient results and enhanced overall recovery experiences," Wahoviak said. "As a result, we have a robust program structure designed to support and manage orthopedic patient programs effectively."

To maintain the certification, MyMichigan Medical Center Sag-

inaw must continue to track and analyze key performance measures related to hip and knee replacement care and demonstrate alignment with current evidence-based clinical guidelines.

More information about orthopedic specialists at MyMichigan Medical Center Saginaw is available at mymichigan.org/saginawmsk.

MyMichigan Health, headquartered in Midland, operates medical centers across 26 counties and provides a wide spectrum of services, from urgent care and virtual visits to specialty medical practices. The nonprofit system employs more than 10,500 people and has been recognized by Forbes as one of "America's Best Employers by State" for four consecutive years.

HEALTH

Michigan launches \$9.5M grant opportunity to expand mobile crisis intervention services

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has opened a competitive grant opportunity designed to help communities across the state establish or expand mobile crisis intervention services.

The initiative aims to increase access to behavioral health crisis response for all Michigan residents, regardless of where they live, their diagnosis or their insurance coverage. Funding is intended both for agencies launching new community-based crisis programs and for existing programs seeking to grow their

capacity.

Eligible applicants include local public entities such as federally recognized tribal governments and local health departments.

The department expects to award up to nine grants, with a total of approximately \$9.5 million available. Individual awards for the full grant period — March 1, 2026, through Sept. 30, 2027 — may not exceed \$1 million per applicant.

Applications must be submitted electronically through EGrAMS by 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 5.

More information, including application materials and

instructions, is available on the EGrAMS website. Applicants can access the full Grant Funding Opportunity under “Current

Grants” in the Specialty Behavioral Health Services section by selecting the “MCCRC-2026” program.



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*National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers

Michigan to invest \$131M in opioid prevention and treatment

BY MB STAFF

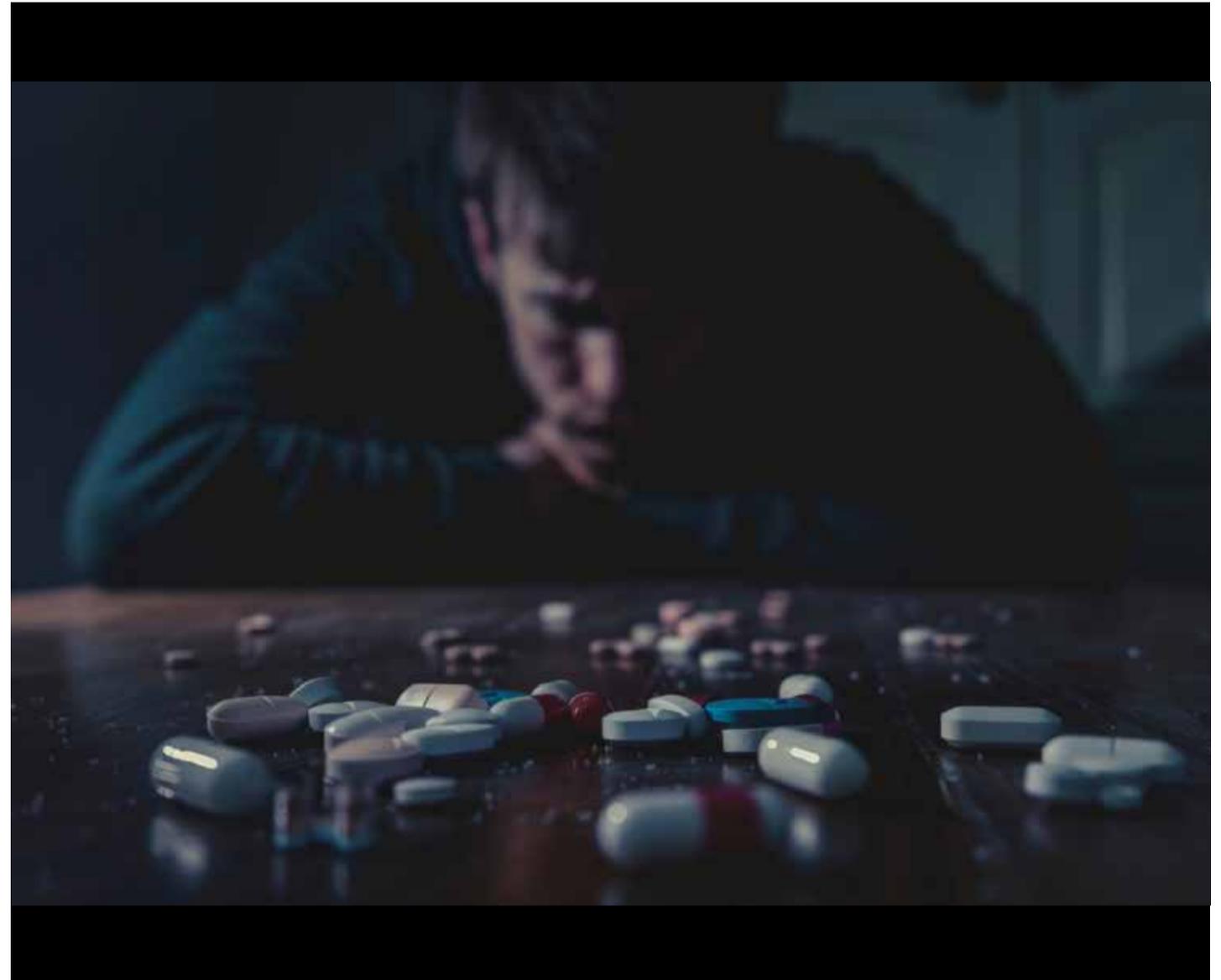
LANSING, Mich. — Michigan will direct more than \$131 million toward substance use disorder prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery services as part of the recently approved fiscal year 2026 budget, state officials announced during a Michigan Opioids Task Force meeting this week.

The funding comes from the Opioid Healing and Recovery Fund and supports initiatives designed to save lives and reduce overdose deaths statewide. The investments align with Michigan's opioid strategy developed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) in partnership with the task force.

"We greatly appreciate Governor Whitmer and legislators who were critical to making these investments a reality," MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel said. "We will use these funds to continue investing in programs that further our efforts to save lives by decreasing substance use disorders, expanding treatment options and improving recovery success."

Michigan has seen some of the strongest progress in the nation in reducing overdose deaths. "Michigan is a leader in addressing opioid addiction, ranking in the top five states in the country for greatest reduction in overdose deaths," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, the state's chief medical executive and chair of the Opioids Task Force. "Those are not just statistics, they are our neighbors, our family members and our friends whose lives have been saved."

Tommy Stallworth III, senior advisor for MDHHS, said continued support from the governor and Legislature is essential



FILE PHOTO

as the state works to strengthen community-based programs and treatment options. "Their support will allow community organizations, treatment providers and MDHHS to continue building on the successes and improvements Michigan has made in addressing the opioid epidemic," Stallworth said.

Funding in the FY2026 budget includes:

- \$13.75 million for primary prevention and public education to delay initial drug use and increase community awareness.
- \$25.5 million to support

harm-reduction agencies, diversion programs, law enforcement training and naloxone distribution.

- \$28 million to expand access to treatment services across the state.
- \$37.5 million to increase recovery housing and recovery support services.
- \$27 million for targeted investments, including peer recovery services, mobile programs and efforts to support data-driven decision-making and fiscal responsibility.

More details about timelines and funding access for service

providers will be released as information becomes available.

Michigan is expected to receive more than \$1.8 billion from national opioid settlement agreements by 2040. Half of those funds will flow to the state's Opioid Healing and Recovery Fund, with the remaining half distributed directly to local governments.

Resources for substance use disorder treatment and recovery are available at Michigan.gov/SUD. Additional information about programming plans tied to the opioid settlement can be found on the state's opioids settlement website.

HEALTH

Michigan reports sharp drop in injuries at state psychiatric hospitals following new daily risk assessments

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — A new daily risk-assessment and care-planning process at Michigan's four state psychiatric hospitals has led to a significant drop in injuries among patients and staff, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced.

Since implementing the system, patient injuries have declined by 47%, and serious patient-related staff injuries have fallen by 27%, according to MDHHS. The effort is part of a broader initiative to strengthen safety, improve patient care and reduce incidents of aggression in the state's inpatient psychiatric settings.

"We take the health and safety of our staff and patients seriously and continually strive to improve the care our patients receive as well as working conditions for our staff," said MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel. "Patient-to-staff aggression is the leading cause of workplace injury among our staff. Implementing this risk assessment tool has helped us make great strides."

The new process centers on the Dynamic Appraisal of Situational Aggression (DASA), a seven-item tool that evaluates the likelihood a patient may become aggressive within 24 hours. Nursing staff assess patients daily in categories such as irritability, impulsivity, unwillingness to follow directions, sensitivity to perceived provocation, negative attitudes and verbal threats. Each patient receives a rating of low, moderate or high risk.

Based on that score, staff apply the Aggression Prevention Protocol to tailor interventions meant to reduce potential triggers. Strategies can include reassurance, distraction techniques,



CARO PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

one-to-one nursing, medication, boundary-setting and increased observation.

"Patients in our state hospitals are dealing with some of the most serious behavioral health illnesses," said Dr. George Mellos, senior deputy director of the MDHHS State Hospital Administration. "This tool helps our staff stop these incidents of aggression before they start and puts the management of patients where it belongs, in the hands of the direct care staff who know them best."

The improvements have extended beyond injury reduction. Since February 2024, MDHHS reports a 43% decrease in staff turnover, a major shift within a workforce historically strained

by safety concerns and burnout.

Experts outside the department have also noted the early results. Dr. Roland Jones of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health described the reductions in injuries and turnover as "highly impressive," noting the impact of coordinated, evidence-based practices. Dr. Michael Daffern, who developed the DASA tool at Swinburne University of Technology in Australia, said Michigan's rollout is an example of "world class implementation and evaluation."

Michigan's psychiatric hospitals — Caro Psychiatric Hospital, Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital, Walter Reuther Psychiatric Hospital and the Center for Forensic Psychiatry — serve roughly 600

patients at any time. DASA was first introduced at Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital in March 2024, followed by Caro and Walter Reuther for adult patients in July 2024. The Center for Forensic Psychiatry and youth units at Walter Reuther began using it in 2025.

Michigan is among the first states to fully adopt the DASA and Aggression Prevention Protocol in public psychiatric hospitals, joining facilities in Virginia, Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and UCLA Medical Center.

MDHHS officials say they expect continued improvements as the assessment system becomes further integrated into daily operations.

EDUCATION

NAACP backs school millage



HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW, Mich. — Local NAACP leadership is supporting a "yes" vote Tuesday, Nov. 4, in a

special election for \$169 million to upgrade Heritage High, White Pine Middle and six elementaries.

The endorsement points to a need for upkeep of buildings that range in age from 54 to 86 years

old and does not mention race-based concerns. Still, as Michigan Banner notes in our Oct. 16 preview report, cross-district enrollment choice that started in 1994 gradually has integrated the schools at a faster pace than the township population as a whole, creating a backlash among some segments.

Two years ago, a \$242 million proposal was defeated by a major landslide, with only 23 percent support. School leaders have reduced the sum this time, mostly by removing a plan for a new Heritage.

To estimate someone's personal cost per year, divide the taxable value (half the sales value) by 1,000, and then multiply by 2.85. For example, that's

\$285 for a property that would sell for \$200,000, slightly higher than the community's average. Some senior citizens may qualify for homestead breaks.

Township polls open at 7 a.m. on Nov. 4 and close at 8 p.m.

The NAACP Saginaw Branch
 Wholeheartedly Endorses and supports the Saginaw Township Community Schools 2025 Bond Proposal

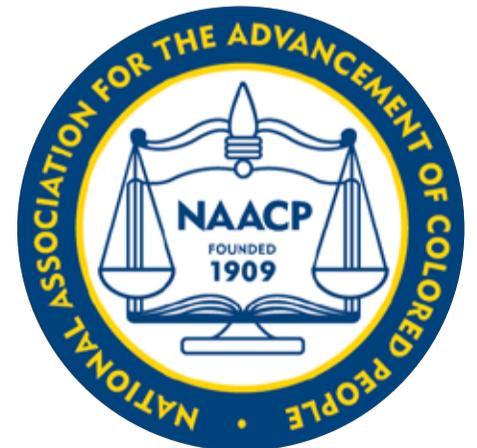
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A Yes Vote will provide essential resources that will:

- Provide updates to infrastructure & facilities
- Provide improvements to safety & security systems
- Provide renovations to learning environments
- Provide improvements to athletic facilities

VOTE YES TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH
 STCS 2025 Bond

NAACP
 Terry Pruitt
 President



EDUCATION

SVSU reports 96% increase in donor giving for 2025 fiscal year



SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Saginaw Valley State University closed the books on a strong 2025 fiscal year, reporting more than \$6.7 million in donor contributions — a 96% increase from the previous year. The university's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30.

“Over the course of my first year at Saginaw Valley State University, it became evident what a special place this is,” Vice President of Development Brian Brunner said. “As I met with alumni and friends in the region and around the country, I heard stories of their belief in our university's mission and the need to

make sure an SVSU education is accessible to all students.”

SVSU received more than 2,000 gifts from 1,471 donors, supporting academic and athletic programs, capital projects and other campus priorities.

One of the year's most significant contributions came from Robert “Bob” Vitito, a former SVSU Board of Control member, and his wife, Marianne “Bobbi” Vitito. Their \$1.25 million blended gift will support both current and future initiatives within the Scott L. Carmona College of Business, one of the university's fastest-growing colleges. The Vititos' investment expands the Vitito Global Leadership Institute and will bolster programming, special

activities and efforts to promote excellence within the college.

Student scholarships continued to drive philanthropic support, totaling more than \$1.3 million. Among them is the newly created Nathan Weidner Memorial Scholarship, established by the Nathan Weidner Foundation. Twelve third-year students will receive \$4,000 awards this academic year to honor Weidner's life and commitment to helping others.

The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum also received a notable estate gift from the late Carl and Christina Fredericks. As the son of Marshall Fredericks, Carl's long-standing dedication to the arts was shaped by

his father's influence. Their gift will help preserve the museum's collection, support daily operations and continue the sculptor's legacy.

Another major success in the fiscal year was Oppor2nity Days, the university's annual two-day giving campaign. Donors contributed \$197,936.20 from 370 gifts — a 53% increase over last year's total.

University officials say the strong fundraising year reflects growing momentum for initiatives that support student success and expand access to higher education. Donors can learn more about giving opportunities and priorities through SVSU's development office.



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EDUCATION

Staying in touch with your child's school



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS

As the school year moves along, it is important for parents to stay in touch with school officials—especially their child's teacher(s). A child's academic progress is full of challenges for both parents and teachers. The key to meeting these challenges successfully is effective communication.

Previously I wrote about how important Parent/Teacher Conferences are. Beyond those scheduled meetings, regular communication between home and school is vital. How and when parents and teachers communicate can make all the difference in a student's success.

Look for communications from school to home

These may still arrive on paper (old school) as a weekly classroom newsletter brought home by your child on Fridays. More often today, communication happens digitally—through email, text alerts, or posts on a school portal. Whatever the format, parents should identify these channels and take time to read them carefully. Monitoring student progress is one of the most important indicators of supportive parents.

Know how best to report a child's absence

Each school has its own procedures. Do you send in a note from home? Call a specific attendance line? Report the absence



FILE PHOTO

on the day it occurs or when your child returns? Planned absences—such as family trips or medical procedures—may require prior notice. While absences should be minimized, knowing the correct reporting process is a big step forward.

Find out what to do if you need to reach the school

Should you call the main office, contact the teacher directly,

or send a message through the school's online system? Every school has its own process for communication. Learning those early helps ensure that questions or concerns—especially about academic or social issues—are addressed quickly and effectively.

Communication is simple, and yet, in my years as a teacher and administrator, I have seen how easily misunderstandings can occur. When that happens,

situations can escalate quickly. Clear, respectful, and timely communication helps prevent that and keeps everyone focused on what matters most—supporting the student.

Wishing all parents and teachers a smooth and successful school year ahead!

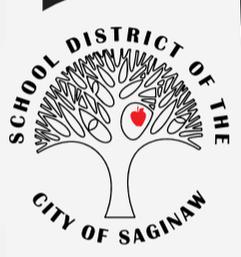
Resource:

<https://www.parents.com/kids/education/back-to-school/the-smart-way-to-talk-to-teachers/>



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EDUCATION

Hemlock schools, SVSU form STEM partnership to expand robotics, career pathways



LOCKWOOD STEM CENTER

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Hemlock Public School District and the Lockwood STEM Center have entered into a new partnership with Saginaw Valley State University aimed at strengthening STEM education, expanding robotics opportunities and creating clearer pathways from high school to college and careers across the Great Lakes Bay Region.

The agreement outlines shared priorities among the three

organizations, including broader access to robotics programs, enhanced STEM career exploration and new opportunities for students to earn college credit and scholarships.

As part of the partnership, SVSU will establish an annual \$3,000 scholarship for students who complete the robotics program at the Lockwood STEM Center and enroll at the university as first-year undergraduates. The scholarship is renewable for up to five years for students who maintain full-time enroll-

ment and satisfactory academic progress.

Additional plans include promoting SVSU's educational programs and recruiting events to Hemlock students and families, exploring new STEM-related initiatives with local employers, examining dual-enrollment opportunities and supporting regional economic development through education-focused collaboration.

"This partnership represents another step forward in creating real, connected opportunities for our students," Hemlock Public

School District Superintendent Don Killingbeck said. "By aligning K-12 education with higher education and industry, we're helping prepare students not only for the next step in their education, but also for meaningful careers in our region."

The Lockwood STEM Center serves as a regional hub for hands-on STEM instruction. School leaders say working with SVSU expands the center's reach by giving students a more direct link to postsecondary options and career pathways.

Board of Education President Matt Wesener said the district continues to build on its foundation of STEM programming focused on preparing students for future workforce demands. "Partnerships like this one with SVSU and the Lockwood STEM Center reinforce that momentum—ensuring our students have access to the tools, experiences, and opportunities needed to succeed in a rapidly changing world," he said.

The agreement will remain in effect for five years, with each partner operating within its institutional guidelines to ensure the collaboration benefits students, schools and the regional economy.

The Lockwood STEM Center provides students with hands-on learning experiences connected to science, technology, engineering and math. Hemlock Public School District, based in Saginaw County, offers comprehensive educational programming and emphasizes academic excellence, community engagement and preparation for global competitiveness.

MI Tri-Share CHILD CARE



LOOKING FOR A NEW OPTION TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN STAFF?

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The MI Tri-Share Child Care Benefit Program (MI Tri-Share) is a workforce development initiative that allows Michigan employers to offer a highly desirable benefit to help improve employee recruitment and retention. One of the most significant employment barriers for working parents is the cost of child care.

Through MI Tri-Share, the cost of an employee's child care is shared equally among the employer, the employee and the State of Michigan - an even three-way split



CONTACT US NOW

Ericka M. Taylor, Ph.D.
Executive Director
of Early Childhood

989-399-7423

etaylor@sisd.cc



EMPLOYER REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

- Offer the MI Tri-Share program to one or more employees with dependent children between 0-12 years old.
- Agree to cover 33% of participating employees' child care costs.
- Collect employee payments.
- Submit employer and employee payments via ACH.
- Communicate if an approved employee is no longer employed.
- Allow for flexibility as family situations and needs vary.

MI Tri-Share Program Eligibility 2025

Household Size	Minimum	Maximum Income	Household Size	Minimum	Maximum Income
2 People	\$42,300	\$ 84,600	6 People	\$86,300	\$172,600
3 People	\$53,300	\$106,600	7 People	\$97,300	\$194,600
4 People	\$64,300	\$128,600	8 People	\$108,300	\$216,600
5 People	\$75,300	\$150,600	9 People	\$119,300	\$238,600

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

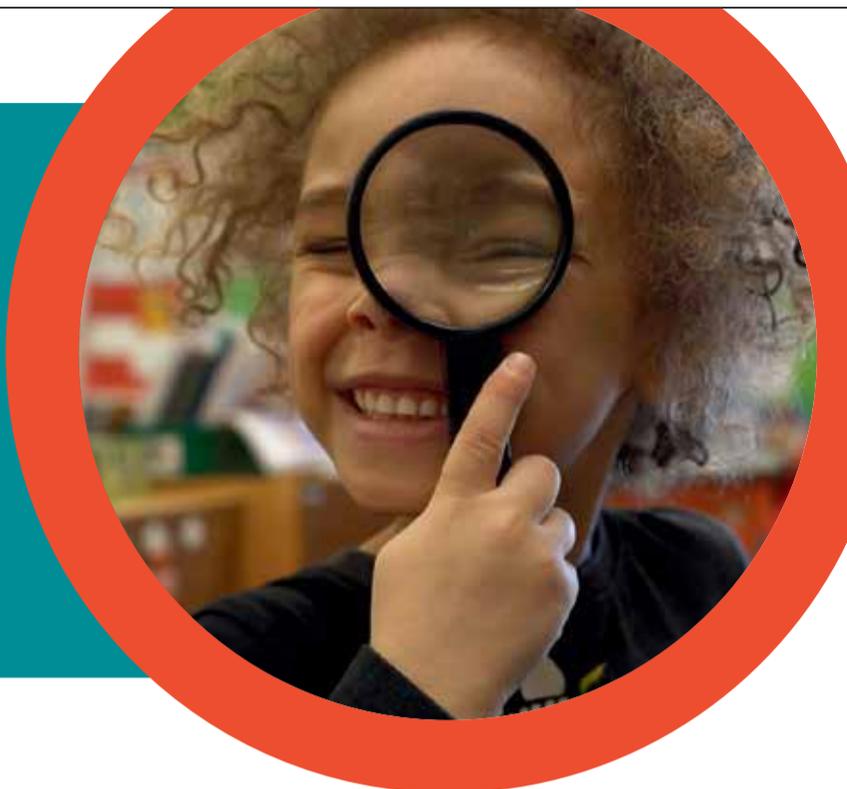
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**Administration for Children and Families: Children's Learning and Development Benefits from High-Quality Early Care and Education: A Summary of Evidence*



Visit www.earlychildhood.sisd.cc or call **989-752-2193** for more information and apply today!



About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

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

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Frankenmuth's Bavarian Blast Waterpark earns top industry award for innovation



BAVARIAN BLAST WATERPARK AT BAVARIAN INN

BY MB STAFF

FRANKENMUTH, Mich. — Bavarian Blast Waterpark, part of the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn Lodge, has received the Leading Edge Award from the World Waterpark Association — the highest honor presented at the organization's annual Symposium & Trade Show.

The Leading Edge Award recognizes creativity and innovation in the water attractions industry. According to the World Waterpark Association, the distinction is given to "individuals or parks for creativity in the development

of new themes, facilities, programs, services, or operational concepts."

The award honors the team's work in launching Bavarian Blast Waterpark, billed as Michigan's largest indoor waterpark and family fun center.

"Receiving the Leading Edge Award is a true testament to the passion, creativity, and hard work of our entire team," said Michael Keller Zehnder, owner and president of Bavarian Inn Lodge. "We are proud to provide families with unforgettable experiences at Bavarian Blast Waterpark and honored to be recognized by our peers in the waterpark industry

for our commitment to innovation and delivering exceptional guest enjoyment."

Bavarian Blast, located within the Bavarian Inn Lodge, spans more than 170,000 square feet and includes 16 new waterslides, a lazy river, a wave pool, and the state's first adult-only swim-up bar. The facility also features gaming areas, family activities and multiple dining options.

The Bavarian Inn Lodge, managed by the fourth generation of the family, offers 360 European-themed guest rooms, an adult-only pool and whirlpool, four gift shops, two lounges and three restaurants under one roof.

Its Family Fun Center includes additional slides, three pools, two whirlpools, more than 180 arcade and redemption games, Build-A-Bear Workshop, mini golf, laser tag, mini bowling, a ropes course, climbing walls, and nightly entertainment.

The Bavarian Inn Resort complex also includes the Bavarian Inn Restaurant, Frankenmuth River Place Shops, and the ResidenZ at Bavarian Inn. The Lodge hosts events ranging from small gatherings to conferences of up to 500 guests, and has booked more than 2.6 million room-nights since opening.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Dow Event Center unveils Jolt Celebration Club

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — A familiar gathering space inside the Dow Event Center has a new name. The Saginaw Spirit, Jolt Credit Union, ASM Global and the Dow Event Center announced that the former Budweiser Red Room has been reintroduced as the Jolt Celebration Club, marking a continued partnership between the Spirit and the Saginaw-based credit union.

The 10,000-square-foot venue has long served as a central hub for community events and pregame festivities during Saginaw Spirit home games. Team officials say the refreshed name reflects ongoing investments in downtown Saginaw and the Riverfront area.

“There is significant positive momentum happening in and around the Dow Event Center,” Spirit President and Managing Partner Craig Goslin said. “We are grateful to Alan Watson, Bridget Looby Staffileno and the entire Jolt Board of Directors as they recognize the importance of



A RIBBON CUTTING WAS HELD ON OCTOBER 22, 2025, TO CELEBRATE THE UNVEILING OF THE NEWLY RENAMED JOLT CELEBRATION CLUB INSIDE THE DOW EVENT CENTER.

a strong Riverfront Saginaw.”

Goslin said the Jolt brand’s presence aligns with broader redevelopment efforts, including elements of the upcoming Medical Diamond project. The renaming also builds on Jolt Credit Union’s three years of naming-rights sponsorship for the Dow Event Center’s outdoor Event

Park.

The newly named Jolt Celebration Club made its public debut when the Spirit hosted the Erie Otters on Oct. 24 and the Owen Sound Attack on Oct. 25.

“Our commitment to Saginaw’s incredible community remains as strong as ever,” said Alan Watson, Jolt Credit Union

president and CEO. “When one chapter ends, another begins, and this one’s all about celebration.”

Dow Event Center General Manager Kevin Murphy called the update a sign of continued growth downtown. “Today marks a simple but exciting update — a refreshed space that represents continued growth and investment in downtown Saginaw,” he said.

In recent years, Jolt Credit Union has been a prominent supporter of local events, festivals and sports activities, including its role as title sponsor of Jolt Credit Union Event Park. Officials say the transition to the Celebration Club reflects a deepened commitment to the people and places that define the Great Lakes Bay Region.

The partnership between Jolt Credit Union, the Saginaw Spirit, Legends Global and Saginaw County will continue as the venue enters its newest phase.

Holiday party for small businesses returns after five-year break

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — After a five-year pause, HORIZONS Conference Center is bringing back its Ultimate Small Business Holiday Party, offering an evening of food, music and seasonal celebration. The event is set for Thursday, Dec. 11, from 6 to 11 p.m.

Tickets are \$45 per person and include a dinner featuring

prime rib, ricotta and parmesan stuffed shells and additional entrées. Guests will also enjoy desserts provided by Michigan Cream and Sugar Ice Cream Company and Pâtisserie.

The evening includes a full name-brand cash bar, with beer, wine, liquor and soda, plus two drink tickets per guest. Rusch Entertainment will provide DJ services and music for the night, accompanied by a large dance floor and a digital photo booth

for attendees to capture memories with colleagues and friends.

Organizers say the Ultimate Small Business Holiday Party is designed as a festive option for small businesses seeking to celebrate the season together without hosting an event of their own.

Tickets may be purchased by contacting the HORIZONS Conference Center sales office at (989) 799-4122. More information is available at horizonscenter.com.

Established in 1996, HORIZONS is a full-service, award-winning event venue hosting community, business and social gatherings. The HORIZONS family of businesses includes Saginaw’s Pâtisserie and the Michigan Cream & Sugar Ice Cream Company in Bay City and Saginaw. The conference center is located at 6200 State Street in Saginaw Township.

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BUSINESS + FINANCE



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SPORTS

Moses Itauma to face Jermaine Franklin in heavyweight showdown in Manchester



HEAVYWEIGHT PROSPECT MOSES ITAUMA, LEFT, IS SET TO FACE AMERICAN CONTENDER JERMAINE FRANKLIN, RIGHT, IN A JAN. 24 MATCHUP AT MANCHESTER'S CO-OP LIVE ARENA.

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Rising heavyweight contender Moses Itauma will take the next major step in his fast-building career when he meets American veteran Jermaine Franklin on Jan. 24 at the Co-op Live Arena in Manchester, England, Queensberry Promotions announced Monday.

The bout will stream live on DAZN worldwide.

Itauma (13-0, 11 KOs), widely regarded as one of boxing's most promising young talents, is coming off the biggest win of his career — a first-round stoppage of former world title challenger Dil-

lian Whyte in August in Saudi Arabia. The 20-year-old has quickly climbed the heavyweight ranks, rarely needing more than a few rounds to dispatch his opponents. He has only been extended past the second round twice, in back-to-back fights in 2023.

Franklin (24-2, 15 KOs), a durable heavyweight from Saginaw, has shared opponents with Itauma, including Whyte. Franklin lost a controversial majority decision to Whyte in 2022, a performance that earned him a high-profile matchup with former unified champion Anthony Joshua. Franklin exceeded expectations in that bout, going the full 12 rounds.

Since then, Franklin has struggled to generate consistent momentum, fighting only twice in low-profile contests before securing a spot on the Canelo Álvarez–Terence Crawford undercard in September. He defeated Ivan Dychko via a disputed decision in a lackluster fight.

For Itauma, Franklin represents a test designed to provide valuable rounds against a durable opponent as he continues moving toward title contention. Itauma currently holds the No. 1 contender position with both the WBO and WBA. He is already the mandatory challenger for Kubrat Pulev's WBA (regular) heavyweight title and is expected to

face the winner of Pulev vs. Murat Gassiev sometime next year.

The Jan. 24 card will also feature several notable matchups, including a light heavyweight clash between contenders Willy Hutchinson (19-2, 14 KOs) and Ezra Taylor (13-0, 9 KOs). Former IBO champion Liam Davies (17-1, 8 KOs) will meet Zak Miller (17-1, 3 KOs) in a featherweight bout, and middleweight contender Shakiel Thompson (15-0, 11 KOs) returns against Brad Pauls (20-2-1, 11 KOs).

The event marks another major showcase for Itauma as he continues his rapid rise toward the top of the heavyweight division.

SPORTS

MHSAA releases 2025 football playoff pairings for 11- and 8-player divisions

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan High School Athletic Association has announced the official pairings for the 2025 football playoffs, setting the stage for postseason action beginning Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 across the state.

This year's field includes the top 32 teams in each 11-player division and the top 16 teams in each 8-player division, determined by playoff-point averages. Once selected, 11-player qualifiers were divided into four regions of eight teams each, while 8-player qualifiers were arranged into four regions of four teams.

For the opening rounds, postseason matchups are determined strictly by regular-season playoff points, with higher-ranked teams hosting regardless of travel distance. In the 11-player District Semifinals and 8-player Regional Semifinals, No. 1 seeds host No. 4 seeds, while No. 2 seeds host No. 3 seeds.

District Finals for 11-player and Regional Finals for 8-player will be played Nov. 7–8. The following weekend, Nov. 14–15, will feature 11-player Regional Finals and 8-player Semifinals. Winners of Regions 1 and 2, and Regions 3 and 4 will meet at neutral sites assigned by the MHSAA.

The 11-player Semifinals are set for Nov. 21–22, also at neutral locations. All tickets for playoff rounds, except championship games, will be sold online through GoFan.

Ticket pricing for 11-player games is \$7 for District Semifinals and Finals, \$9 for Regional Finals, and \$10 for Semifinals. In the 8-player playoffs, Regional Semifinals are \$7, Regional Finals are \$9, and Semifinals are \$10.

The 8-Player Finals will be



MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

held Nov. 22 at Northern Michigan University's Superior Dome in Marquette. The 11-Player Finals are scheduled for Nov. 28 and Nov. 30 at Ford Field in Detroit. All-day tickets to the 8-player championship cost \$10 for both games; all-day passes for the 11-player championships are \$20 for each day's four-game slate.

The 11-player Finals schedule is as follows:

Friday, Nov. 28

9:30 a.m. — Division 8
12:30 p.m. — Division 4
4 p.m. — Division 6
7 p.m. — Division 2

Sunday, Nov. 30

9:30 a.m. — Division 7
12:30 p.m. — Division 3

4 p.m. — Division 5
7 p.m. — Division 1

Complete brackets for all 11-player and 8-player divisions include matchups such as:

- **Division 1:** Hudsonville hosts Jenison; Rockford hosts Grandville; Grand Blanc hosts Oxford; Detroit Catholic Central hosts Hartland.
- **Division 2:** Muskegon hosts Mona Shores; Midland Dow hosts Waterford Mott; Walled Lake Western hosts Brother Rice.
- **Division 3:** Mount Pleasant hosts Bay City Western; Gaylord hosts

Marquette; DeWitt hosts Owosso.

- **Division 4:** Escanaba hosts Freeland; Ludington hosts Big Rapids; Godrich hosts Lake Fenton.
- **Division 5:** Ogemaw Heights hosts Negaunee; Swan Valley hosts Clare; Frankenmuth hosts Yale.
- **Division 6:** Belding hosts Ovid-Elsie; Montrose hosts Flint New Standard Academy; Almont hosts Clintondale.
- **Division 7:** Saginaw Valley Lutheran hosts Ithaca; Millington hosts Burton Bendle; Menominee hosts Manton.
- **Division 8:** Saginaw Nouvel hosts MLS; New Lothrop hosts Fowler; Hudson hosts Centreville.

In the 8-player divisions, top matchups include:

- **Division 1:** Norway hosts Gogebic; Merrill hosts Central Lake; Kingston hosts Bay City All Saints.
- **Division 2:** Lake Linden-Hubbell hosts Powers North Central; Onkama hosts Hillman; Deckerville hosts Morrice.

The MHSAA, a private non-profit representing more than 1,500 public and private schools, oversees postseason competition without the use of government or tax funding. Its tournaments draw more than 1.4 million spectators each year.

A complete list of brackets is available on the MHSAA website.

FAITH IN FOCUS



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

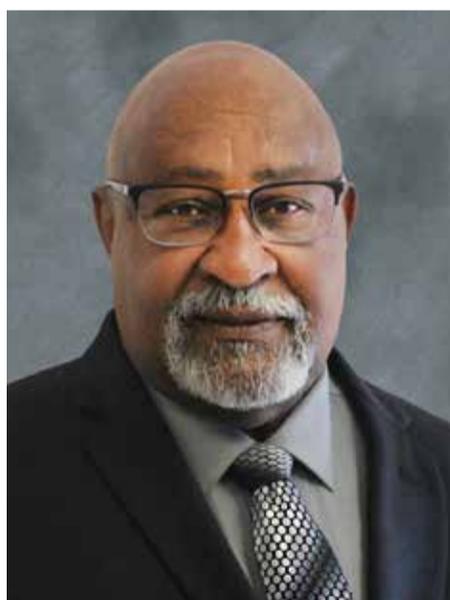
Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

BY PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

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

The organization's vision includes several key objectives:



PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

between the church, volunteers, and community professionals.

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

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

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

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

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

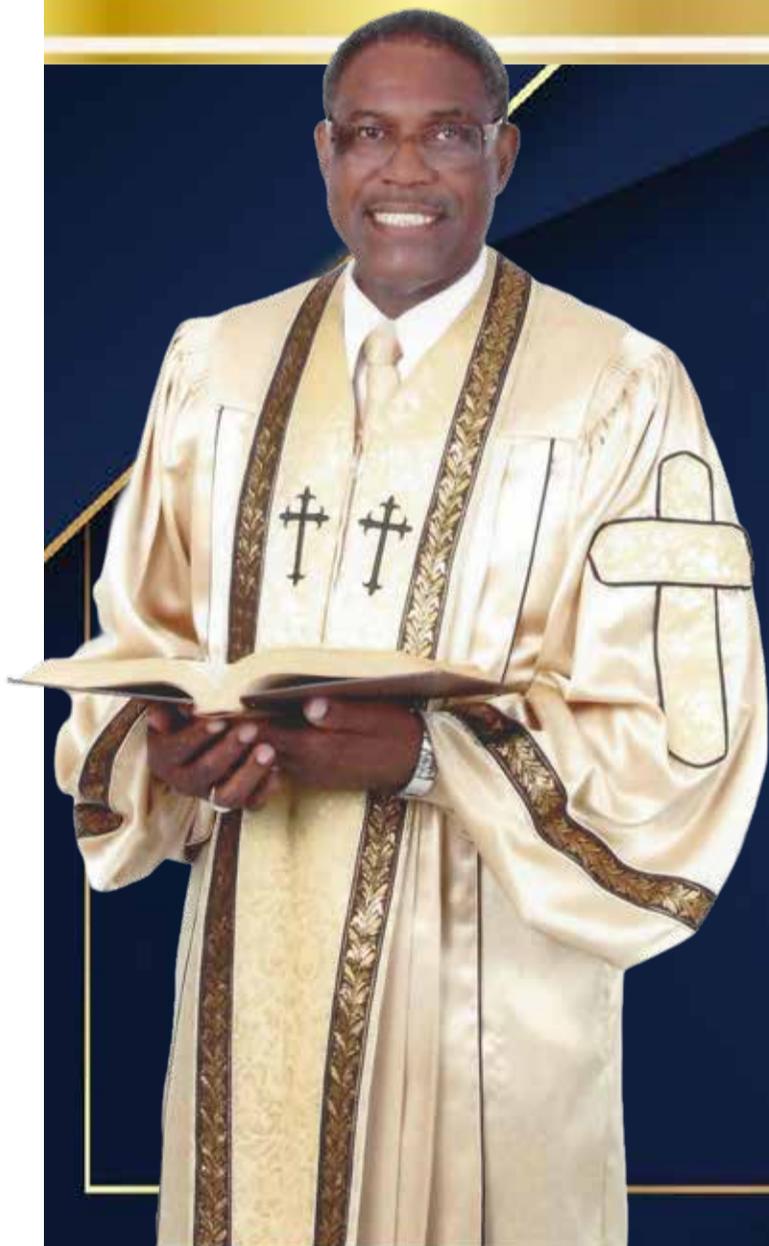
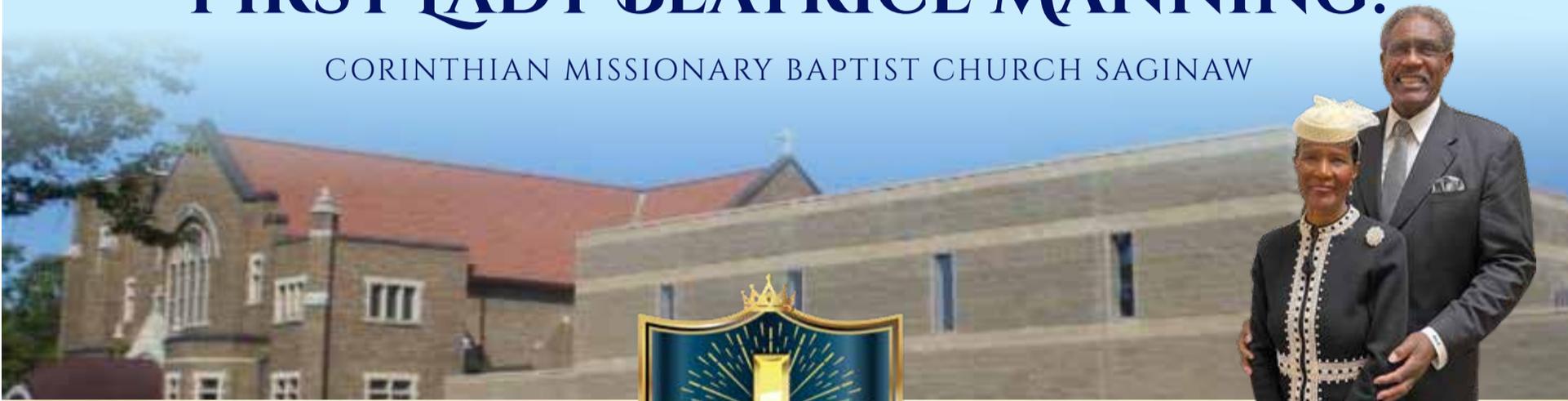
For more information, visit Ministry Without Walls at 3783 Mannion Road, Saginaw, MI 48603.

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Your ministry has been a beacon of light, and your legacy will continue to inspire generations to come. Your example of humility and grace has strengthened the community. As you enter this new chapter of life, may God continue to bless you abundantly with joy, peace, and fulfillment, knowing that your labor in the Lord has not been in vain.

FAITH IN FOCUS

SERMONETTE SERIES

When Faith Walks Through Fire

*When thou walkest through the fire,
thou shalt not be burned, neither
shall the flame kindle upon thee.*

Isaiah 43:2



BY MINISTER CAROLYN
CARTER TOWNSEL

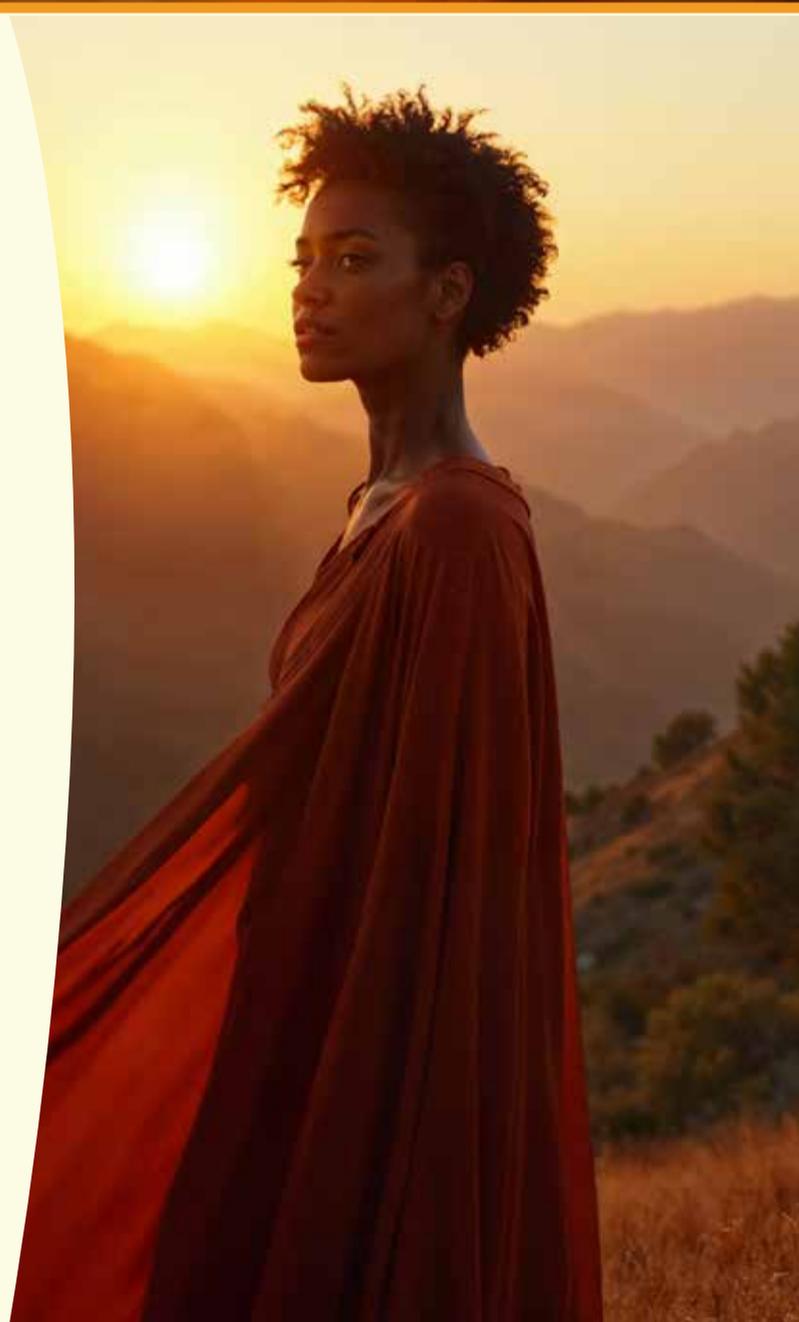
Faith doesn't keep you from the fire, it keeps you through the fire. God never promised to spare you from the heat, but he promised the flames wouldn't consume you. When faith walks into the fire, fear has to step aside. Sometimes, your greatest testimony is not that you avoided the storm, but that you survived it. Faith doesn't always change your surroundings, it changes you in the middle of them.

When the three Hebrew boys stood before the fiery furnace, they didn't beg for escape - they believed for presence. **"Our God is able to deliver us,"** they said, **"But even if He doesn't, we still won't bow."** That's what unshakable faith looks like. Faith doesn't depend on outcomes; It depends on God. And when they were thrown into the flames, there was a fourth man walking with them, the visible proof of an invisible promise.

Fire reveals what can't be burned. It purifies, it tests, and it exposes what's real. Some relationships, habits, and fears will melt away in the fire, but the gold of your faith will shine brighter. What you thought would destroy you will become the very thing God uses to display His glory. The fire you feared becomes the stage for your faith.

So, beloved don't run from the heat, walk through it. The same God who stood with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stands with you now. The flames may rise, but so will you. You are not alone. When faith walks through fire, it always comes out refined, radiant, and ready to reign.

Blessings To All,
Carolyn



CHURCH DIRECTORY



Christ Disciples Baptist Church

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



Ministry Without Walls

Pastor, John Dunn
3783 Mannion Road
Saginaw, MI 48603



New Life Baptist Ministries

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



Faith Ministries Church

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



World Outreach Campus

Bishop Hurley J. Coleman Jr.
2405 Bay Road
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-752-2955
worldoutreachcampus.com



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



Bridgeport Community Church

Pastor Rob Ashmall
3821 State St.
PO Box 541
Bridgeport, MI 48722
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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Challenges vs. Solutions

BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Breaking news: nonprofits face challenges all the time. They are not going to go away. Leading or working for a nonprofit doesn't make you exempt from challenges. And what's worse, they take all forms. You might have a cash flow challenge one month and next month the challenge is with personnel, or programming, or an unexpected repair bill. People quit. Funding resources diminish. There are lurking environmental challenges such as changes in demographics, the economy, housing, and funding from the foundations, the state, corporations, and the federal government. Challenges are everywhere: what sets you apart is how you face them.

Moving from challenge to solution requires you to keep your eyes, ears, heart, and mind open. You need to be aware, and you want to hear from others, to see what is really going on, and to be open to solutions they may offer. An open heart creates an atmosphere where others can feel comfortable bringing things to your attention and reduces the fear of being seen as the problem for mentioning there are challenges. You want to focus on creating solutions and implementing them, not finger-pointing. Having challenges isn't the challenge; it's persisting and unaddressed challenges that cause concern.

Before you jump into action, make sure you are not working alone. Always work with a team of people you trust. Share the challenge. Ask for your team members' thoughts. Check to see if your challenge is really the challenge you need to address, or an aspect of another "deeper" challenge.



FILE PHOTO

Ten steps to a solution. Here are ten things that can help you move from challenges to solutions. Start with open lines of communication; don't keep everything to yourself. Define the challenge and appropriately share information and updates with others. Talk with others and ensure you have an up-to-date understanding of your organization/institution and how it operates. Identify people with expertise from within the organization – or outside of it – to help map out a solution. Refer to your data and reports as you define the nature of the challenge and build a process for measuring the effectiveness of your solution(s). Work with realistic expectations, openly share concerns and responsibilities, and recognize and acknowledge those who bring both the challenges and

potential solutions to the table. Finally, don't let things linger. Identify the challenges and seek solutions. Put your plan into action and evaluate.

Your goal is to build a "can-do" culture within your organization. It can be a "challenge" to recognize that addressing challenges is part of everyday life. Think about it, most nonprofits are organically solution-oriented. Your very reason for being is to

address a challenge and create a solution. There will be challenges along the way, and at times you may have to redefine and change your solution, but it's all part of the process. Those organizations acclaimed as successful have plenty of challenges: what they are best known for is how they address them. You're up to the challenge; we're all depending on you. God protect America and the world we live in together.



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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

The City of Saginaw recently hosted its fourth annual “We Love Saginaw Businesses” trunk-or-treat celebration at Celebration Park. The free community event, held Wednesday, Oct. 22, brought families to the splash pad parking lot at 1830 Fordney for an evening of festive displays and candy giveaways.

City staff partnered with the Saginaw Downtown Development Authority and the Saginaw Economic Development Corporation to organize the event, which ran from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and featured decorated trunks, costumes, and local business participation.



(PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CITY OF SAGINAW)

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



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