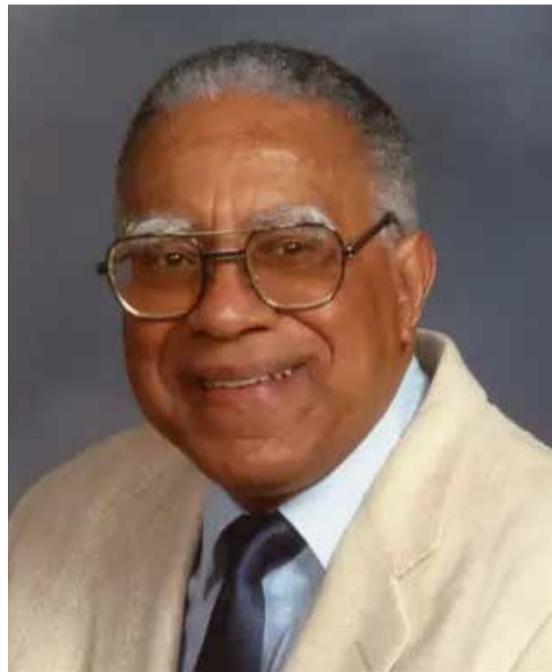




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Dr. Linneaus Dorman, Dow's first Black chemist in Midland, dies at 90

COMMUNITY, PG 13

Soothing songs, and more, from 'Uncle Carl' Mosley Everett



CARL MOSLEY EVERETT PASSED AWAY ON MONDAY, OCT. 6, 2025, AT THE AGE OF 71.



Saginaw leaders, Michigan State Police partner for youth violence prevention summit amid rising gun crisis

COMMUNITY, PG 20



Focus on mental health? Ask an original advocate

HEALTH, PG 21

BY ROSE DUGAN

SAGINAW, Mich. — Hardest thing I've ever had to do in life was my Daddy's Homegoing. The easiest part was having Uncle Carl sing. That just went without saying.

When it came time for me to speak that day, I just knew that I had it. I'd done it so many times before. I got my big bad self up to that podium, and I froze.

My protector was in the casket.

I searched the sea of people in front of me, and not one of them made me feel like I could speak. But then, there sat Uncle Carl. He looked



WRITER ROSE DUGAN AT THE MEMORIAL 18 MONTHS AGO FOR HER FATHER, RONNIE DUGAN, WITH SUPPORT FROM CARL MOSLEY

at me and gave me that solemn nod with his eyes smiling. The words just started to flow.

After the service, I went to give him a hug and he told me that he was proud of me

and he knew that my parents would be proud of me too. We'd attended too many fu-

See **CARL MOSLEY**, Page 2

**CARL MOSLEY,
from cover**

CARL MOSLEY

nerals together where we were on program. He always made sure that I knew that he loved me, that he was proud of me, and that I was blessed to have such a way with words.

Uncle Carl made all children feel safe. Loved. Protected. And no matter how old we got, we still had those feelings from his presence. Our babies felt it. Our babies' babies felt it. He raised generations.

That's a wealth that you cannot put a number on. Uncle Carl understood family. He understood community. He used his gifts to make his corner of the world better. He was too good for this world but I'm sure glad I got to experience life with him in it.

Rest In Power, Uncle Carl. Send me a melody from time to time. I love you.

Rose Dugan writes so often as "Sweater Gawd" on Facebook, it's tough to figure out how she still finds time to help raise her 1-year-old grandson, volunteer with civic causes like Saginaw C.A.P. and work full-time at Hemlock Semiconductor. She is a Saginaw High product who studied English language grammar at Central State University.

THIS DAY IN MICHIGAN HISTORY

OCTOBER 16, 1986

On Oct. 16, 1986, Detroit dedicated the "Fist" sculpture to honor boxing legend Joe Louis

As a boxer, Joe Louis united the nation when he defeated German boxer Max Schmeling for the heavyweight championship of the world and in the process becoming one of the nation's first African-American heroes. Sports Illustrated honored Detroit's hometown hero by commissioning this sculpture located across from the Hart Plaza. The fist sculpture was dedicated on October 16, 1986.

Did you know that in 1952, Joe Louis also helped break the color line in professional golf when he was invited to participate in a PGA golf tournament?

MICHIGAN BANNER

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

PUBLISHER

Michelle McCoy

VP SALES & MARKETING

Jerome Buckley

EDITOR EMERITUS

Rae Lynn Buckley

MISSION

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

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 7 • NUMBER 20

**9. "A Quiet Place" (2018)**

A perfect film for anyone who talks through movies — because if you do, you're dead. Literally.

10. "Beetlejuice" (1988)

Creepy, chaotic, and just weird enough to make you feel like you understand art now. Say his name three times and watch chaos unfold.

So grab your blanket, your snacks, and maybe your emotional support friend. Whether you're in it for the jump scares or the sarcastic one-liners, just remember: Halloween movies aren't just about fear — they're about bonding through collective bad decisions.

BY MB STAFF

If you say you don't like scary movies, you're lying — or you just watched one alone at 2 a.m. and are still sleeping with the lights on.

Either way, Halloween season demands a solid binge lineup. Whether you want to scream, laugh, or judge every character's terrible decisions, we've got you covered.

1. "Hocus Pocus" (1993)

Required viewing. Doesn't matter how old you are — when those Sanderson sisters start singing, you're locked in. Also, bonus points if you know all the lyrics to "I Put a Spell on You."

2. "Coraline" (2009)

For when you want to question your entire childhood and stare at your button collection suspiciously. It's claymation, so it's "for kids," but your nightmares will say otherwise.

3. "Zombieland" (2009)

Horror, but make it hilarious. A survival guide for teens who'd last exactly five minutes in an actual zombie apocalypse because they "forgot to charge their phone."

4. "The Others" (2001)

If you like slow-burn ghost stories that make you whisper, "Wait, WHAT?" at the end, this one's your jam. Keep the lights dim for extra drama.

5. "Scream" (1996)

Meta, messy, and full of people making every bad decision possible. You'll spend half the movie

yelling, "Don't go in there!" — which is honestly the best part.

6. "Fear Street Trilogy" (2021)

Netflix's teen-horror masterpiece. It's like Stranger Things met Goosebumps and then got way too into blood and eyeliner.

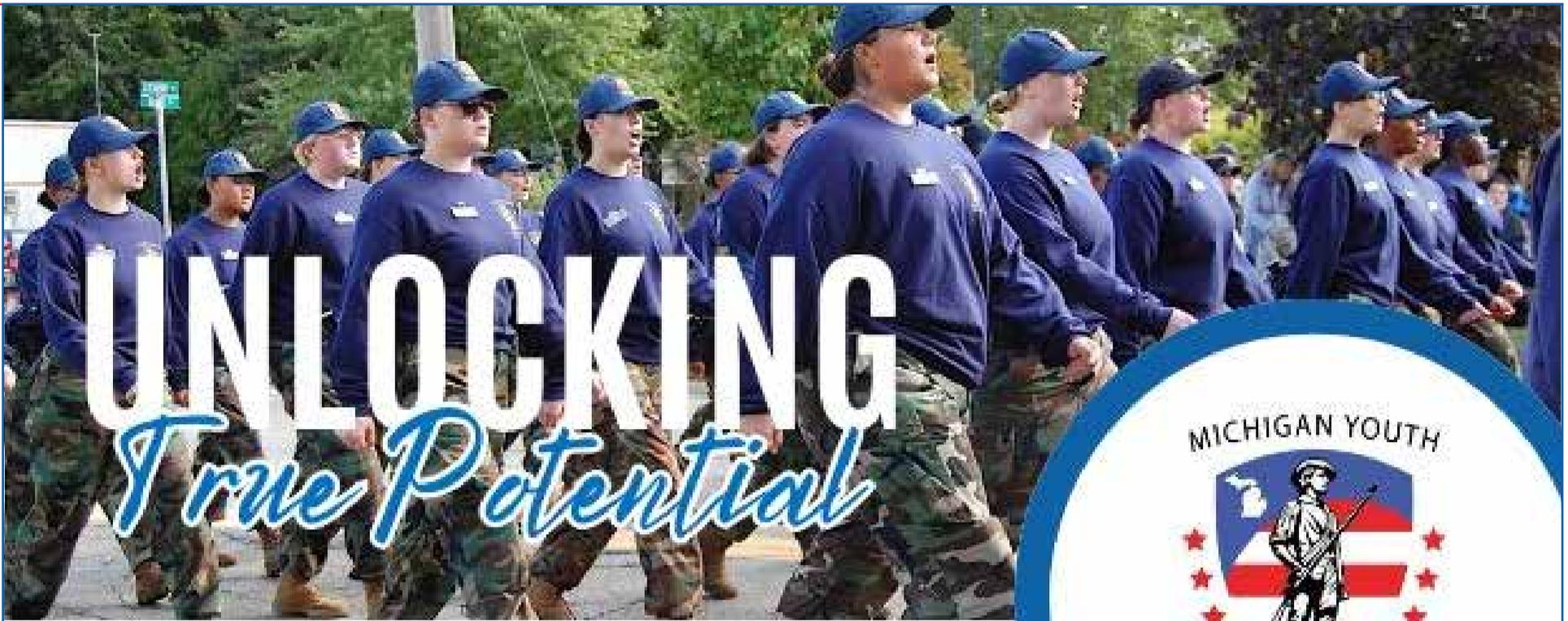
7. "Twilight" (2008)

Not scary in the traditional sense, but terrifying when you realize how many people actually wanted to date a 100-year-old vampire who sparkles. Still, it's essential Halloween comfort cringe.

8. "Get Out" (2017)

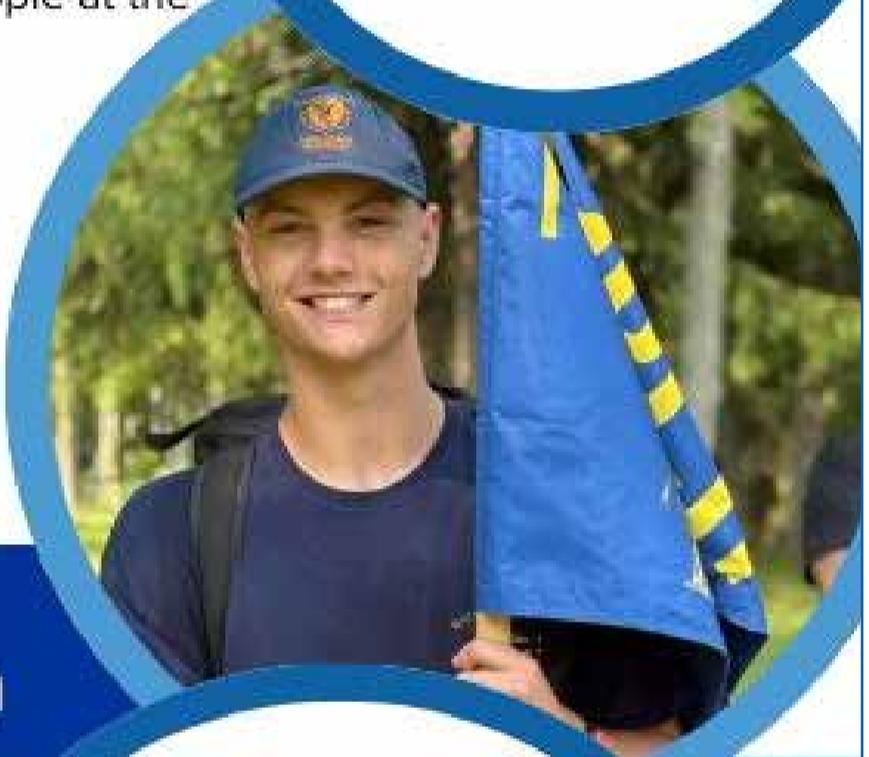
Because psychological horror hits different when it's actually saying something. You'll laugh, you'll gasp, and you'll probably text "nah, I'm good" to your friend who invites you to a "family weekend."





Imagine challenging yourself beyond your limits, discovering hidden strengths, and building a brighter future. This isn't just a dream; it's the reality for young people at the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy (MYCA).

MYCA offers at-promise males and females ages 15-1/2* through the age of 18 an opportunity to graduate high school and realize positive life changes through an intensive 5-1/2 month residential program followed by a post-residential mentorship. MYCA is a **FREE** program of the National Guard.



**APPLY NOW AND ATTEND A
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NEXT CYCLE STARTS JANUARY 11.**



Attendance at an in-person Information Session by young adult and at least one parent or guardian is a mandatory step in the application process. Sessions are held around the state.

REGISTER HERE

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For program information or to register to attend an information session, visit www.michigan.gov/myca



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Saginaw, MI 48602

Saturday, October 18
10:00 a.m.
Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

Youth entrepreneurs to shine at Frankenmuth's Kids Rule Now! Expo

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

FRANKENMUTH, Mich. — The next generation of business leaders is taking over Frankenmuth this fall. Kids Rule Now! Inc. will return to the Frankenmuth River Place Shops on Saturday, Nov. 8, for its annual Youth Entrepreneurship Expo, an event designed to spotlight young innovators and their growing businesses.

Sponsored by the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn Lodge and hosted by Frankenmuth River Place Shops, the outdoor expo will feature youth vendors ages 6 to 17 from across the Great Lakes Bay Region. Organizers say this year's showcase will be the biggest and boldest yet, giving "kidpreneurs" the opportunity to sell their products, meet real customers, and gain hands-on business experience.

The event will feature a variety of youth-run businesses offering handcrafted goods, baked treats, tech ideas, and creative brands all developed and managed by children and teens. Participants will also connect with peers who share their entrepreneurial spirit and receive community support for their efforts.

Registration for youth participants is open for \$15, which covers administrative costs and event perks. Families and community members are invited to attend and support local youth entrepreneurs.

The Kids Rule Now! Youth Entrepreneurship Expo begins Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Frankenmuth River Place Shops located at 925 S Main St.

For more information or to register, visit kidsrulenow.org.

YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Open to kids/youth ages 6 - 17 **EXPO**

Yep kids!
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for you!
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11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Frankenmuth River Place Shops

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KIDS RULE NOW! YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP EXO



Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

UM-Flint students offer free naturalization and English courses in Flint

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — Aspiring U.S. citizens in the Flint area have a new opportunity to prepare for the naturalization process — for free.

The University of Michigan-Flint is offering a series of no-cost naturalization and English language classes this fall, led by UM-Flint students in partnership with local community organizations. The initiative aims to make citizenship education and language learning more accessible for residents in Genesee County and beyond.

The in-person naturalization course will run Tuesdays and Thursdays from Oct. 28 through Nov. 20 at the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library. Each session will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and will focus on helping participants understand and practice for the U.S. citizenship test.

In addition to the naturalization program, UM-Flint is also offering free online English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. The virtual sessions will be held Mondays and Wednesdays from 12 to 1:30 p.m., beginning Oct. 27 and continuing through Nov. 19.

Organizers say the classes provide more than test preparation — they also create a supportive learning environment that builds confidence, strengthens communication skills, and connects students with community resources.

The effort is a collaboration between UM-Flint’s Latinx programs, the American Muslim Community Center, and the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library.

For more information or to register, visit go.umflint.edu/eslclass or contact Emily Feuerherm at feuerher@umich.edu.

ESL CLASS NATURALIZATION

Learn about and practice for the naturalization test to become a citizen of the USA. Offered for free by UM-Flint students.

Tuesdays & Thursdays
Oct 28 - Nov 20 2025

Time
5:30 - 7:00 PM

Gloria Coles Flint Public Library

JOIN US

<https://go.umflint.edu/eslclass>

Questions? Email
Emily Feuerherm
feuerher@umich.edu

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

Capital City Día de los Muertos 5K celebrates culture, community and remembrance



FILE PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — Runners and walkers will lace up their sneakers and paint their faces in bright colors later this month for one of the region's most spirited cultural celebrations — the Capital City Día de los Muertos 5K Run/Walk.

The event, hosted by Footprints of Michigan, takes place Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, at Granger Meadows Park, 1745 Granger Meadows Lane. The run begins at 10 a.m. for runners and 11 a.m. for walkers and rollers.

The annual 5K — whose slogan reads “Every step a tribute, every mile a memory” — honors the Mexican holiday known as Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. Traditionally observed on Nov. 1 and 2, the holiday is a time when families gather to remember loved ones who have

passed away, celebrating their lives with food, music, flowers, and altars adorned with photos and offerings.

Footprints of Michigan, a Lansing-based nonprofit that provides shoes and resources to people in need, launched the race to bring the community together through movement and culture. “This event celebrates life, diversity, and tradition,” organizers said. “We want to honor our loved ones while also celebrating who we are as a community.”

Participants are encouraged to embrace the theme by dressing in traditional Día de los Muertos face paint, flower crowns, and colorful attire. The event will feature food trucks, Baile Folklórico performances, face painting, music by DJ NYCE, and the Carrera de Los Niños (Kids Run), a 300-yard fun run for children.

Pre-registration for the 5K is

\$40 before Oct. 17 and includes a Día de los Muertos T-shirt. After that date, registration increases to \$45, with shirts available while supplies last. Kids Run registration is \$10 and includes a medal, bib, and goodie bag.

All 5K participants will receive a commemorative finisher medal featuring the event's signature skeleton runner design.

The race will be profession-

ally timed by the Michigan Running Foundation, with live results available during and after the event at runsignup.com.

The Día de los Muertos 5K aims to blend fitness with cultural appreciation, honoring loved ones while celebrating life — one step, and one memory, at a time.

For more information or to register, visit www.day-of-the-dead5k.com.

CAPITAL CITY DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS 5K



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Michigan marks Oct. 8 as Latina Equal Pay Day amid persistent income gap



FILE PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — On Oct. 8, 2025, Michigan officially recognized Latina Equal Pay Day, drawing attention to the stark wage disparities faced by Latina workers in the state and across the country. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued a proclamation declaring the date, which commemorates how far into the year Latinas must work, on average, to earn what white, non-Hispanic men earned the previous year.

Proclamation and figures

In the governor's statement, Whitmer noted that Latinas in Michigan typically must

work more than 10 months into the new year to match the prior year's earnings of white men.

The proclamation cites national data showing that Latina full-time workers, on average, make just 58 cents for every dollar paid to their white, non-Hispanic male counterparts — an annual median wage loss of about \$32,070 and more than \$1.2 million over a lifetime.

State officials also framed the day within the broader fight for gender equity, noting that even more than 50 years after the federal Equal Pay Act, wage inequality remains “a daily feature of work life for many women, espe-

cially women of color.”

Origins and meaning of Equal Pay observances

Latina Equal Pay Day is part of a wider tradition of symbolic “Equal Pay Day” observances, dating back to 1996 when the National Committee on Pay Equity first designated a day to highlight the gender pay gap.

Over subsequent years, the concept expanded to include different equity-awareness days for Black, Indigenous, and Latina women — each reflecting how far into the year these groups must work to “catch up” with typical male earnings.

Advocacy groups argue that the Latina wage gap is among the largest, driven by factors including occupational segregation, underrepresentation in managerial roles, pay discrimination, and lower bargaining power — especially for immigrants or women with precarious legal status. A 2025 report from the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) underscores the urgency: Latinas stand to lose more than \$1.2 million in lifetime earnings if current trends persist.

Implications and calls to action

In Michigan, observers say the proclamation offers symbolic recognition but also a nudge for policymakers and employers to act. Advocates call for stronger enforcement of pay transparency laws, expanded access to higher-paying jobs, and better protections for workers vulnerable to wage theft.

“As long as we recognize these wage gaps with a day like Oct. 8, we must follow that recognition with meaningful steps to close them,” said one state labor advocate.

Some local organizations plan related events, workshops and educational outreach this week, aiming to elevate awareness among employers, employees and future workers about how wage equity can transform individual livelihoods and entire communities.

Whether the proclamation becomes a turning point or another symbolic gesture will depend on whether state and local leaders — in Lansing, Detroit and across Michigan — back words with policy changes that narrow disparities in income, opportunity and economic justice for Latina women.

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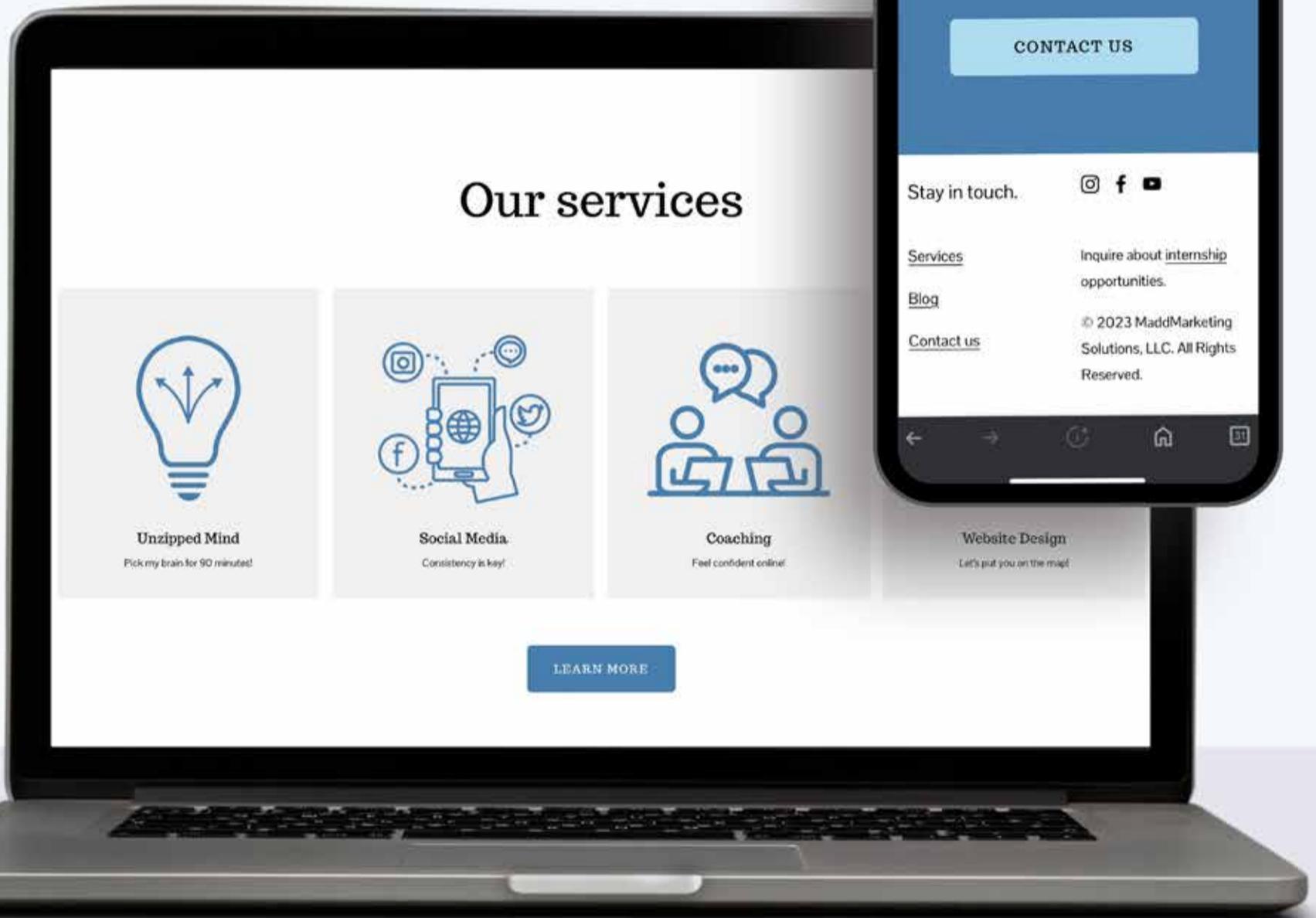
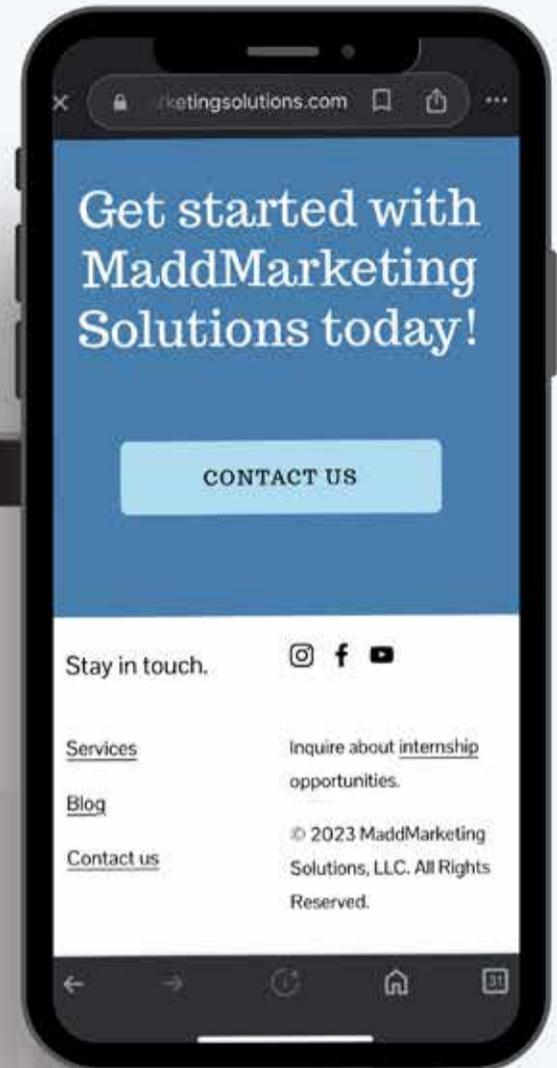
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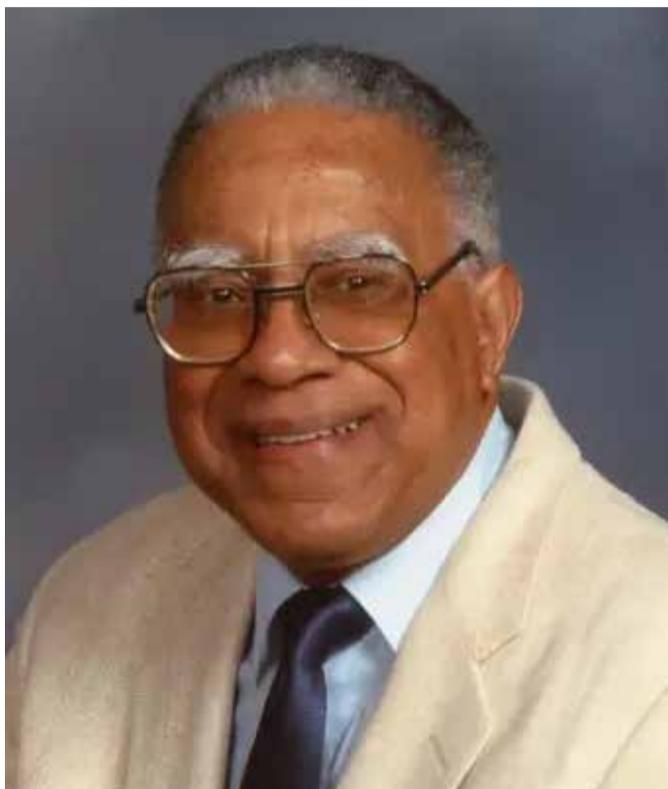


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COMMUNITY

Dr. Linneaus Dorman, Dow's first Black chemist in Midland, dies at 90



LINNEAUS C. DORMAN

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — Dr. Linneaus Cuthbert Dorman, the first African-American chemist hired at Dow Chemical Company's Midland headquarters and a pillar of the community for more than six decades, died peacefully Oct. 10, 2025. He was 90.

A 64-year resident of Midland, Dorman's life traced a remarkable journey from the segregated classrooms of South Carolina to the laboratories of one of the world's largest chemical companies. Along the way, he broke barriers in science, mentored generations of students, and devoted his career and retirement to advancing education and diversity.

Early life and education

Dorman was born June 28, 1935, in Orangeburg, South Car-

olina, to John Albert and Georgia Anna Hammond Dorman. He was the youngest of five children in a family of educators who instilled in him a deep love of learning.

Encouraged by his parents and inspired by a neighbor's chemistry set, Dorman found his calling early. "I became fascinated with the fact that you could put two things together

and make something entirely new," he once told an interviewer for The HistoryMakers, a national archive documenting the stories of notable African-American figures.

After graduating from Wilkinson High School, he earned a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, in 1956, and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Indiana University in 1961. While at Bradley, he met his future wife, Phae Hubble, on a blind date. The couple married in 1958 and later welcomed two children, Evelyn and John.

Career of firsts at Dow Chemical

Armed with a Dow Chemical Fellowship, Dorman joined the company in 1961, becoming the first Black research chemist to work at Dow's Midland headquarters. His early work focused

on biomaterials and pharmaceutical compounds before later shifting to elastomers and synthetic rubbers.

He went on to be credited with more than 30 patents and inventions in organic chemistry and biomaterials, and in 1983 was named Dow's "Inventor of the Year."

A member of the American Chemical Society since 1957, Dorman served in several administrative roles and was recognized nationally for his professional excellence. In 1992, he received the Percy C. Julian Award, the highest honor given by the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers.

Community leadership and philanthropy

Beyond his scientific achievements, Dorman was deeply rooted in civic service. He helped found the Midland Area Cultural Awareness Coalition and was a leader in the Midland Black Coalition, the NAACP, Rotary, and the Midland Commission on Community Relations.

With Phae, he established two scholarship funds in 1997 honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, and together they created the Dorman Family Midland Believes Scholarship Fund through the Midland Area Community Foundation.

Dorman served in numerous leadership roles within the Foundation, including trustee, vice president, and chair of the Grants Committee. In 2021, he was named the Midland Area Community Foundation's Philanthropist of the Year for his lifetime of service.

He was also active with the Saginaw Valley State University Board of Fellows, serving as its president from 1983 to 1985, and spent decades mentoring young professionals of color in the sciences.

"Dr. Dorman was not only a trailblazer in chemistry but also in community leadership," said Sharon Mortensen, president and CEO of the Midland Area Community Foundation. "His life's work opened doors for others and showed what commitment to education and service can accomplish."

Honors and legacy

Dorman was a life member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and founded its Midland and Saginaw chapters. His achievements were recognized in multiple editions of Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Science and Engineering, and Who's Who in the World, and he was later featured on the Marquis Who's Who Lifetime Achievers list.

He retired from Dow in 1994 as a senior associate scientist but continued to shape the community through mentoring, philanthropy, and service with the United Church of Christ of Midland, where he was a longtime member.

Reflecting on his life, Dorman once said, "It pleases me to know that I am doing things to help others in the same way I was helped."

His legacy — as a scientist, mentor, and philanthropist — endures in the many lives and opportunities he helped create.

COMMUNITY

Council speaks up on skate park, then goes silent

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW, Mich. — After the Sept. 15 skate park attack near the Andersen Enrichment Center, in which white trespassers assaulted black mural artists who were carrying out a city project, City Council members at their Sept. 22 meeting called for action. To view their remarks, [click here](#) starting at 2:07.35.

Saginaw, MI City Council September 22, 2025

Here are brief segments, in the order that members spoke on Sept. 22:

- **Heidi Wiggins:** "I really believe there should be a full investigation. We should have answers and there should be consequences."
- **Carly Hammond:** "If we as a city turn away at this moment... it would be a dishonor to our residents."
- **Tobias Young:** "One of the people who was attacked was taken to jail. I don't know the facts but I am interested in getting an official report."
- **Jacinta Seals:** "We will

make sure it is going to be dealt with. I promise it will be dealt with."

- **Michael Balls:** "These people should have been arrested, and they still should be in jail. We need to take care of the issue before they get out of hand."
- **Bill Ostash:** "I support each and every statement made by my colleagues... we need to make sure this is taken care of."
- **Eric Braddock:** "There is a big divide in this country, and so let's not let this spill into our community."
- **Priscilla Garcia, mayor pro-tem:** "Can you please give us the opportunity so that we can make it right?"
- **Brenda Moore, mayor:** "I would not want to think that we can just drop this, because if we have, we've got a problem."



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.

However, when the council met again on Oct. 6, not a single one of the nine members followed up on their Sept. 22 statements. And when Michigan Banner attempted a survey to learn why there is sudden silence, we received the silent treatment as well with no responses, same as Saginaw News/mlive reaped last summer when asking a different question in regards to the process for filling a vacant seat. A former member once explained that Michigan Municipal League "training" urges governing bodies to display unity and to avoid media questions that could be considered divisive.

Therefore, all a concerned citizen can do is to watch again at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 20, and to learn whether there finally will be an update.

COMMUNITY

Have a say—so in the future of city parks and rec



HOYT PARK

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW, Mich. — More than 20 participants gathered Oct. 9 and waxed nostalgic about how Hoyt Park once was filled with summer action, with youth baseball filling eight diamonds during the mornings, followed by men's and women's softball, with spectators filling the hillside and patronizing the Koinis snack truck at the top.

The purpose was to discuss

the future of parks and recreation in the city, and a survey deadline has been extended through Oct. 31. To participate, [click here](#).

Even the most ardent old-timers realize Hoyt's busiest times are in the past, but that doesn't mean Saginaw's main parks activity site is dying. A volunteer group, Friends of Hoyt Park, has come to the rescue, and federal ARPA funds are preserving both the circular drive and the fieldhouse.

Beyond Hoyt and Ojibway Island, also benefiting from ARPA improvements, other city parks include Unity (northeast), Wickes, McKinney/Vets, Deindorfer Woods, Bliss, Fordney and Otto Roeser. Also included are the renovated Garber Court and the nearby splash and skate areas.

Before the turn of the century, Saginaw's parks and recreation budget exceeded \$1 million, which would translate to more than \$2 million. Funding

was gradually and then totally cancelled between 1980 and 2000, due mostly to General Motors cutbacks and a loss of federal revenue sharing, with the 1979 property tax caps also playing a slight role. Volunteers have saved such central parks facilities as Hoyt, the Children's Zoo, the Japanese Tea House and the tennis courts. Some council members have discussed restoring at least a smaller share in the range of \$100,000.

COMMUNITY

Victorious Community Development joins forces with youth leaders at SVSU



PASTOR CHRIS PRYOR, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF VICTORIOUS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, JOINS SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE GREAT LAKES BAY REGION YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE EVENT AT SVSU. (COURTESY PHOTO)



FROM LEFT, CHIEF CLIFFORD BLOCK OF THE SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, PASTOR CHRIS PRYOR, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF VICTORIOUS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND LIEUTENANT TRAVIS TOTH OF THE MIDLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT GATHER DURING THE GREAT LAKES BAY REGION YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE EVENT AT SVSU. (COURTESY PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Victorious Community Development (VCD) had the honor of participating in the Great Lakes Bay Regional Youth Leadership Institute at Saginaw Valley State University, marking 20 years of empowering young voices under the

impactful theme: "One Region. One Future. Many Leaders." We commend Dr. Mamie Thorns for her visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to youth development over the past two decades. Her dedication to cultivating the next generation of leaders continues to inspire transformation throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Pastor Chris Pryor, President & CEO of VCD, delivered a powerful message to over 70 student leaders, highlighting the importance of their role in the Safe City Initiative, a VCD-led effort aimed at reducing violence, increasing safety, and empowering neighborhoods. Community leaders and volunteer mentors from across the city of Saginaw were present to support and engage with the youth.

Their passion, insight, and leadership confirmed what we already believe: our youth are not just the next generation they are leading right now.

The day also featured a dynamic panel discussion with regional law enforcement leaders, including:

Pastor Pryor challenged the students with these key truths:

- "You are not 'just students' but you are leaders."
- "Your presence here matters, your voice carries weight."

- Chief Clifford Block, SVSU Police
- Lieutenant Travis Toth, Midland Police Department
- Lieutenant Ebony Rasco, Saginaw County Sheriff's Department
- Chief Reggie Williams, Buena Vista Township

During breakout sessions, students were actively engaged, sharing thoughtful strategies to reduce violence and promote safety in their communities.

VCD is proud to be part of a movement that uplifts young leaders and creates lasting change through collaboration, mentorship, and community engagement.



FROM LEFT, LIEUTENANT EBONY RASCO OF THE SAGINAW COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, LIEUTENANT TRAVIS TOTH OF THE MIDLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT, CHIEF CLIFFORD BLOCK OF THE SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND CHIEF REGGIE WILLIAMS OF THE BUENA VISTA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT SPEAK TO STUDENTS DURING A LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC SAFETY PANEL AT THE GREAT LAKES BAY REGION YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE EVENT AT SVSU. (COURTESY PHOTO)

COMMUNITY

Saginaw public art projects earn statewide honors for transforming city spaces



SHINE BRIGHT SAGINAW MURAL PROJECT

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Three of Saginaw's most transformative public art projects are among this year's recipients of the prestigious Keep Michigan Beautiful (KMB) Awards, a statewide recognition honoring exceptional contributions to community beautification and environmental enhancement.

The Shine Bright Saginaw Silo Mural Project, The Great Mural Project, and Henry Marsh Plaza were each honored Friday for their creativity, collaboration, and impact on the city's visual landscape. Two additional Saginaw County initiatives — Cass River Trailhead Park in Bridgeport Charter Township and the Pine Island Design Building Project in Frankenmuth — also received awards for their revitalization and design excellence.

Together, the five projects represent what KMB calls "the power of partnership and pride," showcasing how public art and local investment can redefine the character of Michigan's cities.

A city's skyline reborn: Shine Bright Saginaw Silo Mural Project

Standing 150 feet tall along the Saginaw Riverfront, a once-gray cluster of 1950s-era grain silos has been reborn as one of

North America's largest public artworks. The Shine Bright Saginaw Silo Mural Project, led by internationally acclaimed Spanish muralist Okuda San Miguel, covers nearly 70,000 square feet of surface area with vivid geometric designs.

The project was spearheaded by community leaders Mark Flegenheimer and Larry Preston, with more than \$900,000 raised through local donations and partnerships. Michigan artists, volunteers, and sponsors helped bring the massive vision to life.

The finished mural's kaleidoscope of colors reflects themes of joy, diversity, and unity, transforming the riverfront into a new cultural landmark and symbol of civic pride.

The Great Mural Project: Local art with lasting impact

Also recognized was The Great Mural Project, an ongoing community arts initiative that has reimagined neglected walls and abandoned spaces across Saginaw. Since its founding, the project has engaged more than 70 artists, most from the Great Lakes Bay Region, to create large-scale murals celebrating local identity and shared history.

Each mural tells part of Saginaw's story, from tributes to neighborhood icons to bold depictions of unity and resilience.

The project also provides paid opportunities and mentorship for emerging artists, helping to sustain a growing creative economy.

Organizers say their goal is simple: to use art as a bridge between people and places. "When people see themselves reflected in their community, they feel connected to it," one project volunteer said.

Henry Marsh Plaza: Honoring leadership and legacy

Named for Henry Marsh, Saginaw's first Black mayor and one of the first African-American mayors in the United States, Henry Marsh Plaza was also among this year's honorees.

The redesigned downtown plaza, located near the Dow Event Center, was one of several legacy projects associated with Saginaw's hosting of the 2024 Canadian Hockey League Memorial Cup. Supported by a \$1 million state grant and guided by collaboration among the City of Saginaw, the Michigan Department of Transportation, and Go Great Lakes Bay, the project transformed a once-blighted area into a vibrant civic space.

The new plaza includes modern landscaping, public seating, and art installations that celebrate Marsh's life and leadership. City officials describe it as both a tribute and a gathering place that symbolizes inclusivity and progress.

Other Saginaw County honorees

Two additional projects from Saginaw County were also recognized by Keep Michigan Beautiful:

- Cass River Trailhead Park (Bridgeport Charter

Township): A newly developed riverside park that blends historic preservation with recreation and accessibility, featuring restored 1950s architecture, picnic areas, and scenic trail connections.

- Pine Island Design Building Project (Frankenmuth): A privately funded restoration of a Main Street office building that now meets ADA accessibility standards while maintaining Frankenmuth's historic Bavarian style.

Ann Bruzewski, president and CEO of Go Great Lakes Bay, said this year's award winners demonstrate how creativity and collaboration can inspire entire regions.

"Each of these projects shows what's possible when people come together to honor Michigan's beauty and invest in its future," Bruzewski said. "Saginaw's commitment to revitalization and art is helping define a new era of pride and possibility."

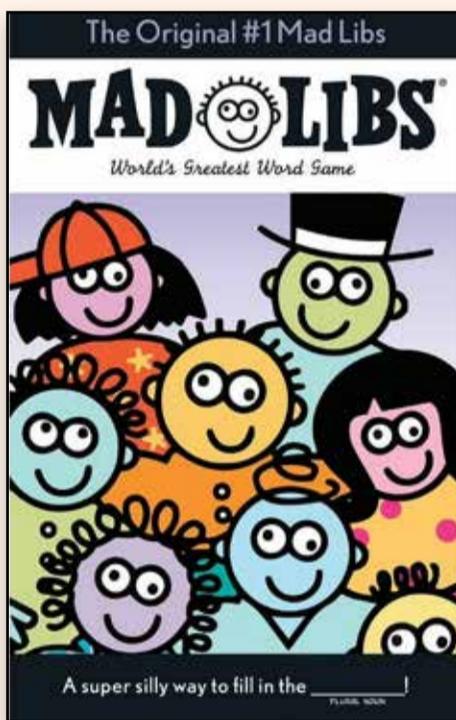
Founded in 1962, Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and recognizing community efforts that enhance Michigan's natural and built environments. Its annual awards highlight outstanding achievements in beautification, preservation, and sustainability throughout the state.

For Saginaw and its neighbors, this year's honors symbolize the creative resurgence of a city using art and collaboration to shape a brighter, more connected future.

Leave some words out, then fill them in

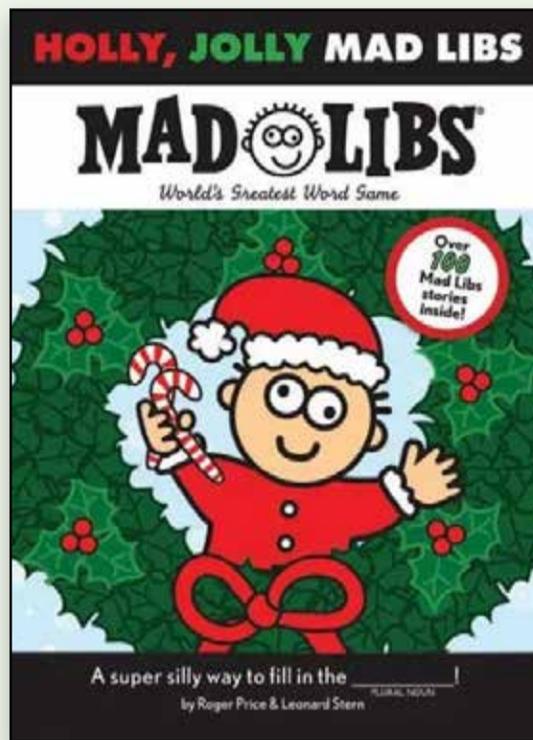
(As the Michigan Banner focuses on literacy, we will offer suggestions for children's books.)

To fulfill the spirit of Reading is FUNdamental, there are an array of ways to win even a moody child's attention. Mad Libs is among them. Short story samples omit some words, and your challenge is to fill them in. Sometimes the choices are correct or incorrect, but the really fun ones are when multiple options all are acceptable.



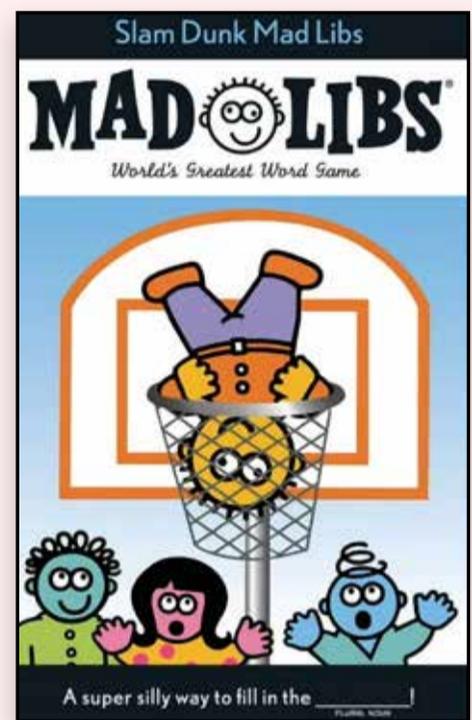
Mad Libs Mad Libs
Roger Price

Begin with the original in what has become an extensive series. The first poser in the first Mad Libs? "(Blank)," he said, as he jumped into his convertible (blank). "Wow" would work for the start, but convertible "school bus" would be cause for concern.



Holly, Jolly Mad Libs
Roger Price

This is a Christmas gift-sized package, quintuple the regular size but still will fit in a stocking over the fireplace. The books are postcard-size. Just warn Santa not to fall into any embers,



Mad Libs Slam Dunk Mad Libs: World's Greatest Word Game about Basketball
Roger Price

If not basketball, look for baseball and football and soccer. Themes range from pets to pirates to the color pink, from sleepovers to the first day of school.



Investigate and you will see affordable pricing, as well as a selection of larger workbooks at designated specific grade levels.

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

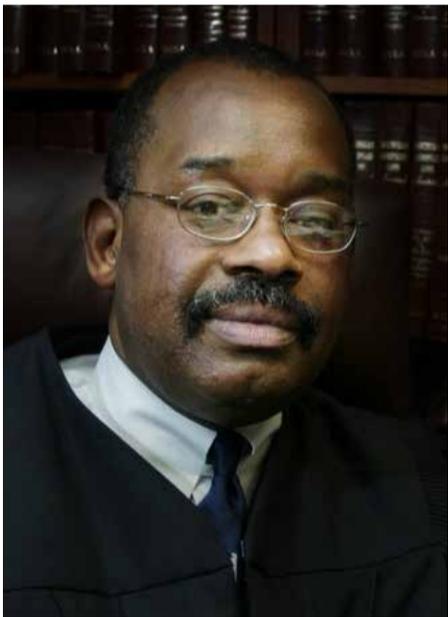
COMMUNITY

Saginaw leaders, Michigan State Police partner for youth violence prevention summit amid rising gun crisis

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — With youth gun violence and suicide rates rising across the nation and especially among Black children, Saginaw community leaders and the Michigan State Police are joining forces to confront the crisis head-on.

The Saginaw Youth Violence Prevention Summit, presented by the Michigan State Police, will take place Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Saginaw United High School, 1903 N. Niagara St. The free event is open to all middle and high school students and will include sessions on bullying, gun violence prevention, cyberbullying, suicide prevention, and on-line safety programs such as OK-2SAY. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.



HON. M.T. THOMPSON, JR

The summit follows a local call to action from Hon. M.T. Thompson, Jr., who has urged civic leaders to unite around solutions to what he describes as a worsening public safety emergency. “The echo of gunfire can be heard throughout the City of

Saginaw,” Thompson wrote in a recent statement to community leaders. “The body count continues to grow. The victims get younger every day.”

Thompson noted that gun violence has become the leading cause of death for children ages 1–19, with Black youth six times more likely to die from gun violence than their white peers. He also cited alarming increases in suicide rates among Black chil-

dren and teens, calling for stronger prevention, education, and mental health efforts.

Ahead of the youth summit, a community leaders’ luncheon will be held at Saginaw Valley State University’s Curtis Hall on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025, at 11 a.m. The session will feature Col. James F. Grady II, Director of the Michigan State Police, who will join in discussions about the local and statewide dimensions

of youth violence.

The Michigan State Police plans to host similar youth prevention summits in Flint, Alpena, Grand Rapids, Detroit, and Lansing, aiming to bring coordinated prevention efforts to communities across Michigan.

For more information about the Saginaw summit, contact Hon. M.T. Thompson, Jr. at (989) 790-8033 or malikthompson0513@gmail.com.

SAGINAW YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION SUMMIT

○○○○

Presented by Michigan State Police



Col. James F. Grady, II

Director, Michigan State Police

JOIN US

Topics will include:

- Bullying
- Gun violence prevention,
- Cyberbullying
- OK2SAY
- Suicide prevention,
- Sexting, Sextortion and more.

📅

9:00AM - 2:00PM

Saturday,
November 1, 2025

📍

Saginaw United High School
1903 N. Niagara Street
Saginaw, Michigan 48602

All Middle and High School
students are encouraged to
attend.

For more information
Contact:

Hon M.T. Thompson, Jr
Malikthompson0513@gmail.com

SAGINAW YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION SUMMIT

MB

301 E. GENESEE AVE. SUITE 201, SAGINAW MI 48607

989-249-3882

MICHIGANBANNER.ORG

HEALTH

Focus on mental health? Ask an original advocate

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW, Mich. — Hazel Wilson's career with the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority reached its peak during the 1980s and '90s, a time when public awareness began to expand beyond illnesses like schizophrenia or psychosis.

She never would have dreamed that treatment would evolve to the point where Saginaw one day would become home to a \$15 million behavioral center, part of the \$100 million Medical Diamond with construction underway at the former farmers market site, South Washington at Millard. The entire project, anchored by a CMU College of Medicine, could endure until the end of the decade, but the mental health center has a target date for completion by December 2026.

An overall update took place Oct. 16 at the Saginaw Promise annual scholarship luncheon.

Wilson is not surprised that today's agenda also contains common maladies that include depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. Mental disorders have moved from institutions into neighborhoods.

Care advocates say surveys show 90 percent of us believe a "mental health crisis" exists, and half of families report personal hardships with one or more members across all age groups.

"People are under so much pressure these days," Wilson says by telephone from Collinsville, a rural Mississippi small town where she returned home 20 years ago, after four decades in Saginaw.

Hardship and stress are nothing new for families and individuals, she continues, "but nowadays the conditions have been magnified by (COVID-19) and by



HAZEL WILSON PICTURED WITH HER GRANDCHILDREN (COURTESY PHOTO)

a number of other factors."

She adds, "Mental health has become part of, 'It takes a village,' " referring to the often-quoted African proverb.

By the time Hazel began, the transformation to community residential treatment was well underway. The "village" she helped organize, the Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Task Force, is marking its 33rd anniversary.

In Saginaw's example of the increased national focus on mental health, the City Council has approved an investment of up to \$5 million from ARPA, the American Rescue Plan Act, a pandemic-era windfall of federal funding that is intended as a stimulus to help in local recovery. This action, combined with another \$5 million from the County Board, has helped lure \$33 million from the state and \$3 million from the feds, prior to Donald Trump returning to power.

There has been some controversy that relates to existing third-party agencies, where feel-

ings have grown that they are being overlooked and excluded.

Mrs. Wilson has been away for two decades at this point, no longer a follower of any Saginaw scenario or involved in any local back-and-forth. Rather, she offers insights from a time before a "behavioral center" joined the local big-picture improvement agenda.

Mental health will continue to enter an emerging spotlight, no matter how the current local matters are resolved. Regardless, the multi-million dollar city and county contributions from ARPA far exceed previous priorities on mental health through the years.

Ahead of her time

In 1966, with her diploma from Jackson State University, Hazel's young-adult idealism featured a desire to help people in poverty to cope and move out of hardship. She carried her sociology degree to Saginaw to begin as a caseworker for the county's De-

partment of Social Services. Her path was similar to many teachers and other professionals who came north during that time for work opportunities.

She soon found herself limited by all the DSS rules and regs, and so she resigned state employment during the early 1970s to help establish a branch of Detroit's Mother Waddles Mission, soon in Saginaw renamed Good Neighbors Mission.

She also enhanced her credentials by attaining a master's degree from Central Michigan University, which required three weekly 50-mile commutes to Mount Pleasant during an era before online college options.

When she took note of an opening at the Mental Health Authority, she felt she finally had found her niche.

"I was not involved as an individual caseworker or as a clinician, who are the ones who can explain what happens inside the brain and all of that," she notes. "My role was in prevention, an effort to maintain mental health and to reduce the instances of mental illness. Neighborhood people can change their own lives and circumstances by taking a stand."

Her quest to involve residents was centered on the residential area that connects Houghton and Jones elementary schools, both now closed, south of I-675 and extending to Perkins Street.

She began with a great deal of door-knocking, enlisting residents to take part. On one memorable occasion, she joined a flower-planting effort with a trio who would emerge as leaders — Joyce Seals, future mayor and school

See HAZEL WILSON,
Page 22

HEALTH

HAZEL WILSON, from page 21

board leader; Sister Lois Ann Sheaffer, an educator and Habitat for Humanity housing counselor; and Christina Jones, who would become the first Houghton-Jones chairwoman.

When rain interrupted, the threesome stayed on task by cutting holes in garbage bags for makeshift ponchos. Wilson happily followed suit. This reflected the passion that she knew existed amid any rundown conditions, passion that simply needed to be unearthed.

"Everyone is traumatized, to some degree, and you never know what someone else may be going through. In mental health outreach, that's why it's so important to bring people together," Hazel explains, returning again to the "village" theme.

"People get to know each other, and neighbors who are less traumatized can support those who are more traumatized."

She adds, "We know and understand that some people are more apt to develop heart conditions or cancer, and it can be similar with mental illness. It's not simply a matter of choice."

Overcoming the obstacles

Nearly 20 years ago, Wilson was called to return home to rural Collinsville, Miss., to help meet family care needs. She is helping to raise four great-grandchildren.

Her great-grandfather was a slave who assembled 600 acres of farmland, which he purchased upon emancipation and shared to help family members and

close friends establish their own homesteads.

Even in bondage, she says, "He was resourceful and he found a way to bring people together."

In that spirit, she is aiming to bring community action to Collinsville in a similar manner that Houghton-Jones has maintained in Saginaw for more than three decades.

"Stress and mental health are concerns," Hazel notes, with her personal family example of caring for babies and children during her own senior years. "Most of us are out here, and at the same time we have something going on in our lives, always something, something or other."

She is there with a personal shoulder to lean on or a listening ear, but also she sees beyond in-

dividual treatment and counseling in her professional, tactical approach toward mental health.

"It can be a picnic or a festival, or a workshop, or maybe a cleanup project," she asserts. "These are examples of activities that bring people together and lead to healthier communities."

Hazel Wilson's time in Saginaw included six years of service on the Board of Education during the 1980s, followed by a return to fill a short-term vacancy after Ruben Daniels died in 1993. Good Neighbors Mission still opens its doors each day on North Washington Avenue, continuing the work she helped begin more than 50 years ago

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HEALTH

'Hope Is Healthy': Cathedral Free Clinic opens doors to serve uninsured residents

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

SAGINAW, Mich. — A new free medical clinic has opened its doors in Saginaw, offering healthcare and compassion to uninsured residents who otherwise may have nowhere to turn.

The Cathedral Free Clinic, located inside the St. Mary's Center of Hope building at 723 Emerson St., provides free primary care services for adults in Saginaw County. The faith-based, volunteer-run clinic aims to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of patients, combining professional medical care with what organizers describe as "the healing love of Jesus Christ."

An open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place Wednesday, Oct. 22, with the public invited to tour the facility between 4 and 7 p.m. Formal remarks and the ribbon cutting are scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

Founded by local physician Dr. Toby Long, the clinic operates on the first Tuesday of each month from 5 to 8 p.m. and hopes to expand its hours as more volunteer providers join.

"Cathedral Free Clinic believes that uninsured members of our community deserve options beyond costly ER or Urgent Care visits for basic primary care," said Long, who also serves as president of the organization. "While we cannot serve as a medical home for every uninsured person in the region, we are committed to being a trusted source for compassionate care. As Saginaw County's only free clinic, our mission is to bear witness to God's healing love by offering essential healthcare to our neighbors in their time of need."

The effort addresses a growing local gap in care. According to BWell Saginaw's 2023 data, about 9 percent of Saginaw Coun-



AN EXAM ROOM INSIDE THE NEWLY OPENED CATHEDRAL FREE CLINIC IN SAGINAW, MICH. (COURTESY PHOTO)

ty residents — roughly 10,000 people — are uninsured.

A vision of healing and hope

The clinic's theme, "Hope Is Healthy," is drawn from Luke 10:9: "Cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"

"As disciples of Jesus, we have a responsibility to bring hope and healing to the vulnerable and suffering in the world," said Bishop Robert Gruss of the Diocese of Saginaw. "The Cathedral Free Clinic will be a place where patients can experience the healing love and mercy of Jesus Christ. We are blessed to have this clinic in the neighborhood of the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption."

The idea began when Long, a family physician and member

of St. Agnes Parish in Freeland, envisioned a faith-inspired free medical clinic in Saginaw that would treat patients holistically. With the support of Bishop Gruss, a founding board, and local partners, the vision took root.

A significant boost came when Ascension St. Mary's donated the Center of Hope building in 2024, allowing the clinic to establish a permanent location near MyMichigan Medical Center. The first clinic was held on June 3, 2025.

Community partnership and volunteer care

The Cathedral Free Clinic is organized as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry in partnership with the Diocese of Saginaw and community organizations. Services are available

to uninsured individuals regardless of faith, and all patients are greeted "with dignity, compassion, and joy."

Medical and non-medical volunteers assist with care, hospitality, administration, and prayer support. Organizers say expanding the volunteer base will be key to growing services in the months ahead.

Information on volunteering or booking a medical visit is available at cathedralclinic.org. The clinic also shares updates at facebook.com/cathedralfreeclinic.

As the clinic prepares to welcome guests for its grand opening, organizers hope its mission will resonate far beyond the walls of its exam rooms — serving as both a physical refuge and a spiritual reminder that, indeed, hope is healthy.

HEALTH

MyMichigan Health expands access to cancer screenings with special events in Saginaw and across Mid-Michigan

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — MyMichigan Health expands access to cancer screenings with special events in Saginaw and across Mid-Michigan

MyMichigan Health is expanding access to early cancer detection this fall with two community-wide initiatives focused on breast and lung health, offering extended hours and special screening events across the region.

The first event, a breast cancer screening clinic, will take place Tuesday, Oct. 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. at MyMichigan Medical Towne Centre, 4599 Towne Centre Road, Saginaw. Designed for convenience, the event offers women later appointment times, 3D mammograms, and giveaways.

"It is important that women, beginning at the age of 40, get their annual mammogram," said Amy Slough, R.N., B.S.N., breast nurse navigator, MyMichigan Health. "We are offering special screening times to offer women a more convenient time to schedule their mammogram, and all our mammograms use 3D technology."

With 3D mammography, breast cancer can be detected at even earlier stages, reducing the rates of breast cancer deaths. This state-of-the-art technology allows a radiologist to see through the breast tissue layer by layer which helps provide multiple slices through the breast tissue for the radiologist to view, similar to flipping through pages of a book.

MyMichigan Health recom-



MYMICHIGAN HEALTH WILL HOST A BREAST CANCER CLINIC ON OCT. 21 IN SAGINAW AND LUNG SCREENINGS ON NOV. 8, 2025, ACROSS MID-MICHIGAN. (FILE PHOTO)

mends a yearly mammogram because it's the only test shown to reduce breast cancer deaths. Mammograms can detect cancer early, when it's most treatable. This improves odds of survival and can help patients avoid extensive treatment.

Appointments are required for mammograms. Those interested in making an appointment may call the MyMichigan Access Center (MAC) at (989) 633-5252. A provider's order is needed, and insurance will be billed for the mammogram. Those interested in more information on the comprehensive breast health program at MyMichigan Health may visit www.mymichigan.org/breast.

In recognition of National Lung Cancer Screening Day, MyMichigan Medical Centers in Alma, Alpena, Midland, Saginaw, Tawas and West Branch are offering lung cancer screenings on Saturday, November 8, 2025,

from 9 a.m. to noon. The main purpose of National Lung Cancer Screening Day is to rise above the stigma and celebrate individuals who make the decision to get screened for lung cancer regardless of their smoking history or current smoking status.

"By extending hours, we are increasing access for this life saving screening to allow individuals to be screened without taking time off work during the week," said James Fenton, M.D., board-certified, fellowship-trained thoracic surgeon, MyMichigan Health. "A low dose CT is the single most effective strategy for reducing mortality from lung cancer."

Lung cancer is one of the deadliest forms of cancer and is estimated to claim the lives of more than 127,000 Americans this year. Even though survival rates can be improved significantly by screening, only a small percentage of eligible individuals

get screened for lung cancer.

"A lung cancer screening is for those who smoke, or have smoked in the past 15 year, but currently don't have symptoms such as pain, a persistent cough or an unexplained weight loss," added Dr. Fenton. "This screening is designed to find lung cancer at an early stage when more successful treatments can be offered. Without a screening, most lung cancers are typically discovered at a late stage."

Those eligible and who could benefit from lung cancer screening include those age 50 to 80 years old and

currently a smoker or have quit within the past 15 years. Also, those who have been exposure to cigarettes that add up to 20 pack years. For example, someone who smoked at least 10 cigarettes per day for 40 years or one pack for 20 years or two packs for 10 years. In addition, those who have met all the requirements and have no acute symptoms or have not had a CT low dose lung screening within the past year are a good candidate.

Those interested in scheduling a low dose CT at MyMichigan Medical Centers in Alma, Alpena, Midland, Saginaw, Tawas and West Branch may call the MyMichigan Access Center (MAC) at (989) 633-5252.

Those interested in more information on the comprehensive lung care program at MyMichigan Health may visit www.mymichigan.org/lung.

EDUCATION

Township millage issues — Facilities, the future, and race



HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL, 3465 N CENTER RD, SAGINAW, MI

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW, Mich. — In the Nov. 4 election, the decision on Saginaw Township's \$169 million school bond proposal will combine the current era with a growing history. School leaders aim to renovate and upgrade the district's eight school buildings, all between 54 and 86 years old.

Contrary to opponents' claims, millages under state law cannot be used to hire more teachers and staff. This has been true for three decades, ever since Proposal A in 1994 restricted local property levies to building needs only, in exchange for raising the sales tax to provide more

state aid for operations.

The proposal is reduced from a \$242 million request in May 2023 that lost by a landslide, with only 23 percent in favor. Plans no longer include a new Heritage High.

"In addition, some smaller projects have been taken care of with the ongoing sinking funds," says Lori Puckett, district communications specialist, citing parking lots and boilers as examples. The Sherwood pool received a \$1.9 million grant that also helped renovate that area.

Puckett adds, "The Board of Education worked to really slim down the project list, as the community asked them to."

'The township' grows older

Some things never change. Voters still will ask, is the work needed and can we afford it?

Some things change, like inflation. Ten dollars today is the same as one dollar in 1961, the year MacArthur High opened.

Other things change, like society. Shootings by school invaders were not considered with courtyards at MacArthur, now White Pine Middle, or in 1971 when the circular Eisenhower, now Heritage High, was built with 118 doorways and maze-like sightlines. The plus-100 entry points are providing an overall campaign sound bite for provi-

sions to tighten access at all the buildings.

Plans also address the standard concerns that range from old roofs on down to cracked floors, and everything in between, major items that the sinking fund can't come close to covering.

How much is \$169 million?

After World War II, Saginaw Township was mostly rural with scattered one-room schoolhouses, supported with smaller property taxes in the 2-mill range. Three main schools — McMann,

See **TOWNSHIP MILLAGE**,
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EDUCATION

TOWNSHIP MILLAGE, from page 25

Brick and White — were combined in 1953 to form the K-8 McBrite School on Wienecke Road.

Saginaw Township's history of major millages goes back to construction of MacArthur High to open in 1961, along with three other schools, and then for Eisenhower High and Ottawa Middle in 1971.

Growth was so rapid — rounded off, 6,000 residents in 1950, 16,000 in 1960, 27,000 in 1970, peaking beyond 40,000 in 1980 — that at one point four high schools were projected. Eisenhower joined MacArthur, and soon afterward the population boom began to slow down. Consolidation resulted in Eisenhower and Ottawa becoming Heritage High, with MacArthur converted to White Pine Middle.

Based on usinflationcalculator.com, the \$169 million on the May 2 ballot is a lower cost-of-living sum, rounded off, than \$24 million for mainly MacArthur alone more than six decades ago, or \$33 million for mainly Eisenhower a half-century in the past.

To determine one's own exact cost, divide taxable value on your statement (SEV is half the sales value) by 1,000, then multiply by 2.85 mills: This would be sales value \$100,000, annual new tax \$142.50 for the first year, and then adjusted by the inflation rate (or rare decline) in home valuations. Sales value \$200,000, new tax \$285. Sales value \$500,000, pay \$712.50. And so on.

Some lower-or fixed-income homeowners, especially senior citizens or those with disabilities, may qualify for state Homestead rebates to offset a portion of any increase. To see if you may qualify, click here.

Proposal A's 6-cent state sales tax, up from the prior 4 cents under an Engler/Stabenow deal, is intended to ease the burden on local property taxes. Saginaw Township also benefits from a top-level commercial tax base,

mainly from the State Street and Bay Road corridors, or else the cost per homeowner would be even higher.

Price tag for safety

In other school districts, bond debt millages are tied to aging facilities. Stories are told of pails catching roof leaks, bricks crumbling and falling, and so forth.

Saginaw Township is similar, but different. Age indeed has started to arrive, but another concern is the circular layout geometry of Heritage High, which originally was Eisenhower. This is where the push for security is especially strong.

School leaders back in the day were conservative enough to name their high schools for military generals, but at the same time they adopted the era's liberal concepts for "open air" classrooms and "team teaching," basically leading to round buildings rather than square, with few interior walls.

Saginaw News caption writers for the aerial construction photos had a field day with spaceship analogies.

One caption began, "They're Schools, not Saucers," followed by: "Have the Martians landed in Saginaw Township?" No, these are "terrestrial surroundings, expected to accommodate earthling students."

During that same time, mass shootings at schools were not a part of everyday thought, and so the 118 ways in and out of the new Eisenhower were not considered, or even counted, at the time.

The switch to Heritage High renovation, including a whole new building (that would have been both square and closer to Center Road), is a major cost reduction. The Saginaw city district's \$99 million bond in 2020 fell far short of covering all costs, as the pricetag for Saginaw United High alone soared to \$80

million.

Race a factor in tax votes?

Another township question is, "What about those city kids who keep coming to our schools from homes that don't have to pay our millage?"

Of Saginaw Township's 4,600 pupils, 875 are from elsewhere within the county ISD, including 700 from the Saginaw city district, which is 80 percent non-white.

Tensions in this regard are less open for a 2008 renewal, when some foes referred to incoming pupils as "aliens." Still, some residents may vote "no" on account of the race factor.

That was 17 years ago. The township's percentage of non-white students has nearly doubled since then, reaching 40 percent, mostly from within the district rather than via school choice. The adult population also has become more integrated, but at a far slower pace.

School choice across boundary lines, like finance reform, is rooted in the 1990s. Before then, the only option other than a neighborhood district school was parochial.

Saginaw Township originally accepted incoming pupils at all grade levels until 2007, when community pressure led to an overall block at White Pine and Heritage. Since then, the township has accepted outside enrollees only for the elementary schools. The outlook is to bring in state aid of nearly \$10,000 per pupil right away in early grades, and if the family sticks with it, the budget gain by graduation time will reach the range of \$100,000.

At older ages, meanwhile, ethnic friction among some youngsters may become more likely. Memories still linger of a Heritage High outbreak near the millennium that led to counseling from the then-active Bridge

Center for Racial Harmony, which conducted a seminar that packed Vasher Auditorium.

Current school leaders point out that open enrollment is a two-way street. Saginaw Township this year is losing more than 900 resident pupils across borders, nearly half to western neighbor Swan Valley and its far lower level of school integration.

In a note of reversed roles, until 1959 Saginaw Township sent high schoolers to Arthur Hill High, when crowding caused the city school board to demand annexation or else borders would be closed. Township residents at the time voted more than 2-to-1 against annexing, choosing instead to build MacArthur.

Regarding fair taxation for families of Saginaw "city kids," all households statewide now pay a base 6 mills that is redistributed to all local districts for operations, as well as portions of income and sales taxes, along with the long-held myth of huge state lottery sums. For buildings and grounds, Saginaw families are paying 6.78 mills for improvements that feature the new Saginaw United High along the riverfront across from downtown, along with 7 mills for past debt, with payments direct by homeowners and via rents for tenants. This is true regardless of whether they send their children to the township, to another district, or to a charter or parochial school. School debt millage in the older city will remain higher even if the township millage is approved.

To review the school district's info, [click here](#). For the opposition's outlook, [click here](#).

Thank you to the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History for research assistance, also to Larry Toft for guidance with his book, "Remembering Our Past: Historic Saginaw Township."



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EDUCATION

The importance of parent-teacher conferences



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS

Most schools will soon be hosting parent-teacher conferences. The purpose is simple yet powerful: to open lines of communication—face-to-face—between parents and their child's teacher or teachers.

These conferences are important opportunities for collaboration, understanding, and partnership. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend. Here are a few key reasons why.

To Build Rapport

Meeting in person allows both teachers and parents to get to know one another. This “meet and greet” moment helps build bridges for the rest of the school year and beyond.

No school year is without its challenges, but when parents and teachers know each other and work as a team, those challenges are easier to navigate successfully.

Conferences are not just meetings—they're the foundation of a partnership.

To Establish Goals

Conferences give teachers a chance to share the learning goals for the year. Parents can ask:

- What are the expectations as the semester progresses?
- What challenges might arise?
- How does the curriculum

connect to my child's future?

Understanding these goals helps parents support learning at home and reinforces the connection between classroom expectations and life skills.

To Address Immediate Problems

The school year is still young—just the first quarter. That makes now the ideal time to spot and fix problems before they grow.

Earlier in my career, I taught mathematics, and I recall how important early mastery was. In Algebra I, for example, exponents are taught early and applied throughout the course. If a

student struggles with exponents in September, the difficulty will ripple through every later topic. Addressing such gaps now prevents frustration later.

Keep Communication Open

Conferences should not be the only time parents and teachers connect.

Good communication continues all year long—and it should be clear how that communication happens.

Ask:

- Is it best to reach out by email, phone, or text?
- Does the school use an online parent portal?
- How quickly can

messages be returned?

Establishing communication channels early ensures that support and updates flow both ways as the school year advances.

Final Thought

Being proactive now sets the tone for success later. When parents and teachers communicate regularly, students benefit most of all.

“Strong communication early in the year creates strong results by the end of it.”

Reference:

<https://cypressvillage.iusd.org/article/power-parent-teacher-conferences-building-success-together>

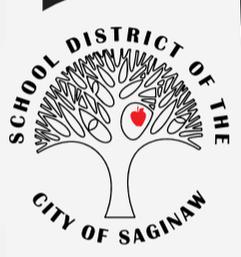


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EDUCATION

Michigan's Class of 2025 posts highest FAFSA completion rate since 2019



FILE PHOTO

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan high school seniors are making significant strides toward college access and affordability, as more than 67,000 students from the Class of 2025 completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), marking the state's highest completion rate in six years.

According to the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) and the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN),

67,365 students, or 56.9% of graduates, completed the FAFSA — a six-point increase from the Class of 2024. The milestone places Michigan among the top 20 states in FAFSA completion nationwide.

“Completing the FAFSA opens doors to scholarships, financial aid, and pathways to meaningful careers,” said Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffiea, director of MiLEAP. “With more than 67,000 students completing the FAFSA this year, Michigan continues to build momentum in expanding access to college and career training.”

FAFSA completion is the first step for students to access state and federal programs such as the Michigan Achievement Scholarship, Community College Guarantee, Michigan Reconnect, and the Federal Pell Grant — all designed to lower the cost of post-secondary education and help meet the state's Sixty by 30 goal, which aims for 60% of adults to hold a degree or credential by 2030.

“These strong FAFSA completion rates show that Michigan students are taking their futures seriously and seizing every opportunity to make college a real-

ity,” said Ryan Fewins-Bliss, executive director of MCAN.

Officials credited the rise to expanded outreach by MiLEAP and MCAN, including college fairs, virtual webinars, and initiatives like the “Ticket to Tuition” giveaway, which awarded \$50,000 to 50 students earlier this year. The state also launched the \$10 million Universal FAFSA Challenge, encouraging districts to make FAFSA completion a graduation requirement.

“The increase we're seeing shows what's possible when we do the intentional, on-the-ground work to connect students and families with the information and support they need,” said Sarah Szurpicki, deputy director of MiLEAP's Office of Higher Education.

The momentum is backed by state investments in higher education affordability. The FY26 budget includes \$42 million for Michigan Reconnect, offering tuition-free opportunities for adults 25 and older, and \$300 million for the Michigan Achievement Scholarship, which provides up to \$27,500 for students attending Michigan colleges or universities.

The 2026-27 FAFSA is now open, and students are encouraged to apply early. Throughout Michigan College Month, celebrated each October, many colleges and universities are waiving application fees to make it even easier for students to take the next step.

More information on state scholarships and FAFSA resources can be found at Michigan.gov/MiStudentAid.

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MI Tri-Share Program Eligibility 2025

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

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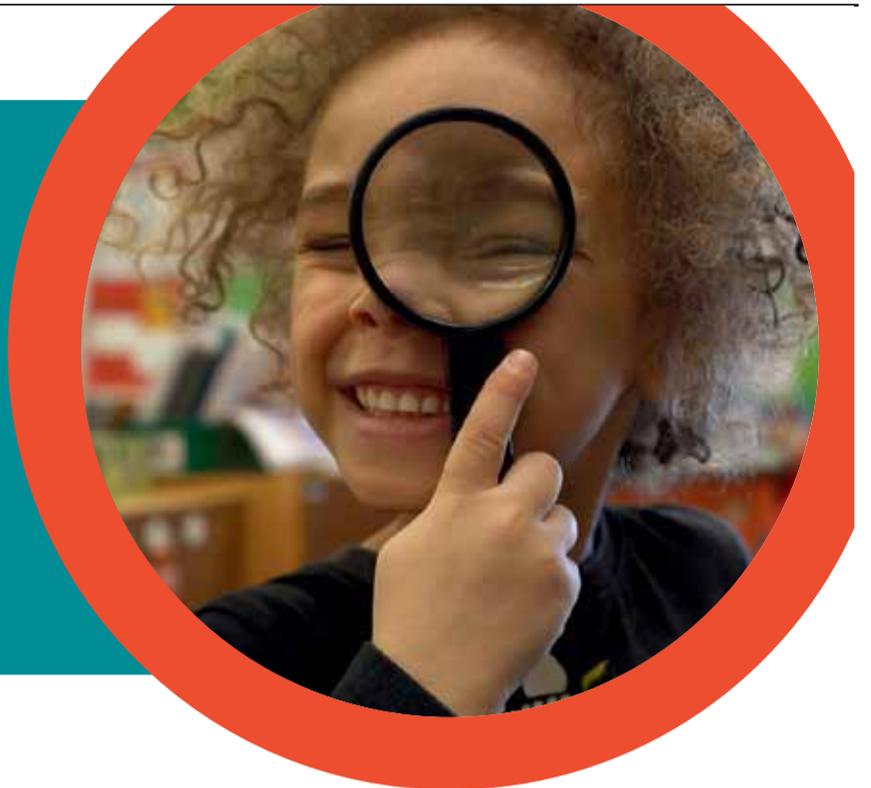
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**Administration for Children and Families: Children's Learning and Development Benefits from High-Quality Early Care and Education: A Summary of Evidence*



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Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start
Program Director

About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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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

“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

Leo's Coney Island plans Midland location near Midland Mall

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

SAGINAW, Mich. — A new Leo's Coney Island is planned for Midland, adding to the chain's growing footprint across mid-Michigan.

According to Assistant City Manager for Development Services Jacob Kain, the city has received a conditional use permit to build a restaurant with a drive-through at 820 Joe Mann Boulevard, located just east of Lucky's Steakhouse and near the Spring-Hill Suites by Marriott.

A public hearing on the project will take place at the Nov. 11 Planning Commission meeting, and the proposal is expected to go before City Council on Dec. 15, Kain said.

Leo's Coney Island – Saginaw first announced the planned Midland restaurant in a Sept. 29 Facebook post, noting that the new location – along with another in Mount Pleasant – is expected to open in summer 2026.

“Expect the same unforgettable flavors, warm hospitality, and unique atmosphere you've come to love – now in a fresh new space designed just for you,” the post read.

The Midland project adds to Leo's Coney Island's expansion across Michigan. Founded in 1972, the family-owned chain is known for its coney dogs, gyros, breakfast specials, and classic diner-style menu. The company now operates more than 60 restaurants statewide, including locations in Saginaw, Bay City, and Flint.



LEO'S CONEY ISLAND

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Michigan Cream & Sugar expands ice cream shipping across the U.S.



MICHIGAN CREAM & SUGAR ICE CREAM COMPANY

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Michigan Cream & Sugar Ice Cream Company, known for its small-batch, Michigan-sourced ice cream, has announced that it is now offering shipping across the continental United States — just in time for the holiday season.

The Saginaw-based creamery, located at 122 S. Hamilton Street in Old Town, shared the news this week, noting that customers can now send six-pint packages of its handcrafted ice cream any-

where in the country through its recently upgraded website, michigancreamsugar.com.

The company said orders shipped within the 48 contiguous states will leave each Monday and arrive by 5 p.m. Tuesday, packed with 10 pounds of locally produced dry ice to keep the pints frozen. Each shipment costs \$80 for six pints, with the total cost varying based on location.

For customers closer to home, local delivery is available within a 22-mile radius of Saginaw. Those orders will be dropped off on Wednesdays and Fridays for

a \$25 delivery fee, with the same \$80 package price that includes six pints, dry ice and holiday-themed branding.

Established in 2019, Michigan Cream & Sugar opened its first scoop shop in Uptown Bay City before expanding in 2025 to include a new production facility and retail shop in Saginaw's Old Town district. The company sources all ingredients from Michigan farms, emphasizing freshness and agricultural diversity with rotating seasonal flavors.

Michigan Cream & Sugar op-

erates under HORIZONS Conference Center with support from Michigan Sugar Company. As part of HORIZONS, the business continues to promote a mission of quality, community, and local partnership — bringing “farms and families” together through its artisan ice cream.

The company's Saginaw and Bay City shops are open Tuesday through Sunday, with fall hours varying by day. More information, including ordering details, can be found at michigancreamsugar.com.

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BUSINESS + FINANCE



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BUSINESS + FINANCE

Michigan awards \$2 M to strengthen regional workforce innovation and collaboration



FILE PHOTO

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan is investing \$2 million in regional workforce development initiatives designed to strengthen the state's talent pipeline, boost collaboration, and help local communities address labor challenges across key industries.

The Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) and the Michigan Workforce Development Board announced the Regional Innovation Project grants, which will fund four large-scale partnerships between Michigan Works! Agencies throughout the state. The grants, totaling \$500,000 each, support projects that align with the Michigan Statewide Workforce Plan — a strategy to ensure Michiganders have access to quality jobs and employers can find skilled talent.

“We are making sure all Michiganders have pathways to earn a good living and support themselves and their families,” said Susan Corbin, LEO director. “Investing in creative solutions that meet the unique needs of businesses and workers in all parts of our state is part of our all-access approach to empowering Michiganders so they can build meaningful careers and helping Michigan businesses grow with access to a skilled workforce.”

The grants will support four

regional initiatives addressing workforce shortages and access to training in technology, health-care, infrastructure, and mobility sectors:

- **Advancing Digital Equity and Workforce Readiness in a Technology-Led Economy** — Led by Michigan Works! Region 7B, this initiative will help jobseekers improve digital literacy, expand access to apprenticeship programs, and assist employers with artificial intelligence adoption. Partner agencies include Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works!, GST Michigan Works!, and Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works!
- **Career Exposure and Experience** — Headed by West Michigan Works!, this project focuses on connecting residents to career pathways in manufacturing, healthcare, IT, and skilled trades. Partners include Capital Area Michigan Works!, Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation, and Oakland County Michigan Works!
- **Workforce Training for Construction, Infrastructure, Energy**

and Mobility — Led by Michigan Works! West Central, this effort aims to expand training programs tied to in-demand jobs in Northern Michigan, in partnership with Northeast Consortium, Northwest Michigan Works!, and Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!

- **Expansion of Healthcare Apprenticeship Models** — Coordinated by Michigan Works! Berrien, Cass, Van Buren, this project will extend west Michigan's successful healthcare apprenticeship programs into southern Michigan, addressing critical workforce shortages. Partners include Michigan Works! Southeast, Michigan Works! Southwest, and SEMCA Michigan Works!

“This funding enables the enhanced collaboration our system needs to address workforce challenges with a regional and innovative focus,” said Dave Meador, chair of the Michigan Workforce Development Board's Innovation & Outcomes Committee.

“This initiative will boost regional innovation and partnership that go beyond jurisdictional lines to ensure we're equipping Michigan workers and employers with the skills and talent they need to succeed,” added Jessica Brousseau, LEO chief of staff and executive director of the Michigan Workforce Development Board.

Regional leaders say the investment will help create lasting solutions to workforce barriers. Mark L. Berdan, executive director of Michigan Works! Region 7B, said the grant will “help more

Michiganders gain the skills and credentials they need, expanding access to middle-class opportunities, and connecting businesses with the talent required to thrive.”

Jacob Maas, CEO of West Michigan Works!, said the collaboration will “expand innovative career awareness programs” and “inspire students to pursue in-demand careers in manufacturing, health care and through apprenticeships.”

In Northern Michigan, Shelly Keene, executive director of Michigan Works! West Central, said the initiative will provide essential credentials to career seekers and “strengthen Northern Michigan's workforce pipeline by preparing hundreds of individuals for success in high-growth, high-demand industries.”

And in southern Michigan, Jennifer Deamud, executive vice president of workforce at Michigan Works! Berrien, Cass, Van Buren, called the healthcare expansion effort “a bold, unified step toward building a stronger, more inclusive healthcare workforce across multiple regions in the state.”

Krista Johnson, LEO workforce development director, said the initiative represents an investment that supports “all 83 counties” and “creates pathways to prosperity for Michiganders.”

The Regional Innovation Project grants reflect LEO's broader “All-Access” approach, which focuses on removing systemic barriers, improving coordination, and ensuring equitable opportunities for workers and employers statewide.

More information about Michigan Works! initiatives and workforce development programs can be found at Michigan.gov/MichiganWorks and Michigan.gov/AllAccess.

SPORTS

Michigan Arsenal brings professional arena football to Saginaw's Dow Event Center in 2026



A PRESS CONFERENCE WAS HELD THURSDAY AT THE DOW EVENT CENTER IN SAGINAW TO ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF THE MICHIGAN ARSENAL, A NEW ARENA FOOTBALL 1 FRANCHISE SET TO BEGIN PLAY IN THE 2026 SEASON. (COURTESY PHOTO BY DOW EVENT CENTER)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Professional arena football is making its way to the Great Lakes Bay Region. Arena Football 1 (AF1) officially announced Thursday that the Michigan Arsenal will join its lineup of teams for the upcoming 2026 season, with home games set for the Dow Event Center in downtown Saginaw.

The announcement came during a press conference at the event center, where AF1 Commissioner Jeff Fisher introduced the new franchise alongside team executives and coaching staff.

“We’re thrilled to welcome the Michigan Arsenal to the AF1 family,” Fisher said. “Michigan has a deep and passionate foot-

ball culture, and the Arsenal brings a powerful new presence to our league. This franchise is going to be something special for fans across the state.”

The Arsenal will play six

home games during its 12-game inaugural season. Ticket prices and game schedules will be announced in the coming weeks.

Leading the new franchise is George Bradford, owner and CEO

of the Michigan Arsenal. A former Google executive, Bradford brings a background in business strategy and technology leadership to the organization.

“This is an exciting time with a great city that was built and founded on the industrial labor and the automotive industry,” Bradford said. “This is absolutely fantastic, but more importantly, the AF1 is one of the best leagues in the industry. I’m looking forward to a great year, a fantastic season, and bringing a championship to the city of Saginaw.”

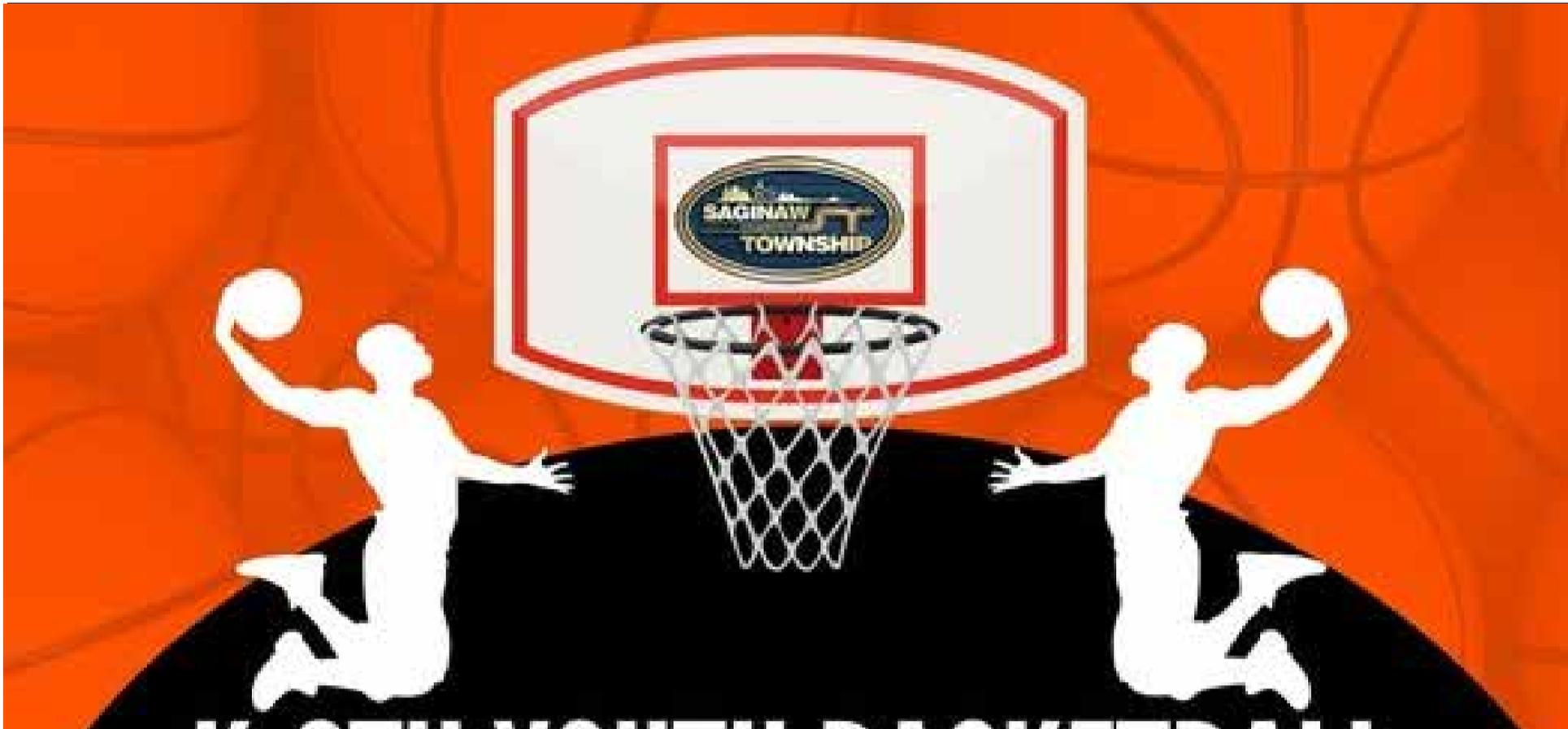
On the field, the Arsenal will be guided by Head Coach Shawn Liotta, a 26-year football veteran with experience at the professional, collegiate, and high school levels. Liotta is known for leading high-scoring offenses and championship-caliber programs, including steering the Erie Explosion to back-to-back titles and an undefeated season in 2013. He most recently served as offensive coordinator for the Wheeling Miners of the National Arena League.

Team officials say the Arsenal represents “more than just a football team — a movement built on pride, performance, and community.” Plans for the franchise include turning game days at the Dow Event Center into full-scale community events featuring sports, music, and family entertainment.

Additional details about the team’s 2026 season, including ticket information and the official website launch, will be released later this year.



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FAITH IN FOCUS



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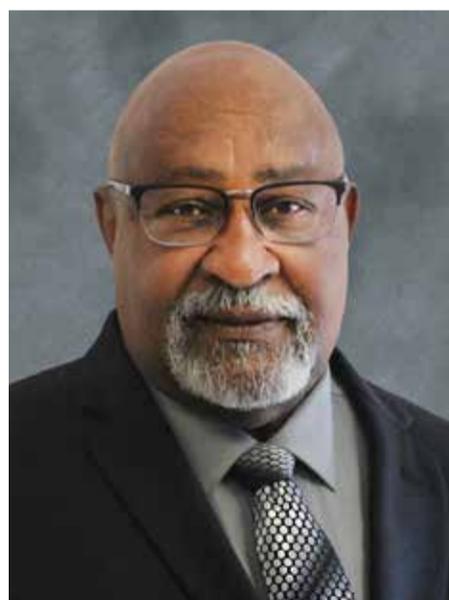
Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

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.

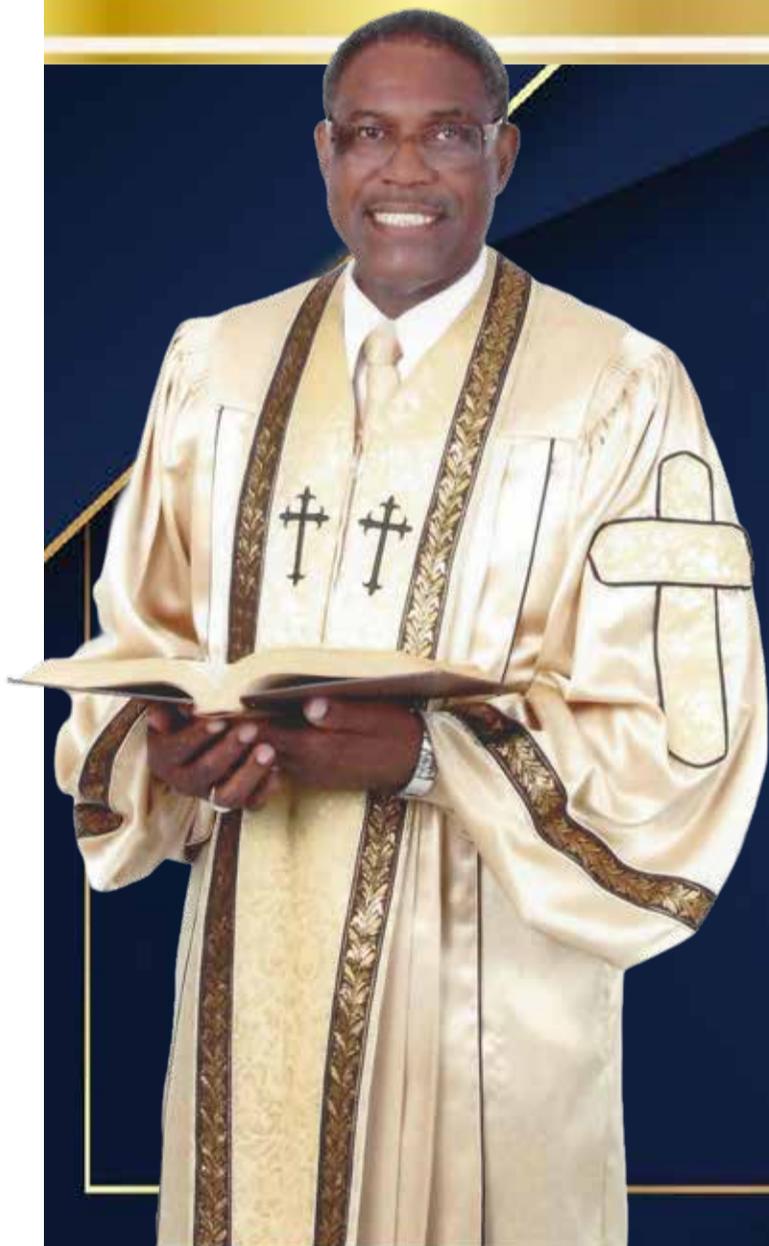
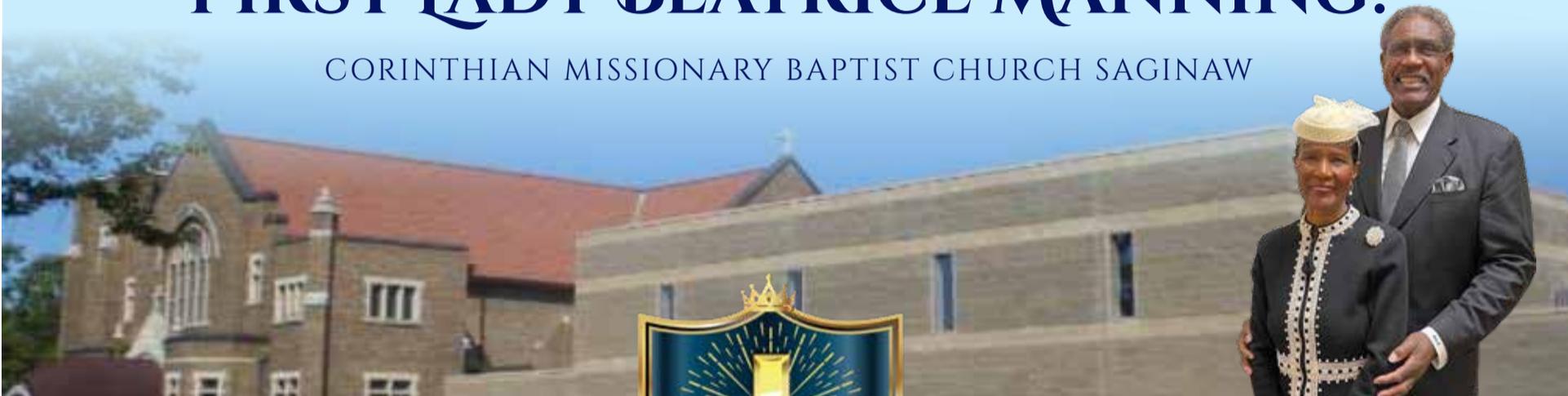
For more information, visit Ministry Without Walls at 3783 Mannion Road, Saginaw, MI 48603.

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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.

SERMONETTE SERIES

Targeted, But Untouched

“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue that rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me,” says the Lord.

Isaiah 54:17 KJV



BY MINISTER CAROLYN
CARTER TOWNSEL

Life often brings seasons where it feels as though everything and everyone is working against you. The challenges may be personal attacks, unfair criticism, financial strain, or emotional battles that seem relentless. Yet, Isaiah 54:17 reminds us of a powerful truth: we are protected by a promise, not by our own power.

God never said that weapons wouldn't form—He said they wouldn't prosper. That means adversity may come, but it will not defeat you. The enemy may plan to wound your confidence or shake your faith, but God has already declared that the plan will fail. Every trial that rises against you becomes an opportunity for God to prove His faithfulness once again.

When we stand in righteousness and trust God's timing, He shields us from harm and transforms every attack into advancement. The words spoken against you cannot define you; God's Word already has. So, lift your head high and walk boldly, knowing that Heaven backs you.

The very weapon meant to destroy you will be the tool God uses to develop you. What the enemy intended for harm, God can turn into a lesson, a testimony, and a doorway to new strength. Every setback becomes a setup for your comeback when you keep your heart anchored in faith. Sometimes God allows the pressure, not to break you, but to bring out what He has already placed within you.

Think about it — diamonds are formed under intense heat and pressure. In the same way, your trials are shaping your character, deepening your dependence on God, and preparing you for greater purpose.

When life's storms rage, don't lose sight of who walks beside you. God's promise of protection is not passive; it is active and alive. His hand covers you, His angels surround you, and His Spirit empowers you to endure with grace.

So, instead of fearing the weapon, fix your eyes on the One who controls the outcome. You are not a victim of circumstance; you are a vessel of victory. Let your faith speak louder than your fear. Let your praise rise even in the midst of pain. The same battle that once intimidated you will become the platform for your breakthrough.

Because when God declares that no weapon formed against you shall prosper, He is affirming that your destiny is unstoppable. You are equipped, anointed, and covered by divine favor. Every challenge is simply an opportunity for God's glory to shine through you - it's called "Targeted, But Untouched."

Blessings To All,
Carolyn



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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Board membership – asset or liability?



BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

During these times of uncertainty, our urban nonprofits do not have the luxury of having board members who are not engaged and not making an impact in terms of promoting the vision and goals of the organization.

Nonprofit board members play a critical role in the life of our nonprofits. This is true for those who serve grassroots and emerging organizations, as well as those who serve major institutions such as our HBCUs and national organizations. Sometimes, nonprofit board members are seen as “glamorous.” Those not familiar with nonprofit board service may think you are in a role similar to that of a bank trustee or corporate board member. The positions are similar in that both require you to bring your A game to the table. Unlike corporate boards, nonprofit boards don’t come with financial rewards. You will be rewarded for the good you do, but you won’t get paid.

If you are a nonprofit board



FILE PHOTO

member, you know the joys and the hard work. And you know today’s environment makes board service – and the survival of our nonprofits – more challenging than ever. With this column, we ask you to reflect on how you live up to your roles and responsibilities. Weigh the following as you consider how you “measure up.”

For your consideration:

1. Have you bought into the vision and goals for the organization?
2. Are you in sync with leadership?
3. Do you attend board meetings on a regular basis?
4. What about committee meetings?
5. Do you have contacts that can provide grants and resources? Are your contacts active?
6. Do you make a meaningful financial contribution each year?
7. Do you serve as a fundraiser as well, asking others to join you in giving?
8. Do you introduce the nonprofit to potential partners and collaborators?
9. Do you have power, influence, and wealth? Or are you perceived by others as having these characteristics?
10. Do you have skills, expertise, and relationships that can help advance the work of the organization?
11. Do you expect to be reimbursed for out-of-

12. How many boards do you sit on?
13. Are you able to be effective given the number of boards you are a member of?
14. Do you serve because you believe in the organization or to enhance your resume?
15. Do you understand the work of the nonprofit and how it impacts your community?
16. Are you comfortable speaking your mind, or are you a “rubber stamp” person?
17. How long have you served on the board? If more than two terms, are you still adding value?
18. Do you find yourself able to offer solutions when challenges arise?

Assessing your ability to provide leadership, direction, and financial support allows you to consider whether you are in the right position. Maybe it’s time for you to step up and take more action on behalf of your nonprofit. Maybe it’s time to step back and support new leadership. Maybe there is a different role for you to play. Your engagement is so important, and our nonprofits need active and engaged leadership, now more than ever. God protect America and the world we live in.



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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 Saginaw Community Food Club, a nonprofit, membership-based grocery store and kitchen aimed at improving access to healthy, affordable food in Saginaw, especially in neighborhoods identified as food deserts, is making progress as it nears its 2026 opening.



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We

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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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