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Trailblazer Anita Horne Jenkins built bridges of equity and community

COMMUNITY, PG 15

Lois A. Dale remembered for service and faith



LOIS A. DALE

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Lois A. Dale, a former member of Bethel A.M.E. Church and Mt. Olive Institutional Missionary Baptist Church, and a retired employee of Evans & Browne's Funeral Home, died Aug. 26, 2025. She was 71.

Born Dec. 31, 1953, in Saginaw, Dale dedicated her career and life to service, from working as a home caregiver to helping families during times of loss. She began her professional career working for Dr. Harpal Singh, M.D., before joining

her family's funeral business, Evans-Smith Funeral Home, later renamed Evans Memorial Chapel. The company eventually merged into Evans & Browne's Funeral Home, where Dale worked from 2012 until her retirement earlier this year.

Her memory will be kept alive by her beloved daughter, Tanya L. Bracken; seven grandchildren, Tanisha Smith, Andre Smith, Jr., Chris Allen, Jr. (Cassie), China Whittington, Kennedy Smith, Deleion Smith and Delano Smith; five great-grandchildren, Demarcus, Alexandria, Sophia, Dream and

Carson; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Renee' Taylor, Carla (Mark) Thomas and Sarah (Jim) Spotts; one brother, Michael Housen; many nieces and nephews including a special niece, Tanisha Taylor, her god-sister, Lois Scott-Kelley (Norris), her life long friends, Lenora Rush and Gwendolyn Brazil, Many other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

Lois was predeceased by her son, Andre L. Smith; mother, Annie M. Evans; step-father, George W. Evans; uncle, Richard (Dickie) Moten and brother-in-law, Gregory Taylor.



Rec director made a BV difference

COMMUNITY, PG 18



"I'm Just Thinking...." with Bishop Hurley J. Coleman, Jr.

COMMUNITY, PG 23



Councilwoman's crime not pre-planned

POLITICS, PG 25

Back to school: Not just for kids



The pencils are sharpened, the backpacks are stuffed, and suddenly the lazy rhythm of summer has been replaced with alarm clocks, carpool lines, and last-minute scrambles for permission slips. Back-to-school season is officially here — and it's not just kids who feel it.

For parents and guardians, this time of year is its own juggling act. Early mornings come faster, evenings fill up with soccer practices, band rehearsals, and homework battles, and somewhere in between you're trying to make dinner and remember where you left your coffee. It's a reset button for family routines, whether you asked for it or not.

But here's the upside: back-to-school is also a fresh start for adults. It's a chance to create new habits, show up at open houses, volunteer when possible, or just make a little more time to ask kids about their day. Teachers say even a few minutes of encouragement at home can spark real motivation in the classroom.

So while students head off to learn new things, the adults get their own lesson: how to balance it all with a little more patience, humor, and teamwork. Here's to packed lunches, jammed schedules, and the small but meaningful victories that make the school year run.

**THIS DAY IN
MICHIGAN
HISTORY**

SEPTEMBER 1, 1965

On Sept. 1, 1796, Mackinac Island officially became part of the United States. Though the 1783 Treaty of Paris ended the Revolutionary War, British troops stayed at Fort Mackinac for 13 more years. The change of control finally happened when British Lt. Andrew Foster signed over the fort to American Major Henry Burbeck. That day, the Union Jack was lowered, the U.S. flag was raised, and the British moved to St. Joseph Island.

MICHIGAN BANNER

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MISSION

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

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HAPPY
LABOR DAY
SEPTEMBER 1

- THE MICHIGAN BANNER -

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 7 • NUMBER 17



Saginaw rally focuses on youth mental health

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Community leaders, performers and advocates will gather Sept. 6 at Saginaw Middle School for a back-to-school rally and concert focused on mental health awareness.

The event, titled Identifying Triggers 2: Back-to-School Mental Health Awareness Rally & Concert, begins at noon and will feature live music, raffles and school supply giveaways, as well as free food and haircuts. Organizers also plan to award two treatment scholarships for uninsured patients seeking mental health care.

Performers scheduled to appear include Sharrie Williams, Charles Allen, Dr. Twannine Gray and George Copeland. Speakers include Dr. Pamela Pugh, Assegid Mersha, Brian Pruitt and Ken Whittaker.

The program combines entertainment with education, aiming to provide families with resources and a supportive environment at the start of the school year. Sponsors include Michigan United and several community partners, along with Solutions Behavioral Health.

The rally will be held at 3100 Webber St. in Saginaw. Registration information is available at mobilize.us/s/218SCG.

**IDENTIFYING TRIGGERS 2
BACK-TO-SCHOOL
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS
RALLY & CONCERT**

**12 PM
SEPT. 6
2025**

SHARRIE WILLIAMS
CHARLES ALLEN
DR. TWANNINE GRAY
GEORGE COPELAND

DR. PAMELA PUGH
ASSEGID MERSHA
BRIAN PRUITT
KEN WHITTAKER

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FOOD, FREE
HAIRCUTS & MORE!**

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SAGINAW, MI**

REGISTER: MOBILIZE.US/S/218SCG

**TWO FREE MENTAL HEALTH
TREATMENT SCHOLARSHIPS
FOR TWO UNINSURED
PATIENTS!**

MICHIGAN UNITED SOLUTIONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

So... how's school *really* going?



FILE PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

Okay, let's be real. You're a few weeks into the school year now. The new notebooks don't smell like Office Depot anymore, your backpack already has a mysterious stain, and

you're wondering if "senioritis" is contagious even when you're a freshman.

So how's it going?

Are you crushing the new schedule, or still wandering the halls pretending you know where the math wing is? Did you make a new bestie at lunch,

or are you still in line at the cafeteria when the pizza's already gone?

Maybe your teachers are cool, maybe they're handing out pop quizzes like Oprah gave out cars. ("YOU get a quiz! YOU get a quiz!") Either way, you're starting to figure out who's chill

about bathroom passes and who guards them like they're made of gold.

And let's not forget sports, clubs, band, robotics — whatever your thing is. Are you diving in like an Olympic swimmer, or just testing the waters because homework is already eating your soul?

Look, the first few weeks are always weird. Half the battle is just remembering your locker combo and not tripping in the hallway when everyone's watching. (It happens. People survive.) The other half is realizing: this year is yours to own.

So here's the check-in:

- **Are you getting enough sleep, or are you powered by iced coffee and vibes?**
- **Do you actually know what's for homework tonight, or are you winging it and praying?**
- **Have you laughed at least once today, even if it was just at yourself?**

If you answered "uhh... kind of" to all of these — congrats, you're officially surviving the school year. And that, honestly, is the win.

SVSU, STARS partner to expand free bus access for students and staff



SVSU STUDENTS

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

SAGINAW, Mich. — Saginaw Valley State University is teaming up with the region's public transit agency to improve transportation options for its campus community.

Beginning Oct. 1, students, faculty and staff with a valid SVSU ID card will be able to ride STARS fixed-route buses at no charge. The one-year agreement between SVSU and Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services runs through September 2026, with the possibility of a two-year extension.

Amy Bidwell, executive director of STARS, said the partnership reduces barriers that often limit academic and professional opportunities.

“By allowing free access to all our bus routes with an SVSU ID, we’re helping connect people to their classes, jobs, and campus activities — removing transportation barriers and supporting academic and community success,” Bidwell said in a statement.

SVSU officials also see the collaboration as a benefit for the broader community. John Kaczynski, the university's vice president for governmental affairs, said easier transportation access will help both students and local businesses.

“Some students don’t own a car or aren’t able to drive. They may live off campus and need a reliable way to get to classes, or they may live on campus and need transportation to stores, restaurants and other regional businesses,” Kaczynski said.

“This also works both ways; it opens SVSU to the broader community.”

STARS operates more than 500 bus stops throughout the Saginaw area. Route 9 connects directly to SVSU, with a stop located near the Ryder Center. Bus

schedules are available through Google Maps, and fixed-route service runs Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

More information on routes and schedules is available at saginaw-stars.com.



SAGINAW TRANSIT AUTH REGIONAL SERVICES



Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

Mott CC board gains new member



SANTINO GUERRA

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — A former Flint city councilperson has been appointed to a new public office as a Mott Community College trustee.

Santino Guerra, a Swartz Creek resident, was appointed to a partial term as a Mott Community College trustee at the board's special meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 26.

He wrote, in a prepared statement, "I look forward to working with the board to maintain a high-quality, accessible, and affordable education for all."

Guerra is filling a vacancy through December 2026. He previously was a Flint City Council member from 1997 through 2001. He is a federal law enforcement officer who began his career as a Genesee County sheriff's deputy, after graduating from Kearsley High School and attaining a criminal justice degree at U-M Flint.



Democratic Party of Saginaw

Latino CAUCUS

GENERAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2025
6:00p-7:30p

413 Adams St Saginaw, MI 48602

Let's unite our voices, push for progress, and stand for Latino representation in Saginaw!

Scan the QR Code to RSVP
This event is open to all



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

New U.S. rep defends immigration vote



REP. KRISTEN MCDONALD RIVET SPEAKS TO A CROWD IN GENESEE COUNTY

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — She came. She saw. She didn't conquer, but she gained respect simply by showing up and explaining herself.

That was the story when Kristen McDonald Rivet, Dan Kildee's successor in Congress, met with an audience of 20 from the newly formed Latino Caucus of the Saginaw County Democratic Party. Caucus Chair Angel Gomez conducted the proceedings, while County Dem Chair Brandell Adams observed in an Aug. 18 session at the Mexican American Council headquarters.

Rivet was among 46 Democrats who joined a unanimous 207 Republicans in January in support of the Riley Laken Act, part of President Trump's immigration crackdown that was opposed by the Congressional His-

panic Caucus and other leading groups.

The legislation is named for a 22-year-old University of Georgia student who was murdered by a Venezuelan illegal. Critics object mainly because an undocumented immigrant facing charges of a violent crime may face a deportation hearing prior to a court verdict, a denial of the due process that would be provided to anyone else.

Some 156 Dems were opposed, many with "safe" supportive bases -- Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, for one example. The 46 who crossed the aisle are primarily from "close" 50-50 districts like Rivet inherited from Kildee last November with her tight win over Republican Paul Junge.

Mid-Michigan's new congresswoman knew she would face some flak at the MAC, because questions and criticisms

started coming in her direction immediately after last winter's vote within a week of Trump's inauguration, including on the Saginaw Democrats' own Facebook page.

She re-iterated her view that immigration requires at least some sort of oversight, and that she owns mixed feelings regarding the Riley Laken Act, but she believes the positive outweighs the negative. At the same time, she blasted Trump and the Republican MAGA drumbeat as harmful, hurtful and biased, and noted that she has been part of the overall opposition to the anti-immigration agenda, especially when the GOP highlights immigrant individual horrific misdeeds while it fails to acknowledge that the overall crime rate among border-crossers actually is lower than the national stats.

The session ended with a cordial note that the Latino Caucus appreciated her staying for the full hour, and will be keeping track of future votes.

Angel Gomez says he will follow up with Michigan's Democratic senators, Gary Peters and Elissa Slotkin, who also voted for the measure. They were among 12 Democrats who joined 52 unanimous GOP lawmakers in favor, while 35 Dems were opposed. Also noteworthy is that the pair of Georgians who had tilted the Senate for the Dems during President Biden's tenure, Rafael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, also crossed the aisle in support.

The Latino Caucus will aim to tackle local as well as national concerns. See their Facebook page or contact Gomez at angelg52389@gmail.com.



TERCER JUEVES BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

THURSDAY
SEPT 18th, 2025
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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Wayne State University
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Flint Latinx gala to celebrate culture with food, music and community

Latinx
Technology & Community Center

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 13
6:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Noche de
Culturas
A LATINX GALA

FLINT GOLF CLUB
3100 LAKEWOOD DR | FLINT, MI 48507

Your ticket includes traditional Latin American food, signature cocktails, and live music to keep you on your feet all night long. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

FLINT LATINX GALA

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — The Latinx Technology & Community Center will host its annual cultural gala next month, inviting residents to experience an evening of food, music and celebration.

The event, Noche de Culturas: A Latinx Gala, will take place from 6 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Flint Golf Club, 3100 Lakewood Drive.

The gala will feature traditional Latin American cuisine, signature cocktails and live performances. Entertainment for the evening includes Mariachi Jalisco de Detroit, Latin fusion group Mexicuba and DJ

Tomás “Eduardo Scizzahandz” Tello, who will keep the dance floor moving late into the night.

Tickets are \$100 and include access to food, drinks and entertainment. Proceeds from the gala will support the Latinx Technology & Community Center, which provides educational, cultural and social programs for Flint-area families.

The event aims to highlight Latin American traditions while also serving as a fundraiser to strengthen year-round programming.

For more information and for tickets, visit <http://tinyurl.com/latinxflint>.



MEXICUBA DE GRAND RAPIDS IS SET TO HEADLINE THE GALA WITH AN AMAZING MUSICAL PERFORMANCE, TAKING THE STAGE AT 9:30 PM.

LA MISION

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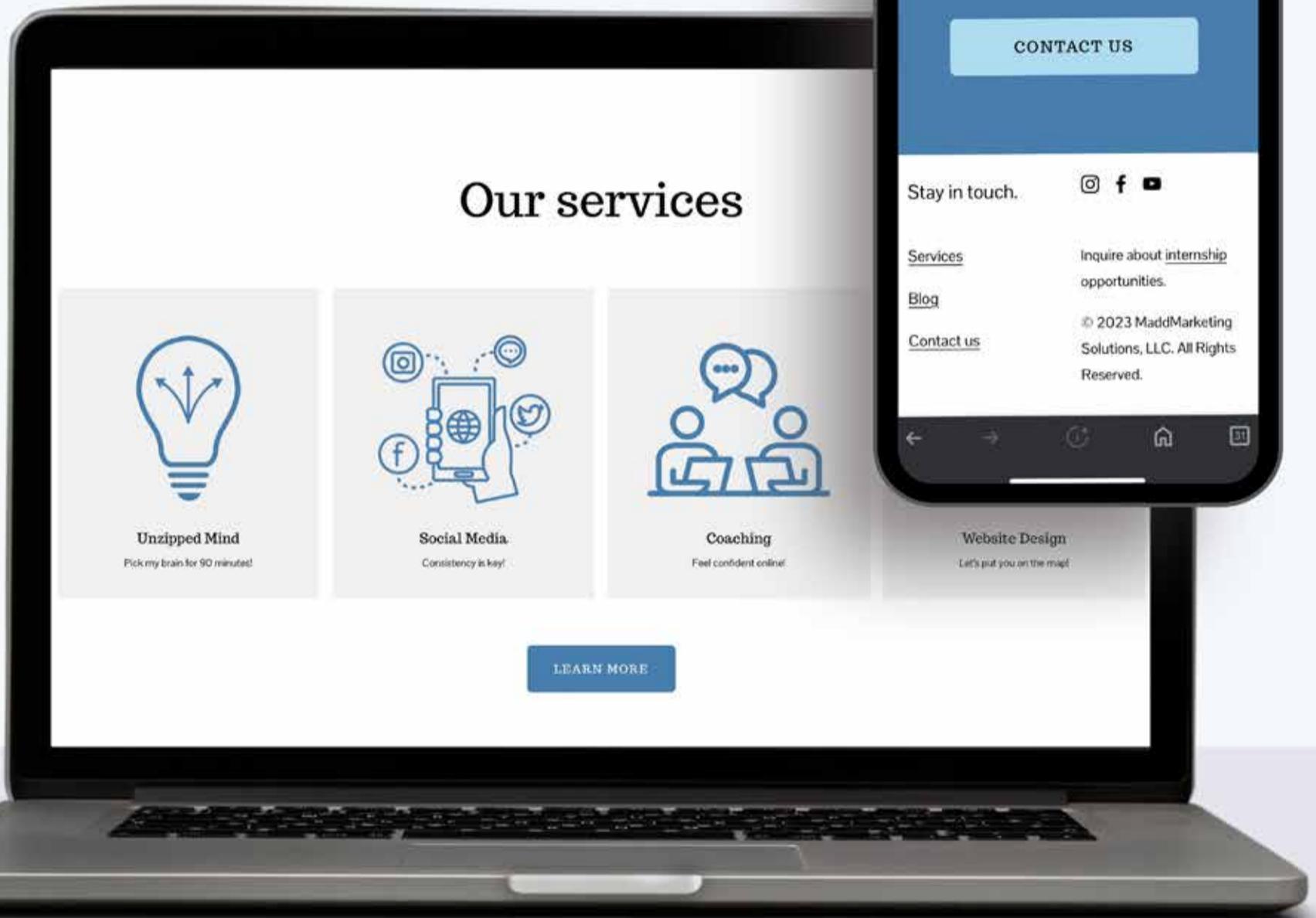
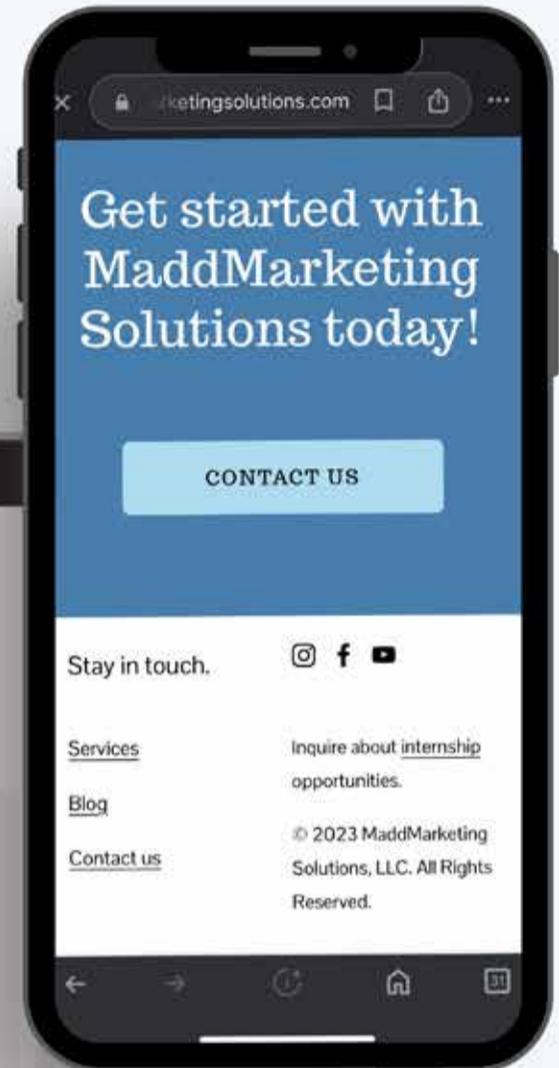


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COMMUNITY

Saginaw grief support event to offer healing, book release amid violence

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Launch

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LATRICE S. THOMAS

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LATRICE S. THOMAS | AUTHOR

THE BROBECUE FELLOWSHIP EVENT IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2025.

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — A local nonprofit and a community violence prevention program are partnering to host a grief sup-

port gathering and book release later this month, offering a space for reflection and healing as Saginaw continues to confront the impact of gun violence.

Grace Sustained, founded by

author Latrice S. Thomas, will join with the HELP (Healing Engagement Love Presence) Community Violence Intervention Program to present *Believing Beyond Grief: Walking in King-*

dom Authority from 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30, at HELP's headquarters in the Morley Building, 1 Tuscola St., Suite 201.

The free public event coincides with the release of Thomas's first book, a 31-day devotional written during her own journey of loss after the death of her youngest son, Quincy Jones, on July 28, 2024. Thomas also serves on the HELP CVI Family Peer Support Team.

Organizers emphasize the event is open to everyone, not only those directly affected by gun violence or those currently navigating grief. "This event is designed to provide a much-needed space for healing and support, addressing the widespread emotional toll on residents," organizers said in a release.

Attendees will receive a complimentary copy of the book, take part in readings and discussion with the author, and have access to one-on-one sessions with mental health professionals. Other features include a "Wall of Remembrance," where guests are encouraged to bring photos of loved ones lost to violence, along with prizes, giveaways and resource information for ongoing support.

HELP CVI, a community-based nonprofit, works to address violence in Saginaw, particularly gun-related incidents, through intervention, prevention and peer support. Grace Sustained, founded by Thomas, is dedicated to spiritual healing and emotional freedom.

For more information, contact Thomas at (989) 751-5109 or HELP CVI Executive Director Kareem Bowen at (989) 714-6957 or helpsaginaw@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY

Trailblazer Anita Horne Jenkins built bridges of equity and community



ANITA HORNE JENKINS

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — When Anita Louise Horne Jenkins arrived in Midland in 1977 to join the Dow Chemical Company's legal team, she brought with her more than a law degree and professional ambition. She carried a

determination to carve out space for diversity, equity and service in a city that, at the time, had little of it.

Jenkins, who became a pioneering attorney, philanthropist and community leader, died recently at age 81. Throughout her decades in Midland, she was recognized not only for her career

achievements but also for her insistence that communities are made stronger when all voices are included.

"A community is a gathering of individuals who share a common location, interests, values, and goals," Jenkins said in a 2017 conversation about her service on the Midland Area Community Foundation Board. "They unite to engage, share resources, care for one another, and prioritize collective well-being. Just living in a community isn't enough. It is not about what the community can do for an individual, but rather what skills, capabilities, insights, and perspectives an individual can contribute to their community and its growth."

Born June 20, 1944, in Ypsilanti, Jenkins graduated as a Regents Scholar from the University of Michigan in 1966 with a degree in economics, later returning to earn her law degree in 1974. She became an assistant attorney general for the State of Michigan before joining Dow in Midland, where she rose to become tax counsel and helped establish the company's foundation. She retired in 2001.

But her influence extended far beyond her corporate career. Jenkins helped establish the Midland Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, a historically Black sorority, in 1984, and later joined the Tri-City (MI) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. With The Links, she played a key role in bringing the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to Saginaw County, ensuring thousands of children had access to free books.

Her leadership reflected her belief that giving was not limited to the wealthy or the well-connected. "Many people thought that you had to give \$100,

\$1,000, or whatever. The thing was, we needed every penny," Jenkins said, recalling the influence of philanthropist Esther Gerstacker. "Every little bit matters. Truly, it does. So, if you can spare \$10, that's \$10 that could make a difference."

Jenkins and her husband, James R. Jenkins — whom she met at the University of Michigan and married in 1968 — established the James R. and Anita Horne Jenkins Family Foundation. The family foundation has funded scholarships and endowed programs across Michigan, including the Midland Center for the Arts, where a cultural enrichment fund was established in memory of their daughter, Dr. Andrea Louise Jenkins.

Even in discussions of finance and philanthropy, Jenkins's perspective returned to responsibility. "Our inspiration centers in our families who believed and lived the biblical teachings of Luke 12:48 — that we are held responsible for what we have been blessed with, treasures, time, and talents, and it is expected that we are conduits and required to benefit others lifting as we climb," she said.

Her influence helped shape a community still learning to embrace diversity, leaving behind both progress and inspiration. In her own words:

"Supporting foundations and similar organizations is crucial, enabling individuals to connect and contribute meaningfully. Giving is not confined to the financially privileged or retirees — it's an essential act for everyone to embrace."

COMMUNITY

Violence is a tantrum of the soul—Saginaw must rise together



BY KAREEM J. BOWEN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HELP
(HEALING ENGAGEMENT, LOVE,
AND PRESENCE) COMMUNITY
VIOLENCE ORGANIZATION

SAGINAW, Mich. — From August 19 to August 26, our beloved city of Saginaw endured another rash of gun violence, including a mass shooting that left five people wounded. I was out of the country when the news reached me, but what I heard unsettled my spirit. This article is both a response and a challenge for us to set aside our biases, emotions, and frustrations and to rise together for the betterment of our community.

Violence as a Tantrum of the Soul

At its core, violence is not a display of strength, it is a tantrum of the soul. Just as a child throws a tantrum when they lack the words to express themselves, violence is often an adult's raw and destructive outburst when they feel powerless, unheard, or disconnected from their true self.

When a person is separated from their deeper values, their sense of dignity, and even from God, they lash out destructively instead of constructively. Violence, then, is not courage but a desperate cry of inner fragility and emptiness. It is failed com-

munication that harms both the self and the community.

This understanding is critical: if we want to end violence, we must go beyond suppressing behavior and instead address the root causes—disconnection, despair, and hopelessness.

There is Shared Responsibility and a Need to Shoulder Our Portion of the Burden

Gun violence is not just a law enforcement issue, nor just a community issue. It is a shared burden.

- **The Community:** Parents must re-engage their children with love and discipline. Neighbors must look out for one another. Faith leaders must return to service as moral anchors, reminding us of our higher calling to peace.
- **Law Enforcement:** Police cannot be seen solely as enforcers but as partners. They must understand the important role community-based organizations play in this fight and be open to greater collaboration. Through transparent communication, cultural competency, trauma-informed policing, and community collaboration, they can protect and serve, while also helping to heal.
- **Residents:** We must go beyond being bystanders. That means reporting dangerous activities, supporting our youth, and showing up for community dialogues, vigils, and initiatives. Silence in the face of violence is complicity.

Neighborhood Safe Zones: A Community Strategy

At HELP CVI, we are committed to moving beyond talk and into action. That's why we have partnered with the City of Saginaw and Saginaw's Neighborhood Associations to implement Neighborhood Safe Zones.

These zones will include:

- Clearly marked signs and curb markings signaling designated safe areas.
- Community patrols in partnership with the HELP Street Task Force.
- Engaging our youth to create Saginaw City's first Drone Technology and Aerial Support for major events and community safety patrols.
- Collaboration with legislators to secure tougher penalties for crimes involving firearms.

The first Safe Zones are being implemented in Houghton-Jones and Old Town, with more neighborhoods to follow. The goal is simple: to build stronger, safer communities where families can live without fear and where residents feel empowered to take ownership of their streets.

Collaboration Across Cities: Shutting Down the Rhetoric

Saginaw is not alone. Our sister city, Flint, continues to face similar waves of violence. But instead of being united against a common enemy—violence itself—our cities are being drawn into a dangerous rivalry fueled by social media rhetoric.

Recently, disturbing videos surfaced of Saginaw youth assaulting

Flint youth. These posts have spread online, creating an "us versus them" narrative between our young people. Let's be clear: if we, the adults in the room, stay silent, we give legitimacy to these narratives. And when young people who struggle to separate social media talk from reality embrace these feuds, the outcomes can be horrific. We must shut down the rhetoric before it becomes reality. Adults—parents, pastors, educators, civic leaders—must use our voices to teach, guide, and de-escalate. Saginaw and Flint cannot afford to fight each other. We must stand shoulder to shoulder, not as rivals, but as partners in the work of saving lives.

Forging a Path Forward

At HELP CVI, we believe healing, engagement, love, and presence are more than words—they are a framework for peace. But we cannot do this work alone. We need residents, churches, leaders, and law enforcement united in purpose.

Our next community meeting will be held Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at The Morley Building, 1 Tuscola Street, Suite 201, Saginaw, MI 48607. We invite all who want to be part of the solution to join us.

Saginaw, this is not who we are. We are more than headlines, more than statistics, more than violence. But to rise above, we must rise together. I RISE, YOU RISE, WE RISE TOGETHER.





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COMMUNITY

Rec director made a BV difference

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW, Mich. — Funeral services for Duane Fairris, a Buena Vista icon especially among basketball fans, are slated for 11 a.m. Sept. 6 at New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church. Visitation is from 4 to 7 p.m., Sept. 5 at New Life Baptist Ministries. He passed away in late August, age 66.

A pair of bookends are highlights of his impact on his home community:

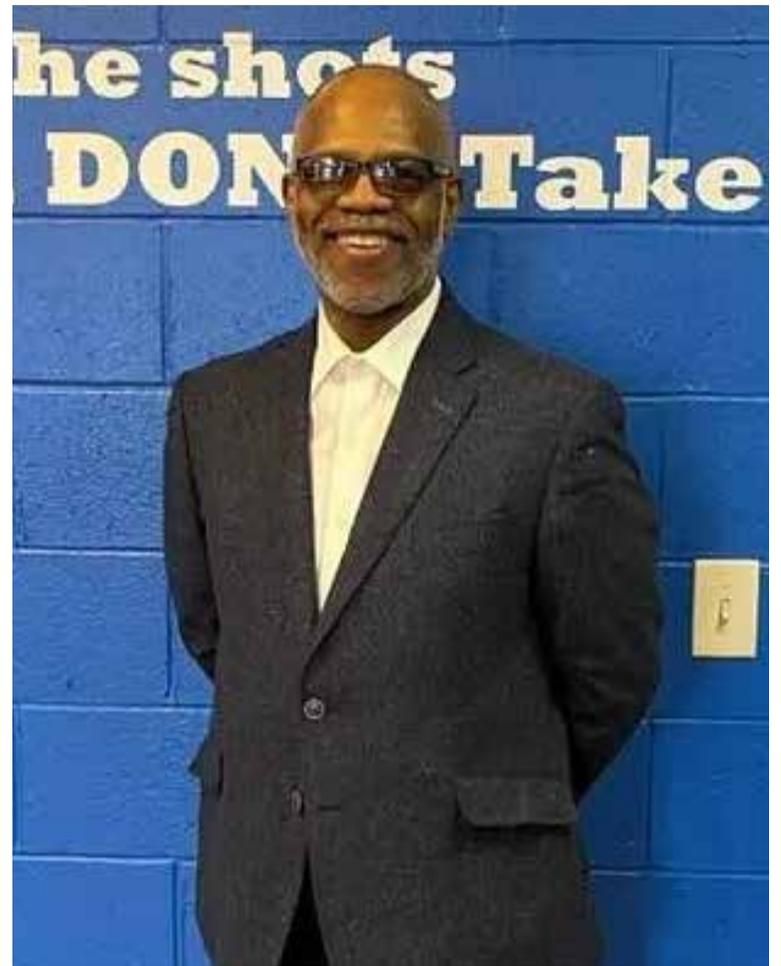
- In 1977-78, BV school leaders chopped the budget for sports after a string of millage defeats. Fairris and a half-dozen other top basketballers, if they wished to continue competing, were forced to transfer to the parochial schools. This was prior to the consolidation that formed Nouvel Catholic. Duane and Wayne Petty, now also deceased, selected St. Stephen's, while others headed

for SS. Peter and Paul's or St. Mary's. They displayed a level of dignity that helped persuade voters to finally pass the tax, which saved Buena Vista schools until the 2013 demise,

- In 2023, as the township's recreation director, he revived the Saturday morning youth basketball games of his childhood, which had died out after the schools closed. He did not simply assign staff, but he operated the scoreboard himself.

The Buena Vista Township Board of Trustees has voted in unison to name the community center in his honor.

Superintendent Torrie Lee said, in a prepared announcement: "We are proud to honor Duane J. Fairris in this lasting way. His passion, service, and commitment to our community made a permanent impact, and renaming this center ensures that his legacy lives on."



DUANE FAIRRIS

CAC gathers tributes

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — The agency known as CAC, Community Action Committee is celebrating its 60th anniversary of service, support, and self-sufficiency in Saginaw County. To mark this milestone, the organization is launching a community-wide call for stories that highlight the real-life impact of CAC's work.

If you have been touched by a program, or have donated time or money, CAC wants to hear from you.

Stories may range from emergency assistance that helped during a tough time, or a youth program that shaped your future, or a community garden that

brought neighbors together.

"Each story represents a thread in the fabric of Saginaw County's resilience," says CAC Director Hurley Coleman III,

"We're inviting everyone -- past participants, partners, staff, and supporters -- to help us honor this legacy by sharing the moments that mattered most."

Testimonials may be emailed to info@saginawcac.org or snail mailed to CAC at 2824 Perkins, zip code 48601. The phone number is (989) 753-7741.



SAGINAW COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER (CAC), 2824 PERKINS ST, SAGINAW, MI 48601

COMMUNITY

Patricia Ann Caldwell, educator and mentor, passes away at 81

BY MB STAFF

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Patricia Ann Caldwell, a devoted educator, inspirational speaker and lifelong advocate for underserved communities, died Aug. 2 in Las Vegas. She was 81.

Born Oct. 9, 1943, in Cleveland, Ohio, Caldwell was the daughter of Esther Mae and Alexander G. Campbell Sr. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Alexander G. Campbell Jr. and Eric E. Campbell, and her daughter, Esther Patrice Jones.

Caldwell built a career defined by her commitment to uplifting people often considered “at risk.” In Michigan, she served as director of the Ricker Center at Delta College in Saginaw, where



PATRICIA ANN CALDWELL

she mentored students, guided families through financial aid processes and expanded college access for those facing barriers to

higher education. Her work also reached into jails, halfway houses and community centers through Michigan’s Work First program and other initiatives designed to provide life skills, support recovery and connect people with employment opportunities.

Her dedication later took her to Arizona, where she worked at the Gila Crossing Community School on the Gila River Indian Reservation. There, she supported Native American students and their families with programs that combined academics and respect for Akimel O’otham and Pee-Posh traditions.

Caldwell earned a bachelor’s degree in speech communications from the University of Michigan, pursued graduate

studies at Appalachian State University, and completed her elementary education certification at Rio Salado Community College. In 2022, she was awarded an honorary doctorate in philanthropy, humanitarianism and volunteerism from McFormalsdale Christian University.

Faith remained central to her life. A member of Victory Missionary Baptist Church, she inspired others with the belief that “you can be anything you want to be.”

She is survived by her son, Victor F. Caldwell; her sister, Barbara Ann Campbell; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a wide circle of extended family, mentees, church members and friends.

From cheerleader to church leader, Norma Jean McLaurin leaves lasting legacy

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Norma Jean McLaurin, 69, a Saginaw High School alumna remembered for her faith, volunteer service and generosity, died Aug. 19, 2025.

Born Dec. 25, 1955, in Tupelo, Miss., McLaurin was the daughter of Sammie Staples and Willie Sue (Baskin) Laury. She moved with her family to Saginaw at a young age, where she attended local schools and graduated from Saginaw High School in 1973. Known as “Jean” to family and friends, she played clarinet in the school band and was a spirited cheerleader.

McLaurin earned honors at Great Lakes Business College and worked more than 15 years as an administrative secretary with



NORMA JEAN MCLAURIN

the City of Saginaw Housing and Building Inspection Division. Beyond her professional career, she became known as a dedicated

volunteer within her church and community.

At Greater Williams Temple Church of God in Christ, she served as secretary, nurse’s guild member, choir singer, and kitchen committee helper. Later, she joined Faith Charity Pentecostal Church under Pastor Ardis L. Thompson, where she was described as a central figure in church life. McLaurin served as secretary, usher, praise team and choir member, Sunday school teacher, bookkeeper and hospitality worker, even assisting in the construction of the church’s current building.

Her civic and community involvement included serving as financial secretary for the Saginaw Hollywood Queens, secretary of the Saginaw High School Class of 1973 Planning Committee, Girl Scout troop leader, and poll

worker during elections. She was also active with Women of Color.

Friends and family remembered McLaurin for her talents in sewing, her dedication to family and her widely admired cooking. Her sweet potato pies, cheesecakes and hot-water cornbread were staples at gatherings, where she earned nicknames such as “Cake Cutter” and “Punch Mixer.” She was also known for her willingness to help others — from driving fellow congregants to church to caring for her late mother.

A devoted Michigan State Spartans fan, McLaurin enjoyed sports, movies and family traditions. Above all, she was described as a woman of faith, peace and service.

COMMUNITY

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Survey sets health care priorities

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — There is a chance to win a \$250 gift card, but advocates say the main reason to complete the 2026 Community Health Assessment Survey is to help identify the community's most important challenges.

Leaders of our hospitals and other providers will see what you have to say.

To take part, [click here](#).



YWCA names 2025 Women of Achievement honorees

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

SAGINAW, Mich. — The YWCA Great Lakes Bay Region has announced six honorees for its 2025 Women of Achievement Awards, which will be celebrated Oct. 14 at Saginaw Valley State University's Curtiss Hall.

This year's honorees are: Tiffany L. Pruitt, Arts & Education; Linda Anaman, Business & Entrepreneurship; Diane Keenan, Civic & Nonprofit; Marissa Palmer, Healthcare; Tracy Rainey, Social Justice & Advocacy; and Dr. Marcia Ditmyer, Lifetime Achievement.

The luncheon event, presented by Dow, recognizes women whose work

and leadership have had a lasting impact on the Great Lakes Bay Region. Doors will open at 11:15 a.m., with the ceremony beginning at noon.

Tickets are \$45 per person or \$500 for a table of eight through Sept. 13. Prices increase after that date.

The Women of Achievement Awards are part of the YWCA's mission to eliminate racism, empower women and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

For more information visit ywcaglbr.org/women-of-achievement-awards.



FROM TOP LEFT: TIFFANY L. PRUITT, LINDA ANAMAN AND DIANE KEENAN. FROM BOTTOM LEFT: MARISSA PALMER, TRACY RAINEY AND DR. MARCIA DITMYER.

COMMUNITY

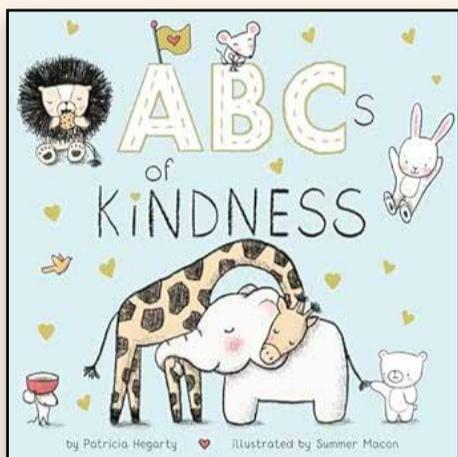
Memorize ABCs while learning other basics

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

"Now I know my ABCs, next time won't you sing with me?"

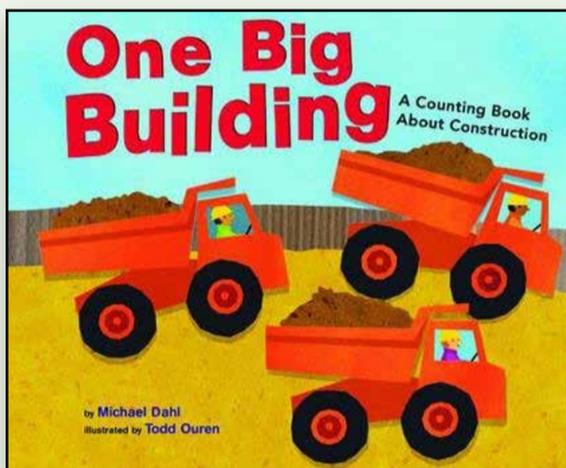
Or, "Now I know my ABCs, next time learn our 1-2-3s."

In the old days, these fundamentals were taught without embellishment, but nowadays children's authors and educators often create links with topics of interest. It's still great to do flash cards and workbooks, but these types of stories also can create a win-win.



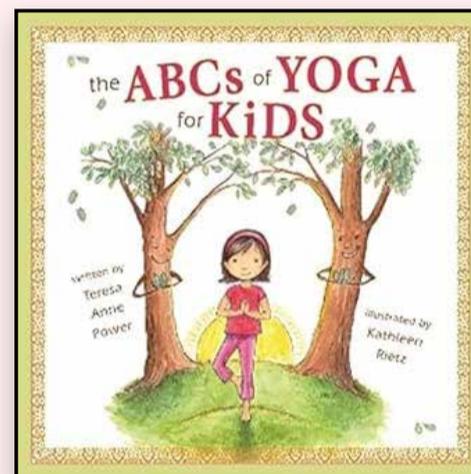
ABCs of Kindness
Patricia Hagerty

F is for forgiveness, for example, with one teddy bear comforting another. G is for gratitude and H is for hope. The author couldn't figure out X, so that's for kisses. Z? Zzzzz, for sleeping peacefully, definitely an act of kindness for the parents.



One Big Building
Michael Dahl

The subtitle is, "A Counting Book About Construction." Two shovels dig a giant hole, three dump trucks haul away the dirt, and so on, The one big building contains 12 stories but only 10 windows.



The ABCs of Yoga for Kids
Teresa Ann Power

Ms. Power doesn't settle for matching one yoga move per letter. For W, you can pose as a warrior or a windmill (no, that doesn't also cover X), or, get this, windshield wipers (pretty much on one's side in a fetal position).



Other themes for alphabet and counting books may involve anything from farming to football.

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

COMMUNITY

I'M JUST THINKING....

**BY BISHOP HURLEY J. COLEMAN, JR
SR. PASTOR, WORLD OUTREACH CAMPUS**

Five years ago, I wrote a column for the Michigan Banner titled "Beginning a 'New' New. It was a look at the end of 2020 and what I felt was needed to approach the coming year. It had been a tumultuous year with the impact of COVID-19 raging in our communities, with so much sickness, death, and fear. We experienced a shutdown of most of our social interaction outside of our homes and immediate families, even church meetings. I wrote, "A silent fear began to creep into the psyche of the country, and before we knew it, public discourse reflected a great divide."

The reality is that the divide had always been there, but a filter of social decorum was interrupted by the blatant social, political, and economic divide. The death of George Floyd touched a nerve. People of all sectors reacted with protests, marches, and even activism. Even the protest reflected that same divide, as racism and division raised their ugly heads and became politicized in a way that once would have been inconceivable.

With the election of a new president, I wrote, "It's time for a 'new' new. We can't go into 2021 with the same attitude that led us into 2020. It needs to be fresh, equitable, and authentic. The new year must desire new results, be inspired by new thoughts, and be led by new leadership."

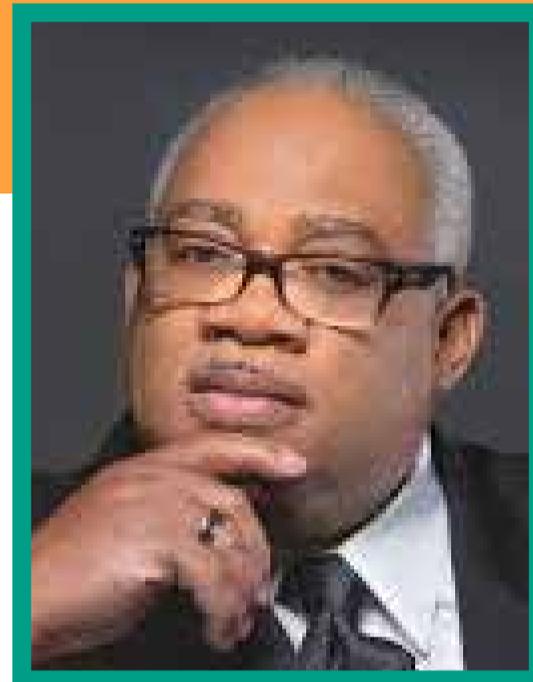
Five years later, it feels like I need to write that again. However, I have some additional thoughts. This time, I want to challenge us to look back to a time when we had enough unity of purpose to really make the necessary changes that changed the future. I remember the 60's, 70's, and 80's, when even our community, our beloved Saginaw, had that kind of unity. There were people who were senior leaders who were regarded as such, and with the respect for their wisdom and encouragement, young leaders were put in place with a mission and purpose.

My father was one of those, and I can't tell you how many times I have had people tell me, "I remember the days when your Dad, and Rev. Austin, and Reuben Daniels,

and Henry Marsh, and Harry Browne, and Joe Stephens, and the list goes on. It is true. These men were great leaders, and they were great because there were great followers. I submit that the same must happen today.

I have worked on so many committees, with so many groups, and in so many situations over these past years. I cherish those memories that are brought up, and long for that day, even though now it is my time to be where they were. Are we so much different from that day? What is the difference? It was that there was such a mutual respect among the leaders that they encouraged a unity by the way that they worked together. We need to do the same thing.

The challenge that we have before us as a community is great. The opposition to our advancement is also great. We must come together now to create that "new" new that I wrote about 5 years ago. I extend a challenge to those of you who know you have the burden of leadership, the assignment of leadership, or even the desire for leadership to join together. There is such strength in unity, but unity does not happen without work.



Many have criticized the black church leaders, the black political leaders, and the black economic leaders for not doing enough. There is room for the challenge. I also challenge those who are critics to come to the table with their solutions/suggestions. In fact, this moment could be the strongest wake-up call that we have had since the days of "I have a Dream."

**Respond to the call.
Let's create a "new" new!**



POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

TAX CAPS:

Home prices, not biz \$\$\$, a new factor

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW, Mich. — For years, foes of the city's voter-approved 1979 caps on property tax rates and revenues have issued warnings.

Their ranks include virtually every City Council member and administrator to serve since then, conservative along with liberal. Their message has been that if Saginaw ever regains major business development to boost our tax base, we will regret that our budget for basic services won't gain one thin dime from the success, because of that rigid \$3.8 million revenue cap with no inflation adjustment.

The grim outlook finally has arrived during the past three years. But it's not through any sort of corporate Santas. Instead, the cause is a sharp uptick in housing prices, boosting the tax base by 25 percent over the past three years.

Saginaw's general fund millage rate remained mostly in the range of the frozen 7.5 mills (7.38 under the state's version of tax caps, known as Headlee) from 1979 until 2022, but since then the rise in home tax-value assessments has forced a drop in the rate down to 6.33 mills, a 1.05 reduction. This is required to avoid exceeding the \$3,8 million.

Without the revenue cap, the millage would have stayed 7.38 and the city would have gained another \$630,000 this year toward a \$45 million general fund budget, said Lori Brown, finance director and assessor, in an Aug. 25 report that can be seen [here starting at 6:40](#).

Brown joins other officials in conceding that \$630,000 represents barely more than 1 percent

of spending, but losses would become more severe if an economic turnaround occurs. The \$100 million Medical Diamond, anchored by an expanded CMU College of Medicine, will be largely tax-exempt. But if a corporate hypothetical were to happen -- for instance, imagine Hemlock Semiconductor possibly expanding into the city -- the caps would impede funds for basic services to keep up with the growth.

The past vs. today

Repeated proposals for voters to kill the caps failed during the 1980s and once again during the 2000s, coming close only once. But how relevant are defeats from the distant past, given that thousands of elder anti-taxers have died or moved elsewhere since then?

The demographic changes have paved the way for a post-millennium era of voter approval for the Dow Event Center tax, the Saginaw United school levy, a renewal of the state max 4 mills for libraries, a countywide half-mill to combat Covid-19, and an array other county levies that range from sheriff's road patrols to parks, mosquito control to animal control. Most recent is last fall's approval of the largest of the mini millages, 2 mills for county streets and roads, with the city receiving a proportionate one-quarter share of the \$13 million per annum.

From the long list, the Council's greatest cause for optimism comes from early last year, with landslide approval to renew a 20-year-old special assessment of 7.5 added mills for police/fire, dodging the caps. Past members had avoided speaking about the caps at the time, for fear of put-

ting voter sentiment at risk for the special assessment.

In spite of the trend of recent tax election successes, the Council is circumventing city voters in pursuit of a statewide bill. The title is H.R. 4121 from Rep. Amos O'Neal, past councilman. It would cancel all statewide local revenue caps, including Saginaw's. This is seen at [14:07 on the video](#), specifically: "The Strategic Plan Tax Cap Goal: Support bill in Legislature with the end result of the bill passing."

This strategy was adopted a year ago, and all four newcomers -- Jacinta Seals, Eric Braddock, Heidi Wiggins, even Carly Hammond -- have signed on. The game plan is that with the revenue cap abolished by Lansing lawmakers, it will become more simple for residents to better understand the issues with only the more-damaging rate cap in focus. This approach is deemed to outweigh any damage from fence-sitters who may resent having a portion of their local voices taken away with a rate-cap ballot only. It also could cause the council to postpone a ballot proposal to 2026 instead of this November.

No member asked about the chances of O'Neal succeeding in a state House that this year slipped back to Republican majority.

Start small, think big

A selling point to restore the 1.05 mill with state revenue-cap legislation is that property owners would pay only an added dollar and nickel per \$1,000 in SEV, which is half the sale value. Thus if you can sell your home for \$50,000, for example, your cost would be \$26.25 per year.

Down the road, to achieve a 2.6-mill rate increase with voters

restoring the former 10-mill City Charter maximum, those sums would rise somewhere between double and triple.

Council members agreed they would need to take leadership, a change from former mayor Floyd Kloc's approach for a voter-initiated anti-caps referendum, rather than the campaign emanating from City Hall. In fact, he stepped down from the Council in 2020 so that he could take the "citizen's role," which he now is doing with his lawyer's eye for details of the caps,

Agreement also exists to do a better job of offering accurate information for the public. A first step is that there was not an Aug. 25 repeat of the long-time misnomer that City Hall is forced to "live on a 1979 income," which is false because property tax is less than 10 percent of the budget,

To avoid the most woeful misunderstanding -- which is that all property taxes go to the city -- campaigners will show that the vast majority goes to more than a dozen different places. The state school aid fund is first, and the city and county are in a virtual tie for second, trailed by the libraries, STARS, TheDow, Delta College and others. To see the whole picture, [click here at 9:10](#).

A briefly-addressed question remains whether the city income tax will become part of the picture. It provides \$16 million per annum, quadruple the property levies, and was last increased in 1989 to the state limit of 1.5 percent for residents, 0.75 percent for non-residents working in the city. But waivers are possible; Detroit's levy is 2.3/1.15.

Readers seeking more info may visit [saginaw-mi.com](#).

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Councilwoman's crime not pre-planned



MONIQUE LAMAR-SILVIA

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW, Mich. — One key difference stands out in Monique Lamar Silvia's conviction for felony election fraud and her resulting dismissal from the City Council, during her sixth year.

Unlike other cases of public officials who get in trouble, she had nothing to gain for herself. No bribes, no kickbacks, nothing corrupt along those lines. She made a mistake while trying to assist someone else, not herself.

For sure, it was not about money, City Council members receive small stipends that add up to about \$2,000 per year, similar to most local officials or school trustees in the region. They are volunteers.

She didn't need petition signatures for herself. She toted more than the minimum 50 names when she arrived at City Hall on that fateful day last summer to file for re-election on the

November 2024 ballot. By happenstance, she encountered Eric Eggleston, who was a handful short of 50 as the day's deadline loomed. She was convicted of forging three names -- individuals she felt would surely sign if present -- in a fruitless last-ditch attempt to help rescue his candidacy.

This was reflected in the Aug. 27 sentencing of one-year probation, instead of up to a maximum five years of imprisonment that was noted in media reports but was highly unlikely.

Circuit Judge Andre Borrello was familiar with the backdrop because he was city attorney two decades ago, even deputy manager for a short spell. In his decision, he viewed Silvia's actions as an unplanned but major lapse in judgement. Borrello issued the usual community service, 140 hours, knowing full well that's how she often spends her volunteer time in the first place. More noteworthy was an uncommon

provision that she undergo "cognitive restructuring intervention" counseling to cope with her denials that she had done anything wrong.

After hearing her fate -- probation was recommended both by prosecutors and by her own lawyer -- she showed her first public remorse when she told the judge and the courtroom, "I would say that I did not intend for this to happen I'd just like to apologize for everything that did happen."

Eggleston's sentencing is set for Sept. 4. His 2024 candidacy effort took root after the council withheld \$1.3 million in ARPA funds for Youth Development Corp., the OIC-type job training program he launched locally at the start of the decade with a three-year federal grant via Dan Kildee, the now-retired congressman. The earlier funds came via the U.S. Department of Labor, not through the City Council's oversight, although the board in-

cluded Councilman Michael Balls and a former mayor, Gary Loster.

The peak was reached in October 2021, when Gov. Gretchen Whitmer was greeted by local luminaries as she delivered a \$500,000 state grant to YDC headquarters in a jam-packed former downtown auto parts store across South Weadock from the Social Security office. (See michiganbanner.org archives for Nov. 1, 2021.)

The demise began when Guidehouse consultants advised three years ago to rescind the ARPA \$1.3 million, based on an audit of YDC finances from the original federal funding, a penalty that Eggleston has challenged. When other council members stripped the Rescue Plan Act dollars, Silvia protested. This was the core of their connection. News media have reported that Eggleston's legal team indicated in court that her motive was to pursue his potential vote for mayor (annual mayoral comp adds about \$1,000 yearly to the \$2,000 for regular members), but she has not responded.,

Response to critics

When Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel launched the prosecutions, Silvia said her legal team had advised against telling her side of the story while the case was in court. When she finally spoke in early August, not to review upcoming court specifics but to uphold her public standing, a main point was that she had won in November as the second-highest vote-getter for the quintet of four-year terms. (Carly Hammond took the separate two-year open seat.) Her groundswell occurred even though the petition fraud charg-

**See MEMBER REMOVED,
Page 26**

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

MEMBER REMOVED from Page 25

es were making headlines prior to the election.

Then, at what would prove to be her final meeting on council Aug. 25, two days prior to the sentencing, she made her first statement at length. She did not address the video-recorded encounter with Eggleston on City Hall's front steps. Mainly, she issued a rebuttal to eight former members -- Floyd Kloc and Dennis Browning, both mayors, along with Annie Boensch, Reggie Williams, Jamie Forbes, Dan Fitzpatrick, Amanda Kitterman-Miller and Mike Hanley -- who issued an earlier statement urging the current council to take action for her removal. Her remarks are on the YouTube meeting video, beginning at [1:51.45](#).

- The \$1,000 reference regards the July 2023 sale of the vacant Jefferson Apartments near downtown. A higher bid was rejected -- \$200,000, not the \$300,000 figure Silvia

mentioned -- because the other applicant was deemed less likely to complete a \$4.2 million restoration. Only Boensch and Williams were in office at the time. Silvia provided no campaign finance documentation.

- For water shutoffs, Silvia refers to the Covid-19 years, when she supported a C.A.P. push (including future Councilwoman Carly Hammond at the time) to temporarily halt them by providing assistance and payment plans. This was an infrequent case when one of her pushes persuaded some peers, yet on Aug. 25 she emphasized the initial caution among some.
- The 2012 police slaying of Milton Hall, a homeless man with a mental condition, occurred when Kloc, Browning, Boensch and Fitzpatrick were

serving. Reforms took place when Police Chief Bob Ruth started three years later. Silvia did not identify the individual who she said "chuckled" about the matter.

Detractors over the years have depicted Silvia as a self-promoter who plays to the audience. Similar feelings were directed toward Michael Flores and now Hammond.

Racial issues?

Williams, the only Black among the eight statement signees (see Michigan Banner, Aug. 16), planned to speak on Aug. 11, but he said he withdrew when he learned the letter had been released ahead of time to The Saginaw News. He described this as a "lynching" but did not elaborate.

Silvia has made no public remarks regarding racism, and neither the Saginaw NAACP branch nor the Saginaw African American Pastors group has become

involved.

She is a 64-year-old mother of three. A daughter, Alonda nominated her as a 2014 Saginaw News "Saginawian of the Year," for her various volunteer service work, including assisting her sister, Pamela Jordan, with the former block grant-funded New Alternatives Youth Services Center in the old YWCA on Hoyt Street. Jordan was only 42 when she died in 2004. Their mother is Patricia Lamar, who passed away in December 2023, an evangelical known for her role as long-time Queen Mother for the annual Saginaw African Cultural Festival.

Silvia's volunteerism has included jail ministry, and during her five-and-a-half years on the council she sought a niche to represent the downtrodden.

The appointee to the vacancy will serve until the November 2026 election. The deadline for applicants is 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12, through the city clerk's office.

Budget impasse leaves Michigan schools in limbo as year begins

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan students are returning to classrooms this fall while state leaders remain stuck on a K-12 budget deal, leaving schools uncertain about how much money they will receive.

Lawmakers and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer missed the July 1 deadline they set in 2019 to finalize the budget before districts craft their own spending plans. If no agreement is reached by Oct. 1, parts of state government could shut down.

Some schools are already cutting back. Ferndale Public

Schools Superintendent Camille Hibbler told Bridge Michigan her district eliminated two central office jobs and will not offer after-school tutoring this year. "It's unacceptable, and unfortunately our kids are going to potentially suffer as a result of it," she said. The situation, she added, is "morally wrong."

In Okemos, officials announced the end of universal free school meals, a program launched last year with state support. District spokesperson Shannon Beczkiewicz said in a statement that the district hopes funding continues so meals can remain free for all students.

Senate Democrats passed an

\$84.5 billion budget earlier this year, but falling revenue projections have left it unbalanced. House Republicans advanced a \$21.9 billion school plan that boosts per-pupil funding but strips out several programs and restricts curriculum.

Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks, D-Grand Rapids, said the state must focus on "core responsibilities" like children and vulnerable populations. Robert McCann, executive director of the K-12 Alliance of Michigan, urged lawmakers to resolve the standoff. "We need a budget," he said.



FILE PHOTO

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Flint, Saginaw mayors call for unity

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

SAGINAW, Mich. — The mayors of Flint and Saginaw are calling for unity and collaboration in the wake of recent violence and online narratives attempting to pit the two communities against one another.

Saginaw Mayor Brenda F. Moore said her city has been “rocked by several senseless acts of gun violence” in recent weeks and urged residents to help stop the cycle.

“We cannot stand by as we lose an entire generation to this ongoing violence. We cannot accept this in our community. Now is the time to act, now is the time to move forward,” Moore said.

Moore also warned against large house parties and outdoor gatherings on weekends, which she said too often end in tragedy.



SAGINAW MAYOR BRENDA F. MOORE, LEFT, AND FLINT MAYOR SHELDON NEELEY, RIGHT, CALLED FOR UNITY BETWEEN THE TWO CITIES FOLLOWING RECENT INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AND SOCIAL MEDIA TENSIONS.

“The solution will require effort. It will require teamwork. It will require action from our entire community,” she said.

Flint Mayor Sheldon Neeley addressed rumors circulating on social media, rejecting efforts to divide the two cities.

“Negative narratives on social media do not define us. We will not allow bad actors to jeopardize the partnerships we’ve built over generations. Together, clergy, community leaders, and elected officials must reject these false divisions and lift up the truth of

who we are,” Neeley said.

Neeley emphasized that Flint and Saginaw are not rivals but “sister cities” with decades of shared history, from family ties to General Motors’ economic footprint. Flint police said they are working closely with Saginaw police to monitor social media and share information related to any potential conflicts.

Both leaders underscored that regional strength comes from collaboration.

“Our region’s focus and strength lies in collaboration. Flint and Saginaw stand united — committed to creating opportunity, reducing violence, and building a future where all of our residents can thrive,” Moore said.

Residents in both communities are being asked to report suspicious or criminal activity to local police departments or through Crime Stoppers.

Whitmer calls special election for vacant Senate seat

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

LANSING, Mich. — building a future where all of our residents can thrive,” Moore said.

Residents in both communities are being asked to report suspicious or criminal activity to local police departments or through Crime Stoppers. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has ordered a special election to fill a Michigan Senate seat that has sat empty for more than half a year, drawing frustration from residents and legal action to force her hand.

The 35th Senate District — covering parts of Bay, Midland and Saginaw counties, including Bay City and Midland — has lacked representation since January, when Democrat Kristen McDonald Rivet resigned to join

Congress.

“Today, I am calling a special election for the 35th Senate District that represents parts of Bay, Midland, and Saginaw counties,” Whitmer said Tuesday in a statement. “We have a lot of good work to get done before the end of next year. Michiganders want us to create jobs and grow the economy, invest in schools and boost literacy rates, and, of course, fix those damn roads. I look forward to working with the next state senator from this district to tackle these issues and more.”

According to Whitmer’s office, her decision was accompanied by a letter to Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson directing her to set the election. The announcement came just weeks after a lawsuit sought to compel

Whitmer to act. The case, filed by Outside Legal Counsel PLC, argued that voters had been denied their constitutional right to Senate representation while lawmakers in Lansing continued passing legislation that affected them.

Michigan law requires the governor to issue a writ of election when vacancies occur in the Legislature, either by scheduling a special election or by allowing the seat to remain open until the next regular election.

Whitmer has called for a special primary on Feb. 3, followed by a general election on May 5.



MONIQUE LAMAR-SILVIA

The political balance of the Senate could be shaped by the outcome. A Democratic win would preserve a 20-18 edge, while a Republican victory would create a 19-19 split — with Democratic Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist empowered to break ties.

HEALTH

MyMichigan Health conference to focus on spirituality and aging



FILE PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — MyMichigan Health will host its annual Spiritual Care Conference this fall, inviting community members and health care professionals to explore the role of spirituality in patient care and the aging process.

This year's theme, "The Unseen Journey: A Holistic Approach to Aging," will be presented Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Great Hall Banquet & Convention Center, 5121 Bay City Road in Midland. Two sessions are offered: a morning program with

breakfast and registration from 8 to 9 a.m. followed by the presentation from 9 to 11 a.m., and an evening program with dinner and registration from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. followed by the presentation from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The interdisciplinary panel of experts leading the sessions will highlight how spirituality can be affirmed and integrated into holistic care for older adults. Organizers say the goal is to equip providers and community members to better recognize the interconnected physical, emotional, social and spiritual challenges of aging. Attendees will learn practices to support meaning, pur-

pose and well-being in older adults while fostering self-awareness and compassionate, person-centered care.

The event is free but requires registration at www.mymichigan.org/spiritualcare. Seating is limited.

Physicians can earn up to two AMA PRA Category I Credit(s)[™] through the Michigan State Medical Society, and social work credits are also anticipated. The conference is supported by donors to

the MyMichigan Health Foundation's Spiritual Care Fund.

MyMichigan Health, headquartered in Midland, is a non-profit health system serving 26 counties with more than 13,800 employees and affiliates. Recognized by Forbes as one of "America's Best Employers by State" in 2022, 2023 and 2024, the organization provided more than \$128 million in community benefits in fiscal year 2023.



HEALTH

Michigan reports 29% decline in syphilis cases, but challenges remain

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — A Livin Michigan health officials say syphilis diagnoses have dropped steadily over the past three years, marking a 29% decline since 2021. While the trend suggests progress, the state cautions that overall infection rates remain high and congenital syphilis continues to pose a serious concern.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services reported that Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties have seen the most significant decreases. The downward trajectory also extends into the first half of 2025.

“We are encouraged to see

the significant progress Michigan has made in reducing syphilis rates through strong partnerships, innovative public health strategies and expanded access to prevention and treatment,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, the state’s chief medical executive. “But these numbers also highlight the continued urgency of our work, especially around congenital syphilis. Every case represents an opportunity to do more, and we remain committed to protecting the health of all Michiganders.”

National data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that public health interventions have prevented about 62% of congenital syphilis

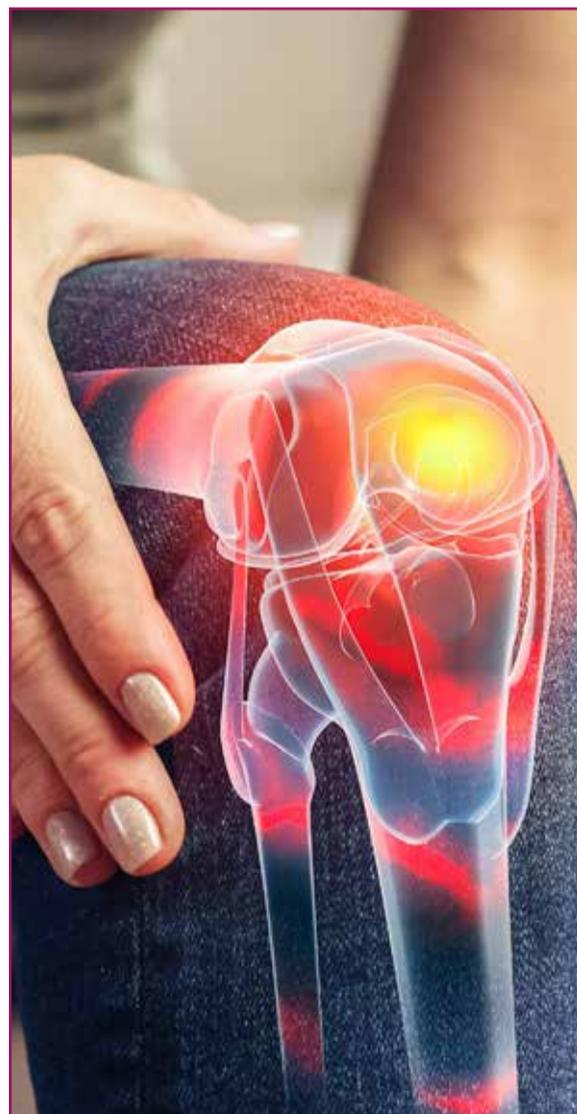
cases. In Michigan, officials say that figure is 71%.

State health leaders credit the improvement to expanded testing, patient education and treatment adherence supported by local health departments, clinicians, pharmacies, community groups and other partners. MDHHS has also invested in rapid testing, provider outreach, awareness campaigns and biomedical interventions such as doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis.

Still, areas of concern remain. Some regions outside of Southeast Michigan have reported increases, and declines among women have lagged behind those seen in men. Cases of congeni-

tal syphilis — transmitted during pregnancy — have risen 38% since 2021, with 55 reported births in 2023, 58 in 2024 and an estimated 50 to 60 expected this year.

More information and trend data are available at Michigan.gov/HIVSTI.



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SAGINAW COUNTY
COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH AUTHORITY

Suicide First-Aid Intervention Training At No Cost

Sept. 10-11, 2025 from 8:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
For those who live or work in Saginaw County

LivingWorks ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training)

Recognized as the global leader in suicide intervention training, LivingWorks Asist is a two-day interactive workshop in suicide first aid.

In this training, you will learn how to:

- Help someone with thought of suicide to develop a safety plan to keep safe-for-now and connect with further help
- Apply a Safety Framework to guide the development of this SafePlan through collaborative, helping relationships
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- Build confidence and capacity in providing suicide first aid

How will you learn?

- Trainer presentations and videos to stimulate discussion and support learning
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Anyone aged 16+ years is encouraged to take LivingWorks ASIST. No previous training is required. This training strengthens your whole community, building a network of safety that helps you apply suicide first aid in many settings, such as schools, homes, workplaces, and as a part of formal caregiving roles.

Space is limited

To register: <https://forms.gle/Uid4QPofSroCrzRF6>

Or scan the QR code



- Lunch provided both days
- CEs available for Licensed Social Workers

EDUCATION

Schools and families should share goals



FILE PHOTO

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW, Mich. — Parents should keep in constant contact with their children's schools, says an experienced local social worker.

The purpose is not only to learn the educators' specific goals for your youngster, but also to convey your expectations for the school, explains Assegid Mersha, a mental health practitioner with the Saginaw Intermediate School District.

Mersha backs his get-involved message with workshops and consultations on how to compile a "template" to keep



ASSEGID MERSHA

week-to-week records on progress. Parents should not feel intimidated by all the details, he says, because even some of the more complex concerns can be

broken down to basics, including special ed factors that may range from ADHD to autism. Or maybe Johnny or Jenny simply doesn't like to drink their milk. No issue is too big or too small.

Mainly, he notes, the child will notice that mom or dad -- preferably mom AND dad -- are paying attention and showing love.

"If your kids see you are 'on them,' they are going to perform," he notes.

Assegid achieved his LMSW through Michigan State University and his private practice is ReEnvision You Counseling and Therapeutic Services. He also says:

- Parents should monitor schools and speak up when dissatisfied, aiming to resolve matters. Constant transfers from one school to another rarely are helpful, neither to the families nor to the schools,
- Involvement goes beyond complaining. Be sure to communicate on your child's unique needs, and work together on plans.

The start of the school year is the ideal time to establish school-home connections, Mersha advises, but it's never too late to try to catch up.



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- continued professional development



**For those that qualify through Tri-Share*

Building resilience in our children



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS

Schools are open. A new year gives us an opportunity to raise a question. How do we help our children cope with day-to-day challenges school brings? How do we help students of all ages to be stronger? Channeling our best Dan Campbell, how do we build “grit?”

The question is appropriate for ALL children in ALL grades, but especially for those starting a new school building where things are new.

Challenges are many, some are relatively simple like what door to enter each day and how to work the locker combination. While these are “simple” or at least less-complex than a math problem, they are potential stumbling blocks. Few things are more stressful than learning to open a student locker during a three-minute passing time.

Focus on the locker example... nothing is more stressful, embarrassing, and frustrating than having trouble with the school locker. Hallways are crowded and the passing time is relatively short (as little as 3 or 4 minutes in many cases). How to cope with this simple task is a key step towards normalcy and confidence.

Some keys for building resilience include these tips:

- **Break big challenges into smaller tasks for easy wins.** This may be as simple as setting up step-by-step strategies students can take on,



FILE PHOTO

less looming as the big picture. In the locker example, writing the locker combination on a notecard may relieve the stress of trying to recall the sequence from memory. This works well for subjects in class (example: writing an essay can be broken into steps such as brainstorming/outlining first before trying to write the paragraph).

- **Show children by example.** Being transparent with children

about how we adults try to be strong and face adversity is a way for them to see the value in it. We all face challenges, and sometimes we struggle or even fail. How do we press on? Showing kids how we do indeed~ to press on~ is a strategy to teach kids how they can do the same.

- **Express gratitude.** A positive and hopeful point of view are key ingredients of happiness. A positive attitude builds resilience and fortitude.

Generally a happy child is more resilient and able to power through. Conversely, when we see a negative attitude creep in, the ability to overcome obstacles is reduced significantly.

In conclusion, we wish each and every student a great future! May 2025-26 become your best year ever!

Resources:
<https://www.edutopia.org/article/strategies-build-students-resilience>

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Nominations encouraged for Michigan Lottery's Excellence in Education Awards to honor outstanding educators

LANSING, Mich. — Parents, students, school staff members, and others are encouraged to nominate outstanding public-school educators for the Michigan Lottery's 2025-26 Excellence In Education awards.

All public-school employees may be nominated for the Excellence In Education awards, which recognize educators who go "above and beyond" to make a difference in the lives of children. To nominate a public school educator, go to <https://www.michiganlottery.com/excellence-in-education>.

"The Excellence in Education awards are our way of honoring the phenomenal work being done by educators in communities throughout Michigan," said Lottery Commissioner Suzanna Shkreli. "These dedicated professionals do so much more than teach; they are a constant, supportive presence who instill lifelong skills and inspire students to believe in themselves."

The Michigan Lottery established the Excellence in Education awards in 2014 to recognize outstanding public-school educators across the state during the school year.

One outstanding educator will be selected each week and will receive a \$2,000 cash prize. At the end of the school year, one of these weekly award winners will be selected to receive the Lottery's Educator of the Year award and will receive a \$10,000 cash prize.

The winner of the 2025 Educator of the Year award was Kelly Herberholz, a science teacher



FILE PHOTO

and administrative intern with Dakota High School in Macomb.

Hundreds of educators were nominated during the 2024-25 school year, which was the 11th year of the Excellence in Education awards program. Thirty-four of these nominees, including Herberholz, were selected to win a weekly award.

Previous winners of the Educator of the Year award:

- **2024** – Samantha TwoCrow, the director of the Indigenous Education Program for Suttons Bay Public Schools in Suttons Bay.
- **2023** – Kathryn Kluzak, a kindergarten teacher with Robert L. Green Elementary in East Lansing.
- **2022** – Spencer Vanderheide, a high school teacher

with Kenowa Hills High School in Grand Rapids.

- **2021** – Janice Smith, a school social worker at Fisher Magnet Lower Academy in Detroit.
- **2020** – Megan Sidge, an Autism Spectrum Disorder teacher at Hickory Woods Elementary in Walled Lake.
- **2019** – Stewart Kieliszewski, an Earth science, biology, mechatronics, and media teacher for eighth through 12 graders at the Uby Community Schools.
- **2018** – Kerri Moccio, a first-grade literacy intervention specialist at Bedford Elementary School in Dearborn Heights.
- **2017** – Linda Holzwarth, a social studies teacher at Portage West Middle School in Portage.
- **2016** – Daniel Carr, a Spanish and sports marketing teacher at Waverly High School in Lansing.

- **2015** – Michael Craig, a special education teacher at the Charles Drew Transition Center in Detroit.

Excellence In Education award nominees should demonstrate the following qualities:

- **Excellence** – Their work consistently helps students and/or their schools or school districts advance to higher levels of academic achievement.
- **Dedication** – They consistently go above and beyond expectations to help students succeed.
- **Inspiration** – Their work inspires others around them to exceed expectations either academically or professionally.
- **Leadership** – They demonstrate clear leadership skills in their positions with their school or school districts.
- **Effectiveness** – The nominee's work has clear and positive results on the educational advancement of students within the school or school district.

Scan the QR code to nominate an outstanding educator in your life today!



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MI Tri-Share CHILD CARE



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CONTACT US NOW

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

989-399-7423

etaylor@sisd.cc



EMPLOYER REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

- Offer the MI Tri-Share program to one or more employees with dependent children between 0-12 years old.
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MI Tri-Share Program Eligibility 2025

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

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

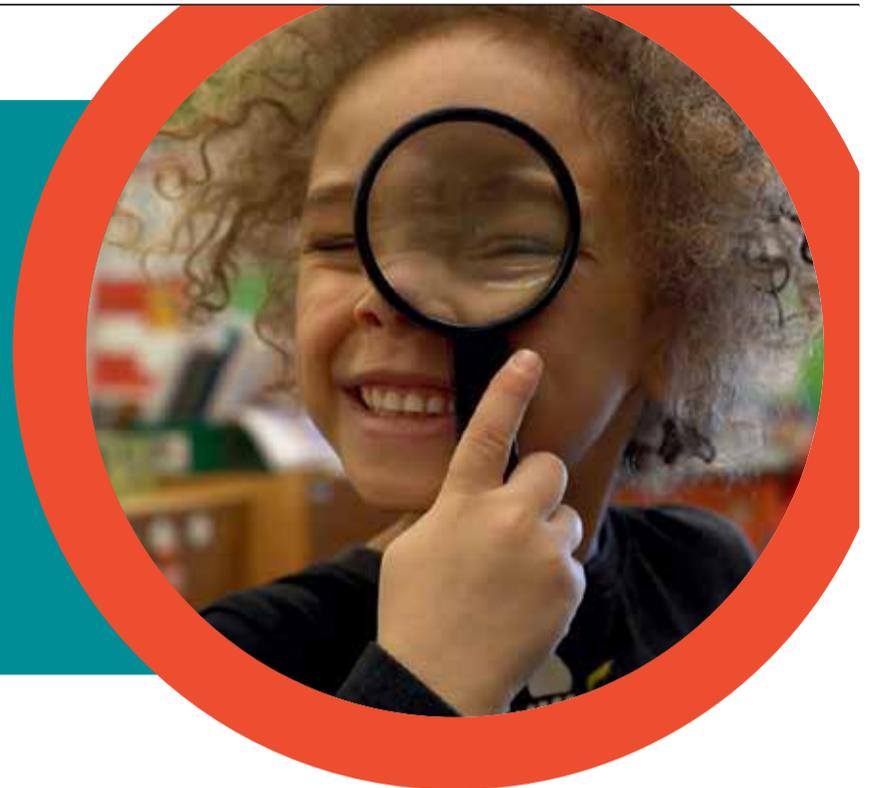
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**Administration for Children and Families: Children's Learning and Development Benefits from High-Quality Early Care and Education: A Summary of Evidence*



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989-752-2193 for more information and apply today!



About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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Claytor Administrative Building
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Saginaw, MI 48601
Phone 989.752.2193
Fax 989.921.7146

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

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

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Dow named among 2025 PEOPLE Companies that Care



DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

MIDLAND, Mich. — For the sixth straight year, Dow has been recognized as one of the PEOPLE® Companies that Care, a national list presented by Great Place To Work® and PEOPLE magazine.

The materials science company, headquartered in Midland, rose sharply in the rankings this year — climbing from No. 82 in 2024 to No. 33 in 2025.

“This recognition reflects the voices of our employees and highlights Dow’s commitment to

advancing innovation and excellence in everything we do,” said Jim Fitterling, Dow chair and CEO. “It’s a meaningful reminder of what drives our company forward—our people. I’m proud of this recognition and every member of Team Dow who earned this honor through their dedication to our work, to each other, and to the communities in which we operate.”

The PEOPLE Companies that Care list is based on more than 1.3 million employee survey responses representing the experiences of 8.4 million workers.

Companies are selected for their demonstrated ability to support employees, families and surrounding communities.

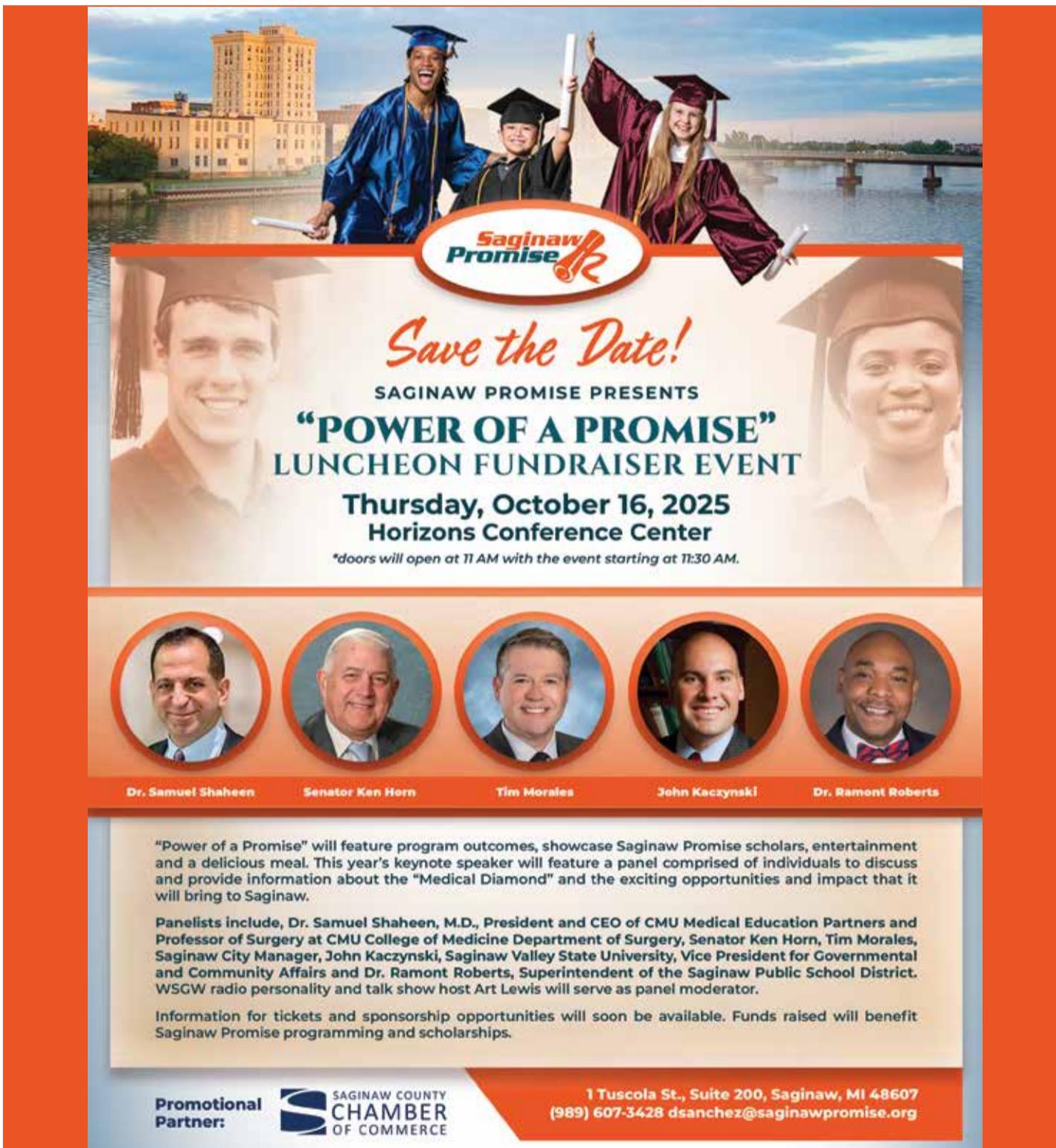
“This honor is a testament to our shared commitment, and to the everyday acts of care, integrity, and innovation that define Team Dow,” said Alveda Williams, Ph.D., Dow’s chief inclusion officer. “Whether it’s our global parental leave, top-quartile safety performance or paid time off to volunteer in the community, we know engaged employees are better positioned to help shape Dow’s future.”

Great Place To Work, which certifies and ranks companies worldwide, said the 2025 honorees reflect a growing trend of employers investing in employees’ well-being both inside and outside the workplace. PEOPLE editor-in-chief Charlotte Triggs said the companies recognized this year embody “the innovative spirit with which these companies invest in their employees, communities, and the world.”

Dow, which operates in 30 countries and employs about 36,000 people, reported \$43 billion in 2024 sales.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Saginaw Luncheon to spotlight “Medical Diamond”



The flyer features a top image of three graduates in blue, black, and maroon gowns. Below this is the Saginaw Promise logo and the text: "Save the Date! SAGINAW PROMISE PRESENTS 'POWER OF A PROMISE' LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER EVENT Thursday, October 16, 2025 Horizons Conference Center *doors will open at 11 AM with the event starting at 11:30 AM." A row of five circular portraits follows, labeled: Dr. Samuel Shaheen, Senator Ken Horn, Tim Morales, John Kaczynski, and Dr. Ramont Roberts. The bottom section contains event details, panelist information, and contact info for the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce.

POWER OF A PROMISE LUNCHEON FLYER

is billed as Saginaw’s most significant project since the 1960s. Goals include:

- Driving investment in downtown revitalization.
- Connecting medical learners with professional mentors.
- Expanding access to healthcare for underserved communities.
- Creating new riverfront recreational spaces.
- Generating long-term job growth and economic prosperity across the region.

The luncheon’s keynote will feature a panel of Medical Diamond Steering Committee members, including Dr. Samuel Shaheen, president and CEO of CMU Medical Education Partners; former state senator Ken Horn; Tim Morales, Saginaw city manager; John Kaczynski, vice president for governmental and community affairs at Saginaw Valley State University; and Dr. Ramont Roberts, superintendent of Saginaw Public Schools. WSGW radio host Art Lewis will serve as moderator.

“This once-in-a-generation project brings together public and private partners to nurture both health and prosperity,” organizers said. “The Medical Diamond is a catalyst for Saginaw and the region’s continued renaissance.”

Supporting scholarships

Funds raised at the luncheon will support Saginaw Promise programming and scholarships, which help local students access higher education and career opportunities.

The Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce is serving as a promotional partner for the event. Ticket and sponsorship information will be announced soon.

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — An ambitious new development in downtown Saginaw, dubbed The Medical Diamond, will take center stage at this year’s Saginaw Promise “Power of a Promise” luncheon fundraiser.

The event is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025, at the

Horizons Conference Center. Doors open at 11 a.m., with the program beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Organizers say the luncheon will highlight Saginaw Promise scholars and program outcomes while offering a closer look at the Medical Diamond, a six-acre project along the riverfront that aims to transform the city’s economic and health landscape.

The Medical Diamond is en-

visioned as Michigan’s third bio-science hub and the first north of Flint. Its mission: to leverage the region’s healthcare, educational and cultural resources into an engine of urban revitalization, improved health outcomes, and job creation.

Located within a diamond-shaped corridor bounded by hospitals, universities, and cultural destinations, the development

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BUSINESS + FINANCE

Chick-fil-A to open first Bay City restaurant in 2026

BY MB STAFF

BAY CITY, Mich. — Chick-fil-A is expanding its Mid-Michigan footprint, with plans to open its first Bay City-area restaurant in early 2026.

The new location will be built at the intersection of Euclid Avenue and Wilder Road in Bangor Township, near the site of the former Kmart store. Construction is expected to begin soon, with an opening projected in about six months, barring any delays.

The company has not announced who will operate the Bay City franchise, but the restaurant is expected to bring between 80 and 120 jobs to the community once doors open.

It will be Chick-fil-A's third Mid-Michigan location. The chain opened its first in Flint Township in September 2023, followed by another in Saginaw



CHICK-FIL-A IN SAGINAW, 2525 TITABAWASSEE RD.

Township this past February.

Chick-fil-A said it plans to continue its Michigan expansion

over the next several years, with a goal of adding 25 to 30 more restaurants statewide by 2030.

No additional Mid-Michigan sites beyond Bay City have been confirmed.

Flint awards new round of grants to support small businesses

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — The city of Flint is putting federal recovery dollars directly into the hands of local entrepreneurs, awarding more than \$400,000 in grants as part of its American Rescue Plan Act program.

Three more businesses — AJP Commercial Shredding, Liberty Management and Luigi's Restaurant — each received \$20,000 last week. It marks the second round of grants in an initiative that city leaders say is designed to strengthen small businesses and boost community pride.

"Every community needs small business and small busi-



ON AUGUST 27, 2025, THE CITY OF FLINT HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO AWARD \$20,000 SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES.

ness growth," Mayor Sheldon Neeley said. "These dollars that we have received from American Rescue Plan dollars is a stimulus to be able to help stimulate busi-

nesses in our local communities and these are very important engaged dollars to be able to support residents inside the city of Flint."

For Liberty Management, the money will help expand their work on the city's west side.

"The exciting thing is we have the opportunity to beautify some ugly spaces, some blighted areas on the west side of Flint," co-owner Bernard Drew said. "And we've been doing it for a few years and it's been a labor of love in a lot of cases and so to have the opportunity to replenish not even just some of the funds, but some of the purposes that we aspire to have unfold. We're excited."

City officials plan to continue distributing grants weekly to three businesses at a time until a total of 20 have received funding.

BUSINESS + FINANCE



Ebony Payns
Mental Health
Therapist, LMSW



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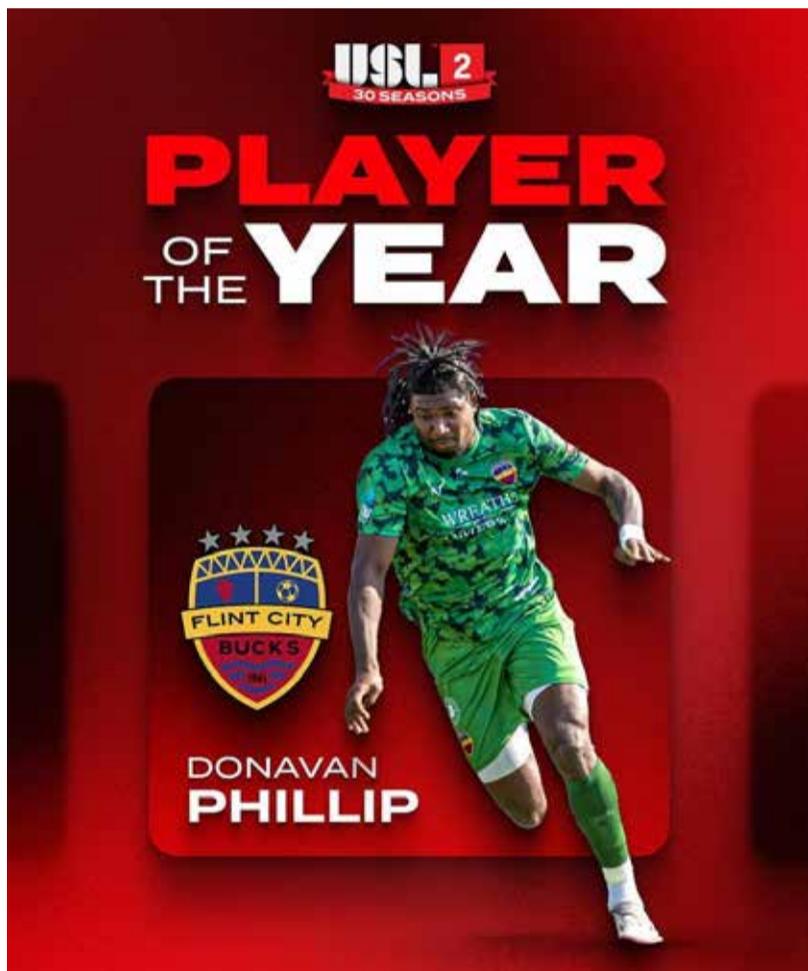
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ART OF HOSPITALITY

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SPORTS

Flint City Bucks striker Donovan Phillip named USL League Two Player of the Year



DONAVAN "GUSTO" PHILLIP

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — Donovan "Gusto" Phillip capped a record-breaking summer with the biggest individual honor in USL League Two.

The Flint City Bucks forward was named the league's 2025 Player of the Year, earning the award over nominees from more than 140 clubs nationwide. Phillip led the league with 12 regular-season goals, becoming the Bucks' first Golden Boot winner since 2014, while adding nine assists to help Flint capture the Great Lakes Division title.

Phillip's scoring didn't slow in the postseason. He

tallied six goals in four playoff matches, pushing the Bucks to another Central Conference championship and a spot in the national semifinal. On the final day of the season, he delivered a hat trick at Kettering University's Atwood Stadium to break the club's Flint-era scoring record of 11 goals set by Jelldrik Dallmann.

"Winning this award means so much to me — it's truly an honor. Huge love to my Bucks family," Phillip said. "None of this would have been possible without our incredible coaching staff and the amazing players I had around me. I'm proud to represent Flint City and be a part of something special. This award isn't just for

me; it's for our fans and the entire Flint community."

Bucks head coach Paul Doroh said the recognition reflects Phillip's effort to elevate his game.

"Donovan really put in the work this summer to refine his game, especially in front of goal," Doroh said. "He is a superior athlete, so he has the ability to generate opportunities from almost nothing. We really challenged him and gave him opportunities in training to develop a goal scorer's mindset. He took the information and ran with it. I'm super happy for him and know the rest of his teammates will be too. We're excited to see what the future will bring for him."

Phillip, entering his junior season at NC State University, was drafted by Major League Soccer's Colorado Rapids in the second round of the 2025 MLS SuperDraft.

The Bucks' accolades didn't stop there. Team captain Ellis Jones, a center back from England, was named to the league's Central Conference Best XI. Jones anchored the Bucks' defense, contributing to six clean sheets as Flint finished tied for the third-fewest goals allowed in the conference.

The honors extend Flint's tradition of success. The Bucks have reached the USL2 playoffs six straight years and boast 26 postseason appearances in 29 seasons, along with four national championships, 12 conference titles and 17 division crowns.

Pistons set for 16 national TV games as 2025-26 schedule drops

BY MB STAFF

DETROIT — After tripling their win total last season, the Detroit Pistons are stepping into the spotlight. The NBA released its 2025-26 schedule Tuesday, with Detroit slated for 16 nationally televised games — two on NBC/Peacock, four on ESPN, six on Peacock and four on Prime — as part of the league's new media deals.

The Pistons open with road games at Chicago on Oct. 22 and Houston on Oct. 24 before their home opener Oct. 26, a Sunday afternoon matchup with Boston at Little Caesars Arena. That game falls during a Lions bye week. The homestand continues with Boston on Oct. 27, Orlando on Oct. 29 and a "home" game in Mexico City against Dallas and top draft pick Cooper Flagg on Nov. 1.

Detroit's schedule includes 14 back-to-backs, slightly below the league average, and one "baseball series" at Washington on March 17 and 19. The team will endure a five-game West Coast road trip over Christmas, capped by games against the Clippers on Dec. 28 and Lakers on Dec. 30, before returning for a season-long six-game homestand Jan. 5-19.

Fans in Detroit will see reigning champion Oklahoma City on Feb. 25, Golden State on March 20 and the Lakers on March 23. Other marquee visits include Kevin Durant and Houston on Jan. 23, Milwaukee on Dec. 6 and April 8, and San Antonio with Victor Wembanyama on Feb. 23. The Pistons won't meet playoff rival New York until Jan. 5.

By month, Detroit plays five games in October, 15 in November, 13 in December, 14 in January, 11 in February, 18 in March and six in April. The regular season closes with road games at Charlotte on April 10 and Indiana on April 12.





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SPORTS

Saginaw's Jermaine Franklin draws undefeated Ivan Dychko on Vegas undercard



JERMAINE FRANKLIN

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Saginaw native Jermaine Franklin is back on a major stage next month, taking on towering unbeaten heavyweight Ivan Dychko on Sept. 13 at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas. The bout is slated for the YouTube portion of the Canelo Alvarez–Terence Crawford card.

Franklin (23-2, 15 KOs) returns after two Detroit victories since his April 2023 points loss to Anthony Joshua: a unanimous decision over Isaac Muñoz Gutiérrez on July 15, 2023, at The Masonic and a corner retirement (RTD 6) of Devin Vargas on May 24, 2024, at Wayne State Fieldhouse.

At 6-foot-2, Franklin will concede seven inches to Dychko (15-0, 14 KOs), a 6-foot-9 two-time Olympic bronze medalist from Kazakhstan who has stopped 93 percent of his opponents as a pro.

“Ivan Dychko is a talented fighter,” promoter Dmitry Salita told *The Ring*. “He can box. Based on what I’ve seen with him, if you give him distance and you allow

him to dictate the pace, then his power and his skills usually prevail. But if you put pressure on him and are kind of physical with him, he kind of folds and doesn’t react well.

“And you’ve seen that since he was an amateur. Although he has some great wins, he also has some explosive losses as well. He’s a very good fighter, but if Jermaine shows up at his best, I believe he has the skills to beat Dychko. What a great fight, by the way.”

Facing Franklin is a step up for Dychko, whose ledger includes a first-round stoppage of veteran Aleksandr Ustinov in 2021; Ustinov had been knocked out in his previous fight and four times overall before meeting Dychko. Salita expects Franklin’s durability and skill to carry into their scheduled 10-rounder.

“I think that if the Jermaine that fought Dillian Whyte shows up, he beats Dychko,” Salita said. “Jermaine has not been as active as I would’ve liked for him to be, but he does stay in the gym, and he is taking this fight seriously.

“Even though the fight was

announced [Tuesday], it’s been done for a month or so. He’s been training, and he’s gonna come in, I believe, in good condition.”

For Franklin, 31, the matchup

offers another chance to showcase Saginaw’s fighting pedigree against one of the division’s largest punchers.



CANELO VS CRAWFORD UNDERCARD FIGHT CARD

FAITH IN FOCUS



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

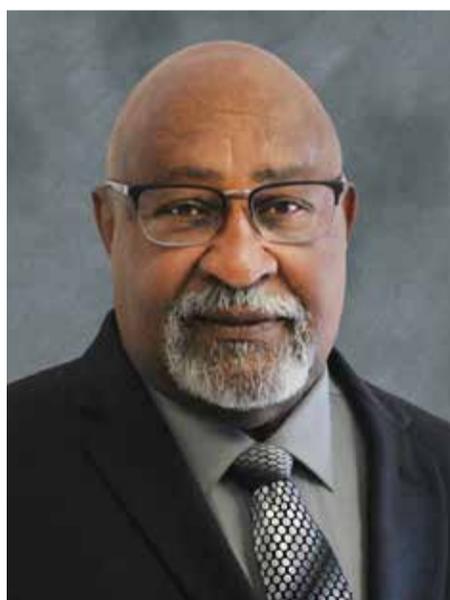
Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

BY PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

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

The organization's vision includes several key objectives:



PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

between the church, volunteers, and community professionals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPONSORED CONTENT

FAITH IN FOCUS

Holy Ghost Faith Conference returns to Birch Run

7th Annual
Speak The Word Only
Presents
Holy Ghost Faith Conference

Friday, Sept. 5th 2025 AND Saturday, Sept. 6th 2025
Agape Faith Fellowship
8121 Dixie Hwy. Birch Run, MI

Speaker Dr. Joseph Rodriguez, Sr.
Agape Faith Fellowship
Friday, Sept. 5th at 6:30PM
Walk-in Registration at 5:30PM

Speaker Rev. Rita Truss
Speak The Word Only
Saturday, Sept. 6th at 12PM
Walk-in Registration at 11AM

<https://bit.ly/Holy-Ghost-Faith>
Online Registration Encouraged
Free Admission
Food Trucks In Parking Lot Immediately After Conference
On Saturday Only At Your Expense

HOLY GHOST FAITH CONFERENCE FLYER

BY MB STAFF

BIRCH RUN, Mich. — A two-day faith conference in Birch Run will bring together local congregations and guest speakers for worship, fellowship and teaching.

The 7th Annual Holy Ghost Faith Conference, hosted by

Speak The Word Only Ministries, is scheduled for Sept. 5-6 at Agape Faith Fellowship, 8121 Dixie Highway. Admission is free and open to the public, with walk-in registration available on both days.

Dr. Joseph Rodriguez Sr. of Agape Faith Fellowship will open the conference on Friday, Sept. 5,

with a 6:30 p.m. session. Walk-in registration begins at 5:30 p.m. On Saturday, Sept. 6, Rev. Rita Truss of Speak The Word Only Ministries will deliver the noon message, with registration starting at 11 a.m.

Organizers encourage online registration through a [dedicated link](#) but emphasize that all

are welcome. Food trucks will be available on Saturday after the conference for attendees who wish to purchase meals.

The event, now in its seventh year, has become a recurring gathering for individuals seeking inspiration and spiritual renewal through shared worship and teaching.

FAITH IN FOCUS

SERMONETTE SERIES

Be Still; I Will Fight For You

"The Lord will fight for you; you need only be still."

Exodus 14:14 (NIV)



BY MINISTER CAROLYN
CARTER TOWNSEL



The Israelites had just been delivered from generations of slavery, only to find themselves trapped at the edge of the Red Sea with Pharaoh's army closing in. Fear rose quickly. They cried out in despair, forgetting the God who had already shown His mighty hand through plagues, protection, and provision.

In that moment, God gave them a command through Moses: **"The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."** Notice that the instruction was not to plan, argue, or run, but to be still. Stillness in the context was not passivity, but faith. It was the calm assurance that the God who brought them out would also bring them through.

So often in our own lives, we come to "Red Sea" moments - we find ourselves pressed on every side, with no visible solution. In these times we feel hemmed in by fear, uncertainty, financial strain, broken relationships, or overwhelming circumstances. Our natural response is fix it, fight it, or to panic or to push forward in our own strength. But God whispers: **"Be still, let me fight for you."** He invites us into stillness. Stillness says "God, I trust You even when I don't see a way." Stillness declares, "The outcome is not in my hands, but in yours." Stillness doesn't mean inactivity, it means trusting God enough to stop wrestling in our own strength and to rest in His.

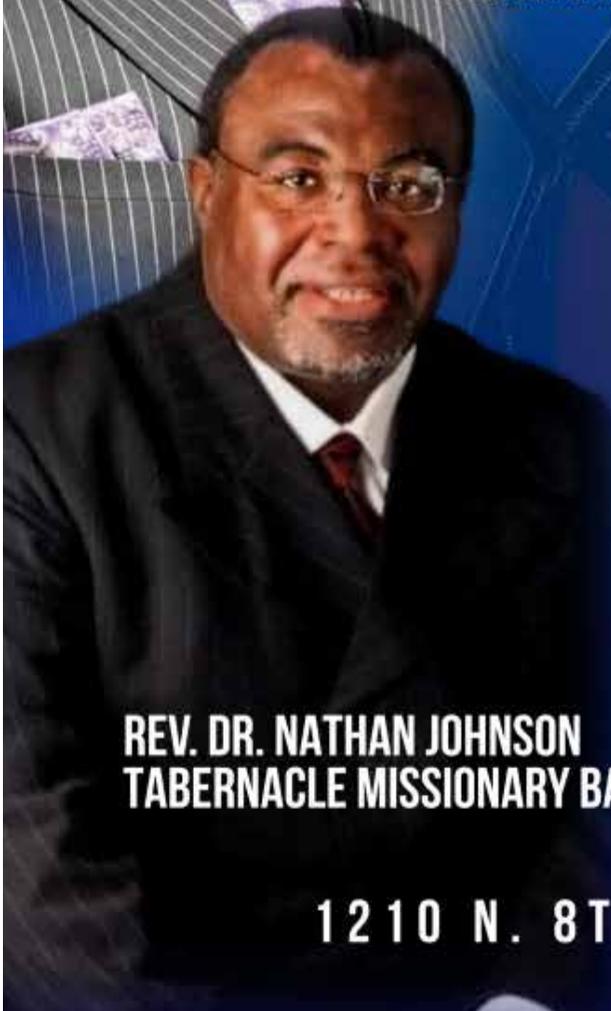
Beloved, when we are in a fight, we are never alone. When we are weak, He is strong. So, surrender your battles to Him, and when God fights for us, His victory is complete. He doesn't just part seas - He drowns the very enemies that pursued us. What was once a place of fear becomes a testimony of His faithfulness.

Blessings To All,
Carolyn

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FAITH IN FOCUS

Seen on the Scene:

The Women of Worship ministry at New Birth Missionary Baptist Cathedral, led by First Lady Shirley Camel, hosted the service “Wait! Isaiah 40:31” on Aug. 31, 2025, in Saginaw. Evangelist Donna O’Neal delivered the message, with Bishop Larry Camel serving as pastor. The event brought together church members and guests for worship and fellowship.



CHURCH DIRECTORY



Christ Disciples Baptist Church

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



Ministry Without Walls

Pastor, John Dunn
3783 Mannion Road
Saginaw, MI 48603



New Life Baptist Ministries

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



Faith Ministries Church

Rev. Dr. Anthony Revis
Prophetess Linda J. Kemp Revis
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989-837-7777
faithministrieschurch.org



World Outreach Campus

Bishop Hurley J. Coleman Jr.
2405 Bay Road
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worldoutreachcampus.com



New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

3610 Russel St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-0801



Glory House Ministries

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



New Beginnings Ministries

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



Saint Paul Baptist Church

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



Holy Communion Gospel Center

Pastor Charlene Washington
1245 E. Genesee
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-752-3993



New Birth Missionary Baptist

Bishop Larry D. Camel
3121 Sheridan
Saginaw, Michigan
989-327-1755



Victorious Belivers Ministries Church

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



Jacob's Ladder

Pastor Dennis Barlow
1926 Fairfield Street
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-799-6601



New Covenant Christian Center

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



Anointed Temple ministries

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



Bridgeport Community Church

Pastor Rob Ashmall
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Bridgeport, MI 48722
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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

No Substitute for Prospect Cultivation



BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Do you dream of people giving to your nonprofit without you even having to ask? Do you wish you didn't have to "waste" money on fundraising? Dream on. When it comes to fundraising, those in the know understand that money doesn't just show up. You have to ask. And before you ask, you have to cultivate. Not in all cases, but we estimate it's true in 97.5% of cases. So, let's get to work.

First, people are not ATMs. Each person has different reasons for why, when, and how much they give. Your organization may need funding, but that doesn't mean people will give. Understanding this can help lower your expectations, foster mutuality, and help drive your understanding of fundraising as a nonprofit business practice. Cultivation is part of the fundraising process, and it requires patience. Sometimes, years of patience are required, especially if you are seeking to secure a major gift. The term "fundraising" refers to asking for money or resources. But asking for money is only one part of the fundraising process. Here's the larger cycle: donor identification, cultivation, engagement, solicitation, stewardship, cultivation, solicitation...

Cultivation is about building a relationship and trust. It is the process of welcoming people into the life of your organization or institution. It takes place through social media, emails, letters, an-



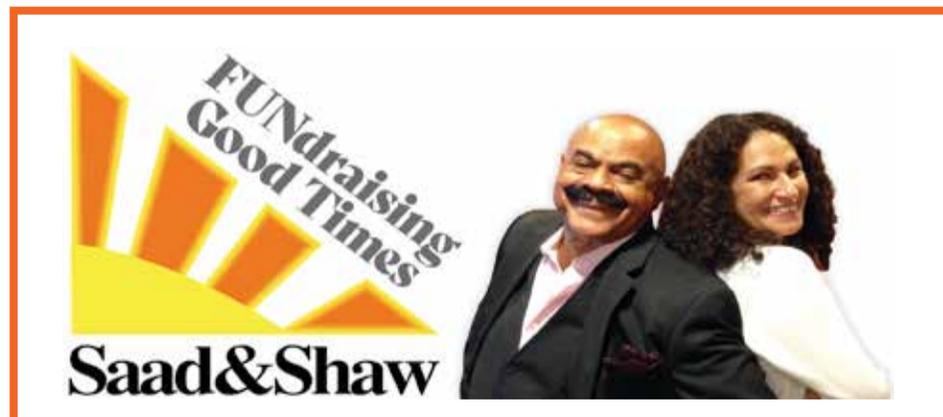
FILE PHOTO

nual reports, phone calls, invitations, in-person interactions, and more. It's personalized and consistent communication with the goal of encouraging financial support. Cultivation is also about expressing interest in those who you would like to become donors. The phrase "donor-centric" is used to describe a certain type of fundraising. That type is typically known as successful fundraising. That's because fundraising is about cultivating support and building relationships. We can't say it enough. And it takes time. And consistency. (Did we mention that?)

Here are suggestions you can use as you develop your cultivation process. Review your data. Create a list of those who have given to your nonprofit, attended events, expressed interest, or been exposed to your nonprofit. Make sure your current and for-

mer board members are on the list! Work with your fundraising team to rate and evaluate these prospective donors. Review their level of engagement and giving history, and then consider the gift level they might want to give at. Determine how to begin your cultivation process (see above). Sometimes it's as simple as adding people to a mailing list. Other times, you should pick up the phone and check in, especially with a former board member or important donor. In all cases, you want to have a full understand-

ing of how you want to engage with each prospective donor and who is the right person to do the reaching out. Create timeframes for your activities and follow up. Be sure you have information and materials to share. As always, put together alternative plans in case your first efforts aren't successful. Grow your prospect list and review regularly. Bottom line: part of being a nonprofit is developing the capacity to cultivate gifts. 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

Saginaw CAC debuted its new mobile food pantry at Light Up the City. Powered by Consumers Energy and United Way of Saginaw, the celebration drew the largest turnout in the event's history. Saginaw CAC also gave away 17 cases of peaches to community members.



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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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