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Saginaw's Jermaine Franklin earns decision over Ivan Dychko in sluggish heavyweight bout

SPORTS, PG 50

Former mayor dies, but her neighborhood awards live on

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW, Mich. — Wilmer Jones Ham, who passed away earlier this month at age 75, leaves an enduring legacy in a segment of City Hall operations known as SCENIC.

Even before she became Saginaw's first female mayor to begin the new millennium, she emphasized strong neighborhoods from the City Council table.

In the living room of her historic home at Sheridan and Thompson streets, sandwiched between St. Mary's Cathedral and Maplewood Manor, she convened volunteers who issued the first versions of the Saginaw Beautification Awards. Honorees with blue-ribbon homes and landscaping received framed certificates of recognition. This was at the same time as she organized the former Mayor's Scholarship



FORMER MAYOR WILMER JONES HAM



THE HISTORIC SAGINAW HOME ONCE OWNED BY AUDRA FRANCIS AND LATER BY FORMER MAYOR WILMER JONES HAM. BY FORMER MAYOR WILMER JONES HAM.

Balls -- not in her own name but that of a mayoral predecessor, Henry Nickleberry.

She closed her 13 years of council service, including four as mayor, in 2007. Her efforts were a forerunner of the Saginaw Code Enforcement Neighborhood Improvement Cooperative, SCENIC, which has continued the tradition with the soon-to-be-announced Neighborhood

See WILMER JONES HAM, Page 2



Fiesta K'onda returns to downtown Saginaw

LATINO BANNER, PG 4



They're not doctors, but they help men stay healthy

COMMUNITY, PG 14



Faith Ministries Church to celebrate 35 years of pastoral leadership

FAITH, PG 52

WILMER JONES HAM, from cover



THE GRAND STAIRCASE INSIDE THE HISTORIC SAGINAW HOME OF AUDRA FRANCIS, THE FIRST WOMAN ELECTED TO SAGINAW CITY COUNCIL, LATER OWNED BY FORMER MAYOR WILMER JONES HAM.

Recognition Awards. In the same spirit, current Mayor Brenda Moore and city staff have organized twice-a-year community cleanups.

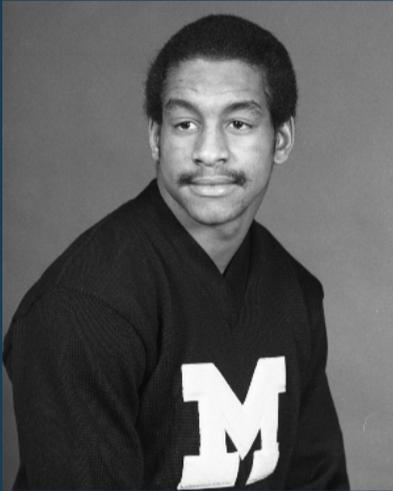
Therefore, it is only fitting that Wilmer Ham resided in an 1899 lumber era mini-mansion, 4,300 square feet, that also was the home of the first woman to serve on the council, Audra Francis (1953-65), who also became the first female chair of the County Board of Commissioners.

During the 20 years that have followed Mayor Ham's tenure, men and women have equally shared the role. Greg Branch, Dennis Browning, Floyd Kloc, Carol Cottrell, Joyce Seals, Brenda Moore.

A memorial service is set for Friday, Sept. 19, at noon at The Dow's Heritage Theater, in the same building where she on occasion sang the national anthem at Wendler Arena prior to Saginaw Spirit hockey games. Visitation is Sept. 18, 1 to 6 p.m. at Word of Faith International Ministries, and also from 10 a.m. to noon at Heritage Theater prior to the Sept. 19 memorial.

THIS DAY IN MICHIGAN HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 16, 1972

First African American Quarterback Takes the Field for University of Michigan

On Sept. 16, 1972, Dennis Franklin started as quarterback for the University of Michigan football team in their season-opening 7-0 victory over Northwestern.

Franklin, the first black quarterback in University of Michigan history, started regularly for the next three seasons, then played one year for the Detroit Lions.

MICHIGAN BANNER

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

PUBLISHER

Michelle McCoy

VP SALES & MARKETING

Jerome Buckley

EDITOR EMERITUS

Rae Lynn Buckley

MISSION

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

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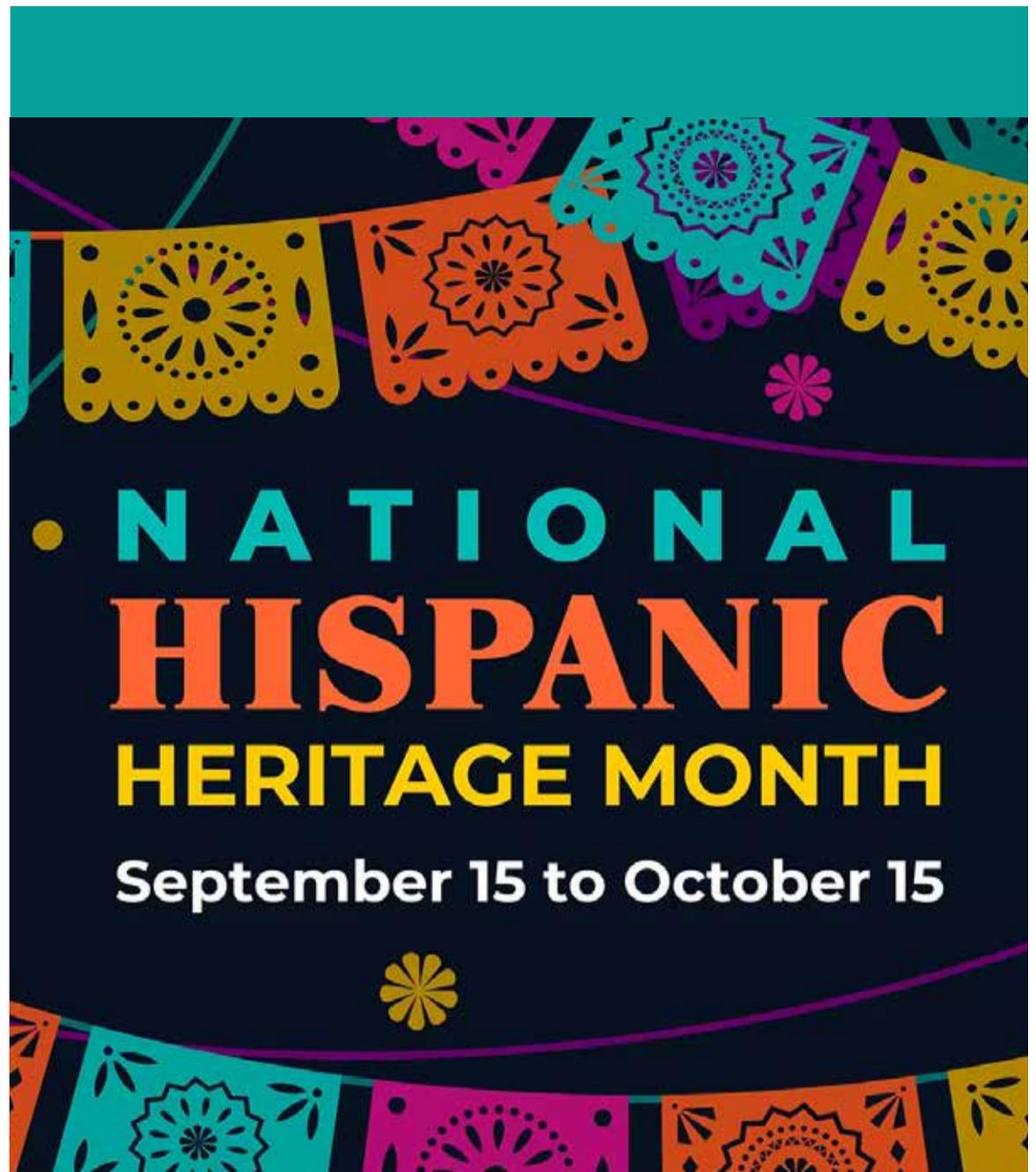
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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 7 • NUMBER 18



Delta College, First Ward Community Center team up for student work-study jobs



FILE PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Delta College students looking to gain professional experience while earning money have a new opportunity thanks to a partnership with the First Ward Community Center.

The two institutions are collaborating on an off-campus federal work-study program that places eligible Delta

students in part-time jobs at the historic Saginaw community hub. Positions range from tutoring in math and reading to supporting youth programs and staffing the computer lab.

The program is open to students enrolled in at least six credits who qualify for federal work-study aid, as indicated in their Delta College financial aid award letter. Once hired, students will be considered Delta employees while working on-site at the First

Ward Community Center.

Open positions include:

- Youth Development Specialist
- Administrative Assistant Aide
- Math Tutor
- Reading Tutor
- Computer Lab Aide

First Ward Community Center, founded in 1938, has a long

history of offering educational, social and cultural services to Saginaw residents. Leaders at the center say hosting Delta students aligns with their mission to empower the community and build pathways to success for youth and families.

Applications for the work-study roles are available online through the Delta College Student Employment page at www.delta.edu/students/campus-jobs/index.html.



creativity contest



LEARN MORE:

Public Arts Midland and the Cultural Awareness Coalition invite community members from across the Great Lakes Bay Region to submit original artwork celebrating this year's theme:

In Diversity There Is Beauty & Strength.

PROJECT TIMELINE

- Begin creating: Any time!
- Submissions open: 07.15
DEADLINE EXTENDED TO SEPTEMBER 22nd!
- Artist Reception: 10.09.25 from 5:30-7pm at Creative 360

Gun safety classes aim to protect teens amid rising firearm risks

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

MADISON HEIGHTS, Mich. — With firearms now the leading cause of death among children and teens in the United States, safety advocates are turning to education as a way to prevent tragedy.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 4,700 children and teens died from gun-related injuries in 2021 — more than from motor vehicle crashes or any other cause. In Michigan, state health data show that youth firearm deaths have steadily risen over the past decade, with urban areas like Detroit and Flint experiencing some of the highest rates.

Whether we like it or not, a growing number of teens are getting their hands on guns, often without the knowledge or supervision of adults. Public health experts point to safe storage, awareness, and early training as essential to addressing the crisis. Research from the University of Michigan's Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention has found that more than half of parents with firearms in the home do not store them locked and unloaded, leaving young people at risk of unintentional shootings.

In an effort to tackle the issue, Locked & Loaded is offering a Youth Safety Class on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025, in Madison Heights. The program is designed to teach young people firearm fundamentals and safety practices. Sessions run from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1 p.m.–3 p.m. at 32411 Dequindre Rd.

The class, which costs \$35 per person, will cover youth firearms education and safety fundamentals. Organizers stress that the goal is not only to educate about proper handling but



The flyer features a light blue background with a yellow kite and colorful balloons (orange, teal, green, red) at the top. On the left is the 'LOCKED & LOADED' logo with a crossed gun and the phone number (248) 509-5028. The main text reads 'YOUTH SAFETY CLASS' in large blue letters, followed by 'SEPTEMBER 27TH' in orange. Below this, the times '10a-12pm and 1pm-3PM' are listed in a white box. There are four colored buttons: a green 'Address' button with the address '32411 Dequindre Rd. Madison Heights, MI 48071'; a red 'Registration Link' button with 'lockedandloadedclasses.com'; a teal 'Contact Us' button with '248-509-5028 info@lockedandloadedclasses.com'; and a pink 'Activities' button with 'Youth Firearms & Safety Fundamentals'. A yellow starburst graphic says 'Admission \$35'. At the bottom, there are illustrations of four diverse children and a QR code.

YOUTH SAFETY CLASS FLYER

also to reduce fear, build awareness, and instill lifelong respect for firearms.

“Reliable, age-appropriate safety training can be the difference between life and death,” said Amy Bidwell, executive director of the Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services, in a recent conversation about trans-

portation and education. “When families and communities invest in these conversations early, they help prevent accidents and save lives.”

Parents and guardians can register at lockedandloadedclasses.com or contact organizers by phone at (248) 509-5028 or email at info@lockedandload-

edclasses.com.

As the debate over gun laws continues, advocates on both sides agree on at least one point: keeping kids safe is the top priority. Programs like the Youth Safety Class in Madison Heights represent one step in addressing a growing crisis.



Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE



Hispanic Heritage Month honors history, culture and contributions of Latino communities

BY MB STAFF

Hispanic Heritage Month, observed Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, is a national celebration of Hispanic and Latino history and culture. While Latino communities are recognized year-round, the month offers an extra opportunity to highlight their many contributions to the United States, from advocacy and public service to art, cuisine, music and traditions.

The presence of Latinos in America stretches back centuries, predating Spain's colonization of territories that later became part of the United States. Latino soldiers fought in the Revolutionary War, and major treaties in the 19th century, including the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the Treaty of Paris, brought large Hispanic populations in the Southwest and Puerto Rico into the United States. Since then, Hispanic Americans have played a vital role in shaping the nation's history and culture.

Today, the U.S. Census Bureau reports that more than 60 million Latinos live in the United States, accounting for nearly 19 percent of the population and representing the country's largest ethnic or racial minority. From entrepreneurs and athletes to scientists, artists, entertainers and elected officials, Latinos continue to fuel the nation's economy, enrich its culture and strengthen its communities.

The 1st Annual **LA MISIÓN** Quince Años Celebration

September 27, 2025 at The CAC Hall
2824 Perkins St. Saginaw MI 48601

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



Nominations open for Hispanic Heritage Month Awards

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan residents are being asked to help shine a spotlight on individuals who make a difference in their communities as the state opens nominations for the 2025 Hispanic Heritage Month Awards.

The awards, presented by the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan, will recognize achievements in seven categories: Arts in the Community, Young Change Maker, Educator of the Year, Unsung Hero, Lifetime Achievement, Veteran of the Year, and Community Service.

Winners will be honored Oct. 16 in Lansing during the commission's 50th anniversary celebration, a milestone event that will highlight both Hispanic heritage and the contributions of Latino leaders across Michigan.

Organizers say the goal is to honor those who uplift, inspire and lead — whether through classroom dedication, creative expression, military service or grassroots activism. Community members are encouraged to nominate individuals who exemplify service and leadership in their respective fields.

Nomination forms are available online through the commission's official links, and submissions must be completed by the deadline to ensure consideration.

The Hispanic/Latino Commission has served as a statewide advocate since 1975, promoting economic, educational and civic opportunities for Michigan's growing Latino population. This year's anniversary is expected to draw hundreds of attendees from across the state, making the award ceremony a central feature of the celebration.

For nomination details, visit the commission's online forms or contact hlcom@michigan.gov.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AWARDS



TERCER JUEVES BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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

Wayne State University
Wayne State University
Student Center Ballroom (2nd floor)
5221 Gullen Mall Detroit, MI 48202

**REGISTER
HERE!**



NO COST!
MHCC members
& Non-members

Fiesta K'onda returns to downtown Saginaw for 5th year of music, food and culture

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Downtown Saginaw will come alive with the sounds of Latin music, the aroma of street food, and the energy of community spirit as Fiesta K'onda celebrates its fifth anniversary this weekend at Morley Plaza.

The three-day festival, which is free and open to the public, kicks off Friday, Sept. 19, from 4 to 10 p.m. with live performances by Jaygo Haam, Los G Notes, Kattolac Jones, and headliner Mexicuba.

Saturday's lineup runs from noon to 10 p.m., featuring Los Estrellas de Oro, Versa H, Los Hermanos 616, Eddy Gardo, and DJ Dwayne, who will keep the music flowing throughout the day.

The celebration continues Sunday, Sept. 21, beginning with a 10 a.m. unity prayer service followed by an afternoon of performances from Luna Band, Tropical Vibes, Miguel & Chico, and Conjunto Blindado.

Organizers say Fiesta K'onda offers more than music. Families can enjoy a kids' corner, cultural dance groups, contests such as jalapeño eating and grito competitions, plus a variety of vendors selling food and merchandise.

The event, sponsored by local businesses and community organizations, has grown steadily since its debut, becoming one of Saginaw's most anticipated cultural gatherings.

Festival spokesperson Miguel Torres said the goal is to celebrate heritage while bringing people together downtown. "It's three days of unity, music and tradition," he said.

For sponsorship or vendor information, contact Torres at (989) 332-1107.

5th Annual Fiesta K'ONDA! **FREE!** **3 DIAS 3 DAYS**

MORLEY PLAZA
133 N WASHINGTON AVE, SAGINAW, MI 48607

FOOD VENDORS
MERCHANDISE VENDORS
LIVE MUSIC
KIDS CORNER
DANCE GROUPS
CONTESTS & MORE

(JALAPEÑO EATING, JARRITO DRINKING, GRITO, ETC)

Friday, September 19~ 4pm-10pm
Saturday, September 20~ Noon-10pm
Sunday, September 21~ 10-1 Unity Service, 2-7 Bands

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

4:00-10:00PM LOUD ENTERTAINMENT
5:00-5:15 JAYGO HAAM
5:30-7:30 LOS G NOTES
7:40PM-7:55PM KATTOLAC JONES
8:00-10:00 MEXICUBA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

NOON-4:00PM LOUD ENTERTAINMENT
3:00PM-4:30PM LOS ESTRELLAS DE ORO
5:00PM-6:30PM VERSA H
7:00PM-8:30 LOS HERMANOS 616
8:45PM -10:00PM EDDY GARDO
4PM-10:00PM TCT DJ DWAYNE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

10AM-1PM UNITY PRAYER SERVICE
1:30-1:45 -----
2:00PM-3:00PM LUNA BAND
3:20PM-4:20PM TROPICAL VIBES
4:30-4:45 MIGUEL & CHICO
5:00PM-7:00PM CONJUNTO BLINDADO
NOON -7:00PM TCT DJ DWAYNE

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K'ONDA! WILL ALSO HAVE OTHER ACTIVITIES AND CONTESTS...

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION: MIGUEL TORRES (989) 332-1107

FIESTA K'ONDA

MHCC



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COUNCIL ON
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



TERCER JUEVES

TERCER JUEVES

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with DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY
in GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN!

Presenting
Sponsors:



Casa Latina
DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY OCT 16th, 2025

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Davenport University
Robert W. Sneden Center Building (1st floor)
6191 Kraft Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512

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NO COST

For more information contact Patricia Nava: pnava@mhcc.org

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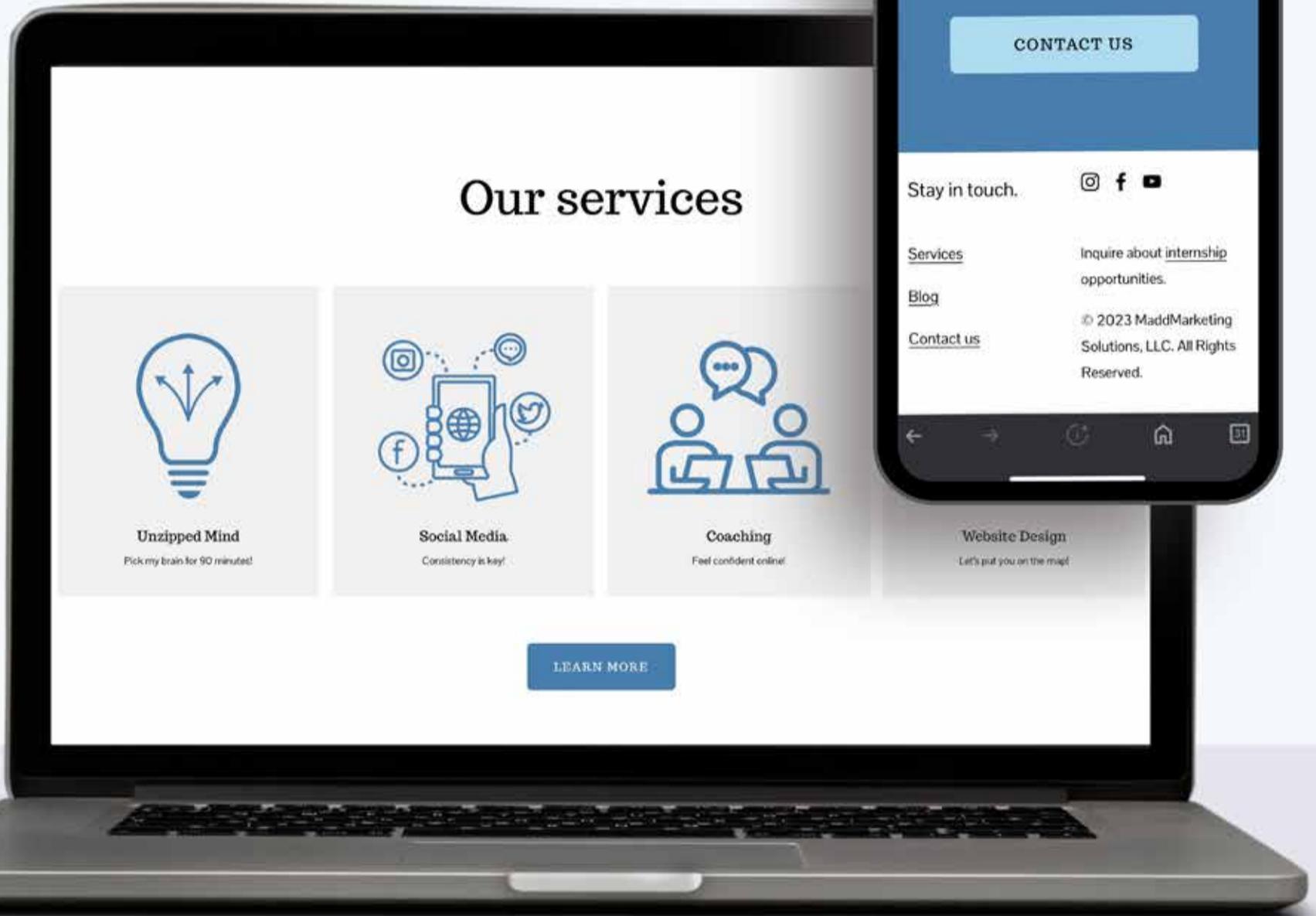
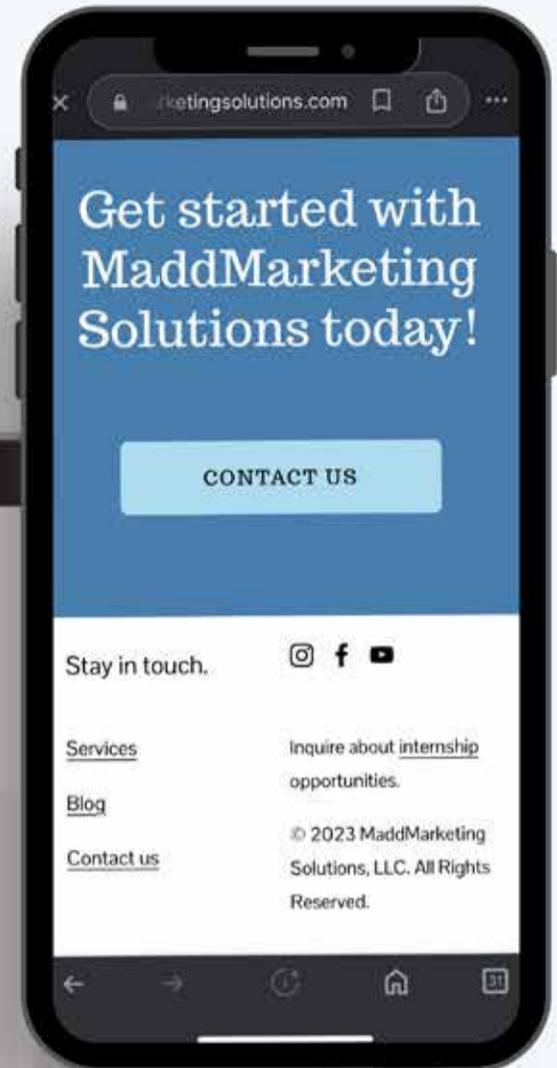
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COMMUNITY

They're not doctors, but they help men stay healthy

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW, Mich. — Andre Reed says the training to become a community care advocate isn't really difficult.

He achieved a master's in health care administration from SVSU after his 1996 graduation from Saginaw High School, and so he knows all about high-level "all-nighters" to prepare for a big exam.

But volunteers won't have to burn the midnight oil to become CMHE's, Certified Men's Health Educators, Reed says.

He was among the first local graduating class of 25, and now he is helping to recruit for the second group.

The online virtual learning class takes an average of 12 hours, and those are clock hours, not college credit hours.

"You can work at your own pace, and it's really user-friendly. Personally, I completed an hour or two at a time, over a span of a couple months," says Reed, deputy health officer for the Bay County Department of Health.

The format, while highly informative, "eliminates excuses like 'I can't take off of work,'" he adds.

He first learned of advocate training through Saginaw's chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and Dwayne Parker, survivor of a heart ailment through early detection, who has taken the lead in expanding the annual Men's Health Fair in June into year-round activities.

A cornerstone of the emphasis on men is that males on average live seven fewer years than their female counterparts, in part because they are prone to avoid doctor visits, especially among Black males with causes for suspicion that include white-



ANDRE REED

imposed historical "studies" at Tuskegee Institute, among the nation's leading HBCUs.

Reed says, "I just want to extend our lives, regardless of ethnicity," adding that he preaches his message not only to the community at large, but to family and friends with afflictions that range from diabetes to hypertension. His own struggle was coping with covid, along with spouse

Lisa, during the first outbreak of the deathly pandemic in winter 2020, [featured on Channel 25](#).

Trainees learn to:

- More effectively communicate and motivate boys and men in ways that resonate with them and will motivate them to

actively engage with the healthcare system and take on strong roles in their own health and wellness actions.

- Understand how to reimagine healthcare practices and programs and other touch points in ways that will make men and boys feel comfortable and welcome.
- Better understand the health status, determinants of health, social stigma about medical issues men face and the cultural context of how boys and men view health and wellness.
- How to plan, fund, conduct and measure the impact of wellness programs and outreach for boys and men and their supportive loved ones.
- Recognize and address sociocultural considerations that are unique to many prevalent sub-populations of boys and men.
- Help women and other supportive loved ones encourage and support optimal health for boys and men they care about.
- Enhance boys' and men's understanding of vaccines and educate them about covid-related topics.

To enroll in CMHE advocate training, email Parker at dparker@menshealthfirst.org or call him, (810) 624-3432.

COMMUNITY

VCD youth learn the value of service through neighborhood cleanups



YOUTH AND VOLUNTEERS WITH VICTORIOUS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TAKE PART IN NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP EFFORTS IN SAGINAW. (PHOTO COURTESY OF VICTORIOUS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — While the youth program at Victorious Community Development (VCD) included field trips, beach days, and university tours, one of its most meaningful activities took place close to home. The students rolled up their sleeves and participated in several neighborhood cleanups, a hands-on lesson in responsibility, teamwork, and civic pride.

The project encouraged young people to look at their surroundings differently. Armed with gloves, trash bags, and plenty of determination, the students

walked through local streets and sidewalks to collect litter and debris. Older teens also stepped up to mow and manicure overgrown lawns, adding to the transformation. What might have seemed like a small task quickly turned into an opportunity to see how collective effort can improve the places where families gather, children play, and neighbors connect.

The cleanups were more than a way to beautify residential areas. They were also about teaching responsibility, instilling pride, and showing youth that caring for a community starts with action. For many of the chil-

dren, the cleanup days were their first experience doing organized service work, an introduction to civic engagement that can grow into a lifelong commitment.

Research backs up the importance of such efforts. Studies show that when young people are engaged in community service, they not only strengthen their neighborhoods but also develop leadership skills, empathy, and a greater sense of belonging. We hope that by introducing these ideas early, youth will understand that their voices and actions matter.

The cleanups also provided a



VOLUNTEERS CLEAR DEBRIS DURING A VICTORIOUS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CLEANUP IN SAGINAW.

unique kind of teamwork, collaborating with a common purpose to leave their own neighborhoods better than they found them. The results were visible at the end of each day: bags of trash collected, streets tidied, and blocks refreshed for everyone who called those areas home.



YOUTH HELP CLEAR BRUSH DURING A VICTORIOUS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP IN SAGINAW.

“This work shows our youth that they can be part of the solution,” said Eric Braddock, Program Director for the Youth Community Violence Prevention and Intervention Initiative. “When they see the impact of their efforts, it gives them pride and a sense of ownership in their community. That’s how we begin to build safer neighborhoods and stronger futures.”



A HOME IN SAGINAW FOLLOWING A VICTORIOUS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP EFFORT.

For participants, the takeaway was clear. Service doesn’t always mean a grand gesture. Sometimes it begins with something as simple as picking up litter or taking care of a shared space. Those small acts, multiplied across a neighborhood, create real change.

Through the summer’s neighborhood cleanups, VCD youth learned that they are not just residents of Saginaw but also stewards of its future. The experience gave them confidence, pride, and the understanding that even at a young age, they have the power to make a difference.



VCD YOUTH AND VOLUNTEERS TRANSFORMED A BLIGHTED, OVERGROWN LOT INTO A CLEAN AND WELCOMING NEIGHBORHOOD SPACE THROUGH THEIR SUMMER COMMUNITY CLEANUP EFFORTS.

COMMUNITY

Light the Night to honor late community leader Veronica Horn in Midland

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — This year's Light the Night walk will carry added meaning as the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society honors the late Veronica Lynn Horn, a Frankenmuth resident remembered for her faith, family, and decades of service to the Saginaw community.

The event, set for Oct. 3 at The H Hotel in Midland, will bring together survivors, families, and supporters to raise funds for blood cancer research and patient support. Participants will carry lanterns — white for survivors, red for support-

ers, and gold in memory of loved ones — during the one-mile walk beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Horn, who passed away at age 70 with her family by her side, spent her career building bridges across Saginaw County. As president and CEO of the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce, she guided a nearly 1,000-member organization and was known for her ability to unite business, civic and community leaders. Her career also included service on the staffs of two U.S. congressmen, as well as leadership roles in government affairs at Dow Corning and Hemlock Semiconductor.



VERONICA HORN

She was instrumental in projects that shaped the region, including securing funds for the Downtown Saginaw exit ramp and leading efforts to preserve the Saginaw Civic Center, now the Dow Event Center. Horn also helped found the Henry Marsh Institute for Public Policy at Saginaw Valley State University.

Her legacy extended beyond boardrooms. She was known for her compassion, her love of backyard wildlife — especially squirrels and cardinals — and her devotion to family and faith.

“Light the Night brings communities together to celebrate, honor and remember those touched by cancer,” organizers said. The event runs from 6 to 9 p.m., with family-friendly activities, a Kids Zone, and food vendors. Survivors receive a special white lantern and T-shirt, while all participants are encouraged to fundraise to support LLS's mission.

Since its founding, LLS has invested more than \$700 million in patient assistance. In 2024 alone, the organization distributed nearly \$781,500 in co-pay support to families across Midland and Northern Michigan, helping thousands access care.

Horn's memory will be honored alongside countless others as lanterns light the night sky.

Event details

When: Friday, Oct. 3, 2025, 6–9 p.m. (walk begins at 7:30 p.m.)

Where: The H Hotel, 111 W. Main St., Midland

Info: Registration is free. Visit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light the Night site for details.

LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY | LIGHT THE NIGHT

Join The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in helping blood cancer patients and their families.

Sofia
Blood Cancer Survivor

Register Today

Save the Date

**Light the Night:
Honoring Veronica Horn and Family**
October 3rd, 2025

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
The H-Hotel: 111 W Main St, Midland, MI 48640

NATIONAL PRESENTING SPONSOR OF BLOOD CANCER SURVIVORS & HOPE

BeOne

Register Today LightTheNight.org

For patients and their loved ones, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light The Night offers hope instead of helplessness, connection instead of loneliness, and life-saving research and support at every step.



Contact: The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
Sarah Arminiak | Campaign Development Director
sarah.arminiak@lls.org



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COMMUNITY

Saginaw Community Foundation honors leaders, awards \$40K grant

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — At the annual meeting of the Saginaw Community Foundation on Sept. 8, awards and honors were granted.

The winning \$40,000 grant was presented to the HELP Community Intervention Program "to leverage the skills and talents of youth from communities at high risk of community violence. Following their participation in the 2025 Summer of Innovation: STEM & Innovation Days, specifically the Intro to Drone Technology program, selected youth who successfully obtain their recreational drone pilot licenses will be integrated into a specialized community surveillance program codenamed Operation Night Hawk."

The purpose is explained: "This initiative will see these young, licensed drone operators collaborate with HELP first responders and community leaders to enhance community violence intervention strategies, providing real-time situational awareness and contributing to a safer environment."

In summary: "This multi-faceted approach not only offers at-



THE HELP COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM, RECIPIENT OF THE 2025 SAGINAW COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS' \$40,000 COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE GRANT.

risk youth valuable STEM skills and career pathways but also empowers them to become active participants in addressing the challenges within their own communities."

HELP stands for Healing, Engagement, Love, Presence. Pastor Kareem Bowen of Potter's Touch on North Washington is executive director, and he offered a review in Michigan Ban-

ner's Sept. 1 edition, available in MB archives.

Honorees include:

- Lily Winslow, 2025 Freeland High School grad, Joseph W. Madison Youth Award;
- Donna Schantz, faculty at Hemlock Elementary School, Mridha

Foundation Teacher of the Year;

- Brian Keenan-Lechel, Volunteer of the Year;
- Al and Beth Thieme, Frank N. Anderson Spirit of Philanthropy Award.

Event sponsors were the Saginaw Spirit hockey franchise, Spence Brothers and Hemlock Semiconductor.



FROM LEFT: 2025 JOSEPH W. MADISON YOUTH AWARD RECIPIENT LILY WINSLOW; 2025 MRIDHA FOUNDATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT DONNA SCHANTZ WITH DR. DEBASISH MRIDHA; 2025 SAGINAW COMMUNITY FOUNDATION VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT BRIAN KEENAN-LECHEL; AND 2025 FRANK N. ANDERSEN SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY AWARD RECIPIENTS AL AND BETH THIEME.

COMMUNITY

Swim classes aim for life-saving safety

BY MIKE THOMPSON

A teen's backyard swimming pool death has inspired a prevention effort.

Jeff Bulls, leader of CAP, Community Alliance for the People, explains:

"On July 5, our community lost a bright, funny, and full-of-life 15-year-old, Timmie Favorite, to a tragic drowning incident. He was thrown into a pool, and unfortunately, Timmie couldn't swim. His passing shook his family, friends, and the Saginaw community — and it left a lasting reminder of how critical water safety is for our young people.

"We choose to honor Timmie's memory by making sure his story inspires change. No



TIMMIE D'QUAN FAVORITE, JR.

family should have to experience the pain of losing a child to something that can be prevented.

"That's why we're proud to

announce the Safety Around Water Program, a partnership between the Saginaw YMCA, Saginaw CAP and the Saginaw Spirit, dedicated to teaching kids the skills and confidence they need in and around water.

"The program includes FREE swim safety instruction, and is open to youth and families in Saginaw County with the goal of honoring Timmie's legacy by saving lives. Sign up today and give your child the gift of safety, confidence, and fun in the water. Together, we can turn

tragedy into hope."

Classes begin the week of Sept. 22. For information, visit Saginaw CAP on Facebook, forms.gle/hroNCZ9w1J8L65vx7.



Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Association to host annual open house in Saginaw

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — The Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Association will welcome residents and community members to its annual open house on Sept. 20 from noon to 4 p.m. at 1708 Johnson St. in Saginaw.

The event is designed to showcase the association's mission of fostering a sense of community while offering fun, information, and resources for families. Attendees can expect food, opportunities to connect with neighbors, and activities that highlight the group's ongoing efforts to strengthen the neighborhood.



Founded more than two decades ago, the Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Association has become a vital voice for residents on Saginaw's East Side. The organization has focused on improving neighborhood safety, supporting youth and senior programs, and maintaining community spaces, including its garden and multipurpose center. Its work often centers on bringing people together through education, health initiatives, and civic engagement.

The Annual Open House reflects that mission, providing a chance for residents to learn about services available in their area while celebrating the neighborhood's resilience and culture. Past gatherings have featured music, games, and opportunities for residents to contribute ideas for the association's future projects.

Residents seeking more information about the annual open house can contact the association at (989) 752-1660, email info@houghtonjones.org, or visit www.houghtonjones.org.



HOUGHTON JONES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION OPEN HOUSE FLYER

COMMUNITY

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Saturday, September 20th

Time: 2 - 8 PM

Price: \$25

the **YMCA**

We have lots of activities planned, like swimming, food, crafts, movies, games, and more.

GRATEFUL PASTA

ARTISAN URBAN BISTRO

READ Association of Saginaw County

Support literacy simply by enjoying a delicious meal!

Artisan Urban Bistro
417 Hancock St, Saginaw, MI
Wednesday, September 17th
5PM to Close

BUENA VISTA

OPEN HOUSE & RIBBON CUTTING

3945 E. HOLLAND AVENUE, SAGINAW
(Former Buena Vista High School)

- ✓ TOUR THE RENOVATED AREAS
- ✓ MEET STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS
- ✓ ENJOY REFRESHMENTS
- ✓ RECEIVE TOWNSHIP UPDATES & SWAG
- ✓ ENJOY A MINI-CONCERT FEATURING BLACK ROSE

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18
3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

BVCT.ORG
989.754.6536

OPINION

No transit, no future: Why Saginaw needs reliable public transportation



BY JAMIE FORBES
DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
SAGINAW TRANSIT AUTHORITY
AND REGIONAL SERVICES

SAGINAW, Mich. — A small business owner in Saginaw opens her doors at 8 a.m. She depends on a team of employees to serve customers, stock shelves and keep the business running smoothly. But today, two workers didn't make it in. Not because they overslept or got stuck in traffic, but because the early bus route never showed, and they don't have cars. That missing support is not just a barrier for the business owner — it's a loss for the customer, the economy and the community.

Public transit is more than a ride from Point A to Point B. Public transit connects every single one of our neighbors to employment, education, mental and physical health care, and quality of life. It allows seniors to age in place and continue contributing to the communities they've called home for decades. It helps workers access opportunities and support their families. And it attracts young professionals who want to live in vibrant urban cities with walkable neighborhoods and culture that is accessible to all.

The benefits of public transportation on Saginaw's business climate are equally clear. Transit expands opportunity for job seekers, ensuring employers can fill positions and small business-

es can grow. It allows employees to consider better-paying jobs outside of their neighborhoods, even across the region.

Last spring, Saginaw hosted the Memorial Cup of Canada — a significant economic catalyst for our city. By increasing access to transportation through hotel shuttles, special bus routes, free fare and expanded hours, Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services (STARS) connected tens of thousands of hockey enthusiasts to small businesses, local restaurants, hotels and the many events across the region. That's what public transit does: it moves economies forward.

We're seeing the same impact today for our region's residents. In Hemlock, STARS is transport-

ing four busloads of construction employees daily to build a new silicon chip manufacturer. This project will transform the region's economic future by not only creating jobs but also ensuring our workforce can access affordable transportation to get to work.

But Michigan's public transit system is at a breaking point. We are severely underfunded and nowhere near meeting the needs of our communities. Already, smaller agencies across the state are being forced to cut service hours — often the very early morning and late-night trips workers rely on to get to their jobs. Without reliable funding, more routes and systems will disappear. That means fewer

employees showing up on time, more missed health care appointments, and businesses struggling to recruit and retain talent.

The truth is simple: Without transportation services, residents of the city of Saginaw and across the Great Lakes Bay Region suffer. Employers can't connect to the workforce they need, and workers can't connect to the opportunities that sustain their families. Senior citizens lose their autonomy, riders with disabilities can no longer travel freely, and young people miss out on educational offerings in the region.

Our riders deserve better. They deserve safe, comfortable buses, reliable routes, and technology that makes riding easier. They deserve access and connection to the rest of our region. They deserve a system that people want to ride — not one they turn to only when they have no other choice.

Research shows Michigan voters strongly support public transit, and we cannot keep doing more with less. State leaders must act now to strengthen Michigan's transit systems. We urge lawmakers to include a traditional share of 10% for comprehensive transportation needs, including local transit systems, in any road funding deal and to prioritize operating funds in this year's budget. Without an urgent investment, Michigan's economy and communities will face lasting setbacks. If we lose transit agencies, it'll cost far more to rebuild those services.

Now is the time to increase investment in public transit and ensure every Michigander, regardless of their ZIP code, has the freedom to move. Because when transit works, so does Michigan.



WOMAN SITTING AT BUS STOP (FILE PHOTO)

COMMUNITY

Field of Frames Fest to debut with free sneak peek at Dow Diamond

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — Michigan's newest esports and gaming festival is set to open its doors with a free preview night Sept. 26 at Dow Diamond, giving fans a taste of what organizers call a first-of-its-kind experience for the state.

The inaugural Field of Frames Fest, presented by Dow, will launch Friday at 6 p.m. with complimentary access to gaming areas, vendor showcases and a VIP welcome reception. The highlight of the evening begins at 7 p.m. with the kickoff of a collegiate Valorant tournament featuring teams from across the Midwest.

Detroit-based DJ, producer

and video game composer 3D BLAST will take the stage from 9 to 11 p.m., adding a high-energy finish to the festival's opening night. The preview event, which runs until 11 p.m., is free to the public.

The weekend festival continues Sept. 27-28 with a full slate of esports competitions in popular titles such as Super Smash Bros., Fortnite and Rocket League, alongside trading card contests for Magic: The Gathering, Pokémon and Lorcana. Beyond competition, organizers are touting the festival as a hub for fans, designers, indie creators and educators.

Field of Frames is also promoting its STEM-focused mission, offering free admission to children 10 and under and hands-

on learning stations throughout the ballpark. Support from regional partners, including Northwood University, Saginaw Valley State University and Hemlock Semiconductor, will back educational programming tied to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Single-day tickets for Saturday or Sunday are \$25, while weekend passes are \$40. VIP tickets, which include access to exclusive areas and perks across the three-day festival, are \$125.

Corporate partners include Dow, the Great Lakes Bay Con-

vention & Visitors Bureau, the Great Lakes Loons, and Sports Radio 100.9 The Mitt.

A full schedule of events is available at fieldofframesfest.com.



FIELD OF FRAMES FEST KICKOFF PARTY

Saginaw CAP to host forum on education bill Sept. 20

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — A proposed education bill promising equity but criticized for leaving classrooms underfunded will be the focus of a community forum hosted by Saginaw CAP on Sept. 20 at the Central Michigan University Research Corporation building, 203 S. Washington Ave. Doors open at 1 p.m.

The event, titled "The Bill That's About to School Us," is

free and open to the public. Organizers say the forum will unpack what the legislation — dubbed the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" — could mean for students, teachers, and families in Saginaw and beyond. Giveaways and food will be provided.

The forum is part of Saginaw CAP's ongoing work to educate and mobilize residents around issues that directly impact working families. Established as a grassroots coalition, Saginaw CAP — short for Community Action Partnership — has organized campaigns addressing affordable housing, criminal justice reform, and equitable education funding. The group has gained a reputation for using data-driven advocacy and direct community engagement to challenge policies they view as harmful to underserved neighborhoods.

According to the group's ma-



FILE PHOTO

terials, the bill in question "talks equity but leaves our classrooms underfunded" and "props up the same broken education systems." The event aims to break down the legislation's implications and chart a path forward for local advocacy.

Saginaw CAP leaders emphasize that the stakes are particularly high for students in under-

resourced schools. They argue that without real investment in education, families across the region will continue to be left behind while political leaders trade in slogans.

Residents interested in attending the Sept. 20 forum can find more information at www.saginawcap.org.



COMMUNITY

Ericka McDole turns pain into purpose with release of *My Pain, My Power*

BY MB STAFF

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — Ericka Louise McDole, a former Saginaw resident now living in Texas, is turning her personal pain into purpose with the release of her new memoir, *My Pain, My Power*.

The book is a raw and unfiltered look at McDole's life experiences, including childhood trauma, betrayal, abandonment, anxiety, and infidelity. But it is also a story of resilience, forgiveness, and faith. McDole said her goal is to provide a roadmap for others to heal, break generational cycles, and reclaim their identity after hardship.

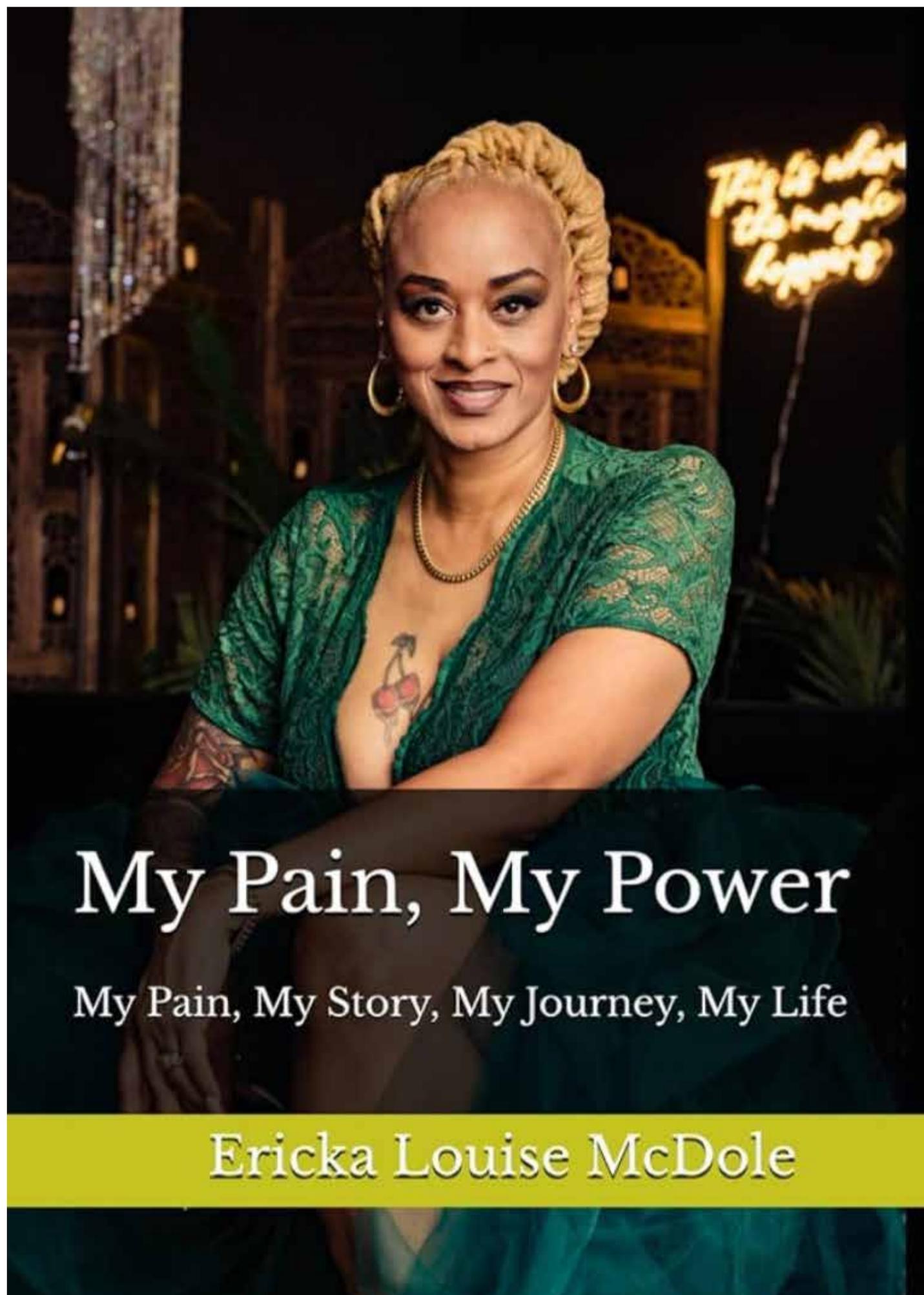
"Writing this was one of the most personal things I've ever done," McDole said. "It was my way of taking back my voice, sharing my truth, and hopefully letting others know they are not alone."

The memoir delves into the stigma surrounding mental health, the struggles of self-discovery, and the importance of self-accountability. McDole also shares her path toward healing through forgiveness and her commitment to living unapologetically with truth and purpose.

The book has been described as more than just a testimony — it is a guide for those navigating pain, depression, or rediscovering their voice. McDole hopes readers will be reminded that their stories don't end with what broke them.

"For every woman who's ever been called 'too much' or 'not enough,' this is for you," McDole writes.

My Pain, My Power is now available on Amazon: <https://a.co/d/gWt4E8p>.

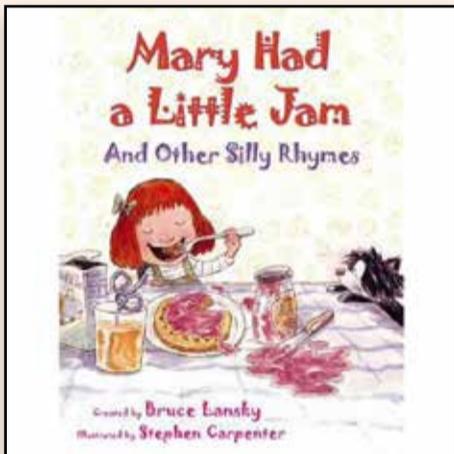


COMMUNITY

Kids may not 'get' the sarcasm, but they'll be in books

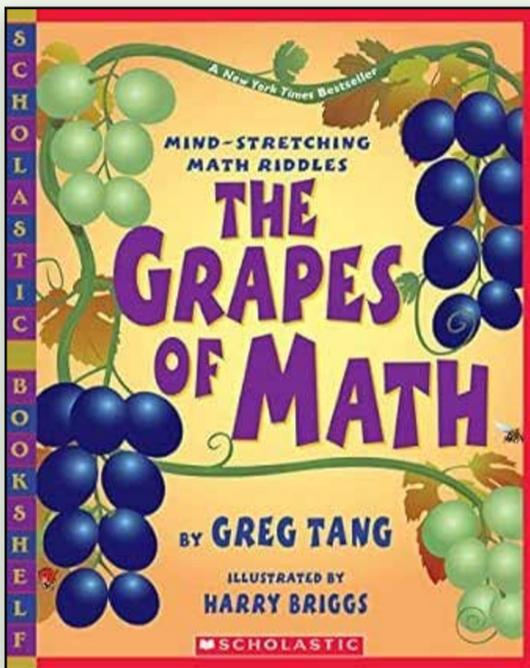
(As the Michigan Banner focuses on literacy, we will offer suggestions for children's books.)

Sometimes the authors of children's stories include jokes that seem over the little ones' heads, aimed more toward the adults' senses of humor. Sometimes this is funny, but too much is a disservice to our students. The satire in this trio is directed toward the youth, even if elders enjoy a chuckle or two.



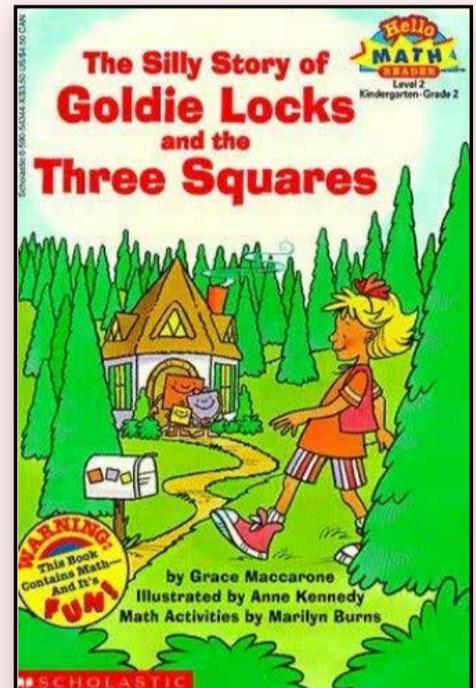
Mary Had a Little Jam
Bruce Lansky, Stephen Carter

"She spread (her jam) on a waffle, and if she hadn't eaten ten, she wouldn't feel so awful." Among other nursery rhymes that get the treatment are Hickory Dickery Dock (mouse jumps up the kid's sock, not the grandfather clock), and Jack and Jill (Jill's ride down the hill leads to a spill from the toboggan that bumps her noggin'),



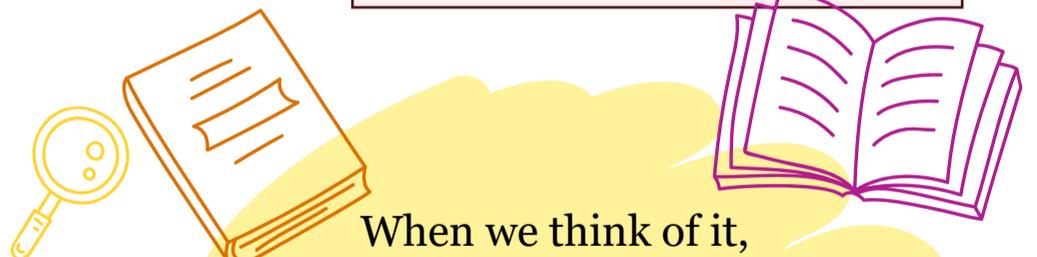
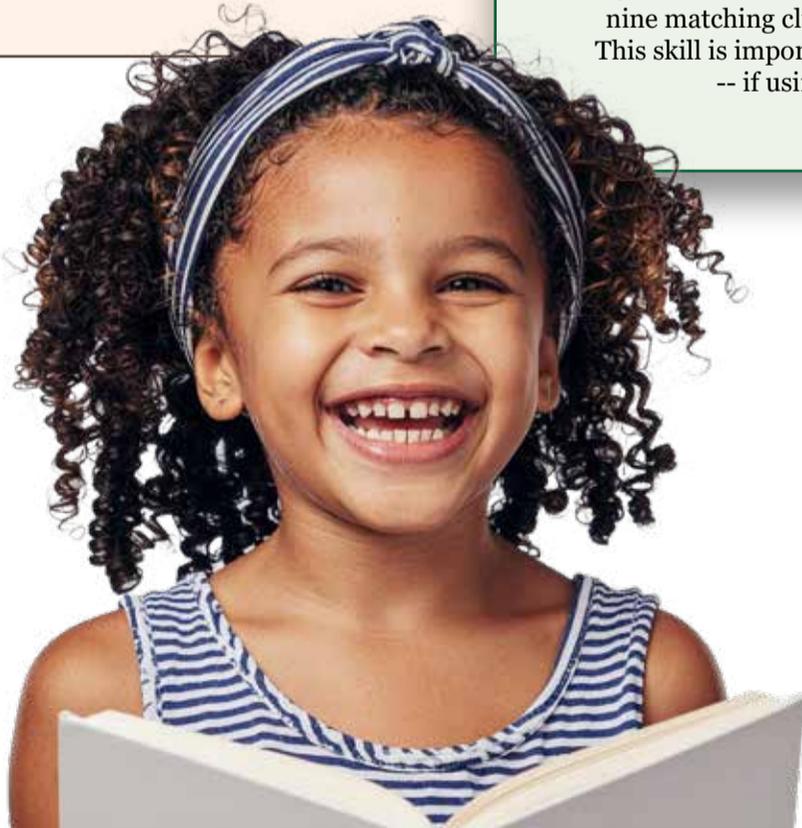
The Grapes of Math
Greg Tang, Harry Briggs

Purple grapes in bunches on the vine outnumber the green ones. How can you count them all? Create matching groups (like nine Concord clusters hanging together in nine matching clusters equals 81 grapes). This skill is important, even -- or especially -- if using a calculator.



Goldie Locks and the Three Squares
Grace Maccarrone, Anne Kennedy

Instead of her porridge being too hot, too cold or just right, our little heroine encounters bowls of noodle soup. They aren't the Campbell's alphabet or stars, but rather in geometric shapes. Thankfully, Goldie gives the triangles a good chewing before she swallows.



When we think of it, some of the comics and cartoons also contain secret little jokes for the grownups. The Flintstones, for example.

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



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.*



Dr. Samuel Shaheen



Senator Ken Horn



Tim Morales



John Kaczynski



Dr. Ramont Roberts

“Power of a Promise” will feature program outcomes, showcase Saginaw Promise scholars, entertainment and a delicious meal. This year’s keynote speaker will feature a panel comprised of individuals to discuss and provide information about the “Medical Diamond” and the exciting opportunities and impact that it will bring to Saginaw.

Panelists include, Dr. Samuel Shaheen, M.D., President and CEO of CMU Medical Education Partners and Professor of Surgery at CMU College of Medicine Department of Surgery, Senator Ken Horn, Tim Morales, Saginaw City Manager, John Kaczynski, Saginaw Valley State University, Vice President for Governmental and Community Affairs and Dr. Ramont Roberts, Superintendent of the Saginaw Public School District. WSGW radio personality and talk show host Art Lewis will serve as panel moderator.

Information for tickets and sponsorship opportunities will soon be available. Funds raised will benefit Saginaw Promise programming and scholarships.

**Promotional
Partner:**



**1 Tuscola St., Suite 200, Saginaw, MI 48607
(989) 607-3428 dsanchez@saginawpromise.org**

COMMUNITY

Saginaw NAACP to honor community leaders at 54th Freedom Fund Dinner

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — The Saginaw Branch NAACP will host its 54th Annual Freedom Fund Celebration on Sunday, Sept. 28, highlighting the theme “The Fierce Urgency of Now” and recognizing outstanding contributions from community leaders and young professionals.

The event begins at 5 p.m. at Horizon’s Conference Center, 6200 State St., and will feature Michigan Supreme Court Justice Noah P. Hood as keynote speaker. Justice Hood, the first African American man appointed to the state’s high court, will address attendees during an evening that blends reflection, recognition and calls to action.

Each year, the Freedom Fund Dinner serves as the Saginaw NAACP’s largest fundraiser, supporting its mission of civil rights advocacy, voter education and youth programming. Tickets are \$80 per person.

This year’s celebration will spotlight three honorees as 2025 Saginaw Heroes: Rhonda Farrell-Butler, Teresa Stitt and Thelma Ruffin.

In addition, the branch will present Young Professional Awards to 10 rising leaders for their outstanding achievements and community service: Latoya Baker, Jasmine Calhoun, Shortorah Carter, Hurley Coleman III, Christian A. Garrett Sr., Deidra Jones, Joshua A. McMillon, Kimberly Pruitt, and Sam Tany.

Organizers say the event will honor both longstanding dedication and emerging voices, reflecting the NAACP’s commitment to fostering leadership across generations.

For more information on the dinner, sponsorship opportunities or tickets, visit the Saginaw NAACP’s official website or contact the branch office.

54th
SAGINAW BRANCH
NAACP FREEDOM FUND
Celebration
Dinner

'THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW'

Keynote Speaker
Justice Noah P. Hood
Michigan Supreme Court

2025 Saginaw Heroes

RHONDA FARRELL-BUTLER
TERESA STITT
THELMA RUFFIN

TICKET \$80
Per Person

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025
FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING
HORIZON'S CONFERENCE CENTER
6200 STATE ST, SAGINAW, MI.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

FOR MORE INFORMATION SCAN CODE

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Rep. Bill G. Schuette opts out of Senate race, will seek re-election to House in 2026



STATE REP. BILL G. SCHUETTE OFFERS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS COMMITTEE ON THURSDAY, MARCH 20. (PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES)

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

MIDLAND, Mich. — State Rep. Bill G. Schuette (R-Midland) says he will pass on running in next year's special election for the open 35th District state Senate seat, instead committing to pursue a third term in the Michigan House in 2026.

The announcement came Friday, less than a month after Gov. Gretchen Whitmer scheduled a May 2026 special general election to fill the Senate vacancy created when Kristen McDonald Rivet (D-Bay City) left Lansing for Washington, D.C. McDonald Rivet won her congressional seat

in January, leaving the Senate district that covers Bay, Midland and Saginaw counties without a representative for more than a year.

Schuette, whose 95th House District includes all of Midland County along with Beaverton, Billings and Tobacco townships in Gladwin County, said his decision was about stability and long-term service. "I have determined the best way for me to work to fill that void and help improve our state is by running for re-election in the State House," he wrote in a statement.

The Legislature enters the fall with high stakes: Democrats hold

a slim 19-18 advantage in the Senate while Republicans maintain control in the House, and lawmakers still have not passed a state budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

Schuette argued that Democrats' handling of the Senate vacancy has left Mid-Michigan residents without adequate representation and criticized the Whitmer administration's record on education, infrastructure and energy costs. He framed his campaign as a commitment to full-term service, contrasting that with what he called partisan maneuvering over open seats.

First elected in 2022, Schuette

now chairs the House Rules Committee and serves on the Finance, Insurance and Judiciary committees. Michigan's term limits allow a lawmaker to serve a total of 12 years across both chambers, leaving him eligible for multiple additional terms in the House or a combination of House and Senate service.

Whitmer, who is term-limited herself, will leave office at the end of 2026. Schuette said he intends to be part of what he called a "change election" that year, positioning himself as a voice for Republicans in Mid-Michigan as the state heads into a new political era.

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Conservative activist Charlie Kirk killed in Utah shooting

BY MB STAFF

Charlie Kirk, a conservative political activist who built a national following as founder of Turning Point USA and became one of the most prominent voices of the MAGA movement, was fatally shot Sept. 10 while speaking at Utah Valley University. He was 31.

Authorities said Kirk was struck in the neck at 12:23 p.m. during a public debate hosted by his organization, "The American Comeback Tour." The shooting happened in front of about 3,000 attendees and unfolded as Kirk was answering a question about mass shootings in America.

He was rushed to Timpanogos Regional Hospital in critical condition and pronounced dead later that afternoon.

FBI Special Agent in Charge Robert Bohls said the investigation remains ongoing and urged witnesses to come forward. Two days after the attack, Utah Gov. Spencer Cox confirmed the arrest of 22-year-old Tyler Robinson of Washington County in connection with the shooting. Cox credited Robinson's family for contacting authorities with information that led to the arrest. "We got him," Cox said during a press conference. Federal officials said they believe Robinson acted alone.

Kirk's death quickly reverberated across the political spectrum and around the world. Former President Donald Trump, a close ally, called for prayers shortly after the shooting and later announced Kirk would receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously. President Joe Biden, along with all living former U.S. presidents, also issued statements condemning the violence. International vigils followed, with mourners gathering outside U.S. embassies in cities from Vienna to Tel Aviv.



CHARLIE KIRK SPEAKING WITH ATTENDEES AT THE 2025 STUDENT ACTION SUMMIT AT THE TAMPA CONVENTION CENTER IN TAMPA, FLORIDA. (PHOTO CREDIT: GAGE SKIDMORE)

Born in Arlington Heights, Ill., Kirk co-founded Turning Point USA in 2012 at age 18, growing it into one of the nation's most visible youth-oriented conservative groups. He later expanded the organization to include Turning Point Action and Turning Point Faith. A fixture at Republican rallies and conferences, Kirk authored several books and hosted The Charlie Kirk Show, a talk radio program that drew a large following.

Though widely praised by supporters for his unapologetic conservatism, he drew heavy criticism for controversial re-

marks on civil rights, immigration and election fraud. He also came under scrutiny for sending busloads of students to Washington for the Jan. 6, 2021, rally that preceded the attack on the U.S. Capitol, where he later invoked his Fifth Amendment rights before Congress.

Kirk's killing renewed national debate over political violence. Republicans accused opponents of fostering a hostile climate, while Democrats pointed to the shooting as evidence of the need for stronger gun control. Federal authorities also opened inquiries into online threats, after sever-

al educators and public figures faced backlash for inflammatory comments about his death.

In recognition of Kirk's role in conservative politics, Trump ordered U.S. flags lowered to half-staff through Sept. 14. A public vigil at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts drew senior Republican lawmakers and administration officials. A larger memorial service is scheduled for Sept. 21 at State Farm Stadium in Arizona, with capacity for more than 60,000 mourners.

Kirk is survived by his wife, Erica, and their daughter.

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

City fire captain joins state Senate campaign

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW, Mich. — A third Democrat is seeking the party's nomination for the open Michigan state senate seat in District 35.

Chedrick Greene, a Saginaw city fire captain and retired soldier, joins Pamela Pugh, state Board of Education president, and Brandell Adams, county Dem chairman. His announcement is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 24, a Wednesday, at Andersen Enrichment Center, across from Ojibway Island. During road construction, attendees may enter on Fordney Street at Garber Courts near the YMCA.

Our most recent state senators were Democrat Kristen McDonald Rivet of Bay City and Republican Ken Horn of Fran-



CHEDRICK GREENE

kenmuth. Back when the district was Saginaw-only, Democrat Jerry Hart held the office before expanded borders paved the way for the GOP's Jon Cisky, and then Dr. Roger Kahn.

When Rivet was elected to the U.S. Congress last fall to follow

the the Dems' Dan Kildee (and prior, his Uncle Dale, from Flint), her departure from the state Senate dropped the party's majority to 19-18. With concern that a special election in District 35 could risk a Repub win and a 19-19 tie, Gov. Gretchen delayed acting to replace Rivet for as long as possible. This is why the party primaries and the special election won't be until next year.

Pugh, Adams and now Greene will be challenged to attract voters in the middle of winter, with party primaries on Feb. 3 to nominate candidates for a general election on May 5.

In addition to his 26 years with the Fire Department, Greene is an Iraq War veteran. His tenure in the Marine Corps Reserves lasted for 30 years, and he retired as a Sergeant Major E-9.

On the Republican side, the

lone candidate so far is Bay City's Chadwick Twillman, vice-president of The Mountain Movers Firm, a financial management company. One of his main platters is critical of Whitmer's delay tactics for filling the seat, and he proposes legislation for a 60-day limit. The GOP may seek a bigger name. State Rep. Bill G. Schuette of Midland, son of the noted Bill D. Schuette, has decided to remain in the House of Reps, as has the Dems' Amos O'Neal of Saginaw.

Gratiot County has been dropped from the old District 35, but portions of Midland and Bay counties are added. Constituents are 75 percent white, 12 percent black and 8 percent Latino, Pugh, Adams and Greene all are African American, and any of them would need large counts of white votes in order to prevail.

Whitmer's road repair push brings resurfacing projects to Saginaw streets

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

SAGINAW, Mich. — Drivers in Saginaw will see lane closures this week as the Michigan Department of Transportation begins resurfacing work on two heavily traveled stretches of roadway.

The projects are part of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's continuing pledge to "fix the damn roads." State officials said the resurfacing will not only improve safety but extend the lifespan of the pavement.

On Monday, MDOT began a \$180,000 investment to resurface westbound M-46, also known as Williams Street, from the Saginaw River to Michigan Avenue. The work, scheduled to wrap up by Sept. 19, is expect-



M-13 AT NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE AND 10TH STREET IN SAGINAW.

ed to support two jobs and will maintain traffic with single-lane closures in both directions.

Another \$410,000 project

started the same day on M-13 (North Washington Avenue), from 10th Street to the railroad tracks near Potter Street. That

job, also scheduled to finish by Sept. 19, is expected to support four jobs. Like the M-46 work, traffic will be reduced to single-lane closures during construction.

Both projects are weather dependent.

According to MDOT, the resurfacing efforts will extend the life of the roads and improve conditions for motorists. The work is among several across Michigan this season as Whitmer pushes to finish thousands of miles of repairs before federal infrastructure funding runs out.

Since 2019, state officials say Michigan has repaired more than 23,000 lane miles of road and 1,600 bridges, supporting more than 188,000 jobs.

MINORITY WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT

Brunch PART 2

September 20, 2025
11 AM- 2PM

Duane Fairris Community Center
1940 S OUTER DRIVE
SAGINAW, MI 48601

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT FOR ALL
TO ENJOY!**

Join us for an engaging opportunity to connect with local officials as they discuss important issues shaping the Saginaw community.

Your voice matters, and together we can make a difference!

Hosted & Sponsored By:



Panelists



LISA INGRAM
Saginaw Township Clerk



JASMINE CALHOUN
Saginaw Public School Board Member



JEANELLE SMITH
Precinct Delegate



HEIDI WIGGINS
Saginaw City Council Member

AMAYA BRADLEY
SAGINAW TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

LATICIA WHITEHEAD
BUENA VISTA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

JACINTA SEALS
SAGINAW CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Trump administration suspends \$350 million in funding for minority-serving institutions, drawing sharp criticism

BY MB STAFF

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Education announced this week that it is suspending \$350 million in federal funding previously designated for minority-serving institutions, a move that has sparked backlash from lawmakers, civil rights advocates and higher education leaders.

Education Secretary Linda McMahon said Sept. 10 the department intends to “re-envision” the grant programs, arguing that resources should focus on “underprepared or under-resourced students” rather than institutions defined by enrollment demographics.

“Stereotyping an individual based on immutable characteristics diminishes the full picture of that person’s life and contributions, including their character, resiliency and merit,” McMahon said in prepared remarks.

The grants, originally authorized by Congress, were designed to boost minority enrollment in science and engineering fields and support institutions serving large Black, Latino, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian populations. Hundreds of two- and four-year colleges nationwide could be affected.

The announcement was met with immediate criticism from Democrats in Congress. Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), the top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee, accused the administration of putting “politics ahead of students simply looking to get ahead” and disrupting long-standing federal programs.

“These are longstanding programs that Congress has authorized and provided funding for on an annual basis,” Murray said. “This is another important re-



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

minder of why Congress needs to pass funding bills ... that ensure Congress — not Donald Trump or Linda McMahon — decides how limited taxpayer dollars are spent.”

The Department of Justice has also stepped back from defending minority-serving institutions in court, declining to intervene in a lawsuit challenging programs for Hispanic-serving colleges that meet a 25 percent Latino enrollment threshold. U.S. Solicitor General John D. Sauer told House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) that the administration believes such programs “violate the Constitution.”

Critics say the Education Department’s own actions could face legal hurdles. Amanda Fuchs Miller, a former deputy

assistant secretary for higher education programs under the Biden administration, told Inside Higher Ed that the suspension “violates the statute and violates Congress’s power of purse to appropriate funds,” adding that “the executive branch can’t just declare these programs unconstitutional.”

Education advocates warn that the decision could destabilize higher education systems already under strain. Roxanne Garza, director of higher education policy at the Education Trust, called the situation “a dangerous and very unpredictable environment for our schools, our universities, [and] the grantees that essentially depend on this funding.”

Civil rights leaders also tied the announcement to broader

concerns about racial equity in education. Attorney and CNN legal analyst Areva Martin wrote on X that “calling fairness ‘racist’ is nothing but gaslighting,” adding that the administration’s stance, paired with recent threats against historically Black colleges and universities, “is targeting HBCUs and Black students directly.”

It remains unclear how many institutions will lose access to funds, or whether lawsuits may be filed to block the administration’s plan. For now, the suspension leaves colleges and universities uncertain about whether key programs for minority students will continue beyond this fiscal year.

HEALTH

Michigan marks 988 Day, highlights lifeline during Suicide Prevention Month



FILE PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan health officials are reminding residents that help is only three digits away as the state observes the second annual 988 Day during National Suicide Prevention Month.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) joined with the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration on Monday to raise awareness of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, a nationwide hotline offering immediate support for people

in emotional distress.

“Strengthening crisis care and mental health services continues to be a top priority in Michigan and 988 is an important part of that effort,” said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. “We encourage anyone experiencing a crisis, whether personally or through one of their family members, to use this resource whenever needed.”

The 988 Lifeline, previously known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, operates 24/7 with trained staff providing confidential support for people experiencing anxiety, depression,

suicidal thoughts, substance use issues, or other crises. In Michigan, the average response time is 13 seconds.

Since its launch in July 2022, nearly 261,000 calls from Michigan residents have been answered. State data show the line is making an impact: more than half of callers initially reported overwhelming levels of distress, but by the end of their calls only 14% remained at that level.

The need is urgent. According to the 2024 State of Mental Health in America report, almost 23% of Michigan adults have a mental illness, and more than

424,000 reported having serious thoughts of suicide. Among young people, more than one in 10 reported suicidal ideation.

The lifeline offers specialized services for veterans and Spanish speakers, with translation available in more than 250 additional languages. Text and chat options are also available, though currently only in English.

Callers worried about a loved one can also dial 988 for guidance and support.

For more information, visit the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline or the Michigan Crisis & Access Line.

HEALTH

Michigan highlights recovery support during National Recovery Month

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan is marking National Recovery Month by spotlighting new investments aimed at helping residents living with substance use disorder sustain long-term recovery.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer declared September as Recovery Month in Michigan, while the state Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) emphasized its growing network of prevention, treatment, harm reduction and support services.

“Recovery Month is an opportunity to honor the strength of Michiganders in recovery and



NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH GRAPHIC

to recognize that substance use disorder is a treatable condition,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, the state’s chief medical executive. “With the right supports, recovery is possible for anyone.”

Recent initiatives include

\$2.5 million in settlement funds to expand recovery housing, \$28 million for naloxone and fentanyl test strips, and the launch of three mobile medication units. The state also reports distributing nearly 1.5 million naloxone

kits, with more than 34,000 uses documented.

Other efforts include recovery-friendly workplace training for 32 employers, more than 25,000 rides to treatment services this year, and \$3 million for community-based recovery centers. More than 4,500 people on probation have also connected with recovery coaches since October.

State leaders say the programs are designed to break down barriers to care and reduce overdose deaths, ensuring recovery resources are available in every community.

More information is available at Michigan.gov/SUD.



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EDUCATION

Glenn Maleyko signs contract to become Michigan's next state superintendent



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS JUDITH PRITCHETT, LEFT, AND PAMELA PUGH, RIGHT, WATCH AS GLENN MALEYKO SIGNS HIS CONTRACT TO BECOME MICHIGAN'S NEXT STATE SUPERINTENDENT ON SEPT. 16, 2025. (COURTESY OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION)

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — Glenn Maleyko, the longtime superintendent of Dearborn Public Schools, has officially signed a three-year contract to serve as Michigan's next state superintendent of public instruction.

The agreement was finalized Tuesday as Maleyko joined State Board of Education President Pamela Pugh and Secretary Judith Pritchett for the signing ceremony. Maleyko, who has led Dearborn schools since 2015, will assume his new post on Dec. 8.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to support children and families, educators, and other school staff at all of Michigan's public schools," Maleyko

said. "From my experience in Dearborn Public Schools and the relationships I have with educators across the state, I know that local districts, the Michigan Department of Education, and the State Board of Education are all strongly committed to doing whatever we can to improve student achievement."

The board voted Aug. 26 to appoint Maleyko as the successor to Michael F. Rice, who will retire Oct. 3 after serving as state superintendent since 2019. Chief Deputy Superintendent Sue C. Carnell will serve as interim superintendent beginning Oct. 4 until Maleyko takes over in December.

Board President Pugh praised the transition plan and expressed confidence in the incoming su-

perintendent. "The State Board of Education looks forward to Dr. Maleyko becoming state superintendent so that he can help us continue to advance Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan and make further improvements to public education," Pugh said.

Maleyko brings three decades of experience in Michigan's third-largest school district, where he has served as a teacher, principal, central office administrator, and superintendent. Under his leadership, Dearborn's graduation rate rose to 95 percent, six schools earned National Blue Ribbon School honors, and nearly three-quarters of graduates moved on to college.

He also served as president of the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Adminis-

trators in 2023-24, represents Michigan on the National School Superintendents Association Governing Board, and chairs a statewide committee for English learners that he launched in 2023.

A Wayne State University doctoral graduate in educational leadership and policy studies, Maleyko also earned degrees from University of Detroit Mercy and the University of Windsor.

His appointment comes as the Michigan Department of Education continues to push toward the eight goals outlined in the state's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan, which include improving literacy, graduation rates, and access to career pathways.

CMU names Erica Johnson associate vice president of student affairs



ERICA JOHNSON

BY MB STAFF

MOUNT PLEASANT, Mich. — Central Michigan University has appointed Erica Johnson as its new associate vice president of student affairs, elevating a longtime campus leader who has been serving in the role on an interim basis for nearly three years.

Johnson, who began her new position Sept. 1, was selected after a national search. She succeeds herself as interim assistant vice president of student affairs, a role she has held since October 2022.

In announcing the appointment, Shawna Patterson-Stephens, CMU's vice president of university engagement and student affairs, said Johnson's ex-

perience and commitment to students made her the right fit.

"Our ideal candidate was someone with extensive experience in student and community engagement, staff training and development, as well as a commitment to cultivating an environment of care and concern for all," Patterson-Stephens said. "Erica brings those vital skills and experience to this role, along with a deep knowledge of Central Michigan University, including its opportunities and challenges."

Johnson oversees several key units within the Division of University Engagement and Student Affairs, including the Mary Ellen Brandell Volunteer Center, the Sarah R. Opperman Leadership Institute, the Office of Student Conduct, and Student Activities

and Involvement. She also works closely with CMU's Residence Life and Multicultural Academic Student Services to strengthen campus life and student success initiatives.

In her interim post, Johnson led a team of more than 60 full-time staff and 150 student employees across multiple departments, managing a \$32 million budget while serving on committees addressing student engagement, emergency management, voting initiatives, strategic planning, and accreditation preparation.

"I am thrilled to continue serving students and the CMU community in the AVP role," Johnson said. "It's an honor to work with such a dedicated team and campus and community

partners to bolster student engagement, well-being, learning, and success every day."

Johnson has deep roots at CMU, where she previously held leadership roles in the Volunteer Center and Student Activities and Involvement. Beyond CMU, she worked in career services at Miami University and student organization services at the University of Maryland, and has published research in student affairs.

She earned her doctorate in higher education leadership from CMU in 2023, a master's degree in college student personnel from Miami University, and a bachelor's degree in professional accountancy and management from Saginaw Valley State University.



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Building resilience in our children



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS

The 2025-26 school year is underway. The energy and excitement are easy to see! Students are adjusting to routines, activities, and events that seem to arrive one after another. During this busy pace, parents and guardians may wonder: What are a few key things to watch to support student success?

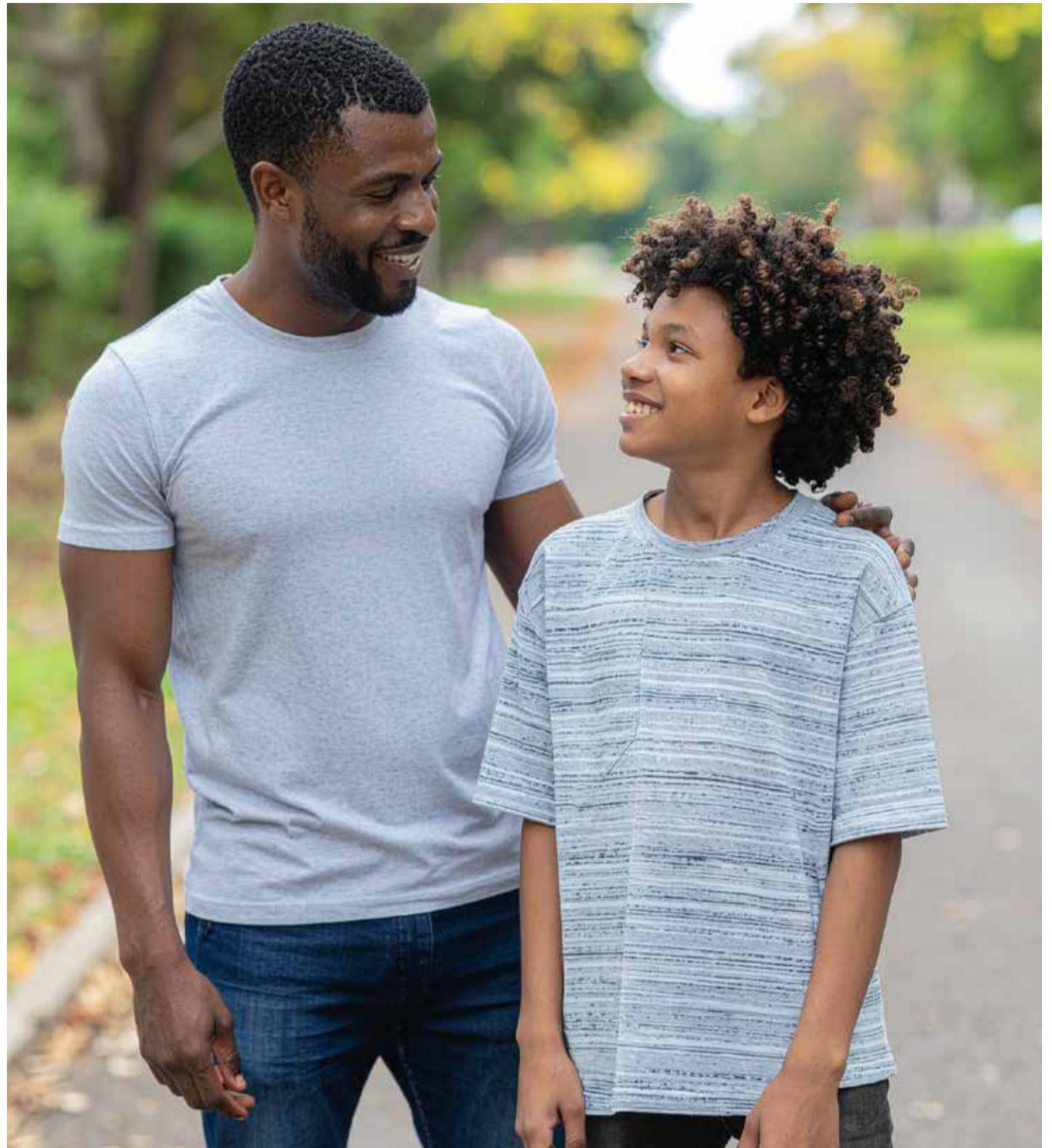
I have chosen to highlight three simple and yet, important areas:

Physical and mental health

A full day of classes can be a challenge on its own, but many students also take on volunteer work, part-time jobs, or extracurricular activities. Parents are encouraged to watch closely for signs of fatigue or stress. Adequate sleep, healthy meals, regular exercise, and intentional downtime all play a role in maintaining balance. Helping students develop positive coping strategies for stress is equally important.

Academic achievement

Nearly all schools now provide digital tools—such as parent portals—that allow families to track grades, assignments, and teacher feedback in real time. Monitoring these updates regularly can help identify early struggles in coursework. If homework, quizzes, or test scores show signs of slipping, parents should take quick action. Developing a plan with teachers or tutors early can



FILE PHOTO

prevent a small issue from becoming a major setback.

Building school connections

Establishing relationships with teachers, counselors, and other school staff right from the start can make a lasting difference. By reaching out, introducing themselves, and showing

support, parents create a foundation for strong communication throughout the year. This teamwork can provide timely updates and solutions when challenges arise. Later in the semester if something comes up, the school will know you when they call.

A successful school year does not just happen—it re-

quires monitoring, communication, and encouragement from parents and guardians. With steady attention, families can witness not only academic progress but also the personal growth that comes with a well-rounded school experience.

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EDUCATION

Michigan education leaders push mandate to boost early literacy skills



FILE PHOTO

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan's State Board of Education is urging lawmakers to require all K-5 teachers to complete specialized training in the science of reading, saying the move is critical to reversing the state's early literacy struggles.

In a resolution passed this week, the board called on the Michigan Legislature to mandate and fund statewide Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training. The board also pressed for expanded family literacy programs that provide free books and resources to support reading at home, affirming literacy as a cornerstone of Michigan's educational and economic future.

"Improving early literacy achievement is a top priority for the board and one of the eight

goals in Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan," said board co-vice president Tiffany Tilley. "More than 5,000 educators in the state have completed this rigorous training, while another 7,000 have begun the training. However, because the training is not mandated, some teachers do not have access to LETRS or decide not to take advantage of this important professional development. We need mandatory LETRS training."

The Michigan Department of Education and outgoing State Superintendent Michael Rice have long advocated for the mandate, along with other literacy reforms. Rice has urged lawmakers to pair the training with investments in high-quality early literacy materials, lower class sizes in high-poverty K-3 classrooms,

and additional in-person instructional time, which he said was reduced under changes enacted by the Legislature in 2019.

"These four research-based strategies—mandatory science of reading professional development for our K-5 educators, high-quality early literacy materials, low class sizes in high poverty K-3 classrooms, and more in-person student instructional time—would give our students and staff additional tools to improve reading achievement," Rice said.

The resolution comes as Michigan begins rolling out provisions of a historic literacy and dyslexia law passed in 2024. The law requires schools to use benchmark assessments, screen students for characteristics of dyslexia, intervene early when

challenges are identified, and provide access to a vetted list of high-quality literacy materials. It also expands the use of literacy coaches across the state.

Education leaders say the LETRS training is one of the most effective tools for equipping teachers with the skills needed to help students learn to read. Developed by literacy expert Louisa Moats, the program emphasizes phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension—all supported by decades of research.

By mandating the training, the board says Michigan could close persistent literacy gaps, better prepare its workforce, and strengthen long-term outcomes for children across the state.

MI Tri-Share CHILD CARE



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4 People	\$64,300	\$128,600	8 People	\$108,300	\$216,600
5 People	\$75,300	\$150,600	9 People	\$119,300	\$238,600

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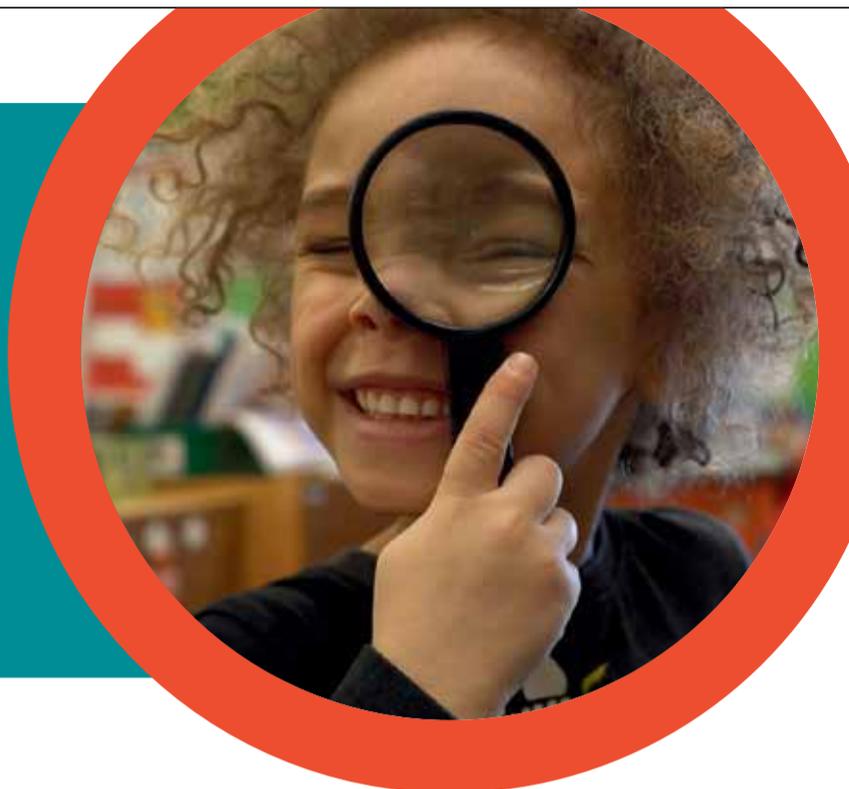
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Head Start programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families.

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.

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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

Leadership transitions at Amigo Mobility as founder's son takes helm

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

BRIDGEPORT TOWNSHIP, Mich. — After 50 years at the center of Amigo Mobility's growth from a small Michigan startup to a global leader in personal mobility devices, Beth Thieme has stepped down as president of the company.

Thieme, who officially transitioned on Aug. 29, will continue serving as CEO on a part-time basis. On Sept. 1, her son, Jordan Thieme, assumed the role of president to oversee the company's day-to-day operations and continue a family legacy rooted in innovation.

"When I stepped into the role of president in March 2020, one of my top priorities was to ensure a smooth and thoughtful transition for the next generation of leadership at Amigo," Beth said. She added that choosing her 50th anniversary with the company as the transition date "gave our leadership team ample time to prepare and grow into their evolving roles."

Founded in 1968 by Beth's late husband, Al Thieme, Amigo Mobility was born from necessity when Al invented the world's first motorized personal mobility scooter in his garage to help a family member living with multiple sclerosis. From that invention, the company grew into a trusted name in mobility solutions, serving hospitals, airports, retail stores and homes worldwide. Amigo holds numerous patents and has earned recognition for customer-centered innovations.

Jordan Thieme began working at Amigo 15 years ago in production and has steadily risen through the ranks. Along the way,



BETH THIEME, LEFT, RECENTLY STEPPED DOWN AS PRESIDENT OF AMIGO MOBILITY AFTER 50 YEARS, WITH HER SON JORDAN THIEME, RIGHT, SUCCEEDING HER AS PRESIDENT ON SEPT. 1. (PHOTO COURTESY OF AMIGO MOBILITY)

he has managed building expansions and presided over a period of workforce growth that nearly doubled the company's size.

"I'm honored to step into this role and carry on my family's legacy at Amigo," Jordan said. "Together, we'll continue building innovative solutions that improve lives through mobility, while driving growth, strengthening our company, and caring for our customers like family."

Beth and Al Thieme, while scaling back their day-to-day involvement, say they are looking forward to enjoying more time with family while remaining engaged with the business.

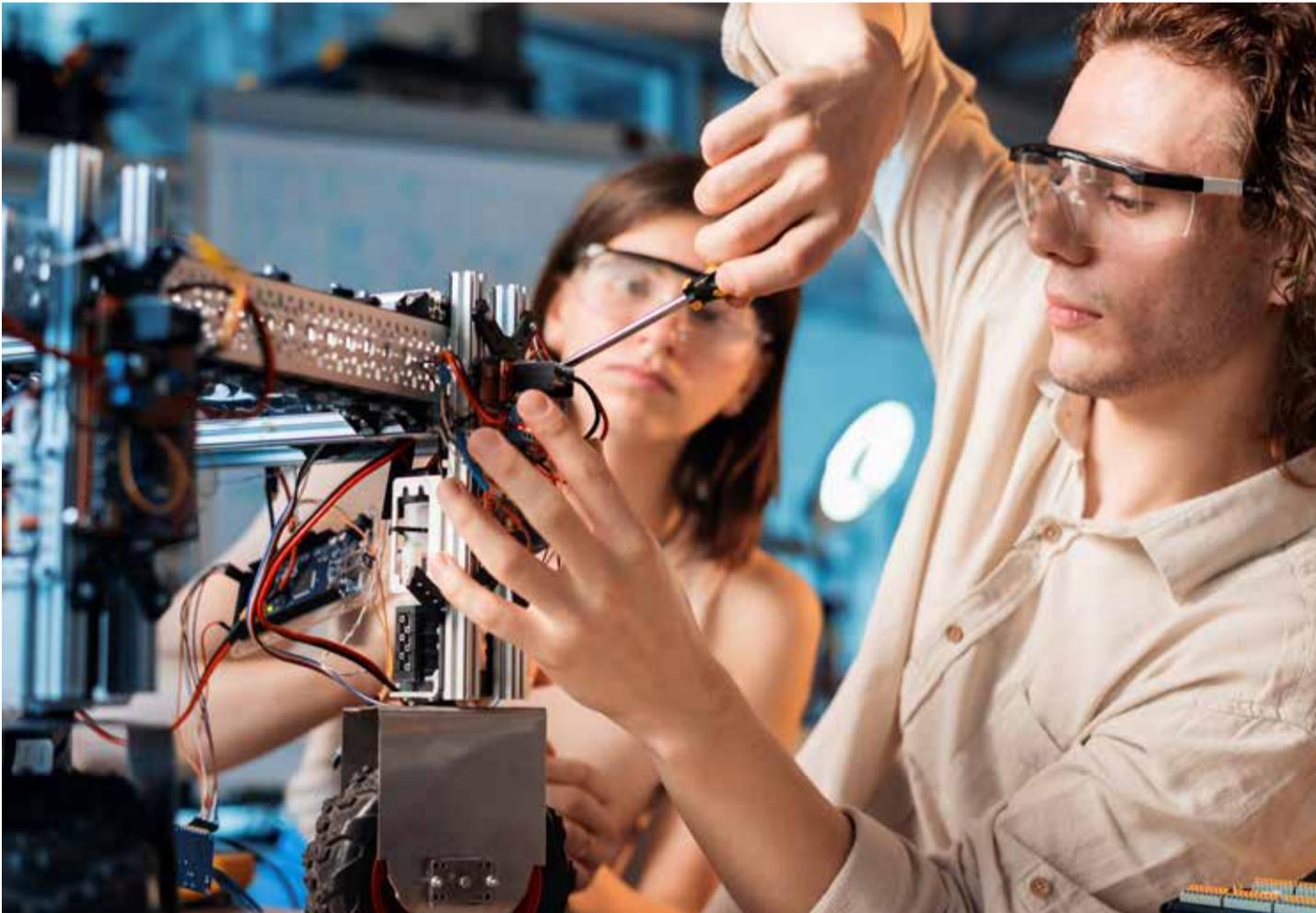
Amigo's leadership team now includes Gary Adams, director of sales; Mike LaBrake, director of customer service; Ryan Maher, director of finance and administration; Jennifer Thieme-Kehres, director of business develop-

ment; and Bill Whitaker, director of operations. With decades of experience, they are positioned to help guide the company's next chapter.

From a garage-built prototype to a worldwide company with the mission Improving Lives Through Mobility®, Amigo has stayed rooted in mid-Michigan while transforming how people around the world live, move and connect.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Great Lakes Bay Region launches advanced manufacturing partnership



STUDENTS WORK ON A ROBOTICS PROJECT DURING A STEM PROGRAM. A NEW PARTNERSHIP IN THE GREAT LAKES BAY REGION AIMS TO EXPAND HANDS-ON LEARNING IN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THOUSANDS OF PREK-12 STUDENTS. (FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

BAY CITY, Mich. — Education and business leaders in the Great Lakes Bay Region are joining forces with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to create what they call a “world-class talent development pipeline” aimed at preparing students for careers in advanced manufacturing.

The initiative, announced Sept. 10 at the Bay-Arenac Intermediate School District Career Center, is backed by a \$269,000 grant from MEDC and the MiSTEM Network. It will expand science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) opportunities for PreK-12 students across eight counties: Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw.

Organizers project that at least 10,000 students will participate in classroom activities, museum programs and community STEM events during the upcoming academic year. More than 75 teachers and counselors will also take part in company tours and professional development to better connect lessons to career opportunities.

“Our goal is to be one of the nation’s leading PreK-12 educational institutions in advanced manufacturing programming,” said Bay-Arenac ISD Superintendent Shelly DuCharme. “We are committed to providing accessible and industry-relevant knowledge and training that will equip PreK-12 students ... with unparalleled expertise necessary to excel in these high-demand,

high-paying sectors.”

The partnership brings together a wide range of regional players, from school districts and community colleges to Saginaw Valley State University, Central Michigan University and the Midland Center for the Arts’ Mobile Museums program. The effort will focus heavily on skills tied to Michigan’s high-tech industries, including electronics, circuits, electric vehicles, semiconductors and mobility.

Hemlock Semiconductor, one of the region’s largest advanced manufacturers, is a cornerstone partner. The company, a leading global producer of hyper-pure polysilicon used in microchips and solar panels, is the only polysilicon manufacturer headquartered in the United States.

“STEM education is a stra-

tegic investment in our region,” said AB Ghosh, Hemlock Semiconductor’s chairman and CEO. “We’re proud to partner with the Great Lakes Bay Region to create real-world experiences that inspire youth and strengthen our local workforce – building the talent and resilience our industry needs to thrive.”

Michigan leaders say the initiative aligns with the state’s strategy to expand its semiconductor and clean-energy sectors. In the last fiscal year, the MiSTEM Network’s \$7.9 million state investment leveraged \$11.5 million in partner contributions, reaching more than 55,000 students and training over 8,000 educators statewide.

Former state lawmaker Ken Horn, now executive vice president of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance, said he expects the partnership to serve as a national model. “I am confident our effort will be recognized throughout Michigan and the entire country as the blueprint for how to build a world-class talent pipeline,” Horn said.

State Rep. Amos O’Neal, D-Saginaw, echoed that sentiment, saying the program will build on Michigan’s early success in identifying the skills needed to grow the semiconductor industry.

The partnership’s long-term goal, leaders said, is to ensure that every student in the region graduates with career awareness, practical experience and a post-secondary plan tied to emerging industries.

“This truly is a unique and powerful partnership,” said MEDC Director of Strategic Talent Initiatives Spencer Lucker. “Michigan is a global leader and hub for advanced manufacturing and innovation ... and MEDC is proud to make this investment to continue that tradition.”

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BUSINESS + FINANCE



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Corteva breaks ground on \$27.5M research facility in Midland



CORTEVA HAS BEGUN CONSTRUCTION ON A \$27.5 MILLION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LAB IN MIDLAND, EXPECTED TO OPEN IN 2027 WHILE RETAINING 45 JOBS. (COURTESY OF CORTEVA)

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

MIDLAND, Mich. — Corteva Agriscience has started construction on a new \$27.5 million research and development laboratory in Midland, strengthening the city's standing as a hub for agricultural and chemical innovation.

The Midland Process Research & Development Lab, located at the company's existing site in the Midland Industrial Park, will feature state-of-the-art analytical labs, wet chemistry spaces and continuous processing capabilities. Completion is expected in early 2027.

"As part of our commitment

to investing in innovation and manufacturing in Michigan, we're excited to announce the groundbreaking of a new R&D lab at our Midland location," said Gerd Dieterich, Corteva's Midland site leader. "The new facility will help us better deliver new technology to our customers and is expected to be operational in early 2027."

Corteva officials said the lab will integrate analytical science, chemistry and engineering to accelerate problem-solving and support advances in crop protection and sustainable agriculture. While the project is not expected to add new jobs, it will provide advanced facilities for 45 existing employees, helping retain high-

quality positions in the region.

"This facility embodies Corteva's commitment to advancing crop health through science, collaboration and purpose-driven research," the company said in a statement.

The City of Midland approved an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption earlier this year, and state development incentives are under review. Local leaders say the investment underscores Midland's role as a center for science-driven industries.

"Corteva's \$27.5 million expansion will retain high-quality jobs and deepen its presence in Midland," said Nicole Wilson, vice president of economic development at the Midland Business

Alliance. "We're proud to support this expansion, which builds on Midland's legacy of innovation while creating meaningful opportunities for the people who call our place home."

Corteva's project comes as other industrial investments take shape in Midland. DuPont recently announced a \$20 million expansion of its Specialty Electronic Materials facility, a move expected to create 20 new full-time jobs and retain nine positions. Together, the expansions signal confidence in Midland's workforce and its future as a center for innovation in agriculture and advanced materials.

SPORTS

Northwood controls 50th Axe Bowl, defeats Saginaw Valley 38-14



NORTHWOOD KEEPS THE AXE WITH 38-14 WIN OVER SVSU

BY MB STAFF

UNIVERSITY CENTER, Mich. — The Axe is staying in Midland.

Northwood jumped on rival Saginaw Valley State early and never let up, cruising to a 38-14 win Saturday night in the 50th Axe Bowl at Wickes Stadium. The Timberwolves (2-0) built a 35-point cushion before the Cardinals (1-2) scored in the second half, sealing their second straight Axe Bowl victory and just their first back-to-back series wins since 2006-07.

Northwood set the tone on the opening drive, when senior defensive back Cole Simpson picked off SVSU and returned possession to the Timberwolves. Two plays later, a trick pass from Case Boos to his brother Lake covered 40 yards, and quarterback Ethan Hamby

capped the drive with a six-yard strike to Lake Boos for the first score.

Hamby and Devin Brown connected on a 16-yard touchdown minutes later, and a punishing 94-yard march in the second quarter ended with Pauly Seeley's two-yard plunge. By halftime, Northwood held a 28-0 lead, outgaining SVSU 317-72 and forcing two interceptions from Simpson.

Hamby finished 19-of-32 for 241 yards and three touchdowns, adding a rushing score. Case Boos caught six passes for 127 yards, while Brown combined for two touchdowns — a 16-yard reception and an 11-yard run.

Simpson was a defensive standout with two interceptions, five tackles and a tackle for loss, while linebacker Joe Lathers led Northwood with 11 stops and a sack.

Saginaw Valley found

the end zone on a 75-yard drive in the third quarter, capped by Nicholas Patterson's two-yard run. Mason McKenzie added a fourth-quarter strike to Terrence Brown Jr., but the early deficit was too steep. McKenzie passed for 131 yards and a touchdown while rushing for 61, moving into SVSU's top 10 all-time passers with 2,748 career yards.

Northwood's 24-point margin marked its second-largest victory in the rivalry, behind only a 79-49 win in 1998.

The Timberwolves will try to extend their momentum next week, while SVSU travels to Connecticut for its lone out-of-state matchup of the season at New Haven on Sept. 20.

FINAL: Northwood 38, SVSU 14

LOCATION: Wickes Stadium, University Center

SVSU men's golf finishes ninth at Midwest/Central Regional Preview

BY MB STAFF

BIG RAPIDS, Mich. — The Saginaw Valley State men's golf team earned a top-10 finish this week at the Midwest/Central Regional Preview, hosted by Ferris State at Katke Golf Course.



The Cardinals placed ninth out of 19 teams with a three-round score of 897 (+45) in a tournament that stretched into a second day after darkness halted play Monday evening.

Evan Klein of Guelph, Ontario, led the way for SVSU, tying for 14th overall in the 106-player field. Klein posted rounds of 73, 76 and 72 for a total of 221 (+8), highlighted by the team's lone eagle on the par-five 15th during his final round.

Freshman AJ Liguori (Flushing) impressed in his collegiate debut, tying for 23rd with a 223 (+10) after rounds of 74, 77 and 72.

Senior Tony Spicuzza (Grandville) added a 228 (+15), fueled by four birdies in his second round. Garrett Morrison (Flushing) was steady at 229 (+16), while Dominik Dostal (Bloomfield Hills) rounded out the lineup with a 234 (+21).

Klein, Liguori and Spicuzza each recorded four birdies across the tournament, matching Morrison's team-high.

The finish marked improvement for both Morrison and Dostal compared with their performances last week, giving SVSU momentum heading into the heart of its fall schedule.





SEASON SCHEDULE

2025-26 SAGINAW SPIRIT

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 SOO 7:07 PM	20 FLNT 7:05 PM
21	22	23	24	25	26 NIAG 7:05 PM	27 GUE 7:05 PM
28	29	30				

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 GUE 7:07 PM	4 OS 4:00 PM
5 OSH 6:05 PM	6	7	8	9	10	11 KIT 7:05 PM
12	13	14	15 SOO 7:07 PM	16	17	18 FLNT 7:00 PM
19 FLNT 5:30 PM	20	21	22	23	24 ER 7:05 PM	25 OS 7:05 PM
26 WSR 4:05 PM	27	28	29	30 FLNT 7:05 PM	31	

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 WSR 7:05 PM
2 BFD 5:30 PM	3	4	5	6	7 KIT 7:00 PM	8 NB 7:05 PM
9	10	11	12	13 BAR 7:00 PM	14	15 SBY 7:05 PM
16 NB 3:00 PM	17	18	19	20	21 WSR 7:05 PM	22 WSR 7:05 PM
23	24	25	26 FLNT 7:00 PM	27	28 LDN 7:00 PM	29 LDN 7:05 PM
30						

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5 GUE 7:07 PM	6 BRAM 4:00 PM	
7	8	9	10	11	12 LDN 7:00 PM	13 KIT 7:05 PM
14	15	16	17 SOO 7:05 PM	18	19	20 OSH 7:05 PM
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 SOO 2:07 PM	29	30 SAR 7:05 PM	31 WSR 2:05 PM			

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 SOO 7:05 PM
4 BRAM 5:30 PM	5	6	7	8 KGN 7:05 PM	9 FLNT 7:00 PM	10 WSR 7:05 PM
11	12	13	14	15	16 KIT 7:00 PM	17 ER 7:00 PM
18	19	20	21	22 PBO 7:05 PM	23 KGN 7:05 PM	24
25 OTT 3:00 PM	26	27	28	29	30 SAR 7:05 PM	31 BAR 7:05 PM

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 SOO 7:05 PM	5	6 ER 7:05 PM	7 LDN 7:05 PM
8	9	10	11 FLNT 7:00 PM	12	13 SAR 7:05 PM	14 WSR 7:05 PM
15	16 WSR 2:05 PM	17	18	19 SBY 7:05 PM	20	21 SAR 7:05 PM
22 GUE 5:30 PM	23	24	25	26 OTT 7:05 PM	27	28 PBO 7:05 PM

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5 NIAG 7:00 PM	6 BFD 7:00 PM	7
8 ER 2:07 PM	9	10	11	12	13	14 FLNT 7:05 PM
15 SAR 2:05 PM	16	17	18 SOO 7:05 PM	19	20 SOO 7:07 PM	21 SAR 7:05 PM
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

TEAM ABBREVIATIONS

BARRIE COLTS - BAR
BRAMPTON STEELHEADS - BRAM
BRANTFORD BULLDOGS - BFD
ERIE OTTERS - ER
FLINT FIREBIRDS - FLNT
GUELPH STORM - GUE
KINGSTON FRONTENACS - KGN

KITCHENER RANGERS - KIT
LONDON KNIGHTS - LDN
NIAGARA ICEDOGS - NIAG
NORTH BAY BATTALION - NB
OSHAWA GENERALS - OSH
OTTAWA 67'S - OTT
OWEN SOUND ATTACK - OS

PETERBOROUGH PETES - PBO
SARNIA STING - SAR
SOO GREYHOUNDS - SOO
SUDBURY WOLVES - SBY
WINDSOR SPITFIRES - WSR

HOME **AWAY**

SPORTS

Saginaw's Jermaine Franklin earns decision over Ivan Dychko in sluggish heavyweight bout



JERMAINE FRANKLIN UPSET IVAN DYCHKO IN LAS VEGAS BY UNANIMOUS DECISION ON SATURDAY NIGHT AT ALLEGiant STADIUM IN LAS VEGAS.

BY MB STAFF

LAS VEGAS — It wasn't pretty, but Jermaine Franklin Jr. walked away with the win.

The Saginaw native scored a unanimous decision over Kazakhstan's Ivan Dychko on Saturday night during the undercard of the Canelo Alvarez–Terence Crawford showdown at Allegiant Stadium. Judges scored it 97-92, 96-93 and 95-94 in favor of Franklin, who improved to 24-2

(15 KOs).

The fight was far from a showcase. Both heavyweights plodded through 10 cautious rounds, drawing boos from the crowd as they jabbed, clinched and rarely exchanged clean shots. Franklin's corner urged him to push the pace and throw more combinations, but neither fighter found a rhythm.

Still, Franklin had the edge in the later rounds. He landed a solid right hand in the seventh

and followed with a head shot in the eighth as Dychko was docked a point for excessive holding. The 6-foot-9 Dychko, a two-time Olympic bronze medalist, looked fatigued after the midway point and failed to use his height or reach to his advantage. The loss was his first as a professional, dropping him to 15-1 (14 KOs).

For Franklin, 31, the win carried extra weight. He entered the bout grieving the loss of his father last month. It also marked

his return to the win column after high-profile decision losses in the United Kingdom to Dillian Whyte in 2022 and former world champion Anthony Joshua in 2023.

While the bout lacked fireworks, Franklin did enough to grind out a victory and hand Dychko his first defeat. The Saginaw fighter left Las Vegas with another notch in his record, even if the performance didn't quiet the boos.

FAITH IN FOCUS



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

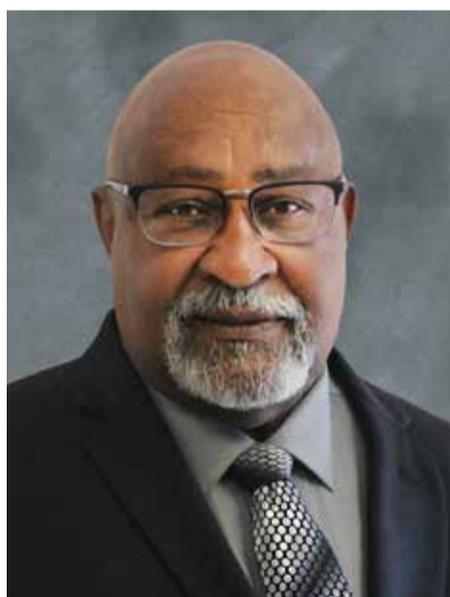
Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

BY PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

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

The organization's vision includes several key objectives:



PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

between the church, volunteers, and community professionals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPONSORED CONTENT

FAITH IN FOCUS

Faith Ministries Church to celebrate 35 years of pastoral leadership

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

MIDLAND, Mich. — Faith Ministries Church will mark a milestone on Sunday, Oct. 5, when members, friends and covenant partners gather to honor Apostle Anthony Revis and First Lady Prophetess Linda J. Kemp Revis for 35 years of pastoral leadership.

The anniversary service begins at 3:30 p.m. at the church, located at 3420 East Ashman St. in Midland. The day will feature worship, music and tributes celebrating the couple's decades of service and commitment to ministry.

The celebration will also include guest ministers and congregations from across the region. Pastor Michael Washington of The Way, The Truth and The Life Ministries in Saginaw will deliver the morning message at 10:15 a.m. Later, Pastor Taurus Simpson Sr. of Daniel's Den Ministries in Saginaw will serve as guest speaker during the afternoon service. Special guests will also include The New Christ Community Church of Saginaw, represented by Pastors Eugene and Joyce Seals, Pastor Audrey Parker and Minister Demona Reed.

Faith Ministries Church is highlighting the anniversary under the theme "Following the

Divine Assignment," taken from Acts 20:28, a verse calling for shepherds to faithfully care for the church. Organizers said the day of celebration will blend worship, reflection and gratitude for the couple's enduring leadership.

Apostle Revis and Prophetess Revis have led Faith Ministries since its founding, guiding the congregation through growth and outreach while building strong ties in Midland and surrounding communities. Members say the

35th anniversary serves as both a reflection of their impact and a reminder of the mission to carry faith forward.

The public is invited to attend the service, which is free and open to all.

FAITH MINISTRIES CHURCH
35th Pastors' Anniversary
Pastor Anthony & Pastor Linda Revis
Sunday, October 5, 2025
'Following the Divine Assignment' Acts 20:28

3:30 PM Worship

Pastor Taurus Simpson
Daniel's Den Ministries
Saginaw, Michigan
The New Christ
Community Church
Pastors Eugene & Joyce Seals
Pastor Audrey Parker
Minister Demona Reed

10:15 AM Worship
Pastor Michael Washington
The Way, The Truth, and
The Life Ministries
Saginaw, Michigan

Faith Ministries Church, 3420 E. Ashman Street, Midland, MI 48642

FAITH MINISTRIES CHURCH MARKS THE 35TH PASTORS' ANNIVERSARY OF APOSTLE ANTHONY AND PROPHETESS LINDA REVIS ON OCT. 5, 2025, IN MIDLAND.

FAITH IN FOCUS

SERMONETTE SERIES

Walking Where Eyes Cannot See*"For we walk by faith,
not by sight"**2 Corinthians 5:7 (KJV)*BY MINISTER CAROLYN
CARTER TOWNSEL

Life often places us in situations where we cannot see the outcome, understand the “why,” or predict the future. Our natural response is to depend on what we see and feel. However, the Christian walk is not meant to be lived by what we can see with our natural eyes, but by what we know through the Spirit and God’s Word. The Apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 5:7; “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

Walking by sight means relying on circumstances, emotions, and logic. But sight is limited, it only shows us the surface, not the full picture. Faith, however, sees what God has promised even before it becomes reality. Faith says, “God’s Word is true, even if my situation hasn’t caught up yet.” Faith is trusting that God is working even when the evidence is not visible. It is stepping forward with confidence in His promises rather than being paralyzed by what our eyes perceive. Sight can be deceiving, but faith anchors us in God’s truth.

When the path looks unclear, faith says, “God is still guiding.” When fear whispers, faith declares, “God has already made a way.” Think about Abraham, who believed God’s promise of a son even when his body and Sarah’s womb were considered barren. Or Peter, who stepped out of the boat and walked on water when Jesus called him. Their eyes saw impossibility, but their faith saw God’s power.

Each step of faith is a declaration that you trust God more than what you see. It’s choosing to believe His promises even when the road ahead is foggy. Faith doesn’t deny reality, it proclaims that God is greater than reality.

So beloved, when your sight shows you pain, lack, or delay, choose faith. Keep walking, trusting that the unseen hand of God is guiding, providing, and making a way. Remember you were anointed and appointed to “Walk Where Eyes Cannot See.”

Blessings To All,
Carolyn

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Christ Disciples Baptist Church

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



Ministry Without Walls

Pastor, John Dunn
3783 Mannion Road
Saginaw, MI 48603



New Life Baptist Ministries

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



Faith Ministries Church

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



World Outreach Campus

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



New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

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



Glory House Ministries

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



New Beginnings Ministries

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



Saint Paul Baptist Church

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



Holy Communion Gospel Center

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



New Birth Missionary Baptist

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



Victorious Belivers Ministries Church

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



Jacob's Ladder

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



New Covenant Christian Center

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



Anointed Temple ministries

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



Bridgeport Community Church

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

Before you invest your time



BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

When we are positively impacted by the work of a local or national organization, we want to get involved. Good follows good. And that's all good, so long as you take a moment before you commit your most precious gift of all: your time. When you're ready to volunteer with a nonprofit organization or institution, make sure that the organization you want to engage with is a match for your personal and family values and that you understand what you are signing up for. You may feel you know all about the nonprofit, but do you really?

Asking questions and gaining insights before you commit your time will benefit yourself and the nonprofit. This is especially true if you are considering service as a member of the board, of a committee, or as a fundraising volunteer. Nonprofits are no different from families, businesses, and public agencies. Some are stellar examples of timely and open communication, organization, focus, caring, foresight, and impact. Others are more "dysfunctional" with ingroups and outgroups, withholding of information, lack of organization, and emotional manipulation. See if you can volunteer at a one-time activity or talk with a current volunteer to see what you can learn



FILE PHOTO

of the culture. You want to gain a feeling for their style of working. This is the human element, and where volunteers can feel disappointed when their impression of the organization doesn't match up with their actual experience. This can leave you feeling frustrated and leave the nonprofit disappointed and without the volunteer they had hoped would join them.

There are "practical" things you want to learn about as well. First, do you believe in the cause? If you don't, you need to find another way to give of your time and talents. Do you know the mission, vision, goals of the organization? Do these align with your values? Do you understand their fundraising priorities, both short term and long term? What about the impact they make, their accomplishments and track record? Do you understand their competitors, collaborators, and

the ecosystem they are working within? What about their strengths and challenges? Getting an understanding of these practical things will help you understand the nonprofit and perhaps help you understand why they do things the way they do. When you volunteer you typically work with others and at someone else's direction. That means you're not the boss. You may have ideas of how things could be done differently, but you want to start your engagement by helping the organization advance their goals

– unless you are asked for your opinion.

Here are a few bottom-line things to consider. Is the organization able to deliver on what they promise? What is the status of their financials? How do stakeholders and community members view their work? Have you met staff and board members? Are they legit? Volunteering with a nonprofit organization can be life changing – for you and for others. Do your homework and then jump in! God protect America and the world we live in.



Copyright 2025 – Mel and Pearl Shaw

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



PIC OF THE WEEK

Willie "Bud" Butler, left, a founding member of the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame, and former Saginaw County Commissioner Robert "Moe" Woods Jr., right, recently posed for a photo together.



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We

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



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