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# WOMEN SUFFER HEART ATTACKS TOO

Health, A5



Photos by Tony Wittkowski / HP staff

Ambie Bell is the executive director of Emerge Innovation Hub, which helps entrepreneurs launch their businesses. She's also a member of the Benton Harbor Planning Commission and has raised four children.

# Watching people dream

Ambie Bell looks to the future with Emerge Innovation Hub

By LOUISE WREGG  
HP Staff Writer

BENTON HARBOR — Benton Harbor native Ambie Bell said she's always been driven to help make the world a better place.

"I'm deeply committed right now to community development in Southwest Michigan, especially when it comes to community access and opportunities for people who are too often overlooked. That's the most important thing," said Bell, who is the executive director of Emerge Innovation Hub, which helps entrepreneurs launch their businesses.

The 42-year-old said her life's motto is a Greek proverb at the end of her emails — "A society grows great when people plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in."

"At the end of the day, our family was raised to serve and just stay grounded and leave things better than we found them. That's my focus right now," she said.

Bell is a whirlwind of activity and not only runs



Ambie Bell, who is the executive director of Emerge Innovation Hub, does some work Monday from home.

## Q & A AMBIE BELL

Emerge, but is a member of the Benton Harbor Planning Commission and has raised four children — twins who are high school seniors and two who are now adults.

Life hasn't always been easy for Bell. While attending Ferris State University more than two decades ago, she said she found out she had stage four renal failure and had to go to dialysis three times a week for 16

years, until she received a kidney transplant five years ago.

Bell recently sat down with Herald-Palladium Staff Writer Louise Wregg to talk about her life.

### What was it like growing up in Benton Harbor?

For me, it was magical. It was a really beautiful place that was all about community and family. I come from a very rich family in culture and spirit. On my father's side, I come from the Wells family. And on my mother's side, I am from the Campbell family.

My mother's family was all about love and getting

together weekly, sometimes daily. Just living life together. They raised their families together. It was beautiful.

My father's family was more so the business side. We were a church family. My father was a pastor who is still a pastor (in Louisville, Ky.) so most of my time with my father was spent in church and philanthropy and watching him give back and connect with culture. He was also a deputy at the (Berrien County) Sheriff's Office. He just thought it was important to be on the front end of intervening so people made good decisions for themselves. He felt he could do that with Christ to help people make better decisions.

### What was dialysis like?

That made me who I am. When I came back home from school, I worked in corporate America and I was on a fast pace. I wasn't thinking about anything. I was just going day-to-day, living my life. Dialysis saved my life. It made me slow down. It made me value time. It gave me the opportunity to see the world is bigger than me and my goals and my plans for myself. It introduced me to me, again.

See BELL, page A6



Photo provided / Michigan State Historic Preservation Office

John W. Moore Prince Hall Lodge No. 42, formerly known as Harrison Lodge No. 6, was founded in 1857 as Michigan's first African American Freemason Society lodge.

# Honoring a rich legacy

Ferry Street neighborhood added to historic list

By MAXWELL HARDEN  
Paxton Media Group

NILES — A neighborhood nestled near downtown Niles has been recognized for its significance in Black history.

The Ferry Street neighborhood has been added to the National Register of Historic Places, according to a recent announcement from the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office.

The National Register of Historic Places is the United States government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects deemed worthy of preservation for their historical significance.

More than 100,000 properties across the country, including about 2,000 in Michigan, have been listed in the National Register since it was initiated in 1966. In 2022, the SHPO

applied for a National Park Service Underrepresented Communities grant to study the Ferry Street neighborhood and list it in the National Register for its significance in Black history. Listing residential historic districts gives homeowners access to key tools to preserve their homes such as Michigan's State Historic Preservation Tax Credit, which is now accepting new applications for 2026.

"Adding the Ferry Street neighborhood to the National Historic Register highlights this area's important African-American history and its connections to events occurring across America," said Niles History Center Director Christina Arseneau. "This presents an opportunity for Niles to look to the neighborhood's beginnings — its churches, school, businesses and residences — and use these lessons of the past to plan for the present and future."

See NEIGHBORHOOD, page A6



Photo provided

The Southwest Enforcement Team seized a variety of narcotics tools and materials, powder cocaine and a loaded firearm while serving a search warrant on Feb. 11 at a South Haven residence.

# Drug bust in SH leads to multiple arrests

By HP STAFF

SOUTH HAVEN — Multiple arrests were made in connection to a recent narcotics search warrant conducted in South Haven.

According to a news release, Southwest Enforcement Team detectives issued a search warrant on Feb. 11 at a home in the 400 block of Hubbard Street in South Haven. The warrant and arrests were the result of an investigation into the alleged trafficking of narcotics in the South Haven area.

The enforcement team was assisted by patrol officers from the South Haven Police Department and

Michigan State Police K-9 Unit.

"During the execution of the search warrant, officers located and seized more than one-half ounce of powder cocaine, along with multiple items indicative of drug distribution, including materials used for weighing and packaging narcotics," the release stated.

Additional suspected methamphetamine and analogue pills were located and seized by police. The pills will be submitted to a forensic laboratory for further analysis, police said. A loaded firearm was located near the cocaine.

See ARRESTS, page A6

# How Trump will use his State of the Union address to sell skeptical midterm voters on his plans

By JOSH BOAK and MICHELLE L. PRICE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's State of the Union address on Tuesday is likely to be a test run of the message Republicans will give to voters in November's elections for control of the House and the Senate.

The president and his party appear vulnerable, with polls showing much of America distrusts how Trump has managed the government in

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■ See related State of the Union article inside.  
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his first year back in office. In addition, the Supreme Court last week struck down one of the chief levers of his economic and foreign policy by ruling he lacked the power to impose many of his sweeping tariffs.

See ADDRESS, page A6



Mark Schiefelbein / AP

President Donald Trump dances after speaking at a rally at Coosa Steel Corporation in Rome, Ga. on Thursday.

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