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Celebrating Diversity, Empowering Communities

PICS OF THE WEEK
Saginaw United High School ribbon cutting ceremony & open house

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EDUCATION

NEIL MACKINNON, PH.D., APPOINTED AS CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY'S 16TH PRESIDENT

EDUCATION, PG 31

State Rep. Amos O'Neal attends forum to strengthen U.S.-Canada relations



FROM LEFT: STATE REP. JASPER R. MARTUS (D-FLUSHING), STATE SEN. ROGER VICTORY (R-HUDSONVILLE), MICHIGAN RAILROAD ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT JON COOL, AND STATE REP. AMOS O'NEAL (D-SAGINAW) ATTEND THE "BEYOND THE GORDIE HOWE BRIDGE: REIMAGINING TRADE AND COMMERCE FOR A NEW AGE" CONFERENCE ON SEPT. 27, 2024, AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY IN EAST LANSING.

BY MB STAFF

MICHIGAN — On Friday, Sept. 27, State Rep. Amos O'Neal (D-Saginaw) participated in a forum at Michigan State University's Henry Center for Executive Development focused on enhancing U.S.-Canada relations. The event, themed "Beyond the Gordie Howe Bridge: Reimagining Trade and Commerce for a New Age," brought together key leaders from both Michigan and Ontario to discuss the importance of cross-border collaboration.

Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, Heather Grondin of the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority, and other influential figures addressed the forum, emphasizing the critical role the Gordie Howe International Bridge will play in strengthening trade between the two countries.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the forum and found it to be an invaluable opportunity to connect with many wonderful people from both Michigan and Canada," said O'Neal. "Healthy trade and positive relationships with Canada are essential to Michigan's success. The Gordie

Howe International Bridge is crucial for enhancing trade and strengthening our U.S.-Canada relationship."

Construction on the Gordie Howe International Bridge began in 2018 and is expected to be completed by 2025. The bridge, a major infrastructure project, has already created thousands of jobs in both countries and is anticipated to improve cross-border travel, alleviate congestion at existing crossings, and boost regional economies.

State Sen. Roger Victory (R-Hudsonville), who also attended the forum, echoed O'Neal's sentiments. "Michigan and Canada share more than a border; we have a rich economic and cultural bond. Strengthening this partnership is crucial for the prosperity of both regions," Victory said.

The event underscored the importance of continued collaboration between Michigan and Ontario, highlighting the potential for future economic growth through improved trade and transportation links.



National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day highlights disparities in Michigan's Hispanic Communities

LATINO BANNER, PG 4



School trustee sees 'eyesore' across from Saginaw United

COMMUNITY, PG 13



Conscious Capitalism Great Lakes Bay Region Chapter to host leadership event

BUSINESS, PG 39

FEATURED STORY

Tigers secure wild card spot, ending decade-long postseason drought

SPORTS, PG 48



Saginaw Community Food Club and Kitchen secures location



COURTESY PHOTOS (SAGINAW COMMUNITY FOOD CLUB AND KITCHEN)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — After a period of challenges and setbacks, the Saginaw Community Food Club and Kitchen recently announced that it will soon be relocating to 310 Meredith St, located at the corner of Meredith and Franklin in Saginaw. This new site is conveniently positioned just one block east of Washington, behind the CMU Health Department of Surgery building, next to MMR, and directly in front of MyMichigan Hospital.

The project is set to go to bid this month, with construction anticipated to begin after the New Year.

A Solution for Food Security

The Saginaw Community Food Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership grocery store designed to address a critical need in Saginaw's local food system. Based on a successful model from Grand Rapids, the Food Club aims to provide residents with healthy food options at affordable prices, prioritizing choice, participation, and access to nutritious foods.

This innovative approach is intended to complement existing emergency food resources, helping families achieve ongoing food security as they move toward greater stability and prosperity. Once open, members will enjoy

the selection, service, convenience, and dignity of shopping in a quality grocery store.

Unique Membership Model

The Saginaw Community Food Club will operate with a unique membership model. Members will shop using a point system—fruits and vegetables will be assigned the lowest points, while snacks and processed foods will carry higher points. This pricing strategy encourages families to make healthier choices.

Membership fees will range from \$12 to \$16 for a 30-day period, with costs determined on a sliding scale based on household size and income. The Food Club

will accept cash and credit/debit card payments, allowing member households to shop daily until all points are used. Additionally, membership will offer access to nutrition education opportunities.

Backed by a \$280,000 grant awarded in December 2022, the Saginaw Community Food Club is dedicated to fostering a healthier and more sustainable local food system.

For more information visit saginawfoodclub.org.



MICHIGAN BANNER

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MISSION

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

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 6 • NUMBER 19



Managing mental health in an era of school shootings and threats: 10 Tips for students

BY MB STAFF

In today's world, students face the constant fear and anxiety of potential school shootings or threats, adding immense pressure on top of the usual academic and social challenges. It's natural to feel worried or unsafe, but prioritizing mental health is key to navigating these times. Here are some practical tips to help you cope with your mental health while living in this challenging environment.

1. Acknowledge Your Emotions

It's important to recognize and validate your feelings. Feeling scared, anxious, or sad in response to school violence or threats is completely normal. Don't bottle up your emotions—talk to someone you trust, whether it's a friend, family member, or school counselor.

2. Talk About Safety Concerns

If you have safety concerns about your school, share them with trusted adults like teachers, administrators, or counselors. Schools are meant to be safe spaces, and your voice can contribute to positive changes in your environment. Understanding the safety protocols in place can help ease feelings of helplessness.

3. Create a Personal Safety Plan

Having a plan in place can help



COURTESY PHOTO

ease anxiety about the unknown. Familiarize yourself with your school's safety protocols, emergency exits, and what to do in case of a threat. Having this knowledge can provide a sense of control, helping you feel more prepared.

4. Practice Mindfulness and Relaxation Techniques

When anxiety feels overwhelming, mindfulness techniques can help ground you in the present moment. Simple practices like deep breathing, meditation, or progressive muscle relaxation can reduce stress. Apps like Headspace or Calm offer guided exercises that can be helpful in calming anxiety.

5. Reach Out for Support

If you're feeling overwhelmed by fear or anxiety, don't hesitate to reach out to a mental health professional. Many schools have counselors available, and there are helplines like the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988)

or Crisis Text Line (text HOME to 741741) that offer confidential support.

6. Stay Connected to Supportive People

Your friends, family, and community can be a source of comfort during stressful times. Spend time with people who make you feel safe and loved. Staying connected with others helps remind you that you are not alone in how you feel.

7. Engage in Activities You Enjoy

When the world feels unsafe, it's important to engage in activities that bring you joy and relaxation. Whether it's listening to music, drawing, playing sports, or watching your favorite show, finding a distraction from stress can give your mind a break from constant worry.

8. Focus on What You Can Control

While you may not be able to pre-

vent school shootings or threats, you can control how you respond. Keeping your focus on daily tasks, such as schoolwork, hobbies, or relationships, helps maintain a sense of normalcy and reduces feelings of helplessness.

9. Advocate for Change

If you're passionate about addressing school violence, consider getting involved in efforts to promote change. Joining student groups or community organizations that work toward safety reforms or gun control can give you a sense of purpose and control over the issue.

10. Know It's Okay to Take a Break

Sometimes, you may need to take a mental health day or time off from your usual routine to focus on self-care. It's okay to take breaks when you need to rest, recharge, and address your mental well-being. Your mental health should always come first.

Living in an era where school shootings and threats are more common can feel overwhelming, but by acknowledging your feelings and taking steps to care for your mental health, you can navigate this challenging time. Don't be afraid to seek help, whether it's from a trusted adult, counselor, or peer. You don't have to face these fears alone. Your mental well-being matters, and there are resources and people who can support you.

Embracing National Youth Confidence Day:

A letter to my fellow teen girls



COURTESY PHOTO

BY MAIA ANDERSON

Hey there, beautiful souls! I'm Maia, and I'm thrilled to share some thoughts with you as we approach National Youth Confidence Day (Oct 20). It's a special day dedicated to celebrating who we are and reminding us how powerful our voices can be, especially as teen girls navigating this wild world.

Growing up, I often felt the weight of expectations—whether it was from friends, family, or even social media. Sometimes, I'd look in the mirror and struggle to see the amazing person I knew was hiding inside. But over time, I discovered the magic of self-affirmations, and I want to share how they can transform your confidence, too.

Self-affirmations are like little pep talks we give ourselves. They help us to focus on our strengths, talents, and what makes us unique. By repeating positive affirmations daily, we can build a

stronger sense of self-worth and embrace our individuality. It's like a shield against negativity and self-doubt.

Here are some affirmations I've found to be super helpful, and I encourage you to try them out:

- **“I am enough just as I am.”**
- **“My voice matters, and I deserve to be heard.”**
- **“I embrace my uniqueness and celebrate my individuality.”**
- **“I am capable of achieving my dreams.”**
- **“I am strong, resilient, and beautiful inside and out.”**

Try saying these affirmations in front of the mirror every morning, or even write them in a journal. You can make it fun—decorate your journal with colors and drawings that inspire you! When you repeat these words, believe them. Feel them deep in your heart. Trust me, the more you affirm your strengths and capabilities, the more confidence you'll start to feel.

Another important aspect of building confidence is surrounding ourselves with positive influences. Seek friends who uplift you and remind you of your worth. Remember, it's okay to let go of relationships that bring you down. You deserve to be in spaces where you feel celebrated and valued for who you are.

And don't forget to celebrate your achievements, no matter how small they may seem. Did you ace a test? Rock a performance? Or maybe you just helped a friend in need? Recognize those moments! Acknowledging your accomplishments

can further boost your confidence and inspire you to take on new challenges.

As we celebrate National Youth Confidence Day, I encourage each of you to embrace your unique selves. Use self-affirmations to boost your confidence and remind yourself of your worth. Together, we can create a world where every teen girl feels empowered, confident, and ready to take on anything life throws our way.

Let's lift each other up, support one another, and shine our lights brightly. We've got this! Happy National Youth Confidence Day!

Maia Anderson is a 2024 graduate of Windover High School in Midland County and is currently taking a gap year before pursuing her post secondary education.

Miss Spirit of the State's Teen goes virtual!

BY MB STAFF

MICHIGAN — Exciting news for aspiring young leaders and pageant enthusiasts! The Miss Spirit of the State's Teen competition is embracing a new digital format this year, making it easier for teens across the state to participate and showcase their talents.

Important Dates to Remember:

- Paperwork and Video Submission Deadline: October 15th
- Virtual Interviews and "Crowning" Announcement: November 2nd

This year's event promises to be engaging and memorable, with participants submitting their paperwork and videos online. This format allows more teens to get involved, regardless of location, and to share their unique stories and talents with the judges.

The Miss Spirit of the State's Teen competition is an OPEN pageant, which means that to qualify, contestants must live, work, or go to school full-time in the state of Michigan.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Age Range: Teen contestants must be between 13 and 18 years old.
- Age Requirement: Participants must be at least 14 years old and no older than 18 by the time of the state competition in June 2025.

The Miss Spirit of the State's Teen event will be an afternoon show on Saturday, November 2nd, with the exact time to be determined.

Are you interested in participating? Don't miss your chance! Fill out the interest form at <https://forms.gle/9E2dz9FUfrppS5r69> to secure your spot in the competition.

Join us as we celebrate the spirit, talent, and empowerment of teens across the state in a fun and inclusive virtual setting. Whether you're passionate about community service, leadership, or simply love the pageant experience, this is an opportunity you won't want to miss!

For any questions, please contact us at saginawspirited@gmail.com.

Stay tuned for updates on our social media channels as we prepare for the Miss Spirit of the State's Teen competition going virtual!

Miss Spirit of the State's Teen

WE ARE GOING VIRTUAL

Pageant Day! November 2nd

Video Submission deadline October 15th

How It Works

Submit paperwork and videos of phases of competition **NO LATER** than October 15

Virtual interviews will take place the morning of November 2nd

judges will watch video submissions and score

Auditors tally scores, just like a live pageant day, and winner will be announced virtually



Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE



Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated from September 15 to October 15, honors the contributions and cultural heritage of Hispanic and Latino communities in the United States. Here are some interesting facts about the celebration:

- **Date Significance:** The celebration starts on September 15, which is the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile also celebrate their independence days on September 16 and 18, respectively.
- **Origins:** Hispanic Heritage Month began as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968 under President Lyndon B. Johnson and was expanded to a full month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988.
- **Population Impact:** As of 2020, the Hispanic and Latino population in the United States reached 62.1 million, making up nearly 19% of the total population, making it the largest ethnic or racial minority in the country.
- **Diverse Heritage:** Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the cultural richness and contributions of people with ancestry from over 20 countries, including Spain, Mexico, and much of Central and South America, as well as the Caribbean.

Flint Institute of Arts hosts Art à la Carte: Día de Los Muertos



COURTESY PHOTO

FLINT — On Wednesday, October 30, 2024, the Flint Institute of Arts will present "Art à la Carte: Día de Los Muertos" as part of its ongoing series of free, arts-focused programs. Held in Isabel Hall from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m., this hour-long event invites attendees to explore the rich history and cultural significance of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), a tradition that has evolved from its pre-colonial origins to its modern representations in

mass media.

"Art à la Carte" provides an informative and engaging experience for art enthusiasts. Attendees are encouraged to bring a lunch or enjoy a meal from The Palette Café while learning about the vibrant customs and artistic expressions that define Día de los Muertos.

This event offers a unique opportunity to deepen understanding of a tradition that honors the memories of loved ones and celebrates life

through art, community, and heritage.

The program is free to the public, and all are welcome to participate. Learn more about the event at <https://flintarts.org/event/26999/2024/10/30>.



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

SEEN ON THE SCENE: 2024 Final Farmworkers Appreciation Day in Belding, MI

The final Farmworkers Appreciation Day of 2024 in Belding, MI, celebrated over 350 migrant seasonal farmworkers. Great Lakes Bay Health Centers - Migrant Program (Elpaisa Delnorte) was recognized for its continued service to migrant agriculture patients since 1968, alongside longtime partner KPCMD, supporting the community since 1987. D & J and Sons Harvesting provided meals, and organizations such as VBISD NOMAD Migrant Education, REACH, and MSU Migrant Student Service were acknowledged for their contributions to the event and the farmworker community.




COURTESY PHOTOS

Introducing **Diverse** Suppliers to Community Contracting with Corewell Health & Vizient Webinar


Join our webinar to learn about Community Contracting, a new Corewell Health and Vizient initiative to boost local economic impact by increasing spend with diverse suppliers. Get an overview of the program and the contracting process, and hear from Erica White on Corewell Health's commitment to supplier diversity in Michigan.

Who should attend: Diverse suppliers (Women-owned, Minority-owned, Disabled-owned, Veteran-owned, and LGBT-owned business enterprises)


Wednesday, October 9th, 2024
12:30 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.



Kelle Delgado
Sourcing Executive, Vizient




Megan Steenwyk
Senior Program Manager, Community Contracting, Vizient



Erica White
Supplier Diversity Lead, Corewell Health

Zoom Link to be provided upon registration
NO COST

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National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day highlights disparities in Michigan's Hispanic Communities



COURTESY PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

As National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD) approaches on October 15, public health officials are drawing attention to the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on Michigan's Hispanic community. The annual observance is dedicated to raising awareness, promoting HIV testing, and addressing the barriers to care for Latinx communities across the U.S.

In Michigan, the statistics are alarming. Hispanic males were four times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV or AIDS compared to non-Hispanic white

males in 2022, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Hispanic females faced even more staggering odds, being 19 times more likely to have AIDS than their non-Hispanic white counterparts in the same year.

The mortality rates reflect these disparities as well. Hispanic males were nearly twice as likely to die from HIV-related complications as non-Hispanic white males in 2022, while Hispanic females were almost three times as likely to face the same outcome.

The heightened vulnerability of the Latinx community is often

attributed to a combination of factors, including cultural stigma, limited access to healthcare, and language barriers. Many community members are also unaware of their HIV status, leading to delays in diagnosis and treatment.

NLAAD organizers urge everyone to get tested, learn about prevention methods, and seek care if needed. Health departments across Michigan are partnering with local organizations to offer free testing events and educational programs throughout October.

By fostering greater awareness and increasing access to testing and treatment, NLAAD

aims to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS in Hispanic communities and ensure better health outcomes for all.

For more information, visit michigan.gov/mdhhs or contact your local health department.



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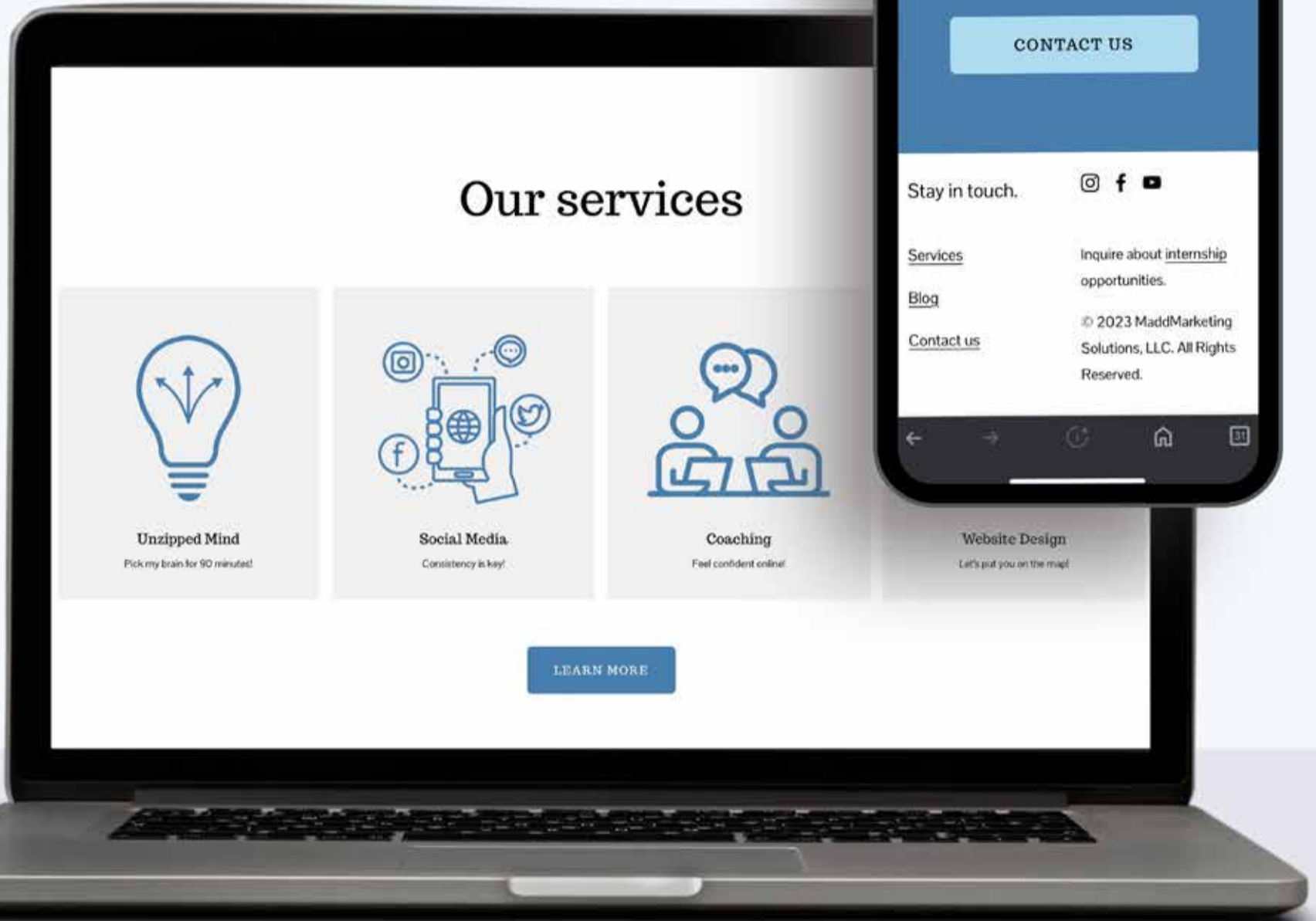
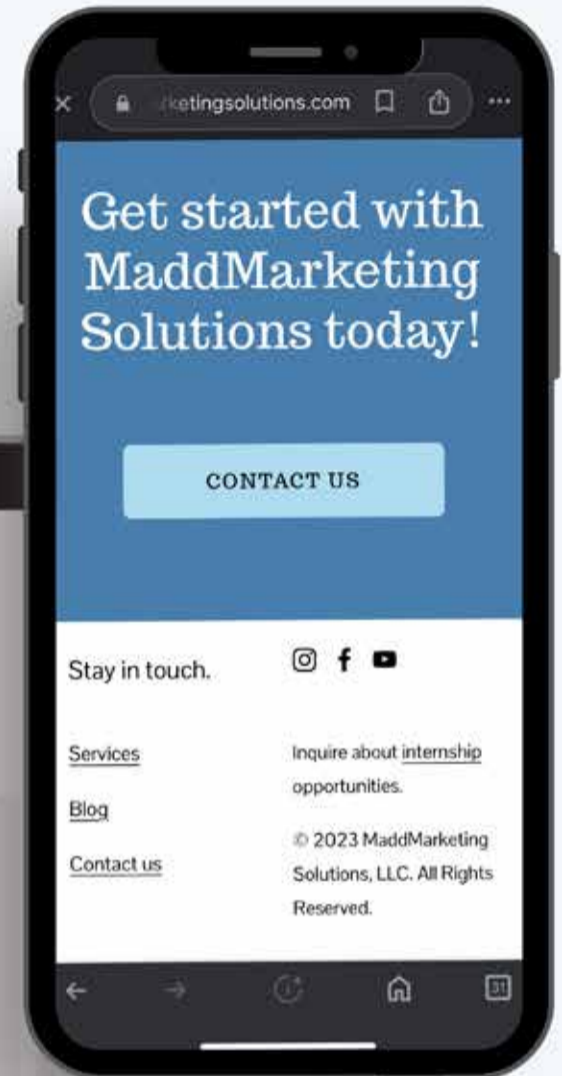
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COMMUNITY

School trustee sees 'eyesore' across from Saginaw United

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — In 2016, years before plans for Saginaw United High School, a riverside "nature area" across from what used to be SASA was launched among an array of partners to create an environmental project at the site of an abandoned parking lot.

Now that the shiny new structure has opened its doors, the Board of Education's Joyce Seals labels the field an "eyesore" and a "monstrosity."

Project supporters respond that the three acres at the Genesee Bridge are intended to look "rustic, like a prairie" in the words of Zachary Branigan, director of the Saginaw Basin Land

Conservancy, a nonprofit agency that is part of the statewide ecological movement.

Seals at a Sept. 16 meeting said the riverfront vegetation, up to three feet high across North Niagara Street from the Saginaw United entrance, needs to be mowed and beautified.

Crews by Sept. 20 cleared the growth to about eight inches high, which Branigan -- who was not in attendance Sept. 16 -- said is his group's lone assigned duty after wildflowers can be found during spring and summer.

"In late summer and fall, the landscape there goes dormant, he said. "We completed annual maintenance (on Sept. 20), along with additional tasks that are



THE SAGINAW BASIN LAND CONSERVANCY RECENTLY COMPLETED BOTH THEIR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AND ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS AT THE NASH PRESERVE

above and beyond our responsibility but which needed doing."

Leading project partners are arranging a meeting to review the matter, he said.

Saginaw Basin initiated the nature area in 2016 with support from the Board of Ed, the City Council, Saginaw Future Inc., the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Project, Consumers Energy, the Dow Corning Foundation on behalf of Hemlock Semiconductor, the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, the Morley Family Foundation, the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, the Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation, and the Frankenmuth Jaycees.

Seals speaks up

During a review of construction projects from a \$100 million bond that voters approved four years ago, Seals called for a cleanup.

"I want to see flowers (in) a beautifully sculpted garden"

from Saginaw United's five floors, the former mayor said during her passionate two-minute summary.

Much of the land, marked by a sign at the foot of the Genesee Street Bridge, is the Janet H. Nash Riverfront Preserve, named in tribute to Seals' co-trustee on the board and past principal of SASA, the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy. SASA this fall has moved to the former Arthur Hill High to make way for Saginaw United.

The mini-billboard includes art that shows strands of tall grass in a sunset, indicating a nature area.

Seals did not criticize or mention Nash, who was not present at the meeting of the board's buildings and grounds committee. Both were present at the board's Sept. 18 general meeting, but the conservancy was not discussed.

See Eyesore pg 14



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SAGINAW BASIN LAND CONSERVANCY



To watch Joyce Seals' remarks, start at the 22-minute mark of the video recording from the September 16 Building and Grounds meeting on the [SPSD Facebook page](#).



COMMUNITY

From pg 13 Eyesore

Another retired city educator on the board, Trustee Ruth Ann Knapp from elementary music, noted that SASA students in recent years had crossed the street to conduct outdoor science and biology experiments, and that similar curricula may involve Saginaw United pupils.

"I'm interested in improvements, but I don't think having a lawn and flowers would be useful in a preserve," said Knapp, adding that negative feelings would dissipate once students and the community learn more about the purpose.

A paved pathway winds through the three acres with access to a small picnic area with tables and benches.

Branigan said his small-budget program has paid for tasks that larger partners, especially the schools, should have undertaken.

He said his workers on Sept. 20 "completed the annual prairie mow of all three acres (leaving the rain garden vegetation near the Saginaw River), emptied the trash cans, pruned and limbed the large street trees for beauti-

fication and to ease lawn mowing along the road, worked with the City to remove all tree cuttings, which amounted to a full trailer, and weed-whacked around signs, trees, power poles, etc."

Only the mowing was a designated duty in Saginaw Basin's budget, he said.

Early days, high hopes

Prior to the 2016 startup, Branigan said in a Saginaw News/mlive report: "This project helps execute the recommendations of the Saginaw Riverfront Commission by creating direct educational opportunities for students, recreational opportunities for the whole community, and a rare opportunity to restore a formerly developed riverside lot, all while helping connect a full loop of recreational trail around the Saginaw River and reduce unused, impervious surface in the watershed."

Overall, the partnership was dubbed "a part of the O.U.R. Saginaw Project," for "Outdoor Urban Recreation."

Seals remained adamant.

"We cannot spend that much money on a building," she concluded, in reference to Saginaw United's \$85 million share of the bond, "and then have this monstrosity" in front.

Branigan said Saginaw Basin would be willing to participate in creating and managing a nature area at another location, if a manicured lawn with flower gardens is what school leaders desire.

Fact Sheet on Millage?

On the local bottom-of-the-ballot for the 2020 school bond, pegged at \$99 million to reduce a three-digit sticker shock, four main construction promises were pledged. They were Saginaw United, the relocated SASA at Arthur Hill, a new Handley Elementary, and a middle school in the Saginaw High building.

Inflation in the building trades has pushed the cost beyond \$140 million, say officials from the district and from construction manager R.C. Hendrick & Son. District leaders have used federal funds from ESSER (Elementary and Secondary Schools

Emergency Relief) to cover the overage, using ARPA-type monies that otherwise could have gone for K-12 classroom learning improvements.

Still, the schools have had to cut back on some goals for facilities, such as air conditioning for buildings that still lack updated HVAC and demolitions of those that have been closed and become idle.

Trustee Knapp suggested a single-page summary fact sheet to outline goals that were accomplished and others that were placed on hold, along with a list of cost-saving measures. She cited a need to be on the record to the public in a clear manner.

Superintendent Ramont Roberts said that with all the ins and outs, one page would be limited. He emphasized that despite difficulties, school leaders have kept their word in carrying out the four main promises from the 2020 referendum. He suggested that the fact sheet wait until all projects are finished next year.

Delta College to host first public observation night at new on-campus observatory

UNIVERSITY CENTER – Delta College is thrilled to announce its first public observation night at the newly constructed Delta Dome, an on-campus observatory that offers community members a unique opportunity to explore the universe.

The inaugural event is set for Friday, October 25 at 8 p.m., weather permitting, with a backup date of Saturday, October 26.

The Delta Dome features a state-of-the-art CDK700 telescope, equipped with a 28-inch mirror, installed by PlaneWave

Instruments of Adrian, MI. This powerful telescope will provide the Great Lakes Bay Region with stunning views of galaxies, nebulae, and other deep-space objects. Years of planning and financial support from Delta College, as well as grants from the Michigan Earth Science Teachers Association (MESTA) and the Great Lakes Star Gaze Committee (GLSG), helped make this observatory project a reality. The grants also funded the purchase of a high-quality imaging camera for astrophotography.

"This observatory has been

over 20 years in the making," said Kevin Dehne, associate professor of astronomy and physics at Delta College. "We are excited to share this incredible resource with our students and the wider community. The Delta Dome will serve as a center for astrophotography, astronomical research, and education."

During the observation night, attendees will be guided by faculty members as they view celestial objects through the telescope. Going forward, the Delta Dome will host monthly public observation

events, which will be scheduled to coincide with new Moon phases and favorable weather conditions.

For more information about upcoming public events, call 989-686-9232.



COURTESY PHOTO (DELTA COLLEGE)

**Saginaw
Promise**



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Keynote Speaker
Phillip J. Bowman, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan

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**SAGINAW UNITED HIGH SCHOOL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024**

DOORS OPEN 4:45 PM

**TOURS: 5 PM AND FOLLOWING PROGRAM
PROGRAM STARTS AT 6 O'CLOCK**

**Visit www.saginawpromise.org Events Page for ticket information
and sponsorship opportunities**

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For questions or information contact Deborah Sanchez at dsanchez@saginawpromise.org or (989) 755-0545.

COMMUNITY

Flint mourns the loss of City Councilman Quincy Murphy



QUINCY MURPHY

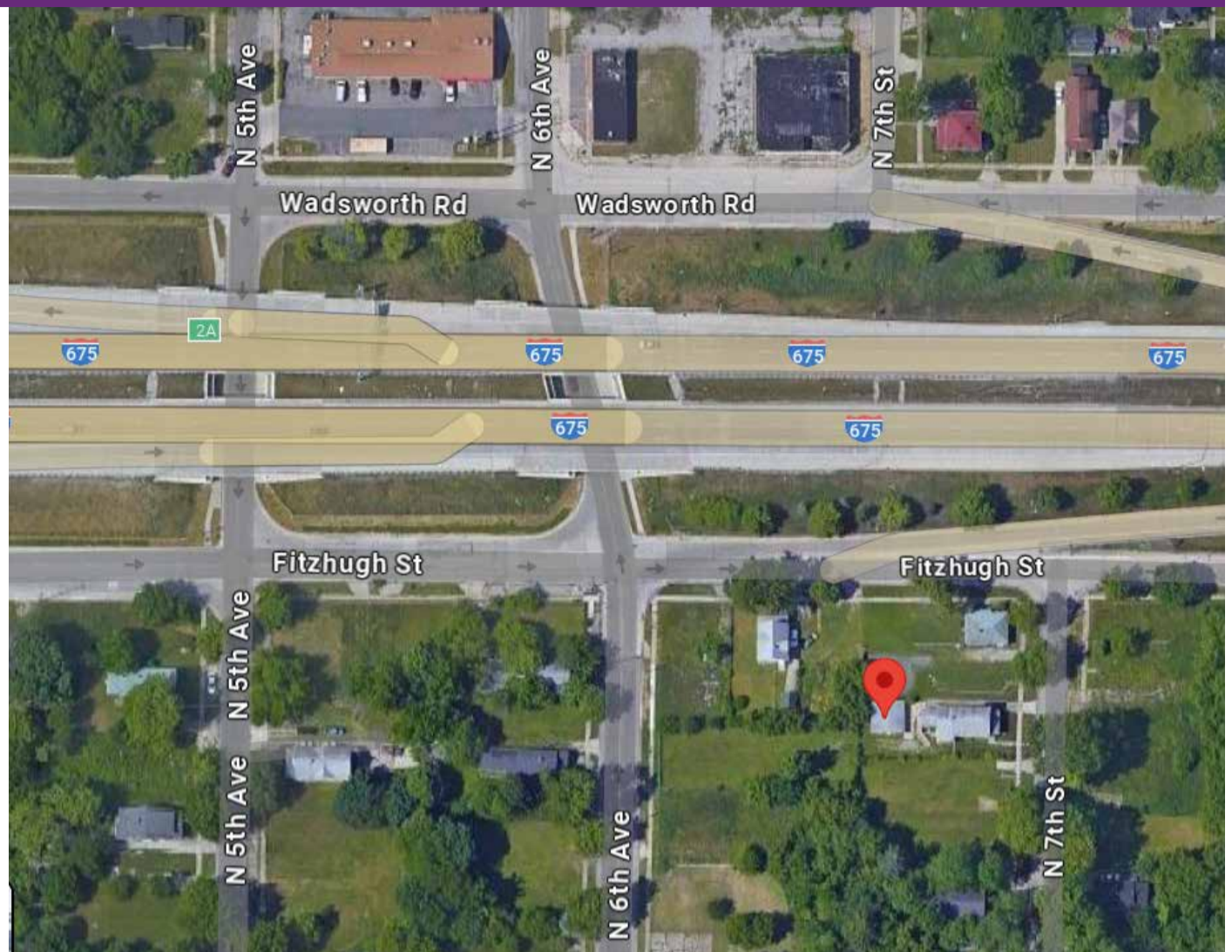
FLINT — The City of Flint has announced the passing of Quincy Murphy, the Third Ward councilman, who was elected to serve the community in 2022.

Murphy represented Flint's second-largest ward, located in the city's northeast corner. Known for his commitment to community advocacy, he worked tirelessly to address the needs of his constituents.

On Sunday, the city released a statement praising Murphy as a dedicated public servant. In his honor, flags at Flint City Hall will be flown at half-staff beginning Monday, Sept. 30.

Mayor Sheldon Neeley has requested that the public give Murphy's family privacy during this time of grief. "We must come together in the spirit of unity, reflecting on the service and dedication Mr. Murphy brought to Flint," said Neeley.

Council President Ladel Lewis, who represents the Second Ward, reflected on Murphy's impact, stating, "Quincy's passion for his community was evident in everything he did. His efforts to eliminate blight and promote development were instrumental in the growth of the Third Ward."



FIFTH AND SIXTH STREETS IN SAGINAW WILL CONTINUE OPERATING AS ONE-WAY ROADS NORTH OF I-675.

Fifth/Sixth: Part two-way south of highway

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Saginaw's Fifth and Sixth streets will remain one-ways north of I-675, at least for the short term, but will change to two-way south of the highway.

City Council members approved the compromise on Sept. 23 with an 8-1 vote. The lone opponent, Monique Lamar Silvia, said the council failed to consider residents who objected, but the other eight followed the proposal from City Engineer Travis Hare.

Northbound Sixth Street actually begins with Cherry at East Genesee, while southbound Fifth Street runs through Thompson Street. They form a truck route.

Hare told the Council that change is needed because an expansion of the Hunger Solution

Center will close Thompson.

Original plans called for a two-way change all the way past the Fifth/Sixth railroad underpass until reaching North Washington. Nearby residents had protested with concerns that two-way traffic would lead to sideswipes on the bending wishbone traffic grid under the tracks between Carlisle and Sears.

Mayor Brenda Moore and Councilman Bill Ostash supported the administration, saying overall speeding also is a problem made worse by one-way status, along with motorists going the wrong way, and Moore questioned why Fifth and Sixth were changed from two-way in the first place during her 1960s childhood on the northeast side. They also said emergency response would become more reliable without one-ways within routes.

Silvia said residents who object "know best" because that is where they live.

Hare said a six-month delay north of I-675 will allow time for further study near the tracks, while the change south of the highway will keep plans on schedule for the Hunger Solutions Center, which houses both Hidden Harvest and the East Side Soup Kitchen.

As a footnote, Travis Hare is the grandson of Marv Hare, the former county treasurer who passed away in 2016. In the November election, Travis is a Democratic candidate for the Saginaw Township Board of Trustees.

To view the City Council's discussion regarding Fifth and Sixth streets, begin at 1:18.55 on the [YouTube video of the Sept. 23 meeting](#).

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COMMUNITY

Saginaw ARPA finale: Decisions on deadline



YOUTH PARTICIPANTS AT THE GUIDED GRACE FYS SUMMER ENRICHMENT CAMP 2024 LEARNED THE FUNDAMENTALS OF STARTING A BUSINESS. THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED \$700,000 IN FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM THROUGH THE ARPA INITIATIVE.

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — After what Mayor Brenda Moore described as two years of inaction, Saginaw City Council members on Sept. 23 finalized the final \$2 million of a \$52 million federal COVID-19 recovery grant.

The bonanza went far beyond anti-pandemic medical care and quickly moved to overall anti-poverty, beyond anti-virus.

Council members had wrapped up most of the decision-making early in 2022, but the final touches lingered.

Sept. 23 votes on line items through ARPA, the federal American Rescue Plan Act, were unanimous despite plenty of back-and-forth discussion. To view the proceedings, go to the YouTube meeting video and begin at 1:47.00.

The final round of allocations include:

- **\$700,000, Guiding Grace Family and Youth**

Services, web slogan "Mental Health Is NOW. So Why Wait?"

- **\$335,000, Saginaw STEM**, Science, Technology, Engineering, Math. Interactive sessions, many on Saturday mornings, led by Dante Davis, returning home from Los Angeles career success to help students tackle the modern world.
- **\$300,000, Boys & Girls Club**, relocated on the riverfront, north of the YMCA.
- **\$284,517, home repair grants**. Continue a previous \$7 million fast-paced upgrade of furnaces, roofs, windows. These monies remained after the council concluded with the community programs.
- **\$243,702, First Ward Community Center**, on top of prior funds to upgrade

the 47-year-old facility. Bids have arrived higher than budgeted.

- **\$200,000, Saginaw Covenant Academy**. The 227-pupil public charter alternative high school is across the 500 block of South Washington from the planned \$100 million Medical Diamond at the old farmer's market site. A student presentation at the 41-minute mark of the videotape captured attention in the council chambers.
- **\$150,000, Read to Succeed**. Original tutor training led by Dr. Gwen Thompson McMillon of St. Paul Baptist, Oakland University professor (she commutes) and national expert author in early childhood literacy.
- **\$150,000, Youth Engagement Program**. Presented by eight offspring

who created the Eugene/Joyce Seals Family Foundation.

- **\$150,000, Saginaw ISD Early Childhood Program**. The Intermediate School District has rescued the former Jerome School, along with BV's Brunkow and others across the county, for Head Start preschool outreach.
- **\$60,000, Mexican American Council**. Similar to Saginaw United and First Ward Center, repairs have surpassed the budget on the historic headquarters across from Hoyt Park.
- **\$35,000, Women of Colors**, another program that has run into facility challenges.
- **\$3,000, Young Champions Association**. Diane Donald's longtime volunteer effort was among a trio of bare bones proposals.

Still not making the cut were \$3,000 from Indigo Dudley, former Miss Saginaw County; and the only submission broken into dollars and cents, \$4,359.20, mostly for laundry soap to support "Washing for Wellness" at the Ascension St. Mary's Center of Hope neighborhood home behind the hospital.

Home repair grants, First Ward CC, and MAC Center are in addition to previous sums.

Another \$4 million previously was reported available as interest income from portions of the \$52 million being held by financial institutions. However, Manager Tim Morales reported that he recently has learned that the sum must revert to the regular annual budget.

See **ARPA Finale** pg 19

COMMUNITY

From pg 18 ARPA Finale

Even bigger than 1960s

Record-setting federal aid has been on a par with the start of the 1960s War on Poverty, prior to Vietnam interceding. Congress passed ARPA with nearly \$2 trillion soon after President Biden's 2021 inauguration, with bipartisan support during the depths of the pandemic, although most Republican backers have backtracked since then.

Saginaw leaders spent nearly half the money in a direct revenue sharing manner to keep the general fund budget on track, but federal rules prohibited adding City Hall employees, including police officers and firefighters.

Another big chunk was for "capital" projects, many that be-

come overdue in tight annual spending plans. These included an overhaul of City Hall -- which had been targeted for demolition during the Darnell Earley years -- along with major work for Hoyt Park, Ojibway Island and the cemeteries.

The highest-profile item at the start was \$5 million, matched by the county's ARPA plan and later a \$39.3 million state grant, for a Sam Shaheen-inspired big followup on growth of a connection with the Central Michigan University College of Medicine, which will include a "behavioral center" to follow the increased national focus on mental health. "Medical Diamond" represents the points of the hospitals on the sides, downtown on top and

the parks system below. The \$700,000 for Guiding Grace answers concerns of local mental health being overlooked.

Remaining in the pot was more than \$10 million for outreach in more of a CDBG block grant-type style, which created the prolonged process that led Mayor Moore to repeatedly describe the multi-millions in previously unheard-of funds as both "a blessing and a curse" because no matter how large the grant, need would always seem to exceed the sum. Her Sept. 9 call to action was honored on Sept. 23, with only one short-lived suggestion to delay an individual item. A federal end-of-the-year deadline looms or unassigned dollars must be returned.

Suburbs and small towns also received federal allotments, based on a combo of population and poverty, but in Saginaw only the city and county received local news media attention, and ARPA rarely is mentioned in the national political discourse. Schools reaped similar-sized covid grants through a different account, ESSER, Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief. The Board of Education was unanimous, with no public dissent, when most of the monies were used to cover cost overruns on the \$100 million bond for a quartet of projects, mainly Saginaw United High.

Saginaw to host 3rd Annual "We Love Saginaw Businesses" trunk or treat event

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Local businesses are gearing up for the 3rd Annual "We Love Saginaw Businesses" Trunk or Treat event, scheduled for Wednesday, October 23, 2024, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Celebration Park's Splash Pad, located at 1830 Fordney Street.

Hosted by the City of Saginaw, the Saginaw Downtown Development Authority (DDA), and the Saginaw Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), this free event offers business owners a unique opportunity to connect with the community while treating hundreds of trick-or-treaters of all ages.

"This event continues to grow each year and has become a favorite for many local businesses," said Kisha Smith, SEDC Coordinator. "It provides small business owners with a platform to promote their business and engage directly with local residents, just



"WE LOVE SAGINAW BUSINESSES" TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT

in time for the holiday season."

The event's new location at Celebration Park allows for even more businesses and organizations to participate. Attendees

can expect fun activities, including a Kids Zone with games and a "Touch-a-Truck" area where visitors can explore city vehicles like police cars and fire trucks.

Representatives from City Council, the Saginaw DDA, and other local agencies will also be on hand to connect with the community and offer seasonal treats, such as cider and donuts.

Saginaw Future Community and Economic Development Director Steve Hensley added, "This is an opportunity to celebrate our small businesses and the vibrant community of Saginaw. Our goal is that every resident who attends will discover a new local business to support."

Business owners interested in participating can register online at [**saginaw-mi.com/TrunkorTreat**](https://saginaw-mi.com/TrunkorTreat) by October 21. For more information, contact Cassi Zimmerman, Director of Planning and Economic Development, at (989) 759-1423, or Kisha Smith at (989) 759-1395.

Don't miss this chance to showcase your business and engage with the Saginaw community in a fun, festive environment!

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COMMUNITY

Chippewa Nature Center to host annual Fall Harvest Festival on October 5



MYMICHIGAN MEDICAL CENTER MIDLAND

MIDLAND — Celebrate the arrival of autumn at Chippewa Nature Center's (CNC) annual Fall Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The festival offers a range of activities for all ages that showcase 19th-century farm life during harvest season. Admission is free for children under 18 and CNC members, with a \$5 fee for non-member adults.

Visitors can hop on a wagon ride to the Homestead Farm, where they can watch demonstrations of apple butter making, cider pressing, and beekeeping, with a chance to taste honey. The Timber Frame Barn will feature the Midland FiberArts Guild's "Sheep to Shawl" demonstration,

showing how wool is spun and woven into garments. Historic woodworking tools will also be used to demonstrate how farmers crafted furniture and farm tools.

For those looking to get hands-on, activities include timber frame barn building, rope making, and various crafts for kids like loom weaving, wool sheep crafts, and sachet making. Visitors can explore the heirloom garden and root cellar, learn about vegetable planting techniques used by early settlers, and meet farm animals. Small House Farm will be present to give a seed-saving demonstration.

The Children's Garden will offer scarecrow-making and fall

gardening activities, while at the Wagon Barn, visitors can try candle dipping, corn grinding, and pose for photos at a seasonally decorated backdrop. Phoenix Community Farm will also be on-site, sharing information about their mission to provide fresh produce to the community. Music from The Swollen Fingers String Band will fill the air, and food will be available for purchase from the Studley Grange (cash only).

At the one-room Log Schoolhouse, guests can participate in classroom lessons, try penmanship on slate boards, and recite tongue twisters. Outside, old-fashioned games like stilts and graces will be available, and chil-

dren can enjoy crafts, farm activities, and pretend cow milking. Other highlights include honey tasting, a bee craft, an antique threshing machine display, and blacksmith demonstrations by the Max Carey Blacksmith Guild.

The festival is supported by sponsors including Arbury Insurance Agency, Jolt Credit Union, Pizza Sam's, RetroFoam of Michigan, and others.

Those interested in volunteering can visit www.chippewanaturecenter.org/volunteer or contact CNC at volunteer@chippewanaturecenter.org or (989) 631-0830 for more information.



HEALTH

MyMichigan Medical Centers in Midland and Saginaw named among best hospitals by U.S. News & World Report



MYMICHIGAN MEDICAL CENTER MIDLAND

MyMichigan Medical Centers in Midland and Saginaw have earned recognition from U.S. News & World Report in its 2024-2025 "Best Hospitals" list. The Midland facility was highlighted as a "High Performing" hospital for its excellence in aortic valve surgery, heart failure, colon cancer surgery, pneumonia, stroke, and transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR). Notably, Midland is among just four Michigan hospitals rated top-tier for TAVR. Meanwhile, the Saginaw facility received high marks for its performance in heart failure care.

These accolades are part of U.S. News' annual hospital rankings, which aim to help patients and providers make informed decisions about care for complex health conditions and elective procedures.

"Being recognized by U.S. News is an exceptional honor and speaks to our unwavering commitment to delivering top-tier healthcare," said Chuck Sherwin, president of MyMichigan Medical Center Midland. "This recognition underscores the high-quality care we consistently provide to our communities."

Mike Erickson, president of

MyMichigan Medical Centers Saginaw, Standish, Tawas, and Towne Centre, added, "The dedication of our teams is truly impressive, and this award is a reflection of their hard work and the excellent patient outcomes we achieve. It's an honor our communities can be proud of."

U.S. News evaluated nearly 5,000 hospitals across the country, assessing clinical outcomes, nursing care, and patient experiences. The "High Performing" designation acknowledges hospitals that consistently excel in specific procedures and conditions.

For over 35 years, U.S. News

has served as a trusted resource for patients navigating health-care decisions. The rankings are based on objective data, including risk-adjusted mortality rates and preventable complications, with this year's analysis incorporating care data from Medicare Advantage patients and outpatients.

The recognition places MyMichigan Medical Centers among the top hospitals in the state for several key medical procedures, affirming their commitment to quality and patient well-being.

HEALTH

MDHHS seeks proposals for Healthy Community Zones in Saginaw, Chippewa Counties, and Detroit

LANSING — The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is seeking proposals to establish Healthy Community Zones in Saginaw and Chippewa counties and the City of Detroit. These zones aim to reduce racial disparities in health outcomes by supporting communities with initiatives focused on food security, healthy environments, children and youth, and social cohesion.

This place-based racial and health equity initiative is designed to assist communities disproportionately affected by chronic diseases, poor health outcomes, food insecurity, and physical inactivity. The initiative will fund local projects that focus on creating sustainable, commu-

nity-driven improvements.

Eligible applicants for the funding include public, private, and nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations, as well as organizations supporting tribes and people with disabilities. This marks the first time such funding is available through the Healthy Community Zone initiative.

Funding will support new or existing programs aimed at one or more of the following goals:

- Increasing food security.
- Creating active, healthy built environments (physical or man-made structures where people live, work, learn, and play).
- Supporting healthy, thriving children and youth.

- Enhancing social cohesion by fostering connections between residents, organizations, and the community.

A total of \$9.1 million is available, with individual awards ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000. The state anticipates funding 30 projects. The program is expected to begin in April 2025 and continue until September 2026, with the possibility of renewals based on performance and available funds.

A pre-application conference will be held on Monday, Oct. 7, at 10 a.m., to provide information on the funding opportunity and instructions for using the EGrAMS system. The webi-

nar will last approximately two hours, and a recording will be available afterward.

Project director requests to access the application through EGrAMS are due by 5 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 13. The deadline for submitting grant applications is 3 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 20.

For more information or to apply, visit the EGrAMS website and access the "Competitive Application Instructions" training manual. The complete RFP can be found under the "Current Grants" section, selecting the "HCZ-2025" grant program. For additional information email MDHHS at MDHHS-HCZ@michigan.gov.

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POLITICS

Flint & Genesee Chamber to host 'Meet the Candidates' event at October luncheon



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLINT & GENESEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BY MB STAFF

FLINT — With a pivotal election year approaching, the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce is offering local voters the chance to meet and engage with candidates running for public office in Genesee County. The event, part of the Chamber's October luncheon, is set to take place on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at the Ascension Genesys Conference & Banquet Center in Grand Blanc.

This unique opportunity will

bring together candidates from various levels of government, including City Council hopefuls and those running for U.S. Representative seats. The Chamber has extended invitations to all candidates across the political spectrum, and the event promises a strong turnout based on early positive responses.

The format of the luncheon has been adjusted to allow more informal interaction between attendees and candidates. While there will be a formal program, it has been shortened to ensure

participants have ample time to connect directly with the candidates in their jurisdiction. This is a valuable chance for local business owners and community leaders to share their concerns and priorities with those seeking public office.

"The luncheon offers attendees the opportunity to not only expand their network but also to gain crucial insights into the business and community landscape," said Jennie Main, Member Services representative for the Chamber.

The event begins with registration and open networking at 11:30 AM, followed by the luncheon program at 12:15 PM. The registration deadline for members is October 2, 2024, at 5 PM.

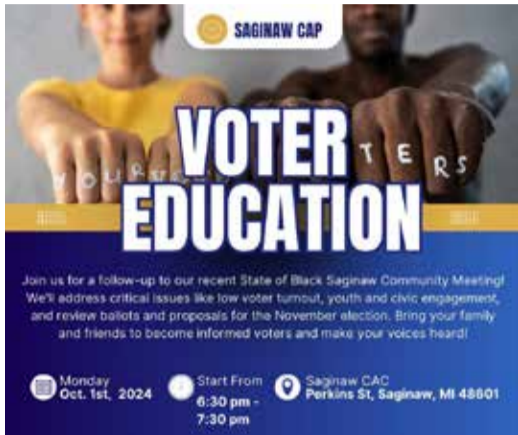
Fees are set at \$10 for members who register before the deadline and \$20 for non-members or late registrants. On-site registration may be available, but space is not guaranteed without pre-registration.

For more information or to register, visit the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce website or contact Jennie Main at 810-600-1459.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024
- **Time:** 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
- **Location:** Ascension Genesys Conference & Banquet Center, 805 Health Park Blvd, Grand Blanc, MI 48439
- **Cost:** \$10 for members (before Oct. 2), \$20 for future members and late registrants

Election forum set for Oct. 1



SAGINAW — A meeting to promote voter turnout and education begins at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 1, a Tuesday, at the Saginaw County CAC, 2824 Perkins.

"In response to growing concerns about civic engagement and voter turnout within the Black

community, local leaders and activists are coming together to host a pivotal community forum, designed to inform voters on ballot specifics," said Jeff Bulls, president of CAP, Community Alliance for the People.

On Nov. 5, voters will decide everything from replacements for President Joe Biden, Sen. Debbie Stabenaw and Rep. Dan Kildee to state offices to members of their local governing bodies.

Trump to make 11th visit to Michigan with Saginaw rally, Harris to visit Flint the following day



VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS AND FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

MICHIGAN — Former President Donald Trump is set to make his 11th appearance in Michigan this year, with a stop in Saginaw on Thursday, October 3. Trump will speak at 3 p.m. at Saginaw Valley State University's Ryder Center for Health and Physical Education, according to his campaign team.

Trump's visit follows his recent stops in Walker, Michi-

gan, where he addressed employees at FALK Production, and a town hall event at Macomb Community College. His running mate, Ohio Senator JD Vance, also made a visit to Michigan ahead of the vice presidential debate on October 1, hosted by CBS News.

On the other side of the campaign, Vice President Kamala Harris will make her return to Michigan with a stop

in Flint on Friday, October 4. Harris was last in the state in September, where she attended a campaign event in Metro Detroit hosted by Oprah Winfrey. Details regarding her upcoming visit to Flint have not yet been released.

Those interested in attending Trump's rally can register on his campaign website.

SEEN ON THE SCENE: Today in Saginaw, ahead of the vice presidential debate, Black educators and local leaders including Michigan Board of Education President Pamela Pugh, Bay City Education Association President Rick Meeth, and educator Melba Denise Baldwin held a press conference to lay out how the Trump-Vance Project 2025 agenda would hurt Michigan students and educators.



COURTESY PHOTO

POLITICS

Judicial candidates to address incarcerated voters at Genesee County Jail

COURTESY PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

FLINT — On Thursday, October 3, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., the Genesee County Jail will host a "Meet the Judicial Candidates" Forum, an event designed to engage detained men and women who still have the right to vote while incarcerated. The forum is organized by the F.A.I.R. Voting Alliance and the Genesee County Ambassadors, underscoring the importance of making voting accessible

for all citizens.

During the event, candidates running for the Michigan Supreme Court, the 2nd District Michigan Court of Appeals, and the Genesee County 7th Circuit Court will have the opportunity to present their priorities and vision to incarcerated voters. This initiative aims to inform and empower voters behind bars, ensuring they can make knowledgeable decisions when casting their ballots.

The forum represents a larger

movement to acknowledge and protect the voting rights of incarcerated individuals. It reinforces the idea that ballots cast from jail are just as significant as those from the general population and should not be overlooked.

Recent efforts to highlight this issue have garnered both local and national attention, including coverage by Good Morning America and Bolts magazine. These initiatives demonstrate the growing importance of maintaining and supporting the voting

rights of all citizens, regardless of their legal circumstances.

Empowering incarcerated voters to participate in the judicial election process not only fosters inclusivity but also strengthens democracy by ensuring that every voice is heard. The forum at the Genesee County Jail is a critical step toward upholding this constitutional right.

For more information, please contact Percy Glover at 810-210-4041 or percy.glover@outlook.com.

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POLITICS

OPINION

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this opinion piece are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The Michigan Banner.



JERRY GONZALEZ

Trump all wet on vets

BY JERRY GONZALEZ

I generally am a political person, not the most intense, but to the level that I will put signs in the yard for candidates or for worthy causes.

There are other signs that I find offensive, in particular the ones that declare, "Veterans for Trump." I'm a vet but not for someone who would brand me as a "loser" or as a "sucker," as this

draft-dodger described 1,800 slain soldiers at an American cemetery near Paris, as an excuse for dodging a ceremony in the rain while he was president.

Or the time he said John McCain "was a 'war hero' only because he was captured" after being shot down over North Vietnam, and, "I like people who were not captured."

Just now, the story is that the Medal of Freedom is more pres-

tigious than the Medal of Honor, which often goes to soldiers "either in very bad shape because they've been hit so many times by bullets, or they're dead."

That's why I took the time to make my own sign. I no longer will remain silent while Donald Trump, who dodged the draft by claiming his feet were bad, heaps abuse upon the men and women who have defended our freedom, including his own freedom to

utter such nonsense.

Everyone, be sure to vote on Nov 5 for Kamala Harris!

Gerardo "Jerry" Cortez Gonzalez, 75, of Bridgeport is a Vietnam-era Army veteran. He graduated from the former St. Joseph High School in 1967 and has compiled a comprehensive history of the 126-year-old parish. He is retired from Saginaw Steering Gear, now Nexteer Automotive.

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- A safe and healthy environment for school and community
 - Volunteers with Arson Watch and N.A.A.G.
- Sound fiscal policies at local, state, and national levels that put education as a priority for our future
 - Advocates Locally, in Lansing and in Washington D.C.



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- Retired educator of over 40 years
- Attended School Board meetings since 1975
- Michigan Association of School Boards Certification
 - President Level 2017
 - 171 class credits & 2210 education credits
 - Data & Advocacy Certification
- Board Member – Saginaw ISD 2022 - present, Serving as Treasurer

Leadership Recognition:

- Named "Saginaw Hero" by NAACP 2008
- Named "Lowell Mason Fellow" 2005, the highest national honor awarded by MENC: The National Association for Music Education
- Served SPSP as Treasurer, Vice-President, President, Treasurer
- All Area Arts Award 2018
- Silver & Gold Award – University of Idaho Alumni Assoc. 2023
- Michigan Banner's Lifetime Achievement Heart of the City Award 2024

Volunteer Work:

- Arson Watch
- N.A.A.G.
- Positive Results Downtown
 - Past President 2023-2024
 - Holidays in the Heart of the City, Christmas Parade, Memorial Day Parade, Friday Night Live
- NAACP 2nd Vice President, Education Chair

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POLITICS

Kildee urges action on Canada's digital services tax, citing unfair targeting of U.S. businesses

BY JERRY GONZALEZ

FLINT — Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-08), a member of the Ways and Means Committee's Subcommittee on Trade, has urged the Biden Administration to address Canada's recently enacted Digital Services Tax (DST). In a letter, Kildee argued the tax unfairly targets U.S. companies, placing an undue bur-

den on American businesses and workers.

Canada's DST, introduced in June 2024, taxes digital services like online marketplaces and social media platforms. Kildee and other lawmakers believe the tax disproportionately impacts American firms, as many large digital providers are based in the U.S.

"The United States has no

closer ally than Canada, but this DST risks undermining our relationship," the letter stated. The lawmakers also suggested the tax may violate the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), with the U.S. Trade Representative seeking dispute consultations.

Kildee was joined by Michigan Reps. Bill Huizenga, Elissa Slotkin, Hillary Scholten, Lisa



CONGRESSMAN DAN KILDEE

McClain, and John Moolenaar in urging swift action to protect American businesses from unfair taxation.

The importance of researching candidates

BY JERRY GONZALEZ

In today's politically polarized climate, many voters make the mistake of choosing candidates based solely on party affiliation. While political parties offer a convenient framework for understanding candidates' general ideologies, voting without researching individual candidates is a missed opportunity to make a truly informed decision—one that could have long-term consequences for communities and the nation.

Party Labels Don't Tell the Whole Story

Political parties provide broad guidance on issues, but not all members within a party are created equal. Candidates often differ significantly on key policies and priorities, even within the same party. For example, a Democrat in a progressive urban district might have vastly different positions on healthcare, education, or climate change than a Democrat from a rural or moderate district. Similarly, Republicans from different regions may hold divergent views on econom-

ic policies, immigration, and social issues.

By relying on party labels alone, voters miss out on understanding these nuances. They could inadvertently support candidates whose specific views don't align with their own values or who lack the leadership skills needed to advocate for their constituents.

The Power of Local Elections

While national elections get most of the media attention, local elections often have a more direct impact on our daily lives. Whether it's school board members, city councilors, or state representatives, these local leaders make decisions that shape our communities. When voters skip the research and vote based purely on party lines, they risk electing officials who may not fully represent their needs or concerns at the local level.

Understanding a candidate's track record, policy proposals, and stances on issues that directly affect the community—like housing, education, public safety, and healthcare—helps voters

make decisions that lead to better local governance.

Holding Candidates Accountable

Researching candidates also plays a crucial role in holding them accountable. By diving into their past work, campaign promises, and how they've voted on previous issues, voters can gauge whether a candidate's actions align with their rhetoric. It's important to assess whether candidates will keep their promises or have a history of making empty commitments. A well-informed electorate can push candidates to be more transparent, hold them accountable for their actions, and ensure they work in the public's interest, not just the interest of their party or donors.

Independent and Third-Party Candidates Deserve Consideration

In a two-party system, independent or third-party candidates are often overlooked, despite sometimes being better aligned with voters' values. Without proper research, voters may

assume that only major party candidates have viable platforms, overlooking potentially better options. In reality, independent candidates often bring fresh perspectives, new ideas, and a commitment to challenging the status quo.

Making a Lasting Impact

Ultimately, democracy works best when voters take the time to understand who they're supporting. When people vote for candidates who truly represent their interests, rather than simply voting along party lines, the result is a more engaged, accountable, and effective government. Every vote matters, and every candidate deserves thorough consideration before stepping into a position of power.

So, before you head to the polls, take a moment to research each candidate. Learn about their policies, values, and history. Your vote has the potential to shape not just the next election, but the future of your community and country. Don't let party labels alone determine your choice—let informed decisions guide the way.

EDUCATION

Neil MacKinnon, Ph.D., appointed as Central Michigan University's 16th President

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Central Michigan University (CMU) Board of Trustees has unanimously voted to appoint Neil MacKinnon, Ph.D., as the university's 16th president. MacKinnon, who currently serves as provost at Augusta University in Georgia, will officially begin his term on November 1, 2024.

With over 25 years of experience in higher education, MacKinnon has held numerous leadership and administrative roles throughout his career, including appointments in the Department of Health Management, Economics and Policy, the Department of Population Health Science, and the Graduate School at Augusta University.

CMU Board of Trustees Chair Todd J. Regis emphasized the qualities sought in the new president, stating, "We were looking for a visionary, ambitious, and decisive leader whose vision and values align with those of the institution." Regis noted MacKinnon's deep engagement during the selection process, mentioning his extensive research on CMU's history and his forward-thinking ideas regarding enrollment growth and innovative classroom experiences.

Denise Williams Mallett, Vice Chair of the Board and chair of the presidential search advisory committee, highlighted MacKinnon's wealth of experience in higher education leadership, particularly in medical schools and healthcare programs. She praised his ability to connect with diverse groups and foster collaboration. "We wanted someone who could foster collaboration across all generations and backgrounds



DR. NEIL MACKINNON

while being forward-thinking about the challenges and opportunities that higher education faces today," Williams Mallett said.

MacKinnon expressed his enthusiasm for CMU's commitment to student success and leadership. "CMU's mission statement is very different from those at most universities," he remarked. "It defines success by the success of its students and graduates, and by its impact on the communities it serves — that's a powerful commitment."

During his tenure at Augusta University, MacKinnon oversaw academic operations, libraries, research initiatives, and student success programs. His leadership contributed to significant increases in enrollment and research funding, as well as growth

in student success initiatives. "In many ways, our institutions are very alike in terms of some of the opportunities and challenges we face," MacKinnon noted, recognizing his ability to contribute to CMU's strategic goals.

MacKinnon has a proven track record of developing and implementing strategic plans that address the diverse needs of stakeholders. He highlighted his collaborative work across various sectors, including student affairs and academic planning, which has given him a comprehensive understanding of public research institutions.

Regis and Williams Mallett both emphasized MacKinnon's dedication to improving academic outcomes and fostering student success. "I believe his focus on student-centered lead-

ership will bring about initiatives that enhance the academic experience, improve accessibility, and strengthen our institutional sustainability," Williams Mallett said.

MacKinnon earned his doctoral degree in pharmacy health care administration from the University of Florida and holds a master's degree in hospital pharmacy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, along with a bachelor's degree in pharmacy from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

MacKinnon, along with his wife, Leanne, and their dog, Bentley, will be relocating to the Mount Pleasant area ahead of his start date. Their three daughters, Breagh, Ashlynn, and Kaylee, are currently enrolled at the University of Georgia.

EDUCATION

Bay Area Chamber of Commerce to host 'State of Education' event

BY MB STAFF

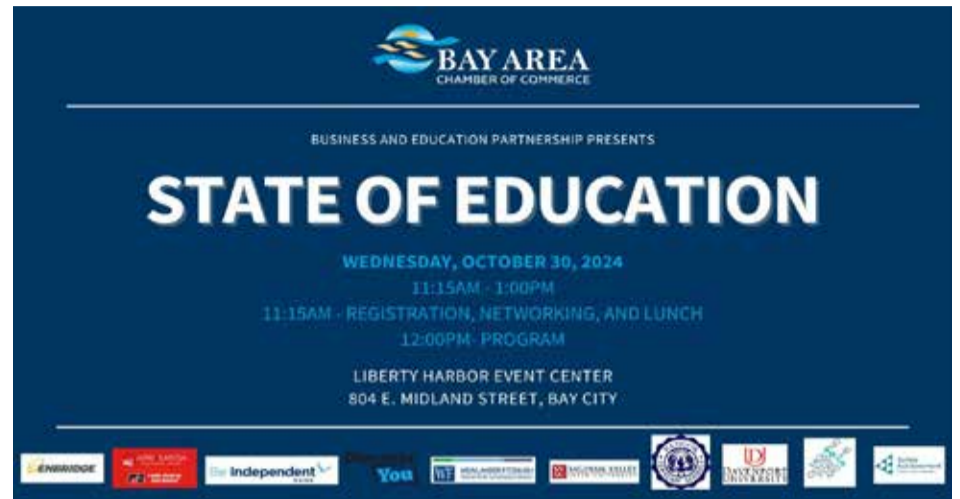
SAGINAW — The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce has announced its upcoming State of Education event, set for Wednesday, October 30th, from 11:15 AM to 1:00 PM at the Liberty Harbor Event Center.

The event will feature a panel discussion with prominent educational leaders, including Gretchen Wagner, Director of Early Childhood Education at Bay Arenac ISD; Dr. Justin Ralston, Superintendent of Essexville-Hampton Public Schools; and Dr. George Grant, President of Saginaw Valley State University. Attendees will also have the opportunity to engage in table discussions with educators, focusing on current

challenges in education and collaborative strategies to enhance student outcomes. This dialogue aims to strengthen partnerships between the business community and local schools.

Additionally, the event will recognize the recipient of the Jerome L. Yantz Partner in Education Award, which honors significant contributions to the K-12 education system in Bay County. This award celebrates individuals and organizations dedicated to enriching the educational experiences of local students.

The program will begin with registration, networking, and lunch at 11:30 AM, followed by the main program at 12:00 PM. The cost to attend is \$50 for Chamber members, \$65 for future members, and \$390 for a table of eight.



COURTESY PHOTO (BAY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)

"Education is the foundation of our community's future," said Magen Samyn, President & CEO of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. "Events like this allow us to create meaningful partnerships between the business community and our local schools. By coming together, we can ensure

students in Bay County are better prepared for the opportunities ahead."

Registration is currently open, and sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, please visit the [Bay Area Chamber of Commerce website](https://www.bayarea-chamber.com).

Unprecedented college affordability



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS

High school seniors

New this year, the Michigan Community College Guarantee covers tuition for all students who complete the FAFSA annually and reside in a community college district. Students must enroll full time and maintain acceptable academic status.

In addition to cost, community colleges offer many advantages. Class sizes are often small, and community college credit will transfer to most Michigan universities. Some community college credits may articulate with universities in a "3 plus 1" partnership (attend community college for three years and the college or university for one year).

The opportunities described here help families avoid "college debt," a significant benefit, indeed.

In recent years, Delta College and other community colleges have become more affordable. My purpose is to encourage two groups to think about a strong possibility to "go to college" cost-free.

Adults age 21 – 24

The Michigan Reconnect Program may be for you if you are over 21 and have never gone to college. You must be a Michigan resident and have a high school diploma (or GED). Michigan Reconnect covers your costs to attend.

Michigan recognized for innovative teacher preparation

MICHIGAN — The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has received national recognition for its support of aspiring teachers, as featured in the National Council on Teacher Quality's "Clinical Practice Action Guide." The case study highlights Michigan's rigorous clinical experience requirements and efforts to reduce financial barriers for teacher candidates.

"Michigan continues to be recognized for its efforts to improve the teaching profession," said State Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice.

Since 2018, teacher candidates in Michigan must complete at least 600 hours of clinical experience and can receive stipends of \$9,600 per semester during student teaching. Initiatives also in-

clude scholarships and programs aimed at increasing diversity in the workforce.

The National Council emphasizes that many new teachers lack adequate hands-on practice, impacting student learning. Improved partnerships between school districts and teacher preparation programs can create a pipeline of qualified teachers.

Heather Peske, president of the Council, praised Michigan as a leader in enhancing teacher quality. These efforts align with Goal 7 of Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan, aimed at addressing the teacher shortage and ensuring equitable educational opportunities. For more details, visit www.nctq.org.

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EDUCATION

SVSU sees growth in new student enrollment for Fall 2024



A PHOTO OF LADONNA JONES, A FIRST-YEAR SVSU STUDENT FROM SAGINAW, ACCOMPANIES THIS RELEASE.

SAGINAW – Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) has experienced a rise in new student enrollment for the Fall 2024 semester, with more incoming freshmen and transfer students compared to recent years. The number of first-year students increased from 1,292 last year to 1,365 this fall, marking a 5.6% rise. Transfer student numbers also grew by nearly 9%, with 347 new transfers compared to 319 the previous year.

Ken Fettig, SVSU's vice president for Enrollment Management, credited the university's concerted efforts in reaching out

to prospective students and their families as key to the enrollment boost.

"We worked incredibly hard throughout the past year, spending extra time with new students and families, and making sure our information was accurate, and those efforts paid off," Fettig said. "This was a very challenging enrollment cycle, given all the FAFSA problems at the federal level, which put us, and others, several months behind the typical schedule. As someone relatively new to SVSU, I was impressed by the dedication and care I saw from colleagues across

the university."

Fettig, who joined SVSU in October 2023, emphasized the university's commitment to ensuring a smooth process for incoming students despite challenges.

Among the incoming freshmen is LaDonna Jones, an elementary education major from Saginaw. She chose to reside in SVSU's award-winning residence halls and appreciated the support she received during her enrollment process. "I chose SVSU because it's close to home, and I feel comfortable and familiar with the school," Jones said. She

highlighted the help she received from admissions representative Marcelina Fulgencio and associate vice president for Academic Affairs Dawn Hinton.

Overall, SVSU's total enrollment for the Fall 2024 semester stands at 6,822, slightly down from 6,889 last year. However, the university saw an increase in its retention rate, with 77.2% of the 2023 freshman class returning for their second year, a return to pre-pandemic levels.

Classes at SVSU began on Monday, August 26.

EDUCATION

Former Jerome Elementary undergoing renovations to become high quality, state of the art green STEM preschool model



COURTESY PHOTOS

SAGINAW – Jerome was established as a Kindergarten through 5th grade elementary school in 1976 by the Saginaw Public School District. In 2013, due to low student capacity as well as district wide financial challenges. Dr. Ericka Taylor was the principal assigned to Jerome that year and understood first hand why the school was being offlined, especially in consideration of the many structural needs of the building and grounds.

However, when Dr. Taylor

joined the Saginaw Intermediate School District in 2017 as the Director of Early Childhood, she was surprised to learn that Jerome was a preschool site that was being rented and utilized (in the very same condition) to provide early childhood services which include preschool classes, home visiting teachers and maternal infant support for the families of children birth through 5 years of age. This was an immediate reminder of the reasons why Jerome was originally offlined,

but it also spurred a deeper desire and vision to give our children and families in Saginaw County not only what they need, but what they deserve, which is the very best learning environment that we can possibly imagine and provide, despite their economic status and/or zip code!

A groundbreaking ceremony was held this past May and renovations are currently underway transforming the former Jerome elementary school into the new Jerome Preschool servicing students ages birth to 4 years old! These renovations will include a new roof, awning, heating/cooling system, parking lot and greenhouse. There will be designated space for onsite medical services for children and families, shared community space for partnerships with local colleges/universities, and community organizations. All classrooms and hallways will be updated with new lighting, paint and flooring. The former gymnasium will now be a multipurpose space for staff professional development oppor-

tunities as well as community activities and events.

These renovations will not only enhance and beautify the local community, but will also give our youngest learners the academic, social and emotional foundation they need and deserve to begin their K-12 endeavors and beyond by providing them with a high quality, state of the art building focused on Green STEM. Our vision is that this preschool site will provide an early childhood model that we can replicate not only in Saginaw, but across the state of Michigan and beyond.

A huge thank you to Saginaw ISD Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Collier for allowing us to dream big for the children and families in our community! We welcome any questions you may have to be sent to Dr. Ericka Taylor, Executive Director of Early Childhood, at etaylor@sisd.cc.

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About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

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

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Conscious Capitalism Great Lakes Bay Region Chapter to host legacy of leadership event

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Conscious Capitalism Great Lakes Bay Region Chapter is set to host Legacy of Leadership: Elevating Communities, Empowering the Future on November 12, 2024, at Saginaw Valley State University's Curtiss Hall. This exclusive event, presented by Applied Innovation, aims to bring together business and community leaders dedicated to fostering sustainable impact through conscious leadership.

Starting at 9:30 a.m., attendees will have the opportunity to network before the program begins at 10:00 a.m.. The event will feature insights from prominent regional leaders on shaping the future through purposeful, community-driven leadership.

Keynote speaker Jon Lynch, President of Three Rivers Corporation, will address how purpose-driven leadership can enhance influence, create lasting community value, and ensure continuity in leadership.

A panel discussion featuring notable business leaders will follow, including:

- **Paul Furlo**, President and CEO of Morley Companies
- **AB Ghosh**, Chairman and CEO of Hemlock Semiconductor
- **Brenda Rowley**, Vice President of Operations at Rowleys Wholesale
- **Samuel Shaheen MD**, President and CEO of Shaheen Development and CMU Medical Education Partners

The discussion will be moderated by Dick Garber, Owner of Garber Automotive Group and the Saginaw Spirit. Garber's extensive history of community engagement makes him a respected figure in the region, and he will facilitate deeper insights and strategies from the panelists.

Attendees will gain valuable takeaways, including exclusive access to leadership insights from influential figures in the region, strategies for building a leadership legacy that drives community impact, and ways to collaborate effectively to foster sustainable growth.

The event agenda includes:

- 9:30 AM – 10:00 a.m.: Registration & Networking (Light refreshments served)
- 10:00 AM – 10:10 a.m.: Welcome & Opening Remarks
- 10:10 AM – 10:30 a.m.: Keynote Address by Jon Lynch
- 10:30 AM – 11:10 a.m.: Panel Discussion moderated by Dick Garber
- 11:10 AM – 11:50 a.m.: Interactive Group Discussion
- 11:50 AM – 12:00 p.m.: Closing Remarks & Call to Action

For more information and to register, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/legacy-of-leadership-elevating-communities-empowering-the-future-tickets-1017627309677>.



Jon Lynch, President of Three Rivers Corporation



Dick Garber, Owner of Garber Automotive Group & the Saginaw Spirit



Paul Furlo, President & CEO of Morley Companies



AB Ghosh, Chairman & CEO of Hemlock Semiconductor



Brenda Rowley, V.P. of Operations at Rowleys Wholesale



Samuel Shaheen MD, President & CEO of Shaheen Development & CMU M.E.P.

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BUSINESS + FINANCE

Flint to receive major economic boost with new battery manufacturing facility

FLINT — NanoGraf, a battery material company, is set to build a new advanced manufacturing facility at the former Buick City site, backed by \$60 million in federal funding. This project is part of a broader \$355 million investment from the U.S. Department of Energy aimed at bolstering the domestic production of advanced batteries and materials in Michigan.

NanoGraf's new facility will focus on producing cutting-edge silicon anode material, which is essential for electric vehicle (EV) batteries. At full capacity, the plant will generate 2,500 tons of this material annually, enough to supply around 1.5 million EVs each year.

The federal investment was lauded by Congressman Dan Kildee, who emphasized the potential economic benefits for the Flint community. "I'm thrilled to see the Biden-Harris administration investing in American manufacturing here in Flint," Kildee said. "This investment will create hundreds of new construction jobs and permanent positions



BUILDING AT THE OLD BUICK CITY SITE IN FLINT (ASHLEY CAPITAL)

while breathing new life into the former Buick City site. It's a sign of Flint's resilience and the determination of our families."

The project is expected to create approximately 200 construc-

tion jobs, thanks to an agreement with the North American Building Trades Union, and up to 150 permanent jobs once the facility is operational. Notably, 80% of these permanent positions are

anticipated to be filled by local residents.

Flint Mayor Sheldon Neeley welcomed NanoGraf's decision to establish the facility in the city, highlighting the long-term benefits. "The combined investment from NanoGraf and the Department of Energy will provide domestic access to innovative battery technology, meeting the growing demand for high-performing EVs while creating well-paying jobs for Flint," Neeley said.

Emily Doerr, Flint's Director of Business and Community Services, noted that the city will benefit financially from day one, as no local tax abatements were granted for the project. "Our community will receive the full economic benefit, including increased tax revenue to support local infrastructure and services," she said.

NanoGraf's facility marks a significant step in revitalizing the Buick City site, offering both economic opportunities and contributing to the future of EV technology in Michigan.

Delta College to host Great Lakes Bay employment fair on October 24

UNIVERSITY CENTER — Delta College is set to host the Great Lakes Bay Employment & Apprenticeship Fair on Thursday, October 24, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Pioneer Gym. The event is open to the public and provides a valuable opportunity for job seekers to connect with local employers from a wide range of industries.

The fair is designed for students, alumni, and community members, offering them a chance to explore potential job and apprenticeship opportunities. Attendees are encouraged to bring



COURTESY PHOTO (DELTA COLLEGE)

copies of their résumé and dress professionally to make a strong first impression.

This event is free for all job seekers, and further details, including a list of attending em-

ployers and job preparation tips, are available on the event's official webpage.

The fair is made possible through partnerships with Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works!, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Workforce Development, Veterans' Employment Services, and American Legion Post #443.

For additional information or inquiries, contact Delta College's Work Experience Office at work-experience@delta.edu or call 989-686-9443.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Flint & Genesee Group celebrates the 40 Under 40 Class of 2024

FLINT — The Flint & Genesee Group is recognizing its 2024 class of 40 Under 40, spotlighting young professionals who are making significant contributions to the community. All honorees, under the age of 40, are leaders in their fields and actively engaged in volunteer work throughout Genesee County.

“Good things are happening here because of this next generation of emerging leaders,” said Flint & Genesee Group CEO Tim Herman. “We have a lot to be proud of.”

This year marks the second installment of the 40 Under 40 program, established in 2022, due to strong community support. More than 150 nominations were submitted, with a selection committee of local leaders determining the honorees based on professional achievements and community involvement.

Herman stressed the importance of recognizing these young leaders to highlight their impact and support talent retention in the region. The initiative aligns with the "Make Your Move in Flint & Genesee" campaign, aimed at encouraging young professionals to invest in the community.

“This is our way of showing we value the contributions of all our young leaders and inspiring them to continue shaping Flint and Genesee County’s future,” Herman stated.



Amir E. Abu-Aita



Joel Arnold



Jordan Bohlfinger



Alyssa Bouchard



Domonique Clemons



Dan Command



Brandy Curtis



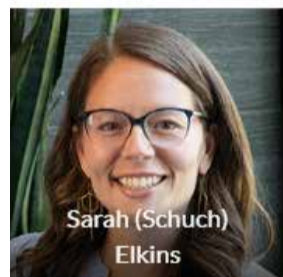
Alexandria Dawson



Emily Doerr



David Donahue



Sarah (Schuch) Elkins



Samantha Fountain



Kenneth Frierson



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Shelby Garcia



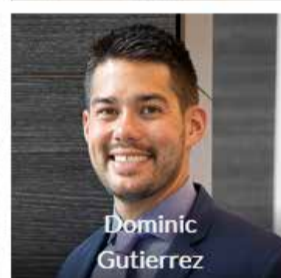
Dr. Alex Givens



Addisyn Goss



Ted Grossnickle



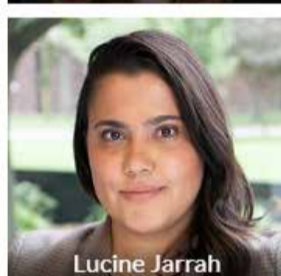
Dominic Gutierrez



Dr. Aisha Harris



Amanda Hemeyer



Lucine Jarrah



Jordan Johnson



Tim Jones



Nikki Koliopoulos



Kathryn Lineham



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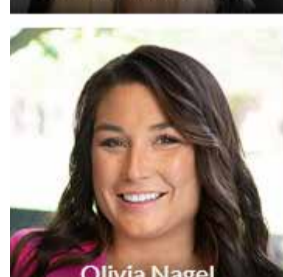
Dylan Luna



Taylor "TC" McClain



Kyona McGhee



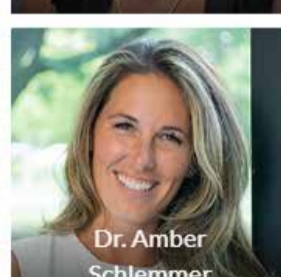
Olivia Nagel



Tiffanie Paielli



Dr. Dick Sadler



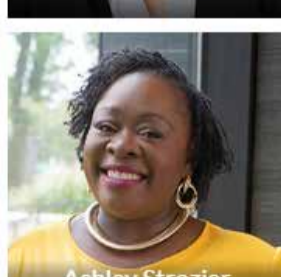
Dr. Amber Schlemmer



Mason Sommer



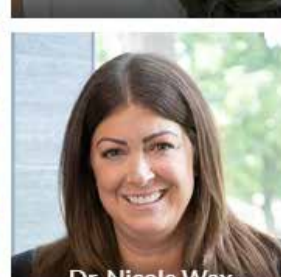
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FAITH IN FOCUS



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



Knowing when to lead and when to follow: A biblical perspective on community leadership

COURTESY PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

In every community, effective leadership plays a crucial role in fostering unity, growth, and purpose. However, understanding when to lead and when to follow is a vital skill that often determines the success of community initiatives. The Bible provides profound insights into this dynamic, particularly through the teachings found in Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV), which states, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” This verse highlights the importance of humility and selflessness, key qualities for both leaders and followers.

The Importance of Leading

Leadership is essential in guiding a community toward a common vision or goal. As Proverbs 29:18 (KJV) states, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Leaders are responsible for providing direction, motivating others, and making critical decisions. In this role, they must

inspire and empower community members to contribute to a shared purpose.

For example, in a community facing challenges such as poverty or social injustice, a leader might step forward to organize initiatives that address these issues. This can involve mobilizing resources, rallying volunteers, and advocating for change. When leaders emerge with a clear vision and a commitment to serving others, they can catalyze transformative efforts that benefit the entire community.

However, effective leadership does not stem from a desire for recognition or power. As Jesus demonstrated, true leadership involves servitude and sacrifice. In Mark 10:45 (NIV), it is stated, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.” This reminder encourages leaders to prioritize the well-being of others, ensuring that their leadership is rooted in humility and compassion.

The Role of Followership

While leading is critical, knowing when to follow is equally important. Not every situation calls for a leader to take charge;

sometimes, the best course of action is to support someone else’s vision or initiative. The Bible illustrates this principle through the example of Moses and Joshua. Moses, a great leader, was called to guide the Israelites out of Egypt, but it was Joshua who eventually led them into the Promised Land.

In this context, Joshua exemplified the qualities of a strong follower. He was attentive, respectful, and fully committed to Moses’ leadership. Numbers 27:18 (NIV) highlights this by stating, “The Lord said to Moses, ‘Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit of leadership, and lay your hand on him.’” This passage underscores that strong followers can possess leadership qualities themselves; they simply recognize the right time to support another leader’s vision.

When individuals in a community choose to follow, they can contribute to the overall success of a project by offering their skills, resources, and encouragement. This collaborative spirit fosters a sense of unity and shared responsibility, which can amplify the impact of the initiatives being undertaken. Romans

12:10 (NIV) encourages this by stating, “Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.” Supporting fellow leaders in their endeavors can be just as impactful as leading oneself.

Balancing Leadership and Followership

In community dynamics, the balance between leading and following is often fluid. Leaders must remain aware of when to assert their vision and when to step back and allow others to take the lead. This requires discernment, empathy, and an understanding of individual strengths and weaknesses within the community.

Moreover, as communities grow and evolve, the needs and challenges may shift, necessitating different styles of leadership. The Apostle Paul, in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, describes the Church as a body with many parts, each playing a unique role. This analogy applies to communities as well, where every member—whether in a leadership role or as a supporter—contributes to the overall health and function of the group.

Knowing when to lead and when to follow is an essential aspect of effective community leadership. The Bible provides guidance on embodying humility and service, reminding us that both leadership and followership are crucial for communal success. As individuals discern their roles within their community, they should strive to embody the values of collaboration, respect, and selflessness. By doing so, they can contribute to a vibrant and supportive community that uplifts all its members, ensuring that the collective vision thrives. Ultimately, whether leading or following, the goal remains the same: to serve one another and uplift the community, reflecting the love and guidance exemplified in Scripture.

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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Pick a number



BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

We are all busy doing good work. We are researching, writing, teaching, speaking, advocating, planning, convening and more. We are ending hunger, HIV, war, and policies that discriminate.

We are starting new environmental programs, educational efforts, and workforce development partnerships. Sometimes, with all the work we just might get a little loose with the numbers. Not on purpose. Not because we are being deceptive.

Usually, it's just because we're not sharing information internally. One group of people uses one set of numbers, and another team uses another. Not that this could happen at your organization! We are all A+ at everything, except when we're not. So, let's talk about those numbers. We want to help you stay transparent and honest with yourself and others – and keep you from crashing into the reality of numbers that don't match what you thought they were.

It is important that the numbers you share internally are in sync with those you share with individuals and organizations outside your nonprofit. Here are examples of numbers to think about: how much money you are raising, your annual budget, how you spend the funds you secure, fundraising projections for future



COURTESY PHOTO

years, and how many people you are serving/ educating/ training/ tutoring... Internally, you need to know your donor "attrition rate" – that is, how many donors and funders give one year, but don't give the next. Related to this, you need to know your donor "retention rate" – how many donors and funders give year-after-year. These are important: you don't want board members and others mistakenly believing you can automatically raise what you raised last year. When they numbers aren't shared – or aren't calculated – a nonprofit can get caught off balance when people giving fluctuates.

You can end up with different numbers being calculated and communicated when different people create proposals, the annual report, reports to funders, and those for volunteers and board members. All the numbers should be the same from report-to-report. You may need

a bookkeeper, development professional, or CPA to help ensure your numbers are rock solid. The leadership of an organization should be able to quickly give a breakdown of how funds were spent and the impact. You should know which funds are restricted (and to what) and which are unrestricted. You don't want to end up in a situation where you are unintentionally keeping two or more sets of numbers – one each for different reports and audiences, and another that's "official."

There's always someone is a group who will run the numbers

in their head and raise questions at an inopportune time. We've seen it happen. No one is doing anything "wrong," but things just don't add up and people start to pull away. At the end of the day, the executive director, CEO, or president is the person responsible for knowing the numbers and what they mean. You can't pass the buck. If you can't understand what is being presented or have questions – speak up. You don't want to "pick a number, any number."



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

SPORTS

Tigers secure wild card spot, ending decade-long postseason drought



COURTESY PHOTO (DETROIT TIGERS/MLB)

BY MB STAFF

DETROIT – The Detroit Tigers have made a stunning comeback, securing a coveted American League wild card spot on Friday night and ending a postseason drought that has lasted a decade.

“This team is pretty dangerous,” Tigers president of baseball operations Scott Harris remarked. “We got a chance to make some noise in October, and we’re going to keep fighting for the opportunity.”

The Tigers clinched their playoff berth with a solid 4-1 victory over the Chicago White Sox, who unfortunately set a modern major league record with their 121st loss of the season. The Tigers now look forward to facing

either the top AL wild card team, the Baltimore Orioles, or the AL West champion Houston Astros in a best-of-three series beginning Tuesday. Their impressive performance has included winning six straight games and ten of their last eleven, marking their first playoff appearance since 2014.

Detroit found itself struggling with a 55-63 record on August 10, trailing ten games behind the last wild card spot. However, they rebounded spectacularly with a remarkable 31-11 record in the following weeks. During this impressive run, the Tigers boasted the best ERA in baseball and a significant run differential.

“It’s been a dream come true,” said first baseman Spencer Torkelson, capturing the excitement

of the moment.

As the season nears its end, the Tigers have secured the second AL wild card spot, sitting one game ahead of their AL Central rival, the Kansas City Royals, who also clinched a playoff spot on Friday, leaving the Minnesota Twins out of the postseason picture.

Expectations were high this season for the Tigers, especially with Scott Harris at the helm and A.J. Hinch in his fourth year as manager. The team started strong, winning six out of their first seven games and holding a winning record until mid-May. However, they faced setbacks that caused them to slide down the standings.

By late July, the pitching staff was in disarray. Kenta Maeda was

moved to the bullpen, and injuries sidelined Casey Mize and Reese Olson, while Jack Flaherty was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers. Just when it seemed like a rally was on the horizon, the Tigers would falter, prompting many fans to shift their focus to football.

In response to the challenges, Hinch adapted the team’s strategy, relying heavily on a rotation featuring Tarik Skubal and rookie Keider Montero. This approach included using bullpen pitchers to complete entire games, as seen in their matchup against the White Sox in front of a packed crowd of 44,435 at Comerica

Park.

Since August 1, Skubal and Montero have combined for an impressive 11-3 record, with Brant Hurter being the only other starting pitcher to claim a win since then, achieving victory against the Los Angeles Angels a month ago.

The Tigers have not only salvaged their season but have also rekindled interest in baseball throughout the Motor City, attracting larger crowds after years of dwindling attendance at the ballpark.

“It’s been a long time since this organization was in the playoffs, and these fans deserve it,” Harris concluded, reflecting on the significance of this achievement for the community.

SPORTS

Saginaw Spirit names Ethan Hay as new captain for 2024-2025 season

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Saginaw Spirit has announced that forward Ethan Hay will serve as the team's 25th captain for the upcoming season. The announcement was made by Spirit GM Dave Drinkill on Wednesday, with Joey Willis, Michael Misa, Sebastian Gervais, and Nic Sima also named as alternate captains.

"Ethan has demonstrated exemplary leadership qualities and a hunger to win since he set foot in our dressing room last fall," said head coach Chris Lazary. "He leads by example and has established incredibly professional habits. I'm proud to have him as our captain this year."

Hay, who joined the Spirit in a trade with the Flint Firebirds in October 2023, is entering his



COURTESY PHOTO (SAGINAW SPIRIT)

first full season with the team. He played a crucial role in Saginaw's recent success, including their first Memorial Cup Championship last season. "It's a tremendous honor to be named captain of the Saginaw Spirit," Hay expressed. "The rich history of this

organization makes wearing the 'C' incredibly special."

Drafted in the seventh round by the Tampa Bay Lightning in 2023, Hay finished his third OHL season with 24 points (12 goals, 12 assists) over 67 games. He notably contributed four points

in the Memorial Cup semi-final against the Moose Jaw Warriors.

Willis will serve as an alternate captain for the second consecutive year, following a career-high 50-point season. Misa, entering his NHL Draft-eligible season, receives his first letter after posting impressive stats, including 29 goals and 46 assists last season.

Sebastian Gervais, who had a career year with 34 points, and Nic Sima, known for his significant contributions in the Memorial Cup, will also wear alternate captain letters.

The new leadership team will debut tonight at the Dow Event Center as the Spirit face off against the Windsor Spitfires to kick off the 2024-2025 season.

Flint City Bucks 2025 season tickets now available after wrapping up successful season

BY MB STAFF

FLINT — The Flint City Bucks recently finished their fifth consecutive winning season at Atwood Stadium, clinching the Great Lakes division title in USL League Two. The team triumphed over Fort Wayne FC, Chicago City SC, and Des Moines Menace in the playoffs, securing their 10th USL Central Conference Championship. Unfortunately, they fell to Ballard FC in the National Semifinal with a close 1-0 score.

In addition to their playoff success, the Bucks won their first Gerhard Mengel Michigan State Cup this year. As they gear up for the 2025 season, the organization encourages fans to support semi-professional soccer by becoming season ticket holders.

The Bucks franchise has a remarkable history, featuring 27 consecutive winning seasons, five USL League Two titles, and four national championships. They are set to recruit top collegiate talent for the upcoming season at Atwood Stadium.

The club is offering several season ticket packages for 2025, including VIP options starting at \$195 and general admission tickets priced at \$125. Special family and friends packages are also available, providing discounts for larger groups.

For more details on season tickets, please visit the Flint City Bucks' website at flintcitybucks.com/ticket or email info@flintcitybucks.com.



FLINT CITY BUCKS 2024 ROSTER (AMANDA THICK)



PICS OF THE WEEK

The Saginaw Public School District hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Saginaw United High School, located at 1903 N. Niagara, on Monday, September 30. Hundreds gathered to celebrate the future of education in Saginaw, explore the new facilities, meet the staff, and witness the exciting transformations taking place at Saginaw United High School.



SPSD BOARD PRESIDENT CHARLES H. COLEMAN PERFORMS THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY. (KELCEI SCHULTZ)



SUPERINTENDENT RAMONT ROBERTS SPEAKS TO ATTENDEES. (CHRISTIANA MALACARA)



A CROWD FILLS THE ROOM DURING THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY AND OPEN HOUSE FOR SAGINAW UNITED HIGH SCHOOL. (CHRISTIANA MALACARA)

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