



The Michigan Banner

Celebrating Diversity, Empowering Communities



PICS OF THE WEEK
Saginaw Fire Dept.'s new truck

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EDUCATION



VICTORIOUS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LAUNCHES YOUTH INTERVENTION PROGRAM TO ADDRESS SAGINAW'S CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

COMMUNITY, PG 13



JEANNE CONGER

Positive Results Downtown Saginaw Executive Director Jeanne Conger to retire in 2025

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — After nearly 30 years of service, Jeanne Conger, the executive director of Positive Results Downtown Saginaw, has announced her retirement, planned for spring 2025. Conger's long-standing tenure with the organization, also known as PRIDE in Saginaw Inc., has been marked by her creation and development of numerous hallmark events and initiatives that have become staples in downtown Saginaw.

In preparation for her departure, Positive Results is

actively seeking a new executive director who can work alongside Conger for several months to ensure a smooth transition. The organization is committed to enhancing the cultural, social, recreational, and economic vitality of Saginaw and its surrounding areas.

The executive director role involves overseeing the day-to-day operations of the organization, coordinating closely with the board of directors to execute tasks effectively. Positive Results is known for hosting a variety of popular community events, including Friday Night Live,

Holidays in the Heart of the City, the Saginaw Christmas Parade, and seasonal activities like the Outhouse Races, Bringing Back the Ice in collaboration with Hoyt Park, Ice Blast in partnership with the Saginaw Spirit, and Harvest Days with the Saginaw Farmers' Market.

Candidates interested in applying for the executive director position should possess strong organizational and interpersonal skills. For more information, prospective applicants can reach out via email at PRDSaginaw@gmail.com.



Push to boost Delta enrollment gets started

LATINO BANNER, COVER



SVSU presents public lectures, performances during fall semester

EDUCATION, PG 32



Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance launches initiative to promote job growth in Genesee County

BUSINESS, PG 41

Bavarian Inn Lodge Waterpark expansion project moves forward with additional investment



BAVARIAN INN LODGE PROJECT

FRANKENMUTH — Saginaw Future Inc. (SFI) is continuing its collaboration with Michael Keller Zehnder and the Bavarian Inn Lodge (BIL) to advance the expansion of its indoor waterpark facilities. The ambitious project now encompasses over 100,000 square feet of waterpark space, complemented by an additional 45,000 square feet dedicated to a

Family Entertainment Center.

Since the initial announcement, the expansion has seen a significant boost with an added \$10 million in capital investment and an extra 10,000 square feet of space. Highlights of the project include a three-story ropes course with three 26-foot climbing walls, an indoor/outdoor adult-only pool featuring a swim-

up bar, and six new water slides, including a “family raft” slide designed to accommodate six to eight people.

Michael Keller Zehnder recently presented the Bavarian Inn Lodge’s long-term vision, which includes plans for a mixed-use development featuring a hotel, condominiums, and a campground. Additional

proposed developments include a banquet chapel and one- and two-bedroom condos.

These enhancements aim to attract more visitors to the area and provide a broader range of entertainment options for families and guests, further solidifying the Bavarian Inn Lodge’s status as a premier destination in the region.

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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Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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HAPPY
LABOR
DAY

- FROM THE MICHIGAN BANNER -

IN THIS ISSUE ▶

Youth Banner	4 - 6
Latino Banner	LB 1 - LB 6
Community	13
Health	23
Politics	27
Education	29
Business	37
Faith	43
Sports	49

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 6 • NUMBER 17



Michigan Youth Challenge Academy invites prospective cadets to information session

BY MB STAFF

MOUNT PLEASANT — The Michigan Youth Challenge Academy (MYCA) is inviting at-promise young men and women aged 16-18 to discover a path towards a brighter future. The Academy offers a free, intensive 5.5-month residential program followed by a 12-month post-residential phase, designed to help participants graduate high school and make positive life changes.

An upcoming information session is scheduled for ****Monday, September 9th in Mount Pleasant****. Attendance at an Information Session by the prospective cadet and at least one parent/guardian is mandatory for those considering applying to the program. The next cycle of the MYCA program begins on January 12, 2025.

The MYCA is a program of the National Guard, offering a unique opportunity for young people to challenge themselves, discover their strengths, and build a foundation for success. The program focuses on academics, physical fitness, leadership development, and life skills training.

For those seeking a transformative experience and a chance to unlock their true potential, the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy could be the answer.

For further information about the program and upcoming events, please visit www.michigan.gov/myca/events.





Unlocking True Potential: The Michigan Youth Challenge Academy

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

The Michigan Youth Challenge Academy offers at-promise males and females ages 15½* through 18 an opportunity to graduate high school and realize positive life changes through an intensive five and a half month residential and 12-month post-residential program. MYCA is a FREE program of the National Guard. **Attendance at an Information Session by young adult and at least one parent/guardian is a mandatory step in the application process. ATTEND NOW - NEXT CYCLE STARTS JANUARY 12, 2025.**

For program information, visit www.michigan.gov/myca/events

Registration




Mount Pleasant MYCA Information Session

Monday, September 9





How to make the most of your Labor day off

BY MB STAFF

Hey there! Labor Day is just around the corner, and that means a well-deserved day off from school. It's the perfect time to unwind, have some fun, or even do something meaningful. Whether you're looking to chill out or make a difference in your community, here are some cool ways to celebrate your day off.

1. Throw a Backyard BBQ or Picnic - Why not gather your friends and family for a chill day outside? A BBQ or picnic is a great way to enjoy the last bit of summer sunshine. You can play some games like frisbee, have a water balloon fight, or just hang out and chat. Ask everyone to bring their favorite snack or dish, and you've got yourself a party! It's all about good food, good vibes, and good company.

2. Get Outside and Be Active - If you're into being outdoors, Labor Day is a great time to hit the trails or go for a bike ride. Maybe there's a cool park or nature trail near you? You could even try kayaking if there's a lake or river nearby. And if you want to stay close to home, a walk around your neighborhood works too. Fresh air and a little exercise can be a nice change from the usual routine.

3. Give Back with Volunteering - Looking for something meaningful to do? Consider volunteering. There are plenty of ways to help out, like organizing a park cleanup, helping at a food bank, or working on a community project. Not only will you be making a difference, but you'll also feel good knowing you've



COURTESY PHOTO

helped someone out. Plus, it's a great way to meet new people!

4. Have a Movie Marathon - If you're in the mood to just relax, a movie marathon is the way to go. Pick a theme or just watch your favorite flicks back-to-back. Make some popcorn, grab some snacks, and invite a few friends over. Whether you're into action movies, comedies, or a good series, a movie marathon is a great way to chill out and escape for a bit.

5. Get Creative with a DIY Project - Feeling artsy? Use your day off to start a creative project. You could make friendship bracelets, paint something cool, or redecorate your room. If writing is more your thing, maybe start a short story or even a blog. Tapping into your creative side is not only

fun, but it's also a great way to express yourself and try out new things.

6. Check Out Local Events - See what's going on in your town! Many places have events like parades, festivals, or concerts for Labor Day. Grab a friend or two and check out the festivities. These events often have awesome food, live music, games, and other fun activities. It's a great way to soak up the holiday spirit and enjoy some local culture.

7. Get Ready for the School Year - Okay, this might not sound as fun as a BBQ or movie marathon, but taking a little time to get organized can be really helpful. You could tidy up your study space, gather your school supplies, or review your class schedule. Being prepared can make you feel more

confident and ready to tackle the new school year.

8. Spend Time with Your Family - Labor Day is also a good time to catch up with your family. Plan a family game night, cook a meal together, or just hang out. With everyone's busy schedules, it's easy to miss out on family time, so take this opportunity to reconnect. Who knows, you might even have fun!

However you decide to spend your Labor Day, make sure to enjoy yourself and take a break. Whether you're out exploring, relaxing at home, volunteering, or spending time with friends and family, use this day to recharge and make some awesome memories. Have fun, stay safe, and make the most of your day off!

Seen on the Scene: Students at SVSU had a blast during Welcome Week festivities leading up to the start of classes on Monday, August 26.

WELCOME WEEK



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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

Seen on the Scene:

On August 29, the LLEAD Saginaw Chapter, in partnership with the Michigan SBDC, held the final session of their Small Business Workshop Series.



Push to boost Delta enrollment gets started



COURTESY PHOTO

BY MIKE THOMPSON

Outreach by Delta College to recruit and retain more Latino students soon will carry a formal title, but not until students from Spanish-speaking ancestors have a say-so.

Options for the name are:

- "La Red" (The Network).
- "Abrazos y Besos" (Hugs and Kisses).
- "Relacion" (Connection, Relationship).
- "El Camino" (The Way).

The choices all focus on a common theme, which is that for Latinos, cultural and lan-

guage challenges remain in attending college, especially when an enrollee is the first in family history to pursue higher education.

Students will have a chance for their say-so at the next meeting at 5 p.m. on Oct. 24, which is a Thursday, at Delta's downtown center.

President Michael Gavin, in his third year at Delta, convened an Aug. 29 session with more than 30 people, including local Latino community leaders.

"There will be some bumps along the road," Gavin told the group, "and we are going to learn from one another. I don't want this to be just a one-year thing."

Among Delta's 7,600 pupils, both Latinos and Blacks each comprise a fraction less

than 10 percent, with increases attained during recent years.

More progress is the aim of the outreach. Statewide free tuition for community colleges is beginning to take effect. Many Latino prospects still could benefit from help with other expenses, but the main need is cultural confidence to move ahead, participants said.

The task already is tough because nearly three quarters of Delta enrollees of all ethnic groups are part-time and live at home, instead of full-time and residing in dormitories.

For one example to support the project, current Latino pupils will serve as mentors to newcomers. Information is available from Delta's Office of Multicultural Services, (989) 686-9117, diversity@delta.edu.

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



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OF MICHIGAN

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (989) 922-5749

Adelante Michigan, Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Comerica Bank host business transition webinar

Adelante MI MHCC Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Comerica Bank

Business Transition Webinar with Comerica Bank

Have you ever taken the time to consider how you would transition your business?

Who would take the reins, and what steps do you need to ensure the transition is successful for everyone involved?

Business transitions take time and planning. In this webinar, Comerica Bank and a panel of special guests will share their expertise on this topic.

Tuesday, September 24th, 2024
11:30 a.m - 1:00 p.m

ZOOM Registration link
No cost

Noah Harden
SVP, National Wealth Planning Manager

Robert Buchanan, ASA, CFP®
SVP, National Practice Leader, Business Transition Planning

Jack Maier
SR Managing Director

Kelly M. Burnell
Member and Co-chair of Bodman's High Net Worth Practice Group

More information: lgiftos@mhcc.org

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SAGINAW — Adelante Michigan, the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (MHCC), and Comerica Bank are collaborating to host a Business Transition Webinar on September 24th, 2024, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. The webinar aims to address the crucial question of how business owners can successfully transition their businesses, ensuring a smooth handover and continued success for all stakeholders.

The event will feature a panel of experts, including:

- Noah Harden, SVP, National Wealth Planning Manager at Comerica Bank
- Robert Buchanan, ASA, CFP®, SVP, National

Practice Leader, Business Transition Planning at Comerica Bank

- Jack Maier, SR Managing Director
- Kelly M. Burnell, Member and Co-chair of Bodman's High Net Worth Practice Group

The webinar will delve into the intricacies of business transitions, providing valuable insights into the planning and execution required for a successful handover. Topics will likely include succession planning, valuation, legal considerations, and tax implications.

Business transitions are complex and require careful consid-

eration. This webinar offers a valuable opportunity for business owners to gain expert knowledge and guidance on this critical aspect of business management.

Registration

The webinar is free to attend, and registration can be completed through the provided ZOOM link. For more information, interested parties can contact Igiftos@mhcc.org.

Key Takeaways:

- Business transitions necessitate meticulous planning and execution.
- Expert guidance is crucial for

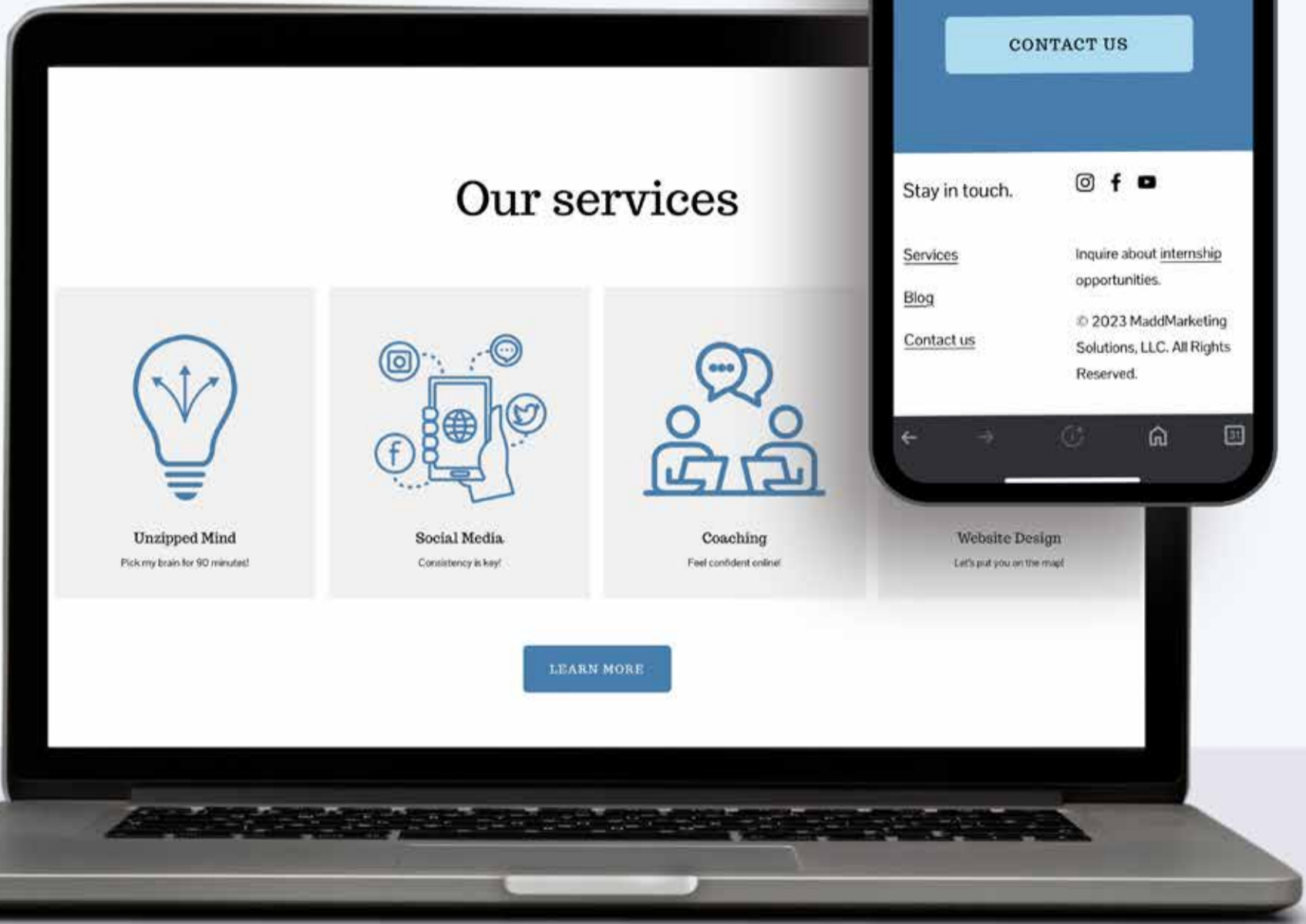
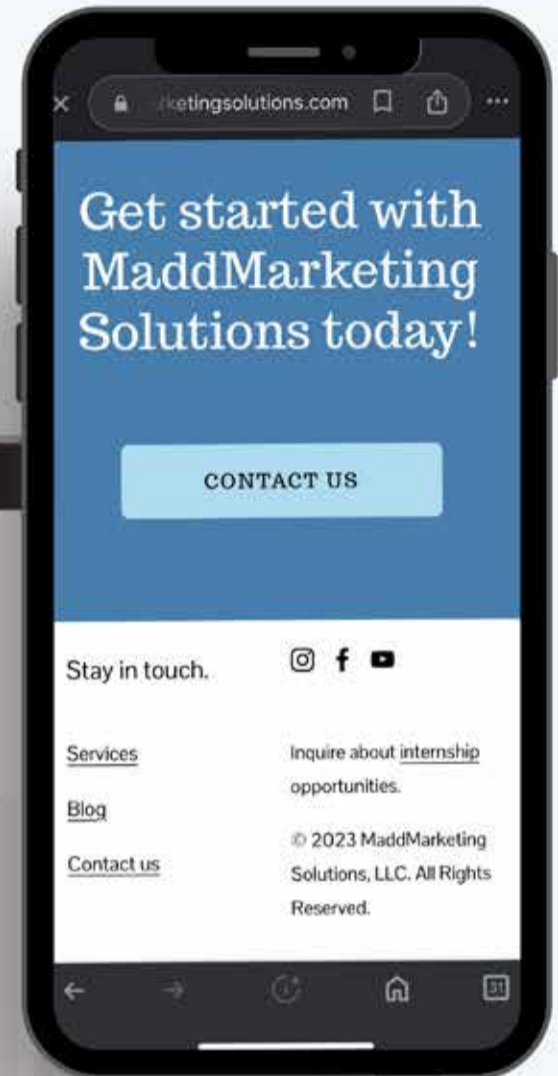
navigating the complexities of business transitions.

- The webinar offers a platform for business owners to gain valuable insights into successful transitions.
- The event is free to attend, and registration is open.

The Business Transition Webinar hosted by Adelante Michigan, the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Comerica Bank promises to be an informative and insightful event for business owners seeking to secure the future of their enterprises.



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LOS JEFES DE LA MAFIA

LA CORPORACION-LOS AZTECAS

GRUPO YATEKOS

Sunday 12pm- 7pm

PAULIE MARTINEZ, BALLET FORKLORICO MOYOCOYANI
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Mc Donald Cadillac, The Saginaw Optimus Club,
The Shields Lions Club and Castillo Investments

COMMUNITY

Victorious Community Development launches youth intervention program to address Saginaw's cycle of violence

SAGINAW — Victorious Community Development and several community partners came together on August 22, 2024, to mark the launch of the Youth Community Violence Intervention Program. The program will provide enrichment and training to local students, families, and youth advocates who want to lead conversations about overcoming violence in Saginaw's neighborhoods. "We are beyond excited to introduce this initiative to the community," said LaFrance Thomas, Program Coordinator and long-time Saginaw resident. "Like many other people in our community, I have personal experiences with violence and tragedy. This program will educate young minds and offer adults the knowledge they need to be better ambassadors of non-violence."

The program launch was a celebration with a back-to-school theme hosted in the Houghton Jones Neighborhood Association building at 1708 Johnson St. Over 184 students received free backpacks and school supplies. All attendees were eligible for raffles and other giveaways sponsored by businesses and non-profits, including the Youth Protection Council, Waffle Hut Food Truck, Colibri Hope Initiative, YMCA,



VCD'S YOUTH COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM LAUNCH EVENT

Saginaw Police Department K-9 Unit, Daisey's Dreams, and KMS Creative Group. Attendees were also invited to complete a survey on their experiences with gun violence in Saginaw. Over 50 surveys were collected, and data will be used to ensure Program services align with local needs. Many survey respondents described their fear and anger over what can feel like a cycle of violence that has impacted Saginaw families for decades. Tragically, the need for the program was reiterated by a fatal gun violence incident in the early morning hours of August 22.

"Next steps with the program and data will be made available to the public very soon," said Program Coordinator Thomas. "Many programs have

tried and failed in Saginaw, and we are being intentional about making sure that doesn't happen and making sure that any overlaps with existing programs draw us closer together as a community rather than driving us further apart." Thomas led hiring for the program, focusing on young adults with outstanding community outreach, service, and volunteering records. Nearly all staff also have first-hand experiences with violence in Saginaw. "Over the next few weeks, our staff and partners will meet to roll out tutoring, extracurricular activities, and mentoring opportunities for Saginaw students in grades K-12. We will also set dates for training opportunities that will help local leaders share their successes and learn new approaches to violence intervention."

The Youth Community Violence Intervention Program is funded by the State of Michigan's Community Policing Competitive Grant Program. These grants are intended to develop partnerships between law enforcement

agencies and the communities they serve. Program Coordinator Thomas will oversee the implementation of research-based workshops and activities that support multi-agency strategies to solve community problems, focusing on building trust and relationships between Saginaw residents, law enforcement, and other organizations committed to local change. The total grant created a number of additional jobs for Saginaw residents. In addition to programming, grant funds will be used to reopen the Trinity Lutheran Community Center facility located at 346 S. 9th St.

Victorious Community Development is a faith-based non-profit founded by the late Bishop Marvin C. Pryor. The non-profit organization strives to educate and empower families, to build safety, self-sufficiency, and create opportunities to rebuild this once thriving community.

To receive more information about the Youth Community Violence Intervention Program, please contact: Wardene Talley, talleywardene@gmail.com



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COURTESY PHOTO

COMMUNITY

Zoning code will guide Saginaw city planners

SAGINAW — City of Saginaw residents have until Tuesday, Sept. 3, to provide their feedback, suggestions, and ideas on zoning ordinance updates such as residential dimension standards, housing preferences, neighborhood uses, historic assets, and potential areas for workforce housing.

City staff have conducted a trio of public hearings and plan to complete the ordinance rewrite by December. They have created a new webpage, engage.giffelswebster.com/saginaw, to receive additional information from residents to ensure the zoning ordinance truly reflects the needs of the community.

Residents are encouraged to visit the new webpage to learn more about the zoning ordinance and its impact on their neighborhoods and future development in our community, and to provide their valuable feedback on site standards and other common guidelines that are regulated during site plan development and the review process. Citizens can also provide their opinions on guidelines for parking, landscaping, signing and outdoor storage.

Cassi Zimmerman, director of planning and economic development, said. "It's crucial for residents to understand how the zoning ordinance can shape both their individual futures as well as the city's collective future. Together, we can create a city that balances commercial activity, residential neighborhoods, and green spaces for universal enjoyment. I invite everyone to provide their feedback and help us build a community that benefits everyone!"

'Stop The Bleed' aims to boost schools' emergency response

SAGINAW — Saginaw County Emergency Management is announcing a fundraising initiative to provide Stop the Bleed Kits to local schools. The initiative is an ongoing effort to train school staff and provide the equipment needed to respond to a life-threatening bleeding emergency.

Stop the Bleed is a national awareness campaign that encourages bystanders to become equipped and empowered to help in bleeding emergencies before professional medical help arrives. Stop the Bleed kits are not just essential; they are a game-changer in providing immediate care in the event of severe bleeding. They significantly increase the chances of survival in bleeding emergencies.

These kits, along with proper training, empower teachers, staff, and students to act swiftly and effectively in emergencies, making our schools safer for everyone.

"We believe that every school, regardless of location or size, should have the resources to handle emergencies," said Lt. Mark Przybylski, the county's emergency manager. "By providing Stop the Bleed kits and training, we are empowering teachers, staff, and students to save lives."

The goal is to provide a Stop the Bleed kit at no cost for every school classroom in Saginaw County. This ensures every school in the community can respond to a bleeding emergency regardless of the cause or where

in the school it may happen.

The Saginaw Intermediate School District helps to coordinate the county's 12 local districts: BirchRun, Bridgeport-Spaulling, Carrollton, Chesaning, Frankenmuth, Free-land, Hemlock, Merrill, Saginaw City, Saginaw Township, St. Charles and Swan Valley.

Jeffrey Collier, ISD superintendent, said, "Ensuring the safety of our students and staff is our top priority, crucial for fostering environments where learning and performance thrive. Introducing Stop the Bleed kits into every classroom in Saginaw County is an invaluable opportunity to enhance safety and advance our emergency preparedness protocols.

We are grateful for the collaborative leadership of the Saginaw County Emergency Management team and the support of our entire community in our commitment to creating safe educational spaces."

Initial sponsors include the Marine Corps League - John C Rock Detachment 902, the 100 Club of Saginaw, the Tittabawassee Road Meijer, and County Commissioners Chairman Christopher Boyd. All proceeds will go directly toward purchasing Stop the Bleed kits. To learn more or to help equip schools with STB Kits, please visit <http://www.saginawcounty.com/emhsd>, call (989) 790-5500, or email emgmgr@saginawcounty.com



STOP THE BLEED KITS

Nominations open for Flint & Genesee Group's 10th annual Art of Achievement Awards

FLINT — Each year, the Flint & Genesee Group and its divisions recognize notable business leaders, community champions, and hospitality professionals during the Art of Achievement Awards. With the 10th annual event scheduled Nov. 7, the organization is seeking nominations across 14 unique award categories.

“Over the last decade, we have celebrated dozens of organizations and local leaders making a positive impact in our community,” said Tim Herman, CEO of the Flint & Genesee Group. “As we mark the event’s 10th anniversary, we look forward to continuing this tradition of honoring excellence and fostering growth in the Flint & Genesee region.”

Nominations are open to for-profit businesses, nonprofits, and individuals in Genesee County, and are due Thursday, Oct. 10 via online submission at FlintandGenesee.org/aoa. Self-nominations are allowed.

The full lineup of award categories accepting nominations is as follows:

Business Awards presented by the Flint & Genesee Chamber

- **Business Impact Award:** Recognizes a company with 50 or more employees making a positive impact in Flint & Genesee
- **Small Business Award:** Recognizes a company with fewer than 50 employees making a positive impact in Flint & Genesee
- **Minority-Owned Business Award:** Recognizes a minority-owned business making a positive impact in Flint & Genesee
- **Claire M. White Award:** Honors a woman working



COURTESY PHOTO

- for the betterment of Flint & Genesee in community, career, or someone else’s life
- **Young Professional Leader Award:** Recognizes a young professional 40 or younger making great strides to benefit their company and/or the community
- **Nonprofit Impact Award:** Recognizes a charity, church, or nonprofit making great strides to positively impact any facet of the Flint & Genesee community
- **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Champion Award:** Recognizes a business or organization that has demonstrated leadership in helping make Flint & Genesee a place of opportunity and inclusion for those who live and work in the county

Hospitality Awards presented by Explore Flint & Genesee

- **Hotel Ambassador of the Year:** Recognizes a hospitality worker who

- provided outstanding service in areas including, but not limited to, front desk, host, hostess, housekeeper, guest services, hotel restaurant, and maintenance
- **Frontline Ambassador of the Year:** Recognizes outstanding customer service in the non-hotel areas of food service, bartender, transportation, business, etc.
- **Attraction of the Year:** Awarded to a venue or attraction that continues to raise the bar, offering top notch entertainment or programming to the community and visitors
- **Bryant “BB” Nolden Community Champion Award:** Recognizes an individual or organization who improves Flint & Genesee through community collaboration, advocacy, and engagement
- **Restaurant of the Year:** Recognizes a restaurant for their outstanding service, menu, and overall experience of the customer
- **Hotel of the Year:** Recognizes a hotel for

outstanding service, comfort, and attention to hotel guests, providing an excellent overall experience

- **CTA of the Year:** Recognizes an individual Flint & Genesee Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA) who has gone above and beyond to promote the region, bring awareness to attractions, spread a hospitality-driven culture, and grow the CTA network

Winners will be announced at the Nov. 7 gala at the FIM Capitol Theatre. Additionally, the Flint & Genesee Group will recognize the recipients of this year’s Art Hurand Award, C.S. Mott Award, and Economic Development Project of the Year Award during the event.

For information about event sponsorships, contact Gail Garrison at (810) 600-1427 or ggarrison@flintandgenesee.org.

To learn more about the Art of Achievement Awards, visit FlintandGenesee.org/aoa.

COMMUNITY

A LABOR DAY TRIBUTE: Harry Browne, Norm Osborne, Henry Nickleberry

BY MIKE THOMPSON

(Reprinted from The Michigan Banner, Sept. 1, 2018)

Harry Browne graduated from Saginaw High School in 1925, Norm Osborne in 1934, Henry Nickleberry in 1945. They are forever linked in our historic local African American involvement and leadership in the labor movement.

Two of the men still were in diapers when their families moved to Saginaw -- Browne's from London, West Virginia, and Nickleberry's from Wichita Falls, Texas. Osborne was born in Saginaw to parents who had arrived from Trinidad.

The Brownes came independently in 1909 and the Osbornes in 1912, when as few as 300 black citizens were scattered across all sections of Saginaw County in various labor professions. (As historian Roosevelt Ruffin once noted, there were not enough black people here prior to 1925 for white people to really care where they lived.)

The Nickleberrys arrived in 1929, part of the first wave of Great Migration families that began to come north to the First Ward during the middle 1920s in pursuit of auto-plant employment.

The three men achieved many "firsts" for African Americans, both within and outside of labor unions. And the labor movement remains an underrated aspect of black history. In Saginaw, specifically, the black population soared from 328 in 1920 to 16,550 in 1960. Why? Jobs, and the labor unions that helped to keep these jobs in place for so many years.

Browne's pioneering landmarks were as head of the Saginaw AFL-CIO, and then UAW Local 668, and then the United

Fund drive (now United Way), and then the County Board of Supervisors (now Commissioners). In 1955, he narrowly was defeated for a City Council seat, which was achieved six years later, in 1961, by attorney Henry Marsh. Browne Airport, on Janes Road in Buena Vista, bears his name.

Osborn's inroads expanded into representing the UAW into social issues and concerns, integrating such groups as the Saginaw Social Services Club, the Saginaw County Council of Churches and the Boy Scouts of America.

Nickleberry's barrier-busting went beyond Saginaw's borders. In 1948, he became one of the nation's first black UAW international representatives, appointed by Walter Reuther. He later became the first black chairman of the Saginaw Department of Social Services Board and closed his career as Saginaw's mayor from 1989-93.

HARRY BROWNE

(June 12, 1908 to Sept. 4, 1990)



Browne was a pioneer in more than the labor movement. He was among only a handful of African American students to enroll in 1926 at Michigan State University, with electrical engineering as his field of study.

His first racial slap in the face took place when a professor mocked him, in front of the entire classroom, "Hey Browne, what are you gonna do, open a shoeshine stand and run it electrical-

ly?" Beyond his initial dismay, he used this slur as motivation.

Indeed, black electrical engineers were not in demand at the start of the Great Depression, and so upon his return to Saginaw from East Lansing, Browne found work at the Grey Iron foundry. Blacks were mostly restricted to the metal castings operations at Grey Iron and Malleable Iron, for jobs Nickleberry described as "so rough and injurious, so hostile, so flamingly hot."

Browne gradually was elected and appointed to UAW 668 leadership by the same white co-workers who overall harbored deep racism and animosity toward African Americans. This was a partnership of convenience. Many of them, unlike their black peers, were first-generation European immigrants, barely versed in the English language that governed their labor conditions and their wages. Harry Browne may have possessed a black skin, but he was college-educated and eminently qualified to represent their illiterate selves in their union. (And in addition, according to the joke back then, the foundries were so dirty that EVERYONE looked like a black person before the work day was done.)

During those early years of the UAW, Browne was unable to enact racial reforms within the union. Therefore, he took small steps, such as landing startup jobs for individual black peers and registering them to vote, and setting up classes for them in reading and writing.

"Harry pushed me all the way," Nickleberry later said. "He was my mentor, like a father. He helped to lay the foundation."

Browne also became a charitable go-to guy in the First Ward, like a one-man welfare office. If someone was short on food, or a rent payment, or whatever, he was there to help, often at per-

sonal expense. Ruben Daniels remarked, "I can't count the times when I saw Harry peel off some bills."

This spirit of giving eventually caused him to establish Browne's Mortuary, which essentially was a non-profit enterprise during its early stages, often offering funeral services free of charge. During his final elder years, Harry Browne summed things up: "That's why I'll never have anything. Piling up money means nothing to me."

NORM OSBORNE

(May 18, 1915 to April 11, 1998)



During his early childhood, Osborn recalls, "There were no rich families, there were no poor families, and race was not an issue. We didn't even think about it."

Then he was rejected for Boy Scouts membership because of his skin pigment.

He not only formed his own Boy Scout troop, but he became a lifelong leader in the national association, ultimately receiving the prestigious "Spirit of Scouting" honor.

"It hurt me when they didn't want me because of my skin color," he recalled in a 1990 interview, "but I guess I was a little bit more hard-edged than I had imagined."

Osborne first gained his progressive social outlook starting

See **LABOR DAY** pg 17

COMMUNITY

From pg 16 **LABOR DAY**

in 1935, during the heart of the Depression. He found government employment and support through President Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps and rode a bus north to the Tawas City area, where he cut trees, dug ditches and strung telephone lines. He reaped \$30 per month and kept a mere \$5 for his own expenses, sending the \$25 remainder back home to his family as the eldest of seven children.

His union involvement began a year later, in 1936, with UAW Local 467, when he found work at the Saginaw Manufacturing Plant on East Genesee Street, later Delco Morraine. He noted with sarcasm that black workers were relegated to broom-and-shovel jobs until the onset of World War II led to manpower shortages.

"Overnight," he said, "I was suddenly qualified to operate a machine. I had quite a revelation overnight, didn't I?"

He instead represented the UAW through outreach into the community, and also served as the first black person on municipal boards such as the Saginaw City Planning Commission.

For his efforts in scouting, he received the national UAW's Outstanding Service Award.

"In the UAW, I never wanted to be an organizer or a negotiator or a committeeman," Osborne said. "My interest was in community services. I listened to people's problems and I helped them."

HENRY NICKLEBERRY
(Nov. 2, 1927 to Sept. 13, 2013)



Unlike Harry Browne at MSU, Nickleberry was popular among white people during his young adult years.

He started at Grey Iron as a coremaker on his 18th birthday, which was November 2nd, 1945. Within a couple weeks, the UAW launched its first-ever national strike, which turned out to last 113 days, all through the winter. And it just so happened that his father, Herman Nickleberry, owned and operated Nick's Garage on North Washington Avenue, directly across the street from the foundry, which became a de facto local strike headquarters for UAW 668. The mostly white picketers may not normally have patronized Nick's Garage, but color was no barrier when taking a warm-up break from the bitter cold. And when the strikers were hungry, farmers from the nearby Thumb area would donate potatoes, cabbages, even some chickens, to be cooked on the stove at Nick's Garage.

Henry himself, always outspoken, became a picket captain.

"I joined the union and immediately started spouting off," Nickleberry once reflected, with his familiar laughter.

He still was only 20 when national UAW chief Walter Reuther picked him to become one of the union's first African American international representatives, the launch of a lifelong career which closed from 1980-86 as a top aide to one of Reuther's successors, Mark Stepp. (Nick then began a second career in local politics, elected to the City Council in 1987 and then appointed mayor by his peers from 1989-93.)

In his union role, he spent plenty of time on the road, taking personal steps to integrate previously segregated restaurants and hotels in towns that ranged from Port Huron to Muskegon.

Back at home, he seemingly was everywhere. NAACP, United Fund, Frontiers International, Cub Scouts. He was the

first black member of the Social Services Board, from which for many years he donated his \$25 per-meeting stipends to local welfare charities. While serving on a public housing board during the 1950s, he helped prevent the Daniels Heights project from being established as racially segregated, with the 14th Street railroad tracks as the proposed dividing line. As a member of the St. Mary's Hospital Board of Trustees, he was instrumental in preserving the East Side home base and preventing a wholesale move to the suburbs.

He frequently penned his viewpoints in letters to The Saginaw News People's Forum. When the topics pertained to union business, he signed off as "UAW Region 1-D, international representative." When addressing local issues, he merely listed his then-home address on North 12th Street near Lapeer.

"These are problems not only to the group in question," he once wrote, in words that still hold true today. "They are important to the total community."

He also wrote, "People are disappointed and disgusted. We need to set a constructive fire to them."

MORE LOCAL LABOR HEROES

Some old-timers and historians will say that The Banner should have included Rev. William Bowman in the same chapters as Harry Browne and Henry Nickleberry. However, unlike our featured duo, Bowman spent the highlights of his career in Detroit rather than in Saginaw.

He was born in Judsonia, Arkansas, on Christmas Day 1900, and headed for Saginaw in 1925, among the very first wave of Southern blacks to ride the trains north for auto jobs that paid three times as much as picking cotton. In 1937, he was among black men who the UAW hired (part-time)

to help the union with integration. His efforts led to his 1945 appointment as a UAW international representative, three years ahead of Nickleberry, and his move to Detroit.

He was described as "highly respected and articulate." His title as Rev. Bowman came because he served as pastor of the original Christ Community Church, on Fourth and Farwell, for a brief spell in 1938-39.

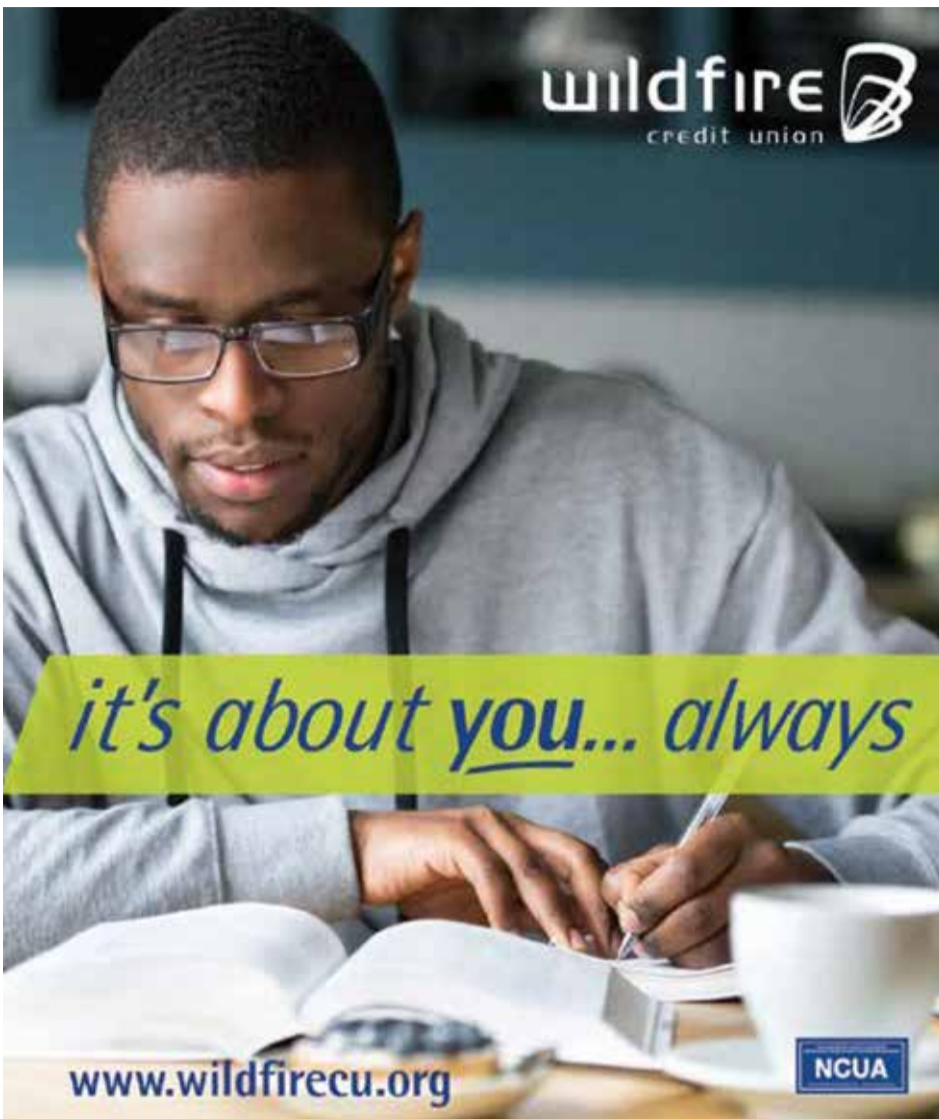
Saginaw historian Willie McKether compiled a list of other blacks who served, during the 1940s and 1950s, as UAW local union officers -- presidents, veeps, bargaining committees, trustees, financial secretaries. McKether acknowledged that there may be omissions, but his history is as thorough as possible. Included are:

Grey Iron, Local 668 -- Harry Browne, Ed Hall Jr., Leon Hall, C.O. Kelly, Willard Sparks, Barney Nichols, Joe Wiggins, John Conners, James Jackson, Eunice Williams, Reeves Barbour, James McDaniel, Glynn McArn, Willie Harris, John Ernie Ramzey.

Malleable, Local 455 -- Thaddeus Ervin, Thad Bowman, Thomas Beeler, Ezell Smith.

Malleable Iron was less integrated than Grey Iron, and so historical black leadership came in later years through the efforts of Sam Young and Bennie Pruitt, Local 455 bargaining chairmen during the 1970s and the 1980s, and also David Lawrence, Larry Houston, Zebedee Love and Cecil Anderson.

Sources for this historical report are Saginaw News archives and Willie McKether's "Voices in Transition: African American Migration to Saginaw, 1920 to 1960." McKether's thesis, which served as his 2005 doctorate dissertation in sociology at Wayne State University, is available for review at Hoyt Library, along with Roosevelt Ruffin's "Black Presence in Saginaw: 1855 to 1900."



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COMMUNITY

Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra launches 89th season with Beethoven's first and trumpet soloist George Goad

SAGINAW – The Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra (SBSO) is set to kick off its 89th season with a captivating performance of Beethoven's First Symphony, featuring acclaimed trumpet soloist and Michigan native, George Goad.

The concert will take place on Saturday, September 21st, 2024, at 7:30 PM at the Malcolm Field Theatre in Curtiss Hall at Saginaw Valley State University. Doors open at 6:00 PM.

The program is a thrilling blend of classical masterpieces, including Beethoven's Symphony No. 1 in C Major, Rossini's Guillaume Tell: Act 1 Pas de Six, Philip Glass's Company, and Haydn's Trumpet Concerto in E-flat Major, performed by Goad.

Goad, a full-time member of the Kansas City Symphony, is a rising star in the world of orchestral music, having performed with re-

nowned orchestras such as the Detroit Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

Maestro Fouad Fakhouri, Music Director of the SBSO, expressed his enthusiasm about welcoming Goad back to Michigan, highlighting his exceptional talent and deep connection to the community.

Tickets for the concert are available for purchase, and the SBSO is also offering season tickets for those who wish to experience a full season of exceptional music at both the Temple Theatre and Saginaw Valley State University.

For more information about the 89th season and to purchase tickets, visit the SBSO website at saginawbayorchestra.com or purchase tickets online through Saginaw Valley State University at <https://www.etix.com/ticket/v/27468/svsuperperforming-arts-center>.



GEORGE GOAD

Shannone Dunlap elected Chair of Michigan Association of Broadcasters Board

BY MB STAFF

MACKINAC – Shannone Dunlap, Director of Business Development for Black Diamond Broadcasting Group in Central and Northern Michigan, has been elected as the Chair of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters (MAB) Board of Directors. The announcement was made during the MAB's Annual Business Meeting, held at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.

Dunlap, who will lead the 23-member board, brings a wealth of experience and dedication to her new role. "Celebrating 75 years at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island was a dazzling



SHANNONE DUNLAP

reminder of the legacy the MAB has built and the bright future we have ahead," Dunlap said. She expressed gratitude for the leadership of outgoing Chair Debbie Petersmark and emphasized her

eagerness to work alongside the MAB's board to further the organization's mission.

MAB President and CEO, Casey Jones, praised the organization's ongoing efforts: "Together, we will meet the challenges ahead with the same passion and dedication that have guided us for 75 years. And 75 years from now, the MAB will be celebrating the work we do together, today."

The MAB, one of the largest state broadcast associations in the country, represents more than 300 radio and television stations and over 3,000 broadcasting industry employees across Michigan. Dunlap's appointment marks a significant step in MAB's ongoing commitment to advocat-

ing for local broadcasters and ensuring that their voices are heard at both state and national levels.

Dunlap underscored the importance of community engagement and political advocacy in her remarks, emphasizing the need for local, state, and federal representatives to support the broadcasting industry. "We need them to think of us first, engage with us first, and value local broadcasters as the primary way to reach their constituents," she stated. "Let's tell our stories loud & proud, together!"

For more information about the Michigan Association of Broadcasters and its initiatives, visit their website at www.blackdiamondbroadcasting.com.

Save the Date



POWER OF A PROMISE *Fundraiser*

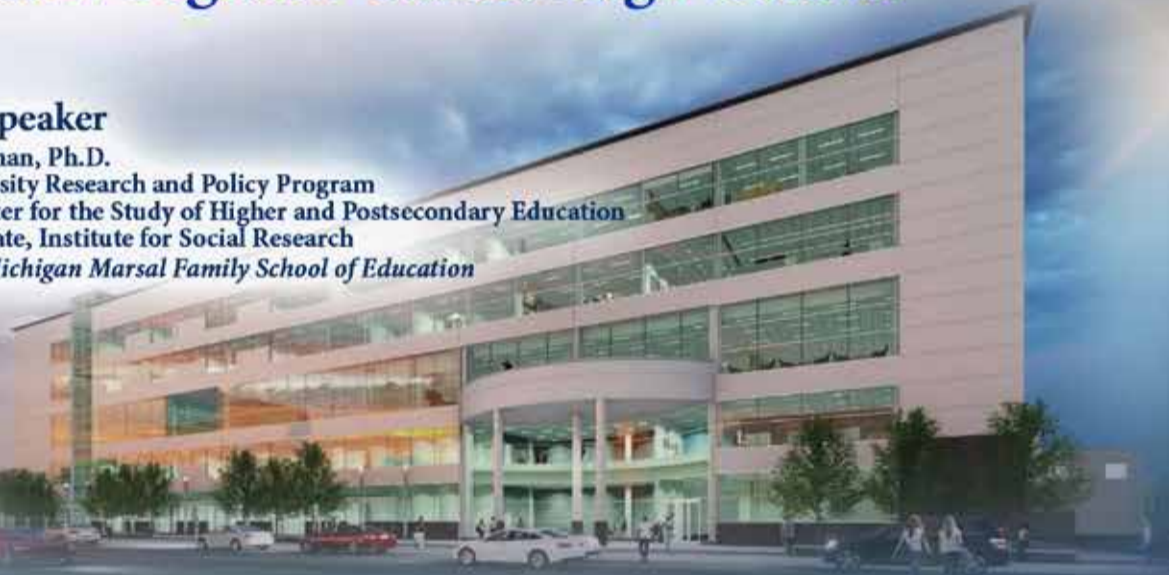
Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Will be held at the new Saginaw United High School!



Keynote Speaker

Phillip J. Bowman, Ph.D.
Director, Diversity Research and Policy Program
Professor, Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education
Faculty Associate, Institute for Social Research
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Please join us as we honor the past
and embrace the future!

*Evening event, Dinner, Entertainment, Auction, Keynote Speaker,
Scholar highlights & Program Updates*

--Tours will be available --

Ticket information and Sponsorship opportunities will be available and will soon appear on the organization's website and promoted to the community at large.

*Event proceeds to support Saginaw Promise scholarships and programming to impact Saginaw's future, its economy and the lives of its students. The Saginaw Promise is working to provide opportunities for and eliminate barriers to postsecondary education.

COMMUNITY

Pit and Balcony Theatre announces 2024-2025 technical theatre fellows

BY MB STAFF

Pit and Balcony Community Theatre is excited to announce the 2024-2025 Technical Theatre Fellows, a program designed to offer emerging theatrical talents a wide range of technical experiences throughout the season. This initiative aims to help participants refine their skills and explore various aspects of stage production, providing a solid foundation for future careers in theater.

The Technical Theatre Fellows program is a unique and valuable opportunity for aspiring theater professionals. It offers hands-on experience in critical

technical areas, including lighting design, sound design, costume design, scenic design, props design, scenic charge artistry, and stage management. Additionally, fellows can take on volunteer roles such as dramaturges, assistant directors, assistant stage managers, or associate production managers. Each fellow will participate in two to three productions throughout the season, with assignments tailored to their individual strengths and interests.

The 2024-2025 Technical Theatre Fellows are:

Emily Sweeney: A dedicated participant in community theater since high school, Sweeney

has often been seen on stage. She has also gained technical theater experience through general orientation programs and coursework at Full Sail University. Sweeney has worked extensively with Teenage Musicals Inc. in Midland and is eager to further her passion for technical theater through this fellowship.

Cecelia Hopkins: Returning as a fellow from season 91, Hopkins is excited to continue her technical theater journey. She holds a BA in Political Science and Creative Writing from Saginaw Valley State University and recently earned a Master's in Social Work from the University of Kentucky. Outside of her theater work,

Hopkins enjoys reading, crocheting, and traveling.

Tom Carriere: New to Pit & Balcony, Carriere began his involvement as a front-of-house volunteer last season. His love for theater extends into his personal life, as he is set to marry an actor in October 2024. When not at the theater, Carriere spends his time at the local art museum or at home with his cat, Juniper.

Jasmine "Jazz" Roseberry: Born in Saginaw and raised in Midland, Roseberry has a strong passion for technical theater, which began during her time at Bay City Western High School. After attending Delta College for General Writing, she volunteered at the Midland Center for the Arts, solidifying her love for technical theater. Roseberry has worked on 13 shows at the Midland Center and seven shows at Pit & Balcony. She hopes this fellowship will provide the hands-on experience needed to pursue a degree and career in theater.

The Technical Theatre Fellows program aims to help participants discover their niches, develop a diverse skill set, and step outside their comfort zones. By offering a comprehensive, hands-on approach, the program prepares fellows for successful careers in theater and provides them with valuable skills applicable in various life areas.

Pit and Balcony Community Theatre is proud to support these talented individuals' growth and development and looks forward to their contributions throughout the upcoming season. For more information about the Technical Theatre Fellows program or Pit and Balcony Community Theatre, please visit pitandbalcony-theatre.com.



PIT AND BALCONY THEATRE TECHNICAL THEATRE FELLOWS

COMMUNITY

Old news returns to life on Hoyt microfilm



HOYT PUBLIC LIBRARY

BY MIKE THOMPSON

Unless you were born before 1863, Saginaw's Hoyt Library contains at least one newspaper from the precise date that you entered the world.

No, not a newsprint copy. Microfilm.

The New York Times, back to 1863. The Saginaw Daily Enterprise, 1869 and forward.

A one-month spool is about the size of a hockey puck. They are jam-packed in drawers behind the information desk, where devoted and friendly staffers will help you get set up on one of the reading machines.

Hoyt, Butman-Fish, Zauel, Wickes and Claytor in the Saginaw system — along with libraries elsewhere — offer numerous programs and services that are worth exploring so that we may in time select our favorites. Voters passed a property tax millage on Aug. 6 by a landslide.

My own fave is the Hoyt-only old and historic newspapers. These records have been around and are not high tech, with operation fundamentals that basically have been the same through the years, but microfilm might as well be New Age. For example, to look back and see an exact Sagi-

naw News version from October 24, 1955, is quite remarkable.

How to get started

Why pick 10/24/55? Well, this so happens to be my personal date of birth, and my first suggestion for enjoyment and enrichment is to get started at the point where you got started.

You'll be drawn not only to the news stories but to the advertisements, which made newspapers highly profitable prior to the corporate consolidation of shopping, dining and entertainment.

On the same date that I was hollering in the arms of Lillian Pettet Thompson, with Wally Thompson supportive at her bedside, here's what was recorded in that 26-page, seven-cent Monday edition:

- General Motors' worldwide employment had reached a peak of 631,958. (The 2024 estimate is 225,000.)
- Wickes Corp. had recalled 175 local workers.
- Even while the economy seemed to be humming, an editorial opined, "There is a need for the clergy to become better acquainted with the vocational needs of their flocks."

- An editorial cartoon lamented "rising newsprint costs," with a pair of executives slipping and sliding atop what resembles a huge roll of Charmin. (Today's paper, with skyrocketing prices for any wood product, is \$3 weekdays, \$5 Sundays.)
- A drunken pedestrian was injured when struck by a car on Johnson near North Washington, while a few blocks away at Janes and South Washington, 2,200 folks packed the Saginaw Auditorium for a Boston Symphony Orchestra fall concert.
- A pair of drive-in theaters, the Bel-Air on Janes Road and the Twilite on State Street, were getting ready to close for the season.
- Catholic high schools played football on Sundays and results were reported the following Monday, along with the fifth loss in a row for the Detroit Lions.
- The A & P at East Genesee and Cherry, one of more than a dozen supermarkets within the city limits, advertised Eight O'Clock Coffee for 59 cents a pound and ground beef for 25 cents, along with Halloween "five-cent" candy bars at two dozen for 89 cents. A can of peas was a dime, as was a loaf of bread.

Old times in perspective

Keep in mind that a dime back then was equivalent to a dollar nowadays. That's why an "automatic electric" clothes dryer from the downtown Gately's shop, at

\$229.95, actually was far more costly during the Eisenhower years. But do not be dismayed; payment plans started at \$2.50 per week.

This was 1955, of course. News specifically from the Black and Latino communities was virtually nonexistent, and the clothing store display-ad sketches of men and women models were entirely Caucasian. A lone sign of ethnic equality on 10/24/55 was that the obituary for Nelson Porterfield, 67, of Bethel AME Church, residence on 11th Street near Lapeer, was posted first at the top of the page, not at the bottom.

My reason for sharing all this is to inform readers who still may not be aware that all this history is available at Hoyt Library. I may not have known if I had been in a profession other than news reporting.

While performing research, it was easy to get caught up scrolling entire newspapers, beyond pinpointing the needed factoid and getting back to work. Nowadays, in semi-retirement, exploring may occupy an entire afternoon. This is true especially on hot summer days, with Hoyt now comfortably air conditioned.

We may begin with our birthdays but then pick historic events. Maybe Brown v. Board of Ed on May 17, 1954, or the Kennedy assassination on Nov. 22, 1963. What did The Saginaw News (or The New York Times) have to say? Options are endless.

And so I encourage anyone and everyone to check out the microfilm archives at Hoyt Library. Try it, you might like it.



MICROFILM

HEALTH

Michigan health officials urge parents to get kids vaccinated before school year begins



COURTESY PHOTO

MICHIGAN – As students prepare to return to school this fall, Michigan public health leaders are urging parents to ensure their children are up to date on vaccinations to prevent outbreaks of serious communicable diseases such as measles, mumps, pertussis, and chickenpox.

According to July 2024 data from the Michigan Care Improvement Registry, vaccination rates among Michigan children aged 19 to 36 months have fallen below 70% in more than half of the state's counties (47 out of 83). Health officials warn that this decline poses a significant risk to public health, especially with increasing travel and the ongoing presence of vaccine-preventable diseases.

"Parents should know their

child's risk going into the new school year. We're seeing some of the lowest vaccination rates in more than a decade, which puts our schools and communities at risk," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, Michigan's chief medical executive.

The threat is not just theoretical. Earlier this year, Michigan reported its first measles case in five years when a child in Oakland County, who had traveled internationally, tested positive. Since then, six more cases of measles have been reported in the state in 2024, alongside a doubling of whooping cough cases compared to last year. Nationally, the number of measles cases has surged, with 219 reported cases in the U.S. by mid-August, and nearly half requiring

hospitalization. Of these cases, 87% were unvaccinated.

Public health experts stress that even a single case of a vaccine-preventable disease can lead to an outbreak. In spring 2024, a measles outbreak in the Chicago area infected 67 individuals, most of whom were children.

The pandemic contributed to a decline in childhood vaccination rates. Data from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) reveals that only 70.2% of children aged 19 to 36 months have completed their recommended primary vaccine series. The areas with the lowest vaccination rates include Keweenaw County (36.8%), Oscoda County (38.2%), and the City of Detroit (55.7%).

Clusters of unvaccinated chil-

dren in schools are a growing concern. From 2015 to 2023, the number of Michigan elementary schools with kindergarten vaccination rates below 70% increased from 86 to 109. Similarly, middle schools with 7th grade vaccination rates below 70% more than doubled from 48 to 110.

"This means that kids attending school this year are more susceptible to vaccine-preventable diseases," Dr. Bagdasarian stated. "This could lead to severe health impacts for under-vaccinated children or those with medical vulnerabilities, and it also means schools and parents may face disruptions in routine instruction due to outbreaks."

Veronica McNally, president of the Franny Strong Foundation and founder of the I Vaccinate campaign, echoed this sentiment. "We can send our kids to school safely this year by getting them caught up on the CDC-recommended vaccination schedule before the first day. This will help minimize the spread of preventable diseases," McNally said. "As a mother, I urge parents to take this opportunity to protect their children and their classmates through vaccination."

The CDC and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommend the COVID-19 vaccine and annual flu vaccine for everyone aged six months and older as part of the standard vaccination schedule.

Michigan parents with questions about vaccinations can find reliable, science-based answers at IVaccinate.org, where they can also access the CDC-recommended vaccination schedule to prepare for upcoming doctor's visits.

HEALTH

Michigan marks four years of partnership with GetSetUp, offering free online learning to seniors

MICHIGAN – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is celebrating four years of collaboration with GetSetUp, an online platform designed for older adults. This partnership, launched in 2020, provides Michiganders aged 60 and older with free access to over 5,000 classes in 40 categories, promoting mental, physical, and social well-being.

Since its inception, more than 1.5 million classes have been attended by Michigan seniors. The initiative aims to combat social isolation and support active aging through a variety of benefits, including:

- Digital Literacy: Courses on



[HTTPS://WWW.GETSETUP.IO/](https://www.getsetup.io/)

- Health Equity: Virtual education on aging, digital tools, and wellness.
- Mental Health: Mindfulness,

- Physical Health: Fitness classes, including chair yoga and arthritis-friendly

- Social Health: Live, interactive classes to foster social connections.
- Equity and Accessibility: Resources available to residents in rural and diverse areas.

Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director, praised the partnership for enriching seniors' lives and fostering community engagement. Lawrence Kosick, GetSetUp president and co-founder, highlighted the program's success and its impact on Michigan's older adults.

Classes are also accessible via area agencies on aging and libraries through GetSetUp Anywhere.



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Regina Chenevert
Respiratory Therapist

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HEALTH

MyMichigan Medical Centers earn re-accreditation for excellence in echocardiography and vascular care

Several MyMichigan Medical Centers have been recognized for their commitment to providing high-quality patient care in echocardiography and vascular testing. The Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) has awarded three-year re-accreditation to the Echocardiography Labs in Alma, Alpena, Clare, Midland, and Sault Ste. Marie, and also re-accredited the Vascular Lab.

These accreditations underscore MyMichigan's ongoing dedication to ensuring positive patient outcomes. Becky Boyce, cardiovascular service line director at MyMichigan Health, highlighted the importance of these tests in early disease detection and emphasized the

significance of the IAC 'seal of approval.'

"The IAC accreditation is a trusted indicator of consistent quality care and a commitment to continuous improvement. It is sought after by both patients and healthcare professionals," said Boyce.

The IAC accreditation process is rigorous, involving a detailed self-evaluation and review by medical experts. It assesses both the operational and technical aspects of the facility, ensuring compliance with published standards.

For further information about MyMichigan's heart and vascular program, please visit www.mymichigan.org/heart.



MYMICHIGAN HEALTH MIDLAND LOCATION

BLOOD DRIVE

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Donate Blood

**Tuesday
September
3**

9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Helpful tip:
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For eligibility questions call
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**Covenant Healthcare-Cooper Campus
Blood Drive**

LOCATION
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APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED
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-OR- scan the QR code below

Walk-ins welcome as schedule allows

As a thank you, all attempting donors with a valid email will receive a \$15 e-gift card.

CMU HEALTH

Covenant Healthcare-Cooper Campus to host blood drive on September 3rd

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW - Covenant Healthcare-Cooper Campus is partnering with Versiti Blood Centers to host a blood drive on Tuesday, September 3rd, from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM. The drive will take

place at 700 Cooper Ave, Saginaw, MI 48602.

Appointments are preferred, and donors are encouraged to call 866-642-5663 or visit versiti.org/mi to schedule their donation. Walk-ins will also be welcome as the schedule allows.

Donors are reminded to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating. As a thank you, all attempting donors with a valid email will receive a \$15 e-gift card. For eligibility questions, please call 866-642-5663.



HEALTH

Michigan leads nation in maternal health excellence with 53 hospitals seeking maternal levels of care verification

MICHIGAM – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced today that 53 hospitals across the state have met the highest standards for maternal health services and have applied for Maternal Levels of Care (MLC) verification through The Joint Commission. Michigan leads the nation with the most hospitals seeking this verification, underscoring the state's dedication to providing high-quality maternal health care.

The MLC verification process, developed in partnership with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), is designed to ensure hospitals meet rigorous standards in the care of pregnant and postpartum patients. This verification assesses hospitals' readiness, capability, and effectiveness in managing complex maternal health conditions, including the ability to transfer patients to a higher level of care when necessary.

"The successful launch of the Maternal Levels of Care Verification Program in Michigan is a testament to our commitment to excellence and a significant step forward in advancing maternal health," said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. "Success can be achieved when we align efforts, form true partnerships, and invest in maternal and infant health to improve outcomes for parents."

In April 2024, MDHHS introduced a new initiative offering quality payments to birthing hospitals that fully participate in the Michigan Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (MI AIM) and apply for MLC verification. These payments, determined by the number of Medicaid-covered births and each hospital's maternal morbidity rate, aim to support ongoing maternal qual-



COURTESY PHOTO

ity improvement initiatives and related implementation costs. The state has allocated \$9 million from its budget to fund these maternal health improvement efforts.

"We applaud each of the hospitals and their birthing teams for the time and effort they spent over recent weeks to complete the application process," said Brian Peters, CEO of the Michigan Health & Hospital Association. "This work signifies the dedication Michigan birthing hospitals have toward providing high quality and safe care to Michigan mothers and babies."

Dr. Jonathan B. Perlin, president and CEO of The Joint Commission, also expressed support for the initiative: "The Joint Commission commends the state of Michigan, the Michigan

Health & Hospital Association, and Michigan hospitals for their commitment to excellence in maternal and neonatal care. We look forward to working closely with Michigan hospitals to provide support and validation of their maternal capabilities and policies for formal level of maternal care determination."

Supporting MLC verification is part of a broader MDHHS strategy to address and improve maternal health disparities and outcomes across the state. In a pioneering effort, the Detroit Medical Center became the first hospital system in Michigan to complete its MLC verification application last month. These initiatives align with national strategies aimed at strengthening maternal care systems and reducing maternal mortality rates.

"As the country takes steps to reduce the unacceptably high rates of maternal mortality, ACOG applauds the Michigan hospitals that are aiming to make birth safer in their state by applying for MLC verification," said Dr. Christopher Zahn, ACOG Chief of Clinical Practice and Health Equity and Quality. "MLC verification benefits hospitals, clinicians, and patients by helping hospitals identify and address gaps in capabilities and personnel to ensure pregnant and postpartum individuals receive appropriate care."

Hospitals interested in learning more about the MLC verification process can visit the Michigan Health & Hospital Association's Maternal Levels of Care webpage for further information.

POLITICS

New poll shows tight presidential race in Michigan; Slotkin leads Rogers in senate contest



KAMALA HARRIS (L) AND DONALD TRUMP (R)

BY MB STAFF

GRAND RAPIDS — With around 70 days left before the election, a new poll reveals a tight race in Michigan between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump.

The survey, conducted by Emerson College Polling, The Hill, and WOOD TV8, shows Harris leading slightly with 50% of Michigan voters indicating support, compared to 47% for Trump. Given the poll's margin of error of $\pm 3.4\%$, this result is essentially a dead heat. Three

percent of respondents are either undecided or plan to vote for another candidate.

Harris has stronger support among independent voters (46% vs. 43% for Trump), women (56% vs. 41%), and younger voters under 30 (62% vs. 32%). Trump, on the other hand, leads among men with 54% backing him compared to 43% for Harris.

Previous polls, including one conducted just after President Joe Biden's withdrawal from the race, also showed a close contest, with Trump holding a narrow lead. Another recent survey from the Cook Political Report Swing

State Project had Harris with a slight 3-point edge, though this too is within the margin of error.

Both presidential campaigns are intensifying their efforts in Michigan, recognizing its crucial role alongside Wisconsin and Pennsylvania in the path to the White House. Key battleground states, including Arizona, Georgia, and Nevada, remain highly competitive.

In the race for Michigan's U.S. Senate seat, the poll indicates that U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin leads former U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers by six points. Slotkin, a Democrat, has 47% support, while Rogers, a Re-

publican, has 41%. About 12% of voters are still undecided. Slotkin and Rogers are competing to succeed U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, who is retiring after 24 years.

The economy remains the top issue for Michigan residents, with 44% identifying it as their primary concern. Other notable issues include threats to democracy (11%) and affordable housing (10%).

The survey by Emerson College Polling was conducted with 800 participants from Monday to Wednesday.

POLITICS

League of Women Voters to host Saginaw City Council candidate forum on October 21



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TO HOST SAGINAW CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM ON OCTOBER 21

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The League of Women Voters of Saginaw County is organizing a crucial City Council candidate forum on Monday, October 21, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the city council chamber. This event offers voters an invaluable opportunity to hear directly from the candidates competing for the five 4-year council seats in the upcoming November election.

The race for Saginaw's City Council features a mix of experienced officials and new contenders. Incumbent Mayor Pro Tem Annie Boensch and current council members George Cope-land and Monique Lamar-Silvia are among the 11 candidates vying for one of the five 4-year positions. Notably, Councilmen Michael Flores and Reggie Williams II have not filed for re-election, although Reggie Wil-

liams II is running as a write-in candidate.

Challenging them are Charles Allen, Eric D. Braddock Sr., Jacinta J.J. Seals, Charles A. Sledge, Michael Thompson, Heidi G. Wiggins, and Tobias Young. Only five of these candidates will secure a seat on the council.

In addition to the 4-year term positions, Carly Hammond is running for a 2-year term, with no other candidates listed for this position besides Reggie's write-in bid. The terms of Mayor Brenda Moore and council members Michael Balls and Priscilla Garcia, elected in 2022, will not expire until 2026.

The Saginaw City Council election will take place on November 5, 2024. For more information about the forum, please contact lwvsaginawmi@gmail.com.

Delta College recognized as voter-friendly campus, hosts voter registration drive

BY MB STAFF

UNIVERSITY CENTER — Delta College has been named a 2023-2024 Voter-Friendly Campus and has received the ALL IN's Highly Established Action Plan Seal for the 2024 election cycle. This recognition highlights the college's ongoing commitment to empowering students and community members to make their voices heard in the political process.

As part of its efforts, Delta College's Democracy Commitment—a non-partisan national initiative—is organizing a four-day voter registration and absentee ballot drive. The event will take place from Monday, September 16, to Thursday, September 19, from 9 AM to 4 PM each day at three locations: the main campus, Downtown Saginaw Center, and Downtown Midland Center.

During the drive, students, faculty, staff, and community members are invited to visit any of the three campuses to regis-

ter to vote, locate their polling place, request an absentee ballot, or discuss the importance of civic engagement. The event will also feature giveaways while supplies last.

Lisa Lawrason, a political science professor and co-campus coordinator for The Democracy Commitment at Delta College, emphasized the significance of the drive: "In 2022, Michigan had the highest youth voter turnout in the nation. Delta's status as a voter-friendly campus reflects our dedication to ensuring that community college students are actively involved in the political process."

The drive aims to address common barriers to voter participation, helping individuals engage more fully in elections. "High voter turnout among young people encourages politicians to pay more attention to their needs and perspectives. Our goal is to empower students to shape their community through active participation in elections," Lawrason added.



DELTA COLLEGE

EDUCATION



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TO HOST SAGINAW CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM ON OCTOBER 21

Central Michigan University achieves record \$25.9 million in fundraising for 2023-24

BY MB STAFF

MOUNT PLEASANT — Central Michigan University (CMU) has set a new benchmark in fundraising, with alumni and supporters contributing an unprecedented \$25.9 million during the 2023-24 fiscal year. This total surpasses the previous record of \$24 million set in 2020, marking the most successful fundraising year in the university's history.

CMU President Bob Davies praised the community's generosity, saying, "The CMU community is showing its true maroon and gold pride. The selfless generosity of our alumni and friends paves the way for current and future students and supports the

university as a whole."

The record-breaking year saw several significant contributions. Notably, alumnus Mark Holen made the largest financial commitment ever to the School of Music, endowing a percussion professorship through a legacy gift in his estate. Additionally, Phil Kintzele, emeritus accounting professor, donated over \$2 million in lifetime gifts, leading to the naming of the Philip L. Kintzele School of Accounting. Tim and Sherry Magnusson also made a substantial \$2 million gift supporting CMU Athletics and the College of Business Administration.

Giving Tuesday, held on November 28, 2023, was the most successful in CMU's history,

raising more than \$520,000 in a single day from over 1,200 donors. This support benefited key initiatives such as the Student Emergency Fund, Food Pantry, and scholarships, including Finish Up Chips and Ignite for First Generation Students. Planned gifts designated for future support surpassed \$10 million, setting another record.

Jennifer Cotter, Vice President for Advancement, highlighted the significance of this generosity: "This record generosity from our alumni and friends provides tremendous momentum as we prepare for CMU's next comprehensive campaign. The commitment and engagement of our community are invaluable for the benefit of current and future

students."

Sarah Opperman, Chair of the Advancement Board, attributed the remarkable fundraising success to the university's vibrant community and engaged leadership. "Donors are inspired by CMU's outstanding students and programs. The active involvement of our leaders, faculty, and staff has translated into significant and strategic contributions, setting the pace for CMU's future."

Throughout the year, CMU's Alumni Relations team engaged more than 70,000 alumni, with nearly 9,000 participating in 141 events, underscoring the strong connection between the university and its supporters.

EDUCATION

Parents - Back to school tips for YOU!



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS

Blogger Beth Deacon has a terrific set of tips for parents as their children return to school. We focus on the return to school for many reasons; most of all, it is an exciting and nerve-racking experience for so many families. I love these tips because parents (sometimes overlooked), benefit from them.

Here are three tips that jumped out to me from Beth Deacon.

1st Carve out time for yourselves.

Parents are on a “fast track” this time of year, especially. Setting up schedules, getting school supplies, and countless first steps in the new routine for the coming year. Beth advises “carving out time for yourselves.” Whether it is a relaxing evening at home or a bite to eat together at a restaurant, find time to be together and “exhale.”

2nd Nurture your physical health.

Fast-pace lives can lead to less sleep and more fast-food, and other less-than-optimum healthy decisions.

The healthier the habits, the more stress is reduced. Regular exercising is also a way to break away from daily stressors. Walking or biking together around supper time are fine ways to work exercise into some quiet time for parents.

Making sure proper sleep is acquired is also important for health. Cutting back an hour or more of sleep may open some un-



COURTESY PHOTO

expected challenges associated with reduced immunity.

None of this is easy, yet the benefits seem to be significant.

3rd Connect with others.

Networking with other parents can help calm fears and reduce worries about all aspects of back-to-school. Transportation can be a stressor, and insights

about bus schedules or carpooling can be of relief.

Becoming acquainted with school staff will also reduce apprehension. It will open lines of communication and help develop rapport that could pay off as needs arise.

Best wishes to all parents as schools resume full-throttle in September.

Michigan Reconnect Program for ages 21-24 extended through Spring 2025 at Delta College

UNIVERSITY CENTER — Delta College is extending the Michigan Reconnect program's age eligibility to include individuals aged 21-24 through Spring 2025. This expansion allows Michigan residents, including current community college students, who are

at least 21 years old but under 25 and have not yet earned a college degree, to apply for free tuition until December 31, 2024.

Since its inception, the Michigan Reconnect program has seen 177,000 applications from Michigan residents seeking to benefit from this opportunity. “This program offers a fantastic chance for students to start or resume their education without financial strain,” says Jason Premo, Delta College's Associate Dean

of Enrollment Management. “It also supports local businesses by helping students earn certificates and degrees to meet workforce needs.”

To take advantage of this offer, prospective students should apply by December 31, 2024, and enroll at Delta College for the Winter or Spring 2025 semester.

For more details on eligibility and the application process, visit Delta College's Michigan Recon-

nect page or attend one of the upcoming virtual webinars:

- Wednesday, September 18 at noon
- Monday, September 30 at 5 p.m.

“Given the limited time available for this expansion, we urge students to apply promptly,” adds Premo.



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EDUCATION

SVSU presents public lectures, performances during fall semester

SAGINAW — Saginaw Valley State University will present a season of enlightenment during the 2024-2025 University Lecture Season, with presentations addressing topics within the fields of science, technology, government and the arts.

During the fall semester, SVSU will host four lectures as part of the lecture season program; all are free and open to the public.

The fall schedule includes:

- Wednesday, Sept. 18 — The Raana Akbar Memorial Lecture on Islam and Culture features Fareed Ben-Youssef, assistant professor in film & media at Texas Tech University, presenting “‘The Beauty and the Horror’: Sensing the Muslim as Enemy and as (Super)Hero is Post-9/11 Film.” The lecture begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Malcolm Field Theatre in SVSU’s Curtiss Hall.
- Thursday, Oct. 3 — The Albert J. Beutler Forums for Ethics and Practice presents an Oxford-style debate on the Electoral College. Moderated by Peter Rose-Barry, the Finkbeiner Endowed Professor of Ethics at SVSU, the debate will feature: John Baesler, SVSU professor history; Julie Keil, SVSU professor of political science; Stewart French, SVSU associate professor of political science; and Ryan Petersen, associate professor of political science at Delta College. The debate will be held in the SVSU Alumni Lounge and begins at 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 15 — The Wickson-Nickless Distinguished Lectureship in Business presents Detroit-based

entrepreneur and brand technologist Hajj Flemings discussing artificial intelligence and its role in reshaping the future through innovation and creativity. The lecture, “The AI Revolution: Re-architecting the World,” takes place in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall, in SVSU’s Curtiss Hall, at 6:30 p.m.

- Wednesday, November 13 — Barstow Excellence in Teaching Humanities Seminar presents “Pox, Populism, and Politics: Three Centuries of American Vaccination Controversies” with speaker Robert D. Johnston, professor of history and director of the Teaching of History Program at the University of Illinois Chicago. The lecture will be held in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall at 7:00 p.m.

In addition to lectures, SVSU will also offer a variety of theatrical and musical events as well as art exhibits during the fall semester.

- Musical performances include:
- Low Flutes of Michigan, Sunday, Sept. 15, 3-5 p.m., at the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum
- Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra performing Beethoven’s First, Saturday, Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts.
- SVSU Wind Ensemble Concert, Thursday, Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m., Rhea Miller Recital Hall
- Rhea Miller Concert Series – Brazilian Chamber Music, Saturday, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m., Rhea Miller Recital Hall
- SVSU Clarinet Studio Recital, Friday, Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m.,



HAJJ FLEMINGS

- Rhea Miller Recital Hall
- SVSU Choirs Concert, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m., Rhea Miller Recital Hall
- SVSU Jazz Ensemble Concert, Friday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m., Rhea Miller Recital Hall
- SVSU Jazz Combo Concert, Friday, Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m., Rhea Miller Recital Hall
- SVSU Marching Band Concert, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m., Ryder Center Fieldhouse
- SVSU Wind Ensemble Concert, Thursday, Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m., Rhea Miller Recital Hall
- Rhea Miller Concert Series, Dr. Robert McDonald, Piano, Friday, Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m., Rhea Miller Recital Hall
- SVSU Valley Steel Concert, Monday, Nov. 25, 7:30 p.m., Rhea Miller Recital Hall

The SVSU department of theatre will stage two productions during the fall semester:

- “The Miser” by Moliere, Wednesday-Saturday, Oct. 16-19, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday,

Oct. 20, 3:00 p.m., Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts

- “The Night Witches” by Rachel Bublitz, Wednesday-Saturday, Nov. 20-23, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 24, 3:00 p.m., Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts

The SVSU University Art Gallery, inside the Arbury Fine Arts Center, will host four exhibits during the fall semester:

- John Chavers: “Recently Seen; When No One Else Was Looking” is on exhibit through Saturday, Sept. 14. A reception will be held Thursday, Sept. 5, from 4-6 p.m.
- 20th Annual Saints & Sinners Invitational features artwork by regional artists invited by the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum to exhibit and donate work to support the Museum’s annual fundraising gala. The exhibit runs Wednesday, Sept. 18-Friday, Sept. 27.
- SVSU Ceramic Alumni and Friends Exhibition, featuring works by SVSU graduates, will run from Monday, Oct. 7-Friday, Nov. 8.
- The Fall BFA Exhibition, organized, installed and hosted by Bachelor of Fine Arts candidates, will feature works of printmaking and painting. This exhibit will be on display from Monday, Nov. 18-Thursday, Dec. 5.

For more information about events at Saginaw Valley State University, visit svsu.edu/calendar.

EDUCATION

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



COURTESY PHOTOS

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-

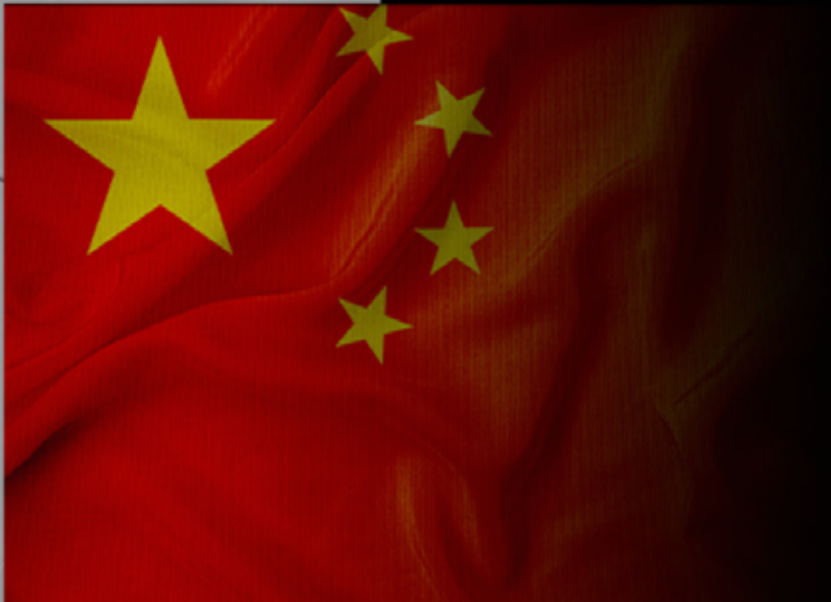
tunities as well as community activities and events.

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

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



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

An advertisement for Saginaw ISD Head Start & Early Head Start. It features the Saginaw ISD logo at the top, followed by 'HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START'. Below this, it says 'FREE PRE-SCHOOL Enrollments for 0 to 5 year olds'. It provides contact information: 'Call: 752-2193 or Visit the Claytor Head Start Building at: 3200 Perkins Saginaw, MI 48601'. It ends with 'REGISTER NOW!' and 'Saginaw County Free Pre-School Partnership'. There are images of children and colorful handprints.

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Flint & Genesee to host first-ever Immerse Entrepreneurial & Small Business Summit on Sept. 25

BY MB STAFF

FLINT – Aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners in Genesee County have a unique entrepreneurial & Small Business Summit, scheduled for Wednesday, September 25. Hosted by the Flint & Genesee Small Business Support Hub in collaboration with the eTEAM, this day-long event is designed to provide the tools, knowledge, and networking opportunities needed to start, grow, and succeed in today's competitive market.

Sponsored by the Flint CRA Bankers Forum and The State Bank, the summit is free to all attendees and will run from 8:30

a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The agenda features motivational speakers, multiple breakout sessions, and networking opportunities with local resource providers, bankers, and fellow entrepreneurs.

“The Immerse Summit is for anyone committed to investing in their professional development and advancing their business or business idea,” said Karena Hamlet, Business Services Director for the Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance, a division of the Flint & Genesee Group. “Participants will gain invaluable insights and practical tools, and they will also have the chance to connect with a community of like-minded professionals who can support their

journey. This event is an opportunity to turn aspirations into actionable strategies and discover new pathways for growth.”

The Small Business Support Hub is partnering with the eTEAM on various aspects of the event, including the launch of the new Immerse Awards. These awards will honor four eTEAM clients for their outstanding market growth, innovation, and exceptional customer service. This regional partnership brings together entrepreneurial service providers to connect local business owners with valuable growth resources.

Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in two

breakout sessions throughout the day. The sessions are designed to cover a range of relevant topics:

Morning Sessions:

Food Regulations 101: Learn about the essential legal requirements for food operations, including collaboration with health departments and navigating food safety standards.

Ready for Brick and Mortar?: Gain insights into the key considerations when deciding to open your first physical storefront.

Business Structures & Legal Compliance: Explore different business structures and legal requirements, crucial for both startups and established companies.

Strategies for E-Commerce Success: Discover effective online marketing tactics and how to use platforms like Amazon, WIX, Etsy, and social media to enhance your e-commerce sales.

Afternoon Sessions:

Accessing Capital: Understand the process of securing capital through commercial bank loans and what to expect when applying.

Balancing Health and Business: Learn health and wellness practices that can help maintain energy, focus, and resilience while managing a business.

Marketing Across Generations: Tailor your marketing strategies to different age groups by understanding their unique preferences and behaviors.

Understanding Family Business Dynamics: Explore the unique challenges of family-run businesses and how to balance familial relationships with business responsibilities.

The event is free, but pre-registration is required by September 18, as breakfast and lunch will be provided. Those interested in attending can register at DevelopFlintandGenesee.org/immerse.

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Renue Physical Therapy reopens clinic at Saginaw YMCA

BAY CITY – Renue Physical Therapy is pleased to announce the reopening of its clinic inside the Saginaw YMCA, starting Tuesday, September 10th. The clinic, located at 1915 Fordney St., is now accepting new patients for a wide array of physical therapy services.

"We are thrilled to be back at the Saginaw YMCA," stated Mel Svorinic, PT, DPT, OMPT, Managing Partner of Renue Physical Therapy. "Our team is committed to providing the high-quality care Renue patients expect. We value our partnership with the Saginaw YMCA and look forward to serving their members and the community."

Patients will benefit from the expertise of Stephen Zingg, PT, DPT, who will offer comprehensive orthopedic services. Dr. Zingg will have a private treatment room and access to the YMCA's facilities to create personalized treatment plans.

"The YMCA offers a unique environment for physical therapy, with access to amenities like the pool, courts, and gym equipment," said Dr. Zingg. "It's an ideal setting to help patients return to the activities they enjoy."

Services offered include physical therapy, balance and fall prevention programs, free screenings, sports medicine, and aquatic therapy.

Renue CEO Tony Klapish emphasized the company's commitment to supporting local YMCAs, stating, "We are proud to now serve patients at both the Saginaw YMCA and the Dow Bay Area Family YMCA in Bay City."

A YMCA membership is not required for treatment. To learn more or schedule an appointment, call (989) 355-1010 or visit www.renuept.com.



YMCA OF SAGINAW

Hey, Bay City! receives 2024 Excellence in Economic Development Silver Award from the International Economic Development Council

BAY CITY – The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce's "Hey, Bay City!" program has been honored with the 2024 Excellence in Economic Development Silver Award from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). This prestigious award recognizes the program's outstanding work in Talent Development & Retention, specifically impacting communities with a population between 25,000 and 200,000.

The IEDC, a leading organization in the field of economic development, bestows these awards annually to initiatives that demonstrate exceptional performance and innovation. IEDC President and CEO, Nathan Ohle, praised "Hey, Bay



HEY, BAY CITY!

City!" for "setting the standard of excellence" and its "transformative impact" on the community.

"Hey, Bay City!" will be formally recognized at the IEDC

2024 Annual Conference in Denver, CO, from September 15-18.

The program's focus on talent development and attraction has been instrumental in fostering

economic growth in Bay County. Magen Samyn, President & CEO of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, expressed her pride in the recognition, emphasizing that the award truly belongs to the entire community.

The success of "Hey, Bay City!" has been made possible through the collaborative efforts of various organizations. It received ARPA funding in 2022 from the City of Bay City and Bay County, along with additional support from Saginaw Valley State University, McLaren Bay Region, and Dow.

This award serves as a testament to the program's effectiveness and its positive impact on the Bay City community.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Dow Credit Union honored with 2024 Partners in Growth Corporate Achievement Award



DOW CREDIT UNION MIDLAND BRANCH

MIDLAND – Dow Credit Union has been recognized for its exceptional contributions to regional growth and community development with the 2024 Partners in Growth Corporate Achievement Award at the 13th Annual Great Lakes Bay Regional Chamber Summit. This prestigious award underscores the credit union's unwavering commitment to serving its communities and fostering positive change throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond.

"Our mission is to act as a Multiplier for Good, and it's more than just words; it's at the core of our beliefs," said Michael

Goad, President/CEO of Dow Credit Union. The organization's dedication is evident in its extensive community involvement, including support for events like the Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational, Great Lakes Bay Pride, the Memorial Cup, and projects such as the Shine Bright Saginaw Mural Project.

Dow Credit Union's commitment extends to education through initiatives like the Saginaw Valley State University Financial Literacy Program, a collaborative effort that equips local middle-schoolers with essential life skills. Dr. Jayati Ghosh, Dean of the Scott L. Carmona College

of Business, emphasized the program's significance, stating, "This financial literacy program is based on a near-peer methodology, which means that the faculty don't go and teach. It's the students, our students, who go and teach. Our students are developing themselves as mentors and future leaders, and so they are also giving back to the community."

LaShanta Green, Director of Marketing and Community Relations, highlighted Dow Credit Union's holistic approach to giving back. "It's about more than just having a physical presence in the region, but about how we

work within the communities we serve," she stated.

The Great Lakes Bay Regional Chamber Summit, organized by several prominent chambers of commerce, serves as a platform for celebrating businesses that make significant contributions to the region. Previous winners of the Partners in Growth Corporate Achievement Award include Corteva Agriscience, Bavarian Inn, and Three Rivers.

For more information about Dow Credit Union and its initiatives, visit dowcreditunion.org.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance launches initiative to promote job growth in Genesee County

“A new advanced manufacturer will help keep home values high.”

—Kristy Cantleberry, Realtor® and Genesee County resident



Learn about the Advanced Manufacturing District at GeneseeJobs.org

A BILLBOARD FROM THE FLINT & GENESEE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE'S PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVE, FEATURING COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO SHOWCASE THE BENEFITS OF NEW JOBS AND THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ATTRACTING A JOB-CREATING PROJECT TO THE ADVANCED MANUFACTURING DISTRICT.

BY MB STAFF

FLINT – A new regional initiative is underway to highlight the tangible benefits of bringing jobs and increasing community investment in Genesee County. Bernard Drew, a local pastor, business owner, and father, is featured in the campaign, expressing his excitement about the opportunities being created for young people in the area. "As a dad raising my family in Genesee County, I'm excited about the work happening to create opportunities for our young people close to home," said Drew.

The initiative, launched by the Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance, aims to promote the benefits of attracting job-creating projects to the county's 1,000-acre Advanced Manufacturing District (AMD). The campaign will run across various platforms, including cable TV,

streaming services, billboards, and social media, showcasing the support from business owners, labor groups, and community stakeholders.

"Creating thousands of new jobs in Genesee County will be a win for our local economy and a win for our housing market," said Kristy Cantleberry, a realtor and owner of a boutique real estate business in Genesee County. "It's exciting to see the hard work happening to attract a project that will offer opportunities for our young people so they can build a life here."

The Advanced Manufacturing District is strategically positioned to attract an advanced manufacturing company, which could create thousands of jobs, inject millions of dollars into the local economy, and strengthen the supply chain within the United States.

Tyler Rossmassler, Execu-

tive Director of the Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance, emphasized the growing community support for these efforts. "Every day, we are hearing from local residents, business owners, and educators who want to show their support for efforts to create new jobs in Genesee County. We are excited to build on that support and shine a light on the personal stories of local residents and business owners who will benefit from a new advanced manufacturer in our community," said Rossmassler.

In recent months, numerous businesses, labor unions, and trade groups have expressed their enthusiasm for the potential development of the site in Mundy Township. New supporters include Siwek Construction, International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers (BAC) Local 2 of Michigan, UA Local 370 Plumbers & Pipefitters, Gen-

esee, Lapeer & Shiawassee Building Trades Council, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 948, and Sheet Metal Workers Local 7.

For more information about the Advanced Manufacturing District and to view a list of supporting organizations, businesses, and community groups, visit GeneseeJobs.org.



ADVANCED MANUFACTURING DISTRICT OF GENESEE COUNTY SITE



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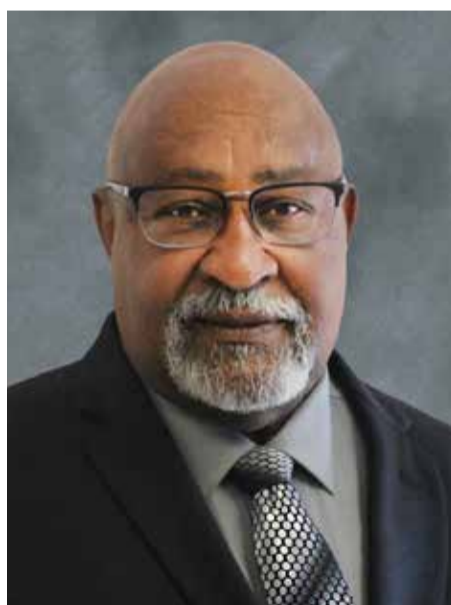
Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

BY PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

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

The organization's vision includes several key objectives:



PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

between the church, volunteers, and community professionals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPONSORED CONTENT

FAITH IN FOCUS



PASTOR MARVIN T. SMITH (L) AND PASTOR JOSHUA M. DANIELS (R)

Mt. Olive pastor's first sermon was in first grade

BY MIKE THOMPSON

He was six years old when he preached his first sermon.

Pastor Joshua M. Daniels, new at Saginaw's Mt. Olive Institutional Missionary Baptist Church, says he would have started sooner, except his father told him he needed to learn to read before he could address the congregation. The Rev. Samuel Daniels was the family's initial generation in the clergy.

"When I was four, five, I would have dreams that I was behind the pulpit," explains Pastor Daniels, whose debut theme as a first-grader was, "The Baby (Jesus) Who Saved the World."

He takes the reins from Pastor Marvin Smith, who has retired.

Daniels hails from the Houston area and his childhood expe-



PASTOR JOSHUA M. DANIELS

rience and education extended into formal ministry as a young adult, and then his first pastorate in Beaumont, a smaller town 85 miles up the Gulf Coast along the Texas border. He moved with his family in 2021 to become pastor of a prestigious Los Angeles congregation, but the hustle and bustle and endless highway traffic were at odds with the slower-

paced downhome lifestyle.

"To me, L.A. was not a 'people city,' " he says. "Saginaw has more of a Southern feel."

When he learned of the Saginaw opening, he was eager to pursue the opportunity.

Still, he says, the decision to move was based "not on the city," but the historic role of Mt. Olive in Saginaw's First Ward, what Marvin Smith often described as "the meaning of the steeple" that stands like a beacon on North Sixth Avenue between Norman and Farwell streets.

The website, mtoimbc.org, outlines 20 areas of involvement that range from stage performance to sports, followed with the summary, "A good measure of our spiritual heart is our depth of concern for other people."

Daniels says, "This is a church

that is alive, only in need of a shepherd."

By obtaining nearly a dozen vacant lots that surround the campus, Mt. Olive congregants show that they are reaching beyond the four walls of the physical church.

As far as a possible future move if the First Ward's overall abandonment continues, Daniels says the top priority is to maintain and continue updating at the current location.

His spouse is Arianna, and son Joshua Jr. is seven years old, between sisters Jarrington, 10, and Jenesis, 2.

So how do the kids feel about moving from Los Angeles to Saginaw?

"They are excited about seeing snow fall for the first time," Pastor Daniels says.

FAITH IN FOCUS



Two are better than one: The importance of collaboration

BY MB STAFF

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up."

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

These verses from Ecclesiastes encapsulate a profound truth about the human experience: we are stronger together. The importance of collaboration and unity for the greater good of the community is a message woven

throughout the Bible, and this passage serves as a poignant reminder of its power.

The imagery of two people working together is striking. They achieve more, their efforts are mutually beneficial, and they provide support and encouragement to one another. When one stumbles, the other is there to help them rise again. This illustrates the inherent value of community and the strength that comes from shared purpose. In the context of a community, this translates to individuals coming together, pooling their skills, talents, and resources to achieve goals that would be impossible alone. It's about recognizing that each person has something unique to contribute, and when those contributions are combined, the impact is multiplied.

The verse also highlights the vulnerability of isolation. "But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up." This serves as a stark reminder of the

consequences of disunity and the importance of looking out for one another. In a community, this means ensuring that no one is left behind, that systems of support are in place to catch those who fall, and that everyone feels a sense of belonging and connection.

Applying this biblical principle to our communities today, we see its relevance in countless ways. From neighborhood watch groups that enhance safety to volunteer organizations that address social needs, the power of collective action is evident. When people work together, they can tackle challenges like poverty, environmental degradation, and inequality more effectively. They can create a sense of shared responsibility and empower individuals to become active participants in shaping their community's future.

Furthermore, the principle of working together for the greater good extends beyond just practi-

cal outcomes. It fosters a sense of empathy, compassion, and mutual respect. It reminds us that we are all interconnected and that our actions have ripple effects on those around us. When we prioritize the well-being of the community as a whole, we create a more harmonious and fulfilling environment for everyone.

The biblical message of working together for the greater good resonates deeply with the human spirit. It reminds us that we are not meant to journey through life alone, but rather to support and uplift one another. When we embrace this principle, we unlock the true potential of our communities, creating a world where everyone can thrive. As the verses in Ecclesiastes suggest, the rewards of collaboration are abundant, and the consequences of isolation are dire. Let us strive to build communities where everyone feels valued, supported, and empowered to contribute to the greater good.



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Bread of Life Harvest Center
Senior Pastor Rodney J. McTaggart
3726 Fortune Blvd.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-790-7933

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Christ Disciples Baptist Church
Founder Pastor Eddie Benson
Pastor Genevieve Benson
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Christ Fellowship Baptist Church
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Christ Image Community Church
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F



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Faith Ministries Church
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Midland, MI 48642
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faithministrieschurch.org

G



Glimpse Of Hope Ministries
Pastor Leslie D Lewis
2211 S. Outer Dr.
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g.ministries@aol.com



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

Grace Chapel Church
Pastor James Nelson
2202 Janes Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-755-3212

Greater Williams Temple
608 E Remington St
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-755-5291

H



Holy Communion Gospel Center
Pastor Charlene Washington
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Saginaw, MI 48607
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J

Jacob's Ladder
Pastor Dennis Barlow
1926 Fairfield Street
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-799-6601

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Life in Christ Ministries
Pastor Dennis Cotton, Sr.
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Saginaw, MI 48601
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Messiah Missionary Baptist Church
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messiahmbc@att.net
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Mt. Olive Baptist Church
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Saginaw, MI 48601
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New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry
Pastor Roy & Evelyn Baldwin
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Saginaw, MI 48601
989-777-8272
Pastorbaldwin@charter.net



New Beginnings Ministries
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New Birth Missionary Baptist
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New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
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New Life Baptist Ministries
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Saint Paul Baptist Church
Rev. Dr., Vincent D. McMillon
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Second Baptist Church
Pastor-Elect Marcelle T. Smith
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Bay City, MI 48708
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Transforming Life Ministries
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523 Hayden
Saginaw, MI 48601
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World Outreach Campus of Greater Coleman Temple Ministries
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2405 Bay Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48602
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Z



Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor Rodrick Smith
721 Johnson
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-754-9621

FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

How am I doing?

BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

What does success look like? How can we be successful as fundraising professionals, nonprofit executives, board members, and volunteers if we don't know how success is measured?

In many instances, fundraising success is simply defined as "Did we raise enough money?" In more sophisticated organizations the benchmark could be, "Did we meet our fundraising goals?" We believe these questions barely scratch the surface of what fundraising success looks like. There are many steps to successful fundraising, but not everyone knows. That's no one's fault – who sits around talking about fundraising and what it takes to meet a fundraising goal? We can tell you – not many folks!

Here is a sample list of activities you can use as a measure of fundraising success:

1. Implementing the fundraising plan in a timely manner
2. Monies raised
3. Data management
4. Campaign leadership
5. Attrition rate
6. Communications and awareness
7. Reporting on a regular basis
8. Prospect identification, cultivation, and



COURTESY PHOTO

9. Solicitation
9. Stewardship
10. Budget management
11. Staffing levels
12. Volunteer management and orientation

Start with an open-ended question: How do you think I am doing in my role as a fundraiser for our organization? Then ask specific questions, such as "Please rank my work in implementing our fundraising plan?" Please rank on a scale of one to five, with one being "poor" and five being "excellent."

Use the same question format to ask how they rank the money you have raised, and how you use technology for fundraising and reporting. Ask how they rank your work in the areas of communications, awareness activities, and social media; and how you are progressing in identifying, cultivating, and soliciting donors and funders. Ask for an assessment of how you are securing and work-

ing with fundraising leaders and volunteers; how you are thanking donors; and how you are reporting out to others on fundraising progress and activities.

Remember to first ask yourself these questions and to then ask others to answer them. Sometimes our assessment is different from how others assess our work. We may be harder on ourselves than others are, or there may be things that others see that we are not aware of. In all cases, it's about self-assessment and assessment by others so that you are not blindsided at the end of the year. It's a way to be accountable to yourself, your organiza-

tion, and those you work with. It gives you time to make adjustments. Importantly, we recommend that the executive director, board chair, and fundraising staff and volunteers all do the same. This way everyone can assess, learn and move forward towards a shared fundraising goal.

We all want to be seen as being successful, as contributing towards the greater good, being a team player. It's hard to be successful if you don't know the measure of success and you don't have feedback. Ask for feedback throughout the year, and be willing to offer it when asked.



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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

Dow Championship to return to Midland Country Club in June 2025

MIDLAND – Tournament officials have announced that the Dow Championship, the LPGA Tour's annual signature team event, will return to Midland Country Club from June 23-29, 2025. Competition will begin on Thursday, June 26.

The Dow Championship, which celebrated its fifth anniversary this year, has garnered significant support from community members and sponsors throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region. The 2024 tournament saw Jeeno Thitikul and Ruoning Yin clinch the title by one stroke in their debut appearance as a team.

"Over the past five years, we have experienced remarkable growth thanks to the unwavering support from our regional and national partners and sponsors," said Carlos Padilla II, Executive Director of the Dow Championship. "Our strong foundation positions us well for continued expansion and growth, and we are excited about the opportunities ahead as we build on this success



DOW CHAMPIONSHIP GROUNDS

in the coming years."

Earlier this year, the tournament was renamed the Dow Championship, formerly known as the Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational, to reflect its growth and

its role as a champion for the entire Great Lakes Bay Region. In addition, 2024 saw the introduction of a new tournament trophy, designed by Tiffany & Co., symbolizing the dedication and passion of the LPGA Tour players.

The Dow Championship made its debut in 2019 as the first official team competition in LPGA Tour history. That year, it earned the LPGA Tournament of the Year award, a first for any inaugural tournament. The Dow Championship has also been a leader in sustainability, becoming the first LPGA event to receive and maintain full GEO® Certification for its sustainability efforts in 2019, and later achieving carbon neutrality in 2021. Dow, the tournament's title sponsor, serves as the Official Sustainability Resource of the LPGA Tour and the Ladies European Tour.

Since its inception, the tour-

nament has generated an estimated \$75 million in economic impact for the Great Lakes Bay Region and has donated over \$2.5 million to local charities. In addition to the official LPGA competition, the week-long event features various community engagement activities, including the Eat Great Trail, a STEM Center for kids and families, and a youth golf clinic.

The 2024 Dow Championship featured a \$3 million purse, making it one of the highest on the LPGA Tour outside of major championships. The tournament follows a 72-hole stroke play format, alternating between four-somes (alternate shot) and four-ball (best ball) rounds.

For ongoing updates and event information, visit the tournament's official website at www.dowchampionship.com.



THAILAND'S ATTHAYA THITIKUL AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S RUONING YIN WON THE 2024 DOW CHAMPIONSHIP



PICS OF THE WEEK

The Saginaw Fire Department is excited to announce the arrival of its new Rosenbauer Cobra ladder truck, TRUCK 1. After a thorough selection process, this state-of-the-art apparatus will soon replace the current aerial unit, marking a significant upgrade in the department's ability to serve and protect the community. The Saginaw Fire Department extends its gratitude to the City of Saginaw Government and council for approving the ARPA funds that made this purchase possible.





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



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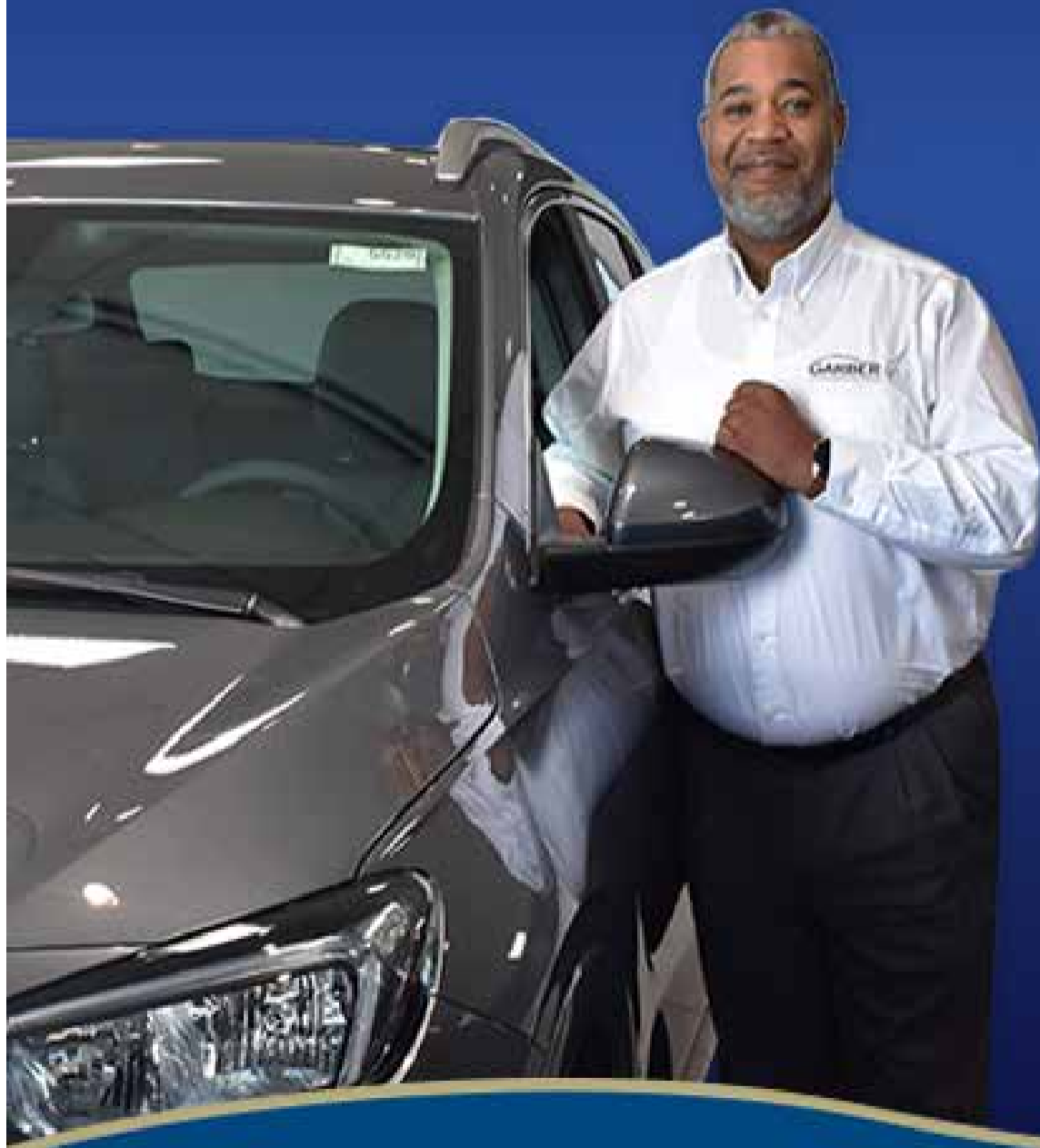
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