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Saginaw exhibit highlights Native traditions
COMMUNITY, PG 15

SVSU students build global leadership skills through Ghana collaboration

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

As global conversations about artificial intelligence, cross-cultural collaboration, and youth leadership grow more urgent, students at Saginaw Valley State University are continuing the work they began this spring on the international stage.

In March, a group of SVSU business students traveled to Ghana as part of the Vitito Global Leadership Institute, an intensive leadership program that merges classroom instruction with real-world experience. Now, months later, those students are still actively engaged in global dialogue—developing projects and partnerships sparked during their time abroad.

The centerpiece of the trip was the Vitito Global Youth Leadership Conference, held at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) in Accra. The event, themed “Enhancing Youth Leadership at the Intersection of Globalization and the AI Revolution,” brought together SVSU students and Ghanaian peers to examine how emerging technologies are reshaping leadership across industries and borders.

The conference combined interactive workshops and group discussions, with students diving into AI’s impact on sectors such as health care, finance, education, agriculture and small business. While the travel itself occurred earlier this year, faculty and students say the experience continues to shape their understanding of leadership in an increasingly interconnected and tech-driven world.



THE VITITO FELLOWS VISITED DR. FRANK AMOAKOHENE, THE ASHANTI REGIONAL MINISTER OF GHANA. (PHOTO COURTESY OF SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY)

“The visit was the encompassing experience of interacting with leadership students and professionals globally. It was firsthand, ground experience of global interaction and networking,” said Rhea Schultz, an international business major from Saginaw. “This impacts SVSU and the students by cultivating a worldly perspective and education within our students.”

To keep the momentum going, SVSU and GIMPA students are collaborating virtually throughout the summer. The goal is to co-author a book exploring how artificial intelligence will impact global business operations and the importance of maintaining strong human relationships in the face of rapid technological change.

“We are going to maintain the student connections by holding several collaborative online meetings with the goal of writing chapters to assemble into a book,” said Micah DelVecchio, SVSU associate professor of economics.

While in Ghana, the Viti-

to Fellows also met with local government and traditional leaders, visited historical and cultural landmarks, and coordinated a donation drive to benefit the Royal Seed Orphanage in Accra—demonstrating the program’s commitment to both leadership development and community engagement.

The Vitito Global Leadership Institute, established by longtime SVSU supporters Robert and Marianne Vitito, selects high-achieving juniors and seniors in the College of Business & Management to participate in the yearlong program. It combines leadership theory, mentorship, and global travel to prepare students for leadership roles in an increasingly globalized business environment.

As the students’ international collaborations continue into the fall, SVSU leaders say the experience represents a model for future engagement—blending classroom learning, cultural awareness and 21st-century leadership in action.



Activist stands up to oppose Trump's policies

LATINO BANNER, COVER



Smaller efforts help city parks and rec survive

COMMUNITY, PG 20



Pamela Pugh announces bid for open Michigan Senate seat

POLITICS, PG 28

M-30 resurfacing project, railroad crossing repairs to begin July 21 in Saginaw, Gratiot counties

SAGINAW — A \$906,000 investment by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will bring road improvements and railroad crossing repairs to a stretch of M-30 in Saginaw and Gratiot counties, with work scheduled to begin Monday, July 21.

The project will resurface approximately four miles of M-30, also known as Meridian Road, from M-46 to South County Line Road. The effort also includes rebuilding the approach to the Mid-Michigan Railroad crossing, a key infrastructure upgrade aimed at improving safety and travel conditions in the region.

Temporary traffic changes will go into effect during the initial phase of construction. From July 21 through July 28, M-30 will be fully closed and detoured via Tittabawassee Road, Merrill Road, and M-46. After that, traffic will be managed through lane closures and flagging operations until the project wraps up on Friday, August 22.

MDOT estimates the project will directly and indirectly support eight jobs, based on economic modeling. More broadly, the resurfacing is expected to result in a smoother driving surface and improved safety for drivers traveling between the communities of Merrill and Breckenridge.

The M-30 project is part of a broader push to address critical roadway needs in rural and semi-rural areas while also reinforcing public safety and long-term mobility.

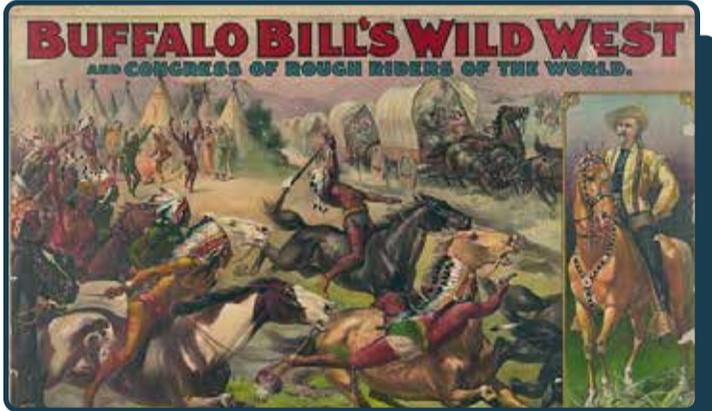
For ongoing updates, drivers are encouraged to check MDOT's online traffic alerts and detour maps.



**THIS DAY IN
MICHIGAN
HISTORY**

JULY 16, 1898

On July 16, 1898, Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show arrived in Saginaw with 650 performers reenacting frontier life through stunts, races, and marksmanship. Cody, a former scout turned showman, launched the spectacle in 1883, blending myth and reality to shape popular images of the American West. Featuring stars like Annie Oakley and even Sitting Bull, the show toured internationally, including performances for Queen Victoria. Though it ended in 1913, Cody's legacy as a cultural icon endures.



POSTER OF BUFFALO BILL'S WILD WEST SHOW (PHOTO CREDIT: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS)

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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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DEADLINES

1 week before each publication date of the 1st and 16th of each month

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Mailed or e-mailed
Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 7 • NUMBER 14



Chill vibes only: How to actually relax this summer

BY MB STAFF

School's out. The sun's up. And you finally have time to breathe. But let's be real—just because it's summer doesn't mean all your stress magically disappears.

Between juggling jobs, college prep, family responsibilities, or just trying to keep your cool in a chaotic world, summer can sometimes feel anything but chill. That's why this season is the perfect time to find new ways to take care of your mental health—and yourself.

Start your day your way

How you start your morning matters. Even if you're not an early bird, setting aside just a little "you time" before the day kicks off can seriously help. Try stretching, going for a walk, journaling, or listening to music that gets you in a good headspace. Bonus: It gives your day structure without the pressure of a full schedule.

Make a vibe playlist

Music can do wonders for your mood. Whether you're into lo-fi beats, gospel, chill pop, or instrumental piano, building playlists for different feelings (like calm, happy, or focused) can help you reset when stress hits. Think of it like therapy—but with your favorite headphones.

Take a break from your screen

Endless scrolling might seem like a break, but it can actually mess with your mood. Try un-



FILE PHOTO

plugging for a bit. No pressure to go full blackout—but even a few hours away from social media can give your brain a break. Paint, skate, shoot hoops, read a book, or just hang out in real life. It's refreshing. Promise.

Try real rest, not just "numbing out"

There's nothing wrong with catching up on your favorite shows, but real rest hits different. It actually helps you recharge instead of just zoning out. Do something that fills you up—like volunteering, learning something new, being outside, or working

on a passion project. You'll feel more accomplished and more chill.

Check in with yourself (and others)

Summer's a great time to check in—on your friends, your feelings, and your future. Talk to someone if things feel heavy. Whether it's a friend, family member, or school counselor, you don't have to carry everything alone.

Need a reset? Here are 5

simple ways to de-stress this summer:

- Create a calming morning routine
- Keep a journal or try a meditation app
- Set screen-time limits
- Find a creative outlet (yes, even doodling counts)
- Talk it out when things get tough

So yeah, summer's for fun—but it's also a chance to feel better, think clearer, and vibe harder. You deserve peace. Go get it.

Saginaw conference aims to empower young women

BY SANDILE MCCOY

SAGINAW — Local girls in grades 7 through 12 are invited to attend “Girl, You Make Things Happen!”, a youth empowerment conference focused on self-esteem, goal-setting, and leadership, scheduled for Saturday, July 26, at the Horizon’s Conference Center in Saginaw.

Organized by Amaya Bradley, CEO of Grow in Confidence, LLC, the event will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with registration beginning at 9 a.m. Tickets are \$35 and include lunch, activities, and access to a series of motivational workshops.

Participants can expect a mix of speakers, group games, prizes, and a hands-on vision board session designed to help attendees set goals and visualize their futures.

“We are thrilled to bring ‘Girl, You Make Things Happen!’ to the young women of Saginaw,” Bradley said. “Our goal is to create a supportive and inspiring environment where girls can recognize their immense potential and feel empowered to pursue their dreams. This conference is more than just an event; it’s a steppingstone towards a future filled with confidence and accomplishment.”

The program is designed to equip participants with strategies to build confidence, foster resilience, and strengthen their sense of purpose. Organizers say the event also provides an opportunity for youth to connect with peers and positive adult role models.

The conference will be held at 6200 State Street. Registration is available online at www.growinconfidence.org.

For more information about the event, contact Amaya Bradley at (989) 397-2947 or email growinconfidence@outlook.com.

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SEEN ON THE SCENE: Saginaw STEM students from The Genius Within Cooperative Learning Center prepare their custom-built electric vehicle for the Electric Solar Car Expedition, taking place July 17–20, 2025. The four-day trek launches in Detroit with stops in Lansing, Flint, Saginaw, Traverse City, Mackinaw City, and Marquette, before concluding at Michigan Technological University in Houghton. The expedition highlights youth innovation, clean energy, and hands-on STEM learning across the state.





Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

Activist stands up to oppose Trump's policies



ANGEL GOMEZ (COURTESY PHOTO)

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Angel Gomez is not among opponents who hesitate to publicly oppose President Trump's actions against undocumented immigrants, and harmful cutbacks in general to people in need.

He understands the cautious concerns of others, noting that Trump indeed carries a track record of seeking revenge, but he sees no other option than to speak out, even with an extended family that includes members defined as "illegals" -- or worse, "murderers" and "rapists" -- by Trump and by MAGA leadership.

His reaction to last November's election defeat was to attend a meeting of county Democrats. He listened as others outlined their thoughts on how Democrats' strategies had fallen short, and afterwards, he ap-

proached Brandell Adams, the new local chairman. The result is that he is organizing the party's first-ever Latino Caucus, with a startup survey that can be found on the Facebook page for the Latino Caucus of Saginaw County Democratic Party.

"Latinos feel like we don't have a voice," says Gomez, who is recruiting caucus members while he compiles results of the survey, which essentially asks folks what would be a needed spark to get them involved.

In the process, he is taking an approach that is opposite to both the Saginaw and Bay City town councils, where a majority of members rejected resolutions that challenged ongoing ICE raids on human rights principles, saying it wasn't worth the risk of the president cutting their federal funds in retaliation.

Gomez says, "Trump's definition of an 'illegal' is anyone who

is Latino or disagrees with him."

Angel accepts pronunciations of "ahn-hehl" or "AIN-juhl," as in Biblical. Indeed, he is the youth activities director at his church, which is St. Joseph Catholic on North Sixth Street in the First Ward. His wife, Alicia, in April, gave birth to their third child. Their first daughter is coping with autism, leading to concerns about Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s autism database and health care slashes in the "Big, Beautiful Bill" that passed in conjunction with the Fourth of July holiday.

His seeds for schooling were planted with his grandmother, Guadalupe Gomez, the pioneering first Latina to serve on the Chesaning Board of Education. His personal sparks for political awareness were scenarios in which he felt discrimination, first at Chesaning High School, where he graduated in 2008, and then as a rare Mexican-American in retail management. His job loss led him to enroll at SVSU, where he studied social work for a 2020 bachelor's degree and a 2023 master's. He supported his family and paid his tuition with handyman jobs that ranged from lawn care and landscaping to custodian and kitchen cleanup. He is now a clinical therapist with McDowell Healing Arts Center.

With his background, he defines the Trump phenomenon in mental health terms. People have been "hurting" in an array of ways, he says, in a changing world that excludes them and often makes them feel isolated. Trump "exploits" these hardships by creating enemies that play to hateful feelings, he says.

Regarding the survey, "you

would be surprised" at how many concerns are raised in the initial handful of survey responses, he says.

With 35 detailed responses through mid-July, the survey so far has found that 62 percent of Latinos feel decision makers "barely understand" their issues and another 31 percent feel only "somewhat" of a connection. Only 25 percent feel their "voices matter." More than 60 percent feel "somewhat unsafe" in public places

A Latino Caucus picnic to promote involvement is set for 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 14, a Thursday, at Saginaw Township's Olson Park on Center and Shattuck next to Zauel Library. It's a potluck with free hot dogs. Call Gomez at (989) 860-1969. A planning meet for the event is 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 5, at local Dem headquarters, 615 Adams in the former Case Funeral Home building.

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ARRiBA! Latinos Festival to bring music, culture to Detroit's Hart Plaza

BY MB STAFF

DETROIT — Latino culture will take center stage in downtown Detroit for the first time in more than three decades as the ARRiBA! Latinos Festival comes to Hart Plaza on August 2 and 3, 2025. The two-day celebration promises a high-energy weekend of music, entertainment, food and family-friendly fun, spotlighting the rich diversity and vibrancy of the Latino community.

Organizers say ARRiBA! is more than a music festival — it's a cultural experience. With a lineup featuring internationally known artists like Waka Flocka Flame, regional Mexican stars Regulo Caro and Noel Torres, and actor-musician Gregorio Pernía, the event aims to bridge generations and genres.

"This is a celebration of our people, our stories, and our music," said a festival spokesperson. "We're excited to bring this level of talent and community energy back to Hart Plaza."

Saturday's main stage will feature performances by hip-hop artist Waka Flocka Flame, singer Pee Wee, and tribute act Tatyana D'voce — Selena Experience. Cumbia and tropical rhythms will fill the air with performances from Adel La Furia De Ritmo, while DJ Nico hosts the day's events.

On Sunday, Regulo Caro, Noel Torres, Banda Unica De Rancho, Armando Vegas and Gregorio Pernía are set to perform, continuing the weekend's dynamic mix of Latin music styles.

Festival-goers can also catch live Lucha Libre wrestling throughout both days, presented by Lucha Xtreme. Featured stars include Samuray Del Sol — formerly known as WWE's Kalisto — along with Mini Abismo Negro, El Dragon and Tino Valentino. Organizers say the matches will



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ARRIBA LATINOS FESTIVAL SET FOR AUG. 2-3 AT HART PLAZA IN DETROIT.

combine athleticism, spectacle and tradition in a nod to Mexican wrestling culture.

Designed to be inclusive and accessible, ARRiBA! will offer a dedicated children's area with daytime activities such as free bounce houses, face painting and games. Children under 12 receive free entry with a paid adult ticket, and kids 5 and under are always free. Youth tickets for ages 6 to 12 start at \$25 for a single day and \$40 for both days.

In addition to entertainment,

the festival will host dozens of local vendors and food trucks serving authentic Latin American cuisine, craft goods and beverages. Pop-up bars and shaded seating areas will be available to help guests stay cool during the summer event.

Hart Plaza has long been the site of major cultural events in Detroit, but ARRiBA! marks the first large-scale Latino music festival at the site in more than 30 years.

Adult tickets start at \$59 for

a single-day pass and \$85 for the weekend. Organizers recommend purchasing tickets early, as demand is expected to be high for the inaugural event. More artist announcements and schedule details are expected in the coming weeks.

Festival information and ticket details can be found at www.ribalatinos.com.

ARRiBA! Latinos Festival will be held at Hart Plaza, located at 1 Hart Plaza, Detroit, MI 48226.

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Mayoral candidates to face community at Southwest Detroit forum

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STATE OF SOUTHWEST DETROIT: A MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM FLYER

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

DETROIT — Detroit mayoral candidates will take the stage on Saturday, July 19, for a community-led forum centered on the lived experiences, concerns, and priorities of Southwest Detroit residents.

The event, titled State of Southwest Detroit: A Mayoral Candidate Forum, will be held from 12 to 2 p.m. at Cesar Chavez Academy Middle School, located at 6782 Goldsmith St. Orga-

nizers say the goal is to shift the focus of the campaign trail by putting community voices at the forefront.

Rather than traditional stump speeches, the forum will begin with personal testimonies from local residents, spotlighting day-to-day realities in the neighborhood. Candidates will be expected to listen first, then respond directly to the issues raised and share how they plan to address them if elected.

The forum will highlight five key topics affecting the South-

west Detroit community: arts, culture and equitable development; environmental justice; flood response and infrastructure; immigration and community safety; and education access and equity.

Organizers say the event is open to everyone—regardless of voting status—and emphasize that the experiences of all residents are valid and essential to shaping the city’s future. Child-care and refreshments will be provided, and community members are encouraged to bring a

friend or family member.

The forum is hosted by a coalition of advocacy and community organizations including 482Forward, MI Poder, Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, Michigan United, Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, Urban Neighborhood Initiatives, Working Families Power, and We The People Michigan.

Advance registration is encouraged at bit.ly/SOSWD.

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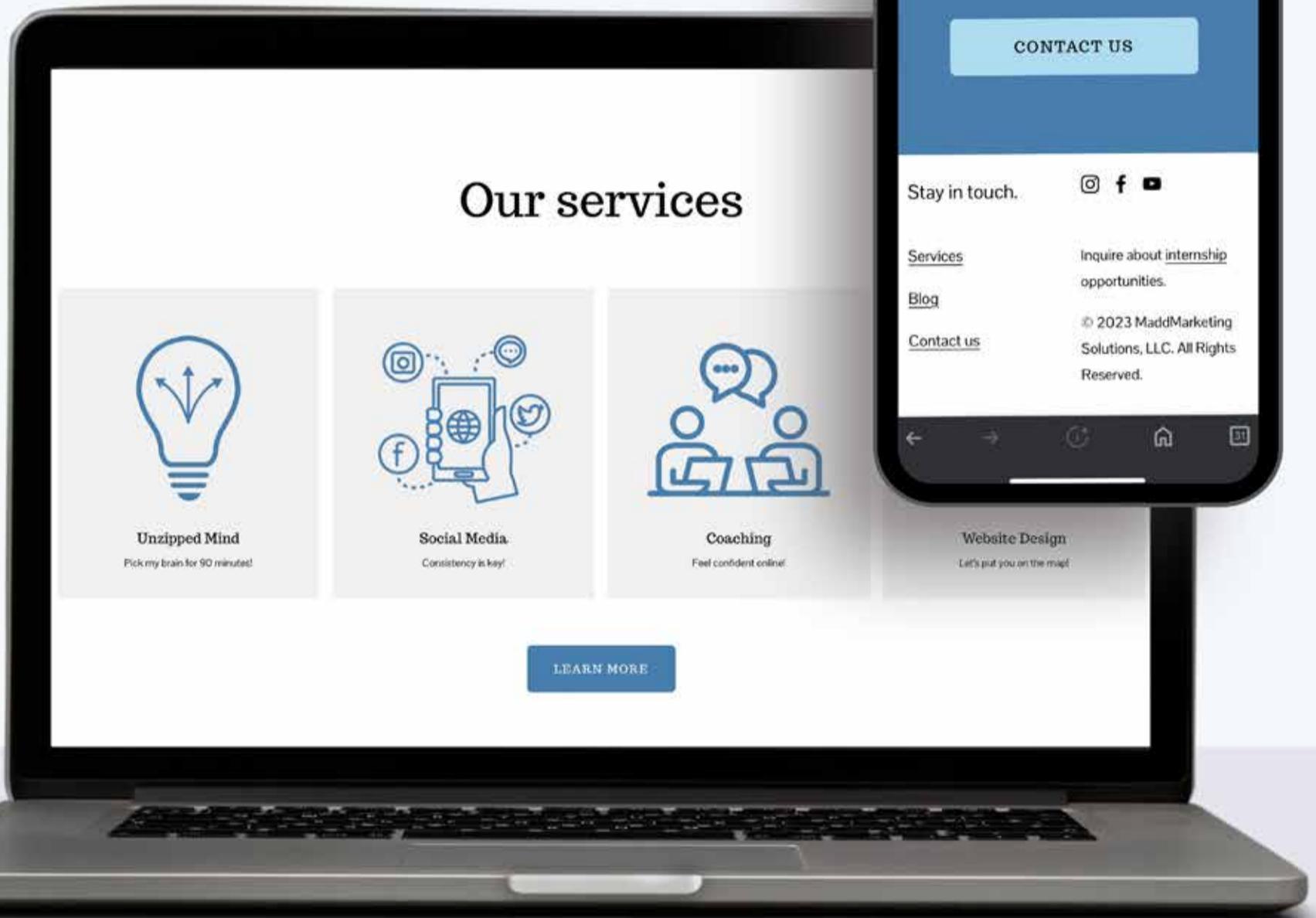
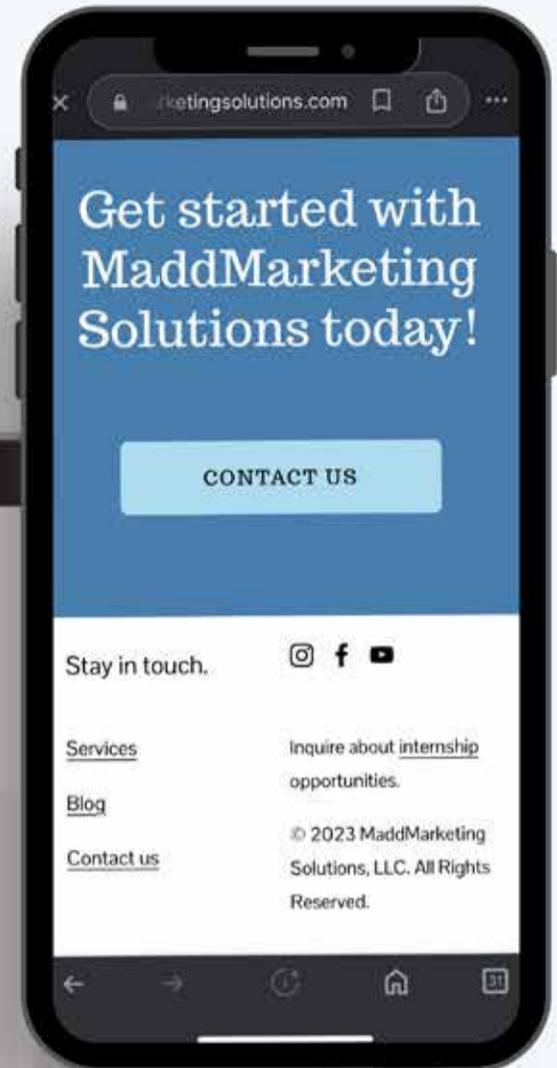
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COMMUNITY

'Brobecue Fellowship' to promote mentorship, resources**"BROBECUE FELLOWSHIP"**
Men, Mentoring, Maturing**Guest Speakers:****"The Power of Dad"**

By Mr. Brian Pruitt

"The Power of Urbanization"

By Mr. Jimmy Green

Sponsors:

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

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — A full day of mentorship, community engagement, and family-friendly activities is scheduled for Saturday, July 26, as "Brobecue Fellowship: Men, Mentoring, Maturing" takes over Mission in the City Memorial Park in Saginaw.

The event, which runs from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., aims to connect

men and youth through fellowship and personal development while offering critical community resources on-site. Hosted at 1401 Janes Avenue, the event is part of an ongoing initiative to promote intellectual, physical, spiritual, and social wellness in the community.

Highlights of the event include two keynote talks: "The Power of Dad" by Brian Pruitt and "The Power of Urbanization"

by Jimmy Green. The program is designed to encourage dialogue on fatherhood, leadership, and community empowerment.

A variety of vendors will be present, offering information and support in areas such as employment, housing, health care, banking, and legal services. The event also promises a range of recreational activities, including 3-on-3 basketball, chess, pickleball, cornhole, checkers, and

horseshoes, among others.

Sponsors include Chuckie Lawrence, Dave Parham, Antonio Brooks, Corey Pritchett, and Dr. Craig Tatum.

The event is open to the public and encourages families and individuals of all ages to attend. For more information, contact Chuckie Lawrence at (989) 598-2786.

Saginaw exhibit highlights Native traditions



MARCELLA HADDEN

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — A vibrant new photography exhibition by Marcella Hadden, titled *Indigenous Flair*, is now on display at the Andersen Enrichment Center, offering visitors a visually layered experience that bridges ancestral tradition with contemporary expression.

The exhibit, which runs through September 16, 2025, features an array of photographs that explore Native American ceremonial traditions, sacred items, and cultural regalia. What sets *Indigenous Flair* apart is Hadden's use of bold color filters and modern editing techniques that create a dreamlike quality—inviting viewers to engage not only with the image but with the layered stories behind it.

Located at 120 Ezra Rust Drive, directly across from Ojibway Island, the exhibition is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

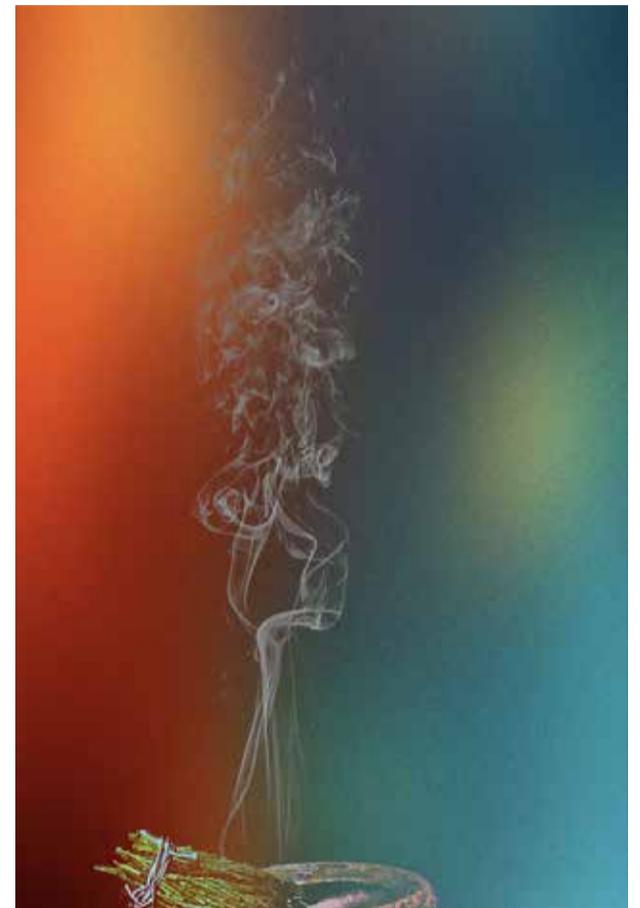
Each photograph in the collection captures culturally significant moments—from traditional dancers in motion to symbolic objects such as a bowl of strawberries. Some images are intimate close-ups, while others showcase full-frame movement, capturing the kinetic energy and emotion embedded in Native rituals. The high-contrast overlays and radiant hues add a sense of mysticism, prompting viewers to look deeper to understand what they are seeing.

Hadden, a tribal member of the Saginaw Chipewewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, has nurtured her passion for photography since childhood. Based in Central Michigan, she has continued her education through classes, workshops, and collaboration with other local photographers. Her

work has received national and regional recognition, including a photograph featured in the Nation to Nation exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

In Michigan, her images can be found in multiple public and tribal spaces, including the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel, and the 7th Generation Ceremonial Building. Her work has also been displayed at the Ziiibiwing Cultural Center, the Art Reach Center in Mt. Pleasant, and has been featured in public installations such as city maps, storefront displays, and transit wraps in Mt. Pleasant.

Hadden is the owner of Niibing Giziis (Summer Moon) Photography, a name that reflects

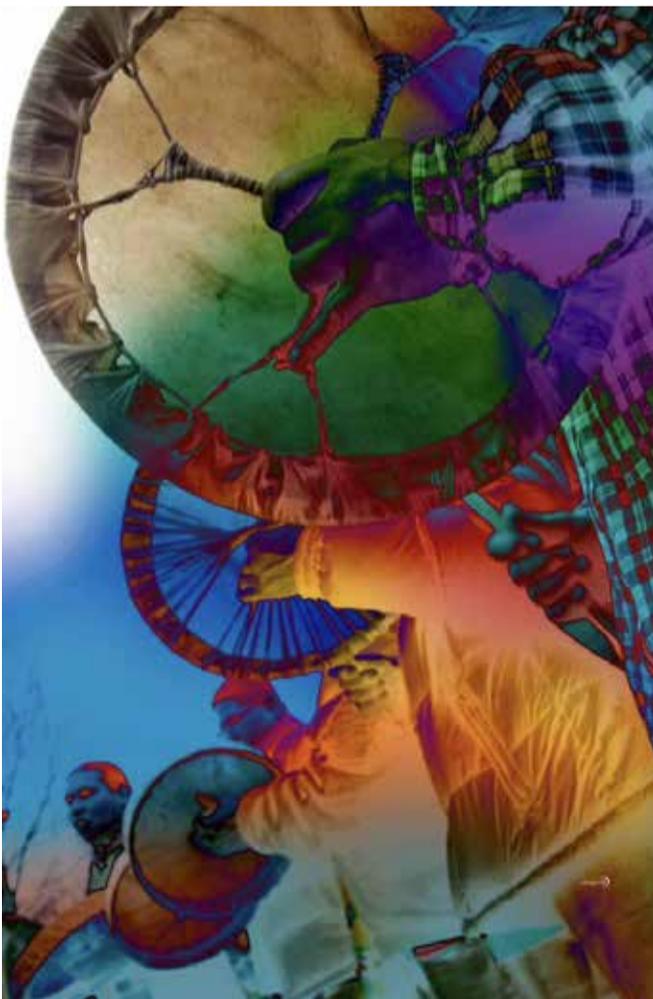


"SMUDGE" BY MARCELLA HADDEN, PART OF THE *INDIGENOUS FLAIR* EXHIBITION, IS CURRENTLY ON DISPLAY AT THE ANDERSEN ENRICHMENT CENTER IN SAGINAW, MICHIGAN, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 16, 2025.

her Anishinaabe heritage. While much of her artistic focus centers on cultural preservation and storytelling, she also specializes in lifestyle photography, including family and newborn portraits. Her ability to blend cultural reverence with personal warmth has helped establish her as a unique voice in the Mid-Michigan arts community.

The Art @ the Andersen program, which hosts the exhibition, is supported by the Maxwell K. Pribil Memorial Trust, the Jury Foundation, the Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation, and the Michigan Arts & Culture Council. Organized by the Saginaw Arts & Enrichment Commission, the initiative offers artists across the Great Lakes Bay Region a platform to exhibit and sell their work.

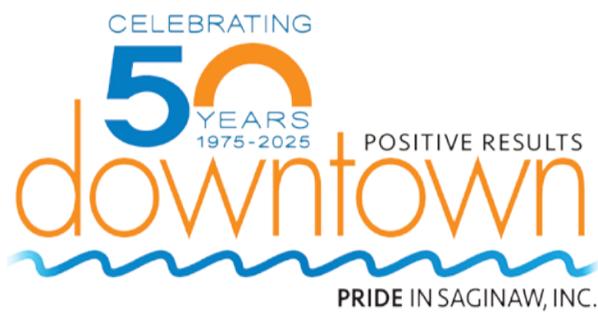
For more information, contact the Saginaw Arts & Enrichment Commission at (989) 759-1362.



"DRUMS" BY MARCELLA HADDEN, PART OF THE *INDIGENOUS FLAIR* EXHIBITION, IS CURRENTLY ON DISPLAY AT THE ANDERSEN ENRICHMENT CENTER IN SAGINAW, MICHIGAN, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 16, 2025.



"JINGLES" BY MARCELLA HADDEN, PART OF THE *INDIGENOUS FLAIR* EXHIBITION, IS CURRENTLY ON DISPLAY AT THE ANDERSEN ENRICHMENT CENTER IN SAGINAW, MICHIGAN, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 16, 2025.



5:30-9PM
FRIDAY NIGHTS
& MORLEY PLAZA

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JULY 18 Downtown Hoedown

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AUG 01 Riverfront Blues Fest

FEATURING: • THE PRIDE AND JOY BLUES BAND
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FEATURING: • SHAWN MCGINNIS - TOM PETTY TRIBUTE
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AUG 15 Motown Music Fest

FEATURING: • CHARLES ALLEN
• PERSUASION BAND

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For more information contact Positive Results Downtown at (989) 753-9168 www.prideinsaginaw.com

African Fest keeps youngsters busy

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — It's time for children to begin preparing for the Saginaw African Cultural Festival.

Whether it's a chess tournament or a basketball shooting contest, family fun and entertainment will remain a staple of the 57th annual event, set for the weekend of Aug. 8-10 at Morley School Park.

Some youngsters will get a head start through attendance at the festival committee's second-year summer Freedom Schools, named for the 1964 civil rights efforts in Mississippi.

John Turner is the festival's chairman for children's activities,

and he personally oversees the chess -- a favorite of former Morley Principal Charles McNair -- as the ultimate challenge for building youthful brain power. Other luminaries will include Eugene Seals Jr., basketball standout and now Chamber of Commerce president, coordinating a 3-on-3 hoops tourney; former City Councilman Willie Haynes with horseback rides; and former Morley teacher Kermit Diggs with sidewalk chalk. Painting and tie-dies also are on the agenda.

Admission is free and so are the activities. Planning meetings leading to the festival are at 3 p.m. Sundays at First Ward Community Center.



Menards in the city? Yes, sort of

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — A tax break for a Menards expansion received the City Council's approval at the July 14 meeting.

Wait a minute! Is not the do-it-yourself building improvement chain located in Saginaw Township, out State Street across from Garber Buick?

That's the retail store. A center for warehousing, manufacturing and distribution is at 1808 Veterans Memorial Parkway, near the former Nodular Iron plant, where the M-13 river road to Bay City gets started.

Approval of the state Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate will give Menards a 12-year, 50 percent property tax break on a \$20 million investment. They will pay about \$33,500 per year, instead of \$67,000, on the 6.7-mill levy for the city's general fund and \$37,500 per annum, instead of \$75,000, on the 7.5-mill special assessment for public safety. Menards also will save on county and school taxes.



MENARDS DISTRIBUTION CENTER LOCATED AT 1808 VETERANS MEMORIAL PKWY, SAGINAW, MI 48601

One of the head-scratching factors in the 1979 local property tax caps, which Council members are asking voters to revoke in a referendum on an undetermined date, is that City Hall actually gains revenue by granting tax breaks, because the abatements are exempt from the rate and

revenue limits. This was publicized during the 1970s and '80s, when the lion's share of abatement requests came from General Motors. No other city has tax caps that lead to a revenue increase instead of a decrease when an exemption is granted.

Wisconsin-based Menards

operates 341 U.S. stores, mostly in the Midwest, with 33 in Michigan. Saginaw is home to the state's lone distribution center. Current employment is 80 and the project will add up to nine jobs, company officials said.

COMMUNITY

Lt. Gov. Gilchrist tours Flint YMCA and LiveWell on Harrison

BY MB STAFF

FLINT — Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist toured the new YMCA of Greater Flint and the adjoining LiveWell on Harrison facility July 10, exploring a five-story building that replaces a long-vacant lot in downtown Flint.

The mixed-use complex houses the Y's basketball court and multipurpose gym, a Hurley Physical Therapy clinic, 50 affordable apartments and non-profit offices for the Crim Fitness Foundation. The project was funded in part by a Michigan Community Revitalization Program grant and loan.

Gilchrist said, "It's really inspirational to come to this beautiful space, the heart of downtown Flint, to see young people playing basketball. I got to play Uno all wild and lose to somebody pretty bad, but the Y is about people coming together; people being healthy; people being happy and safe and supported."



LT. GOVERNOR GARLIN GILCHRIST TOURED THE NEW YMCA OF GREATER FLINT ON THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025.

City to auction three Dodge Chargers seized after drag-racing videos

BY MB STAFF

FLINT — After video surfaced showing three Dodge Chargers performing doughnuts in a parking lot, city officials seized the vehicles July 11 under Flint's nuisance-vehicle ordinance and will auction them once forfeiture is complete.

The impounded cars—a 2021 black model, a 2018 blue-and-black edition and a 2019 teal-and-black edition—were taken after multiple citizen complaints about property damage and safety hazards.



2021 DODGE CHARGER

Mayor Sheldon Neeley said, "We are drawing a clear line in the sand. The safety and quality of life for our residents are para-

mount. We will not allow a few bad actors to destroy property, endanger lives with reckless driving, or hold our neighborhoods hostage. This action is about holding individuals accountable and ensuring our streets are safe for everyone."

The Chargers will be available for inspection Aug. 4 at Complete Towing's lot, with the auction set for Aug. 5 in the City Hall parking deck. Proceeds will fund new radar-speed signs and expanded patrols in identified hot-spot areas; bidders must register in advance.

50 YEARS STRONG AND GROWING



FEATURING A RIBBON CUTTING
CEREMONY STARTING AT 4:30PM



JULY 24

4:00 - 6:00



Join us as we celebrate 50 years and open an exciting new chapter with the official ribbon cutting of our brand-new outdoor pickleball complex. The ceremony begins at 4:30 PM and will include a very special announcement you won't want to miss!

EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL!

Enjoy free food, giveaways & fun activities for the kids!

989.631.6151

900 E Wackerly St, Midland, MI 48642

GREATERMIDLAND.ORG/TENNIS-CENTER



COMMUNITY

Smaller efforts help city parks and rec survive

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — As the founding leader of Project Unify, Patrice Boulware didn't encounter much unity in her efforts to reclaim and restore Unity Park in the city's northeast corner. along with Lawrence McKinney Vets Park on the central East Side.



PATRICE BOULWARE

This year, things have changed.

She is among 13 civic leaders -- one for each year since she formed her nonprofit support -- who are challenged with raising at least \$1,000 apiece in time for the Project Unify Benefit Lockup, set for noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 23, in the McKinney Vet' basketball section, 920 South 20th near the former Heavenrich School on Perkins. The baseball stadium near Holland Avenue was torn down 20 years ago for a mini-mall that never materialized.

Also, Saginaw C.A.P., Community Action for the People, has pledged to take the lead to replace the rest rooms and upgrade other infrastructure.

"It has been a surprise to me, to see such a wide base of support," says Patrice, who has persevered even after the March 2022 passing of her husband, Deacon Sam Houston Casey. "All the hard work over the past 13 years finally is paying off. More people are seeing the need."

She resides on Casimir Street and started with nearby Unity Park, out North Washington past First Ward Center, which had served Daniels Heights public housing before becoming abandoned when the projects were razed during the 1990s. Patrice added Vet's and gradually has become acquainted with family and friends of Lawrence McKinney, the legendary youth sports coach and mentor who died in 2008. His sister, Beverly McKinney, is involved and his brother, Thomas McKinney, is among the 13 leaders who face lockups.

Also among the baker's dozen seeking pledges is Hurley Coleman III, director of the Saginaw County Community Action Center.

Coleman wrote, "Let's talk about real community building. I've watched Mrs. Patrice Boulware and her late husband tend to this park with her organization Project Unify for the last four years since I've been the leader at CAC. She and her family and a handful of other groups have tended to this park. I salute them! I applaud them. They clean it weekly, mow the grass, plant flowers, and do all they can. She is the manager as she has adopted this park from the city of Saginaw for years. I told her two years ago we were going to make some meaningful improvements! It starts this year!"

He continued, "With the help of a state Healthy Communities Zone grant and with partnership with Saginaw C.A.P., we will demolish the old structure and plan for a new one. We'll make improvements to the existing playground structure and the surface and finish the dog park at Lawrence McKinney Vets Park on 20th street! Much love Ms. Patrice, help is on the way!"

McKinney is an inductee in the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame. His citation was writ-

ten by Sports Hall founder Jack Tany, now chairman of the County Board of Commissioners.

Tany wrote, "It's estimated McKinney easily coached over 600 organized youth sports teams over 35 years (1973-2008), including many Knothole baseball teams, Saginaw Friendship Games teams, and Gus Macker tournament squads. McKinney was widely known for his 38 years as the official caretaker of Veterans Memorial Park (since inherited by Patrice), where he cut grass, planted flowers, picked up litter, cleaned restrooms, and convinced the city to restore water at the park."

Also, "The annual basketball tournaments at Vet's Park featured hundreds of city youths -- some with checkered pasts -- and

he was very proud that there was not one act of violence in all those years. McKinney coached thousands of boys and girls in Saginaw, including Archie Tullos, Ramont Roberts, Brian Pruitt, Alphonso Boone, LaMarr Woodley, Draymond Green, Darquavis Tucker, Monquiz Wedlow and Amos O'Neal. The Heavenrich Elementary School gymnasium was named in his honor in 2000, and his portrait also hangs in the school. In 2009, a six-foot tall granite monument bearing Coach McKinney's name and his favorite statement: 'Praise the Lord' was unveiled at the renamed Veterans McKinney Park."

Updates may be found on Facebook's Coach Lawrence McKinney Memorial Group Page.

WANTED

BY PROJECT UNIFY

Include Participants Name in Memo Line for Donation

BAIL SET AT \$1,000.00ea

<p style="font-size: x-small;">Arshen Prater Baldwin Teacher</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Lauren Reed Teacher</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Rodney Merrill Entrepreneur</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Derric Martin Truancy Officer</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Lee Authur Jr. Coach</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT</p>
<p style="font-size: x-small;">Hurley J. Coleman III Developer & Manager</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Hope Hardy Project Unify Baby</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Robert SIZZL Simms Boxer</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Eugene Seals Jr. President & CEO</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT</p>	
<p style="font-size: x-small;">Dionte Jones Security Officer</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Patrice Boulware Founder of Project Unify</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Thomas McKinney Brother of Lawrence H. McKinney</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Officer J. Bady Police Officer</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT</p>	

SCAN TO DONATE

THANK YOU

Subjects held for bail for The Project Unify Benefit Lock-Up Fundraiser
Saturday, August 23, 2025 12:00p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Veteran-McKinney Park 920 S. 20th St. Saginaw, MI 48601

COMMUNITY

GROWN FOLKS LOUNGE

GFL 5TH ANNUAL LIVE EVENT
ALL WHITE AFFAIR

19 JULY 4:00 PM

Tickets \$15

Hosted By
Yvonne Daniels
From Kiss 107.1

WHITE

BLACK ROSE Buena Vista Lions Park
1940 South Outer Drive

Musical Guest
Black Rose feat TK & LGsingz

Comedian
Judge Miles

DON'T MISS THE BIGGEST CAR SHOW IN SAGINAW!

VETS MCKINNEY CAR SHOW

VETS MCKINNEY PARK | 20TH & HOLLAND STREET | SAGINAW, MI

Two exciting days filled with a variety of vehicles, community vibes, food, and music. Whether you're a car enthusiast or just looking for a great time, don't miss this premier event!

JULY 19 & 20
12 pm - Dusk

Trophies Awarded in Multiple Categories

FAMILY-FRIENDLY! BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

NEED MORE INFO? CONTACT: 313-978-8574

Financial Literacy Camp

Scan for more info

Seats Limited!

Aug 4th-8th
9a-3p

SVSU
Curtis Hall
7400 Bay Road
University Center,
MI 48710

Please contact to register

FIRST WARD
COMMUNITY CENTER
989-753-0411

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE GREAT LAKES BAY REGION
989-399-5122

COMMUNITY

Smoke, sparks and speedy response: Old Town's fire kept to a single block



A FIRE BROKE OUT AT OLD TOWN FURNITURE, 418 HANCOCK STREET IN SAGINAW, MICH., ON SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2025.

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — A Saturday evening blaze at the Old Town Furniture & Mattress Shop threatened to engulf neighboring storefronts and upper-floor apartments before firefighters swiftly contained the flames. First responders were alerted just after 7:30 p.m. on July 12, and they confined the

fire to the original structure—though smoke infiltrated nearby businesses and homes.

According to Saginaw Fire Chief Brandon Hausbeck, investigators later traced the origin to an electrical outlet showing clear signs of arcing. “It appears the outlet was in the vicinity of a couch,” Hausbeck told TV5, “and when it arced it caught the combustible material on fire, al-

lowing the blaze to spread from there.” Michigan State Police’s accelerant-detection dog ruled out foul play.

No injuries were reported, and crews moved quickly to ventilate smoke before reopening adjacent storefronts. Local deli owner Jennifer Bolt described the scene as “terrifying,” but praised the department’s rapid work: “Thank goodness for their

quick action,” she said, noting she would now inspect her own electrical systems more vigilantly.

Building inspectors confirmed the century-old brick structure remains sound and can be repurposed. Cleanup and minor repairs are underway, with business owners planning a joint reopening later this month.

DON'T MISS THE BIGGEST CAR SHOW IN SAGINAW!

VETS MCKINNEY CAR SHOW

VETS MCKINNEY PARK | 20TH & HOLLAND STREET | SAGINAW, MI



Two exciting days filled with a variety of vehicles, community vibes, food, and music. Whether you're a car enthusiast or just looking for a great time, don't miss this premier event!

JULY 19 & 20
12 pm - Dusk

Trophies Awarded in Multiple Categories

FAMILY-FRIENDLY! BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

NEED MORE INFO? CONTACT: 313-978-8574

COMMUNITY

Saginaw Art Fair returns with interactive workshops and live performances

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — For two days each August, Ojibway Island transforms into a bustling hub of creativity as the Saginaw Art Initiative presents its annual fine arts festival. This year's fair—slated for Friday and Saturday, August 8–9—will feature 50 juried artists displaying work in ceramics, fiber, metal, mixed media, painting, photography and wood.

In keeping with its mission to broaden access to the arts, the fair offers free drop-in workshops (pinwheel and bookmark making among them) for the first 40 participants each day, plus community yoga and dance fitness sessions led by local instructors. Live sets by Major Chords for Minors and indie soul artist Kush-Robinson will punctuate the festival, while food trucks including Sawadee and Maria's ensure a full sensory experience.

Organizers encourage families to bring lawn chairs and linger along the riverbank between booths. "Our goal is to foster creative connections across disciplines and generations," said a representative of the Saginaw Art Initiative. Admission is free; festival hours run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.



art fair
SAGINAW

AUGUST 8-9
FRI & SAT | 10AM-5PM
CELEBRATION PARK
1830 FORDNEY ST SAGINAW, MI

50+ ARTIST VENDORS • FREE ART ACTIVITIES • LIVE PERFORMANCES • FOOD TRUCKS • GAMES • RAFFLES



Mariners Preserve opens its gates after years of ecological restoration

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

BANGOR TWP. — Hundreds of acres of formerly restricted land along the lower Saginaw River have been transformed into a thriving public nature preserve, the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy announced ahead of a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, July 15. What was once the gated "Deer Viewing Area" now

boasts restored wetlands, native prairie plantings and more than three miles of winding trails, offering wildlife enthusiasts and casual visitors alike the chance to experience Michigan's coastal ecosystems up close.

The conservancy's multi-year effort included removal of invasive species, reestablishment of native grasses and wildflowers, and careful regrading of eroded

shorelines to improve fish and bird habitat. Visitors can now spot everything from blue herons to monarch butterflies in a setting that balances public access with long-term ecological health.

"Mariners Preserve represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to showcase the vital link between the Saginaw River and Bay," said Zachary Branigan, executive director of the conser-

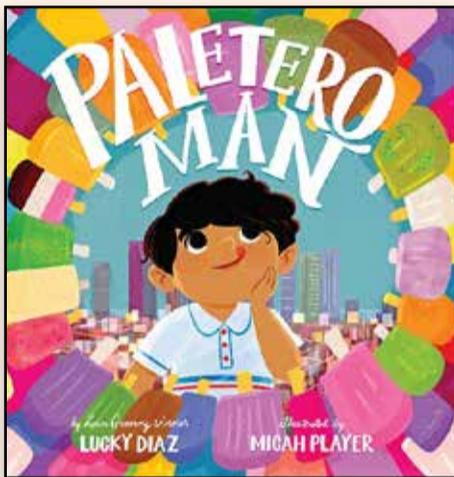
vancy. Bay County Executive Jim Barcia added that the new amenity will not only boost outdoor recreation but also strengthen the region's reputation as a premier nature destination in Michigan.

Parking and trailhead facilities are located at 3408 Patterson Road, just north of Wheeler Road. The free dedication event begins at 1 p.m. on July 15, with guided nature walks to follow.

One company's commitment

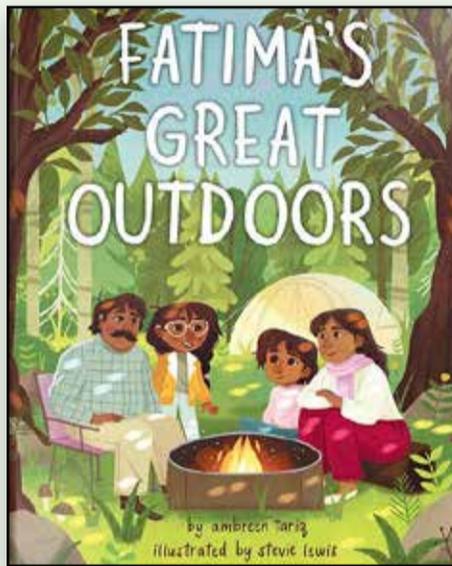
(As the Michigan Banner focuses on literacy, we will offer suggestions for children's books.)

Like Subway's five-dollar footlong, the Kohl's Cares series of \$5 children's books apparently could not last forever. New entries on their website are \$5.99, but the oldies are fixed at a five-spot, in tribute to philanthropist and former U.S. senator Herb Kohl, who died two years ago at age 88. To purchase online, [click here](#).



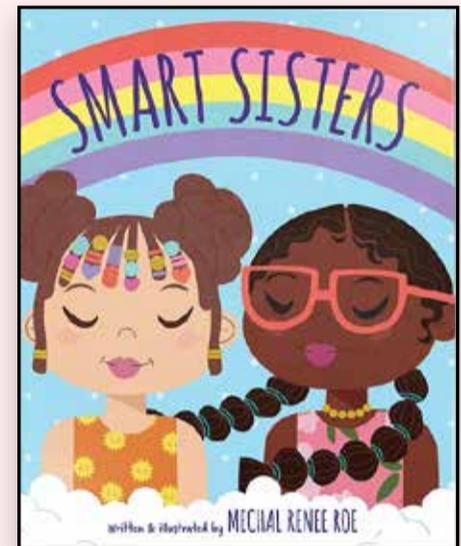
Paletero Man
Lucky Diaz, Micah Player

Diaz takes time from his bubblegum kiddie music fame to write. On a hot day kids of all ages are chasing Jose's truck. He's the Paletero Man, peddling the premium Mexican popsicles. But when he can't find his profits after his day of labors, he is at risk of becoming a no-dinero man. Says a promo, "It will take the help of the entire community. Full of musicality, generosity, kindness, and ice pops."



Fatima's Great Outdoors
Ambreen Tariq, Steve Lewis

This little girl is so excited about her weekend camping trip that a highlight becomes her encounter with an eight-legged spider, not only mutant but also a daddy log legs. This may not seem to be the ideal way to promote a young reader's affinity for the outdoors, but she also sets up the tent with pops and builds the campfire with mom, etc.



Smart Sisters
Michelle Rames

The combo author and illustrator describes her work as promoting "self-love, positivity and acceptance" -- in that order. Parents and young readers might think first of the "acceptance" portion, which is vital in today's climate of racial relations.



The company still makes money on Kohl's Cares, which says something about other much-higher pricetags, including at the Milwaukee-based chain itself, but even with the deep discount, profits are approaching a half billion dollars at present, 100 percent going to "health and wellness" in our communities.

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

COMMUNITY



Saginaw Promise News and Happenings...

Saginaw Promise Scholars Number 179 for 2025/26 Academic Year!



Saginaw Promise scholars number 179 for the 2025/26 academic year! "This is our largest group of scholars to date", stated Joyce Seals, Saginaw Promise Chairperson. If all 179 scholars complete enrollment, FAFSA and last three required forms, the

Saginaw Promise will award over \$700,000 dollars in scholarships for the 2025/26 academic year! Since 2012, the Saginaw Promise has awarded \$1,350,713 in scholarships. "The Saginaw Promise is working to impact Saginaw's future, its economy and the lives of its students by investing in postsecondary education", stated Joyce Seals. She further stated, "we are thrilled with this number, but now we must remind students and their parents that they need to complete the scholarship process, by enrolling in an institution and completing and returning the three forms by July 28, 2025". The forms will provide student's signed acceptance of the scholarship, will permit the Saginaw Promise staff to communicate directly with the financial aid office at their institutions, and will confirm where the student is enrolled, what other financial assistance will be received and where and when to send the Saginaw Promise scholarship. FAFSA completion is also a requirement for payment of the Saginaw Promise scholarship.

For questions or information, students or parents can telephone the Saginaw Promise office at (989) 607-3428.

Saginaw Promise hosts "Swinging for the Promise" Golf Event at the Saginaw Country Club in August!

Enjoy a great day of golf and fun this summer on a beautiful course! The Saginaw Promise hosts its annual "Swinging for the Promise" golf event, on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at the Saginaw Country Club; shotgun start at 10 AM. "Swinging for the Promise provides a wonderful opportunity to enjoy 18 holes of golf, a lot of fun, while raising funds to support programming and scholarships!", stated Mark Johnston, Golf Event Chairman.

Team registration is \$700 and (individual registration is \$175), which includes Four Person Scramble, Driving Range, 18 Holes with Cart, grilled "Lunch at the Turn", Barbecue Buffet Dinner, Door Prizes, Awards and Trophy Presentation. Sponsorships and promotional opportunities are available!

To sponsor, register a golf team or for questions, contact Deborah Sanchez at (989)607-3428 or by email at dsanchez@saginaw-promise.org.



Save the Date: Saginaw Promise to host its Annual "Power of the Promise" Event in October

Place this event on your calendar: The Saginaw Promise will host its annual "Power of a Promise" Luncheon Event on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at Horizons Conference Center; doors will open at 11 AM with the event starting at 11:30 AM. "Power of a Promise" will feature program outcomes, showcase scholars and this year's keynote speaker will feature a panel comprised of individuals to discuss the "Medical Diamond" and what opportunities it will bring to and provide for Saginaw. Panelists will include, Dr. Samuel Shaheen, M.D., President and CEO of CMU Medical Education Partners and Professor of Surgery at CMU College of Medicine Department of Surgery, Senator Ken Horn, Tim Morales, Saginaw City Manager, John Kaczynski, Saginaw Valley State University, Vice President for Governmental and Community Affairs and Dr. Ramont Roberts, Superintendent of the Saginaw Public School District. The panel will be moderated by Art Lewis, WSGW radio personality and talk show host. Ticket and Sponsorship information will soon be available.

New Saginaw Promise Program for High School Students and Parents

"Chat with the Saginaw Promise and Friends"
Thursday, July 31, 2025
Morley Building (behind the Temple Theater)
2nd floor Classroom
5:30 – 6:30 PM

Attendees have the opportunity to ask questions and to hear what's new with the Saginaw Promise scholarship and to hear from others regarding postsecondary education resources. The intent of this program is to assist students and parents navigate postsecondary education and to provide information where there are questions. This program is open to high school students and their parents and those who are entering postsecondary education. The Saginaw Promise plans to bring in experts on a monthly basis to speak on different areas of postsecondary education. Light refreshments and snacks will be available. Please call (989) 607-342 to RSVP attendance.

Saginaw Promise Golf Outing Swinging for the Promise

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025 SAGINAW COUNTRY CLUB

(4465 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw MI 48638)

Grab Your Golf Clubs for a Great Time!!!



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES - TEAM REGISTRATION FORM

Proceeds to Benefit Saginaw Promise Programming & Scholarships

EVENT SPONSOR **\$2,000**

- Foursome with carts
- Sponsor name displayed at event and recognized at dinner
- Welcome & address golfers prior to "shot gun start"
- Host a golf activity on course or display table near registration
- Listed on Saginaw Promise website
- Hole Sponsorship signage

DINNER SPONSOR **\$1,500**

- Foursome with carts
- Sponsor name displayed & recognized at dinner
- Welcome and address golfers at dinner
- Opportunity to host a display table at dinner
- Listed on Saginaw Promise Website

LUNCH AT TURN SPONSOR **\$1,000**

- Foursome with carts
- Sponsor name displayed on "Lunch at the Turn" signage and recognized at dinner
- Opportunity to host golf activity or display table
- Listed on Saginaw Promise website

CART SPONSOR **\$650**

- Sponsor name on golf carts and listed on the Saginaw Promise website

DRIVING RANGE SPONSOR **\$400**

- Name displayed at event and announced at dinner

HOLE SPONSORS **\$250**

- Sponsor name and or/company logo on hole and listed on the Saginaw Promise website
- Recognized at dinner

PRIZE DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED!

All prize donations will be recognized at the event and listed on the Saginaw Promise website.

Sponsors: Please email your company logo to DSanchez@SaginawPromise.org.
EPS or hi-res JPG preferred.

REGISTRATION 8:45 - 9:45 AM • SHOTGUN START 10:00 AM

Four Person Scramble - Includes: 18 Holes with Cart, Morning Coffee, Driving Range, Hot Dog & Chips at the Turn, Barbecue Buffet Dinner, 50/50 Drawing, Prize Drawings and Awards Presentation

GOLF PER PERSON - \$175

GOLF FOURSOME TEAM - \$700

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Business: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Total Amount for **Golfing** \$ _____

Total Amount for **Sponsorship** \$ _____

I would like to make a **Donation** \$ _____

I would like to **Donate a Prize** Yes No

Total Amount **ENCLOSED** \$ _____

Team Name _____

Player #1 _____

Player #2 _____

Player #3 _____

Player #4 _____

Make Check Payable:

Saginaw Community Foundation, 1 Tuscola St. Suite 200, Saginaw, MI 48607 and write Saginaw Promise on the Memo Line

*Saginaw Community Foundation is the fiscal agent for Saginaw Promise

For Questions:

Please contact Deborah Sanchez at (989) 607-3428 or email DSanchez@SaginawPromise.org

To pay using your charge card, complete this section or telephone Deborah Sanchez (989-607-3428) to process payment.

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Deadlines

Sponsors: Respond by August 6, 2025

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POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Pamela Pugh announces bid for open Michigan Senate seat



PAMELA PUGH

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Pamela Pugh, president of the Michigan State Board of Education, has launched her campaign to fill the vacant State Senate seat left open by newly elected Congresswoman Kristen McDonald Rivet.

Pugh, a longtime public health advocate and education leader, brings more than a decade of statewide leadership experience to the race. She made history as the first Black woman

elected to serve as president of the State Board of Education. First elected to the board in 2014, she was re-elected in 2022 and has since been a visible voice on issues ranging from equitable education to environmental justice.

Her campaign signals a return to state-level legislative ambitions following a brief run for federal office. In 2023, Pugh announced her candidacy for the U.S. Senate but later pivoted to the 8th Congressional District after incumbent Rep. Dan Kildee announced his retirement. Pugh

ultimately placed third, behind McDonald Rivet and former Flint Mayor Matt Collier.

The Senate seat, representing parts of mid-Michigan, has remained unfilled since McDonald Rivet was sworn into Congress earlier this year. Governor Gretchen Whitmer has not yet scheduled a special election to fill the seat, drawing criticism from local leaders—including the Detroit Free Press editorial board—which called for a prompt selection process, citing a lack of representation for roughly

270,000 residents for more than six months.

Pugh's campaign promises to center on community empowerment and sustainable economic growth. She emphasizes her record as an educational leader and advocate—roles she believes position her to tackle statewide challenges such as equitable education, job creation and community health.

Details about Pugh's platform and background can be found on her campaign website.

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Amir Hassan announces 2026 challenge to Rep. Kristen McDonald Rivet



AMIR HASSAN

BY MB STAFF

FLINT — Navy veteran and former federal law enforcement officer Amir Hassan has launched his campaign for Michigan's 8th Congressional District, aiming to unseat Democratic Rep. Kristen McDonald Rivet in the 2026 election.

Hassan, 39, a Flint native, is the first Republican to announce a bid for the seat, which covers much of the Tri-Cities region, including Saginaw, Bay City and Midland. McDonald Rivet, a former state senator, won the

district in 2024 and is seeking reelection.

A graduate of Northwestern Edison High School, Hassan served in the U.S. Navy from 2006 to 2013, including a deployment at Guantanamo Bay and later as an intelligence analyst. After leaving the military, he completed his degree at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York and entered federal law enforcement.

Hassan cites the long-term economic and social decline of Flint as a central motivator for his run. He said decades of Democratic leadership have left be-

hind communities like his, once buoyed by industrial jobs and a thriving middle class. He aligns his platform with an "America First" approach, promising to restore jobs, lower taxes, and oppose open-border policies.

A practicing Muslim, Hassan has emphasized national security as a core issue, citing his military background and commitment to supporting U.S. allies such as Israel. He has also pledged to advocate for tax relief for teachers, first responders and law enforcement officers earning under \$100,000.

McDonald Rivet enters the

race with a significant financial edge: her campaign reported raising more than \$800,000 in the second quarter, ending the period with more than \$1.25 million in cash on hand.

The district is viewed as one of Michigan's most competitive, with both parties eyeing it as a potential battleground. The Cook Political Report currently rates the seat as leaning Democratic.

The general election for Michigan's 8th Congressional District is scheduled for Nov. 3, 2026.

More information about Hassan's campaign is available at hassanformi.com.

HEALTH

988 crisis line drops LGBTQ+ youth support option amid federal cuts



A DEDICATED LGBTQ+ YOUTH SUPPORT OPTION WAS REMOVED FROM THE 988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE, EFFECTIVE THURSDAY, JULY 17.

BY MB STAFF

A specialized support line for LGBTQ+ youth is no longer part of the national 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline as of Thursday, July 17, following a federal decision to discontinue the service. The change removes the "press 3" option that previously connected callers aged 13 to 24 with counselors trained specifically to assist LGBTQ+ individuals in crisis.

While the core 988 hotline will continue to operate 24/7 through Washington state's three contracted crisis centers, the removal of this dedicated service has raised concern among public health professionals and ad-

vocacy groups. The specialized LGBTQ+ option had been in place since the 988 lifeline launched in 2022 and was widely viewed as a critical tool for addressing mental health disparities in the LGBTQ+ youth population.

According to the Washington State Department of Health, the LGBTQ+ subnetwork averaged 830 calls, 270 texts, and 224 web chats each month from residents across the state. The service was designed to provide a safer, more affirming space for youth facing heightened risks of suicide, anxiety, and depression due to systemic discrimination and social isolation.

Although other focused services—such as the veterans and military families line, Spanish-

language support, and Indigenous-focused services—remain intact, the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has defended the change as a measure to consolidate resources. In a statement released this week, SAMHSA cited the LGBTQ+ subnetwork's \$33 million cost and emphasized a need to streamline operations in order to serve all users through a unified system.

State officials say they have been working to mitigate the impact. Over the past month, general 988 crisis counselors in Washington have undergone additional training to help prepare them to respond to LGBTQ+-related mental health concerns

with increased sensitivity and awareness.

Alternative support services remain available through national organizations, including The Trevor Project, Trans Lifeline, Crisis Text Line, and the LGBT National Hotline, all of which continue to offer tailored mental health support for LGBTQ+ individuals.

Though the federal shift marks a significant change in how services are delivered, state health leaders say the underlying demand for culturally competent care has not diminished. Local efforts to fill the gap and reinforce existing mental health infrastructure are expected to continue in the months ahead.

HEALTH

Michigan proposes changes to youth mental health screening tool

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has proposed revisions to the MichiCANS screening tool used to assess mental health needs for residents under 21. The changes aim to clarify who can administer the tool and how results are applied across the state's behavioral health system.

Under the proposal, only certified raters from MDHHS-approved organizations—such as CMHSPs, CCBHCs, PIHPs, and PRTFs—would be allowed to conduct screenings. Raters must complete a three-part training

and certification process, which MDHHS is offering virtually at no cost.

The policy also requires health plans to accept results for up to one year without requiring duplicate assessments. Existing comprehensive MichiCANS scores must be incorporated into new patient intakes.

Public comments are being accepted through Aug. 12, with the final policy expected to take effect Oct. 1.

[Click here](#) to view the proposed policy.

For questions or more information, contact the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) at (517) 703-8601.



FILE PHOTO

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EDUCATION

Hemlock Schools, SVSU launch partnership to support future educators



SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY, 7400 BAY RD, UNIVERSITY CENTER, MI 48710

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Hemlock Public School District and Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) have entered into a formal Educational Placement Agreement that will give university students hands-on learning experiences in real-world educational settings while providing additional classroom support within the district.

The partnership enables SVSU students—primarily those studying education, counseling, or social work—to complete required fieldwork such as stu-

dent teaching, internships, and practical training within Hemlock schools. The placements will allow students to apply academic theory in supervised environments, supporting both their degree progress and professional readiness.

University students will be assigned to classrooms and school offices under the guidance of experienced staff, where they will participate in day-to-day operations and interact directly with K-12 students. These experiences are designed to foster mentorship, strengthen teaching skills, and enhance the pipeline

of qualified professionals entering Michigan's schools.

Under the agreement, SVSU will develop educational plans and coordinate student placements, while Hemlock will provide the structured, supervised settings necessary for fieldwork. Opportunities may include classroom instruction, student services, and administrative support roles.

District officials say the partnership strengthens Hemlock's commitment to innovative education while helping shape the next generation of school leaders and professionals.

The collaboration reflects a growing effort by school districts and universities across Michigan to establish partnerships that benefit both higher education and local school communities. In addition to supporting future teachers, the initiative also brings fresh energy and new perspectives into Hemlock classrooms.

The agreement builds on Hemlock Public School District's mission to foster educational excellence and create opportunities for all learners through strong community and institutional partnerships.



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**For those that qualify through Tri-Share*

EDUCATION

Delta College, state police form agreement to accelerate law enforcement degrees

BY MB STAFF

UNIVERSITY CENTER — A new transfer agreement between Delta College and the Michigan State Police (MSP) Motor Carrier Officer (MCO) Recruit School is giving law enforcement recruits a head start toward earning a degree in criminal justice.

The agreement allows graduates of the MCO Recruit School to receive 21 credits toward Delta's Criminal Justice Law Enforcement with Basic Police Training associate degree, effectively waiving seven required courses. That's nearly one-third of the 66-credit program completed before recruits even step into a college classroom.

Eligible courses include criminal justice fundamentals, police operations, criminal law, report



STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN HANDS-ON TRAINING AS PART OF DELTA COLLEGE'S LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM. (PHOTO CREDIT: DELTA COLLEGE)

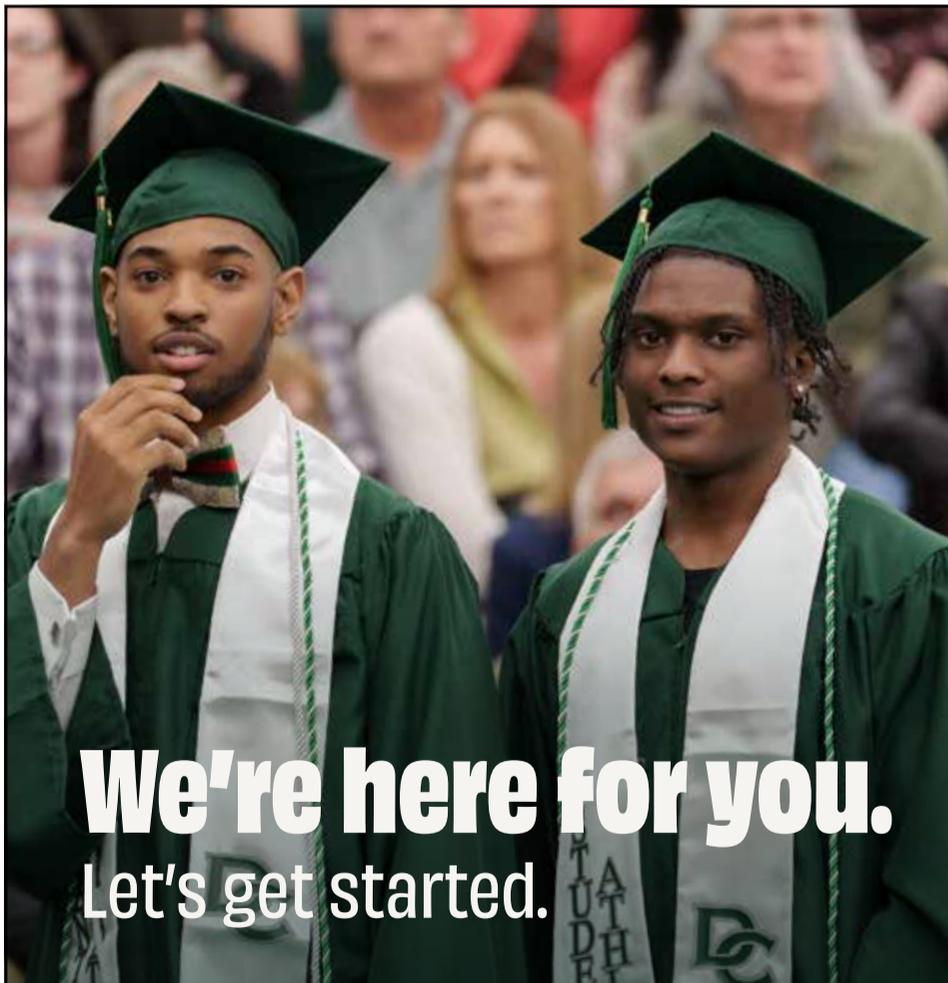
writing, self-defense, advanced first aid, and physical fitness.

The streamlined pathway helps reduce both time and tuition for

students aiming to enter or advance in public safety careers.

Criminal justice remains one of Delta's most popular programs, ranking in the college's top 10 for both degree completions and transfer student interest. The agreement not only supports those already in the field but also aligns with ongoing efforts in Michigan to integrate training and higher education in public service professions.

The partnership is expected to increase access to academic credentials for law enforcement professionals and strengthen workforce development in the region. For more information, interested students are encouraged to contact Joshua George, program coordinator, at joshuageorge@delta.edu or 989-686-9446.



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EDUCATION

Saginaw United High School appoints two assistant principals



FROM LEFT, ARSHEN BALDWIN AND DERRICK WYATT. (PHOTO CREDIT: SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Saginaw United High School has welcomed two new assistant principals for the 2025–26 school year, adding experienced educators Arshen Baldwin and Derrick Wyatt to its leadership team. Both bring more than 15 years of service in education and a strong record of student advocacy, academic support, and community engagement.

Baldwin holds a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Saginaw Valley State University and brings a multifaceted background that spans K–12 and

higher education. Certified in Learning Disabilities and Restorative Practices, she has served as a teacher, academic coach, adjunct professor, and athletics coach. Her classroom experience ranges from special education instruction to teaching Anatomy & Physiology at the college level.

In addition to her educational credentials, Baldwin has played a significant role in district initiatives aimed at improving graduation rates, increasing parent engagement, and supporting students through intervention programs. Her work extends beyond the district as well—she currently serves as vice chair of the Delta College Board of Trustees, teach-

es at her church, and leads community outreach efforts through a local enrichment center. Her volunteerism and mentorship efforts have supported neighborhood revitalization, youth development, and local athletics programs.

Joining Baldwin is Derrick Wyatt, a longtime educator and administrator with a background in both instructional leadership and student behavior support. He also holds degrees in education and educational leadership from Saginaw Valley State University and is certified in Mathematics and Science. Throughout his career, he has taken on various roles including Alter-

native Education Teacher, In-School Suspension Coordinator, Title I Specialist, and Behavior Interventionist.

Most recently, Wyatt served as assistant principal at Thompson Middle School, where he was recognized for his steady leadership and focus on academic growth. He has also served the district as a Cultural Competency Trainer, PBIS Coach, and Restorative Practices Facilitator. Beyond academics, Wyatt has actively supported student enrichment through after-school STEM programs, robotics, and coaching football.

MI Tri-Share CHILD CARE



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CONTACT

US NOW

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

989-399-7423

etaylor@sisd.cc



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MI Tri-Share Program Eligibility 2025

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

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EDUCATION

Brunkow Preschool demolition begins following fire damage



BRUNKOW PRESCHOOL, LOCATED AT 3000 S. 24TH ST. IN SAGINAW, IS SLATED FOR DEMOLITION AFTER BEING DEEMED A TOTAL LOSS FOLLOWING A FIRE EARLIER THIS SCHOOL YEAR.

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Saginaw Intermediate School District (ISD) has initiated demolition of Brunkow Preschool, located at 3000 S. 24th St., after determining the building was beyond repair following a fire earlier in the school year.

The project was approved by the Saginaw ISD Board of Education on June 17, awarding the demolition contract to Bierlein Construction. The structure, once home to early childhood ed-

ucation programs and previously part of Buena Vista Elementary School, was declared a total loss after an extensive evaluation of the damage and repair costs.

RC Hendrick is managing the project in coordination with Bierlein Construction. Work is expected to begin in the coming weeks and conclude by late summer. In the interim, the district plans to return the 17-acre site to green space in an effort to maintain neighborhood aesthetics and prevent deterioration or safety concerns associated with vacant buildings.

Officials said the decision followed careful consideration of alternatives but concluded that reconstruction was not feasible given the extent of the damage and anticipated expenses.

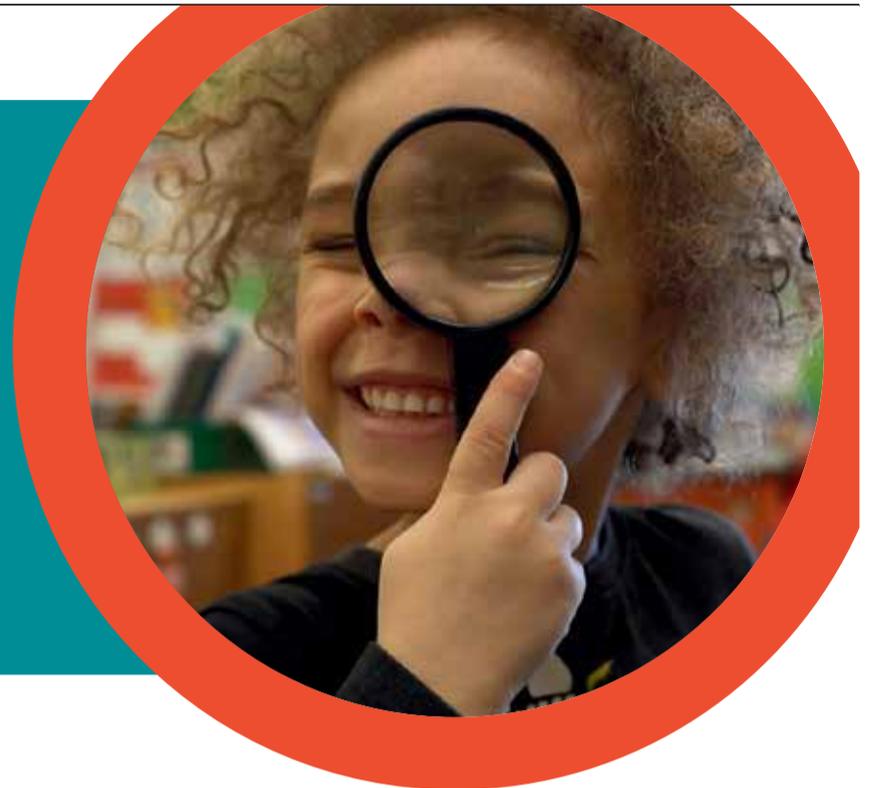
The district has relocated items of significance from the building, including signage, plaques, and recently installed playground equipment. These materials have been transferred to other Saginaw ISD sites to preserve the legacy of Brunkow and its role in the community.

Students who had been enrolled at Brunkow have since

been placed at other early childhood sites within the district, including Jerome, Claytor, and Brucker, along with classrooms operated in partnership with local schools and organizations.

District leaders say additional communication will be provided as demolition progresses and thanked the public for its continued support and patience. The site will remain under district care as decisions about future use are evaluated.

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



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Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start
Program Director

About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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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

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

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

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

BUSINESS + FINANCE

United Financial Credit Union opens new Pinconning branch



UNITED FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION CELEBRATES NEW BRANCH LOCATED AT 3858 N HURON ROAD IN PINCONNING.

BY MB STAFF

PINCONNING — United Financial Credit Union marked the grand opening of its newest full-service branch in Pinconning with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 11, welcoming community members, business leaders, and credit union supporters to the celebration.

Located at 3858 N Huron Road, the newly constructed branch expands access to financial services in the region and re-

flects the credit union's continued investment in local communities. The event was attended by representatives from the Pinconning Linwood Area Chamber of Commerce, the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, staff and board members, and local residents. Guests were treated to refreshments provided by The Taste of Bay City.

The Pinconning location offers a wide range of services for both personal and business needs, including checking and savings accounts, youth and teen

programs, consumer and business loans, and digital banking tools.

The new branch features modern amenities such as a drive-thru and standalone kiosk, both outfitted with Personal Teller Machines (PTMs). These PTMs provide extended service hours, operating Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Construction of the facility was completed in partnership with Serenus Johnson Construction, a Bay City-based contractor.

Founded in 1964 to serve tool and die workers in Bridgeport, United Financial Credit Union has grown to include eight branches across Bay City, Bridgeport, Saginaw Township, Chebaning, Freeland, Pinconning, and Auburn, serving more than 23,000 members. Membership is open to anyone who lives, works, worships, or attends school in any county within Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

For more information, visit www.unitedfinancialcu.org or call 989-777-3620.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Sandisk withdraws from \$55 billion semiconductor Project near Flint

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

MUNDY TOWNSHIP — A highly anticipated \$55 billion semiconductor manufacturing project that promised up to 10,000 jobs in Genesee County will not be moving forward, according to state officials and economic development leaders.

The project, backed by technology giant Sandisk, was slated for the Advanced Manufacturing District, a 1,300-acre megasite in northwest Mundy Township that has been years in the making. The company's withdrawal is a major setback for state and local officials who hoped the facility would position Michigan at the forefront of the domestic semiconductor industry.

According to Michigan Economic Development Corp. (MEDC) CEO Quentin Messer, the Mundy Township site had emerged as the final and preferred location for Sandisk's U.S. microchip manufacturing operations.

"We can say with confidence Team Michigan came together to present the most compelling site, the most competitive business case and the strongest community impact partnership in the entire U.S.," Messer said in a statement.

While no official reason was given directly by Sandisk, statements from state leadership point to broader economic challenges as a factor in the company's decision.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's office attributed the decision to economic uncertainty, citing increased tariffs and an unstable national business climate. State Sen. John Cherry (D-Flint) echoed the sentiment, pointing to what he described as the impact of federal trade policy.

"Unfortunately, the company



A FIELD IN MUNDY TOWNSHIP

has cited economic uncertainty — driven in large part by the Trump administration's chaotic tariff policies — as a key factor in its decision to pause the project for the foreseeable future," Cherry said.

However, others pushed back on that explanation. House Speaker Matt Hall (R) argued that tariffs are intended to encourage U.S.-based manufacturing, not deter it.

"President Trump's bold leadership is making it easier and more attractive than ever to create jobs in America," Hall said. "We simply need state leaders who are focused on making sure Michigan is the best possible place to build and grow."

Despite the loss of Sandisk, economic development officials say the site is far from idle. The Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance, which has led development of the megasite, remains com-

mitted to securing an advanced manufacturing project for the area.

"While we are disappointed by this announcement, we remain 100% committed to attracting an advanced manufacturer to Genesee County," said Tyler Rossmassler, executive director of the Alliance. "We remain convinced that attracting an advanced manufacturer will create thousands of jobs, help boost and launch small businesses, create opportunities for young people, and help us enhance national security by bringing our supply chain and jobs back to the U.S."

The MEDC emphasized that work to prepare the site will continue, and that the Mundy Township megasite remains one of the top large-scale industrial development opportunities in the country.

"That momentum remains strong and will continue on-

ward," Messer said, "putting Genesee County in a dynamic position to secure future advanced manufacturing investments that will bring good-paying jobs and economic opportunity to our state."

In recent years, more than \$260 million has been invested into land acquisition and site preparation at the megasite through the MEDC. Demolition crews have been working throughout 2025 to clear homes, businesses, and churches within the area bounded by Maple, Elms, Hill, and Linden roads, making way for future industrial use.

While the Sandisk project may no longer be on the table, local officials maintain that the groundwork laid at the Mundy site still offers long-term potential to transform the region's economy.

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BUSINESS + FINANCE

SBA Economic Injury Loan deadline nears for Michigan small businesses



A FIELD IN MUNDY TOWNSHIP

BY MB STAFF

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is urging small businesses and private nonprofit organizations across Michigan to apply for federal disaster loans ahead of the August 11 deadline, following substantial economic losses from prolonged heavy rainfall in summer 2024.

The excessive rainfall, recorded between June 1 and July 27, disrupted operations for many organizations in 18 Michigan counties, including Saginaw,

Midland, Bay, Isabella, Clare, Gratiot, and Alpena. These areas were part of a disaster declaration approved by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, triggering SBA assistance through its Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program.

Eligible applicants include small businesses, private nonprofits, aquaculture enterprises, and small agricultural cooperatives facing revenue loss due to the wet weather. While agricultural producers, farmers, and ranchers are excluded under SBA criteria, small aquaculture busi-

nesses do qualify for support.

The EIDL program provides low-interest loans of up to \$2 million to assist with working capital needs such as payroll, rent, utility bills, and debt payments—regardless of physical damage to the business. Interest rates are capped at 4% for small businesses and 3.25% for nonprofits, with repayment terms extending up to 30 years based on the borrower's financial standing. Loan payments are deferred for the first 12 months, with no interest accruing during that time.

Applicants must demonstrate

financial hardship directly tied to the disaster period, and funding decisions are based on individual financial evaluations.

To apply, visit sba.gov/disaster, or contact the SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Individuals with hearing or speech disabilities can access telecommunications relay services by dialing 7-1-1.

The final deadline to apply for economic injury assistance is August 11, 2025.

BUSINESS + FINANCE



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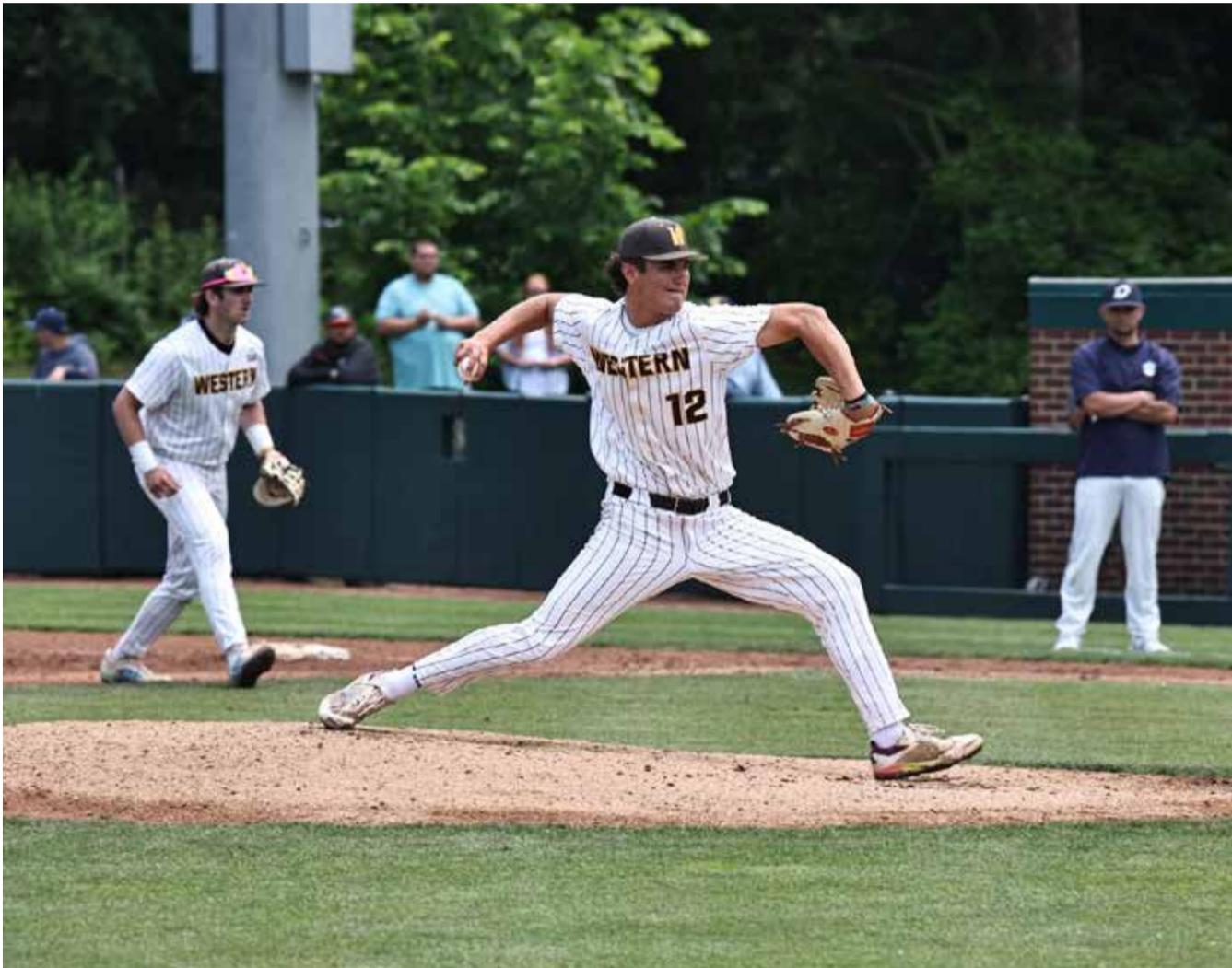
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SPORTS

Bay City Western's LaCourse signs with Angels



LUKE LACOURSE

BY MB STAFF

BAY CITY — Bay City Western standout pitcher Luke LaCourse is heading straight to the professional ranks after being selected by the Los Angeles Angels in the sixth round of the 2025 Major League Baseball Draft.

The 18-year-old righthander, known for his powerful fastball and devastating slider, was taken with the 169th overall pick and has agreed to terms with the organization. LaCourse received a signing bonus of \$515,000, choosing to bypass a collegiate career at Michigan State University in

favor of joining the Angels' development system.

His draft position came with an assigned slot value of \$393,700, according to MLB's bonus pool guidelines. The higher-than-slot agreement signals the Angels' strong interest in the 6-foot-4, 220-pound pitcher, who has been a dominant force in high school baseball across the state.

LaCourse compiled an exceptional four-year varsity career at Bay City Western, finishing with a 31-7 win-loss record, a 1.67 ERA, and 340 strikeouts over 239.1 innings pitched. His senior season included 126 strikeouts in just

71 innings, contributing to an 8-3 record and a 1.68 ERA. His performance earned him the 2025 Mr. Baseball Award, recognizing him as Michigan's top high school player.

With his selection, LaCourse becomes the most highly drafted player from Bay County since Brett Adcock, who was chosen in the fourth round of the 2016 draft by the Houston Astros after playing for the University of Michigan. He is also the first Bay City Western player to be drafted directly out of high school in four decades, following Bill St. Peter, who went to the Cincinnati Reds in the fifth round in 1985.

Ten Saginaw-area players earn first-team All-State baseball honors

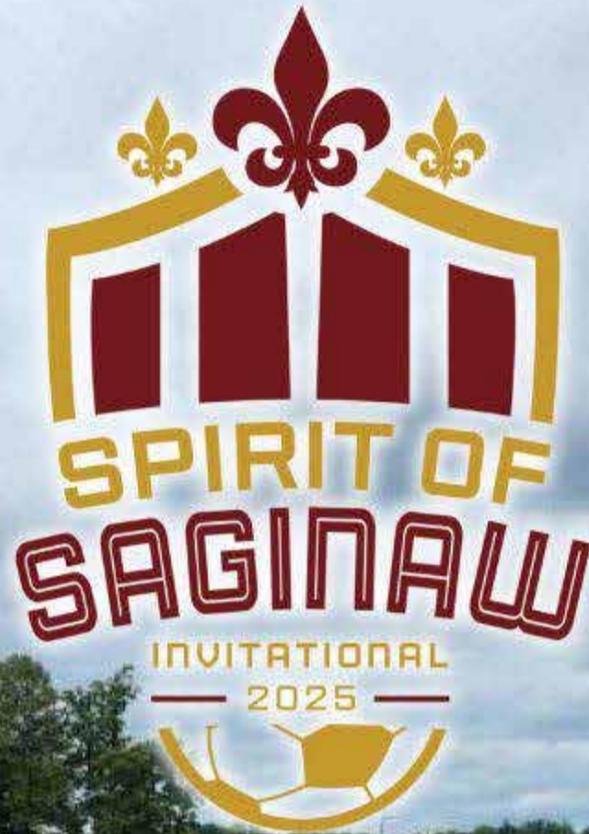
BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association has recognized ten standout athletes from across the Saginaw region on its 2025 First Team All-State roster, highlighting exceptional performances in varsity competition.

- **Division 1:** Luke LaCourse, Bay City Western
- **Division 2:** Sam Briggs and Preston Kann, Standish-Sterling; Andrew Jerome, North Branch
- **Division 3:** Chad Brown, Hemlock; Brady Segar, Chesaning; Truk Terbush, Millington
- **Division 4:** Nathan Siler and Grady Pieratt, Sacred Heart Academy; Braden Franzel, Ubly

LaCourse, a left-handed pitcher, capped his senior season with a 1.67 ERA and 126 strikeouts, earning additional accolades as the 2025 "Mr. Baseball" in Michigan. Across divisions, honorees were celebrated for batting averages above .350, double-digit home run tallies and defensive leadership.

The association's statewide selection process is based on votes from high school coaches and reflects both statistical achievement and sportsmanship. All-State honorees will be formally recognized at a banquet next month, where scholarship opportunities and college scouting reports will also be featured.



**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
SUNDAY, JULY 27TH**

TOURNAMENT FEES:

U9/UI0 (7v7): \$625

U13+ (11v11): \$725

U11/UI2 (9v9): \$675

(BOYS TO U15, GIRLS TO U19)



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SPORTS

Saginaw Spirit set for six-game tune-up ahead of 2025-26 OHL season

BY MB STAFF

The Saginaw Spirit will take the ice for a six-game exhibition slate ahead of the 2025-26 Ontario Hockey League (OHL) season, including a highly anticipated stop in Midland, Michigan, for a matchup with the Soo Greyhounds.

The Spirit's preseason opener is scheduled for Friday, August 29, against Oshawa at the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium in Ontario. Saginaw will remain in Kitchener for two more games that weekend, facing Brantford and Kitchener in back-to-back afternoon contests.

The team then returns state-side for a pair of special pre-

season matchups that bring OHL action closer to home for local fans. On Sunday, September 7, Saginaw will take on the Windsor Spitfires at Chatham Memorial Arena in Ontario, home of the club's Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League (GOJHL) affiliate, the Chatham Maroons.

The following Friday, September 12, the Spirit will make their first preseason appearance at Midland Civic Arena in three years, hosting the Soo Greyhounds in a 7:05 p.m. puck drop. It will be a homecoming of sorts, as Saginaw last played a preseason game in Midland against the same opponent in September 2022.

Preseason action wraps up

with a road trip north to face the Greyhounds again on Sunday, September 14, at GFL Memorial Gardens in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

General admission tickets for the Midland Civic Arena game will go on sale Monday, August 18, for \$10 each. Tickets for the Spirit's 2025-26 regular season home games will also be available for purchase beginning the same day.

The upcoming OHL season will see the Spirit play a full 68-game schedule, with exhibition games providing a key opportunity to evaluate talent, integrate new players, and build momentum before the season officially begins.

2025 Saginaw Spirit Preseason Schedule:

- Aug. 29 vs. Oshawa (Kitchener, Ont.) – 2:00 p.m.
- Aug. 30 vs. Brantford (Kitchener, Ont.) – 2:00 p.m.
- Aug. 31 at Kitchener (Kitchener, Ont.) – 2:00 p.m.
- Sept. 7 vs. Windsor (Chatham, Ont.) – 2:05 p.m.
- Sept. 12 vs. Soo (Midland, Mich.) – 7:05 p.m.
- Sept. 14 at Soo (Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.) – 2:07 p.m.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit saginawspirit.com.

FAITH IN FOCUS



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

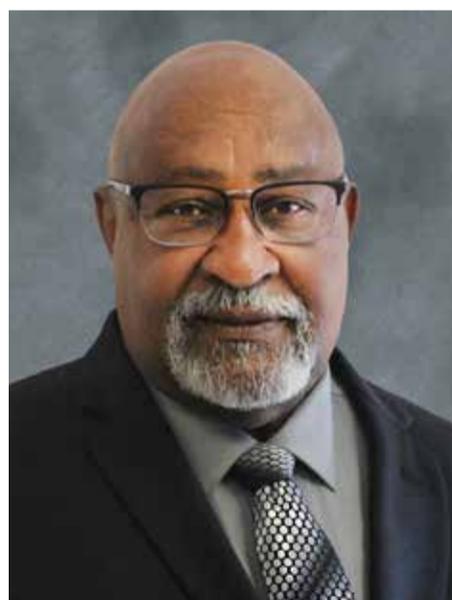
Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

BY PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

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

The organization's vision includes several key objectives:



PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

between the church, volunteers, and community professionals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Suddenly God showed up

"Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose."

Acts 16:26 NIV



BY MINISTER CAROLYN
CARTER TOWNSEL

Sometimes it feels like we are stuck in the darkest cell of our lives surrounded by disappointment, locked behind walls of fear, and bound by chains of hopelessness. That's exactly where Paul and Silas were, imprisoned not for doing wrong, but for doing right. And yet, they made a conscious decision and chose to worship God. They prayed. They sang.

Then suddenly, not after a long debate, not after a rescue plan, not when things seemed likely but suddenly, God moved. The prison shook, the doors flew open, and the chains fell off. Let that encourage your heart today. God can change everything in a moment. You may feel bound by grief, debt, betrayal, or uncertainty, but God does not need years to fix what's broken. He just needs one moment. So, keep praising, keep believing, and keep praying because your suddenly moment is on the way.

My Beloved, thank God for being a God of sudden breakthroughs. Even when things feel hopeless. Trust that God is working behind the scenes, shaking the very foundations of anything that is holding you back. He is breaking the chains, opening the doors, and turning your situation around - Suddenly and Supernaturally your God will show up.

Blessings To All,
Carolyn



CHURCH DIRECTORY



Christ Disciples Baptist Church

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



Ministry Without Walls

Pastor, John Dunn
3783 Mannion Road
Saginaw, MI 48603



New Life Baptist Ministries

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



Faith Ministries Church

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



New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry

Pastor Roy & Evelyn Baldwin
2609 E. Genesee
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-777-8272
Pastorbaldwin@charter.net



New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

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



Glory House Ministries

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



New Beginnings Ministries

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



Saint Paul Baptist Church

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



Holy Communion Gospel Center

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



New Birth Missionary Baptist

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



Victorious Belivers Ministries Church

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



Jacob's Ladder

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



New Covenant Christian Center

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



Anointed Temple ministries

Bishop Tim D. Holden, Sr.
612 Millard St.
Saginaw, MI 48607
901 Melbourne
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Bridgeport Community Church

Pastor Rob Ashmall
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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

How to reduce fundraising costs



BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Celebrate when you meet or beat your fundraising goal.

But, before the applause becomes deafening, consider this: what did it cost you to raise that money? When you know the costs associated with fundraising you are in a better position to determine whether or not you are raising enough money for your organization to sustain itself. Let's start with two unpopular some facts. First, it takes money to raise money. Second, fundraising costs of 25% are normal, and in some instances the costs to raise a dollar are higher, especially when an organization (or institution!) is building its fundraising. It can be pleasantly surprising or unpleasantly challenging to look at fundraising expenses. Don't be afraid to look: it's better to know than not know.

The diversity of nonprofit organizations makes it difficult to determine an official "average cost" to raise a dollar. Here are a few things that influence this cost: geographic location, organizational size and age, the age of the fund development department, the financial profile of donors, the popularity of your cause, market competition, organizational reputation, the type(s) of fundraising engaged in, and the extent to which you can secure gifts at the highest levels.



FILE PHOTO

Each of these variables – and others – will impact your costs. Tracking costs will allow you to consider how to reduce them. Here are some ways to cut costs.

Secure in-kind resources and services to offset the cost of budgeted items. This can include printing, management of online giving campaigns, event space, food, entertainment, and more. Executing against a well-defined fundraising plan and communications plan saves dollars that might otherwise be spent trying to make up for lost time. When communications and fundraising dovetail – with communications reinforcing the fundraising messages, fundraising impact can increase. The same is true of a focus on securing high-dollar value gifts and grants. The time required to secure a major gift is much less than the time required to secure an equivalent amount through many smaller gifts. In-

creasing the average gift size can reduce costs.

Look closely at special event costs. You may raise \$250,000, but if costs are \$190,000, something is wrong. Reduce your donor attrition rate, put more focus on one-on-one solicitation, and ask current and prior donors if they could make a larger gift. Spend more time cultivating and qualifying donors to gain a better idea of who would want to support your organization and at what level. A too-often overlooked way to reduce costs is to engage your board in the fund-

raising process, with a focus on major gift solicitations.

Finally, look closely at items in the fundraising budget. Should costs for lobbying or graduation be included? Are all staff in the budget raising funds? If not, why are they included? Watch your staff turnover rate – retaining fundraising staff can be extremely difficult. Related to this, don't be afraid to pay for qualified staff. You can spend more time by hiring people without experience who require a higher level of supervision and direction. God protect America.



Copyright 2025 – Mel and Pearl Shaw

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



PICS OF THE WEEK

The 5th Annual Saginaw, Sun and Sand event took place at The Point in Saginaw, MI, from July 10-12, featuring a sand sculpting competition. More than 30 artists formed teams to create sand sculptures during the event. In addition to the sculptures, the event included live music, children's activities, and food and drink specials.



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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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