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COMMUNITY, PG 18



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YOUTH BANNER, COVER



Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce earns national Chamber of the Year honor

LATINO BANNER, PG 4

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe names Matthew Felan CEO of Migizi Economic Development Company



MATTHEW FELAN

BY MB STAFF

MOUNT PLEASANT, Mich. — The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan has appointed Matthew Felan as the new chief executive of Migizi Economic Development Company, the Tribe's non-gaming business arm, effective Oct. 1.

Migizi EDC oversees a diverse portfolio of ventures in travel and leisure, energy, housing and land management. The company plays

a key role in advancing the Tribe's long-term economic strategy by building sustainable enterprises that support its members.

Brad Bennett, chairman of Migizi EDC's board and a member of the Tribal Council, praised Felan's selection. "Matt's passion, his ability to bring people together utilizing his expansive network, and the depth of his experience in this space will allow us to continue to look at diversifying our portfolio and

assist in growing the brand of Migizi EDC," Bennett said.

Felan joins Migizi after more than a decade leading the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance, where he served as president and CEO since 2013. The regional nonprofit serves Midland, Bay, Isabella and Saginaw counties as well as the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

See **MATTHEW FELAN,**
Page 2

MATTHEW FELAN, from cover

Calling the appointment a “once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” Felan said his decision was rooted in purpose. “Whatever they do for economic development is about providing for the next seven generations in the Tribe,” he said. “It’s going to work not just at an office, but it’s going to work for a Tribal nation and its people.”

During his time at the Alliance, Felan was instrumental in strengthening collaboration across the region and advancing STEM education. He pointed to building a STEM “ecosystem” across eight counties as one of the most significant accomplishments of his tenure.

Heather Gallegos, chair of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance, credited Felan with strengthening regional partnerships. “His commitment to regionalism and collaboration has strengthened the Great Lakes Bay Region. We are deeply grateful for his service and wish him continued success as he begins this exciting new chapter,” she said.

In addition to his regional leadership, Felan has been active in civic and political life. He has served as a trustee for the Bay City Public Schools Board, including three years as president, and on the McLaren Bay Board of Directors. He has also been involved in national, state and local fundraising efforts and served as chief development officer for Special Olympics Michigan.

Felan said he looks forward to leveraging his experience to build on Migizi’s foundation. “It is a privilege to serve the people and nation of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe,” he said. “I look forward to building a diverse portfolio of investments that will help ensure the financial sustainability and prosperity of the Tribe for the next seven generations.”



**THIS DAY IN
MICHIGAN
HISTORY**

OCTOBER 1, 1840

Detroit’s first black school teacher, Fannie M. Richards was born on October 1, 1840 in Fredericksburg, Virginia of free parents.



Educated in Canada and Germany, she studied under kindergarten founder Wilhelm Froebel. After opening a private school for Black children in 1863, she joined Detroit’s Colored School No. 2. Richards helped challenge school segregation, leading to a Michigan Supreme Court ruling in 1871 that integrated Detroit’s schools. She then taught at Everett Elementary for 44 years, establishing Michigan’s first kindergarten. Beyond education, she co-founded the Phyllis Wheatley Home for Aged Colored Ladies, the Michigan State Association of Colored Women, and taught Sunday School for over 50 years. Richards retired in 1915 and was inducted into the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame in 1990 for her role in desegregating schools and advancing education.

MICHIGAN BANNER

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MISSION

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

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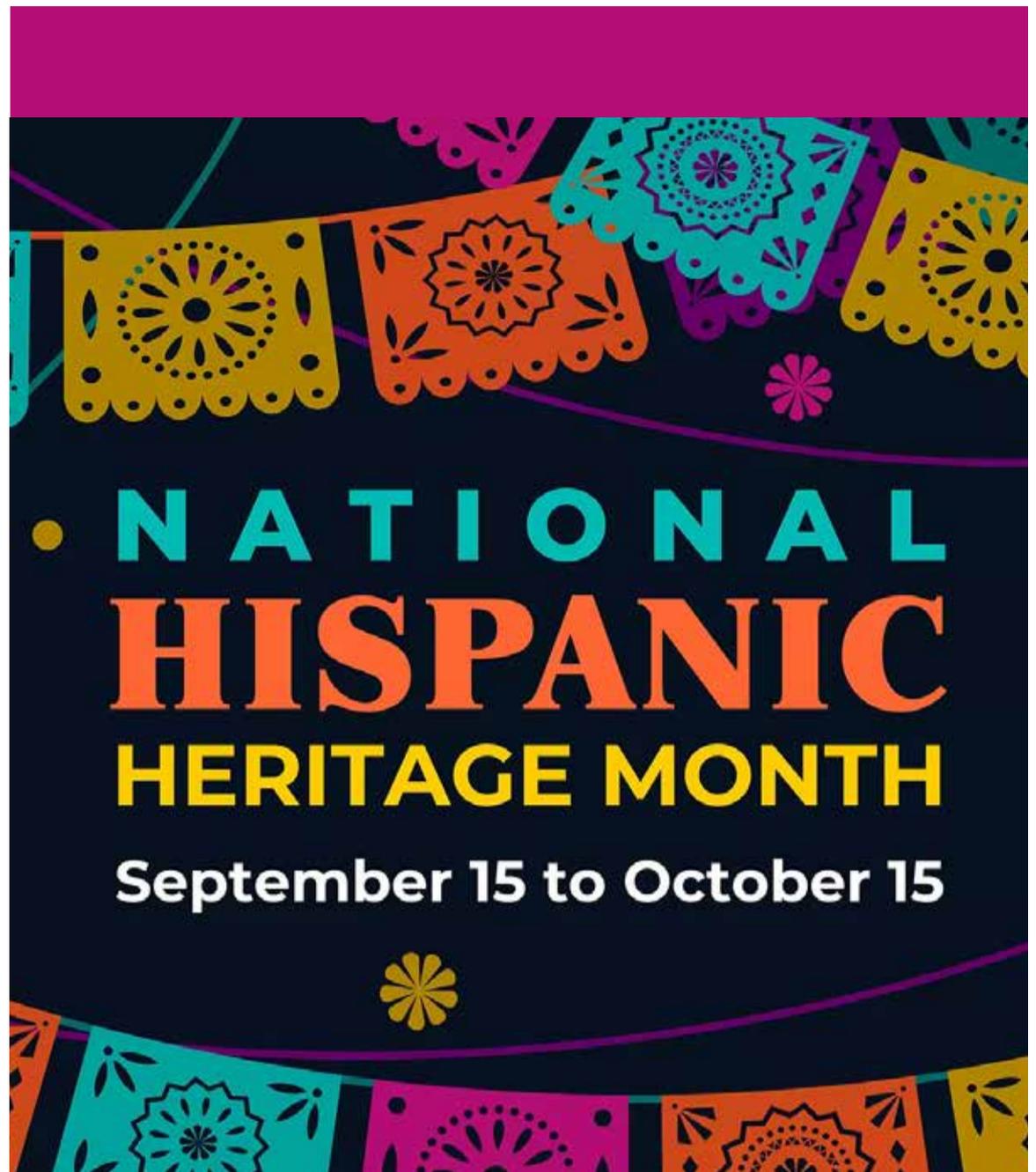
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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 7 • NUMBER 19



FAFSA returns to normal schedule with new updates for 2026–27 aid year



FILE PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

After a rocky rollout last year that left many students and families frustrated by delays, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is returning to its traditional release date. The 2026–27 application will open Oct. 1, restoring the timetable students have relied on for years.

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mains free, and students are urged to avoid companies or individuals that charge for assistance. Support is available directly through StudentAid.gov, including live chat and a call center, though callers will first navigate automated prompts before reaching a representative.

Students planning to attend college or trade school in fall 2026 can begin filing now. Even those who assume their household income is too high to qualify for need-based federal aid may benefit from filling out the form, since many states, colleges, and scholarship providers use FAFSA data to determine eligibility for other programs.

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HELPCVI.ORG

Youth pheasant hunt returns to Saginaw County this fall

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

SAGINAW, Mich. — Young hunters will have the chance to experience the outdoors this fall during the annual Youth Pheasant Hunt, hosted by the Saginaw Conservation District in partnership with Pheasants Forever, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the Saginaw Field & Stream Club.

The event takes place Saturday, Nov. 1, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., beginning at the Saginaw Field & Stream Club headquarters, 1296 N. Gleaner Road. The hunt will follow at the Shiawassee River State Game Area.

The free program is open to youth ages 12–17 who are accompanied by an adult. Participants must hold a valid base license, complete a hunter safety course, and wear hunter orange. Activities include target practice, instruction on field dressing birds, and a guided pheasant hunt with a limit of two birds per hunter. Lunch will be provided.

Organizers emphasize the event is designed to provide hands-on experience in safe hunting practices while introducing the next generation to upland bird hunting traditions. Spots are limited to the first 25 registrants, with a refundable \$25 deposit required.

Registration is available through the Saginaw Conservation District’s website at saginawcd.com. For more information, contact (989) 781-1720 ext. 5.

2025 Youth Pheasant Hunt

**November 1st 2025
8 AM - 2PM**

Event opens at Saginaw Field & Stream
1296 N Gleaner Rd,
Saginaw, MI 48609

Hunt to follow @ Shiawassee River State Game Area

- **FREE Event for hunters age 12-17**
- **Target Practice**
- **Up to 2 birds per hunter**
- **Lunch Provided**
- **Learn To Field Dress Birds**

Hunters Safety Certificate, Base License, non-toxic shot, and Hunter Orange required for All Participants

Pre-registration and Refundable Deposit of \$25 required:
Mail or drop off cash or check to the Saginaw Conservation District
178 N. Graham Rd. Saginaw, MI. 48609
Contact zackery.spiekerman@macd.org
(989) 781 -1720 Ext 5

Register Here!

THE 2025 YOUTH PHEASANT HUNT TAKES PLACE ON NOVEMBER 1.



Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE



Flint Public Library to host Hispanic genealogy workshop for beginners



HISPANIC GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — The Gloria Coles Flint Public Library will offer a special program this fall designed to help community members explore their Hispanic family history.

The Hispanic Genealogy for Beginners workshop is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 4, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Friends of FPL Room at the library, 1026 E. Kearsley St. The session is open to teens and adults.

Led by librarian Sarah Brooks, the event will cover the basics of genealogy and provide research techniques tailored to those tracing Hispanic ancestry. The program is presented in collaboration with the LatinX Center.

Library officials said registration is required, with sign-ups closing at the start of the event. Participants can register online at fpl.info.

For more information, call the Flint Public Library at (810) 232-7111.

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

Delta College celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with cultural events in Saginaw



FRIENDS MAKING A PIÑATA (COURTESY PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Delta College is marking Hispanic Heritage Month with a series of cultural and educational events aimed at celebrating Latino traditions and supporting student success across the region.

The lineup begins Tuesday, Oct. 1, with Supporting Latino Students, a panel discussion from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in room E112 on the Delta campus. Staff and community members

will share perspectives on ways to better serve Latino students.

On Sunday, Oct. 6, the focus shifts to art and tradition with a Piñata Making Class at the Downtown Saginaw Center from 5 to 7 p.m. The workshop will be led by local artists and members of Delta's Society of Hispanic Leaders student organization.

A few days later, on Tuesday, Oct. 8, Delta will host a BEDI Lunch and Learn centered on cultural humility. The event runs from noon to 1:30 p.m. in room N007 and is part of the college's

Belonging, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (BEDI) series.

The month closes with El Camino: Why Should I Go to College? on Wednesday, Oct. 23, at the Downtown Saginaw Center. Doors open at 4:45 p.m. and the panel begins at 5 p.m., followed by open conversation and refreshments until 6:30 p.m. The event, part of Delta's Hispanic/Latino Student Success Taskforce, brings together current students, alumni and community members to discuss the benefits of higher education.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 to honor the cultures, histories and contributions of Americans with roots in Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Delta officials said the events are open to all and designed to foster dialogue and community connection.

For more information or accommodation requests, contact Delta's Belonging, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Services at diversity@delta.edu or call 989-686-9017.

DELTA COLLEGE CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH WITH A SERIES OF CULTURAL EVENTS.



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Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce earns national Chamber of the Year honor



REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MICHIGAN HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE POSE WITH THE 2025 CHAMBER OF THE YEAR - SMALL CATEGORY AWARD PRESENTED BY THE USHCC.

BY MB STAFF

After a rocky rollout last year that left many students and families frustrated by delays, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is returning to its traditional release date. The 2026-27 application will open Oct. 1, restoring the timetable students have relied on for years.

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Louie Garcia

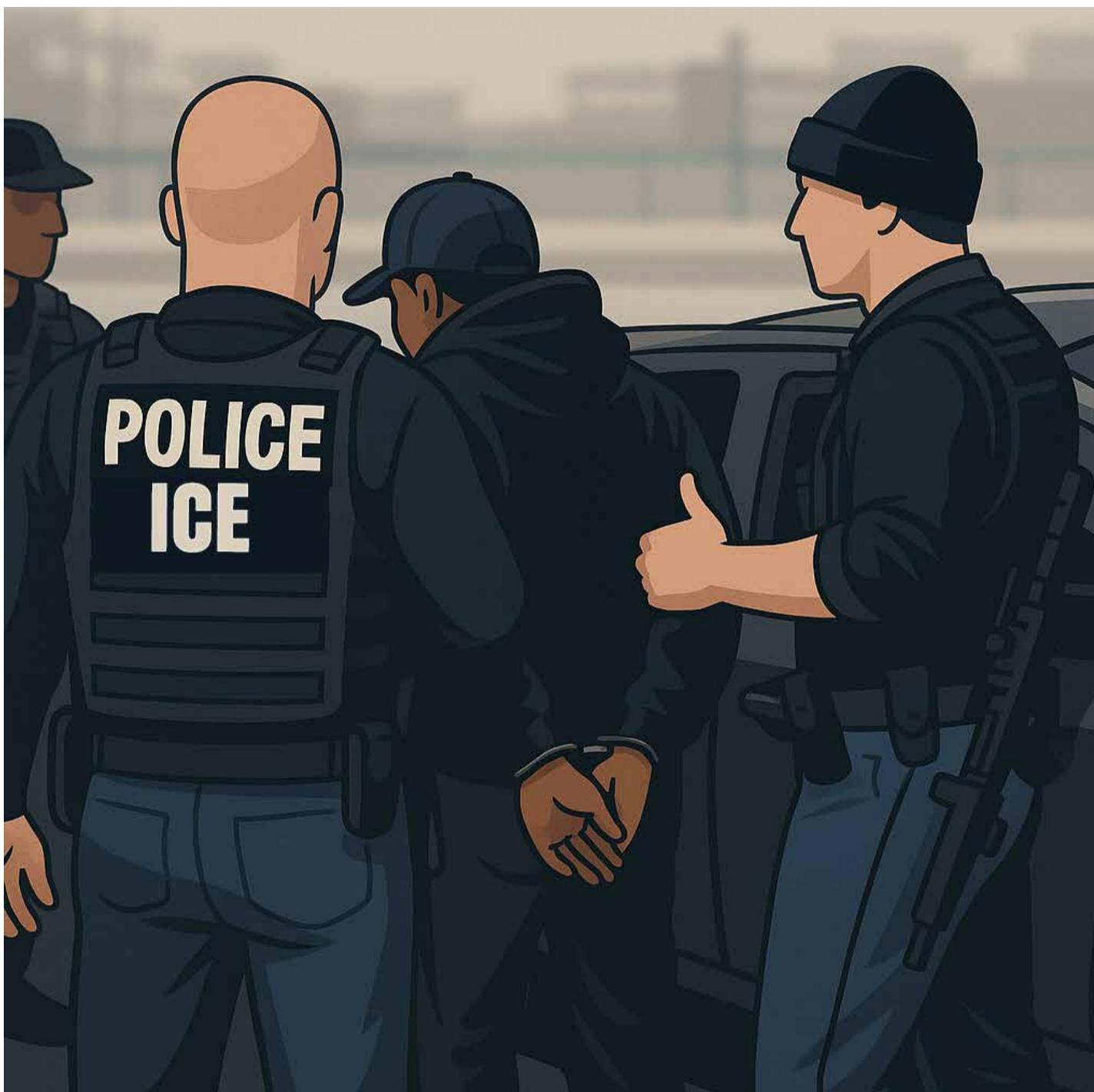
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Civil rights groups issue guidance to Michigan police on immigration enforcement



POLICE ICE ILLUSTRATION

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan and the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center have released updated guidance urging local law enforcement agencies to limit involvement in federal immigration enforcement, warning that cooperation could undermine community trust and expose municipalities to costly litigation.

In a letter sent Sept. 18 to sheriffs and police chiefs across the state, the organizations outlined recent legal developments and provided practical recommendations on handling federal immigration detainers, § 287(g) agreements and other enforcement practices.

The issue brief emphasizes that local law enforcement's role is to ensure public safety for all residents, regardless of immigration status. When officers participate in civil immigration

enforcement, the groups argue, victims and witnesses in immigrant communities may be less likely to report crimes for fear of detention or deportation.

“Without assurances that contact with the police would not result in purely civil immigration enforcement action, the hard-won trust, communication and cooperation from the immigrant community would disappear,” the Major Cities Chiefs Association warned in a cited statement.

The updated guidance also

points to recent changes in federal policy. Under a 2025 executive order, federal immigration authorities expanded enforcement priorities to include all deportable noncitizens, not just those with criminal records. The brief stresses, however, that local agencies are not obligated to divert their resources toward such enforcement.

Among the recommendations:

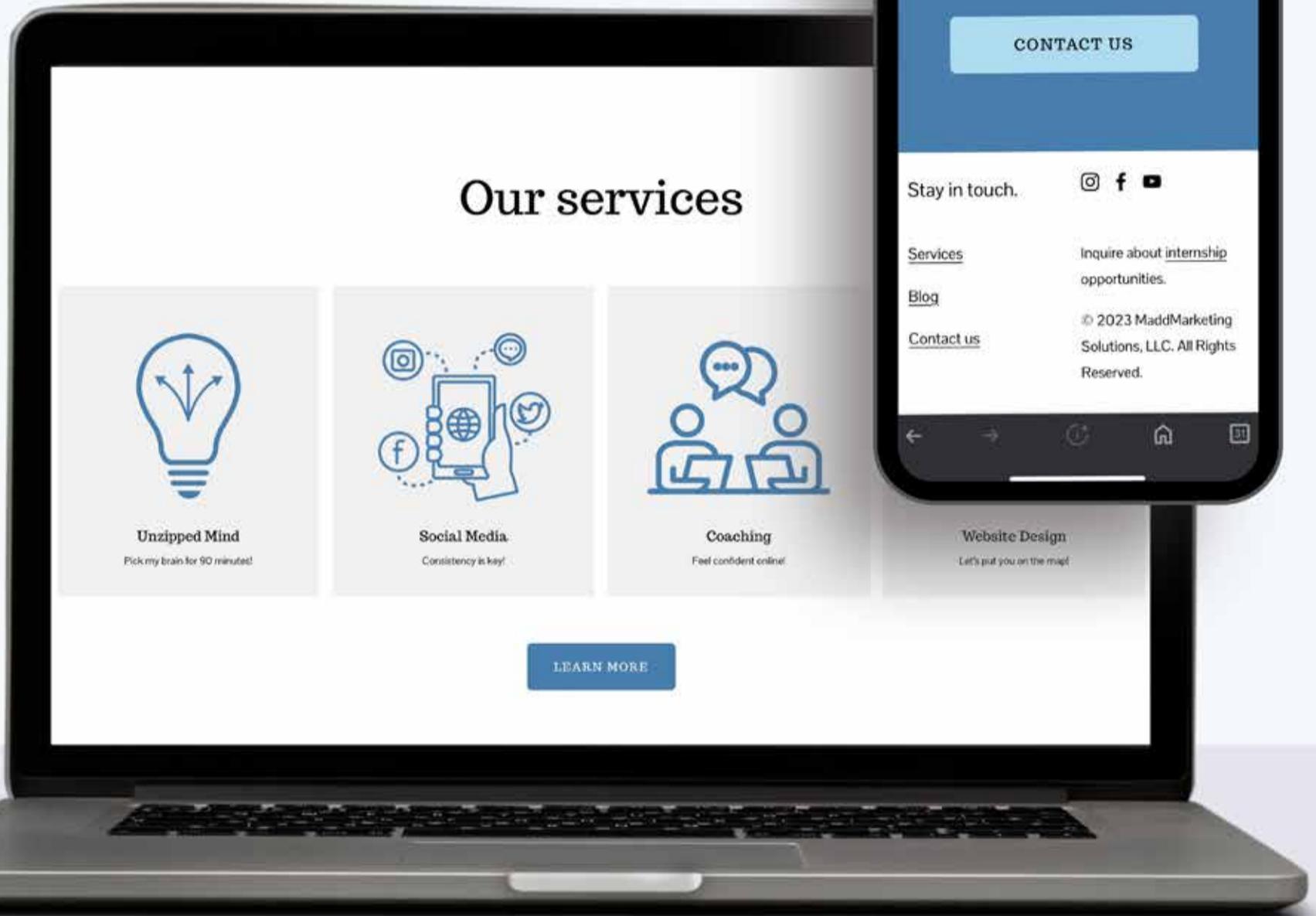
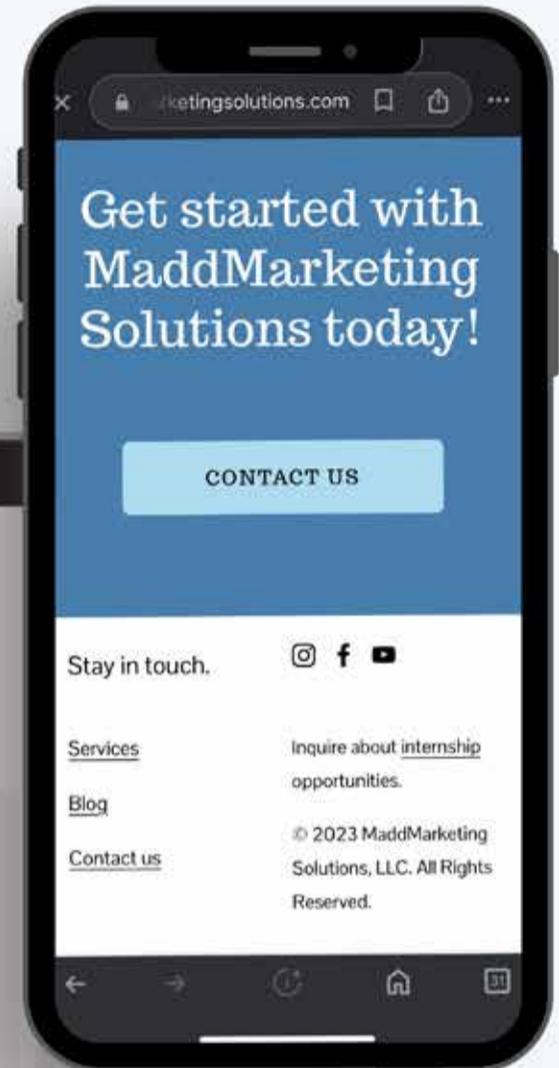
- Avoid prolonging traffic stops to investigate immigration status.
- Decline to hold individuals solely on ICE detainers unless accompanied by a judicial warrant.
- Ensure officers understand that presenting a foreign driver's license or passport is not grounds to question immigration status.
- Provide consent forms for individuals facing ICE interview requests in jails.
- Use professional language interpretation services instead of federal immigration agents.

The ACLU and MIRC note that localities in Michigan, including Wayne and Ingham counties, have already adopted policies declining to honor immigration detainer requests without judicial oversight.

The letter concludes by encouraging departments to adopt “welcoming” policies that strengthen relationships with noncitizen residents and reinforce constitutional protections, arguing that trust-based policing makes communities safer.



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Michigan Secretary of State expands language access with new translation devices



GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO DETROIT CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPRESENTING DISTRICT 6, SPOKE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS IN BRANCH OFFICES AS AN IMMIGRANT WHO GREW UP IN SOUTHWEST DETROIT. ALSO PICTURED: SECRETARY BENSON AND RAY LOZANO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MEXICANTOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

BY MB STAFF

DETROIT — Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson marked Hispanic Heritage Month this week by highlighting new efforts to improve access for residents who speak languages other than English.

Speaking Tuesday at the Mexicantown Community Development Corporation in southwest Detroit, Benson announced that by the end of October every Secretary of State branch office across Michigan will be equipped with Pocketalk handheld translation devices.

The devices, which resemble smartphones, provide real-time translation in more than 80 languages, including Spanish, Ara-

bic and Bangla. Customers and staff speak directly into the device, which then delivers the translation both audibly and in print.

The initiative follows a pilot project in select offices that showed strong results. According to the Michigan Department of State, 98% of branch offices are already using the devices, and all 131 locations are expected to have them in operation by month's end. In less than a year, Pocketalk has been used for more than 279,000 interpretations statewide.

"Since I first took office in 2019, I have made it the mission of this department to meet people where they are and make state government work for them," Ben-

son said. "It is our responsibility to provide excellent, efficient service to every Michigan resident —

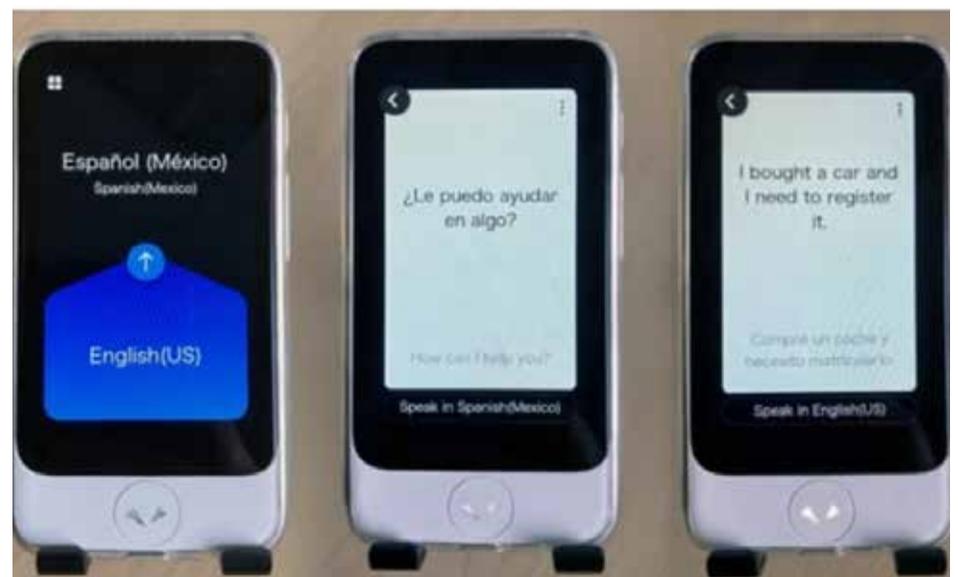
regardless of what language they speak."

Local leaders praised the expansion, noting the devices reduce reliance on family members or children to interpret, which can compromise confidentiality. Staff at several branch offices described the devices as "gamechangers" that reduce customer anxiety and improve efficiency.

The translation devices are part of a broader push by the Secretary of State's office to improve language access. The department's website provides voter and customer service information in 19 languages, while self-service stations across the state offer nine language options for renewing IDs, vehicle tabs and voter registration.

The department also works with nonprofits and refugee assistance organizations to identify barriers for non-English-speaking residents and has offered multilingual voter education webinars.

"Embracing our state's diversity and meeting people where they are improves outcomes for all of us," Benson said.



POCKETALK, A HANDHELD DEVICE RESEMBLING A SMARTPHONE, PROVIDES REAL-TIME TRANSLATION IN SPANISH, ARABIC, BANGLA AND MORE THAN 80 OTHER LANGUAGES. THE NEW TECHNOLOGY WILL BE OPERATIONAL IN EVERY BRANCH OFFICE ACROSS THE STATE BY THE END OF OCTOBER.

COMMUNITY

Award-winning filmmaker Shalini Kantayya to speak at Delta College



SHALINI KANTAYYA

BY MB STAFF

UNIVERSITY CENTER, MI — Delta College will welcome activist and filmmaker Shalini Kantayya to its main campus on Tuesday, Oct. 14, as part of the President's Speaker Series.

Kantayya, a two-time Emmy-nominated director, will give a free presentation from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Lecture Theater (G160). Known for her thought-provoking documentaries that explore the intersection of sci-

ence, technology and society, she will share clips from her films while discussing how storytelling can inspire change.

Her 2016 debut feature, *Catching the Sun*, examined the global race for clean energy and was released worldwide on Netflix with Leonardo DiCaprio as executive producer. The film was named a New York Times Critics' Pick. Kantayya's 2020 documentary, *Coded Bias*, premiered at Sundance and was later broadcast on PBS's *Independent Lens* before reaching global audiences

on Netflix. Her most recent work, *TikTok, Boom*, explores the rise and influence of the social media platform.

Through her production company, 7th Empire Media, Kantayya focuses on human rights, sustainability and media that makes a measurable social impact.

Delta College officials said the program is free and open to the community. For accommodations or more information, attendees may contact Kim Klein at kimberlyklein@delta.edu or

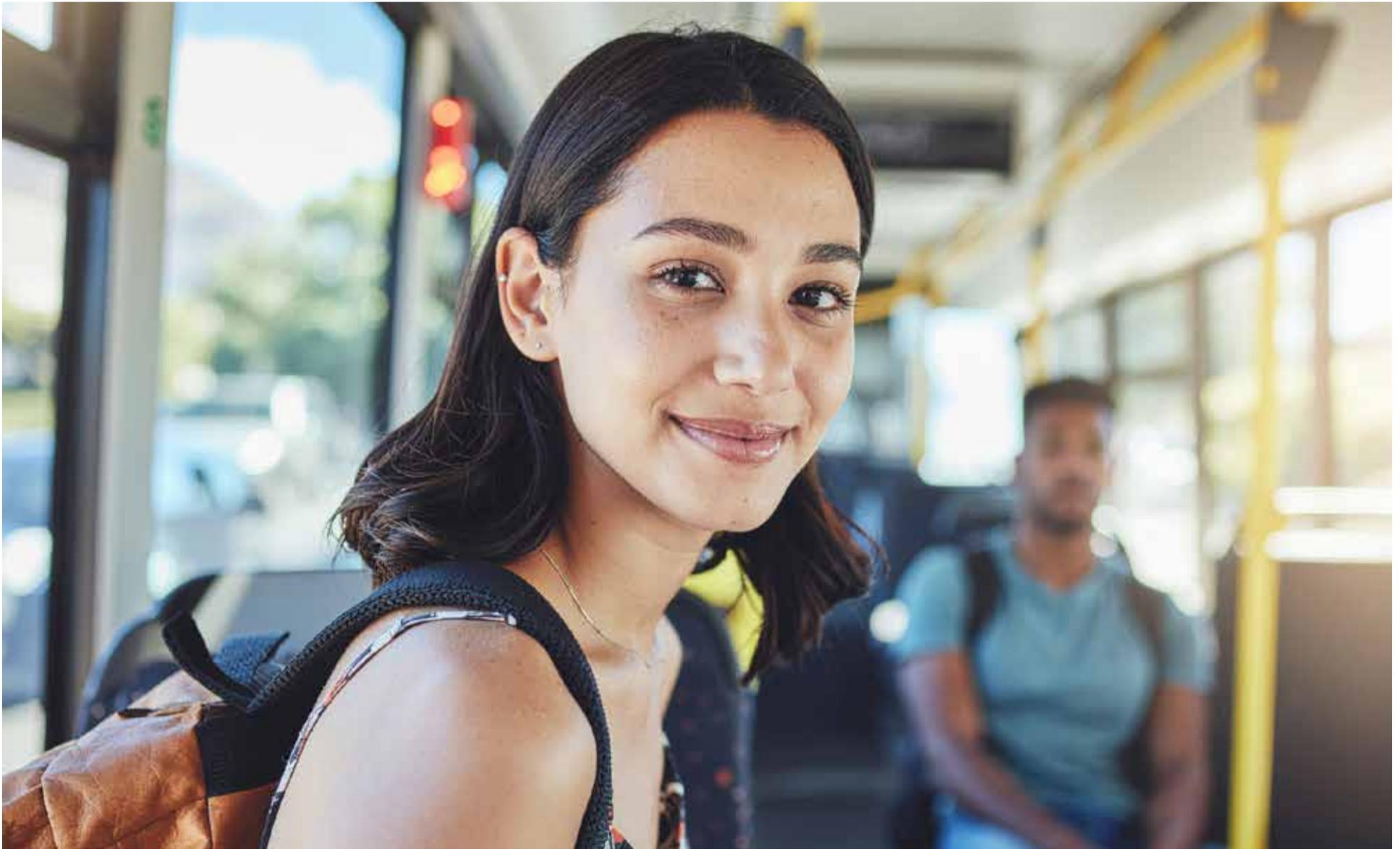
989-686-9162.

In addition to her lecture, Delta will host a free community screening of *TikTok, Boom* on Tuesday, Oct. 7, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Masonic Temple in Bay City, 700 N. Madison Ave.

The President's Speaker Series brings nationally recognized voices to campus to highlight issues of leadership, diversity and social change. More information on upcoming and past speakers is available at Delta's website.

COMMUNITY

STARS partners with Delta College, SVSU to expand free bus access for students and staff



FILE PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services (STARS) is teaming up with Delta College and Saginaw Valley State University to make public transportation more accessible for students, faculty and staff.

Beginning Oct. 1, anyone with a valid Delta or SVSU ID will be able to ride all STARS fixed-route buses at no cost by showing their identification when boarding.

Officials said the partnerships are designed to reduce transportation barriers, improve access to higher education, and

strengthen ties between the campuses and the wider community.

“Reliable, affordable transportation is key to educational opportunity,” STARS Executive Director Amy Bidwell said in announcing the initiative. “These partnerships with Delta College and SVSU will make it easier for students and staff to get to class, to work, and to the resources they need across Saginaw.”

John Kaczynski, vice president for governmental affairs at SVSU, noted the program’s broader community benefit. “Transportation access is a real challenge for many in our service area,” he said. “This partnership benefits not only students but

also the wider community, connecting people to campus and linking our university with regional businesses, services, and cultural experiences.”

Shelly Raube, Delta’s vice president of student empowerment and success, called the effort another step toward removing barriers for learners. “This partnership with STARS expands opportunities for our students and employees while supporting the community,” Raube said. “Removing the cost of transportation makes it that much easier for students to focus on learning and achieving their goals.”

Delta students and staff can take advantage of STARS’ ex-

isting connections to the Delta Downtown Saginaw Center and the Delta Direct Shuttle. At SVSU, riders can access Route 9, which stops near the Ryder Center, as well as more than 500 bus stops throughout the Saginaw area.

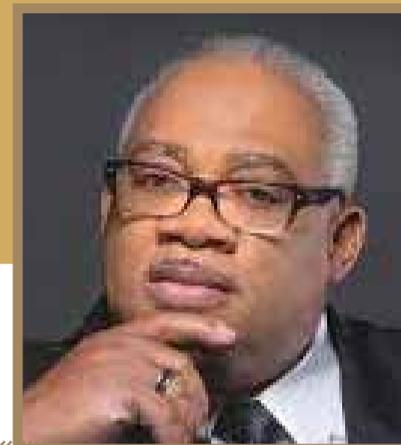
STARS fixed-route buses run Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Schedules and route maps are available at saginaw-stars.com or via the transit option on Google Maps.

The agreements mark the latest effort by STARS to expand mobility and support economic and educational growth across the region.

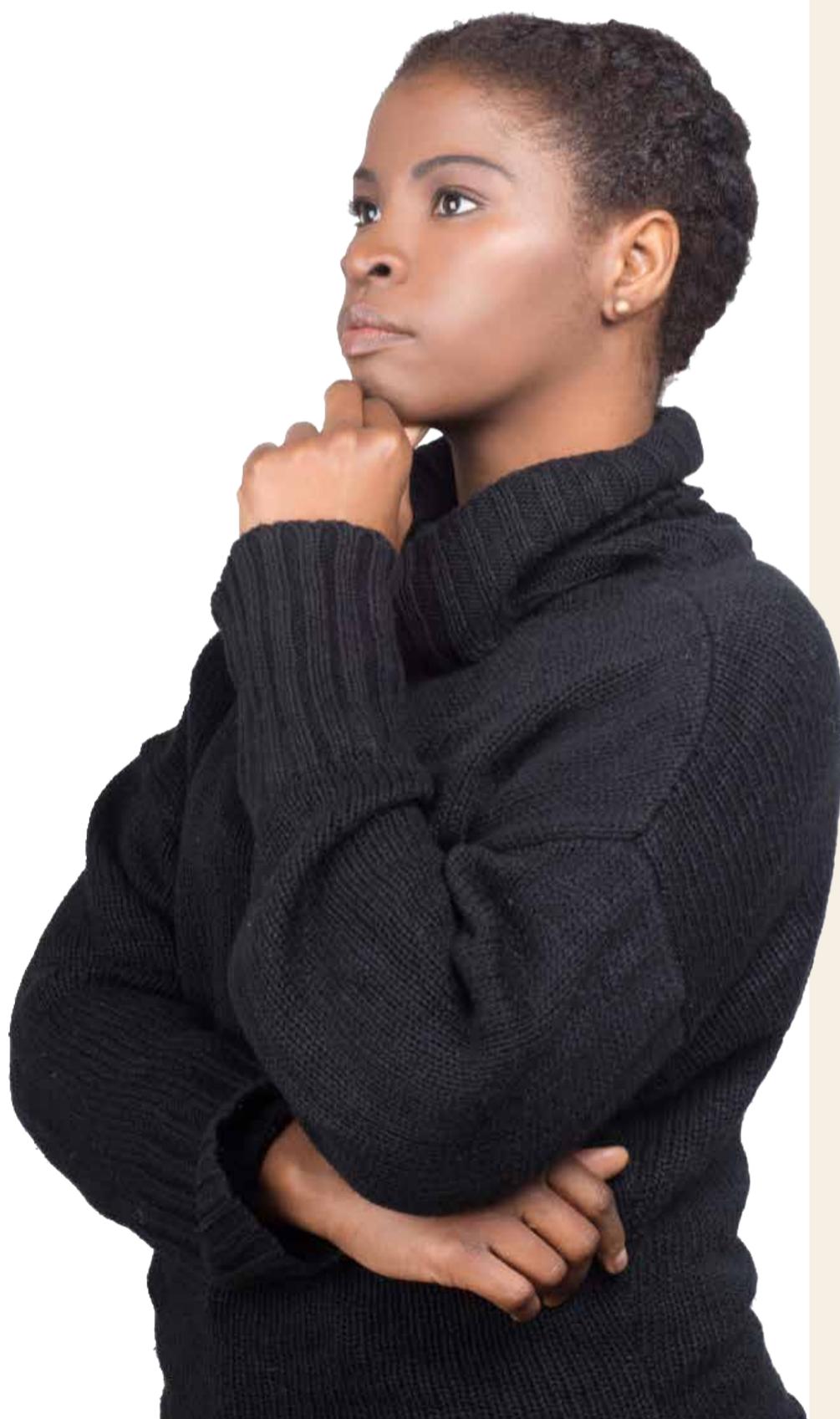
COMMUNITY

I'M JUST THINKING.....

By BISHOP HURLEY J. COLEMAN, JR.
WORLD OUTREACH CAMPUS CHURCH



What's on your mind?



There are three words that have been having their own discussion in my mind. **Retrospection. Introspection. Inspection.** Retrospection is when you are looking back to understand what happened. Introspection is looking to understand how the thing that happened affected you. Inspection is looking to determine the specifics of what has happened. All of these words reflect something that has to be done by you. What's on your mind?

I have been challenged by the people in leadership roles who don't feel inclined to engage in the issues that affect our community. We have elected leaders who point to faith leaders. We have faith leaders who point to community leaders. We have community leaders who point to business leaders. And, we have the general public who is left looking for leaders, any leaders.

In 2025, retrospection tells us that the present political, social, and economic environments are so much different from what we have seen in the past. It tells us of the days when our community leaders we recognized and followed. It harkens to a time when we felt the power of unified efforts that were inclusive of political, faith, community, and economic leaders.

Introspection tells us that we did not carry that spirit forward. We did not embrace the next cadre of leaders, nor present them so they would be recognized in our community. We did not create a shared long term vision that would transcend the term of service for leadership.

Inspection tells us that even though the truth of retrospection and inspection is real, we have within us the ability to set a course. So that we do not continue down that same path. There are great potential leaders among us right now. Those who are seniors need to embrace, develop, and promote the timely progression of those who have the desire. We need to tear down silos of seniority and privilege to make room for the next wave. We need to think of the future more than our personal present.

I'm convinced that this can be done. What do you think?

COMMUNITY

Skate park: Civics lesson for young and old

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW, Mich. — The skate park attack on Sept. 15 led to a unanimous City Council agreeing that they don't consider the case closed, including the white-on-black ethnic aspects.

Council members want to hear from Bob Ruth, the police chief, and John McColgan, the county prosecutor, about the assault on a trio of mural artists who were carrying out a council-authorized state Adopt-A-Park mini-grant to paint the skate track. Their questions include:

- Why were only two fence-jumping white assailants arrested?
- Why was one of the trio of black artists handcuffed?
- What will we see on the video that has been uncovered?



THE "LAST-ISH SKATEPARK MURAL COMMUNITY PAINT," ORGANIZED BY COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR THE PEOPLE (CAP) AT FRANK N. ANDERSEN CELEBRATION PARK IN SAGINAW, WAS VANDALIZED SHORTLY AFTER ITS COMPLETION.

- And even if some members question whether their city officers could have done more, why didn't the prosecutor's office at least take action on the two main assailants?

The council's next meeting is at 6:30 p.m. on Oct 6 at Andersen Enrichment Center.

Hey, civics teachers

Concerned citizens may attend the council proceedings on Monday night or watch SGTV, public access, either live or on replay.

And to prepare, check out a one-hour segment on the [YouTube meeting video from Sept. 22, starting at 1:43](#) (one hour, 43 minutes) with Jeff Bulls from C.A.P and closing at 2:43 after council members make clear to City Manager Tim Morales that they expect answers.

For me, this fall is a 50-year anniversary from my first meeting of not only the Saginaw council, with Ed Pothoff as city manager, but of township and school boards from Carrollton to Chesaning. From all of these local governing sessions, going back to my early 1970s studies at Delta College, I cannot recall a 60-minute segment that would be better to share with any group, from a school classroom to a neighborhood/civic/church group. Simply give this a look-see. It's not my

role to opine on who said or did what, but here are some cues:

- Among the eight public speakers, the final remarks contain specifics that give cause to explore the level of organized assault pre-planning.
- All nine council members addressed the matter, a contrast to silence on past scenarios on other issues, most recently lack of response to a push to stop any new marijuana dispensaries, led by Joyce Seals, a former mayor now on the school board. (Seals and her group plan to resume their protests on Monday.)
- We may think of skateboarding and mural artists as youthful endeavors, but the assault victims are of middle age,
- Other concerns were outlined during brief interims in the discussion, including a jobs fair at the Delta College downtown campus, 6 p.m. on Oct. 8, and a chance to take part in planning for city parks, 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 9 at the Andersen Center.
- Was this attack a local sign of Trump and MAGA in national power? Video viewers will note Councilman Michael Balls chastised a public speaker "in a red tie" who said the artists should have been directed to follow a different process. The president's name was not invoked, but observers recognized the reference to Trump. That earlier speaker, sandwiched between Bishop Hurley Coleman

Jr. and lead artist Nyeshia Clark-Young, was John Milne, who served with Balls on the council from 2016 to 2020.

- For me, the main reason for recommending this video to a civics class is mainly because of the compact action, especially after City Manager Tim Morales concludes his reports [moments past 2:37 on the Youtube video](#). Within six minutes, six members ask questions and receive answers, good enough to at least tide them over until Oct. 6. You could show a movie of the U.S. Congress in similar mode, and after six minutes the first senator still would still be ensconced in their opening statement. Which of the two video choices might better keep the attention of a teen-ager, much less an average citizen? (This is not intended as wholesale praise because as a reporter, I am curious why they didn't ask more about the video that Morales mentioned in his report.)

At any rate, if our goal is to seek more citizen involvement during modern times, with voter turnout at all-time lows, the skate park is an ideal example of an issue that is more basic, for example, than the ins and outs of the property tax caps or even the ARPA funds.. Make the upcoming Oct. 6 City Council meet, along with the Sept. 22 video, a civics lesson not only for the high school kids. Let's all enroll in some adult education on public democracy at the grassroots level.

COMMUNITY

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6PM

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Saginaw County's Pop-Up of Books, Fun, Food & Family Resources

10/13/2025 5 to 7 pm
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OCTOBER 11TH | 6 PM TO 8 PM
SAGINAW TOWNSHIP SOCCER COMPLEX
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Free community remembrance event for families who have experienced pregnancy and infant loss and their friends and family.



FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO REGISTER, VISIT:
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Senior Healthy Living Expo

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Where: Saginaw YMCA
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Lunch served: 11:30 AM
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COMMUNITY

Jolt Credit Union donates \$100,000 to fight hunger in Great Lakes Bay Region



JOLT CREDIT UNION DONATES \$100,000 TO THE HUNGER SOLUTION CENTER EXPANSION PROJECT.

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Jolt Credit Union has pledged \$100,000 to support the Hunger Solution Center Capital Campaign, a project aimed at expanding the reach of the Saginaw East Side Soup Kitchen and Hidden Harvest.

The donation will help fund an \$8.8 million expansion of the Hunger Solution Center, which

serves as a hub for addressing food insecurity across Saginaw, Bay and Midland counties. Plans call for a new kitchen, larger dining space, expanded storage and improved distribution facilities — upgrades that organizers say will allow them to serve more meals and rescue more food for families in need.

“Every day, East Side Soup Kitchen and Hidden Harvest turn compassion into action,” Jolt

Vice President of Brand Engagement Bridget Staffileno said in a statement announcing the gift. “This expansion ensures hope is always on the menu, and we’re honored to stand alongside the people and organizations making that happen.”

The two organizations have long played central roles in hunger relief in the region. East Side Soup Kitchen provides hot meals daily, while Hidden Harvest focuses on rescuing surplus food

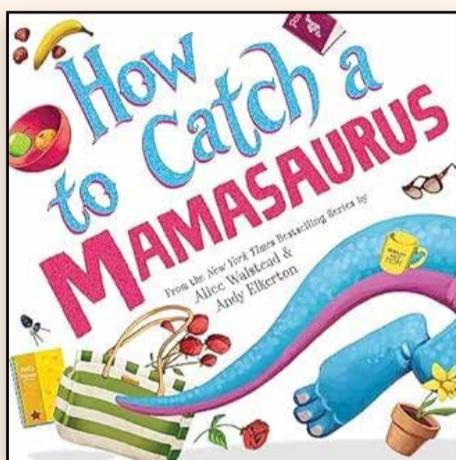
and redirecting it to agencies and families. Both groups have seen their facilities pushed to capacity as demand for services has grown.

With Jolt’s contribution, leaders of the campaign say they are one step closer to completing a project designed to ensure that no family in the Great Lakes Bay Region goes without access to healthy, reliable food.

Mother's Day is every day, not only in May

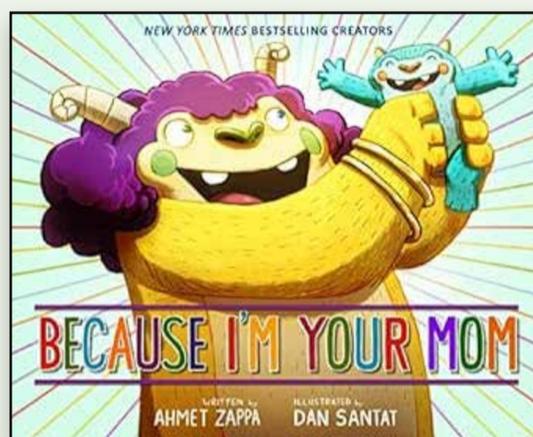
(As the Michigan Banner focuses on literacy, we will offer suggestions for children's books.)

More emphasis is placed on a father's role in schooling a child, but in most cases, the mother remains mainly responsible. And so if some books seem to be written mainly for her, along with her offspring, there are ample reasons for this.



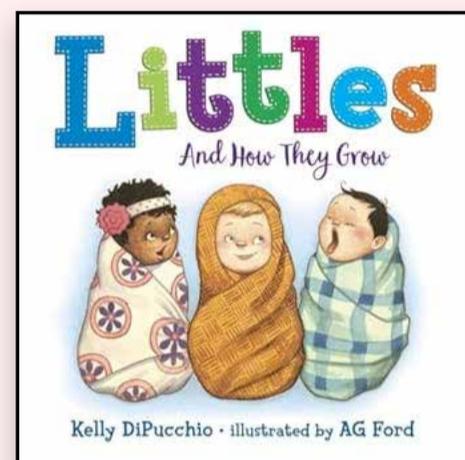
How to Catch a Mamasaurus
Alice Walstead, Andy Elkerton

Dinosaurs are among the most popular creature characters for children, so why not pay tribute to Mom by naming one after her. Unlike Dino on the Flintstones, Mamasaurus doesn't get put out for the night. Instead, she teaches the young ones to mind their manners, to say please and thank you because "kindness matters; it grows like a garden."



Because I'm Your Mom
Ahmet Zappa, Dan Santat

Why does she have a voice in the price you charge at your summer front-yard lemonade stands? Your friends are jealous because you can have nachos for breakfast. Why? Because she's your mom. And yes, Ahmet is the son of Frank Zappa, alternative musical rocker.



Littles and How They Grow
Kelly DiPucchio, AG Ford

Mom may become misty-eyed as she muses how fast time goes by when a preschool toddler joins the family, "swaddled, and coddled, and kissed every morn." It's not all sweetness and light, with "tantrums and new teeth," but still "cherished by kindhearted kin" with their "peekaboo grins."



You also may find papa books, grandparent stories, even aunts and uncles in the spotlight. And don't forget siblings. RIF stands for Reading Is FUNdamental, but it also could mean Reading Is Family.

To volunteer as a tutor, training is required. You can do it. Contact your neighborhood school or the READ Association in your local community.



Save the Date!

SAGINAW PROMISE PRESENTS
“POWER OF A PROMISE”
 LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER EVENT

Thursday, October 16, 2025
Horizons Conference Center

**doors will open at 11 AM with the event starting at 11:30 AM.*



Dr. Samuel Shaheen



Senator Ken Horn



Tim Morales



John Kaczynski



Dr. Ramont Roberts

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

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

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

Promotional Partner:



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

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Handyman joins City Council



TOBIAS YOUNG

children.

Young fell short of winning a seat in November 2024, but when a vacancy became open this summer with Monique Lamar Silvia's departure, he was willing to try again, earning the selection from among nine applicants.

"I was always doing odd jobs around the neighborhood," says Young, a 1993 Bridgeport High grad who grew up in town, attending the former Jones Elementary and Webber Middle. He was good enough at basketball to achieve status on The Saginaw News' regional Dream Team.

By experience, housing will be among his main areas of City Council concern. He's a journeyman electrician who performs most of his own work on his rentals, instead of hiring contractors. He will seek background support from city staff before he puts forward any specific proposals.

"I've been flipping houses for more than 25 years, and this will be my time to have something to say," Young notes.

His appointment is until the November 2026 election. His interview begins at 9:40 on the YouTube video, [click here](#).

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW, Mich. — Do you remember a neighborhood kid who always kept some cash in his pocket by mowing lawns, raking leaves and performing other tasks?

That might be Saginaw's newest City Council member.

Tobias Young, appointed Sept. 22, says one reason for entering public service is that he has reduced his count of rental properties to only six, allowing more time from when he owned 17.

He also runs his own car in-

surance agency, and previously he operated a nightclub and banquet hall. He volunteers for an array of worthy causes, such as co-chairing the grounds crew for the Saginaw African Cultural Festival and serving through his church, New Mount Calvary Baptist.

All of this is on top of his 26 years of General Motors employment, the past 15 at the Flint Truck and Bus Plant.

He knew where to file paperwork for last year's council election campaign, because his spouse, LaShawnda, is employed as a legal specialist in the county clerk's office. They have three



TOBIAS YOUNG IS SWORN IN AS SAGINAW'S NEWEST CITY COUNCIL MEMBER DURING A MEETING ON MONDAY, SEPT. 22.

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Midland Democrats to host fall fundraiser, introduce 2026 candidates



Benjamin Ambrose
US Congress 2



Rachel Howard
US Senate



Dr. Pamela Pugh
MI Senate 35



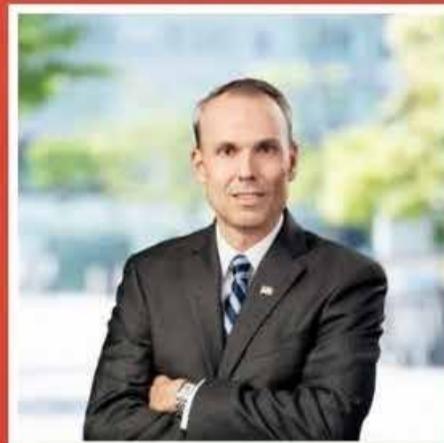
Richard Carrizales
US Congress 2



Brandell Adams
MI Senate 35



Martin Blank
MI Senate 35



Mark Totten
MI Attorney General

MIDLAND FALL FUNDRAISER WILL FEATURE SEVERAL DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES RUNNING IN KEY RACES ACROSS MICHIGAN.

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — The Midland County Democratic Party will hold its annual fall fundraiser Oct. 4, bringing local voters together for food, conversation and a chance to meet candidates preparing for Michigan’s 2026 election cycle.

The event, Fall Into Politics: Chili & Ratatouille Fundraiser, is scheduled from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Local 12075 Steelworkers Hall, 3510 James Savage Road. Tickets are \$25 per person, with

free admission for children 12 and under.

The program will feature several Democratic candidates running in key races across Michigan, including:

- **Benjamin Ambrose**, candidate for U.S. Congress in District 2
- **Richard Carrizales**, candidate for U.S. Congress in District 2
- **Rachel Howard**, U.S. Senate candidate
- **Dr. Pamela Pugh**, candidate for Michigan

Senate District 35

- **Brandell Adams**, candidate for Michigan Senate District 35
- **Martin Blank**, candidate for Michigan Senate District 35
- **Mark Totten**, seeking re-election as Michigan Attorney General

Organizers said proceeds from the fundraiser will help prepare the party for upcoming elections, including a possible special election in early 2026 and the November midterms.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available: Orange (\$1,000, includes four tickets), Red (\$500, includes two tickets), and Yellow (\$250, includes two tickets).

The fall fundraiser is one of the party’s largest annual events, drawing activists, volunteers and community members together as campaigns gear up for the next election cycle.

For more information, residents can contact the Midland County Democratic Party or visit their social media pages for updates.

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Ten candidates file for Michigan's 35th Senate District special election

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

SAGINAW, Mich. — Six Democrats and four Republicans have filed to run for Michigan's 35th Senate District seat, setting the stage for a crowded February primary to fill the vacancy left when Democrat Kristen McDonald Rivet was elected to Congress earlier this year.

The filing deadline for major party candidates closed Tuesday, Sept. 30, according to the Michigan Department of State. Minor party and independent candidates may still enter the race. Minor party nominees must be selected by their party conventions by Feb. 3, with paperwork due within 24 hours. Independent candidates have until Feb. 4 at 4 p.m. to file.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer called the special election in August to fill the remainder of the term, which runs through Dec. 31, 2026. The primary will take place Feb. 3, 2026, with the general election on May 5, 2026.

The outcome could have significant political implications. Democrats currently hold a narrow 19-18 majority in the Michigan Senate.

Democratic candidates



Brandell Adams: Chair of the Saginaw Democratic Party and a former Bridgeport Township trustee, Adams is campaigning on affordable college, free K-12 lunch programs and housing affordability.



Martin Blank: A Saginaw trauma surgeon and former police officer who previously ran as a Republican in 2022. Blank switched parties, citing opposition to the Trump administration.



Chedrick Greene: A Marine Corps veteran and captain with the Saginaw Fire Department, Greene announced his candidacy Sept. 24 and is focusing on lowering costs, creating jobs and improving education.



William Morrone: Bay City's chief medical examiner, Morrone specializes in addiction medicine

and has announced his candidacy, though details of his platform are limited.



Pamela Pugh: President of the Michigan State Board of Education, Pugh's campaign centers on public health, education, infrastructure and economic opportunity.



Serenity Hope Salak: A former substitute teacher from Saginaw who filed on Sept. 30. Her campaign platform has not yet been detailed.

Republican candidates



Jason Tunney: A Saginaw lawyer advocating for tax cuts, government transparency, parental involvement in schools and protections for small businesses.



Chadwick Twillman: A businessman and former truck driver, Twill-

man identifies as an independent running as a Republican. He has emphasized education, infrastructure and justice system reforms. He has also drawn attention for his support of former President Donald Trump during the Jan. 6 insurrection.



Christian Velasquez: A retired Dow manager and engineer, Velasquez previously ran in 2022. He supports rolling back property and income taxes, passing a balanced budget and investing in road repairs.



Andrew Carlos Wendt: A former Saginaw City Council Member filed Sept. 25. More details on his campaign are not yet available.

Independent consideration

Jimmy Greene, a longtime Saginaw business and political leader, confirmed to The Detroit News last week that he is considering an independent run. "I haven't ruled it out," Greene said in a text message.

With a crowded field and partisan balance at stake, the 35th District race is expected to be one of Michigan's most closely watched contests of 2026.

HEALTH

MyMichigan Medical Center Saginaw launches 'Wellness Wednesday' series in October

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — MyMichigan Medical Center Saginaw is introducing a new educational

program this fall designed to promote wellness and provide practical health insights for the community.

The Wellness Wednesday Lunch & Learn Series will debut

Oct. 8 at the Health Education Center on the medical center's campus at 800 S. Washington Ave. Sessions will run from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m., with doors opening at 11 a.m. Participants can

register for individual sessions at \$10 each or purchase all three for \$25.

Topics and speakers

The series begins Oct. 8 with "Navigating the Digital World," led by Scott D. Klein, resident agent in charge of the U.S. Secret Service Saginaw Resident Office. The session will cover the most common cyber-enabled crimes affecting Michigan, how to identify scams, and ways to respond. It will also feature refresher training on counterfeit currency and digital assets.

On Oct. 22, the program shifts to "Brain Power – Stroke Awareness." Neurologist Faith Fuentes, M.D., medical director of the stroke program at MyMichigan Health, will lead the discussion with support from Gordon Siu, stroke program coordinator, and Tracy Bruff, stroke nurse navigator. The team will provide education on stroke symptoms, risk factors, and emergency response steps.

The series concludes Oct. 29 with "Embracing the Gray: Healthy Aging and What You Need to Know." Saad Chaudhry, M.D., geriatrician and assistant professor of internal medicine, will address the physical changes of aging, signs of abnormal aging, and strategies to maintain independence and health later in life.

Registration details

Advance registration is required at mymichigan.org/saginawlunch. Those seeking more information or assistance may contact Michelle Birch at (989) 907-8300 or michelle.birch@mymichigan.org.

Lunch and Learn

Take Time for You

Lives are busy; filled with appointments, errands and family obligations. The Community Outreach Committee of MyMichigan Health Foundation's Development Council serving Alpena wants you to take some time for yourself.

We created this Lunch and Learn series just for you!



Wednesday, October 1 • Noon

Do You Know Your Non-Surgical Orthopedic Options? with **Shelby Crawford, M.D.**

Minor orthopedic injuries may only need time and rest to heal, while major complications may demand surgery or long-term rehab. But for many orthopedic problems, treatment lands somewhere in-between. To understand all your options, join us and meet Dr. Shelby Crawford, a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician. Dr. Crawford specializes in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of a variety of musculoskeletal and sports-related injuries and medical conditions. In addition to injury prevention, she provides non-surgical treatment to patients suffering from arthritis, strains, sprains, contusions, fractures, joint pain, and overuse-related injuries. At this session, Dr. Crawford will share with us the many non-surgical interventions available for orthopedic care.



Wednesday, October 8 • Noon

Pain and You: When is Medical Intervention Needed? with **Mina Salib, M.D.**

Did you know that untreated chronic pain can lead to a decline in memory and an increased risk of mortality? Join us as Dr. Mina Salib, part of MyMichigan Health's Spine & Pain Program, offers the latest treatment options available for addressing different types of pain. Dr. Salib will discuss his work and how modern medical interventions for pain incorporate a variety of modalities – such as physical therapy, minimally invasive procedures, and medications. Dr. Salib offers a balanced approach to pain treatment that focuses on restoring patients to the functions of their daily lives. During this session, we will learn about the importance of addressing and treating all types of pain.



Wednesday, October 15 • Noon

Treating Cancer in Northeast Michigan with **William Hitzelberger, D.O.**

Cancer rates and outcomes in rural areas are significantly impacted by access to healthcare, socioeconomic factors, and lifestyle choices. Join us as Dr. William Hitzelberger discusses his work as a long-time oncologist and hematologist serving our community. Topics will range from recent changes in cancer care and treatment, to current trends relevant to our specific area, as well as those that are of present note in Dr. Hitzelberger's practice. Learn about the many ways Dr. Hitzelberger and the staff at the Alpena Cancer Center work diligently not only to treat a cancer diagnosis but also to mitigate the many difficulties having cancer can present to our specific population.

The one-hour programs will be in the Medical Center's Auditorium. Pre-registration is required; space is limited. The program fee is \$10 per session or \$25 for the series, and includes lunch.



Those who would like more information or to register may go to mymichigan.org/taketimeforyou, call (989) 356-7351 or email molly.signs-schindler@mymichigan.org



HEALTH

Breast Cancer Awareness Month highlights importance of early detection

BY MB STAFF

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about the most common cancer among women worldwide and the critical role early detection plays in saving lives.

According to the American Cancer Society, one in eight women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime. When detected early—at a localized stage—the five-year survival rate is about 99 percent. Regular screenings, including mammograms, clinical breast exams and self-exams, remain the most effective tools for

catching breast cancer before it spreads.

Health experts encourage women to talk with their doctors about individual risk factors such as age, family history, and lifestyle. While breast cancer primarily affects women, men

can also be diagnosed, making awareness and education essential for everyone.

Throughout the month, organizations across Michigan and nationwide are hosting events, walks and screenings to promote prevention and support those af-

ected by breast cancer.

Medical professionals emphasize that awareness should extend beyond October. Staying proactive about breast health, they say, is one of the best ways to improve outcomes.



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YOU TO EXTRAORDINARY
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Find a primary care provider with Covenant Care Connect.

Let Covenant Care Connect help you make an appointment with a high-quality, patient-centric primary care provider who can treat the whole family. We can also help you navigate our health system. Get on the path to extraordinary care.

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EDUCATION

Delta College president to step down in January



DELTA COLLEGE PRESIDENT MICHAEL H. GAVIN WILL LEAVE IN JAN. 2026.

BY MB STAFF

UNIVERSITY CENTER, Mich. — Delta College President Dr. Michael Gavin will leave the institution in January 2026 to help launch a national coalition aimed at defending and reshaping higher education's role in American democracy.

The Delta College Board of Trustees announced Thursday, Sept. 25, that Gavin submitted his notice of departure. Gavin, who has led Delta since 2021, said his new role will focus on aligning higher education more closely with democratic ideals and helping shape the national conversation on the future of colleges and universities.

“Delta College has made great strides in achieving our strategic plan goals under Dr. Gavin's leadership and we thank him for his service to Delta and our communities,” Board Chair Stacey Gannon said in a statement. “He is an exceptional example of what a college president should be, and we are proud of the path he has chosen.”

In a message to faculty, staff and students, Gavin reflected on his four-year tenure, calling it “the honor of a lifetime to serve you, and to bring our college and community together.”

Gavin became the fifth president in Delta's history when he succeeded longtime leader Jean Goodnow in fall 2021. He came to Michigan with extensive ex-

perience in community colleges, including service as vice president of Learning at Anne Arundel Community College in Maryland and as a tenured English professor at Prince George's Community College.

During his time at Delta, Gavin has emphasized diversity, equity and inclusion, arguing that community colleges must play a leadership role in addressing inequities and ensuring access to higher education. His departure message stressed that those commitments will continue in his national work.

“As most of you know, my deep commitment to equity, sector and academic freedom are aligned with my sincere connection to the way I see our country's

promised ideals,” Gavin said. “Our country depends on a higher education sector that must be free from partisan interference, in order to democratize higher education for all.”

Founded in 1961, Delta College serves students across the Great Lakes Bay Region. Gavin's leadership marked a period of transition following Goodnow's decades-long tenure. He praised faculty and staff in his farewell, saying they make the college “an exceptional place to work” and expressing confidence in their continued innovation and dedication to students.

Gannon said trustees will begin planning for a leadership transition in the coming months.

Saginaw Public Schools adds student representatives to Board of Education



FROM LEFT: TIERRA PRINGLE (SAGINAW UNITED HIGH SCHOOL), IESHA LITTLE (SAGINAW UNITED HIGH SCHOOL), AND RIYA PATEL (SAGINAW ARTS & SCIENCES ACADEMY).

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — For the first time in its history, Saginaw Public Schools has placed students at the table with its Board of Education.

According to a press release from the district, two student representatives and two alternates joined the board during a Sept. 17 briefing session and took

part in their first official meeting on Sept. 24. Though they will not cast votes, the students are expected to provide perspective on issues that affect their peers and to strengthen communication between the board and the district's classrooms.

The inaugural student members are Tierra Pringle of Saginaw United High School and Diya Ramakrishnan of the Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy. Serving as

alternates are Iesha Little of Saginaw United and Riya Patel of SASA.

The move expands on an existing program of student ambassadors, who will continue to represent Saginaw United, SASA, and the Saginaw Career Complex in community and leadership roles.

Board of Education President Charles H. Coleman said the addition reflects the dis-

trict's broader commitment to student engagement and innovation. He described it as part of a "future-focused" approach to decision-making.

District leaders said incorporating student voices is aligned with their strategic plan and is intended to make Saginaw Public Schools more responsive to those directly impacted by board decisions.

Michigan College Month



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS

October is designated as Michigan College Month. That means in October, many colleges waive their application fees, a savings for students who want to apply for admission. It also means many colleges will have

open houses and other events to bring perspective students on campus. Many counselors will be urging their students to complete financial aid and college applications in the coming days.

October will be a month to encourage students to apply to college(s) of their choosing.

While college is not for everyone, it is certainly essential for most career pathways. Even those in the trades need training that is offered in community college classrooms. These classes lead to certificates and degrees that open doors for people of all ages. Scholarships are available

to many students, especially in community college where tuition is paid for by the state of Michigan in most instances.

Why not take advantage of Michigan College Month and consider furthering your education?

Resources:

<https://www.micollegeaccess.org/initiatives/college-bound-michigan/college-month>



FILE PHOTO



HELP ME FIND MY TEACHER!



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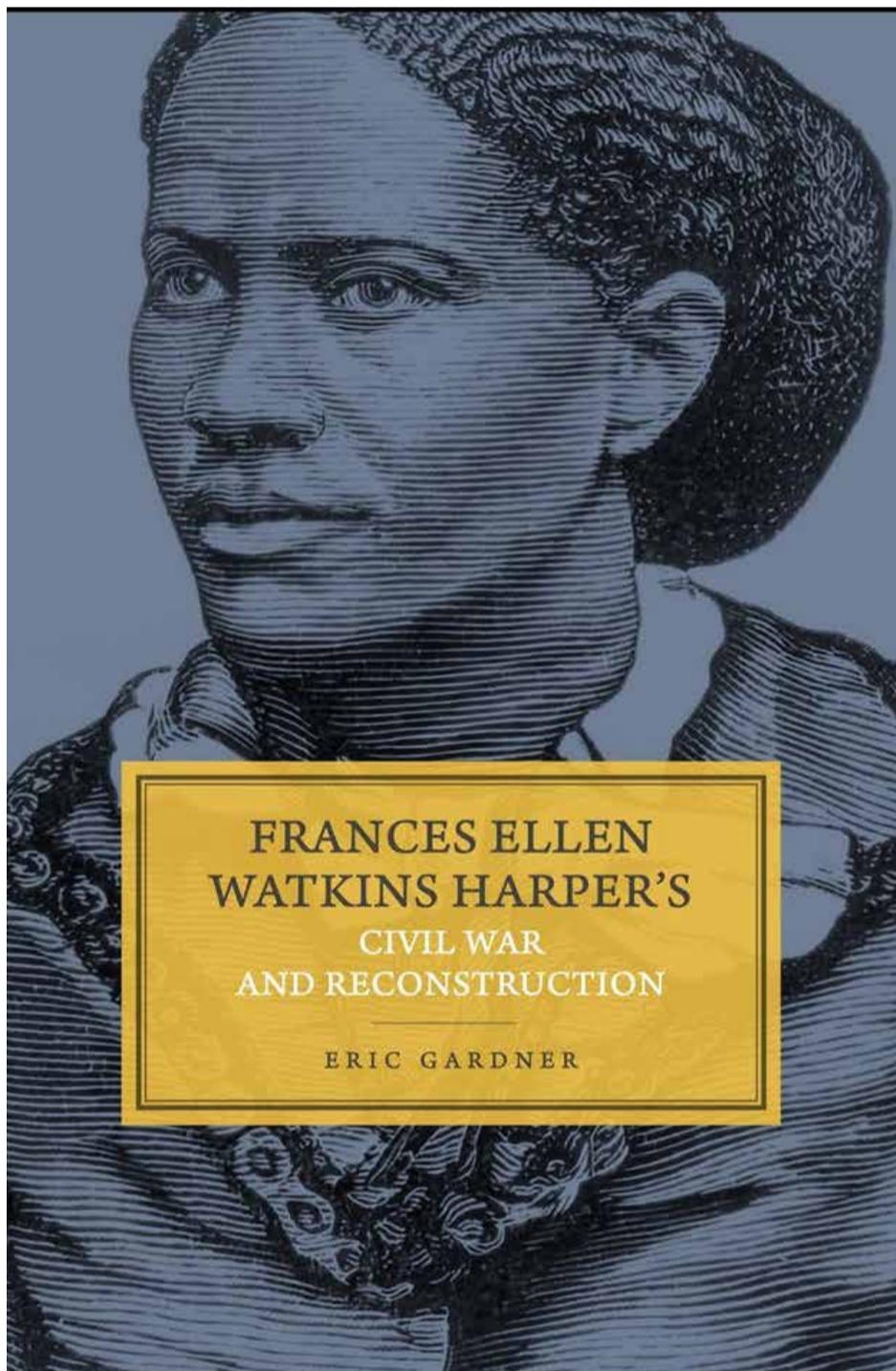
Saginaw ISD is **NOW HIRING** for all Early Childhood Education positions!

- competitive wages
- tuition reimbursement
- reduced childcare*
- full benefits packages
- continued professional development



**For those that qualify through Tri-Share*

New book by SVSU professor highlights leading 19th-century Black writer



THE COVER OF "FRANCES ELLEN WATKINS HARPER'S CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION," A NEW BOOK BY SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR ERIC GARDNER, PUBLISHED BY OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS.

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — After a decade of research, Saginaw Valley State University English professor Eric Gardner has released a new book examining the life and influence of Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, one of the most

prominent African American writers and activists of the 19th century.

"*Frances Ellen Watkins Harper's Civil War and Reconstruction*" was published this fall by Oxford University Press. The book draws on years of archival work, including previously unrecovered documents, to explore

Harper's writing and activism during a transformative period in American history.

Harper (1825–1911) was widely known in her time for her poetry, essays and novels, as well as her roles as an abolitionist, suffragist and advocate for racial and gender equality. Gardner's research focuses particularly on Harper's efforts during the Reconstruction era, when she pushed for a vision of America rooted in diversity, justice and shared community.

Gardner, professor and chair of SVSU's Department of English, said Harper's contributions have too often been overlooked despite her prominence. His work was supported in part by a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The book's release coincides with the 200th anniversary of Harper's birth on Sept. 24. To mark the occasion, Penn State's Center for Black Digital Research hosted a symposium featuring Gardner as a keynote speaker alongside scholars Martha S. Jones of Johns Hopkins University and Sherita Johnson of Penn State University.

Gardner has taught at SVSU since 1996 and is in his fourth term as department chair. His scholarship has twice earned fellowships from the National Endowment for the Hu-

manities, as well as SVSU's Roosevelt Ruffin Diversity Award and several national book prizes. He is also the author of "*Unexpected Places: Relocating Nineteenth-Century African American Literature*" (2009) and "*Black Print Unbound: The Christian Recorder, African American Literature and Periodical Culture*" (2015).

In 2024, Gardner was elected to the American Antiquarian Society, joining a membership that includes U.S. presidents, Pulitzer Prize winners and MacArthur Fellows. The Society cited his "field-changing scholarship in Black print culture" and will host a virtual book talk with him in November.



ERIC GARDNER, PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AT SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

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EDUCATION

Michigan school attendance improves for third straight year, though challenges remain



FILE PHOTO

LANSING, Mich. — Student attendance in Michigan schools improved for the third consecutive year, according to new data released Wednesday by the Michigan Department of Education.

The statewide attendance rate rose to 91.3% during the 2024-25 school year, up from 90.8% the year before and 88.8% in 2021-22. Over the same three-year period, chronic absenteeism fell by more than 10 percentage points, from 38.5% to 27.9%. Michigan defines chronic absenteeism as missing 10% or more school days in a year.

“We are pleased that the

statewide school attendance rate and the chronic absenteeism rate have improved significantly for the third year in a row,” State Superintendent Michael F. Rice said in a statement. “School staff, students, parents, grandparents, and community members have been working hard to improve school attendance. Students cannot learn if they are not in school.”

The decline from 2021-22 to 2022-23 was previously reported as the largest in the nation, though state officials noted that attendance has still not returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Gaps remain for disadvantaged students

The report showed progress across all student groups, but chronic absenteeism remains highest among economically disadvantaged students. Nearly 39% of those students were chronically absent in 2024-25, compared with 27.9% overall. That marked a slight improvement from the previous year, when the rate was 40.1%.

Rice said communities must continue to work together to remove barriers that keep children from attending class, including

transportation challenges, health issues, housing instability, and the need for older children to care for younger siblings.

Local and statewide strategies

Districts have used a variety of approaches to address absenteeism, including phone calls to parents, family conferences, mental health services, and home visits.

At the state level, the education department has provided additional support, such as:

- A Multi-Tiered System of Supports to coordinate education, health, and human services for students.
- An Early Warning Intervention and Monitoring System that helps schools identify and assist at-risk students before they drop out.
- Participation in Attendance Works, a national project that helps districts apply research-based strategies to reduce absenteeism.

Data available to public

The Center for Educational Performance and Information has posted statewide and local attendance data on MI School Data, the state’s official education portal.

Rice emphasized that while Michigan has made “very substantial progress,” work remains to return attendance to pre-2020 levels. “It’s important for communities to continue to collaborate to emphasize the importance of good attendance and assist children most in need of attendance support,” he said.

MI Tri-Share CHILD CARE



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CONTACT US NOW

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

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etaylor@sisd.cc



EMPLOYER REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

- Offer the MI Tri-Share program to one or more employees with dependent children between 0-12 years old.
- Agree to cover 33% of participating employees' child care costs.
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- Submit employer and employee payments via ACH.
- Communicate if an approved employee is no longer employed.
- Allow for flexibility as family situations and needs vary.

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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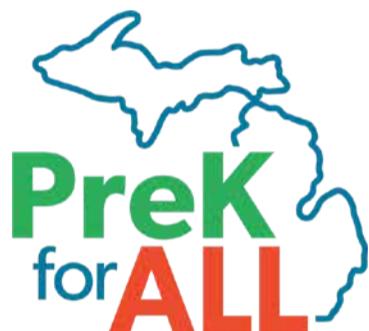
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Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start
Program Director

About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

Office Hours

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org

“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

Corning, Hemlock Semiconductor to host career information session in Saginaw

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

SAGINAW, Mich. — Corning and Hemlock Semiconductor will hold a community career information session next week to highlight job opportunities at Corning's new wafer facility and HSC's operations in Hemlock.

The event is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Delta College's Downtown Saginaw Center, 319 E. Genesee Ave. Organizers said the session is free and open to the public.

Attendees will learn about the companies' work, receive tips on how to apply and interview successfully, and have the chance to take part in an open question-and-answer session. On-site support will also be available to help participants start or complete applications.

Both Corning and HSC have emphasized the importance of recruiting local talent as they expand operations in the Great Lakes Bay Region. Company leaders have pointed to manufacturing growth in the semiconductor sector as a driver of new opportunities for skilled workers in mid-Michigan.

The session is designed to connect community members with resources to prepare for careers in advanced manufacturing while providing details about available positions in Hemlock.

For more information about careers with Corning and Hemlock Semiconductor, visit the companies' official websites.



CORNING

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Career Information Session

October 8, 2025 | 6–8 pm
Delta College Downtown Saginaw
319 E Genesee Ave
Saginaw, MI 48607

Learn more about careers at Corning's new wafer facility and HSC.

This session will cover:

- Who we are and what we do
- Tips on applying and interviewing successfully
- Open Q&A
- On-site support to help attendees apply

This is a community event open to the public.

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STARS PARTNERS WITH DELTA COLLEGE, SVSU TO EXPAND FREE BUS ACCESS FOR STUDENTS AND CORNING AND HEMLOCK SEMICONDUCTOR WILL HOLD A COMMUNITY CAREER INFORMATION SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, OCT. 8.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Flint & Genesee Group to honor business and community leaders at annual awards ceremony

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — The Flint & Genesee Group will recognize the contributions of local business leaders, community champions, and hospitality professionals during its annual awards ceremony this fall.

The event is set for Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025, at the FIM Capitol Theatre in downtown Flint. Each year, the ceremony highlights individuals and organizations that make a positive impact on the region's economy, culture, and quality of life.

Nominations for this year's awards are open through Friday, Oct. 3, at 11:59 p.m. According to the Flint & Genesee Group, self-nominations are welcome, and award recipients will be chosen based on the quality of submissions rather than the number of nominations received. Nominees must live or operate in Genesee County.



THE 2025 ART OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, NOV. 5, 2025, AT THE FIM CAPITOL THEATRE IN DOWNTOWN FLINT.

Award categories

Business Awards include:

- *Business Impact Award:* Recognizes a company with 50 or more employees making a significant impact in Flint & Genesee.
- *Claire M. White Award:* Honors a woman dedicated to the betterment of the community.
- *Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Champion:* Celebrates an organization leading in opportunity and inclusion.
- *Minority-Owned Business Award:* Highlights a minority-owned business making a

difference in the region.

- *Nonprofit Impact Award:* Recognizes a nonprofit, church, or charity serving the community.
- *Small Business Award:* Honors a company with fewer than 50 employees positively impacting the county.
- *Young Professional Leader Award:* Recognizes a professional 40 or younger advancing both their organization and the wider community.

]Hospitality Awards include:

- *Attraction of the Year:* For a venue or attraction delivering outstanding programming and

entertainment.

- *Bryant "BB" Nolden Community Champion:* Recognizes collaboration, advocacy, and engagement.
- *CTA of the Year:* Celebrates a Certified Tourism Ambassador who promotes Flint & Genesee and its attractions.
- *Frontline Ambassador of the Year:* Highlights exceptional customer service in areas such as food service, transportation, or business.
- *Hotel Ambassador of the Year:* For hospitality staff providing outstanding guest service.
- *Hotel of the Year:* Recognizes a hotel

excelling in comfort, service, and overall experience.

- *Restaurant of the Year:* Honors a restaurant with outstanding service, menu, and overall customer experience.

Community impact

Organizers say the awards serve as an opportunity to showcase the resilience, innovation, and dedication of individuals and organizations across Genesee County. Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses wishing to support the event.

For more information on nominations or sponsorships, contact the Flint & Genesee Group at flintandgenesee.org.

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BUSINESS + FINANCE



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BUSINESS + FINANCE

Michigan unemployment rates drop in August but remain higher than last year



FILE PHOTO

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

LANSING, Mich. — Unemployment fell across all 18 of Michigan's regional labor markets in August, according to new data from the Department of Technology, Management & Budget.

Jobless rates ranged from 4.3 to 6.9 percent for the month, with a median decline of 0.8 percentage points. The steepest decrease came in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn metro area, where unemployment fell by 1.4 points.

"While unemployment rates decreased typically through-

out all regions in August, they remained elevated throughout most areas over the year," said Wayne Rourke, labor market information director for the Michigan Center for Data and Analytics.

Regional picture

Over the year, 15 labor market areas saw unemployment rise, with Flint and Saginaw registering the largest gains at 0.6 percentage points each.

Employment climbed in 15 regions from July to August, led by Battle Creek, which added 1.2 percent. Only Detroit and North-

west Lower Michigan lost jobs during the month, while Northeast Lower Michigan remained unchanged.

Compared to August 2024, however, 16 regions reported employment declines, with the sharpest year-over-year drop in Traverse City at 2 percent. The Northeast Lower Michigan region and the Upper Peninsula were the only areas to show job growth over the year.

Payroll and workforce trends

Statewide, nonfarm payroll jobs rose by 10,000 in Au-

gust, buoyed by gains in government (+7,000) and professional and business services (+4,000). Twelve metro areas reported year-over-year payroll increases, with a statewide gain of 41,000 jobs, or 0.9 percent.

At the county level, all 83 counties posted monthly declines in jobless rates. Over the year, however, 50 counties reported higher unemployment. Oscoda County had the highest August unemployment rate at 9.6 percent, while Livingston County recorded the lowest at 3.1 percent.

Local numbers

- **Flint MSA:** 6.8 percent unemployment, down from 7.9 in July but up from 6.2 a year ago.
- **Saginaw MSA:** 6.9 percent unemployment, down from 7.7 in July but up from 6.3 a year ago.
- **Bay City MSA:** 6.2 percent unemployment, down from 7.0 in July and up from 5.8 a year ago.
- **Midland MSA:** 5.1 percent unemployment, down from 5.8 in July and up from 4.7 a year ago.

The report noted that all figures are not seasonally adjusted, meaning they may differ from previously released statewide data.

View the full report at https://milmi.org/_docs/publications/Press_Releases/local0825.pdf.

SPORTS

Great Lakes Loons' De Paula, George named to Midwest League All-Star Team



JOSUE DE PAULA

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — Two Great Lakes Loons outfielders have been named among the Midwest League's best. Josue De Paula and Kendall George were selected to the 2025 All-Star Team, earning recognition for standout seasons that combined power, speed and consistency.

De Paula, who turned 20 in May, ranked second in the league with 81 walks in 98 games. The Brooklyn native posted a .827 OPS with 12 home runs and 44 RBI for the Loons before earning a late-season promotion to Double-A Tulsa. His summer included MVP honors at the MLB All-Star Futures Game, where he hit a three-run home run to lead the National League to victory.

In his final week with Great Lakes, De Paula earned Midwest League Player of the Week honors after hitting two homers and three doubles while drawing seven walks.

George, also 20, emerged as one of the most dynamic players in Minor League Baseball, leading all of MiLB with 100 stolen bases. He became just the fifth player in the past two decades to reach the century mark and broke the Loons' single-season record of 73 set by Dee-Strange Gordon

in 2009. George set another franchise mark with six steals in a single game on May 18 against Lake County, becoming only the fourth player in league history to achieve the feat.

The Humble, Texas native hit .345 in the second half of the season while racking up 74 of his 100 stolen bases. Overall, he batted .295 with a .779 OPS across 111 games.

Both De Paula and George began the season on the Loons' Opening Day roster. The team, based at Dow Diamond in Midland, has been the High-A affiliate of the Los Angeles Dodgers since 2007.

For tickets and more information about the Loons, visit Loons.com or call 989-837-BALL.



KENDALL ADLI GEORGE

Ribbon cutting, first game set for Saginaw's new stadium

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Saginaw Public Schools will open the doors to its newly built Saginaw United High School Fieldhouse and Football Stadium with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, Oct. 3.

The celebration begins at 5:30 p.m. at 1903 N. Niagara Street with a short program, guided tours of the facility, and light refreshments. District officials said the event represents a major milestone in ongoing efforts to expand athletic opportunities, promote student wellness and strengthen ties between the schools and the community.

Immediately after the ceremony, Saginaw United will host Bay City Central in the first football game ever played at the new stadium. The kickoff doubles as the school's Homecoming game, scheduled for 7 p.m.

The new fieldhouse and stadium are part of the district's broader investment in facilities designed to enhance student athletics and provide a gathering place for families, alumni and community members.



RENDERING OF SAGINAW UNITED'S BRAND-NEW FIELD HOUSE AND FOOTBALL STADIUM. (COURTESY OF SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT)



SEASON SCHEDULE

2025-26 SAGINAW SPIRIT

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

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

TEAM ABBREVIATIONS

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| BARRIE COLTS - BAR | KITCHENER RANGERS - KIT | PETERBOROUGH PETES - PBO |
| BRAMPTON STEELHEADS - BRAM | LONDON KNIGHTS - LDN | SARNIA STING - SAR |
| BRANTFORD BULLDOGS - BFD | NIAGARA ICEDOGS - NIAG | SOO GREYHOUNDS - SOO |
| ERIE OTTERS - ER | NORTH BAY BATTALION - NB | SUDBURY WOLVES - SBY |
| FLINT FIREBIRDS - FLNT | OSHAWA GENERALS - OSH | WINDSOR SPITFIRES - WSR |
| GUELPH STORM - GUE | OTTAWA 67'S - OTT | |
| KINGSTON FRONTENACS - KGN | OWEN SOUND ATTACK - OS | |

HOME **AWAY**

SPORTS

Saginaw Soul delays debut season



FROM LEFT: DAVID MAGLEY, PRESIDENT OF THE BASKETBALL SUPER LEAGUE; KELLY GARETY, TEAM MARKET OWNER OF THE SAGINAW SOUL; AND JOE GARETY, PRESIDENT, DURING AN APRIL 10 PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF THE SAGINAW SOUL.

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Saginaw Soul, the city's new professional basketball team, has announced it will delay its inaugural season until next year, citing structural and operational challenges within the Basketball Super League.

The decision, shared on the team's Facebook page Sept. 21, emphasized that while the move was disappointing, the organization believes it is in the best interest of players, staff, and the community to wait until a stronger foundation is in place.

"We get one opportunity to introduce the Soul," team owner

Kelly Garety said in the statement. "We are dedicated to doing it the right way: with the professionalism, excitement, and stability that Saginaw deserves."

The team noted that other franchises in the league have also chosen to pause ahead of the 2025–26 season. By postponing early, officials said they aimed to give players advance notice and remain committed to keeping their talent in the league if possible.

In August, the Soul announced plans to play home games at the former Buena Vista High School gym, transforming the decades-old facility into a professional basketball venue.

The team had initially considered the Dow Event Center downtown, but costs associated with converting the hockey arena and operating expenses were deemed too high.

"This building has amazing bones," Garety said at the time of the Buena Vista announcement. "There's so much opportunity here."

Despite the setback, Soul leadership stressed that the project is not over. The organization continues to build partnerships and prepare facilities, with plans to bring professional basketball back to the community when conditions stabilize.

"This setback breaks our

hearts," the team said in its announcement. "But every hardship presents an opportunity for growth, and we will continue building the infrastructure, partnerships, and experience that will make the Soul's first season unforgettable."

The Basketball Super League typically runs its season through March. While Saginaw fans will have to wait at least another year to see the Soul take the court, organizers said their mission remains unchanged: to bring pride, opportunity, and transformation through basketball to the Great Lakes Bay Region.

FAITH IN FOCUS



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

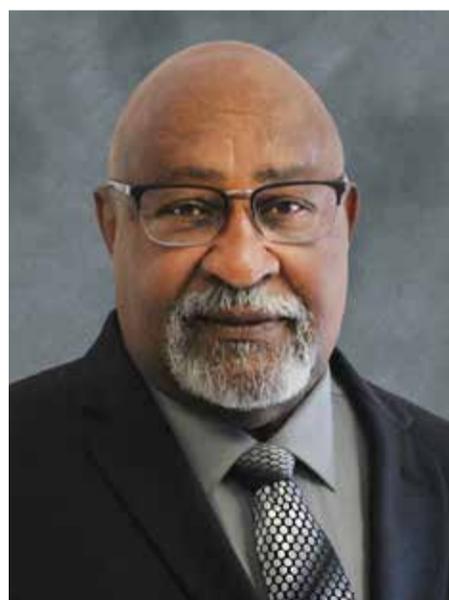
Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

BY PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

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

The organization's vision includes several key objectives:



PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

between the church, volunteers, and community professionals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPONSORED CONTENT

FAITH IN FOCUS

Grand Blanc church shooting highlights need for safety planning in spaces of worship

BY MB STAFF

GRAND BLANC TWP., Mich. — The deadly mass shooting and arson attack at a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints meetinghouse in Genesee County has renewed attention on security at places of worship and raised questions about how congregations can prepare for and prevent violence.

On Sept. 28, police say 40-year-old Thomas Jacob Sanford rammed his pickup truck into the Grand Blanc Stake Center before opening fire on the congregation. The attack killed four church members, injured eight more, and set off a fire that destroyed much of the building. Sanford was killed by police within eight minutes of the first 911 call. Federal authorities are investigating the case as an act of targeted violence.

The tragedy highlights the vulnerabilities that many religious institutions face. Churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples are designed to be open and welcoming. That openness, experts say, can also leave them exposed when attackers exploit it.

Preparing for the unthinkable

Security professionals and law enforcement officials often stress that no single measure can eliminate risk. Instead, they recommend a layered approach:

- **Develop an emergency action plan:** Every house of worship should have a written plan that details evacuation routes, shelter-in-place options, and communication procedures in case of an

attack or fire.

- **Train staff and volunteers:** Leaders, ushers, and volunteers should receive training in spotting suspicious behavior, managing crowds in emergencies, and working with first responders.
- **Conduct active-shooter drills:** While difficult, practicing scenarios can help congregations respond quickly under pressure. Local police departments often provide training tailored for faith-based organizations.
- **Establish safety teams:** Many churches have formed volunteer security teams or contracted with off-duty officers to monitor entrances and parking lots. These teams are most effective when

paired with clear policies and training.

- **Limit entry points:** Controlling access during services — for example, locking secondary doors once worship begins — can help staff identify potential threats more easily.
- **Strengthen community ties:** Congregations are encouraged to build relationships with nearby schools, businesses, and local law enforcement so they can share information and resources.

Balancing safety with mission

Religious leaders often emphasize the need to balance vigilance with openness. Security experts caution against creating an atmosphere of fear, urging

churches instead to frame safety planning as a way of protecting the mission of hospitality, service, and worship.

A call for awareness

The attack in Grand Blanc followed other recent acts of violence targeting public institutions, adding urgency to calls for preparedness. Authorities say Sanford harbored long-standing animosity toward the LDS Church, underscoring how personal grievances can escalate into violence.

In the days since the shooting, faith leaders across Michigan have expressed grief, solidarity, and determination to safeguard their communities. Many say the incident should serve as a reminder that preparedness — from training to partnerships — is now a critical part of church leadership.



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SERMONETTE SERIES

The Power of a Renewed Mind

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Philippians 4:8, NIV



BY MINISTER CAROLYN
CARTER TOWNSEL

The battlefield of life is often fought in the mind. Before defeat shows up in our actions, it begins in our thoughts. Paul knew this when he wrote to the church at Philippi. In a world where fear, corruption, and division were common, he gave them a powerful key to living in peace: control what you allow into your mind.

This verse is not just about positive thinking—it's about kingdom thinking. Paul is calling us to align our thoughts with God's truth. When he says to dwell on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy, he's giving us a filter. That filter helps us separate the lies of the enemy from the promises of God.

Whatever is true – Let your heart rest in the promises of God, not the deceptions of fear.

Whatever is noble – Hold your thoughts to a standard of honor and dignity.

Whatever is right – Allow justice and righteousness to guide your perspective.

Whatever is pure – Keep your heart clean from bitterness, jealousy, and negativity.

Whatever is lovely – Notice the beauty God has placed in your life, even in small details.

Whatever is admirable – Value the good examples and testimonies of faith around you.

If anything is excellent or praiseworthy – Let your focus be filled with gratitude and worship.

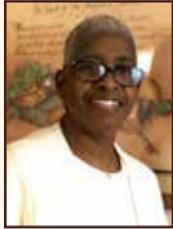
The truth is, what we feed our minds will shape our emotions, and what shapes our emotions will direct our actions. A worried mind produces anxious living. A renewed mind produces peaceful living. That's why the verse before this says, "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7).

When we discipline our minds to meditate on God's goodness, His peace becomes a guard over us. Worry loses its grip, fear loses its voice, and doubt loses its power.

Blessings To All,
Carolyn



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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Is management a bad word?

BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

In the world of fundraising, whatever “glory” can be obtained usually comes in the form of titles. There is a hierarchy implied within titles such as senior vice president, vice president, director, coordinator, or associate. There’s nothing the matter with titles, but sometimes they can keep us from seeing each other as equals. And sometimes those in executive leadership can feel the work of “managing” is below their rank.

We believe that fundraising is a team process with a shared outcome led by a person who takes responsibility for managing the fundraising process and sharing information that leads to collective success. This makes an executive or a director more of a coach than the person at the top of a pyramid. As a coach, you play the critical role of ensuring those on your team have the resources they need to fulfill their roles and responsibilities. It means you have a game plan, more frequently referred to as a fundraising plan. The plan has to be more than a spreadsheet with high-level financial milestones. You’ll need to know how much your organization anticipates raising through events, online giving, board giving and solicitation, individual major gifts, sponsorships, corporate gifts and grants, foundation grants, direct mail, and/or government grants.



FILE PHOTO

You will want to know who exactly the prospects are within each revenue category, and what you anticipate receiving and when. Finally, because not everyone who supports your organization or institution will give at the level you anticipate, we strongly recommend working with a pool of prospects for each giving category that is three times your goal.

It is a lot of work to create such a plan, but it pays off if you use it. As the coach, you are working with team members to ensure they know who they are engaging and towards what end. You are reviewing progress reports and adjusting the plan as needed. Most importantly, you are a manager of people – your staff and ideally the volunteers who are engaged in fundraising. Yes, you have your own portfolio

of donors to strategically engage and solicit, but that is not your sole responsibility. As the leader of the fundraising team, you are a manager. If you feel that this is below your pay grade or that it is not making the best use of your time, you may be in the wrong position. You may be a major gifts officer or a special gifts officer, but not the right executive or director of a fundraising team. That person is a member of the

team.

So, here we are, back to titles and the word “manager.” The person who manages the fundraising process is not a lower-level person. This individual is experienced with multiple fundraising methods and can support their team. It is an honor to manage a process and a team – it is not a demotion. Let’s play ball! God protect America and the world we live within.



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



PIC OF THE WEEK

The Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce recognized exceptional leadership and community contributions during its annual awards luncheon on Friday, Sept. 26.

The 2025 Community Leadership Awards highlighted individuals and organizations whose vision, dedication and service continue to strengthen Saginaw County. This year's honorees include:

- Dr. Samuel H. Shaheen Vision of Free Enterprise Award – Paul Furlo, Morley
- Outstanding Small Business Award – Mark and Melissa Wahl, Cobblestone Home Builders
- Community Impact Award – Dan Streeter, Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan
- Spirit of Saginaw Award – Dr. Waheed Akbar, MyMichigan Health
- Veronica L. Horn Lifetime Community Service Award – JoAnn Crary, Saginaw Future Inc. (retired)



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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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