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PICS OF THE WEEK
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2026 Gospel Fest

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Saginaw African Cultural Festival celebrates 58 years of art, heritage and community

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — The sounds of drums, the movement of African dance and the aromas of traditional foods will fill Saginaw as one of the city’s longest-running cultural celebrations returns Aug. 14-16.

The 58th annual Saginaw African Cultural Festival will transform the former Morley School grounds on Lapeer Avenue into a lively gathering place for music, art, education, food and community connection.

The free, family-friendly festival will run from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day, bringing together residents, visitors, artists and vendors for a celebration of African culture and the African Diaspora.

Throughout the weekend, the festival grounds will come alive with live music, dance, poetry, storytelling and visual art. Children and fam-

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African Festival



Detroit Lions help Flint library turn summer reading into a game-day celebration

YOUTH BANNER, COVER



Saginaw Township ICE detentions spark questions, protests

LATINO BANNER, COVER



Carolyn Laguerre-Brown discusses equity, education and community engagement

COMMUNITY, PG 14



Three Rivers Corporation celebrates 50 years

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FEATURED STORY

More than 1 million Michigan voters cast ballots before high-stakes primary



POLITICS, PG 23

From cover, African Festival

ilies can also participate in games, creative activities and educational programs designed to make culture something they can experience, not simply observe.

More than 100 vendors are expected to offer food, clothing, jewelry, artwork, beauty products, crafts and other goods. The festival marketplace provides a colorful showcase for local businesses, artists and entrepreneurs while allowing visitors to explore African and African American culture through fashion, flavor and creative expression.

The celebration begins with an opening ceremony at 3:30 p.m. Friday on the main stage. The ceremony will welcome the community and officially open the three-day festival.

Saturday's activities will include a Saginaw STEM program at noon in the children's tent, adding hands-on learning to a weekend centered on culture and creativity.

A community church service will begin at noon Sunday on the main stage, bringing faith, music and fellowship together as the festival enters its final day.

Additional performances and activities will be presented throughout the weekend.

The festival began in 1969 as the Inner-City Arts Exhibit, created to celebrate Black artists and strengthen cultural awareness in Saginaw. It later grew into the Black Arts Festival before becoming the Saginaw African Cultural Festival in 1989.

For nearly six decades, generations of volunteers, artists and community leaders have kept the celebration alive. Organizers identify it as the nation's oldest continuously operating Black arts festival.

Today, the event remains a place where elders share traditions, children discover their heritage and neighbors gather in celebration.

Volunteer, vendor and donation information is available through the festival's website and Facebook page.



**THIS DAY IN
MICHIGAN
HISTORY**

AUGUST 1, 1928

The Detroit Zoo officially opened on August 1, 1928, as the first American zoo to feature barless, naturalistic habitats. Located in Royal Oak and Huntington Woods, Michigan, it welcomed a record crowd of 150,000 visitors on its opening day.




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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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MB

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 8 • NUMBER 14



Detroit Lions help Flint library turn summer reading into a game-day celebration

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — Reading can be quiet.

But at the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library, it also came with outdoor games, free books and a visit from the Detroit Lions.

The library hosted Games on the Lawn with the Detroit Lions from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuesday, July 21, in the Story-time Garden at the main library, 1026 E. Kearsley St. The event was part of the library’s 2026 Summer Reading Challenge and its partnership with the Detroit Lions Summer Reading Program.

The statewide Lions program is designed to encourage youth reading by connecting literacy with the excitement of Detroit Lions football. The Flint library’s celebration included representatives from the Lions, outdoor activities, free books and opportunities for families to register for



GLORIA COLES FLINT PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTED DETROIT LIONS REPRESENTATIVES JULY 21 AS PART OF ITS 2026 SUMMER READING CHALLENGE.

the reading challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge runs through Aug. 1 and is open to both children and adults. Participants are encouraged to track their reading throughout the summer for chances to win prizes, including books, Beats by Dre headphones, bicycles,

tablets, Kindle devices, back-to-school shopping sprees and a special Detroit Lions experience.

Youth participants will be entered into a drawing for the Detroit Lions surprise, with recipients selected by library staff.

“This partnership represents the heart of what we believe in

at the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library,” said Desmond London Sr., executive director. “When we combine the excitement of an organization like the Detroit Lions with the power of literacy, we create meaningful opportunities for our community.”

The July 21 event was open to a wide age range, including babies and toddlers, children, tweens, teens, adults and families.

The Gloria Coles Flint Public Library encouraged residents to register online, track their reading and take part in library programs through the end of the challenge.

The Lions may have helped bring extra excitement, but the real win is what happens after the event: one more child picking up a book, one more family signing up for a library program and one more student walking into the school year with a little more confidence.



GLORIA COLES FLINT PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTED DETROIT LIONS REPRESENTATIVES JULY 21 AS PART OF ITS 2026 SUMMER READING CHALLENGE.

Saginaw Public Schools summer enrichment program wraps up



SAGINAW BAY 4-H FISH CAMP WAS HELD JULY 7-8 AT BAY CITY STATE PARK, WHERE YOUTH AGES 8 TO 13 LEARNED FISHING SKILLS, TACKLE CRAFTING, CASTING AND GREAT LAKES STEWARDSHIP.

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Summer learning does not have to feel like sitting still.

For Saginaw middle school students, it can mean exploring Mandarin Chinese, working through STEAM activities, strengthening reading and math skills, asking questions in science and staying connected to school before fall arrives.

Saginaw Public School District's 2026 Middle School Enrichment Program ran June 22 through July 30, giving students a structured summer opportunity to keep learning, exploring and growing. The program met Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Saginaw Professional Development Center, 1925 S. Outer Drive.

The district said the program was designed for current fifth-graders rising to sixth grade,

current sixth-graders rising to seventh grade, current seventh-graders rising to eighth grade and rising ninth-grade students.

Students participated in enrichment experiences focused on Mandarin Chinese, STEAM, science, math and reading. The goal was to help students build skills, explore new interests and remain connected to learning in a supportive environment.

That mix matters for students moving into middle school and high school. The transition years can be exciting, but they can also be stressful. Students are learning new routines, managing more classes, meeting new teachers and taking on more responsibility.

Summer programs can make that next step feel less overwhelming.

SPSD also posted information for a Mandatory Middle School Summer Enrichment Program serving identified rising

seventh- and eighth-grade students. That program, also taking place June 22 through July 30 at the Professional Development Center, included transportation, meals, materials, academic support and structured enrichment opportunities.

For families, the support services are important. The district said transportation, breakfast and lunch were provided for participating students in the enrichment program.

Removing barriers like meals and transportation can help more students take part. It also helps families who want their children to stay engaged during summer but may be balancing work schedules, child care, transportation and other responsibilities.

The program's academic focus came at an important time. Across the country, schools are still helping students rebuild confidence after years of disrupted learning, changing routines and

increased academic demands following the COVID-19 pandemic.

But summer enrichment is not only about catching up. It is also about discovery.

A student who tries Mandarin may become curious about language and culture. A student who enjoys STEAM may begin thinking about engineering, technology or design. A student who builds confidence in reading may start the school year more willing to speak up, ask questions and keep going when classwork gets hard.

Saginaw Public Schools said it looked forward to welcoming students for a summer of discovery, creativity, exploration and growth.

As the program wrapped up July 30, the message for students was simple: learning does not stop when the school year ends. Sometimes, summer is where confidence begins.

Flint youth workers to be honored after summer jobs program

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — A summer job can teach a young person more than how to earn a paycheck.

It can teach them how to show up on time, talk to a supervisor, solve problems, work with a team and begin imagining a future career. In Flint, city leaders are preparing to celebrate the young people who spent part of their summer doing exactly that.

The City of Flint Summer Celebration is scheduled for 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19, on the back lawn of Flint City Hall. The free, family-friendly event will recognize participants in the City of Flint Summer Youth Employment Program, the employers who supported them, Flint ReCAST partners and community organizations serving youth, families and neighborhoods.

The city announced the celebration July 24, describing it as an afternoon of recognition, entertainment and connection as students prepare to return to school. The event will include music, food, family activities, giveaways, resource booths and live entertainment.

For young workers, the celebration is about more than closing out summer. It is a chance to recognize the effort behind first jobs and early work experiences.

Throughout the summer, the city said hundreds of young people gained workplace experience, developed leadership skills and explored future career opportunities through the Summer Youth Employment Program. At the same time, Flint ReCAST partners and other community organizations continued working in youth development, behavioral health, violence prevention and neighborhood wellness.

That kind of support mat-



FLINT WILL HOST A SUMMER CELEBRATION ON AUG. 19 TO HONOR SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS, EMPLOYERS, FLINT RECAST PARTNERS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS SERVING YOUTH AND FAMILIES.

ters because many students need more than a job listing. They need adults willing to coach them, employers willing to teach them and community programs that help them understand what professionalism looks like before they are expected to master it.

Mayor Sheldon A. Neeley said the celebration is meant to honor both the young people and the partners helping them succeed.

“Our young people are Flint’s future, and our community partners play an essential role in helping them succeed,” Neeley said in the city announcement. “The City of Flint Summer Celebration is an opportunity to rec-

ognize their hard work, celebrate the partnerships that make our community stronger and connect families with the resources they need to continue thriving.”

For students, summer employment can be a bridge between school and adulthood. It gives them a place to practice responsibility, ask questions, learn customer service, understand workplace expectations and see how their choices connect to future opportunities.

It can also help students discover what they do not want to do. That matters, too. Every work experience gives young people more information about their

strengths, interests and goals.

The Aug. 19 celebration will also give families a chance to learn more about city programs and community services. The city said additional participating organizations and event activities will be announced in the coming weeks.

For Flint’s young workers, the end of summer will come with applause, encouragement and a reminder that their effort matters.

A first job may only last a few weeks. But the confidence it builds can last much longer.

Midland Center for the Arts opens school field trip bookings for student matinees and workshops

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — Some lessons become clearer when they can see them, touch them, hear them or experience them outside the classroom.

Midland Center for the Arts is inviting teachers and home educators to book 2026-27 school experiences that connect students to live performance, science, art, history, music, culture and hands-on discovery.

Bookings opened Friday, July 31, for the Center's 2026-27 school programs. The opportunities include museum field trips, student matinee performances and classroom workshops for students from preschool through 12th grade.

The Center's school and teacher resources page says students can experience live performances through the Student Matinee Series, with museum field trips beginning in January 2027. Hands-on workshops are also available to extend learning beyond the classroom.

"At the Center, we believe creativity is a vital part of every student's learning journey," said Jennifer Kanyo, senior director of museums and education. "We are so excited to welcome students into our new museum and give them the chance to be among the first to experience it."

The newly reimagined museum will give students opportunities to explore interactive exhibits focused on creativity, materials, innovation and problem-solving. Museum field trips are designed to connect to social studies, science, art and theater for a wide range of grade levels.

The 2026-27 Student Matinee

Series includes live performances designed to connect to classroom topics such as language arts, STEM, music, dance, world culture, communication and social studies.

The matinee lineup includes "Clifford the Big Red Dog: The Musical" on Nov. 10, recommended for pre-K through kindergarten; "Kate the Chemist" on Nov. 12, recommended for kindergarten through fourth grade; Cirque Kalabanté on Feb. 12, 2027, recommended for grades four through 12; and "Ada Twist, Scientist & Friends" on March 15, 2027, recommended for kindergarten through fourth grade.

The workshops are designed to reinforce classroom concepts through hands-on learning and exploration. Educators can add museum workshops, traveling classroom workshops and limited in-classroom opportunities paired with select student matinees.

Cost is also part of the planning. Museum visits and student matinee experiences are \$6 per person for students and adults. Field trip scholarships are available to cover up to 50% of student matinee tickets or museum admission, and bus grants are available to help qualifying schools with transportation costs.

The Center is encouraging educators to book early, especially for programs scheduled between January and May, which are peak months for school experiences. Requests must be submitted at least four weeks before the program date.



MIDLAND
CENTER
FOR THE
ARTS



Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

Saginaw Township ICE detentions spark questions, protests

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW TWP., Mich. — A July 25 immigration enforcement interaction at a fiber-optic worksite in Saginaw Township has raised questions across the region after federal officials confirmed that nine people were detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The incident happened on Summit Drive, just south of Weiss Road near North Center Road, where witnesses said workers had been installing fiber-optic lines. DHS later confirmed the detentions in a statement sent to 989 Breaking News.

Federal officials said the nine people will receive due process. DHS also encouraged undocumented immigrants to use the CBP Home App to register to leave the country voluntarily.

The names of the people detained have not been released. Their countries of origin and current location also have not been publicly confirmed. The Midland Daily News reported that it is unknown whether any of the detained individuals were taken to the North Lake Processing Center in Baldwin, which reopened in 2025 and is the largest immigration detention facility in the Midwest.

The detentions quickly drew a local response. The Saginaw Liberation Collective announced anti-ICE protests from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. daily through Friday, July 31, at the corner of North Michigan Avenue and Court Street in Saginaw.



FEDERAL OFFICIALS CONFIRMED THAT NINE PEOPLE WERE DETAINED BY ICE AFTER A JULY 25 ENFORCEMENT ACTION AT A SAGINAW TOWNSHIP FIBER-OPTIC WORKSITE. LOCAL PROTESTS FOLLOWED AS RESIDENTS AND ADVOCATES RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT DUE PROCESS AND IMMIGRANT RIGHTS.

State Sen. Chedrick Greene, D-Saginaw, said his office had received limited information about the detentions but would continue seeking details and monitoring developments. Greene said everyone, regardless of immigration status, has constitutional rights, including due process, protection against discrimination and protection from unrea-

sonable search and seizure.

Greene also noted that his state-level office does not have legal authority over federal law enforcement operations, but said he remains committed to working with leaders at different levels of government to protect families in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

The July 25 detentions remain an unfolding local story.

Community members are waiting to learn who was detained, where they are being held and what legal steps will follow.

Until more information is released, the incident leaves Saginaw-area residents with urgent questions about transparency, rights and the human impact of immigration enforcement close to home.

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Great Lakes Loons close July with Los Pepinillos Picantes night



THE GREAT LAKES LOONS HOSTED THEIR FINAL 2026 COPA DE LA DIVERSIÓN NIGHT JULY 31 AT DOW DIAMOND, TAKING THE FIELD AS LOS PEPINILLOS PICANTES DEL NORTE TO HONOR HISPANIC MIGRANT FARMERS AND THE REGION'S AGRICULTURAL HISTORY. (PHOTO | FB/GREAT LAKES LOONS)

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — The Great Lakes Loons closed July with more than a baseball game at Dow Diamond.

On Friday, July 31, the team brought back Los Pepinillos Picantes del Norte, its Copa de la Diversión identity honoring the Hispanic migrant farmers whose labor helped shape agriculture in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

The July 31 game was the final scheduled Copa de la Diversión

night of the Loons' 2026 season. The team's promotional schedule listed three Los Pepinillos Picantes del Norte nights at Dow Diamond: May 22, June 19 and July 31, with special uniforms, food and other ballpark elements connected to the theme.

Minor League Baseball's Copa de la Diversión, or "Fun Cup," is a season-long initiative that gives teams across the country alternate identities rooted in Hispanic and Latino culture. The Loons' identity translates to "The Spicy Pickles of the North," a

name tied directly to the region's agricultural history.

The team says Los Pepinillos Picantes del Norte pays tribute to Hispanic migrant farmers and their role in cultivating one of the region's signature crops — the pickle. The phrase "del Norte" also reflects language used by many Latinos when referring to the return to Michigan, while the logo's bright colors are meant to reflect the community's spirit and next generation.

The cultural celebration took place during a six-game home se-

ries against the Fort Wayne TinCaps. On the field, the Loons fell 5-2 on July 31, dropping to 55-42. Fort Wayne had a 12-2 advantage in hits, while Great Lakes outfielder Jaron Elkins went 2-for-4 and recorded the Loons' only two hits.

The score, however, was only one part of the night. Copa games are designed to turn the ballpark into a space where sports, food, music, language and local history meet.

Spanish-language workshop aims to help Hispanic food businesses save money

BY MB STAFF

HOLLAND, Mich. — For more DETROIT — A free Spanish-language business workshop planned for August will help Hispanic food and beverage entrepreneurs think about sustainability in practical terms: saving money, reducing waste and making smarter daily decisions.

The Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Adelante Michigan are promoting “Construyendo Operaciones Sostenibles en la Industria de Alimentos y Bebidas,” an interactive workshop designed especially for

Hispanic-owned restaurants and food and beverage businesses. The session is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10, at Casa Guadalupana, 4330 Central St. in Detroit.

The workshop is free, and lunch will be provided to participants. The session will be led by Berenice El Gharamti, co-founder of Monarca Group, and Maria Marin, president and CEO of Unlimited Recycling Inc. and a member of the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce executive board.

Topics include practical sustainability strategies, saving money through better opera-

tions, reducing waste, composting, recycling, hazardous materials, green cleaning, PFAS in food-contact materials and reusable or compostable packaging.

The program comes through Adelante Michigan, a free Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce initiative focused on helping Hispanic-owned micro-businesses. The chamber describes Adelante Michigan as a program that provides technical assistance and essential resources in Spanish or English to existing and early-stage businesses.

Small food businesses often operate on tight margins. Food waste, packaging costs, hauling

fees, cleaning supplies and energy use can quietly cut into profit. A workshop focused on sustainability can help owners look at those costs in a new way.

Spanish-language support is especially important. Many entrepreneurs have strong business ideas and deep industry experience but do not always receive technical information in the language they use most comfortably. Workshops like this can help close that gap.

Questions about the workshop may be directed to Andrea Puebla at apuebla@mhcc.org, according to the event promotion.

MSU's Julian Samora Research Institute welcomes new director focused on Latino communities in the Midwest

BY MB STAFF

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Michigan State University's leading Latino research institute is entering a new chapter under a scholar whose work has focused on migration, Latino communities and the Midwest.

Cristián Doña-Reveco, Ph.D., begins Aug. 1 as director of MSU's Julian Samora Research Institute, known as JSRI, and will also join the university's Department of Sociology. MSU announced the appointment following a national search.

JSRI is housed within MSU University Outreach and Engagement and is described by the university as a premier Latino research institute in the Midwest. Its work focuses on service delivery systems, health disparities, entrepreneurship, human capital, leadership development and education, especially among Latinos.

Doña-Reveco comes to the role



CRISTIÁN DOÑA-REVECO

with extensive experience in research and community-engaged scholarship. Before returning to MSU, he served as director of the Office of Latino/Latin American Studies and associate professor of sociology at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

His research centers on international migration in the Americas, Latino communities in the U.S. Midwest, immigrant perceptions and the impact of crises on Latino communities. MSU also noted his experience leading community-engaged research

projects and initiatives with Latino communities.

Kwesi Brookins, vice provost for University Outreach and Engagement, said Doña-Reveco brings scholarly expertise and the ability to connect research with communities, which Brookins described as essential to JSRI's work.

The appointment is also a return to MSU. Doña-Reveco is a two-time graduate of the university, holding a doctorate in sociology and history and a master's degree in sociology. He also earned a master's degree from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and a bachelor's degree from Universidad de Chile.

“Returning to Michigan State University is especially meaningful to me,” Doña-Reveco said in MSU's announcement. “I look forward to reconnecting with a community that shaped my academic path and to guiding JSRI's continued growth in the years ahead.”

The leadership change matters beyond campus. Research institutes like JSRI can help communities, policymakers, educators, nonprofits and business leaders better understand Latino experiences through data, public scholarship and partnerships.

Latino communities in Michigan are not limited to one city or one story. Families are connected to agriculture, manufacturing, higher education, small business, faith communities, immigration history, public service and youth leadership. Strong research can help document those stories while also identifying gaps in health, education, economic opportunity and civic representation.

As director, Doña-Reveco will provide strategic leadership for JSRI's research, outreach and partnership efforts. MSU said his role will help advance the institute's mission to produce knowledge that informs policy and strengthens Latino communities.



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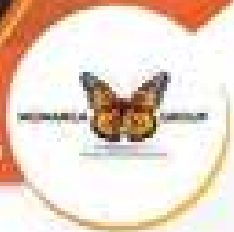


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Información de contacto: Andrea Puebla, apuebla@mhcc.org

COMMUNITY

Great Mural Project brings new community murals to Saginaw

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — The Great Mural Project is expanding Saginaw's public art collection in 2026 with an interactive community mural and four artist-designed utility boxes.

The organization's signature project, "Community Canopy," will invite residents to help create a mural celebrating unity, belonging and the people who make Saginaw unique.

Designed by Saginaw artist Emily Vargas, the mural will feature multiple aluminum panels that form a large, colorful tree. Residents of all ages and backgrounds will be invited to paint individual squares, with each contribution representing a person's identity and role within the larger community.

Rather than requiring residents to visit one location, the mural panels will travel to community events throughout Saginaw.

The first painting session was held July 31 during Positive Results Downtown's Friday Night Live at Morley Plaza. Additional sessions are scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m. Aug. 7 during the Saginaw Art Fair at Ojibway Island; from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Aug. 14 and Aug. 21 during Friday Night Live at Morley Plaza; and from 1 to 3 p.m. Sept. 12 during the Old Town Saginaw Art Fest.

Volunteers are needed for each painting event. Registration information is available through the Great Mural Project's Facebook page.

After the community sessions conclude, the completed panels will be assembled into one mural and permanently installed on the Morley Building, 1 Tuscola St., which is home to the Saginaw Community Foundation.

The foundation is the Great Mural Project's fiscal sponsor and provided funding for Community Canopy. Spence Brothers donated its expertise and labor to install the completed mural.

"It is so rare that adults get to do something artistic in their everyday lives. We've learned how much our neighbors enjoy getting to pick up a brush and make their mark," said Jamie Forbes, a member of the Great Mural Project Steering Committee.

"We hope that as people see this mural in the future, just as with many of our other projects, they will think about the many hands that played a part in its creation. Each part tells an individual story, but together they create something much larger, a work of art that belongs to the entire community. We are thankful to SCF for making this possible and supporting our work always."

The Great Mural Project selected Vargas because of her experience working with nontraditional artistic materials and formats.

Vargas earned degrees in art and business from Delta College and a bachelor's degree in graphic design from Saginaw Valley State University. Her work includes banners, restored furniture and large-scale public art. She is also a competitive sand and snow sculptor who has earned first-place and People's Choice honors.

Four utility boxes receive new artwork

Four local artists are also painting utility boxes at intersections throughout Saginaw from Aug. 1 through Aug. 9. Residents are encouraged to visit the locations, watch the artists work and offer support.

The utility box projects are funded by Dow Credit Union and

an anonymous donor.

At Court and Harrison streets, artist and educator Marcia Henne is creating a mural that celebrates Saginaw County's history, natural resources and community.

Henne, an Arthur Hill High School graduate, studied at the College for Creative Studies, Delta College and Eastern Michigan University. Her work ranges from realistic portraits exploring social issues to colorful paintings of flowers, plants and animals.

"This mural highlights what makes Saginaw County unique," said Jaime Ceja, who served on the project's advisory team. "Collaborating with Ms. Henne to create a colorful landmark that highlights the history, natural beauty and diverse community that is the County of Saginaw was inspiring. The County is very thankful to The Great Mural Project and artist Marcia Henne."

At Genesee Avenue and Walnut Street, Saginaw artist Alexis Limon is creating a colorful utility box design inspired by creativity and community. Limon is a queer artist of color whose work will add a new perspective to the downtown public art collection.

Taylor Muzer, an art education student at Saginaw Valley State University, is painting the utility box at West Michigan Avenue and Wheeler Street. Muzer joined the project as an opportunity to make a positive impact through public art.

The fourth utility box, at South Michigan Avenue and Cass Street, will honor the late Alejandro Gonzales, a Great Mural Project artist whose 2023 utility box mural at Hess and Williamson remains part of Saginaw's public art collection.

Gonzales died in 2025. Working with his family, the Great Mural Project selected Saginaw artist Taylor Garcia to create the

memorial mural.

Garcia, who was born and raised in Saginaw, works as a laboratory scientist for the Saginaw County Health Department while continuing to develop her artistic practice.

Expanding public art in Saginaw

Since its founding, the Great Mural Project has partnered with artists, neighborhoods, businesses and community organizations to create accessible public art reflecting Saginaw's creativity and diversity.

Including the 2026 projects, the organization has hired 84 artists to complete 55 murals throughout Riverfront Saginaw.

The Great Mural Project thanked the Saginaw Community Foundation for serving as its fiscal sponsor and funding Community Canopy; Dow Credit Union for supporting the utility box murals; the city of Saginaw for allowing artwork on city utility boxes; Northeastern Paint for providing discounts and project coordination; and Spence Brothers for donating the installation of Community Canopy.

Local artists interested in future public art opportunities may register to receive calls for artists and project announcements at greatmuralproject.com or through the Great Mural Project's Facebook page.



COMMUNITY

Carolyn Laguerre-Brown discusses equity, education and community engagement during SVSU Courageous Conversations Series

BY ASHLEY N. JACKSON

Carolyn Laguerre-Brown believes that understanding policies and laws is essential to understanding how communities are shaped.

As part of Saginaw Valley State University's Courageous Conversation Series: "Navigating the Changing Legal Landscape: DEI, Free Speech, and Academic Freedom in Higher Education," Laguerre-Brown joined students, educators and community members for conversations surrounding diversity, equity, inclusion and the evolving legal environment impacting higher education.

Laguerre-Brown, principal and CEO of Designing Equity LLC, shared her expertise and professional experience as a labor and employment attorney, policy strategist and diversity, equity and inclusion consultant. Her work focuses on helping higher education associations and corporate organizations develop meaningful strategies to advance equity and inclusion.

Laguerre-Brown reflected on the experiences that shaped her career and her commitment to helping organizations understand the connection between policies and people's everyday lives.

Her journey began in law. Laguerre-Brown started her career as a prosecutor in Brooklyn, New York, before transitioning into labor and employment law, where she handled discrimination complaints while working with the New York City Transit Authority.

"That experience really shaped how I viewed this work," Laguerre-Brown shared. "I was



CAROLYN LAGUERRE-BROWN

able to see how laws, policies and decisions impact real people."

Her career later expanded into higher education, where she worked at Johns Hopkins focusing on compliance, training and education related to areas including Title IX, Title VII and diversity initiatives.

"I really moved from being

a lawyer to thinking about policy, training and education," she said. "How do we make sure people understand what the policies are, why they matter and how they impact their lives?"

During the Courageous Conversation Series, Laguerre-Brown discussed the importance of understanding how legal and

policy changes influence access to opportunities — particularly within higher education.

She emphasized that higher education continues to be a major pathway for individuals seeking personal and professional growth.

"Higher education is one of the ways that people in this country can change their lives," Laguerre-Brown said. "When we make it harder for people to access those opportunities, it impacts all of us."

Laguerre-Brown encourages community members to remain engaged and informed about decisions that affect their families, schools and communities. She noted that meaningful participation begins with having access to clear and understandable information.

"We have to use plain English," she said. "People need to understand what is happening and what they can do."

For Laguerre-Brown, communication is a critical part of creating change. She believes communities are stronger when people understand the issues, participate in conversations and take action based on their values.

Her message to the Saginaw community is one of awareness and urgency.

"Stay informed, lead with your values and take action," Laguerre-Brown said. "The stakes are high, and lives depend on it."

Through her work with Designing Equity LLC, Laguerre-Brown continues to support organizations in creating equitable practices and building environments where individuals have access to opportunities

COMMUNITY

Saginaw Splash Park temporarily closes for repairs during peak summer season

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — One of Saginaw's favorite summer cooling spots has been temporarily closed while city crews work to repair an equipment problem.

The city of Saginaw announced July 20 that Saginaw's Splash Park, located inside Frank N. Andersen Celebration Park, was closed because of an equipment malfunction. City officials said the closure was necessary to protect visitor safety while repairs are completed.

The city's Facilities Division is working to diagnose and repair the equipment as quickly as

possible. The Splash Park will remain closed until the equipment is operating safely, and the city said it will notify the public when the site is ready to reopen.

The timing comes during one of the busiest parts of the summer season, when children, parents and caregivers often look for free outdoor places to cool off. The Splash Park opened for the 2026 season on May 23 at 1830 Fordney St., with regular summer hours listed as 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

The free, zero-depth splash pad is designed for children of different ages and activity levels. Its three areas — Discovery Bay,

Adventure Bay and Action Bay — offer filtered-water play spaces that help children stay active, cool off and enjoy sensory play during warm weather.

Celebration Park includes other amenities, including a skateboard and inline skate park, a European-style playscape with slides and a rock-climbing wall, walking paths, benches and a pavilion area that can be reserved for picnics and summer gatherings. Portable toilets were available this season because public restrooms and changing areas were closed due to limited staffing.

The temporary closure is a re-

minder of how important public recreation spaces are during the summer months. A splash park is not just a place to play in water. It gives children a safe place to move, laugh and spend time outdoors without cost becoming a barrier.

City officials thanked the public for patience and understanding while crews work to restore the amenity. Questions about city parks and recreational activities may be directed to 989-759-2191.

Until repairs are finished, residents are encouraged to watch the city's official website and public notices for reopening information.

Postponed 'Back to the Future' screening gets new date in Old Town Saginaw

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Old Town Saginaw's Lawn Chair Film Festival will extend its summer season after poor air quality forced organizers to postpone the opening-night presentation of "Back to the Future."

The movie, originally scheduled for July 18, will now be shown Saturday, Aug. 22, at the Case Building parking lot, 303 Adams St., at the corner of South Hamilton and Adams streets. The rescheduled screening will extend the festival one week beyond its original Aug. 15 closing date.

Organizers postponed the outdoor event as wildfire smoke caused unhealthy air conditions across Michigan. State officials had extended an air quality alert

through July 18 as smoke from Canadian wildfires continued to affect communities throughout the state.

The decision was among several event cancellations and postponements across mid-Michigan during the period of heavy smoke. Health officials advised residents, particularly those with asthma, heart conditions and other health concerns, to limit outdoor activity and take steps to reduce their exposure.

The festival's remaining schedule includes "Father of the Bride" on Aug. 8 and "Sleepless in Seattle" on Aug. 15. "Back to the Future" will then close the extended season Aug. 22.

Each event begins at 7 p.m., with entertainment and food vendors appearing before the movie. Admission is free, and attendees should bring their own

lawn chairs or blankets.

The festival moved this year to the Case Building parking lot after previously holding screenings at other Old Town locations. The new site remains within the Old Town business district and provides space for the audience, vendors and pre-movie programming.

The 2026 festival marks the event's 23rd season. Organized by the Old Town Saginaw Association, the series uses outdoor movies to bring residents into the district and support a shared community experience.

The season began July 25 with "When Harry Met Sally" after the original opening was postponed. "The Sting" followed Aug. 1.

Because the event takes place outdoors, future changes could be made because of severe weather or air quality concerns. Up-



BACK TO THE FUTURE

dates are expected to be posted through the Old Town Saginaw Association and Lawn Chair Film Festival social media pages.

The rescheduled Aug. 22 presentation gives families another opportunity to attend the festival while allowing organizers to show the movie that was intended to begin the summer season.

COMMUNITY

National Night Out events to unite families, first responders across Great Lakes Bay Region

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Families across the Great Lakes Bay Region will have opportunities to meet police officers, firefighters, paramedics and other emergency personnel when National Night Out events return to Midland, Bay City and the Saginaw area Tuesday, Aug. 4.

The free gatherings are part of a nationwide campaign intended to strengthen relationships between residents and public safety agencies while encouraging neighbors to work together to build safer, more connected communities.

Each local celebration will offer family activities, public safety demonstrations and informal opportunities for residents to speak with the people who respond to emergencies in their communities.

Midland event set for Emerson Park

Midland's National Night Out will take place from 4 to 8 p.m. at Emerson Park, 911 W. Main St.

Residents will be able to explore emergency vehicles and equipment while meeting representatives from the Midland Police Department, Midland County Sheriff's Office, Michigan State Police, Midland Fire Department, MyMichigan EMS, Midland County 911 and other agencies. Midland SWAT, Midland County Emergency Management, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Army National Guard are also expected to participate.

Activities will include a bounce house, face painting and the return of the "Dunk a Hero" dunk tank, which gives children and other attendees a chance to

send participating first responders into the water. Vendors will be stationed throughout the park, and food will be available for purchase from food trucks.

Some agencies will display specialized equipment that residents may not usually see. The Midland County Sheriff's Office is expected to bring its dive team trailer and boat, drones and a utility terrain vehicle designed to reach riverbanks, wooded areas, trails and other locations that standard patrol vehicles cannot easily access.

Children will also be able to participate in educational activities, including lessons on how to call 911. Prescription drug disposal services, emergency vehicle displays and other public safety resources are expected to be available.

Midland officials said the event provides a relaxed environment where residents can ask questions and interact with emergency personnel outside of stressful situations.

"This essentially is a way for the community to interact with first responders in a fun way," Midland Police Department Public Relations Officer Brennon Warren told the Midland Daily News.

Bay City celebration moves into Wenonah Park

Bay City's National Night Out will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. at Wenonah Park in downtown Bay City.

Hosted by the Bay City Department of Public Safety, the event will feature public safety vehicles, music, food, giveaways, children's games and family entertainment. Local organizations will also provide information about programs, services and other community resources.

Residents will have opportunities to meet Bay City police officers, firefighters and other first responders while learning more about their responsibilities and the equipment they use.

Local businesses, nonprofit organizations and community groups were invited to participate by operating informational booths, sponsoring activities or donating prizes and giveaways. Although organizations may distribute promotional materials and host interactive activities, sales will not be allowed during the event.

The downtown setting is intended to bring residents and public safety workers together in an informal atmosphere centered on neighborhood connections and crime prevention.

Bay City officials described National Night Out as an opportunity for residents to meet first responders, learn about available resources and enjoy an evening focused on public safety awareness and community involvement.

Saginaw Township event offers hands-on experiences

The Saginaw-area celebration will run from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Saginaw Township Soccer Complex, 3575 McCarty Road.

Hosted by the Saginaw Township Police Department, the event will include food, games and activities presented by local agencies, schools and community organizations.

Residents will be invited to view police cruisers, fire trucks, ambulances, medical aircraft and other emergency equipment. First responders are expected to provide tours and demonstrations while answering questions about their jobs, equipment and the calls they handle.

Officers representing different divisions and specialty units will participate, allowing residents to learn more about the department's work beyond traditional road patrol.

Organizers are placing particular emphasis on creating positive experiences for children. The department said meeting officers in a friendly, low-stress environment can help young residents build trust and become more comfortable communicating with law enforcement.

Free bicycle helmets will be available for children while supplies last. Officers will professionally fit the helmets and distribute educational and safety materials during the event.

Building relationships beyond emergencies

National Night Out began in 1984 with about 2.5 million people participating in 400 communities across 23 states. The campaign has since expanded to include block parties, festivals, cookouts, safety demonstrations, youth activities and visits from emergency personnel in communities throughout the country.

Although activities vary among Midland, Bay City and Saginaw Township, each event shares the broader goal of allowing residents and first responders to build relationships before an emergency occurs.

The gatherings also encourage neighbors to meet one another, learn about crime prevention and become more involved in the safety and well-being of their communities.

All three regional National Night Out events are free and open to the public.

COMMUNITY

Saginaw Art Fair returns to Ojibway Island with expanded artist lineup



THE SAGINAW ART FAIR WILL BRING 63 ARTISTS, LIVE PERFORMANCES AND FREE CREATIVE ACTIVITIES TO OJIBWAY ISLAND AUG. 7-8.

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Ojibway Island will become an outdoor gallery filled with paintings, pottery, photography, jewelry and live performances when the Saginaw Art Fair returns Friday, Aug. 7, and Saturday, Aug. 8.

The free, family-friendly event will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days at Ojibway Island, 121 Ezra Rust Drive. Parking will be available on the island during the fair.

Organized by the nonprofit Saginaw Art Initiative, the fair is designed to bring visual, performing and culinary arts together while giving residents opportunities to meet artists, watch demonstrations and create artwork of their own.

This year's fair will feature 63 artists, up from 50 in 2025. Twenty-one artists will make their first appearance at the event. About

32 participants are local, while others will travel from across Michigan and six will come from outside the state.

Visitors will find work created in ceramics, fiber, glass, jewelry, metal, mixed media, painting, photography, sculpture and wood. The lineup also includes emerging artists who are in college, recently graduated or beginning to participate in larger art shows.

The event's return to Ojibway Island follows improvements to the park and its performance areas. The island's renovated stage will allow organizers to expand the fair beyond traditional art booths by including music, dance, fitness and theater programming.

Friday's entertainment will begin with a yoga class from 10 to 11 a.m. The Outfit will perform from 1 to 2:30 p.m., followed by the Stephen Byrne Band from 3 to 5 p.m.

Saturday's schedule will begin with a Werk It! dance fitness class from 10 to 11 a.m. An open dance and theater presentation is planned from 12:30 to 1 p.m., followed by Tana Michaels from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. The Crushtones will close the performance schedule from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

Free art activities will also be available throughout the weekend on a first-come, first-served basis.

Friday's activities include tie-dye bandannas, firefly paintings and mushroom luminary jars. Saturday's projects include paper quilling, marbled coasters and poured paintings. Drop-in art sessions will be offered between scheduled classes.

Food vendors are expected to include Sawadee, Wella's Kitchen, Heavenly Cakes and Snowball Shaved Ice. Community organizations participating in the fair

include Pit and Balcony Theatre, Potter Street Station, the READ Association, the Public Libraries of Saginaw Bookmobile and SASA Robotics.

Additional attractions will include yard games, raffles and a scavenger hunt from noon to 1 p.m. both days. Event merchandise will be sold to help support future art fairs.

Traffic will move in one direction around the island, with five parking lots available to visitors. Organizers said any final schedule changes will be posted through the Saginaw Art Fair's social media pages.

The event supports the Saginaw Art Initiative's broader mission of promoting art education, strengthening connections among local artists and organizations, and making creative experiences accessible to residents of all ages.

COMMUNITY

Robbie Glanton celebrates 50 years at Kay Jewelers

BY MB STAFF

ATLANTA — For five decades, Robbie has built an extraordinary career with Kay Jewelers, marked by exceptional leadership, entrepreneurial success, and an unwavering commitment to serving her customers and her team.

Robbie began her journey with Kay Jewelers on May 18, 1976, at the Saginaw Mall in Saginaw, Michigan. Early in her career, she was promoted to manage the Kay Jewelers store at Green Acres Plaza, where she spent more than 17 years leading the store and building lasting relationships with customers.

While advancing her career at Kay, Robbie also pursued her passion for entrepreneurship. She opened her own beauty shop, DAR 2 BU, which she successfully owned and operated for 13 years, all while continuing her career with Kay Jewelers.

Her entrepreneurial journey continued when Robbie and her lifelong friend, Tina Houze, opened NU-Shuz, a shoe store located in the Shea Galleria in Saginaw, Michigan. Together, they owned and operated the business for 10 years, balancing business ownership with Robbie's ongoing leadership at Kay Jewelers.

Robbie later continued her career at the Fashion Square Mall before earning a promotion that took her to Champaign, Illinois. From 2009 to 2017, she managed a \$3 million Kay Jewelers store, demonstrating outstanding leadership and a dedication to excellence.

Eventually, Robbie made Georgia her home and joined the Kay Jewelers family at the Mall of Georgia in Buford, where she currently serves as Assistant Store Manager.

On May 18, 2026, Robbie celebrated an incredible mile-



ROBBIE GLANTON

stone—50 years of dedicated service with Kay Jewelers. Her remarkable career reflects not only a lifetime of commitment to the jewelry industry but also the determination, work ethic, and entrepreneurial spirit that have

defined her journey. Whether leading successful stores, mentoring associates, or building businesses of her own, Robbie's legacy is one of perseverance, leadership, and lasting impact.

KAY
JEWELERS

COMMUNITY

Bay City planners to review proposed data center regulations Aug. 19



THE BAY CITY PLANNING COMMISSION WILL REVIEW POSSIBLE ZONING REGULATIONS FOR DATA CENTERS DURING ITS AUG. 19 MEETING.

BY MB STAFF

BAY CITY, Mich. — Bay City officials will take another step toward establishing local regulations for large data centers when the Planning Commission reviews a possible zoning ordinance amendment Wednesday, Aug. 19.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at Bay City Hall, 301 Washington Ave. A formal public hearing on the proposed data center rules will be scheduled for a later date.

The review follows months of discussion about how Bay City should respond if a company seeks to construct a large data center within the city.

No data center application or development proposal is currently pending in Bay City. Officials began the process to establish

standards before a project arrives rather than attempting to develop regulations while reviewing an active proposal.

The Bay City Commission voted unanimously in January to direct officials and the Planning Commission to explore and draft local regulations.

Possible standards identified during the early discussions include limits on a facility's size and acreage, reviews of electricity demand and utility capacity, water-use limits and cooling requirements.

Other potential provisions could address noise, lighting, landscaping buffers, building setbacks, acceptable locations, phased expansion, emergency planning, site resiliency and plans for decommissioning a facility after it closes. Community benefits and the effect on public infrastructure may also be considered.

Data centers contain computer servers and other equipment used to store, process and distribute digital information. Larger facilities supporting cloud computing and artificial intelligence can require substantial amounts of electricity, land and cooling infrastructure.

Supporters often point to construction investment, increased tax revenue and the expanding need for digital infrastructure. Critics have raised concerns about electricity demand, utility costs, noise, water consumption, environmental effects and the number of permanent jobs created after construction.

Bay City officials began examining the issue as communities across Michigan considered or received proposals for large-scale data centers. The discussion at the city's Jan. 5 meeting included questions about the capacity of the electrical grid, water use and

the need for public participation.

Mayor Christopher Girard previously said the city lacked regulations written specifically for data centers. Under the existing zoning framework, a proposal could potentially move forward as long as it complied with rules that apply to other developments.

Although the city has limited parcels large enough for a hyperscale facility, officials said regulations could provide clarity for residents, developers and property owners if a proposal emerges.

The Aug. 19 meeting is scheduled as a discussion and review, not the final adoption of an ordinance. Residents will have another opportunity to comment when the city announces the formal public hearing.

Planning and zoning information is available from Bay City's Community Development Department at 989-894-8180.

COMMUNITY

Updated Bay City public safety app connects residents with alerts and resources

BY MB STAFF

BAY CITY, Mich. — Bay City residents can receive public safety information, submit tips and connect with police and fire resources through the Bay City Department of Public Safety's mobile application.

The free app provides a central location for news, alerts, department contacts, community feedback and information about law enforcement and fire operations. It is available through the Apple App Store and Google Play by searching for "Bay City Public Safety, MI."

The application was initially released in October 2024 and received a version 2.0 update June 18 with performance enhancements and design improvements.

Department officials describe the app as another way to communicate with residents and visitors without relying entirely on social media or requiring users to search several webpages for information.

Users can review posts from the department's director, learn about police and fire operations, check upcoming events and submit feedback. The app also includes resources related to opioid addiction, mental health and employment opportunities with the department.

A tip-submission feature allows users to provide information about suspected criminal activity directly through the application. Users may also view and share the department's social media posts.

The tip function is not a replacement for emergency services. People facing an immediate emergency, witnessing a crime in progress or needing urgent police, fire or medical assistance should call 911.



BAY CITY'S PUBLIC SAFETY APP PROVIDES ACCESS TO DEPARTMENT ALERTS, COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND A TIP-SUBMISSION FEATURE.

The application may be useful for residents who want department information delivered directly to their phones instead of depending on a social media algorithm to display an alert. It also creates another point of contact for people seeking nonemergency resources.

Apple's listing says the app

supports accessibility features including VoiceOver, Voice Control, larger text, increased contrast and reduced motion. Available features may vary by device and operating system.

The app is part of a broader effort by public safety departments to use mobile tools to distribute timely information and

strengthen communication with the communities they serve.

Residents without the application can continue to obtain information through the city's website or contact the Bay City Department of Public Safety by phone. The department is based at 301 Washington Ave.

COMMUNITY

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COMMUNITY

New Dow Gardens café adds food, local coffee and gathering space

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — Visitors to Dow Gardens can now begin their trip with coffee, stop for lunch between attractions or end their day with ice cream at a new café inside the gardens' expanded Welcome Center.

The café recently opened in the 22,000-square-foot facility at 1809 Eastman Ave. It offers breakfast items, hot sandwiches, beverages and indoor and outdoor seating near the primary entrance to the gardens.

The menu also features products from Midland-area businesses, including Creation Coffee and Great Lakes Ice Cream.

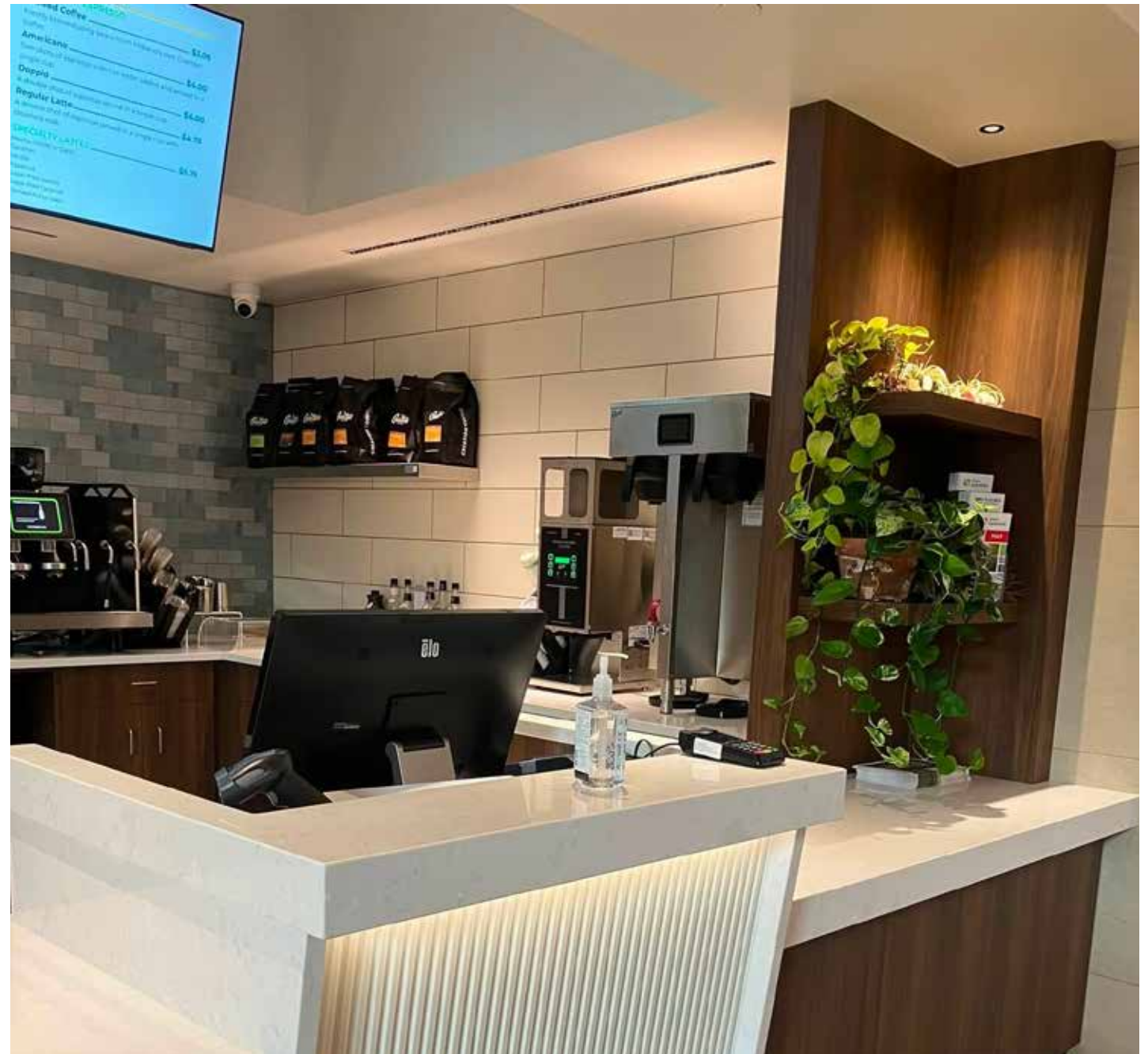
The café is part of a broader effort to bring the gardens' main visitor services together in one location. The Welcome Center also includes a gift shop, historical exhibits, improved restrooms, meeting rooms and rental spaces.

"The café helps make the Welcome Center a true starting and ending point for the Dow Gardens experience," said Carolyn Paten, director of programming and guest services.

The Welcome Center officially opened June 19 with a public ribbon-cutting ceremony. The new building was designed to accommodate between 200,000 and 250,000 visitors annually and improve the arrival process for people entering the 110-acre botanical gardens.

The facility replaces a much smaller visitor center that was constructed when Dow Gardens received about 60,000 guests each year. Annual attendance has since grown beyond 200,000.

Its location and design are intended to improve visibility from Eastman Avenue and make parking, drop-offs, ticketing and ad-



A NEW CAFÉ INSIDE THE DOW GARDENS WELCOME CENTER OFFERS BREAKFAST, SANDWICHES, LOCAL COFFEE, ICE CREAM AND INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SEATING.

mission easier. The project also expands the gardens' capacity to host weddings, meetings, educational programs and group events.

The new café builds on a food-service concept Dow Gardens introduced in Whiting Forest in 2018. That former café space has been renamed The Lodge and will be available for private rentals.

Visitors exploring Whiting Forest, the Orchard and the Canopy Walk will still be able to pur-

chase light snacks and beverages at the nearby Education Center.

Indoor café seating gives guests a place to rest in a climate-controlled environment, while the outdoor area allows them to remain surrounded by the gardens. The location near the entrance also means visitors can use the café near the beginning or end of a trip rather than traveling to a separate area of the property.

The opening comes as Dow Gardens marks more than 125

years since Herbert H. Dow began developing the property around his Midland home in 1899. The gardens grew from a private family landscape into a regional destination featuring formal gardens, walking trails, educational spaces and Whiting Forest's elevated Canopy Walk.

Dow Gardens is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday during its current summer schedule. Visitors should verify café service times separately when planning a trip.

POLITICS

More than 1 million Michigan voters cast ballots before high-stakes primary

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — More than 1 million Michigan voters had cast ballots before the final weekend of early voting as candidates made their closing arguments in closely watched races for governor, U.S. Senate and other offices.

Michigan's statewide primary is Tuesday, Aug. 4. The results will establish many of the matchups voters will see in the Nov. 3 general election, including contests for two of the state's most prominent open offices.

As of 7 a.m. July 31, 1,032,963 voters had submitted ballots, representing about 14% of the state's active registered voters. The total included 959,805 absentee ballots and 73,158 ballots cast at early voting sites between July 25 and July 30.

Democratic Senate primary draws national attention



(FROM LEFT) HALEY STEVENS, ABDUL EL SAYED

The Democratic contest for Michigan's open U.S. Senate seat has become one of the most closely watched primary races in the country.

Former state and local health official Abdul El-Sayed and U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens are the two candidates still actively campaigning. State Sen. Mallory McMorrow suspended her campaign in early July, but her name remains on the ballot because vot-

ing materials had already been prepared.

El-Sayed, an epidemiologist and former Detroit health director, has campaigned as a progressive seeking major changes to health care, campaign financing and the influence of large corporations. He supports a Medicare for All system and has made opposition to corporate political spending a central part of his campaign.

Stevens has emphasized her experience in Congress, work related to manufacturing and the automobile industry, and ability to win in competitive political environments. She has presented herself as a candidate who could deliver practical results while keeping the seat in Democratic hands.

The winner will face former U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, the only Republican candidate on the primary ballot. Rogers was the Republican nominee for U.S. Senate in 2024 and narrowly lost to Democrat Elissa Slotkin. The 2026 seat is open because Democratic Sen. Gary Peters is retiring.

Benson and Swanson compete for Democratic governor nomination



(FROM LEFT) JOCELYN BENSON, CHRIS SWANSON

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson are seeking the Democratic nomination for governor.

Benson has focused on her experience administering state government and overseeing Michigan elections. Swanson has pointed to his public safety background and work as Genesee County's elected sheriff.

The winner will seek to succeed Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who cannot run again because of term limits.

James and Johnson lead active Republican contest



(FROM LEFT) JOHN JAMES, PERRY JOHNSON

Four names will appear in the Republican gubernatorial section: former Attorney General Mike Cox, U.S. Rep. John James, businessman Perry Johnson and state Sen. Aric Nesbitt.

The active contest, however, has narrowed to James and Johnson. Nesbitt ended his campaign after endorsing James, and Cox suspended his campaign July 17 and also endorsed James. Both remain on the ballot because ballots had already been printed and mailed.

James, an Army veteran and current member of Congress, has emphasized public safety, economic growth and reducing the cost of government. Johnson, who previously sought the Republican nomination in 2022, has used significant personal funding to support his campaign and has argued that his business experience would help improve Michigan's economy.

The Republican and Demo-

cratic nominees will advance to a general election that could determine whether the governor's office remains under Democratic control after Whitmer leaves office.

Voting continues through Election Day

The statewide early voting period ends Sunday, Aug. 2, although several communities, including Grand Blanc Township, will offer an additional day Monday, Aug. 3. Election Day polling places will be open Tuesday, Aug. 4.

Absentee ballots must be received by a voter's local clerk no later than 8 p.m. Election Day. Because of possible postal delays, state officials are encouraging voters who still possess absentee ballots to return them directly to their clerk, use an authorized drop box or submit them for tabulation at an early voting site or Election Day polling place.

Eligible residents may register or update their voter registration at their city or township clerk's office through 8 p.m. Election Day. Proof of residency is required, and residents may register and vote during the same visit.

Michigan does not register voters by political party. During the August primary, however, voters must choose candidates from only one party's column. Voting in both the Republican and Democratic sections can invalidate the partisan portion of a ballot. Nonpartisan races and ballot proposals must be voted separately.

POLITICS

Republicans compete to challenge McDonald Rivet in Michigan's 8th District

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Republican voters across the Great Lakes Bay Region and Flint will choose among three names Tuesday, Aug. 4, as the party selects its nominee to challenge Democratic U.S. Rep. Kristen McDonald Rivet.

Amir Hassan, Al Lemmo and Thomas J. Smith appear on the Republican primary ballot in Michigan's 8th Congressional District. McDonald Rivet is unopposed in the Democratic primary.

The district includes Flint, Saginaw, Bay City, much of Midland County and surrounding communities. The winner of the Republican primary will face McDonald Rivet in the Nov. 3 general election.

Hassan is a Flint resident,



AMIR HASSAN

Navy veteran and former federal law enforcement officer. He has campaigned on reducing regulations, encouraging skilled-trades employment, supporting small businesses and increasing transparency in energy and health care pricing. He has also called for federal guardrails involving artificial intelligence and

social media platforms used by children.

Lemmo is a retired mechanical engineer from Dearborn. Dearborn is outside the boundaries of the 8th District, although federal law requires congressional candidates to live in the state they seek to represent rather than in the specific district. Lemmo did not participate in a Midland Daily News candidate questionnaire distributed during the primary campaign.

Smith suspended his campaign July 16 and endorsed Lemmo, but his name remains on the ballot. Before leaving the race, Smith emphasized constitutional rights, free-market policies and opposition to what he described as excessive government regulation.

The primary represents the first major test for Republicans hoping to recapture a congressio-

nal seat that includes communities with widely different political and economic concerns. The district stretches from urban neighborhoods in Flint and Saginaw to suburban and rural areas in Genesee, Saginaw, Bay and Midland counties.

McDonald Rivet won the seat in 2024 after serving in the Michigan Senate. Her campaign has highlighted infrastructure, manufacturing, job growth and efforts to reduce household costs.

Because she has no Democratic opponent, McDonald Rivet can direct her campaign resources toward November while the Republican candidates compete for their party's nomination.

The Republican winner will have about three months to unite primary voters, introduce himself to residents throughout the district and make the case for replacing the first-term incumbent.

Five candidates seek Bay City's 5th Ward commission seat

BY MB STAFF

BAY CITY, Mich. — Five candidates are competing in Bay City's most crowded commission race as 5th Ward voters prepare to cast primary ballots Tuesday, Aug. 4.

Matthew Walraven, Kelsi Myers, Matthew Sous, incumbent Commissioner Mark Zanotti and Kimberley Urban have filed for the ward seat. The primary results will determine which candidates continue to the Nov. 3 general election.

Bay City commissioners are elected by the residents of their individual wards and serve

four-year terms. Odd-numbered wards are on the ballot in 2026, while even-numbered wards are elected during a different cycle.

Zanotti is the only incumbent in the five-way race. The City Commission appointed him to the 5th Ward seat in August 2025 after former Commissioner Rachelle Hilliker resigned because of increased professional responsibilities.

Before joining the commission, Zanotti served on Bay City's Board of Review and the Bay City school board. His appointed term expires at the end of 2026, requiring him to seek election to remain in office.

The other four candidates are seeking to replace Zanotti and give the ward an elected representative for the next full term.

The campaign comes as Bay City officials address major infrastructure projects, utility costs, downtown and neighborhood development, housing, public safety and long-term budget decisions. The next commissioner will also take part in discussions involving the Lafayette Bridge replacement, road and water projects, zoning policies and the delivery of city services.

Bay City operates under a commission-manager form of government. Its nine ward com-

missioners exercise the city's legislative and policymaking authority, while the city manager oversees daily administrative operations. The mayor is elected citywide.

The 5th Ward race stands apart from the city's other 2026 contests because of the number of candidates. The 1st and 9th wards each have one listed candidate, while two candidates filed in both the 3rd and 7th wards.

Voters can review their sample ballots and polling locations through the city clerk or Michigan Voter Information Center. Bay City's clerk's office is at City Hall, 301 Washington Ave.

POLITICS

Flint mayoral primary will narrow field before November election



(FROM LEFT) MAYOR SHELDON NEELEY, COUNCILWOMAN TONYA BURNS, MICAJAH "MIC" OWENS, ROSHANDA "SHANI" WOMACK, AND LINDA ANTHONY.

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — Flint voters will begin deciding the city's next chapter of leadership Tuesday, Aug. 4, as four candidates on the ballot and one certified write-in candidate compete for mayor.

Incumbent Mayor Sheldon Neeley faces 6th Ward Councilwoman Tonya Burns, attorney Micajah "Mic" Owens and counselor and community advocate Roshanda "Shani" Womack. Pastor Linda Anthony is running as a certified write-in candidate.

The top two vote-getters will advance to the Nov. 3 general election.

Neeley is seeking another term after serving as mayor, a member of the Flint City Council and a state representative. His professional background includes broadcast engineering, school counseling and work with young people expe-

riencing housing instability.

Neeley has campaigned on his record in office, including public safety efforts, economic development and the city's continued recovery from the Flint water crisis.

Burns was elected to represent the 6th Ward in 2021. She previously worked in economic development for the city and spent more than two decades in the security and alarm industry. Burns has frequently challenged city decisions from her council seat and has emphasized government transparency, neighborhood investment and more cooperation among elected officials.

Owens is an attorney whose work includes municipal law, litigation, contracts, real estate and estate planning. He has presented his legal background as preparation for improving city operations, reviewing contracts and strengthening relationships between the

mayor's office and City Council.

Womack's background includes work as a youth and family prevention specialist, school counselor, clinical therapist and pastor. She now works as a professional storyteller and curriculum developer. Her community involvement has included racial healing initiatives, faith organizations, youth sports and literacy programs.

Anthony has served as a pastor for more than two decades and has also worked as a bus driver. Because her name does not appear on the printed ballot, supporters must correctly write in her name and complete the corresponding selection for the vote to count.

Public safety, water quality, neighborhood development, city finances and the often-strained relationship between the mayor and council have emerged as major concerns during the campaign. Candidates have also discussed at-

tracting businesses beyond downtown, improving city services and rebuilding public trust.

The primary presents voters with a choice between two candidates with experience in elected Flint government and three candidates seeking elected office without current positions at City Hall.

In addition to the mayoral race, voters in Flint's 1st, 2nd, 5th and 8th wards will narrow their City Council fields before the November election.



POLITICS

Tunney, Twillman meet again in Republican primary for 35th Senate District



(FROM LEFT) JASON TUNNEY, CHADWICK TWILLMAN

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Republican voters in parts of Saginaw, Bay and Midland counties will choose between Jason Tunney and Chadwick Twillman in a rematch that could lead to another contest against Democratic state Sen. Chedrick Greene.

Tunney and Twillman are seeking the Republican nomination for a full four-year term representing Michigan's 35th Senate District. Greene is the only Democratic candidate on the Aug. 4 primary ballot.

Tunney and Twillman previously competed in the February special primary held to fill the remainder of the term left vacant when Kristen McDonald Rivet

was elected to Congress.

Tunney won the Republican nomination in that special primary. He later lost the May 5 general election to Greene, a Saginaw firefighter and Marine veteran. Greene's victory allowed Democrats to maintain control of the Michigan Senate through the end of 2026.

Tunney said after the special election that he intended to return for the regular election, which will determine who represents the district beginning in January 2027.

A lifelong Saginaw resident and attorney, Tunney previously worked as an assistant Saginaw County prosecutor. He also spent about two decades with his family's manufacturing business and served as an executive and gen-

eral counsel for Duro-Last.

Tunney has campaigned on reducing taxes and regulations, strengthening vocational education, supporting public safety and increasing government transparency. He has also called for restoring Michigan's right-to-work law and reducing the state income tax.

Twillman is a Saginaw businessman who has worked as the executive director of a financial firm and vice president of the Mountain Movers organization. His campaign has focused on education, roads, jobs, court reform and reducing youth incarceration.

Twillman received less than 4% of the vote in the February Republican special primary but returned to compete for the full

term. Tunney enters the race with greater name recognition after becoming the party's nominee and campaigning across all three counties in the spring.

The winner will face Greene in November. The district's political balance and Greene's decisive special-election victory are expected to keep the race under scrutiny from both state parties.

The 35th District includes Saginaw and Bay City, portions of Midland County and several surrounding townships and rural communities. Its mix of urban, suburban and rural voters makes affordability, roads, education, public safety and economic development central issues in the campaign.

POLITICS

Midland County voters to decide five millage renewals

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — Midland County voters will decide the future of five property tax millages supporting ambulance transportation, senior services, school resource officers, road maintenance and efforts to control an invasive insect.

All five proposals on the Aug. 4 ballot are renewals of existing taxes. Four also ask voters to restore rates that were reduced under the Michigan Constitution's Headlee Amendment.

County officials have emphasized that none of the proposals would raise the authorized rates above amounts previously approved by voters. Actual rates levied in a particular year may also be lower than the maximum authorized amount.

Emergency medical services

The emergency medical services proposal would restore an authorized rate of 0.65 mill after a Headlee rollback reduced it to

0.6405 mill.

The millage reimburses medically necessary ambulance transportation costs that are not covered by a Midland County resident's insurance. It can cover the full eligible ambulance cost for residents without insurance.

At the maximum rate, the proposal would cost \$65 annually for property with a taxable value of \$100,000.

Spongy moth suppression

The spongy moth proposal would renew and restore the authorized rate to 0.4 mill from 0.3942 mill.

The invasive insect's caterpillars feed on leaves and can damage or kill trees when populations become large. Millage revenue supports monitoring and targeted spraying in areas where treatment is needed.

The maximum annual cost would be \$40 for property with a taxable value of \$100,000.

Services for older residents

The senior services proposal would renew 0.8869 mill, the rate remaining after the previously authorized 0.9 mill was reduced under Headlee.

Revenue supports programs including Meals on Wheels, adult day services, help for family caregivers and transportation to medical appointments.

At 0.8869 mill, the annual cost is \$88.69 for property with a taxable value of \$100,000.

School resource officers

The school resource officer proposal would restore the authorized rate from 0.3942 mill to 0.4 mill for 2027 through 2030.

The millage funds licensed officers from the Midland County Sheriff's Office and Midland Police Department in Midland Public, Meridian, Bullock Creek and Coleman schools. The officers provide security, law enforcement and educational connections among students, staff and police.

If levied at the full rate, the proposal is expected to generate about \$1.76 million during its first

year.

The maximum annual cost would be \$40 for property with a taxable value of \$100,000.

County roads

The road proposal would restore the authorized rate from 0.9855 mill to 1 mill. Revenue would be used for county road maintenance and improvements and is projected to generate about \$4.39 million in 2027.

One mill equals \$1 for every \$1,000 of taxable value, meaning the maximum annual cost would be \$100 for property with a taxable value of \$100,000.

Approval of all five proposals would authorize a combined maximum of 3.3369 mills. For property with a taxable value of \$100,000, that equals \$333.69 annually, although the county may levy less than the maximum for individual programs.

Taxable value is generally lower than a property's market value and appears on the owner's property tax statement.

Crowded field seeks five seats on Saginaw City Council

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Saginaw voters will choose among 12 candidates for five City Council seats in November, setting up a crowded election that could significantly reshape the city's nine-member governing body.

Ten candidates filed for four full four-year terms: Michael D. Balls, Jeanette Barnett, Priscilla Garcia, Carly Rose Hammond, Bob Johnson, Brenda F. Moore, Melvin Price Jr., Charles Anthony Sledge, Rachel Weidinger and Tobias Young.

Charles Allen and Maximilian Olivarez filed for a separate partial term ending Nov. 12, 2028. The Saginaw County clerk's candidate

list was marked unofficial when it was updated July 22.

Five candidates for the full terms currently serve on the council: Balls, Garcia, Hammond, Moore and Young. Moore is the current mayor, while Garcia serves as mayor pro tempore. Their council terms expire in 2026.

Although Moore holds the title of mayor, Saginaw residents do not vote directly for that office. The City Council elects the mayor and mayor pro tempore from among its nine members after the municipal election.

That means Moore and other candidates are campaigning for council seats rather than separately elected mayoral positions. The newly composed council will later decide who serves as mayor for the

next two years.

Saginaw council members are elected citywide rather than by individual wards. The election is nonpartisan, meaning party labels will not appear beside the candidates' names.

Voters may select up to four candidates in the full-term contest and one candidate in the partial-term race.

The five seats on the ballot represent a majority of the council, giving voters an opportunity to influence the city's direction on taxes, public safety, housing, infrastructure, neighborhood development and the use of public funds.

The council adopts ordinances and resolutions, approves the city budget, sets fees and tax rates and determines municipal policies. It

also appoints the city manager, who oversees departments and daily operations.

Several incumbents seeking new terms have participated in recent decisions involving lead service line replacement, public safety staffing, property redevelopment, city finances and the proposed repeal of Saginaw's property tax cap.

New candidates will be competing both against incumbents with established voting records and against one another for attention in a field where voters may choose several names.

The general election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 3. Because the council races are nonpartisan and appear only on the general election ballot, the field will not be narrowed during the Aug. 4 primary.

HEALTH

Michigan Cyclospora outbreak exceeds 10,000 reported cases



MICHIGAN HEALTH OFFICIALS ARE URGING RESIDENTS TO TAKE ADDED PRECAUTIONS WITH FRESH PRODUCE AS THE STATE'S CYCLOSPORA OUTBREAK EXCEEDS 10,000 REPORTED CASES.

BY MB STAFF

LANSGING, Mich. — A Michigan's Cyclospora outbreak has grown to more than 10,000 reported cases, prompting state health officials to continue urging residents to watch for symptoms and follow additional precautions when preparing fresh produce.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services reported 10,773 cases as of July 30. Among those cases, 193 people indicated they had been hospitalized. The figures remain preliminary and may change as local health departments investigate illnesses and delayed laboratory

reports are added.

Cases have been reported throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region and Flint area. Genesee County had 502 reported cases, followed by Saginaw County with 86, Midland County with 29 and Bay County with 10 as of the state's July 30 county update.

Cyclosporiasis is an intestinal illness caused by the microscopic Cyclospora parasite. People can become infected by eating food or drinking water contaminated with the parasite. Direct person-to-person transmission is considered unlikely because Cyclospora must spend at least one to two weeks in the environment before becoming infectious.

Watery and sometimes fre-

quent diarrhea is the most common symptom. Other symptoms can include loss of appetite, weight loss, stomach cramps, bloating, gas, nausea and fatigue. Some patients also experience vomiting, body aches, headaches or fever.

Symptoms usually begin about one week after exposure but may appear anywhere from two days to two weeks or longer. Without treatment, the illness can continue for more than a month, and symptoms may disappear and later return.

State officials said lettuce or salad greens may be a potential source of Michigan's wider outbreak, although no single product, grower or supplier has been

connected to all reported cases.

A separate multistate investigation has linked a portion of the illnesses to iceberg lettuce sourced from central Mexico and recalled by Taylor Farms de Mexico. The recall included certain Marketside iceberg salad and shredded lettuce products, as well as products supplied to restaurants and food-service customers.

The iceberg lettuce investigation included at least 1,947 illnesses in nine states, 98 hospitalizations and no reported deaths as of July 24. Federal officials emphasized that those cases represent only a portion of the Cyclospora illnesses being investigated nationwide.

Consumers should not eat recalled lettuce and should wash containers, refrigerator shelves and other surfaces that may have touched it. State officials recommend buying whole heads of lettuce instead of bagged mixes when possible, discarding the outer two or three layers and washing the remaining leaves under clean running water.

Washing produce can reduce risk but cannot guarantee that Cyclospora has been removed. Cooking produce to at least 158 degrees can kill the parasite. Consumers should also wash their hands before and after handling fruits and vegetables and refrigerate cut or peeled produce within two hours.

People experiencing sudden or continuing diarrhea should contact a health care provider and ask whether Cyclospora testing is appropriate. The parasite requires specialized laboratory testing and may not be detected during routine stool testing.

HEALTH

Mosquito-borne viruses detected in Bay, Midland and Saginaw counties

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Mosquito samples collected in Bay, Midland and Saginaw counties have tested positive for West Nile and Jamestown Canyon viruses, although Michigan had not reported any human arbovirus cases as of July 31.

State surveillance identified 20 mosquito pools carrying West Nile virus. Those included two pools in Bay County and eight in Midland County, along with positive samples in Huron, Kent, Ottawa, St. Clair, Tuscola and Wayne counties.

Seventeen mosquito pools tested positive for Jamestown Canyon virus, including two in Bay County, two in Midland County and 11 in Saginaw County. Positive samples

were also identified in Kalamazoo and Kent counties.

Four birds and one squirrel had tested positive for West Nile virus in Michigan. No human cases of West Nile, Jamestown Canyon or other mosquito-borne viruses had been reported in the state, according to the weekly summary.

A positive mosquito sample does not mean everyone bitten in that area will become ill. It does confirm that the virus is circulating locally and that residents should take precautions during outdoor activities.

Most people infected with West Nile virus do not develop symptoms. Those who become ill may experience fever, headache, body aches, vomiting, diarrhea or a rash. In rare cases, the virus can cause serious inflammation of the brain

or the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord.

Older adults and people with certain chronic medical conditions or weakened immune systems face a greater risk of severe West Nile illness. Symptoms generally begin two to 14 days after the bite of an infected mosquito.

Jamestown Canyon infections are also frequently asymptomatic. People who develop symptoms may experience fever, headache and fatigue. Rare but serious cases can involve meningitis or encephalitis.

There are no vaccines or preventive medications for West Nile or Jamestown Canyon virus in people. Treatment for patients who become ill focuses on managing symptoms and complications.

Residents can reduce their risk by using an Environmental Protec-

tion Agency-registered insect repellent containing ingredients such as DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus or 2-undecanone. Long sleeves and pants can offer additional protection when mosquitoes are active.

Health officials also recommend repairing damaged window and door screens and removing standing water where mosquitoes can lay eggs. Potential breeding sites include buckets, discarded tires, clogged gutters, birdbaths, flowerpots and outdoor containers. Water in pet bowls and birdbaths should be replaced regularly.

People experiencing an unusually severe headache, confusion, muscle weakness, high fever or other neurological symptoms after mosquito exposure should seek medical care.



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HEALTH

Federal Medicaid changes bring new requirements for Michigan residents

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — Hundreds of thousands of Michigan residents could face new paperwork, eligibility checks and coverage requirements as federal Medicaid changes begin taking effect this fall.

The first major change is scheduled for Oct. 1 and will affect people with certain noncitizen immigration statuses. Some residents who currently receive full Medicaid benefits will be moved to emergency-services-only coverage, which generally does not pay for preventive visits, routine treatment or continuing care for chronic illnesses.

Lawful permanent residents who have completed the required waiting period, Cuban and Haitian entrants and migrants covered by Compacts of Free Association will remain eligible for full coverage. Most lawfully residing pregnant people and children younger than 21 will also continue to qualify.

Additional changes are scheduled for Jan. 1, 2027, for adults

enrolled in the Healthy Michigan Plan.

Some participants ages 19 to 64 will be required to document at least 80 hours per month of approved activities, which may include employment, education, job training, volunteer work or participation in a substance use treatment or recovery program.

Exemptions are expected for several groups, including pregnant people, some parents and caregivers, people with serious health conditions or disabilities, certain veterans and people participating in qualifying substance use treatment.

Healthy Michigan Plan eligibility will also be reviewed every six months instead of once a year. Participants could receive more frequent requests to verify their income, address, household size or other information. Failure to respond could result in an interruption or loss of coverage even when a person remains financially eligible.

Retroactive Medicaid coverage will also be limited. Healthy Michigan Plan members will generally be

able to receive coverage for eligible medical bills from one month before their application, down from three months. Most other Medicaid groups will receive up to two months of retroactive coverage.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services estimates the eligibility changes could place coverage for more than 500,000 residents at risk. That figure is a state projection and does not mean every affected resident will automatically become uninsured.

Medicaid provided coverage to more than 2.6 million Michigan residents each month during fiscal 2024, including about 1 million children, 300,000 people with disabilities, 168,000 older adults and 750,000 Healthy Michigan Plan participants. The program covers about 45% of births in the state.

The changes are also expected to affect hospitals, community mental health agencies, nursing homes and safety-net clinics.

Michigan hospitals receive nearly \$9 billion annually through Medicaid. Community mental

health programs receive nearly \$3.5 billion, while nursing homes receive more than \$3 billion. Federally qualified and other safety-net health centers receive about \$483 million annually, representing a large portion of their patient-service revenue.

MDHHS estimates that federal financing restrictions could eventually reduce hospital payments by as much as \$2.5 billion annually and physician payments by about \$309 million. State officials have warned that declining coverage and provider payments could lead to longer waits, reduced services or greater travel distances for care, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

Residents receiving Medicaid should keep their mailing address, phone number and email current through MI Bridges and respond promptly to renewal letters or requests for information. Members should also review notices from their Medicaid health plans rather than assuming their coverage will renew automatically.

Saginaw mental health directory helps residents find local care

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — A new online directory is helping Saginaw County residents compare behavioral health providers and identify services that fit their needs, location and insurance coverage.

BWell Saginaw, the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority, Great Lakes Bay Health Centers and Saginaw Child and Family Services partnered to develop the directory.

The searchable tool is intended for residents who need counseling, psychiatric care, substance use treatment or other behavioral health services but are unsure where to begin.

Users can search for providers based on factors such as location, specialty and accepted insurance. Individual entries include an agency's name, address, contact information and insurance details, allowing residents to review several options before contacting a provider.

The Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority describes the tool as a comprehensive directory of local mental health programs and resources. The authority also links residents to separate directories for counseling, substance use treatment, support groups and other community services.

Finding care can become difficult when residents must contact multiple offices to learn whether a

provider treats a particular condition, accepts their insurance or is taking new patients. Organizers said the directory was created to make the starting point easier to understand.

A directory listing does not guarantee that a provider has immediate openings or that a particular treatment will be covered. Residents should contact the provider and their insurance company to confirm costs, eligibility and appointment availability.

People without Medicaid or Healthy Michigan coverage may also ask providers whether they offer sliding-fee programs, payment arrangements or other financial assistance. Saginaw County Community Mental Health Author-

ity provides information about a sliding-fee discount program for eligible residents.

The directory is part of a wider BWell Saginaw effort to improve access to mental health and substance use resources while reducing the stigma that can discourage people from requesting help.

Partners have also developed youth mental health information, community resource guides, educational materials and outreach programs.

The directory is designed for people searching for routine or continuing behavioral health care. It should not be treated as a replacement for emergency assistance when someone faces an immediate threat to life or safety.

EDUCATION

Great Lakes Bay Early College offers students a head start on college degrees

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — High school students across the Great Lakes Bay Region can earn college credit, explore career pathways and reduce future tuition costs through Great Lakes Bay Early College.

The Saginaw Intermediate School District program allows eligible students to earn up to 60 college credits at Saginaw Valley State University, Delta College or a combination of the two while completing high school requirements. College tuition is provided at no cost to participating families.

Great Lakes Bay Early College operates through partnerships involving Saginaw ISD, Bay-Arenac Intermediate School District, Midland County Educational Service Agency, SVSU and Delta College.

The program is designed as an extended high school experience. Students may participate in their traditional high school graduation ceremonies and then remain enrolled for a 13th year while completing college courses and program requirements.

The additional year gives students more time to complete college-level work while continuing to receive academic guidance and support through the early college program.

Students may leave the program with college credits that can be applied toward a bachelor's degree, an associate degree or another postsecondary credential, depending on the classes they complete and the requirements of the institution they later attend.



GREAT LAKES BAY EARLY COLLEGE ALLOWS ELIGIBLE STUDENTS TO EARN UP TO 60 TUITION-FREE COLLEGE CREDITS WHILE COMPLETING HIGH SCHOOL.

Earning credits before formally entering college can reduce the number of courses students must pay for after high school. It can also help families limit future student loan debt.

Students attend college classes alongside other college students, giving them experience with lectures, assignments, deadlines and campus expectations before they complete high school.

Program officials said the model also helps students explore careers, build professional relationships and become more comfortable navigating a college campus.

The transition from high school to college can be difficult for students who are unfamiliar with registration, financial aid, academic advising and college-level study. Early college programs provide a structured set-

ting in which students can learn those systems with support from staff members.

Great Lakes Bay Early College students may complete coursework in areas that satisfy general education requirements or connect with their academic and career interests.

Courses can help students determine whether they are interested in fields such as business, education, health care, science, technology or the liberal arts before committing to a college major.

The program also emphasizes experiences outside the classroom. Earlier program requirements have included community service, job shadowing, work-based learning and college laboratory or communication courses. Families should confirm current graduation requirements directly with the program because requirements can change.

Great Lakes Bay Early College was recognized in the top 40% of high schools nationally in the 2025 U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools rankings, according to Saginaw ISD.

Program Director Rodney Woods said early college gives students an opportunity to gain college experience while exploring careers and building professional networks.

Students and parents interested in the program should review current eligibility rules, application deadlines and information-session dates through Saginaw ISD. Because early college requires a long-term academic plan, families are encouraged to begin exploring the program before a student's final years of high school.

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EDUCATION

New Delta College president focuses on access, student success and workforce partnerships

BY MB STAFF

UNIVERSITY CENTER, Mich. — Michelle Allmendinger has begun her tenure as Delta College's sixth president with a background in student services and a focus on helping first-generation, adult and underserved students complete degrees and prepare for careers.

Allmendinger started the position June 29 after a national search launched in December 2025 to select a successor to former President Mike Gavin.

"It is an honor to be the next leader of Delta College," Allmendinger said when her appointment was announced.

Allmendinger most recently served as vice president of student affairs at Southeastern Community College in Burlington, Iowa. Her responsibilities included admissions, academic advising, financial aid, accessibility services, student conduct and federal TRIO programs serving students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

A first-generation college student, Allmendinger has spent more than 20 years working in higher education. Her career has included roles in administration, student affairs, academic affairs and classroom teaching.

She earned a doctorate in higher education administration from Michigan State University, a master's degree in human kinetics from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a bachelor's degree in English and secondary education from Knox College.

Delta's Board of Trustees selected Allmendinger after reviewing candidates through a presidential search advisory process. Board Chair Stacey Gannon cited Allmendinger's collabora-



MICHELLE ALLMENDINGER BEGAN SERVING AS DELTA COLLEGE'S SIXTH PRESIDENT JUNE 29.

tive approach and interest in innovation as strengths she would bring to the college.

Allmendinger assumes leadership as Delta works to improve student retention, shorten the time required to complete de-

grees and strengthen pathways into employment and four-year universities.

The college's 2026-27 strategic plan calls for simplifying admissions, registration and other college processes for adults and

first-generation students. Delta also plans to help students better understand the financial and career value of completing a credential.

Those efforts are intended to address a common barrier for students whose parents or close family members did not attend college. Application procedures, academic terminology, financial aid requirements and transfer rules can be difficult to navigate without previous experience.

Delta's plan also calls for additional partnerships with nonprofit organizations to help students facing challenges involving food insecurity, housing and mental health. Allmendinger is listed as one of the leaders responsible for overseeing that initiative.

Another major goal is strengthening relationships with employers to ensure programs lead to jobs that provide sustainable wages. The college plans to review existing programs and develop new options based on regional workforce needs. Allmendinger and Dean of Occupational Programs and Workforce Strategies Ski VanderLaan are listed as leaders of that work.

Delta also plans to expand relationships with K-12 schools and four-year universities so students can move between institutions without losing credits.

The college serves students from Bay, Midland and Saginaw counties through its main campus in University Center and centers in Bay City, Midland and Saginaw.

Allmendinger said she plans to build relationships with students, employees and community members while advancing the college's educational mission.

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EDUCATION

Michigan education budget raises per-student funding, keeps free school meals



MICHIGAN'S NEW EDUCATION BUDGET INCREASES THE FOUNDATION ALLOWANCE TO \$10,300 PER STUDENT AND CONTINUES FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS.

BY MB STAFF

LANSGING, Mich. — Michigan public schools will receive more money for each student while continuing to offer free breakfast and lunch under the state's newly approved education budget.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed the fiscal year 2027 school aid budget July 21. The spending plan increases the foundation allowance by \$250, bringing the base payment to \$10,300 per student for the 2026-27 school year. The increase represents about 2.5% more than the current \$10,050 foundation allowance.

The foundation allowance is the primary source of operating revenue for Michigan school districts. Districts use the funding for expenses including teacher and staff salaries, classroom materials, technology, utilities, transportation and student support programs.

The budget also provides \$200 million to continue Michigan School Meals, which offers

free breakfast and lunch to about 1.4 million students attending public schools. Families do not have to meet an income requirement for students to receive the meals.

State officials said the program helps ensure students can eat during the school day while reducing food costs for families.

"The budget also provides funding for every child in public schools to continue to receive free breakfast and lunch," State Superintendent Glenn Maleyko said when the spending plan was signed.

Literacy is one of the largest areas of new investment. The budget includes more than \$500 million for reading instruction, tutoring, teacher training, literacy coaches, approved classroom materials and expanded before- and after-school programs.

The funding will support continued Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling training, commonly known as LETRS. The program teaches educators how children learn to

read and how to use evidence-based practices involving phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension.

Michigan also approved legislation requiring state-funded science of reading training for educators who teach reading in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. Faculty members in educator preparation programs will be required to receive similar training.

The budget directs \$257 million toward programs intended to address Michigan's teacher shortage. Those investments include Grow Your Own programs, which help school employees become certified teachers, along with MI Future Educator fellowships and stipends for students completing teacher preparation programs.

A new weighted funding model will provide 20% more funding for English learners and economically disadvantaged students. The additional money is intended to help districts provide tutoring, smaller instructional groups, family outreach, language services and other support based

on student needs.

Career and technical education funding will increase by \$4.3 million, bringing the total to \$46 million. Those programs prepare students for careers in areas such as health care, manufacturing, construction, information technology, public safety and skilled trades.

The state also approved \$40 million to reimburse school districts for dual-enrollment costs. Dual enrollment allows eligible high school students to take college courses while working toward graduation.

Another \$125 million is included for student transportation, an expense that can be particularly difficult for rural districts and districts covering large geographic areas.

The Michigan House and Senate approved the school aid budget July 3 before sending it to Whitmer. Schools will now incorporate the state funding into budgets for the academic year beginning this fall.

EDUCATION

Midland schools to begin classes Aug. 24 after calendar change

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — Midland Public Schools students will return to class Monday, Aug. 24, under a revised calendar designed to avoid a conflict with the Midland County Fair.

The district's Board of Education approved the 2026-27 calendar Feb. 16. The opening date was moved because the Midland County Fair is scheduled Aug. 16-22.

In previous years, the beginning of school and the fair could overlap, creating scheduling challenges for students, families and employees who participate in fair activities.

The new calendar gives families the fair week before students begin the academic year.

The 2026-27 calendar includes 180 instructional days. The district said beginning in August also allows the first semester to end before winter break.

Ending the semester before the break can prevent students from returning in January to complete final assignments or examinations from classes that began months earlier.

The schedule also more closely aligns Midland Public Schools with dual-enrollment and Early



MIDLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL BEGIN THE 2026-27 ACADEMIC YEAR AUG. 24, AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE MIDLAND COUNTY FAIR.

Middle College programs, which may follow college academic calendars.

District officials said the Aug. 24 opening better matches the early start of fall athletics and performing arts activities.

Midland Public Schools is the largest district in Midland County, serving more than 7,400 students at 12 learning locations.

Winter break is scheduled from Dec. 21 through Dec. 31. Students will return after the New Year holiday.

Spring break will run from March 29 through April 2, 2027. The final day of school is sched-

uled for June 4 and will be a half-day.

The calendar also includes no-school days on Election Day, Nov. 3; Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 18; and Good Friday, March 26.

Professional development days and other building-level activities may affect schedules throughout the year. Families should review information from their children's schools because orientation programs, kindergarten activities and registration events may occur before Aug. 24.

Parents should also confirm transportation information,

school supply expectations, meal procedures and daily start and dismissal times before the opening day.

The district develops its calendar within a countywide framework established by the Midland County Educational Service Agency. The district administration and Midland City Education Association then negotiate details before the calendar goes to the school board for approval.

The approved calendar may be updated if emergency closures or other circumstances require changes during the school year.

Michigan awards \$64.4 million for early literacy programs

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan has awarded \$64.4 million to 537 school districts for reading materials, student assessments and teacher training.

The Michigan Department of Education announced the grants July 23. Districts may use the

funding to purchase approved classroom reading programs, intervention materials and professional development for educators.

The grants are intended to help schools prepare for Michigan's updated literacy and dyslexia requirements, which must be fully implemented by the 2027-28 school year.

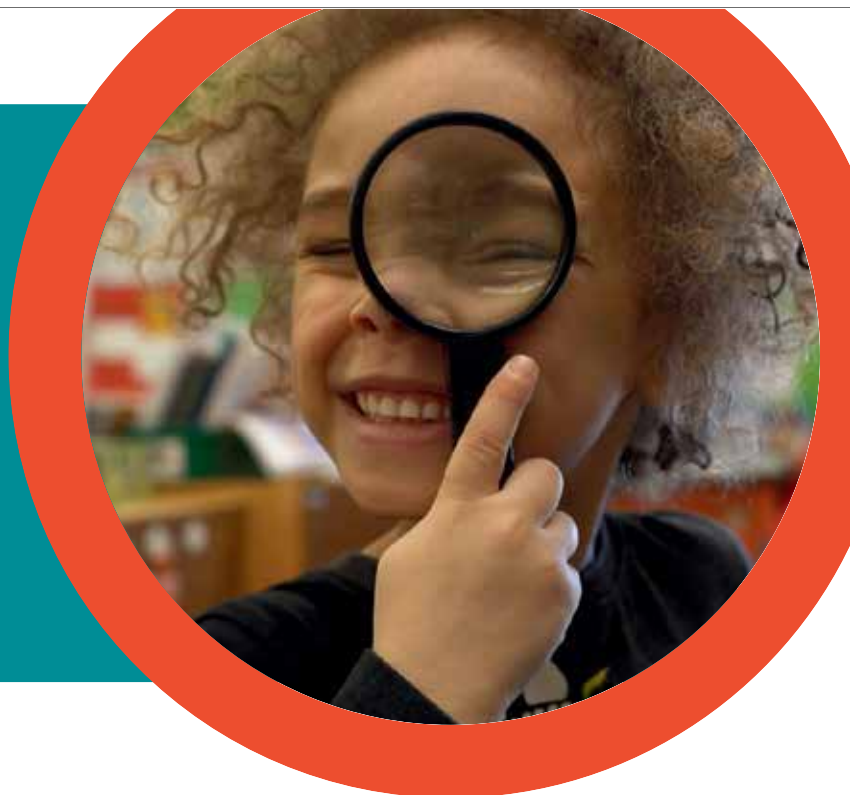
The law requires districts to use evidence-based reading instruction, screen students for signs of dyslexia and provide additional support for children who are struggling.

The state's approach emphasizes phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and reading comprehension.

"Literacy is the foundation of student success in school and life," State Superintendent Glenn Maleyko said.

The grants are part of more than \$500 million included in Michigan's new education budget for literacy instruction, tutoring, teacher training and other student achievement programs.

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BUSINESS + FINANCE

DoubleTree Bay City begins new chapter under local hospitality group



THE DOUBLETREE BY HILTON BAY CITY-RIVERFRONT HAS ANNOUNCED NEW OWNERSHIP UNDER BAY CITY HOSPITALITY GROUP.

BY MB STAFF

BAY CITY, Mich. — The DoubleTree by Hilton Bay City-Riverfront is under new ownership, with Bay City Hospitality Group announcing plans to invest in the hotel, its employees and the guest experience.

The riverfront hotel recently announced the ownership change as an “exciting new chapter” for the downtown property. Hotel operations are expected to continue under the DoubleTree by Hilton brand.

“Our team is excited to begin

this new chapter under Bay City Hospitality Group,” General Manager Jo Ellen Mikolajczak said. “We remain committed to providing the exceptional hospitality our guests have come to expect.”

Bay City Hospitality Group is a limited liability company created by Maynak Tyagi, owner of Toronto-based property management and development company MK Group. The new ownership group said it intends to invest in the property, employees and surrounding community while improving the experience for hotel

guests.

The hotel overlooks the Saginaw River and is within walking distance of downtown attractions including the State Theatre and Delta College Planetarium. Amenities include an indoor pool, fitness center, restaurant, meeting space and airport shuttle service.

The ownership announcement follows a period of financial uncertainty for the property. The hotel went through foreclosure and was sold at auction in 2025 for \$20 million to Delaware-based BCM Hotel LLC.

The property plays an im-

portant role in Bay City’s tourism and convention economy because it provides lodging, dining and event space near the downtown business district.

Its location also places visitors near Wenonah Park, the Riverwalk, local restaurants and seasonal festivals held along the riverfront.

The new ownership group has not released a detailed renovation schedule or announced specific physical changes to the property. Its initial statement emphasized continued service, investment and community involvement.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Three Rivers Corporation celebrates 50 years of building in Midland



THREE RIVERS CORPORATION SIGN

Tittabawassee, Chipewa and Pine rivers, which converge in the Midland area.

The company has grown into a full-service general contractor and design-build firm with about 360 employees. Its workforce includes architects, construction managers, skilled tradespeople and recent graduates.

“Part of our commitment revolves around creating and filling good jobs while giving employees an opportunity to grow and evolve,” President and CEO Jon Lynch said.

Three Rivers has completed projects for organizations including Dow, Central Michigan University and MyMichigan Health. The company also served as the general contractor for the construction of Dow Diamond from 2006 to 2007.

Lynch pointed to the MyMichigan Health Heart and Vascular Center as one project that dem-



THREE RIVERS CORPORATION SIGN CELEBRATED ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY ON JULY 29.

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — Three Rivers Corporation marked five decades in business with a community celebration honoring the employees, projects and partnerships that helped build the Midland company.

The construction and design

firm held its 50th anniversary celebration July 29 in partnership with the Midland Business Alliance. The public event featured food, drinks, live music and a display highlighting projects completed throughout the company’s history.

Three Rivers was founded in 1976 by Midland native John Bartos. Its name refers to the

onstrated the company’s ability to respond to difficult circumstances. Construction continued as employees faced challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic and the historic 2020 flooding in Midland County.

The company’s “More Than Construction” message reflects a focus on projects that support economic development, improve quality of life and strengthen the communities where its employees work.

Three Rivers identifies respect, integrity, safety and excellence as its central values. The company has received national safety recognition from its trade association for six consecutive years, an achievement Lynch said has been earned by only one other contractor in the country.

Marketing Coordinator Jill Woods said reviewing decades of photographs and projects for the anniversary celebration demonstrated the connection employees and community members have developed with the company.

Three Rivers said it plans to continue investing in employees while taking on construction and development projects throughout mid-Michigan.



THREE RIVERS CORPORATION CELEBRATED ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY JULY 29 WITH EMPLOYEES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN MIDLAND.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Flint event helps entrepreneurs test business ideas

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — Emerging entrepreneurs will be able to test their ideas and receive feedback from experienced business owners during the Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance's first Business Validation Exchange.

The free event will take place from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, at Blackstone's Smokehouse, 513 S. Saginaw St. in downtown Flint.

The exchange is designed for people developing early-stage businesses or considering whether an idea is ready to move forward. Participants will be able to discuss their concepts, gather practical feedback and learn from local business owners who have successfully launched and maintained companies.

A representative from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs will also provide information about properly registering and structuring a business.

"The Business Validation Exchange is about creating space for entrepreneurs to test their ideas in a supportive, constructive environment," said Karena Hamlet, program director of business services for the Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance.



Saginaw Chamber event offers evening of business networking

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Business owners and professionals will have an opportunity to make new connections during the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce's August Business After Hours event.

The gathering will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, at Horizons Conference Center in Saginaw Township. Admission is free for chamber members and their employees.

Business After Hours events are held at different locations throughout Saginaw

County and are designed to help chamber members build professional relationships in an informal setting. Attendees are encouraged to bring business cards and meet representatives from companies and organizations across the region.

The chamber describes the monthly events as opportunities for professionals to develop relationships, exchange referrals and learn more about other businesses serving the community.

Additional information and registration are available through the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce.

Ally Financial executive to headline UM-Flint Business Summit

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — Andrea Brimmer, chief marketing and public relations officer for Ally Financial, will share lessons from her career in branding, leadership and advocacy during the University of Michigan-Flint's third annual Business Summit.

The summit will take place Tuesday, Aug. 25, at UM-Flint's Northbank Center, 432 N. Saginaw St. Networking will begin at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at 11:30 a.m. Brimmer's keynote address is scheduled from noon to 1 p.m.

The School of Management presents the summit in partnership with the Flint & Genesee Chamber. The annual event brings students, business professionals and community leaders together to discuss issues affecting the regional economy and workforce.

The summit began in 2024 as part of the School of Management's 50th anniversary celebration. Previous keynote speakers have included Lear President and CEO Ray Scott and Consumers Energy and CMS Energy President and CEO Garrick Rochow.

Brimmer joined Ally Financial in 2008 and helped guide the 2009 transformation of GMAC Bank into Ally Bank. She has since

overseen major brand strategy, marketing and advertising initiatives for the financial services company. Before joining Ally, she spent nearly 19 years with advertising agency Campbell Ewald.

She also created Ally's 50/50 Sports Media Pledge in 2022. The initiative led the company to commit equal advertising spending to men's and women's sports.

Under Brimmer's leadership, Ally has supported financial literacy, workforce development, affordable housing and community programs. The company is also a sponsor of The Ally Challenge, the PGA Tour Champions tournament held annually at Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club in Grand Blanc.

UM-Flint senior Keilah Wilson of Bay City said Brimmer's career offers students an opportunity to learn from a woman who has transformed brands and broken barriers in the business world.

The summit is funded through UM-Flint's Critical Issues Forum, which supports speakers and public programs examining regional, national and global concerns.

UM-Flint students may attend free by presenting an Mcard and can earn five Career Development Requirement points. The registration deadline is Aug. 21.



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SPORTS

Flint City Bucks fall one goal short of national championship



THE FLINT CITY BUCKS FINISHED AS USL LEAGUE TWO RUNNERS-UP AFTER A 2-1 LOSS TO VERMONT GREEN FC ON AUG. 1.

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — The Flint City Bucks' run toward a fifth national championship ended with a 2-1 loss to defending champion Vermont Green FC on Saturday, Aug. 1, at Atwood Stadium.

More than 6,000 spectators attended the USL League Two championship match, which remained scoreless through the first half despite light rain and several attacking opportunities from both clubs.

Vermont took the lead in the 62nd minute when a cross from

Diego Rosas was deflected into the Flint net for an own goal.

The Bucks responded about three minutes later. Matthew Paiva headed a pass from Ellis Jones into the goal from close range, tying the match at 1-1 and bringing the home crowd back into the contest.

The deciding play came in the 75th minute after Vermont forward David Ajagbe broke through Flint's defense and was brought down by goalkeeper Steven Clark inside the penalty area.

Ryan Zellefrow converted the penalty kick, sending the ball

low to Clark's right for a 2-1 lead. Zellefrow was later named the final's most valuable player.

Flint pressed for another equalizer during the closing minutes, but Vermont protected its lead through five minutes of stoppage time.

The victory gave Vermont Green its second consecutive national championship and completed another unbeaten season. Vermont became the first club to win back-to-back USL League Two championships since the Cape Cod Crusaders accomplished the feat in 2002 and

2003.

The Bucks entered the final as one of the league's most successful organizations. Flint has won four national championships and reached the 2026 final after capturing the Central Conference title and defeating Ventura County Fusion in the national semifinals.

Although the season ended one victory short of another championship, Flint's playoff run brought several nationally significant soccer matches to Atwood Stadium and drew strong support from fans across the region.

SPORTS

Claressa Shields returns to middleweight for Atlanta title fight

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — Flint boxing champion Claressa Shields will move down to the middleweight division when she challenges Australia's Kaye Scott for two world titles Saturday, Aug. 15, at State Farm Arena in Atlanta.

Scott holds the World Boxing Association and World Boxing Council middleweight championships. The fight will mark Shields' first appearance at 160 pounds since June 2023.

The event is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m., with doors open-

ing at 4 p.m. The card will be streamed through DAZN.

Shields enters the contest as the undisputed heavyweight champion. Dropping to middleweight requires her to move down several weight divisions from the weight at which she has competed during her most recent fights.

The Flint native previously ruled the middleweight division before collecting championships at junior middleweight, super middleweight, light heavyweight and heavyweight.

Shields became the first boxer in the four-belt era, male

or female, to become undisputed champion in two weight divisions when she defeated Marie-Eve Dicaire for the undisputed junior middleweight title in 2021.

Scott brings a height and reach advantage into the Atlanta fight. The WBA lists Scott at 5 feet, 10 inches with a 70-inch reach, compared with Shields at 5 feet, 9 inches with a 68-inch reach.

Scott won the unified middleweight championships after fighting Olivia Curry to a draw in September 2025 and defeating her by majority decision in a December rematch. The Australian

champion also has an extensive amateur background.

For Shields, the match offers an opportunity to regain major championships in a division she once controlled while continuing to build a career defined by competing across multiple weight classes.

The fight will also be Shields' first professional appearance in Atlanta. She has continued to represent Flint throughout her career, including during title fights held in Michigan and other major arenas across the country.

Saginaw Spirit begin coaching search after Chris Lazary's departure

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — The Saginaw Spirit have begun searching for a new head coach following Chris Lazary's departure for another coaching opportunity.

General Manager Dave Drinkill announced Lazary's departure July 22. The organization said its search for the next head coach would begin immediately.

Lazary joined the Spirit as an associate coach during the 2016-17 season and was promoted to head coach in November 2018. He became the longest-serving head coach in franchise history.

His eight seasons behind the bench included three West Division championships, two appearances in the Ontario Hockey League's Western Conference final and Saginaw's first Memo-



THE SAGINAW SPIRIT ARE SEARCHING FOR A NEW HEAD COACH AFTER CHRIS LAZARY LEFT THE ORGANIZATION.

rial Cup championship in 2024.

The 2023-24 Spirit set franchise records with 50 victories and 102 points during the regular

season before defeating the London Knights 4-3 in the Memorial Cup championship game at the Dow Event Center.

Lazary leaves as the Spirit's career leader with 249 regular-season coaching victories. His teams compiled a regular-season record of 249-171-16-12 and played 507 games across the regular season, playoffs and Memorial Cup tournament.

Player development became another major part of his tenure. Eighteen players from Lazary-coached Spirit teams were selected in the NHL draft, including five top-15 selections.

The next coach will inherit a franchise that has raised its expectations following the Memorial Cup championship and several seasons of success within the OHL's Western Conference.

Saginaw has not announced a timeline for selecting Lazary's replacement.

SPORTS

Gus Macker tournament moves to Northwood University

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — Hundreds of basketball teams will compete on the Northwood University campus when the Great Lakes Bay Gus Macker Tournament returns Aug. 8-9.

The three-on-three tournament will be held at 400 Whiting Drive near Northwood's Bennett

Sports Center and Hach Student Life Center.

The event is moving from downtown Midland because of road construction and the need for additional space. Organizers expect nearly 1,500 players representing about 370 teams.

Divisions are available for male and female players beginning at age 6, along with adult and top competitive divisions.

More than 70% of the tournament's players are youths, according to The Legacy Center for Community Success, which hosts the Midland event.

The weekend will begin Friday, Aug. 7, with a Heroes Tournament for military members, veterans and first responders. The main tournament games will be played Saturday and Sunday.

Spectator admission and

parking will be free. Food trucks and other vendors are also expected to be available at the site.

The Midland tournament has been held since 2014 and has grown into one of the region's largest summer sporting events. Organizers expect the Northwood location to provide more room for courts, players and spectators while keeping the event close to downtown businesses.

Young Tigers shine as Max Clark hits first major league home run

BY MB STAFF

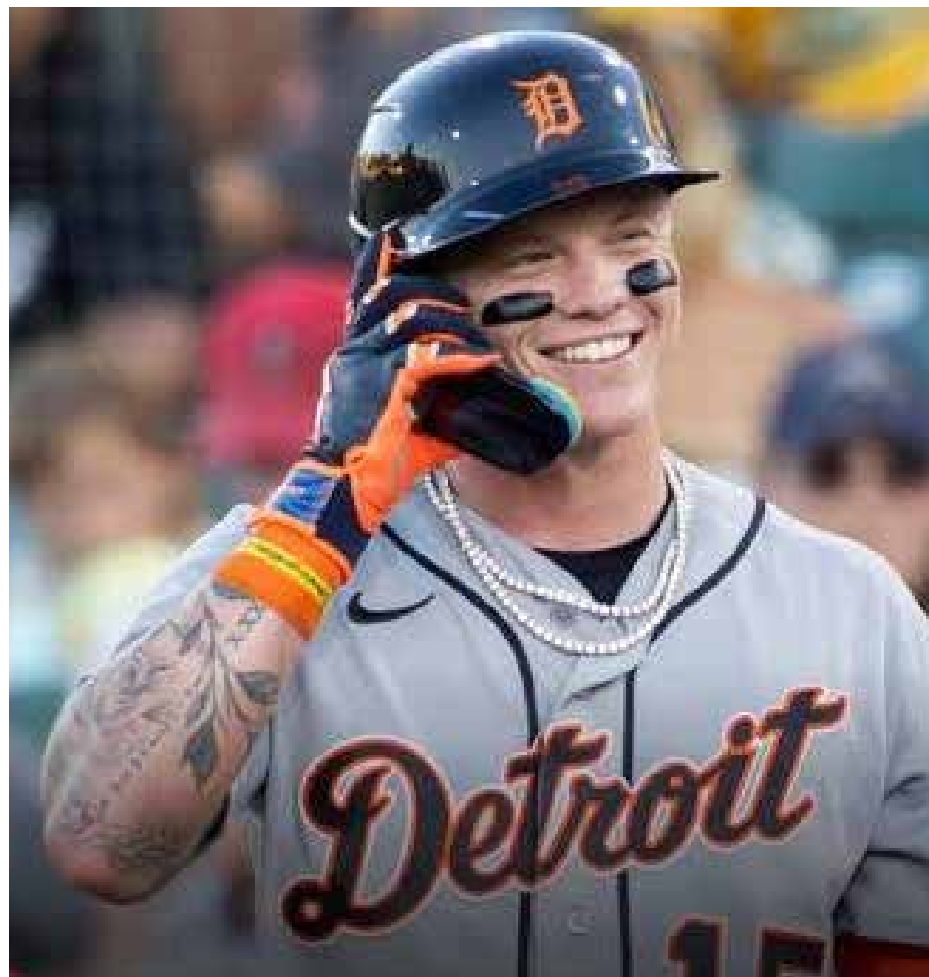
WEST SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Detroit Tigers rookie Max Clark needed only two games to record one of the biggest milestones of his young career.

Clark hit his first major league home run Saturday, Aug. 1, helping Detroit defeat the Athletics 8-6 at Sutter Health Park.

The 21-year-old outfielder struck out during his first two plate appearances before adjusting against Athletics starter Jack Perkins. In the sixth inning, Clark connected with a sweeper and drove it over the right-field wall for a two-run home run.

The homer scored Spencer Torkelson and extended Detroit's lead to 6-2. Clark said after the game that the opening weekend of his major league career had been a surreal experience.

Clark's home run came one night after an impressive major league debut. He collected three hits, including two doubles, reached base four times and drove in a run during Detroit's



TIGERS ROOKIE MAX CLARK HIT HIS FIRST MAJOR LEAGUE HOME RUN DURING DETROIT'S 8-6 VICTORY OVER THE ATHLETICS ON AUG. 1.

13-1 victory over the Athletics.

Fellow young Tigers infielder Kevin McGonigle also homered

Saturday, giving Detroit another glimpse of the prospects expected to play important roles in the

organization's future.

Detroit selected Clark with the third overall pick in the 2023 Major League Baseball draft. Before his promotion, he was ranked as the Tigers' top prospect and the No. 13 prospect in baseball by MLB Pipeline.

Clark batted .276 with 11 home runs, 42 RBIs and 21 stolen bases in 90 games for Triple-A Toledo before receiving his first major league call-up. He had been particularly productive in July, batting .338 with five home runs in 19 games.

His combination of speed, defense, plate discipline and developing power made him one of the most closely followed players in Detroit's minor league system.

The first home run continued a memorable opening series for Clark and gave Tigers fans an early look at how his skills could translate to the major league level.

FAITH IN FOCUS



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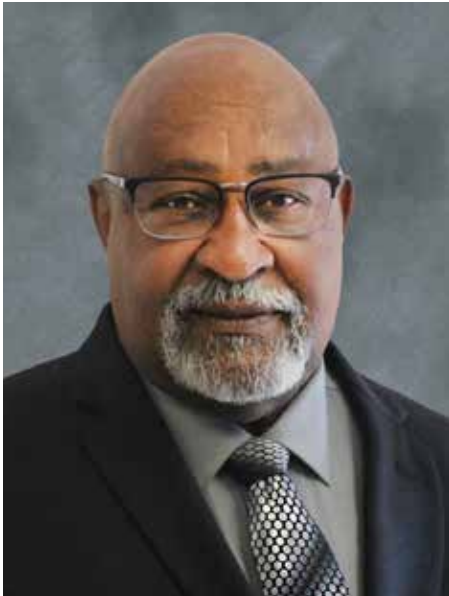
Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

BY PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

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

The organization's vision includes several key objectives:



PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

between the church, volunteers, and community professionals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPONSORED CONTENT

FAITH IN FOCUS

SERMONETTE SERIES

Walking by faith when you
can't see the finish line*"For we walk by faith, not by sight."**2 Corinthians 5:7*BY MINISTER CAROLYN
CARTER TOWNSEL

There are seasons in life when God gives us an assignment that is much larger than our resources, our experience, or even our confidence. He places a vision in our spirit that our natural eyes cannot fully comprehend. We know what He said, but everything around us seems to contradict His promise.

I know that place.

There was an assignment God entrusted to me that looked impossible. Every step forward seemed to be met with resistance. There were financial obstacles, emotional challenges, unexpected setbacks, and moments when it appeared that the vision would never become reality. Doors seemed to close faster than they opened. There were times I questioned whether I had heard God correctly.

Yet in those quiet moments, God continually reminded me, *"Walk by faith—not by sight."*

Faith does not deny reality; it simply refuses to let reality have the final word. Faith believes what God has spoken even when circumstances argue otherwise. It chooses obedience over certainty and trust over tangible evidence.

The truth is, if we could see every step of the journey, faith would not be necessary. If every provision appeared before we needed it, we would rely on our eyesight instead of God's faithfulness. But God often reveals His plan one step at a time because He is more interested in developing our character than simply delivering our destination.

Opposition is not always a sign that you are outside the will of God. Sometimes opposition is confirmation that you are moving toward something significant. Throughout Scripture, every major assignment was met with resistance. Noah endured ridicule before the rain. Moses faced Pharaoh before Israel experienced freedom. Nehemiah rebuilt while critics mocked him. David was anointed long before he was crowned. Even Jesus encountered opposition

while fulfilling His Father's mission.

Why should we expect our journey to be different?

I have learned that God rarely calls the equipped; He equips those He calls. He asks us to bring our willingness while He supplies the strength. He asks us to take the next step while He prepares the next opportunity.

Looking back, I realize that the greatest miracle was not simply seeing the assignment fulfilled. The miracle was what God transformed within me during the process. He strengthened my faith, refined my patience, deepened my dependence on Him, and reminded me that His promises are never dependent upon perfect circumstances.

Perhaps today you are carrying a vision that others cannot understand. Maybe the obstacles seem greater than the opportunities, and the opposition louder than God's promises. Do not allow what you see to cancel what God has said. Your present circumstances are temporary, but God's Word is eternal.

Keep walking.
Keep trusting.
Keep believing.

One day you will look back and realize that every obstacle became a testimony, every delay became preparation, and every tear watered the ground where God intended your purpose to flourish.

Beloved, We do not walk by what we see. We walk by what we know about the God who sees what we cannot.

And that makes all the difference.

Blessings to All,
Carolyn

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stpaul2@yahoo.com



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New Birth Missionary Baptist

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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Who is whispering in your ear?

BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

If you serve as a president, CEO, or executive director, you know you can become isolated, or feel lonely because there are few people who understand the complexity of your responsibilities. You may be treated with respect or find that people expect you to have super-human powers and the ability to meet very high expectations. If you are serving in such a leadership role, it can be difficult to gain an honest assessment.

Who will have the expertise, wisdom, and information relevant to your specific situation along with an understanding of the context you are working within?

We recommend building a selective circle of informal advisors who you can trust. These should be people who understand the multiple challenges you may be facing. At any given point in time you may want to turn to one or more of these people to gain knowledge, and to share your understanding of the situa-

tion while asking for theirs. You don't want "yes people," meaning those who will agree with you regardless of the facts. You don't need guidance from those who agree with you out of deference, loyalty, or fear. You want people who understand the context and community in which you are operating. Build relationships with those who align with your vision, as well as those who value the institution or organization but see things differently than you do.

You want to know if others see the facts in the same way you do, and whether or not the "facts" you are working with are really facts. You want to gain an understanding of what you don't know whether this be data, relationships, financial information, political alignments, or what we once called "gossip," or the word on the street. When you trust people you can ask, "What am I not seeing? What do I not know?"

For each person the circle of trust will be comprised of differ-

ent types of people. Consider including individuals such as your board chair, the CFO, the VP or director of development, a consistent major donor, your chief of staff, a peer from a comparable organization in another community, and a local or regional influencer. Guidance and information from this circle can help ensure that you are connected with the board that hired you and that you understand their priorities. Cabinet members such as the CFO, VP for development, and your chief of staff will know that you depend on them for data-driven current information and trends,

not optimistic generalizations, or old data. A trusted relationship with a major donor can help you understand how your institution or organization is understood by those with the capacity to make major gifts or investments. Other valuable insights can come from trust-based relationships with individuals from across your campus, if a college or university president; and from those you serve (and have served in the past) if you are another type of nonprofit. Take the time to develop these relationships so you know who is whispering in your ear.



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PICS OF THE WEEK

On Saturday, August 1, 2026, hundreds of community members gathered on Ojibway Island in Saginaw for the 25th Annual Gospel Fest. The free event featured an afternoon of inspiring gospel music, fellowship, food and family-friendly fun.





Nathan Hankerson
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