



SUPPORT *Local* JOURNALISM ▶▶▶

MICHIGANBANNER.ORG/DONATE

Local Juneteenth Celebrations

COMMUNITY, pg 15

Fathers who show up



FATHER EMBRACING CHILD (MB FILE PHOTO)

quiet work... going to work tired, coming home with enough strength to ask, "How was your day?" and putting your family's needs before your own.

Sometimes showing up looks ordinary: a ride to practice, a hand on the shoulder, a hard conversation, a whispered prayer, a phone call or a lesson about keeping your word. It does not come with applause, and no one gives a trophy to the father who keeps going while carrying burdens his family may never fully know.

But that kind of father is building something. He is building trust, memories and a place in a child's heart that says, "Someone cared enough to be there."

I have also learned that some fathers show up after they have fallen short. There is grace in a man who admits he could have done better, courage in a father who apologizes and strength in one who refuses to let yesterday's mistakes keep him from being present today.



Jacqueline Hall remembered for quiet strength, service and grace

COMMUNITY, PG 23



Flint council approves funding for summer youth job training program

YOUTH BANNER, COVER



Latina mothers help shape America's demographic future

LATINO BANNER, PG 2



BY JEROME BUCKLEY

There are many titles a man can carry in this life.

Some are printed on business cards. Some are announced from podiums. Some are earned through years of work, sacrifice and service. I have been blessed to carry a few titles over the years, including founder of The Michigan Banner, publisher, community servant, husband and businessman. But the greatest joy and proudest title I wear is... Father.

That title has humbled me more than any other. It

has stretched me, taught me, challenged me and, many times, brought me to my knees. Fatherhood is not a title a man simply claims. It is a title he grows into, day by day, decision by decision, sacrifice by sacrifice.

As Father's Day arrives, I find myself thinking not only about perfect moments, smiling photographs and neatly wrapped gifts. I think about the fathers who show up. Not the perfect fathers. Because if we are honest, perfect fathers do not exist.

Every father has moments he wishes he could do over. Words he wishes he had softened. Time he wishes he had given. Lessons he learned too late. Some fathers carry regret in places no one can see. Some wonder if they did enough, gave enough, loved enough or listened enough.

Fatherhood is beautiful, but it is not easy. It is often



Continues on pg 2, Father's Day

From cover, Father's Day

Some men did not have the example they needed, but they are trying to become the example their children deserve. Some fathers are learning tenderness after being raised in hardness. Some are learning how to say "I love you" after growing up in homes where love was shown, but rarely spoken. Some are learning that providing is important, but presence is priceless.

There are also men who become fathers in ways that do not begin with biology. Grandfathers who step in. Stepdads who stay. Uncles who guide. Coaches who encourage. Pastors who counsel. Mentors who see potential in young people who may not yet see it in themselves. Men who choose to stand in the gap and say, "You are not alone." These men deserve honor too.

Our communities are stronger when fathers and father figures show up. Children walk differently when they know someone believes in them. Young men make better choices when they have someone to model accountability. Young women carry a different kind of confidence when they have known steady love, respect and protection.

A present father cannot solve every problem. He cannot shield his children from every disappointment. He cannot write every chapter of their lives. But he can give them something powerful: a foundation.

He can teach them that love is more than words. He can teach them that strength does not have to be harsh. He can teach them that mistakes are not the end of the story. He can teach them that faith, family and responsibility still matter.

On this Father's Day, I honor the fathers who show up early, stay late and keep trying. I honor the imperfect fathers who love deeply. Because fatherhood was never about perfection. It was always about sacrifice, growth, love and just showing up.



**THIS DAY IN
MICHIGAN
HISTORY**

JUNE 16, 1903

On June 16, 1903, Ford Motor Company was incorporated in Detroit, Michigan. Founded by Henry Ford and a group of investors, the company would go on to transform transportation, manufacturing and American industry. From its Michigan roots, Ford helped make the automobile more affordable and changed the way the world moved.



THE FIRST FORD MOTOR COMPANY FACTORY ON MACK AVE. IN DETROIT IN 1904. (PHOTO CREDIT: FORD MOTOR CO.)

MICHIGAN BANNER

301 E Genesee Ave, Suite 201B
Saginaw, MI 48607
989.992.2600
publisher022@gmail.com

PUBLISHER

Michelle McCoy

VP SALES & MARKETING

Jerome Buckley

EDITOR EMERITUS

Rae Lynn Buckley

MISSION

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

DISCLAIMER

The Michigan Banner and its staff are not responsible and will not be held liable for any mistakes, error, misspellings and false advertisements in part or whole that may be placed within its publication. Articles, information or comments printed in the newspaper are not necessarily the views or beliefs of The Michigan Banner newspaper. The Michigan Banner reserves the right to edit, change, or delete any information, or refuse to print any information, article or advertisement which is believed to be inconsistent with or conflicts with the mission of the newspaper.

DEADLINES

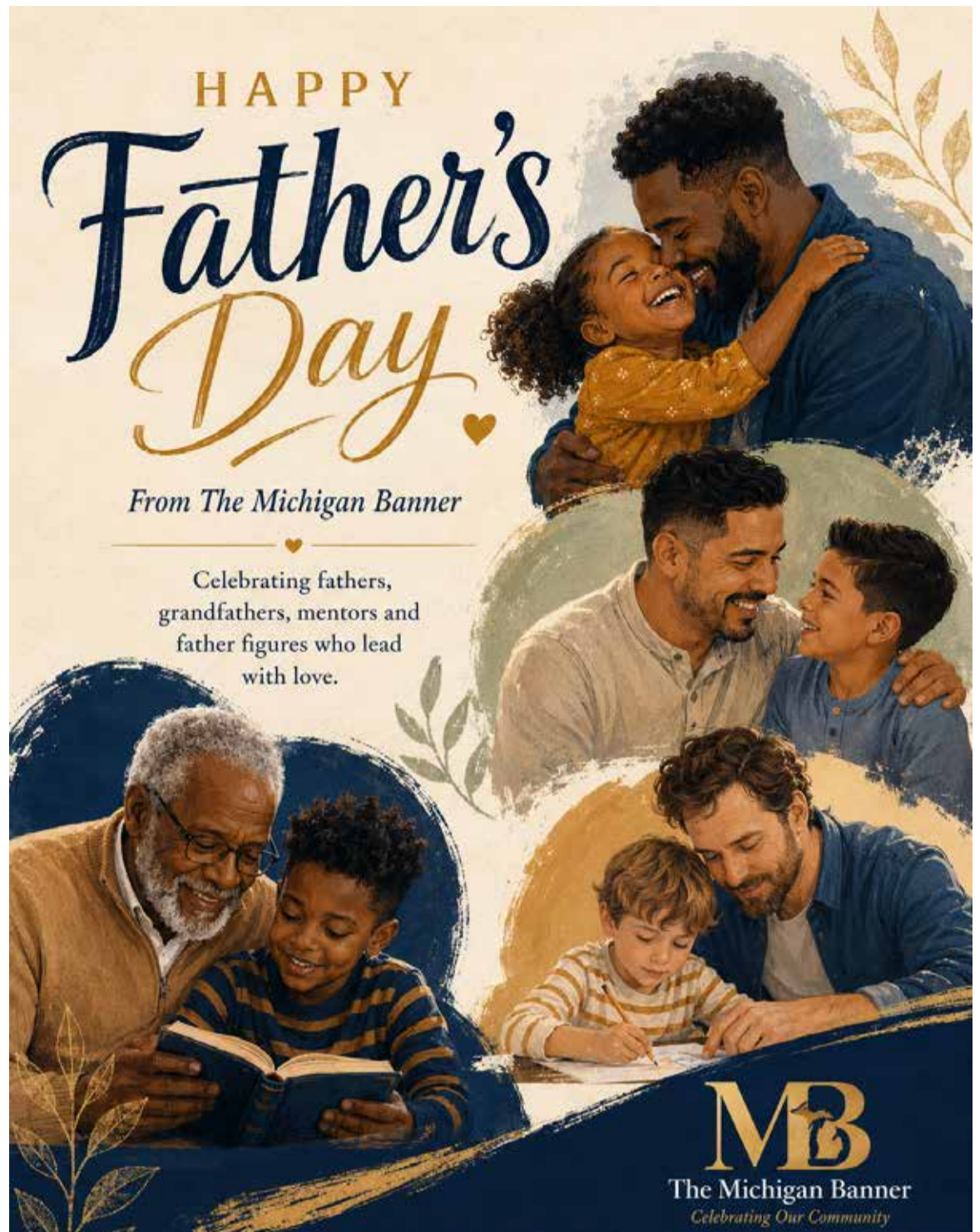
1 week before each publication date of the 1st and 16th of each month

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Mailed or e-mailed
Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

CONNECT WITH THE MICHIGAN BANNER ONLINE!

www.michiganbanner.org
Facebook.com/TheNewMichiganBanner
Twitter.com/MichiganBanner



IN THIS ISSUE ▶

Youth Banner	4 - 7
Latino Banner	LB 1 - LB 6
Community	14
Politics	24
Health	28
Education	31
Business	39
Sports	44
Faith	48

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 8 • NUMBER 12



Flint council approves funding for summer youth job training program



FLINT CITY COUNCIL APPROVED \$200,000 FOR THE CITY'S THIRD CLEAN & SAFE SUMMER YOUTH JOB TRAINING PROGRAM.

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — Flint City Council approved funding June 8 for a summer youth job training program aimed at giving young people work experience and positive activities during the summer months.

The council agenda included \$200,000 for the City of Flint's Third Clean & Safe Summer Youth Job Training Program.

The program is part of a broader effort to connect youth with work, mentorship and com-

munity improvement opportunities. Summer job training programs can help young people build early employment skills, learn responsibility and earn money while supporting neighborhood needs.

The funding was listed in the council agenda as coming from account 101-728.023-801.000 for the youth job training program. The agenda said city officials were authorized to take the steps needed to appropriate the funding and execute any necessary agreements.

The program also was re-

viewed for consistency with federal requirements tied to use of the funds.

The council's action came during a meeting that also included other local issues, including water-rate stabilization funding, a proposed data center moratorium, police vehicle purchases and other city business.

For youth and families, summer employment can serve several purposes. It can introduce young people to the workforce, connect them with adult mentors, reduce idle time and support public safety. Programs tied

to cleaning and safety also can give youth a role in improving the appearance and health of their neighborhoods.

Youth workforce programs are especially important during the summer, when school is out and families may be looking for structured opportunities for teens and young adults.

The city's investment comes as Flint and communities across Michigan continue to focus on youth employment, violence prevention, job readiness and neighborhood stabilization.

Father's Day gifts that do not require billionaire-level money

BY MB STAFF

Father's Day is almost here, which means it is time to celebrate the dads, grandpas, stepdads, uncles, bonus dads and father figures who give advice, tell the same stories 47 times and somehow believe mowing the lawn counts as a personality trait.

But here is the good news: You do not need a luxury budget to give a meaningful gift.

In fact, some of the best Father's Day gifts are not expensive at all. They are thoughtful, personal and made with the kind of effort that says, "I appreciate you," without also saying, "I spent my entire summer job paycheck."

Start with the classic: food. Most dads have at least one snack they treat like treasure. Maybe it is barbecue chips, beef jerky, trail mix, hot sauce, cookies, candy or a very specific soda they swear tastes better ice cold. Put a few favorites in a bag or basket and call it a "Dad Survival Kit." Add a handwritten label and suddenly you are not broke. You are creative.

Another low-cost idea is a custom playlist. Make a Father's Day mix with songs he loves, songs that remind you of him or songs from when he was your age. Be warned: He may take this as permission to explain what "real music" is. Let him. It is his day.

If your dad likes coffee, tea or energy drinks, try making a "morning fuel" gift. Add his favorite drink, a snack and a note that says, "Thanks for keeping us going." It is simple, affordable and actually useful.

For the dad who is always fixing something, give him a coupon for help around the house. Not a fake coupon you never plan to honor. A real one. Offer



FATHER EMBRACING KIDS (MB FILE PHOTO)

to wash the car, clean the garage, organize tools, help with yardwork or take out the trash for a week without being reminded. That last part may shock him so deeply he will need to sit down.

Handmade gifts still count, especially when they are personal. Write him a letter with three things you appreciate about him. Make a funny "Dad Award" certificate, such as "Best Grill Boss," "Loudest Sneeze Champion," "Most Likely to Fall Asleep During a Movie" or "Official Family Problem Solver." It does not have to be perfect. It just has to sound like you.

You can also plan a low-cost

experience. Watch his favorite movie, take a walk, play basketball, go fishing, cook breakfast, visit a park or spend time doing something he enjoys. Sometimes the real gift is giving him your attention without checking your phone every 12 seconds.

A photo gift is another easy win. Print a favorite picture, put it in a simple frame or make a mini collage. Add a short note on the back. Years from now, that might mean more than anything bought in a store.

And if you truly have no money, do not panic. Say thank you. Give him a hug. Tell him one thing he taught you. Ask

him about his favorite memory. Spend time with him.

Father's Day is not about proving who can buy the biggest gift. It is about showing love to the people who show up, give their best and keep trying — even when their jokes are painfully corny.

So, teens, the mission is simple: Be thoughtful, be creative and maybe let him control the TV remote for one full hour.

Yes, even if he chooses a documentary about tools, cars, sports history or animals fighting in the wild.

It is Father's Day. Let the man live.

YMCA of Saginaw, MyMichigan Health to offer Health Careers Summer Camp

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Middle school students interested in health care careers will have a chance to explore the field this summer through a Health Careers Summer Camp at the YMCA of Saginaw.

The camp is scheduled for June 22-26 at the YMCA of Saginaw, 1915 Fordney St. It is open to youth ages 11-14.

The program is offered through a partnership between the YMCA of Saginaw and MyMichigan Health. Campers will learn about careers in health care, including what it is like to work as a doctor, nurse or emergency medical technician.

The camp also will introduce students to basic first aid, medical tools and health care professionals.

The Health Careers Summer Camp is part of the YMCA's summer day camp lineup, which includes themed weeks designed to help children and teens learn new skills in a fun and supportive environment.

For young people, the camp offers an early look at one of the region's most important career fields. Health care continues to be a major employer in Michigan, with hospitals, clinics, emergency services, long-term care facilities and community health organizations all relying on trained workers.

Programs like the Health Careers Summer Camp can help students begin thinking about future careers before high school. It also gives them a chance to ask questions, learn hands-on skills and see how health care workers help people every day.

The camp may be especially helpful for students who enjoy science, helping others or solving problems. It also gives young people a chance to see that

HEALTH CAREERS SUMMER CAMP
June 22nd - June 26th

Days & Time:

- **Monday - Thursday:** 9 AM - 4 PM
- **Friday:** Field Trip to SIM Center in Midland.
- **Age:** 11 - 14
- **Price:**
 - Members: \$175
 - Non Members: \$200

Register Online or Call: 989-753-7721

the YMCA

M MyMichigan Health
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

MyMichigan Health and the YMCA of Saginaw are teaming up to inspire the next generation of middle school age youth with the Healthcare Careers Summer Camp! Students will get up close and hands on look at healthcare careers through interactive activities, Q&As, demonstrations, and more.

THE YMCA OF SAGINAW AND MYMICHIGAN HEALTH ARE OFFERING A HEALTH CAREERS SUMMER CAMP FOR YOUTH AGES 11-14 FROM JUNE 22-26.

health care includes many types of jobs, from direct patient care to emergency response and support services.

For the YMCA of Saginaw, the program adds a career ex-

ploration focus to its summer youth offerings. For MyMichigan Health, the partnership helps introduce students to health care at an early age and may encourage future workers to serve their

local communities.

Families interested in the camp can find registration information through the YMCA of Saginaw.

Tuesday-Wednesday
June 23-24, 2026

Early arrivals Monday, June 22

Location:

SV **SAGINAW VALLEY**
SU **STATE UNIVERSITY**
7400 Bay Road • University Center, MI 48710 • svsu.edu

SAVE THE DATES



21st Annual Michigan Teen Conference **Take Charge 2026**

PROMOTE THIS EVENT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN FOSTER CARE • REGISTRATION TO OPEN SOON

Be ready for lots of exciting new features as we've recharged this year!

Keynote presenter with lived foster care experience will set the tone with an **uplifting and inspiring message!**

Hands-on real-life workshops and evening activities such as...

- Car maintenance
- Cooking/nutrition/food storage/safety
- Financial literacy/money management
- Healthy relationships
- Rental applications/apartment search
- Resume building
- Self-defense
- Vision boards
- Yoga

Resources and tools for success

- At the Resources Fair, you'll get to **explore in person** a wide range of helpful resources and opportunities available to you.
- The online *Resources for Life* guidebook is organized by seven life domains, with links and contact information to make it **easy to follow up and access** programs, services, and products when you need them.



Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

Michigan marks Immigrant Heritage Month, recognizing immigrant contributions

BY MB STAFF

LANSGING, Mich. — Michigan is recognizing June 2026 as Immigrant Heritage Month, honoring the contributions of immigrant communities across the state.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II issued the proclamation June 1, noting that generations of immigrants have helped build the nation’s economy and continue to grow businesses, create jobs and contribute ideas in Michigan.

The proclamation also recognizes the social and cultural influence of immigrant communities and their role in making Michigan and the United States more diverse.

Immigrant Heritage Month is observed nationally each June as a time to recognize the history, work and cultural contributions of immigrants and families with immigrant roots. In Michigan, those contributions can be seen in business ownership, agriculture, manufacturing, education, health care, public service, arts, faith communities and neighborhood life.

For Latino communities in Michigan, the observance overlaps with a long history of migration, work, family, entrepreneurship, culture and civic leadership. Latino residents have helped shape communities across the state, including Saginaw, Bay City, Flint, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Detroit and other cities.

The month also provides an opportunity to recognize that immigrant communities are not defined by one background or one story. Michigan residents with immigrant roots come from many regions of the world and contribute to the state in different ways.



IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION (PHOTO CREDIT: STATE OF MICHIGAN)

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



Latina mothers help shape America's demographic future

BY MB STAFF

Latina mothers are playing an important role in shaping the future of American families, schools, workplaces and communities.

A recent Latin Times report described Latina mothers as central to the country's demographic future, noting that many are younger than the average U.S. adult, increasingly U.S.-born, more educated than previous generations and active in the labor force.

The trend is reflected in national birth and population data. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that the provisional number of U.S. births increased slightly in 2024, even as the country continues to experience long-term changes in fertility, family structure and the age at which women have children.

Hispanic mothers remain an important part of that picture. March of Dimes data show Hispanic women accounted for more than one-quarter of U.S. live births during the 2022-24 period, while a 2026 analysis of national birth data found that Hispanic births were the only major group to increase in both number and share from 2016 to 2024.

Those numbers point to a broader reality: Latino families are a growing part of the country's next generation.

The impact can be seen in schools, where more children are growing up in bilingual or bicultural households. It can be seen in the workforce, where mothers balance employment, caregiving, education and entrepreneurship. It can also be seen in neighborhoods and faith communities, where mothers often serve as cultural keepers, organizers, translators, caregivers and advocates.

National data also show that family patterns are changing. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that the share of first-time Hispanic



WOMAN HOLDING HER CHILD (MB FILE PHOTO)

mothers who were married at the time of birth declined to 43.9% during 2020-24. The data reflect changing living arrangements, economic pressures and evolving family structures across the country.

Those changes can affect housing, child care, health care, transportation, wages and education. For many Latina mothers, the challenges are not only personal but structural, including the cost of raising children, access to affordable health care, language barriers, immigration

concerns and the need for stable jobs.

At the same time, Latina mothers are helping define the country's future through resilience and leadership. Many are raising children who will be part of a more diverse workforce, student population and electorate.

In Michigan, Latino families have long contributed to communities through agriculture, manufacturing, small businesses, education, culture and public service. As the state recognizes Immigrant Heritage Month and

communities continue to celebrate Latino culture, the role of mothers and families remains central.

The story of Latina mothers is not one story. It includes immigrants and U.S.-born women, English speakers and Spanish speakers, married and single mothers, young parents and older mothers, professionals and workers across many industries.

Together, their experiences show how family, culture and opportunity are shaping the next chapter of American life.

Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Southwest Detroit partners plan Clark Park culture festival



THE CLARK PARK CULTURE AND ARTS FESTIVAL WILL BRING TOGETHER THE DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, BALLET FOLKLÓRICO DANCERS, LOCAL MUSICIANS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS JUNE 27 IN SOUTHWEST DETROIT. (PHOTO CREDIT: DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA)

BY MB STAFF

DETROIT — The Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Southwest Detroit community partners will bring music, dance, food, family activities and cultural pride to Clark Park later this month.

The Clark Park Culture and Arts Festival is scheduled from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 27, at Clark Park, 1130 Clark Ave. The free event does not require tickets.

Organizers describe the festival as a neighborhood gather-

ing built around music, art, local talent and community resources. Free food will be offered while supplies last.

The event is part of the DSO's broader community engagement work and is designed to bring music outside Orchestra Hall and into Detroit neighborhoods. In Southwest Detroit, the festival will combine classical music with cultural performances and local artists.

The lineup is expected to include a DSO string quartet performing music by Central and Latin American compos-

ers, young violin students from the Sphinx Overture program at César Chávez Academy, Ballet Folklórico dancers from the LA SED Youth and Senior Center and local rock band Mondo Kane.

The festival also is expected to include community resource booths, local food vendors and activities for children and families.

The event's theme, "Celebrate Together," reflects the goal of creating a welcoming space where neighbors can gather, enjoy performances and celebrate the culture of Southwest Detroit.

The DSO also plans to have

its Detroit Harmony initiative on site. The program helps connect Detroit children with instruments and music learning opportunities.

For more information visit <https://www.dso.org/events-and-tickets/events/25-26-summer/clark-park-culture-and-arts-festival>.





It Matters Where
You Buy Your Car



Make your next deal with

Louis Garcia

Sales Associate • Used Car Sales

Contact:

(989) 770-3078

l.garcia@garberbuick.com



5925 STATE ST, SAGINAW, MI 48603
SALES: 989-683-4697

World Cup opening in Mexico City puts Latin music and culture on global stage



GENERATED IMAGE OF DIVERSE SOCCER FANS

BY MB STAFF

MEXICO CITY — The 2026 FIFA World Cup opened in Mexico City with a celebration that placed Latin music, language and culture at the center of one of the world's largest sporting events.

The opening ceremony at Estadio Azteca featured international stars, traditional sounds and a global message of unity before Mexico defeated South Africa 2-0 in the tournament's first match.

Shakira, joined by Burna Boy, performed the official tournament song, "Dai Dai." The performance marked Shakira's fourth World Cup appearance

and continued her long connection to the global soccer stage.

Colombian reggaeton artist J Balvin, Mexican rock band Maná, Venezuelan artist Danny Ocean, Los Angeles Azules and Belinda were also part of the ceremony. Mexican American singer and activist Lila Downs opened the event with a multilingual greeting that highlighted Mexico's Indigenous roots.

Salma Hayek, serving as a World Cup ambassador, made an appearance during the ceremony. Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli, K-pop artist EJAE and DJ David Guetta were also featured as part of the broader international program.

The ceremony reflected the unique role of the 2026 tourna-

ment, which is being hosted by Mexico, the United States and Canada. For Mexico, the opening match brought the World Cup back to a country with a deep soccer tradition and a long cultural influence across Latin America and beyond.

Latin music has become one of the most influential forces in global entertainment, with artists from Mexico, Colombia, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and other countries regularly reaching international audiences. The opening ceremony gave that influence a highly visible stage.

For Latino communities in the United States, including those in Michigan, the tournament offers more than soccer. It is also

a cultural moment that connects families, languages, food, music and national pride.

World Cup watch parties are already bringing fans together in communities across the country, including in Flint, where local soccer organizers launched gatherings for fans during the tournament.

As matches continue across North America, Latino fans are expected to be a major part of the atmosphere in stadiums, restaurants, homes and community spaces.

The 2026 World Cup is the largest in tournament history, with 48 teams competing across three countries.



WE'RE HIRING NOW!

- **COMMUNITY CANVASSERS**
- **REGIONAL COORDINATORS**
- **ORGANIZERS**

APPLICATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED ON A ROLLING BASIS UNTIL FILLED!

¡LA LUCHA SIGUE CONTIGO! ¡ÚNETE!

APPLY TODAY:
mipoder.me/joinourteam



COMMUNITY

Volunteers needed for Saginaw's One Week, One Street project



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED JUNE 22-26 FOR SAGINAW'S ONE WEEK, ONE STREET PROJECT ON MAPLEWOOD, COLLINGWOOD AND HAZELWOOD AVENUES.

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Volunteers are needed for Saginaw's annual One Week, One Street project, a neighborhood revitalization effort scheduled for June 22-26.

This year's work will focus on Maplewood Avenue, Collingwood Avenue and Hazelwood Avenue, north of Webber Street. Volunteers will gather each day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and check in at a tent at 1923 Maplewood Ave. to sign liability forms and receive work assignments.

The weeklong community service project brings together

residents, churches, businesses, schools, nonprofit organizations and other volunteers to improve homes, yards and vacant spaces.

This year's work is expected to include neighborhood cleanup, flower planting, painting, washing homes, small repairs, cleaning gutters, clearing brush and debris, landscaping, tree trimming and other improvements.

No specific skill is required to volunteer, but organizers said there is a need for carpenters, handy people, tree trimmers and volunteers who can bring and use a chain saw. Volunteers with riding lawn mowers or other large equipment are asked to contact organizers in advance.

Volunteers should wear closed-toed shoes and clothes that can get paint on them. They are also encouraged to bring gloves and a blanket or folding chair for lunch. Work will continue in rain unless there is lightning.

All volunteers will receive a T-shirt, water bottle and free lunch. Volunteers ages 13-17 must have a signed parent or guardian liability form at the start of their first day. No volunteers under age 13 are allowed. Groups of five or more teens must be accompanied by an adult.

Since One Week, One Street began in 2013, volunteers have contributed more than 60,000

hours to neighborhood improvement efforts. Past projects have included improvements to hundreds of homes, community gardens, vacant lot cleanups, new roofs, tree removal, porch and step repairs, murals, a community tool shed, a youth cafe, a park pavilion and play structures.

Organizers say one of the major goals is to reduce blight while increasing neighborhood pride and positive youth activity.

To volunteer, email Tamara Klida at oneweekonestreet@gmail.com and include the days available. Donations may be sent to One Week, One Street, 2800 Holland Ave., Suite D, Saginaw, MI 48601.

Juneteenth events planned across Great Lakes Bay Region and Flint



SAGINAW JUNETEENTH FLYER



MIDLAND JUNETEENTH FLYER

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Communities across the Great Lakes Bay Region and Flint are preparing to mark Juneteenth with parades, festivals, music, family activities, health resources, educational programs and cultural celebrations honoring freedom and African American history.

Juneteenth, observed June 19, commemorates the day in 1865 when enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, learned of their freedom, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. The holiday has grown

into a national celebration of Black freedom, resilience, culture and community.

In Saginaw, the Saginaw Juneteenth Celebration returns under the theme “The Power of Legacy: Honoring Saginaw’s Legacies Past and Present.” The celebration began with a Legacy Gala on June 13 at Horizons Conference Center, recognizing local leaders and residents whose contributions have helped shape the community.

Events continue Friday, June 19, at Morley Plaza, 133 N. Washington Ave., with a Juneteenth Celebration from 11 a.m. to 5

p.m. The city calendar describes the event as a cultural celebration picnic to commemorate the holiday. Organizers also list a Family Affair from 1 to 5 p.m. at Morley Plaza, featuring youth engagement activities, legacy-themed games and family-focused programming.

The Saginaw Juneteenth Freedom Parade is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, June 20. The parade route begins at Hoyt Park and travels along South Washington Avenue to Morley Plaza. A Freedom Festival will follow from noon to 5 p.m. at Morley Plaza, with food vendors, entertainment, community resources and activities for all ages. A Future Ballers 3-on-3 basketball tournament is also scheduled during the festival.

The Saginaw celebration is expected to recognize Joyce Seals as the 2026 grand marshal. Seals,

a longtime educator, public servant and community advocate, has served on the Saginaw City Council and as the city’s second Black female mayor.

In Midland, the fifth annual Juneteenth Block Party will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, June 19, at Creative 360, 5501 Jefferson Ave. The free community event is organized by volunteers and supported through donations and sponsorships held through a project fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation.

The Midland event will include free food, music, family activities and educational exhibits. Organizers describe the block party as a day of joy, reflection and community that honors the

Continues on pg 16, Juneteenth

COMMUNITY

From pg 14, Juneteenth

THE BAY CITY BRANCH OF NAACP

UNITED WE RISE
Juneteenth Worship Experience

Featuring
National Gospel Recording & Award Winning Artist
RiZen

SATURDAY
JUNE 20

11:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
Everyone Is Welcome!!

Gospel Music - Worship Praise Dance
Vendors - Juneteenth Expressions

For information please contact
(989) 893-4701
naacpbaycity@gmail.com

Wenonah Park Under The Pavilion
111 Center Avenue
Bay City, MI 48708

Historic
Bay City

Wenonah Baptist Church

UNITED WE RISE JUNETEENTH EVENT

past while encouraging people to learn more about the continuing struggle for racial justice and equality.

In Bay City, Juneteenth-related programming includes a free Health & Wellness Fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 17, at the Great Lakes Dream Center, 700 Lafayette Ave. More than 16 health care providers are expected to offer free screenings and wellness information, along with food and giveaways.

Bay City's United We Rise Juneteenth Concert and Festival is scheduled from 1 to 7 p.m. Saturday, June 20, at Wenonah Park, 111 Center Ave. A community church service will begin at 11 a.m. at the park, led by Pastor Ben Smith with music from the Faith International Ministry Choir.

The outdoor festival will include live music, performances, food vendors and activities for all ages. The lineup includes Ifficial Reggae Movement, Grupo Vidal

and Sound Proof Band. Festivals also can expect poetry, dance, a fashion show, children's video gaming stations and food trucks.

In Mount Pleasant, Central Michigan University is hosting "History That Lives: The Black Experience in Mount Pleasant" from 3 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, June 17, in Opperman Auditorium. The program will feature an intergenerational conversation with Black Mount Pleasant community members, CMU alumni, students and others discussing their experiences living in the area.

CMU and community partners also will host a Juneteenth Celebration at Island Park beginning at 4 p.m. Friday, June 19, at the West Pavilion near the volleyball courts. The free event will include food, music, campus and community speakers, resources, arts and crafts, games and other activities.

In Flint, the 54th annual Tra-

ditional Flint Juneteenth Celebration is underway with events running from May 31 through June 28. Founded in 1972 by the late Dr. E. Hill De Loney, the Flint celebration is one of the country's long-running Juneteenth observances.

This year's theme is "Education, Liberation, and History." The schedule includes an annual "A Day at the Lake" Youth Fishing Derby and Life Skills Training on June 13, a Freedom School Youth Dinner on June 16, the flagship Juneteenth Parade and City-Wide Festival at Max Brandon Park on June 19, a Freedom March and Cultural Arts Festival at the Flint Cultural Center on June 20 and a Get Out The Vote rally on June 23.

The Flint Cultural Center campus also will host a Juneteenth Celebration from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 20. The event will include children's activities and crafts, local vendors, food trucks, live music, performances and a Freedom March at noon led by the Hamady High School marching band.

The Freedom March will start

at the corner of Crapo and East Kearsley streets. Community members are invited to march behind the band before live music begins. The program includes the national and Black anthems performed by Jawanne Carrigan, Gwen Hemphill with The Eclipse Band, spoken word artists, Mama Sol with The Eclipse Band and a Battle of the Line Dancers.

Flint Public Library, Sloan Museum of Discovery, Longway Planetarium, the Flint Institute of Arts and other Cultural Center partners are participating in the celebration. Planned activities include art activities for children, face painting, book giveaways, balloon art, vendors and family-friendly programming.

The Flint Children's Museum also has a Juneteenth Celebration listed for Friday, June 19, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Across the region, organizers say Juneteenth remains both a celebration and a reminder. The events provide opportunities for education, remembrance, family connection, health awareness, youth engagement and community pride.

2026 Juneteenth
CELEBRATION
@ Flint Cultural Center

FREE Family Event!
Saturday, June 20 | 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

54th ANNUAL
TRADITIONAL
FLINT
JUNETEENTH
Celebration
50 YEARS OF BLACK LIBERATION

Freedom March at Noon
led by Hamady High School Marching Band
Live Music, featuring Mama Sol
Hands-on Arts and Crafts
Vendors / Food Trucks
Bounce Houses

SloanLongway.org/Juneteenth

FLINT CULTURAL CENTER JUNETEENTH EVENT

COMMUNITY



HEART OF GOLD AWARD



Karen Cork accepts award on behalf of Billy Cork

HEART OF GOLD AWARD



Bill Ostash accepts award on behalf of Kevin Rooker

HEART OF GOLD AWARD



Janey Lamar accepts award on behalf of Patricia Lamar

HEART OF GOLD AWARD



Mattie Thompson's brother accepts award on behalf of Willie and Mattie Thompson

OUTSTANDING JOURNALISM AWARD



Christiana Malacara

LIFETIME LEADERSHIP AWARD



Carl Williams

VISIONARY AWARD



Elaine Gregory-McKenzie

IMPACT TURNAROUND AWARD



Jenny Geno

HUMANITARIAN AWARD



Dwayne Parker

PHOTOS BY S.M.T. PRODUCTIONS LLC

COMMUNITY



OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD



Lisa Coney

OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD



Rachel Caudy

MOTIVATION AWARD



David Brown

MOTIVATION AWARD



Vince Agnew & Stephanie Agnew

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS AWARD



Dr. Melvin McDowell

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS AWARD



Frank and Charlie Haddad

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS AWARD



Zaid Baig

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



Alexandria Rene

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



Kelly Ellis

PHOTOS BY S.M.T. PRODUCTIONS LLC

COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



Kisha Smith

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



Phil Eich

OUTSTANDING NON-PROFIT AWARD



Lisa Coleman

DIVERSITY AWARD



Lula Woodard

MINISTRY OF THE YEAR AWARD



Demonia Reed

MINISTRY OF THE YEAR AWARD



Lady Claudia Delgado & Micaela Delgado

MINISTRY OF THE YEAR AWARD



Pastor Taurus A. Simpson, Sr. & Pastor Darlene Simpson

PIONEER LEGACY AWARD



Patricia Franklin-Lindsey

PIONEER LEGACY AWARD



Mirza Baig

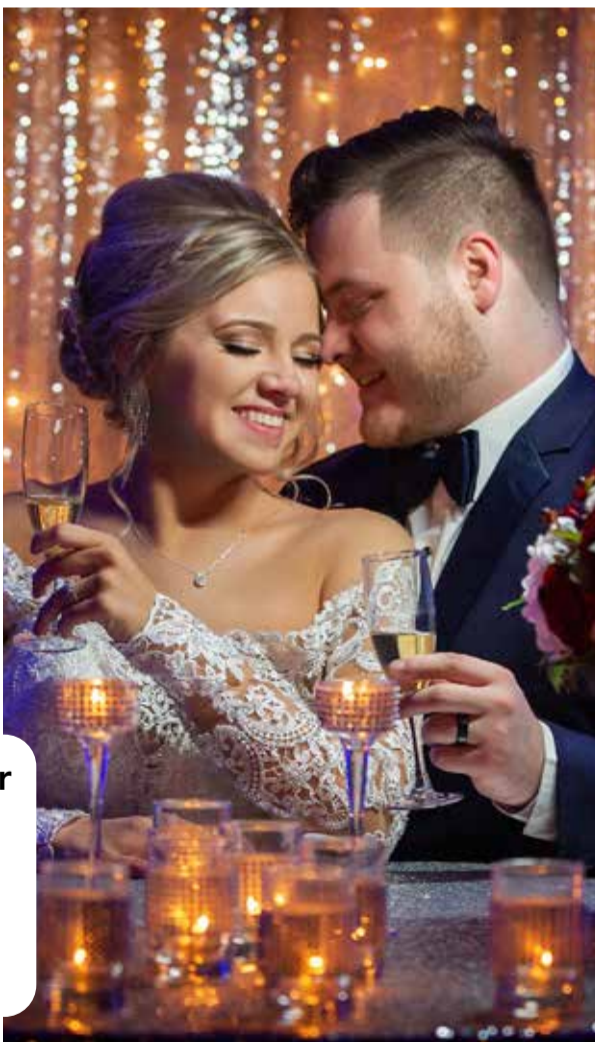
PHOTOS BY S.M.T. PRODUCTIONS LLC

COMMUNITY

Business & community events *beyond* compare.

When you choose HORIZONS, our team will customize the details for your business function to fit your unique needs and budget. Your event coordinator will be with you from start to finish, helping plan for every eventuality, and your personal banquet manager will be on hand during the event to ensure its success.

Get in touch with one of our event coordinators today!



Book a tour today!

Spectacular weddings. Surprisingly affordable.

Your special day deserves to be everything you've always imagined. At HORIZONS, our experienced coordinators take care of all of the details to help plan the wedding of your dreams.

Complimentary to all weddings at HORIZONS:

- › Professional event planning
- › Beautifully accented ballrooms
- › White knee-length linen and napkins
- › China, silver and stemware
- › Wedding cake cutting and serving
- › Ballroom setup and cleanup
- › On-site security and ample free parking

More than a venue ... your planning partner.

HORIZONS is much more than a venue ... we're your dream wedding planning partner. Our experienced in-house hospitality professionals will create an exceptional experience for you and your guests – with stunning linen and floral designs, our renowned cuisine and exceptional service.

Whether you envision an intimate affair or an elaborate, themed event, we've done it all. Our unique, versatile facility features a dozen distinct venues spread over 40,000 square feet – offering infinite configurations to take you and your guests from ceremony to cocktail hour to the reception. Off-site catering is also available.

HORIZONS
ART OF HOSPITALITY

HORIZONS Conference Center
6200 State Street | Saginaw, Michigan

(989) 799-4122 | horizonscenter.com
weddings@horizonscenter.com

@horizonscenter
 @HORIZONSconfctr

COMMUNITY

Flint residents can apply for private tree removal assistance



MB FILE PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — Flint residents who need help removing dangerous or dying trees from private property can now apply for assistance through the city's Private Tree Removal Program.

The City of Flint opened applications June 12 for the third round of the program. Applications will be accepted through 11:59 p.m. July 17, or until funding is no longer available.

The program is intended to help residents address private trees that may pose safety concerns to homes, families or neighborhoods.

Three assistance options are available. The Match Tree Removal Program provides a city match of up to \$2,000 to help remove a dangerous or dying private tree. The Grant Tree Removal Program provides up to \$2,000 for residents who meet income eligibility requirements. The Senior Grant Tree Removal Program provides up to \$2,000 for residents age 65 and older.

To qualify, the property must be residential, owner-occupied and located within the City of Flint. Only one property per owner is eligible, and only one tree per property is generally eligible.

City officials said the funding

may not cover full removal of a tree, including the stump, trunk or branches. However, the funding will be used to address the immediate safety concern.

Residents may not apply for both the matching fund program and the income-based grant program. They must choose one option.

Applications can be completed online for the match and senior grant programs. Downloadable forms may also be dropped off at Mays Senior and Community Center, McKinley Community Center, the information desk at Flint City Hall or placed in the red treasury box in front of City Hall before the deadline.

Residents who need help filling out an application may call the Private Tree Hotline at 810-237-2093.

The city said professional forestry resources will be available if needed, but property owners will make decisions about what tree work they want done on their property.


For homeowners, tree removal can be expensive and difficult to manage, especially when a tree threatens a home, driveway, sidewalk or neighboring property. The assistance program is designed to reduce financial barriers while improving safety in residential neighborhoods.

CREDIT UNIONS *Impact* SAGINAW ★ PRESENTS ★



RED, WHITE & BOOM!



 **THURSDAY,
JUNE 25, 2026
11 AM - 2 PM**

FREE



LOCATION:
MID-MICHIGAN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
315 W GENESEE AVE, SAGINAW



INDOOR/OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, GAMES,
GOODIES, GIVEAWAYS, AND MORE!

CELEBRATING USA'S
250th
Birthday!



**TOUCH-A-
TRUCK!**



mid-michigan



children's
museum

COMMUNITY

Jacqueline Hall remembered for quiet strength, service and grace

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Jacqueline Hall, an educator, community supporter and longtime Saginaw resident whose life was closely tied to faith, family, service and scholarship, died Saturday, June 13. She was 94.

Hall was the widow of retired Brig. Gen. David M. Hall, a decorated U.S. Air Force leader, educator, author and civic servant. Together, the Halls built a life that stretched from Washington, D.C., to military assignments around the world and, eventually, to Saginaw, where their names became associated with service, education and community commitment.

A funeral service for Hall is scheduled for 1 p.m. Monday, June 22, at Bethel A.M.E. Church, 535 Cathay St. in Saginaw. Friends may visit with the family at the church beginning at 11 a.m. The Rev. P. David Saunders will officiate. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Bethel A.M.E. Church or Partnership Center-NEST, 2115 Ring St. in Saginaw.

Hall's passing marks the close of another chapter for a family whose story reflected discipline, dignity and deep public purpose.

Born Nov. 7, 1931, Hall lived a life shaped by education and service. She earned a bachelor's degree from Miner Teachers College and a master's degree from Columbia University. She went on to work as an elementary school teacher, teaching first and second grades.

It was work that required patience, care and a belief in beginnings. First and second grade classrooms are places where children learn more than reading,



JACQUELINE HALL PICTURED WITH GEN. DAVID M. HALL (COURTESY PHOTO)

writing and numbers. They learn confidence. They learn structure. They learn that someone is paying attention.

For Hall, education was not only a profession. It was part of the legacy she and her husband would leave behind.

The David and Jacqueline Hall Scholarship Endowment at Delta College continues to carry their names into the lives of students. The endowment reflects the couple's belief in education as a path forward and their shared commitment to helping others prepare for the future.

Hall and David Hall were married in Washington, D.C., in 1960. In the years that followed,

they raised their family while moving through the demands and responsibilities of military life. David Hall served in the U.S. Air Force for three decades, rising to the rank of brigadier general.

Military families often serve in ways that are less visible but no less meaningful. They carry the transitions, the long distances, the new communities and the steady work of keeping family life grounded through change. Jacqueline Hall was part of that journey, building home, stability and continuity through seasons of movement and responsibility.

When the Halls settled in Saginaw, they became connected to the community in lasting

ways. David Hall became active with organizations including the Saginaw Community Foundation, Boy Scouts of America, Castle Museum of Saginaw County, the NAACP, First State Bank, Northwood University, Saginaw Valley State University and Bethel A.M.E. Church.

Beside that public record was the quieter influence of Jacqueline Hall, whose own work as an educator and community-minded woman helped shape the family's legacy.

Her life reminds us that not every contribution is made from a podium. Some are made in classrooms, in homes, in church pews, in scholarship funds and in the steady example of a person who lives with grace.

To be remembered for community commitment is to have touched people in ways that last beyond a single moment. Hall's name remains connected to education, faith and the belief that service can continue from one generation to the next.

She was part of a partnership built on achievement, sacrifice and shared purpose. She was a teacher. A wife. A mother. A woman of faith and quiet strength. A Saginaw resident whose life was woven into the larger story of a family that valued learning, leadership and service.

As family, friends and community members prepare to gather at Bethel A.M.E. Church, Hall will be remembered not only for whom she married, but for who she was: a woman whose presence helped build a legacy.

POLITICS

Flint City Council approves data center moratorium, water-rate stabilization and youth job training funds

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — Flint City Council approved a series of high-profile measures June 8, including a one-year moratorium on new data center projects, funding to stabilize water rates and support for a summer youth job training program.

The council approved a 12-month pause on data center development in the city as residents and local officials continue raising questions about water use, electricity demand, noise, land use and public health.

Under the moratorium, the city will not accept, review or approve permits, site plans, construction plans or installation plans for new data centers or similar facilities during the pause. The resolution directs city planning and legal staff to review zoning rules and recommend regulations to better protect public health, safety and welfare.

Council President Candice Mushatt said the pause gives the city time to study data centers and gather more information before allowing any projects to move forward.

The issue has drawn attention as rumors have circulated about possible data center interest in Flint, including speculation involving the long-vacant Buick City site. City officials have not confirmed a specific project.

The moratorium comes as communities across Michigan and the country debate how data centers should be regulated. Supporters of data center development often point to potential jobs, investment and tax



CITY OF FLINT MUNICIPAL CENTER

revenue. Critics raise concerns about water demand, energy use, noise, environmental effects and whether communities receive enough long-term benefit.

For Flint, those questions carry special weight because of the city's history with the water crisis. Residents and former officials have said the city must be cautious about projects that could affect water and public infrastructure.

The council also allocated \$1 million in American Rescue Plan

Act funding to the city's water rate stabilization fund. City officials said the money is intended to cover the Great Lakes Water Authority's fiscal year 2027 water rate increase so the cost is not passed on to residents.

Council members also approved \$200,000 for Flint's Clean & Safe Summer Youth Job Training Program, a local workforce initiative intended to provide youth with training and summer work opportunities.

In addition, council approved

the purchase of five new police vehicles from LaFontaine of Dexter for a total not to exceed \$297,680. The purchase includes five Chevrolet Tahoes.

The June 8 meeting also included a Pride Month recognition and other city business.

Together, the actions show the range of local issues before Flint officials, from environmental and infrastructure concerns to public safety and youth employment.

AI regulation becomes flashpoint in Michigan's Democratic U.S. Senate primary



MB FILE PHOTO

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — Artificial intelligence policy is becoming a dividing issue in Michigan's Democratic U.S. Senate primary, as candidates offer different approaches to regulating a technology expected to reshape work, business, education and public life.

Abdul El-Sayed, a physician and former public health official, has called for public ownership stakes in artificial intelligence companies and for regulating major AI firms like public utilities.

El-Sayed has argued that AI presents risks unlike other indus-

tries because of its ability to alter the social contract, disrupt employment and concentrate power in private technology companies.

His position is one of the most aggressive AI proposals in the race.

State Sen. Mallory McMorrow of Royal Oak has also made AI regulation a key issue, but has focused more on guardrails, transparency and accountability. U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens of Birmingham has pointed to her work on a bipartisan AI task force in Congress and federal AI safety and research legislation.

The candidates are competing for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate seat being

vacated by Sen. Gary Peters, who is not seeking reelection. The primary is scheduled for Aug. 4.

AI has moved from a technology topic to a political issue as voters and policymakers consider how it could affect jobs, schools, elections, privacy, misinformation, energy use and economic inequality.

The debate also connects to concerns over data centers, which require large amounts of electricity and, in some cases, water for cooling. Michigan communities including Flint and several townships have discussed or approved moratoriums on data center development while officials study possible impacts.

For Michigan voters, AI regulation could become part of a larger discussion about who benefits from new technology and how government should respond when technology changes faster than existing laws.

The Senate candidates have also debated health care, campaign finance, energy costs, foreign policy and data center development. But AI has become a distinct issue because it reaches across so many areas of daily life.

The winner of the Democratic primary is expected to face former U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, a Republican, in a nationally watched race that could help determine control of the U.S. Senate.

POLITICS

Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson works to build statewide name recognition in governor's race



GENESEE COUNTY SHERIFF CHRIS SWANSON CAMPAIGNED AT UA LOCAL 85 IN SAGINAW FOR THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION FOR MICHIGAN GOVERNOR. (PHOTO CREDIT: FACEBOOK.COM/SWANSON4MI) AL 85 IN SAGINAW FOR THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION FOR MICHIGAN GOVERNOR.

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson is working to turn energy, union support and a high-profile law enforcement background into statewide momentum as he seeks the Democratic nomination for governor.

Swanson, a Flint-area Democrat, is running to succeed term-limited Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. He faces Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and other candidates in the Aug. 4 Democratic primary.

Last week, Swanson brought his campaign to Saginaw during

a meet-and-greet with members of UA Local 85, a skilled trades union that endorsed him shortly after he entered the race.

Swanson has centered parts of his campaign on organized labor, public safety and unity. He has traveled heavily, used social media to increase visibility and leaned into his reputation as an energetic speaker.

Still, he faces a difficult political challenge. Benson remains better known statewide and has led Swanson in Democratic primary polling. With the primary approaching, Swanson is trying to broaden his support beyond Genesee County and labor circles.

Swanson became a nationally recognized figure in 2020 after joining protesters during demonstrations following the killing of George Floyd. He later spoke at the Democratic National Convention and built a public profile around community policing and public safety.

He was appointed Genesee County sheriff in 2019 and won election to the office in 2020 and 2024.

His campaign reflects a broader question in Democratic politics: whether a law enforcement candidate can appeal to voters concerned about both public safety and police reform.

Swanson has argued that his experience as sheriff shows he can bring people together and lead during crises. His campaign has emphasized service, protec-

tion and unity.

The Democratic primary winner is expected to face a competitive general election. Michigan's 2026 governor's race is drawing statewide and national attention because Whitmer cannot run again, Republicans see an opportunity to win the office, and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan is running as an independent.

For Flint and Genesee County, Swanson's campaign brings a local official into one of the state's most visible political contests. For Saginaw-area voters, his campaign stops are part of a broader effort to make inroads across Mid-Michigan.

Whether that strategy can close the name-recognition gap remains a central question in the final weeks before the primary.



GENESEE COUNTY SHERIFF CHRIS SWANSON CAMPAIGNED AT UA LOCAL 85 IN SAGINAW FOR THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION FOR MICHIGAN GOVERNOR. (PHOTO CREDIT: FACEBOOK.COM/SWANSON4MI) AL 85 IN SAGINAW FOR THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION FOR MICHIGAN GOVERNOR.

Michigan budget talks stall as House speaker threatens temporary spending plan



MICHIGAN STATE CAPITOL BUILDING

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan budget negotiations remain tense as Republican House Speaker Matt Hall says he may support a temporary spending plan if Senate Democrats do not move on House GOP priorities.

Hall, R-Richland Township, raised the possibility of a continuing resolution that could extend current spending levels for several months instead of finalizing a full fiscal year 2027 budget before key deadlines. The comments came as school districts, colleges and universities prepare for fiscal years that begin July 1.

The state's fiscal year begins Oct. 1, but K-12 schools, community colleges and public universities often need state budget details much earlier to finalize their own spending plans.

Hall said he wants a budget that cuts spending and avoids using money from the state's rainy day fund. He also has pointed to issues such as property tax relief as part of the broader negotiations.

Democrats have pushed back against the idea of delaying a full budget. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's administration has said lawmakers are required by law to pass a fiscal year 2027 budget by the July 1 deadline and

should continue working toward an agreement that supports children, health care access and affordability.

The dispute reflects the divided control of state government. Republicans control the Michigan House, while Democrats control the Senate and governor's office. Any final budget must pass both chambers and be signed by Whitmer.

The debate also comes after a difficult budget process last year, when lawmakers missed multiple deadlines before passing a stop-gap measure to avoid a government shutdown. A final budget was signed in October.

For school leaders, a pro-

longed budget fight could again make it harder to plan staffing, programs, transportation, classroom support and other district needs. Schools typically need to know how much per-pupil funding and categorical support they will receive before the start of the new fiscal year.

The House and Senate have each approved budget proposals, but lawmakers still must reconcile differences before sending a final agreement to the governor.

If a full budget is not passed on time, a temporary spending measure could keep government operating, but it would leave many longer-term decisions unresolved.

HEALTH

MyMichigan Health Foundation awards \$211,000 to future health care workers



MYMICHIGAN HEALTH

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — MyMichigan Health Foundation has awarded \$211,000 in scholarships to students pursuing health care careers for the 2026-27 academic year.

The scholarships were awarded through The Bernard F. and Melissa Anne Bailey Family Fund, which supports students preparing for careers in the medical field. Since the scholarship program began in 2005, more than \$4 million has been awarded to nearly 2,600 students.

This year's recipients come

from several Mid-Michigan counties, including Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella and Midland counties.

Students are pursuing a wide range of health care careers, including nursing, pharmacy, physician assistant studies, physical therapy, social work, sonography, medical laboratory technology, nurse practitioner studies, certified registered nurse anesthetist training and medicine.

The Bailey Family Fund was established through a \$3.3 million bequest left to MyMichigan by Bernard Bailey in 2004. Because the gift was placed in an endowment, a portion of the

fund's earnings is awarded each year to qualified students.

Bernard and Melissa Anne Bailey were lifelong Midland residents who supported the community through leadership, business involvement and philanthropy. Their legacy continues through scholarships designed to help future health care workers prepare to serve others.

The foundation said the program recognizes students who have a passion for caring for others and helps reduce the financial burden of education and training.

Health care scholarships can play an important role in workforce development, especially as

hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities and community health organizations continue to need nurses, technicians, therapists and other professionals.

For students in the Great Lakes Bay Region and surrounding counties, the awards provide support as they pursue careers that could eventually bring them back to serve local communities.

Applications for the 2027-28 academic year will be accepted from Dec. 1, 2026, through April 1, 2027. More information about eligibility guidelines and scholarship applications is available through MyMichigan Health.

HEALTH

Midland Lyme Support Group offers help as tick numbers rise in Michigan

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — As tick populations rise across Michigan, the Michigan Lyme Disease Association's Midland-area Lyme Support Group is offering information, encouragement and peer support for residents affected by Lyme disease.

The group meets at 5:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at Live Oak Coffeehouse, 711 Ashman St. in Midland.

The support group is open to people who have been bitten by a tick, people who have been diagnosed with Lyme disease and those who have a loved one affected by the illness. Organizers said a sponsor provides a com-

plimentary beverage and baked good for each attendee.

Upcoming meeting dates include June 16, July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15.

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection spread through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks, also known as deer ticks. Symptoms can include fever, chills, fatigue, headache, muscle and joint aches, swollen lymph nodes and, in some cases, a rash. If untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart and the nervous system.

The support group gives residents a place to ask questions, share experiences and learn from others who understand the challenges of tick bites and Lyme

disease.

Health officials commonly advise residents to use insect repellent, wear long sleeves and pants in tick-prone areas, check themselves and pets after being outdoors and remove ticks promptly and properly.

Support groups can be especially helpful for people dealing with ongoing symptoms, uncertainty after a tick bite or the stress of navigating diagnosis and treatment.

The Midland-area group of-

fers a local option for residents seeking connection and reliable information. Organizers said anyone concerned about Lyme disease, whether personally affected or supporting someone else, may attend.



IMAGE OF A TICK (MB FILE PHOTO)



NEXT GENERATION HEART TREATMENTS ARE HERE

Choose the most preferred health system for heart.

For generations, we have put our heart into saving and extending lives. And today Covenant HealthCare is leading the way with breakthrough, minimally invasive heart treatments. We're finding new ways to treat AFib, structural heart problems, and vascular disease. People come from all over the state for our expertise. Trust your heart with the most trusted heart team. Choose extraordinary. Choose Covenant HealthCare.

COVENANT
HealthCare
CovenantHeart.com



HEALTH

Flint expands addiction and mental health care with \$500,000 opioid settlement investment

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — The City of Flint is investing \$500,000 in opioid settlement funding to expand access to addiction and mental health care at Insight Health System.

The city announced June 8 that the funding will support the next phase of expansion for Insight's specialized Medical Psychiatric Hospital at 4400 S. Saginaw St. The facility currently operates 19 medical psychiatric inpatient beds and is working toward a planned total of 70 licensed beds.

Mayor Sheldon Neeley presented the funding during a press conference June 8. City officials said the investment is part of Flint's broader effort to use opi-

oid settlement dollars for treatment, recovery and long-term support for people and families affected by addiction.

The hospital serves people experiencing co-occurring medical, psychiatric and substance use disorders. Services include inpatient psychiatric stabilization, substance use disorder treatment, medication-assisted treatment, therapy and coordinated recovery planning for patients with complex behavioral health and medical needs.

The expansion is intended to increase inpatient capacity for people who need specialized care but may otherwise struggle to find appropriate treatment close to home.

For Flint, the investment comes as communities across Michigan continue working to

respond to the long-term effects of the opioid crisis. Opioid settlement funds are being distributed to states and local governments after national legal settlements with companies accused of contributing to the crisis. Local officials have said the money should be used in ways that save lives and expand access to care.

Behavioral health access remains a major issue in many communities. People experiencing addiction, mental illness or both may face long waits, limited inpatient options, transportation barriers or difficulty finding treatment that addresses multiple needs at once.

By supporting a facility that treats medical, psychiatric and substance use conditions together, the city said the investment is aimed at residents who need co-

ordinated care rather than disconnected services.

City officials said Flint will continue to direct opioid settlement funding toward programs and infrastructure that address the lasting impact of the opioid epidemic.

The investment also reflects a growing recognition that addiction and mental health care are deeply connected. Many people with substance use disorders also experience depression, anxiety, trauma or other behavioral health challenges. Treating those needs together can be an important part of recovery.

The city said the funding is intended to strengthen behavioral health access in Flint and support people who need treatment, recovery services and stability.

Michigan overdose death rate declines 47%

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan's overdose death rate has declined 47% since 2021, according to preliminary 2025 data released by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

MDHHS announced June 9 that preliminary data projects a 2025 overdose death rate of 16.4 deaths per 100,000 residents, down from 30.8 deaths per 100,000 residents in 2021. The state also projects fewer than 1,800 overdose deaths in 2025, compared with 3,096 deaths in 2021.

State health officials said the data suggests overdose deaths have continued to decline for the

fourth consecutive year.

The decline reflects Michigan's ongoing response to substance use disorder through prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery services. In 2019, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer established the Michigan Opioids Task Force to help coordinate the state's response.

MDHHS officials said opioid settlement dollars and data-driven investments have helped expand access to naloxone, treatment options, harm reduction services and recovery supports.

Naloxone, a medication used to reverse opioid overdoses, has become a central part of Michigan's overdose prevention strategy. The state launched its Naloxone Direct Portal in 2020 to provide free naloxone for com-

munity distribution. Since then, more than 1.8 million naloxone kits have been distributed statewide, with nearly 34,000 reported uses to reverse overdoses.

Harm reduction services also have expanded. Since 2019, Michigan has grown from five agencies offering harm reduction services to 115 community-based sites.

State officials said those efforts have helped save lives, but they also emphasized that disparities remain. MDHHS reported that urban counties and regions continue to have overdose rates 24% higher than the state rate, and Black residents have overdose death rates more than twice that of all other residents.

Health officials said the state will continue working with pro-

viders, local partners, community organizations and people with lived experience to improve access to care.

The state is expected to receive more than \$1.8 billion from national opioid settlements by 2040. Half of the funding goes to the State of Michigan Opioid Healing and Recovery Fund, while the other half goes directly to county, city and township governments.

MDHHS said continued investment remains important as Michigan monitors a changing drug supply, including fentanyl, xylazine, medetomidine and renewed concerns about carfentanil.

EDUCATION

Saginaw Township schools seek input after third bond proposal defeat

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW TOWNSHIP, Mich. — Saginaw Township Community Schools is asking residents, families, staff and taxpayers for feedback after voters rejected the district's bond proposal for a third time.

The district launched an on-line post-bond survey in June to better understand what the community wants to see before it would support a future proposal. The survey follows the defeat of a \$94.2 million bond proposal on the May 5 ballot.

The proposal would have funded improvements at all eight school buildings in the district. After the vote, Superintendent Jamie Kraatz said the outcome was not what the district had hoped for, but said the district would listen, reflect and better understand community concerns before deciding next steps.

The district is now asking community members to share their opinions through the 2026 STCS Bond Proposal Survey.

The survey asks respondents whether they are homeowners, whether they have children or grandchildren in the district, how they learn about school programs and news, how they view Saginaw Township Community Schools, and whether they supported the 2026 bond proposal.

It also asks people who did not support the bond to explain why. Options include not having enough information, confusing ballot language, the proposal being too much money, concern about new taxes, not supporting public schools or another reason.

The survey also asks how peo-



SAGINAW TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SCHOOLS IS SEEKING COMMUNITY FEEDBACK AFTER VOTERS REJECTED THE DISTRICT'S BOND PROPOSAL FOR A THIRD TIME.

ple received information about the proposal, whether they visited the district's bond information webpage and how informed they felt before Election Day.

Other questions focus on whether the district clearly explained alternate funding options, the proposed construction timeline, the long-term cost of the bond and why a bond was needed rather than using the general fund.

Residents are also asked which school-related improvements matter most to them. Options include school safety and security, classroom updates, technology improvements, building repairs and maintenance, athletic facilities, arts and music spaces, career and techni-

cal education spaces, transportation and buses, energy efficiency and accessibility improvements.

Kraatz told WNEM the survey is a first step in the district acknowledging that the community has spoken and that more listening is needed.

As of the WNEM report, about 1,000 surveys had been completed, and the superintendent said she hoped many more residents would participate.

School bond proposals can be difficult for districts and communities because they often involve major facility needs, tax questions and competing opinions about priorities. For districts, bonds are commonly used to fund building repairs, renovations, security improvements,

technology upgrades and other long-term capital projects. For voters, the questions often come down to cost, trust, timing, communication and whether the proposed projects are viewed as necessary.

Saginaw Township Community Schools said its mission is to educate, guide and challenge students to develop lifelong learning skills. District leaders have said facility needs remain even after the bond defeat.

The survey results are expected to help shape the district's next move as it considers how to address building needs and rebuild community support.

The survey is available through the district's website.

LET'S FIND OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS!



www.sisd.cc

Know someone looking for their next opportunity? Saginaw ISD is **NOW HIRING** across all departments!

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

**For those that qualify through Tri-Share*



Strategies for Parents



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS

School's out for summer!

Summer vacation is a time for rest.... sleeping in and “kicking back.” An excess of these relaxations can lead to “summer slide,” where students go backwards in their learning over June, July, and August.

What can parents consider doing to counteract?

Here are three suggestions I would offer: daily reading, incorporating learning, and using the Internet.

First, try to encourage daily reading. Reading over the summer helps prevent the “summer slide,” where students lose academic skills during the break. Parents can set up a daily reading routine, visit libraries, or join summer reading programs. Engaging children in choosing their books increases motivation and comprehension. Reading opens doors to new topics and experiences, sparking curiosity and inquiry.

Second, try to incorporate learning into everyday activities: Simple activities like cooking, grocery shopping, or gardening can teach math, science, and vocabulary. For example, measuring ingredients introduces fractions, while nature walks can spark curiosity about biology and the environment.

Finally, search for educational websites on the Internet. Platforms designed for elementary learners offer fun, curriculum-aligned games in math, reading, and problem-solving. Structured screen time on trusted sites keeps young minds engaged.

These simple strategies can be fun and family-focused. A few conscious decisions by parents now can pay dividends when school resumes in August.



Saginaw Promise

Investing in Saginaw's future,
its economy and talent development
through postsecondary education
with information and scholarships!



- ✓ Since 2012, the Saginaw Promise has awarded **\$1,515,745** in scholarships to **804** students!
- ✓ Saginaw Promise scholars have earned **323** program certificates and degrees!
- ✓ 2026 is our largest cohort — **214** Scholars.



SAGINAW PROMISE 2026 SPECIAL EVENTS TO SUPPORT PROGRAMMING:



Thursday, August 13, 2026
Saginaw Country Club

Registration: 9 AM–10 AM | Shotgun Start

Team (foursome): \$760 | Individual Golfer: \$190

SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

Included: A great time on a great golf course for a great cause! Also included ... Driving range, "Lunch at the Turn," Barbeque Dinner, Putting Contest, Drawing Prizes, Awards Presentations.

Visit www.Saginawpromise.org or telephone 989-607-3428 for questions or more information.



Save the Date



POWER OF A PROMISE
Luncheon Fundraiser

Thursday, October 29, 2026
Horizons Conference Center

Doors open 11 AM,
Event starts 11:30–1:15 PM

Event to feature Lunch, Program highlights, Scholar Achievements, Scholar Spotlight, Musical Entertainment, Keynote Panel to feature President George Grant of SVSU and President Neil MacKinnon of CMU to speak to the importance of their institution's presence in the Heart of the Medical Diamond.



SAGINAW PROMISE, 1 TUSCOLA ST., SUITE 200, SAGINAW, (989) 607-3428

State Board of Education forms bipartisan Special Education Committee

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan State Board of Education has formed a bipartisan committee focused on strengthening services, partnerships and outcomes for students with disabilities.

The Michigan Department of Education announced the committee June 9 after the State Board of Education meeting. The new Special Education Committee will work with MDE and State Superintendent Dr. Glenn Maleyko as the state reviews needs, identifies promising practices and listens to families, educators, advocates and school districts.

The committee will initially include board members Dr. Pamela Pugh, Tom McMillin, Ellen Cogen Lipton and Dr. Judith Pritchett. Pugh, a Democrat and president of the State Board of Education, will serve as chair. McMillin, a Republican, will serve as vice chair.

Initial planning is expected to begin this summer, with visits to local school districts expected to start this fall. Public notice will be issued before meetings.

The committee's work will focus on identifying strategies and best practices that support student success, strengthening partnerships with districts and families, and helping ensure students with disabilities receive the services, supports and opportunities they need.

The announcement comes as state education officials continue to review special education outcomes across Michigan.

At the same State Board of Education meeting, MDE leaders shared data showing improvement in graduation rates



THE MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS FORMED A BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE FOCUSED ON STRENGTHENING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.

for students with disabilities, while also acknowledging that more progress is needed. The four-year graduation rate for Michigan students with disabilities increased from 57.1% in the 2014-15 school year to 62.1% in the 2024-25 school year.

State officials also reported that students with disabilities who spend more time in general education settings have higher graduation rates. In the 2024-25 school year, students with disabilities who spent 80% or more of their school day in general education had a graduation rate of 68.5%. The rate was 52.6% for students who spent 40% to 79% of their time in general education and 15.2% for students who spent less than 40% of the day in general education.

State Superintendent Glenn Maleyko said the state must continue supporting students with disabilities in ways that prepare them for future learning, employment and independence.

The work is tied to Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan, which includes increasing the percentage of all students who graduate from high school.

For families, the committee could provide another way to raise concerns about access to services, communication, classroom supports, individualized education programs and the transition from school to adulthood.

For districts, the review may help identify what is working and where more resources, training or collaboration are needed.

Special education services are designed to support students whose disabilities affect their ability to learn or participate in school without additional support. Those services may include specialized instruction, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, behavioral support, assistive technology, classroom accommodations and other individualized services.

The committee's district visits could be especially important for understanding how special education challenges vary across urban, suburban and rural communities.

Additional information about meetings and district visits is expected to be shared in the coming weeks.

EDUCATION

Catholic foundation approves more than \$330,000 for schools, parishes and ministries

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — The Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan has approved more than \$330,000 in annual disbursements to support Catholic parishes, schools and ministries across the Diocese of Saginaw.

The foundation's board approved the designated disbursements during its June 9 meeting. The funding will support classroom resources, faith formation, parish activities, outreach programs and other ministries serving families and students across Mid-Michigan.

The largest single distribution this year was more than \$43,000 from the Saginaw Area Catholic Schools Endowment Fund to

support Catholic education.

Foundation leaders said the annual disbursements come from endowed funds, which provide a percentage of investment revenue each year while preserving the original principal. That structure allows donors to create long-term support for schools, parishes and ministries.

The funding can help Catholic schools and parishes plan for needs such as tuition assistance, curriculum improvements, teacher salaries, faith formation materials and community outreach.

The Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan was created to provide lasting financial support for the mission of the Diocese of Saginaw. Since 2006, the foundation has distributed more than \$21 million to

support ministries and programs across 11 counties and 56 parishes in Mid-Michigan.

The annual disbursements also reflect the role of private giving in supporting education and faith-based community services. Through endowments, donors can direct resources toward specific areas, including Catholic education, parish life, outreach and ministries that serve children, families and local communities.

For Catholic schools, the sup-

port can help strengthen classroom learning while also making education more accessible to families. For parishes and ministries, the funding can help sustain programs that serve people across the region.

Foundation officials said the 2026 disbursements are intended to provide reliable support that helps local organizations plan with confidence and continue serving students, families and parish communities.



Catholic
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF MID-MICHIGAN



Michigan Reconnect Scholarship

Requirements

- Michigan resident for 1 year or more
- At least 25 years of age
- U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Have a high school diploma or GED, but not a college degree

More info

delta.edu/reconnect
admissions@delta.edu
989-686-9093



MICHIGAN
RECONNECT



EDUCATION

CMU names first associate vice president for University Engagement



KYLE OLDHAM (PHOTO CREDIT: CMU)

BY MB STAFF

MOUNT PLEASANT, Mich. — Central Michigan University has named Kyle Oldham as its first associate vice president of University Engagement, a new role focused on organizational culture, student success, community engagement and belonging.

Oldham will begin the position Aug. 17. The appointment

was announced by Shawna Patterson-Stephens, CMU's vice president of University Engagement and Student Affairs.

Oldham comes to CMU from Colorado State University, where he serves as director of Workplace Integrity and Talent Management for On & Off-Campus Life. He previously served as associate director of Housing and Dining Services for Diversity, Inclusion and Assessment.

At Colorado State, Oldham worked with staff on workplace management, communication, policies and procedures. He also helped oversee learning and development efforts, strategic planning, program review and annual goals for multiple units.

At CMU, Oldham will oversee a unit focused on student success and campus culture. His responsibilities will include supervision of CMU Cares, the Center

for Collaborative Learning and Engagement, the CMU Counseling Center and other university teams.

The new role also includes guidance on community engagement and belonging. As part of the division's leadership team, Oldham will work with student affairs leaders, student recruitment and retention staff, CMU Athletics, members of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, campus colleagues and community partners.

University officials said the position is intended to help strengthen relationships, support students and create new opportunities for engagement among students, faculty, staff and the broader community.

Oldham was selected after a national search that began in February.

He earned a doctorate in so-

cial justice education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, a master's degree in student affairs higher education from Colorado State University and a bachelor's degree in speech communications from Baldwin Wallace University.

The appointment comes as colleges and universities continue to focus on student retention, mental health, belonging and campus support services. By creating the new position, CMU is placing several student-centered programs under leadership designed to connect wellness, engagement and community relationships.

Oldham said in the university announcement that he looks forward to becoming part of CMU's community and building relationships that support student learning, personal growth and holistic engagement.

SVSU board approves tuition, budget and housing renovations

BY MB STAFF

UNIVERSITY CENTER, Mich. — The Saginaw Valley State University Board of Control approved the university's fiscal year 2027 general fund operating budget, including tuition rates for the upcoming academic year, during its regular meeting Monday, June 15.

For the 2026-27 academic year, a full-time Michigan undergraduate student taking 12 to 18 credits will pay \$14,280, a 4.4% increase from the previous year.

SVSU began using a block tuition structure during the 2025-

26 academic year. Students taking fewer than 12 credits will pay \$595 per credit hour during the upcoming year. The same per-credit rate will apply to spring and summer courses in the fiscal year.

The university said it continues to have the lowest tuition rate among Michigan's 15 public universities.

The board also approved spending up to \$6.4 million to renovate some apartment-style housing units in the University Village complex. SVSU's student housing remains ranked No. 1 among public universities in the

United States in Niche's annual "best dorms" ratings.

In other action, the board approved the promotion of 16 faculty members, including one posthumous promotion.

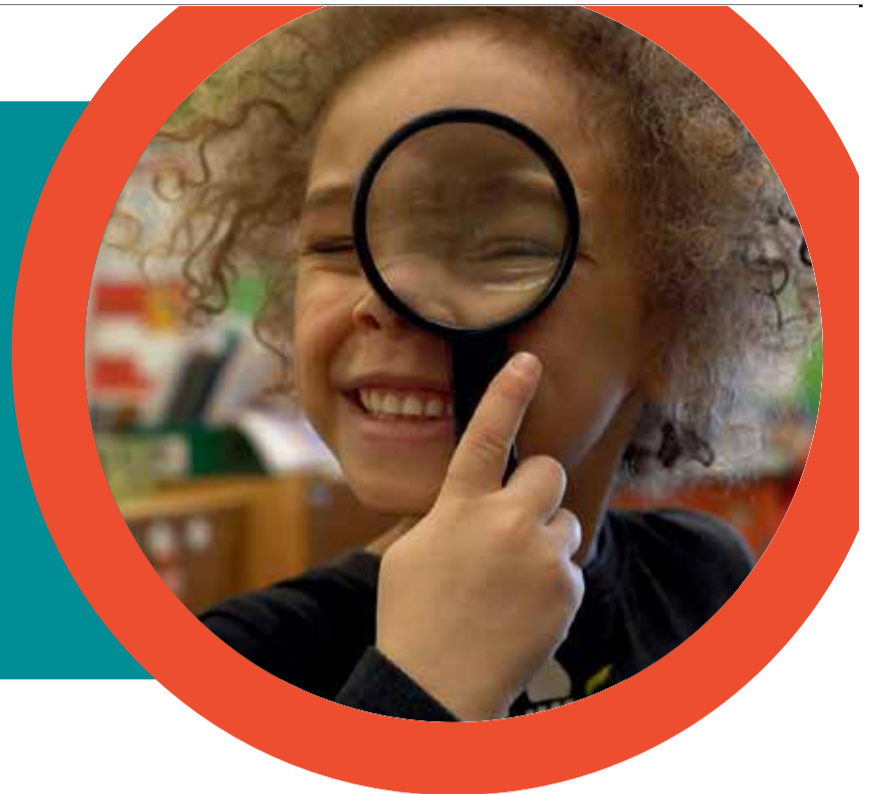
Faculty members promoted to associate professor are Emily Larocque, nursing; Kevin Lorentz II, political science; Joshua Mike, mathematics; Ashley Sanders, social work; JoAnne West, teacher education; and Colin Wood, music.

Faculty members promoted to professor are Emily Beard-Bohn, English; Micah DelVecchio, economics; Melissa Garmo,

criminal justice; Aneesha Gogineni, mechanical engineering; John Herman, mechanical engineering; Michael Heron, social work, posthumously; Chat Pongpatipat, marketing; Aricka Schweitzer, occupational therapy; Dennis Savard, criminal justice; and Joe Weaver, psychology.

The board also confirmed board members for previously authorized charter schools, approved a resolution to conclude the term of a Flat River Academy board member effective June 15 and approved a revised SVSU Code of Student Conduct.

NOW OPEN: Enrollment for NO-COST, High- Quality PreK for All



APPLY NOW FOR THE 26-27 SCHOOL YEAR TO SECURE YOUR SPOT!

Open to children who will be four by December 1, 2026.

Thanks to **Michigan's PreK for All program**, participating PreK classrooms are available at **NO COST** to families with licensed teachers throughout Saginaw County.

OPTIONS INCLUDE:

- Half-days or full-days
- Four- and five-day programs
- Extended day programs are available in some locations
- Transportation is available in some areas

Research shows participation in a quality PreK program **improves a child's emotional, social and intellectual skills** and helps ensure they are healthy and ready for kindergarten.*

All Michigan 4-year-olds qualify for NO-COST, **high-quality** PreK with licensed teachers. While children from low-income families receive priority, this program is available to all Michigan families regardless of income.

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



Visit www.earlychildhood.sisd.cc or call
989-752-2193 for more information and apply today!

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Isabella Bank to acquire Grand River Bank in \$54.6 million deal



ISABELLA BANK DOWNTOWN SAGINAW LOCATION, 203 E. GENESEE AVE. (PHOTO CREDIT: ISABELLA BANK)

BY MB STAFF

MOUNT PLEASANT, Mich. — Isabella Bank Corporation has entered into an agreement to acquire Grand River Commerce Inc., the parent company of Grand River Bank, in a transaction valued at about \$54.6 million.

The agreement, announced June 12, would expand Isabella Bank's presence into West Michigan and the Grand Rapids market while increasing the company's total assets to an estimated \$2.8 billion.

Under the agreement, Grand River Commerce and Grand River Bank would merge into Isabella Bank Corporation, with Isabella Bank remaining the surviving institution. The transaction has been unanimously approved by the boards of directors

of both companies and is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2026, pending regulatory approvals and approval from Grand River shareholders.

Grand River Bank is headquartered in Grandville and operates an additional office in Grand Rapids. As of March 31, the bank reported \$511.7 million in assets, \$437.9 million in loans and \$438.9 million in deposits.

Following the merger, the combined institution is expected to operate 33 locations across nine Michigan counties, including Midland, Bay, Clare, Gratiot, Isabella, Mecosta, Montcalm, Saginaw and Kent counties.

The deal is significant for Isabella Bank, a community bank with roots in Mount Pleasant and a long-standing presence in Mid-Michigan. By entering the Grand Rapids market, the bank would add a major West Michigan

growth area while maintaining its stated focus on relationship-based banking.

Jerome Schwind, president and CEO of Isabella Bank Corporation, said the acquisition aligns with the bank's long-term growth strategy and shared values between the two community banking organizations.

Robert Bilotti, chairman, president and CEO of Grand River Bank, said the merger would allow Grand River Bank to build on its community banking foundation while offering expanded resources and services to customers.

The acquisition also reflects continued consolidation in the banking industry as community banks look for ways to grow, expand services and compete in a changing financial market. For customers, the banks said access to personal and commercial

lending, deposit products, wealth management, trust and estate planning services is expected to continue.

Grand River Bank said on its website that there are no immediate changes to how customers bank with the institution while the partnership is pending.

For Mid-Michigan, the announcement keeps Isabella Bank's regional presence connected to broader statewide growth. The bank already serves communities across the Great Lakes Bay Region and central Michigan, including Midland, Bay and Saginaw counties.

More details about the proposed merger are expected through required filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the regulatory approval process.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Dow Championship brings business boost to Midland

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — The Dow Championship brought more than golf to Midland this month, giving local businesses a boost as visitors, spectators and partners came to the city for one of the region's signature summer events.

The LPGA Tour event was held June 8-14 at Midland Country Club. The tournament features 72 two-woman teams competing in a 72-hole stroke play format with alternating rounds of foursomes and four-ball.

The final round was played June 14, closing a week that brought golfers, fans, volunteers, sponsors and media attention to Midland.

Tournament officials said the Dow Championship partnered with more than 200 businesses and organizations from across the region this year. The partnerships helped connect the event to restaurants, retailers, hotels, vendors, nonprofits and community organizations throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Local business owners told WNEM the increase in traffic was noticeable, with tournament visitors often stopping around town while attending the event. The tournament also helped showcase Midland to people traveling from outside the area.

Beyond the golf course, the Dow Championship has grown into a regional economic and community event. Visitors who

come for the tournament may spend money on lodging, dining, gas, shopping and entertainment, supporting small businesses and hospitality workers.

The event also includes community programming, volunteer opportunities, sponsor activations and family-friendly activities. Those efforts help make the tournament part of the broader local economy rather than a single sporting event.

Dow Championship officials have said the tournament is committed to engaging businesses and organizations across the Great Lakes Bay Region through partnerships, procurement and community collaboration. In 2025, the tournament reported a \$16.9 million total economic impact across Bay, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw counties.

For Midland, major events such as the Dow Championship can help raise the city's profile while supporting downtown activity, hotels and other local services. They also give regional businesses a chance to connect with visitors and other organizations.

The 2026 tournament ended with Gina Kim and Yana Wilson winning their first LPGA Tour titles. The team-format event remains one of the LPGA's more distinctive stops and continues to draw attention to Midland as a destination for professional sports and community events.

For local businesses, the week represented another opportunity to benefit from the visitors and visibility that come with hosting a national sporting event.

Three businesses prepare to open in Old Town Saginaw

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Three businesses are preparing to open soon in Old Town Saginaw, adding new food, floral and specialty retail options to one of the city's historic commercial districts.

The Old Town Saginaw Association recently announced that Big O Hot Chicken, Erika's Flowers and Kakes the Great Popcorn Co. are expected to open soon in the district. Official opening dates were not immediately listed, but the association said the wait is "almost over" and encouraged residents to watch for opening announcements.

Big O Hot Chicken is planned for 118 N. Michigan Ave. The restaurant has promoted a menu expected to include jumbo tenders, wings, smash burgers, loaded fries, chicken and waffles, fresh muddled lemonades and multiple heat levels.

Erika's Flowers is listed at 204 S. Michigan Ave. The florist, which has served the Saginaw area since 2011, offers flower arrangements for birthdays, sympathy and funerals, get-well gifts, love and romance, and everyday occasions. The shop's website says it provides same-day flower delivery in Saginaw and surrounding communities.

Kakes the Great Popcorn Co. is listed at 418 Court St. The

Saginaw-based gourmet popcorn company was founded by young entrepreneur Kaylynn "Kakes" Martin and has built a following for creative kettle corn flavors and specialty treats. The company's website says a new menu, merchandise and location are on the way.

The three openings would bring new activity to different parts of Old Town, including Michigan Avenue and Court Street. Together, the businesses add to a district known for local restaurants, shops, cafes, entertainment venues and historic storefronts.

Old Town Saginaw, historically known as Old Saginaw City, is one of the oldest commercial areas in the Saginaw Valley. The

City of Saginaw notes that the area's early development was tied to the Saginaw River, Fort Saginaw and the lumber-era commercial growth that shaped much of the west side.

Today, Old Town remains a visible commercial district with a mix of long-standing businesses, renovated buildings, restaurants, bars, boutiques, service businesses and community events. The Old Town Saginaw Association describes the area as home to local shops, cafes and restaurants that contribute to a vibrant, community-oriented atmosphere.

Additional details, including opening dates and hours, are expected to be announced by the businesses.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Midland 7 Brew coffee shop prepares to open near Meijer on Eastman Avenue



MIDLAND'S NEW 7 BREW DRIVE-THROUGH COFFEE SHOP NEAR MEIJER ON EASTMAN AVENUE IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN JUNE 29.

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — A new drive-through coffee shop is preparing to open near Meijer on Eastman Avenue, adding another beverage stop to one of Midland's busy retail corridors.

Midland's new 7 Brew location is scheduled to open Monday, June 29, according to a company spokesperson cited by the Midland Daily News. A ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Midland Business Alliance is scheduled for 10 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 30.

The coffee chain also is expected to present a donation to a local charity during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The new location is on the site of a former car wash near Meijer. Midland City Council approved the project in October 2025, allowing the old car wash to be demolished and replaced by the drive-through-only coffee business.

Unlike a traditional coffee shop, 7 Brew does not allow customers inside the building. Customers place orders through a mobile app or with employees who walk up to vehicles, and drinks are brought out to customers by staff.

The site plan includes two vehicle queuing lanes designed to keep orders moving. It also includes crosswalks across the driveway, and pedestrians will be

able to place walk-up orders.

The Midland shop will serve beverages only, not food. That model is part of the company's focus on speed and high-volume drink service.

The opening adds to the growing number of drive-through beverage and coffee options in communities across Michigan. Coffee chains and specialty drink shops have expanded in recent years as consumers look for fast service, mobile ordering and customizable drinks.

For Midland, the project also represents reuse of a commercial site along a major shopping corridor. The location near Meijer places the business close to steady vehicle traffic, retail cus-

tomers and nearby restaurants and stores.

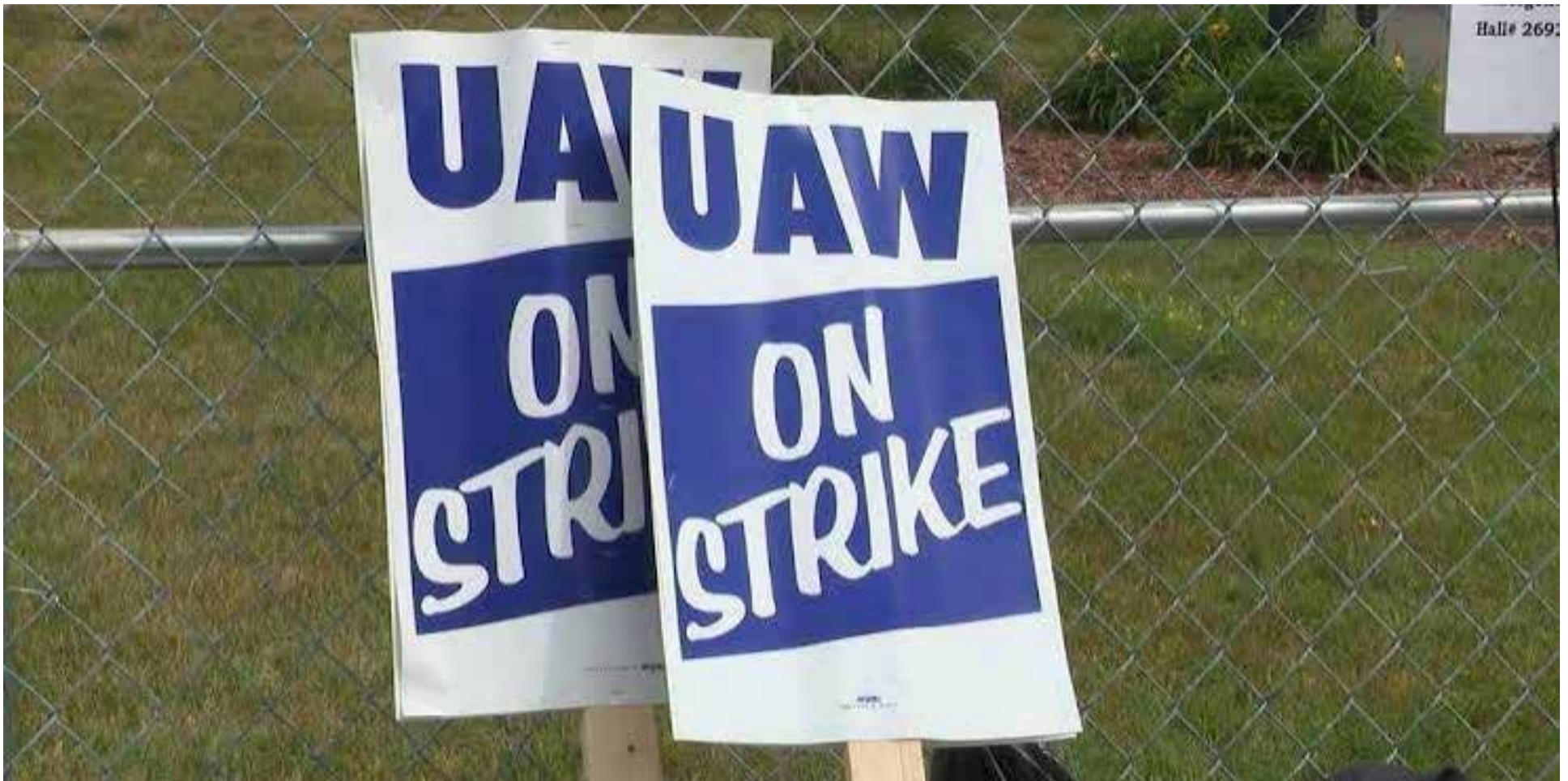
Drive-through-only businesses can bring convenience for customers, but they also require planning for vehicle flow, pedestrian safety and site design. The two-lane queue and walk-up access were part of the site plan reviewed during the city approval process.

The Midland Business Alliance ribbon-cutting will formally mark the business opening the day after service begins.

The company's planned local charity donation also gives the opening a community tie-in, connecting the new business to a local cause as it enters the Midland market.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

UAW workers ratify new contract after strike at Michigan auto supplier



UAW LOCAL 2093 WORKERS AT DAUCH CORPORATION'S THREE RIVERS FACILITY RATIFIED A NEW FOUR-YEAR LABOR AGREEMENT AFTER A 10-DAY STRIKE.

BY MB STAFF

THREE RIVERS, Mich. — Nearly 1,000 unionized workers at a Michigan auto supplier have ratified a new four-year labor agreement after a strike that drew attention across the automotive industry.

Dauch Corporation, formerly American Axle & Manufacturing Holdings Inc., confirmed June 15 that workers represented by UAW Local 2093 at its Three Rivers Manufacturing Facility ratified the new collective bargaining agreement.

The company said employees were expected to return to their positions June 15, allowing regular operations to resume.

The ratification followed a 10-day strike at the plant, which

supplies driveline and axle components used in General Motors trucks. Workers had walked off the job at midnight June 1 after contract negotiations failed to produce an agreement.

The strike was closely watched because the Three Rivers facility is part of the supply chain for some of GM's most important truck models. Reuters reported earlier this month that the plant supplies driveline components for GM pickup trucks, including vehicles tied to the company's highly profitable truck business.

Union leaders said the dispute centered on wages, benefits and working conditions. UAW members had pointed to concessions made during the 2008 financial crisis, when workers accepted major pay cuts to help keep the facility open.

Local 2093 members voted Sunday to ratify the new agreement. Local reporting said the contract was approved by a wide margin and includes wage gains over the life of the agreement.

Dauch said in its announcement that the represented workforce had ratified a new four-year contract and that operations would resume. The company, headquartered in Detroit, describes itself as a driveline and metal forming supplier serving the global automotive industry.

The labor agreement ends a short but significant disruption in Michigan's auto supply chain. Auto supplier strikes can affect vehicle production beyond a single plant because automakers rely on a steady flow of parts to maintain assembly schedules.

For Michigan workers, the

agreement is also part of a broader labor moment in the auto industry. Since the UAW's 2023 strike against the Detroit Three automakers, workers at suppliers and other manufacturers have continued to push for higher wages, stronger benefits and restoration of concessions made during earlier economic downturns.

The Three Rivers strike also showed the leverage workers can have at key points in the supply chain. Even a relatively small supplier facility can affect production planning when it provides critical parts for high-demand vehicles.

The agreement allows Dauch and the union to move forward while returning employees to work and stabilizing operations at the plant.



Your *dream wedding* destination.

Our creative team delights in making your vision come to life so you and your guests will experience an unforgettable day. Start planning your dream wedding today with HORIZONS.

HORIZONS
ART OF HOSPITALITY

HORIZONS Conference Center
6200 State Street | Saginaw, Michigan

(989) 799-4122
weddings@horizonscenter.com

horizonscenter.com @horizonscenter
@HORIZONSconfctr @horizonsweddings

SPORTS

Wilson, Kim win Dow Championship as Inkster makes LPGA history in Midland



YANA WILSON, LEFT, AND GINA KIM HOLD THEIR TROPHIES AFTER WINNING THE DOW CHAMPIONSHIP LPGA GOLF TOURNAMENT, SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026, AT MIDLAND COUNTRY CLUB IN MIDLAND, MICH.

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — The 2026 Dow Championship ended with two first-time LPGA winners and one historic milestone at Midland Country Club.

Yana Wilson and Gina Kim won the tournament June 14, finishing at 17-under-par to capture the team event and the first LPGA Tour title for both golfers. Wilson, 19, also became the youngest champion in Dow Championship history.

The duo rallied past third-round leaders Hye-Jin Choi and Hyo Joo Kim, who finished at 15-under. Wilson and Kim closed with an 8-under 62 in the better-

ball format during a final round played in partly rainy conditions.

The victory gave both players a breakthrough moment. Kim, 26, earned her first LPGA Tour title in her fifth year as a professional. Wilson, a rookie from Las Vegas, earned her first tour victory in Midland and did so alongside a partner she trusted.

Each winner earned \$402,691 from the \$3.3 million purse. The win also secured LPGA Tour status for both players through 2027 and qualified them for major championships during that period.

The Dow Championship is the LPGA Tour's only official team event. The tournament features two-player teams competing in

alternating formats, including foursomes and four-ball.

The week also included a significant moment for golf history. LPGA Hall of Famer Juli Inkster, playing with Angel Yin, became the oldest player to make the cut in an LPGA Tour event. Inkster was 65 years, 11 months and 19 days old when she made the weekend at Midland Country Club, breaking a record previously held by JoAnne Carner.

Inkster and Yin shot rounds of 69 and 68 to sit at 3-under through two rounds, one shot above the cutline. Carner's previous record had stood since 2004.

For Midland, the week brought national attention, large crowds and a strong local atmo-

sphere. Tournament leaders said the earlier June dates, the presence of top players and the family-friendly environment helped create momentum throughout the event.

Dow Championship Executive Director Carlos Padilla II told the Midland Daily News he believed the final round drew the strongest Sunday crowd in the event's seven-year history.

Kim and Wilson both praised the crowd and the tournament atmosphere, noting the support from fans and families during the week.

The Dow Championship is expected to continue at Midland Country Club through 2029 under the current agreement.

Mount Pleasant's Sacred Heart Academy wins first baseball state title in 30 years



MOUNT PLEASANT SACRED HEART ACADEMY DEFEATED MARCELLUS 10-0 IN FIVE INNINGS TO WIN THE 2026 MHSAA DIVISION 4 BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

BY MB STAFF

MOUNT PLEASANT, Mich. — Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart Academy is back on top of Division 4 baseball.

The Irish won the 2026 MHSAA Division 4 championship June 13 with a 10-0 victory over Marcellus in five innings at McLane Stadium. The title was Sacred Heart's first baseball state championship since 1996 and the third Finals championship in program history.

Sacred Heart's championship performance was led by senior Brady Davis, who delivered on

the mound and at the plate.

Davis threw all five innings, allowing one hit and striking out eight. He also hit his first career home run, a two-run shot in the fourth inning that helped stretch the Irish lead to 7-0.

In the fifth inning, Davis drove in the final run with a deep fly ball, ending the game under the run-differential rule.

Sacred Heart wasted little time taking control. The Irish scored four runs in the first inning, with Teegan Duffy driving in a run, Hank MacDonald adding an RBI groundout and freshman Jaxon Moore delivering a two-run single.

The win capped a dominant state finals run for Sacred Heart. The Irish defeated Royal Oak Shrine Catholic 4-0 in the semifinal before shutting out Marcellus in the championship game.

For longtime Sacred Heart coach Earl Hartman, the championship carried personal meaning. The final was played on his 57th wedding anniversary, and he completed his 43rd season as head coach with another state title.

Sacred Heart has long been one of Division 4's strong baseball programs, but the road to the championship had not been easy. This season, the Irish moved past

several traditional powers before reaching the final weekend in East Lansing.

The win also gave the Mount Pleasant school and its supporters a championship moment 30 years after its last baseball state title.

Marcellus finished the season 22-12 and made its first appearance in a state championship game.

For Sacred Heart, the day belonged to a senior-led team, a longtime coach and a community that waited decades to celebrate another baseball title.

SPORTS

Midland High senior named Michigan Positive Athlete of the Year

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — Midland High School graduate Andrew Worsley has been named a 2026 Michigan Positive Athlete of the Year, earning statewide recognition for leadership, character and the example he set for others.

Worsley, a cross country and track athlete, was one of 35 student-athletes honored through the 2026 Positive Athlete program. The program also recognized two coaches and two athletic directors across Michigan.

Worsley was selected from more than 1,300 nominations submitted by coaches, principals, athletic directors, teachers and parents representing nearly 500 public and private high schools.

Positive Athlete recognizes high school student-athletes who show strong character, resilience, optimism, sportsmanship and a



ANDREW WORSLEY (PHOTO CREDIT: MIDLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

positive influence in their schools and communities.

Midland High Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Dr. Taylor Sergent said Worsley rep-

resents the qualities the school hopes to see in its student-athletes, including dedication, sportsmanship, leadership and commitment to others.

Worsley was recognized not only for his accomplishments in cross country, but also for his influence on teammates, classmates and the broader school community.

The honorees were scheduled to be recognized during a pre-game ceremony at the Detroit Tigers' June 10 game at Comerica Park.

Worsley will continue his academic and athletic journey at Northwood University, where he is expected to compete in cross country and track.

For Midland Public Schools, the honor adds to a year of student achievement and highlights the importance of character in athletics. The Positive Athlete program's message is that wins and records matter, but so do attitude, service and the way athletes treat others.

Midland High senior named Michigan Positive Athlete of the Year

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — Midland High School graduate Andrew Worsley has been named a 2026 Michigan Positive Athlete of the Year, earning statewide recognition for leadership, character and the example he set for others.

Worsley, a cross country and track athlete, was one of 35 student-athletes honored through the 2026 Positive Athlete program. The program also recognized two coaches and two ath-

letic directors across Michigan.

Worsley was selected from more than 1,300 nominations submitted by coaches, principals, athletic directors, teachers and parents representing nearly 500 public and private high schools.

Positive Athlete recognizes high school student-athletes who show strong character, resilience, optimism, sportsmanship and a positive influence in their schools and communities.

Midland High Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Dr. Taylor Sergent said Worsley rep-

resents the qualities the school hopes to see in its student-athletes, including dedication, sportsmanship, leadership and commitment to others.

Worsley was recognized not only for his accomplishments in cross country, but also for his influence on teammates, classmates and the broader school community.

The honorees were scheduled to be recognized during a pre-game ceremony at the Detroit Tigers' June 10 game at Comerica Park.

Worsley will continue his academic and athletic journey at Northwood University, where he is expected to compete in cross country and track.

For Midland Public Schools, the honor adds to a year of student achievement and highlights the importance of character in athletics. The Positive Athlete program's message is that wins and records matter, but so do attitude, service and the way athletes treat others.



Saginaw Township JR HAWKS FOOTBALL LEAGUE



Grades 3rd - 6th
26-27 school year

Get Ready to Compete in the
Tri Cities Premiere Youth
Tackle Football League

In partnership with Heritage High School
Football Coach Justin Thelen.

Must be a Saginaw township resident.

- Certified coaching staff teaching fast paced offense, strong defense culture, player development focus, speed and agility training
- Professional film study
- Certified coaching staff vertically aligned with the high school program in scheme, skill development, and strength & conditioning.
- Concussion awareness and training
- Professional helmet / uniform fittings
- Refundable uniform deposit required
- Brand new, performance standard helmets
- Feeder program for Saginaw township schools utilizing the hawk name and logo

LEAGUE START
DATE

AUGUST 17TH

COST: \$199

by May 25th (\$299 after)

**PRACTICE & GAME FIELDS
AT HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL**



FOR MORE INFO:

989-791-9860

Register Online

<https://saginawtownship.recdesk.com/Community/Program>

FAITH IN FOCUS



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

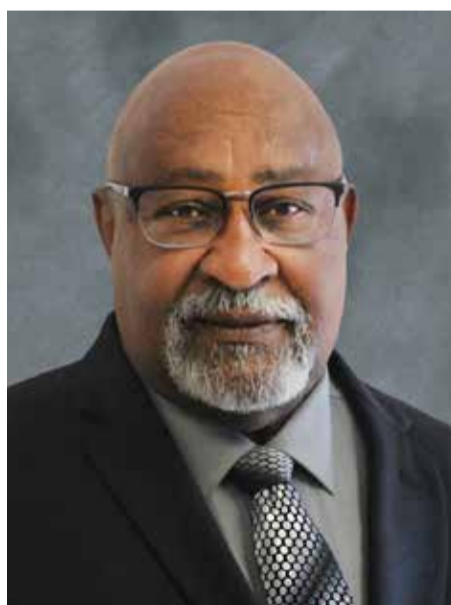
Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

BY PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

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

The organization's vision includes several key objectives:



PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

between the church, volunteers, and community professionals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPONSORED CONTENT

FAITH IN FOCUS

SERMONETTE SERIES

"Offenses will come, but don't let them define you"

"Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!"

Luke 17:1 KJV



BY MINISTER CAROLYN
CARTER TOWNSEL

If there is one certainty in life, it is that offenses will come. Jesus did not say we "might" be hurt, disappointed, misunderstood, or betrayed—He said it is impossible to avoid offenses. They are an inevitable part of living in a fallen world and interacting with imperfect people.

However, Christ's message is not one of hopelessness but of wisdom and responsibility. While we cannot control the actions of others, we can control our response. We have a choice to allow offenses to produce bitterness or to let God's grace produce forgiveness and spiritual growth.

Holding on to offenses can become a prison that steals our peace, joy, and relationships. Satan often uses unresolved hurt to create division in families, friendships, churches, and communities. Yet, God calls His people to rise above the pain and walk in love and forgiveness.

The warning in this passage is also a reminder for believers to examine their own lives. We should strive

to be Believers who encourage, build up, and extend grace rather than become the source of unnecessary hurt or stumbling for others.

The reality is that offenses are unavoidable, but living offended is optional. Through prayer, humility, and the power of the Holy Spirit, we can choose healing over hurt and reconciliation over resentment.

You may not be able to stop offenses from coming, but with God's help, you can refuse to let them control your heart.

Beloved, guard your heart against offenses. Ask God to give you the wisdom to respond with grace, the strength to forgive, and the humility to seek peace when offenses do come. Let your words and actions reflect Your love so that you may be a blessing to others and not a stumbling block.

Blessings to All,
Carolyn

FAITH IN FOCUS

New Mount Calvary installs the Rev. Corey Clay Jr. as pastor

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — New Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church celebrated the pastoral installation of the Rev. Corey Clay Jr. during a weekend of worship, fellowship and community outreach June 12-14.

The installation weekend marked a new chapter for the church, located at 3610 Russell St. in Saginaw. Clay, a 23-year-old Lansing native, began serving New Mount Calvary as pastor-elect in March and was formally installed during a 3 p.m. service Saturday, June 13.

The weekend opened Friday, June 12, with a community block party from 4 to 8 p.m. The celebration continued with the installation service Saturday and Sunday worship at 9:30 a.m. June 14.

According to a June 10 MLive article, Clay described New Mount Calvary as “a wonderful church” with a rich history in Saginaw and beyond. The article also described him as an “old soul” whose ministry began at an early age.

Clay told MLive his path to the pulpit started when he was about 4 years old, helping his family of church leaders prepare for worship. His grandfather, the Rev. E.D. Clay, founded Rebirth Outreach Church of Ministries in Lansing, and his father served as a church musician.

Clay began preaching on youth Sundays as a child before expanding his ministry across Lansing, other parts of Michigan and even Washington, D.C.

Although his age may surprise some churchgoers, Clay said his youth and church up-



NEW MOUNT CALVARY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATED THE PASTORAL INSTALLATION OF THE REV. COREY CLAY JR. DURING A JUNE 12-14 WEEKEND IN SAGINAW.

bringing help him connect across generations. He told MLive he hopes to reach older members, millennials and young people by listening, learning from others' experiences and continuing community outreach.

“We plan to continue these community outreach events,” Clay told MLive, noting that outreach can help draw young people into the life of the church.

The installation theme, “We’re Pressing On,” was connected to Philippians 3:14: “I

press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

A pastoral installation is a formal service of affirmation in the life of a congregation. It recognizes the pastor’s call to spiritual leadership and the church’s commitment to support the pastor in ministry, service and faith.

For New Mount Calvary, the weekend brought together church members, family, friends, clergy and community supporters to recognize Clay’s leadership

and the congregation’s future.

Clay’s installation comes as churches across Saginaw continue to serve as spiritual anchors, gathering places and sources of support for families, youth, seniors and neighborhoods.

As pastor, Clay will lead New Mount Calvary in preaching, teaching, pastoral care and community ministry. The weekend’s theme pointed to a message of endurance, purpose and forward movement for the church and its new pastor.

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Faith Ministries Church

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



Ministry Without Walls

Pastor, John Dunn
3783 Mannion Road
Saginaw, MI 48603



New Life Baptist Ministries

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



Glory House Ministries

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



World Outreach Campus

Bishop Hurley J. Coleman Jr.
2405 Bay Road
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-752-2955
worldoutreachcampus.com



New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

Pastor Rev. Corey Clay, Jr.
3610 Russel St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-0801



Holy Communion Gospel Center

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



New Beginnings Ministries

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



Saint Paul Baptist Church

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



Jacob's Ladder

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



New Birth Missionary Baptist

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



Victorious Belivers Ministries Church

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



Bridgeport Community Church

Pastor Rob Ashmall
3821 State St.
PO Box 541
Bridgeport, MI 48722
989-777-1840



New Covenant Christian Center

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



Anointed Temple Ministries

Bishop Tim D. Holden, Sr.
612 Millard St.
Saginaw, MI 48607
901 Melbourne
Detroit, MI 48211



Bethel AME Church

Rev. Dr. Dennis Laffoon
535 Cathay St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
(989) 755-7011
bethelame-saginaw.org



Zion Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Rodrick A. Smith
721 Johnson Ave
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-754-9621
zmbc-saginaw.org



**List your Ministry
in The Michigan
Banner Church
Directory**

CONTACT US AT (989) 249-3882 TO ADD YOUR MINISTRY TODAY

FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Community vision and goals – Is your nonprofit relevant?



BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

“The Times They Are a-Changin’” was a popular and prophetic song by Bob Dylan in the 1960’s. Those were a time of change, and so is today. The world is changing by the day. The change is global and simultaneously felt at the neighborhood level and the kitchen table. We all feel it. While we may not be able to immediately influence the swirling changes, we need to be aware and consider how we want to both respond and envision.

For nonprofits, this is a time to look closely at the organization’s vision, strategic plan, operations, outcomes, and financial position. We recommend looking at these aspects within the context of current and anticipated changes in demographics, philanthropy, government policies and priorities (local, state, and federal), the economy, environment, and the role of science and technology. These lenses – and others – can help the leadership team identify areas of potential growth, new opportunities, chal-



MB FILE PHOTO

lenges, and choices.

At a local level, it is important to understand the policy agendas and priorities of those in elected positions, business organizations such as chambers of commerce, and those who are “unofficial” influencers and stakeholders. Seek insights into the types of businesses your community wants to attract or prohibit, employment and educational trends, and more. These can help you understand the changing environment you are operating within for the purpose of best meeting local (or regional) needs, identifying potential partners, and prioritizing financial practices and priorities.

As you gain insights into the changing environment, you increase your ability to assess the extent to which your organization or institution is in sync with local priorities. You can assess whether you want to make adjustments so that your work better aligns with the environment. With knowledge, you can determine whether you want to double down on your vision and strategy

and find a pathway that supports your work during a time when it is not a priority or under attack. You can discuss whether – and how – to find safe shelter in turbulent times, reduce your work, or lower your profile. Information and understanding can also help you determine how you approach your work to better align with a shared community-wide vision.

We recommend that your assessments consider how change is impacting those who live in your community today, alongside who is anticipated to be “your community” in the years to come. Do you have the capacity and infrastructure to meet anticipat-

ed changes, if any? Do you have the expertise to be considered a “serious player?” What role can your nonprofit play in the future and does your strategic plan and board support making changes to adjust to the environment?

We know that as a nonprofit you are continuously using all available resources to sustain and grow. At the same time, the continuing and “unprecedented” changes we are experiencing require that we all take time to look into the future and consider how we will make an impact in new environments. Now is the time to consider options, grow expertise, and build relationships.



Copyright 2026 – Mel and Pearl Shaw of Saad&Shaw–Comprehensive Fund Development Services, providing fundraising coaching, planning, case for support services, and more. www.saadandshaw.com. Virtual services and consultations always available.



PICS OF THE WEEK

On May 21, three members of the Saginaw Police Department were honored as Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) Officers of the Year.

There are over 19,000 police officers serving the State of Michigan. Officers Peter Miller, Joseph Coffey, and Alex Mawer were three of only 12 officers statewide to receive this prestigious recognition at the POAM Annual Conference in Grand Rapids.

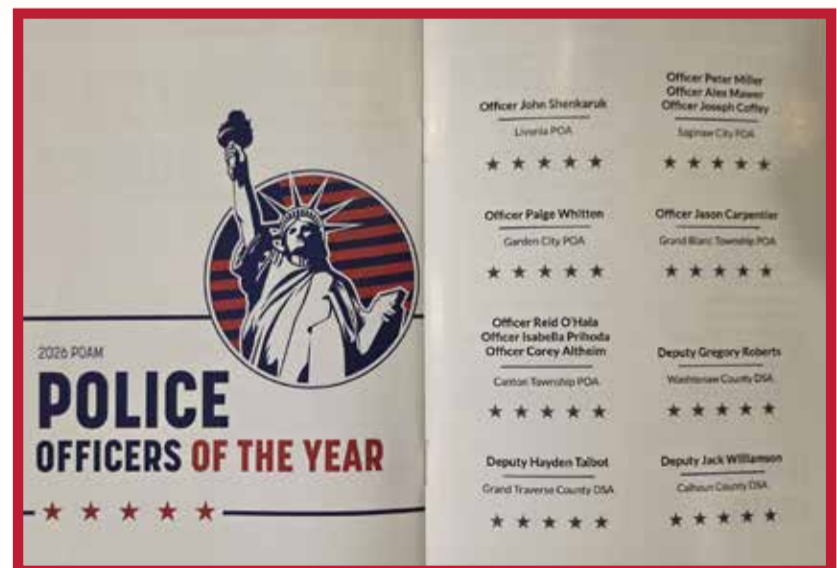


PHOTO CREDIT: FB / CITY OF SAGINAW POLICE DEPARTMENT



We

inspire.

Nathan Hankerson
Senior majoring in
Pre-Medicine/Biology

You are so much more than a student.
At SVSU, we see and cultivate your full potential. Our award-winning faculty partner with you to pursue hundreds of different research opportunities, study abroad experiences, academic conferences and practical internships. Cardinals fly far beyond the classroom. We unleash our students' talents around the globe — from presenting at Oxford University to touring Asia for a new cultural perspective.



**SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**
svsu.edu/opportunity



RECOGNIZED IN 2016 & 2018 BY
INSIGHT INTO DIVERSITY WITH THE
HIGHER EDUCATION EXCELLENCE
IN DIVERSITY (HEED) AWARD.



7400 Bay Road • University Center, MI 48710 • (800) 968-9500



It Matters Where You Buy Your Car

Make your next deal with

John Wright

Sales Associate • Used Car Sales

Contact:

(989) 308-4971

jwright@garberbuick.com



5925 STATE ST, SAGINAW, MI 48603
SALES: 989-683-4697