



The Michigan Banner

Celebrating Diversity, Empowering Communities



PICS OF THE WEEK
Saginaw Fire Department Annual Open House and Awards Ceremony

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YWCA honors five Women of Achievement in Great Lakes Bay Region



YWCA GREAT LAKES BAY REGION HONORED FIVE WOMEN FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS DURING ITS 14TH ANNUAL WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS LUNCHEON OCT. 13 AT SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY. PICTURED FROM LEFT: STACEY GANNON, VALERIAH HOLMON, DNP, RN, FNP-BC, NICOLE LUCZAK, DIANE MIDDLETON, ELSA OLVERA, ED.D. (PHOTO | YWCA GREAT LAKES BAY REGION)

BY MB STAFF

UNIVERSITY CENTER, Mich. — Five women whose leadership, professional accomplishments and community service have made a last-

ing impact across the Great Lakes Bay Region were honored during the YWCA Great Lakes Bay Region's 14th annual Women of Achievement Awards luncheon Tuesday, Oct. 13.

The celebration, held at

Saginaw Valley State University's Curtiss Hall, brought together community leaders, colleagues, family members and supporters to recognize women making a difference in business, health care, education, advocacy and com-

Continues on pg 2, YWCA



Saginaw teens invited to compete in Oct. 17 poetry slam

YOUTH BANNER, COVER



Delta College showcases Hispanic and Latino artists through December

LATINO BANNER, COVER

FEATURED STORY

Michigan group seeks recognition for Black Civil War veterans buried near Remus

COMMUNITY, PG 16





Flint Township voters to decide on proposed Oak Hills name change

COMMUNITY, PG 22



Hemlock boys soccer wins first conference title in 16 years

SPORTS, PG 44

From cover, YWCA

munity service.

The 2026 honorees were Stacey Gannon, Business; Dr. Valeriah Ann Holmon, Healthcare; Nicole Luczak, Social Justice and Advocacy; Diane Middleton, Civic and Community Impact; and Dr. Elsa Olvera, Education.

Each recipient was recognized for her contributions to her profession and the broader community, reflecting the many ways women help strengthen organizations, expand opportunities and address regional challenges.

Among the honorees was Luczak, president and CEO of United Way of Bay County, whose leadership has focused on connecting individuals and families with resources, strengthening community partnerships and supporting programs that address local needs.

The Women of Achievement Awards have become an annual opportunity to highlight women whose efforts often extend beyond their professional responsibilities. The recognition celebrates not only individual success but also the importance of mentorship, advocacy and service in creating opportunities for others.

The awards recognize contributions across Bay, Midland, Saginaw and Isabella counties, underscoring the regional impact of women's leadership.

The event also reflects the YWCA's longstanding mission of eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

Regional businesses and organizations supported this year's celebration, including Hemlock Semiconductor, Consumers Energy, Independent Bank, Huntington Bank, Duperon and Saginaw Valley State University.

Through the annual awards, YWCA Great Lakes Bay Region continues to recognize women whose dedication and leadership are helping shape the future of mid-Michigan communities.



THIS DAY IN MICHIGAN HISTORY

OCTOBER 16, 1949

On Oct. 16, 1949, a cornerstone was laid for the new St. Luke's Hospital on Saginaw's west side, marking an important milestone in the city's health care history.

The cornerstone carried the Latin inscription *Soli Deo Gloria*, meaning "Glory to God alone," reflecting the hospital's Lutheran heritage.

The new facility was built to meet the growing demand for medical services as Saginaw's population expanded westward. On Feb. 25, 1951, the 144-bed hospital officially opened. More than 20,000 people toured the facility during its weeklong grand opening celebration.

St. Luke's continued serving the community for decades before merging with Saginaw General Hospital in 1998 to form Covenant HealthCare.

Today marks the 77th anniversary of the cornerstone ceremony, a significant moment in the development of modern health care in Saginaw.

Historic St. Luke's Hospital in Saginaw opened in 1951, nearly 16 months after its cornerstone was laid Oct. 16, 1949. The hospital later became part of Covenant HealthCare.

(Photo | Covenant HealthCare historical archives)



MICHIGAN BANNER

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MISSION

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

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DEADLINES

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SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

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Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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ELECTION DAY 2026

NOVEMBER 3

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 8 • NUMBER 20



Saginaw teens invited to compete in Oct. 17 poetry slam



Saturday, Oct. 17th, 3:00pm
Hoyt Library
Poetry Slam
 Recite your original poetry and compete for a \$50 gift card, or come to listen & enjoy!

Judges: Elizabeth Detloff, Tanya Gregory, and Keaira Jones
 Register at: www.saginawlibrary.org/events

Additional Prizes have been generously donated by the Friends of Roethke Foundation

PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF SAGINAW
 Hoyt Library
 505 Janes Ave.
 Saginaw, MI 48607
 (989) 755-0904

Find us online!
www.saginawlibrary.org

HOYT LIBRARY WILL HOST ITS SECOND ANNUAL POETRY SLAM ON OCT. 17, INVITING TEENS AND ADULTS TO PERFORM ORIGINAL POEMS BEFORE A PANEL OF LOCAL JUDGES. (PHOTO | PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF SAGINAW)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Young writers and spoken-word artists will have an opportunity to share their original poetry with a live audience when Hoyt Library hosts its second annual Poetry Slam on Saturday, Oct. 17.

The competition will take place from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Hoyt Library Auditorium, 505 Janes Ave., in Saginaw.

The event is open to poets of all ages, including teens, and offers participants an opportunity to demonstrate their creativity, writing skills and public speaking abilities.

Poets must perform their own original work, with each performance limited to three minutes and an additional 10-second grace period. Participants may memorize their poems or read from paper or an electronic device.

Group performances also are permitted, allowing multiple writers to collaborate on a single poem.

Each performance will be evaluated on the quality of the writing, interpretation and presentation. Judges will consider how effectively poets communicate their ideas, use language and rhythm, and connect with

the audience.

This year's judges are local poet Elizabeth Detloff, writer and spoken-word artist Tanya Upthegrove Gregory, and Saginaw poet and artist Keaira Jones.

Detloff, a graduate of Saginaw Valley State University's creative writing program, has been writing poetry for more than 20 years and has had work published in literary publications.

Gregory is a writer whose work includes poetry exploring community, memory and personal experiences.

Jones, who was born and raised in Saginaw, has participated in poetry and other cre-

ative arts since childhood. She also helps lead poetry workshops with the Theodore Roethke Foundation.

The first-place winner will receive a \$50 gift card. Additional prizes have been donated by the Friends of Theodore Roethke Foundation, which is co-sponsoring the event.

Participants are not permitted to use props, costumes, recorded audio or live musical accompaniment during their performances.

Registration is required for both performers and audience members and will close at 2 p.m. Oct. 17.

Saginaw library plans zombie-themed night for teens Oct. 21

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Teens looking for an unusual way to celebrate the Halloween season can participate in a Zombie Tea Party at Zauel Memorial Library on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

The event, part of the library's Teen Night programming, will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Dr. Kurumety Meeting Room at 3100 N. Center Road in Saginaw.

Participants are encouraged to dress as zombies for an evening of Halloween-themed games, crafts, dancing and refreshments.

A zombie makeup station will be available for teens who want to create their own undead appearance.

The evening will include a



ZAUEL MEMORIAL LIBRARY IN SAGINAW WILL HOST A ZOMBIE TEA PARTY FOR TEENS OCT. 21, FEATURING HALLOWEEN-THEMED GAMES, DANCING, CRAFTS AND REFRESHMENTS. (FILE PHOTO)

game of infection tag, a dance tutorial featuring Michael Jackson's "Thriller" and an opportunity to make creepy luminary

decorations.

Zombie-inspired refreshments also will be served.

The activities combine Hal-

loween entertainment with opportunities for teens to socialize, create crafts and participate in group activities.

The program is among several activities offered by the Public Libraries of Saginaw to give young people opportunities to gather outside school.

Library teen programs provide spaces where participants can meet others with similar interests while exploring activities that range from reading and art to technology and games.

Registration is required for the Zombie Tea Party and will remain open until 6:30 p.m. Oct. 21.

Families seeking additional information can contact Zauel Memorial Library at 989-799-2771.

Dow High students bring 'James and the Giant Peach' to stage

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — Students at H.H. Dow High School are bringing a beloved children's story to life as Dow High Drama presents "James and the Giant Peach" Oct. 15-17 at Central Auditorium in Midland.

The production, based on the children's novel by Roald Dahl and adapted for the stage by David Wood, follows a young boy named James who discovers a magical peach and embarks on an extraordinary adventure with a group of unusual insect companions.

The student production features a cast that includes Niko Knizacky, Mae Reim, Adelaide



STUDENTS FROM H.H. DOW HIGH SCHOOL PERFORM IN THE SCHOOL'S PRODUCTION OF "JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH," RUNNING OCT. 15-17 AT CENTRAL AUDITORIUM IN MIDLAND. (PHOTO | DOW HIGH DRAMA)

Louise, Aidan Struve, Jarica Tickle, Daisy Thomasson, Tiegan Falvey, Erica De Vries, Natalie Hufford and Phoenix Gillmore.

The story follows James, an orphan living with his cruel aunts, whose life changes when he encounters a giant peach filled

with talking insects. Together, they escape his unhappy surroundings and begin a journey filled with adventure and unexpected friendships.

The production gives students an opportunity to develop their acting abilities while partic-

ipating in a collaborative theater experience. School theater programs also offer opportunities for students interested in costume design, lighting, sound and technical production.

"James and the Giant Peach" has remained popular with generations of young readers since its publication in 1961. Its themes of friendship, courage and overcoming difficult circumstances continue to connect with young audiences.

Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday at Central Auditorium, 305 E. Reardon St.

Tickets cost \$12 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors.

New bus route will connect SVSU, Delta College and Midland



A SAGINAW TRANSIT AUTHORITY REGIONAL SERVICES BUS SERVES THE SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS. A NEW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECT WILL CONNECT SVSU, DELTA COLLEGE, MIDLAND AND MBS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. (FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

UNIVERSITY CENTER, Mich. — Students attending Saginaw Valley State University and Delta College are expected to have another transportation option following the announcement of more than \$570,000 in state funding for a new regional bus route.

The Michigan Infrastructure Projects Authority Fund has awarded \$571,478 to Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services, commonly known as STARS, to support public transportation connecting Midland, Delta College, SVSU and MBS International Airport.

The funding was announced Tuesday, Oct. 13.

The planned route will begin at Delta College's Downtown Midland Center, travel to Delta College's main campus in University Center, continue to SVSU and MBS International Airport, and return to Midland.

Service is expected to operate Monday through Thursday, providing transportation for college students, employees, families and travelers.

For college students who do not own vehicles or have limited access to transportation, the new service could make commuting between home, campus and other destinations easier.

Transportation can be an im-

portant factor in a student's ability to attend college classes, maintain employment and participate in activities outside the classroom. A regional bus connection could provide another option for students managing school, work and personal responsibilities.

The project also includes plans for a transportation gateway at SVSU, where different regional transit services could eventually connect and allow passengers to transfer between routes.

Several regional organizations have committed financial support to the project, including the Midland Area Community Foundation, United Way of Midland County, Great Lakes Bay

Convention and Visitors Bureau, Delta College, SVSU and private donors.

Those commitments are expected to satisfy the project's local funding requirements for its first three years.

Midland County Connection and Midland Dial-A-Ride participated in planning the route, while STARS will oversee operations.

The transit authority already operates public transportation services in the Saginaw area, including connections serving SVSU.

An official start date, fare schedule and detailed timetable for the new service have not yet been announced.



HOUGHTON JONES 2026 FALL After School Program

(OCTOBER 19th– NOVEMBER 30th)

Explore Fashion, Podcasting & Confidence This Fall -
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Ages: 4-17

6-WEEK PROGRAM

Wednesdays | 4:00–5:30 PM

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December 10, 2026



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CONFIDENCE. STORYTELLING

Ages: 10+

6 - WEEK PROGRAM

Mondays | 4:00–5:30 PM



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info@unitedwego.org

Flint teen writers invited to explore storytelling and publishing



THE GLORIA COLES FLINT PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL HOST A TEEN WRITERS WORKSHOP ON OCT. 27, OFFERING YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 11 TO 18 AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP THEIR WRITING. (FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — Young writers in Flint will have an opportunity to develop their storytelling skills, share original work and learn about publishing during an upcoming Teen Writers Workshop at the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library.

The workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 27, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the library's Kom-mareddi Room, 1026 E. Kearsley St.

Designed for young people ages 11 to 18, the program welcomes beginning writers as well as teens who already enjoy cre-

ating stories, poems and other written work.

Participants will explore literature, writing techniques, publishing and the process of reviewing and improving written work.

The workshop will be facilitated by Flint author Connor Coyne, director of Gothic Funk Press, a Flint-based publishing organization.

Coyne will guide participants as they discuss their ideas, share writing with their peers and learn how constructive criticism can strengthen their work.

The program also introduces young writers to publishing, giving them an opportunity to learn about the process of developing

written material for readers.

For students interested in becoming authors, journalists, poets or other creative professionals, the workshop offers experience in expressing ideas and communicating through writing.

Participants will be encouraged to engage with other young writers and explore different ap-

proaches to telling stories.

The workshop is part of the library's ongoing Teen Writers Workshop series, which also has sessions scheduled for Nov. 10, Nov. 24 and Dec. 8.

Snacks will be provided.

Additional information is available by contacting the library at 810-232-7111.



GLORIA COLES
FLINT PUBLIC
LIBRARY



SAGINAW PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP

*A Promise
Made and Kept!*

Helping families and students plan for and achieve their educational dreams. A scholarship for Students who live in, attend school, and graduate from a high school in the Saginaw Promise Zone. For 15 years the Saginaw Promise has Invested in Saginaw's Future, its Economy, and its students with a "place based" Scholarship!

 \$1,515,062 has been awarded to over 804 scholars!	 2026/27 academic year awards: \$4,000
 Available for 2 years	 Apply Annually

▶ BACKGROUND

The Saginaw Promise is an economic initiative that is working to change a community, its economy and lives through information and a postsecondary education scholarship. The Saginaw Promise scholarship is both a benefit for and incentive to retain and grow the population while assisting students to earn a program certificate or degree from a technical/trade school, college, or university, which will provide an educated workforce to support local business and attract new businesses.

▶ WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Students who live in, attend school and graduate from a high school in the Saginaw Promise Zone.

▶ WHAT IS THE SAGINAW PROMISE ZONE?

The Saginaw Promise Zone is the geographic area that consists of the cities of Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Kochville and that area of Buena Vista designated to the Saginaw Public School District).

▶ HOW MUCH IS THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The scholarship award for the 2026/27 academic year is \$4,000. The scholarship is available for two years and must be applied for annually.

▶ WHEN TO APPLY?

Senior year of high school

▶ HOW TO APPLY?

Students must complete the online Saginaw Community Foundation Scholarship Application and FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Saginaw Promise scholars have up to six years to use their scholarship.

▶ PLANNING A MOVE

Contact the Saginaw Promise office to confirm if you will still be in the Saginaw Promise Zone. **Important Note:** To be eligible for the Saginaw Promise Scholarship, a student must reside in, attend school and graduate from a high school within the Saginaw Promise Zone.

VISIT SAGINAWPROMISE.ORG FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION.

Saginaw Promise / 1 Tuscola St., Suite 200, Saginaw, MI 48607 / (989) 607-3428

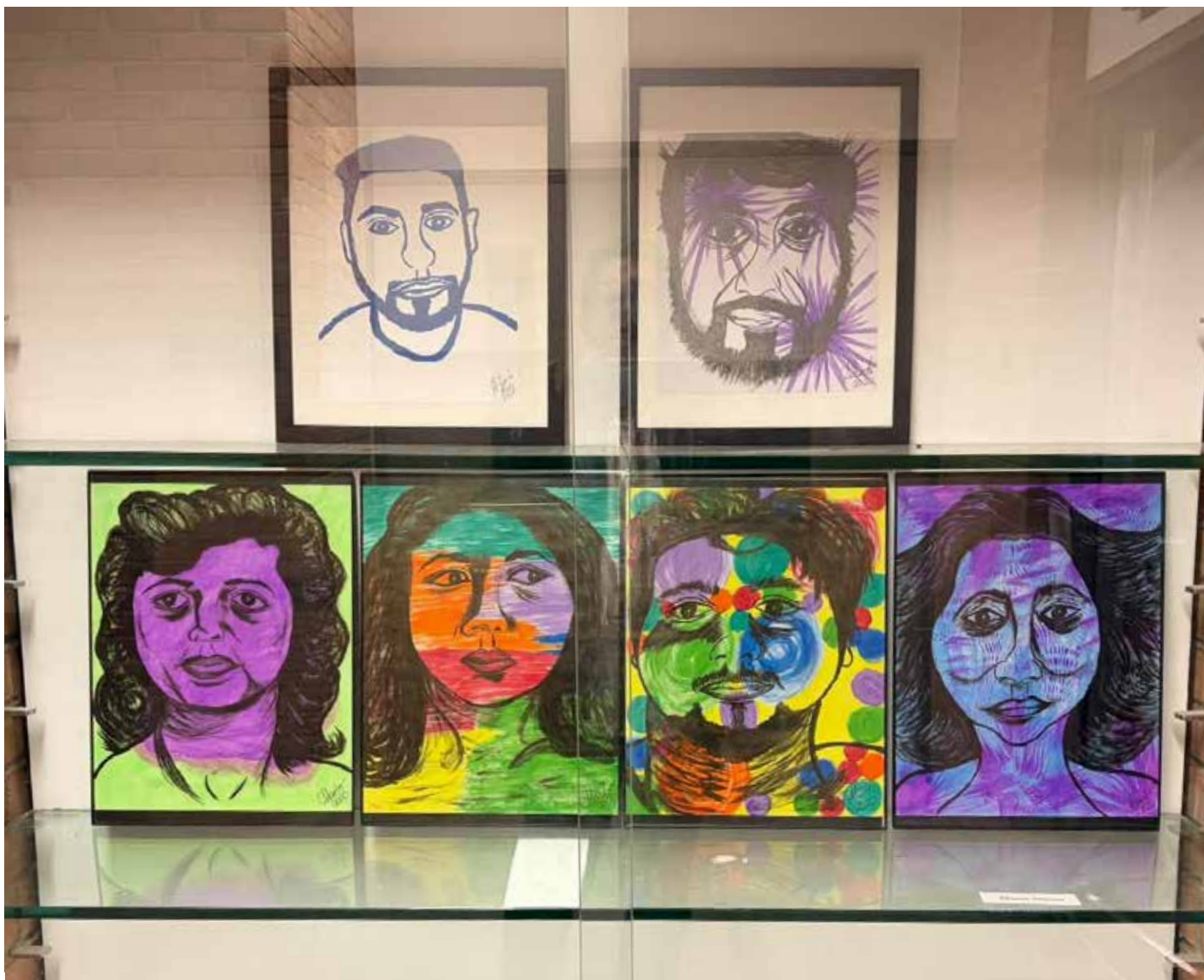


Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

Delta College showcases Hispanic and Latino artists through December



DELTA COLLEGE'S 2026 HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH PROGRAMMING INCLUDES AN EXHIBITION OF REGIONAL HISPANIC AND LATINO ARTISTS IN THE COLLEGE'S S WING, CONTINUING THROUGH DECEMBER. (FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

UNIVERSITY CENTER, Mich. — Hispanic and Latino artists from the Great Lakes Bay Region are being featured in an exhibition at Delta College that will remain on display through December.

The Hispanic/Latino Art Exhibition is being presented in the S Wing of the college's main campus, providing an opportunity for regional artists to share their cre-

ative work with students, faculty and visitors.

The exhibition is part of Delta College's 2026 Hispanic Heritage Month programming, which began Sept. 15 and included cultural activities, educational discussions and opportunities to learn about Hispanic and Latino experiences.

Unlike the college's one-day programs, the art exhibition extends through the remainder of

the fall semester, continuing the celebration beyond the conclusion of Hispanic Heritage Month on Oct. 15.

Delta College invited artists of different experience levels to participate in the exhibition, creating an opportunity to recognize creative talent throughout the region.

The exhibition offers a setting for visitors to engage with work produced by Hispanic and Latino

artists and learn about the people contributing to the region's arts community.

The exhibition follows several other Hispanic Heritage Month activities at Delta College, including discussions about college access, Latino mental health and cultural identity.

The college also welcomed Michigan author Robert "Carlos" Fuentes for presentations Oct. 12 and 14. Fuentes discussed his book, "The Vacation," which focuses on the experiences of a teenage migrant farmworker in Michigan.

Other programs included a tortilla-making workshop and an El Camino panel featuring current students, alumni and college staff discussing the value of higher education.

Chris DeEulis, Delta College's director of belonging, equity, diversity and inclusion, said the college's programming was developed in collaboration with community organizations and members of the college community.

The continuing art exhibition is one of the college's opportunities to highlight the cultural contributions of Hispanic and Latino residents beyond the annual monthlong observance.

Delta College's main campus is located at 1961 Delta Road in University Center.

Additional information about the exhibition is available through the college's Belonging, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion office at diversity@delta.edu.

Michigan honors Latino leaders in education, business and arts



THE 8TH ANNUAL TALENTOS LATINOS AWARDS TOOK PLACE ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026, AT THE LINCOLN MANOR IN LINCOLN PARK, MICHIGAN. (PHOTO | FACEBOOK.COM/TALENTOSLATINOSMICHIGAN)

BY MB STAFF

LINCOLN PARK, Mich. — Eleven community leaders, entrepreneurs, educators and artists were recognized during the eighth annual Talentos Latinos Awards, a celebration honoring the achievements and contributions of Michigan's Hispanic and Latino communities.

The awards ceremony took place Oct. 2 at Lincoln Manor in Lincoln Park, bringing together business owners, community advocates, artists and families for an evening of recognition and cultural performances.

Nine honorees were selected through community voting, while two additional individuals received special awards for their contributions to education and economic development.

Organizers reported receiving 2,122 voting responses over 13 days across nine award categories.

Andrea Puebla received the Latino Community Leader Award for her involvement in community leadership and advocacy. In remarks reported by EL CENTRAL Hispanic News, Puebla credited her mother's decision to immigrate to the United States with providing opportunities that helped shape her life and community work.

Cecilia Jiménez of Dolce Bakery received the Michigan Latino Entrepreneur Award, recognizing her achievements in business.

Ana Deisy Gutiérrez was honored with the Latino Legacy Award, while Gabriela Vázquez received the Talento Musical Latino Award.

Artist and activist Lermi

Díaz received the Latino Activist Artist Award, recognizing contributions through artistic expression and advocacy.

Vanessa Mendoza received the Latino Volunteer Award, and state Sen. Stephanie Chang was honored with the Amigo de los Latinos Award.

Laura Chávez received the Latino Altruism Award, while María Fernanda Gómez was recognized with the Latina Realtor Award.

Two additional leaders received special recognition.

Dr. Jorge China received the Latino Educational Leader Award for his academic career and contributions to education and Latino studies.

China previously held a leadership position at Wayne State University's Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies,

where his work supported the study of Latino history, culture and communities.

Guillermo Cisneros, president and CEO of the West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, received the Latino Business Ambassador Award for his leadership in Hispanic business development.

The evening also celebrated Hispanic and Latino culture through live music, dance and artistic performances.

Entertainment included singers Rosalina Morales and Kenya Cruz, folkloric dance groups Joyas de México and Reflejos Latinos, salsa performers Juancho Castañeda and Ana María Martínez, and the band Los Asintomáticos.

This year's ceremony also marked the 10th anniversary of Latinos en Michigan USA, a bilingual media organization founded in October 2016 by journalist Liliana Ospina and her husband, John Herbstreith.

The organization, previously known as Latinos en Michigan TV, has spent the past decade highlighting the experiences and accomplishments of Hispanic and Latino residents throughout the state.

Ospina, who also serves as president of the Minority Education Freedom Foundation, helped establish the Talentos Latinos Awards as a way to recognize individuals whose work makes a difference in their communities.

The awards program was established in 2019 and has since grown into an annual celebration recognizing achievements in business, education, volunteerism, community service and the arts.

Michigan increases English learner funding, but gaps remain

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan lawmakers have increased funding for students learning English by \$12.5 million for the 2026-27 school year, but education advocates say thousands of students will continue receiving language instruction without additional state funding designated for their needs.

The increase brings the state's English learner funding to approximately \$75.3 million. However, the state's funding formula excludes students who have developed stronger English skills but have not yet reached full proficiency.

According to reporting by Chalkbeat Detroit and Outlier Media, Michigan is the only state among the 49 that provide dedicated funding for English learner services that excludes certain students who remain eligible for language instruction.

Michigan public schools enrolled more than 104,200 English learners during the 2024-25 school year, representing approximately 7.3% of students statewide.

Of those students, about 24,000 were not eligible for additional state English learner funding, even though schools were still required to provide them with at least 150 minutes of English language development instruction each week.

The funding system is based on students' scores on the WIDA ACCESS assessment, which measures English language proficiency on a scale of 1.0 to 6.0.

For the current school year, districts receive an additional \$1,998 for each student scoring between 1.0 and 1.9, \$1,379 for students scoring between 2.0 and 2.9, and \$225 for those scoring between 3.0 and 3.9.

Students scoring 4.0 or higher receive no additional funding



MICHIGAN HAS INCREASED FUNDING FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS, ALTHOUGH SOME STUDENTS WHO STILL REQUIRE LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION REMAIN OUTSIDE THE STATE'S ADDITIONAL FUNDING FORMULA. (FILE PHOTO)

through the formula, despite remaining eligible for specialized instruction until they meet the state's English proficiency requirements.

Education researchers say conversational English ability does not necessarily mean students have mastered the language skills needed to succeed in subjects such as science, mathematics and literature.

In Troy School District, Superintendent Richard Machesky said approximately 90% of the district's English learner budget during the 2025-26 school year came from general operating funds.

The district received approximately \$607,000 in state fund-

ing to serve about 1,900 English learners, an amount Machesky said was sufficient to hire only five English language development specialists.

Other school districts, including Hamtramck Public Schools, have reported similar challenges providing services to students who are approaching English proficiency.

A 2025 study by Michigan State University's Education Policy Innovation Collaborative found that nearly half of the state's English learners remained in specialized language programs after six years.

Education advocates say additional resources could help students develop stronger academic

language skills and transition more quickly into general classroom instruction without specialized assistance.

A school finance study commissioned in 2021 recommended providing between \$3,500 and \$7,500 per English learner, depending on each student's level of need.

Michigan lawmakers have indicated that they intend to increase funding toward those recommended levels, although no deadline has been established.

The issue affects school districts throughout Michigan, including communities with growing Hispanic, Latino and immigrant populations.



*A More
Informed Community
A Stronger Democracy*

YOU'RE INVITED!
**SAGINAW COUNTY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**
MONTHLY MEETING

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



**MONDAY,
OCTOBER 19, 2026**
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM



**Delta College
Downtown Saginaw**
515 N. Washington Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
All are welcome to attend!

Join us for an important and timely conversation on the history of Latino voting in the United States and what's at stake for our communities today.

*Strong Communities.
Informed Voters.
A Brighter Future for Saginaw County.*



FEATURED SPEAKER
Angel Gomez

**Latino Voting History
and What's at Stake**

Flint center expands training for Spanish-English interpreters

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — The Latinx Technology & Community Center is expanding its language services in response to growing demand for professional Spanish-English interpreters throughout Flint and Genesee County.

The organization launched an eight-week online interpreter training and certification program Sept. 29 to help bilingual residents develop professional skills and pursue employment opportunities in a field that supports families, businesses and community organizations.

The training is designed for individuals who speak both English and Spanish and want to use their language abilities professionally. Participants receive instruction intended to strengthen their interpreting skills and prepare them for situations requiring accurate communication between people who speak different languages.

Those who successfully complete the program may have an opportunity to join the center's Latinx Language Services interpreter team.

The expansion comes as local health care providers, educational institutions, businesses and community organizations increasingly rely on interpretation services to communicate with Spanish-speaking residents.

Professional interpretation is particularly important in medical settings, where patients must understand diagnoses, treatment options and instructions from health care providers. Language assistance also helps families communicate with schools, navigate social services and conduct business.

For entrepreneurs who are still learning English, interpreters can make it easier to attend meetings, introduce products and services, establish business relation-



THE LATINX TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNITY CENTER IN FLINT IS EXPANDING PROFESSIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BILINGUAL RESIDENTS INTERESTED IN SPANISH-ENGLISH INTERPRETATION. (FILE PHOTO)

ships and connect with potential customers.

The Latinx Technology & Community Center, located at 2101 Lewis St., has served Flint's Hispanic and Latino communities since 2001. Its programs include language instruction, literacy education, workforce development, health resources and assistance for families navigating community services.

Through its language services department, the center provides translation, consecutive interpretation, simultaneous interpretation and over-the-phone interpretation.

The training initiative is also intended to create employment opportunities for bilingual residents. Participants who complete the program may be able to apply their skills in health care, edu-

cation, community services and other professional settings.

The center's efforts reflect the importance of making essential services accessible to residents regardless of their primary language.

Additional information about interpreter training and language services is available by contacting the Latinx Technology & Community Center at 810-715-5050.



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SALES: 989-683-4697

COMMUNITY

Michigan group seeks recognition for Black Civil War veterans buried near Remus



A CIVIL WAR VETERAN'S GRAVE MARKER AT MORGAN WEST WHEATLAND CEMETERY NEAR REMUS. A MICHIGAN PRESERVATION ORGANIZATION IS SEEKING HISTORICAL RECOGNITION FOR 15 BLACK CIVIL WAR VETERANS BURIED AT THE SITE.

BY MB STAFF

REMUS, Mich. — A Michigan historical preservation organization is seeking state recognition for 15 Black Civil War veterans buried at Morgan West Wheatland Cemetery, a historic burial ground that preserves the legacy of early African American settlers in central Michigan.

The Old Settlers Reunion Website organization is preparing documentation for the Michigan Historical Commission in hopes of obtaining a historical marker recognizing the veterans and the cemetery's significance.

The effort was reported Oct. 13 and is being led in part by Diana Green, the organization's secretary and curator of the digi-

tal museum "Where Old Settler History Lives."

The cemetery, located in Wheatland Township near Remus, is closely connected to the history of African American families who settled in Mecosta, Montcalm and Isabella counties following the Civil War.

Many of the early settlers were formerly enslaved people or descendants of enslaved families who migrated to Michigan seeking land ownership, employment and greater opportunities.

Their communities contributed to the development of farms, schools, churches and other institutions throughout the region.

Morgan West Wheatland Cemetery dates to the 19th century and remains an important

record of that history.

The burial ground is located on property once owned by Daniel and Millie Jane Pointer, early African American settlers who acquired farmland in Wheatland Township during the 1860s.

In 1896, their son, Aaron Morgan, deeded an acre of family property for use as a cemetery serving the Old Settler community.

Among those buried at the site are 15 Black Civil War veterans and 16 people identified as having formerly been enslaved.

The veterans include Thomas W. Cross, Abraham Gross, Louis Gross, Benjamin Guy, Thomas Harris, Charles Lett, Eli Lett, Joseph Lett, the Rev. Charles Mortimer, Joseph D. Mumford, Michael Norman, Charles Rice,

Amos Robinson and Robert Scott.

A fifteenth burial is listed as an unknown soldier who may have been James Guy.

Green said the effort is intended to ensure that the soldiers' military service and the history of their families are preserved for future generations.

"These men served their country during the Civil War, and their stories deserve to be preserved and told," Green said in a statement reported by the Big Rapids Pioneer.

The organization has collected historical information about the veterans and their descendants and plans to submit the documentation to the Michigan Historical Commission.

The requested marker would help visitors understand the cemetery's importance to the history of African American military service, migration and settlement in Michigan.

Morgan West Wheatland Cemetery was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2014.

The cemetery is located on 55th Avenue between 10 and 11 Mile roads, approximately seven miles east of Mecosta.

Old Settlers descendants continue to preserve their ancestors' histories through reunions, cemetery walks, genealogical research and community education.

The recognition effort is part of broader work to document the contributions of African Americans who established communities in rural Michigan during the 19th century.

COMMUNITY

Coast Guard plans to restore full operations at Saginaw River station in 2027

BY MB STAFF

ESSEXVILLE, Mich. — The U.S. Coast Guard plans to restore around-the-clock operations at its Saginaw River station in 2027, a move expected to strengthen emergency response capabilities for boaters, fishermen and other residents who use Saginaw Bay and surrounding waterways.

The station, located in Essexville, reduced operations in 2024 because of staffing shortages. Following improved recruitment efforts, the Coast Guard announced plans to increase personnel and return the facility to full operational status.

Station Saginaw River currently has 19 personnel, with staffing expected to increase to 23 when the station resumes full

operations.

Senior Chief Alexander Weiss, the station's officer in charge, said the additional personnel will allow crews to expand search-and-rescue capabilities and provide more consistent emergency coverage.

The station is among six Coast Guard facilities nationwide identified for restoration of full operations because of their importance to maritime safety and emergency response.

The reduction in services raised concerns among local emergency responders, particularly those responsible for conducting water and ice rescues on Saginaw Bay.

Kawkawlin Township Fire Chief Steve Bernreuter previously expressed concern about the reduced Coast Guard presence,

noting that local agencies have relied on assistance from crews stationed in Tawas when additional resources were needed.

Responders traveling from Tawas could require at least two hours to reach certain emergencies in the Saginaw Bay area, according to Bernreuter.

The Coast Guard maintains specialized vessels and equipment that can assist with difficult rescue operations, including incidents involving ice, rapidly changing weather and people stranded on the water.

Coast Guard Sector Detroit Commander Caren Damon said restoring the Saginaw River station's capabilities is important to serving the region's maritime community.

The timing of the restoration will depend on federal funding

and the availability of personnel. Officials expect the station to return to full staffing sometime in 2027, although a specific date has not been announced.

U.S. Rep. Kristen McDonald Rivet, whose congressional district includes the region, has supported restoring operations and has worked with federal officials to address the station's staffing challenges.

The Coast Guard's plans come as recreational boating, commercial shipping, fishing and winter activities continue to make Saginaw Bay an important waterway for residents and businesses.

Until full operations are restored, local emergency agencies will continue coordinating with available Coast Guard resources when responding to emergencies.

State Street construction closes Mackinaw intersection in Saginaw through Oct. 22

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Motorists traveling through Saginaw will encounter another temporary intersection closure as construction continues on the Michigan Department of Transportation's M-58 reconstruction project.

The intersection of State Street and Mackinaw Street closed Thursday, Oct. 15, for grading, curb work and paving. Construction is expected to continue through Thursday, Oct. 22, weather permitting.

During the closure, northbound and southbound traffic on Mackinaw Street will be unable to cross State Street at the

intersection.

The work is part of an ongoing project to rebuild approximately 1.1 miles of eastbound State Street between Avalon Avenue and M-84, also known as Bay Street.

Eastbound State Street remains closed, with traffic redirected onto westbound M-58, or Davenport Avenue.

To accommodate traffic during construction, Davenport Avenue has been temporarily converted into a two-way roadway with a center turn lane.

The project includes rebuilding the roadway with hot-mix asphalt, installing new concrete curbs and gutters, replacing sidewalks and upgrading traffic signals.

Crews also are installing new signage, landscaping and pavement markings.

MDOT is coordinating the road improvements with the city of Saginaw to complete upgrades to municipal water mains and sewer infrastructure along the corridor.

The extensive work is intended to improve roadway conditions and modernize infrastructure serving residents, businesses and motorists.

The State Street reconstruction has required multiple temporary intersection closures during 2026 as crews completed underground utility work, grading and other improvements.

Earlier closures at Mackinaw Street included storm sewer in-

stallation and underground electrical work.

MDOT officials have emphasized that construction schedules remain dependent on weather conditions.

Motorists are encouraged to allow additional travel time, follow posted detours and use caution when approaching construction zones.

Residents and businesses along the corridor may continue to experience changes in traffic patterns as the project progresses.

Questions about the work may be directed to MDOT North Region Media Representative James Lake at 989-731-5090.



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COMMUNITY

Bay City veteran receives high school diploma nearly 60 years after being drafted



VIETNAM WAR VETERAN WARREN HARDING RECEIVES AN HONORARY BAY CITY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA DURING THE BAY CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OCT. 13. HARDING WAS DRAFTED INTO THE ARMY IN 1967 BEFORE COMPLETING HIGH SCHOOL. (PHOTO | BAY CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

BY MB STAFF

BAY CITY, Mich. — Nearly six decades after leaving high school to serve his country, Bay City resident and Vietnam War veteran Warren Harding has received the diploma he was unable to earn

when he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1967.

The Bay City Public Schools Board of Education presented Harding with an honorary Bay City Central High School diploma during its Oct. 13 meeting.

The recognition came as part of the board's monthly "High-

lights and Celebrations" program, with family members, school officials and community representatives attending to honor his military service.

Harding was drafted into the Army in October 1967, interrupting his high school education.

He served until October 1970

before returning to Bay City.

Although his military service prevented him from completing high school at the time, Michigan law provides a pathway for qualifying veterans to receive honorary diplomas.

Under Public Act 181 of 2001, local school boards may award high school diplomas to eligible veterans whose education was interrupted by military service during designated periods of conflict.

The law recognizes the sacrifices made by service members who left school to fulfill military obligations.

During the ceremony, Bay City Central High School student Adriana Dine performed the school's alma mater on the flute, connecting the school's newest honorary graduate with current students.

District representatives celebrated Harding's service and formally welcomed him as a Bay City Central graduate.

The recognition also provided an opportunity for students and community members to reflect on the experiences of veterans whose education and career plans were changed by military service.

Thousands of Americans were drafted into the military during the Vietnam War, including young men who had not completed high school.

For Harding, the diploma represents recognition of an educational milestone that was delayed for nearly 60 years.

Bay City Public Schools described the presentation as an opportunity to honor his sacrifice and celebrate the traditions connecting generations of district graduates.

COMMUNITY

United Way of Midland County surpasses \$2.5 million in annual campaign

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — United Way of Midland County has raised more than \$2.5 million toward its 2026 community fundraising goal, with local businesses, nonprofit organizations and residents continuing to contribute to programs serving families throughout the county.

The organization announced Oct. 14 that its annual campaign had reached \$2,504,139, representing more than 60% of its \$4.1 million goal.

The campaign, now in its fifth week, supports programs focused on education, financial stability, health and community needs.

United Way President and CEO Holly Miller said the fundraising progress reflects the con-

tinued involvement of residents and organizations despite economic pressures affecting charitable giving.

"We're encouraged by the progress we're seeing and grateful to everyone who has already stepped forward to support this campaign," Miller said.

The 2026 campaign, titled "United Is the Way," encourages residents and businesses to work together to address community challenges.

Several local employers and nonprofit organizations have organized workplace fundraisers, employee donation drives and special activities to support the campaign.

The Greater Midland Community Center launched its campaign Oct. 1 with an online auction running through Oct. 30 and

other fundraising activities.

The Arnold Center is conducting Halloween-themed employee activities, including a change collection competition, bottle and can donations, raffles and silent auctions.

Family & Children's Services of Mid-Michigan is organizing a chili cook-off, staff garage sale and other activities as part of a campaign scheduled to continue through Oct. 30.

Shelterhouse, which provides services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, is collecting donations through its resale shop.

Other organizations participating in the campaign include Home to Stay, The Legacy Center for Community Success and The Salvation Army.

Area businesses such as

Brandle Roofing, Great Lakes Bay Construction, Valley Electrical Contractors, Bone and Bailey, and Benjamin F. Edwards are also supporting fundraising efforts.

United Way works with nonprofit organizations throughout Midland County to expand access to services and address community needs.

Campaign leaders Brendy and Anne Lange are encouraging continued participation as the organization works toward its year-end goal.

The fundraising effort will continue through December, with residents able to contribute through workplace campaigns, individual donations and volunteer opportunities.

Midland Community Foundation awards \$221,534 in grants

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — Nine Midland County organizations and community projects have received grants totaling \$221,534 from the Midland Area Community Foundation, supporting affordable housing, mental health care, transportation, education and recreational improvements.

The foundation announced the awards Oct. 9 following approval by its Board of Trustees during the third quarter of 2026.

Individual grants range from \$10,000 to \$60,000, with funding directed toward projects designed to improve services and opportunities for Midland County residents.

Among the largest awards is a \$60,000 grant to Family & Children's Services of Mid-Michigan to expand access to mental health care.

The initiative will provide counseling services in community locations, including the West Midland Family Center and Greater Midland Community Center.

It will also support therapy groups, services for foster youth and families, and educational programs addressing mental health concerns.

The Affordable Housing Alliance of Midland County received \$30,000 for its Home Starts Here initiative, which seeks to preserve 69 affordable homes and develop 60 to 70 additional housing units.

The foundation's grant will be matched dollar for dollar, increasing the project's available funding to \$60,000.

Midland County Habitat for Humanity received \$10,000 to support energy-efficient electrical upgrades at its new ReStore

Donation Warehouse.

The expanded facility is expected to increase the organization's ability to accept donated materials, generate revenue for housing programs and keep reusable building supplies out of landfills.

Another \$35,000 was awarded to the city of Midland to purchase a mobile, universally accessible restroom trailer for community events.

The trailer will include accommodations for individuals with complex mobility and medical needs, allowing more residents to participate in festivals and outdoor gatherings.

The county received \$10,000 to purchase emergency shelter carts and another \$15,000 for improvements at Sanford Dam, including a walkway, educational signage, seating and an 80-foot mural.

Meridian Public Schools received \$15,000 to expand the Mustang Book Club, while Midland Free Methodist Church received \$15,000 for its annual Christmas Market serving families in need.

Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services received \$31,534 to support a planned regional bus route connecting Midland, Delta College, Saginaw Valley State University and MBS International Airport.

Sharon Mortensen, president and CEO of the Midland Area Community Foundation, said the grants are intended to address practical needs while strengthening opportunities for residents.

The foundation provides grants through charitable funds established by individuals, families and organizations committed to supporting the Midland community.

Saginaw Promise

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026

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PROGRAM STARTS AT 11:30 AM

Join us as we report on Saginaw Promise program outcomes, Saginaw Promise Scholar attainment, highlight Scholars, and hear from the Presidents of SVSU and CMU regarding their universities' plans for the Medical Diamond and impact for our community's health and economy.

**Luncheon Event, Entertainment, Program & Scholar
Highlights and 2025 Scholar attainment Report!**



KEYNOTE PANEL

President George Grant (SVSU), President Neil MacKinnon (CMU), Dr. Marcia Mastracci Ditmyer (SVSU), Dr. Joshua Nosanchuk (CMU) Discuss CMU and SVSU Plans for the Medical Diamond.

PANEL MODERATOR: Art Lewis

Event proceeds support Saginaw Promise programming to impact Saginaw's future, its economy, population, and quality of life through postsecondary education.

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Online Registration: <https://saginawpromise.org/events>
For questions and Information contact Deborah Sanchez at
dsanchez@saginawpromise.org or (989) 607-3428.

COMMUNITY

Flint Township voters to decide on proposed Oak Hills name change



FLINT TOWNSHIP VOTERS WILL CONSIDER A PROPOSAL NOV. 3 TO RENAME THE MUNICIPALITY OAK HILLS CHARTER TOWNSHIP. THE ADVISORY VOTE WILL HELP DETERMINE WHETHER TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS MOVE FORWARD WITH THE CHANGE. (FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

FLINT TOWNSHIP, Mich. — Flint Township residents will decide Nov. 3 whether their community should adopt a new name, Oak Hills Charter Township, following years of debate over the township's identity and economic future.

The proposal will appear on the general election ballot as an advisory question, allowing voters to indicate whether they support changing the municipality's name.

Supporters believe the name change could help distinguish Flint Township from the neighboring city of Flint and reduce confusion among visitors, employers and potential investors.

Flint Township is a separate municipality from Flint, with its own local government, tax structure and public services.

Jerry Preston, chairman of the committee supporting the change, has said the proposal is intended to give the township a more recognizable identity and improve its ability to attract investment.

Supporters have argued that the township continues to be associated with the Flint water crisis, even though Flint Township was not served by the city of Flint's water system during the crisis.

They also point to confusion created by mailing addresses that identify parts of the township with surrounding communities.

Township Supervisor Karyn Miller has said the proposal would allow residents to express their views before the township board makes any final decision.

Not everyone supports the change.

Some residents believe the township should retain its long-standing Flint identity and preserve the historical connection between the communities.

Township Trustee Gene A. Leverette Sr., who opposed placing the proposal on the ballot, has questioned whether the time and money required for a name change would be better spent addressing other community needs.

Officials have estimated that changing signage, documents and other municipal ma-

terials could cost approximately \$150,000 to \$175,000.

The Flint Township Board of Trustees voted 5-1 in July to place the advisory question on the November ballot.

A majority vote in favor of the proposal would not automatically change the township's name. The Board of Trustees would still need to take further action to approve the change.

Supporters have proposed Jan. 1, 2028, as the effective date if the name change is ultimately approved.

The issue gives residents an opportunity to weigh the potential economic benefits of rebranding against the costs and historical significance of the current name.

COMMUNITY

Flint reaches labor agreements with municipal workers, police sergeants

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — Flint officials have announced that two city employee unions have ratified new labor agreements, clearing an important step toward completing contract negotiations with municipal workers.

The agreements involve American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1600, the city's largest employee union, and the Flint Police Sergeants Union.

The city announced the ratifications Oct. 13, following a news conference involving Mayor Sheldon Neeley, union representatives and city administrators.

Union members approved the negotiated agreements through internal voting. The contracts

must now be presented to the Flint City Council for consideration before they can take effect.

AFSCME Local 1600 represents municipal employees whose work helps support daily city operations and public services.

The Police Sergeants Union represents supervisory personnel within the Flint Police Department.

Neeley said the negotiations reflect the importance of maintaining a working relationship between the city and its employees.

"Our employees are the backbone of City government, and the work they do every day is essential to serving Flint residents," Neeley said in the city's announcement.

He thanked union members for participating in the negotiation process and said the admin-

istration looked forward to presenting the agreements to City Council.

The announcement included representatives from both unions, including AFSCME Local 1600 President Jerry Brown and Vice President Krystal Wallace.

Police Chief Terence Green and City Administrator Clyde Edwards also participated in the announcement.

City officials have not publicly detailed all provisions of the agreements, including the full salary schedules, contract durations or benefit changes.



FLINT MAYOR SHELDON NEELEY, POLICE CHIEF TERENCE GREEN, UNION REPRESENTATIVES AND CITY OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE THE RATIFICATION OF LABOR AGREEMENTS INVOLVING AFSCME LOCAL 1600 AND THE FLINT POLICE SERGEANTS UNION. (PHOTO | CITY OF FLINT)

Those provisions will be important for residents and council members as they consider the agreements' impact on municipal services and the city budget.

The ratification votes represent progress in the negotiating process, but final approval remains pending.

Flint receives nearly \$500,000 to expand access to healthy, locally grown food

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — A nearly \$500,000 state investment will help Flint residents gain access to fresh, locally grown food while providing resources for people interested in starting farming businesses.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development announced Oct. 13 that it has awarded \$498,850 to the Greater Flint Health Coalition to support local food access and agricultural development.

The funding will support programs designed to strengthen connections between local food producers, retailers and residents.

One part of the initiative will expand use of the Flint Eats app, a resource developed by Flint Innovative Solutions that helps residents find information about healthy foods and places where nutritious groceries are available.

The program will also encourage retailers to offer healthier food options and connect more residents with local food resources.

Another portion of the funding will assist beginning farmers who face challenges entering the agricultural industry.

Participants will have access to educational resources covering land acquisition, farming regulations, regenerative agriculture and the financial requirements of operating a farm.

The initiative also includes grants to help farmers obtain certifications, purchase equipment, hire employees and secure supplies needed to establish or expand agricultural operations.

For residents interested in farming but lacking the necessary financial resources or business experience, the program could help reduce some of the barriers to getting started.

The Greater Flint Health Coalition will work with Flint Innovative Solutions, the Flint and Genesee Food Policy Council and the Multicultural Food Sovereignty Network to implement the programs.

State agriculture officials said the investment is intended to improve access to nutritious foods

while strengthening Michigan's regional agricultural economy.

The partnership comes as communities throughout Michigan continue to address disparities in grocery access, food costs and opportunities for small agricultural businesses.

Michigan has also expanded support for first-generation farmers through other agricultural grant programs, including its Farm to Family initiative.

The new Flint funding will combine consumer education, business development and local food production to support a more accessible regional food system.

COMMUNITY

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POLITICS

Saginaw Mayor Brenda Moore receives state's highest municipal honor



SAGINAW MAYOR BRENDA F. MOORE RECEIVED THE MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE'S HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD OCT. 6 DURING THE ORGANIZATION'S ANNUAL CONVENTION IN TRAVERSE CITY. THE AWARD IS THE LEAGUE'S HIGHEST RECOGNITION. (PHOTO | CITY OF SAGINAW)

"Thirteen years ago, I set a personal goal to learn everything that I could from the League to take back to my city to improve it—and I am grateful that I've met that goal."

Moore previously received the league's Jim Sinclair Exceptional Service Award in 2021, recognizing her involvement in municipal government and advocacy for Saginaw residents.

The mayor has also supported initiatives addressing neighborhood improvements, public safety, community development and participation in local government.

A graduate of Saginaw High School and Delta College, Moore has emphasized the importance of public service and creating opportunities for residents to participate in decisions affecting their community.

Michigan Municipal League Executive Director and CEO Dan Gilmartin congratulated Moore and the other honorees, recognizing their contributions to communities across the state.

Six current and former elected officials received awards during the ceremony. In addition to Moore, honorees represented Ann Arbor, Fennville, Greenville and Harper Woods.

The Michigan Municipal League represents municipalities throughout the state, providing training, legislative advocacy and resources for local government officials.

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Saginaw Mayor Brenda F. Moore has received the Michigan Municipal League's Honorary Life Membership Award, the organization's highest recognition, honoring her years of public service, leadership and commitment to strengthening local government.

Moore received the award Oct. 6 during the league's Board of Trustees Dinner at its annual convention in Traverse City. The organization announced the recognition Oct. 12.

The Honorary Life Member-

ship Award, established in 1932, recognizes municipal leaders who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to the league and its mission of supporting Michigan communities.

Moore, a lifelong Saginaw resident, was first elected to Saginaw City Council in 2013. She served as mayor pro tem from 2018 to 2020 before becoming mayor in 2020.

During her tenure, she has remained active in municipal leadership organizations throughout Michigan, serving in positions that include president of the Michigan Municipal League's

Board of Trustees, president of the Michigan Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials and president of the Michigan Association of Mayors.

She also has completed all four levels of the league's Elected Officials Academy, which provides leadership training and education for municipal officials.

In accepting the award, Moore reflected on the commitment she made when she first became involved with the league.

"I am overwhelmed, excited and humbled to receive the League's Honorary Life Membership Award," Moore said.

POLITICS

Greene and Tunney outline competing priorities in Michigan Senate race



DEMOCRATIC STATE SEN. CHEDRICK GREENE, LEFT, AND REPUBLICAN JASON TUNNEY ARE COMPETING IN THE NOV. 3 ELECTION FOR MICHIGAN'S 35TH SENATE DISTRICT, WHICH INCLUDES PORTIONS OF SAGINAW, BAY AND MIDLAND COUNTIES. (PHOTOS | GREENE AND TUNNEY CAMPAIGNS)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — State Sen. Chedrick Greene, a Democrat from Saginaw, and Republican attorney Jason Tunney are competing for Michigan's 35th Senate District seat in the Nov. 3 general election, with differences emerging over taxes, education, housing, labor policy and economic development.

The race is a rematch of the May 2026 special election, when Greene defeated Tunney to fill the vacancy created after Kristen McDonald Rivet was elected to Congress.

The district includes portions of Saginaw, Bay and Midland counties.

Greene, a Marine Corps veteran and longtime Saginaw firefighter, is seeking his first full

Senate term. Tunney, a Saginaw attorney with experience in the manufacturing sector, is seeking to win the seat after his earlier defeat.

In responses to an October candidate questionnaire published by the Midland Daily News, the candidates outlined different approaches to reducing costs and improving state services.

On taxation, Greene opposes eliminating Michigan's individual income tax, arguing that doing so without replacement revenue could significantly reduce funding for education, public safety and other state programs.

He supports targeted tax relief, including expansion of Michigan's Working Families Tax Credit and additional assistance for parents facing child care expenses.

Tunney supports a phased re-

duction in the state income tax. He said state government should review spending, audit contracts and reduce inefficiencies before considering additional taxes.

Education is another area of disagreement.

Greene supports raising Michigan's starting teacher salary to at least \$60,000 annually, using money from areas of the state budget outside education. He argues that competitive salaries could help schools recruit and retain qualified educators.

Tunney favors increased accountability, a stronger emphasis on phonics instruction and more consistent measurements of student reading performance. He argues that improvements in student achievement require better use of existing resources rather than additional spending alone.

The candidates also outlined

different approaches to housing affordability.

Greene supports allowing housing authorities greater flexibility to develop and rehabilitate properties while expanding assistance for middle-income households. He also favors measures addressing large investors purchasing residential properties.

Tunney supports reducing regulatory barriers to construction, including faster permitting decisions and changes to lot-size and setback requirements. He also supports recognizing skilled trade licenses from other states to increase the available construction workforce.

On labor policy, Greene opposes restoring Michigan's former right-to-work law, which restricted union-security agreements requiring represented workers to pay dues or fees. Tunney supports restoring those protections, arguing that workers should have greater freedom in deciding whether to financially support unions.

Both candidates addressed growing concerns about large data center developments.

Greene supports requirements intended to protect residential utility customers from infrastructure costs, conserve water and ensure local economic benefits.

Tunney favors local authority over zoning and environmental restrictions while opposing special tax incentives for data center developers.

The candidates expressed agreement on expanding Michigan's Freedom of Information Act to cover the Legislature and governor's office, although they emphasized different approaches to accountability.

The election will determine who represents the district in the next legislative session.

POLITICS

Midland schools seek voter approval for \$18 million in facility improvements

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — Midland Public Schools is asking voters to approve a 10-year sinking fund millage that would generate approximately \$4.57 million annually to finance school safety improvements, building repairs, transportation needs and technology upgrades.

The proposal will appear on the Nov. 3 general election ballot and calls for a new property tax levy of 1.5 mills, equivalent to \$1.50 for every \$1,000 of taxable property value.

District officials recently released details of approximately \$18 million in projects planned for the first four years if voters approve the measure.

The initial improvements include secure entry systems, up-

dated security cameras, roof replacements, school bus purchases, drainage improvements and other building repairs.

Among the largest projects is an estimated \$5.6 million in roof repairs at H.H. Dow High School, scheduled over three years beginning in 2027.

Northeast Middle School would receive approximately \$800,000 in roof improvements.

The district also plans to spend approximately \$830,000 installing secure buzzer-entry systems and updating security cameras across school facilities.

Other projects include replacing playground safety surfaces at Woodcrest and Plymouth elementary schools and improving drainage at Plymouth, Chestnut Hill and Adams elementary schools.

The proposal would fund the purchase of two school buses an-

nually during the initial four-year period. Eight buses would be replaced at an estimated combined cost of \$1.36 million.

District officials also have identified repairs at Central Auditorium, asbestos abatement and masonry improvements at Dow High School, and technology infrastructure upgrades.

The sinking fund would be supported through property tax collections rather than borrowing money through a bond issue. As a result, the district would not incur interest expenses associated with issuing bonds.

The district has said the proposal was developed following a facilities assessment and community discussions about school building needs.

An earlier facilities bond proposal failed in 2025, prompting school officials to reconsider how

to address urgent maintenance and safety projects.

The assessment identified approximately \$500 million in potential facility needs over 10 years, substantially more than the proposed sinking fund would generate.

Midland Public Schools officials say the sinking fund would concentrate on immediate repairs and safety upgrades rather than addressing every long-term facility need.

The district has committed to annual independent audits, public reporting and a rolling four-year project plan if the millage passes.

For a property with a taxable value of \$100,000, the proposed 1.5-mill levy would cost approximately \$150 annually.

Voters will decide whether to authorize the additional funding Nov. 3.

Midland Mayor Maureen Donker faces challenger in City Council election

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — Midland Mayor Maureen Donker faces her first contested City Council election as Daniel Terhune challenges her for the Ward 2 seat in the Nov. 3 general election.

Donker, who has served on the council since 2007, is seeking another two-year term representing the ward. Terhune, a local business professional and community advocate, says he wants to bring a different perspective to municipal government.

Although Donker currently serves as mayor, Midland residents do not directly elect the mayor. Instead, residents elect council members from the city's five wards, and the council selects the mayor and mayor pro tem

from among its members.

Donker became mayor in 2009 and has continued in that role through subsequent council elections.

Terhune is director of operations at Creation Coffee and founder of Foster Midland, an organization supporting foster families. He also has professional experience in food safety, nutrition programming and nonprofit work.

Both candidates have identified housing, infrastructure, neighborhood conditions and flood resilience as important issues facing Ward 2.

Donker has emphasized maintaining public services while addressing rising costs and preserving Midland's established neighborhoods.

She supports planning that balances new housing development with the character of existing communities.

Donker also has identified downtown Midland's economic vitality, road maintenance and flood protection as priorities.

Terhune has emphasized government transparency and opportunities for residents to participate in decisions affecting their neighborhoods.

He supports regular neighborhood meetings, public updates about council decisions and improved communication between residents and city officials.

Terhune has also called for long-term financial planning to address infrastructure improvements without relying excessively on additional taxpayer funding.

Both candidates recognize the importance of preparing for future flooding and improving aging infrastructure, although they differ in their approaches to public engagement and municipal decision-making.

Donker has pointed to her experience managing public responsibilities and working with community organizations.

Terhune has argued that competitive elections and increased public participation can strengthen local government.

The Ward 2 election will determine whether Donker continues representing the district or Terhune joins the council.

If Donker wins another council term, council members would still need to select her as mayor for her to continue in that position.

POLITICS

Flint Mayor Sheldon Neeley faces Tonya Burns in November election



FLINT CITY HALL WILL BE THE CENTER OF A LEADERSHIP TRANSITION OR ANOTHER TERM FOR MAYOR SHELDON NEELEY FOLLOWING THE NOV. 3 ELECTION. NEELEY FACES CITY COUNCIL MEMBER TONYA BURNS IN THE MAYORAL RACE. (FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — Flint Mayor Sheldon Neeley is seeking another four-year term against City Council member Tonya Burns in the Nov. 3 general election, with public safety, neighborhood conditions, city spending and government accountability emerging as central campaign issues.

Neeley, who was first elected mayor in 2019, is campaigning on his administration's work addressing abandoned properties, infrastructure needs and public safety.

Burns, a member of the Flint City Council, is challenging Neeley with a platform emphasizing transparency, stronger neighborhood investment and greater accountability in municipal government.

Both candidates advanced from the August primary election.

Neeley has pointed to the demolition of more than 2,000 abandoned structures as an accomplishment of his administration.

He has also emphasized efforts to strengthen the city's public safety programs, including youth activities and partnerships with Flint Community Schools.

The mayor has said his administration is working to provide young people with additional recreation opportunities and programs intended to reduce violence.

Burns has argued that the city needs stronger oversight of public spending and more direct attention to residents' concerns.

She has questioned aspects of the administration's handling of federal American Rescue Plan Act funding and has called for

greater City Council involvement in reviewing expenditures.

Burns also has emphasized neighborhood blight, economic opportunity and gun violence prevention in her campaign.

Public safety remains a concern for both candidates.

Neeley has pointed to reductions in certain crime categories and his administration's community programs as evidence of progress.

Burns has argued that violent crime requires more consistent attention from city leadership and stronger coordination with residents.

Water affordability is another campaign issue.

Neeley has highlighted the city's water rate stabilization efforts as part of his administration's response to rising household expenses.

Burns has focused on accountability in city finances and ensuring that residents can understand how public resources are allocated.

The candidates have also differed over the administration's relationship with City Council.

Neeley maintains that his administration has increased transparency and improved financial management. Burns argues that council members must exercise more oversight of city spending and major decisions.

Flint operates under a strong-mayor form of government, giving the mayor significant responsibility for overseeing city departments and administrative operations.

The Nov. 3 election will determine who leads the city during the next four years.

POLITICS

Saginaw City Council candidates to meet voters at Oct. 17 forum

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Residents will have an opportunity to hear directly from candidates seeking seats on Saginaw City Council during a public forum Saturday, Oct. 17, at the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History.

The League of Women Voters of Saginaw County will host the forum from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 500 Federal Ave. The event is free and open to the public, although seating is limited.

Twelve candidates are competing for five seats on the nine-member City Council in the Nov. 3 general election. All 12 candidates have been invited to participate in the forum.

The event will give candidates an opportunity to introduce themselves, explain their priorities and respond to questions about issues facing the city.

According to the League of

Women Voters, each participating candidate will deliver an opening statement, answer the same set of questions and make a closing statement. A League moderator will oversee the discussion, with equal speaking time provided to each candidate.

The forum comes as Saginaw continues addressing issues involving neighborhood revitalization, public safety, economic development, infrastructure improvements and city finances.

Ten candidates are seeking four full four-year terms on the council. They are Michael D. Balls, Jeanette Barnett, Priscilla Garcia, Carly Rose Hammond, Bob Johnson, Brenda F. Moore, Melvin Price Jr., Charles Anthony Sledge, Rachel Weidinger and Tobias Young.

Two additional candidates, Charles Allen and Maximilian Olivarez, are competing for a partial term ending Dec. 1, 2028.

Among the candidates seeking four-year terms are current

Mayor Brenda Moore, Mayor Pro Tem Priscilla Garcia and council members Balls, Hammond and Young.

Saginaw City Council elections are nonpartisan, and council members are elected at large rather than by individual neighborhoods or wards. Voters may select up to four candidates for the full-term positions and one candidate for the partial-term seat.

The council is responsible for adopting ordinances, approving the city's budget, setting municipal policies and overseeing the city manager. Council members also select the mayor and mayor pro tem from among their members.

In addition to the council races, Saginaw voters will consider a proposed charter amendment concerning the city's property tax revenue limit. The proposal would eliminate the existing dollar cap on property tax revenue while retaining the cur-

rent millage limit.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that conducts voter education programs and candidate forums without endorsing candidates.

Residents do not have to live within Saginaw city limits to attend Saturday's forum, although only registered city voters may participate in the council election.

The Nov. 3 election will determine five of the council's nine seats. Michigan's early in-person voting period begins Oct. 24 and continues through Nov. 1.

Residents can also review candidate information and their sample ballots through VOTE411 and the Michigan Voter Information Center.

For additional information about Saturday's forum, residents may contact the League of Women Voters of Saginaw County at lwvsaginawmi@gmail.com.

All nine Flint City Council seats up for election Nov. 3

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — Flint residents will elect representatives for all nine City Council wards Nov. 3, with several contested races giving voters an opportunity to shape the direction of city government for the next four years.

The nonpartisan election comes as council members continue addressing issues involving public safety, neighborhood redevelopment, city finances, infrastructure and oversight of municipal spending.

Flint's City Council consists of nine members, each representing a geographic ward. Members are responsible for approving city legislation, reviewing budgets and

exercising oversight of municipal operations.

In Ward 1, Debra J. Coleman and Arthur Woodson are competing for the council seat.

Ward 2 features current council members LaShawn Johnson and Ladel Lewis, while Ward 3 incumbent Leon El-Alamin faces Paradise Williams.

Ramie Yelle is the only candidate listed for Ward 4.

In Ward 5, Joel Arnold faces DeWaun E. Robinson.

Dakota Starr is the sole candidate listed in Ward 6, the seat currently represented by mayoral candidate Tonya Burns.

Ward 7 incumbent Candice Mushatt faces challenger Darell Brown.

In Ward 8, Ezezial Harris is

running against Casey Lester, while Michael J. Harris is the only candidate listed in Ward 9.

Several of the races involve candidates seeking to continue their work on council, while others feature individuals seeking their first elected municipal positions.

The election is taking place during a period of ongoing debate about the relationship between Flint's mayor and City Council, particularly regarding financial oversight and the use of public funds.

Council members play an important role in reviewing municipal spending, approving ordinances and representing neighborhood concerns.

The city's ongoing efforts to demolish abandoned buildings,

improve streets and water infrastructure, address crime and strengthen economic development will remain significant responsibilities for the next council.

Residents also will vote for mayor, three Flint Community Schools Board of Education members and several state, county and local ballot proposals.

Michigan's early in-person voting period begins Oct. 24 and continues through Nov. 1.

Flint residents can review their precinct information and voting locations through the City Clerk's Office.

Polling locations will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.



GREAT LAKES BAY + FLINT

VOTER GUIDE

NONPARTISAN VOTER INFORMATION



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

ELECTION DAY | POLLS OPEN 7 A.M. – 8 P.M.



IMPORTANT DATES

PLAN AHEAD TO MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT



Last day to register to vote
online or by mail
OCT. 19



Oct. 20 – Nov. 3
Register in person with proof
of residency at your local clerk.



Statewide minimum early voting
OCT. 24 – NOV. 1
Local schedules may offer additional days.



Absentee ballot application
(online or by mail) must be received by
5 P.M. OCT. 30



In-person absentee ballot application
(for already registered voters) by
4 P.M. NOV. 2



Completed absentee ballots must be
received by
8 P.M. NOV. 3
for most voters.
Special rules apply for military and overseas voters.

SELECTED MAJOR-PARTY NOMINEES

OTHER CANDIDATES ALSO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT.



MICHIGAN GOVERNOR
Jocelyn Benson (D) | John James (R)



U.S. SENATE
Abdul El-Sayed (D) | Mike Rogers (R)



U.S. HOUSE – DISTRICT 8
Kristen McDonald Rivet (D) | Tom Smith (R)



MICHIGAN SENATE – DISTRICT 35
Chedrick Greene (D) | Jason Tunney (R)



FLINT MAYOR (NONPARTISAN)
Sheldon Neeley | Tonya Burns

LOCAL RACES AND BALLOT ITEMS



Flint City Council
All nine wards on the ballot.



Flint Community Schools Board
Eight candidates competing for three seats.



Saginaw City Council
12 candidates for 5 seats.



Midland Public Schools
Proposed 1.5-mill, 10-year sinking fund levy.



STATEWIDE BALLOT QUESTIONS

1

Proposal 1
Asks whether to hold a state constitutional
convention in 2027.

2

Proposal 2
Would restrict contributions by certain regulated
utilities and government contractors and expand
political communications disclosure requirements.



VOTER ID INFORMATION

A photo ID is recommended.
Michigan residents without a photo ID
may sign an affidavit and vote.



Visit Michigan.gov/Vote

for your official, address-specific ballot,
polling location and registration information.

Michigan.gov/Vote

Ballots vary by address.
Informational resource, not an endorsement.

POLITICS

Benson and James clash over costs, health care in final governor debate

BY MB STAFF

DETROIT, Mich. — Democratic gubernatorial nominee Jocelyn Benson and Republican nominee John James exchanged competing proposals for addressing Michigan's economy, health care costs, energy prices and government accountability during their second televised debate Thursday, Oct. 15.

The debate, hosted by WDIV-TV in Detroit, came less than three weeks before Michigan voters select a successor to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who cannot seek another consecutive term because of term limits.

Benson, Michigan's secretary of state, and James, a U.S. representative from Shelby Township, agreed that the state faces economic challenges but differed over their causes and possible solutions.

James criticized the economic

policies of Whitmer's administration and Democratic leadership in Lansing, arguing that rising government spending, energy costs and regulations have made Michigan less competitive.

Benson criticized President Donald Trump's administration and Republican policies in Washington, particularly federal decisions she said have increased health care costs and created uncertainty for Michigan manufacturers.

Affordability was a major focus of the debate.

James said Michigan should reduce energy costs and reconsider clean energy policies that he argues contribute to higher household utility bills.

Benson focused on health care expenses, particularly the impact of federal Medicaid changes and rising insurance premiums.

The candidates also discussed international trade and Michigan's

economic relationship with Canada.

James highlighted federal legislation he introduced that would use tariff revenue to provide relief to manufacturers affected by increased trade costs.

Benson outlined a proposal to pursue agreements involving Michigan and Canadian officials intended to reduce the economic impact of tariffs on businesses and consumers.

James questioned whether such agreements could legally bypass federal trade restrictions. Benson maintained that Michigan could pursue arrangements in cooperation with federal authorities.

Both candidates expressed openness to temporarily suspending gasoline taxes as one possible approach to reducing fuel prices.

Education and property taxes were also discussed.

Benson proposed changing the state's school funding system

to provide resources based more heavily on the needs of individual school districts. She argued that changing the distribution of state funding could ease financial pressure on local communities.

James emphasized improving academic achievement, school accountability and the effectiveness of state spending.

Government transparency became another point of disagreement.

James criticized the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and called for closer oversight of state economic development spending.

Benson emphasized her record overseeing Michigan elections and questioned James' political positions.

The two candidates previously debated Oct. 6 in Grand Rapids.

Rogers and El-Sayed debate health care, trade and foreign policy in Senate race

BY MB STAFF

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Republican Mike Rogers and Democrat Abdul El-Sayed presented differing positions on health care, international trade, immigration and American military involvement overseas during their first televised debate Oct. 8.

The candidates are competing for Michigan's open U.S. Senate seat, which will be vacated by retiring Democratic Sen. Gary Peters.

The debate, hosted by WOOD-TV in Grand Rapids, included repeated personal exchanges as the candidates challenged each other's policy proposals and political records.

Rogers, a former congressman and FBI agent from White Lake, emphasized economic concerns, national security and the importance of protecting American jobs.

El-Sayed, a former Detroit health director and public health professional, focused on health care affordability, corporate influence and the economic pressures facing working families.

Both candidates addressed rising gasoline prices and the economic effects of the war involving Iran.

Rogers expressed support for temporarily suspending gasoline taxes to provide relief to drivers.

El-Sayed said the continuing conflict was contributing to higher fuel costs and argued that ending the war was necessary to reduce pressure on households.

The candidates also discussed tariffs involving Canada, one of Michigan's largest trading partners.

Rogers said he wants a negotiated agreement with Canada to reduce trade tensions that could harm Michigan's economy. His position reflected concerns he has expressed about tariffs that affect manufac-

turers and consumers.

El-Sayed criticized the administration's broad tariff policies but said targeted tariffs could serve a purpose when connected to strategies that protect domestic industries.

Health care produced another disagreement.

El-Sayed supports Medicare for All, a proposal to establish universal health coverage through a federal program.

Rogers questioned the cost of the proposal and argued that El-Sayed had not adequately explained how it would be funded.

The candidates also discussed housing affordability and federal surveillance powers.

On foreign policy, they differed over continued American military assistance to Israel and the federal government's handling of the conflict involving Iran.

Rogers defended his national

security experience and emphasized the importance of maintaining American alliances.

El-Sayed questioned U.S. military commitments and argued for greater oversight of military spending and foreign interventions.

The debate also featured personal accusations involving the candidates' backgrounds and campaign activities.

El-Sayed accused Rogers of attempting to distract from economic issues through personal attacks, while Rogers questioned El-Sayed's experience and policy positions.

Several exchanges required intervention from moderator Rick Albin as the candidates interrupted one another.

The race has drawn national attention because Michigan's Senate seat is among those being contested as Republicans and Democrats seek control of Congress.

HEALTH

MyMichigan Health investigates claims of patient data theft



MYMICHIGAN MEDICAL CENTER MIDLAND IS PART OF MYMICHIGAN HEALTH, WHICH IS INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS OF DATA THEFT. AS OF OCT. 15, OFFICIALS SAID THEY HAD FOUND NO EVIDENCE THAT PATIENT INFORMATION HAD BEEN COMPROMISED. (PHOTO | MYMICHIGAN HEALTH)

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — MyMichigan Health is investigating claims that an unidentified amount of information was stolen from the health system, although officials say they have not found evidence of unauthorized access to their computer systems or compromised patient information.

The Midland-based health organization announced the investigation Thursday, Oct. 15, after a group identifying itself as MetaEncryptor claimed to have obtained data belonging to the

health system.

MyMichigan Health has hired Mandiant, an independent cybersecurity incident response firm, to investigate the allegations. The organization is also working with law enforcement to evaluate the claims and determine whether any unauthorized activity occurred.

The investigation remains ongoing.

"Protecting the privacy and security of our patients, employees and communities remains a top priority," said Dr. Pankaj Jandwani, system vice president and chief information offi-

cer for MyMichigan Health, in a statement.

"We take these allegations seriously and will continue to work with our cybersecurity specialists and law enforcement to evaluate the information available to us."

As of the health system's Oct. 15 statement, investigators had not identified evidence showing that its systems had been accessed without authorization or that patient information had been compromised.

The distinction is important because claims made by groups alleging data theft do not independently establish that a secu-

rity breach has occurred.

MyMichigan Health operates hospitals, medical offices and other health services throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region and other parts of Michigan. Its facilities serve patients in Midland, Saginaw, Bay City, Alma, Clare, Gladwin and surrounding communities.

Health care organizations maintain sensitive information that may include patient names, medical histories, insurance details and other personal records. Protecting that information is an important responsibility for hospitals and medical providers.

Cybersecurity investigations can involve reviewing computer activity, examining potential vulnerabilities and determining whether information was accessed or transferred without authorization.

Officials have not announced the number of people potentially affected, identified any specific types of information involved or confirmed that patient records were stolen.

The organization also has not announced that patients need to take any specific action in response to the allegations.

Patients should be cautious about unsolicited communications claiming to have confidential medical information or requesting personal details in connection with the investigation. Anyone receiving a suspicious message can independently contact their health care provider using an established telephone number.

MyMichigan Health said it will continue working with its cybersecurity specialists and law enforcement as the investigation proceeds.

HEALTH

CMU Health to host free diabetes wellness fair Oct. 24

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — CMU Health will host its second annual "The Sweet Truth – Diabetes Wellness Fair" Saturday, Oct. 24, offering free health screenings, educational resources and practical guidance for people living with diabetes and those interested in prevention.

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Horizons Conference Center, 6200 State St., in Saginaw. Admission and screenings are free and open to the public.

Organized by CMU Health's endocrinology department, the fair will feature live food demonstrations, fitness activities and opportunities to speak with local

health professionals about managing diabetes and improving overall health.

The event comes ahead of National Diabetes Awareness Month in November.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2026 report, more than 40 million Americans have diabetes, and approximately one in four are unaware of their condition. The American Diabetes Association estimates that about 12% of Michigan adults have diabetes.

Dr. Zeina Habib, an endocrinologist at CMU Health, said the organization decided to continue the fair following last year's success.

"Following the success of our inaugural event, hosting a second Diabetes Wellness Fair felt like a

natural step," Habib said.

She emphasized the importance of helping families make healthier choices despite busy schedules and the convenience of processed foods.

"Through the resources offered at this fair, we aim to highlight practical ways to prepare quick nutritious meals, and simple at-home workouts that fit into busy schedules," Habib said.

Attendees also can learn about carbohydrate awareness, GLP-1 medications and stress management, along with other approaches to diabetes prevention and treatment.

Dr. Michael Sullivan, chief medical officer at CMU Health, said the fair offers useful information for people living with diabetes, caregivers and anyone

interested in improving their health.

The event is supported by Abbott, CMU Health, Covenant HealthCare, Covenant HealthCare College of Medicine at Central Michigan University, Saginaw County Health Department, BWell Saginaw and MyMichigan Medical Center Saginaw.



JASVANT KUMAR, M.D., INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENT PHYSICIAN AT CMU MEDICAL EDUCATION PARTNERS, PROVIDES A BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING TO AN ATTENDEE AT THE DIABETES WELLNESS FAIR IN 2025. (PHOTO | CMU HEALTH)

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*National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers

HEALTH

Genesee County expands health care access with mobile clinic scheduling program



THE EXAMINATION AREA INSIDE COMPASS, THE GENESEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S MOBILE HEALTH UNIT. A NEW ONLINE REQUEST SYSTEM ALLOWS SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO SCHEDULE POTENTIAL VISITS FROM THE CLINIC. (PHOTO | GENESEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT)

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — Schools, churches, neighborhood organizations and other community groups across Genesee County can now request visits from the county Health Department's mobile health unit through a new online scheduling system.

The Genesee County Health Department announced the service Oct. 14 as part of its effort to bring public health resources directly into communities where residents may face obstacles obtaining care.

The mobile unit, known as COMPASS, provides preventive health services and connections to community assistance programs.

COMPASS stands for Community Outreach Mobile-unit: Providing Access, Support, and Services.

Through the new schedul-

ing system, schools, employers, faith-based organizations, neighborhood associations and other community partners can submit requests for the mobile unit to visit their locations or participate in local activities.

The Health Department also has launched a public online calendar allowing residents to see where the unit is scheduled to provide services.

"Our community partners know their neighborhoods best," said Michelle Estell, Genesee County health officer. "This form gives them a simple way to bring our public health services to the people they serve. When we work together, we can reach more individuals with the care they need, right where they are."

The mobile unit may offer health screenings, vaccinations, health education, enrollment assistance for the Women, Infants and Children program, and connections to local health and so-

cial services.

Available services will vary depending on the location and purpose of each visit.

Health officials say the program is intended to reach residents who experience difficulties obtaining medical services because of transportation limitations, work schedules, distance or other everyday responsibilities.

Rather than requiring individuals to travel to a health department office, COMPASS allows services to be delivered at familiar locations within their communities.

The Health Department will use two methods to determine where the mobile unit travels.

Community organizations can submit requests through the new online form. Department staff will review those requests and determine whether the unit is available.

The department also will use local health information to iden-

tify neighborhoods and areas of Genesee County where residents may have the greatest need for accessible services.

Submitting a visit request does not guarantee that the mobile unit will be available on the requested date.

The program is designed to improve access to preventive services while helping residents establish connections with health care providers and community resources.

Public health officials are encouraging community organizations and residents to share information about COMPASS and its schedule.

Organizations interested in requesting a visit can use the Health Department's COMPASS webpage. Those unable to access the online form may call 810-257-3612 and select option 5 for assistance.

HEALTH

Michigan invests \$3.4 million in recovery housing, adding beds in Genesee and Midland counties

BY MB STAFF

LANSGING, Mich. — Michigan is investing \$3.4 million from opioid settlement funds to expand recovery housing across the state, including new residential beds in Genesee, Midland and Gladwin counties.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced Oct. 12 that 18 organizations have been selected to receive funding through the Recovery Housing Investment Program, a partnership with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

The funding will support the purchase or leasing of 24 recovery residences in 14 counties, creating an estimated 205 additional beds for people recovering from substance use disorders.

Two organizations serving mid-Michigan communities are

among the grant recipients.

New Paths Inc. in Genesee County will add eight beds, while Ten16 Recovery Network will add 14 beds in Midland and Gladwin counties.

Together, the two organizations will provide 22 additional recovery housing opportunities in the region.

Recovery residences offer stable, supportive living environments for individuals working to maintain recovery from alcohol or drug use disorders.

These facilities typically provide an atmosphere that encourages personal responsibility, peer support and continued participation in recovery services.

Unlike short-term medical treatment programs, recovery housing is intended to help individuals establish stability as they return to employment, education, family responsibilities and community activities.

"Every person in recovery deserves the chance to rebuild their life with dignity, connection and hope," said Amy Epkey, acting director of MDHHS, in the state's announcement.

"When we invest in recovery supports, we're investing in stronger families, safer communities and a healthier Michigan."

State officials say stable housing can be an important factor in reducing the risk of returning to substance use following treatment.

Amy Hovey, CEO and executive director of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, said recovery housing can help residents rebuild relationships and regain independence.

The latest investment builds on earlier state efforts that have supported 136 recovery beds at 18 properties in six counties.

Michigan has been using money obtained through national opioid settlements to support

prevention, treatment, harm reduction and long-term recovery programs.

State officials expect Michigan to receive more than \$1.8 billion from opioid settlements through 2040. Half of the funding will be distributed to the state's Opioid Healing and Recovery Fund, while the remainder will go directly to local governments.

During recent months, MDHHS has awarded more than \$12 million in opioid settlement funding to over 50 community organizations providing recovery-related services.

The latest grants are intended to address a continuing need for stable housing options for people recovering from substance use disorders.

Additional information about recovery programs and opioid settlement investments is available through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Medicare open enrollment begins as Michigan seniors review 2027 coverage

BY MB STAFF

LANSGING, Mich. — Medicare's annual open enrollment period began Thursday, Oct. 15, giving Michigan beneficiaries an opportunity to review their health insurance coverage and make changes to their plans for 2027.

The enrollment period continues through Dec. 7, with approved changes taking effect Jan. 1.

Beneficiaries can switch Medicare Advantage plans, change prescription drug coverage or move between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage.

Federal health officials encourage beneficiaries to review their coverage annually because insurance companies can change pre-

miums, deductibles, prescription coverage, provider networks and other benefits.

For Michigan seniors living on fixed incomes, those changes can affect the cost of medications, medical appointments and other essential services.

Some Medicare Advantage plans are reducing benefits or withdrawing from certain service areas for 2027, according to The Associated Press. Beneficiaries should confirm that their preferred doctors, hospitals and pharmacies remain within their plan's network.

Prescription drug coverage is another important consideration.

In 2027, Medicare Part D's annual out-of-pocket spending cap for covered prescription drugs will

increase from \$2,100 to \$2,400. The standard deductible also is increasing, although individual plan deductibles may vary.

Federally negotiated prices for additional prescription medications will take effect in 2027, potentially reducing costs for some beneficiaries.

Michigan residents can compare plans through Medicare's online Plan Finder, which allows users to enter their ZIP code, medications and preferred pharmacies to estimate coverage costs.

Beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage or Part D plans also receive an annual notice outlining changes to their coverage for the coming year.

Michigan residents needing

assistance can contact the Michigan Medicare Assistance Program, known as MMAP, which provides free, impartial counseling about Medicare, Medicaid and other health insurance benefits.

MMAP counselors can help beneficiaries compare plans, review prescription coverage and identify programs that may assist with health care costs.

Residents can contact MMAP at 800-803-7174 or Medicare at 800-633-4227.

Beneficiaries should also be cautious about unsolicited calls requesting Medicare numbers or other personal information.

Enrollment requests for coverage changes beginning Jan. 1 must be received by Dec. 7.

EDUCATION

Saginaw ISD approves contract with 11.5% average raises for early childhood educators

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Saginaw Intermediate School District has approved a new three-year labor agreement providing salary increases averaging 11.5% for early childhood educators, along with additional opportunities for professional development and career advancement.

The agreement between Saginaw ISD and the Early Childhood Education Association was ratified by union members and approved by the district's Board of Education on Sept. 15. The district announced the agreement Oct. 9.

The contract establishes a redesigned compensation structure that better recognizes employees' education, credentials and professional experience.

It also continues tuition reimbursement for up to 18 approved college credits annually and introduces stipends for experienced employees who mentor their colleagues.

The changes affect professionals supporting approximately 2,454 early childhood program slots across Saginaw County, including Head Start, Early Head Start, the Great Start Readiness Program and other early learning services.

The district's early childhood workforce includes teachers, associate teachers, family service advocates, home visitors and other support professionals.

Dr. Jeffrey Collier, superintendent of Saginaw ISD, said the agreement recognizes the importance of educators who work with children during their earliest years.

"For many children and families, our early childhood profes-



AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR WORKS WITH PRESCHOOL STUDENTS. THE DISTRICT'S NEW THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT INCLUDES SALARY INCREASES AVERAGING 11.5% AND ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES. (FILE PHOTO)

sionals are among the first educators and educational partners they encounter, helping establish a strong foundation during some of the most important years of a child's development," Collier said.

The agreement addresses compensation challenges affecting early childhood education throughout Michigan.

According to a Michigan Center for Data and Analytics workforce study, preschool teachers earned approximately 78% of the

typical Michigan worker's wages in 2023, despite nearly half of preschool and kindergarten teachers holding at least a bachelor's degree.

Jessica Willingham, president of the Early Childhood Education Association, said investing in educators also benefits the children and families they serve.

"Our members deserve to be valued, supported, and given opportunities to grow—and our children deserve educators who are given the same opportunity

to grow alongside them," Willingham said.

The agreement also maintains employee benefits, including health, dental, vision and life insurance, long-term disability coverage and leave provisions.

District officials said the improved compensation and professional development opportunities are intended to strengthen employee recruitment and retention while maintaining early learning services throughout Saginaw County.

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EDUCATION

Saginaw ISD superintendent's salary raises questions about school spending and accountability

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — A salary approaching \$400,000 for Saginaw Intermediate School District Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Collier is drawing attention to a broader question about public education: How should school districts balance competitive leadership compensation with the needs of students, teachers and support staff?

According to an Oct. 14 ABC12 report, Collier's compensation has reached approximately \$373,000, with his contract outlining an increase to about \$446,000 by 2031.

The figures have generated public discussion following social media posts by Lady Budgetdown, a Facebook page examining public school spending records and administrative compensation across Michigan.

The reported salary places Collier among Michigan's highly compensated education administrators. Public payroll records previously listed his 2025 pay at approximately \$341,000, although salary and total compensation figures can include different components.

Collier leads an intermediate school district providing educational programs and services to approximately 26,000 students across Saginaw County. Its responsibilities include special education, early childhood programs, career and technical education, transportation and support for local school districts.

The position carries responsibilities beyond those of a superintendent overseeing a single school system.

Collier was named Michigan's 2024 Superintendent of the Year by the Michigan Association of Superintendents &



DR. JEFFREY COLLIER, SUPERINTENDENT OF SAGINAW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IS FACING QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS COMPENSATION FOLLOWING REPORTS THAT HIS PAY HAS REACHED APPROXIMATELY \$373,000, WITH A PROJECTED INCREASE TO \$446,000 BY 2031. (PHOTO | SAGINAW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT)

Administrators, recognizing his leadership and contributions to education.

His compensation has nevertheless raised questions about how school boards determine executive salaries, evaluate performance and explain long-term financial commitments to taxpayers.

The discussion comes as Saginaw ISD announces significant salary increases for other employees.

On Oct. 14, the district announced a three-year agreement providing raises averaging 24.1% for more than 200 support employees, including paraprofessionals, bus drivers, custodians, health aides and other workers.

A separate agreement an-

nounced Oct. 9 provides early childhood educators with increases averaging 11.5%.

District leaders say the agreements are intended to address staffing shortages, improve employee retention and make compensation more competitive.

The superintendent's compensation and the new union agreements involve different positions and responsibilities, but together they highlight the financial decisions school boards make in attracting and retaining employees.

For taxpayers, understanding those decisions requires more than comparing individual salaries. Questions include how compensation is determined, whether increases are tied to

measurable performance goals and how spending aligns with student needs.

The Saginaw ISD Board of Education is responsible for approving the superintendent's employment agreement and evaluating his performance.

While ABC12 reported the projected 2031 compensation figure, the complete contract terms, including the distinction between base salary and benefits, warrant examination when evaluating the total cost.

As discussion continues, the issue extends beyond one superintendent's paycheck to the transparency of publicly funded school leadership and how communities measure the return on their education investments.

EDUCATION

Superintendent Searches: Why Schools Can't Find Leaders



MAN BEING INTERVIEWED (FILE PHOTO)



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS

America's schools are struggling to find people willing to run them. I served as a school superintendent for roughly half of my career in education. The job is not for the faint-hearted, yet I remember interviewing for a vacancy thirty years along with two dozen other applicants. Today it is likely there will be only a fraction of that number of candidates for a position. *Why is this the case?*

The average superintendent tenure is just five to six years, and it is even shorter in struggling districts. Contrast that to my 18.5 years as Carrollton Public Schools' Superintendent. Why is the tenure now relatively short?

Fewer people are pursuing educational leadership, and experienced administrators are increasingly choosing less stressful careers. Why the decrease in interest?

Here are some of the factors. First, political battles over curriculum, policy, and practices have turned school boards into minefields. Since last April, I have interacted with four superintendents landing on the "hot seat" due to such political battles.

School board dysfunction pushes capable leaders out the door.

With over 500 districts — many small and rural — Michigan is especially hard hit. Some openings attract only two or three applicants. Detroit Public Schools has cycled through multiple superintendents in recent years, making sustained improvement nearly impossible. And Detroit is not alone...

Districts that retain strong leaders invest in board governance training, offer competitive pay and multi-year contracts, build internal leadership pipelines, and involve communities in the hiring process.

Leadership instability drives up staff turnover, lowers student achievement, and erodes community trust.

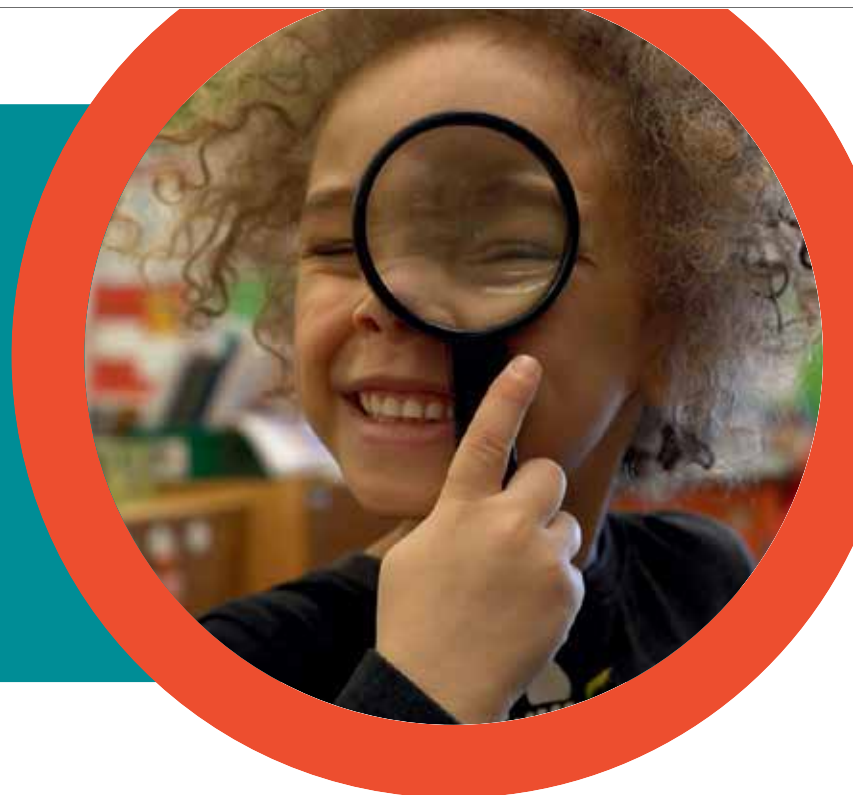
It seems to me that fixing the situation means making the job worth doing — and creating conditions where good leaders can

actually succeed. Community groups that rally to defeat bond issues, for example, need to be questioned as their motives. School board candidates need to be examined closely about their motives to run for office. Do they have a special agenda?

I exited as Carrollton's superintendent in June, 2013 with my head held high, still enjoying the job with its challenges. I wish this same experience to those currently in the role of superintendent at one of our 500+ school districts. **Positive**, not negative, community leaders will help make this happen.

Resource:
Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) — (<https://www.masb.org>)

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BUSINESS + FINANCE

Red Robin plans Saginaw-area opening at former Logan's Roadhouse



RED ROBIN GOURMET BURGERS AND BREWS RESTAURANT PLANS TO OPEN ITS FIRST SAGINAW COUNTY LOCATION AT THE FORMER LOGAN'S ROADHOUSE PROPERTY, 2697 TITTABAWASSEE ROAD, BEFORE THE END OF 2026. (PHOTO | RED ROBIN)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW TOWNSHIP, Mich. — Red Robin Gourmet Burgers and Brews is preparing to open its first Saginaw County restaurant, bringing new activity to the former Logan's Roadhouse property along the busy Tittabawassee Road commercial corridor.

Farmington Hills-based Ansara Restaurant Group purchased the former steakhouse at 2697 Tittabawassee Road, near Fashion Square Mall, with plans to renovate the building and reopen it as a Red Robin restaurant before the end of 2026.

The restaurant would be-

come the company's 20th Red Robin location in Michigan.

Logan's Roadhouse closed in August 2025 after operating at the location for more than a decade, leaving a vacant restaurant property between Chipotle and Starbucks.

Renovations will include improvements to the building's interior and exterior, along with sidewalk repairs. Township officials said major structural changes are not expected.

Ray Hausbeck, assistant director of community development for Saginaw Township, welcomed the investment, noting the importance of returning vacant commercial properties to productive use.

"It's excellent news. We don't ever like to see vacant buildings," Hausbeck said in previously published comments. "I hate to see Logan's not make it, but we're excited for Red Robin."

Ansara Restaurant Group, a family-owned company with more than 60 years of experience in Michigan's restaurant industry, operates 19 Red Robin locations across the state and three in Ohio.

Brian Cooke, the company's chief operating officer, said the group is excited to bring the restaurant to Saginaw.

The chain is known for its gourmet burgers, including the Whiskey River BBQ and Bacon 'n Bleu burgers, along with chicken

sandwiches, appetizers and other casual dining options.

The closest existing Red Robin location is on Miller Road in Flint Township.

The planned opening adds to restaurant development along Tittabawassee Road, which has attracted several national dining chains in recent years.

Company officials previously identified November as a possible opening month, although an exact date has not been announced.

The number of jobs expected to be created and the total renovation investment have not been disclosed.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Flint Farmers' Market expansion to bring MSU Dairy Store, new restaurant downtown

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — The Flint Farmers' Market is preparing for a major expansion that will bring a Michigan State University Spartan Dairy Store and a new restaurant to downtown Flint, creating more year-round dining and shopping opportunities.

Construction is scheduled to begin in October, with the new businesses expected to open in June 2027.

Uptown Reinvestment Corporation, the nonprofit organization that owns the market, plans to enclose and expand approximately one-third of the market's outdoor pavilion to create two permanent commercial spaces.

One will house the Spartan Dairy Store, featuring MSU-

made ice cream. The second will accommodate a restaurant operated by an established Genesee County business owner, with an outdoor patio for customers.

Details about the restaurant, including its name and menu, are expected to be announced in spring 2027.

The improvements also include expanding the market's loading dock and storage facilities, which support more than 50 vendors and entrepreneurs participating in Flint Food Works.

Stephanie Fenton, chief operating officer and chief financial officer of Uptown Reinvestment Corporation, said the expansion will provide additional space for visitors to gather and enjoy downtown.

"To be able to use the outdoor

pavilion and create more space, more opportunity, and have a community gathering space with an outdoor area for seating, we think is gonna really enhance the downtown," Fenton said.

The Flint Farmers' Market attracts approximately 500,000 visitors annually, making it an important destination for shoppers and local entrepreneurs.

Market Manager Karianne Martus said existing storage areas have become overcrowded, creating challenges for vendors handling products and supplies. The improvements are intended to make daily operations more efficient.

The Spartan Dairy Store addi-

tion also represents a new partnership connecting Michigan State University's food products with Flint's downtown business community.

The expansion is supported by funding from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Construction is expected to be completed by the end of May 2027, ahead of the summer shopping season.



Former Oscar's restaurant property in downtown Midland sells for \$1.9 million

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — A prominent downtown Midland property that once housed Oscar's Restaurant & Bar has been sold for \$1.9 million, ending more than five years of vacancy at one of the city's recognizable Main Street locations.

The property at 140 E. Main St., part of the historic Larkin Block building, was sold Oct. 9 by The Larkin Group LLC to Old Oscars Group LLC.

The sale comes as downtown Midland continues experiencing redevelopment activity involving historic buildings, commercial properties and new

businesses.

Old Oscars Group LLC was registered with the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs on Aug. 19. Dan Murphy, president and CEO of MAG Insulation in Auburn, is identified as an agent for the company.

As of Oct. 15, the new owner's plans for the property had not been publicly announced.

Oscar's operated for approximately 20 years before closing in February 2021. Former owner Jim Wiseman attributed the closure to declining business during the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions affecting restaurants.

The former restaurant was

a familiar downtown gathering place, offering food, entertainment and nightlife.

The Larkin Block property occupies a central location along Main Street, where city officials and neighboring business owners have been watching for signs of renewed activity.

Jacob Kain, Midland's assistant city manager for development services, said the property's sale could lead to its return to active commercial use.

"It's a key location downtown, right in the middle of the action," Kain told the Midland Daily News.

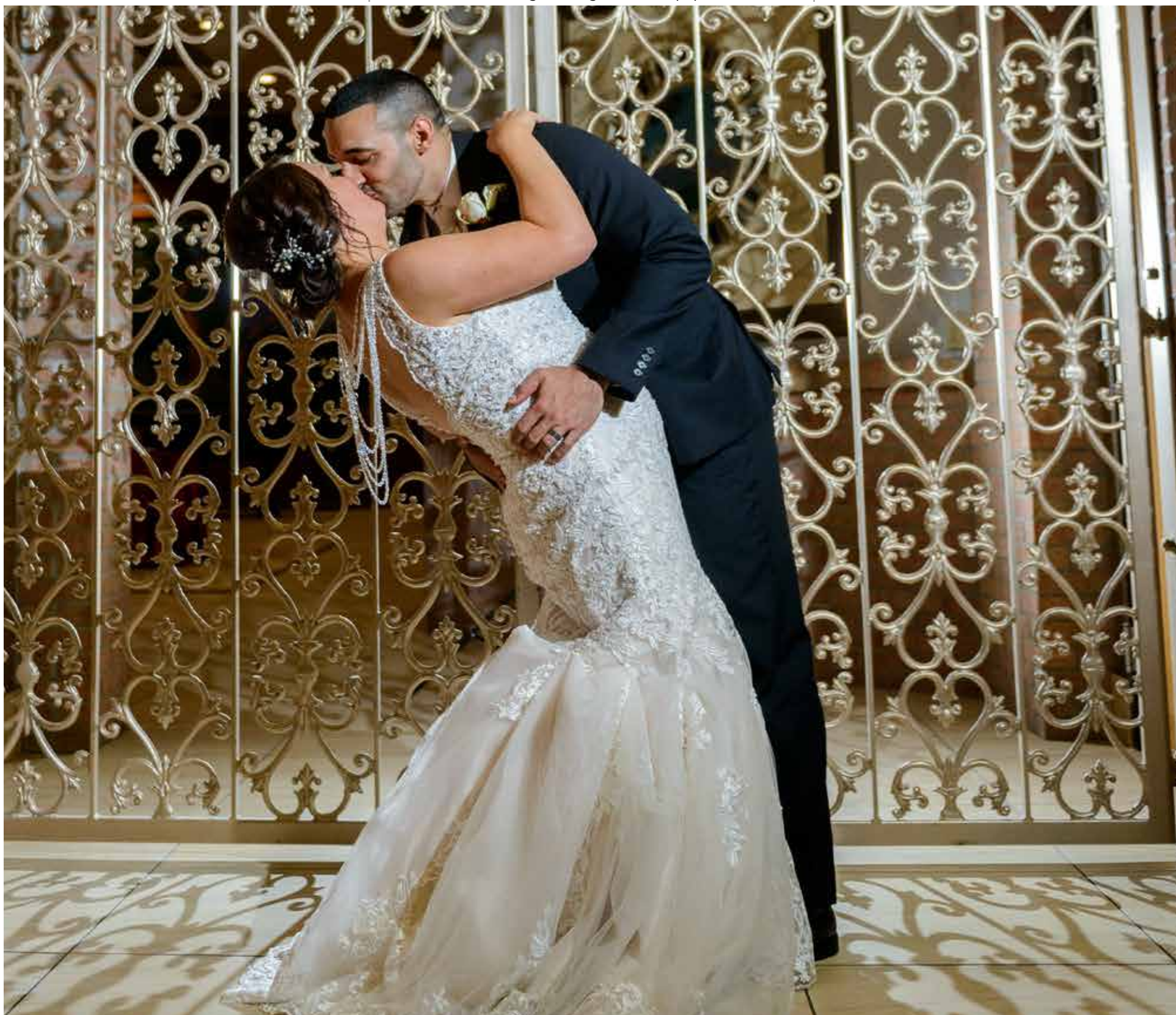
Nearby business owners have also expressed interest in seeing the space occupied again, partic-

ularly because of its location near restaurants, retail shops and downtown events.

The sale follows other downtown transactions and improvement projects, including renovation work at the Odd Fellows building and redevelopment activity involving former commercial properties.

A separate property at 150 E. Main St., which was also associated with Oscar's and still bears its name on exterior awnings, remains under different ownership.

The new owners have not announced whether the former restaurant space will reopen as a dining establishment or be converted to another commercial use.



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SPORTS

Hemlock boys soccer finishes unbeaten, wins first conference title in 16 years



HEMLOCK'S BOYS SOCCER PROGRAM HAS COMPLETED AN UNDEFEATED 2026 REGULAR SEASON, FINISHING 15-0-1 AND WINNING ITS FIRST TRI-VALLEY CONFERENCE TITLE IN MORE THAN 16 YEARS. (PHOTO | HEMLOCK HIGH SCHOOL)

BY MB STAFF

HEMLOCK, Mich. — Three years after winning just one game, the Hemlock High School boys soccer team has completed an undefeated regular season and captured its first Tri-Valley Conference championship in more than 16 years.

The Huskies finished the regular season with a 15-0-1 record, claiming the Tri-Valley Conference-Blue title while outscoring opponents 71-6.

The turnaround follows three seasons of steady improvement. After struggling through a one-win season before the current

coaching staff arrived, Hemlock improved to five victories in the coaches' first year and 10 last season.

This fall, the Huskies emerged as one of the region's most successful high school soccer teams.

The team's seven seniors have played an important role in rebuilding the program, helping establish a competitive culture and stronger team chemistry.

Senior goalkeeper Braden Turner said the players' familiarity with one another has contributed to their success.

"We're all getting older, our chemistry is getting better. We're playing as a good team," Turner

told WNEM.

Senior center back Colton Siler said the program's transformation has been especially meaningful for players who experienced its earlier struggles.

The Huskies clinched the conference championship with a 1-0 victory over Saginaw Valley Lutheran on Sept. 23, then continued their unbeaten run through the remainder of the regular season.

Their success has been built around a defense that allowed only six goals during regular-season play, supported by an offense that consistently created scoring opportunities.

Senior right wing Mason Lavigne credited the team's progress to players embracing the coaching staff's approach and continuing to work together.

The Huskies carried that momentum into the postseason, defeating Shepherd 9-1 in their Division 4 district opener Oct. 14.

The team's next objective is a district championship, something Hemlock has not accomplished since 2013.

For the seniors who helped transform the program, the conference title represents a major achievement and another opportunity to extend their season.

SPORTS

Wassilyn sets Saginaw Spirit record with seven-game goal streak

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Braidy Wassilyn is making an immediate impact with the Saginaw Spirit, setting a franchise mark for consecutive games with a goal to begin a Spirit career as the team defeated the Kitchener Rangers 4-2 on Oct. 10.

Wassilyn scored twice in the victory at the Dow Event Center, extending his goal-scoring streak to seven games and surpassing the previous team mark of six held by Igor Chernyshov.

The achievement marks the

longest season-opening goal streak by a player in his first season with Saginaw, although the team's overall consecutive-game goal record remains nine, set by Josh Shalla.

Wassilyn's first goal came at 12:07 of the opening period during a two-man advantage. Dima Zhilkin and Tyler Martyniuk assisted on the play.

His second goal came at 5:23 of the second period, when he sent a shot past Kitchener goaltender Mason Hriczov to break a 2-2 tie. Ryan Hanrahan and Zhilkin assisted.

Brody Pepoy also scored for

Saginaw in the opening period, while captain Dima Zhilkin added an empty-net goal late in the third to secure the victory.

Spirit goaltender Brady Knowling made 27 saves on 29 shots.

The performance continued an impressive opening stretch for Wassilyn, who had recorded nine goals and six assists for 15 points through his first seven games with Saginaw.

He reached another milestone during the streak, collecting his 100th career Ontario Hockey League point.

The victory took place dur-

ing the Spirit's annual Ice Out Cancer Night, which also featured a charity jersey auction. The auction raised \$19,000 for the MyMichigan Medical Center Saginaw Foundation.

Saginaw followed the Kitchener victory with a 3-2 shootout win over Windsor on Oct. 12, continuing its efforts to build momentum early in the Ontario Hockey League season.

Wassilyn's record-setting start has provided the Spirit with additional offensive production as the club works to establish itself in the Western Conference.

Midland football suspensions overturned as parents question handling of on-field altercation

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — Two Midland High School football players have been cleared to return to competition after the Michigan High School Athletic Association overturned their suspensions following an on-field altercation during the Chemics' Oct. 9 game against Lapeer.

Senior defensive backs Rostin Delgado and Jalen Houze will be eligible to play Friday, Oct. 16, against Mount Pleasant after a video review determined they had not participated in fighting.

However, sophomore defensive back Braylan Turner-Smith remains suspended for one game, and parents are raising concerns about how the incident was handled, including allegations of unequal treatment and racial bias.

The altercation occurred during Midland's 35-0 homecoming victory over Lapeer.

Video from the game shows Turner-Smith and a Lapeer receiver becoming involved in a confrontation in which the Lapeer player appears to strike Turner-Smith in the head twice.

Turner-Smith responded by removing the opposing player's helmet and pulling him to the ground. Several other players subsequently became involved.

Officials ejected five players, including Turner-Smith, Delgado and Houze, resulting in automatic one-game suspensions.

Following an appeal from Midland High and a review of game footage, the MHSAA determined that two of the five ejected players had not participated in the fight.

MHSAA Director of Communications Geoff Kimmerly confirmed that the suspensions of those two players were rescinded. The other three suspensions remain in effect.

The decision prompted ad-

ditional questions from three Midland football parents, who submitted a formal complaint requesting an investigation into the incident.

The parents allege that officials failed to intervene early enough to prevent the confrontation from escalating and that the three Black Midland players were treated differently from others involved.

Their complaint also alleges that a Lapeer coach pushed a Midland player and used racial slurs. Those allegations have not been independently established.

Nicole Wilson, Delgado's stepmother and one of the parents who submitted the complaint, said the video raises questions about whether game officials handled the confrontation fairly.

Wilson also called for the MHSAA to consider additional training addressing implicit bias in high school sports.

Lapeer Community Schools said it would cooperate with the review and conduct its own investigation into the involvement of coaches and players.

The MHSAA confirmed that it is communicating with administrators from both schools. The association said the schools are taking the lead in reviewing concerns involving employee and student conduct, while the MHSAA is responsible for enforcing playing rules and reviewing game-related disciplinary decisions.

Midland coach Tyler Wellman declined to comment directly on the suspensions.

As of Oct. 15, no final findings had been announced regarding the parents' allegations.

The Chemics are scheduled to face Mount Pleasant on Friday, Oct. 16, with Delgado and Houze eligible to return while Turner-Smith serves his suspension.

SPORTS

CMU prepares to face Western Michigan in Battle for the Victory Cannon



The rivalry dates to Oct. 19, 1907, with Western Michigan holding a 54-40-2 advantage in the all-time series.

Despite that overall record, Central Michigan has enjoyed considerable success at home against the Broncos in recent decades. Since joining the Mid-American Conference in 1975, CMU has posted a 17-7-1 home record against Western Michigan.

The teams last met in Mount Pleasant in November 2024, when the Chippewas earned a 16-14 victory.

Western Michigan reclaimed the Victory Cannon last season with a 24-21 win in Kalamazoo.

The trophy, introduced in 2008, honors the rivalry and the military traditions associated with both universities' ROTC programs.

CMU head coach Matt Drinkall is in his second season leading the Chippewas, while Western Michigan coach Lance Taylor is in his fourth year with the Broncos.

Central Michigan enters Saturday with a three-game home winning streak and has won eight of its last nine games at Kelly/Shorts Stadium.

The weekend also will include recognition of Central Michigan's 2026 Athletics Hall of Fame class and a reunion celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Chippewas' 2006 MAC championship team.

The matchup carries importance beyond the rivalry trophy, with both programs seeking to strengthen their positions in the conference standings during the second half of the season.

Tickets and additional game information are available through Central Michigan University's athletics department.

THE CHIPPEWAS WILL HOST THE BRONCOS IN THE 97TH MEETING BETWEEN THE RIVALS SATURDAY, OCT. 17, IN MOUNT PLEASANT. (PHOTO | CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS)

BY MB STAFF

MOUNT PLEASANT, Mich. — Central Michigan University will renew one of the state's longest-running college football rivalries Saturday, Oct. 17, when the Chippewas host Western Michigan University in the 97th meeting between the two

programs.

The annual Battle for the Victory Cannon will kick off at 1:30 p.m. at Kramer/Deromedi Field at Kelly/Shorts Stadium. The game will be broadcast on ESPN+.

Central Michigan enters the matchup with a 3-3 overall record and a 1-1 mark in Mid-American Conference play. Western Michi-

gan is 4-2 overall and 2-0 in conference competition.

The Chippewas are looking to rebound from a 31-14 loss to Ohio on Oct. 10, while the Broncos are coming off a 38-7 victory over Kent State.

Saturday's game marks the first time Central Michigan has hosted Western Michigan on a Saturday since 2018.

FAITH IN FOCUS



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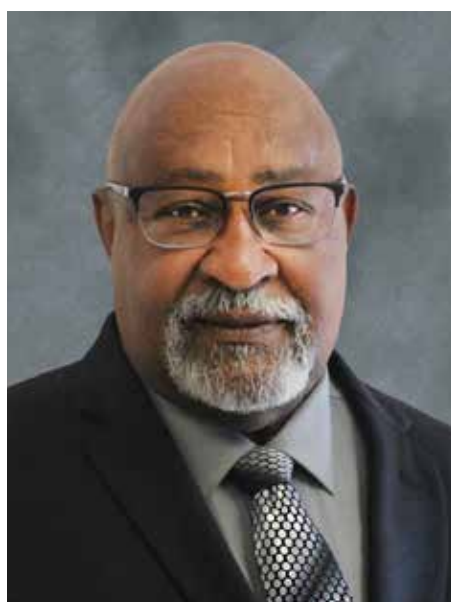
Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

BY PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

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

The organization's vision includes several key objectives:



PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

between the church, volunteers, and community professionals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPONSORED CONTENT



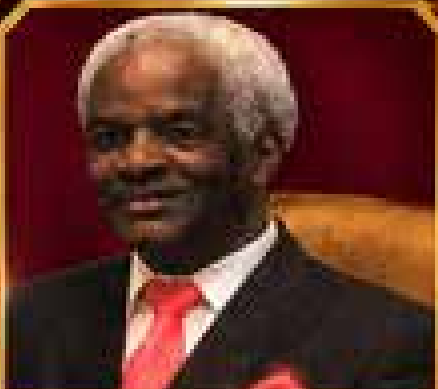
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My Cup Runneth Over: Blessed in the Presence of My Enemies

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Psalm 23:5 (KJV)



BY MINISTER
CAROLYN CARTER TOWNSEL

There is something powerful about knowing that God can bless you in the very presence of those who doubt you, oppose you, or wish to see you fail. Psalm 23:5 reminds us that God does not need our enemies' permission to escalate, elevate, or expand us, nor does He need their approval to fulfill His promises in our lives.

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies." God prepares a place for you even when opposition surrounds you. The table represents His provision, favor, and faithfulness. You do not have to fight every battle, defend every decision, or respond to every critic. Sometimes, the greatest testimony is to remain seated in the peace of God's

presence while He works on your behalf.

"Thou anointest my head with oil." The anointing represents God's blessing, protection, and consecration. Even when others misunderstand you, God knows your heart, sees your struggles, and understands your purpose. What He has ordained for your life cannot be measured by the opinions of others.

"My cup runneth over." This is an awesome picture of abundance. God's goodness is not limited to helping us survive; He can fill our lives with peace, strength, wisdom, joy, and blessings beyond what we imagined. An overflowing cup reminds us that we have more than enough of His grace to sustain us and, in turn, bless others.

The message is simple: You do not

have to be free from opposition to experience God's goodness. You can have peace in the middle of conflict, confidence in the middle of criticism, and gratitude in the middle of uncertainty.

Therefore keep your faith, guard your peace, and trust the Shepherd who prepares the table. Let your enemies witness what God can do without allowing their presence to disturb your purpose.

Beloved, When God is your Shepherd, opposition does not have the final word, and adversity does not cancel your blessings.

Walk in faith. Stand in grace. Live in gratitude. And when God fills your cup; Thank Him for the overflow!

Blessings to All,
Carolyn

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newlife3881@gmail.com



Saint Paul Baptist Church
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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Value of Volunteer-Led Fundraising



BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Do you need to raise funds for your nonprofit? We suggest starting with building a volunteer fundraising team. This means embracing those who support the organization or institution you lead and asking them to extend themselves by asking those they know to support the nonprofit's work.

This turns your fundraising on its head. Yes, you will still need staff for aspects of fundraising such as grant writing and reporting, data management, and now, importantly, volunteer engagement. And the CEO and development team (board and staff) will increase their focus on supporting, engaging, and empowering volunteers. They will be sharing tools, suggestions, information, and ideas. They will be listening to what volunteers are saying and who they are identifying as ideal donors and supporters. They will be busy asking questions such as "Who do we know who believes in our work and may be willing to help us?" and "What do you need from me in order for you to feel comfortable talking with so-and-so about our work and impact?"

With volunteer-led fundraising the work of staff is to identify, cultivate, and support volunteers who can ask their peers – and



FILE PHOTO

others – to support an organization they are a part of, believe in, and are financially supporting. Some people debate the idea of volunteer-led fundraising, saying it is "easier for me to just go out and raise money than to deal with volunteers." That thinking belies what we call a "bad attitude." Yes, it takes time and energy to engage and support volunteers, but it also takes time and energy to engage and support donors. When you engage those who believe in your organization or institution, you are gaining expertise, building a team, strengthening relationships with those who already support "your" organization, and those who are loyal to the organization despite changes in leadership or staff. You are, importantly, multiplying what you can do by the number of active fundraising volunteers you are supporting.

Fundraising professionals are skilled professionals who add great value to individual non-

profits and the nonprofit sector as a whole. Volunteers – when working with fundraising professionals or a talented CEO – add a different value and are perceived differently. Specifically: they are not being paid to raise money. They are fundraising because they believe in the organization, identify with it, and want it to succeed. That's not to say that fundraising professionals lack these qualities: they share them. But they are being paid for their skills and that creates the difference in perception, who they can talk with, and how they talk with current and potential do-

nors. Volunteers bring a defined following, meaning they have personal, business, and political relationships and history with people you may never have heard of. Ideally, they can talk with and influence the "powers that be" in your community.

Volunteers will call on you to do your best. They will require you to be open, honest, transparent, and responsive. They will open doors and build bridges that you cannot. Fundraising volunteers are your super-power. Your job is to manage and support their work.



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PICS OF THE WEEK

On October 13, the Saginaw Fire Department hosted its annual Fire Awards and Memorial Ceremony at Central Fire Station, honoring the extraordinary efforts of firefighters, first responders, and courageous citizens who have gone above and beyond to protect lives and keep our community safe.





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