



The Michigan Banner

Celebrating Diversity, Empowering Communities



PICS OF THE WEEK
Saginaw Pan-Hellenic Council Summer Gathering

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Saginaw Promise to host annual ‘Power of a Promise’ luncheon Oct. 29

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Saginaw Promise will host its annual “Power of a Promise” luncheon Thursday, Oct. 29, at Horizons Conference Center, bringing together community leaders, educators and supporters to celebrate student achievement and discuss issues shaping Saginaw’s future.

Doors will open at 11 a.m., with the program beginning at 11:30 a.m.

This year’s event will highlight Saginaw Promise scholar outcomes, including updated 2025 attainment numbers, and feature a keynote panel focused on the Medical Diamond and what the developing initiative could mean for health care, economic development and the future of the Saginaw

Continues on pg 2, Saginaw Promise



POWER OF A PROMISE Fundraiser

FOR 15 YEARS...
A PROMISE MADE AND KEPT!

HORIZONS CONFERENCE CENTER
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026

DOORS OPEN AT 11 AM
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 Dittmer (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.

Promotional Partner: 

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

2026 POWER OF A PROMISE EVENT FLYER (PHOTO | SAGINAW PROMISE)



TeenQuest receives \$100,000 grant to support Genesee County teens

YOUTH BANNER, COVER



Michigan Hispanic/Latino Commission bringing September meeting to Saginaw

LATINO BANNER, COVER



Saginaw community works to keep Dolly Parton’s literacy legacy alive

COMMUNITY, PG 18



Flint approves more than \$4.5 million for housing, blight and community programs

COMMUNITY, PG 19

FEATURED STORY

Stephanie Anderson arrest prompts state investigation, legal action and calls for accountability

COMMUNITY, PG 16



From cover, Saginaw Promise

region.

The panel will include Saginaw Valley State University President George Grant Jr.; Central Michigan University President Neil MacKinnon; Dr. Marcia Mastracci Ditmyer of SVSU; and Dr. Joshua Nosanchuk of CMU. Longtime broadcaster and WSGW radio host Art Lewis will serve as moderator.

Musical entertainment will be provided by saxophonist Jeremy Cornelius and Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy Band Instructor Jordan Edwards, along with one of his students.

Saginaw Promise began awarding scholarships with the graduating class of 2012. Since then, 15 cohorts of scholars have received more than \$1.5 million in scholarships and earned 323 program certificates and college degrees.

Inspired by the Kalamazoo Promise, the Saginaw Promise was created as an economic and educational initiative designed to invest in local students while helping retain and grow Saginaw's population. The residence-based scholarship supports eligible students who live in, attend school in and graduate from a high school within the Saginaw Promise Zone.

The zone includes the cities of Saginaw and Zilwaukee, Kochville Township and the portion of Buena Vista that is within the Saginaw Public School District.

Saginaw Promise holds the "Power of a Promise" event annually to provide updates on the scholarship program, recognize scholars and their achievements and bring attention to issues important to the community's future.

Event sponsorships, recognition opportunities and individual tickets are available. Registration and additional information can be found at saginawpromise.org/events. For questions, contact Saginaw Promise at 989-607-3428 or dsanchez@saginawpromise.org.



**THIS DAY IN
MICHIGAN
HISTORY**

SEPTEMBER 1, 1888

On September 1, 1888, the Detroit Museum of Art opened its new building on Jefferson Avenue in Detroit. The institution later became the Detroit Institute of Arts. Its inaugural exhibition featured paintings loaned by Detroit collectors and New York collector George I. Seney, drawing more than 24,000 visitors during its 78-day run.



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

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Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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You're Invited!

Saginaw Utility Assistance Day

Get Help Lowering Your Energy Bill

Join Communities First Inc., Consumers Energy, and other local partners for household well-being resources including energy efficiency and assistance information. Free food and giveaways.

**Appointments available onsite
for 1:1 Consumers Energy account questions**

RSVP: Saginaw Event Registration

Thursday, September 3 · 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.
First Ward Community Service
1410 N 12th St, Saginaw, MI 48601

Count on Us®

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 8 • NUMBER 17



TeenQuest receives \$100,000 grant to support Genesee County teens



THE ANNA PAULINA FOUNDATION RECENTLY AWARDED \$100,000 TO TEENQUEST TO HELP TEENS BUILD LIFE SKILLS. (PHOTO | TEENQUEST)

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — TeenQuest has received a \$100,000 grant to continue helping Genesee County teenagers build leadership and career skills during the 2026-27 school year.

The Anna Paulina Foundation awarded the funding to the longtime youth program, Flint & Genesee Group announced Aug. 27. TeenQuest is operated by Flint & Genesee Education & Tal-

ent, a division of the Flint & Genesee Group.

Established in 2007, TeenQuest provides career-readiness and leadership training for Genesee County teens. Students work on skills such as goal setting, communication, teamwork, managing change and preparing for employment.

"For nearly 20 years, TeenQuest has helped thousands of young people learn how to take initiative, manage change, set goals and so much more," Flint

& Genesee Group CEO Tim Herman said in announcing the grant.

The program also serves as a pathway to summer employment through the Summer Youth Initiative. TeenQuest graduates can participate in the initiative's job fair, where local employers interview students for paid summer positions.

TeenQuest is available to Genesee County students ages 14 to 19 in grades nine through 12. Students attending public, char-

ter, private, alternative or home schools can participate.

The Anna Paulina Foundation was founded in Flint and supports charitable organizations across Michigan. Its areas of interest include youth leadership, human services, the arts and urban beautification.

The \$100,000 grant will be used specifically to support TeenQuest programming during the 2026-27 school year.

Saginaw Covenant Academy enrolling students seeking alternative path to diploma

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Saginaw Covenant Academy is enrolling students for the 2026-27 school year, offering a year-round alternative high school program for young people who have dropped out, fallen behind in credits or need a different school setting.

The free public charter school at 508 S. Washington Ave. serves students ages 15 to 22 and allows enrollment throughout the school year.

Saginaw Covenant Academy focuses largely on students who have become disengaged from traditional schools. Its annual education report identifies dropout youth, students experiencing homelessness or poverty, teen parents and expectant parents among the young people the school is designed to serve.

Classes are offered through a blended-learning model with smaller class sizes, flexible schedules and self-paced instruc-



SAGINAW COVENANT ACADEMY OFFERS A YEAR-ROUND ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM. (PHOTO | SAGINAW COVENANT ACADEMY)

tion. The school also offers half-day sessions.

Students work toward a high school diploma while completing Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements. Teachers combine

classroom instruction with an online curriculum.

The school says staff members also work with students to identify barriers that may interfere with attendance or graduation.

General education students can enroll between ages 15 and 22, although a student who is already 22 must have turned 22 after Sept. 1 of the school year in which the student enrolls. Students receiving special education services may qualify to attend beyond age 22, up to age 26 under certain circumstances.

Students younger than 18 must have a parent or legal guardian complete the enrollment process. Students 18 and older may enroll themselves.

Students transferring from another school will need an official transcript so previously earned credits can be reviewed. The academy's enrollment staff can request the transcript if a family does not have one available.

Saginaw Covenant Academy is authorized by Grand Valley State University. Enrollment information is available by calling 989-596-1100 or visiting the school at 508 S. Washington Ave. in Saginaw.

Flint library invites youth to Chalk the Walk for art scholarship

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — Young artists will have a chance to turn the sidewalk into a canvas during Chalk the Walk at the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library on Saturday, Sept. 12.

The event will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the library's terrace and is open to children, tweens and teens. Participants will be provided with chalk and space to create their own artwork outside the library.

One participant will earn a

Flint Institute of Arts class scholarship, giving the event an added opportunity for young people interested in developing their artistic skills. Everyone who takes part will also be able to choose a free book from the library's prize cart.

The event gives students a chance to create art in a public setting and see the work of other young artists. No formal art experience is required.

Chalk the Walk is part of a broader day of youth programming at the library. Later that af-



YOUNG ARTISTS CAN COMPETE FOR A FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS CLASS SCHOLARSHIP DURING CHALK THE WALK SEPT. 12 AT THE GLORIA COLES FLINT PUBLIC LIBRARY. (PHOTO | GLORIA COLES FLINT PUBLIC LIBRARY)

ternoon, teens can participate in the Black Life & Literature Book Club and Next Gen Pen, a creative writing workshop for young

people.

The Gloria Coles Flint Public Library is located at 1026 E. Kearsley St. in Flint.

Michigan teens to see new Instagram, Facebook restrictions under Meta settlement



TEENAGERS ON INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK WILL FACE A COMBINED TWO-HOUR DAILY TIME LIMIT, FORCED BREAKS IN THE MIDDLE OF SCROLLING AND A NIGHTLY LOCKOUT FROM MIDNIGHT TO 6 A.M. UNDER A SETTLEMENT META REACHED WEDNESDAY WITH MICHIGAN AND 46 OTHER STATES. (FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

LANSGING, Mich. — Michigan teenagers could soon see major changes to Instagram and Facebook under a multistate settlement requiring Meta to limit screen time, restrict overnight access and strengthen protections for younger users.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel announced the settlement Aug. 26. Michigan will receive at least \$171 million under the agreement.

The settlement resolves claims brought by 47 states and

several U.S. territories accusing Meta of designing Instagram with addictive features, exposing young users to harmful content and misleading the public about the safety of its platforms. Meta agreed to a series of changes affecting Instagram and Facebook.

Among the most noticeable changes will be a combined two-hour daily limit on the two platforms for children covered by the settlement. Meta will also be required to interrupt continuous use with pauses after 15 minutes and again after users reach 60 and 90 minutes.

Access will be restricted from

midnight to 6 a.m., and push notifications will be turned off on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the school year.

The agreement also requires stronger age-verification measures and expanded parental controls.

Meta must strengthen safeguards involving bullying, eating disorder content, suicide and self-harm. The company will also face restrictions on social comparison features, including beauty filters and visible “like” counts.

Nessel said the agreement addresses concerns that social media companies have priori-

tized engagement over the well-being of young users.

The settlement comes as Michigan schools are also placing new limits on cellphone use during instructional time, adding another change to how students use phones and social media during the school day.

The new Meta protections will not rely solely on the company to determine whether they are working. An independent auditor and the states involved in the settlement will regularly review both implementation and effectiveness.

Saginaw symposium asks what Black boys need to succeed

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — A discussion in Saginaw this week put a direct question before young people and adults in the community: What do Black boys need to succeed?

The Aug. 25 symposium brought together young people, community members and panelists to talk about challenges facing Black boys and the support they need from the adults and institutions around them.

Much of the conversation centered on consistency, mentoring and having positive adults who remain involved in a young person's life.

Percy Glover, executive director of the F.A.I.R. Voting Alliance, said community support has to extend beyond simply telling young people to make good choices. Adults can make a difference by spending time with them, introducing them to new activities and showing them possibilities they may not regularly see.

Panelists discussed several circumstances that can leave young people with fewer adults available to guide them, including single-parent households, parents working multiple jobs and a lack of extracurricular opportunities.

The discussion also touched on the importance of role models.

Saginaw artist HBK Boom, who works with students in Saginaw schools, said he has seen firsthand how having people to look up to and adults willing to look out for young people can make a difference.

The symposium also gave a young person an opportunity to tell adults what the experience can look like from the other side.

Natravion “Trey” Harper spoke about the uncertainty some young Black boys experience as



YOUNG PEOPLE, COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND PANELISTS GATHERED IN SAGINAW ON AUG. 25 FOR A SYMPOSIUM EXAMINING WHAT BLACK BOYS NEED FROM THEIR FAMILIES, MENTORS AND COMMUNITY TO SUCCEED. (PHOTO | PERCY GLOVER)

they try to figure out who they are and what their futures will look like. He said fear and uncertainty are often present even when adults do not see them.

Harper also pushed back against the idea that being young makes those concerns less serious.

“Just because we’re kids, don’t mean we don’t feel nothing,” Harper said.

The discussion highlighted mentoring as more than a formal program. Panelists talked about adults being consistently present — whether that means spending time with a young person, taking them fishing or to a basketball court, exposing them to something new or simply being someone they can depend on.



YOUNG PEOPLE, COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND PANELISTS GATHERED IN SAGINAW ON AUG. 25 FOR A SYMPOSIUM EXAMINING WHAT BLACK BOYS NEED FROM THEIR FAMILIES, MENTORS AND COMMUNITY TO SUCCEED. (PHOTO | PERCY GLOVER)

Midland Miracle League seeks teen volunteers for fall season

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — Midland-area teens looking for a fall volunteer opportunity can take part in the Middle of the Mitt Miracle League when its new season begins Sept. 12.

The league is seeking buddies and other game-day volunteers to assist athletes at the Midland Miracle Field, 225 E. Collins St.

Buddies and volunteers must be at least 13 years old. Buddies are paired with athletes during games and help with batting, running the bases and other activities as needed.

The volunteer role is designed to make sure each athlete can participate safely while also having someone alongside them during the game. Buddies may offer physical assistance, encouragement or simply help an athlete move through the different parts of play.

The four-week fall season will be played on Saturdays beginning Sept. 12, with additional games scheduled Sept. 19 and 26 and Oct. 3.

The program serves athletes with physical and cognitive disabilities and uses the accessible Midland Miracle Field to remove many of the barriers that can make traditional baseball or softball difficult to participate in.

Teen volunteers do not need coaching experience. Coaches must be at least 18 and undergo a background check, but teens 13 and older can serve in other volunteer roles.

Those interested in volunteering can sign up through the City of Midland's Miracle Field program. Additional information is available through Midland Parks and Recreation at 989-837-6930.

THE MIDDLE OF THE MITT MIRACLE LEAGUE IS SEEKING VOLUNTEER BUDDIES AGES 13 AND OLDER FOR ITS FOUR-WEEK FALL SEASON BEGINNING SEPT. 12 AT THE MIDLAND MIRACLE FIELD. (PHOTO | MIDLAND MIRACLE)

Bay City library opens art space for teen creators

BY MB STAFF

BAY CITY, Mich. — Teens who like to draw, paint or make things will have an afternoon space to create when the Sage Branch Library hosts its Open Art Hangout on Tuesday, Sept. 22.

The program will run from 3 to 4:15 p.m. in the Sage Branch Community Room, 100 E. Mid-

land St. in Bay City.

Students in grades six through 12 can use library supplies for drawing, painting, coloring, button making, metal stamping and other projects. Teens can also bring something they are already working on and use the time to create alongside other young artists.

The program is set up as an open creative session rather than a formal art class, allowing stu-

dents to choose what they want to work on and move between different types of projects.

That format gives teens who may already have an art project underway a place to continue working, while also giving students who simply want to try something new access to materials they may not have at home.

Open Art Hangout is part of the Sage Branch Library's programming for middle and high

school students. The library regularly offers activities designed to give teens a place to socialize, explore creative interests and spend time with others outside of school.

Registration is required and opened Aug. 22. Additional Open Art Hangout sessions are scheduled later in the fall.

The Sage Branch Library is located at 100 E. Midland St. in Bay City.



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](https://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

Michigan Hispanic/Latino Commission bringing September meeting to Saginaw



THE HISPANIC/LATINO COMMISSION OF MICHIGAN WILL HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING SEPT. 25 IN SAGINAW. A SPECIFIC LOCATION HAD NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED AS OF AUG. 30. (FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — The Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan will bring its next meeting to Saginaw as the state panel continues holding meetings in communities across Michigan.

The commission is scheduled to meet from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25.

A specific Saginaw meeting location had not yet been announced as of Aug. 30. The commission's state website lists the location as "TBD."

The 15-member commission

operates under the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity and is charged with advising the governor and Legislature on programs, policies and issues affecting Hispanic and Latino residents.

Commissioners are appointed by the governor to three-year terms with the advice and consent of the state Senate.

Its work covers issues including education, employment, economic development and representation of Hispanic and Latino residents in public and private leadership positions.

State law also calls for the

commission to hold meetings in different parts of Michigan to maintain contact with Hispanic-led organizations, community leaders and residents.

This year's meetings have included stops in Detroit, Lansing, Flint and Grand Rapids. The commission met at Flint's Latinx Technology & Community Center in June and in Grand Rapids on Aug. 28.

Saginaw County also has representation on the commission. Angel Gomez of Saginaw County is among its current members. Florenio Hernandez of Ingham County serves as chair, Aurora

Sauceda of Genesee County is vice chair and Juan "Johnny" Rodriguez of Ottawa County serves as treasurer.

The commission traces its history to 1974, when Gov. William G. Milliken established the Michigan Advisory Council for the Spanish-Speaking. The Legislature created the Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs the following year. Its name was changed to the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan in 2010.

The state is expected to post the Saginaw meeting location on the commission's website once it is finalized.

Four-day Hispanic Heritage Weekend to bring food, music and lucha libre to Lansing

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — Downtown Lansing will host four days of Hispanic and Latino culture Sept. 17-20 with business networking, dancing, food, live music and lucha libre wrestling.

The 517 Hispanic Heritage Weekend will begin Thursday, Sept. 17, with the Latino Business Conexión of Michigan Business Seminar & Mixer from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave.

The event will bring together entrepreneurs, small-business owners, professionals and community leaders for networking and a discussion focused on personal

wellness and business success.

Activities move to the Lansing Shuffle patio Friday, Sept. 18, for a free Hispanic Heritage Dance Class & Mixer from 6 to 10 p.m. Lorenzo Lopez and Yesenia Murillo will lead salsa and merengue lessons, followed by an open dance mixer with Latin music and a DJ.

The largest event of the weekend comes Saturday.

A Taste of Hispanic Heritage Festival will take over Capitol Avenue in front of the Michigan State Capitol from 3 to 10 p.m. Sept. 19.

More than 70 vendors and food trucks are expected, along with live music, DJs, folklórico dancers, cultural performances

and a children's area.

Lucha Boom! will present live lucha libre wrestling matches at 4 and 8 p.m. The entertainment lineup also includes Gabriel Burciaga y Grupo Animo, CasArt Foundation, DJ E-Nyce, DJ Dolo, Thay, Mexi Cuba and R-Papi.

Admission to the Saturday festival is free.

The weekend concludes Sunday, Sept. 20, with Latin Jazz Night from 6 to 8 p.m. on the Lansing Shuffle patio. Orquesta Ritmo will perform, with additional music by DJ E-Nyce.

The celebration is organized by Ourspace (517) Foundation and coincides with the opening week of Hispanic Heritage Month.



THE 517 HISPANIC HERITAGE WEEKEND RETURNS TO DOWNTOWN LANSING SEPT. 17-20, WITH FOUR DAYS OF BUSINESS, DANCE, FOOD, LIVE MUSIC, CULTURAL PERFORMANCES AND LUCHA LIBRE WRESTLING. (PHOTO | 517 HISPANIC HERITAGE)

Flint library, El Ballet Folklórico Estudiantil plan bilingual Hispanic Heritage celebration

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — A bilingual celebration of books, music and Mexican culture is coming to the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library during Hispanic Heritage Month.

The library will partner with El Ballet Folklórico Estudiantil for a Children's Bilingual Book Parade from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26.

The free program will be held in the C.S. Mott Foundation Community Room at the library, 1026 E. Kearsley St.

The event will include a live reading, crafts, games and folklórico music and dance. Organizers are promoting the program around the children's book "Tomás and the Library Lady."

The book by Pat Mora is based on the childhood of Tomás Rivera,



EL BALLET FOLKLÓRICO ESTUDIANTIL WILL BRING MUSIC AND TRADITIONAL MEXICAN DANCE TO THE GLORIA COLES FLINT PUBLIC LIBRARY SEPT. 26 FOR A FREE BILINGUAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION. (PHOTO | EL BALLET FOLKLÓRICO ESTUDIANTIL)

who grew up in a migrant farm-worker family and later became

an educator, author and university chancellor. The story follows

a young boy who discovers the library while his family is working in Iowa.

El Ballet Folklórico Estudiantil has spent more than 25 years teaching Mexican folklórico dance and music in the Flint area. The nonprofit organization uses dance, mariachi instruction and educational programming to help young people learn about and preserve Mexican cultural traditions.

The organization reports serving about 150 students annually and participating in hundreds of performances over its history.

The Sept. 26 program is open to all ages, including children, teens and adults.

El Ballet Folklórico Estudiantil also begins its fall folklórico dance and private lesson programs Sept. 28.

Flint's Latinx Technology & Community Center marks 25 years on Lewis Street



THE LATINX TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNITY CENTER IS MARKING 25 YEARS AT 2101 LEWIS ST. ON FLINT'S EASTSIDE, WHERE ITS WORK HAS EXPANDED FROM TECHNOLOGY ACCESS TO EDUCATION, HEALTH, LANGUAGE AND WORKFORCE PROGRAMS. (PHOTO | LATINX TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNITY CENTER)

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — A building on Flint's Eastside that began as a neighborhood response to the digital divide is marking 25 years as a center for education, employment assistance, language services and other community programs.

The Latinx Technology & Community Center recently reflected on its history at 2101 Lewis St., where the organization has operated since 2001.

The building was formerly a Citizens Bank branch. According to the center, American G.I. Forum-Flint Chapter leader Domingo Berlanga helped secure the property for the nonprofit for \$1.

Mott Community College then provided funding for renovations, equipment and operations as the site became a technology center serving residents of Flint's Eastside. The American G.I. Forum-Flint Chapter amended its articles of incorporation in 2001 as the program developed.

The original emphasis was computer access at a time when many households did not have reliable access to computers or the internet. Programs eventually expanded beyond technology.

In 2016, the American G.I. Forum board moved to take over day-to-day management from Mott Community College. The organization later operated as the Hispanic Technology & Com-

munity Center before becoming the Latinx Technology & Community Center.

Executive Director Asa Ascencio Zuccaro said the organization grew from operating on a budget of about \$30,000 during its early independent years to a budget exceeding \$1 million.

The center also credits its work and partnerships with helping support tens of millions of dollars in neighborhood revitalization on Flint's Eastside.

Today, its services include English and Spanish language programs, tutoring, summer youth programs, health and family assistance, interpretation and translation, workforce development, resume assistance,

job searches and support for residents interested in starting businesses.

The organization also continues to operate technology and youth programs. This summer, students in its Fórmula STEM program learned engineering and mechanics before building and racing go-karts on a temporary course around Lewis Street.

The center's history includes longtime volunteers, board members, Mott Community College employees and community leaders who kept the facility operating as its role changed.

The Latinx Technology & Community Center is open at 2101 Lewis St. in Flint.



SAVE THE DATE

6TH ANNUAL

Fiesta K?@nda!

SEPTEMBER

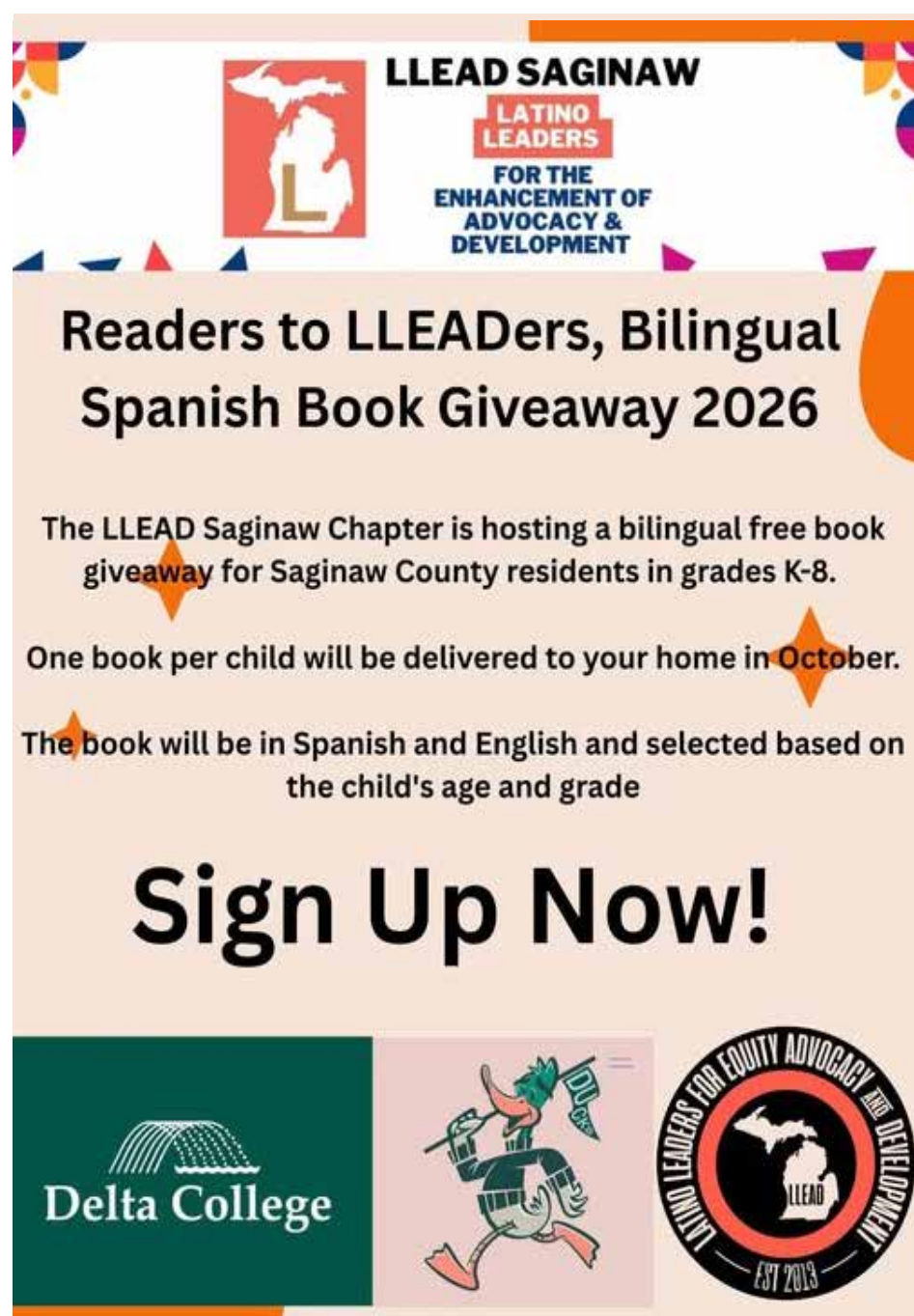
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SVRC marketplace

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203 S WASHINGTON AVE
SAGINAW, MI 48607

(989)332-1107 | **k_onda_1@yahoo.com**



LLEAD SAGINAW
LATINO LEADERS
FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF ADVOCACY & DEVELOPMENT

Readers to LLEADers, Bilingual Spanish Book Giveaway 2026

The LLEAD Saginaw Chapter is hosting a bilingual free book giveaway for Saginaw County residents in grades K-8.

One book per child will be delivered to your home in October.

The book will be in Spanish and English and selected based on the child's age and grade

Sign Up Now!

Delta College

LLEAD

LATINO LEADERS FOR EQUITY ADVOCACY AND DEVELOPMENT
EST 2013



MHCC Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Presenting Sponsor
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TERCER JUEVES BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th, 2026.
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

SMT AUTOMATION OFFICE
14100 33 Mile Rd., Bruce Twp, MI 48065

FEES:
MHCC MEMBERS: **NO COST**
NON-MEMBERS: **\$40**

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Michigan prepares to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

BY MB STAFF

LANSGING, Mich. — Communities across Michigan are preparing for Hispanic Heritage Month, which will be observed Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 with cultural celebrations, educational programs and events recognizing the contributions of Hispanic and Latino residents.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has issued a proclamation recognizing the observance in Michigan.

According to the proclamation, Michigan had 564,422 Hispanic residents in the 2020 census, representing 5.6% of the state's population. That was an increase from 4.4% in 2010.



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH WILL BE OBSERVED ACROSS MICHIGAN FROM SEPT. 15 THROUGH OCT. 15 WITH CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY EVENTS CELEBRATING THE STATE'S HISPANIC AND LATINO COMMUNITIES.

Hispanic residents accounted for more than 66% of Michigan's population growth between 2010 and 2020, according to the proclamation.

The month recognizes Americans with ancestry connected to Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America and Spain, along with the history and con-

tributions of Hispanic and Latino communities in the United States.

Unlike many commemorative months, Hispanic Heritage Month begins in the middle of September. Sept. 15 is significant because Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua celebrate their independence that day. Mexico celebrates its independence Sept. 16, followed by Chile on Sept. 18.

Whitmer's proclamation recognizes Hispanic Michiganders' contributions in areas including business, agriculture, education, technology, arts, government and culture.

Latino turnout jumps in Michigan primary as political influence grows

BY MB STAFF

LANSGING, Mich. — Latino voter turnout increased in Michigan's Aug. 4 primary, while a group of Latino candidates collectively drew more than 144,000 votes across races throughout the state.

Post-primary research from MI Poder, a statewide Latino civic engagement organization, estimated Latino turnout was 13% to 18% higher than in the 2022 primary. The organization said some of the growth came from voters who had participated only occasionally in previous elections or had never voted in a primary.

Fourteen Latino candidates received a combined total of more than 144,000 votes in the Aug. 4 election, according to reporting by Michigan Advance and La Prensa Latina News Wire. Eight advanced to the November general election.

Among them are state Sens. Darrin Camilleri of Trenton and



MI PODER IS EXPANDING VOTER OUTREACH ACROSS MICHIGAN, INCLUDING IN SAGINAW, AFTER THE ORGANIZATION REPORTED INCREASED LATINO PARTICIPATION IN THE AUG. 4 PRIMARY ELECTION. (FILE PHOTO)

Mary Cavanagh of Redford Township, state Rep. Veronica Paiz of Harper Woods, Michigan House candidates Cindy Ramirez and Luke Del Castillo, 67th District Court judicial candidate Cheryl Lopez, Grand Rapids City Commission candidate Lindsey Perez-Plescher and Walker City Commission candidate Gloria Lara.

MI Poder is now preparing a larger voter outreach effort ahead

of the Nov. 3 general election.

Pete Vargas, MI Poder's statewide organizing director, told Michigan Advance the group plans to make about 250,000 voter contacts over the next several weeks, along with hundreds of thousands of text messages and other outreach efforts.

That work will extend beyond areas traditionally associated with Michigan's Latino population. Vargas said MI Poder is or-

ganizing in Detroit and Wayne County as well as Grand Rapids, Holland, Lansing, Kalamazoo, Adrian, rural communities and Saginaw.

Michigan's Hispanic and Latino population grew by more than 60% between 2010 and 2020. The 2020 census counted 564,422 Hispanic residents in the state, representing about 5.6% of Michigan's population.

The economy, health care costs and immigration enforcement are among the issues MI Poder says it has heard most often while talking with voters.

Latino voters will also be closely watched in Michigan's U.S. Senate race between Democratic nominee Abdul El-Sayed and Republican nominee Mike Rogers. MI Poder had not announced an endorsement in that race at the time of the organization's Aug. 24 interview with Michigan Advance.

The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 3.



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COMMUNITY

Stephanie Anderson arrest prompts state investigation, legal action and calls for accountability



HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTS ATTENDED THE AUG. 31 SAGINAW CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT THE ANDERSEN ENRICHMENT CENTER AS COMMUNITY MEMBERS CALLED FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOLLOWING THE ARREST OF STEPHANIE NICOLE ANDERSON. ABOUT 17 PEOPLE FORMALLY SIGNED UP TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ABOUT THE INCIDENT. (PHOTO | FB/BREAKING NEWS 989)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — A widely shared video showing Saginaw police officers using force during the arrest of Stephanie Nicole Anderson has led to two investigations, the involvement of a prominent civil attorney and growing calls for accountability from Anderson's family, community organizations and residents who packed an Aug. 31 Saginaw City Council meeting.

The encounter occurred shortly after midnight Sunday, Aug. 30, outside Rita's Southern Soul Cafe near Genesee and South Washington avenues in

downtown Saginaw.

Videos recorded by witnesses show portions of officers taking Anderson into custody. One officer appears to deploy a Taser, and footage from multiple angles shows Anderson being struck after she is on the ground with several officers around her.

The videos do not show the complete encounter or everything that happened before officers used force. Police body-camera footage had not been publicly released as of Sept. 1.

Saginaw Police Chief Robert Ruth said officers from multiple law enforcement agencies responded after a private party spilled outside and fights were

reported in the parking lot. Police said some officers were injured during the disturbance.

Rita Johnson, owner of Rita's Southern Soul Cafe, told WNEM-TV that her daughter called police after two fights occurred inside the business. Johnson said she did not personally witness Anderson's encounter with officers outside but later watched the videos circulating online.

Anderson's grandmother, Joanne Anderson, said her granddaughter had attended the party and was preparing to leave when her vehicle was side-swiped. According to her account, Anderson approached officers seeking assistance with the

damaged vehicle before the encounter escalated.

Police have not publicly confirmed that version of events.

Anderson was taken to a hospital for an evaluation and later jailed on suspicion of assaulting, resisting or obstructing police. She has since been released.

Her mother, Sharon Anderson, told WNEM that her daughter continues to suffer from injuries and has had difficulty seeing from one eye. The family is demanding that the officers involved be held accountable.

**Continues on pg 17,
Anderson arrest**

COMMUNITY

From pg 16, Anderson arrest

Two investigations underway

The Saginaw Police Department opened a formal Internal Affairs investigation after the videos began circulating online.

The department also contacted the Saginaw County Prosecutor's Office and Michigan State Police. MSP is conducting a separate investigation into the incident.

One officer and one sergeant directly involved have been moved to administrative duty while the investigations continue. Police have said the administrative assignments are part of the review process and are not themselves a finding of wrongdoing.

The officers have not been publicly identified.

Ruth has said the department is committed to transparency and accountability and will provide additional information as the investigations progress.

Anderson family retains Ven Johnson

Anderson's family has retained Michigan civil trial attorney Ven Johnson.

Johnson's firm announced that it would immediately seek body-camera recordings and other evidence through a Freedom of Information Act request.

Johnson has characterized Anderson as unarmed and strongly criticized the officers' actions. His firm said it intends to review all available footage before determining what additional legal action may be appropriate.

No civil lawsuit had been announced as filed as of Sept. 1.

Local NAACP calls for independent review

The Saginaw Branch of the NAACP issued a statement Aug. 31 calling for an "expeditious, thorough, and transparent inves-

tigation" of the incident.

Branch President Terry Pruitt said he spoke directly with Ruth and told the chief that the Internal Affairs investigation should include an independent third-party review.

Pruitt also asked that the public receive regular updates as the investigation moves forward.

The NAACP said it recognizes the due-process rights of everyone involved while maintaining that transparency and accountability are necessary to preserve public trust.

The organization said it would continue asking questions and sharing verified information with the community.

The NAACP's request for outside review came as Michigan State Police began its separate investigation.

Hundreds pack City Council meeting

Public concern moved from social media into City Hall on Aug. 31, when hundreds of residents attended the Saginaw City Council meeting at the Andersen Enrichment Center to express anger and concern over Anderson's arrest.

About 17 people formally signed up to address council specifically about the incident, according to WNEM.

Some questioned why the officers involved remained on paid administrative duty while Anderson and her family continued dealing with the aftermath of the arrest. Others asked what oversight mechanisms exist for police use-of-force investigations and how much information the city will make public.

Syretta Swilley, a family friend of Anderson, directly challenged city officials.

"We're going to challenge you to do your job. We want transparency," Swilley said.

Another speaker told council,

"We want transparency. We want accountability."

The public comments reflected concerns extending beyond the single arrest. Several residents questioned police-community relations, how officer misconduct complaints are handled and whether body-camera footage and other evidence will eventually be released.



SAGINAW MAYOR BRENDA MOORE

Mayor Brenda Moore said she was "appalled" after viewing video of the encounter and said she also wanted answers about what occurred.

Councilman Tobias Young disclosed during the meeting that Anderson is a friend of his.

The council meeting came one day after videos of the arrest began spreading widely online and the same day the Saginaw NAACP issued its statement calling for outside scrutiny and regular public updates.

Saginaw CAP joins calls for accountability

The Saginaw Community Alliance for the People, or Saginaw CAP, has also called for a thorough and impartial investigation.

CAP President Jeffrey Bulls urged residents not to reach a final conclusion about the entire encounter from the portions captured on video but said that should not prevent close examination of the officers' conduct.

"We are not here to determine guilt or innocence from the video; we are here for accountability," Bulls said.



JEFFREY BULLS, PRESIDENT OF SAGINAW COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR THE PEOPLE

Bulls has said that even if investigators determine an offense occurred before the recording began, officers are still responsible for making an arrest in accordance with their training and the law.

Saginaw CAP has called for the preservation and review of body-camera footage, police reports and other evidence. The organization has also asked city officials to explain the oversight process used when residents file complaints involving police use of force.

Saginaw has a Citizen-Police Advisory Commission that can review use-of-force complaints after Internal Affairs, criminal and other investigations are completed. Under city ordinance, the police chief reports findings involving use-of-force complaints to the commission, including whether conduct was found appropriate or inappropriate and whether discipline or policy changes resulted.

As of Sept. 1, neither Saginaw police nor Michigan State Police had announced findings about whether the force used during Anderson's arrest complied with department policy or state law.

The investigations remain ongoing.

COMMUNITY

Saginaw community works to keep Dolly Parton's literacy legacy alive after her death



DOLLY PARTON, WHO DIED AUG. 25 AT AGE 80, FOUNDED THE IMAGINATION LIBRARY TO PROVIDE FREE BOOKS TO YOUNG CHILDREN. UNITED WAY OF SAGINAW COUNTY IS SEEKING DONATIONS TO CONTINUE THE PROGRAM, WHICH CURRENTLY SERVES MORE THAN 2,600 LOCAL CHILDREN.

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — As fans around the world mourn the death of Dolly Parton, a Saginaw County organization is asking residents to help preserve one of the country music legend's most recognizable charitable efforts locally.

Parton died Aug. 25 at age 80 following a brief battle with cancer. While she was known worldwide for a music career that spanned decades, she also devoted considerable attention to children's literacy through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

The United Way of Saginaw County has partnered with the Imagination Library since 2016, providing free books to children from birth through age 5

throughout the county.

More than 2,600 Saginaw County children are currently enrolled in the program, according to United Way President and CEO Audra Davis. More than 8,000 local children have graduated from the program since the partnership began.

A child enrolled from birth can receive as many as 60 books before turning 5, with one age-appropriate book delivered to the child's home each month.

The books are free to families regardless of income, but operating the program locally comes with a cost. United Way pays approximately \$30 per child each year to cover books and postage.

Budget constraints have forced the organization to temporarily pause new enrollment

while it seeks additional money to maintain the program for children already participating and eventually reopen registration.

Parton founded the Imagination Library in 1995 in Sevier County, Tennessee, where she grew up. What began as a local literacy program later expanded throughout the United States and internationally, distributing millions of books to children.

Davis said Parton's commitment to literacy recognized how important access to books can be during a child's earliest years.

"Dolly invested so much of her energy in that philanthropy, and recognizing the gaps in learning for children and literacy," Davis said.

The effort to support the program has also reached a local bakery.

Mary's Creative Cakery in Shields began selling Dolly Parton-themed sugar cookies following news of her death, with proceeds benefiting the Imagination Library.

Heather Baker, an employee

at the bakery, came up with the fundraiser. The cookies were decorated with butterflies and guitars along with pink, purple and glitter-inspired designs associated with Parton's style.

The cookies are being sold for \$3 each for a limited time.

One customer, Sarah Henninger, told WNEM-TV that her 6-year-old daughter was especially saddened by Parton's death. Her daughter had been singing "Coat of Many Colors" and owns a book from Parton's literacy program based on the same story.

Henninger said purchasing one of the fundraiser cookies gave her family a way to remember someone her daughter admired while supporting a program connected directly to Parton's work.

United Way is accepting donations specifically to help sustain the Imagination Library in Saginaw County. The organization currently invests about \$90,000 annually in the local program.



MARY'S CREATIVE CAKERY IS SELLING DOLLY PARTON-THEMED COOKIES TO HELP RAISE MONEY FOR HER IMAGINATION LIBRARY. (PHOTO | MARY'S CREATIVE CAKERY)

COMMUNITY

Flint approves more than \$4.5 million for housing, blight and community programs

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — More than \$4.5 million in federal funding will move forward for housing repairs, blight enforcement and community organizations after Flint City Council approved the funding Aug. 24.

The vote came two weeks after an earlier attempt failed when only four council members voted in favor, four were absent and one abstained. Five votes were required for passage.

Among the largest allocations is more than \$600,000 for Genesee County Habitat for Humanity. The funding will support emergency home repairs and rehabilitation work for Flint homeowners.



FLINT CITY COUNCIL APPROVED MORE THAN \$4.5 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING AUG. 24 FOR HOME REPAIRS, BLIGHT ENFORCEMENT, YOUTH PROGRAMS AND OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICES. (FILE PHOTO)

The city's Blight Division is slated to receive another \$622,000 for code enforcement and work involving problem properties.

Council President Candice Mushatt said approval will allow the city and community organizations to continue work already underway in Flint

neighborhoods.

The YWCA is expected to receive \$135,000 for its Safe Center and shelter services, which assist survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The Boys & Girls Club and Big Brothers Big Sisters are slated to receive a combined \$110,000 for youth programs.

Other community organizations included in the federal funding package also provide neighborhood services, family assistance and outreach.

Councilwoman Tonya Burns said the city has numerous organizations seeking help and welcomed the additional resources.

The money comes from federal housing and community development programs administered through the city.

New Genesee County solar park expected to save Michigan schools \$18 million

BY MB STAFF

GENESEE COUNTY, Mich. — A newly opened solar facility in Genesee County is expected to provide electricity to more than 350 Michigan schools while saving participating districts an estimated \$18 million over the next 15 years.

MISEC Genesee Solar opened in August on about 300 acres along Bray Road near Crossroads Village.

The 41-megawatt facility is a partnership between NorthStar Clean Energy and the Michigan Schools Energy Cooperative, which works with school districts to manage energy costs.

The project will serve 65 K-12 school districts across Michigan.



A NEW 300-ACRE SOLAR PARK IS NOW OPEN IN GENESEE COUNTY. THE 41-MEGAWATT MISEC GENESEE SOLAR FACILITY IN GENESEE COUNTY WILL HELP SUPPLY ELECTRICITY FOR MORE THAN 350 SCHOOLS ACROSS 65 MICHIGAN DISTRICTS.

Peter Spadafore, executive director of the Michigan Schools Energy Cooperative, said districts were interested in developing an in-state renewable energy source that could also provide more predictable electricity costs.

The cooperative was formed nearly 30 years ago to help Mich-

igan school districts reduce and manage energy expenses. The estimated savings from the new project are intended to free up money that districts could otherwise spend on classroom and student needs.

The solar facility will also be used as an educational resource.

Spadafore said participating schools will have opportunities to connect students with information about renewable energy and careers in the growing energy sector.

NorthStar Clean Energy President and CEO Brian Hartmann said Genesee County was supportive during development of the project.

Solar facilities generate electricity without the direct emissions associated with coal-fired generation. Electricity from MISEC Genesee Solar will enter the broader power grid rather than being delivered through separate lines directly to individual schools.

The facility began operating this summer.

COMMUNITY

Nearly \$1 million secured for PFAS cleanup at former Bay City fire station



NEARLY \$1 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING WILL SUPPORT DEMOLITION AND PFAS CLEANUP AT BAY CITY FIRE STATION NO. 2, WHERE CONTAMINATION HAS BEEN LINKED TO FIREFIGHTING FOAM PREVIOUSLY USED AT THE SITE. (PHOTO | BAY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)

BY MB STAFF

BAY CITY, Mich. — Nearly \$1 million in federal funding will help Bay City demolish a closed fire station and clean up PFAS contamination at the property.

U.S. Sen. Gary Peters visited Bay City on Aug. 24 during his final statewide motorcycle tour and met with local officials at Fire Station No. 2, where firefighting foam used in previous years contributed to contamination.

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoro-

alkyl substances, are a large family of chemicals that break down very slowly in the environment. Some types were historically used in firefighting foam and have been found at airports, military installations, fire-training sites and other locations throughout Michigan.

Bay City Fire Chief Kurt Corradi said PFAS contamination at Fire Station No. 2 has become one of the city's major environmental concerns.

Peters helped secure nearly \$1 million in federal funding for

demolition and remediation of the property.

Bay City Public Safety Director Caleb Rowell said finding money for the cleanup had been one of the largest obstacles to moving the project forward.

The federal grant will pay for demolition and environmental cleanup but will not cover construction of a replacement fire station.

Fire Station No. 2 is already closed.

Mayor Chris Girard said the city is forming a subcommittee to

consider what should happen at the property after remediation is completed.

PFAS contamination has been identified at numerous sites throughout Michigan. The chemicals have drawn increased state and federal scrutiny because some can remain in soil, water and the human body for long periods.

Cleanup at the former fire station will have to be completed before the city determines the site's long-term use.

COMMUNITY

Midland Center for the Arts brings back 'Hall of Ideas' name for reimagined museum

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — Midland Center for the Arts is returning to its roots as it prepares to reopen its renovated museum under a name first used when the building opened more than half a century ago.

The center announced Aug. 27 that the reimagined museum will be called the Hall of Ideas, reviving the name architect Alden B. Dow created for the original interactive art and science exhibits in 1971.

Previously, Hall of Ideas referred to three tiers of exhibits inside the center. The name will now encompass the entire renovated museum.

Dow designed the Midland Center for the Arts around the idea that art and science could exist together and encourage experimentation and creative thinking.

The redesigned Hall of Ideas will continue that approach through interactive exhibits involving color, sound, movement



MIDLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS IS REVIVING THE HALL OF IDEAS NAME FOR ITS NEWLY RENOVATED MUSEUM, RECONNECTING THE SPACE WITH ARCHITECT ALDEN B. DOW'S ORIGINAL 1971 VISION. (PHOTO | RENDERINGS BY REICH & PETCH DESIGN, COURTESY OF MIDLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS)

and everyday materials.

Other exhibits will explore local land and water and give visitors a look at the technical work behind live performances.

Matt Travis, president and CEO of Midland Center for the Arts, said the museum is being built around the idea that creativity is not limited to professional artists.

The project also has the support of Dow's family.

Michael L. Dow, the son of Alden and Vada Dow, said the new museum reflects his father's original vision of giving visitors a place to play, question and explore the relationship between art and science.

The original Midland Center for the Arts building opened in 1971. Dow, the son of Dow Chemical Co. founder Herbert H. Dow, designed the facility as part of what he called Discovery Square,

an area that also includes Dow Gardens and the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library.

The Hall of Ideas is expected to open later this year, although the center had not announced an official public reopening date as of late August.

Museum memberships are already available and will include early-access opportunities before the general opening.

Midland neighborhood opposition stops proposed retail rezoning

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — A proposed rezoning that could have cleared the way for a Dollar General store on North Saginaw Road failed Aug. 24 after Midland residents packed City Hall to oppose the development.

Midwest V, LLC sought to rezone vacant property at 3100 and 3120 N. Saginaw Road, near Sturgeon Avenue, from Office Service

to Neighborhood Center zoning.

The change would have allowed a retail development on the property. The proposed tenant was expected to be Dollar General.

Residents spoke for more than an hour during the City Council meeting, raising concerns about traffic, flooding and whether a retail store was compatible with the surrounding residential neighborhood.

The property's location in a flood zone was repeatedly raised during the meeting. Other residents said commercial development at the corner could alter the character of an area where homes sit close to the proposed site.

Councilman Marty Wazbinski made a motion to approve the rezoning so council members could discuss the proposal.

No other council member seconded the motion.

Without a second, the motion could not proceed to a council vote. Residents in the packed chambers applauded when the proposal failed.

Approval of the rezoning would not have automatically allowed construction to begin. The developer would still have been required to submit a site plan for additional city review.

The property remains zoned for Office Service uses.

COMMUNITY

989 Day aims to turn Saginaw's area code into community celebration

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — A community-led effort built around Saginaw's 989 area code will make its debut Tuesday, Sept. 8, with an all-day celebration bringing local businesses, nonprofit organizations, food vendors and residents together at Morley Plaza.

The inaugural 989 Day will run from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at 133 N. Washington Ave. in downtown Saginaw.

The event was developed by the 989 Committee, a community group that began organizing earlier this year around the idea of turning Sept. 8 — or 9/8 — into a day recognizing the people, businesses and organizations connected to the area.

The committee launched a public petition in March asking Saginaw City Council to formally recognize Sept. 8 as 989 Day. Organizers described the effort as a way to build local pride, encourage residents to support small businesses and create another opportunity for community organizations to connect directly with families.

Saginaw City Council later recognized Sept. 8, 2026, as 989 Day through a proclamation presented at its Aug. 17 meeting.

Organizers are promoting the first celebration under the theme "One City. One Day. One Purpose." Promotional materials also emphasize "Unity. Pride. Progress." and encourage residents to "Shop. Eat. Support Local. Build Community."

A large group of community resource organizations is scheduled to participate.

Among those announced are Saginaw Cross Ministry, Restore Saginaw, Youth Protection Council, Families and Children



THE INAUGURAL 989 DAY WILL BRING COMMUNITY RESOURCES, SMALL BUSINESSES AND FOOD VENDORS TO MORLEY PLAZA IN DOWNTOWN SAGINAW FROM 10 A.M. TO 9 P.M. SEPT. 8.

Together, 989 Reads, East Side Soup Kitchen, HELP and Be Strong.

Other participating resources include Believing Beyond Grief, led by Latrice S. Thomas; Beyond Broken Pieces, led by Tiffany Owens; Primerica; and the Megan Beldyga Agency of Farm Bureau Insurance. Organizers said additional community resources will be announced.

Small businesses will also have a significant presence at the event.

Retail vendors announced so far include Mags Bags and Accessories, Veronica Flores Fabulous Bling, Richer Denim, Ceyalli Luxury Home Fragrance Oil and La Voyage Scents.

The vendors will offer mer-

chandise ranging from fashion, jewelry and accessories to fragrances, wax melts and home products. Additional businesses are expected to join the lineup before the event.

Food and treat vendors will include Big Pete's Street Tacos, Uncle D's Eatery, Vibrant Life Energy Bar, Luv A Jar, Keta's Kitchen and Whitson Pride.

The food lineup includes tacos, Mexican food, sweets and other meals and treats. Organizers are continuing to add vendors.

The event is intended to give residents more than a festival atmosphere. By putting social-service organizations beside entrepreneurs and food vendors, the committee is creating a set-

ting where residents can learn about programs available in the community while also spending money with locally owned businesses.

The 989 area code has served a large portion of central and northeastern Lower Michigan since 2001, including Saginaw, Bay City, Midland, Mount Pleasant and numerous surrounding communities.

The new Saginaw celebration centers that regional identity in downtown Saginaw while highlighting organizations and businesses with ties to the local community.

989 Day will take place from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, at Morley Plaza, 133 N. Washington Ave. in Saginaw.

COMMUNITY

Japan Festival to bring music, martial arts, tea ceremony and Japanese traditions to Saginaw

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — One of Saginaw's longest-running international cultural celebrations will return in September when the Japanese Cultural Center, Tea House and Gardens hosts its annual Japan Festival.

The festival will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, at the Japanese Cultural Center, 527 Ezra Rust Drive, near Ojibway Island.

Admission to the festival is free.

Visitors will be able to experience a range of Japanese traditions through live demonstrations and hands-on activities, including Japanese children's games, music, martial arts, dancing, origami, calligraphy and ikebana, the traditional Japanese art of flower arranging.

Demonstrations will be held under tents throughout the grounds.

The festival will also offer traditional Japanese tea ceremonies inside the Awa Saginaw An Tea House. Tea ceremony tickets will be sold only on the day of the festival and cost \$15 per person.

The event is closely connect-



Japan Festival in Saginaw

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- Refreshments**
will be available for purchase

www.japaneseculturalcenter.org

SAGINAW'S ANNUAL JAPAN FESTIVAL WILL RETURN SEPT. 13 TO THE JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER, TEA HOUSE AND GARDENS WITH MUSIC, DANCE, MARTIAL ARTS, ORIGAMI, CALLIGRAPHY, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AND TRADITIONAL TEA CEREMONIES.

ed to Saginaw's decades-long relationship with its sister city of Tokushima, Japan.

Saginaw and Tokushima established their sister-city relationship in 1961 after Hiroyuki Takagi, a student from Tokushima attending Michigan State University, spent time living in Saginaw. After returning to Japan, Takagi worked to create a formal relationship between the two cities.

The partnership led to the creation of the Tokushima-Saginaw Friendship Garden. Saginaw City Council dedicated property

for the garden in 1963, and planning and fundraising continued over the following years.

The three-acre garden now includes Japanese rock landscaping, a waterfall, stream, vermillion bridge, stone lanterns and rare blue-green rocks from Tokushima. It sits along Lake Linton within Saginaw's Central Park system.

The Awa Saginaw An Tea House was built through a joint effort between Saginaw and Tokushima. Japanese craftsmen constructed much of the interior framework in Japan using tradi-

tional joinery techniques before the pieces were brought to Saginaw and reassembled with American workers.

The authentic sukiya-style tea house opened to the public in 1986.

Japan Festival has become one of the Cultural Center's signature events, using the grounds, tea house and gardens to introduce residents to Japanese arts and traditions while continuing the relationship between Saginaw and Tokushima.

The city's sister-city partnership has also included educational and cultural exchanges. Students from Tokushima have regularly visited Saginaw, including through programs involving Saginaw Valley State University and Tokushima Municipal High School.

The Japanese Cultural Center will hold a Garden Volunteer Week from Sept. 8-12, immediately before the festival, as volunteers help prepare the grounds.

Japan Festival will run from 1 to 4 p.m. Sept. 13 at the Japanese Cultural Center, Tea House and Gardens, 527 Ezra Rust Drive in Saginaw. Additional information is available by calling 989-759-1648.

Saginaw-born actor Algee Smith cast as Warren G in Snoop Dogg biopic

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Saginaw-born actor Algee Smith has been cast as rapper Warren G in *Snoop*, Universal Pictures' upcoming biopic about Snoop Dogg.

Smith's casting was reported Aug. 26 as the studio continues building the film's ensemble

ahead of production. Jonathan Daviss will portray Snoop Dogg, with Myles Bullock cast as Dr. Dre and Camron Jones as Tupac Shakur.

Warren G was part of the Long Beach rap group 213 with Snoop Dogg and Nate Dogg before launching a successful solo career. He is best known for the

1994 hit "Regulate" featuring Nate Dogg.

The role gives Smith another opportunity to portray a well-known music figure. He gained national attention playing Ralph Tresvant in BET's 2017 miniseries *The New Edition Story*.

Smith was born in Saginaw in 1994 before later moving with

his family to Atlanta. His acting credits include Detroit, *The Hate U Give*, HBO's *Euphoria* and *Judas and the Black Messiah*.

Snoop is being directed by Craig Brewer and produced by Snoop Dogg, Brian Grazer and Sara Ramaker. Universal has scheduled the film for release Aug. 6, 2027.

COMMUNITY

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POLITICS

Proof-of-citizenship voting proposal fight reaches U.S. Supreme Court



THE MICHIGAN STATE CAPITOL IN LANSING. A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT THAT WOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP AND VOTER IDENTIFICATION IS THE SUBJECT OF A LEGAL FIGHT OVER WHETHER IT CAN APPEAR ON THE NOV. 3 BALLOT. (PHOTO | ROGUERENAISSANCE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS)

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — A proposal that would require Michigan voters to provide stronger proof of citizenship and identification has reached the U.S. Supreme Court after falling three signatures short in a state review that kept it off the November ballot.

Americans for Citizen Voting-Michigan filed an emergency application with the U.S. Supreme Court on Aug. 31, asking the court to intervene after the Michigan Board of State Canvassers deadlocked 2-2 on whether to certify the proposed constitutional amendment.

The case was submitted to

Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who handles emergency applications from the federal circuit that includes Michigan.

The campaign previously asked the Michigan Supreme Court to overturn the canvassers' decision. The federal filing came as election officials face tight deadlines for finalizing the Nov. 3 ballot.

Americans for Citizen Voting submitted 709,841 petition signatures in March. A constitutional amendment requires 446,198 valid signatures to qualify for Michigan's statewide ballot.

Rather than checking every submitted signature, election officials use a random sample. For this petition, 1,000 signatures

were reviewed, and at least 629 had to be valid for the petition to meet the projected statewide requirement.

Michigan Bureau of Elections staff initially determined that 612 signatures in the sample were valid and recommended against certification.

During a nearly seven-hour Aug. 24 meeting, canvassers reviewed disputed signatures, affidavits and other information submitted by supporters and opponents. The board ultimately identified 626 valid signatures — three short of the 629 needed.

The four-member board consists of two Democrats and two Republicans. Its final certification vote split 2-2, preventing the

proposal from advancing.

Much of the dispute centered on whether additional affidavits and supporting information submitted by the campaign should have been considered after normal deadlines for materials had passed.

The proposed amendment would make several changes to Michigan election law. It would require documentary proof of U.S. citizenship for voter registration, strengthen photo identification requirements, establish additional citizenship verification of the voter file and eliminate the current option allowing voters without photo identification to sign an affidavit before voting.

The proposal would also create a state-funded program to help eligible voters obtain required documents.

U.S. citizenship is already required to register and vote in Michigan. Current state and federal law also require applicants to attest to their citizenship under penalty of law. The dispute surrounding the proposal is primarily over how citizenship and identity should be verified.

Supporters argue documentary requirements would strengthen election security and public confidence. Opponents argue the changes could make voting more difficult for eligible citizens who do not readily have documents such as birth certificates or passports.

The Supreme Court docket lists the case as *Americans for Citizen Voting-Michigan v. Michigan Board of State Canvassers*, No. 26A275.

As of Aug. 31, the court had not ruled on the emergency request.

POLITICS

Saginaw DDA considers redevelopment agreements for Spicer Group, Tri-Star Trust



DOWNTOWN SAGINAW IS SHOWN FROM ACROSS THE SAGINAW RIVER. THE SAGINAW DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CONSIDERED REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS INVOLVING SPICER GROUP AND TRI-STAR TRUST DURING ITS AUG. 27 MEETING. (PHOTO | WEAPONIZINGARCHITECTURE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Two downtown Saginaw redevelopment projects moved through another stage of the city's public review process in late August, including plans for Tri-Star Trust's new riverfront headquarters and a redevelopment involving Spicer Group.

The Saginaw Downtown Development Authority held public hearings Aug. 27 on redevelopment agreements for both companies.

The DDA agenda also included resolutions concerning interlocal agreements between the authority and the Saginaw Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for each project.

Spicer Group's redevelopment involves its property at 230 S. Washington Ave. in downtown Saginaw.

Brownfield Authority documents estimate total investment in that project at approximately \$2.25 million.

The Brownfield Authority previously considered a Brownfield Plan, reimbursement agreement and interlocal agreement for the property in July. The interlocal agreement required DDA action because tax increment financing associated with a brownfield project can involve revenue that otherwise would flow to the downtown district.

The larger of the two projects is Tri-Star Trust's planned new headquarters at 833 S. Washington Ave. along the Saginaw River.

Plans call for demolition of existing structures and construction of a roughly 16,000-square-foot commercial building.

Brownfield documents place anticipated investment at approximately \$8.02 million and identify about \$2.4 million in potentially reimbursable brownfield costs over a tax-increment financing period of up to 30 years.

The new Tri-Star site is expected to include the headquarters building, parking and traffic improvements, new landscaping and a green buffer along South Washington Avenue, along with improvements near the riverfront park area.

Tri-Star announced the headquarters project as the company marked 25 years in business.

The Saginaw-based wealth management company has grown from five employees to more than 60, with offices in Saginaw, Frankenmuth, Lansing and Midland. The company reports more than 2,000 client relationships and more than 8,500 participants in retirement plans it serves.

The DDA's Aug. 27 agenda called for public hearings followed by consideration of resolutions approving the interlocal agreements for both developments.

As of Aug. 31, finalized minutes confirming the DDA's recorded votes on those resolutions had not yet been posted with the publicly available meeting records. The authority's next regular meeting is scheduled for Sept. 22.

POLITICS

Proposal 1 asks Michigan voters whether to call constitutional convention

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — Among the names and familiar political questions on Michigan's Nov. 3 ballot will be an unusual proposal asking voters whether they want to open the state Constitution to a potentially sweeping rewrite.

Proposal 2026-01, commonly called Proposal 1, asks whether Michigan should call a convention of elected delegates to consider a general revision of the 1963 Michigan Constitution.

The question is not appearing because of a petition drive or action by lawmakers.

Michigan's Constitution automatically requires voters to be asked every 16 years whether they want a constitutional convention.

If voters say no, the existing

Constitution remains in effect and the question will automatically return in 2042.

If voters approve Proposal 1, they would not immediately be approving a new constitution.

Instead, Michigan would begin another election process to choose 148 convention delegates — one from each of the state's 110 House districts and 38 Senate districts.

Under Michigan election law, a partisan primary for delegates would be held in February 2027, followed by a general election in June.

Those 148 delegates would then convene in Lansing on Oct. 5, 2027.

Once assembled, delegates would choose their own officers and rules and could examine virtually any part of the state Con-

stitution, including the powers of the governor and Legislature, elections, courts, local government, education, taxation and individual rights.

The Constitution does not set a deadline for how long the convention could meet.

A convention also would not have the final word.

Whatever constitution or revisions the delegates ultimately approved would have to go back before Michigan voters for ratification before replacing the current document.

Michigan's existing Constitution was developed by a convention that met in 1961 and 1962. Voters narrowly approved the resulting Constitution in 1963.

Michigan voters have rejected the automatic convention question each time it has appeared

under the current Constitution.

In 1978, 77% voted against calling a convention. The proposal was rejected by 72% of voters in 1994 and 67% in 2010.

Voting no does not prevent Michigan's Constitution from being changed. Individual constitutional amendments can still be proposed through the Legislature or citizen petition process and placed before voters.

The nonpartisan Citizens Research Council of Michigan has published a series examining issues that could come before a convention but has taken no position on whether voters should approve Proposal 1.

The question will appear statewide on the Nov. 3 general election ballot.

Federal judge temporarily blocks USPS mail-ballot rule after Michigan joins lawsuit

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — A federal judge has temporarily blocked most of a new U.S. Postal Service rule governing mail ballots, one day after Michigan joined 24 other states in challenging the changes in court.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts issued a temporary restraining order Aug. 27, halting most of the rule while the lawsuit moves forward.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel joined the multi-state lawsuit Aug. 26, arguing that the Postal Service was attempting to take authority over election procedures traditionally administered by states.

The new rule followed a

March executive order from President Donald Trump directing the Postal Service to transmit mail ballots only to voters included on a national eligibility list.

Under the USPS rule, states would be required to provide the Postal Service with information on every voter eligible to receive a mail ballot. USPS would then compile state-specific lists used to determine whether ballots could be delivered.

The rule also established new design standards for absentee ballot envelopes and required states to receive Postal Service approval for those envelopes.

According to the lawsuit, USPS could refuse to deliver a ballot to a voter who did not appear on its list or refuse an enve-

lope that did not meet the new design requirements.

Michigan officials argued the changes were being imposed too close to the November election.

Military and overseas absentee ballots must begin going out in September, leaving local and state election officials little time to redesign envelopes, create new data-sharing procedures and train clerks.

Nessel's office also argued that Congress has not given the Postal Service authority to decide which eligible voters may receive election mail.

The lawsuit challenges the rule on constitutional and federal statutory grounds. The Postal Service and federal administration maintain that tighter con-

trols are intended to improve election integrity.

Mail voting has become a major part of Michigan elections.

Michigan voters approved no-reason absentee voting in 2018, and voters later approved a permanent absentee ballot option. In the 2024 general election, 2,232,721 Michigan voters cast ballots by mail, accounting for about 39% of all votes cast statewide.

The Aug. 27 court order is temporary and does not resolve the underlying lawsuit. The case will continue in federal court while most of the challenged USPS requirements remain on hold.

POLITICS

Rogers, El-Sayed agree to Oct. 8 U.S. Senate debate



REPUBLICAN MIKE ROGERS, LEFT, AND DEMOCRAT ABDUL EL-SAYED WILL FACE EACH OTHER IN MICHIGAN'S RACE FOR THE U.S. SENATE SEAT BEING VACATED BY SEN. GARY PETERS. THE CANDIDATES HAVE AGREED TO AN OCT. 8 DEBATE HOSTED BY WOOD-TV. (PHOTO | U.S. CONGRESS; KENNETH C. ZIRKEL/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS)

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — Republican Mike Rogers and Democrat Abdul El-Sayed have agreed to their first scheduled debate in Michigan's closely watched race for an open U.S. Senate seat.

WOOD-TV will host the live debate Oct. 8, with longtime Michigan political reporter Rick Albin serving as moderator.

Rogers and El-Sayed are competing to replace Democratic U.S. Sen. Gary Peters, who is retiring at the end of his term.

The agreement follows several weeks of back-and-forth between the campaigns over how many times the candidates should debate before the Nov. 3 election.

El-Sayed has publicly challenged Rogers to participate in five debates around Michigan.

A separate debate organized by FOX 2 Detroit and the Michigan Debate Commission is planned for Sept. 15. El-Sayed has accepted that invitation and said he intends to participate. As of late August, Rogers had not

publicly committed to that event.

FOX 2 anchor Roop Raj is scheduled to moderate the Sept. 15 program.

Rogers, a former congressman and FBI agent, won the Republican nomination in the Aug. 4 primary. He was also the Republican Senate nominee in 2024, narrowly losing to Democrat Elissa Slotkin.

El-Sayed emerged from a competitive Democratic primary this year. The physician and former director of the Detroit Health Department has empha-

sized health care costs, affordability and government reform during his campaign.

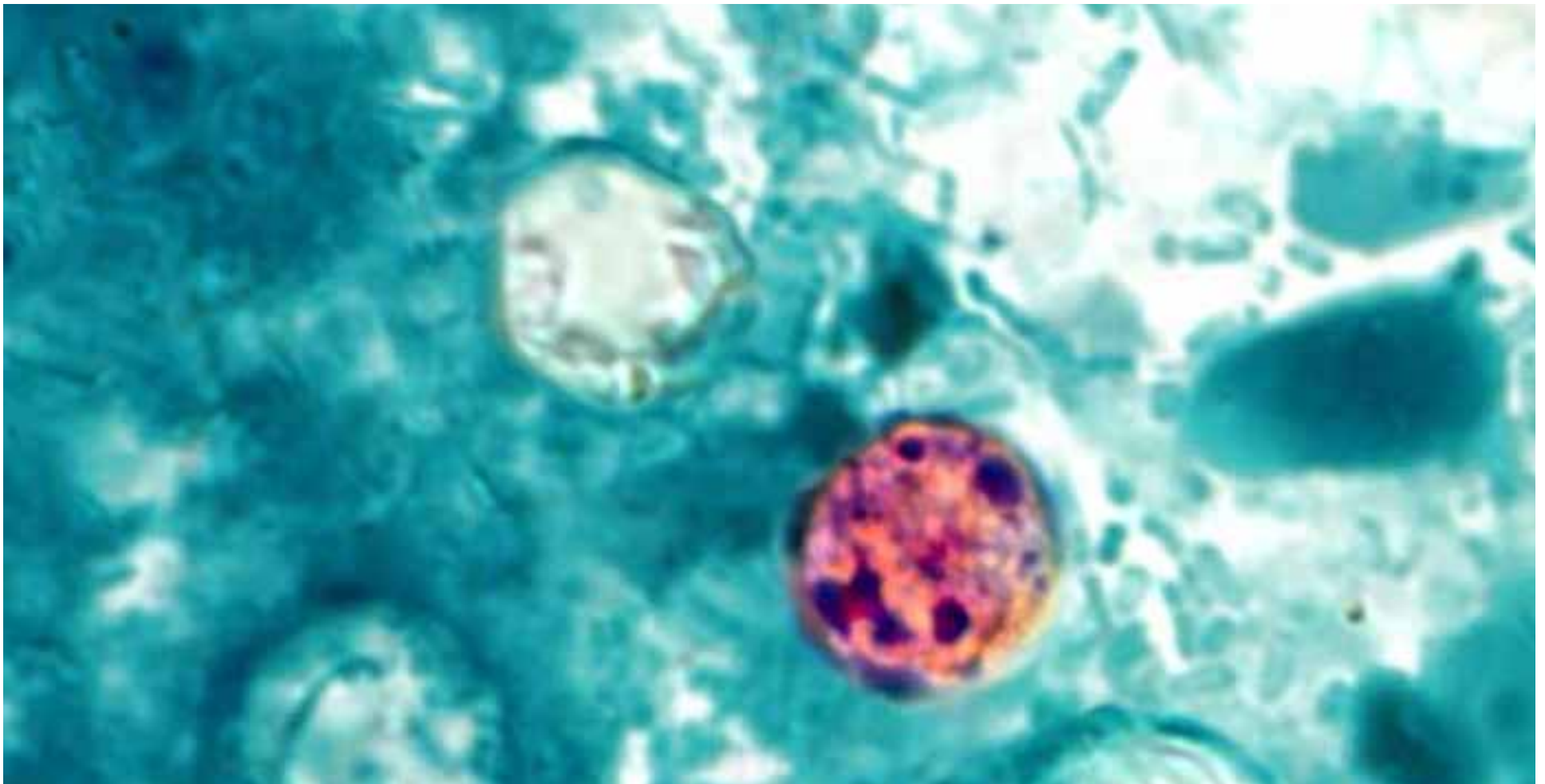
The two candidates have already drawn sharp contrasts over health care, immigration, taxes, the Trump administration and U.S. foreign policy.

The race is expected to receive significant national attention because Michigan's open seat could play a role in determining control of the U.S. Senate.

The first debate both campaigns have formally agreed to will air Oct. 8 on WOOD-TV.

HEALTH

Michigan Cyclospora outbreak tops 14,500 cases as health officials ease lettuce warning



A CDC PHOTOMICROGRAPH SHOWS CYCLOSPORA CAYETANENSIS OOCYSTS. MICHIGAN HAS REPORTED MORE THAN 14,500 CYCLOSPORIASIS CASES DURING THE ONGOING 2026 OUTBREAK. (PHOTO | CDC/DPDX - MELANIE MOSER)

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan's large cyclosporiasis outbreak has now been linked to more than 14,500 illnesses across the state, including hundreds of cases in mid-Michigan, although health officials say new infections are beginning to decline.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services reported 14,510 cases as of Aug. 27. The state's outbreak page listed 356 hospitalizations and two deaths. WNEM reported Aug. 28, citing updated MDHHS figures, that the hospitalization count had increased to 365.

Genesee County has recorded 659 cases, one of the higher totals in the state. Saginaw County

has reported 105 cases, Isabella County 152, Midland County 46 and Bay County 18. Shiawassee County has recorded 501 cases.

MDHHS began investigating the outbreak earlier this summer. Lettuce and salad greens remain a suspected source, but officials have not identified one specific type of produce, grower or supplier responsible for all of the Michigan cases.

A separate multistate outbreak was tied to shredded iceberg lettuce from Central Mexico, prompting a voluntary recall in July. Michigan officials have said other food exposures cannot yet be ruled out in the state's broader investigation.

The two Michigan residents whose deaths were associated

with the outbreak had significant underlying health conditions that may have been affected by cyclosporiasis and dehydration, according to MDHHS. Both became ill before the July 17 lettuce recall.

Cyclospora is a microscopic parasite that can contaminate food or water. Infection can cause prolonged watery diarrhea, loss of appetite, stomach cramps, nausea, fatigue and weight loss. Symptoms usually begin about a week after exposure but may take as long as two weeks to appear.

Without treatment, symptoms can continue for weeks and may disappear and then return. Cyclosporiasis is generally treated with antibiotics, along with fluids and rest to prevent

dehydration.

State health officials have now lifted their earlier precautionary recommendation to avoid bagged salad mixes. MDHHS said residents can return to routine consumption of lettuce and salad greens because new case reports and related emergency department visits are declining.

Residents are still advised to wash fresh produce under clean running water, wash their hands before and after food preparation and keep food-preparation surfaces clean. Cooking food to at least 158 degrees can kill Cyclospora.

Anyone experiencing sudden or persistent diarrhea should contact a health care provider for testing and treatment.

HEALTH

Michigan expands free lead-reducing water filter program statewide

BY MB STAFF

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan families who meet certain eligibility requirements can now receive free lead-reducing drinking water filters regardless of where they live in the state.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced Aug. 31 that its Statewide Filter Support Program has expanded to all Michigan communities through the state's Get Ahead of Lead initiative.

To qualify, a household must have a child younger than 19 who receives Medicaid or a pregnant Medicaid enrollee living in the

home.

The home also must have, or potentially have, lead or galvanized plumbing, a lead service line or faucets and fittings that were sold before 2014.

Eligible households can receive a certified lead-reducing drinking water filter along with replacement cartridges.

The expansion changes a program that previously concentrated additional resources in communities identified as having greater lead-exposure risks. Saginaw and Flint were among the communities already included in targeted faucet and filter programs.

Residents who meet the eli-

gibility requirements in other communities, including Bay City, Midland and surrounding areas, can now apply through the statewide program.

MDHHS recommends using a certified lead-reducing filter in homes with older plumbing until the potential source of lead can be removed or replaced.

Lead can enter drinking water as older pipes, service lines, faucets and fittings corrode. Children are particularly vulnerable to lead exposure, which can affect learning, behavior, growth and development.

Health officials also recommend cleaning faucet aerators at least every six months and al-

lowing cold water to run until it becomes cold before using it for drinking or cooking.

Families concerned about possible exposure should speak with their child's health care provider about blood lead testing.

Residents can apply through the Get Ahead of Lead program online or call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315 for assistance.



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HEALTH

McLaren Bay Region opens new orthopedics and rehabilitation center

BY MB STAFF

BAY CITY, Mich. — McLaren Bay Region has opened a new center combining orthopedic care, pain management and rehabilitation services as the health system moves ahead with a \$53.6 million redevelopment of its West Campus.

The McLaren Bay West Center for Orthopedics and Rehabilitation opened in late August and represents the first major completed portion of the larger McLaren Bay West project.

The center is located on East Midland Road between 2 Mile Road and North Euclid Avenue.

Services include orthopedic care, physical therapy and specialized rehabilitation under one roof. The center will treat patients recovering from joint replacement and sports and hand injuries, along with neurological conditions, balance and vestibular disorders and other orthopedic and rehabilitation needs.

McLaren Bay Region President and CEO Tom Keller said combining the services is intend-



MCLAREN BAY REGION HAS OPENED THE MCLAREN BAY WEST CENTER FOR ORTHOPEDICS AND REHABILITATION, THE FIRST MAJOR COMPLETED PORTION OF ITS \$53.6 MILLION REDEVELOPMENT OF THE WEST CAMPUS. (PHOTO | MCLAREN HEALTH CARE)

ed to make it easier for patients to move between orthopedic providers, pain management and rehabilitation without traveling to separate locations.

The center is only the first phase of a larger redevelopment planned for the property.

McLaren Bay West is being developed as a multispecialty outpatient medical campus.

Plans call for a two-story facility with more than 50,000 square feet of clinical space.

The completed campus is expected to include a freestanding emergency department, primary care, diagnostic imaging and laboratory services. Cardiologists, neurologists, surgical consultants and other specialists are also expected to rotate through

the location.

McLaren expects the larger campus to open in phases, with the new facility currently targeted for summer 2027.

The project expands McLaren Bay Region's outpatient presence outside its main Bay City hospital campus while keeping frequently used medical services on one site.

McLaren Central Michigan plans free health and resource fair Sept. 11

BY MB STAFF

MOUNT PLEASANT, Mich. — Free health screenings, vaccinations and information from more than 30 area organizations will be available when McLaren Central Michigan hosts its fifth annual Health & Community Resource Fair on Sept. 11.

The free event will run from

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, in the hospital's west parking lot off Brown Street at 1221 South Drive in Mount Pleasant.

Health care professionals, community organizations and local businesses will participate.

Attendees will be able to receive health screenings and vaccinations while meeting physicians, health care providers and representatives from organiza-

tions offering programs and services throughout Isabella County and the surrounding region.

McLaren Central Michigan President and CEO Robert David said the annual event is designed to connect residents with services outside the traditional hospital setting.

The fair will also include prize drawings and food trucks.

The Isabella County Medical

Care Facility will hold a Craft & Bake Sale during the event.

No admission fee is required. McLaren said the fair is open to residents interested in preventive health information, community services or learning more about resources available locally.

McLaren Central Michigan is a 118-bed acute care hospital serving Isabella County.

EDUCATION

Saginaw Public Schools sets new cellphone rules for 2026-27 school year



SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS IMPLEMENTING NEW CELLPHONE AND PERSONAL-DEVICE RESTRICTIONS FOR THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR, INCLUDING SECURE DEVICE STORAGE FOR STUDENTS AT SEVERAL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS. (PHOTO | SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — Students returning to Saginaw Public Schools this fall will face tighter restrictions on cellphones and other personal electronic devices, including rules requiring many middle and high school students to turn over their devices when they arrive.

The district announced its updated policy Aug. 29 as Michigan schools implement new state requirements limiting cellphone use.

The rules apply beyond smartphones. Smartwatches, earbuds and headphones, tablets, personal laptops, gaming devices, smart glasses and other devices capable

of calling, texting, recording, taking photographs, livestreaming or connecting to the internet are included.

Elementary students may not use personal wireless devices during instructional time. Devices must be powered off or silenced and stored out of sight in a location designated by the school administrator for the school day.

Procedures are more restrictive at several secondary schools.

Students at Saginaw United High School, Thompson Middle School, Success Academy and Saginaw Middle School will turn in their devices when they arrive. The devices will be securely stored and returned at dismissal.

At Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy and Saginaw Career

Complex, students will place devices in numbered classroom cellphone lockers during each class period.

The district has also outlined consequences for students who violate the policy.

After a first violation, the device will be held and released only to a parent or guardian. A second violation can result in the student losing permission to bring a device to school for the remainder of the semester or school year.

A third violation requires a parent conference and may result in suspension under the Student Code of Conduct. A fourth violation can lead to suspension pending a disciplinary hearing.

Exceptions are allowed for

medically necessary devices, technology required through an individualized education program or 504 plan, district-assigned technology, approved instructional uses and emergencies.

During an emergency, students are expected to leave devices in secure storage unless a teacher, administrator or first responder directs otherwise. The district says family communication and reunification will be handled through official school channels.

Individual schools will provide additional information about procedures for late arrivals, testing days, field trips and other situations.

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EDUCATION

Founders Grove Classical Academy prepares to open in Midland with about 125 students

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — Midland's newest public charter school is preparing to welcome its first students Sept. 8 after months of renovations, hiring and enrollment.

Founders Grove Classical Academy will open at 1025 E. Wheeler St., in the building that previously housed the Delta College Midland Center and, earlier, Regina High School.

The tuition-free school will

begin with kindergarten through sixth grade. Head of School Kirsten Fortier told the Midland Daily News that enrollment is about 125 students, with a few openings remaining in each grade.

Eleven teachers have been hired for the inaugural school year.

The Midland Business Alliance will hold a ribbon cutting at 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3. Families will also be able to meet teachers that day before classes begin Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Founders Grove is authorized by Central Michigan University and managed by Choice Schools Associates. It is a Hillsdale College Curriculum School and will use a classical education model.

Students will wear uniforms. School hours are 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, with dismissal at 1:15 p.m. Fridays to provide time for teacher professional development.

All classes will be held on the building's first floor during the first year.

The academy plans to add one grade each year as enrollment grows, eventually expanding to serve students through 12th grade.

Founders Grove has also partnered with RISE Education & Recreation to provide before- and after-school options. Transportation will be available between RISE's Midland location and the school.

Enrollment applications remain open for the 2026-27 school year.

Flint opens two new playgrounds as \$7 million school improvement effort continues

BY MB STAFF

FLINT, Mich. — Students at two Flint schools returned this fall to newly renovated playgrounds designed with input from children, parents, educators and neighborhood residents.

Flint Community Schools held ribbon-cutting ceremonies Aug. 26 at Doyle-Ryder Community Education Center and Potter Elementary School.

The two projects are part of more than \$7 million in funding from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation to renovate playgrounds at five Flint Community Schools sites.

The five locations are Freeman Elementary, Potter Elementary, Durant-Tuuri-Mott Elementary, Eisenhower Elementary and Doyle-Ryder.

With the Doyle-Ryder and Potter projects finished, three of the five playground renovations are now complete.

The district worked with the Flint Center for Educational Excellence to gather ideas from stu-



THE NEWLY RENOVATED PLAYGROUND AT DOYLE-RYDER COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER IS ONE OF FIVE FLINT SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS BEING IMPROVED THROUGH MORE THAN \$7 MILLION IN SUPPORT FROM THE CHARLES STEWART MOTT FOUNDATION. (PHOTO | FLINT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS)

dents, families, educators and neighborhood residents before the playgrounds were designed.

Participants identified features they wanted to see, including swings, tunnels, forts, larger climbing areas, better accessibility and additional safety features.

The completed playgrounds are intended for use beyond the

school day. Flint Community Schools says the spaces were designed to serve neighborhood families as well as students.

The Mott Foundation has made a broader commitment of up to \$20 million to improve playgrounds and parks throughout Flint as part of the foundation's centennial.

Potter fourth-grader Adrienne Whitney gave the new equipment an enthusiastic review during the celebration.

"I think the whole park looks awesome!" she said.

Potter Elementary is located at 2500 N. Averill Ave. Doyle-Ryder Community Education Center is at 1040 N. Saginaw St.

What to look for in the 2026-27 school year



STUDENTS IN CLASSROOM (GENERATED IMAGE)



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS

Every school year brings new challenges and new rules. While I will not try to offer an all-inclusive list, I will share the following top three, in my opinion.

1. Expect staff shortages (and possible inconveniences)

This is not “new” but a continuation of an era where school leaders are finding it hard to

find personnel. Teacher shortages remain prevalent, especially in areas where a neighboring district attracts talented teachers from another district. Many times, these are well-trained and seasoned teachers who accept better pay and benefits. Filling these vacancies are often fresh-out-college, non-certified hires.

These challenges flow to other roles. My school just lost its athletic director to another district right as fall sports start. Also, I heard on the radio advertisements for school bus drivers last week as school opens up.

My advice: Be aware and be patient.

2. No cell phones allowed in class.

Most schools already had this

in place, but this year it is a matter of Michigan Law.

My advice: Try to be supportive and understand the need for the law.

3. PE classes will have a new (mandated) test.

You have heard of it before: the President’s test for physical fitness.

It is back!

And it is not a “piece of cake.” One benchmark is a one-mile run, which in itself “not easy,” but the goal is to break 6 minutes, 30 seconds. A show of hands, please, how many of us can break 6:30? Sorry, but the last 5k I did was at a pace of 12 minutes per

mile, far slower than 6:30.

Another benchmark is 53 sit-ups in one minute *.

(* I won’t bother asking.....)

One more benchmark is 39 push-ups.

Parents, this is your opportunity to offer grace to your PE child and support their challenges in trying to meet these lofty benchmarks.

New school year invites new challenges for parents to be informed and for students to do their best to adjust to new rules and practices.

Resource: <https://yourbestyeareverbook.com>

EDUCATION

Michigan lowers Reconnect eligibility age to 21, expanding tuition-free college access

BY MB STAFF

LANSGING, Mich. — More Michigan adults can now attend community college tuition-free after the state permanently lowered the minimum age for the Michigan Reconnect scholarship from 25 to 21.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced Aug. 26 that applications are open to Michigan residents ages 21 to 24 who previously fell outside the program's permanent eligibility rules.

Michigan Reconnect pays tu-

ition for eligible adults attending their in-district community college and provides substantial tuition assistance for students attending an out-of-district community college. The scholarship can be used toward an associate degree or eligible skills certificate.

To qualify, applicants must be at least 21, have lived in Michigan for at least one year, have a high school diploma or equivalent and not already hold an associate or bachelor's degree. Students must also complete the Free Application for Federal Stu-

dent Aid.

The expansion is supported by a \$25 million ongoing investment included in Michigan's fiscal year 2027 education budget.

Reconnect launched in 2021 for adults ages 25 and older. More than 250,000 Michigan residents have applied since the program began, and nearly 20,000 have graduated.

The state previously offered a temporary expansion for adults ages 21 to 24 that ended in December 2024. Nearly 35,000 people in that age group applied during the temporary period,

with more than 18,600 enrolling in a community or Tribal college.

State data also show financial gains among people who complete the program. The Michigan Center for Data and Analytics reported that median wages among Reconnect graduates were \$13,400 higher one year after graduation than before they entered the program.

Eligible students can apply through Michigan Reconnect. State officials say the online application takes about five minutes, although applicants must also submit a FAFSA.

Michigan moves toward required Science of Reading training for K-5 teachers

BY MB STAFF

LANSGING, Mich. — Michigan is beginning the process of establishing common Science of Reading training for elementary educators under a new state law requiring thousands of K-5 teachers to complete state-funded literacy professional development.

The Michigan Department of Education announced Aug. 26 that it has opened a request for organizations interested in becoming approved training providers.

Under Public Act 26 of 2026, certified educators who teach, support or oversee reading or language arts instruction in kindergarten through fifth grade will be required to successfully complete approved professional learning by the beginning of the 2031-32 school year.

The requirement applies to educators working in traditional public school districts, intermediate school districts and charter



MICHIGAN IS MOVING TOWARD REQUIRED STATE-FUNDED SCIENCE OF READING TRAINING FOR K-5 EDUCATORS WHO TEACH OR SUPPORT READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS INSTRUCTION. (FILE PHOTO)

schools.

Science of Reading refers to a body of research on how children learn to read. Michigan's training will emphasize five major areas: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

The new law was signed July 21 and builds on literacy and dyslexia legislation approved in

Michigan in 2024.

The Department of Education must approve at least two professional-learning providers within 90 days of the law taking effect and update the list annually.

Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling, commonly known as LETRS, has received state funding for the

past five years and already meets the criteria established by the new law. It will remain an approved provider.

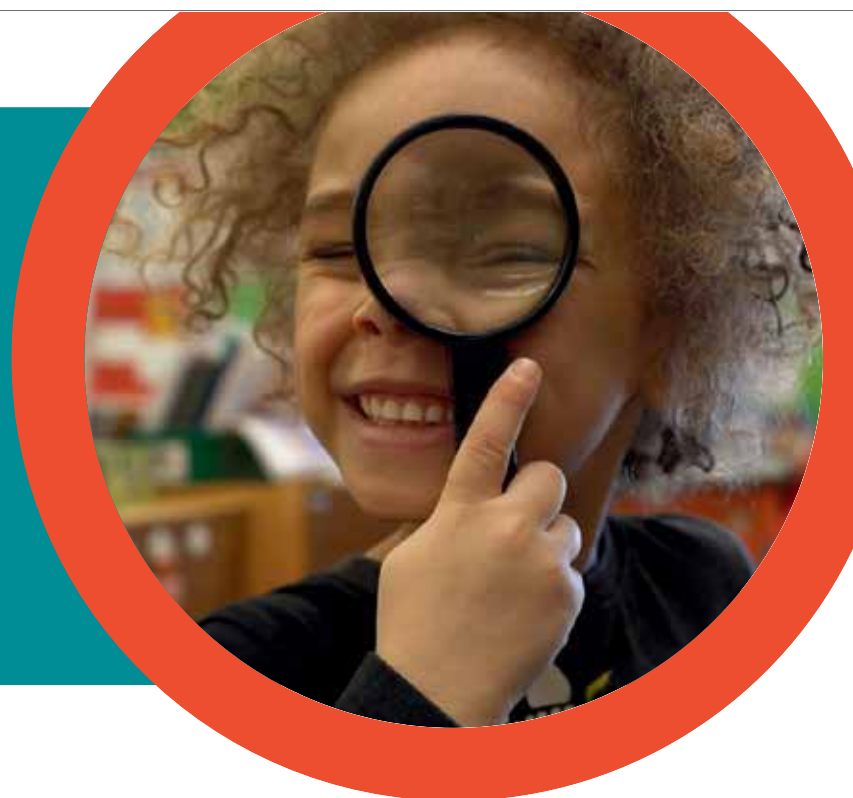
MDE is now seeking at least one additional provider. Organizations interested in being considered have until noon Sept. 9 to submit materials.

The department will also work with educators, literacy specialists, school administrators and statewide education organizations to develop an implementation plan.

State Superintendent Glenn Maleyko said the training is part of Michigan's effort to improve early literacy achievement by giving teachers additional preparation in evidence-based reading instruction.

Questions about the new training requirement can be directed to MDE's literacy and dyslexia office at MDE-Literacy-Dyslexia@Michigan.gov.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Phoenix Investors buys 1.8 million square feet of Nexteer property in Saginaw County



AN AERIAL VIEW OF PLANT 6 AT THE SAGINAW INDUSTRIAL CAMPUS ON EAST HOLLAND ROAD. PHOENIX INVESTORS HAS ACQUIRED APPROXIMATELY 1.8 MILLION SQUARE FEET ACROSS THREE BUILDINGS WHILE NEXTEER AUTOMOTIVE CONTINUES MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS THROUGH A LEASE-BACK ARRANGEMENT. (PHOTO | PHOENIX INVESTORS)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — A Milwaukee-based industrial real estate company has acquired approximately 1.8 million square feet of Nexteer Automotive property in Buena Vista Township in a deal that will keep Nexteer manufacturing at the site while opening portions of the sprawling campus to new industrial tenants.

Phoenix Investors announced Aug. 27 that an affiliate purchased three buildings commonly known as Plants 5, 6/1 and 7.

The properties are part of the former General Motors Saginaw Steering Gear manufacturing complex, which has been a major part of the Saginaw area's industrial base since the 1950s and 1960s.

Nexteer is not leaving the campus. Under a lease-back agreement, the automotive supplier will continue occupying approximately 1.27 million square feet in Plants 6/1 and 7. Nexteer also retained ownership of Plants 3 and 4, along with property that includes its solar field and test track.

Approximately 552,000 square feet in Plant 5 is immediately available for lease. Phoenix plans to invest in the property and market the vacant space to manufacturers and other industrial users. The campus is near Interstate 75 and M-46 and already has infrastructure designed for large-scale manufacturing.

"This is exactly the type of large-scale industrial property where Phoenix can bring significant value," Phoenix Investors President Anthony Crivello said.

For Nexteer, the transaction is part of a Saginaw site transfor-

mation that began in 2018. Jill Dralle, Nexteer's vice president and USA divisional president, said selling underused space will allow the company to put resources into its core local operations, including modernization of Plants 3 and 4 and potential future growth in Saginaw.

Day-to-day operations in the buildings Nexteer is leasing back are expected to continue during the transition. The company said it remains committed to its Saginaw employees and operations.

The purchase price was not disclosed.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Mooney's Ice Cream to open second location in Bridgeport Sept. 4

BY MB STAFF

BRIDGEPORT TOWNSHIP, Mich. — A longtime Saginaw-area ice cream shop is expanding into Bridgeport Township, bringing a new business to one of the community's older commercial buildings.

Mooney's Ice Cream and Cakes will open its second location Friday, Sept. 4, at 4428 Williamson Road, inside the former Lamplighter building. Opening-day hours are noon to 8 p.m.

The Bridgeport shop will carry the same lineup that cus-

tomers have come to know at Mooney's State Street location in Saginaw Township, including 48 hard-dipped ice cream flavors, soft serve, Dole Whip, ice cream tacos and custom ice cream cakes.

Mooney's operates its original location at 5982 State St. The business describes itself as a Saginaw family tradition and also serves sundaes, banana splits, coffee and other desserts.

The expansion gives the locally known business a presence in another part of Saginaw County while bringing new activity to the historic Lamplighter property.



THE LONGTIME SAGINAW-AREA BUSINESS WILL OPEN ITS SECOND LOCATION SEPT. 4 IN THE HISTORIC LAMPLIGHTER BUILDING AT 4428 WILLIAMSON ROAD IN BRIDGEPORT TOWNSHIP. (PHOTO | MOONEY'S ICE CREAM AND CAKES)

Frankenmuth Caribbean restaurant gets approval for second location in Burton

BY MB STAFF

BURTON, Mich. — A Frankenmuth restaurant known for Caribbean and Jamaican dishes is preparing to expand into Genesee County.

A site plan for Flavor Caribbean and Brunch at 1376 E. Bristol Road in Burton's Bristolwood Plaza has received administrative approval, clearing an important step toward opening the restaurant.

The administrative review was possible because restaurant use is already permitted at the shopping center and the proposed work will take place within the existing commercial unit. An opening date has not yet been announced.



OWNERS EUNIESS AND LORI CROSDALE HAVE RECEIVED SITE-PLAN APPROVAL FOR A SECOND RESTAURANT, FLAVOR CARIBBEAN AND BRUNCH, AT 1376 E. BRISTOL ROAD IN BURTON. (PHOTO | FLAVOR CARIBBEAN CUISINE)

The new restaurant comes from Euniess and Lori Cros-

dale, who opened Flavor Caribbean Cuisine at 418 N. Main St.

in Frankenmuth in June 2023. Euniess Crosdale is the restaurant's executive chef, while Lori Crosdale serves as restaurant manager.

Euniess Crosdale grew up in Jamaica and has worked professionally as a chef for more than 20 years, including 15 years cooking aboard Royal Caribbean cruise ships.

"We're Flavor, and that's what we do," Crosdale said.

The Frankenmuth restaurant offers Caribbean dishes ranging from jerk chicken and curries to seafood, Rasta pasta and Caribbean-inspired breakfast and brunch selections.

The Burton expansion will take the business outside Frankenmuth for the first time and into the Flint-area market.

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Midland affordable housing campaign launches \$44.5 million expansion plan

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — The Affordable Housing Alliance of Midland County is launching an approximately \$44.5 million effort to preserve existing affordable housing and add as many as 80 new rental homes as the county continues to face a shortage of available housing.

The nonprofit's Home Starts Here campaign calls for rehabilitating 69 existing affordable homes and creating approximately 60 to 80 new units across several AHA properties.

Current plans include work at Coleman Apartments, Chippe-

wassee Court, Grove Street Commons and Granite Club Acres. Improvements vary by property and include new rental units, renovations to existing homes, community space, on-site leasing services and outdoor amenities.

AHA currently owns 93 affordable rental units in Midland County. Its waiting list has grown to approximately 180 households, with some applicants waiting more than two years for housing. More than half of Midland County renters are considered housing cost-burdened, meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on housing.

A 2025 housing-market study also found a 97% occu-

pancy rate among 23 apartment properties surveyed in the city of Midland, leaving only 74 vacant units among 2,456 apartments surveyed.

AHA has set a \$6 million philanthropic fundraising goal to help support the larger development initiative. Its campaign website currently reports \$4.76 million raised or committed, leaving about \$1.24 million to reach that goal.

The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation has committed \$2.5 million, including \$2 million directly toward the project and as much as \$500,000 in matching funds. Eligible charitable donations received through

Nov. 20 will be matched dollar-for-dollar while matching funds remain available.

"This matching grant gives our community an incredible opportunity to double the difference it makes," AHA Executive Director Mara Stewart said.

The new homes are expected to serve households earning approximately 30% to 80% of area median income, including working families, seniors, veterans and people with disabilities.

AHA notes that the designs and unit counts remain subject to change as engineering, financing and final planning continue.

Michigan approves \$50 million for \$425 million Copperwood mine project

BY MB STAFF

LANSGING, Mich. — Michigan has approved up to \$50 million in performance-based grants to support infrastructure connected to a proposed \$425 million copper mine in the western Upper Peninsula, a project state officials say could create at least 380 permanent jobs but that continues to face opposition from environmental groups.

The Michigan Strategic Fund approved the funding Aug. 25 for the Copperwood Mine Project in Wakefield and Ironwood townships in Gogebic County.

Copperwood Resources Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Highland Copper Co., is pursuing the mine. State economic development officials say the project would support approximately 300 construction jobs

and at least 380 long-term jobs with estimated annual wages between \$80,000 and \$120,000.

Construction is currently expected to begin in 2028, with commercial production targeted for 2030.

The state funding is divided into two grants. Copperwood Resources was approved for up to \$44.97 million, while the Gogebic County Road Commission was approved for approximately \$5.03 million for infrastructure improvements associated with the project.

The funding is not an immediate \$50 million payment to the mining company. It is structured as reimbursement for eligible site preparation and infrastructure expenses.

Before Copperwood Resources becomes eligible for reimbursement, Highland Copper must demonstrate by March 31,

2028, that it has commitments for an additional \$150 million in project financing that satisfy the Michigan Economic Development Corp. The grant also requires a definitive agreement with MEDC and includes a milestone requiring at least 380 qualified jobs.

State officials and Highland Copper say the project would create a new domestic source of copper while bringing jobs, investment and improved road, power and communications infrastructure to the western Upper Peninsula. The state describes the project as fully permitted under Michigan's mining and environmental laws.

The project remains controversial.

Environmental advocates and other opponents packed the Michigan Strategic Fund meeting before the vote, raising con-

cerns about possible effects on Lake Superior, the nearby Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, tourism and the long-term management of mine waste.

The \$44.97 million Copperwood grant passed on a 7-2 vote, while the approximately \$5 million road grant was approved 9-0.

Critics have particularly raised concerns about the mine's proposed tailings facility and the consequences that could result from a failure. Project supporters counter that Copperwood has undergone years of state environmental review and would be required to operate under existing permits and regulatory oversight.

Highland Copper says environmental controls, mitigation measures and wetland creation have been incorporated into the mine's development plans.



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SPORTS

Saginaw Middle School gym renamed for legendary coach Marshall 'Coach T' Thomas



THE SAGINAW MIDDLE SCHOOL GYM, WHERE THOMAS COACHED FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES, WAS OFFICIALLY RENAMED IN HIS HONOR AUG. 27. (FILE PHOTO)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW, Mich. — The gymnasium where Marshall “Coach T” Thomas built one of the most successful basketball programs in Saginaw history now bears his name.

Saginaw Public Schools officially dedicated the Marshall O. “Coach T” Thomas Gymnasium during a ceremony Aug. 27 at Saginaw Middle School, the former Saginaw High School at 3100 Webber St.

Thomas spent more than three decades working with Saginaw students as a teacher, counselor, athletic director, assistant principal and coach. He joined Saginaw Public Schools in 1972 and became head boys basketball coach at Saginaw High in 1982.

During his 22 seasons leading the Trojans, Thomas' teams won nine league championships, 12 district titles and five regional championships. Saginaw finished as state runner-up in 1990 before Thomas guided the Tro-

jans to the Class A state championship in 1996.

Thomas coached Saginaw High through 2004.

The Saginaw Board of Educa-

tion unanimously approved naming the gym for Thomas in October 2025. He died the following month at age 79.

Family members, former players, educators and community members gathered for the August dedication.

Julian Taylor, Saginaw United's current boys basketball coach and a former player under Thomas, remembered him not simply as a basketball coach but as a teacher and mentor who expected his players to be punctual, disciplined and prepared.

Thomas' daughters — Celeste Johnson, Alexis Thomas and Natalija Thomas — also attended the ceremony and spoke about what it meant to see their father's name permanently attached to a place that had been such a large part of his life.

Saginaw Public Schools Superintendent Ramont Roberts said Thomas' influence shows the difference one person can make in the lives of generations of students.

The gym remains home to Saginaw Middle School athletics, but its new name preserves a chapter of Saginaw High's basketball history in the same building where Thomas coached the Trojans to some of the program's biggest victories.



THE SAGINAW MIDDLE SCHOOL GYM, WHERE THOMAS COACHED FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES, WAS OFFICIALLY RENAMED IN HIS HONOR AUG. 27. (FILE PHOTO)

SPORTS

Michigan State volleyball returns to Mount Pleasant for first time since 2008

BY MB STAFF

MOUNT PLEASANT, Mich. — Central Michigan volleyball will open its home schedule this week with four matches at McGuirk Arena, capped by a Sept. 5 meeting with Michigan State that will bring the Spartans to Mount Pleasant for the first time in nearly two decades.

CMU's Heart of the Mitt Invitational begins Wednesday, Sept. 2, when the Chippewas host Oakland at 6 p.m.

Central Michigan will then play Illinois State at 4 p.m. Fri-

day and again at noon Saturday before hosting Michigan State at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 5.

Michigan State has not played a volleyball match in Mount Pleasant since 2008.

The four-match homestand comes after the Chippewas opened their season at the Cougar Invitational in Pullman, Washington.

CMU went 0-3 on the trip, falling in three sets against Montana, Omaha and host Washington State.

Sophomore outside hitter Taylor Cripe led Central Michigan offensively throughout the

weekend. She recorded 14 kills and hit .300 in the season opener against Montana.

Cripe followed with her first double-double of the season against Omaha, finishing with 10 kills and 10 digs while adding two service aces and hitting .308.

She led CMU again with 11 kills against Washington State in the tournament finale.

The Chippewas are in their second season under head coach Arielle Wilson.

After the Heart of the Mitt Invitational, Central Michigan's next home match will come Sept. 22 against Eastern Michigan as

the Mid-American Conference schedule begins.

Single-game tickets are \$10 when purchased in advance and \$12 on the day of a match.



Midland High to induct six into Athletic Hall of Fame Sept. 19

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — A former Michigan State quarterback, a championship football coach, a record-setting volleyball player and three other longtime contributors to Midland High athletics will make up the school's 2026 Athletic Hall of Fame class.

Andrew Maxwell, Lindsey Dulude Grillo, Dave Arnold, John Pelton, Tom Messinger and Bill Monroe will be inducted Sept. 19 at the Great Hall in Midland.

Maxwell, a 2007 Midland High graduate, was a four-year starting quarterback for the Chemics. He earned all-state honors and helped Midland reach the 2007 state championship game while setting school passing records. Maxwell went on to play quarterback at Michi-

gan State, where he was a four-year letterwinner, team captain and member of the Spartans' 2013 Big Ten championship and Rose Bowl team.

Grillo, a 2009 graduate, was a four-year varsity volleyball starter and two-time captain. She was a three-time First Team All-Saginaw Valley League selection and led Michigan with 645 kills as a senior. She finished her Midland career with 2,044 kills before continuing her career on scholarship at Central Michigan University, where she became a four-time team captain.

Arnold, a 1963 graduate, went on to a long coaching career that stretched from high school football to the NFL. After returning to Midland as an assistant on the Chemics' 1968 state championship team, Arnold later coached at Alma, Michigan State and

Montana State. He led Montana State to the 1984 NCAA Division I-AA national championship and was named national coach of the year. He later worked on national championship staffs at the University of Miami and coached with the Seattle Seahawks.

Pelton, a 2005 graduate, excelled in both tennis and soccer. He played No. 1 singles throughout his four-year Midland tennis career and finished with a 98-12 record. He was a three-time Saginaw Valley League MVP before continuing his tennis career at Western Michigan and Hope College, where he earned All-America honors.

Messinger, a 1966 graduate, spent decades teaching and coaching in Midland Public Schools. He helped establish seventh- and eighth-grade football at Northeast Intermediate School

and later compiled a 101-30 record over 15 seasons coaching Midland's junior varsity football team. He was named Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Assistant Coach of the Year in 2003.

Monroe served as Midland High's band director from 1991 through 2021. During his tenure, the band grew from 78 students to more than 200. His honors included the Gerstacker Award, Midland Public Schools Shining Star Award and Saginaw Valley League Teacher of the Year.

The Sept. 19 induction celebration will begin with a social hour and cash bar at 5 p.m., followed by the banquet at 6 p.m.

Information about the ceremony is available from Don Blasy at 989-205-0071 or dblasym@chartermi.net.

SPORTS

High school football opens with statement wins across mid-Michigan

BY MB STAFF

High school football returned across mid-Michigan last week with Grand Blanc surviving a one-point thriller, Bay City Western and Meridian posting shut-outs and Midland High opening its season with a road victory.

Grand Blanc 24, Belleville 23

Grand Blanc opened its season Aug. 27 with one of the area's most notable wins, edging Belleville 24-23 at home.

The Bobcats carried a 17-7 lead into halftime before Belleville rallied in the second half. Grand Blanc scored seven points in the fourth quarter and held on for the one-point victory.

Quarterback Jake DeWitt accounted for much of Grand Blanc's offense, throwing for 149 yards and two touchdowns while rushing 12 times for 102 yards

and another score. The Bobcats' defense recorded four sacks.

Grand Blanc improved to 1-0 and will host Carman-Ainsworth at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3, in its Saginaw Valley League South opener.

Bay City Western 38, Saginaw United 0

Bay City Western opened its season with a 38-0 road victory over Saginaw United on Aug. 27.

Larry Bowes led the Warriors with 100 rushing yards and three touchdowns on 10 carries. Kam Bedell added a 5-yard rushing touchdown.

Quarterback Bryce Sarnowski completed 5 of 10 passes for 91 yards, including a 12-yard touchdown pass to Joe Rivet.

Western travels to Linden on Sept. 3, while Saginaw United will look for its first victory when it travels to Mount Pleasant.

Midland 14, East Lansing 7

Midland High also started the season 1-0, defeating East Lansing 14-7 on the road Aug. 27.

L.J. Gallihugh accounted for both Midland touchdowns, scoring once on the ground and catching a touchdown pass from quarterback Taber Benner.

The Chemics' defense helped preserve the victory with interceptions by D.J. Haynes and Rostin Delgado.

Midland travels to Zeeland West for its next game.

Meridian 34, Bullock Creek 0

Meridian reclaimed the Battle for the Paddle with a dominant 34-0 win over Bullock Creek on Aug. 28.

It was the Mustangs' first victory in the rivalry game since 2019.

Quarterback Karter Schaefer completed 14 of 16 passes for 172 yards and four touchdowns. He was just as productive on the ground, rushing for 133 yards and another touchdown.

Trent Bowen caught one of Schaefer's touchdown passes and contributed seven tackles and two interceptions on defense.

Meridian coach Mike Bilina credited the experience of a roster that includes 19 seniors as the Mustangs controlled the game from the opening stages.

Bullock Creek was hurt by 17 penalties during the loss.

Meridian will host Howard City Tri-County next, while Bullock Creek will face Hemlock.



CMU soccer ties home victory record with 6-1 win over Purdue Fort Wayne

BY MB STAFF

MOUNT PLEASANT, Mich. — Central Michigan University's women's soccer team made a statement in its home opener, defeating Purdue Fort Wayne 6-1 on Aug. 27 and tying the program record for largest margin of victory in a home match.

Six different Chippewas scored in the win at the CMU Soccer/Lacrosse Complex.

Freshman Claire Bergsma made an immediate impact in her first collegiate start, scoring the opening goal in the seventh minute off an assist from Rachel Jackson.

Less than two minutes later, Bergsma set up junior Ella Dykstra for another goal, giving CMU a 2-0 lead before the match was 10 minutes old.

The Chippewas added four goals after halftime.

Naomi Phillips scored in the

50th minute, followed by Jordan Bailey in the 68th, Kylee Weed in the 75th and Ella Betzold in the 87th.

Purdue Fort Wayne's only goal came from Cyann Retzloff in the 68th minute.

CMU controlled much of the match statistically, finishing with a 21-5 advantage in shots and a 12-2 advantage in shots on goal. The Chippewas also held a 10-0 advantage in corner kicks.

Bergsma and Phillips each

finished with a goal and an assist.

The six-goal performance was particularly notable after CMU scored nine goals during the entire 2025 season. Through four games this year, the Chippewas had already matched that total.

The victory improved Central Michigan to 2-2.

CMU remains home this week, hosting Cincinnati at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3, before facing No. 22 Wisconsin on Sunday.

SPORTS

Dow Championship moving to fall in 2027



MIDLAND COUNTRY CLUB WILL HOST THE 2027 DOW CHAMPIONSHIP SEPT. 27-OCT. 3 AS THE LPGA TOUR'S ONLY OFFICIAL TEAM EVENT MOVES FROM ITS TRADITIONAL SUMMER DATES INTO THE FALL. (PHOTO | DOW CHAMPIONSHIP)

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND, Mich. — The Dow Championship will trade its traditional summer dates for autumn in 2027, bringing the LPGA Tour back to Midland Country Club from Sept. 27 through Oct. 3.

Tournament officials announced the new dates Aug. 13. Competition will begin Thursday, Sept. 30.

The move will mark the first time the Dow Championship has been held in the fall.

The Midland tournament is the LPGA Tour's only official team-format event. Its field features 144 golfers playing as 72

two-woman teams for a \$3.3 million purse.

Teams compete over 72 holes, alternating between four-somes, commonly called alternate shot, and four-ball, or best ball, formats.

Tournament organizers see the later date as an opportunity to give visitors a different experience in Midland, including cooler temperatures and the region's fall scenery.

Tournament Director Wendy Traschen told the Midland Daily News that the fall schedule could also reduce some weather concerns associated with summertime thunderstorms, although it will create other logistical chal-

lenges. Students who typically work or volunteer during summer may be less available once school is in session.

Shorter daylight hours could also result in later morning tee times.

Organizers expect popular tournament features to continue, including large screens where fans have been able to follow other sporting events while at Midland Country Club.

The Dow Championship has grown into one of the Great Lakes Bay Region's largest annual sporting events since its debut in 2019. Tournament officials estimate it generates about \$20 million in annual regional

economic impact and has contributed more than \$3.5 million to local nonprofit organizations.

Gina Kim and Yana Wilson won the 2026 Dow Championship, earning the first LPGA Tour victories of their careers.

Dow CEO Karen S. Carter called the tournament a signature event in women's professional sports and said the company looks forward to welcoming the LPGA's players back to Midland.

The Dow Championship's agreement with Midland Country Club runs through 2029, although dates for tournaments after 2027 have not yet been announced.

FAITH IN FOCUS



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

Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

BY PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

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

The organization's vision includes several key objectives:



PASTOR JOHN DUNN

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

between the church, volunteers, and community professionals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPONSORED CONTENT

A PROCLAMATION OF PEACE, PRAISE & *Prosperity* — TO ALL! —



GREETINGS!

This is **Bishop Larry D. Camel**, Senior Pastor of **NEW BIRTH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CATHEDRAL**, with a proclamation of peace, praise, and prosperity to all!



I am also speaking to share with you a prophetic vision that God has bestowed upon me. God has ordered me—and, by extension, the membership of New Birth—to **REACH OUT** and **PREACH OUT**, going beyond the walls of the church and deep into our communities.



I believe God has specifically ordered us to adopt the neighborhoods surrounding New Birth and to prayerfully declare the areas in the vicinity of **SHERIDAN, WEBBER, and WILLIAMSON** to be **GOD'S PROPERTY!**



We, at New Birth look forward to meeting, loving, encouraging, and serving our spiritual brothers and sisters, as well as our sons and daughters throughout the community.



We have a variety of services to offer for the betterment of our community, including youth and family programs, outreach, prayer, counseling support, and much more.

COME EXPERIENCE

YOUR OWN NEW BIRTH!

We invite you and your family to join us at
NEW BIRTH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CATHEDRAL.

WEEKLY WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Grow with us in God's Word.

9:30 A.M.



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship, praise, preaching, and fellowship.

11:00 A.M.



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Go deeper in Scripture and grow in faith together.

6:00 P.M.

*There is a place for you
and your family at New Birth!*

AND WE DECLARE BY FAITH: THIS COMMUNITY BELONGS TO GOD!



WE ARE
REACHING OUT.



WE ARE
PREACHING OUT.



WE ARE
PRAYING FOR OUR
COMMUNITY.



WE ARE
LOVING OUR
NEIGHBORS.



WE ARE
BUILDING STRONGER
FAMILIES.



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Bishop Larry D. Camel
SENIOR PASTOR

*Come expecting a blessing.
Everyone is welcome!*

FAITH IN FOCUS

SERMONETTE SERIES

When We Lean Toward One Another

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2 (KJV)



BY MINISTER CAROLYN
CARTER TOWNSEL

"We don't simply serve those who need us. We lean toward the vulnerable, stand beside the hurting, and serve those who need us most."

There are people among us carrying wounds we cannot see.

The word vulnerable comes from the Latin word *vulnus*, meaning "wound." To be vulnerable is to be susceptible to being hurt, wounded, or harmed.

And that gives us a different way of looking at the people around us.

Some wounds are visible. Others are hidden behind a smile, silence, anger, or even strength.

Some are grieving quietly. Some are overwhelmed by responsibilities. Some are struggling financially. Some are fighting battles they have never shared with anyone.

And sometimes, the person who appears to need us the least may actually be carrying the greatest wound.

The Bible says: *"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."*
— Galatians 6:2 (KJV)

To bear someone's burden does not always mean solving their problem. Sometimes it means sitting beside them. Listening without judgment. Offering encouragement. Showing patience when patience is difficult. Extending grace when someone is not at their best.

Love is not merely something we say. Love is something we demonstrate.

We never truly know what another person is carrying.

That difficult coworker may be exhausted. That quiet neighbor may be lonely. That person who seems distant may be hurting. That family member who keeps saying, "I'm fine," may be anything but fine.

So, let us choose compassion.

Let us be slower to judge and quicker to understand. Let us look beyond what we see and make room for grace.

Because sometimes the greatest gift we can give another person is not money, advice, or even answers.

Sometimes, it is simply letting them know: "You are not alone. I see you. I care

about you. And I am willing to stand beside you."

Imagine what could happen if we each made a commitment to lean toward one another instead of turning away.

A little more kindness.

A little more patience.

A little more grace.

A little more love.

Perhaps that is how we begin to heal—not only individuals, but our families, our communities, and our world.

Beloved, let us not simply ask, "Who needs me?"

Let us ask, "Who needs me to love them today?"

And then—let us love them well.

Blessings to All,
Carolyn



48TH Church ANNIVERSARY

THEME:

WE ARE
Better
TOGETHER

ACTS 2:44

Rev. Dr.
Travis M. Buckley
SENIOR PASTOR

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER
13, 2026
3:00 PM

Speaker
Rev. Dr. Craig Tatum
SENIOR PASTOR
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1210 N. 8th Street • Saginaw, Michigan 48601

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New Beginnings Ministries
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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

When does a fundraising campaign begin?



BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

We often hear about fundraising campaigns when they are almost at the finish line. We hear about great plans, fabulous progress, who is providing financial support, and how much is left to raise. This often includes an anticipated campaign end-date, for example, “Help us close out our campaign by November 30th.” But when did the campaign begin?

Most likely it began three, five, or even ten years ago. The larger the goal the longer the planning time, especially if the organization or institution does not have a history of securing major gifts and investments. Two things influence the duration of a campaign. The first is that fundraising is 90% preparation and 10% solicitation. The second is that a campaign actually begins with the process of exploring how stakeholders respond to your proposed campaign.

Campaign preparation includes many activities not often thought of as “fundraising,” but which in fact comprise the majority of campaign work. This includes defining, documenting, and testing the feasibility of campaign priorities. It also includes prospective donor identification and cultivation, as well as research and evaluation activities. These last two activities help assess who might be interested in



CALENDAR (FILE PHOTO)

giving to specific aspects of your campaign, and at what levels. Campaign preparation requires that leadership – including the board – understands the “why” behind the campaign. Decisions need to be made regarding fundraising policies, anticipated campaign duration, budgeting, staffing, communications abilities, board giving and engagement, and more. You need accurate data, reporting, volunteer leadership, detailed plans and strategies, and experience. You will always be able to raise money, but reaching or exceeding your fundraising campaign goal requires extensive preparation.

Testing your campaign’s priorities and goals is another starting point. The case for support document communicates your vision, anticipated impact, and fundraising priorities and goals. Testing your case with those who can give and/or influence gifts and investments at the highest level is part of the feasibility study process, another campaign

preparation activity. But be careful: once you approach these individuals, you need to commit to a process of continued open and honest communication about your priorities, decision-making processes, next steps, needs, aspirations, and setbacks. Here’s why. Conducting a feasibility study sends a signal that you are getting ready to engage in a new level of fundraising. Once you have shared this, you have begun a new level of relationship that requires the organizational capacity and infrastructure to follow up, keep people informed, and demonstrate progress in a reasonable amount of time.

Lapses in communication and activity signal that you are not ready or do not have the organization to make things happen. A lapse in time can also lead people to think your priorities are not as important as you had communicated them to be. Stakeholders may interpret your lapses as an indicator of risk, lack of qualified leadership, or the inability to follow through. This can lead to your project being viewed as a lower priority or the awarding of a smaller gift or grant. Bottom line: your campaign begins long before it is public news.



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PICS OF THE WEEK

Highlights from the Saginaw Pan-Hellenic Council's annual summer All-Greek gathering at Mission in the City Park on Aug. 29, 2026.





Nathan Hankerson
Senior majoring in
Pre-Medicine/Biology

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