



March/April 2025

# CASTLE COURIER



The Artifact | *I Am a Man* Exhibit | Kraslice Events | Annual Meeting



# A Very Saginaw Interpretation of an Italian Luxury Liner

**It was his leadership in Boy Scouting that earned him his nickname "Dad."**

But it was with his model boats that Mr. Griffin gained his greatest renown. Since 1914, when he first turned to the use of sheet metal as a medium for the outlet of his skill, some 25 models were completed.

They represent hundreds of hours of painstaking exactness, research and study, for 'Dad' was thorough. His models were built to scale, correct to the most minute detail. (*The Saginaw News*, July 25, 1936.)

While we do not have a complete list of the models he made, newspaper articles indicate Griffin fabricated a model of the U.S.S. *Constitution*---he took it to schools and shared it with students. He made a model of the American Red Cross ship which he presented to Lottie Lee Greve, secretary of the local chapter. Although he would at times give his models to individuals or organizations, they were not for sale. Other known models included an American destroyer for the Naval Reserves parlor in the Armory and models of Columbus' ships that were featured as decorations at a 1936 meeting of the Professional Women's Association held at the Michigan Country Club.

At this point, we don't know the exact history of the Castle Museum's sculpture of the S.S. *Rex*. It is signed and dated 1935. According to the history we received with the donation, it was displayed for a time in an unidentified Bay City restaurant, which is where it acquired a display base that recounts both Frank Griffin's achievements and the story of the *Rex*. When he passed away, the *News* noted:

**In 'Dad' Griffin's Sheet metal shop at 307 ½ Tuscola street, in the midst of metal scraps and tinsmith's tools, there rests a partially completed model of the steam yacht, Capitola.**

It can never be completed now. 'Dad Griffin is dead.' (*The Saginaw News*, July 25, 1936.)

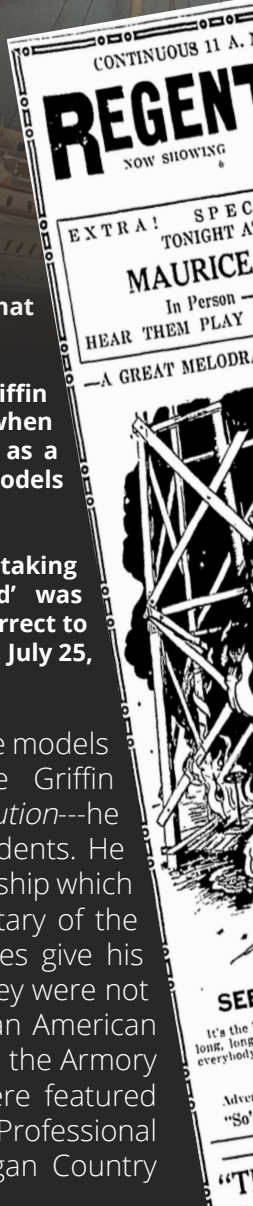
Pictures of Miniature Ships  
built by  
**FRANK G. GRIFFIN**  
are being shown Tuesday,  
Wednesday and Thursday in  
the Fox News Reel at the  
**REGENT THEATER**

Griffin was born in Niles, Michigan in 1863. He and his parents came to Saginaw in 1866. According to his obituary, he received his education at early East Saginaw Schools – the Academy, Emerson, and Germania. As a young man, he was a seaman on the Great Lakes and, for a time, worked in “Michigan’s woods” – we interpret that to mean he worked in logging. He continued his training in sheet metal work through the International Correspondence Schools. A January 24, 1904, *Saginaw Evening News* advertisement for the school includes his testimonial:

**'I owe my success to it.' Frank Griffin, Prop. Valley Tin and Sheet Metal Works.**

Griffin was also a member of the Michigan National Guard and served during World War I. In addition to developing his business, Griffin devoted his time to forming a drum and bugle corps that practiced in his shop on Federal Avenue. His obituary notes:

[B]oys made his shop their headquarters and the roll of drums and blare of bugles echoed nightly from the building.







\* View the *Fox News* reel featuring Frank Griffin's miniature ships by scanning this code.

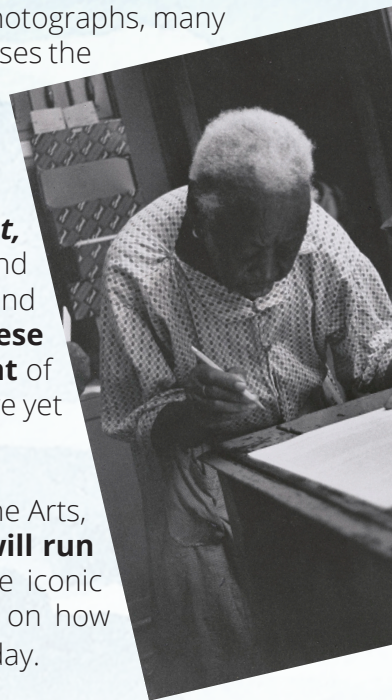
*If you have additional information about Frank Griffin, the previous restaurant location of this sculpture, or know about the whereabouts of additional examples of his work, please contact Tom Trombley at [ttrombley@castlemuseum.org](mailto:ttrombley@castlemuseum.org) or 989-752-2861 ext. 304.*

## I AM A MAN EXHIBIT

Coming to Centennial Hall this April, the Castle Museum is excited to host the traveling exhibit, *I Am A Man*. This poignant exhibit of over 40 photographs, many never seen before, of the American Civil Rights Movement showcases the decade from 1960-1970 as seen through the eyes of amateur photographers, local photojournalists, and internationally known photographers.

*I Am A Man: Photographs of the Civil Rights Movement, 1960-1970* was inspired by Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the thousands of courageous people who risked their lives to end segregation. **Often taken during dangerous situations, these photos take the viewer back to a pivotal historical moment of change in the United States—and also reminds us how far we have yet to come.**

Brought to the museum in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, Exhibits USA, and the Mid-America Arts Alliance, *I Am A Man* will run **from April 6-May 25, 2025**. Guests are invited to view these iconic images that demarcate this special body of work and reflect on how these photographs and their message still remains relevant today.



# EVENTS

## AT THE CASTLE

March & April 2025

### MARCH 11

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

Christiana Malacara, host of *That's What She Said!*

### MARCH 13

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

10:30 AM

Sports Hall of Fame: Baseball Fun

KRASLICE WORKSHOP

6 PM

\$5/PERSON, RSVP REQUIRED

### MARCH 17-20

KRASLICE WORKSHOPS

11 AM (AND 6 PM 3/20)

\$5/PERSON PER SESSION, RSVP REQUIRED

### MARCH 18

PAGES OF HISTORY BOOK CLUB\*

12:00 PM

*The Michigan Murders* by Edward Keyes

### MARCH 25

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

Christopher Nakamura from SVSU, History of Lasers

### MARCH 26

HANDS ON HISTORY

11 AM-1 PM

Clothing Reproductions

### MARCH 31

NATIVE AMERICAN OBJECTS

2-4 PM

Archaeology & Curation Round Table in Partnership with Delta College (Open to All)

### APRIL 3-6

COLORFUL TRADITIONS

Times Vary

Free Heritage Craft Demonstrations

### APRIL 5

HSSC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

11 AM-1:30 PM

Free for All Castle Guard Members

### APRIL 6

*I AM A MAN*

Exhibit Opens in Centennial Hall

### APRIL 8

PAGES OF HISTORY BOOK CLUB\*

12:00 PM

*Enough to Lose* by R.S. Deeren

### APRIL 10

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

10:30 AM

Post Office: Send a Hug

### APRIL 12

HANDS ON HISTORY

11 AM-1 PM

Sports

### APRIL 15

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

*Beethoven v. Mozart* and Saginaw's Music Scene, a Collaboration with the Choral Society

### APRIL 17

HISTORY AFTER HOURS

5:30 PM

*The D.H. Burnham & Co. 1919 Plan for the City of Saginaw* with Chief Historian Tom Trombley

### APRIL 22

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

Friends of Roethke Poetry Month with Saginaw's Own, Theodore Roethke

### APRIL 24

SCSHoF PRESS CONFERENCE

5 PM (Drinks) 6 PM (Announcements)

*\*In collaboration with Hoyt Library*





# PROGRAMS



## ANNUAL MEETING



2024  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
*Uniting Saginaw*

**11AM**  
04.05.25



**SOCIALIZING, HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES, DRINKS & OUR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING!**

**FREE FOR ALL CASTLE GUARD MEMBERS**

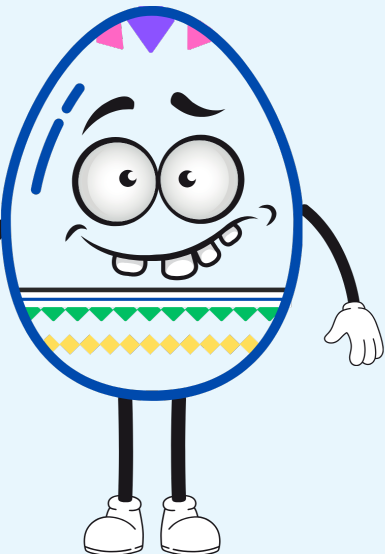
## KRASLICE MAKE & TAKE

**MARCH 13 & 20 AT 6 P.M. OR  
MARCH 17-20 AT 11 A.M.**

**\$5/PERSON PER SESSION  
RSVP REQUIRED & SPACE IS LIMITED**

Once again this year, the Castle Museum and Chief Curator Sandy Schwan will be offering our locally famous Kraslice Workshops! This Czech-style of Easter egg decorating utilizes hot wax and dyes to create elaborate designs on regular white chicken eggs. Join us for a session to learn this handmade craft and create your own work of art.

**To register or for more information, please contact Sandy at  
989-752-2861 ext. 309 or [sschwan@castlemuseum.org](mailto:sschwan@castlemuseum.org)**



# Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame

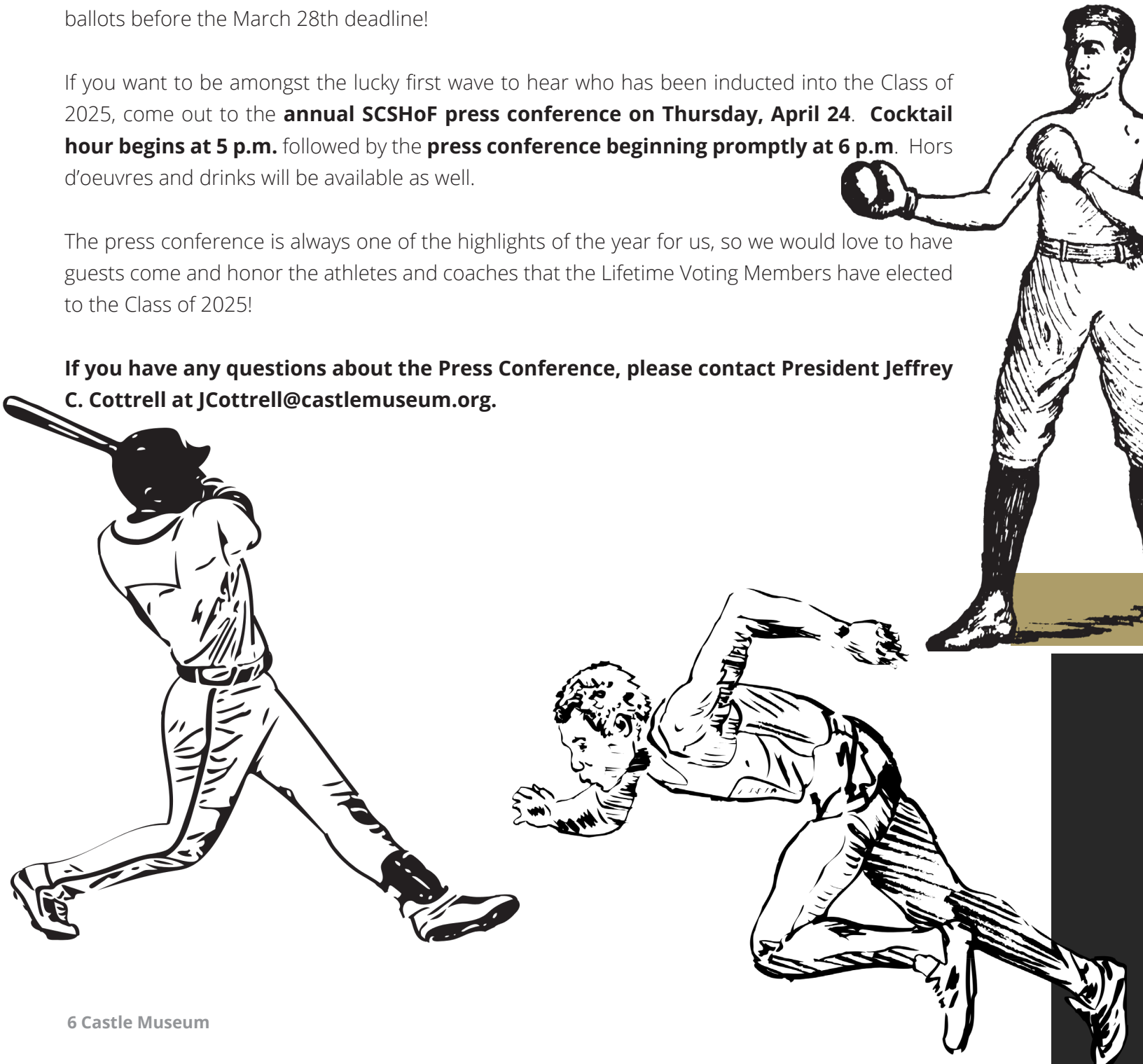


Our ballots have been mailed and should have been received by voters by now. Please return ballots before the March 28th deadline!

If you want to be amongst the lucky first wave to hear who has been inducted into the Class of 2025, come out to the **annual SCSHoF press conference on Thursday, April 24. Cocktail hour begins at 5 p.m.** followed by the **press conference beginning promptly at 6 p.m.** Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be available as well.

The press conference is always one of the highlights of the year for us, so we would love to have guests come and honor the athletes and coaches that the Lifetime Voting Members have elected to the Class of 2025!

**If you have any questions about the Press Conference, please contact President Jeffrey C. Cottrell at [JCottrell@castlemuseum.org](mailto:JCottrell@castlemuseum.org).**



# NEW Free Heritage Craft Demonstrations

## COLORFUL TRADITIONS: BRINGING CZECH EASTER EGGS TO LIFE

Come and see Chief Curator Sandy Schwan demonstrate the Czech style of Easter egg decorating (*Kraslice*) at the Castle Museum.

Watch as she transforms plain white chicken eggs into colorful holiday decorations before your very eyes with this unique heritage craft.

Demonstrations are FREE to watch and will take place on the following dates:

April

3rd (4:30 pm - 6:30 pm)

4th (1 pm - 4 pm)

5th (11 am-4 pm)

6th (1:30 pm - 4 pm)

## Gifts & Memorials

### Memorial in honor of Roger Reynolds

Sally Boersma  
Roger Borchard  
Saginaw Valley Antique Society

### Memorial in honor of Rita Fortin

Jackie Willman

### Memorial in honor of Bob & Dick Stroebe

Cynthia Stroebe

### Gift in honor of the Castle Staff

Sylvia Reimus

### Gift to Support the Collection

Katharine Almirall

### Other Gifts:

June Anderson  
Kelly Bailey  
Raymond Barteis  
Tom Bear  
Sasra Bigley  
Kenneth Bow  
Janes Bowns  
Wendy Braman  
Marie Buetow  
Paul Chaffee  
Carolyn Cody  
Louis Constan  
Harold Day

Jennifer Egbert  
Patricia Evans  
Judith Farley  
Pam Grueber  
Jacqueline Hall  
Paula Holevac  
Margaret Hyde  
Floyd Kloc  
Catherine Konn  
Tom Lawler  
Marilyn Ludgin  
Sharon Maddox  
Catherine Madigan  
Meredith Main

Betty Marx  
Ray McInerney  
Phyllis Meek  
Tom Mudd  
Rose Nikodemus  
Sue Pumford  
Bethany Reindel  
Gary Rummel  
Nancy Schoenow  
Jim Slick  
Sherill Smith  
Star Milling  
Jack Tany  
Beth & Al Thieme  
Charles Tobias  
Larry Toft  
Thomas Weadock

Scott Haines  
John Ogram  
George Gugino  
Terence O'Neill  
Judith Wilson  
Karen Zehnder  
Star of the West  
Milling  
The Mayan Agency





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Non-Profit  
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Permit No. 52  
Saginaw, MI



## CASTLE TEST KITCHEN

For the discerning historical palette, the Castle Museum staff, masquerading as the **Castle Test Kitchen**, offers a **weekly blog post** on our website, featuring the preparation of a historic recipe from Saginaw County's former fine dining establishments, soda fountains, dives, bars, quaint kitchens and dining rooms of the rich. Paired with a history of the establishment, person, object or place, our historic recipe blog is one history buffs and foodies alike will not want to miss.

Often humorous and sometimes filled with the unfortunate kitchen mishaps of the Test Kitchen staff, the blog is always informative and offers a unique bite of easily digestible local history each week, which is bound to leave our readers hungry for more. **Check it out at [castlemuseum.org](http://castlemuseum.org) each Sunday or by following our social channels.**



The Castle Museum is supported in part by awards from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council & the National Endowment for the Arts.