

July/August 2024

CASTLE COURIER



The Artifact | *Saginaw "United" Schools Exhibit* | SCSHoF Class of 2024

The Artifact

The Many Stories of a Ceramic Eagle

Featured in the Castle Museum's exhibit exploring the life and achievements of Saginaw's first woman City Council Member, Audra Francis, this small statue of an eagle started life as a rather ordinary piece of commercially produced greenware - the type finished and decorated at ceramic studios. However, Audra Francis transformed it into something quite extraordinary, a piece uniquely bridging Saginaw events and lives.

Francis' skill at communicating and connecting with people made her a natural leader - and a great fundraiser. She was a leader in Saginaw's United Fund, known today as the United Way. *The Saginaw News* quoted her: "...my greatest hobby is making friends by being one." One of her tools - her trademark, even - was creating small tokens to commemorate shared events and commitments. These small tokens were personal, heartfelt creations. Often, she created a series of nearly identical items. However, her 1969 creation for William T. Kessell of the William C. Wiechmann Company is unique. This ceramic eagle possesses such a strong narrative quality that it became a miniature museum of that year's United Fund campaign theme and the story of Wiechmann's store. It is one of the finest examples of Francis' work.

The 1969 United Fund campaign was the 50th anniversary of - as *The Saginaw News* put it - the "united way of giving in Saginaw County." The William C. Wiechmann Company's commitment was up thirty-five percent over 1968. Francis was the chair of the sponsors committee and at a campaign luncheon on October 20, she "gave a historical account of events taking place 50 years ago today." The tiny paintings on the statue's plinth connect the viewer with these stories - and more.

On the front is a 1969 exterior view of the retailer's South Jefferson Avenue store and on the reverse is the exterior view of the business in 1919. On one of the sides is a depiction of the firm's first floor sales space. The miniatures Francis painted are detailed and precise - so precise, in fact, that they capture details of a recently completed remodeling. A project

completed just as the 1969 United Fund campaign was underway. The firm advertised:

We proudly present to you a new Wiechmann's of extraordinary beauty and convenience, bringing to you a new and gracious kind of shopping experience. We have been working on this remodeling project for more than a year. We presented you with a completely new front including new display window ... Now you will see a rearranged, carpeted and enlarged main floor that will appeal to your imagination and delight your taste. All made uniquely pleasant and rewarding by the warm friendliness of Wiechmann people who will serve you with courtesy and skill. Come see us. *The Saginaw News*, October 26, 1969.



In her illustration, she captures newly created ornamentation on the parapet surrounding the mezzanine and a recently installed mammoth brass chandelier. The carefully lettered text testifies to the commitment of the family-owned firm.



To learn more about Audra Francis' accomplishments, this QR code will take you to her biography on the *Saginaw Hall of Fame* website.

When the Saginaw Hall of Fame was founded in 1964, Audra Francis was – as she was so many times- the only woman member of the organization's board. She was elected to the Saginaw County Hall of Fame in 1991.

2024 nominations for the Saginaw Hall of Fame are open until July 31. Applications and information are available on the organization's website.

And – borrowing from the 1969 Wiechmann's advertisement, "Come See Us" at the Castle Museum and view exhibits focusing on Audra Francis and her fellow City Council Member and Saginaw Hall of Fame member Mayor Henry Marsh - and much more.



Saginaw "United" Schools

With a planned opening date of August 5, the West Gallery of the museum will be transformed into an historic retrospective on Saginaw's schools with a new exhibit, *Saginaw "United" Schools*.

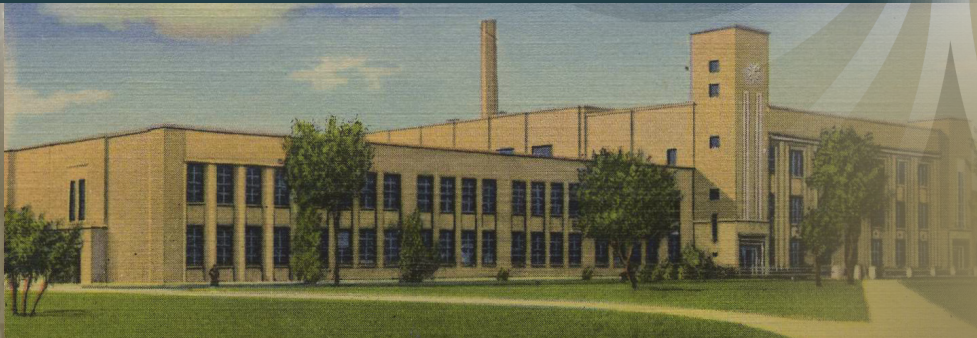
The exhibit will trace the history of Saginaw High and Arthur Hill Schools, beginning before they even carried those names. It will focus on the development of the schools and how they were shaped by, and reflect, a community that was two separate cities until they consolidated in 1890. Even after the consolidation, Saginaw had two separate school districts until 1926.

While the exhibit will focus on the buildings that housed the two schools and the new building being constructed for Saginaw United, the single high school that will serve Saginaw, it will also tell the stories of the entities that operated in them, their development, facilities and staff.

The story will be told using the unique collection of artifacts preserved by Saginaw Public Schools and now part of the museum's collection.



Arthur Hill High School. Front Cover: East Side High School.



EVENTS

AT THE CASTLE

July & August 2024

JULY 9

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

Amy Piper, Author of *Secret Michigan: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure*

*Books Available for Purchase & Signing

JULY 10

STEM STAYCATION DAY

10 A.M.-4:30 P.M.

Free Admission, Scavenger Hunt & More

JULY 11

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

11 AM

Bubble Fun

JULY 16

PAGES OF HISTORY BOOK CLUB*

12:00 PM

Satisfaction Guaranteed: How Zingerman's Built a Corner Deli into a Global Food Community by Micheline Maynard

JULY 17

MIDWEEK MATINEE

1 PM-2:30 PM

Sailing Into the Past: Travels Aboard El Galeon Andalusia and the Tall Ship Celebration,
Delta Public Media

JULY 18

HISTORY AFTER HOURS

5:30 PM

"Frankenmuth Brewing History" with Jonathan Webb

JULY 23

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

David Vizard, Author of *Murder for Treasure: Booty is in the Eye of the Beholder*, a Michigan-based novel

*Books Available for Purchase & Signing

JULY 30-AUGUST 3

SAGINAW COUNTY FAIR

Stop by & Check out the Castle Museum booth

AUGUST 7

LUNCHTIME WALKING TOUR at SVRC LOBBY

11:30 AM

After the Lumber Boom

AUGUST 8

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

11 AM

Wonderful Water

AUGUST 13

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

Tom Trombley, Katherine Ellison & Jennifer Vannette
"Backyard BBQ: The Castle Test Kitchen & Doyle
Hamburger History"

AUGUST 14

LUNCHTIME WALKING TOUR at SVRC LOBBY

11:30 AM

The View from the Riverbank

AUGUST 15

HISTORY AFTER HOURS

5:30 PM

"Martinis and Marks: Cold War Espionage" with
Dr. Katherine Ellison

AUGUST 17

PANEL DISCUSSION**

"Personal Memories, Shared Past: Stories from Japanese-American Incarceration during WWII"

11 AM-12:30 PM

AUGUST 20

PAGES OF HISTORY BOOK CLUB*

12:00 PM

The Best Part of Us: A Novel by Sally Cole-Misch

AUGUST 21

MIDWEEK MATINEE

1 PM-2:30 PM

Restored to Glory: Classic Automobiles, Collectors & Their Stories, Delta Public Media

AUGUST 27

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

Alex Mixter, "Historic House Preservation"



FOR OUR FULL
LIST OF SUMMER
FUN CHILDREN'S
PROGRAMMING,
VISIT US ONLINE:



*In collaboration with Hoyt Library

**In collaboration with the Japanese Cultural Center

PROGRAMS

WALKING TOURS

ON THE RIVERFRONT:

Explore Downtown Saginaw's Relation to the River

After the Lumber Boom

Wednesday, August 7

11:30 a.m.

Saginaw's Riverfront Commission has recently installed pictorial markers denoting mill locations on the Riverwalk. This tour will use the markers to explore the story of Saginaw's riverfront and the transition after the lumber boom.

The View from the Riverbank

Wednesday, August 14

11:30 a.m.

Walking northward from the SVRC Marketplace, this tour will look at clues to how the river shaped the City and how Saginaw reshaped the Saginaw River.

Both tours begin and end in the historic lobby of the SVRC Marketplace. Each tour lasts approximately 1 hour and is about 3/4 mile in distance on sidewalks. Please wear comfortable walking shoes. Not all areas covered in the tour have fully accessible curb cut.

No pre-registration required! For information, please contact Tom Trombley at 989-752-2861 ext. 304 or ttrombley@castlemuseum.org

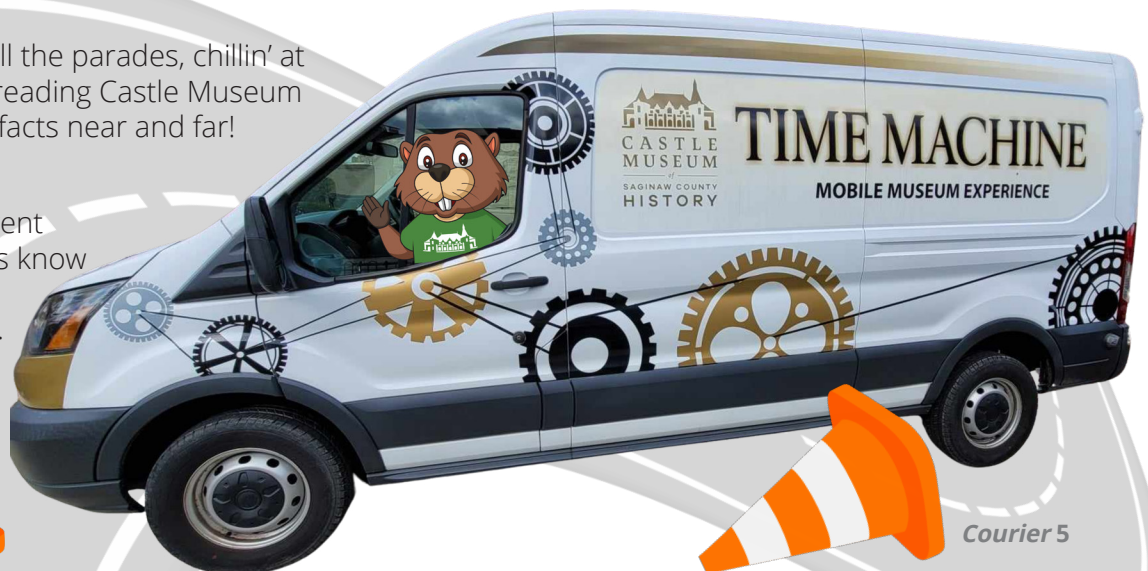
ON LOCATION

FIND OUR TIME MACHINE IN THE COMMUNITY THIS SUMMER!

Look for our friendly Castle Crew out and about this summer at local events and various locations around Saginaw County in our Time Machine.

Our staff will be cruising in all the parades, chillin' at all the music events, and spreading Castle Museum information and fun history facts near and far!

If your community has an event where we could setup--let us know by emailing kfurtaw@castlemuseum.org.



Courier 5

Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame

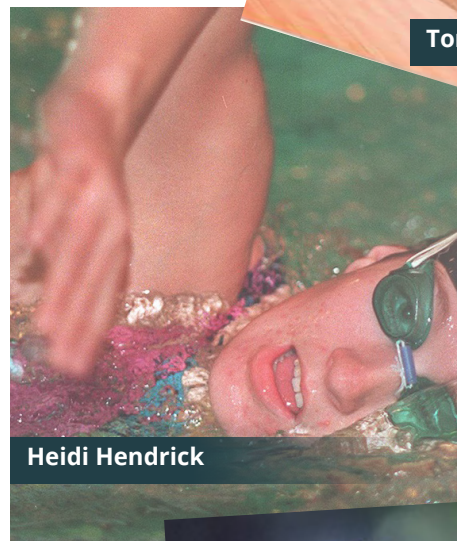
The Class of 2024



The Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame is excited to announce who the Lifetime Voting Members have elected into the Class of 2024! The ballot this year was built a bit differently; there were categories for different sports instead of the usual categories. As a result, this year, voters chose people from hockey, golf, tennis, and bowling in addition to the normal male/female athletes and team. This change generated excitement and allowed the focus to shift to some Olympic sports and not just the big revenue ones.

The Class of 2024 is a vibrant one and the voting was remarkably close in several categories.

In the female athlete category, the electors chose Nouvel/Texas/Notre Dame swimmer Heidi Hendrick. Hendrick was a multi-sport athlete at Nouvel from 1996-1999, with swimming being her dominant sport. In 1998 she was named Michigan Class B-C-D Swimmer of the Year. She went on to swim at Texas and Notre Dame, later transitioning to a pentathlete and competing on Team USA in 2022 and 2023.

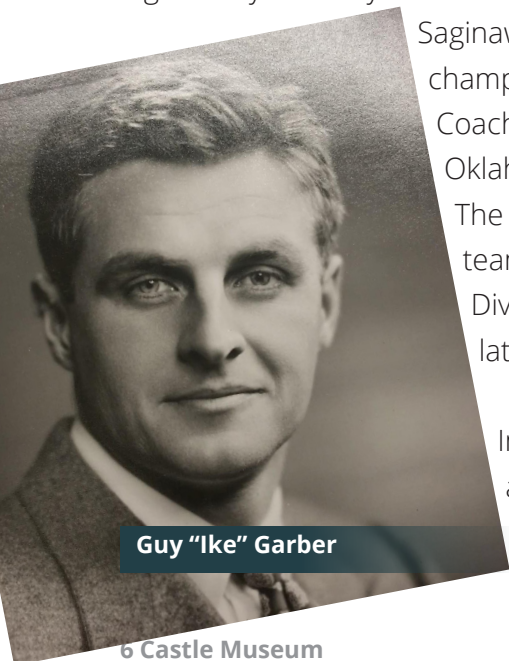


Heidi Hendrick

The male athlete elected was basketball player Lou Dawkins from Saginaw High and Tulsa. From 1986-1989, Dawkins scored more than 1000 points for Saginaw High's boys varsity basketball team. After playing collegially at Tulsa, Dawkins returned to Saginaw High to coach the boy's team for seven seasons, including state championships in 2007 and 2008. In 2007 he was honored as National Coach of the Year. He currently coaches at Muskogee High School in Oklahoma.

The team selected was Freeland High School state champion softball teams from both 2003 and 2005. In 2003, Freeland claimed the Division 3 state title with a 1-0 win over Niles Brandywine. Two years later, Freeland beat Riverview, 4-0, for the state title.

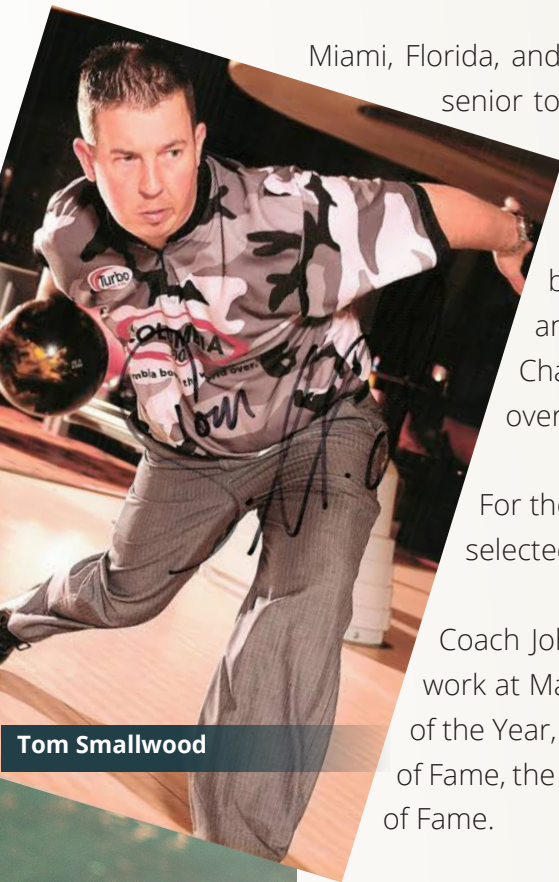
In the tennis category, Guy "Ike" Garber was picked for his achievements in the 1930's and early 1940's. Playing for both Cranbrook Prep School and later Arthur Hill, Garber won two MHSAA Class A singles state titles. He went on to play at the University of



Guy "Ike" Garber



Nick Pumford



Tom Smallwood

Miami, Florida, and later won three Michigan State men's titles, along with men's junior and senior tournaments. Through his promotion of tennis he helped create the Garber tennis courts.

World Champion professional bowler Tom Smallwood was selected from the bowling category. A SVSU graduate, Smallwood won his PBA card in 2003 and his exemption in 2009. During the 2009 season, he won the PBA World Championship, which he won again in 2013 with the longest sudden death overtime in PBA history.

For the hockey category, the 1980-81 Saginaw Gears Turner Cup Champions were selected.

Coach John Musulin was picked to represent the swim category this year for all his work at MacArthur and Heritage. Musulin has been honored as Saginaw Valley Coach of the Year, Regional Coach of the Year, as an inductee into the Monroe High School Hall of Fame, the Michigan Swim Coaches Hall of Fame and the Saginaw County Swimming Hall of Fame.



Finally, electors chose to honor St. Charles' Nick Pumford in the golf category. Pumford earned all state honors from 2003-2005, finishing second in Michigan in 2004 and 2005. He went on to golf at the University of Michigan, earning the Big Ten Sportsmanship Award. Pumford went on to play professionally before beginning a successful coaching career. He currently coaches at Oakland University.

In Saginaw County there is an "embarrassment of riches" when it comes to success on the field or court—this was one fun way to honor and remember what our residents have done in the field of competition. While some have risen to the highest levels, all are worthy of their election into the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame.



John Musulin



ord

Gifts & Memorials

Memorial in honor of Marlene Hensler

Jackie Willman
Jonathan Gardey
Saginaw Valley Antique Society

Memorial in honor of Mary Case

John & Marty Mahar

Memorial in honor of Jean Marie Pendell

Patricia Williams





500 Federal Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-752-2861
CastleMuseum.org
@TheCastleMuseum



Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 52
Saginaw, MI

The Castle Cocktail Lounge is **OPEN**



This summer, join us online as we transform the famous Castle Test Kitchen into the Castle Cocktail Lounge on our blog.

This year's Castle Cocktail Lounge will be exploring the historic watering holes of Saginaw's Old Town while partaking in some local cocktail favorites along the way. You won't want to miss these fun history and mixology posts!

Find our blog posts every Sunday morning on social media or anytime on our website at castlemuseum.org



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