



Money matters

*An in-depth look at CMU's
budget process and priorities*



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Anspach/Pearce	:45	:15	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Ronan/Grawn	:47	:17	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Main St./Gaylord	:48	:18	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
MMC/DOAN CENTER			UPON REQUEST
Washington/Clayton	:05	:35	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Larzalere	:06	:36	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Wightman	:07	:37	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Park Library	:08	:38	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Music Bldg. - Lot#33	:12	:42	EVERY 1/2 HOUR

GOLD

SAC/McGuirk	:13	:43	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Stadium Mall			UPON REQUEST
TJ Maxx			UPON REQUEST
Walmart			UPON REQUEST
Copper Beech	:26	:56	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
The Reserve	:28	:58	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Jamestown	:30	:00	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Yorkshire Commons	:33	:03	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Music Bldg. - Lot#33	:42	:12	EVERY 1/2 HOUR

DEERFIELD

TOWERS @7/11	:15	:45	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Deming Edgewood	:16	:46	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Westpoint Village	:18	:48	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Deerfield Village	:20	:50	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Lexington Ridge	:25	:55	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Theunissen Stadium Lot#70	:27	:57	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Commuter Lot #75	:29	:59	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
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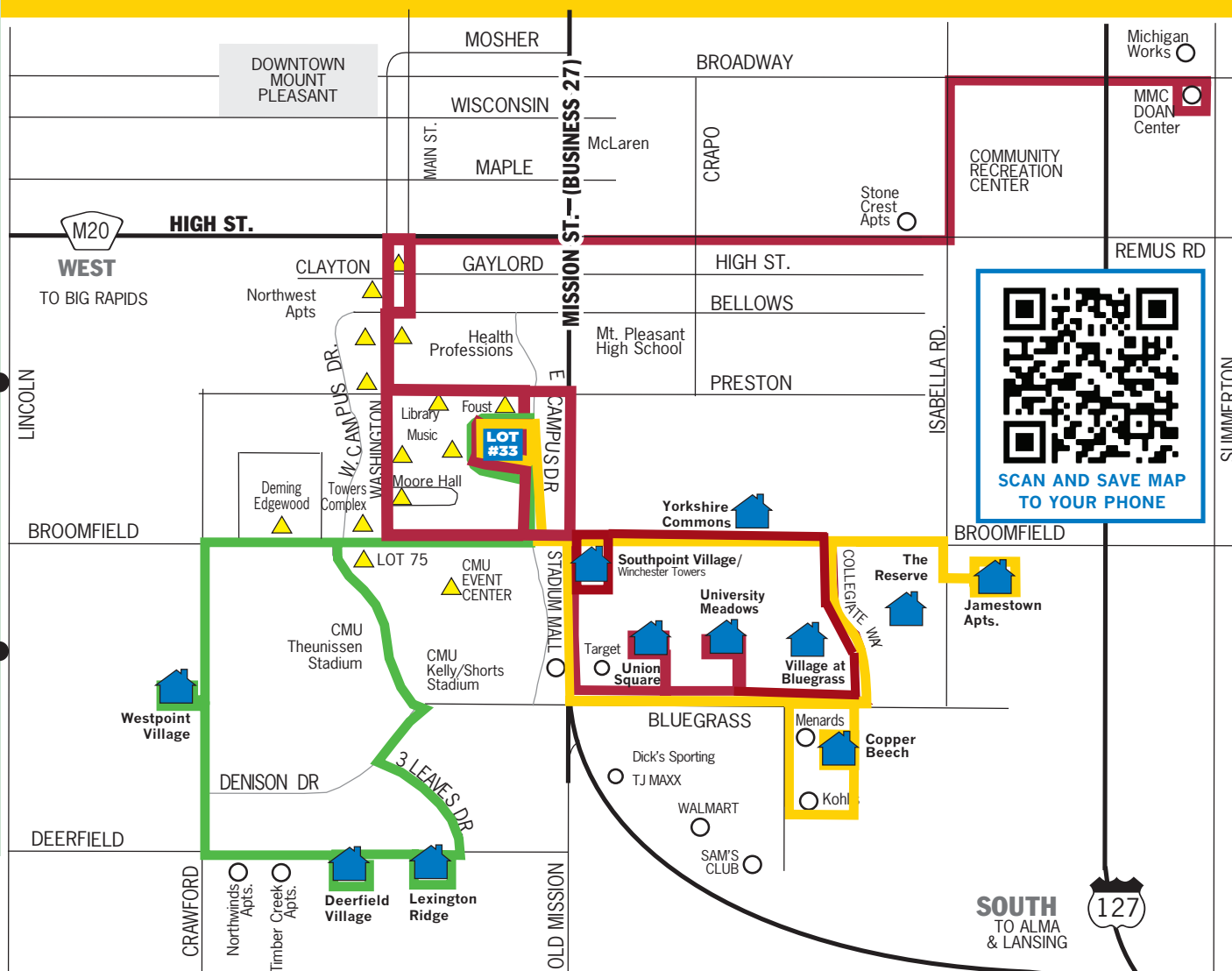
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A note from the editor-in-chief



By **Lauren Rice**
Editor-in-chief

When I came back from winter break, I found myself bracing for a brave new world. So much is in flux, from new classes to a not-so-new President of the United States.

For a reason I can't pinpoint, I thought I would emerge from hibernation to find a somber, dark place.

Instead, I'm writing this in a lively office. People I know and love mill about, working on passion projects and collaborating to bring you the news of the day.

Beyond the office, I can't help but see the reunions. Friends find each other in the hallway for the first time this semester, professors get students in their classes for the third or fourth time and the campus once again hums with activity.

Seeing this for the past few days has not just given me a renewed sense of hope, but showed, once again, that not all change is bad.

I won't lie to you, there is an undercurrent of urgency — a recognition that we still have work to do. That work comes not just from classes, but our responsibility to the societies in which we live to make them better places to inhabit.

If you know me personally, you've probably heard me say the

phrase "two things can be true at once." It holds here.

The world can be changing and developing in scary or overwhelming ways. We can, at the same time, love the communities to which we belong.

My advice to you, as we brave this new world together, is to walk with someone's hand in yours.

As former President Jimmy Carter was quoted: "The bond of our common humanity is stronger than the divisiveness of our fears and prejudices."

So find your humanity, find your community. When the world feels like it may be falling from under your feet, let your love and conviction guide you back to solid ground.

Lauren Rice is Central Michigan Life's 2024-25 editor-in-chief.

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Central Michigan Life, the independent voice of Central Michigan University, is edited and published by students of Central Michigan University the second Thursday of the month during the fall and spring semesters. The newspaper's online edition, cm-life.com, contains all of the material published in print, and is updated on an as-needed basis.

Central Michigan Life serves the CMU and Mount Pleasant communities, and is under the jurisdiction of the independent Student Media Board of Directors. Regan Foster serves as Director of Student Media at CMU and is the adviser to the newspaper. Articles and opinions do not necessarily reflect the position or opinions of Central Michigan University. Central Michigan Life is a member of the Associated Press, the Michigan Press Association, the Michigan Collegiate Press Association, the Associated Collegiate Press, College Newspaper Business & Advertising Managers Association, the Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce, Central Michigan Home Builders Association, Mount Pleasant Housing Association and the Mount Pleasant Downtown Business Association. The newspaper's online provider is SN Works.

Central Michigan Life is distributed throughout the campus and at numerous locations throughout Mount Pleasant. Non-university subscriptions are \$75 per academic year. Back copies are available at 50 cents per copy, or \$1 if mailed. Photocopies of stories are 25 cents each. Digital copies of photographs published in Central Michigan Life are available upon request at specified costs.

Central Michigan Life's editorial and business offices are located at 436 Moore Hall, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859, telephone (989) 774-3493 or 774-LIFE.

On the cover: CM Life Photo illustration | Jo Kenoshmeg and Ella Miller

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Making "cents" of it all

The Central Michigan University operating budget might seem hard to digest. We talked with university officials to make sense of it all.



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Do you know where your building's power comes from? It could be the "Power House," the Central Energy Facility right here on campus.



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From the top

Resident film reviewer Carter Salley takes a look back at 2024 and the movies that made it great. His top five list might surprise.



ONLINE



Paying homage

The death of former President James Carter put the nation in mourning. These photos show a closer view of his funeral procession in Washington D.C.

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NEWS

By the numbers

Central Michigan University operates under the guidance and priorities laid out in its \$443.3 million 2024-25 budget. Here is a quick look at some of the revenue and spending priorities.

\$441.5 million

Total projected revenues

\$221.7 million

In revenues from student tuition

\$97.6 million

In revenues from state appropriations

\$443.3 million

Total projected expenses

\$257.3 million

For faculty and staff salaries, benefits and other compensation

\$11 million

In service of existing debts



CM Life photo | Soli Gordon

Warriner Hall is home to the Central Michigan University administrative offices. It is here that the university's \$443.3 million budget is prioritized and managed throughout the year.

Dollars and sense

Central Michigan University's operations are largely funded by student tuition; here's where your money goes

By Masha Smahliuk and Grace Walker
Managing editor and staff reporter

Central Michigan University is projected to spend \$443 million in total by June 30, the end of the fiscal year. Some of that is funded by student tuition, housing and fees. CMU's total budgeted revenue is about \$441 million in 2024-25.

The consolidated operating budget includes \$1.7 million transferred from the general fund to make up the difference.

But once students have paid their tuition, where do their dollars go?

What is in CMU's budget?

Many students on campus are unaware of what they're paying

for. Freshman Noah Derwick said that he was unsure where his tuition money goes, but gave an educated guess.

"Probably teachers' salaries and other faculty," Derwick said, "(Or) trying to make the campus and other things like that better."

Joe Garrison, the University budget officer, said the CMU's budget is comprised of a number of smaller budgets.

Garrison said that the Operating Budget includes a general fund budget. GFB covers "education, research and public service" and receives its revenue from student tuition, which means CMU students' money goes mostly to professional salaries and educational services.

Garrison said there is also an auxiliary budget, or a non-general fund budget, which includes housing, food, parking services, athletics, WCMU and others. These offices make their own revenue.

Meanwhile, state funding helps pay for the infrastructure of the institution, utilities and debt on some buildings constructed using loans, such as Biosciences. Garrison said state appropriations also help fund some colleges.

“That helps in actually lessening the overall cost of tuition, because if we didn’t have state funding, tuition would likely need to be much higher, and we would be a private institution, but we’re not,” Garrison said. “We’re a public institution, and we appreciate getting support from the state.”

According to the Operating Budget 2024-25, CMU received \$97,695,600 in state funding.

How much student tuition does CMU receive?

CMU’s undergraduate lower-level student tuition is \$14,760 in 2024-25, according to Michigan Association of State Universities (MASU) report. It is \$16,200 for undergraduate upper-level students. This is tuition and fees for a resident student who takes 30 credit hours.

By comparison, Western Michigan University’s tuition rate is \$15,252 for lower-level classes, and \$16,722 for upper-level classes. Grand Valley State University’s tuition rate is \$15,140 for lower-level classes and \$15,864 for upper-level classes.

Before scholarships, CMU receives \$221,740,499 in student tuition, according to 2024-25 Operating Budget.

“The first key about tuition, though, that most students probably don’t think about because they’re thinking about the tuition rates, is not everybody pays that tuition rate,” Garrison said. “Students receive scholarships or receive need-based aid, and that means that the university won’t generate that amount of revenue in our budget.”

That means that in 2024-25, out of that \$221 million, about \$49 million will be given back to students in scholarships and financial aid, Garrison said. Those are the institutional scholarships in the general fund, but there are also about \$3.5 million in athletic tuition scholarships.

Some departments also have additional revenue sources, for example from endowments, that sponsor scholarships, but those are in a different fund, Garrison said.

In addition to tuition, CMU students pay \$225 service fee every semester. Garrison said this fee helps fund several services at CMU such as counseling and registrar’s office. Here is a breakdown of where student service fee goes, according to CMU’s website:

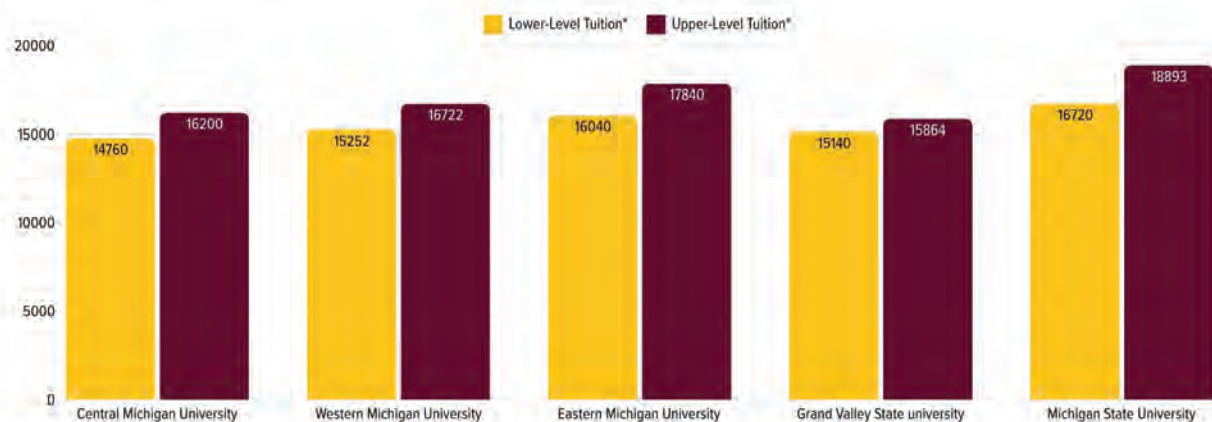
- 22% - Academic student services, such as the Registrar’s and Interpreter Services
- 19% - Counseling services
- 40% - Student services like the Career Development Center, Multicultural Academic Student Services and Sexual Aggression Services
- 17% - Student activities, some of them being the Mary Ellen Brandell Volunteer Center and Student Activities and Involvement
- 2% - Student communications

How does CMU increase tuition?

Returning students saw an increase in tuition costs this school year.

Michigan University Tuition Rates

Rate is for domestic undergraduate students for 30 credits in 2024-2025



*Tuition rates for undergraduates at CMU depend on the number of credit hours the student has completed. According to the CMU website, lower-level rates apply to students who have completed less than 56 credit hours. Upper level rates apply to those who have completed more than 56 credit hours.

Source: Michigan Association of State Universities Report | Graphic By: Brittany Stevens

CM Life infographic | Brittany Stevens

According to CMU budget, the undergraduate tuition rate has gone up by 4.67% since 2023-24. For domestic master’s students, the increase is 4.62% and by 4.49% for international. For domestic doctoral students, the increase is 4.31% and 3.85% for international.

International student Sairaj Kodagira is a student through the Master of Science in Information Systems (or the MSIS) program. Kodagira said that as an international student, the tuition increase has had little impact on him.

“(The tuition) has increased a little bit,” Kodagira said. “I mean, it is a little impact on us.”

Kudagira said that while the tuition increased, he doesn’t feel like he’s getting what he’s paying for.

“(Professors) give very basic knowledge and they were asking us to do a lot of things,” Kudagira said. “If I go with online courses ... no one will come to the online course. (Resources) are all recorded videos that will be posted.”

Garrison said the tuition in general can increase for several reasons.

“It’s not one single thing that raises the cost of tuition, but inflationary pressures are a big piece of it,” he said.

Another increase could happen to make up for the cost increase for compensation or benefits for faculty or staff, based on the new collective bargaining agreements, Garrison said. That means if a union of employees negotiates salary or benefits increase, tuition increases might follow students.

Healthcare services also play a major role in tuition increases, Garrison said.

“We’ve just seen such a significant amount of health care costs over the past few years,” he said. “In addition, we obviously invest in certain areas. If we add more advisors, or more counselors, or more of some other type of employees ... that adds on the cost side, even though the revenue is coming in to pay for it.

“The revenue side of the equation and the cost side of the equation need to balance out in the grand scheme of things.”

CMU has seen a precipitous 10 year decline in enrollment. When enrollment increases, it stabilizes the university, Garrison said. But while the increase in the overall number of students is good, the number of credits they take is the bigger question from a financial standpoint, he said.

For example, it is better for the university when a student takes 15 credits per semester than 12, Garrisons said.

Another important thing for enrollment, he said, is having attractive and market-competitive programs.

“Having certain programs that are new and actually very relevant and coming to market in a timely manner helps us with overall enrollment, too,” Garrison said. “When the College of Medicine first started, we actually saw an enrollment increase because we had that as an opportunity for someone.”

CMU publishes its Operating Budget each year on its website.

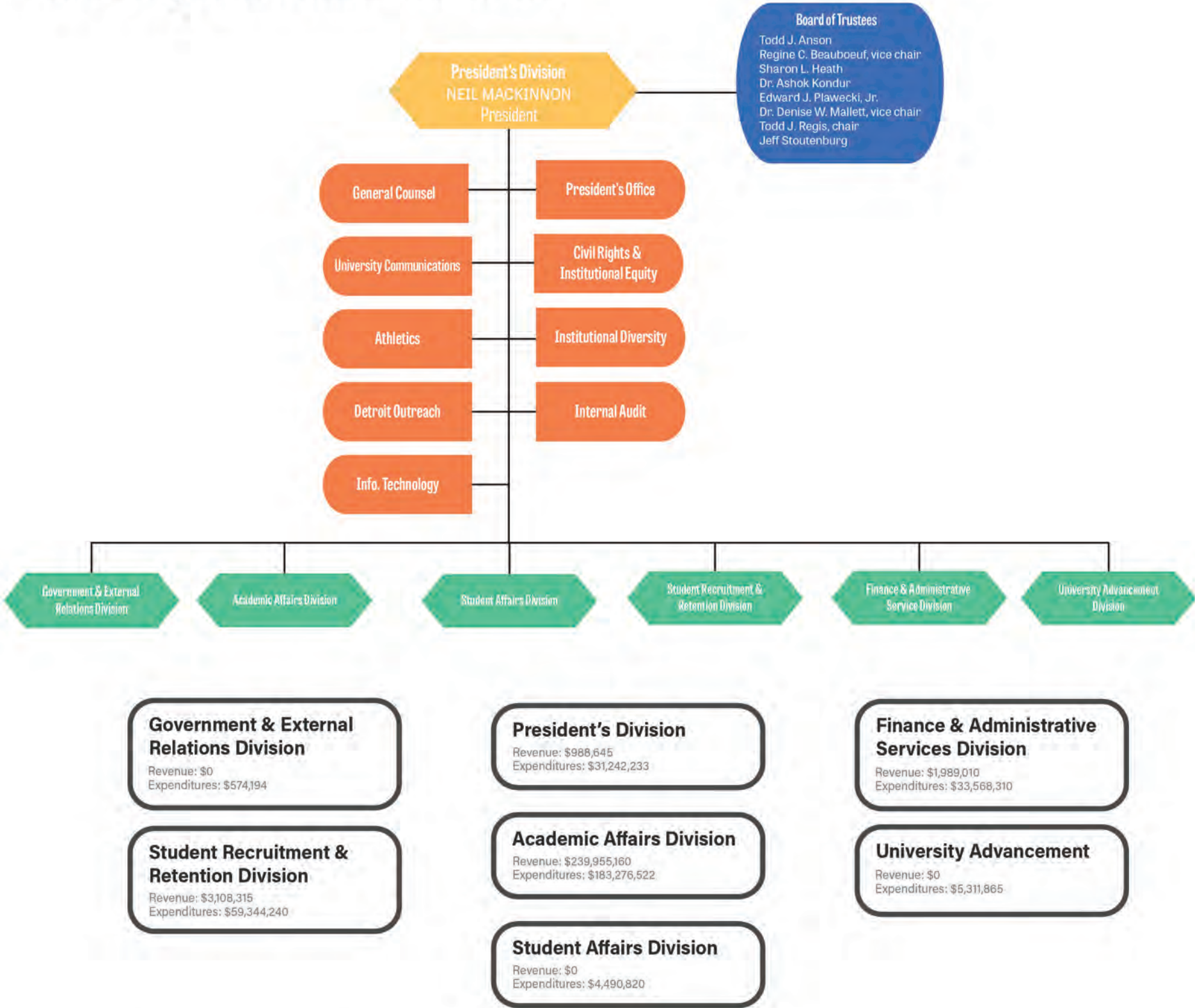
“We need to be accountable, and we are doing our best to be accountable,” Garrison said. “If you go out to our budget site, you’ll see this complete document. ...This is very transparent and lets people know where dollars are flowing.”

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CMU departments & finances



*Editor's Note: The official Central Michigan University organizational chart includes the offices, colleges, departments and more that fall within the represented divisions. The full chart can be found by searching on cmich.edu.

The price to park

CMU Parking Services generates more than \$2 million per year. Where does that money go?

By Lauren Rice and Masha Smahliuk
Editor-in-chief and Managing editor

Getting a parking ticket isn't something most people would describe as fun. But giving parking tickets is something that brought about \$375,000 to parking services last year, according to Central Michigan University Police Department Lieutenant Mike Sienkiewicz.

Central Michigan Life talked to students around campus and asked: Do you have a car, and if so, what is your experience with Parking Services?

For CMU junior Kailey Underwood, the cost of a parking permit is reasonable after transferring from the University of Tennessee. She didn't say the same about parking tickets.

"They're crazy about parking tickets here," Underwood said, and explained that she once got two in the same week.

Some students said the cost of a permit and a ticket are fair. Others said they didn't bring a car to campus because of the cost.

"Our goal is not to write parking tickets," Sienkiewicz said. "I think that's the message that we want students to know. We'd love to see compliance."

The total revenue for Parking Services is \$2,005,000, according to the CMU Operating Budget for 2024-25. Sienkiewicz said that is made up of parking permit sales, citations, parking tickets and meter revenue.

At the same time, Parking Services gives back about \$863,000 to the university to support different projects, such as the access control across campus buildings, and parking lot and road repairs, Sienkiewicz said.

He said the university looks at the prior year's revenue and expenses to create an annual operating budget.

"Parking Services isn't an independent entity," Sienkiewicz said. "We're part of the uni-

versity, just like any other department here on campus, and we don't make these decisions on our own. So any decisions that are made as far as parking rules, regulations, rates and such are all approved by the CMU Board of Trustees."

The rates for permits are decided based on market factors, such as prices at other colleges, Sienkiewicz said.

CMU's parking permit for students varies from \$165 to \$190 per year, depending on student standing and housing. It is \$200 a year for faculty and staff, according to CMU's website.

Sienkiewicz said these rates have gone up by \$15 in the 2023-24 academic year. He said it was also the first time in 20 years that the parking permit prices have been increased.

By comparison, the permit price at Western Michigan University is \$300 for an academic year. For Grand Valley State University, the student permit varies from \$210 to \$240 per semester.

Sienkiewicz said that Parking Services function by supply and demand.

"There has to be a system in place ... to avoid chaos, and so people can plan ahead to know where they are likely going to be able to find parking spaces," he said. "So it's really to help manage the capacity that we have, and there has to be some system to make it as fair as possible."

To manage the supply and demand, Sienkiewicz said, Parking Services enforce use of permits. There are over 8,000 people with permits on campus this semester, he said.

In total, parking services' expenses are about \$1.14 million, according to the CMU Operating Budget for 2024-25. Those go to staff salaries and benefits, supplies, equipment, vehicles and fuel, Sienkiewicz said.

Our goal is not to write parking tickets.

— CMU Police Lt. Mike Sienkiewicz



Mark Hoover | Staff photographer

Lot 32, located between Moore Hall and Woldt Hall, requires payment through the Pango app on Sunday, Nov. 25, on the CMU Campus.

Every penny counts

How the minimum wage increase impacts the service industry

By Mia Kerner
Staff reporter

The New Year brought with it two minimum wage increases in Michigan. While one would assume that pay raises will be a positive change, many members of the service industry are conflicted about their new hourly rate.

According to Michigan.gov, Michigan's minimum wage is scheduled to increase twice in 2025. On Jan. 1, the minimum wage increased from \$10.33 to \$10.56 per hour, while the tipped employee hourly pay rate was raised from \$3.93 to \$4.01 per hour.

On Feb. 21, the minimum wage will rise to \$12.48 and to \$5.99 for tipped employees, respectively.

The minimum wage will continue to increase over the next three years, and is predicted to hit \$14.97 and \$11.98 for tipped employees by 2028.

Beginning at that point in 2028, the state treasurer will annually increase the minimum wage, adjusted to the rate

of inflation. Tip credit, which allows restaurant operators to pay their staff less than the minimum wage if their tips equate to or surpass a certain amount, will also be eliminated at that time.

These increases are being enacted in accordance with the Michigan Supreme Court's amendment of 2018's Improved Workforce Opportunity Wage Act (IWOWA) that occurred in July of 2024.

The act has been a topic of controversy since its initial conception in 2018, invoking the fear of economic ramifications for employees and restaurant operators alike. Mount Pleasant servers said that the increasing minimum wage will not equate to their current earnings if the tip credit is eliminated, which allows them to make far beyond any allotted hourly wage.

A 2022 survey from the Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association reported that 91% of restaurant operators said they would increase menu prices if the tipped employee hourly pay rate were to reach \$11.75.

Another 58% of operators said they would be forced to lay off employees.

Organizations such as Save MI Tips, comprised of Michigan servers and bartenders, are actively protesting the IWOWA's 2025 amendment. According to its website, Save MI Tips is opposed to the implementation of a higher minimum wage and the elimination of tip credit out of concern for the loss of service workers' income and jobs.

How will the minimum wage increase impact the service industry?

The opinions on the minimum wage increase from those in the service industry greatly vary, yet it seems that they all have one thing in common: They want to keep their tips.

»»»»»»»»»»

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A server at Mount Pleasant restaurant The Cabin, Hailey Sheldrake said she does not see a paycheck after taxes are accounted for, due to how low the minimum wage is. She said that she is excited at the prospect of finally earning a paycheck, yet does not believe that her new wages will be enough to live off of if her tips are affected.

"I think that (the Michigan Supreme Court) should all spend a day in the serving industry," Sheldrake said. "I think it's really easy to come up with laws and rules if you don't really know firsthand what it's like."

Taylor Lyttle, a server at The Twisted Fork in Mount Pleasant, said that though she currently earns more than the minimum wage, she is looking forward to the increase benefitting others in the service industry.

"I'm excited," Lyttle said. "Just as long as we can keep our tips."

Though service industry workers such as Sheldrake and Lyttle are looking forward to the minimum wage increase — with some reservations — others doubt that the service industry will be able to adapt to the changes.

Jordan Lyder, a server at Buffalo Wild Wings, said that the minimum wage increase poses a real threat to the restaurant industry in particular.

"I think it's going to screw up everything that we have going on right now. People may not tip because

they think they don't have to because we're getting paid \$6 an hour, but that's not the case. Right now, I don't think I could make it on \$6 an hour."

How will the minimum wage increase impact CMU student employees?

Amy Thering, manager of Student Employment Services at Central Michigan University, said that the university will be increasing student wages in accordance with state law.

"It would affect every student employee that isn't making that wage already," Thering said. "The first increase is going up to \$10.56, so any student employee who is not making at least \$10.56 will automatically be bumped up to that amount."

However, the second minimum wage increase may look different than other businesses and institutions. Thering said that CMU has reason to believe that there is currently legislation in the works that may change either the hourly rate or effective date of the minimum wage increase on campus.

"We're asking departments to plan for that increase, knowing that something could change about it as well, so we're keeping a very close eye on that second (minimum wage increase)," she said.



Alivia Crewick | Staff photographer

Avery Spell mans the register for her shift on Thursday, Dec. 5 at the Twisted Fork in Mount Pleasant. 'I used to work at Subway for \$11 per hour, which was definitely not great when you're a college student,' she said.



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OPINION

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— *The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States*

YOUR TURN

We welcome letters to the editor and guest columns. All submissions columns must include a name, address, organization university affiliation (if any) and phone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Central Michigan Life reserves the right to edit all letters and columns for style, length, libel, redundancy, clarity, civility and accuracy. Letters should be no more than 450 words in length. Longer guest columns must remain under 750 words. CM Life reserves the right to print any original content as a letter or guest column. Submission does not guarantee publication.



CM Life political cartoon | Zoey Lawrence with assets by Soli Gordon, Mark Hoover and Blace Carpenter

Editorial: Understanding the CMU budget is the students' right

We, as students, are citizens of Central Michigan University. For any healthy democracy to function successfully, its citizens must be informed accurately, and its administration must be held accountable.

At the Society of Professional Journalists and Central Michigan Life, we believe it is important for students and the community to understand how CMU's budget works and to be aware of where the dollars are spent around campus.

Students

have the right to know because they are a major part of the budget, and it influences their experience at CMU, from academics to recreation.

Understanding where their money goes gives them a sense of ownership, responsibility and power over the choices that affect their lives. It makes them believe that their voices matter at the place they call home away from home.

Therefore, the budget isn't just a representation of how our institution works, it is also a list of priorities. Being informed about these priorities can help students understand whether they line up with their expectations for the future.

That's why, our team at SPJ, in partnership with CM Life, is proud to present the first part of our "CMU Budget" project, where we investigated:

- Where the student tuition goes
- Where parking services spend their money

Our team has been working on the first part of

this project for the fall semester, putting long hours of work, gathering interviews with experts and students and creating art.

For us, it

was an exercise in curiosity and a journalistic need to follow the money. We were guided by the SPJ code of ethics: Accuracy, independence and truth.

But outside of being journalists, we are also students. Our biggest motivator was the fact that we love and care deeply about CMU and the people here. We want it to thrive as an institution and help students succeed in their careers.

Watch for "CMU Budget" parts two and three later this semester. If you have a story idea, please feel free to email SPJ President Masha Smahliuk at smahl1m@cmich.edu.

Students ... are a major part of the budget, and it influences their experiences at CMU.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In challenging times, we unite

To the Students of the Central Michigan University:

The Central Michigan University Joint Union Council would like to welcome you back from the winter break! We wanted to start this semester off with a few words of support, compassion, and belonging.

The Joint Union Council is made up of representatives of all the organized unions at CMU; we represent professors, office professionals, technicians, supervisors, police dispatchers, public media employees, custodians, electricians, plumbers and campus police. We work together to make sure you all have everything you need to succeed and excel here at Central.

In these challenging times, we want to reaffirm our commitment to the core values that unite our university community: integrity, respect, compassion, inclusiveness, equity, social responsibility, excellence and innovation.

We celebrate the diverse voices on our campus and acknowledge that each one contributes to our collective strength. Together, we strive to foster a culture of understanding and advocacy for equity, ensuring that everyone feels valued and heard.

Let us challenge ourselves to act with compassion and to think critically, always uplifting one another. This commitment will guide us as we work to create an inclusive and vibrant community.

In solidarity,
 Union of Teaching Faculty
 Office Professionals
 Facilities Maintenance
 Supervisory Technicians
 CMU Police Dispatchers
 WCMU Public Media Employees
 CMU Faculty Association

A presidential farewell



Special to CM Life | Aurora Rae

Former President Jimmy Carter, the nation's 39th chief executive, returns to Washington D.C. for the last time on Jan. 7, 2024. During a special ceremony at the U.S. Navy Memorial, Carter's casket was transferred from hearse to caisson. Immediately following the transfer, a funeral procession unfolded along Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues, retracing the route that Carter walked after taking his inaugural oath in 1977.

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FEATURES

A dream, honored

Central Michigan University will honor the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King during its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. week commemorations. Some events are MAC Scholar approved. For more information, contact Multicultural Academic Support Services.

Planned events, which start Monday, Jan. 20, include:

- MON 20**
- **MLK CommUNITY Peace Brunch**
9:30 a.m., Finch Fieldhouse
 - **Day of Service with the Mary Ellen Brandell Volunteer Center**
Noon, Bovee U.C. Rotunda
 - **MLK CommUNITY Peace March and Vigil**
3 p.m., Bovee U.C. Rotunda; pick up at each residential area
- TUES 21**
- **Mission Possible: A Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Showcase**
6 p.m., Bovee U.C. Rotunda
- WED 22**
- **MLK, Jr. Keynote Speaker: Diana Patton**
7 p.m., French Auditorium
EHS Building, Room 118
- FRI 24**
- **MLK, Jr. Charity Basketball Game**
6:30 p.m., Student Activity Center
Small Courts Forum, courts 5 and 6

Inside campus' powerhouse

CMU Central Plant packs a powerful punch



Mia Kerner | Staff photographer

Rooftop stairs provide a full view of a room in the Central Energy Facility on Thursday, Dec. 12, on Central Michigan University's campus. The facility produces electricity, heats university buildings and even generates cooled water on-site.

By Mia Kerner
Staff reporter

The whirring sound of machinery in Central Michigan University's Central Energy facility is akin to a jet engine. Though those on the university's campus may not hear this symphony of equipment, their on-campus experience would not be possible without it.

Jonathan Webb, the associate vice president of facilities management at CMU, provided an inside look into the facility that keeps the university running.

Inside the facility

CMU's 65,000 square foot Central Energy Facility, or power house, was built in 1961 and produces half of the university's electricity. The power house is an integral part of CMU's heating, cooling and water systems.

The facility itself is secure and clean, which Webb said is an indicator of the level of care that the plant's operators take in maintaining the facility.

"You could pretty much eat off the floor in there," Webb said. "We are very fortunate, we have a wonderful union skill trade workforce here that does a phenomenal job taking care of the university."

The plant is filled with color-coded pipes and machinery, a repair station for minor maintenance that is completed in-house and the hum of various equipment hard at work. The plant's operators conduct routine checks and run tests to ensure that all machinery is running smoothly.

The facility is also home to a utility tunnel that spans 4.2 miles under the campus, which is regularly inspected, Webb said.

"We don't want to just address issues, we want to prevent them," he said.

A self-supporting alternative

Though constant inspections and maintenance is required to operate the facility, the benefits of CMU creating its own energy seem to be worth the labor.

Webb said that the plant's four-megawatt

turbine burns natural gas that produces the university's electricity. The heat byproduct from that process is then put through a heat recovery steam generator and into a boiler, which provides heat in the winter, and is cooled through an absorption chiller to produce chilled water.

This process allows CMU to produce both heat and chilled water from a single energy source, cutting costs and saving energy.

In addition to being financially beneficial, the U.S. Department of Energy found that combined energy systems such as CMU's produce far less fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions than conventional power plants, making them an environmentally friendly alternative.

The energy used on campus that is not produced by the Central Energy Facility is procured through the Wolverine Power Marketing Corporation, which is an alternative energy supplier, Webb said. The university purchases the electricity and pays for the transmission and distribution, as is done with its natural gas broker.

A 'point of pride'

In total, out of 101 buildings on CMU's campus, 58 facilities are serviced by the Central Energy Facility's steam system and 37 by the Satellite

Energy Facility chilled water system, Webb said. At a peak of 4.5 megawatts of electrical power, the Central Energy Facility is constantly working to keep CMU's campus up and running.

"Our point of pride here is providing a welcoming and functional campus," Webb said. "We do that from our custodian union workforce, to our contractor team that assists also in keeping our campus clean, to our skill trades that do our outside landscaping operations, to our skill trades for the buildings and utility operations.

"It's everybody working together. We have a beautiful campus."

"We don't want to just address issues, we want to prevent them,"

-Jonathan Webb



Mia Kerner | Staff photographer

Color-coded pipes line the ceilings of the Central Energy Facility on Thursday, Dec. 12, on Central Michigan University's campus.



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2024 was 'Wicked' fun in film

Here are our critic's picks for the best movies of last year



By Carter Salley
Staff film reviewer

The past year has come and gone. There were both good and bad things that happened this year, especially for movies.

Before we say hello to 2025, let's look back fondly at the best 2024 had to offer in terms of cinematic entertainment.

As you all know, you are entitled to your own opinion ... as am I. This is just a fun list to celebrate all the fantastic cinematic experiences we received this year!

Without further delay, here's my top five movies of 2024:

No. 5: 'Wicked: Part 1'

"Wicked" was the biggest surprise of the year for me. I went into the movie expecting a half-baked adaption of a beloved musical, and what I got was an exhilarating, joyride of a film that fully encapsulates the feeling of being at the theatre and watching magic play out right before your eyes.

I loved all the performances, especially the

ending sequence, which blew my mind. This movie was a thrill ride in every way possible, and I was overjoyed to have experienced it on the big screen.

No. 4: 'Deadpool and Wolverine'

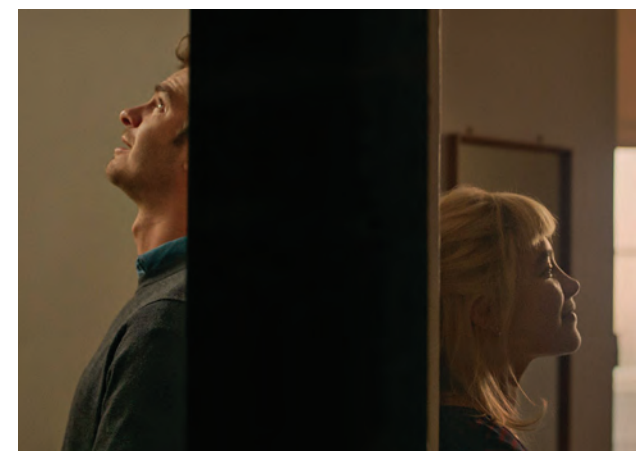
As a huge comic book fan, this was everything I wanted to see from a Marvel movie this year: Two characters against the odds taking on the multiverse with no cares given.

Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman have the best chemistry. I loved all the different cameos, and the soundtrack was amazing. I really enjoyed Cassandra Nova as the villain, it was great to see Shawn Levy direct with such passion for not only the characters but the actors, too.

No. 3: 'Dune: Part 2'

The "Dune" franchise has had held me it's grip, ever since "Dune: Part 1" in 2021. It was great to finally revisit these characters after two long years of patiently waiting for their continuation. Timothée Chalamet continues to be outstanding as Paul Atreides, as does Zendaya as Chani.

Denis Villeneuve is a master behind the camera. Every shot of this movie, I could make the excuse to have



Courtesy photo | A24 Films

Andrew Garfield (left) and Florence Pugh could make even the toughest skeptics fall in love with the rom-com genre in 'We Live in Time.'

as a poster. This movie is like going through a sci-Fi art gallery. Cinematographer Greg Fraser also does an outstanding job with the color grading, especially on the Harkonan home planet.

This movie has cemented itself as one of the greatest Sci-Fi movies of all time and is always on the back-burner in my mind.

No. 2: 'The Wild Robot'

One of the most emotional movies of the year, any parent can relate to this heartfelt film about the stages of parenthood. Roz was great anchor for the audience, as we see the world through her eyes and analyzation of the situations she comes across. This is an emotionally charged story with a devastating conclusion that will leave you sobbing for more.

Something I didn't mention in that I previously wrote for cmlife is the animals characteristics are all based on what kind of creature they are. I thought that was clever and made all the characters feel real and endearing. This would have been my number one if not for one movie.

No. 1: 'We Live in Time'

This movie was deeply personal to me. The amazing chemistry between Andrew Garfield and Florence Pugh was like watching an electric storm of love. Their deep, complicated emotions being conveyed through illustrious acting was like watching fireworks collide to make the most beautiful colors.

The directing was great at making the movie feel like a distant, long-forgotten memory that comes by once in awhile to remind you that you are alive and full of emotion.

Movies like this are why I yearn to go to the theaters and experience life through a different lens (pun intended). It is the best movie 2024 had to offer.

Carter Salley is a junior majoring in Media Arts. He is the co-host of Central Michigan Life's pop culture podcast "Raving Geeks."

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SOURCE: THEWORDSEARCH.COM

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H	L	E	U	L	S	T	U	I	T	I	O	N	I
E	W	A	G	E	S	E	A	S	T	E	R	N	N
R	M	A	Y	O	R	E	E	T	D	E	D	T	I
I	D	T	M	N	L	I	W	E	B	N	U	R	O
F	E	Y	L	A	V	O	K	G	O	E	N	U	N
F	E	S	L	O	R	C	N	D	B	R	E	S	S
S	E	A	M	A	I	V	I	U	V	G	T	T	G
A	T	L	V	W	N	T	E	B	T	Y	R	E	O
T	O	L	E	D	O	D	E	L	S	O	V	E	D
G	P	O	D	C	A	S	T	S	P	C	E	S	L
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