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BIO 151-HUMAN ECOLOGY	52056-VR
BIO 155-INTRODUCTORY BIOLOGY	50079-DR (8:00 AM-10:25 AM-MW), 59169-DT (9:00 AM-11:25 AM-MW), 59213-EA (9:00 AM-11:25 AM-TR), 57113-NW (9:00 AM-11:25 AM-TR), 62619-TS (9:00 AM-11:25 AM TR), 56245-VR
BIO 240-HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY I	57419-DR (5:00 PM-7:25 PM-MW), 59170-DT (11:00 AM-1:25 PM-TR), 57127-NW (9:00 AM-11:25 AM-MW), 59292-VR
BIO 250-HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY II	50114-DR (11:00 AM-12:25 PM-MW), 56999-NW (9:00 AM-11:25 AM TR), 59291-VR
BIO 252-PATHOPHYSIOLOGY	50135-VR
BIO 295-MICROBIOLOGY	57459-DR (6:00 PM-7:55 PM MW), 57171-DT (9:00 AM-10:53 AM-MW), 60198-EA (9:00 AM-10:55 AM-TR), 57005-NW (4:00 PM-5:53 PM-MW)
BL 201-BUSINESS LAW	51802-VR
CHM 105-INTRODUCTION TO CHEMISTRY	57189-DT (9:00 AM-11:25 AM-MW), 59295-NW (12:00 PM-2:25 PM-TR)
CHM 136-GENERAL CHEMISTRY I	56364-DT (9:00 AM-11:25 AM-TR), 60200-EA (1:00 PM-2:55 PM-MW), 58453-NW (4:30 PM- 6:55 PM-MW)
CHM 145-GENERAL CHEMISTRY II	58447-DR (5:00 PM-7:25 PM-TR)
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ECO 101-PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS I	59149-DT (11:00 AM-12:53 PM-TR), 50294-VR
ECO 102-PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS II	50299-VR, 51811-VR
ENG 120-ENGLISH II	57219-DT (5:00 PM-8:45 PM-W), 57489-EA (5:00 PM-6:55 PM-MW), 56454-NW (9:00 AM-10:53 AM-TR), 50408-VR
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MAT 135-QUANTITATIVE REASONING	61069-VR
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MAT 272-LINEAR ALGEBRA	59254-DT (1:00 PM-3:25 PM-TR)
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SOC 100-INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY	57246-DT (5:00 PM-8:45 PM-W), 57482-EA (5:00 PM-8:13 PM-MW), 56306-NW (1:00 PM- 2:53 PM-TR), 50698-VR
SOC 103-SOCIAL PROBLEMS	63313-UC (9:00 AM-12:45 PM-S)
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SOC 245-MARRIAGE AND FAMILY	50707-VR
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DR - Downriver Campus

DT - Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus

EA - Eastern Campus

NW - Northwest Campus

TS - Ted Scott Campus

UC - Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center

VR - Virtual

M-Monday

T-Tuesday

W-Wednesday

R-Thursday

F-Friday

S-Saturday

U-Sunday

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A note from the editor-in-chief



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

Welcome back from Spring Break, Central Michigan! Some of us were still working, some stayed home to rest and the lucky ones took the opportunity to migrate somewhere warmer.

I spent my hard-earned spring break in the (admittedly, slightly warmer) city of Philadelphia. It was a break from the everyday classwork, but not from critical thought altogether.

The hallmark of this experience, aside from the cheesesteak, was the historical reflection. I walked through the Independence Hall and, honestly, it was smaller than expected.

I was picturing something grandiose: wall-sized portraits and chairs big enough to seat the larger-than-life founding fathers who did their work in those hallowed halls.

While in those spaces, I was not only thinking about the incredible things that the founding fathers accomplished, but also how supremely human they must have been.

These men weren't the glorified pantheon that I've seen represented in history books and retellings, they were simply people who wanted to do right by their country

(and probably themselves) and shape a society with values and principles they found important.

A movement is not about who's at the helm. Emphasizing the leader over individual members of a group only serves to make change seem like an impossible task to recreate.

Be human, be personable and use the skills that you have to move towards a society perpetuated by the values that you deem important.

This country was not founded by superheroes. It was jumpstarted and maintained by people with immense privilege, but people nonetheless.

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

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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.

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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 by Brittany Stevens with assets from Adobe Stock.

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Unified Central Michigan

Across the university, who decides what employees get paid? Who negotiates benefits? Our reporters dive into unions and how they work.



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There's a lot of news coming from every direction, but that's better than having no news at all. What happens when we don't know what's going on?



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Rocking the hardwood

Central Michigan's Madi Morson didn't start her basketball journey here, but this might not be where it ends, either.



ONLINE



Quarterfinals closure

Central Michigan Women's Basketball ended their season at the MAC quarterfinals in Cleveland, Ohio. Check out these moments from the game captured in photo.

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NEWS

In honor of heritage

Central Michigan University is celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month through April 15. Events range from celebrations of arts and culture to contemporary looks at historic events. Many are MAC Scholar approved

Upcoming events, starting Friday, March 21, include:

FRI 21

- **Where Religion Meets Culture**
Hosted by Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity
6:30 p.m., Opperman Auditorium at the Park Library

SUN 23

- **Holi Ke Rang**
Hosted by Chamakia Central
2 p.m., Small Sports Forum Courts 5 and 6, Student Activity Center

MON 24

- **Vietnam War: A New Perspective**
Hosted by Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority
6 p.m., French Auditorium EHS Building, Room 118

TUE 25

- **Beyond the Page: Asian Voices in Literature**
Hosted by Shreya Abraham and Lindsey Nguyen
7 p.m., Opperman Auditorium at the Park Library

A United Voice

CMU's unions and their role on campus



Photo Illustration | Brittany Stevens

By Blace Carpenter and Grace Walker
Staff reporters

There are over 4,000 employees at Central Michigan University. Just like any business or institution, these individuals are the gears that maintain the university and serve over 14,000 students who help fund CMU through their tuition.

While CMU employees work to improve the campus and help students every day, over 1,200 employees are members of 9 unions that work with university officials to ensure the workers they represent have stable wages and proper benefits.

What is a union?

A trade or labor union is an organization of employees that advocates for better work benefits and protects workers' rights. Each union represents a specific group of employees and the work environment they are in:

- National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians (NABET)
- Central Michigan University Dispatchers Association (CMUDA)
- Michigan Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council (MFOPLC)
- Central Michigan Command Officers Association (CMCOA)
- United Auto Workers (UAW), which oversees CMU's Union for Office Professionals
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
- Supervisor/Technical Association (or MEA-NEA)
- Faculty Association (FA)
- Union of Teaching Faculty (UTF)

Robert Schumacker is the director of CMU's leadership minor and the president of UTF. This spring, for the first time as president, he will negotiate for better wages and benefits for himself and the rest of the university's fixed-term faculty, he said.

Schumaker said the purpose of a union is to create a better work environment and preserve workers' rights.

"It's really about protection," Schumacker said. "We're protecting our rights, the university's protecting their rights."

AFSCME, NABET and the UAW will also begin negotiating their contracts after April 1. According to AFSCME President and CMU Journey Mason George Moore, the union and the university go page-by-page through the contract to review and revise any agreements made by both parties.

"Sixty days prior (to July 31), we'll start doing tentative negotiations," Moore said. "If management wants to change something or if we do, then we discuss the changes."

These contracts contain detailed information on salaries, benefits, procedures and job protections.

Moore and other union representatives meet with CMU Director of Employee and Labor Relations Scott Hoffman. He negotiates on behalf of the university and helps certify contracts once both parties come to an agreement.

He said that the university works to meet the unions' requests while also being conservative of the university's funding.

"It's always a balancing of the use of resources in the most effective way to accommodate all of those interests," Hoffman said.

Unions at CMU

There are different considerations in colleges and universities than there are in the corporate world, according to Schumacker.

"A corporation's job is to make money. It's all about their bottom line," he said. "In education, we're

here to educate the students. Having the right language in these contracts so that each side's protected in way that no one's vulnerable, is really the goal."

This is a goal shared by both university officials and the unions. As an employer, Hoffman said that the university tries to maintain both gathering new employees and retaining skilled faculty and staff.

"From the unions' perspective, my inkling is that they're looking for what benefits their group as a whole," Hoffman said. "Oftentimes they're looking for things like, obviously, wages, benefits, job security, those types of items. Those items are also important to the employer."

"We want to be competitive when it comes to competing for potential new employees, as well as retaining talented employees that we have here on campus," he said.

According to Schumacker, in order to get great staff, CMU has to get potential applicants interested in CMU. This comes in things like good wages and benefits, all things that the unions and CMU negotiate.

Amanda Garrison is a professor at CMU and is the president of the FA. She agreed with Schumacker and said a professor's salary plays a role in a student's education.

"If we want to be the best for our students and for each other, we have to have the best things," Garrison said.

The polarization around joining a union

Unions have been part of the U.S. workforce since the first unionization of cobble and leather workers in 1794 according to PBS. Today, Americans are still divided on how unions affect the nation's economy.

In 2024, Pew Research found that 55% of Americans believe that unions have a positive impact on the economy, and 41% believe that unions have a negative impact.

Schumacker said that supporting unions could often be divisive.

"Unions have had a negative view in some parts of society because, 'Oh they demand higher wages and companies have to charge more for their product,'" he said.

Some laws have been seen as "anti-union" such as the Right to Work Act. This law allows employees to gain union benefits without having to pay union dues, which financially support union services. The law was removed by Gov.

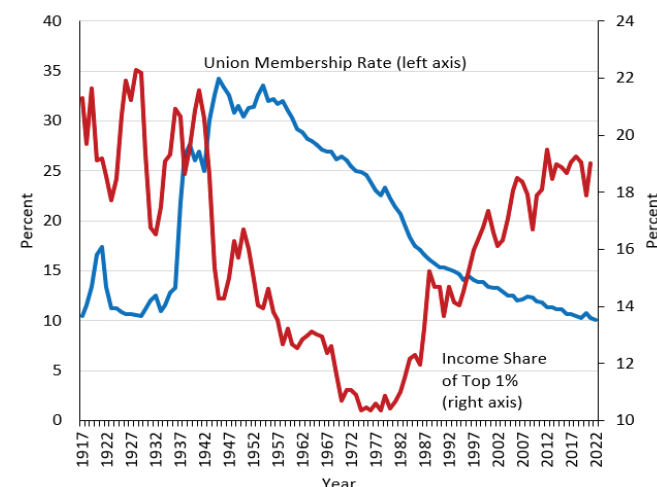


Chart Courtesy of the U.S. Treasury

Gretchen Whitmer (D-MI) in February of 2024, helping unions in private organizations.

However, unions in the public sector are still affected by a similar law. According to the June 27, 2018 Supreme Court ruling in Janus v. AFSCME Council 31 public employees can be represented by a union group but aren't required to pay "fair share fees" or "agency fees," which financially support unions.

"You're part of a union, but you don't have to pay union dues," Schumacker said. "You don't have to provide any financial assistance. ... You don't have to be part of the group, but we still have to represent you."

Despite negative claims against the unionization of employees, the U.S. Treasury found a correlation between the declining membership rates to unions and a rise of income inequality for American citizens. According to Deputy Assistant Secretary for Microeconomics for the U.S. Treasury Laura Feiveson, unions "promote economy-wide growth and resilience."

Schumacker said that supporting a union doesn't have to be political, and there are several advantages for a workforce that is united.

"A united voice is better than just one person," he said. "It's kind of like having a team that is all trying to have the same goal of having the best contract and then being able to support families."

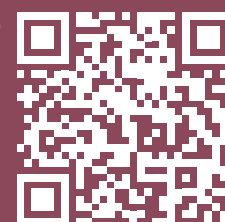


CM Life | Blace Carpenter

Central Michigan University Professor and President of the Union of Teaching Faculty Robert Schumacker sits in his office on Feb. 10, 2025. UTF's contract with CMU expires this year so Schumacker will be negotiating contract agreements for the first time as president this spring.

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Navigating turbulent waters

How Central Michigan University is answering executive orders

By Masha Smahliuk
Managing editor

Since President Donald Trump took office on Jan. 20, he signed over 80 executive orders related to immigration, gender policies and education.

Central Michigan University General Counsel John Danner said in a March 4 email statement that an executive order has the power to require agencies in the executive branch, such as the U.S. Department of Education, to take specific actions. Those actions can then impact K-12 schools and institutions of higher education, Danner said.

“At present, there has been no clear legal guidance provided to colleges and universities regarding specific actions they are required to take, to comply with existing executive orders,” Danner said. “It is too early to know what CMU will be asked to do.”

CMU President Neil MacKinnon and Provost Paula Lancaster have been communicating to the university community weekly through emails. As of March 7, they said they are closely monitoring the situation.

Here is how CMU is responding to the executive orders:

Federal funding and student aid

Danner said CMU receives federal funding in form of grants for research. If the executive order to cut research spendings moves forward, CMU’s research expenditures could be impacted, he said.

On March 4, Trump posted on his social media site Truth Social that he will ban funding for schools that allow “illegal protests.” However, MacKinnon and Lancaster said in the email that there has not been a related government action, and it might be difficult to enforce because of the First Amendment.

On March 7, CMU science and education communities gathered for a Stand Up for Science rally that protested against federal employee firings and research cuts proposed in the executive orders.

Danner said on March 4 that the National Institutes of Health’s plan to cut grants for research executive order is also paused for judicial review.

Additionally, he said direct federal aid to students — such as Pell Grants, student loans and work-study — are specifically exempt from the impact of these orders.

We take our core value of ‘inclusiveness’ seriously, and all university-sponsored events and activities ... are open to our full university community.

— CMU President Neil MacKinnon and
Provost Paula Lancaster

Similarly, Danner said there has been nothing to suggest that there are plans to end the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the form that allows institutions to determine a student’s eligibility for federal funds like grants, college work study and financial aid. CMU also continues to offer scholarships for international students, he said.

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MacKinnon and Lancaster wrote in an email on March 7 that, “Right now, it appears that federal student aid will be safe for the upcoming academic year, as all reports seem to indicate it will be maintained, even if shifted to another agency for its continued administration.”

A week later, on March 14, U.S. Department of Education Undersecretary wrote in a letter to stakeholders that employees working on the core functions of FAFSA were not affected by sweeping layoffs at the department.

DEI efforts

Danner said there has not yet been an executive order that provides clear guidance on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts at college campuses as of March 4. The order called “Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing” focuses on federal agencies, not universities, he said.

On Feb. 14, the Department of Education issued a “Dear Colleague” letter, advising educational institutions to stop using race as a factor in admissions, financial aid, hiring or other institutional programming.

But Danner said the letter is not an executive order and does not carry the force of law. It also did not provide any specific legal guidance, he said.

MacKinnon and Lancaster also wrote in the email that the usage of the term DEI and observance of cultural, historical and heritage programs will not be a violation of the Department’s rules.

“To date, no specific guidance has been issued to colleges and universities on how to implement the ‘Dear Colleague’ letter,” they said. “As an institution, we take our core value of ‘inclusiveness’ seriously, and all university-sponsored events and activities, including celebrations of culture and heritage, are open to our full university community. It’s part of what makes this community so special.”



Mark Hoover | Staff photographer

People hold up signs to passing cars during the Stand Up for Science rally outside of the Bovee University Center, on the campus of Central Michigan University, Friday, March 7, 2025. Multiple cars honked while passing by to show support.

CMU’s Response

TO

EXECUTIVE ORDERS & FEDERAL ACTIONS



U.S. Department of Education “Dear Colleague” Letter

- According to CMU President Neil MacKinnon’s and Provost Paula Lancaster’s email on Feb. 28, there is still uncertainty related to guidance from the letter.
- But there is also no need to cancel programs or change curriculum, according to the CMU website.
- “Currently, we have not received any specific guidance requiring CMU to alter our activities or the infrastructure of our academic enterprise,” the website read.

Federal Aid Funding & Pause on Federal Loans, Grants, Assistance Programs

- In the email on Feb. 21, MacKinnon and Lancaster said that federal direct student loans, federal work-study programs and Pell grants are exempt from the executive order.
- FASFA staff not affected by Department of Education’s layoffs

Executive Order Banning Transgender Women From Competing in Sports

- In the email on Feb. 14, MacKinnon and Lancaster said that they’re in the process of figuring out what this order means for CMU.
- “The release of and response to federal and related guidance is happening rapidly and there is still much that remains unclear for colleges and universities,” they wrote in an email.

Increasing Work of I.C.E. Officers and New Permission to Access College Campuses

- According to CMU website, CMU has restricted places such as residence halls, faculty and staff offices and classrooms, where ICE could enter only if they have an appropriate judicial warrant.
- If an ICE officer asks you to provide access to non-public places at CMU or personal information about a person and you are not authorized to do so, follow instructions on CMU website such as stay calm, let the officer know that you are not authorized to provide them with such information and call CMU’s General Counsel.

Plan to Limit National Institutes of Health Funding for Research Projects

- MacKinnon and Lancaster said in the email on Feb. 14 that while the temporary restraining orders are in place, CMU will proceed with grants as they have before.

Not just a 9 to 5

Campus jobs offer student workers more than a paycheck

By Grace Walker and Courtney Boyd
Staff reporter and News editor

For young adults, college is their first experience into the “real-world.” Many students are living away from home for the first time and have to learn to take care of themselves. That means they also have to deal with some expenses, whether it’s buying more toilet paper or paying for car repairs.

Students in need of a steady income at Central Michigan University don’t always have to look far, since CMU is almost always hiring for student employees. Students can work in multiple fields, such as customer service, the food industry, groundskeeping, reception jobs and more.

These students get paid by the university departments that hire them, and funds come out of each department’s budget — meaning some tuition

dollars, taxpayer funds or supplemental income find their way back into student’s pockets.

Akshaya Baitinti works as a cashier and stocker at the Woldt market.

As an international student, she is restricted to on-campus jobs.

“Getting an on-campus job is so competitive,” Baitinti said. “When you find a job, you just get in there.”

Baitinti said that though she wants a job that is closer to her field of study, computer science, she likes her position.

“I love engaging with people,” she said. “(I love) the customers, the students, interacting with everyone.”



How does student employment work?

On an administrative level, student employment and pay is clear-cut. Amy Thering is the manager of Student Employment Services, which ensures student employees are adhering to federal regulations and labor laws and handles any issues employers or employees are having.

Thering said that as of January, the university had around 2,400 student employees. Of those, she said 75% of the students were from the United States and 25% were international. Additionally, she said most student employees work through Dining Services, Facilities Management, the libraries and University Recreation, but other departments hire students, too.

“If you can think of a department on campus, we have a student job there,” she said.

Thering explained that Student Employment Services is not a job placement service, they just post positions that are available on their website. She said the students have to apply for the job through whatever department is hiring.

Zoey Morse | Staff photographer

Central Michigan University junior Akshaya Baitinti works on campus at Woldt Market. “I like ... coming and meeting new people ... instead of just sitting somewhere without anyone,” she said.

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"We are ... the link between the student and the departments, so we won't just place someone somewhere," she said. "We point them in the right direction, answer some questions, but it's really the departments (that) are in charge of their own hiring process, so they're in charge of recruiting and the interviewing and hiring and pay. Then once they're hired, the student comes back to us and we get all that new-hire paperwork filled out."

She said some jobs are available off-campus for students too, and that her department helps connect the university to the community at large. These job postings can be found on the SES current vacancies page.

"(Local businesses) use us as another resource to get their advertisement out," Thering said. "We get a wide range there. Anything from babysitting to yard work to ... painting. Some local residents just need some assistance, elderly especially, in their homes or outside in their yards. We'll get them from Riverwood golf course every spring, (since) they're getting ready to hire for summer."

During the academic year, Thering said student employees working on-campus can only work up to 20 hours per week or 40 hours per pay period. Over the summer, she said this goes up to 40 hours a week or 80 hours per pay period.

She said the hour limitations are due to federal regulations: Students aren't eligible for healthcare benefits, so to not be counted under the Affordable Care Act their hours are capped, and the visas of international CMU students require them to not work for more than 20 hours a week.

She said students are responsible for logging their hours, usually through CMU's Timeclock Plus, and those working multiple on-campus jobs have to balance their schedules more carefully.

Thering said working on campus gives students many benefits, such as proximity to classes, scheduling around classes and money for groceries, tuition or extra spending. Additionally, she said the jobs can also help students advance their careers.

"Beyond the monetary side of it, there are just so many other positives about having a job on campus that just makes it very easy to gain experience and network that's just harder to get on the outside (and) off campus," she said.

Without student employees, Thering said, university operations would be harder than they are.

"I really don't think CMU couldn't run as effectively as it does without student employees, especially in areas like dining, OIT (Office of Information and Technology) and landscape operations," she said. "They rely so heavily on their student help to get the things done that need to happen, and they just help to maintain effective operations here overall. It would be hard without student employees, for sure."

Every cent counts

Harshana Gillala is an international student from India who works as a team member at the Dine and Connect Dining Hall in Woldt. She works with produce and in the bakery, and has recently been promoted to a greeter position.

Gillala said she chose this job because it was the one that responded to her application. She looked for positions that fit more with her computer science major, but the dining hall was the one that replied.

"I applied to many vacancies, but this was the one that responded to my application," Gillala said. "The thing I'm doing is not at all related to my major."

While Gillala likes working on campus, there are some difficulties. In her job, she said she likes having more opportunities to interact with other international students, but sometimes she feels this hinders her exposure to other cultures.

"Here I get to work with people from India," Gillala said. "I don't get to communicate much with students who are Americans, who are of my age."

With being restricted to on-campus employment, Gillala said working a job that pays minimum wage with a limit of 20 hours a week can be difficult. On Feb. 21, Michigan raised its minimum wage to \$12.48 an hour.

"At times it feels difficult because we need money," Gillala said. "I'm used to it, though."

Thering said that the Student Wage Scale has been updated to reflect the state's change, and the first distribution of increased wages were paid out on March 13. Currently, students can make a maximum of \$13 per hour, but Thering said this amount can be higher depending on the complexity of positions and each department's budgets.

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'There's no shovels in the ground'

University moves forward on CMED move feasibility study, even as dean resigns

By Masha Smahliuk
Managing Editor

In July 2024, Central Michigan University announced the move of its College of Medicine to Saginaw. The first expenditure for this project was approved by the Board of Trustees on Feb. 13, according to an article from *Central Michigan Life*.

The board authorized President Neil MacKinnon to hire legal consultants and development officers for an amount of up to \$1.2 million through Dec. 31, 2026.

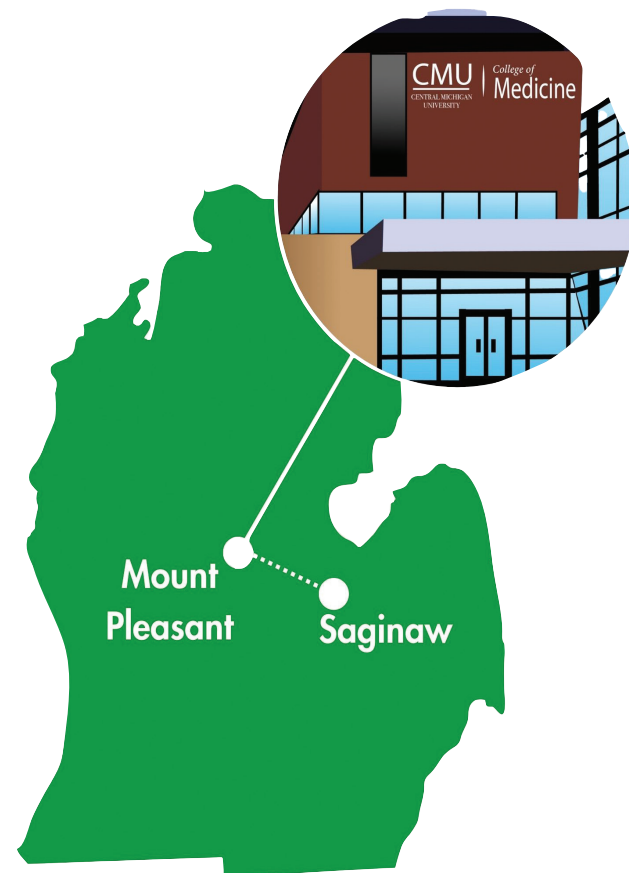
"As we're moving ahead, we're realizing that there are some additional costs; for example, one of the things was legal (considerations)," MacKinnon told CM Life. "There's a lot of legal implications ... with the medical school."

"There's no shovels in the ground, we're not at that point yet, but just in the planning process, and if we don't have those resources, it would slow down any progress that we're making."

Additionally, the board's Chair Todd Regis said CMU is still deciding whether it will move the CMED to Saginaw at all, according to the CM Life article.

"We are taking steps towards making a decision," Regis said. "Are we going to move it, or are we not? We haven't made that decision. The board hasn't said we're moving yet. The president hasn't said to us, 'Hey, we're moving.'"

"But the only way we're going to find out is if we spend some time, and we need help in some areas to get there."



Paige Jackowski | Staff designer



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However, in July 2024, George Kikano, the dean of CMED at the time, said CMU hopes to complete the move by 2028. He said the goal was to move freshmen and sophomore students because Saginaw has more hospitals for them to train at.

"That's a very bold move," Kikano said at the time. "That's an aggressive timeline. It's an aggressive capital campaign. But the benefit here is for the whole region anywhere from Mount Pleasant all the way to Saginaw. This is not just economic impact in Saginaw, this is putting CMU ... on the map."

Kikano said in July the move would cost \$200 million, and they planned to start fundraising in fall 2024.

On March 6, of this year, however, Kikano announced that he is stepping down from the role of the dean. The exact details of his final day and succession plan have not been disclosed.

From November 2024 to March 2025, CM Life made several attempts to obtain an update on the project's timeline and progress. Kikano refused to comment.

Michigan State Sen. Roger Hauck (R-34) raised concerns about CMED's move to Saginaw, especially about what benefit it would bring for Mount Pleasant and how CMU would be able to raise the funds, in an opinion piece published on Sept. 12, 2024.

"This decision has far-reaching implications for our community, and it is crucial that we demand transparency and accountability from those making these decisions," Hauck wrote. "While moving the medical school may benefit Saginaw, we must consider the potential costs to Mt. Pleasant and CMU."

In January, Hauck told CM Life that he had spoken with President MacKinnon and was more open to the move, if CMU backfills the number of lost students in Mount Pleasant with other programs.

He said MacKinnon explained that Saginaw has necessary residencies for learning and assured that CMU will offer other medical programs here in Mount Pleasant.

"I just want everybody to understand that (State Rep. Jerry) Neyer and myself will do everything we can to make sure that if (CMED) does move over to Saginaw, that will be back filled with the nursing program and the PA (physician assistant) program, and that the students that come to the medical school will be able to have a good experience," Hauck said.

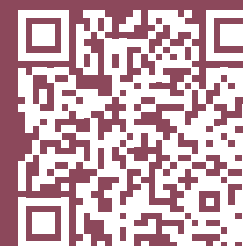
Hauck said if CMU doesn't backfill the students, it will have "a huge impact" on Mount Pleasant.

"I think it would affect the economy because you're talking over 100 students moving away, right?" Hauck said. "That would be all the grocery stores, where they stay at."

Meanwhile, Hauck said he sees a positive impact for the Tri-Cities.

"It'll help salvage Saginaw tremendously, because there'll be more going over there," he said. "They have it fixed up in the downtown area, where they want to build it, so it will increase their downtown area quite a bit."

In a perfect world, Hauck said, he would like CMU to build the new CMED campus in Mount Pleasant. But if they do move it to Saginaw, he said he still wants students to receive their white coats and have a graduation ceremony in Mount Pleasant, because it has the atmosphere of CMU.



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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.

Who's the enemy of the people?

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Zoey Lawrence | Staff cartoonist

Have you ever been angry? Like really angry? Like hand-shaking, fist-clenching, ready-to-tear-a-black-hole-where-the-world-is, angry? Welcome to Q1 2025.

The latest? President Donald Trump's administration began making deep cuts to Voice of America and other government-run, pro-democracy news organizations on March 15, according to The Associated Press. Most of VOA's employees were put on administrative leave with an unspecified return date.

Other affected employees include Radio Free Europe and Asia, and Radio Martí.

To us at *Central Michigan Life*, that brings to mind a few reminders we'd like to provide about why and how we (and every other reputable news organization in the country) are doing what we do. If defunding VOA doesn't sound like a big deal to you, just take two minutes to hear us out as to why you should give a shit.

The First Amendment

Let's start here. The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States instilled five specific freedoms into the new nation our forefathers started almost 250 years ago:

- Religion
- Speech
- Press (hey, that's us!)

- Peaceful assembly
- Petitioning the government

Why is this important? Because (not to brag, but) other than government officials, that means working to publish the news is the only constitutionally protected job in the country. Well, maybe that's not as much of a brag anymore.

What that looks like is the creation of a Fourth Estate—a source of checks and balances built into the Constitution disconnected from the government itself. Incredible, iconic.

The founding fathers took an opportunity to essentially say: Look, there has to be a bridge connecting what the government is doing to the public. A bridge of essential knowledge.

As members of the press, what we desperately want is to put information into your hands so you can take action. We won't tell you what action to take (that's your business) but without the press, members of the public only really get to hear what politicians want their constituents to know.

We'll take the whole truth without the rose-colored glasses, thank you very much. And moreover, we understand that other civic-minded individuals want the same.

There are, of course, more parts of the First Amendment than freedom of the press. We're not the only ones under attack.

Freedom of speech and peaceful assembly are also

under fire. With Trump posting on Truth Social about taking funding from colleges and universities that host student demonstrators and the ... extralegal ... arrest of Mahmoud Khalil for pro-Palestine activism, there is reason for concern.

Regardless of whether your opinion aligns with that of Khalil, the attempted deportation of a green card holder for protesting and holding an opinion opposite of the federal government's policy should be a red flag.

The point is, if they stepped on us, they'll step on legacy journalists, too.

VOA and presidential press

But what is the VOA? Voice of America was created by the federal government in 1942, and has since been the largest U.S. international broadcaster, according to its website, with a weekly audience of over 354 million people on digital, T.V. and radio platforms.

It's part of the larger independent body called the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM).

The official VOA charter, or guiding document, was signed by President Gerald

Ford in 1976. According to the VOA, the charter protects the editorial independence and integrity of VOA programming, stipulating three requirements:

"The VOA will serve as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news. VOA news will be accurate, objective, and comprehensive.

"VOA will represent America, not any single segment of American society, and will therefore present a balanced and comprehensive projection of significant American thought and institutions.

"VOA will present the policies of the United States clearly and effectively, and will also present responsible discussions and opinion on these policies."

There's really not much more to ask for from a news organization, other than perhaps a diversity and accessibility statement.

Having these values is one thing, but walking the walk is another. And neither of these is what the Trump administration's beef with the organization is about. It's because VOA and the other outlets under the USAGM are news outlets with financial levers he can pull.

For anyone just tuning in, the President

has had a less than peaceful relationship with news media for a while. On the campaign trail, he verbally attacked various media sources over 100 times, according to Reporters Without Borders.

He has also been referring to the press as the enemy of the people since his first campaign.

More recently, the President has also been restricting press access to the White House—upending the nonpartisan press pool selection system in favor of only giving access to pro-Trump media outlets.

Their reporters are more likely to do things like insult Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for not wearing a suit during a meeting in the Oval Office. A real journalist wouldn't do that. Also, Zelenskyy probably has more important things to worry about.

What happens when press is gone

It's no secret that the number of news organizations — especially local newspapers — is shrinking. The 2024 State of Local News report from the Medial Local News Initiative showed that between

2005 and 2024 the number of non-daily local newspapers went from 7,419 to 4,558 nationwide.

According to an article by Natalie Gemini Stroud and Emily Van Duyn, published in the October 2023 Journal of Communication, there are consequences when local news organizations disappear, including:

- Declines in civic and political engagement
- People know less about politics
- Split-ticket voting declines
- Elections are less competitive
- Congressional representatives work less on behalf of their districts.

"The contemporary local news crisis is a story of economic and democratic liability, of community and commercial repair," the article reads.

The bottom line is that journalists are the watchdogs of democracy. When we are not operating to put information (good, bad or otherwise) in the hands of the public, no one else does.

And the VOA is one more news organization that could (but shouldn't) go dark, leaving even bigger shoes left to fill.

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The sky is the limit

Madi Morson's road to a breakout freshmen season

By David Powell
Staff reporter

When Rod Wells was hired as the new head coach of the Salem High School's varsity girls basketball team before the 2021-22 season, he was told that there was a girl on the team that was going to be "decent". After watching the girl play in the first week of practice, Wells knew he had a special kid on his team.

"She was touching the rim in my first couple of days of practice," Wells said. "When I saw her ball handling and her ability to score the ball and how the other kids looked up to her even though she was just a sophomore, it just kind of blew my mind."

Madi Morson left quite an impression on her new coach in high school. Now a freshman guard for Central Michigan University's women's basketball team, Morson continues to make an impact on the court.

As her first season as a Division 1 basketball player came to an end, Morson's continued growth as a player led to a breakout season in which she starred as one of the best players on the team.

By the end of the season, Morson's performances had earned her numerous awards and put her name in the record books. Notably, Morson was awarded Mid-American Conference Freshman of the Year while also earning a spot on the All-MAC Second Team and the MAC All-Freshman Team.

Early introduction

Some of Morson's earliest memories of basketball come from her father.

"My dad, he basically introduced me to every sport available," Morson said. "I eventually got to start playing (basketball) at Lifetime Fitness, like the kid's little area, and I was like, 'Dad, this is fun,' and he bought me a hoop when I was like 7."

Morson first started playing organized basketball in middle school and continued throughout all four of her years at Salem High School.

After Wells started coaching at Salem, he and Morson began a friendship that has lasted to this day.

"I love that man to death," Morson said. "He changed my

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life, for real. I would not be here if it wasn't for him."

In addition to basketball skills, Wells taught Morson how to better live her life, sharing lessons like discipline and commitment. Even though he was her basketball coach, Wells helped Morson grow as a person during her time at Salem.

"Him and (assistant) coach Jordan always said, 'I'll be more happy with a call from you saying you got a degree, and you're pursuing whatever you want to do in life,'" Morson said. "So it's bigger than basketball, and he put that into perspective for me."

During her time in high school, Morson helped Salem to both a district and a regional championship in 2023 and earned numerous accolades. Morson was named to the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan's Best in 2023, was a two-time all-state and all-state dream team selection in both 2023 and 2024 and was named a Michigan Miss Basketball Finalist in 2024.

A new opportunity

High school wasn't the only place Morson grew as a basketball player before college.

During the summer of her junior year, Morson dove into the sport in a new way, playing in Amateur Athletic Union basketball.

The program allowed Morson to sharpen her skills while also showcasing her play to college coaches looking for recruits.

"Coaches aren't just going to show up to a high school game just to see (you play)," Morson said. "They go to AAU, see you play there and then they'll come to your high school

game because they know they want to recruit you. So it definitely gave me experience, playing against different kinds of people, playing with different people, different play styles."

It was through AAU that Morson's current coach, Kristin Haynie, first spotted her. There was one specific skill set of Morson's game that stood out to Haynie when deciding to recruit her.

"For me, (it was) her mid-range game," Haynie said. "I had a mid-range game in college and some coaches, they don't teach it, and for me, it's hard to guard. In college you play against taller, longer athletes and people over-penetrate. So I think it's very important to have a mid-range game."

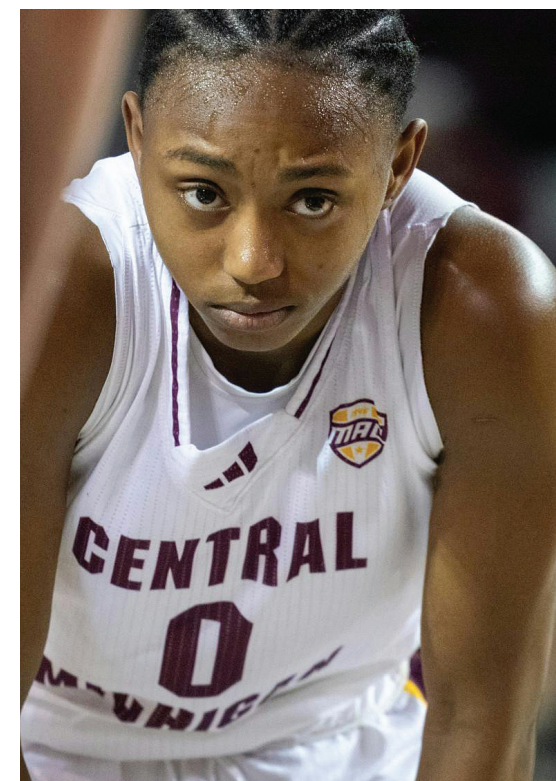
Haynie also admired Morson's ability to play on both ends of the court.

"Madi would get rebounds, block shots, I mean, she D'd up," Haynie said. "So we really liked that about her. She wasn't just an offensive player."

Picking a college

When deciding which college she wanted to attend, Morson had plenty of options. After her success in high school and AAU basketball, she had offers from several schools including North Dakota, Omaha and Nebraska. But there was a different school that eventually caught her eye: Central Michigan.

Morson was attracted to CMU for several different reasons, one of which was academics.



Mark Hoover | Staff photographer

Central Michigan freshman guard Madi Morson collects herself during the basketball game versus Ball State at McGuirk Arena, Feb. 26. Morson scored a game-high 26 points.

See **MORSON** | 16



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MORSON

CONTINUED FROM 15

"I was thinking education-wise at first, because mechanical engineering, I mean we have a great program here," Morson said.

The coaches at Central Michigan also made an impact.

"Definitely the coaches, they're so genuine, they're good people too," Morson said. "It just felt like they cared about me more as a person than as a player or as a number."

Morson also paid attention to the different play styles, looking for one that fit how she wanted to play. Haynie and Central Michigan matched with what she was looking for.

"I like to play fast and I like to press," Morson said.

"That's just how I've always wanted to play, and the way (Haynie) described it to me, it was like, 'Yeah, I want to do that.'"

Starting at CMU

When Morson first got on campus, there were adjustments that had to be made. College basketball presented tougher training than she had previously done, requiring both physical and mental changes.

"It (the transition from high school to college) was pretty hard mentally," she said. "It started with conditioning and weightlifting and stuff. Because I had

never consistently lifted weights like this before, let alone at this intensity, especially in the summer ... I had to get my mind right for real with that."

Morson also had to change parts of her lifestyle in order to become a better athlete.

"You gotta eat right," she said. "You gotta put in the extra work, even more than you think you have to. Like, I've been getting in the gym more consistently too, outside of practice and stuff. So I would say those are like really big changes that I've had to make."

The key is confidence

As Morson progressed through her freshman season, her game saw lots of improvement which she credits to a growth in confidence. When she first started at CMU, Morson didn't believe in herself.

"I was timid," she said. "I didn't want to mess up. I was not confident in what I could do."

Morson had a somewhat quiet start to the season, averaging around eight points for the first five games on the schedule. Haynie even took her out of the starting lineup after the first three games, telling her she needed to "earn her spot back".

Morson's demotion to the bench didn't phase her. After being told what she needed to work on, she grew as a player and began to have a breakout season.

"It was just hard," Morson said. "I haven't felt like that since freshman year of high school, and it was like, damn, what is wrong with me? But, I finally got it together."

"It was more mental. ... I've always been able to get my shot, and I was just in my own head about it and I needed to relax for real."

Haynie has admired both Morson's confidence and her mindset this season, especially considering that she is a freshman.

"Her confidence has been awesome," Haynie said. "It's very hard to go from starting to getting taken out and being like, 'Oh, what did I do wrong?' But she's coachable and she had a growth mindset where she didn't let that get her confidence. So it was great to see her bounce back after a few games to get her confidence back, and she hasn't looked back ever since."

After getting her spot back in the lineup, Morson scored double figures in 22 of the 25 games she started in, helping the Chippewas make their first conference tournament since 2021. Morson finished the season averaging 16.5 points-per-game and ranked sixth in the Mid-American Conference in scoring.

With 511 total points accumulated over the season, Morson set a new CMU record for most points scored by a freshman.

Growth as a player at CMU

In addition to an increase in confidence, Morson has seen other improvements to her game.

"I was able to get away with bad habits in high school... especially senior year. I could get away with standing on defense because, again, I would out-athletic somebody,



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and I would just get into these habits,” Morson said.

Here at CMU, Morson credits the team’s “no excuses mentality” with helping her refine her skills.

“They know I can be better, and so that’s why they’ll get on (me) about something, which I appreciate, even though it’s frustrating in the moment,” she said. “But I know it’s for the better of the team and for the better of me as a player.”

“It’s been really fun to watch her grow,” Haynie said. “It’s just not a secret to success. So we just talk about being in the gym and putting in that extra work. And that’s why she’s growing, because she’s getting in the gym and she’s watching a lot of film and studying the game.”

Bonding with the team

Throughout her short tenure with the Chippewas, Morson and the rest of her team have become quite close.

“They’re like my sisters,” Morson said. “I really love them like family. ... We just meshed. It was so fast and easy, and we know we can rely on each other.”

To her teammates, Morson’s character has an impact both on and off the court.

“She’s really social,” fellow freshman forward Ayanna-Sarai Darrington said. “She’s like an empath, I guess you would say. She brings people together with her jokes and stuff.”

Morson’s character and work ethic also serve as motivation for her teammates.

“She definitely inspires a lot of us,” junior guard

Satori Griffin said. “She works hard... She’s always trying to build up her teammates and cheer and contribute and try to get everybody else to be loud and stuff.”

What’s Next?

According to the people around her, Morson has the opportunity to become very successful on the court. Wells, who has continued to watch her develop in college, knows there is still room for growth and thinks that she can accomplish great things at CMU.

“I feel like a proud father, that this kid just went this far,” Wells said. “Know that she’s gonna still grow (at) Central Michigan. ... They’re barely touching what she can really do.”

After this season, Morson hopes to stay a Chippewa for at least another year. While she said she doesn’t really want to transfer at all, she admitted that Name Image Likeness deals and the transfer portal have made the decision much harder to make. Morson said she has to consider what she wants her life outside of basketball to be like, so she can best pursue that.

“I don’t want to transfer,” she said. “I’m really big on the loyalty thing... I don’t like leaving, especially if I really like the people I’m around. But, I have to put me first, so if it comes down to it, I will have to, but I really don’t want to.”



Mark Hoover | Staff Photographer

Central Michigan freshman guard Madi Morson talks with assistant coach Chelsie Butler after Morson is subbed out from the game at Rocket Arena in Cleveland, Ohio, on Wednesday, March 12, 2025. Butler is in her second year at CMU.

The general consensus among her coaches and peers is that Morson may someday be good enough to play in the Women’s National Basketball Association.

“The sky’s the limit for her,” Haynie said. “She can play pro if she keeps working and developing.”

Morson, however, is not ready to make that decision.

“I could really see it,” she said. “And it’s just hard, because that’s really a commitment. I mean it’s a commitment now, but damn, that’s your livelihood. But women’s basketball is growing so much ... it’s still up in the air. I don’t want to just be like a definite yes or no, though.”

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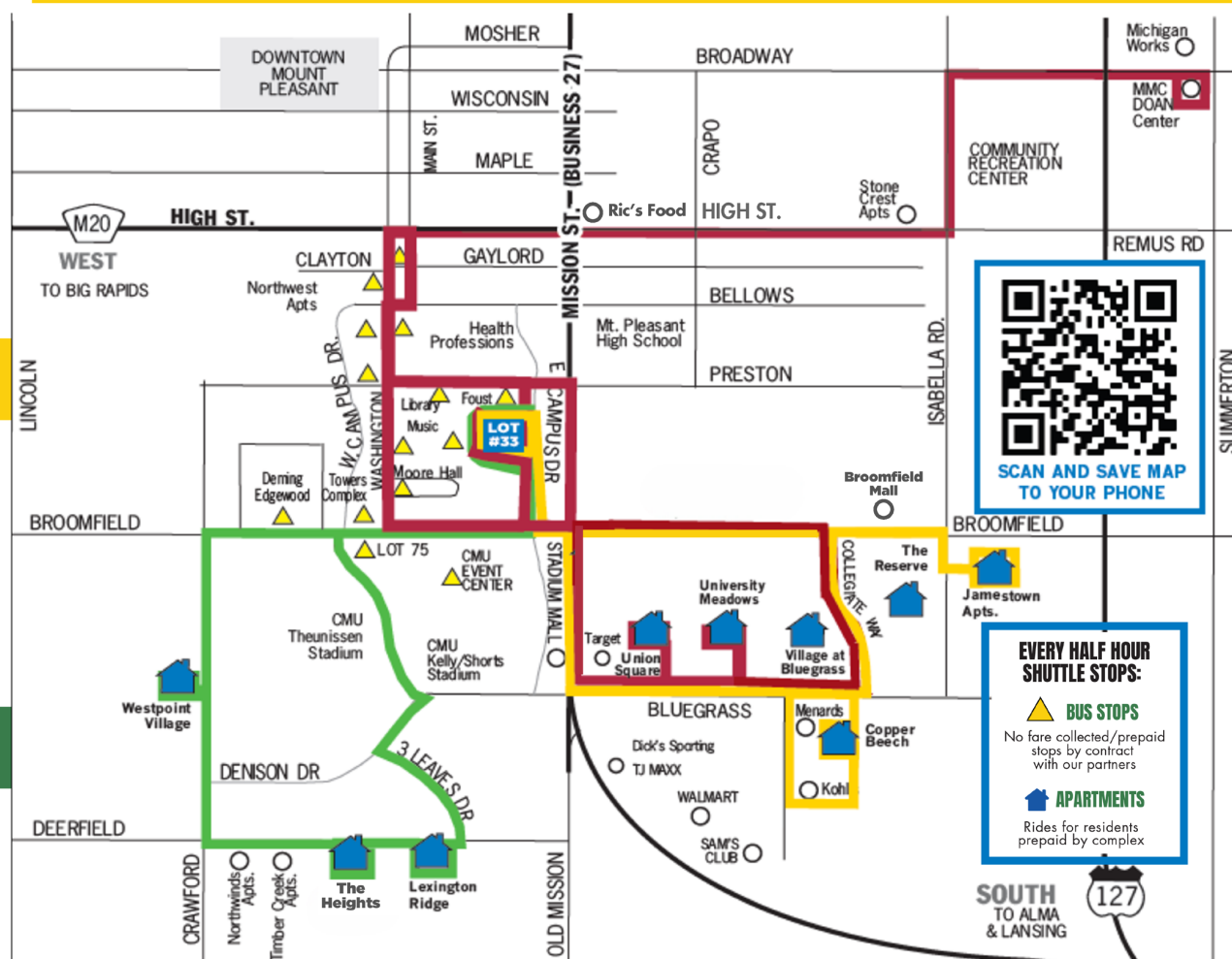
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N	S	C	C	E	T	I	A	R	I	Z	O	N	A
T	E	U	S	O	E	G	H	B	N	U	I	E	T
M	C	T	M	L	X	O	T	P	A	T	O	M	M
A	L	N	A	E	A	N	E	K	M	M	W	K	I
R	E	E	R	M	S	Z	X	A	N	E	A	K	C
Y	M	K	Q	I	T	A	A	N	T	W	M	O	H
S	S	M	U	S	E	G	S	S	L	N	A	R	I
K	O	E	E	S	C	A	A	A	C	U	G	E	G
T	N	E	T	T	H	M	M	S	E	A	E	G	A
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