

## BREAKING INTO BUSINESS

New art co-op provides hub for local talent

PAGE 4



# CENTRAL MICHIGAN LIFE

SEPT. 30, 2021 || MOUNT PLEASANT, MI



## COMEBACK KING

Richardson leads 21-point comeback

PAGE 15



# BEST OF CENTRAL MICHIGAN 2021

We asked, you answered! Find out which businesses, organizations came out on top.

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8:00PM  
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**ICE CUBE**

SATURDAY, OCT. 9  
8:00PM  
\$59, \$72, \$85 & \$92



**REO SPEEDWAGON**

SATURDAY, OCT. 16  
8:00PM  
SOLD OUT SHOW!



**THE GOO GOO DOLLS**

FRIDAY, OCT. 22  
8:00PM  
\$69, \$89, \$102 & \$109



**KUMBIA ALL STARZ**

SATURDAY, OCT. 23  
8:00PM  
\$25 ADMISSION

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\$44, \$54, \$72 & \$78



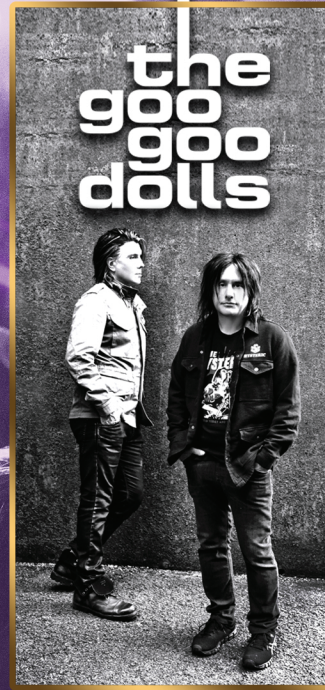
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22  
8:00PM  
\$69, \$89, \$102 & \$109



## KUMBIA ALL STARZ

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23  
8:00PM  
\$25 GENERAL ADMISSION

*Complete show lineup available at [SoaringEagleCasino.com](http://SoaringEagleCasino.com)*

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Adity Wachter | Staff Reporter  
Canton junior Cora Wallen looks through a poster collection at the Bovee University Center during their beginning of the year poster sale on Wednesday, Sept. 29.

INDEX

- EDITORIAL** **FIX THE DINING DISASTER**  
 No more excuses. CMU must give students the food they paid for or give us our money back.  
 >> 16
- ONLINE** **CITY COMMISSION**  
 Pedestrian lighting and tribal allocations were discussed at the city council Sept. 27 meeting.  
 >>
- ONLINE** **SGA SPLITS INTO COMMITTEES**  
 Committee heads went over expectations and created lists of goals for the year.  
 >>
- ONLINE** **FACULTY WORKS WITH WOLVES**  
 Central Michigan Life spoke with Thomas Gehring about his work regarding the non-lethal methods of wolf prevention.  
 >>
- PODCAST** **RAVING GEEKS S4 E4**  
 The Geeks discuss whose identity overtakes who: Is Batman the mask, or is Bruce Wayne the true façade?  
 >>

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Drew Travis | Staff Photographer

Megan Bair poses for an environmental portrait on the upstairs landing of her shop, For Art's Sake on Sept. 23 in downtown Mount Pleasant.

# Create and Break

By **Brendan Wiesner**  
Staff Reporter

On the outside it may look like a storefront under construction – but step in – and you’ll see the work of dozens of local artists covering the walls.

For Art’s Sake has occupied the downtown property at 117 S Main St since October 2020. What started as an annual art sale evolved into a colorful cooperative business.

In the space between the artwork on the walls, you’ll see canvases, paintbrushes, homemade candles and hand-sewn dresses. The place is filled with piles of fabric, paint, drawers full of yarn, buttons and every other crafting supply you can think of. Take one look inside, co-owner Megan Bair said, and you will know that this is a place for artists.

“A lot of artists didn’t have a place to sell their work, it’s really hard to be a full-time artist,” Bair said. “It’s a lot easier if we all come together and be part-time artists together.”

Bair said the road to opening her business is long and winding but also gratifying. When Bair and her husband opened a restaurant together in Rosebush she had no idea the small diner would eventually launch her career in buying and selling art.

Megan and her husband Chris opened Roz’s Diner in 2015. For five years the restaurant was considered a staple in Isabella County.

As a way to decorate the diner, they began hiring local artists to cover their walls in original paintings. Soon many local artists from Rosebush and Mount Pleasant used Roz’s as a way to sell their art to the public.

After an artist showcase was cancelled, Megan realized she had no art to show at Roz’s for a month, so she began to

## New downtown business provides a hub for local artists to sell, create work

create art of her own. She had little experience with painting but quickly found a passion for creating art after she made her first piece, a painting of a giraffe named April. Bair then began creating pieces for commission, organizing large-scale art sales and teaching classes all without any formal training.

Roz’s Diner closed its doors for good in October 2020 while COVID-19 health and safety guidelines made it difficult for restaurants to operate. Bair found herself with a year’s worth of artwork to display, and no diner to display it in.

This is what led Bair and her business partner Hannah France Mikus to buy and renovate a storefront in downtown Mount Pleasant. This is how For Art Sake’s new storefront was born.

“When we closed I had a year of artists booked for wall space,” Bair said. “So I started showing artists in the window space here.”

Bair and France Mikus began displaying art in the windows of the old New Yorker building in October. The pair met when France Mikus ate at Roz’s diner and attended a few painting classes, they began working together to renovate the New Yorker building into a storefront.

“I would walk by the New Yorker all the time and it kept

catching my eye,” Bair said. “It was sad to see it empty for so many years.”

It wasn’t until June 2021 For Art’s Sake opened its doors to sell art. Since then, the business has become a hub for dozens of local creators to make money off their hobbies.

This is important because France Mikus said numerous talented creators never end up making money off their work.

“As an artist, I know how hard it is to promote yourself and talk yourself up,” France Mikus said. “We all kind of think we’re not good enough – it’s easier to sell other people’s art.”

A studio space is open for visitors to use the supplies to create art of their own – and provides artists a place to socialize. For \$10 anyone can come in and use the space.

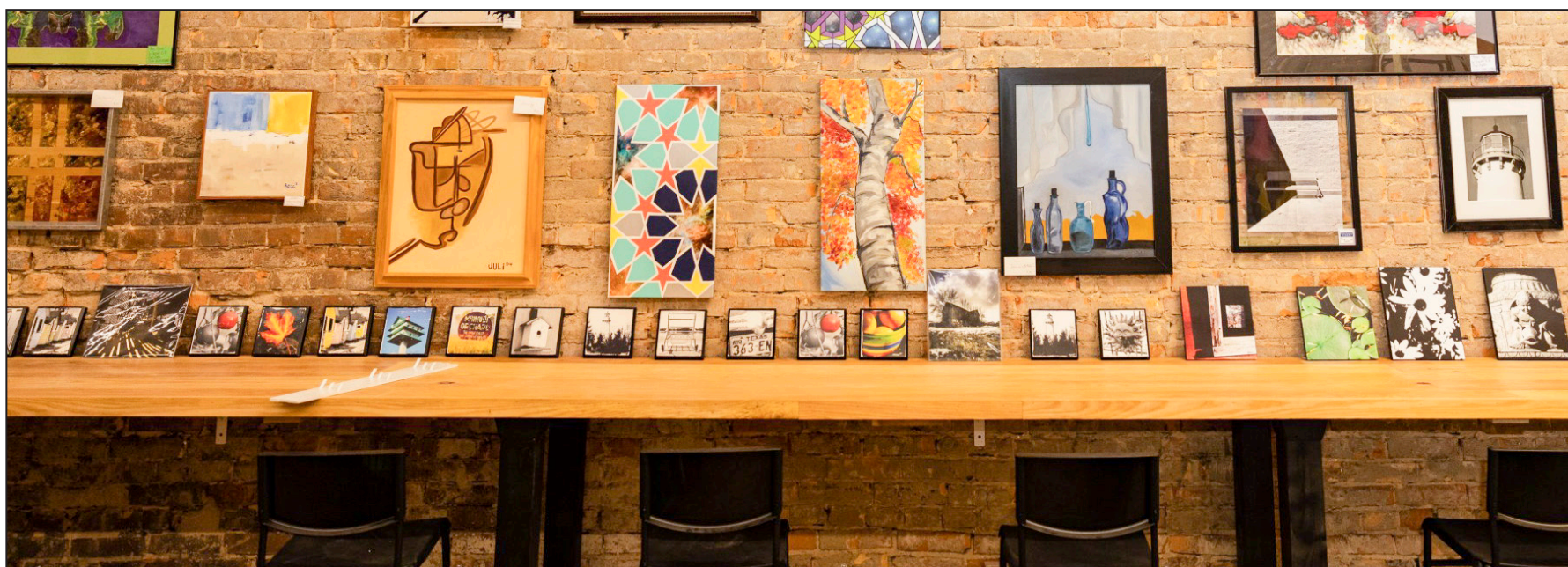
Feeling stressed? Angry? Like you could throw something at the wall? At For Art’s Sake, you actually can. The cement walled room in the back of the store, the “rage room” is available for anyone to use to smash glass bottles and plates to their heart’s content.

“Everyone should come to the rage room, sometimes we all need to just break some stuff for a while,” France Mikus said. “Especially after the year we just had.” For Art’s Sake also offers courses – not only in painting – but also needlework, tie-dye, papier-mache and more than thirty other styles of art. Classes are taught by the owners as well as local artists.

All updates and upcoming events can be found on the business’s Facebook Page and Instagram.

For Art’s Sake provides an environment for artists both new and experienced to learn how to improve their work and to sell the art they make.

“I’m doing it for art’s sake, I’m not doing it to get rich,” Bair said. “I’m doing it because people need to see this beautiful stuff and be encouraged to make their own.”



Drew Travis | Staff Photographer  
A wall of art hanging for sale at For Art’s Sake Sept. 23 in downtown Mount Pleasant.



Drew Travis | Staff Photographer  
The interior of For Art's Sake in downtown Mount Pleasant Sept. 8.



Drew Travis | Staff Photographer  
Art lines the walls of For Art's Sake, Sept. 8. Owner Megan Bair said all of it is for sale.



Drew Travis | Staff Photographer  
Megan Bair cuddles her daughter, Margo Sept. 8 in her shop, For Art's Sake.

# BEST OF CENTRAL MICHIGAN 2021



**AND THE WINNERS ARE..**

Welcome to the 21st annual Best of Central Michigan! Thank you, Central Michigan Life readers for voting for your favorite places, events and things in Mt. Pleasant. Congratulations to all those selected as our readers' favorites!

With the help of readers, *Central Michigan Life* is pleased to announce its 21st annual "Best of Central Michigan" Reader's Choice Awards. Thank you, voters, for submitting ballots and nominating your favorite businesses, people and things to do in Mount Pleasant.

Dozens of entries were nominated as "the best" in each category. This is an opportunity for voters to express love for each nomination and serves as a guide for future purchases, visits and memberships to organizations. We could not do this contest without your help! Thank you for your participation.

By turning the pages, you will learn about our winners and what makes them stand out in our community. Each winner is awarded a certificate acknowledging their achievements.

Look for those certificates in the stores around the community - and support those businesses!

Congratulations to all the businesses that were selected as winners.

Thank you again to everyone who helped us choose the "Best of Central Michigan"!

### Best Apartment

**United Apartments**  
989-772-2222  
4175 E. Bluegrass Road  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
www.livewithunited.com

United Apartments is the largest community of student housing in the Central Michigan area. It offers some of the best locations nearest to

both Central Michigan University and Mid-Michigan Community College campuses. United brings you a level of unmatched luxury, convenience and comfort at an affordable price. United Apartments is the place you want to call home!

### Best Auto Service/Repair

**Mt. Pleasant Tire**  
989-546-7734  
120 S. Fancher St.  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
www.almatireservice.com

Personal integrity, relentless perseverance, accountability and respect for tradition are the core values of Mt. Pleasant Tire. In addition to providing all automobile and tire services, the company offers loaner cars as well.

### Best Attorney

**Barberi Law**  
989-773-3423  
2305 Hawthorn Drive, Suite C  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
www.barberilawfirm.com

The Barberi Law staff is professional and attentive. Personal injury, criminal defense, family law, elder law and estate planning are their specialties. With a track record of meticulous customer service, you are assured to have an enviable experience.

### Best Bar

**The Bird**  
(989) 772-2493  
223 S. Main St.,  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

The Bird is the word! As one of the most well-known bars in town, and among CMU alumni, The Bird will serve your new favorite drink alongside great meals. We predict this will be the spot you will visit well after your days as a CMU student come to an end.

### Best Sweet Treats

**Doozie's Ice Cream Place**  
989-772-2332  
1310 East Pickard St.,  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

Doozie's offers more than 70 arctic swirl flavors and 16 hand-dipped flavors. Both pet and vegan friendly, Doozie's has been serving the Mount Pleasant community for more than 30 years. Ask about their sugar and dairy-free "Skinny Dip" for an experience that is unique to our community.

### Best Recreational Cannabis Business

**Jars Mount Pleasant**  
989-572-0400  
1005 Corporate Drive  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

JARS Cannabis is committed to providing the best quality product and the widest variety of options at prices people can afford. Express curbside lane now available! Skip the wait and take advantage of Jars new and improved curbside expe-

rience. Cash only - make sure you have your valid ID on hand upon arrival. ATM available

### Best Car Dealer

**Krapohl**  
Ford Lincoln  
989-423-2476  
1415 East Pickard Rd  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
www.krapohlford.com

Staffed with qualified technicians who provide outstanding service, Krapohl Ford caters to the Mount Pleasant community. Known for expert care and timely work, their service center is the place to go for your next oil change or brake fix.

### Best Breakfast Place

**The Diner**  
989-775-7210  
894 S. Mission Road.  
Mount Pleasant MI 48858

As a family owned and operated small business, The Diner serves breakfast all day, every day. The Diner's weekly "Friday Night All You Can Enjoy Fish Fry" is always a hit. They offer homemade daily specials, soups, pies and breads.



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### Best Coffee Shop

#### **Ponder Coffee Company**

(989) 317-0808  
110 East Broadway  
(Downtown)  
1027 S. Franklin  
(north campus)  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
pondercoffee.co

Escape the chains and experience the city's premier coffee crafters. Open 7 days a week, Ponder has two locations in Mt. Pleasant where they offer up coffee and espresso drinks, breakfast and lunch. You can also take their craft coffee home with you. Hours vary at the locations but both open at 7:30 a.m., Monday through Friday and 9 am on the weekends.

### Best Tattoo/Body Piercing Business

#### **Evolved ArtForms**

989-775-8288  
1222 S. Mission St.  
Mount Pleasant MI 48858

Located just minutes from campus, Evolved ArtForms provides piercing and tattoo services in a professional, clean environment. Their friendly staff helps put you at ease and is qualified to address every question you may have regarding body modifications. Their prices make it affordable for even a college student's budget.

### Best Downtown Business

#### **Max & Emily's**

(989) 772-7460  
125 E. Broadway St.  
Mount Pleasant MI 48858  
www.maxandemilys.com

A locally-owned soup and sandwich stop, Max & Emily's provides students with a casual atmosphere and a variety of options to accommodate every lifestyle. Fresh twists on old favorites, delicious and simple pairs as well as original menu items make this a delicious addition to your list of local favorites. Check out Max & Emily's concert series for an even bigger reason to visit the local business.

### Best CMU Fraternity

#### **Sigma Alpha Epsilon**

Greek Life  
(989) 774-3016  
CMU Office of Student  
Activities & Involvement  
Bovee UC Room 101

Sigma Alpha Epsilon has a strong focus on academics, philanthropy, leadership, and above all else, brotherhood. Sigma Alpha Epsilon prides themselves on being an elite fraternity of "True Gentleman." Community and volunteer service are emphasized.

### Best Place to Hear Live Music

#### **Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort**

(888) 7-EAGLE-7  
6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd.  
Mount Pleasant MI 48858  
www.SoaringEagleCasino.com

With previous performances by entertainers like Tim McGraw, Journey, Salt-N-Pepa, and Kid Roc, Soaring Eagle is the best indoor and outdoor music venue in town. Visit their box office to view a variety of live shows you won't want to miss.

### Best Asian Food

#### **Hunan House**

989-772-7386  
2157 S. Mission St.  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
www.hunanhousemi.com

Located on Mission Street, Hunan House provides excellent customer service by creating a welcoming environment and using fresh ingredients. Next time you're craving Asian cuisine, make a stop at Hunan House. You'll be glad you did!

### Best Fast Food Restaurant

#### **Dog Central**

(989) 317-3076  
111 East Michigan St.  
Mount. Pleasant, MI 48858  
www.dogcentralmp.com

When your night is winding down, there is only one place to go. Dog Central has a variety

of wild, yummy toppings that all sound good in the late (or early) hours. And priced right for a student budget. So take a walk and treat your taste buds.

### Best Gift Shop

#### **CMU Bookstore**

(989) 774-7493  
103 E. Preston St.  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859  
www.cmubookstore.com

There is no better place to purchase gifts for family and friends than CMU's own bookstore. Located on the second floor of the Bovee University Center, the bookstore is convenient to all students while on campus. No matter the occasion, the CMU Bookstore has a large selection of merchandise to choose from, especially for the CMU fan in your life.

### Best Golf Course

#### **Buck's Run**

Golf Club  
(989) 773-6830  
1559 S. Chippewa Road  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
www.bucksrun.com

Looking for the perfect spot to wind down and golf in Mt. Pleasant? Buck's Run Golf Club offers a serene environment and plenty of amenities such as a full restaurant, an on-site accessory shop and a variety of golf packages to best suit your personal preferences.

**Thank you for choosing US for your care!**

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**Best Gym/Health Club**

**Student Activity Center (The SAC)**

(989) 774-3686  
Central Michigan University  
www.cmich.edu/ess/urec

Looking to energize before class, or unwind after? The SAC is the complete fitness and wellness package. From individual training to group fitness there is something for everyone: fitness center, indoor track, weight training, racquetball and basketball courts and a pool. It's all here for you!

**Best Hamburger**

**Freddie's Tavern**

989-773-2180  
705 S. Adams St.  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
www.freddiestavernmi.com

Served on Robaire's famous buns, and using only Certified Angus Beef, Freddie's makes the juiciest, tastiest burgers in town! Voted the best for the past 10 years, Freddie's gourmet burgers will cost you less than \$10. You can stick with the classic cheeseburger, tread on hot territory with the jalapeno cheddar or get rowdy with the Rodeo Burger.

**Best Happy Hour**

**Applebee's**

989-779-2766  
4929 E. Pickard Road,  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
www.applebees.com

Half-off drinks, \$3.25 tall domestic beers on tap and \$4 margaritas are just some of the deals that make this popular chain an after-work staple. Both drinks and appetizers are slashed, giving students a chance to eat for 50 percent off during both traditional and late-night happy hours.

**Best Salon / Spa**

**Salon Blu**

(989) 772-8898  
121 S. University Ave.  
Mount Pleasant, MI  
www.salon-blu.com

Salon Blu is the complete

package when it comes to all your beauty needs. Hair? Check. Nails? Check. Salon Blu's team of professionals love CMU students and look forward to seeing you soon!

**Best Place for Lunch**

**Max & Emily's**

989-772-7460  
125 E. Broadway St.  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
www.maxandemilys.com

A locally-owned soup and sandwich stop, Max & Emily's provides students with a casual atmosphere and a variety of options to accommodate every lifestyle. Fresh twists on old favorites, delicious and simple pairs as well as original menu items make this a delicious addition to your list of local favorites. Check out Max & Emily's concert series for an even bigger reason to visit the local business.

**Best Mexican Restaurant**

**Loz Aztecas**

989-775-8594  
4445 E. Bluegrass Road  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

This Mexican bar and grill located near campus is a popular place to go for end-of-the-week margaritas. You won't be able to leave Los Aztecas with a bit to eat after you take a look at the extensive menu that features a wide variety of authentic, delicious Mexican food.

**Best Party Store**

**K&S Liquor**

(989) 317-8778  
4855 E. Bluegrass Road, Suite 106  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

From 99 cent mini-bottles to high-end liquor and wine, K&S offers your favorite drinks in all price ranges. The store also offers a variety of Michigan craft beers, imports and all

your favorite domestic beers and seltzers. And don't forget the snacks. Cheers!

**Best Newspaper**

**Central Michigan LIFE**

989-774-LIFE  
CMU, Moore Hall, 436,  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859  
www.cm-life.com

Informing the student body and community since 1919, *CM Life* is a student media company that serves the Mount Pleasant and CMU community. Students stay informed by visiting *CM Life's* Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, listening to podcasts on iTunes and Spotify and picking up 7,000 papers every Thursday on campus and around town. *CM Life* has a strong online presence, with 1.5 million pageviews a year at their website www.cm-life.com.

**Best Pizza**

**The Cabin**

(989) 779-9167  
930 W. Broomfield St.  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

A CMU student tradition, The Cabin is conveniently located near campus. Known for its mouth-watering pizza, breadsticks and beverages you can walk to The Cabin from anywhere on campus. Remember, it's not just pizza, it's Cabin pizza. The Cabin also has featured specials most weekdays.

**Best Place to Take A Date**

**Doozie's**

Ice Cream Place  
989-772-2332  
1310 E. Pickard St.,  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

Doozie's offers more than 70 arctic swirl flavors and 16 hand-dipped flavors. Both pet and vegan friendly, Doozie's has been serving the Mount Pleasant community for more than 30 years. Ask about their sugar and dairy-free "Skinny Dip" for an experience that is unique to our community.

**Best Jewelry Store**

**Ace of Diamonds**

989-779-9919  
406 S. Mission St.  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
www.aceofdiamondsjewelry.net

Offering a variety of rings, watches, neck-



laces and more, Ace of Diamonds uses competitive prices and friendly staff to keep customers returning. Their expertise in fine gifts is demonstrated every time a customer walks through the door – offering guidance from budgeting, to buying and upkeep.

### Best Sub Sandwich

**Max & Emily's**  
989-772-7460  
125 E. Broadway St.  
Mount Pleasant MI 48858  
www.maxandemilys.com

A locally-owned soup and sandwich stop, Max & Emily's provides students with a modern atmosphere and a variety of options to accommodate every lifestyle. Fresh twists on old favorites, delicious and simple pairs as well as original menu items make this a delicious addition to your list of local favorites. Check out Max & Emily's concert series for an even bigger reason to visit the local business.

### Best Shoe Store

**DICK'S Sporting Goods**  
(989) 772-1990  
4208 E. Blue Grass Road,  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

DICK'S Sporting Goods is a leading sporting goods retailer offering an extensive assortment of authentic, high-quality sports equipment, apparel, footwear and accessories. The company serves and inspires athletes and outdoor enthusiasts to achieve their personal best through customer service in-store services and unique specialty shop-in-shops dedicated to team sports, athletic apparel, golf, outdoor, fitness and footwear.

### Best Student Organization

**SAPA**  
(989) 774-CALL (2255)  
Sexual Aggression Peer  
Advocates, CMU Office  
of Student Affairs  
150 Foust Hall  
www.sapa.cmich.edu

SAPA is a survivor-centered and trauma-informed, paraprofessional student organization that serves those affected by sexual aggression through 24/7 services during fall and spring semesters, including a confidential support line, online chat service, and direct in-person services, available to students, faculty, staff, and the community.

**Best**

### CMU Sorority

**Phi Sigma Sigma**  
Greek Life  
(989) 774-3016  
CMU Office of Student  
Activities & Involvement  
Bovee UC Room 101  
www.cmich.edu/ess/sai/FraternitySororityLife  
cmugreeks@cmich.edu

Phi Sigma Sigma was founded at CMU in February 1984. Its Colors are King Blue and gold. The organization's motto is "Diokete Hupsala" – Aim High. Their symbol is the Sphinx and its flower is American Beauty Rose.

### Best Steak House

**Texas Roadhouse**  
989-775-7427  
2177 S. Mission St.  
Mount. Pleasant MI 48858  
www.texasroadhouse.com

Texas Roadhouse gives you a taste of home wherever you are. Their legendary steaks are seared to lock-in juices and build delicious flavor with every bite. Serving sizzling sirloins, New York strips, ribeye and filets for around \$20, it's no wonder why the average Texas Roadhouse restaurant serves an average of 5,000 guests a week.

### Best Men's Clothing Store

**Kohl's**  
989-773-4640  
4855 Encore Drive  
Mount. Pleasant MI 48858  
www.kohls.com

Kohl's is affordable, and offers a surplus of brands that help keep you in style all year. Carrying Levi's, PUMA, Ray-Ban, Columbia, Adidas and more, you're able to have the variety of an entire mall within one store. Conveniently located near student apartments, it's a perfect pit stop before a night out on the town.

### Best Women's Clothing Store

**Target**  
(989) 773-0218  
4097 E. Blue Grass Road,  
Mount Pleasant, MI  
48858

Target's mission is to "help all families dis-

cover the joy of everyday life." But we love them because they offer great clothes at affordable prices. Shopping at Target always offers the promise of surprises, fun, ease and inspiration at every turn, no matter when, where or how you shop.

### Best Campus Dining

**Einstein Bros. Bagels**  
(989) 774-6406  
195 Ojibway Ct.  
Mount Pleasant MI 48858  
www.einsteinbros.com

Einstein Bros. Bagels is an American chain that specializes in bagels and coffee. They strive to provide customers with freshly baked bagels, breakfast sandwiches, lunch sandwiches, coffee, catering and so much more. Stop on in. They will have a fresh bagel and cup of coffee ready for you.

### Best CMU Athletic Team

**Women's Basketball**  
Central Michigan University  
Mount. Pleasant MI 48859  
www.cmuchippewas.com

With a history of winning seasons, so it's no wonder that Women's Basketball earned their title as the best athletic team. In recent years, this band of powerful university athletes has been nearly unstoppable. Catch them during home games at Mc-

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21

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Guirk Arena this season, free of charge for students.

### Best Dance Club

**Wayside Central**  
989-772-2391  
2000 S. Mission St.  
Mount Pleasant MI 48858  
www.facebook.com/  
waysidemp/

Wayside Central is one of the largest night-clubs in Central Michigan. Wayside has been a campus hotspot since 1974, providing students with sweat-filled fun, loud music and daily drink specials that provide an experience like no other. Come alone or with a group to enjoy an epic night of cages, dancing on table tops and music that will keep you moving.

### Best Unique Business

**Pure Vitality**  
989-817-4663  
128 E. Broadway St.  
Mount Pleasant MI 48858  
www.mipurevitality.com

The only spa in Mount Pleasant where you can enjoy a variety of fresh squeezed juices, hang out in an infrared sauna, and experience top-of-the-line float pods in the same day! With 16 ounce juices for \$8, and infrared massages for \$18, you can improve your health without breaking the bank.

### Best Place to Karaoke

**The Cabin**  
989-779-9167  
930 W. Broomfield St.  
Mount Pleasant MI 48858  
www.facebook.com/  
TheCabinMtPleasant

The Cabin is famous for its weekly specials. Its rustic interior covered in the signatures of students make this pizza joint a cozy favorite for singing with friends. Enjoy their drink specials before you get your groove on, or stop by earlier for a delicious pizza dinner.

### Best Expo, Show or Event

**CMU Pow Wow**  
MARCH 2021  
Celebrating Life Pow Wow  
McGuirk Arena, CMU  
Mount Pleasant MI 48859

A unique event to Mount Pleasant, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Pow Wow celebrates Native American culture. Since 1984 the event has helped share native tradition through dance and drumming competitions. The event is free of charge to those with a student ID.

### Best Unique Food

**Shin's Korean Restaurant**  
(989) 317-0736  
1620 S. Mission St. Suite K,  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

A landmark local restaurant serving authentic Korean cuisine. Fresh ingredients and expert

preparation offer customers some of the best Asian cuisine in town.

### Midori Sushi and Martini Lounge

989-775-7723  
105 E Broadway St  
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www.midorimp.com

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**Applebee's**  
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www.applebees.com

Applebee's drink and appetizer specials are priced with the college student in mind. Check out what is on tap during both traditional and late-night happy hours.

### Best Non-Profit Organization

**Special Olympics of Michigan**  
(989) 774-3911  
1120 E. Campus Drive  
Central Michigan University

Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
www.somi.org

With the Michigan Special Olympics headquarters located right in Mt. Pleasant, it's no surprise that many CMU students fall in love with this organization that positively impacts its surrounding community. Almost 20,000 athletes participate in the Michigan Special Olympics, making it one of the largest in the United States.

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**Best Local Brewery**

**Mountain Town Brewing Company**

(989) 400-4666  
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Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
www.mountaintownbrew.com

What MTBC beer are you craving? Train Wreck Ale? Iron Horse IPA? Railyard Raspberry Wheat? All of them are available On Tap or in Growler form at the new Summit Smokehouse in the Mountain Town Brewing Company. Never tried any of them? Beer flights are available for only \$8. Be sure to ask about their Mug Club and brew tours, too.

**Best Local Winery**

**Winery at Young Farms**

989-506-5142  
8396 70th Avenue  
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www.thewineryatyoungfarms.com

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**Best Place to Volunteer**

**Special Olympics of Michigan**

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1120 E. Campus Drive  
Central Michigan University

Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
www.somi.org

With the Michigan Special Olympics headquarters located right in Mt. Pleasant, it's easy for students and staff to participate. From helping feed athletes and their families to scoring events and planning activities, there is some volunteer opportunity that will appeal to you.

**Best Restaurant**

**Summit Smokehouse & Taproom**

989-400-4666  
3068 Jenn's Way  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
Summit-smokehouse.com

Summit Smokehouse has an extensive menu full of delicious barbeque dishes and draft beers. Start off your meal with burnt ends, order a sandwich or if you are feeding a group check out the "Meat Sweats." The atmosphere is casual and cool – perfect for dates, anniversaries or hanging out with friends.

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# COMPLETING THE COMEBACK

## Daniel Richardson's comeback came as no surprise to those who know him

**By Christian Booher**  
Staff Reporter

Daniel Richardson was offered a full-ride scholarship to play quarterback at Florida International University in the eighth grade. His unbeaten record through the youth football ranks caught the Panthers' eye.

Seven years after the offer, he reminded the world of the skill set the Panthers coveted. The Miami native threw three fourth quarter touchdown passes to cap a 21-point comeback and win the game for Central Michigan against the team who offered him first.

Though some may have seen Richardson's furious comeback as a surprise. Those who know him best saw it as fulfilled expectations, including Oliver Bozeman, a Miami-based quarterback coach who worked with Richardson in high school.

"The reason this was expected was because this is a conversation we have every week," Bozeman said. "I mean the situation is what it is, but at the end of the day, you never know what could happen in the course of a game and he's gonna make sure he's prepared no matter what."

Bozeman and Richardson talk three times a week: twice leading up to a game and then after. A common theme in those

conversations this season has been staying ready. Bozeman knew, at some point, Richardson would get a shot.

"That's how we build athletes in South Florida," Bozeman said. "We're used to adversity, we're used to playing from behind. So, with him already having that mindset and having that character from the beginning, he already knew what time it was when he stepped into the game."

The redshirt freshman entered the game for Bothel, WA sophomore and quarterback Jacob Sirmon midway through the third quarter. His first drive ended in six points for FIU, when Richardson's high school teammate Rishard Dames blocked Grand Rapids, red-shirt freshman punter Luke Elzinga's punt and returned it for a touchdown.

The second drive wasn't much better, as Richardson fumbled. Down 27-10, Richardson put forth a show-stopping effort.

After moving the ball into FIU territory, an offensive pass interference penalty backed CMU into a first-and-25 from its own 47-yard line. Richardson wasn't fazed, completing six straight passes that included a 15-yard strike to Detroit red-shirt freshman and runningback Lew Nichols III to make it a two-score game.

The Chippewa defense forced a punt, giving Richardson and company the ball back down 10 with 9:05 remaining. CMU marched down the field, and Muskegon senior and wide receiver JaCorey Sullivan out jumped a defender in the right

corner of the south end zone to make it 27-24 with just over seven minutes left.

Richardson and company turned the ball over on downs on their next drive, but got one more chance when the defense forced FIU to punt. Setting up with exactly two minutes left and needing 80 yards, Richardson lofted a first down pass to Muskegon junior and wide receiver Kalil Pimpleton for 28 yards.

The Chippewas were off to the races.

After hitting Phoenix junior and wide receiver Dallas Dixon for 18 yards and then Nichols for seven, Richardson set the offense up on a third-and-three from the FIU 27. After identifying the Panthers' Cover 3 look with the cornerback backed off Dixon, Richardson fired a bullet to the left.

Dixon caught it, made two defenders miss, and sprinted into the end zone.

Richardson sprinted, holding his left arm perpendicular to his right and shaking the latter, all the way to his team's bench. He stood atop it, yelling into the crowd amidst his adorning teammates.

"I'm proud of the way D-Rich came in and played," CMU Head Coach Jim McElwain said. "He did what he was expected to do and he did his job. I'm happy for him and happy for this football team."



**Andrew Travis** | Staff Photographer

Miami freshman Daniel Richardson launches a pass while on the run against FIU Sept. 25.

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**B.J. Tindal**

*Original Dramaturgy by*  
**Maansi Sahay Seth**

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Mike Schaefer, Managing Director

# When it comes to providing quality food and 'customer service' ...

# We don't.

We've all heard about the problems with Campus Dining. We fixed it for you: Give us the services we paid for or refund our money.

Since Welcome Weekend, Central Michigan University Facebook parent groups and student Twitter accounts have served up a full buffet of complaints about uncooked chicken, spoiled milk, food shortages and other problems in campus residential restaurants.

What's different this year? It's the first year of a 10-year contract with Chartwells, a company best known for serving K-12 schools. CMU chose to end its 25-year relationship with Aramark a year early in the middle of a global pandemic.

Aramark food was not great – it's the company that Michigan prisons ended its contract with in 2015 due to poor service. But Aramark was able to keep our dining halls open and supplied with food during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We genuinely thought Chartwells could not be worse than Aramark. Yet CMU chose to partner with a company that serves up worse food than the food Michigan Department of Corrections deemed not good enough for its prisoners.

We understand two of the ongoing problems of COVID-19 are that companies are having supply chain issues and struggling to hire employees. Chartwells, President Bob Davies and Board of Trustees Chair Rich Studley have all outlined these struggles in messages to employees, parents and students – CMU's "customers."

We get it. So, what's the solution? We don't feel like customers. We feel like

## EDITORIAL

students. But we have made an investment in this university.

You want to call us customers? That's fine. Davies, Studley, Chartwells – your customers are furious. Fix this.

As a customer of a restaurant – who is forced to pay in advance, who can't have a waiter send food back to the kitchen and who can't have an inedible meal removed from our bill – don't expect empathy from us. When we show up and food stations are empty, food is either raw or overcooked and lines are understaffed, what else do you expect? You know you are going to hear about it. So stop explaining these problems and start presenting solutions.

This year, with enrollment down, there are fewer "customers" than ever. That also means fewer meals to make and fewer employees needed to work.

So why has this semester started so badly? Dining halls have always had staffing issues. Dining halls have always had the reputation for being the worst jobs on campus – poor treatment, scheduling issues and wages lower than what you could earn by working at McDonald's.

Don't blame COVID-19 for that.

Supply chain issues? It wasn't much of a problem last year. Yes, we all are aware that some food products are more difficult to source. Yes, we understand Chartwells is looking for alternate suppliers. Yet somehow restaurants and caterers around the country are making it work. What's your plan, Chartwells, for getting us through the semester?

Davies, Studley and Chartwells, your customers expect you to deliver what we paid for.

We are *hangry*. And we are running out of

patience.

Here is some customer feedback to consider:

Immediately, CMU should offer meal exchange options with on-campus franchises set to open in October. Give students the opportunity to use a meal swipe to pay for a meal at one of the franchise restaurants in the Down Under Food Court. We are willing to bet the university will ensure that the Down Under is fully stocked and employed since it brings in additional revenue by selling \$9 chicken strip meals and \$8 cheeseburgers.

Also, we encourage our fellow customers who are upset with a meal to "send it back." Make sure your complaints are heard by Campus Dining. Text their customer service hotline at 989-373-2300. We also encourage you to share pictures of your disappointing dining experiences on Twitter – don't forget to tag us (@CMLIFE), President Davies (@cmichprez) and Trustee Studley (@rstudley).

Since CMU has acknowledged these "customer service issues" publicly, it should consider offering at least a partial refund for poor service in September to all students with meal plans. It should offer partial refunds for as long as these problems continue. If there is a lack of employees – and a pool of unspent, budgeted student wages – feel free to use that money to pay us back for quality meals we never received.

We will acknowledge that some students haven't had any issues. If they feel they are getting their money's worth from Campus Dining, that's fine. But many more of us don't feel that way.

We have heard your explanations. We have listened to your excuses. Now show us some solutions.

We deserve to get what we paid for or we deserve our money back.

Remember, the customer is always right.

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All letters to the editor or guest columns must include a name, address, affiliation (if any) and phone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be printed, except under extraordinary circumstances. CM 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 may be submitted but must remain under 750 words. Published versions may be shorter than the original submission. CM Life reserves the right to print any original content as a letter or guest column. Please allow up to five days for a staff response, which will include an expected date of publication. Submission does not guarantee publication.

*Central Michigan Life*, the independent voice of Central Michigan University, is edited and published by students of Central Michigan University every Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. The newspaper's online edition, [cm-life.com](http://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. Dave Clark 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.



# OPINION |

## Local journalists are under attack, make sure you know our rights

Reporter Brendan Quealy, who works at the *Traverse City Record-Eagle* where I interned this summer, was pushed up against a fence and punched in the face last month while covering an anti-mask rally.

According to news reports, an organizer tried to deter Quealy from covering the event that took place in a public park. Two men grabbed the reporter and pushed him up to a fence before hitting him.

*Morning Sun* reporter Eric Baerren was attacked on Aug. 2 by a parent who wanted him to delete photos from his camera after covering a school board meeting.

Baerren was approached by a man while packing up his equipment. The man asked Baerren to delete photos of his daughter that were taken during the public meeting. After Baerren refused, the parent tried to grab his phone and kick his camera from his grasp, according to a report Baerren submitted to the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker.

This violence struck too close to home. Quealy and I shared an office over the summer. I not only share a coverage area with Baerren, who is a Central Michigan University alumnus, but he's also provided helpful advice to many *Central Michigan Life* staffers.

Those two aren't alone. *CM Life* journalists also have faced violence and intimidation



**Michael Livingston**  
Editor-In-Chief

while doing our jobs.

Over our 101 years on campus, staff members have been threatened, harassed and attacked. In 2014, we had Delta Chi fraternity brothers barge into our office after hours and demand an audience with the editor to complain about coverage. Later that year the same fraternity stole hundreds of print editions that contained stories about why they were kicked off campus.

In 2016, a female photographer was assaulted by a male student while on assignment at Deerfield Apartments. Michigan State Police investigated that incident. That student was charged.

In 2017, three men showed up at around 10 p.m. at night refusing to leave until they met with the editor. Only one female student was in the office at the time and she was harassed

and bullied until Campus Police were called.

Blame it on political polarization, social media hysteria, or the spreading of fake news – the balance of trust between the news media and everyone else seems worse and more unstable than ever.

It doesn't matter what the former president said. No matter how dangerous the job gets, our motive always stays the same – report the facts, publish the truth. That's what Quealy and Baerren were doing. That's what every staff member at *CM Life* strives to do.

It doesn't matter how worked up you are about mask mandates or critical race theory – nothing gives you the right to take your frustration out on a reporter.

If you're opinionated and passionate about what's in the news, perhaps we can speak like civil human beings. Maybe we'll include you as a source in our stories. But if you prevent us from doing our jobs with violence or harassment, the only story you're likely to appear in is our weekly crime log.

With luck, this time next year I'll be working full-time as a reporter. I should be excited, but I can't help being frightened by stories like these.

Imagine this. Someone stomps into your place of business, demands that you stop what your doing, says your work is worthless,

that you're a menace to society. You refuse. Then you're forced out with a black eye.

I am walking into an industry with high turnover rates, layoffs, late hours and, likely, a vow of poverty. But I will work in a newsroom nonetheless because I know this job is important to our society.

Need proof? Check the First Amendment. Need more? Read the first pieces of journalism published in America by our founding fathers – the pieces of writing that helped spark the American Revolution.

Without reporters to document our communities we lose the first draft of history. Without reporters, good luck knowing who requires vaccines or mask mandates, what's being voted on in local elections or what events are happening this weekend.

We have been targeted as the source for all public discourse. People claim somehow our work is "the enemy of the people." Those people are flat-out wrong.

No journalist wants to be the subject of their own story.

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## LIFE IN BRIEF

## Board of Trustees approve over \$10 million in renovations

### By Staff Reports

The Central Michigan University Board of Trustees met in committees on Sept. 22 and had its formal meeting on Sept. 23. Trustees discussed residence hall renovations, campus dining and the residential assessment.

Renovations that were approved were:

- \$3.9 million for Troutman Hall to convert rooms from two-person twin bed suites to two-person double bed suites to be completed in April 2022.

- \$8.1 million dollars for Cobb and Wheeler Halls to receive similar renovations.

- \$1.5 million for the Washington Commons Residential Community Project Design. The plan is for second-story apartments with space for storefronts below on Washington Street. These will eventually replace Kewadin Village and Northwest Apartments.

Trustees received an update on stu-

dent life. Residence Housing Association Director Addison Hoekstra mentioned students have expressed frustrations with campus dining options, lack of food and quality that has led to a "Bring Back the Chicken Bowl" group and protests being planned.

Campus Dining has addressed the complaints in an email which referenced supply chain issues and worker shortages.

Chairman Richard Studley will be working with trustees Isaiah Oliver and Rob Wardrop to interview administrators, faculty, students and community members on their thoughts of President Davies during his first three years.

"The process is really just getting started," Studley said. "Our commitment is that the three of us will work together in the spirit of teamwork and cooperation. We all have different experiences and will bring a different perspective."

## Annual Homecoming festivities to return Oct. 16 after two years

### By Tess Ware

The Central Michigan University Homecoming Parade is back after being cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19.

The parade will be held on Saturday, Oct. 16, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. starting in the commuter parking lot next to the Towers and ending at Sacred Heart Church.

The parade will include CMU football alumni and former NFL player Joe Staley, who will be acting as Grand Marshal and CMU Gold Ambassadors.

Also participating will be the CMU Marching Band, the Student Government Association and other floats by students and the Mount Pleasant community.

"We are really excited to bring a longstanding tradition back to CMU after a year off," said Molly Schuneman, Associate Director of SAI and Homecoming

Parade chair. "(The parade) will be really exciting and ignite (student's) spirits for Homecoming and help foster excitement and love for CMU."

Other Homecoming events returning this year are Rock Rally, the Medallion Hunt and a social media challenge. The details for these events are available on the CMU Homecoming webpage.

This year's Homecoming week will be slightly shorter because the Monday and Tuesday of that week is Fall Break.

Businesses or organizations that would like to enter a float or be in the parade can register on Engage Central or email schun1m@cmich.edu for more details. The deadline to sign up is at 11:59 p.m. Monday, Oct. 11.

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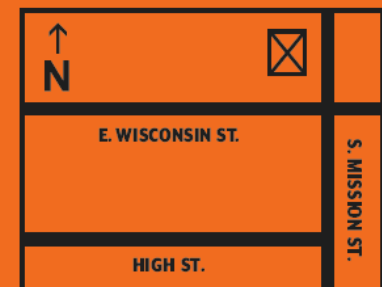
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