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CENTRAL MICHIGAN LIFE

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People attend the Mount Pleasant Farmer's Market Aug. 21 downtown on East Broadway Street.

Aurora Abraham | Photo Editor

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HAVING AN IMPACT



Wilson collects her bag containing her IMPACT merchandise early Sunday morning, Aug. 23.

Learning to lead her campus and community

Grand Haven freshman Ke'bah Wilson chose to attend Central Michigan University after attending a North American indigenous summer camp.

That's where she met Director of Native American Programs Colleen Green and other native student leaders. She said they showed her a community at CMU that will support her throughout her college experience.

Choosing to attend IMPACT did something else.

Geared toward welcoming students of color to campus, Wilson said the program helped her see herself as a future leader at CMU, and for her native community.

The three-day program was held from Aug. 22-24. Events included bonding activities, dancing, guest speakers, games and other resources to help students find their home away from home.

"IMPACT has been an amazing experience for learning more about leadership as an underrepresented student, gaining a better understanding of campus life, and how to get the most of my college experience," Wilson said.

Students are divided up into groups of ten to twelve, headed by two IMPACT mentors. These upperclassmen help IMPACT students with their transition to college life by providing advice and resources.

Wilson said her IMPACT leaders provided much needed inspiration.

"I am hoping to also apply to become a part of the IMPACT program and help the next incoming freshman class," she said. "Seeing mentors who were passionate about making the IMPACT program as memorable and insightful as it was for them, allowed me to understand the importance of continuing the cycle of leadership."



Wilson, at the evening party on the second day of IMPACT, Monday, Aug. 23, at Grawn Hall. Wilson chose to do IMPACT to meet new people and become acquainted with the campus.

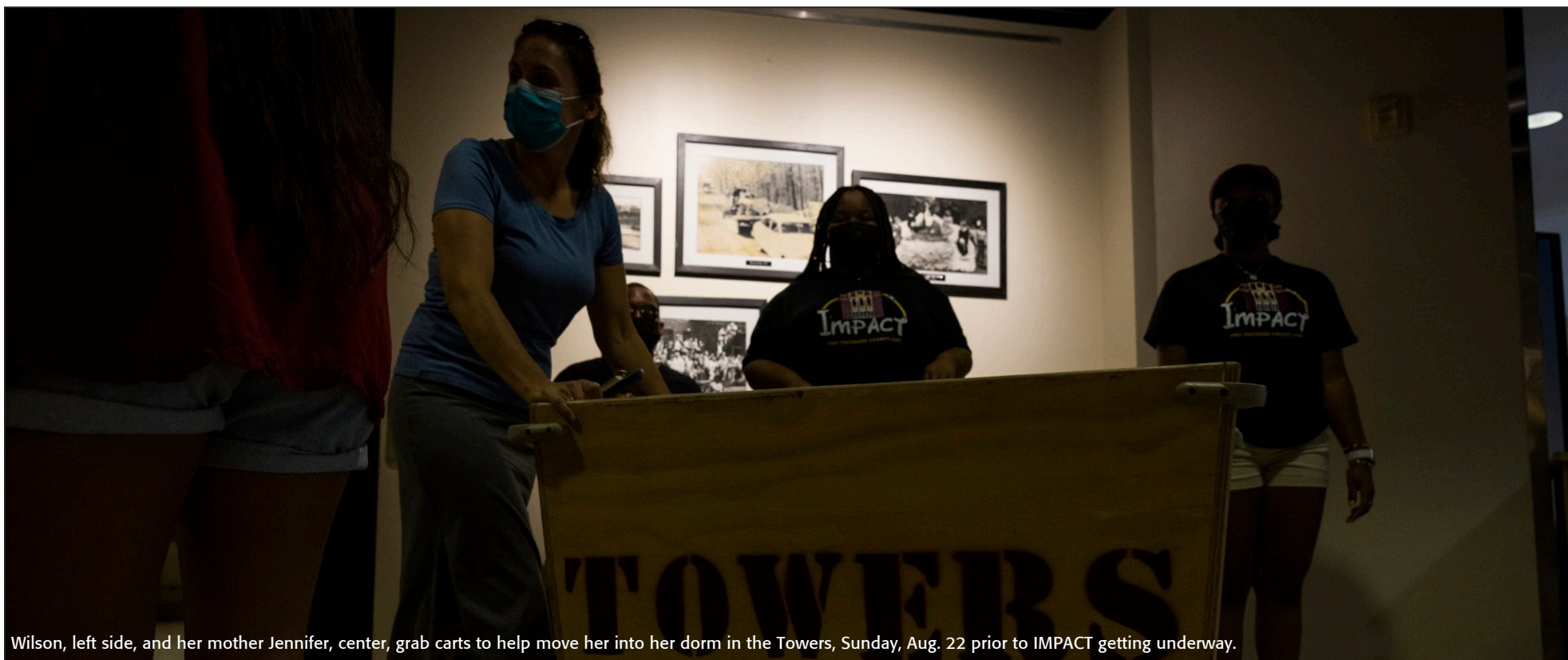
PHOTOS BY DREW TRAVIS



Wilson, right middle, plays Jenga at the evening party on the second day of IMPACT, Monday, Aug. 23, in Grawn Hall.



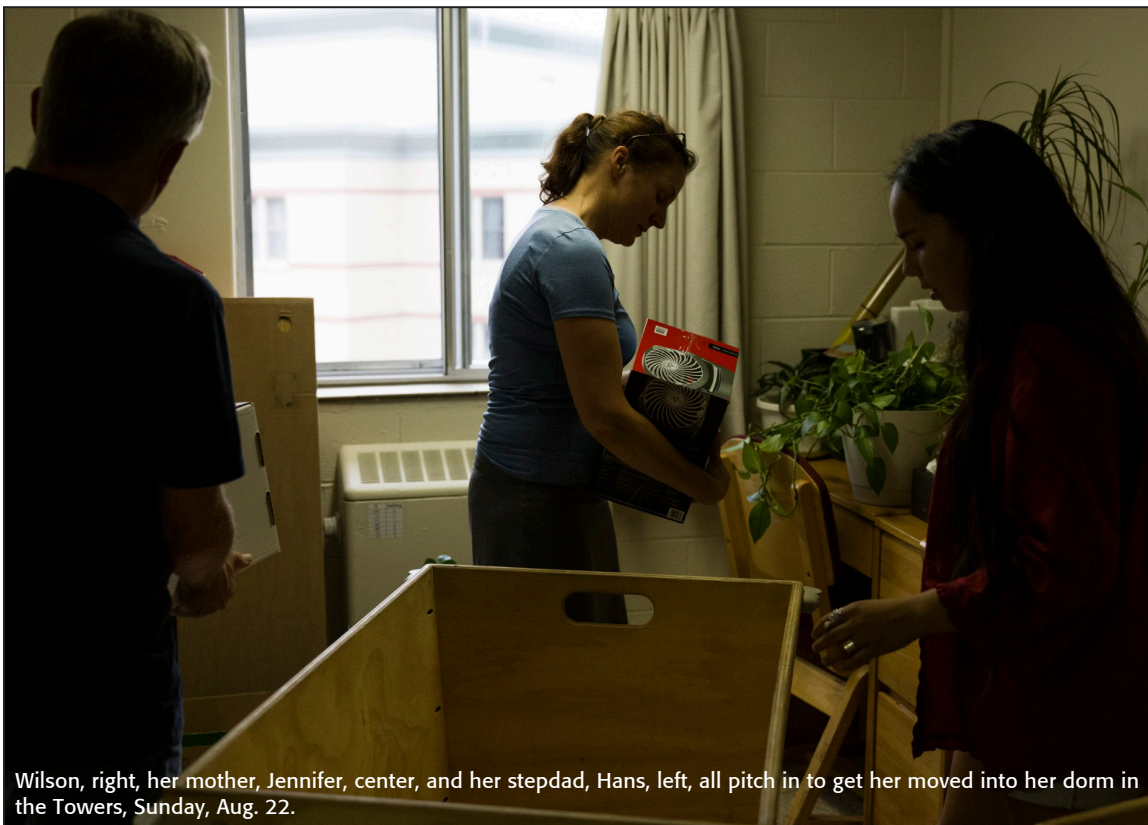
Wilson, left, and her mother, Jennifer, right, put sheets on her bedding, Sunday, Aug. 22, in the Towers.



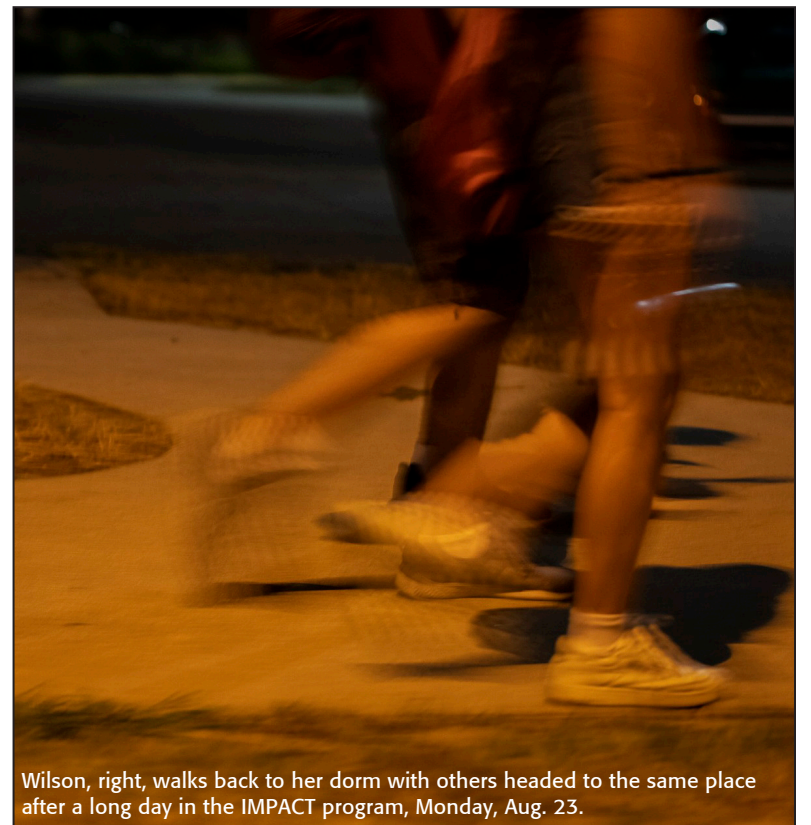
Wilson, left side, and her mother Jennifer, center, grab carts to help move her into her dorm in the Towers, Sunday, Aug. 22 prior to IMPACT getting underway.



Wilson, right, interacts with her Team Resilient 'family' around the dinner table, Sunday, Aug. 22, in the Connect Cafeteria.



Wilson, right, her mother, Jennifer, center, and her stepdad, Hans, left, all pitch in to get her moved into her dorm in the Towers, Sunday, Aug. 22.



Wilson, right, walks back to her dorm with others headed to the same place after a long day in the IMPACT program, Monday, Aug. 23.

Law enforcement prepares for Welcome Weekend

By Tess Ware
Associate Editor

Students are once again returning to campus which means Welcome Weekend, traditionally one of the biggest party weekends of the year, is approaching.

Local authorities said they are preparing for whatever situations may occur. However, Autume Balcom, the public information officer of the Mount Pleasant Police Department, said MPPD is not sure what to expect the weekend of Aug. 27-29.

In Fall 2020, a surge of COVID-19 cases occurred after several large gatherings took place. With available vaccines and lower enrollment, it isn't clear if there will be as many gatherings or if they will lead to another surge.

"We are going to continue with our plan of action that we've always done just so we're prepared," Balcom said. "From our understanding, enrollment is down this year, so we're not sure what to expect."

However, Welcome Weekend violations continued their four-year decline last year as more people stayed inside.

MPPD is preparing for any scenario with increased enforcement Thursday through Saturday, with officers patrolling city-wide on foot, in cars, and on motorcycles.

The CMU Police Department will be patrolling campus as well as partnering with MPPD to patrol off-campus areas with high concentrations of students.

The Mount Pleasant Fire Department and emergency responders will also be out in the community. A large concentration of the patrol will be in the neighborhoods north of Central Michigan University's campus, specifically Bellows Street to Main Street in downtown Mount Pleasant.

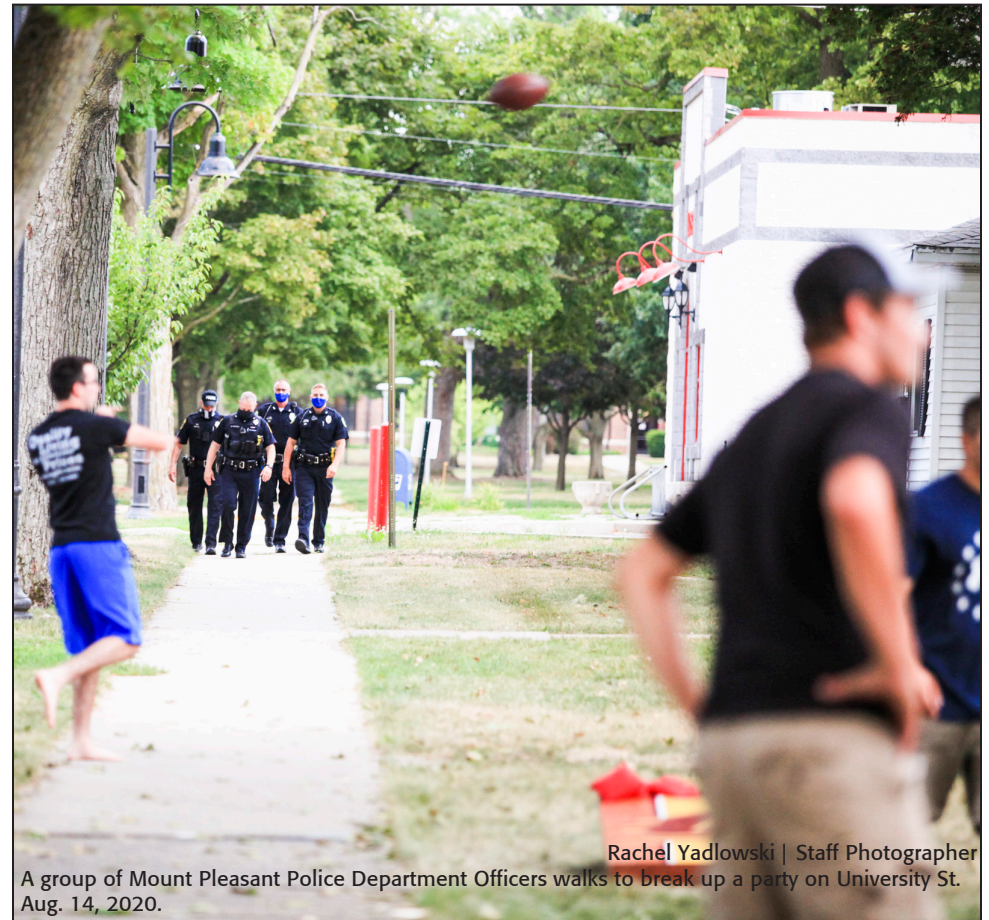
The MPPD does not require employees to be vaccinated.

For anyone participating in Welcome Weekend celebrations, Balcom recommends going in a group, paying attention to surroundings, arranging for rides and watching their alcohol consumption.

CMUPD Public Information Officer Mike Sienkiewicz suggests students download the Rave Guardian app which allows users to file a report or request help through text and dial 911 with one button.

For non-emergencies and noise complaints call Central Dispatch at (989) 773-1000. Call police at 911 for medical emergencies. CMUPD can be reached at (989) 774-3081. Balcom said that any minor that is under the influence and experiencing a medical emergency will not be arrested.

"There is a law in Michigan that we do not arrest anybody when they're calling for medical help even if they're underage," Balcom said. "They will not be in trouble at all, because we are more concerned with somebody being medically OK."



Rachel Yadlowski | Staff Photographer
A group of Mount Pleasant Police Department Officers walks to break up a party on University St. Aug. 14, 2020.



Aurora Abraham | Photo Editor
Students gather outside an off-campus house on Aug. 15, 2020 to celebrate Welcome Weekend.

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PHOTO OF THE DAY

Aurora Abraham| Photo Editor
Susan Helppie, left, watches
her husband, Gary Shackel-
ford, right, play guitar Aug. 21
during the Mount Pleasant
Farmer's Market downtown on
E. Broadway Street.

LIFE IN BRIEF

Two faculty, one staff member return to work after 22-week investigation

Staff Reports

A five-month investigation into three people tied to the university's journalism program has seemingly come to an end, but many questions remain.

Central Michigan University has ended the paid-academic leave and reinstated Department of Journalism fixed-term faculty members Steve Coon and Jim Wojcik and *Central Michigan Life* adviser Dave Clark.

Clark and Coon were placed on leave at the end of March following an investigation launched by the university. A few weeks later, on April 12, Wojcik was also placed on leave.

On March 24, the *Detroit Free Press* published testimonies from five women who accused Vanguard Public Affairs President and Managing Partner T.J. Bucholz, a 1994 CMU alumnus, of sexual harassment.

At the time, Coon was listed on Vanguard's website as a consultant. The site has since been taken down.

"We have learned of a connection to one of our current faculty members; immediately upon learning of these allegations, we removed the faculty member

from their duties and instructed them to have no contact with any CMU students, faculty or staff," President Bob Davies said in a March 26 press release. "We also are investigating a report involving a member of the staff who may have had knowledge of the situation."

The university hired Matthew Schneider, a former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, of Honigman, LLP to lead the independent investigation.

John Veilleux, vice president for University Communications said the investigation is not complete yet.

"Based on the information we've seen so far, we've made the decision to reinstate the individuals," said Veilleux. "The investigation is wrapping up and the report will be forthcoming at that time."

CM Life reached out to Wojcik and Coon for comment on this story. Wojcik has declined comment and Coon has not responded.

"As a CMU employee and alumnus, I support the university's commitment to protecting our students," Clark said. "I hope that sometime in the future President Davies and I can sit down and discuss the past 22 weeks and talk about how we could improve communication and procedure."

Committee tasked with finding new dean of College of Arts and Media

Staff Reports

A national search for a new dean of the College of the Arts and Media at Central Michigan University has begun after a committee was appointed by Provost and Executive Vice President Mary C. Schutten. Elizabeth Kirby has served as interim dean since Janet Hethorn retired in 2020.

The search will take place during the Fall 2021 semester. CMU has hired Greenwood/Asher & Associates to assist in the search.

There are 13 members appointed to the committee from a variety of departments within the college. Senior Vice Provost for Academic Administration Ray Christie, was appointed as the committee chair. The other 12 members of the committee are:

- Elizabeth Carlson, associate professor in the Department of Communication.
- Jeremy Davis, assistant professor

in the Department of Art and Design.

- Trevor Diehl, assistant professor in the Department of Broadcast and Cinematic Arts.

- Brian Elder, chair of the Department of Art and Design.

- Richard Ren, associate professor in the Department of Journalism and member of the Integrative Public Relations Council.

- Jonathon Russell, associate dean of the College of the Arts and Media.

- Heather Trommer-Beardslee, assistant professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance.

- Eric Tucker, director of the School of Music.

- Tracy Watson, associate professor in the School of Music and the Department of Music Theatre.

- Sandra Wilson, manager of business operations in the College of the Arts and Media.

- Zulfia Zaher, assistant professor in the Department of Journalism.

- Erica Peters, executive assistant to the provost.

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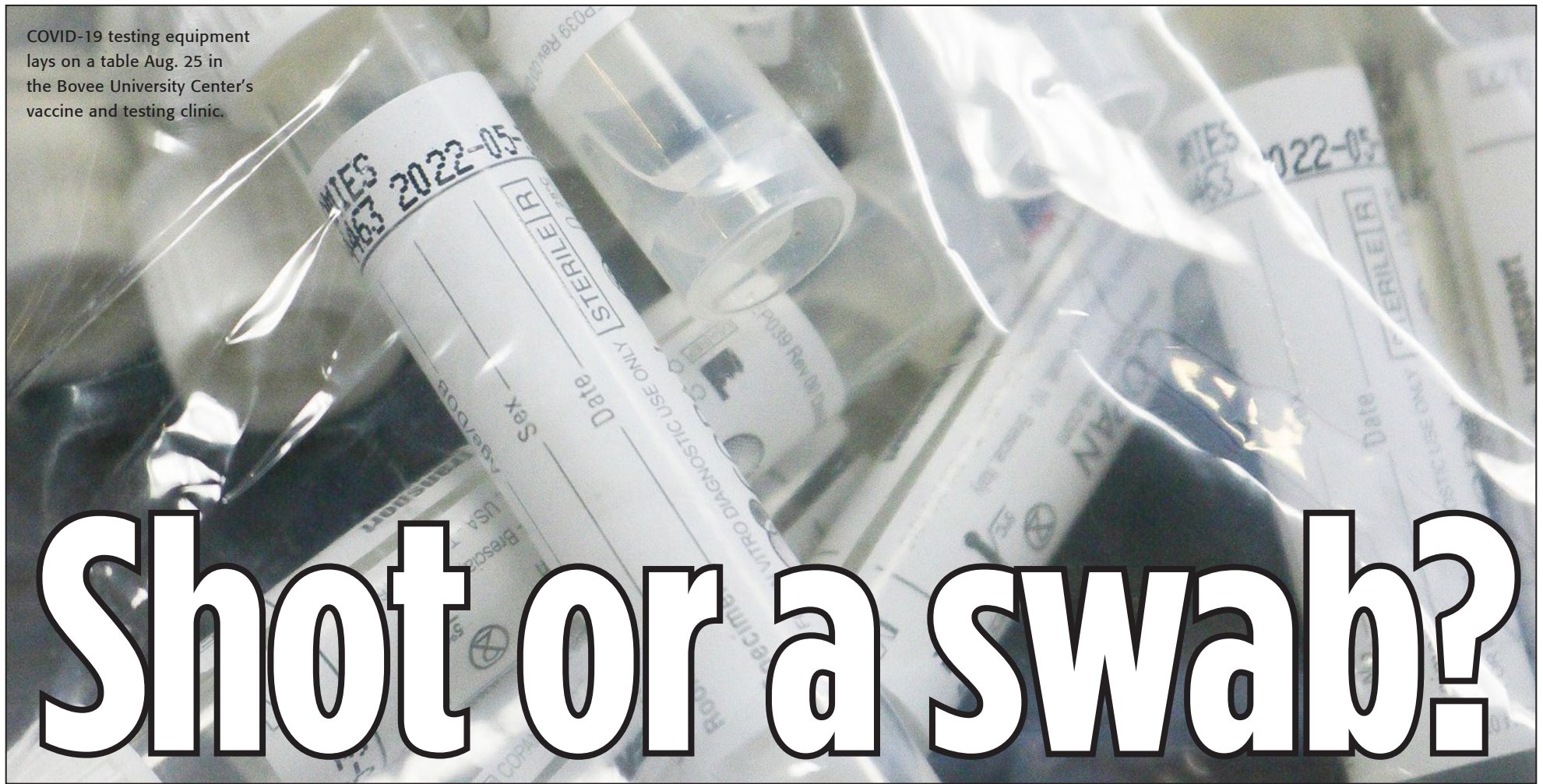


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MARY ELLEN BRANDELL
VOLUNTEER CENTER
CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

COVID-19 testing equipment lays on a table Aug. 25 in the Bovee University Center's vaccine and testing clinic.



Shot or a swab?

CMU announces vaccine mandate or required COVID-19 testing



A CMDHD employee administers the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in Cassie Mistrzak's arm Feb. 17 in Finch Fieldhouse.

By Tess Ware
Associate Editor

In a letter to the campus community on Thursday, Aug. 19 Central Michigan University President Bob Davies announced that students, faculty and staff will be required to be fully vaccinated by Sept. 3 or submit to weekly COVID-19 testing.

The letter said those who opt out of the vaccine can do so without providing a reason but must have the results of their first COVID-19 test by Sept. 3 and continue to get tested weekly. Testing and vaccines will continue to be free and available in the Terrace Rooms in the Bovee University Center. Testing will be done through Helix, one of the largest COVID-19 testing labs in the country.

Those who are vaccinated will upload their vaccination card to the CMU Healthscreen app or website and fill out a form to opt out of weekly testing.

Anyone that does not provide proof

of vaccination or testing by the deadline will face "progressive disciplinary action," Davies said.

Masks will still be required in the fall in certain indoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status.

Wheeler Hall will continue to be used as a quarantine dorm for on-campus residents who test positive.

"Vaccination or testing, combined with the use of masks indoors for all individuals, will help us prevent the spread of COVID-19 within our campus and community," Davies said. "This plan is designed to allow everyone to make their own decision while practicing social responsibility — a core value at CMU."

The new protocol is part of the "Protect Yourself. Protect Others." program, which is in response to the current COVID-19 environment.

CMU joins several other Michigan universities such as Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University and University of Michigan in requiring vaccines or COVID-19 testing on some level.

In an interview with Central Michigan Life, Central Michigan District Health Department Health Officer Steve Hall said the Delta variant poses a threat to CMU and surrounding areas with students returning to campus.

"We are facing somewhat of a perfect storm in terms of the Delta variant making its arrival here in Michigan right at the time we're looking at kids going back to school," Hall said. "If you see roughly 50 percent of people fully vaccinated, there's certainly reason to worry in terms of seeing a large surge in cases again."

CMU's decision follows a resolution passed by the Academic Senate calling on university leadership to require vaccines for students, faculty and staff returning to campus. The resolution was put forth after a petition demanding a vaccine mandate.

CMU announced in early August that masks would be required on campus but that vaccination would not be required to return. Davies said the new protocol was decided on after taking all information into account and speaking to health



Medical personnel sit at desks, and one talks on the phone Aug. 23 while they prepare for the COVID-19 testing clinic in the Bovee University

experts, faculty and student leadership.

“I don’t think we were late to the game,” Davies said. “What we want to do is make decisions when necessary with all the data. And I think if we would have made it three weeks earlier, we may have had a different decision, but it would not have been the complete set of information.”

Complete information on CMU’s latest COVID-19 updates and policies is available on the COVID-19 Information and Resources page.

To schedule an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccine, CMU students and employees can visit the CMU Health page, call 989-774-6599 or visit the Vaccine Finder. CMU also will host vaccine pop-up clinics on campus during move-in and during orientation week and throughout the semester.

The university will continue to update the campus community.

The fall semester begins Aug. 30. Students who decide to withdraw from CMU have until Sept. 3 to drop their classes and receive a full refund. On-campus students who cancel their housing will be charged a \$500 cancellation fee.



COVID-19 testing equipment lays on a table Aug. 25 in the Bovee University Center’s vaccine and testing clinic.

Bay City freshman Skylar Anderson volunteers her help stocking the Student Food Pantry in Robinson Hall. (photo credit Michael Livingston)



Chip in, help out

WHERE TO GO ON AND OFF CAMPUS TO VOLUNTEER

STORY BY BEN JODWAY AND MICHAEL LIVINGSTON
STAFF WRITERS

At Central Michigan University, volunteering can forge a path to the future. For those who have a volunteer's heart, consider this guide on how to offer your services.

The Mary Ellen Brandell Volunteer Center is the central hub for all service opportunities on-campus. Located on the first floor of the Bovee University Center, its doors are open for those who want to offer their strength and knowledge.

Signing up for an opportunity is as straightforward as it is necessary. Students can fill out a Volunteer Interest Form and find information on upcoming events via Engage Central - a website used by all offices and student organizations to broadcast themselves.

Of course, walk-ins are also welcome, said Volunteer Center Director Erica Johnson.

"If a student comes to us, one of the first questions that we ask is 'What do you care about? What do you like to do?'" Johnson said.

Some students, such as those in the honors program or holders of certain scholarships, are required to fulfill service hours as a graduation requirement.

Logging hours is essential to fulfill those requirements and can also be done via Engage. Any volunteering managed by the Volunteer Center is logged automatically. However, volunteering outside of CMU requires students to get verification from the organization they worked with.

The Volunteer Center offers a weekly email newsletter to keep track of any opportunities that come down the pipeline with direct links to sign up. Signing up for the newsletter can also be done via Central Link.

Before signing up or reaching out, consider researching the various programs offered.

Descriptions of every Volunteer Center program can be found online and no two opportunities are alike.

Here are just some of the Volunteer Center's highlighted programs:

Alternative Breaks Meant for students who love to travel and make memories in new communities. Alternative Breaks send students somewhere around the state, country or world to focus on a variety of social justice issues. These opportunities occur over breaks in the academic year (i.e. holiday break, spring break, etc.) as well as weekends. Week-long breaks often require students to pay travel fees.

Student Food Pantry: Located under the United Table in Robinson Hall, the Student Food Pantry helps fight food insecurity on campus by distributing free food to students. They also provide meal swipes for students without a meal program. Volunteers can help keep the food pantry running by working distributions, organizing the storage space, and other tasks. The pantry is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

America Counts and Reads: A federally funded tutoring program through the CMU volunteer center where students help improve local children's math and reading skills.

Financial Wellness Collaborative: The program assists students with budgeting and managing their finances as a college-student.

"I really feel like we have something for everybody," Johnson said. "Even if there wasn't something we could help them with a national search for what they're interested in. Right now there's a lot of virtual opportunities we can connect students to."

New students become part of more than just the campus community. The greater Mount Pleasant area is home to numerous nonprofits, charities and organizations with plenty of additional volunteer opportunities.

The Volunteer Center collaborates with many of these community organizations such as RISE, an advocacy network for survivors of sexual assault and domestic abuse, and Isabella County Restoration House (ICRH), the local homeless shelter.

"The community welcomes the students and looks forward to working with them, getting to know them and letting them know what Mount Pleasant is like and what we offer," said ICRH Executive Director Dee Obrecht.

To find volunteer opportunities off campus consider the following organizations:

Mount Pleasant Discovery Museum Students work with children at craft tables. Alternatively, they could do desk work for the museum. The museum is open Thursday-Monday and scheduling is flexible. Volunteers must pass a basic background check.

Community Compassion Network and Care Store Volunteers deliver food to young students in need or work the stationary pantry which has drive-thru days every Thursday and Saturday.

Greater Midland Coleman Family Center Volunteers work in the Coleman Community Market, which is run by the community and volunteers. They help clients look for what they need, stock, and work a register.

Samaritas Students help refugee and immigrant youth become independent adults. Volunteers work as tutors and mentors, but tutors require at least an associate's degree in the relevant field.

New Day Foundation for Families Fighting Cancer Students can deliver groceries to families in need. They contact families to set up a time, shop, and then deliver.

Habitat for Humanity A nonprofit housing organization working in local communities across the nation. An Isabella County branch is located at 201 E Pickard Road.

Clothing Inc A local nonprofit dedicated to providing free clothing to their guests at its 1114 W High St. location, in addition to offering education and community connections. Prospective volunteers can fill out a form on the organization's website.

To volunteer or request information, contact the Mary Ellen Brandell Volunteer Center in the Bovee University Center 106 or at volunteer.center@cmich.edu.

CMU/CARES

College students may experience a variety of difficult situations from depression and anxiety to academic and financial challenges. CMU Cares coordinates helpful resources for students, families, faculty and staff to provide the necessary resources to support students during their time of need. The CMU Care Team is comprised of professionals from across campus such as the Counseling Center, Student Disability Services and Sexual Aggression Services.



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Once the student has been identified, the Care Team will reach out to the student and create an inclusive individualized response plan with them.

More students are using counseling services due to telehealth options

By Tess Ware
Associate Editor

Coping with the pandemic year has proven to be no easy task. However, free counseling services available at Central Michigan University have been helping students weather the storm.

As the pandemic continues, counseling center appointments are still peaking - even in the summer months. Due to Telehealth options, staff expect the trend to stick around going into the academic year.

“COVID was a year of active trauma for everyone,” said Executive Director of Counseling Services Melissa Hutchinson. “There was so much loss.

There was so much uncertainty. When folks are in the midst of trauma, they don’t know what their needs are, they’re just trying to survive.”

The counseling center normally has limited hours and staff in the summer, Hutchinson said. This summer however, has had an increase in demand for counseling services which the center has had to accommodate.

At the June 24 Board of Trustees meeting, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee discussed the need for additional staffing in the counseling center to meet summer demand.

Hutchinson said she thinks the reason for the increase is because students have reached a point where “their basic needs are met and they can begin to focus on their other

needs again.”

“They’re no longer just about surviving, but they want to thrive,” Hutchinson said. “So they’re starting to ask for help, they’re starting to pick up the pieces, they’re starting to deal with their trauma, their loss.”

Counseling Center staff said the pandemic tipped the scales in regard to appointments and Care Reports in the 2020-21 academic year. Within the last two years, Care Reports have increased by 120 percent.

Hutchinson also attributes telehealth to the increased counseling demand. The service gives global campus students and those who are home for the summer access to counseling from wherever they are. Hutchinson said it also offers students access to

counseling in a space they are most comfortable in.

For graduate student Christine Gwisdala, telehealth was a big selling point.

“If I’d had to go in, I probably wouldn’t have done it,” Gwisdala said. “Because it would have been another kind of uncomfortable situation. So, knowing that I could do (virtual counseling) was really, really helpful.”

Students no longer have to walk into an office and meet a counselor face to face, which can be difficult for those struggling with anxiety.

Gwisdala said that even if the pandemic hadn’t happened, a virtual option may have given her the motivation she needed as an undergraduate student to take advantage of the free

counseling services at CMU.

While working in between graduating from CMU and starting her graduate degree, Gwisdala said she regretted not using the counseling services while they were available to her.

“I’m kind of kicking myself for not taking advantage of it now,” Gwisdala said. “I’m like ‘man, I was really stubborn and it would have helped a lot of stuff and I feel like I would have been overwhelmed a lot less.”

Even when COVID-19 restrictions are completely lifted, telehealth will continue to be offered.

To learn about mental health resources or schedule an appointment with the Counseling Center, visit its website. Visit the Care website to submit a Care Report.

LIFE IN BRIEF

NEWS AND NOTES FROM AROUND CAMPUS

Davies joins NCAA Academic Committee

Central Michigan University President Bob Davies will add another title to his resume. Davies has been named a member of the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics, according to a CMU press release on Wednesday, Aug. 18.

The Committee on Academics is designed to aid the management of Division I scholastic rules and regulations, including policy, eligibility standards, and the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program (APP).

This is the second appointment to an NCAA committee for Davies this year.

In June, he was selected to serve on the NCAA Division I Presidential Forum.

The group consists of one president or chancellor from each of the 32 Division I Conferences to assist the NCAA Division I Board of Directors complete its strategic mission in the Division I governance structure while ensuring the NCAA’s core values involving presidential leadership of intercollegiate athletics at the campus, conference and national level.

Davies’ term begins on Sept. 1, 2021, and continues through Aug. 31, 2025.

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Pure Eats in Dine & Connect

Chartwells changes campus cuisine

Over the summer, the Central Michigan University Residential Restaurants have received changes, courtesy of the new food provider, Chartwells.

The dining halls haven't received extensive changes but do have new signage to emulate the new names for each restaurant and food station.

The former Fresh Food Company in Woldt Hall is now known as Dine & Connect. The Merrill Residential Restaurant is now Social House. The dining hall in Towers was renamed The Eatery from Real Food on Campus. On North Campus, Robinson Dining is now United Table.

In addition, the food stations have been renamed as well. For example, in Dine & Connect there is now Homestyle, which is where Southern Kitchen was in Fresh and will have similar food options.

The major changes in the on-campus dining this year are within the menus, which have been in the works since July 1.

The menus are similar to previous ones with a more prevalent focus on vegetables, even for breakfast.

In addition to incorporating more vegetables, Chartwells is putting more of a focus on food that avoids gluten and providing meals that avoid the top eight allergens.

The Food and Drug Administration identified milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat and soybean as the top eight major food allergens.

In Dine & Connect, the Pure Eats station is dedicated solely to foods that avoid those allergens. There is also a station called Made Without Gluten that includes cereals, breads and waffle mix that are classified as gluten free.

Some things are staying the same, including the pasta and deli stations which are now called Cucina and Deli 989. Both stations are in the same locations as their old counterparts and will still exclusively serve pizza and pasta and sub sandwiches respectively.

The other three dining halls have received similar changes to their menus and stations. All four locations will open for their regular hours starting Friday, Aug. 27.



Cucina in Dine & Connect

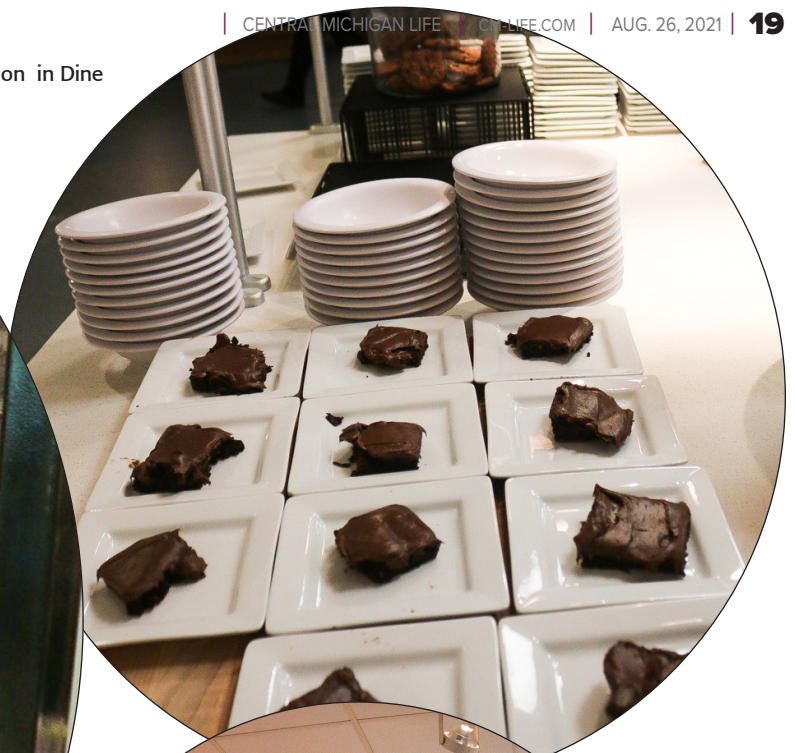


PHOTOS BY AURORA ABRAHAM

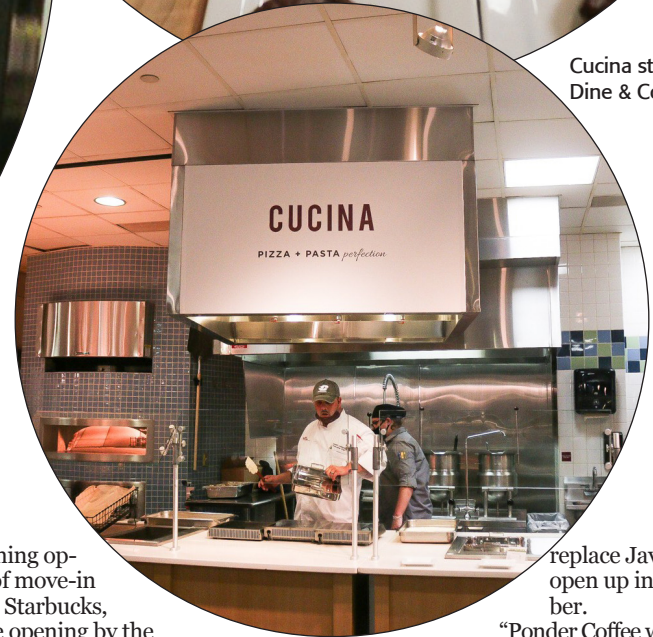


ShakeSmart in Bovee University Center

Deserts station in Dine & Connect



Cucina station in Dine & Connect



Down Under Food Court in the Bovee University Center

Although the only on-campus dining options opened at the beginning of move-in week were Dine & Connect and Starbucks, several other locations will be opening by the start of classes.

ShakeSmart, which filled Burrito Bowl's old location in the Bovee University Center with hundreds of canisters of whey protein powder, opened on Wednesday, Aug. 25 as freshman arrived on campus.

Subway will reopen on Saturday, Aug. 28 with the other two continuing franchises, Which Wich and Einstein Bros. Bagels, joining on Monday, Aug. 30.

Amanda Armstrong, senior director of marketing at Chartwells' Central Division, said the final franchises opening in time for the start of the school year will be the Ace Sushi and Wild Pie.

"Wild Pie will be taking over the retail space within the Woldt Market and serving handcrafted pizzas and partnering with Ace Sushi," Armstrong said. "This location will open on Aug. 30."

Following the first day of school by just a week, the Campus Coffee & Tea in the Health Professions Building will open on Tuesday, Sept. 7.

The campus is also anticipating a new coffee shop to

replace Java City and open up in September.

"Ponder Coffee will be taking over Java City in

the Library," Armstrong said. "Opening is slated for Sept. 17."

The on campus cafe would be Ponder's third Mount Pleasant location. The Franklin Street shop near campus has been closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, while the downtown shop on Broadway Street has remained open. Owner Christie Cromar said she is not ready to discuss details of the new location because of their pending contract.

"We just can't talk about that right now," Cromar said. "We don't have a contract signed and there's a lot up in the air right now so I can't."

Due to construction delays, all franchises located in the Down Under Food Court will be opening mid-semester.

"We thank everyone for their patience as we prepare to open the Down Under Food Court on October 12," Armstrong said. "The unfortunate delays have been due to the sourcing of materials as it pertains to the flooring."

The franchises in the food court will include Freddy's, Slim Chickens, Paper Lantern, Tu Taco and Build Pizza.

STORY BY COURTNEY PEDERSEN

STUDY ABROAD FROM YOUR DESK

By Tess Ware
Associate Editor

As vaccination rates increase in the U.S., people are eager to travel. Several countries around the world however, are not prepared to accept tourists.

For this reason, the Study Abroad program at Central Michigan University made the decision to cancel travel for Fall 2021

"It's still not recommended that American citizens travel overseas," Assistant Director of Study Abroad Marko Schubert said. "At this point, partly because the local population abroad, depending on, of course, what place we're talking about. But a lot of places are not as far along with their vaccination efforts, compared to the U.S."

Before the pandemic, there were around 150 programs, including faculty lab programs, service learning and internships. According to

Schubert, the most popular destinations were Italy and Ireland.

For the time being, international travel is not available to CMU students. But several degree programs require students to have international experience in order to graduate, degrees like international business and cultural and global studies.

For these students, and others that are interested, virtual internships have been made available.

Three categories of internships were created: corporate, non-profit and STEM. Due to time zones, the hours are flexible but include weekly meetings with supervisors.

The only degree program that cannot be accommodated virtually are biomedical science and chemistry because they require work in a lab.

For recent CMU grad Katie Pulaski, the virtual internship was very different from her experience studying abroad in Thailand in 2019.

"I built a lot of skills I didn't expect to," Pulaski said. "And a lot of independent working skills. So they were both very beneficial in very different ways."

Pulaski had planned to spend her final semester studying abroad in Italy, but after the trip was cancelled, she spent the Spring 2021 semester interning for a human rights

lawyer based in South Africa through the study abroad program, Kaya.

She spent 10 hours per week doing research to develop training programs for South African police on how to approach victims of domestic violence and drug addiction.

"It was kind of difficult at first because I've never been to South Africa," Pulaski said. "I don't know a lot about that region. So I had to make a real effort to try and understand cultural cues and significance via reading or asking my buddy versus being there and experiencing it."

Pulaski said working remotely taught her a lot about her own work ethic and regulating her time. Being abroad taught her about independence and how much she didn't know.

"It's an amazing experience," Pulaski said. "It doesn't seem like something that's going to change your life but, at least, it did for me. There's so many amazing programs. Since I'm more focused on nonprofits and that area, I went with Kaya, but there are also environmental aspects that you can go with and just a bunch of different ways you can work with different people."

In September, Pulaski will be returning to Thailand as an English teacher after being awarded the Fulbright Scholarship.

Bay City junior, Abbie Pinter was supposed to study abroad in Mexico in the summer of 2020, but the trip was cancelled due to COVID-19.

She decided to get a virtual internship in order to gain international experience. In the summer of 2020, she took an internship that was based in Morocco with an organization called AmazaGirl Matters. In

Spring 2021, she started another virtual internship with the Refugee Legal Advocacy Clinic, based in South Africa.

"I think this

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“ I built a lot of skills I didn't expect to, ”

- Katie Pulaski
Recent CMU Graduate

Photos courtesy of Study Abroad
Katie Pulaski in Thailand in 2019

was a good substitute for [study abroad].” Pinter said. “It’s so hard to describe, but working with people that aren’t in your same culture, there’s so many things that you learn from them that they do differently. I’ve never thought about doing that this way and everything.”

The internship in Morocco had weekly “cultural sessions” which included discussions comparing the U.S. to Morocco and demonstrations on how to cook traditional Moroccan food.

Schubert said the program remains hopeful that travel to certain European countries will resume in the spring. However, even when travel resumes, virtual internships will still be an option.

“We are keeping the virtual internships, even when Study Abroad resumes,” Schubert said. “Because it is an area that is open for students that could otherwise not study abroad or not, gain an international experience and I think for that reason we will keep them.”

To stay updated on study abroad opportunities check the office’s website.

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Aurora Abraham | Photo Editor
Various Leadership Safari team heads dance, scream and shout Aug. 25 in front of the Bovee University Center.

SAFARI 2021

University welcomes new students with three days of entertainment, team building

FEATURING PHOTOS BY AURORA ABRAHAM & NATE PAPPAS



A group of students and staff take a break from basketball to dance to the John Legend song “Green Light”, Aug. 25, on the Towers basketball court.

Nate Pappas | Staff Photographer



Nate Pappas | Staff Photographer

A group of Leadership Safari staff members play Apples to Apples, Aug. 25, in the Powers Ballroom. This game was a part of one of the excursions entitled “Old Style Games”.



Nate Pappas | Staff Photographer

A Team Elk sign sits by a group of guides and students who are taking a break in the shade, Aug. 25, by the Towers volleyball court.

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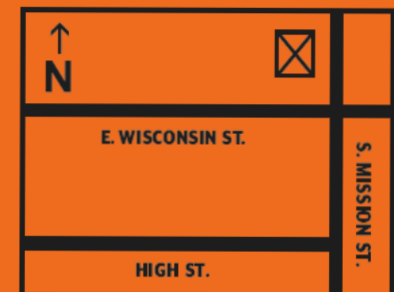
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Nate Pappas | Staff Photographer
(ABOVE) Core Staff members Lauren Canary, left, and Lauren Townsend, right, decorate a vest to give to the office staff, Aug. 25, in Pearce Hall.

Nate Pappas | Staff Photographer
(LEFT) Leadership Safari guides Marley Biernaczonok, right, and Maci Solek, left, wait for incoming students to go on their excursions, Aug. 25, in front of Kulhavi Hall.

LIFE IN BRIEF

NEWS AND NOTES FROM AROUND CAMPUS

College of Medicine hires from within choosing Reddy as its new senior dean of research

By Patrick Bouman
Staff Writer

The College of Medicine has chosen Dr. S. Sethu K. Reddy to lead research efforts at Central Michigan University after a national search for candidates for a new Senior Associate Dean of Research.

Reddy has been a professor and chair of medicine at CMU since 2017 and has spent years in clinical and research positions, having studied and worked for institutions in the United States and Canada, including the University of Toronto and the Joslin Diabetes Center at Harvard University.

A specialist in endocrinology, Reddy said he wishes to focus on all research, not just in his field. Reddy hopes to continue and nurture collaborative efforts between CMU scientists and all their partners, both nation-



S. SETHU K. REDDY

ally and internationally. “We have to think outside of the box and of various combinations of research,” Reddy said. “There are only 11 or 12 variables or ingredients that are available at Starbucks, but the number of drinks one can create, I think, are 1000 or more. Given the limited num-

ber of ingredients or a number of scientists, I think there are many innovative ways to collaborate.”

Reddy said that, during his time as dean, he would like to see more students in the College of Medicine and more publications from them.

“I will be considered successful if scientists at CMED become more successful,” said Reddy. “That’s motivation to me.”



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WILL THE WEST BE WON?

Sportswriters predict Chippewas wins, losses

After a 3-3 finish in 2020, Central Michigan football returns to normalcy.

With the season quickly approaching, Central Michigan Life sports writer Christian Booher and Sports Editor Mitch Vosburg make their predictions for CMU's 2021 season:

Week 1: at Missouri

Vosburg: The Tigers finished 5-5 in their 2020 SEC season, struggled against the run and lost their top two players to the NFL. CMU hangs tight, but falls short.

Missouri 31 CMU 27

Booher: Missouri is not on the level of SEC powerhouses. However, Eli Drinkwitz did a good job of getting the team to .500 in year one. The Chippewas will battle, but Missouri will pull away late.

Missouri 38, CMU 24

Week 2: vs Robert Morris

Vosburg: This will be the first home game since 2019 with fans at Kelly/Shorts Stadium. Emotions will be running wild for everyone involved and will lead to a sub-par first half for CMU. The Chippewas win running away in the second half, but it will be within 10 points at halftime.

CMU 45 Robert Morris 16

Booher: What better way to unveil the Chippewa Champions Center in front of fans than playing a cupcake? CMU plays a team that

scored 30 points total in its three-game spring season. The Chippewa defense wreaks havoc, giving the offense plenty of opportunities.

CMU 41, Robert Morris 7

Week 3: at LSU

Vosburg: Would I love to tell you that the Chippewas will walk into the nation's most hostile environment to play a team that's produced 39 NFL draft picks in the last five years? Absolutely. Unfortunately, CMU has the same



Mitch Vosburg

Sports Editor

odds of beating the Tigers as Doctor Strange gave the Avengers to defeat Thanos in Infinity War.

LSU 62 CMU 10

Booher: This feels a lot like a game where CMU is overmatched. Derek Stingley patrols the secondary while playmakers run wild on offense for the Tigers. The Chippewas' run game gives them a fighting chance, but LSU simply has too many athletes.

LSU 52, CMU 20

Week 4: vs Florida International



Isaac Ritchey | Staff Photographer
Junior DiShon McNary celebrates a defensive stop against Ohio on Nov. 4 in Kelly/Shorts Stadium

Vosburg: After an 0-5 season, FIU head coach Butch Davis is on the hot seat after starting 2021 0-3. CMU dominates, and the Panthers will be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

CMU 48 FIU 17

Booher: Though FIU was one of the worst

plays fundamentally sound football wins.

Miami (Ohio) 29 CMU 27

Booher: CMU will be looking to enact revenge on the RedHawk team that destroyed the dream season that was 2019. The Chippewas are in it late, but a turnover costs them their first road win of the year.

Miami (Ohio) 31, CMU 28

Week 6: at Ohio

Vosburg: Three high-pressure road games in four weeks will fatigue any team. CMU is no exception. This will be the one game of the season where CMU comes out flat and can't catch a break. Ohio 31 CMU 24

Booher: The loss at Miami is a wake-up call. McElwain and company finished their two-game road swing with a double digit win.

CMU 38, Ohio 28

Week 7: vs Toledo

Vosburg: The 2020 matchup was a nail-biting 24-23 CMU loss with Ty Brock at QB. The Chippewas will return for homecoming and start a crucial six-game stretch with a big win, start 1-0 in the west and finds their mojo.

CMU 34 Toledo 23

Booher: With alumni back in town for homecoming, the Chippewas ride the wave of momentum into their showdown with Toledo. Kalil Pimpleton accounts for 200 yards between offense and special teams in a CMU win.



Christian Booher

Sports Reporter

teams in the country last season, this could be an entertaining game. Max Bortenschlager is an enigmatic quarterback, meaning he just might bring his best stuff to Mount Pleasant. The Chippewa defense makes enough plays for the offense to run away late.

CMU 35, FIU 20

MAC slate

Week 5: at Miami (Ohio)

Vosburg: This will be CMU's first trip to Oxford, Ohio since 2016 and its first game against the RedHawks since the 2019 MAC Championship game, both losses. Whoever



Isaac Ritchey | Staff Photographer

Defensive Coordinator Rob Akey attempts to hype up freshman Jacques Bristol ahead of New Mexico Bowl against San Diego State Dec. 27, 2019 at Dreamstyle Stadium in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

CMU 35, Toledo 21

Week 8: vs Northern Illinois

Vosburg: NIU is still a work in progress. This should be an easy win for the Chippewas, which makes this a trap game with Western Michigan on the horizon. The Chippewas win, but trail at halftime.

CMU 27 NIU 24

Booher: This screams trap game. NIU is much improved at quarterback, as Rocky Lombardi brings experience. He'll cause problems early, but the defense adjusts and CMU comes out with its third straight win.

CMU 31, NIU 10

Week 10: at Western Michigan

Vosburg: In 2020 this was the matchup that exposed CMU's weakness in the secondary. CMU's pass rush becomes close with Kaleb Elleby, and I finally have bragging right at Thanksgiving.

CMU 37 WMU 31

Booher: Last season, CMU had no answers in the secondary against the Broncos. This year D'Wayne Eskridge is in the NFL. Now it's Pimpleton who acts as the game-breaker as the Chippewas win a heart-stopper in the final minute.

CMU 28, WMU 24

Week 11: vs Kent State

Vosburg: Kent State averaged nearly 50 points a game in 2020, yet the Golden Flashes defense allowed 38 points a

game. While KSU can move the ball, teams with this mold fold when they can't match up physically. Advantage Chippewas.

CMU 38 Kent State 31

Booher: Offense, offense, offense. That's what you'll get here. Both teams roll into Kelly/Shorts Stadium with one loss fighting for their respective lives. Dustin Crum proves he's the best player in the conference and wins the game for his team with his legs.

Kent State 52 CMU 49

Week 12: at Ball State

Vosburg: The Chippewas will put up an improved battle compared to their 2020 game, and while the Cardinals say they're not buying into the preseason polls, it's rare to see the preseason favorite win their division. This will be the most intense win in the Jim McElwain era that will go down to the wire and make Marshall Meeder a hero.

CMU 31 Ball State 30

Booher: Reeling from a crushing defeat at the hands of Kent, CMU goes to Ball State needing a win. This Cardinal team has almost its entire MAC championship team back from a year ago. Drew Plitt and company feed off the energy of the Muncie crowd and the Cardinals dash the Chippewa championship hopes.

Ball State 27, CMU 21

Week 13: vs Eastern Michigan

Vosburg: If EMU can figure out how to win tight games this

will be the biggest matchup between the in-state foes in a long time. I'm not betting that they do. Chippewas win, big.

CMU 45 EMU 17

Booher: CMU comes home with a vengeance. McElwain pulls out all the stops as Pimpleton throws for a score and runs for another out of the wildcat package. EMU makes a habit out of playing the Chippewas close, but on this day they're in the wrong place at the wrong time.

CMU 38, EMU 14

CMU FINAL RECORD PREDICTIONS

VOSBURG
8-4, 6-2 MAC
MAC WEST CHAMPS

BOOHER
7-5, 5-3 MAC

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CMU soccer announces three transfer players, schedule for Fall 2021

By Christian Booher
Staff Writer

Year three of the Jeremy Groves era is soon to begin.

Under Groves, the Chippewas have compiled a 12-10-4 record and reached the Mid-American Conference tournament in 2019 for the first time since 2016. Last season, CMU was 5-4 in its abbreviated spring season.

The Chippewas return plenty of contributors, including Jaelyn Dobrowolski, the reigning MAC Freshman of the Year. Allison LaPoint, a sophomore goalie from Royal Oak who started all nine games in net in the spring, and Maria Kaschalk, named second team All-MAC in the spring, are both back for the Chippewas.

Groves also announced the addition of three transfers on Aug. 5. All three are redshirt freshmen.

Alexia Cajilig, a defender from Pickering, Ontario, Canada, comes to the Chippewas from Buffalo. She did not play for the Bulls in the spring and previously played for Pickering Soccer Club and received an invitation to attend the Team Ontario Trials.

Megan Scholten, a midfielder and Charlevoix native, returns to her home state after a season at Memphis. She did not see game action. She earned first team all-state honors as both a sophomore and junior.

Gaelle Wells is the third transfer, coming to CMU from Oregon State. Wells hails from Bloomington, Indiana and is a forward.

The Chippewas have released their 2021 schedule and is highlighted by showdowns with both Michigan and Michigan State. CMU will have seven home games and 10 road games in 2021.

Here is the full schedule for CMU soccer:

Aug. 11: vs. Virginia (@ Maple City, MI) (Exhibition)
Aug. 19: @ Marquette
Aug. 26: vs. Michigan State
Aug. 29: @ Michigan
Sept. 3: vs. Morehead State
Sept. 9: @ Indiana University/Purdue University-Indianapolis
Sept. 12: @ Eastern Illinois
Sept. 23: @ Miami (Ohio)*
Sept. 26: vs. Ball State*
Sept. 30: vs. Northern Illinois*
Oct. 3: @ Western Michigan*
Oct. 7: vs. Akron*
Oct. 10: @ Buffalo*
Oct. 14: @ Toledo*
Oct. 17: vs. Bowling Green*
Oct. 21: @ Kent State*
Oct. 24: vs. Ohio*
Oct. 28: @ Eastern Michigan*



Drew Travis | Staff Photographer
The women's soccer team celebrates a first-half goal against Ball State on Sunday, March 7 at the CMU Soccer/Lacrosse Complex.

Women's basketball releases out of conference schedule for 2021-22 season

By Christian Booher
Staff Writer

Heather Oesterle has annually scheduled some of the best non-conference showdowns, viewing the early portion of the schedule as an opportunity for her team to face some of the nation's best to prepare for the grind of the Mid-American Conference.

Entering her third season as Central Michigan women's basketball head coach, the 2021-22 season will be no different. The Chippewas non-conference slate includes three 2021 NCAA Tournament qualifiers.

"We are going to get a chance early to see what we are made of," Oesterle said in a press release. "The players we recruit want to play this type of schedule and we will need our young ones ready to contribute right away."

The Chippewas begin the season on Nov. 9 at home with a showdown against Georgia Tech. Last season, the Yellow Jackets finished 17-9 and lost in the Sweet 16 to eventual Final Four team South Carolina. Former CMU assistant coach Murriel Page is currently an assistant with the Yellow Jackets.

CMU will also host Michigan, another Sweet 16 team, on Nov. 20. Another familiar face will come to town in Wolverine graduate assistant Reyna Frost, who is the Chippewas' all-time leading rebounder and served as the director of player development last season.

The Chippewas will also host Oakland on Dec. 7 and Loyola Chicago Dec. 11. CMU beat the Ramblers on the road last season, 73-64.

"We have some very good teams coming into McGuirk Arena; I'd like to see if we can sell more season tickets than we've ever sold before," Oesterle said. "This team is going to be special."

Oesterle and company will travel to take on Marist, the third and final NCAA Tournament qualifier. The Red Foxes are the defending Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference regular season and tournament champions. The two teams are scheduled to square off Nov. 28.

Other road games for the Chippewas include Valparaiso on Nov. 14, Northeastern Nov. 26, Cincinnati Dec. 1 and Green Bay Dec. 20.

The conference portion of the schedule will be released in September.

Here is CMU's non-conference schedule:

Nov. 9: Vs. Georgia Tech
Nov. 14: @ Valparaiso
Nov. 20: Vs. Michigan
Nov. 26: @ Northeastern
Nov. 28: @ Marist
Dec. 1: @ Cincinnati
Dec. 7: Vs. Oakland
Dec. 11: Vs. Loyola Chicago
Dec. 20: @ Green Bay



Layla Blahnik-Thoune | Staff Photographer
The women's basketball team struggles through a 72-67 loss against Toledo Feb. 24 in McGuirk Arena.

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COMMUTER SHUTTLE ROUTES

MAROON

Southpoint/Winchester	:15	:45	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Village at Bluegrass	:21	:51	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
University Meadows	:25	:55	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Union Square	:29	:59	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Target			UPON REQUEST
Music Bldg. - Lot#33	:42	:12	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Washington/Ojibway	:44	:14	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Anspach/Pearce	:45	:15	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Ronan/Grawn	:47	:17	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Main St./Gaylord	:48	:18	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
MMC/DOAN CENTER	:55	:25	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Washington/Clayton	:05	:35	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Larzalere	:06	:36	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Wightman	:07	:37	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Park Library	:08	:38	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Music Bldg. - Lot#33	:12	:42	EVERY 1/2 HOUR

GOLD

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

DEERFIELD

TOWERS @7/11	:15	:45	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Westpoint Village	:18	:48	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Deerfield Village	:20	:50	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Lexington Ridge	:25	:55	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Theunissen Stadium Lot#70	:27	:57	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Kewadin Village	:29	:59	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
SAC/McGuirk	:30	:00	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Music Bldg. - Lot#33	:42	:12	EVERY 1/2 HOUR

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 2021

COMMUTER SHUTTLE:
MONDAY - FRIDAY 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

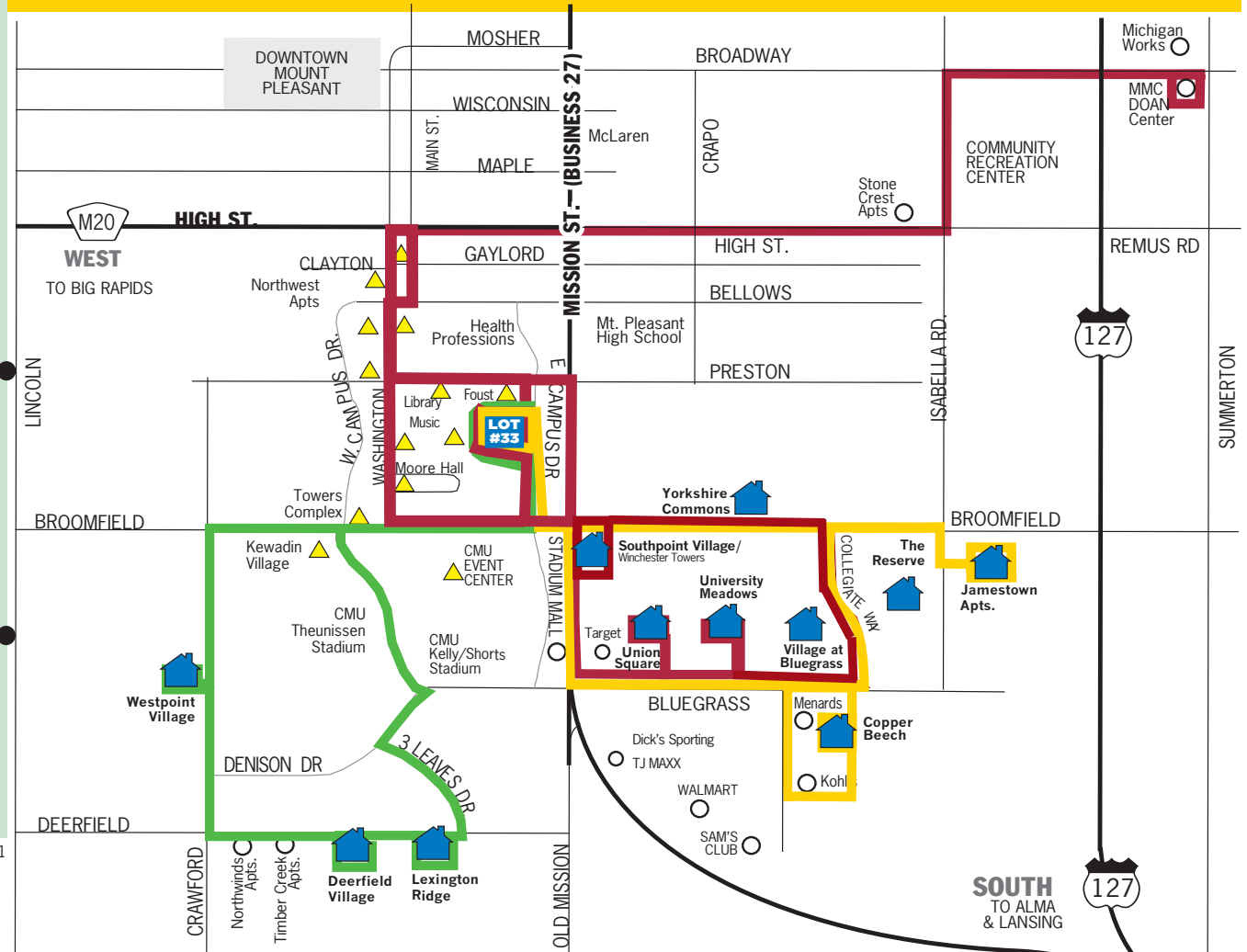
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Connect with Student Media

It's paramount for Central Michigan University students to stay connected with the campus community. Whether you get your news by reading, listening or watching, your fellow students have created plenty of options to help you stay informed. Check out these student-run media outlets to keep up on everything CMU.

Central Michigan Life

www.cmlife.com
 Twitter: @CMLIFE
 Instagram: @centralmichiganlife
 Facebook: Central Michigan Life
 Podcasts: Spotify, iTunes, Soundcloud



Central Michigan Life is CMU's student-run media company. Stories are published on the website daily and print editions are available on campus, keeping students updated on everything from news to sports. Make sure to follow them on social media to stay up to date.

WMHW-FM

www.wmhw.org
 Instagram: wmhw_radio_cmu
 Station: Mountain 91.5
 Facebook: Mountain 91.5
 Twitter: Mountain 91.5
 Station: The Beat 101.1
 Facebook: The Beat 101.1
 Twitter: 101_TheBeat



Both WMHW-FM stations keep listeners updated on news and sports. Mountain 91.5 plays adult contemporary rock, while The Beat 101.1 plays R&B and hip hop, something for every listener.

Grand Central Magazine

gcmag.org
 Twitter: @gcmagcmu
 Facebook: Grand Central Magazine
 Instagram: gcmag



Grand Central Magazine is CMU's online student magazine. Its content is focused on CMU with articles on style, entertainment and student life which can be found on their website and social media.

News Central 34

www.newscentral34.com
 Twitter: @newscentral34
 Facebook: News Central 34
 Instagram: newscentral34



News Central 34 is CMU's student-run broadcast news program. This news program airs live at 5 p.m. on weekdays, and 10 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The live broadcasts can be found on their website, so make sure to check it out.

STORY BY TESS WARE | STAFF WRITER

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University announces first round of winners through student vaccine incentive program

Staff Reports

Greenville senior Johnathon Taft was selected as the first of four students to receive a scholarship equal in value to a full year of tuition as part of Central Michigan University's vaccine incentive program.

Taft was surprised with the news of his scholarship with a video call from Student Government Association President Kate King, members of the Marching Chips and President Bob Davies.

During the call, Taft, an athletic training major, shared his reasons for getting a vaccine.

"I chose to get vaccinated because I work with patients a lot, and I want to protect them and myself," Taft said during the call. "This is also to protect my family when I go home and see them."

An additional 400 students — 100 per drawing — will receive \$75 gift cards. All participants in the program also receive a 20 percent discount to the CMU Bookstore just for registering online.

As of Aug. 11, 5,550 students, approximately one-third of the student body, entered the incentive program.

Vice President for Student Recruitment and Retention Jennifer DeHaemers told University Communications she is proud of the participation so far and hopes the numbers continues to climb.

"We are excited for the return of students to campus this fall and want to ensure everyone can enjoy a robust and engaging fall semester as safely as possible," DeHaemers said. "We strongly

encourage students to receive the vaccine, and this program is a fantastic reward for doing so."

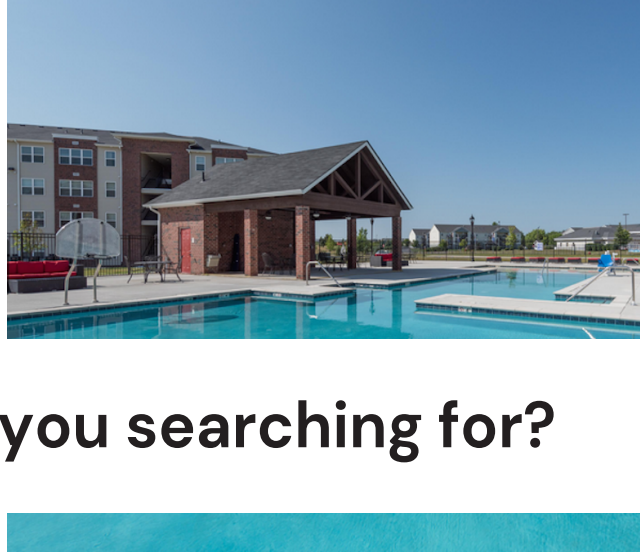
CMU will host pop-up vaccine clinics on campus during move-in and orientation week. Students and employees also can make an appointment through CMU Health by calling 989-774-6599. Students outside the Mount Pleasant area may visit Vaccine Finder or Michigan's COVID-19 vaccine page to find a vaccination site near their home.

The remaining drawings for the incentive program are scheduled for Aug. 23, Sept. 13, and Oct. 4. All students currently enrolled at CMU are eligible to register, including main campus, Global Campus, international and College of Medicine students.



Courtesy Photo

Student Government Association President Kate King and the Marching Chips present Johnathon Taft with his scholarship via video call. Screenshot of YouTube video.



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Feeling homesick? Feel lucky instead

Homesickness helps me appreciate where I came from.

In each of my three times moving up to Mount Pleasant, I felt homesick. But, as I lay uneasy in a room that doesn't feel like mine, I understand what I have back home.

I have a family, and we aren't perfect by any means, but we are a lot better than some of the homes my fellow students come from.

Many of the students who don't get homesick, and even stay over the summer are the ones who come from abusive households. Whether it's verbal, emotional or physical, they are all reasons why going back home is not a viable option.

In a way, feeling homesick equals feeling privileged. Feeling homesick reminds me that I have something great to return to.

I didn't have the perfect childhood. After my mom moved in 2011, my dad became the sole caretaker of my two sisters and I. He guided us through school, sports, heart-



Jamie Rewerts

—
Engagement
Editor

breaks, and other hard lessons learned in along the way.

For over 20 years we've lived under the same roof. I love always knowing I can come home to people who know me best and love me the most. They've seen me when I thrive and at my worse. They have always provided a shoulder to cry on.

Despite the hardships that come from a single-parent, all-daughter household, they have always been my biggest support system.

"Just say the word and I won't go," I tell my older sister while leaning against the doorframe, hesitant to leave. She laughs, "And stop you from living your life?"

Homesickness helps me appreciate where I came from. Luckily, living only 40 minutes south of Mount Pleasant makes it easy to visit. The closeness was a big factor in choosing to attend CMU. I knew what I had, and how much I would miss it.

The homesick feeling usually goes away in a few weeks. You start to adjust to your surroundings, connect with others, and find your place.

But when those feelings do return, here are a few things you can do to help speed up the process:

- Bring comfort food from home: Whether it's a meal from your favorite restaurant or leftovers from a homemade dinner, it'll help.

- Normalize calling your parents: Some students feel reluctant to call back home,

and would rather just shoot a text. However, there is something about hearing their voices that is irreplaceable.

- Visit when you can: We all need a break from campus life on occasion. If you can, visit for a few days. The comfort of home might provide a healthy mental reset.

- Get out and about: See what Mount Pleasant has to offer by attending events, taking a walk through the trails, or hang out with friends, old and new.

- Remember it is completely normal to feel homesick: there are other students who feel the same. Talk about how you are feeling and share stories from home.

It's nice to appreciate your home, but remember growth comes through feeling uncomfortable and new paths. Step outside your comfort zone and try to find a piece of home as you discover your new life at CMU.



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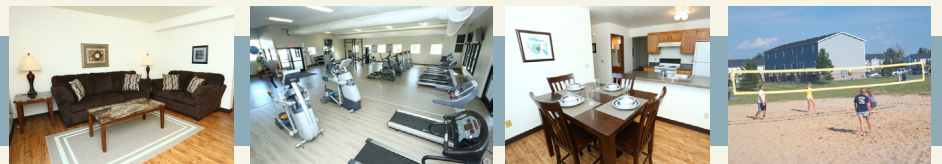


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Aurora Rae | Photo Editor

Cassie Misyrazak takes her jacket off while getting ready to receive the COVID-19 vaccine Feb. 17 in Finch Fieldhouse.



Help keep CMU safe

CMU took a big step forward with vaccine protocols

New students are arriving on campus, parking tickets are being stuck to cars and Welcome Weekend is just around the corner. The Fall 2021 semester is about to begin, but the COVID-19 pandemic is still lingering.

Just in the nick of time, the university crafted a new plan to combat rising cases.

In a letter to the campus community on Aug. 19, President Bob Davies announced that students, faculty, and staff will be required to be fully vaccinated by Sept. 3 or submit to weekly COVID-19 testing.

We spent the summer watching other universities follow the same philosophy. While the latest announcement came a little too close to the start of the semester for comfort, the new protocols are undoubtedly a step in the right direction. Now that the semester is upon us, the university's ability to go back to normal depends on our decisions.

Decision is the key word: the university has provided a happy medium for those who want the protection vaccinations provide and those who don't for their own reasons.

EDITORIAL

"While science supports the safety and efficacy of vaccines, there are many groups of people who still feel uncertain about getting the shot," Davies said in his letter. "Their reasons may be cultural, religious, political or based on personal history or experience."

Frequent testing has proven to be the best way to track case outbreaks on campus. Over the past year, CMU has made great strides in transparency with contact tracing, documenting reported cases and sharing the information with the public.

No doubt, weekly testing will only increase the accuracy of the data presented on the "COVID-19 Information and Resources" webpage.

Only time will tell how well the CMU community will follow the new protocols.

Anyone that does not provide proof of vaccination or testing by the deadline will face "progressive disciplinary action," according to

Davies. The university has yet to outline what exactly that means.

Indeed, the "Protect Yourself. Protect Others." program is a natural step in keeping campus inhabitants safe but only if everyone abides by the choices set before them.

The university must continue being transparent by outlining the "disciplinary action" some may face. This can only encourage more members of the community to make the right decision.

But the administration can only do so much because we have the final say.

As you make CMU your home, please know that you share it with thousands of others. In the coming weeks, it will be paramount to follow the new protocols to the letter.

Testing and vaccines will continue to be free and available from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. beginning Aug. 30 in the Terrace Rooms of the Bovee University Center.

CMU has provided the blueprint to keep our campus safe. It's up to us to make the right decisions. Do your part to build a strong, healthy community.

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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, 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.

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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.

Where do we go from here? That's up to you.

Even after receiving my vaccine, I still feel anxious.

Whether it's walking through a store without my mask or making small talk with a stranger I'm thinking about an invisible virus flying through the air.

More than a year of stay-at-home orders and the feeling of normal life just isn't coming back.

That anxiety is greater than ever, now that I'm back in Mount Pleasant for my last year at Central Michigan University. Despite my hope for a speedy recovery, the world, this country, and our campus are far from safe.

We've all seen the headlines; the contagious delta variant contributes to rising numbers of new COVID-19 cases, leaving many concerned.

Me? I'm concerned, but I'm also hopeful. Life at CMU may not look like 2019, but it won't exactly look like 2020 either.

More than 80 percent of scheduled fall



Michael Livingston
Editor-in-chief

courses will have face-to-face components. Guests are welcome back inside residence halls. RSOs are allowed to meet in person under certain health and safety guidelines. We will finally get our long-awaited fall wellness break in October.

Aspects of pandemic life may linger much longer than we thought. Why should that stop us from having a meaningful college experience?

I watched new students arrive on campus for IMPACT and Leadership Safari this week. It reminded me of when I first came here in

2018. I recalled all the laughs shared with my Safari group, hugging my parents after moving into Wheeler Hall, the sense of wonder while exploring campus on my own.

It wasn't long until my joining *Central Michigan Life* made this campus a home. I found pride in the work I do here. More importantly, I found my people.

Looking back, however, I realize the best part of my college experience was meeting you - the students who make their voices heard by speaking up about what's important to them. As I looked across the groups of new and returning students over the last few days, it felt nice to know that *CM Life* would be interviewing some of you this year.

Pandemic or not, what you decide to do with your college experience is up to you. As we continue to trudge our way back to normal life, now is the time to make your mark on this community.

Whether that be starting a new RSO,

putting in hours at the Volunteer Center, or aiding in exciting new research endeavors, it can all be done this year.

I can feel the fog of COVID-19 lifting. The university's latest move to let students choose between vaccinations or weekly testing is a major step in the right direction.

But, it's up to you now.

As a senior who has had half of my college experience robbed by this virus; do what you can to look after others. Whether it's getting your vaccine or your weekly testing, keep doing things to help fight this pandemic.

Hopefully, this year I'll be able to send reporters to in-person interviews, send photographers to shoot open-mic-nights and see our sports guys do some terrific live coverage.

I want that to happen. I know it can happen.

Survival mode may soon be over, let's make this the year of recovery we all need.

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¹ PNC does not charge a fee for Mobile Banking. However, third-party message and data rates may apply. These include fees your wireless carrier may charge you for data usage and text messaging services. Check with your wireless carrier for details regarding your specific wireless plan and any data usage or text messaging charges that may apply. Also, a supported mobile device is needed to use the Mobile Banking app. Eligible PNC Bank account and PNC Bank Online Banking required. Certain other restrictions apply. See the mobile banking terms and conditions in the PNC Online Banking Service Agreement.

² Virtual Wallet Student has no minimum balance requirement or monthly service charge for active students for six years from the date of account opening. You may be asked to provide proof of active enrollment in a qualifying educational institution. At the end of the six years, your account will be converted to Virtual Wallet and subject to the Virtual Wallet Features and Fees in effect at that time. If you transfer this account to a different product or account type during the first six years, you will forfeit the benefits of the Virtual Wallet Student account and will not be able to transfer back to the Virtual Wallet Student account.

³ Visit pnc.com/locator to find a PNC or PNC Partner ATM near you where PNC customers can access money fee-free.

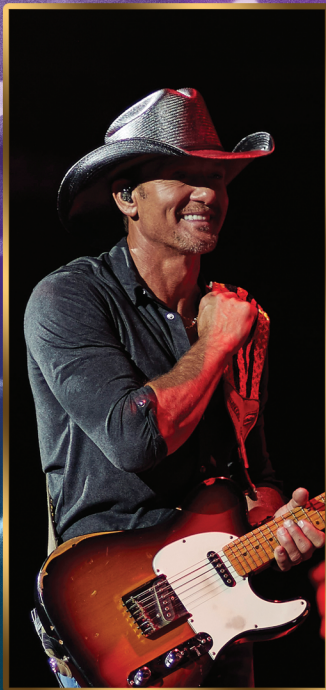
⁴ Low Cash Mode is only available on the Spend account of your Virtual Wallet Student product. In order to avoid overdraft fees, you must bring the available balance in your Account to at least \$0 before your Extra Time expires. If you make a deposit, the time it takes for your deposit to be reflected in your available balance and for those funds to become available to you will vary based on the deposit type and time. Depending on your deposit type or your deposit time, your deposit may not be available before your Extra Time period expires, and you may incur overdraft fees. See your Funds Availability policy for more information. Overdrawing an account, maintaining a negative available balance for any period of time, and returning transactions as unpaid may have other consequences, including account closure or negative impacts to your ability to obtain financial services including loans, deposit accounts, and other services at PNC and other institutions.

Low Cash Mode is a service mark of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.

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