

## BREAKING THROUGH

Pimpleton scores twice in crucial win  
PAGE 10



# CENTRAL MICHIGAN LIFE

OCT. 14, 2021 || MOUNT PLEASANT, MI

## CELEBRATING SWEETNESS

Robaire's Bakery marks 60-years  
PAGE 8



# HISTORY OF PRIDE AT CMU

Celebrating those who paved the path for acceptance

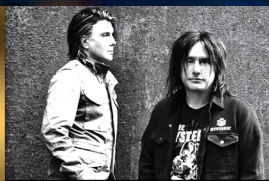
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Kyle Gilet | Staff Photographer  
 Meteorology students launch a weather balloon, inspect the campus weather station and collect data Oct. 6 at the campus weather station near Kelly/Shorts Stadium.

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# HALLOWEEN WEEK LINEUP AT WAYSIDE NIGHTCLUB

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**Andrew Travis |**  
Staff Photography  
Lowell junior Lucas  
Sherman at the  
LGBTQ History  
Month social  
event, of which he  
was a proponent  
of, Tuesday, Oct.  
5, in the Center  
for Diversity and  
Inclusion.



# LOOKING BACK AT LOVE

## CMU's queer community celebrates two landmark anniversaries

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By **Tess Ware**  
Associate Editor

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Pride at Central Michigan University can be traced back to one anonymous advertisement in *Central Michigan Life* – a message to let queer students know they weren't alone.

The month of October is LGBTQ History Month and CMU will be celebrating two defining anniversaries on behalf of its queer community. The 50th anniversary of the first representative student organization and the 30th anniversary of the Office of LGBTQ+ Services.

The queer community at CMU is celebrating its history by looking back at the struggles and successes of past advocates, while looking forward at the issues being faced today.

### **Fighting for Acceptance**

Riding the wave of counterculture ideas, many queer demonstrations happened across the nation in the 1970s. The first Gay Liberation Day March was held in New York City in 1970. The University of Michigan established the first collegiate LGBTQ programs office in 1971, paving the way for other universities to take action.

The Gay Liberation Front was founded at CMU in 1971, according to an advertisement placed in *Central Michigan Life*



that serves as a bookmark for when the organization reached out to its first members.

Over the next several years, different names were used for the organization; Gay Liberation and Gay Liberation Inc.

GLF was meant to provide a community for gay and lesbian students and educate the campus, according to Lew Kaufman in a *CM Life* article from September, 1978. He explained the purpose of the organization was to, “help people become more aware and learn about homosexuality and dispel many of the fears about it on campus.”

Threats to personal safety was something to consider every day for queer students. Their very presence could inspire not only harassment, but violence.

One spring night in 1975 there was a targeted attack on queer students. Several GLF members walked into The Pub Bar on a Tuesday night and were met with verbal harassment from their fellow patrons.

“Popcorn, drinks and wet washcloths were thrown at us,” said Virgil Leone, president of Gay Liberation Inc. in a *CM Life* article following the incident.

Leone left the bar, but was followed to the parking lot where he was kicked and beaten. Later in the night, two of Leone’s friends were also beaten.

One bar patron who attempted to break up the fight was drawn into the violence and suffered a broken nose, cuts and bruises. The Vice President of GLF also received cuts and bruises. She and the bar patron had to be treated at Central Michigan Community Hospital. The beating Leone received sent him to Saginaw St. Mary’s Hospital for a neurological assessment and x-rays.

Police did not follow up on the incident and the suspect was never charged, despite the victims wanting to take action.

According to another *CM Life* article the following July, GLF used money from the organization to pay for the medical bills of the injured people. As a result, the organization’s office was closed and mail privileges suspended by CMU for one week because they failed to pay back the \$300 debt.

Then Dean of Students James Hill described the use of funds as “overspending” and added Gay Liberation was no longer in good standing with the university.

Incidents like these are why the GLF operated anonymously. Students had to call Listening Ear, a Mount Pleasant-based crisis hotline, to find out when and where the meetings took place.

For this reason, much of the organizations history is not documented.

In June of 1981, the first cases of AIDS were reported in the United States, it would be another few years before AIDS grew into the epidemic it is remembered as.

*CM Life* reported on Oct. 9, 1985 that there had been no known cases in Mount Pleasant. University Health Services Director Ed Brown issued a proposal to the Health Advisory Board to develop an AIDS policy for the university.

“I believe the university’s role should be one of education about the disease and not one on ethics. We will not require testing,” Brown said in the same *CM Life* article.

The GLF, then 10 years old, advised members to practice safe sex by using condoms and preventing the exchange of seminal fluids.

After 10 years of advocacy and education, the AIDS crisis was a set-back for the LGBTQ+ movement at CMU. Letters to the editor of *CM Life* show the discourse around queer rights that divided the campus community.

Despite set-backs experienced in the 1980s, progress had been made since the early days of the GLF. Student organizations could be more open however, anonymity was not totally left behind.

The Gay and Lesbian Association for Student Support (GLASS) was an organization for LGBTQ students at CMU in the 1990s. While more open about its presence on campus than GLF could be, GLASS had prospective members call the Wesley Foundation for the time and place of the meetings.

“We supported each other,” Jon Humiston, a former GLASS member from 1992 to 1997 said. “We helped each other navigate the complexities of the campus climate and dealing with roommates and negative situations across campus.”

Humiston is a three time CMU graduate and former Director of the Office of LGBTQ+ Services at CMU.

Similar to GLF, GLASS would put advertisements in the student paper to attract members and make it clear to queer students that there was a community on campus for them. In addition to using the Wesley Foundation to find the time and place of the meeting, GLASS took other precautions.

After meetings, members would walk each other home or to their cars for protection, according to Humiston.

“It was mostly for safety, because of the fear of being beaten,” Humiston said. “And the fact that, for the longest time, it was OK to beat gay people. It’s great that somewhere along the line that has changed.”

In 2017, Jim Jones, the adviser to GLASS in the 1990s and mentor to Humiston, died. Humiston and Christy Brookes, a colleague of Jones in the World Languages and Cultures department at CMU, raised over \$7,000 for the James Jones Memorial LGBTQ+ Scholarship, which will be awarded for the first time this year, five years after Jones’ death.

### Creating a home on campus

A direct result of the advocacy coming from students, faculty and staff up to the 1990s was the founding of the Office of Gay and Lesbian Affairs 30 years ago. Campus advocates had been fighting for an official office since the 1970s but didn’t receive it until 1991.

Mindy Kaplan, a psychology professor, was appointed as volunteer director for the office on Oct. 4, 1991. When it started, Kaplan was unpaid, the only one running the office and was not given a workspace on campus, so she worked from her office in the psychology department.

That is not the experience of current Director Shannon Jolliff-Dettore whose office is on the lower level of the Bovee University Center.

“I especially think that (this anniversary) shows a lot of resiliency of the folks that started this work 30 years ago,” Jolliff-Dettore said.



Layla Blahnik-Thoune | Staff Photographer  
Spectrum member Jesse Blair smiles and waves CMU alumni pride flags as he watches people sign the banner at Motor City Pride Saturday, Sept. 18 in Detroit.

When she started in the position in 2008, most of her time was spent helping students with their coming out journeys and helping them cope with harassment.

Over the last 13 years, Jolliff-Dettore’s job has shifted.

She now helps students find their community. She helps trans students navigate the name change policy or sex change markers on I.D.s. She connects students to additional resources if they need them.

“It’s great to see the shift,” Jolliff-Dettore said. “As representation has increased, there seems to be more comfort in (students) being authentic with their identity and navigating being out.”

### Passing the flag

Today, organizations like The Gay Liberation Front, GLASS, Prism, The Gay Straight Alliance and Transcend are no longer on campus, but the communities still exist under a different name.

Spectrum, once called prism, is a student organization centered around education and socializing with other members of the queer community. Its members inherited the role of advocating for CMU’s LGBTQ+ community from the organizations that came before it.

“It breaks my heart, honestly, thinking about where the original leaders on campus for LGBTQ people started,” Spectrum President Julia Halverson said. “But I am so grateful that they took the risk and provided that space on campus because without them Spectrum wouldn’t be where it is today.”

Spectrum is able to meet and actively recruit on campus and openly advertise the time and place of their meetings. While able

to operate openly on campus, Spectrum still uses confidentiality to protect their members.

Halverson said that, while harassment isn’t as common as it used to be, it still happens, specifically in residence life. Queer students placed with roommates that don’t accept their sexuality or identity are often moved to a different dorm, with no repercussions for the roommates who harassed them.

“That’s something that comes up a lot,” Halverson said. “So if you can’t get into gender-inclusive housing, it’s very scary.”

These experiences have become less common as public opinion toward the queer community shifts. The university now needs to focus on providing easier access to gender-neutral restrooms in all campus buildings, Halverson and Jolliff-Dettore said.

Additionally, Halverson said CMU should increase support for queer students by including more of their events on the university calendar, adding an LGBTQ education program to orientation and hiring counselors who are queer or have experience working with queer people.

LGBTQ History Month celebrates how far the community has come with events throughout October. While today’s advocates also celebrate the two landmark anniversaries, they also focus on how to further improve the lives of their community members.

“It is very rewarding to know that the work that was done in the past is still being continued and improved today,” Halverson said. “We have more resources and more acceptance to work with, a little bit less resistance. Everything just builds on each other when we’re working toward liberation.”



CENTRAL MICHIGAN  
**LIFE**

1975

## Gay Lib continues despite debt of \$300

Gay Liberation will continue to operate at least until Sept. 1 at CMU despite a debt of more than \$300, according to James L. Hill, acting dean of students.

The organization's office had been closed and its mail privileges suspended for approximately one week because it failed to meet an initial debt of more than \$600.

According to Virgil Leone, president of Gay Liberation, the debt stemmed from "unexpected expenses last spring." He said legal and medical expenses incurred from the Pub incident last April in which Leone and two

others were allegedly assaulted, depleted monies scheduled to be contributed to the organization.

Leone also said his organization submitted three supplementary budget requests to the Office of Student Affairs which were not acted upon.

Hill said the budget requests "don't really have anything to do with the problem Gay Lib is having now. It has nothing to do with them over-spending," he said.

Aside from the debt, Hill said Gay Liberation must indicate how it spent the money. "They must account for

what they spent the money for before privileges will be reinstated," he said. He added that at present Gay Liberation is not considered a student organization in good standing with the University.

Leone said the \$300 payment was raised through personal contributions from Gay Liberation members.

**'Con  
New Vo**  
by DAVE RINEHART  
CM LIFE Reporter  
Leadership

CENTRAL MICHIGAN  
**LIFE**

1981

## Jeans show gay support

Whether you know it or not, if you are wearing blue jeans today you are a supporter of gay rights.

The sixth annual Blue Jean Day is sponsored by CMU's Gay Liberation and asks students to show support for gays by wearing blue jeans.

Gay Lib spokeswoman Lee Fisher said the Blue Jean Day is used for student awareness of prejudices toward gays.

"People don't wear blue jeans on purpose so they can be anti-gay," said Fisher, Mount Pleasant senior. "We chose blue jeans because everyone has blue jeans."

Fisher said many gay groups around the country sponsor blue jean days sometime during the year, but today's is a local event only.

Gay Lib also has publicized on Blue Jean Day to wear a bag over your head if you're against gay rights.

Silly as it is, Fisher said sometime today some persons will inevitably walk by the Student Organization Center, where the Gay Lib desk is located, with bags over their heads.

Fisher, former Gay Lib president, said signs were put up around campus to publicize the event, but many people are not aware.

"Some people don't know about it and wear blue jeans just like any other day," she said. "Then people stare at them and they know what it's like to have prejudice against you."

Fisher was referring to stares and gawks Gay Lib members receive from other students during the year.

Fisher also said the opposite happens — students protest the day via their dress. "People get in a panic and want to dress 'straight,'" she said.

"Popcorn, drinks and wet-washcloths were thrown at us."

-Virgil Leone, Gay Liberation Inc.

April 25, 1975

CENTRAL MICHIGAN  
**LIFE**

1971

## AS OTHERS SEE IT

To all Gay Students:

For the first time there is an organization on CMU's campus for homosexuals. Gay Liberation Front (GLF) has been approved by the University and will meet on campus. It will be open to all male and female homosexuals, with all names being confidential.

We are hoping that GLF will provide a social and educational outlet to all members. For more information as to time and place of meetings call Listening Ear at 772-2918. They will put you in touch with members.

We are hoping to see you there.

Signature withheld

CENTRAL MICHIGAN  
**LIFE**

1991

## Closets are for clothes



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"It's great to have a law passed for gay rights, but it's not worth a thing when stereotypes and prejudices have not been eliminated."

-Bob Allen, President of Gay Liberation  
Sept. 28, 1977

## Gays push awareness

by KAREN ANDERSON  
LIFE Staff Writer

Central Michigan's Gay Liberation, Inc. will attempt awareness and understanding of the nationwide gay movement, the group's president said.

Organizing a speaker's bureau consisting of Gay Lib members will be a primary function of the group, Bob Allen, Gay Lib president, said. A list of campus speaking engagements will be placed at the Gay Lib desk in the University Center (UC) and copies will be circulated among CMU professors and graduate students, Allen, Saginaw sophomore, said.

Human sexuality, health and psychology classes and

residence halls have requested speakers, Allen added.

"I see it as an educational thing. It's great to have a law passed for gay rights, but it's not worth a thing when stereotypes and prejudices have not been eliminated," Allen said.

CMU's chapter of its "most discriminated group of its size," as one member described the gay population, expects to become more active this year.

Gay Lib members plan to attend the Gay Rights Convention in Lansing Oct. 14 to 16, Allen said. The convention, sponsored by the Michigan Organization for Human Rights, will meet to support decriminalization of homosexual acts, which still are considered a felony in Michigan.

Allen said the chapter will participate in National Gay Lib Blue Jeans Day, sponsored by

the National Gay Task Force.

The day will be observed wearing blue jeans, Allen explained.

Gay Lib also will participate in the Student Activities Fair Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the UC Ballroom, Allen said. Members will man a literature table with books and periodicals depicting the gay movement and lifestyle, Allen said.

Allen said CMU's Gay Lib chapter has one of the largest libraries in Michigan on the subject of gay liberation. Its resources include subject files for research, cassette tapes and filmstrips.

"Our library is open to the public. Students doing research on gay liberation would be better off coming to our desk than going to another general

library," Allen added.

The library is located near the Gay Lib desk in the Volunteer Organization Center, in the lower level of the UC.

On the social end of the spectrum, activities still are in the discussion stages because, as one member explained, "It's hard to make them swing up here. There is no support."

"Gays are getting very separatist," the member said. The area's gay population, the member said, is divided into three basic groups: the active group, which functions in an organization; the private group, which is not active in an organization; and the semi-private group, which comes out on occasion.

Allen said Gay Lib welcomes new members and interested non-members at its bi-weekly meetings at 8 p.m. Thursdays in the UC Gold Room.

Leonard Ferris, Mount Pleasant senior, was elected Gay Lib's Student Association representative at Thursday's meeting.

The Gay Lib desk in the VOC is manned 2 to 4 Tuesdays and Thursdays, Allen said.

"Some people don't know about it and wear blue jeans everyday. Then people stare at them and they know what its like to have prejudice against you."

-Lee Fisher, Gay Liberation spokesperson  
Sept. 30, 1981

missing from Barnes 214. Thursday DPS reported several incidents, including

participate in National Gay Lib Blue Jeans Day, sponsored by



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# 60 years of Sweetness

By Michael Livingston  
Editor-in-Chief  
editor@cm-life.com

Dina Desmores looks out the front window of her bakery and eyes the bustling businesses across Mission Street. She remembers how the patch of land looked when she first came to Mount Pleasant in 1961.

"None of this was here; all of it looked different," she said.

Imagine Mission Street without all the traffic or CMU less than half its current size.

Desmores remembers. It's where she and her husband made their

lives together after emigrating from France—it's where she continues to satisfy Mount Pleasant's sweet tooth at 83-years-old.

Robaire's Bakery, best known for its donuts, cakes and fresh-baked bread, celebrates its 60th year of business this year. That's plenty of time for Desmores' story to be told over and over again.

However, the regulars can tell you everything you need to know about the woman behind the apron.

Desmores rises at 3:30 a.m. every morning and arrives at the shop

around 4 a.m. For the next hour she's prepping the shop for its 5 a.m. opening.

Right around then, the same group of people arrives almost every day—a mix of business owners, retirees, university employees among others. They don't need to order their coffee; Desmores and the rest of the staff know how they take it.

"We know where to put our dish-

es when we're finished. If someone's busy in the back and a customer walks in, we'll let them know," Mount Pleasant local Larry King said. "Sometimes we'll even help out ... We're just comfortable here."

Dina Desmores inspects a recently decorated cake at Robaire's Bakery Oct. 7.

Michael Livingston | Editor-in-Chief

The early morning at Robaire's is for people like King who have known Desmores and the rest of the staff for years. However, the Robaire's staff sees familiar

ROBAIRE'S | 18



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# Bobcats tamed,

## *Pimpleton leads the charge in 30-27 win*

By Christian Booher  
Staff Reporter

Muskegon junior wide receiver Kalil Pimpleton said his team had been practicing the play since summer. Because of this, when the coaches made the call, Pimpleton and his teammates were ready.

Facing a third-and-five from Ohio's seven-yard line, offensive coordinator Kevin Barbay dialed up a play more commonly known as the 'Philly Special.'

"It's funny because that's something we've been boiling up since camp," Pimpleton said. "We finally got the chance to run it. When they called it, it wasn't even a surprise. It was more like, 'let's do it.'"

Trailing Ohio by six, 19-13, late in the third quarter, the Chippewas needed a score. Facing arguably the biggest play of the game to this point, Barbay and company called the trick play.

Miami redshirt freshman Daniel Richardson called fake signals, allowing Homewood, Illinois junior center Jamezz Kimbrough to snap directly to Detroit redshirt freshman Lew Nichols III. Stepping directly to his left, Nichols then tossed the ball to Pimpleton coming back to the right.

Ideally, this play is designed for the defense to commit to Nichols running left. This clears the way for the reverse action and leaves Pimpleton with a decision to either outrun the defender or flip the ball to Richardson.

Not all things go according to plan. Ohio's defense was ready for the reverse and defenders came back to chase Pimpleton. Instead of running his route, Richardson turned and threw a block downfield. Quarterbacks rarely have to block, but Richardson did so in this case, throwing the pivotal block as Pimpleton made two defenders miss.

"I knew instantly when he knew he wasn't getting the



Andrew Travis | Staff Photographer

Muskegon junior Kalil Pimpleton sends up a prayer before receiving a punt from FIU, Sept. 25 at Kelly/Shorts Stadium.

ball, I knew he would turn up and help me out a little bit," Pimpleton said of Richardson's block. "So that meant a lot for him, big ups to him. Me and him talked about it right after the play and I appreciate him for that."

Heading toward the five-yard line, Pimpleton lowered his shoulder as a Bobcat defender spiraled off him. John Gregory, an Ohio linebacker, latched onto Pimpleton. The Muskegon native wasn't fazed, carrying him the final yard as he stretched across the goal line.

The score gave the Chippewas the lead, but not for long. Ohio answered with a long touchdown on fourth-and-one. After CMU answered with a field goal and forced the Bobcats to punt, Richardson led the offense out needing 83 yards with 6:38 left, trailing 27-23.

CMU was gifted 15 yards on its first play after a facemask penalty on Ohio. Richardson hit

Phoenix junior wide receiver Dallas Dixon up the sideline for 26 yards to Ohio's 38-yard line. After three runs and an incomplete pass, CMU had a second-and-10 from Ohio's 28.

The Bobcats didn't deviate from the single coverage scheme they'd employed the entire game. It was Cover 0 defense, meaning there was no help over the top. Pimpleton was one-on-one with the defender across from him.

With his speed, this was a favorable matchup for CMU. Pimpleton took four steps straight, then burst to the outside of his defender. He simply outran his defender and Richardson placed the ball on Pimpleton's back shoulder.

The catch was made and CMU had the lead.

Though it worked to perfection, Pimpleton said there was chaos before the play.

"It was crazy because there was a lot going on," Pimpleton said. "We got the play kinda late. We might've had a mess-up in the formation. The clock was winding down and we might've had two or three seconds left on the play clock and it was kind of just like a chemistry thing. I'm not even sure if I ran the right route."

Pimpleton's game-winning receiving touchdown was his first of the season. Known for being one of the best playmakers in the Mid-American Conference, Pimpleton adjusted to the attention he gets from opponents.

And when his team needed big plays Saturday, he made them.

"I think he knew he needed to make some plays," said coach Jim McElwain. "That's the guy he is, he's the heart and soul of this football team and I tell you what, I just love him."

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# Rockets on deck

## A look back at past Homecoming games

COMING  
TOLEDO

Oct. 16

By Christian Booher  
Staff Reporter

Last season, there was no homecoming pageantry for Central Michigan football.

Because fans weren't allowed in Kelly/Shorts Stadium, the Chippewas weren't able to welcome in students and athletes of past and present to celebrate the program's history. In 2021, however, fans and alumni will be welcomed in as CMU takes on Toledo at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16.

All-time, the Chippewas are 59-32-1 in homecoming games. The first was played in 1924 against Alma, while the most recent was a 42-28 win over New Mexico State in 2019.

Over the last 10 homecoming games, CMU is 4-6. Here's a look at some of the best and worst from the last 10 installments in the Chippewas' homecoming matchups.

### Best win -- Oct. 3, 2015 over Northern Illinois (29-19)

After a grueling non-conference schedule that saw CMU fall to three Power Five opponents, the Chippewas started the Mid-American Conference portion of the schedule strong against the Huskies. Under first-year coach John Bonamego, a CMU alum, the Chippewas beat an NIU team that had won the last five MAC West titles. This started a run of five wins in six games for the Chippewas, with only a loss to Western Michigan in between.

Amidst nasty weather, Bonamego and company trailed at halftime, 10-3. Junior quarterback Cooper Rush would have none of it, however, as he led the offense to 23



Greg Cornwell | Staff Photographer

Senior running back Thomas Rawls dives for the end zone against Ohio at Kelly/Shorts Stadium 2014.

third quarter points. Rush threw two third quarter touchdown passes, including a 23-yard strike to Jesse Kroll to put CMU in the lead for good.

The Huskies made things interesting with a fourth quarter touchdown, but safety Kavon Frazier and defensive end Blake Serpa each forced fumbles on two late NIU drives to keep the game out of reach.

### Worst loss -- Oct. 15, 2011 to Eastern Michigan (35-28)

It was a battle at Kelly/Shorts between two in-state rivals, with the road team coming out on top late. The Chippewas found themselves in a 15-point hole in the fourth quarter after the Eagles scored two touchdowns early in the period.

The Chippewas didn't quit, however, as quarterback Ryan Radcliff led a riveting comeback. The senior hit Titus Davis for an 11-yard score, then Jerry Harris from two yards out to cut the lead to two. Radcliff and Davis connected for the two-point conversion, and with 1:09 left the game was tied.

Alex Gillette wasted no time for EMU, however. The Eagles' quarterback slipped through the Chippewa defense and scored from 30 yards out with just 37 seconds remaining to give his team the lead. Radcliff would move his

team down the field, but was picked off at EMU's four-yard line to end the game.

Best team performance -- Oct. 12, 2019 against New Mexico State (42-28 win)

Little did many know this Chippewa team would be on their way to an appearance in the MAC championship game. Riding the high of a blowout win over EMU, first-year coach Jim McElwain led his team to one of its best offensive performances of the season against the Aggies.

Two running backs rushed for over 100 yards, including then-sophomore Kobe Lewis' career-high 161. Lewis ripped off scoring runs of 57 and 20 yards, while senior Jonathan Ward contributed a 75-yard touchdown run of his own.

Kalil Pimpleton opened the scoring with a 44-yard touchdown catch from Quinten Dormady and led the team in receiving with 59 yards on six catches. As a team, the Chippewas accounted for 486 yards of offense.

### Worst team performance -- Oct. 14, 2017 against Toledo (30-10 loss)

A Chippewa team that had yet to find its stride welcomed in the eventual MAC champions. This would be the Chippewas last loss for two months, yet would be the separation between the two squads for the eventual West Division crown. Toledo finished with one conference loss, while the Chippewas ended with two.

As gallons of rain fell from the sky, the Chippewa offense stammered throughout the afternoon. The defense, meanwhile, couldn't stop the Rockets running game. Toledo had a pair of 100-yard rushers, led by Terry Swanson's 145 yards and two scores.

Toledo outgained CMU 399 yards to 244, with 310 of those yards coming on the ground. The Chippewas punted on each of their first five drives, ultimately doing so eight times on the day. Quarterback Shane Morris, another Michigan transfer, threw two interceptions. CMU scored its only touchdown when Morris hit tight end Tyler Conklin from 26 yards out late in the fourth.

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**LIFE IN BRIEF**

# City Commission approves mental health police program

By Leona Falconer

The Mount Pleasant City Commission discussed a one-year pilot program that would integrate a mental health professional into the Mount Pleasant Police Department.

The program will employ local non-profit R.I.S.E. Advocacy to hire and manage a full-time mental health responder. “The important part is the embedded-ness of the individual into the police department,” Public Safety Director Paul Lauria said. “We want to get someone that knows how the system works and can see the job through while building relationships with the officers and staff.”

Commissioners praised Lauria for his research into mental health and drug addiction needs in the area. This will be the first program of its kind in the state, Mayor William Joseph said.

“Most of these people are stuck in group homes and I see the same officers at these homes all the time,” Commissioner Petro Tolas said. “Police aren’t counselors or psychologists so this role is something important we need to implement.”

The program calls for the reallocation of police department funds to cover the first trial year of the program. Further costs will be reevaluated in a year based upon the program’s success.

Lauria explained the program’s protocol will allow for a bigger impact than counseling centers. The mental health professional will be available for crisis situations and follow-up.

“CMU’s Counseling Center is just not set up to do this,” Commissioner George Ronan said. “Having a mobile crisis team is a huge lift to the police department and it’s absolutely state of the art.”

The budget reallocation passed 7-0.

# University releases schedule of Homecoming festivities

By Staff Reports

Here is the list of events:

**Thursday, Oct. 14**

- An Evening with Olympic Swimmer Cullen Jones  
5 p.m. in the Plachta Auditorium

- Glow in the Dark Cornhole  
7 p.m. at the Barnes Lawn

**Friday, Oct. 15**

Fire Up Friday!

- Wear your favorite CMU shirts/sweatshirt.

- Homecoming Chalking  
11a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Bovee UC & around campus

- Rock Rally

6 p.m. in the Plachta Auditorium

**Saturday, Oct. 16**

- CMU Homecoming 5K Run/Walk benefiting Special Olympics – Michigan  
8 a.m. inside Finch Fieldhouse

- Homecoming Parade  
11 a.m.

- Homecoming Football Game – CMU vs. Toledo

- 3:30 p.m. in Kelly/Shorts Stadium  
The student section is free with your CMU ID card. Regular admission starts at \$10.

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

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# CMU releases \$550,000 investigative report about journalism faculty, staff

By Staff Reports

Central Michigan University spent seven months and more than half a million dollars on an investigation into three journalism staff members based on allegations it now has characterized as unfounded.

On March 17, Lansing City Pulse freelance reporter Todd Heywood called Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer John Veilleux and told him CMU interns were being sexually harassed and that university employees were aware of it, among other allegations.

According to the report, Heywood told Veilleux that several interns and employees at Vanguard Public Affairs reported allegations of sexual harassment and a hostile work environment from the company's president and

owner T.J. Bucholz, a CMU alumnus, and that some journalism staff members may have been aware.

After the seven-month-long investigation into the Director of Student Media and adviser of Central Michigan Life Dave Clark and journalism faculty Steve Coon and Jim Wojcik completed by Honigman, LLC., President Bob Davies released the report to the CMU community on Oct. 13.

"The investigation found no evidence to support the allegations made," Davies' email read. "Mr. Coon, Mr. Wojcik and Mr. Clark did not violate any CMU policies related to sexual misconduct, nor did they knowingly place students in roles in which they would be exploited or harassed."

Although the report specifically cites Heywood as the catalyst of the investigation, CMU Board of Trustee

Chair Richard Studley said the investigation was due to accumulation of reports from several media outlets.

"The direction we gave to the Honigman firm was very, very clear," Studley said. "It's not our role to investigate reporters and whether their reports are accurate, — that's a job for editors. But it was not any one report but multiple reports of the same allegations that caused the focus to be the Vanguard firm and what, if any, role CMU employees had."

In a statement to CM Life, Heywood said he originally contacted University Communications to prepare them and ask for comment because the allegations involved university officials.

"At no time was I contacted by the investigators," Heywood said in his statement. "Had they done so, they

would have found out that I had audio recordings of my interviews as well as transcripts with each source. Had they done their due diligence, the attorneys would have learned the statements ascribed to me specifically were, in fact, statements from my sources; not me."

Heywood declined to share any evidence supporting his source material with CM Life. He also said he did not offer the materials to the university.

#### The cost

The investigation has cost CMU \$550,000 to date, with one last invoice on the way, according to Davies. The funds will be paid from "one-time use contingency funds included in (the) annual operating budget."

"The cost is substantial, yet we firmly believe it was a necessary expense," Davies said in his email

statement. "Because this case involved serious allegations including sexual harassment and trafficking, CMU had an obligation and a responsibility to conduct a thorough investigation."

CM Life plans to file a Freedom of Information Act for invoices related to the investigation.

As a part of the investigation report, the firm gave CMU recommendations for improvements to the university due to the investigated concerns.

"Investigators have outlined improvements to strengthen that commitment to student safety," Clark said in his statement to CM Life. "I also met with President Davies to discuss my concerns that, in future personnel matters, CMU employees are communicated with properly and treated with respect."



## OPINION |

# Addiction is facing what you don't want to know

Sometimes, I feel like I can't have fun without drugs or alcohol.

"It's not a problem until we graduate!" I hear many friends chuckle with a worrisome tone and a hard seltzer in their hand. We laugh and say bottoms up.

For many students, drug dependency is just a part of the daily college routine.

It's easy to chalk it up to the "college experience," but it's harder to face the facts: The drug abuse we partake in now will be a long term problem for many of us.

According to a 2019 study, 12.6% of college students have some form of substance use disorder, an addiction to drugs or alcohol that causes frequent impairment and failure to meet responsibilities.

Most college students start using drugs or alcohol to have fun. It feels completely normal when we are surrounded by friends who encourage it, justifiable because we've "earned it"



**Jill Harrington**  
—  
Staff Reporter

after a hard day. With excessive use, we're eventually no longer partaking to have fun, but to cope with the daily chaos of life.

Suddenly, the sober you feels like a stranger, and the drug makes you feel like yourself again.

Addiction has greatly affected my life, and I am painfully aware of the fact that drug abuse does not just magically stop after graduation.

When I was 16, my brother's best friend from high school came over to

our house for a visit.

Even if my brother wasn't home, Jon would stop by to catch up with my mom and the rest of my family. He always went out of his way to talk to me, which I appreciated because to most of my brother's friends, I was just the annoying little sister. We hugged, we laughed, we talked. He told me about his new job and about the bible quote he planned to have tattooed on his arm.

Less than a month later, I was attending Jon's funeral.

I had no idea he was struggling with addiction. How could this happen to someone so kind, so charismatic, so god-loving? How could this happen to someone who seemed so happy?

That was the first time I realized there is no "type" of addict. Like many of us, Jon started out as a kid having fun with his friends. Addiction wasn't his plan.

Drug abuse has found a place in many of our lives under the guise of a "col-

lege experience," and for some of us, it will just be a college experience. For others, like Jon, drug dependency will be a lifelong battle. I see it in students as they hit their dab pens on the way to class. I see it in my friends, to whom the best cure for a hangover is a joint. I see it in myself, who like many other college students, finds it hard to say no when it's what everybody else is doing. Addiction is not as distant as it may seem, and habits we form now will carry on with us into adulthood.

If you've found yourself questioning whether or not you have a substance abuse problem, chances are, you probably do. It's not easy to face addiction, especially on a college campus, but you're not alone in the struggle.

Having fun while staying grounded is possible, and I'm starting to find that the most genuine memories are made with a clear head.

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## Editor-in-Chief

is responsible for directing the overall editorial operation of the paper. The editor assumes leadership responsibility in the newsroom. The editor has final student authority in decisions, is responsible for working for the stated objectives of the newspaper and acts as a spokesperson.

The Student Media Board of Directors meets **Nov. 12, 2021** to select the **Editor-in-Chief of CM Life for Spring 2022**. The editor will interview and hire all other section editors prior to the end of the Fall 2021 semester.

In order to facilitate electronic transmission of application materials to board members, *PLEASE EMAIL* a copy of your resume in a PDF format, email a Microsoft Word document answering the application questions at [cm-life.com/contact-us](http://cm-life.com/contact-us) and have your letters of recommendation emailed to: [clark6da@cmich.edu](mailto:clark6da@cmich.edu).

# WELCOME TO OUR [REDACTED], [REDACTED] WORLD

*Redacted documents, poor media relations and lack of transparency are just the tip of the iceberg.*

Reporting is difficult to do even under the best of circumstances.

Reporting the news at Central Michigan University? Bringing you the facts sometimes feels like an impossible task.

As we close out National Newspaper Week, observed Oct. 3-9, we want to show you behind the scenes of *Central Michigan Life*. From our perspective, this is what reporters and editors see when we are trying to cover the university: Administrators who value marketing over the truth. Publicity stunts over addressing real issues. Public relations instead of transparency.

This is Central Michigan University in 2021.

We've had enough.

For more than 100 years we've told your stories. Each year telling your stories gets a little more difficult. In recent years, it has also gotten significantly more frustrating.

Here are two recent examples.

After weeks of complaints from parents and students about new food service provider Chartwells, we requested a copy of its contract with CMU using a Freedom of Information Act request.

After waiting two weeks, what did we get?

A contract that had all financial information removed. CMU redacted the information because pricing is considered a "trade secret."

No numbers. No answers. Just black boxes covering up the facts.

Meanwhile, we already had the Chartwells contracts from Eastern Michigan University and Oakland University. Those

## EDITORIAL

universities didn't redact any financial information. We are working with the Student Press Law Center to appeal CMU's decision to withhold pricing information.

That is what we face when we ask CMU for answers to basic questions – how much are you paying a company that CMU does business with?

In addition to being denied public information, every year University Communications and Athletics personnel try to exert more and more control over reporters while restricting access to administrators, coaches, staff and even students.

This week we scheduled an interview with a student-athlete who agreed to tell their story over a month ago. Although the athlete expressed interest in speaking with us, we wanted to show professionalism and respect, so we formally requested the interview through Athletics.

They denied the request for the interview.

Why? We were told the athlete was taking "personal time" and that we would have to pursue the story at a later time. In reality, the student never told them that. Athletics never discussed the interview with the athlete.

In this office, we cross our fingers every time we send an email – hoping to score five minutes with an administrator, football player or faculty member. Will we – students who pay tuition or "customers" – even be "allowed" to do our jobs in the

future?

That's not how "media relations" is supposed to work.

Sometimes the university purposely disregards the line between fact and fiction.

In 2018, CMU announced that Kathy Irwin was named Dean of University Libraries. The university did not disclose what happened to the previous dean, Jeff Luzius.

That was left to us. We did our job.

Luzius was fired by CMU after the university received multiple sexual harassment complaints about his behavior. *CM Life* obtained his personnel file and was able to verify the complaints. To this day the university has not acknowledged he was fired.

We expect to receive the "most favorable" version of the truth when working with University Communication. But omitting – disregarding – the truth is just a form of lying.

A transparent university is a good university and one students or parents are comfortable with. In case no one has ever mentioned this in a focus group or brainstorming session: Transparency, honesty and honoring public information requests might be a great marketing campaign.

We do transparency? We do the truth?

We would like to see CMU try that strategy sometime soon.

*Want to work with CM Life? Submit news tips, story ideas or guest opinion pieces to [editor@cm-life.com](mailto:editor@cm-life.com). Support and share the work we do!*

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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.



## THURSDAY 10/14

### An Evening with Olympic Swimmer Cullen Jones 5p.m. Plachta Auditorium

Join CMU alumna Talia Mark-Brookshire and former Detroit Free Press Sports Reporter Perry Farrel for a facilitated discussion with Olympic swimmer Cullen Jones. Masks are required

### Glow in the Dark Cornhole 7 p.m. Barnes Lawn

Come watch fellow students compete for the Gold/Maroon/Greek Cups and enjoy a cup of Hot Chocolate

## FRIDAY 10/15

### Fire Up Fridays! Spirit Day!

Wear your favorite CMU shirts/sweatshirt or new Maroon and Gold Tie Dye from Wednesday

### Homecoming Chalking (Bovee UC & Around Campus) 11a-3p

Show us your chalk talents and CMU Pride by creating the best design corresponding with the Homecoming theme.

### Rock Rally 6 p.m. Plachta Auditorium

This awesome lip-sync competition is where your peers compete in groups on a stage for the coveted of Maroon Cup Trophy along with finding out who will be our Gold Ambassadors for 2021.

Live stream is available. Masks are required

## SATURDAY 10/16

### CMU Homecoming 5K Run/Walk benefiting Special Olympics Michigan 8a - Finch Fieldhouse

Run/walk throughout beautiful campus that will help to support children and adults in year-round sports training and athletic competition for persons with intellectual disabilities.

### Homecoming Parade 11a

The Homecoming Parade is an annual tradition that unites students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community members across the Mt. Pleasant community in downtown Mt. Pleasant as well as on campus

### Homecoming Football Game - CMU vs. Toledo Kick-off 3:30 p.m.

Come cheer on YOUR CMU Chippewas! Remember, entry to Kelly/Shorts Stadium -student section is FREE with your CMU ID card.



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# ROBAIRE'S

CONTINUED FROM 8

faces all day long.

Desmores sometimes stays the whole 13 hours the bakery is open.

It seems like she could walk around the store, frost a cake or glaze a donut blindfolded but Desmores won't tell you that herself. She speaks with a humble, gentle voice with hints of her French accent.

Desmores said Robaire, her late husband who the bakery was named after, had a little more volume.

The couple followed the rest of Desmores' family to the U.S. after Robaire returned from the Algerian War.

The family had help from an American pilot, who was shot down in WWII and hid at her parent's farm in Burgundy, France. That pilot was originally from Saginaw and sponsored the Desmores emigration in 1960.

When Robaire and Dina arrived in 1961, Robaire got a job at CMU as a baker until he opened his own



Dina Desmores (center) poses with her employees Kourtney Eichorn (left) and Jessica Wiles (right).

business.

"He would come into work singing so loud, they probably got tired of him," Desmores joked. "He was a happy man all the time."

A smiling portrait of Robaire hangs above the counter next to a

Michael Livingston | Editor-in-Chief

smaller photo of the young couple embracing.

Even after Robaire's death Desmores never slowed down. But her employees are absolutely vital to the operation—especially after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We definitely had to keep an eye out for (Dina)," Robaire's employee Jessica Wiles said. "I tell all the (staff) even if you have the sniffles make sure you get tested and you're not accidentally bringing it in here."

Desmores has staff that has been with her for decades and others that have only been there a few months. Wiles is on her third year.

"I'm usually here at 4:30 a.m. and (Dina) is here two hours before me—often times two hours after me," Wiles said. "She's one of the hardest workers I've ever met."

While Desmores will never admit it herself, Robaire's 60-year run in Mount Pleasant commands a certain respect from other local businesses.

CMU alumnus and owner of Ignite Donuts Casey Croad is opening his own donut café later this month after years of working out of the university. He said Desmores' story inspires him to remain diligent with his own business.

"When I was a college student all I knew was Robaire's; they were just the one-and-only," Croad said. "I just think any entrepreneur or any small business that's been a part of this community for so long

and services so many facets of our community is obviously doing something right."

Robaire's wins awards for its food and service almost every year. In 2020 the store was a finalist in MLive's Michigan's Best Donut competition. This year they were voted best donut in town in CM Life's "Best Of" contest.

Desmores appreciates the attention but shrugs it off.

To Desmores, retirement is "not in the vocabulary."

Hanging above the dough mixers in the back kitchen are two maps, one of the United States and one of the whole world. Desmores said she keeps them there so when she meets travelers, she knows how far they've come to try her food.

It also serves as a reminder of how far she's come in her journey as an immigrant and a small business owner.

In its 60 years of business, Desmores said Robaire's has never made a perfect donut but it's something she will always strive for.

"Something can be perfect in so many ways," Desmores said. "It may be perfect to you and that's all that matters."

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## 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
<b>Music Bldg. - Lot#33</b>	<b>:42</b>	<b>:12</b>	<b>EVERY 1/2 HOUR</b>
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
<b>Music Bldg. - Lot#33</b>	<b>:12</b>	<b>:42</b>	<b>EVERY 1/2 HOUR</b>

## 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
<b>Music Bldg. - Lot#33</b>	<b>:42</b>	<b>:12</b>	<b>EVERY 1/2 HOUR</b>

## 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
<b>Music Bldg. - Lot#33</b>	<b>:42</b>	<b>:12</b>	<b>EVERY 1/2 HOUR</b>

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 2021

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

8:00PM & 10:30PM RETURN FROM PARK LIBRARY TO APT. COMPLEXES ONLY

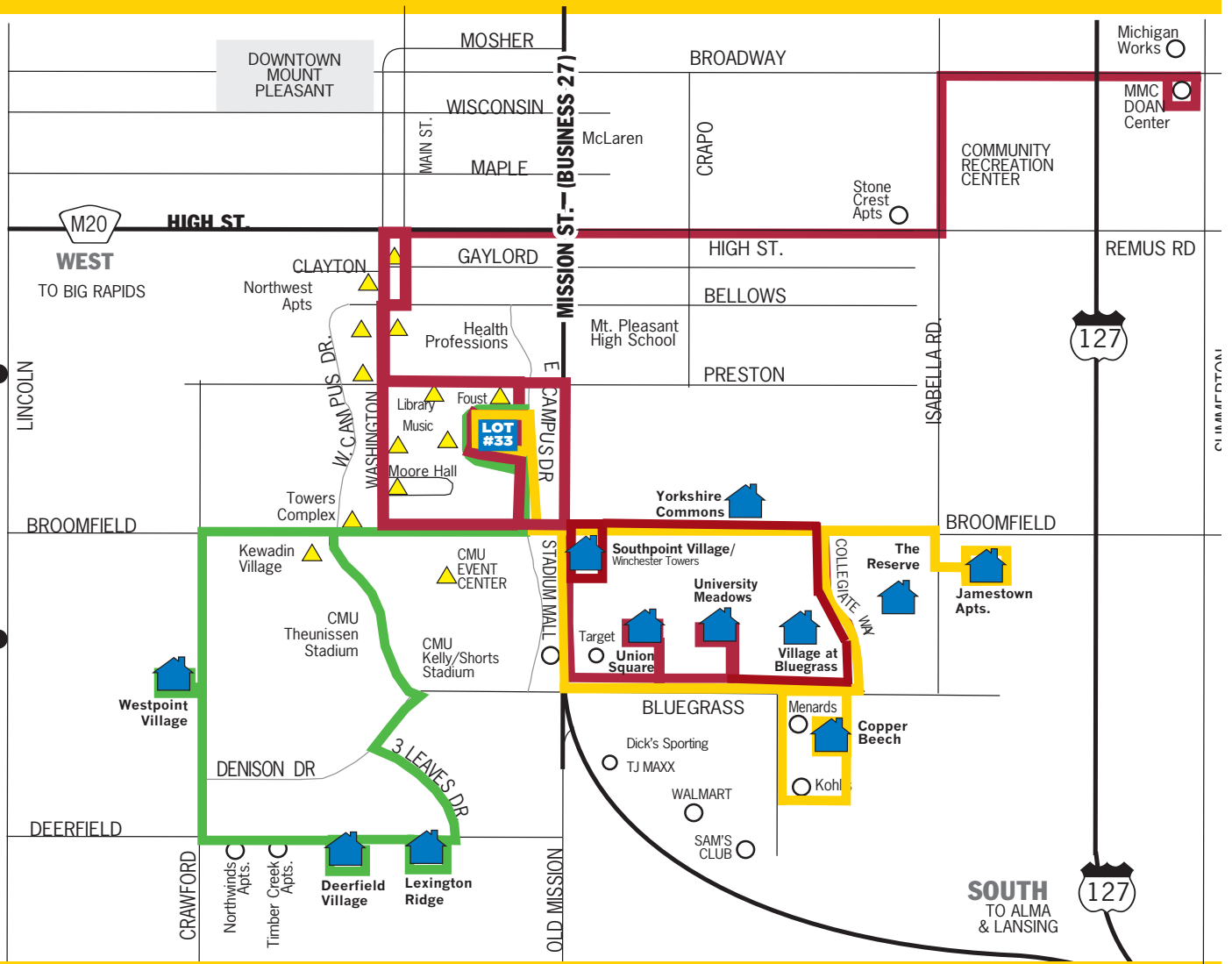
**REQUEST STOPS:** ○ REGULAR FARE \$2.00

**EVERY HALF HOUR SHUTTLE STOPS:**

▲ **BUS STOPS**  
 No fare collected/prepaid stops by contract with our partners

🏠 **APARTMENT COMPLEX STOPS**  
 Rides for residents prepaid by complex

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 Step to the curb and wave



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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16  
8:00PM  
SOLD OUT SHOW!



## THE GOO GOO DOLLS

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



## KUMBIA ALLSTARZ

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23  
8:00PM  
\$25 General Admission



## BOYZ II MEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30  
8:00PM  
\$44, \$54, \$72 & \$78



## NELLY AND TWISTA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6  
8:00PM  
\$44, \$54, \$72 & \$78

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