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A note from the editor-in-chief



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

For 100 years now, Central Michigan University has celebrated homecoming, reminding students, faculty and staff that they belong to an institution bigger than any individual.

But as we approach one anniversary, another has just passed. The deadly conflict between Israel and Hamas reignited this time last year, the continuation of a culture war that extends beyond the lifetime of most individuals.

Here at CMU, much like the rest of the world, the diversity of mindset,

appearance and experience is what makes it beautiful. The university sets up a picturesque environment of collaboration.

It's not perfect, but it is for the most part safe, welcoming and empowering.

Perhaps, it's easy to have a perspective limited to this institution. Classes, extracurriculars and jobs keep our focus here. But I would encourage you, and I occasionally need this message too, to look up from your notes and remember the rest of the world.

There's a vast planet full of air, earth and water; full of cities, rich people, poor people, people who look nothing like you.

While we gather in warm, welcoming spaces full of friends and family, some parents in the Middle East hug their children for the last time.

Perhaps remembering that there is pain in the

world can spoil a moment of personal joy. Tough.

For some members of our Mount Pleasant and campus communities, these pains are all too real and all too personal. There are families and friends on both sides of this war.

Thankfully, we are in a caring community. If you're struggling, there are people willing to listen and support, from the counseling center, to the newly Mental Health First Aid-certified Division of Student Affairs staff, to the person next to you in class.

Happy Homecoming. Maybe pour one out for the folks on the other side of the world.

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

INDEX



NEWS
12

Securing the system

Absentee ballots are arriving in Michigan mailboxes, but some voters doubt the sanctity of the system. Here's how election leaders are shoring up election security.



OPINION
16

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FEATURES
17

Are you brave enough to read this?

Whether this season makes you giddy with holiday joy or leaves you quaking in fear, join Carter Salley on a spine-tingling trip through his top Halloween flicks.



SPORTS
20

Walk this way

Getting onto a D1 football team is no easy task, complicated by recruiters, tryouts and scholarships. But for this player, hard work and talent got him all the way to the end zone.



ONLINE



Rave on

Join "Raving Geeks" hosts Carter Salley and Christan Valk on a laugh-out-loud journey through the best in horror movies ... if you dare.

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On the cover: CM Life photo collage by Brittany Stevens with file photos and assets courtesy of the Clarke Historical Library

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NEWS

Homecoming Calendar

CMU Homecoming celebrates its 100th anniversary this week, with a calendar packed with events, parties and plenty of fun. The following are just some of the opportunities for students, alumni and supporters. Happy Homecoming!

THU 10

- **Homecoming Trivia**
7 p.m. Biosciences 1010
- **Homecoming Movie**
8 p.m. Biosciences 1010

FRI 11

- **Hot Cocoa Bar**
Noon on UC Lawn
- **Rock Rally**
7 p.m. Plachta Auditorium, Warriner Hall

SAT 12

- **Parade**
11 a.m. and steps off from Lot 22, follows Washington and Main streets to Broadway Street and ends at Sacred Heart Church.
- **Homecoming Game**
4 p.m. Kelly/Shorts Stadium

For a full list of activities, scan the QR code



TRADITIONS THROUGH TIME



Diving into the history behind CMU Homecoming

By Grace Walker and Keara Banks
Staff reporters

The traditional homecoming football games started at Central Michigan University in 1924. Though the football game tradition was new, the idea of bringing alumni back to Central was familiar.

Before 1924, alumni were invited back to the college during an “academic homecoming,” which took place in the springtime near graduation. As time passed, the popularity of homecoming football games rose in the Midwest, inspiring CMU.

According to the Clarke Historical Library, the first homecoming game was on November 22, 1924. The night before, people kicked off the new homecoming celebrations with a bonfire and pep rally that went into the night.

The next day, the football team went to the field to play Alma College and beat them 13-0. During half-time, students dressed as one big dragon and snaked onto the field, giving Central the new nickname “the dragons” for a few years.

After that, the new homecoming football game tradition was a success, creating many new traditions. Bryan Whitledge, the public services librarian for the Clarke Historical Library, explained some of CMU’s traditions.

“There’s only two things that have stayed the whole time: the football game, and the band,” Whitledge said about ongoing school traditions.

Now we have Maroon Ambassadors, but it wasn’t always this way. One of the traditions Whitledge talked about was homecoming queens. Often elected for their hard work and dedication to the school, homecoming queens began to find a place in the homecoming celebration in the late 1940s.

Jean “Scotty” Chisholm was elected the first Central homecoming queen in 1946. Since then, the election of a homecoming queen continued until 1997 when CMU switched to Gold and Maroon ambassadors.

Homecoming kings were not present on campus until 1982. Prior to 1982, only homecoming queens were elected, but men wanted to participate. According to Clarke Historical Library archives, starting in the mid-1950s, and ending in the 1980s, the character “Elvira Scratch” would make an appearance in the homecoming queen race every year.

Every year, a man would put on a long skirt, a mop head for blonde hair, and poorly done makeup and pretend to be the famous “Elvira Scratch.” All of this was meant to garner votes from the running homecoming queens.

Though Scratch never won, the character made a comeback year after year until the 1980s when the first homecoming king was introduced.

Though many traditions have come and gone since the beginning of CMU homecomings, Whitledge says its purpose has stayed the same.

“The homecoming is an alumni event,” Whitledge said. “It has things for our current students, but it is an alumni event.”

Homecoming this year

Jacey Hutchins is the event coordinator with the Office of Student Activities. She has been working to plan and organize this year’s homecoming events.

Eight students on the committee have been working alongside Hutchins to plan CMU homecoming. These students are as follows:

- Rock Rally Committee: Jenna Steeb and Emma Apap
- Events & Activities Committee: Christian Dunn
- Competitions Committee: Evelyn Matthias and Kiersten Judge
- Marketing Committee: Melo Ellis and Shayla Lindquist
- Parade Committee: Pushpa Talluri

Hutchins said that after the pandemic, events took a decline. With fewer students on campus and a long period of not being able to host events, some traditions were lost but are now coming back.

“I think our events change with our student population, knowing what kind of things our student body wants to see ... what things stick, what events don’t get as much traction, and just adjusting,” Hutchins said.

Monday and Tuesday of this year’s homecoming week was students’ gentle break, so those on the homecoming committee are finding ways to work around that despite lots of students not being on campus.

“It’s really going to look different this year,” Hutchins said. “So we’re just trying to really provide different online and like virtual events or competitions for students, just to get as much engagement as we can throughout the whole week.”

For her, homecoming events are intended to get students involved on campus.

“There’s always a lot of things going on, and kind of just get students (to take) a break from their everyday school work life, and get an opportunity to try new things on campus, meet new people (is important),” Hutchins said. “It’s really important to get them involved and have a good time. And like enjoying homecoming for what it is, enjoying CMU and just appreciating CMU.”

“It’s just like a week of fun,” Hutchins said. “It kind of is like different from our everyday lives. I just love getting the community and our campus together.”



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'It was a thrill of a lifetime'

Herb Deromedi talks about the team that won it all

By Kaia Zimmerman
Staff reporter

The 1974 Central Michigan football team cemented itself into CMU's history when it secured the Division II National Championship for the Chippewas.

Now, as the 50th anniversary of the national championship approaches, the team will be honored as the Grand Marshals for the 2024 homecoming game against Ohio University at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12.

The championship season helped CMU Athletics move up to Division I the next year and the Mid-American Conference.

The team was led by head coach Roy Kramer. Kramer has since been inducted into the CMU, MAC and the College Football Hall of Fame.

Alongside him for the '74 season was then-assistant coach Herb Deromedi, who is also in the College Football Hall of Fame.

After being the assistant coach, Deromedi moved to the head coach position for the Chippewas, holding that title for 16 years. As the head coach, he went 110-55-10 and ranks second in most wins by a football coach in the MAC.

Deromedi also spent 11 years as CMU's athletic director.

In an interview with Central Michigan Life, Deromedi talked about what it took to get to the national championship, what it meant to him and the impact CMU has had on him. Responses have been edited for clarity and length.

CM Life: What did it take to get to the national championship?

Deromedi: It was a team that was developed the year before. We had a nice season the year before, but we actually knew in '74 that we had some experienced, dedicated players. We lost our first game of the year. We lost our first game to Kent State, and played pretty well but got beat.

And the amazing thing was that coach Kramer, instead of using it as a moral victory, saying that we played a good game against the Mid-American Conference team, because we weren't in the Mid-American Conference yet. But basically he came in and really said that we should have won the game and really got after our players. And it worked, because from then on, we were undefeated.

We had everything that it takes to be good. We had an outstanding quarterback. Our offensive line was impressive. ...I could name you all the players that we had, but John Wunderlich was a defensive lineman that became an Academic All-American. And Richard Newsome is in our Hall of Fame.

When you put it all together, we just had the ingredi-



Courtesy photo | Clarke Historical Library

Former CMU Athletic Director, head football coach and assistant coach Herb Deromedi stands with members of the 1974 division II championship football team circa 1974.

ents to be a championship team.

What does it mean to you to be named a Grand Marshal for this year's homecoming alongside the rest of the 1974 team?

This is a special bunch. What a great honor for that team to be recognized as the marshals for the homecoming. Coach Kramer, I mean, of course he was our head coach and myself and Jesse James, he was our defensive line coach. He also will be coming back to Mount Pleasant, to be a part of the activity.

What will you remember the most about that season and that team?

Not only (did) we (have an) outstanding regular season, but our first (playoff) game was against Boise State. ... We were able to host that game in our stadium. And I think we shocked that football team, because we gave up only one touchdown to a team that was one of the tops in offense in the nation at that time.

And (we) really just played an outstanding, tough, physical ball game, only to be followed up the following week when we beat a Louisiana Tech team. And if you check the teams that we played in the playoffs, Boise, Louisiana Tech and Delaware, all of those are... schools with excellent football tradition and yet, we dominated those teams as we played them, which led to the championship.

What was your experience working under Roy

Kramer, and what did you learn from him as a coach?

I don't think you have enough space to give all the type of credit that Roy Kramer deserves. He was instrumental in really defining what Central Michigan University football was to become. He was a major force in developing a program that would eventually be admitted to the Mid-American Conference.

When he started as our head football coach, we were only recognized as a small college. I mean, you have to know the history of football, but you had major college and small college, and Central Michigan was a small college.

People in the Mid American Conference, they were called major college programs. But he took a small college and was able to get our program into the Mid-American Conference, and then pretty much go from there.

How did being a part of that team impact your career?

It was a thrill of a lifetime to be honest with you. I mean, it was our first exposure to be a part of a national championship. And everything from the quarter-final game against Boise to playing in Wichita Falls, Texas, against Louisiana Tech, and then eventually the championship game against Delaware.

In three straight weeks those are memories that certainly will last a lifetime.

How have you seen Central Michigan Athletics change and grow throughout the years?

The program has, there's no question, it has just moved and continues to move forward. Has a great future, has an excellent football (head) coach... and the staff, which our student body should be excited about.

Yeah, I think everything is still ahead of us, and we should enjoy what the past has been, but at the same time, look forward to participating now and in a great time to be observing college football.

What has the CMU community meant to you?

It's been a major part of my life. I enjoyed high school coaching. I had about seven years of it, and was brought from being a high school coach to be a part of when Roy Kramer became the head coach. So since 1967 until the time that I retired before I became the athletic director, it's been a major part of my life. So it's absolutely meant the world to me.

The players, I can't say enough about the players. They are what makes a program, how they carry themselves, how they compete, how they represent the university. They've been a big part of my life. And in fact, today, I'm going to meet with one of my former quarterbacks, to watch his grandson play football...

It has been everything a person could ask for. Mount Pleasant and the university (is) a great place to live, and I certainly enjoyed our time here.



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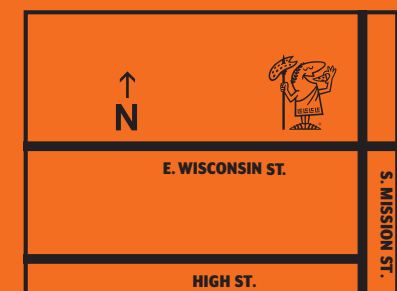
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Golden group

Seven vie for title of 2024 Gold Ambassador

Homecoming is a weekend filled with fun, memories and tradition including parades, alumni celebrations and games. Along with the celebration, Central Michigan University will select the Maroon Ambassador for 2024.

CMU has narrowed down and selected seven students that represent the core values of the school. They will compete for the title of 2024 Gold Ambassador during Friday's Rock Rally. *Central Michigan Life* interviewed the hopefuls to learn more about their experiences, goals and engagement on campus and beyond. For more on the candidates, visit cm-life.com.

— Compiled by Staff Reporters Lauren Pocica and Lydia Soltis



Marlee Remenap

Grade: Senior

Hometown: Grandville

Major: Social work with interdisciplinary minors in education and leadership

Campus connections include:

- President of the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority
- Founder of Beyond a Body
- Leadership Advancement Scholar.

What does being a Maroon Ambassador mean to you?

"Some days a leader looks like advocating for students and raising your voice when needed. Other days a leader on campus looks like picking up trash in the University Center."



Aaliyah Howard

Grade: Senior

Hometown: Detroit

Major: Sociology, with concentrations in social and criminal justice

Campus connections:

- President of Black Girls Rock
- Treasurer of Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Incorporated
- Intern at the office of diversity, equity and inclusion

What does being a Maroon Ambassador mean to you?

"It's a way of really acknowledging what I do on campus. ... I want to be a role model for other individuals who look like me, so then they know ... they can achieve the same things I did"



Mitchell Basham

Grade: Junior

Hometown: Lawton, Oklahoma

Major: Philosophy and political science

Campus connections:

- Member of the Student Government Association
- Member of Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity Inc.
- President of the Multicultural Greek Council

What does being a Maroon Ambassador mean to you?

"I've been doing great work and the students ... viewed me as an important person to the university."



Tupac Holmes

Grade: Senior

Hometown: Chicago

Major: Information systems with a focus on cybersecurity

Campus connections:

- VP of the Cybersecurity Club
- President of the Boxing Club
- Member of National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)

What does being a Maroon Ambassador mean to you?

"It means developing our university ... and making a big impact with the opportunity that I've been given. ... You can't make it to the end on your own and (I) want to show that if I can do it, everybody else can."



Carnell Poindexter III

Grade: Junior

Hometown: West Bloomfield

Major: Economics with a minor in public law

Campus connections:

- Member of Kappa Alpha Psi
- Member of the National Black Law Association
- IMPACT student mentor

What does being a Maroon Ambassador mean to you?

"Presenting myself in every community I'm a part of and making Central Michigan a home, not just a school."



Jacelyn Hutchins

Grade: Senior

Hometown: Albion

Major: Recreation and event management

Campus connections:

- Member of the Association of Recreation and Event Professionals (AREP)
- Member of the Program Board
- Event coordinator for the Office of Student Activities and Involvement (SAI)

What does being a Maroon Ambassador mean to you?

"I am just thankful to use this opportunity to represent the CMU student body and be someone people can look up to."



Lucia Dominguez

Grade: Junior

Hometown: Davidsburg

Major: Electrical and computer engineering with a minor in math

Campus connections:

- President of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)
- Chair of Justice, Equity and Inclusion for the Alternative Breaks program
- Member of the Empowered Latino Union (ELU) and Ballet Folklórico de la Luz.

What does being a Maroon Ambassador mean to you?

"(It's) proof that I made an impact on the people around me, including those of my own community and the communities I have connected with."

Q&A 'Make me proud'

President Davies looks back on tenure, and forward to next steps

By Lauren Rice
Editor-in-Chief

As announced by the Board of Trustees in their meeting at the end of September, Neil MacKinnon will be taking over as the president of Central Michigan University on Nov. 1.

As MacKinnon prepares to step into the role, current President Bob Davies said he's appreciating his "lasts" as president— from Academic Senate meetings to football games.

Central Michigan Life sat down with Davies to reflect on his six-and-a-half years in office. Answers have been edited for length and clarity.

CM Life: How is this semester different from previous ones for you?

Davies: From the get-go it's been different. Lot of 'last time you're going to do this, last time you're going to do that, last time you're going to be in these various positions.' And so it has been emotional from that perspective. I am a fairly sentimental type of person... As the University President, it's the last time addressing classes... coming up soon will be my last academic senate meeting. But that's part of the cycle, you know? And so you just go through it.

(I've) always said, you treasure the moments when they're the firsts, you treasure the moments when you're doing it... because sometimes you don't know when it's going to be the last one.

What happens after Nov. 1 for you?

I take a deep breath. I think that's what it's going to be. I think my wife and I are going to escape a little bit, we're gonna vote first... and I encourage everybody to vote. But then we're going to escape and just take a deep breath for about 10 to 15 days, then we'll come back and participate in some community events and activities and just kind of go from there.

I've pledged and will continue to do this: working with Dr. MacKinnon in his transition and be there to support and to offer ways to look at things. I'm not going to make decisions or even opine on decisions, but just (provide) a way to look at various aspects and provide some historical context if need be.

I've been selected, asked to join a national firm to help other university presidents transition at universities across the country. So I'll start doing some of those discussions and processes with them from a

different vantage point.

Before you know it, I'll be teaching a leadership class in the College of Business. And actually, there's a leadership class that they've always wanted to teach, and it's 'the university president and leadership from the executive suites,' and I'll be teaching that class in the higher education program



Ella Miller | Visuals Editor | File

Central Michigan University President Bob Davies speaks with a child on stage during the introduction of Indian Night on Saturday, April 20 in Finch Fieldhouse.

Over your tenure here, do you have some things you're particularly proud of?

Six and a half years ago, when we moved here, getting our arms around the enrollment crisis and understanding the significant changes that needed to occur... but even during the COVID time frame, we were able to continue to narrow that gap and make the progress needed. So I think that's a major accomplishment.

...The financial structure of the university has always been strong, and over a period of time, we made it

stronger. We have clarified and made the budget process a lot more transparent than it was before. We've made a shift in the overall budget model that I think is extremely helpful for the institution to move forward.

... Another thing was (getting) the fundraising up in arms. They were just coming off a capital campaign, so there was good momentum, and we were able to bolster that with what we did this last year, which was the highest number of philanthropic gifts the institution... has ever received.

Our president's cabinet is a really strong team right now. When I started... it was a very homogeneous cabinet when you looked at it. And now it's very diverse, heterogeneous cabinet with people coming from a lot of different backgrounds and ideas and thoughts, and they just really work very well together. That's something that I'm pretty proud of.

I guess also I'm proud of my relationship with students. I mean to me, that's just a lot of fun walking across campus and talking to students... Lots of great memories.

After all of that, what do you see as your legacy as the 15th president of Central Michigan?

...George Ross when he took over CMU, he built on it, made it better than it was. Mike Rao before George, made the university better than it was before he started.

Hopefully that's also my legacy, that the university is in a much better place now for Dr. MacKinnon to come in and do his magic and stay here as long as we need him. He'll take it from where it is now and make it a better university.

Do you have any hopes for us, for what happens at CMU next?

It's staying true to who we are. ...We don't have to be the biggest. We just have to be the best at what we do. We can't lose that.

We serve students who care, who work hard, who are going to roll up their sleeves. We're not an elite institution, but we are an amazing institution that educates and builds a better future for our students and their families and communities.

...My legacy is defined by the success of our students and our alumni.

Is there anything else you want to say to students?

What I would say to students is, you all make me proud. Continue to make me proud. When you see me walking across the street five years from now, 10 years from now, 15 years from now, say hi, and tell me how you're doing.

Two years, three years from now, students won't remember me. Current students won't, but alumni and former students, those conversations are very meaningful to me. I look forward to those interactions and seeing how far you go.

Neil MacKinnon named 16th president of CMU

By **Blace Carpenter**
Staff reporter

Central Michigan University's Board of Trustees officially named Neil MacKinnon the 16th president of CMU. It was decided by a unanimous vote, Sept. 26.

According to his biography from the CMU website, MacKinnon has over 25 years of experience in higher education, serving as a "super provost" at Augusta University (AU) and dean of the James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy at the University of Cincinnati (UC).

His research interests are in health policy, rural health, patient safety and community pharmacy; and he has held teaching and research roles in these fields at AU, UC, the University of Arizona and Dalhousie University.

During his time as provost at AU, MacKinnon supported the expansion of the university's Medical School of Georgia into Savannah. In a press conference, he voiced support for the \$200 million construction and relocation of CMU's College of Medicine in Saginaw.

"Healthcare education is certainly a sweet spot for me, both practicing and having seen patients in the past," MacKinnon said. "So I'm very supportive of the move. I know there is still a lot of work to be done to have a successful completion."

Outgoing president Bob Davies said the college appears to be "well on the way to a successful fundraising campaign" for



Jasmine Brookins | Staff photographer
President-elect Neil MacKinnon and his wife Leanne MacKinnon greet the Central Michigan University Board of Trustees Thursday, Sept. 26, at the Bovee University Center.

the funds needed to complete this project.

MacKinnon said he wants to become more acclimated with the communities in and around CMU and maintain the university's strategic plan before making any major decisions.

"The first little bit would be reaching out, whether it's folks in Saginaw or Midland or Bay City or across the entire

state," MacKinnon said. "President Davies, as well as the board, gave an update on their strategic plan. The plan is only 1 year old. So, for me coming in as a new president, the worst thing I could do is say 'OK, let's rip that up and start all over again.'"

During the board meeting, Davies announced that CMU has seen its first increase in year-over-year student enrollment in a decade.

When asked how CMU will remain competitive for enrollment amongst bigger universities, MacKinnon said that he isn't a stranger to competition and plans to continue the university's goal of retaining and attracting students.

"In Georgia, Augusta University (was) competing with the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech," MacKinnon said. "So I'm used to not being like the big university that gets all the glory. For a lot of students, universities like CMU carry an awful lot of value."

Davies congratulated MacKinnon during one of his last statements to the board as CMU's president and said that serving this university's community has been an honor.

"I truly welcome as well as wish you all the success," Davies told MacKinnon. "Personally, I have had a true joy serving Central Michigan University for the past six-and-a-half years. It is our home, and it will continue to be our home."

MacKinnon will begin his role as president on Nov. 1 and serve on faculty in the College of Medicine in the future.



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'Our electoral systems are safe ... and they are accurate'

By **Blace Carpenter**
Staff reporter

Election fraud has been a major talking point of former President Donald Trump's since his loss against President Joe Biden in 2020. Claims of a "stolen" race sparked the Jan. 6 insurrection, where a mob of his supporters attempted to interfere with the certification of electoral votes after Trump falsely claimed the vote was rigged.

Throughout this year's election, the former president and leading Republicans have continued to say the United States' system is fraudulent.

"If you have a few thousand illegals participate in an election in the wrong place, you can change the makeup of Congress, and you can affect the presidential election," House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-LA, said at a Sept. 10 press conference.

Michigan is one of seven primary swing states in the 2024 election and is considered a "purple state" for its history of vacillating between a Republican and Democratic majority, according to Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel.

Nessel visited Central Michigan University on Sept. 21 for one of her Defending Democracy Town Hall events, where she and Deputy Secretary of State Aghogho Edevbie answered questions voters across the state may have about the voting process.

"I'm so proud of our system," Nessel said. "Not just nationally, but in the state of Michigan. Our electoral systems are safe ... and they are accurate."

Nessel began her role as attorney general in January 2019 and has overseen elections in 2020 and 2022. She said the only instance Michigan has had a non-citizen attempt to vote was a Canadian woman who tried to cast a ballot and was denied.

She explained that while instances of voter fraud are rare, they have occurred in the past and were dealt with.

"It's important to know there are all these different ways to be sure of the accuracy and integrity of our elections," Nessel said. "That is not to say that we don't ever see an effort to undermine our democracy, even in small ways. ... There are occasions where we see someone who tries to fill out an absentee ballot voter application for someone else. But when that happens, they get caught."

Local protections

Michigan has 1,604 county and local election officials and is ranked second in the nation for election administration by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Heather Bouck is the Mount Pleasant city clerk and said that she and her team have several procedures in place to ensure that voters' ballots are secure.

"Our ballots are kept away from the public," Bouck said.

"They are under lock and key in an employee-only area during the time they are in our custody. ... When we are out, it would just be my immediate staff that are involved with the election process. So there would be four of us (that have access to the ballots)."

For all updates and information about election procedures, she and other local officials have access to a number of classes and trainings through state and national bureaus.

"(The) staff takes training through the Bureau of Elections," Bouck said. "There are classes offered as well through the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks. We also have online training available through the Bureau of Elections e-portal, so some of that is done online."

"We have weekly news bulletins that come from the Bureau of Elections that update us on legislative changes, best practices and those types of things that are related to our position."

She said that there are many checks and balances in the system that are in place to ensure elections are fair.

"It's been working for decades and it will continue to work going forward," Bouck said.



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Nessel: Question false claims

During her town hall meeting, Nessel made it clear that non-citizen voting is rare, despite the claims that have been made during this election year. She asked voters to question lies about election fraud.

"What I say to people when I hear, 'Oh there's hundreds, there's thousands, there's millions of non-citizens that are voting,' 'Can you give me a name?'" Nessel said. "It's really easy to say we have all these non-citizens voting, but when you can't provide a single name in a single location anywhere in the state of Michigan where this occurred.

"I'm sorry, but it's really hard for me to take that seriously when you have no proof."

She explained that any allegations of fraud are reported to the Michigan Department of State and a preliminary investigation is conducted. If anything is found within the investigation, it is given to her department.

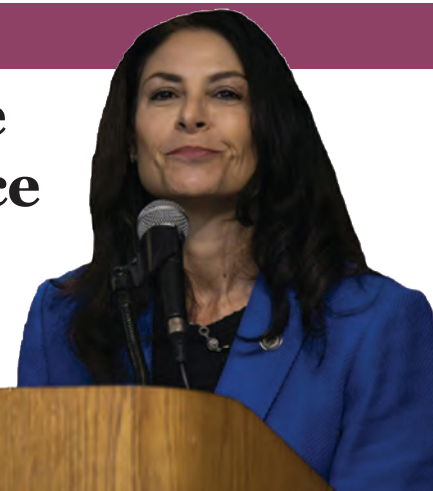
"We have people in our office where that's all they do all day, is investigating allegations of voter fraud," Nessel said. "I am telling you that we have not seen evidence of non-citizens voting, except for one case that I already talked about."

For many students at CMU, Mount Pleasant isn't their permanent address, leaving them with the option to drive home or vote absentee.

"I prefer in-person," said freshman Addison Roy, who is driving back to her hometown Kalamazoo on Election Day. "I feel like there is just a lot of risk."

"I am telling you that we have not seen evidence of non-citizen voting."

— Dana Nessel,
Michigan attorney general



Freshman Mitch Nummer is voting absentee and believes that his ballot will be secure. He said that the recent push to change the voting process is what makes him nervous.

"The system was secure for sure in 2020, but I feel but it's kind of getting gutted a little bit more just because there is a bunch of election deniers working in elections now," Nummer said.

Nessel urges voters who have any doubt about the system

go to "the training that the poll workers go to and become a poll worker yourself."

While the deadline has passed to get involved in this election, residents can find more information on how to become a poll worker for future elections and the state's ballot process at Michigan.gov.

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Overdue for 'a more balanced view'?

What role does the Israel and Hamas war play in this presidential election?

By Courtney Boyd and Masha Smahliuk
News editor and Managing editor

On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attacked Israel, killing 1,200 and taking another 250 Israelis hostage. Israel retaliated by raiding Gaza, and war has raged in the region since.

As this October marks the one year anniversary of Hamas's attack on Israel, American voters are looking to the new president to be elected this November and to put an end to the conflict.

According to Pew Research Center data, 22% of Americans think that President Joe Biden's administration has been favoring Israel and 21% reported that Biden is "striking the right balance."

According to the same study, 33% of voters under 30 stand with Palestine.

What does it mean to young voters?

As shown in the data, there is a stark contrast between what the younger and older generations think of the war. Roughly 38% of adults under 30 said Israel's reasons for fighting Hamas are valid, and the percentage is lower when asked if Israel's response is acceptable (21%).

Young voters were also particularly vocal on their support of Palestine at college protests last year, through marches and encampments. Michigan universities saw their own share of demonstrations during the last academic year. Some campuses across the country are planning demonstrations during the week of the anniversary, despite their colleges attempting to restrict protest rights.

However, Zainab Naaz, a president of the Muslim Student Association of CMU, said she doesn't hear much talk about Israel and Palestine on Central's campus.

"I would say the younger generation is obviously gonna ... think with an open and broad perspective," Naaz said. "Every vote counts. At the end of the day, when you're casting it, you vote for the right person, a person who's gonna ... put an end to it ... (and) it's gonna make a bigger difference."

Naaz said that if she could speak to whoever the future president is she would ask them to bring peace for Palestinian people.

"I would just ask them, 'How cold is your heart to be taking part in this?'" Naaz said. "How can you not be affected by what's happening? ... They are aware about this, the numbers of the kids and the babies dying and the

women dying."

The latest death toll reports over 42,000 Palestinians killed, according to Al Jazeera. Over 16,000 of those are children, and over 95,000 people have been injured.

"They are beautiful people with beautiful hearts," Naaz said. "We have a long history of them in our religion and how kind they are, and how brave they are, and how they've been fighting against this for such a long time."

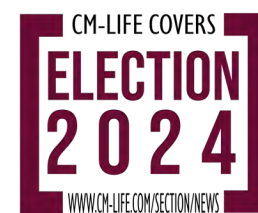
CMU students said the conflict is weighing on them as the election approaches. Maddie Roush is one of them, as she will be voting for the first time this year.

Roush described the conflict as "crazy."

"I know a terrorist group started it," she said. "But (Israel is) attacking civilians too, and that's insane."

Roush said she believes the U.S. shouldn't be funding Israel, and the country should take a neutral stance. She would rather see support in the form of sending aid to citizens than weapon packages to the military.

"I think if (U.S. citizens) are going to pick a side, they should do their research," she said. "But that's still hard when people are dying on both sides."



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Close to home

Elizabeth Meadows is a psychology professor on campus who specializes in trauma and anxiety disorders. She is also a member of Temple Benjamin, the Jewish synagogue in Mount Pleasant, and of a Jewish congregation in Lansing.

She was in the religion in high school, and took a trip to Israel in college to visit religious and historical sights. Now, Meadows said she feels “exhausted and demoralized” watching everything unfold. She said she feels there is a disconnect between the Jewish community and the rest of the world in perceptions of Israel.

“It’s been a really hard year,” she said. “And part of that is the reactions of people, staying silent or saying ‘Oh, Israel had it coming.’”

For Naaz, the situation in Gaza is upsetting. “It’s been bad,” Naaz said. “Last year has been really bad. And all of us really feel, I would say angry. ... In Islam, we consider every other human being on the planet as a brother and sister to us. So they are affecting our fellow Muslim brothers and sisters in Palestine.”

Meadows said she believes those of the Jewish faith may have more historical knowledge on Israel’s founding, and that shapes how they think about the conflict.

“We pay attention (to it) more,” Meadows said. “And that affects our perception in different ways than it does for non-Jews.

“No one wants to see innocent people in Gaza killed any more than they want to see innocent people in Israel killed. But it’s a tricky needle to thread when (Hamas terrorists) are embedded in civilian locations on purpose.”

Meadows also said criticism of Israel’s government is justified: Israelis protested against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for months before the attack happened. She said even now, Israelis have been protesting and questioning where Netanyahu’s priorities lie when it comes to the hostages.

“Clearly it’s okay to criticize the government,” she said. “But over the past year, so many people have reflexively treated Israel as a villain and don’t realize it’s under existential threat. It deserves the right to exist.”

In United States’ politics, Meadows said she does appreciate how the Biden administration has been “unwavering” in its support of Israel’s right to exist and to defend itself. She was also grateful to have shoulders to lean on in Jewish spaces, and non-Jewish friends supporting her.

“It’s been comforting to have those spaces,” she said. “There’s been talks every day about the hostages, about Oct. 7 ... about the holiday season. ... The attack happened on Shemini Atzeret, a Jewish holiday. ... It’s hard not to think about it with the holiday season.”

Explaining the war

Talat Halman, a CMU faculty member in the Philosophy, Anthropology and Religion department, specializes in Islam and world religions. He said the conflicts between Israel and Palestine have existed for a century.

He said everything started when the state of Israel was



OPINION

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

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

YOUR TURN

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

The sky is blue and an ad is not an endorsement

This is a message from the editorial board of *Central Michigan Life*. Not Central Michigan University Life, not CMU and not University Communications. That distinction is important.

CM Life, like professional news organizations around the world, relies on our status as an independent publication to have the freedom to report the stories that need to be told. It is what identifies us as journalists with a responsibility to our community to uphold the values of accuracy, fairness and balance.

The alternative would be a public relations team, but CMU already has one of those.

Instead, we are in a position to conduct investigations and publish articles of our choosing. CM Life is responsible only to our ethics, our readers and the law.

That's why we're at the meetings of the Board of Trustees, translating the administrative jargon into real-life impact. That's why we hear faculty concerns at the Academic Senate and student concerns at the Student Government Association, and we ask you what matters.

That's why we cover city and county government, attend meetings and interview municipal leaders.

We don't do it because it's easy – in fact, it's not – we do it because it has to be done. We do it because when the provost resigns, readers look to us first.

We do it because after hateful, racist slurs were used on our campus, someone has to hold our trustees and administration accountable to the promises of change they made last spring.

While our online articles and copies of our print editions are available to you for free, we cannot run our organization for free. Our incredibly talented, hardworking and law-abiding advertising team allows us to continue.

They sell advertisements to all kinds of local, state and national clients whose payments make it possible for us to publish the stories that are central to the community's needs.

It has reached our ears that not all of the ads are well-received. First, we would invite you to contact us directly, as the university has no role in who we sell ads to.

But second, we would remind you that advertising a

political candidate like Vice President Kamala Harris is not an endorsement, it is legally protected speech under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

We could endorse if we wanted to, but it's part of those pesky ethics that influence every professional decision we make.

So why are we running her ads? Because her campaign paid us to.

If former President Donald Trump's campaign wanted to purchase an ad from us, we would sell them one. We would be happy to do so, and charge exactly the same rate as the Harris campaign.

Not only would it provide us with more revenue, but maybe, just maybe, we would stop getting pushback.

When your local news station runs an ad for a partisan candidate running for office, do you call them and complain? No.

When the New York Times prints an ad for a presidential candidate, do you call them biased and assume it's an endorsement? No. No one does that. It's also concerning and

disappointing that other student publications are receiving similar

treatment. Penn State recently removed the Daily Collegian's news racks and news papers without right or warning, planning to return the racks without the ads.

Former CMU advertising professor and decade-long guest lecturer Douglas Berry explained that the Harris-Walz campaign is advertising with us because our readership (at least in part) overlaps with the demographic they want to reach.

"They write the check that will be most effective for who their target is," Berry said. "It's the demographics and the psychographics ... of the people you're trying to appeal to."

The numbers reflect that. A survey published by the Pew Research Center on Sept. 9 shows Harris leading among 18-29 year olds and college graduates. Our readership (generally) is her target demographic.

After 105 years of serving the CMU and Mount Pleasant community, we're not done. It's still true that running an ad is not an endorsement – just like 25, 50 and 100 years ago.

If you want someone advertised, buy an ad.



EEK! These Movies Will Make You Shriek!



By Carter Salley
Film Critic

Carter lists off some of the best movies for the spooky season

The season of the witch is finally here! October is the season of scents, scenery and most importantly, scares. One of the activities I love to do around this time is cuddle up with a big warm blanket, and watch my favorite Halloween movies.

If you're wondering what movies to watch (or start with), I have a list of my top 5 halloween movies that I think you should watch this year. So grab a warm cup of apple cider and your favorite blanket as I take you through my list of frightful features!



'Halloween' (1978)

John Carpenter's 'Halloween' had to be somewhere on this list, but I bet most of you were expecting it to be at the top. Not on this list! This movie is great for setting up a great fall atmosphere and Micheal Myers is a classic slasher villain, but other than that, we don't get to see much of the holiday the movie is based on. The sequels do that a lot better, but unfortunately sacrifices an important part of the plot.

It still deserves a spot as this movie was defining for a generation and inspired most of the movies on this list, at least in some way.



'Beetlejuice' and 'Beetle Juice Beetle Juice'

Alright, I'll admit I'm technically cheating with this one but I had to have both on the list because both movies offer great Halloween vibes, albeit different types.

The first 'Beetlejuice' offers great Halloween nostalgia as it perfectly captures a cool autumn day in the late 80's. However, the second movie offers modern day thrills and chills while still keeping its abnormal Tim Burton energy. They're the perfect fit for a double feature fright night!



'Scooby-Doo and The Witch's Ghost'

Typical Scooby-Doo fans would call Zombie Island the best Scooby movie to watch during this season. Lucky for you, I'm not typical! I would argue the second direct-to-DVD Scooby movie is the best. The film takes place during October in Salem, Massachusetts as Mystery Inc. visits Velma's favorite horror writer, Ben Ravencroft. He asks the gang for help because he is searching for a book to prove his sister's innocence for being a witch. As the gang works to solve the mystery, they encounter ghosts, witches, living pumpkin creatures, and a giant man-eating turkey!

This film is always so much fun to watch during the witching hour, as it's got scares, laughs and a whole lot of "scooby snacks" for you to enjoy! Rehehehehe!

Continued on the next page

FEATURES

Looking for a hauntingly fun way to celebrate the Season of Spooky? We've got you covered.

Here are some Halloween-themed happenings taking place in and around Mount Pleasant.

Monday, Oct. 21: Pumpkin Painting

8 to 9:30 p.m. | Kulhavi 141 & 142

Pumpkin painting, a costume contest and a special presentation on the history and traditions of Halloween. Students may stick around for classic Halloween movies, as well as free cider and donuts.

Oct. 24-26: "Rocky Horror Picture Show"

8 and midnight | Broadway Theater Co.

Presented by CMU's Kappa Theta chapter of Alpha Psi Omega; tickets are \$13 in advance or \$15 at the door. Tickets will be available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday in front of Moore Hall's Townsend Kiva Theater.

Saturday, Oct. 26: Freak Fest

3 to 6 p.m. | Mount Pleasant Town Center

Join Art Reach of Mid-Michigan and area creatives for a day of "eerie entertainment and creative fun." The event features art vendors, crafts, outdoor games, a costume contest, pumpkin decorating and much more.

Sunday, Oct. 27: Borley-Hanel VFW 3033 Trunk-or-Treat

1 to 3 p.m. | 4841 E. Pickard St.

Thursday, Oct. 31: Trick-or-Treating

6 to 8 p.m. | Throughout town



'Late Night with the Devil'

For a movie that just came out this year, it's pretty high on the list. This found footage film is about a desperate show host pushed to his limit with supernatural happenings and a possessed girl who has the power of telekinesis.

I wish this was in theaters near me because this movie was such a fun watch. It perfectly captures the feeling of Halloween while staying in a tv station the entire movie.

It's an incredibly hard task to pull off but somehow does it with such ferocity and confidence. It completely won me over and became one of my staples for the spooky season.

'Trick R Treat'

Taking place on Halloween night in 2005, the film follows an anthology-like setup as it shifts from different perspectives of characters on the same, horrifying night.

I hold a lot of nostalgia for this movie as it premiered on Freeform on an early halloween afternoon in 2010. I have a vivid memory of seeing this movie playing on the TV in my parents bedroom while I got into costume for trick-or-treating.

I had never heard of the movie until that day, and I can definitely say I got away with something I probably shouldn't have been watching at the age of 9. This movie is filled with early 2000's nostalgia and pop culture references.

It perfectly captures the Halloween spirit with its display of ghosts, vampires, werewolves, serial killers and zombie children out for revenge on their murderous bus driver. This movie is a lot of fun to watch with a group of friends, especially on Halloween night.

Thank you everyone for reading my rotten rambling of these monstrous motion pictures. Happy Halloween!

Carter Salley is Central Michigan Life's resident film reviewer and co-host of the popculture podcast "Raving Geeks." He is majoring in media arts.

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CM Life photo | Ella Miller

Journalism Professor Alice Tait, who has worked at CMU since 1986, holds a photo from the beginning of her employment during CMU and You Day. 'I always felt like it was destiny that brought me to Central Michigan,' she said.



CM Life photo | Jo Kenoshmeg

Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services Administration Chair and Professor Timothy Otteman poses with a photo of himself from 2002. 'I think the best thing is you don't age,' Otteman said.

faces of home



CM Life photo | Ella Miller

Chemistry and Biochemistry Professor Anja Mueller poses for a portrait in a research lab, Wednesday, Oct. 2 in Dow Hall. She holds a photograph of her with one of her former research students. Mueller joined CMU in 2005, and said it's the students that have kept her here nearly 20 years.

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SPORTS

What is a walk-on player?

a college athlete who joins a team without receiving athletic aid or being recruited.



What is the difference between a walk-on and a scholarship athlete?

A walk-on is a player who joins the team by trying out instead of being recruited. They are not on scholarship or offered financial aid for being an athlete.

Oftentimes, they have less chances to receive playing time. Over time, walk-ons can get scholarships, usually after a couple of years on the team. The scholarships can be either partial or full ride.

By Sydney Neil
Assistant sports editor

When Jesse Prewitt III walked into the football locker room at Central Michigan University for the first time, he was entering unfamiliar territory. A transfer from Wayne State, a Division II school, Prewitt was a walk-on with dreams of proving himself.

Today, he's not just another player on the roster—he's a scholarship athlete, an All-MAC honoree and a key figure in CMU's wide receiver group.

Raised in a football household in Columbus, Ohio, Prewitt said he was exposed to the game at an early age.

"Growing up, my dad was a football coach and he coached at my high school," Prewitt said. "Football was always a part of life and my dad really pushed me to pursue it seriously. He was a walk-on at Ohio State, so that story and mindset kind of rubbed off on me."

That mindset led Prewitt to Wayne State, where he first played college football from 2019 to 2021. But the transition from a Division II school to CMU, a Division I program, was no easy process.

The transfer to CMU

Prewitt's journey to CMU began through a connection he had with one of his coaches at Wayne State. Chris Calley, the director of player personnel for the Chippewas, paved the way for Prewitt's journey to Mount Pleasant.

"He was my receivers coach at Wayne State and left the program around the same time I entered the transfer portal," Prewitt said. "He got a job at Central Michigan and gave me a call, telling me about the opportunity to walk on here. I trusted him, so it was an easy decision to come up here."

When Prewitt arrived at CMU, he was faced with playing a level of football that was faster and more demanding.

"It took me a while to adjust,"

From walk-on to Playmaker



Ella Miller | Visual Editor | File

CMU junior wide receiver Jesse Prewitt III makes a catch during the home opener against New Hampshire Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023, at Kelly/Shorts Stadium.

Prewitt admitted. "The speed of the game here is different. That was the biggest thing for me. Once I could slow it down in my mind, everything else started to click."

The walk-on mentality

Coming in as a walk-on meant Prewitt didn't have the same guarantees as scholarship players. Every opportunity was hard-earned.

He knew he had to take advantage of every snap, every practice and every chance to impress.

"When you're a walk-on, you know you're not going to get the same chances," Prewitt said. "So, when you do get those opportunities, you have to make the most of them. I knew I had to stay locked in and be ready whenever my number was called."

And his number was called. Through

persistence, hard work and a relentless drive, Prewitt earned a scholarship in 2023.

“Getting that scholarship was like having a weight lifted off my shoulders,” Prewitt said. “It was a huge relief, not having to worry about how I was going to pay for school anymore. It allowed me to just focus on football and being the best I could be.”

Last season, he had a breakout moment that he credits with boosting his confidence.

“I scored my first touchdown against New Hampshire,” Prewitt said. “It was my first catch and my first touchdown, all in one play.”

“After that, my confidence just went through the roof. I started to feel like my old self again and I played free from that point on.”

Support and mentorship

Prewitt said a major part of his journey has been his support system. In addition to his family at home, he’s established a strong support system inside the locker room.

“Here at Central, coach Calley has always been in my ear, making sure I stay on top of things,” Prewitt said. “My teammates like Myles (Bailey) and Marion (Lukes) have been huge, too. They’ve seen me at my lowest points and always encouraged me to keep pushing.”

He said that encouragement from teammates was especially important during the inevitable ups and

downs that come with being a walk-on.

“Myles was my roommate, so he saw everything I was going through. He knew when I was stressed out or feeling down and he always had my back,” Prewitt said. “It’s a family here. Everyone pushes each other to be better.”

What’s next?

As Prewitt begins his final year at CMU, his focus is on helping the team reach its goals while preparing for his future.

“Our team goal is to make it to Detroit for the MAC Championship,” Prewitt said. “For me, that means doing whatever I can to contribute, whether it’s making plays or just being a leader for the younger guys.”

“My personal success will come if the team succeeds.”

When asked about life after college football, Prewitt didn’t hesitate.

“I definitely want to prepare for the NFL Draft. That’s the next step for me,” he said. “I’ll train, do my Pro Day and give everything I have to make that dream a reality. If I get the opportunity, I’ll take full advantage of it.”

As a veteran player now, Prewitt finds himself in a leadership role, especially with the influx of younger players on the team. In his last year, he encourages those that are starting their journey in Chippewa football.

“Take advantage of every opportunity,” he said. “Time flies and you never know when your moment is going to



Ella Miller | Visual Editor | File

Central Michigan senior wide receiver Jesse Prewitt III rushes the ball past Central Connecticut redshirt freshman wide receiver Michael Trovarelli during the first game of the season, Thursday, Aug. 29 in Kelly/Shorts Stadium.

come. Bet on yourself, and don’t let anyone outwork you.”

As he finishes his final season at CMU, Prewitt said one thing is certain—his football story is far from over. And whatever happens next, he’ll face it with the same determination that’s carried him this far.



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

PARADE	CHIPPEWAS	REUNION	CANNON	QUEENS
THECABIN	GOLD	TOUCHDOWN	ROCKRALLY	ALUMNI
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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			UPON REQUEST
Washington/Clayton	:05	:35	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Larzalere	:06	:36	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Wightman	:07	:37	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Park Library	:08	:38	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Music Bldg. - Lot#33	:12	:42	EVERY 1/2 HOUR

GOLD

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

DEERFIELD

TOWERS @7/11	:15	:45	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Deming Edgewood	:16	:46	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Westpoint Village	:18	:48	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Deerfield Village	:20	:50	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Lexington Ridge	:25	:55	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Theunissen Stadium Lot#70	:27	:57	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Communer Lot #75	:29	:59	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
SAC/McGuirk	:30	:00	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Music Bldg. - Lot#33	:42	:12	EVERY 1/2 HOUR

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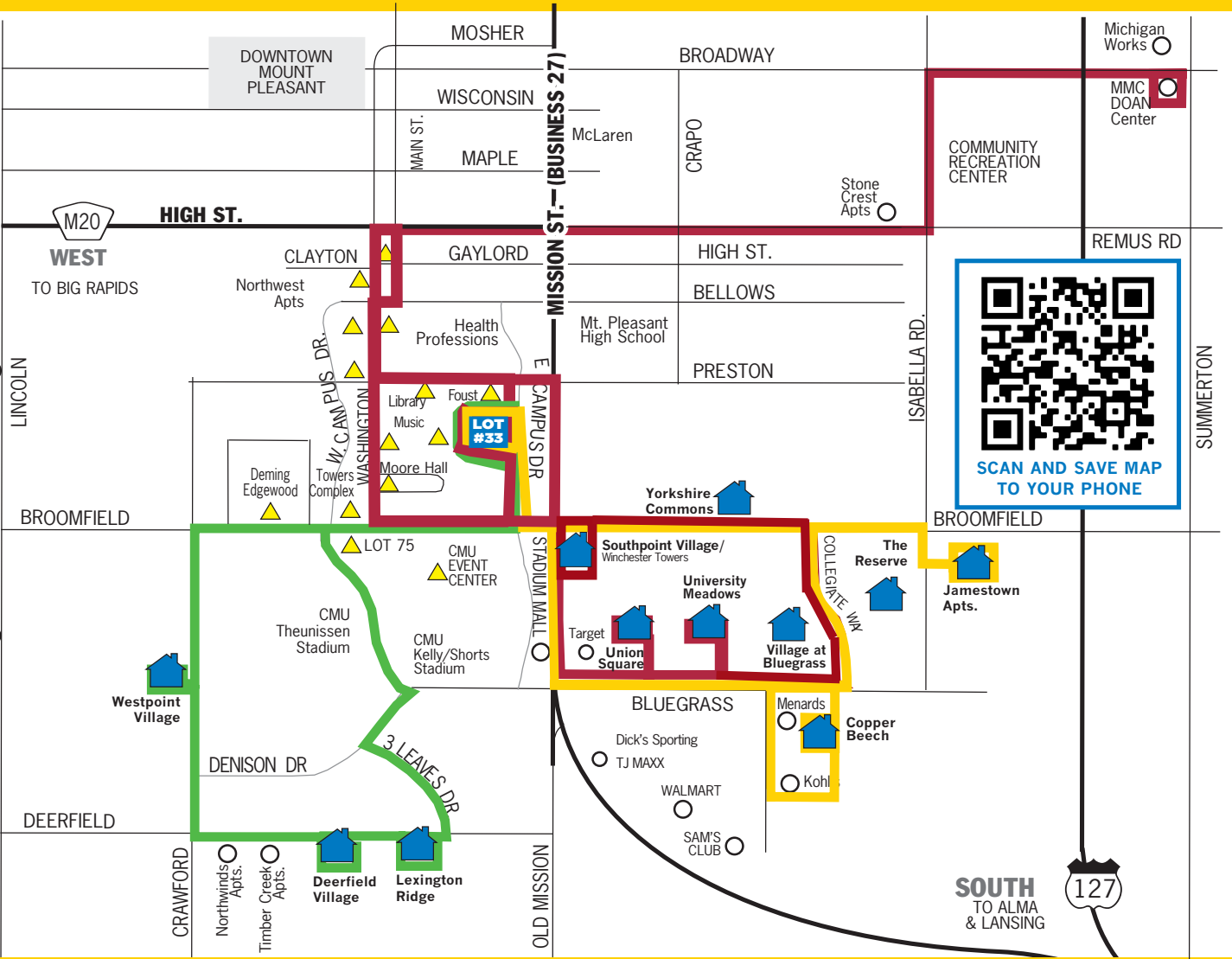
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