

Quick Hits

From staff and wire reports.

MICHIGAN INDEX

15 Percent of the presidential primary vote as the threshold for winning any delegates in either party Tuesday.

26 Rank of Michigan's economy among the states, by Business Insider, by GDP, unemployment, wages, job growth and house prices.

2,923 Percent raise for Washington quarterback and MSU alum Kirk Cousins, from \$660,000 to \$19.95 million next season, after signing the NFL team's "franchise tag," used to keep players from free agency.

6.6 Average snowfall for all of March in cities across the southern Lower Peninsula, exceeded on Tuesday — the first day of the month this year.

40 Years on Wednesday since hot-air balloon flights were legalized here, according to Michigan History Magazine. Read the March 9 entry at bit.ly/CMUtimeline.



Before 1976, scenes such as this one over Jackson were illegal. (MLive.com files)

YOU SHOULD KNOW/THE WEEK'S BIG NEWS

KALAMAZOO

Public safety, income taxes are studied

Kalamazoo voters might decide as early as November on revenue options aimed at eliminating city deficits.

The City Commission on Monday asked staff for more information on an income tax and a public safety assessment.

City Manager Jim Ritsema projects a \$1.95 million deficit in 2017, which would amount to \$5.15 million by 2020.

The two options were studied by a task force appointed to study revenue options, but they were not among those recom-

mended by the panel.

LANSING

Gamrat arraigned on felony charges

Former state Rep. Cindy Gamrat was charged Tuesday in relation to the cover-up of an extramarital affair with former state Rep. Todd Courser.

Gamrat, of Plainwell, was arraigned on two counts of misconduct in office, a felony with a maximum penalty of five years in prison and/or a maximum \$10,000 fine.

Courser was arraigned afterward. He faces three counts of misconduct in office and one count of perjury.

KALAMAZOO

Club officer admits stealing from charity

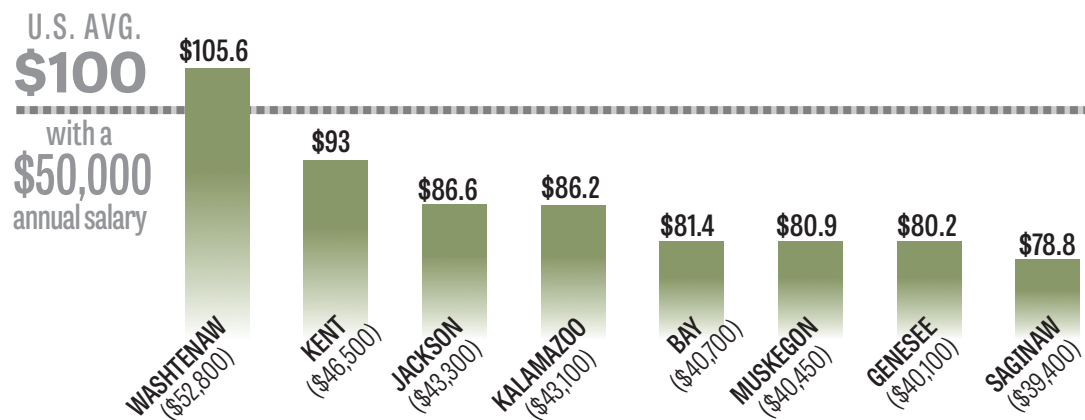
The former president of a local motorcycle club has pleaded guilty to stealing money from the EZ Memorial Ride, a fundraiser for fallen Kalamazoo Public Safety Officer Eric Zapata, prosecutors said.

Joseph Weeks Sr., 55, of Comstock Township, pleaded guilty to one count each of embezzlement from a nonprofit charitable organization of \$200 or more but less than \$1,000 and firearm possession by a felon, Kalamazoo County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Carrie Klein said.

STATE-ISTICS

AFFORDABLE PENINSULA

In Michigan, you only need \$89 for the same living expenses that average \$100 across the country, according to the website Sperling's Best Places, which offers information on relocating. In other words, it's 11 percent cheaper to live here than in the average state. But that's in theory. From county to county, the cost of living varies. Here, for selected counties, is the Sperling's index number (compared to the national average of 100), which includes the cost of housing, food, health care, utilities and transportation. The figures in parentheses show how much a person making \$50,000 a year would need to maintain the same standard in each county.



Source: Sperling's Best Places

NEWS TO USE

But the heels might not be a good idea

For MLive.com

Make a run at putting that old prom attire to good use and join hundreds of runners, joggers, and walkers for the first "Bad Prom 5K Trail Run" on Saturday at Rota-Kiwan Scout Reservation in Texas Township.

The event starts at 8:30 a.m. Participants will navigate through the Scout reservation, 6278 Texas Drive, on trails lined with the Bad Prom "excitement" crew.

Megan Yankee, innovations manager for the Boy Scouts Michigan Crossroads Council, says this 5K is one of the few opportunities area residents have to strut their stuff on a trail for a good time and a good cause.

Rota-Kiwan has been serving youth in Kalamazoo County since 1921 through a major investment from the local Kiwanis and Rotary clubs.

Registration is \$30 until race packet pick-up and \$35 on race day. The price includes a T-shirt, snacks, activities for children and adults and swag.

Proceeds will be used to support youth programs and services at Rota-Kiwan.

To register, sponsor or volunteer go to michiganscouting.org/badprom.

For more information, contact Yankee at megan.yankee@scouting.org or 269-779-2848.

— Submitted by the Boy Scouts Michigan Crossroads Council



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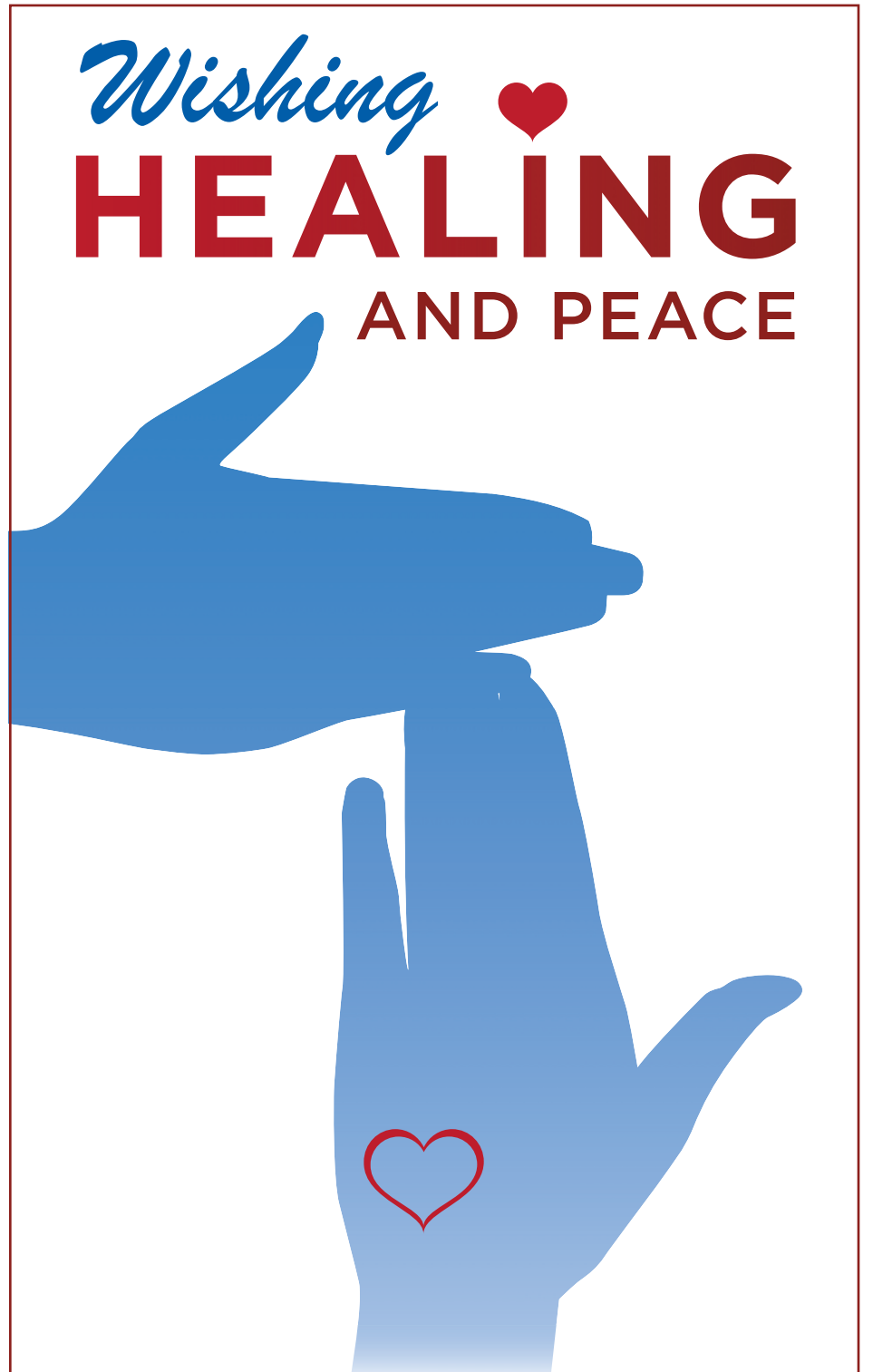
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