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## MT. PLEASANT



An example of an accessory dwelling unit at 1203 1/2 E. High St. COURTESY PHOTO

# City offers little home options

Officials make it easier to build accessory dwelling units

By Sue Field For the Morning Sun

Mt. Pleasant planning officials in recent years have fielded questions from residents about accessory dwellings — commonly known as “tiny houses.” Several accessory dwellings have

been built in the city, some above garages, some in backyards and others added to existing homes.

Now, city officials are making it easier for residents to construct tiny houses by preparing example building plans for stand-alone and over-garage ADUs; the plans can be altered by city staff to reflect the architectural details of primary homes, Mt. Pleasant spokeswoman Darcy Orlik said in a press release.

are small, secondary homes located on the same lots as principal residences.

Also known as “granny flats” or “in-law units,” ADUs can’t be sold separately and are owned by the property owner.

They have become increasingly popular because they create additional housing and variety within existing residential neighborhoods; provide increase housing affordability; provide

HOMES » PAGE 6

## MT. PLEASANT

# Cave diving research sets apart CMU paleontologist

CMU Communications

When Zachary Klukkert first laid eyes on the eight skulls, he knew he'd found something special.

It wasn't just that they were the bones of prehistoric giant lemurs, or that they were in a cave in Madagascar. It was that the cave was underwater, unseen and undisturbed for millennia.

The skulls, from extinct primate Pachylemur, were “just laying about, almost as if they were having a meeting,” he said.

A biological anthropologist and a member of the Central Michigan University College of Medicine faculty, Klukkert was uniquely qualified to make and appreciate the discovery. He knows of only one other cave diving paleontologist in the world, and that scientist doesn't study primates.

Forbes and Outside magazine have covered Klukkert's work in Caribbean caves, and the PBS/Smithsonian Institution documentary special “When Whales Walked” featured his work in Madagascar. The National Science Foundation shared pictures and video from his fieldwork to mark National Fossil Day 2020.

After postdoctoral research at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Klukkert came to Central in July 2020 where he teaches CMU medical students anatomy with a purpose.

“Being a paleontologist, a lot of my work is focused on things that are no longer present,” he explained. “But in this time and age I felt that we all had a responsibility to bring our skills to bear for good for society today. And one of the most direct ways that I can have a positive effect is by helping to train tomorrow's physicians.”

DIVING » PAGE 6

## MICHIGAN

# EMS WORKER SHORTAGE PERSISTS



Saginaw-based Mobile Medical Response is an EMS provider serving 17 counties in mid- and northern Michigan CREDIT: MMR

## Pandemic having crippling effect on decadelong issue

By Mark Cavitt mcavitt@medianewsgroup.com

There is a significant shortage of people driving ambulances and treating those en-route to healthcare facilities, a critical problem being addressed by short-term fixes with no clear long-term solutions on the horizon.

Statewide, there is a shortage of about 1,000 emergency medical technicians (EMTs), according to the Michigan Association of Ambulance Services (MAAS), a statewide trade organization that represents over a majority of the state's EMS providers, with around 6,800 licensed EMTs working across Michigan and 257,000 nationwide. These are the same people that arrive at your door if you need emergency transportation to a local hospital and who have the knowledge and skills to stabilize and safely transport you during life-threatening emergencies.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the total number of licensed EMTs and paramedics in Michigan decreased by 280 from 7,160 in 2019 to 6,880 in 2020, a 4% decrease. Depending on where an EMT is licensed, the average hourly wage ranges between \$14.67 (Flint region) to \$18.15 (Muskegon area). In metro Detroit, the average EMT hourly wage is \$17.47.

Of course, this is not a new problem, but small and large emergency medical services (EMS) providers across the state, as well as industry professionals, say it's a

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**My Go-To Place for Heart Care**

After having a smooth pregnancy and delivery with her first child, Lindsey Read-Smith expected the same with her second. However, following her daughter's birth, Lindsey knew something was wrong. After undergoing an emergency heart CT and echocardiogram, Cardiologist and Heart Failure Specialist Jeffrey Martindale, D.O., diagnosed her with systolic heart failure. That same day, she also experienced a heart attack.

“Thanks to the staff’s quick response and the on-going heart care I received, I’ve been able to resume my busy life as a mom, an attorney and a small business owner. That’s why MidMichigan is my Go-To Place.”

For information about MidMichigan’s comprehensive Heart Failure Program visit [midmichigan.org/heartfailureclinic](http://midmichigan.org/heartfailureclinic)

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