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10 questions Wings must
answer in training camp
SPORTS, 1B

ROBERT REDFORD, 1936–2025

Legendary actor was godfather
for independent cinema



ARTS &
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The Detroit News

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

detroitnews.com

Espy resigns as WSU president

Law school dean expected to lead
university on interim basis

BY SARAH ATWOOD
The Detroit News

Wayne State University President Kimberly Espy has resigned, a source close to the Board of Governors told The Detroit News on Tuesday, nearly a week after it was disclosed that the board planned to

oust her.

Espy, 62, informed the Board of Governors of her resignation, and she is also expected to announce her resignation publicly Wednesday during a special board meeting, the source said. The terms of her resignation were not immediately

available, but they would be when her resignation is formally accepted. The board planned to name the dean of Wayne State's law school, Richard Bierschbach, as the interim president, the source said.

Espy's resignation comes two years into the role and a week after two sources told The News that friction between the president and the board has grown over the last year. Part of the friction is rooted in the bipartisan board's growing displeasure

with aspects of her management of the university, including concerns about her communication over the recent placement of the dean of the School of Medicine on paid leave in August, the sources said.

Board Chair Shirley Stancato did not respond to a request for comment. Peter Van Dyke, CEO of Detroit-based VVK PR + Creative,



Katy Kildee / The Detroit News

Please see Wayne State, Page 3A

Kimberly Andrews Espy

Morouns face fight over Port Huron mill

Visions of industrial, mixed-use waterfront in city collide

BY FRANCIS X. DONNELLY
The Detroit News

Port Huron — The mouth of the St. Clair River offers one of the most breathtaking vistas in Michigan.

With views of the river and Lake Huron, not to mention the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse and Blue Water Bridge, developers salivate about turning the waterfront area into a residential and commercial Shangri-La.

But two obstacles are looming: One is a hulking paper mill on the riverbank. The other is a hulking conglomerate controlled by the billionaire Moroun family.

The family, which owns one of the largest trucking companies in the U.S., is a prominent and sometimes controversial presence in Detroit, owning swaths of properties and such singular sites as the Ambassador Bridge.

Crown Enterprises, the Morouns' commercial real estate firm, bought the vacant Dunn Paper plant in 2022 and wants to use the property to store aggregate, which consists of construction materials, such as sand, gravel and crushed stone.

Earlier this month, however, the Port Huron City Council approved the first reading of an ordinance that would block those plans by changing the zoning on the former paper mill property

FLEEING ISRAEL'S OFFENSIVE



Abdel Kareem Hana / AP

Israel launched its offensive in Gaza City on Tuesday, vowing to overwhelm a city already in ruins from nearly two years of war as thousands of Palestinians fled in vehicles strapped with mattresses and other belongings that clogged a coastal road. The military would not offer a timeline for the offensive. **Nation & World, 4A**

Kirk murder suspect could face death penalty

BY JESSE BEDAYN, HANNAH SCHOENBAUM
AND JOHN SEEWER
Associated Press

Provo, Utah — Prosecutors brought a murder charge Tuesday against the man accused of assassinating Charlie Kirk and outlined evidence, including a text message confession to his partner and a note left beforehand saying he had the opportunity to kill one of the nation's leading conservative voices "and I'm going to take it."



Robinson

DNA on the trigger of the rifle that

More employers fire workers over Kirk posts as pressure mounts. **4A**

Vance promises retribution on liberal institutions after Kirk's killing. **5A**

killed Kirk also matched that of Tyler Robinson, said Utah County Attorney Jeff Gray said in announcing the charges that could result in the death penalty if Robinson is convicted.

The prosecutor said Robinson wrote in one text that he spent more than a week planning the attack on Kirk, a prominent force in politics credited with energizing

Please see Kirk, Page 13A

DNR warns of huge cuts under GOP budget

Chief cites risks to fire response, fish-stocking, law enforcement

BY CAROL THOMPSON AND BETH LEBLANC
The Detroit News

Lansing — The head of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is warning that the agency would have to make deep cuts to conservation, fish-stocking and recreation programs under a House Republican-written version of the annual state budget.

DNR Director Scott Bowen's office circulated an analysis of the program cuts that would follow the House's plan to reduce the DNR staff by 435 full-time employee slots and cut its budget by \$53 million, a figure that includes a general fund reduction of \$37.2 million, roughly half of previous levels.

Under the House GOP plan, the DNR's overall workforce would be reduced by 17%, but certain divisions would experience more layoffs, such as a 35% cut in employees at the Mackinac Island State Park Commission and nearly 25% fewer workers in the fisheries division, according to the department.

The House plan would cut by half the nearly 19 million fish the DNR raises and stocks in Michigan waters annually and limit the department's ability to monitor wildlife disease, enforce conservation, hunting and fishing laws and respond to wildfires, Bowen said.

Under the House Republican spending plan, fees for hunting and fishing licenses, recreation passports and watercraft registration fees would not increase.

"Natural and cultural resources have historically enjoyed bipartisan support in our state, pointing to what we value deeply about being Michiganders," Bowen said in a statement. "We are hopeful a budget will emerge that properly cares for and values all of these things that matter so much to the people of Michigan."

Michigan is hurtling toward a potential state gov-

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