



Sturgis swims to victory over Battle Creek Central at home

SPORTS, 1B

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Foster hometown pride to grow civic engagement



Regular community events, from farmers markets to fireworks, build emotional ties to a place. GETTY IMAGES

Local patriotism one cure for sour feelings about politics

Sean Richey
Georgia State University | THE CONVERSATION

Eileen Higgins won a historic victory in December. She became the first woman ever elected mayor of Miami, as well as its first Democratic mayor since 1997. Although the stakes in the city's Dec. 9, runoff election were high, interest was not - 4 in 5 registered voters stayed home.

Low turnout is common in municipal elections across the country. While much of the nation's political attention stays focused on Washington, the leaders who control the nation's streets, schools and neighborhoods are typically chosen by a small fraction of citizens.

Although many Americans can identify their U.S. senators or members of Congress, far fewer can name even one of their local elected officials, such as a city council member. To cite one example, a North Carolina study found that 86% of state residents could not identify their own elected leaders, including local government officials.

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Turnout in local elections regularly falls below 20%, often leaving critical decisions in the hands of small, unrepresentative groups, creating an electorate that's disproportionately White, elderly and affluent.

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People who loved their town were more likely to attend city council meetings, contact local officials, volunteer for campaigns and discuss local issues with friends. The same pattern held for civic participation - from volunteering with community groups to organizing neighborhood cleanups.

Coldwater responds to PILOT lawsuit

Don Reid
Coldwater Daily Reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK

The class action lawsuit against Coldwater and its Board of Public Utilities' 6.5% Payment-in-lieu-of-taxes on electricity revenues is not going to be decided soon.

City and CBPU attorneys filed a motion to dismiss, with a hearing set for June 11.

By then, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer expects to appoint a new circuit judge to replace Bill O'Grady.

If the judge dismisses the suit, filed by resident Jason Mate and attorney Gregory D. Hanley, they would appeal.

Should the city lose, the city would be expected to appeal.

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MSU, UM among top recipients of foreign funding nationally

Karly Graham
Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan State University and the University of Michigan rank in the top 100 universities throughout the country receiving funding from foreign countries, according to a recently published report.

The U.S. Department of Education recently launched a database showing where different institutions of higher education reported receiving foreign

funding from.

Schools are required to disclose gifts and contracts valued at more than \$250,000 to the DOE and must make the disclosures available for public inspection, according to the report.

The department said universities have typically underreported foreign funding gifts, estimating that 60% of "reportable foreign gifts and contracts are now being accurately and timely reported." It is unclear where that estimate comes from.

A total of \$67.6 billion in foreign

funding was disclosed by institutions throughout the United States, across 124,180 reports from 555 institutions.

The database specifies how much funding came from specific countries and in what number of transactions, but it does not offer any specificity about what the money is being used for.

The financial transactions listed in the database could include anything from grant dollars to research money to large individual gifts from alumni living

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DERRICK L. TURNER/LSJ FILE PHOTO

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