FOOD BOARDS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Food, B7



MICHIGAN WORKS!
Berrien • Cass • Van Buren
Jobs | Education | Training

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for hiring events, mobile food pantries, workshops, information sessions and more!

Learn more at MiWorks.org/Events

The Herald-Palladium

WEEKEND EDITION
NOVEMBER 28-29, 2026

$4

TheHP.com
@HeraldPalladium
HeraldPalladium
HeraldPalladium



Don Campbell / HP staff

Demolition work has been completed at Berrien Hills at River's Edge mixed-use development, as partners are being sought to purchase 3.5 acres to develop into condos and commercial use.

Berrien Hills gets rolling

Developer seeks partner on housing, commercial growth

By LAUREN RICE
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH TOWNSHIP — Plans have long been in place for Berrien Hills at River's Edge to be developed at the site of the former golf course in St. Joseph Township.

While a "For sale" sign is now visible on part of the property, not a lot is changing.

Brady Cohen, a representative of The Shore Real Estate Group, said the developer is still moving full steam ahead on phase one of the project.

The "For sale" sign has been posted because the developer, The Ridge Group, is looking to sell part of the parcel to a partner company and work on the development together.

Berrien Hills is scheduled to become a mixed-use development at 690 W. Napier Ave. The entire site is about 86 acres, but Ridge Group is currently focusing on one portion for the first phase of the project.

See **BERRIEN HILLS**, page A2



Photo provided

Demolition is finished at the former Berrien Hills Golf Club. The Ridge Group is preparing to develop the St. Joseph Township property into a series of housing and commercial uses.

Eau Claire schools to sell student center

District leaders moving on title work, purchase agreement

By DEBRA HAIGHT
HP Correspondent

EAU CLAIRE — The sale of the Eau Claire district's Student Activity Center to a local church is moving forward after action last week by the Eau Claire Public School Board of Education.

The board had decided to sell the building earlier this fall and accepted bids through early November. Three bids were received and board members accepted the Eau Claire First Church of God's bid for $110,000. One lower bid was received, as well as one higher that board members decided didn't meet their bid specifications.

Superintendent Ann Cluff said the district will now move forward with work on the purchase agreement, the title work and any other necessary steps to finalize the sale. She didn't have a timeframe as to when all that work might be done.

"We are pleased to see the property move toward its next chapter and look forward to the opportunities this may bring to our community," Cluff said.

Earlier this fall, Cluff said board members had viewed the First Church proposal positively as the church had expressed the desire to have a partnership with the district so the Student Activity Center could remain available for school and community activities.

"First Church has expressed its desire to continue making portions of the facility available to the district for uses such as basketball practices or contests, holiday programs and other activities when the facility is not being used for church purposes," she said in September.

See **CENTER**, page A2

As Google threatens to cut schools' search access, L.A. blocks AI features

By BARBARA ORTUTAY, JOCELYN GECKER and CHEYANNE MUMPHREY
Associated Press

School districts are taking steps to block Google's artificial intelligence features and are considering dropping Google products entirely unless the company gives them a permanent AI workaround, pitting them against the tech giant whose Chromebook computers and learning tools are deeply embedded in America's classrooms.

In a major step, Los Angeles school officials have quietly disabled AI-generated summaries, known as AI Overview, in Google searches on school-issued devices. The move makes Los Angeles Unified the largest district to sideline the company, which has said it will not separate its search product from AI tools for education.

The LA district, which enrolls half a million students, has made no formal announcement, and the move caught parents and students by surprise, said Bridie Lee, a leader of Schools Beyond Screens LA, which has pushed for screen-time limits and tech oversight in the district.

The group had several members who weighed in at a meeting of the Los Angeles school board's A.I. committee on Friday, Nov. 13. By that Monday, AI Overview was gone.

"It was the talk of the playground," Lee said.

Google is the dominant provider of education technology for America's classrooms. Beyond its low-cost Chromebooks, the most widely used student laptops, Google's suite of education apps like Google Docs and Classroom has become integral to classwork, homework and communication among students and teachers.

But concerns about AI's impact on learning have ignited a battle between schools and Google. In September, the country's two largest school districts – New York and LA – announced one-year moratoriums on student use of generative AI, and Google has said it's not possible to take AI out of its search products. Schools are considering other internet search providers.

LAUSD said in a statement it temporarily suspended AI Overview to ensure student experiences are "age-appropriate and safe." It also said it continually evaluates its digital safeguards, including third-party tools. It was likely using such a tool that it was able to disable AI Overview.

Schools Beyond Screens LA asked parents to send videos of what laptop screens looked like and received clips showing that AI Overview was no longer an option in Google search on district devices. Then activists reached out to the district, which confirmed AI Overview was disabled. Lee said they had no other details on how it was done or how long it is intended to stay disabled.

"We're thrilled LAUSD did this," said Lee. "AI is seeping into everything. It's dangerous. It's hurting learning. And it's a corporate overreach into public schools. It's Big Tech attempting to strongarm tech policy without anyone's consent."

Other districts, such as Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia, have developed plug-ins to remove AI summaries for students searching on Google, according to multiple published reports.

Google is increasingly at the center of school tech backlash

Schools are seeing growing backlash against technology, starting with cellphones and screentime and now focusing on AI, amid concerns that students are using AI to think for them.

The Mountain View, California-based company in August found itself at the center of controversy. That's when it said it had turned on its Gemini chatbot for many K-12 students using Google Classroom, its learning management system. Weeks later, New York City and LA schools banned generative AI.

In New York, the ban applies to all elementary and middle school students, and in Los Angeles all students K-12 are banned from using AI on school devices.

See **GOOGLE**, page A2

The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

To subscribe or report delivery problems, call 429-1396

Index

Business	C4	Focus	B1	Obituaries	A4	Sports	C1
Classifieds	D1	Food	B7	Opinion	B6	Television	D3
Comics	B5	Home & Garden	C7	Puzzles	B4	Weather	A8

Sunday Weather
High 45
Low 34

6 50645 49085 0