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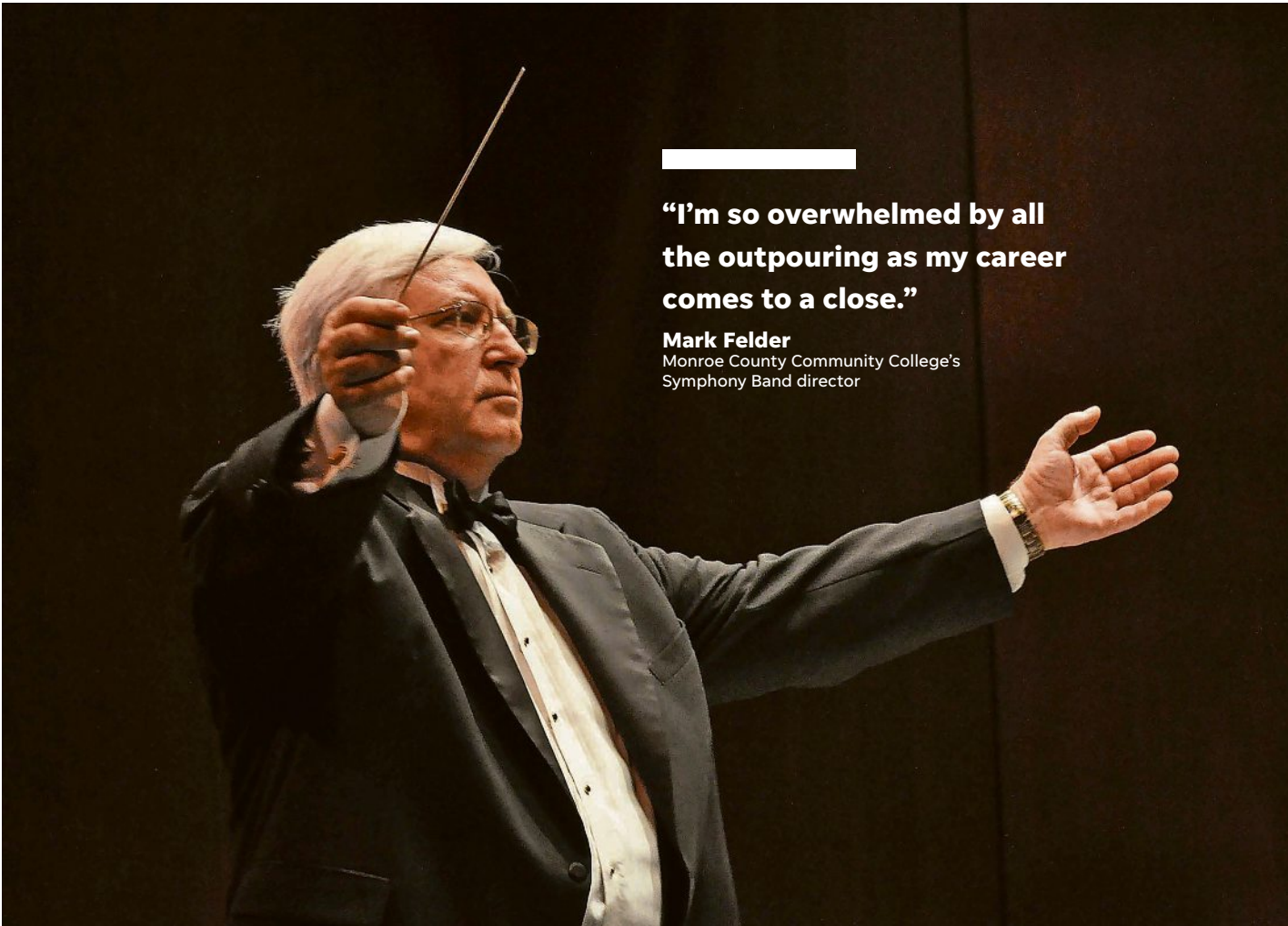


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Mark Felder reflects on MCCC band career



Mark Felder, director of Monroe County Community College's College/Community Symphony Band, is retiring Dec. 14. PROVIDED BY MARK FELDER

Director retiring due to health issues

Suzanne Nolan Wisler
The Monroe News
USA TODAY NETWORK

After decades with Monroe County Community College's College/Community Symphony Band, Director Mark Felder is setting down his baton. Because of health issues, Felder, 74, is retiring Dec. 14. Two celebratory concerts are planned. Felder has been involved with the MCCC band since he was in high school. "I didn't plan on leaving the college for a long time," said Felder, a lifelong

Monroe resident. "We have a big project with major Michigan composers. I wanted to see that through, at least. We have three more years to go. It's just not possible. I wish I could do another six years. I love doing this." MCCC President Kojo Quartey said, "Mark Felder is a phenomenal band director. He is respected and loved by all with whom he interacts and he is committed and dedicated to his area of expertise, to MCCC and to the entire community. "As Mark retires, he leaves a successful and lasting legacy which will impact

MCCC and our community indefinitely," Quartey said. "Mark, for a lot of people, is the face of our music program. He's done so much to build such an impressive music program. I would put our music program up against much bigger colleges," said Beverly Tomek, MCCC dean of humanities and social sciences. "To find someone to direct the band is not that hard. To find someone to come in and be a force of nature ... and be such an important tie to our overall community is going to be pretty close to impossible. We're going to miss him terribly."

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County eyes new public defender system

Suzanne Nolan Wisler
The Monroe News
USA TODAY NETWORK

At its Aug. 18 regular meeting, the Monroe County Board of Commissioners voted to seek state grant funding to possibly create a public defender officer. The board also tabled a decision on increasing county funding for the Monroe County Museum's renovation project. In addition, Commissioner Henry Lievens gave the commissioners a proposed Flock camera resolution, which will be on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Indigent defense

The board voted 6-2 to approve the Sixth Amendment Center's recommendation that Monroe County seek Michigan Indigent Defense Commission grant funding to establish a new indigent defense delivery model, possibly a hybrid model, which would combine government-employed public defenders and private attorneys to represent those who can't afford lawyers. The Sixth Amendment Center analyzed Monroe County's current indigent defense system using data from November 2025 to June 2026. On Aug. 3, the center's findings were revealed.

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Senior center schedules Jewish history tour

Dave DeMille
The Monroe News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Monroe-area older adults will have an opportunity to visit a Holocaust museum and synagogue during a daylong educational trip focused on Jewish history, culture and resilience. The event, titled "Monroe Seniors Presents: A Journey Through Jewish History, Culture and Resilience," is scheduled for Oct. 21, according to a community announcement. Participants will depart from the Monroe Senior Center at 9 a.m. and travel to the Zekelman Holocaust Center, where the day begins with a welcome and orientation at 10:15 a.m. Visitors will then take a guided exhibit tour beginning at 10:30 a.m. A break is scheduled for 11:45 a.m., giving

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Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, CEO of Zekelman Holocaust Center in Farmington Hills, observes a display. "Monroe Seniors Presents: A Journey Through Jewish History, Culture and Resilience," is scheduled for Oct. 21 at the center. NIRAJ WARIKOO/DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE

