



McGonigle’s intangibles as enticing as his stats

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GM has an edge in rare earth minerals



The MP Materials Mountain Pass rare earth mine and processing facility in Mountain Pass, California. PROVIDED BY MP MATERIALS

Michigan automaker’s strategic alliances to help during trade war

Jamie L. LaReau
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

General Motors may have a slight advantage over its competitors — at least in the future — as the industry faces a possible shortage of rare-earth minerals used in a variety of car components.

Many industry analysts fear that a shortage of the rare earth minerals could bring on a repeat of the pandemic-era semiconductor chip shortage that led to widespread production disruptions. Those, in turn, caused a dearth in new car inventory and a subsequent spike in new and used car prices.

Currently, China has the market cornered on processing the 17 rare earth metallic elements that go into components that are critical to vehicle production. They are also used across most

“... having a more diversified supply chain of rare earth materials, will definitely be helpful.”

Sam Abuelsamid
Vice president of market research at Telemetry, speaking on the rare earth mineral processing factories

electronics and even in the contrast dye in MRI machines and in some cancer drugs.

But amid the escalating trade war with President Donald Trump, China has decided to make it harder for the world to get those rare earth products. In April, the country introduced a new licensing requirement on the export of rare earth products, bringing global exports of them to a near halt.

As delegations from the United States and China met in London the week of June 9 to talk about a new trade

deal, it was expected that discussions about an agreement on opening up the exports of rare earth minerals would be on the table. Late in the evening of June 10, news media reports said progress had been made to de-escalate the trade war.

On June 11, according to published reports, there was discussion on rare earth minerals; the details of any agreement were not released. But media reports said it essentially

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‘Under the Radar’ to explore Harsens Island

Johnathan Hogan
Port Huron Times Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

“Under the Radar” returned to St. Clair County this June to record an upcoming episode featuring everything from local businesses to wildlife.

Hosts Tom Daldin and Jim Edelman returned to Port Huron, Marysville and Harsens Island for the weekly PBS series that focuses on communities across Michigan and their local attractions.

The pair previously visited Port Huron in 2023 for an episode featuring several local sites, including the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse, McMorran Plaza and Port Huron Yacht Club.

This time they returned to visit the Huron Lady II cruise ship and Palm’s Krystal Bar & Grill in Port Huron. They also stopped in Marysville to visit the Junction Buoy before moving on to Harsens Island.

The episode will air at 8:30 p.m. on June 26 on Detroit Public Television.

Stacy Williams, owner of Harsens Island Photography, joined the crew on a kayak ride through the St. Clair Flats, providing insight on the local wildlife in the area.

“They were asking about the nature we see and the animals in the area,” Williams said. “It is a very large migration area, so you see a lot of animals moving through in the summer and fall.”

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A black tern, an at-risk bird species that migrates to Harsens Island, was one of the highlights of Under the Radar’s tour of the St. Clair Flats while recording an upcoming episode. PROVIDED BY STACY V WILLIAMS

Michigan has long history of school reform efforts

Lily Altavena
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

There’s a few common lofty declarations made about education in almost every election season: Fix the schools. Hold educators accountable for test scores. Reform public education.

Next year’s governor’s race — and national discourse lately — is no exception and education is already central in some platforms. For instance, outgoing Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan has proposed a \$4.5 billion school investment, along

with an accountability system he said would come with consequences for administrators leading students who show little improvement. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in February during her State of the State address said proficiency scores in reading and math were “not acceptable,” while the state spends so much on education.

“We spend more and we get less,” she said.

While Michigan has a long history of turnaround efforts, transforming public education is a deceptively complex undertaking in a local-control state where

individual school districts and charter schools largely make much of the decisions about what, how and by whom students are taught on a local level.

And remember: Michigan’s K-12 public education system is a web of public school districts and charter schools with more than 1 million students, many of whom have different and varying needs, such as special education or English language intervention. Advocates for years have said it is these most vulnerable students who need the most help in reform.

In many cases, it’s hard to know whether past school reform efforts have

worked because numerous ideas weren’t executed as long or consistently enough to meaningfully measure whether they were helping the state’s students, said Craig Thiel, research director with the Citizens Research Council of Michigan.

“We haven’t really been had a high degree of fidelity toward implementing the changes,” he said. “I think there’s just been a back and forth as the political winds kind of shift on this stuff.”

But change, if implemented correctly,

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