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Sandusky County pauses spending

Fourth-quarter costs trend higher

Roger LaPointe
Fremont News-Messenger
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Sandusky County Commissioners have paused spending for some areas as they conduct a review of the fourth-quarter budget.

“We stand in an unfavorable — there is an increase in overall expenses,” Commissioner Scott Miller said. “There are certain high points that we can see

right away. A lot of stuff is mandated, we don’t have a choice. We still have to write checks when they get larger and larger. So, we are trying to save money where we can and allow people to make those decisions on their own, and to be a team player and help us to find the money to pay for the mandated costs.”

The commissioners issued a press release Sept. 4: “Like other governmental entities, Sandusky County must constantly monitor revenues and expenditures to ensure that we are working to be responsible stewards of the public’s trust.

“Implementing a pause on various areas of spending allows all elected officials and departments to work together to maintain the highest level of responsibility that we can.

“This is a team effort and we’re using this time to perform an in-depth review of where we stand as we enter the fourth quarter of 2026 and prepare for 2027 and beyond.”

The release is signed by all three commissioners.

Miller said the county would end the year in the black, but would not give any numbers, percentages or

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Study: More children are being prescribed GLP-1s

Overall, 20,282 children ages 8-11 received GLP-1 drugs during the study period – most often, Novo Nordisk’s Wegovy. HANNAH BEIER/REUTERS FILE

Researchers said 94% had severe obesity

REUTERS

Prescriptions for GLP-1 weight loss drugs among children under 12 in the United States have risen more than 300-fold since 2019 as doctors seek new, effective treatments for younger patients with obesity, according to a study published on Sept. 4.

The study, which included more than 3.5 million children ages 8-11 with obesi-

ty but not diabetes, found that prescriptions for GLP-1 weight loss drugs rose from 0.03% in 2019 to 9.3% as of June.

Although the drugs are not approved for use in children under 12, clinical guidelines allow the medications to be used for obesity in children as young as 8 years old in certain cases.

The study found 94% of the children prescribed GLP-1s had severe obesity, and about 65% had at least one related

condition, such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure or sleep apnea.

Overall, 20,282 children received GLP-1 drugs during the study period – most often, Novo Nordisk’s Wegovy. Doctors also prescribed Novo’s Saxenda and Eli Lilly’s Zepbound.

While the absolute numbers of children under 12 receiving GLP-1 treatment is still low, the study shows that GLP-1 use is accelerating rapidly, said lead investigator and obesity medicine

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Racist comments lead to firing of Fremont fire captain

Roger LaPointe
Fremont News-Messenger
USA TODAY NETWORK

Members of the Fremont Fire Department turned in their captain for making racist statements, resulting in his dismissal.

“We handled it immediately. As soon as our administration was made aware of it, the firefighter was placed on paid administrative leave, and a very thorough internal investigation was completed,” Fremont Mayor Danny Sanchez said. “Ultimately, this led to the termination. There is zero tolerance in the city for any racial discrimination.

“Ken Frost was here. He did a good job handling it. He did everything he was supposed to do. I know we have received a grievance in reference to his termination.”

Capt. Benjamin Molyett, a department veteran with more than six years of experience, was terminated Aug. 28.

Former Safety Service Director Ken Frost retired last week, and his replacement, Bob Gross, is now handling the case. Gross had Fire Chief Paul Halbeisen speak about the details related to the incident, the investigation and termination.

Halbeisen said that Molyett was promoted to captain in March after Assistant Chief Dean Schneider retired.

“Molyett was fired for comments made while on duty, in front of other employees and subordinates, for inappropriate racial comments,” Halbeisen

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