



Kent State's Medley to enter transfer portal

SPORTS, 1B

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Trailhead Community Health Foundation CFO Eustacia Netzel-Hatcher, right, looks on as President and CEO Tracy Carter discusses the goals of Trailhead during an interview on March 27 in Akron.

JEFF LANGE/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Nonprofit created by Summa sale hires staff

Group prepares for grantmaking

Lauren Cohen

Akron Beacon Journal/Signal Akron | USA TODAY NETWORK

Staff at the Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron have been hard at work growing their team and setting up the organization since its creation in October.

The health grantmaking and fundraising organization launched with proceeds from Summa Health's purchase by global venture capital firm General Catalyst's Health Assurance Transformation Company. Since then, a small, women-led team, alongside a board of directors, has been working to build the multimillion dollar foundation from the ground up.

"We are building something that is bigger than us that has the potential to significantly bring health, opportunity, joy to a lot of people across the region," CEO and President Tracy Carter said.

The organization hopes to begin grantmaking to local health and wellness nonprofits by the fourth quarter of this year or the first quarter of 2027 at the latest, Carter said. In the meantime, the team recently made two new appointments, hiring a senior program officer and a chief financial officer.

The team is also going through a strategic planning process to outline what specific priorities the foundation will work to support and is finishing a search for a chief development officer, Carter said.

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KENT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

District seeks new 9.8-mill continuing levy on May ballot

April Helms

Akron Beacon Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

Voters in Kent City School District will decide on Issue 1, a new, 9.8-mill property tax, on their May 5 primary ballot.

If approved, the additional, continuing property tax would generate around \$8.5 million annually for the district's general operating budget, according to information from Citizens for the Kent Schools.

The issue would cost property owners \$343 per year per \$100,000 in property value.

"Kent City Schools is committed to providing a high-quality education for every student while being responsible stewards of our community's tax dollars," Superintendent Tom Larkin stated in a March 31 news release. "The Board of Education carefully considered this decision as part of its responsibility to ensure the long-term financial stability of Kent City Schools."

According to Citizens for the Kent Schools, the district's last new operating levy was approved in 2013. While it was expected to last about four years, the district was able to extend it for 13 years through cost-saving measures, strategic planning and operational efficiencies.

Kent City Schools has had a net reduction of 23 teaching, administrative and support positions; reductions in equipment and supply costs; participation in energy-saving programs; reductions in facility expenses; and strategic use of federal and state grants.

Kent City Schools projects a cash deficit of about \$6.8 million by the end of fiscal year 2029 if additional operating funding is not secured, according to Citizens for the Kent Schools. From 2013 to 2025, district utility costs have increased 91%, and school bus costs have increased 48%.

According to information at kentlevy.com, inflation also has led to a 148% increase in property and fleet insurance. Technology costs also have increased by an average of \$180,000 annually for student Chromebooks.

In addition, recent state funding changes mean that Kent City Schools will experience a reduction of nearly

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New procedure uses magnets to help patients lose weight

Lauren Cohen

Akron Beacon Journal/Signal Akron | USA TODAY NETWORK

Summa Health's Weight Management Institute has performed thousands of bariatric procedures over the years to help patients lose weight and improve the quality of their lives.

But these surgeries typically involve stapling and incisions, which lead to patient soreness and a couple of weeks of recovery time.

A new piece of technology was recently developed to eliminate the need for incisions and increase patient safety and comfort in bariatric surgeries. In January, Summa Health became the first hospital in Ohio to use the tool, GT Metabolic Solutions' MagDI System, in a weight-loss procedure.

"When opportunities like this come up to improve

the care that we provide patients and to add another tool ... to combat this very prevalent and complex disease, I get excited about it," said Dr. Adrian Dan, medical director of Summa Health's Weight Management Institute, who performed the surgery.

The new technology uses magnets developed by Dr. Michel Gagner, a bariatric surgeon in Canada and co-founder of GT Metabolic Solutions, using neodymium, a rare earth metal. Gagner also was the first surgeon to perform the laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy, a minimally invasive procedure that involves dividing the stomach into two separate parts so patients can eat less to feel full.

Since its FDA approval in 2024, nearly 40 centers in the U.S. are offering the procedure, said Marcus Voss,

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Trevor Paisley, with his wife, Carrie Paisley, has a follow-up appointment with Dr. Adrian Dan, after magnetic compression anastomosis weight-loss surgery, at Summa Health in Akron.

LISA SCALFARO/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

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