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New mayor delivers State of the City

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STOPS AT FORD FACTORY, ECONOMIC CLUB



President Trump speaks as Bill Ford, executive chairman of Ford, left, and Jim Farley, CEO of Ford, listen during a tour of the Ford River Rouge complex on Tuesday in Dearborn, Mich.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

President visits Motor City

Trump touts use of auto tariffs and floats housing policy

By ALICE MOMANY
BLADE POLITICS WRITER

DETROIT — Wrapping up the first year of his second term, President Trump visited the Motor City to tout his administration's work and tease housing policy that he claims will help with affordability.

"As many of you remember, I came here at the height of the 2024 campaign to lay my plan to bring jobs and factories and wealth racing back to the United States and coming back to this great state of Michigan," Trump said. "And just a few weeks

later, the people of the state and the voters all across the country endorsed that vision in a landslide victory."

Trump spoke to the Detroit Economic Club on Tuesday, ahead of the annual Detroit Auto Show. Prior to his remarks, he took a tour of a Ford factory in Dearborn that makes F-150 pickups.

"If we keep deregulating and adding more capacity, like I saw today at Ford, if we don't raise interest rates every time good news is mentioned ... the market [will] go through

the roof," Trump said. "That's the way we're going to make it again."

Trump claimed that under his administration, "growth is exploding, productivity is soaring, investment is booming, incomes are rising, inflation is deflating, [and] America is respected again like never before."

In December, the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed the annual inflation rate remained at 2.7 percent, meaning the annual core inflation rate remained unchanged. However, some worry higher inflation

could be on the way as the feud between the White House and the Federal Reserve continues.

"Our growth potential is unlimited, and it can be much higher ... we're talking about the head of the Fed," Trump said. "I want somebody that when the market is doing great, interest rates come down because our country becomes stronger."

Data from a September poll conducted by the Detroit Regional Chamber showed Michigan voters

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Lucas Co. turns down Fed funds

ICE labeled 'terrorist' group as part of rejection

By ALEX BRACKEN
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Lucas County has rejected a federal grant to enhance border security, with Commissioner Pete Gerken saying the U.S. Department of Homeland Security had devolved into a "terrorist organization."

Homeland Security's Operation Stonegarden funds overtime and vehicle mileage for local law-enforcement agencies to implement high-visibility patrols. The Department of Homeland Security oversees Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection.

Lucas County was initially awarded \$70,000, which was accepted unanimously by commissioners in December, but the award was reduced to \$68,250, and an amended resolution

Increased 911 levy will be on Lucas Co. ballot. Page A6.

came before commissioners Tuesday.

Mr. Gerken and Commissioner Anita Lopez rejected the amendment and rescinded the original agreement with Homeland Security after Ms. Lopez consulted the county's legal counsel.

"I think DHS, ICE, and Border Patrol have gone from a legitimate law enforcement agency to a terrorist organization," he said. "I don't want to delegitimize the sheriff's work by taking money from an illegitimate organization."

Commissioner Lisa Sobecki voted in favor of the amendment and against

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U.S. SUPREME COURT

Trans athlete bans likely to be upheld

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Tuesday seemed likely to uphold state laws barring transgender girls and women from playing on school athletic teams.

Lower courts ruled for the transgender athletes in Idaho and West Virginia who challenged the state bans, but the conservative-dominated Supreme Court gave no indication after more than three hours of arguments that it would follow suit.

Instead, at least five of the six conservatives on the nine-member court indicated they would rule that the laws don't violate either the Constitution or the landmark Title IX law, which prohibits discrimination in education and has

produced dramatic growth in girls' and women's sports.

In just the past year, the justices ruled in favor of state bans on gender-affirming care for transgender youths and allowed multiple restrictions on transgender people to be enforced.

The legal fight is playing out amid a broad effort by President Trump to target transgender Americans, beginning on the first day of his second term and including the ouster of transgender people from the military and declaring that gender is immutable and determined at birth.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who coached his daughters in girls' basketball, seemed

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Iran protest death toll surpasses 2,500

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The death toll from nationwide protests in Iran surpassed 2,500 people Tuesday, activists said, as Iranians made phone calls abroad for the first time in days after authorities severed communications during a crackdown on demonstrators.

The number of dead climbed to at least 2,571, as

Phones begin to work again

reported by the U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency. That figure dwarfs the death toll from any other round of protest or unrest in Iran in decades and recalls the chaos surrounding the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Iranian state television offered the first official ac-

knowledge of the deaths, quoting an official saying the country had "a lot of martyrs" and that it did not release a toll earlier because of the dead suffering gruesome injuries. However, that statement came only after activists reported their toll.

The demonstrations be-

gan a little over two weeks ago in anger over Iran's ailing economy and soon targeted the theocracy, particularly 86-year-old Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Images obtained Tuesday by reporters from demonstrations in Tehran showed graffiti and chants calling for Ayatollah

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INSIDE

Pardon the smell

Perrysburg officials ask residents to bear with odors as the wastewater treatment plant is renovated.

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David Briggs

It was a bad deal when Syracuse backed out of the Rockets' 2026 football schedule. But the reshuffle got UT a better hand.

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Power pay

Microsoft will pay higher power bills to spare residents the price pain in areas with data centers.

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BTS will start their world tour in April and end March, 2027.

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Sylvania schools adds levy to ballot

District eyes 7.9 mills in May election

By MELISSA BURDEN
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Voters in the Sylvania schools district will be asked to approve a 7.9 mill operating levy on the May 5 primary election ballot.

This week, the school board unanimously approved the levy.

"We understand this is an ask, but it has been 10 years since we have had a levy on the ballot," said Greg Feller, newly elected school board president. "If someone wants to talk to me about the levy, I am more than willing to talk to anyone."



THE BLADE/PHILLIP L. KAPLAN

Treasurer Adam Koch said the levy revenue is expected to bring in \$18,281,825 per year during the life of the levy. It is expected to cost homeowners \$277 per \$100,000 in

home valuation. Mr. Koch said the district will collect half in fiscal year 2027 and the full amount in fiscal year 2028. Resident Gary Schmidt said he would move out of

Sylvania if the levy passed. "I will be glad to hear what your needs are, but no matter what, I will vote against the levy," Mr.

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