

MCC STUDENTS COMPETE IN LOGO CONTEST FOR CHARITY

LOCAL | PAGE A8



PREP BOYS HOOPS DISTRICT PREVIEW

SPORTS | PAGE B1

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REGION

MCC RETAINS EXISTING TUITION RATE

President said it's all about affordability

By Mitch Hotts
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Seems like everything is costing more these days, from groceries to rent to utilities.

But not at Macomb Community

College, where officials are holding the line on earning an education.

For the third straight year, MCC's Board of Trustees unanimously approved the same tuition rates as it in the past two years for the upcoming academic year, which is the fall 2026 through spring/summer 2027.

Retiring MCC president James O. Sawyer IV said it's all about affordability.

"Understanding the economic

pressures our community members are under, we are pleased to be able to extend the same tuition rates for the third year in a row," Sawyer said in a statement after the board met Wednesday evening. "We continue to do all we can to maintain the affordability of a Macomb Community College education while ensuring that the college has the resources to continue to innovate and invest in the programming that connects

residents to great jobs with great futures."

In addition, there was no move to increase student service and IT/facility fees. Last year, the board moved to increase the fees, the first hike in more than a decade.

According to a news release, the board voted to retain the \$108 per billable contract hour rate for all Macomb County residents — who make up 86% of the college's 30,000

students — including dual-enrolled and Early College of Macomb students. All other resident students will be charged \$113, the same as the past two years.

Macomb has the fourth-lowest tuition rate among the state's 28 community colleges, 17% below average, and a tuition rate 80% lower than the state's public universities,

See MCC on Page A4

Milano Cortina 2026 Men's Hockey USA 2, Canada 1 (OT)

GOLDEN SMILE!



BRUCE BENNETT — GETTY IMAGES

Gold medalist brothers Quinn Hughes and Jack Hughes of the United States celebrate after the medal ceremony for Men's Ice Hockey following the Gold Medal match between Canada and the United States on Day 16 of the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic games at Milano Santagiulia Ice Hockey Arena on Sunday in Milan, Italy. Born in Florida and raised in Toronto, the brothers would go on to develop their talents in Plymouth, Mich. **TURN TO SPORTS ON PAGE B1 FOR THE FULL REPORT**

MACOMB COUNTY

Big fund haul for two local districts

UCS, C'dale students to get FAFSA help

By Sophia Lada
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Two Macomb County districts received funds for Universal FAFSA Challenge awards that are meant to encourage students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and take the next step toward higher education or career training.

"Completing the FAFSA is one of the most important steps a student can take to unlock postsecondary opportunity," said Beverly Walker-Griffiea, director of MiLEAP. "Through the Universal FAFSA Challenge, we are supporting schools as they build systems and supports that help students and families navigate the FAFSA process with confidence and access the financial resources available to them."

Completing FAFSA is often the

See FAFSA on Page A4

FLORIDA

Armed man shot after Mar-a-Lago breach

By Michele L. Price
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — An armed man drove into the secure perimeter of Mar-a-Lago, President Donald Trump's resort in Palm Beach, Florida, as another vehicle was exiting before being shot and killed early Sunday morning, according to a spokesman for the U.S. Secret Service.

The man, who was in his early 20s and from North Carolina, had a gas can and a shotgun, according to Anthony Guglielmi, the spokesman. He had been reported missing by his family a few days ago, and investigators believe he headed south and picked up the shotgun along the way.

Guglielmi said a box for the weapon was discovered in the man's vehicle after the incident, which took place around 1:30 a.m.

The man killed was identified by investigators as 21-year-old Austin Tucker Martin, according to a person familiar with the matter. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not

See BREACH on Page A4

EASTPOINTE

Former human resource manager's ethics complaint dropped

By Susan Smiley
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The Eastpointe Board of Ethics voted 3-2 at a special meeting Wednesday night not to move forward with the investigation of a complaint filed last November by former Human Resources director Vicky Brooks alleging retaliation by then interim city manager Elke Doom.

"We have to look at the big picture," said ethics board chair Gary Sasek. "It is hard to make a determination that involves two people who no longer work in this city."

Brooks filed the complaint with the ethics board on Nov. 29.

In a letter dated Aug. 27 and addressed to Doom, Mayor Michael Klinefelt, city attorney Richard Albright, members of the City Council and ethics board, Brooks alleges several management decisions made by Doom violate the city's personnel rules and regulations, civil service charter, the Civil Rights Act, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). She said after she sent that letter, the wheels were set in motion to create the budget amendment to eliminate her job.

Randy Blum, Eastpointe

finance director, said that in fact, the decision to eliminate Brooks' position happened prior to Aug. 27 on Aug. 20 and was in response to the City Council's request to eliminate Brooks' \$90,000 position and replace it with a \$60,000 administrative assistant position.

"The City Council didn't think the city could afford to pay for a \$90,000 human resources position when the city manager is supposed to be doing those tasks," Blum said. "The idea was to eliminate the deputy HR director position and bring someone in on a lower level. We consulted with a labor attorney and this is what was suggested."

The City Council voted 4-1 at its Sept. 2 meeting to implement the budget amendment that effectively eliminated Brooks' position. Mayor Klinefelt said at the time that Brooks' position had "ballooned out of control" and that he would rather increase public safety staffing and allow the city manager to go back to handling human resources issues.

Brooks was terminated the following day. No one has been hired to fill the new administrative assistant position as current City Manager Ryan Madis was hired in Decem-

See DROPPED on Page A4

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY H: 24 L: 9
TUE. H: 29 L: 25
WED. H: 31 L: 18
Full weather report A3

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INDEX

Nation/World A2 Sports B1
Lottery A3 Comics B5
Opinion A7 Classified B6

