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SHORT CUTS



Fundraiser set for Local 98er's son

A fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 10 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Sterling Heights Fraternal Order of Police hall to benefit the family of Oakland County Sheriff's Deputy Brad Reckling, who was slain in the line of duty on June 22. He was the son of Plumbers Local 98 member Andy Reckling. Brad is also survived by wife Jacqueline and three children.

The Sterling Heights F.O.P. is located at 37445 Mound Rd., Sterling Heights, MI 48310.

Donations to help the family can also be made to "Mission Oakland, a 501(c)(3) non-profit established to support law enforcement in Oakland County. Sheriff Michael Bouchard said 100 percent of donations to Mission Oakland will support the Reckling family. If writing a check, he said to put the deputy's name in the memo. Deputy Reckling wore badge No. 1972. The mailing address is Mission Oakland, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Building 38E, Pontiac, MI, 48341.

Or, donations can be made through a Paypal account linked via the Oakland County Sheriff's website, www.oakgov.com/government/sheriff.

Make plans to celebrate Labor Day

No one wants to talk about Labor Day approaching and the traditional end of summer, but here we go.

In various downtowns and union halls around Michigan, make plans to celebrate the holiday celebrating working people by attending a parade, picnic or festival near you.

On Labor Day or during that weekend, events are planned in Detroit, Escanaba, Grand Rapids, Monroe, Muskegon, Negaunee, and St. Ignace. Detroit's parade will take place at 9 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 2 with the same format as last year, starting at Michigan Avenue and Sixth Street, and proceeding west toward Michigan Central Station.

We will have more details on times and events in our next edition.

BLS report shows weaker jobs picture

U.S. employers added 114,000 jobs in July, a weaker than expected number reflecting a slowing labor market.

It was down from the 206,000 jobs added in June. The numbers come from the Bureau of Labor Statistics report issued Aug. 2.

The U.S. construction industry was among the leading sectors in job growth, adding 25,000 jobs in July.

"The labor market data out this morning suggests the Fed has waited too long to lower interest rates," said Economic Policy Institute economist Elise Gould. "Payroll employment growth continues to slow as the unemployment rate ticked up to 4.3 percent."

Average hourly U.S. wages rose 3.6 percent in July, the smallest gain since May 2021.

The unemployment rate, meanwhile, ticked up to 4.3 percent, the highest since 2021, but it's still historically low.

Quotable

"Life is really simple but we insist on making it complicated"

— Confucius (551-479 BC)



DOWNTOWN ROYAL OAK next year will be seeing a new population of students who know their way around a kitchen. Oakland Community College, in conjunction with Barton Malow and its subcontractors, is undertaking construction of a new Culinary Studies Institute addition on its existing property at Main and East Seventh Street. Photo credit: Barton Malow

What's cooking? Good looking culinary school rises at OCC

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

ROYAL OAK – Bon appetit!

Completion of a three-story expansion at Oakland Community College's campus here is sure to help train future generations of chefs and other food industry professionals – and create new restaurant space for the public to enjoy a tasty meal.

Barton Malow is managing construction of the \$75 million project, which is going up on the southeast corner of Main

Street and East Seventh Street. The new space will house OCC's award-winning Culinary Studies Institute, slated to open in September 2025.

Ground was broken on the addition in November 2022, adjacent to the existing OCC building at the site. The space will feature three classrooms, two demonstration kitchens and five teaching kitchens, providing space for collaborative learning among students, and is promised by OCC to be "one of the top culinary learning facilities in Michigan."

The new space will also feature a 2,600-square-foot restaurant on the third floor with a sloping ceiling, large glass windows and 360-degree views of downtown Royal Oak.

"The new Culinary Studies Institute building on our Royal Oak campus will provide students with a bold and visionary culinary learning facility," said OCC Chancellor Peter Provenzano. "It will also feature a restaurant where our culinary students will prepare (Continued on Page 2)



SETTING UP FireWrap insulation for a kitchen fixture at the Oakland Community College Culinary Institute project are (l-r) Ryan Hoth and Todd Fasca of Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25. They're employed by Bondy Insulation.



INSTALLING METAL SIDING on the OCC Culinary Institute project are Mike Hart and Eric Jesse of Sheet Metal Workers Local 80. They're employed by Liberty Sheetmetal.

Hiring surge builds Michigan's construction payrolls

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

Construction activity in Michigan just won't cool down.

Three numbers released July 19 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics illustrate the strength of the state's building economy. Most of the rest of the country is doing quite nicely, too.

1. **7.6 percent:** That's the whopping increase in the percentage of construction workers employed in Michigan from June 2023 to June 2024.

2. **We're No. 3!** Only two other states have a higher percentage of added construction workers during that 12-month period.

3. **14,400 workers.** An historically robust number – that's how many more workers were added to construction payrolls in Michigan from June 2023 to June 2024. Michigan now employs 204,400 Hardhats, up from 190,000 a year ago. The fact that all those people have become construction workers in such a short time is a testament to the

industry's strong demand, higher pay, and solid recruitment efforts.

"High interest rates and rising vacancies have depressed construction of developer-financed projects such as apartments, offices, and warehouses in some markets," said Ken Simonson, the Associated General Contractors' chief economist. "Nevertheless, strong demand for data centers, manufacturing and power projects, and infrastructure is keeping employment on the upswing in a majority of metros."

Between June 2023 and June 2024, 35 states added construction jobs, while only 14 states shed jobs. By headcount, Texas added the most construction employees (36,100 or 4.4 percent), followed by Florida (29,900 jobs, +4.8 percent), then Michigan (14,400 jobs, +7.6 percent), and

Nevada (12,800 jobs, +11.5 percent). Alaska had the largest percentage increase over 12 months (19.5 percent, +3,300 jobs), followed by Nevada and Hawaii (both 10.5 percent, +4,000 jobs), and Michigan.

New York lost the most construction jobs during the past 12 months (-5,400 jobs, -1.4 percent), followed by Colorado (Continued on Page 14)

State Supremes resurrect higher minimum wage, paid sick leave laws

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING – The Michigan Supreme Court on July 31 reinstated the crux of two 2018 citizen-led petition drives, intended to raise the state's minimum wage and provide paid sick leave to workers.

In a 4-3 ruling, the Supremes struck down a move by the Republican-led Legislature at the time, which adopted the

language of the two petitions before they became law. Then, GOP lawmakers, in a first-time "adopt and amend" move, weakened the laws in the lame-duck session at the end of the year. Opponents of the move – an obvious attempt to thwart the public's ability to use petitions to set policy – called it "review and screw."

"We commend the court for ruling what we all clearly witnessed back in 2018," said

Advantage: unions. NLRB tilts table to boost organizing

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Another benefit to having a 3-2 pro-worker majority on the National Labor Relations Board was on display last month, as the board on July 26 issued the "Fair Choice – Employee Voice Final Rule" which restores worker rights in three areas of collective bargaining.

"Today's rule restores the board's prior law, including long-standing principles that ensure a fair process for workers to choose whether they want representation, and provide a better foundation to allow collective bargaining relationships to thrive," said Chairman Lauren McFerran. A President Trump-era majority on the NLRB rescinded those worker rights, handing more of an advantage to employers during the collective bargaining process. The three key policies that were restored by the new final rule returns to the NLRB's pre-2020 practices on:

• **The "blocking charge" rule:** The NLRB now returns to its policy of giving its regional directors authority to delay, or block,

a union representation election if unfair labor practice conduct, by employers or employees, is sufficiently serious to interfere with employee free choice to vote for a union.

The Final Rule restores a Regional Director's authority to delay an election if unfair labor practice conduct is sufficiently serious to interfere with employee free choice. The NLRB described the new rule as a simple reversal: "Today's rule reverses the Board's 2020 rule requiring regional directors to run elections in an election environment tainted by unfair labor practices."

Says an analysis by management attorneys Fisher Phillips: "The prior rules allowed workers to vote on the issue even after unions alleged interference with the process (also known as "blocking" charges). Now, the NLRB can once again delay decertification procedures until the charges are resolved – which will inevitably result in a prolonged process to remove a union. This change gives unions a tactical means by which to indefinitely (Continued on Page 3)

A ray of hope for labor's resurgence?

Younger workers and the rise of the 'union curious'

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

For organized labor, it's impossible to sugarcoat the numbers: the penetration of unions into the American workplace has, for decades, been falling or has been stagnant at historically low levels.

But in recent years, there have been nuggets of positive news and events that have provided hope and encouragement to union supporters. Nascent unions have emerged at Amazon, the nation's second-largest employer. The UAW won its first-ever representation vote at a plant in the South. Union approval in the U.S. is at an all-time high. Smaller unionization efforts are popping up among a wide variety of employment sectors.

Now, the labor-backed think-tank, the Economic Policy Institute, has issued a new report that highlights a tiny bit of hope emerging from a whole new sector of Americana: "the union curious"

Issued July 16 by EPI researchers John Ahlquist, Jake Grumbach and Thomas Kochan, the report said it has three key findings:

• **"Americans' approval of unions and willingness to vote for them at their workplaces have**

'Today, the pressing question facing the labor movement and labor scholars is this—how can the curious be turned into actual union members?'

increased although union membership has continued to drop in recent years.

• **"Even more remarkable than the growth of union support has been the decline of outright opposition to unions and the rise of the 'union curious.'"**

• **"A large generational divide that was not apparent even a few years ago is emerging. Workers 30 and under are far more likely than older workers to report both (Continued on Page 14)**

Ouch: deferred road work costs MI \$17B yearly

Here at the height of the orange barrel season in 2024, it's evident that a lot of the damn roads are being fixed in Michigan.

But the state is playing catch-up from decades of road-building neglect.

TRIP, a nonprofit Washington, D.C.-based transportation research group, released a report late last month that revealed driving on deficient roads is doing wonders for auto repair shops, but not so much for motorists' pocketbooks. Deteriorated and congested roads are costing Michiganders \$17 billion per year, the group said.

The average Michigan driver can expect to spend \$758 annually in additional vehicle operating costs, as about 40 percent of state and locally maintained roads are in poor or mediocre condition. Other factors in higher costs include congestion-related delays, and the costs of traffic crashes in which the lack of adequate roadway safety features,

"Infrastructure is the backbone of Michigan's economy," said Ed Noyola, chief deputy and legislative director of the County Road Association of Michigan. "The problem is not going away and we cannot continue to allow Michigan's critical roads and bridges to fall into poor condition. We must invest in our transportation system to ensure that it is safe and reliable for generations to come."

(Continued on Page 3)

Viewpoints



Who is out of touch?

At the Republican National Convention, U.S. Sen. J.D. Vance officially accepted the nomination to be Trump's running mate and stated that the moment was about the "auto worker in Michigan" who is "wondering why out of touch politicians are destroying (their) jobs."

Well, if Vance wants the answer, he should look at himself and his running mate.

Last time he sat in the White House, Donald Trump promised thousands of voters in Ohio – the home state of his brand-new vice-presidential pick – that their factory and manufacturing jobs were "all coming back." Later, Ohioans watched as one of the Mahoning Valley's most critical employers closed under Trump's watch.

Trump continued on his trail of broken promises right through Michigan. He vowed to bring us "a lot of car plants." But instead of revitalizing auto manufacturing in our state, he stood by and watched as our manufacturing capacity diminished. While Trump was president, a plant right here in Michigan halted production and our state bled thousands of jobs as his disastrous economic policies incentivized companies to send U.S. jobs overseas.

Trump continues to run on falsehoods. We can expect that Vance will be his new partner in lies, and now, they're coming here to spread more of them. Just like Trump, Vance is all lip service and no results. Just like Trump, when the cameras are off, Vance answers to the special interests and Silicon Valley donors that line his pockets, not working families.

Vance opposes the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, which would protect and expand workers' right to organize and collectively bargain. He has shown a deep contempt for unions, right in line with Trump's constant mocking of union workers. Unlike Vance, Michiganders know that every single worker, no matter who they work for, deserves the freedom to ask for better wages and working conditions without fear of retaliation.

Trump left the White House with the worst jobs record of any modern American president and allowed Michigan to lose thousands of manufacturing jobs. Vance is hellbent on helping Trump roll back the Inflation Reduction Act, which has not only produced tens of thousands of new jobs across the Midwest but provided hundreds of millions of dollars to preserve the jobs at a plant in his hometown of Middletown, Ohio.

Michigan families know that Trump and Vance will roll back all of the victories that the Biden-Harris administration have achieved for workers. Under their leadership, Michigan has seen the creation of thousands of new jobs and millions of dollars in new investments.

Trump and Vance will always be all talk and no action, and Michigan's working families see right through their hollow words. They know who has delivered concrete wins for working people over the last four years, and who will put the interests of American workers ahead of the ultra-wealthy and corporations. They know that it is not Donald Trump and J.D. Vance and that's why Michigan voters will reject them next November.

Tom Lutz
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights

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What's cooking? Culinary school rises

(Continued from Page 1) and serve fine-dining recipes as part of their training, a great fit into Royal Oak's vibrant food scene."

Barton Malow Project Senior Supt. Joe Frincke said the construction team's adherence to the computer-aided design plan, use of QR codes to coordinate material deliveries, and daily morning planning "huddles" with project leadership have brought about a job that's on time and running smoothly.

"We're happy where we're at with the scheduling, but there's more to it than that," he said. "You look around, the jobsite is clean, we have an excellent safety record and a very good safety culture. We have about 100 tradespeople on the project right now. They're employed by union contractors and they're doing excellent work."

Frincke said the expansion is being erected on former parking lot and green space. There is laydown space at the downtown location, but not a lot, and sequencing deliveries is a major tactical undertaking, he said. "We've working in very tight quarters," Frincke said. "All deliveries are just on time."

Mechanically, a culinary school is not as intensive as a hospital, but it has much more going on behind walls, floors and ceilings than an office building or hotel. With five teaching



THREADING PIPE at the Oakland Community College culinary addition in Royal Oak is Drake Comeau of Sprinkler Fitters Local 704. He's employed by Shambaugh and Sons.

kitchens, the site has a plethora of water and natural gas lines, upgraded 20- or 30-amp electrical service outlets, and high-end ventilation fixtures and hookups. The building is relatively compact at 78,000-square-feet – but it has no less than 50 floor drains. Cameras will be wired in from all angles to allow for remote teaching. "Across the board, we have intensive utilities," Frincke said.

Only tangentially related to cooking – but a key part of the building's footprint – is a new 13.2 kv primary service electrical

substation, along with a generator backup, that's being built into the building's first floor. Serving the new and existing OCC buildings on site, it will allow for the removal of an existing substation on site that's a bit of an eyesore.

Oakland Community College says the building's first floor will feature a flexible design for pop-up culinary retail and café service from Main Street. There will also be a separate charcuterie kitchen with a dry-aged cooler for aging meats. The second floor will host teaching kitchens and

learning spaces. The third-floor restaurant will seat up to 200 for dinner and can be reconfigured to accommodate up to 300 for events, with a custom-glass wine storage room and a full-service bar to provide students with additional training in beverage service.

"There is not a facility quite like this anywhere in our area," said Culinary Faculty Member Chef Juie Selonke. "This new building is going to transform culinary education in the Detroit area – a region known for its edgy, urban vibe, creative entrepreneurial spirit, and, of course, food! We cannot wait to share this incredible space with our students and community."

The two new demonstration kitchens include instructional video technology to live stream the teaching chef's cooking demonstrations to monitors around the facility and enhance the students' culinary learning. It will also be used to host local, state, and national food competitions.

According to Selonke, this integrated technology provides tremendous flexibility in teaching and learning and space for academic conferences and national culinary competitions. "This will give us an incredible opportunity to connect virtually with chefs at home and around the world, and will broaden our students' culinary experiences," she said.

Let's put executives on the roof this summer

Jim Hightower

Being a lifelong Texan, I'm used to hot summers. But what the hell – 99 degrees in June!



Last year, we had 80 days of 100-plus temperatures, and we're looking at 90 days this year. I can't moan in self-pity, though, for the globally-warming furnace is now searing the whole country, even in northern climes where people are used to having days in August when they need "summer sweaters."

As we crank up our air conditioners, however, let's pause for

a moment to consider some 50 million workers in your and my communities who are exposed throughout the day to the full intensity of the sun's power.

They are roofers and landscapers, warehouse workers and farm laborers, street pavers and letter carriers. These have always been hot jobs, but now they're deadly – heat kills more Americans today than hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes combined.

So surely there are basic workplace rules assuring that these exposed people get water, shade breaks, etc. No.... and when such humanitarian codes are proposed, industry bosses coldly reject them.

For example, after several Texas cities began enacting work-

er protections, corporate lobbyists rushed to their hiring, Gov. Greg Abbott, who obediently snuck a state pre-emption into law, banning local officials from setting their own heat standards. That year, a record 450 people died of heat exposure in Texas, but Abbott just snarled that his preemption "increases economic liberty."

Mercifully, President Biden is pushing national heat rules. Of course, industry lobbyists are out to kill his anti-killing reforms, calling them "unreasonably complicated." Really? Providing water and shade is too perplexing for our corporate geniuses? Why don't we put them on roofing jobs in August – and let them think about it?

(via otherwords.org)

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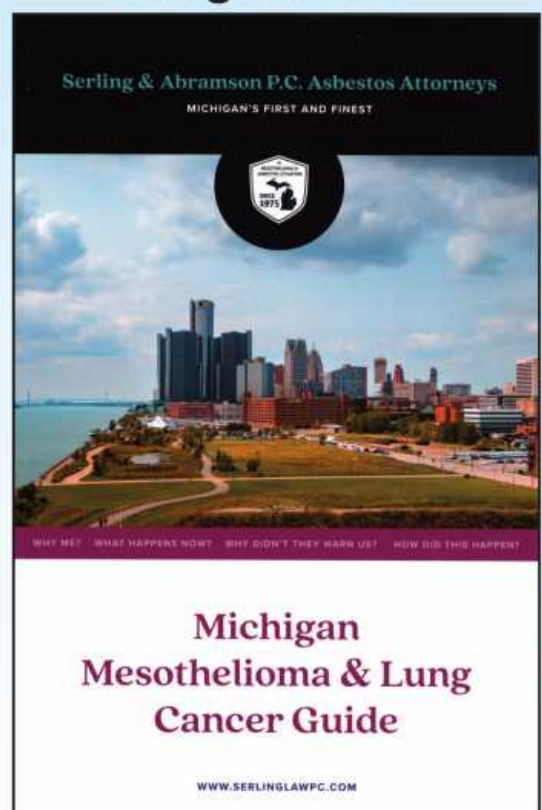
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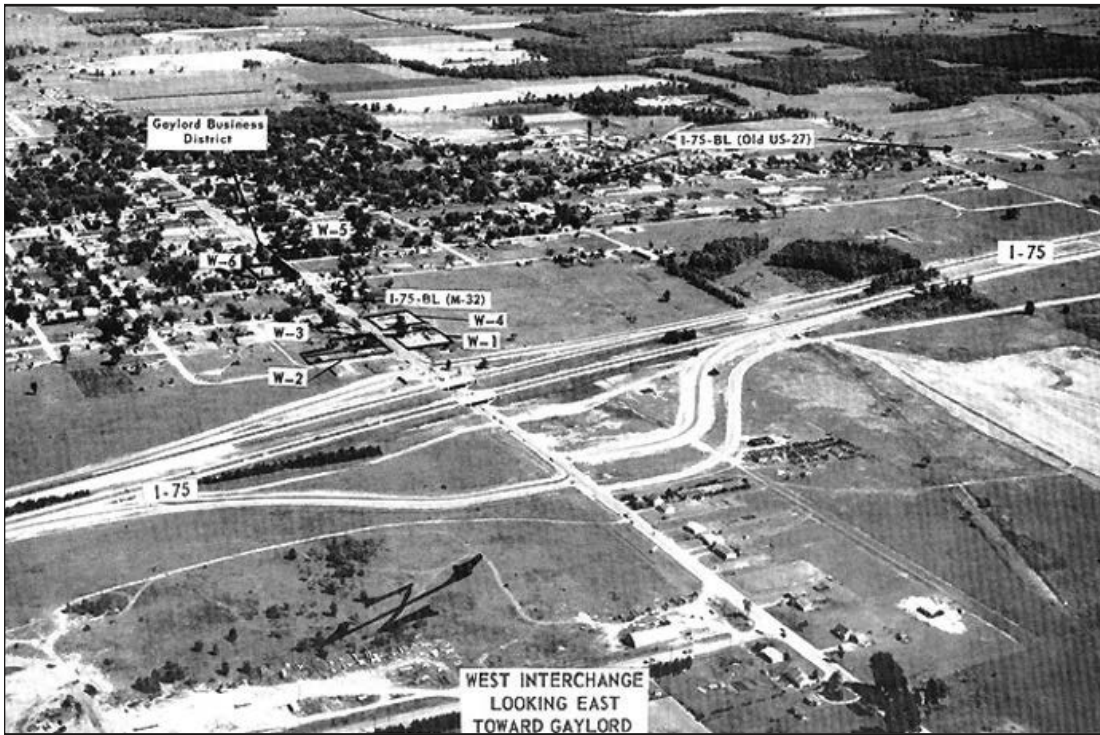
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BUILDING MICHIGAN: I-75 HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



FOR BETTER OR WORSE, construction of I-75 brought about major changes to Michigan's landscape. Here is the I-75 interchange at M-32 looking west toward Gaylord in 1962 shortly after the Otsego County portion of the freeway opened. The freeway improved commerce in the region and increased population.

Photo credit: Michigan Department of Transportation

Let's get this out of the way: nobody, except an authoritative website that expounds on the history of the state's roads, refers to I-75 as "Michigan's Main Street."

But it's certainly not an inaccurate reference, given the highway's importance as a conduit for commuting, commercial and vacation travel up and down both peninsulas.

"I-75 is Michigan's longest route-numbered highway, stretching from Ohio on the south through the entire Lower Peninsula, across the mighty Mackinac Bridge and across the eastern end of the Upper Peninsula, terminating at the Ontario border in Sault Ste Marie," says *MichiganHighways.org*. "As such, I-75 is often referred to as 'Michigan's Main Street.' Not only is I-75 a major north-south route in the U.S., it is equally important to commerce and travel within the state of Michigan. On the tourism side, I-75 is the preferred route for Detroiters heading 'Up North' on weekends and holidays. Major back-ups regularly occur on southbound I-75 at the end of major summer holiday weekends."

That's the I-75 of today, which according to the state Department of Transportation is the longest highway in Michigan, running 395 miles. In fact, you can drive I-75 for 1,786 miles from the Soo down to Hialeah, Fla., just west of Miami, and will have traversed the nation's second-longest north-south interstate highway (the longest is from Miami to Houlton, Maine, 1,908 miles). Overall, I-75 is the nation's seventh longest interstate.

Today we take I-75 for granted, especially when the freeway is clear of accidents and construction delays. But there will be a group of our readers of a certain age who remember travel up and down the state without the benefit of the freeway.

I-75's north-south predecessor through the central portion of the Lower Peninsula was U.S. Route 127, designated in 1926. It was, and is, a 212-mile trunkline extending from just above the Ohio border in Hudson (about 15 miles southeast of Hillsdale), past Battle Creek and Lansing, terminating at a point south of Grayling, and later connecting with I-75.

The concept of what would later become the route for I-75 in Michigan was just a line



THE I-75 INTERCHANGE with I-94 in Detroit, in 1970, the year I-75 was completed in the city. Completion of the freeway eased the movement of people and goods, but it also brought about the demolition of thousands of viable homes and businesses.

Photo credit: Walter Reuther Library, Wayne State University

on a map in 1945 before any construction started – but it was remarkably prescient. The Michigan State Highway Department's "Initial Selection, Interstate Highways in Michigan" report issued in July 1945 accurately laid out what would be the routes of not only I-75, but also those of I-94 and I-96.

Plans were unveiled in 1958 by the Michigan Highway Department to build a new superhighway beginning at the state's southern state line and ending at the Soo. Construction on I-75 hardly occurred in a linear manner; in fact, the highway already had a head start: after years of work, on May 22, 1959, Ohio Gov. Michael DiSalle and Michigan Gov. G. Mennen Williams cut a ceremonial ribbon at the state line, opening the 56-mile "Toledo-Detroit expressway" after the southern-most 2.14 miles of pavement was completed in Monroe County.

But other sections of I-75 were constructed piecemeal over the next 14 years. A 12-mile section was opened between Gaylord and Waters in July 1962. In October of that year, a section from Pontiac to Flint opened. In December, a gap was completed between Vanderbilt and Indian River.

In 1963, gaps were completed in the U.P. section of the freeway north of St. Ignace. In late 1966, the segment of I-75 through the Downriver suburbs of Detroit between the U.S. 24 (Telegraph Road) connector and M-39 was completed. In 1967, a segment opened between Kawkawlin and Standish. In 1970, I-75 through Detroit was completed. The final section of I-75 (be-

tween Alger and Roscommon) was opened on Nov. 1, 1973, marked in a dedication ceremony attended by Gov. William Milliken.

Today, between the Ohio state line and Kawkawlin in Bay County, I-75 contains between a minimum of six and a maximum of ten lanes total; other sections vary between four and six lanes.

Construction of the freeway meant different things to different geographical areas. The freeway came north through Monroe County and southern Wayne County and then cut through heart of populous Detroit, displacing viable businesses and thousands of city dwellers, many of them minority and low-income, in the name of progress.

But in rural Otsego County, a 2022 retrospective by *Petoskey News-Review* reporter Paul Welitzkin said former Gaylord mayor Bill Wishart and Phil Alexander of the Otsego County Historical Society agree that the arrival of I-75 in 1962 "was probably the most significant event to occur in Gaylord and Otsego County in the 20th Century, leading to economic and social gains that continue to this day." Asked Alexander: "If I-75 didn't happen, what would Gaylord look like?"

Otsego County's population nearly doubled, from 7,545 in 1960 to 14,993 in 1980. With a transportation conduit running through it, more businesses made a home there, too.

Prior to the freeway's construction, said Wishart: "It was quite a trip to come to Gaylord from a place like Flint. 'It was a five-hour drive and you had to travel on two-lane roads through small towns to work your way up north.'"



REBUILDING AND IMPROVING Michigan's 395 miles of I-75 over the years has brought a significant amount of employment to the state's road builders. Here is the I-75/M-46 rebuild project in Saginaw County, in 2021. Construction of the freeway system in Michigan and the nation was the brainchild of the Dwight Eisenhower Administration. According to the Federal Highway Administration, in June 1956, President Eisenhower signed the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 into law. "Under the act, the federal government would pay for 90 percent of the cost of construction of interstate highways. Each interstate highway was required to be a freeway with at least four lanes and no at-grade crossings," the FHA said.

Photo credit: CA Hull

Advantage: unions. NLRB tilts table to boost organizing

(Continued from Page 1) delay representation and decertification elections that could ultimately go against them."

•Voluntary recognition returns: The NLRB said it "now supports workers' and employers' ability to establish a bargaining relationship through voluntary recognition." Fisher Phillips said under the board's "new" regulation – which was in place from 1964-1920 – says "if an employer voluntarily recognizes a union, the union will now be protected from decertification challenges for six months. During this time, other unions or employees are barred from filing a petition to challenge the union's status as the unit's representative. This is a stark departure from the Trump-imposed rule, which provided a 45-day window to immediately challenge such recognition."

John Ring, a former chairman of the NLRB now an attorney with the Morgan Lewis legal firm, said the restored rule is a way for employees to be forced into a union without being given the right to vote. "The new rule allows employers and unions to agree that a workforce or jobsite will be union – often without the affected employees even knowing," he said.

•Parity for construction unions: "Because of the transitory nature of work in the construction industry, construction-worker unions that are recognized" under the National Labor Relations Act "do not have the same protections as non-construction unions," the NLRB said. "The new rules allow construction-worker unions to more readily establish the same protections as other unions, providing a more stable foundation for collective bargaining."

The NLRB has resurrected rules from a 2001 decision, wherein "a union can become a duly authorized representative under section 9(a) of the NLRA based solely on collective bargaining language – that the impacted employees may never see – negotiated under Section 8(f) (often referred to as a "pre-hire agreement"). In other words, construction industry employers may choose to become "union" without any showing of employee support.

Dissenting NLRB member Marvin Kaplan argued that the rule "prioritizes the interests of unions over that of employees in making a free or fair choice for representation."

Advantage: unions, says employment attorney firm Jackson Lewis, as the revised rules again allow unions to sign collective bargaining agreements directly with employers. "Many employers in the construction industry (but certainly not all) employ a variable number of workers for intermittent periods," Jackson Lewis said. "Where there is a

high degree of workforce fluidity, it may be difficult for a union to establish majority support in a distinct bargaining unit.

Additionally, in some markets, otherwise non-union construction employers may seek access to union hiring halls as a source of qualified labor. In 1959, Congress amended the NLRA to allow construction employers to recognize unions and to adopt collective bargaining agreements without a showing of

majority employee support – indeed, without any showing of employee support for the union at all."

Unless litigation comes into play, the new rules are expected to be instituted at the end of September. The Fisher Phillips analysis said "the NLRB," with its majority appointed by the Biden Administration, "has clearly kept President Biden's promise of being the "most pro-union president you've ever seen."

Supreme Court restores higher minimum wage, paid sick leave laws

(Continued from Page 1)

and making workers whole."

The majority of four Democrat-appointed justices ruled that the state Legislature does not have the power to override the power of the people to undertake a citizens' petition. The minority of GOP-appointed justices said with the state's Constitution being mute on such a move, the move by the state Legislature was permissible.

In 2018, a group called Michigan One Fair Wage garnered enough petition signatures statewide on a ballot proposal to increase the minimum wage to \$12 an hour by 2022. Importantly, future minimum wage hikes would be automatically tied to the inflation rate.

But before the petition questions could be voted on that November, the GOP-led Legislature adopted the same language, negating the need for the ballot issue. Then, after the election, the GOP amended "their" law, and mandated a \$12.05 per hour minimum wage by 2030 – eight years later. They also removed the inflation rider, and severely limited the paid sick leave requirements.

Now, with the sick leave policy reinstated, the petition language (and now state law) calls for Michigan businesses, with some limitations for employers with less than 10 employees, to provide earned sick time to each of their employees at the rate of one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked.

The other results of the Supreme Court ruling: an approximately \$2 an hour increase in the minimum wage by Feb. 21, 2025, to \$12.30 per hour, and the phasing out of a lower minimum wage for tipped employees. Tipped workers would start receiving \$5.90 per hour in 2025, and that would gradually increase to about \$15 an hour by 2030.

Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids) said the Supreme Court ruling undid the former Republican majority's "deceitful bait-and-switch on the very people they were sworn to

serve, and this lengthy battle was caused by their tactics." One Fair Wage President Saru Jayaraman called it "a great day for the more than 494,000 workers in Michigan who are getting a raise."

Some GOP lawmakers and business groups said the return of the citizens-led wage initiative would lead to a veritable Armageddon for state businesses having to hike wages, and pass those increases along to customers.

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce said with the ruling, "a disturbing, harsh reality is that jobs will be lost and some businesses will be forced to close due to this unprecedented decision," and predicted the wage hikes would be a "devastating" blow to restaurants especially, with the potential changes in tip culture.

Just joking

My grandpa always said when one door closes, another one opens. Smart man but a horrible cabinet maker.

Two nuns are driving a car through Transylvania at night. Suddenly a vampire lands on their car and starts banging on the windshield! Sister Daria, who's driving, says "oh no! Sister Maria, show him your cross!" Sister Maria sighs, rolls down her window, leans out, and shouts, "hey you SOB! Get the hell off of our car!"

A woman is at a funeral for her husband when a strange man walks in and sits up front. Toward the end of the ceremony he turns to the wife and asks, "would you mind if I got up and said a word?" She tells him "yes, go ahead." He stands up and says "plethora" and sits back down. The widow turns to him and says, "Thanks. That means a lot!"



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IBEW Local 131
Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

IBEW Local 131
KALAMAZOO - General Membership Meeting will be held on September 9, at 6 p.m.

Renew meeting will be held at 5 p.m. Aug. 19, at the union hall. Executive Board meeting will be held on Aug. 19, at 5 p.m. The Veterans Committee Meeting will be held on Sept. 5, at Union Hall, at 5:00 p.m.

Woman in the Trades Meeting will be held on Aug. 20, at 6 p.m. EWMC meeting will be held on Aug. 27, at Union Hall, at 5 p.m. Brotherhood Night is the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at CJ's from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The Labor Rally is scheduled for September 7, at Bronson Park, from 12:00 to 4p.m. The Tigers Game is scheduled for September 14, 2024.

I am looking to start a new group called the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC). The primary purpose of the Electrical Workers Minority is to advocate for greater diversity and inclusiveness within the IBEW, with extreme emphasis on increasing the numbers of people of color and women in leadership positions at all levels of the IBEW. I will be setting up a meeting on August 27, 2024. Starting at 5:00PM. If you are interested, please let me know.

The Work Outlook continues to be steady. Today we have over 40 open calls for Moore, Champion Services, KEL, Nitro, Moore, Martell, Gurtz and Hi-Tech. We have crews working on the Pfizer, Zoetis, Gun Lake Casino, Abbott labs and Palisades. There is plenty of schoolwork. Lots of 40-hour calls. Give me a call if you want to go to work.

Senator Peters was at the Union Hall on Aug. 7 for the start of his annual motorcycle Tour called from the "Zoo to the Sault." It was an honor to host our Senator Peters and several other local candidates.

Annual Picnic was on July 27. It looks like we had over 150 people show up. Renew Committee did a great job setting up and tear down. Tie-dye t-shirts were a big hit. Fat Mike's BBQ was excellent. Conversations were plentiful. Thanks to Christine, Jon, Jason Higdon, Douglas Anthony, and Phil Stutzky for their hard work. We are planning for next year's to be on July 19, 2025.

Tigers Union Day is on September 14, go to the Local website for more information. Retiree Lunches at the following Locations: Aug. 21, Heroes Food & Spirits, 121 S. Grove St. Delton, 49046 @11:00.

IBEW Local 665

IBEW 665
LANSING - WORK OUT-LOOK: Local 665 has OPEN CALLS and will need help from our travelling brothers and sisters.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Local 665 has reached a milestone. We have just surpassed 700 members in the local. Of which 140 are apprentices. With all the new faces around please remember it is a Journeyman's job to teach first and empower the next generation to learn and grow.

EVITP TRAINING PROGRAM: Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program. If you are interested in helping our local secure more work in the Lansing area it is critical, we sign up for this training. This program is looking to be required by the federal government to work on any large-scale electric vehicle charger stations.

HARASSMENT TRAINING: Harassment training has been adopted as part of our contract. It is required for all our members to complete it. Please reach out to the JATC to sign up for it. You can email Dale@lejatc.org to receive instructions on how to complete it.

APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS: We often get calls or emails on how and/or where to apply to Local 665's apprenticeship program. To apply, go to www.lejatc.org and navigate to the application page on the website.

Applications are accepted on the first Monday of each month. FIRST AID/CPR: If you require First Aid/CPR. Contact the JATC for the next available date to sign up. DRUG TEST / MUST MODS: If you are planning on working any NMA or GM jobs this year, please make sure you are current on your MUST mods/OSHA 30 and your MUST drug test.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Our general membership meeting is on the third Monday of each month and starts at 6:30 pm at the Hall. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS: The Executive Board meets the second and third Monday of each month starting at 5:00 p.m.

DUES AND DEATH BENEFITS: Quarterly dues are due. We are on death benefit #351. Please look at your dues to ensure that you are current. BENEFICIARIES: If you have recently gotten married, divorced, had children, etc., please make sure you update your beneficiaries. Forms are available at the hall.

IBEW 131, con't
gmail.com to reserve a spot. Classes are limited to 30. Online classes are available through KETA. Contact the apprenticeship at 269-388-4434

IBEW 252 Since 1916

IBEW Local 252
ANN ARBOR - BE SURE TO KEEP BENEFICIARY FORM UPDATED: A friendly reminder that beneficiary forms are available at the fund office AND at the hall for anyone that may need to update beneficiary information.

JATC COMMITTEE OPENING: We are looking for anyone interested in serving on the JATC. Call (734)424-0978 for more information or to put your name in as interested. TRAINING CLASSES 2024: All classes start at 5 p.m.: Conduit Bending Class Tuesdays Sept. 10 - Oct. 15.

Code Update session 5, Mondays and Thursdays Sept. 9, 12, 16, & 19 2024. Code Update session 6, Mondays and Thursdays, Sept. 30, Oct. 3, 7, & 10 2024. Code Update session 7, Mondays and Thursdays, Oct. 14, 17, 21, & 24 2024.

Code Update session 8 Monday's and Thursdays, Oct. 28, 31, Nov. 4, & 7 2024. Code Update session 9, Mondays and Thursdays Nov. 11, 14, 18, & 21 2024. Code Update session 10, Mondays and Thursdays, Dec. 9, 12, 16, & 19 2024.

Instrumentation Part A, Mondays, Sept. 9 - Dec. 16. CPR/First Aid Tuesdays Sept. 3, 10, Dec. 3, 10. There will be a code update required in 2024 for 2025 license. We have 4 sessions this Winter, Spring and will have six more in the fall. Sessions are limited to 50 people each.

There is a \$50 fee to hold a spot in all classes except First Aid/CPR. You must register one week prior to class start date. Call the Training Center at (734) 475-1180 to register. 2024 UNION 4 LIFE GUN CALENDAR: Purchase your 2024 USA Union Sportsmen Calendar and enter the USA's 2024 2-Guns-A-Week Sweepstakes for 104 chances to win a firearm in 2024!

PICNIC: This year's picnic will be held at the Apple Creek Campground, 11185 Orban Rd., Grass Lake, MI 49240 at noon on Aug. 17. Please contact the campground at (517) 522-3467 if you wish to reserve a site. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dan Beck at (810) 858-0033.

RETIREE'S NIGHT: This year's retiree's night will be celebrated on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024. Please make every effort to attend. This meeting is in honor of our retired members who have worked so hard to make the Local what it is today. Members receiving their 50 year pins are: Thomas R. Buss, Robert J. Melton, David F. Steward, Henry S. Truszkowski, Richard L. Sayre, Hilbert L. Hanible, Richard M. Murphy, William C. Snyder, John F. Lutz, Douglas C. Walz, Dennis J. Kitzel, Philip N. Marentay, Chris A. Wise, and Arthur J. Rousseau.

Members receiving their 55 year pins are: James H. Robbins, Robert W. Bishop, Leonard C. Neely, Richard M. Plisko, James A. Fetters, James W. Augustine, Lynn D. Grenier, Glenn C. Schaner, David L. Spicer, Kent E. Wilson, Gerald K. Fisher, Don E. Frasure, Kenneth A. Bolton, Wilson Little, and Lester G. Hall. Members receiving their 60 year pins are: Harlan W. Vanblaricum, Mark E. Moon, and Gary R. Mills. Members receiving their 65 year pins are: Richard M. Curtis and Jerry L. Gould.

DETROIT TIGERS UNION DAY: We are organizing a bus trip to the Detroit Tigers game against the Baltimore Orioles on September 14th. Tickets are \$30 and include entry to the game, bus transportation, and \$10

IBEW LOCAL 252

Fun Money to spend at the park. To RSVP, contact the Union Hall at (734) 424-0978. UNION 4 LIFE GOLF OUTING: The 2024 Union 4 Life Golf Outing will be held on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024 at Pierce Lake Golf Course, 1175 S. Main St., Chelsea, MI 48118.

RETIREES' CARD GAME: The first Thursday of every month Local 252 and UA 190 retirees meet at the Union Hall for card games and donuts. The games start at 9 a.m. Please come join the fun.

RETIREE'S BREAKFAST: will take place the second Wednesday of each month at 8 a.m. at Leo's Coney Island, 160 South Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. There is parking and entrances in both the front and rear of the restaurant.

M.U.S.T DRUG TESTING: Please make sure your MUST drug testing is current as you cannot work on a U of M project or several other projects in the jurisdiction without being current. Local 252 has a zero tolerance for alcohol or drug use. ERTS: Please make sure that you are signed up in the Electronic Reciprocity Transfer System.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Local 252 partners with Health Management Systems of America to provide Employee Assistance for a number of issues. For confidential 24/7 assistance, call toll-free 1-800-847-7240, or visit www.my-life-resource.com and use username: hmsa, password: myresource for more information.

AFLAC INSURANCE: Aflac has teamed up with the IBEW to offer its members Aflac benefits at a reduced rate. Contact Representative Lisa Enerson for information about Accident, Cancer, Critical Care, Dental and Vision insurance from Aflac. Phone number: (517) 306-0144. AT&T DISCOUNT: Union members can save up to 15% on the monthly service charges of qualified wireless plans, or unlimited calling for \$15/mo. for AT&T Wireless Home Phone plans.

RETIREMENT: NEBF and IBEW PBF applications take 3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement effective date. If you are nearing retirement, please contact Alana at the Union Hall to start your paperwork at least 3-6 months before your planned retirement date. You will be asked to submit copies of social security cards, birth certificates, marriage certificate, divorce decrees, etc. for you and your spouse with your applications.

NOTICE TO RETIREES: If your 50-year commemorative watch stops working for any reason please contact the hall. CREDIT CARDS: The Local is now accepting credit cards to pay union dues. We accept Visa, Master Card, American Express and Discover. There is a fee of 3% to use your card. DUES PAYMENTS - Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 6/2024, your dues are not current.

Future Dues Increases: Effective Jan. 1, 2025: A Members will pay \$140.25 per quarter. Effective July 1, 2025: A Members will pay \$143.25 per quarter.



THANK YOU to the IBEW Local 445 members who worked at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds.

IBEW Local 445

IBEW Local 445
BATTLE CREEK - Code Update Classes. The BCEJATC has Code Update Online Courses available. Please contact BCE-JATC at (269) 300-8002 to get signed up.

IBEW Local 445 Member Picnic: The Annual Picnic will be at the Hall on Sept. 7, 2024, starting at noon. Calhoun County Fairgrounds: The members of Local 445 and the LMCC donated their time/material to remodel the Beef Breeding Barn with completely new electrical.

Retiree Breakfast: The Retiree monthly breakfast at 9am at Lux Cafe at 2587 Capital Ave SW. Mark your calendar for the third Thursday of each month to attend. General Membership Meeting: is the second Monday of each month and starts at 5 p.m. at the Hall. Our new First Year apprentices will be initiated at the Aug. 12, 2024, meeting.

Local 445 Book Signing - To sign Book 1 & 2, initial signs are still in person only. Special Fund - *IMPORTANT* This is a reminder that you may be required to supply proper receipt substantiation for your debit card usage.

Claims prior to Aug. 31, 2023, were issued a 1099 for unsubstantiated claims and no further action is needed for those claims. For any claims after Aug. 31, 2023, may need substantiation. You will want to sign into the Special Fund website or App to verify if receipts are required.

Wilson-McShane has replaced TICI for our benefit administration as of June 1, 2023. You can visit www.michiganelectrical.org to create a new account under the Member Portal tab. You should have received new Special Fund cards that are white. Please dispose of the old blue cards as they will no longer work.

Reminder about Health Plan Advocate: This is a reminder about the Michigan Electrical Health Plan Pharmacy Savings Program. Health Plan Advocates is working with the MEEHP to help the fund and the members to save money on costly prescriptions.

IBEW 445, con't
could encounter a high deductible/co-pay when you fill that RX on your next refill. 2024 Personal information: Please keep your address, phone number and email address up to date at the Hall.

IBEW LOCAL 948

IBEW Local 948
FLINT - Meetings. Membership Meeting - Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be August 12th, 2024 at 6:00 PM. Retiree Meetings - Retirees will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month.

The September Picnic will be held this year on September 7th at our union hall. Family members are welcome. Book Signing - For any members looking to sign our books please refer to our hotline at (810) 767-3308 Ext #5 or report directly to the hall.

Work Outlook - Our work outlook is steady with a slow ramp possible leading to the upcoming months. For further details on job information please ensure the hall has your email address for our job calls and resigns. Dues Reminder - Members, please ensure your dues are paid in full.

Seeking New Membership - As always, we are actively seeking to organize new membership. For any questions, concerns, or interest please contact Organizer Kellogg Dipzinski. New Store Stock - To all members interested, we have merchandise at our hall.

Tigers' Party Bus - Attention membership, there are spaces available for members to attend the Tigers' game on September 14th. For sign up please contact Jenny at the hall. New Membership - Welcome to our latest members; Calib Downer, Cody Plew and David Sparkman. We look forward to working with you and hope to see you in the field.

Retirees - Congratulations to Marvin Carlson and Ronald Stout on your pension applications. The membership would like to wish you a healthy and relaxing retirement. Draping of the Charter - Our condolences to the family of Olen Harris. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep our Brother in our hearts.

"Love much. Earth has enough of bitter in it." -Ella Wheeler Wilcox
"It's really easy to complain. If you're not careful, then you end up complaining about your whole life. Concentrating on the good things is really good. Catch people doing good." -Lisa Williams
"Americans are overreaching; overreaching is the most admirable of the many American excesses." -George F. Will (1941 -),



Outdoors

Catching information on fish



(From the Michigan DNR)

Bass fishing tournaments are very popular in Michigan, and for the past nine years the state Department of Natural Resources has been collecting and tracking data from them in its online Fishing Tournament Information System.

By law, fishing tournaments targeting bass and walleye – as well as any competitive fishing event, regardless of structure, that targets muskellunge – are required to register their events with the DNR and report results after the tournament has ended.

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission put these requirements in place for bass tournaments in 2016, with walleye and muskie requirements added in 2019.

The idea was to gain a better understanding of how much fishing tournament activity occurs in Michigan annually. In particular, the commission sought to identify which bodies of water are used and how many anglers participate in tournament fishing, as well as collect catch and biological data on the fish that are caught to supplement the DNR's own fish survey capabilities.

These requirements and the development of the Fishing Tournament Information System have resulted in a successful program and an information-gathering tool that have helped the DNR better understand a valuable angler group while providing large quantities of social and biological data for use in future fisheries management discussions.

Most fishing tournaments in Michigan follow the same basic setup and must comply with all state recreational fishing regulations, including licensing requirements, seasons, size limits and daily angler possession limits.

Generally speaking, tournament anglers meet at a lake on a predetermined day and time and then fish for the targeted species, placing legally caught fish into their boat's live well. At the conclusion of the event, anglers meet back at a centralized location, usually a boating access site,



FISHING TOURNAMENT anglers head out on the water at a Michigan boating access site. Such tournaments are a key source of information in tracking fish populations. *MDNR photo*

where the catch of each angler or team of anglers is weighed. The total fish weight for each angler or team is then compared against others in the event, with the heaviest catch declared the winner.

After the weigh-in, the fish are released alive back into the body of water where they were caught.

"Annually, around 2,600 bass, 100 walleye and 15 muskie tournaments occur as registered in Michigan," said DNR fisheries biologist and tournament specialist Tom Goniea.

These events are spread out over 300-plus bodies of water per year and average around 14 boats and 26 anglers per event. Annually, anglers spend around 350,000 hours fishing in these tournaments, handling and releasing more than 125,000 fish.

"This level of angler interest and participation rivals that of the Michigan charter boat fishery on the Great Lakes, making tournament fishing and tournament anglers a substantial subset of Michigan's recreational angling community," Goniea said.

"Tournament activity is definitely a statewide draw, with tournaments occurring throughout Michigan, but we have found over the years that the highest concentration of events occurs in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula in counties close to the more established population

centers."

The most popular bodies of water for tournaments include Lake St. Clair (between the St. Clair River and Detroit River systems), Muskegon Lake (at the mouth of the Muskegon River) and Gull Lake, Gun Lake and Austin Lake, all in southwest Michigan in the greater Kalamazoo area.

Every tournament director has a unique account in the Fishing Tournament Information System, or FTIS, where they submit all tournament registrations and reports online.

Additionally, tournament directors can use the system to search for and access the contact information of other directors, which allows for communication and coordination between events, greatly reducing the potential for multiple or competing tournaments on the same body of water at the same time.

While the system was designed for the explicit purpose of allowing tournament directors to register and report their tournament activity in compliance with legal requirements, there are also benefits to the public. "The FTIS has a public-facing interface that anyone can use to search for fishing tournaments by body of water, county and date or date range," Goniea said.

While most tournaments are private club events and are not

open to public entry, the system's public interface allows lakeshore property owners, anglers and other recreationists to search for and monitor tournament fishing activity on waters or in regions of the state that interest them. This feature can be helpful for those looking to find, or to avoid, tournament fishing activity when planning their own recreational outings.

In addition to the search features, the DNR's FTIS webpage also includes links to annual program summary reports as well as other tournament-related information. Find the page at Michigan.gov/FishingTournaments.

DNR Fisheries Division Chief Randy Claramunt said the program has really exceeded all initial expectations when first introduced in 2016.

"Since its inception, the Fishing Tournament Information System has developed into an integral tool for the Fisheries Division to understand the breadth and scope of tournament fishing within Michigan while also providing a wealth of biological data that our biologists can use to better manage the public's resources," Claramunt said.

Goniea concurred. "I would have never anticipated the amount and quality of data coming in through this program when we started," said Goniea. "It really has been a positive step in fisheries management in Michigan."

Younger workers and the rise of the 'union curious'

(Continued from Page 1)

support for and uncertainty about unionization."

Says the report's summary: "Two major shifts are occurring in U.S. workers' attitudes toward labor unions: the rise of workers who are interested in, but unsure about, unions; and an emerging generation gap between younger and older workers."

There are two consistent, overall trends that provide a background to the fortunes of labor unions in the U.S. Every year, for decades, the Gallup organization has polled Americans on their support of unions. A new report should come out around Labor Day, but last year's poll found that 71 percent of the nation approved of unions, the highest number since 1965.

But the real numbers are what counts: last year there was a 10 percent U.S. unionization rate – an all-time low number that has been consistently depressing for organized labor in recent years. (The rate was 20.1 percent in 1980).

Now comes the aforementioned group of "curious" workers, who may or may not be a solid contingent for improving organizing among labor unions. Here are some excerpts from the EPI's report:

"Looking at multiple surveys over nearly 50 years, we find that U.S. workers today are much less likely to oppose union representation in their workplaces. Although there is evidence of greater support for unionization among workers, the most remarkable change is the much larger share of workers who report being unsure about whether they would vote for union representation. We call this trend "the rise of the 'union curious.'"

"The researchers said they found "a large generational divide that was not apparent even a few years ago. Workers 30 and under are far more likely than older workers to report both support for and uncertainty about unionization."

"The ranks of the 'union curious' – workers who are open to, but uncertain about, the possibility that unionization can improve their lives – are large and

growing.

"Those younger workers "are a pivotal group that will help determine whether the current increase in union interest results in sustained gains for working people. Whether the ambivalent ultimately become unionists will depend on whether unions are able to reach, educate, and organize these workers in traditional and perhaps new ways."

The report said the road to reaching those workers narrows with time, as fewer and fewer workers have relationships (with co-workers or family) with people who can explain how labor unions and collective bargaining improve lives. Ignoring those workers who sit on the fence, the report says, "risks overstating the strength of union support while also masking the challenges and opportunities in the organizing environment."

Hiring surge builds Michigan's construction payrolls

(Continued from Page 1)

(-4,200 jobs, -2.3 percent)

The latest Dodge Momentum Index for U.S. construction sees a good future for the industry; it's up by 10.4 percent in June.

"Data centers continued to dominate planning projects in June – fueling another strong month for commercial planning," said Sarah Martin, associate director of forecasting at Dodge Construction Network. "More momentum in planning, while not as strong as data centers, was seen across most segments and indicates confidence in 2025 market conditions. The Dodge Momentum Index is up 43 percent from June 2019 levels, signaling strong construction spending in 2025."

"Trust thyself only, and another shall not betray thee."
—Thomas Fuller (1608 - 1661)

ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

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PLUMBERS

SHEET METAL WORKERS

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For more than 30 years, GPW has helped thousands of Michigan workers. We have represented mesothelioma, lung cancer, and asbestos disease victims, obtaining over \$1 billion in compensation for our clients.

\$1.8 MILLION VERDICT

GPW obtained a **\$1.8 million** verdict in a Lung Cancer claim, the **largest Asbestos Verdict in the history of Michigan Asbestos Litigation.**

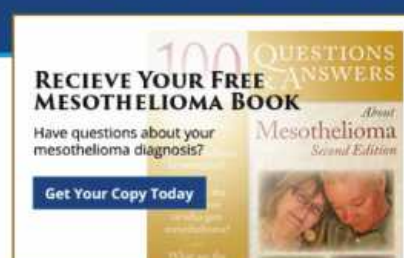
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