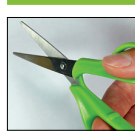
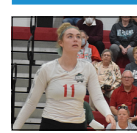


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## MT. PLEASANT



An example of an accessory dwelling unit at 1203 1/2 E. High St.  
COURTESY PHOTO

## City offers little home options

Officials make it easier to build accessory dwelling units

By Sue Field  
For the Morning Sun

Mt. Pleasant planning officials in recent years have fielded questions from residents about accessory dwellings — commonly known as “tiny houses.” Several accessory dwellings have

been built in the city, some above garages, some in backyards and others added to existing homes.

Now, city officials are making it easier for residents to construct tiny houses by preparing example building plans for stand-alone and over-garage ADUs; the plans can be altered by city staff to reflect the architectural details of primary homes. Mt. Pleasant spokeswoman Darcy Orlik said in a press release. Accessory dwelling units (ADUs)

are small, secondary homes located on the same lots as principal residences.

Also known as “granny flats” or “in-law units,” ADUs can’t be sold separately and are owned by the property owner.

They have become increasingly popular because they create additional housing and variety within existing residential neighborhoods; increase housing affordability; provide

**HOMES » PAGE 6**

## MT. PLEASANT

### Cave diving research sets apart CMU paleontologist

CMU Communications

When Zachary Klukkert first laid eyes on the eight skulls, he knew he’d found something special.

It wasn’t just that they were the bones of prehistoric giant lemurs, or that they were in a cave in Madagascar. It was that the cave was underwater, unseen and undisturbed for millennia.

The skulls, from extinct primate *Pachylemur*, were “just laying about, almost as if they were having a meeting,” he said.

A biological anthropologist and a member of the Central Michigan University College of Medicine faculty, Klukkert was uniquely qualified to make and appreciate the discovery. He knows of only one other cave diving paleontologist in the world, and that scientist doesn’t study primates.

Forbes and Outside magazine have covered Klukkert’s work in Caribbean caves, and the PBS/Smithsonian Institution documentary special “When Whales Walked” featured his work in Madagascar. The National Science Foundation shared pictures and video from his fieldwork to mark National Fossil Day 2020.

After postdoctoral research at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Klukkert came to Central in July 2020 where he teaches CMU medical students anatomy with a purpose.

“Being a paleontologist, a lot of my work is focused on things that are no longer present,” he explained. “But in this time and age I felt that we all had a responsibility to bring our skills to bear for good for society today. And one of the most direct ways that I can have a positive effect is by helping to train tomorrow’s physicians.”

**DIVING » PAGE 6**

## MICHIGAN

## EMS WORKER SHORTAGE PERSISTS



Saginaw-based Mobile Medical Response is an EMS provider serving 17 counties in mid- and northern Michigan

CREDIT: MMR

### Pandemic having crippling effect on decadelong issue

By Mark Cavitt

mcavitt@medianewsgroup.com

**T**here is a significant shortage of people driving ambulances and treating those en-route to healthcare facilities, a critical problem being addressed by short-term fixes with no clear long-term solutions on the horizon.

Statewide, there is a shortage of about 1,000 emergency medical technicians (EMTs), according to the Michigan Association of Ambulance Services (MAAS), a statewide trade organization that represents over a majority of the state’s EMS providers, with around 6,800 licensed EMTs working across Michigan and 257,000 nationwide. These are the same people that arrive at your door if you need emergency transportation to a local hospital and who have the knowledge and skills to stabilize and safely transport you during life-threatening emergencies.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the total number of licensed EMTs and paramedics in Michigan decreased by 280 from 7,160 in 2019 to 6,880 in 2020, a 4% decrease. Depending on where an EMT is licensed, the average hourly wage ranges between \$14.67 (Flint region) to \$18.15 (Muskegon area). In metro Detroit, the average EMT hourly wage is \$17.47.

Of course, this is not a new problem, but small and large emergency medical services (EMS) providers across the state, as well as industry professionals, say it’s a

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**My Go-To Place for Heart Care**

After having a smooth pregnancy and delivery with her first child, Lindsey Read-Smith expected the same with her second. However, following her daughter’s birth, Lindsey knew something was wrong. After undergoing an emergency heart CT and echocardiogram, Cardiologist and Heart Failure Specialist Jeffrey Martindale, D.O., diagnosed her with systolic heart failure. That same day, she also experienced a heart attack.

“Thanks to the staff’s quick response and the on-going heart care I received, I’ve been able to resume my busy life as a mom, an attorney and a small business owner. That’s why MidMichigan is my Go-To Place.”

For information about MidMichigan’s comprehensive Heart Failure Program visit [midmichigan.org/heartfailureclinic](http://midmichigan.org/heartfailureclinic)

**MidMichigan Health**  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH SYSTEM

## Diving

FROM PAGE 1

## New frontier for fossils

Cave diving is a fairly new discipline, pioneered in the 1970s by hardcore explorers. Cave diving to hunt for fossils is even newer. Klukkert said 2010 marked the first time extinct primate remains were found in flooded caves.

Technically, most of Klukkert's finds are known as "subfossils" — they haven't undergone the slow mineral replacement that turns them from bone to stone. Though they may be many thousands of years old, the stable freshwater environment and a lack of microorganisms keep them pristine.

The vanished past they reveal offers clues to our present. Klukkert studies paleobiology — understanding the biology and ecosystems of bygone animals — and he can infer much from these remains. Part of his research, for example, involves tooth shape and what it tells about an animal's diet and ecological niche.

Sometimes, there are surprises. He said enamel missing from lemur teeth posed a mystery — until researchers figured out digestion by a type of crocodile would dissolve the enamel. Both predator and prey are now extinct, but the discovery gave a glimpse into the



**Above, below:** Zachary Klukkert inspects fossils while cave diving in the Dominican Republic

PHOTOS BY PHILIP LEHMAN

circle of life long ago.

## Hints for our future

By researching extinct animals, Klukkert said he can "zoom out" to consider questions about what makes or breaks ecosystems — questions of great relevance in our era of accelerated extinctions.

Evidence suggests human presence in Madagascar between 1,000-10,000 years ago. While Klukkert's research does not include material that predates human arrival, it does predate the faunal collapse on the island that is attributed to human actions.

The research provides perspective that a snapshot of the present can't offer. For example, he said the Americas and Madagascar have both lost about one third of their primate biodiversity, measured in terms of species (Madagascar) or



genera (America), in the past 100-4,000 years. So, when counting recent extinctions, 1,000 years ago might be a better starting point than today.

"We can see that there is a dangerous slope," he said.

**Getting his feet wet**

Klukkert grew up in landlocked New Mexico, dreaming of becoming a marine biologist. That was

not to be, but as a primate anatomy grad student he traveled to the Dominican Republic to assist after cave divers discovered skull fragments from an extinct monkey. Frustrated

to be stuck on dry land, he took up the divers' offer to teach him basic scuba.

Since caves were the new frontier for his research, he went on to earn certification in cave diving despite the dangers involved.

Klukkert said he wasn't afraid of confined spaces but wasn't sure whether he would enjoy "climbing around in wet rocks." Then came the first time he descended into a cave through a vertical passage, or chimney.

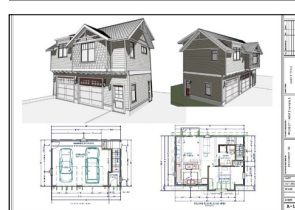
"The only light present was from my light on my hand," he said, "and it caught this glimmering golden sand all across the floor of the next passage, and I felt like I was in another universe. And that's when I was completely hooked."

This is a side of the world others never get to see, he said. "That's been my happy place ever since."

Before the pandemic, Klukkert went on a three- to four-week expedition in Madagascar every year, journeying days to get there, diving for two weeks and cataloging specimens before making the long trek home. His next trip is in limbo, awaiting the return of safe travel.

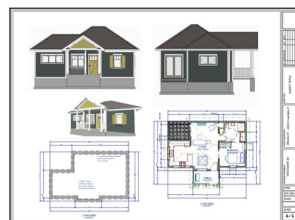
He'd like to dive in Cuba, where an extinct monkey has been identified, as well as in Brazil and other parts of South America. But before that, he has dozens of locations still to explore in Madagascar.

"There may well be a trove of fossils waiting for someone to look at for the first time," he said.

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COURTESY PHOTOS

Accessory Dwelling Unit plans.



### Accessory Dwelling Unit plans



An example of an accessory dwelling unit at 502 1/2 S. University.

## Homes

FROM PAGE 1

opportunities for multigenerational housing and/or aging-in-place; and can generate supplementary income for homeowners, Orlik said.

There are 54 ADUs within the Mt. Pleasant city limits, and they can be built in CD-4 zoning district (mixed use including multiple family residential housing) by right, or they can be built in the CD-3L and CD-3 (primary residential districts) zones with approval from the Mt. Pleasant Planning Commission.

Tiny houses were not common in the past but are gaining popularity, and many residents have expressed interest, Mt. Pleasant Planner Jacob Kain said.

"Since these types of housing were not commonly built over the past 50-plus years, there was not a lot of help out there to get started," Kain said. "We felt some template plans could help folks interested to see the potential and give their projects a head start."

*For more information about the housing option in Mt. Pleasant, call the community development department at 989-779-5347.*