

BUSINESS & FINANCE NOTES



February 2025

Issue: 12

Did you know?



DIY Emergency Kit



Recommended Items

Water
Flashlight with batteries
non-perishable food items
personal hygiene items
deck of playing cards



Family Specific Items



Diapers
Toys



Mobility devices
Medications
Special needs items

You Should Be Prepared For A Crisis

Environmental Health and Safety Specialist Cory Ghiringhelli discussed "Emergency Preparedness" at the Wellness Expo in November. The presentation focused on home-emergency preparation and offered tips on how your family can prepare for unexpected emergencies. Congratulations to Alexander Teal, an emerging technology specialist with University Libraries who won the drawing for the emergency kit displayed at the expo.

Planning for a crisis reduces stress during an unexpected event and can protect your family and property. You can be ready for natural disasters, such as damaging weather and human-made disasters such as power outages and civil unrest. Cory's tips include "run from water, hide from wind. Have a plan. Preparation is key."

An emergency plan should include contact telephone numbers, a plan for getting information, and knowledge of the policies of area sirens. You should keep an emergency kit that is easy to access and contains the essentials shown in the graphic above. The kit should have enough essentials for each household member, including pets, for 72 hours. All household members should know the emergency plan and be informed of risks and alerts. The plan should be reviewed and the kit updated every six to nine months. Many resources exist to purchase ready-made kits. The [FEMA website](#) has additional information on do-it-yourself kits. See the resources graphic below for more details.

State/Federal Resources

FEMA

Red Cross

Michigan Storm Chasers

Local Resources

Kalamazoo Public Safety

Kalamazoo County

WMU Public Safety

And did you know?

WMU Celebrates Black History Month Every Day

This year marks 49 years since President Gerald R. Ford officially recognized February as Black History Month, a recognition and celebration of the achievements of African Americans in History. What was once a week-long celebration evolved when campus communities around the country began the month-long recognition. The tradition spread through academics and beyond to the now nationally recognized, exploration of the lives and contributions of those trailblazers.

The WMU community celebrates and recognizes the works of Dr. Merze Tate. Dr. Tate was the first black student to receive an undergraduate degree from Western State Teachers College in 1927. In 1970 Dr. Tate received the Distinguished Alumni Award, and in 2021 the Merze Tate College was established. Merze Tate was not only a scholar, she was a world traveler, journalist, author, and adviser to world leaders. Merze Tate College celebrates her legacy through initiatives that empower all students to reach their highest potential. To learn more, visit the [Merze Tate College website](#).

The Office of Business and Finance Holiday Party Was A Success



The Business and Finance Holiday Party had more than 200 attendees. Enjoy the photos and take a moment to reflect on the event. Are you willing to supply some feedback in the spirit of engagement? What did you enjoy at the gathering? Is there something you would like the committee to consider at a future event? [E-mail Karmella](#) your thoughts.

MEET YOUR COLLEAGUES!

Payroll and Disbursements



Anne Wagner

Anne began her career 28 years ago at the WMU Bookstore in various positions including accounts payable and the textbook office. For the past 19 years, Anne has been with accounts payable with a brief time in accounts receivables. Accounts payable, now known as Payroll and Disbursements, allows Anne to work with enthusiastic students, many of whom are working their first job. She particularly appreciates the student employees who assist specifically in her department. Anne is a Michigan State University graduate with bachelor degrees in Spanish and anthropology. She focused on Latin American studies participating in overseas studies in Mexico and Spain. Anne enjoys crafting, reading, and hanging out with her friends and faithful canine companion Brisco. Anne is a nostalgic dreamer who cherishes the Beatles and exudes a spirit of peace, love, and creativity.

A 2024 WMU bachelor of science graduate, Chelsea joined Payroll and Disbursements in November as a coordinator. She spent two years as a payroll specialist for the Eaton Corporation and seven years prior in various roles at PNC Bank. Chelsea enjoys the organization and responsibility of the payroll department. She has a strong attention to detail and a keen understanding of financial systems. Accuracy and timeliness of payroll processing directly affect employee morale and she thrives on solving complex problems and ensuring order. Chelsea defines a good day as smooth, accurate processing, with clear communication with colleagues. She spends her quality time with her children exploring and conquering new adventures. Her passion for cooking and baking gives her peace and freedom to express her creativity.



Chelsea Page



Dawn Knedgen

After working in information technology (IT) and the health-care field, Dawn joined WMU in 2022 as a payroll and disbursements coordinator. She formerly worked with IT software for electronic medical-records systems. Recently Dawn was promoted to procurement system analyst. In the 1990s, Dawn transferred to WMU from a community college. She is excited to finish her bachelor's when she resumes classes during the spring 2025 semester. Dawn is a problem-solver, she enjoys helping people and connecting with someone new. Dawn is a sports enthusiast; her main love is college football. Her goal is to attend a full season of WMU football games. Dawn's passion for photography and videography takes her on an annual fall trip to the Upper Peninsula with a friend in search of the aurora borealis.

Pat has worked in the payroll department at WMU for 44 years. She is a payroll and disbursements coordinator. She fondly remembers the years when employee hours were submitted on a green and white sheet, which arrived at payroll by campus mail or hand delivery. The office staff shared the first computer, which was only used to look up employee job information. Once hours were manually entered, they were sent to the basement of the Seibert Administration Building for data processing to keypunch. Pat finds her job fulfilling. She wonders how different she would be if she had moved to different departments over the years but finds completing a payroll process satisfying. Pat enjoys traveling and days at the beach searching for beach glass. Her favorite places are Mackinac Island and any beach on Lake Michigan.

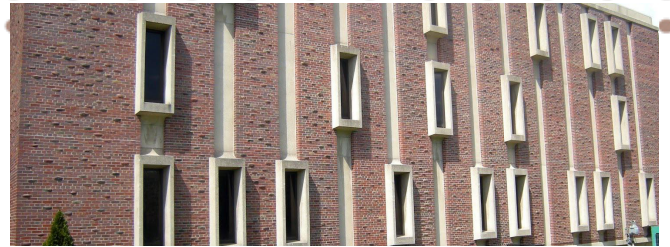


Pat Wilcox

If you are interested in participating in this segment, please reach out to [Karmella Todd](#). Otherwise, don't be surprised if she knocks on your door asking for participation.



Just a Thought



Recently I heard that the windows on the south-facing wall of Rood Hall were a secret message in binary code. You can probably guess what happened next. I researched Rood Hall and learned some interesting facts.

Rood Hall was built in 1971 and dedicated to Dr. Paul Rood in 1974. Dr. Rood was an instructor at WMU who headed the physics department from 1944 to when he retired in 1964. The building is located on a 179-acre lot purchased in 1964 that would house the Bernhard Center, Sangren Hall, Everett Tower, and Rood Hall. The architecture firm that designed Rood Hall also designed the Pontiac Silver Dome and Ford Auditorium on the east side of Michigan.

The basement holds a six-megavolt tandem Van de Graff particle accelerator, with a dinosaur park in the grass directly above the machine. The physics department studies atoms and molecules using the particle accelerator to produce and accelerate charged particles into a beam for various uses. Aerospace technology, food quality, environmental applications, and the health field are just a few applications.

As for a secret message on the side of the building, well that is just folklore. Binary code ranges from 5 to 32 digits. Rood Hall has 13 digits per line for a total of 39 digits. I attempted to decipher a hidden message using various codes, but couldn't unearth a message of "Welcome to Western." A science major's wishful thinking, or a variable binary code I could not track down! You decide. --Karmella

Links of Interest

Emergency Management:

Kalamazoo Public Safety -

[www.kalamazoopublicsafety.org/
divisions/emergency-management](http://www.kalamazoopublicsafety.org/divisions/emergency-management)

Kalamazoo County -

www.kalcounty.com/em

WMU Public Safety -

wmudps.wmich.edu/safety-info.php

FEMA - www.fema.gov

Red Cross - www.redcross.org

Michigan Storm Chasers -

[https://www.michiganstorm
chasers.com/](https://www.michiganstormchasers.com/)

Upcoming Events

Jan. 29 - Feb. 9 - The Lion King

Jan. 31 - Feb. 16 - All the Natalie
Portmans

Feb. 6 - Merze Tate Day 2025

- Ellsworth

- SC Gathering Stairs

Feb. 12 - New Employee Campus Tour

Feb. 8-9 - Titanic the Musical

Feb. 24 - Rock Orchestra by Candelight

Feb. 25 - OBF Divisional Meeting

Mar. 9 - Late Nite Catchism

Mar. 14-23 - The Great Gatsby

If you are interested in submitting information for the next Business and Finance Notes, please contact Karmella Todd at Karmella.Todd@wmich.edu.