



# College president denies claims made by signs

**Maggie Sandefur**  
Agora Editor

The president of MCCC says signs posted around the county are glaringly incorrect.

These signs say “MCCC allows MEN in girls bathrooms.” They can be seen in front of houses in the county and were spotted at the Monroe County Fair.

“The signs are blatantly false,” Quartey said.

In a now-deleted Facebook post from August, the Monroe County Republican Party said, “We are creating quite a stir with the signs around the Monroe County fairgrounds informing people of the radical MCCC bathroom policy!”

The signs quickly gained traction and spread throughout the county. Two are located across from campus on Raisinville Road and others are located on state Route 50. These came along shortly after MCCC ordered and installed 50 signs by restroom entrances on campus, which state, “You are welcome to use the restroom that best aligns with your gender identity.”

In response to these signs, Quartey published an article in the Monroe News on Aug. 11, titled “Restroom use is a human right, not a political issue.” In this, he said MCCC is simply complying with state and federal law, as well as staying consistent with MCCC’s nondiscrimination policies.

Quartey said he didn’t want to respond to the signs by firing back at them, so he created his article.

“I don’t think they’re really worth responding to,” Quartey said.

Jenna Bazzell, associate professor of English, said she first saw a sign across from campus on July 29 while driving to the college.

Bazzell and Melissa Grey, professor of psychology, said students were disturbed by the signs. Grey said she hopes more people speak out about possible concerns. Bazzell and



Photo by Mick Valentino

Signs regarding MCCC’s restroom policy can be found across from campus on Raisinville Road and along state Route 50.

Grey are co-chairs of the Gender & Sexuality Alliance on campus.

Quartey said some members of the Republican Party had reached out to him and said they weren’t responsible— rather, a fringe group was responsible.

“I’m hearing from Republicans who initially came to the meeting and they’re saying they have no idea why the fringe group is doing this,” Quartey said.

Various members of the Republican Party attended recent Board of Trustees meetings regarding the college’s bathroom policy.

The Agora reached out to the Monroe County Republican Party and received no response.

These signs are emerging just before MCCC’s five-year millage renewal on Nov. 5. The millage is a property tax, which will be used to make improvements to the main campus and Whitman Center.

Quartey said while he is worried the signs will impact the millage renewal, he’s hopeful people will rally in support of the college.

Quartey said moving forward, he does not want to focus too heavily on these signs.

“I’m here to educate,” Quartey said.

Quartey said he supports students at MCCC.

“As president of this institution, I support every single student on this campus,” Quartey said.

## Editorial

# Signs around county create harmful narrative

## Misinformation spread about bathroom policy

It's tiring driving to school every day and seeing willful disinformation stamped on bright red plastic signs right across from campus. "MCCC allows MEN in girls bathrooms."

The Agora stands with the students and community members affected by these signs. We support equality and diversity, and stand against those who wish to villainize the transgender community.

We know these signs aren't true. We know this is a fear-mongering tactic. We know these signs are a pathetic response to law.

The Monroe Republican Party had previously taken credit for these signs along with similar signs and a banner flown from a plane that were spotted at the Monroe County Fair. For unknown reasons, this credit has since been abandoned. There were multiple attempts to reach out to the Republican Party for answers, but they never responded to the

Agora.

MCCC President Kojo Quartey spoke on the issue, stating that this wasn't the Republican Party as a whole taking credit for the signs, but a small fringe group. Melissa Grey, professor of psychology, called the group "an over-empowered vocal minority."

In a post that was since taken down, the Monroe County Republican Party stated they "have yet to find another community college in the state with the same extreme bathroom policy as MCCC."

The "extreme" bathroom policy is part of a state law that prohibits discriminatory practices.

Nothing more.

"We are abiding by the law," Quartey said when asked about the topic.

Why push back against something out of the hands of MCCC? Again, this is part of a state law. This is something that must be followed whether it is liked or not.

Even if it wasn't, though, why litter your yard with anger and callousness? Why eagerly stand with fear and hatred? Why defy acceptance?

There is nothing "extreme" about protecting transgender people. There is nothing "rad-

ical" about equality. There is nothing "woke" about standing up for basic human rights. These are acts of basic decency and respect to another human being.

These signs are not about restrooms. They are not about safety. They are just another attempt to further alienate an already disenfranchised community.

The residents of Monroe County are too smart to fall for emboldened, disgusting misrepresentation. These signs are nothing more

than bigotry and intolerance broadcasted in the yards of those who are unwilling to learn and love.

The Agora believes Monroe, as a community, should be stronger than succumbing to hateful rhetoric. There is more than hatred here and we will overcome it.

*The Agora editorial board consists of the two editors and the staff.*

*The Agora stands with the students and community members affected by these signs.*

**Agora Editorial Board**

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### Editorial Policy

The Agora is published by the students of Monroe County Community College, 1555 S. Raisinville Rd., Monroe, MI, 48161. The editorial office is located in Room 213 of the Campbell Building.

**Submissions:** The Agora encourages submissions by anyone in the college community, including freelance articles, opinion columns or letters to the editor. All submissions must include a name, address and phone number for verification purposes. The Agora reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, length and libel.

The Agora is a student-managed newspaper that supports a free student press. It is a member of the Michigan Community College Press Association, the Michigan Press Association, College Media Association, Associated Collegiate Press and the Student Press Law Center.

Story suggestions are welcome. Let us know what you would like to see in the Agora - it's your newspaper. Email submissions to [agora@monroeccc.edu](mailto:agora@monroeccc.edu).



Photo by Mick Valentino

In April 2024, MCCC ordered 50 signs to be installed outside campus restrooms. Following this, signs were posted around Monroe regarding MCCC's restroom policy.

# Alert buttons ensure ‘a safe and secure campus’

## MCCC installs alert buttons to create a safer environment for students and staff

**Reese Bowling**  
Agora Staff

In an effort to make campus life safer, a total of 335 alert buttons have been installed in all classrooms and offices at MCCC.

According to President Kojo Quartey, they are to be used in emergency situations such as medical emergencies or unwanted intrusions.

Quartey made the determination to implement the alert buttons on campus. He said once activated, campus security will be notified.

“We do not refer to these in any of our correspondence as ‘panic buttons,’ because they are not for panicky situations,” Quartey said in an email. “These are emergency alert buttons, in case of any emergency situations.”

All employees will have access to the alert buttons. There are base systems in each building and the alert buttons are programmed by specific rooms into the base station. Testing of the new security system was scheduled to begin the week of Sept. 9.

“Once activated, campus safety will proceed immediately to the location where the alert button was activated,” Quartey said.

At this time, alert buttons will only be located inside campus buildings. Emergency phones are located outside on school grounds.

MCCC requested five bids from different companies before purchasing the alert buttons. Two bids were received. The lowest bid received was \$86,243.44. The other bid, submitted by Visiplex, Inc. for \$88,216.00, was selected.

“Both companies presented their plan for the campus to the MCCC cabinet in May. Visiplex, Inc. was unanimously considered the best fit for MCCC,” Gerald McCarty II, dean of student services, said in an email. “The other company was going to charge MCCC \$27,204.98 in re-occurring fees each year for system upgrades, software upgrades, etc. Visiplex includes all upgrades and does not have a yearly re-occurring fee.”

The approximate cost to purchase and install these security devices will total more than \$109,000 and will be taken from the college’s general fund.

Visiplex is an Illinois-based business specializing in wireless PA paging, two-way intercom communication and emergency mass notification.

McCarty said Visiplex has many years of experience with higher educational institutions as well as K-12, federal government and com-



Photo by Reese Bowling

(Top photo) President Kojo Quartey, right, and Gerald McCarty, dean of student services, pose with one of the alert buttons from Visiplex. (Right photo) The college spent more than \$88,000 to purchase 335 buttons for all classrooms and offices on campus.

panies like Google and Amazon.

“The other company had no experience with higher educational institutions,” McCarty said.

A list of Visiplex customers can be found on the company’s website which includes several college campuses and universities like California State University, Columbia

College, the University of Texas, UCLA and community colleges.

When asked why alert buttons were important to have on campus, Quartey said, “This is an additional effort to ensure a safe and secure campus. Safety is priority one. They make our campus safer.”



# MCCC provides community access to an overdose prevention tool

**Elizabeth Bradley**

For the Agora

All around campus there are now Naloxone/Narcan dispensers which are free to use.

Narcan is a nasal shot of medicine that can aid with an opioid overdose and clear opioids from a user's system.

MCCC and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services have partnered to provide the school with the dispensers.

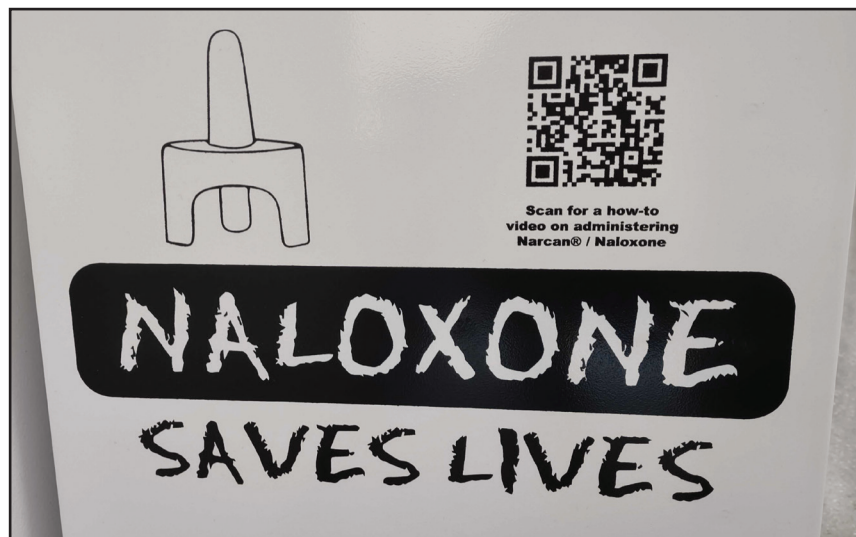
Professor of Psychology Melissa Grey, Associate Professor of English Jenna Bazzell, Chairman of Recovery Advocacy Warriors Quri Wygonik, Dean of Student Services Gerald McCarty, and Kayla Spalding have been primarily involved in this endeavor.

On the side of each white newspaper dispenser style unit, there is a QR code that links to resources showing how to properly administer Narcan. The Narcan units are free to be used by any member of the public as well.

Grey said there are not any specific previous instances of the need for overdose prevention that triggered this move.

The organization, Recovery Advocacy Warriors, otherwise known as RAW, is a non-profit that has played a key role in getting these dispensers. Narcan use from dispensers is monitored by Wygonik.

Grey said risks associated with Narcan are minimal. "The only possible risk of Narcan is not using it when it's needed," Grey said.



Photos by Dalton Brown

(Left) The message and QR code on the side of Naloxone/Narcan dispensers. (Above) Naloxone/Narcan dispensers can be found across campus.

## Lawsuit hampers Title IX

**Maggie Sandefur**

Agora Editor

A lawsuit is preventing MCCC from implementing new Title IX regulations.

Effective Aug. 1, new Title IX regulations were introduced and policies have shifted at various institutions.

Title IX protects students and employees from sex-based discrimination, harassment or sexual violence. The new regulations protect against discrimination based on pregnancy/related conditions, sex stereotypes, sexual

orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics, according to a press release from the U.S. Department of Education.

However, Scott Behrens, vice president of enrollment management and student success, said MCCC will not be able to implement these due to a lawsuit. This lawsuit is nationwide and affects hundreds of schools, including MCCC. There are over 100 schools impacted just in Michigan, according to the Detroit Free Press.

The lawsuit comes from Moms for Liberty, alongside Young America's Foundation and

Female Athletes United. District Court judge John Broomes in Kansas issued an injunction that blocks these regulations from being enforced in schools attended by children of members of these groups.

Moms for Liberty is a nationwide group. They are dedicated to defending parental rights at all levels of government, according to their website.

Young America's Foundation is an organization dedicated to young conservatives, and Female Athletes United is dedicated to preserving the integrity of women's sports,

according to their respective websites.

Behrens said despite the lawsuit, MCCC will continue to educate students on Title IX and implement training, regardless of the lawsuit.

"We will continue to watch the outcome of these proceedings closely while working to ensure the intended protections of Title IX for all students," Behrens said in an email. "MCCC will introduce new Title IX training for the college regardless of the lawsuit to ensure a positive environment for all to study, learn, and work."

# MCCC to host a variety of events on campus

**Dalton Brown**  
For the Agora

For almost two decades, MCCC would host multiple events throughout the season. These events can vary from theater performances to tribute bands.

As William Wilt, theater and cultural events manager for MCCC, said in an email, “We offer these events for the community - low cost, fun shows that are close to home.”

With such an expansive list, here are some highlights of what events are to be expected at MCCC this season.

**Bullysaurus Rex:** This event is a stage play. “It’s a touring theater performance to teach children about anti-bullying. The actors are from all over the United States,” Wilt said. The show will come to MCCC on Thursday, Oct. 24, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person. It is located inside of the La-Z-Boy Center at the Meyer Theater.

**Learning Carnival:** This event is for the students of MCCC, though faculty and staff are welcome to participate. It is hosted by MCCC’s Student Success Center. “The carnival is an opportunity for students to meet the staff of the Success Center and learn about our services,” Amanda Althouse, coordinator of student success, said in an email. Althouse said while it is a Halloween-themed event, guests should not expect anything particularly frightening, and dressing up in costume is discouraged. “Each service has a table with games and prizes, as well as information on services,” Althouse said.



“The carnival is an all around fun experience with the opportunity to meet our staff and learn about our services in a more laid back atmosphere,” Althouse said. “This is the perfect time to stop by and learn what supportive services we have to offer! Our team did a wonderful job last year and we are really looking forward to seeing everyone again this year.”

The Learning Carnival will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 30, in the open area of the Student Success Center, located inside Founders Hall. This is a free event.

**Comedian David Koechner:** David Koechner is making an appearance at 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 8, at the Meyer Theater. Tickets are priced at \$40 per person. Wilt said his team schedules people based on who is touring. “My team does the research of who is out touring or scheduling to go out on a tour,” Wilt said. “We often look at multiple options



and determine which we think will work best for our community.”

**Inside Out Dance Ensemble:** This event takes place at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 12, and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 13, at the Meyer Theater. The performance covers various dance forms with most of the performers being MCCC students or faculty. Admission is \$12 per person.

**Tribute Bands:** There are multiple tribute bands coming to MCCC, including “Thunderbeard,” a ZZ Top tribute band, “Motortown All-Stars,” a Motown tribute band, and “Imposters in Effect,” a Beastie Boys tribute band. “Imposters in Effect” will be performing at 8 p.m. on March 1 at the Meyer Theater. Admission for “Imposters in Effect” is \$27 per person. Wilt said they strive for cost-friendly shows. “The goal of Campus Community Events is to offer great and affordable shows for the community,” Wilt said. “It would be cost prohibitive to bring the real Queen, Greta Van Fleet, or Sabrina Carpenter to campus.”

**American Red Cross Blood Drive:** This event is happening on Tuesday, Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the dining hall of the Warwick Student Center. To schedule an appointment, you can visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter code: MONROECC. You can also give them a call at 1-800-RED-CROSS.

The American Red Cross is giving out a \$10 Amazon gift card via email to donors who donate in the month of October. Donors

18 or older will also automatically be entered for a chance to win one of three \$5,000 Pre-paid Visa Cards. There is no purchase or donation necessary.

According to the fine print on the Red Cross website, the contest runs through the entirety of October. To enter without donating blood, email [customer@redcross.org](mailto:customer@redcross.org) and include the giveaway name, “American Red Cross 2024 October \$5K Prepaid Card Prize.” Each person can enter the drawing a maximum of five times, either through email or through a blood donation.

You can find more information on the giveaway guidelines over at [rcblood.org/treat](http://rcblood.org/treat)

**Antiques in April:** An annual event at MCCC is returning once more. This is a two-day event that runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 26, and at 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 27, in the H Building. Expect to see a wide array of antiques, ranging from the 18th to the 20th centuries. Admission is \$5 per person.

**Other Events:** Wilt said they plan to utilize campus spaces. “While we are currently working on preparing for our upcoming events, we are also researching the shows for the next season,” Wilt said. “We are planning to host a volleyball tournament on campus after the new year and may bring some other sports tournaments in the future.”

More information on events can be found on MCCC’s website.



Photo by Reese Bowling

The La-Z-Boy Center, located on MCCC’s main campus.

# Whitman Center site for new EMT program



Photo by Dana Willi

Equipment for MCCC's new EMT program, which begins Monday, Sept. 16, is stacked on tables at the Whitman Center. MCCC received state approval Sept. 3 from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

## Conversation between faculty becomes new addition on campus

**Dana Willi**  
Agora Staff

MCCC's effort toward public safety debuts with the new EMT Program at the Whitman Center.

The EMT program at the Whitman Center began with a simple conversation, said Helen Stripling, interim dean of health sciences and director of respiratory therapy. Stripling is one of many actively working to expand MCCC's public safety programs. These efforts

also align with ongoing efforts to re-establish MCCC's Whitman Center. The center opened in 1991 and has seen inconsistencies in activity since then.

Vice President of Instruction Grace Yackee, Stripling, and Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Dan Wood are a few of the faculty members looking to change that.

"So, that began kind of as a conversation between our faculty here, the CRJ faculty, Dan Wood, who has the certifications to teach

EMS, and a long-term vision with the college and the VP of instruction, of increasing our programming, including our public safety programming," Stripling said when asked how the program started. "We've also been trying to revitalize Whitman Center and think about what kinds of programming would lend itself well to being held down there. And so this was an opportunity, when we were expanding this to consider, well, what could we run at both locations?"

"So you know, the eventual goal, what we would like to see as we progress, is to eventually start offering a slightly higher level of first responder training," she said. "But considering, you know, could we do something like fire and rescue or a police academy, since we already have a criminal justice program,

See **Wood** on page 7

# Faculty works together to implement brand new program

**WOOD:** From page 6

you know, it would marry well with those.”

The program officially begins Monday, Sept. 16.

Rebecca Fournier, Whitman Center coordinator, said Bedford residents are the majority of students in this first class, some graduates and some dual-enrolled. However, the program is open to anyone in the public who is interested, regardless of age. All eligible are encouraged to apply in the future.

“I don’t believe that there is an age limit, per se, because, as mentioned, there are Bedford high school students who are attending this program, but it’s pretty much for anybody in the community who’s interested,” Fournier said.

“I’ve had some responses, walk-ins, phone calls of people wanting to know what the EMT program is about, because that is brand new for the college, and we would be hosting that program down here. It’s very exciting,” Fournier said. “I know Dan Wood has a lot in mind with that program, as well as Helen Stripling, who is the interim dean for the Health Sciences Division.”

Stripling said it is a blended class, with EMS-151 taking place in the first half of the semester and EMS-152 in the second.

Incoming students could prepare with anatomy and physiology classes, she said.

“Medical Terminology is another huge one, because the field EMS will be handing off their patients to hospital providers who are speaking, you know, very clinically with a lot of medical terminology,” Stripling said.

Wood will be the instructor for the EMT program.

“We’ve been planning on trying to expand to public safety for, probably since I’ve been here. And that’s probably the reason why they hired me, because I can do public safety as police, fire and paramedic for 25 years before I came here,” Wood said.

Wood said he began teaching EMS in 1997.

“I started teaching EMS in 97 I started teaching the fire side, 2003-ish, so, I mean, I just always taught, and for me, it was just, you know, get/find my replacement, you know, make sure there are replacements for me,” Wood said.

Wood said the three jobs— police, fire and paramedic— are all different.

“All three of them have different characteristics, and that that’s why it’s a little weird to have somebody cross trained at all three, be-

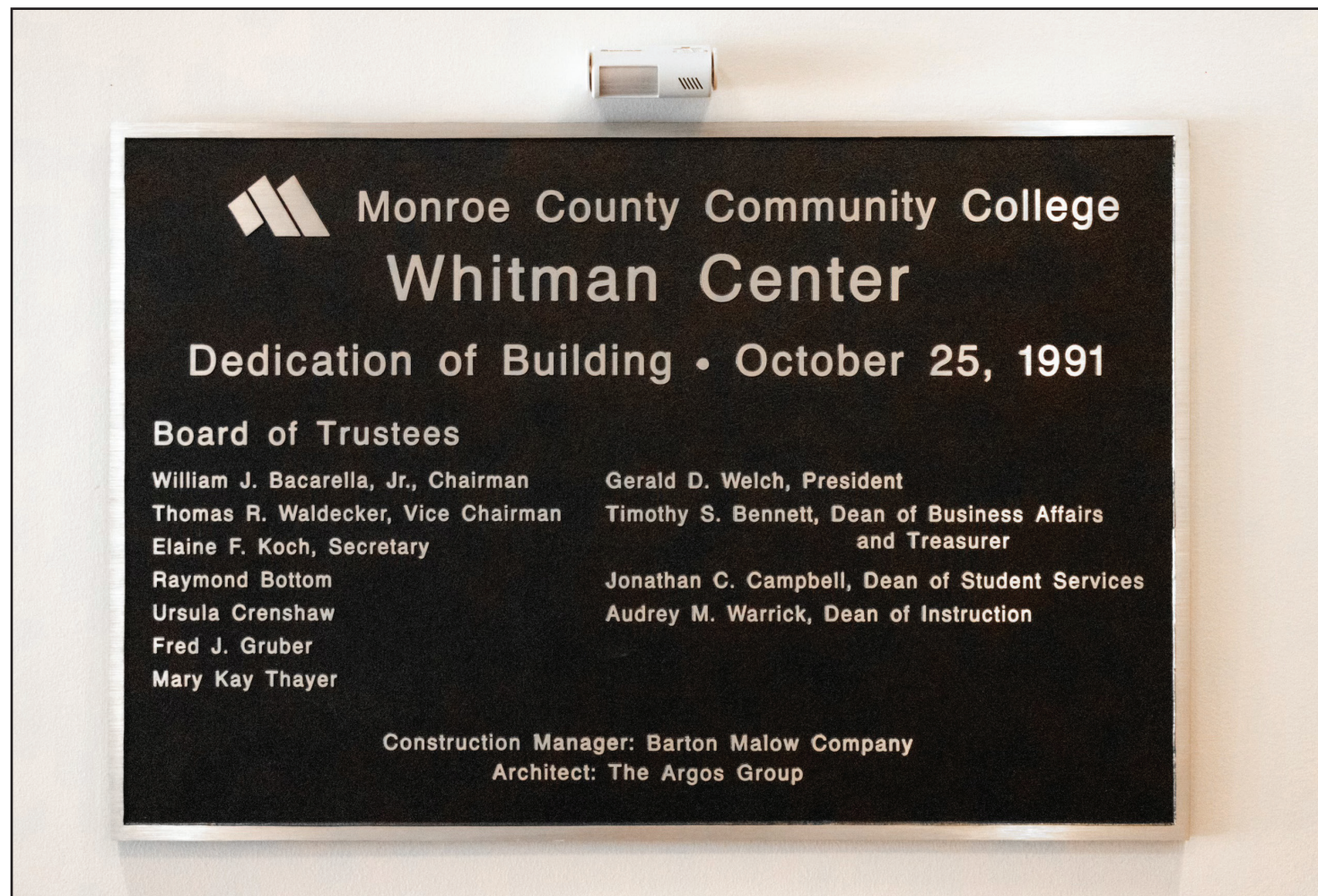


Photo by Dana Willi

(Above) The Whitman Center was dedicated in 1991. (Below) Dan Wood, associate professor of criminal justice, played a major role in MCCC’s new EMT program.

cause in theory, you’re supposed to be compassionate for all three but your compassion wanes a little bit on the law enforcement side and picks up more on the EMS side,” Wood said.

Wood said compassion and critical thinking are important to succeed in such a field.

“So, I mean, obviously compassion all the way across the board. So you still want that, not just compassion, that compassion, but you still want the intellect behind it to make better decisions. And that’s the other thing. You got to be a critical thinker all the way across the board. I think the two most important ones are compassion and aptitude.”

“This room is filled with equipment. That’s because there’s a lot to learn just as a basic EMT. Then you take this and add it up. The next level to paramedic, and paramedic is you’re basically a field nurse, right? So you’re for the EMS side,” he said. “I think, you

know, the aptitude is much more, very misunderstood and very underplayed. So I think I would really push the aptitude.”

Wood said that every skill taught adds to the value of the program. “Once you get to this point, every skill is just as important.”

“I mean, when you look at the national exam that they have to take, the students graduate with this with a certificate that allows them to take an exam that licenses them nationwide or certifies them nationwide, and then they can get licensed in any state to practice,” he said.

Volunteers and adjuncts are anticipated for specific skills, Stripling said.

“So for instance, I’m a respiratory therapist, so I’m a specialist in airways. So the plan would be to have you know on the day that they’re teaching airways, I might come in.”

See **program** on page 12



# Texas native makes migration to Monroe

## How a need for equality fueled Beverly Tomek's journey to MCCC

**Mick Valentino**  
Assistant Editor

She sat in her office, a transgender pride flag hung on her office door.

She smiled, and friendliness radiated off of her.

Beverly Tomek, dean of Humanities and Social Sciences Division, laughed as she talked about her life before Michigan in her home state, Texas. Pecos, Texas to be specific. Home of the first rodeo, she threw in nonchalantly.

"I never was one of these 'boo-rah' Texans, I just never felt like it was the greatest place," Tomek said. "I didn't feel like it was awful until I would say, like, the last decade." She attributed this to Obama's election and the reaction that came from it.

She said moving specifically to Michigan was never on her mind. She only visited Michigan out of the need to drop her daugh-

ter off at college after she was accepted into Interlochen Center for the Arts, but that visit sparked an interest.

"The first time I really came to Michigan was when I brought her there, and I was like, 'this place is amazing.' She fell in love, and every trip up to get her and take her back I fell more in love," she said.

She said as much as she had come to love Michigan, coming to work at MCCC was a complete coincidence. While still in Texas, she saw the job posting and was intrigued reading about the school, despite not knowing where the job was.

"I just started reading about the school and I got so excited mostly because of all the fine art opportunities, because it has music, it has band, it has art, it has choir, it has everything that I think is wonderful in life," she said.

After learning it was in Michigan, she applied. Once she got the job, she moved up

with her daughters in July 2023.

Once coming to MCCC, she was hired alongside Alia Pilcher, Humanities/Social Sciences division coordinator.

"I enjoy working with her and I think she's a great boss," Pilcher said.

She said Tomek started around the same day as her, learning the ins and outs of the school together.

"If I had to do it with anyone, she's the one," she said.

However, a new job wasn't the only reason she moved to Michigan with her daughters.

Her two daughters, along with her son, all fall on the LGBTQ+ spectrum. While still living in Texas, both daughters came out to Tomek as transgender. Tomek said one daughter came out to her around May 2023.

"My immediate reaction was, 'okay, fine, but I need to get you whatever you need.'" she said.

She said this was right around the time anti-transgender laws in Texas were taking effect. Scared by the potential for violence, Tomek decided that was her final straw and moved out of her home state.

Tomek said her political beliefs are nothing new to her, and she said she's been left-leaning her whole life.

She said her mother raised her and her siblings to be very alert about race issues, and to not only not be racist, but to be anti-racist.

"My mom taught in a high school that was, I guess you would call it, 'majority minority,' and she didn't want to be like some of the people in town where we were," she said.

Her concern with gender and gay rights formed in high school when a fellow student took his own life after hearing his parents use a slur for gay men.

"That was a huge awakening because I never thought about it before that. But I remember thinking, 'I will never be a parent who will have any risk of causing something like that,'" she said.

Her beliefs and her positive, kindhearted demeanor are apparent in her work at MCCC, according to her coworkers.

Jenna Bazzell, associate professor of English, spoke highly of Tomek. Bazzell said her first impression of Tomek is similar to what it is now.

"She is one of the most caring individuals I have literally ever met," she said. "It has not changed, it has only gotten stronger."

Bazzell said Tomek is here by choice, not by requirement.

"She's choosing to be here and choosing to stay here because she knows she can make a change and hopefully bring others together to be able to do that," she said. "That's significant."

Tomek said she's here for the students and she wants them to know that.

"That's why I'm here, is for our students," she said. "And I want to make sure everybody gets a fair shake."

Tomek said she hopes for the fair treatment of everyone on campus.

"All I want for my MCCC students is what I want for my own children and all humans: to be valued, loved and respected."

Tomek said she wants to "un-cruel" the world and will fight to make it happen.

"I ain't giving up," she said.



Photo by Mick Valentino

Beverly Tomek, dean of the Humanities/Social Sciences Division, sits at her desk and engages in work. Tomek moved to Monroe in July 2023.



# Husky Shuttle pilot program provides door-to-door service

## MCCC partners with Lake Erie Transit to assist students with new bus service

**Jamie Hunt**  
Agora Staff

Lake Erie Transit partnered with MCCC to bring free bus services to eligible students. During the 2024 fall semester students who struggled to get to campus due to lacking a secure form of transportation were given an opportunity to receive free bus service.

Though the official page on MCCC's website for the Husky Shuttle states the service is for income-eligible students. Josh Myers, executive director of The Foundation, said there is no income test for it.

*“We have ample space to enroll more students in Husky Shuttle.”*

**Josh Myers**  
Executive Director of The Foundation

“There is no specific income means test for the Husky Shuttle,” Myers said in an email.

Currently, the City of Monroe and Frenchtown Charter Township are the only areas in Monroe County included in this program. The Husky Shuttle would pick students up from home, bringing them to and from campus.

This program is still very new. The intentions behind the early stages are to establish if students need more options for transportation to and from campus.

In the future, there may be consideration for expanding this service to more areas in the county. For now, the focus is on success and reaching students who would benefit from this program.

Students applying for this program were given the choice between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. for pick up times, with 3 p.m. as when students would ride the bus home.

In comparison, Lake Erie Transit has a bus route that stops at MCCC from 7:14 a.m. to 5:54 p.m. Monday through Friday, while the Husky Shuttle only advertised Monday and Wednesday.

As of right now, some students have the chance to be given monthly bus passes based on their needs and situation, allowing them to use the fixed routes without having to pay.



Photo by Jamie Hunt

**A bus from Lake Erie Transit stops at MCCC to pick students up from the bus stop in front of the L Building. This bus stop is the only one on campus, so both students part of the Husky Shuttle and those riding the fixed routes will be picked up and dropped off here.**

Myers stated in an email that Husky Shuttle has a possibility of expanding past just Mondays and Wednesdays, but it would take a significant amount of funding to do so. Once the program shows its success and how beneficial it can be to students, there will be room for such changes.

Right now, students are able to cancel their rides by contacting central dispatch at Lake Erie Transit. They were warned that missing two rides without notice would result in being dropped from the program completely.

The Husky Shuttle will be continuing into next semester for students who are currently enrolled in the program with the hope that future years will carry on this service. Whether or not this service will be able to continue into the following years depends on students.

“Our hope is that we can evidence significant need through ridership that will allow The Foundation and MCCC to seed additional funding to support an expanded service,” Myers said.

For the fall semester, 15 students had ap-

plied for this program, but several of those students didn't attend MCCC.

Myers said applications for the remainder of this semester will be opening up within the next two weeks in light of how much space is available.

“We will be opening up in the next two weeks an opportunity for new students to enroll for the remainder of fall semester, and we will begin enrollment for winter in October,” Myers said. “We have ample space to enroll more students in Husky Shuttle.”

# How to make apple cider cookies

**Sierra Seidelman**

For the Agora

It is that time of year again for fall festivities that bring people together. Whether you enjoy apple picking or the tradition of drinking pumpkin spice lattes, there is something for everyone.

One such festivity to many is baking; however, those who are new to baking may not know where to start. One recipe that is fun to those both new and experienced with baking are apple cider cookies.

Apple cider cookies are a tasty and spicy switch from most fall themed cookies that are composed of a maple, caramel, and pumpkin flavor palate.

The making of apple cider cookies is a three-bowl recipe to contain the cookie components at three different stages before being combined into the main bowl. The main bowl should be a large bowl, with two medium sized bowls for the other ingredients. The ingredients are:

- 1 ½ sticks of salted butter (softened)
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- ½ cup white granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 2 cups flour
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tsp. (teaspoon) baking soda
- 2 tbsp. (tablespoon) apple pie spice (or less depending on spice tolerance)
- 1 apple
- ¼ cup apple cider

In a large bowl, cream the brown sugar and white granulated sugar together. The mixture should pack together and crumble.

Add the egg into the mixture and combine. A whisk would not be sufficient for this mixture due to it sticking too much.

I recommend using a fork to combine the ingredients or a Danish whisk due to it being easy to scrape off dough with a silicone spatula. I would advise to scrape down the sides of the bowl to make sure all ingredients are incorporated.

Your butter should not be melted. If the butter is melted, the cookies will flatten out in the oven when baking. It does not alter the cookie's taste, but it will alter the edges and render the texture similar to burnt liquid sugar.

In a medium size bowl, combine flour, salt, baking soda, and apple pie spice. You do not need an exact measurement of salt. The recipe will be perfectly fine if a pinch is a bit more or less.

If you cannot find apple pie spice at your local produce store, there is an alternative way to create the spice.

Apple pie spice is a combination of nutmeg, all spice, ground ginger, ground cardamom, and cinnamon.

If I am missing any of these spices when making it from scratch, it does not alter the recipe's taste, but it does dull it down.

I use two tablespoons of apple pie spice for an additional cinnamon kick to the recipe that brings out the flavor profile. The spice can be reduced if you do not have a strong spice tol-

erance.

When choosing an apple for this recipe, it is all about what preference you might have for taste.

Fuji apples are considered a sweeter apple while Granny Smith apples are tart. I use Fuji apples when making this recipe.

I find it is best to core the inside of your apple and peel the skin of the apple off with a hand-held peeler.

It is all preference when it comes to what

size you would like your apple pieces to be. You can leave them as large pieces or dice them into smaller pieces; however, it is important to not cut them too small.

If the slices are too small, they will turn to mush within the cookie when baked. Once the apple pieces are cut to your liking, pour in your apple cider.

When combining the fruit mixture and dry ingredients, it does not matter if you gradually pour in the dry ingredients with the apple and cider, or pour it all into the large bowl.



Photo by Sierra Seidelman

Fresh Apple Cider Cookies



## Celebrating OBOC

Photo by Maggie Sandefur

A group of students slap hands as they decorate octopus cutouts Sept. 12 in the MCCC Library. The octopus creations are placed on the library's bulletin board to promote One Book, One Community's 2024 book selection, "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt.

A sign on the wall includes rules that state no political candidate is allowed on the octopus decorations.

The bulletin board also promotes the Student Library Advisory Club and the book the club is discussing, "The Soul of an Octopus" by Sy Montgomery, a companion read for the OBOC program.

One Book, One Community invites Monroe County residents and MCCC students to read a specific book and discuss it through a series of free programs during the month of March.

# Fall into reading with these books

## Four must-read books for the fall season

**Sidney Robison**  
Agora Staff

As the cold weather approaches, I enjoy reading outside, wearing a warm sweater and drinking hot tea. There are plenty of books out there that can give out “fall vibes,” but I have picked four books that I thoroughly enjoyed.

### Unwanted

by Mia Sheridan

When wilderness guide Harper Ward is called to the small-town sheriff's office in Montana to provide assistance on a case, she is shocked to find that their only suspect in the double murder investigation is a man described as a “savage.” The longer Harper watches the man known as Lucas on a surveillance camera, the more intrigued she becomes. Who is he? And how is it possible that he's lived alone in the woods since he was a small child?

As secrets begin to emerge, Harper is thrown into something bigger than she ever could have imagined. Right at the center of it all is Lucas. But is he truly the wild man he appears to be?

I liked that the plot of this book is more mystery/suspense than romance, but there's such a beautiful, slow-burn love story intertwined throughout that's full of heart and soul. While reading this book, it felt like I was in a different version of ‘The Hunger Games.’ The flashback chapters were really interesting to me and it made more sense as I was reading the present story. Overall, this book was good but definitely not on the top of my list for the mystery/thriller genre.

### The Seven Year Slip

by Ashley Poston

Clementine forms a plan to keep her heart safe: work hard, find someone decent to love, and try to have at least one big dream to keep going. And for the last year, that plan has gone off without a problem so far. The love part is hard because she doesn't want to get too close to anyone, but then she finds a strange man standing in the kitchen of her late aunt's apartment—the kind of man she would've fallen head-over-heels for—except he exists in the past. So, Clementine quite literally lives seven years in his future.

This book is the perfect fall romance book to read. While reading, I enjoyed Clementine's growth as a person. Her struggles with her identity and purpose felt relatable to me, and I think it would deeply resonate with many people. I really liked Clementine's relationship with her aunt. This is one of the reads where I truly felt more connected to a relationship outside of the romance aspect. Overall, the pacing of the book was good and I really enjoyed the setting and location of where the story took place.

### The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue

by V.E. Schwab

This story takes place in France, 1714. Addie LaRue makes a bargain to live forever and is cursed to be forgotten by everyone she meets. Across history and time, Addie LaRue learns how far she will go to leave her mark on the world. But everything changes when, after nearly 300 years, Addie stumbles across a man named Henry in a bookstore and he remembers her name. The two of them become a couple, until Addie realizes Henry only has 35 days left to live, per the conditions of his deal that he made.

This book is definitely one of my favorites of this year. The book is more driven by characters and emotions rather than plot, but I enjoyed it. I like how the author alternated between the timelines, past and present, and how she told Addie's story. Toward the end, I was crying just a little bit, despite predicting some parts of it. I liked how Addie's thumbprints of inspiration over the years came together and I adored Henry's “final gift” to Addie. Both Addie and Henry had great chemistry and I enjoyed reading all the adventures and different things they got to do together.

### Wildfire

by Hannah Grace

This is book two of the “Maple Hills” series. Students Russ Callaghan and Aurora Roberts cross paths at a party celebrating the end of the school year, where a drinking game results in them having a one-night stand, but Aurora slips away before Russ has the chance to ask for her name. Imagine their surprise

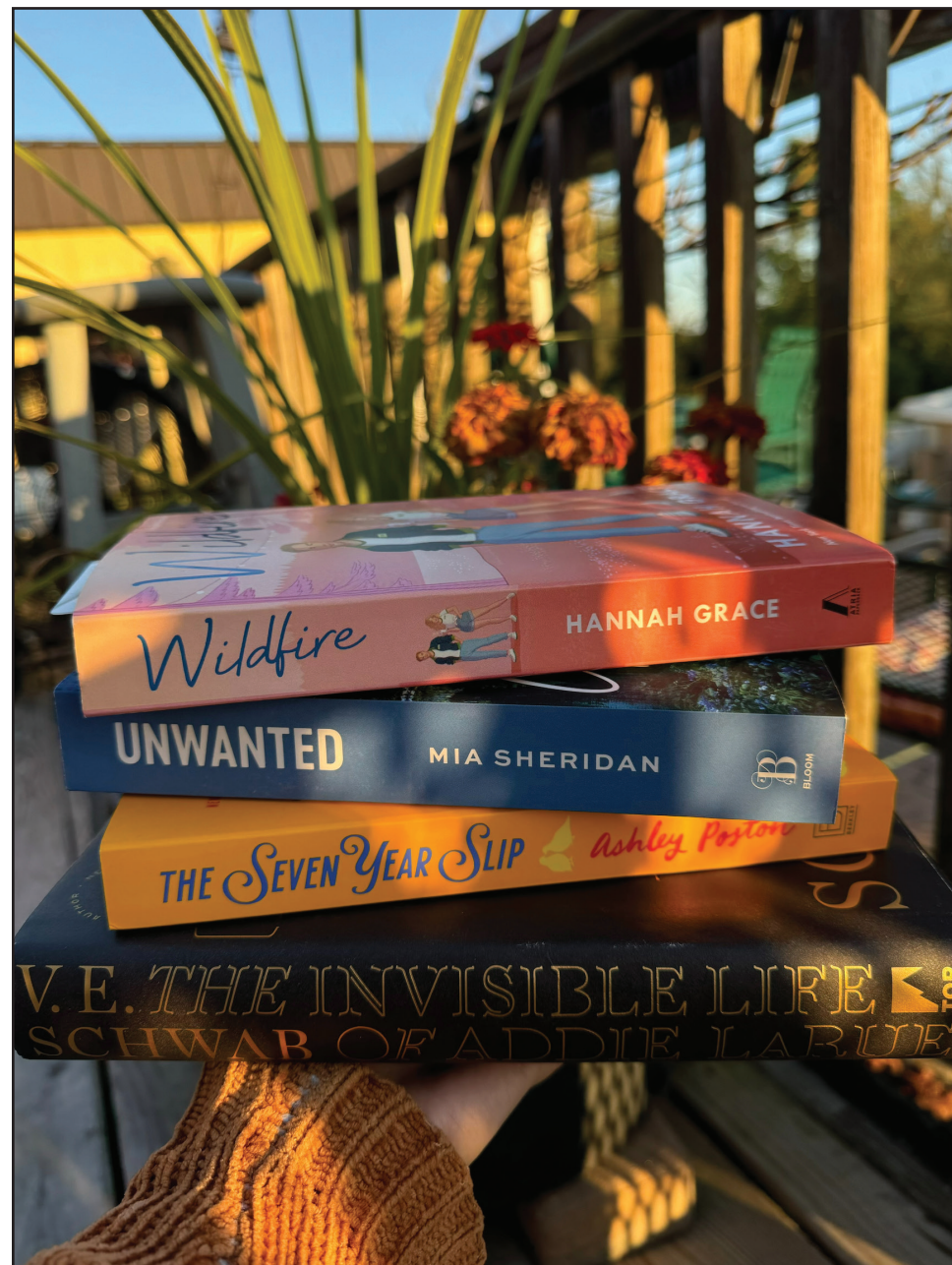


Photo by Sidney Robison

when they bump into each other on the first day of the summer camp where they are both counselors. Russ hopes if he gets far enough away from home, he can avoid dealing with the repercussions of his father's gambling addiction, while Aurora is tired of craving attention from everyone around her. Russ knows breaking the camp's “no staff fraternizing” rule will have him heading back home before the summer is over, but unfortunately for him, Aurora has never been very good at caring about the rules.

I enjoyed reading this book, but it wasn't

my favorite. I liked the “found family” aspect of all the original hockey players from Grace's other book ‘Icebreaker’ and the new friendships between the counselors at the summer camp. I also appreciate that this book has a lot of depth. Aurora and Russ have family issues they had to work on individually and together in this book.

Also, I enjoyed the personal growth of all the characters as they navigated their way through everything going on in their lives. This book has made me excited for future books in this series.

# Community support helps new EMT program

## PROGRAM: from page 7

Wood broke the program down into four sections.

“There’s very little variance between the different sections that I have to teach because there’s four components or classes to this, which almost identically, breaks down into the components of the National Registry verbatim,” Wood said.

Wood said the first section is the foundation for being an emergency provider of any type.

“You know, there’s the first section that we do. The class that starts on Monday is called operations, which is the foundation for being any type of emergency provider. We talk about your safety, communicable diseases, making sure you don’t catch anything wearing gloves, things like that. And then we give you, you have to get your CPR card during that point.”

Wood said the second semester focuses mainly on airway assessment.

“The whole second semester, the whole EMS-152 course is all airway assessment,

because that’s something you do complete. I mean, that’s the core of being an EMS provider, we have to assess and treat people that potentially could die very quickly, and you have to do it quickly, and you have to assure that you can keep them alive,” he said. “And airways is probably the biggest thing. So that’s the entire second semester course is airway and assessment.”

Wood said the third section is centered around medical emergencies.

“So we go basically organ system by organ system, and talk about what can go wrong in an emergency that they will call 911 for.”

“And then we close it all out with what most people call the blood and guts, it’s trauma. So handling triaging patients, cutting them out of cars or wherever, and handling anything from a splinter all the way up to an amputated limb. And that’s kind of how we culminate next after spring break next year.”

Wood said the community supports the endeavor, and students are doing clinicals with local fire departments

“We’ve got pretty good community support,” Wood said.



Photo by Dana Willi

Supplies for the EMT program at the Whitman Center are spread out in preparation for the start of the program Sept. 16.

## Whitman Center hires coordinator

### MCCC alumna steps into full-time position

**Maggie Sandefur**  
Agora Editor

The Whitman Center has hired a full-time coordinator of activities for the first time in over a decade.

Rebecca Fournier, Whitman Center coordinator, is a Temperance resident and MCCC alumna, according to a news release. Grace Yackee, vice president of instruction, said in Fournier’s new position, she will assist students with credit and non-credit registration, schedule counselor appointments, provide assistance to students and faculty, answer questions regarding enrollment, and process tuition payments.

Fournier earned two degrees from MCCC, an Associate of Science degree and an Associate of Applied Science in administrative professional.

Fournier has a history of customer service



Rebecca Fournier, the new Whitman Center coordinator, stands outside of the facility.

and elementary education. She most recently served as the administrative assistant to the director of lifelong learning at MCC.

Yackee said Fournier is committed to the success of the Whitman Center.

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