

Mitt Romney Economic Club speaker Oct. 18

Memberships, single tickets available for series

By **JOHN MATUSZAK**

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BENTON TOWNSHIP — The Economic Club of Southwestern Michigan will host business leader, former presidential candidate and past Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney Oct. 18 at its first meeting of the 2016-2017 Speakers Series.

Romney will speak at The Mendel Center, Lake Michigan College, 2755 E. Napier Avenue. Upton Hall doors will open at 5:30 p.m.; Mainstage Theater doors will open at 6 p.m.;

the speech begins at 7:20 p.m.

According to Economic Club President Mike Cook, Romney's visit to Southwest Michigan just weeks before the presidential election couldn't be better timing for The Club. In his speech, Romney will candidly offer his take on "The Future of America/The Politics of Today," and the impact Clinton's and Trump's bid for the White House are having on them.

Romney was the Republican presidential nominee in 2012. As governor of Massachusetts from 2002-2007, he led a dramatic reversal of the state's fortunes and sustained a period of economic expansion. He also was a catalyst for changing Massachusetts' health care pro-

grams, implementing a private, market-based reform that ensured every citizen had health insurance. His education reforms helped ensure that his state's young people could compete in the global economy.

Prior to serving as governor, Romney was president and CEO of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah. He eradicated a \$379 million operating deficit and organized 23,000 volunteers just months after the devastating Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

As a businessman, Romney founded Bain Capital, one of the nation's most successful venture capital and investment companies.

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Today, he serves as director of Marriott International and as an advisor for a private equity firm.

The Economic Club has memberships available, along with a limited number of single speaker tickets for non-members.

In addition to Romney, The club's series includes Dana Perino, co-host of Fox's "The Five" and for-

mer White House press secretary; Capt. Scott Kelly, a history-making NASA astronaut and retired U.S. Navy captain; Michio Kaku, world-renowned physicist, futurist and best-selling author; and Anderson Cooper, broadcast journalist and Anchor of CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360°."

Having a Club membership guarantees a seat at all five meetings for the price of three single speaker tickets. Single tickets for all five

speakers are on sale now on a first come, first honored basis. For the Romney meeting, Upton Hall Dinner ticket sales close at noon Wednesday. Upton Hall speaker-only and Mainstage ticket sales close just prior to the meeting, Oct. 18.

Information about each of the speakers, memberships and single ticket prices are available at TheEconClub.com/BoxOffice or by calling The Mendel Center Box Office at 927-1221.