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**MARCH 19, 2020** 

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**PUBLISHED WEEKLY ON THURSDAY** 

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# **Recommendations for COVID-19 Community Mitigation Strategies**

Community mitigation strategies are crucial to slowing the transmission of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Michigan, particularly before a vaccine or treatment becomes available. These strategies provide essential protections to individuals at risk of severe illness and to health care and other critical infrastructure workforces. Preventing a sudden, sharp increase in the number of people infected with COVID-19 will help minimize disruptions to daily life and limit the demand on health care providers and facilities.

These recommended strategies apply at the individual, organizational, and community levels. They apply to businesses, workplaces, schools, community organizations, health care institutions, and individuals of



Community mitigation strategies are crucial to slowing the transmission of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Michigan, particularly before a vaccine or treatment becomes available. Photo courtesy of FDA.

all ages, backgrounds, and health profiles. Everyone has some measure of responsibility to help limit the spread of

this disease. Even individuals who are healthy can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 to others.

Michiganders have been preparing for COVID-19 for weeks, and all individuals should continue to take the

following basic personal-hygiene measures to prevent the spread of the virus:

wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer;

- avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands:

- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when

coughing or sneezing;

- avoid handshakes; - avoid contact with sick

people who are sick; and - stay home when you are

Michigan must take further action, however. To help avoid a rapid increase of cases in the state, MDHHS recommends implementing now the following community mitigation strategies. Please note, guidance for

See **COVID-19 MITIGATION** — Page 3A

Health Dept.

reports first

County

travel.

COVID-19 case

from Charlevoix

The Health Department

of Northwest Michigan is re-

porting the first presumptive

disease 2019 (COVID-19) from a resident of Charlevoix

positive case of coronavirus

County who was likely ex-

posed through international

The Health Department has been working with the individual, an adult female,

to identify and contact anyone potentially exposed but

have determined that this in-

Charlevoix County following her return from travel. Addi-

tional information and guid-

book.com/nwhealthdepart-

ment/. The individual is in a

Mcl aren Northern

Michigan opens

COVID-19 Hotline

Beginning Saturday, March 14 a COVID-19 Hotline

will be setup to help address

See **CHARLEVOIX CASE** — Page 3A

downstate hospital and in

ance will be announced as

soon as possible at nwhealth.org or at face-

dividual did not return to

# Spring has arrived



The ice on the lakes is beginning to thaw. The vernal equinox has arrived. Spring has sprung! Photo by Jim Akans

**BY JIM AKANS** 

"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!""

- Robin Williams

It's finally happened; the spring season officially arrived on Wednesday, March 19 at 11:50pm. This welcome event is marked by the occasion of the vernal equinox (Latin for "spring" and "equal night"), which marks the time when the sun is di-

rectly over the equator making the length of daylight and darkness pretty much equal. As the calendar days move forward, the amount of daylight here in the north will be increasing (until the summer solstice in June), bringing much

needed warmth, melting snows, budding trees and flowers.

Here in northern lower Michigan, daily high temperatures typically run around the 50-degree range in April

See **SPRING** — Page 5A



questions and concerns regarding the new coronavirus. The phone line will be staffed every day from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. with extended hours expected in the near

McLaren Northern Michigan COVID-19 Hotline: 231.487.5550

This hotline will provide information on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, what to do when you are exhibiting those symptoms, and an opportunity to talk to a McLaren Care Team mem-

It is important to know to call 9-1-1 if you are experi-

See **HOTLINE** — Page 3A

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#### **THURSDAY**



LOW: 35

#### **FRIDAY**



**HIGH: 30** LOW: 18

**SATURDAY** 

#### **SUNDAY**



**HIGH: 41** LOW: 29

#### snowfall

<u>2018-19 AMI" CITY</u>	<u> 2019-20                                      </u>
3/18/1961.8ATLANTA	3/16/2049.8ATLANTA
3/18/19 117 BOYNE FALLS	3/16/20 78 BOYNE FALLS
3/18/1988.2CHARLEVOIX	3/16/2061.8CHARLEVOIX
3/18/1981.4CHEBOYGAN	3/16/2061.2CHEBOYGAN
3/18/19 131.2 . EAST JORDAN	3/16/20 97.4 EAST JORDAN
3/18/19 151 GAYLORD	3/16/20 126.5 . GAYLORD
3/18/19118.4 .KALKASKA	3/16/20144.1 .KALKASKA
3/18/1968.5LEWISTON	3/16/2039.5LEWISTON
3/18/1966.4MIO	3/16/2051 MIO
3/18/1988.1ONAWAY	3/16/20 72.4 ONAWAY
3/18/19142.2 .PETOSKEY	3/16/2097.7PETOSKEY

DAYAVG LOWAVG. HIGHRECORD LOWRECORD HIGH
MAR 19 .21°43°12° (1989)59° (1976)
MAR 20 .21°43°7° (1986)60° (1976)
MAR 21 .21°43°11° (1989)58° (1949)
MAR 22 .22°44°11° (1989)63° (1987)
MAR 23 .22°44°5° (1960)67° (2000)
MAR 24 .22°45°0° (1965)70° (1987)
MAR 25 .23°45°6° (1965)70° (1987)
MAR 26 .23°46°5° (1951)68° (1998)
MAR 27 .24°46°8° (1965)71° (1989)
MAR 28 .24°46°0° (1965)71° (1989)

# Charlevoix COA Covid-19 precautions limiting exposure to aging adults

est risk for COVID-19, ALL Charlevoix County Senior Centers are CLOSED to the public beginning Monday, March 16, 2020. We will continue to serve seniors it will just look differently. Please find the attached information related to the mitigation strategy for the Charlevoix County Commission on

Aging related to COVID-19 effective Monday, March 16, 2020 in regards to programs and services offered by the Commission on Aging. This strategy is based on recommendations from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and are in place until further notice.

A few of the ways our services will be changing

- Congregate Meals

Congregate meals will be available for CURB SIDE PICK-UP ONLY beginning Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Seniors wishing to get meals should call the Senior Center they go to one business day in advance to reserve meals. Seniors may order up to (6) frozen meals for pick

up at that time as well to limit their social contact.

AMT" CITY

2018-19

Meals can be picked up at the Charlevoix Center, Monday-Friday from 11:30am-12:30pm. Meals can be picked up at the East Jordan Center, Monday-Friday from 11:30am-12:30pm. Meals can be picked up at the Boyne Area Center, Monday-Friday from 11:30am-12:30pm. Sug-

gested meal donations remain \$3.00 per meal.

- Home Delivered Meals Staff will contact current home delivered meal recipients to share the plan for a once weekly delivery of one Hot Meal and (6) frozen meals on Mondays. Suggested meal donations remain \$3.00 per meal. Meals will only be delivered by

Charlevoix County Staff for the next 30 days.

Please go to our Website at Charlevoixcounty.org/Commission\_on\_Aging for the full Mitigation Strategy, Meal Ordering Instructions and any other updates.

# **Charlevoix Transit info**

As you can imagine, with all of the closures, Transit is having to make some changes to service hours as well. Effective immediately, the Friday/Saturday Late Night Buses have been suspended as well as daytime Saturday service.

Beginning Wednesday, March 18th Transit will provide Free rides for the following services:

Food/Meal Pick-up - includes grocery stores, food pantries, school food programs, restaurant curbside/to-go. As many of these locations have limited timeframes for pick-up, it's important that passengers pre-schedule rides if at all possible. Same day requests

will be provided based on a

first-come/first service basis. Medical Transportation -

Please confirm your appointments with your medical provider the day before your appointment. We suggest scheduling medical transportation atleast 3 days in advance whenever possible.

There is no eligibility criteria for the free rides being offered. If you need a ride, call us and we'll do our best to make it work for you! Please call 582-6900 to schedule trips.

Service Days/Hours subject to change based on directives from local/state/federal officials; please check our Facebook Page and the County's Website for updated information.

# Inside service at restaurants and bars suspended

Per the order of Governor Whitmer, restaurants and bars are required to close inside service. As of now they have the option for delivery/take out services.

In hopes of keeping our locally owned small busi-

nesses and restaurants afloat during a time of uncertainty, it was suggested to purchase gift cards to use at a later

date. Please reach out to local establishments through their web sites, social media platforms and or telephone.

# Mackinac Bridge Authority suspends Driver Assistance Program

In accordance with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' recommendations designed to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Mackinac Bridge Authority (MBA) will indefinitely suspend its driver assistance program effective today.

The state is taking proactive steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Michigan. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in reducing the risk coronavirus to Michigan residents.

For current and up-to-date information regarding the Coronavirus, visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus or CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

Drivers who have used the driver assistance program, which provides an MBA employee to drive vehicles across the bridge for customers who are uncomfortable doing so themselves, are encouraged to make other arrangements before arriv-

ing at the bridge. Announcement of the program's suspension was posted on the authority's website, www.MackinacBridge.org, and on its Twitter feed, @MackinacBridge, Thursday night.

About eight to 10 customers use the service per day on average, with a few more on days with windy or inclement weather.

'We apologize for the short notice and inconvenience this causes for some of our customers," said MBA

**Executive Secretary Kim** Nowack. "However, we feel this is a necessary step to help protect our employees and help slow the spread of this illness.'

The MBA will reevaluate the driver assistance program as the COVID-19 pandemic progresses. Information about current weather conditions, including web cam views of the bridge, are always available at www.MackinacBridge.org.

E-Mail News Releases and Announcements to Office@CharlevoixCountyNews.com

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#### LENNOX DALE GEE, 7

(JAN, 8, 2013 - MARCH 15, 2020)



Lennox Dale Gee of Petoskey passed away at his home, surrounded by his beloved family on March 15, 2020. Lennox was born January 8, 2013 in Petoskey.

Family was the most important thing to Lennox. He adored his baby brother Logan very much. Lennox gave the best hugs and had a contagious laugh, along with a personality that touched and drew in everyone he met. He truly made everyone around him a better person. A jokester by trade, having fun was something Lennox was known for. He even made up his own game, "ball tag," and enjoyed any outdoor activities. Lennox was a very bright boy, who spoke three languages, and was a first

grader at Ottawa elementary schools in Petoskev.

Surviving Lennox are his parents, Sean (Brooke) Gee of Petoskey, brother Logan Gee of Petoskey, grandparents, Robert (Lori) Gee of Lansing, and Mark (Kim) Bueby of Royne Falls Uncles Alex Ge and Jim Gee, Aunt Carly Gee, five cousins Sage, Ashlyn, and Grayson Gee, Hannah and Moriah Collick, Aunt Gina (Todd) Collick, Uncle Jim (Anna) Bueby, Uncle Nic (Kristen) Bueby, great-grandparents Dale Gee and Nancy (Jack) Bueby.

Funeral Services will take place Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at Center Point Assembly Church in Charlevoix, 05291 M-66 North in Charlevoix with Pastor Mike Way officiating, the family will receive friends at the Church from 11:30 a.m. until the time of service. Visitation will take place Friday, March 20, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. also at Center

Point Assembly Church. **Memorial Contributions** may be made to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan, 7600 Grand River Ave., Suite 175, Brighton, MI 48114, Hospice of Michigan, 989 Spaulding SE, Ada, MI 49301, or www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-lennox-gee-amp-fam-

Arrangements are in the

of Mortensen Funeral Homes. Sign his online guestbook www.mortensenfuner-

alhomes.com

care of the Charlevoix Chapel

**EDWARD SCHWARZ. 76** (JAN. 13, 1944 - MARCH 9, 2020)



Edward Schwarz, 76, loving husband and father, of East Jordan, died Monday, March 9, 2020, in Petoskey.

He was born on January 13, 1944, in Tilsit, Germany, the son of Fritz and Lucy (Reitzenstein) Schwarz. They moved to Toronto, Canada in 1956, and then in 1958, moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Edward graduated from Washington High School in 1962, in Milwaukee.

Edward served in the United States Army from

1966 to 1968, in Germany where he met Ellen Strasser. They were married on April 20, 1968, in Milwaukee.

He worked as a manager for J.C. Penney Catalog and retired in January of 2004. He and Ellen then moved in 2004, to the Jordan Valley just out. side East Jordan, Michigan.

He was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in East Jordan. Edward enjoyed fishing, motorcycling, snowmobiling and camping. He looked forward to their "Annual Camping in July" in the Jordan Valley with family and friends.

Edward is survived by his loving wife, Ellen Schwarz of East Jordan; one daughter, Renee Schwarz of Berlin, Germany; one brother, Carl (Eloise) Schwarz of Sun City Center, Florida; as well as several cousins in Wyoming, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Canada.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. The family was served by the Penzien Funeral Home in East Jor-

Memorials may be directed to the Evangelical Lutheran Church, 7855 Rogers Rd, East Jordan, Michigan 49727 or the East Jordan Ambulance Association, PO Box 223, East Jordan MI 49727.



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# News

# Charges issued in Bay Township Shooting Death

Monday the Charlevoix County Prosecuting Attorney's Office issued charges against an 82-year old Bay Township man for open murder, assault with intent to murder and two counts of using a firearm during the commission of felony.

According to police reports, on March 15, at his Bay Township residence, the man fatally shot a 51-year old woman five times and also shot a 77-year old woman twice. That woman suffered non-life threatening injuries.

The incident arose, according to reports, over the women taking away the man's car keys and refusing to let him drive his car. A witness reported that the man suffers from dementia.

"The case is charged at this time as open murder which means that if the case were to go to trial, the jury would be asked to decide whether it is murder of the first or second degree," Charlevoix County Prosecuting Attorney Allen Telgenhof said. "This charge can be modified later based

upon new information."

It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution for a criminal offense that the defendant was legally insane when he committed the acts constituting the offense. An individual is legally insane if, as a result of mental illness or as a result of having an intellectual disability, that person lacks substantial capacity either to appreciate the nature and quality of the wrongfulness of his conduct or to conform his conduct to the requirements of the law. Mental illness or having an intellectual disability does not otherwise constitute a defense of legal insanity.

A defendant has the burden of proving the defense of insanity by a preponderance of the evidence.

If a defendant proposes to raise an insanity defense, they must file a notice of their intention to assert an insanity defense with the court. If this is done, the court shall order the defendant to undergo an examination relating to the insanity

claim by the Center for Forensic Psychiatry in Saline

"We do not have enough information on this individual's mental health condition and history to draw any conclusions at this time," Telgenhof said. "Based upon the information and resources available to us, the charges that were filed are the best way to proceed at this time. He and the public are safe at this

Submitted by Charlevoix County Prosecuting Attorney, Allen Telgenhof

#### **UPDATE: BAY TOWNSHIP** MAN ARRAIGNED ON **MURDER CHARGE**

Tuesday morning in the 90th District Court, Paul Henry Crest, 82, of Bay Township was arraigned on charges of open murder, assault with intent to murder and two counts of using a firearm during the commission of a felony.

The charges relate to

shootings which occurred in Bay Township on Sunday, March 15.

The murder and assault with intent to murder charges both carry a possible maximum penalty of life in prison.

Crest, through his court appointed attorney Christopher Turkelson, stood mute and a not guilty plea was entered on his behalf to all four charges.

Turkelson indicated that he would be requesting psychological evaluations on Crest regarding his competency to stand trial and criminal responsibility.

Judge Angela Lasher scheduled a probable cause conference in the matter for Tuesday, April 7 at 9:30 a.m.

Lasher granted the request of Charlevoix County Prosecuting Attorney Allen Telgenhof that Crest be held without bond at this time, due to the severity of the charges against him.

## **MITIGATION**

FROM PG. 1A

health care providers is not addressed in this document, but is available at www.Michigan.gov/coronavirus.Individuals and families at home:

1. Learn about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Symptoms include fever, cough, and difficulty breath-

2. If you have respiratory symptoms, STAY HOME WHEN YOU ARE SICK. Call your health care provider's office in advance of your

3. Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, like doorknobs, keyboards, cell phones, and light switches.

4. Communicate and reinforce best practices for washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes.

5. Be prepared if there is COVID-19 in your household or a disruption of daily activities in your community. For example, maintain a supply of medications, food, and other essentials in vour house. Consider alternative shopping options such as curbside pickups or online deliveries.

6. Access services as much as possible online or by phone.

Individuals at risk of severe illness

These individuals include, but are not limited to. older adults and persons of any age with underlying medical conditions, such as persons with a blood disorder (e.g., sickle cell disease or a disorder being treated with blood thinners), an endocrine disorder (e.g., diabetes mellitus), or a metabolic disorder (such as inborn error of metabolism); those with heart disease, lung disease (including asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), chronic kidney disease, or chronic liver disease; those with a compromised immune system (e.g., those who are receiving treatments such as radiation or chemotherapy, who have received an organ or bone

taking high doses of immunosuppressant, or who have HIV or AIDS); those who are currently pregnant or were pregnant in the last two weeks: and those with neurological or neurologic and neurodevelopment con-

1. Individuals at risk of severe illness should stay at home and keep away from others who are sick, except in exceptional circumstances. Wash your hands often, particularly after contact with high-touch surfaces. Avoid crowds and closed-in settings with little air ventilation as much as possible. Avoid cruise travel and non-essential air travel.

2. Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, like doorknobs, keyboards, cell phones, and light switches.

3. In households with individuals at risk of severe illness, provide a protected space for those individuals and have healthy people conduct themselves as if they were a significant risk to those individuals. For example, healthy people should wash their hands before feeding or caring for an at-risk individual.

4. Have a plan for if you get sick, and stay in touch with others by phone or email.

5. Watch for symptoms and emergency warning signs that require immediate medical attention.

6. Family members and caregivers can support older adults by knowing what medications they are taking and ensuring there is an extra supply on hand.

7. Family members and caregivers can support older adults by monitoring food and other necessary medical supplies (e.g., oxygen, incontinence, dialysis, and wound care supplies) and by creating a back-up plan for securing those essentials if they run out.

The most up-to-date guidance on these and other mitigation strategies is available at

www.Michigan.gov/coro-

# Four Sentenced to Prison in 33rd Circuit Court

On March 13, 2020, Judge Roy C. Hayes III sentenced four defendants to the Michigan Department of Corrections on felony cases in the 33rd Circuit Court.

Oscar Guillen-Torres, 33,

Charlevoix, was sentenced to 38 to 60 months in prison on his conviction of attempting to make a threat of terrorism.



Guillen-Torres was also sentenced to serve 23 to 60 months on a conviction of carrying a concealed weapon and 148 days in jail on a charge of resisting and obstructing a police officer. Those sentences will run concurrent to the 38 to 60month sentence.

According to affidavits filed in the cases. Guillen-Torres was stopped by police on October 17, 2019 for running a stop sign in the City of East Jordan. A check disclosed that he had no valid drivers license and an outstanding arrest warrant.

Guillen-Torres resisted the officer who attempted to place him under arrest. After he was in custody, searches of his person and his vehicle led to the seizure of four knives, including one with a blade longer than three inches concealed in Guillen-Torres' boot.

The terrorism charge was related to continued threats Guillen-Torres made to corrections officers at the Charlevoix County Jail, including statements beginning the day after his arrest, October 18.

Guillen-Torres told an officer that he would regret the day he was born and that the officer's actions toward Guillen-Torres would cost him a hand, a leg and his eyes "just for fun." He also told the officer that "I swear...I will cut you into so many little pieces" and that his family would find all of his pieces in the garbage.

The defendant also asked other officers for personal information on the corrections officer and told them it would go easier on them if they helped him. Guillen-Torres referred to the corrections officer as "dead man walking."

The sentences were at the high end of the sentencing guidelines for Guillen-Torres. Court records indicate that Guillen-Torres has no legal status in the United States and that he will likely be the subject of a deportation hearing. His country of origin is Honduras.

Major Jerrel Foreman, 25,

Detroit, was sentenced to serve 24 to 240 months with the Michigan Department of Corrections on a charge of possession



with the intent to deliver cocaine and 89 days on a charge of attempted resisting and obstructing a police officer. The sentences will run concurrently.

The Joint Operative Law

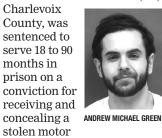
Enforcement Team ("JOLT"), Charlevoix County's drug team, arrested Foreman on December 14, 2019 when he came with two others to Charlevoix County from Detroit to meet a confidential informant to sell cocaine in the city of East Jordan, according to a police affidavit.

At the Charlevoix County Jail, while booking Foreman, during a search a corrections officer could see a small portion of a bag concealed in Foreman's anus. The bag was seized and contained 12 grams of crack cocaine. mixed with fentanyl.

According to court records, Foreman had recently been released from federal prison after serving time on a charge for conspiracv with intent to deliver heroin. He was on parole at the time of this offense.

Andrew Michael Green, 30,

Charlevoix County, was sentenced to serve 18 to 90 months in prison on a conviction for receiving and



vehicle, habitual offender second and 87 days in jail for operating a motor vehicle with the presence of a controlled substance

According to police, on December 16, 2019, Green was driving a stolen vehicle on M-32 while under the influence of drugs including methamphetamine. Police attempted to stop Green who refused to pull over until he lost control of the vehicle, ending up in a ditch.

Police seized items from inside the vehicle including a glass tube, possibly used as a pipe, and a syringe.

Green had previously been convicted of four felonies and had served time in jail, Department of Corrections bootcamp and prison.

Jeremy John Murphy, 41,

Boyne City, was sentenced to 18 to 180 months with the Michigan Department of Corrections with substance abuse services ordered as part of



JEREMY JOHN MURPHY

the sentence. Murphy was convicted of possession of methamphetamine, habitual offender, second, by his guilty plea on

March 13. The Straits Area Narcotics Enforcement team (SANE) received a tip and obtained a search warrant on December 18, 2019 for Murphy's home in Boyne City. SANE officers seized syringes, baggies, digital scales and other drug paraphernalia, according to a police affidavit filed in the

Two of the syringes tested positive for methampheta-

Court records indicate that Murphy was previously convicted of three prior drug felonies in the State of Florida from 2006 to 2009.

Submitted by Allen Telgenhof, Charlevoix County Prosecuting Attorney

## **CHARLEVOIX ບບለוມ ៤४ሪ**೬

marrow transplant, who are

FROM PG. 1A

stable condition. Medical Director, Dr. Josh Meyerson stated, "We hope for the speedy recovery of

our resident. The Health Department and all local officials are relying on our communities to work together. Our first case highlights our need to be vigilant and take the necessary precautions to slow the potential spread of illness."

#### Prevention

We continue to recommend prevention strategies to reduce the spread of germs and protect everyone's health. There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus:

- Wash your hands often

with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If not available, use hand sanitizer.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing

- Avoid contact with people who are sick.

- If you are sick, stay home, and avoid contact with others.

Replace handshakes with elbow bumps.

Stay at least six feet away from others when in a public

]Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness. View additional prevention steps from CDC for people at higher risk. Consult with your health care provider for more steps you may be able to take to protect yourself.

#### Do you need some extra money for Rent, Car Payment or Saving for Retirement? This weekend job can help.

ROUTE DRIVERS and walking route carriers

needed for newspaper delivery. Advertisers Postal

Service has immediate openings for delivery routes throughout many areas of Northern Michigan. Deliv-

ery is primarily on Saturday or Sunday before Noon. Great extra income!!!



# Two COVID-19 cases confirmed at Munson Healthcare facilities

of Health and Human Services has informed Munson Healthcare tonight that two patients tested and treated at Munson Healthcare facilities have confirmed cases of COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2).

The Michigan Department

One patient was screened and tested at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City and the other at Munson Healthcare Otsego Memorial Hospital in Gaylord. The safety precautions recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and World Health Organization were followed in

treating both of these pa-

The safety of our patients, staff and community is our top priority. With these cases now confirmed, Munson Healthcare Employee Health is actively notifying all staff who were involved in the care of these two patients and following up accordingly. Employee Health and each county's local health department are monitoring these patients now, who both exhibited mild symptoms, and determining patient contact in an effort to reduce possible spread.

Munson Healthcare is collaborating with state and local health departments as this situation continues to evolve. We are closely monitoring developments and will continue to provide healthcare guidance and updates as appropriate. Now more than ever it is imperative for the public to practice social distancing and good hand hygiene to help prevent further spread.

For more information on COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) visit munsonhealthcare.org, who.int and CDC.gov.

FROM PG. 1A

encing an emergency and to make sure to call ahead before going to a health care clinic or hospital.

In addition, McLaren Health Care is offering Coronavirus screenings on the McLarenNow telehealth site to help protect you and reduce the spread of infection. See a doctor now to treat your symptoms and/or for a low-cost coronavirus (COVID-19) screening. Go to

https://www.mclaren.org/ main/coronavirus-covid-19 Protective actions:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. - Stay home if you are

- Cover your coughs and sneezes.

- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched, such as doorknobs, light switches, and phones.

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# **News Briefs**

PLEASE NOTE: There have been many cancellations and postponements for the following events. We have updated as organizers contact us. however, for those events that are still showing as active you should contact the event organizers to confirm.

#### **BOYNE CITY**

#### CHAMBER "OFF THE CLOCK"

CANCELLED. Originally schedule for March 19.

#### EAST JORDAN

#### CHAMBER BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for March 19.

#### **BOYNE CITY**

#### HIGHLAND DANCE CLASSES

CANCELLED. Originally

#### CHARLEVOIX **FISH FRY DINNER**

scheduled for March 20.

March 20, 5-7pm, St. Mary Church. The menu includes: fried or baked fish, coleslaw, baked potato, French fries and homemade desserts.

#### **PETOSKEY**

#### LUNCHEON LECTURE: TALKING TRASH

CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for March 20.

#### **BOYNE CITY**

#### BCHS DRAMA PRESENTS **GERSHWIN MUSICAL**

CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for March 20 & 21.

#### CHARLEVOIX

#### COMMUNITY SPRING SALE

March 20; 4-7pm and March 21; 9am-2pm. Castle Farms is hosting a community spring sale open to anyone who is looking to sell or buy items. For booth information visit castlefarms.com

#### **CHARLEVOIX**

#### CHARLEVOIX PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS MAMMA MIA

CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for March 20-22

#### **CHARLEVOIX**

#### **GREAT LAKES CHAMBER** ORCHESTRA BRASS QUINTET CONCERT

CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for March 22.

#### **BOYNE CITY**

#### **GRUB CLUB LUNCHEON**

POSTPONED. Originally scheduled for March 26.

#### **BOYNE CITY**

#### **COMMUNITY EGG HUNT**

CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for April 4.

#### EAST JORDAN

#### **CHAMBER BUSINESS AFTER HOURS**

April 8, 5-6:30pm, American Legion Post \$227.. Food, networking, drawings and fun. Free for Chamber members, \$10 for non-members.

#### **EAST JORDAN**

#### LIONS CLUB EASTER FUN & GAMES

April 11, 10-11:30am, EJ Elementary School. Many prizes including 2 bikes and 2 fishing poles with tackle boxes. Easter Bunny, games, prizes, and candy for elementary school children ages 5 and older. Those under 5 can still participate in games and receive candy.

#### **CHARLEVOIX**

#### **EASTER EGG HUNT**

April 11, 2pm, East Park. Face painting, Twister Joe balloon artist, Easter Bunny and more. Easter Bunny Luncheon at Stafford's Weathervane from 11am-1:30pm. Easter crafts from 11am-1:30pm at Charlevoix Circle of Arts. Details at www.charlevoix.org

#### HARBOR SPRINGS

#### **EASTER EGG HUNT**

April 11, 11am & 3pm, Pond Hill Farm. Join us for lunch in our cafe and our free Easter Egg Hunt. Over 10,000 Eggs will be hidden. Big kids hunt on our vineyard hill & little kids hunt will be available at both 11am & 3pm. Find a golden egg to win a prize. Please be sure to arrive early to allow ample time for parking. The hunts do start promptly at 11am & 3pm. Bring a basket or bag for the kids to gather eggs. The winery, brewery, cafe, market, playground & gnome house hunt will be open so you can stay & enjoy. Cafe serves food until 5pm, Drinks are served until 6pm.

#### CHARLEVOIX. EMMET & ANTRIM COUNTIES

#### PROJECT CONNECT

EVENT POSTPONED, Originally scheduled for April 15. Info at projectconnect123.com.

#### **PETOSKEY**

#### **LUNCHEON LECTURE:** BEETHOVEN AND THE ODE TO JOY

CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for April 17

#### EAST JORDAN

#### MISS EAST JORDAN SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT

April 18, 7pm, Community Auditorium. Tickets will go on sale soon and can be purchased from any contestant or at the door if there are any left.

#### **PETOSKEY**

#### NORTHERN LAKE ECONOMIC **ALLIANCE ANNUAL LUNCH**

April 24, 11am-2pm, Bovne Mountain Matterhorn Room. Keynote speaker; Jacquart, owner of Stormy Kromer. Tickets are \$25 per person. To purchase visit www.nlea.ticketleap.com/2020 -nlea-annual-lunch or NLEA home page; www.northernlakes.net.

#### EAST JORDAN

#### 14TH ANNUAL ROTARY CLUB **VARIETY SHOW**

CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for April 24 & 25.

#### **BOYNE CITY**

#### TASTE OF BOYNE/RESTAURANT WEEK

There will be only one Restaurant Week this year and it will be held April 24th through May 3rd. To kick-off our Restaurant Week, we are excited to offer a new event: The Taste of Boyne. It will be held at the Boyne Mountain Civic Center on Thursday. April 23, 2020, from 5:30 until

#### **ELK RAPIDS**

#### CONSTITUTION BOOT CAMP

April 25, 8:45am-3pm. Do you really know what the Constitution says? What basic principle did the Founding Fathers base the whole Constitution and government on? What is the cornerstone to the Constitution? Where in the Constitution do you find your rights? If you don't know the answer to even just one of these questions, you need to take this class. Cost; \$25 per person, \$5 for each additional family member. Alumni can take the class again for just a \$5 donation . The first 10 students who register will attend for free. Includes lunch and three books; The Handbook For We the People, The Federalist Papers, and The Citizen's Rule Book, plus everyone gets a binder with the presentation

#### **BOYNE CITY**

#### **10TH ANNUAL PAINT THE TOWN RED FUNDRAISER**

May 2, Boyne Mountain Resort Civic Center. Your support of "Paint the Town Red" is vital to the success of our school programs. Proceeds from this community event will provide funding for programs and activities in the Arts, Athletics and Academics for the students of Boyne City Public Schools. Event tickets are \$60, available at Lynda's Real Estate Service, 27 S. Lake St., and State Farm Insurance, 219 S. Lake St.

#### **EAST JORDAN**

#### JORDAN VALLEY COMMUNITY **BAND SPRING CONCERT**

May 3, 7pm, East Jordan High School. 30th Annual Spring Concert.

#### **BOYNE CITY FARMERS MARKET**

#### CANCELLED THROUGH THE END OF MARCH. Saturdays, 8am - Noon. The market has moved indoors to the lobby of Boyne City Hall. Packed full of beautiful produce, greens, homemade goodies and so much more. The Market is also working with

the support of Blissfest and Grain Train to continue to provide talented local musicians for your listening pleasure as you shop. For more information on the market, visit the Boyne City Farmers Market Facebook page or email farmersmarket@boynecity.com

#### NORTHERN LOWER MICHIGAN

#### NCMC OFFERS PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR **GRADUATING HOME SENIOR**

Presidential Scholarships are offered for full tuition (up to 20 contact hours per semester) and mandatory fees for four consecutive semesters (fall and winter only). Field study fees are not included. Scholarship recipients must register for the fall semester immediately following their spring high school graduation. This is a competitive scholarship. To be considered, a student shall: Complete an online Application for Admission to North Central by April 1 of his/her graduation year. Have a minimum 3.5 overall high school grade point average (include a high school transcript complete through the nominee's seventh semester) Submit a recommendation letter that addresses his/her academic potential and leadership qualities. Submit a statement that addresses academic and career goals and how North Central will help

to meet those goals Submit ACT/SAT scores (below are the qualifying scores): ACT score of 18 or above in English and a Reading score of 21 or above; SAT (test prior to April 2016) score of 430 or above in English and a score of 450 or above in Reading;

SAT (test starting April 2016) two-digit score of 25 or above in both English and Reading; SAT (test starting April 2016) three-digit score of 500 or above in English/Reading/Writing (ERW). All documentation must be received no later than April 13, 2020. Applicants will be notified of the selection decision by April 24, 2020. For more information, contact Renee DeYoung, vice president of Student Affairs, at 231-348-6618.

#### **NORTHERN LOWER MICHIGAN**

#### **GLE PEOPLE FUND GRANTS** AVAILABLE

The Great Lakes Energy People Fund is accepting grant applications from nonprofit organizations throughout its local service area for the spring grant cycle. Applications should be submitted in person or by mail by 4:30pm on April 15. With the purpose of bettering local communities, the People Fund is supported solely by Great Lakes Energy members. Those who participate in the program allow their electric cooperative

to round their monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar amount. Since 1999, more than \$3.7 million in grants have been awarded to charitable and community organizations throughout Great Lakes Energy's 26-county service area, which stretches from Kalamazoo to the Mackinac Straits. The People Fund awarded \$228,481 in grants in 2019. Non-profit organizations can read program details and request a grant application online at www.gtlakes.com/people-fund or by calling Great Lakes Energy at 1-888-485-2537, ext. 1313. Non-profit organizations that serve communities located in the Great Lakes Energy service area are eligible to apply. Applications are due by April 15. Another grant opportunity will be available in October.

#### CHARLEVOIX/EMMET COUNTIES

#### **HESTIA WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE GRANTS**

The Hestia Women's Giving Circle is welcoming applications for its annual grant cycle. Application deadline is May 1, 2020. Grants will be announced by May 31 and awarded in mid-June. The Giving Circle is a donor-advised fund of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation (c3f). Organizations applying for grants must have 501(c)3 nonprofit status, be a school or government agency, or have a fiscal agent with non-profit status. Potential applicants should go to www.hestiacircle.org, then the Grants page where they can access the online application.

#### **CHARLEVOIX COUNTY**

Community Foundation grants available

Applications are now being accepted. This cycle will focus on requests from eligible nonprofit partners for countywide projects, arts and culture, veterans, urgent needs, health and wellness, and substance abuse projects or programs. Applications are due by Friday, May 1, 2020. The Community Foundation welcomes inquiries about applying for grants anytime at 231-536-2440.

#### EAST JORDAN

#### OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN COFFEE HOUSE

Features gospel music on the first and third Saturdays of the month starting at 7pm. East Jordan Senior Center, 951 Mill Street. Everyone welcome. Free coffee and snacks with a small charge for pizza and water.

#### **BOYNE CITY**

#### KINDER CLOSET

At Christ Lutheran Church is open from 10am to noon on the second Saturday of every month. Free baby items are provided, including diapers: wipes; clothes and more, for any Charlevoix County parent with a newborn to 24 monthold-child. Christ Lutheran Church is located at 1250 Boyne Avenue in Boyne City. For more information, call 231-582-9301.

#### CHARLEVOIX

#### **WELLNESS WORKSHOPS**

Held at Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital Wellness Workshop, 411 Bridge Street. Call (231) 437-3482 for more information.

· Hatha Yoga, every Monday and Friday 7:30-8:30am. The yoga sequences, along with breath work and relaxation techniques will assist in building strength, stamina, flexibility, balance, and increasing body awareness. The use of props, blocks, or blankets make poses easily modified to suit the individual. All levels of fitness are welcome and modifications will be provided as needed. The class is taught by Lisa Hepner is a licensed physical therapist assistant with Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital.

- Wellness Wednesday, every Wednesday from 8am-11am. Health screens include: Total Cholesterol, HDL, TC/HDL Ratio, Glucose Level, Body Mass Index Score, Muscle and Fat Percentages, and a Blood Pressure Reading. No fasting is required. However, if you are fasting and LDL and Triglyceride reading can also be obtained. Cost for the service is \$15. Hemoglobin A1C Levels can also be done for known or borderline diabetics for an additional \$10. Participants will receive all test results at the time of the screening and a "Know Your Numbers" log to track progress. A Registered Nurse will adapt health consultation and educational materials to individual results. Walk-ins only, no appointment required.

- Full Body Toning Exercise Class, every Thursday from 5:30-6:30pm. The first class is free as are all voga and strength training classes. If you enjoy your first class, lowcost punch cards available and are good for any of our classes. Call (231) 437-3482 for more information or email chx-wellness@mhc.net to have our calendar emailed to you monthly.

#### **BOYNE CITY**

#### FREE COFFEE, DOUGHNUTS & **LUNCH FOR VETERANS** The community of Boyne

City will be hosting a free social gathering for all veterans from 9 to 11 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Boyne Area Senior Center. Coffee and doughnuts will be donated by supportive area businesses. The senior center

will also offer free lunches to all veterans on the fourth Tuesday of the month, starting in January. The senior center is located at 411 E. Division St.

#### **CHARLEVOIX**

Hospice of Northwest Michigan invites you to join our Monthly adult grief, loss & bereavement support group, which takes place the 2nd Sunday of each month from 4-5pm at the First Baptist Church, 6781 M66 North. This program is open to anyone in our community looking for assistance in their grief process and is facilitated by Rev. David Behling. There is no charge to attend. Please feel free to call Hospice at 231-547-7659 to register or for more informa-

#### NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan provides counseling and support services at no cost to survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault, child abuse, child sexual assault and adults molested when they were children. Support services include crisis counseling, individual counseling, support groups, trauma therapy (EMDR), play therapy for children, safety planning, advocacy and resources/referrals. If you or someone you care about has been a victim of crime, contact the WRCNM's main office at (231) 347-0067.

#### NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan offers free playgroups for children 0-60 months and their preschool-age siblings. Playgroups help you learn about your child's developmental stages, learn new children's games/activities and share parenting concerns/experiences with other parents and the playgroup facilitator. Playgroups are held in various northern Michigan communities. For current playgroup locations/times, visit www.wrcnm.org or call (231) 347-0067.

#### **BOYNE CITY**

#### **BOYNE DISTRICT LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

- Toddler Tales & Tunes every Monday at 10am and Preschool Storytime every Tuesday at 10am. Check website for any date changes. No registration is required.

- Yoga with Reb Andrews 9am every Monday, 8 week sessions/\$5 per week

- Tai Chi every Wednesday, 9am beginners class, 10am advanced class, cost is \$5 per ses-

- The Boyne District Library Book Club meets at Information at www.boynelibrary.org.



# News

### Health Department alerts recent travelers to Colorado or on Cruises

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan has received notification that the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is asking residents who recently traveled to Colorado or on a cruise to be diligent about social distancing and to follow the recommendations for self-quarantine if they were in specific Colorado counties or on cruise ships as listed below.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment alerted other local health departments following an extensive spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in mountain resort communities. Local residents who visited Eagle, Summit, Pitkin, and Gunnison counties in the past week should self-quarantine for 14 days whether or not they are experiencing symptoms. Currently, there is concern regarding sustained community transmission of COVID-19 in these areas due to a number of positive cases and many tests pend-

Additionally, the CDC has been notified of multiple cruise ships with COVID-19-positive travelers diagnosed by state and local health departmentsall after the travelers disembarked the ship.

Azamara Quest: voyage departing 2/10/20 and any subsequent voyages

Royal Caribbean Majesty of the Seas: voyage departing 2/29/20 and any subsequent voyages MSC Meraviglia: voyage departing 3/1/20 and any subsequent voyages

Norwegian Bliss: voyage departing 3/1/20 and any subsequent voyages

Costa Luminosa: voyage departing 3/5/20 and any subsequent voyages

Celebrity Summit: voyage departing 3/7/20 and any subsequent voyages

Medical Director, Dr. Josh Meyerson remarked that, "As community transmission increases, it's important to have situational awareness, especially if you have traveled recently."

If you were in these counties in Colorado or on one of the cruise ships, please self-quarantine for 14 days. You should also

monitor for symptoms like cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, runny nose or a fever. If you become ill, please contact your healthcare provider for direction or seek emergent care as usual for severe symptoms. For more information, visit the CDC's COVID-19 website at cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV, utilize the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) statewide hotline for COVID-19, open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1-888-535-6136 or call the Health Department of Northwest Michigan's Public Health Information Line at 1-800-386-5959.

# Consumers Energy to suspend shutoffs for Seniors, Low Income Customers

Consumers Energy is committed to the health and safety of our co-workers, customers and communities. The COVID-19 virus has created unprecedented circumstances around the world, and we have a responsibility to help slow the spread of this illness.

Recognizing that many of our customers are in a position where they are unable to work, we are suspending shutoffs for non-pay for low-income and senior customers beginning March 16, 2020 through April 5, 2020. These timeframes could be adjusted depending on the spread and severity of the

Senior citizens and qualified low-income customers already enrolled in our Winter Protection Program have already had their end dates extended through May 3, 2020, without any additional actions required on their part. This ensures our most vulnerable customers have the services they need during this state of emergency. All shut-off notices will be withheld to prevent any additional stress for these customers.

For more information about Consumers Energy, go to

ConsumersEnergy.com.

#### MDOT waives seasonal weight restrictions for trucks supporting COVID-19 relief efforts

The Michigan Department of Transportation announced today that the department will exempt from seasonal weight restrictions motor carriers and drivers providing direct assistance in support of relief efforts related to the COVID-19 outbreaks

"Knowing the importance of getting food and other supplies to retailers during this time, we are taking steps to ensure carriers can make deliveries as quickly and efficiently as possible,' said MDOT Director Paul C. Ajegba. "We are going to get through this by working together and taking collective action for the greater good."

Michigan law, MCL 257.722 Sec (10), allows the state transportation department, or a local authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, to suspend these restrictions when necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Direct assistance means transportation and other relief services provided by a motor carrier or its driver(s) to the immediate restoration of essential services, such as medical care, or essential supplies such as food, related to COVID-19 outbreaks during the emergency.

For current and up-to-date information regarding the Coronavirus, visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

# NCMC announces measures to mitigate Coronavirus

North Central Michigan College is monitoring and evaluating college operations based on the latest information and recommendations from local, state and national health experts and officials regarding mitigating the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

On March 10, two cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in southeast Michigan. These are the first two cases identified in our state. With that announcement, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer declared a State of Emergency. On March 11, the governor spoke to all community college presidents prior to a press conference, during which she outlined recommendations for mitigating the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Several preventative measures have already been taken as part of North Central's immediate response plan.

#### ON-CAMPUS EVENTS

To ensure the safety of students, employees and guests, and to comply with the recommendations set by Gov. Whitmer, North Central is canceling or postponing oncampus events that meet or approach the governor's 100person threshold for large gatherings:

- March 19 International Lecture, Global Citizenship -**POSTPONED** 

- March 20 Luncheon Lecture, "Talking Trash" -POSTPONED; additional information regarding a

rescheduled date will be released when it is available.

#### **CAMPUS OPERATIONS**

- Spring Break has been extended for North Central students. It will begin one week earlier, on March 23, and extend through April 5. A decision about whether to return to campus on April 6 will be made by April 3 and communicated to all affected parties.

- Beginning March 23, external visitors to campus will be limited to only faculty, staff, students, prospective students, and authorized vendors and guests.

#### **FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING**

Face-to-face classes will continue as scheduled at present, however the college is closely monitoring this decision. COVID-19 has not been detected in our community. Our classes are small, and they are below Governor Whitmer's 100-person threshold. Finally, 15% of North Central students do not have Internet access at home (wired or wireless). As such, it is not as simple as putting classes online for these 350+ students. They simply do not have access to an education delivered in this manner; however, this is a rapidly evolving situation, and planning is in process should the college need to cancel face-toface classes for an extended period of time in favor of on-

line delivery. As always, students, faculty and staff are encouraged to exercise their best judgment in light of their personal health conditions

#### **PERSONAL HYGIENE**

Students and employees have been instructed to follow CDC guidelines regarding personal hygiene practices that mitigate the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

#### **CLEANING**

Physical Plant staff has redoubled efforts to proactively clean and sanitize all areas of campus, including the Residence Hall, more frequently throughout the day. Hand sanitizer dispensers have been installed in restrooms, computer labs and other high-traffic areas such as the Iron Horse Café.

Student and Community Resource Center (SCRC)

SCRC staff has implemented an equipment sanitizing system for balls and rackets signed out for court play. This applies to all equipment that is handled by multiple players, including tot toys, basketballs, pickleballs, pickleball paddles, Ping-Pong paddles and balls, volleyballs and soccer balls. Daily Use:

No longer will there be bins of balls and equipment

readily accessed by patrons. All equipment will be individually issued at check-

Once returned, the rackets and balls will be placed in a bin marked "to be sanitized."

4. SCRC staff will clean and sanitize the equipment before reissuing.

#### **GROUP USE:**

Tot toys and other equipment used by groups will be sanitized after use.

Machines in our fitness center are cleaned after each

#### **RESIDENCE HALL AND IRON** HORSE CAFÉ

The Residence Hall and dining services will remain open. Students and staff are asked to refrain from congregating in common spaces like the cafeteria. Nevertheless, patrons are encouraged to obtain their meal in the Iron Horse Café and then eat it in their dormitory room or of-

#### **NEXT STEPS**

The college is coordinating its response with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Health Department of Northwest Michigan.

To streamline communications moving forward, the North Central website will be the vehicle for all Coronavirus (COVID-19) updates. The college will keep the public informed as this issue evolves, working to respond in ways that ensure the health, safety and well-being of our college community.

#### MDOT lifts seasonal weight restrictions on some Michigan state highways solid or dashed red on the

Effective 6 a.m. Monday, March 16, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will lift seasonal weight restrictions on some state roads in the Lower Peninsula.

Seasonal weight restrictions will continue to be imposed and enforced on all state trunkline highways north of a line on M-43 in the city of South Haven east to US-131 in Kalamazoo County, then south to I-94 in Kalamazoo County and east to I-69 in Calhoun County, then north to Lansing and continuing east on I-69 to US-127, then north on US-127 to M-20 in Mount Pleasant, then east on M-20 to US-10 in Midland County, then east on M-10 to M-25 in Bay City, and continuing on M-25 for the entire Thumb area.

All state trunklines north of this line, including the entire Upper Peninsula, will have seasonal weight restrictions imposed and enforced. State routes typically carry M, I, or US designations. State routes typically carry M, I, or US designations.

In the restricted areas, the following will apply:

- On routes designated as "all-season" (designated in green and gold on the **MDOT Truck Operators** Map), there will be no reduction in legal axle weights.

- On routes designated as "seasonal" (designated in

MDOT Truck Operators Map), there will be a posted weight reduction of 25 percent for rigid (concrete) pavements and 35 percent for flexible (asphalt) pave-

All extended permits will be valid for oversize loads in the weight-restricted area on the restricted routes. Single-trip permits will not be issued for any overweight loads or loads exceeding 14 feet in width, 11 axles and 150 feet in overall length on the restricted routes.

County road commissions and city public works departments put in place their own seasonal weight restrictions, which usually, but not always, coincide with state highway weight restrictions. Signs are generally posted to indicate which routes have weight restrictions in effect.

For weight restriction information and updates, call 800-787-8960, or you can access this information on MDOT's website at www.Michigan.gov/Truckers, under "Restrictions." All-season routes are designated in green and gold on the MDOT Truck Operators Map, which is available online. You also may sign

up to receive e-mail alerts. Trucking companies located in New Jersey and Canada can obtain information by calling 517-373-6256.

(Protecting your assets)

Dear Dave,

We live in Colorado, and we need some advice on protecting our assets. My wife is a teacher, and I'm a nurse. We make around \$180,000 a year combined, and we're set to pay off our home next month. We also have two teenagers who are both driving, so we were wondering about the best way to protect everything if one of them has an accident and we get sued, or something else tragic happens.

Spencer Dear Spencer, With your income, and the

stage you're in when it comes to wealth building, I think it's time to add an umbrella policy. This is a liability policy, and you could probably buy an extra million in liability coverage for around \$250 a year. It attaches to the liability policy that's already part of your homeowners and car insur-

**Dave Ramsey** 

With a couple of teenage drivers in the house it might run a little more than \$250, but I wouldn't think it would be much more, if any. It would just add an extra million to the mix, just in case someone decided they were going to come after you because of a bad situation.

buying rental properties, make sure you put those in a limited liability company (LLC). You're not there quite yet, but it's always a good idea to plan ahead and do whatever you can to keep the size of the target on your back relatively small.

## (Control your own destiny)

Dear Dave,

I have a pension plan that will pay me 80 percent of my top three highest years' income. Should I continue to invest 15 percent towards retirement? I will top out at \$79,000 yearly, and I plan on retiring in 28 years.

Jordan Dear Jordan,

You should always put 15 percent of your income into retirement once you reach Baby Step 4. I would never count on a pension as my only retirement income, because the truth is many pension funds are very poorly managed.

You'll probably get the pension when the time comes. I'm not predicting it will go broke or anything like that, but there's no way I would leave the financial state of my retirement in other people's hands. That's exactly what you're doing when your plan is to count on a pension or Social Security. With Roth IRAs, 401(k)s and so forth, you're building wealth that you control.

You have to control the conrollables, Jordan. There are plenty of things in our lives we have no control over whatsoever, but you have to take charge of the stuff you can control in order to win. Building wealth is one of those things!

—Dave

\* Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 16 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.

# **SPRING**

FROM PG. 1A

and the 60's in May, but we all know wet snow and ice lurk beyond the horizon throughout the spring season. The Farmer's Almanac is calling for slightly below average temperatures in the Midwest for March and April, with above average precipitation in April (more

flowers perhaps?). During these days of increasingly warmer temperatures and retreating snow banks it is interesting seeing items revealed in the yard that have been hidden since late autumn. Though those fallen leaves, tree limbs and abandoned tools typically lead to outdoor spring projects and maintenance tasks don't forget to mix chores

with outdoor down time. Relax and enjoy getting outside for a walk, firing up the BBQ grille, or just sitting back in a lawn chair to watching nature come alive again. Smile and relish the fleeting stretch of warm weather between snow sea-

For spring has sprung, and as we cross the vernal equinox be assured that each drop of melting ice and puddles growing beneath shrinking snow piles is a sign of the approach of summer in the north. Just keep those snow shovels, winter coats and ice scrapers handy for a little while longer; springtime in Michigan changes every day.

"In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours." Mark Twain

As you continue building wealth later, like if you get into real estate and start

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