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Inside THIS WEEK NEWS

- Weather forecast - Page 2
- Snowfall - Page 2
- Obituaries - Page 2
- Police report - Page 2
- Letter to editor - Page 2
- Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 update - Page 3
- Mushroom Festival is cancelled - Page 3
- Check IRS.gov for latest economic impact payments information - Page 4
- Hestia Women's Giving Circle announces funding availability - Page 4
- State Grant supports service industry companies affected by COVID-19 - Page 5
- Urgent Needs fund grants help neighbors impacted by COVID-19 - Page 6
- How to protect yourself in times of crisis - Page 6

SPORTS

- Bodacious Bald Eagles - Page 7
- Lake Michigan All Conference Girls Basketball - Page 8
- Lake Michigan All Conference Boys Basketball - Page 8
- Classified Ads - Page 8, 9
- Feature home of the week - Page 9
- Legal Notices - Page 9
- New unemployment benefits filing schedule - 10

Northern Michigan woman a Covid 19 survivor

By Kari Baragrey

I'm 43 years old and I am now a Covid19 survivor.

This is my story and I want it to be filled with hope. Not because my experience was mild because it wasn't. I will tell you a very real account of the last two weeks of my life, a story that was hard but didn't defeat me.

I'm healthy, strong, a mom of five who works outside the home but not as much as I work within the walls of my home. I'm not into social media, don't have cable, and don't spend a lot of time following the news. I knew of the Covid 19 virus.

I got the call that school was going to be on break so I dedicated my energy to stocking up, buying extra supplies to help keep my kids entertained, even checked in with a couple of elderly neighbors. It seemed for a few days, we were delivering blow after blow to our kids, big disappointments for them to handle. A lot of my energy was spent in trying to field those blows, be sensitive, and be open to the lessons of teaching them that life is indeed full of disappointments but we should never forget to be thankful for the beauty that is always around us, even in the hardships.

I was preoccupied with all those things when I woke up March 14 during the night with a headache that felt like the verge of being a migraine. I took three ibuprofen to try to shake it before morning and went back to



Kari Baragrey of Gaylord is a survivor of the Covid 19 virus. Courtesy photo

bed. That headache was the first symptom I had and would be an unwanted guest for the next 12 days.

Monday I started experiencing severe body aches, chills for several days with no fever, and then Thursday I lost my sense of smell and taste (still waiting for that to come back). At that point, we knew I was sick but thought I may be fighting the flu. Friday my fever came, although it never went above 101. I had a fever for two days and Saturday, March 21, I started experiencing shortness of breath and dizziness.

By this time, we had heard some friends that I had been in contact with

tested positive so we felt pretty certain I had the virus. Sunday my fever was gone and I felt the strength to be up a little and thought I was coming out of it. But Sunday night my fever came back and I crashed hard. The next several days would be the worst symptoms I would endure. My chest hurt, I couldn't lay flat, some days talking took too much breath. I was at times confused and hopeless.

One night I woke up to my chest feeling quite heavy... too heavy to wake my husband for help. This was the first time I wondered if I would make it out of this. In the darkness of that night, in my fear but yet my sur-

render, I heard a song deep in my soul. It wasn't a song I had heard recently but I knew it. And as I lay there, it played over and over, bringing me peace that was silencing my fear. I knew I wasn't alone, I believed I wasn't alone and was thankful I didn't have to be alone.

"Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the Darkness, my God that is who you are"

Like counting sheep, that played over and over in my heart until I was able to sleep again. I slept until the sunrise, and thanked God for seeing me through a scary night. I slept the next couple of days away, but Thursday night was the scariest for my husband and I. I knew I shouldn't go to our local hospital because they weren't set up with isolation. The nearest hospital to our home would be a 45-minute drive. I wasn't gasping for air yet but my throat felt tight, like it was closing in. My chest hurt if I gently touched it and I started feeling like my airway was blocked with some sort of substance-although nothing was coming up. I began to cough. Before I allowed myself to sleep, we came up with a plan with getting oxygen until the ambulance got here-if need be.

We didn't share with anyone the struggles I was having that night, which I think is strange looking back. Sometimes I think when we are deep in crisis, we lose the ability to reach out. Our fear becomes isolating and paralyzing. That night was the second time I wondered if I would make it to health again. I finally fell asleep but woke throughout the

See KARI - Page 4A

Restaurant and Retail services and hours during Coronavirus shutdown in Charlevoix County

Faced with a state-ordered moratorium on dine-in service, many local restaurants and food providers are offering enhanced take-out, curbside pickup and delivery options. Also, many retail businesses have limited hours and services. This list was compiled from area businesses and chamber of commerce.

This list is updated each week. If a business needs info updated or be added to the list, email us at Office@CharlevoixCountyNews.com.

BOYNE CITY

FAMILY FARE. Introducing reserved hours for older adults, pregnant women and immunocompromised store guests Effective Thursday, March 18, SpartanNash is setting aside time twice per week for store guests most at risk of contracting coronavirus (COVID-19), including older adults, pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals. Reserved hours will be every Tuesday and Thursday from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

BARREL BACK - Open 7 days in Walloon Lake Village for curbside pick-up from 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Prepaid curbside service is available. Please call ahead to place your order and call when you arrive. We are happy to bring your food out to you. Website with menu. 231-535-6000.

BC PIZZA has always had take-out, drive-through and delivery service - and that continues now that their dining room has closed. You can order by phone during their hours of 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday, and 12 to 10 p.m. on Sunday. Pickup service is available from their location at 1191 Highway M75 South. (The downtown location on North Lake Street is closed for now.) Their name says "pizza," but their menu also includes pasta, subs, wraps, salads, appetizers, burritos, quesadillas and desserts. Menu. 231-582-2288. **NEW PIZZA KIT** - Looking for something fun to do with the kids while they are off school? Our \$9.99 Pizza Kit includes a dough ball for a 14" pizza, pizza sauce, mozzarella cheese and pepperoni.

BOYNE CITY BAKERY - Take-out available. Call about curbside service or delivery options if you cannot leave home, specials for school-aged children, call about bulk orders for freezing at home. The back entrance to the bakery will be

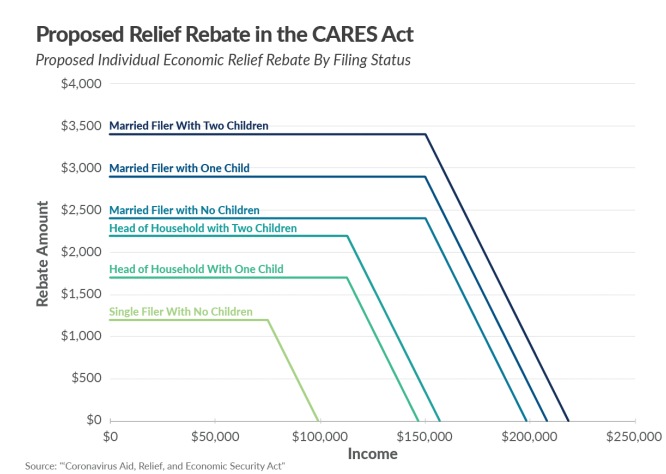
See HOURS - Page 3A

Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act passes

BY JIM AKANS

The COVID-19 virus has had a worldwide economic impact on individuals and businesses. To ease the financial burden here in the United States, Congress has passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES), designed to bring some economic relief to individuals, families and businesses.

A summary of some of the provisions for individuals and families include:
- Federal payments of \$1,200 for individual tax filers or \$2,400 for joint filers plus \$500 per child. These



amounts will be reduced for those individual with adjusted gross income (AGI) at or above \$75,000 per year or couples with AGI's at or above \$150,000 per year (based on the latest year tax filing).

- Eligible IRA participants can take disbursements from their account without incurring the typical ten-percent early withdrawal penalty.

- Unemployment insurance benefit qualifications are expanded to an extra \$600 per week for up to four months and to include the self-employed (restrictions apply).

- Interest on student loan payments will be waived for six months. Learn more at Studentaid.gov

- Testing for COVID-19 must be covered by private health care without any cost

See RELIEF BILL - Page 4A

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News

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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 update

(3/31/20) The Health Department of Northwest Michigan, in partnership with Emmet County, Northern Michigan Med Center, McLaren Northern Michigan, the Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and the Petoskey Department of Public Safety will be offering

appointment based, drive-through testing at the Emmet County Fairgrounds beginning Wednesday, April 1.

Testing will be scheduled from noon -4pm Monday through Friday for patients 12 and older. This testing facility is for individuals who have seen their primary care provider,

have been determined to meet the criteria for testing, and have a lab slip. The drive-through testing facility will utilize a recently approved FDA testing method with nasal swab.

Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director at the Health Department shared, "I am grateful to all our community partners that have worked together to

increase the availability of testing in Northern Michigan. The drive-through operation will reduce the overall need for PPE and maintain the safety of everyone staffing the site and will help improve our ability to identify cases and their contacts to reduce the spread of disease."

As of 4:00pm, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 2; Charlevoix – 4; Emmet – 5; Otsego – 19. The State of Michigan has reported 7,615 cases and 259 deaths.

Stay up-to-date on the latest information in the Health Department jurisdiction by liking and following our Facebook page and visiting our website.

East Jordan City Hall closed to public

Due to the COVID-19 concern, East Jordan City Hall will be closed to the public as of March 17th, to help preserve the health and wellness for our staff and public. All essential services will continue to be provided to the community and city staff will be accessible by phone or e-mail 8am. – 5pm.

We recommend all utility bills be paid from the city's website or place in the side door drop box. Should you request a receipt, we will mail or e-mail a copy. Online payments: <https://ipn.payments.com/rotp/CEJU>.



60th Mushroom Festival is canceled

Mushroom Festival Statement from the Mushroom Festival Committee:

We are heartbroken that the 60th National Morel Mushroom Festival will be canceled due to coronavirus concerns. Festival organizers made this decision after much discussion and concern for their community. The festival was scheduled for May 14-17.

"Our committee has spent the last 9 months planning for a great 60th celebration and we are disappointed that we must cancel," said board member Kim Brown. "The festival attracts visitors from around the USA and internationally and we do not want to expose our guests and community to possible infection."

We will plan to bring our event back in 2021, as it has become a rite of springtime in the Boyne area and we invite anyone interested to join our committee as we make plans for 2021. Email Committee Chair Pam Chipman if you would like to help organize the next festival.

East Jordan School Clinic closed

In support of the East Jordan Schools keeping the building empty while they sanitize and prepare

for our students to return, our clinic in the school building is closed at this time.

We are still providing mental health/counseling services. Our therapists, Amber Southernton and Rebecca Litzner ARE working during this time. During the school closure, we are able to see students at the Charlevoix County office of the Health Department of Northwest Michigan located 220 W. Garfield in Charlevoix. Telehealth visits may be possible soon.

You can call our usual direct lines to leave a message on our confidential voicemail. We are checking our voicemails several times per day and will return your call ASAP.

- Amber Southernton: 231-536-7307
- Rebecca Litzner: 231-536-2204

If you are in need of nursing services, please call your primary care physician or go to the nearest

walk in clinic/emergency room.

In the event schools are closed longer, we are exploring additional ways to ensure we continue services and will let families know as soon as we have that information.

If you are having a medical or mental health emergency, please call 911 or 877-470-4688.

HOURS

FROM PG. 1A

closed until further notice.
231.497.6060.

BOYNE CITY TAPROOM has a new Weekend Take-out Menu. Please place orders by 3pm on Friday or Saturday. Order pick-up is available between 5-6pm each day. Call (231) 675-3306 or message our Facebook Page to place your order. Dinner for 4 is only \$45 - choose one entrée per order, includes family-style garden or Caesar Salad and four double chocolate chip cookies. \$10 Growler fills and \$15 bottles of wine.

BOYNE COUNTRY PROVISIONS - All of our retail products and deli prepared food to go is available for normal retail purchase and carry-out. Both Provisions Wet Goods and Provisions Wine Market & Deli are open for business as usual with normal operating hours. (The Wine Lounge is currently closed and the menu is not available for carry-out or delivery.) Announcing free home delivery to zip code 49712. Call in an order of \$50 or more, and we'll deliver it for free from 3 to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. There is a \$5 delivery charge for purchases below this amount. Delivery options include spirits, craft beer, wine, specialty foods, deli meals, etc. Customers purchasing age-restricted items will be required to show valid ID upon delivery. Chef Russell and our dedicated deli staff are working hard to ensure our "Grab & Go" food offerings are kept in stock. We will also begin offering Pepperoni & Cheese Take 'N Bake pizzas daily. Check Facebook for updates. 231-582-2151.

CAFE SANTE is now offering curbside pickup for meals from 3-9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. We have rewritten our menu, reducing prices and bringing back some of your classic favorites. You can use our new online ordering system or call in your order and we will be happy to deliver to your car upon arrival. Also, are offering our \$5 pizzas for takeout on Mondays. Kicked to the Curbside Menu. 231-582-8800.

HOPPY HOUND Coffee and Dog Bakery - Now offering curbside service and opening at 7am to fill your coffee needs. \$2 20-oz. coffee all month long. We are open 7am-5pm. Medical staff and first responders get 30% off your coffee this month, just show us your badge. (231) 497-6488.

INDOCHINA GARDENS is open for take-out during their regular hours - 11 to 8 Mon-Fri, 12-8 Saturday. These hours may change as the restaurant adjusts to the closing of their dining room, so you may want to call to check. 231-582-4099.

LAKE STREET MARKET is offering curbside pickup for call-in orders. They are open their usual hours - Tuesday through Saturday from 11 to 7, and "we are doing everything we can to keep the store a safe place. Meanwhile, if you would like to call orders in and have us bring them out to your car, let us know!" 231-582-4450.

LAKE STREET PUB closed for a few days but they're back and be open for takeout and delivery from 4-8 pm. Restaurant takeout is considered essential to the community and we want to be here for you! Call us today to place your takeout order and we will give you 20% off your bill as a thank you. This discount is good toward our full menu, bottled beer, and bottles of wine. Just give us a call with your name, make, model & color of your car as well as your credit card information. One of our friendly staff members would be happy to run

your meal out to your car when you pull in. We also offer our full menu, bottled beer, and bottles of wine for delivery orders of \$25 or more within a 5-mile radius. We are offering Lake Street Pub gift cards for 10% off. Use now or stock up for the summer. We would be happy to drop them in the mail to you free of charge. Hours: 6 days a week, 4pm -8pm Wednesday through Monday (closed Tuesdays). www.lakestreetpuboyne.com

RED MESA GRILL is offering curbside pickup for meals between the hours of 11am and 8pm Sunday thru Thursday, 11am-9pm Friday and Saturday. Delivery will be available between those hours as well. All curbside pickups will be extended a 20% discount on orders over \$20. Delivery will have a minimum order of \$25. Beer and wine will be offered for both pickup and delivery. When you call in your order, just let us know the make, model, and color of your vehicle. We will run your order out to you when you pull up on Water Street. Take-out service is available 7 days a week. **ONLINE ORDERING** now available! Download the Toast app and search for Red Mesa Grill or click here. (231) 582-0049.

STIGGS BREWERY & KITCHEN will have take-out available for curbside delivery or walk-in pick-up on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 4-8 p.m. Beer is available to go too - grab a growler of your favorite brew. Check out our website to see what is currently on draft. Menu . 231-497-6100.

SUNNYSIDE Breakfast, Lunch & Catering is open Wednesday through Sunday, 8am-2pm, for take-out and delivery. We will also be continuing our sack lunches and pancake mix for those families who need it. You can pay over the phone or in cash. We are happy to continue to serve you during this time. Menu . (231) 497-5050.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY TRANSIT eliminates fares, adds food delivery service Charlevoix County Transit has announced that in addition to eliminating passenger fares, they will be adding additional services to assist our county residents who need assistance getting food and other essential supplies. Delivery of groceries, food pantry, and meals ordered from the senior centers will begin immediately. For additional information or reservations, call 231.582.6900.

BOYNE CITY HARDWARE open 8-5:30 every day and 9:30-2:00 Sundays. We are offering curbside pick-up and HOME DELIVERY within the limits of Boyne City and Boyne Falls. Call the store for additional details, 231.582.6532. We're encouraging the first hour of shopping to be dedicated to seniors and others at high-risk.

CHARLEVOIX

FAMILY FARE. Introducing reserved hours for older adults, pregnant women and immunocompromised store guests Effective Thursday, March 18, SpartanNash is setting aside time twice per week for store guests most at risk of contracting coronavirus (COVID-19), including older adults, pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals. Reserved hours will be every Tuesday and Thursday from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Curbside pickup, shipping, delivery, and virtual shopping options:

Charlevoix Harbor Wear 231.547.4359, ragmerchant@charter.net

The Lake House 231.437.3425, lakehousecharlevoix@gmail.com

The Clothing Company

231.547.6361, info@myclothingco.com

Thistle 231.437.3966, inbox@thistlestyle.com

Ga Ga for kids and women too! 231.547.1600, gagaforkids.com

The Taffy Barrel, 231.547.9258, thetaffybarrel.com

elements gallery Charlevoix Michigan 231.547.5820, elementscharlevoix@gmail.com

BLOOM bloomfloraldesign.com

True North Interior Design and Antiques 231.437.3833, truenorthantiquesdesign@gmail.com

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CHARLEVOIX Restaurants Offering Take-Out/Delivery/Curbside Service:

Terry's: carry-out & delivery everyday 5-8pm 231-547-6925

Scovie's: carry-out & delivery 231-237-7827

Villager Pub: carry-out and delivery within the city limits, 11 am to 8 pm every day. 231-547-6925

That French Place: All the usual available curbside pickup 4:30-6Pm. (place order by 2pm). Will try to deliver to immune-compromised when possible. 231-437-6037

Pigs Eatin' Ribs: drive-thru, delivery, and call ahead carry-out 11am-8pm every day. 231-547-PIGS (7447)

Bridge Street Taproom: carry-out 231-437-3466

Charlevoix Pizza Company: Curbside pick-up | Sun, Mon & Tues 4-8pm Wed-Sat 11-8pm | student special Mon-Fri: personal 3 topping pizza & drink for \$5 | 231-547-9771 or order online & include make, model & color of car

BC Pizza: carry-out and delivery every day 231-547-9999

Frisse's Farm Market: 10-4pm Tues-Sat | still open and have take home options such as made-to-order pizza, homemade soup & chili | pre-order baked goods etc. for a grab & go option. 231-599-2604

Dairy Grille: Carry-out 231-547-9771

Bier's Inwood Brewery: Take-out | 5-6pm nightly | fill growlers/howlers of beer & cider take and bake pizza's available | salsa available | bottles of wine to go | call/text 231-675-7632 to arrange a time convenient for you to pick up your beer

Harwood Gold: carry-out 231-437-3900

Royal Farms: Curbside pick-up | continue to offer our pies and pasties from their freezer for pick-up, as well as cider, wine and any of our other products | 231-599-3222

THE ARGONNE HOUSE is offering takeout orders on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 5:30 to 8 pm. Beer and wine are available. Meals will be available for pickup at our restaurant or delivered to senior citizens in the City of Charlevoix. Senior Citizen delivery menu, 3:30 to 5:30

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News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

Check IRS.gov for latest economic impact payments information

The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service today announced that distribution of economic impact payments will begin in the next three weeks and will be distributed automatically, with no action required for most people. However, some seniors and others who typically do not file returns will need to submit a simple tax return to receive the stimulus payment.

Who is eligible for the economic impact payment?

Tax filers with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 for individuals and up to \$150,000 for married couples filing joint returns will receive the full payment. For filers with income above those amounts, the payment amount is re-

duced by \$5 for each \$100 above the \$75,000/\$150,000 thresholds. Single filers with income exceeding \$99,000 and \$198,000 for joint filers with no children are not eligible.

Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for either 2019 or 2018 will automatically receive an economic impact payment of up to \$1,200 for individuals or \$2,400 for married couples. Parents also receive \$500 for each qualifying child.

How will the IRS know where to send my payment?

The vast majority of people do not need to take any action. The IRS will calculate and automatically send the economic impact payment to those eligible.

For people who have al-

ready filed their 2019 tax returns, the IRS will use this information to calculate the payment amount. For those who have not yet filed their return for 2019, the IRS will use information from their 2018 tax filing to calculate the payment. The economic impact payment will be deposited directly into the same banking account reflected on the return filed.

The IRS does not have my direct deposit information. What can I do?

In the coming weeks, Treasury plans to develop a web-based portal for individuals to provide their banking information to the IRS online, so that individuals can receive payments immediately as opposed to checks in the mail.

I am not typically required to file a tax return. Can I still receive my payment?

Yes. People who typically do not file a tax return will need to file a simple tax return to receive an economic impact payment. Low-income taxpayers, senior citizens, Social Security recipients, some veterans and individuals with disabilities who are otherwise not required to file a tax return will not owe tax.

How can I file the tax return needed to receive my economic impact payment?

IRS.gov/coronavirus will soon provide information instructing people in these groups on how to file a 2019 tax return with simple, but

necessary, information including their filing status, number of dependents and direct deposit bank account information.

I have not filed my tax return for 2018 or 2019. Can I still receive an economic impact payment?

Yes. The IRS urges anyone with a tax filing obligation who has not yet filed a tax return for 2018 or 2019 to file as soon as they can to receive an economic impact payment. Taxpayers should include direct deposit banking information on the return.

I need to file a tax return. How long are the economic impact payments available?

For those concerned about visiting a tax professional or local community organiza-

tion in person to get help with a tax return, these economic impact payments will be available throughout the rest of 2020.

Where can I get more information?

The IRS will post all key information on IRS.gov/coronavirus as soon as it becomes available.

The IRS has a reduced staff in many of its offices but remains committed to helping eligible individuals receive their payments expeditiously. Check for updated information on IRS.gov/coronavirus rather than calling IRS assistants who are helping process 2019 returns.

Info received from www.bergman.house.gov

Hestia Women's Giving Circle announces funding availability

Are you part of an organization in Emmet or Charlevoix County seeking funding for a project that will make a positive difference in the lives of local women or girls? At this time, Hestia is maintaining the May 1, 2020 deadline for grant applications. However, if because of the COVID 19 situation, you find it difficult to meet that deadline, please contact us at info@hestiacircle.org and we will work with you. Grants are expected to 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 non-profit status, be a school or government agency, or have a fiscal agent with non-profit status. Potential applicants can access the online

application by going to www.hestiacircle.org then click on the Grants page.

The Hestia Women's Giving Circle was formed in 2005 with the mission to promote the economic self-sufficiency and well being of women and girls in Emmet and Charlevoix counties. The Circle is named for the Greek goddess Hestia, who expresses her love and concern for others through thoughtful acts. The Giving Circle provides an opportunity for women to pool their donations to make a significant impact locally, and to educate themselves about issues facing women and girls in our community.

Since Hestia's founding, grants totaling more than \$473,702 have been awarded to a variety of projects specifically geared to women and girls. Past recipient organizations include the Petoskey Public Schools Ro-

botics Program, Big Brothers Big Sisters of NW Michigan, Women's Resource Center, Planned Parenthood of West & Northern Michigan, North Country Kids, Raven Hill Discovery Center, Petoskey Area Hockey Association, Petoskey Public Schools Debate Program, the First Tee of Northern Michigan and the Northmen Den, among many others.

In 2020, the Hestia Giving Circle anticipates awarding \$70,000 in funds. The group is especially interested in supporting projects with creative approaches to existing issues and smaller organizations that may have limited access to other sources of funding.

For more information about grant making or becoming a member of The Hestia Women's Giving Circle, please send an email to INFO@hestiacircle.org.

MDOT removes additional seasonal weight restrictions on Michigan state highways

Effective 6 am Monday, March 30, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will lift additional 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-66 from the US-31 intersection in the city of Charlevoix south to the intersection of M-32 in the city of East Jordan, then east on M-32 to the intersection of US-23 in the city of Alpena.

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. On March 16, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-12, temporarily lifting seasonal weight and other delivery-related restrictions for vehicles on state and local roads carry-

ing essential supplies to mitigate the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The executive order extends until 11:59 p.m. Monday, April 13. This spring weight restriction update does not alter the direction given in the governor's order. Permits will still be required for loads exceeding the normal legal limits.

In areas with seasonal weight restrictions still in effect, 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 solid or dashed red on the MDOT Truck Operators Map), there will be a posted weight reduction of 25 percent for rigid (concrete) pavements and 35 percent for flexible (asphalt) pavements.

- 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.

KARI

FROM PG. 1A

night. Each time I woke up, the relief I felt in my breathing surprised me. I was thankful and so tired.

I woke early the next morning and saw a text from my dad. He told me God had woke him during the night and prompted him to pray for me until morning. He said he knew I was going to be ok. I am indeed ok and each day I am getting stronger and stronger.

Covid19 is new, it has many different characteristics, and grabs hold of people so differently. In the beginning, they told us to watch for high fevers and a dry cough. Now we are seeing many other symptoms that prove to produce a positive reading as well. Testing is confusing and limited. When I finally was tested, I cried and apologized to the two heroes that came to my car to perform the test. I did not want to put their precious lives in danger.

This virus has exposed profound weaknesses but has also allowed the beauty in those around us to be on full display. My kids and I have been quarantined since the day of my first symptom. Because I felt so sick, we got that part right. But the guilt I had in exposing my family to this beast was very shameful for me. I was scared for the health of the people I love the most and felt responsible for putting their lives in danger. I felt like a failure because I couldn't work on schoolwork



Kari is the wife of Dave Baragrey, Director of Youth Ministries at Gaylord E-Free Church. Courtesy photo

with them, do a craft, make a fun recipe.

There were days I didn't have the energy to remind them to shower or brush their teeth. I couldn't prepare meals, do dishes, keep up with laundry and I definitely wasn't sanitizing everything like I knew I should. My husband did a phenomenal job keeping up with all of these things while working from home, but we would not have made it without our small but fierce community. Our front porch became the drop off site for flowers, meals, groceries, birthday cakes and gifts I couldn't give, pizzas, games, rainbow boxes filled with cheerful gifts.

Like so many others, we had to cancel our spring

break trip to Florida. Our friends showed up in our backyard and sprayed our snow patches with blue food coloring and stuck flamingos in the pools of blue to bring Florida to us. My children's teachers dropped goodies off with handwritten letters letting them know how much they missed my kids and reminded us we are all family and we will get through this. Such beauty in the hardships.

I pray we can lead with kindness, extending grace like we have so often been given. I pray we have wisdom and self control, understanding the importance of staying home and keeping others safe. I pray our eyes are open to the needs of those close to us and without

causing harm, we help meet those needs using what we can within our means. Simplicity, love, and hope. Lastly, a promise I've always held close but within the last two weeks, I clung to like never before,

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you."

KARI IS THE WIFE OF DAVE BARAGREY, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES AT GAYLORD E-FREE CHURCH. SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF LYNNWOOD STEPHENS OF EAST JORDAN AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW OF DAVE BARAGREY SR, PUBLISHER OF THE WEEKLY CHOICE AND CHARLEVOIX COUNTY NEWS AND MICHIGAN MONEYSAVER.

RELIEF BILL

FROM PG. 1A

sharing.

- Allow the use of Health Savings Accounts for the purchase of over-the-counter medications.

OTHER PROVISIONS INCLUDE;

- Employers may be eligible for a 50-percent tax credit on wages up to \$10,000.

- Paid sick and family medical leave for those unable to work due to COVID-19 symptoms or quarantine (this provision is based the number of employees at a business).

- Additional funding for nutritional programs for Women, Infants and Children, Seniors and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

- Additional funding for home-delivered nutrition services, congregate nutrition services, and nutrition services for Native Americans.

- Loans and grants for healthy business now struggling due to COVID-19.

- Aid to distressed major industries, including the airlines, air cargo firms and lending for firms deemed critical to U.S. national security.

- Provisions to address coronavirus supply shortages, diagnostic testing, telehealth service access and creation of drugs to treat the virus.

- A \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund for state



President Donald J. Trump is joined by Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin as he signs H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, Wednesday, March 18, 2020, in the Oval Office of the White House. Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead. Public domain file.

and city government expenditures.

Representative Jack Bergman issued the following statement:

"The CARES Act provides essential, targeted, and temporary action for First District families, rural health care providers, small businesses, self-employed workers, and non-profit organizations. The government has asked Michiganders to close their businesses, sacrifice their livelihoods, and slow down our local economies to flatten the curve. The CARES Act is a necessary step at the federal level to help with economic recovery.

The full text of House Bill H.R. 6201 can be found at www.congress.gov/bill/116/h-congress/house-bill/6201/text

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BOYNE CITY

COMMUNITY EGG HUNT
CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for April 4.

EAST JORDAN

CHAMBER BUSINESS AFTER HOURS
CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for April 8.

EAST JORDAN

LIONS CLUB EASTER FUN & GAMES
CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for April 11.

CHARLEVOIX

EASTER EGG HUNT
CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for April 11.

HARBOR SPRINGS

EASTER EGG HUNT
CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for April 11.

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
POSTPONED. Originally scheduled for April 24. 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
CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for April 24th through May 3rd.

ELK RAPIDS

CONSTITUTION BOOT CAMP
April 25, 8:45am-3pm, Amvets Post 114, 410 Bridge St. 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

State Grant supports service industry companies affected by COVID-19

A \$500,000 Michigan Strategic Fund Grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) will support grants to businesses in the 10 counties of Northwest Lower Michigan affected by Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-09. That order was issued March 16, 2020 and placed temporary restrictions on the use of places of public accommodation.

The Northwest Small Business Relief Fund Collaborative consists of NetworksNorthwest, Northern LakesEconomic Alliance, Northwest Michigan Works!, Traverse Connect, Alliance for Economic Success, and Manistee Area Economic Development.

Grants up to \$10,000 will be awarded to private companies impacted by Executive Order 2020-09 throughout Northwest Lower Michigan. Due to the significant number of businesses that will be impacted and limited resources available under this program, Northwest Small Business Relief Fund Collaborative will be looking to prioritize businesses previously financially viable and now at risk of closure or unable to pay working capital expenses (i.e. rent, payroll, etc.) without immediate support. With very limited funds, grants will likely range from \$5,000 to \$10,000. In addition, up to \$10 million in small business loans are available through the Michigan Economic Development Organization (MEDC).

Small Business Relief Program: Grants

Eligible businesses include a company in an industry outlined in ExecutiveOrder 2020-20, or any subsequent

Executive Order of similar intent ("EO"), or demonstrates it is otherwise affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, that meets one or more of the following:

- Provides support to impacted employees, is located in a downtown district or high impact corridor or has 50 employees or less, or is a company that provides services to companies outlined in the EO and requires additional employees to support companies or employees impacted by EO;
- The company had 50 employees or less as of March 16, 2020 ;
- The company needs working capital to support payroll expenses, rent, mortgage payments, utility expenses or other similar expenses that occur in the ordinary course of business; and
- The company is able to demonstrate an income loss as a result of the EO, or the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The company needs to demonstrate that it was profitable prior to March 16, 2020.

The grants received must be used for working capital to support payroll expenses, rent, mortgage payments, utility expenses, or other similar expenses that occur in the ordinary course of business.

Small Business Relief Program: Loans

- Eligible businesses include:
- The company is an industry outlined in ExecutiveOrder 2020-20, or demonstrates it is otherwise affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, or is a company that provides goods and services to companies to the aforementioned;
 - The company has fewer than 100 employees as of March 16, 2020;
 - The company needs working capital

to support payroll expenses, rent, mortgage payments, utility expenses, or other similar expenses that occur in the ordinary course of business;

- The company can demonstrate that it is unable to access credit through alternative sources;
- The company can demonstrate an income loss as a result of Executive Order 2020-20.
- The company needs to demonstrate that it was profitable prior to March 16, 2020.

The loans received may be used for working capital to support payroll expenses, rent, mortgage payments, utility expenses, or other similar expenses that occur in the ordinary course of business.

Matt McCauley, CEO of Networks Northwest stated, "The economic and social disruption associated with the COVID-19 outbreak is having significant effects on businesses in Northwest Michigan. This grant and loan program will contribute to our region's economic resiliency and eventual recovery. This program will likely provide upwards of one million dollars to businesses in this region as a means to support households and communities alike."

We encourage your organization to help spread the word about this opportunity to businesses that would qualify. The application window will open on Friday, March 27 and close on Friday, April 3, 2020 at noon EST. The review process will begin April 7, and all decisions regarding grants will be announced by April 8, 2020. Businesses interested in applying can do so here: www.networksnorthwest.org/grants Businesses that qualify for a small business loan will have their applications submitted to the MEDC for further review.

We the People, The Federalist Papers, and The Citizen's Rule Book, plus everyone gets a binder with the presentation in it.

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.

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.

gent 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.

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 yoga and strength training classes. If you enjoy your first class, low-cost 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 information.

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 session
- The Boyne District Library Book Club meets at 7pm. Information at www.boynelibrary.org.

CHARLEVOIX

BRIDGE CONFERENCE
April 30, 8am-1pm, Charlevoix Public Library. Join us for the inaugural BRIDGE Charlevoix Conference, a half-day mini conference with various topics designed to give you knowledge, tips and advice to support your business. With six break-out sessions, choose what interests you and your team, and end the day in a room full of your peers with a working lunch activity to help you create an action plan and stay motivated. Topics include: Market Analysis, Staff Retention, Cyber Security, Social Media, Unconscious Bias and Marketing & Promotion. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 day of. Coffee and light breakfast assortment provided upon arrival; lunch included. For information visit charlevoix.org or email Sarah Hagen at hagen@charlevoix.org

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

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 GLE PEOPLE FUND GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Great Lakes Energy People Fund is accepting grant applications from non-profit 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/peoplefund or by calling Great

NORTHERN MICHIGAN

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Bette Brand announced that USDA is accepting Fiscal Year 2020 applications for grants to help strengthen the rural economy. USDA is making grants available under the Rural Community Development Initiative program for qualified intermediaries to provide assistance to help improve housing and community facilities, and to implement community and economic development projects in rural areas. Electronic applications must be submitted to grants.gov by May 13, 2020, at midnight EST. Paper applications must be submitted to the applicant's USDA Rural Development state office by May 18, 2020 at 4pm local time. Additional information is available on page 12761 of the March 4, 2020, Federal Register.

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 non-profit 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 county-wide projects, arts and culture, veterans, ur-



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Charlevoix County News

Thursday, April 2, 2020
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FAX (888) 854-7441

“I wanna fly like an eagle, to the sea. Fly like an eagle, let my spirit carry me.” ~Steve Miller Band

Michigan’s Amazing Animals:

Bodacious Bald Eagles!

BY PATRICK BEVIER

The bird bestowed with the honor of being our national symbol has an intriguing life history and ecology. Here are some fascinating fun facts about our fine-feathered friends, the bald eagles:

The Name Game: The scientific name of the bald eagle is, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. The Greek roots of the genus *Haliaeetus* translate to, “sea eagle” while in Latin *leucocephalus* literally means, “white head.” Common names in other regions of the U.S. include sea eagle, fish eagle, and erne. A subspecies known as the white-tailed eagle is found in Eurasia and lacks white head feathers. Most of the 60 species of eagles worldwide inhabit Eurasia and Africa.

Birds of Many Colors: Bald eagles have one of the most varied plumage evolutions of any bird in North America. The characteristic pure-white head and tail don’t develop fully until the bird is in its fifth year of life. Prior to that, eagles undergo a succession of dark brown, mottled plumage variations with white highlights becoming more discernable the older the bird gets. Eagles in their second and third year of life still have a primarily dark head, beak, and eyes while fourth-year birds possess a white head with brown streaks. Adults display distinctive bright yellow feet, legs, and beaks, pale yellow eyes, and black bodies. There’s a method to Mother Nature’s madness as the dark mottled feather patterns of young eagles serves as excellent camouflage while the white head and tail announce that the bird is of breeding age.

Brawny Birds: Bald eagles are the second largest birds in North America (California condors carry that crown). While the sexes exhibit no color dimorphism female eagles are usually about 25% larger than their male counterparts. The lovely ladies can weigh up to 15 pounds and have a wingspan eclipsing 7 ½ feet! Males can tip the scales at 10 pounds and possess wing diameters of 6 feet. Adult body lengths range from 28 to 40 inches. With the flavor of a formal assembly a group of eagles is called a convocation.

Age Analysis: The average lifespan of an eagle in the wild is 20 years. The oldest documented bald eagle was an old-timer that passed on to that heavenly aviary in the sky at the advanced age of 38!

Deadly Divers: Bald eagles can eclipse a speed of 45 miles per hour when gliding but can missile at over 90



The Upper Talon: A three-year-old female bald eagle (top) gets the better of the smaller adult male while battling for a dead animal at Wilderness State Park. Subadult females, regardless of age, are very successful at supplanting males from food

miles per hour when diving to snatch a fish from the surface of the water!

All Hail the Queens: A fascinating study from California indicated that larger female eagles, whether adult or subadult, were 100% successful at supplanting the smaller males from dead prey items.

Superior Success Story: In the Mitten State, and throughout much of the U.S., eagle numbers plummeted in the 1950’s. This was largely

due to the widespread use of the devastating pesticides DDT and PCBs. The chemicals invaded food webs and caused deadly neurological disorders in the birds as well as eggs to be very brittle or to not hatch at all. The fantastic news is that Michigan eagle numbers have ballooned from an alarmingly low 52 breeding pairs in 1961 to over 850 couples today! Two events – the banning of the use of DDT in 1972 and the passage of Endangered

Species legislation in 1974 – played key roles in this resurgence.

A Plea about Poison: Speaking of insidious chemicals entering ecological systems I urge everyone to find alternative methods of rodent control than the use of rat poisons. Eagles, as well as other birds of prey like owls and hawks, may consume the mice and, in turn, die because of the poison they’ve ingested. It tugs at one’s heart strings to think that a majestic bird that has possibly survived up to 20 Michigan winters would perish from such a senseless human practice.

Mansions in the Sky: Bald eagle nests, known as eyries, are the largest of any North American bird. Better yet, their nests are the largest tree nests ever recorded for any animal species on our planet. The nests can be up to 13 feet tall, 8 feet wide, and weigh 4,000 pounds! With those construction specifications it’s no wonder that eagles mate for life and usually return to the same nest year after year!

To protect the eaglets from tumbling out bald eagle nests are 2 to 3 feet deep. That’s critical because their eyries can be up to 200 feet in the air and the young can’t survive a fall from those alti-

tudes.

Eggs-traordinary Eaglets: Adult bald eagle couples produce 1 to 3 eggs each spring with 2 eggs per clutch being most common. The eggs, which are twice the size of those of a chicken, require 35 days of incubation before hatching into the parent-dependent altricial eaglets. Upon hatching, both the male and female adults care for and feed the young. Fledging occurs at approximately 10 – 12 weeks, but the eaglets remain with their parents for up to a month. A word to the wise is to never disturb an eagle nest. If this happens eagles often abandon the chicks and leave the chicks to starve to death. In Michigan the mortality rate is over 50% for eagles in their first year of life. Sadly, overall survival from hatching to adulthood is believed to be between 15-25%.

Aerial Acrobats: The in-flight courtship displays of bald eagles are simply spectacular. They feature swoops, chases, and cartwheels in which they fly high, lock talons, and free-fall, only separating just before hitting the ground. It’s no surprise that this maniacal mating ritual is called a, “death spiral!”

The Voice: Despite movie and commercial depictions

that often use the shrill screech of a red-tailed hawk to represent eagle vocalizations the actual call of these white-capped avians consists of weak staccato, chirping whistles of, “kleeek kik ik ik ik”, similar in cadence to a gull’s call.

Native Notions: Bald eagles - and their feathers - are highly revered by Michigan’s native peoples. The birds play a key role in Native culture, religion, and mythology. Eagles represent honesty, majesty, strength, courage, wisdom, power and freedom to the Native American’s of Michigan and other states. If you’re looking for a great children’s book to read to your little ones I highly recommend the award winning picture book, *The Story of Jumping Mouse*. It’s based on a Native American legend about a mouse whose generosity is rewarded with becoming an eagle.

Hopefully you found this synopsis regarding these remarkable and regal birds to be educational. With eagle numbers on the rise you’re sure to encounter one soon in the woods and waters of the Wolverine State!



© Joni Roberts

A darker, larger, subadult female bald eagle grapples with a smaller male for carrion. Female eagles can be 25% larger than their male counterparts (© photo Joni Roberts)

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CLEARANCE
\$16,995!

TURN NORTH AT MEECHER ROAD (TRAFFIC SIGNAL BY WALGREENS ON M-32 WEST) - NORTH 2 BLOCKS TO EXPRESSWAY COURT
NEW HOURS: SALES & PARTS: MONDAY - SATURDAY 9AM - 5 PM, SERVICE: MONDAY - SATURDAY 9AM - 5PM. CLOSED SUNDAYS

News

McLaren Northern Michigan increasing capacity for various surge scenarios

Over the past four weeks, the McLaren Northern Michigan team has collectively spent thousands of hours preparing for the COVID-19 pandemic to reach our northern Michigan community. Although the number of confirmed COVID-19 patients in northern Michigan remains low, the team at McLaren Northern Michigan is actively preparing for an influx of COVID-19 positive patients within the coming days and weeks.

"Right now, this is the calm before the storm in northern Michigan," said Andrew McDonagh, Chief Medical Officer, McLaren Northern Michigan. "We are very early on in our battle with COVID-19 and expect the numbers to rise substantially over the coming weeks. We can see the storm clouds building on the horizon as we look to what is occurring in Southeast Michigan."

The team at McLaren Northern Michigan is working to expand the hospital's capacity for isolation units. Currently, McLaren Northern Michigan has one isolation unit treating respiratory patients. The future plans include:

- Implementing additional isolation units for respiratory patients when more beds are needed.
- Care plans for treating COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients separately within the hospital.
- Enhanced emergency department triage to treat patients by separating respiratory and non-respiratory conditions.
- Keeping a percentage of beds available to accept patients from other regions of the state. McLaren Northern Michigan may be called upon to



"We want the community to know that every plan we make prioritizes the health and safety our patients and staff," Andrew McDonagh, Chief Medical Officer. Courtesy photo

serve as a relief site for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients from other parts of the state. Conversely, downstate hospitals will be asked to support McLaren Northern Michigan should we see an influx of patients beyond our capacity.

- The COVID-19 preparedness plans include the Petoskey Campus, the Cheboygan Campus, McLaren Home Care & Hospice, Boulder Park Terrace, and McLaren outpatient clinics.

"We want the community to know that every plan we make prioritizes the health and safety our patients and staff," said McDonagh. "We hope the plans we are developing will not be necessary, but we are preparing for multiple scenarios. Together we will rise to the occasion, meet the coming storm head on, and fulfill our duty as medical caregivers to do our very best to care for you and our community. Together, as a community, we will weather this storm."

Women's Resource Center continues essential support services

Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan (WRCNM) remains committed to providing essential services to survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault, child sexual assault, child abuse, stalking and harassment in accordance with public health recommendations and state/national guidelines as the COVID-19 situation evolves.

WRCNM Executive Director Gail Kloss said, "Our priority is the safety, well-being and needs of both survivors and our staff."

Kloss said that as of Tuesday, March 24, WRCNM will provide counseling, advocacy, safety planning and therapy services by phone. The



WRCNM will provide counseling, advocacy, safety planning and therapy services by phone. Courtesy photo

agency's 24-Hour Help and Information Line is staffed and operational and can be reached at (231) 347-0082 or

(800) 275-1995. WRCNM's Safe Home is available for domestic abuse/sexual assault survivors and their family members in emergency/crisis situations. Kloss said the Safe Home is following protocols designed to reduce the likelihood of exposure to the coronavirus.

The WRCNM's Educational and Employment Services can be reached by phone for questions related to educational scholarships, college classes and occupational training, at (231) 348-6699.

WRCNM programs and services that are temporarily suspended include:

- Support Groups
- Playgroup
- Children's Learning Cen-

ter

- Project Free Preschool
- Gold Mine Shop

These modifications to WRCNM programs and services are effective March 24 through April 13.

WRCNM program and service updates will be posted on the agency's website, Facebook and Instagram pages, at <http://www.wrcnm.org>, <https://www.facebook.com/WomensResourceCenterOfNorthernMichigan> and <https://www.instagram.com/wrcnm>.

For questions about WRCNM programs and services, call the agency's 24-Hour Help and Information Line at (231) 347-0082 or (800) 275-1995, or email info@wrcnm.org.

New unemployment benefits filing schedule

The new system uses alphabetical order to manage web visits and calls. It is being implemented as UIA has moved nearly all of its staff members to customer service positions in order to faster assist Michiganders in filing for benefits. At the same time, the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget is working to expand capacity and infrastructure of the State's online systems. Potential benefit recipients can help alleviate the system overload by following a few simple steps:

If you have a computer and the internet, please use the website, not the phone system, to apply for benefits: Michigan.gov/UIA.

- Log onto the website during off-hours for better access - late at night or very early in the morning.
- Please be patient. If the page is loading slowly, DO NOT refresh. Give it a few minutes to load.
- View the online tool kit and frequently asked questions before you apply to en-

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
File Your Claim By **Last Name**

ONLINE FILING SCHEDULE:	CALL CENTER FILING SCHEDULE:
<p>michigan.gov/uiia</p> <p>A-L FILE CLAIMS Monday Wednesday Friday</p> <p>M-Z FILE CLAIMS Sunday Tuesday Thursday</p> <p>Saturday if you missed your days WEBSITE IS 24/7</p>	<p>1-866-500-0017</p> <p>A-L CALL ON Monday & Wednesday</p> <p>M-Z CALL ON Tuesday & Thursday</p> <p>Friday if you missed your days 8AM-5PM MON-FRI</p>

The day or time of day in which a claim is filed will not impact whether you receive benefits or your benefit amount. Additionally, your claim can be backdated to reflect the date you were laid off or let go due to COVID-19.

sure that you have the appropriate information and documents you will need on hand.

- If you must use the Call Center, please observe the alphabetical system outlined below beginning this Sunday to help ease the burden.

Online Filing Schedule - Michigan.gov/UIA

- Last names beginning with letters A-L are asked to file claims on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

- Last names beginning with letters M-Z are asked to file claims on Sundays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays.

could not file during their allotted window.

When you file will NOT affect whether you are approved for benefits or the amount of payment. You will be compensated from the date you were laid-off or released from your employment. You have 28 days from your last day of work to apply for benefits. UIA understands the urgency that benefit recipients are experiencing, but the fastest way to secure benefits is to follow the UIA guidelines.

The current situation is unprecedented, and UIA is doing everything in its power to ensure that those who are eligible for benefits receive them. Our team is working as quickly as possible to process applications and approve benefits. Your assistance is essential to maximizing our efficiency as we work to help all Michiganders get the financial support they have earned.

For additional resources visit Michigan.gov/UIA.

REAL ESTATE CORNER

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Buying a Home with a View

PART 1 OF 2

Homes with a pleasant view of the horizon often sell at a premium above similar homes without the view. However, if a view is important to you, buy it mostly for your own pleasure and not as an investment. Though you may place a considerable dollar value on the view, future buyers may not be so like-minded. It may take you longer to find a buyer when it comes time to resell the house. Or you may end up dropping your price to more nearly match other sales prices in the neighborhood.

In short, if you are buying a house with a view, try to pay as little extra as possible. Otherwise, you might not get your money back.

LOT AND LANDSCAPING

Even though most real estate value is usually concentrated in the building, the lot is important, too. Obviously, it should be as level as possible. Assuming the property is in a typical neighborhood, the lot should be rectangular - no odd shaped lots or oddly situated lots.

Yard sizes are smaller in modern homes than in older homes, but there should still be a decently sized front and back yard. Do not buy a house where the entire back yard is taken up by a swimming pool, for example.

Do not purchase an over-

landscaped property, either. You would normally pay a premium for that, which you may not be able to recover when you sell. You will get your best value if the house is moderately landscaped or under-landscaped for the area. You can always improve the landscaping during your ownership by improving the grass and adding bushes and trees. Just do not spend too much.

HOUSE SIZE

In each residential neighborhood, houses will vary in size and rooms, but they should not be too different. If resale value is an important consideration, you should not buy the largest model in the neighborhood. When determining market value, the homes nearest to yours are most important. If most of the nearby houses are smaller than your house, they can act as a drag on appreciation.

On the other hand, if you buy a small or medium house for the neighborhood, the larger homes can help pull up your value. This is one of those times where determining your "wants" versus your "needs" can be extremely important. Buying what you need in a more prestigious neighborhood may provide more financial reward than getting what you want in a less desirable neighborhood.

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