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Coronavirus panic buys that just waste your money

Here are some things you might think you need to hoard but please stop.

Toilet Paper - Few things make you feel more vulnerable than running out of toilet paper. Maybe that's why TP, of all things, has been rolling off the shelves for weeks on end. A paltry 12-pack will last a family of four the entire length of a two-week quarantine.

Surgical and N95 masks - You'll see plenty of people wearing homemade masks out on the street, and that's fine. But surgical masks and especially N95s are in short supply. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently recommended the use of home-

made cloth masks, which everyone can wear outside. They may help slow the spread of the virus by keeping people from coughing or sneezing on others.

Latex gloves - The key is not your hands but your face. Try not to touch your face, and don't eat without washing your hands first.

Don't buy food you won't eat - Plan a meal schedule and a shopping list before you go out so you don't succumb to all the panic buying in the store.

Alcohol-free hand sanitizer - The CDC warns that sanitizers that don't contain at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropyl alcohol might not kill the coronavirus on surfaces. Be-

fore you buy a bottle, read the label. If you see benzalkonium chloride - a popular alternative - instead of alcohol as the active ingredient, keep shopping. Before you buy a bottle, read the label. If you see benzalkonium chloride - a popular alternative - instead of alcohol as the active ingredient, keep shopping.

Vitamins - Save your money. Focus on hygiene and overall wellness, including a proper diet and exercise.

Liquor - Save your whiskey or vodka for cocktails. Don't waste it trying to make your own hand sanitizer, because liquor doesn't contain enough alcohol.

Antibiotics - The WHO is very clear: Antibiotics will

not kill the coronavirus. Antibiotics kill bacteria, not viruses.

Household cleaners - You don't need to purchase specialized household cleaners to battle the coronavirus. Keep it simple. "One of the nice things about this virus, if there's anything nice about it at all, is that soap actually kills it. It doesn't just escort the virus off you and down the drain," says Dr. John Swartzberg, professor of infectious diseases at the University of California, Berkeley.

Magic wipes for your phone - Both Apple and Samsung recommend simply wiping your phone with a common household disinfect-

ant wipe.

Air Purifier - The coronavirus doesn't travel long distances in the air. It's mainly spread by heavy droplets. Air purifiers - even those with germicidal UV-C light filters - won't capture and destroy coronavirus in your home.

Water Purifier - The EPA says it's safe to drink tap water as usual. The EPA quotes the World Health Organization as saying the presence of the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies and based on current evidence the risk to water supplies is low.

Bottled water - The water

See PANIC BUYS - Page 5A

Red, White & Blue popping up all over Charlevoix

BY KAREN WALKER

Downtown Charlevoix is demonstrating its sense of community with American flags along the street and red, white, and blue themed displays in business windows. The idea originated with the owner of The Lake House, a gift and home decor shop on Bridge Street. The owner of the shop, Darsi Lee, was looking for something the merchants could do to let the town know they are all in this current situation together. Lee explained, "I thought what better way to say it then having all our storefront windows decorated with red, white, and



This has been an effort to show that we are all united during this time.

blue but especially American flags."

Lee recruited Lindsey Dotson, Executive Director

of Charlevoix Main Street and Downtown Development Authority, to help spread the word. Dotson re-

marked, "Before we knew it, red, white, and blue started popping up all over the place!"

Lee noted most of the merchants were responsive and excited to participate. The city street department helped by hanging American flags on the Bridge Street light poles. Dotson stated, "This has been an effort to show that we are all united during this time, despite being socially distant. Our sense of community is strong and we are all very much working together as much as possible."

GasBuddy
Six States see lowest gas prices in over a decade

Wisconsin, Kentucky, Michigan, Oklahoma, see lowest gas prices in roughly 6,000 days; Minnesota and Illinois selling gas for less than a cup of coffee

BOSTON - GasBuddy, the travel and navigation app that is used by millions of drivers to save money on gas, reports that six states have surpassed their lowest average gas prices in over a decade, while five of those states are seeing the lowest prices since the early 2000's. In the case of Wisconsin, gas prices haven't been this low in 6,621 days.

STATES WITH LOWEST AVERAGE PRICES IN OVER A DECADE

Michigan; Avg Price - \$1.45/gal. Lowest since 12/24/2003

Wisconsin; Avg Price - \$1.30/gal. Lowest since 3/3/2002

Kentucky; Avg Price - \$1.45/gal. Lowest since 11/14/2003

Oklahoma; Avg Price - \$1.36/gal. Lowest since 12/31/2003

Minnesota; Avg Price - \$1.56/gal. Lowest since 1/31/2004

Illinois; Avg Price - \$1.77/gal. Lowest since 11/29/2008

Examining millions of fuel transactions from the company's Pay with GasBuddy program, gasoline demand plummeted in Q1 as Americans across the country were ordered to

See GAS PRICES - Page 5A

Save a lot food stores
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News

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New initiative will support affordable year-round housing in Charlevoix

Housing North is launching a new program to maintain and expand affordable, year-round housing opportunities.

“Communities with large seasonal populations have unique housing challenges,” noted Sarah Lucas, executive director of Housing North. “There can be a strong financial incentive for property owners to focus on seasonal residents, while year-round residents struggle to find permanent affordable housing. We can see this situation in many of our northern Michigan communities, which is why finding a solution to this problem has been one of our top priorities at Housing North.”

The new program provides incentives for property owners to voluntarily record a deed restriction on an existing or newly purchased residential property. The approach is similar to

those commonly used at land conservancies. A deed restriction can permanently require year-round occupancy in the home, either by homeowners or long-term renters. Once recorded, the deed restriction stays with the title and would transfer to new owners in the future. The exact amount of incentive will vary and be based on the property’s appraised value.

Lucas notes that the new approach will help address the shortage of year-round housing by utilizing the existing supply of homes and land in conjunction with encouraging new construction rather than focusing solely on new construction.

“When Housing North was first established in 2018, we looked around the country at other seasonal communities to find the most effective and successful housing policies,” explained Lucas. “The InDeed pro-

gram in Vail Colorado stood out as a voluntary approach that used incentives to solve the year-round housing shortage by taking a land conservancy style approach and applying it to housing.”

The first implementation of the new program will take place in Charlevoix, with the rezoning and purchase of a former church. Using funds provided by a local donor through the Charlevoix Community Foundation, Housing North purchased a deed restriction as part of the real estate transaction.

Charlevoix mayor, Luther Kurtz, was involved in the effort and expressed optimism about the new approach. “In Charlevoix, like so many other northern Michigan communities, housing for the workforce has been a constant challenge. It’s exciting to have another tool in our toolbox to help our year-round resi-

dents afford to live and work in our community.”

Two additional units may be added to the property, demonstrating the potential for the program to incentivize the creation of new long-term housing units. Housing North will hold the deed restriction and administer the program but will continue to work closely with the City of Charlevoix.

“The ‘Housing Conservancy’ approach brings exciting new tools to address our region’s housing shortages,” said Lucas. “Housing North will continue to work with the City of Charlevoix and other communities in our region to expand the program to meet diverse housing needs specific to each community, using this and, potentially, additional emerging conservancy-based models.”

NCMC plans virtual commencement ceremony

As statewide efforts to mitigate the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19) continue, North Central Michigan College announced that it will honor its 2020 graduates with a virtual Commencement ceremony on May 8. The celebration will occur via a Facebook Watch Party at 7:30 pm. Following the virtual ceremony, the video will be posted on the college’s YouTube channel.

“The decision to reconsider Commencement was extremely difficult,” said Dr. David Roland Finley, president of North Central. “However, given that such uncertainty exists around the safety of large gatherings, both in the near term and several months from now, we have decided that a virtual celebration is the most appropriate option. I believe we can make this a meaningful celebration of our graduates’

tremendous accomplishments while ensuring the safety of our campus community.”

On April 14, North Central announced that all classes scheduled for Summer 2020 will be delivered via remote instructional delivery. The college is communicating directly with students to ensure a smooth transition to online classes and remains committed to delivering an exceptional educational experience while ensuring the health and safety of students, faculty and staff.

To streamline communications, the North Central website remains 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 campus community.

DNR: Leave young wildlife as you find them



It's common to see baby animals like this in the woods, seemingly alone. Don't worry, the mother is almost certainly

Baby bunnies are nestled in their nests, fawns will soon find their way through the forest, and songbird and waterfowl nests are popping up all over. In fact, last week we shared tips on what to do if you find a duck or goose nesting in your yard.

Remember that it’s not unusual to come across baby wildlife in springtime. Many wild mothers leave babies unattended and hidden to protect them from predators, but almost always are nearby and return periodically to care for their young when they feel it’s safe. Even most young birds found on the ground are under the watchful eyes of parents.

“The best thing you can do to help young wildlife is to simply leave them alone,” said Hannah Schauer, DNR wildlife communications coordinator. “Many wildlife, such as deer and rabbits, will

leave young unattended as a survival strategy. Even though it may appear that a rabbit’s nest or a fawn is abandoned, they rarely are.”

Your best decision is to leave a young animal in the wild where the mother can care for it and teach it how to survive.

On the rare occasion you come across an animal that is injured or truly abandoned, keep in mind that, in Michigan, it’s illegal to keep the animal unless you’re a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Under the current “Stay Home, Stay Safe” executive order, some wildlife rehabilitators may have had to suspend services; call ahead to see whether they are able to assist at this time.

Additional information on what to do if you find a baby animal is available at Michigan.gov/Wildlife.

Mancelona Bass Festival canceled until 2021

It’s with heavy hearts, that the organizers of the 65th Annual Mancelona Bass Festival announce the cancellation of the Festival for 2020 due to COVID-19. The Festival was scheduled to run from May 28-31, 2020.

According to Ken Mattei, President of the Bass Festival Committee, the Committee, along with local leaders and our partners met last Friday, April 17th to discuss the status of the Festival. This is the first time in the 65 year history of the Festival that it had to be canceled.

The safety of the community, volunteers and guests visiting the Mancelona area is at the top of our priority list. The Festival Committee held off postponing till the last possible minute, as we knew how much everyone looks forward to the Festival each year. The organizers discussed the possibility of holding a smaller community festival either in late summer or early fall, but any planning would have to be put on hold until we receive clarification on future guidelines, and social distancing direction from state and local officials.



The 65th Annual Mancelona Bass Festival announce the cancellation of the Festival for 2020 due to COVID-19. The Festival was scheduled to run from May 28-31, 2020. Photo by Joanie Moore

The Committee would like to thank our community, vendors, sponsors and partners for their support over the years. Without this support, the Mancelona Bass Festival would not be possible. COVID 19 is causing unprecedented effects that are

being felt by both businesses and residents of Mancelona and throughout the State of Michigan.

Please continue to follow the Mancelona Bass Festival on our Facebook page and our website where you will find the most up-to-date in-

formation regarding additional events the Mancelona Bass Festival committee plans throughout the year, as well as frequently asked questions.

BOYNE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT INCIDENT REPORT

Monday, March 30, 2020
0041 Received tip that a missing person was staying on N East St.
0112 Threats & PPO violation reported in the 300 block of Silver St.
1051 Report of MDOP on Robinson St
1358 Call from subject questioning validity of essential work by employer.
1848 Report of suspicious activity on Vogel St.
2118 Assisted Sheriff Dept. on Glenwood Beach
2323 Report of possible bond violation on Jersey St

Tuesday, March 31, 2020
0837 Call from tree service wanting to know if they can work.
1044 Report of construction taking place against the Executive Order on Lakeshore Dr
1157 Report of essential business not providing protective gear for employees
1325 Trespass complaint on Roosevelt St
1325 Disturbance reported in the 300 block of E Division St
1350 Subject calling with questions about opening yard cleaning business for the summer.
1403 Report of Landscape Company violating the Executive Order near Elm and Front St.
1420 Subject calling to find out why downstate construction crew

was told they could not work on residence on Lakeshore Dr.

Wednesday, April 1, 2020
1055 Report of construction taking place on Lower Lake St in violation of the Executive Order
1100 Vehicle unlock in the 1300 block of Pleasant Av
1118 Health and safety issue reported on S Park St
1234 Subject called to determine if yard maintenance business was allowed right now.
1359 Happy Birthday parade on Terrace St.
1506 Suspicious situation in the 200 block of Vogel St
1644 Harassment complaint from the 700 block of Wenonah St.

Thursday, April 2, 2020
0134 Suspicious situation in the 600 block of S East St.
1346 Harassment complaint from Wilson St.
1528 Water main break on Vogel St between Jefferson and Jersey. Vogel St shut down.
1533 Suspicious situation in the 200 block of Vogel St
1721 Subject burning leaves in the area of North St. and East St.
1938 Dog running at large in the area of the Marina.

Friday, April 3, 2020
0500 Assist Sheriff Dept. on M 75 S.

1105 MDOP to driveway reflector in the 500 block of Jefferson St
1305 Anonymous caller watching the webcam and can see construction taking place in the 200 block of E Water St.
1518 Harassment complaint from Pleasant Av
1730 Suspicious situation on Ann St. near Lake St.
2100 Salvage vehicle inspection
2344 Driving complaint near Wenonah and Harris.

Saturday, April 4, 2020
0810 Abandoned vehicle in the 400 block of N Lake St.
0951 Suspicious vehicle in the 200 block of E Water St.
1004 Business operating in violation of the Executive Order in the 100 block of E. Water St.
1900 Citizen assist in the 300 block of N Lake St.
2136 Civil dispute on Wilson St.

Sunday, April 5, 2020
1358 Subjects disregarding the closed sign in the playground at Veterans Park.
1450 Juvenile skateboarding in road at Water and East.
1643 Lodged 2 stray dogs at the shelter
1905 Vehicle unlock in the 700 block of Lake Park Dr.

MONDAY APRIL 6, 2020
0426 Assist Fire Dept. in the Industrial Park
0950 Report of found bike in the 300 block of N Lake St.
2134 Suspicious vehicle in the 800 block of Brockway.

Tuesday, April 7, 2020
1149 Spoke to lawn care business operating outside executive order
1401 Report of dirt bike doing wheelies down Vogel St.
1536 Fatal house fire on Line St
1905 Report of lost handicap placard
2040 Assist Sheriff Dept. at Silver St and Robinson St.

Wednesday, April 8, 2020
0051 Suspicious situation in the 700 block of Wenonah St
0130 Assist Sheriff Dept. on Charlevoix St
0536 Report of audible alarm from the 200 block of Vogel St.
0955 Report of lost wallet
0958 Water cover reported missing from the bottom of Charlevoix St.
1217 Report of the dirt bike from yesterday observed in the 400 block of N Lake St
1322 Arrested subject for suspended driver’s license at M-75 S and Moll Dr.

1430 Driving complaint on W Division
2318 Assist Sheriff Dept. and East Jordan PD at Wilson Rd and Behling Rd.

Thursday, March 9, 2020
0820 Trash dumped at Avallanche.
0920 Complaint regarding business being open in the 100 block of Water St that caller did not feel is essential.
0930 Report of 16 year old missing from the 600 block of N East St. Returned home on own.
1238 Citizen assist in the 100 block of Water St
1529 Report of lost debit card
1203 Suspicious situation on First St.
1800 Subject in the road on Michigan Av trying to collect toll from passing motorists. Gone on arrival.

Friday, April 10, 2020
1143 Driving complaint on Water St.
1147 Citizen assist in the 100 block of Water St.
1324 Parking violation at Avallanche Mountain
1510 Found key turned over to officer.
1549 Animal complaint in the 300 block of E Division St
2046 Assist MSP on M-75 S.
2340 Checked on road hazard

on M 75 N

Saturday, April 11, 2020
0919 Report of a tree crew doing non-essential work in the 400 block of Jefferson St.
1145 Property damage crash and Road Rage on Boyne Av at High St.
1304 Driving complaint at Boyne Ave and Fall Park Rd
1345 Assist citizen in the 300 block of N Lake St
1549 Parking complaint at Collings St. and N. East St.
1600 Found debit card found in the 200 block of Water St. Owner contacted.
1732 Assist Sheriff Dept. on Lakeshore Rd.

Sunday, April 12, 2020
0005 Assist Sheriff Dept. on M-75 S.
0453 Assist Sheriff Dept. in Boyne Falls.
1041 Animal complaint in the 500 block of N Lake St
1127 Suspicious vehicle in the Industrial Park.
1403 Suspicious situation on Boyne City-Charlevoix Rd. at Michigan Ave.
1604 Birthday parade with BCFD, BCEMS and CXSH on Silver St. and Harris St.
1810 Harassment complaint from the 600 block of Front St.
2046 Assist Sheriff Dept. on Camp Ten near Thumb Lake.

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Boyne Area organizations working together on summer 2020 event decisions

Boyne City Main Street and the Boyne Area Chamber of Commerce work together to promote all that we love about our Boyne Community. In response to the current Covid-19 situation, we continue this partnership of communication, with all other interested organizations, to make decisions about the viability of spring and summer events we typically enjoy each year.

At this time, cancellation of these various events, like Stroll the Streets, Evenings at the Gazebo, and Boyne Thunder, have not taken place. Both organizations, and others like the 4th of July, are carefully monitoring guidelines and safety protocols and these will be the first priority for all events and decisions. As you may know, the Morel Festival has been cancelled.

Understanding that information about safety protocols change weekly, specific event cancellation decisions will be made on an individual event basis and posted to that organization's social media, newsletter, and websites. Be sure to check those often as we get closer to event dates.

"Save Small Business Fund" available

Small businesses are the foundation of our communities and our economy. Employing nearly half the American workforce, they keep our neighborhoods running and make them feel like home. The impacts of the coronavirus pandemic have wrought unprecedented financial uncertainty. These businesses need resources and relief — and they need it now.

That's why the Save Small Business Fund, a grantmaking initiative funded by contributions from corporate and philanthropic partners, is providing \$5,000 in short-term relief to employers across the United States. These one-time supplemental cash grants are for businesses that have between three and 20 employees and operate in an economically vulnerable community.

The grant application will go live on April 20 at 3PM ET.

Eligibility: To qualify, a business must:

- Employ between 3 and 20 people
- Be in an economically vulnerable community
- Have been harmed financially by the COVID-19 pandemic

To learn more about the Save Small Business Fund and to apply for a grant go to <https://savesmallbusiness.com>

McLaren seeks facemask donations



The Centers for Disease Control has issued new guidelines advising the public to wear cloth facemasks in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores and pharmacies.

Following the new CDC guidelines, McLaren Northern Michigan will provide homemade facemasks donated by community members to patients and their caregivers when they are discharged from the hospital, as well as to patients at outpatient clinics and McLaren Home Care & Hospice. Donated facemasks

In anticipation of a greater need for homemade facemasks, the McLaren Northern Michigan Foundation is once again accepting donations of homemade facemasks. Courtesy photo

will also be provided to staff for use in the community. The cloth facemasks do not replace surgical masks or N-95 respirators and will not be used by staff in patient care areas of the hospital. Facemasks will be commercially laundered before being distributed.

"We have received an incredible outpouring of support from the community and have already received more than 3,000 homemade facemasks," said Patrick Schulte, Vice President and Chief Development Officer, McLaren Northern Michigan Foundation. "We are grateful for the community's partnership as we continue to meet the needs of our patients and staff."

In anticipation of a greater need for homemade facemasks, the McLaren Northern Michigan Foundation is once again accepting dona-

tions of homemade facemasks. Community members who are healthy, willing, and able to make and donate face masks are encouraged to use the CDC pattern available online at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>. McLaren Northern Michigan prefers cotton ties to elastic bands.

Due the hospital's visitor restrictions, community members are asked call ahead to schedule a drop-off time with the McLaren Northern Michigan Foundation. Please call 231.487.3500.

Additional information about the CDC guidelines regarding cloth facemasks is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

Mackinac Bridge painting project wins third award

The Mackinac Bridge tower painting project, now entering its fourth and final year, has won a third national award.

Ruby+Associates of Bingham Farms received one of five Engineering Honorable Conceptor Awards from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan (ACEC/M) at the association's annual Engineering and Surveying Excellence Awards Gala on March 7. Ruby+Associates designed the movable painting scaffolding painting platforms being used in the Mackinac Bridge's back-to-back two-year tower painting projects.

"It's gratifying that the companies involved in repainting the Mackinac Bridge towers have now been recognized a third time for their excellence in design of equipment and execution of their work," said Mackinac Bridge Authority (MBA) Executive Secretary Kim Nowack. "As an engineer, it's exciting to witness the problem-solving creativity being applied to this project."

Earlier this year, representatives of Seaway Painting of Livonia, the contractor performing the work on the bridge, accepted the E. Crone Knoy Award from the Society for Protective Coatings, an industry group focused on protecting and preserving concrete, steel, and other industrial and marine structures. The E. Crone Knoy Award "recognizes an outstanding achievement in industrial or commercial coatings work that demonstrates innovation, excellence

in craftsmanship, or the use of state-of-the-art techniques or products to creatively solve problems or provide long-term service."

Last summer at the Structural Engineers Association of Illinois 2019 Excellence in Structural Engineering Annual Awards, Ruby+Associates took home the Best Neighboring State Project Award for the bridge painting platforms used in the painting project. The movable scaffold system was designed by Ruby+Associates, fabricated by Moran Iron Works of Onaway, and used by Seaway Painting.

The south tower contract is for just less than \$6.5 million, with Seaway required to complete the project by Dec. 31. The contract to repaint the north tower was just less than \$6.3 million. Installation and removal of the platforms has required brief closures during the overnight and early morning hours on several occasions.

The original paint is lead-based and Seaway is required to contain 100 percent of the paint as it is removed and ship it to an appropriate landfill facility. The new paint, which is zinc-based, is expected to last at least 35 years, with periodic maintenance.



The Mackinac Bridge tower painting project, now entering its fourth and final year, has won a third national award for the movable scaffold platforms designed by Ruby+Associates. Courtesy photo.

National Work Zone Awareness Week begins April 20

Now, more than ever, the transport and delivery of essential items is crucial. Despite the delay of some projects due to the pandemic, there are many active work zones throughout the state. Roads must be maintained. Bridges need to be inspected. All available contractors have been briefed on the appropriate safety methods to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Next week is National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) to remind us all to pay extra attention as we drive past our neighbors, friends, relatives, and fellow Michiganders who are working hard to improve our roads and bridges. This year's theme: Safe work zones for all. Protect workers. Protect road users.

Traffic data from around the state show that volumes are down approximately 60 percent. To put that in perspective, last Friday there were approximately 1.7 million vehicles on Michigan roadways, while on that same day last year there were more than 4.5 million.

"It's tempting to drive faster when traffic is light," said MDOT Work Zone Delivery Engineer Chris Brookes. "But even with lower traffic volumes, it's so important to slow down through these work zones for the safety of everyone."

To show your support for the safety of road workers and everyone on the road, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and its statewide safety partners ask you to Go Orange next Wednesday, April 22. At home or in the field, show your support by sharing a photo on social media of you or your team wearing orange, including the hashtags #Orange4Safety and #NWZAW.

Know before you go. Check www.Michigan.gov/Drive for active work zones on state roads (US, M and I routes).

PANIC BUYS FROM PG. 1A

supply is safe. You don't need to be stockpiling bottled water

Prescription medicine - By limiting your prescription medicine purchases to 30 days' worth, you'll be doing your part to ensure prescription drugs are always available to those who need them, when they need them.

Paper towels - They make up 2% of the trash in America's landfills. People are using them in place of scarcer toilet paper - and are clogging sewer systems.

Produce wash - You may have heard that scrubbing your fruits and vegetables with soap or a special "produce wash" is an effective way to disinfect them. But there's no evidence to suggest produce cleansers are any more effective than water, and using soap may do more harm than good. Most soaps are not approved by the FDA for use on food. Ingesting them can cause vomiting and diarrhea. The safest method to wash your produce is the old fashioned way: gently scrub it with your hand under some cool or lukewarm water. It's that simple.

Essential oils - If somebody tries to tell you essential oils can protect you from COVID-19, it's a scam.

Pet Food - If you overbuy for your pet, you could deprive others of key nutrition. And pet shelters across the country are still operating and need to feed displaced animals.

Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update; 4/20/20

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan has received questions from residents regarding the state of COVID-19 in Otsego County. Due to several contributing factors, the number of positive cases of COVID-19 in Otsego County increased significantly. We continue to work collaboratively with multiple partners and conduct contract tracing in all four of our counties to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

Lisa Peacock, Health Officer, states "We understand that a sudden increase in the number of reported cases can be disconcerting for our Otsego County communities. We want you to know that there are several contributing factors, including the availability of new and expanded testing methodologies, as well as an increase in cases within a congregate living setting. We



will likely see increased cases in all of our communities as access to testing continues to expand. We urge everyone to continue their vigilance in staying home and staying safe!"

We would like to also make residents aware of changes being made to our daily COVID-19 reporting procedures. At the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak in our four-county jurisdiction, we responded with daily updates to keep our residents informed. Since then, we have continued to adapt to meet the information needs of our residents, and we developed our COVID-19 Data Dashboard.

At this time, we will begin sending formal COVID-19 updates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only. Additional press releases will be shared if a pertinent issue arises. Although we are reducing the frequency of formal COVID-19 updates, we want to remind residents to visit our COVID-19 Data Dashboard and our Facebook page for continued daily COVID-19 updates.

Below, we are now reporting the State of Michigan's reported cumulative recovered cases. The State of Michigan updates this number every Saturday. Recovered cases are de-

defined as persons with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis who are alive 30 days out from symptom onset.

As of 4pm on 4/20, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim - 9, Charlevoix - 12, Emmet - 21, Otsego - 72; and confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Charlevoix - 1, Emmet - 2, Otsego - 6. The State of Michigan has reported 32,000 cases and 2,468 deaths; and as of April 17, cumulative recovered cases: 3,237.

Stay up to date on the latest information in the Health Department jurisdiction by liking and following our Facebook page and visiting our COVID-19 Data Dashboard.

GAS PRICES FROM PG. 1A

stay home in light of COVID-19. The most recent data is even steeper, with transactions in April showing that gasoline demand has eroded by 50-70% over levels in late February and early March, with millions of Americans continuing to follow stay-at-home orders and not venturing out on the road.

In addition to some states seeing the lowest prices in over a decade,

GasBuddy counts over a dozen states that now have low prices under \$1 per gallon: Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Virginia and Wisconsin.

"To have thought at the beginning of the year we'd be in the place we are would truly have been impossible, new and multi-year records continue to be written when it comes to gasoline prices," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "It's staggering to know that in five of these six states we haven't seen

these gasoline prices in over 15 years, and for many of us, we watch from the living room window, adhering to the orders to stay at home. But there is strong potential that we will see gas prices this summer far lower than our previous expectations, and I'm hopeful by then we're safely able to enjoy it."

Surpassing the low prices from the Great Recession GasBuddy believes the chances are good that the national average may eventually drop under the 2008/2009 low as well. Today's average of \$1.79/gal would need to drop roughly 20 more cents per gallon to

best the low prices from that period.

While the rest of the states are currently near four year lows, there are signs too, that many more states will eventually test decade lows. "I fully expect that as many as half of the nation's states will ultimately see prices fall to at least decade lows, with perhaps most of them ultimately falling to lows not seen since the early 2000's," De Haan said.

For more information, visit www.gasbuddy.com.

Sports

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Charlevoix County News

Thursday, April 23, 2020

CALL (989) 732-8160
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Rayder defensive lineman Luke Stuck (72) makes a stop on a rival East Jordan's Levi Pepin (20) during play last season. Stuck will suit up for Hope College this upcoming fall. (CCNews/file photo)

Charlevoix's Luke Stuck moving on to Hope College



CHARLEVOIX -- Another Northern Michigan talent is taking both their athletic and academic skills to the collegiate ranks.

Rayder senior, Luke Stuck will be furthering his education as well as putting on the pads for Hope College next season.

Stuck, a three sport athlete for the Rayders, had already earned All-Area "Dream Team" status for the County News in both football and basketball, before the MHSAA made the tough decision to shutdown spring sports across the state.

During his senior season for Charlevoix, he made 42 tackles, forced two fumbles, recovered one and recorded eight sacks on defense.

Luke will be turning in his Rayder Maroon and White for Orange and Blue as he enters the fall for the NCAA Division III — MIAA (Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association) member Dutchmen.

A short three hour drive to

Holland, Michigan earlier this spring was all it took for the senior to make his decision.

When asked how he came to the decision that this was the right place for him to further both his athletic and academic career, he responded, "I went on a visit this spring and loved it. I spent a lot of time with the team, coaches and professors to get a feel for what life on campus would be like."

"Everyone that's a part of Hope College works together to make life as simple as possible for student-athletes. Their facilities are beautiful and Hope has very successful academic and athletic programs."

At this point, the coaches at Hope are looking for Luke to play various positions this upcoming fall, so in the meantime, he is keeping in shape by running and putting time in the weight room and is fortunate to be able to do so at home, during these trying times in Michigan with the

"stay-at-home" lockdown in place.

"Luckily, I have a full weight room in my basement, so I can stay on track with my lifting program," he noted. "I have also been following a speed workout to improve my footwork for this upcoming season."

Looking back, Stuck realized early on that playing sports at the collegiate level could come true.

"I realized it was a possibility for me to play at the next level at a very young age," Luck said. "My parents and coaches have always pushed me as hard as possible because they believed it was very possible. I've never had anyone close to me tell me that I won't make it."

"Coach (Don) Jess and coach (Jim) Alger have really helped me the past few years," he added. "They have taught me the game inside and out. I am very thankful they transformed the Rayder Football community the last

few years."

As he prepares for football, Stuck has a plan for his future as well.

"I am going into Hope's pre-medicine program," he said. "I am still unsure on which medical pathway I will take."

Stuck also knows that being from a small Northern Michigan community comes with a lot of support from those close to home as well as the regulars that fill the stands in any playing arena.

"I would like to thank my family, teammates and coaches for allowing me to achieve this dream of mine. I would never be in the position I am today without them, thank you for an incredible senior football season and "Thank You" to the Charlevoix fan base for supporting my teammates and I for the past four years, through our ups and our downs."

Congratulations Luke, good luck at the next level.

Turtle Creek Casino Michigan Open Championship Postponed

Turtle Creek Casino & Hotel and Michigan Section PGA working to reschedule

TRAVERSE CITY – The Turtle Creek Casino Michigan Open Championship has been postponed until later in the summer and new dates are being determined.

It was previously scheduled for June 8-11 on The Bear course at Grand Tra-

verse Resort and Spa.

"In the best interest of the tournament we have made the decision to officially postpone the Turtle Creek Casino Michigan Open Championship," Justin Phillips, tournament director for the Michigan Section PGA, said.

"With the ongoing uncertainty of the COVID-19 situation and in the best interest of the safety of everyone involved we feel this is the best course of action at this time. We are working with the staff

at Grand Traverse Resort as it is our goal to reschedule the championship for some time yet this year. We are excited about our new sponsor in Turtle Creek Casino and what that brings to the championship and we are optimistic we can hold the event this year."

In March it was announced that the best golfers from Michigan would play for the Michigan Open Championship's largest purse ever this June thanks to a new

sponsorship agreement reached with Turtle Creek Casino & Hotel. The 103rd edition of the state championship will have a purse of over \$115,000.

A pro-am, previously planned for two days prior to the championship, is also postponed and Phillips said the hope is to still have that event in conjunction with the championship this year.

Michigan PGA information: www.michiganpgagolf.com

About Grand Traverse Resort & Casinos

Owned and operated by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Grand Traverse Resort & Casinos offers world-class gaming, golf, dining, and spa amenities in the northwest corner of Michigan's lower peninsula. The premier properties include Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, Turtle Creek Casino & Hotel, and Leelanau Sands Casino & Lodge, along with EDC ven-

tures Turtle Creek Market, Eagletown Market, and more. For more information, visit www.gtbindians.com, www.turtlecreekcasinocom, www.grandtraverseresort.com.

MEDIA CONTACTS: Greg Johnson, PGA media coordinator, 616-560-8995, gregeee24@gmail.com; Justin Phillips, tournament director, jphillips@michiganpga.com, 517-641-7421

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2020-21 School Year Classifications Announced

EAST LANSING, Mich. - Classifications for Michigan High School Athletic Association elections and postseason tournaments for the 2020-21 school year have been announced, including football divisions determined pre-season for the first time since 1998, and with enrollment breaks for postseason tournaments posted to each sport, as page on the MHSAA Website.

Classifications for the upcoming school year are based on a second semester count date, which for MHSAA purposes was Feb. 12. The enrollment figure submitted for athletic classification purposes may be different from the count submitted for school aid purposes, as it does not include students ineligible for athletic competition because they reached their 19th birthday prior to September 1 of the current school year and will not include alternative education students if none are allowed athletic eligibility by the local school district.

All sports, tournaments are conducted with schools assigned to equal or nearly equal divisions, with lines dependent on how many schools participate in those respective sports.

For 2020-21, there are 752 tournament-qualified member schools. Schools recently were notified of their classification, and sport-by-sport divisions were posted to the MHSAA Website today (April 20). MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said schools may not subsequently lower

their enrollment figure. However, if revised enrollment figures are higher and indicate that a school should be playing in a higher division, that school would be moved up.

Football will undergo a significant classification change for the 2020 season, with teams in both 11 and 8-player assigned their divisions before the season for the first time since 1998; from 1999-2019, divisions for the 256-team 11-player field (and later the 8-player tournament) were determined after the regular season. A hard enrollment limit also will take effect this fall for teams to be eligible for the 8-player tournament. All schools with 215 or fewer students are eligible for the 8-player playoffs if they play that format during the regular season.

Two 11-player football champions will play in different divisions in 2020 than those they won a year ago. Grand Rapids Catholic Central will move to Division 5 after winning the Division 4 championship last season, while reigning Division 6 champion Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central will play in Division 7 this upcoming season. Also, 2019 Division 2 runner-up Detroit Martin Luther King will play in Division 3 this fall. In 8-player football, the reigning champions will trade divisions. 2019 Division 1 winner Colon moving into Division 2, and Division 2 champ Pickford moving into Division 1 for this fall.

A number of 2019-20 champions will be playing in differ-

ent divisions in 2020-21. Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern, boys soccer team will move into Division 1 after winning the Division 2 title in 2019. The East Grand Rapids girls swimming & diving team will move back into Lower Peninsula Division 2, which it won in 2017, after earning the last two championships in Division 3. Bridgman, girls cross country team will move into Lower Peninsula Division 3 after winning Division 4 last fall, and Grass Lake, boys bowling team will move into Division 3 after winning the Division 4 title this winter. The Allegan boys tennis team will move into Lower Peninsula Division 3 after sharing the Division 4 title in the fall, while the Ishpeming Westwood girls tennis team will move into Upper Peninsula Division 1 after winning the Division 2 title the last four seasons. (NOTE: MHSAA Finals in five Winter sports and all Spring sports were canceled in 2019-20 due to COVID-19.)

Visit the respective sport pages on the MHSAA Website at <https://www.mhsaa.com/sports> to review the divisional alignments for all MHSAA-sponsored tournament sports.

Traditional classes (A, B, C, D), formerly used to establish tournament classifications, are used only for MHSAA elections. To determine traditional classifications, after all counts are submitted, tournament-qualified member schools are

ranked according to enrollment and then split as closely into quarters as possible. For 2020-21, there are 188 member schools in each class.

Effective with the 2020-21 school year, schools with 831 or more students are in Class A. The enrollment limits for Class B are 392-830, Class C is 182-391, and schools with enrollments of 181 and fewer are Class D. The break between Classes A and B decreased 32 students from 2019-20, the break between Classes B and C decreased 32 students, and the break between Classes C and D is seven students fewer than the 2019-20 school year.

The new classification breaks will see 18 schools move up in Class for 2020-21 while 15 schools will move down:

MOVING UP FROM CLASS B TO CLASS A

Fowlerville
Harper Woods
Ionia

MOVING DOWN FROM CLASS A TO CLASS B

Battle Creek Harper Creek
Eastpointe

MOVING UP FROM CLASS C TO CLASS B

Blissfield
Canton Prep
Dearborn Riverside Academy
West
Detroit Pershing
Detroit Edison

Ecorse

MOVING DOWN FROM CLASS B TO CLASS C

Adrian Madison
Detroit Jalen Rose Leadership Academy
Grand Rapids Wellspring Prep
Menominee
Otisville-Lakeville Memorial Perry
Pinconning

MOVING UP FROM CLASS D TO CLASS C

Birmingham Roeper
Detroit Academy of the Americas
Detroit Southeastern
Detroit The School at Marygrove
Eau Claire
Genesee
New Buffalo
Painesdale Jeffers

MOVING UP FROM CLASS D TO CLASS B

Detroit Cornerstone Lincoln
King Academy

MOVING DOWN FROM CLASS C TO CLASS D

Benton Harbor Countryside Academy
Deckerville
Detroit Douglass
Detroit Public Safety Academy
Indian River Inland Lakes
Mayville

NEW POSTSEASON

ELIGIBLE TOURNAMENT SCHOOLS IN 2020-21

Bay City Academy
Boyer City Concord Academy
Detroit Cornerstone Lincoln King Academy
Lansing Martin Luther
Detroit Collegiate
Redford Westfield Prep

ENROLLMENT BREAKS BY CLASSES, 2020-21

(Number of schools in parentheses)
Class A: 831 and above (188 schools)
Class B: 392, 830 (188)
Class C: 182, 391 (188)
Class D: 181 and below (188)

The MHSAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation of voluntary membership by more than 1,500 public and private senior high schools and junior high/middle schools which exists to develop common rules for athletic eligibility and competition. No government funds or tax dollars support the MHSAA, which was the first such association nationally to not accept membership dues or tournament entry fees from schools. Member schools which enforce these rules are permitted to participate in MHSAA tournaments, which attract more than 1.4 million spectators each year.

“Jeremiah was a bullfrog. Was a good friend of mine!”

~Three Dog Night - “Joy to the World”

Let's Get Outdoors, Northern Michigan

A Peep Parade

BY PATRICK BEVIER

Not long after the snow melts a procession of peeps, trills, chuckles, chortles, snores, and bellows begins in the northern Michigan outdoors. These are not the sounds of humans recovering from serious cabin fever, but the succession of special love songs uttered by various frog species as they emerge from their own long winter's nap.

It's fascinating to learn how to identify the unique calls of each frog species during their respective mating season. The timing when the males of each species begin serenading the females is closely correlated to both water and air temperatures.

In our northern Michigan environs eight of Michigan's 14 frog and toad species are relatively common. If they were marching—more like hopping—in a parade, here's the general order of species that we would hear first, second, and so on.

The first frogs to begin singing are two of Michigan's most diminutive, the grayish Western Chorus Frog and the light brown Spring Peeper. Of these, Chorus Frogs tend to be more plentiful in the Mitten State. Individually, the call of these inch-long frogs resembles the sound made by a finger strumming down the teeth of a stiff comb. More commonly hundreds call together in a high-pitched chorus. To me, Chorus Frogs are special because from the moment they start calling I know that spring has sprung!

As Chorus Frogs and Spring Peepers near the end of their breeding season two other frogs lend their voices to the choir. In early to mid-April, Wood Frogs and Northern Leopard Frogs migrate to their breeding habitats.

Wood Frogs are medium-sized brown frogs with a dis-



Gray Tree Frog

tinctive black “bandit” eye stripe and a call that mimics a low-pitched duck-like chuckle.

Northern Leopard Frogs are the most plentiful anuran species in Michigan and come in two color morphs—green and brown. Both varieties sport many black spots which explain their moniker. Leopard Frog calls are reminiscent of a 3-5 second low snore.

In early May the frog with the most bird-like call emerges. Gray Tree Frogs, the only truly arboreal species in Michigan, head to the edges of small bodies of water to utter their short, high-pitched musical trill. Later in summer these gray to light green frogs with black markings are often discovered sticking to windows or walls with their fat finger pads.

Around the time tree frogs are closing out their mating rituals American Toads show up. This species has the longest call with continuous trills that can last up to 30

seconds! When many toads are calling together it creates

quite the din. They're the slowest of Michigan's amphibians and the easiest to catch. But beware, while they don't give you warts toads often use the defense mechanism of “tinkling” on their captor!

Northern Michigan's two largest frog species show up at the end of the parade. Green Frogs, an extremely plentiful species in many aquatic ecosystems, begin calling first. They're call is said to resemble the “plunk” of a loose banjo string. They begin courting in late May and have one of the longest mating seasons.

Not arriving on the scene until the warmer nights of June are the goliaths of Michigan frog species, the Bull Frogs. Their unmistakable utterance is a deep “brrrr-rum” that vaguely resembles that of a steer. Some-

times reaching 8-inches in length, these Olympians of the amphibian class can be tough to catch. A stealthy approach and long-handled net are essential.

I should mention, however, that several frog species may call at the same time. On a recent mountain bike ride I heard hundreds of Spring Peepers, Western Chorus Frogs, and Wood Frogs all vying to be the loudest instrument in the band in a vernal pond.

Because some species have experienced an alarming decrease in numbers the Michigan DNR depends on data from volunteer Frog and Toad Surveys. These are perfect outdoor activities for scout troops, school groups, or other kid's clubs. Go to Michigan.gov/dnr/frog survey for well-organized information.

It's enjoyable to catch frogs so kids can match them with their sounds. After a short lesson release the frog gently and I guarantee the kids will never be hoppier!

Frog Fun Facts:

Little loud mouths: Only male frogs make sounds, hoping to attract the completely mute females. Like reptiles, female amphibians are often larger than their male counterparts. Males have bigger “ears” which are the distinctive round membranes located behind the eye of some species.

Of Michigan's 13 species of frogs and toads not a single one of them says, “ribbit.” As a matter of fact my hunch is that, “ribbit” is a sound invented by the inventive Walt Disney!

Gray Tree Frogs and Western Chorus Frogs replace most of the water in their cells with ethylene glycol (antifreeze) to survive the harsh Michigan winters.

Probably the six rarest frog species in the Wolverine State are the Cope's Gray Tree Frog, Blanchard's Cricket Frog, Fowler's Toad, Mink Frog, Pickerel Frog, and Boreal Chorus Frog. The latter is extremely unique and found only on Isle Royale.

Photo outlines:
Photos 1 and 2: “Two mid-Michigan frogs that begin calling at the beginning and middle of the spring breeding seasons are the Northern Spring Peeper (1) and Gray Tree Frog, respectively.” (photos Patrick Bevier)

Patrick Bevier is an outdoor writer and STEM-educator, and principal at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Elementary School in Midland. He can be reached at outdoor.edu@gmail.com.



Spring Peeper

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Making your Home more Energy Efficient

As a whole, your home has a great impact on nature. You can make your home more energy-efficient to save money and boost its performance. Although the most energy-efficient measures could require a large initial outlay, the investment is worth it since it will provide you great savings on your yearly utility bills in the years to come.

Below are a few tips on making your home more energy-efficient:

Proper insulation on the attic and walls make it more energy-efficient. Proper insulation slows down the heat that flows out of your home in winter or summer, thus less energy is needed to cool or heat your home. Foam insulation materials, cellulose and fiberglass reduce the heat conducted on the wall system when they are properly installed.

Use energy-efficient models to replace your leaky and old windows to boost the efficiency of your windows. Consider putting up storm windows or weather stripping. You will be able to save from 7 to 24 percent of your air-conditioning and heating costs when you replace old windows.

Planting shrubs and shade trees help you save more energy. The trees could block the heat of the sun in summer and the bare branches of the trees allow heat radiation to your home during winter.

Use more energy-efficient bulbs like the compact fluorescent lights instead of your old incandescent light bulbs. While compact lights are more expensive, they last much longer and provide great savings because they less use energy.

If the furnace you have was built before 1992, it is likely to waste about 35 percent of fuel and most probably at the end of its service. Replace your old furnace with a new highly effective system such as the condensing furnace. It provides up to ninety percent yearly efficiency. This type of furnace wastes not more than 10 percent of natural gas and lets you save 27 percent on your heating costs.

Turn your hot water system to the warm setting to improve efficiency. Insulate the hot water lines so they will not cool off easily. Use low-flow showers in your baths.

It would be preferable to schedule an energy audit on your home so you can get expert advice from energy auditors and raters. They use special tools and skills to evaluate your home and recommend the most cost-effective measure to enhance the efficiency and comfort of your home.

Release trapped air by bleeding radiators. Shut down heating and loosen the bleed valve located at the top of the radiator carefully. Do not forget to use rags in catching drips.

Double glazing helps in cutting heat less on your windows by half. The costs of double-glazing vary but you can enjoy great savings on your utility costs every year.

A more energy-efficient home means you can get big savings on your utility bills and is a good way to do your share in protecting the environment and preserve nature. Remember that the lesser carbon footprint your home leaves, the better it will be for everyone.

Real Estate Feature Property WONDERFUL LOG HOME AND SETTING



BY JIM AKANS

A warm and welcoming “up north” getaway or year round home, this week’s feature listing is ideally located between Boyne City and Boyne Falls.

This two bedroom, two bath log home has approximately 1,100 square feet of beautifully updated and designed living space. Interior

highlights include wood flooring, tongue and groove as well as log walls, an open and spacious kitchen, a gorgeous stone fireplace in the living area, a sunroom and more. While the interior is updated the spaces retain an inviting décor that feels right at home in northern Michigan. There is a two car detached garage that keeps vehicles secure and out of the weather all year

round.

Outdoors, an outbuilding on the property offers plenty of space for extra storage and for setting up a workshop area. The location is fantastic, close to the Boyne River, Boyne Mountain, Boyne City and Boyne Falls.

The wonderful log home in a great setting is located at 01002 M-75 South, between Boyne Falls and

Boyne City, and the listing price has been reduced to \$179,900. For additional information or to arrange for a tour, please call Mike Stark or Holly Stark, Associate Brokers, at EXP Realty – 100 Main Street, Suite D, East Jordan, at 231-536-7700 or email HollysUpNorth@gmail.com



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